



Special Eurobarometer 529
May – June 2022

Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility

Report

Fieldwork: May – June 2022

Survey conducted by Kantar for Kantar Belgium
at the request of the European Commission, Joint Research Centre
Survey coordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
MAIN FINDINGS	7
I. PERCEPTIONS OF SOCIETY	10
1. A fair and just society	11
2. Trust in people	20
II. GETTING AHEAD IN LIFE	25
III. INCOME DIFFERENCES: PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES	41
1. Perceptions of income differences	42
2. Attitudes towards income differences	51
IV. ATTITUDES TOWARDS PUBLIC SPENDING	59
1. Public benefits programmes	60
2. Preferences for increasing public spending on social policies	63
V. CHILDHOOD AND INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY IN EDUCATION	74
1. Intergenerational mobility in education	75
2. Childhood care	78
VI. THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	82
3. Consequences of the pandemic and support extended	83
4. Opinions on measures	93
CONCLUSION	99
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	101
QUESTIONNAIRE	106

INTRODUCTION



Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

INTRODUCTION

The European Social Model is based on the conviction that economic and social progress go hand in hand. This model is described in terms of values that include democracy, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, free collective bargaining, the market economy, equal opportunities for all, and social protection and solidarity.¹

Taking into consideration the changing socio-economic circumstances, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights at the Gothenburg Summit in 2017. This Pillar defines 20 core principles and rights deemed essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and social protection systems.

In March 2021, the Commission presented its European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan that turns the Principles into concrete actions to benefit citizens.

The measures proposed in the Action Plan for the enforcement of the European Pillar of Social Rights aim to:

- Create more and better jobs,
- Promote qualifications and equality,
- Improve social protection and inclusion.

The Action Plan also sets out three EU-level targets (regarding the employment rate, adult learning and poverty reduction) to be reached by 2030. Specific national level targets were presented in June 2022 and are expected to lead firmly towards or even exceed these overarching EU goals.²

Against this backdrop of political action, the current Eurobarometer survey was commissioned by the European Commission's science and knowledge service, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in collaboration with the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), to explore EU citizens' perceptions of fairness and equality, their attitudes towards meritocracy and redistributive policies, and intergenerational social mobility. A similar survey was first conducted in December 2017³, thereby providing a baseline for trend analysis in a historical perspective. Expanding the content of the 2017 survey, the current survey covers the following topics:

- Respondents' views on fairness and equality of opportunity;
- Respondents' views about income inequality, meritocracy and redistributive policies;
- Respondents' opinions regarding increased public spending in key policy areas and the acceptable sources for financing it;
- Intergenerational social mobility;
- The financial and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ http://aei.pitt.edu/1118/1/social_policy_white_paper_COM_94_333_A.pdf

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

³ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2166>

Where no comparison with 2017 is given, this means that no data on this point was collected in the 2017 survey.

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

METHODOLOGY

This survey was carried out by the Kantar network in the 27 EU Member States between 30 May and 28 June 2022. Some 26,395 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed in the national language(s) of the country. This survey was commissioned by the European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) in collaboration with the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion (DG EMPL).

The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out for the Directorate-General for Communication (“Media monitoring and analysis” Unit). However, in order to run fieldwork during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was necessary to change the methodology in some countries (total or partial interviews were conducted online in some countries). In Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Romania all interviews were conducted face to face. In-person interviews were complemented with online interviews in Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden.

A technical note on the way the interviews were conducted by the institutes within the Kantar network is annexed to this report. Also included is the information about the interview methods and confidence intervals.

Note: In this report, Member States are referred to by their official abbreviation, as listed below:

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	EN	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus*	CY*	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV		
European Union - weighted average for the 27 Member States of the European Union (where weights have been adjusted to account for the number of inhabitants in each Member State).			EU27

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union Member States. However, the “acquis communautaire” has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the “CY” category and in the EU27 average.

We wish to thank the people throughout the European Union who have given their time to take part in this survey. Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.

MAIN FINDINGS



Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

A relative majority of EU citizens agree that they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life in their country.

- Throughout the EU, around half of respondents (47%) agree that, in their country, they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life compared with everyone else in that country. The share of those who disagree with the statement represents 30%.
- Almost four in ten (38%) believe that most of the things that happen in their lives are fair, while 31% disagree with the statement.
- More than a third (35%) agree that, by and large, people get what they deserve in their country, whereas 37% disagree.

Since 2017, perceptions of fairness have decreased in a large number of EU Member States.

- Agreement with statements about fairness has declined since 2017. The most prominent downward trend is found in agreement that ‘most things that happen in one’s life are fair’ (-14 percentage points).
- The share of respondents who agree that things which happen in their lives are fair has fallen in all Member States except Romania, with the steepest decline in the Netherlands (-24 pp) and Luxembourg (-22 pp).

Across the EU, there is a tendency to either assume that people have only the best intentions or to take a neutral stance in this regard.

- Approximately three respondents in ten (29%) agree that people have only the best intentions, while 43% take a neutral stance, and 27% disagree with the statement.
- There are large differences across EU countries in the average stated levels of trust in people⁴. EU-wide, the average score is 5.1 out of 10. The Member States where these reported average values are the highest are Denmark (6.9), Ireland (6.6) and the Netherlands (6.3). The lowest values are in Slovakia (4.4.), France (4.4) and Greece (3.9).

Obtaining a good education is considered the most important factor for getting ahead in life.

- Over a third of respondents say that having a good education is essential for getting ahead in life (34%); moreover, 6 out of ten say it is important. Overall, across the EU, the prevalence of this view has not changed between the 2017 and 2022 surveys. However, in 15 countries, the proportion who think that a good education is essential for success has decreased. The decrease is most notable in Austria (-10 pp) and Denmark (-9 pp).

- About a quarter (24%) of citizens in the EU report that working hard is essential to get ahead in life, while two-thirds say it is important (66%). Since 2017, the view that hard work is essential has remained broadly stable (- 1 percentage point). This opinion has declined in 15 Member States, with the largest decrease being found in Slovenia (-9 pp).
- In the EU, around two-thirds of respondents believe that coming from a wealthy family is essential (12%) or important (53%) to get ahead in life. Across the EU Member States, this result registered no substantial variations between the 2017 and 2022 surveys (+2 pp). Nonetheless, in 17 Member States, the proportion of respondents who think that this factor is essential to get ahead in life has increased marginally to moderately since 2017, with the largest growth observed in Malta (+16 pp).
- With regard to being born a man or a woman, almost half of respondents in the 2022 sample say that this aspect is essential (8%) or important (41%) for getting ahead in life. Since 2017, the share of those who deem this essential has increased marginally in many Member States but remained more or less stable across the EU (+1 pp). The largest increase in the proportion of respondents who think that being born a man or a woman is essential to get ahead in life is registered in Malta (+11 pp). Women are more likely than men to say that gender is an essential or important factor in getting ahead in life (51% vs. 45%).

Eight in ten believe that income differences are too great and that their national government should take measures to reduce income inequality in their country.

- About eight in ten respondents (81%) agree that currently, in their country, the differences in people’s incomes are too great, 39% of whom strongly agree.
- Since 2017, the share of those who agree or strongly agree that income inequality is too great in their country has diminished in 20 Member States and slightly declined on average in the EU (by 4 pp). The largest decreases were observed in Finland (-14 pp), and Belgium, Romania, and Spain (all -11 pp).
- More than seven in ten respondents across the EU Member States believe that their national government should take measures to reduce income differences (78%), and that EU institutions should support national governments in this respect (73%).
- Compared with 2017, the opinion that the national government should take measures to reduce income inequality has lost ground by 4 percentage points at the EU level. The downward trend is observed in 20 Member States and is especially pronounced in Finland (-21 pp), Spain (-14 pp) and Czechia (-12 pp).

⁴ On a 10-point scale, where 1 represents the lowest value and 10 represents the highest value.

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

- 57% of respondents agree or strongly agree that large differences in income levels are acceptable as a reward for differences in talents and efforts. Agreement is more widespread in Germany (70%), Czechia (66%) and Poland (65%).
- A majority of respondents agree or strongly agree (67%) that it is an important task for their national government to tax the rich in order to support the poor.

Large majorities across the Member States believe that national governments should spend more in certain social policy areas, and in particular on “health care” and “long-term care”.

- When asked whether their national government should spend more, an equal amount, or less than it currently does in certain key social policy areas⁵, a majority of respondents tend to support more spending on most of the policy areas presented (seven of the nine). The priority areas for which respondents would like to increase public spending are “health care” (71%), “long-term care” (70%) and “education” (68%). Nonetheless, support is also strong in other areas: “pensions” (66%), “housing” (62%), “income support” (59%) and “family policies” (55%). On average in the EU, comparatively fewer respondents would like their national government to spend more on “unemployment support” (47%) and “culture” (42%). Nonetheless, in twelve countries more than half would increase public spending on “unemployment benefits” and in nine countries a majority would increase government spending on “culture”.

Across the EU, about half believe that increases in social programmes should be financed by higher taxes, in particular either through contributions from wealthy households or from contributions proportional to household income⁶.

- Around one in five respondents believe that increases in public spending on social policies should mainly be supported by contributions from wealthy households (21%) or by contributions proportional to household income (20%). In addition, 10% of respondents consider that the additional cost of such spending should be borne in equal shares by all households.

- Alongside the majority opinions described above regarding the source of funding for increased public benefits spending, 15% of respondents think that the budget for other public programmes should be reduced to allow for more social expenditure, and 12% believe that the budget deficit should be increased without additional financial burdens for households.

Respondents tend to be more satisfied than dissatisfied with the measures taken by their national government and the EU institutions to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Three in ten (30%) respondents experienced one or several types of adversity because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The most common type of adversity which respondents dealt with during the COVID-19 outbreak was a deterioration in their physical or mental health (13%). Additionally, 8% of respondents stated that the income from their job was reduced, and another 8% noted that their working hours were cut. Furthermore, 4% of respondents mentioned that they were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme, while 3% were made redundant or lost their job, and another 3% were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday. Finally, 3% stated that they were not able to pay their usual expenses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Interestingly, 6% of respondents pointed out that their working conditions improved as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. due to working from home, a more flexible schedule).
- Close to one-fifth of all respondents (19%) reported that they received at least one type of financial support⁷ linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most common type of financial support received was wage support (5%).
- Almost half of respondents (49%) say that they are satisfied with the measures that were implemented by the national government to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. A similar share (46%) are satisfied with the measures taken by the EU institutions to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak.

⁵ The key policy areas considered in the survey were: health, long-term care, education, pensions, housing, income support, family policies, unemployment support, and culture.

⁶ Respondents were asked about the financing of increased government spending on social programmes. They could choose one of the following statements: “No, you don’t think the overall spending should increase”, “The budget for other public programmes should be reduced and no additional effort should be asked of households”, “The additional cost should be distributed equally among households”, “The additional cost should be distributed proportionally to household income”, “The

additional cost should be mainly asked of wealthy households” and “The budget deficit should be increased and no additional effort should be asked of households”.

⁷ The types of financial support were: unemployment benefits, wage support (supplement or short-time working schemes), paid sick leave or paid care leave (e.g., to self-isolate or take care of children or dependent adults), state aid to businesses, other support from public services to help with household expenses, deferral, reduction or cancellation of tax, bill, mortgage, loan or debt payments, financial support from NGOs or charities and financial support from relatives or friends.

I. PERCEPTIONS OF SOCIETY



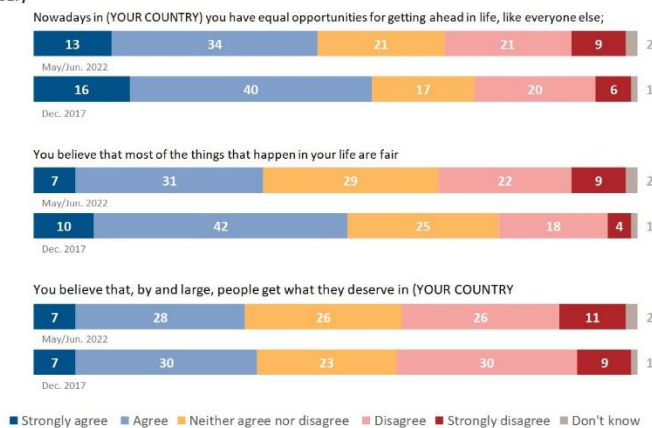
1. A fair and just society

Opinions regarding aspects of fairness and equal opportunities are rather split, yet more respondents tend to agree rather than disagree that they have equal opportunities like everyone else in their country, and that most of the things that happen in their lives are fair.

To gauge perceptions of fairness, respondents were asked to what extent they agree with the following three statements:

1. Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else;
2. You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair;
3. You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)⁸.

QC1. To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
(% - EU27)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Close to a half of respondents (47%) say that they agree or strongly agree that, currently, in their country, they **have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life**, like everyone else: 13% say that they “strongly agree” with the statement, while 34% “agree”. Meanwhile, one in three respondents (30%) disagree with the

statement, with almost one in ten (9%) noting that they “strongly disagree”. 21% of the respondents took a neutral stance, saying that they “neither agree nor disagree” with the statement.

The belief that one has equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else in one’s country is not as widespread as in 2017. In May-June 2022, 34% “agree”, a -6 percentage point decrease since December 2017, whilst 13% “strongly agree”, representing a -3 percentage point decline since the previous study. Compared with December 2017, respondents tend to be more likely to disagree (+4 pp) that they have equal opportunities: 9% (+3 pp) say that they “strongly disagree”, and 21% (+1 pp) that they “disagree”.

A somewhat smaller share of respondents (38%) believe that **most of the things that happen in their lives are fair**, with 7% saying that they “strongly agree” and just over three in ten (31%) that they “agree”. Close to a third of all respondents (31%) disagree with the statement, with 9% stating that they “strongly disagree”. 29% of the respondents took a neutral stance regarding this statement.

The belief that most of the things that happen in one’s life are fair has become less strong. Compared with 2017, respondents are now more likely to disagree with this statement (+9 pp, of whom +5 pp “strongly disagree” and +4 pp “disagree”). Respondents are also more likely to say that they “neither agree nor disagree” with the statement (+4 pp) and consequently less likely to claim that they “agree” (-11 pp) or “strongly agree” (-3pp).

Respondents are less likely to believe that **“by and large, people get what they deserve”** in their country: 7% “strongly agree”, while 28% “agree” with this statement. Close to four in ten (37%) disagree that people get what they deserve in their country, 26% of whom say that they “disagree” and 11% that they “strongly disagree”. Finally, around a quarter (26%) of respondents “neither agree, nor disagree” that, by and large, people get what they deserve in their country.

Between 2017 and 2022, the belief that, by and large, people get what they deserve in their country has decreased. However, this downward trend is more moderate than for the other statements. Both agreement and disagreement have decreased by two percentage points at the EU level, leading to a 3-percentage point increase in the share of respondents who neither agree nor disagree.

⁸ “(YOUR COUNTRY)” is a placeholder in the master questionnaire and was replaced with the name of the relevant country in each translated national file.

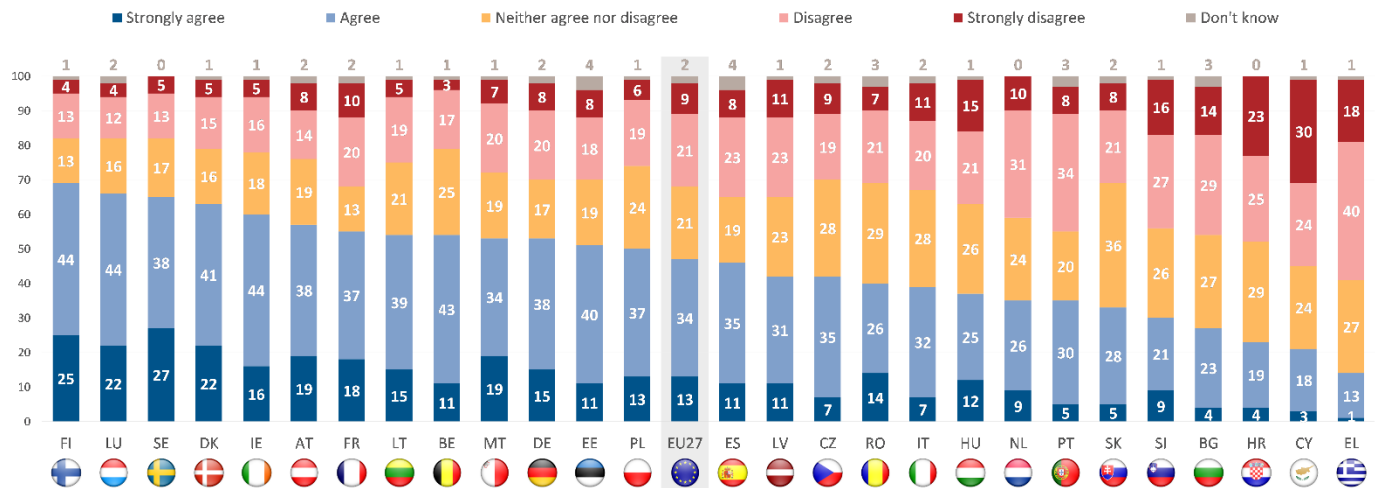
Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Almost half the respondents agree that currently they have equal opportunities to get ahead in life, like everyone else in their country

At the national level, there is considerable variation in the proportion of respondents who agree or strongly agree that in their

country they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else. There are 13 countries where at least half agree. While the average level of agreement for the EU stands at 47%, it reaches 69% in Finland, 66% in Luxembourg and 65% in Sweden. The lowest agreement levels are observed in Croatia (23%), Cyprus (21%) and Greece (14%).

QC1.3 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
 (% - Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

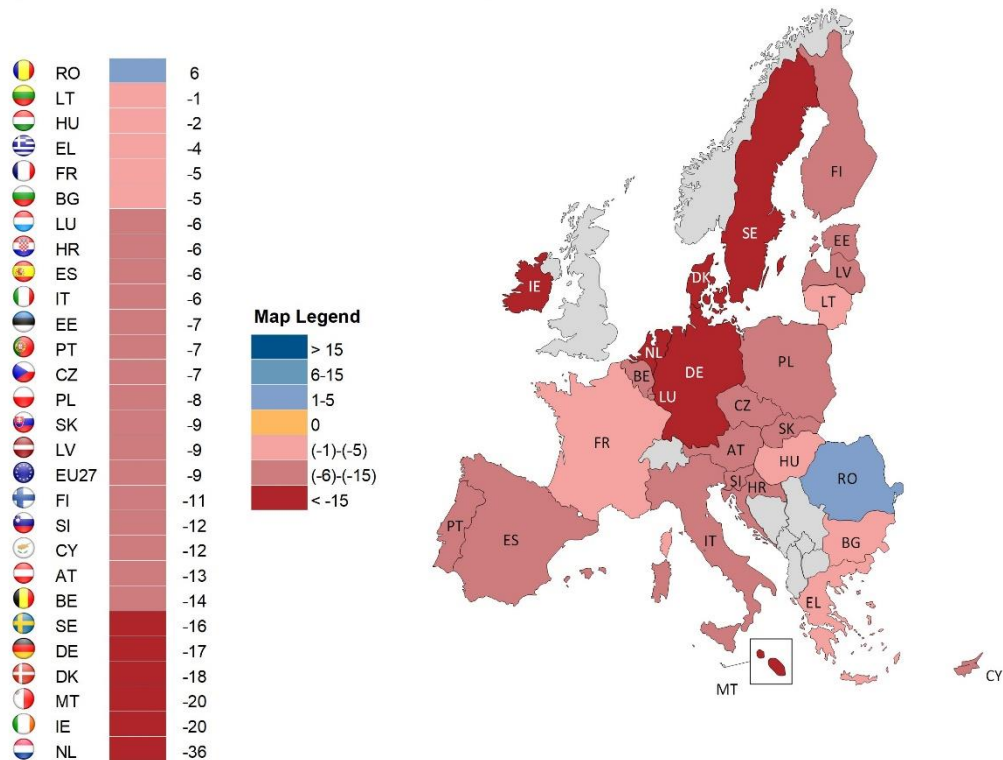
Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The map below illustrates the trend since December 2017 in agreement with the statement that “you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else” in the country. It shows that across the EU, agreement that there are equal opportunities has overwhelmingly decreased.

The largest drops in agreement with this statement between December 2017 and May/June 2022 are registered in the Netherlands (-36 pp), Malta and Ireland (both -20 pp) and Denmark (-18 pp).

Romania is the only country where agreement has increased modestly between 2017 and 2022 (+ 6 pp).)

QC1.3 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else
 (% - pp difference in agreement share between 2017 and 2022)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
 Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

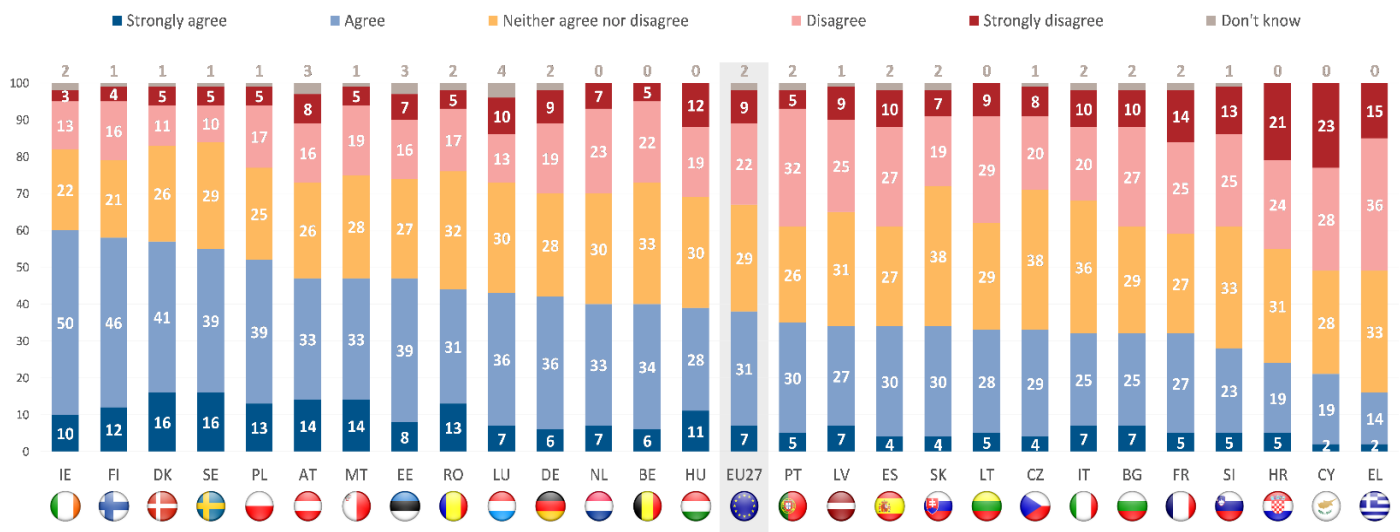
Close to four in ten believe that most of the things that happen in their lives are fair

The graph below displays the comparative survey results by country. The following analysis will first present the country level results for the most recent survey and will then proceed with the description of historically comparative data.

Across the EU Member States, the share of respondents who agree to some extent or strongly that most of the things that happen in their lives are fair varies widely among countries. There are five Member States where this share exceeds majority, namely Ireland (60%), Finland (58%), Denmark (57%), Sweden (55%) and Poland (52%).

While the average EU-wide share of agreement with the statement stands at 38%, there are 13 countries where the level of agreement is lower, reaching its lowest proportions in Cyprus (21%) and Greece (16%).

QC1.1 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
 (% - You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

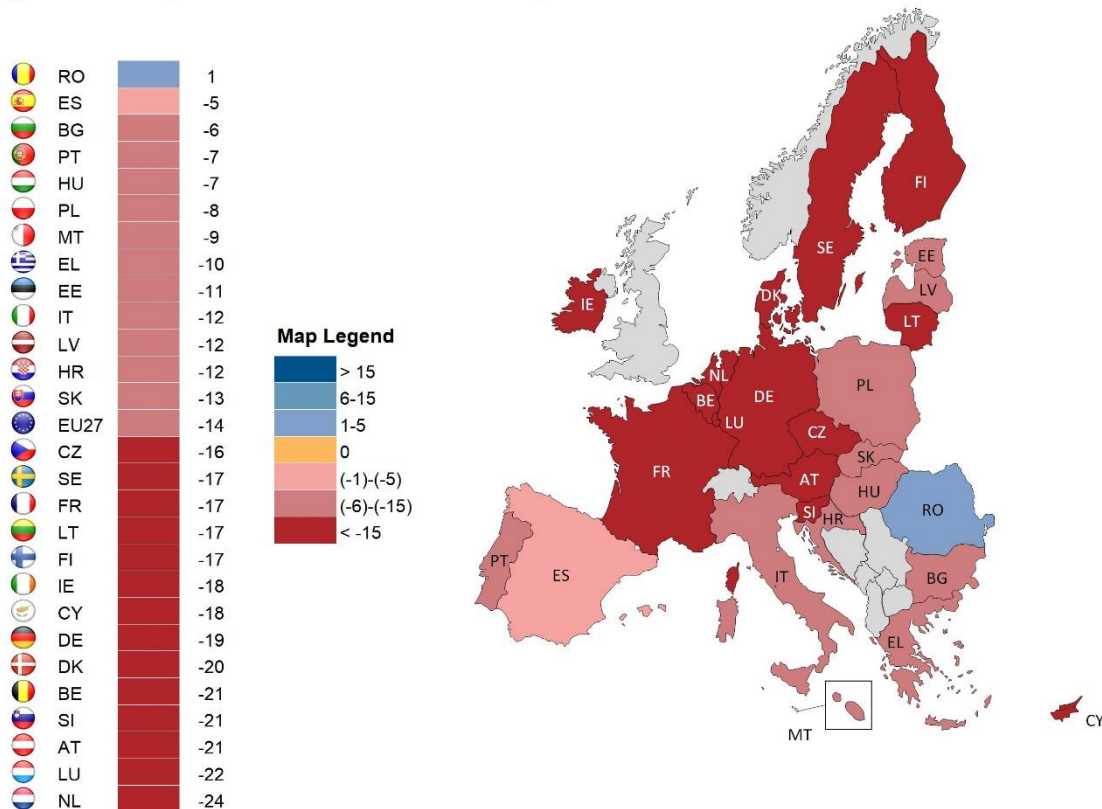
An analysis of the evolution of survey results in May/June 2022 compared with December 2017 indicates that in all but one Member State (Romania, +1 pp) the proportion of people who agree that most of the things that happen in their lives are fair has decreased.

Since December 2017, at the EU level, the share of those who agree that most things that happen in their lives are fair has reduced by fourteen percentage points, to represent an aggregate 38% in May/June 2022.

As shown in the map below, rates of agreement declined most in the Netherlands (-24 pp), Luxembourg (-22 pp), and Belgium, Austria, and Slovenia (both -21 pp).

Romania is the only Member State where the share of respondents agreeing that most things that happen in their lives are fair has not fallen since 2017 (+1pp). In 2022, 44% agree that most things that happen in their lives are fair.

QC1.1 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair
 (% - pp difference in agreement share between 2017 and 2022)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
 Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

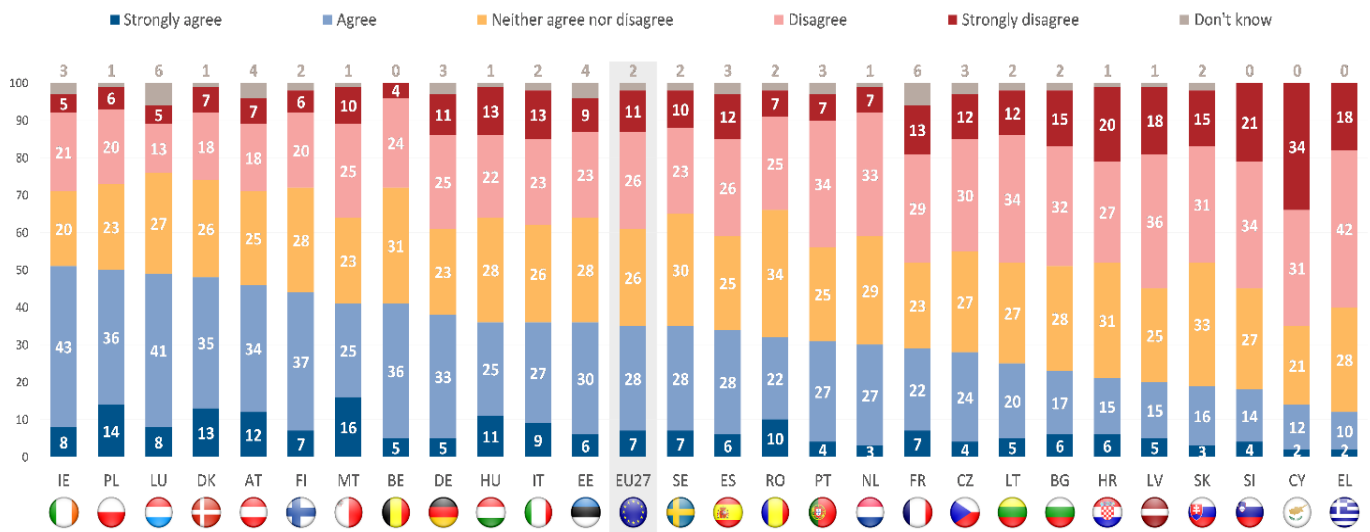
More than a third of respondents believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in their country

There are 12 Member States where the share who agree with the statement is greater than the EU average. The highest rates of agreement are observed in Ireland (51%), Poland (50%) and Luxembourg (49%), while the lowest are found in Greece (12%), Cyprus (14%) and Slovenia (18%).

Substantial shares across Member States take a neutral stance. The largest proportions of respondents who neither agree nor disagree that people get what they deserve in their country are found in Romania (34%), Slovakia (33%), and Belgium and Croatia (31%).

QC1.2 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

(% - You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY))



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

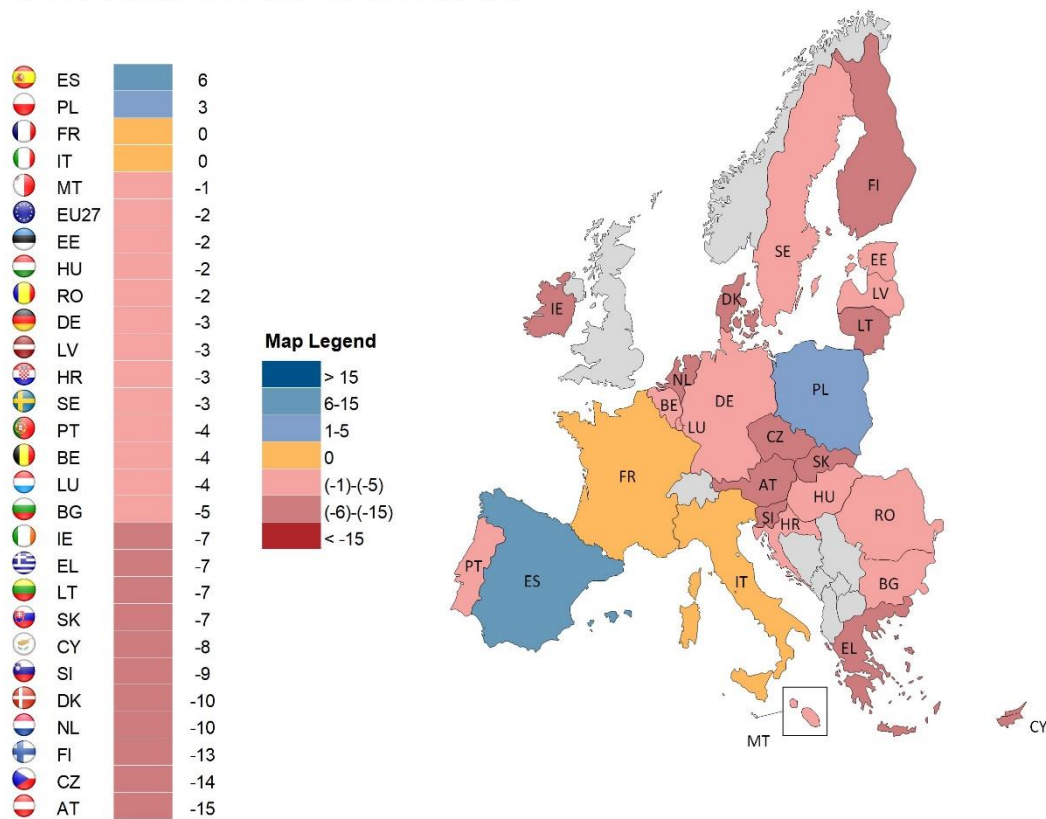
Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Overall, throughout the EU, the proportion of respondents who agree that, by and large, people get what they deserve in their country has decreased by three percentage points.

