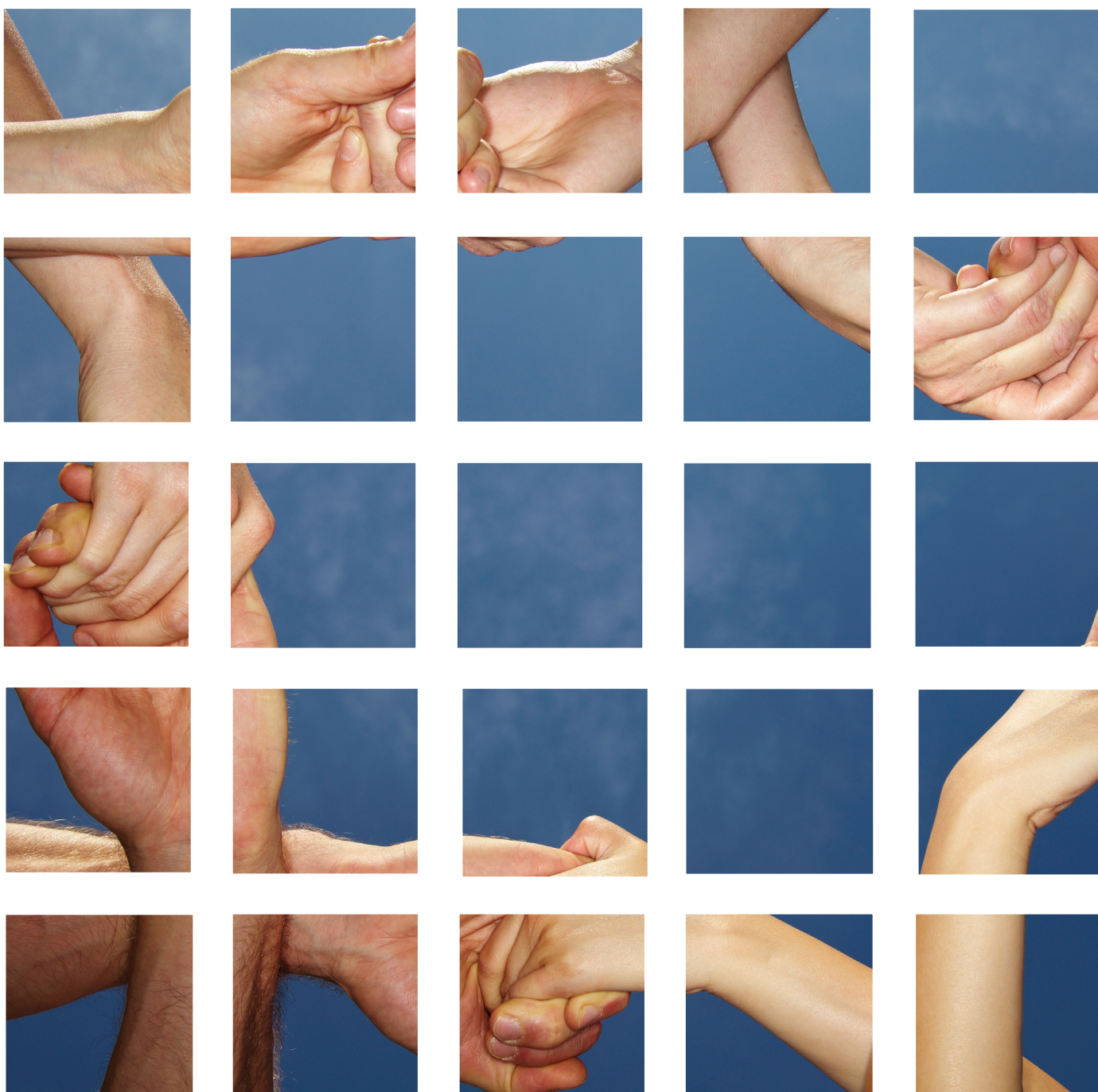


ERASMUS GENERATION SURVEY

What do young people think about Europe's future?

In which areas do they think the EU should act more?
Do they care about the direction Europe is taking?
What is their opinion on future European policies?



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FOREWORD BY



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Europe's year of change was marked by the rise of fringe, anti-EU parties in European and national elections – notably in the UK, France, Spain, Greece and Denmark – reflecting discontent with the main parties and scepticism towards the European project.

In this changing political environment, the future prospects of young people will be significantly affected by what European leaders at national and EU level do during the rest of this decade. It is thus vital to understand the views of the younger generation, their concerns, and the hopes they have for the development and future of the European Union. It is crucial that their views are taken into account when deciding the direction Europe is taking.

The results of this joint ThinkYoung and Burson-Marsteller study on the values of the 'Erasmus Generation' act as an important insight into the views of European youth, and as a benchmark for highlighting the policy direction that young people want over the next five years.

There is great reason for optimism in the findings, which speak of a generation that believes in the European project, has a wish for further unity, and is enthusiastic about its future potential. However, the findings also highlight areas where young people feel that more needs to be done, in particular the need for a renewed effort to overcome the economic crisis, to build a more prosperous economy, and to set the global standard in response to environmental concerns and climate change.

The results show that while young people are generally optimistic, they have significant concerns around three key issues: employment and job creation, reducing red tape, and climate change. These are areas on which young people want Europe and the institutions to focus their efforts.

It is clear that progress needs to be made in adapting to the hopes and needs of young people, particularly with respect to creating rewarding job opportunities, economic growth and meeting the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy. As the European Union recovers from this challenging period, the findings of this study highlight the need to focus on the development of education and skills training.

The results of this study are presented in the spirit of fostering a Europe that welcomes the ideas and views of young people and empowers them to participate fully in civic and democratic life.

METHODOLOGY

Burson-Marsteller and ThinkYoung carried out a joint survey to examine the values of the 'Erasmus Generation', their attitudes towards the European Union and their outlook for the future.

This research project was conducted as part of Europe Decides, an initiative launched by Burson-Marsteller Brussels to follow political developments in the European Union, institutional changes and their impact on different policy areas. The aim is to present the views of young people, aged 18 to 40, on a range of topics that can contribute to the direction of future European policy, and call upon those in office to act.

The survey consisted of 15 questions concerning perceptions of the EU and the policy responses desired over the next five years. It was conducted online, in English, between 15 October and 23 November 2014. In total, more than 1,500 people responded from all 28 EU member states.

This report has been organised regionally, with 28 European countries divided as follows: Benelux, Nordic, Germany and Austria, UK and Ireland, Central and Eastern Europe, Southern regions. Each region has been analysed separately, with an in-depth analysis for countries with a response rate higher than 40.

EU PERCEPTIONS

> 67%
 have a positive view of
 the European Union (EU)

46%
 feel their generation is
 better off than that of
 their parents

The top 5 words
 related to the EU:



Diversity
 Future
 Peace
 Unity

> 60%
 feel the EU can compete
 on the world stage

2/3
 think that "Europeans share
 the same fundamental EU
 values, in addition to their
 distinct set of national values"



Bureaucracy

PROGRESS

The most significant
 achievements of the
 European Union
 according to young
 people in Europe



EU citizens having a right
 to travel, live or study in
 another EU country



Peace and stability in
 Europe



Consumers benefitting from
 the free movement of goods



Respect of people's
 fundamental freedoms
 and rights



Ability to exert influence on
 the international stage



Consolidating democracy
 in countries that had
 communist/authoritarian
 governments

EU PRIORITIES

The most important issues
 the EU should prioritise in
 the next five years

59%
 growth and jobs

29%
 climate change and
 the environment

21%
 the fight against
 corruption

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The first things the EU
 should do to promote
 entrepreneurship



Invest in education
 and skills training



Reduce bureaucracy



Tackle corruption

POLITICAL VIEWS

The top four ways
to encourage youth
participation in EU
democratic life

82%

are interested in European
politics and more than half
(65%) believe that their vote
makes a difference

65%

feel political parties are not
interested enough in the
issues that concern young
people

35-60

is the most influential age in
politics according to more
than half of the respondents



Allow citizens to
vote online



Introduce compulsory lessons at
schools on the values, history,
functioning and responsibilities
of the EU and its decision-making
process



Enhance exchange
programmes between
European youth



Ensure that young people
are involved in the policies
that affect them

A UNITED, MORE
EFFECTIVE EU

What is the first word that comes to mind when you think of the European Union?

More than 1,500 young Europeans answered this question and their responses were refreshingly optimistic. According to our survey, the top words associated with the EU reveal a positive predisposition towards the European project: 'peace', 'future', 'diversity' and 'unity'; yet, 'bureaucracy' also readily comes to mind.

In a year of change, with European elections and the rise of Eurosceptic parties across the continent triggering a widespread debate about the appeal of the European project, 67% of respondents expressed a positive view of the European Union (as opposed to only 14% holding a negative view) and feel it is important for the EU to be united.

There is good reason for that. More than 60% said that they feel the EU can compete effectively on the world stage, compared to only 17% that feel their country can do so separately from the EU. 46% feel their generation is better off than that of their parents; only 26% say they are worse off, despite the recent crisis that has disproportionately affected the young.

Young people recognise that the European Union has succeeded in transforming the lives of citizens from Lisbon to Helsinki, from Dublin to Athens. Peace and stability in Europe, along with the right of EU citizens to travel to, live or study in another member state rank as the most significant achievements of the EU, cited by 61% and 83% of respondents respectively. Alongside the free movement of people, 1 in 4 respondents mentioned that consumers have benefited from the free movement of goods across member states as a top achievement.

