



TRUEDEM

Trust in European Democracies

TRUST IN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES: CROSS- NATIONAL DISTRIBUTIONS OF PUBLIC OPINION

TRUEDEM: Trust in European Democracies (2023-2025). European Commission Grant No 101095237

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Table of Contents

Information about the Survey	3
1. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL TRUST.....	12
National Political Institutions.....	12
Social Institutions and Social Groups.....	21
Supranational Institutions	33
Trust Indexes.....	37
2. TRUSTWORTHINESS	57
3. NEWS, MEDIA, AND INFORMATION	77
Media sources.....	77
Public Engagement with Political Information.....	84
Trust in News Sources	87
Attitudes Toward Political Information Sources	91
Trust and Skepticism Toward National News Media	94
Conspiracy Beliefs and Beliefs in Contested Public Claims.....	99
Beliefs About People’s Integrity and Intentions	105
4. EVALUATION OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS	109
National Parliament	109
National Government Evaluation	118
Regional Authorities Evaluation	127
European Parliament Evaluation.....	136
5. INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND SATISFACTION.....	145
6. DEMOCRATIC PREFERENCES AND POPULIST ATTITUDES	182
Support for Democratic Integrity Policies	182
The importance and current state of democracy in EU countries.....	192
Authoritarian Attitudes	194
7. ATTITUDES ABOUT POPULISM AND POLARIZATION.....	205
Populist Attitudes.....	205
Polarization and Political Cynicism	213
8. POLITICAL CULTURE AND PARTICIPATION.....	219
9. CIVIC KNOWLEDGE	246

Information about the Survey

Conceptual Framework and Measurement Strategy

At its core, TRUEDEM is designed to explain variation in democratic trust by linking citizens' dispositions and information environments to their evaluations of institutional performance and their normative preferences about democratic governance. The questionnaire therefore moves deliberately from (a) attitudes of trust and perceived trustworthiness, through (b) media use, misinformation, and psychological predispositions, to (c) performance judgements, democratic ideals (and their illiberal counter-pressures), engagement, and knowledge, and finally to (d) experimental tests of causal mechanisms and (e) demographic covariates for weighting and heterogeneity analysis.

Social and political trust: domains, “radius,” and support

The opening battery disaggregates trust across four analytically distinct domains: core state institutions (government, parliament, parties, courts, heads of state/government, elections), intermediary or organised actors (armed forces, church/religion, banks/corporations, labour unions, civil society), interpersonal targets (family, employers, neighbours, strangers, and salient out-groups such as people of another religion, nation, or party), and supranational bodies (European Commission, European Parliament, European Council, United Nations). It also includes the canonical “most people can be trusted” indicator.

In theoretical terms, the institutional items tap both *diffuse support* for the constitutional order and *specific support* for incumbent authorities, enabling separation of regime support from office-holder approval. The interpersonal series maps the “radius of trust,” distinguishing “thick” (particularistic) from “thin” (generalised) trust, while the out-group items capture social distance and the potential for affective polarisation to spill into political distrust. Finally, the EU and UN trust items allow a multilevel governance perspective, testing whether trust travels “upwards” to supranational institutions or whether it is segmented by level.

Trustworthiness: integrity, competence, accountability, and information probity

The next block asks respondents to assess how public actors and systems *behave*, using 1–10 likelihood scales (e.g., MPs accepting bribes; fairness of tax policy; responsiveness to complaints; data protection; resignation after wrongdoing; discipline for sexual misconduct; macroeconomic competence; and accuracy in newspapers). These can be theorised along four classic dimensions of perceived trustworthiness: Integrity/Probity, Competence/Effectiveness, Accountability/Rule-of-Law impartiality, and Information Reliability/Privacy. The list format also asks which attributes people consider most important when judging politicians (e.g., promise-keeping, transparency, competence, democratic norms, absence of scandal, engagement). Together, these indicators allow estimation of heterogeneous “criteria weights” in citizens' trust calculus and permit expectancy-based modelling of how perceived trustworthiness feeds into institutional trust and regime support.

News, media, and information: inputs to belief formation

Media exposure is the primary channel through which many citizens learn about politics. The TRUEDEM media module measures frequency of use across legacy and digital platforms, time spent with news, and perceived information level (domestic and EU). It also distinguishes trust in different news sources (public service, commercial broadcasters, press, social media) and probes digital self-efficacy (“I can tell real from fake”) and reliance on interpersonal networks for political information. Crucially, it maps citizens’ evaluations of the *information system*—perceived censorship, availability of independent journalism, owner capture, bias, and impartiality. A set of contested claims (vaccines/autism; Holocaust magnitude; Obama’s birthplace; climate change denial; “replacement” conspiracy; foreknowledge of the 7 October attack) enables construction of misperceptions and conspiracism indices, linking epistemic vulnerability to political evaluations. The expectation is straightforward: more diversified and professionally mediated patterns, higher media trust, and stronger digital self-efficacy will be associated with fewer misperceptions and, *ceteris paribus*, higher trust in institutions. Heavy reliance on social media and private networks is expected to correlate with elevated misperceptions and lower trust.

Individual attitudes and psychological traits: predispositions and priors

Short attitudinal items on pro-social orientation, opportunism/cynicism, and norm-compliance constitute psychological priors that condition the processing of performance information and scandal cues. Conceptually, these are “deep” dispositions—relatively stable across time—that shape whether identical news or experiences translate into trust or mistrust. In modelling, they can be summarised as trust propensity and cynicism indices and treated as baselines of trust formation.

Institutional performance and satisfaction: output legitimacy and salience–performance gaps

A core section evaluates the perceived performance of national, regional, and European institutions on competence/efficiency, acting in the public interest, corruption, transparency, and inclusiveness/representativeness—parallel items that promote construct validity across levels. Macro-mood items (right direction/wrong direction; EU affect) complement these evaluations. The instrument collects both *issue salience* and *government performance* in precisely the same policy domains (healthcare, elderly welfare, security, economy, environment, immigration, education, prices, crime, public order, unemployment), allowing computation of “performance gaps” (importance minus perceived performance). Where highly salient domains are judged poorly, we expect sharper erosion of trust and lower satisfaction with democracy.

Democratic preferences and illiberal accommodation: ideals under stress

The next module collects perception on support for democracy and endorsement of institutional reforms that strengthen transparency (e.g., making roll-call votes public), accountability (performance evaluations), civic empowerment (civic education, media literacy), campaign regulation, and media pluralism. Measures contrasting the *importance* of living in a democracy with perceived *actual* democratic quality capture the “aspirations vs

experience” gap. A three-category regime preference item allows differentiation between principled democrats, conditional authoritarians, and those indifferent. Crisis-framed statements (e.g., strong leader bypassing parliament; constraints on protest; rallying of media/opposition in emergencies) reveal willingness to trade civil liberties and horizontal accountability for order—an authoritarian accommodation index. Finally, choice between positioning “politicians vs people vs experts” locate respondents on a technocratic–populist–representative axis. Together these measures support construction of indices for liberal-democratic support, authoritarian accommodation under stress, plebiscitary/direct-democratic preference, and technocratic orientation.

Populism and polarisation: people-centrism, anti-elitism, and anti-pluralism

Populist attitudes are captured directly through statements asserting the primacy of the people’s will, the existence of a unified popular interest opposed to elites, preference for citizen representation over professional politicians, and calls for referendums on the most important issues. Alongside these, the instrument measures generalised cynicism (“can’t trust government,” “elections don’t change much”), perceived polarisation, affective polarisation and out-party threat (“those who disagree are a danger”), anti-pluralist exclusion (“uninformed citizens should not vote”), and openness to cross-cutting perspectives. These jointly allow construction of a multidimensional populism scale and multiple polarisation indices (perceived, affective, anti-pluralist). The theoretical expectation is that higher populism and affective polarisation will correlate with lower trust in representative institutions, particularly parties and parliaments, and with stronger demand for direct democratic mechanisms.

Political culture and participation: interest, efficacy, ideology, and repertoires

The political-culture battery records political interest, external efficacy (system responsiveness), and internal efficacy (self-efficacy). It also places respondents on left–right and liberal–conservative scales, permitting analysis of ideological coherence. Electoral engagement is measured across levels (local, national, European), with vote intention and motive (positive vs negative partisanship). Political participation patterns are documented through a broad action repertoire encompassing institutional, civic, contentious, and digital participation in the previous year. Complementing these are items on democratic innovations (citizens’ assemblies, participatory budgeting, online consultations, referendums), including both *experience* and *desired citizen say* on a 1–10 scale, which situates preferences for deliberative vs plebiscitary instruments.

Civic knowledge

A concise knowledge quiz focuses on EU competences and institutions (e.g., the Commission’s agenda-setting role; the Parliament’s legislative function), EU membership, and the largest budget item. These items form a civic knowledge index to be used in models as a resource and a moderator—individuals with higher domain knowledge should display fewer misperceptions, greater resistance to conspiracism, and more informed evaluations of EU institutions.

Demographics: harmonised covariates for weighting and heterogeneity

Finally, the demographic block provides standardised covariates: gender (inclusive categories), year of birth, region (NUTS-2/ NUTS-3 for smaller countries), migration background (respondent and parents' birth countries with ISO coding), education harmonised to ISCED-2011, labour force status and occupation (ISCO-like groupings), household finances and income band, marital status, children in household, religion/denomination, and settlement size. These enable post-stratification weighting and subgroup analysis, and they support cross-national comparability through internationally recognised classification schemes.

Survey Organization

The TRUEDEM online survey was developed by the TRUEDEM consortium under the leadership of the Institute for Comparative Survey Research – Austria (ICSR-AT), with central coordination in Vienna and oversight by the Principal Investigator. Instrument drafting, version control, and documentation were conducted centrally; consortium partners provided domain expertise and country feedback at each iteration. Translations followed a harmonised TRAPD workflow (translation, review, adjudication, pretest, documentation), and national-language speakers in each country completed the final proofreading to ensure idiomatic accuracy and conceptual equivalence prior to fielding.

Procurement of fieldwork services followed a competitive, publicly announced call for tenders published on the TRUEDEM website. The notice specified a multi-country online survey. Proposals were evaluated on documented experience with cross-national online surveys, sample design to deliver nationally balanced adult samples, and cost-effectiveness (with explicit weighting of criteria). This procedure ensured transparent vendor selection and harmonised implementation across countries.

The field period was May–July 2025. Fieldwork was organised as cross-national online data collection in 24 countries, with a target of approximately 1,200 completed adult interviews per country. Sampling, quotas, and weighting specifications are standardised to achieve balanced national samples. The data collection agency (Demoscopia) implemented uniform quality controls (soft-launch checks, script verification, paradata monitoring, speed/straightlining flags, duplicate/bot detection, and geo/device consistency).

Ethics approval for the project was granted by the Ethics Committee of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) in December 2024. The Committee confirmed compliance with international standards and EU law (including GDPR), noted that only adults (18+) participate, no direct personal identifiers are collected, participation is voluntary with the right to withdraw, and data are anonymised and stored securely.

Sampling and data collection modes

TRUEDEM was conducted in all 24 EU Member States. Within each country, a representative sample of permanent residents of 18 years and above was surveyed using an online data collection mode. The sample size in each country was approximately 1200 surveys except in France and Germany where 1500 interviews were conducted. Table below details for each country the data collection mode, the target sample size, and the achieved sample size.

For each country, we used the most up-to-date official population figures to determine the stratification targets for each target variable. The national universe figures are compiled in section 2 of the report together with the country report.

In all countries, respondents were recruited from access panels of the Demoscopy network. The recruitment methods for all our access panels vary between countries. They are mostly opt-in technics. The size of access panels in each country is not provided in this report as this information is confidential and cannot be disclosed: More details are included in the respective country reports.

The universe data for all countries with all population counts for age, gender, education, type of locality and regions was collected and aggregated centrally into a “Survey Population Reference database”. This database was used to define the stratification targets of the data collection. By doing so, we ensured a consistent approach across all geographies.

The samples in all countries were stratified by gender, age (interlocked), and region. We have used Education as a stratifying variable, due to the variation in coverage of access panel regarding this variable, the achievement on this variable varies significantly between countries. The sample was designed using the latest population figure as published by Eurostat (2023).

The regional stratification was done using the NUTS definition as published by Eurostat. Depending on the size of the countries, the NUTS level that was adopted differed to allow the most relevant regional distribution of the sample. In countries of the size of Germany for example, NUTS I level was selected while in countries like Slovenia NUTS III made more sense to allow the ideal distribution of the sample.

The respondents were selected randomly from the access panel databases based on the stratification variables. The selected respondents were invited to participate either by email or using the automatic alert system that allows us to identify those who are already online and guide them to our questionnaire. This alert system has proven to be very efficient in improving the participation rates to our surveys as online active respondents are more prone to take up the survey on the spot.



Table 1. Data collection mode and sample sizes

	Data Collection Mode	Target Sample Size	Achieved Sample Size	Languages
Austria	CAWI	1200	1222	German
Belgium	CAWI	1200	1217	Dutch, French, German
Bulgaria	CAWI	1200	1200	Bulgarian
Croatia	CAWI	1200	1207	Croatian
Czechia	CAWI	1200	1217	Czech
Denmark	CAWI	1200	1200	Danish
Estonia	CAWI	1200	1202	Estonian
Finland	CAWI	1200	1202	Finnish
France	CAWI	1500	1502	French
Germany	CAWI	1500	1501	German
Greece	CAWI	1200	1201	Greek
Hungary	CAWI	1200	1208	Hungarian
Ireland	CAWI	1200	1204	English, Irish
Italy	CAWI	1200	1127	Italian
Latvia	CAWI	1200	1223	Latvian
Lithuania	CAWI	1200	1375	Lithuanian
Netherlands	CAWI	1200	1200	Dutch
Poland	CAWI	1200	1203	Polish
Portugal	CAWI	1200	1208	Portuguese
Romania	CAWI	1200	1201	Romanian
Slovakia	CAWI	1200	1202	Slovakian
Slovenia	CAWI	1200	1219	Slovenian
Spain	CAWI	1200	1215	Spanish
Sweden	CAWI	1200	1212	Swedish

Privacy and data collection

During all phases of the project, Demoscopy complied with all General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Unambiguous explicit written consent from all respondents participating in the survey was sought before the start of the interview to allow us to process their personal data.

Questionnaire Translation, Scripting and Pre-Test

The Master questionnaire was translated by the TRUEDEM team using the same process for each language spoken in each country. Table 2 below lists for each country the language(s) to which the questionnaire was translated to. During the whole translation phase, Demoscopy ensured a review of the translated questionnaire.

To ensure a smooth implementation in all countries, we also implemented a “soft launch” procedure that took place in several countries (essentially a pilot stage to ensure all elements of the survey were working correctly and that survey length estimate was correct). As part of this, the Demoscopy project team thoroughly reviewed the first 10 surveys in each of the countries as they started fieldwork.

The final step of the implementation process was the scripting. The questionnaire for TRUEDEM included an important number of programming routines that require a dedicated approach in order to ensure consistent implementation across all countries. These routines included an important number of randomizations, some of which were very complex. This included the randomization of answers: within a question, where answering categories were systematically randomized before being presented to respondents. In addition, the experiments included within the survey involved the random allocation of respondents to different groups – the experiment is described in more detail in section of this report.

All randomized routines are documented in the datafile as separate variables.

The quality of the script is essential for the consistency in the implementation of the survey across all countries. A specific quality control process for this step was elaborated for the successful implementation of the questionnaire and all experiments included in it:

A Central senior scripting expert oversaw writing the script under the supervision of Demoscopy project team. The script was then tested and controlled by another scripting expert.

The script was then proof tested online by the Demoscopy team. The script was then reviewed by the Demoscopy scripting team to validate that the “field” version reflects the full content and the spirit of the questionnaire.

The quality controls of the scripting included the producing of dummy data to validate

- The correct application of filters,
- The correct application of all randomizations,
- The availability of all variables required (questions, randomization, time stamps, meta data...).

Once the Master English script was approved, languages were automatically incorporated, and individual national scripts were reviewed by Demoscopy and the scripting team to ensure a perfect implementation of all national languages.

The TRUEDEM teams were involved in the validation of field scripts in all languages foreseen for the survey.

Data processing and weighting

The central approach implemented by Demoscopy was intended to guarantee consistency in the data entry process. A single data map was centrally created and tested by producing dummy data before the launch of fieldwork to validate the correctness and completeness of the data to be produced. Intermediary datafiles were extracted by Demoscopy and controlled, for different countries and at different stages of fieldwork progress.

A datafile containing all question/response labels and codes, corresponding to the questions and responses as given in the English master questionnaire. It also included all metadata such as interview date and time, set of questions, randomizations, weighting factors and all sample information collected. A separate file (Variables Truedem.docx) was produced containing a list all variables and their labels that are included in the final dataset

Weighting

Sample weights were constructed using a methodological approach which corrected for any imbalances in the sample compared to the target population and took into account differences in response rates across various demographic and geographic groups.

An overview of our approach to constructing the weights is summarised below.

- Post-stratification Weights also known as non-response weights, they compensate for differential non-response amongst sub-groups for the survey. Non-response weights are calculated to correct for the shortfalls in the sample profile achieved. They aim at adjusting the sample to match population benchmarks on key variables:
 - Gender/Age Class (Interlocked): We ensured that our sample matches the known distribution of these demographics within each country.
 - Region: We weighted the sample to reflect the geographic distribution of the population, ensuring representativity across different areas within each country.
 - Education Level: we also adjusted for educational attainment to ensure our sample reflects the educational distribution of the population.

We employed a raking (iterative proportional fitting) procedure to simultaneously balance the sample across all these dimensions, ensuring that our final weights accurately reflect the population structure across multiple variables.

All weights were constructed for each country separately using this approach with an upper threshold of 3.

The weighting adjusts the sample distribution to correspond with the population distribution in each of the above variables. Wherever possible, the representativeness criteria were set using

a consistent source for the definition of the universe. Eurostat data was used as the single source for building our universe in all EU countries.

Table 5 presents the list of variables used to define the population profile, their categories, and the corresponding variables in the dataset.

Quality controls

Quality controls were implemented at each stage of the survey process by Demoscopy in full collaboration with the scripting, fieldwork and data processing teams.

During the setup up phase of the Truedem Survey the following quality control measures were implemented:

- A strict review process of the translated questionnaire by the scripting team.
- A central scripting implemented and tested by Demoscopy and thoroughly reviewed by the scripting team.
- A dummy dataset was produced to ensure that the scripting foresees all expected outcomes.

During fieldwork, the following quality control measures were taken:

- Quality control of the intermediary datafile
- Review of sampling procedure and its compliance with the initial design.
- Monitoring of sample completion in all countries to ensure the best compliance with the sampling targets in terms of gender, age, region, education and residential environment.

Data validation followed strict procedures to control the following aspects of all datafiles:

- Exclusions of invalid cases that had any of the below two characteristics:
 - Surveys with 65 missing values across all questions or more (that is the respondent either answers “I prefer not to say” or “Don’t know” 60 times or more)
 - Surveys with an overall duration below 50% of the median duration of each country and, if applicable, language version;
- Sample profile and deviations from universe targets (e.g. comparison between achieved sample with the target number of interviews set by the stratification rules);
- Sampling consistency checks to ensure that all aspects of the sampling design have been implemented correctly
- Review of weighting procedures and weighting accuracy;
- Identification and checking of potential duplicates.

1. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL TRUST

National Political Institutions

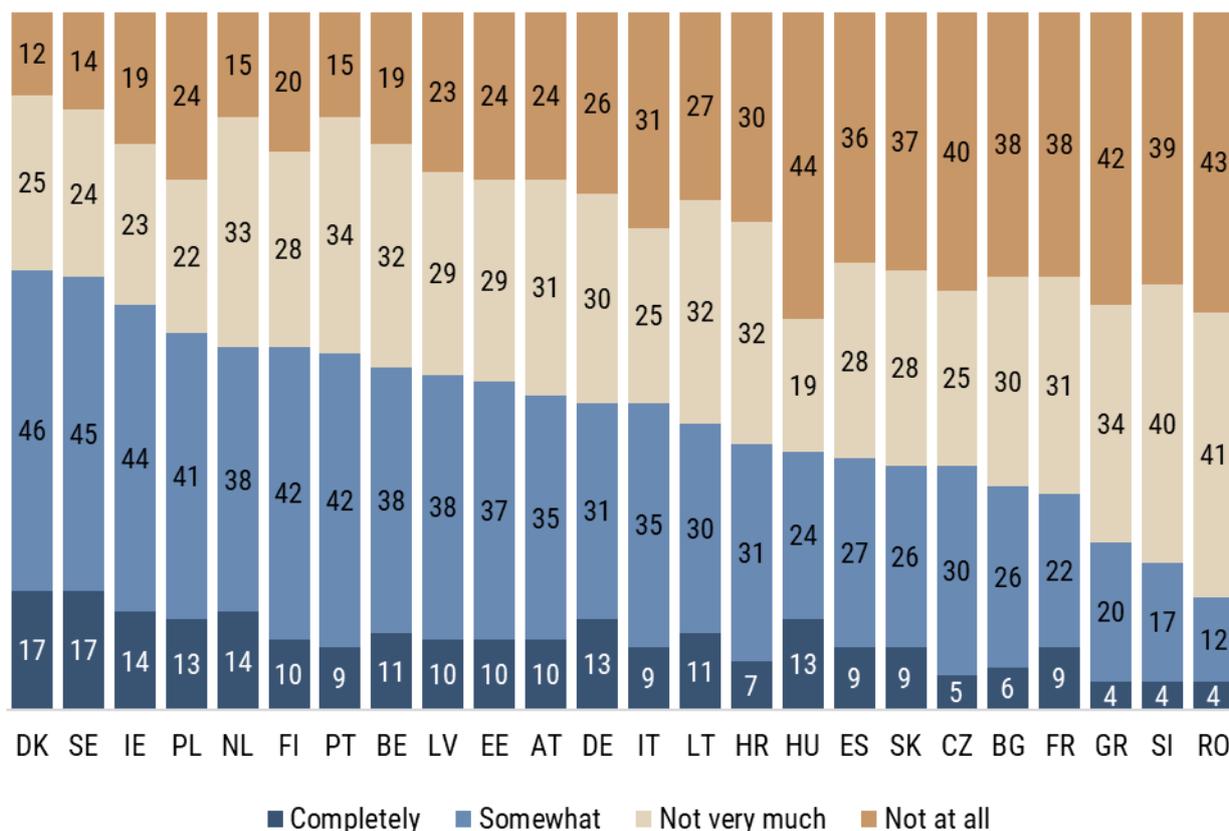
The level of trust in national governments varies across EU member states. The highest levels of trust are found in Denmark (63%), Sweden (62%) and Ireland (58%). More than half of respondents in Poland (54%), the Netherlands, Finland (52% each) and Portugal (51%) also report high levels of trust in their national government.

In the other countries, the majority of respondents tend not to trust their national government. The highest levels of distrust are recorded in Romania (84%), Slovenia (79%) and Greece (76%). High levels of distrust were also recorded in France (69%), Bulgaria (68%), the Czech Republic and Slovakia (65% each), Spain (64%), Hungary (63%) and Lithuania (59%).

In addition, respondents appeared more decisive when expressing distrust—frequently selecting “not at all”—whereas expressions of trust were more cautious and were more often articulated through the intermediate category “somewhat trust.”

Fig. 1.1. Trust in National Government (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following in your country?

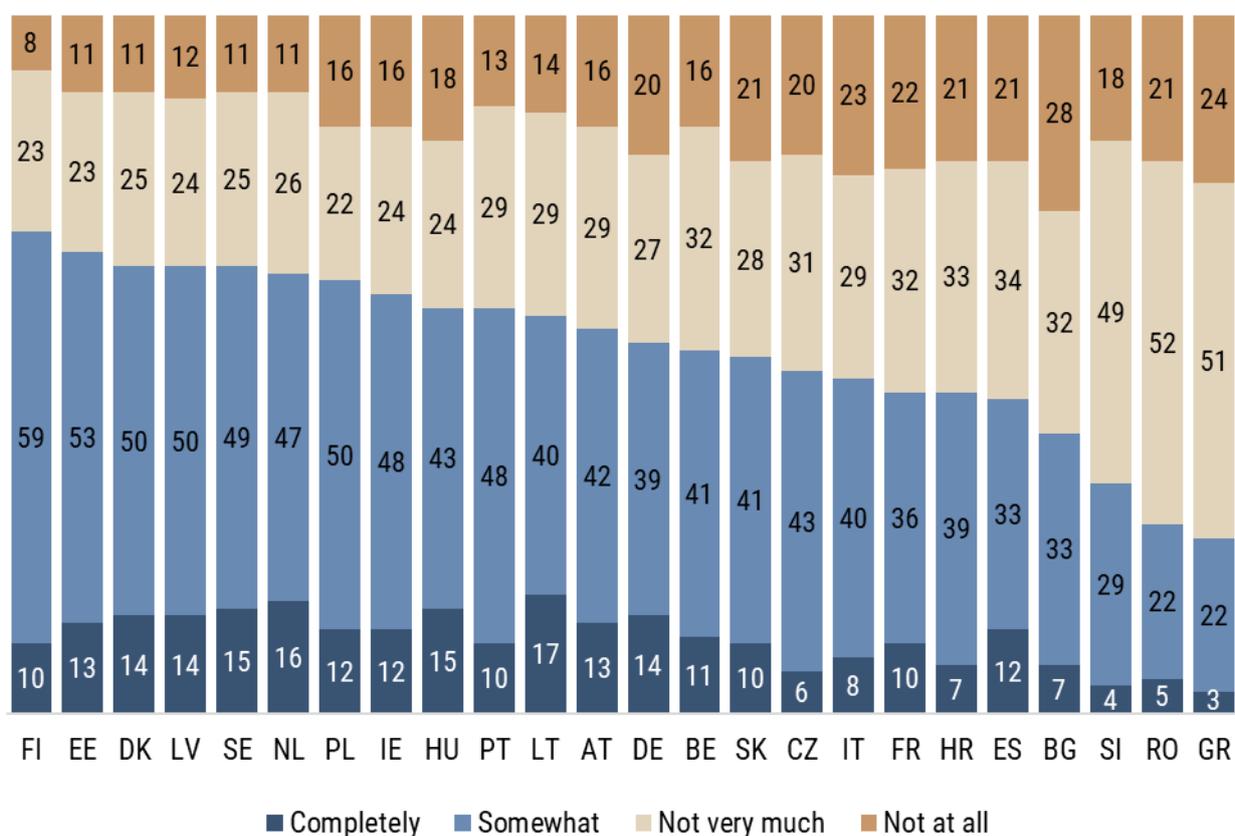


There are varying levels of trust in regional authorities in different countries. The highest levels of trust in regional authorities were recorded in Finland (69%), Estonia (66%), Denmark, Latvia and Sweden (64% each). Respondents in the Netherlands (63%), Poland (62%) and Ireland (60%) also expressed a high level of trust in regional authorities.

In countries such as Greece (75% do not trust), Romania (73%), Slovenia (67%) and Bulgaria (60%), the majority of respondents do not trust their regional authorities.

Fig. 1.2. Trust in Regional Authorities (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following in your country?



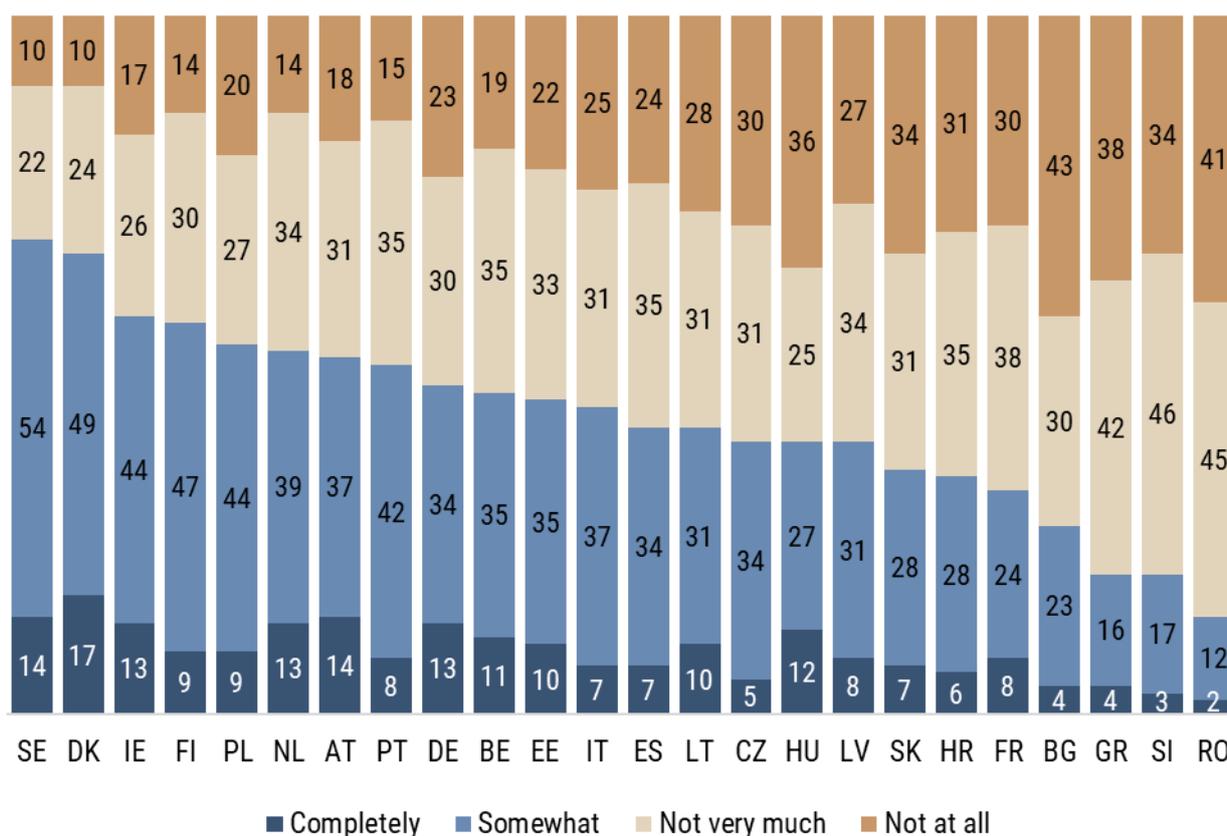
The highest levels of trust in national parliaments were recorded in Sweden (68%) and Denmark (66%). High levels of trust in national parliaments were also recorded in Ireland (57%), Finland (56%), Poland (53%) and the Netherlands (52%).

The lowest levels of trust in national parliaments were observed in Eastern European countries such as Romania (86% do not trust), Slovenia (80%), Bulgaria (73%), as well as in Greece (80%) and France (68%).

Similar to the pattern observed in responses concerning the national government, when speaking about the parliament, the respondents tended to express distrust in a more decisive manner, frequently choosing “not at all,” while positive evaluations were more tentative and were more often conveyed through the category “somewhat.”

Fig. 1.3. Trust in National Parliament (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following in your country?

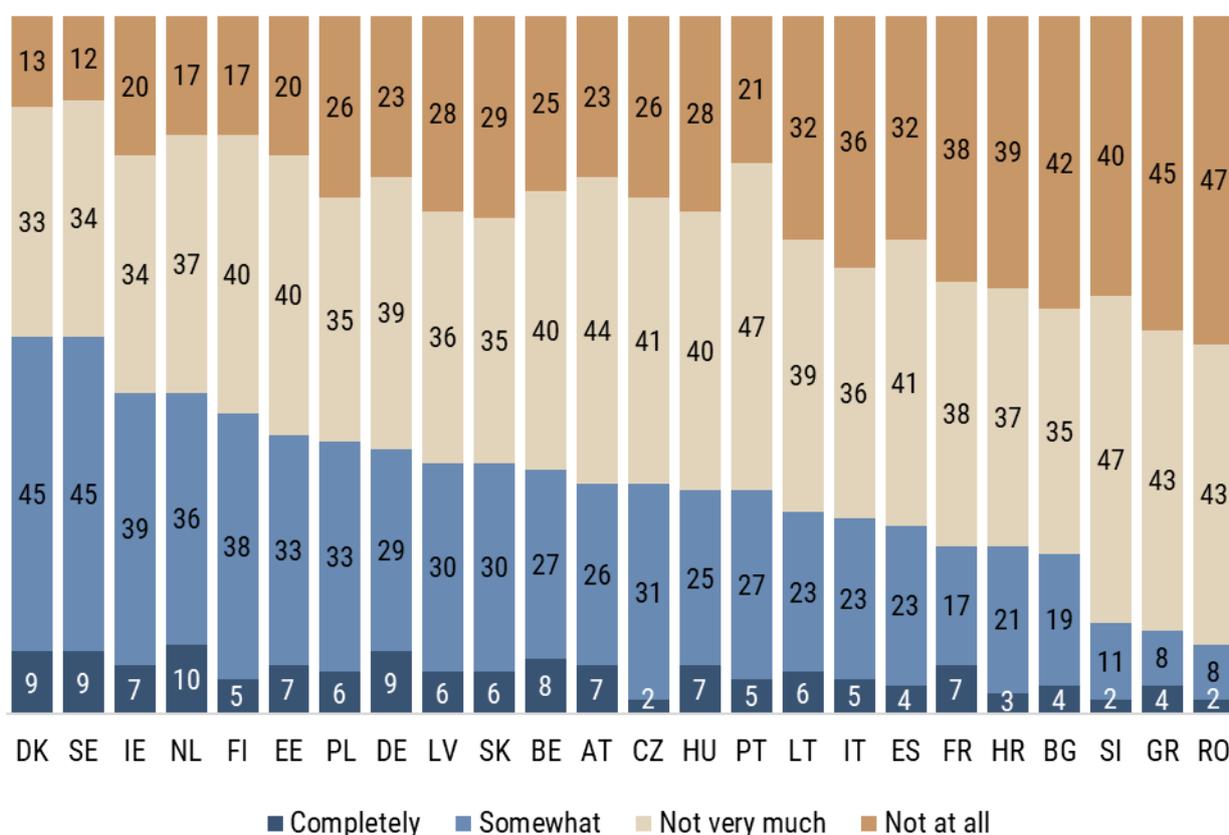


The highest level of trust in political parties was recorded in Denmark (54%) and Sweden (54%). Trust in political parties is also quite high in Ireland, the Netherlands (46% each) and Finland (43%).

The lowest levels of trust in political parties are observed in Romania (90% do not trust them), Greece (88%) and Slovenia (87%). Political parties are also distrusted in France, Croatia (76% each) and Bulgaria (77%).

Fig. 1.4. Trust in Political Parties (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following in your country?

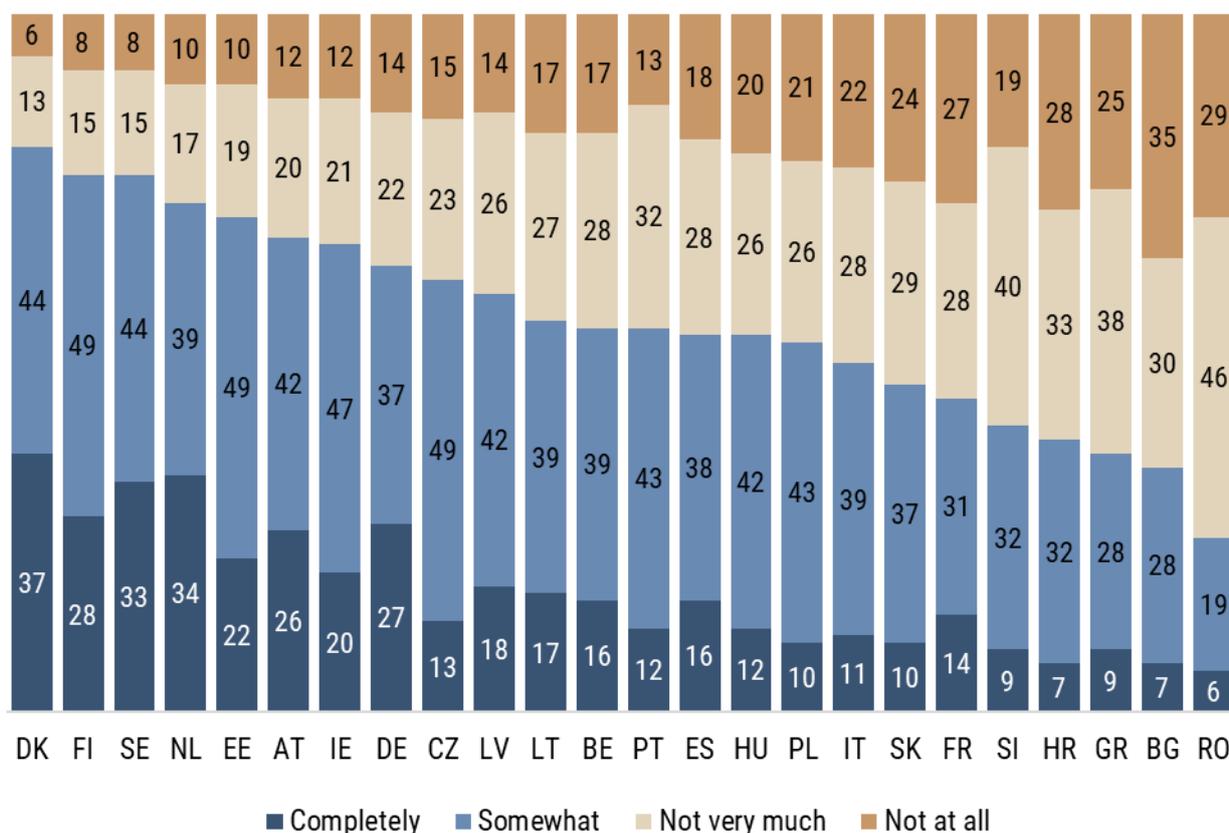


Trust in courts and the judicial system is quite high in most countries. Denmark (81%), Finland, Sweden (both 77%) and the Netherlands (73%) have the highest levels of trust in the judicial system in Europe. Trust in the judicial system is also quite high in Estonia (71%), Austria (68%) and Ireland (67%).

Respondents from Romania (75% do not trust), Bulgaria (65%) and Greece (63%), as well as Croatia (61%) and Slovenia (59%) have the least trust in the courts.

Fig. 1.5. Trust in Courts and Judicial System (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following in your country?



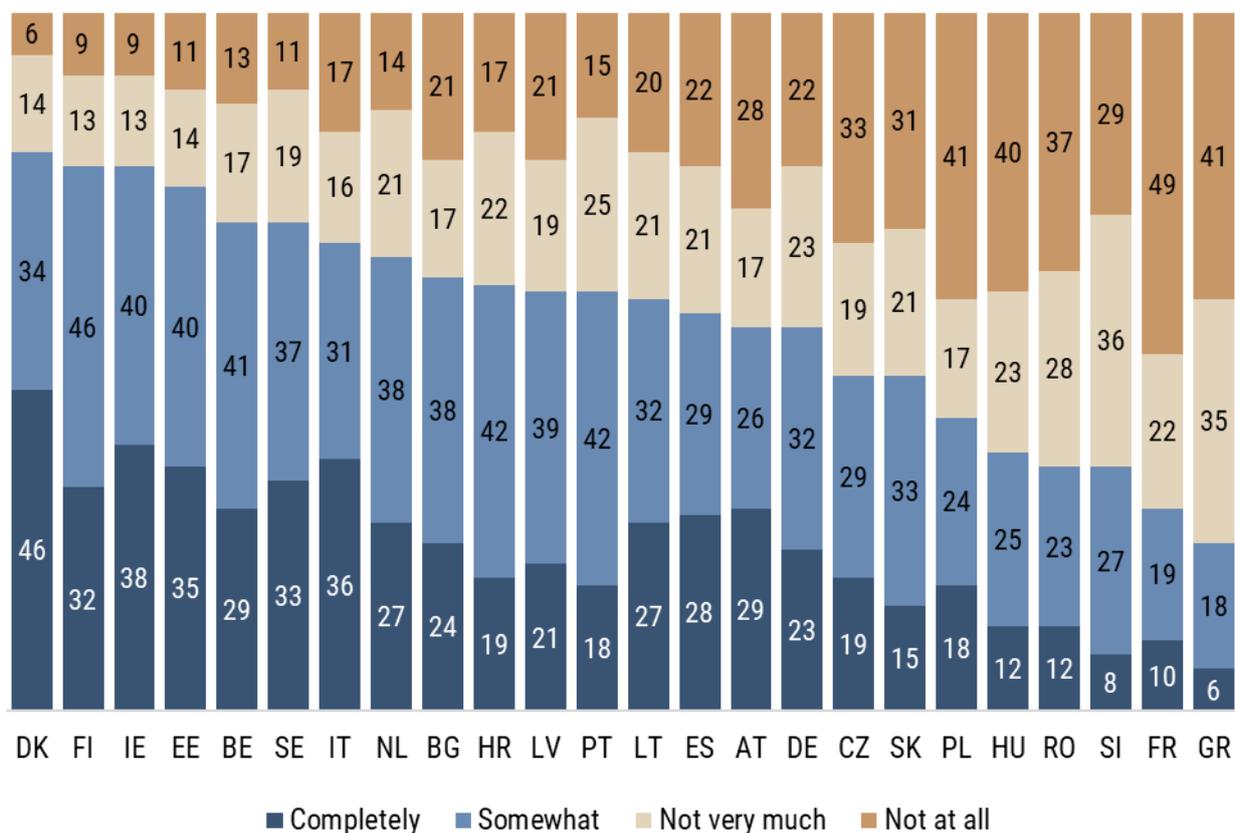
In most countries, more than half of respondents trust the head of state. The highest level of trust is recorded in Denmark (80%), Finland and Ireland (78% each). A fairly high level of trust can also be observed in Belgium (70%), Sweden (70%) and Italy (67%).

It should be noted that in some countries, the head of state is a monarch without political power (Denmark, Sweden, Belgium). In these countries, the level of trust is higher.

High levels of distrust in the head of state are observed in Greece (76% do not trust), France (71%) and Slovenia (65%), as well as in Hungary (63%) and Romania (65%).

Fig. 1.6. Trust in Head of State (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following in your country?

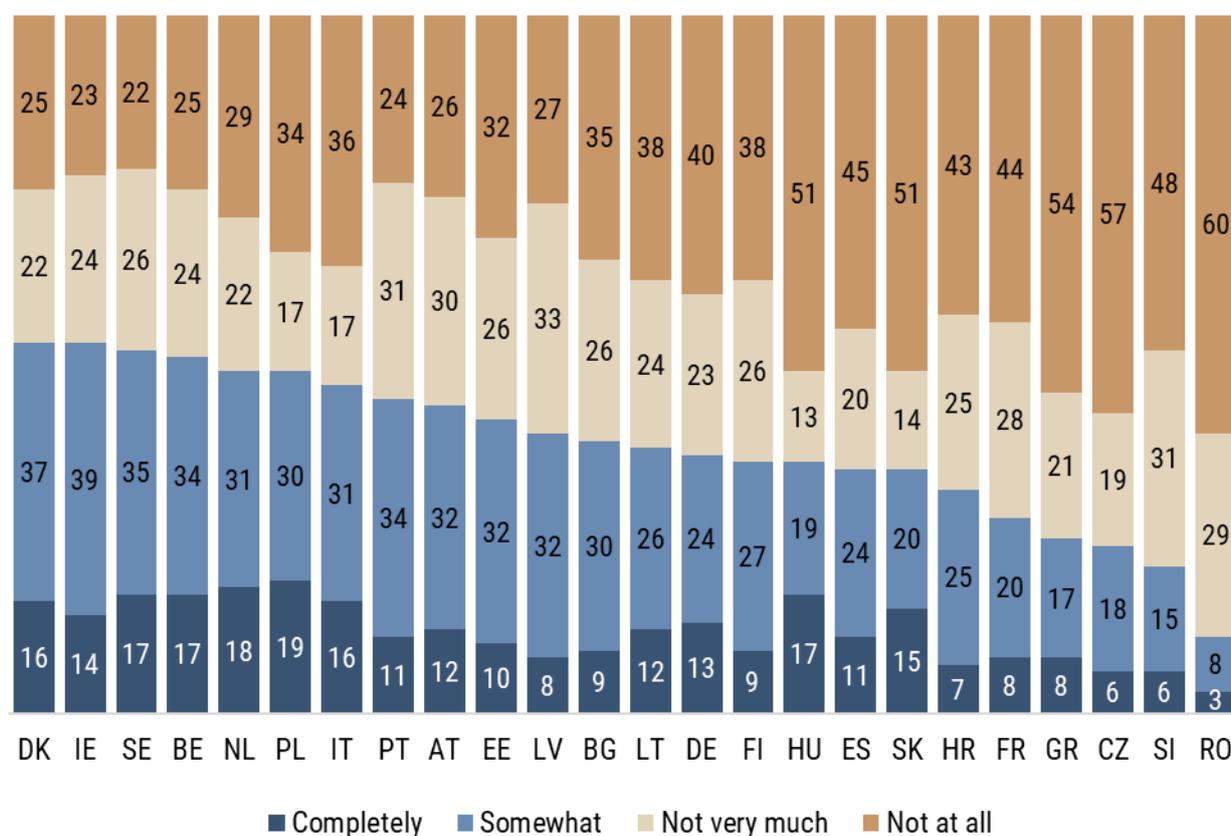


The level of trust in the head of government is generally somewhat lower than the level of trust in the head of state. The head of government is most trusted in Denmark, Ireland (53% each), Sweden (52%), Belgium (51%), the Netherlands and Poland (49% each). In the other countries, less than half of respondents say they trust the head of government.

The lowest levels of trust are in Romania (89% do not trust), Slovenia (79%), the Czech Republic (76%), Greece (75%) and France (72%).

Fig. 1.7. Trust in Head of Government (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following in your country?



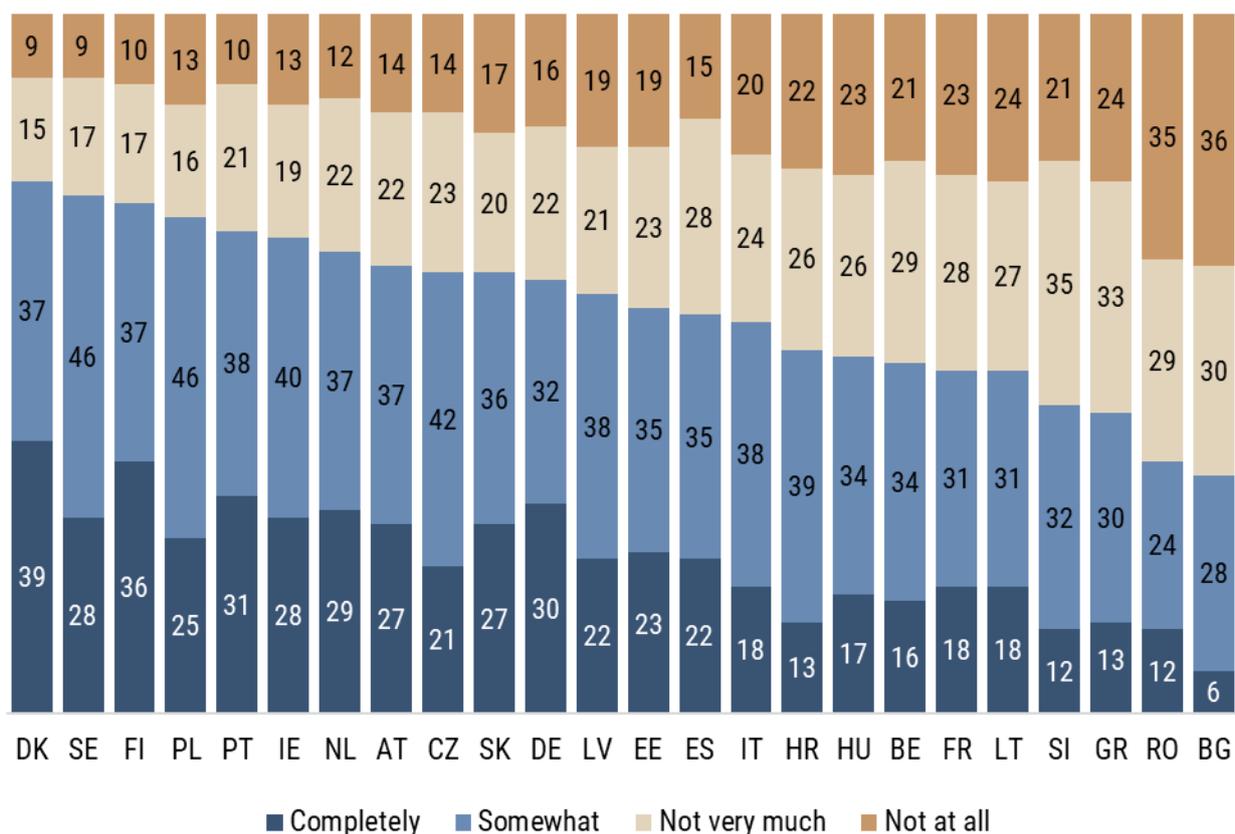
Most countries show high levels of trust in elections. The highest levels of trust in elections are found in Denmark (76%), Sweden (74%), Finland (73%), Poland (71%) and Portugal (69%). The level of trust is also quite high in Ireland (68%), the Netherlands (66%) and Austria (64%).

Low levels of trust in elections are observed in Bulgaria (66% do not trust), Romania (64%), Greece (57%) and Slovenia (56%).

In some countries, respondents' opinion was divided. In France and Lithuania, 51% of respondents do not trust elections, while 49% do. In Belgium, 50% do not trust elections, while 50% do. In Hungary, 49% do not trust elections, while 51% do.

Fig. 1.8. Trust in Elections (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following in your country?

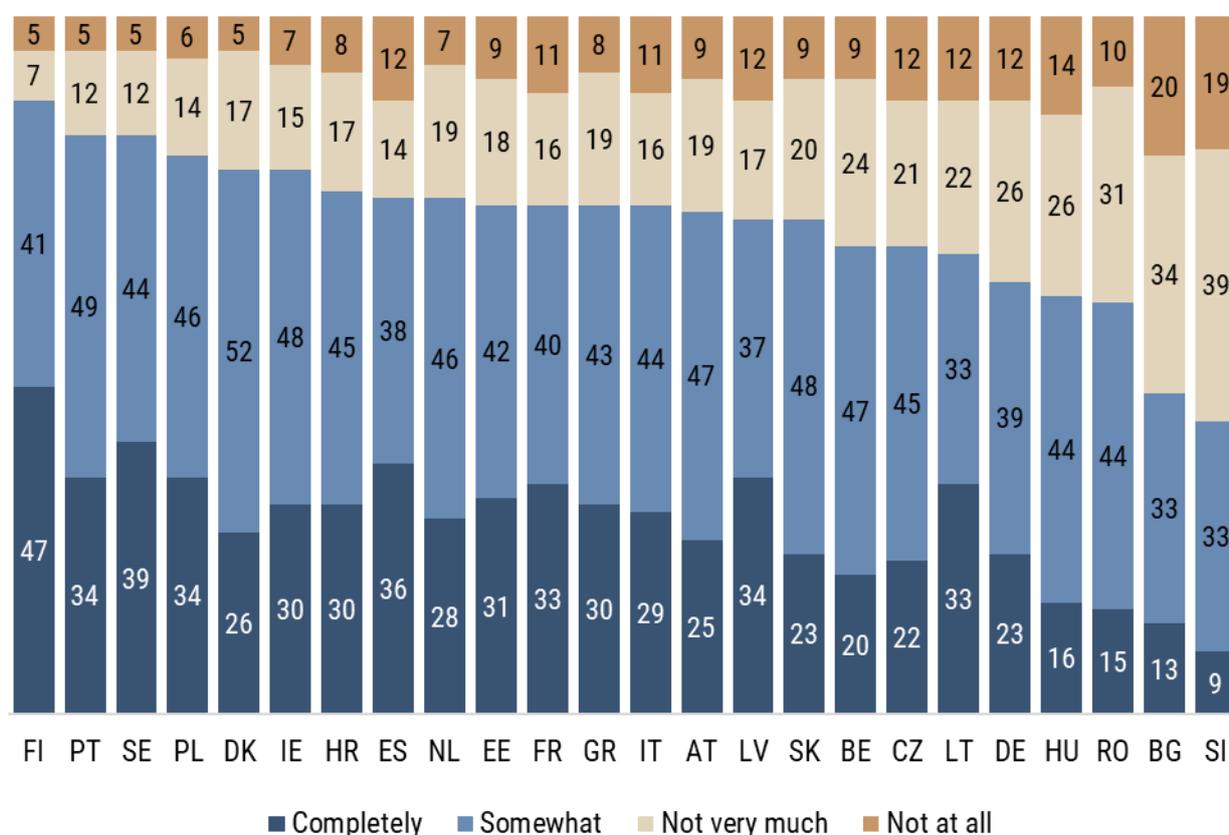




The level of trust in the armed forces is very high, exceeding 50% in all countries except Bulgaria (46%), Romania (42%), and Slovenia (42%). The highest level of trust is observed in Finland (88%), as well as in Portugal (83%), Sweden (83%), Poland (80%), Denmark and Ireland (78% each).

Fig. 1.9. Trust in Armed Forces (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?



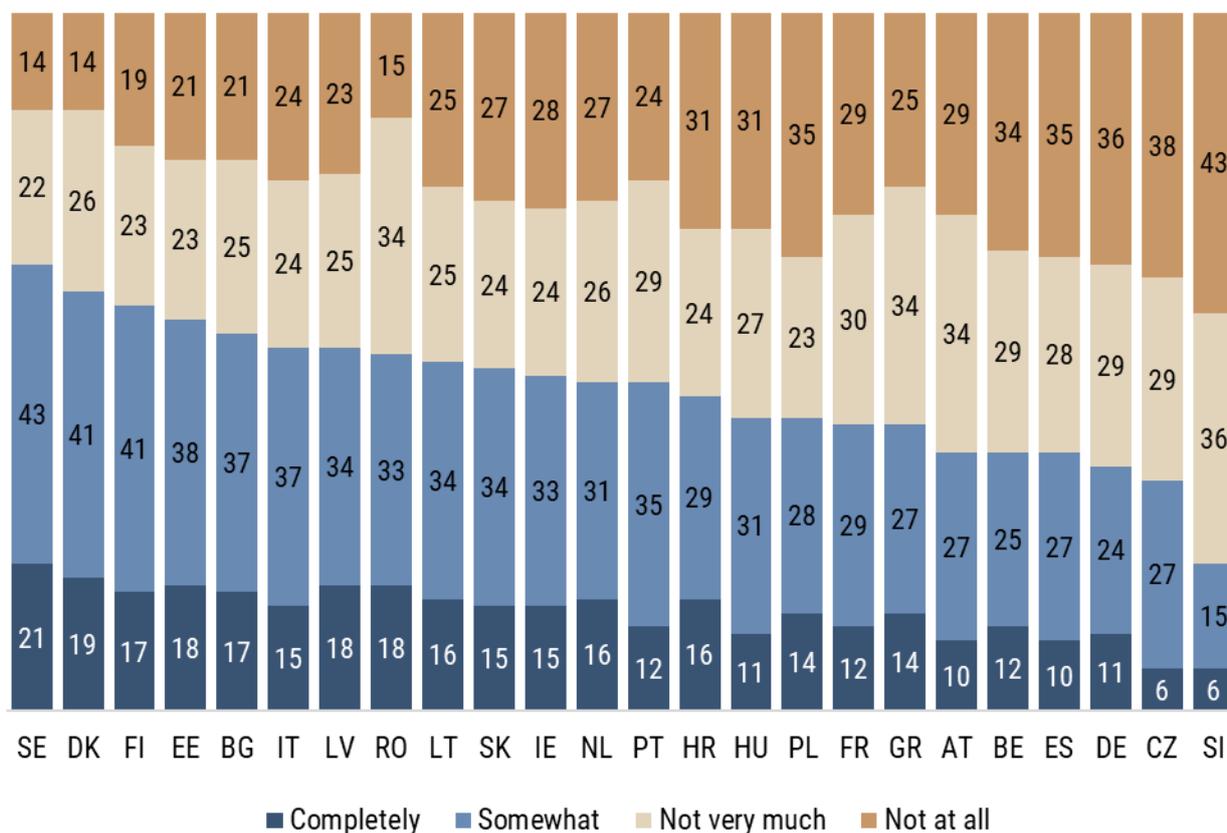


Social Institutions and Social Groups

The level of trust in the church is comparatively lower. The highest levels of trust are recorded in Sweden (64%), Denmark (60%) and Finland (58%). A fairly large percentage of respondents also trust the church in Estonia (56%), Bulgaria (54%), Italy, Latvia (52% each), Romania (51%) and Lithuania (50%). In the other countries, less than 50% of respondents trust the church. The lowest levels of trust in the church are found in Slovenia (21%), the Czech Republic (33%) and Germany (35%).

Fig. 1.10. Trust in Church (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?



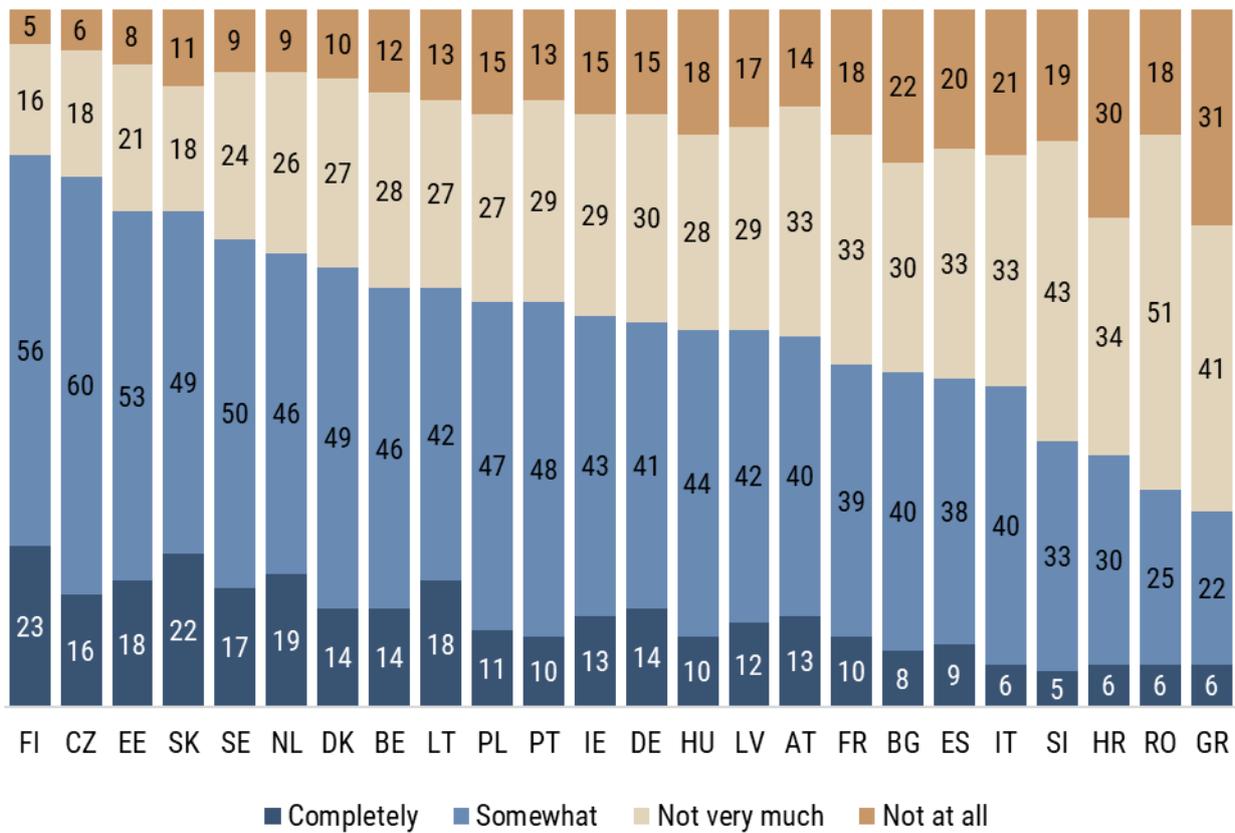


More than half of respondents in most countries trust banks and corporations. The highest levels of trust are recorded in Finland (79%), the Czech Republic (76%), Slovakia (71%) and Estonia (71%).

The highest levels of distrust towards banks and corporations are observed in Slovenia (62% do not trust them), Croatia (64%), Romania (69%) and Greece (72%).

Fig. 1.11. Trust in Banks and Corporations (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?

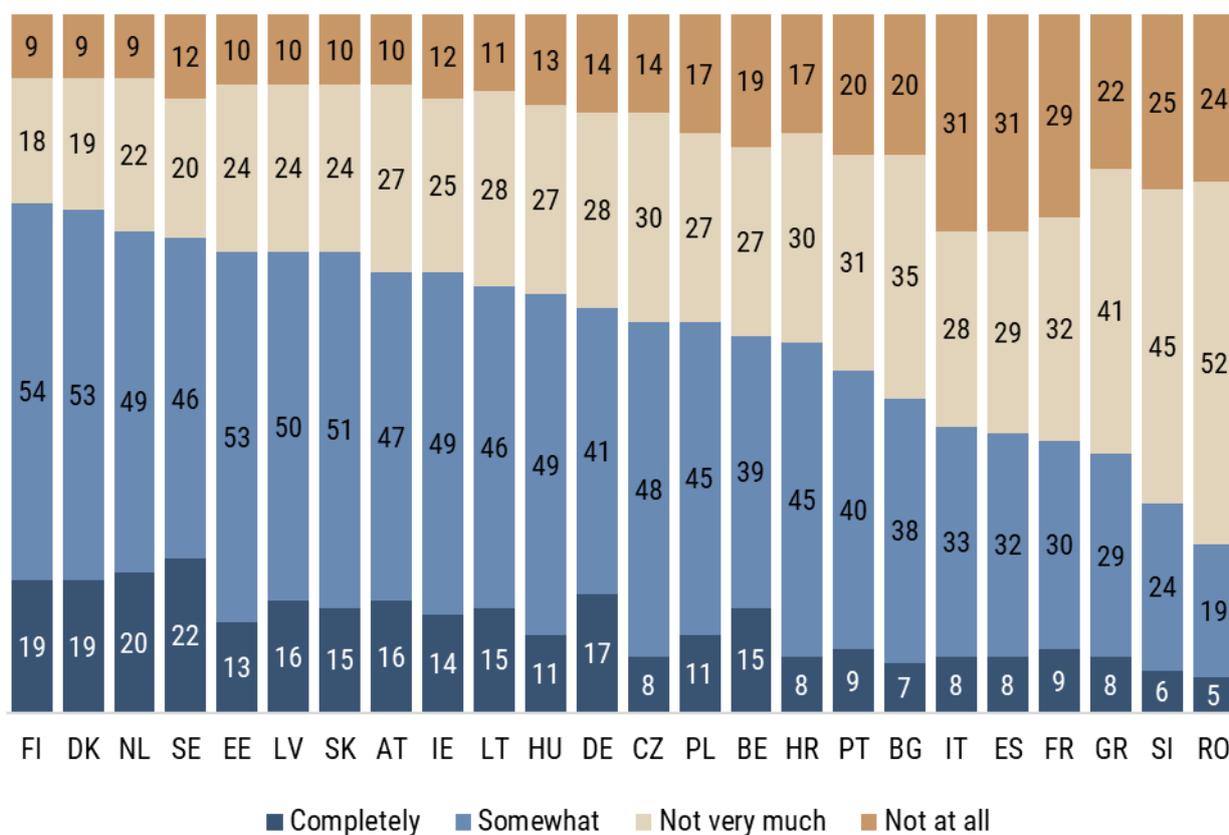


The level of trust in labour unions is high in most countries. Labour unions are most trusted in Finland (73%), Denmark (72%), the Netherlands (69%) and Sweden (68%). Trust is also high in Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia (66% each).

Trust in labour unions is lowest in Romania (24%), Slovenia (30%) and Greece (37%).

Fig. 1.12. Trust in Labor Unions (%)

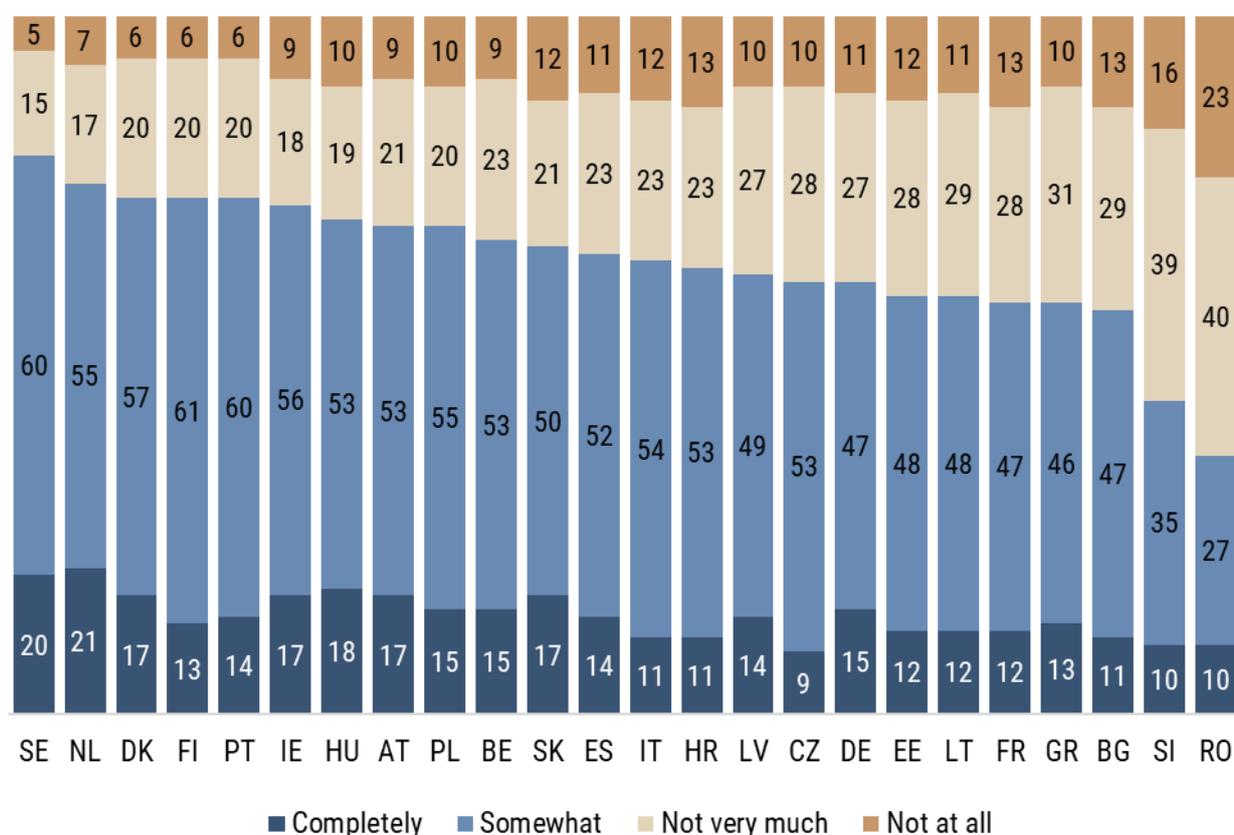
How much do you personally trust each of the following?



The level of trust in civil society organisations is high in most countries. Such organisations are most trusted in Sweden (80%), the Netherlands (76%), Denmark, Finland (74%) and Portugal (74%). The level of trust in civil society organisations exceeds 50% in all countries except Slovenia (45%) and Romania (37%).

Fig. 1.13. Trust in Civil Society Organizations (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?



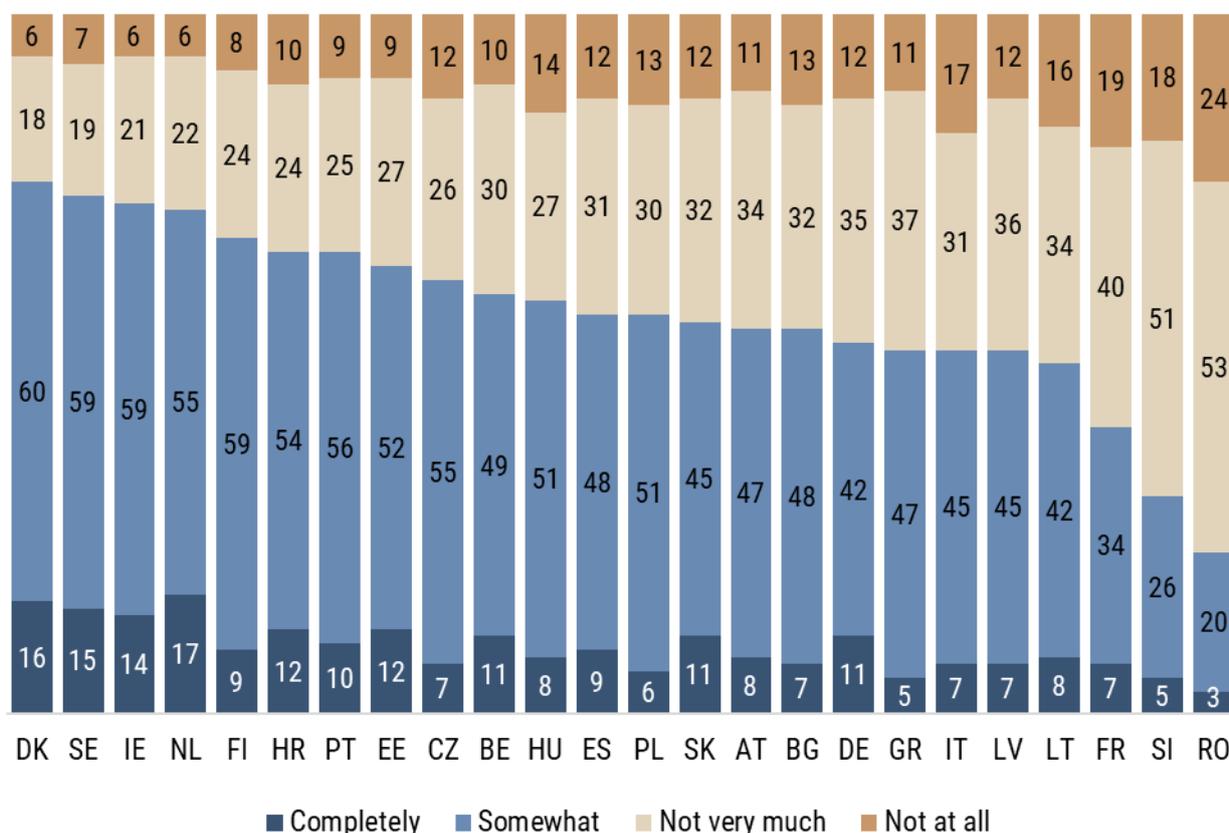


The level of trust to people who support political parties other than the respondent themselves is generally high. Most respondents say they trust people with different political preferences and orientations. The share of those who expressed trust exceeds 50% in all countries except France (41%), Slovenia (31%) and Romania (23%).

The highest levels of trust in people who support other political parties are recorded in Denmark (76%), Sweden (74%), Ireland (73%) and the Netherlands (72%).

Fig. 1.14. Trust in People Who Support Other Political Parties (%)

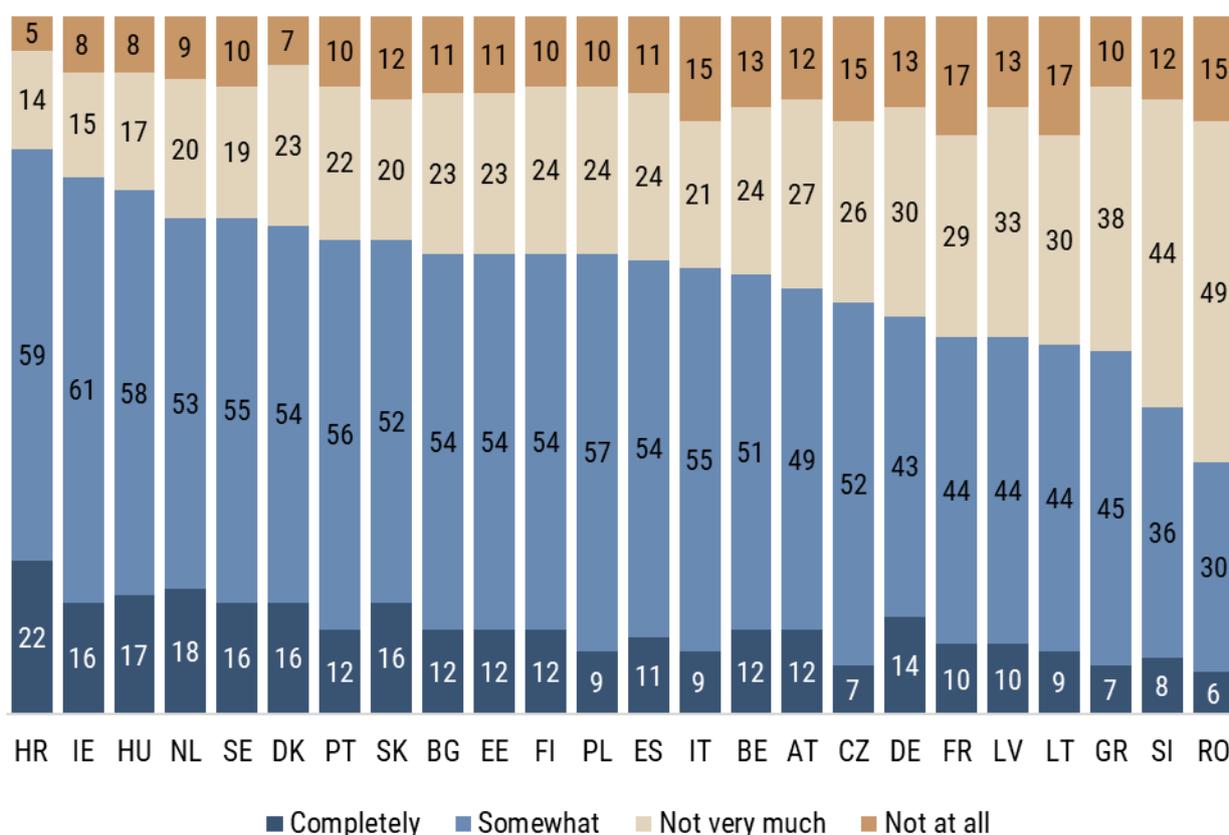
How much do you personally trust each of the following?



Overall, respondents in most countries trust people of other religious affiliations. More than half of respondents in all countries except Slovenia (44%) and Romania (36%) express such trust. Respondents from Croatia (81%), Ireland (77%) and Hungary (75%) trust people of other religions the most.

Fig. 1.15. Trust in People of Another Religion (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?

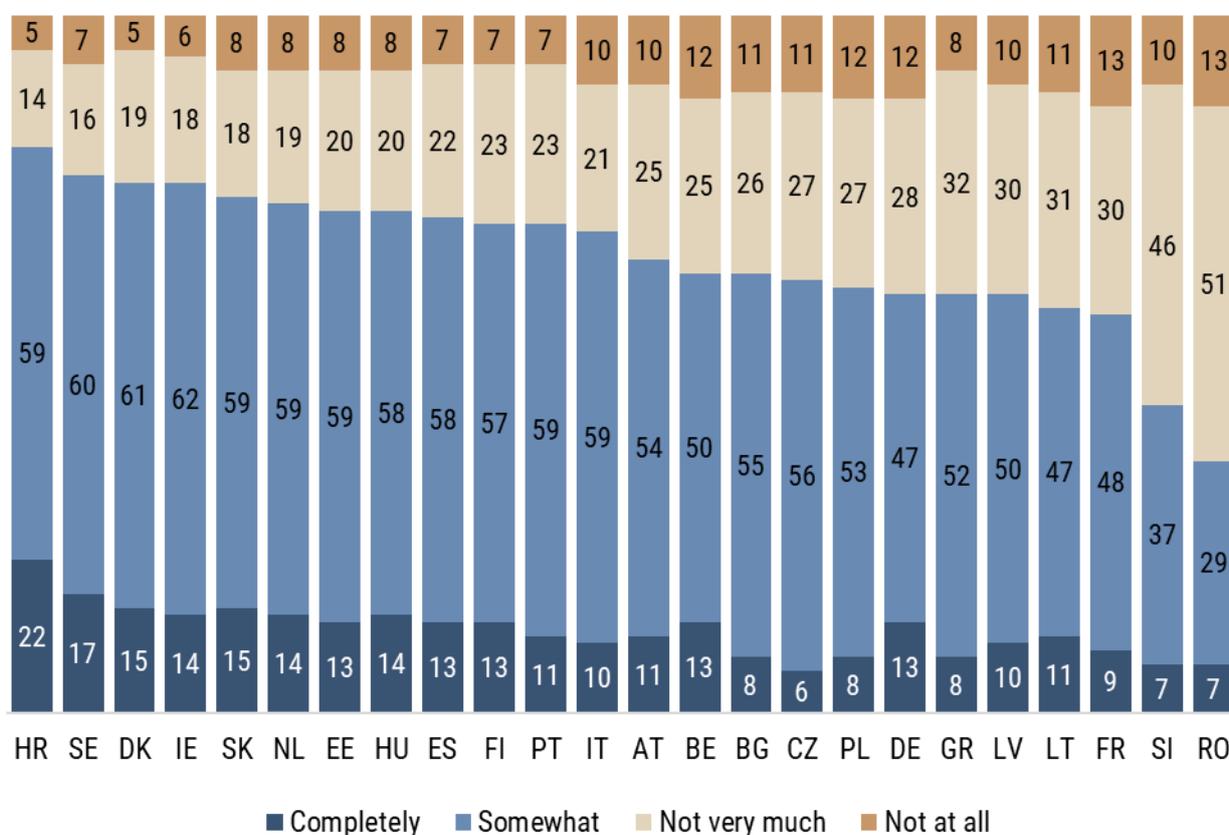


The level of trust in people of other nationalities is quite high in most countries. It exceeds 50% in all countries except Slovenia (44%) and Romania (36%).

The highest level of trust in people of other nationalities is recorded in Croatia (81%), Sweden (77%), Denmark (76%) and Ireland (76%).

Fig. 1.16. Trust in People of Another Nation (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?



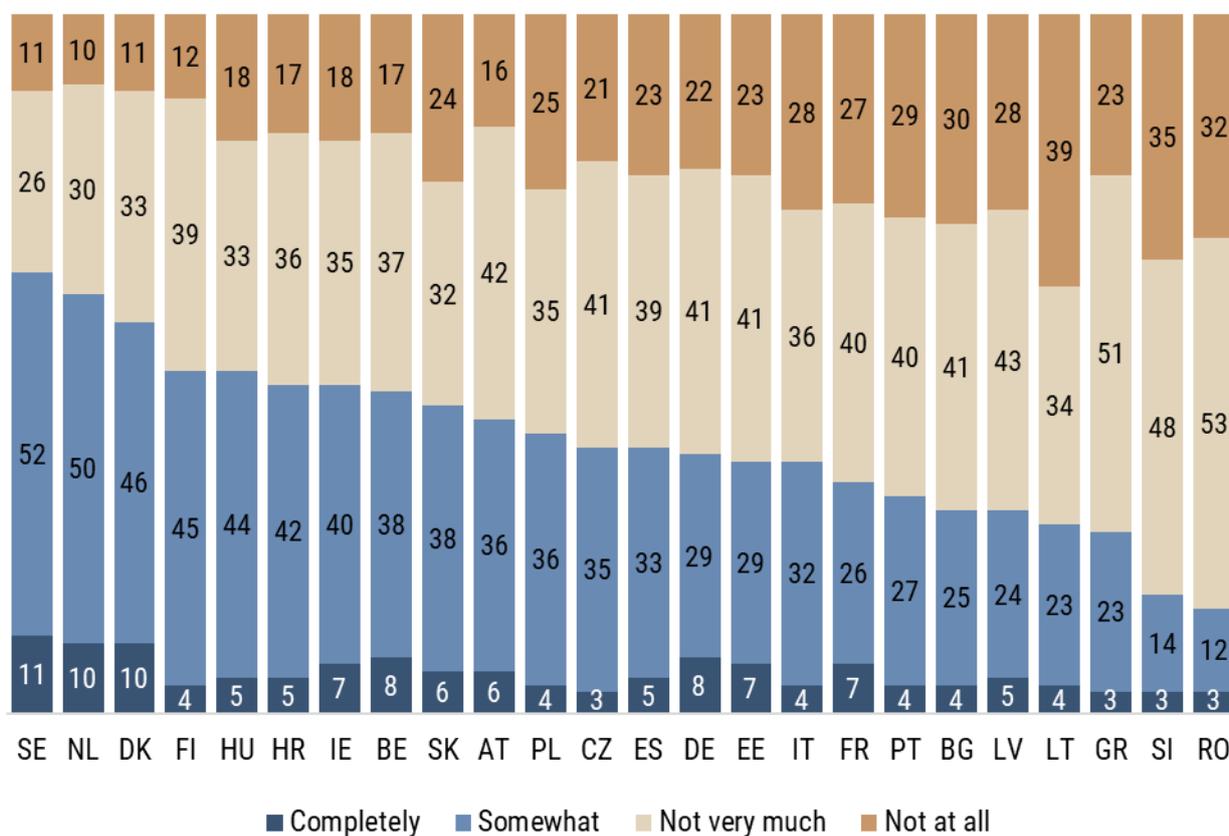


The respondents are quite cautious and less distrustful of strangers they meet for the first time. In most countries, less than half of respondents say they trust such people. Strangers are least trusted in Latvia (71% do not trust them), Lithuania (73%), Greece (74%), Slovenia (83%) and Romania (85%).

More than half of respondents trust strangers only in Sweden (63% trust them), the Netherlands (60%) and Denmark (56%).

Fig. 1.17. Trust in Strangers You Meet for the First Time (%)

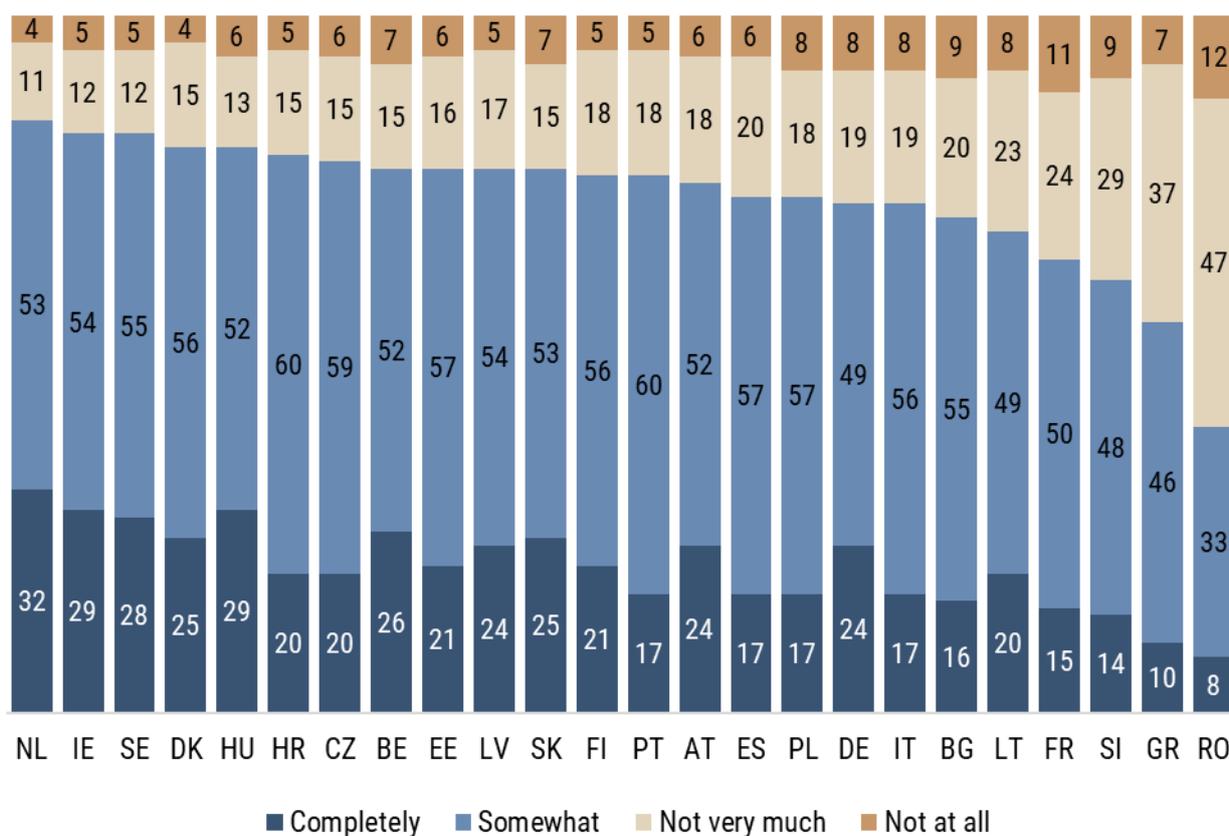
How much do you personally trust each of the following?



Most respondents trust their neighbours. More than half of respondents in all countries except Romania (41%) say they trust their neighbours completely or somewhat. The highest levels of trust in neighbours are found in the Netherlands (85%), Ireland (83%), Sweden (83%), Denmark (81%) and Hungary (81%).

Fig. 1.18. Trust in Neighbours (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?

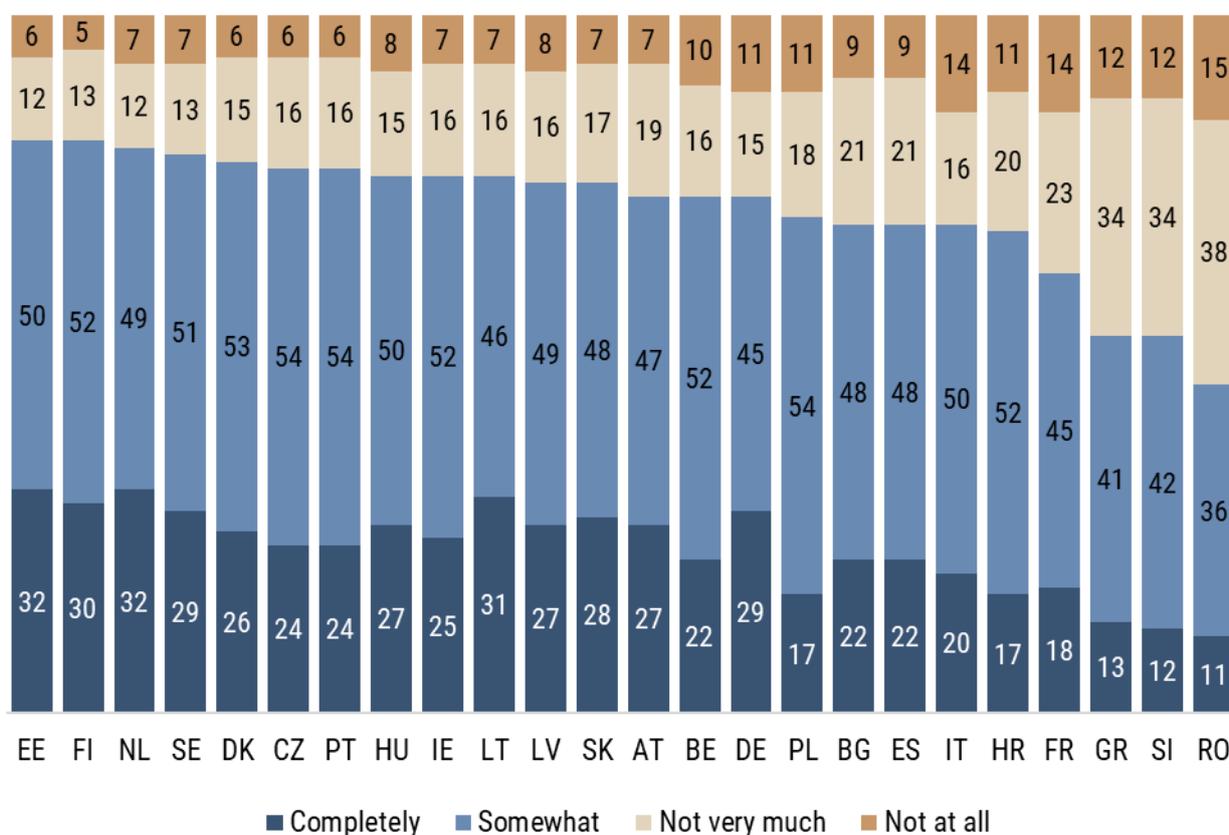


The level of trust in the employer is quite high in most countries. The highest levels of trust in employers are recorded in Estonia (82%), Finland (82%), the Netherlands (81%), Sweden (80%) and Denmark (79%).

The lowest level of trust in employer is observed in Romania (47% trust them), Slovenia (54%) and Greece (54%).

Fig. 1.19. Trust in Employer (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?





The level of trust in the family is highest in all countries. It ranges from 95% in Croatia and Portugal to 87% in France. In most countries, the level of trust in the family exceeds 90%.

Fig. 1.20. Trust in Family (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?

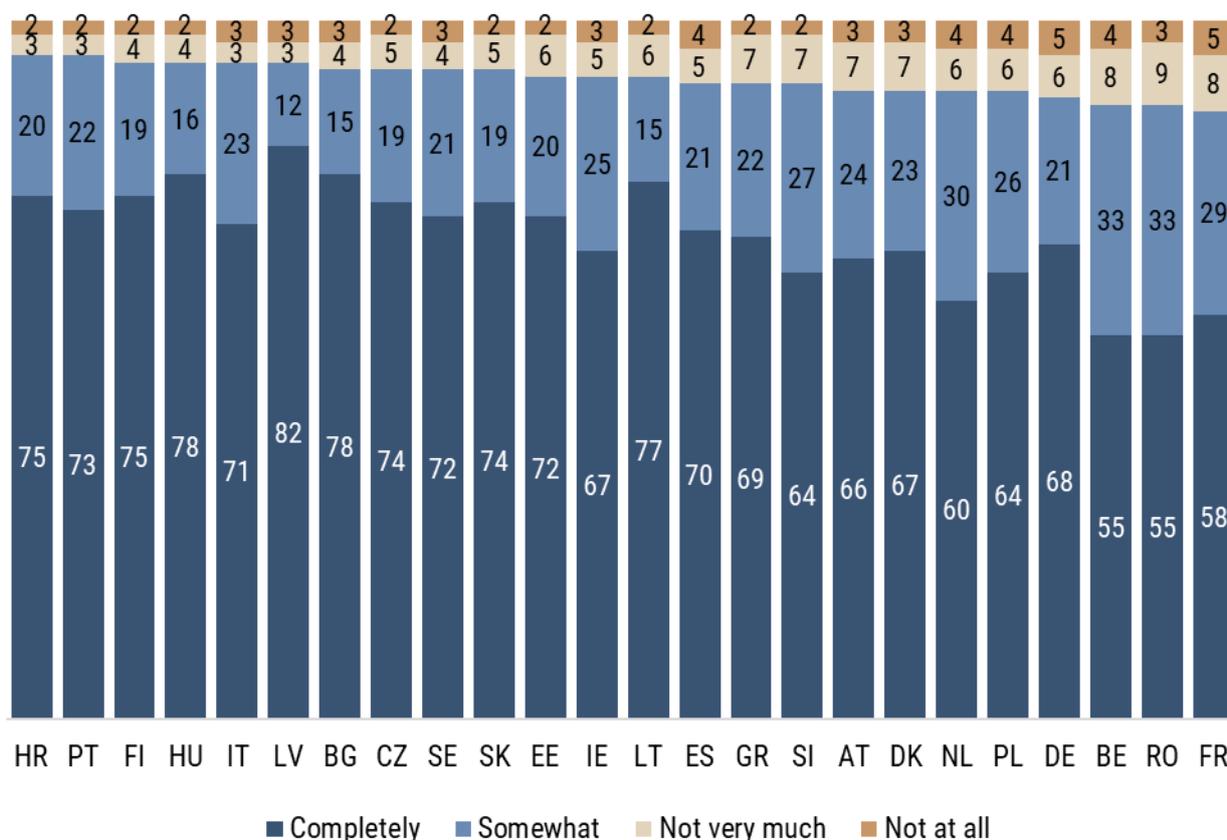


Fig. 1.21 shows the distribution of responses to the question of whether most people can be trusted on a 10-point scale. A score of 10 indicates a higher level of trust in people, while a score of 1 indicates distrust.

The highest level of trust is observed in Northern European countries such as Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Ireland. The proportion of respondents who chose scores of 8-10 in these countries is significantly higher than in other countries.

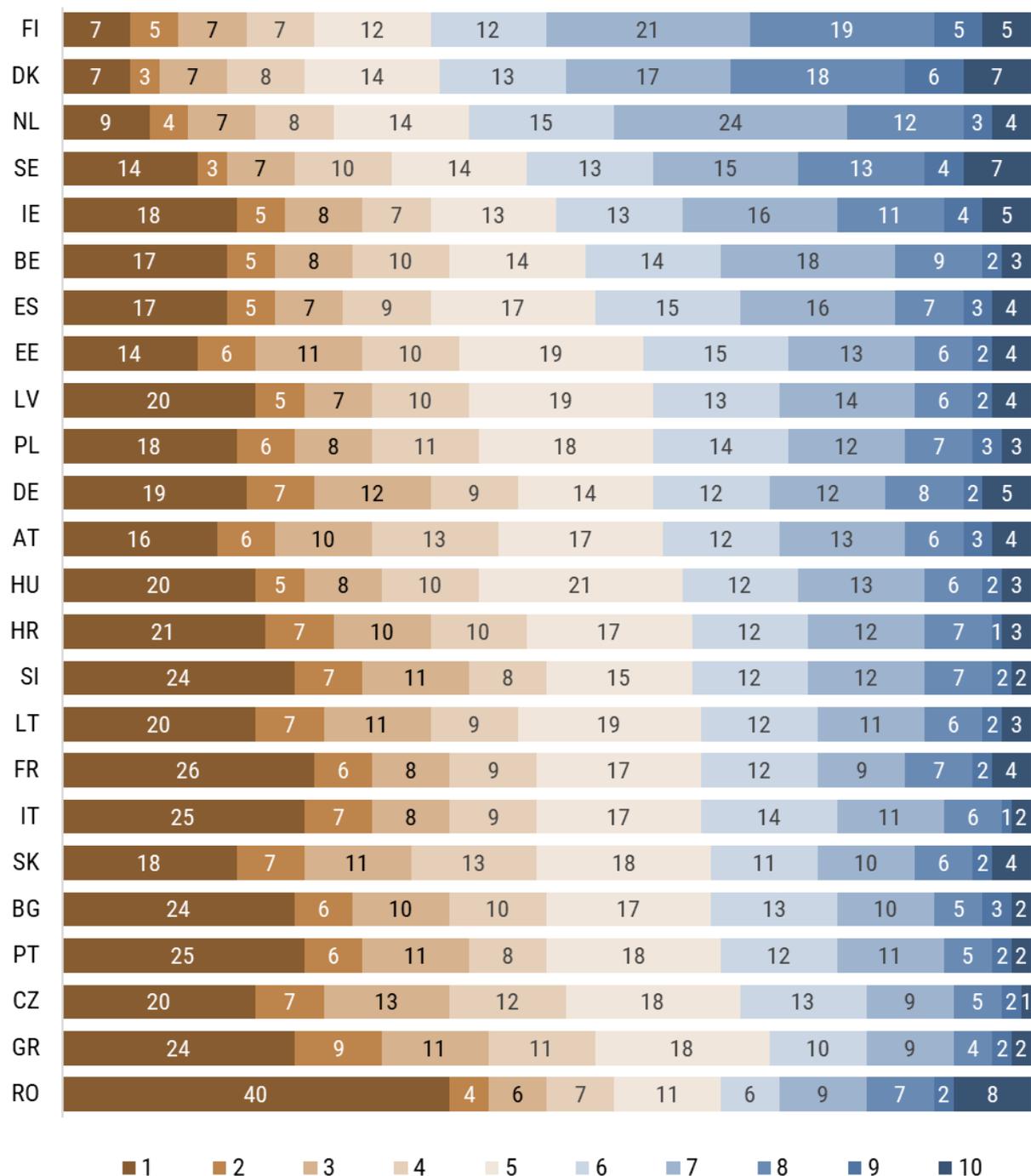
The lowest level of trust is recorded in countries such as Romania, Greece, the Czech Republic, Portugal and Bulgaria.

In Romania, on one hand, the highest percentage of respondents who gave a rating of 10 (8%), on the other, the highest percentage of respondents gave a rating of 1 (40%). Overall, mistrust prevails in Romania.



Fig. 1.21. Generalized Social Trust (%)

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people? Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “You need to be very careful in dealing with people” and 10 indicating “Most people can be trusted”





Supranational Institutions

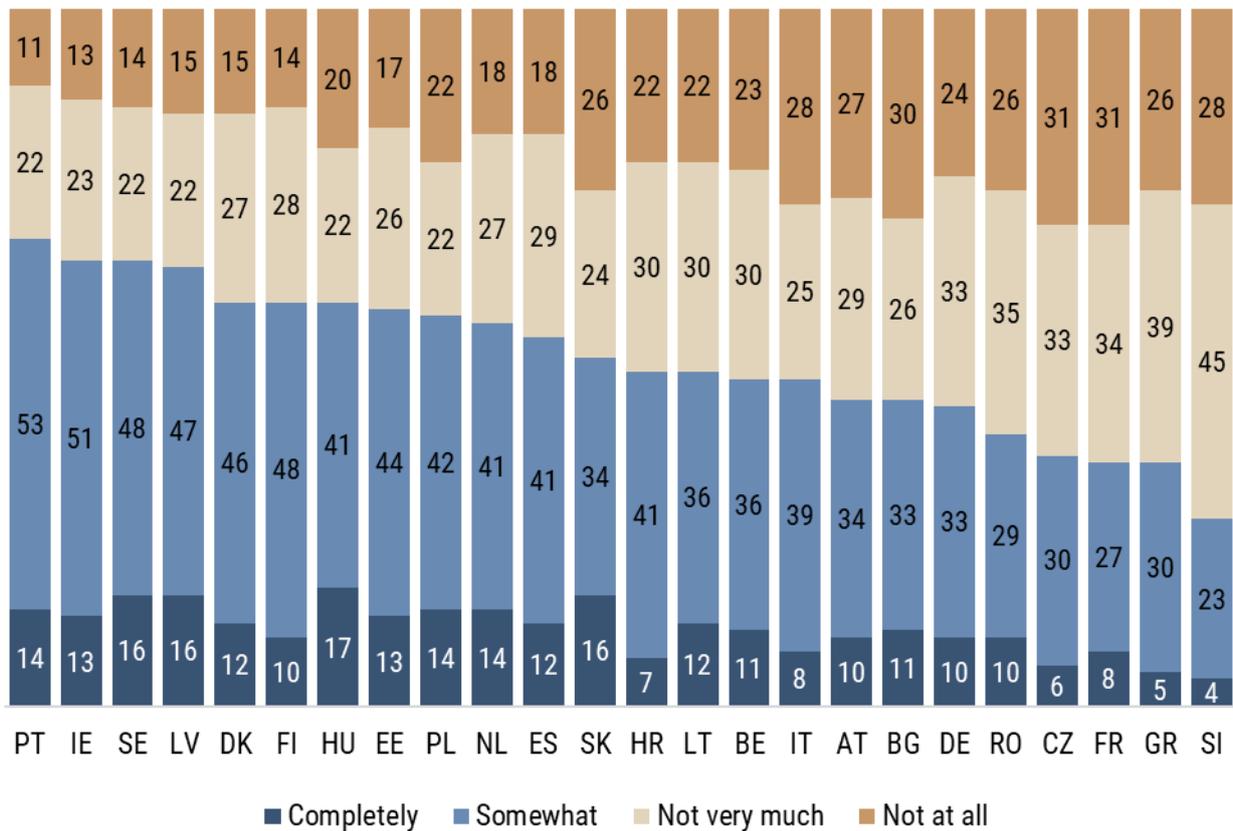
Respondents' opinions were divided on the issue of trust in the European Commission.

In countries such as Portugal (67% trust), Ireland, Sweden (64% each) and Latvia (63%), the majority expressed trust in the European Commission.

In countries such as Slovenia (73% do not trust), Greece (65%), France (65%), the Czech Republic (64%), and Romania (61%), there is a high level of distrust in the European Commission.

Fig. 1.22. Trust in European Commission (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?

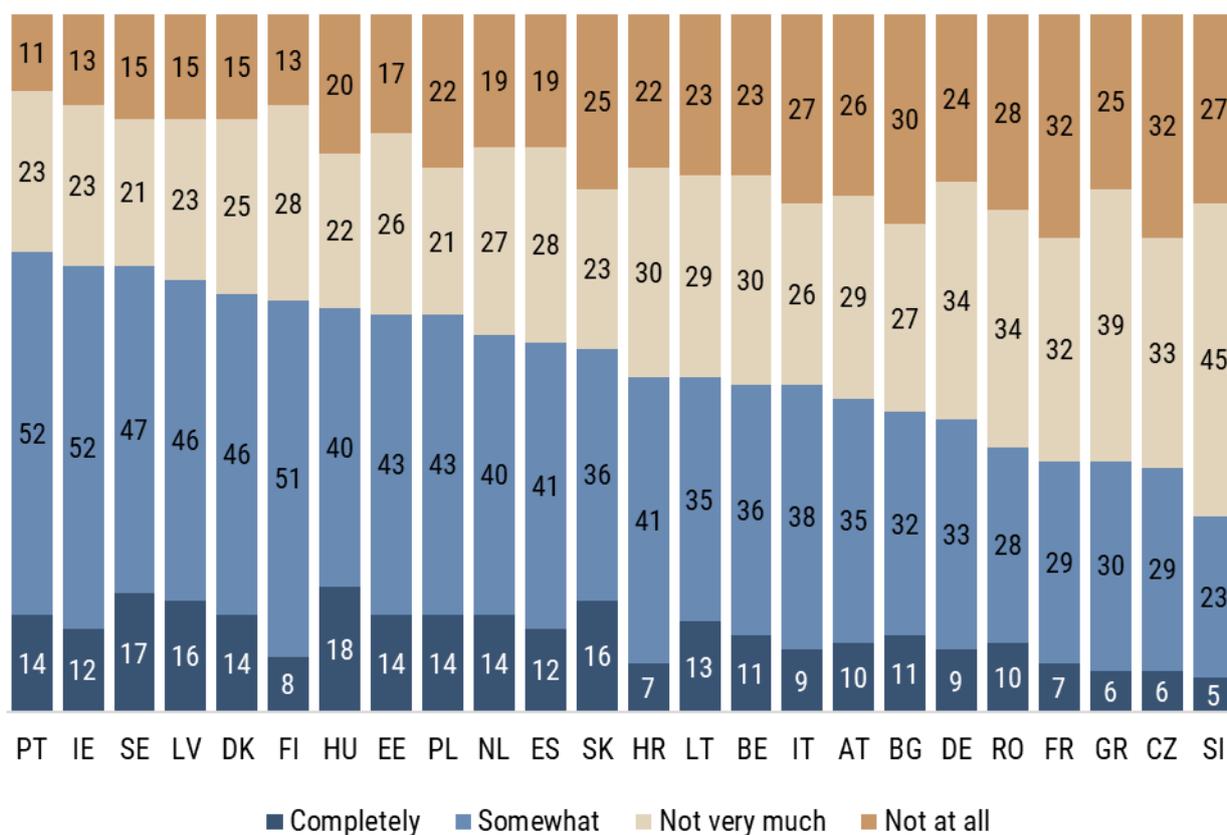


The highest levels of trust in the European Parliament are recorded in Portugal (66%), Ireland (64%), Sweden (64%), Latvia (62%) and Denmark (60%).

The lowest levels of trust are recorded in Slovenia (28%), the Czech Republic (35%), Greece (36%), France (36%) and Romania (38%).

Fig. 1.23. Trust in European Parliament (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?

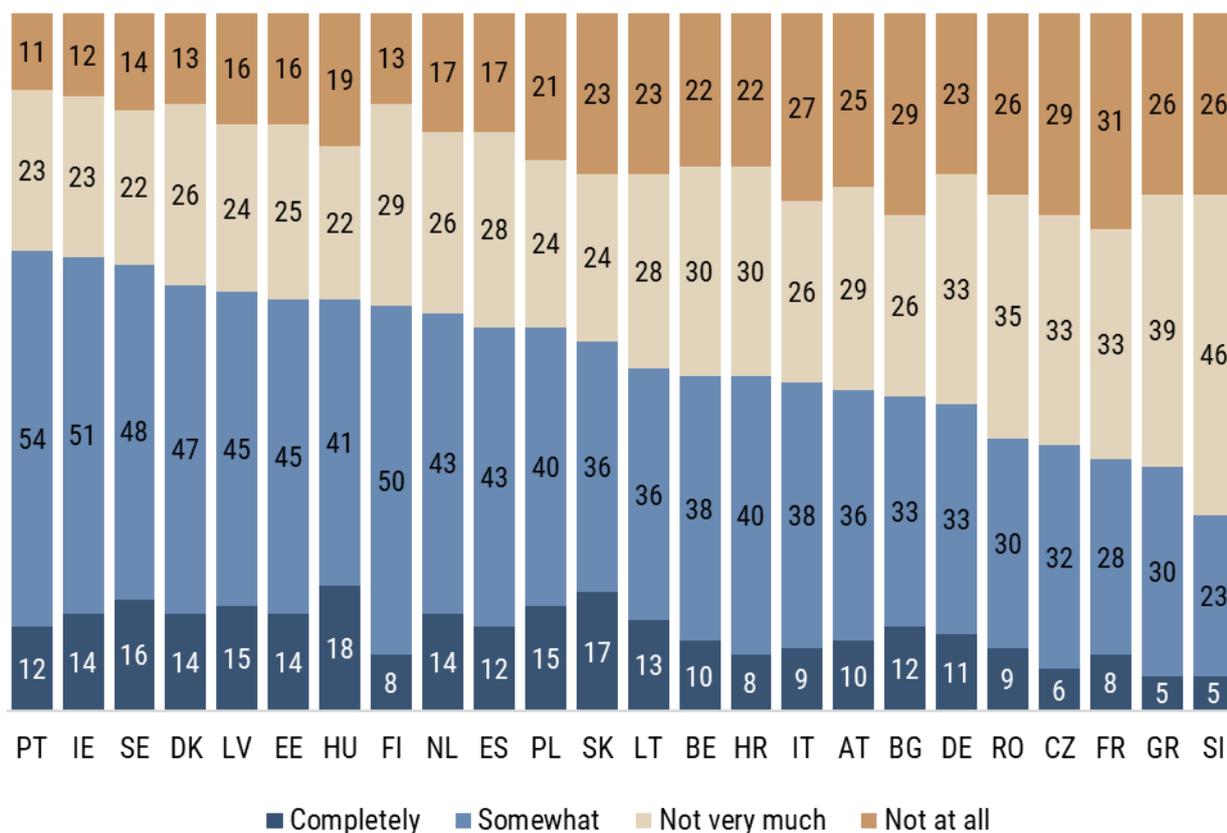


The level of trust in the European Council is quite high in Portugal (66%), Ireland (65%), Sweden (64%), Denmark (61%), Latvia (60%), Estonia and Hungary (both 59%). Trust in the European Council is also high in Finland (58%), the Netherlands (57%), Spain and Poland (55% each).

The highest levels of distrust in the European Council are recorded in Slovenia (72% do not trust it), Greece (65%), France (64%), the Czech Republic (62%) and Romania (61%).

Fig. 1.24. Trust in European Council (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?

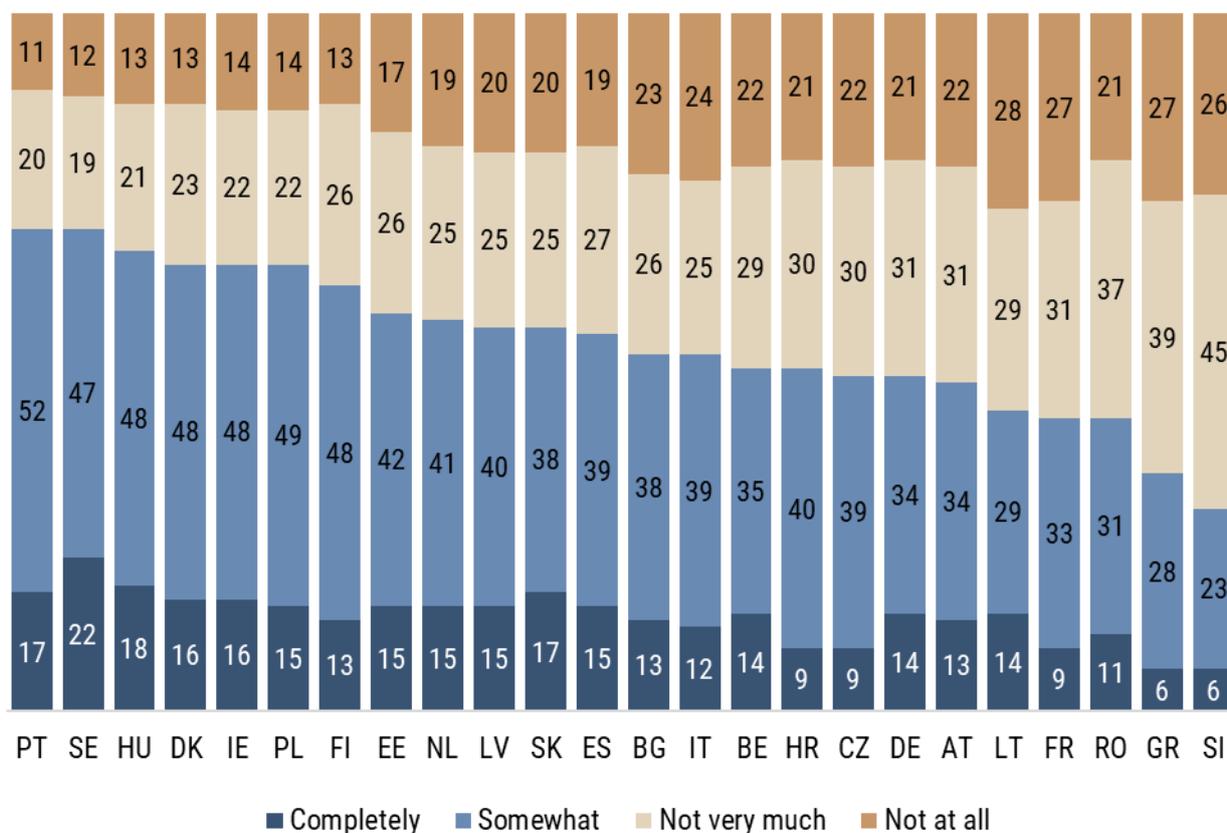


The level of trust in the United Nations is quite high. The UN is most trusted in countries such as Portugal, Sweden (69% each), Hungary (66%), Denmark, Ireland, Poland (64% each) and Finland (61%).

The lowest level of trust in the UN is recorded in Slovenia (29%), Greece (34%), Romania, France (42% each) and Lithuania (43%).

Fig. 1.25. Trust in United Nations (%)

How much do you personally trust each of the following?

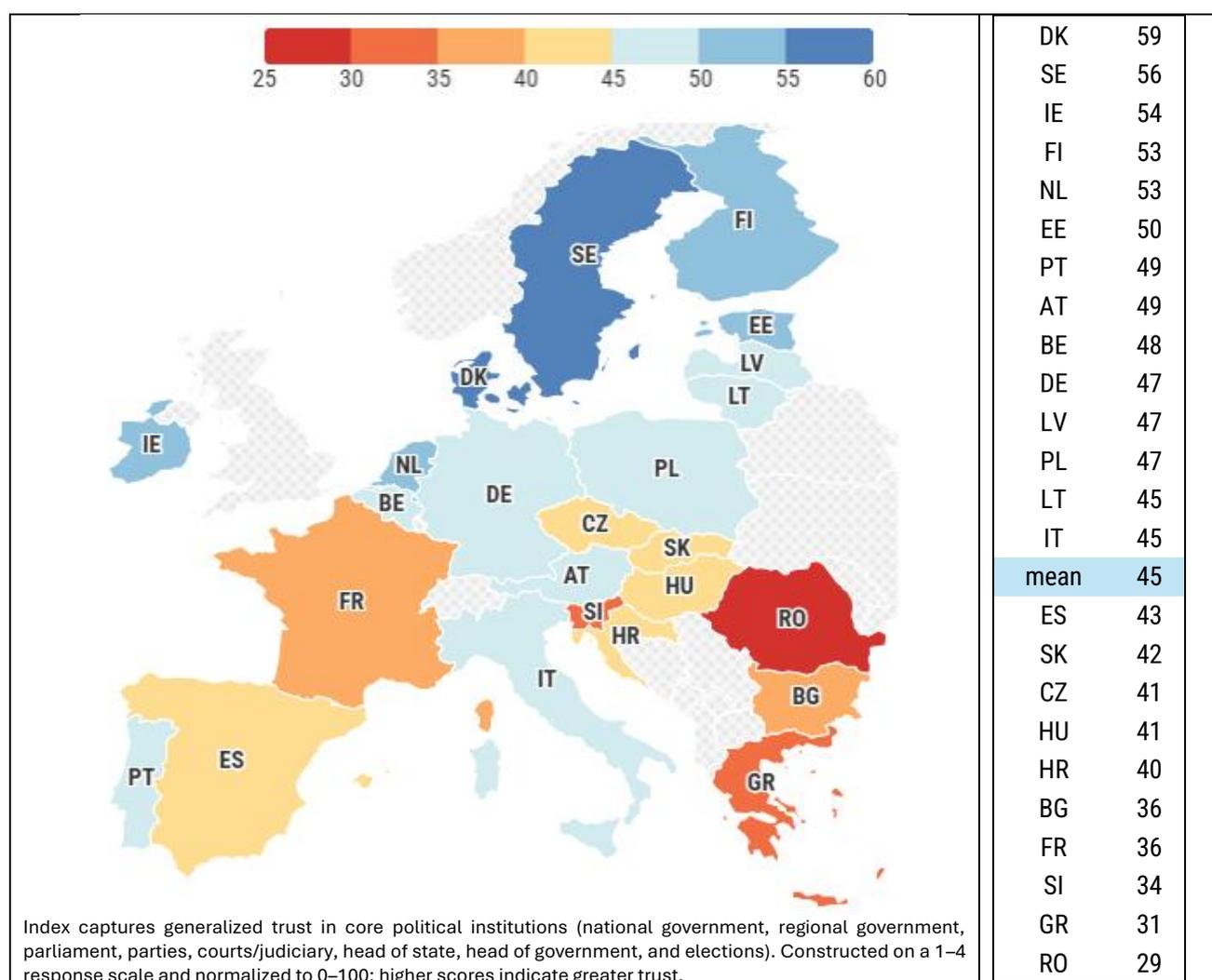




Trust Indexes

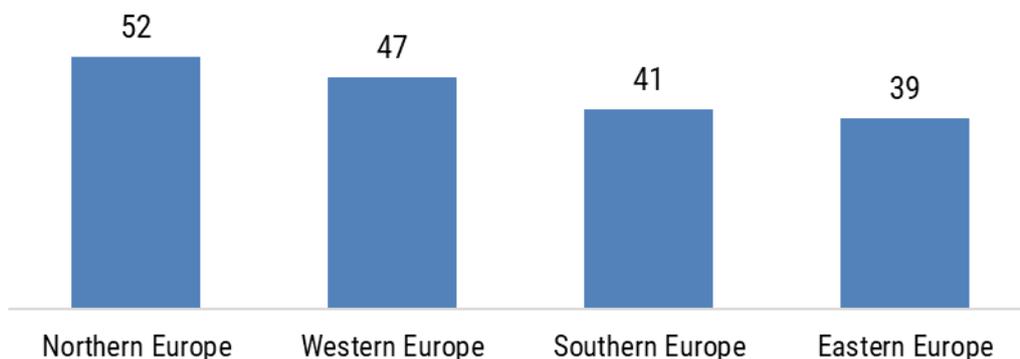
Based on individual measures of trust in key political institutions, an aggregated trust index was constructed. The highest levels of trust are recorded in Denmark (59), Sweden (56), and Ireland (54), with similarly high scores observed in Finland and the Netherlands (both 53). These Northern European countries are characterized by stable democratic institutions and a high level of trust in public authority. Countries such as Belgium (48), Germany, Latvia, and Poland (all 47), as well as Lithuania and Italy (45), exhibit a medium level of political trust, close to the European average (45). These countries demonstrate a moderate degree of citizens' trust in political institutions. Somewhat below-average index values are observed in Spain (43), Slovakia (42), the Czech Republic and Hungary (both 41), and Croatia (40). This level of trust in political institutions reflects a tendency toward distrust. The lowest index scores are recorded in Bulgaria and France (both 36), Slovenia (34), Greece (31), and Romania (29). These results point to a pronounced crisis of trust in political institutions.