At the same time, the shares agreeing with the statement that people get what they deserve in their country remained stable in Italy and France and increased in Spain (+6 pp) and Poland (+ 3 pp).

The downward trend is observed in 23 Member States, with the largest decreases in Austria (-15 pp), Czechia (-14 pp) and Finland (-13 pp).

QC1.2 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)
 (% - pp difference in agreement share between 2017 and 2022)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
 Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Summary statistics by socio-demographic groups show that men are somewhat more likely (41%) to agree that most of the things that happen in their lives are fair than women (36%). A similar pattern is observed for the other two statements. While 49% of men agree that they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else, 44% of women also agree. The gender differences are slightly more pronounced for the belief that, by and larger, people get what they deserve, with 38% of men agreeing compared with 32% of women.

There are also some differences across age groups, with young people aged 15-24 (42%) and those aged 25-39 (43%) being slightly more likely to agree that things happening in their lives are fair. These tendencies emerge when the shares of agreement among younger people are compared with those among middle-aged respondents aged 40-54 (39%), and respondents aged 55+ (35%). The differences across age groups are minimal for the other two statements.

There are significant differences by level of education in perceptions of fairness. Respondents educated to below secondary level tend to agree the least (26%) that things in their lives are fair, that they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life (34%), and that people in their country get what they deserve (31%). These tendencies are in pronounced contrast with agreement levels reported by those who have a university degree.

In this latter group, 45% agree that things which happen in their lives are fair, 51% think that they have equal opportunities like others, and 34% believe that people in their country get what they deserve.

In terms of subjective urbanisation, respondents living in large cities are less likely to agree that most of the things which happen in their lives are fair (36%), particularly when compared with their counterparts living in rural areas (40%).

Another significant socio-demographic dimension is the socio-economic status of a household. This has been measured by asking how often a household has difficulties paying its bills. Levels of agreement with the statement that one has equal opportunities like everyone else are higher among respondents who almost never or never experience financial difficulties (52%), especially when compared with those who say that they struggle to pay their bills most of the time (23%).

Additionally, respondents who almost never or never have difficulties paying bills are more likely to agree that most things that happen in their lives are fair (43%), compared with 22% of respondents with financial difficulties. Furthermore, respondents in this socio-economic group are more likely to think that, overall, people in their country get what they deserve (37%) than respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (19%).

QC1 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
Total 'Agree' (%) - EU27

	Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else	You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair	You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)
EU27	47	38	35
Gender			
Man	49	41	38
Woman	44	36	32
Age			
15-24	48	42	36
25-39	48	43	35
40-54	47	39	35
55 +	46	35	34
Highest level of education			
Below secondary	34	26	31
Secondary	45	37	35
Post secondary	54	40	36
University	51	45	34
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	47	40	36
Small/ mid size town	46	37	35
Large town	47	36	34
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	23	22	19
From time to time	41	33	33
Almost never/ Never	52	43	37

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

By measuring perceptions of social justice through these three statements, it was possible to analyse the responses by comparing them against each other. The results indicate that respondents who tend to agree that most things in their lives are fair are also more likely to agree that people in their country get what they deserve (62%). Similarly, those feeling that most things in their lives are fair are more likely to believe that people in their country have equal opportunities (73%).

Interestingly, contrasting response patterns are observed that reflect the consequences respondents faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents whose working conditions improved are more likely to say they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life (57%), that most of the things in their life are fair (54%) and that people in their country get what they deserve (42%).

Conversely, respondents who were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday, who were unable to pay a usual expense, whose physical or mental health deteriorated, who were made redundant or lost their jobs (41%) and who received a reduced income (40%) are less likely to agree that they have equal opportunities like everyone else in their country.

QC1 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
Total 'Agree' (% - EU27)

	Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else	You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair	You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)
EU27	47	38	35
You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair			
Total 'Agree'	73	100	62
Neither agree or disagree	37	0	23
Total 'Disagree'	24	0	13
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)			
Total 'Agree'	76	68	100
Neither agree or disagree	40	28	0
Total 'Disagree'	24	18	0
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else			
Total 'Agree'	100	60	57
Neither agree or disagree	0	25	23
Total 'Disagree'	0	16	11
Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?			
You were made redundant or lost your job	41	36	36
The income from your job was reduced	40	32	31
Your working hours were reduced	44	38	30
You were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme	51	42	40
You were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday	41	40	38
You were not able to pay a usual expense (e.g., rent or mortgage, utility bill)	41	35	38
Your physical or mental health deteriorated	41	34	30
Your working conditions improved (e.g. due to working from home, more flexible schedule)	57	54	42
None of the above	48	38	35

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

2. Trust in people

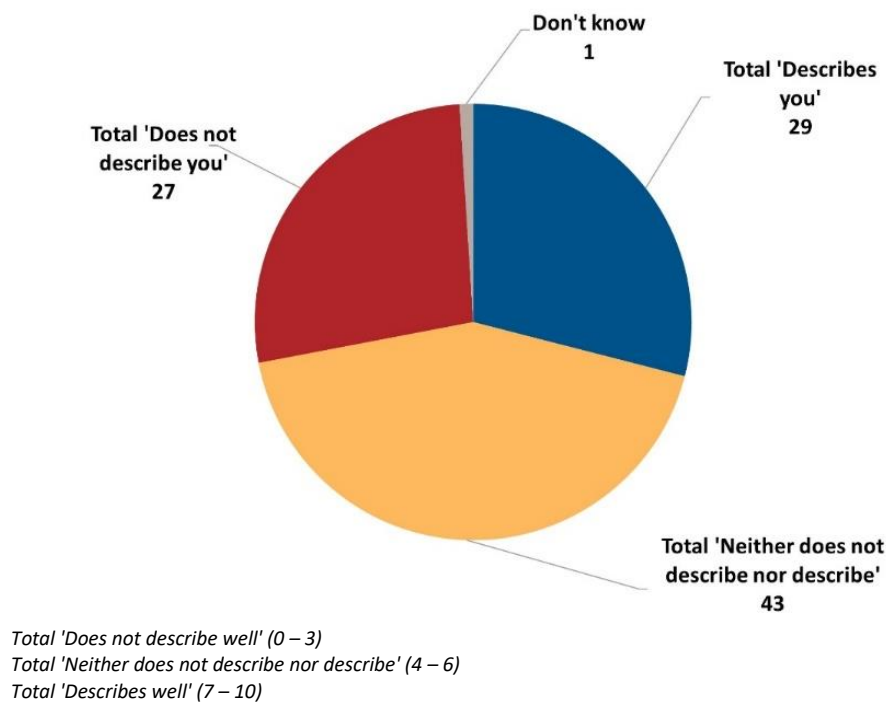
Close to three in ten respondents assume that people have only the best intentions

To estimate the level of trust citizens across the EU place in other people, the survey asked respondents to assess how well the statement “you assume that people have only the best intentions” describes them, using an eleven-point Likert scale, where “0” means “does not describe you at all” and “10” means “describes you perfectly”. For ease of reporting, value ranges have been computed, so that the shares of values “0” through “3” have been

aggregated and labelled as “Does not describe you”, the values “4” to “6” were summed and labelled “Neither does not describe you, nor describes you”, while the shares for the values “7” through “10” where aggregated and defined as “Describes you”. In what follows, these aggregated ranges are reported for the three items.

Almost three in ten (29%) say that the statement “You assume that people have only the best intentions” describes them, while 43% indicate that it neither does not describe, nor describes them, and 27% say that the statement does not describe them.

QC2.1. How well do the following statements describe you as a person? Please answer using a scale from 0 to 10 where “0” means it “does not describe you at all” and “10” means it “describes you perfectly”.
You assume that people have only the best intentions
(% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

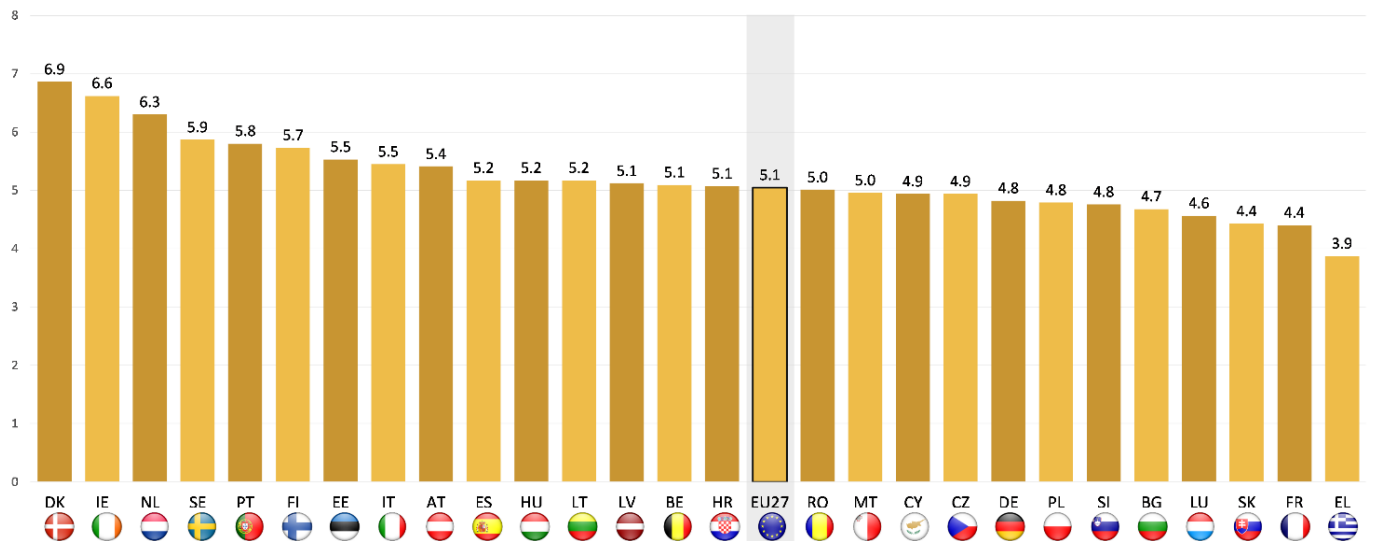
Trust in people varies across Member States and is especially high in Denmark and Ireland

The country bar chart below shows that, overall, the mean value for the EU is 5.1 on a scale from 0 to 10 for the statement “You assume that people have only the best intentions”. In 15 Member States, the average is equal to, or greater, than the overall EU value.

There is some variation in average opinion scores across countries. The countries with the highest reported average values are Denmark with 6.9, Ireland with 6.6 and the Netherlands with 6.3. The lowest values are in Slovakia (4.4.), France (4.4) and Greece (3.9).

QC2.1 How well do the following statements describe you as a person? Please answer using a scale from 0 to 10 where "0" means it "does not describe you at all" and "10" means it "describes you perfectly".

You assume that people have only the best intentions
(Average)

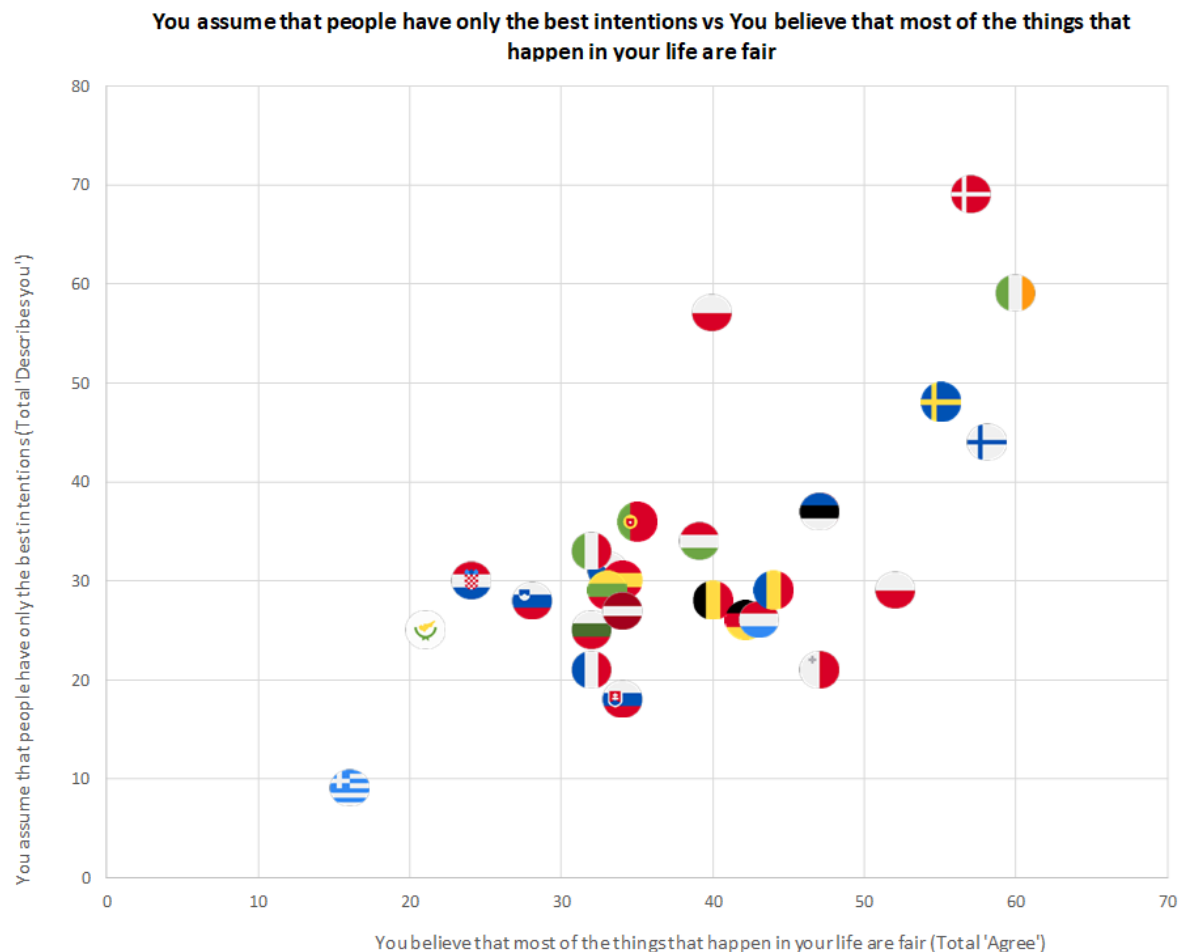


Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The graph below shows a strong positive relationship at the country level between the share of respondents who assume that people have only the best intentions, and those who believe that most of the things that happen in their lives are fair.

This relationship is exemplified in the following graphic by the high proportions in Denmark who both assume that people have only the best intentions (69%) and believe that most things in their lives are fair (57%) and, conversely, the low shares of respondents who both assume that people have only the best intentions (9%) and believe that most things in their lives are fair (16%).



Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The socio-demographic analysis shows that there are minimal differences by gender and across age groups in the share of respondents indicating that the statement “you assume that people have only the best intentions” describes them.

When it comes to the level of education, the data reveal that respondents who have a university degree are more likely to say that people have only the best intentions (34%), especially when compared with respondents with below secondary level education (25%).

In the case of subjective urbanisation, the highest shares of agreement with the statement are found among inhabitants of small or mid-size towns (36%), whilst the lowest agreement levels are among residents of large towns (28%).

From a socio-economic perspective, the cross-tabulated data indicate that respondents who say that they never or almost never experience difficulties paying bills are more likely (32%) to assume that people have only the best intentions than those who have difficulties paying their bills sometimes (25%) or most of the time (24%).

QC2.1 How well do the following statements describe you as a person? Please answer using a scale from 0 to 10 where “0” means it “does not describe you at all” and “10” means it “describes you perfectly”.

You assume that people have only the best intentions (% - EU27)

	Total 'Does not describe you'	Total 'Neither does not describe nor describe'	Total 'Describes you'
EU27	27	43	29
 Gender			
Man	27	44	29
Woman	26	43	30
 Age			
15-24	27	44	28
25-39	27	44	29
40-54	27	42	31
55 +	26	43	30
 Highest level of education			
Below secondary	24	48	25
Secondary	27	44	28
Post secondary	28	40	32
University	24	42	34
 Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	25	42	32
Small/ mid size town	24	40	36
Large town	26	46	28
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	34	41	24
From time to time	28	46	25
Almost never/ Never	25	42	32

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Additionally, the respondents who agree or strongly agree that most of the things that happen in their lives are fair are also more likely to agree that people have only the best intentions (38%). Similarly, those respondents who agree that, by and large, in their country people get what they deserve, are also more likely to assume that people have only the best intentions.

QC2.1 How well do the following statements describe you as a person? Please answer using a scale from 0 to 10 where "0" means it "does not describe you at all" and "10" means it "describes you perfectly".

You assume that people have only the best intentions (% - EU27)

	Total 'Does not describe you'	Total 'Neither does not describe nor describe'	Total 'Describes you'
EU27	27	43	29
You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair			
Total 'Agree'	21	41	38
Neither agree or disagree	21	51	27
Total 'Disagree'	36	41	22
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)			
Total 'Agree'	22	41	37
Neither agree or disagree	20	51	28
Total 'Disagree'	35	40	25

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

II. GETTING AHEAD IN LIFE



Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Having a good education is perceived as the most important factor for getting ahead in life

This section presents data related to a question with multiple items where respondents were asked to evaluate to what extent certain factors, such as “Coming from a wealthy family”, “Having a good education”, “Working hard” and “Being born a man or a woman”, are important for getting ahead in life.

An overwhelming majority of respondents say that **having a good education** is either “essential” (34%) or “important” (60%) for getting ahead in life. Of the latter share, 40% think that having a good education is “very important” and 20% say that it is “fairly important”. The remaining 6% of respondents believe that this aspect is not important, with 5% stating it is “not very important” and 1% saying it is “not important at all”.

When it comes to the impact of **working hard** on getting ahead in life, nine in ten (90%) think that this factor is either essential or important to some degree. Close to a quarter (24%) say that it is “essential”, 38% that it is “very important” and 28% that it is “fairly important”. Only a small minority of 9% answered in the negative, 7% of whom say that working hard is “not very important” and 2% that it is “not important at all”.

Coming from a wealthy family is considered “essential” for getting ahead in life by 12% of respondents, and “important” by 53% - 24% saying it is “very important”, and 29% that it is “fairly important”.

At the same time, 23% of respondents maintain that this aspect is “not very important”, whilst 11% deem it “not important at all”.

With regard to **being born a man or a woman**, close to half (49%) of respondents believe that this is an “essential” factor, or is important to some degree for getting ahead in life.

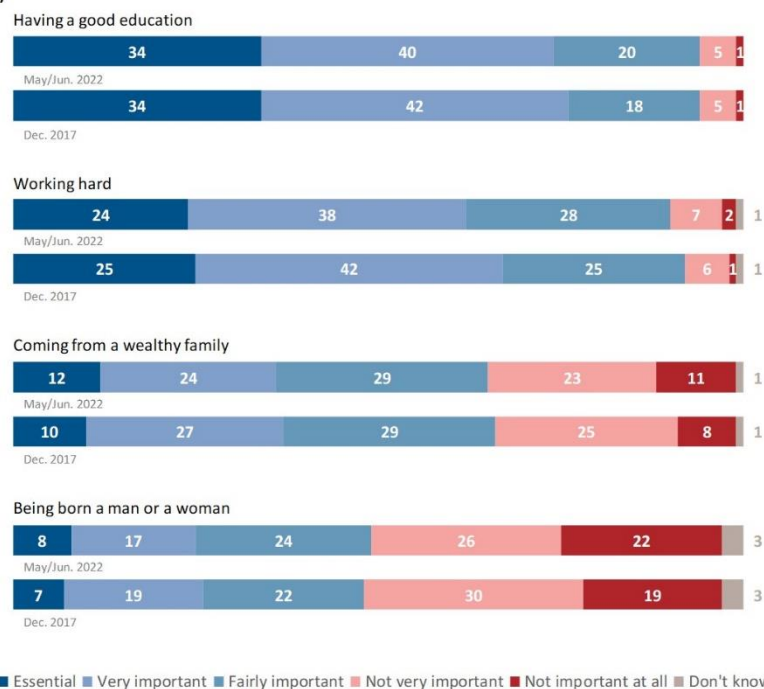
Compared with December 2017, citizens’ endorsement of these statements has changed very little. The largest difference in opinion pertains to the view that **working hard** is “very important” (- 4 pp) for getting ahead in life. More specifically, in May/June 2022 fewer respondents express this belief. Instead, they were more likely to consider working hard as “fairly important” (+3 pp).

The opinion that **having a good education** is “very important” has lost ground by two percentage points as more respondents described it as “fairly important” (+2 pp).

Coming from a wealthy family as a factor for getting ahead in life is seen as “essential” by a slightly larger share (+2 pp), while the proportion saying that it is “very important” decreased by 3 percentage points, and share stating that it is “fairly important” has increased by two percentage points.

The assumption that **being born a man or a woman** is important for getting ahead in life has seen a slight upward trend: more respondents in May/June 2022 say that this factor is “essential” (+1 pp) or “fairly important” (+2 pp), with a -2 pp fall in the share who say that it is “very important”.

QC3. How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
 (% - EU27)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
 Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

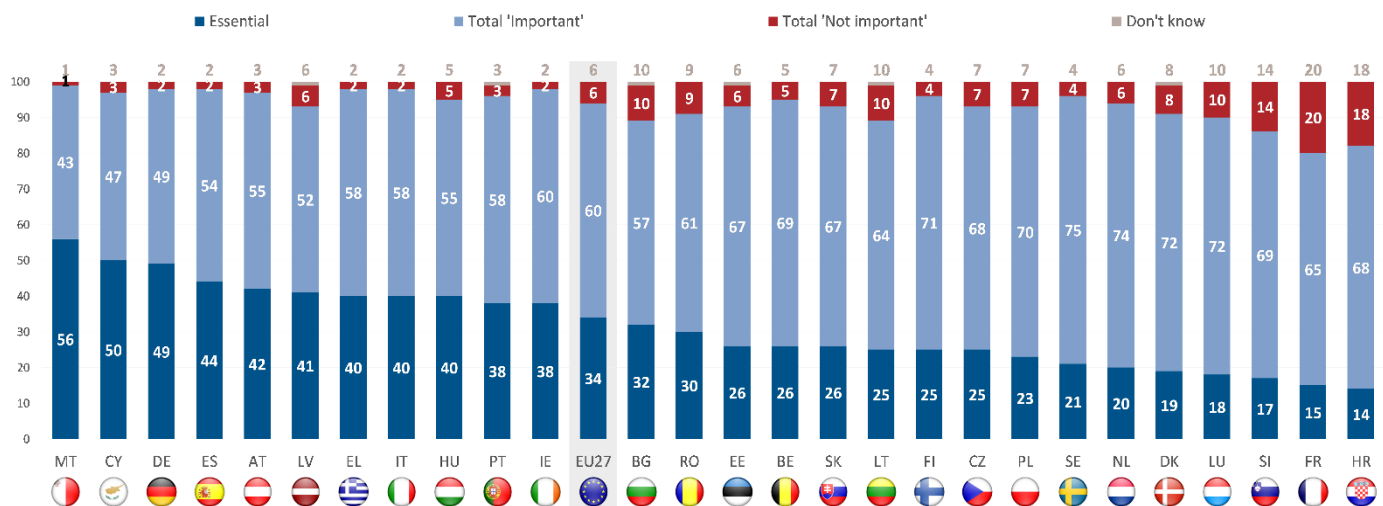
An overwhelming majority across EU Member States believe that having a good education is essential, very important or important

Results show that a vast majority of respondents across the EU think that education is important. However, there are large differences among the Member States in the degree to which respondents think that a good education is “essential” for getting ahead in life. In two EU Member States the proportion of respondents who think that education is “essential” represents an

absolute or relative majority – Malta with 56% and Cyprus with 50%.

Additionally, there are seven countries where at least four in ten respondents hold the same opinion – Germany (49%), Spain (44%), Austria (42%), Latvia (41%), Greece, Italy, and Hungary (all 40%). The countries where fewer than one in five respondents believe that a good education is “essential” for getting ahead in life are Denmark (19%), Luxembourg (18%), Slovenia (17%), France (15%) and Croatia (14%).

QC3.2 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
 (% - Having a good education)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

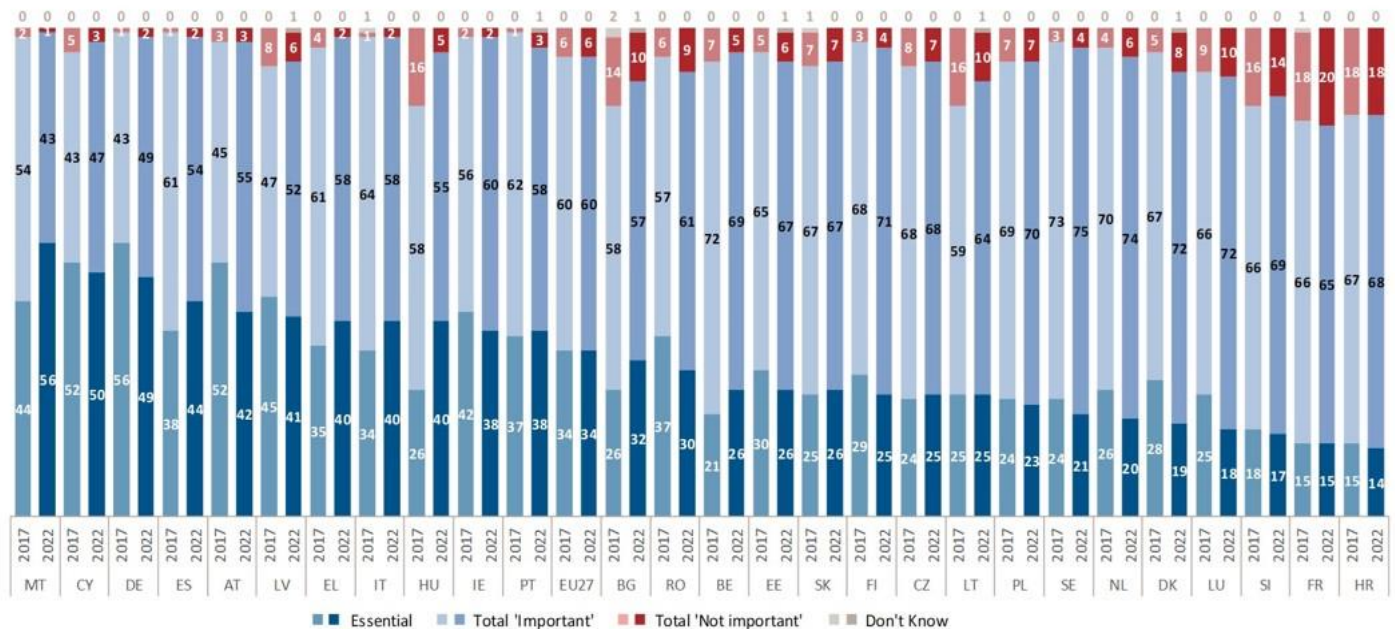
Since December 2017, the proportion of respondents who think that having a good education is “essential” has mostly remained stable.

Nonetheless, there are important differences between the two surveys in a number of countries.

In 15 Member States a decrease has occurred in the share of those who think that education is “essential” for success in life. The largest downward trend is observed in Austria (-10 pp), Denmark (-9 pp), and Germany, Luxembourg and Romania (all -7 pp).

There are 10 countries where the proportion who think that a good education is “essential” has increased, with the largest gains in Hungary (+14 pp) and Malta (+12 pp).

QC3.2. How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
 (% - Having a good education)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

In terms of socio-demographic characteristics, the differences between the genders are not very large. However, women are slightly more likely to agree that having a good education is “essential” for getting ahead in life (35%) than men (32%).

The differences across age groups are also subtle, with the largest variation being recorded between young people aged 25 to 39, 31% of whom see education as “essential”, and respondents aged 55 and older, 35% of whom share this opinion. Respondents’ level of education plays a more significant role: 39% of those who have obtained a university degree maintain that having a good education is “essential”, whereas only 31% of respondents with

secondary education or lower say the same. Subjective urbanisation also plays a role, as respondents who live in large towns are less likely to say that good education is “essential” for getting ahead in life (33%) than people living elsewhere, but especially compared with respondents who live in rural villages (38%).

Financially vulnerable respondents are less likely to think that a good education is “essential” to getting ahead in life (27%) than those who almost never or never experience difficulties paying their bills (36%).

QC3.2 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
Having a good education (% - EU27)

	Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all	Total 'Important'	Total 'Not important'
EU27	34	40	20	5	1	60	6
 Gender							
Man	32	40	21	5	2	61	7
Woman	35	40	19	5	1	59	6
 Age							
15-24	34	36	22	6	2	58	8
25-39	31	38	22	7	2	60	9
40-54	33	39	21	6	1	60	7
55 +	35	43	18	3	1	61	4
 Highest level of education							
Below secondary	31	40	22	5	1	62	6
Secondary	31	41	20	6	2	61	8
Post secondary	35	41	19	4	1	60	5
University	39	38	19	3	1	57	4
 Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	38	38	19	4	1	57	5
Small/ mid size town	35	42	19	3	1	61	4
Large town	33	41	19	6	1	60	7
 Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	27	41	22	8	2	63	10
From time to time	30	40	22	6	2	62	8
Almost never/ Never	36	40	19	4	1	59	5

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Working hard is believed to be essential or important by very large proportions of respondents across all the Member States

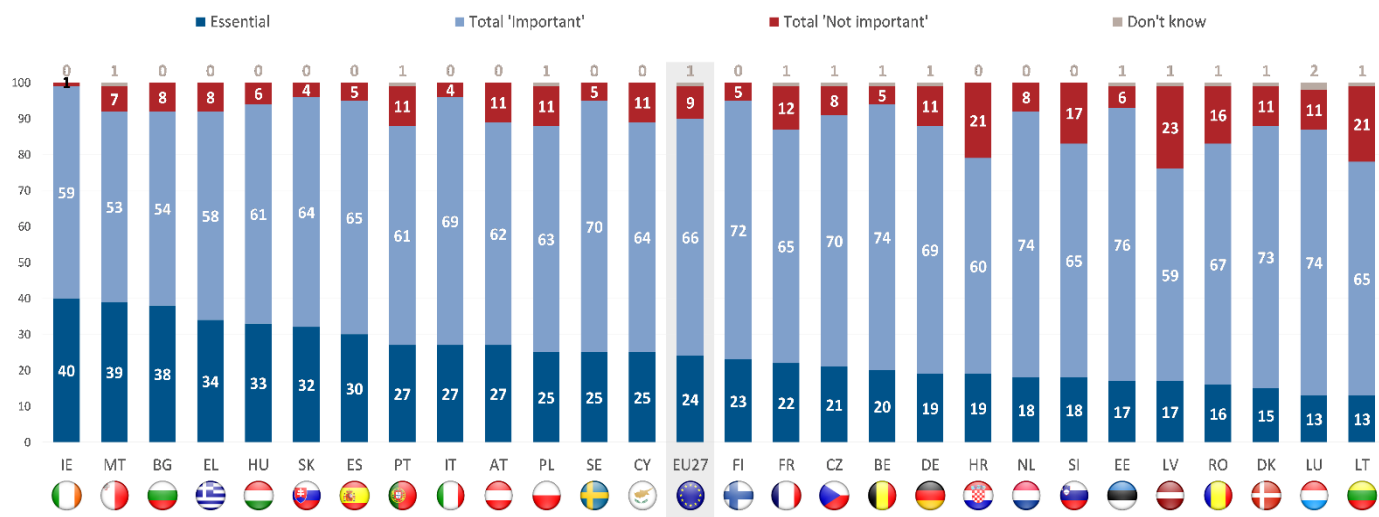
Overall, throughout the EU, 24% of the respondents say that working hard is “essential” for getting ahead in life.