'UNITED IN
DIVERSITY'

In line with the motto of the European Union, two-thirds (68%) of respondents think that Europeans share the same fundamental EU values, in addition to their distinct set of national values. These values are found to be primarily informed by family (72%), friends (48%), authors/writers (37%) and the professional environment (33.6%), while the media (22%), politicians (15%) and religion (11%) rank as less influential in shaping young Europeans' value system.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

82% of the Erasmus Generation Survey's respondents stated that they are interested in European politics and more than half (65%) believe that their vote makes a difference. However, according to the League of Young Voters, an alarming 70% of young citizens did not vote in past European elections. Unless directly addressed, this diminishes the ability of younger generations to have their voice heard and their interests represented when important political decisions are being taken. In fact, the majority of those surveyed view the 35-60 and 60+ age groups as most influential in politics in the EU.

Increasing the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe is a Treaty requirement and a challenge that the EU institutions say they are committed to tackle. In the run up to the 2014 European elections, concerted efforts by the EU institutions, political parties and civil society attempted to address the lack of adequate election information and convince young people to take part.

However, it is clear that more needs to be done to encourage youth participation in the democratic life of the EU. In our survey, 35% suggested introducing compulsory lessons at schools about the values, history, functioning and responsibilities of the EU and its member states, and further enhancing mutual understanding by investing in exchange programmes between European youth. Moreover, increasing the transparency of the EU decision-making process and ensuring that young people are involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of policies that affect them directly or indirectly were cited by 34% of respondents. Last but not least, 36% said they would like citizens to be allowed to vote online.

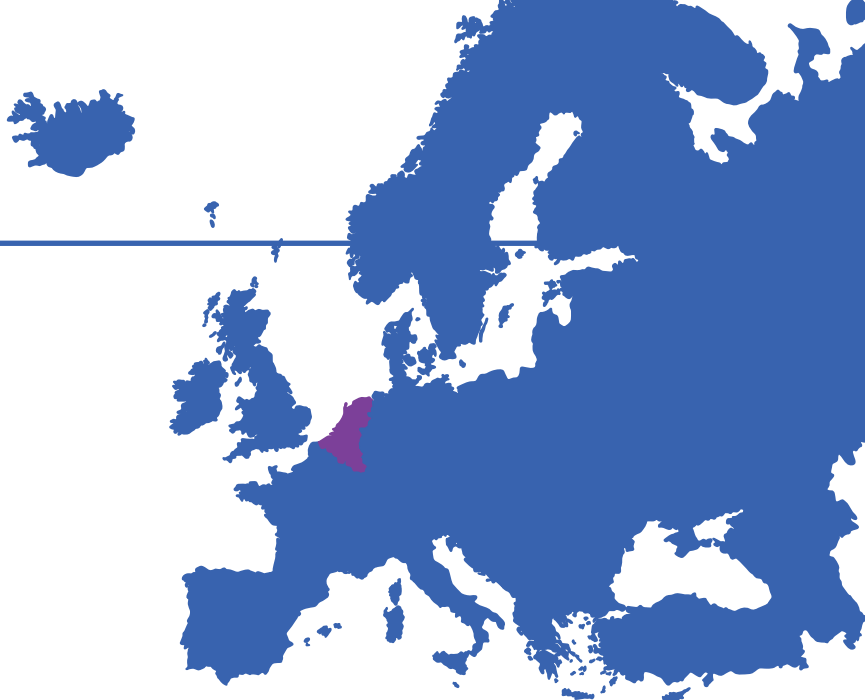
KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

Young people want and need to have more of a say in the policies that are going to be set out at European level in the next 5 years.

Unsurprisingly, growth and jobs rank as the most important issues the EU should prioritise, cited by 59% of respondents. Climate change and the environment and the fight against corruption are also top priorities for 29% and 21% of respondents respectively. Tackling corruption is likewise among the key initiatives the EU should take to promote entrepreneurship, along with reducing bureaucracy and investing in education and skills training.

At a time when eurosceptic voices that blame the EU as the root of all crises are on the rise, taking the right steps to effectively address these issues will be instrumental in enhancing trust and support for the European project.

The message is one of unity – it is also one of change. It is up to the EU to rise to the challenge.



BENELUX

Cutting red tape and greater transparency are key concerns for respondents from the Benelux region. Indeed, increasing transparency in the EU decision-making process is seen as the most effective way of encouraging young people to participate in democratic life for respondents from Belgium and the Netherlands (both 41%).

While respondents in Belgium hold mixed views about the direction the EU is taking (in line with the general feeling across Europe), respondents from Luxembourg and the Netherlands hold a more positive view about the direction of their country and of Europe.

All respondents from Luxembourg said that their country cannot compete effectively on the world stage separately from the EU.

IDEAS FOR BETTER EUROPE

“

'European identity needs to come from the bottom up, this can only happen if we have a positive view of the EU with transparent communication about goals, decision-making and achievements'

(Male, 26-30, Belgium)

“

'Creating a shared understanding among all Europeans about what Europe stands for and what it offers.'

(Female, 18-22, The Netherlands)

“

'Simplification of decision-making'

(Female, 31-35, Belgium)

BELGIUM



Increasing transparency of the EU decision-making process is a key concern for respondents from Belgium



Belgian respondents see the development of a common European identity as a priority for the next five years

When asked which particular issues the EU should focus on during the next five years, Belgian respondents stated growth and jobs (57%) and climate change and the environment (39%) as their top priorities – in line with the European average. In contrast to the European norm, the third key issue for Belgian respondents is the need to tackle the lack of a common European identity and promote unity (23%). Only 5% of respondents see the fight against corruption as a key concern.

In line with the general view across Europe, Belgian respondents have mixed views about the direction that the EU is taking: 56% have a neutral or positive perception of the EU, while 44% have a negative perception. A large majority also feels that Belgium cannot compete effectively on the world stage (72%) on its own.

Increasing the transparency of EU decision-making is viewed as the most effective way of encouraging young people to participate in democratic life within the EU (41%).

THE NETHERLANDS



Dutch respondents demonstrate higher levels of trust in both national and European politicians

52%

say 'Bureaucracy' is the first word to mind when asked to describe the European Union

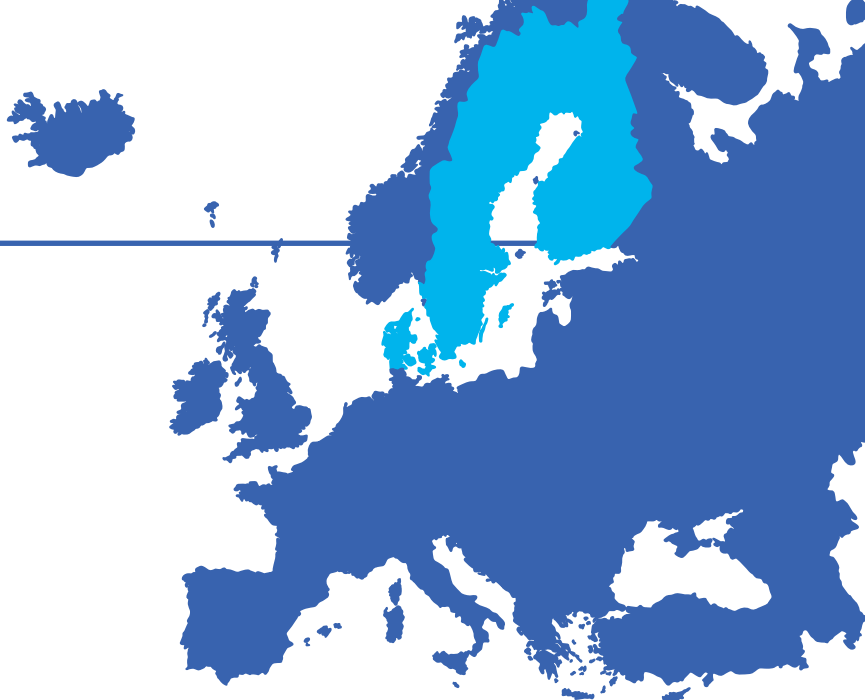


More of an emphasis is placed on the importance of energy security and data security

A lower percentage of respondents from the Netherlands feel that political parties fail to take into consideration the concerns of young people (49%) when compared to the European average (65%). Meanwhile, higher numbers of respondents trust European politicians (48%), while a majority (57%) trust national politicians. Trust in national politicians is significantly higher than the European average (17%).

Dutch respondents hold more positive views of developments at European and national level, with 46% believing things are heading in the right direction in the EU, and 40% nationally.

A much higher number of respondents (40%) see Europeans as having different national and cultural values (compared to the European average (21%)).



NORDICS

Climate change and the environment was an issue of major concern across the Nordic countries, with 50% of respondents in Denmark, 49% in Finland and 35% in Sweden seeing it as the most important issue for Europe.

When compared to the rest of the countries, the issue of human rights and democracy, and the role of the EU in this, is a bigger concern in both Sweden (29%) and Finland (26%). However, Denmark does not follow this trend, with respondents instead putting the emphasis on national debt and deficits (37%), immigration (29%) and economic competitiveness (25%) as issues of priority.

In comparison to the EU average (46%), a large majority of respondents see themselves as better off than their parents' generation (82% in Sweden, 79% in Denmark and 52% in Finland).

IDEAS FOR BETTER EUROPE



'Energy; extensive investment in sun, hydro, wind, wave, and biogas'

(Male, 22-25, Sweden)



'A better Europe would be more competitive on the world stage, and it would have less bureaucracy'

(Female, 18-22, Finland)



'A continent where the people, companies and governments exhibit environmentally and socially-sustainable behaviour'

(Male, 23-25, Finland)

DENMARK



79%

of respondents in Denmark feel they are better off than people in their parents' generation

42%

of Danish respondents believe politicians are interested in the concerns of young people, compared with an EU average of 15%

67% of respondents in Denmark use the word 'bureaucracy' to describe the EU, compared with 39% across Europe. The free movement of goods to the benefit of consumers is viewed as a significant achievement of the EU by 1 in 2 Danish respondents, compared to an average 1 in 4 across Europe.

In order to promote entrepreneurship, the Danes prioritise investment in education and skills training (29%) and cutting red tape (25%).

