

Youth Study from

 TUI STIFTUNG



# YOUNG EUROPE 2024

**This is how people between  
16 and 26 years of age think**

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# Young Europe 2024: About the study

- TUI Stiftung has carried out the “Young Europe” study since 2017 to better understand the living environment, identity and political attitudes of young people across Europe.
- Between 06/03/2024 and 19/03/2024, junge young people were surveyed in the following countries: Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Poland.  
In the context of the EU elections, the survey of young people in the UK was omitted this year. Accordingly, the results at overall level from previous years were recalculated without the results from the UK in order to enable a comparison of the current wave with the previous waves.
- A total of 5.874 young people aged between 16 and 26 were surveyed online in 2024:
  - In previous years, 6.000 (Jahr 2017), 6.080 (Jahr 2018), 6.192 (Jahr 2019), 6.011 (Jahr 2020), 6.253 (Jahr 2021), 6.228 (Jahr 2022) and 7.085 (2023) young people from Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Poland were surveyed.
  - Participants were recruited on a representative basis in each country based on age, gender and education, taking actual distribution within each country into account.
  - Results were also weighted based on age, gender and education for analysis in order to balance out minor deviations. Results shown across all countries were additionally weighted such that each country is given the same weighting.
- This report presents results both for the individual countries and across all seven countries (“overall”).



# Young Europe 2023: Who took part in the study?

## Where were the participants in the study recruited?

- All participants were recruited from YouGov's in-house online panels.

## What is an online panel?

- It is possible to register for a YouGov panel by entering an email address and additional personal data. These people are then regularly invited to online surveys via email.
- In principle, anyone can register to become part of a YouGov panel. Panel members are the sampling frame for recruiting target groups and samples.
- YouGov uses different channels to gain members for the panel (e.g. public relations, search engines, email campaigns, co-registration, word-of-mouth recommendations or similar). In addition, YouGov also targets people from under-represented population segments within the panel.
- Panel members use email and double opt-in to identify themselves. Panel quality is also ensured based on technical measures and on response behaviour.

## How was the sample recruited?

- Quota samples are recruited in this study.
- People are recruited for the sample using a representative quota scheme. The quota scheme is prepared based on official statistics (basis for representative recruitment: EUROSTAT, <https://ec.europa.eu/CensusHub2/>).
- Samples in each country are carried out representatively based on age, gender and education.
- Participants are invited via email. A fully automated, randomised process (turbo-sampling) is used that takes individual participant behaviour into account when selecting participants.

### Comparison studies: Representative population survey in Germany

- This year, a selection of the questions from the Young Europe Study was also asked as part of a representative population survey in Germany.
- All participants were recruited from the German YouGov panel.
- A total of 2,002 respondents aged 18 + were surveyed online.
- Survey period 11-13 March 2024

**2024**

# Young Europe 2024

## Subdued expectations for the future and democracies at risk

- In most of the countries surveyed, there has been no recovery this year with regard to young people's future prospects. Around one third of young Europeans (34%) have a pessimistic view of the future. This shows that the numerous global and national crises continue to burden young people and place them under pressure.
- For the respondents, the most urgent problem at a European level is now the topic of migration, pushing the most important topic over the last few years, climate change, into second place by a significant margin. At the same time, some young respondents are critical towards migration.
- At a national level, young people perceive a high level of societal tension, mainly between the left and right. In addition, many are dissatisfied with the state of democracy in their country.
- With this in mind, democracies are often not perceived to be secure. Almost one half of respondents observe anti-democratic behaviour in their own country. Overall, around two in five respondents consider democracy to be at risk in their country.

## Can democracy survive in the young generation?

- Young Europeans care about what political system they live and grow up in. They see big strengths in democracy as a system of government and are at least partly interested in politics.
- The young generation is not a politically homogeneous group, however, and its political orientation varies.

- Furthermore, they are increasingly confident in their own ability to engage in politics and a high internalisation of basic democratic values is present.
- Young people consider the ability to form independent opinions and tolerate different opinions to be part of the ideal conception of good citizenship. The majority consider voting to be a citizen's obligation and this is viewed as an effective method for change.
- However, young Europeans often feel at a disadvantage compared to older people and insufficiently represented in politics. The frustration about this seems to make young people receptive to populist arguments.
- In addition, trust in national politics is at a very low level.

## Consistent view of Europe and the EU

- Unlike national politics, young Europeans have a comparatively high level of trust in EU institutions, and a consistent attitude towards the EU. Young respondents are still generally in favour of stronger integration between the member states, although this is declining in some cases compared to the past.
- And the strengths also outweigh the weaknesses with regard to the EU. The most important achievements for young respondents are the freedom to travel and the underlying European core values. However, the EU is considered to have relatively little power in the world and the EU election is also perceived by respondents to be less relevant than national elections.
- Young Europeans share a lot of attitudes across country borders, but in some areas, there are also considerable differences.

# The role of the EU

# The role of the EU I

## Identification with Europe and perceived closeness to the EU

- Young Europeans continue to show a comparatively **high identification with Europe**: Three in five respondents (59%) describe themselves at least partly European. This percentage is even higher in Italy (68%), Spain (65%) and Greece (65%).
- Only in Poland do the majority of respondents describe themselves as exclusively Polish (55%). A comparison over time in Poland also shows that the percentage of those who associate with a purely national identity has strongly increased compared to last year (2023: 45%) and two years ago (2022: 25%). In Spain too, the percentage of those who consider themselves to be exclusively Spanish has an increasing trend (2024: 16%, 2023: 13%). In Germany, on the other hand, a slight drop in the purely national identity (from 28% in 2023 to 25% in 2024) and an increase in the hybrid identity (from 53% in 2023 to 58% in 2024) was recorded. The results in the other countries were predominantly consistent when compared over time.
- When asked how many kilometres there were between the respective national capital and the European capital of Brussels, the **mean estimated difference was lower in almost all countries surveyed** than the actual distance between the cities. In France (+26 kilometres) and Spain (-8 kilometres) the mean estimate was very close to the actual distance. The average answer for the distance between the respective cities and Berlin was predominantly estimated to be lower than the actual distance. This underestimation of the distance may indicate a perceived closeness to the EU.

- Despite an overall really positive view of the EU compared to national politics, this is still rated as more important for individuals and the European election is considered to **predominantly be a secondary election**: while 68 percent consider the national elections to be (quite) important, only 58 percent say this about the European election. The self-reported willingness to vote compared to actual participation in voting is slightly above average at 58 percent at the last European election.

## Young respondents value freedoms above all as the most important achievement of the EU

- Freedom of movement in the EU is an important plus point for young Europeans: one half (49%) cite the freedom to travel as one of the most important achievements of the EU. Almost two in five respondents also mention free working and studying in the EU (42%), the joint currency (38%) and Erasmus programme (37%). The EU basic values follow in 4th and 5th place: peace and solidarity (35%), democracy, human rights and the rule of law (32%). When specifically asked about the **most important achievements of the European Union**, the freedom to travel is still in first place (15%), but this time it is closely followed by democracy, human rights and the rule of law as well as peace and solidarity (13% each).
- Compared with the results of the representative survey of the German population, it is notable that fewer young German people surveyed consider peace and solidarity to be the most important achievement (18% youth sample versus 23% representative sample population). The results representative of the population also show that this aspect is mentioned considerably more frequently with increasing age.



# The role of the EU II

## The majority see big strengths of the EU

- For the majority of the young respondents, **the strengths outweigh** the weaknesses of the EU: over half (53%) totally or mainly agree with the statement that the EU has big strengths. Despite this: one third (in Germany and France 33% each) up to over half (in Greece 54%) of respondents see (quite) big weaknesses of the EU.
- Within the respondents from southern European countries, the evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses is polarized: 54 percent of Greeks, 45 percent of Spanish and 43 percent of Italians (mainly) agree with the statement the EU has big weaknesses. At the same time, 52 percent of Greeks, 61 percent of Spanish and 56 percent of Italians also (mainly) agree with the statement the EU has big strengths.