In thirteen Member States the proportion of respondents who think hard work is essential to get ahead in life is greater than the EU average (24%) and represents a quarter or more of the respondent sample in the country concerned.

The three Member States with the largest share of respondents who think that working hard is essential for getting ahead in life are Ireland (40%), Malta (39%) and Bulgaria (38%), while the three countries where this share of respondents is the smallest are Denmark (15%), Luxembourg (13%) and Lithuania (13%).

There are eight Member States where the share of respondents who believe that working hard is “essential” for getting ahead in life is larger than the proportion of respondents who see a good education as “essential”. These countries are Ireland (40% vs. 38%), Bulgaria (38% vs. 32%), Slovakia (32% vs. 26%), Sweden (25% vs. 21%), Poland (25% vs. 23%), France (22% vs. 15%), Croatia (19% vs. 14%) and Slovenia (18% vs. 17%).

QC3.3 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
 (% - Working hard)

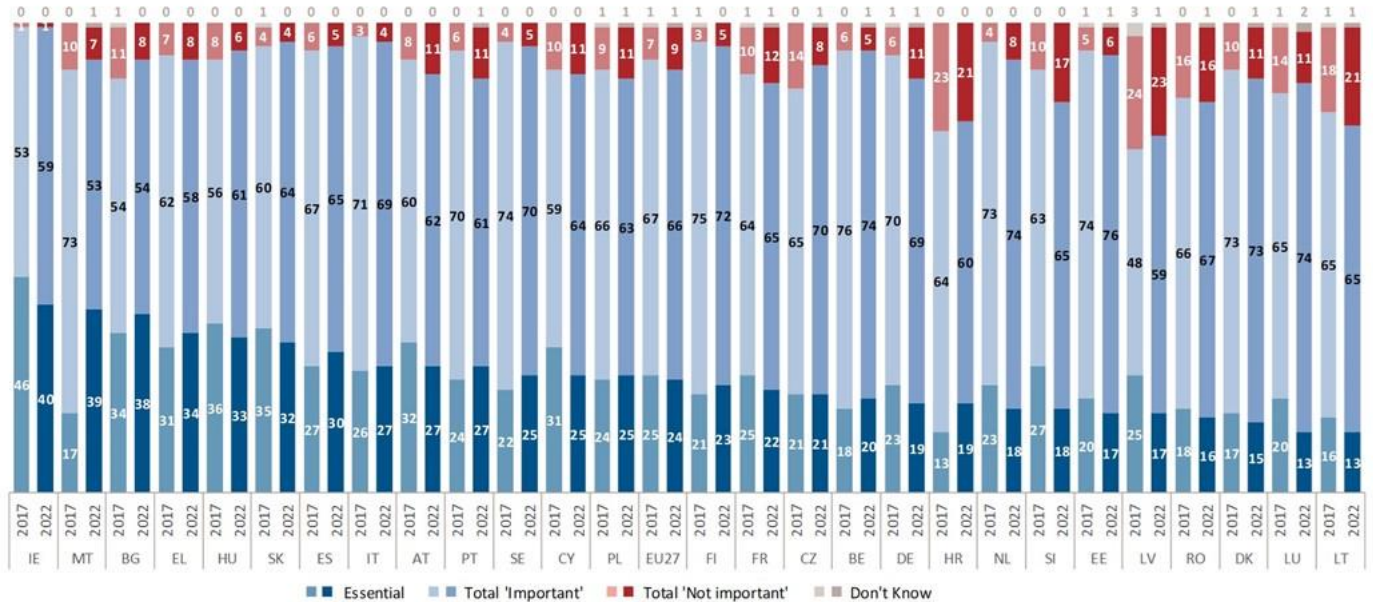


Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

In 15 Member States respondents are now less likely to say that working hard is “essential”, the largest decreases being reported in Slovenia (-9 pp), Latvia (-8 pp) and Luxembourg (-7 pp). In contrast, the belief that working hard is essential has gained ground in 11 countries. The largest increases are observed in Malta (+22 pp) and Croatia (+6 pp).

QC3.3. How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
 (% - Working hard)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
 Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

In terms of socio-demographic analysis, there are some notable response patterns among different segments of the population.

Younger respondents (25% of those aged 15-24, and 26% of those aged 25-39) are the most likely to state that working hard is “essential” for getting ahead in life, compared with 23% among the 40-45 and 55+ age groups.

An interesting pattern also emerges when it comes to educational attainment. The respondents most likely to say that working hard is “essential” for getting ahead in life are those whose education is below secondary level (28%).

In addition, respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (27%) are more likely than those who struggle occasionally (23%), or almost never/never (24%) to say that working hard is “essential” for getting ahead in life.

QC3.3 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
Working hard (% - EU27)

	Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all	Total 'important'	Total 'Not important'
EU27	24	38	28	7	2	66	9
 Gender							
Man	25	38	27	8	2	65	10
Woman	23	39	28	7	2	67	9
 Age							
15-24	25	37	28	8	2	65	10
25-39	26	36	29	7	2	65	9
40-54	23	39	29	7	2	68	9
55 +	23	40	27	7	2	67	9
 Highest level of education							
Below secondary	28	40	24	6	1	64	7
Secondary	24	38	28	7	2	66	9
Post secondary	23	42	26	7	2	68	9
University	23	39	30	7	1	69	8
 Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	24	40	27	7	2	67	9
Small/ mid size town	23	40	29	6	2	69	8
Large town	23	38	29	7	2	67	9
 Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	27	35	25	9	4	60	13
From time to time	23	37	30	7	2	67	9
Almost never/ Never	24	39	27	7	2	66	9

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Interesting trends are also present among the segments expressing different opinions regarding the statements about fairness.

The overarching pattern in this respect shows that those who agree or strongly agree with the fairness statements are also the most likely to say that working hard is “essential” to succeed in life. More specifically, respondents who agree that most things that happen in their lives are fair (29%) are more likely than those who disagree (23%), or neither agree nor disagree (19%), to believe that working hard is “essential” for getting ahead in life.

Similarly, respondents who agree that, by and large, people get what they deserve in their country (29%) are the most likely to think

that working hard is “essential” for getting ahead in life, especially when compared with those with a neutral opinion (20%).

Additionally, respondents believing that they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life like everyone else (28%) are also most likely to say that working hard is “essential” for getting ahead in life, particularly when compared with those neither agreeing nor disagreeing (18%).

Finally, respondents who assume people to have only the best intentions (27%) are more likely than those who have a neutral opinion (23%) or do not make this assumption (22%) to say that working hard is “essential” for getting ahead in life.

QC3.3 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
Working hard (% - EU27)

	Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all	Total 'Important'	Total 'Not important'
EU27	24	38	28	7	2	66	9
You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair							
Total 'Agree'	29	40	24	5	2	64	7
Neither agree or disagree	19	40	32	7	2	72	9
Total 'Disagree'	23	36	28	9	3	64	12
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)							
Total 'Agree'	29	41	23	5	2	64	7
Neither agree or disagree	20	39	33	6	2	72	8
Total 'Disagree'	21	37	29	10	2	66	12
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else							
Total 'Agree'	28	41	24	5	1	65	6
Neither agree or disagree	18	40	34	6	2	74	8
Total 'Disagree'	22	35	29	10	3	64	13
You assume that people have only the best intentions							
Total 'Does not describe well'	22	39	27	9	3	66	12
Total 'Neither does not describe nor describe'	23	38	30	7	2	68	9
Total 'Describes well'	27	40	26	5	2	66	7

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

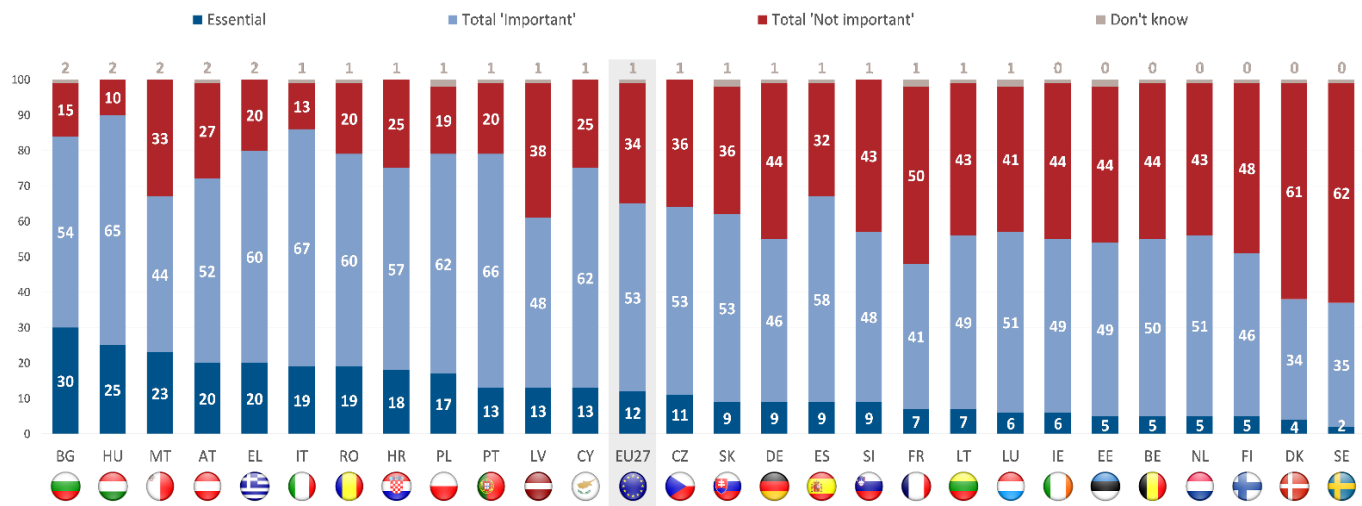
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Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The view that coming from a wealthy family is essential or important has remained stable on average since 2017

In 25 EU Member States a majority of respondents say that coming from a wealthy family is “essential” or “important” for getting ahead in life. The two countries where more than half of respondents do not think this factor is important are Sweden (62% - “not important” aggregated) and Denmark (61% - “not important” aggregated).

There are some notable differences across countries in the proportion who believe that coming from a wealthy family is “essential”. Respondents are most likely to say this in Bulgaria (30%), Hungary (25%) and Malta (23%) and least likely to do so in Denmark (4%) and Sweden (2%).

QC3.1 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
 (% - Coming from a wealthy family)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

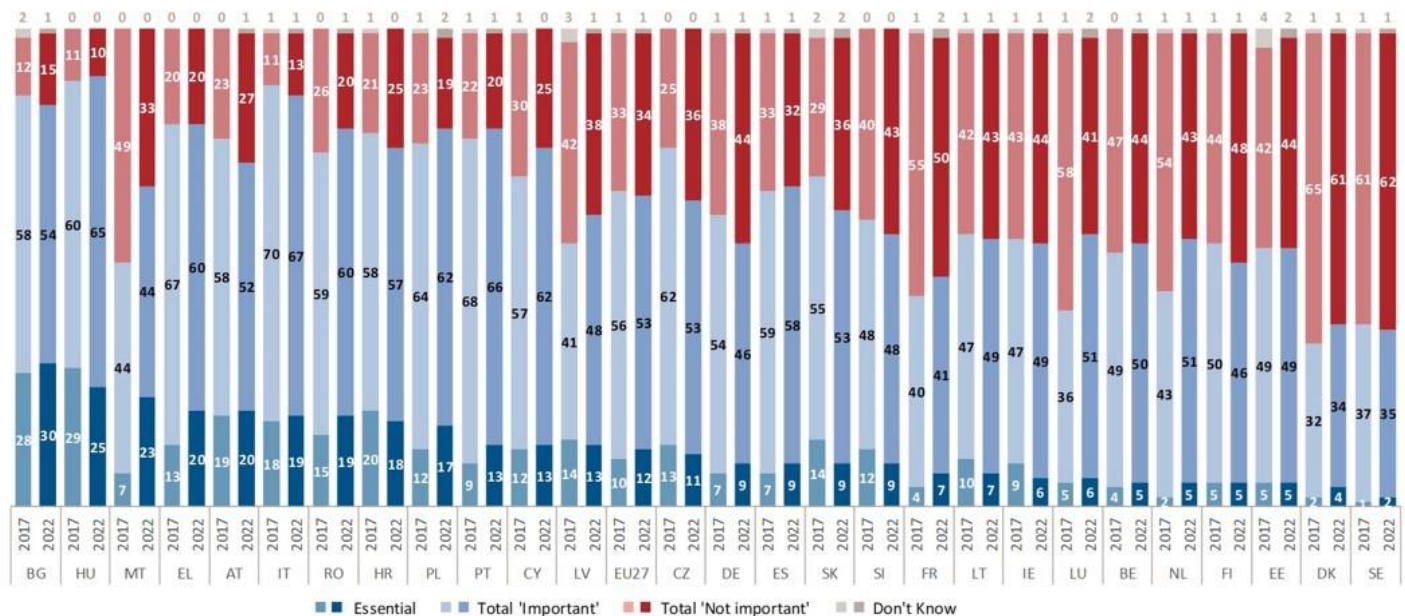
Overall, the share of respondents who believe that coming from a wealthy family is “essential” for getting ahead in life has increased since 2017 by +2 pp.

The upward trend is observed in 17 Member States, with the most substantial increases being found in Malta (+16 pp), Greece (+7 pp) and Poland (+5 pp).

The proportion of respondents who believe that coming from a wealthy family is “essential” for succeeding in life has stayed stable in two countries - Finland and Estonia.

Meanwhile, this view is less widespread in eight countries, with the largest reductions seen in Slovakia (- 5 pp) and Hungary (-4 pp).

QC3.1. How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
 (% - Coming from a wealthy family)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
 Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

When it comes to socio-demographic differences, the analysis shows that there are no large variations in opinion between the genders, or across different age groups.

Education is a more significant factor. Respondents educated to below secondary level are more likely to believe that coming from a wealthy family is “essential” (14%), especially when compared with those with a university degree (9%).

Those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time are much more likely to say that coming from a wealthy family is

“important” (53%) or even “essential” (21%). In contrast, among respondents who almost never or never have difficulties paying their bills, 52% say that coming from a wealthy family is “important” or “very important” but only 10% describe it as “essential”.

In terms of subjective urbanisation, the disaggregation reveals that those living in rural areas are the most likely to say that coming from a wealthy family is “essential” (14%) or important to some degree (54%), especially when compared with those living in small or mid-size towns (9% - “essential”, 54% - total “important”).

QC3.1 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
Coming from a wealthy family (% - EU27)

	Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all	Total 'Important'	Total 'Not important'
EU27	12	24	29	23	11	53	34
 Gender							
Man	12	24	30	23	10	54	33
Woman	12	23	29	23	12	52	35
 Age							
15-24	11	22	30	24	12	52	36
25-39	13	25	29	22	10	54	32
40-54	13	24	30	22	11	54	33
55 +	12	24	29	23	11	53	34
 Highest level of education							
Below secondary	14	27	25	21	11	52	32
Secondary	13	24	29	22	11	53	33
Post secondary	10	23	26	27	13	49	40
University	9	24	33	23	10	57	33
 Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	14	25	29	21	10	54	31
Small/ mid size town	9	26	28	25	11	54	36
Large town	12	23	30	23	11	53	34
 Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	21	31	22	16	10	53	26
From time to time	15	26	31	19	8	57	27
Almost never/ Never	10	22	30	25	12	52	37

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Respondents in households composed of two or more adults with children are more likely to say that coming from a wealthy family is important (55%), especially compared with respondents in households with a single adult and children (47%).

The type of family composition experienced by respondents in childhood appears to have an impact on the importance that they ascribe to coming from a wealthy family. Respondents who lived primarily with their biological parents have views in line with the EU average, while those who lived with other relatives tend to show contrasting patterns. Those lived with an adoptive, step, foster or half-sibling or siblings at the age of 8 are more likely to say that it is “essential” (12%) or “important” (59%) to come from a wealthy family, particularly when compared with those who lived with an adoptive, step or foster father, 11% of whom say a wealthy family is “essential” while 43% say it is important to some degree.

Some slight variations also emerge between respondent segments based on intergenerational educational mobility: respondents with a higher education level than their parents are more likely to say that coming from a wealthy family is important (55%) than those with lower educational achievement than their parents (50%).

An analysis of results cross-tabulated with other key survey variables also reveals some interesting findings. For example, respondents who tend to disagree that most of the things in their lives are fair are more likely to think that it is “essential” to come from a wealthy family (16%). This pattern is also observed for those who disagree that, by and large, people get what they deserve in their country (15%) and for those who disagree that they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life like everyone else (17%).

QC3.1 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
Coming from a wealthy family (% - EU27)

	Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all	Total 'Important'	Total 'Not important'
EU27	12	24	29	23	11	53	34
Household type							
Single adult without children	13	23	29	22	12	52	34
Single adult with child(ren)	9	21	26	28	14	47	42
Two or more adults without children	12	23	31	23	10	54	33
Two or more adults with child(ren)	12	26	29	22	10	55	32
With whom did you live most of the time in a usual week when you were 8 years old?							
Biological mother	12	24	29	23	11	53	34
Biological father	12	24	29	23	11	53	34
Adoptive, step or foster mother	13	24	28	26	8	52	34
Adoptive, step or foster father	11	19	24	26	19	43	45
Biological brother(s) or sister(s)	12	26	29	21	11	55	32
Adoptive, step, foster or half brother(s) or sister(s)	12	25	34	17	11	59	28
Grandparent(s)	15	28	27	21	9	55	30
Other relative(s)	11	30	29	21	9	59	30
Other non-relative(s)	14	20	27	26	12	47	38
Intergenerational education mobility							
Respondent's level higher than their parents'	13	25	30	21	10	55	31
Respondent's level equal to their parents'	12	24	28	24	11	52	35
Respondent's level lower than their parents'	11	20	30	26	12	50	38
You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair							
Total 'Agree'	11	24	29	24	11	53	35
Neither agree or disagree	10	23	35	23	8	58	31
Total 'Disagree'	16	25	25	21	12	50	33
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)							
Total 'Agree'	12	24	29	24	10	53	34
Neither agree or disagree	9	22	36	23	9	58	32
Total 'Disagree'	15	25	25	22	12	50	34
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else							
Total 'Agree'	10	22	28	26	13	50	39
Neither agree or disagree	12	23	35	21	8	58	29
Total 'Disagree'	17	27	27	19	9	54	28

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

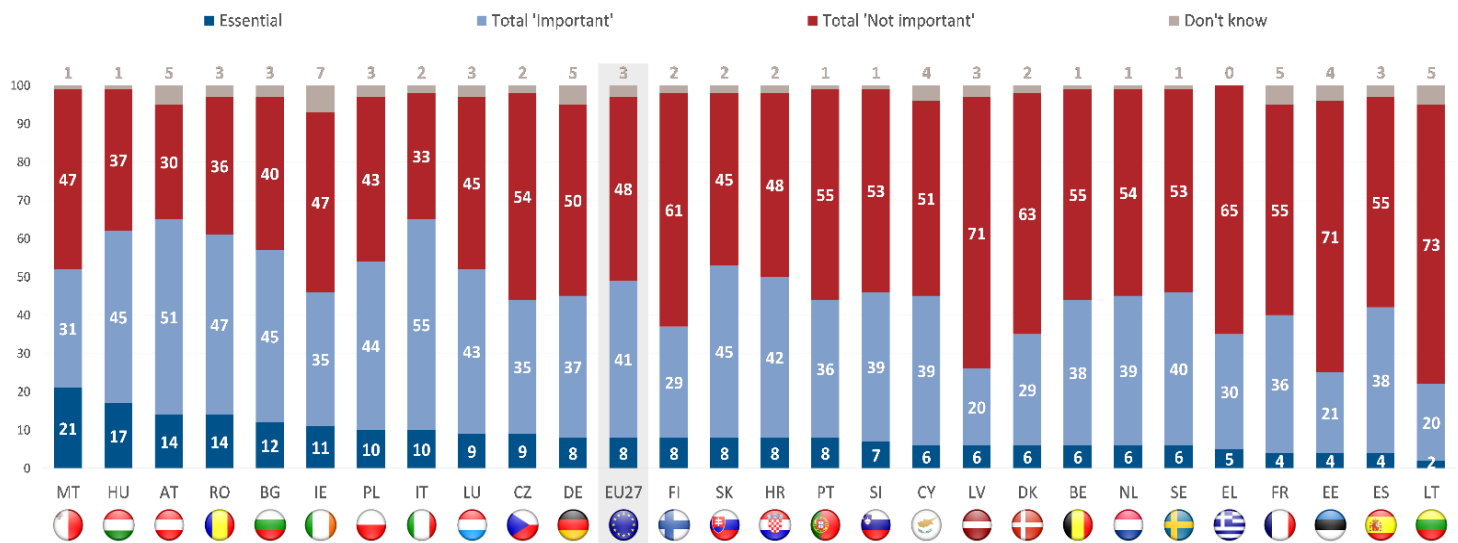
Close to half the respondents say that being born a man or a woman is essential or important for getting ahead in life

Across the EU Member States, 8% of respondents believe that being born a man or a woman is essential for getting ahead in life.

In 15 countries the proportion with this opinion is equal to or greater than the EU average, reaching 17% in Hungary and 21% in Malta.

Conversely, in 12 Member States the share of respondents giving this answer is below the EU average, with the lowest proportions in France, Estonia and Spain (all 4%) and Lithuania (2%).

QC3.4 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
 (% - Being born a man or a woman)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

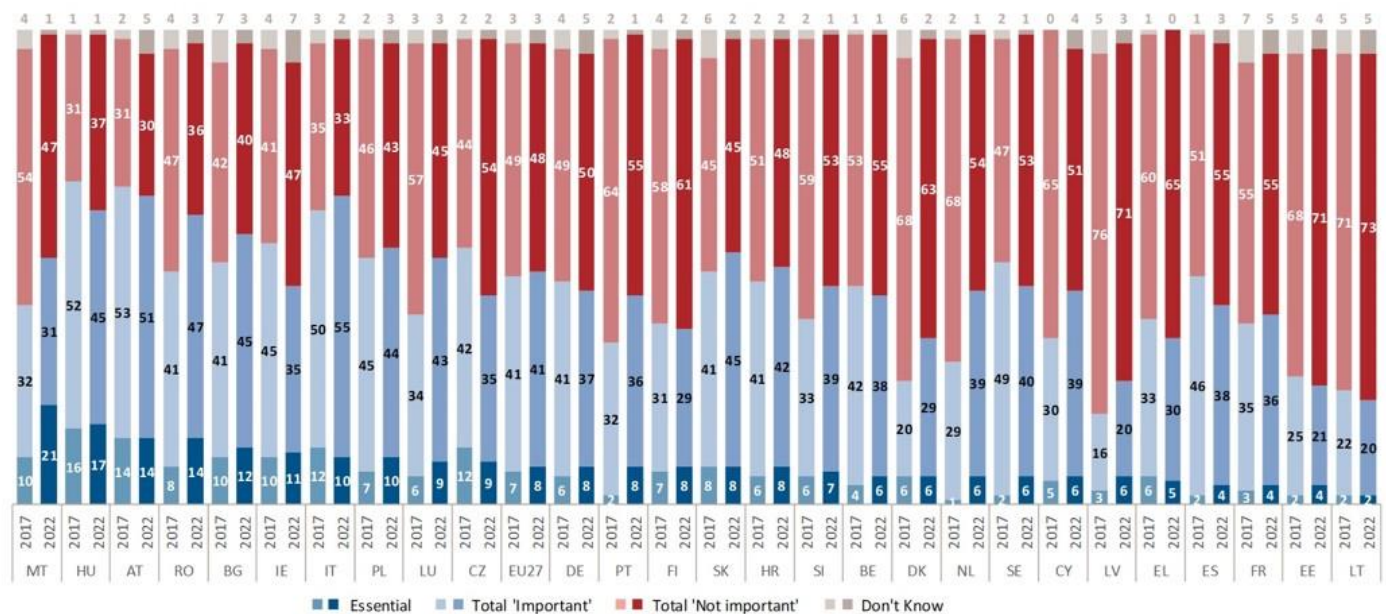
Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Since 2017, the proportion of respondents across the EU who think that being born a man or a woman is essential for getting ahead in life has increased marginally, by one percentage point.

There are 20 Member States where respondents are now more likely to say that this factor is essential for getting ahead in life, with the largest increases in Malta (+11 pp), and Portugal and Romania (+6 pp).

In three countries the share of respondents who think that being born a man or a woman is essential for success in life has declined, albeit rather modestly. The slight reductions in the prevalence of this opinion are seen in Czechia (-3 pp), Italy (-2 pp) and Greece (-1 pp).

QC3.4. How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
 (% - Being born a man or a woman)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
 Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

When considering the differences between socio-demographic groups in respect of those respondents who say that being born a man or a woman is “essential” for getting ahead in life, we find little variation across the board. However, if we combine the shares of respondents who see this factor as either “essential” or “important”, more substantial contrasts between segments emerge. Women are more likely than men to say that being born a man or a woman is “essential” or “important” (51% vs. 45%) for getting ahead in life.

Across age groups, the older segments are the most likely to find this factor important (50% find it “essential” or “important” in both the 40-54 and 55+ age groups, especially when compared with the youngest cohort aged 15-24 (43%). When we consider the figures for different socio-economic groups, we find some differences in the degree of importance respondents place on the aspect of being born a man or a woman for getting ahead in life. Those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (51%) are overall the most likely to say that the aspect is “essential” or important to some degree, particularly when compared with those who never experience such difficulties (46%).

Further patterns emerge when the perceived importance of being born a man or a woman is analysed in terms of the distribution of other variables of interest. For example, believing that being born a man or a woman is important for getting ahead in life is more common among both respondents who tend to have a neutral opinion regarding whether they have equal opportunities for succeeding in life (52%) and those who disagree (50%) than among those who agree that they have equal opportunities to others (46%).

Respondents who say that the statement “you assume people have only the best intentions” does not describe them well (51%) are the most likely to also believe that being born a man or a woman is essential or important for getting ahead in life, particularly when compared with respondents who say that this statement describes them well (47%).

QC3.4 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?
Being born a man or a woman (% - EU27)

	Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all	Total 'Important'	Total 'Not important'
EU27	8	17	24	26	22	41	48
Gender							
Man	7	15	23	27	25	38	52
Woman	8	18	25	26	20	43	46
Age							
15-24	8	13	22	28	26	35	54
25-39	8	17	23	26	24	40	50
40-54	8	16	26	26	22	42	48
55 +	8	17	25	26	20	42	46
Highest level of education							
Below secondary	8	19	24	26	17	43	43
Secondary	9	17	23	25	23	40	48
Post secondary	6	16	25	28	23	41	51
University	6	16	26	27	22	42	49
Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	8	17	23	27	22	40	49
Small/ mid size town	7	15	23	25	27	38	52
Large town	8	17	24	26	22	41	48
Divorced or separated	8	14	24	27	22	38	49
Widow	8	19	24	25	19	43	44
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	11	17	23	24	23	40	47
From time to time	10	19	26	25	18	45	43
Almost never/ Never	7	16	23	27	24	39	51
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else							
Total 'Agree'	8	17	21	26	25	38	51
Neither agree or disagree	7	16	29	28	18	45	46
Total 'Disagree'	8	17	25	24	22	42	46
You assume that people have only the best intentions							
Total 'Does not describe well'	10	19	22	24	22	41	46
Total 'Neither does not describe nor describe'	7	16	26	27	21	42	48
Total 'Describes well'	7	16	24	26	24	40	50

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

III. INCOME DIFFERENCES: PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES



1. Perceptions of income differences

About eight out of ten agree, to some extent, that nowadays in their country differences in people's incomes are too great

Throughout the EU, a majority of respondents tend to agree with the three statements asked in this survey concerning income differences within their country. The questions aimed to measure respondents' opinions regarding the extent of income differences, whether their national government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels, and whether the EU institutions should support national governments in Member States to reduce such income differences.

About eight in ten respondents (81%) agree or strongly agree that currently, in their country, the **differences in people's incomes are too great**. An analysis of the individual levels of agreement shows that in the current survey 39% "strongly agree" with the statement, representing a six percentage point decrease since December 2017. The share of respondents who "agree" with the statement has increased slightly and stands 42% in May/June 2022.

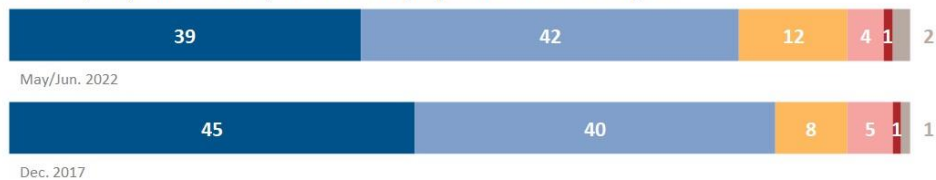
The proportion of respondents who "neither agree nor disagree" has increased from 8% in December 2017 to 12% in May/June 2022. Meanwhile, the over proportion who disagree has decreased by one percentage point, from 6% in December 2017 to 5% in May/June 2022.

When it comes to the statement "**the (nationality) government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels**", 78% of respondents agree, with 37% saying they "strongly agree". Since December 2017, the share who "strongly agree" has dropped by seven percentage points, whilst the proportion who "agree" increased slightly from 38% to 41%. The proportion who "neither agree nor disagree" with this statement has increased by four percentage points to stand at 13% in May/June 2022.

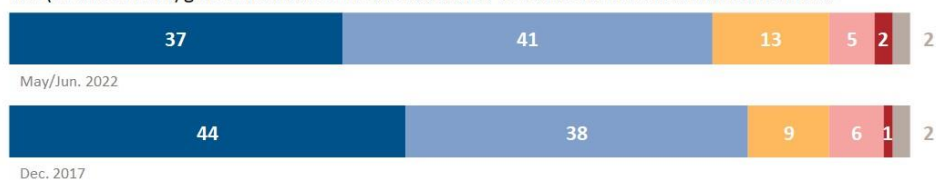
In the current survey, a new item has been added, in order to measure attitudes to **EU support for national governments to reduce differences in income levels** within a country. Overall, almost three-quarters (73%) are in favour, with 32% saying that they "strongly agree".

QC4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
(% - EU27)

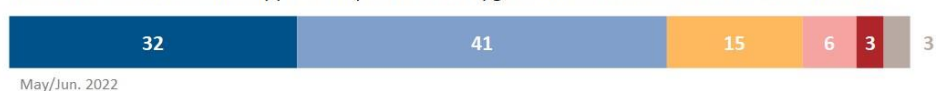
Nowadays in (OUR COUNTRY) differences in people's incomes are too great



The (NATIONALITY) government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels



The EU institutions should support the (NATIONALITY) government to reduce differences in income



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know

Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

A majority in all Member States believe that income differences in their country are too great. However, in 20 Member States this view is less widespread than in 2017

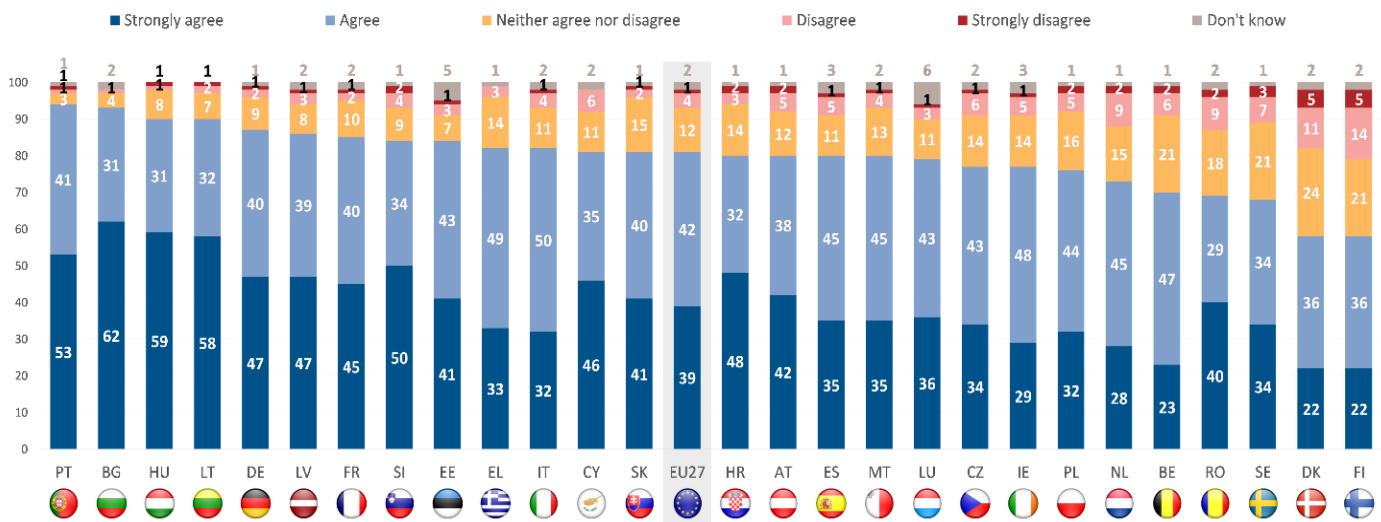
The survey conducted in May/June 2022 reveals a degree of variation across Member States regarding respondents' opinion on the current extent of income differences in their country.