Fig. 1.26. Index of trust in political institutions (means)



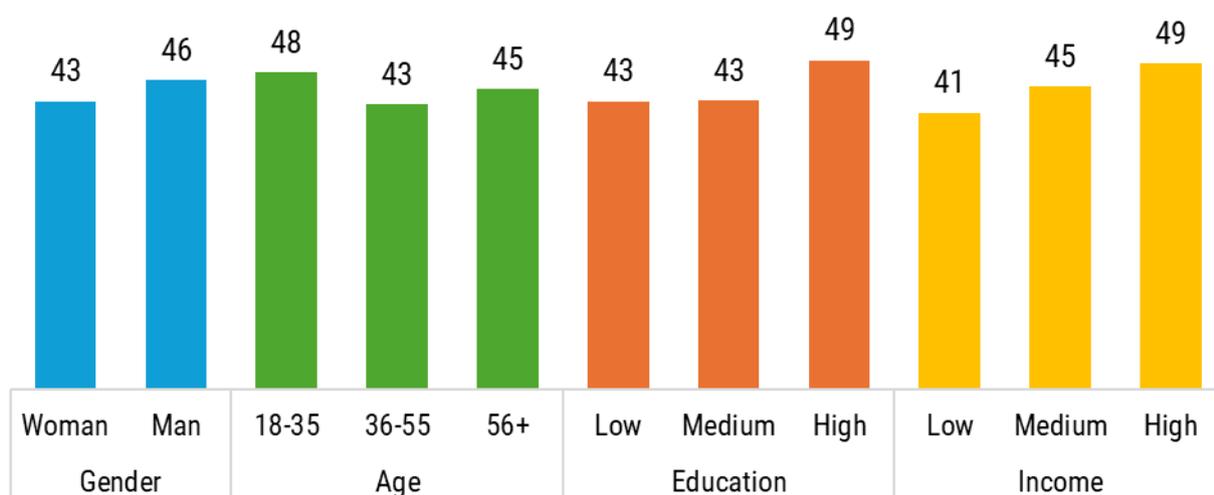
Northern (52) and Western (47) European countries show the highest levels of trust in political institutions. Trust in political institutions is significantly lower in Southern (41) and Eastern (39) Europe.

Fig. 1.27. Index of trust in political institutions in different regions of Europe (means)



Males generally demonstrate a higher level of trust in political institutions than females. Young people (aged 18-35) also tend to trust key political institutions more, unlike people aged 36-55, who demonstrate a lower level of trust. Education also influences the level of trust. Respondents with higher education are more likely to trust political institutions. The same applies to people with higher incomes.

Fig. 1.28. Index of trust in political institutions among different groups (means)



In almost all countries, there is a general trend towards higher levels of trust among males. The exceptions are Lithuania, where females demonstrate higher levels of trust, and Poland, where there is no difference in trust levels between males and females. The youngest age group (18-35 years) appears most trusting in the Netherlands, Belgium, Latvia, Germany, Lithuania, Bulgaria, France, Slovenia, and Romania. The senior age group (56 years and over) shows the highest level of political trust in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Slovakia, and Croatia.

Fig. 1.29. Index of trust in political institutions grouped by gender (means)

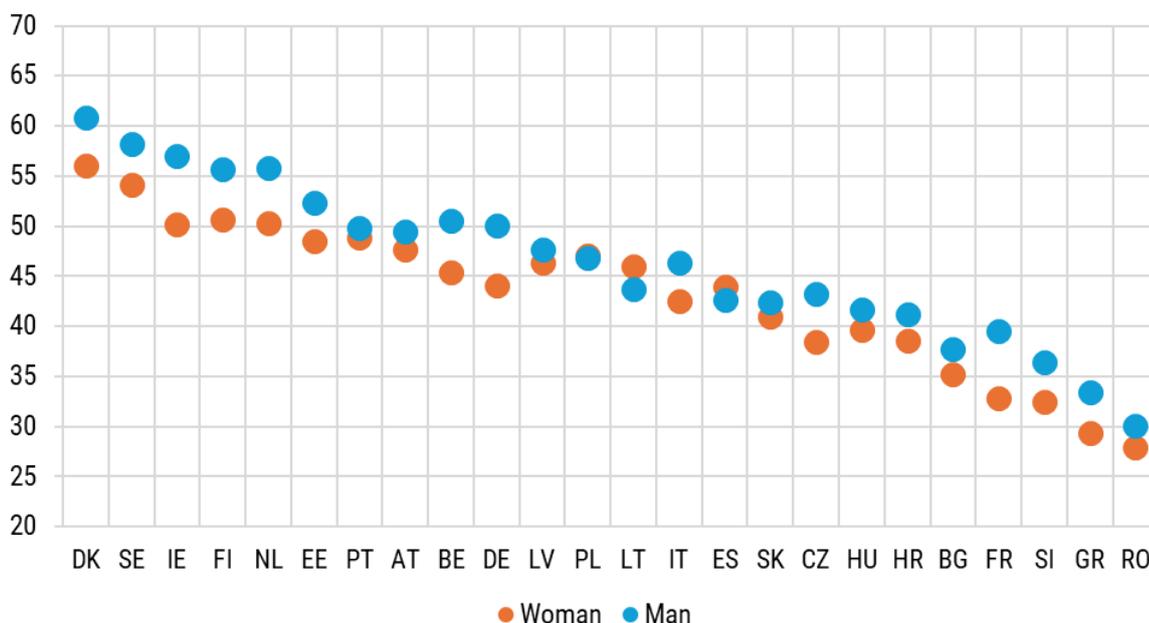


Fig. 1.30. Index of trust in political institutions grouped by age (means)



The differences in political trust are greater among the respondents with different education and income. Respondents with tertiary education demonstrate a higher level of trust in political institutions in most countries, except for Poland, Slovakia and Bulgaria where the level of trust in political institutions is similar across all groups. In Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia, on the contrary, respondents with higher education demonstrate a slightly lower level of trust than less educated respondents. A high level of income leads to a higher level of political trust in all countries except Croatia and Bulgaria.

Fig. 1.31. Index of trust in political institutions grouped by education (means)

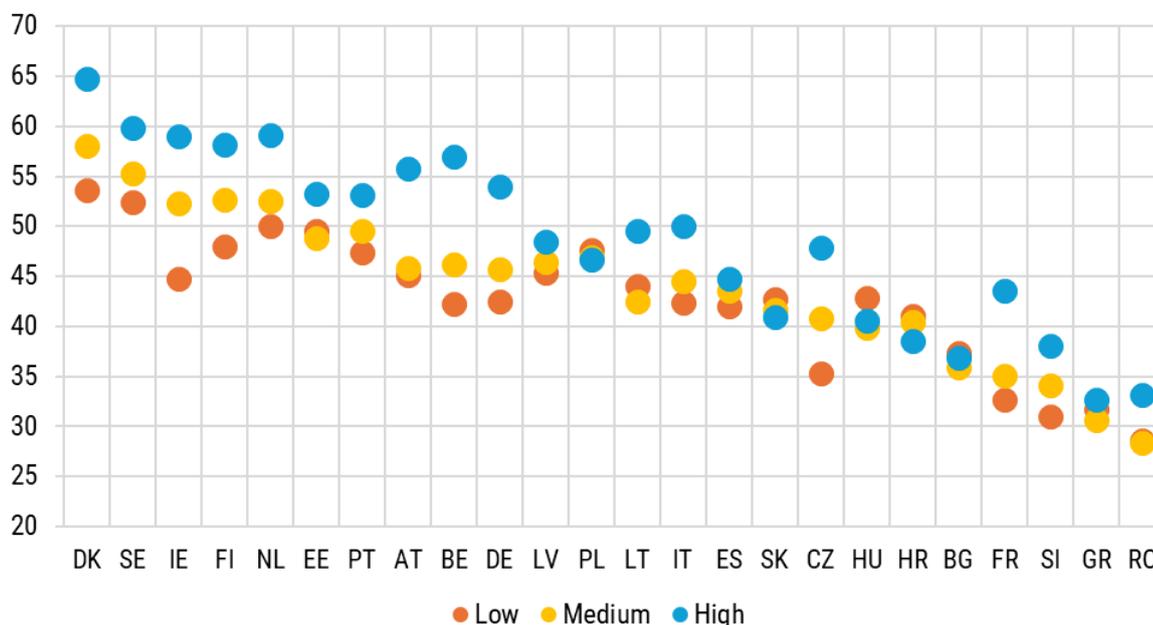
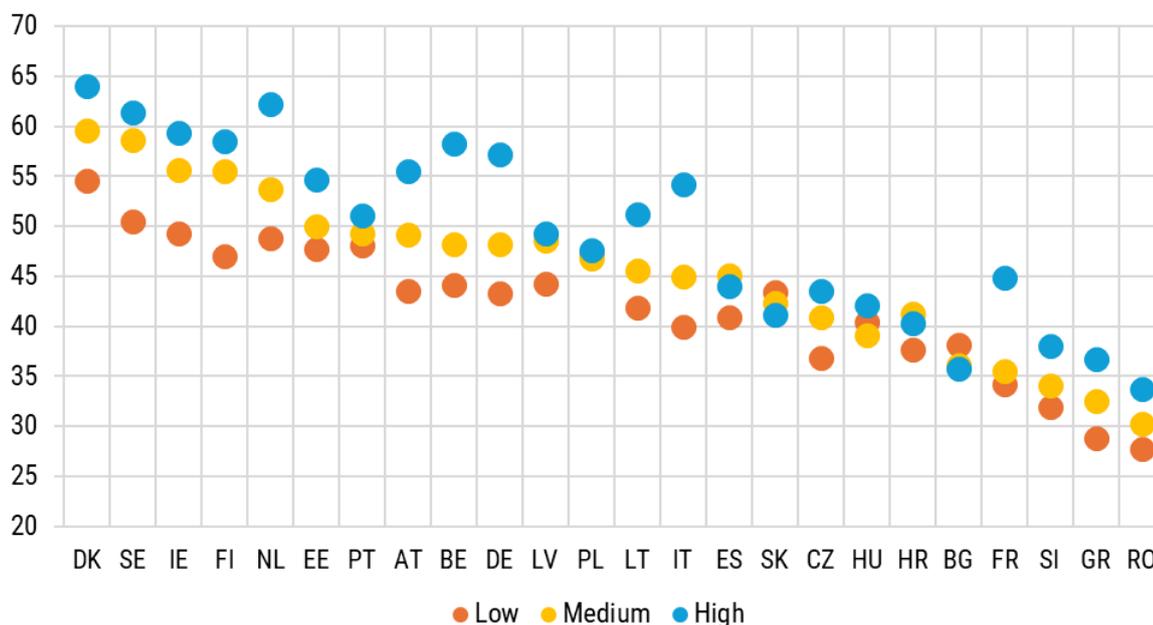


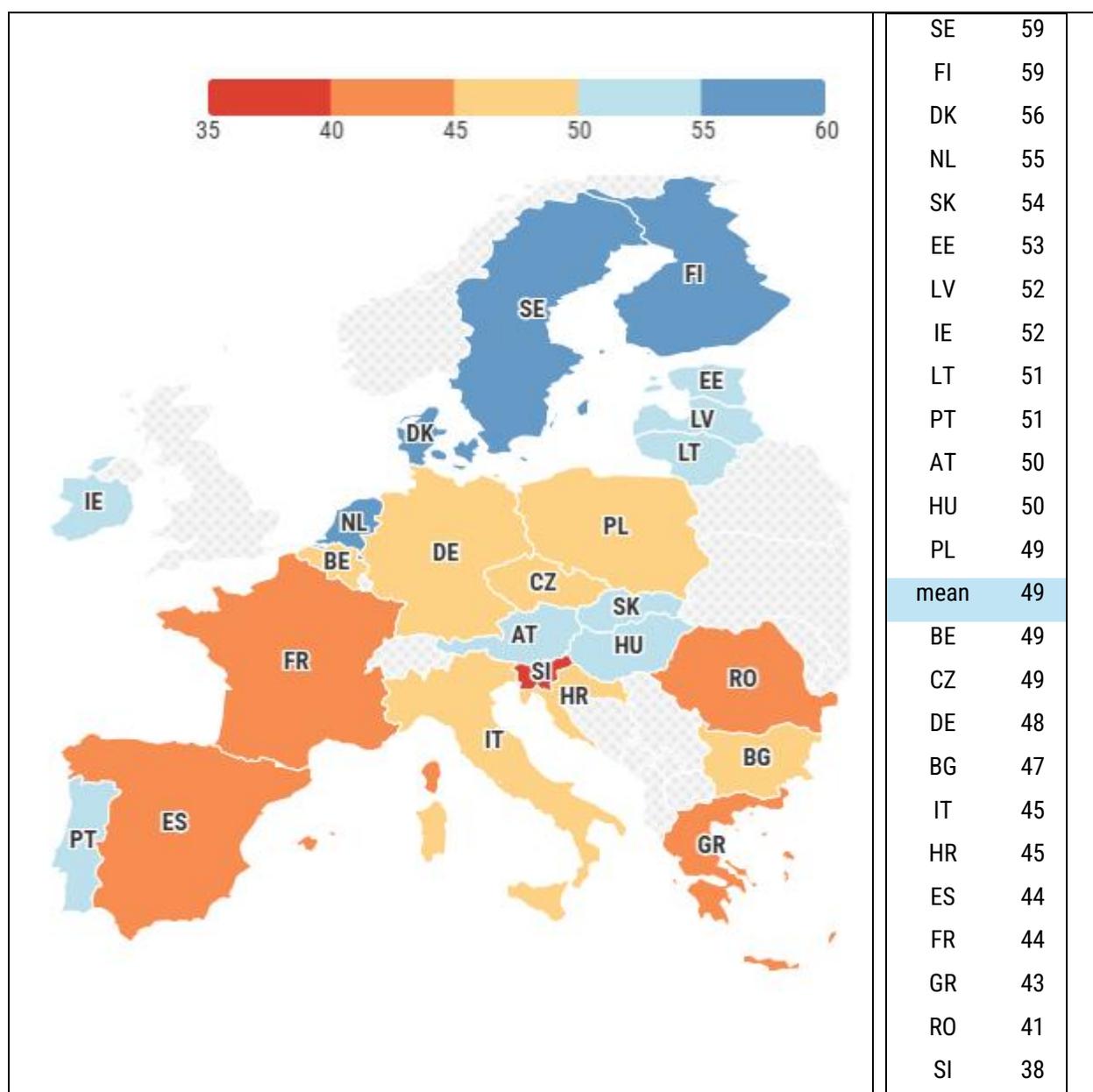
Fig. 1.32. Index of trust in political institutions grouped by income (means)





The social institutions trust index shows us that the highest level of trust is observed in Sweden and Finland (59 each), as well as in Denmark (56), the Netherlands (55) and Slovakia (54). In countries such as Hungary (50), Poland, Belgium, the Czech Republic (49 each) and Germany (48), the social institutions trust index is similar to the European average (49). The lowest social institutions trust index is recorded in Greece (43), Romania (41) and Slovenia (38).

Fig. 1.33. Index of trust in social institutions (means)

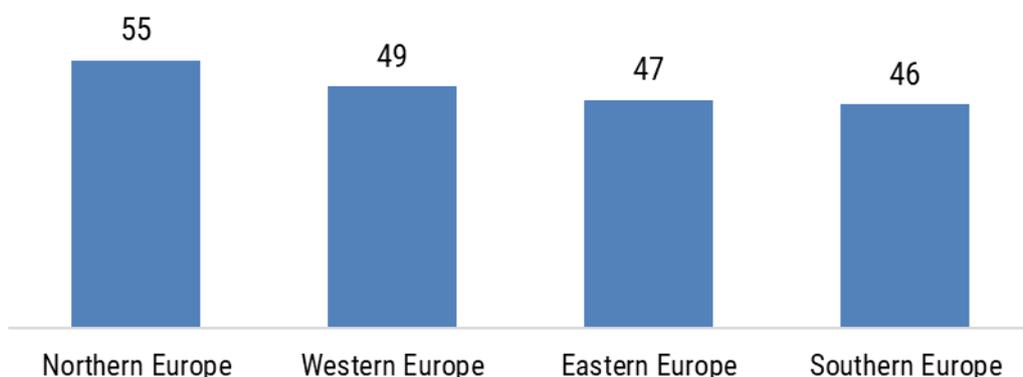


Index captures trust in major social and intermediary institutions (church, banks and corporations, labor unions, civil society organizations). Constructed on a 1–4 response scale and normalized to 0–100; higher scores indicate greater trust.

Northern European countries (55) show a higher level of trust in social institutions compared to other European countries. Western European countries (49) also have a fairly high level of

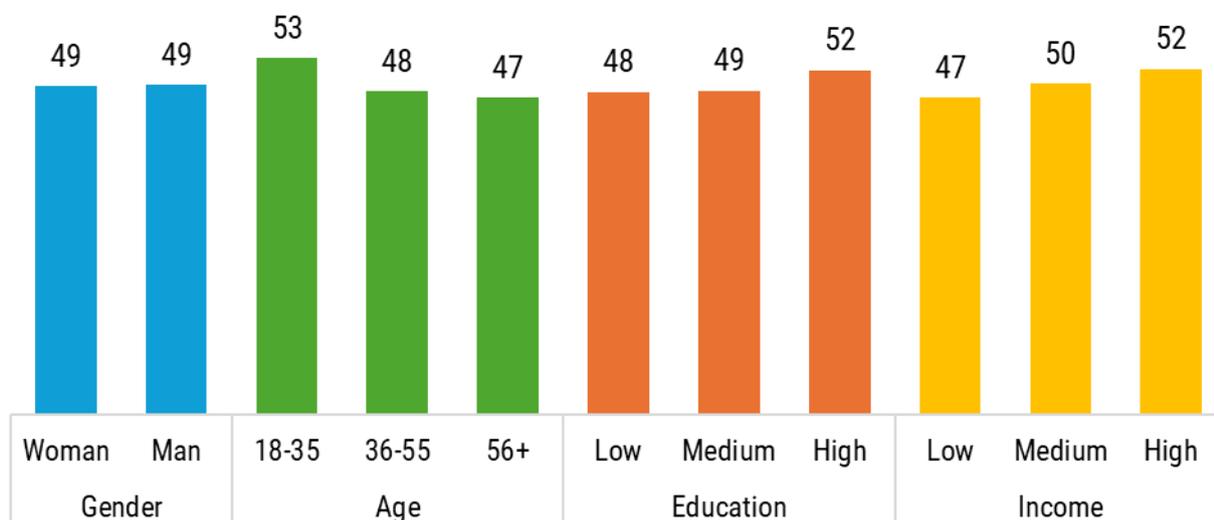
trust. Eastern (47) and Southern (46) European countries show a lower level of trust in social institutions.

Fig. 1.34. Index of trust in social institutions in different regions of Europe (means)



There are no differences in the level of trust in social institutions between males and females. At the same time, younger respondents (aged 18-35) show higher trust in social institutions compared to older age groups. Trust in social institutions is also higher among respondents with higher levels of education and income.

Fig. 1.35. Index of trust in social institutions among different groups (means)



In most countries, there are no significant differences in the level of trust in social institutions between males and females. However, in Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Croatia and Romania, women tend to have greater trust in social institutions. At the same time, in Denmark, Latvia, Ireland, Germany, France and Slovenia, men have greater trust in social institutions.

In most countries, young people aged 18-35 have a higher level of trust in social institutions than senior age group. The exceptions are Finland and Poland, where there are no age differences in the level of trust in social institutions.

Fig. 1.36. Index of trust in social institutions grouped by gender (means)

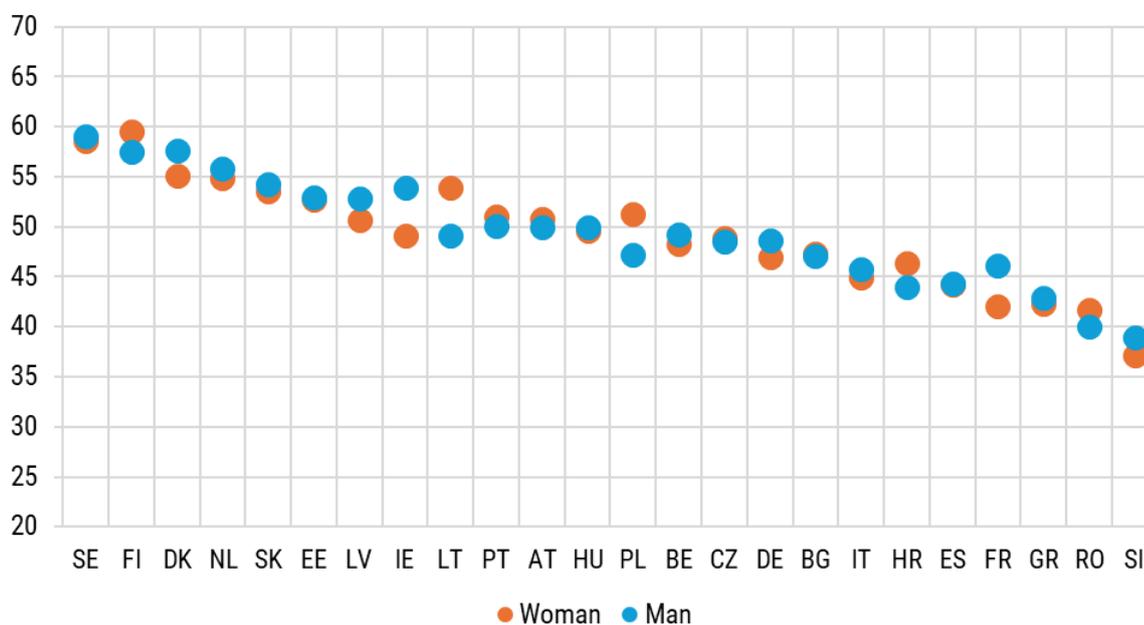
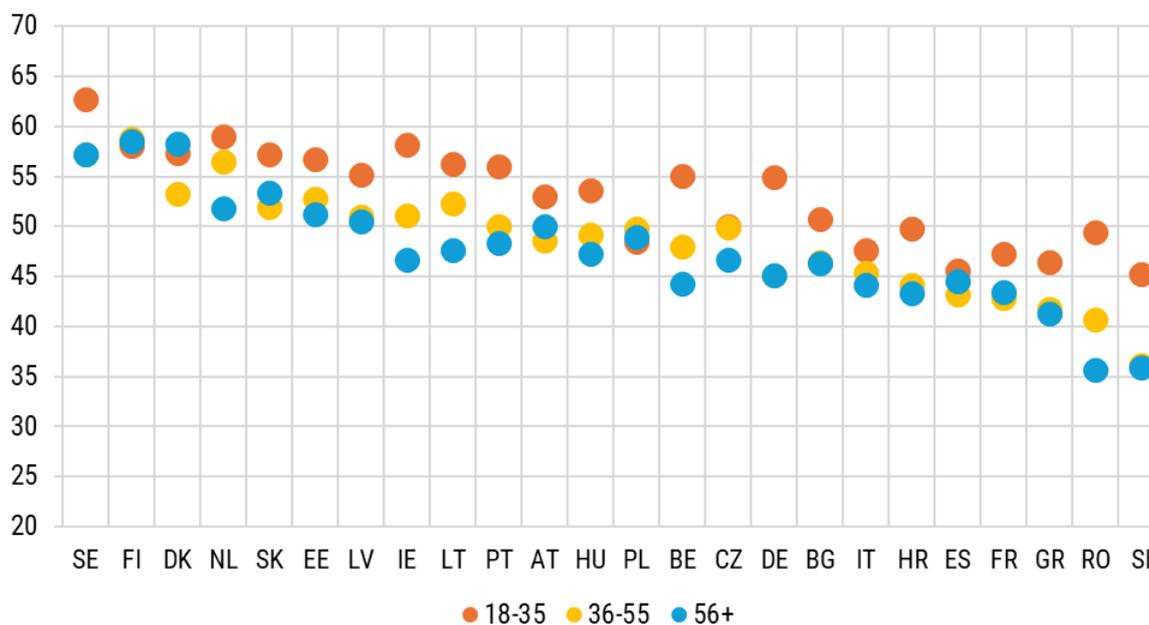


Fig. 1.37. Index of trust in social institutions grouped by age (means)



In most countries, the pan-European trend persists: the respondents with higher levels of education trust social institutions more. However, in Croatia, Greece and Romania, the situation is the opposite. In these countries, the index of trust in social institutions is higher among respondents with lower levels of education. The pan-European trend is also reflected in the correlation between the level of trust in social institutions and income: the higher the respondent's income, the more they trust social institutions. The exceptions are Spain, Portugal and Greece, where the level of trust in social institutions does not depend on income.

Fig. 1.38. Index of trust in social institutions grouped by education (means)

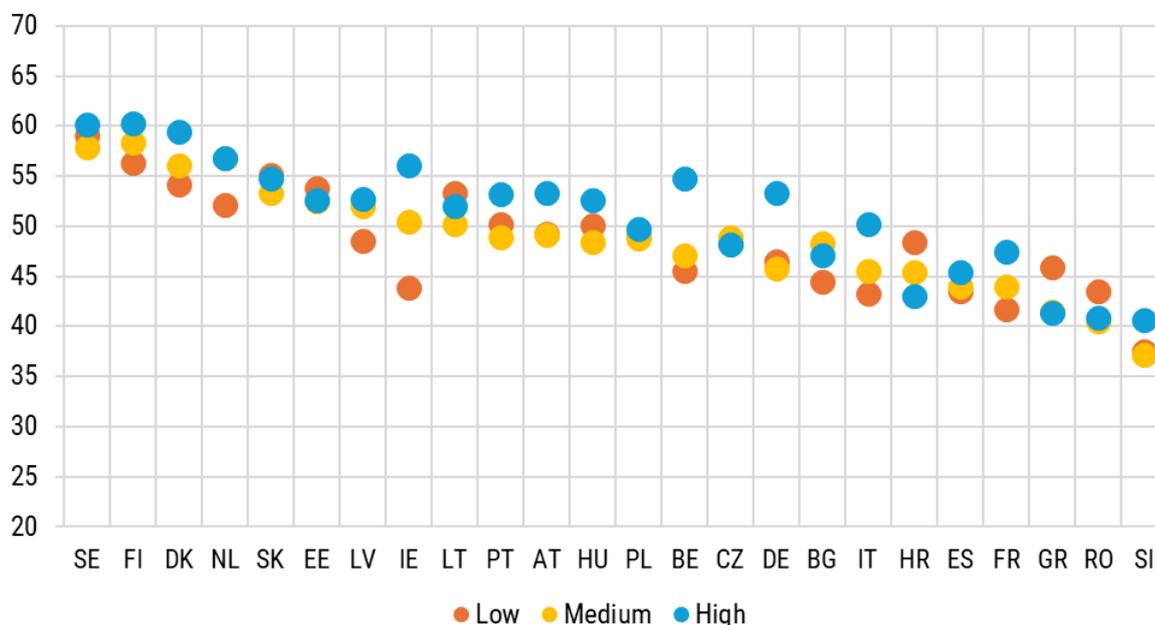
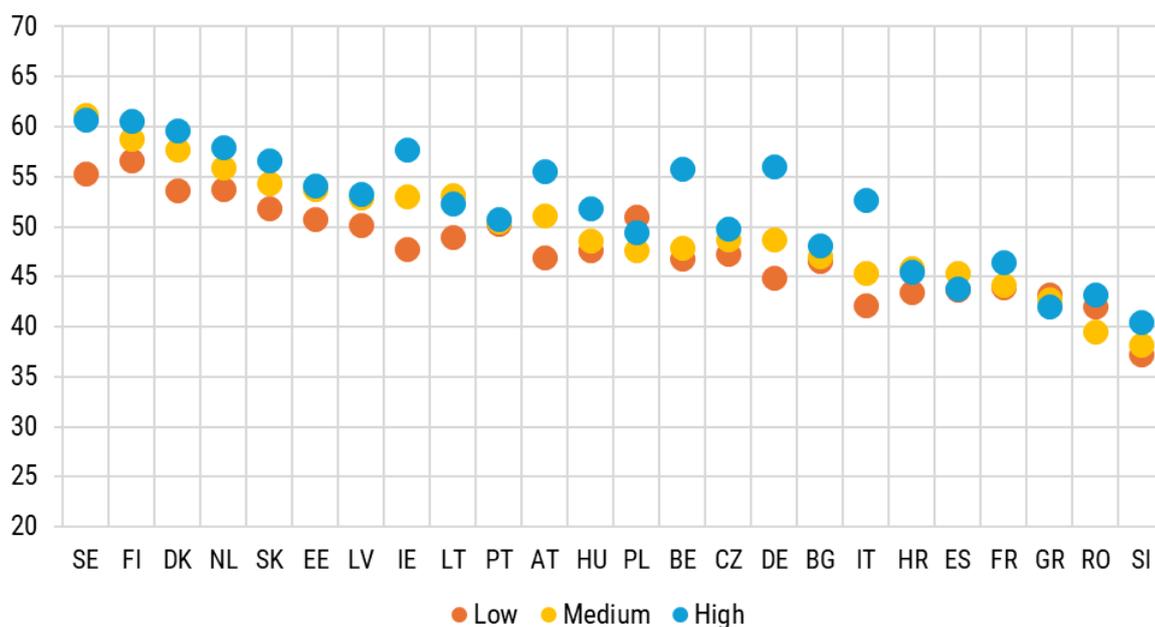


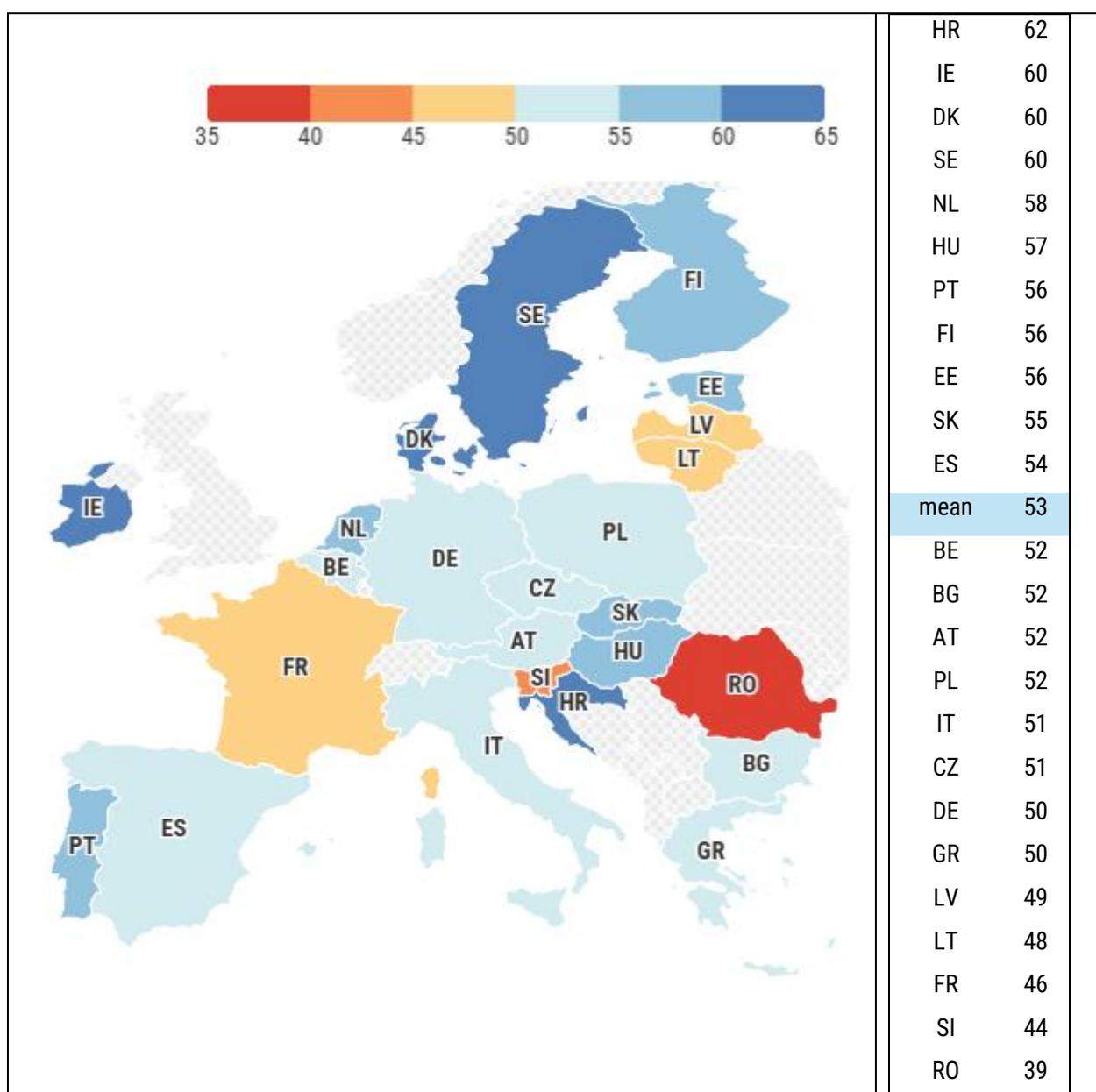
Fig. 1.39. Index of trust in social institutions grouped by income (means)





The out-groups trust index reflects the level of trust toward people of a different religion, nationality, or political views. The highest levels of trust are observed in Croatia (62), Ireland, Denmark, and Sweden (60 each), as well as in the Netherlands (58) and Hungary (57). In countries such as Slovakia (55), Spain (54), and Belgium, Bulgaria, Austria, and Poland (52 each), trust in out-groups is close to the European average (53). The lowest levels of trust are recorded in France (46), Slovenia (44), and Romania (39).

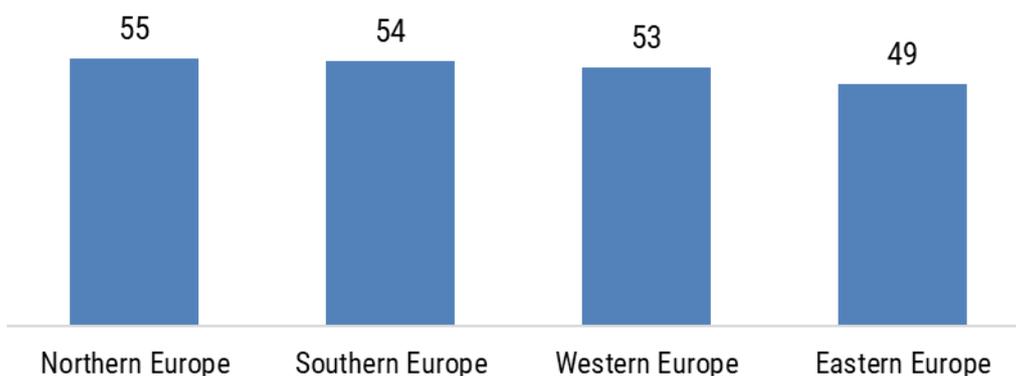
Fig. 1.40. Index of trust in out-groups (means)



Index captures interpersonal trust toward out-groups (people of another religion, people of another nation, supporters of other political parties). Constructed on a 1–4 response scale and normalized to 0–100; higher scores indicate greater trust.

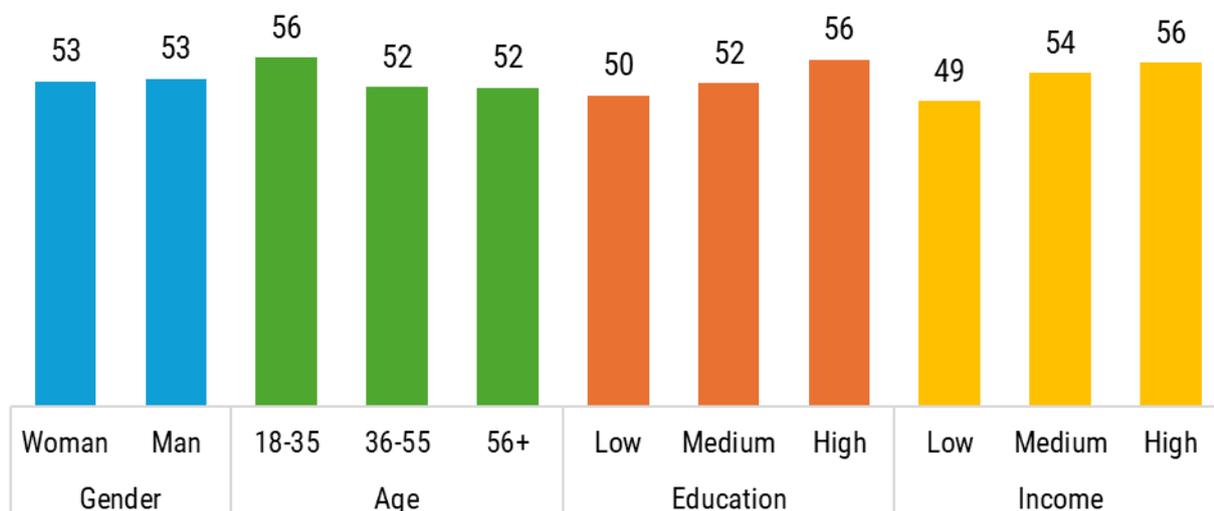
The highest value of the out-groups trust index is observed in the countries of Northern Europe (55). However, the index is also relatively high in Southern Europe (54) and Western Europe (53). In Eastern European countries, the value of this index is somewhat lower (49).

Fig. 1.41. Index of trust in out-groups in different regions of Europe (means)



No gender differences are observed in levels of trust toward out-groups. Younger respondents (aged 18–35) demonstrate higher levels of trust toward out-groups—people of a different religion, nationality, or political views—than older age groups. Moreover, higher levels of education and income are associated with higher levels of trust toward out-groups.

Fig. 1.42. Index of trust in out-groups among different groups (means)



In most countries, there are no substantial differences in the out-groups trust index between men and women. In Croatia, women display higher levels of trust toward out-groups. The opposite pattern is observed in Romania and Ireland, where men report higher levels of trust toward out-groups.

Young people aged 18–35 express higher levels of trust toward out-groups than older age groups in all countries except Denmark and Spain, where no significant differences between age groups are observed.

Fig. 1.43. Index of trust in out-groups grouped by gender (means)

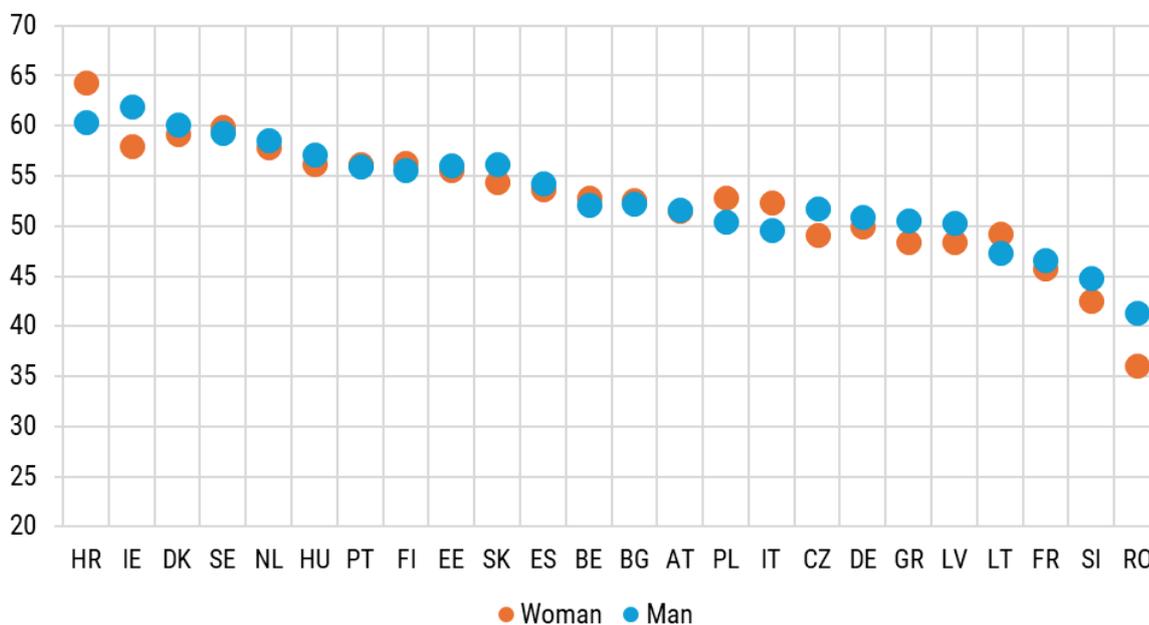
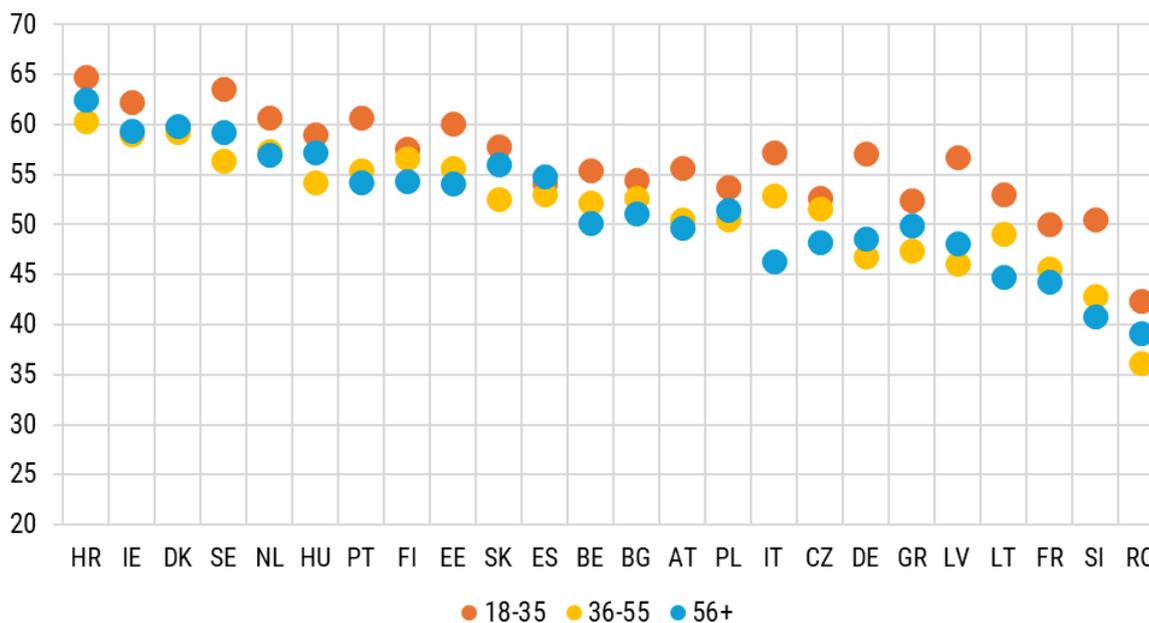


Fig. 1.44. Index of trust in out-groups grouped by age (means)





Having a higher level of education is associated with higher levels of trust toward out-groups in most countries, with the exception of Croatia and Bulgaria. Higher income levels are correlated with higher levels of trust toward out-groups in all countries except Croatia and Spain.

Fig. 1.45. Index of trust in out-groups grouped by education (means)

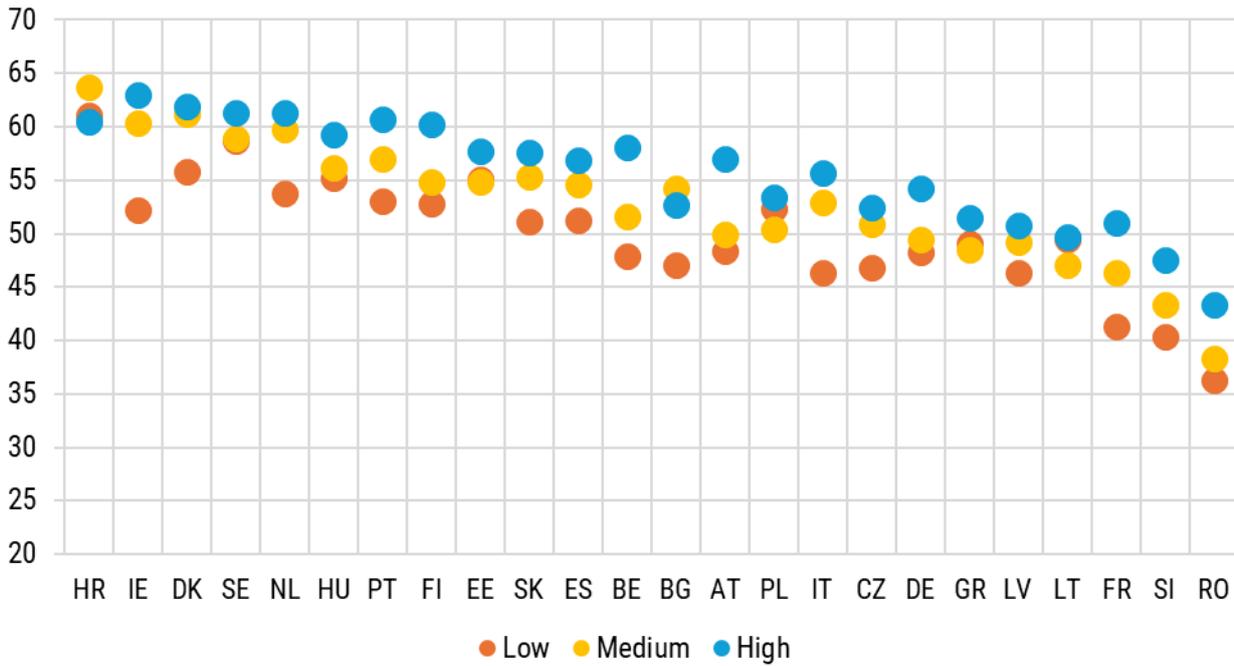
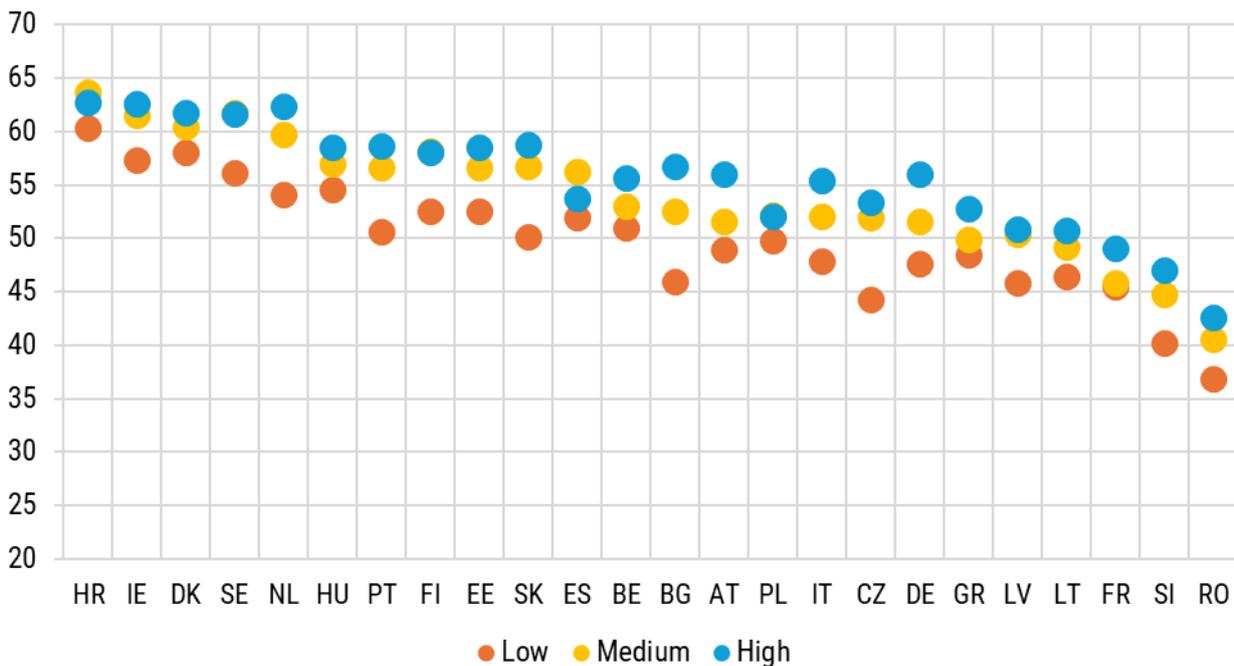
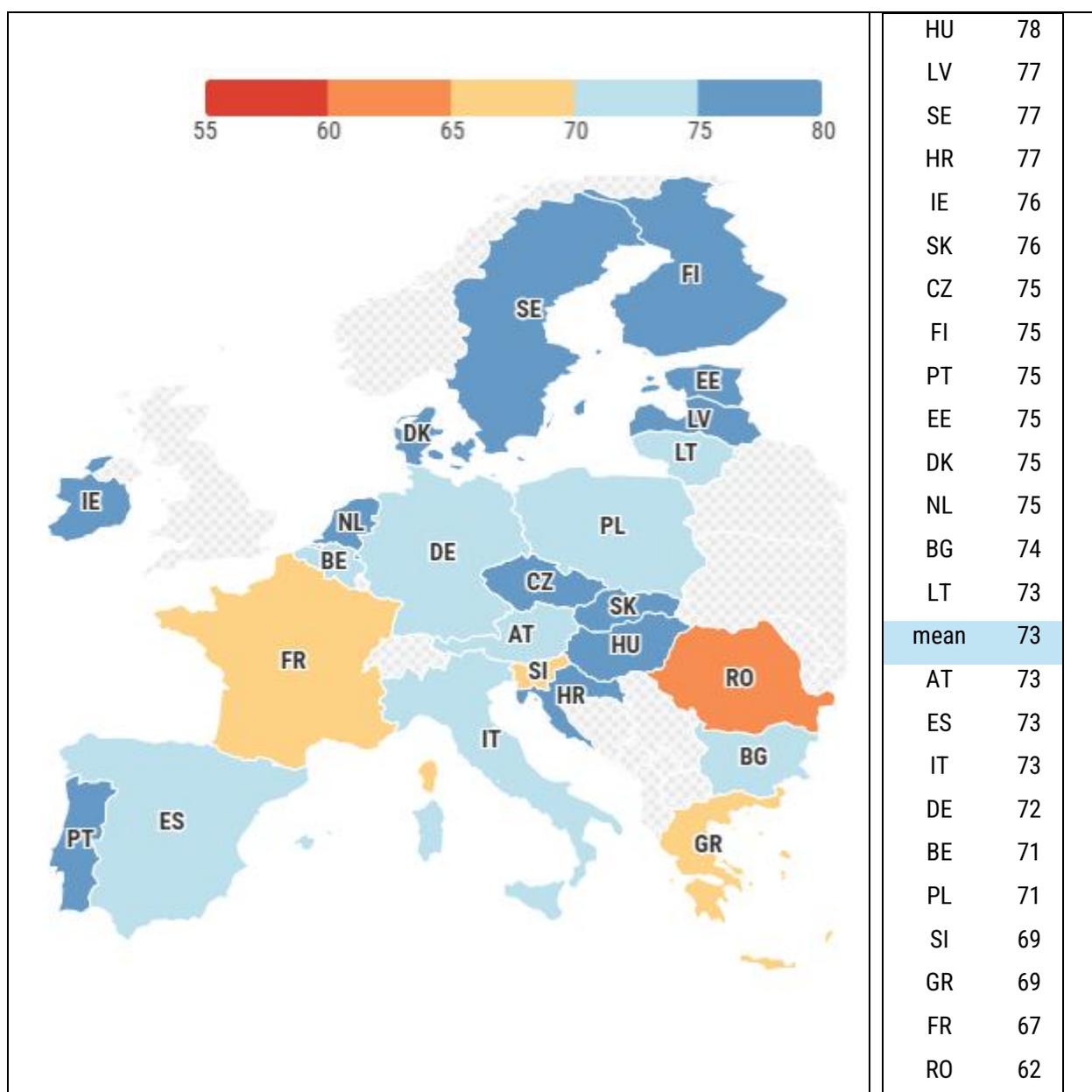


Fig. 1.46. Index of trust in out-groups grouped by income (means)



The in-groups trust index captures the level of trust toward respondents' immediate social environment, including family members and neighbours. Levels of trust toward in-groups are substantially higher than those observed for out-groups. The highest levels of trust in in-groups are reported in Hungary (78), Latvia, Sweden, and Croatia (77 each), as well as in Ireland and Slovakia (76). A medium level of trust toward in-groups is observed in Lithuania, Austria, Spain, and Italy. In these countries, the index value corresponds to the European average (73). The lowest levels of trust toward in-groups are recorded in Slovenia and Greece (69 each), France (67), and Romania (62).

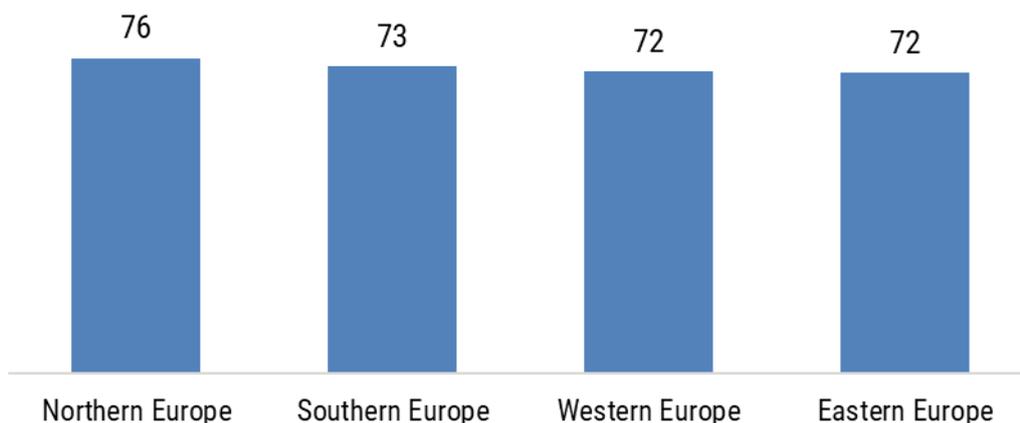
Fig. 1.47. Index of trust in in-groups (means)



Index capturing interpersonal trust toward proximate in-groups (your family; your neighbors). Constructed on a 1–4 response scale and normalized to 0–100; higher scores indicate greater trust.

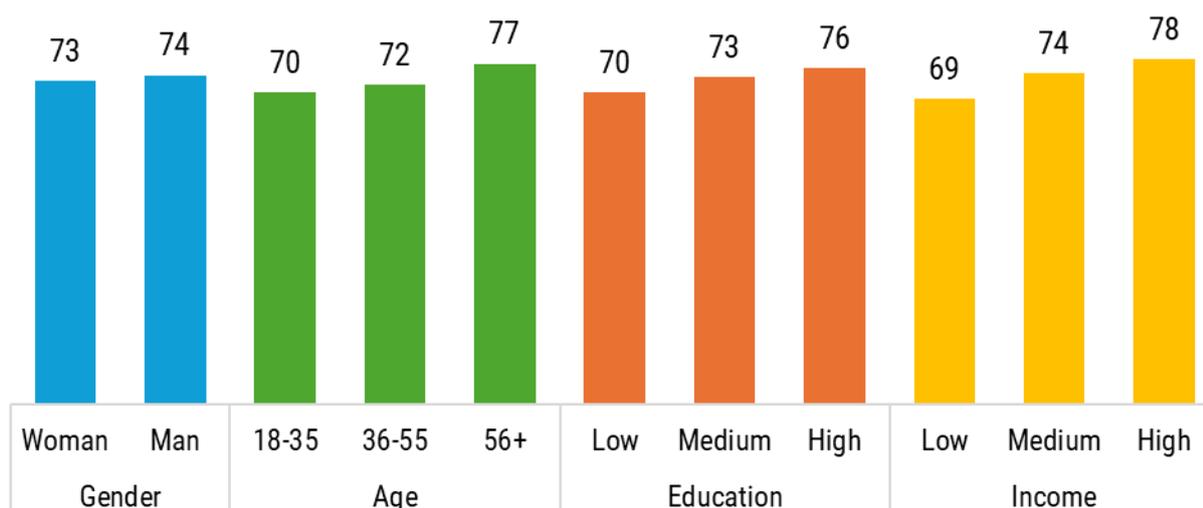
The highest value of the in-groups trust index is observed in the countries of Northern Europe (76). In Southern Europe (73) and in Western and Eastern Europe (both 72), trust toward family members and neighbours is somewhat lower.

Fig. 1.48. Index of trust in in-groups in different regions of Europe (means)



The in-groups trust index shows only minor differences between men and women (men – 74, women – 73). The highest levels of trust in in-groups are expressed by respondents in the senior age group (56+), compared with younger respondents. Moreover, higher levels of education and income are associated with higher values of the in-groups trust index.

Fig. 1.49. Index of trust in in-groups among different groups (means)



In countries such as Sweden, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Finland, Portugal, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Germany, Slovenia, Greece, and Romania, men exhibit higher levels of trust toward in-groups compared with women. In the remaining countries, no significant gender differences in this index are observed.

In most countries, higher levels of trust toward in-groups are reported by respondents in the senior age group (56+). In Croatia, Portugal, Spain, and Slovenia, no substantial age-related differences are observed.

Fig. 1.50. Index of trust in in-groups grouped by gender (means)

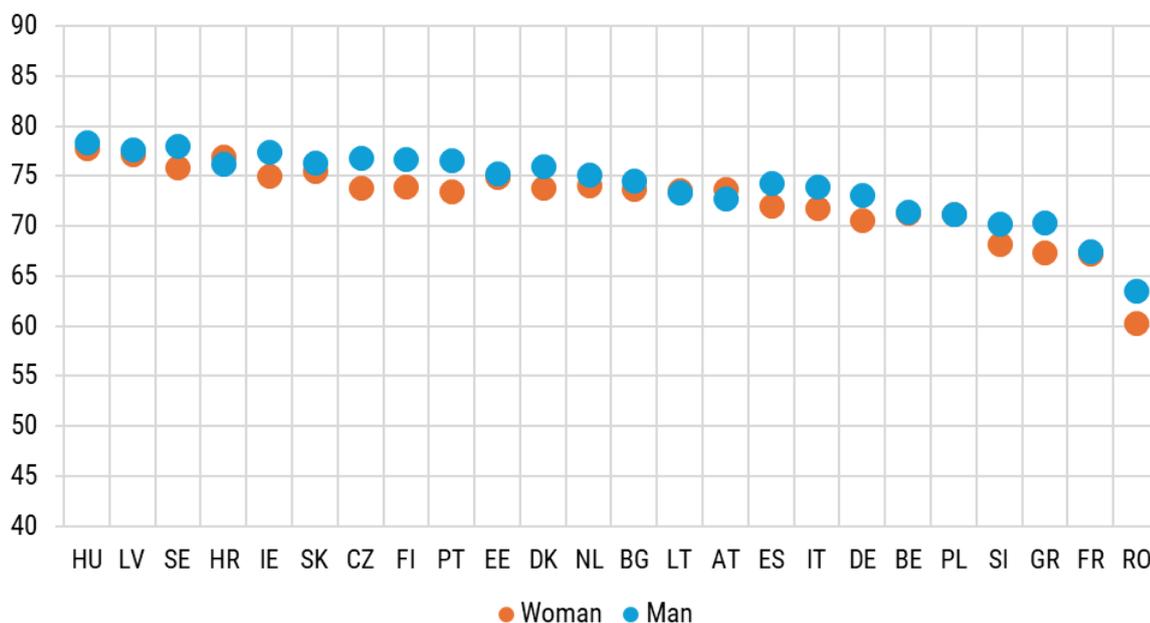
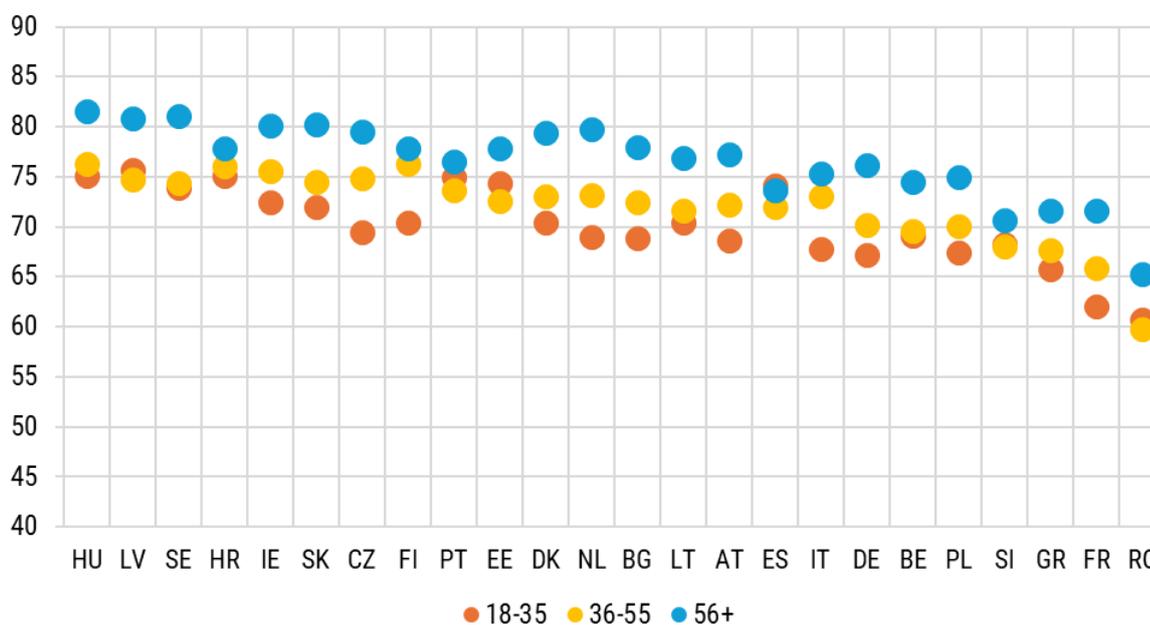


Fig. 1.51. Index of trust in in-groups grouped by age (means)



In all countries, respondents with higher educational attainment display higher levels of trust toward their immediate social environment, with the exception of Croatia and Italy, where education does not appear to influence trust in in-groups. Individuals with higher income levels tend to place greater trust in their close social environment across all countries. These differences are particularly pronounced in Slovakia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Austria, Belgium, and France, where substantial gaps in in-groups trust are observed between respondents with higher and lower income levels.

Fig. 1.52. Index of trust in in-groups grouped by education (means)

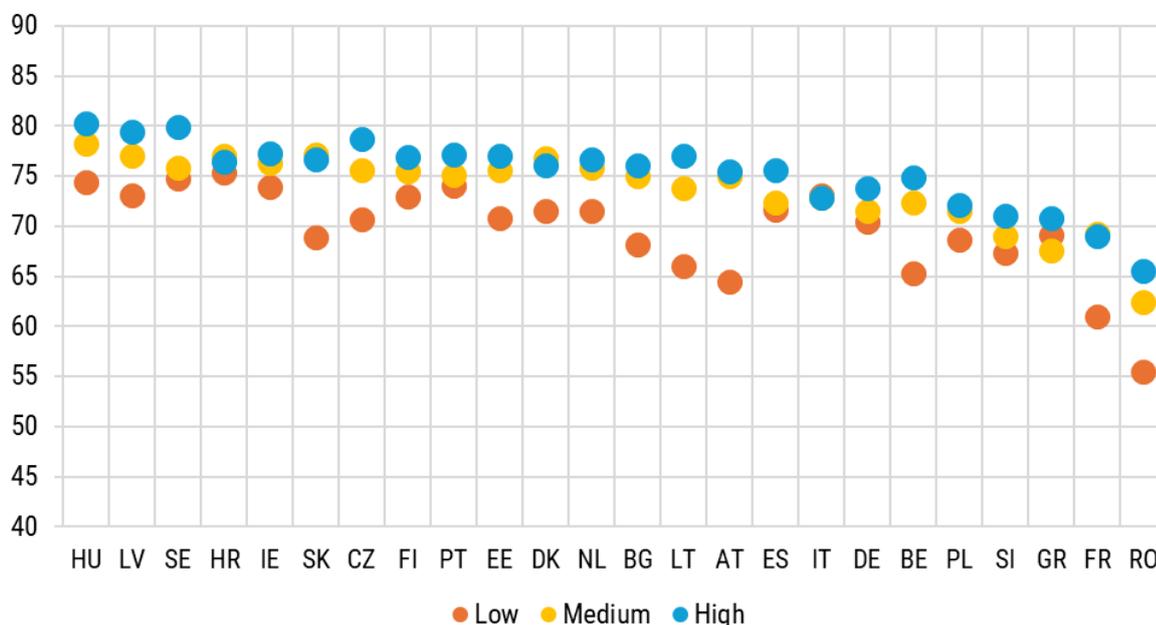
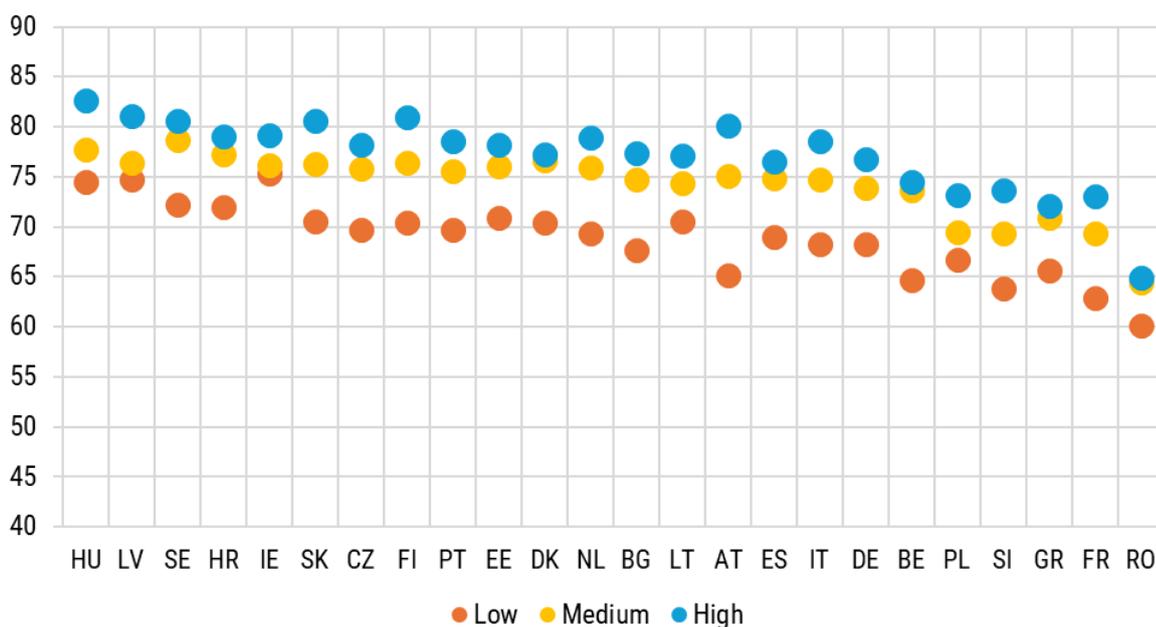
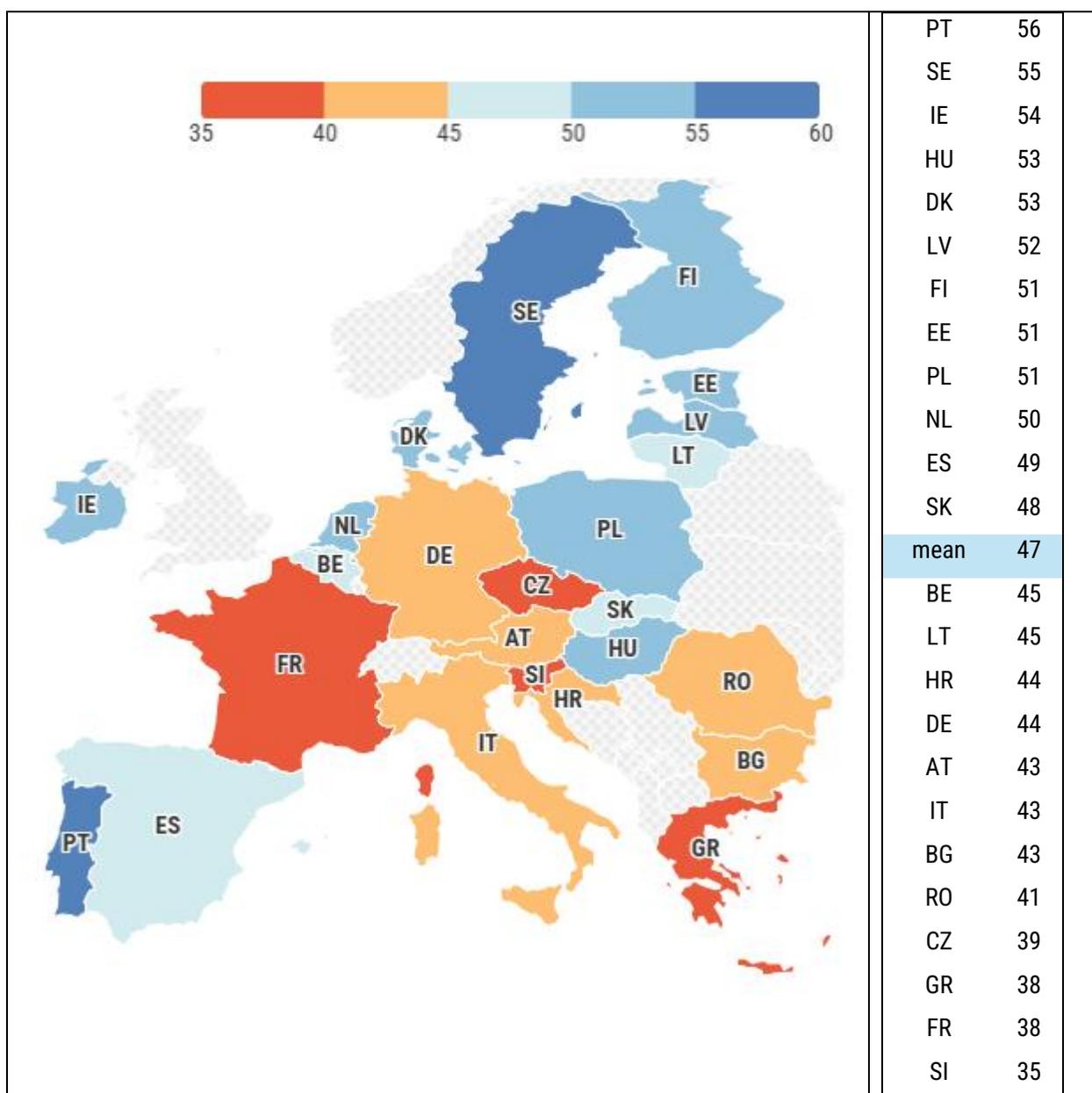


Fig. 1.53. Index of trust in in-groups grouped by income (means)



The supranational institutions trust index reflects levels of trust in the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council, and the United Nations. The highest values of this index are recorded in Portugal (56), Sweden (55), Ireland (54), and in Hungary and Denmark (both 53). The lowest values of this index are observed in Romania (41), the Czech Republic (39), Greece and France (both 38), and Slovenia (35).

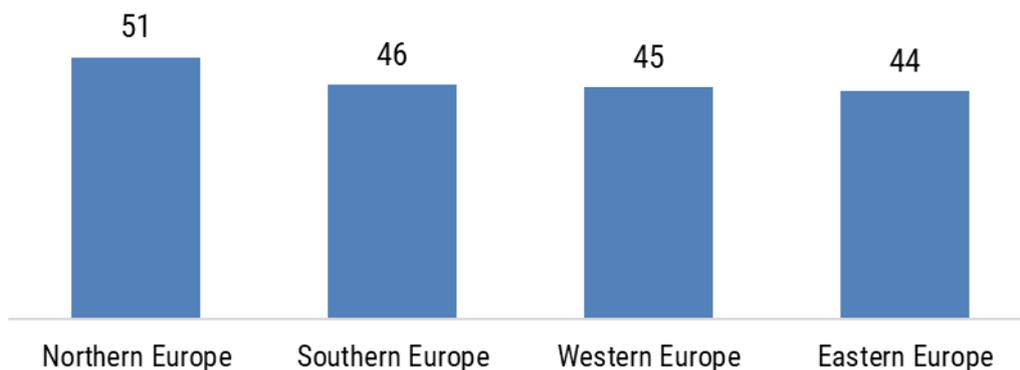
Fig. 1.54. Index of supranational institutions (means)



Index captures trust in supranational bodies (European Commission, European Parliament, European Council, United Nations). Constructed on a 1–4 response scale and normalized to 0–100; higher scores indicate greater trust.

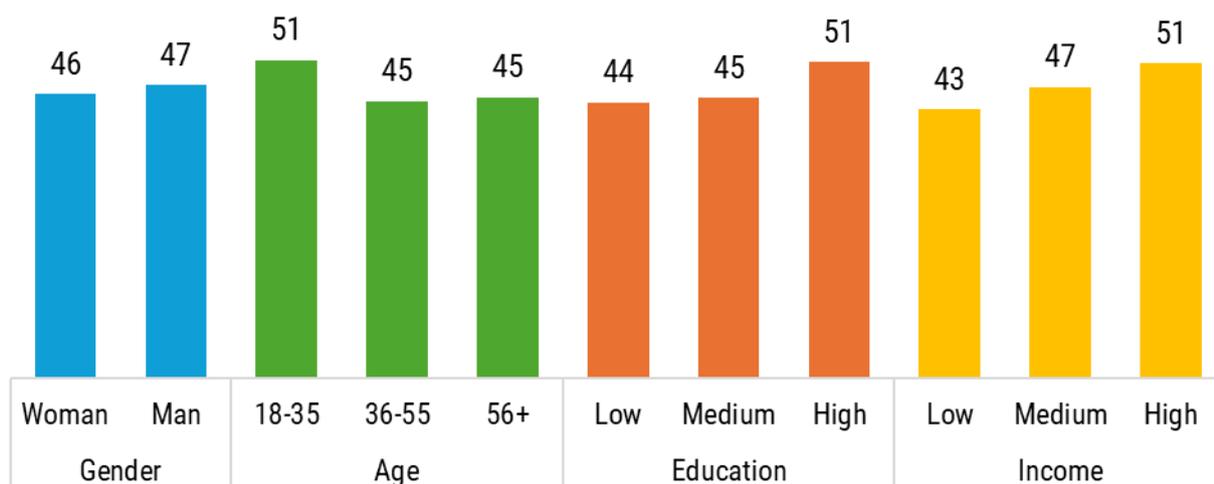
In the countries of Northern Europe (51), values of the supranational institutions trust index are higher than in other regions. This is followed by Southern Europe (46), then Western Europe (45), and Eastern Europe (44).

Fig. 1.55. Index of trust in supranational institutions in different regions of Europe (means)



Men exhibit slightly higher levels of trust in supranational institutions than women. Young people aged 18–35 report higher levels of trust than older age groups. Respondents with higher levels of education and higher income likewise demonstrate higher levels of trust in supranational institutions.

Fig. 1.56. Index of trust in supranational institutions among different groups (means)



Men report higher levels of trust in supranational institutions in all countries except Portugal, Poland, Lithuania, and Croatia, where women report higher levels of trust. In Finland, Slovakia, Spain, and Austria, no gender differences are observed.

Young people aged 18–35 report higher levels of trust in supranational institutions in all countries except Poland and Spain, where the highest levels of trust are reported among respondents aged 56+.

Fig. 1.57. Index of trust in supranational institutions grouped by gender (means)

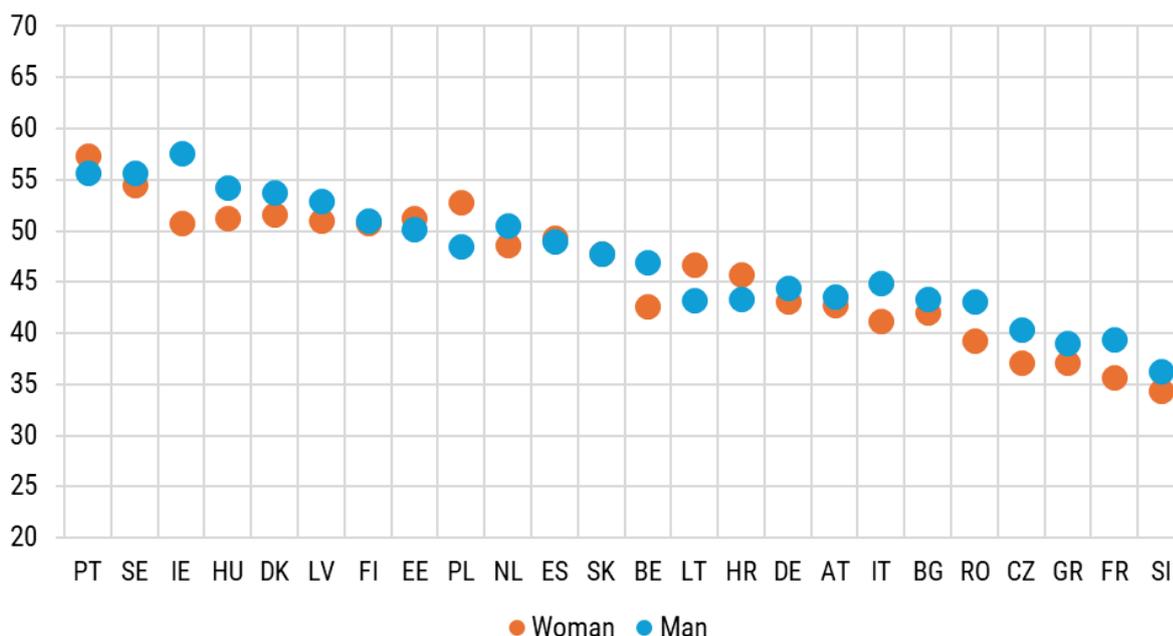
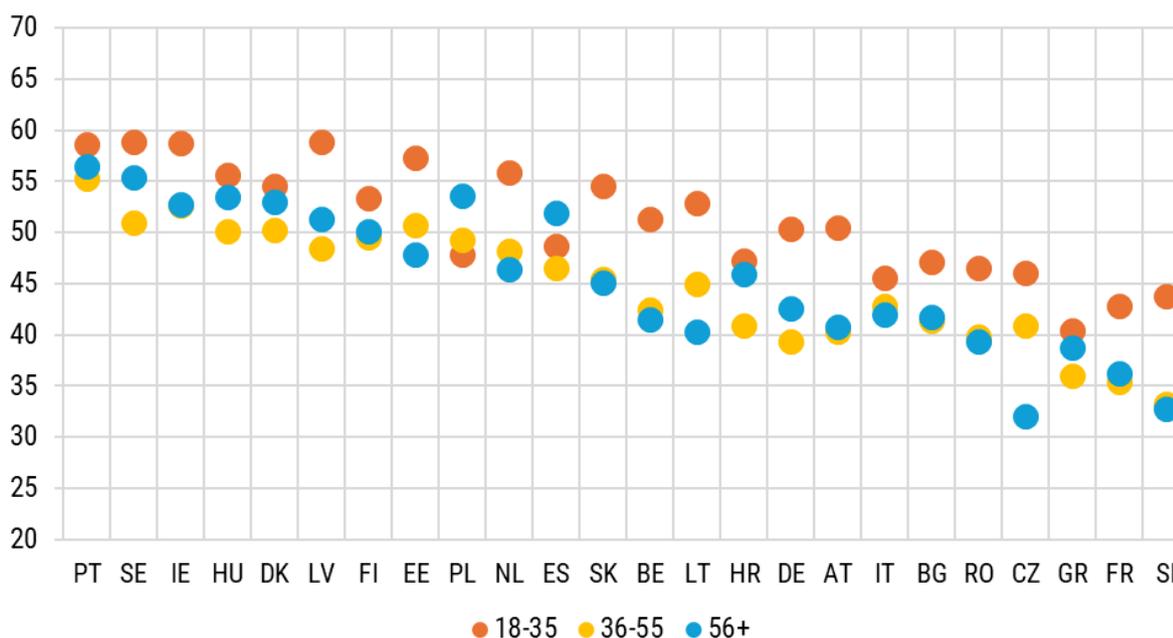


Fig. 1.58. Index of trust in supranational institutions grouped by age (means)



Individuals with higher educational attainment report higher levels of trust in supranational institutions in all countries except Slovakia and Croatia.

Higher income levels are associated with higher values of the supranational institutions trust index in all countries, with the exception of Croatia, where income does not appear to influence levels of trust.

Fig. 1.59. Index of trust in supranational institutions grouped by education (means)

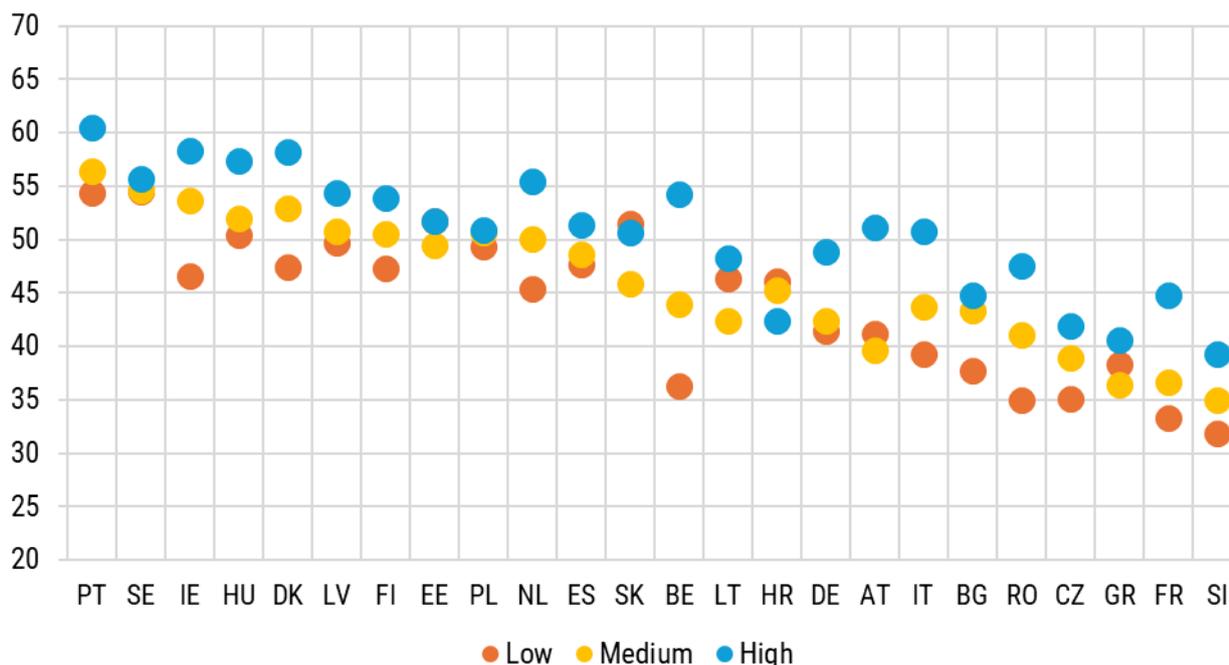
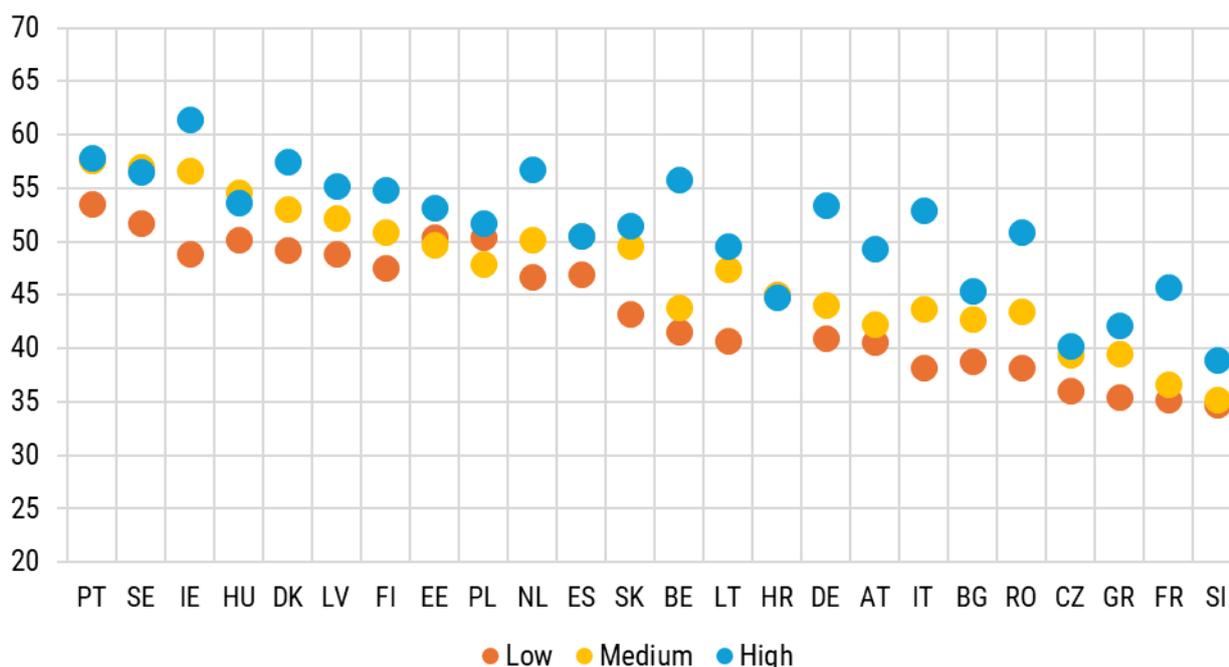


Fig 1.60. Index of trust in supranational institutions grouped by income (means)



2. TRUSTWORTHINESS

Respondents were presented with nine different situations and were asked how likely they considered each of them to occur in their country. The probability of each situation was assessed on a 10-point scale, where 1 indicated a minimal likelihood and 10 a maximal likelihood.

The first situation (Fig. 2.1) concerned how likely or unlikely it is that a member of parliament would accept a bribe if it were offered. In most countries, this situation is perceived as quite likely. Respondents from Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia consider such a scenario to be the most probable. In these countries, the majority of respondents assigned scores between 6 and 10. The maximum score of 10 was most frequently given in Bulgaria (46%) and Romania (45%). Most respondents in Denmark consider such a situation in their country to be rather unlikely (scores of 1–5). In Germany, respondents' opinions are divided: half regard such a scenario as unlikely (1–5), while the other half consider it possible (6–10). The largest shares of respondents who believe that the probability of such an event is minimal (score of 1) are found in Spain (22%) and Portugal (15%).

The second figure (Fig. 2.2) is devoted to assessing the likelihood of the following situation: if a large number of people complained about the poor performance of a public service, it would be improved. This scenario appears most likely to residents of the Netherlands, where 59% of respondents rated its probability between 6 and 10. In other countries, respondents' opinions are either divided or they tend not to believe strongly in the likelihood of such an outcome. The probability of this scenario is rated lowest in Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, and Bulgaria. In these countries, between 15% and 20% of respondents assessed this probability as minimal (score of 1). An interesting pattern is observed in Romania, where both the highest share of respondents assigning the minimal score of 1 (25%) and the highest share assigning the maximum score of 10 (13%) are recorded.

The third situation (Fig. 2.3) concerns the following question: if new tax policies were to be considered, how likely is it that the government would act in the interests of all citizens? In most countries, citizens tend not to believe strongly in such a development. Only in the Netherlands are respondents' opinions evenly divided, with 50% rating the probability between 6 and 10 and the other 50% between 1 and 5. In all other countries, more than 50% of respondents assessed the likelihood that the government would take into account the interests of all citizens as between 1 and 5 out of 10. The highest shares of respondents rating this probability as minimal (score of 1) are recorded in Romania (39%), Latvia (37%), Hungary (36%), Slovenia, and Lithuania (34% each).

The fourth question (Fig. 2.4) concerned the likelihood that an article published by a newspaper about government policy would be accurate and reliable. This situation is considered most likely in the Netherlands, where 69% of respondents rated the probability between 6 and 10. High assessments of this probability are also reported by respondents in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, and Germany. In the remaining countries, the majority of respondents tend not to believe that such published material would be accurate and reliable.

The highest levels of scepticism regarding the reliability of newspaper coverage are observed in Hungary, Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic.

The fifth situation (Fig. 2.5) concerns the likelihood that personal data provided to a government agency would be protected. Respondents in the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, and Austria express the greatest confidence in the protection of their personal data. Trust in the state's ability to protect personal data is lowest in Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary, Croatia, and Slovakia. In Romania, one in five respondents is confident that the state would not protect their personal data.

The sixth question (Fig. 2.6) was formulated as follows: "If an official investigation were to establish that government ministers had failed to fulfil their duties, how likely or unlikely do you think it is that they would be held accountable?" Only in the Netherlands do the majority of respondents believe that ministers would be held accountable in such a case. In all other countries, most respondents rate the probability of such an event between 1 and 5. The lowest levels of belief that ministers could be held accountable are observed in Bulgaria, Greece, and Slovenia.

In the seventh question (Fig. 2.7), respondents were asked to imagine that a court had established the misuse of public funds by a government minister and to assess how likely it would be that, in such a situation, the minister would voluntarily resign. Most respondents consider this scenario unlikely. Only in the Netherlands, Sweden, and Denmark do the majority of respondents regard the probability of such a resignation as relatively high (scores of 6–10). Respondents from Hungary (41%), Romania and Croatia (40% each), Slovenia, and Greece (37% each) do not believe at all in the likelihood of such a resignation (score of 1).

The eighth situation (Fig. 2.8) concerns cases in which a politician commits a sexual offence. Respondents were asked to assess how likely it is that such a politician would be held accountable for their actions. Respondents in the Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden are, for the most part, confident that such a politician would be held accountable. In most countries, respondents also tend to believe that a politician would likely face consequences for such actions. The lowest levels of belief in accountability for such misconduct are observed in Greece, Bulgaria, Italy, Hungary, and Romania.

The ninth question (Fig. 2.8) was formulated as follows: "If the government promised to reduce inflation, how likely or unlikely do you think it is that it would succeed in doing so?" For the most part, respondents do not believe that the government would realistically be able to fulfil such a promise. In all countries, more than half of respondents rated the probability of this outcome between 1 and 5. Respondents in Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden are the most optimistic on this issue, while belief in the government's ability to deliver on such a promise is lowest in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Croatia, Estonia, Slovenia, and Slovakia.

Fig. 2.1. How likely or unlikely do you think it is that a member of parliament in your country would accept a bribe if offered one? (%)

Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “Extremely unlikely” and 10 indicating “Extremely likely”

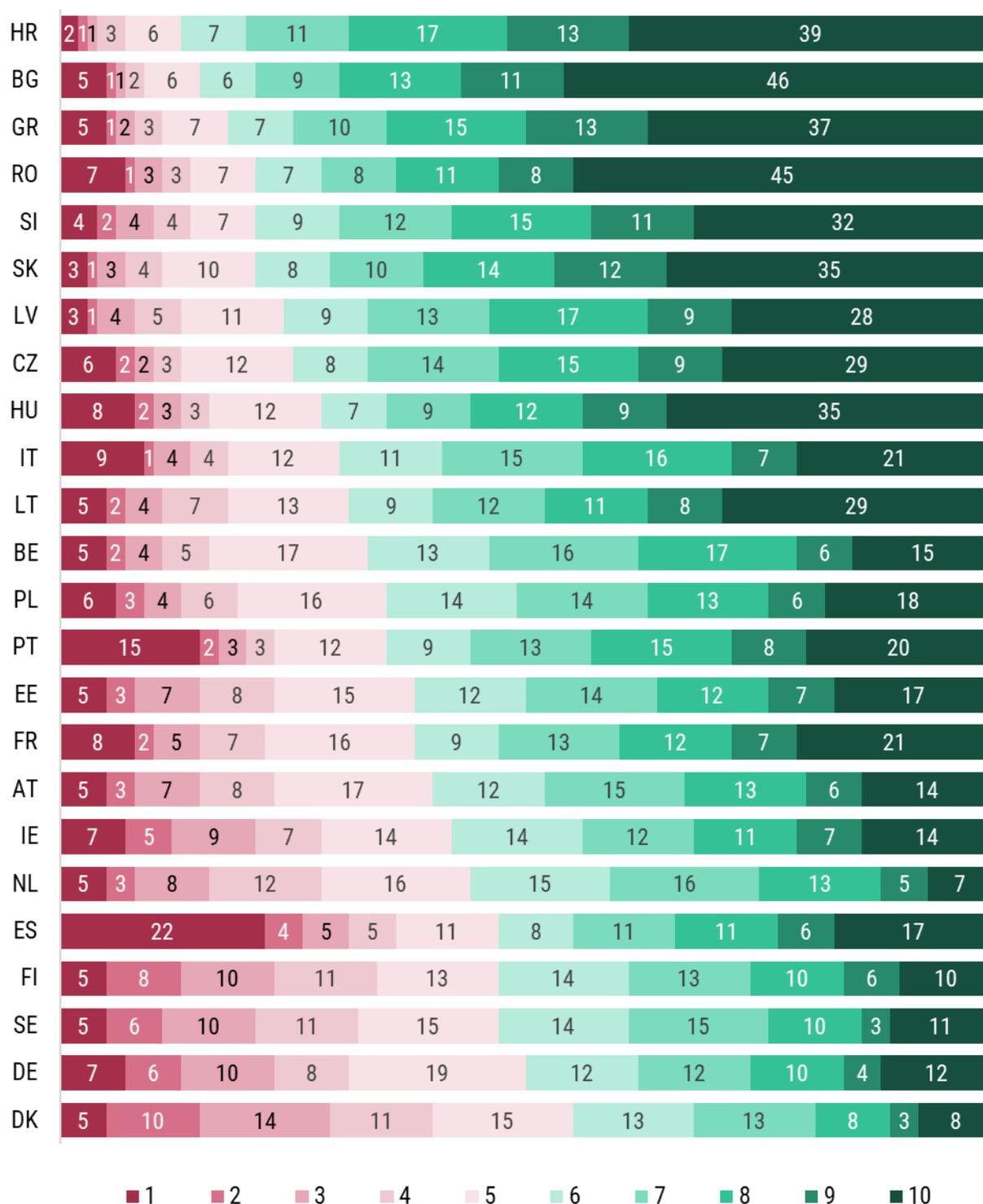




Fig. 2.2. If many people complained about a public service that is working badly, how likely or unlikely do you think it is that it would be improved? (%)

Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “Extremely unlikely” and 10 indicating “Extremely likely”

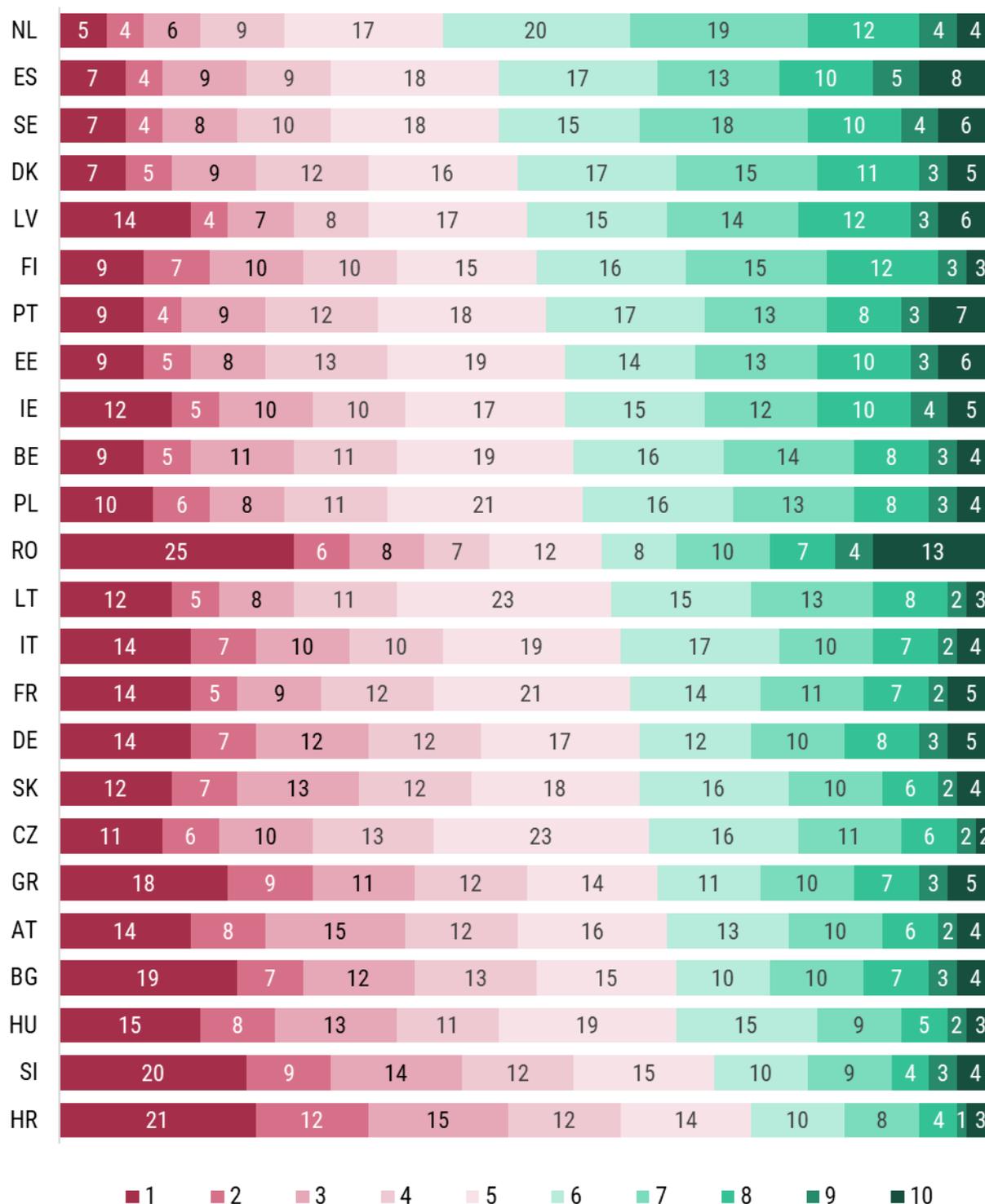




Fig. 2.3. If considering new tax policies, how likely or unlikely do you think that your government would act in the interests of all citizens? (%)

Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “Extremely unlikely” and 10 indicating “Extremely likely”

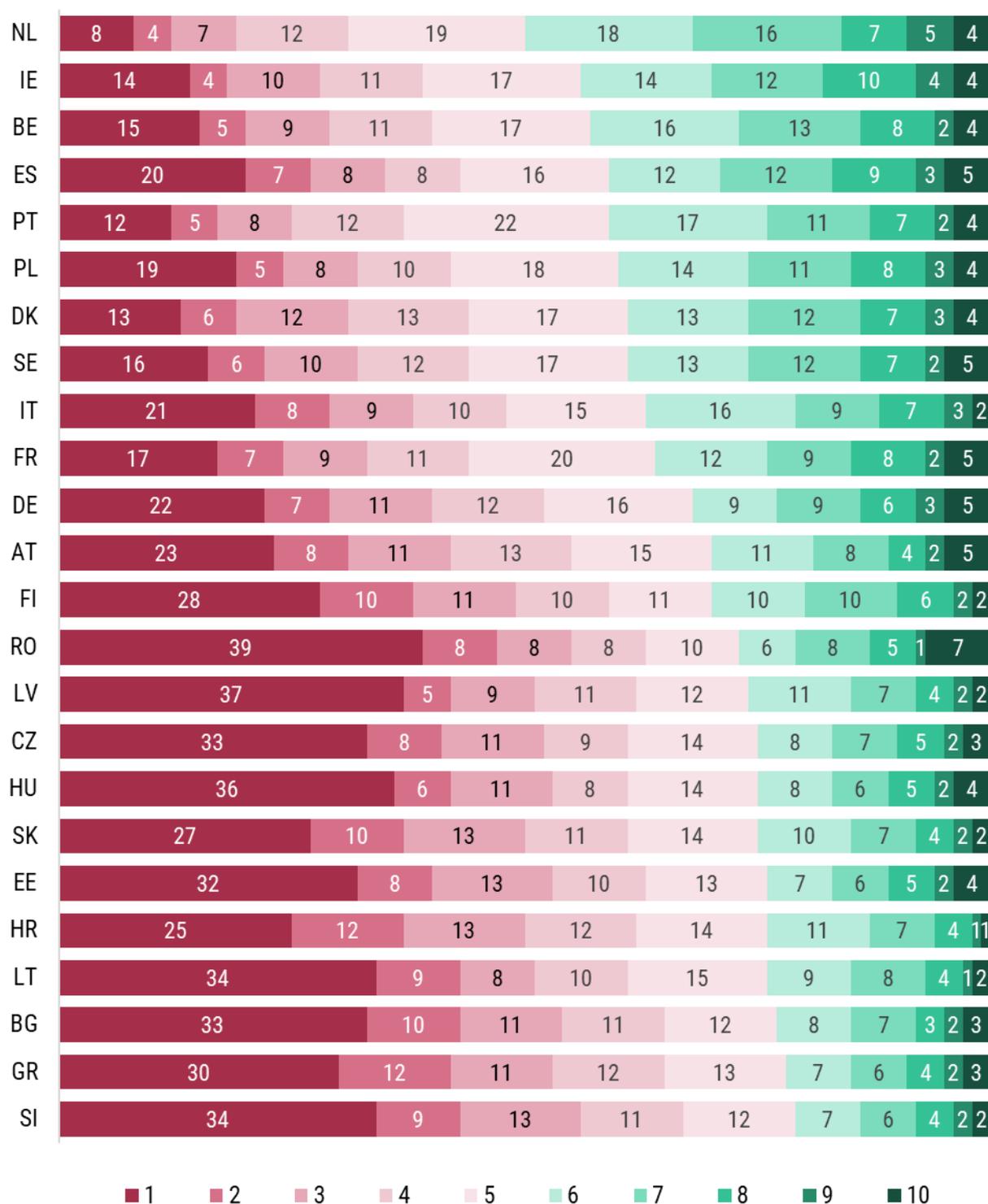


Fig. 2.4. If a newspaper published a story about government policies, how likely or unlikely do you think that this would be accurate and reliable? (%)

Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “Extremely unlikely” and 10 indicating “Extremely likely”

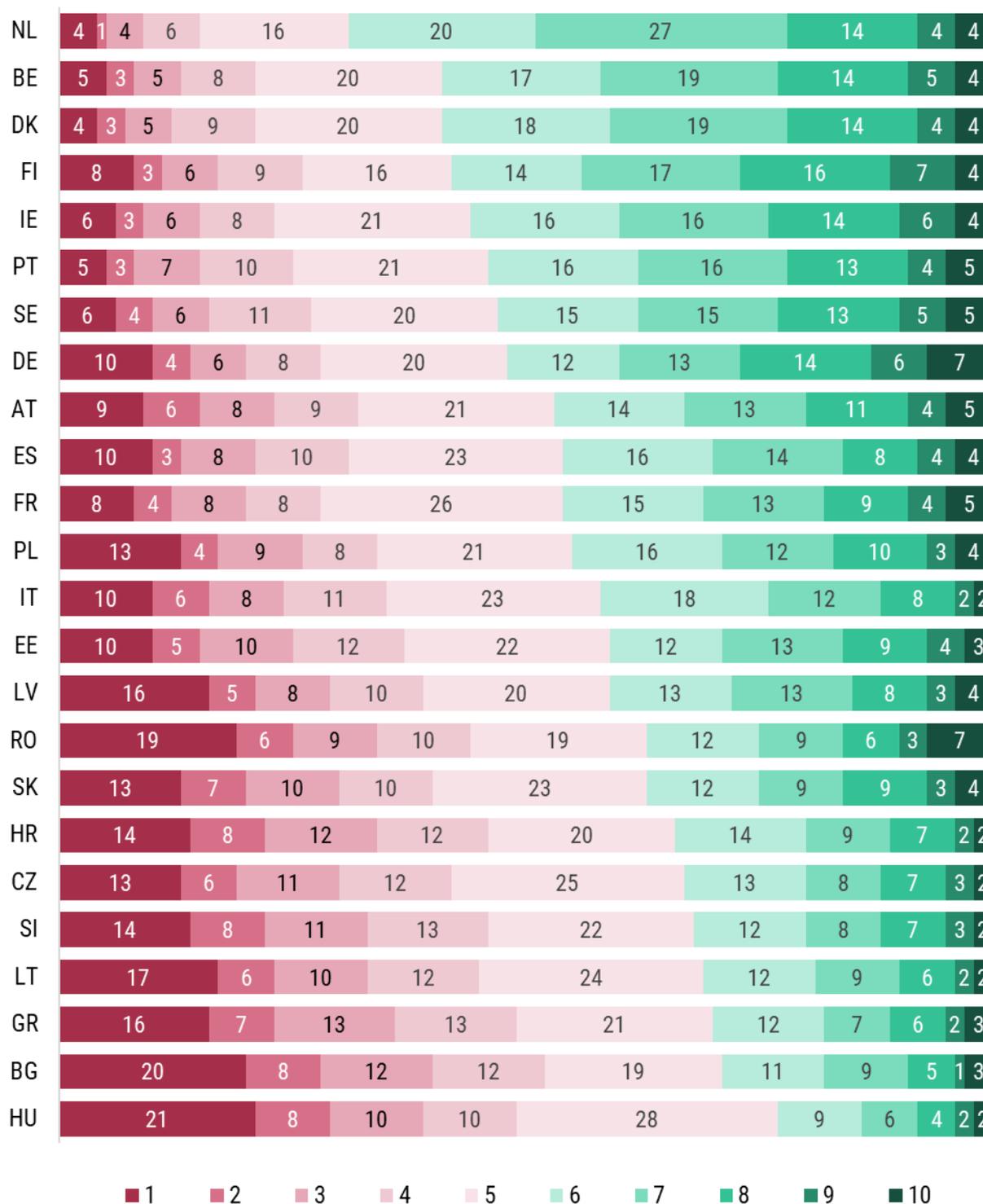




Fig. 2.5. If you shared your personal data with a government department, how likely or unlikely do you think that it would be protected? (%)

Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “Extremely unlikely” and 10 indicating “Extremely likely”

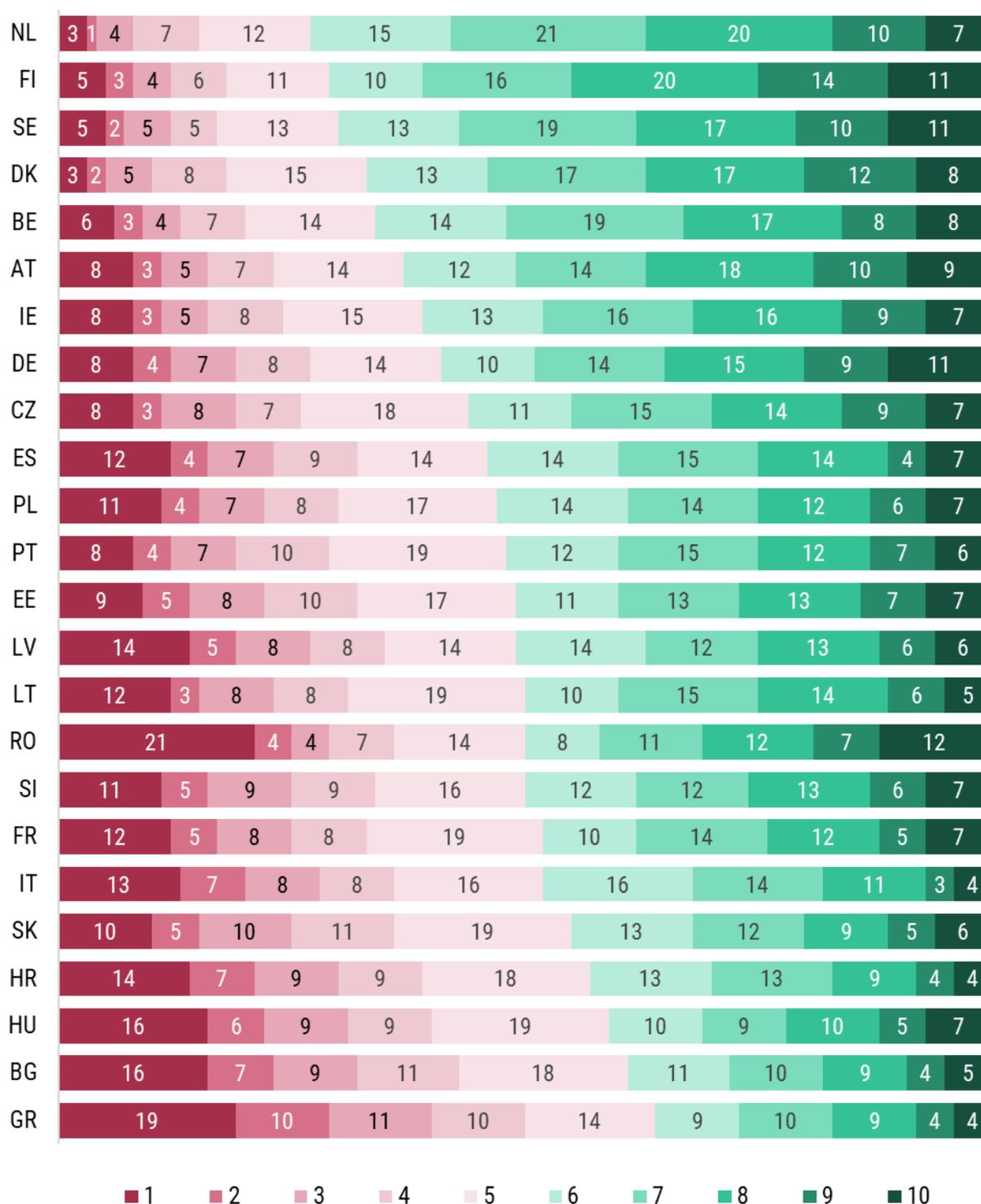




Fig. 2.6. If an official inquiry found government ministers failed in their duties, how likely or unlikely do you think that they would be held accountable? (%)

Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “Extremely unlikely” and 10 indicating “Extremely likely”

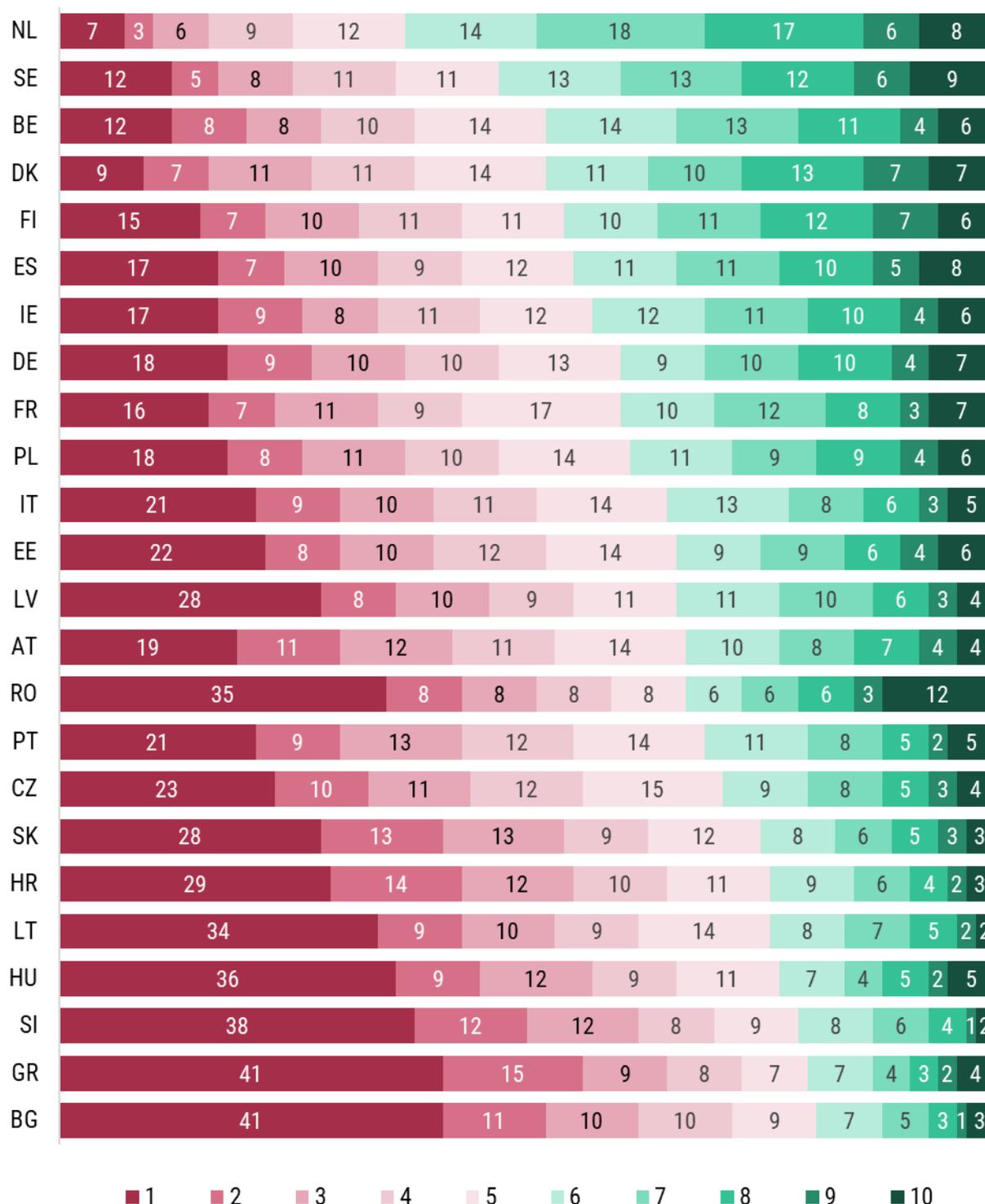


Fig. 2.7. If a government minister was found by the courts to have mishandled public funds, how likely or unlikely do you think that they would resign voluntarily? (%)

Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “Extremely unlikely” and 10 indicating “Extremely likely”

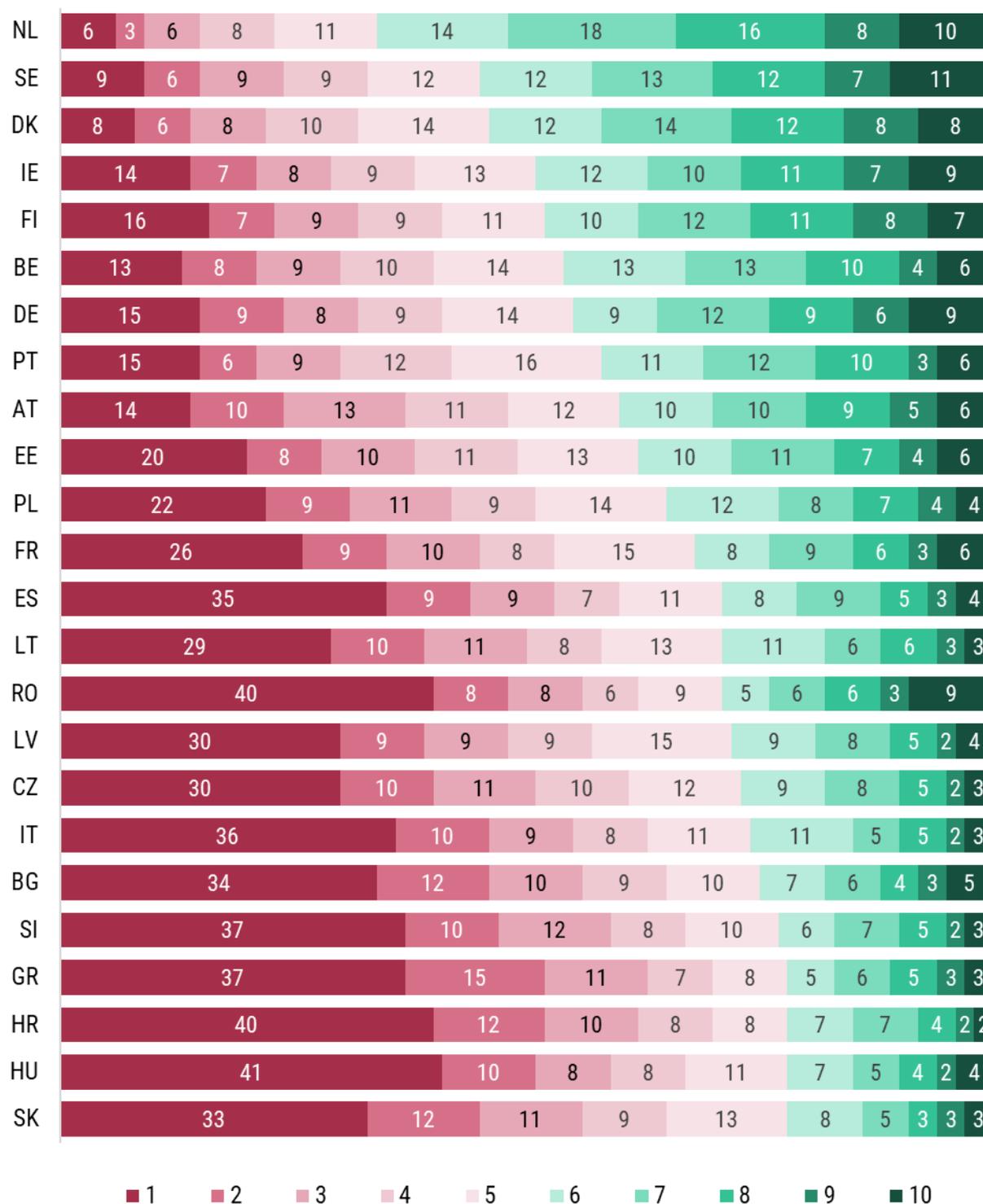




Fig. 2.8. If a politician in your country engaged in sexual misconduct, how likely or unlikely do you think that they would be disciplined for their actions? (%)

Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “Extremely unlikely” and 10 indicating “Extremely likely”

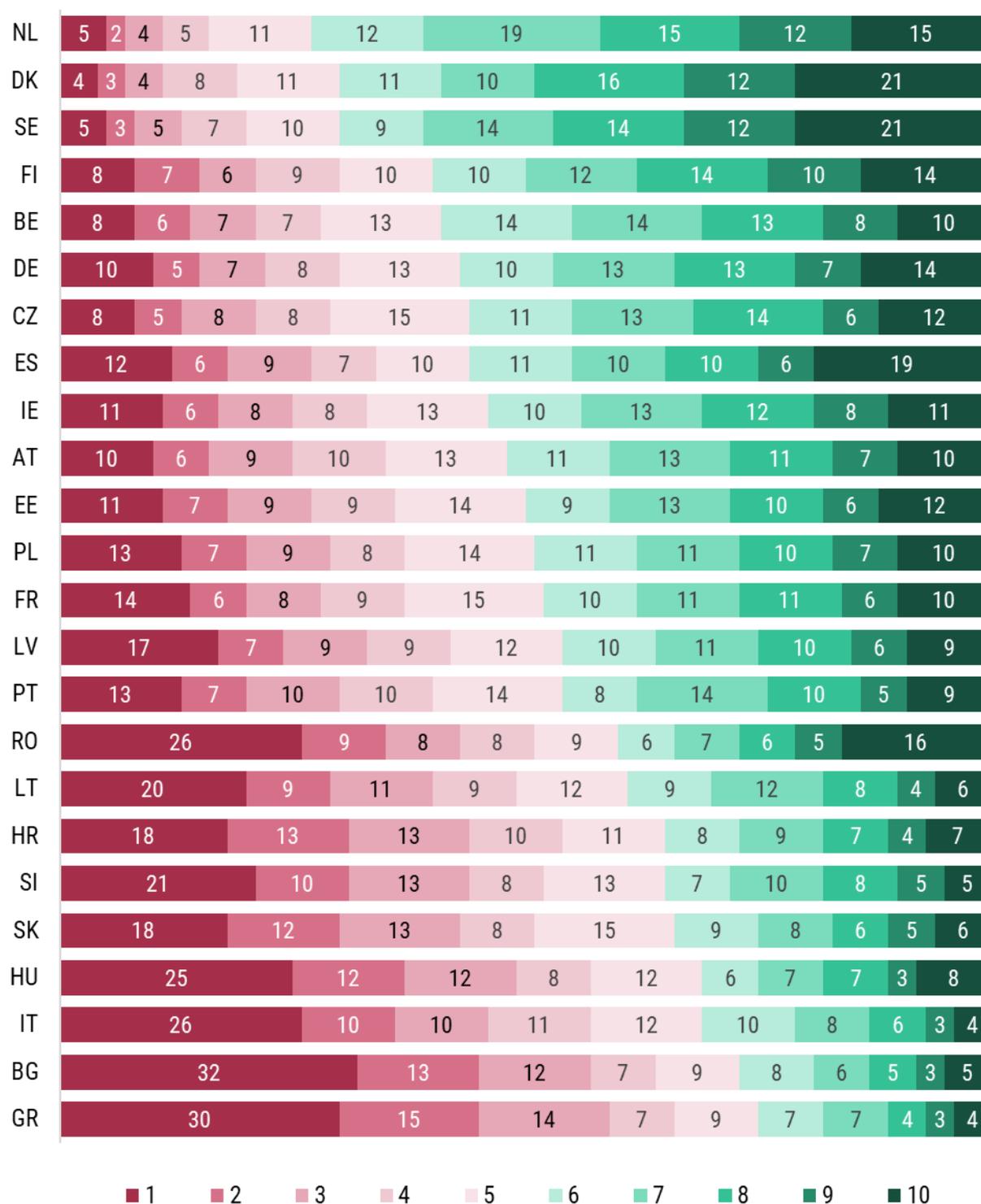
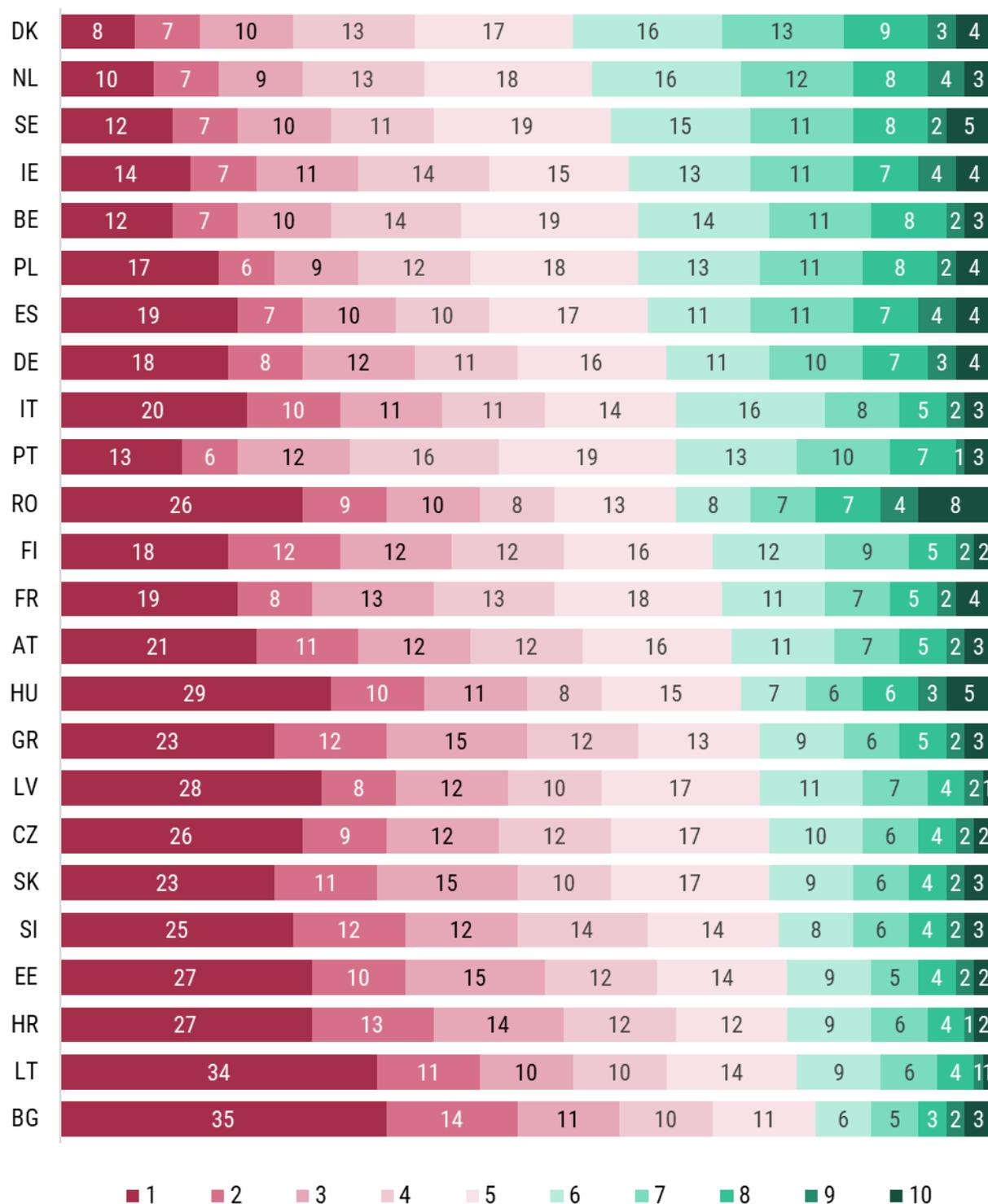




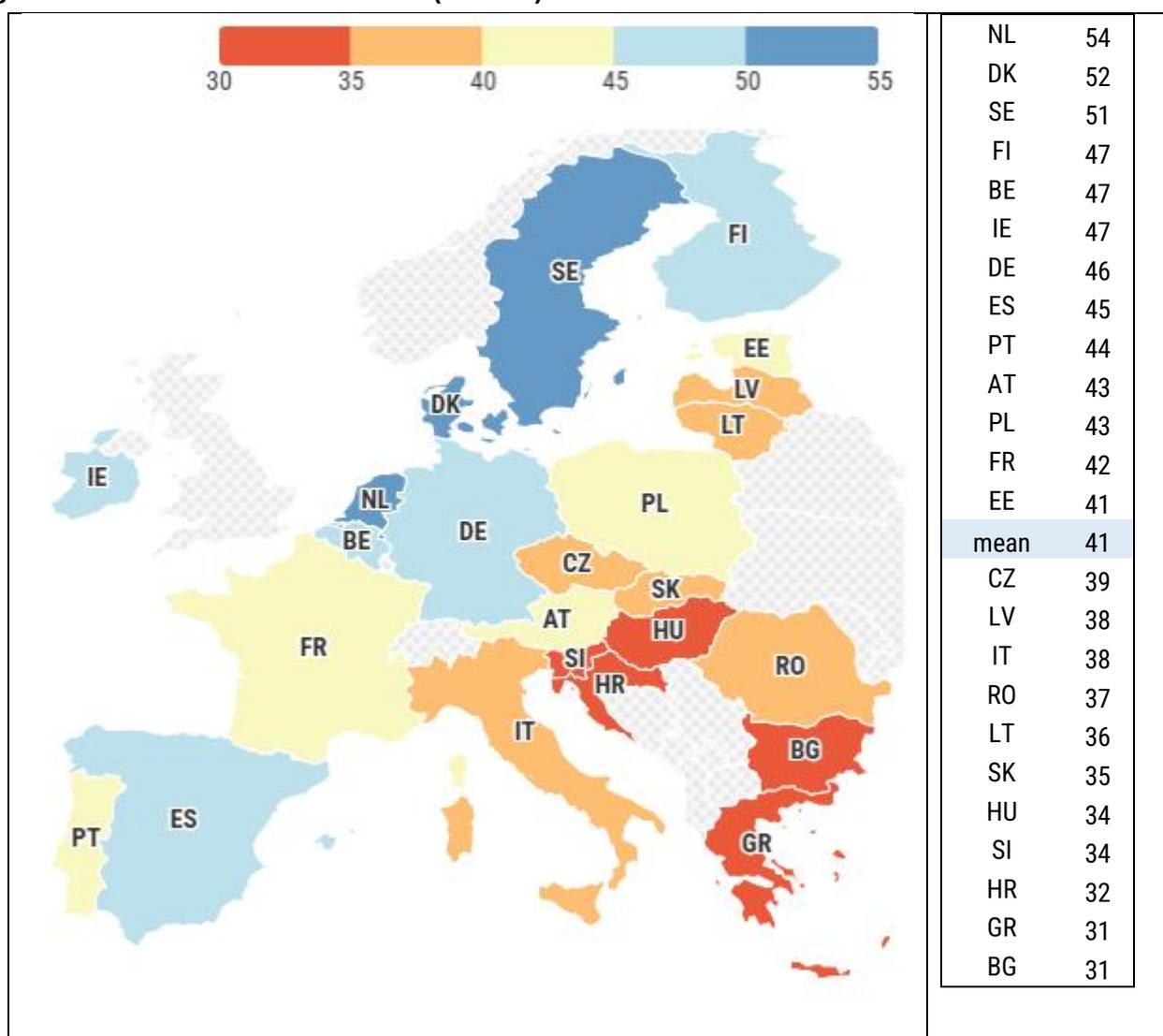
Fig. 2.9. If the government promised to reduce inflation, how likely or unlikely do you think that they would be able to do so? (%)

Responses were measured on a 10-point scale, with 1 indicating “Extremely unlikely” and 10 indicating “Extremely likely”



The trustworthiness index reflects perceptions of honesty, responsiveness, competence, fairness, accountability, and institutional effectiveness. The highest values of this index are recorded in the Netherlands (54), Denmark (52), Sweden (51), and in Finland, Belgium, and Ireland (47 each). A medium level of trustworthiness is observed in France (42), Estonia (41), the Czech Republic (39), and Latvia and Italy (37 each). The lowest values of the index are found in Croatia (32), and in Greece and Bulgaria (31 each).