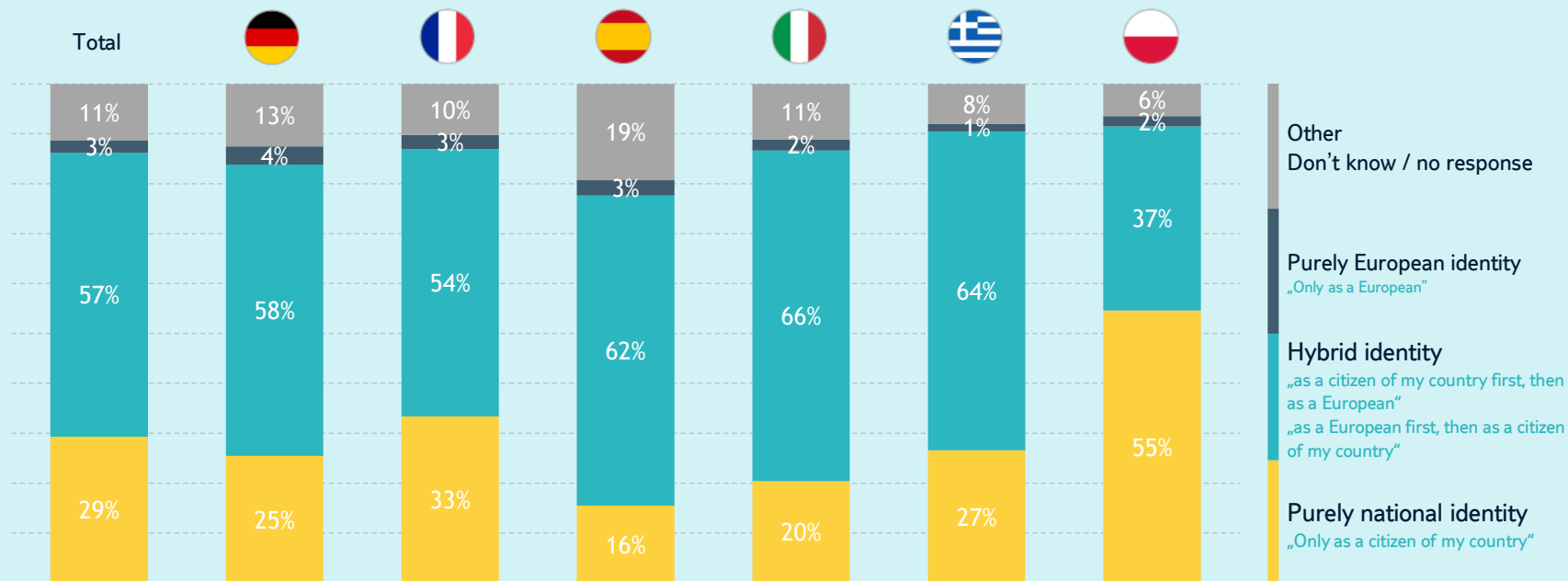
## Less EU integration expected than wanted

- With the exception of Poland (50%) and Greece (47%) over half of respondents from the countries surveyed feel that the **membership of their country in the EU is a good thing**. The popularity of EU membership is the highest in Germany at 65 percent.
- Furthermore, four in ten European respondents (39%) would like **closer links between the EU countries** and more shared responsibilities given to the EU. However, this statement and the associated enthusiasm for deeper integration cannot be assumed in all countries: The popularity in Poland is the lowest: only 31 percent here would like closer links.

- In addition, since 2019 there has been a slightly decreasing trend overall. The percentage of those who consider the current relationship to be just right has slightly increased at the same time. The **decline in the desire for more integration** is strongest in Poland (difference of 10 percentage points), but a drop can also be observed in Spain, Greece and Italy. While in Italy and Greece, the percentage of those who feel that the current relationship is just right is growing, this percentage is tending to drop in Spain and Poland.
- When you compare what people want for European integration against the expectation of those surveyed for integration of the member states in the next five years, then a **big difference between preferences and expectations** becomes apparent: With the exception of Poland, the majority respondents from all countries want closer links between member states (39%), than they actually expect for the next five years (30%). A retrospective view of the last five years could offer an explanation for this: only 29 percent of respondents would say that the links between the member states have become closer in the last five years. So the specific view in the future could also be coloured by realism: young people perceive that the integration process is stagnating.
- With these findings in mind, it is not surprising that despite a predominantly positive evaluation, young respondents perceive the EU as **not a particularly powerful player** in the international world order: overall, at 44%, the EU lands in fourth place in the most powerful players behind the USA (78%), China (69%) and Russia (51%). Only respondents in Germany (50%) and Poland (46%) place the EU within the top three most powerful players ahead of Russia.

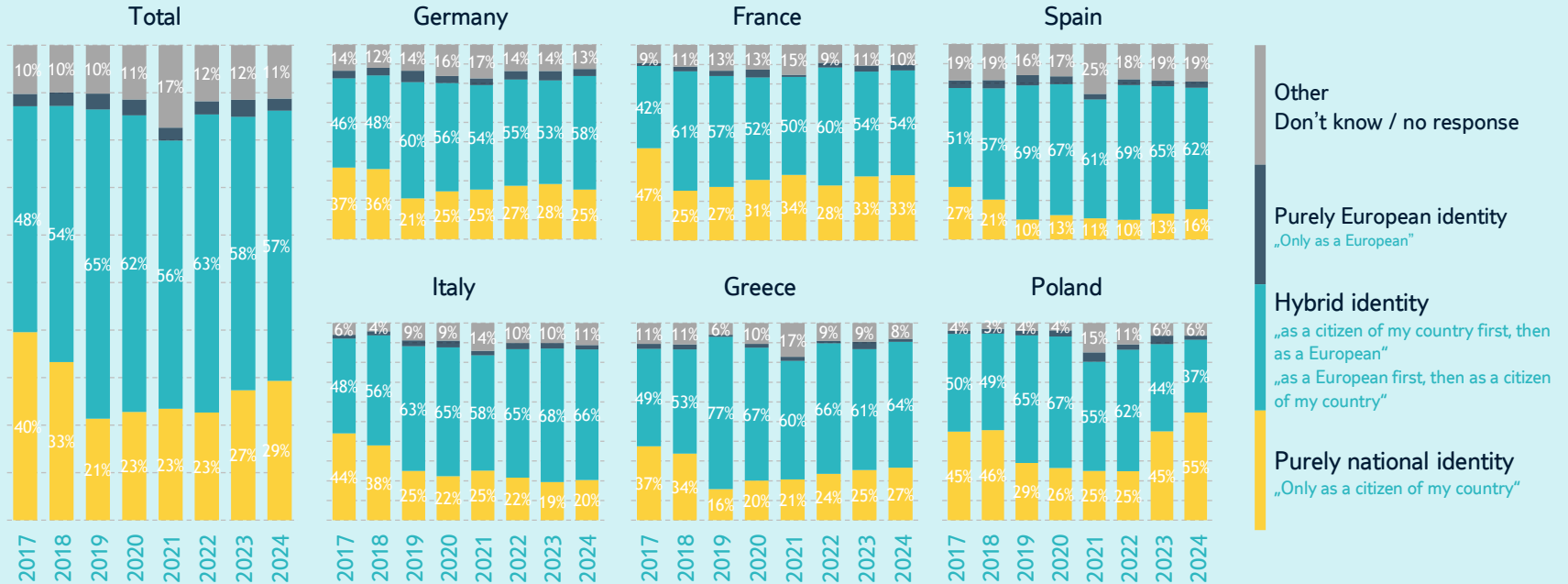
# With the exception of Poland, the majority of respondents feel at least partly European.

How would you be most likely to describe yourself?