On average, 81% of the respondents agree or strongly agree that differences in people's income in their country are too great. Across

the EU, agreement ranges from 94% in Portugal and 93% in Bulgaria, to 58% in Denmark and Finland.

Overall in the EU, 39% of respondents say that they “strongly agree” that nowadays in their country differences in people's incomes are too great. Here again there are some important differences between Member States. In five countries half or more of the respondents “strongly agree” that in their country differences in people's incomes are currently too great. These five countries, in descending order, are Bulgaria (62%), Hungary (59%), Lithuania (58%), Portugal (53%) and Slovenia (50%).

QC4.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 (% - Nowadays in (OUR COUNTRY) differences in people's incomes are too great)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

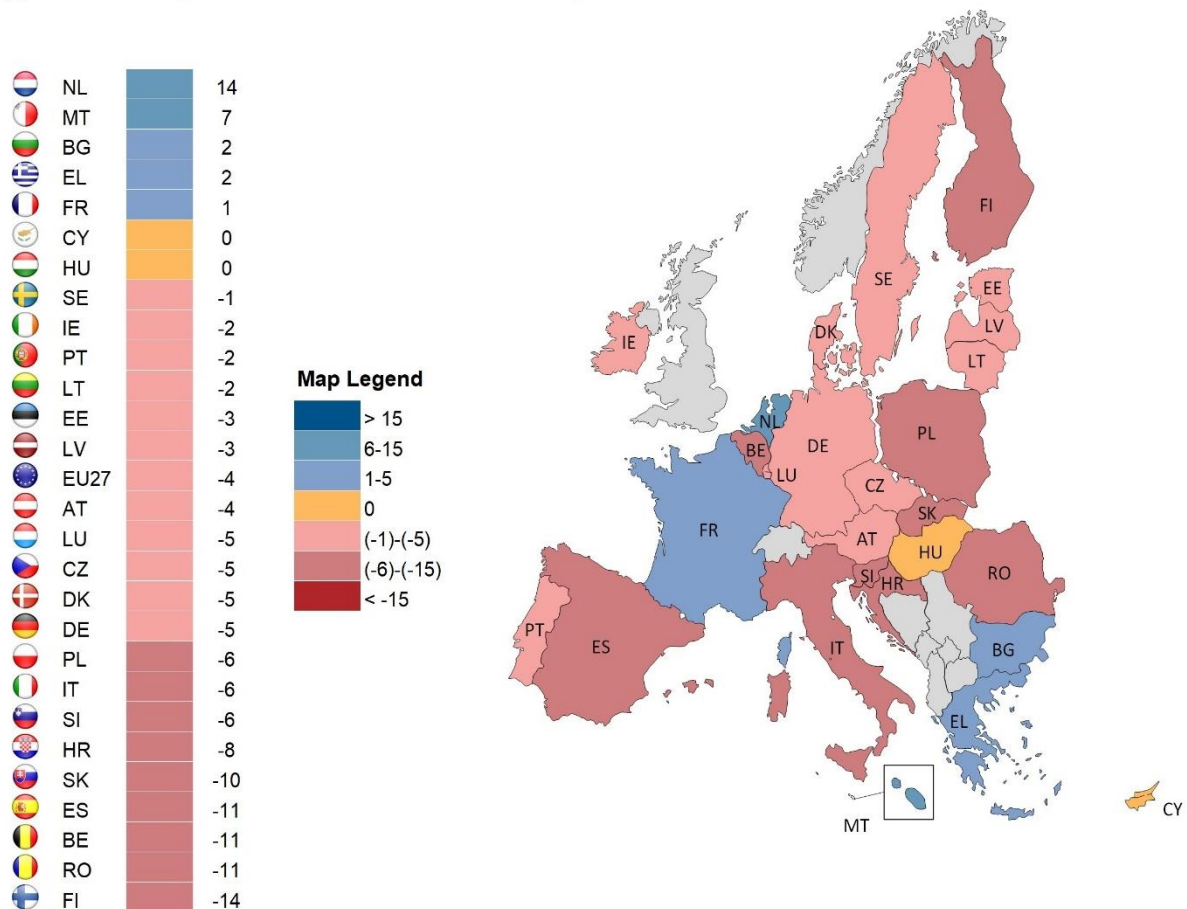
Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The May/June 2022 data also shows that, across the EU Member States, the share of respondents who agree or strongly agree that in their country differences in people's incomes are too great has declined since December 2017 (-4 pp).

This downward trend in perceptions of income inequality is observed in 22 Member States, by far the largest decrease being recorded in Finland with -14 percentage points, followed by Spain, Belgium, and Romania (all -11 pp) and Slovakia (-10 pp).

The proportions of respondents who agree with the statement were stable between 2017 and 2022 in Hungary and Cyprus, but in five Member States perceptions of income inequality have increased over time. The largest increase can be observed in the Netherlands (+14 pp).

QC4.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Nowadays in (OUR COUNTRY) differences in people's incomes are too great
 (% - pp difference in agreement share between 2017 and 2022)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
 Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

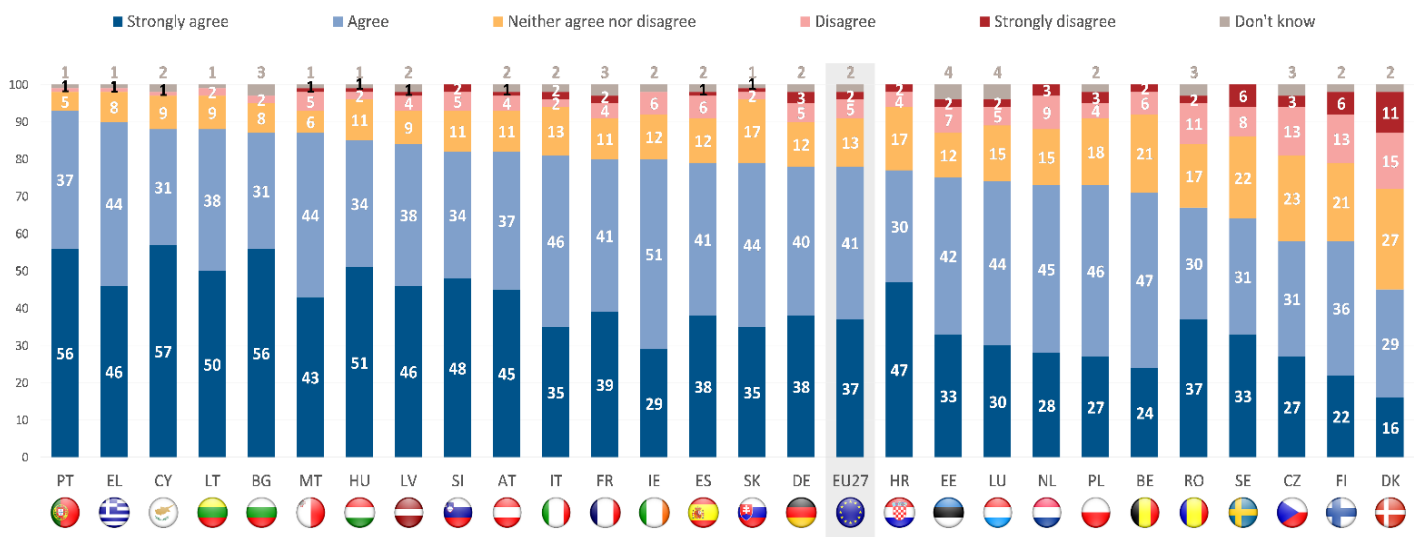
Close to eight in ten respondents across the EU Member States believe that their national government should take measures to reduce income inequality, a slight decline since 2017 in many countries.

In 26 EU Member States a majority “agree” or “strongly agree” that the government in their country should take measures to reduce differences in income levels. The only country where less than half of respondents hold this opinion is Denmark, where 16% “strongly agree” and an additional 29% “agree”.

On average in the EU, 78% of the respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that their national government should take measures to reduce income inequality. In 16 Member States this share is higher. The highest levels of agreement are observed in Portugal (93%), Greece (90%), and Cyprus and Lithuania (both 88%).

A country level analysis of the share of respondents who “strongly agree” that the government in their country should take measures to reduce differences in income levels reveals a further degree of variation. These proportions are the highest in Cyprus (57%), Portugal and Bulgaria (both 56%) and the lowest in Belgium (24%), Finland (22%) and Denmark (16%).

QC4.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 (% - The (NATIONALITY) government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels)



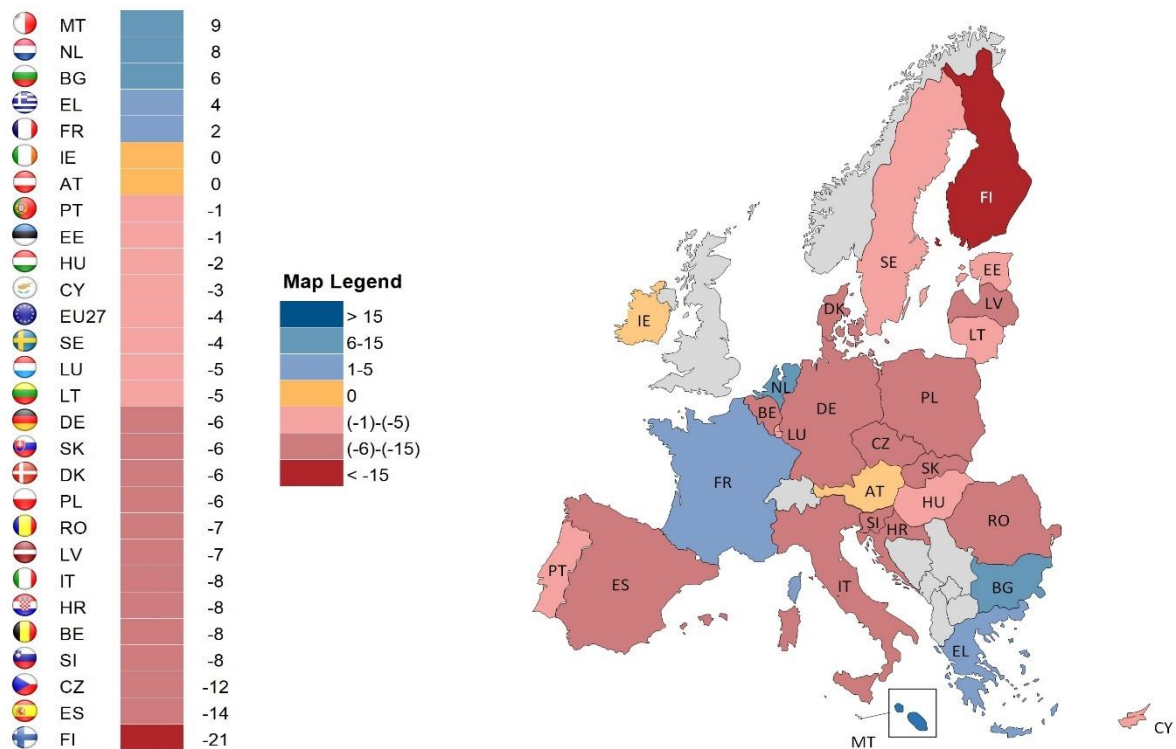
Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

A comparison of the results of the surveys conducted in December 2017 and in May/June 2022 shows a downward trend in 20 Member States, with decreasing shares of respondents believing that their national governments should take measures to reduce differences in income levels. The steepest decline is observed in Finland, where agreement fell by 21 percentage points between surveys. Sharp decreases are also found in Spain (-14 pp) and Czechia (-12 pp).

In Austria and Ireland there is no change in the level of agreement that the national government should take measures to reduce income level differences., while it has increased in five countries, namely Malta (+9 pp), the Netherlands (+8 pp), Bulgaria (+6 pp), Greece (+4 pp) and France (+ 2 pp).

QC4.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
The (NATIONALITY) government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels
 (% - pp difference in agreement share between 2017 and 2022)



Base 2022: All respondents (N= 26,395)
 Base 2017: All respondents (N= 26,693)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

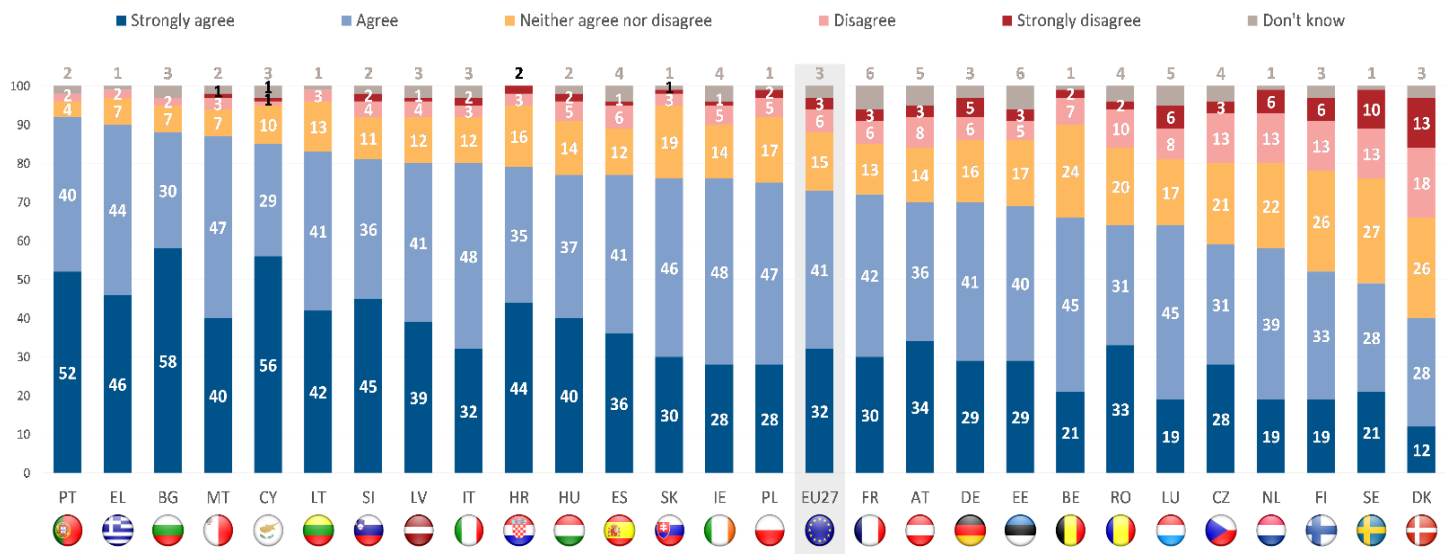
There is a broad consensus across Member States that the EU institutions should support national governments to reduce income inequalities

The statement “The EU institutions should support the (NATIONALITY) government to reduce the difference in income levels” was introduced into this question in 2022. This section will

analyse the cross-country differences for the data available from the May/June 2022 survey.

In 25 Member States, more than half of respondents “agree” or “strongly agree” that the EU institutions should support national governments to reduce income differences. The two Member States where slightly less than half hold the same opinion are Sweden (49%) and Denmark (40%).

QC4.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 (% - The EU institutions should support the (NATIONALITY) government to reduce differences in income levels)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

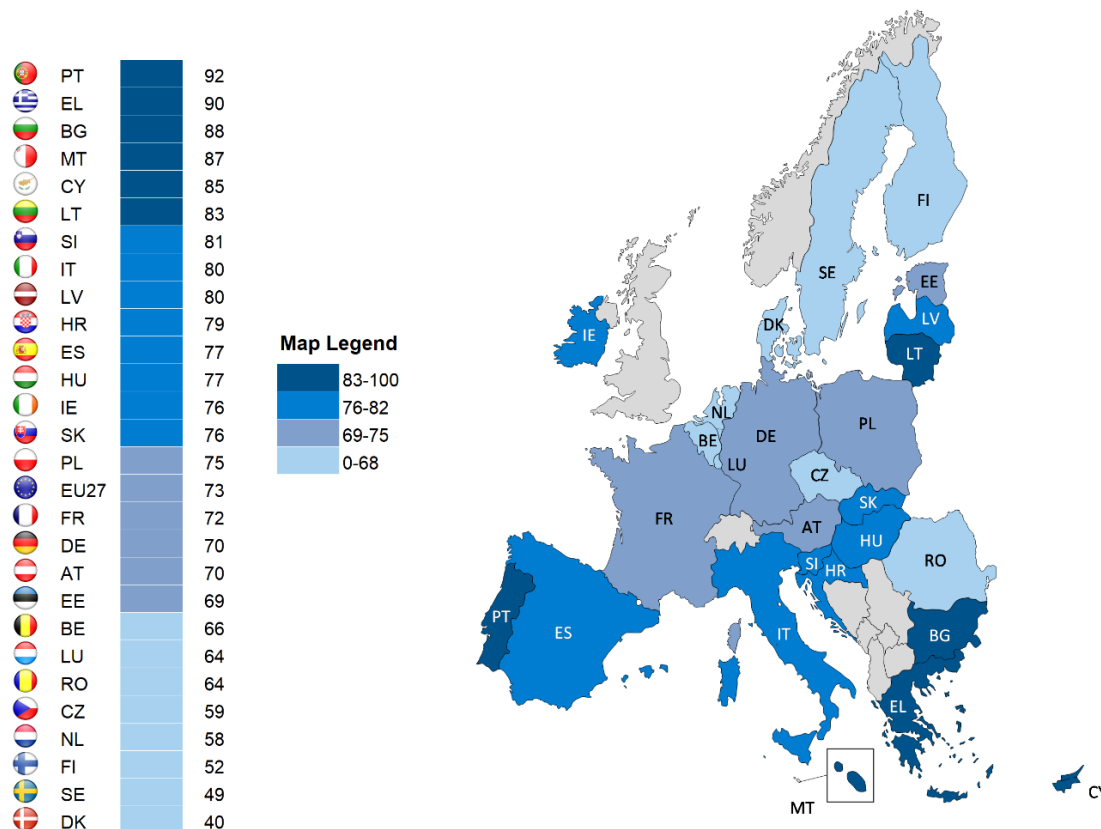
At least four in ten respondents in every country “agree” or “strongly agree” that EU institutions should support national governments to reduce income level differences, the EU average standing at 73%.

Vast majorities agree in Portugal (92%), Greece (90%), Bulgaria (88%) and Malta (87%) while fewer do so in Finland (52%), Sweden (49%) and Denmark (40%).

The map shows that respondents living in Southern and Eastern regions are more likely to agree that EU institutions should support national governments in their efforts to reduce income differences. Respondents in the Nordic region and the Benelux area are less likely to do so.

QC4.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

The EU institutions should support the (NATIONALITY) government to reduce differences in income levels
 (% - Total 'Agree')



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The socio-demographic analysis of responses to these three statements shows some interesting variations between different segments of the population. This analysis is presented for the aggregate share of respondents who say that they either “strongly agree” or “agree”.

Women are more likely than men to agree with all three statements. The extent of their agreement varies: 83% of women (compared with 79% of men) say that nowadays in their country differences in people’s incomes are too great, 80% (compared with 74% of men) think that the national government in their country should take measures to reduce differences in income levels, and 74% (contrasted with 70% of men) agree that the EU institutions should support national governments in their efforts to reduce income level differences.

The contrasts between age segments are not so pronounced, yet some degree of variation is present, particularly regarding perceptions of income differences in one’s country. Young people aged 15-24 are the least likely to agree (77%) that differences in people’s incomes are too great in their country, compared with all other age groups (all 82%). This discrepancy between age groups persists when it comes to agreement that the national government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels – while 74% of those aged 15 to 24 agree, 77-78% of respondents do so in the remaining age brackets.

There are also differences based on education, with respondents with below secondary level or secondary level education being more likely to agree both that the national government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels, and that the EU institutions should support the national government to reduce such income differences. 80% of those with education below secondary level and 78% of respondents with secondary education agree that the national government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels.

The more financial difficulties a respondent reports, the more likely they are to agree that income differences are too great in their country, that the national government should take action to remedy the situation, and that the EU institutions should also provide support. 87% of respondents experiencing difficulties paying their bills agree with the first statement, while 81% of those who almost never or never have financial difficulties do so. The disparities are even greater in relation to whether the government should take measures to reduce income differences. Whereas 83% of respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time hold this opinion, 75% of respondents who almost never or never have these difficulties also agree. When it comes to the statement that the EU institutions should support national governments to reduce income inequality, 78% of respondents reporting difficulties paying their bills most of the time agree, compared with 70% of those who almost never or never experience such difficulties.

QC4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Total ‘Agree’ (% - EU27)

	Nowadays in (OUR COUNTRY) differences in people's incomes are too great	The (NATIONALITY) government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels	The EU institutions should support the (NATIONALITY) government to reduce differences in income levels
EU27	81	78	73
Gender			
Man	79	74	70
Woman	83	80	74
Age			
15-24	77	74	72
25-39	82	78	74
40-54	82	77	72
55 +	82	78	72
Highest level of education			
Below secondary	81	80	74
Secondary	82	78	74
Post secondary	81	77	71
University	79	74	69
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	82	79	75
Small/ mid size town	81	75	69
Large town	82	77	72
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	87	83	78
From time to time	81	79	75
Almost never/ Never	81	75	70

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Respondents with a higher level of education than their parents are more likely to agree that the national government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels than those who have a lower education level than their parents (79% vs. 72%). They are also more likely to say that the EU institutions should support national governments to this end (74% vs. 66%).

If the responses to these statements are cross-tabulated with other factors, some further patterns emerge. 74% of respondents with a positive image of the EU agree that the EU institutions should support the national government to reduce differences in people's income levels, compared with 70% of those with a negative image of the EU. There are also small differences (not exceeding 2 pp) - among respondents with different attitudes towards the EU (see 'image of the EU' in the table below) regarding perceptions of income inequality in their country and whether the national government should take measures to address it.

Respondents' beliefs about the existence of equal opportunities for getting ahead in life in their country are also somewhat predictive of their perceptions of income level differences. Those who disagree that they have equal opportunities are more likely to agree that income disparities are too great in their country (86%, compared with 80% who agree and 77% who are neutral). They are also more likely to agree that the national government should take action to reduce the income gaps (82%, compared with 76% who agree and 73% who are neutral).

Finally, those who agree that their national government takes account of the views of people like them when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services are also the most likely to think that the national government should take measures to reduce income differences (85%, compared with 79% of those who disagree and 66% of those with a neutral opinion).

QC4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Total 'Agree' (% - EU27)

	Nowadays in (OUR COUNTRY) differences in people's incomes are too great	The (NATIONALITY) government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels	The EU institutions should support the (NATIONALITY) government to reduce differences in income levels
EU27	81	78	73
Intergenerational education mobility			
Respondent's level higher than their parent's	82	79	74
Respondent's level equal to their parent's	81	77	72
Respondent's level lower than their parent's	78	72	66
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	82	78	74
Neutral	80	76	72
Total 'Negative'	82	78	70
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else			
Total 'Agree'	80	76	72
Neither agree or disagree	77	73	69
Total 'Disagree'	86	82	75
You feel the (NATIONALITY) government takes into account the views of people like you when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services			
Total 'Agree'	84	85	82
Neither agree or disagree	73	66	64
Total 'Disagree'	85	79	73

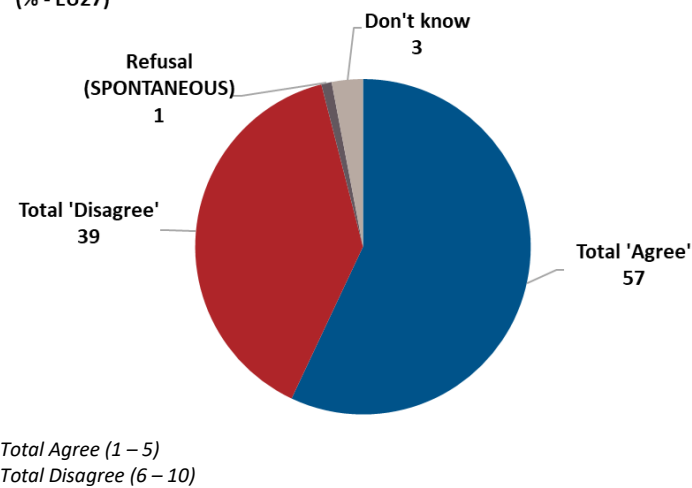
Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

2. Attitudes towards income differences

On average, EU citizens are more likely to agree that large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts

Across the EU, close to four in ten respondents (57%) agree that large differences in income levels are acceptable as a reward for differences in talents and efforts. Almost four in ten (39%) disagree that income inequalities are acceptable to reward differences in talents and efforts.

QC16.2 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts
(% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

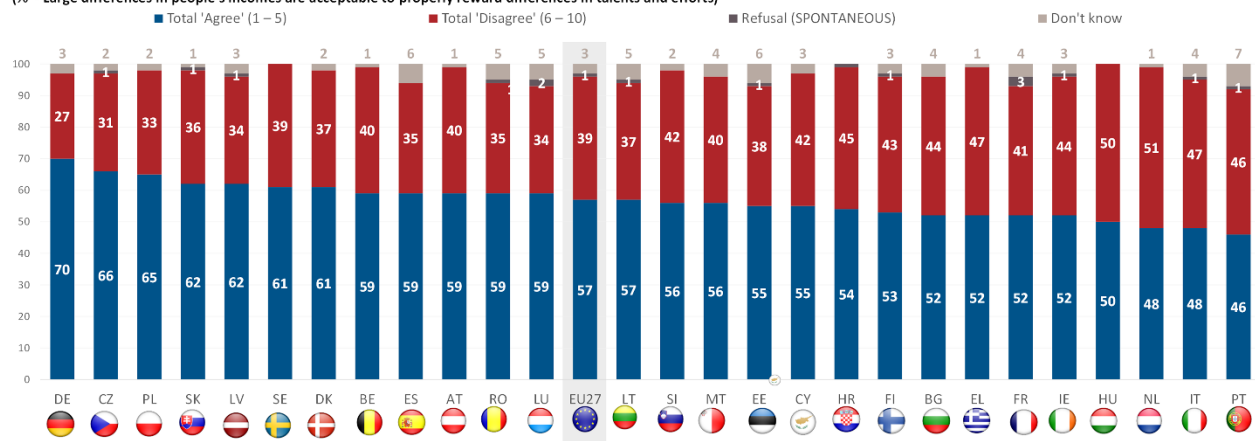
Among the Member States, there are variations in the proportions of respondents who agree that large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts.

There are 24 countries where more than half agree with this statement, most strikingly in Germany (70%), Czechia (66%) and Poland (65%).

In contrast, the level of disagreement is the highest in Netherlands (51%), Hungary (50%), Italy and Greece (both 47%).

QC16.2. To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please answer using a scale from 1 to 10 where "1" means you "strongly agree" and "10" means you "strongly disagree".

(% - Large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility,
May – June 2022

Moving on to the socio-demographic analysis, cross-tabulation with basic trait variables indicates that men are somewhat more likely than women to agree that large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts (59%, compared with 56% women).

Looking at differences across the age groups, those most likely to agree with this statement are young people aged 25-39 (60%) and 15-24 (59%), especially when contrasted with the respondents aged 55 and older (56%).

In terms of educational attainment, the segments most likely to support the statement are respondents with secondary education (59%), post-secondary education (61%) or a university degree (58%). There are large differences in opinion between segments of the population who enjoy different levels of financial security. Thus, respondents who almost never or never experience difficulties paying their bills are more likely to agree that large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts (61%) than those who experience financial difficulties most of the time (46%).

QC16.2 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please answer using a scale from 1 to 10 where "1" means you "strongly agree" and "10" means you "strongly disagree".
Large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts (% - EU27)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'
EU27	57	39
 Gender		
Man	59	37
Woman	56	39
 Age		
15-24	59	35
25-39	60	37
40-54	57	40
55 +	56	38
 Highest level of education		
Below secondary	46	38
Secondary	59	37
Post secondary	61	36
University	58	39
 Subjective urbanisation		
Rural village	58	39
Small/ mid size town	57	39
Large town	57	38
 Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	46	48
From time to time	55	41
Almost never/ Never	61	35

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility,
May – June 2022

Interesting patterns of response can also be seen in employment status categories. Most notably, respondents who are self-employed with employees are the most likely to agree that large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts (65%), especially when compared with those looking after the home and inactive respondents, and respondents employed on a short-term contract (both 55%). Another segment very likely to agree that large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts are respondents employed through a temporary work agency, or an online platform, and respondents on an open-ended contract (both 60%).

When it comes to agreement with the three fairness statements presented earlier in the survey, there is a clear tendency for those supporting greater fairness and equality to agree that income differences are acceptable as a reward for differences in talents and efforts. In particular, respondents who agree that most of the things that happen in their lives are fair (63%) are more likely than those who disagree (53%) to support this statement. Similarly, those who believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in their country (63%) are more likely to agree that large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts than those who disagree (52%). Finally, the respondents who agree that nowadays, in their country, they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else (63%), are more likely to agree with this statement than those who do not feel they have equal opportunities (50%).

QC16.2 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please answer using a scale from 1 to 10 where "1" means you "strongly agree" and "10" means you "strongly disagree".

Large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts (% - EU27)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'
EU27	57	39
Employment status		
Employed on an open ended contract	60	38
Employed on a short-term contract	55	40
Employed with a temporary work agency / an online platform	60	36
Self-employed without employees	57	42
Self-employed with employees	65	34
Unemployed	57	37
Retired	56	38
Looking after home, inactive	55	38
Student	59	34
Other	52	41
You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair		
Total 'Agree'	63	33
Neither agree or disagree	58	38
Total 'Disagree'	53	43
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)		
Total 'Agree'	63	33
Neither agree or disagree	58	38
Total 'Disagree'	52	44
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else		
Total 'Agree'	63	33
Neither agree or disagree	58	38
Total 'Disagree'	50	46

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

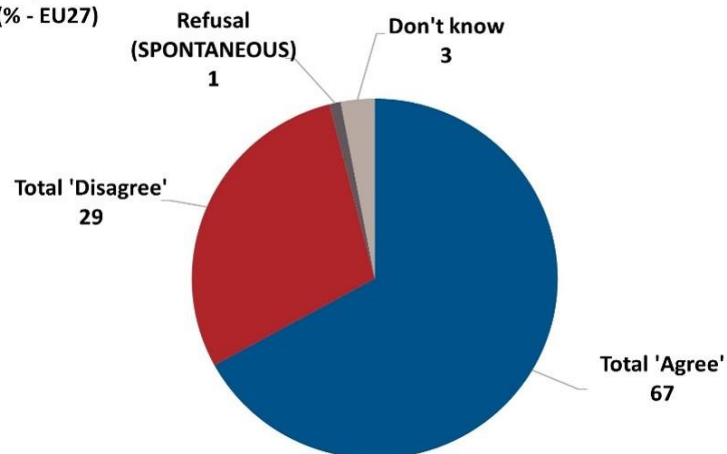
Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility,
May – June 2022

Two-thirds of respondents in the EU Member States agree to some extent that an important task of the government is to tax the rich in order to support the poor.