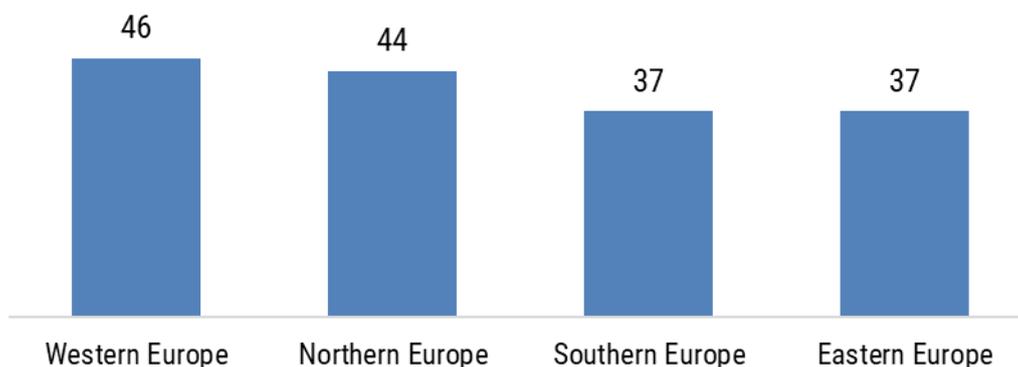
Fig. 2.10. Index of trustworthiness (means)



Index captures perceived honesty, responsiveness, competence, fairness, accountability, and effectiveness of institutions. Constructed on a 1–10 response scale and normalized to 0–100; higher scores indicate greater trustworthiness.

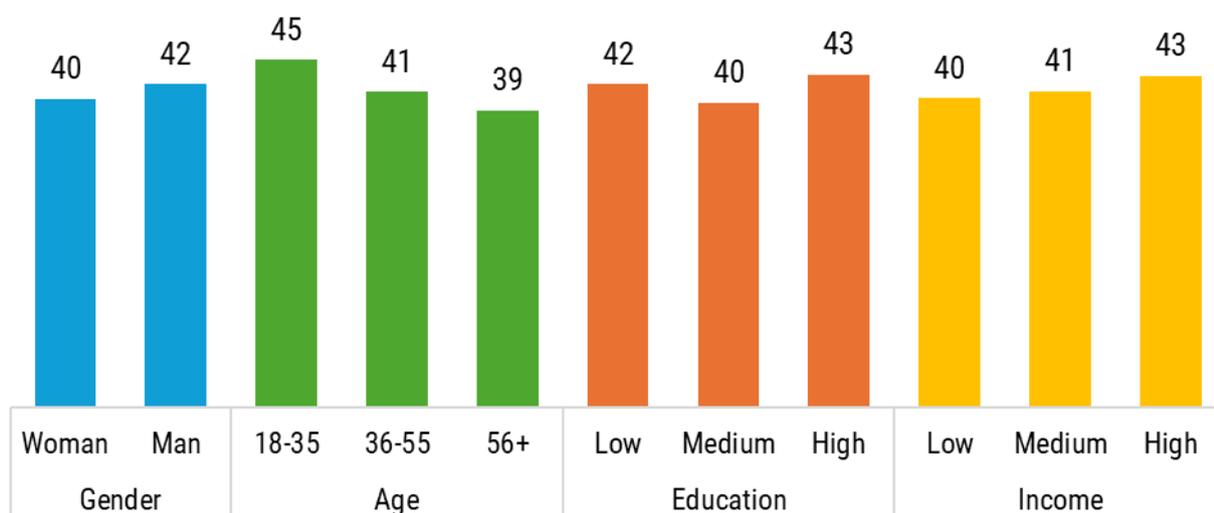
The highest value of the trustworthiness index is observed in the countries of Western Europe (44). Levels of trustworthiness are only slightly lower in Northern Europe (44). By contrast, the lowest values of this index are recorded in Southern and Eastern Europe (37).

Fig. 2.11. Index of trustworthiness in different regions of Europe (means)



Men, overall, are more likely than women to consider political institutions to be trustworthy. Young people aged 18–35 likewise more often perceive institutions as deserving of trust. An association is observed between income level and the trustworthiness index: higher income is associated with higher index values. Higher educational attainment is also associated with higher levels of trustworthiness.

Fig. 2.12. Index of trustworthiness among different groups (means)





The value of the trustworthiness index is higher among men in all countries except Lithuania. In Spain, Poland, Estonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, no significant differences in the index are observed between men and women.

The trustworthiness index is higher among young people aged 18–35 in all countries except Denmark, Poland, and Hungary.

Fig 2.13. Index of trustworthiness grouped by gender (means)

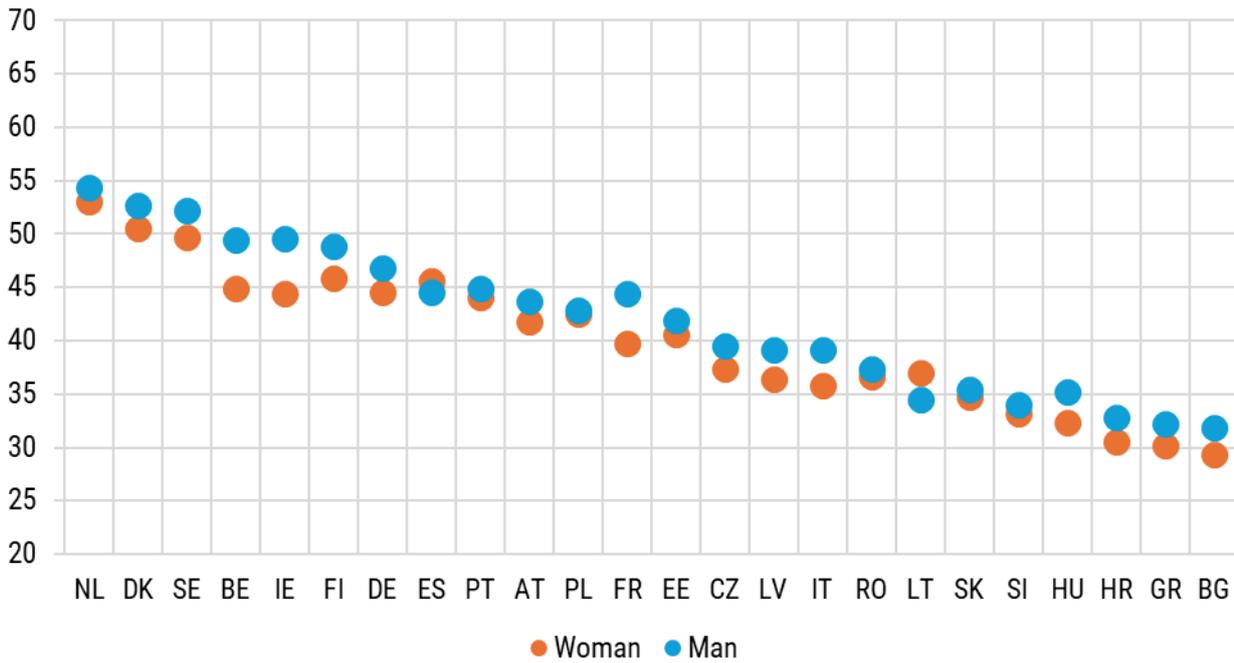
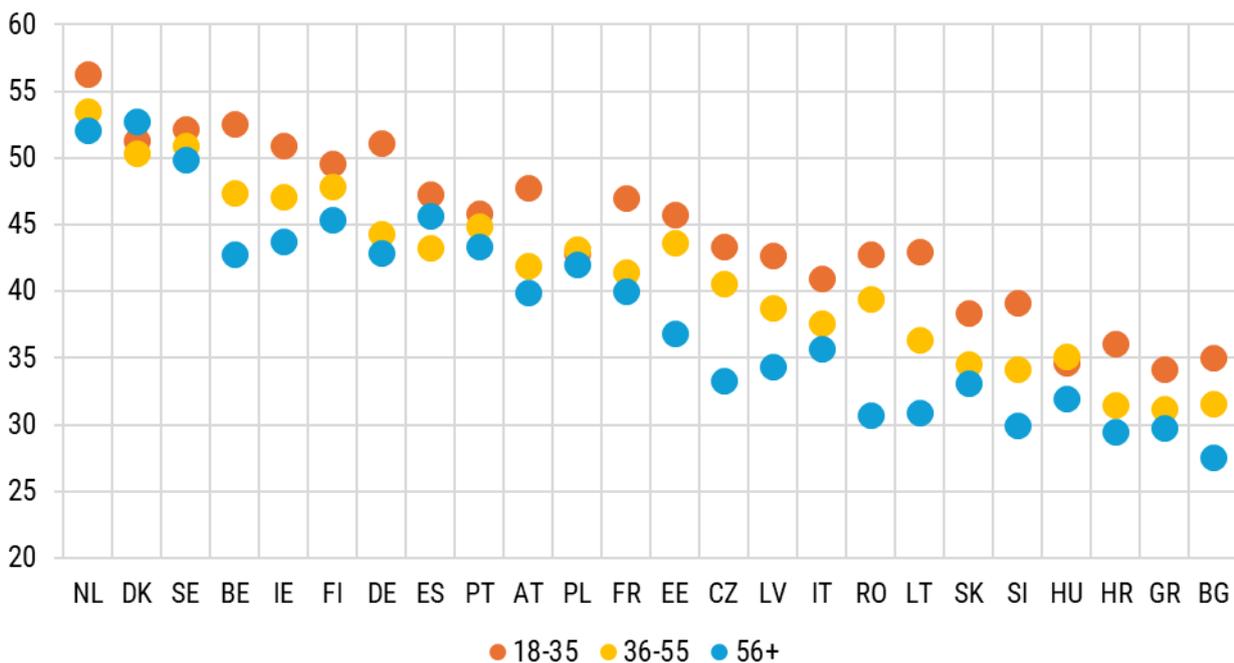


Fig. 2.14. Index of trustworthiness grouped by age (means)



In most countries, the following pattern is observed: the higher the level of education, the higher the value of the trustworthiness index. However, there are notable exceptions. In Estonia, Romania, Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, and Bulgaria, the opposite pattern is observed, with lower levels of education associated with higher index values. In Greece and Spain, no significant differences in the value of the index are observed across different age groups. Higher income levels are associated with higher values of the index in all countries except Spain and Slovakia, where the relationship is reversed.

Fig. 2.15. Index of trustworthiness grouped by education (means)

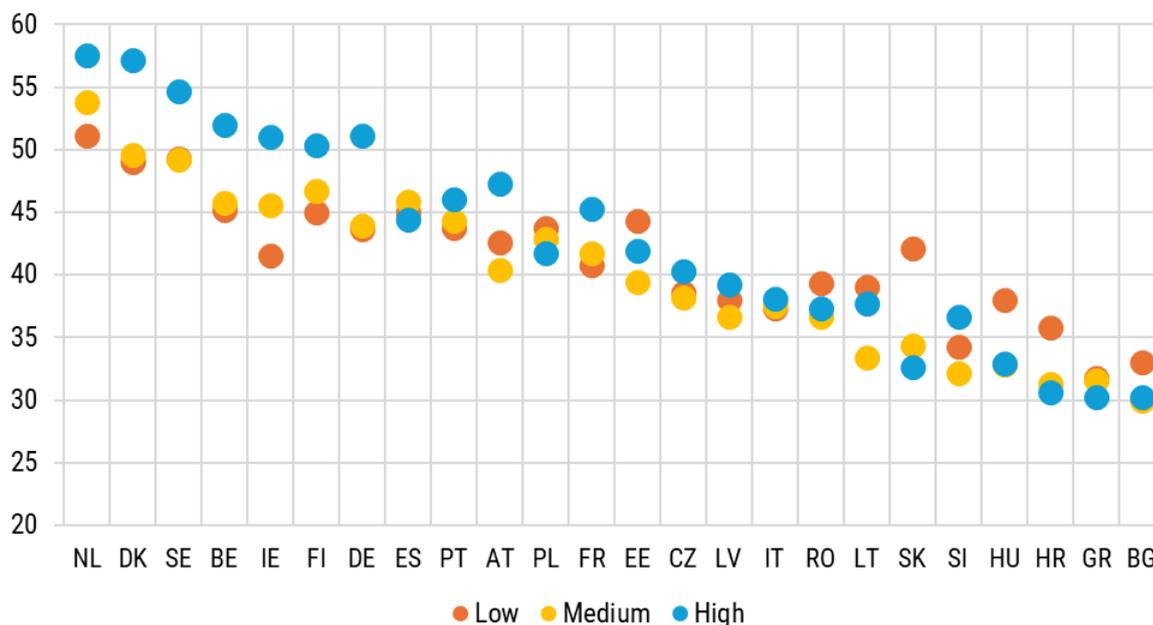
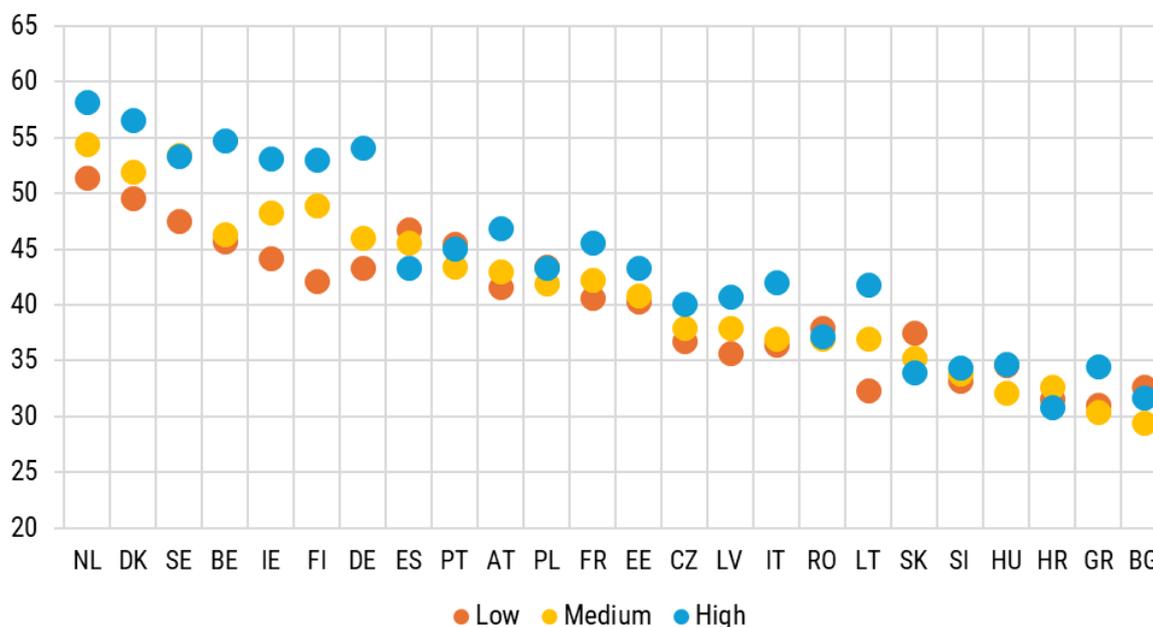


Fig. 2.16. Index of trustworthiness grouped by income (means)



Across most countries, the key characteristics expected of a trustworthy politician are broadly similar. First and foremost, to inspire trust, a politician is expected to fulfil their electoral promises. This factor is particularly important for respondents in the Czech Republic (56%) and Romania (53%). In addition, a politician must be honest and fair in order to gain trust. This characteristic is most frequently mentioned in Hungary (59%), Finland (52%), and the Czech Republic (50%). A trustworthy politician is also expected to possess sufficient competence to carry out their duties effectively.

At the same time, there are notable cross-national differences in perceptions of what constitutes a reliable and trustworthy politician. For example, fulfilling electoral promises ranks among the top three most important factors in all countries except Finland and Ireland. Honesty and fairness appear in the top three factors in all countries except Bulgaria. By contrast, having a sufficient level of competence to perform one's duties is not among the key priorities in the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Spain.

In countries such as Greece (43%), Bulgaria (38%), Italy (38%), Spain (34%), Slovenia (32%), the Czech Republic (30%), and France (28%), the absence of financial corruption is included among the three most important factors underpinning trust in a politician. In Finland (32%), Denmark (33%), and Hungary (35%), adherence to democratic values and norms is identified as one of the three most important factors.



Table 2. Which of the following factors are most crucial to you in assessing the trustworthiness of a politician? (%) (3 responses)

	CZ	RO	DE	PT	EE	GR	SK	ES	AT	BG	PL	SE	FR	HU	BE	HR	LV	SI	LT	DK	NL	IT	FI	IE
Adherence to campaign promises	56	53	49	46	46	46	45	45	44	43	43	42	42	42	41	40	39	39	38	34	34	32	31	27
Fairness and honesty	50	34	33	38	44	45	48	39	39	36	40	43	36	59	39	48	44	49	45	43	41	48	52	37
Competence in fulfilling responsibilities	28	37	39	43	42	28	32	29	43	47	40	38	27	21	29	44	43	27	44	32	26	30	35	37
Following democratic values and norms	28	30	29	22	25	32	29	25	36	18	27	32	24	35	24	27	24	29	19	33	28	19	32	19
Engagement with citizens	13	17	17	11	11	14	28	27	26	21	6	21	16	22	22	9	22	28	27	19	27	27	14	20
Absence of financial corruption	30	24	17	36	19	43	25	34	23	38	31	16	28	33	24	37	31	32	24	17	16	38	21	22
Transparency in sharing information	21	24	21	36	32	19	19	23	19	19	20	20	22	16	25	19	23	9	18	21	34	20	29	32
Consistency in public statements	13	17	22	25	15	25	14	22	8	12	22	23	19	14	14	23	12	23	10	17	14	28	24	21
Dedication to local constituency service	9	21	10	6	16	8	9	8	6	20	10	8	11	13	11	10	8	16	12	9	9	10	7	17
Alignment of views with my own preferences	11	4	9	6	12	6	8	6	8	7	10	8	7	5	9	7	7	7	9	9	10	5	10	9
Party affiliation	3	2	6	3	5	3	5	3	6	5	5	9	4	4	9	4	4	3	4	9	9	4	10	8
Absence of sexual scandals	8	3	5	6	6	6	4	7	6	2	10	8	10	6	6	6	7	8	4	9	9	4	10	8
Personal characteristics such as their age, gender, class, race, or ethnicity	4	1	4	2	4	3	2	4	3	2	3	4	4	4	4	2	4	3	4	6	5	2	4	5
<i>None of the above / don't know</i>	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	5	2	3	3	2	3	3	5	3	3	2	5

Fig. 2.17.1. Which of the following factors are most crucial to you in assessing the trustworthiness of a politician? (top 3 responses, %)

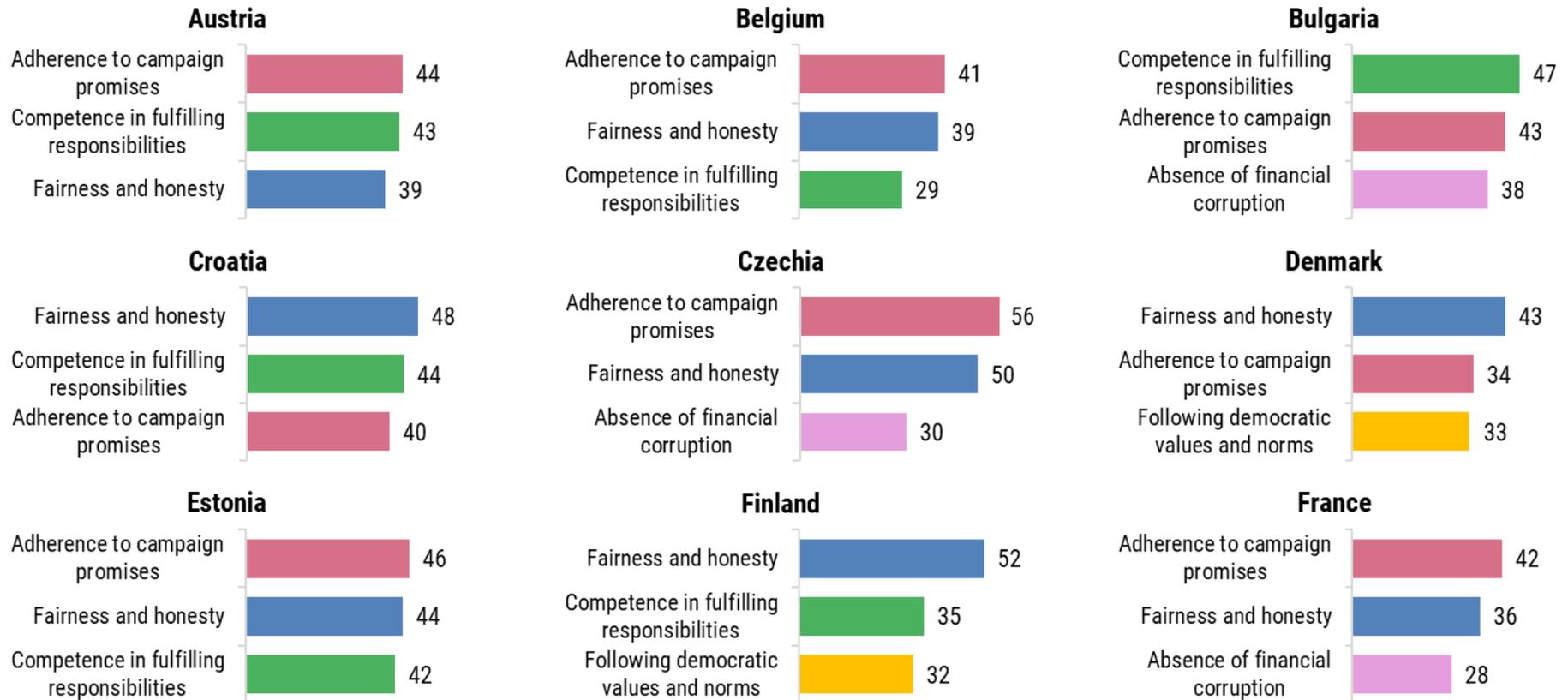


Fig. 2.17.2. Which of the following factors are most crucial to you in assessing the trustworthiness of a politician? (top 3 responses, %)

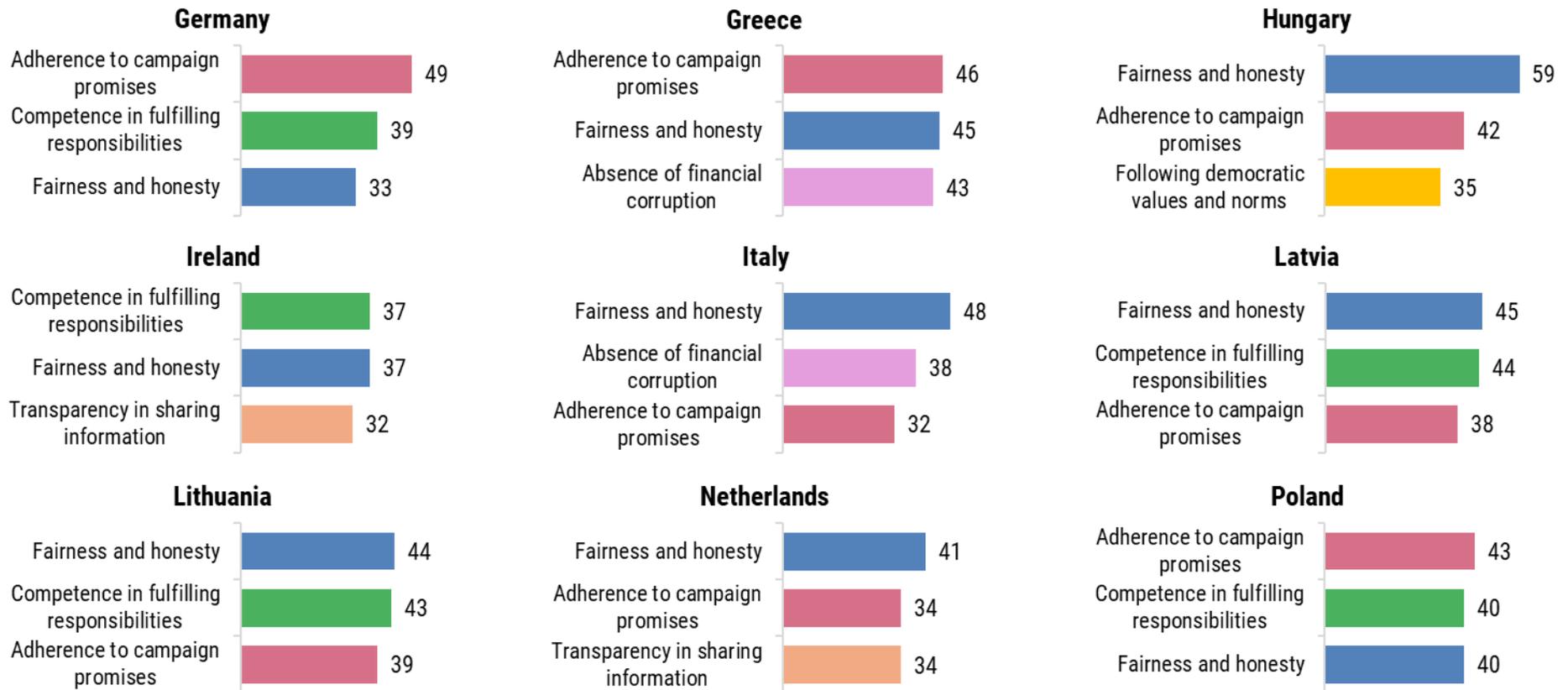
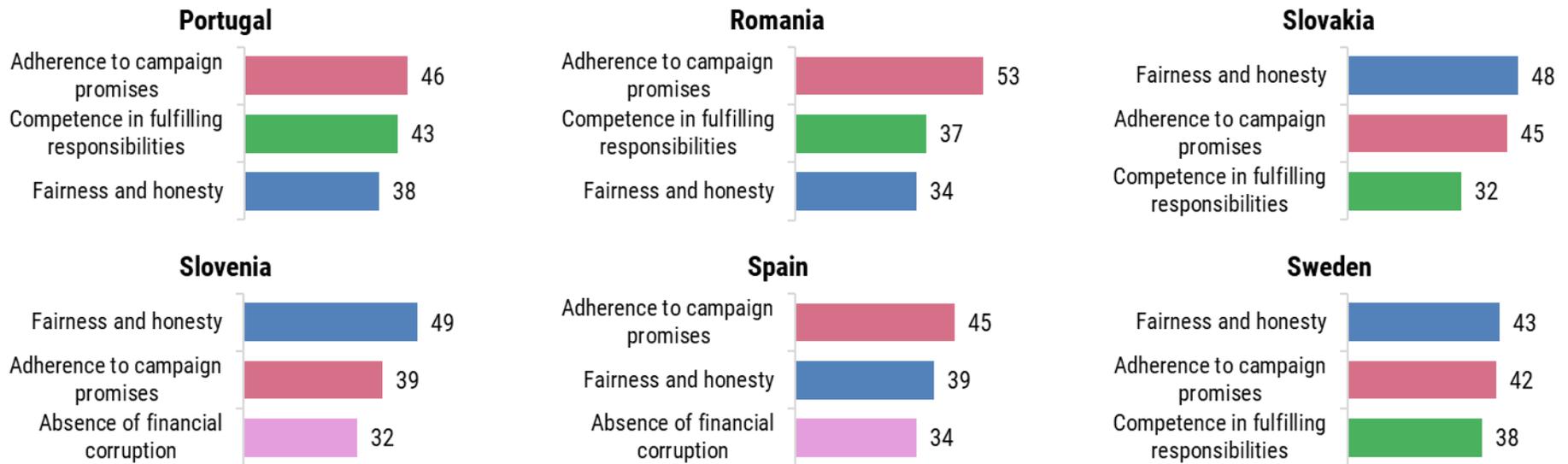


Fig. 2.17.3. Which of the following factors are most crucial to you in assessing the trustworthiness of a politician? (top 3 responses, %)



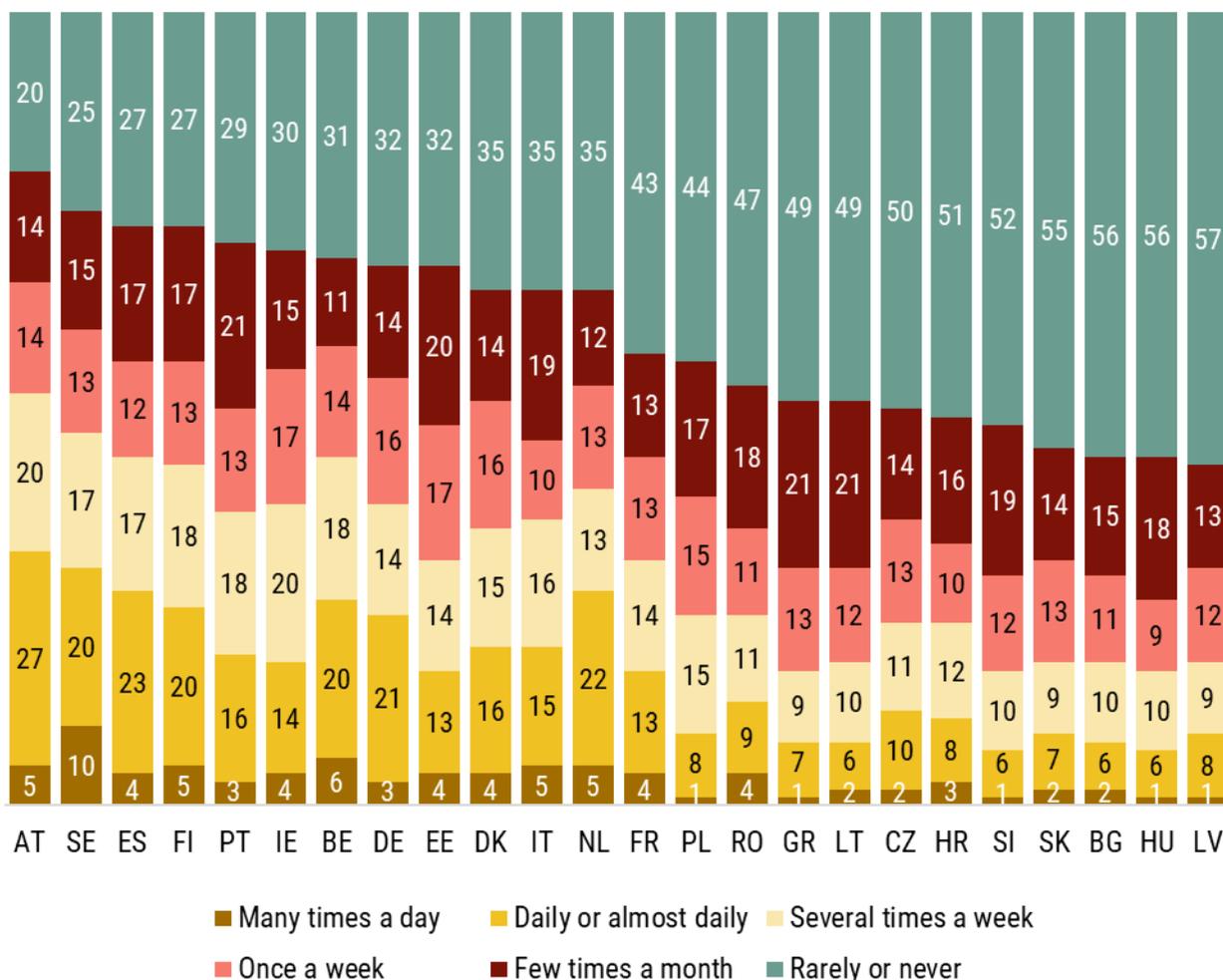
3. NEWS, MEDIA, AND INFORMATION

Media sources

People rely on a variety of information sources to obtain political news. Newspapers are used relatively infrequently as a source of political information. In countries such as the Czech Republic (50%), Croatia (51%), Slovenia (52%), Slovakia (55%), Bulgaria and Hungary (56% each), and Latvia (57%), more than half of respondents report that they read newspapers rarely or never. The highest shares of respondents who read newspapers on a daily basis are observed in Austria (32%), Sweden (30%), the Netherlands and Spain (27% each), Belgium (26%), and Finland (25%).

Fig. 3.1. Media sources: Newspapers (%)

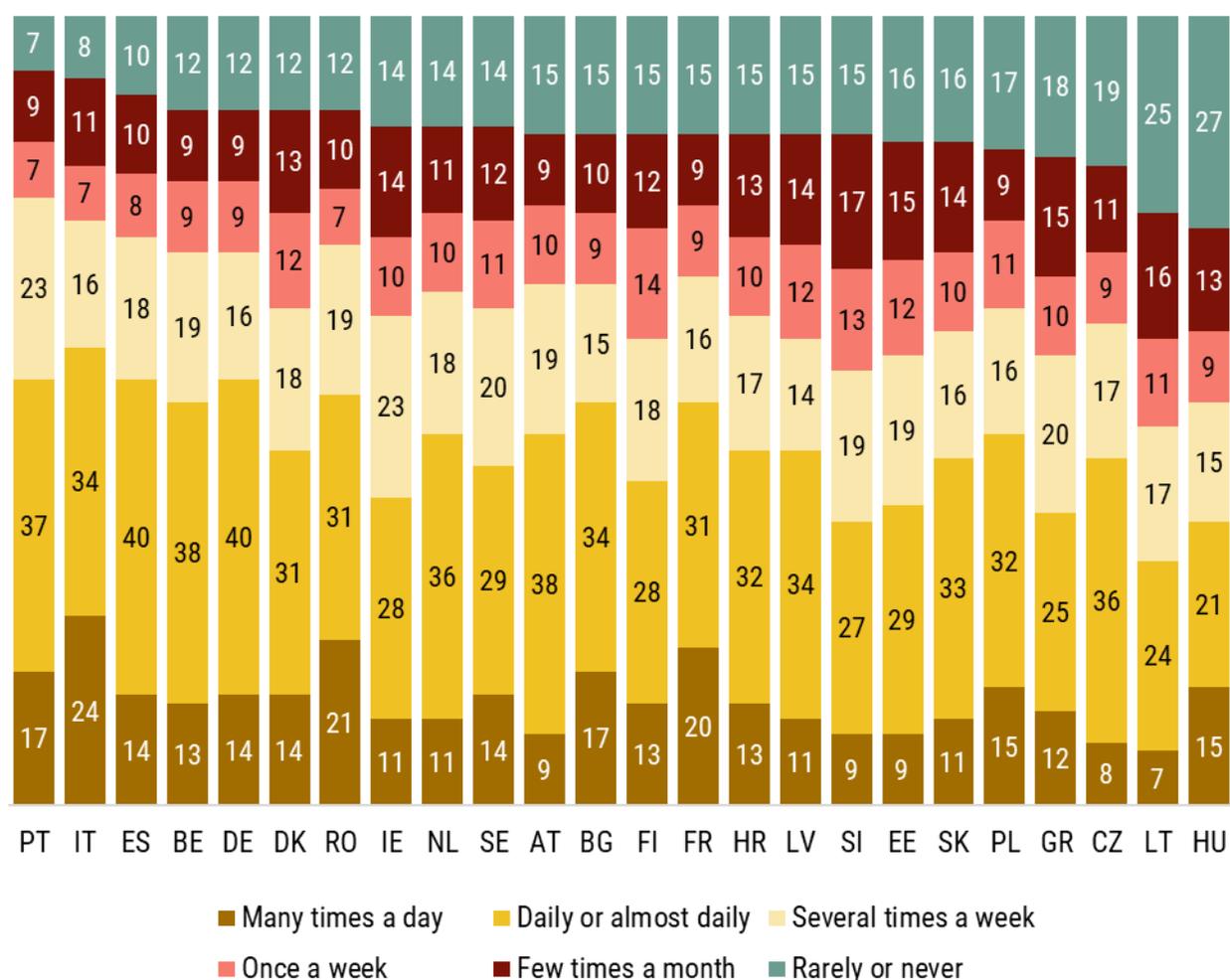
People learn what is happening in this country and the world from various sources. For each of the following traditional or online sources, please indicate how often you use it to learn news about politics.



Television is a more popular source of information. Daily television viewing is most common in Italy (58%), Portugal, Spain, and Germany (54% each), Romania (52%), and Belgium, Bulgaria, and France (51% each). The highest proportions of respondents who report never watching television are observed in Hungary (27%) and Lithuania (25%).

Fig. 3.2. Media sources: Television (%)

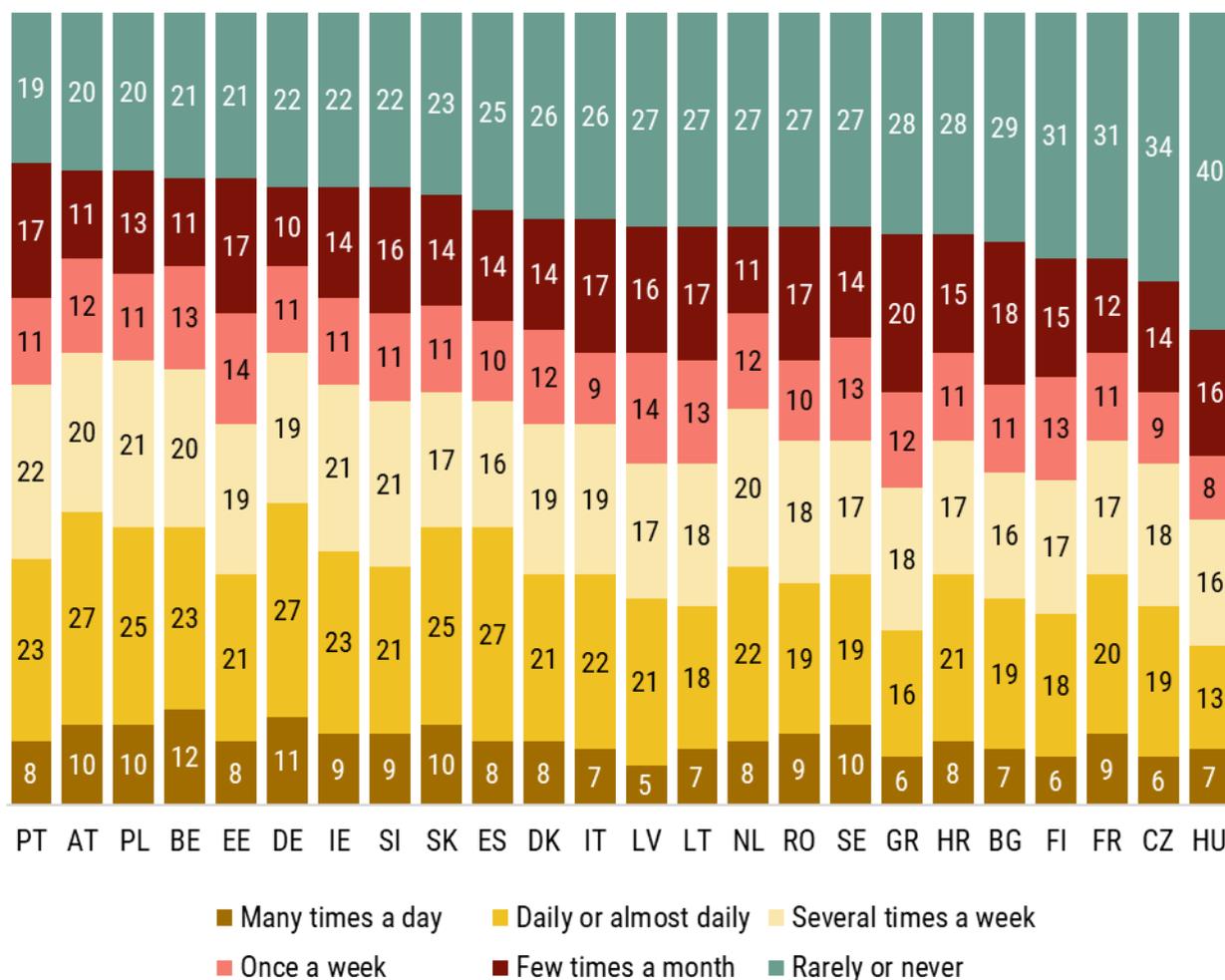
People learn what is happening in this country and the world from various sources. For each of the following traditional or online sources, please indicate how often you use it to learn news about politics.



Radio is a less popular source of information than television. Daily radio listening is most common among respondents in Germany (38%), Austria (37%), and Poland, Belgium, Slovakia, and Spain (35% each). The largest shares of respondents who report never listening to the radio for political news are observed in Hungary (40%), the Czech Republic (34%), and France and Finland (31% each).

Fig. 3.3. Media sources: Radio (%)

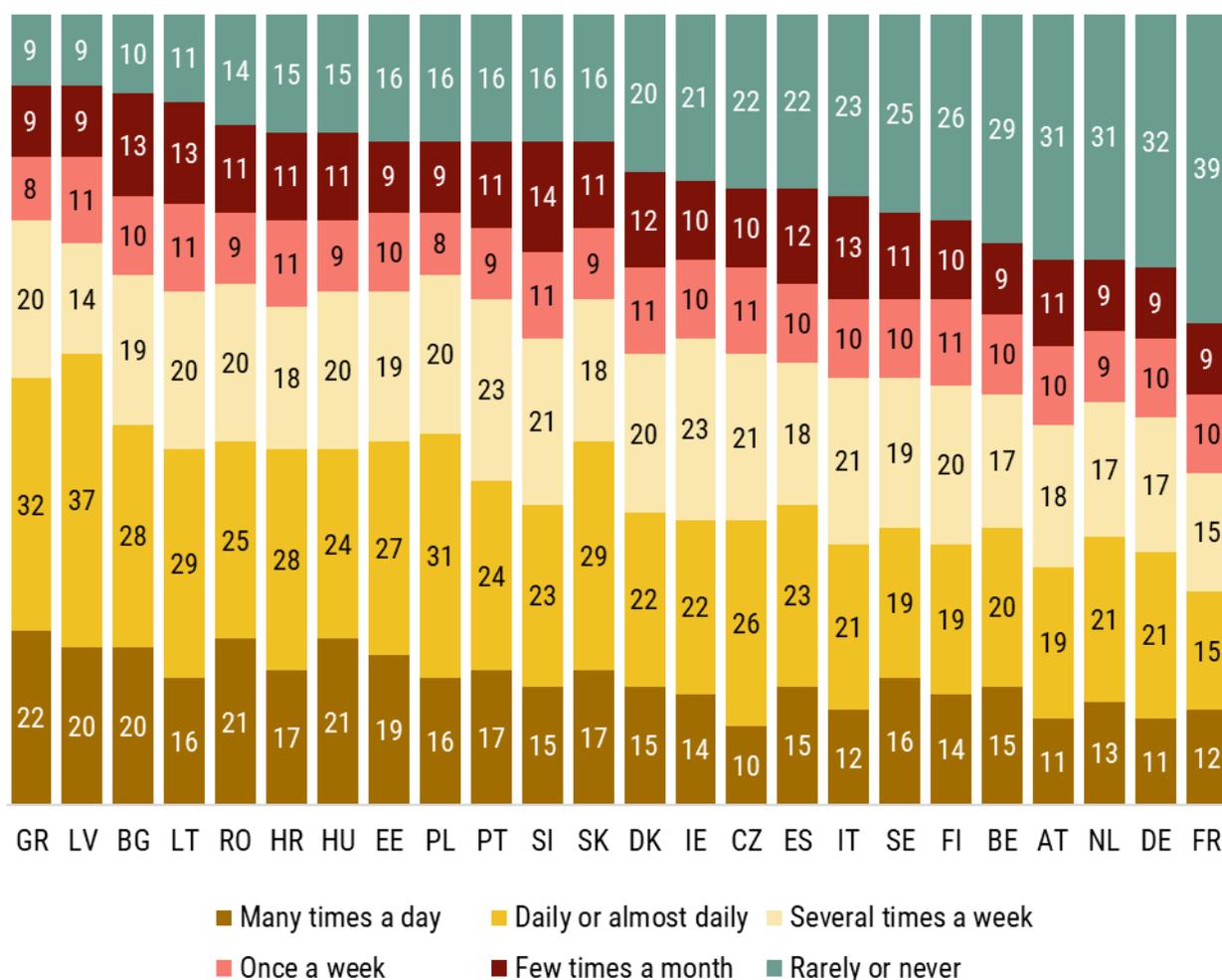
People learn what is happening in this country and the world from various sources. For each of the following traditional or online sources, please indicate how often you use it to learn news about politics.



Social media are used quite frequently as a source of information about political developments at both the national and international levels. Nearly daily consumption of political news via social media is reported most often in Latvia (57%), Greece (54%), Bulgaria (48%), and Poland (47%). The largest shares of respondents who do not follow political news on social media are found in France (39%), Germany (32%), and the Netherlands and Austria (31% each).

Fig. 3.4. Media sources: Online social media (%)

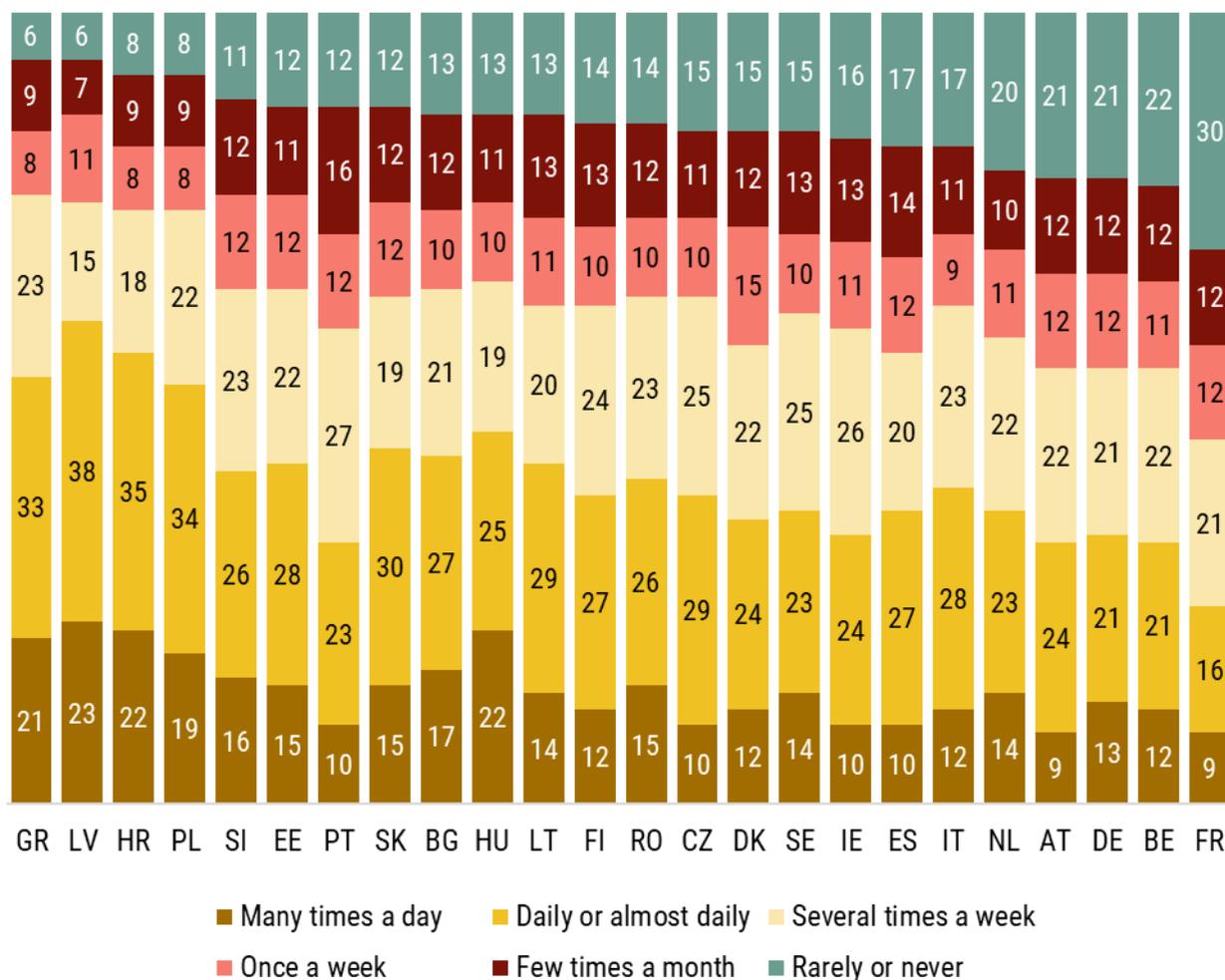
People learn what is happening in this country and the world from various sources. For each of the following traditional or online sources, please indicate how often you use it to learn news about politics.



Online news websites are a popular source of information about political news. Daily visits to such websites are most common in Latvia (61%), Croatia (57%), Greece (54%), and Poland (53%). By contrast, news websites are less frequently used in France, where 30% of respondents report never visiting news websites, as well as in Belgium (22%), and Germany and Austria (21% each).

Fig. 3.5. Media sources: Online websites (%)

People learn what is happening in this country and the world from various sources. For each of the following traditional or online sources, please indicate how often you use it to learn news about politics.

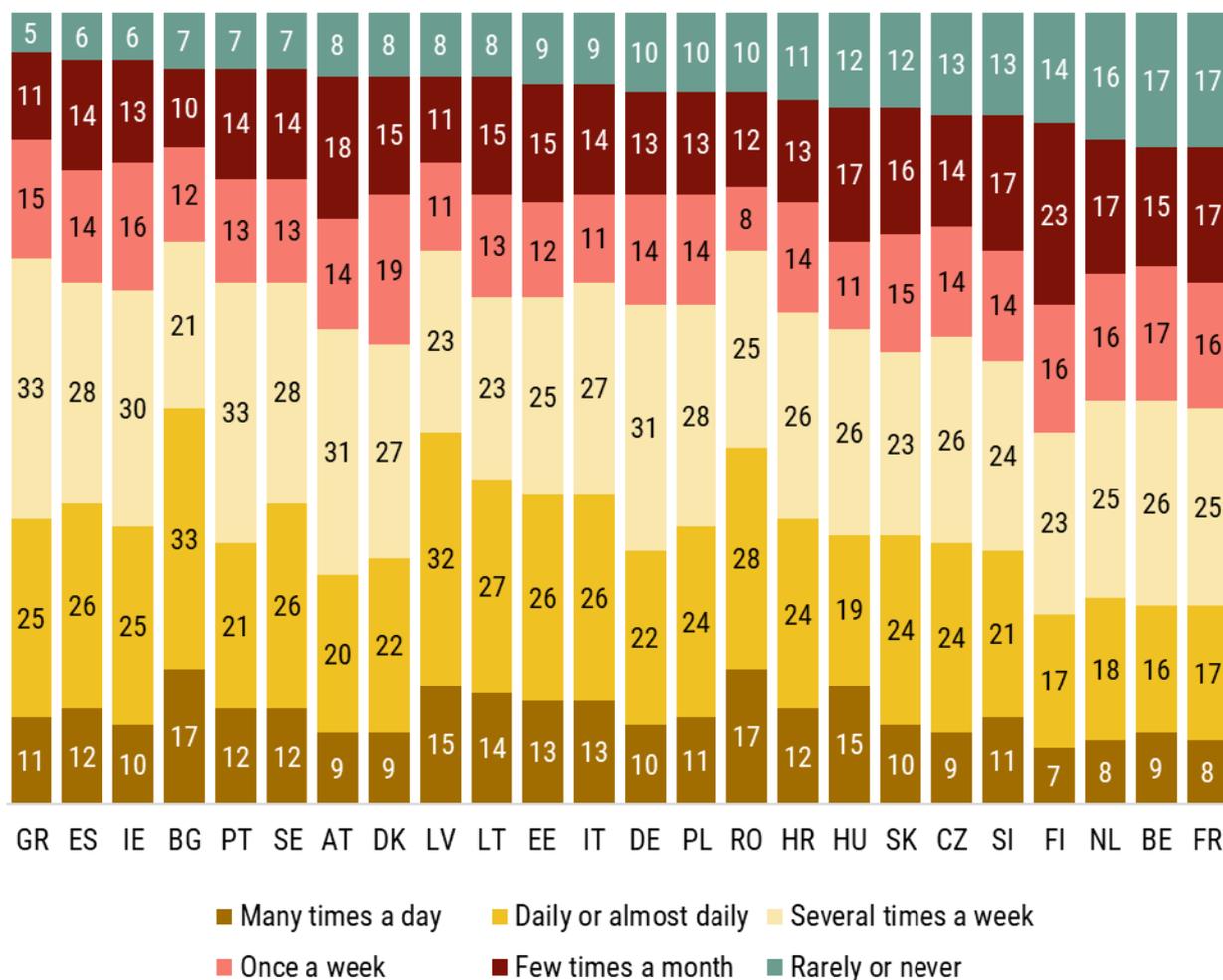




Respondents often obtain information about political events from family members, friends, or colleagues. This source is used most frequently in Bulgaria, where 50% report receiving such information daily or almost daily, followed by Latvia (47%) and Romania (45%). By contrast, information from close social circles is used less often in the Netherlands, where 16% report never or rarely relying on this source, as well as in Belgium and France (17% each).

Fig. 3.6. Media sources: Talk with family, friends, colleagues (%)

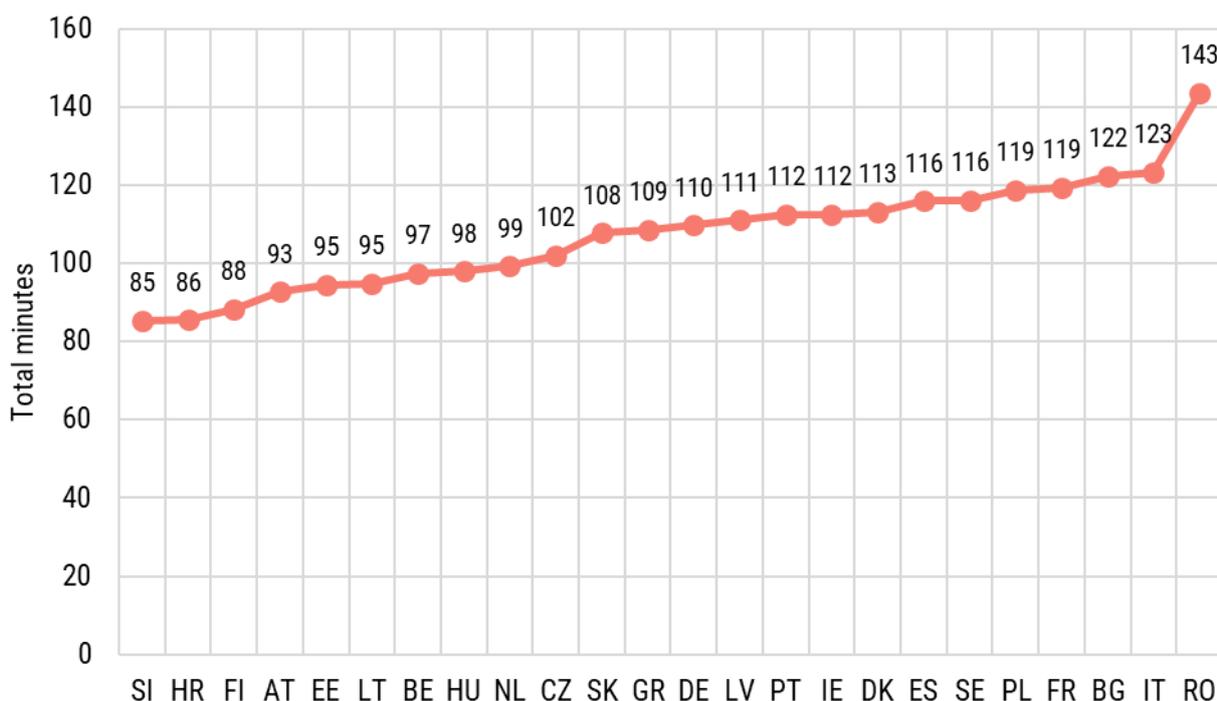
People learn what is happening in this country and the world from various sources. For each of the following traditional or online sources, please indicate how often you use it to learn news about politics.



In Romania, respondents spend, on average, more time watching, reading, and listening to news about politics and current affairs (143 minutes) than in any other country. Relatively high amounts of time are also devoted to news consumption in Italy (123 minutes), Bulgaria (122 minutes), and France and Poland (119 minutes each). The least time spent on political news is reported by respondents in Slovenia (85 minutes), Hungary (86 minutes), and Finland (88 minutes).

Fig. 3.7. Time spent watching, reading, or listening to news about politics and current affairs (mean)*

On a typical day, how much time do you spend watching, reading, or listening to news about politics and current affairs?



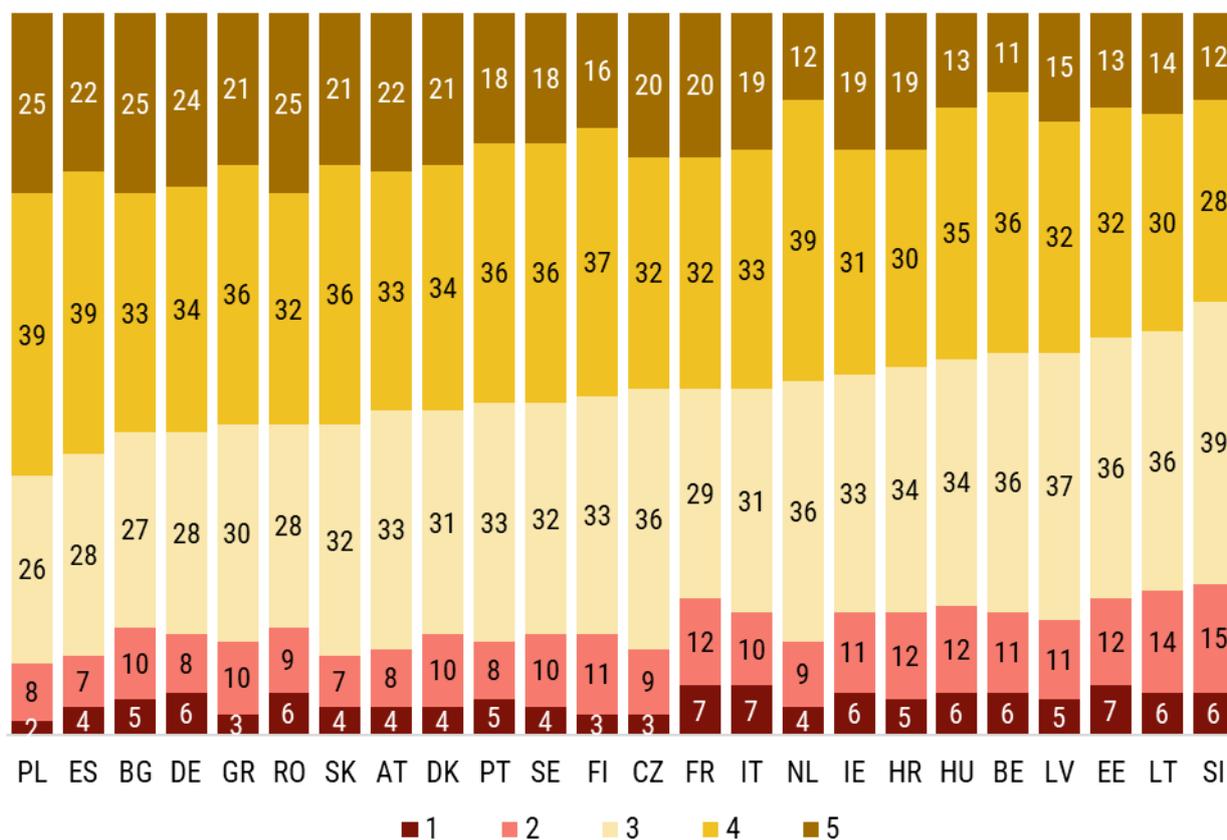
* Responses from 95.6% of respondents who spend time on news about politics and current affairs. The minimum value is 1 minute; the maximum value is 300 minutes (5 hours).

Public Engagement with Political Information

The majority of respondents consider themselves to be well informed about politics and current affairs in their country. In Poland, Bulgaria, and Romania, 25% of respondents rate their level of awareness of current news at the maximum score of 5. The lowest self-assessments of awareness of the current situation are reported by respondents in Slovenia, where 21% rate their awareness at 1–2 out of 5, followed by Lithuania (20%), and Estonia and France (19% each).

Fig. 3.8. Awareness of National Political and Current Events (%)

How well informed do you feel you are about politics and current affairs in your country?

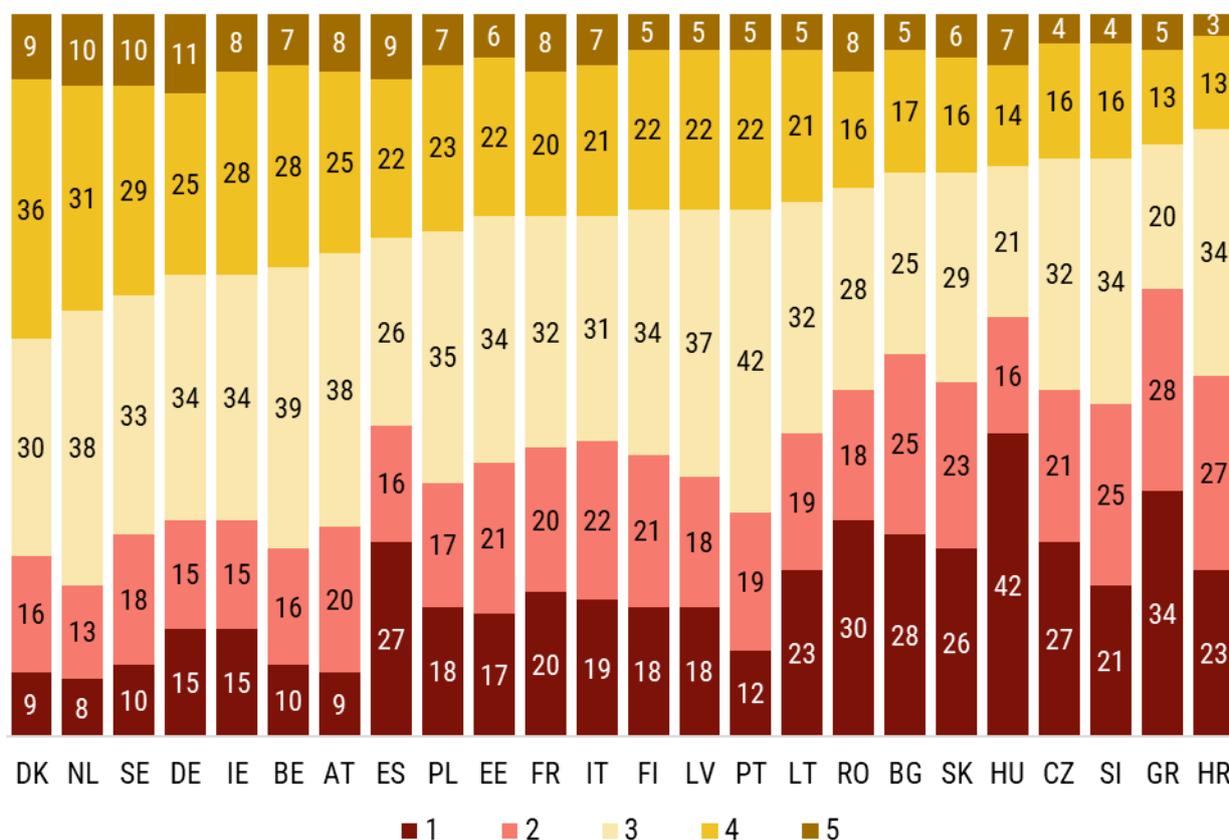


* Responses were measured on a 5-point scale, with 1 indicating “Not at all informed” and 5 indicating “Very well informed”

Most respondents tend not to place much trust in the information provided by the government on important political issues. This scepticism is particularly pronounced in Greece, where 62% rate their level of trust at 1–2 out of 5, followed by Hungary (58%), Bulgaria (53%), Croatia (50%), and Slovakia (49%). The highest levels of trust in government-provided information are observed in Denmark, where 45% rate their trust at 4–5 out of 5, as well as in the Netherlands (41%) and Sweden (39%).

Fig. 3.9. Public Trust in Government-Issued Information (%)

How much do you trust the information provided by the government on important policy issues?

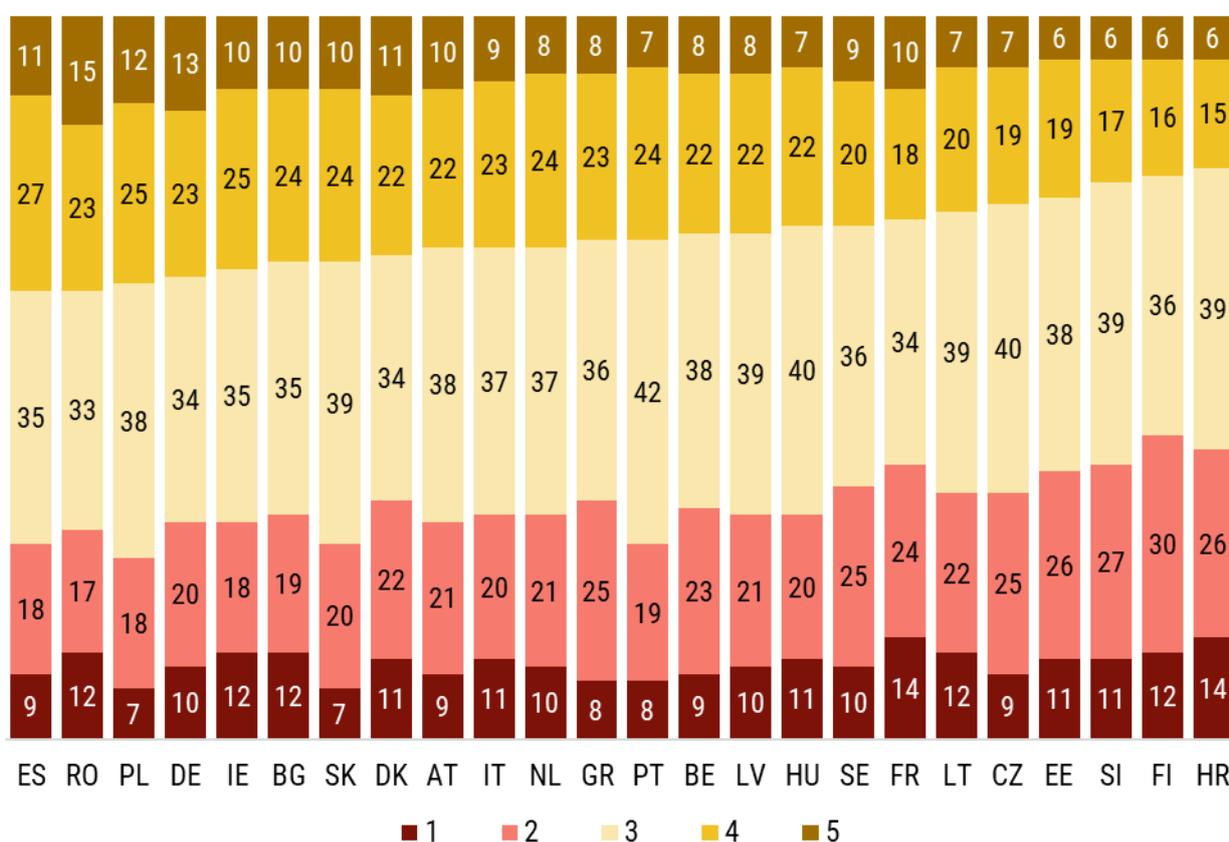


* Responses were measured on a 5-point scale, with 1 indicating “No trust at all” and 5 indicating “Complete trust”

Opinions regarding awareness of politics and current affairs in the European Union are divided. A share of respondents consider themselves to be well informed about ongoing developments in the EU. This group is largest in Spain, where 38% rate their level of awareness at 4–5 out of 5, followed by Romania (38%) and Poland (37%). The lowest levels of perceived awareness are reported by respondents in Finland, where 42% rate their awareness at 1–2 out of 5, as well as in Croatia (40%), and France and Slovenia (38% each).

Fig. 3.10. Awareness of Political and Current Affairs in the EU (%)

How well informed do you feel you are about politics and current affairs in the European Union?



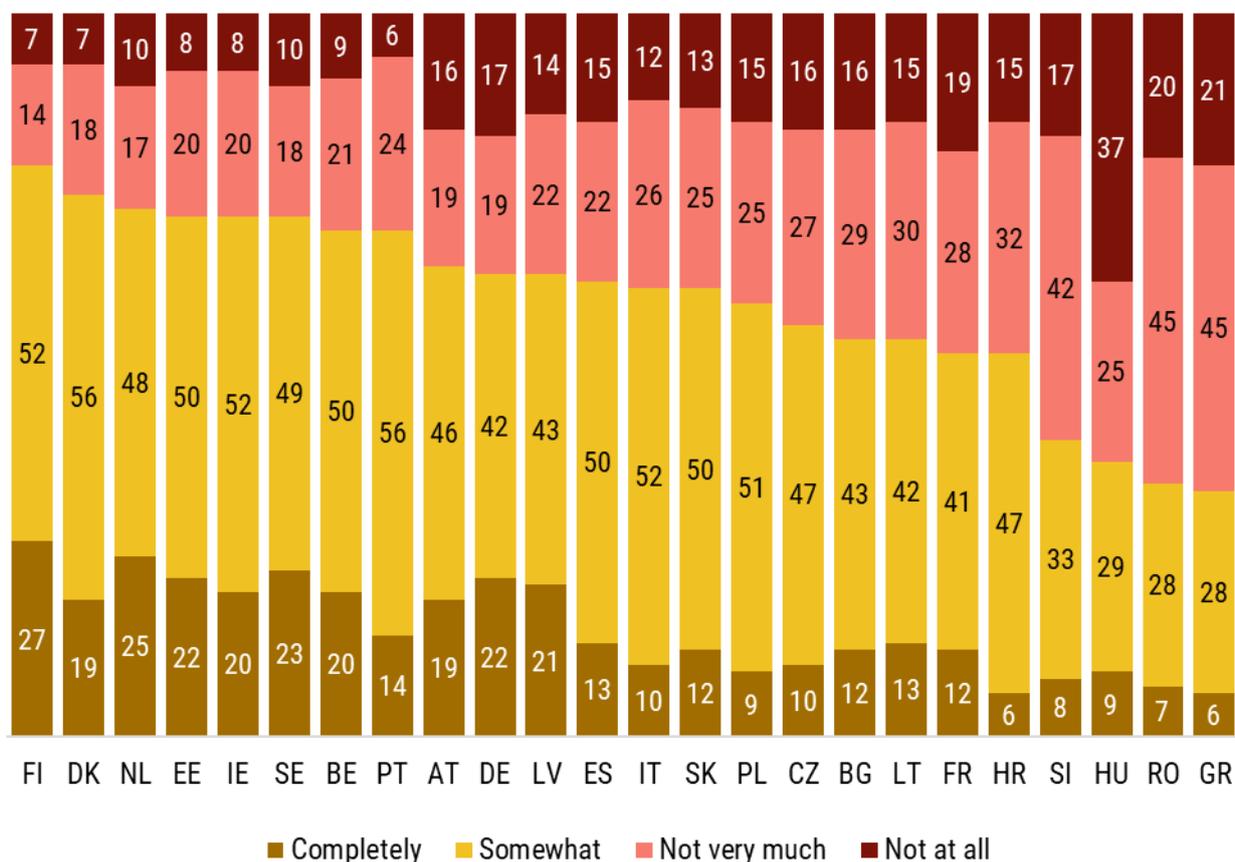
* Responses were measured on a 5-point scale, with 1 indicating “Not at all informed” and 5 indicating “Very well informed”

Trust in News Sources

The level of trust in news provided by public service media is relatively high. The highest levels of trust in public service media are observed in Finland (79% trust them), Denmark (75%), the Netherlands (73%), and Estonia and Ireland (72% each). By contrast, lack of trust in public service media is most common in Greece (66% do not trust them), Romania (65%), and Hungary (62%).

Fig. 3.11. Trust: News from Public Service Broadcasters (%)

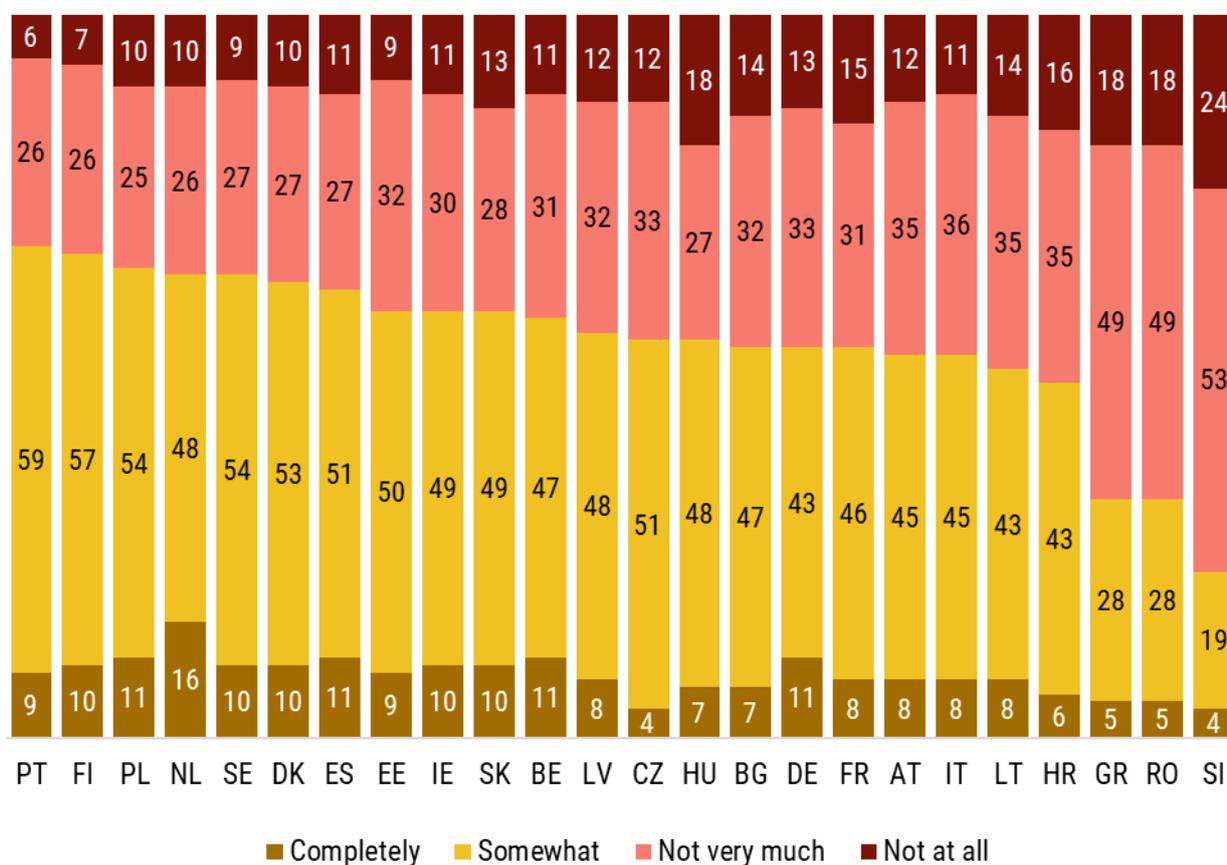
How much do you trust news from public service broadcasters?



The level of trust in private media is also relatively high, although somewhat lower than trust in public service media. The highest levels of trust in private media are recorded in Portugal (68% trust them), Finland (67%), and Poland (65%). The lowest levels of trust in private media are observed in Slovenia, where 77% report distrust, as well as in Romania and Greece (67% each).

Fig. 3.12. Trust: News from Commercial or Privately Owned Broadcasters (%)

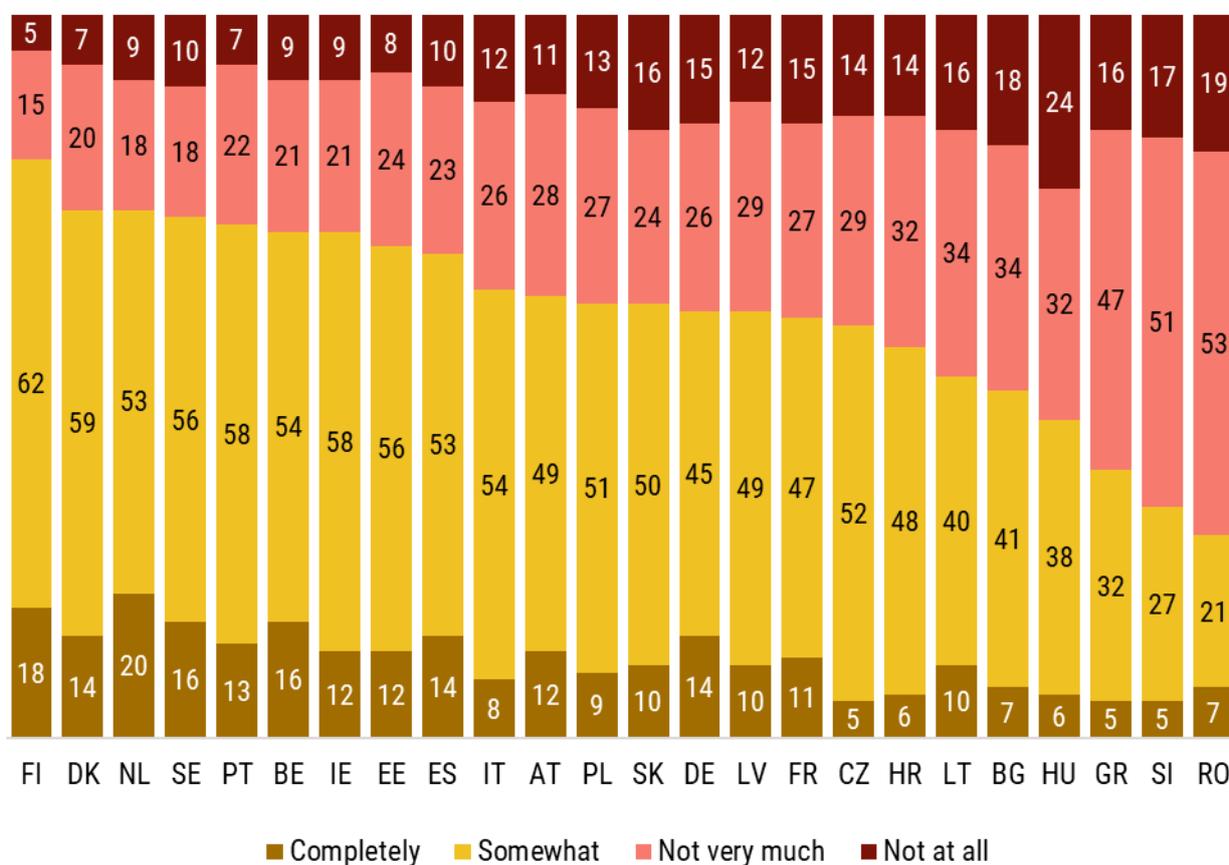
How much do you trust news from commercial or privately owned broadcasters?



Respondents generally tend to trust news from the printed press. The highest levels of trust are recorded in Finland (80% trust it), Denmark and the Netherlands (73% each), and Sweden (72%). The lowest levels of trust in the printed press are observed in Romania, where 72% report distrust, followed by Slovenia (68%) and Greece (63%).

Fig. 3.13. Trust: News from Printed Press (%)

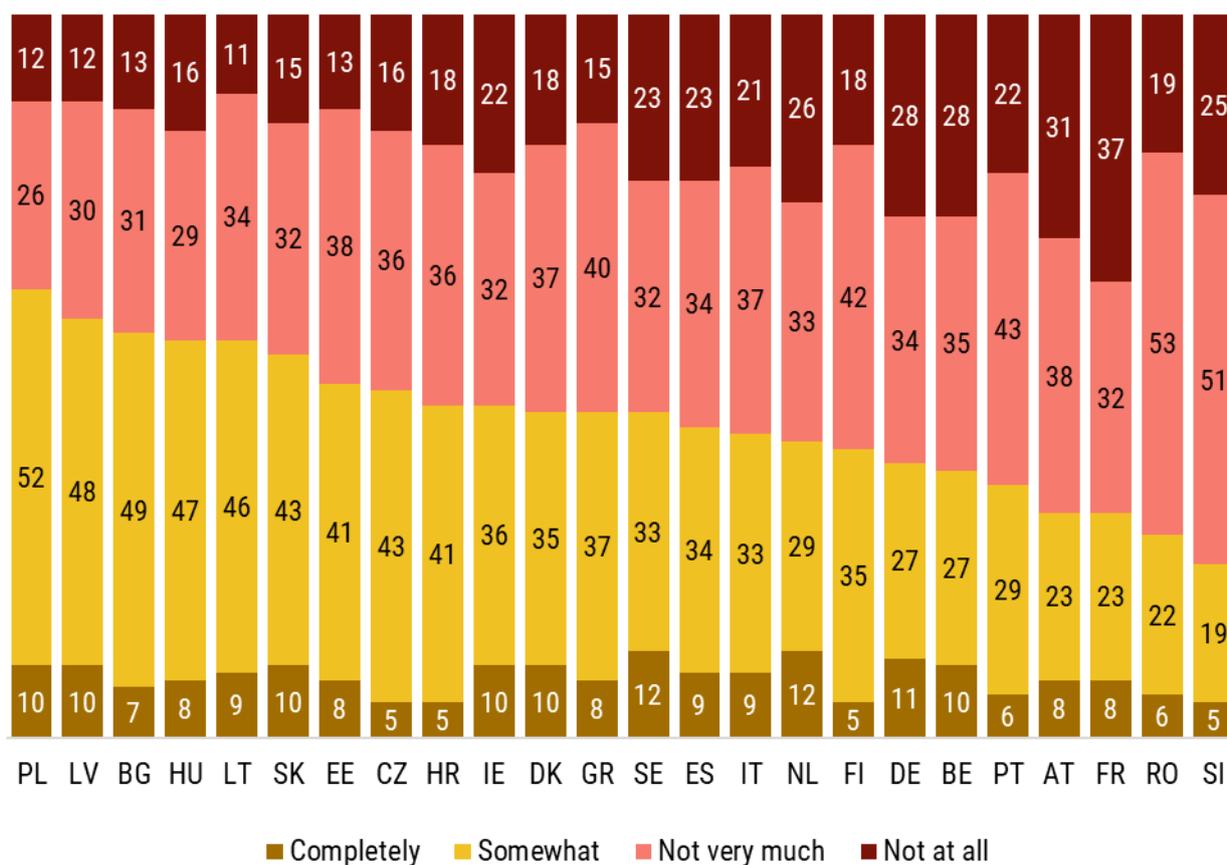
How much do you trust news from the print press?



Opinions regarding trust in news from social media are divided. In countries such as Poland (62% trust it), Latvia (58%), Bulgaria (56%), and Hungary and Lithuania (55% each), respondents predominantly trust news from social media. By contrast, in Austria and France (69% distrust it), Romania (72%), and Slovenia (76%), the majority of respondents tend not to trust news from social media.

Fig. 3.14. Trust: News from Social Media (%)

How much do you trust news from social media?



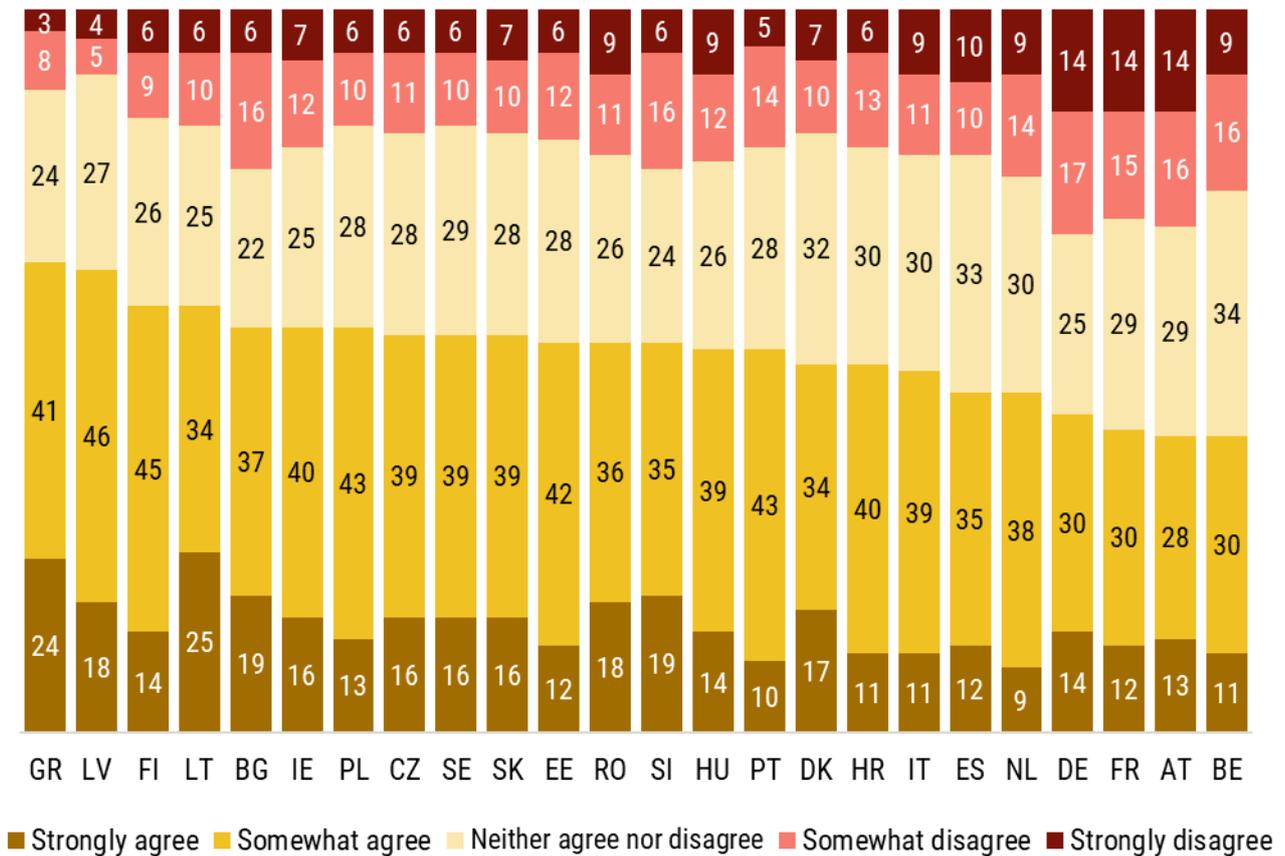


Attitudes Toward Political Information Sources

Respondents generally agree that they learn a great deal of new information from online sources. Agreement with this statement is highest in Greece (65%), Latvia (64%), and Finland and Lithuania (59% each). Lower levels of agreement are observed in Belgium and Austria (41% each), as well as in France (42%).

Fig. 3.15. Agree or Disagree: I often learn a lot from online sources of information (%)

When seeking political news and information, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

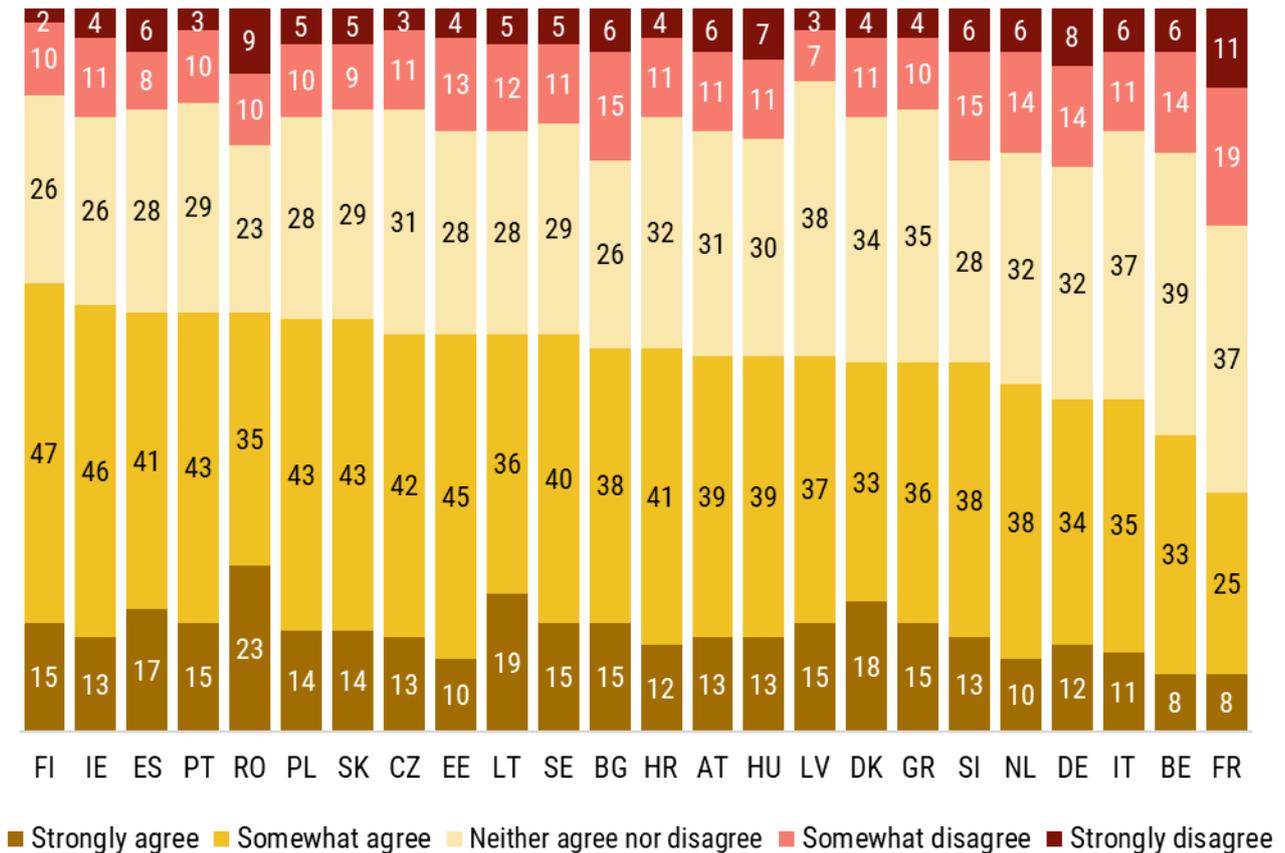




The majority of respondents are confident that they are generally able to distinguish fake news from real news. Respondents in Finland express the highest level of confidence in this ability (62%). In most other countries, between 59% and 48% of respondents report being confident that they can tell fake news from accurate information. Exceptions include Germany and Italy, where 46% express such confidence, and Belgium, where this share is lower (41%). In France, only one third of respondents report being confident in their ability to distinguish fake news from real news (33%).

Fig. 3.16. Agree or Disagree: I am confident that I can tell real news from fake news (%)

When seeking political news and information, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

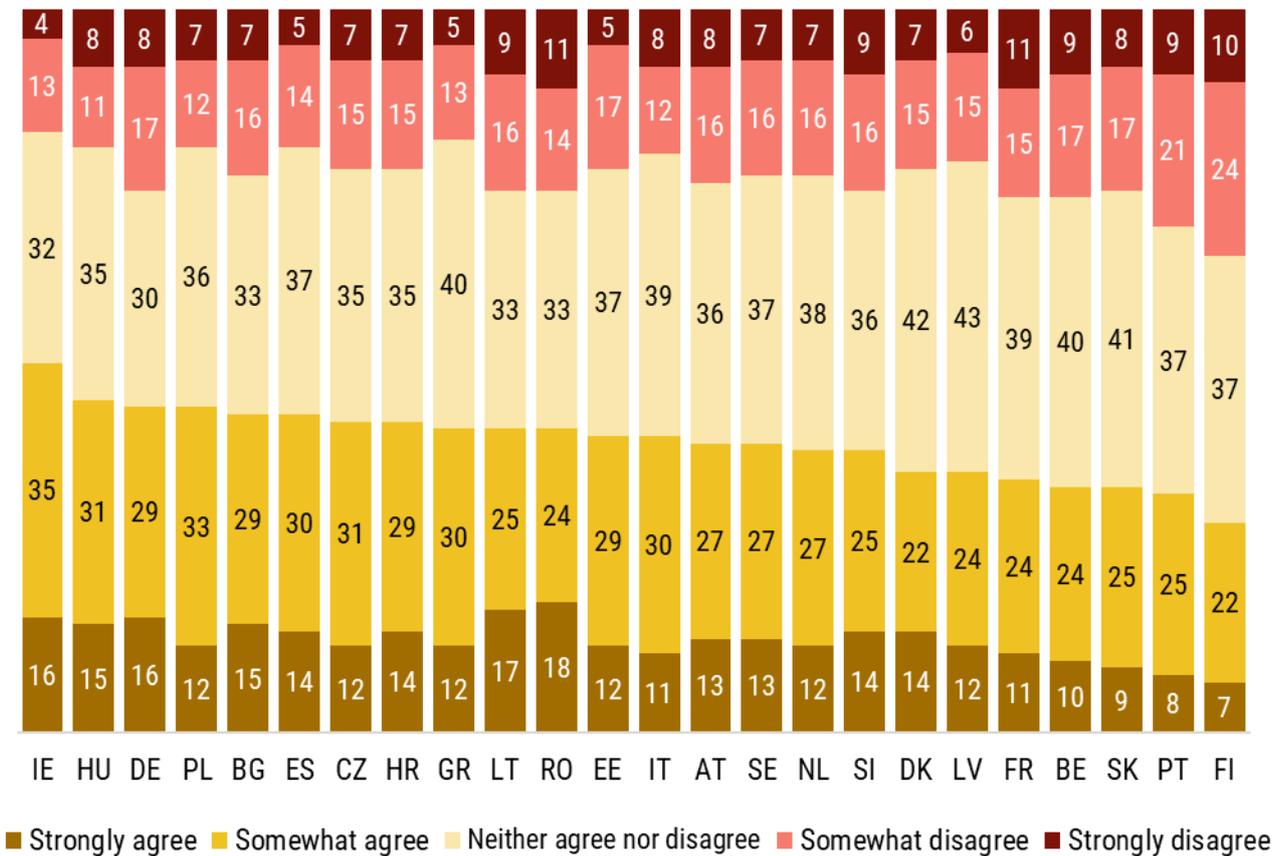




Respondents in Ireland (51%), Hungary (46%), and Germany (45%) are more inclined to trust information from family members, friends, and neighbours than information provided by news media. In Finland and Portugal, respondents' opinions are divided: around one third agree with this statement and a similar share disagree, while 37% are unable to decide which source they trust more—information from their close social environment or the media.

Fig. 3.17. Agree or Disagree: I trust information from family, friends and neighbors more than the news media (%)

When seeking political news and information, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

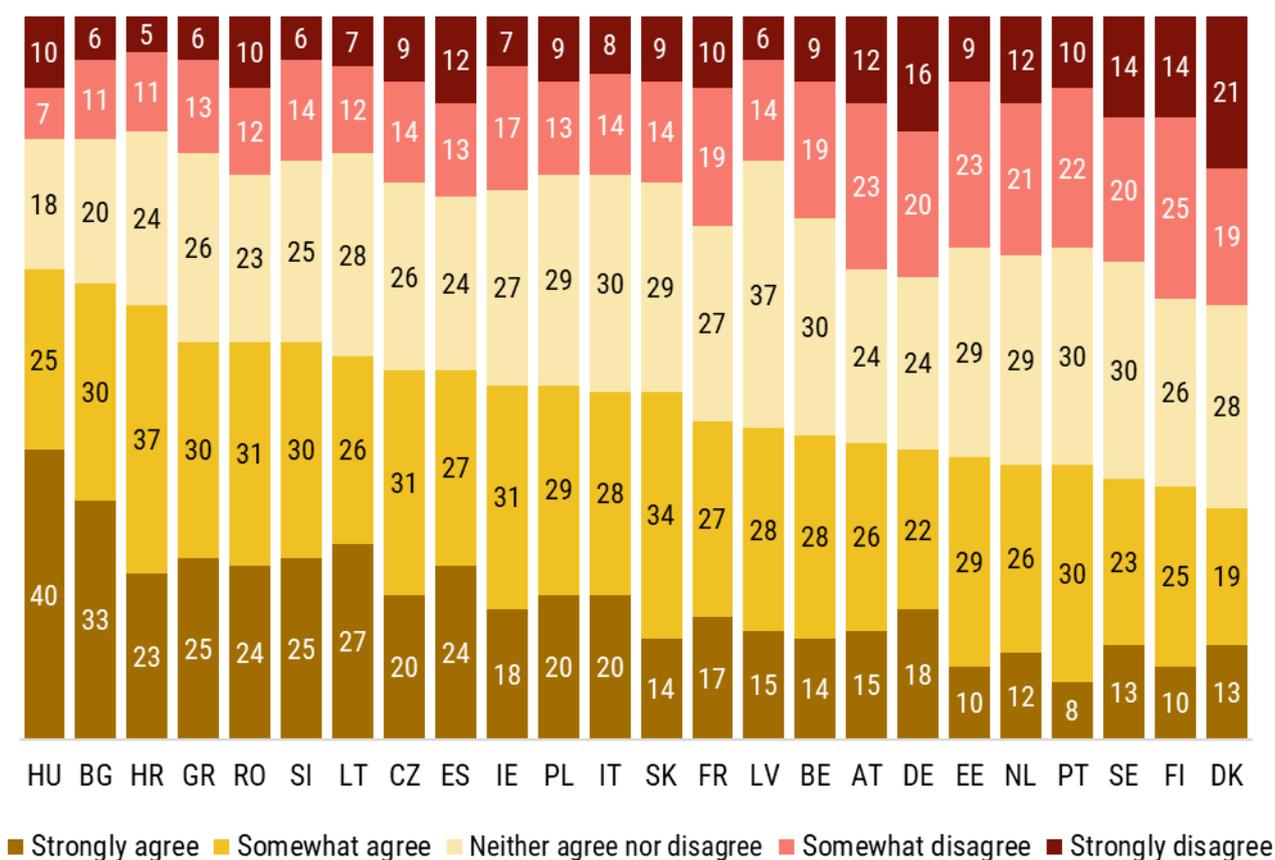


Trust and Skepticism Toward National News Media

Respondents are more likely to agree with the statement that the government censors news media. This belief is most widespread in Hungary (65%), Bulgaria (63%), and Croatia (60%). In Denmark, respondents tend to disagree with this statement, with 32% agreeing and 40% disagreeing. In Finland and Sweden, respondents' opinions are divided: approximately one third believe that news media are censored, a similar share believe that there is no media censorship, and another third are unable to state clearly which position they lean towards.

Fig. 3.18. Agree or Disagree: The government often censors the news media (%)

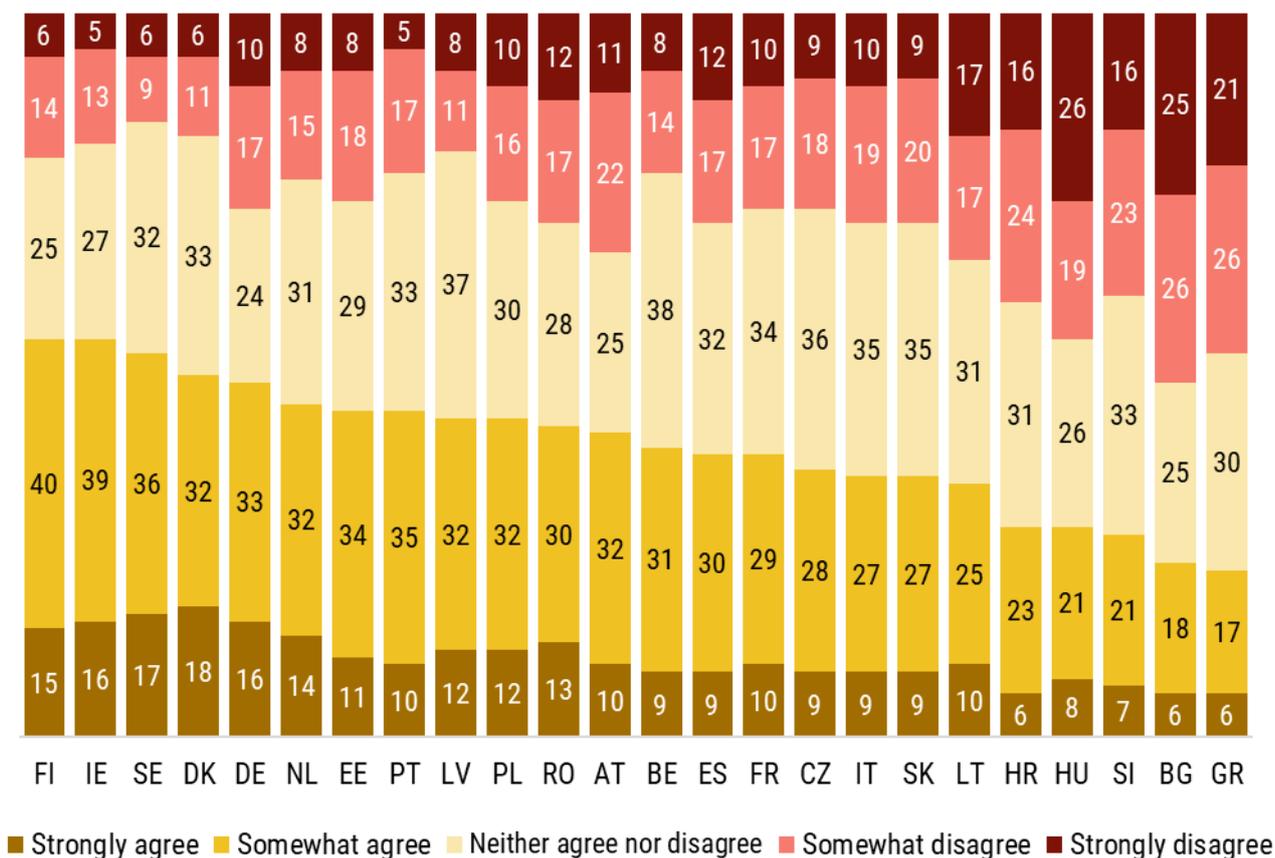
Would you agree or disagree with the following statement about the news media in your country?



Opinions are divided regarding the availability of independent journalism in respondents' countries. Agreement with the statement that independent journalism is widely available is most common among respondents in Finland and Ireland (55% agree in both countries), followed by Sweden (53%), Denmark (50%), and Germany (49%). The highest levels of disagreement with this statement are observed in Bulgaria (51% disagree), Greece (47%), Hungary (45%), Croatia (40%), and Slovenia (39%).