# European identity is largely stable compared over time, with Poland being an exception.

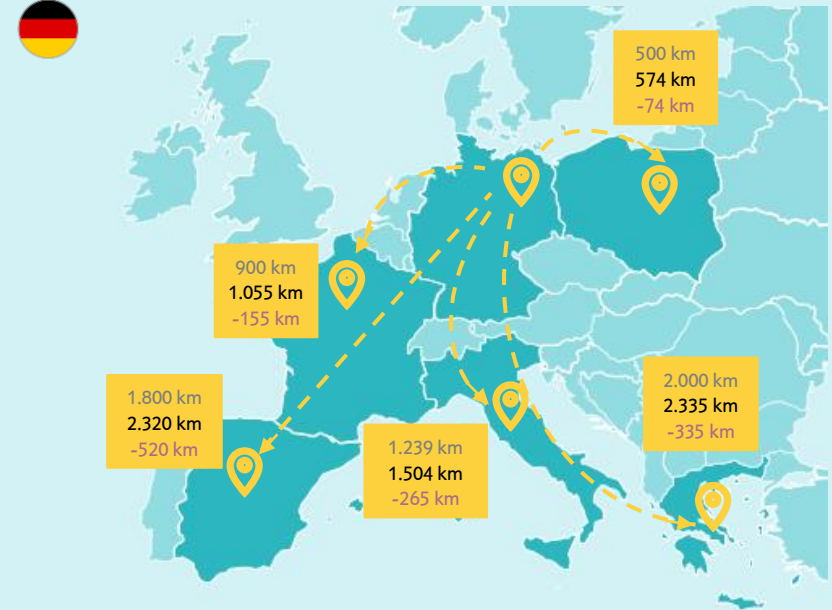
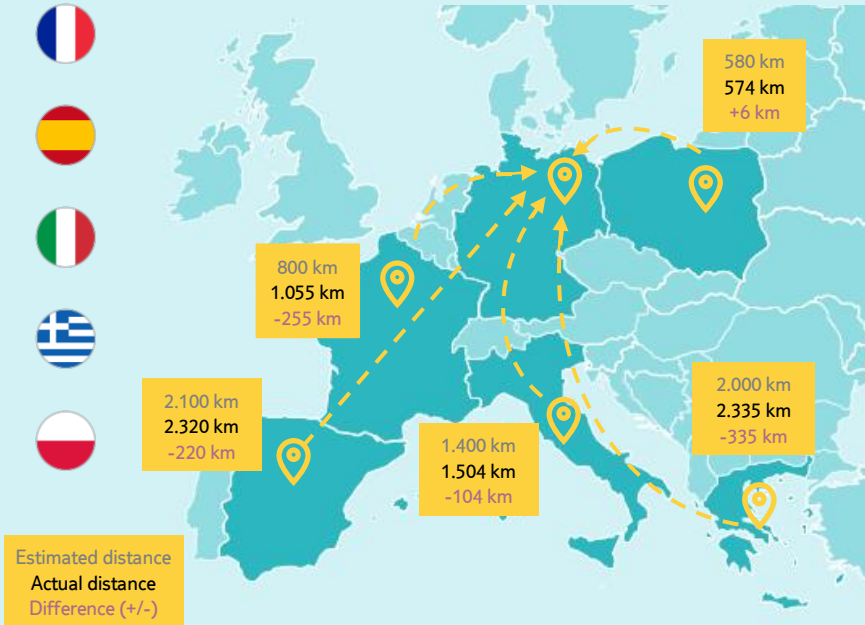
How would you be most likely to describe yourself?



# The average estimated difference between the national capital and Berlin comes out substantially lower in almost all countries than the actual distance.

Can you estimate: how many kilometres are there between [capital] and Berlin?

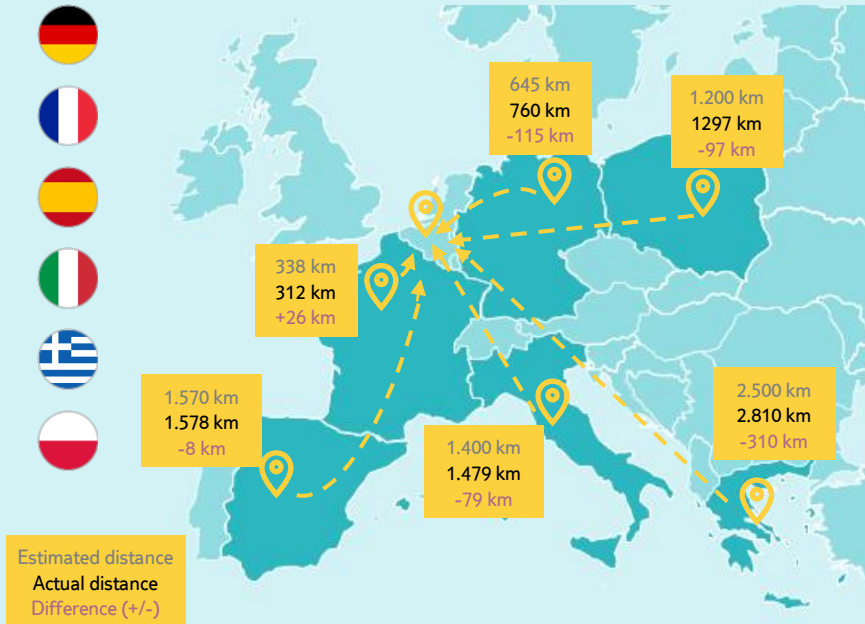
Can you estimate: how many kilometres are there between Berlin and [capital]?



Base: all respondents n=5.874 left: respondents from France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Poland; right: respondents from Germany, shown: average of estimated distance; Source of actual distance: Google Maps, rounded

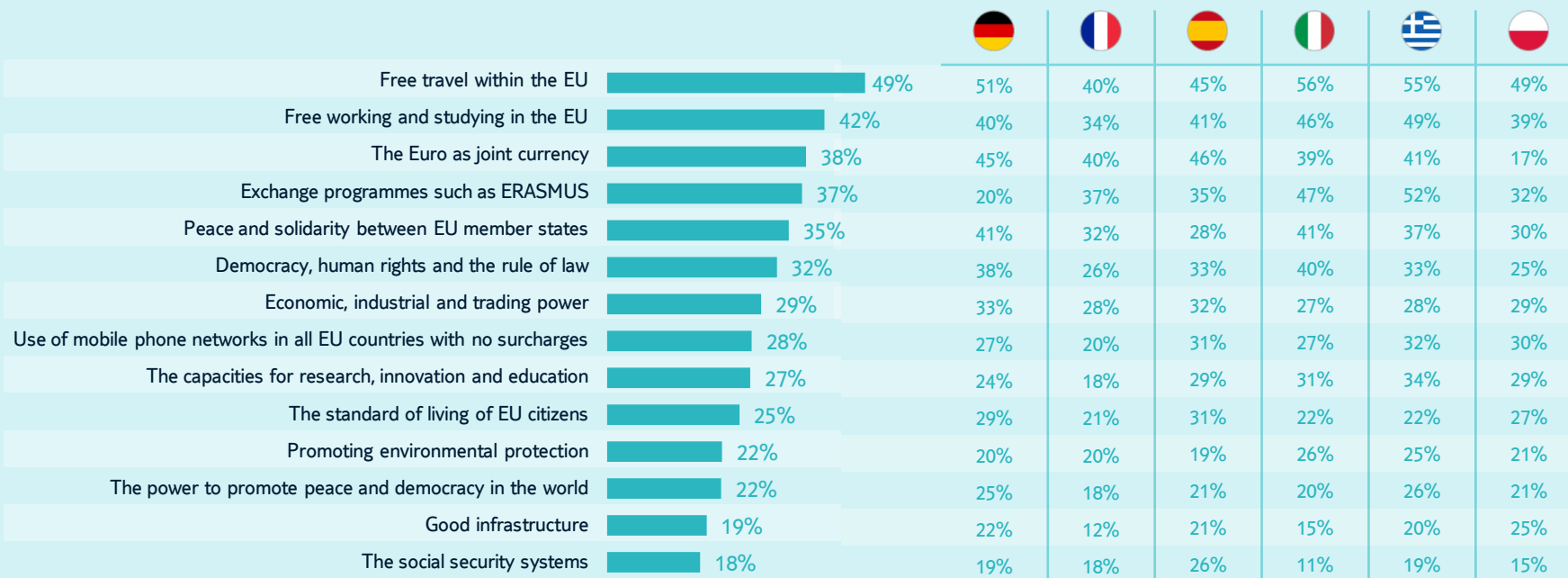
# The average estimated difference is lower almost everywhere than the actual difference between the respective capital and Brussels.

Can you estimate: how many kilometres are there between [capital] and Brussels?



## Around one half considers the freedom to travel as one of the most important achievements of the EU. Many respondents also mention freedom of movement for workers and students.

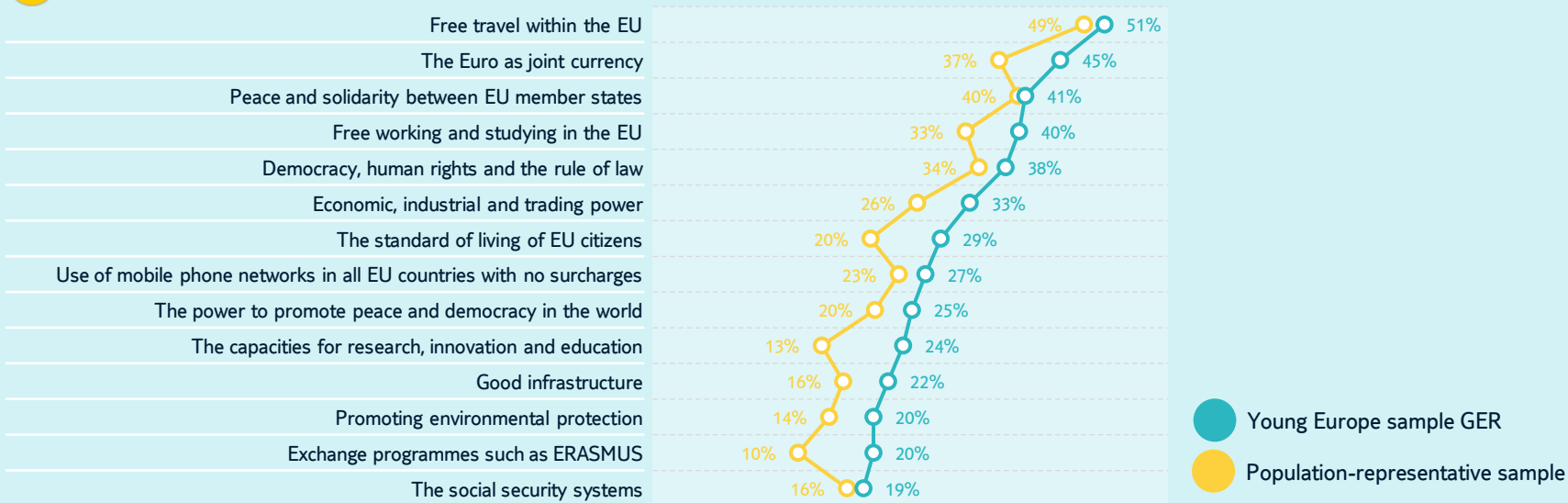
In your opinion, what are the most important achievements of the European Union? (Multiple answers possible)