Across the EU, 67% of respondents agree to some extent that it is important for the national government to tax the rich in order to support the poor.

Meanwhile around one in three (29%) disagree to some extent with the statement that an important task of the government is to tax the wealthy in order to support the economically disadvantaged.

QC16.1 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?
An important task of the government is to tax the rich in order to support the poor
(% - EU27)



Total Agree (1 – 5)
Total Disagree (6 – 10)

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility,
May – June 2022

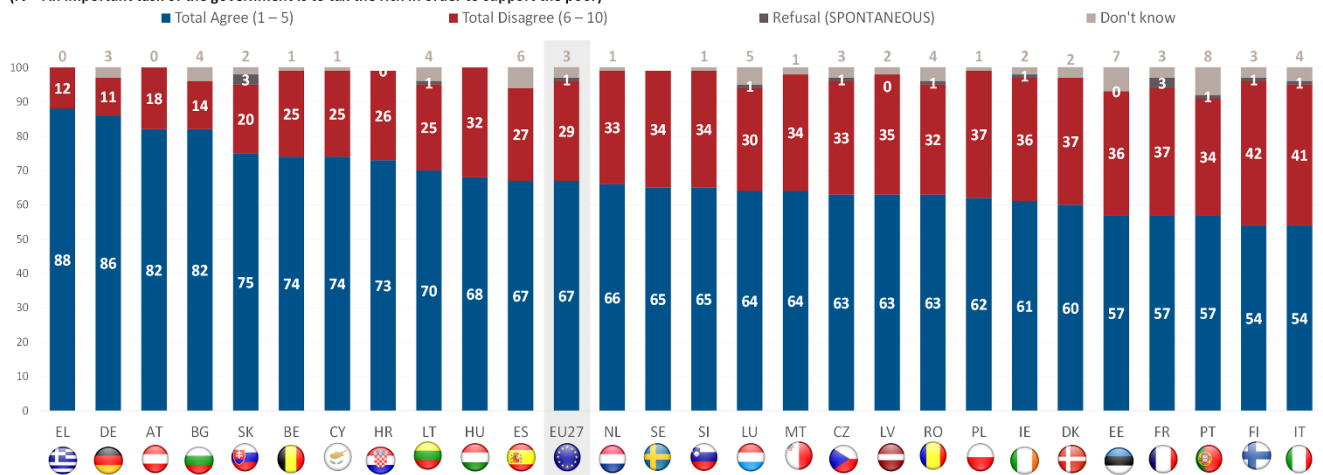
In all EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree that an important task of the government is to tax the rich in order to support the poor.

There are four countries where more than seven in ten agree to some extent with this statement: Greece (88%), Germany (86%), and Bulgaria and Austria (both 82%).

On the other hand, the Member States registering the lowest shares of agreement with the statement are Finland and Italy (both 54%), and France, Portugal and Estonia (all 57%).

QC16.1. To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please answer using a scale from 1 to 10 where "1" means you "strongly agree" and "10" means you "strongly disagree".

(% - An important task of the government is to tax the rich in order to support the poor)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility,
May – June 2022

The socio-demographic analysis reveals that there are almost no gender or age differences. Younger respondents (15-24) are less likely to agree that an important task of the government is to tax the rich in order to support the poor than older respondents (65% vs. 68%).

In respect of educational attainment, there are some differences, as those educated to below secondary level are the least likely to agree that an important task of the government is to tax the rich in order to support the poor (62%).

In terms of subjective urbanisation, respondents living in rural areas and small or mid-sized towns (both 69%) are most likely to agree to some extent that governments should tax the rich to provide for disadvantaged households.

Respondents who say they have financial difficulties most of the time are more likely (70%) than others (67%) to agree that it is important for the government to tax the rich in order to support the poor.

QC16.1 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please answer using a scale from 1 to 10 where "1" means you "strongly agree" and "10" means you "strongly disagree".
An important task of the government is to tax the rich in order to support the poor (% - EU27)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'
EU27	67	29
 Gender		
Man	67	30
Woman	68	28
 Age		
15-24	65	29
25-39	68	30
40-54	67	30
55 +	68	27
 Highest level of education		
Below secondary	62	26
Secondary	67	29
Post secondary	68	30
University	67	31
 Subjective urbanisation		
Rural village	69	28
Small/ mid size town	69	28
Large town	65	30
 Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	70	26
From time to time	67	29
Almost never/ Never	67	29

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility,
May – June 2022

This indicator is correlated with perceptions of fairness: 70% of those who disagree that they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life agree that an important task for governments is to tax the rich to support the poor, compared with 65% of respondents who feel that they do have equal opportunities. The same pattern holds for the two other measures of fairness perceptions.

Importantly, respondents who agree that nowadays in their country differences in people's incomes are too great are much more likely (70%) to agree that governments should tax the rich to support the poor than those who disagree that these differences are too great (48%).

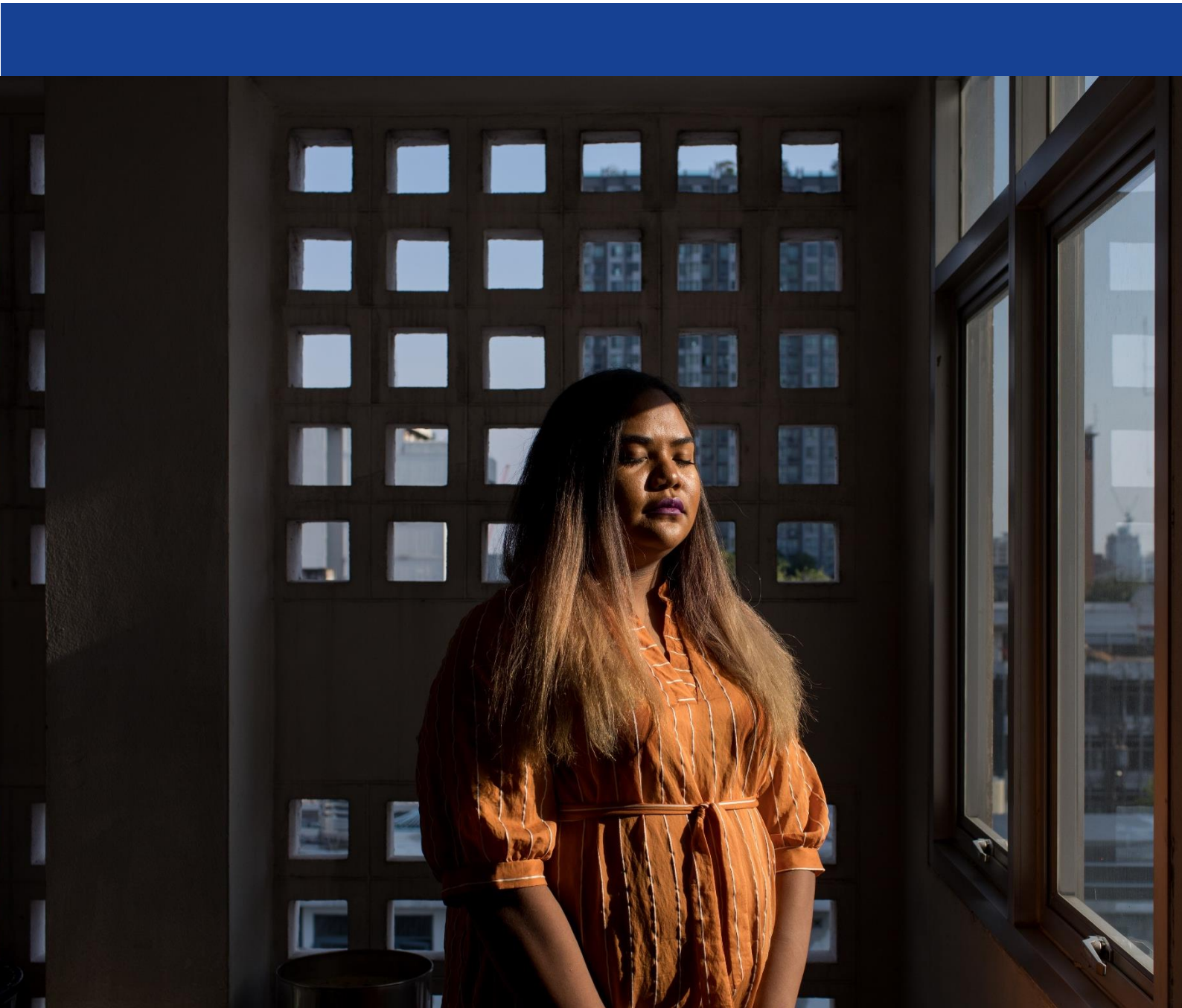
Respondents who believe that the government should spend more on at least one social policy are also more likely to agree that governments should tax the rich in order to support the poor (68%) than those who do not think that their government should spend more on any social policy (54%).

QC16.1 To what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please answer using a scale from 1 to 10 where "1" means you "strongly agree" and "10" means you "strongly disagree".
An important task of the government is to tax the rich in order to support the poor (% - EU27)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'
EU27	67	29
You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair		
Total 'Agree'	66	31
Neither agree or disagree	69	27
Total 'Disagree'	68	28
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)		
Total 'Agree'	65	32
Neither agree or disagree	68	28
Total 'Disagree'	69	28
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else		
Total 'Agree'	65	32
Neither agree or disagree	67	29
Total 'Disagree'	70	26
Nowadays in (OUR COUNTRY) differences in people's incomes are too great		
Total 'Agree'	70	27
Neither agree or disagree	60	37
Total 'Disagree'	48	48
Thinking about the taxes and social security contributions you might have to pay, would you like to see the (NATIONALITY) government spend less, spend the same, or spend more ?		
Do not spend more	54	33
Spend more for at least one policy	68	29

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

IV. ATTITUDES TOWARDS PUBLIC SPENDING



1. Public benefits programmes

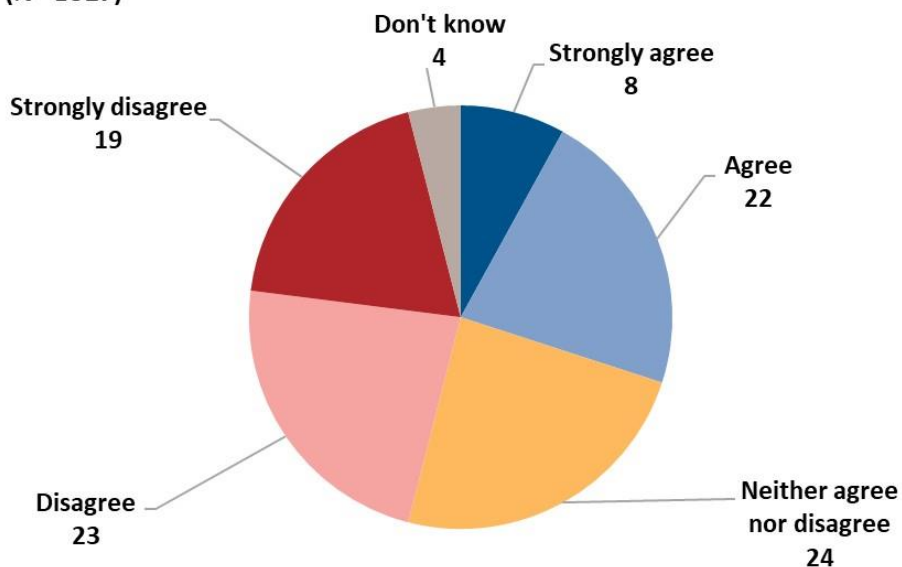
Respondents tend to disagree, rather than agree, that their government takes into account the views of people like them when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services

Just over four in ten respondents (42%) “disagree” or “strongly disagree” with the statement that the national government of their country considers the views of people like them when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services.

Of these, 19% “strongly disagree” and 23% more broadly “disagree”.

Meanwhile, close to a quarter (24%) “neither agree nor disagree” with this statement, while 22% “agree” and 8% “strongly agree” that their national government takes into account the opinions of people like them when drafting or reforming public benefits programmes and services.

QC4.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
You feel the (NATIONALITY) government takes into account the views of people like you when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services
(% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

There is considerable variation across EU Member States in the degree of agreement with the statement that their national government takes into account the views of people like them when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services.

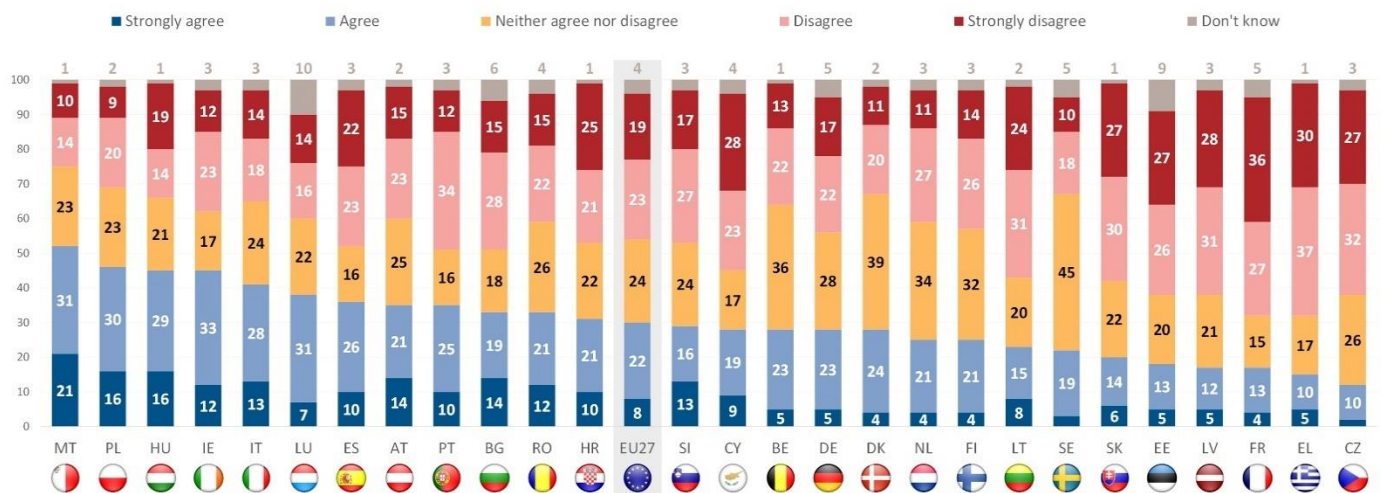
While on average in the EU, 30% of respondents agree with this statement, the proportion is larger in 12 Member States. The only country where more than half agree is Malta, where 52% say that the national government takes account of the views of people like

them when designing or reforming public benefits. Malta is followed by Poland (46%), Ireland and Hungary (both 45%), and Italy (41%), with more than four in ten respondents saying that they “agree” or “strongly agree” with the statement.

Conversely, in five Member States fewer than one in five respondents agree that the national government takes account of the views of people like them when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services. These countries, in descending order of agreement, are Estonia (18%), France and Latvia (both 17%), Greece (15%) and Czechia (12%).

QC4.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(% - You feel the (NATIONALITY) government takes into account the views of people like you when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The socio-demographic analysis highlights some differences in the extent of agreement with the statement that the national government takes account of the views of people like the respondent when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services.

Among the age groups, those most likely to disagree with the statement are respondents aged 40-54 and those over 55 years old (both 44%), particularly when compared with respondents aged 15-24 (39%).

In terms of educational attainment, the respondents who are most likely to disagree that their government takes account of the views of people like them when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services are those educated to below secondary level (50%). This contrast is most obvious when their level of disagreement is compared with that of respondents who hold a university degree (41%).

Respondents who report difficulties paying their bills most of the time are more likely to disagree that their national government takes account of the views of people like themselves when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services than respondents who almost never or never experience such financial difficulties (61% vs. 40%).

There are also differences between households depending on their composition. Respondents in households with one adult and children (52%) are more likely to disagree with the statement, especially when compared with respondents in households with two or more adults and children, or households with two or more adults without children (both 41%).

QC4.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

You feel the (NATIONALITY) government takes into account the views of people like you when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services (% - EU27)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total 'Disagree'	Total 'Agree'
EU27	8	22	24	23	19	42	30
 Gender							
Man	9	23	24	23	18	41	32
Woman	8	22	23	23	20	43	30
 Age							
15-24	8	23	25	23	16	39	31
25-39	9	23	24	23	19	42	32
40-54	9	21	23	24	20	44	30
55 +	7	22	23	23	21	44	29
 Highest level of education							
Below secondary	6	20	17	26	24	50	26
Secondary	9	22	23	22	20	42	31
Post secondary	7	21	23	26	21	47	28
University	7	24	26	25	16	41	31
 Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	9	26	23	22	17	39	35
Small/ mid size town	8	19	27	24	19	43	27
Large town	8	20	23	24	21	45	28
 Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	7	15	14	27	34	61	22
From time to time	9	22	23	24	19	43	31
Almost never/ Never	8	23	25	22	18	40	31
 Household type							
Single adult without children	7	22	22	23	21	44	29
Single adult with child(ren)	9	15	21	25	27	52	24
Two or more adults without children	9	23	24	23	18	41	32
Two or more adults with child(ren)	9	23	25	23	18	41	32

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

2. Preferences for increasing public spending on social policies

An overwhelming majority of respondents think that their national government should spend more, or maintain the current level of social spending.

The present section analyses the results for the question of whether respondents would like their national government to spend less, spend the same, or spend more in a number of social areas, taking into account the taxes and social security contributions they might have to pay. For this question, the questionnaire presented the current yearly spending figures per inhabitant for each item (policy area)⁹ on the same screen as the question, following which the interviewer prompted for a response.

In seven of the nine policy areas presented in the survey more than half of respondents say that their national government should spend more. The two exceptions are “culture”¹⁰ and “unemployment support”¹¹.

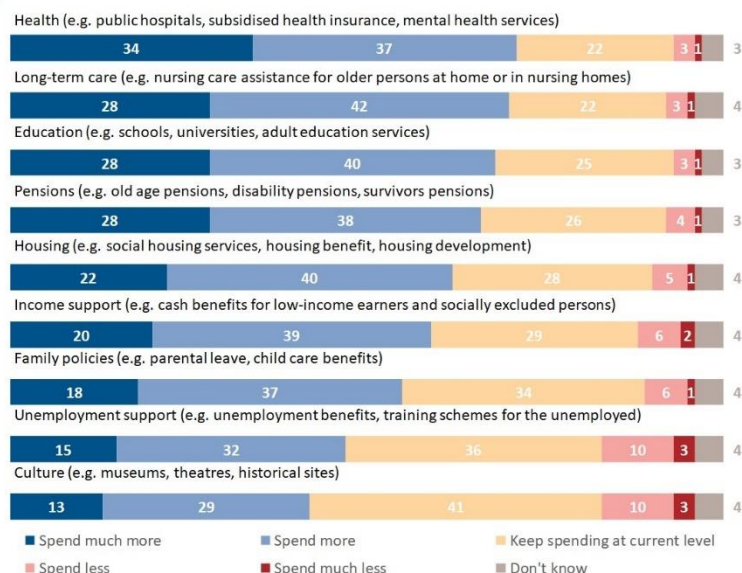
The share of respondents endorsing increased spending is the largest in the areas of “health”¹² and “long-term care”¹³, with more than seven in ten respondents across the EU saying that the national government should spend more in these areas. In fact, in the area of health 34% of respondents believe that the national government in their country should “spend much more”, and 37% think it should “spend more”. In the case of “long-term care”, 28% say that the national government should “spend much more”, and 42% that it should “spend more”.

The policy area of “education”¹⁴ comes third in terms of a perceived need for increased public spending: 28% consider that the national government should “spend much more” and 40% that it should “spend more” in this area.

In the case of “pensions”¹⁵, 28% believe that the national government should spend “much more”, and 38% think it should spend “more” in this policy area.

The policy area of “housing”¹⁶ follows, with 22% saying the national government should “spend much more” and 40% that it should “spend more” on this.

QC5b. Thinking about the taxes and social security contributions you might have to pay, would you like to see the (NATIONALITY) government spend less, spend the same, or spend more in each of the following areas?
 (% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

⁹ Respondents were shown the spending per capita for 2019. These figures are extracted from the ESSPROS (European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics) for Pensions, Family policies, Unemployment support and Income Support, the COFOG (Classification of the Functions of Government) for Culture, Education, Housing and the SHA (System of Health Accounts) for Health and Long-term care.

¹⁰ The respondents were presented the following examples as explanation: museums, theatres, historical sites.

¹¹ The respondents were presented the following examples as explanation: unemployment benefits, training schemes for the unemployed.

¹² The respondents were presented the following examples as explanation: public hospitals, subsidised health insurance, mental health services.

¹³ The respondents were presented the following examples as explanation: nursing care assistance for older persons at home or in nursing homes.

¹⁴ The respondents were presented the following examples as explanation: schools, universities, adult education services.

¹⁵ The respondents were presented the following examples as explanation: old age pensions, disability pensions, survivors' pensions.

¹⁶ The respondents were presented the following examples as explanation: social housing services, housing benefit, housing development.

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

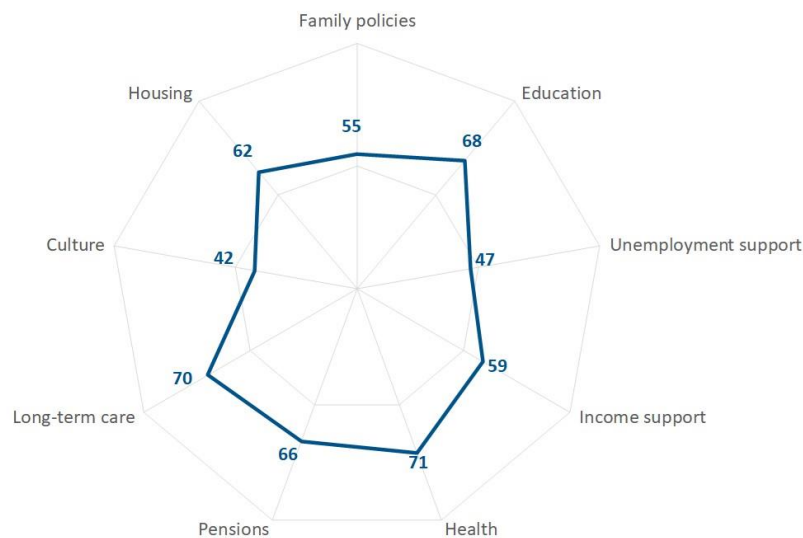
20% of respondents across the EU are of the opinion that national governments should “spend much more” on “**income support**”¹⁷, while 39% think it should “spend more”.

In the case of “**family policies**”¹⁸, 18% think that the national government should spend “much more” and 37% that it should “spend more” in this policy area.

Finally, the two policy areas for which relative majorities would rather keep public spending at current levels, or decrease it, are “**unemployment support**” and “**culture**”

For “**unemployment support**” 36% of respondents believe that their national government should keep spending at the current level, while 13% think that it should spend less. Nevertheless, 47% would rather increase public spending in this social area. When it comes to “**culture**”, 41% say that the government should spend the same amount in this area, while 13% believe that it should spend less. Meanwhile, 42% of respondents still think that their national government should spend more in the area of “**culture**”.

QC5b Thinking about the taxes and social security contributions you might have to pay, would you like to see the (NATIONALITY) government spend less, spend the same, or spend more in each of the following areas?
 (% - Total 'More')



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

The graph above presents the aggregated survey results for the opinion that national governments should spend more in the key policy areas.

There are four policy areas in which at least two-thirds of respondents would like the national government to spend more.

These priority policy areas are “health” – 71%; “long-term care” – 70%; “education” – 68%; and “pensions” – 66%.

However, less than half think their national government should spend more on “unemployment support” (47%) and “culture” (42%).

¹⁷ The respondents were presented the following examples as explanation: cash benefits for low-income earners and socially excluded persons.

¹⁸ The respondents were presented the following examples as explanation: parental leave, childcare benefits

In a large number of Member States, there is strong support for increasing public spending in the key policy areas of “health” and “long-term care”

Compared with other Member States, respondents in Greece are more likely to say that their national government should spend more in the key policy areas tested in the survey. The tendency is observed for seven of the nine social spending areas. Respondents in Greece are most likely to call for increased spending on “health” and “long-term care” (both 92%) and least in the area of “culture” (73%). Meanwhile, Finland is the country where the fewest respondents want their national government spend more in the key policy areas. Respondents in Finland would spend the most on “long-term care” (60%) and the least on “culture” (17%).

Item-level analysis

When we look at the country-level results presented in the table below from an item-by-item perspective, some patterns emerge.

In 12 Member States, “long-term care” is the policy field where respondents are most likely to say that the national government should spend more. Moreover, there are six countries where very large majorities - eight in ten or more - think that the national government should increase spending on this particular focus area. These countries, in descending order, are Greece (92%), Cyprus (88%), Portugal (87%), Slovakia (83%), Estonia (82%) and Ireland (80%). Conversely, Belgium is the country where the lowest proportion of respondents (57%) want their national government to spend more on “long-term care” (despite this actually being the policy area in which respondents in Belgium are most likely to call for increased spending).

In 11 Member States, the largest proportions of respondents want the national government to increase public spending in the area of “health”. Moreover, in six Member States, more than eight in ten respondents would prefer the national government to spend more on “health”. These countries are Greece (92%), Portugal (89%), Hungary (86%), Spain (85%), and Ireland and Slovakia (both 84%). The country with the lowest share of respondents thinking the same is Finland (48%).

In four Member States, “pensions” is the top policy area for which respondents would like public spending to increase. These countries are Slovakia (85%), Bulgaria and Estonia (both 77%), Lithuania (74%) and Croatia (68%). The Member State where the lowest number of respondents would increase spending on “pensions” is Denmark, with 35%.

In two Member States respondents believe that “housing” represents the main policy area in which their government should increase public spending: Ireland (84%) and Luxembourg (70%). The countries where the largest shares would prefer the national government to spend more on “housing” are Cyprus (85%) and Greece (83%). However, in Finland, only 23% of respondents would like their national government to spend more in this area.

Germany is the sole country where “education” is considered as the top priority for an increase in government spending (77%).

However, there are two countries where more than eight in ten think that the national government should increase public spending in this area – Greece (88%) and Spain (82%). The EU country where fewest respondents would prefer the national government to spend more on “education” is Finland (39%).

Country-level analysis

When the results are analysed from a country-by-country perspective, the figures portray a somewhat different picture.

In the case of “income support”, the three countries where the highest proportions of respondents think that the national government should spend more are Greece (85%), Cyprus (84%), and Spain (73%). The lowest proportions are found in Czechia and Finland (both 33%).

The EU countries where the most respondents want their national governments to spend more on “family policies” are Greece (86%), Cyprus (85%) and Slovakia (82%). In contrast, this share is the lowest in Sweden (21%).

For “unemployment support”, the largest shares of respondents who think that their national government should increase spending are Greece (84%), Cyprus (77%), Portugal and Spain (71%). The country with the fewest respondents thinking the same is Finland (21%).

Finally, 73% of respondents in Greece, 62% in Cyprus, and 59% in Italy say that the national government should spend more in the area of “culture”, while just 17% do so in Finland.

An analysis of actual spending as compared with the perceptions of respondents is presented below.

In all Member States, the actual national budget allocations across these social policy areas are the largest for “pensions”, followed by “health” and “education”. The survey results indicate that respondents firmly believe that these allocations should increase for both “health” (71%), and “education” (68%), but also for “long-term care” (70%). However, while respondents call for more public spending on “long-term care” this is the area in which governments across all Member States spend less on average than for any other key policy area tested.

While “income support” is the social area to which 16 of the national governments across the EU countries allocate the lowest amounts of public spending, the survey results suggest that public opinion supports an increase in these levels (59% around the EU are of this opinion).

The case of “housing” shows some similar patterns. This is the policy area in which governments on average allocate the second lowest amounts, and which in 10 Member States actually receives the lowest spending per inhabitant of any of the 10 policy areas tested here. However, large shares of respondents believe that public spending on “housing” should increase. As mentioned earlier, this opinion is especially strong in Cyprus, Ireland, and Greece.

Special Eurobarometer 529

Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility

May – June 2022

QC5b Thinking about the taxes and social security contributions you might have to pay, would you like to see the (NATIONALITY) government spend less, spend the same, or spend more in each of the following areas?
(% - Total 'More')

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Health (e.g. public hospitals, subsidised health insurance, mental health services)	71	56	75	54	69	64	70	84	92	85	67	66	76	76	76	70	57	86	63	56	62	71	89	66	53	84	48	72
Long-term care (e.g. nursing care assistance for older persons at home or in nursing homes)	70	57	72	63	60	75	82	80	92	76	66	65	72	88	77	74	58	74	72	62	70	66	87	59	62	83	60	65
Education (e.g. schools, universities, adult education services)	68	50	62	49	47	77	60	76	88	82	63	61	70	73	60	63	39	76	60	59	54	56	78	63	45	71	39	56
Pensions (e.g. old age pensions, disability pensions, survivors pensions)	66	49	77	49	35	67	77	67	78	76	63	68	70	79	73	74	40	75	67	40	57	63	87	64	54	85	39	61
Housing (e.g. social housing services, housing benefit, housing development)	62	52	54	50	28	68	56	84	83	74	48	54	66	85	61	63	70	70	58	61	52	58	72	60	59	66	23	34
Income support (e.g. cash benefits for low-income earners and socially excluded persons)	59	54	71	33	38	62	71	69	85	73	48	60	62	84	65	58	58	72	63	43	61	55	72	56	47	58	33	36
Family policies (e.g. parental leave, child care benefits)	55	37	76	55	24	58	62	68	86	66	40	57	65	85	71	64	34	69	63	26	52	48	73	56	42	82	28	21
Unemployment support (e.g. unemployment benefits, training schemes for the unemployed)	47	26	64	27	28	41	52	52	84	71	32	51	56	77	43	44	35	64	48	26	35	46	71	58	28	50	21	27
Culture (e.g. museums, theatres, historical sites)	42	36	53	32	20	32	44	42	73	55	36	40	59	62	32	50	27	46	47	30	28	42	50	51	35	50	17	25
Highest share of support																												
2nd highest share of support																												
3rd highest share of support																												

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The following section presents the socio-demographic segments and the differing degrees to which they believe that the national government should spend more in certain policy areas. The section will therefore highlight which respondent segments are most likely to call for national governments to spend more in each key policy area.

Turning first to gender differences, women are more likely than men to support more spending in the areas of long-term care (73% vs. 68%) and family policies (57% vs. 53%).

In terms of age groups, the picture is somewhat more complex:

- Young people aged 25-39 are the most likely to want national governments to spend more on housing (65%) and family policies (59%).
- However, respondents aged 55+ are the most likely to want increased government spending on long-term care (74%), and pensions (71%).

When it comes to education attainment:

- Respondents who hold a university degree are most likely to see a need for more public spending on education (73%) and culture (50%).
- Meanwhile, respondents with below secondary level education are most likely to call for more government spending on pensions (77%), health (75%), income support (60%) and unemployment support (53%).

In terms of subjective urbanisation:

- Respondents who live in rural areas are more likely than respondents living in small, medium, or large towns to say that the government should spend more on all of the specified key policy areas. These respondents are especially likely to want increased public spending on the health sector (74%), and long-term care and education (both 73%).

In terms of financial security:

- Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time are most likely to support more government spending on health (76%), pensions (73%), income support (67%), family policies (63%) and unemployment support (62%).