Fig. 3.19. Agree or Disagree: Independent journalism is widely available (%)

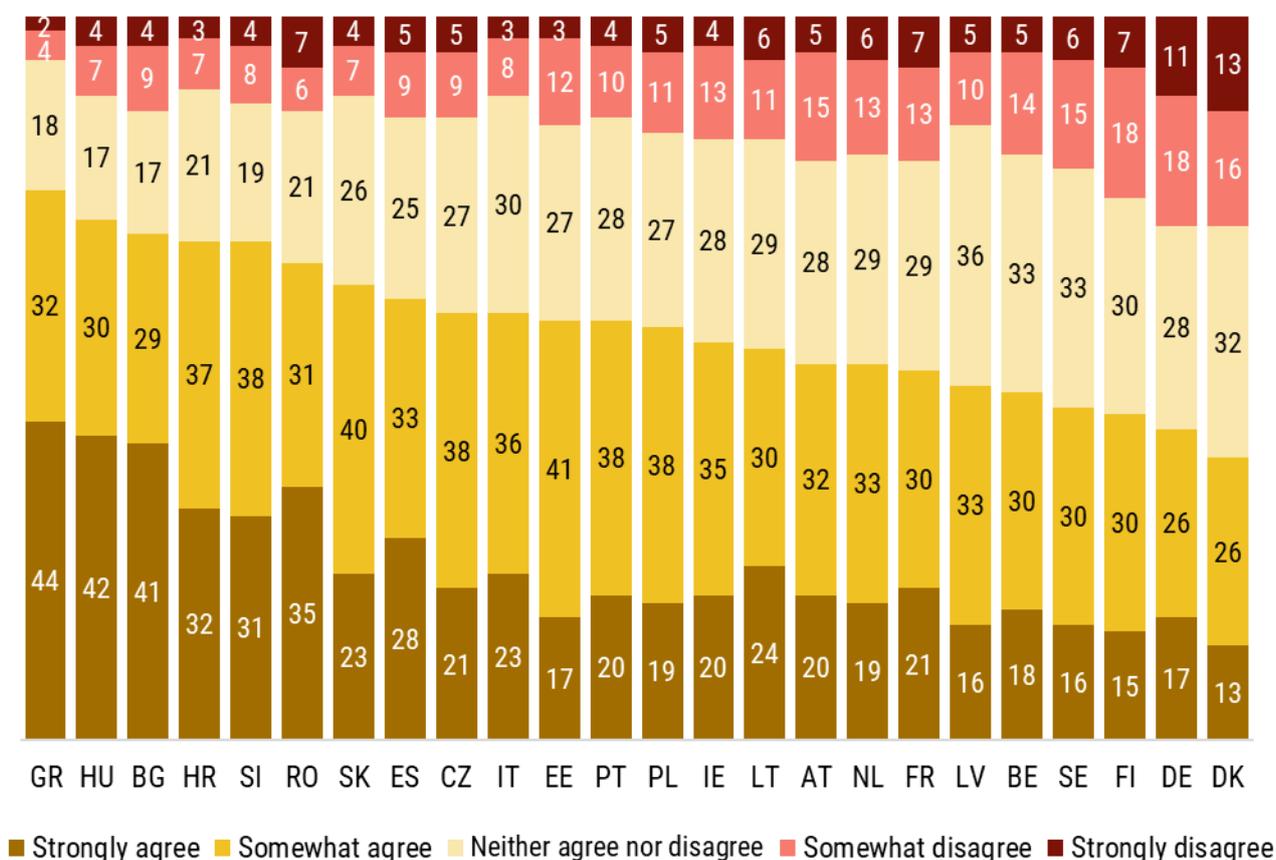
Would you agree or disagree with the following statement about the news media in your country?



The majority of respondents agree that news media are controlled by wealthy owners. Agreement with this statement is highest in Greece (76%), Hungary (72%), Bulgaria (70%), Croatia and Slovenia (69% each), Romania (66%), and Slovakia (63%). The lowest levels of agreement are observed in Denmark (39%), Germany (43%), Finland (45%), and Sweden (46%).

Fig. 3.20. Agree or Disagree: The news media is in the pocket of rich owners (%)

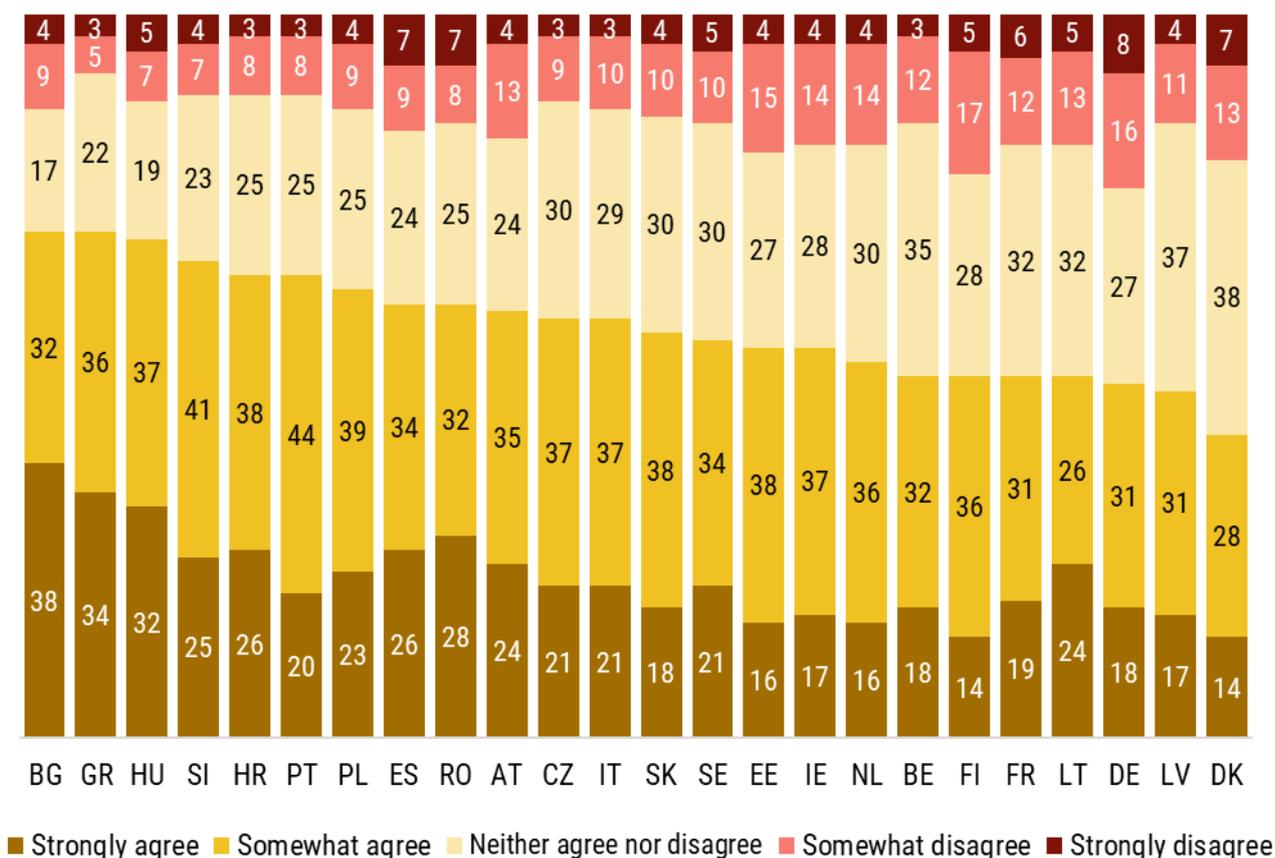
Would you agree or disagree with the following statement about the news media in your country?



Respondents quite often agree with the statement that most news coverage is politically biased. Agreement with this view is most widespread in Bulgaria and Greece (70% each), followed by Hungary (69%), Slovenia (66%), and Croatia (64%). The lowest levels of agreement are observed in Germany (49%), Latvia (48%), and Denmark (42%).

Fig. 3.21. Agree or Disagree: Most news is politically biased (%)

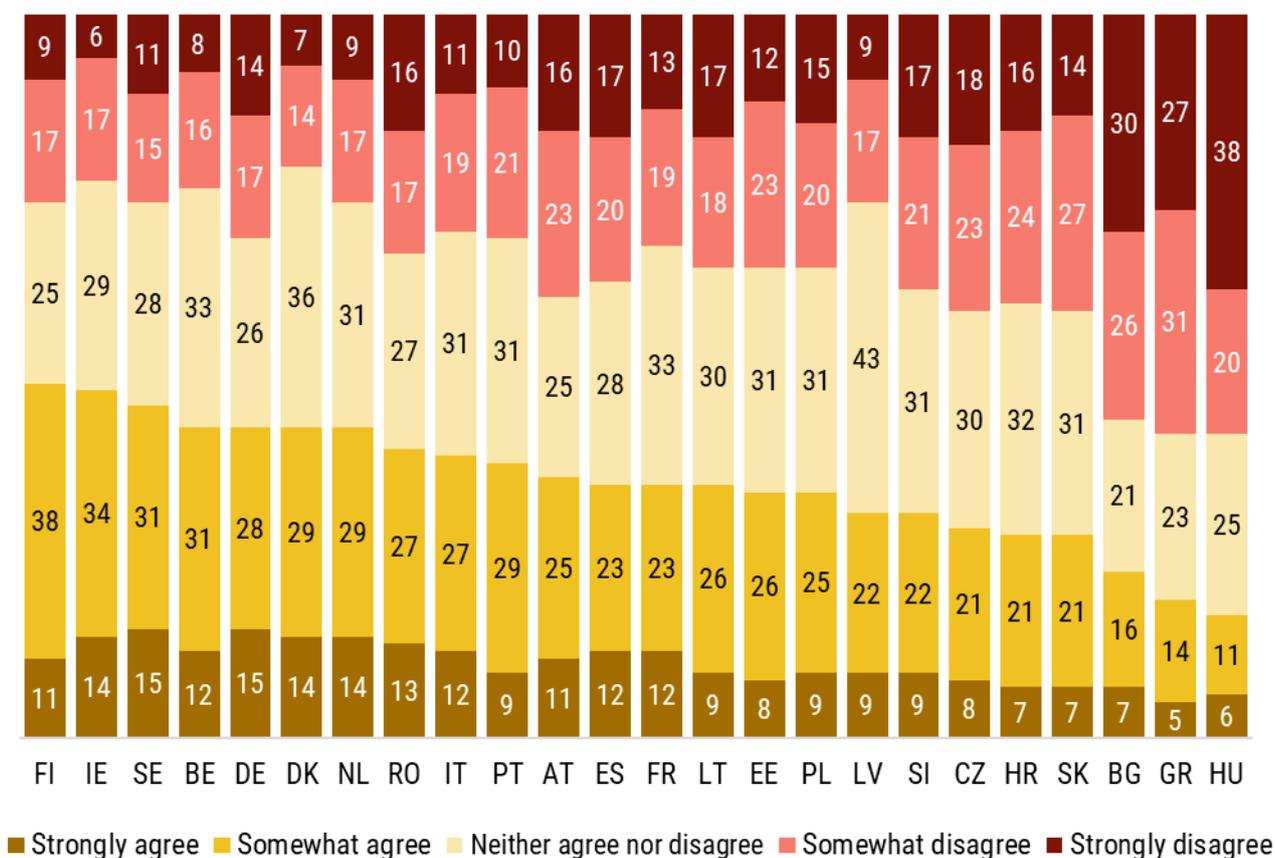
Would you agree or disagree with the following statement about the news media in your country?



Respondents are less likely to agree with the statement that most news is impartial and accurate. The highest levels of agreement are observed in Finland (49%), Ireland (48%), and Sweden (46%). The largest shares of disagreement are found in Greece and Hungary (58% each), as well as in Bulgaria (56%).

Fig. 3.22. Agree or Disagree: Most news is impartial and accurate (%)

Would you agree or disagree with the following statement about the news media in your country?



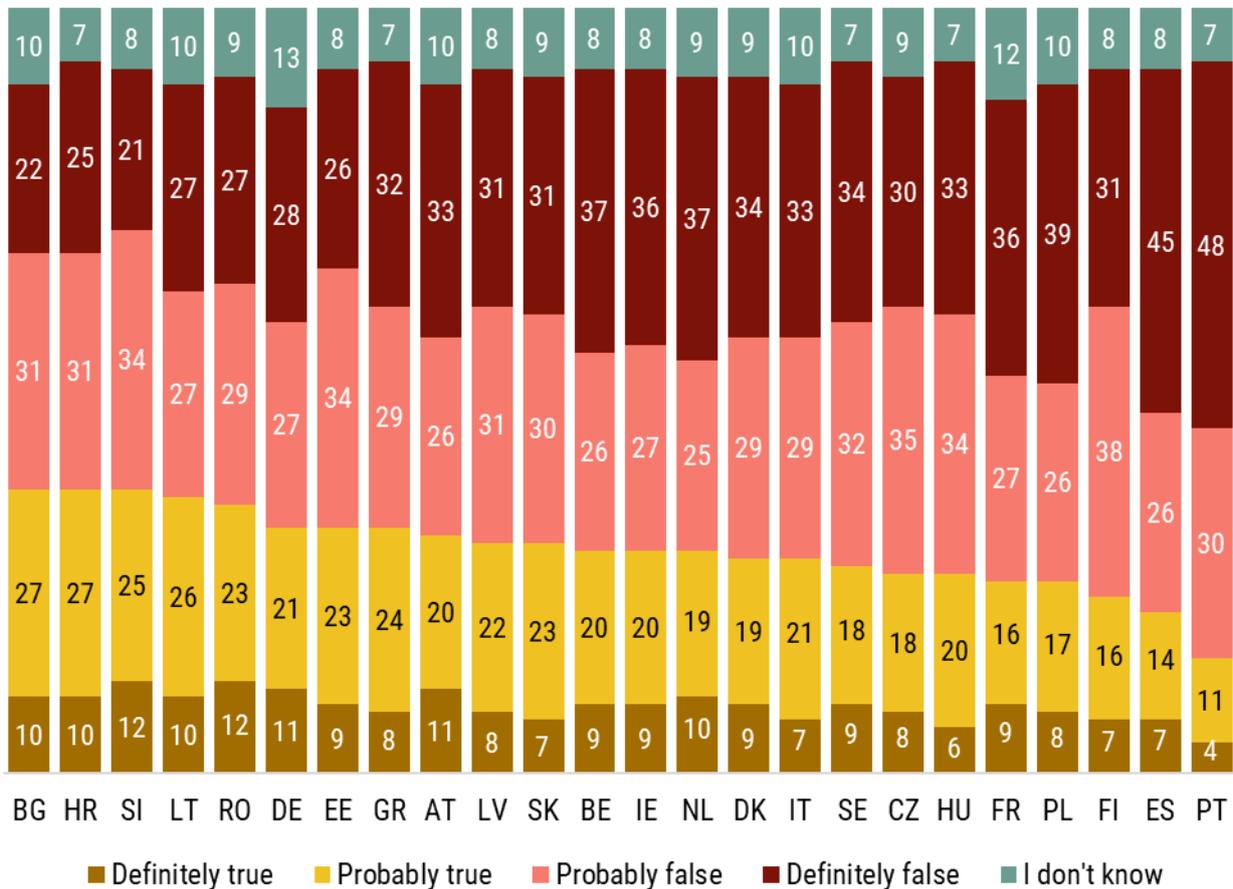


Conspiracy Beliefs and Beliefs in Contested Public Claims

The majority of respondents are confident that the claim that vaccines have been proven to cause autism is false. More than half of respondents in all countries hold this view. The highest shares of respondents who believe this claim to be true are recorded in Bulgaria, Croatia, and Slovenia (37% in each country). By contrast, the highest levels of confidence that the claim is false are observed in Portugal (78%), Spain (71%), and Finland (69%).

Fig. 3.23. True or false: Vaccines have been shown to cause autism (%)

There are disputes about several claims. Can you tell us whether or not you believe the following statement is true or false?

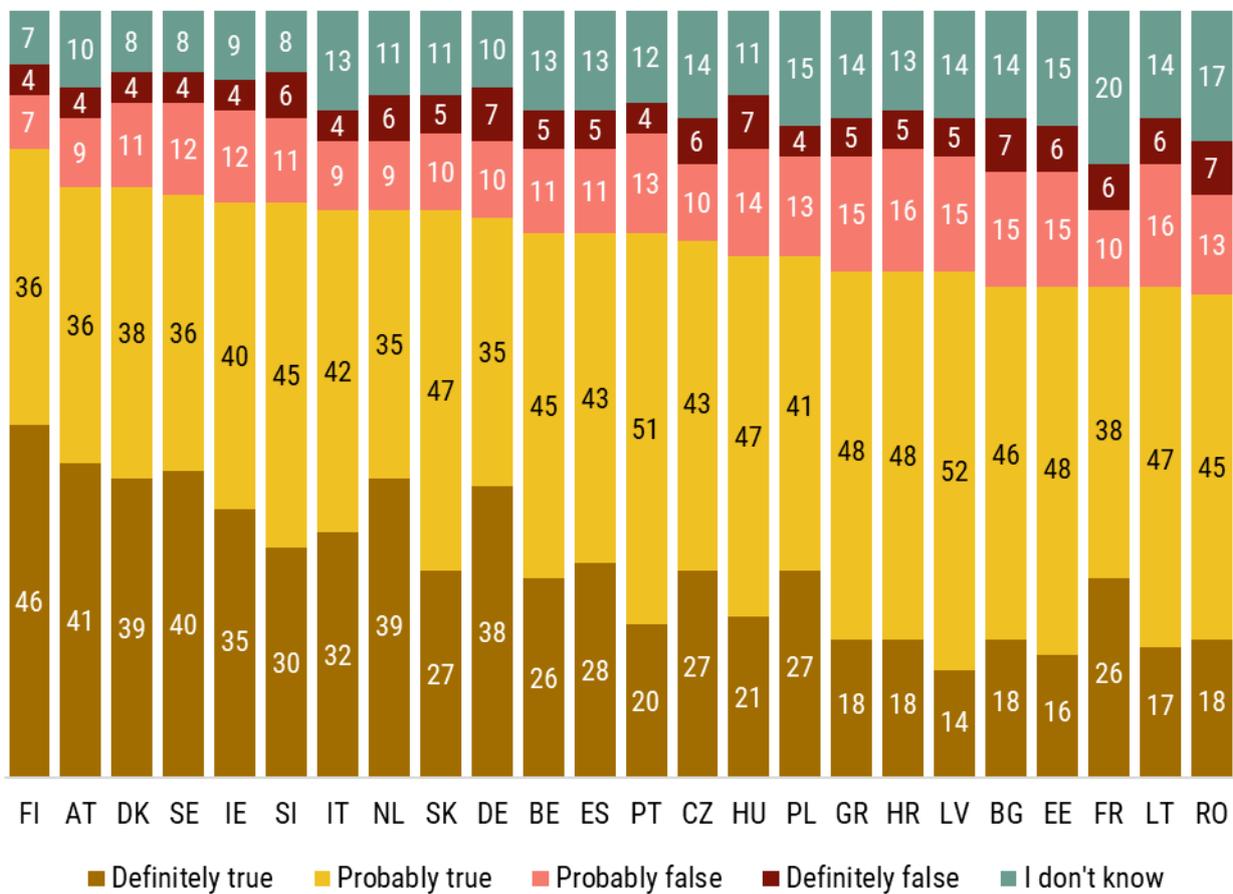




The majority of respondents are convinced that the statement that between five and six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust is true. More than 60% of respondents in all countries agree with this statement. Agreement is highest in Finland (82%) and lowest in Romania (63%).

Fig. 3.24. True or false: The number of Jews killed during the Holocaust was between 5 and 6 million (%)

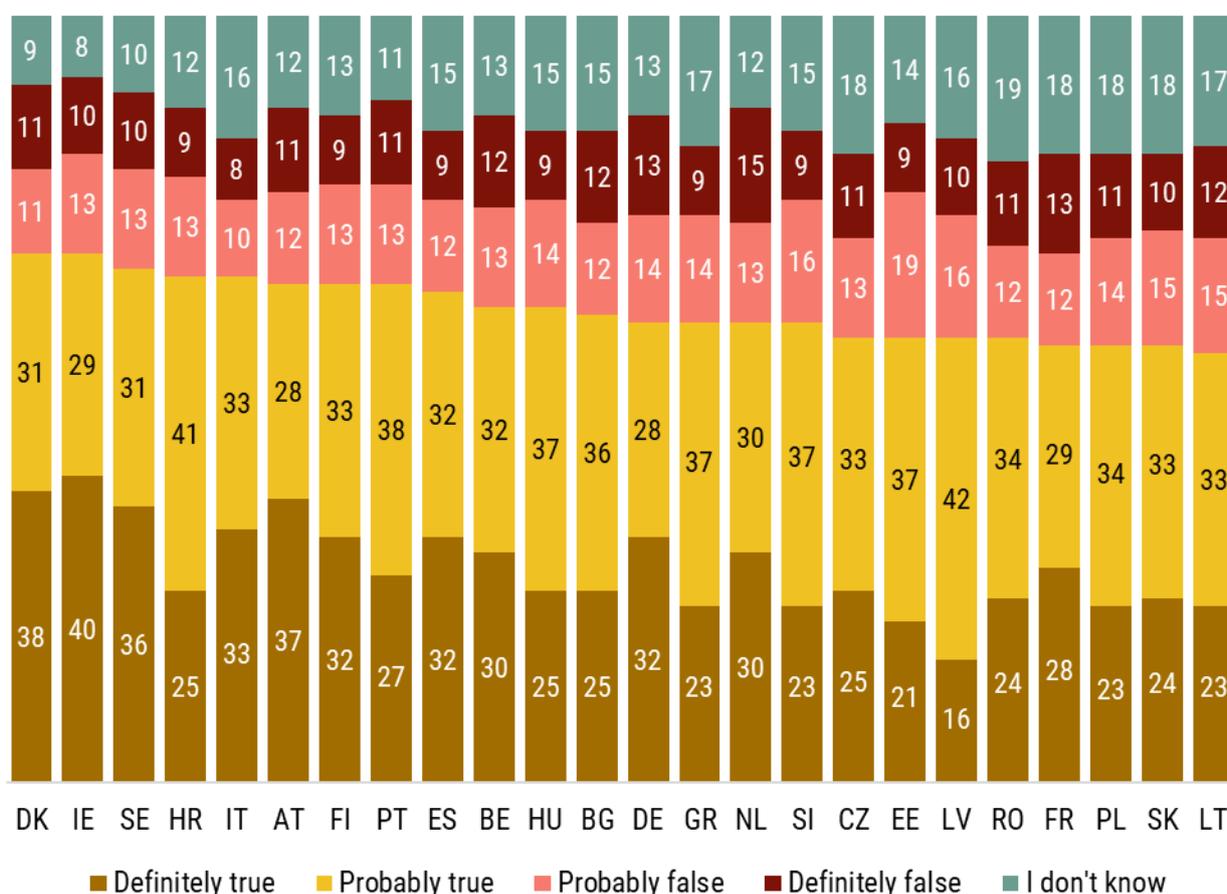
There are disputes about several claims. Can you tell us whether or not you believe the following statement is true or false?



More than half of respondents are convinced that former US President Barack Obama was born in the United States. Agreement with this statement is most common in Denmark and Ireland (69% in both countries), while it is least common in Lithuania (56%), and in Slovakia and Poland (57% each).

Fig. 3.25. True or false: Former US President Barack Obama was born in America (%)

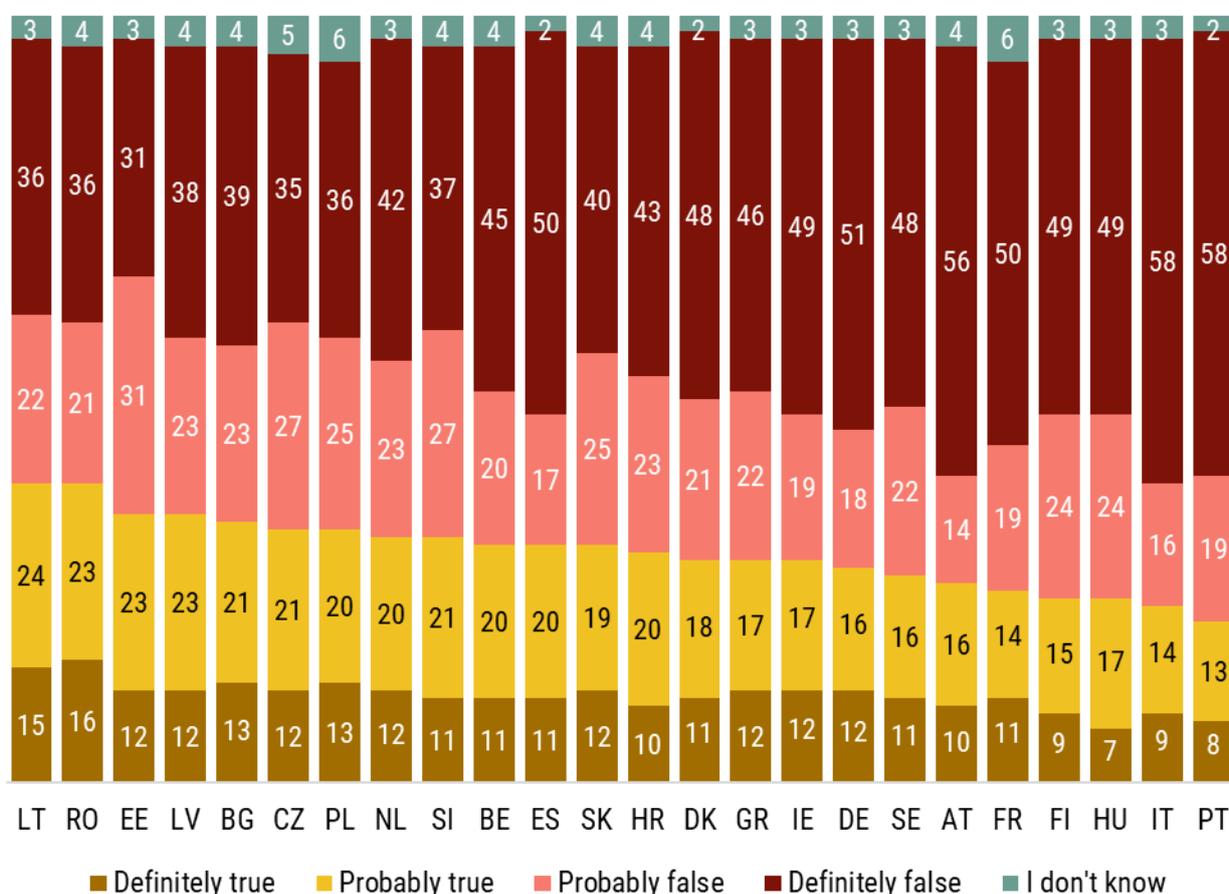
There are disputes about several claims. Can you tell us whether or not you believe the following statement is true or false?



The majority of respondents disagree with the statement that climate change is a hoax. In Portugal and Italy, the largest shares of respondents are fully confident that this claim is false (58%). In Lithuania and Romania, however, 39% of respondents still believe that climate change is a hoax.

Fig. 3.26. True or false: Climate change is a hoax (%)

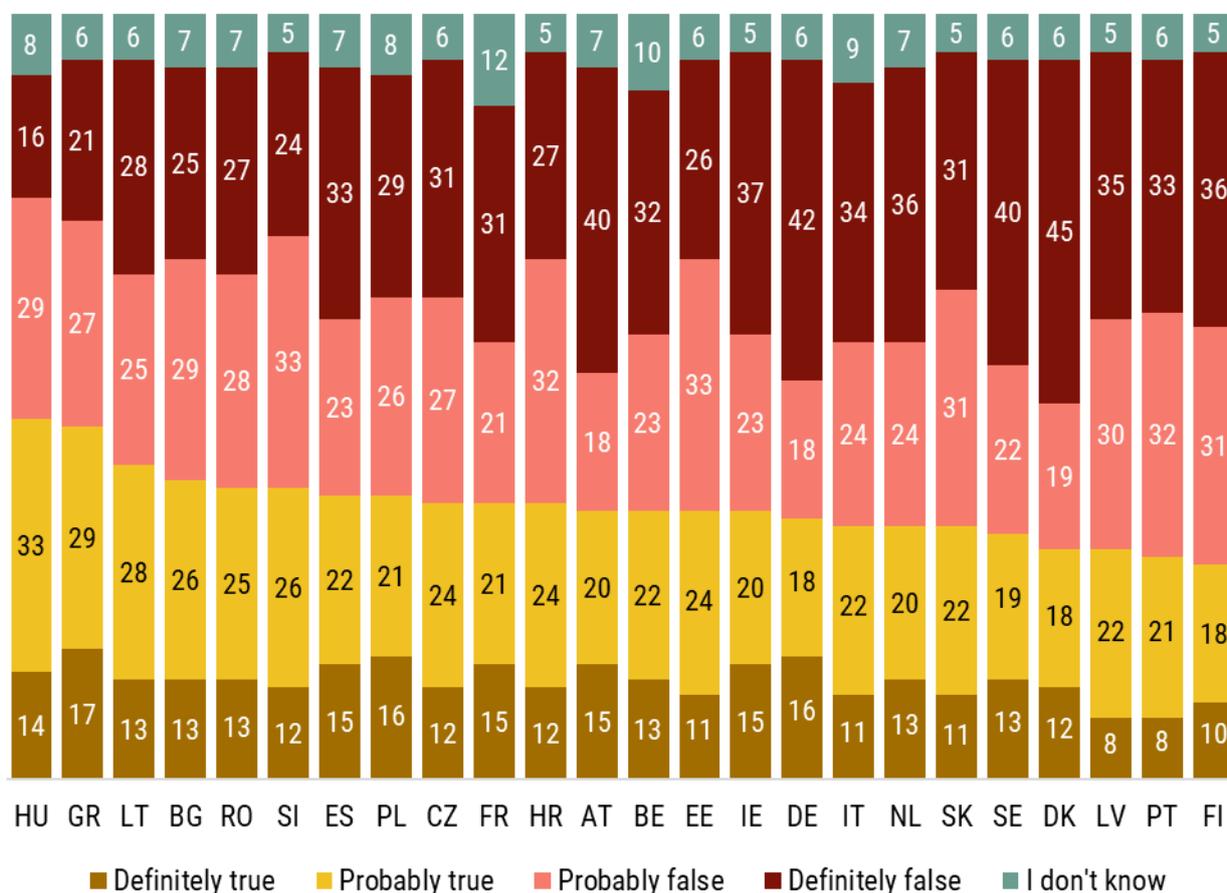
There are disputes about several claims. Can you tell us whether or not you believe the following statement is true or false?



The majority of respondents do not believe that the government seeks to replace native populations with migrants. Agreement with this statement is most common in Hungary (47% consider it to be true), Greece (46%), and Lithuania (41%). The highest levels of disagreement are observed in Finland, where 67% state that this claim is false, followed by Portugal and Latvia (65% each).

Fig. 3.27. True or false: Governments want to replace native populations with immigrants (%)

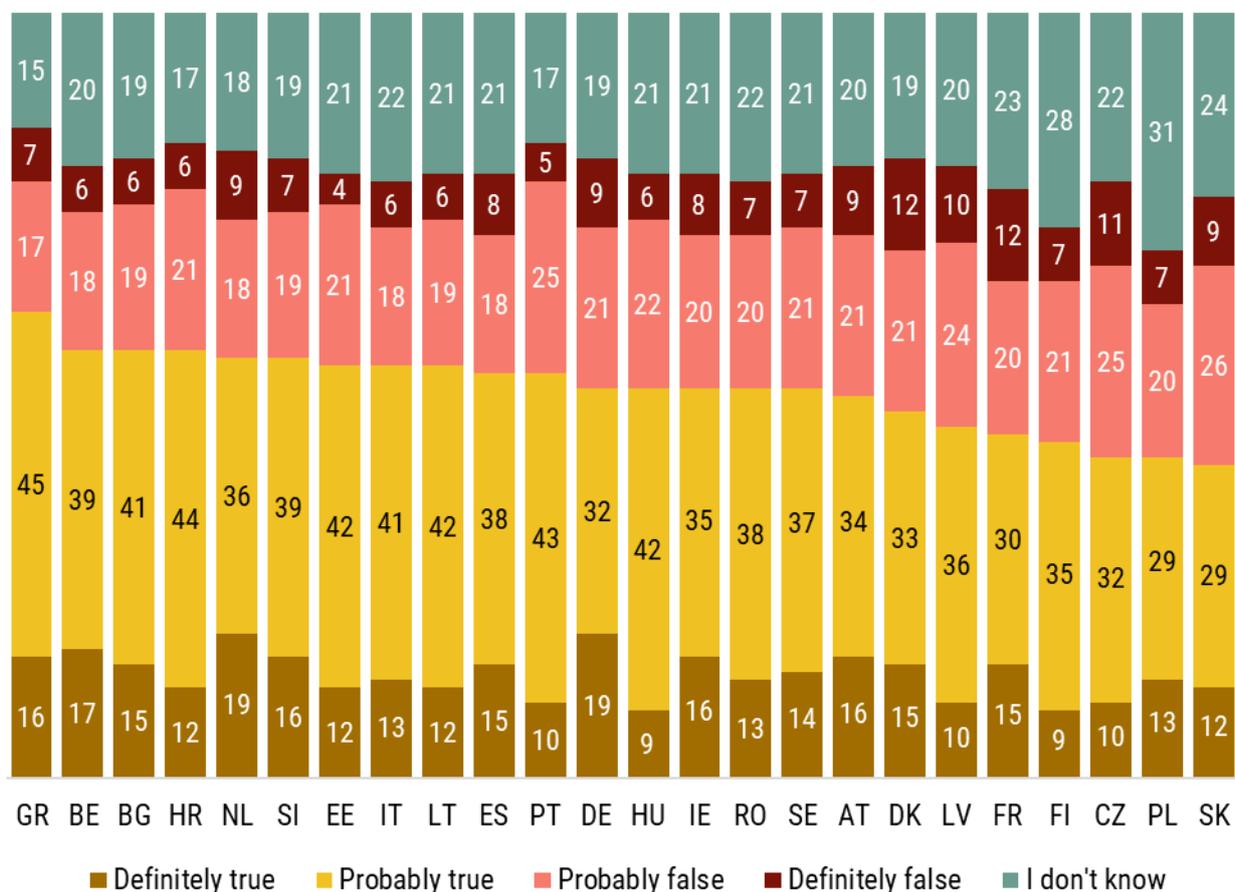
There are disputes about several claims. Can you tell us whether or not you believe the following statement is true or false?



Respondents generally tend to agree with the statement that Israeli intelligence services were aware of the Hamas attack on 7 October. Agreement with this statement is most common in Greece (61%), as well as in Belgium, Bulgaria, and Croatia (56% each). Lower levels of agreement are observed in Slovakia, Poland, and the Czech Republic (42%). When assessing this statement, respondents quite often reported uncertainty. In Poland and Finland, almost one third of respondents answered “I do not know” to this question.

Fig. 3.28. True or false: Israeli intelligence officials had advance notice of the Hamas attack on 7 October (%)

There are disputes about several claims. Can you tell us whether or not you believe the following statement is true or false?



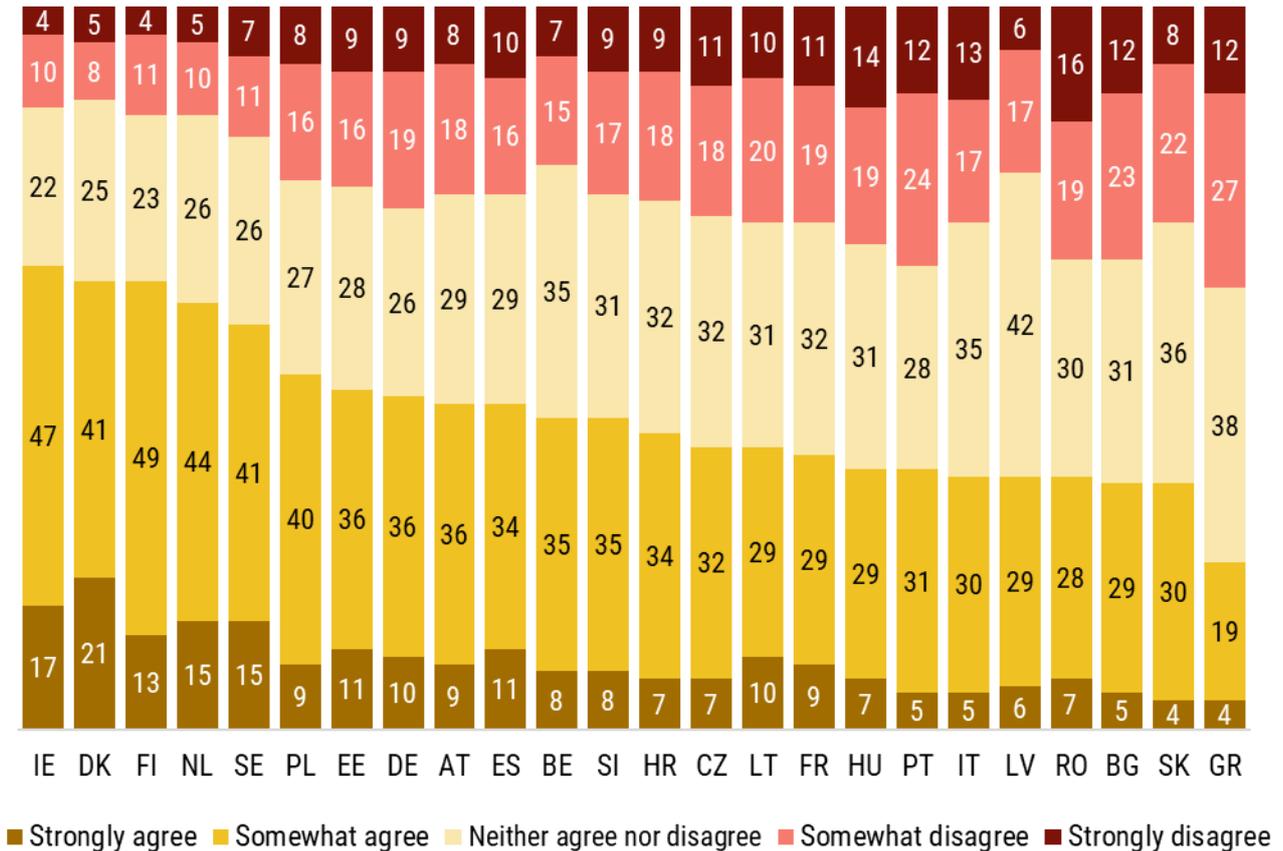


Beliefs About People’s Integrity and Intentions

In Ireland (64%), Denmark and Finland (62% each), the Netherlands (59%), and Sweden (56%), a majority of respondents agree with the statement “*Most people are generally good-hearted and want to help each other.*” In Greece, only 23% agree with this statement, while 39% disagree. In all other countries, more than 30% of respondents express agreement with this statement.

Fig. 3.29. Agree or Disagree: Most people are generally good-hearted and want to help each other (%)

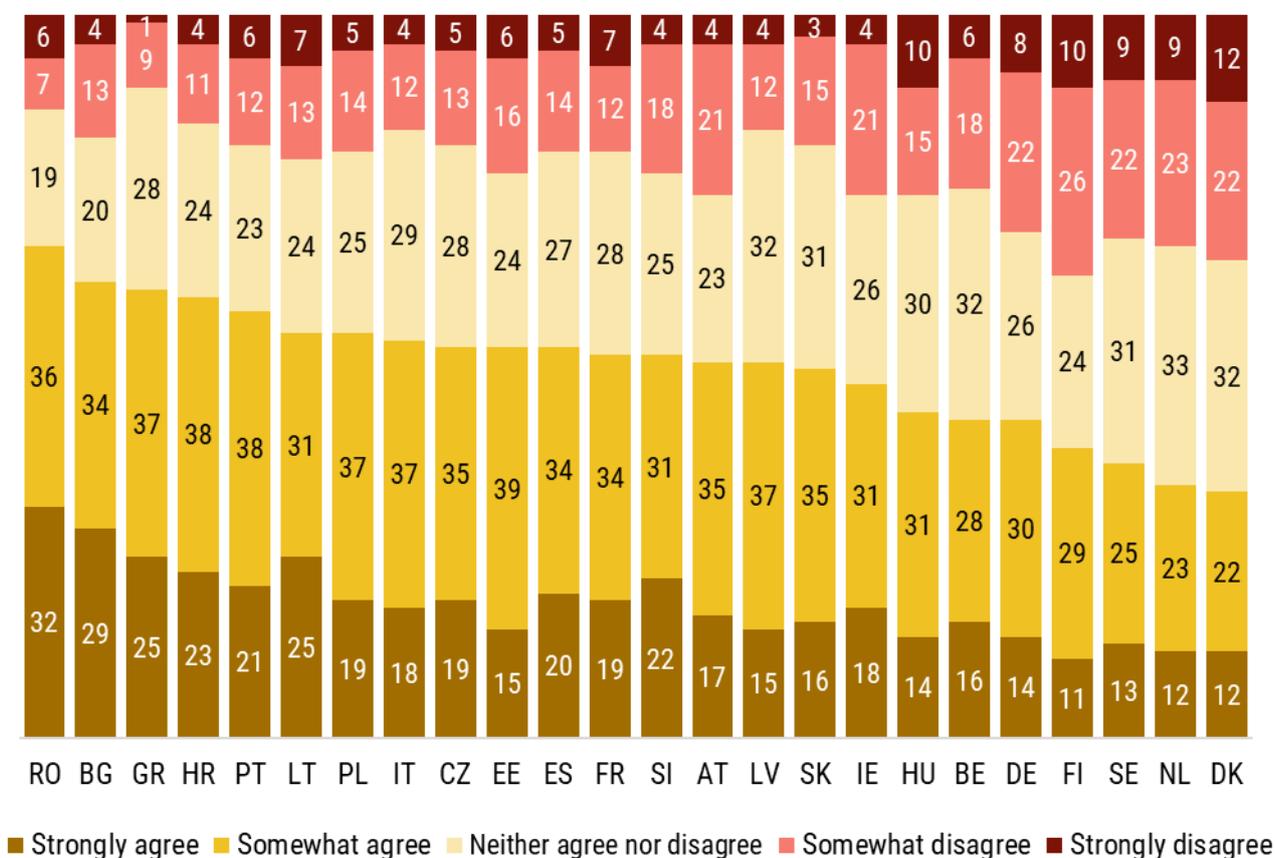
Now we would like to find out whether you agree or disagree with the following statements...?



Respondents in Romania (68%), Bulgaria (63%), Greece (62%), and Croatia (61%) are confident that most people will take advantage of others if they can. In Denmark and the Netherlands, the proportions of respondents who agree with this statement, disagree with it, and are unable to decide are approximately equal.

Fig. 3.30. Agree or Disagree: Most people will take advantage of you if they can (%)

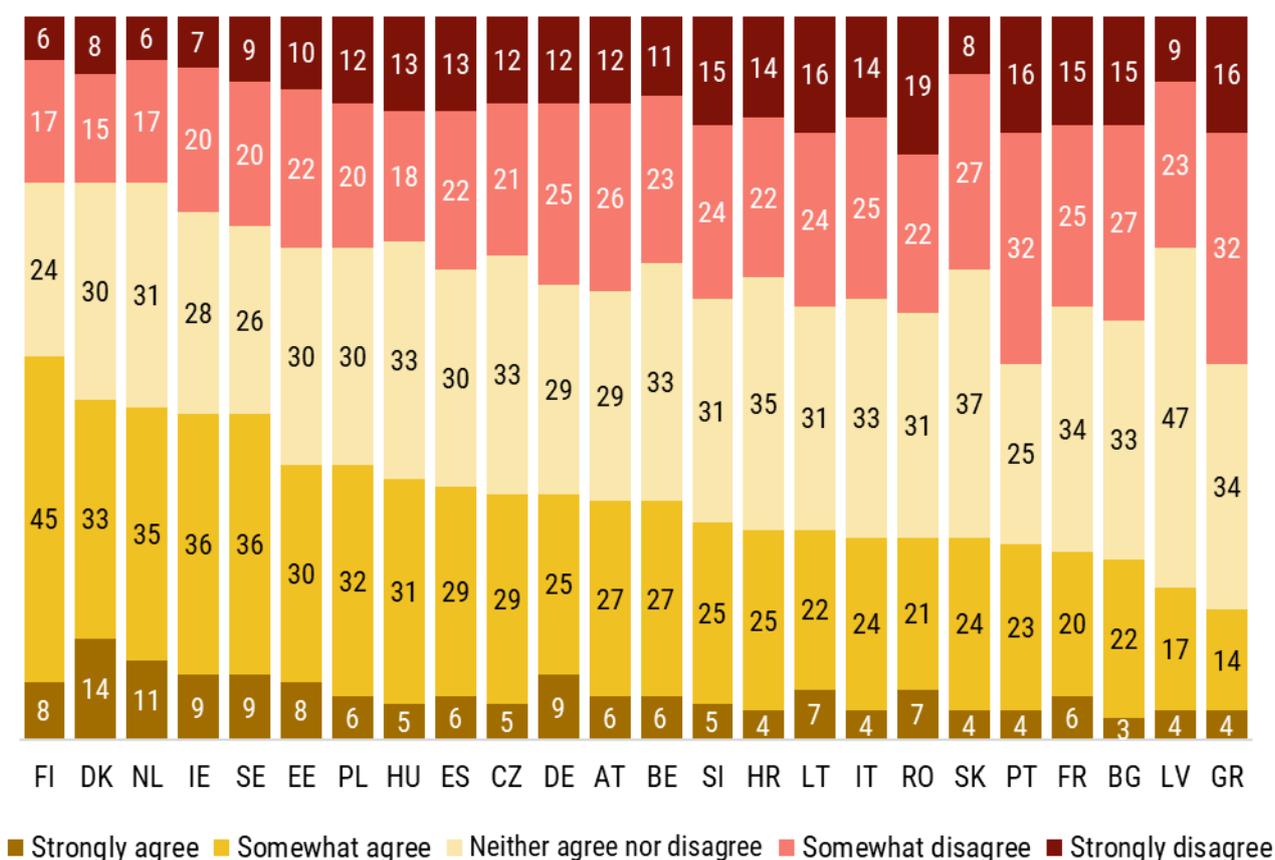
Now we would like to find out whether you agree or disagree with the following statements...?



Opinions are divided regarding the statement that most people can be relied upon and will keep their word. In all countries, the share of respondents who fully agree with this statement is very low. The highest proportion of respondents who tend to agree with this statement is observed in Finland (45%). The largest shares of respondents who disagree with this statement are found in Greece and Portugal (48% each).

Fig. 3.31. Agree or Disagree: You can rely on most people to keep their word (%)

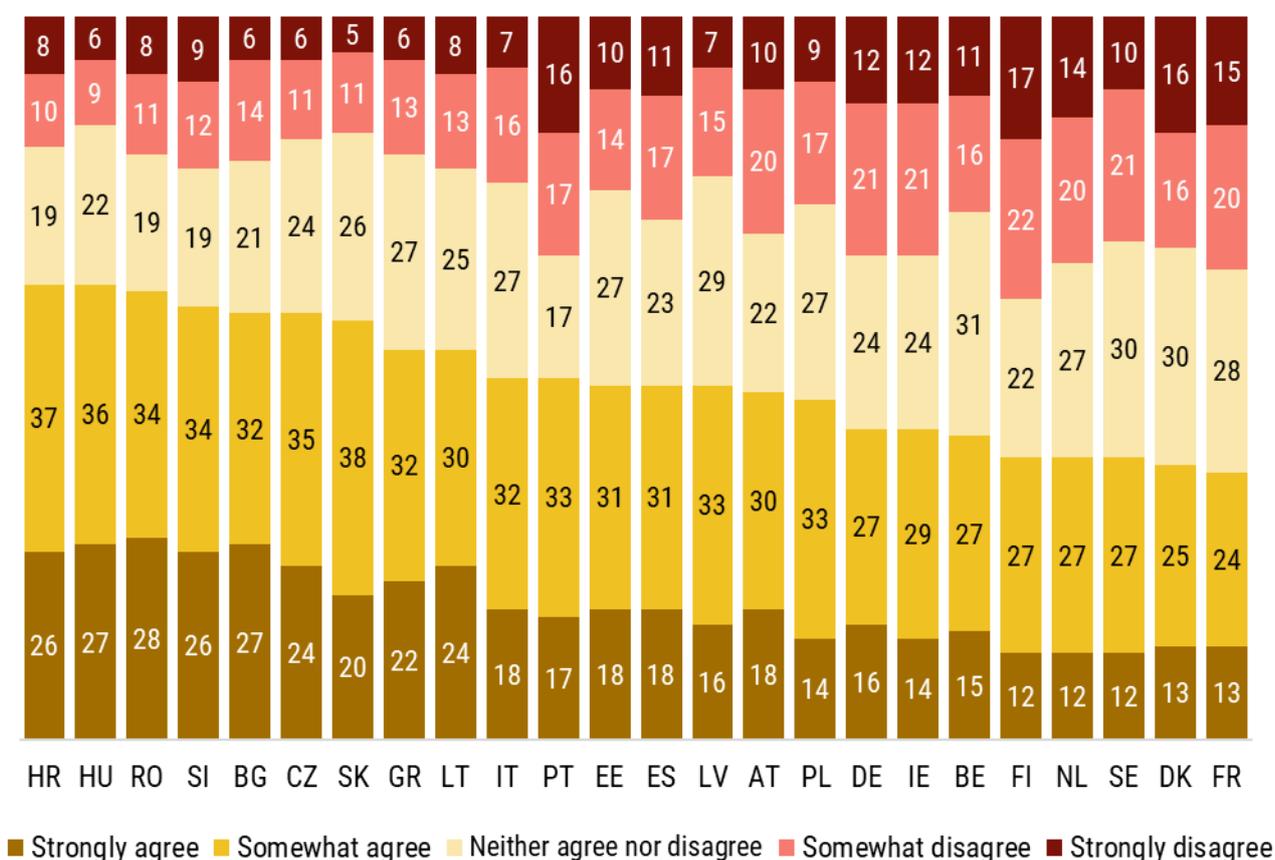
Now we would like to find out whether you agree or disagree with the following statements...?



In countries such as Croatia and Hungary (63% each), Romania (62%), Slovenia (60%), Bulgaria and the Czech Republic (59% each), and Slovakia (58%), the majority of respondents agree that it is difficult to be honest and succeed in life. By contrast, the share of respondents who agree with this statement is considerably lower in France (37%), Denmark (38%), and Sweden, the Netherlands, and Finland (39% each).

Fig. 3.32. Agree or Disagree: It is hard to be honest and still succeed in life (%)

Now we would like to find out whether you agree or disagree with the following statements...?



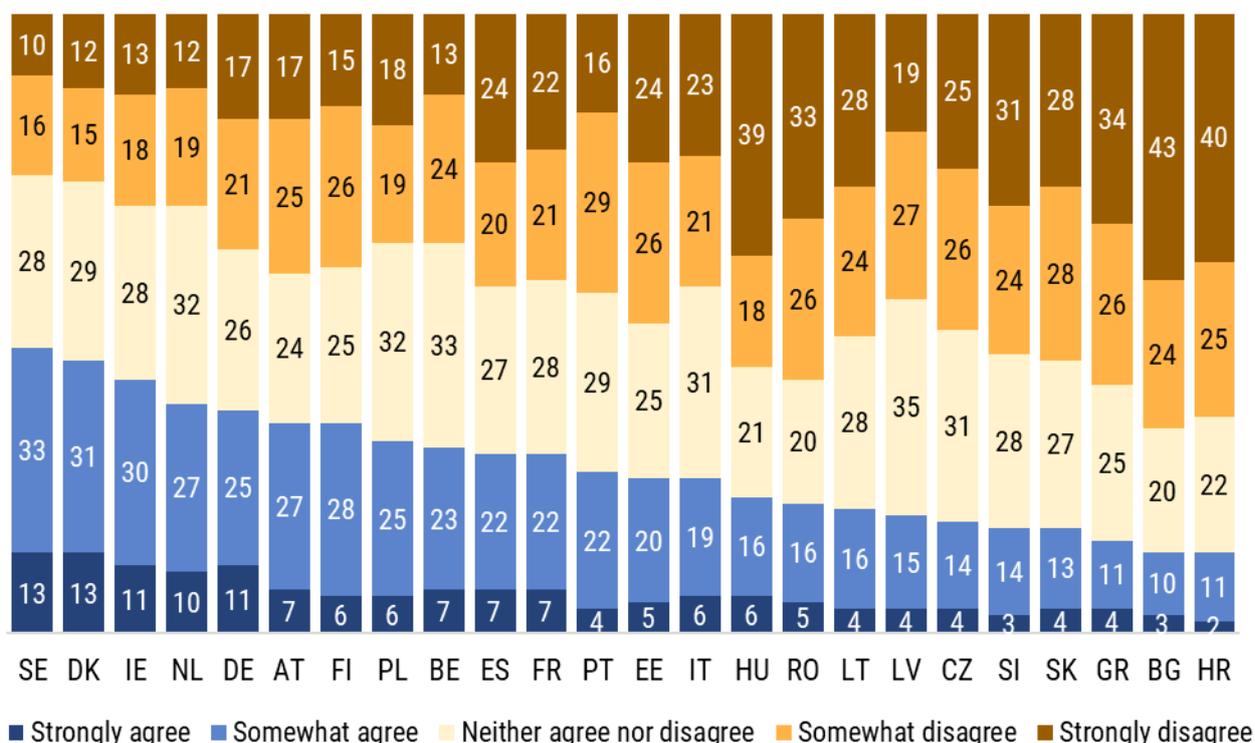
4. EVALUATION OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

National Parliament

The parliament is perceived as the most competent and effective by residents of Sweden (46%), Denmark (44%), and Ireland (41%). At the same time, in many countries a majority of respondents disagree that the parliament in their country is competent and effective. The highest levels of disagreement are observed in Bulgaria (67%), Croatia (65%), Greece (60%), Romania (59%), and Hungary (57%).

Fig. 4.1. Agree or Disagree: Parliament is generally competent and efficient (%)

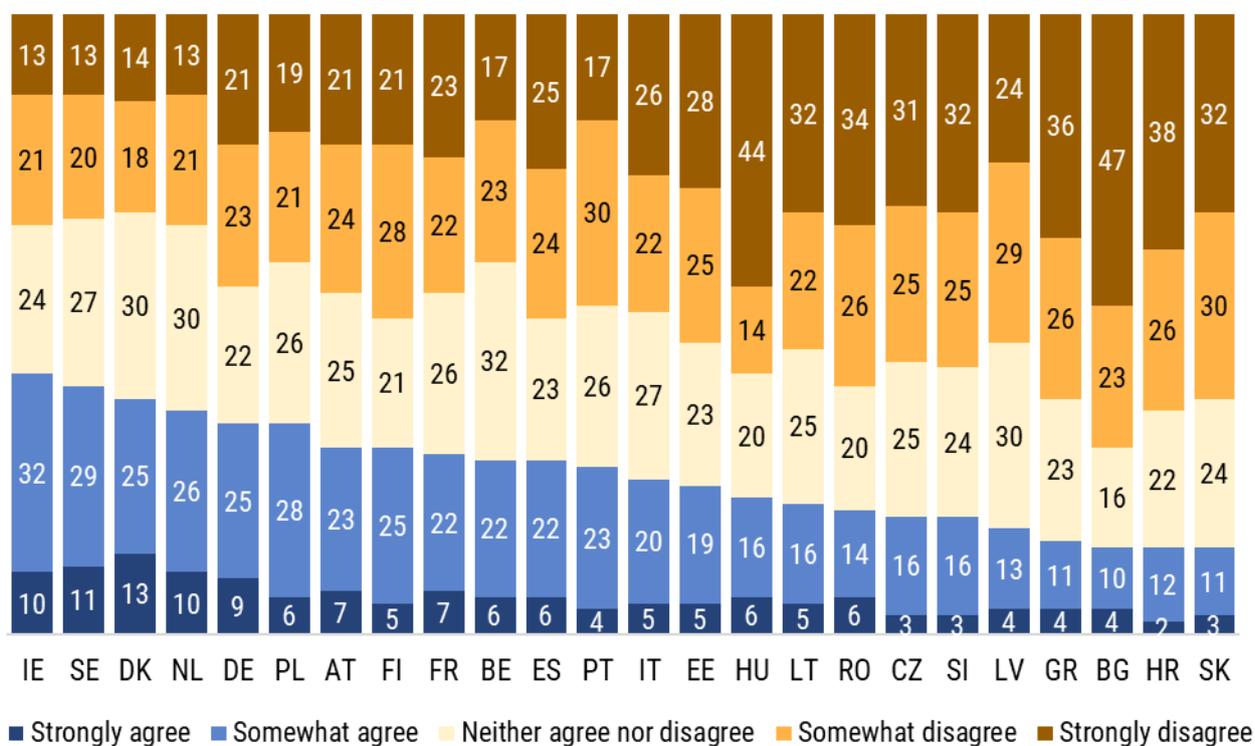
How do you feel about the national Parliament in your country?



Majority of respondents disagree that the parliament generally acts in the interests of all citizens. The highest proportions of disagreement are recorded in Bulgaria (70%), Croatia (64%), Greece and Slovakia (62% each), and Romania (60%). The highest levels of agreement that the parliament acts in the interests of all citizens are found in Ireland (42%), Sweden (40%), and Denmark (38%).

Fig. 4.2. Agree or Disagree: Parliament usually acts in the interest of all citizens (%)

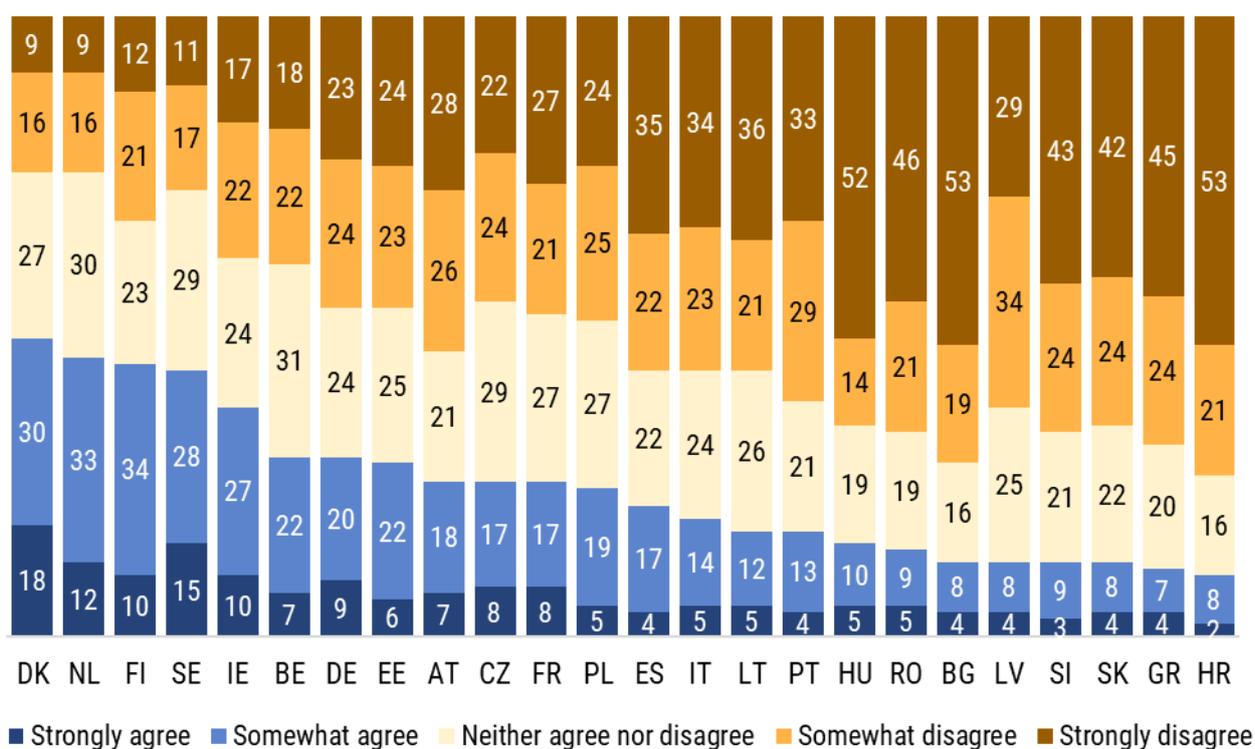
How do you feel about the national Parliament in your country?



Confidence that the national parliament is free from corruption is most common in Denmark (48%), the Netherlands (45%), Finland (44%), and Sweden (43%). By contrast, belief that one’s parliament is corrupt is most widespread in Croatia (74%), Bulgaria (72%), Romania and Slovenia (67% each), and Hungary and Slovakia (66% each).

Fig. 4.3. Agree or Disagree: Parliament is generally free of corruption (%)

How do you feel about the national Parliament in your country?

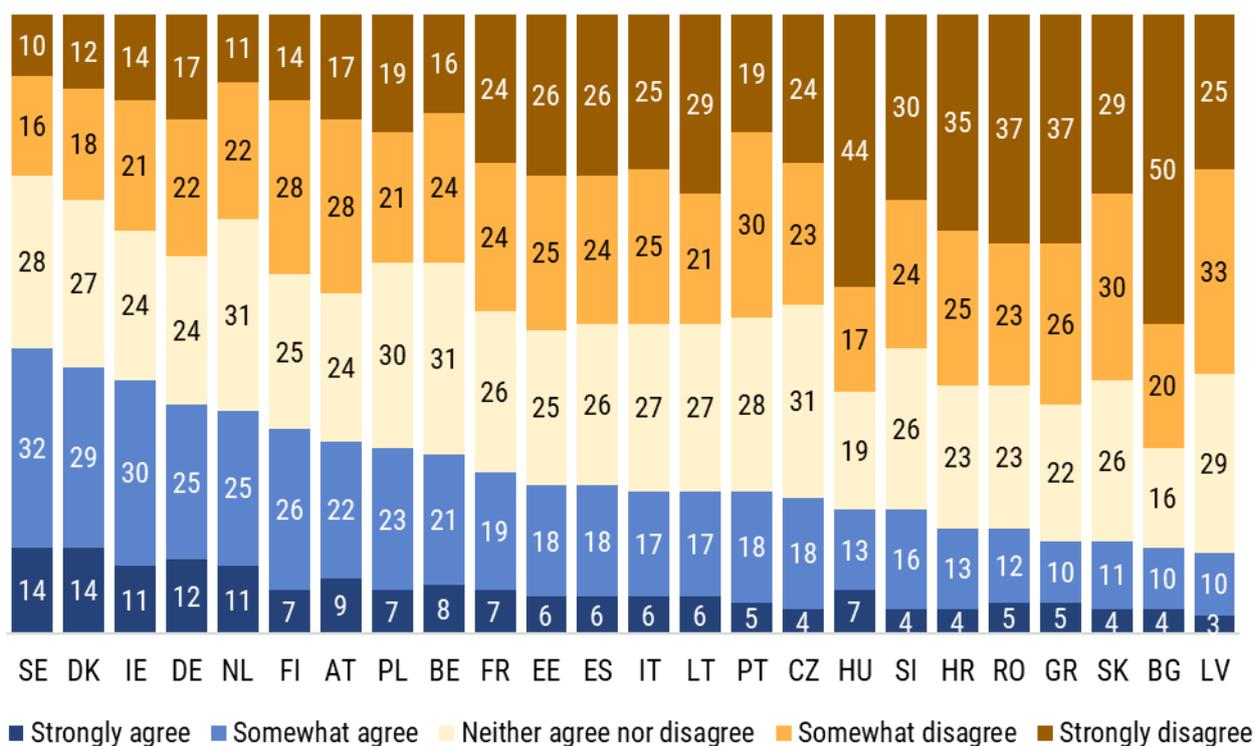




Respondents are most likely to believe that the parliament is open and transparent in Sweden (46%), Denmark (43%), Ireland (41%), Germany (37%), and the Netherlands (36%). The highest levels of disagreement with the view that the national parliament is open and transparent are found in Bulgaria (70%), Greece (63%), Hungary (61%), and Croatia and Romania (60% each).

Fig. 4.4. Agree or Disagree: Parliament is open and transparent (%)

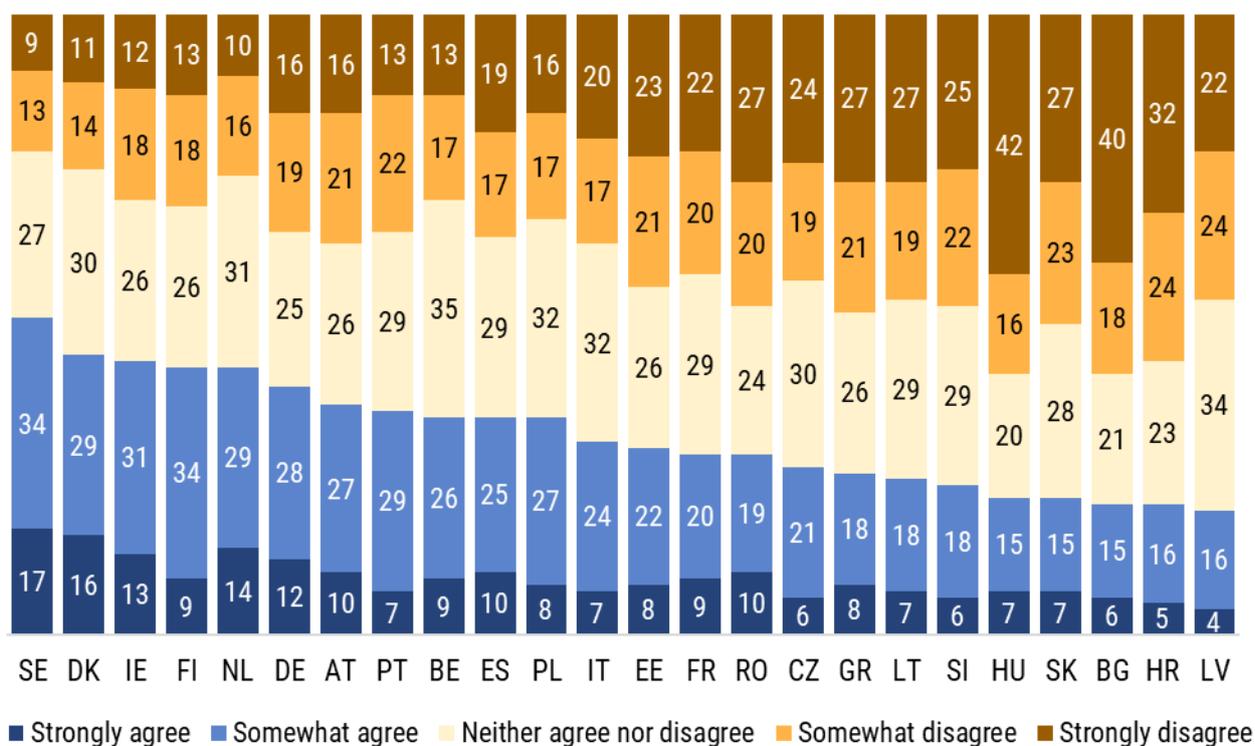
How do you feel about the national Parliament in your country?



Agreement with the statement that the parliament is inclusive and represents society as a whole is most common in Sweden (51%), Denmark (45%), Ireland (44%), and Finland and the Netherlands (43% each). By contrast, disagreement with this view is more prevalent in Hungary and Bulgaria (58% each) and Croatia (56%).

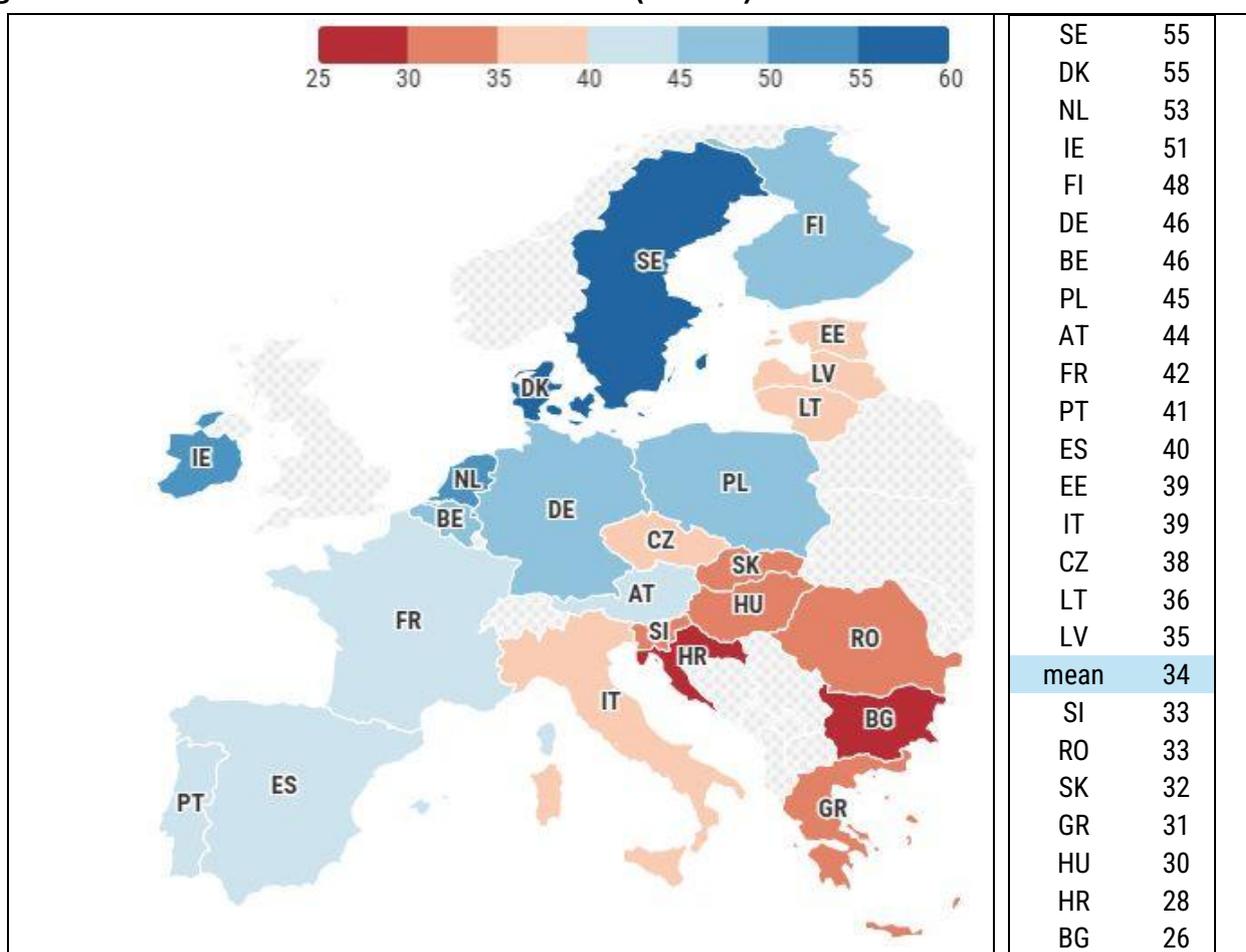
Fig. 4.5. Agree or Disagree: Parliament is inclusive and representative of society (%)

How do you feel about the national Parliament in your country?



The National Parliament Evaluation Index reflects an overall assessment of the national parliament across several criteria, including competence and effectiveness, acting in the interests of citizens, freedom from corruption, openness and transparency, and inclusiveness and representativeness. The highest evaluations of the national parliament are reported by residents of Sweden and Denmark (55 points each), followed by the Netherlands (53), Ireland (51), and Finland (48). The lowest evaluations are recorded in Bulgaria (26), Croatia (28), Hungary (30), Greece (31), and Slovakia (32).

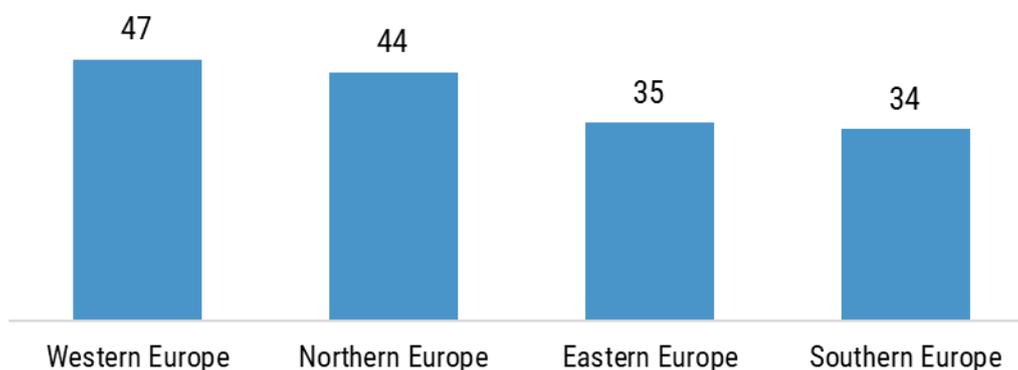
Fig. 4.6. National Parliament Evaluation Index (means)



Composite index capturing overall evaluation of the national parliament across competence and efficiency, acting in citizens' interests, freedom from corruption, openness and transparency, inclusiveness and representativeness; higher scores indicate more positive evaluations. Rescaled to a 0–100 metric.

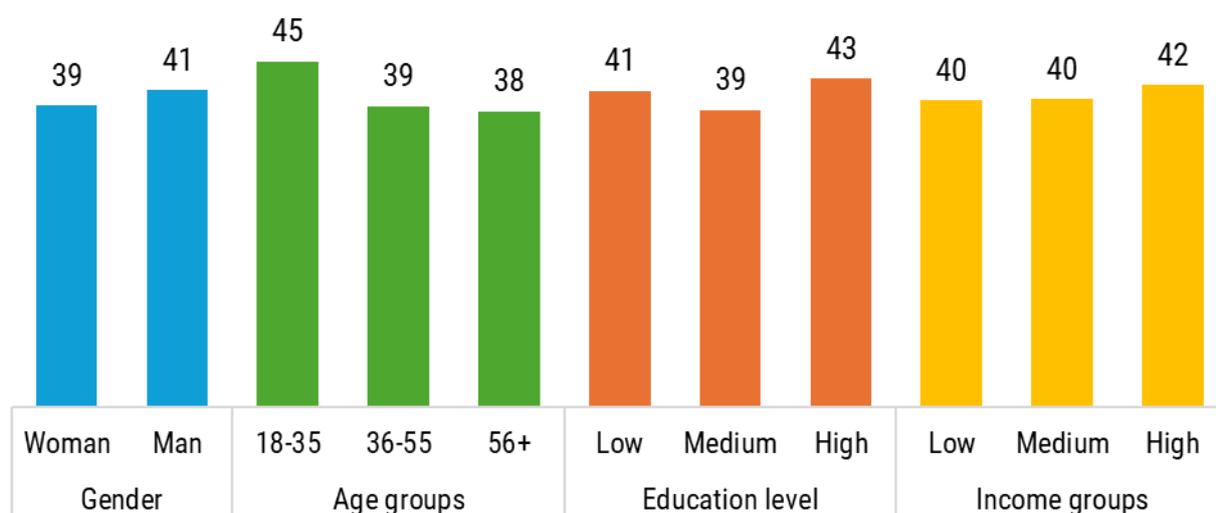
Respondents in Western European countries give the highest evaluations of the national parliament (47). The lowest values of the Parliament Evaluation Index are observed in Eastern Europe (35) and Southern Europe (34).

Fig. 4.7. National Parliament Evaluation Index in different regions of Europe (means)



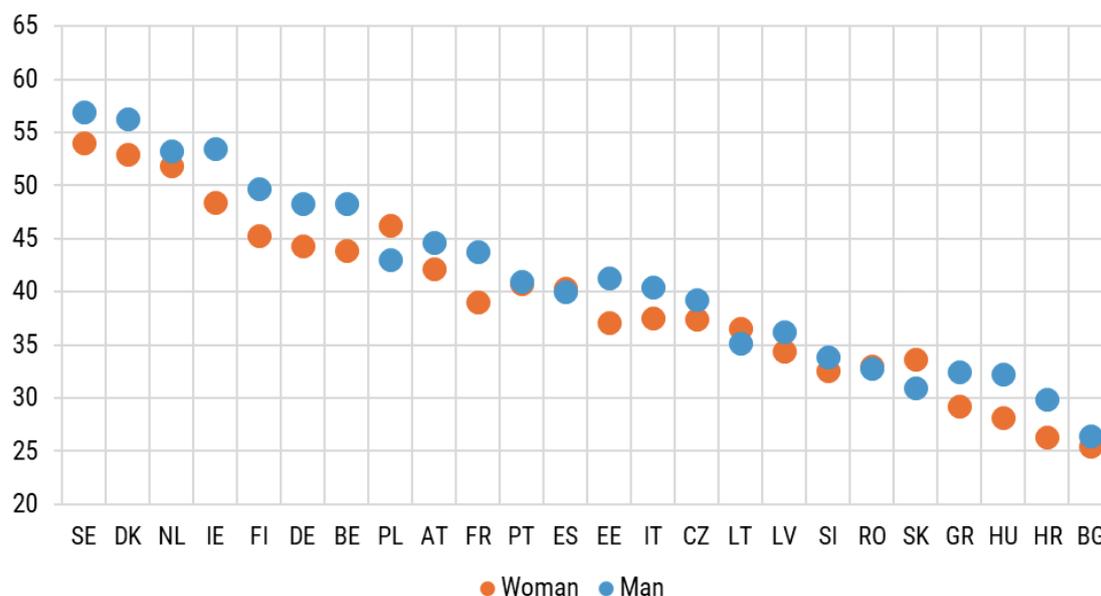
On average, men evaluate the national parliament more positively than women. Young people aged 18–35 give higher assessments of the parliament than respondents in other age groups. The National Parliament Evaluation Index is also higher among respondents with tertiary education and those with higher income levels.

Fig. 4.8. National Parliament Evaluation Index among different groups (means)



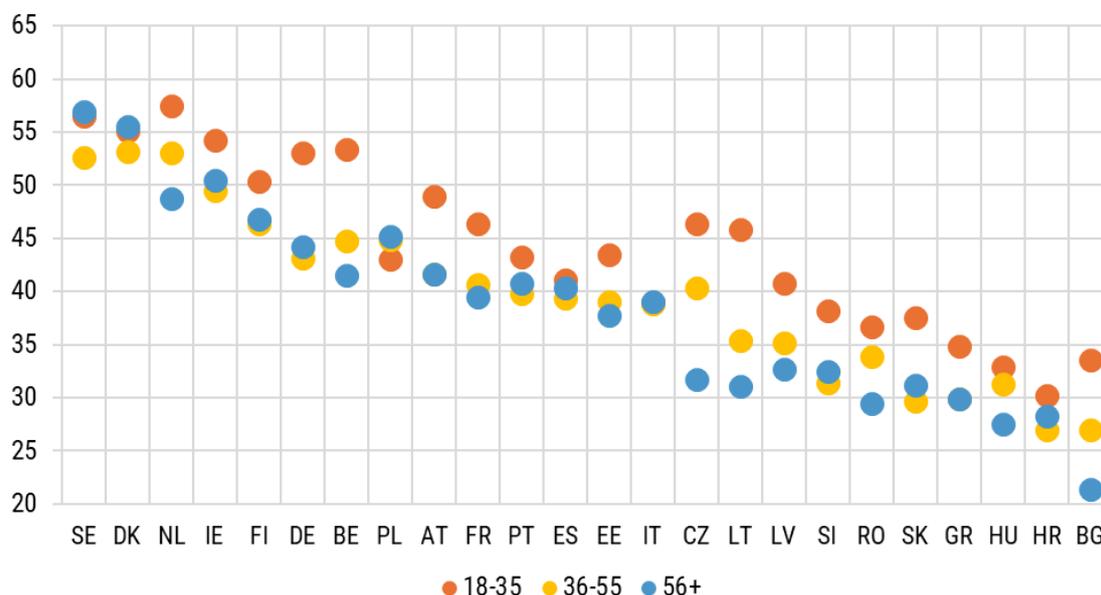
In most countries, men evaluate the national parliament more positively than women. The only exceptions are Poland and Slovakia, where women’s evaluations are higher than those of men. In Portugal, Spain, and Romania, no significant gender differences in assessments of the national parliament were found.

Fig. 4.9. National Parliament Evaluation Index grouped by gender (means)



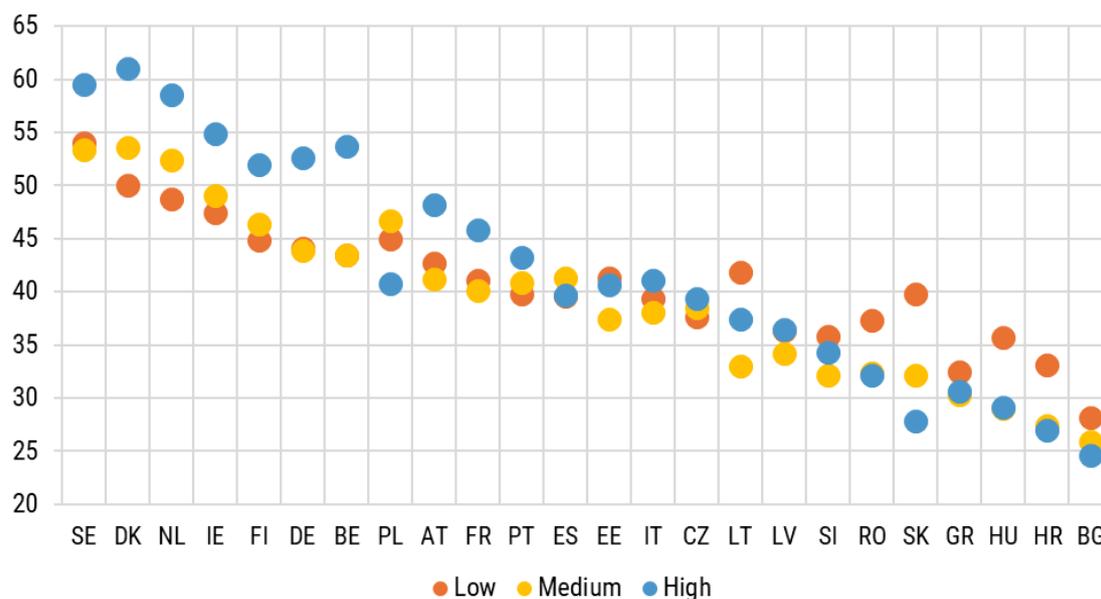
The largest generational differences in evaluations of the parliament are observed in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Bulgaria. By contrast, in Spain and Italy there are no substantial differences between age groups. Overall, the youngest age groups tends to be most critical of their national parliament in the majority of countries.

Fig. 4.10. National Parliament Evaluation Index grouped by age (means)



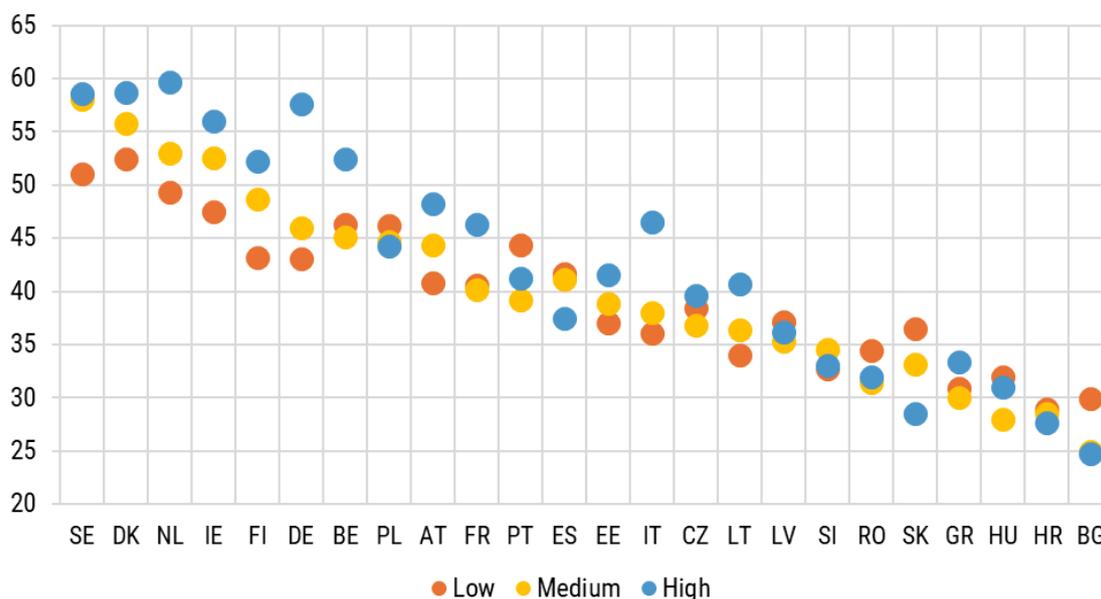
Tertiary education, on average, is associated with a higher National Parliament Evaluation Index values in all countries except Lithuania, Slovenia, Romania, Slovakia, Greece, Hungary, Croatia, and Bulgaria. In these countries, the index values are higher among respondents with lower levels of education.

Fig. 4.11. National Parliament Evaluation Index grouped by education (means)



Higher income is associated with a more positive evaluation of the parliament in most countries. In contrast, in Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Bulgaria, respondents with lower income levels report higher index values.

Fig. 4.12. National Parliament Evaluation Index grouped by income (means)

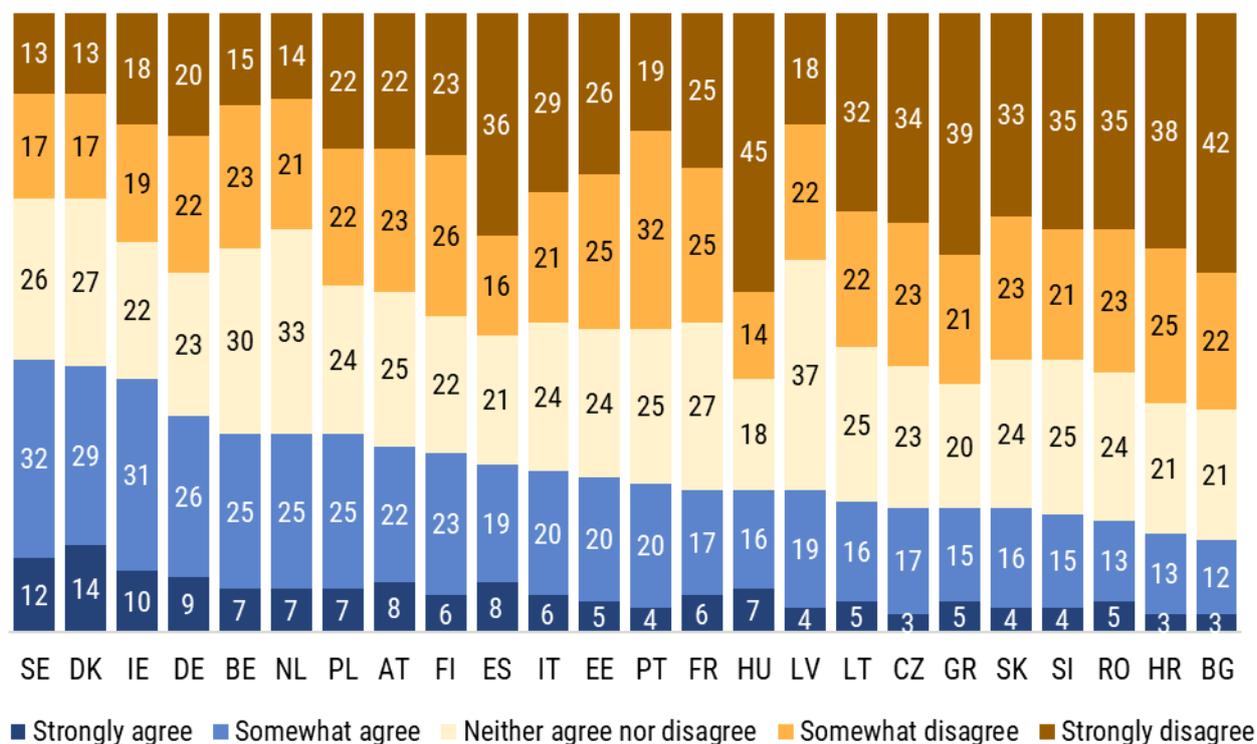


National Government Evaluation

Majority of respondents disagree with the view that the government in their country is generally competent and effective. The highest levels of disagreement are observed in Bulgaria (64%), Croatia (63%), Greece (60%), Hungary (59%), Romania (58%), the Czech Republic (57%), Slovenia and Slovakia (56% each), and Lithuania (54%). By contrast, the largest shares of respondents who consider their government to be competent and effective are found in Sweden (44%), Denmark (43%), and Ireland (41%).

Fig. 4.13. Agree or Disagree: The government is generally competent and efficient (%)

How do you feel about the national government in your country?

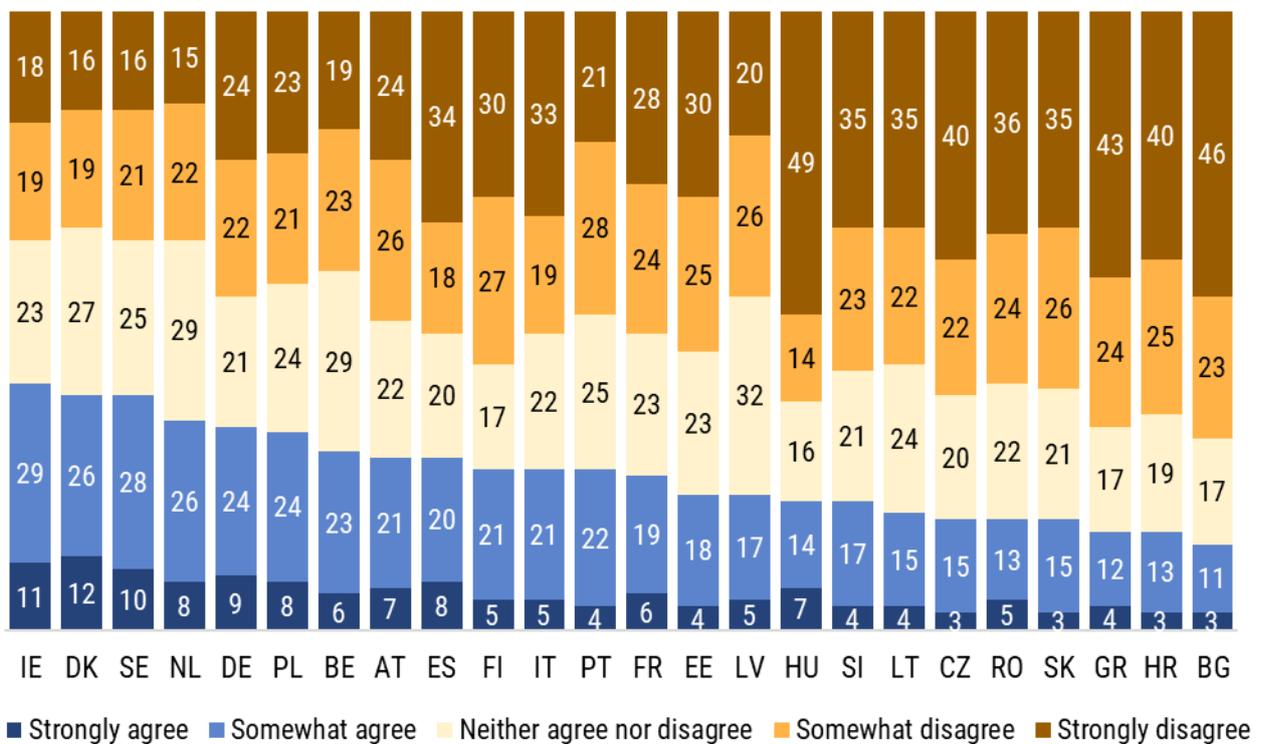




Respondents express limited confidence that the government in their country acts in the interests of all citizens. The highest levels of disagreement with this statement are observed in Bulgaria (69%), Greece (67%), Croatia (65%), Hungary (63%), and the Czech Republic (62%). In contrast, the largest proportions of respondents who agree that the government acts in the interests of all citizens are recorded in Ireland (40%) and in Denmark and Sweden (38% each).

Fig. 4.14. Agree or Disagree: The government usually acts in the interests of all citizens (%)

How do you feel about the national government in your country?

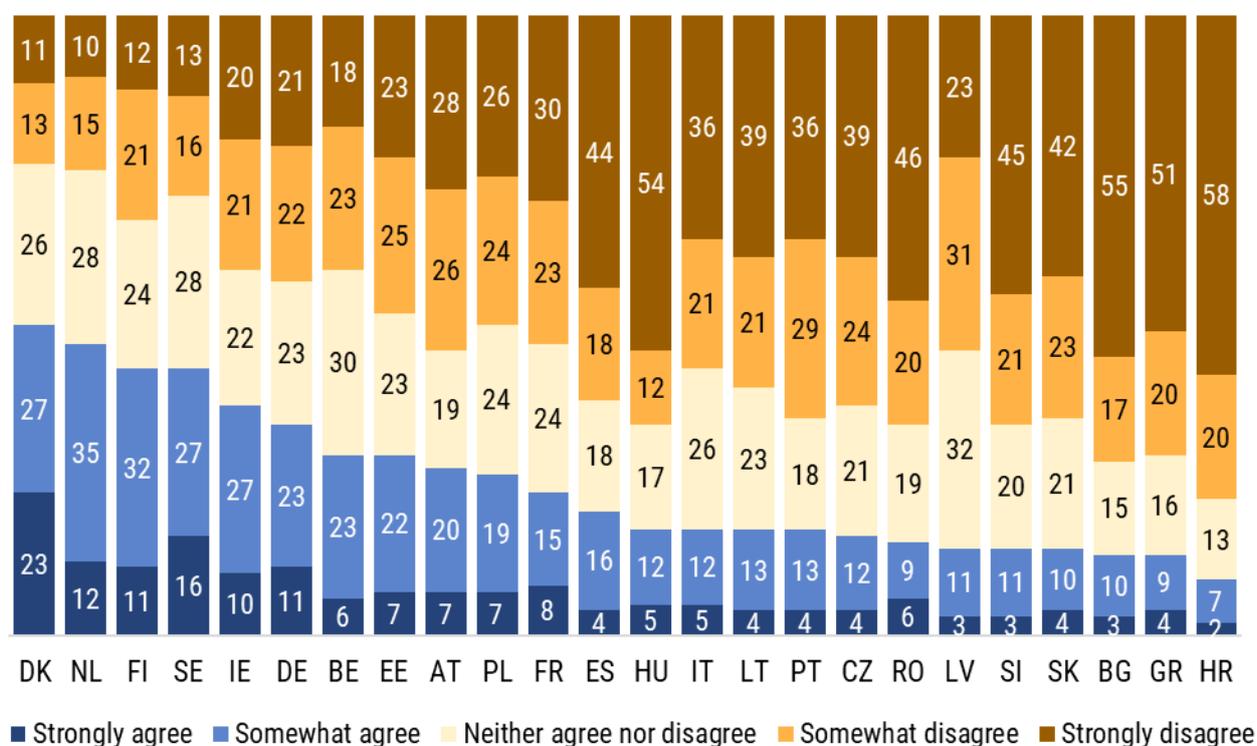




The highest proportions of respondents who agree that the government in their country is free from corruption are observed in Denmark (50%), the Netherlands (47%), and Finland and Sweden (43% each). Conversely, perceptions of government corruption are most widespread in Croatia (78%), Bulgaria (72%), Greece (71%), and in Hungary, Romania, and Slovenia (66% each), as well as Slovakia and Portugal (65% each).

Fig. 4.15. Agree or Disagree: The government is generally free of corruption (%)

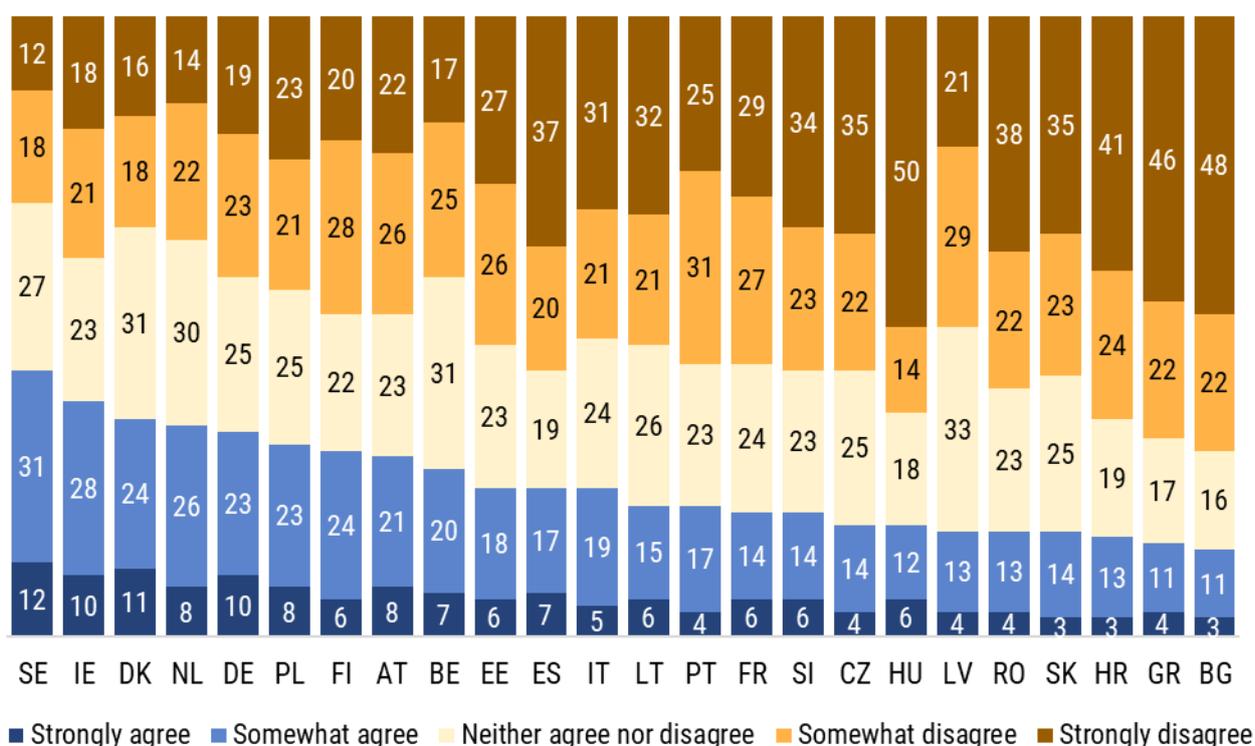
How do you feel about the national government in your country?



Agreement with the statement that the government in respondents' country is open and transparent is most prevalent in Sweden (43%), Ireland (38%), Denmark (35%), and the Netherlands (34%). By contrast, disagreement with this assessment is most widespread in Bulgaria (70%), Greece (68%), Croatia (65%), and Hungary (64%).

Fig. 4.16. Agree or Disagree: The government is open and transparent (%)

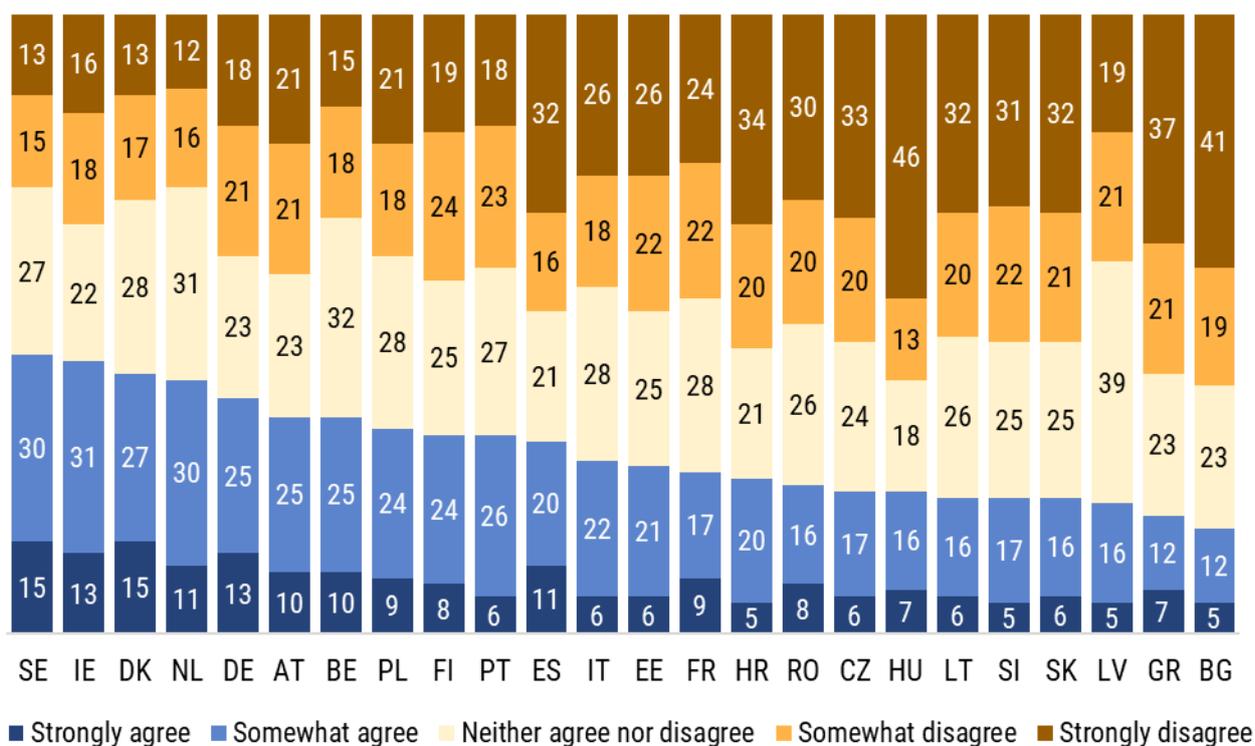
How do you feel about the national government in your country?



Respondents in Sweden (45%), Ireland (44%), Denmark (42%), and the Netherlands (41%) are more likely to agree that the government in their country is inclusive and represents society as a whole. Disagreement with this statement is most frequently observed in Bulgaria (60%), Hungary (59%), Greece (58%), and Croatia (54%).

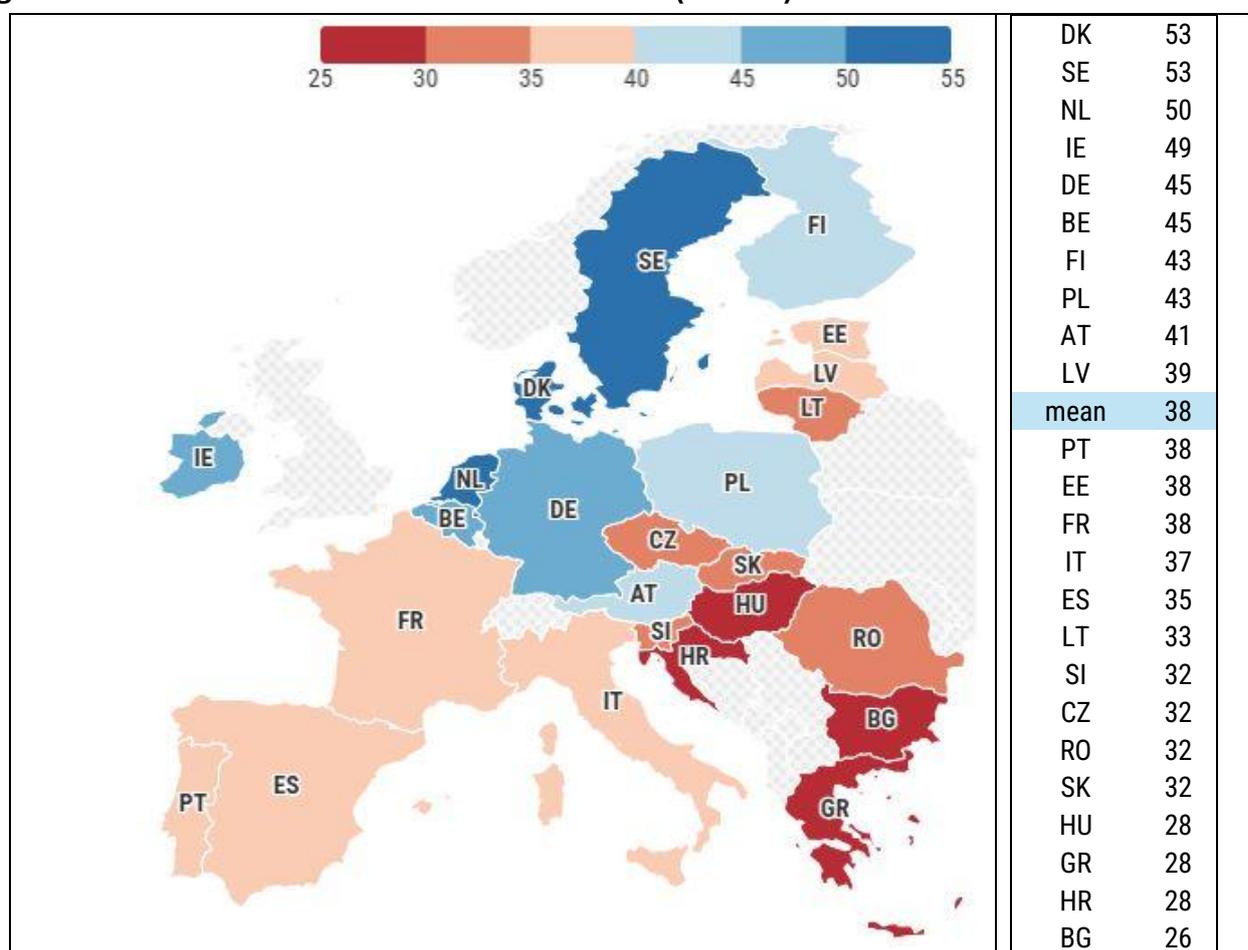
Fig. 4.17. Agree or Disagree: The government is inclusive and representative of society (%)

How do you feel about the national government in your country?



The National Government Evaluation Index captures an overall assessment of the national government across several criteria, including competence and effectiveness, acting in the interests of all citizens, freedom from corruption, openness and transparency, and inclusiveness and representativeness. Measured on a 0–100 scale, the index reaches its highest values in Denmark and Sweden (53 each), followed by the Netherlands (50) and Ireland (49). In Latvia (39), as well as in Portugal, Estonia, and France (38 each), index values are close to the European average. The lowest index values are recorded in Hungary, Greece, and Croatia (28 each), and in Bulgaria (26).

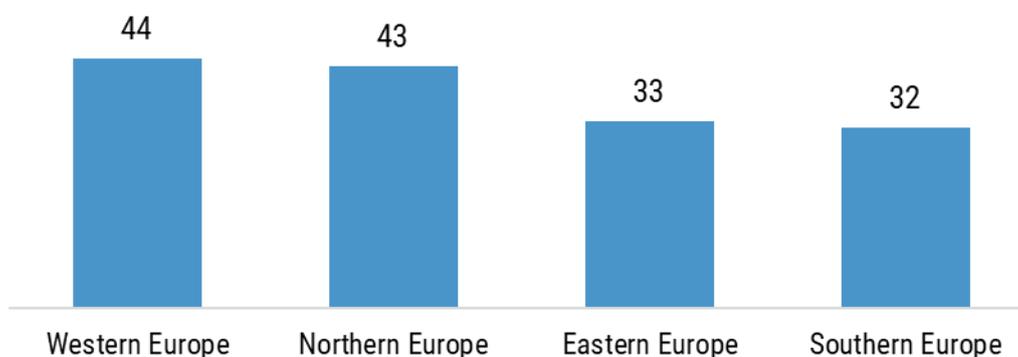
Fig. 4.18. National Government Evaluation Index (means)



Composite index capturing overall evaluation of the national government across competence and efficiency, acting in the interest of all citizens, freedom from corruption, openness and transparency, and inclusiveness and representativeness; higher scores indicate more positive evaluations. Rescaled to a 0–100 metric.

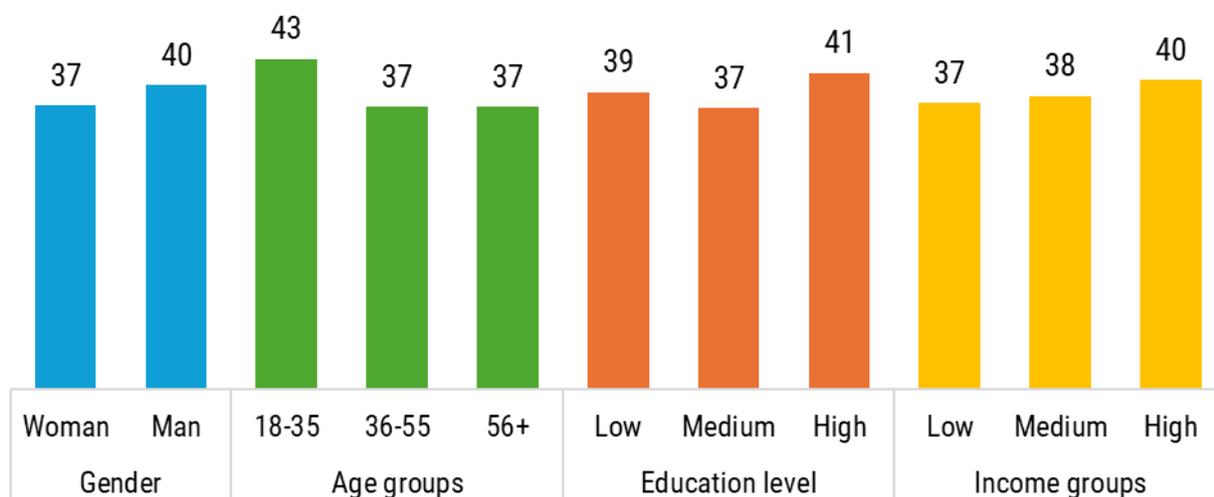
Respondents in Western (44) and Northern Europe (43) evaluate their national governments more positively than respondents in Eastern (33) and Southern Europe (32).

Fig. 4.19. National Government Evaluation Index in different regions of Europe (means)



On average, men evaluate the national government more positively than women. Young people aged 18–35 provide higher assessments of the national government than respondents in other age groups. The value of the National Government Evaluation Index is higher among respondents with tertiary education than among those with lower levels of education. Higher income is also associated with more positive evaluations of the national government.

Fig. 4.20. National Government Evaluation Index among different groups (means)



In most countries, men evaluate the national government more positively than women. The only exceptions are Poland and Lithuania, where women report higher evaluations. In Spain, Slovenia, Romania, and Slovakia, no gender differences in evaluations of the national government are observed. Young people aged 18–35 tend to evaluate the national government more positively in the majority of countries. However, in Denmark, Poland, Italy, and Spain, higher evaluations are reported by respondents aged 56 and over. In Hungary, the most positive evaluations are observed among respondents aged 36–55.

Fig. 4.21. National Government Evaluation Index grouped by gender (means)

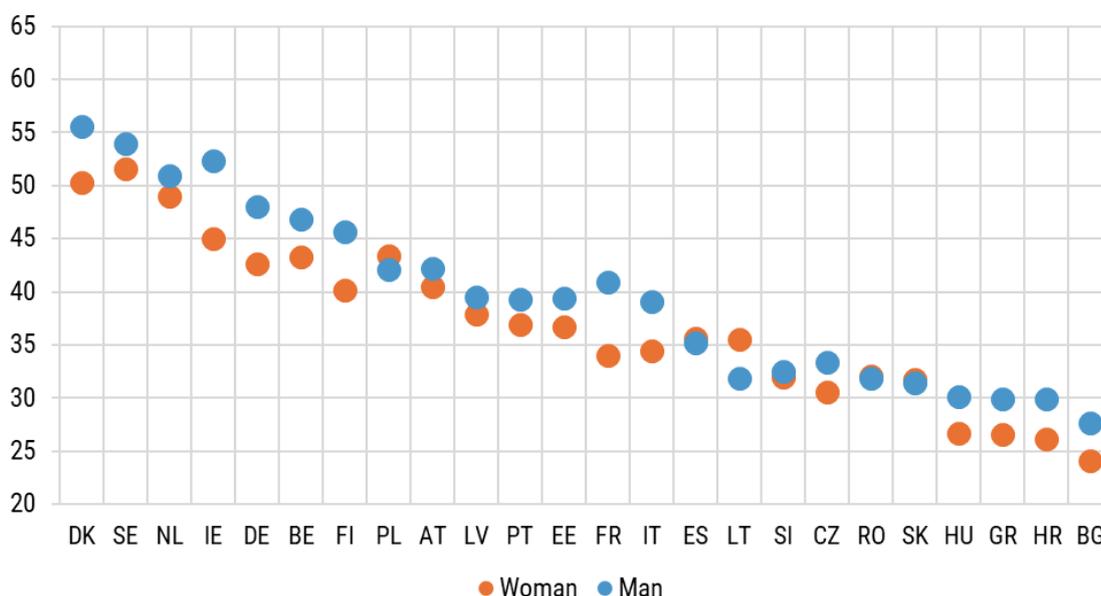
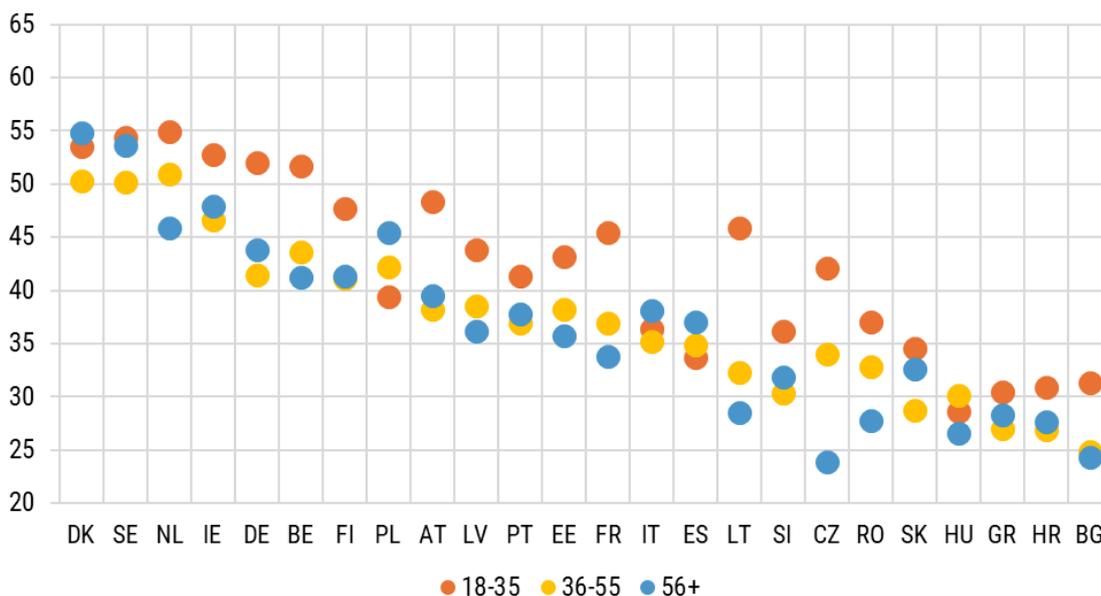


Fig. 4.22. National Government Evaluation Index grouped by age (means)



Respondents with higher levels of education tend to report higher values of the National Government Evaluation Index in the majority of countries. By contrast, in Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Greece, Croatia, and Bulgaria, respondents with lower levels of education provide more favourable evaluations of the government. Higher income is also correlated with more positive evaluations of the national government in most countries. Exceptions to this pattern are observed in Portugal, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, and Bulgaria, where respondents with lower income levels evaluate the government more positively.