Base: all respondents, n=5.874, „None of the above“ and „Don't know“ not shown, figures in percent

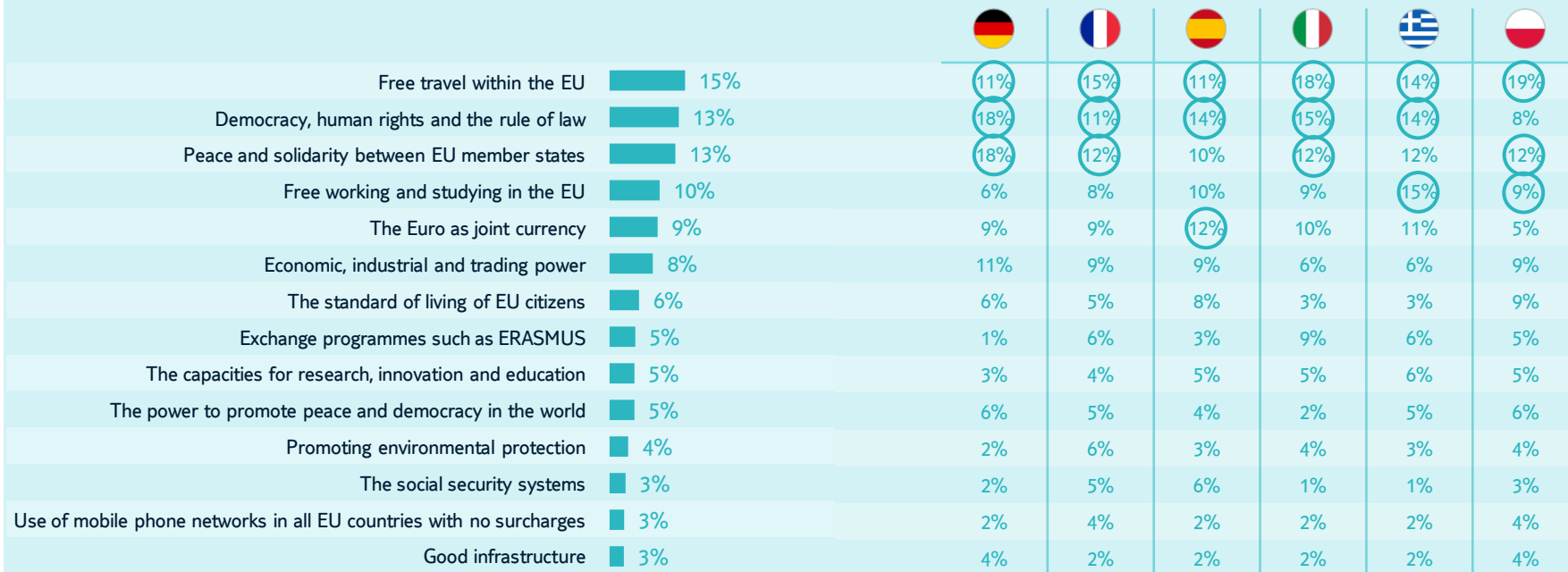
# Young Germans cite more aspects as important achievements of the EU than the population, with the highest consensus on freedom to travel and peace.

In your opinion, what are the most important achievements of the European Union? (Multiple answers possible)



# The most important achievement for young Europeans is the freedom to travel, closely followed by the basic European values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

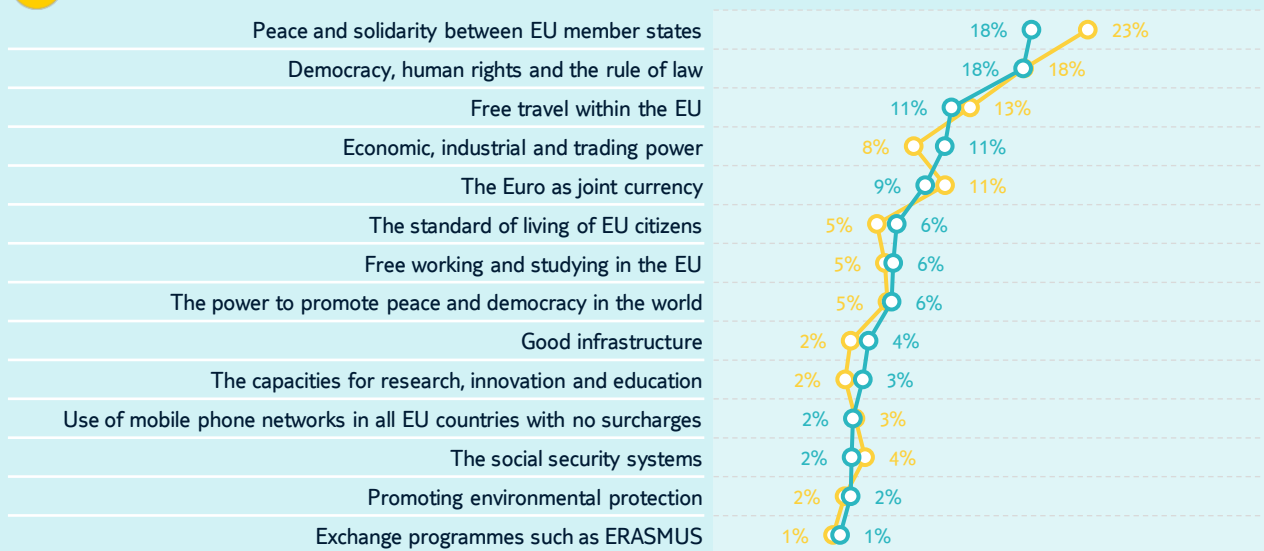
And in your opinion, what is the most important achievement of the European Union?





# Young Germans cite peace and solidarity as the most important achievement of the EU less commonly than the total population in Germany.

And in your opinion, what is **the most important achievement** of the European Union? Comparison with the representative population in Germany



Among young German respondents, **female** respondents in particular cite **democracy, human rights and the rule of law** as an important achievement of the EU (23 percent).

Male respondents cite this aspect considerably less (13 percent).