FINLAND



The majority of Finnish respondents place more trust in national politicians than in European politicians



Finnish respondents see tackling climate change and the environment as the most important issue for the EU

Compared to the general view across Europe, where job creation and economic growth is seen as the most important issue, Finnish respondents give similar weight to climate change and the environment (49%). Europe being a model for human rights and democracy is the third most important issue for Finns (26%), twice the European average (13%).

37% of Finnish respondents trust their national politicians, compared to a European average of 17%, but only 18% trust politicians at the European level with the European average being 28%.

Just 37% of Finnish respondents see it as very important for the EU to be united, which is significantly lower than the European average of 68%.

SWEDEN



41%

of respondents feel that Sweden can compete on the world stage separately from the EU, compared with only 15% across Europe

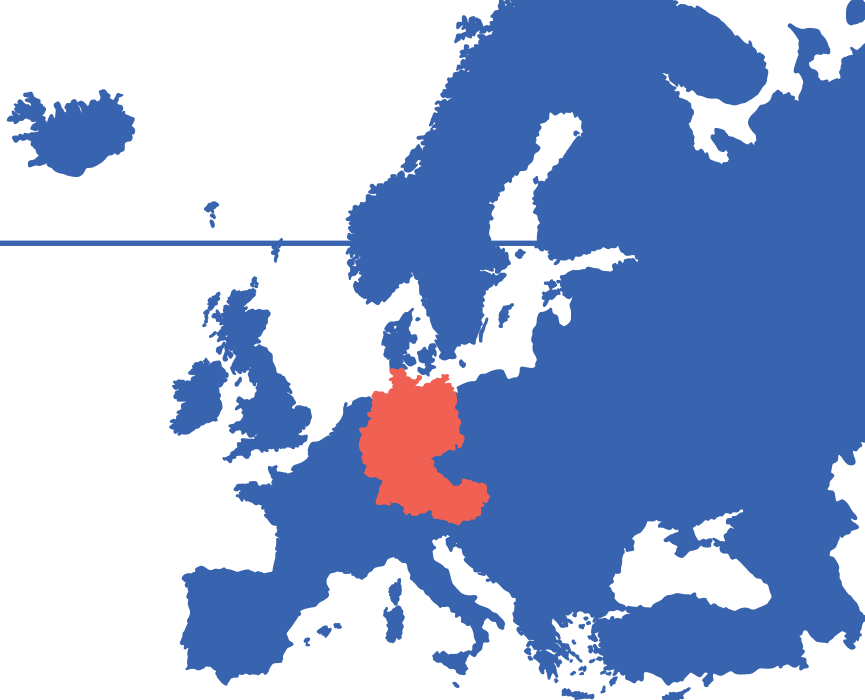
82%

of respondents feel better-off than people from their parents' generation

71% of respondents from Sweden say they trust national politicians – more than four times higher than the European average (17%). However, only 6% have trust in European politicians, a significantly lower percentage than the EU average (28%).

Despite climate change being an important issue for Swedish respondents with 35% mentioning it as a priority, the majority (53%) see the creation of jobs and growth as the number one issue for Europe – broadly in line with the European average (59%).

More than double the proportion of respondents view gender equality as a key concern - 24% in Sweden, compared with 9% across the EU.



GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

Immigration is a key concern for respondents in Germany and Austria. 45% of German respondents and 47% of Austrian respondents, regard this issue as a key priority for the EU, on par with growth and jobs.

A higher percentage of German respondents (64%) feel better off than people in their parents' generation when compared to Austria (37%). This figure is also higher than the European average (46%).

Respondents from this region generally follow political affairs: 84% of Austrian respondents take an interest in European politics and 69% in national politics. In Germany, the percentages are 94% and 87% respectively.

IDEAS FOR BETTER EUROPE



'More unity'

(Female, 26-30, Austria)



'More humane European law and policies for refugees and asylum seekers'

(Female, 23-25, Germany)

AUSTRIA



73%

of respondents in Austria feel that the country is unable to compete on the world stage separate from the EU

58% of respondents in Austria identify the EU as a 'bureaucracy', compared with a European average of 39%. 26% characterise the EU as a 'sum of countries', while only 15% of respondents across Europe agree.

Austrian respondents show distrust towards both national and European politicians, with more than two thirds (69%) showing a lack of trust in national politicians and just under half (47%) lacking trust in European politicians.

GERMANY

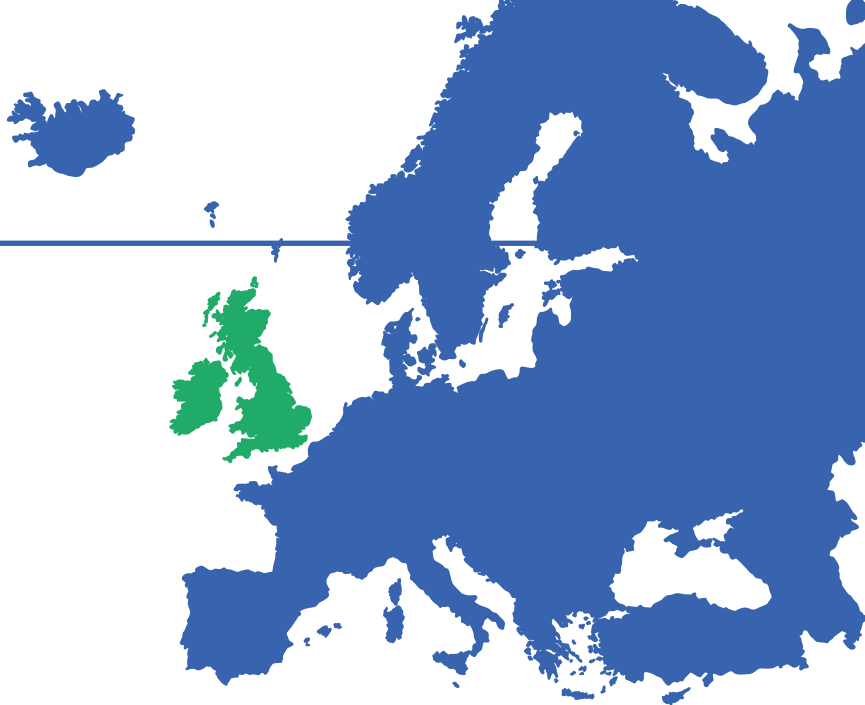


German respondents are more interested in European politics than national politics

The word that is most closely associated with the EU, according to 64% of respondents in Germany, is 'peace'. 'Bureaucracy' is used to describe the EU by only 27% of German respondents, considerably lower than the EU average (39%). More German respondents are interested in European politics (94%) than national politics (87%).

56% of German respondents believe that their country can compete on the world stage independently; a proportion that is three times higher than the European average (18%).

The most important priority for Europe in the next five years, according to German respondents, is immigration (45%), ahead of both growth and jobs (44%) and climate change and the environment (38%).



UNITED KINGDOM
AND IRELAND

The majority of respondents from both the United Kingdom and Ireland feel better off than their parents' generation. Irish respondents hold a more positive view of the EU than their neighbours in the UK; 87% see it as either 'quite positive' or 'very positive', compared with 69% in the UK.

Similarly, 69% of Irish respondents say it is 'very important' for the EU to be united, compared with 57% in the UK.

40% of British respondents feel that the UK can compete effectively on the world stage independently of the EU. Only 6% of Irish respondents feel the same about their own country.

IDEAS FOR
BETTER
EUROPE



'A Europe that sees young people not as an issue to be solved, but the very foundation of a better society'

(Female, 18-22, United Kingdom)



'A Europe that is unified in its principles, acting as a beacon and stalwart for human rights, international development, privacy and environmental sustainability'

(Male, 23-25, United Kingdom)



'Focus on a smaller number of core priorities'

(Female, 36-40, Ireland)

IRELAND



62%

of respondents from Ireland see the creation of growth and jobs as the most important priority for the EU

Irish respondents are more interested in national politics (94%) than European politics (74%), and exhibit lower levels of distrust in national politicians than in European politicians (scores of 40% and 50% respectively).

69% of Irish respondents say 'peace' is the word that best describes the European Union, well ahead of 'bureaucracy' (50%).

31% of respondents from Ireland consider one of the key achievements of the EU to be the ability to increase investment in modern infrastructure, when across Europe this was an answer given by just 8% of respondents.

UNITED KINGDOM



69%

of all respondents from the United Kingdom view the EU as being either 'quite positive' or 'very positive'

59%

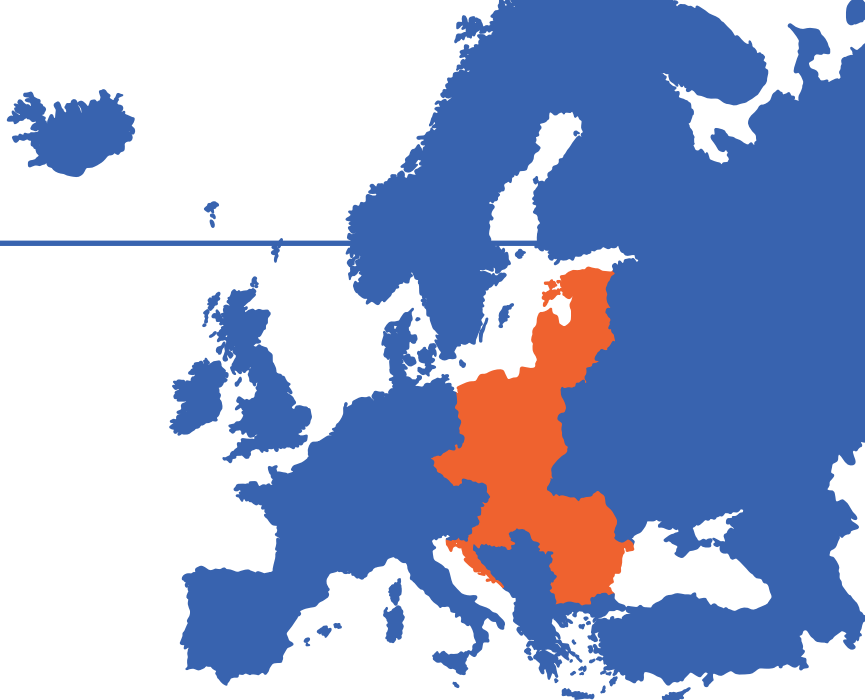
voted in the 2014 European elections compared with the European average (73%)

Levels of trust in national and European politicians are broadly similar in the UK - 44% of respondents distrust national politicians and 41% distrust politicians at the European level.