QC5b Thinking about the taxes and social security contributions you might have to pay, would you like to see the (NATIONALITY) government spend less, spend the same, or spend more in each of the following areas?
Total 'More' (%) - EU27

	Health (e.g. public hospitals, subsidised health insurance, mental health services)	Long-term care (e.g. nursing care assistance for older persons at home or in nursing homes)	Education (e.g. schools, universities, adult education services)	Pensions (e.g. old age pensions, disability pensions, survivors pensions)	Housing (e.g. social housing services, housing benefit, housing development)	Income support (e.g. cash benefits for low-income earners and socially excluded persons)	Family policies (e.g. parental leave, child care benefits)	Unemployment support (e.g. unemployment benefits, training schemes for the unemployed)	Culture (e.g. museums, theatres, historical sites)	Total 'More for at least one policy'
EU27	71	70	68	66	62	59	55	47	42	91
Gender										
Man	69	68	67	64	60	56	53	46	41	91
Woman	72	73	69	67	62	60	57	48	44	92
Age										
15-24	66	65	67	54	61	58	54	48	45	89
25-39	72	69	69	63	65	61	59	50	45	92
40-54	71	70	69	64	61	58	56	48	44	92
55 +	72	74	66	71	60	58	52	46	40	91
Highest level of education										
Below secondary	75	70	63	77	61	60	54	53	40	88
Secondary	71	71	66	68	62	59	57	49	41	91
Post secondary	71	71	67	64	58	57	51	44	41	91
University	68	69	73	58	61	56	51	44	50	93
Subjective urbanisation										
Rural village	74	73	73	67	67	63	57	53	49	94
Small/ mid size town	70	72	67	65	60	58	53	46	39	91
Large town	70	71	67	66	61	57	55	46	43	91
Difficulties paying bills										
Most of the time	76	74	67	73	69	67	63	62	43	91
From time to time	71	70	66	69	64	63	59	54	45	90
Almost never/ Never	70	70	69	64	59	55	52	42	42	92

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

With regard to the household situation:

- Households with two or more adults and children are most likely to want increased spending on family policies (60%).
- Households with one adult and children are most likely to want the national government to spend more on long-term care (76%), education (72%) and pensions (71%).

Relating to employment status:

Respondents who are unemployed are most likely to call for increased public spending on “income support” (66%) and “unemployment support” (65%).

Additionally, there are notable response patterns pertaining to the belief that the national government should spend more on key policy areas, that relate to different levels of agreement with the fairness, equality, and income difference statements:

- Respondents who tend to disagree that by and large, people get what they deserve in their country, are more likely to say overall that the national government should spend more on the policy areas considered in the survey. The largest difference in opinion is found for “health” (75% vs. 68%).
- Respondents who tend to disagree that they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else, are more likely to say overall that their national government should spend more on the key policy areas, particularly “health” (75% vs. 69%).

Respondents who believe that differences in people’s incomes are too great tend to be more likely than those who disagree to think that the national government should overall spend more in key policy areas, in particular income support (62% vs. 36%), pensions (69% vs. 43%) and long-term care (75% vs. 51%).

Finally, when it comes to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following trends emerge:

- In general, respondents who say that the income from their jobs was reduced, or their working hours were reduced, and those who report that their physical or mental health has deteriorated, are the most likely to agree that the national government should spend more on at least one area (all 94%).
- Respondents who say that they were unable to pay usual expenses or who were made redundant or lost their job are the two segments most likely to say that the national government should spend more on “income support” (67% and 66% respectively) and “unemployment support” (60% and 59% respectively).
- Respondents who had their income reduced are most likely to want more government spending on “pensions” (69%) and “housing” (67%).

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

QC5b Thinking about the taxes and social security contributions you might have to pay, would you like to see the (NATIONALITY) government spend less, spend the same, or spend more in each of the following areas?
Total 'More' (% - EU27)

	Health (e.g. public hospitals, subsidised health insurance, mental health services)	Long-term care (e.g. nursing care assistance for older persons at home or in nursing homes)	Education (e.g. schools, universities, adult education services)	Pensions (e.g. old age pensions, disability pensions, survivors pensions)	Housing (e.g. social housing services, housing benefit, housing development)	Income support (e.g. cash benefits for low-income earners and socially excluded persons)	Family policies (e.g. parental leave, child care benefits)	Unemployment support (e.g. unemployment benefits, training schemes for the unemployed)	Culture (e.g. museums, theatres, historical sites)	Total 'More for at least one policy'
EU27	71	70	68	66	62	59	55	47	42	91
Household type										
Single adult without children	72	71	67	65	63	59	52	48	43	90
Single adult with child(ren)	72	76	72	71	66	62	58	49	40	92
Two or more adults without children	70	70	65	66	59	57	53	45	41	91
Two or more adults with child(ren)	72	70	70	64	61	59	60	48	44	93
Employment status										
Employed on an open ended contract	70	70	68	64	61	58	56	45	43	92
Employed on a short-term contract	70	69	67	64	65	61	55	51	44	93
Employed with a temporary work agency / an online platform	74	74	77	65	69	65	61	58	55	93
Self-employed without employees	76	70	74	64	62	57	57	47	49	94
Self-employed with employees	72	72	70	66	63	60	62	49	52	93
Unemployed	69	70	63	67	67	66	61	65	42	88
Retired	71	73	65	71	59	57	51	42	38	90
Looking after home, inactive	73	73	68	71	61	62	60	55	42	91
Student	67	67	72	54	63	60	54	48	49	89
Other	61	79	69	52	69	70	38	52	43	99
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)										
Total 'Agree'	68	69	67	62	60	57	54	45	43	91
Neither agree or disagree	70	68	65	63	58	54	51	43	42	90
Total 'Disagree'	75	76	70	72	66	64	59	52	44	93
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else										
Total 'Agree'	69	70	68	64	60	57	54	44	43	92
Neither agree or disagree	70	67	64	64	58	57	54	46	42	89
Total 'Disagree'	75	74	70	70	66	63	58	53	43	93
Nowadays in (OUR COUNTRY) differences in people's incomes are too great										
Total 'Agree'	74	75	71	69	65	62	58	51	44	93
Neither agree or disagree	61	59	59	53	47	44	43	35	36	87
Total 'Disagree'	53	51	50	43	44	36	37	28	32	83
Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?										
You were made redundant or lost your job	67	66	63	66	64	66	57	59	49	91
The income from your job was reduced	74	72	71	69	67	64	61	53	47	94
Your working hours were reduced	75	73	74	70	66	60	57	52	48	94
You were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme	72	72	66	62	61	57	55	53	45	92
You were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday	72	68	67	69	63	56	59	54	53	91
You were not able to pay a usual expense (e.g., rent or mortgage, utility bill)	71	70	70	68	65	67	60	60	50	92
Your physical or mental health deteriorated	75	72	70	66	65	59	55	49	45	94
Your working conditions improved (e.g. due to working from home, more flexible schedule)	67	67	68	53	59	52	49	37	40	94
None of the above	70	71	66	66	60	58	55	46	41	90

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The majority of respondents support an increase in taxes or social security contributions to raise finance for public programmes. However, there is divergence as to who should bear the highest burden of this increase.

When asked how increases in government spending on public benefits programmes should be financed, 21% of respondents say that the additional cost should be mainly borne by wealthy households.

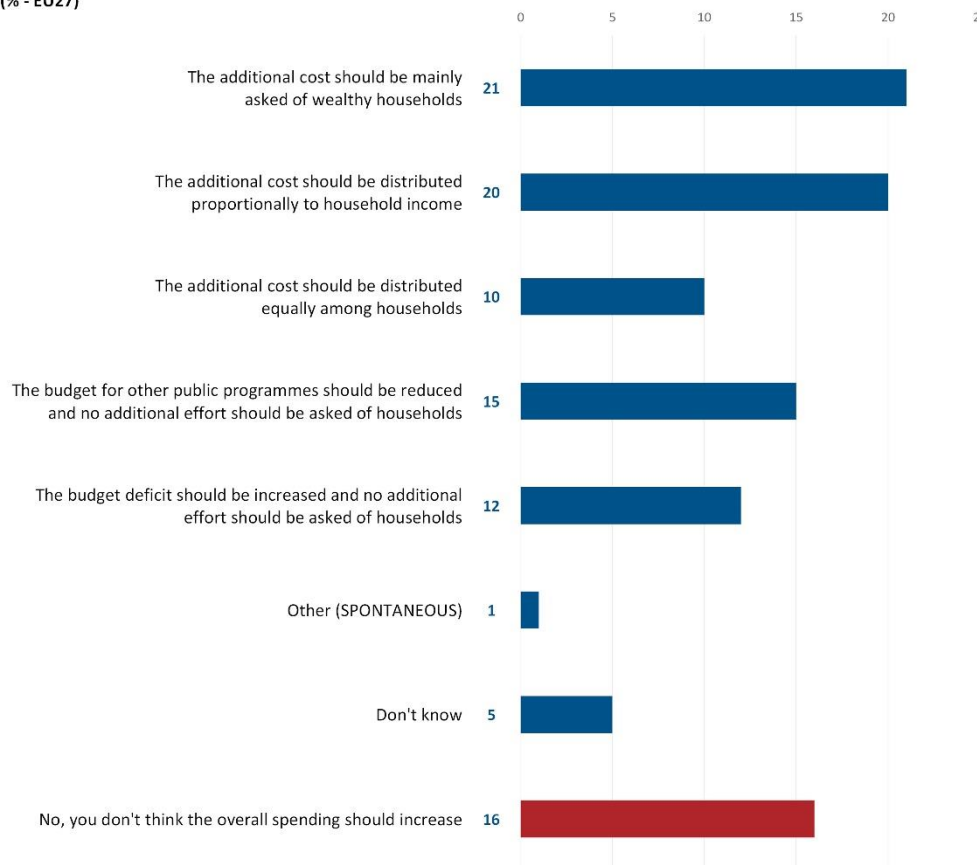
In addition, 20% say that the extra cost of increased government spending should be covered proportionally to household income,

while one in ten believe that it should be distributed equally among households.

Meanwhile, 12% are of the opinion that the budget deficit should be increased and no additional effort should be required of households.

Conversely, 16% of the respondents across the EU think that overall spending should not increase, while 15% say that the budget for other public programmes should be reduced and no additional effort should be asked of households.

QC6 Some people might want to increase the government spending on several programmes. If you think that the overall spending should increase, how should the additional cost be financed?
 (% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

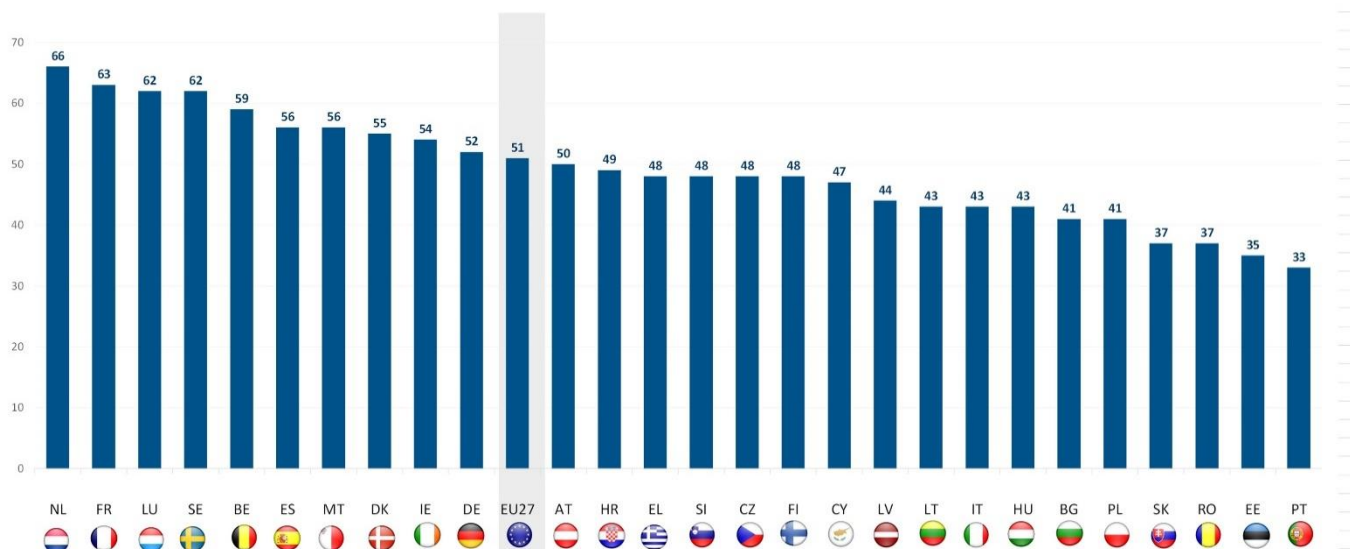
Views about how the additional cost of government spending on public benefits programmes should be financed are divided across EU Member States.

In ten countries the most commonly held opinion is that the additional cost should be distributed among households. This view is especially widespread in the Netherlands (66%), France (63%) and Luxembourg and Sweden (both 62%).

This opinion attracts least support in four EU countries: Slovakia and Romania (both 37%), Estonia (35%) and Portugal (33%).

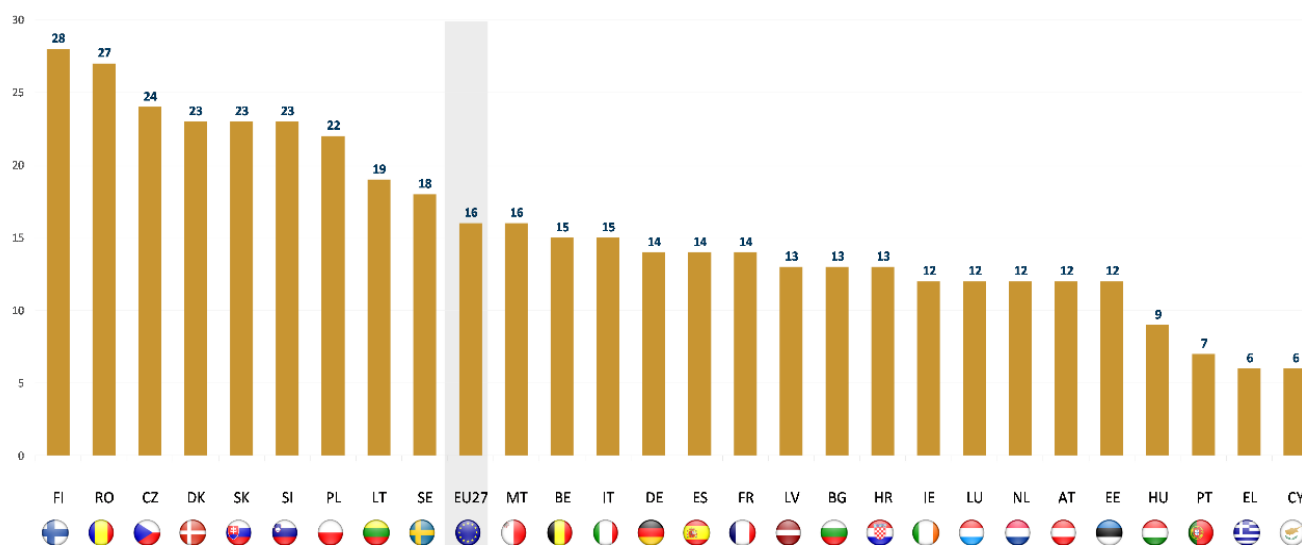
When it comes to the opinion that overall spending should not increase, in nine Member States support is greater than the overall EU average of 16%. These proportions are highest in Finland (28%), Romanian (27%) and Czechia (24%).

QC6. Some people might want to increase the government spending on several programmes. If you think that the overall spending should increase, how should the additional cost be financed?
 (% - The additional cost should be distributed progressively/proportionally/equally to household income)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

QC6. Some people might want to increase the government spending on several programmes. If you think that the overall spending should increase, how should the additional cost be financed?
 (% - No, you don't think the overall spending should increase)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The socio-demographic analysis reveals that there are no significant differences by gender. There are, however, several response patterns related to other variables.

Respondents aged 40-54 are the most likely to say that the budget for other public benefits programmes should be reduced and no additional spending should be asked of households (17%). Additionally, the 40-54 age group and respondents aged 55+ are most likely to say that the overall spending should not increase (16% and 17% respectively).

When it comes to educational attainment, respondents who have a university level of education and respondents with post-

secondary education are most likely to believe that the additional cost of public programmes should be distributed proportionally to household income (24% and 23% respectively). These shares stand in contrast with the proportion of respondents with below secondary level education, 11% of whom have the same opinion.

Respondents who report difficulties paying their bills most of the time are more likely than respondents who never or almost never have financial struggles to say that the additional cost of public benefits programmes should be mostly met by wealthy households (28% vs. 20%).

QC6 Some people might want to increase the government spending on several programmes. If you think that the overall spending should increase, how should the additional cost be financed?

	The additional cost should be mainly asked of wealthy households	The additional cost should be distributed proportionally to household income	The budget for other public programmes should be reduced and no additional effort should be asked of households	The budget deficit should be increased and no additional effort should be asked of households	The additional cost should be distributed equally among households	No, you don't think the overall spending should increase	Total 'The overall spending should increase'
EU27	21	20	15	12	10	16	78
Gender							
Man	21	20	15	13	10	16	79
Woman	21	20	15	12	10	15	78
Age							
15-24	19	21	13	12	12	15	77
25-39	21	21	15	13	11	14	81
40-54	21	20	17	12	10	16	80
55 +	21	19	14	12	9	17	75
Highest level of education							
Below secondary	22	11	13	11	11	15	68
Secondary	21	18	15	13	10	16	77
Post secondary	21	23	15	12	10	15	81
University	22	24	16	10	9	15	81
Subjective urbanisation							
Rural village	23	22	14	11	10	15	80
Small/ mid size town	20	23	16	13	10	12	82
Large town	20	19	16	13	10	15	78
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	28	15	17	14	7	10	81
From time to time	20	18	16	13	12	14	79
Almost never/ Never	20	21	14	12	10	17	77

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

In terms of household situation, respondents in households with one adult and children are more likely than those in other types of households to say that the additional cost of public benefits programmes should mainly be asked of wealthy families (24%), while respondents in households with two or more adults and children are the most likely to say that the cost should be distributed equally among households (12%).

When looking at the preferred funding sources for public programmes, a consistent tendency is observed. Respondents who disagree with the fairness statements tend to believe that the extra cost of these programmes should be mainly asked of wealthy families, especially when compared with respondents whose response to the fairness statements is neutral. For example:

- While 24% of respondents who disagree that most things that happen in their lives are fair tend to think that the additional cost of public benefits programmes should be

mainly borne by wealthy families, 20% of those who agree, or are neutral, think the same.

- Additionally, respondents who disagree that people get what they deserve in their country (25%) are most likely to think that wealthy households should cover the cost of additional public programmes.

Finally, respondents who think that nowadays, income differences among people are too large tend to be much more likely to think that the additional cost of public benefits programmes should be covered by wealthy households (23%). This contrasts in particular with the proportion of respondents who disagree or hold a neutral opinion regarding large income differences in their country (14% and 13% respectively). Respondents who agree that income differences are too large are more likely to think that the cost of public programmes should be proportionally distributed between households (20%), especially compared with respondents who disagree (15%).

QC6 Some people might want to increase the government spending on several programmes. If you think that the overall spending should increase, how should the additional cost be financed?

	The additional cost should be mainly asked of wealthy households	The additional cost should be distributed proportionally to household income	The budget for other public programmes should be reduced and no additional effort should be asked of households	The budget deficit should be increased and no additional effort should be asked of households	The additional cost should be distributed equally among households	No, you don't think the overall spending should increase	Total 'The overall spending should increase'
EU27	21	20	15	12	10	16	78
Household type							
Single adult without children	22	19	12	12	10	16	75
Single adult with child(ren)	24	22	14	14	8	13	82
Two or more adults without children	19	20	16	13	9	17	77
Two or more adults with child(ren)	21	20	17	12	12	14	82
You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair							
Total 'Agree'	20	21	15	12	11	16	79
Neither agree or disagree	20	20	15	12	10	16	77
Total 'Disagree'	24	18	16	13	9	14	80
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)							
Total 'Agree'	19	20	15	13	11	17	78
Neither agree or disagree	19	21	15	12	10	17	77
Total 'Disagree'	25	18	16	13	9	13	81
Nowadays in (OUR COUNTRY) differences in people's incomes are too great							
Total 'Agree'	23	20	15	13	9	14	80
Neither agree or disagree	13	18	16	11	14	22	72
Total 'Disagree'	14	15	14	13	11	26	67

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

V. CHILDHOOD AND INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY IN EDUCATION



1. Intergenerational mobility in education

A gradual increase in educational attainment is observed across the generations

The figure below represents the comparative educational attainment of respondents' close family members. More specifically, the survey asked the respondent to indicate what is (or was) the highest education level of their:

- Maternal grandfather
- Paternal grandfather
- Mother
- Father

The analysis reveals increasing educational mobility with each generation.

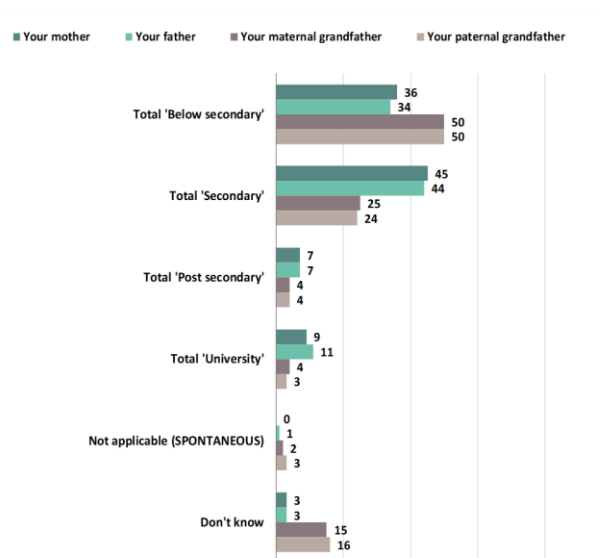
While 50% of both maternal and paternal grandfathers had an education level described as “below secondary”, 36% of respondents' mothers, and 34% of respondents' fathers are also said to have had a “below secondary” level of education.

At the same time, the share of respondents' mothers and fathers with “secondary” education stands at 45% and 44% respectively, while a quarter of respondents' maternal and 24% of their paternal grandfathers received “secondary education”.

The proportions of antecedents in the upper educational categories are higher for younger cohorts: around one in twelve of both parents have “post-secondary” education (7%), while 4% of respondents' grandfathers were also educated to this level.

About one in ten of respondents' fathers (11%) and mothers (9%) completed “university” education. Conversely only around one in twenty-five of maternal grandfathers (4%) and paternal grandfathers (3%) reportedly have “university” level education.

QC7 What is the highest level of education that ... successfully completed? If you don't know the exact level of education, please give your best approximation.
 (% - EU27)



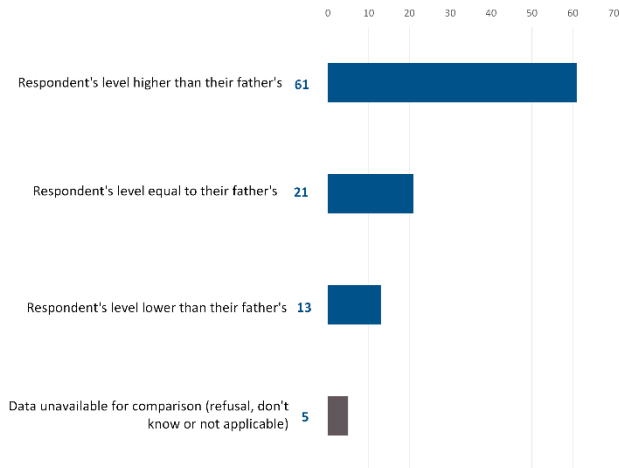
Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Around six in ten respondents have obtained a higher level of education than their mother (64%) or father (61%).

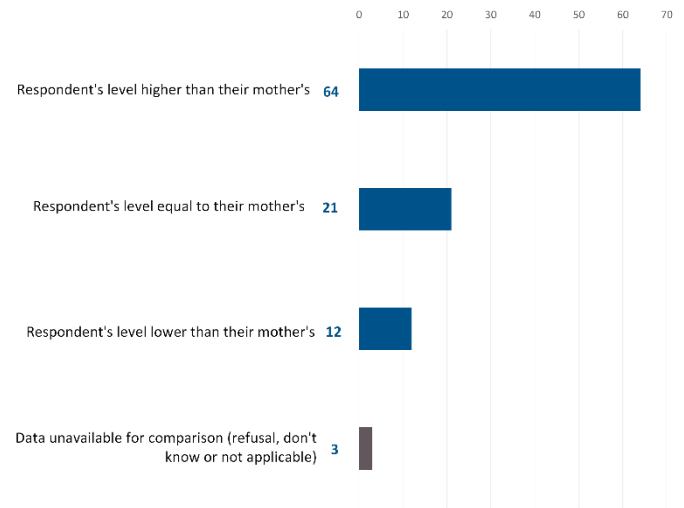
Approximately a fifth of respondents have an education level equal to that of their mother and father (both 21%), while about one in eight have an education level lower than that of their father (13%) or mother (12%).

QC7T. Comparison between respondent's self-reported education the level of their father's level (% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

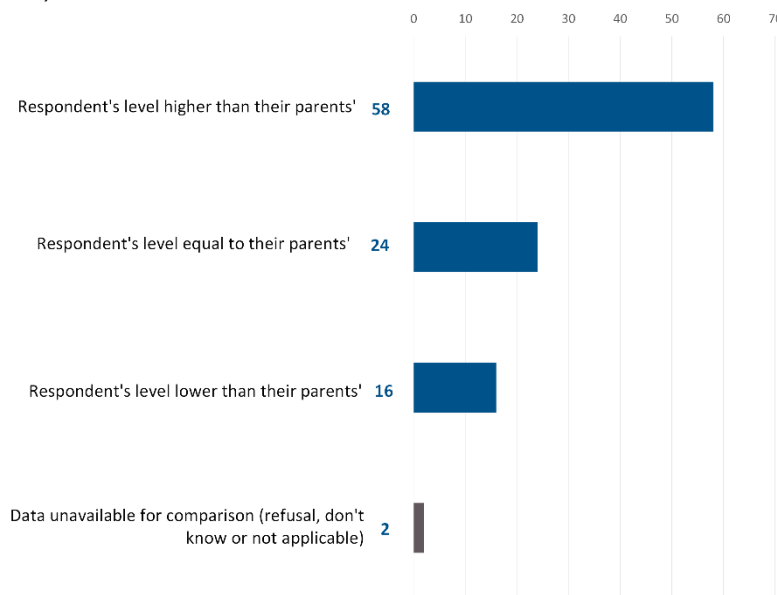
QC7T. Comparison between respondent's self-reported education the level of their mother's level (% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Well over half (58%) of respondents are educated to a higher level than their most educated parent (either their mother or father). Close to quarter have the same level of education as their most educated parent and 16% have a lower level of education than that parent.

QC7T. Comparison between respondent's self-reported education the level of their parents' (% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

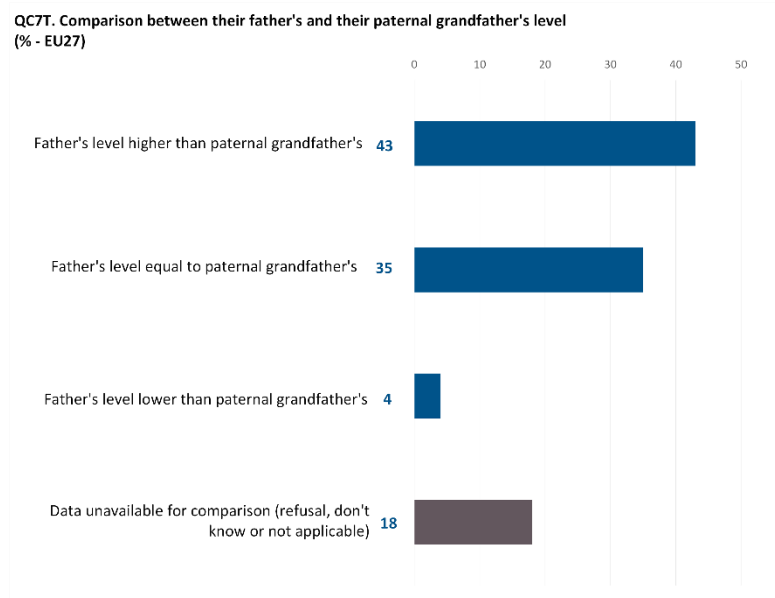
Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

A similar trend is present when the educational attainment of respondents' mothers and fathers is compared with their own parents.

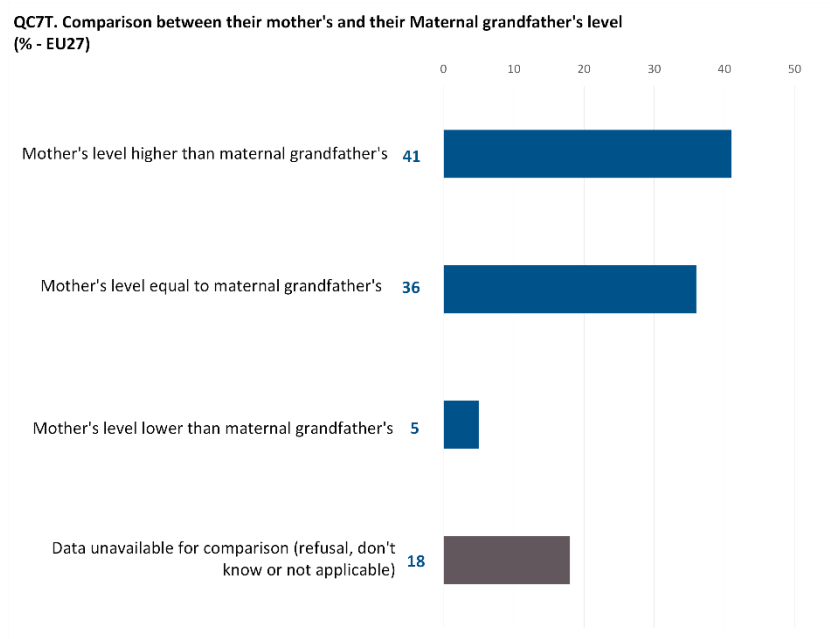
About four in ten of respondents' mothers (41%) and fathers (43%) obtained an education level higher than that of their own parents.

More than a third of the respondents' mothers (36%) and fathers (35%) have a similar level of education to their respective parents.

Interestingly, 5% of respondents' mothers and 4% of respondents' fathers have a lower level of educational attainment than their own parents.



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

2. Childhood care

Respondents' maternal grandparents are somewhat more likely than paternal grandparents to have taken care of the respondent regularly when they were eight years old

54% of respondents across the EU say that their maternal grandparents looked after them, on some regular basis, when the respondents were eight years old.

In more detail, 15% of respondents report that their maternal grandparents “only rarely” looked after them at the age of eight, 14% say that these grandparents took care of them on a monthly basis (6% - “about once a month”, 8% - “about 2-3 times a month”) and 25% say that these relatives looked after them on a weekly basis (9% - “about once a week”, 16% - “more than once a week”).

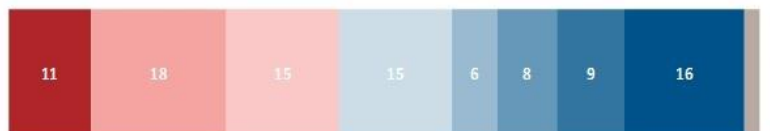
45% of respondents say that their paternal grandparents looked after them on some regular basis when they were eight years old.

More specifically, 15% say that their paternal grandparents looked after them “only rarely”, 6% and 7% respectively mention that they were looked after by these relatives “about once a month” or “about 2-3 times a month”, while 17% report that their paternal grandparents looked after them more often than once a week.

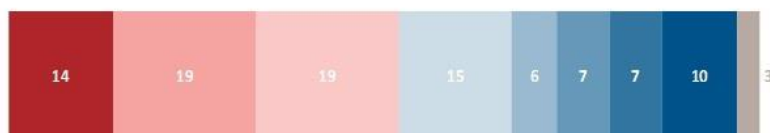
QC8. Did your grandparents look after you on some regular basis when you were 8 years old? Here, we mean before or after school, in the evening, or at the weekend. It doesn't matter whose house it was at and whether both or only one grandparent was involved.