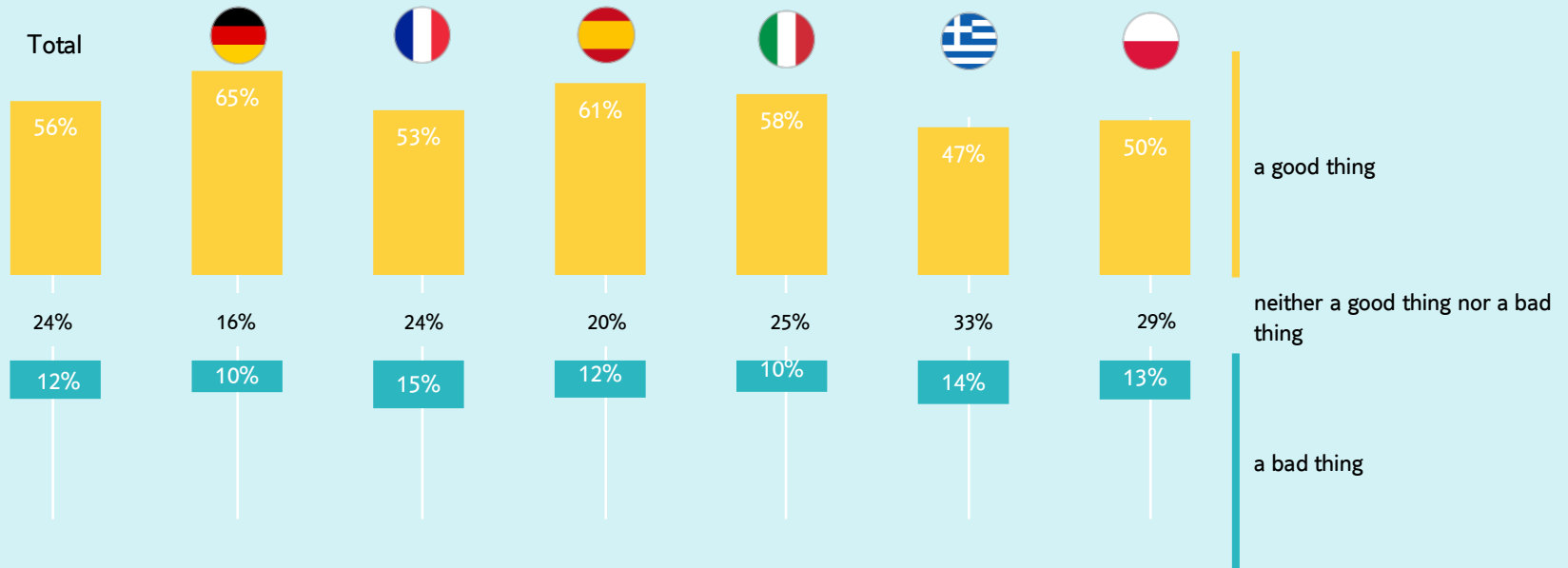
**Male** respondents choose the aspects of **economic, industrial and trade power** considerably more often (15 percent versus 6 percent by females) and **free travel within the EU** (13 percent versus 9 percent by females) as the most important achievement of the EU.

- Young Europe sample GER
- Population-representative sample

Base: Respondents who selected at least one achievement in the previous question  
 German Young Europe sample: n=923, population-representative sample: n=1.691  
 sorted descending by German Young Europe sample, figures in percent

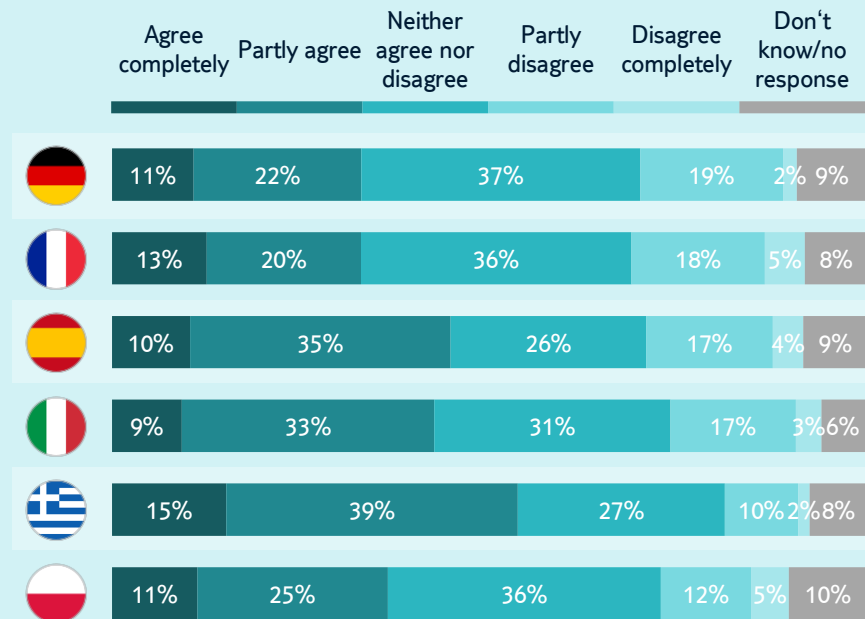
# Over half of young Europeans feel that the membership of their country in the EU is a good thing.

Generally speaking, do you think that [COUNTRY]'s membership of the EU is...?

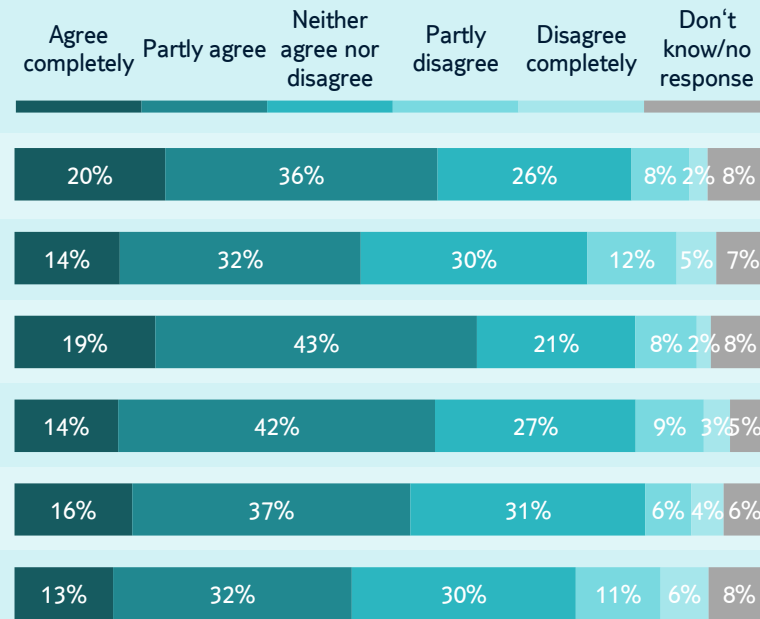


# Even if young respondents see weaknesses in the EU, the approval of the strengths is substantially more pronounced.

How much, if at all, would you agree with the statement:  
The European Union has **big weaknesses**.

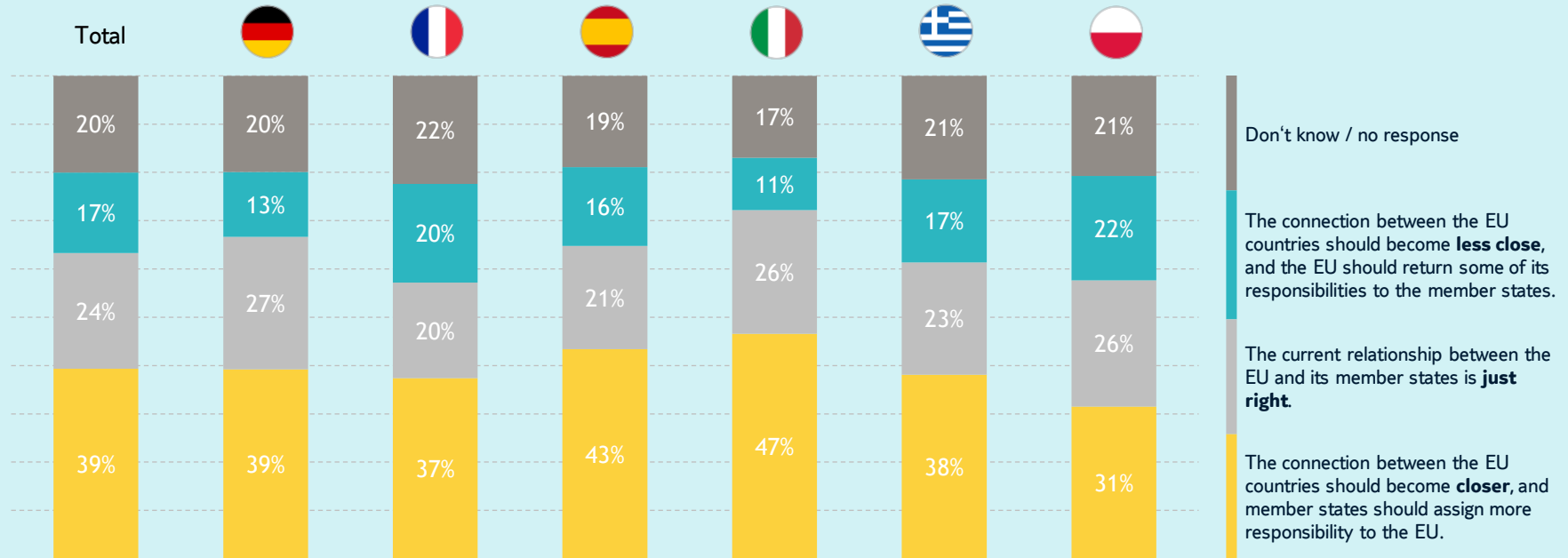


How much, if at all, would you agree with the statement:  
The European Union has **big strengths**.