For British respondents the word primarily associated with the EU is 'bureaucracy' (46%), followed by 'peace' (41%) and 'diversity' (38%). Respondents from the UK see cutting red tape and bureaucracy (31%) as the second most important priority for Europe, behind the creation growth and jobs (52%).

17% of respondents see the fight against corruption as a general priority, while only 6% see the reduction of corruption as a means of promoting entrepreneurship.

Interestingly, only 18% of respondents from the UK see immigration as a key concern, in line with the Europe-wide average. Less surprisingly, there is lower support in the UK for a united Europe (57%) than there is in Europe as a whole (68%).



CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE (CEE)

When asked if they were better off in comparison with their parents' generation, respondents from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) gave varied answers depending on their country: those in the Czech Republic (65%), Estonia (60%), Poland (59%) and Romania (46%) believe their generation to be better off, while in Croatia 48% feel worse off than their parents.

Respondents from the CEE region have a more positive view of the EU compared to the European average; however, 26% of Czech respondents and 25% of Slovak respondents view the EU as 'quite negative', compared with 11% across Europe holding a similar view. 10% of respondents from Slovenia perceive the EU as 'very negative', when only 3% feel the same across Europe on average.

Respondents from Lithuania place access to quality education (60%) as the most important priority for the EU. Czech respondents believe immigration to be as much a priority as growth and jobs (35%).

IDEAS FOR BETTER EUROPE



'Instilling a common vision, where national governments work alongside EU institutions'

(Male, 31-35, Bulgaria)



'The EU should ensure unity and European identity, cohesion and solidarity'

(Female, 31-35, Romania)



'Less red tape: more joint activities, more mobility'

(Female, 36-40, Poland)

BULGARIA



Tackling corruption is seen as the most important means of promoting entrepreneurship in the EU

Bulgarian respondents show high levels of concern about corruption, with the fight against corruption (at 40%) as their second most important priority for the EU over the coming five years, and the most important means of promoting entrepreneurship.

Despite 'bureaucracy' being the second most popular word to describe the EU, only 5% of respondents see cutting red tape as a key priority for the future. 86% of Bulgarian respondents have no trust in national politicians while only 12% of respondents distrust politicians at the European level. 67% of respondents feel that Bulgaria is not heading in the right direction politically while 69% feel Bulgaria is unable to compete alone on the world stage.

POLAND



In Poland, there is a higher level of interest in the work of civil society organisations compared with the Europe-wide score (84% and 79% respectively)

27%

of respondents in Poland emphasised the need for the EU to focus on the promotion of innovation and R&D, compared to just 12% across Europe

To promote and encourage the involvement of Europe's youth in democratic life, Polish respondents placed much more of an emphasis on the need to allow citizens to vote online (64%) when compared to the European average (36%). In terms of political engagement, respondents from Poland showed more interest in civil society activities (84%) than in both national politics (77%) and European politics (75%).

ROMANIA

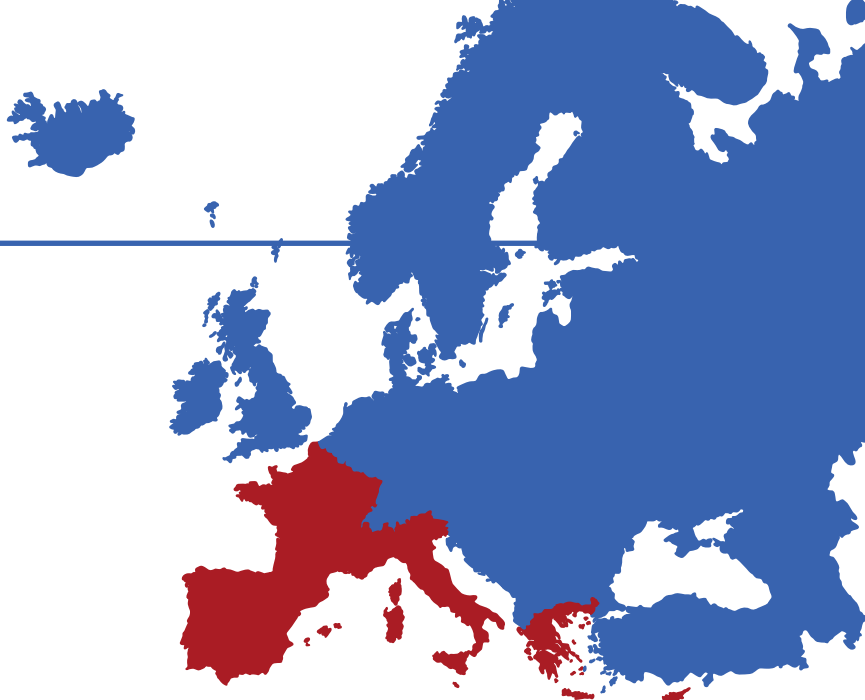


'Diversity' is the word most commonly associated with the EU according to respondents from Romania



Romanian respondents are quite pessimistic regarding the political direction of their country

Almost all respondents from Romania (95%) said they have no trust in national politicians, while only 30% distrust politicians at the European level. Romanian respondents also showed higher levels of interest in European politics (85%) than in national politics (78%), while all respondents saw it as 'somewhat' or 'very' important that the EU is united. 78% of Romanian respondents are pessimistic about the direction in which the country is heading, and 4 in 5 respondents feel Romania is incapable of competing independently on the world stage.



SOUTHERN COUNTRIES

As a result of the economic crisis in many countries in the region, it is not surprising that respondents from Southern Europe harbour low levels of trust in national politicians. The levels of distrust in France (60%), Portugal (72%), Italy (75%), Spain (82%), Greece (84%) and Cyprus (91%) are either in line with or significantly higher than the European average (60%).

Perhaps unexpectedly, given the significant levels of youth unemployment in many of these countries, the majority of respondents saw themselves as being better off in comparison to their parents' generation (71% in Greece, 66% in Portugal and 54% in Malta). Nevertheless, the majority of French respondents feel worse off than their parents' generation with only 42% saying they feel better off.

31% of respondents from Portugal perceive Europeans as having different national and cultural values, higher than the European average of 21%. Portuguese respondents also placed the same amount of emphasis on Europe being in a 'crisis' (24%) as representing a 'bureaucracy' (24%).

69% of Maltese respondents see immigration as a priority issue for Europe in the next five years, a percentage considerably higher than the EU average of 19%.

IDEAS FOR BETTER EUROPE



'A federal, social, ecological Europe'

(Male, 23-25, Italy)



'Battle corruption and ensure a sustainable level of debt/deficit. Step up the fight against climate change'

(Female, 18-22, France)

FRANCE



28%

For French respondents the fight against corruption is a lower priority issue compared to the rest of Europe

of respondents from France consider one of the main words associated with the EU to be 'bureaucracy' – lower than the EU average

The most important priority for the EU, according to 50% of French respondents, is growth and jobs. Climate change and the environment ranks second, cited by 42% of respondents, compared with 29% across Europe. Energy security is viewed by 17% of French respondents as a priority, ahead of the fight against corruption (15%). Harmonising taxes across Europe is also a higher priority cited by 23% of French respondents, and only 8% across Europe.

Only 12% of respondents see the involvement of young people in planning and implementing policies that affect them as important compared with a European average of 34%.

GREECE



84%

90%

of respondents from Greece feel that political parties are not interested enough in the concerns of young people

of respondents in Greece have no trust in national politicians

As is the case across Europe, growth and jobs is seen as the most important priority for the EU by the vast majority of respondents in Greece (82%). However, access to a quality education (23%) and immigration (20%) are the second and third most crucial priorities, whereas climate change and the fight against corruption are seen as more important elsewhere across Europe.

Greek respondents primarily associate the EU with 'diversity' (43%) and 'crisis' (39%). 87% of respondents from Greece believe things in their country are not heading in the right direction, while 86% believe that it cannot compete individually on the world stage. Despite only 27% of respondents seeing the EU as heading in the right direction, 83% see it as important for Europe to be united.

Greek respondents place more of an emphasis on 'fostering an intergenerational dialogue' (39%) and strengthening representative democracy (36%) when compared with the European average of 24% and 22% respectively.

ITALY



39%

of Italian respondents feel worse off than people in their parents' generation when compared to the EU average (26%)

75%

of respondents have no trust in Italian politicians

The percentage of Italian respondents who distrust politicians at the European level is much lower (36%) and in line with the European average (37%). 75% of Italian respondents feel that their country is not heading in the right direction.

Although 68% of respondents see the EU as being either 'quite positive' or 'very positive' and 77% state that it is very important for the EU to be united, 50% do not feel that Europe is heading in the right direction, when the EU average is 37%. A large majority of respondents in Italy see growth and jobs (72%) as the most fundamental priority for the EU.