Fig. 4.23. National Government Evaluation Index grouped by education (means)

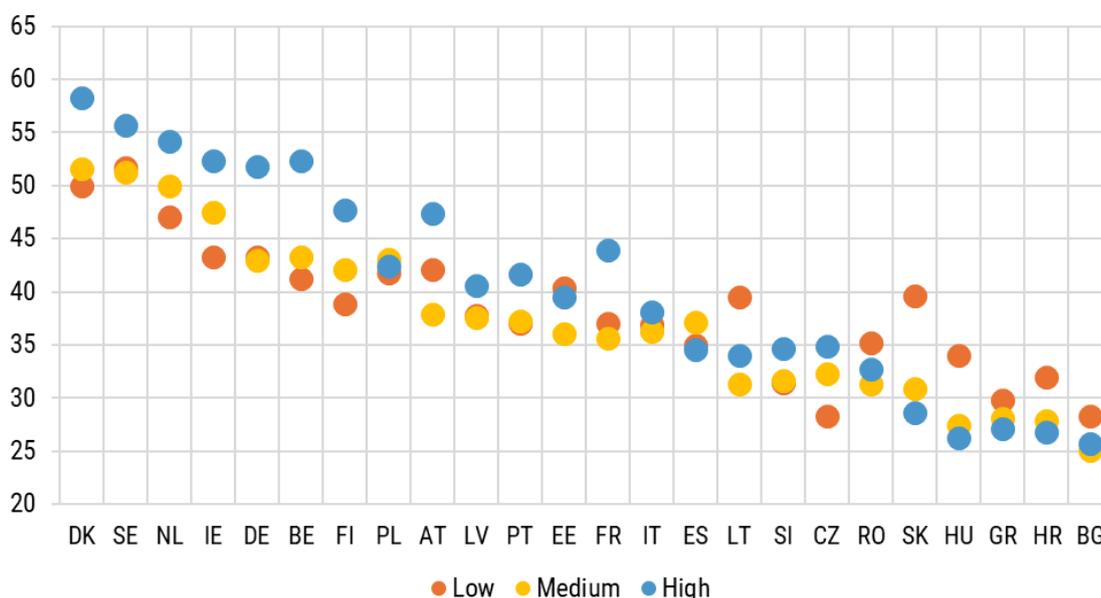
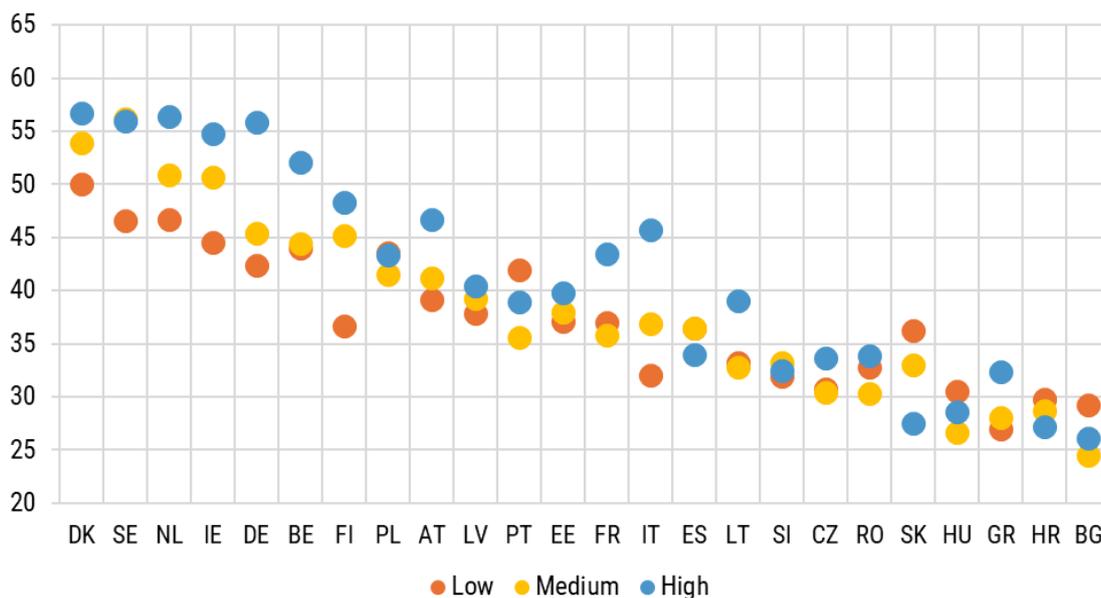


Fig. 4.24. National Government Evaluation Index grouped by income (means)

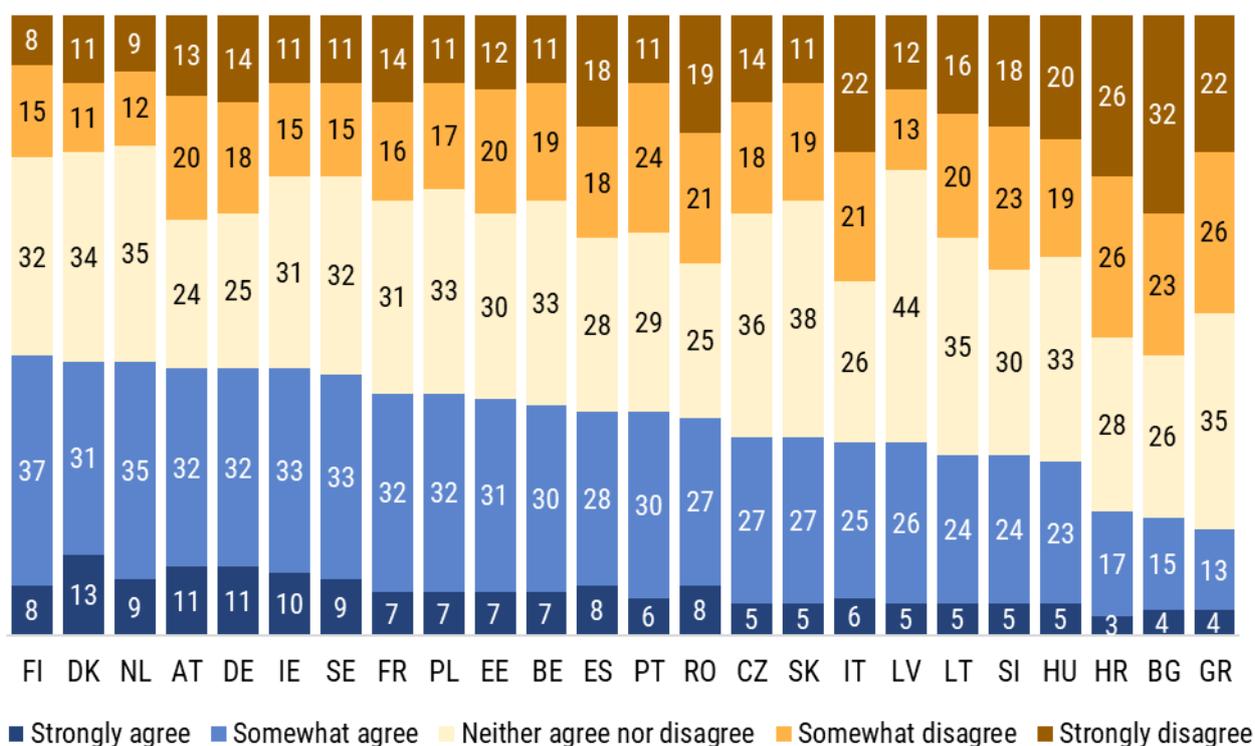


Regional Authorities Evaluation

Agreement that regional authorities in respondents' region are competent and effective is most common in Finland (45%), Denmark and the Netherlands (44% each), Austria, Germany, and Ireland (43% each), and Sweden (42%). Disagreement with this statement is most frequently reported in Bulgaria (55%), Croatia (52%), and Greece (48%).

Fig. 4.25. Agree or Disagree: The regional authorities are generally competent and efficient (%)

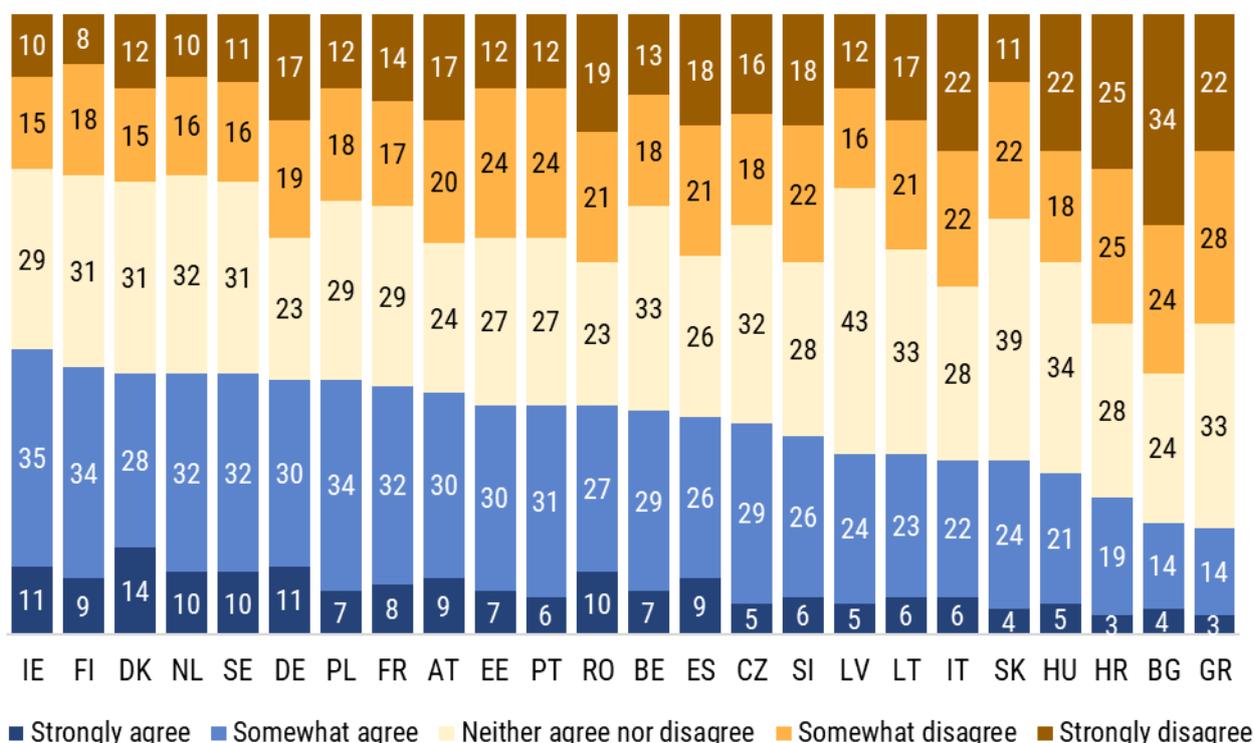
How do you feel about the regional authorities in your region/ province?



Agreement that regional authorities generally act in the interests of all citizens is most common among respondents in Ireland (46%), Finland (43%), Denmark, the Netherlands, and Sweden (42% each), and Germany (41%). The highest levels of disagreement with this statement are observed in Bulgaria (58%) and in Croatia and Greece (50% each).

Fig. 4.26. Agree or Disagree: The regional authorities usually act in the interests of all citizens (%)

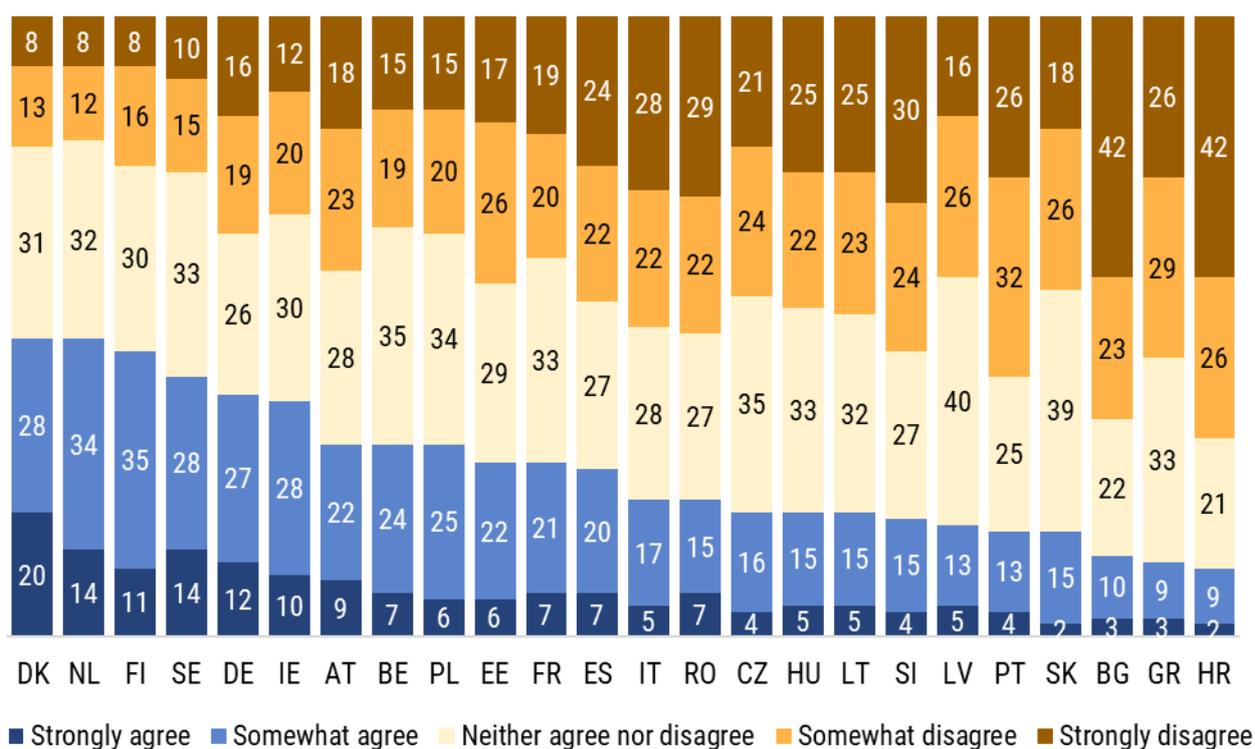
How do you feel about the regional authorities in your region/ province?



Respondents are most likely to agree that regional authorities are free from corruption in Denmark and the Netherlands (48% each) and in Finland (46%). By contrast, disagreement with the view that regional authorities are free from corruption is most prevalent in Croatia (68%), Bulgaria (65%), Portugal (58%), Greece (55%), and Slovenia (54%).

Fig. 4.27. Agree or Disagree: The regional authorities are generally free of corruption (%)

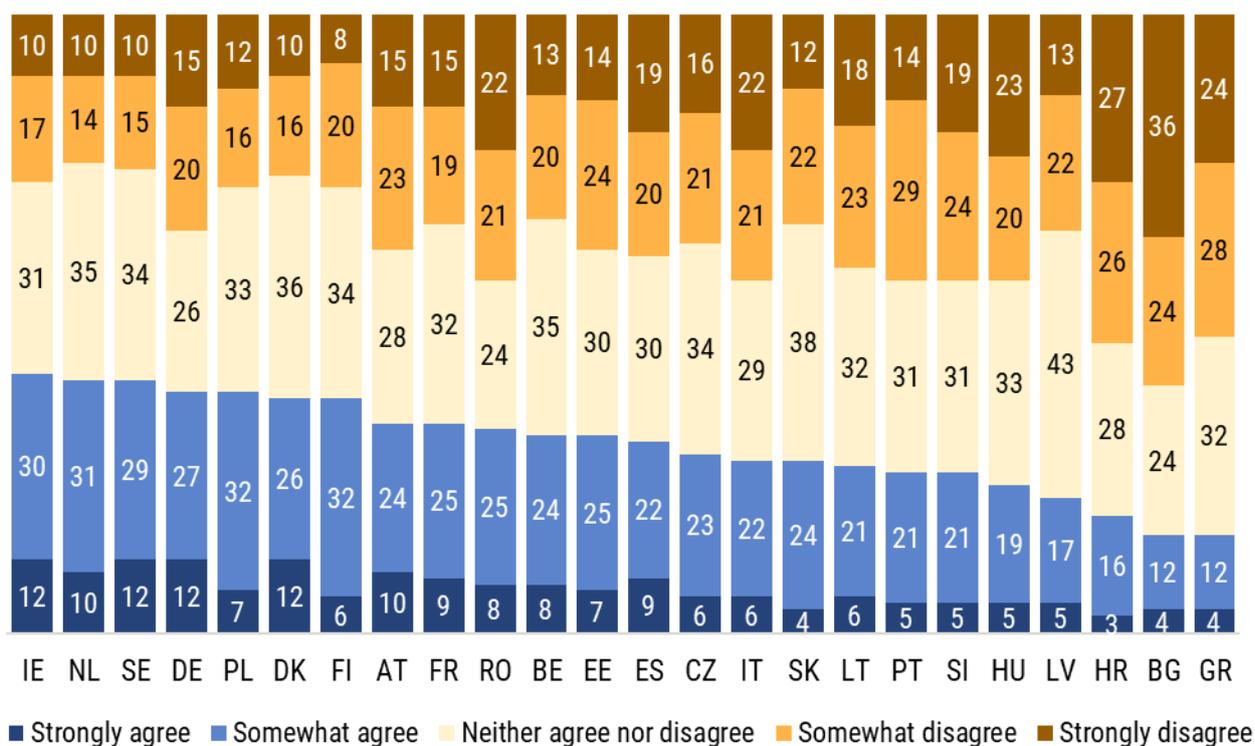
How do you feel about the regional authorities in your region/ province?



Agreement with the statement that regional authorities are open and transparent is most common in Ireland (42%) and in the Netherlands and Sweden (41% each). Disagreement with this assessment is most frequently observed in Bulgaria (60%), Croatia (53%), and Greece (52%).

Fig. 4.28. Agree or Disagree: The regional authorities are open and transparent (%)

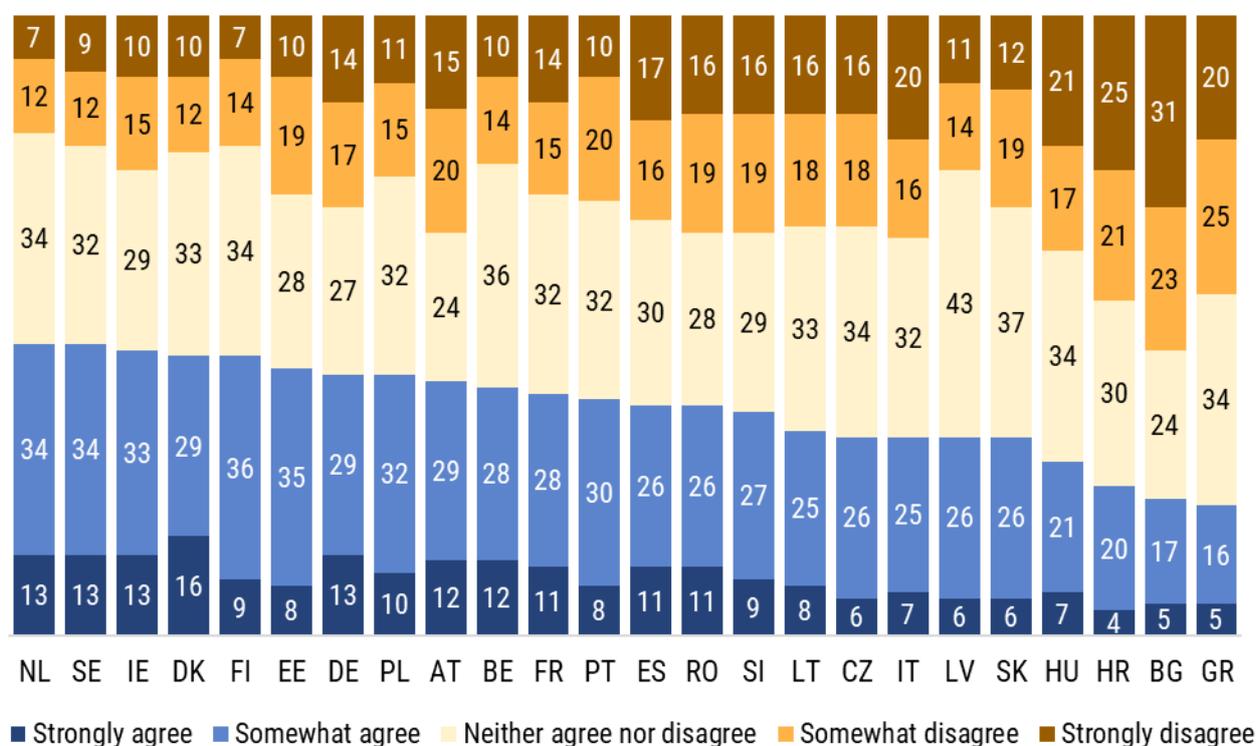
How do you feel about the regional authorities in your region/ province?



Agreement that regional authorities are inclusive and represent society as a whole is most common in the Netherlands and Sweden (47% each), followed by Ireland (46%) and Denmark and Finland (45% each). The highest levels of disagreement with this statement are observed in Bulgaria (54%), Croatia (46%), and Greece (45%).

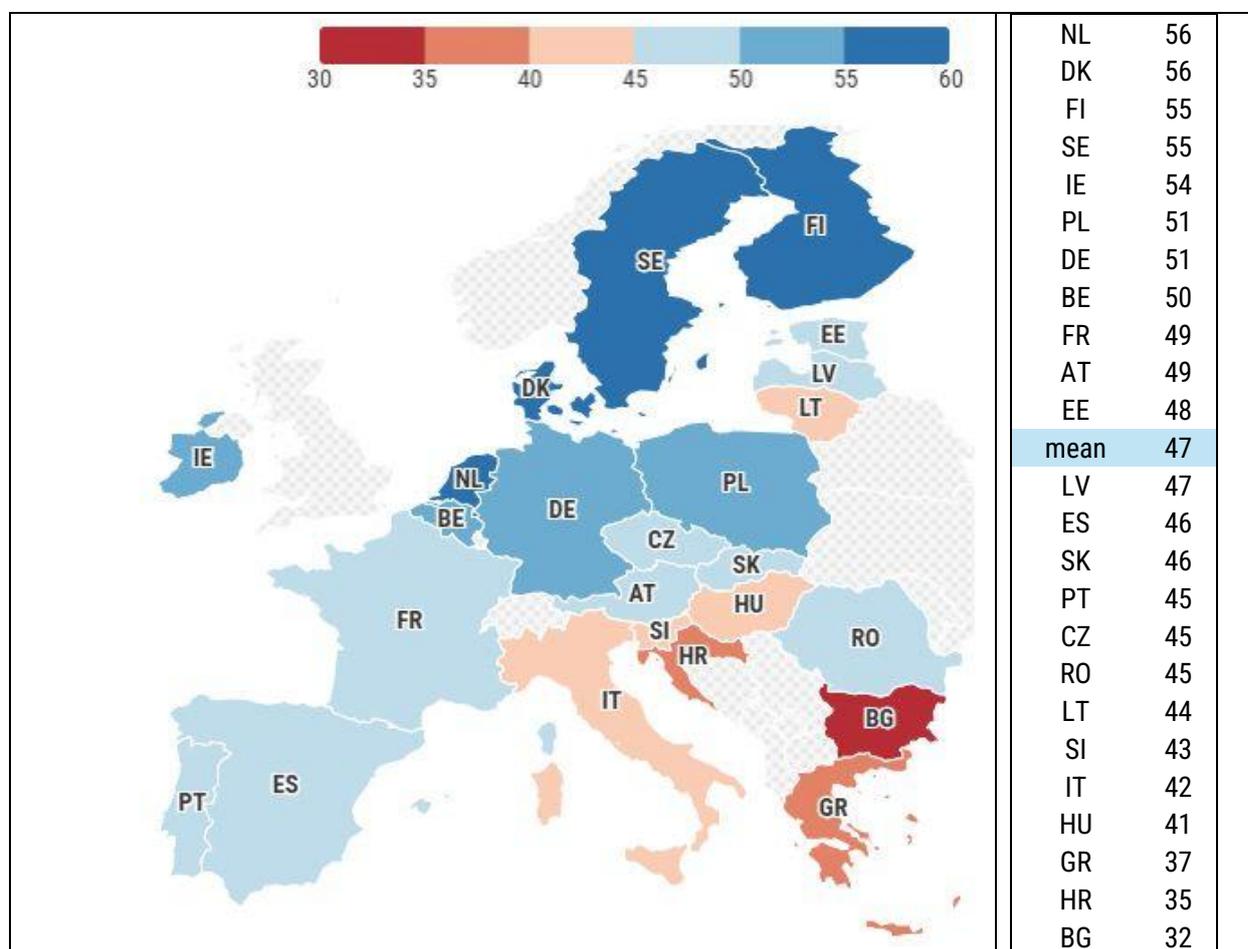
Fig. 4.29. Agree or Disagree: The regional authorities are inclusive and representative of society (%)

How do you feel about the regional authorities in your region/ province?



The Regional Authorities Evaluation Index captures an overall assessment of regional authorities based on criteria such as competence and effectiveness, acting in the interests of all citizens, freedom from corruption, openness and transparency, and inclusiveness and representativeness. Measured on a 0–100 scale, the highest index values are observed in the Netherlands and Denmark (56 each), followed by Finland and Sweden (55 each), and Ireland (54). Index values in Estonia (48), Latvia (47), and Spain and Slovakia (46) are close to the European average (47). The lowest index values are recorded in Bulgaria (32), Croatia (35), and Greece (37).

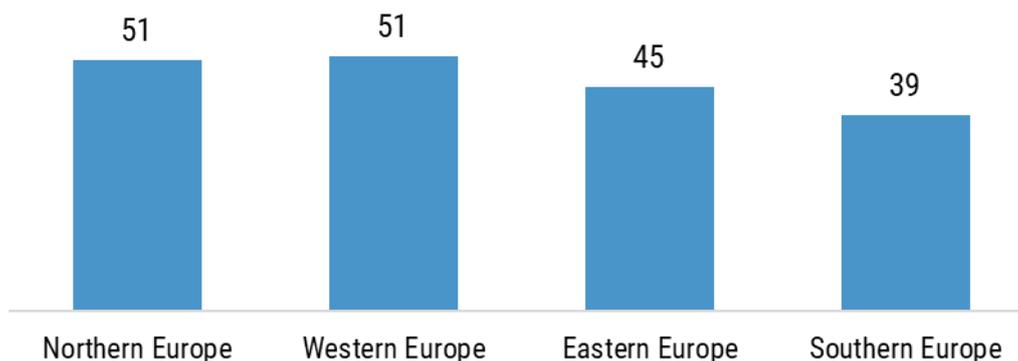
Fig. 4.30. Regional Authorities Evaluation Index (means)



Composite index capturing overall evaluation of regional/local authorities across competence and efficiency, acting in the interest of all citizens, freedom from corruption, openness and transparency, and inclusiveness and representativeness; higher scores indicate more positive evaluations. Rescaled to a 0–100 metric.

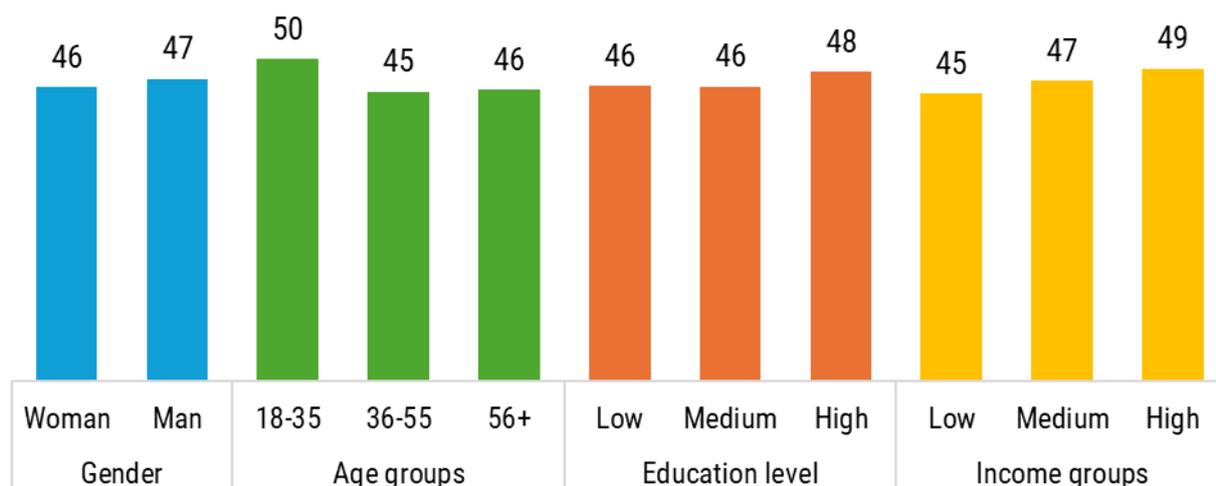
Respondents in Northern and Western Europe (51 each) evaluate regional authorities more positively than those in Eastern Europe (45). In Southern Europe, the Regional Authorities Evaluation Index is notably lower (39).

Fig. 4.31. Regional Authorities Evaluation Index in different regions of Europe (means)



Men evaluate regional authorities slightly more positively than women. Young people aged 18–35 tend, on average, to rate local authorities more highly than older age groups. Higher levels of education are associated with more favourable evaluations of local authorities, as is higher income.

Fig. 4.32. Regional Authorities Evaluation Index among different groups (means)



In Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Spain, Slovakia, Portugal, Slovenia, and Hungary, no substantial gender differences in evaluations of regional authorities are observed. In Poland, Romania, and Lithuania, women evaluate regional authorities more positively than men, whereas in the remaining countries men report higher evaluations of local government. The largest generational gaps in evaluations of regional authorities are observed in Belgium, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Croatia. In these countries, younger respondents assess regional authorities significantly more positively than older age groups.

Fig. 4.33. Regional Authorities Evaluation Index grouped by gender (means)

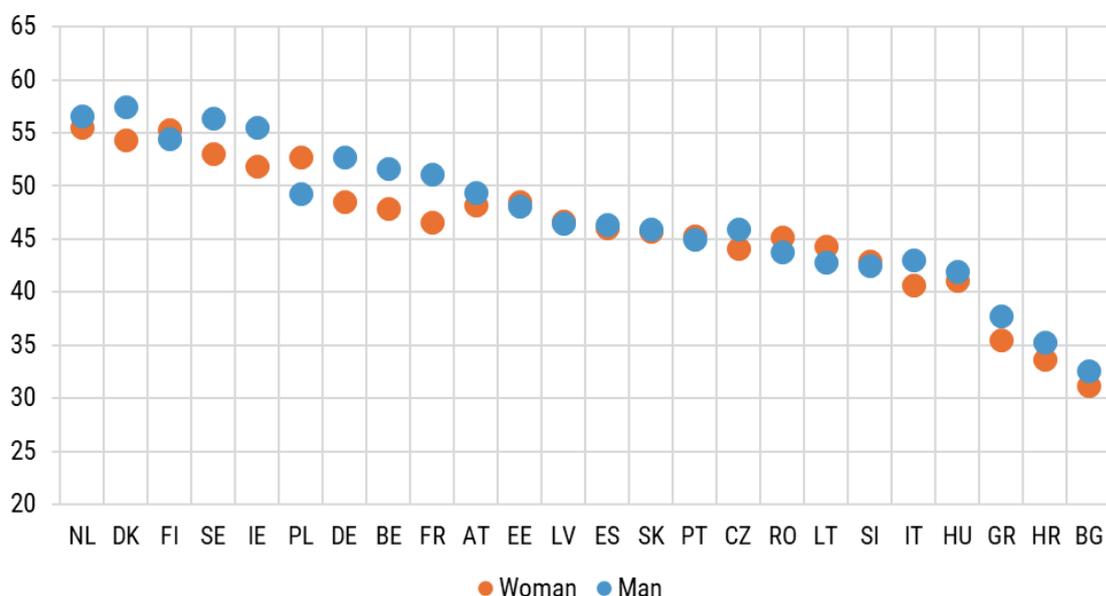
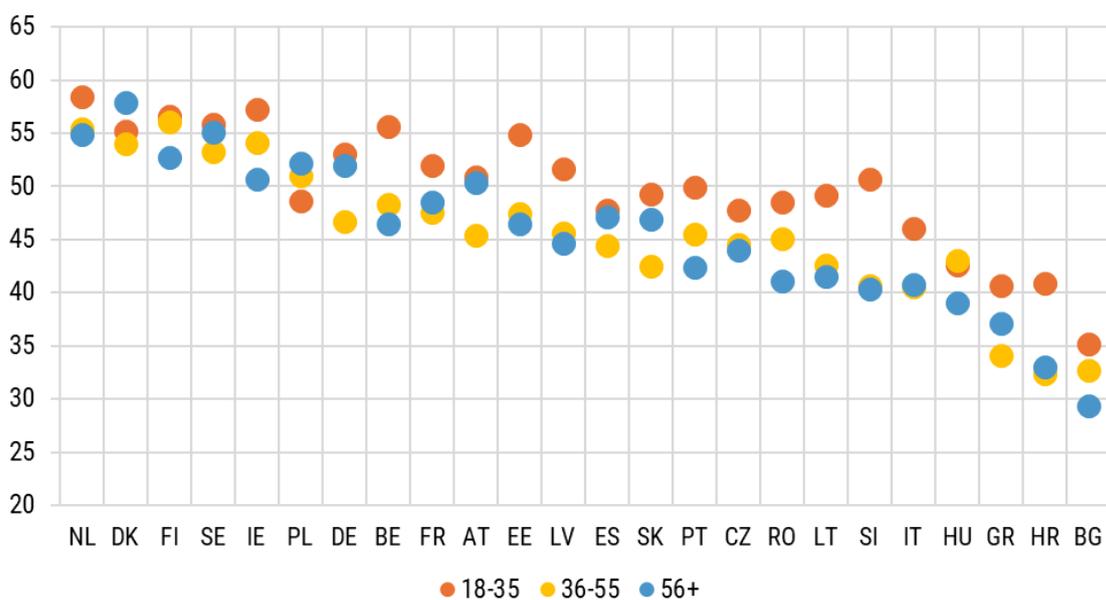


Fig. 4.34. Regional Authorities Evaluation Index grouped by age (means)



Respondents with tertiary education evaluate local authorities more positively in the majority of countries. Exceptions to this pattern are observed in Estonia, Slovakia, Romania, Lithuania, Hungary, and Croatia, where higher evaluations of local authorities are reported among respondents with lower levels of education. Higher income is associated with more favourable evaluations of local authorities in most countries, with the exception of Poland, Slovakia, Portugal, and Greece.

Fig. 4.35. Regional Authorities Evaluation Index grouped by education (means)

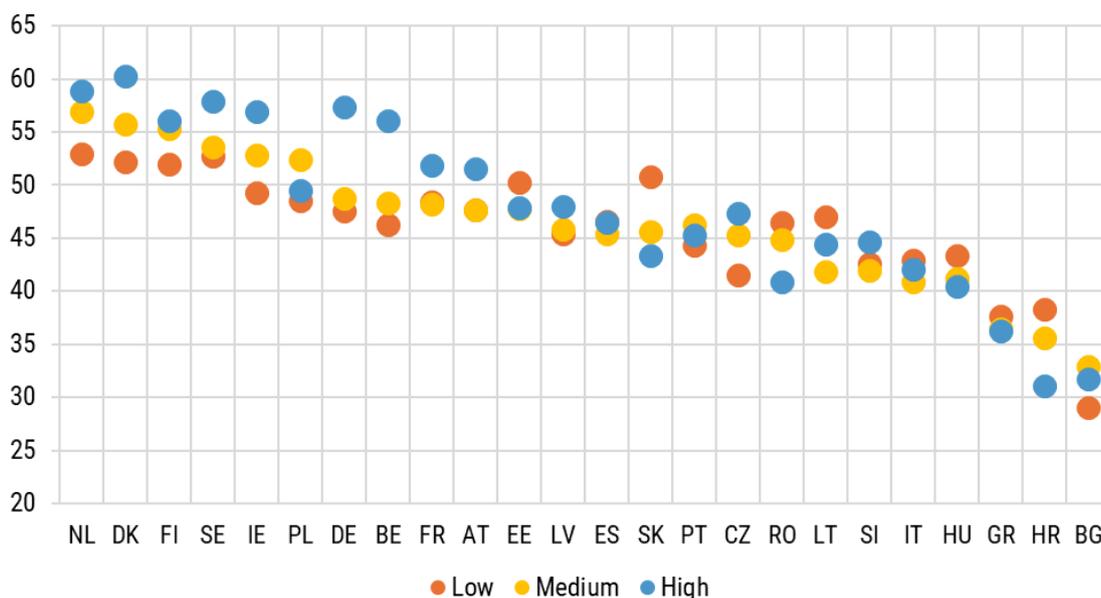
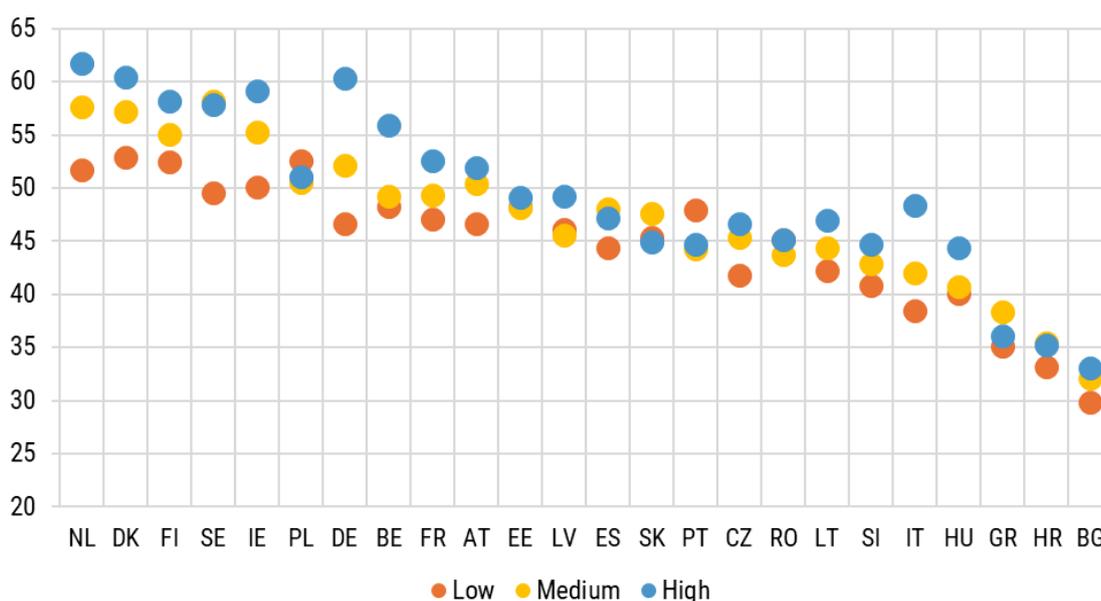


Fig 4.36. Regional Authorities Evaluation Index grouped by income (means)

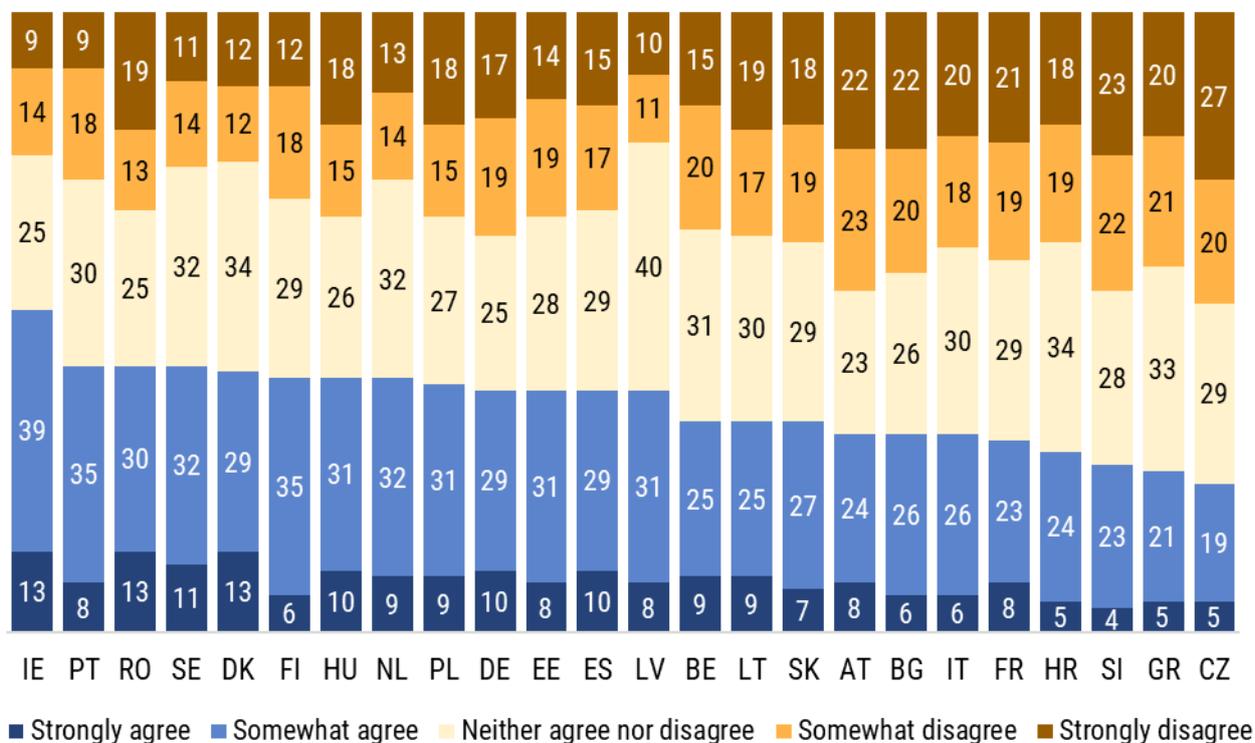


European Parliament Evaluation

Agreement with the view that the European Parliament is generally competent and effective is most common among respondents in Ireland (52%), as well as in Portugal, Romania, and Sweden (43% each), and Denmark (42%). Disagreement with this statement is most frequently observed in the Czech Republic (47%), Austria and Slovenia (45% each), and Bulgaria (42%).

Fig. 4.37. Agree or Disagree: European Parliament is generally competent and efficient (%)

How do you feel about the European Parliament?

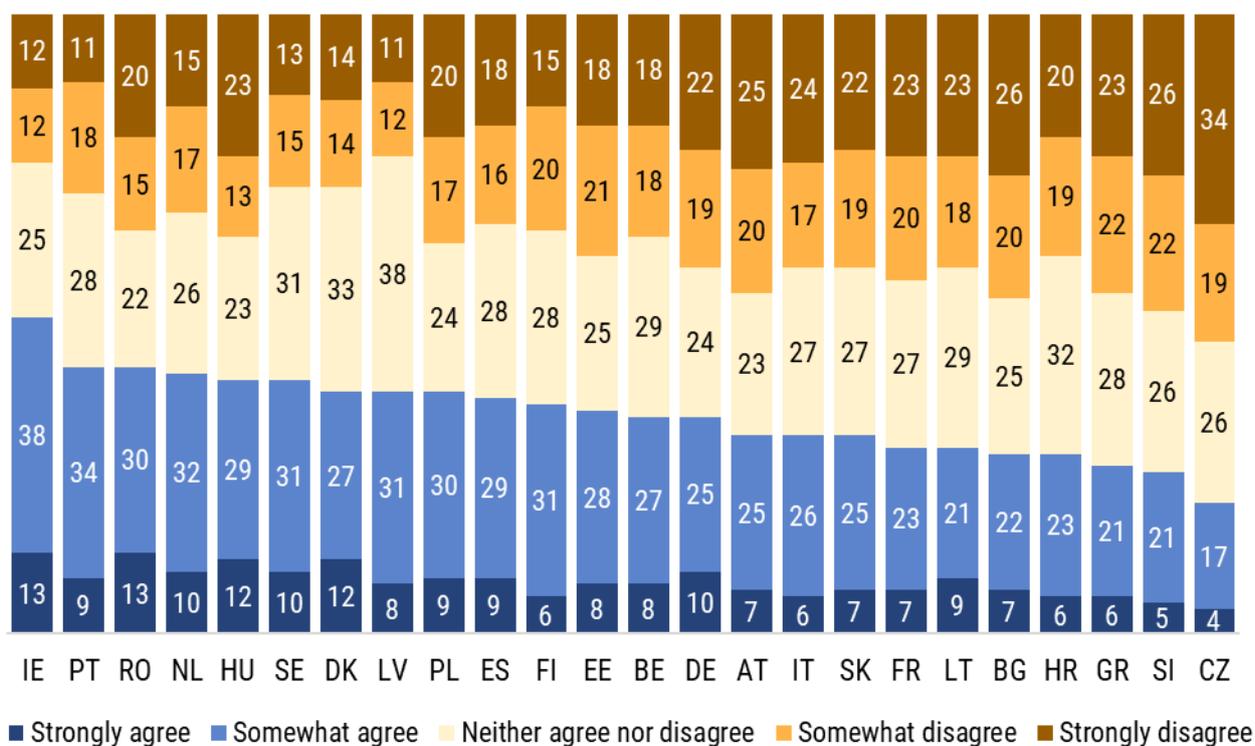




Agreement with the statement that the European Parliament acts in the interests of all EU citizens is most common in Ireland (51%), as well as in Portugal and Romania (43% each), the Netherlands (42%), and Hungary and Sweden (41% each). The highest levels of disagreement with this view are observed in the Czech Republic (53%), Slovenia (48%), Bulgaria (46%), and Greece (45%).

Fig. 4.38. Agree or Disagree: European Parliament usually acts in the interest of all EU citizens (%)

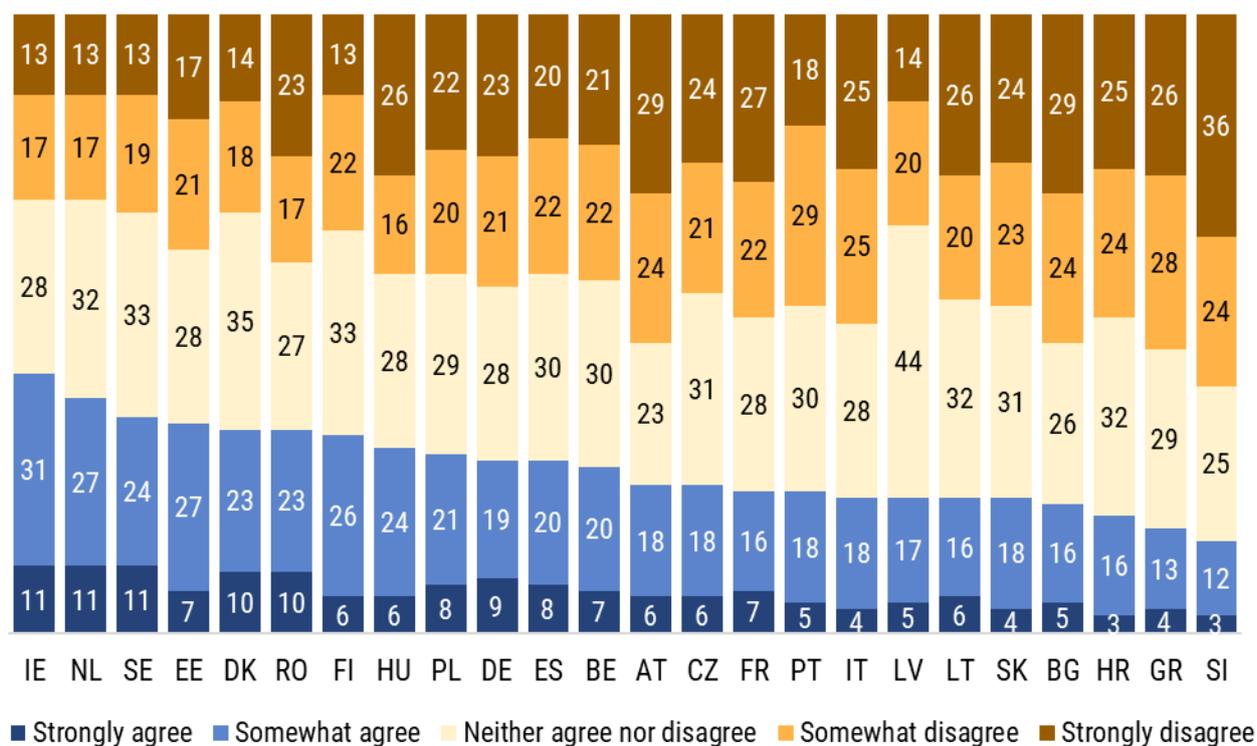
How do you feel about the European Parliament?



The largest proportions of respondents who are confident that the European Parliament is free from corruption are found in Ireland (42%), followed by the Netherlands (38%), Sweden (35%), and Estonia (34%). At the same time, respondents who disagree with the view that the European Parliament is free from corruption constitute a larger share overall. Disagreement with this statement is most prevalent in Slovenia (60%), Greece (54%), and Bulgaria and Austria (53% each).

Fig. 4.39. Agree or Disagree: European Parliament is generally free of corruption (%)

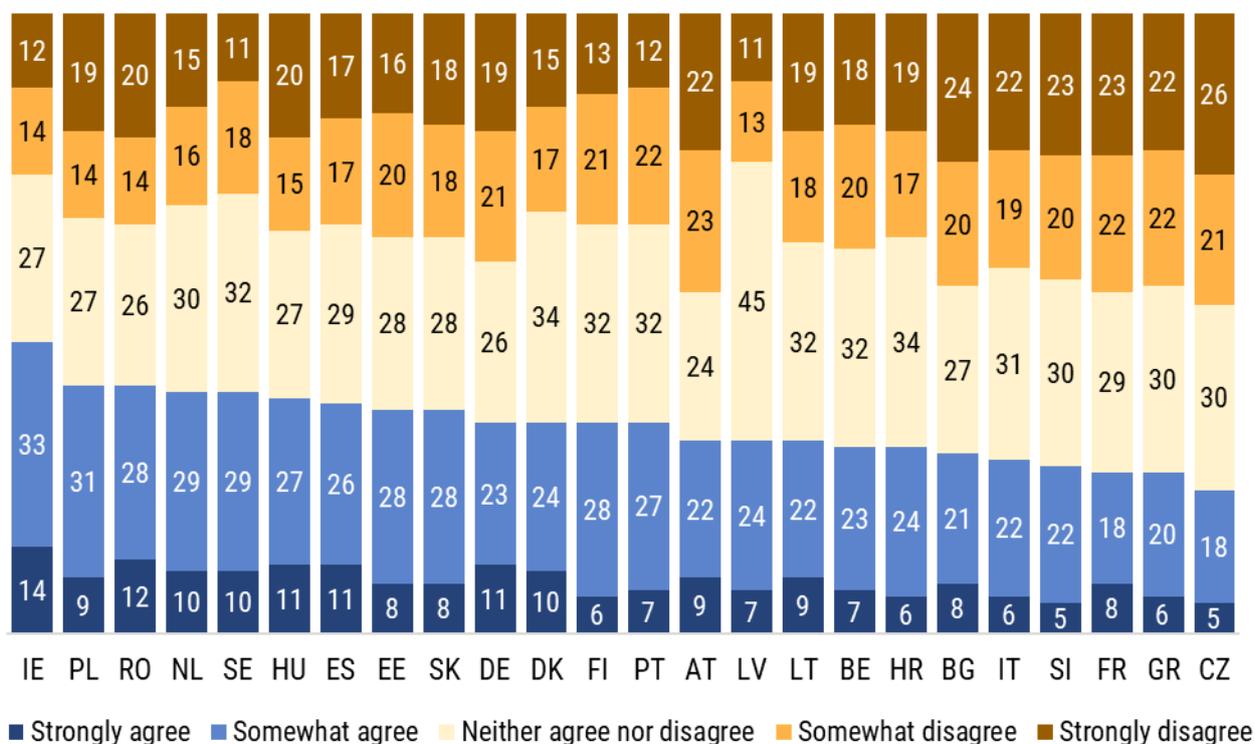
How do you feel about the European Parliament?



Agreement with the statement that the European Parliament is open and transparent is most common in Ireland (47%), as well as in Poland and Romania (40% each), and in the Netherlands and Sweden (39% each). The highest levels of disagreement with the view that the European Parliament is open and transparent are observed in the Czech Republic (47%), Austria and France (45% each), and Bulgaria and Greece (44% each).

Fig. 4.40. Agree or Disagree: European Parliament is open and transparent (%)

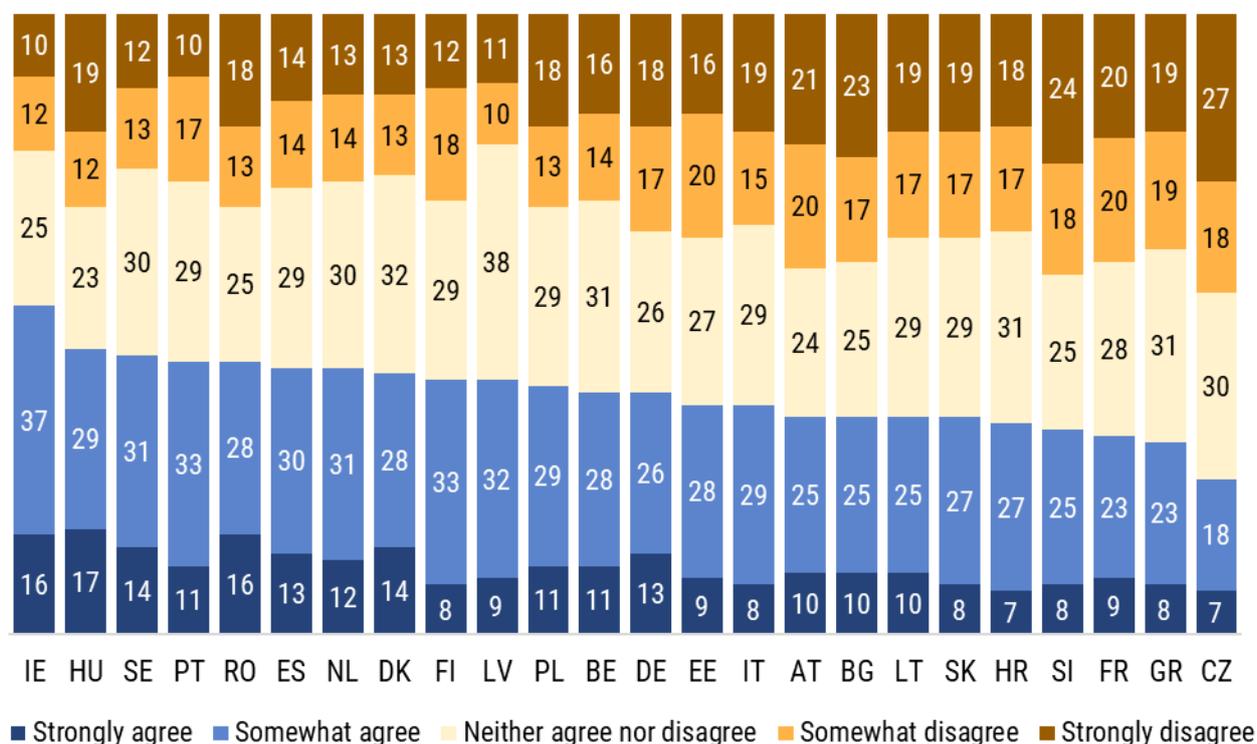
How do you feel about the European Parliament?



Agreement with the statement that the European Parliament is inclusive and represents all groups of EU citizens is most prevalent in Ireland (53%). Relatively high levels of agreement are also observed in Hungary (46%), Sweden (45%), and Portugal (44%). By contrast, disagreement with the view that the European Parliament is inclusive and representative of all groups of EU citizens is most frequently reported in the Czech Republic (45%), Slovenia (42%), Austria (41%), and Bulgaria and France (40% each).

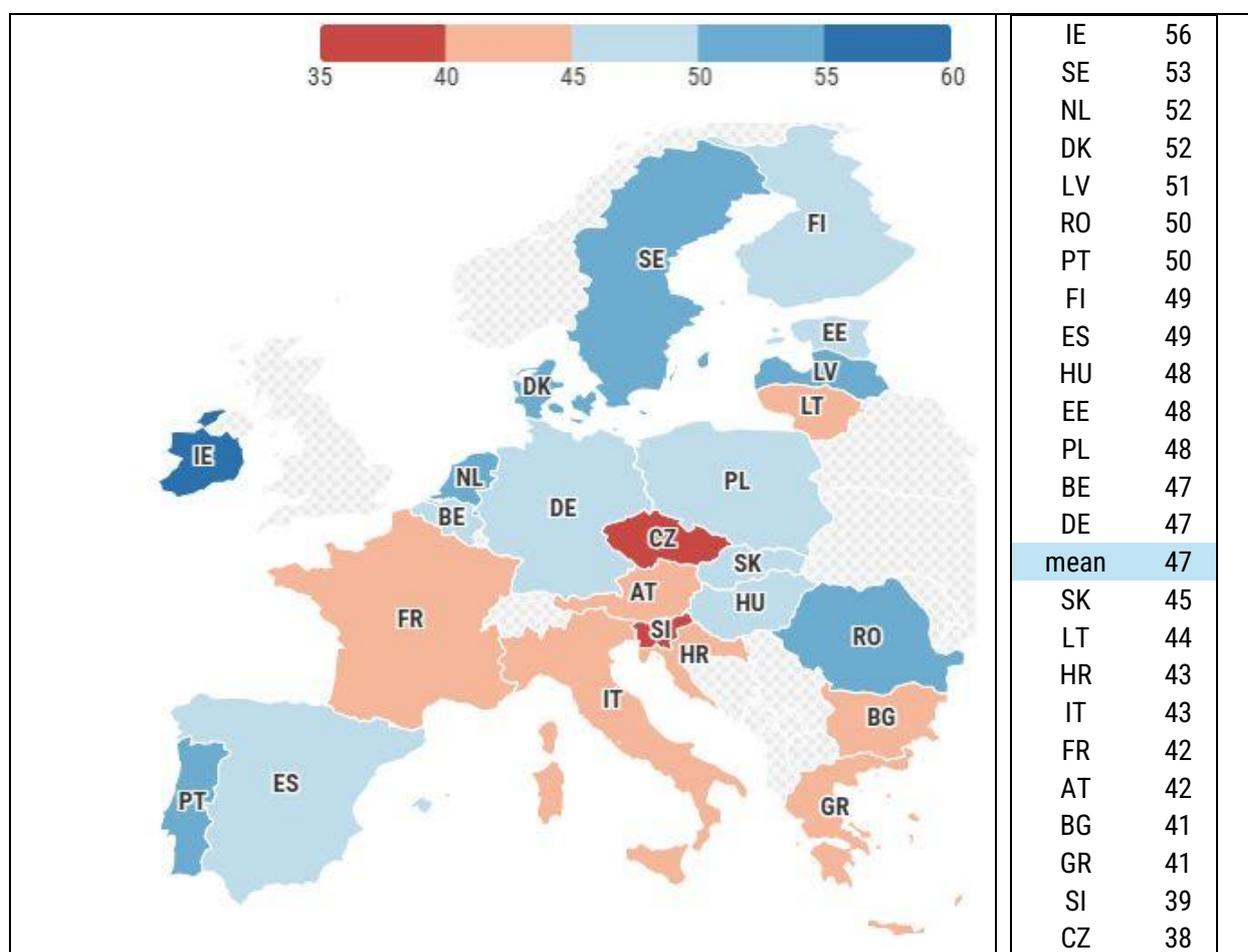
Fig. 4.41. Agree or Disagree: European Parliament is inclusive and representative of all groups of EU citizens (%)

How do you feel about the European Parliament?



The European Parliament Evaluation Index reflects an overall assessment of the European Parliament based on criteria such as competence and effectiveness, acting in the interests of all EU citizens, freedom from corruption, openness and transparency, and inclusiveness and representativeness. Measured on a 0–100 scale, the highest observed index value is recorded in Ireland (56). Relatively high evaluations are also found in Sweden (53) and in the Netherlands and Denmark (52 each). Index values close to the European average are observed in Belgium and Germany (47 each) and in Slovakia (45). The lowest observed index values are recorded in Bulgaria and Greece (41 each), Slovenia (39), and the Czech Republic (38).

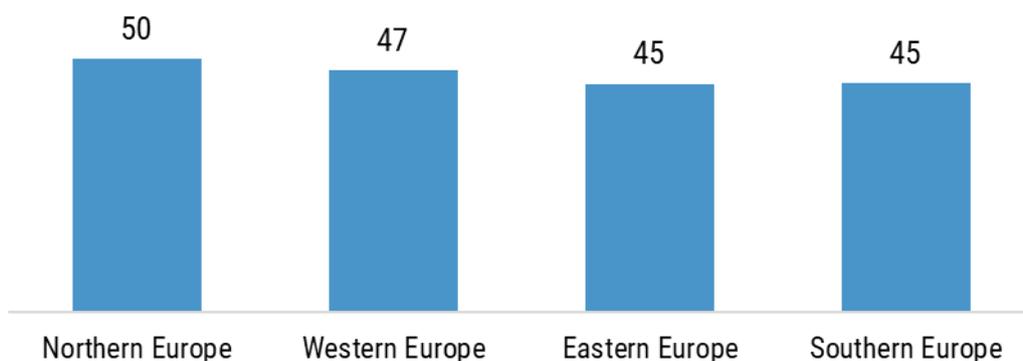
Fig. 4.42. European Parliament Evaluation Index (means)



Composite index capturing overall evaluation of the European Parliament across competence and efficiency, acting in the interest of all EU citizens, freedom from corruption, openness and transparency, and inclusiveness and representativeness; higher scores indicate more positive evaluations. Rescaled to a 0–100 metric.

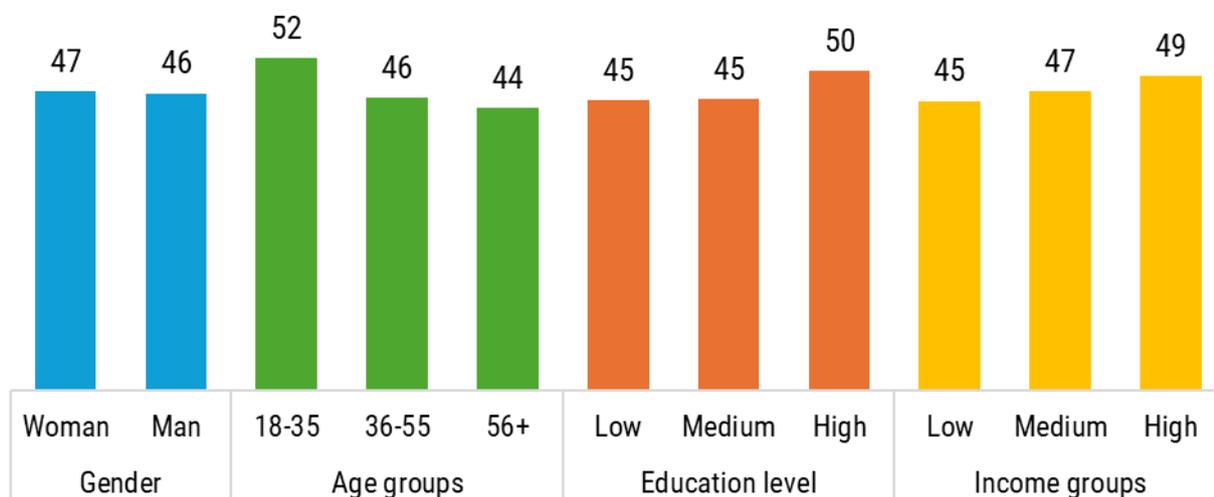
Evaluations of the European Parliament are marginally higher in Northern Europe (50) than in Eastern and Southern Europe (45 each).

Fig. 4.43. European Parliament Evaluation Index in different regions of Europe (means)



Women evaluate the European Parliament slightly more positively than men. Young people aged 18–35 provide higher evaluations of the European Parliament than respondents in older age groups. Higher levels of education are associated with more favourable evaluations of the European Parliament, and higher income is likewise associated with higher evaluation scores.

Fig. 4.44. European Parliament Evaluation Index among different groups (means)



In Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, Latvia, Romania, Spain, Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic, no substantial gender differences in evaluations of the European Parliament are observed. In Portugal, Finland, Estonia, Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, and Austria, women evaluate the European Parliament more positively than men. Younger respondents evaluate the European Parliament more positively in all countries except Spain and Poland.

Fig. 4.45. European Parliament Evaluation Index grouped by gender (means)

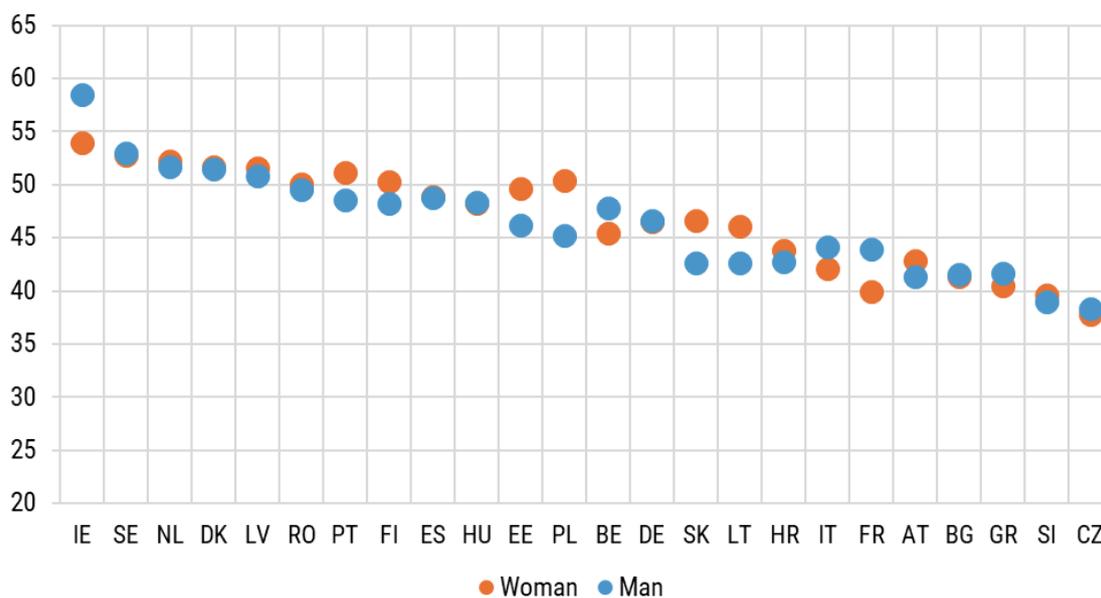
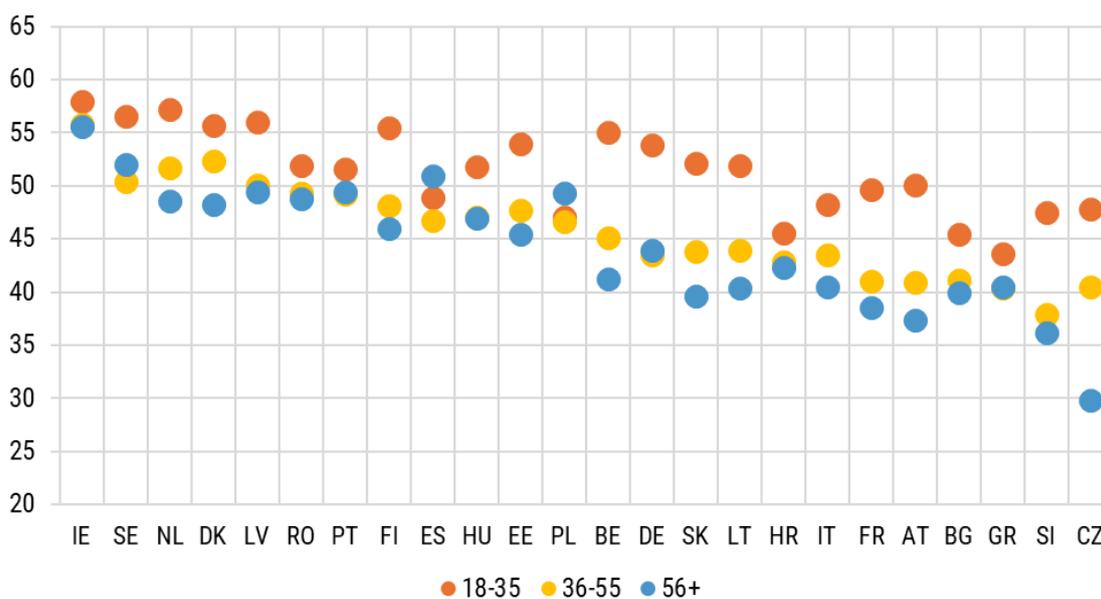


Fig. 4.46. European Parliament Evaluation Index grouped by age (means)

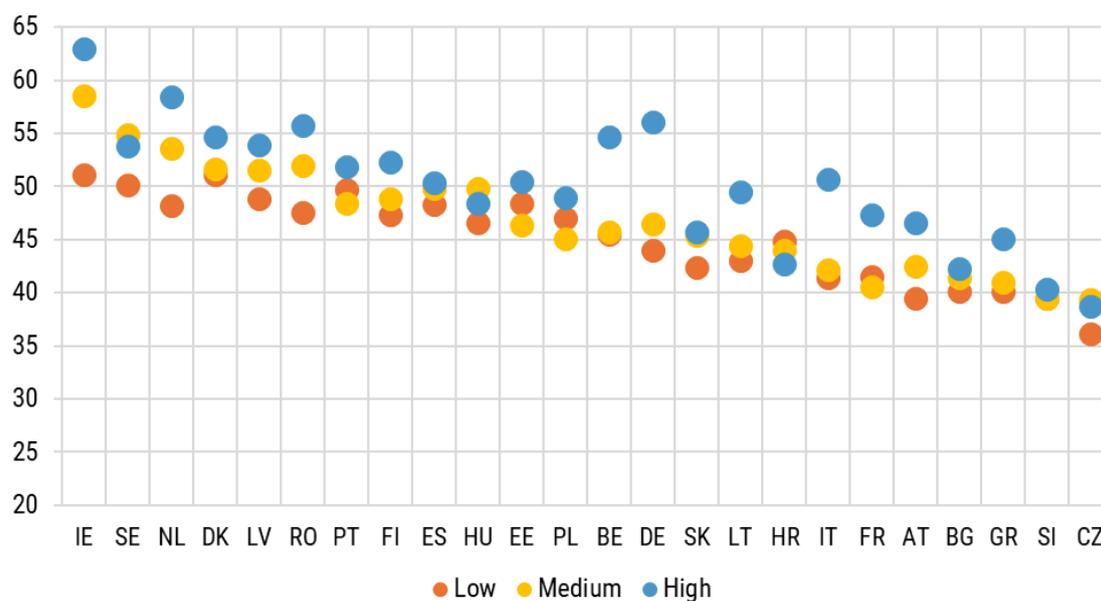


In most countries, respondents with higher levels of education evaluate the European Parliament more positively. In Poland and Bulgaria, the highest evaluations of the European Parliament are reported by respondents with secondary education. In Slovakia, Lithuania, and Croatia, evaluations of the European Parliament are higher among respondents with lower levels of education. In almost all countries, respondents with higher income levels provide higher evaluations of the European Parliament. The largest differences in evaluations between income groups are observed in Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Italy.

Fig. 4.47. European Parliament Evaluation Index grouped by education (means)



Fig. 4.48. European Parliament Evaluation Index grouped by income (means)

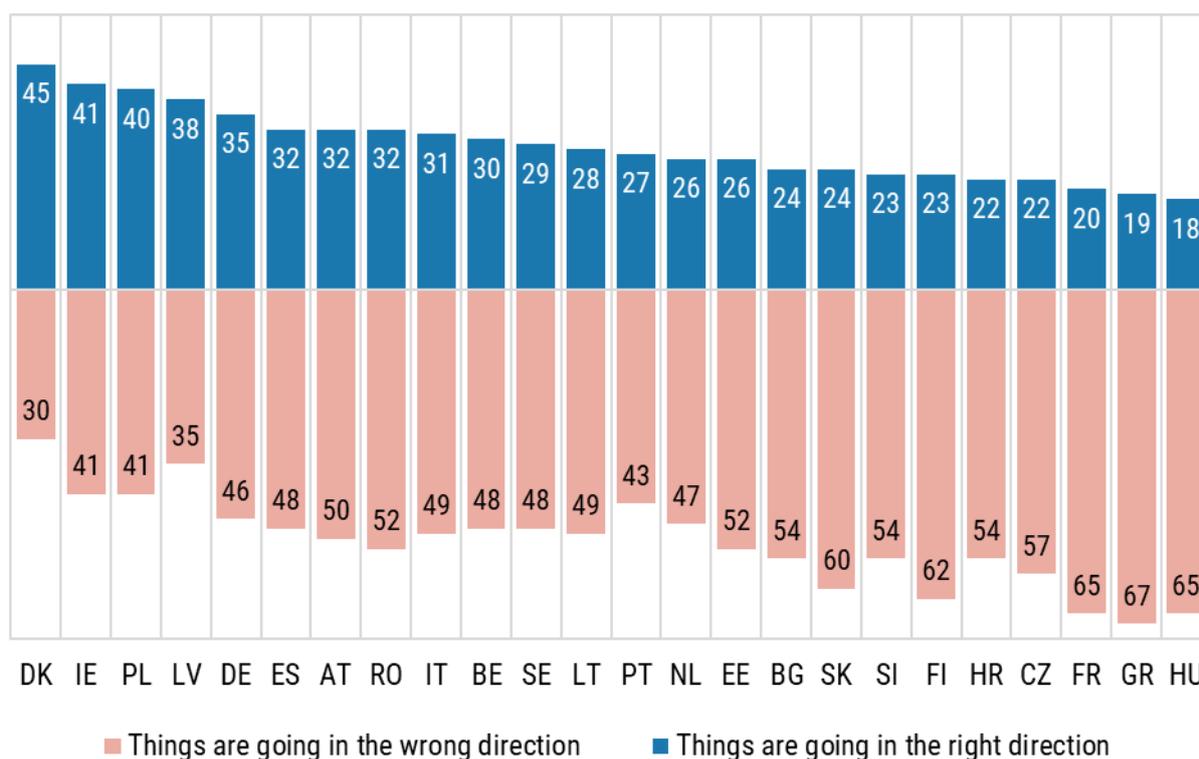


5. INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND SATISFACTION

Respondents were asked whether, at present, developments in their country are generally moving in the right or the wrong direction. The highest proportion of respondents who believe that their country is moving in the right direction is observed in Denmark (45%). In Ireland, Poland, and Latvia, respondents' views are divided: roughly equal shares consider that their country is developing in the right direction and that it is moving in the wrong direction. In all other countries, a majority of respondents believe that developments in their country are heading in the wrong direction.

Fig. 5.1. Direction things going in different countries (%)

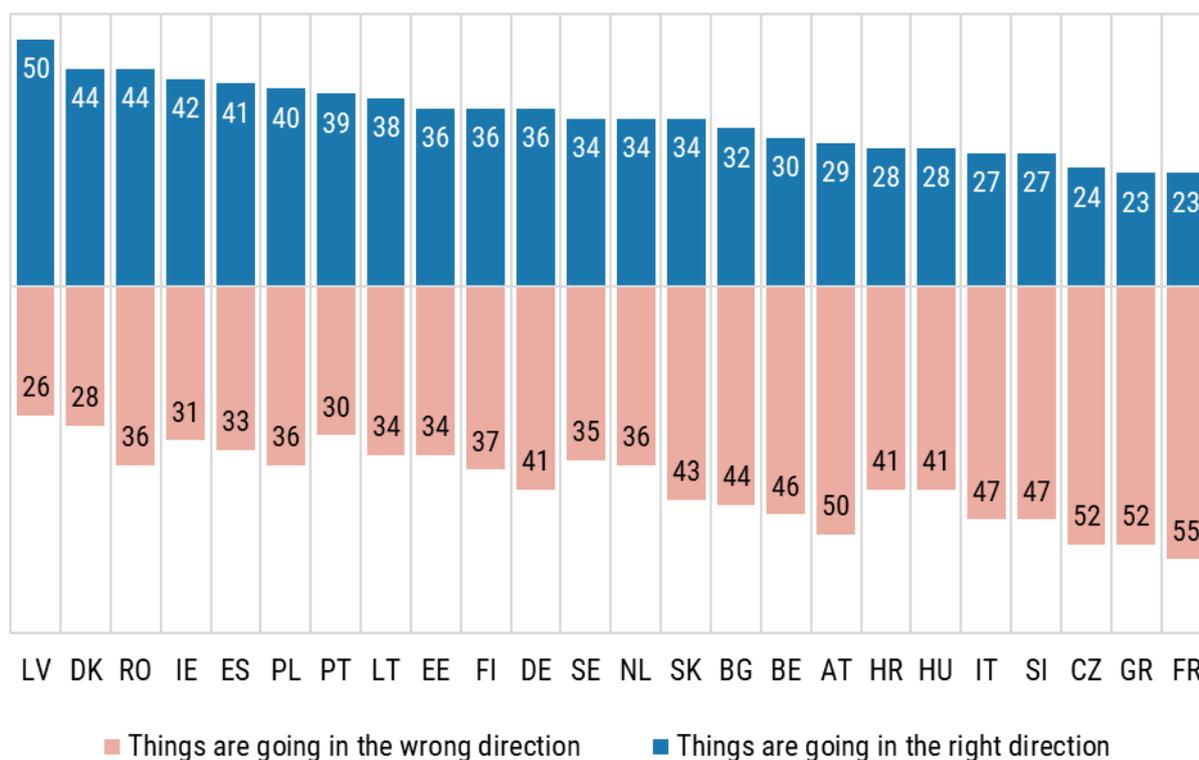
At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in your country?



Respondents' views on whether developments in the European Union are moving in the right or the wrong direction vary across countries. In Latvia, half of respondents believe that the EU is moving in the right direction. Relatively high proportions expressing this view are also observed in Denmark and Romania (44% each), Ireland (42%), and Spain (41%). By contrast, in the Czech Republic and Greece (52% each) and in France (55%), a majority of respondents believe that the European Union is moving in the wrong direction.

Fig. 5.2. Direction things going in the European Union (%)

At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in The European Union?

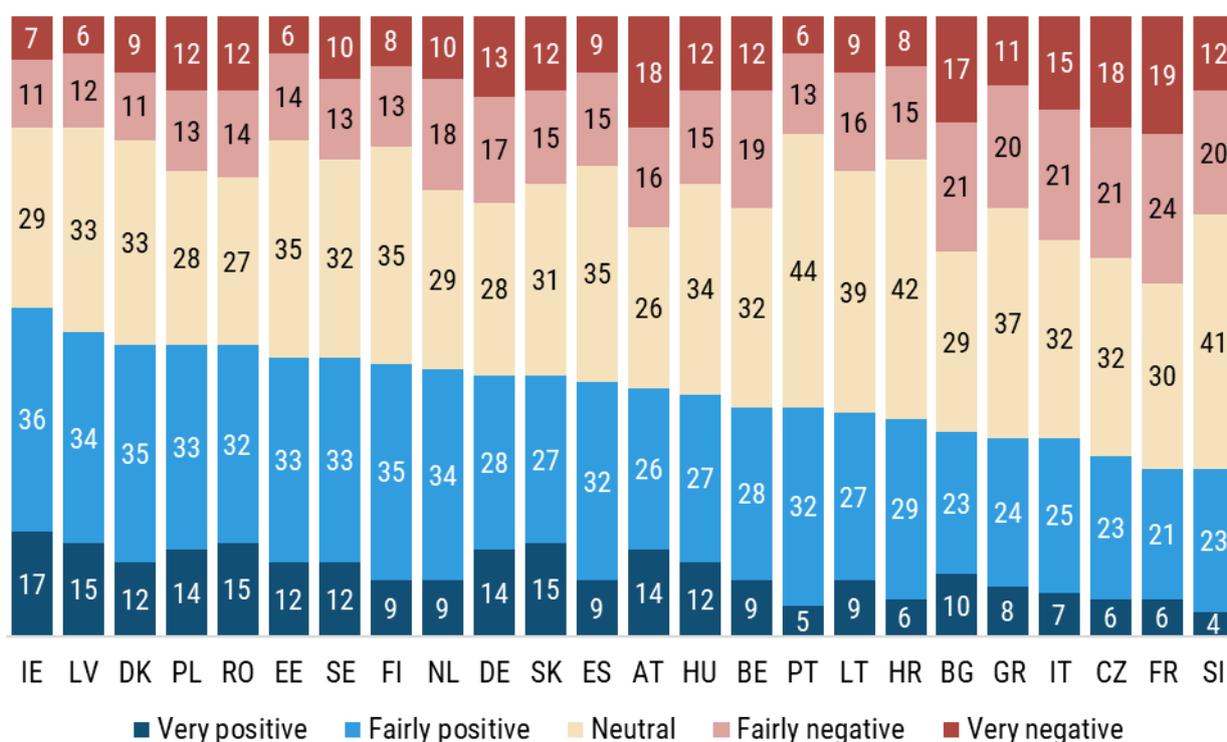




Overall, positive attitudes towards the European Union are most prevalent in Ireland (53%), Latvia (49%), and Denmark, Poland, and Romania (47% each). The most negative attitudes towards the EU are observed in France (43% express negative views), followed by the Czech Republic (39%), Bulgaria (38%), Italy (36%), and Austria (34%).

Fig. 5.3. Attitude towards the European Union (%)

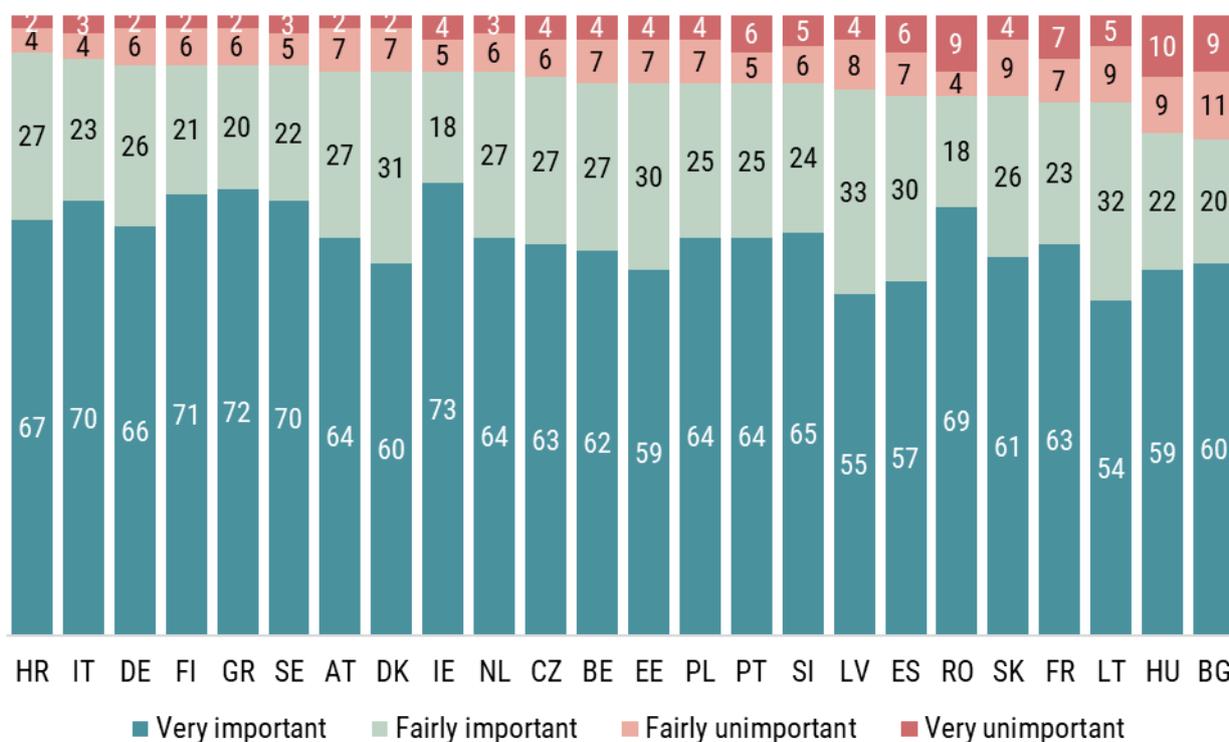
In general, how do you feel towards the EU?



Respondents across all surveyed countries regard providing health care for the sick as a highly important issue. A majority in every country classify this problem as very important, with shares ranging from 54% to 73%. The highest proportions are recorded in countries such as Ireland (73%), Italy (70%), Greece (72%), Finland (71%) where around seven in ten respondents assign the highest level of importance. In contrast, Latvia and Lithuania report the lowest shares, though even there around a half of respondents consider the issue very important.

Fig. 5.4. Importance of providing health care for the sick (%)

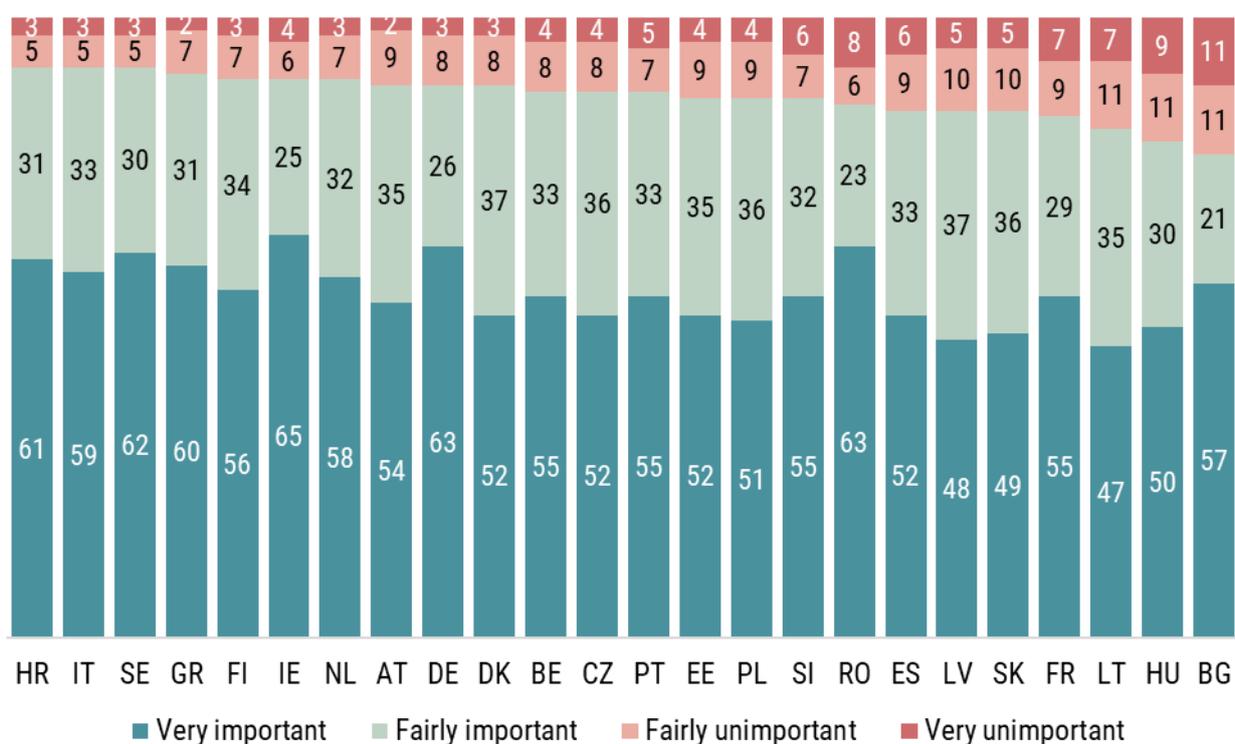
What is the importance of the following problems in your country?



Ensuring a decent standard of living for older people is an important issue for respondents in all countries. Between 78% and 92% assess this issue as important in their country. It is considered most important in Croatia, Italy, and Sweden (92% each), Greece (91%), and Finland, Ireland, and the Netherlands (90%).

Fig. 5.5. Importance of providing a decent standard of living for the elderly (%)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country?

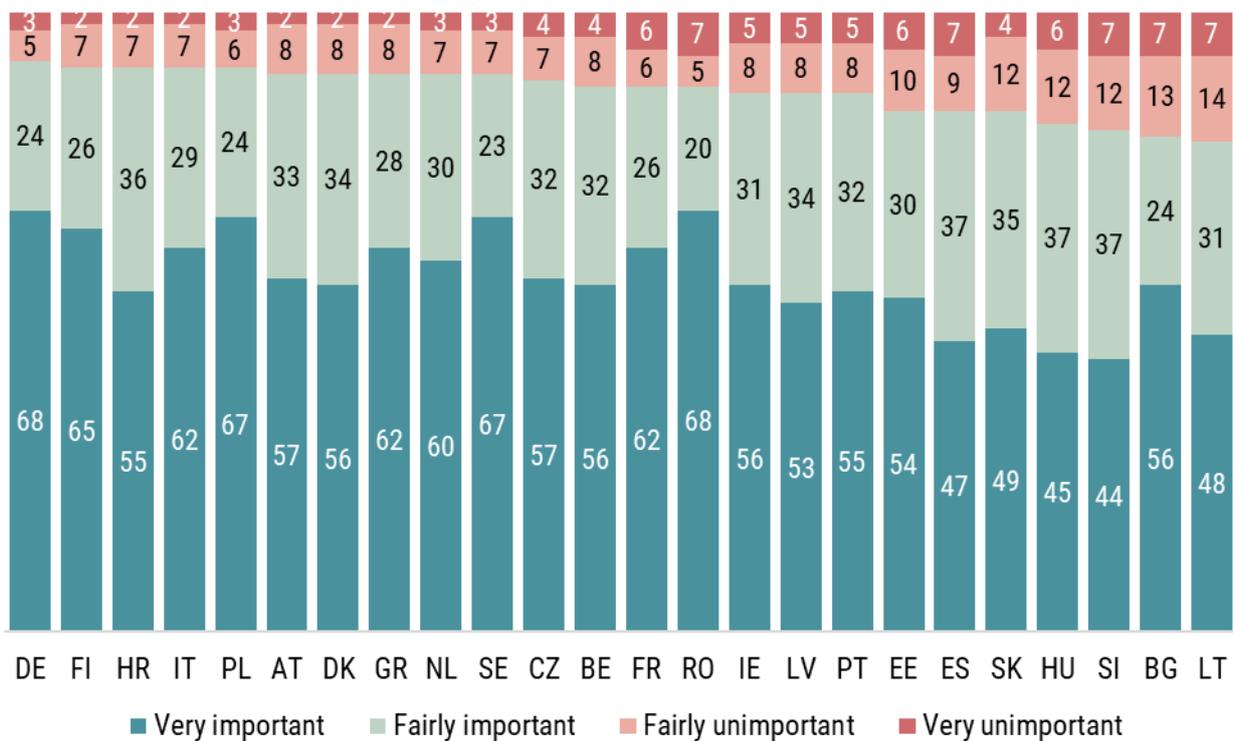




Respondents consider the protection of national security to be an important issue. Between 79% and 92% of respondents noted the importance of this issue for their country. It is regarded as most important in Denmark (92%), Finland, Croatia, and Italy (91%). It is considered less important in Lithuania (79%), Bulgaria (80%), and Slovenia (81%).

Fig. 5.6. Importance of protecting this country's security (%)

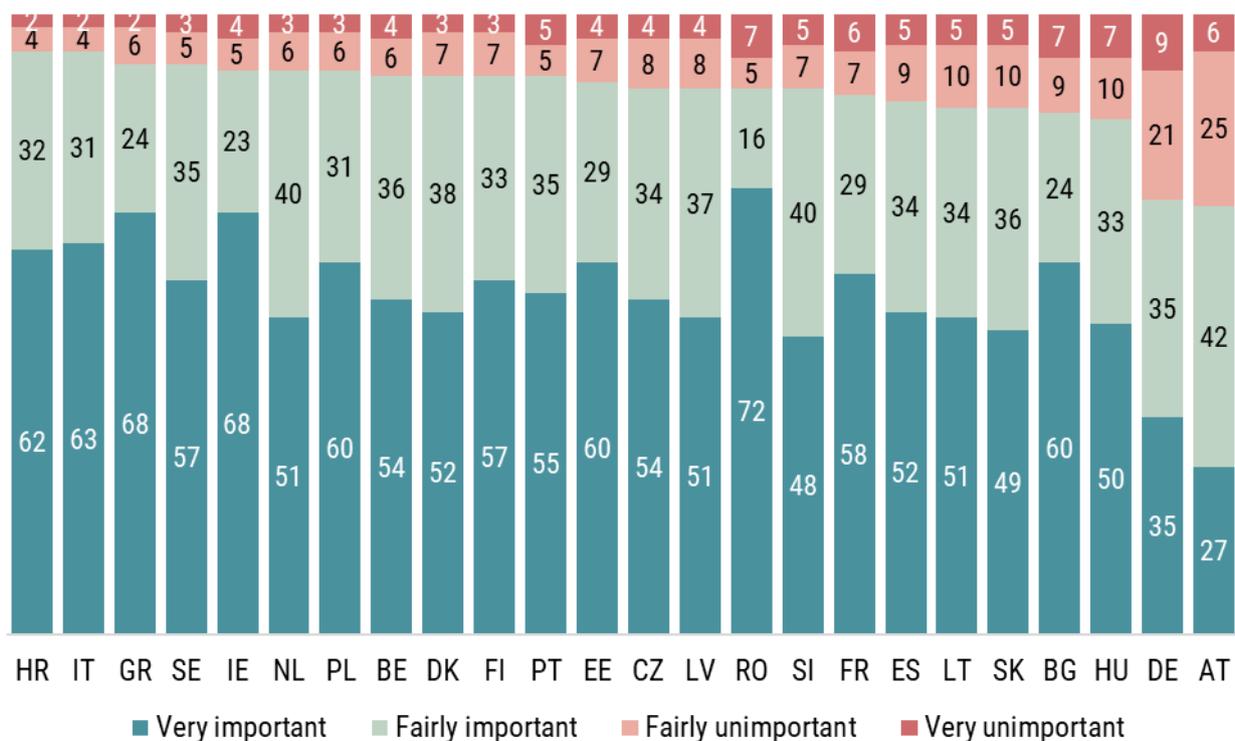
What is the importance of the following problems in your country?



Respondents consider effective management of the economy in their country to be an important issue. In all countries, an absolute majority of respondents indicated the importance of this issue. It is regarded as most important in Croatia and Italy (94% each), and in Greece and Sweden (92% each). In Romania, 72% of respondents consider this issue to be very important. The highest proportions of those who consider this issue unimportant are found in Austria (31%) and Germany (30%).

Fig. 5.7. Importance of managing the economy (%)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country?

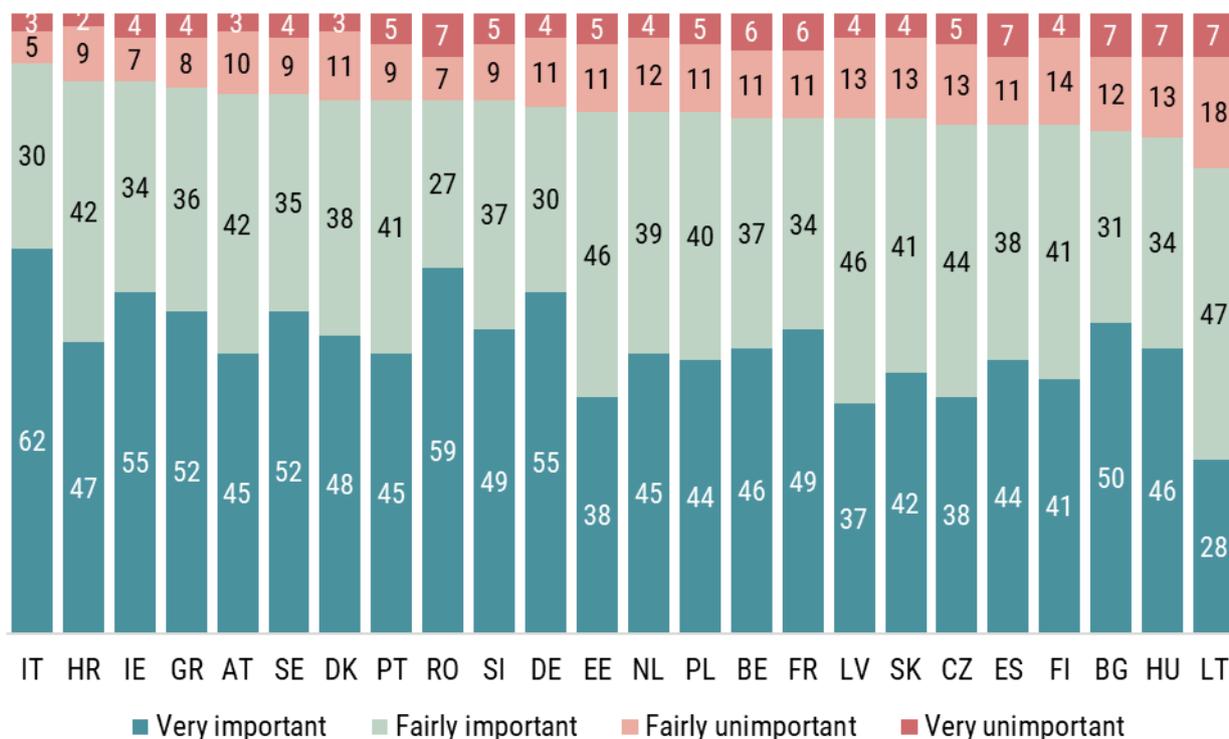




The majority of respondents agree that environmental protection is an important issue in their country. The importance of this issue was most frequently emphasised in Italy (92%), Croatia and Ireland (89% each), Greece (88%), and Austria and Sweden (87%). The highest proportions of respondents who consider this issue unimportant were recorded in Lithuania (25%), Hungary (20%), and Bulgaria (19%).

Fig. 5.8. Importance of protecting the environment (%)

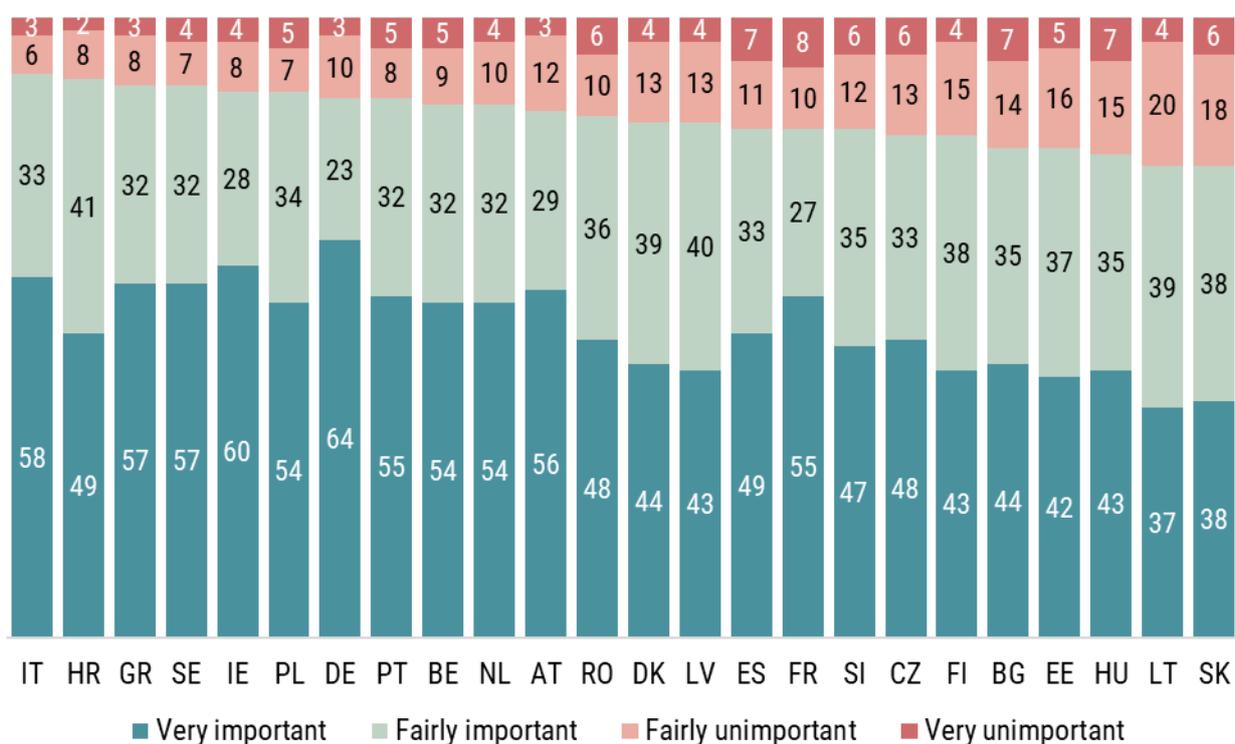
What is the importance of the following problems in your country?



Respondents note the importance of regulating migration. Agreement with the importance of this issue is most frequent in Italy (91%), Croatia (90%), Greece and Sweden (89% each), and Ireland (88%). The issue is most often considered unimportant in Slovakia and Lithuania (24% each), Hungary (22%), and Estonia and Bulgaria (21%).

Fig. 5.9. Importance of managing immigration (%)

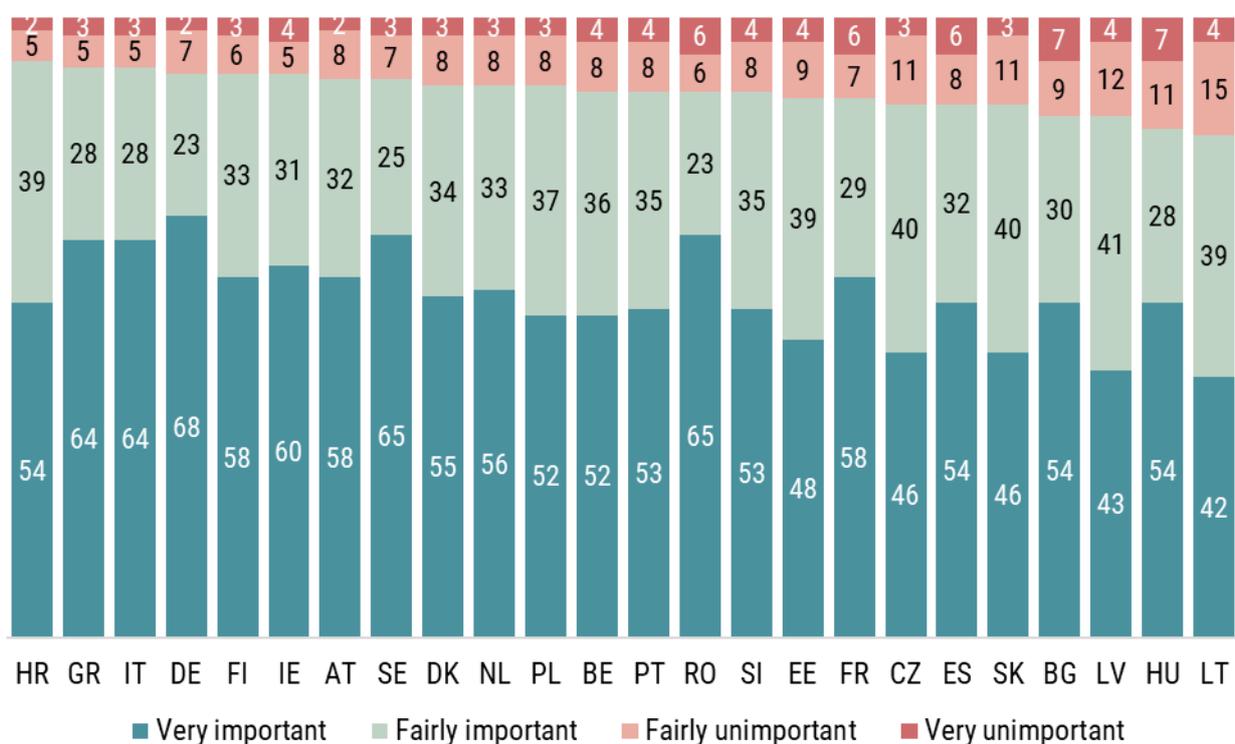
What is the importance of the following problems in your country?



Maintaining public schools and universities is considered an important issue for residents of the European Union. Agreement that this issue is important is most frequent in Croatia (93%), Greece and Italy (92% each), and Germany (91%). The issue is most often regarded as unimportant in Lithuania (19%), Hungary (18%), and Latvia and Bulgaria (16% each).

Fig. 5.10. Importance of maintaining public schools and universities (%)

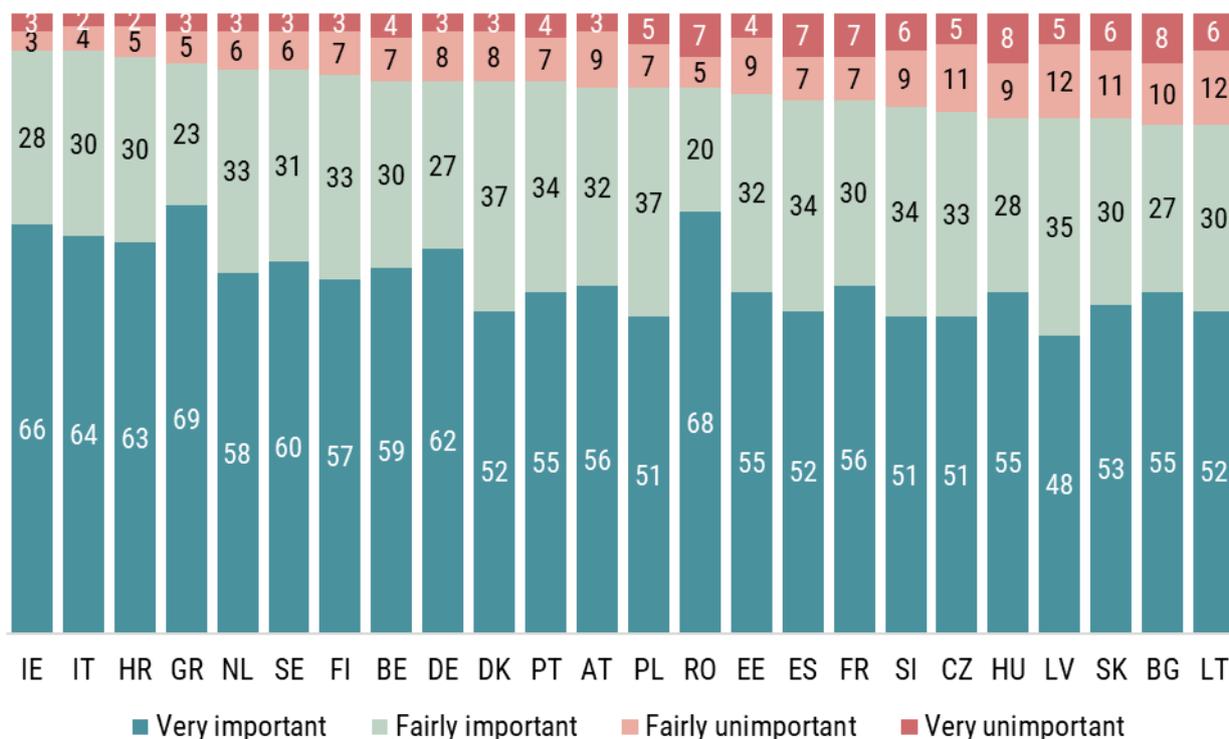
What is the importance of the following problems in your country?



Respondents consider the control of price levels to be an important issue. Between 82% and 94% of respondents indicated that this issue is important. It is most frequently regarded as important in Ireland and Italy (94%), Croatia (93%), and Greece (92%). The highest proportions of respondents who consider this issue unimportant are found in Lithuania and Bulgaria (18% each) and Slovakia (17%).

Fig. 5.11. Importance of keeping prices under control (%)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country?

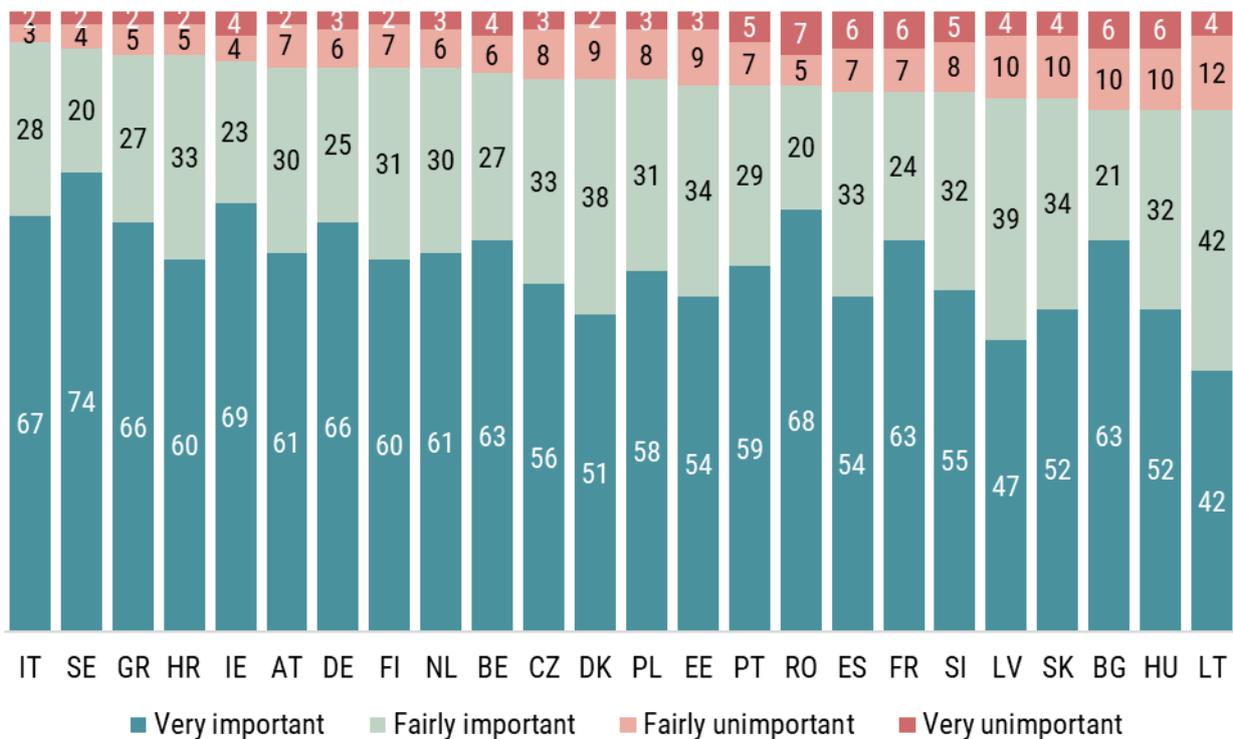




The majority of respondents agree that reducing crime levels is an important issue in their country. Agreement with the importance of this issue is most frequent in Italy (95%), Sweden (94%), and Greece and Croatia (93% each). The lowest proportions of respondents who consider reducing crime levels to be an important issue are observed in Lithuania, Hungary, and Bulgaria (84% each).

Fig. 5.12. Importance of reducing crime (%)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country?

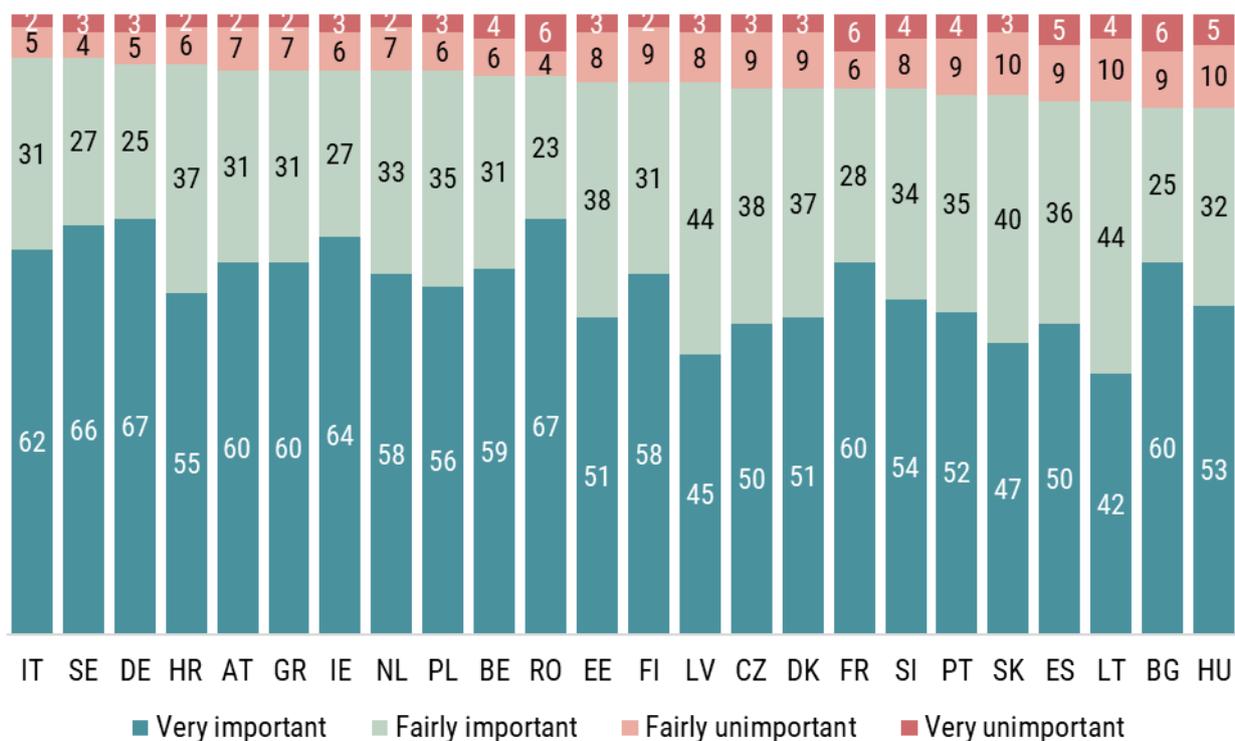




Respondents in all countries note the importance of maintaining public order. Overall, between 85% and 93% of respondents indicated that this issue is important in their country. The importance of this issue is most frequently reported in Italy and Sweden (93% each), Germany and Croatia (92% each), Austria, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Poland (91% each), and Belgium (90%). The highest proportions of respondents who consider this issue unimportant are found in Hungary and Bulgaria (15% each), and in Lithuania and Spain (14%).

Fig. 5.13. Importance of maintaining public order (%)

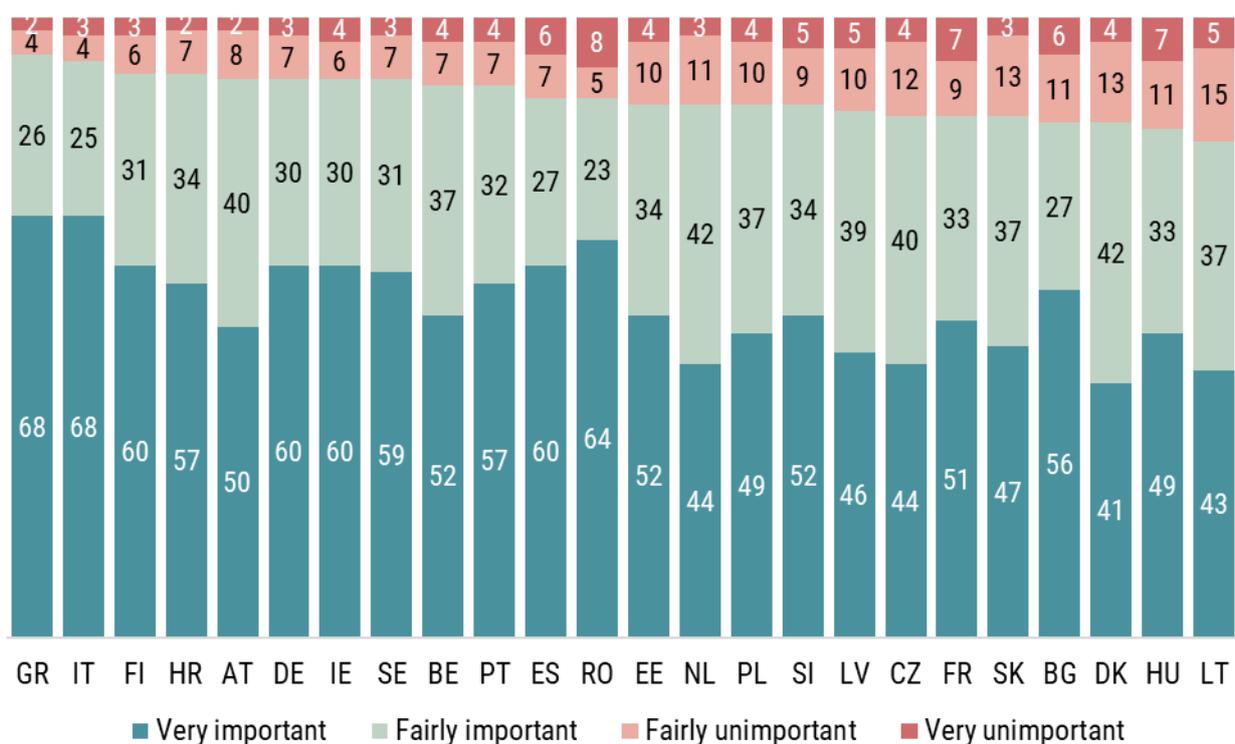
What is the importance of the following problems in your country?



Respondents consider reducing unemployment levels in their country to be an important issue. This issue is perceived as most acute in Greece (94%) and Italy (93%). Concern about this issue is lower in Lithuania (where 20% consider it unimportant), Hungary (18%), and Denmark and Bulgaria (17% each).

Fig. 5.14. Importance of reducing unemployment (%)

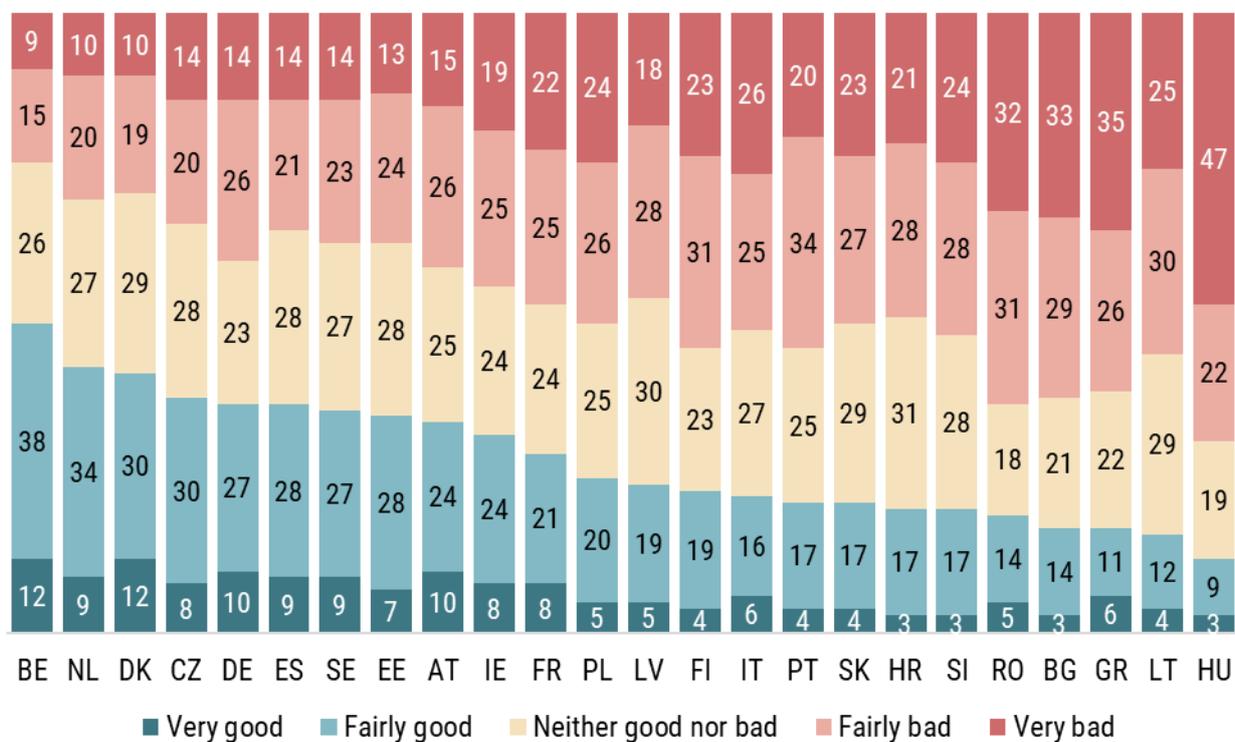
What is the importance of the following problems in your country?