(% - EU27)

Your maternal grandparents



Your paternal grandparents



- No, both my grandfather and grandmother were deceased
- No, they were living too far away
- No, other reasons
- Yes, but only rarely
- Yes, about once a month
- Yes, about 2-3 times a month
- Yes, about once a week
- Yes, more than once a week
- Don't know

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

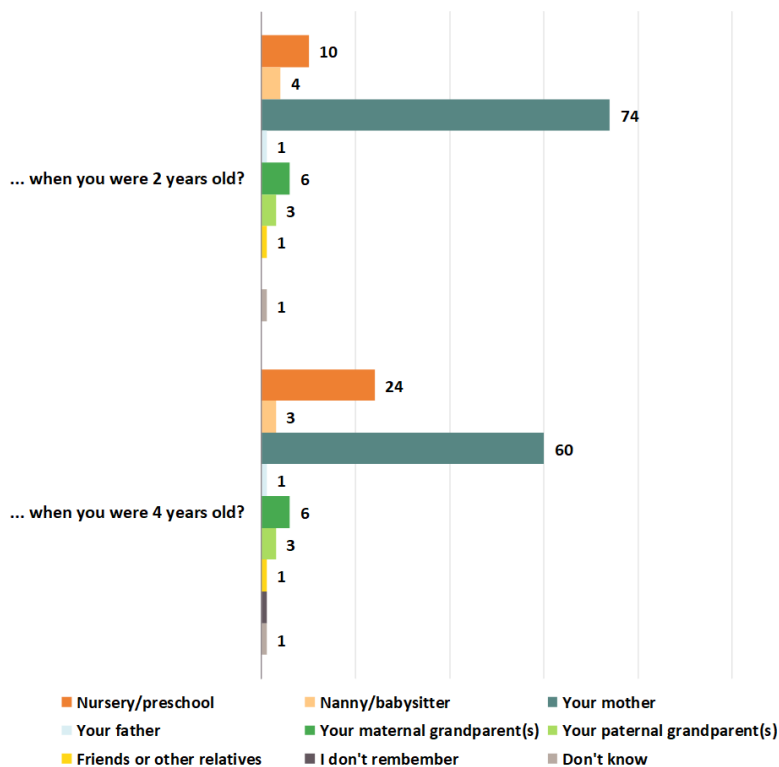
Respondents are most likely to have been cared for by their mothers during daily hours when they were two and four years old

Next, respondents were asked who mainly cared for them during daily hours (e.g., 9am to 5pm) when they were two years old.

A large majority (74%) say that they were cared for by their mother during daily hours when they were two years old. One in ten (10%) say that they were cared for by workers in a nursery or preschool, while a very similar proportion (9%) were cared for by their grandparents (6% by maternal grandparents, and 3% by paternal grandparents). A further 4% of respondents say that they were mainly taken care of by a nanny or babysitter during daily hours when they were two years old. Just 1% report that they were mostly cared for by their father at that age.

Respondents were then asked who mainly took care of them during the day when they were four years old. The largest proportion (60%) again say that their primary carer was their mother. A larger share than for the previous question (24%) were mainly cared for at a nursery or preschool, and 9% were taken care of by their grandparents during daily hours when they were four years old (6% by maternal grandparents, 3% by paternal grandparents). A further 3% were mainly cared for by a nanny or babysitter, and 1% report that this carer was their father.

QC9 Who did mainly care for you during daily hours (e.g. 9 am and 5 pm)...
 (% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

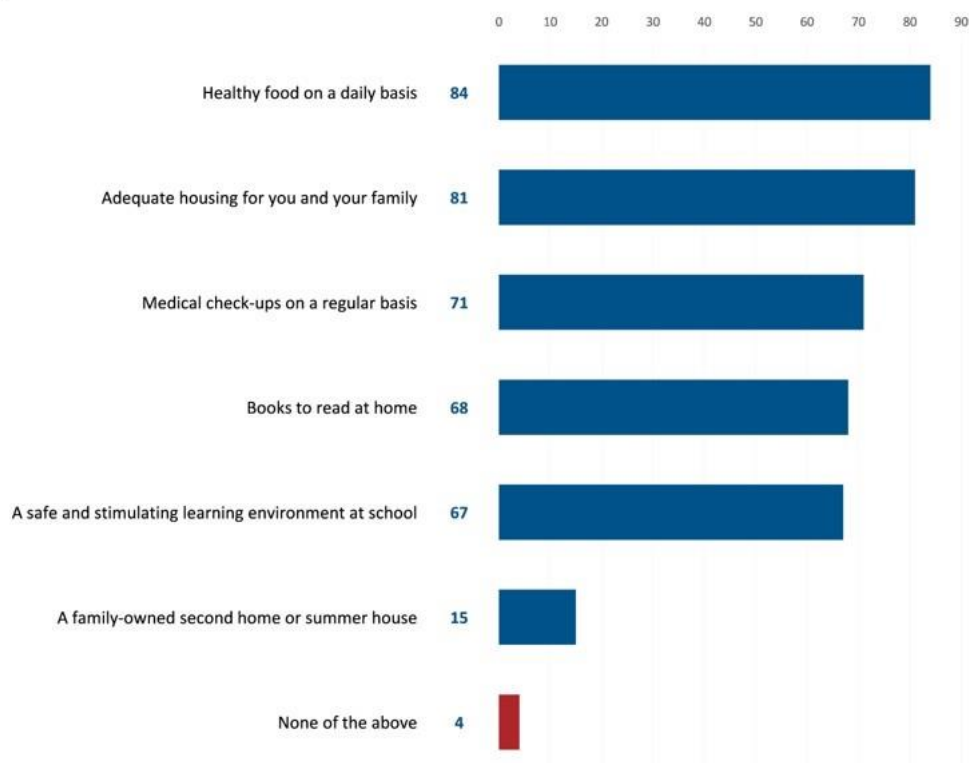
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Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

More than eight in ten respondents had access to healthy food on a daily basis, and adequate housing for them and their family, when they were a child

More than eight in ten respondents say that as a child they had access to healthy food on a daily basis (84%), as well as adequate housing for them and their family (81%). Just over seven in ten (71%) say that they also had access to medical check-ups on a regular basis, and a fairly similar share of 68% had books to read at home, while 67% had access to a safe and stimulating environment at school, and 15% say that their family had a second home or summer house.

One in twenty-five respondents (4%) report that they had access to none of these necessities or benefits in childhood..

QC10 As a child, to which of the following did you have access? You may select all answers that apply. (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Younger people, especially those aged 15-24, are more likely to say that they had access to the essentials tested in the survey. Furthermore, the association between age and access to essentials appears to be linear and progressive, with access to essentials increasing with a decrease in age.

The largest difference between the youngest age group (15-24) and the oldest group (55+) is found for access to books to read (81% versus 57%). Other notable differences between these generations relate to regular medical check-ups (82% versus 60%) and a safe and stimulating learning environment (79% versus 59%).

QC10 As a child, to which of the following did you have access? You may select all answers that apply. (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
 (% - EU27)

	Healthy food on a daily basis	Adequate housing for you and your family	Medical check-ups on a regular basis	Books to read at home	A safe and stimulating learning environment at school	A family-owned second home or summer house	None of the above
EU27	84	81	71	68	67	15	4
 Age							
15-24	87	85	82	81	79	20	2
25-39	84	83	81	78	75	19	3
40-54	86	83	77	73	70	18	3
55 +	82	76	60	57	59	9	6

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

VI. THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



3. Consequences of the pandemic and support extended

While about seven in ten respondents experienced none of the seven adverse consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic listed in the survey, the most common adverse impact reported is a deterioration in physical or mental health.

Three in ten (30%) respondents experienced one or several types of adversity because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, 66% say that they experienced none of the significant difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic listed in the survey. Furthermore, 6% reported that their working conditions improved¹⁹.

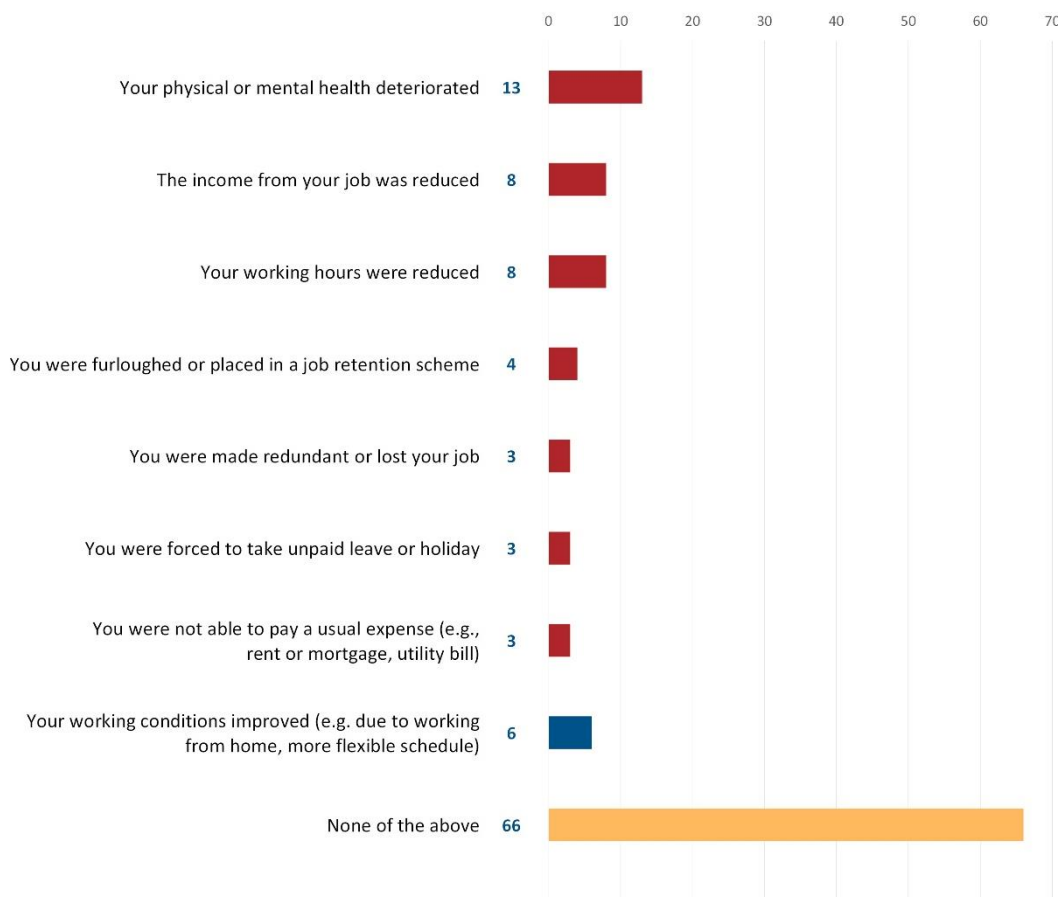
The most commonly reported difficulty was a worsening of physical or mental health (13%) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Equal proportions of 8% say that the income from their job was reduced, or that their working hours were shortened. Additionally, 4% of the respondents were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme, while 3% say they were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday.

3% of respondents report that they were made redundant or lost their job.

Another 3% experienced financial hardship – not being able to pay usual expenses such as rent or mortgage, or utility bills.

QC11 Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

¹⁹ Examples listed in the questionnaire were: due to working from home, more flexible schedule.

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

In 20 Member States, the most common type of adversity which respondents experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic was a deterioration in their physical or mental health.

This is reported by around a quarter of respondents in Latvia (26%), and about one in five in the Netherlands and Sweden (both 22%) and Czechia (20%).

In six Member States, the most common problem reported is a reduction in income from work. The countries with the largest shares of respondents reporting this difficulty due to the COVID-19 pandemic are Bulgaria (18%), and Austria and Slovakia (both 16%).

In Hungary, respondents are most likely to say that they experienced a reduction in working hours because of the COVID-19 pandemic (7%).

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

QC11 Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
 (%)



Your physical or mental health deteriorated	13	17	14	20	15	13	17	8	19	11	10	10	11	13	26	12	12	5	18	22	13	9	6	14	16	15	11	22
The income from your job was reduced	8	6	18	8	4	7	7	6	17	12	5	7	12	10	11	10	4	5	11	2	16	5	9	10	12	16	7	7
Your working hours were reduced	8	8	8	5	5	9	8	7	11	9	8	7	10	8	5	3	8	7	5	5	13	4	7	9	3	13	2	7
Your working conditions improved (e.g. due to working from home, more flexible schedule)	6	13	4	7	13	7	10	7	3	2	5	5	5	2	10	3	11	3	11	15	13	4	6	5	5	4	11	20
You were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme	4	6	3	1	3	1	3	5	9	6	5	4	7	1	3	3	4	3	1	1	7	5	3	5	5	6	6	7
You were made redundant or lost your job	3	4	4	3	3	2	3	2	4	4	2	4	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	6	2	3	4	3	5	2	2
You were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday	3	3	8	5	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	5	5	5	2	4	2	3	3	1	4	3	2	5	2	7	2	2
You were not able to pay a usual expense (e.g., rent or mortgage, utility bill)	3	6	4	2	2	2	3	2	6	3	2	5	5	3	3	1	2	3	2	1	5	3	2	6	2	3	2	1
None of the above	66	60	56	63	63	70	60	70	55	65	72	68	62	69	52	71	64	78	62	60	53	73	72	57	67	56	69	53
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

A socio-demographic analysis reveals some patterns of response among the different respondent segments.

Across the age groups, respondents aged 15-24 were the most likely to report that their physical or mental health deteriorated (16%). Meanwhile, respondents aged 25-39 and those 40-54 were more likely to have experienced at least one of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic listed in the survey. This is clear from the fact that 53% of respondents aged 25-39 and 54% of those aged 40-54 select the answer option “none of the above”, compared with 78% of respondents aged 55+ and 73% of those aged 15-24.

Respondents with secondary or university level education were most likely to report that their physical or mental health deteriorated (both 14%) or that their income from their job was reduced (both 10%). Additionally, respondents with post-secondary education were more likely to report that their working

hours were reduced (11%). Respondents with a university education were more likely than all other segments to say that their working conditions improved (14%).

In terms of subjective urbanisation, there is a slight tendency for respondents living in rural areas to report that the income from their job, or their working hours, were reduced (both 10%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time are more likely than other segments to report that their physical or mental health deteriorated (21%). Respondents who experience financial struggles most of the time, along with respondents who experience such difficulties from time to time, were also more likely to say that the income from their job was reduced (11% and 12% respectively), or that their working hours were reduced (both 10%).

QC11 Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
 (% - EU27)

	Your physical or mental health deteriorated	The income from your job was reduced	Your working hours were reduced	Your working conditions improved (e.g. due to working from home, more flexible schedule)	You were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme	You were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday	You were not able to pay a usual expense (e.g. rent or mortgage, utility bill)	You were made redundant or lost your job	None of the above
EU27	13	8	8	6	4	3	3	3	66
Gender									
Man	11	9	9	7	5	3	3	3	64
Woman	13	7	7	6	4	3	3	3	68
Age									
15-24	16	3	5	4	3	2	2	2	73
25-39	14	12	13	10	7	4	4	5	53
40-54	13	13	12	10	7	5	4	4	54
55+	11	5	5	3	2	2	2	2	78
Highest level of education									
Below secondary	9	4	2	0	1	1	3	1	84
Secondary	12	8	8	4	5	3	3	3	68
Post secondary	14	10	11	8	5	3	4	4	62
University	14	10	9	14	4	3	2	2	58
Subjective urbanisation									
Rural village	14	10	10	9	4	4	3	3	61
Small/ mid size town	15	7	8	9	4	3	3	3	65
Large town	12	8	8	5	5	2	3	3	67
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	21	11	10	3	6	4	11	10	52
From time to time	15	12	10	5	6	4	5	4	59
Almost never/ Never	10	6	7	8	4	2	1	2	71

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

In terms of household composition, the data reveal that respondents in households with one adult and children to be most likely to say that their physical or mental health deteriorated (15%). Respondents in households with two or more adults and children are more likely to say that the income from their job was reduced (12%), or that their working hours were reduced (11%), but also that their working conditions improved (10%).

The picture is more complex when the data are analysed by employment status. Self-employed respondents, with and without employees, were most likely to say that the income from their job was reduced (both 29%), while respondents employed through a temporary work agency or online platform most often reported

that their working hours were reduced (23%). Finally, respondents on a short employment contract were more likely to report that their physical or mental health deteriorated (18%).

Respondents who reported that they were unable to pay usual expenses were also the most likely to say that they experienced an adverse physical or mental health impact (33%). Respondents whose working hours were reduced were also the most likely to report a reduction in job revenue (41%), while those forced to take unpaid leave or holiday were the most likely to say that their working hours were reduced (26%).

QC11 Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
 (% - EU27)

	Your physical or mental health deteriorated	The income from your job was reduced	Your working hours were reduced	Your working conditions improved (e.g. due to working from home, more flexible schedule)	You were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme	You were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday	You were not able to pay a usual expense (e.g., rent or mortgage, utility bill)	You were made redundant or lost your job	None of the above
EU27	13	8	8	6	4	3	3	3	66
Household type									
Single adult without children	13	6	7	4	3	2	2	3	71
Single adult with child(ren)	15	7	7	8	4	2	4	5	63
Two or more adults without children	11	7	7	5	4	3	3	2	69
Two or more adults with child(ren)	12	12	11	10	7	4	4	3	56
Employment status									
Employed on an open ended contract	13	11	12	12	8	4	3	2	55
Employed on a short-term contract	18	14	14	7	9	5	6	10	47
Employed with a temporary work agency / an online platform	12	14	23	13	8	10	9	12	32
Self-employed without employees	13	29	17	7	4	6	6	2	47
Self-employed with employees	14	29	19	7	4	6	5	1	46
Unemployed	15	8	5	2	4	2	6	16	59
Retired	10	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	86
Looking after home, inactive	10	3	3	1	1	1	4	2	81
Student	16	3	3	3	1	1	2	1	77
Other	23	29	20	1	3	0	3	2	42
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else									
Total 'Agree'	11	7	8	8	5	3	3	3	67
Neither agree or disagree	11	9	8	6	4	3	3	3	67
Total 'Disagree'	16	10	9	5	4	3	4	4	62
Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?									
You were made redundant or lost your job	20	15	7	6	9	5	16	100	0
The income from your job was reduced	20	100	40	5	12	11	10	5	0
Your working hours were reduced	17	41	100	7	10	9	7	3	0
You were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme	15	24	18	9	100	11	9	6	0
You were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday	25	30	26	9	16	100	10	5	0
You were not able to pay a usual expense (e.g., rent or mortgage, utility bill)	33	29	19	6	14	10	100	15	0
Your physical or mental health deteriorated	100	13	11	8	5	6	8	5	0
Your working conditions improved (e.g. due to working from home, more flexible schedule)	15	7	9	100	6	4	3	3	0
None of the above	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

While in general close to one in five respondents around the EU received at least one type of financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic, the proportion rises to seven in ten for those who suffered work-related adverse impacts from the pandemic

Overall, 19% of respondents across EU Member States say that they received at least one type of financial support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The most common type of financial support was wage support, received by one in twenty.

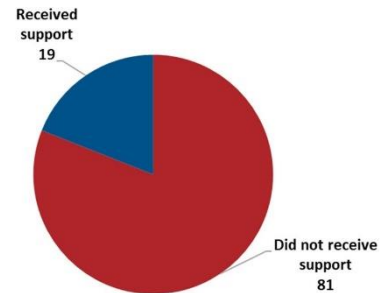
A share of 4% say they received unemployment benefits.

A similar proportion (4%) benefited from state aid to business.

Meanwhile, 3% of respondents report that they received financial support from relatives and/or friends, while 2% received paid sick leave or paid care leave, and another 2% benefited from a deferral, reduction or cancellation of tax, bills, mortgage, loans or other debt payments.

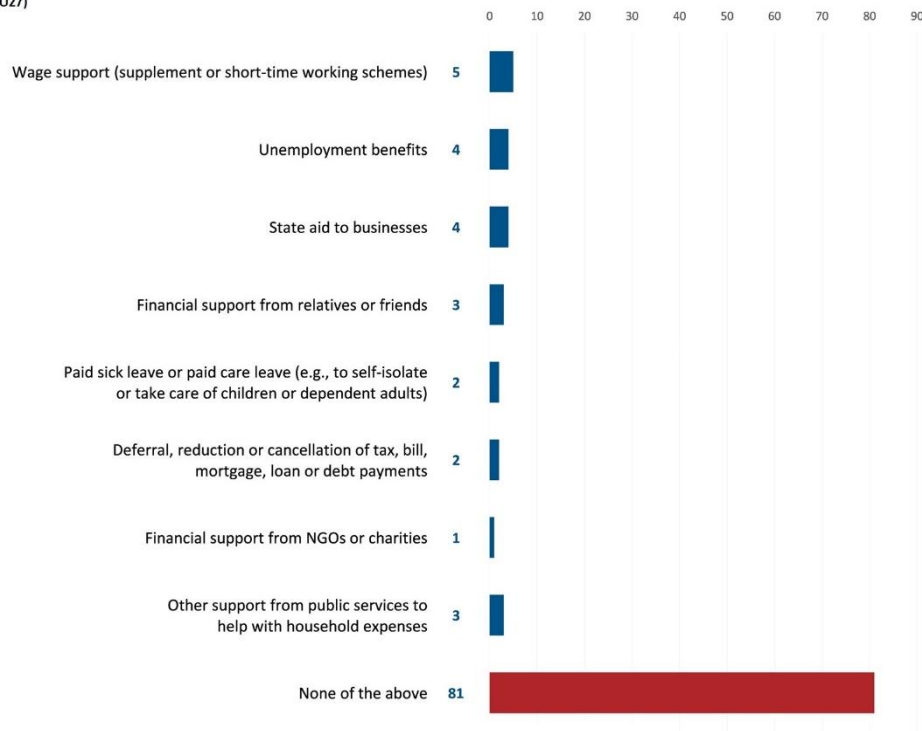
Finally, one in a hundred respondents say that they were financially supported by NGOs or charities.

QC12T Received at least one support
(% - EU27)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

QC12 Which of the following forms of financial support, if any, have you received as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU27)



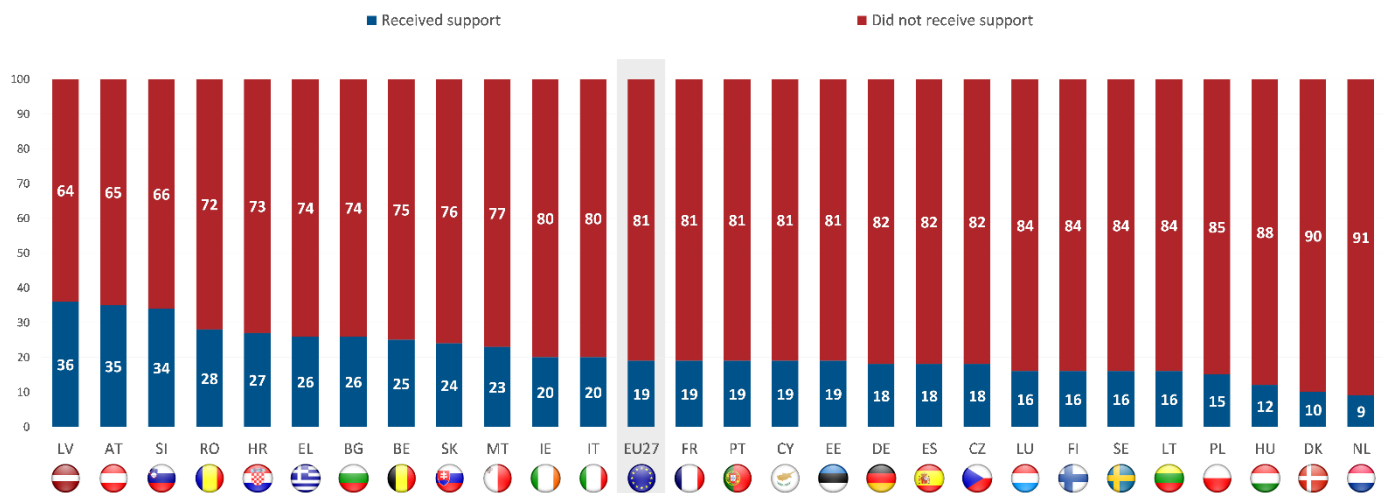
Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

In 12 Member States the share of respondents who received financial support to cope with difficulties stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic is higher than the EU average of 19%. Among these countries, there are three Member States where the proportion of respondents who received support is larger than one

in three: Latvia (36%), Austria (35%) and Slovenia (34%). On the other hand, there are two Member States where the proportion stating that they received financial support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is around one in ten Denmark (10%) and the Netherlands (9%).

QC12T Received at least one support (%)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The socio-demographic analysis highlights a few notable differences between segments in respect of receipt of financial support mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The gender differences are small, men being just slightly more likely (21%, compared with 18% women) to have received financial support.

The differences are more pronounced in terms of different age groups. The segments most likely to have received financial support are the groups aged 25 to 39 (30%) and 40 to 54 years old (26%). It should be noted that the type of financial support considered for

the survey was mostly work-related, so it is more likely to be received by respondents of working age.

In terms of educational attainment, respondents with post-secondary or university education are most likely to say that they received financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic (23%).

Respondents who report difficulties paying their bills most of the times (29%), or from time to time (28%) are much more likely than respondents with no such difficulties (15%) to have obtained financial support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

QC12 Which of the following forms of financial support, if any, have you received as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
 (% - EU27)

	Wage support (supplement or short-time working schemes)	Unemployment benefits	State aid to businesses	Financial support from relatives or friends	Other support from public services to help with household expenses	Paid sick leave or paid care leave (e.g. to self-isolate or take care of children or dependent adults)	Deferral, reduction or cancellation of tax, bill, mortgage, loan or debt payments	Financial support from NGOs or charities	None of the above	Other support from public services to help with household expenses	Total 'Received support'
EU27	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	81	3	19
Gender											
Man	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	1	79	3	21
Woman	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	1	82	3	18
Age											
15-24	3	3	1	5	2	1	1	0	86	2	14
25-39	7	7	6	5	4	4	3	1	70	4	30
40-54	7	6	6	3	3	3	3	1	74	3	26
55+	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	89	2	11
Highest level of education											
Below secondary	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	93	2	7
Secondary	5	4	3	4	3	2	2	1	80	3	20
Post secondary	6	6	5	4	3	3	3	1	77	3	23
University	5	3	5	3	3	2	2	1	80	3	20
Subjective urbanisation											
Rural village	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	1	79	3	21
Small/ mid size town	5	3	4	4	3	2	2	1	81	3	19
Large town	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	81	3	19
Difficulties paying bills											
Most of the time	4	9	4	6	6	3	4	1	71	6	29
From time to time	6	6	5	6	4	3	4	1	72	4	28
Almost never/ Never	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	85	2	15

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Continuing the socio-demographic analysis, the cross-tabulated data show that in terms of household composition, households (whether with one or more adults) which have children are the most likely to have received at least one form of financial support (both 25%).

With respect to employment status, respondents most likely to say that they received financial support are those employed through a temporary work agency or online platform (64%), and self-employed respondents with employees (53%). In addition, those employed through a temporary work agency or online platform are more likely to say they received unemployment benefits (19%) and/or financial support from relatives (15%), whereas self-employed respondents with employees are more likely to have received state aid for businesses (34%).

In terms of the type of pandemic-related difficulties experienced by respondents, at least one form of financial support is reported by those who were made redundant or lost their jobs (71%), those who were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme (70%) and those who said that they were unable to pay usual expenses (64%). More specifically, respondents who were made redundant or lost their job were most likely to receive unemployment benefits (44%) and financial support from relatives (16%); those who were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme were more likely to receive unemployment benefits (25%) and wage support (19%); and finally, those who were unable to pay usual expenses were most likely to receive financial support from relatives (21%) and the deferral, reduction or cancellation of tax, bill, mortgage, loan or debt payments (15%).

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

QC12 Which of the following forms of financial support, if any, have you received as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
 (% - EU27)

	Wage support (supplement or short-time working schemes)	Unemployment benefits	State aid to businesses	Financial support from relatives or friends	Other support from public services to help with household expenses	Paid sick leave or paid care leave (e.g., to self-isolate or take care of children or dependent adults)	Deferral, reduction or cancellation of tax, bill, mortgage, loan or debt payments	Financial support from NGOs or charities	None of the above	Other support from public services to help with household expenses	Total 'Received support'
EU27	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	1	81	3	19
Household type											
Single adult without children	4	4	2	4	2	1	2	0	84	2	16
Single adult with child(ren)	6	5	6	5	5	3	2	1	75	5	25
Two or more adults without children	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	83	2	17
Two or more adults with child(ren)	7	5	6	3	4	4	3	1	75	4	25
Employment status											
Employed on an open ended contract	9	4	4	3	3	4	3	1	76	3	24
Employed on a short-term contract	10	12	4	7	4	6	3	2	65	4	35
Employed with a temporary work agency / an online platform	10	19	5	15	10	12	7	7	35	10	64
Self-employed without employees	3	4	17	4	5	2	7	1	66	5	34
Self-employed with employees	6	4	34	5	4	5	8	3	47	4	53
Unemployed	1	19	3	6	4	2	2	2	68	4	32
Retired	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	94	2	5
Looking after home, inactive	1	2	1	3	4	1	1	0	90	4	10
Student	2	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	91	2	9
Other	6	1	5	5	3	0	10	0	73	3	27
Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?											
You were made redundant or lost your job	6	44	5	16	8	8	8	4	29	8	71
The income from your job was reduced	15	14	15	11	6	6	8	1	42	6	58
Your working hours were reduced	19	10	13	10	7	5	6	2	45	7	55
You were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme	19	25	13	12	7	11	10	4	30	7	70
You were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday	17	13	11	13	12	10	9	4	44	12	56
You were not able to pay a usual expense (e.g., rent or mortgage, utility bill)	8	13	12	21	15	12	15	5	36	15	64
Your physical or mental health deteriorated	9	5	6	9	5	6	4	2	67	5	33
Your working conditions improved (e.g. due to working from home, more flexible schedule)	12	3	8	5	6	6	6	2	68	6	32
None of the above	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	93	1	7
Which of the following forms of financial support, if any, have you received as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?											
Unemployment benefits	6	100	5	11	4	4	4	3	0	4	100
Wage support (supplement or short-time working schemes)	100	5	8	7	4	7	8	2	0	4	100
Paid sick leave or paid care leave (e.g., to self-isolate or take care of children or dependent adults)	14	8	9	8	12	100	12	9	0	12	100
State aid to businesses	10	5	100	7	6	6	12	2	0	6	100
Other support from public services to help with household expenses	6	6	7	10	100	10	10	5	0	100	100
Deferral, reduction or cancellation of tax, bill, mortgage, loan or debt payments	17	8	19	16	13	12	100	6	0	13	100
Financial support from NGOs or charities	9	14	11	20	19	28	17	100	0	19	100
Financial support from relatives or friends	10	14	7	100	9	6	11	5	0	9	100
None of the above	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

4. Opinions on measures

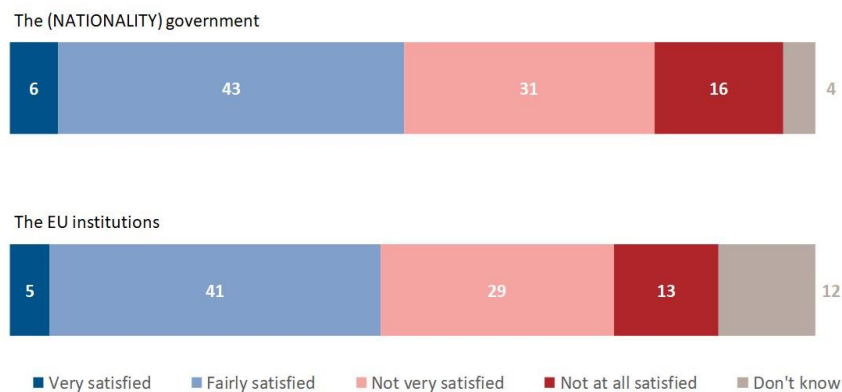
The degree of satisfaction with the measures taken by the national government and the EU institutions to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic suggests that respondents' opinions are divided

Close to half of respondents (49%) say that they are satisfied to some extent with the measures taken by their national government to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, 47% are not satisfied with these measures. Of these, 31% say that they are not very satisfied, and 16% are not satisfied at all.

When it comes to satisfaction with the measures taken by the EU institutions to deal with the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, 46% say that they are satisfied to some degree, while 29% are not very satisfied and 13% are not satisfied at all. Finally, 12% are unable to answer the question.