SPAIN



86%

of respondents in Spain believe their country is not heading in the right direction, while 49% believe the same about Europe



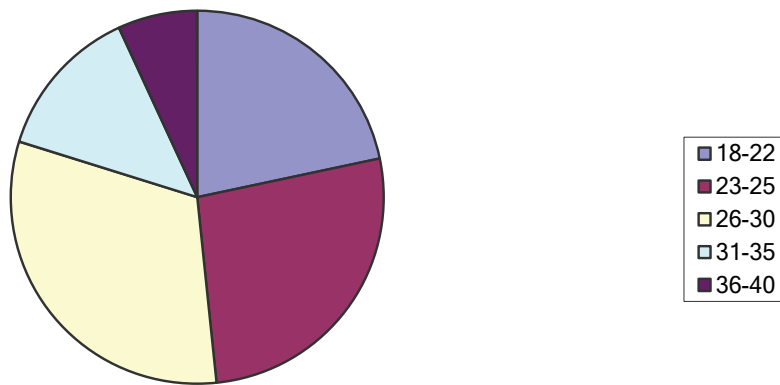
Spanish respondents note the fight against corruption as one of the key priorities for Europe

82% of Spanish respondents have no trust in national politicians, while a higher proportion of respondents from Spain also distrust politicians at the European level (45%, compared with a European average of 36%). At the same time, 4 out of 5 respondents feel that Spain is unable to compete on the world stage independently of the EU.

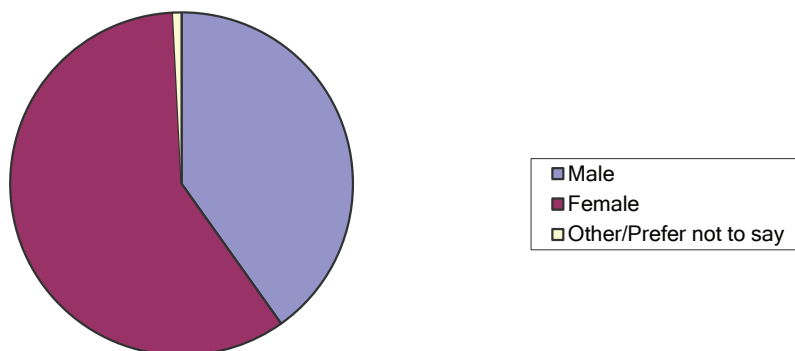
More Spanish respondents place emphasis on the ability to access quality education (25%) compared to only 15% across Europe. In Spain this issue is a higher priority than climate change and the environment and is seen as the third most important priority for the EU behind growth and jobs (72%) and the fight against corruption (43%).

RAW DATA

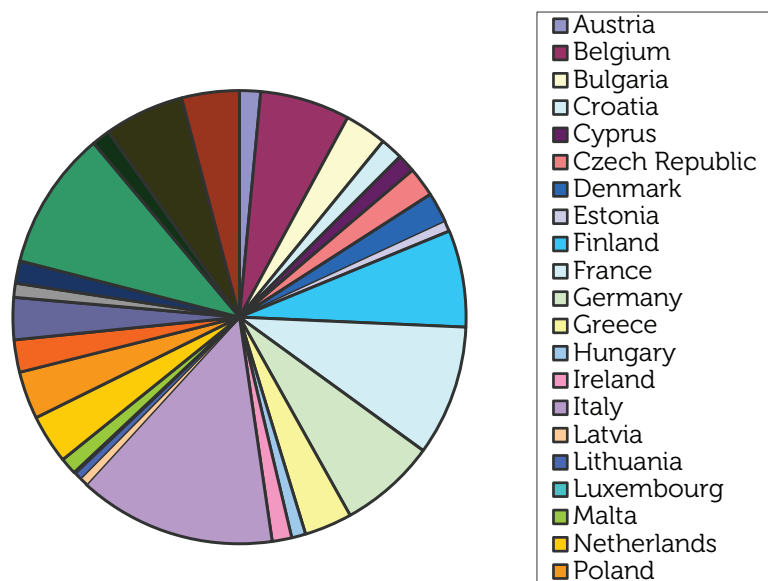
A. Age	
Answer Options	Response Percent
18-22	21.7%
23-25	26.7%
26-30	31.5%
31-35	13.3%
36-40	6.9%



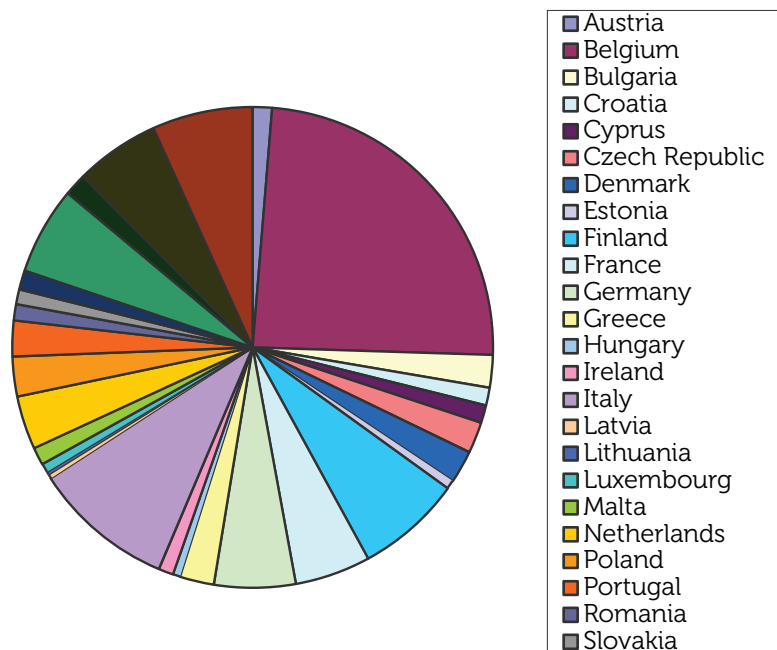
B. Are you...	
Answer Options	Response Percent
Male	40.2%
Female	59.1%
Other/Prefer not to say	0.8%



C. I'm a national of...?	
Answer Options	Response Percent
Austria	1.5%
Belgium	6.4%
Bulgaria	3.0%
Croatia	1.6%
Cyprus	1.3%
Czech Republic	2.1%
Denmark	2.2%
Estonia	0.7%
Finland	6.9%
France	9.3%
Germany	6.9%
Greece	3.4%
Hungary	1.0%
Ireland	1.4%
Italy	14.1%
Latvia	0.6%
Lithuania	0.5%
Luxembourg	0.1%
Malta	1.2%
Netherlands	3.5%
Poland	3.4%
Portugal	2.3%
Romania	3.0%
Slovakia	1.0%
Slovenia	1.6%
Spain	9.9%
Sweden	1.3%
United Kingdom	5.7%
Other	4.1%

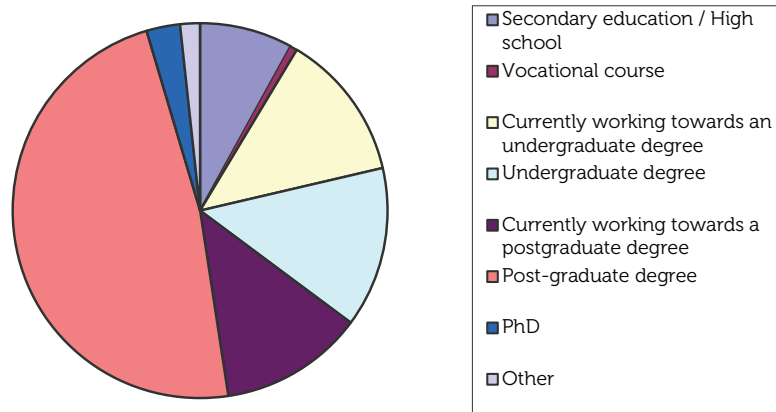


D. I currently live in...?	
Answer Options	Response Percent
Austria	1.3%
Belgium	24.3%
Bulgaria	2.2%
Croatia	1.2%
Cyprus	1.2%
Czech Republic	2.1%
Denmark	2.2%
Estonia	0.6%
Finland	7.1%
France	5.1%
Germany	5.5%
Greece	2.3%
Hungary	0.5%
Ireland	1.0%
Italy	9.5%
Latvia	0.3%
Lithuania	0.2%
Luxembourg	0.6%
Malta	1.2%
Netherlands	3.6%
Poland	2.7%
Portugal	2.4%
Romania	1.1%
Slovakia	1.0%
Slovenia	1.3%
Spain	5.9%
Sweden	1.5%
United Kingdom	5.7%
Other	6.8%



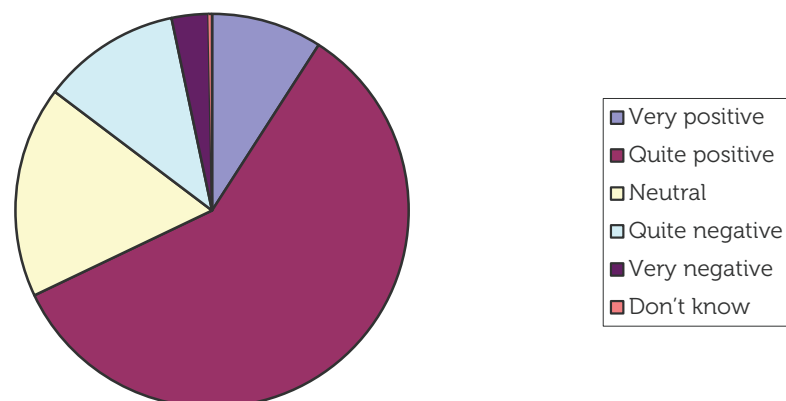
E. What was the highest level of education that you completed?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Secondary education / High school	8.0%
Vocational course	0.6%
Currently working towards an undergraduate degree	12.7%
Undergraduate degree	13.8%
Currently working towards a postgraduate degree	12.4%
Post-graduate degree	47.7%
PhD	2.9%
Other	1.7%