Respondents were asked to assess the performance of the national government across various policy areas. With regard to the effectiveness of the provision of medical care, respondents' views are divided. The most positive evaluations of the public healthcare system are reported in Belgium (50%), followed by the Netherlands (43%) and Denmark (42%). At the same time, negative assessments of the healthcare system prevail in many countries. The highest shares of negative evaluations are observed in Hungary (69%), Romania (63%), Bulgaria (62%), and Greece (61%).

Fig. 5.15. Performance in providing health care for the sick (%)

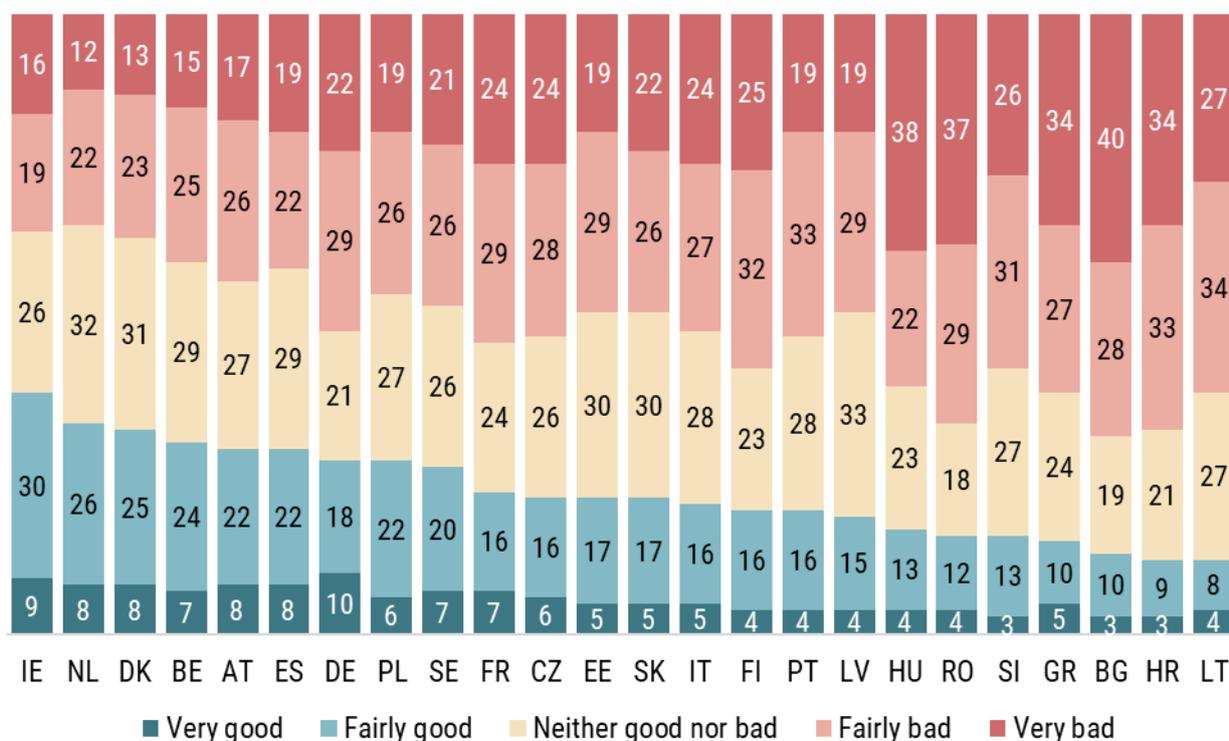
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Respondents tend to rate the effectiveness of ensuring a decent standard of living for older people rather poorly on average. The most positive evaluations are reported in Ireland (39%), the Netherlands (34%), and Denmark (33%). The highest proportions of negative evaluations are observed in Bulgaria (68%), Croatia (67%), and Romania (66%).

Fig. 5.16. Performance in providing a decent standard of living for the elderly (%)

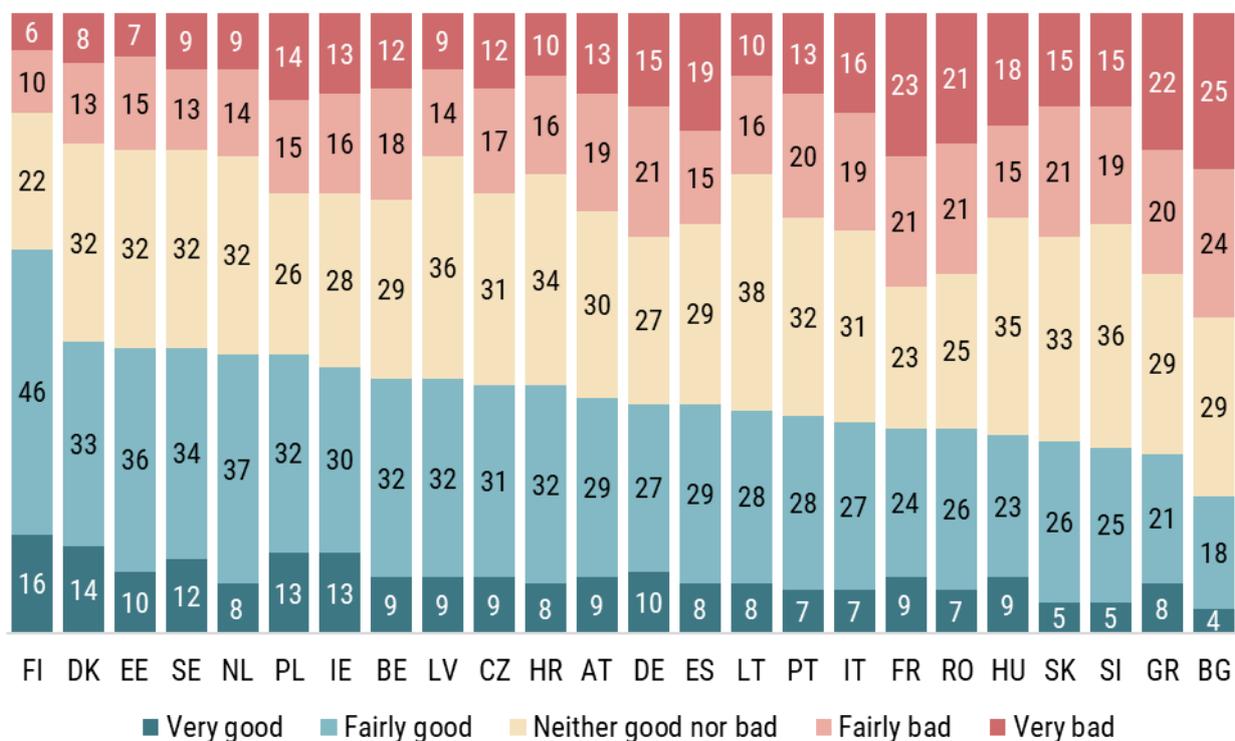
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Respondents were asked to assess the effectiveness of their national government’s performance in the area of public safety. This domain receives the most positive evaluations in Finland (62%). In other countries, government performance in this area is rated less favourably. The highest proportions of negative evaluations are recorded in Bulgaria (49%), France (44%), and Romania and Greece (42% each).

Fig. 5.17. Performance in protecting this country's security (%)

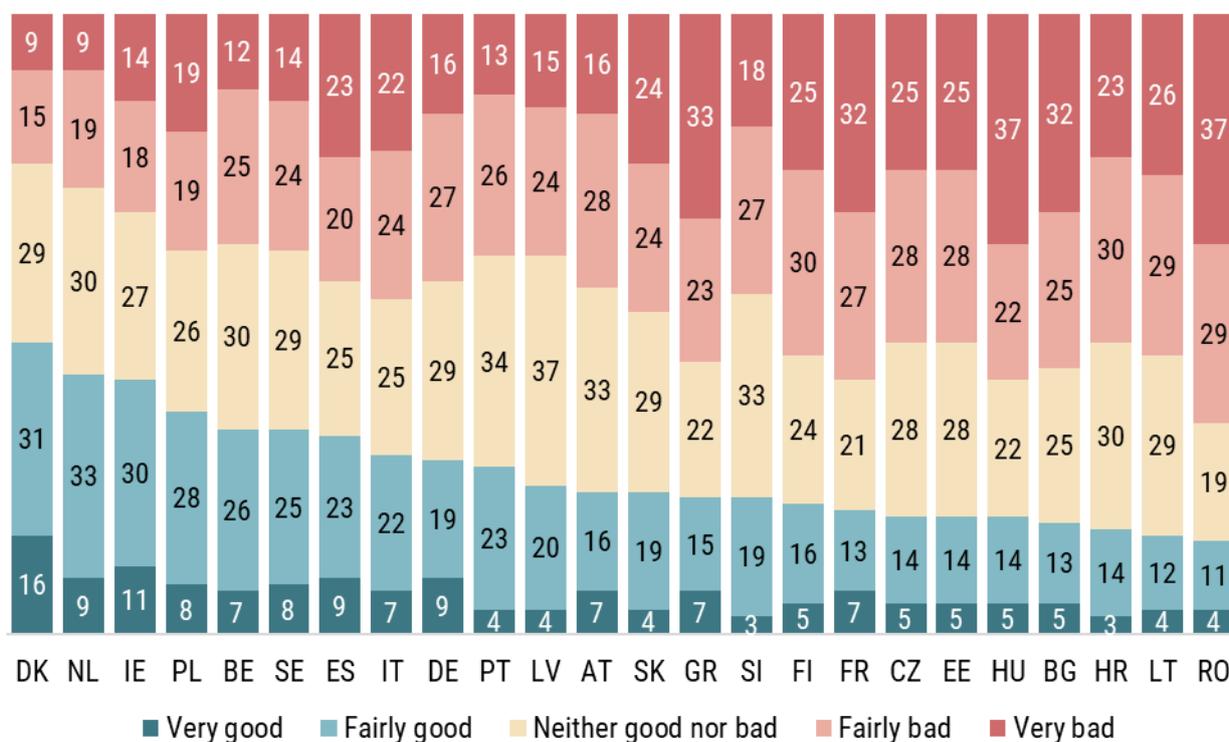
How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?



Respondents assessed the performance of the national government in improving the effectiveness of economic governance. The highest shares of positive evaluations are observed in Denmark (47%), the Netherlands (42%), and Ireland (41%). In all other countries, negative assessments predominate. The greatest dissatisfaction with government performance in economic management is recorded in Romania (66%), France and Hungary (59% each), Bulgaria (57%), Greece (56%), and Finland (55%).

Fig. 5.18. Performance in managing the economy (%)

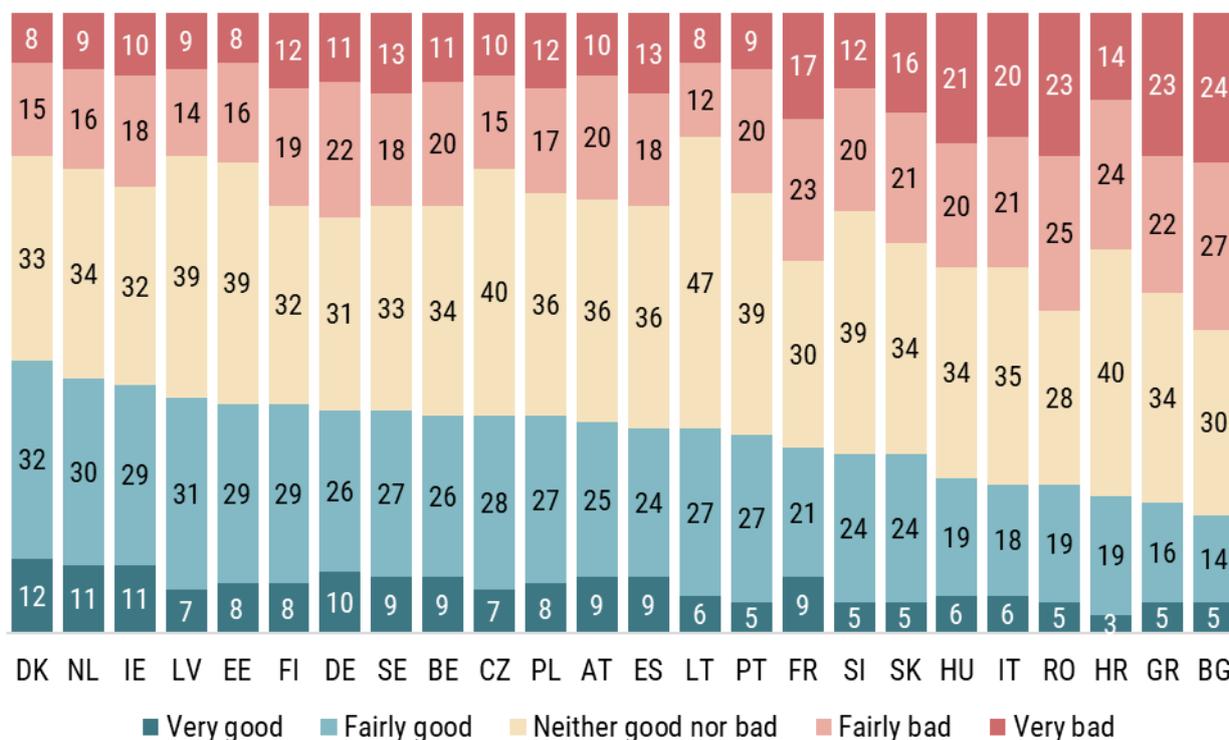
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Respondents' views on the national government's performance in the area of environmental protection are divided. In Denmark (44%), the Netherlands (41%), Ireland (40%), and Latvia (38%), a larger share of respondents evaluate government efforts in this domain positively. By contrast, in Bulgaria (51%), Romania (48%), Greece (45%), Hungary and Italy (41% each), and France (40%), respondents predominantly express negative assessments. Overall, across countries, approximately 30–40% of respondents report difficulty in providing a clear evaluation of government performance in this area.

Fig. 5.19. Performance in protecting the environment (%)

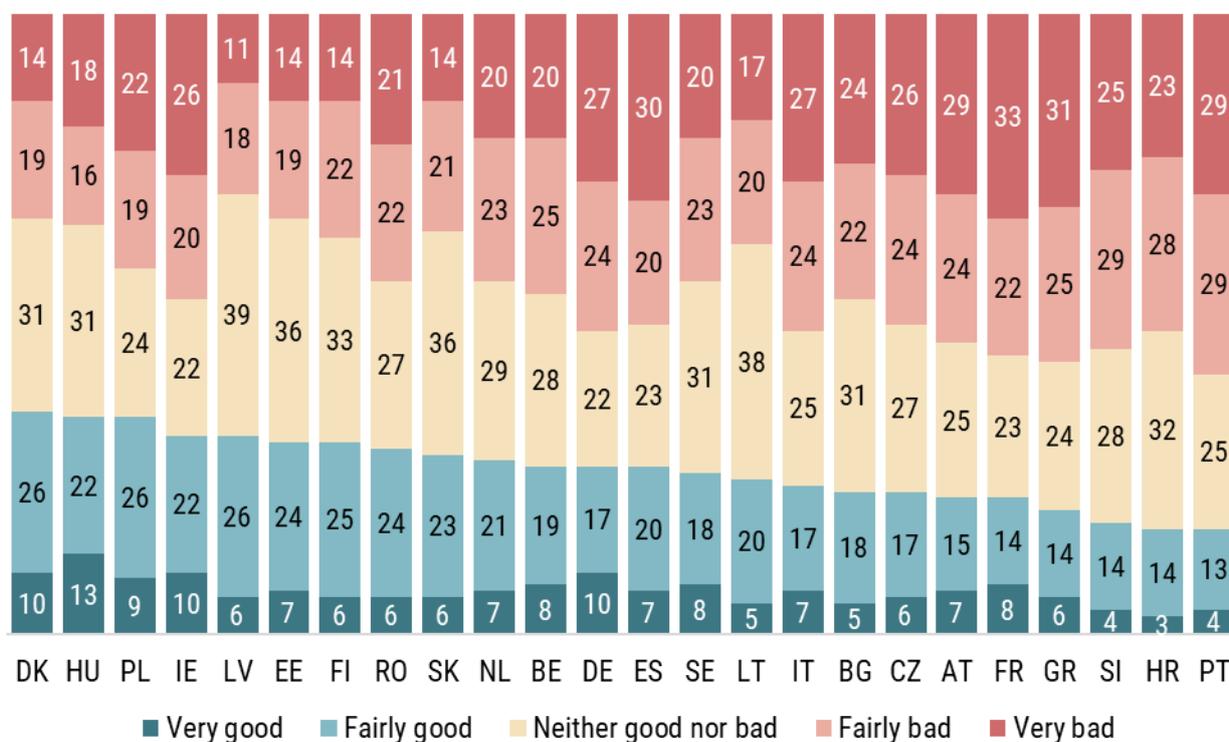
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Respondents tend to rate the effectiveness of national government performance in the regulation of immigration rather poorly. The most positive evaluations of government action in this area are reported in Denmark (36%) and in Hungary and Poland (35% each). By contrast, negative assessments of government performance in immigration regulation are most prevalent in Portugal (58%), Greece (56%), France (55%), Slovenia (54%), Austria (53%), and Germany (51%).

Fig. 5.20. Performance in managing immigration (%)

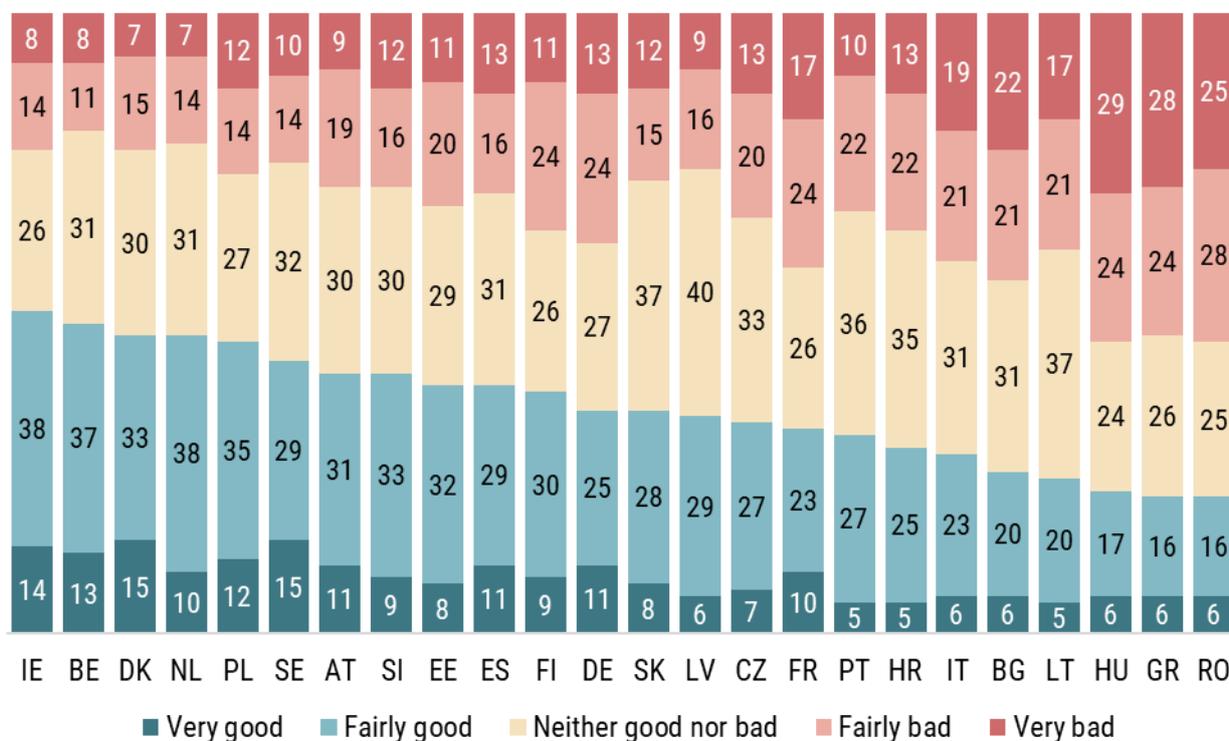
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Respondents generally evaluate the effectiveness of national government performance in supporting the operation of public schools and universities more positively. The highest evaluations of government action in this area are reported in Ireland (52%), Belgium (50%), Denmark and the Netherlands (48% each), and Poland (47%). Negative assessments of this policy area are most common in Hungary and Romania (53% each) and Greece (52%).

Fig. 5.21. Performance in maintaining public schools and universities (%)

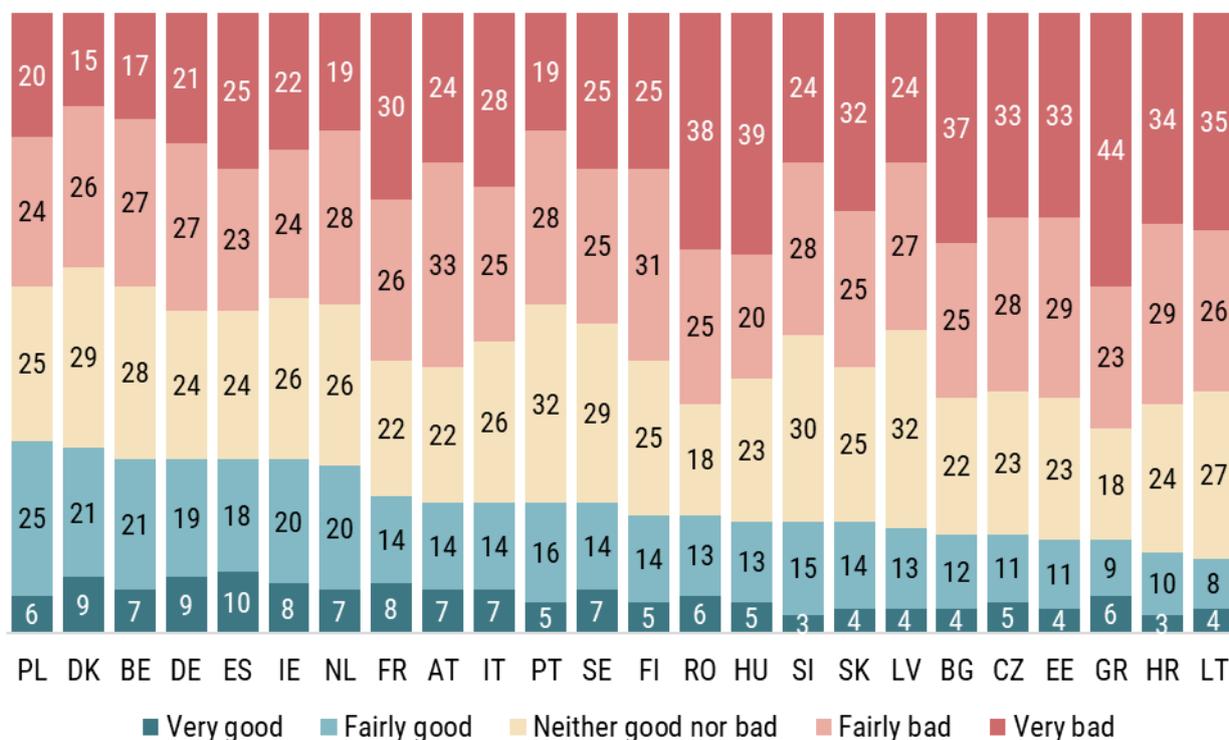
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Respondents predominantly assess the effectiveness of national government performance in controlling price levels negatively. The most positive evaluations of this area are reported in Poland (31%) and Denmark (30%); however, even in these countries, a majority of respondents provide negative assessments. The most critical evaluations of government performance in price control are observed in Greece (67%), Romania and Croatia (63% each), Bulgaria and Estonia (62% each), Lithuania and the Czech Republic (61% each), Hungary (59%), Austria (57%), and France (56%).

Fig. 5.22. Performance in keeping prices under control (%)

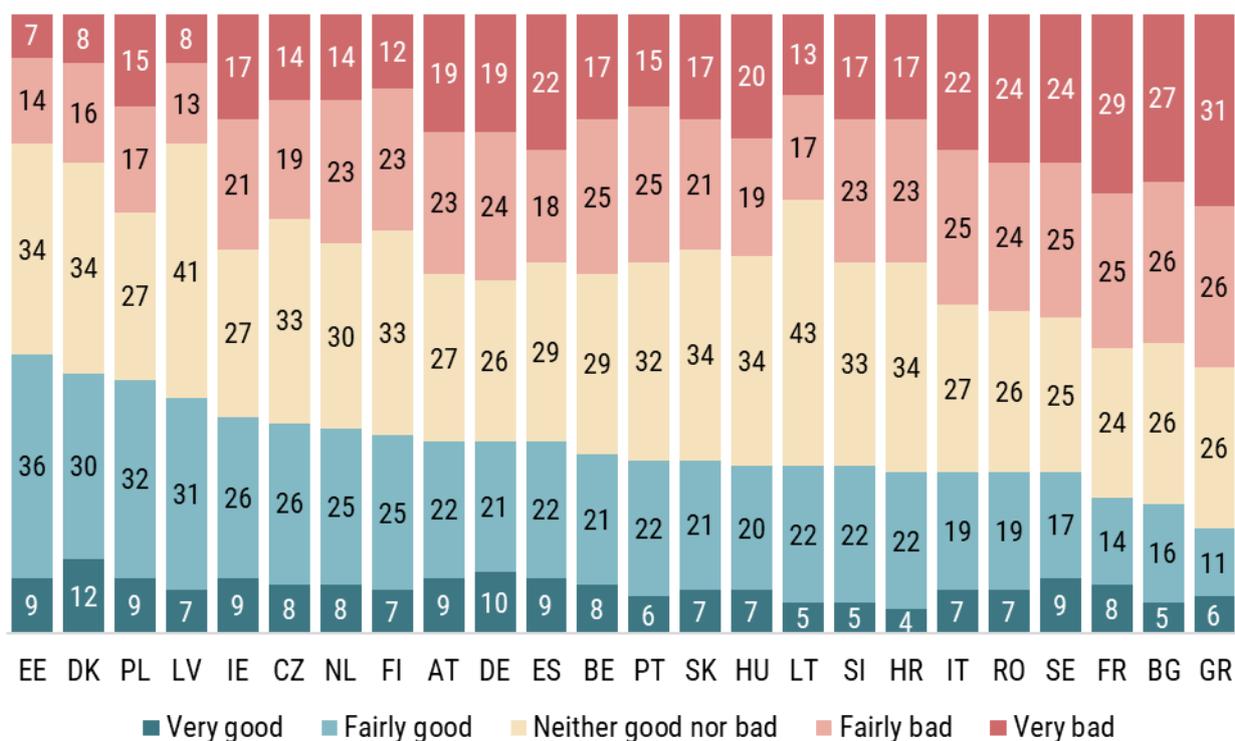
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Respondents' assessments of national government performance in reducing crime vary across countries. This area of government activity receives relatively high evaluations in Estonia (45%), Denmark (42%), Poland (41%), and Latvia (38%). By contrast, the most negative evaluations of government efforts to reduce crime are observed in Greece (57%), France (54%), Bulgaria (53%), Sweden (49%), Romania (48%), and Italy (47%).

Fig. 5.23. Performance in reducing crime (%)

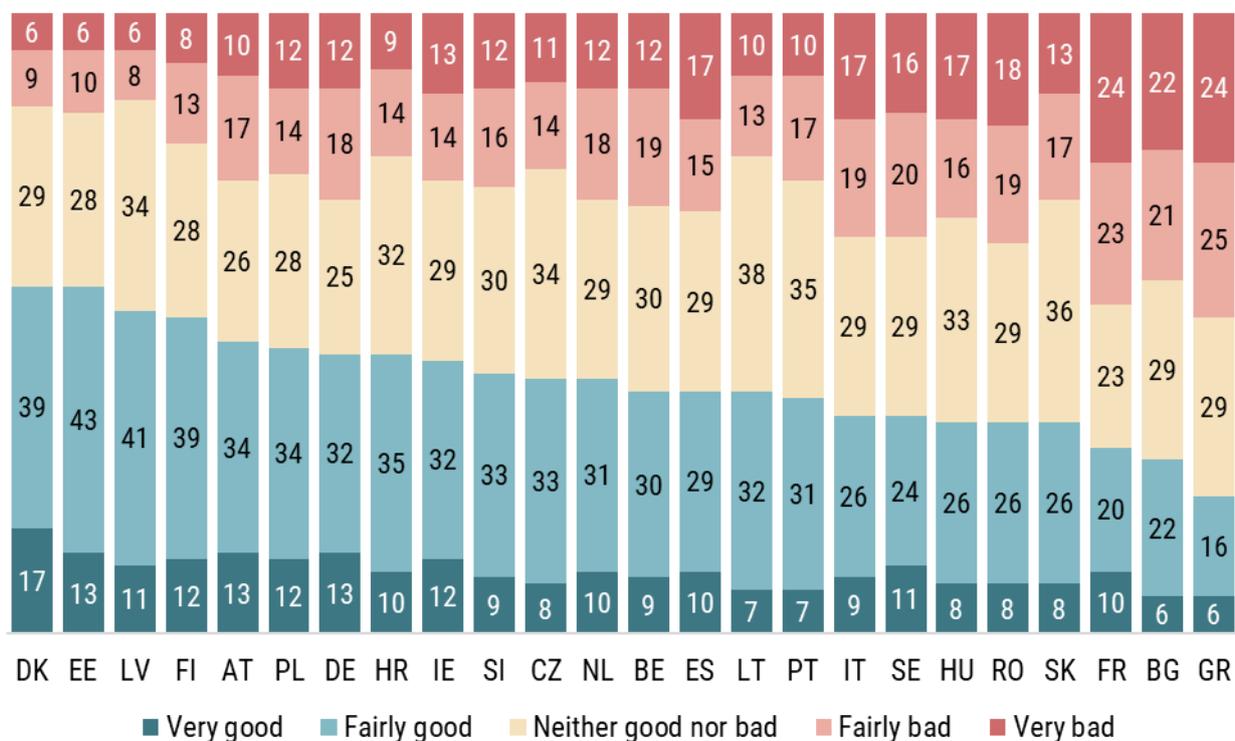
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Respondents generally assess the effectiveness of national government efforts to maintain public order rather positively. The highest evaluations of government performance in this area are reported in Denmark and Estonia (56% each), followed by Latvia (52%) and Finland (51%). Negative assessments of this aspect of government activity are most frequently expressed in Greece (49%), France (47%), Bulgaria (43%), and Romania (37%).

Fig. 5.24. Performance in maintaining public order (%)

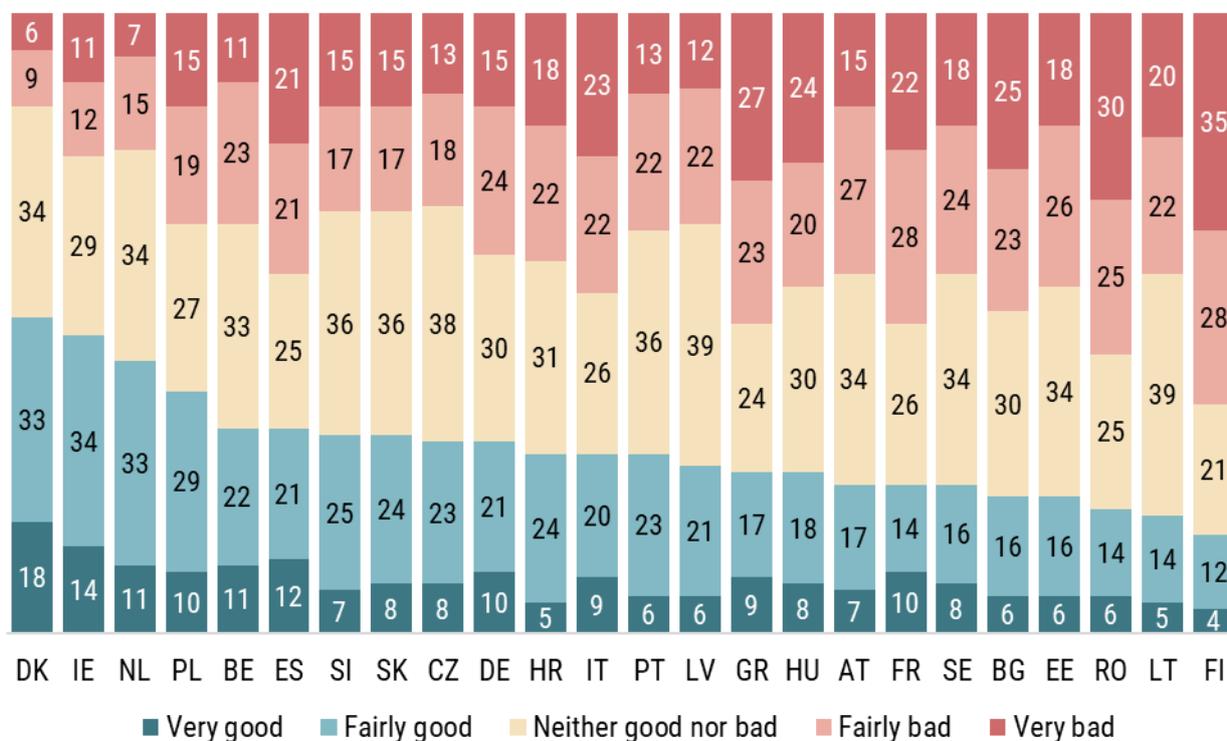
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Assessments of the effectiveness of government efforts to reduce unemployment vary across countries. Positive evaluations predominate in Denmark (51%), Ireland (48%), the Netherlands (44%), and Poland (39%). The highest proportions of negative evaluations of this aspect of national government performance are recorded in Finland (63%), Romania (55%), Greece and France (50% each), and Bulgaria (48%).

Fig. 5.25. Performance in reducing unemployment (%)

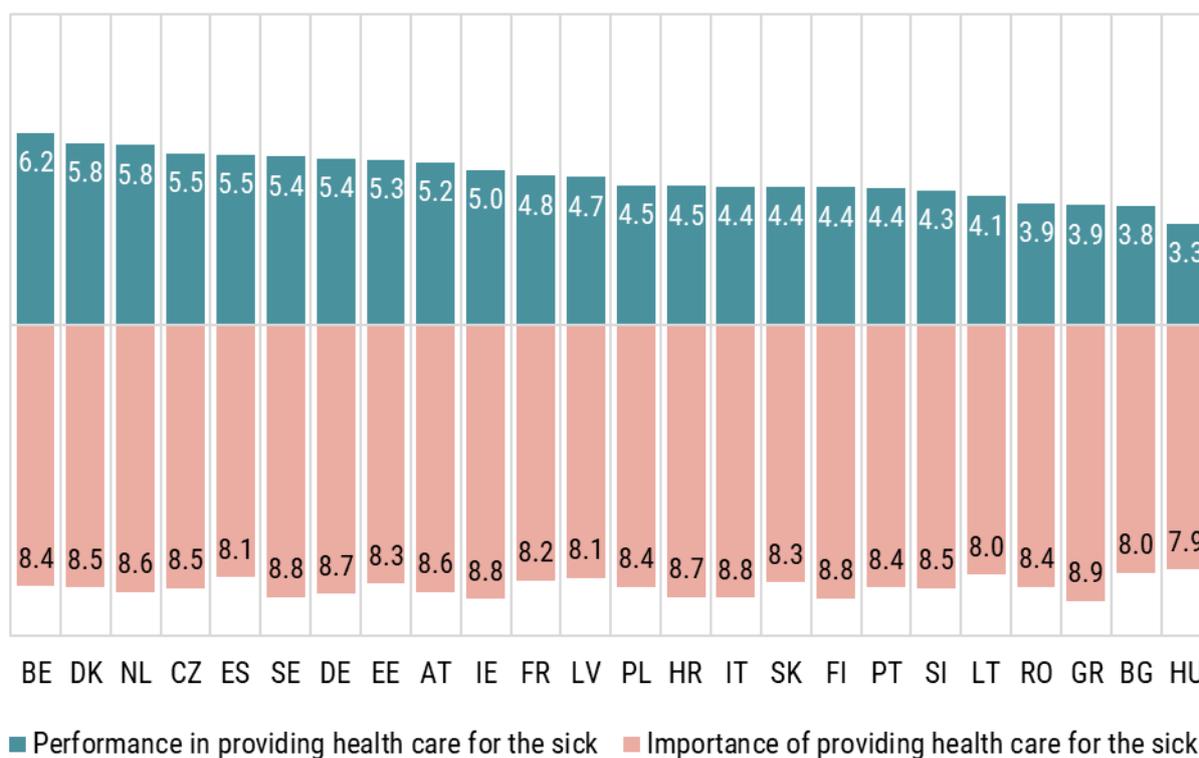
How would you evaluate the national government's performance in each of the following areas?



Across almost all countries, a substantial gap is observed between the perceived importance of healthcare and satisfaction with the quality of its provision. When comparing mean values on a 1–10 scale, the highest levels of perceived importance of healthcare are recorded in Greece (8.9), followed by Finland, Italy, Ireland, and Sweden (8.8 each). By contrast, evaluations of the effectiveness of the healthcare system are highest in Belgium (6.2), and in Denmark and the Netherlands (5.8 each).

Fig. 5.26. Importance of health care for the sick and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

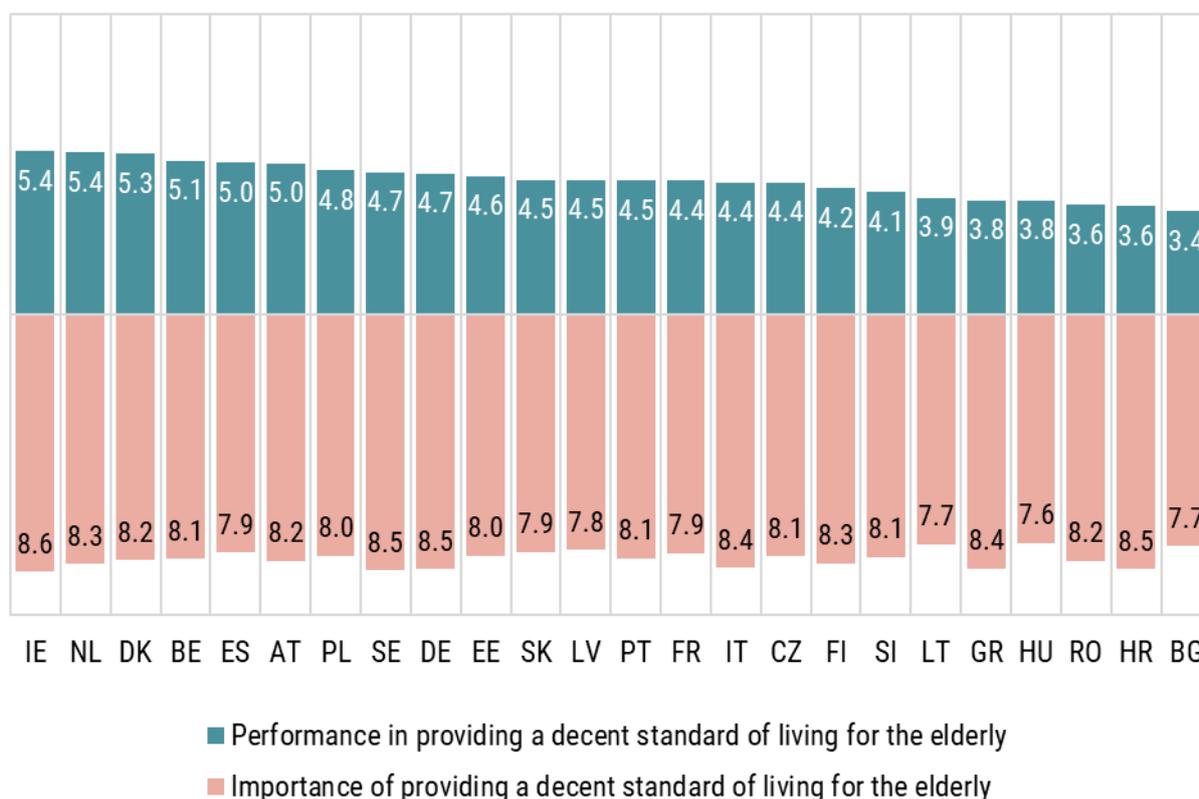


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Assessments of the importance of ensuring a decent standard of living for older people and of the effectiveness of its implementation differ substantially. While most respondents rate this issue as highly important, they consider its practical implementation to be considerably less effective. On a 1–10 scale, the importance of ensuring a decent standard of living for older people is rated highest in Ireland (8.6), followed by Sweden, Germany, and Croatia (8.5 each). Evaluations of effectiveness on the same scale are highest in Ireland and the Netherlands (5.4 each), as well as in Denmark (5.3) and Belgium (5.1).

Fig. 5.27. Importance of providing a decent standard of living for the elderly and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

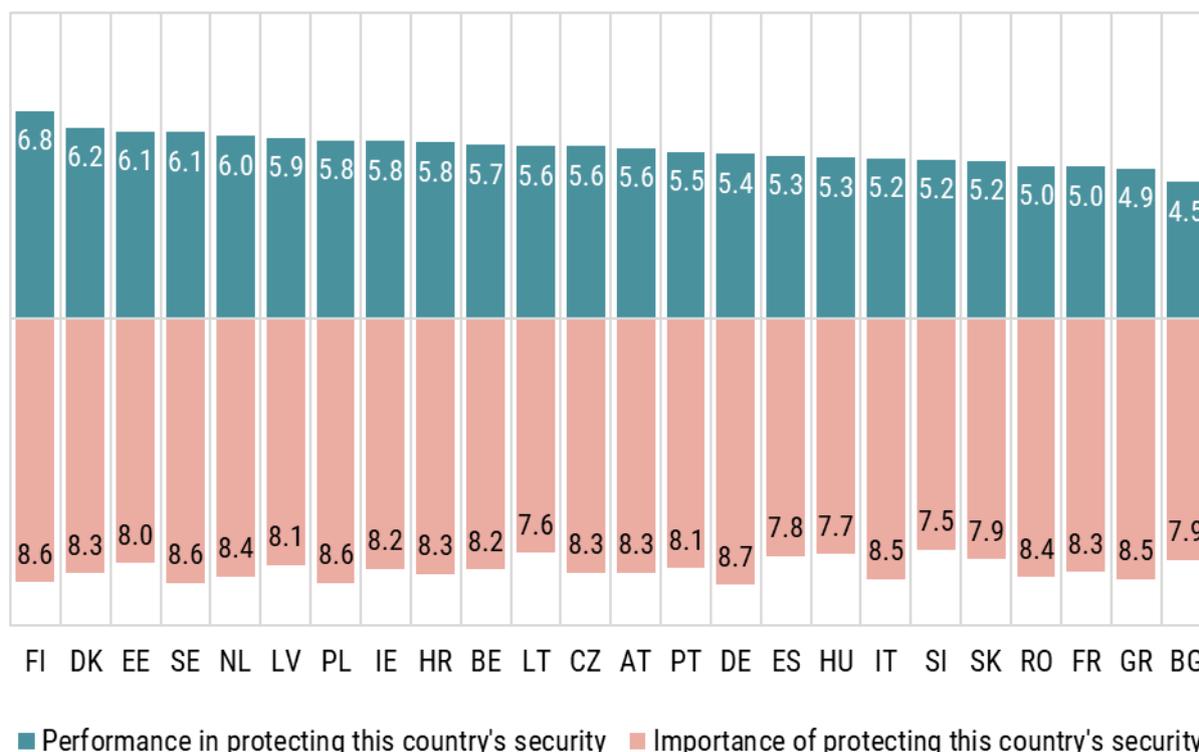


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

There is a pronounced gap between assessments of the importance of ensuring national security and evaluations of the national government’s performance in this area. The majority of respondents consider this issue to be highly important, while at the same time judging government action to be insufficiently effective. On a 1–10 scale, the importance of national security is rated highest in Germany (8.7), followed by Finland, Sweden, and Poland (8.6 each). Evaluations of government effectiveness in this domain are substantially lower: Germany (5.4), Finland (6.8), Sweden (6.1), and Poland (5.8).

Fig. 5.28. Importance of protecting this country's security and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

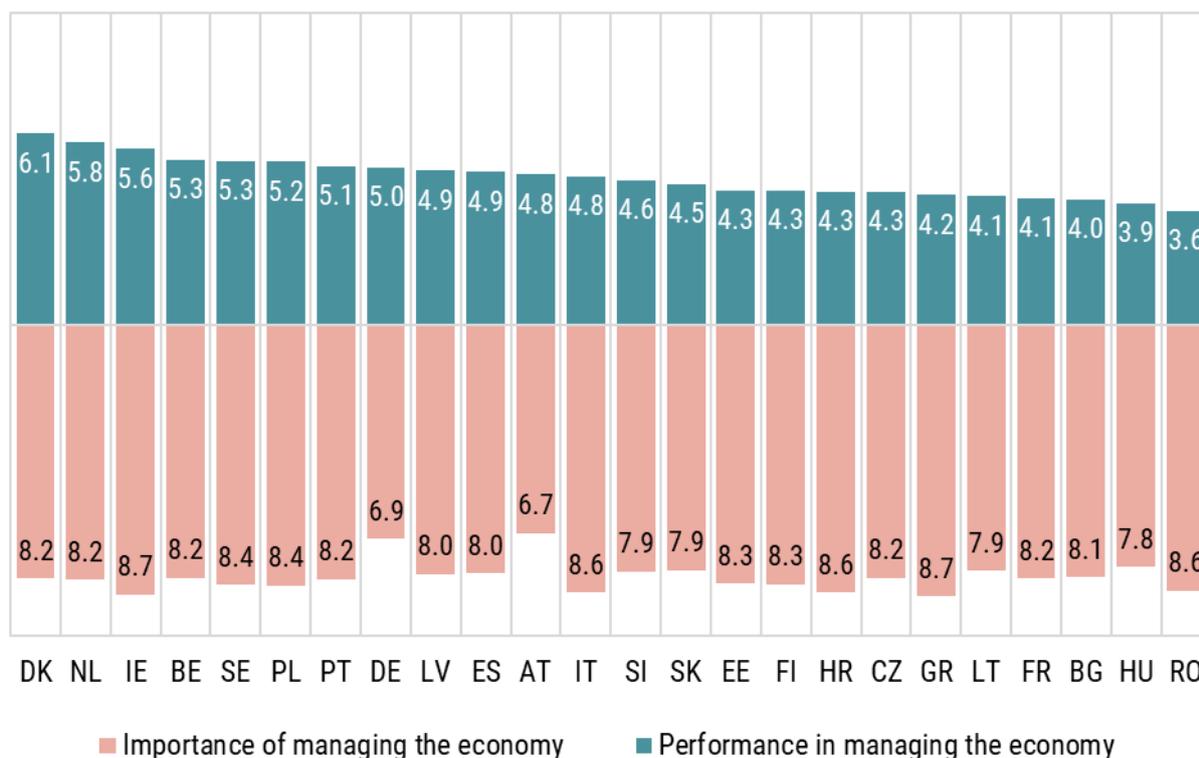


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Economic governance is regarded by respondents as an important area of government activity in all countries. On a 1–10 scale, its importance is rated between 8.0 and 8.7 in all countries except Germany (6.9) and Austria (6.7). By contrast, assessments of actual government performance in this area are considerably lower. The highest evaluation of government effectiveness in economic regulation is observed in Denmark (6.1), while the lowest is recorded in Romania (3.6).

Fig. 5.29. Importance of managing the economy and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

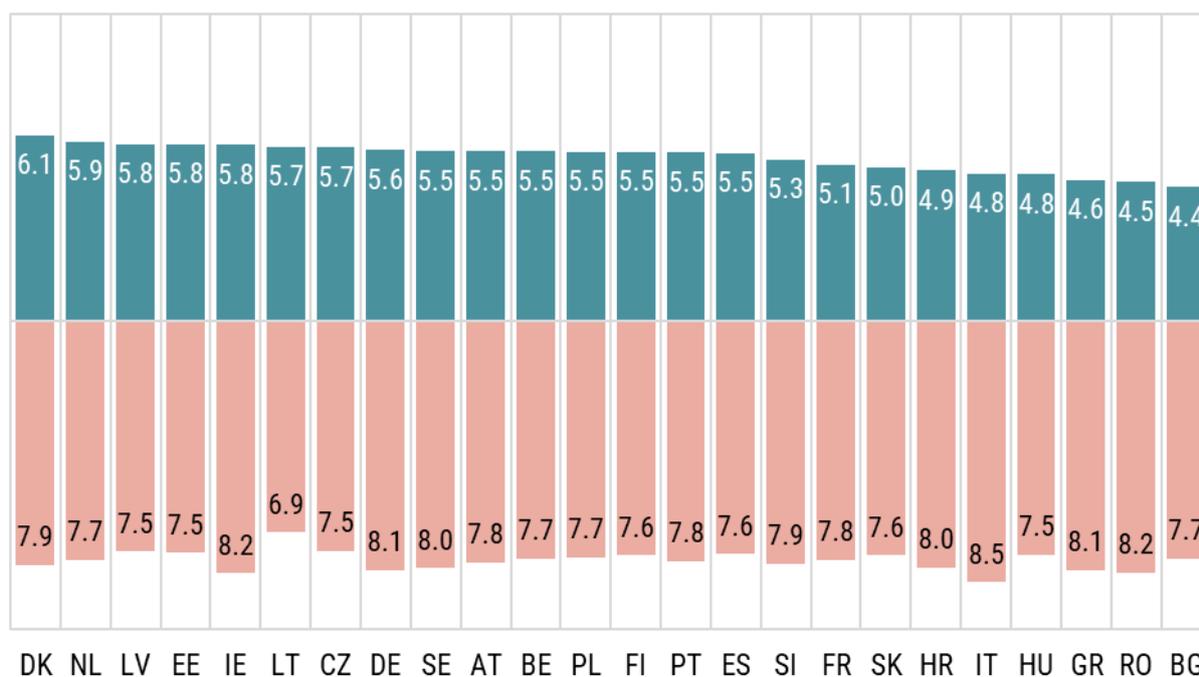


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Respondents indicate that environmental protection is an important issue, yet they evaluate government efforts in this area less favourably. While the importance of this issue is rated on average at around 7–8 points on a 1–10 scale, assessments of government performance in this domain range only between 4 and 6 points. The lowest evaluations of government performance in environmental protection are observed in Greece (4.6), Romania (4.5), and Bulgaria (4.4).

Fig. 5.30. Importance of protecting the environment and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?



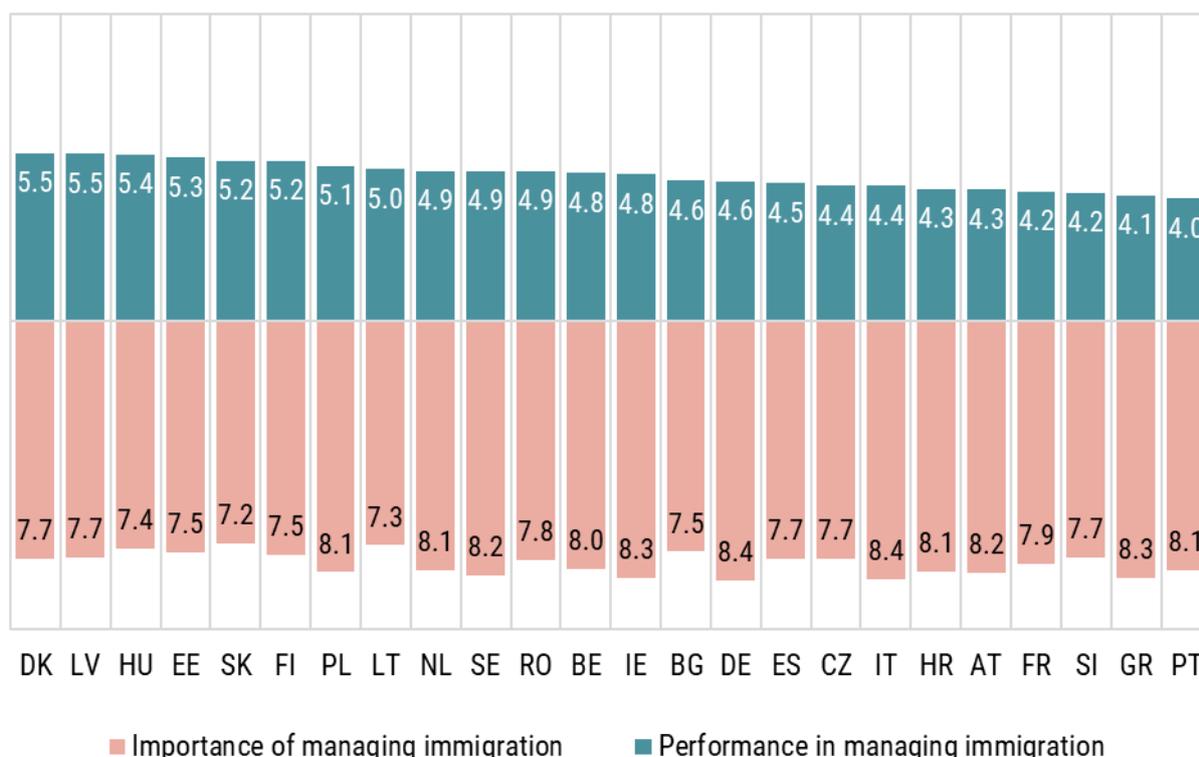
■ Importance of protecting the environment ■ Performance in protecting the environment

* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Respondents emphasise the importance of regulating immigration, yet they rate the effectiveness of national government action in this area rather low, at between 4.0 and 5.5 points on a 1–10 scale. The most favourable evaluations are observed in Denmark and Latvia (5.5 each) and in Hungary (5.4). The lowest assessments of government performance in this domain are recorded in France and Slovenia (4.2 each), Greece (4.1), and Portugal (4.0).

Fig. 5.31. Importance of managing immigration and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

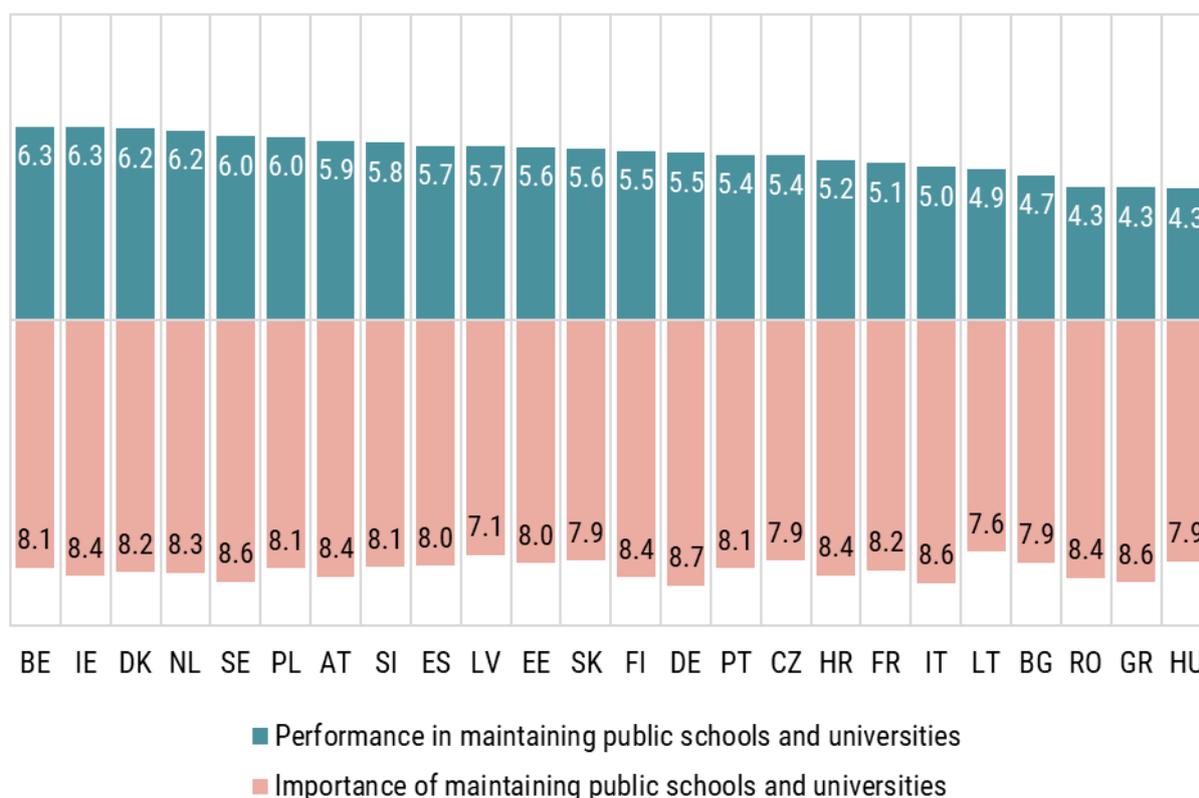


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Respondents consider the maintenance of public schools and universities to be an important issue, with its importance rated from 8.7 points in Germany to 7.1 points in Latvia on a 1–10 scale. By contrast, evaluations of government performance in this area are substantially lower, ranging from 4.3 points in Hungary to 6.3 points in Belgium.

Fig. 5.32. Importance of maintaining public schools and universities and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

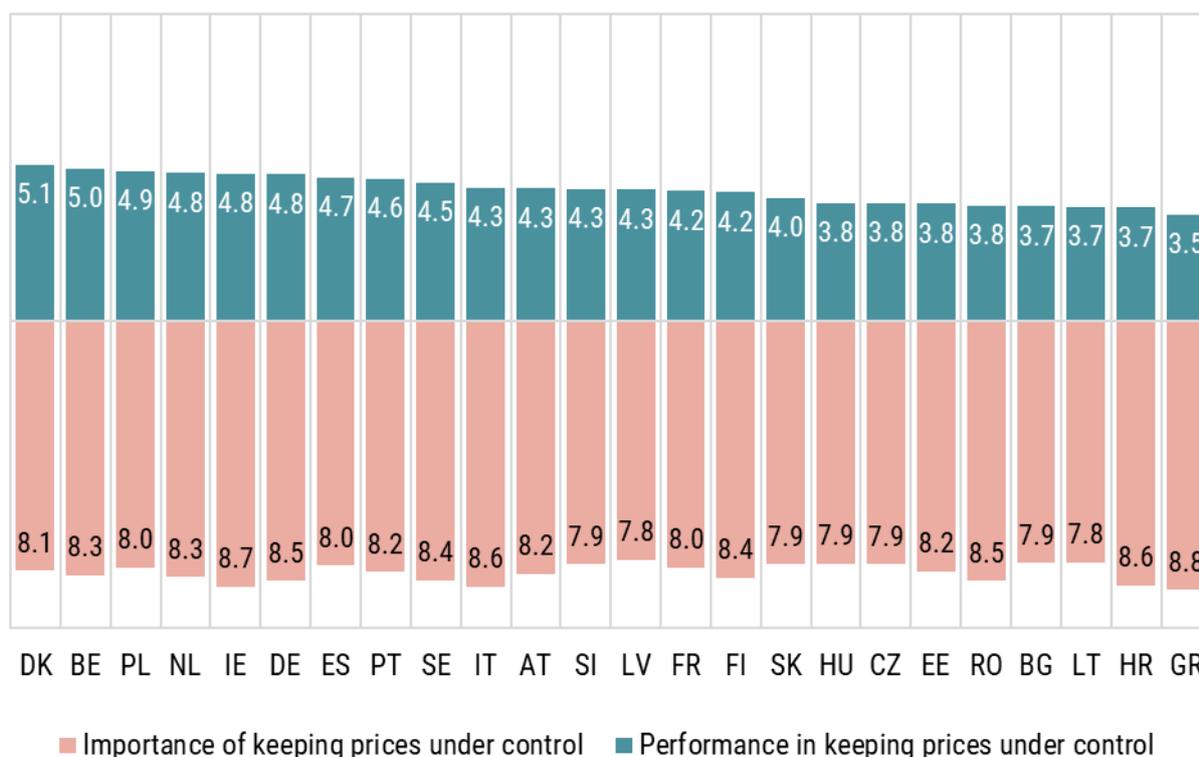


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Respondents view price control as an important issue in their country, yet they rate national government efforts to regulate prices rather poorly, with effectiveness scores ranging from 3.5 to 5.1 points on a 1–10 scale. In Greece, the importance of this issue is rated higher on average than in other countries; at the same time, government performance in price regulation is assessed at the minimum level of 3.5 points out of 10.

Fig. 5.33. Importance of keeping prices under control and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

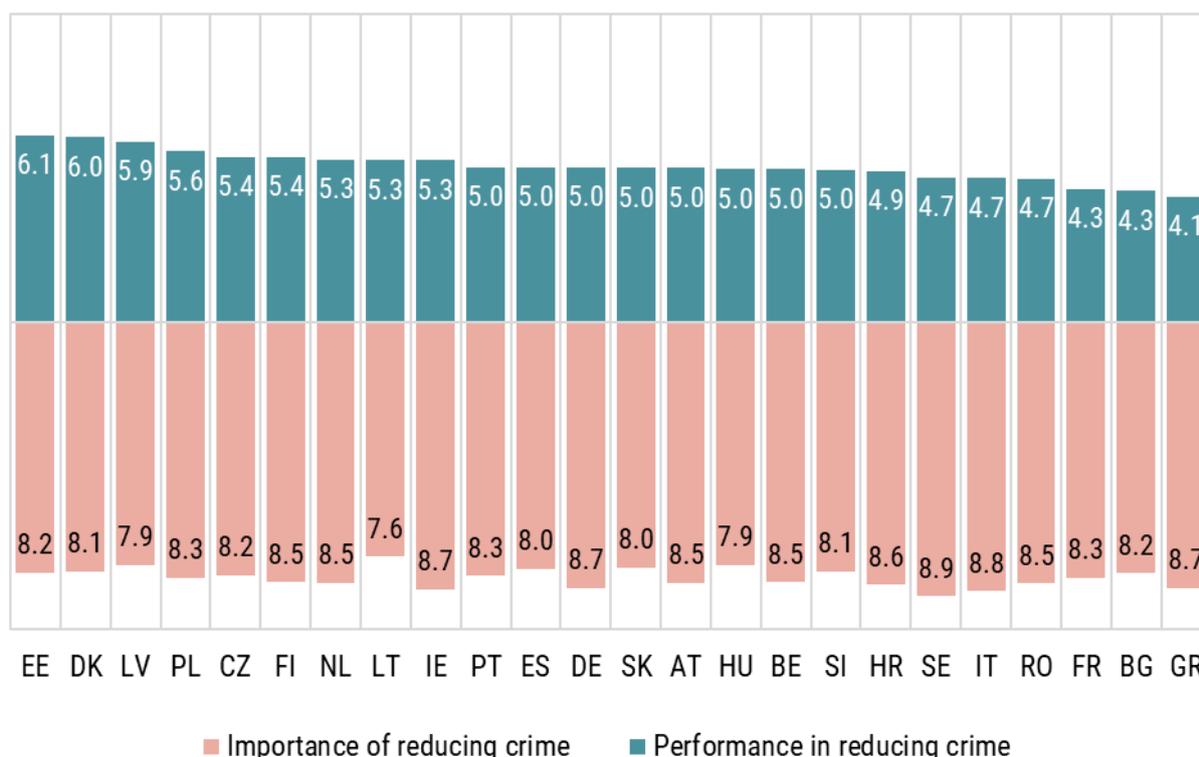


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Reducing crime is regarded as an important issue in all countries. On a 1–10 scale, the importance of this issue is rated from 7.6 in Lithuania to 8.9 in Sweden. By contrast, evaluations of government effectiveness in reducing crime are relatively low. The highest assessment of government efforts in this area is observed in Estonia (6.1), while the lowest is recorded in Greece (4.1).

Fig. 5.34. Importance of reducing crime and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

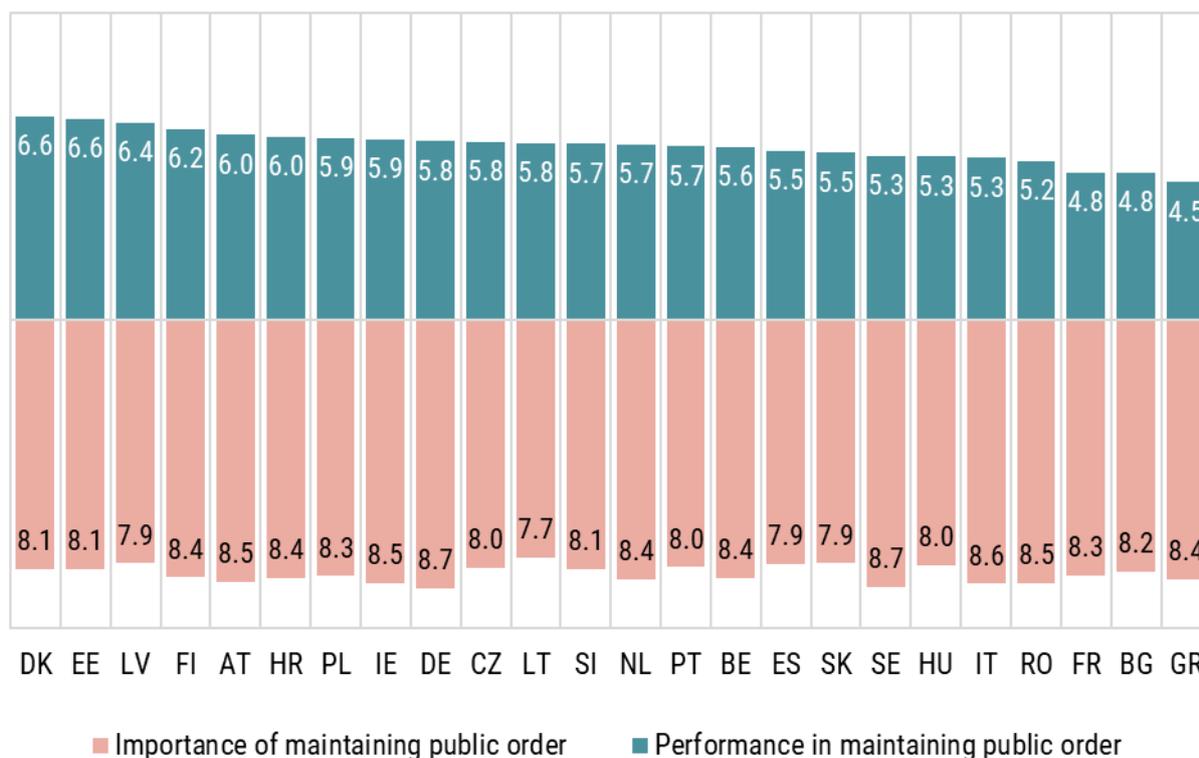


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Respondents emphasise the importance of maintaining public order. On a 1–10 scale, assessments of the importance of this issue range from 7.7 in Lithuania to 8.7 in Germany and Sweden. By contrast, evaluations of government effectiveness in maintaining public order are considerably lower. The highest assessments of government performance in this area are recorded in Denmark and Estonia (6.6 each), while the lowest are observed in France and Bulgaria (4.8 each) and Greece (4.5).

Fig. 5.35. Importance of maintaining public order and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

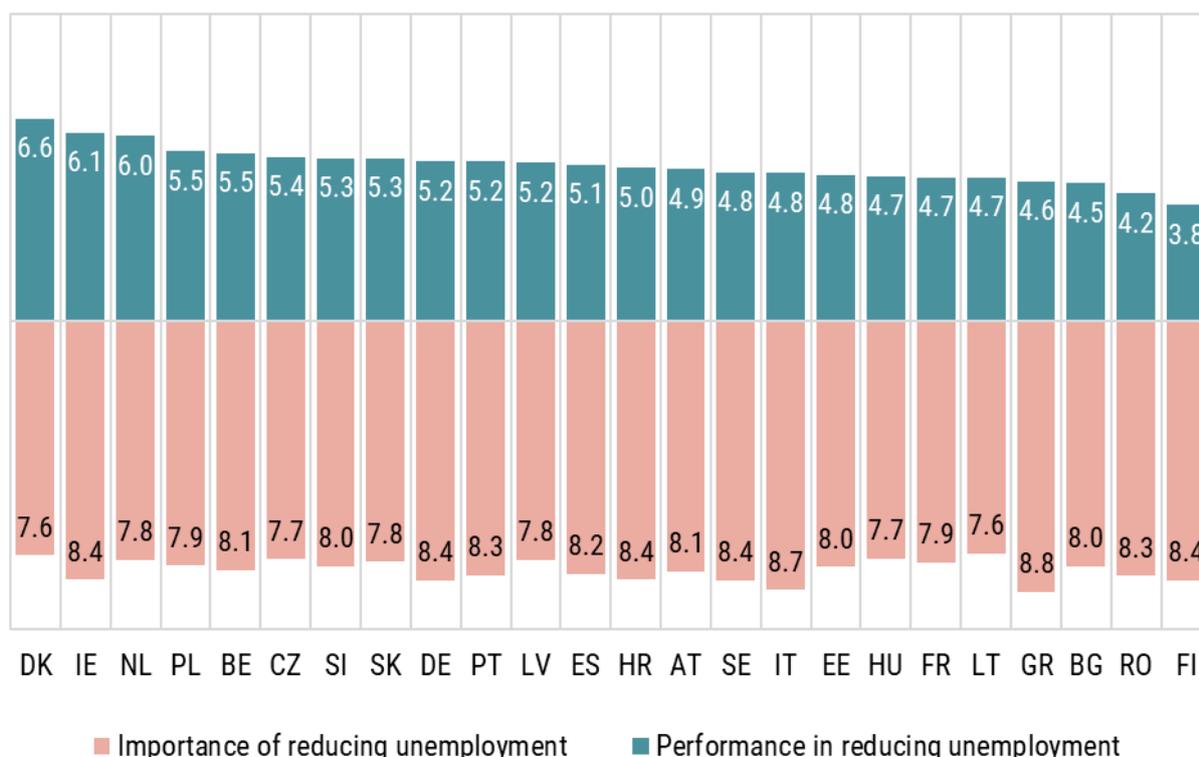


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Reducing unemployment is regarded by EU citizens as a salient and important issue. On a 1–10 scale, the importance of this problem is rated between 7.6 and 8.8 points. By contrast, evaluations of government effectiveness in reducing unemployment are relatively low. Government performance in this area is rated most favourably in Denmark (6.6), while the lowest evaluations are recorded in Romania (4.2) and Finland (3.8).

Fig. 5.36. Importance of reducing unemployment and national government’s performance in this area (mean)

What is the importance of the following problems in your country? How would you evaluate the national government’s performance in each of the following areas?

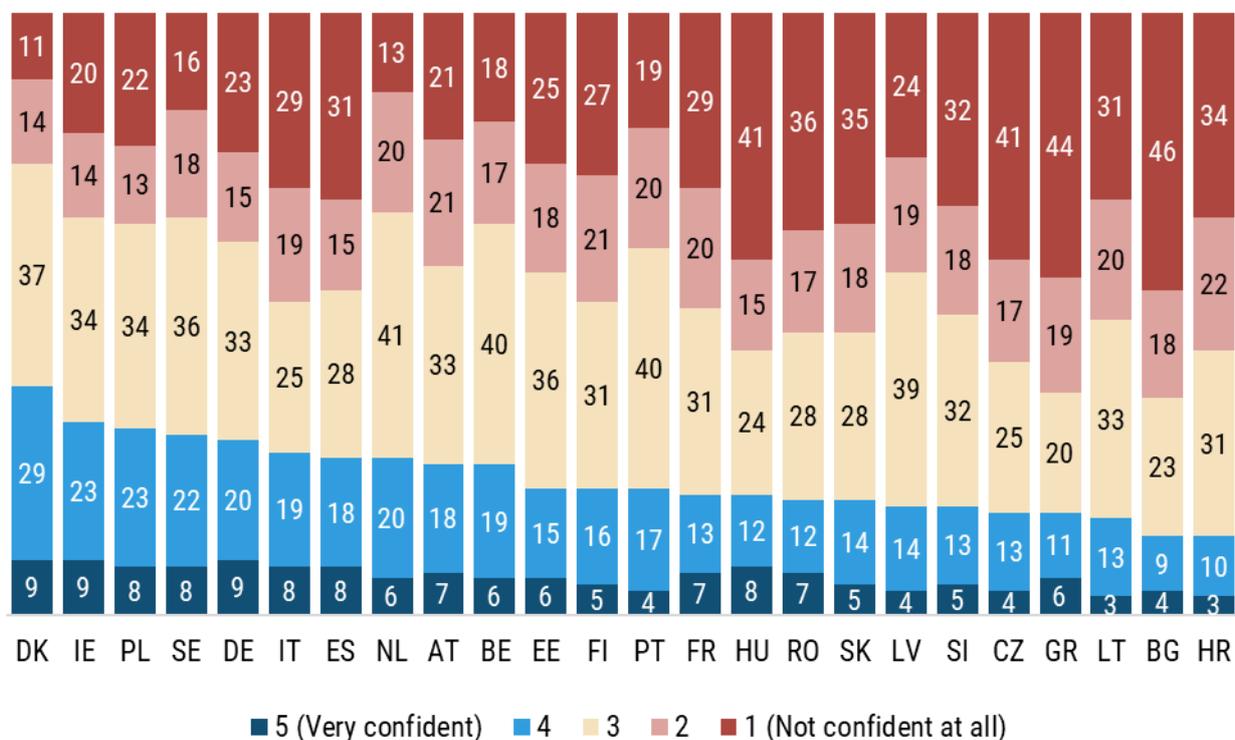


* The graph shows the average values on a ten-point scale for importance (where 1 means very unimportant and 10 means very important) and performance (where 1 means very bad and 10 means very good).

Respondents were asked how confident they are in their government’s ability to address complex policy issues in the interests of society. Overall, levels of confidence are low: in only three countries do more than one third of citizens express trust in their government’s capacity to handle such issues. The highest levels of confidence are observed in Denmark (38%), Ireland (32%), and Poland (31%). The lowest levels of confidence are recorded in Bulgaria and Croatia (13% each), Lithuania (16%), and Greece (17%).

Fig. 5.37. National government's ability to handle complex policy issues in the public's best interest (%)

How confident are you in the government’s ability to handle complex policy issues in the public’s best interest?



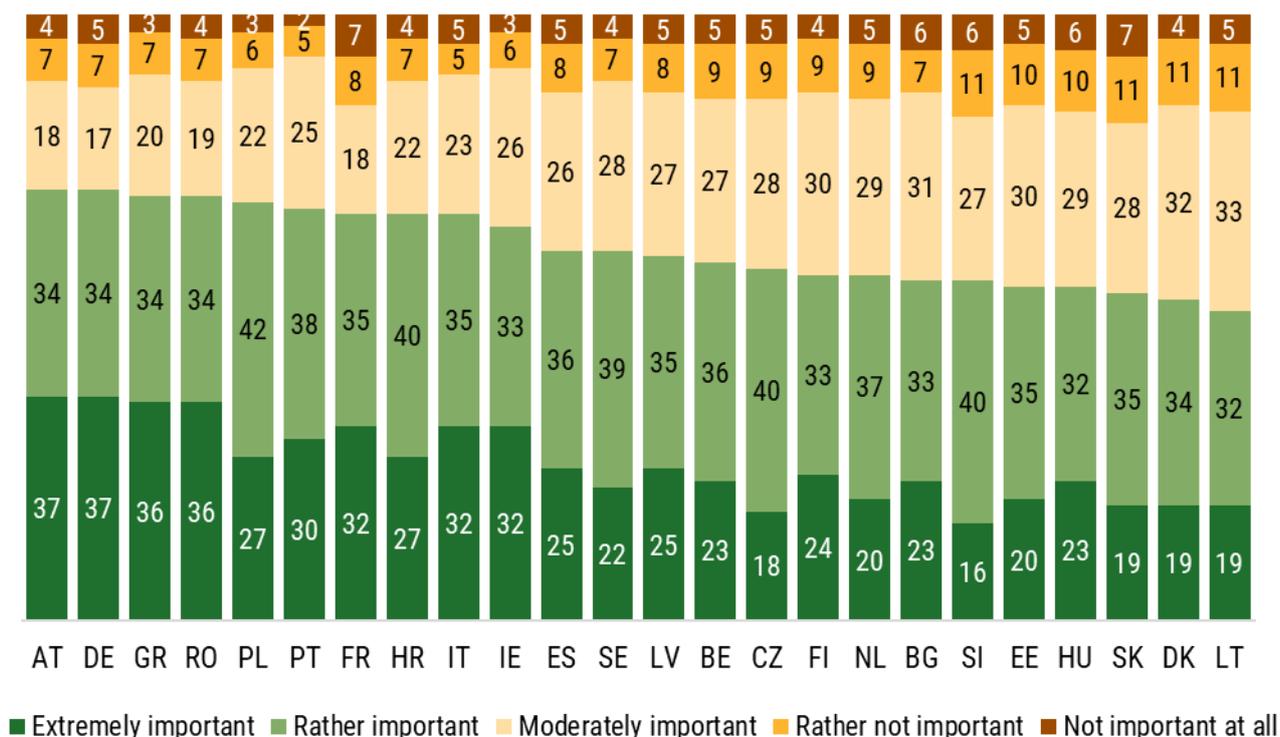
6. DEMOCRATIC PREFERENCES AND POPULIST ATTITUDES

Support for Democratic Integrity Policies

Majority of respondents consider civic education in schools to be important for improving understanding of political rights. Agreement that it is very or fairly important is most common in Austria and Germany (71% each), as well as in Greece and Romania (70% each). These response options are selected less frequently in Lithuania (51%), Denmark (53%), and Slovakia (54%). On average, between 18% and 33% of respondents regard such a policy as moderately important. Only a small share of respondents consider civic education in schools to be unimportant, with the highest proportions observed in Slovakia (18%), Slovenia (17%), Lithuania and Hungary (16% each), and France and Estonia (15% each).

Fig. 6.1. Important or not important: civic education in schools to improve understanding of political rights (%)

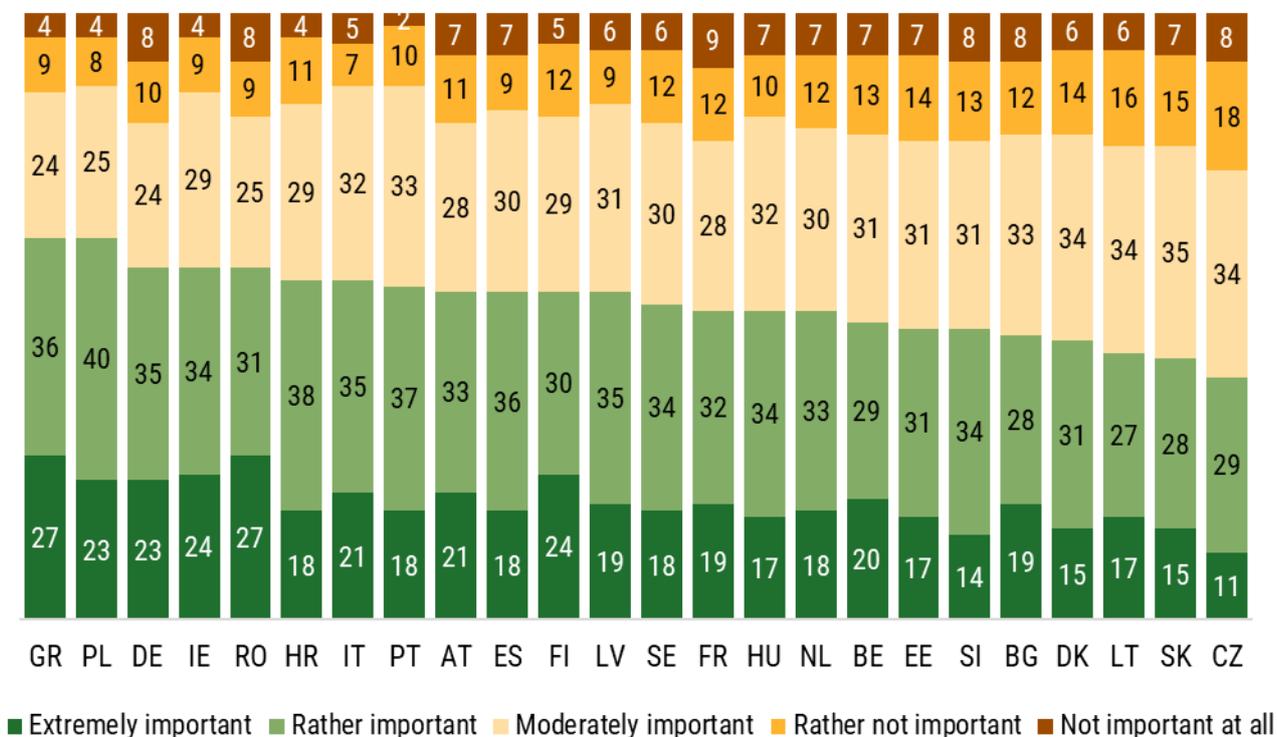
How important or not important the following policies are in your option?



Respondents are more likely to agree that free programmes helping citizens to assess political news and information are important. The importance of such programmes is emphasised most strongly by respondents in Greece and Poland (63% each). By contrast, the highest proportions of respondents who consider such programmes to be unimportant are observed in the Czech Republic (26%) and in Slovakia and Lithuania (22% each).

Fig. 6.2. Important or not important: free programs to help citizens evaluate political news and information (%)

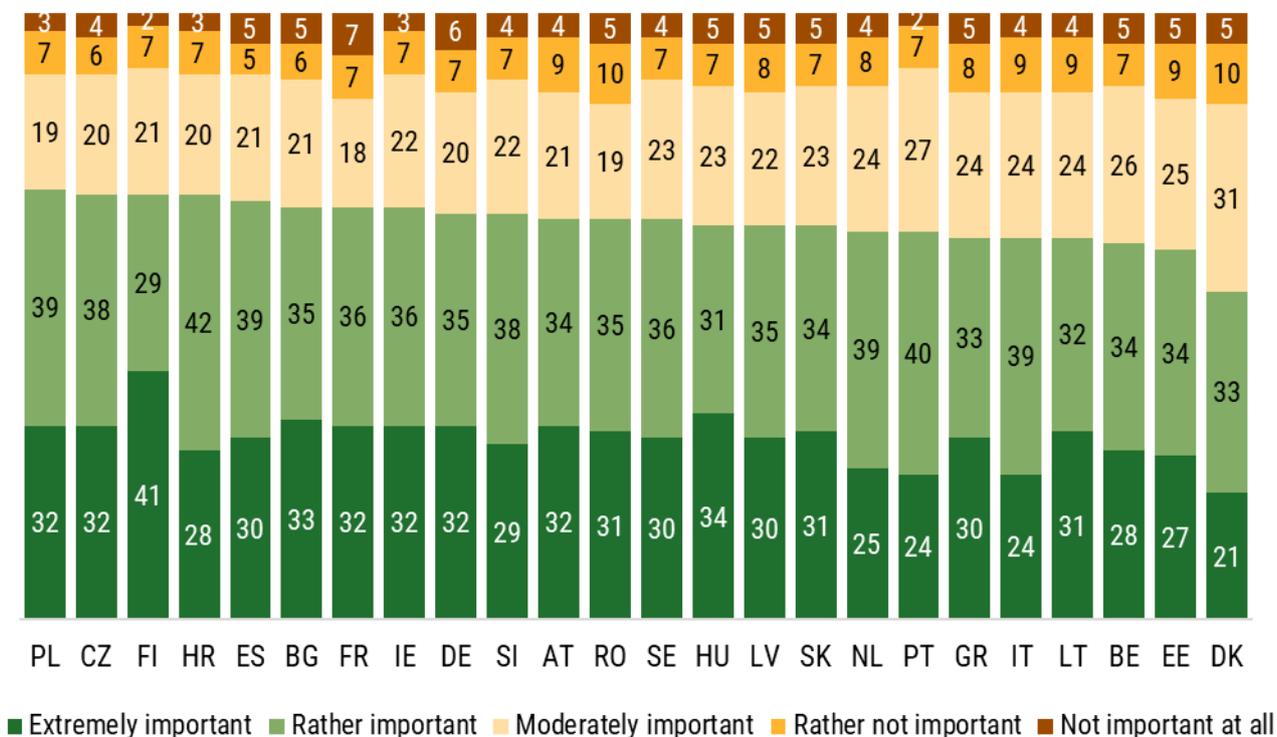
How important or not important the following policies are in your option?



The majority of respondents consider public disclosure of information on politicians' votes and decisions to be important. Across all countries except Denmark, between 61% and 71% of respondents regard this as very or fairly important; in Denmark, this share amounts to 54%. The proportion of respondents who do not consider this policy to be important does not exceed 15% in any country.

Fig. 6.3. Important or not important: public disclosure of politicians' voting records and decision-making (%)

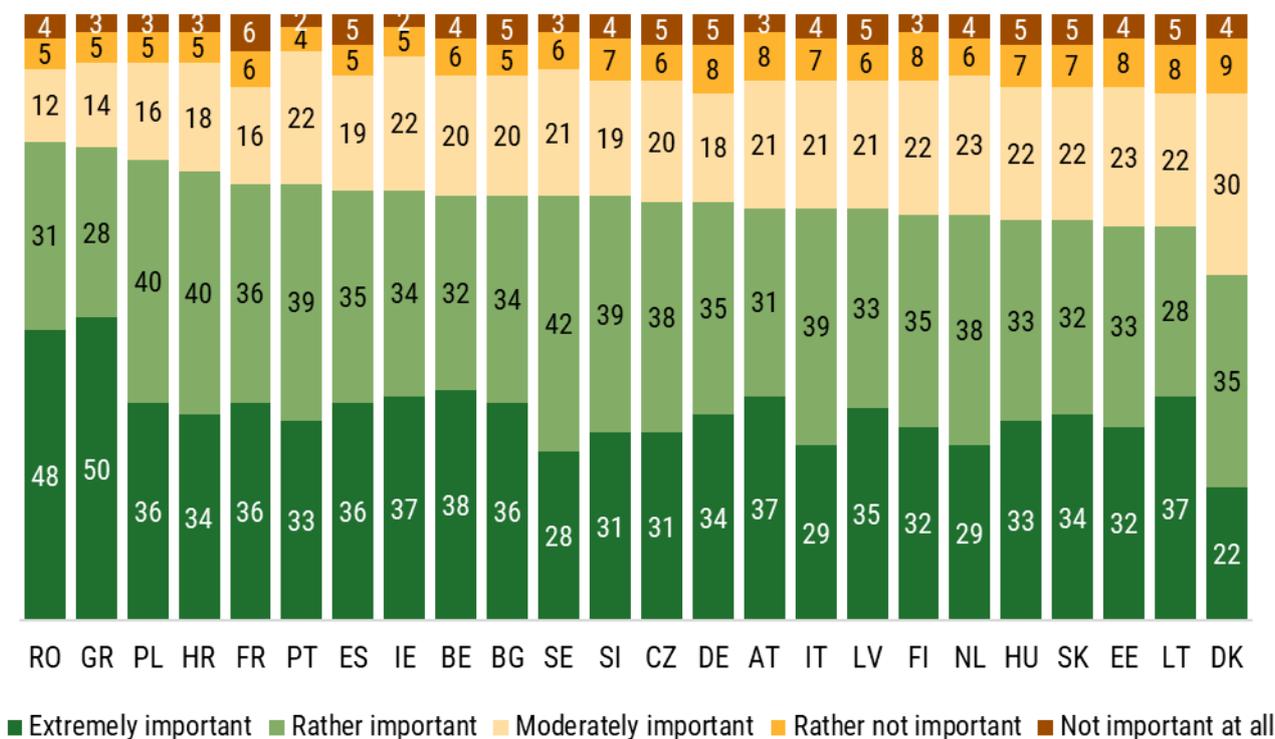
How important or not important the following policies are in your option?



Majority of respondents in all countries consider regular evaluation of politicians based on their performance in office to be important. Between 65% and 79% of respondents agree with the importance of such a policy in all countries except Denmark, where 57% express this view. The proportion of respondents who consider this policy to be unimportant ranges from 6% to 13%.

Fig. 6.4. Important or not important: regular evaluations of politicians based on their performance in office (%)

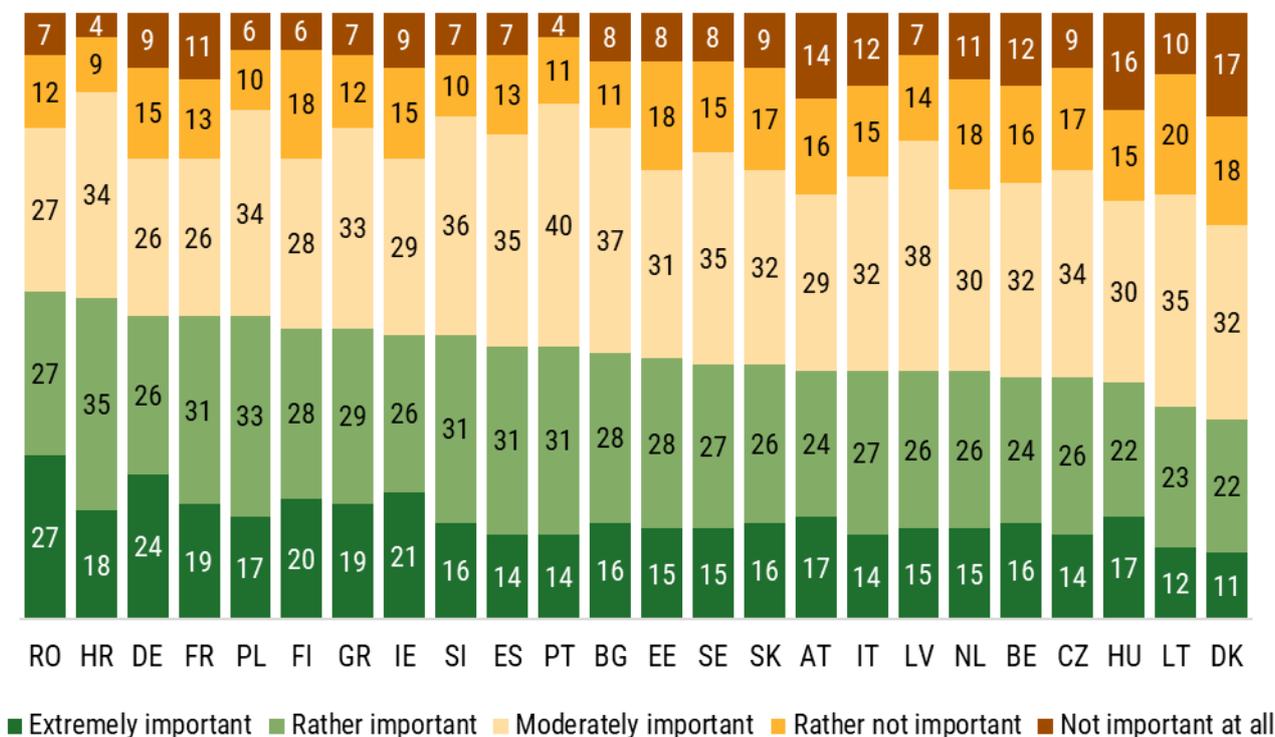
How important or not important the following policies are in your option?



Respondents were asked about the importance of the absence of regulation of electoral advertising and campaigning in the media. Around half of respondents in Romania (54%), Croatia (53%), and Germany, France, and Poland (50% each) consider such a policy to be important. Approximately one third of respondents regard this measure as moderately important. The highest proportions of respondents who consider the regulation of campaigning to be unimportant are observed in Denmark (35%), Hungary (31%), and Austria and Lithuania (30% each).

Fig. 6.5. Important or not important: no regulations on campaign advertising and broadcasting (%)

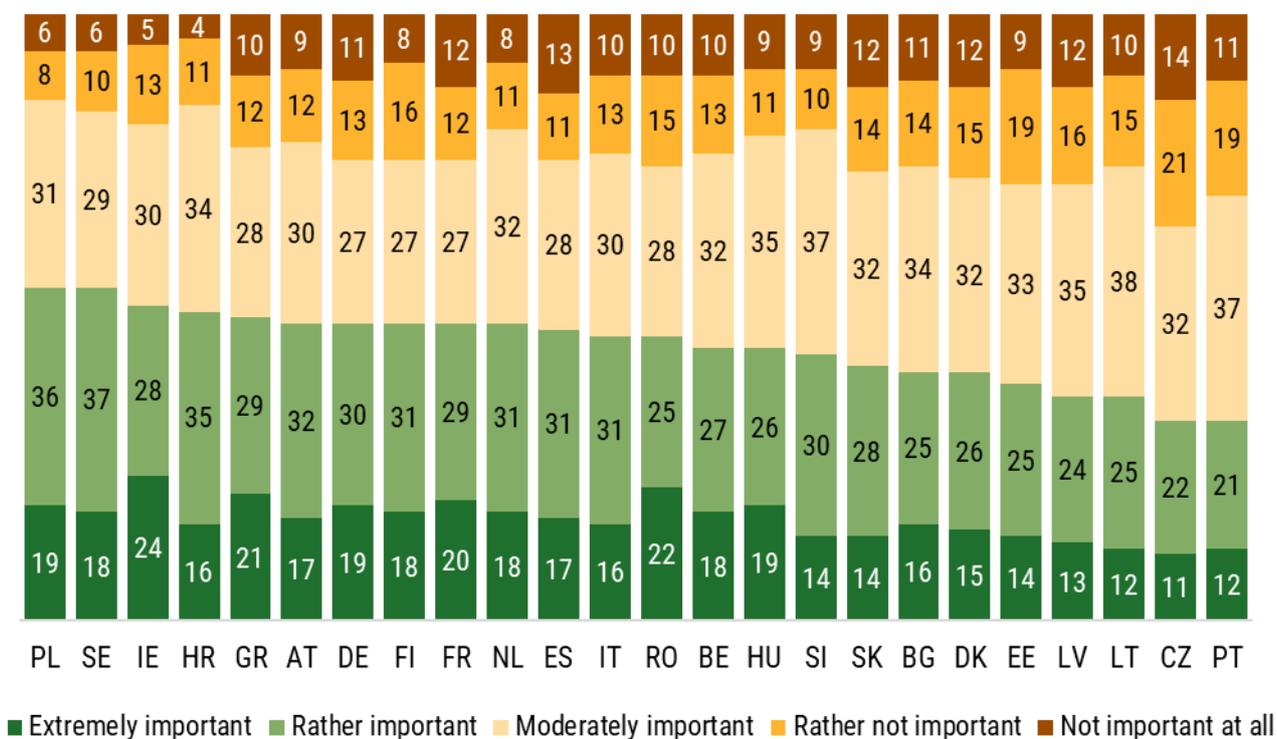
How important or not important the following policies are in your option?



More than half of respondents consider state subsidies to support media pluralism to be important in Poland and Sweden (55% each), Ireland (52%), and Croatia (51%). Around one third of respondents regard such a measure as moderately important. The highest proportions of respondents who consider this measure to be unimportant are observed in the Czech Republic (35%), Portugal (30%), and Estonia and Latvia (28% each).

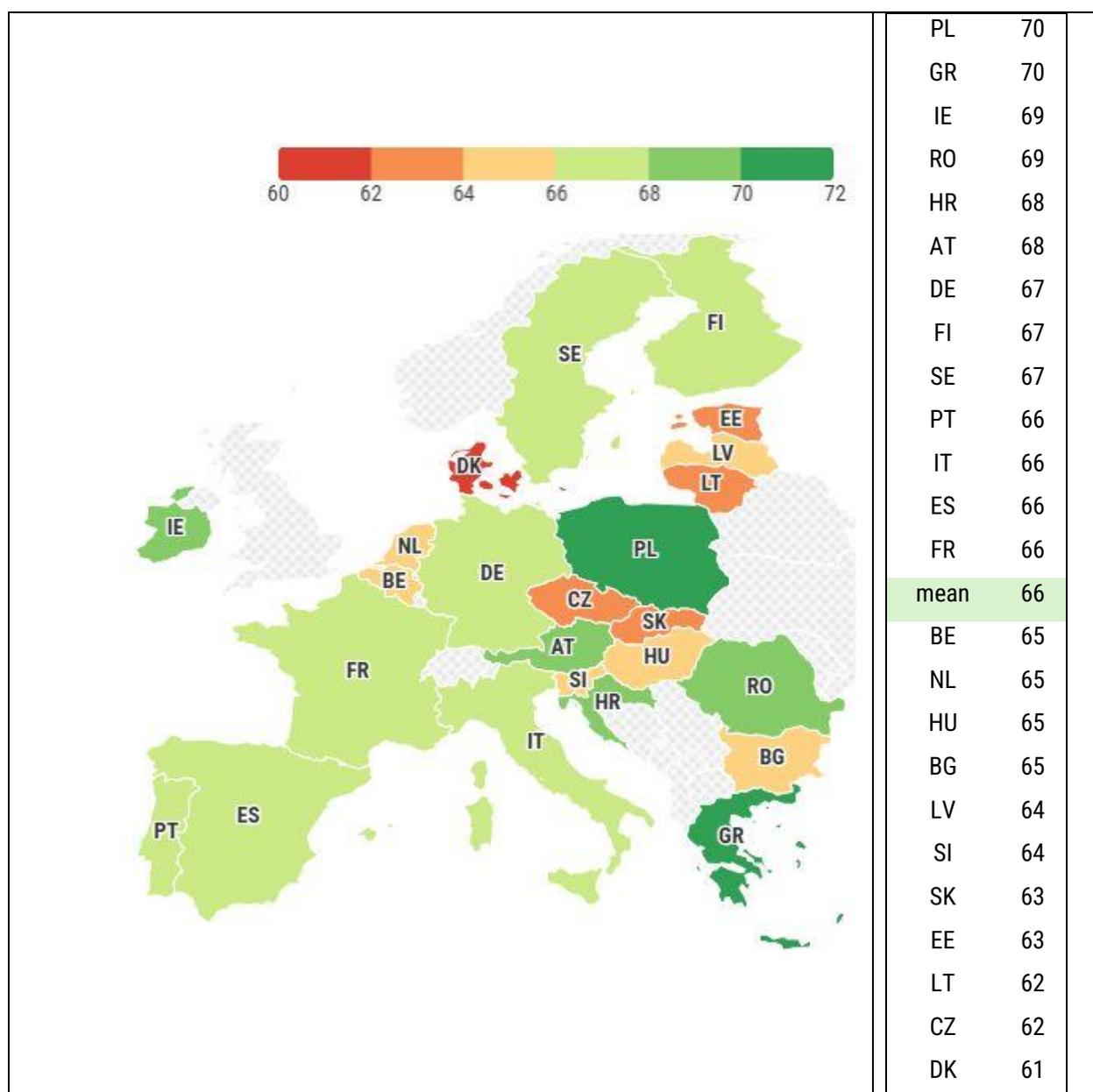
Fig. 6.6. Important or not important: public subsidies to support media pluralism (%)

How important or not important the following policies are in your option?



The Democratic Integrity Policy Support Index reflects support for policy measures aimed at strengthening democratic integrity, including civic education, media literacy programmes, public disclosure of politicians’ activities, and evaluation of their performance in office. Measured on a 0–100 scale, the index reaches its highest values in Poland and Greece (70 each), followed by Ireland and Romania (69). The average index value across European countries is 66; the same value is observed in Portugal, Italy, Spain, and France. The lowest index values are recorded in Lithuania and the Czech Republic (62 each) and in Denmark (61).

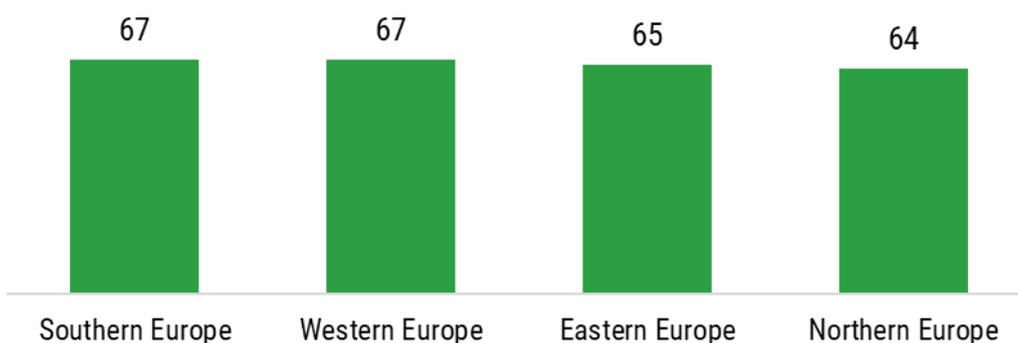
Fig. 6.7. Support for Democratic Integrity Policies Index (means)



Composite index capturing support for policy measures that bolster democratic integrity, including civic education, media literacy programs, disclosure of politicians’ records, and performance evaluations in office; higher scores indicate greater support for such policies. Rescaled to a 0–100 metric.

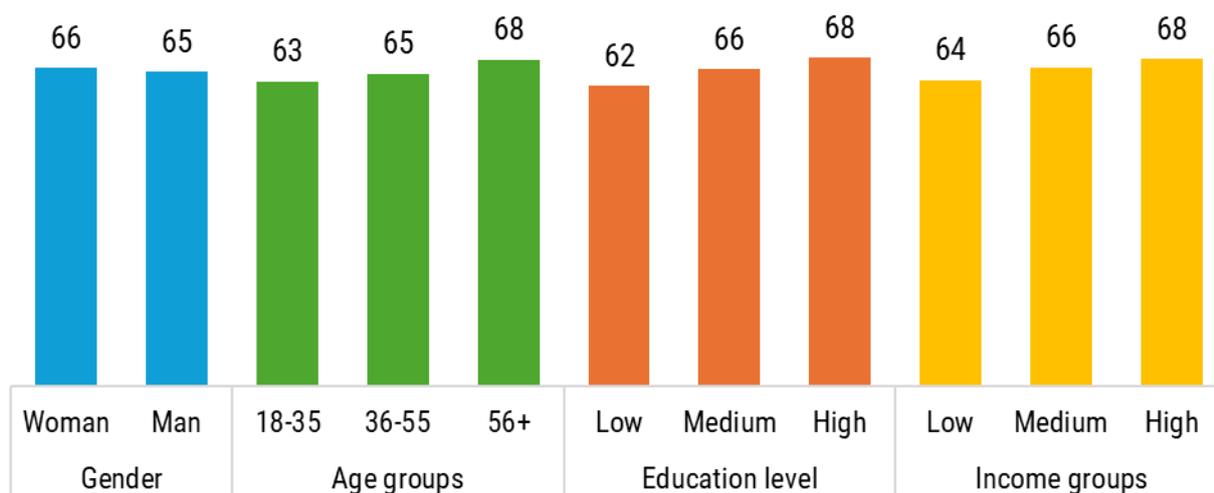
Values of the Democratic Integrity Policy Support Index are broadly similar across European regions, with slightly higher scores in Southern and Western Europe (67 each) and somewhat lower scores in Eastern (65) and Northern Europe (64).

Fig. 6.8. Support for Democratic Integrity Policies Index in different regions of Europe (means)



The value of the Democratic Integrity Policy Support Index is marginally higher among women than among men. The index increases with age: while it reaches 68 among respondents aged 56 and over, it stands at 63 in the youngest age group (18–35). A similar pattern is observed with respect to education and income levels: higher levels of education and income are associated with slightly higher values of the index.

Fig. 6.9. Support for Democratic Integrity Policies Index among different groups (means)



In Poland, Greece, Croatia, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, the Democratic Integrity Policy Support Index is higher among women than among men. In Romania, Italy, France, Slovenia, and Slovakia, the opposite pattern is observed, with higher index values among men. In the remaining countries, no gender differences in index values are observed. In most countries, the same pattern persists: the value of the Democratic Integrity Policy Support Index increases with respondents' age. Exceptions to this trend are Spain, the Czech Republic, Finland, and Sweden.

Fig. 6.10. Support for Democratic Integrity Policies Index grouped by gender (means)

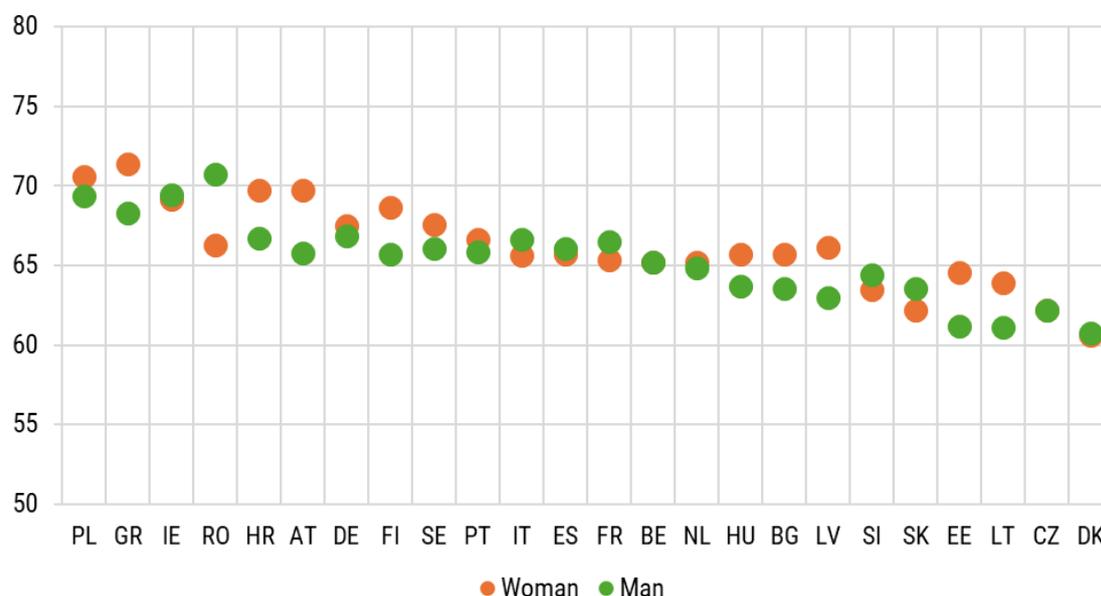
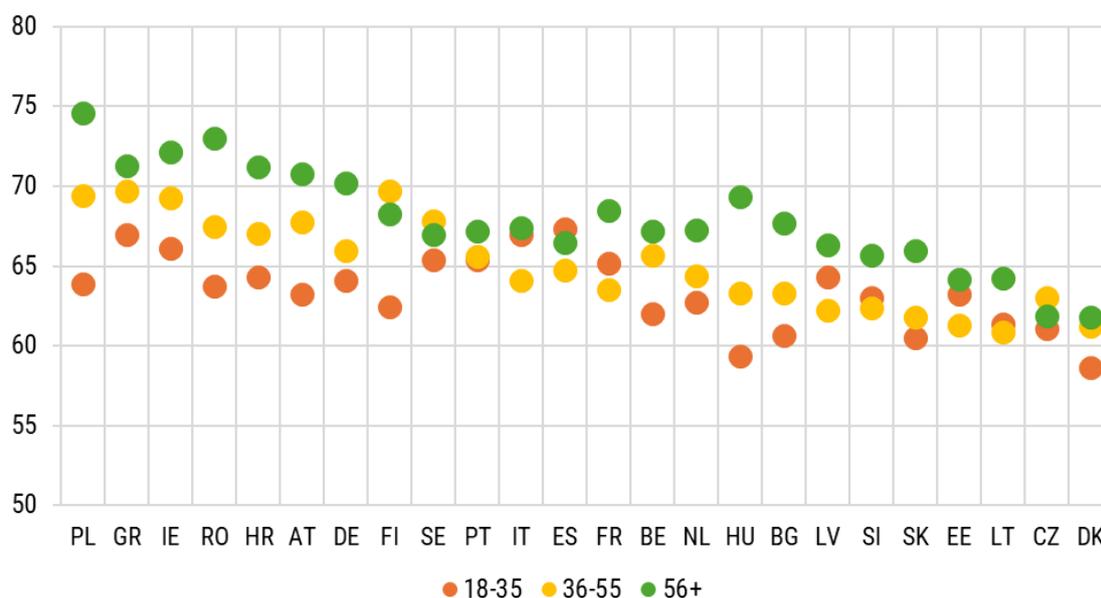


Fig. 6.11. Support for Democratic Integrity Policies Index grouped by age (means)





In most countries, higher levels of education are associated with stronger support for policies aimed at ensuring democratic integrity. Exceptions are Croatia and Estonia, where support is higher among respondents with secondary education, as well as Slovenia, where the level of support is higher among respondents with lower levels of education. Higher income levels are associated with stronger support for policies aimed at ensuring democratic integrity in the majority of countries. Exceptions to this pattern are Greece and the Czech Republic, where respondents with middle income levels exhibit higher index values.

Fig. 6.12. Support for Democratic Integrity Policies Index grouped by education (means)

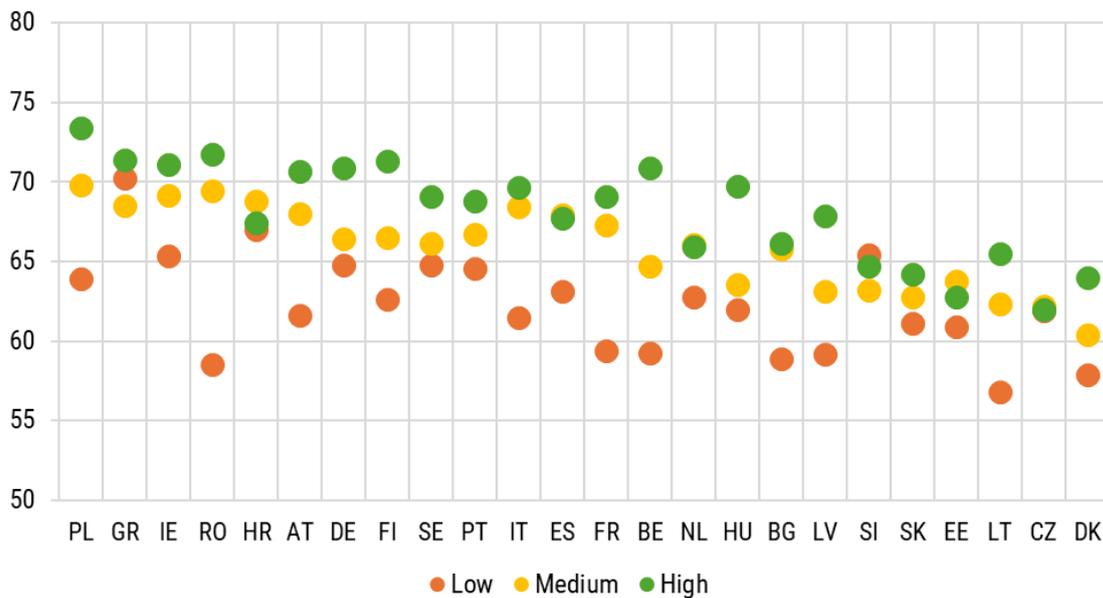
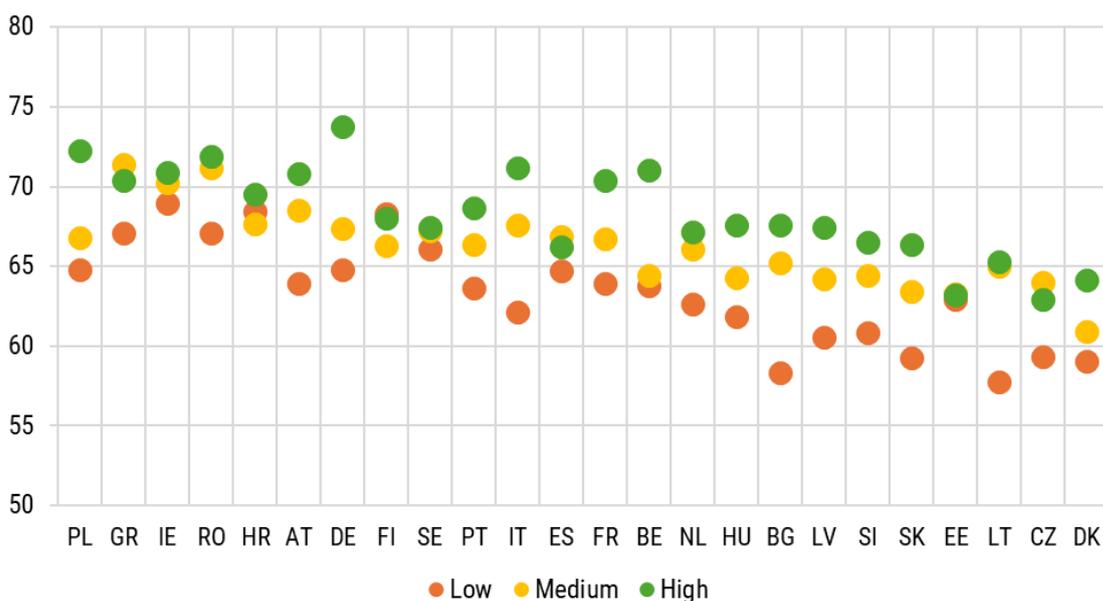


Fig. 6.13. Support for Democratic Integrity Policies Index grouped by income (means)

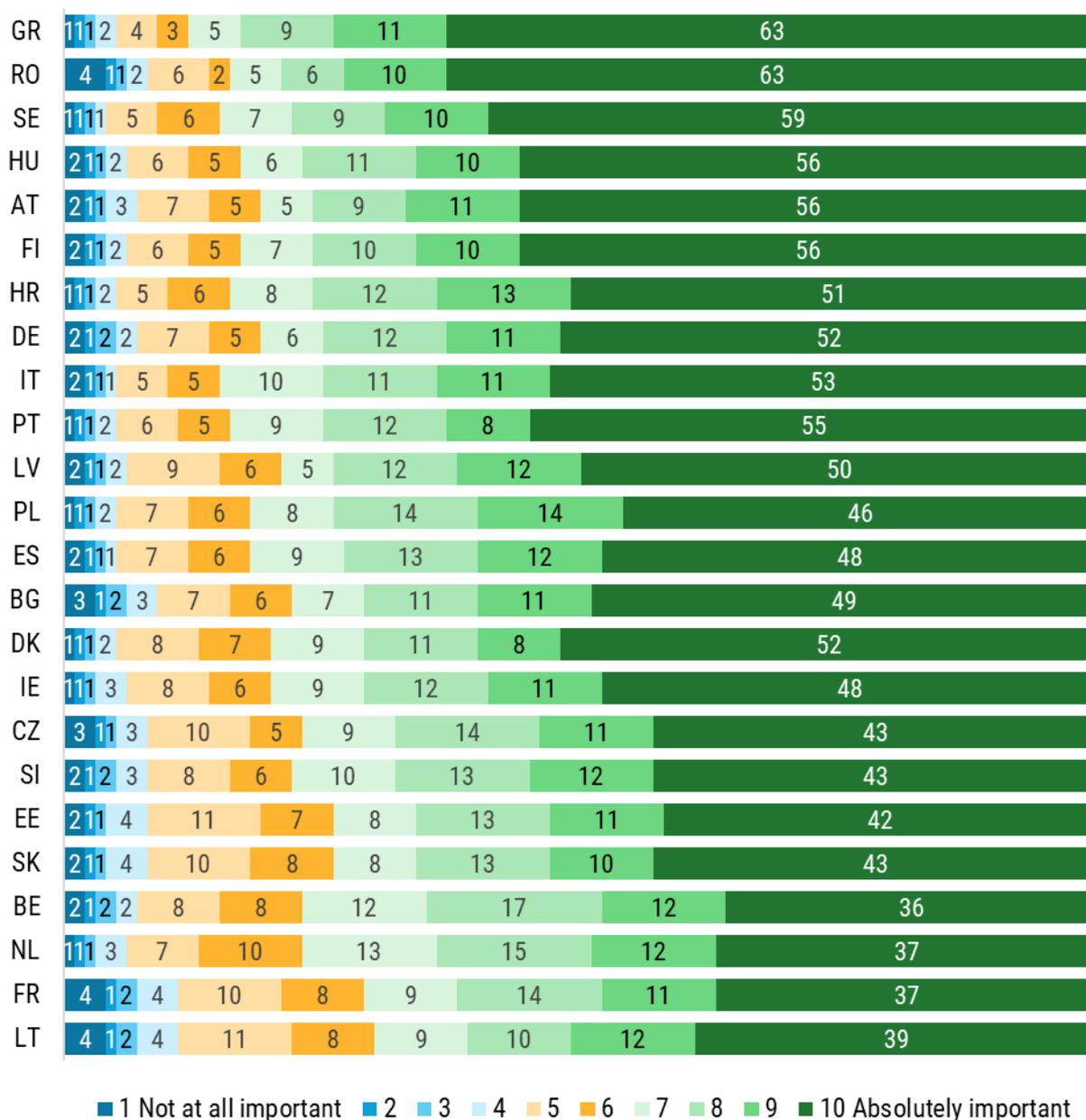


The importance and current state of democracy in EU countries

For respondents, living in a country with democratic governance is considered highly important. This is most strongly emphasised by residents of Greece and Romania (63% in each country rated its importance at 10 out of 10), followed by Sweden (59%), and Hungary, Austria, and Finland (56% each). Overall, between 36% and 63% of respondents across countries assign the maximum score to the importance of democracy.