QC13. In general, how satisfied are you with the measures to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic taken by...
(% - EU27)



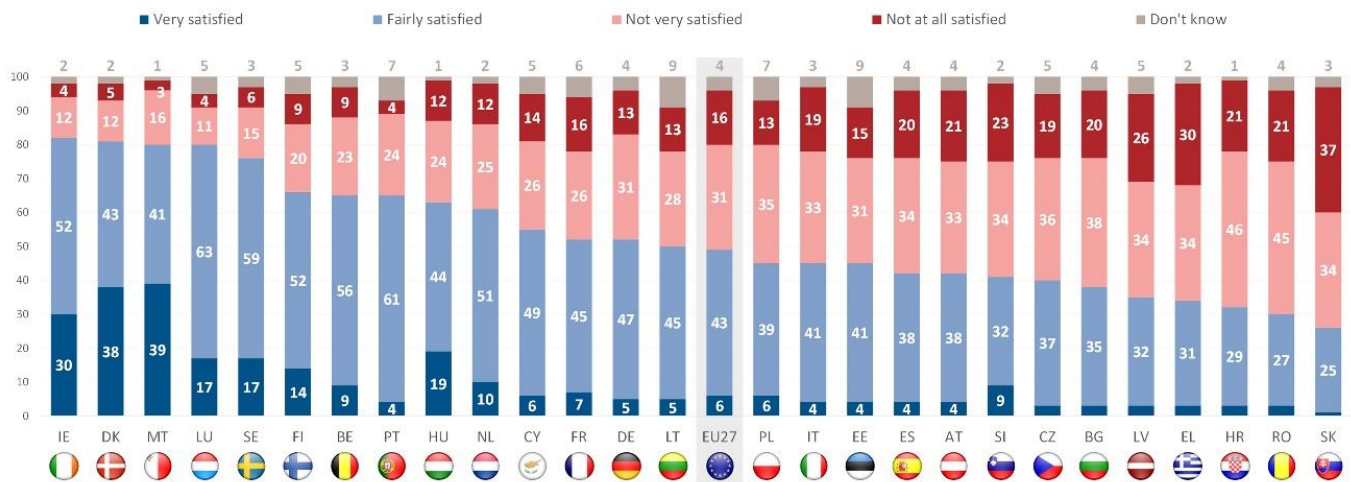
Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The degree of satisfaction with the measures taken by national governments to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic varies widely among the Member States. There are five countries where more than three-quarters of respondents are satisfied with these measures, namely Ireland (82%), Denmark (81%), Luxembourg and Malta (both 80%) and Sweden (76%).

Conversely, there are three countries where less than a third are satisfied with their national government's measures to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These Member States are Croatia (32%), Romania (30%) and Slovakia (26%).

QC13.1 In general, how satisfied are you with the measures to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic taken by...
 (% - The (NATIONALITY) government)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

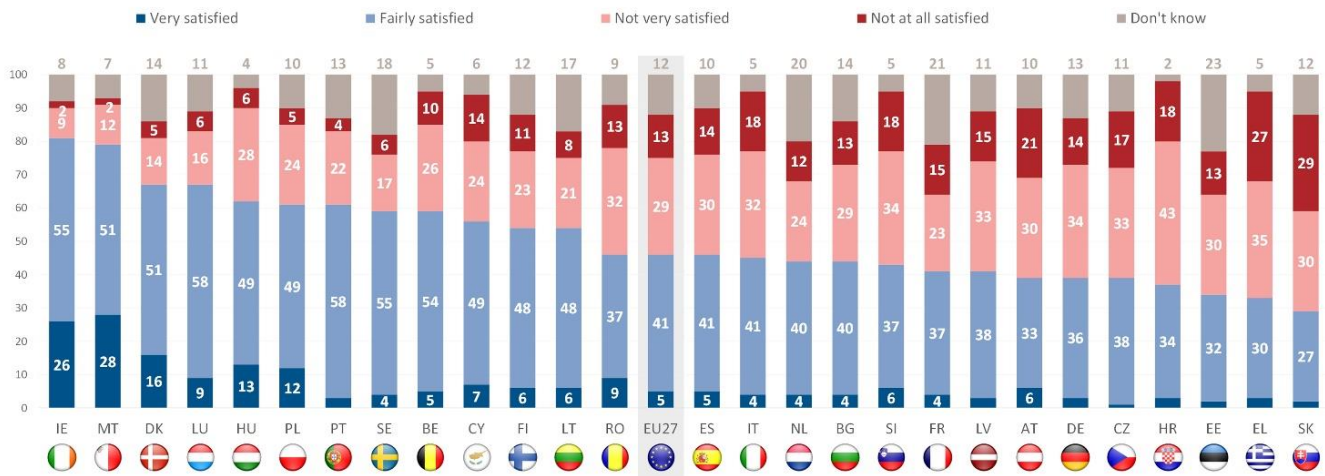
Similarly, satisfaction with the measures taken by the EU institutions to mitigate the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 also varies.

There are 12 Member States where more than half of respondents say that they are satisfied with the actions undertaken by the EU institutions to deal with the consequences of the COVID-19

pandemic, and four Member States where more than two-thirds have similar feelings. These latter four are Ireland (81%), Malta (79%), and Denmark and Luxembourg (both 67%).

On the other hand, satisfaction with the measures taken by the EU institutions to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic reaches its lowest level in Slovakia (29%), Greece (33%) and Estonia (34%).

QC13.2 In general, how satisfied are you with the measures to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic taken by...
 (% - The EU institutions)



Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The socio-demographic analysis reveals some significant tendencies in the degree of satisfaction with the measures undertaken by the national governments and the EU institutions to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While there are no gender differences in this respect, the likelihood that respondents will be satisfied with the measures varies across the age groups and generations. Those aged 55 and older (53%) are the most likely age group to be satisfied with the measures taken by their national government, whereas respondents aged 15-24 are the most likely to be satisfied with the measures taken by the EU institutions to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

When it comes to educational attainment, the segment who are most satisfied with both the measures taken by their national government and the measures taken by the EU institutions are respondents with a university education (56% and 50% respectively), while those most satisfied with the measures undertaken by the EU institutions are those still studying (51%) and those who finished education at the age 20 or later (50%).

Another socio-economic factor that is predictive of satisfaction with the measures taken by the national government and the EU institutions to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is the financial situation of the respondent. Respondents who never or almost never experience financial difficulties are the most likely to be satisfied with the measures taken by both the national government (54%) and the EU institutions (50%).

QC13 In general, how satisfied are you with the measures to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic taken by...
Total 'Satisfied' (%) - EU27)

	The (NATIONALITY) government	The EU institutions
EU27	49	46
 Gender		
Man	49	46
Woman	50	46
 Age		
15-24	47	49
25-39	47	47
40-54	46	45
55 +	53	46
 Highest level of education		
Below secondary	49	43
Secondary	47	45
Post secondary	47	45
University	56	50
 Subjective urbanisation		
Rural village	52	49
Small/ mid size town	53	45
Large town	48	45
 Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	33	30
From time to time	42	40
Almost never/ Never	54	50

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

In terms of employment status, the segments most likely to be satisfied with the measures at EU level are those employed with a temporary work agency or an online platform (54%), retired respondents (54%) and those employed on an open-ended contract (50%).

The analysis of other variables of interest points towards some interesting tendencies.

Respondents with a positive image of the EU are more likely to be satisfied both with the measures taken by the EU institutions to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (63%), and with national government measures (62%). Additionally, those who think that the EU institutions should support national governments to reduce income inequality are more likely to say they are satisfied with the measures taken by the EU institutions to deal with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respondents who agree that, by and large, people in their country get what they deserve (61%), believe that they have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else (60%), and think that most of the things that happen in their life are fair (59%) are all more likely to be satisfied with the measures taken by the national government.

Respondents who agree that their views are taken into account when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services are most likely to be satisfied with measures at national level (62%).

In terms of adverse experiences as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the analysis shows that respondents who were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme are the most likely of those reporting difficulties to say that they are satisfied with the measures implemented by their national government (50%) in response to the pandemic. In contrast, respondents who were made redundant or lost their job and respondents who were unable to pay their usual expenses are the two segments least likely to be satisfied with the measures implemented by their national government (34% and 31% respectively).

A similar picture emerges for the degree of satisfaction with measures taken by the EU institutions to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents who were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme were the most likely among respondents reporting difficulties because of the pandemic to say that they are satisfied by the measures implemented by the EU institutions (51%). Conversely, respondents who were made redundant or lost their job and respondents who were unable to pay their usual expenses report the least satisfaction with the measures taken by the EU institutions (33% and 30% respectively).

In terms of the type of financial support received as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the respondents most satisfied with the measures taken by the national government are those who benefited from deferral, reduction or cancellation of tax, bill, mortgage, loan or debt payments (56%), and those who received paid sick leave or paid care leave (55%). Conversely, the respondents who are least satisfied with these measures are those who relied on unemployment benefits (41%) or financial support from family and friends (40%).

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

QC13 In general, how satisfied are you with the measures to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic taken by...
Total 'Satisfied' (%) - EU27)

	The EU institutions	The (NATIONALITY) government
EU27	49	46
Image of the EU		
Total 'Positive'	62	63
Neutral	42	37
Total 'Negative'	24	16
Employment status		
Employed on an open ended contract	50	47
Employed on a short-term contract	45	43
Employed with a temporary work agency / an online platform	54	43
Self-employed without employees	45	41
Self-employed with employees	46	42
Unemployed	36	36
Retired	54	47
Looking after home, inactive	47	43
Student	49	51
Other	30	27
You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair		
Total 'Agree'	59	58
Neither agree or disagree	49	45
Total 'Disagree'	38	35
You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)		
Total 'Agree'	61	59
Neither agree or disagree	49	47
Total 'Disagree'	38	35
Nowadays in (YOUR COUNTRY) you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else		
Total 'Agree'	60	56
Neither agree or disagree	45	45
Total 'Disagree'	37	33
Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?		
You were made redundant or lost your job	34	33
The income from your job was reduced	41	40
Your working hours were reduced	44	40
You were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme	50	51
You were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday	47	46
You were not able to pay a usual expense (e.g., rent or mortgage, utility bill)	31	30
Your physical or mental health deteriorated	41	35
Your working conditions improved (e.g. due to working from home, more flexible schedule)	62	50
None of the above	52	49
Which of the following forms of financial support, if any, have you received as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?		
Unemployment benefits	41	42
Wage support (supplement or short-time working schemes)	53	49
Paid sick leave or paid care leave (e.g., to self-isolate or take care of children or dependent adults)	55	56
State aid to businesses	52	46
Other support from public services to help with household expenses	51	42
Deferral, reduction or cancellation of tax, bill, mortgage, loan or debt payments	56	52
Financial support from NGOs or charities	53	57
Financial support from relatives or friends	40	40
None of the above	49	46

Base: All respondents (N= 26,395)

CONCLUSION



Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

This report explores European Union citizens' perceptions of fairness and equality, their attitudes toward income inequality in their country, and their support for redistributive policies. It also analyses public opinion about national spending increases on public benefits programmes, looking particularly at whether certain social policy areas should receive increased national budget allocations or not. The report also presents figures for assessing intergenerational educational mobility. Finally, the analysis investigates an array of potential personal consequences brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the financial impact it may have had on respondents, and sources of assistance they may have received.

A similar survey on fairness, inequality and intergenerational mobility was conducted in December 2017²⁰. Hence, where possible, the report compares the results over time, revealing important trend variations in public opinion.

When asked about their perceptions of fairness and equality, relative majorities of respondents agree that, overall, things that happen in their lives are fair and that they have equal opportunities like everyone else in their country. Compared with 2017, however, the levels of agreement with these fairness aspects have decreased markedly. The downward trend is observed in all EU Member States except for Romania.

Furthermore, respondents are more likely to disagree than agree that people in their country get what they deserve. Trends suggest an increasing divergence among public opinions across EU Member States: in some countries, agreement levels decreased substantially, but in others they increased, or stayed relatively stable.

Against this backdrop, around eight in ten respondents think that differences in people's incomes are too large, and that their national government should take measures to reduce this gap. More than seven in ten respondents believe that national governments should be supported in doing so by the European institutions. In fact, more than half the respondents agree that it is an important task for their national government to tax the rich in order to support the poor.

Large variations in opinion about fairness and equality are observed when comparing the results for different socio-demographic segments. In this respect, notable patterns emerged showing that individuals reporting financial difficulties²¹,²², along with respondents with lower educational achievement, are the most likely to report perceptions of social inequality, large income discrepancies in their country, and feelings of not having equal opportunities like others.

The survey also investigated opinions about how important certain factors are for getting ahead in life. As in 2017, vast

majorities of EU citizens believe that "a good education" and "hard work" are essential or important to succeed in life. These two factors continue to be perceived as the most important for success in life.

In view of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan presented in 2021 and at a time when Member States are working towards achievement of their stated targets of building a "Europe that is fair, inclusive and full of opportunity"²³, social welfare spending forms an important focus of the survey. Respondents were shown the actual annual allocations for key social policy areas and asked if they would like their national government spend more, the same, or less on public benefits programmes in those areas. Large proportions would prefer their national government to spend more on most of such programmes. Respondents would especially increase national budget allocations for health, long-term care, and education, but also for pensions, housing, income support, and family benefits. Overall, the majority of respondents are in favour of increasing taxes and social security contributions to support these additional expenses. However, opinions on how the burden should be borne by households are divided across the EU Member States. Relative majorities think that the additional expense should be borne by wealthier households or met in proportion to household income.

As the survey prompted respondents to reply to questions about their educational attainment and those of their parents and grandparents, it was possible to analyse insights related to intergenerational education mobility. In this regard, a majority of respondents have achieved higher levels of education than their parents and grandparents.

The report concludes with a chapter on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on respondents and related questions. The data indicate that three in ten respondents have experienced one or several types of difficulties because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The most common type of difficulty was a deterioration of physical or mental health, with other adverse impacts being mostly related to loss of revenue or employment. At the same time, some respondents report an improvement in working conditions as a result of the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of measures undertaken by national governments and EU institutions to limit the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents were asked how satisfied they are with such actions. Overall, close to half of respondents are satisfied with the response of both their national government and the EU institutions to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak.

²⁰ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2166>

²¹ As captured by the question on difficulties paying bills.

²² As captured by the question on the total disposable monthly income of the household.

²³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en

Technical Specifications

Between the 30th of May and 28th of June 2022, Kantar carried out wave 97.4 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit.

Wave 97.4 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The basic sample design applied in all countries and territories is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas²⁴.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). If no one answered the interviewer in a household, or if the respondent selected was not available (not present or busy), the interviewer revisited the same household up to three additional times (four contact attempts in total). Interviewers never indicate that the survey is conducted on behalf of the European Commission beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands, Finland, and Sweden. In these countries, a sample of addresses within each areal sampling point (1km² grid) were selected from the address or population register (in Finland, selection is not done in all sample points, but in some where response rates are expected to improve). The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey. In the Netherlands, a dual frame RDD sample (mobile and landline numbers) are used. The selection of numbers on both frames is done in a random manner with each number getting an equal probability of selection. Unlike Sweden and Finland, the sample is un-clustered.

²⁴ Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA
(<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background>)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27
BE	Belgium	Mobiel Centre Market Research	1,004	30/05/2022	28/06/2022	9,915,439	2.53%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,027	30/05/2022	26/06/2022	6,094,974	1.55%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar Czechia	1,002	31/05/2022	26/06/2022	9,190,342	2.34%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1,004	31/05/2022	21/06/2022	4,994,008	1.27%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1,520	01/06/2022	22/06/2022	74,162,306	18.89%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Estonia	1,001	31/05/2022	27/06/2022	1,145,208	0.29%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1,022	02/06/2022	27/06/2022	4,039,401	1.03%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1,015	31/05/2022	25/06/2022	9,568,462	2.44%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1,005	02/06/2022	26/06/2022	42,022,835	10.70%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1,001	31/05/2022	23/06/2022	57,553,554	14.66%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,001	31/05/2022	26/06/2022	3,569,904	0.91%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1,028	01/06/2022	22/06/2022	54,102,101	13.78%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	504	31/05/2022	16/06/2022	759,844	0.19%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,000	30/05/2022	20/06/2022	1,649,459	0.42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1,000	30/05/2022	26/06/2022	2,445,153	0.62%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS Ilres	505	31/05/2022	26/06/2022	538,288	0.14%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,031	01/06/2022	20/06/2022	8,547,786	2.18%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	503	30/05/2022	21/06/2022	455,041	0.12%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Netherlands	1,039	30/05/2022	20/06/2022	15,067,518	3.84%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1,011	30/05/2022	14/06/2022	7,844,329	2.00%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1,014	31/05/2022	23/06/2022	32,904,839	8.38%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1,000	01/06/2022	26/06/2022	9,221,533	2.35%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Piete (CSOP)	1,056	30/05/2022	24/06/2022	16,701,193	4.25%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,009	31/05/2022	20/06/2022	1,834,195	0.47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Czechia	1,004	31/05/2022	19/06/2022	4,677,729	1.19%
FI	Finland	Taloustutkimus Oy	1,044	31/05/2022	26/06/2022	4,805,266	1.22%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1,045	31/05/2022	26/06/2022	8,756,024	2.23%
TOTAL EU27			26,395	30/05/2022	28/06/2022	392,566,731	100%

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding.

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAWI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium	689	315	1,004
BG	Bulgaria	1,027		1,027
CZ	Czechia	600	402	1,002
DK	Denmark	505	499	1,004
DE	Germany	1,520		1,520
EE	Estonia	865	136	1,001
IE	Ireland	1,022		1,022
EL	Greece	1,015		1,015
ES	Spain	1,005		1,005
FR	France	1,001		1,001
HR	Croatia	1,001		1,001
IT	Italy	1,028		1,028
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	504		504
LV	Latvia	412	588	1,000
LT	Lithuania	1,000		1,000
LU	Luxembourg	505		505
HU	Hungary	1,031		1,031
MT	Malta	308	195	503
NL	Netherlands	639	400	1,039
AT	Austria	1,011		1,011
PL	Poland	1,014		1,014
PT	Portugal	1,000		1,000
RO	Romania	1,056		1,058
SI	Slovenia	601	408	1,009
SK	Slovakia	1,004		1,004
FI	Finland	503	541	1,044
SE	Sweden	433	612	1,045
TOTAL EU27		22,299	4,096	26,395

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

CAWI : Computer-Assisted Web interviewing

Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork

Face-to-face interviewing

Where feasible, interviews were conducted face to face in people's homes or on their doorstep and in the appropriate national language. In all countries and territories where face-to-face interviewing was not feasible CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing) was used.

For face-to-face all interviews conducted, hygiene and physical distancing measures were respected at all times in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, in order to stay outside and maintain social distance.

Face-to-face and online interviewing

In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland and Sweden, face-to-face interviewing was feasible, but it was not possible to reach the target number of face-to-face interviews within the fieldwork period due to the long lasting impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, many potential respondents are still reluctant to open their homes to interviewers, even if they respect hygiene rules and physical distancing, such as wearing masks and using hydroalcoholic gel. Therefore, to hit the target number of interviews within the fieldwork period, additional interviews were conducted online with Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique.

Recruitment for online interviews

The online design in each country differed based on what was feasible within the fieldwork period. Where feasible, the online sample was based on a probabilistic sample design. Those recruited to the online survey were recruited through a single mobile frame or dual frame Random Digit Dialling (RDD) design. In this way the entire phone owning population in each country had a non-zero chance of being sampled. The choice of whether to use a single mobile frame or dual frame (mobile and landline) was dependent on the countries' landline infrastructure. Where the landline infrastructure is suitably advanced to support a significant minority of residential households with landline phones a dual frame design is employed. The mix of mobile and landline sample is designed to maximise the representation of the responding sample. The RDD sample for both the mobile and landline sample is drawn from the country's telephone numbering plan. The landline sample frame is stratified by NUTS3 regions based on their prefix and the mobile by operator before a systematic random sample of numbers is generated proportional in size to the total generatable numbers in each stratum. Respondents were recruited using this sample design in Belgium, Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovenia.

In Finland, Denmark, and Sweden, RDD samples were not used, instead the telephone sample was drawn from the country telephone directory. In these three countries the telephone directories offer comprehensive coverage of the phone owning population, storing both landline and mobile phone numbers for each individual.

In the Netherlands, two survey modes were used to collect responses, face to face and online. For the online mode, the respondents were initially recruited to take part through an offline mode of recruitment via a probability-based dual frame overlapping RDD sample design. In this way the entire phone owning population in the Netherlands had a non-zero chance of being sampled. The mix of mobile and landline sample is designed to maximise the representation of the responding sample. The RDD sample for both the mobile and landline sample is drawn from the country's telephone numbering plan. The landline sample frame is stratified by NUTS3 regions based on their prefix and the mobile by operator before a systematic random sample of numbers is generated proportional in size to the total generatable numbers in each stratum.

Response rates

For each country a comparison between the responding sample and the universe (i.e. the overall population in the country) is carried out. Weights are used to match the responding sample to the universe on gender by age, region and degree of urbanisation. For European estimates (i.e. EU average), an adjustment is made to the individual country weights, weighting them up or down to reflect their 15+ population as a proportion of the EU 15+ population.

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

The response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete interviews with the number of all the addresses visited, apart from ones that are not eligible but including those where eligibility is unknown. For wave 97.4 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar, are:

	COUNTRIES	CAPI Response rates	CAWI Response rates
BE	Belgium	59.0%	16.4%
BG	Bulgaria	45.2%	
CZ	Czechia	44.8%	34.3%
DK	Denmark	46.3%	16.1%
DE	Germany	22.6%	
EE	Estonia	40.0%	17.1%
IE	Ireland	49.8%	
EL	Greece	29.2%	
ES	Spain	34.1%	
FR	France	32.3%	
HR	Croatia	44.1%	
IT	Italy	24.4%	
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	50.1%	
LV	Latvia	44.4%	17.9%
LT	Lithuania	43.6%	
LU	Luxembourg	24.4%	
HU	Hungary	64.4%	
MT	Malta	73.0%	24.3%
NL	Netherlands	66.3%	41.3%
AT	Austria	44.8%	
PL	Poland	45.3%	
PT	Portugal	39.1%	
RO	Romania	61.2%	
SI	Slovenia	54.1%	29.4%
SK	Slovakia	66.0%	
FI	Finland	34.8%	28.8%
SE	Sweden	65.3%	23.4%

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

CAWI : Computer-Assisted Web interviewing (CAWI RRs do not include the recruitment phase)

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Margins of error

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process
(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1	N=1000
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

QUESTIONNAIRE

Q1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

(SHOW SCREEN WITH SCALE - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER PER LINE - RANDOMISE ORDER OF ITEMS)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	DK
1	You believe that most of the things that happen in your life are fair	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	You believe that, by and large, people get what they deserve in (YOUR COUNTRY)	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Nowadays in [YOUR COUNTRY] you have equal opportunities for getting ahead in life, like everyone else	1	2	3	4	5	6

TREND EB88.4 QA1b 1.5 QU

Q2 How well do the following statements describe you as a person?

Please answer using a scale from 0 to 10 where “0” means it “does not describe you at all” and “10” means it “describes you perfectly”.

(SHOW SCREEN WITH SCALE - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

		Does not describe you at all														Describes you perfectly	Not Applicable (SP.)	Refusal (SP.)	DK
1	You assume that people have only the best intentions	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	77	88	99				

NEW 1.5QU

Q3 How important do you think each of the following are for getting ahead in life?

(SHOW SCREEN WITH SCALE – READ OUT - ONE ANSWER PER LINE – RANDOMISE ORDER OF ITEMS)

		Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all	DK
1	Coming from a wealthy family	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Having a good education	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Working hard	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Being born a man or a woman	1	2	3	4	5	6

TREND EB88.4 QA2 2 QU

Q4 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

(SHOW SCREEN WITH SCALE – READ OUT - ONE ANSWER PER LINE – RANDOMISE ORDER OF ITEMS BUT KEEP Q4.1 Q4.2 AND Q4.3 ONE AFTER THE OTHER)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	DK
1	Nowadays in [OUR COUNTRY] differences in people's incomes are too great	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	The (NATIONALITY) government should take measures to reduce differences in income levels.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	The EU institutions should support the (NATIONALITY) government to reduce differences in income levels	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	You feel the (NATIONALITY) government takes into account the views of people like you when designing or reforming public benefits programmes and services	1	2	3	4	5	6

Items 1&2 TREND EB88.4 QA1D

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Q5a Thinking about the taxes and social security contributions you might have to pay, would you like to see the (NATIONALITY) government spend less, spend the same, or spend more in each of the following areas?
 To allow for an informed choice, we indicate on the screen the current yearly amount spent for each policy in (YOUR COUNTRY) per inhabitant.
 Note: these amounts do not represent what the final beneficiary receives.

RESPONDENT SHOULD BE SHOWN THE CURRENT SPENDING FIGURES FOR ALL ITEMS IN ONE SCREEN AND THEN PROCEED TO ANSWER TO EACH SUBQUESTION. CURRENT SPENDING FIGURES ON THE ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION SHOULD REMAIN VISIBLE (SHOW SCREEN)

	Figures provided in Q5_Spending_perc X1 (country specific)
Family policies (e.g. parental leave, child care benefits)	
Education (e.g. schools, universities, adult education services)	X2
Unemployment support (e.g. unemployment benefits, training schemes for the unemployed)	X3
Income support (e.g. cash benefits for low-income earners and socially excluded persons)	X4
Health (e.g. public hospitals, subsidised health insurance, mental health services)	X5
Pensions (e.g. old age pensions, disability pensions, survivors pensions)	X6
Long-term care (e.g. nursing care assistance for older persons at home or in nursing homes)	X7
Culture (e.g. museums, theatres, historical sites)	X8
Housing (e.g. social housing services, housing benefit, housing development)	X9

Q5b Thinking about the taxes and social security contributions you might have to pay, would you like to see the (NATIONALITY) government spend less, spend the same, or spend more in each of the following areas?
 To allow for an informed choice, we indicate on the screen the current yearly amount spent for each policy in (YOUR COUNTRY) per inhabitant.
 Note: these amounts do not represent what the final beneficiary receives.

(SHOW SCREEN WITH SCALE - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

		Spend much more	Spend more	Keep spending at current level	Spend less	Spend much less	DK
1	Family policies (e.g. parental leave, child care benefits) Current yearly spending per inhabitant: X1 (NATIONAL CURRENCY)	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Education (e.g. schools, universities, adult education services) Current yearly spending per inhabitant: X2 (NATIONAL CURRENCY)	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Unemployment support (e.g. unemployment benefits, training schemes for the unemployed) Current yearly spending per inhabitant: X3 (NATIONAL CURRENCY)	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Income support (e.g. cash benefits for low-income earners and socially excluded persons) Current yearly spending per inhabitant: X4 (NATIONAL CURRENCY)	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Health (e.g. public hospitals, subsidised health insurance, mental health services) Current yearly spending per inhabitant: X5 (NATIONAL CURRENCY)	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Pensions (e.g. old age pensions, disability pensions, survivors pensions) Current yearly spending per inhabitant: X6 (NATIONAL CURRENCY)	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Long-term care (e.g. nursing care assistance for older persons at home or in nursing homes) Current yearly spending per inhabitant: X7 (NATIONAL CURRENCY)	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Culture (e.g. museums, theatres, historical sites) Current yearly spending per inhabitant: X8 (NATIONAL CURRENCY)	1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Housing (e.g. social housing services, housing benefit, housing development) Current yearly spending per inhabitant: X9 (NATIONAL CURRENCY)	1	2	3	4	5	6

NEW 4.5 QU

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Q6 Some people might want to increase the government spending on several programmes. If you think that the overall spending should increase, how should the additional cost be financed?
(SHOW SCREEN - READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY – RANDOMIZE THE ORDER OF THE ANSWERS EXCEPT ITEM 1)

No, you don't think the overall spending should increase	1
The budget for other public programmes should be reduced and no additional effort should be asked of households	2
The additional cost should be distributed equally among households	3
The additional cost should be distributed proportionally to household income	4
The additional cost should be mainly asked of wealthy households	5
The budget deficit should be increased and no additional effort should be asked of households	6
Other (SP.)	7
Don't know	8

NEW 1 QU

Q7 What is the highest level of education that ... successfully completed? If you don't know the exact level of education, please give your best approximation.

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT– ONE ANSWER ONLY)

	No education completed	Primary school	Lower secondary education	Upper secondary education	Post- secondary non- tertiary education	Short cycle tertiary education	Bachelor or equivalent	Master or equivalent	Doctoral or equivalent	Not applicable (SP.)	DK
Your mother	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Your father	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Your maternal grandfather	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Your paternal grandfather	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

NEW 3 QU

Q8 Did your grandparents look after you on some regular basis when you were 8 years old?

Here, we mean before or after school, in the evening, or at the weekend. It doesn't matter whose house it was at and whether both or only one grandparent was involved.

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT– ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

	No, both my grandfather and grandmother were deceased	No, they were living too far away	No, other reasons	Yes, but only rarely	Yes, about once a month	Yes, about 2- 3 times a month	Yes, about once a week	Yes, more than once a week	DK
1 Your maternal grandparents	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2 Your paternal grandparents	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

NEW 1 QU

Q9 Who did mainly care for you during daily hours (e.g. 9 am and 5 pm) ...

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT– ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

	Nursery /preschool	Nanny/ babysitter	Your mother	Your father	Your maternal grandparent(s)	Your paternal grandparent(s)	Friends or other relatives	Don't remember (SP.)	DK
when you were 2 years old?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
when you were 4 years old	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

NEW 1 QU

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

Q10 **As a child, to which of the following did you have access? You may select all answers that apply**
(SHOW SCREEN - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE - RANDOMISE ORDER OF ITEMS EXCEPT NONE OF THE ABOVE)

Medical check-ups on a regular basis	1
Healthy food on a daily basis	2
Adequate housing for you and your family	3
Books to read at home	4
A safe and stimulating learning environment at school	5
A family-owned second home or summer house	6
None of the above	7
Don't know	8

NEW 1 QU

Q11 **Which of the following, if any, happened to you as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?**
(SHOW SCREEN - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE - RANDOMISE ORDER OF ITEMS EXCEPT NONE OF THE ABOVE)

You were made redundant or lost your job	1
The income from your job was reduced	2
Your working hours were reduced	3
You were furloughed or placed in a job retention scheme	4
You were forced to take unpaid leave or holiday	5
You were not able to pay a usual expense (e.g., rent or mortgage, utility bill)	6
Your physical or mental health deteriorated	7
Your working conditions improved (e.g. due to working from home, more flexible schedule)	8
None of the above	9
Don't know	10

NEW 1 QU

Q12 **Which of the following forms of financial support, if any, have you received as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?**
(SHOW SCREEN - READ OUT – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE - RANDOMISE ORDER OF ITEMS EXCEPT NONE OF THE ABOVE)

Unemployment benefits	1
Wage support (supplement or short-time working schemes)	2
Paid sick leave or paid care leave (e.g., to self-isolate or take care of children or dependent adults)	3
State aid to businesses	4
Other support from public services to help with household expenses	5
Deferral, reduction or cancellation of tax, bill, mortgage, loan or debt payments	6
Financial support from NGOs or charities	7
Financial support from relatives or friends	8
None of the above	9
Don't know	10

NEW 1 QU

Q13 **In general, how satisfied are you with the measures to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic taken by...**

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

		Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied	DK
1	The (NATIONALITY) government	1	2	3	4	9
2	The EU institutions	1	2	3	4	9

NEW 1 QU

Q16 **Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.** Please answer using a scale from 1 to 10 where “1” means you “strongly agree” and “10” means you “strongly disagree”.

Special Eurobarometer 529
Fairness, inequality, and intergenerational mobility
May – June 2022

(SHOW SCREEN WITH SCALE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE - RANDOMISE ORDER OF ITEMS)

		Strongly agree					Strongly disagree					Refusal (SP.)	DK
1	An important task of the government is to tax the rich in order to support the poor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99
2	Large differences in people's incomes are acceptable to properly reward differences in talents and efforts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88	99

NEW 1.5 QU