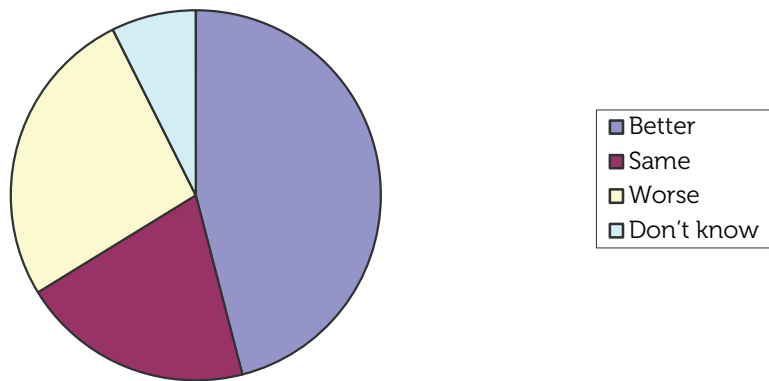
1. What is your view of the European Union (EU) as it currently stands?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Very positive	9.1%
Quite positive	58.8%
Neutral	17.4%
Quite negative	11.4%
Very negative	3.0%
Don't know	0.3%



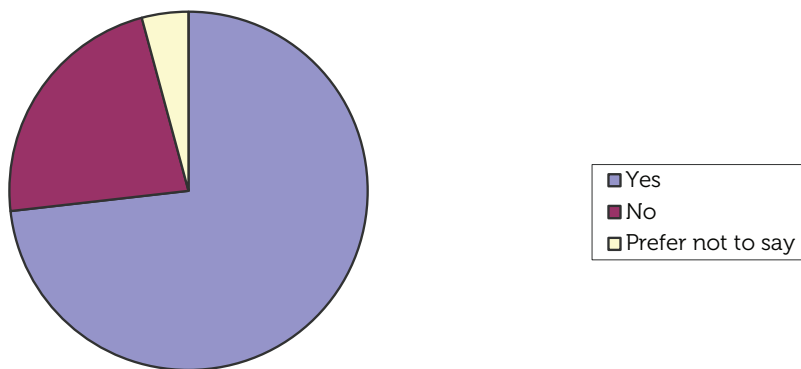
2. In your opinion, are people in your generation better or worse off than people of your parent's generation?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Better	46.0%
Same	20.3%
Worse	26.4%
Don't know	7.4%



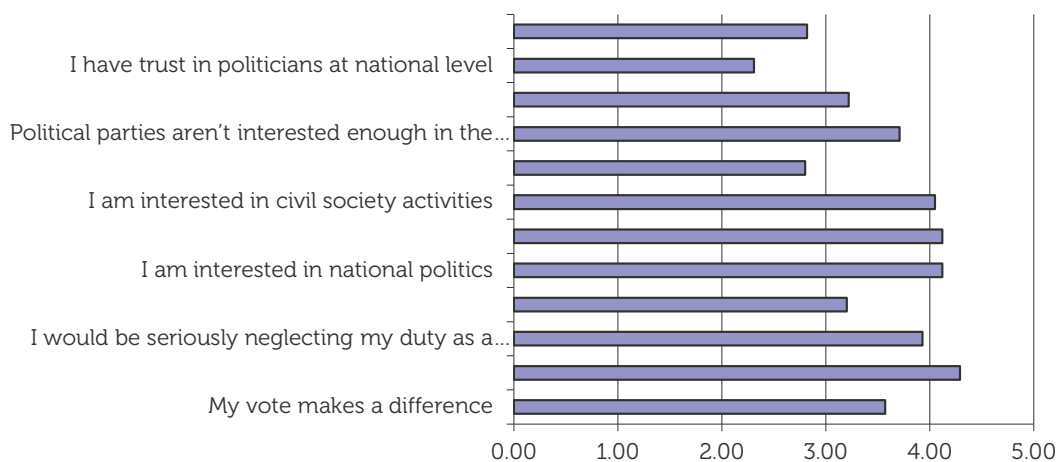
3. Did you vote in the 2014 European Parliament elections?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Yes	73.2%
No	22.6%
Prefer not to say	4.2%



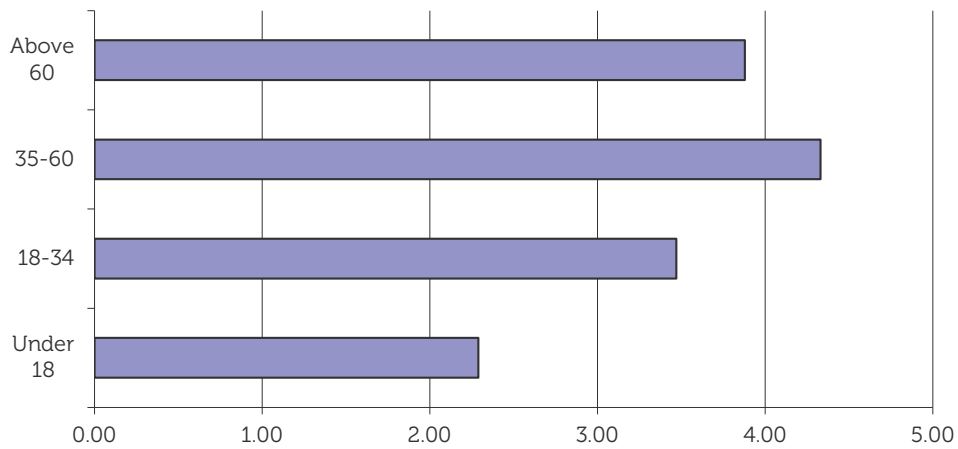
4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Answer Options	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree strongly	Rating Average
My vote makes a difference	51	153	218	632	153	3.57
I vote in elections because I care about the outcome	9	31	92	543	530	4.29
I would be seriously neglecting my duty as a citizen if I didn't vote	37	114	174	460	423	3.93
Not voting can be an expression of one's political stance	132	256	186	490	137	3.20
I am interested in national politics	15	62	132	553	447	4.12
I am interested in European politics	23	49	138	547	452	4.12
I am interested in civil society activities	7	35	208	592	359	4.05
All things considered, most elections do not change much in our lives	115	471	249	285	87	2.80
Political parties aren't interested enough in the issues that concern young people	11	168	241	522	263	3.71
There is a political party that somewhat represents my views	85	225	307	512	76	3.22
I have trust in politicians at national level	330	400	269	182	23	2.31
I have trust in politicians at European level	139	301	431	309	27	2.82



5. How influential in politics do you feel different age groups are in the EU?

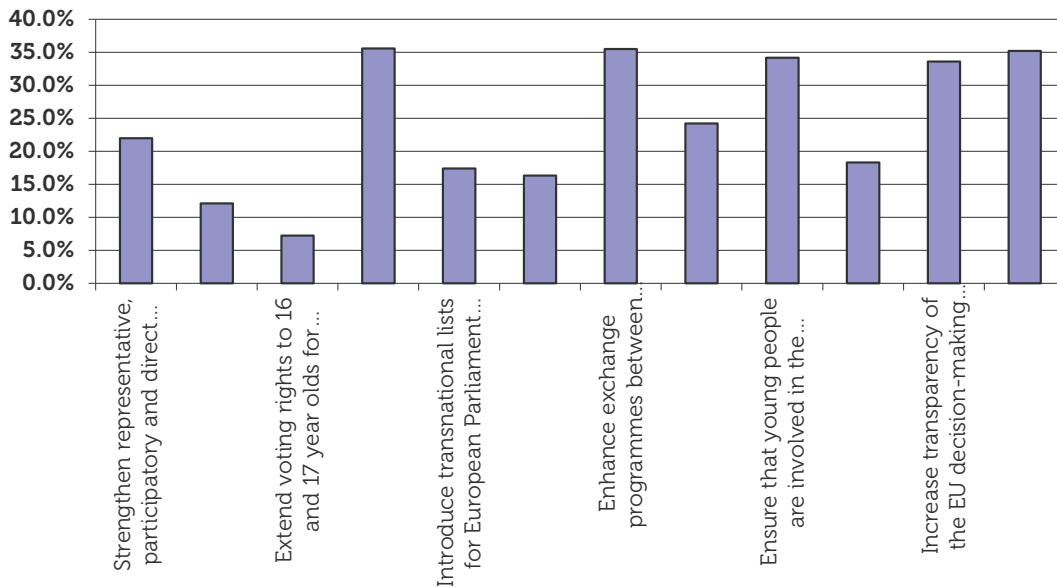
Answer Options	Don't know	Not at all	Not very	Somewhat	Very	Rating Average
Under 18	68	778	305	48	7	2.29
18-34	35	91	461	518	103	3.47
35-60	33	15	77	476	605	4.33
Above 60	46	69	239	473	376	3.88



**6. Which of the following are most important to encourage the participation of young people in democratic life in the EU?
 (Please choose up to 3)**