Fig. 6.14. Importance of democracy (%)

How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed democratically?

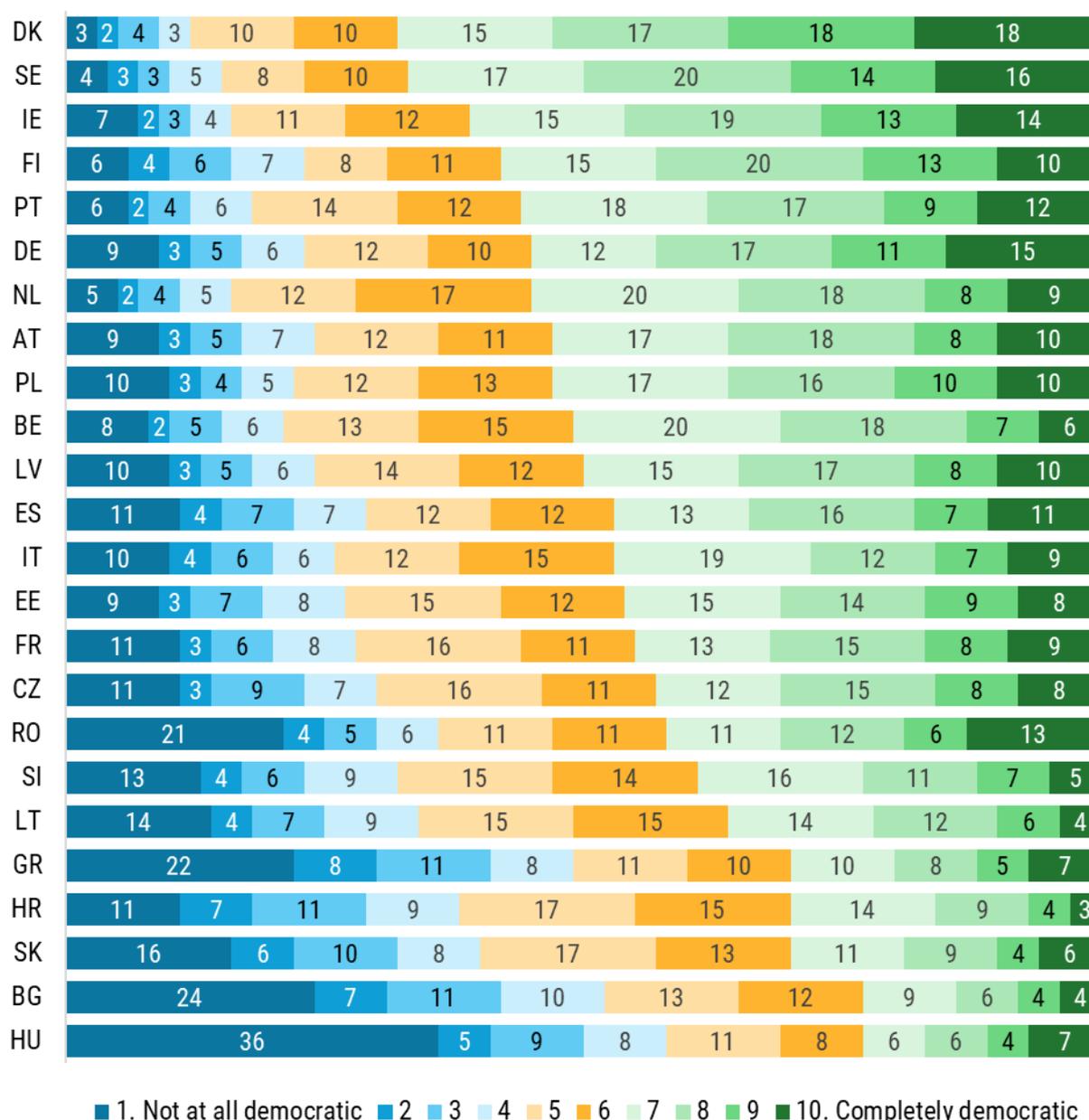




Respondents are considerably less optimistic in their assessments of the current state of democracy. Only a small proportion rate the level of democracy in their country at 10 out of 10, ranging from 3% in Croatia to 18% in Denmark. Overall, respondents in Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and Ireland provide the most positive evaluations of democratic governance in their countries. The highest shares of negative assessments are observed in Hungary (36% rate the level of democracy at 1 out of 10), followed by Bulgaria (24%), Greece (22%), and Romania (21%).

Fig. 6.15. Current state of democracy (%)

How democratically is your country being governed today?



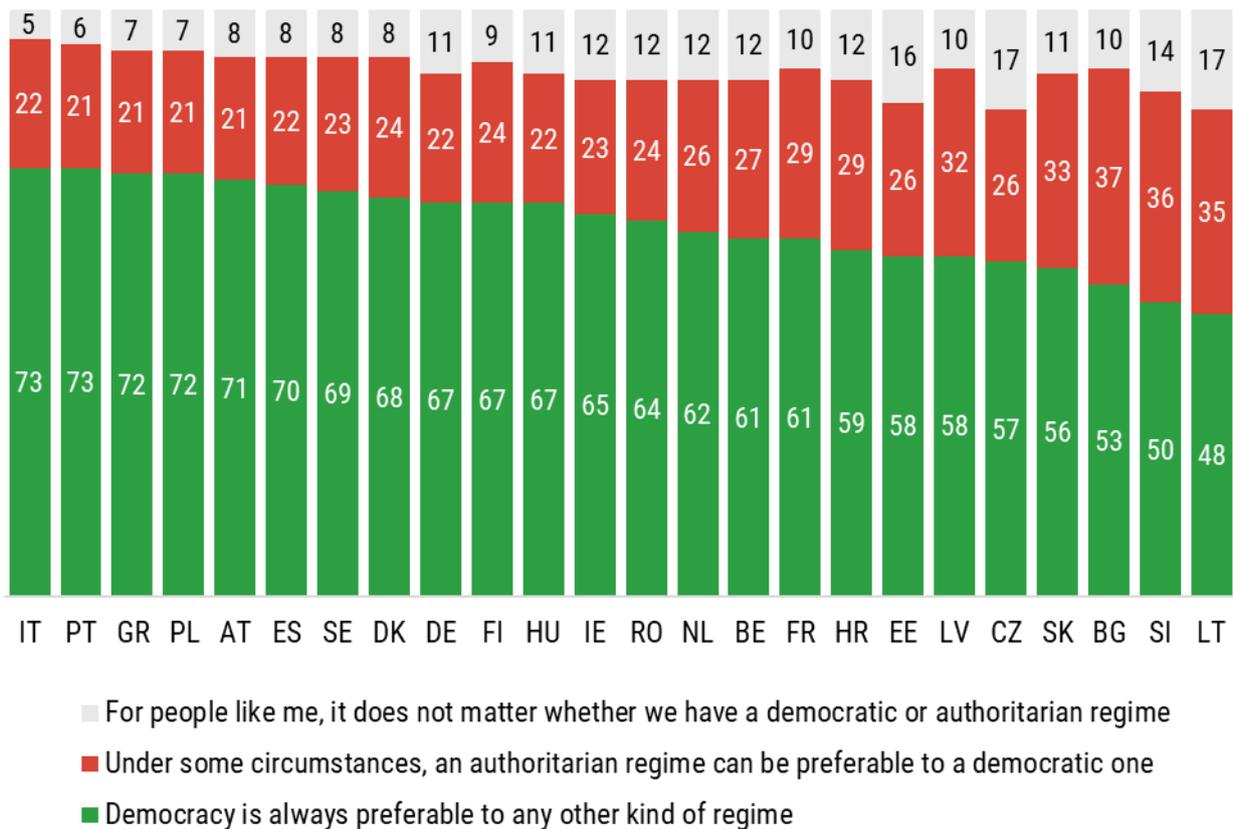


Authoritarian Attitudes

Respondents were asked which statement was closer to their own view. A majority selected the statement that democracy is always preferable to any other form of government. This position was most frequently endorsed in Italy and Portugal (73% each), followed by Greece and Poland (72% each). Endorsement of this view was less common in Lithuania (48%), Slovenia (50%), and Bulgaria (53%). The alternative statement—that under certain circumstances an authoritarian regime may be preferable to a democratic one—was endorsed by a substantially smaller share of respondents. Support for this view was highest in Bulgaria (37%), Slovenia (36%), and Lithuania (35%), and lowest in Portugal, Greece, Poland, and Austria (21% each).

Fig. 6.16. Democracy vs Authoritarian regimes (%)

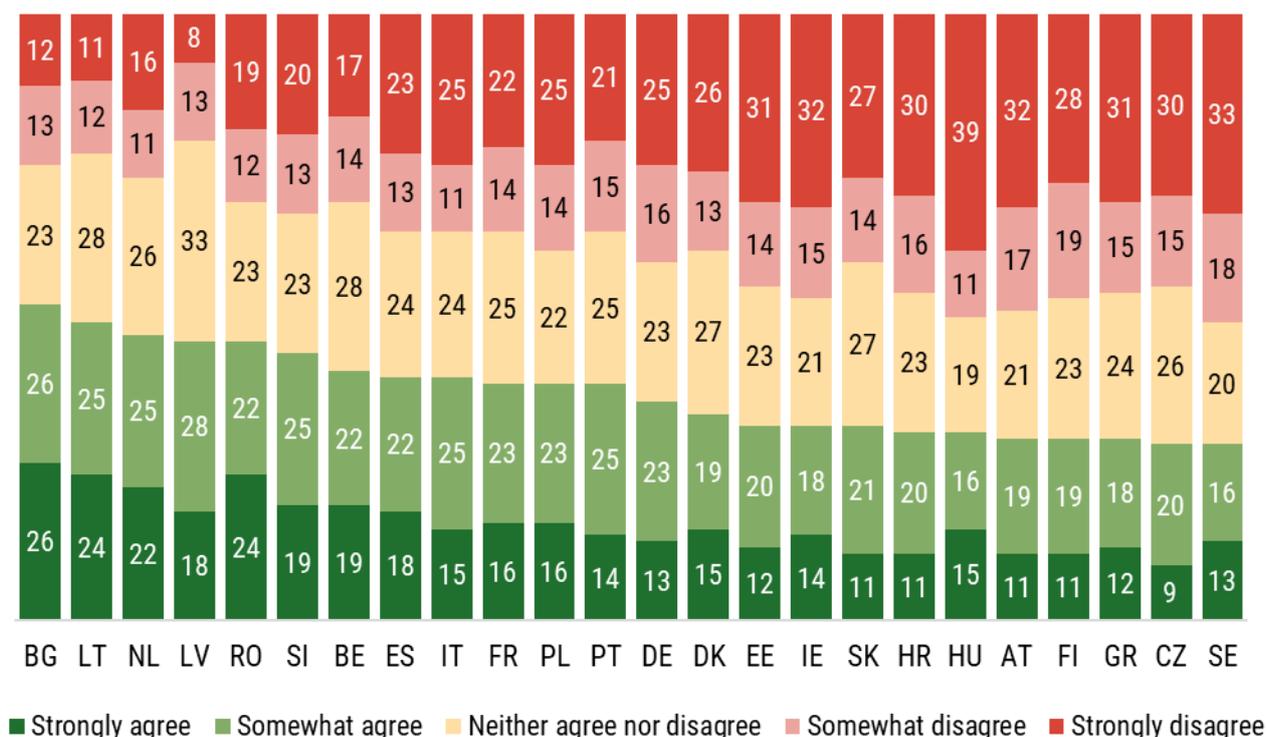
Which of the following statements comes closest to your own opinion?



Respondents were presented with statements describing different ways of governing a country. The first statement asserted that the country needs a strong leader who does not have to take parliament and elections into account. Agreement with this statement is most frequent in Bulgaria (52%), Lithuania (49%), the Netherlands (47%), and Latvia (46%). The highest levels of disagreement with this approach to governance are observed in Sweden (51%), Hungary (50%), Austria (49%), and Ireland and Finland (47% each).

Fig. 6.17. Agree or disagree: we should have a strong leader who does not have to bother with parliament and elections (%)

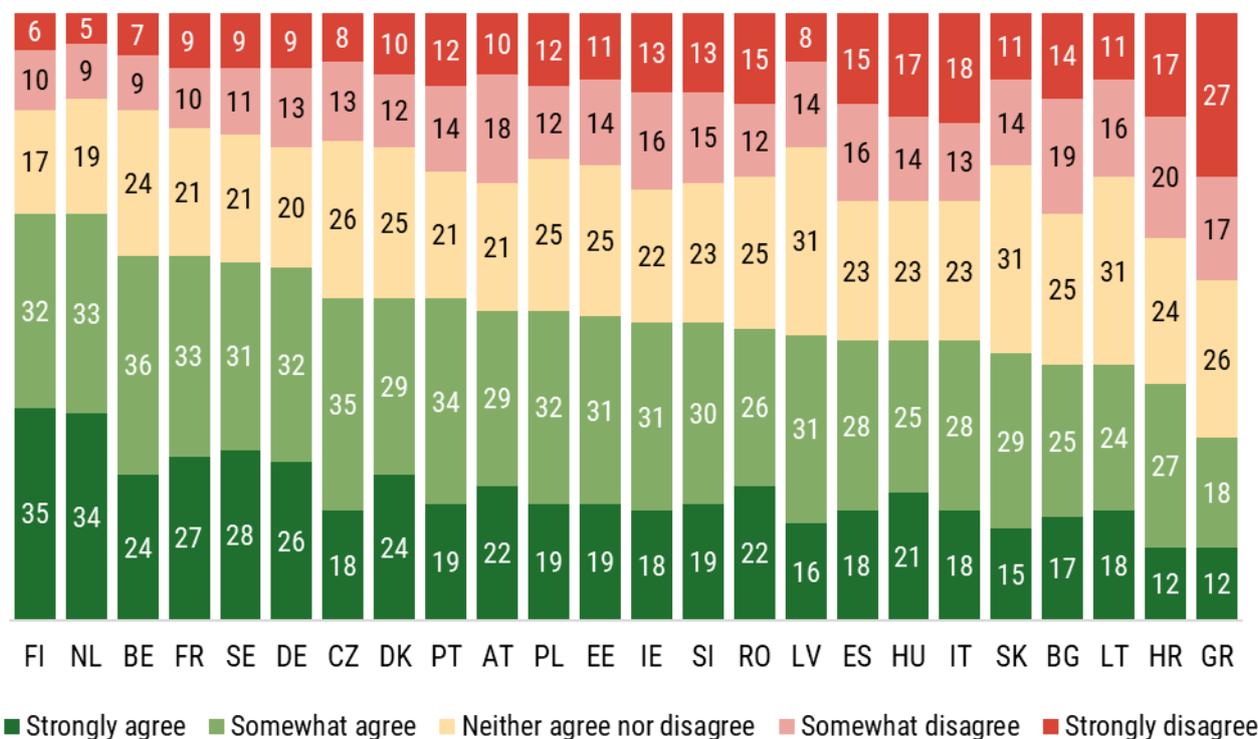
There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following statements?



A majority of respondents tend to agree that the police should maintain security even if this sometimes restricts peaceful protests. Agreement with this view is most widespread in Finland and the Netherlands (67% each). The highest levels of disagreement with this approach are observed in Greece (44%), Croatia (37%), and Bulgaria (33%).

Fig. 6.18. Agree or disagree: the police should maintain security even if this sometimes restricts peaceful protests (%)

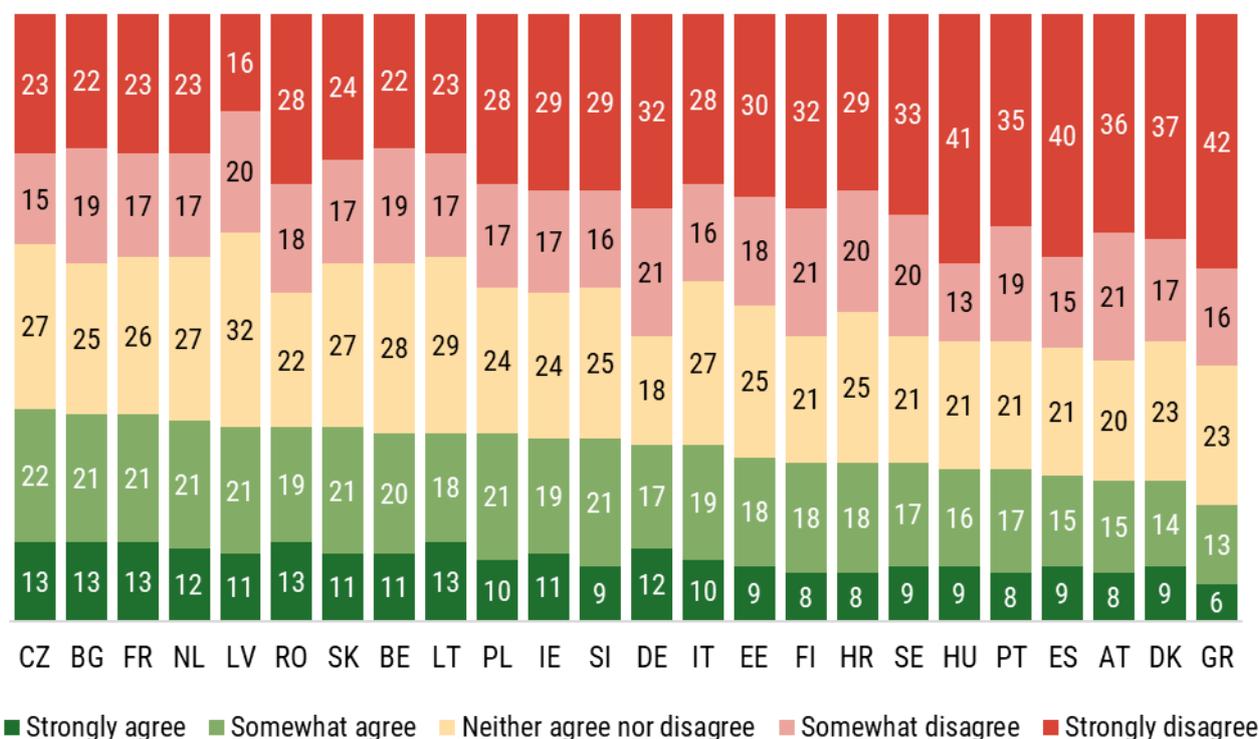
There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following statements?



A majority of respondents disagree with the statement that, as long as a government can maintain order and stability in the country, it does not matter whether it is democratic or non-democratic. The highest levels of disagreement with this view are observed in Greece (58%), Austria (57%), Spain (55%), Hungary, Portugal, and Denmark (54% each), and Germany, Finland, and Sweden (53% each).

Fig. 6.19. Agree or disagree: as long as the government can maintain order and stability in the country, it does not matter whether it is democratic or undemocratic (%)

There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following statements?

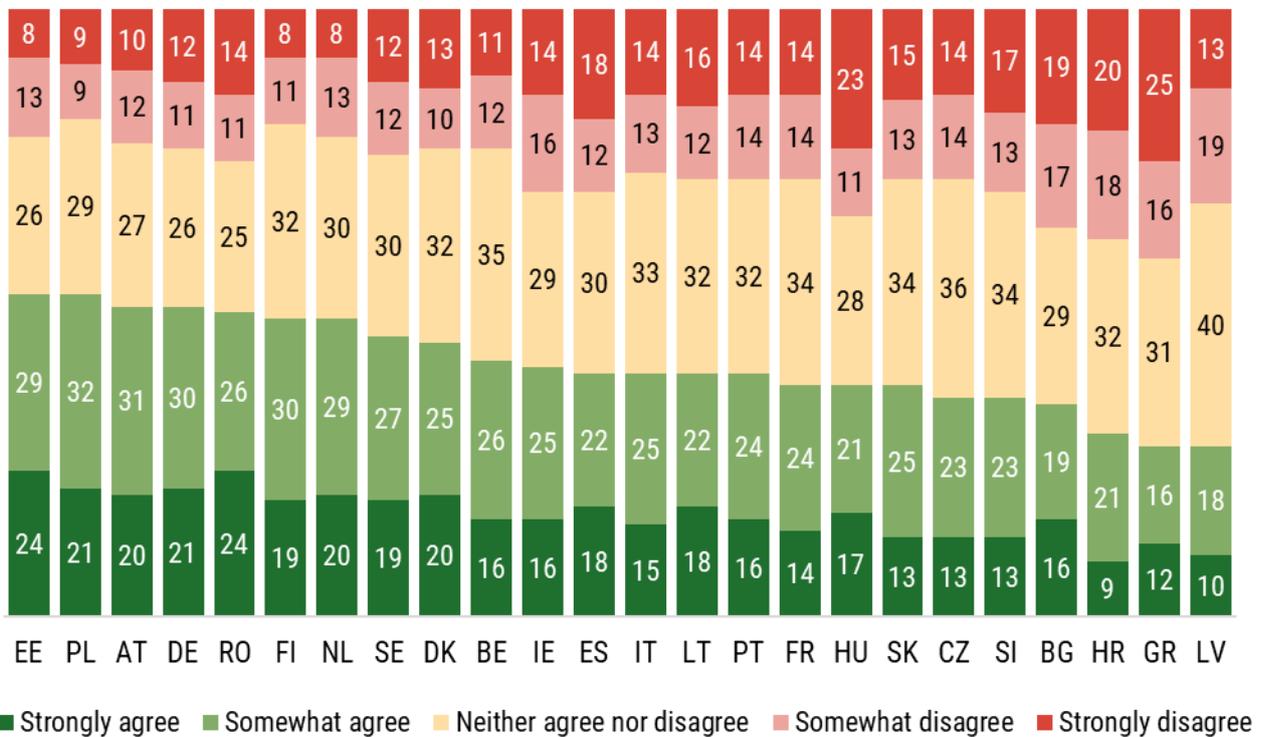




Respondents' views on whether the media should support the government during a national crisis are divided. Support for this position is most common in Estonia and Poland (53% each), Austria (51%), and Germany (50%). Opposition to this idea is most frequently expressed in Greece (41%), Croatia (38%), Bulgaria (36%), and Hungary (34%).

Fig. 6.20. Agree or disagree: in a national crisis, the news media should support the government (%)

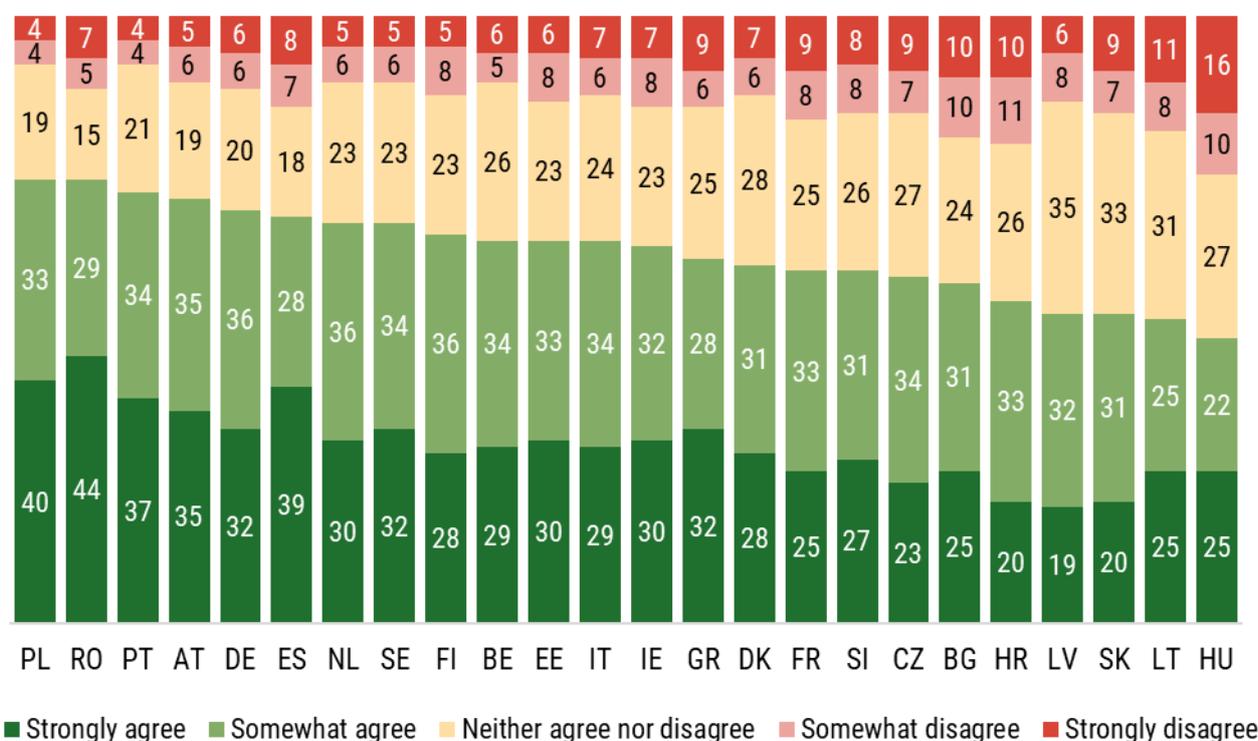
There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following statements?



A majority of respondents agree with the statement that, in the context of a national emergency, opposition parties should support the government. Overall, support for this view ranges from 47% to 73% across countries. The highest levels of agreement are observed in Poland and Romania (73% each), followed by Portugal (71%), Austria (70%), and Germany (68%). Lower levels of agreement are recorded in Lithuania (50%) and Hungary (47%).

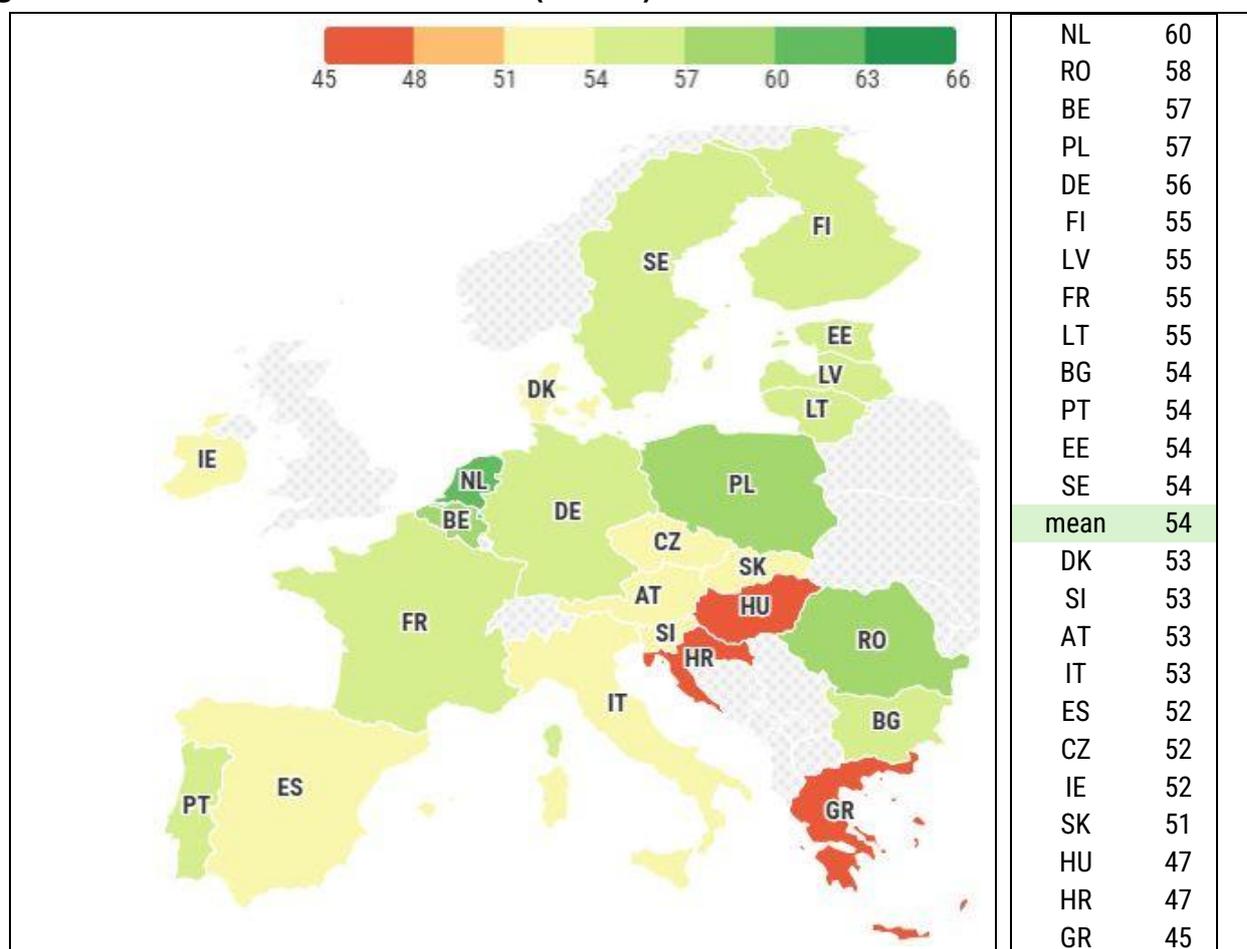
Fig. 6.21. Agree or disagree: in a national emergency, opposition parties should support the government (%)

There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following statements?



The Authoritarian Attitudes Index reflects aggregated degree of approval of authoritarian governance norms, including support for a strong leader unconstrained by parliament and elections; prioritising security over the right to protest; indifference to regime type provided that order is maintained; and expectations that the media and opposition should support the government during crises. Measured on a 0–100 scale, relatively higher levels of authoritarian attitudes are observed in the Netherlands (60), Romania (58), and Belgium and Poland (57 each). Values close to the European average are recorded in Bulgaria, Portugal, Estonia, and Sweden (54 each). The lowest levels of support for authoritarian governance norms are found in Hungary and Croatia (47 each) and Greece (45).

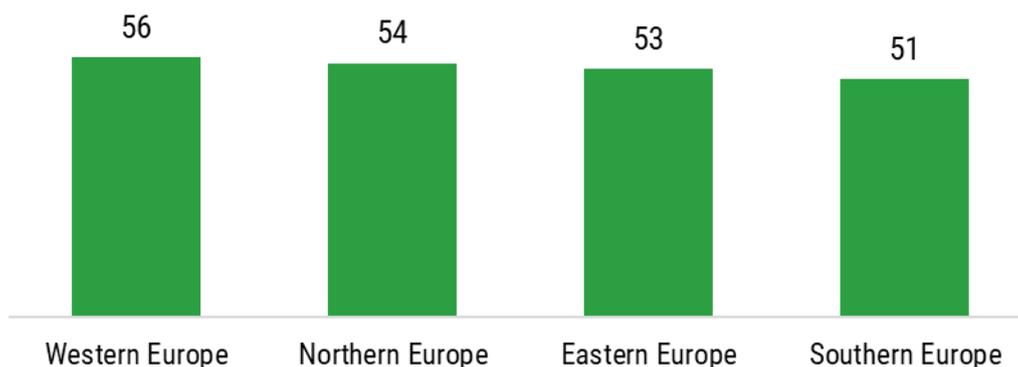
Fig. 6.22. Authoritarian Attitudes Index (means)



Composite index capturing endorsement of authoritarian governance norms such as a strong leader unconstrained by parliament and elections, prioritizing security over protest rights, indifference to regime type when order is maintained, and expectations that media and opposition should support the government in crises; higher scores indicate more authoritarian attitudes. Rescaled to a 0–100 metric.

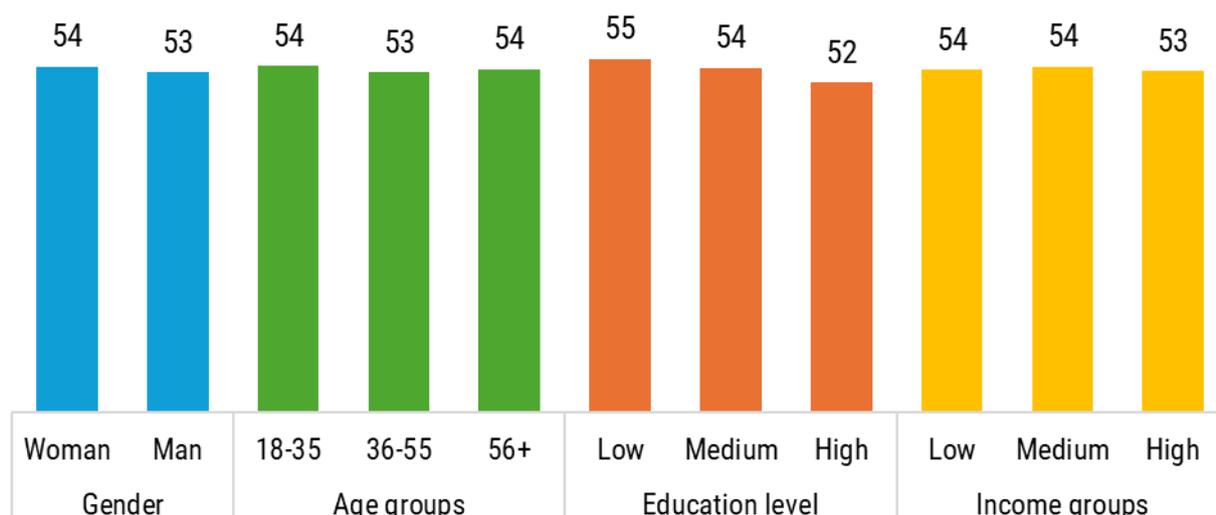
Regional differences in authoritarian attitudes are modest. Western Europe records slightly higher index values (56), followed by Northern (54) and Eastern Europe (53), while Southern Europe exhibits the lowest values (51).

Fig. 6.23. Authoritarian Attitudes Index in different regions of Europe (means)



There are almost no gender differences on the Authoritarian Attitudes Index scale. Index values are also marginally higher among younger respondents (aged 18–35) and among the oldest age group (56+), compared to those aged 36–55. Higher levels of education are associated with lower values of the Authoritarian Attitudes Index. Index values are also slightly lower among respondents with higher income levels.

Fig. 6.24. Authoritarian Attitudes Index among different groups (means)





In most countries, women display slightly higher levels of authoritarian attitudes than men. However, in Finland, France, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Hungary, and Croatia, men report marginally higher levels of authoritarian attitudes. Overall, gender differences are small in magnitude. Age-related differences are somewhat more evident. In the Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, France, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Portugal, Italy, Slovakia, and Greece, higher levels of authoritarian attitudes are observed among older respondents (aged 56 and over). By contrast, in Romania, Germany, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Ireland, and Croatia, authoritarian attitudes are more common among younger respondents (aged 18–35).

Fig. 6. 25. Authoritarian Attitudes Index grouped by gender (means)

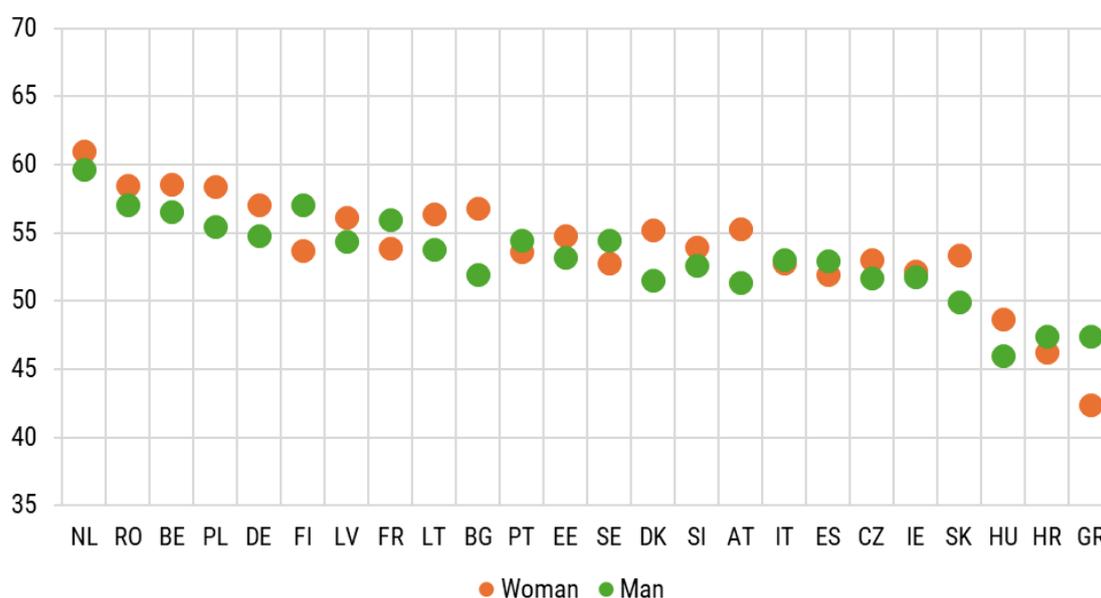
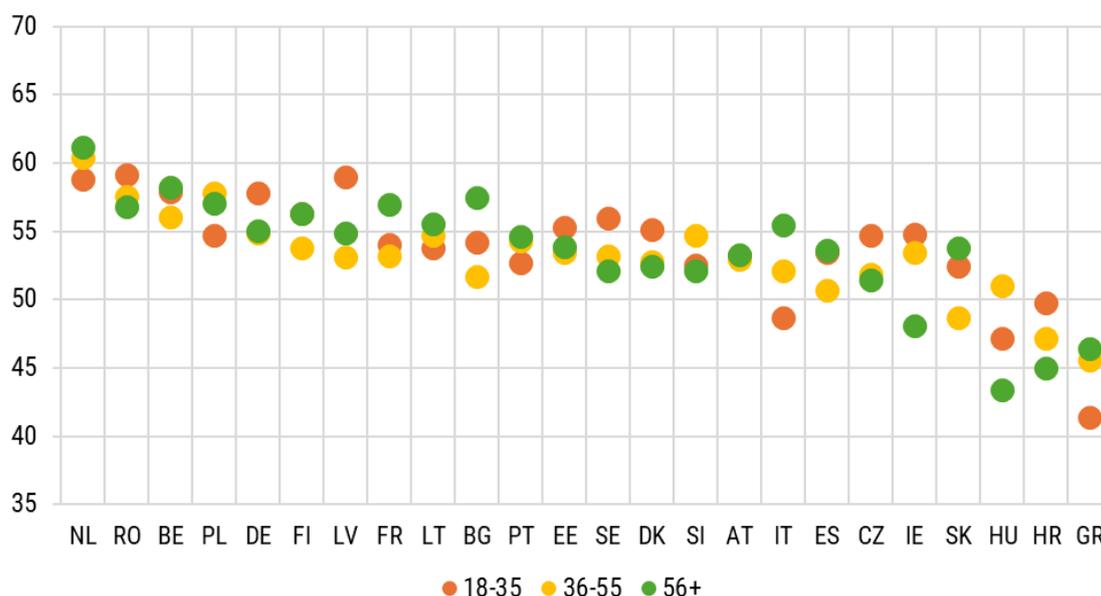


Fig. 6.26. Authoritarian Attitudes Index grouped by age (means)



In most countries, supporters of an authoritarian model of governance are individuals with lower levels of education. An exception is Belgium, where higher levels of authoritarian attitudes are observed among respondents with tertiary education. In Romania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, and Slovakia, the Authoritarian Attitudes Index is higher among respondents with secondary education. In Latvia, Portugal, Slovakia, and Hungary, respondents with lower income levels are more inclined to express authoritarian attitudes. In the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, and Ireland, higher levels of authoritarian attitudes are observed among respondents with higher income. In Lithuania, Slovenia, Austria, Croatia, and Greece, authoritarian attitudes are more prevalent among respondents with middle income.

Fig. 6.27. Authoritarian Attitudes Index grouped by education (means)

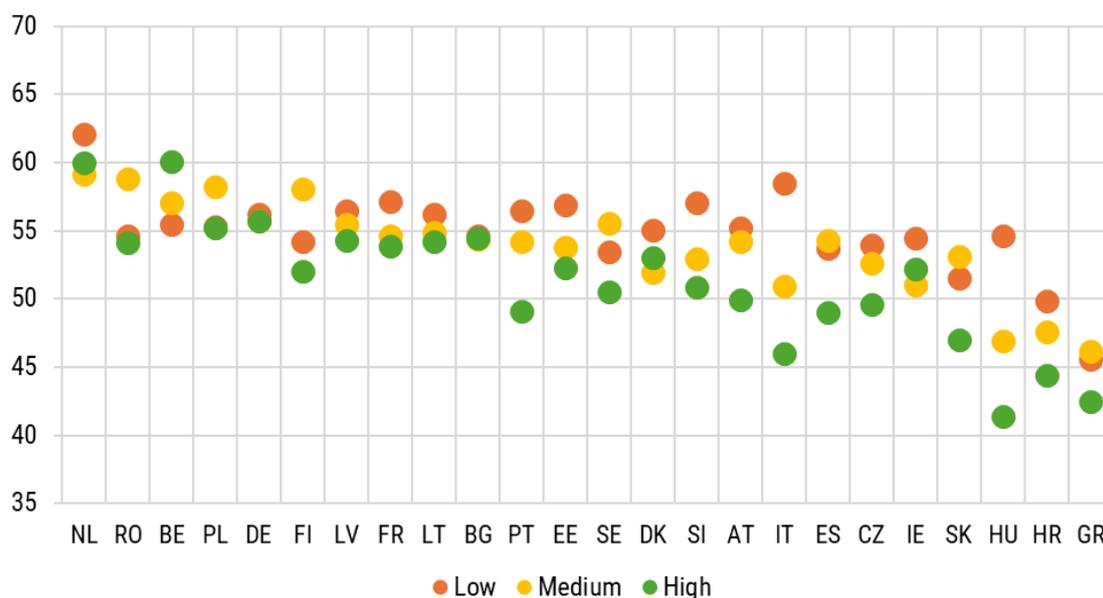
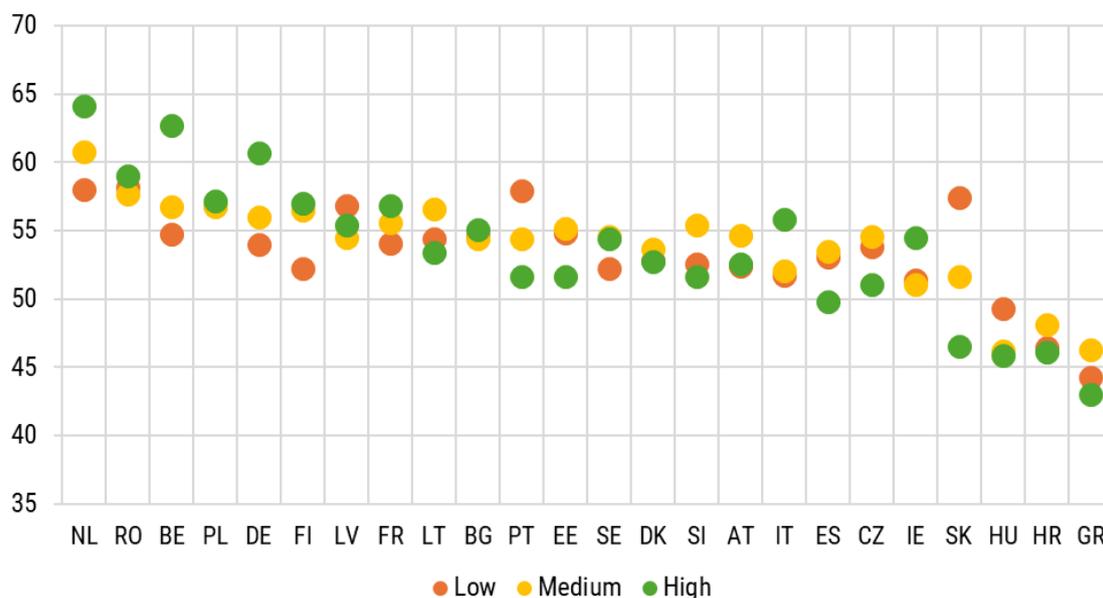


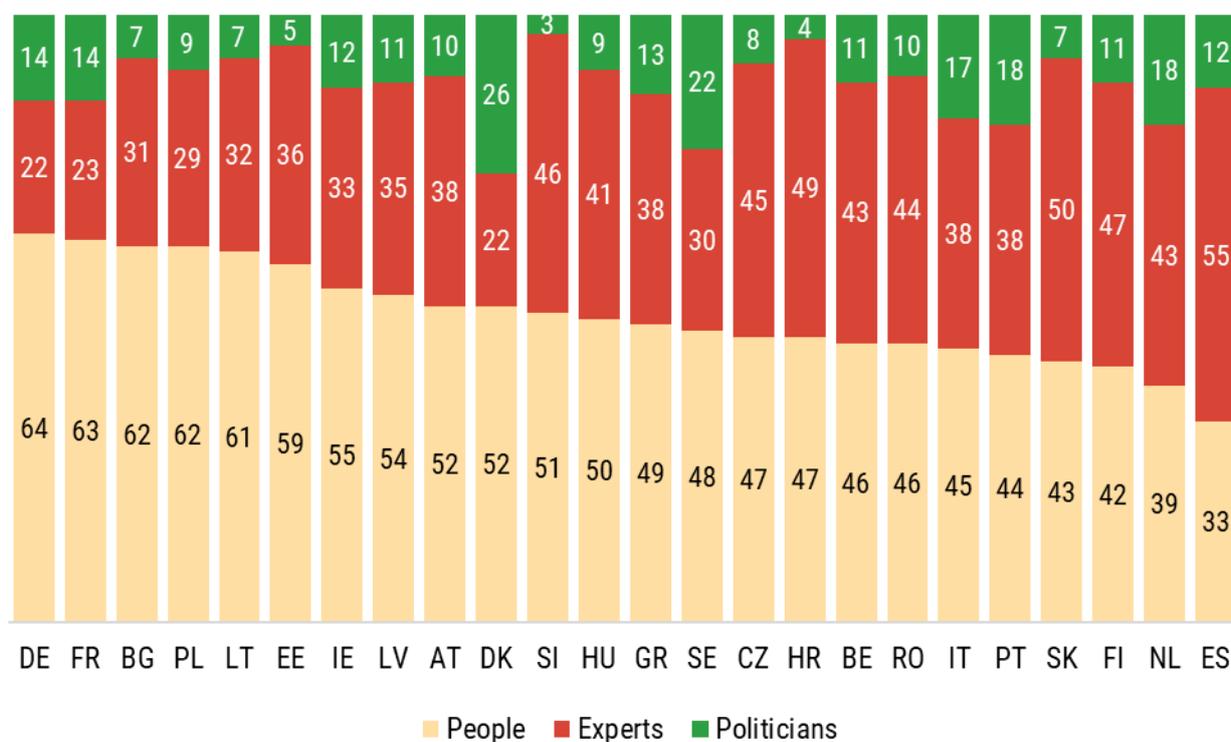
Fig. 6.28. Authoritarian Attitudes Index grouped by income (means)



Respondents were asked who, in their view, should make decisions when politicians, the public, and experts disagree on an issue facing the country. A majority of respondents believe that, in such cases, the decision should rest with the public. This view is most widely held in Germany (64%), France (63%), and Belgium and Poland (62% each). Preference for expert decision-making is most common in Spain (55%), Slovakia (50%), Croatia (49%), and Finland (47%). Support for politicians as the primary decision-makers is highest in Denmark (26%) and Sweden (22%).

Fig. 6.29. Decision-Making Authority (%)

If politicians, the public, and experts disagree about a problem facing this country, which of these should decide?





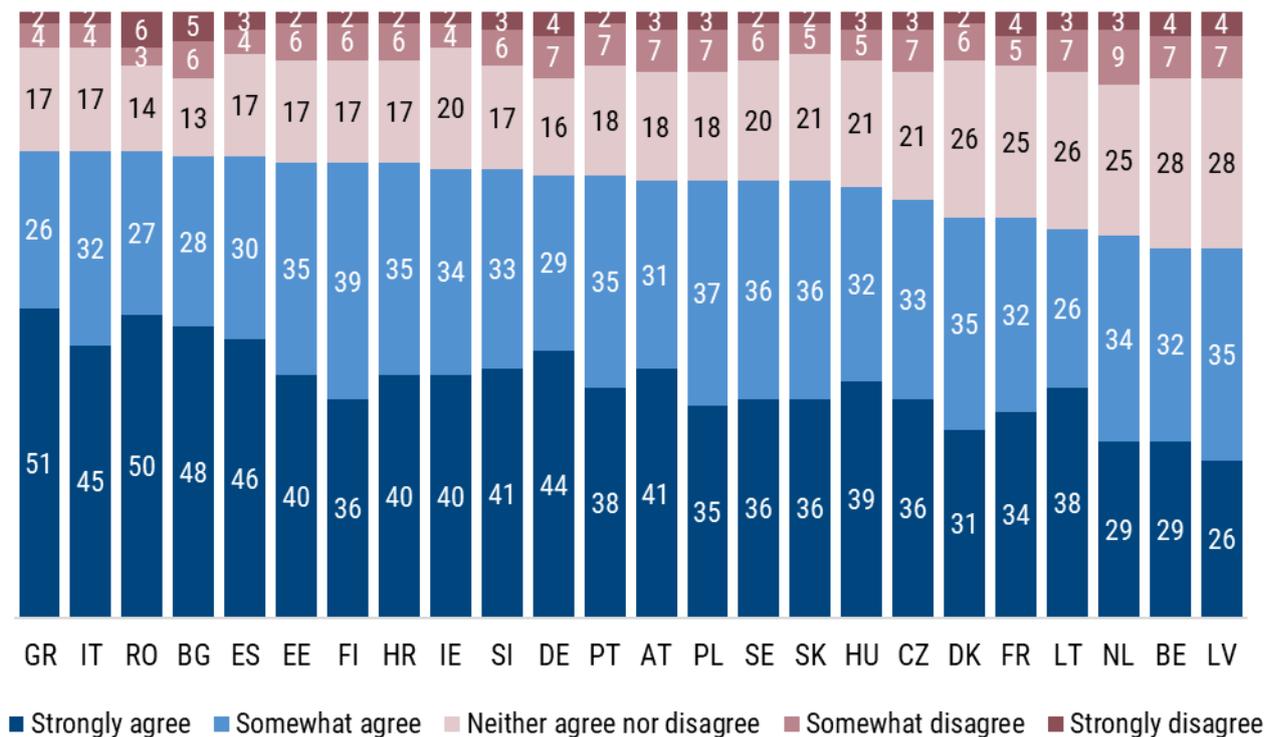
7. ATTITUDES ABOUT POPULISM AND POLARIZATION

Populist Attitudes

Respondents largely agree that the will of the people should be the highest principle in politics. Across all countries, between 61% and 77% of respondents express agreement with this statement. Agreement is most widespread in Greece, Italy, and Romania (77% each), as well as in Bulgaria and Spain (76% each), and Estonia, Finland, and Croatia (75% each). Lower levels of agreement are observed in the Netherlands (63%) and in Belgium and Latvia (61% each). Disagreement with this statement is limited, ranging from 6% to 12% across countries.

Fig. 7.1. Agree or disagree: the will of the people should be the highest principle in politics (%)

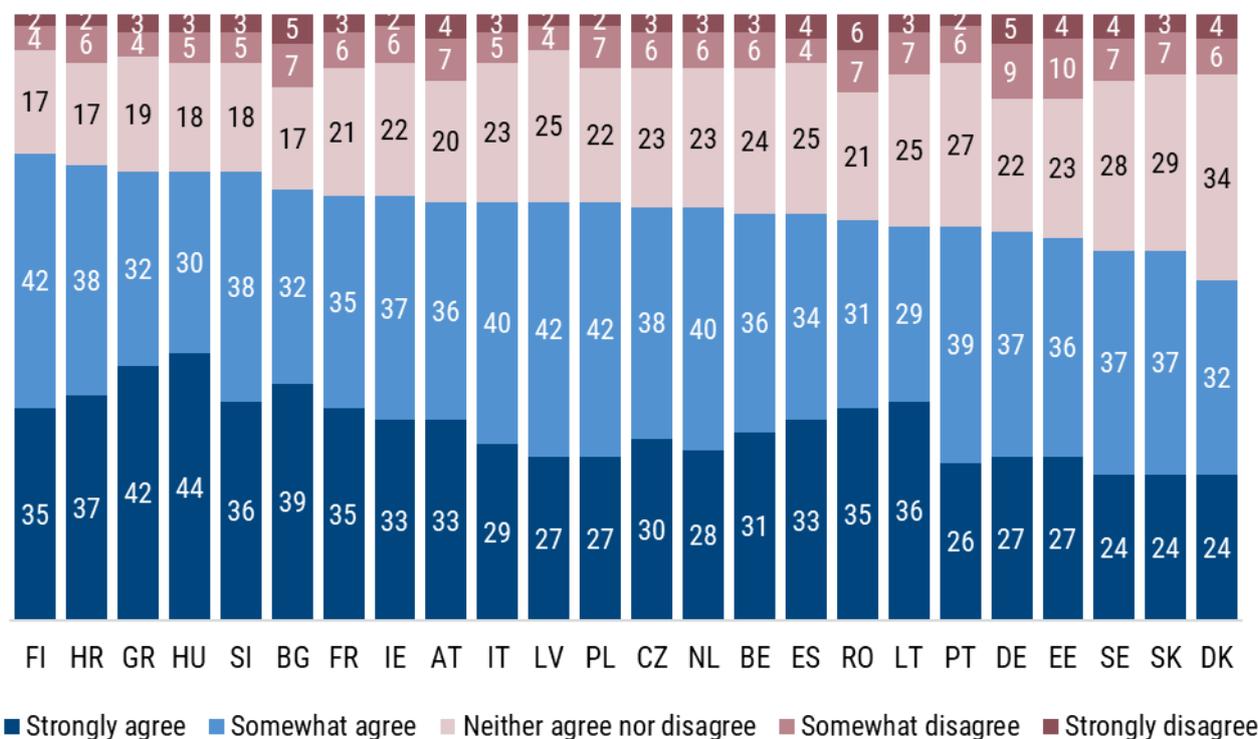
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



A majority of respondents agree that ordinary people share common interests that differ from those of the elite. Agreement with this view is most widespread in Finland (77%), Croatia (75%), and Greece and Hungary (74% each). Lower levels of agreement are observed in Sweden and Slovakia (61% each) and Denmark (56%). The proportion of respondents who disagree with this statement ranges from 6% to 14% across countries.

Fig. 7.2. Agree or disagree: ordinary people share common interests that are different from the interests of the elite (%)

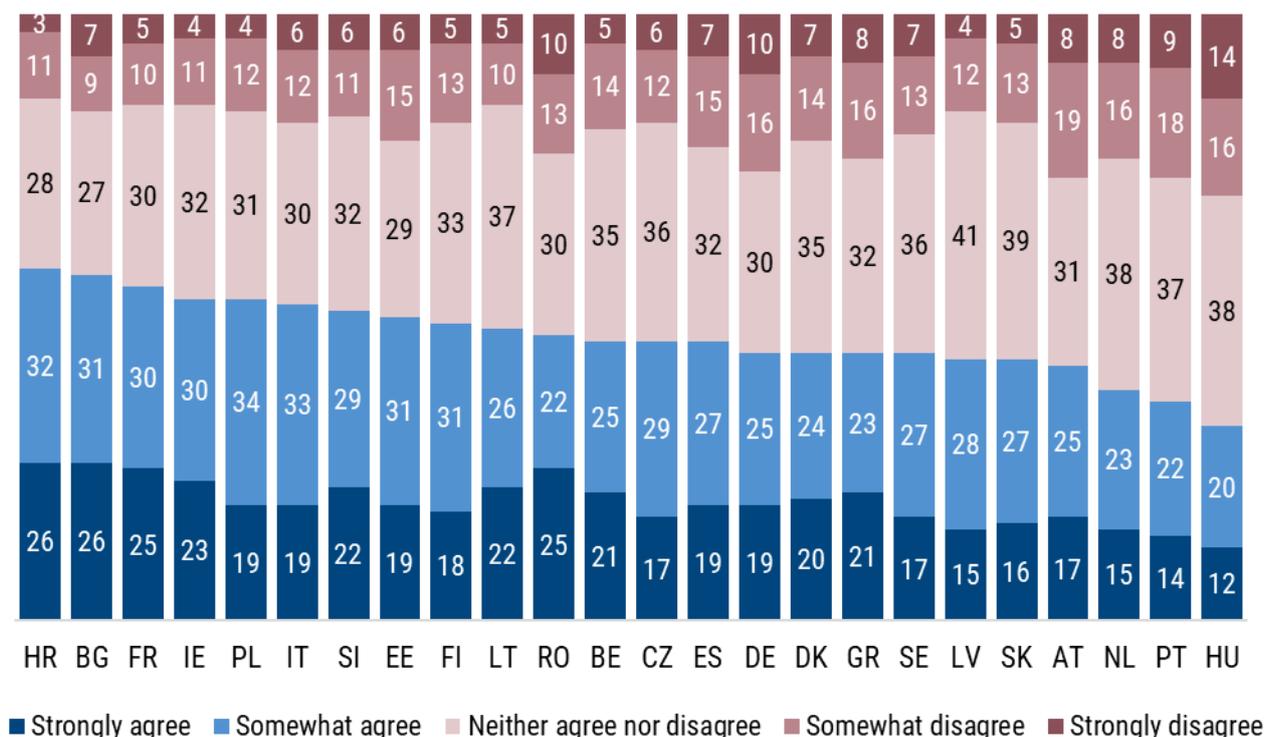
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Respondents' views on whether they would prefer to be represented by an ordinary citizen rather than a professional politician are divided. In Croatia (58%), Bulgaria (57%), France (55%), Ireland and Poland (53% each), Italy (52%), Slovenia (51%), and Estonia, a majority of respondents agree with this statement. The largest shares of respondents who are undecided are observed in Latvia (41%), Slovakia (39%), and the Netherlands and Hungary (38% each). Disagreement with this view is most prevalent in Hungary (30%), followed by Portugal and Austria (27% each), and Germany (26%).

Fig. 7.3. Agree or disagree: I would rather be represented by a citizen than by a specialized politician (%)

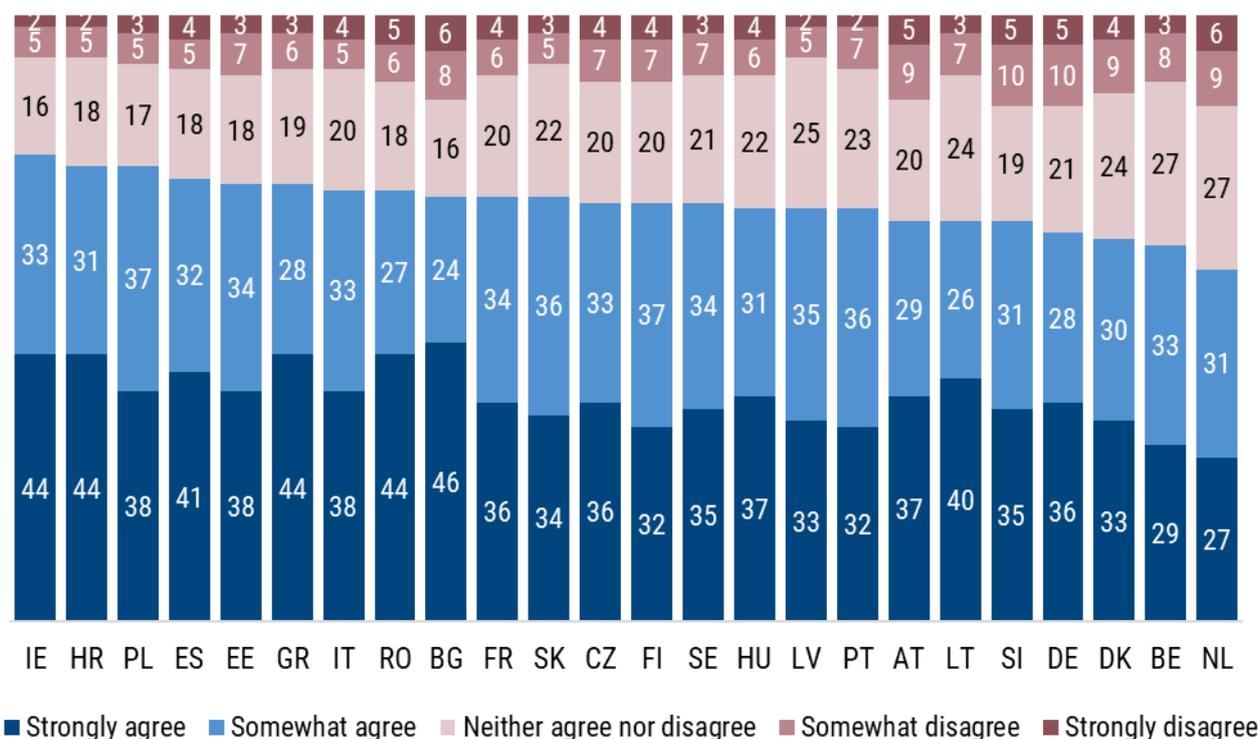
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Respondents largely agree that the people should have the decisive say on the most important political issues by voting on them directly in referendums. Agreement with this view is most widespread in Ireland (79%), followed by Croatia and Poland (75% each), Spain (73%), and Estonia (72%). Lower levels of agreement are observed in the Netherlands (58%), Belgium (62%), and Denmark (63%). The proportion of respondents who disagree with this statement does not exceed 15% in any country.

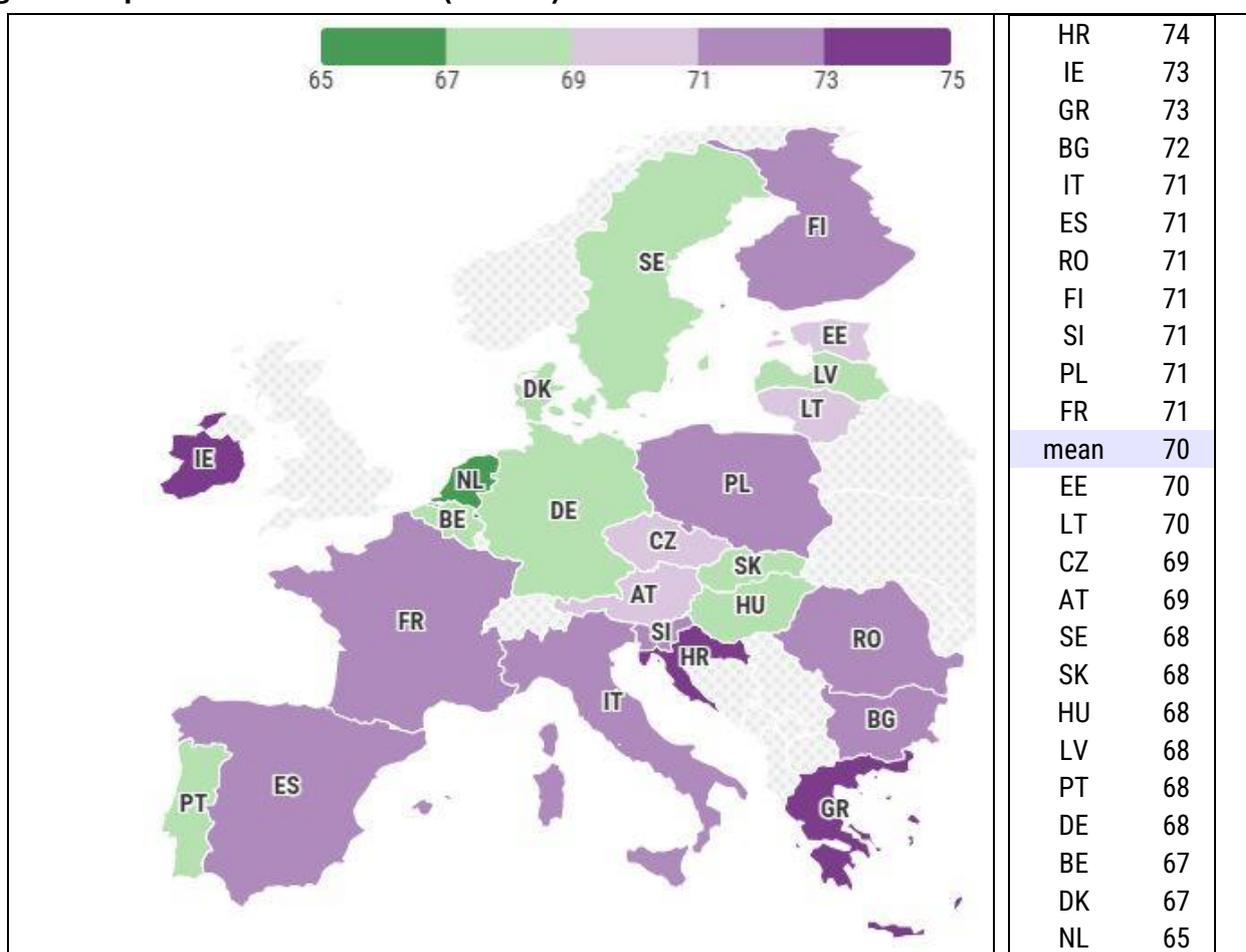
Fig. 7.4. Agree or disagree: the people should have the final say on the most important political issues by voting on them directly in referendums (%)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



The Populist Attitudes Index captures populist orientations, including people-centrism, anti-elitism, a preference for citizen representation over professional politicians, and support for direct decision-making through referendums. Measured on a 0–100 scale, higher levels of populist attitudes are observed in Croatia (74), Ireland and Greece (73 each), and Bulgaria (72). In Estonia and Lithuania (70 each), index values correspond to the European average. The lowest levels of populist attitudes are recorded in Belgium and Denmark (67 each) and the Netherlands (65).

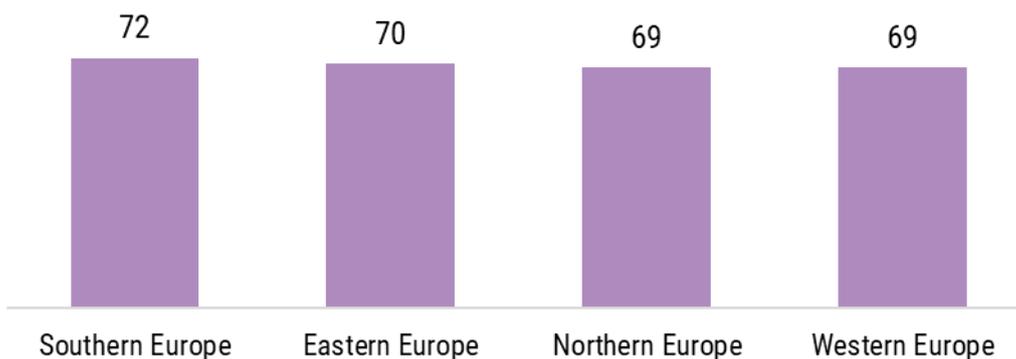
Fig. 7.5. Populist Attitudes Index (means)



Composite index capturing populist orientations, including people-centrism, anti-elitism, preference for citizen representation over specialized politicians, and support for direct decision-making via referendums; higher scores indicate more populist attitudes. Rescaled to a 0–100 metric.

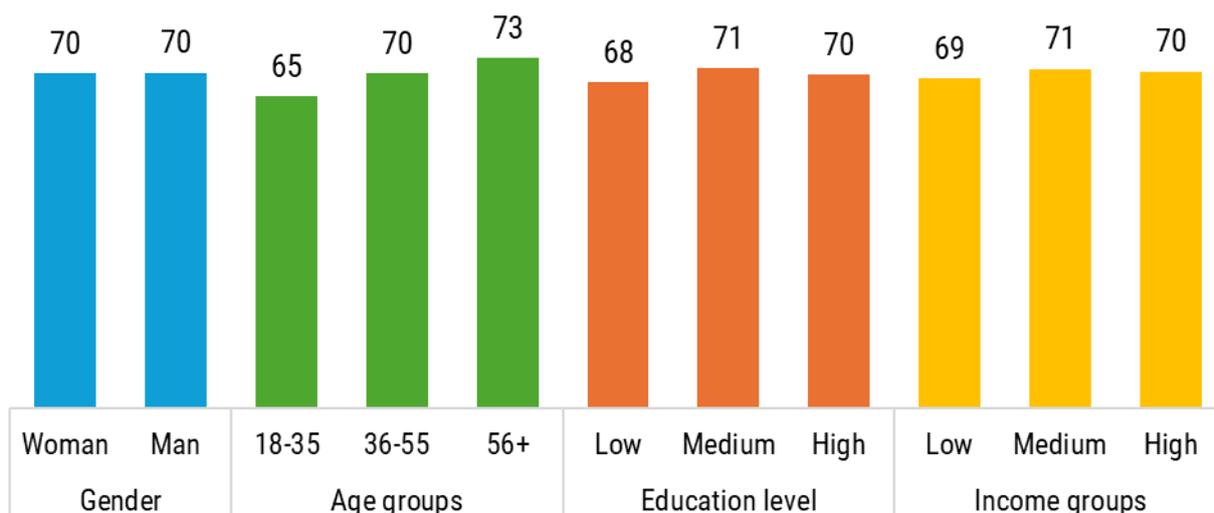
Populist attitudes show limited variation across European regions, with slightly higher index values in Southern Europe (72) compared to Eastern Europe (70) and Northern and Western Europe (69 each).

Fig. 7.6. Populist Attitudes Index in different regions of Europe (means)



There are no differences in the Populist Attitudes Index between men and women. The propensity towards populist attitudes increases with respondents' age. Individuals with medium levels of education and middle income exhibit higher values of the Populist Attitudes Index.

Fig. 7.7. Populist Attitudes Index among different groups (means)





In Greece, Bulgaria, Spain, Austria, Hungary, and Denmark, women are more inclined towards populist attitudes than men. In Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, Portugal, and Germany, the opposite pattern is observed, with men exhibiting stronger populist attitudes. In the remaining countries, no substantial gender differences are observed. In almost all countries, susceptibility to populist attitudes increases with respondents' age. No age-related differences are observed in Italy and Spain.

Fig 7.8. Populist Attitudes Index grouped by gender (means)

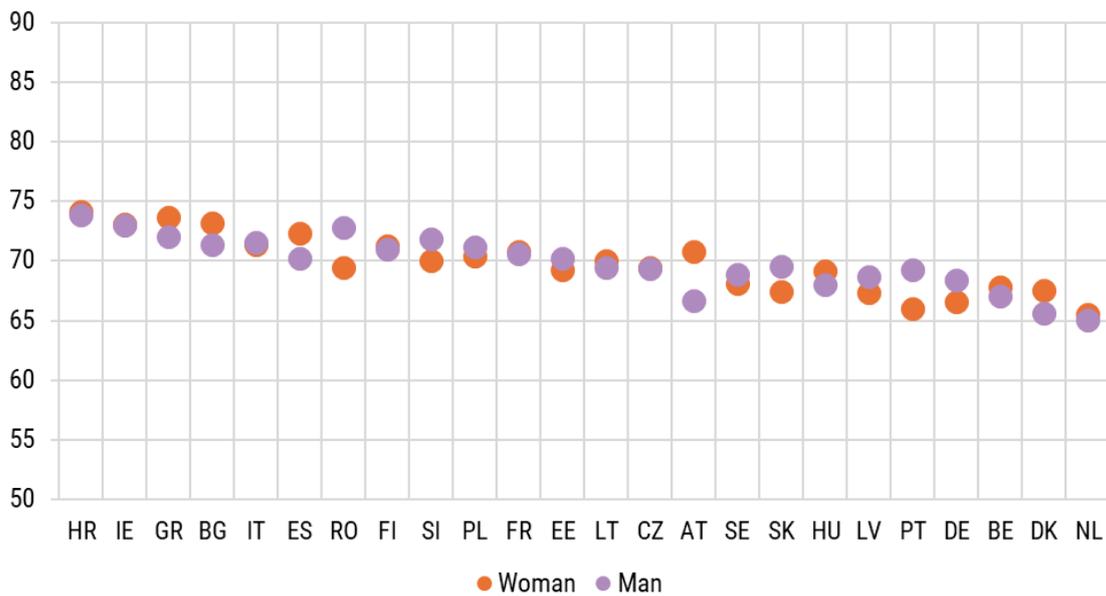
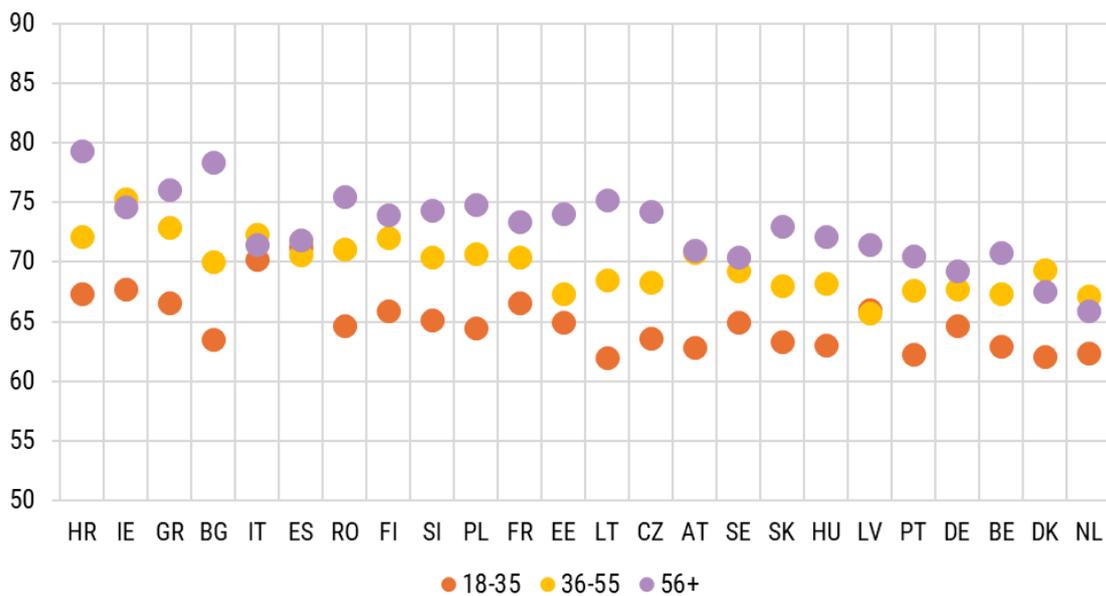


Fig 7.9. Populist Attitudes Index grouped by age (means)



In Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Portugal, and Denmark, no substantial differences in populist attitudes are observed across educational groups. By contrast, in Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Lithuania, Austria, Hungary, and Latvia, significant differences in the index values are evident between respondents with different levels of education. In Greece, Romania, France, Lithuania, and Sweden, individuals with middle income levels are more inclined towards populist attitudes. In Ireland and Finland, such attitudes are more characteristic of respondents with lower income. In Italy, Spain, Poland, Hungary, Germany, and Denmark, higher levels of susceptibility to populist attitudes are observed among respondents with higher income levels.

Fig 7.10. Populist Attitudes Index grouped by education (means)

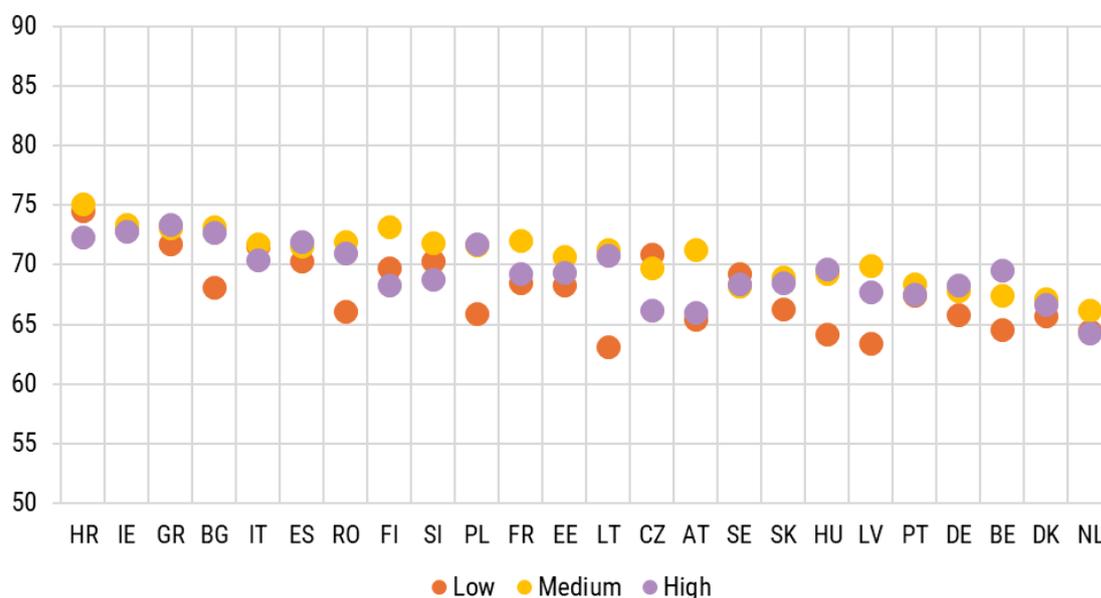
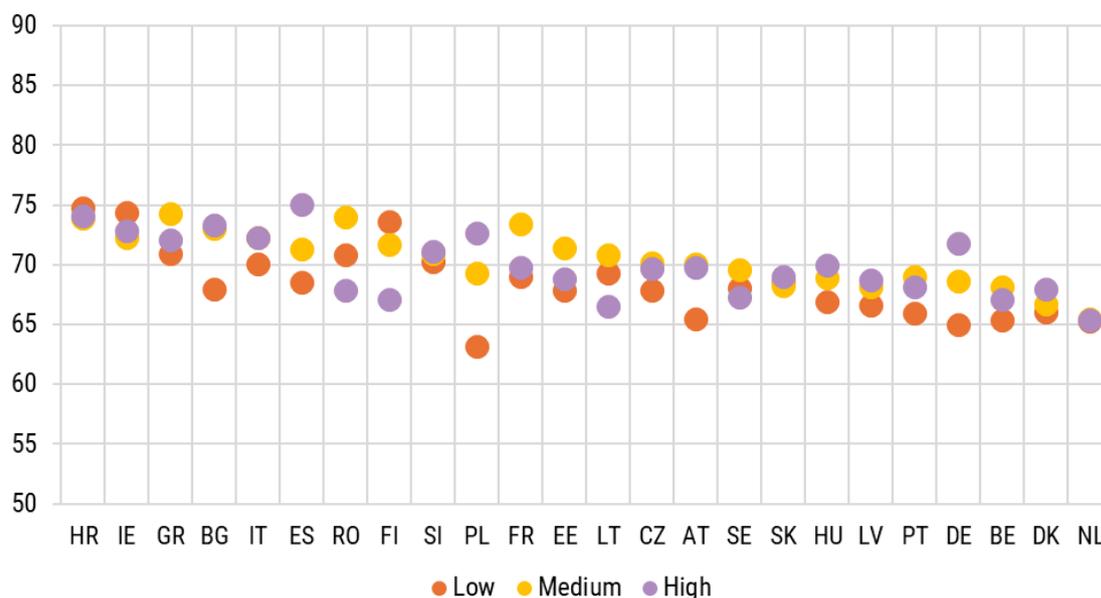


Fig 7.11. Populist Attitudes Index grouped by income (means)



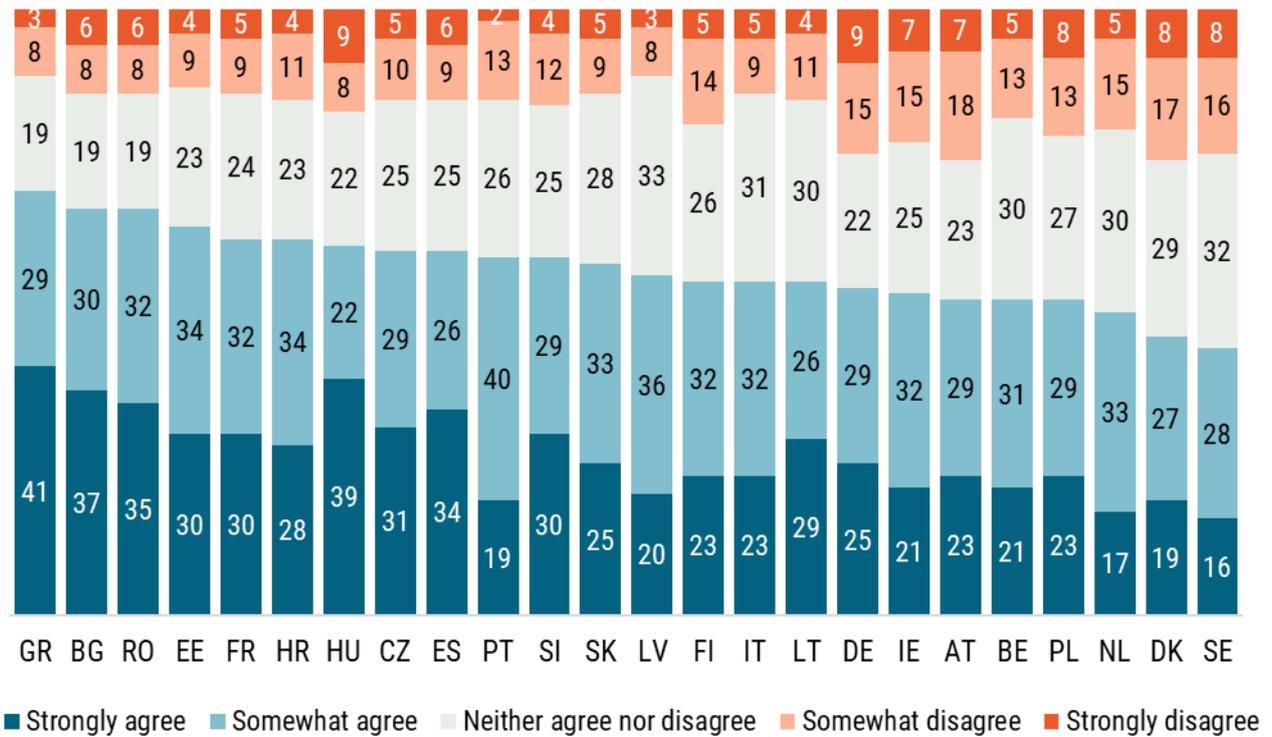


Polarization and Political Cynicism

Respondents generally agree that, in most cases, they cannot trust the government to act in the right way. Agreement with this statement is most widespread in Greece (70%), followed by Bulgaria and Romania (67% each) and Estonia (64%). Agreement is least common in the Netherlands (50%), Denmark (46%), and Sweden (44%).

Fig. 7.12. Agree or disagree: most of the time, I can't trust the government to do what's right (%)

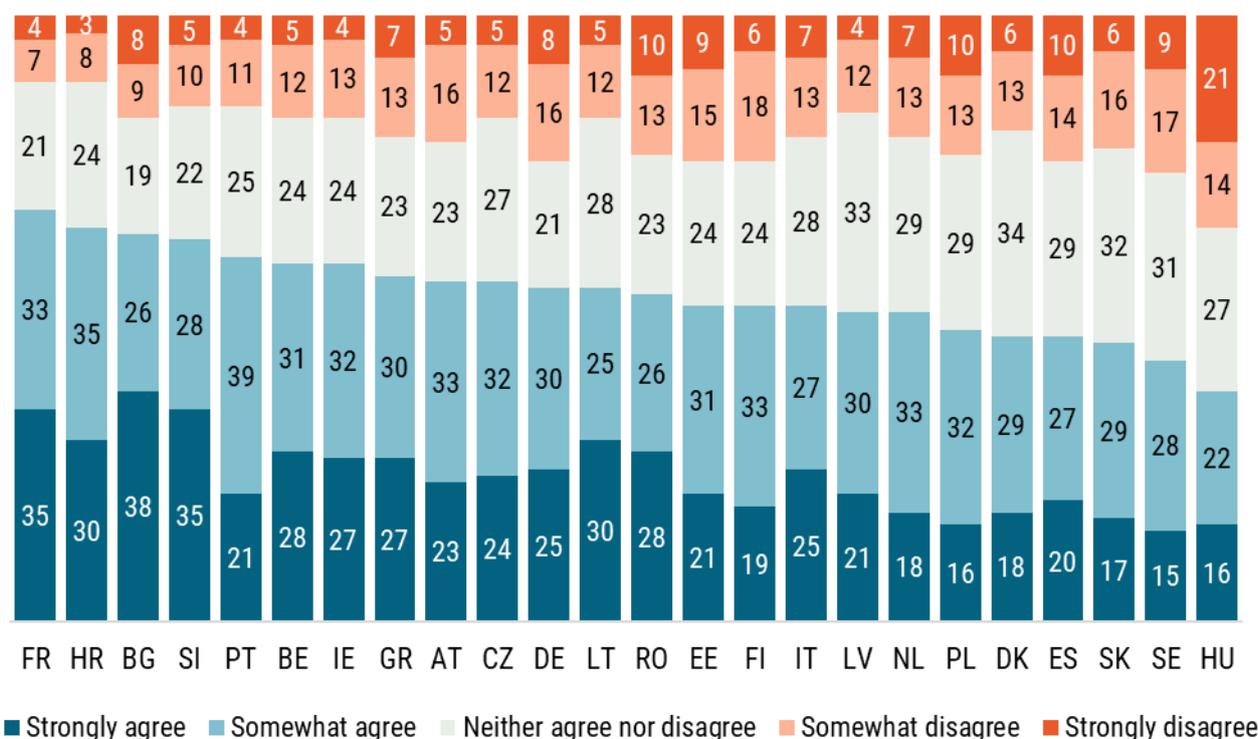
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



A majority of respondents agree that, regardless of who is elected, the situation does not in fact change for the better. Agreement with this statement is most widespread in France (68%), Croatia (65%), Bulgaria (64%), and Slovenia (63%). The lowest levels of agreement are observed in Slovakia (46%), Sweden (43%), and Hungary (38%).

Fig. 7.13. Agree or disagree: no matter who is elected, things don't really change for the better (%)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

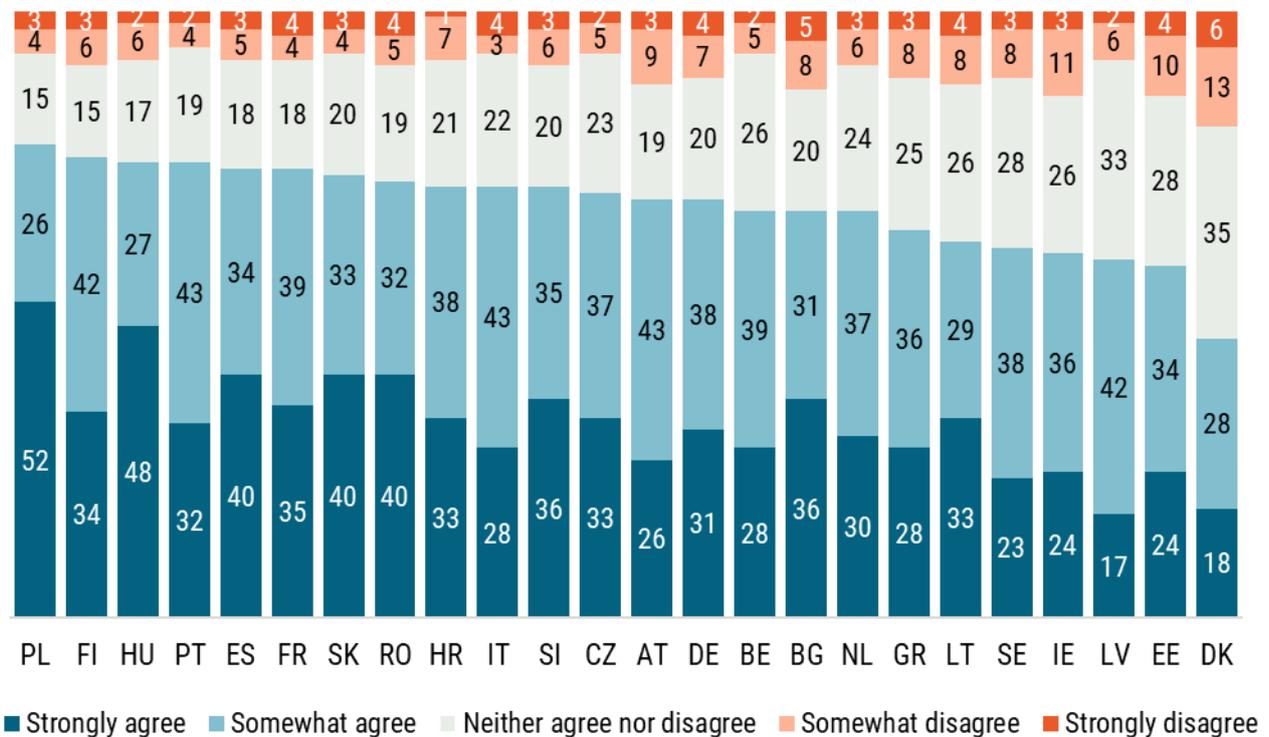




Respondents generally agree that people in their country are deeply divided in their views on political issues. Agreement with this statement is most widespread in Poland (78%), Finland (76%), and Hungary and Portugal (75% each). The lowest level of agreement is observed in Denmark (46%).

Fig. 7.14. Agree or disagree: people in our country are deeply divided over political issues (%)

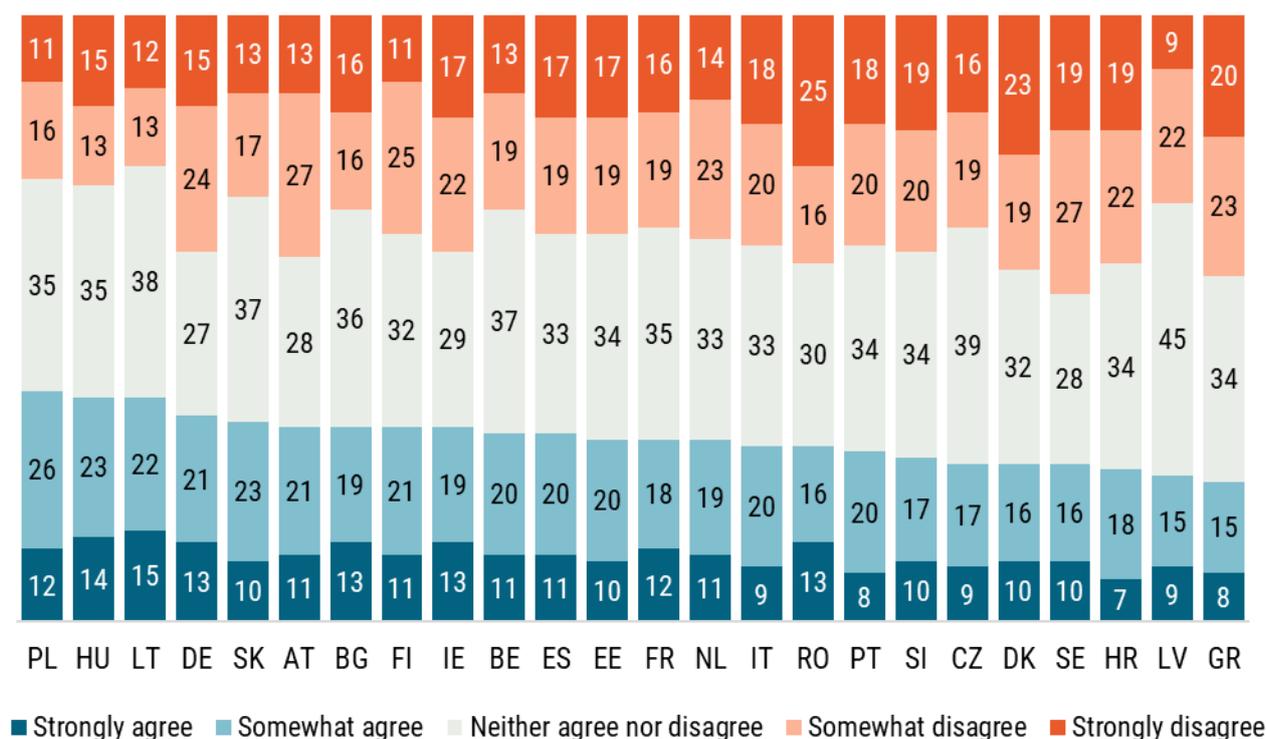
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Respondents' views on the statement "people who disagree with me politically often pose a threat to our way of life" are divided. Between 23% and 38% of respondents agree with this statement. Agreement is most common in Poland (38%) and in Hungary and Lithuania (37% each). At the same time, between 27% and 46% of respondents disagree with this view. Disagreement is most widespread in Sweden (46%), Greece (43%), Denmark (42%), and Romania and Croatia (41% each).

Fig. 7.15. Agree or disagree: people who disagree with me politically are often a danger to our way of life (%)

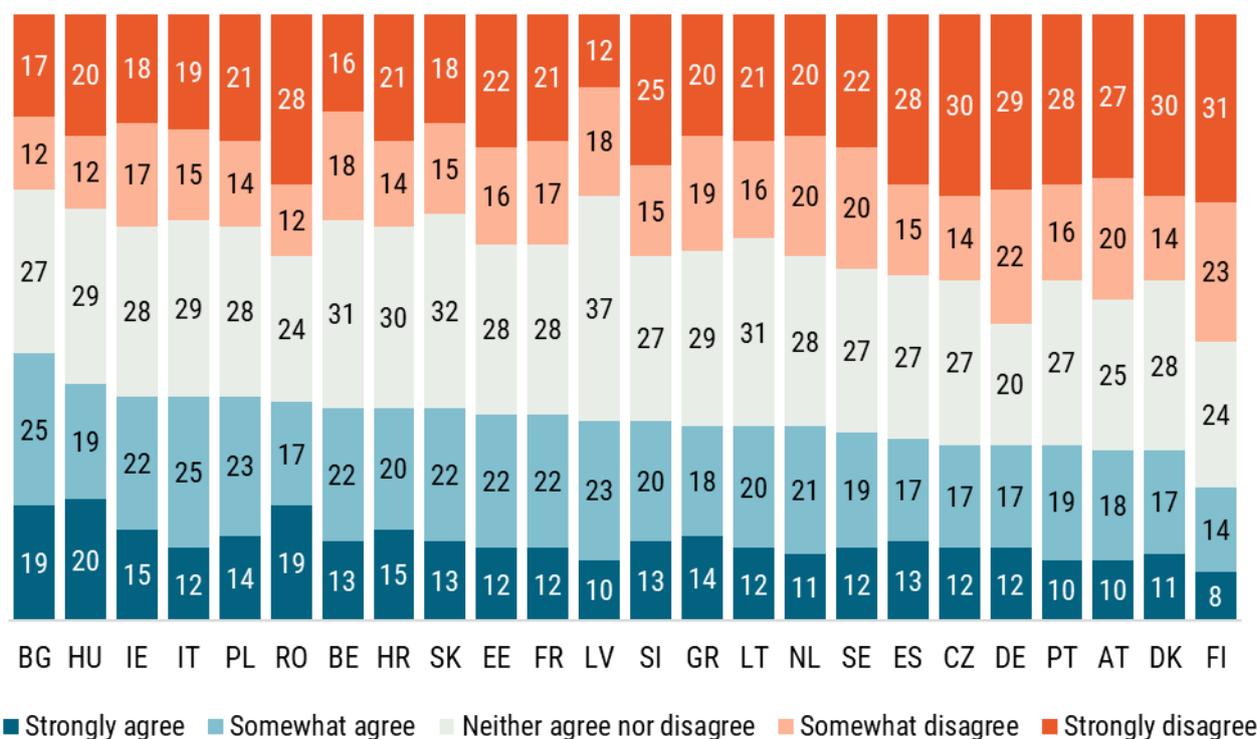
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Respondents' reactions to the statement that citizens should not have the right to vote if they are poorly informed about politics are mixed. Between 22% and 44% of respondents agree with this view, with the highest levels of agreement observed in Bulgaria (44%) and Hungary (39%). Disagreement with this statement is more widespread, ranging from 29% to 54%. The highest levels of disagreement are recorded in Finland (54%), Germany (51%), and Austria (47%).

Fig. 7.16. Agree or disagree: citizens should not have a right to vote if badly informed about politics (%)

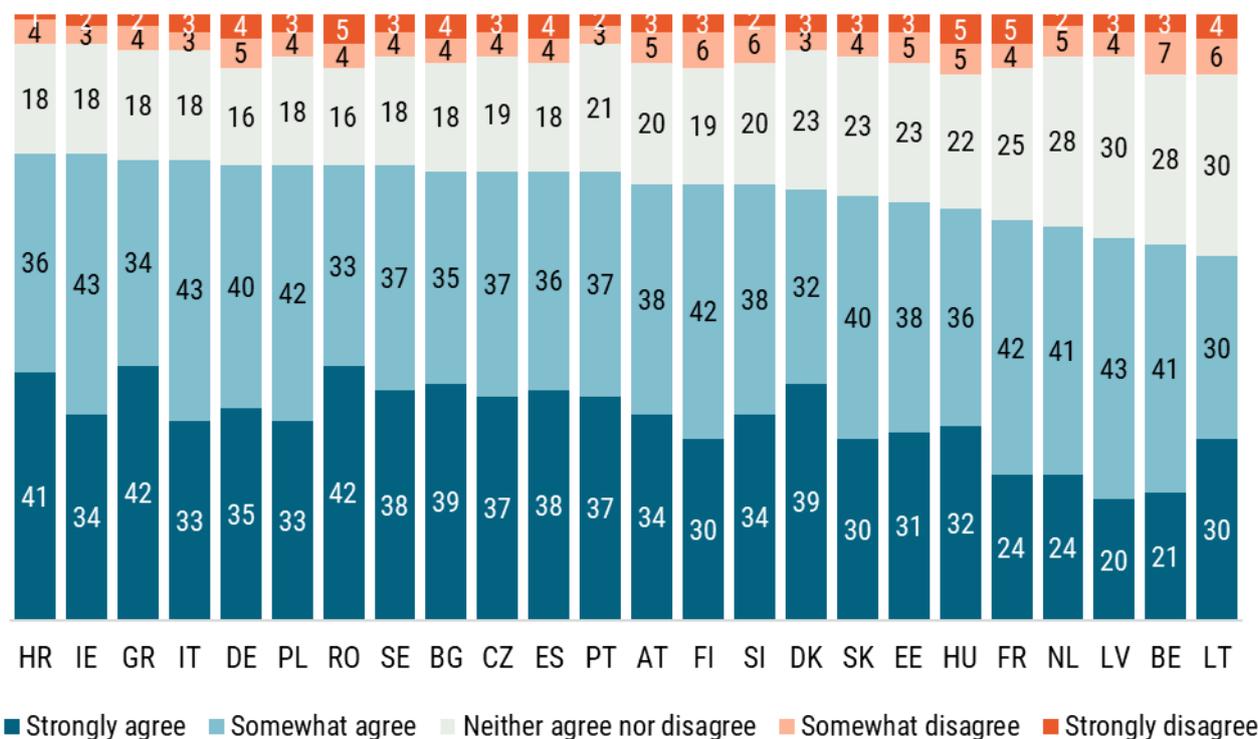
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



A majority of respondents report being open to the views of people who hold completely different political beliefs. Across all countries, between 60% and 77% of respondents agree with this statement. Agreement is most widespread in Croatia and Ireland (77% each), followed by Greece and Italy (76% each), and Germany, Poland, Romania, and Sweden (75% each). The lowest levels of agreement are observed in Belgium (62%) and Lithuania (60%).

Fig. 7.17. Agree or disagree: I am open to hearing the perspectives of people who have very different political beliefs (%)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

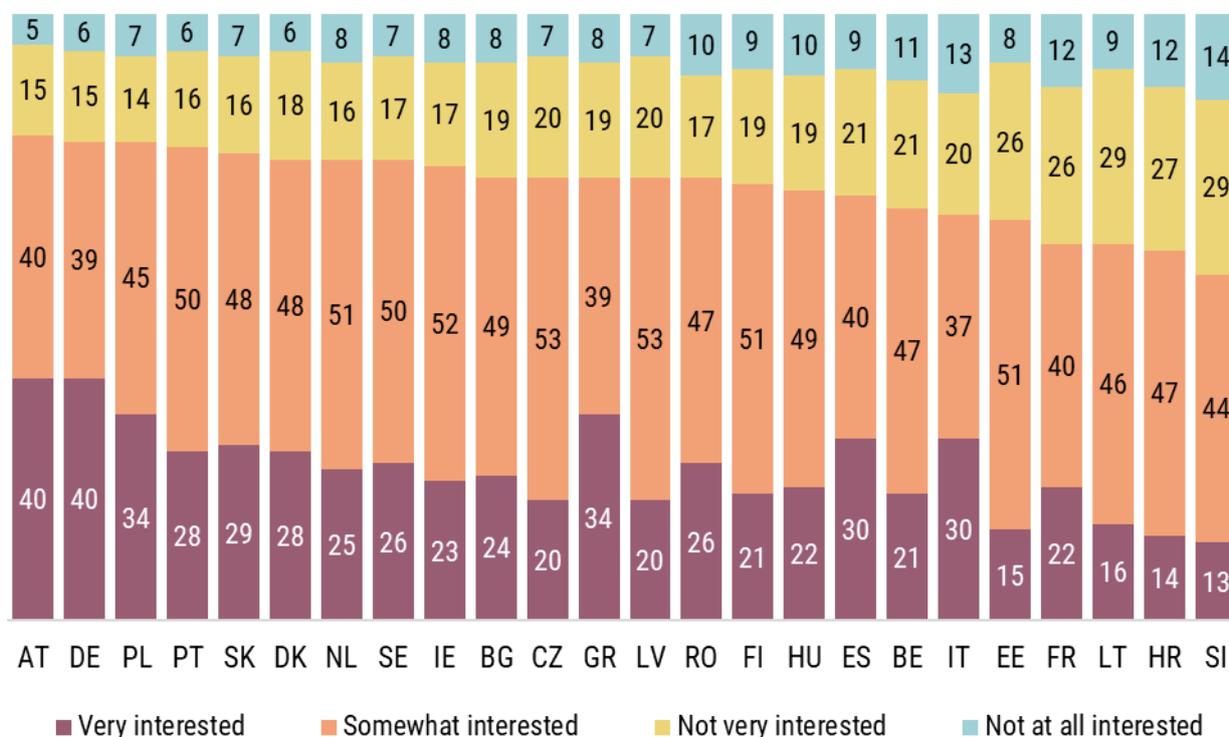


8. POLITICAL CULTURE AND PARTICIPATION

Overall, more than half of respondents in all countries report being interested in politics. The highest levels of political interest are observed in Austria (80%) and in Germany and Poland (79% each). The lowest levels of interest in politics are recorded in Slovenia (57%) and Hungary (61%).

Fig. 8.1. Interest in Politics (%)

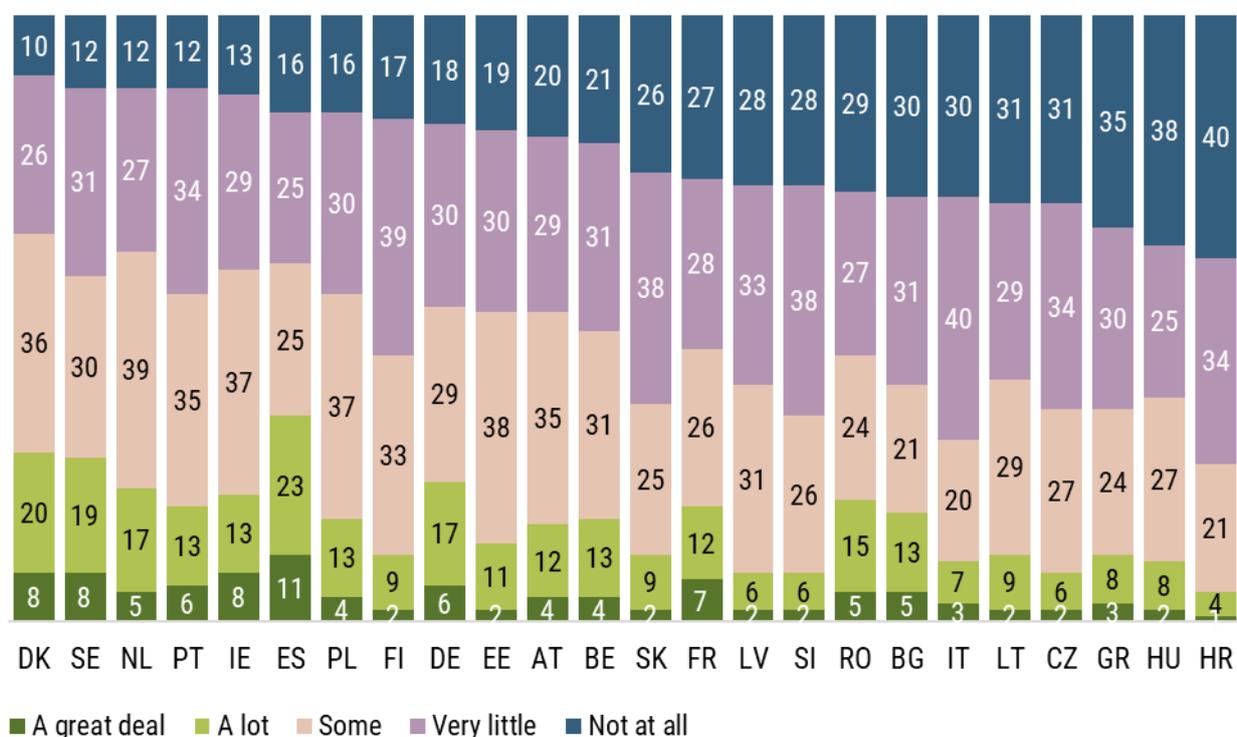
How interested would you say you are in politics? Are you...



Respondents were asked to what extent they believe that the political system in their country allows people like themselves to influence what the government does. Overall, respondents express limited confidence in such influence. The belief that this influence is minimal or non-existent is most widespread in Hungary (74%), Italy (70%), Slovenia (66%), and Slovakia (64%). By contrast, agreement that such influence does exist is most common in Spain (34%), Denmark (28%), and Sweden (27%).

Fig. 8.2. Perceived Influence on Government Decisions (%)

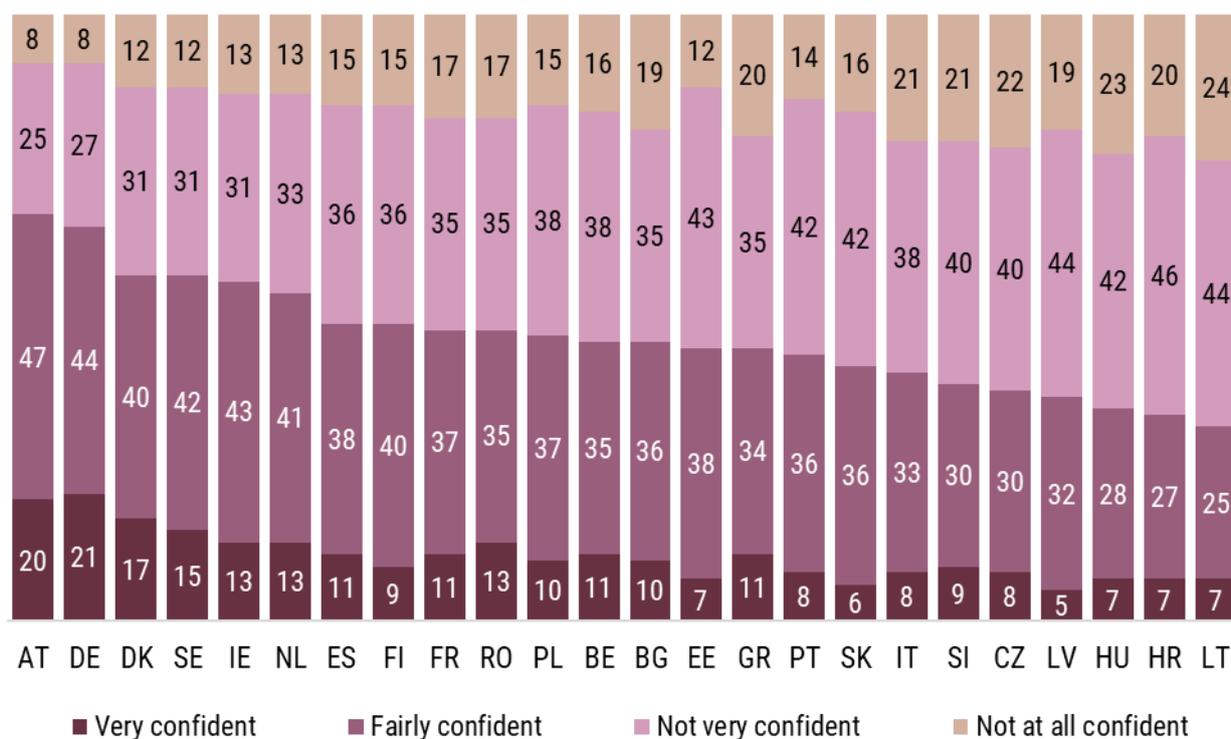
How much would you say the political system in your country allows people like you to have a say in what the government does?



A majority of respondents are confident in their ability to participate in politics. This confidence is most widespread in Austria (67%) and Germany (65%). More than half of respondents also express confidence in Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, and the Netherlands. The lowest level of confidence in one's ability to participate in politics is observed in Lithuania (24%).

Fig. 8.3. Confidence in Political Participation (%)

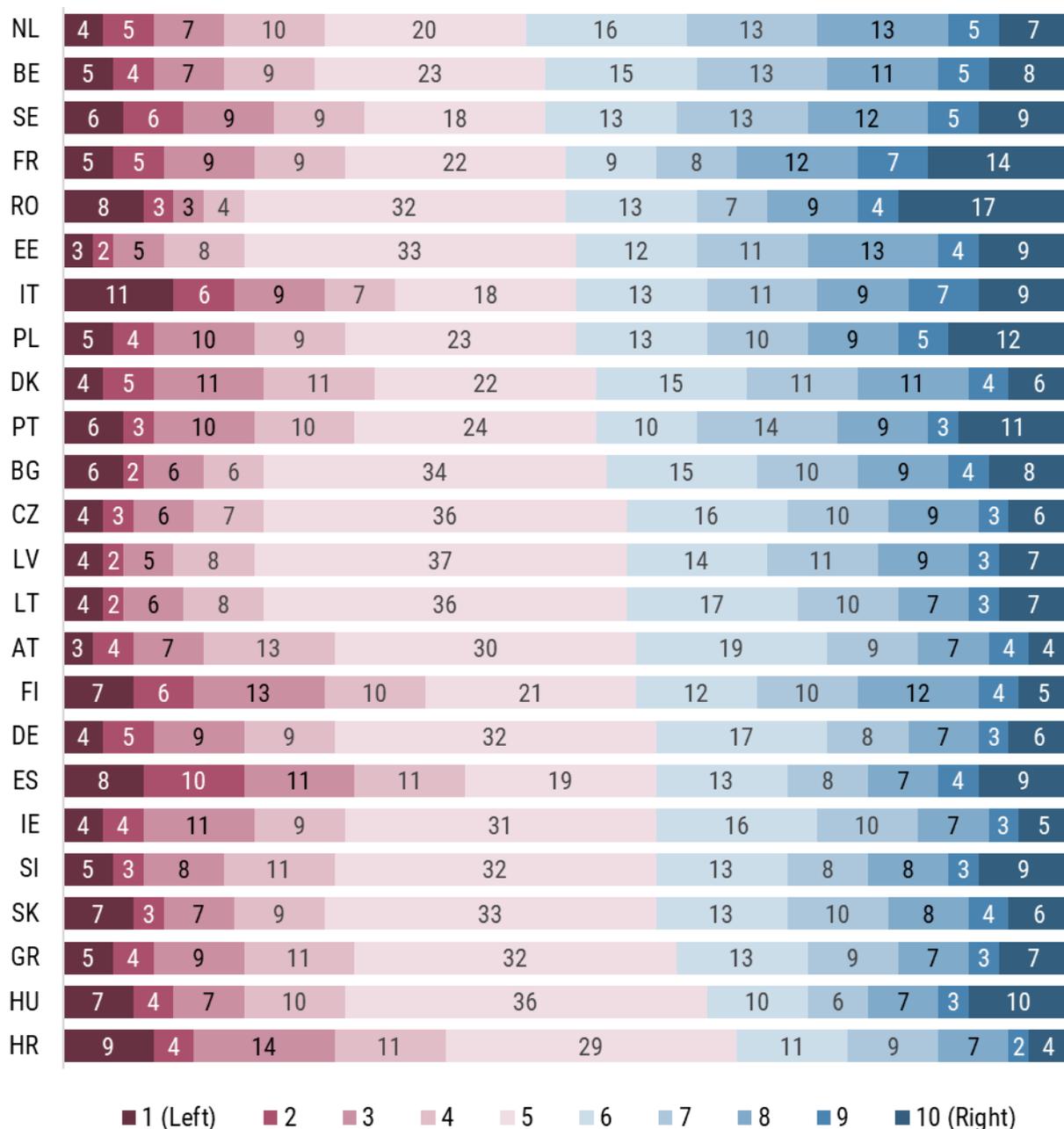
And how confident are you in your ability to participate in politics?



When discussing economic and political issues, respondents were asked to characterise their views as “left” or “right”. Right-leaning views predominate in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Sweden, while left-leaning orientations are more prevalent in Croatia, Hungary, and Greece.

Fig. 8.4. Left–Right Political Self-Placement (%)

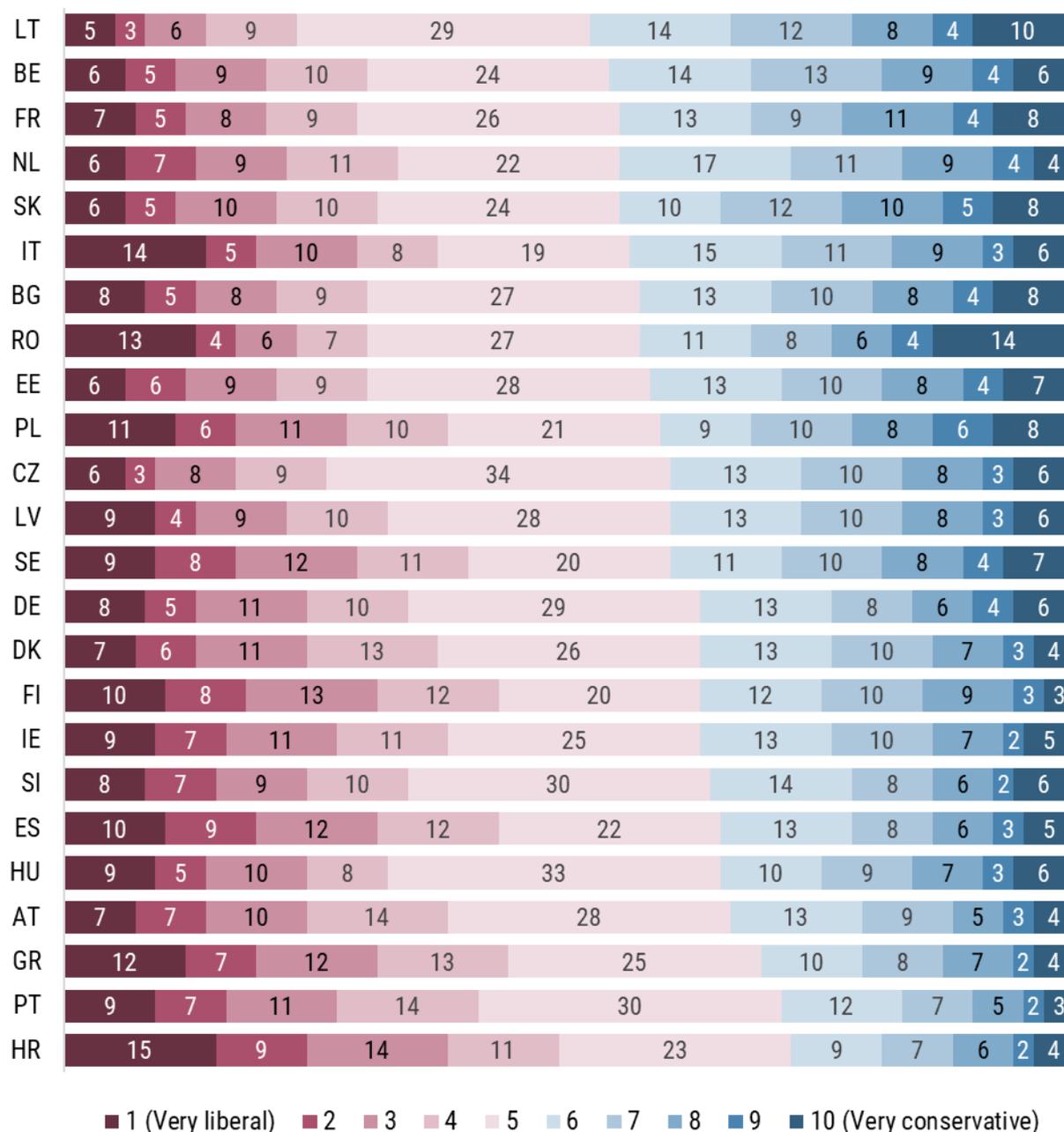
In economic and political matters, people talk of "the left" and "the right." How would you place your views on this scale, generally speaking?