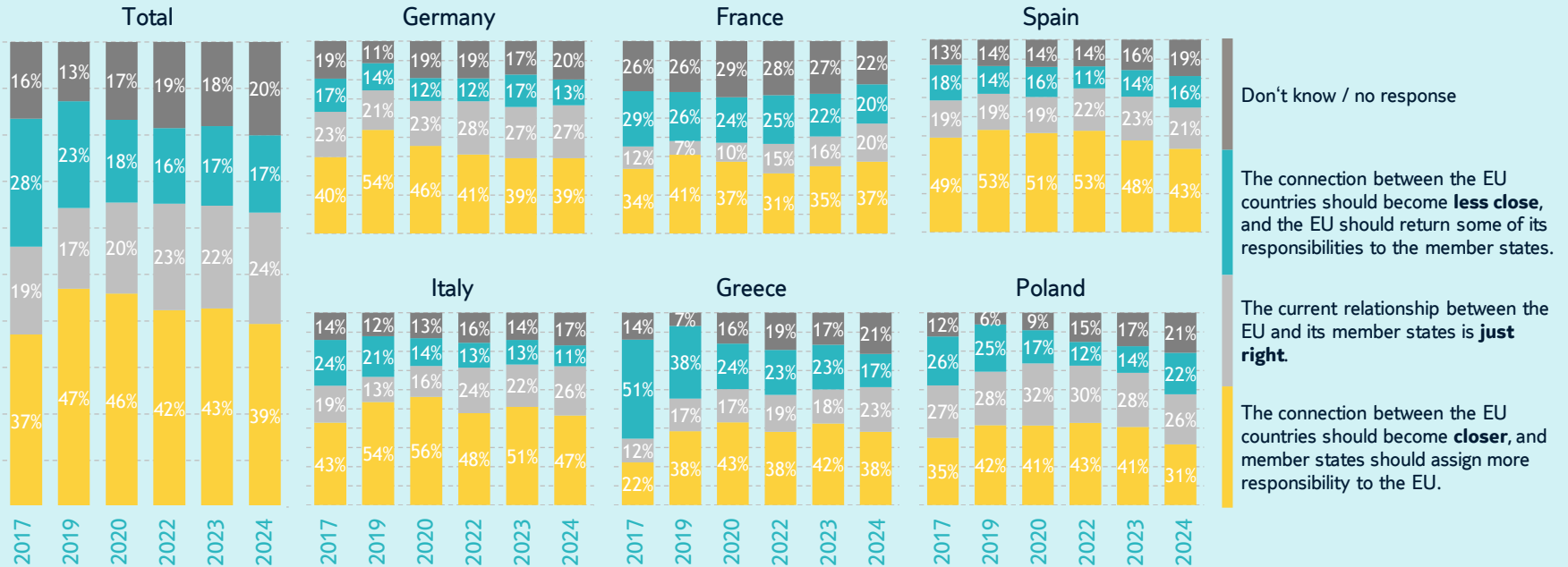
# Four in ten respondents would like closer links between the EU countries. In Poland and France, around one in five would like more independence.

When you think about the relations between the EU and its member states: Which of the following statements do you most agree with?



# Decline in young people who feel that the links between the EU states should become closer in Poland, Spain, Italy and Greece.

When you think about the relations between the EU and its member states: Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

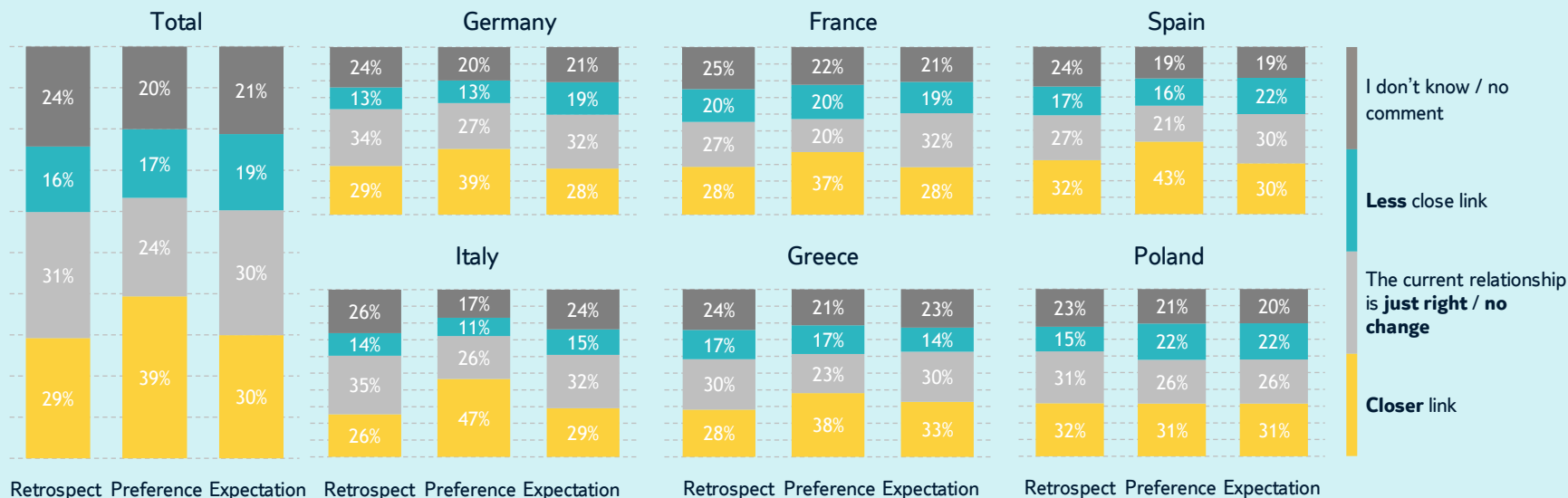


# There is a big difference between how young people want EU integration to develop over the next five years and how they expect it to develop.

Left (**Retrospect**): If you think about the past 5 years: Which statement about the relationship between the EU and its member states do you most agree with?

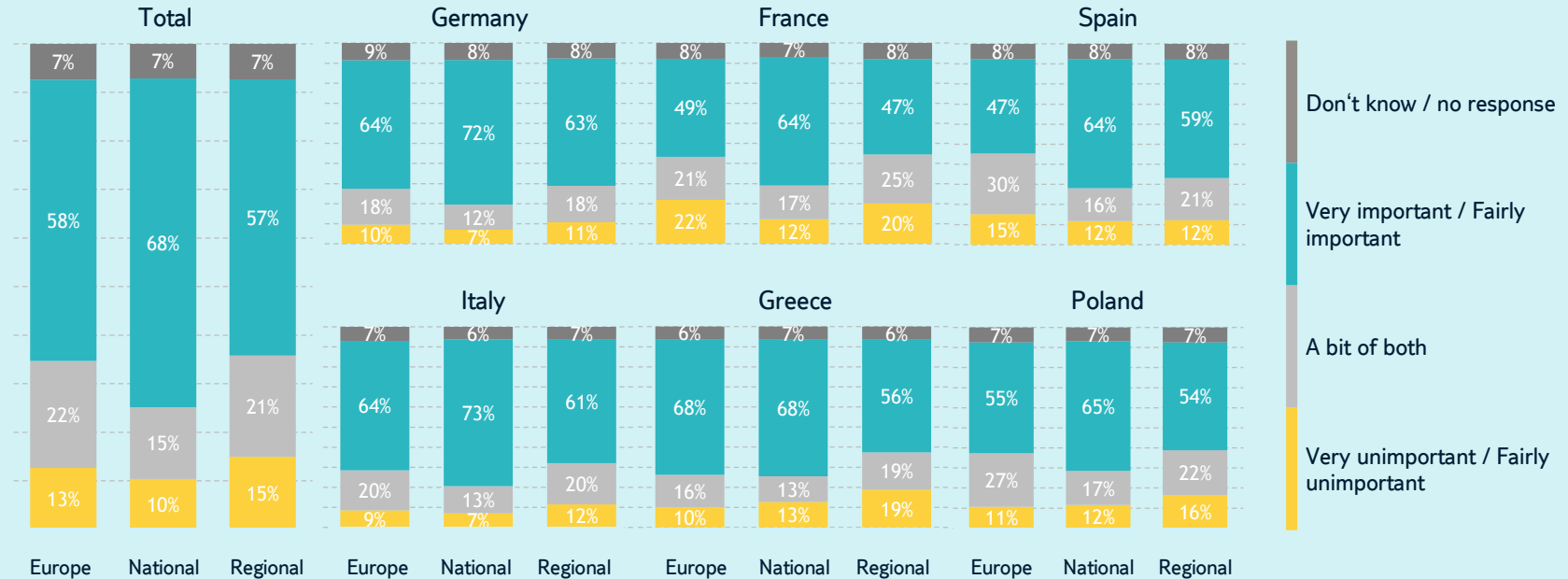
Centre (**Preference**): If you think about the relationship between the EU and its member states: Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

Right (**Expectation**): If you think about the EU in five years: What do you think the state of the EU will be in five years' time?