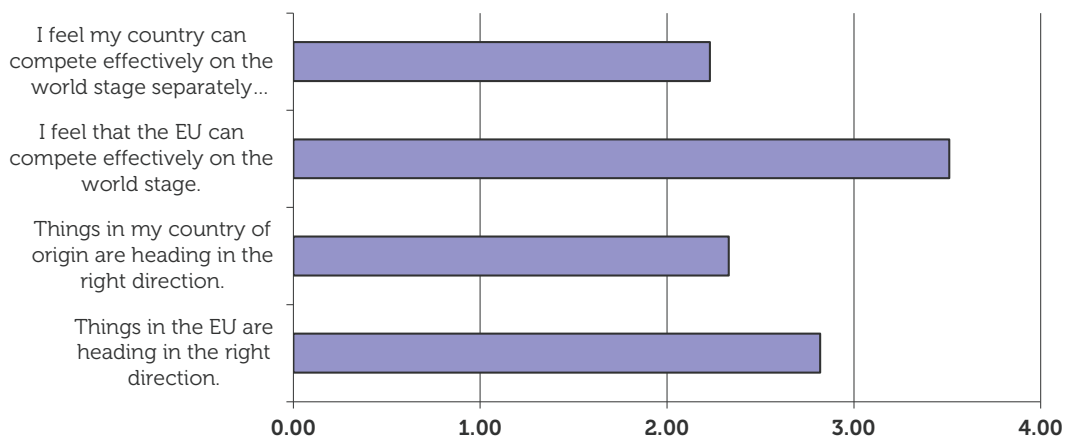
Answer Options	Response Percent
Strengthen representative, participatory and direct democracy channels, e.g. promoting the use of the European Citizens' initiative	22.0%
Introduce quotas for young people under 30 in European Parliament elections lists	12.1%
Extend voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds for European Parliament elections	7.2%
Allow citizens to vote online	35.6%
Introduce transnational lists for European Parliament elections	17.4%
Introduce direct election of the European Commission President	16.3%
Enhance exchange programmes between European youth to enhance mutual understanding	35.5%
Foster an intergenerational dialogue involving young people and decision-makers, e.g. through an enhanced role of youth organisations and initiatives	24.2%
Ensure that young people are involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of policies that affect them directly or indirectly	34.2%
Invest more money into communicating the achievements, objectives and responsibilities of the EU	18.3%
Increase transparency of the EU decision-making process	33.6%
Introduce compulsory lessons at schools about the values, history, functioning and responsibilities of the EU and its member states	35.2%

6. Which of the following are most important to encourage the participation of young people in democratic life in the EU? (Please choose up to 3)



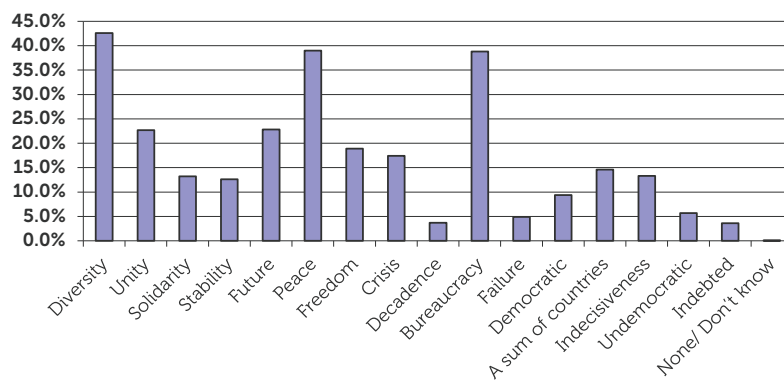
7. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Answer Options	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree strongly	Rating Average
Things in the EU are heading in the right direction.	89	363	437	305	12	2.82
Things in my country of origin are heading in the right direction.	298	455	226	214	14	2.33
I feel that the EU can compete effectively on the world stage.	37	199	233	588	147	3.51
I feel my country can compete effectively on the world stage separately from the EU.	378	422	192	176	37	2.23

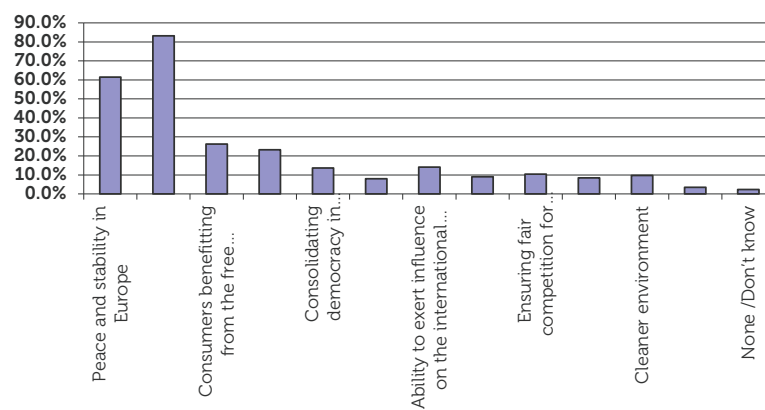


8. What word comes to mind when you think of the European Union? (Please choose up to 3)

Answer Options	Response Percent
Diversity	42.6%
Unity	22.7%
Solidarity	13.2%
Stability	12.6%
Future	22.8%
Peace	39.0%
Freedom	18.9%
Crisis	17.4%
Decadence	3.7%
Bureaucracy	38.8%
Failure	4.9%
Democratic	9.4%
A sum of countries	14.6%
Indecisiveness	13.3%
Undemocratic	5.7%
Indebted	3.6%
None/ Don't know	0.1%



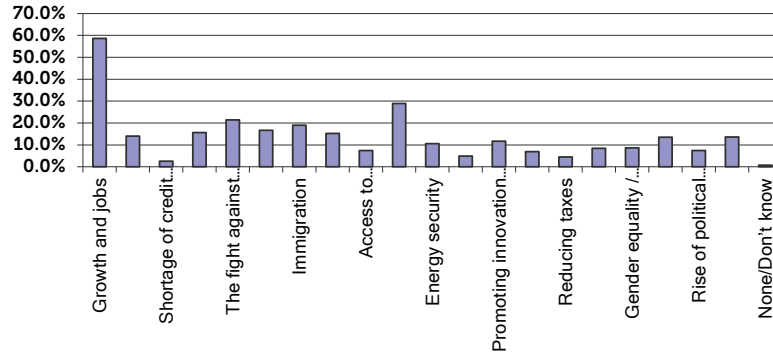
9. Which do you consider to be the most significant achievements of the European Union? (Please choose up to 3)	
Answer Options	Response Percent
Peace and stability in Europe	61.5%
EU citizens having the right to travel to, live or study in, another EU	83.2%
Consumers benefitting from the free movement of goods	26.2%
Respect of people's fundamental freedoms and rights	23.2%
Consolidating democracy in countries that had communist/authoritarian governments	13.7%
Responding to the economic crisis and preparing the conditions for sustainable growth and jobs	8.0%
Ability to exert influence on the international stage	14.1%
Solidarity, a social market economy and protection of less fortunate Europeans	9.0%
Ensuring fair competition for consumers and companies across the EU	10.4%
Increasing investment in modern infrastructure	8.4%
Cleaner environment	9.7%
Ability to regulate financial markets more effectively	3.5%
None /Don't know	2.3%



10. Which of the following issues do you think the EU should prioritise in the next 5 years? (Please choose up to 3)

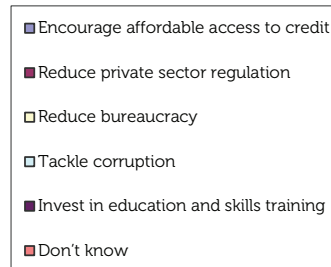
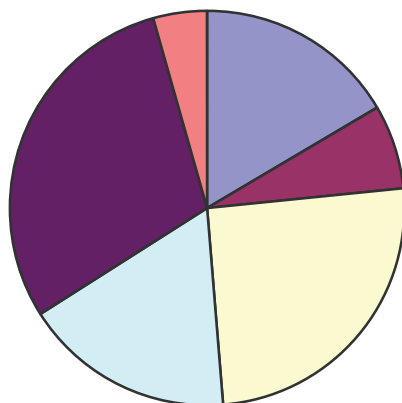
Answer Options	Response Percent
Growth and jobs	58.6%
National debt and deficits	14.0%
Shortage of credit from banks	2.6%
Cutting red tape / bureaucracy	15.6%
The fight against corruption	21.4%
Economic competitiveness	16.7%
Immigration	19.0%
Access to quality education	15.2%
Access to reliable/affordable healthcare	7.4%
Climate change and the environment	28.9%
Energy security	10.6%
Data security	4.9%
Promoting innovation / R&D	11.7%
Promoting entrepreneurship	6.9%
Reducing taxes	4.5%
Harmonising taxes across Europe	8.4%
Gender equality / Ensuring equal opportunities for women	8.6%
Being a model for human rights and democracy	13.5%
Rise of political extremes	7.4%
Lack of European unity / Development of a common European identity	13.6%
None/Don't know	0.7%

10. Which of the following issues do you think the EU should prioritise in the next 5 years? (Please choose up to 3)



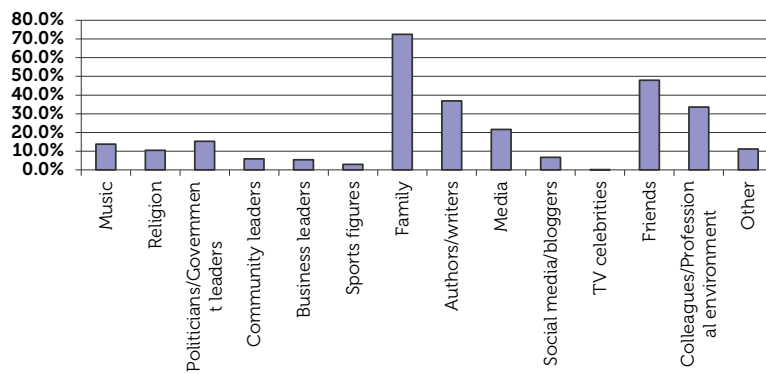
11. What is the most important initiative the European Union should take to promote entrepreneurship?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Encourage affordable access to credit	16.5%
Reduce private sector regulation	6.9%
Reduce bureaucracy	25.3%
Tackle corruption	17.3%
Invest in education and skills training	29.6%
Don't know	4.4%



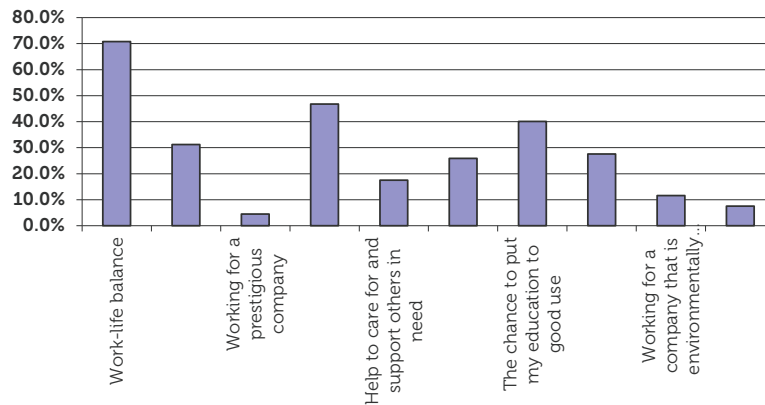
12. Which of the following have been most influential in shaping your values and your outlook on life? (Please choose up to 3)