Respondents were asked whether they would characterise their views as “liberal” or “conservative” with regard to moral values, such as respect for minority rights and gender equality. Overall, respondents are more likely to identify as liberal. Liberal views are most prevalent in Croatia, Portugal, and Greece. Conservative orientations are most common in Lithuania, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Slovakia.

Fig. 8.5. Liberal–Conservative Self-Placement on Moral Values (%)

In moral values, such as respect for minority rights and gender equality, people talk of “liberals” and “conservatives”. How would you place your views on this scale, generally speaking?

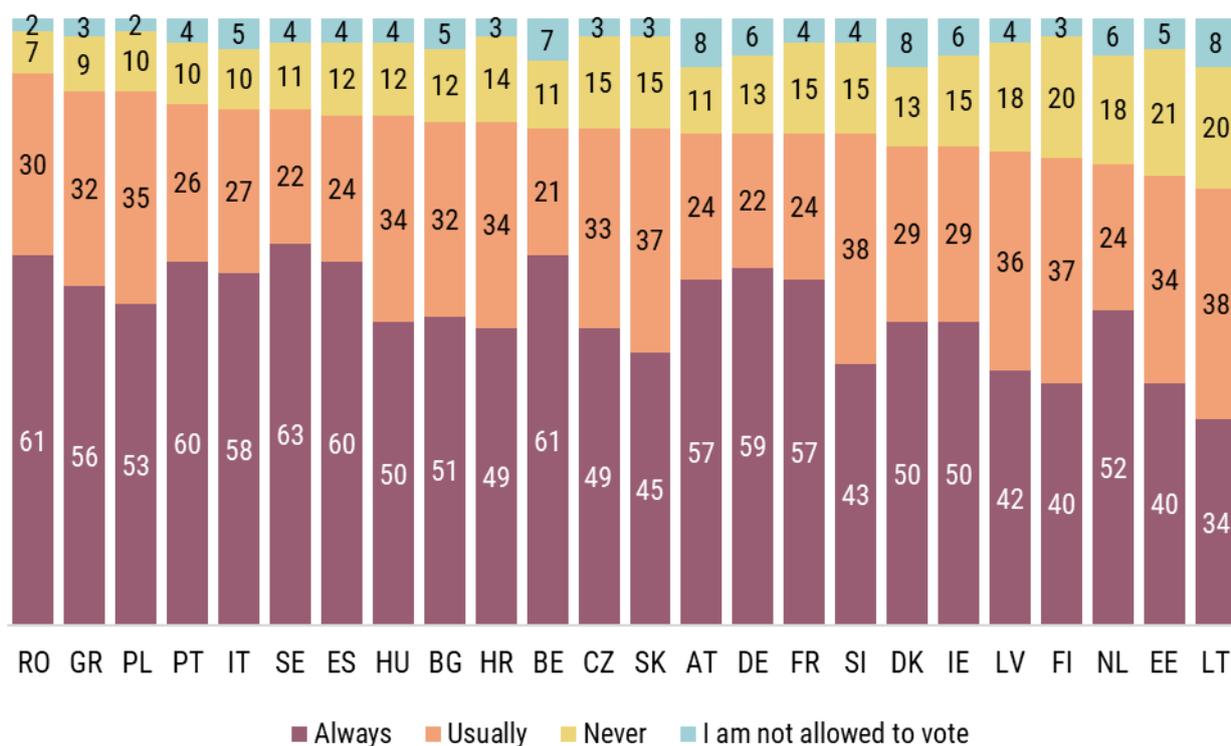




Overall, a majority of respondents report frequent participation in local elections. Turnout is highest in Romania (91%), followed by Greece and Poland (88% each). Local elections are most often not attended in Lithuania and Finland (20% each) and Estonia (21%).

Fig. 8.6. Voting Frequency in Local Elections (%)

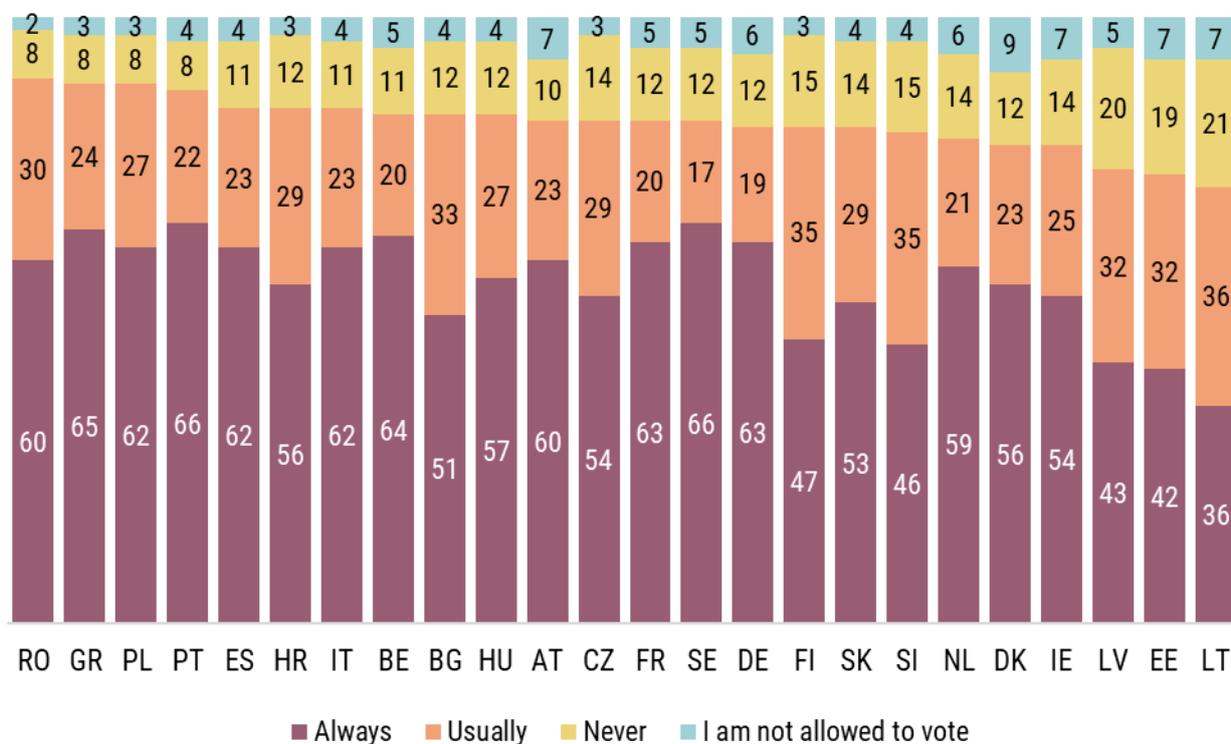
When local or municipal elections take place, do you vote always, usually or never?



A similar pattern is observed with regard to national elections. The majority of respondents report that they usually participate in national elections. The highest levels of electoral participation are recorded in Romania (90%), followed by Greece and Poland (89% each). The highest proportions of non-participation are observed in Lithuania (21%), Latvia (20%), and Estonia (19%).

Fig. 8.7. Voting Frequency in National Elections (%)

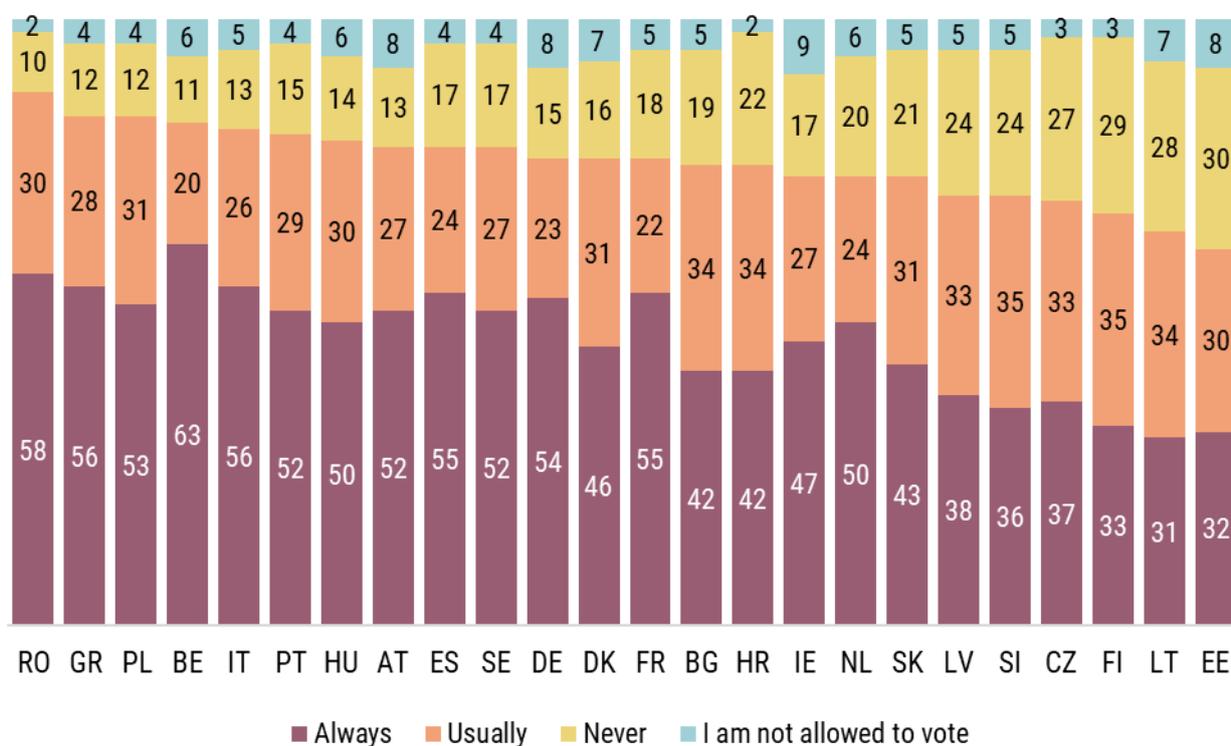
When national elections take place, do you vote always, usually or never?



Participation in elections to the European Parliament is somewhat lower than in local and national elections, although turnout remains relatively high. The highest levels of participation in European Parliament elections are observed in Romania (88%), followed by Greece and Poland (84% each). The largest shares of respondents who do not participate in European Parliament elections are recorded in Estonia (30%), Finland (29%), and Lithuania (28%).

Fig. 8.8. Voting Frequency in European parliamentary Elections (%)

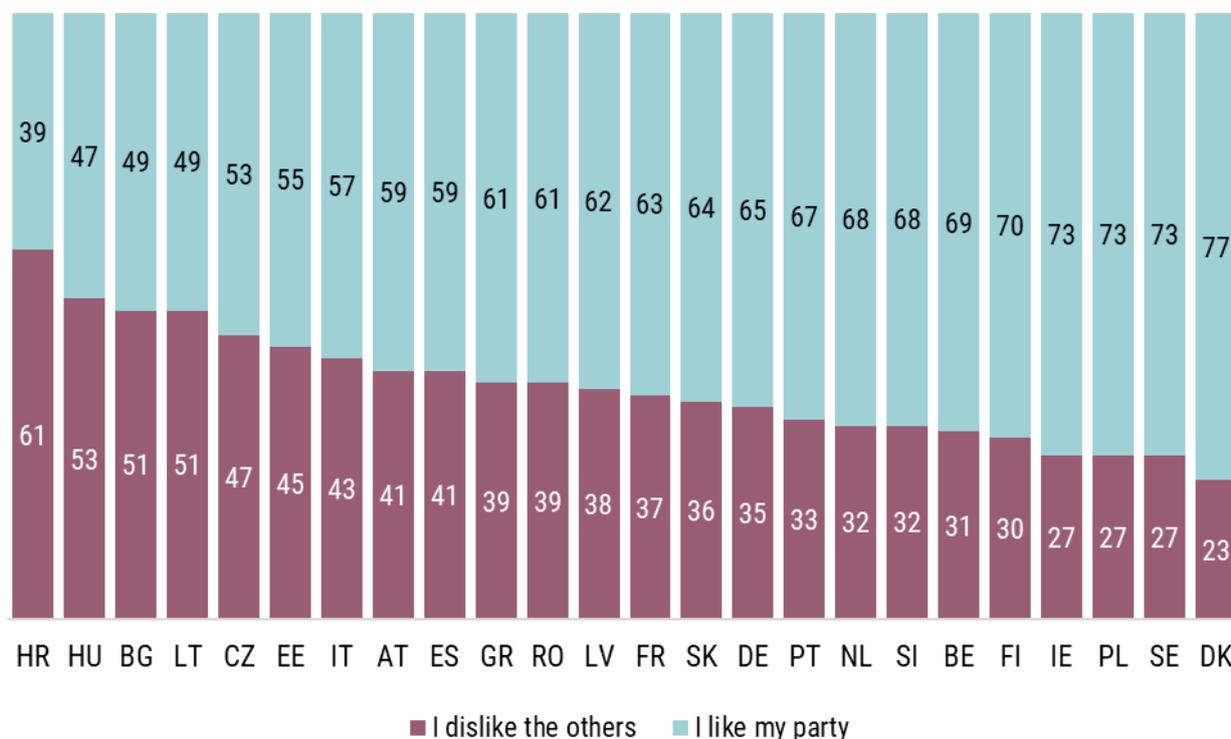
When European parliamentary elections take place, do you vote always, usually or never?



Respondents were asked whether they vote for a political party because they like it or because they dislike other parties. Overall, party choice is more often driven by positive preference. In Finland, Ireland, Poland, Sweden, and Denmark, 70% or more of respondents report voting for the party they like most. By contrast, in Croatia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Lithuania, more than half of respondents indicate that they more often choose a party because they dislike the alternatives.

Fig. 8.9. Reasons for Party Choice (%)

In general, do you usually vote for a party because you like it or because you dislike the others?



Voting in elections—particularly national elections—constitutes the most common form of political participation. However, in Romania (69%), Croatia (69%), and Finland (63%), local elections attract higher levels of participation. Other widespread forms of political activity include signing petitions and posting or reposting political content on social media and messaging platforms. The highest proportions of respondents reporting no political activity at all are observed in Italy (41%), Sweden (40%), and Lithuania (39%).



Table 8.1. Over the last 12 months, have you done any of the following political activities? Select all that apply (%).

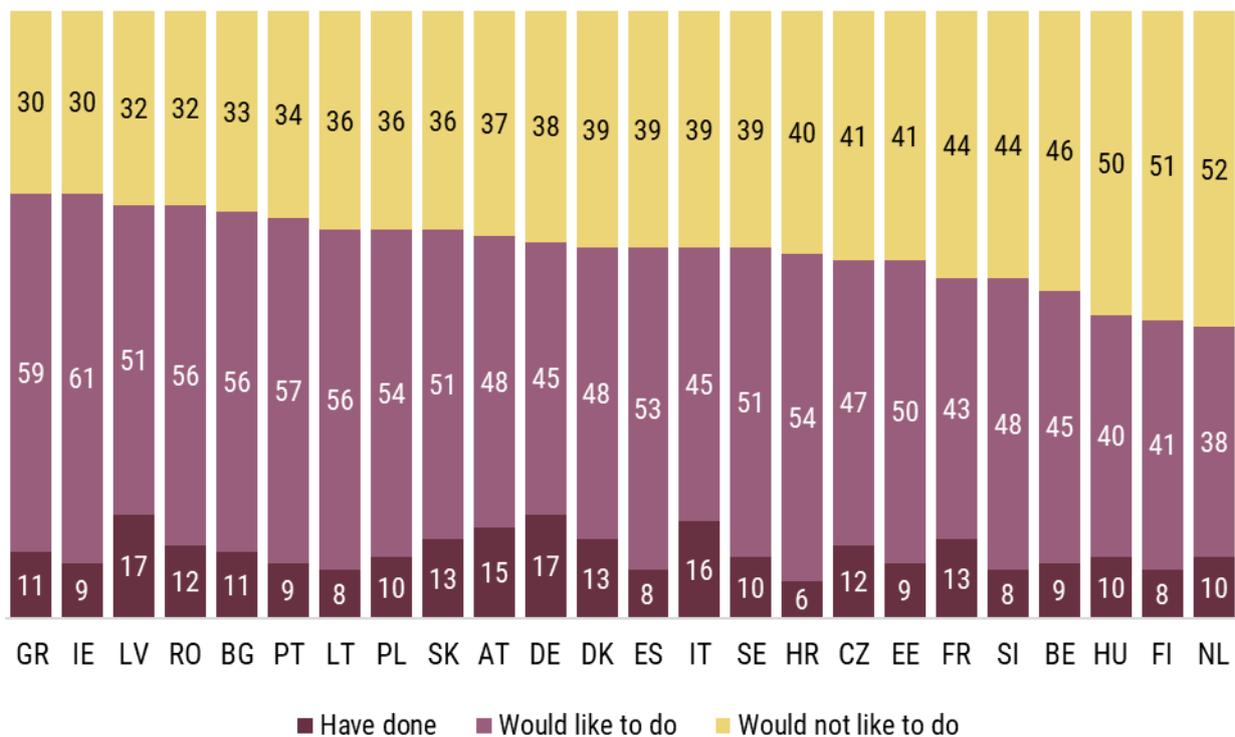
	PT	PL	DE	AT	BE	HR	IE	BG	RO	NL	FR	LV	FI	CZ	ES	GR	SK	SI	HU	IT	EE	SE	DK	LT
Voted in a national election	74	69	62	59	56	53	51	49	43	41	39	35	30	27	27	26	26	25	23	20	17	17	15	12
Voted in a local/municipal election	26	40	34	48	54	69	40	38	69	37	29	38	63	34	30	28	25	30	32	22	20	17	16	15
Signed a petition (including electronic petitions)	25	16	19	28	17	27	21	24	22	17	17	21	31	22	21	16	30	27	23	20	20	11	21	13
Posted or shared about politics on social media, including messengers	12	10	11	14	8	8	12	9	16	8	8	8	11	11	13	16	12	9	13	11	14	14	9	12
Contacted a politician or a governmental official	6	6	12	16	12	7	18	9	8	11	9	8	8	7	7	12	7	7	9	6	10	12	12	9
Taken part in a demonstration	7	6	8	6	6	4	7	10	9	4	7	5	3	8	13	28	12	6	9	4	4	7	6	3
Attended a trade union meeting	5	5	7	7	9	8	8	5	4	8	6	7	7	6	7	7	7	7	4	7	8	12	12	8
Participated in a boycott or 'boycott'	2	2	7	8	7	23	6	5	3	6	9	7	12	3	6	9	2	8	2	1	7	14	11	3
Attended a political party meeting	5	7	6	6	8	6	7	8	6	6	5	4	4	4	6	10	7	4	9	4	8	6	9	4
Participated in a public consultation	6	5	6	4	5	6	5	6	5	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	6	5	10	5	11	5	8	10
Volunteered for a political campaign or organization	5	4	6	5	7	6	9	5	6	9	4	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	6	5	8	8	10	6
Donated to a political campaign or cause	2	5	5	4	3	3	8	4	4	5	3	6	3	4	4	3	3	3	5	5	4	6	6	4
Organized or led a community event related to social or political issues	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	4	4	2
Ran for an elected office	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	3	2
None of the above	10	11	14	13	16	11	15	17	10	24	29	22	17	33	31	24	27	28	35	41	34	40	34	39
Prefer not to answer	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	4	1	2	2	4	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	4



The majority of respondents report that they have not participated in citizens' assemblies. The share of respondents who have taken part in such initiatives does not exceed 17%. At the same time, a substantial proportion of respondents express interest in participating in such deliberative forums. Interest in this format is most pronounced in Ireland (61%), Greece (59%), and Portugal (57%). By contrast, in Hungary, Finland, and the Netherlands, around half of respondents report no desire to participate in such assemblies.

Fig. 8.10. Participation in Citizen Assemblies (%)

In recent years, some governments have expanded opportunities for citizen participation. Have you ever personally taken part in any of the following and would you like to do so or not: Citizen's assemblies, where people are invited to discuss certain issues

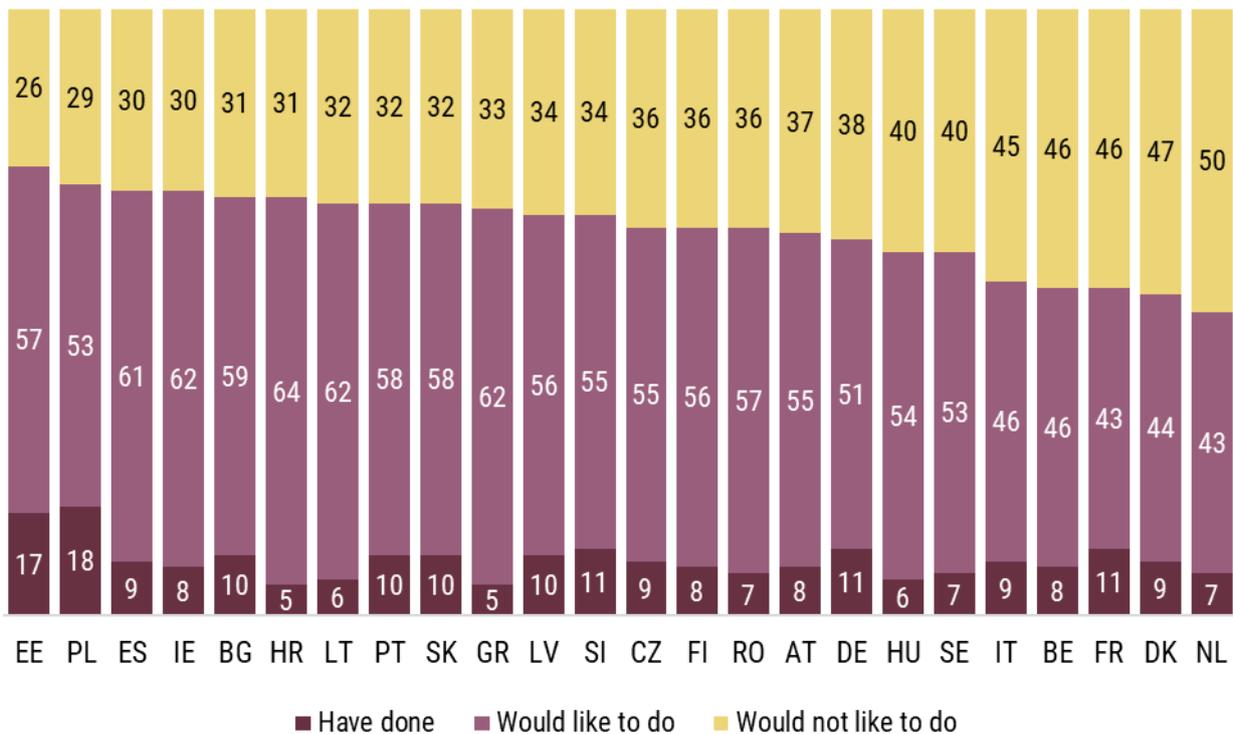




The majority of respondents report that they have not participated in participatory budgeting initiatives, in which citizens can decide how a portion of the public budget is allocated. At the same time, most respondents indicate that they would like to take part in such initiatives. Interest in this format is highest in Croatia (64%), followed by Greece and Ireland (62% each). By contrast, in the Netherlands, 50% of respondents report that they would not wish to participate in participatory budgeting.

Fig. 8.11. Citizen Involvement in Public Budget Decisions (%)

In recent years, some governments have expanded opportunities for citizen participation. Have you ever personally taken part in any of the following and would you like to do so or not: Participatory budgets, where citizens can decide on spending part of the public budget

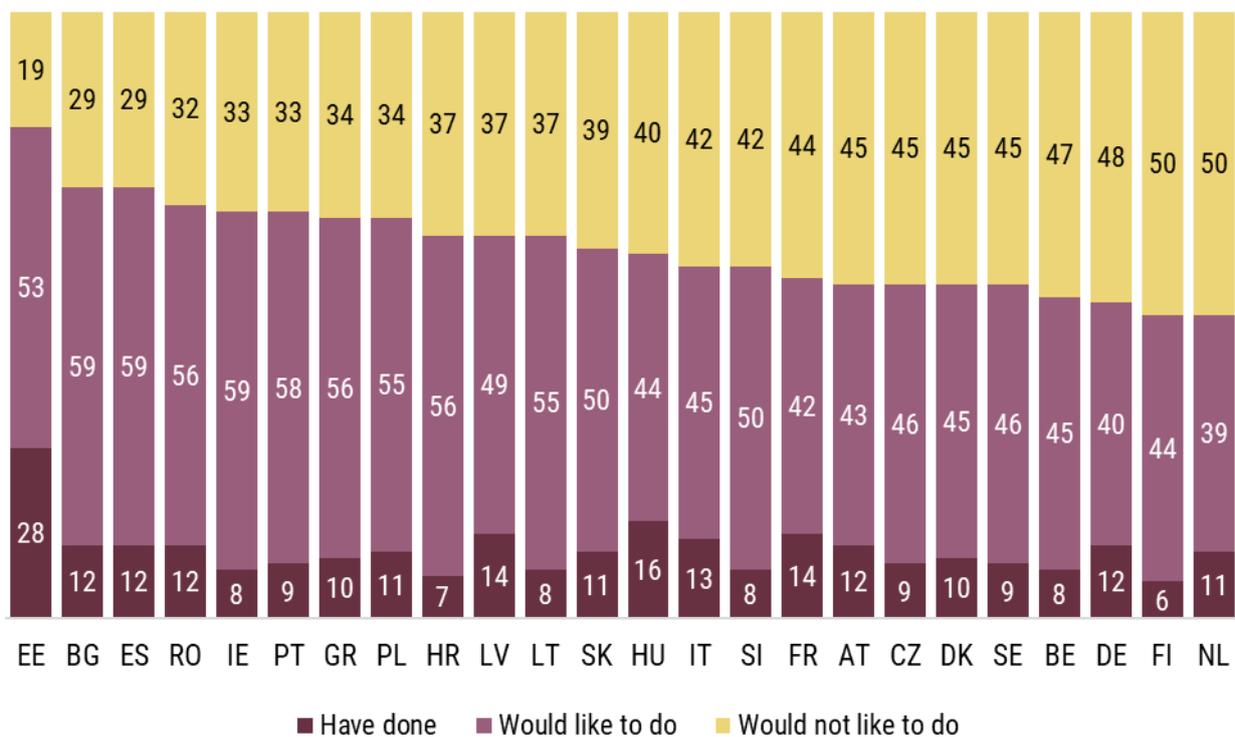




The majority of respondents report that they have not participated in online consultations in which citizens can discuss various issues. Only in Estonia have as many as 28% of respondents taken part in such consultations. In all other countries, participation in online consultations ranges from 6% to 16%. At the same time, many respondents express a willingness to participate in online consultations. Such interest is most frequently reported in Bulgaria, Spain, and Ireland (59% each). By contrast, in Finland and the Netherlands, 50% of respondents state that they would not wish to participate in online consultations.

Fig. 8.12. Citizen Engagement in Online Consultations (%)

In recent years, some governments have expanded opportunities for citizen participation. Have you ever personally taken part in any of the following and would you like to do so or not: Online consultations, where citizens can debate certain issues

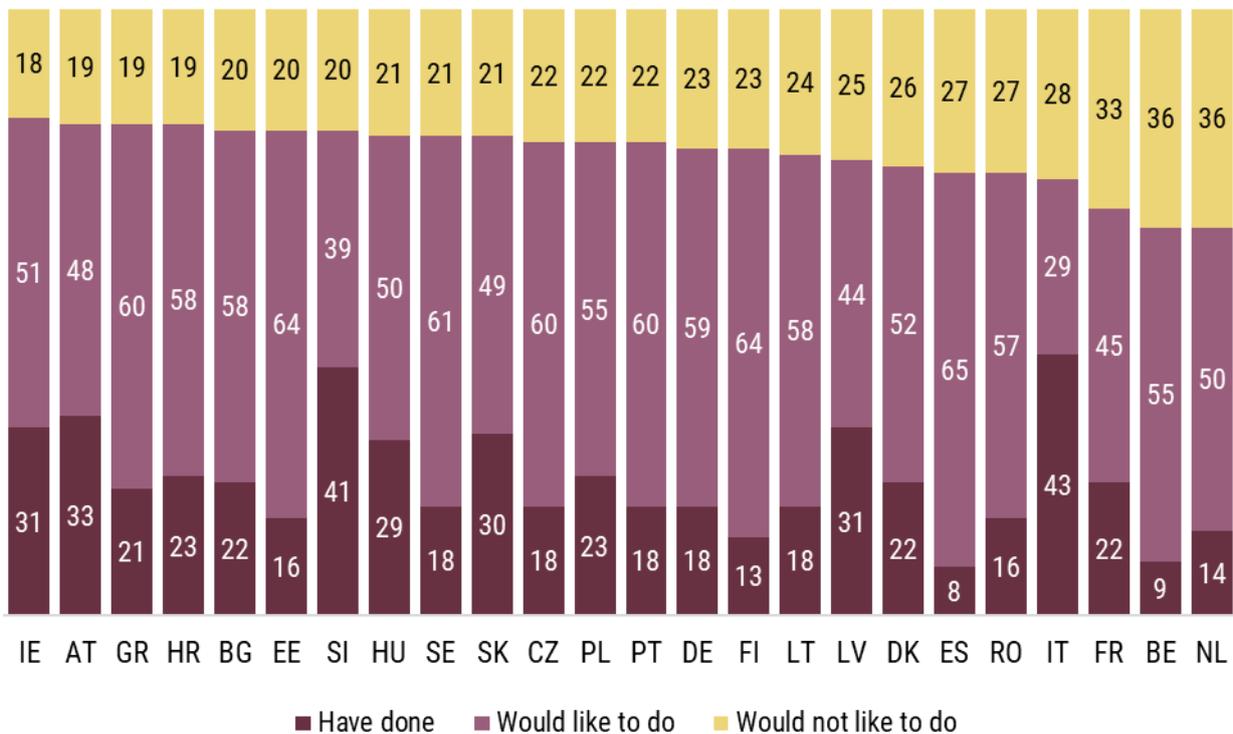




Participation in referendums is reported more frequently than participation in other deliberative or consultative formats. The highest levels of participation in referendums are observed in Italy (43%), Slovenia (41%), Austria (33%), and Ireland and Latvia (31% each). Nevertheless, in all countries, more than half of respondents report that they have not taken part in referendums. Among those who have not participated, the majority indicate that they would like to do so.

Fig. 8.13. Citizen Engagement in Referendums (%)

In recent years, some governments have expanded opportunities for citizen participation. Have you ever personally taken part in any of the following and would you like to do so or not: Referendums, where voters decide about certain issues

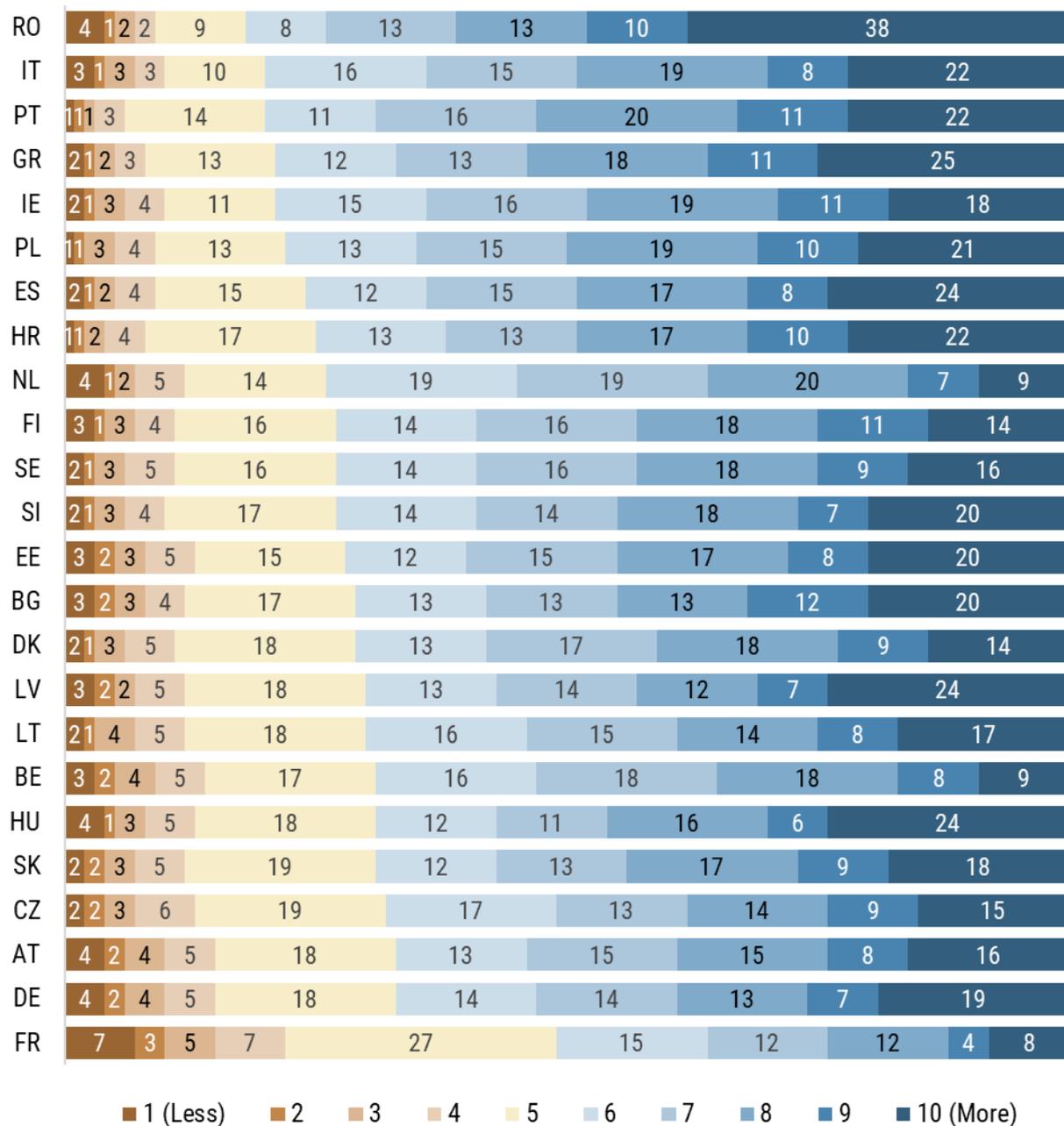




A majority of respondents believe that citizens should have greater influence over public decisions through citizens' assemblies, in which individuals are invited to deliberate on specific issues. Agreement with this view is strongest in Romania and weakest in France.

Fig. 8.14. Desired Citizen Influence via Assemblies (%)

On a score of 0–10, how much do you personally think that citizens should have more or less say in public decisions through the following mechanisms? Citizen's assemblies, where people are invited to discuss certain issues

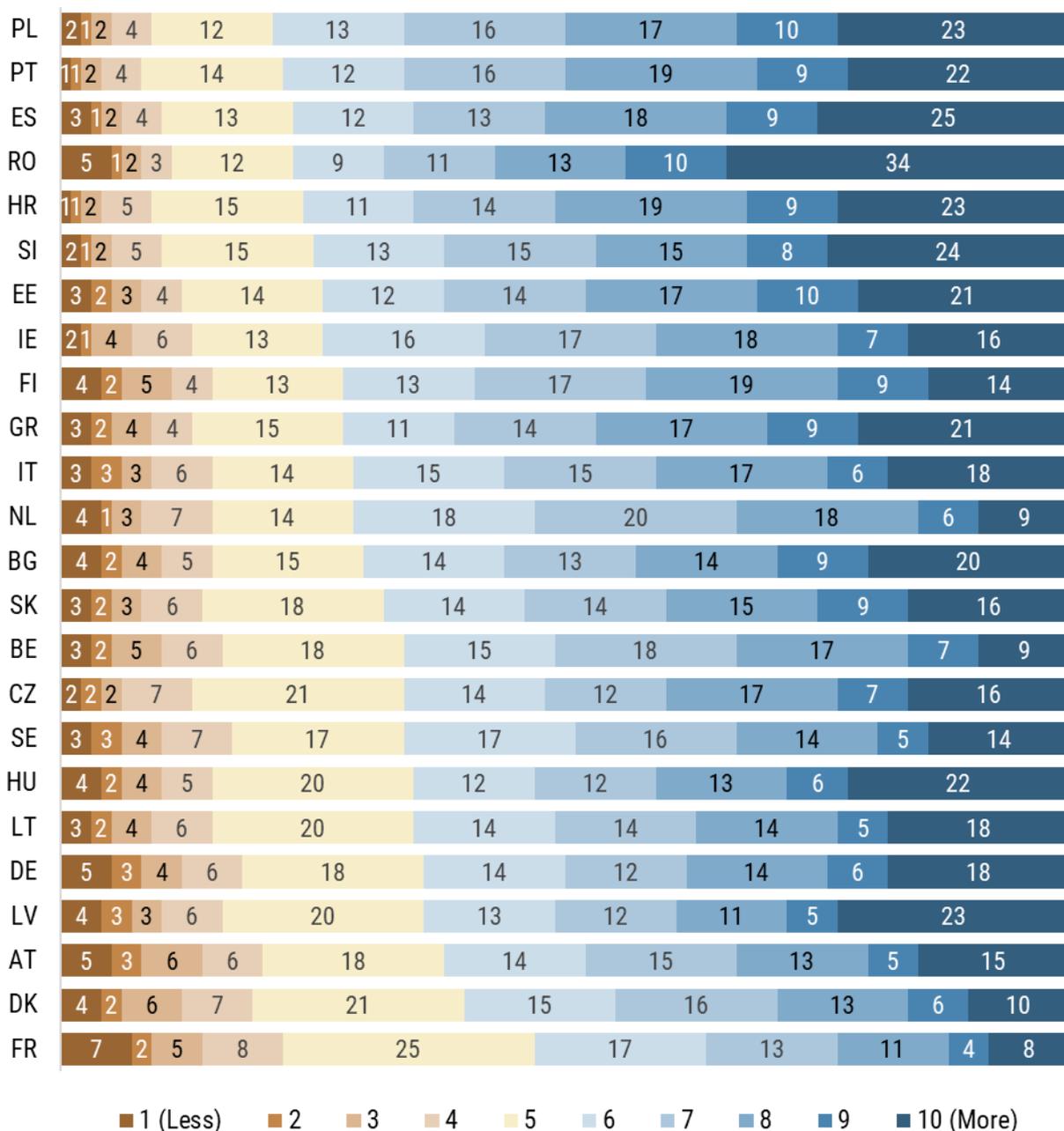




Respondents generally agree that citizens should have greater influence over political decision-making through participatory budgeting. In Romania, 34% of respondents rated the need for such involvement at the highest possible level. The importance of citizen participation in budgetary decisions is also rated highly in Poland, Portugal, and Spain. By contrast, support for this initiative is weaker in France than in other countries.

Fig. 8.15. Desired Citizen Influence via Participatory Budgets (%)

On a score of 0–10, how much do you personally think that citizens should have more or less say in public decisions through the following mechanisms? Participatory budgets, where citizens can decide on spending part of the public budget

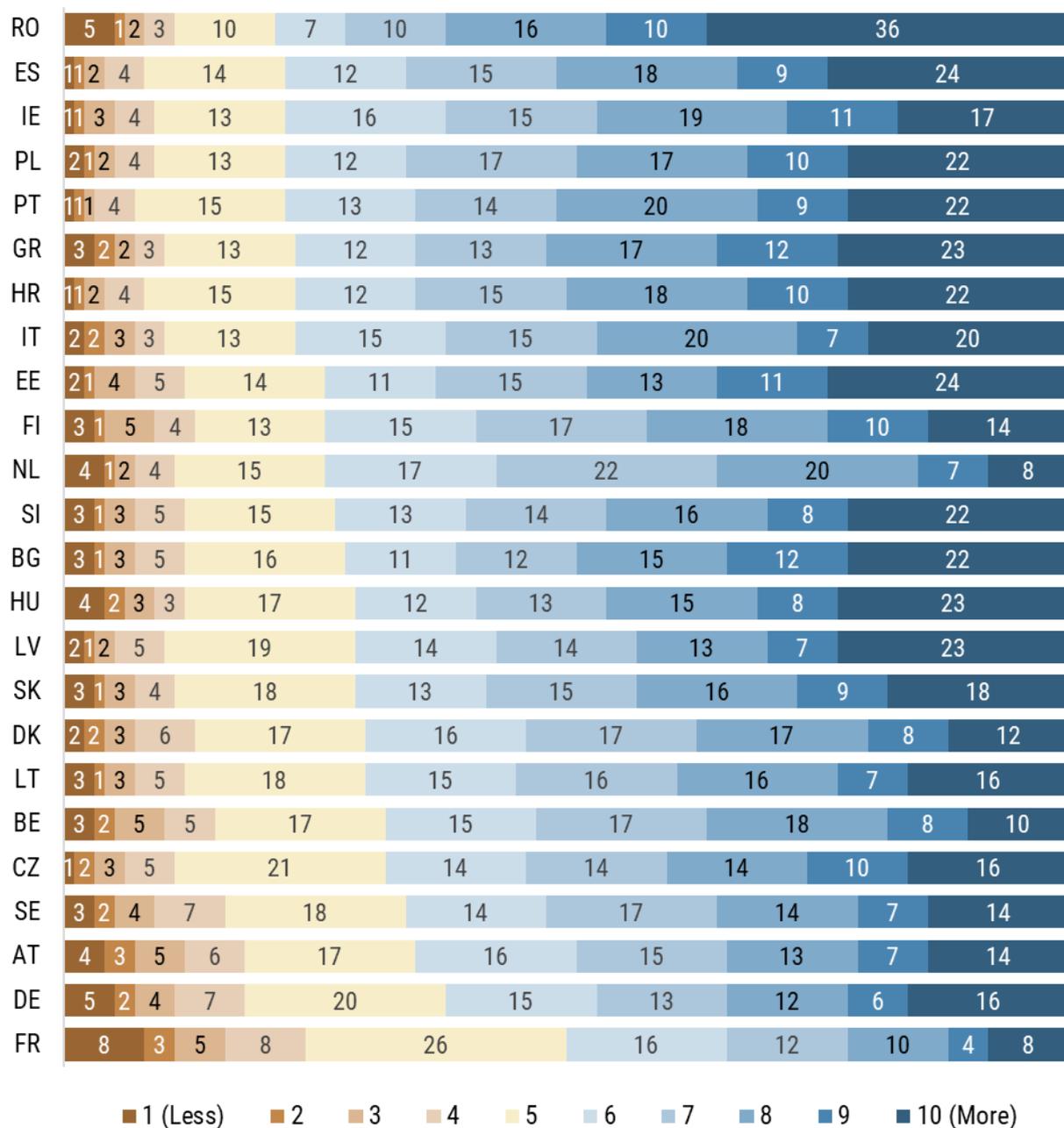




A majority of respondents believe that citizens should have greater influence over public decisions through online consultations in which citizens can discuss specific issues. Support for this approach is most widespread in Romania, as well as in Spain, Ireland, and Poland. Agreement with this view is least common in France.

Fig. 8.16. Desired Citizen Influence via Online Consultations (%)

On a score of 0–10, how much do you personally think that citizens should have more or less say in public decisions through the following mechanisms? Online consultations, where citizens can debate certain issues

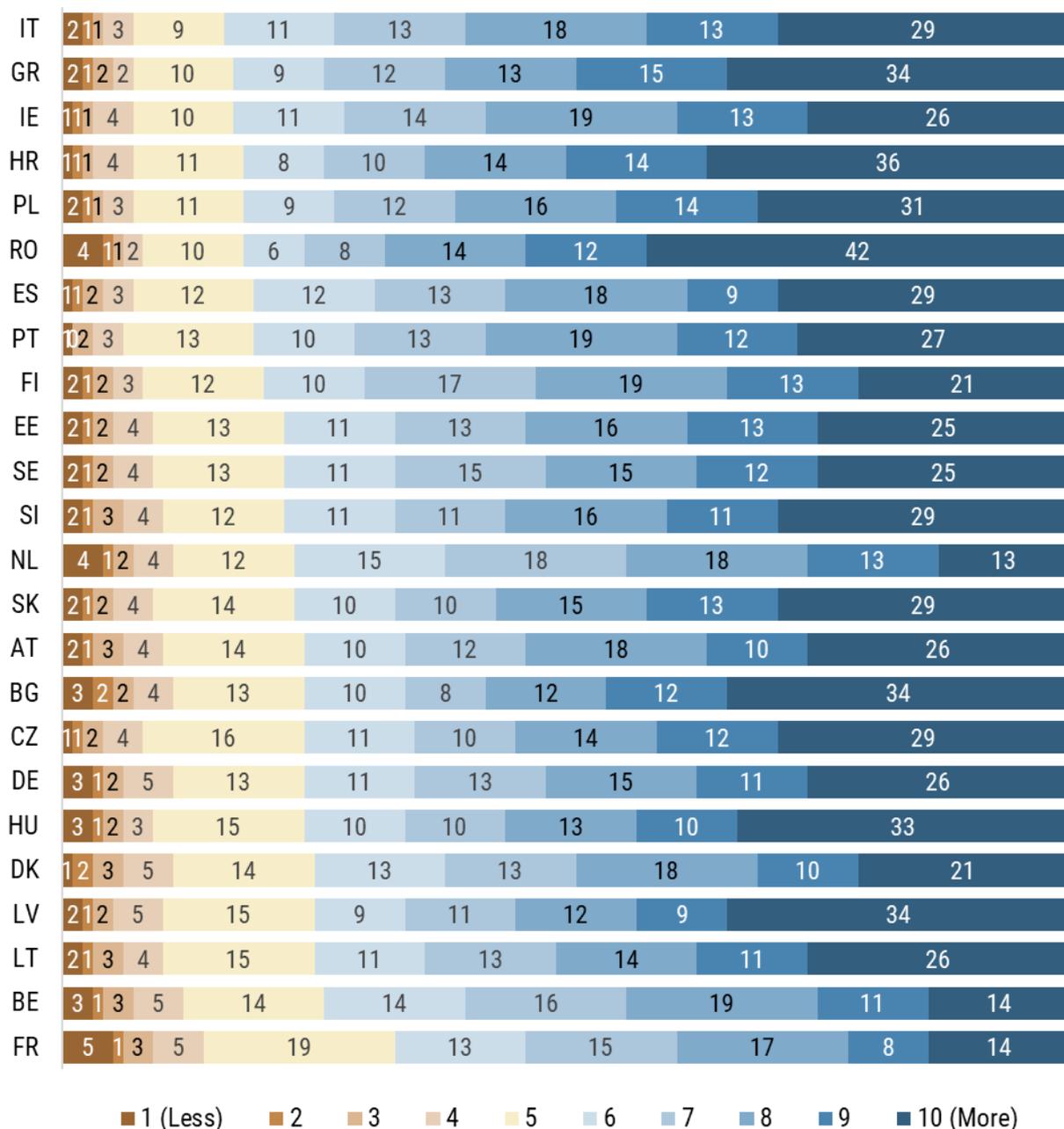




Respondents believe that citizens should have greater influence over important decisions through referendums. In Romania, 42% of respondents rate the importance of using referendums as a decision-making instrument at the maximum level of 10 out of 10. The importance of referendums is also emphasised by respondents in Italy, Greece, Ireland, Croatia, and Poland. In France, assessments of the importance of referendums are lower than in other countries.

Fig. 8.17. Desired Citizen Influence via Referendums (%)

On a score of 0–10, how much do you personally think that citizens should have more or less say in public decisions through the following mechanisms? Referendums, where voters decide about certain issues

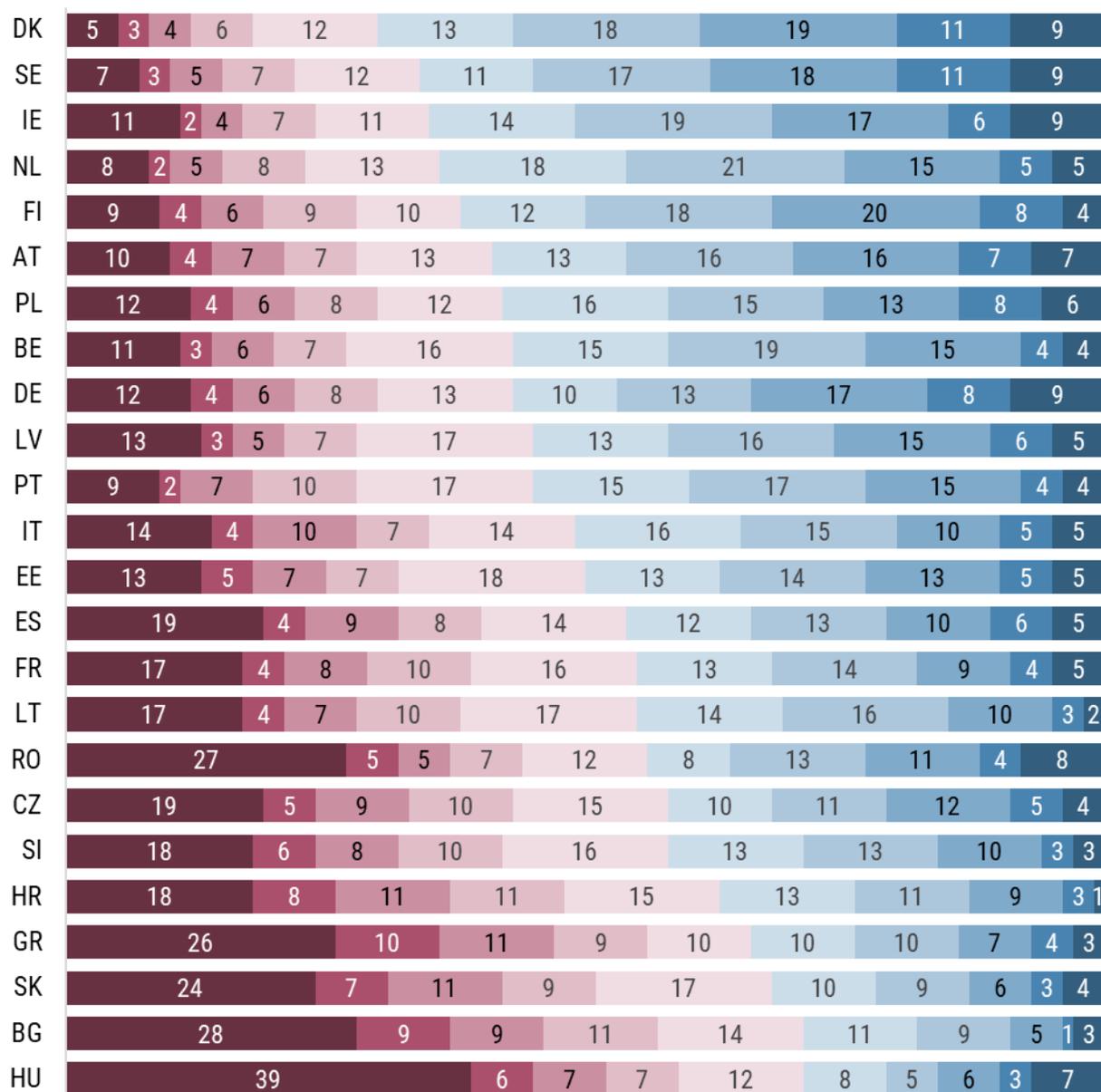




Respondents were asked to assess their overall satisfaction with how democracy functions in their country today on a 10-point scale. Only small shares of respondents report being fully satisfied (10 out of 10), amounting to 9% in Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, and Germany. By contrast, the lowest possible rating (1 out of 10) is most frequently given in Hungary (39%). Substantial shares of respondents also assign the lowest rating to democracy in Bulgaria (28%), Romania (27%), and Greece (26%).

Fig. 8.18. Satisfaction with Democracy (%)

All in all, how satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in this country today?

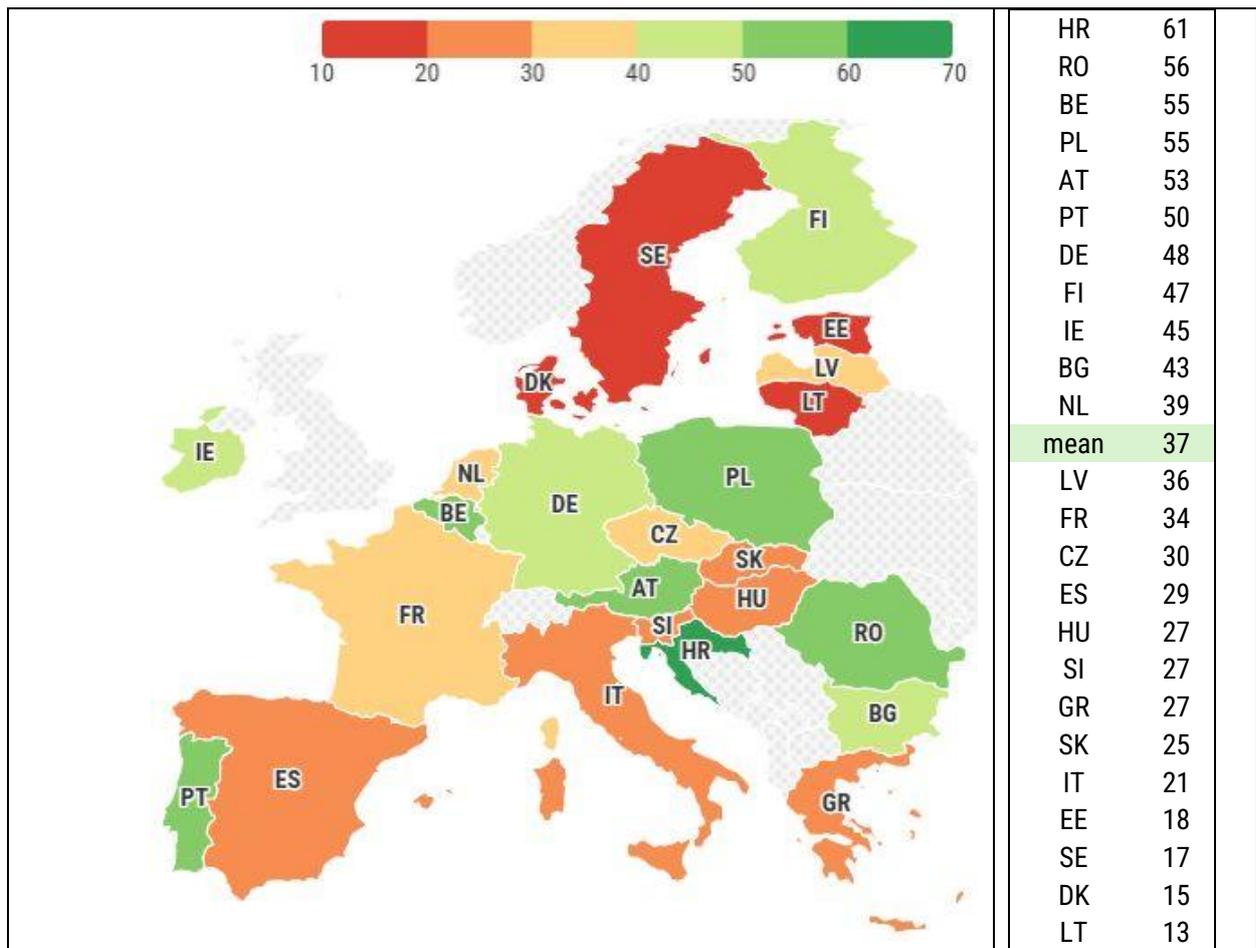


■ 1 Not at all satisfied ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6 ■ 7 ■ 8 ■ 9 ■ 10. Completely satisfied



Measured on a 0–100 scale, the highest values of the Voting Participation Index are observed in Croatia (61), Romania (56), and Belgium and Poland (55 each). Index values close to the European average are recorded in the Netherlands (39) and Latvia (36). The lowest index values are observed in Denmark (15) and Lithuania (13).

Fig. 8.19. Voting Participation Index (means)

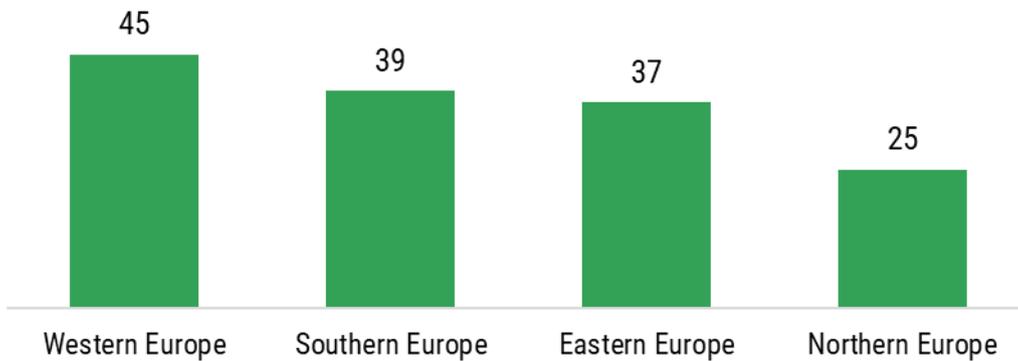


Share of recent voting-related participation, scaled to 0–100.



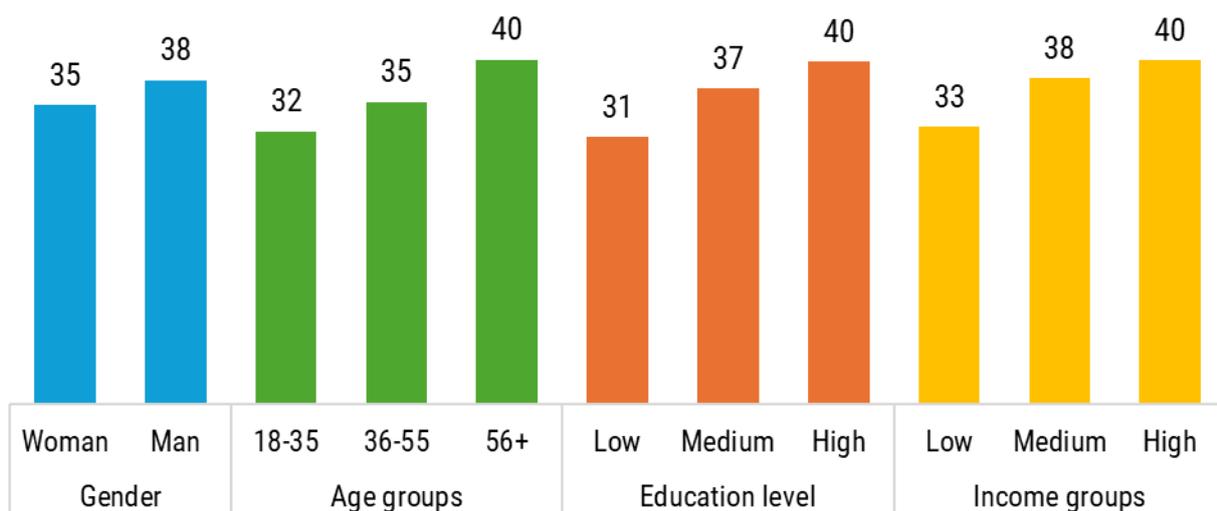
Respondents in Western Europe exhibit higher levels of participation in voting (45). The lowest values of the Voting Participation Index are observed in Northern European countries (25).

Fig. 8.20. Voting Participation Index in different regions of Europe (means)



Мужчины (38) участвуют в выборах чаще, чем женщины (35). Также чаще участвуют в голосовании респонденты старшего возраста (56+), а вот респонденты младшей возрастной группы (18-35 лет) участвуют в выборах реже остальных. Чем выше уровень образования и уровень дохода респондентов, тем более активно они участвуют в избирательном процессе.

Fig. 8.21. Voting Participation Index among different groups (means)





Men (38) participate in elections more frequently than women (35). Electoral participation is also higher among older respondents (aged 56 and over), while respondents in the youngest age group (18–35) participate less often than others. Higher levels of education and income are associated with more active participation in the electoral process.

Fig. 8.22. Voting Participation Index grouped by gender (means)

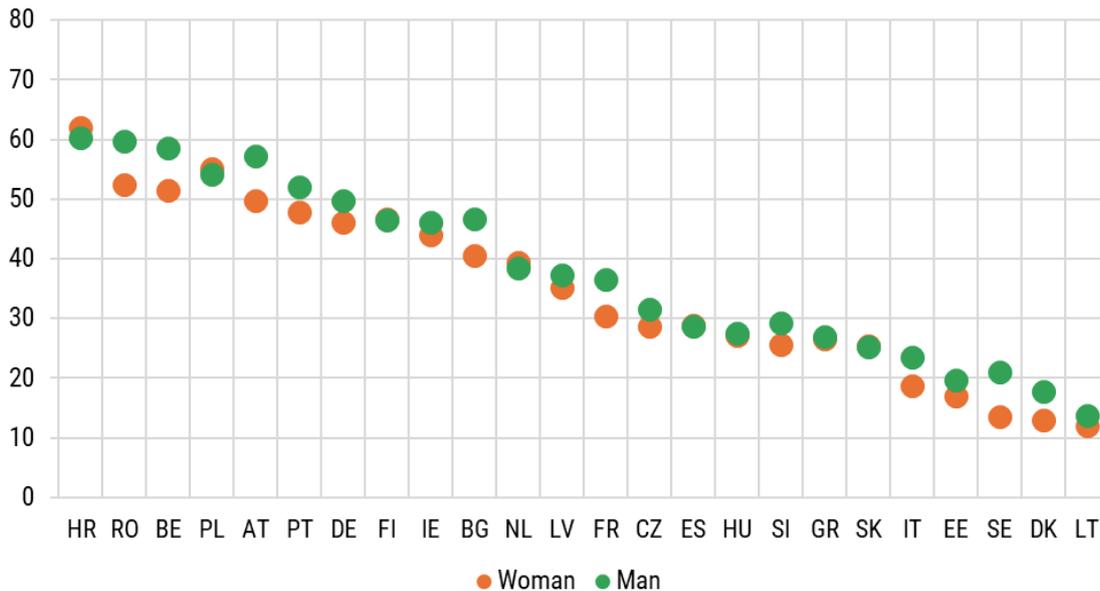
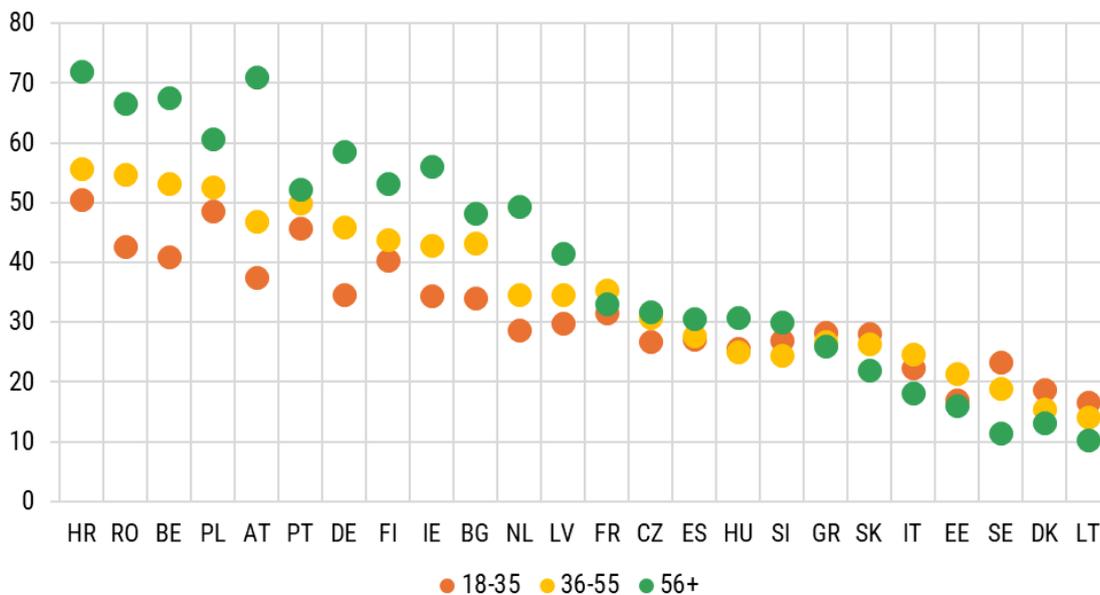


Fig. 8.23. Voting Participation Index grouped by age (means)





In most countries, higher levels of education are associated with more frequent participation in voting. Exceptions are Belgium and Slovenia, where electoral participation is higher among respondents with secondary education, as well as Lithuania and Spain, where the most active voters are those with lower levels of education. Similarly, in the majority of countries, higher levels of education are associated with higher levels of electoral participation. In Belgium and Slovenia, however, the highest values of the index are observed among respondents with secondary education, while in Spain and Lithuania electoral participation is most frequent among respondents with lower levels of education.

Fig. 8.24. Voting Participation Index grouped by education (means)

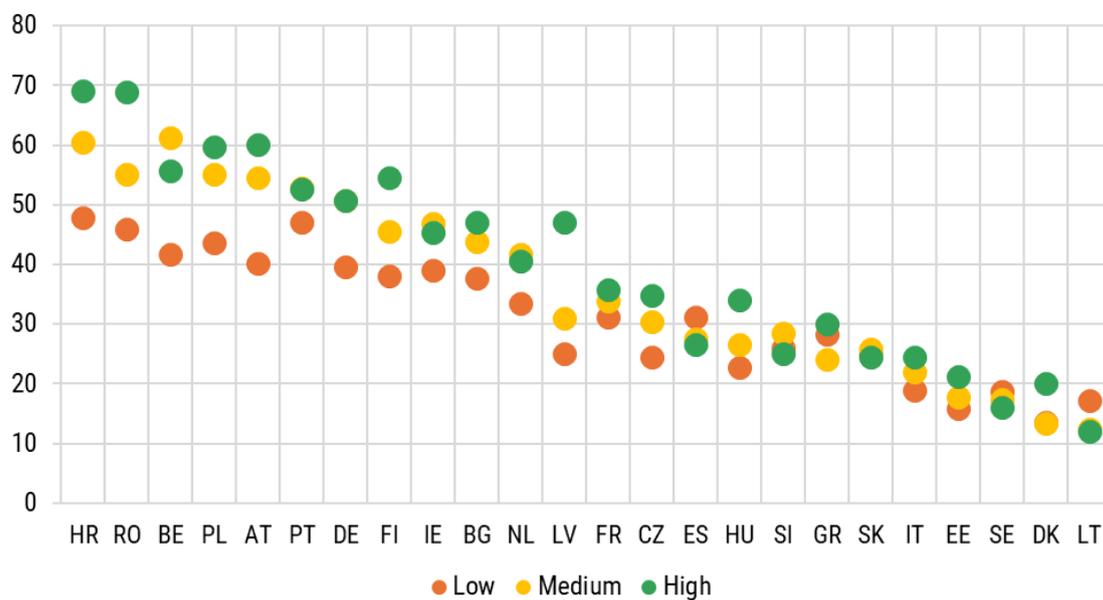
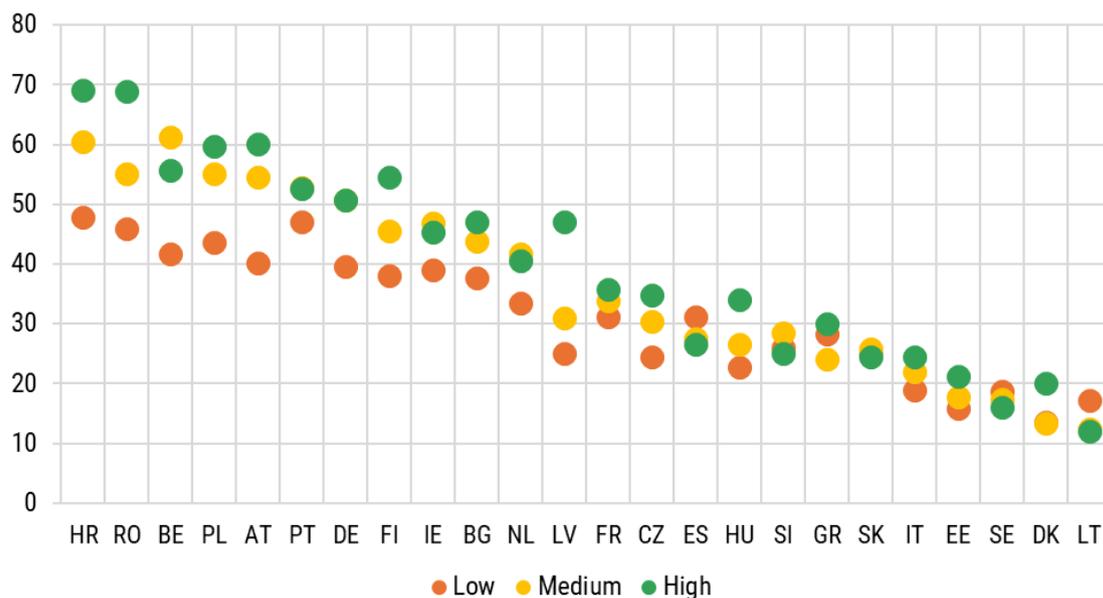


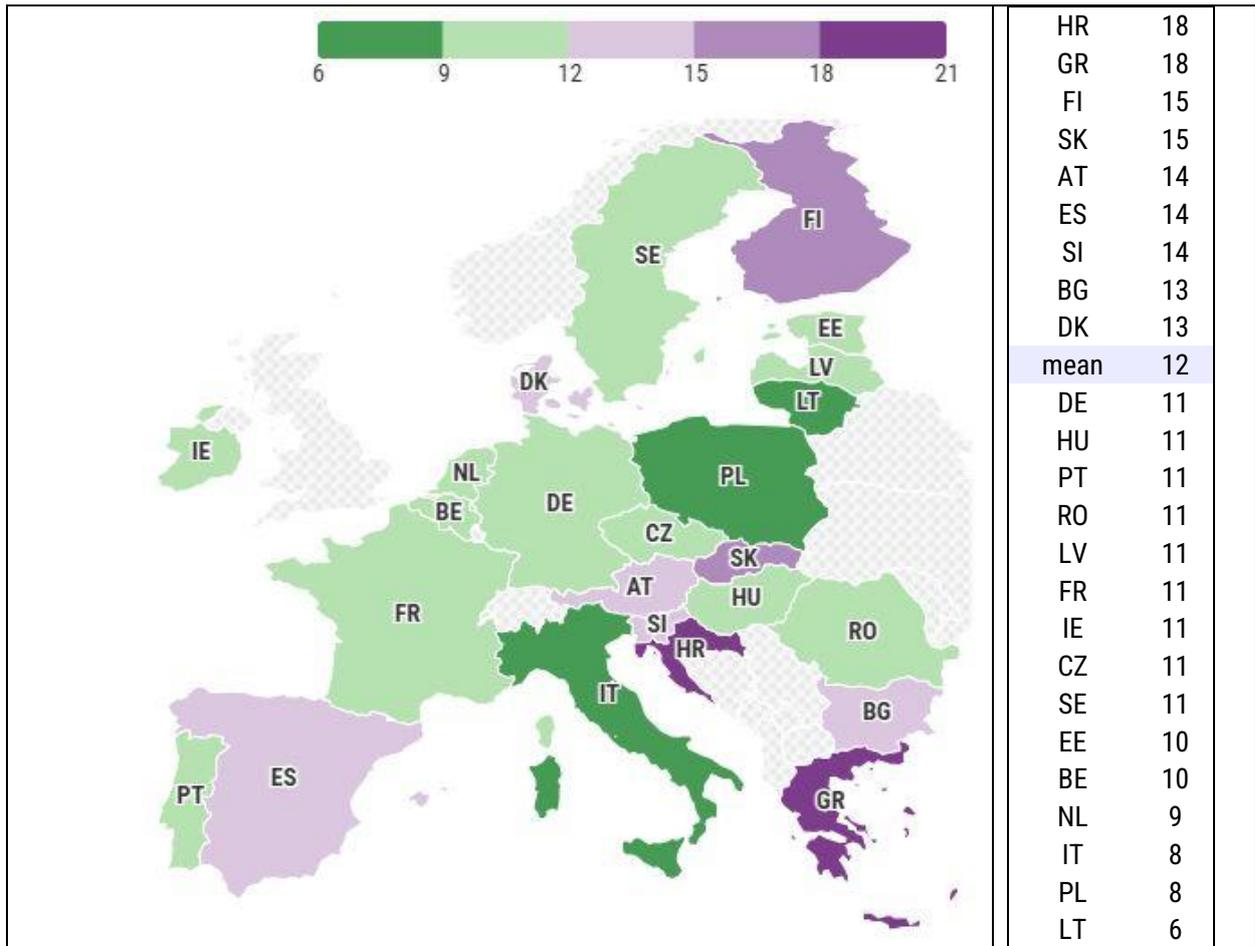
Fig. 8.25. Voting Participation Index grouped by income (means)





The Protest Activity Index reaches its highest values in Croatia and Greece (18 each), as well as in Finland and Slovakia (15 each). The lowest levels of protest activity are observed in the Netherlands (9), Italy and Poland (8 each), and Lithuania (6).

Fig. 8.26. Protest Activism Index (means)

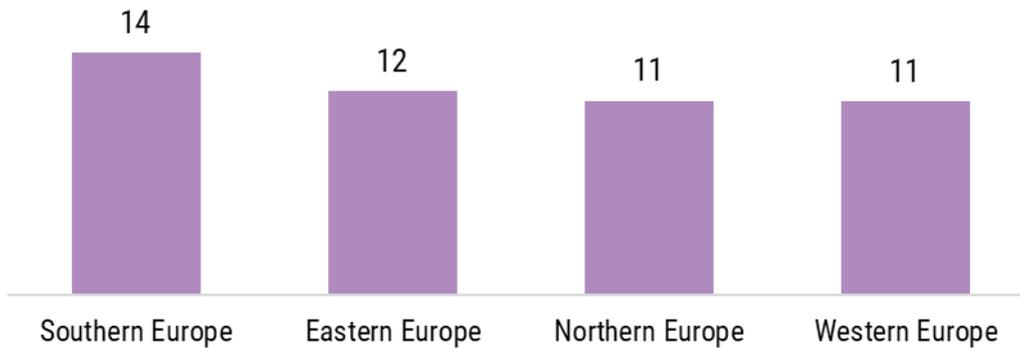


Share of recent protest-related activism, scaled to 0–100. Higher scores indicate participation in more protest activities.



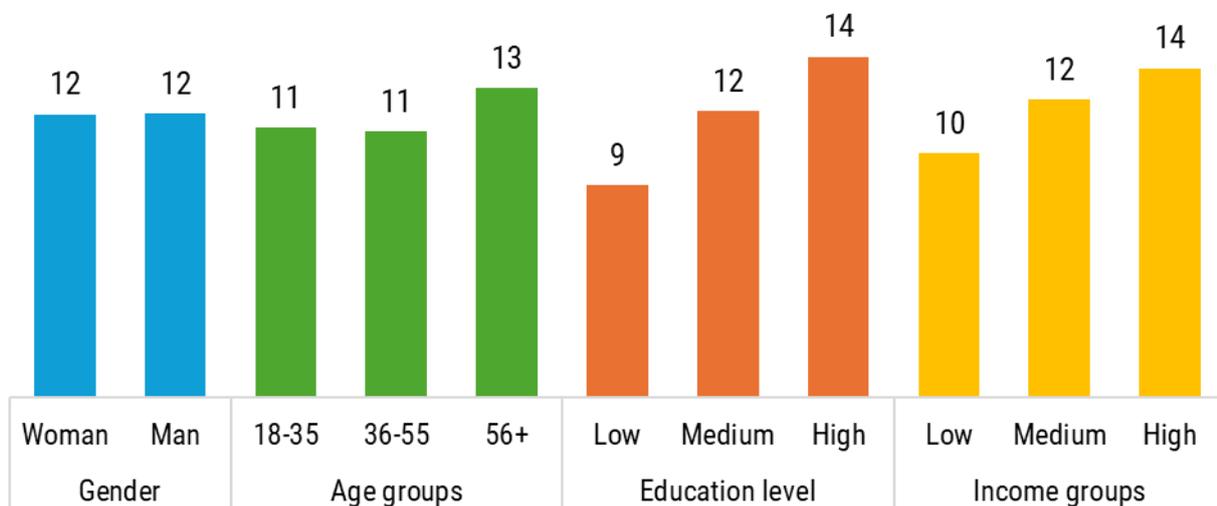
Levels of protest activity are higher in Southern Europe (14). The lowest levels of protest activity are recorded in Northern and Western Europe (11).

Fig. 8.27. Protest Activism Index in different regions of Europe (means)



There are no discernible gender differences in levels of protest activity. Protest activity is higher among respondents aged 56 and over than among younger age groups. Higher levels of education and income are associated with increased levels of protest activity.

Fig. 8.28. Protest Activism Index among different groups (means)





In Croatia, Greece, Finland, Spain, and Denmark, women exhibit higher levels of protest activity than men. In Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Latvia, France, Sweden, Ireland, Belgium, and Lithuania, no substantial gender differences are observed. In the remaining countries, higher levels of protest activity are reported among men. In most countries, respondents in older age groups display higher levels of protest activity. By contrast, in the Czech Republic, Sweden, and Belgium, higher levels of protest sentiment are expressed by younger respondents aged 18–35.

Fig. 8.29. Protest Activism Index grouped by gender (means)

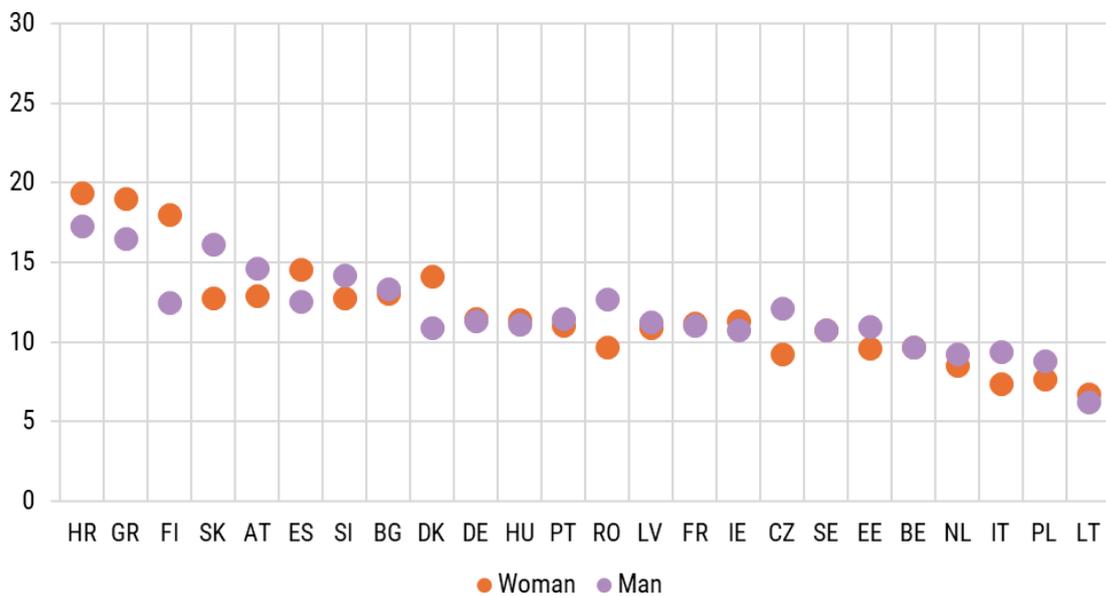
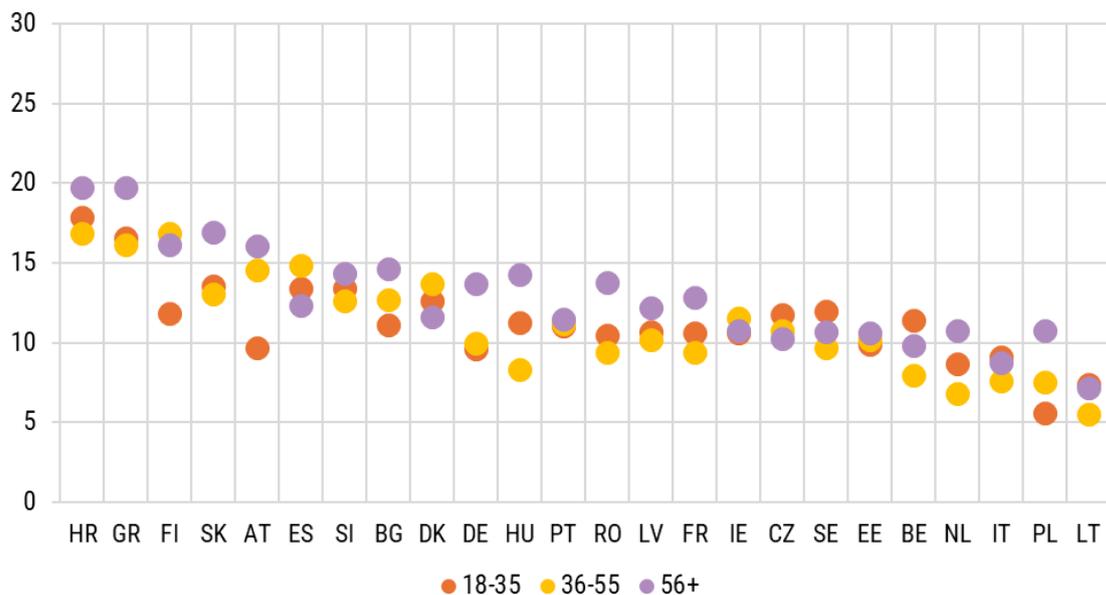


Fig. 8.30. Protest Activism Index grouped by age (means)





In the majority of countries, respondents with higher levels of education exhibit higher levels of protest activity. Exceptions are Croatia and Estonia, where protest activity is higher among respondents with secondary education. In most countries, higher income levels are associated with higher levels of protest activity. Exceptions are Finland and Denmark, where protest activity is more pronounced among respondents with lower income levels.

Fig. 8.31. Protest Activism Index grouped by education (means)

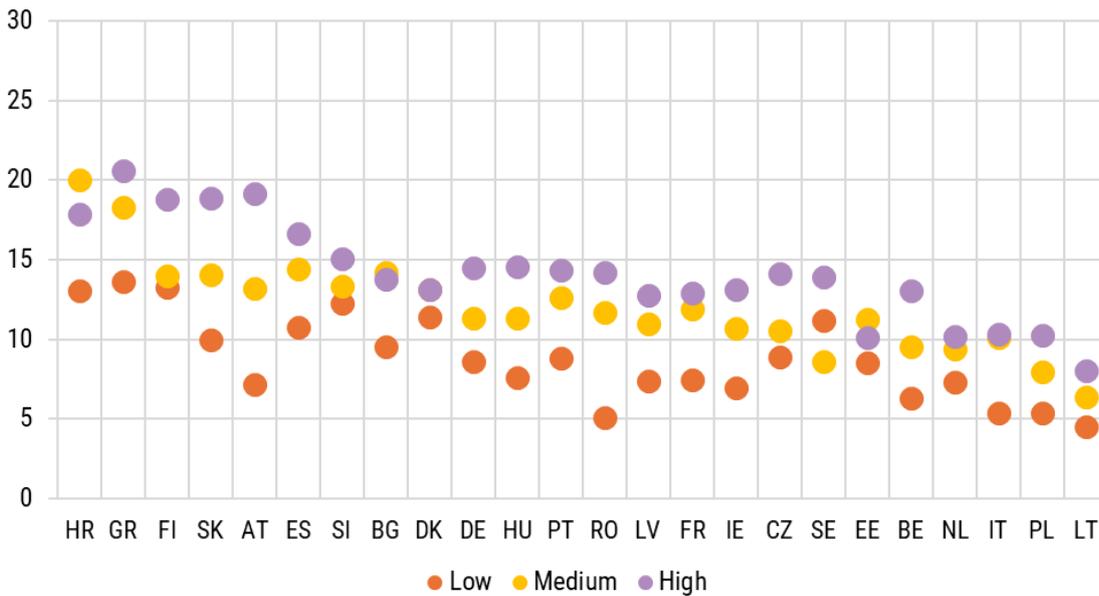
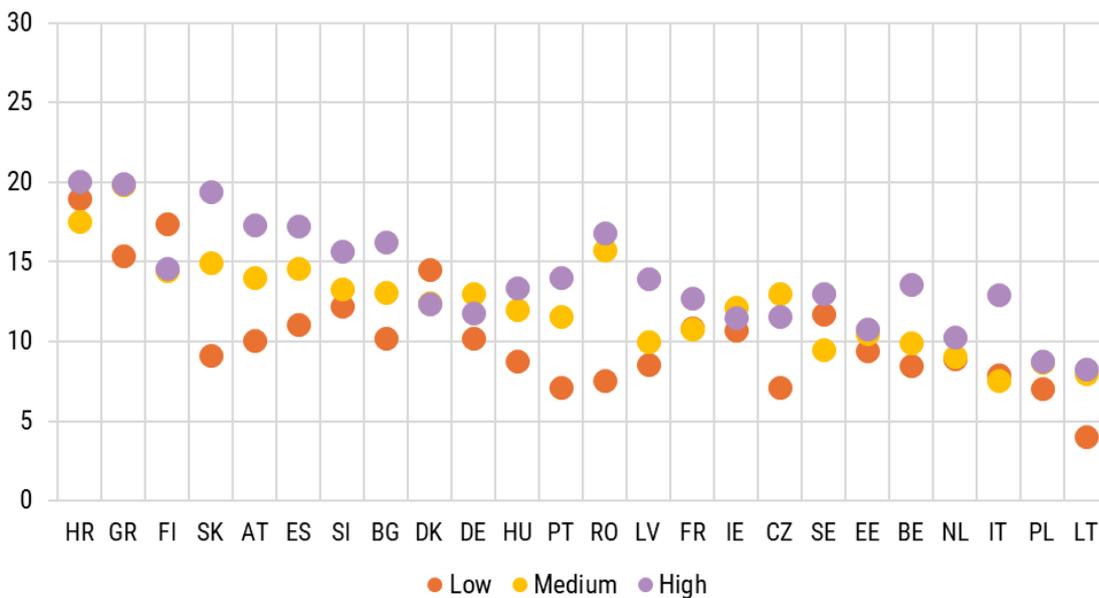


Fig. 8.32. Protest Activism Index grouped by income (means)



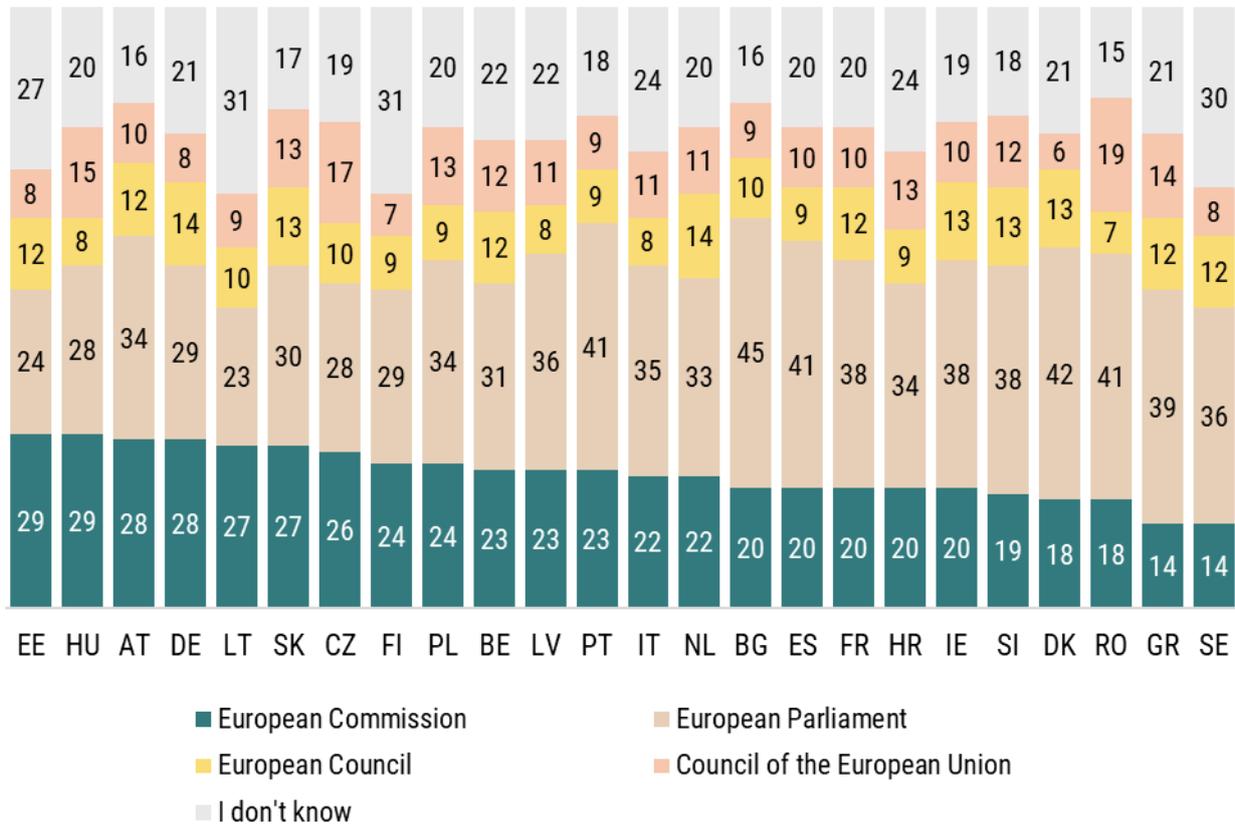


9. CIVIC KNOWLEDGE

Respondents were asked which institution they believe is responsible for proposing legislation in the European Union. The majority of respondents were unable to answer this question correctly. The correct answer—the European Commission—was selected by only between 14% of respondents in Greece and Sweden and 29% in Estonia and Hungary. More frequently, respondents selected the European Parliament as the institution responsible for initiating EU legislation.

Fig. 9.1. Who Proposes EU Legislation? (%)

Which institution is responsible for proposing EU legislation?

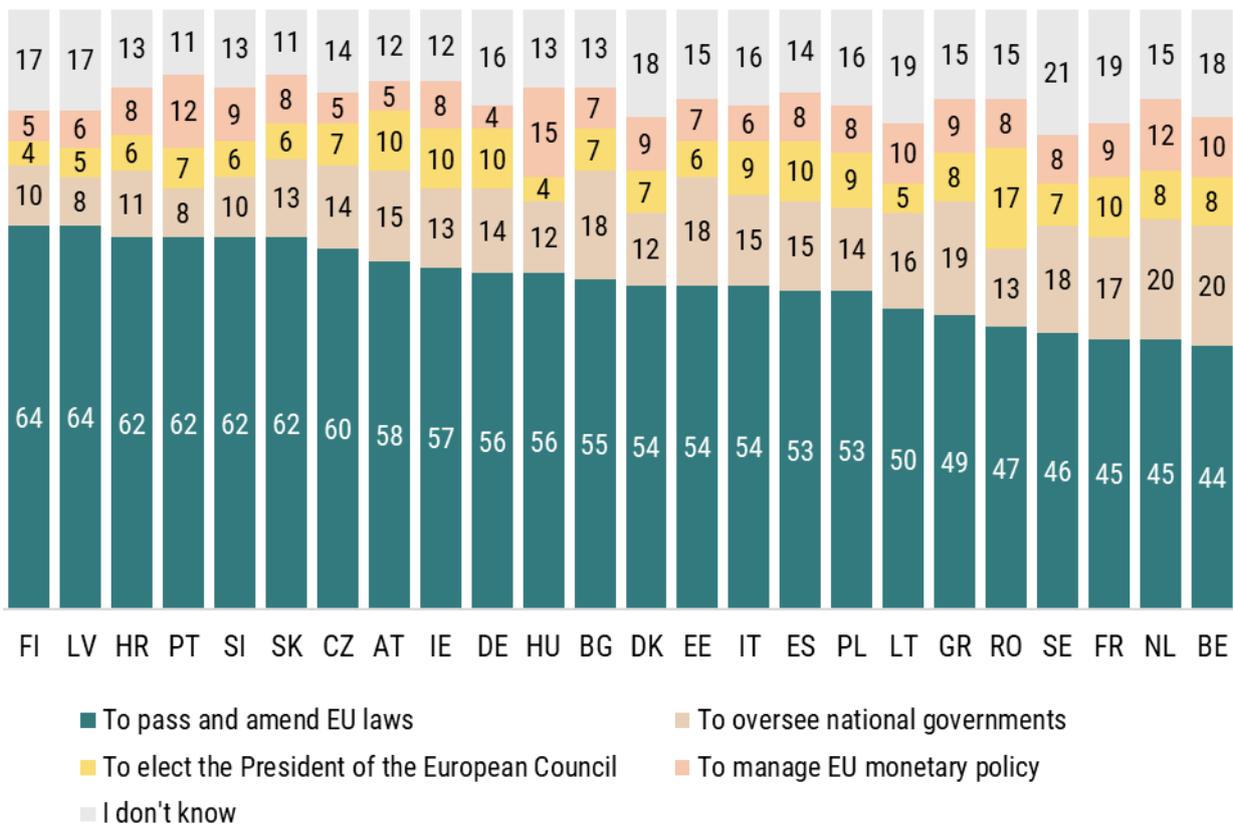




In response to the question “What is the main function of the European Parliament?”, the majority of respondents provided the correct answer—adopting and amending EU legislation. In almost all countries, more than half of respondents answered this question correctly. The highest shares of correct responses are observed in Finland and Latvia (65% each), while the lowest are recorded in France and the Netherlands (45% each) and Belgium (44%).

Fig. 9.2. What Does the European Parliament Do? (%)

What is the primary function of the European Parliament?

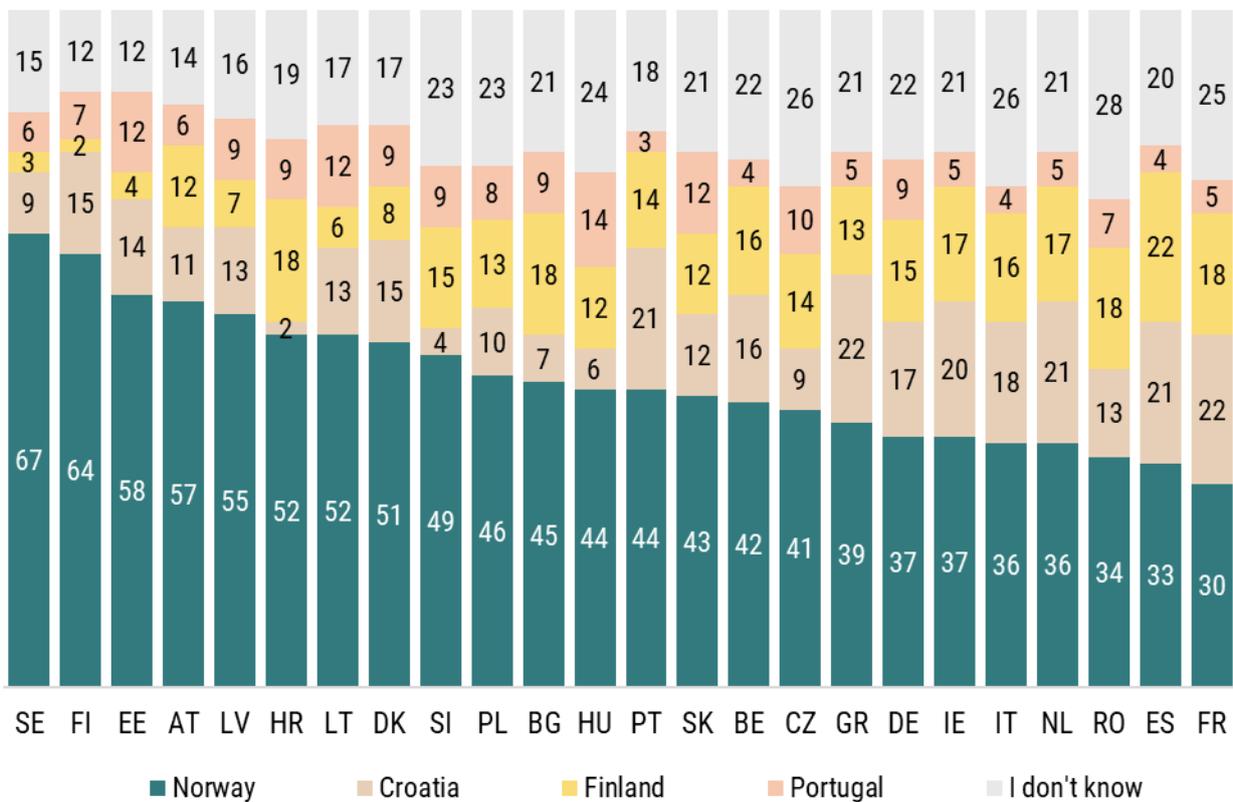




Respondents were asked which of the listed countries is not a member of the European Union. The highest proportions of correct responses (Norway) are observed in Sweden (67%) and Finland (64%). More than half of respondents also answered correctly in Estonia, Austria, Lithuania, Croatia, Latvia, and Denmark. Correct responses were least frequent in France (30%), Spain (33%), and Romania (34%).

Fig. 9.3. Which Country Is Not in the EU? (%)

Which of the following countries is not a member of the European Union?

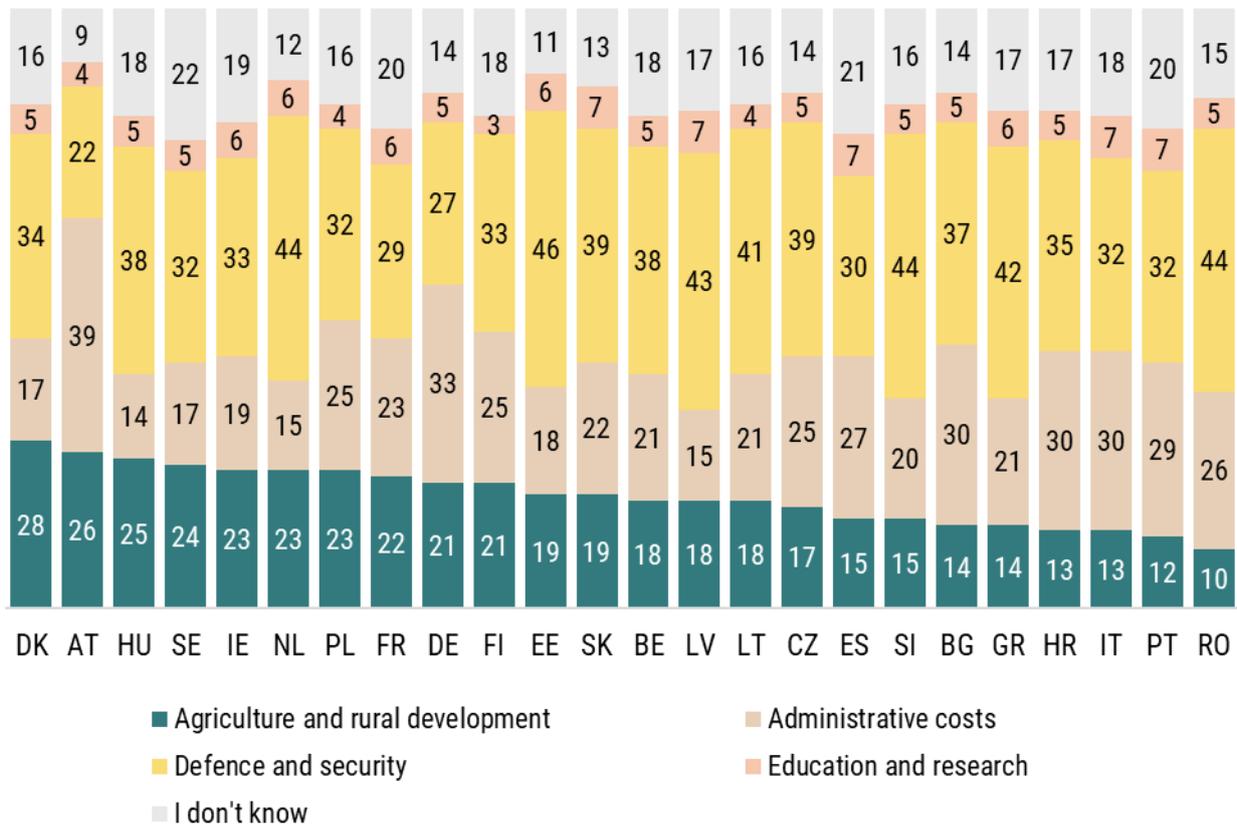




Respondents were asked which of the budget categories constitutes the largest expenditure in the European Union budget. Only a small share of respondents provided the correct answer—agriculture and rural development—ranging from 28% in Denmark to 10% in Romania. In Austria, 39% of respondents believed that administrative costs represent the largest budget item. Respondents also frequently identified defence and security as the area with the highest EU budgetary expenditure.

Fig. 9.4. What Is the Biggest EU Budget Expense? (%)

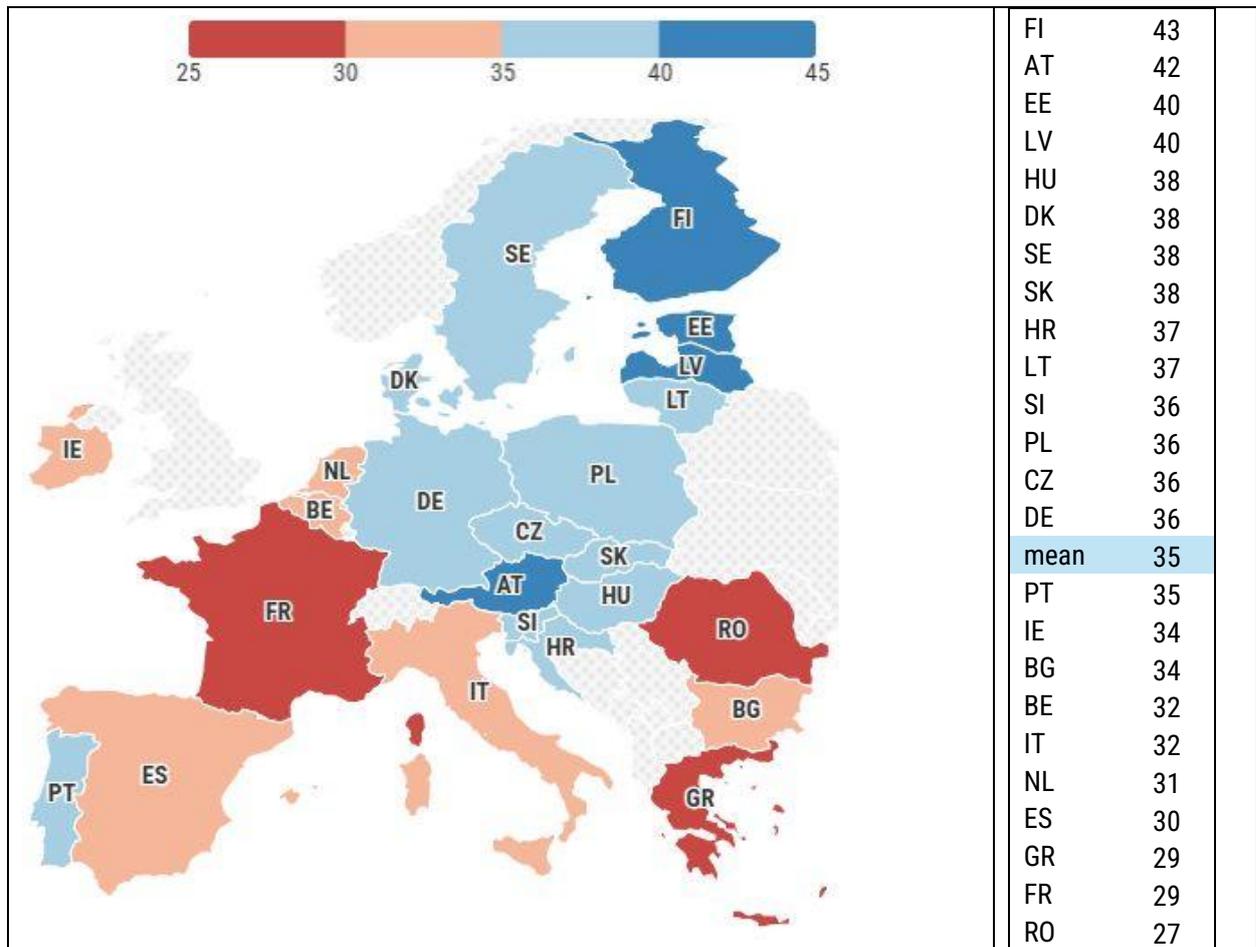
Which of the following is the largest item of expenditure in the European Union’s budget?





According to the Civic Knowledge Index (measured on a 0–100 scale), the highest scores—and thus the highest levels of civic knowledge—are observed in Finland (43), Austria (42), and Estonia and Latvia (40 each). Index values close to the European average are recorded in Slovenia, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Germany (36 each), as well as in Portugal (35). The lowest levels of civic knowledge are observed in Greece and France (29 each) and Romania (27).

Fig. 9.5. Civic Knowledge Index (means)

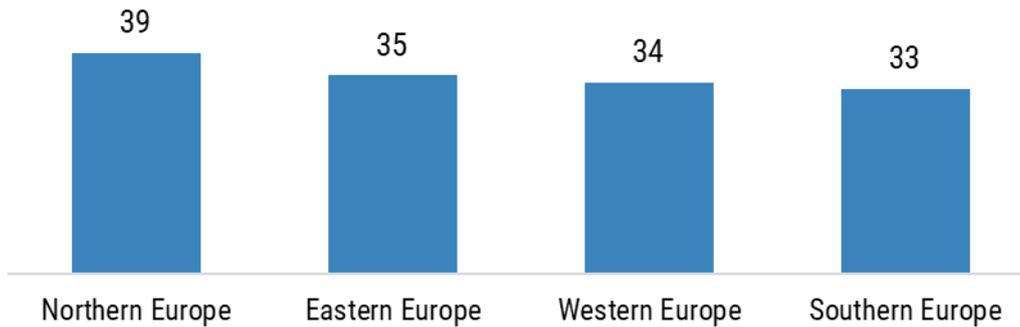


Objective knowledge scale based on four keyed items. Each item is first converted to a binary indicator initialized to 0 so that missing or incorrect responses count as 0; the indicator is then set to 1 if the keyed-correct option is selected. The index equals 25 times the sum of the four indicators, yielding a 0–100 metric in 25-point increments; higher values indicate greater civic knowledge.



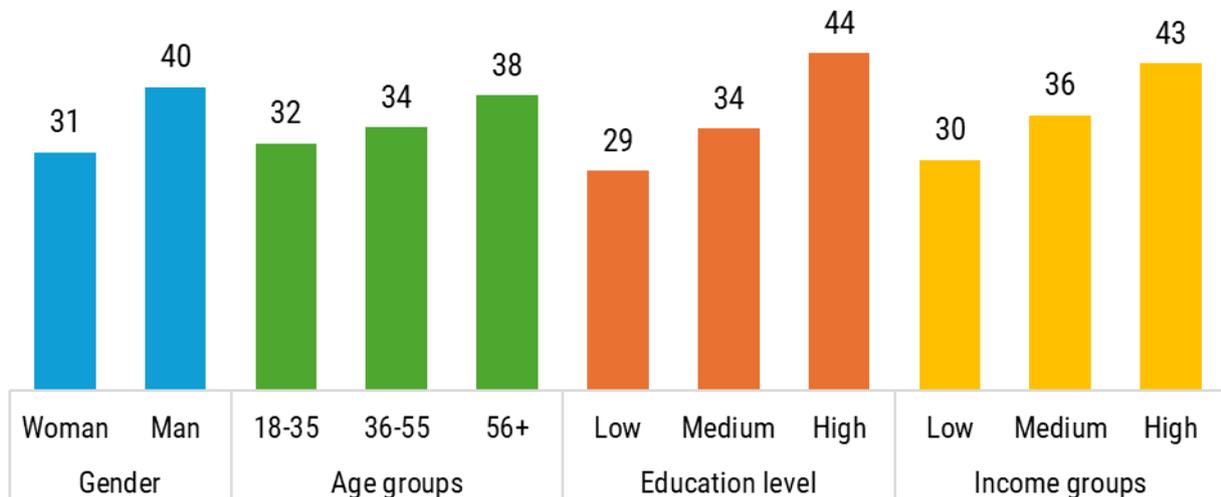
Mean values of the Civic Knowledge Index show minimal regional variation. Northern Europe records a slightly higher average score (39), while Eastern (35), Western (34), and Southern Europe (33) display closely clustered values.

Fig. 9.6. Civic Knowledge Index in different regions of Europe (means)



Men (40) display higher levels of civic knowledge than women (31). Civic knowledge increases with respondents' age. Higher index values are also observed among respondents with higher levels of education and higher income.

Fig. 9.7. Civic Knowledge Index among different groups (means)





In almost all countries, levels of civic knowledge are higher among men than among women. The only exceptions are Italy and Spain, where gender differences in index values are minimal. Older respondents (aged 56 and over) are generally more knowledgeable. However, in Italy, respondents in this age group display lower levels of civic knowledge. In Spain, the highest index values are observed among respondents aged 18–35.

Fig. 9.8. Civic Knowledge Index grouped by gender (means)

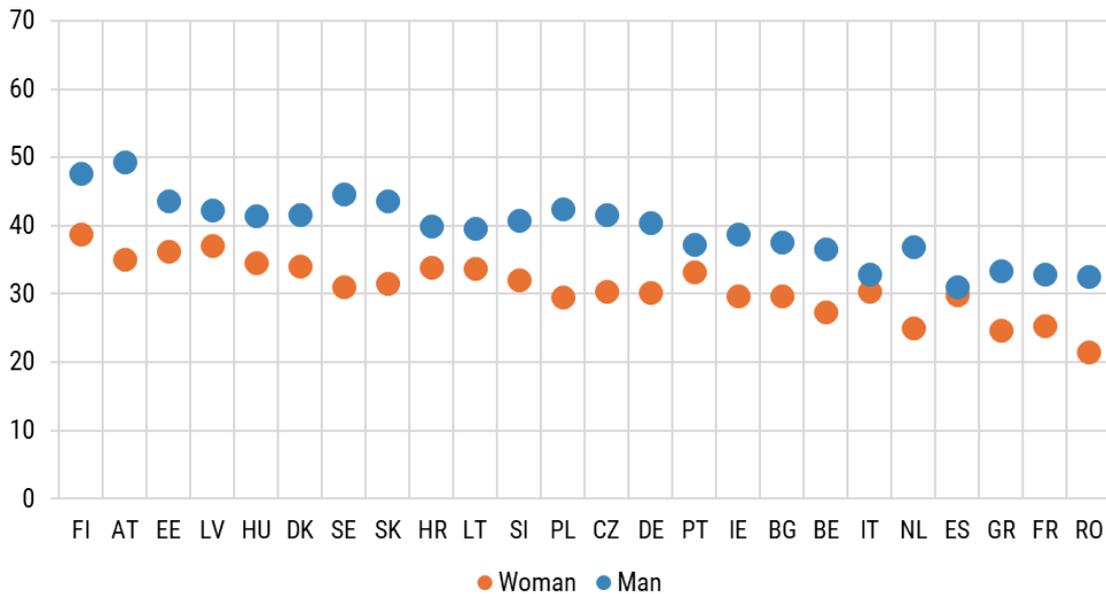
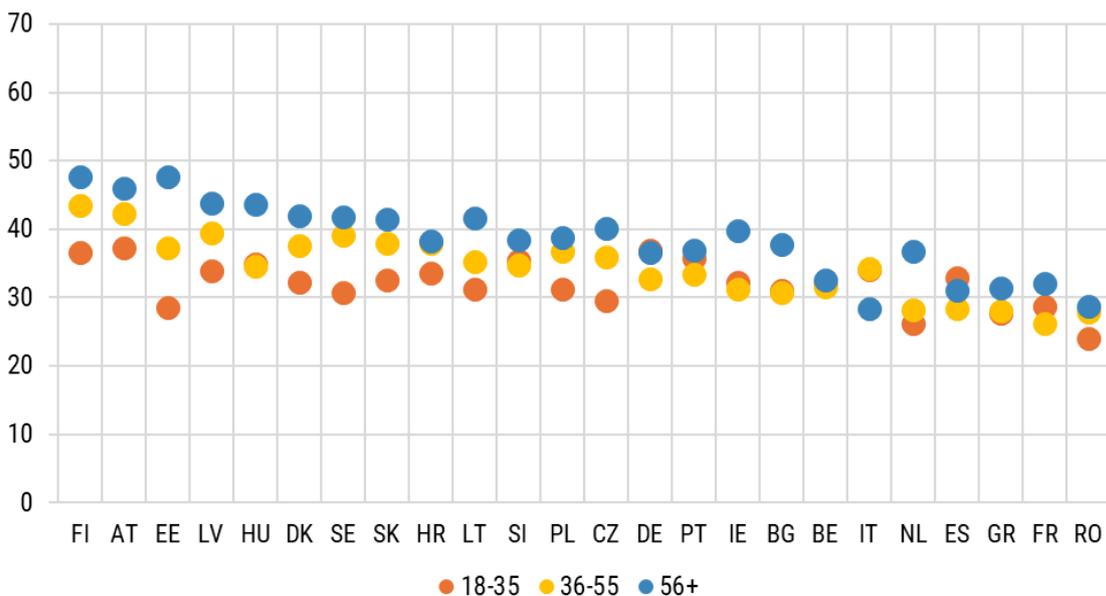


Fig. 9.9. Civic Knowledge Index grouped by age (means)





In all countries, respondents with higher levels of education are better informed about the functioning of the European Union. The lowest levels of civic knowledge are observed among individuals with low levels of education. Higher income levels are likewise associated with higher levels of civic knowledge in all countries. As respondents' income decreases, levels of civic knowledge decline accordingly.

Fig. 9.10. Civic Knowledge Index grouped by education (means)

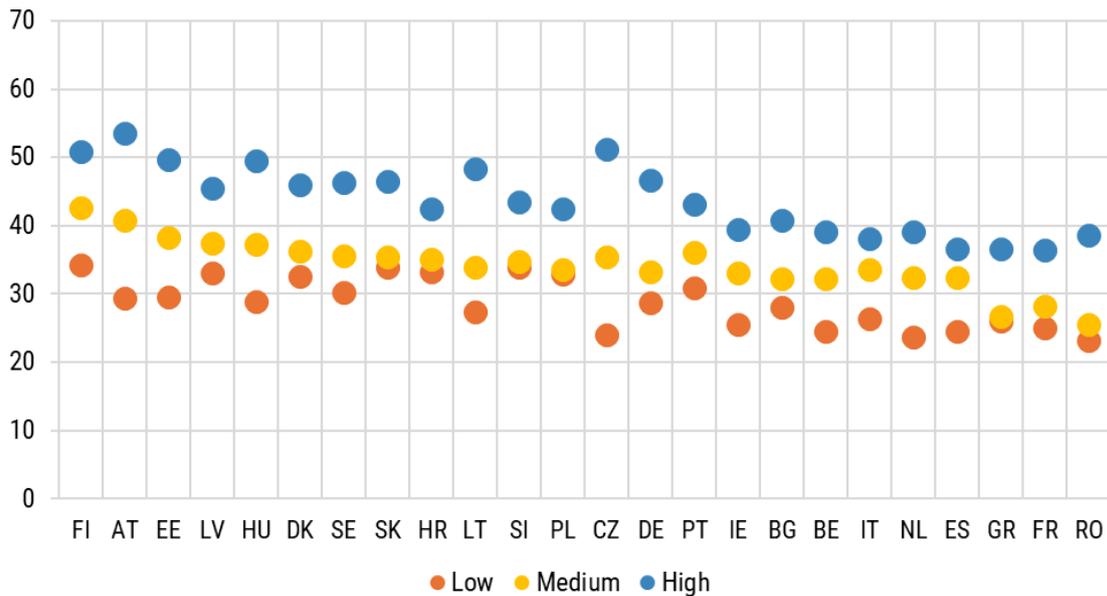


Fig. 9.11. Civic Knowledge Index grouped by income (means)