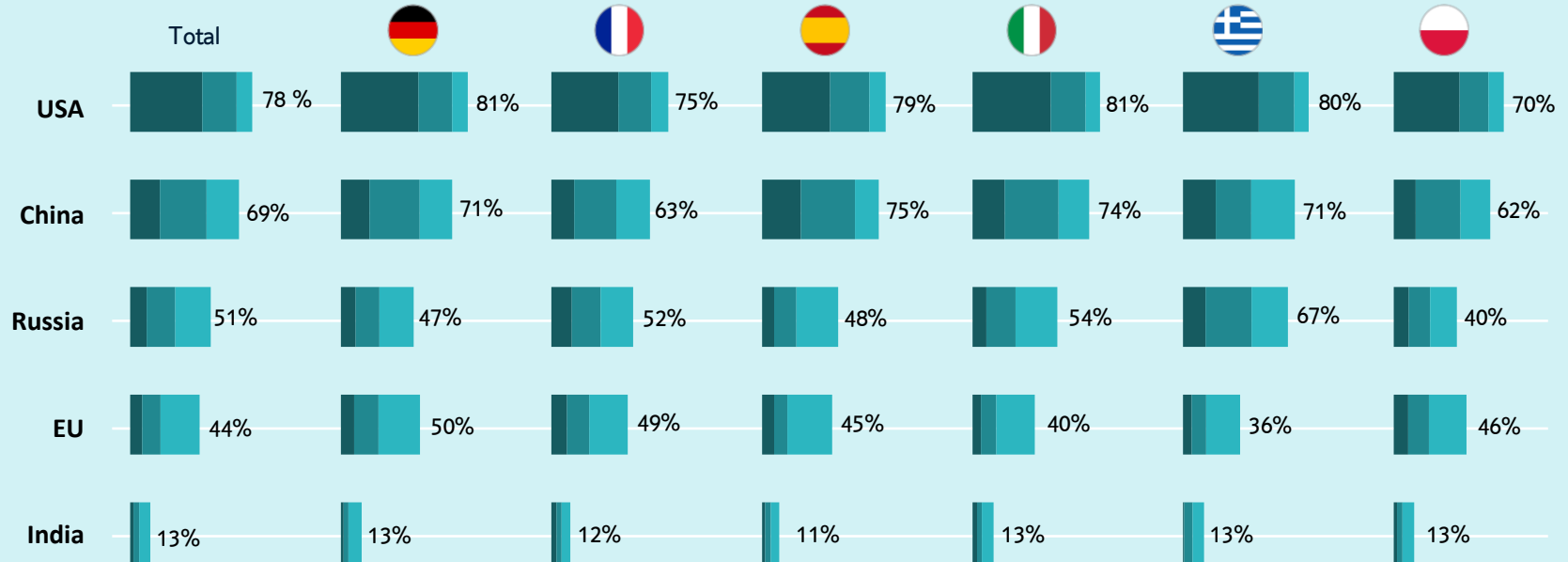
# National elections are of primary importance for most young respondents, except for Greece, where the European election is perceived as less important.

How important or unimportant do you consider elections to be at the following levels?



# In the view of those surveyed, the EU does not have much power in the international hierarchy. The USA is considered to have the most power.

In your opinion, which of the following players currently has the most power in the world? Please place the players in decreasing order, starting with placing the player you ascribe the most power in the world to right at the top, followed by the player with the second most power etc., through to the player with the least power. – Allocation of 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place





# Personal situation

# Personal situation

## Future prospects largely subdued

- In most countries surveyed, there continues to be **no recovery with regard to the future prospects** for young people. A good third of young Europeans (34%) have a pessimistic attitude to future prospects where their personal situation is concerned. France forms the only exception, where young respondents are considerably more optimistic in the short term.
- **Expectations with regard to their own standard of living** continue to be subdued in young Europeans, confirming the trend from 2023. Italians in particular are not very hopeful: 63 percent think they will do worse than their parents' generation.
- Overall, the results indicate high uncertainty and the loss of prospects of a secure future. It appears that democratic societies' typical promise of prosperity no longer applies to the young generation.

## Migration and asylum supersedes climate change as the most important problem

- For the first time since 2019, the topic of **migration and asylum** is clearly dominant for young Europeans: 36 percent cite this issue as the current most important political problem for the EU. Environmental and climate protection, which was continuously identified as the most important issue over the last few years, landed in second place this year by a substantial margin (26%), followed by economic and financial policy (26%). A comparison over time also shows that the percentage of those who feel that fighting climate change should take priority over economic growth is dropping in almost all countries.

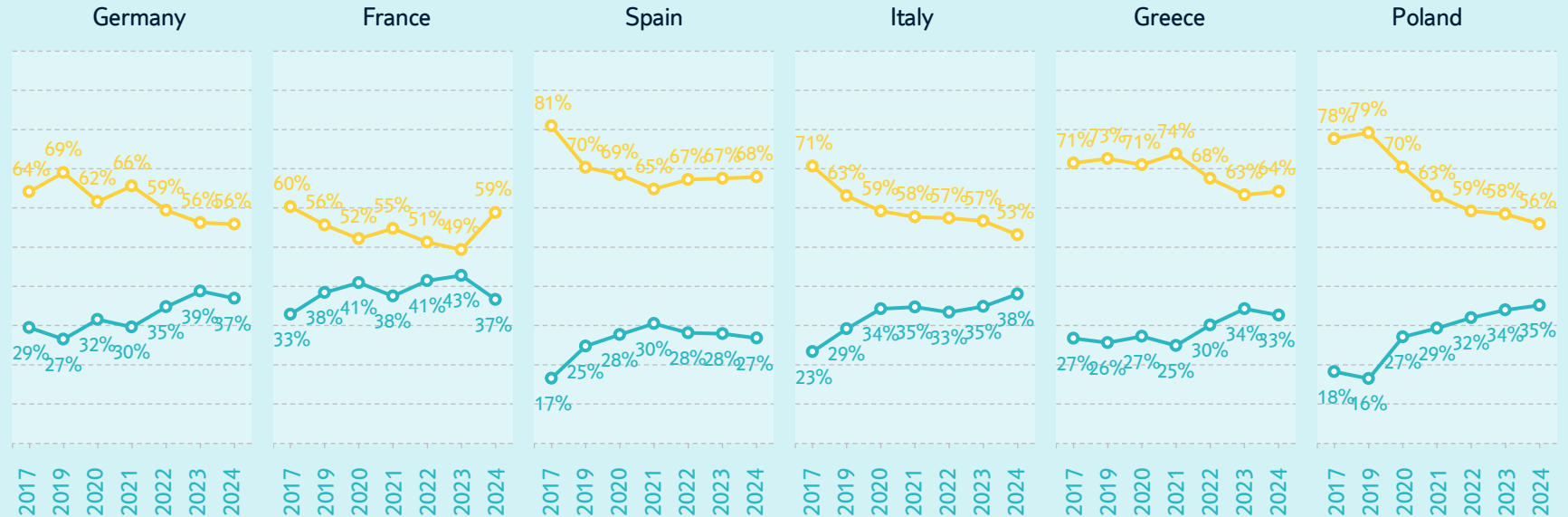
- In line with the increased salience of the issue of migration, particularly in Germany, Greece, Poland and Spain, young people are quite **critical about mobility from outside**: one third of respondents (34%) supports restricting immigration options into the EU, an additional third (33%) at least partly. Opposition to better immigration options is comparatively high in Greece (42%) and Poland (43%).

## The political orientation of young Europeans is diverse

- The young generation does not follow the typical division of political left or right, progressive or conservative attitudes. Instead, the survey results indicate four lines of conflict on the issues of climate change, migration, country equality and social security benefits, that represent **young Europeans' increasingly non-dichotomous political attitudes**. In the political classification system, they therefore do not take up a clear left or right, progressive or conservative position.
- For example, around one third of young Europeans view migration critically. At the same time, country equality measures do not go far enough for 36 percent of respondents, and 35 percent would place fighting climate change before economic growth.
- There is also a considerable difference between female and male respondents here, which indicates that **young women and men differ more and more in their political attitudes**. The results show, for instance, that young women take a progressive stance on socio-political and identity politics issues more often than young men.