Answer Options	Response Percent
Music	13.8%
Religion	10.5%
Politicians/Government leaders	15.3%
Community leaders	5.9%
Business leaders	5.4%
Sports figures	3.0%
Family	72.5%
Authors/writers	36.9%
Media	21.7%
Social media/bloggers	6.7%
TV celebrities	0.2%
Friends	47.9%
Colleagues/Professional environment	33.6%
Other	11.2%



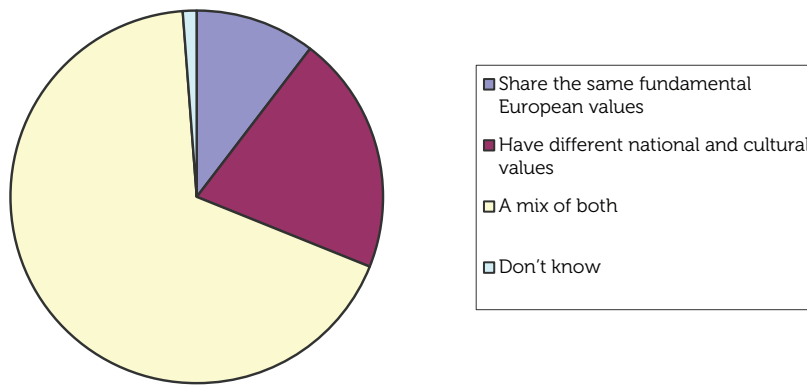
13. From a professional point of view, which of the following is most important? (Please choose up to 3)

Answer Options	Response Percent
Work-life balance	70.8%
The opportunity to work with talented people	31.2%
Working for a prestigious company	4.5%
Opportunities for professional progression	46.8%
Help to care for and support others in need	17.5%
Good pay	25.9%
The chance to put my education to good use	40.1%
Working for a company that does good in the community	27.6%
Working for a company that is environmentally conscious	11.6%
Working for a company that provides professional training	7.5%



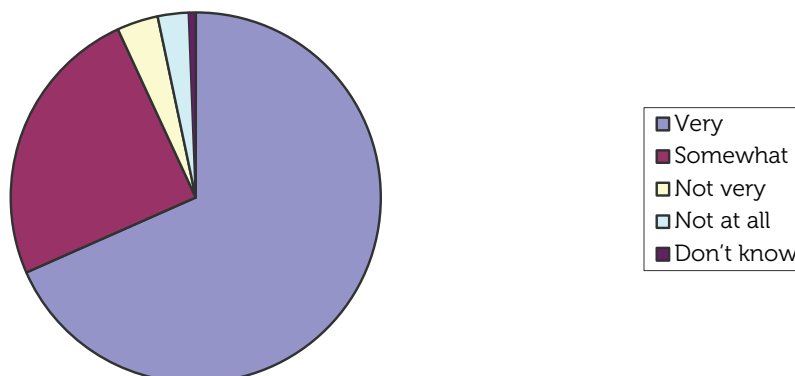
14. Do you think Europeans....?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Share the same fundamental European values	10.4%
Have different national and cultural values	20.7%
A mix of both	67.7%
Don't know	1.2%



15. Generally speaking, how important is it to you that the European Union is united?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Very	68.3%
Somewhat	24.7%
Not very	3.6%
Not at all	2.7%
Don't know	0.6%



**ABOUT
THINKYOUNG**

ThinkYoung is the first think tank that focuses on young people. It was founded in 2007 and has expanded to have offices in Brussels, Geneva and Hong Kong. It is a not for profit organisation, with the aim of making the world a better place for young people by involving them in decision making processes and by providing decision makers with high quality research on youth's conditions.

ThinkYoung carries out research, surveys, documentary films and policy proposals focusing on five fields of action: entrepreneurship, education, EU-Asia relations, EU enlargement, and environment. Up to now, ThinkYoung projects have reached over 300,000 young people.

For more information please visit: www.thinkyoung.eu

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The ThinkYoung network represents up to 300'000 people.

PROJECTS 2015



Entrepreneurship School: following successful past editions, ThinkYoung will organise 3 schools this year (11th, 12th and 13th editions in Brussels and Hong Kong). Participants work with successful entrepreneurs to develop viable businesses and acquire the relevant skills to launch their own initiative. (www.entrepreneurshipschool.com)



Skills Mismatch: explores the causative roots of the mismatch in Europe - the gap between an individual's job skills and the demands of the job market - and the perceptions of those exposed to it. This project is held every two years to evaluate its evolution since 2009, with the most recent edition (2014) focussing on the mismatch within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) field. The current project has a specific focus on 'good quality' apprenticeships. (www.thinkyoung.eu/skillsmismatch)



MakersTown: this two day large-scale event, gathering 60 Makers from all over Europe, will offer start ups, gurus from the manufacturing sector, and business schools the opportunity to get visibility, collaborate, share ideas, create partnerships, attract investors, and meet policy makers.



The Maidan, the Aftermath: this audiovisual research project aims at showcasing the perspectives of the Ukrainian youth one year after the Maidan crisis. The goal of this documentary is to raise awareness about youth's positions and perspectives on the recent political events.



Our **audiovisual lab** helps young researchers to make their own films and multimedia projects. We provide grants, studio space in Brussels and Hong Kong, shooting and editing equipment as well as creative and technical support. (www.lab.thinkyoung.eu)

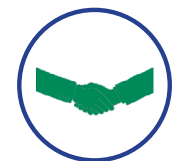
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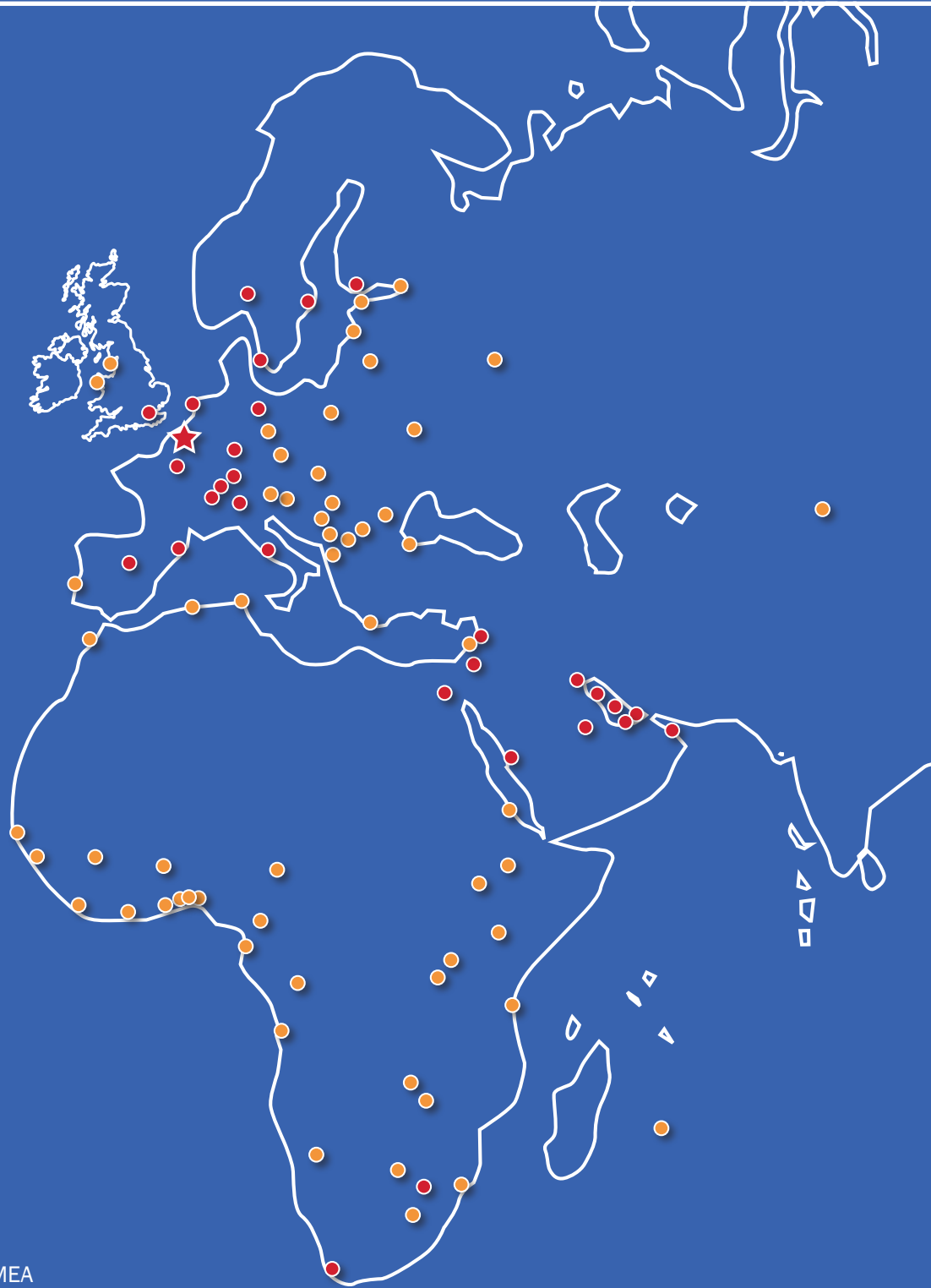
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Jeremy Galbraith
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