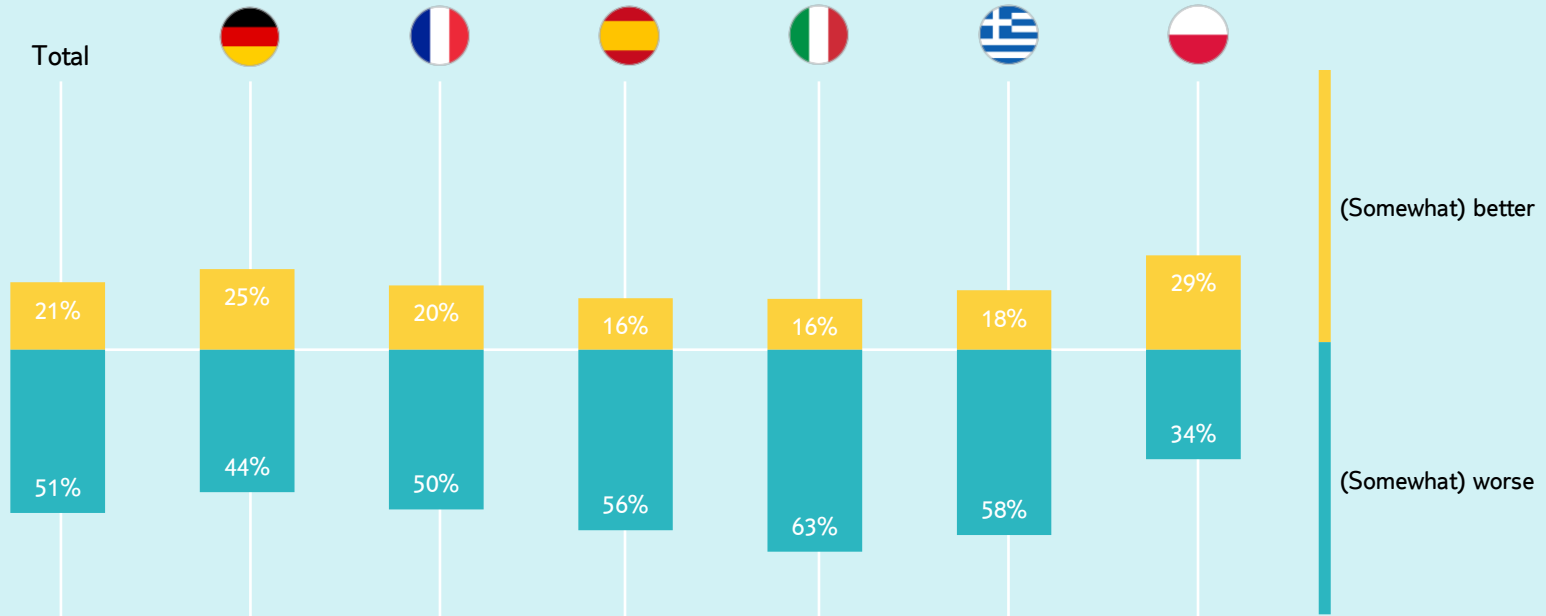
# Young Europeans have a less optimistic view of the future – but there is stabilisation at a low level almost everywhere.

When you think about the future, are you generally optimistic or generally pessimistic about your personal situation?



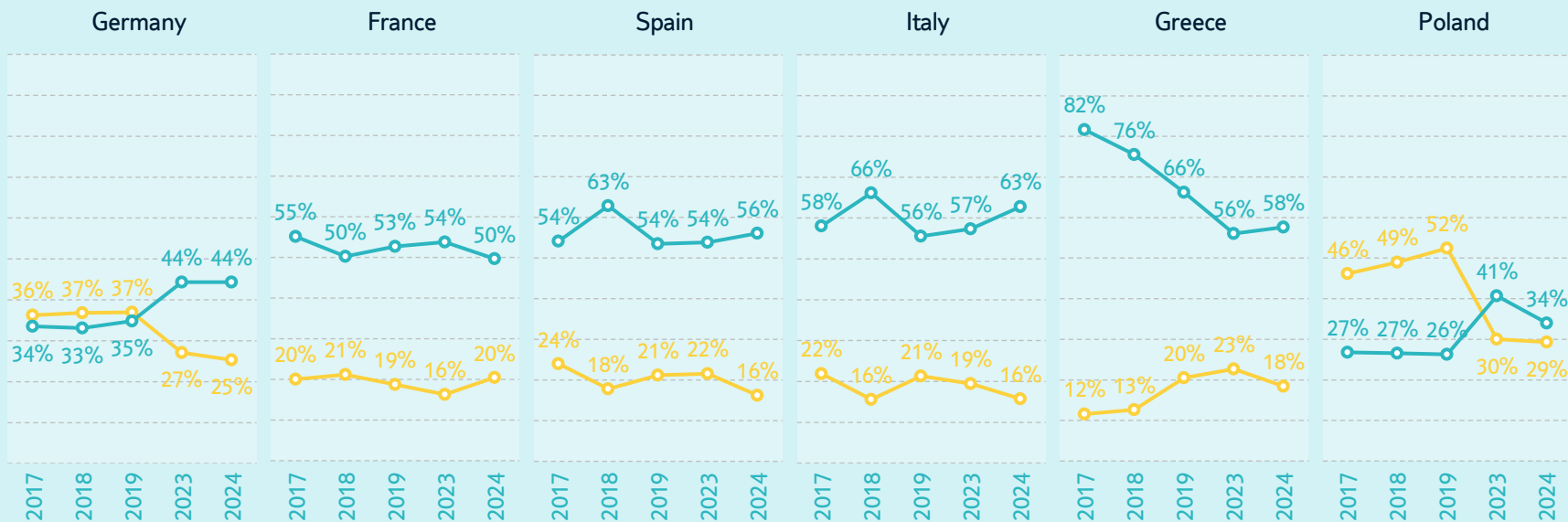
# One half of young respondents think that their own generation will have a lower standard of living than their parents' generation.

When you think about your parents' generation: Do you think your own generation will be better or worse off in terms of income and quality of life?



# Young French people are slightly more positive about their situation than in the previous year. The negative trend persists in Italy and Spain.

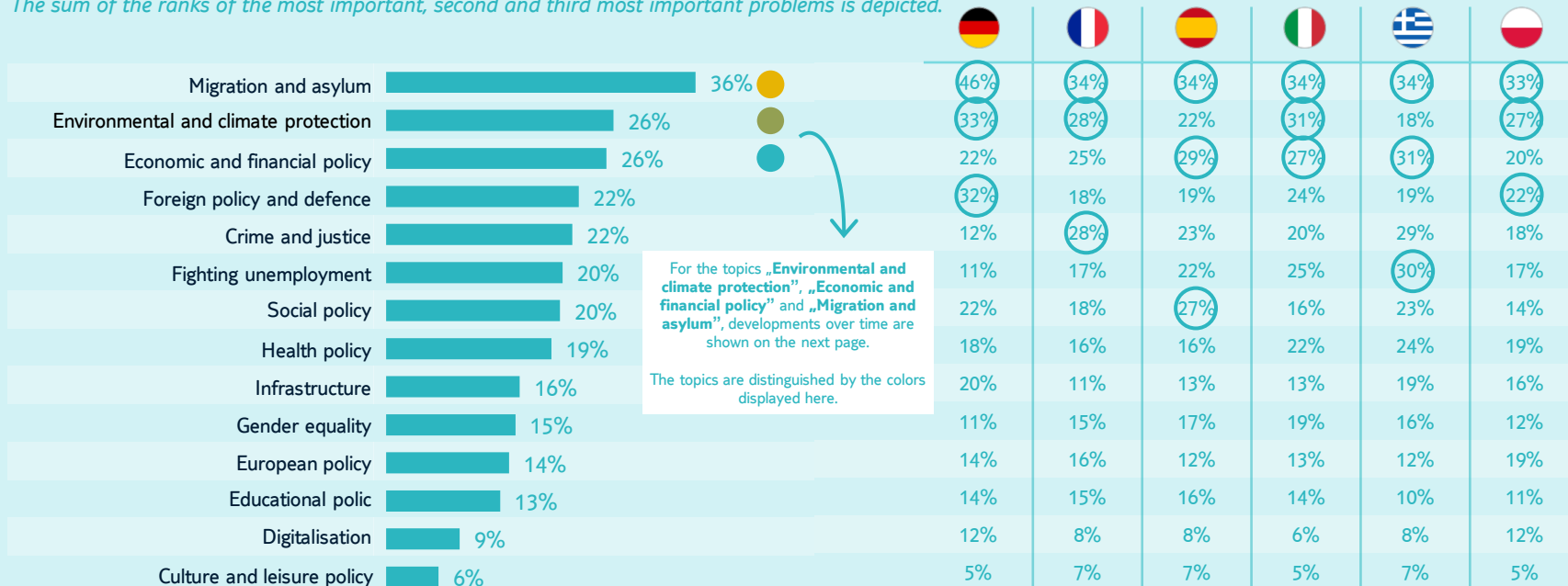
When you think about your parents' generation: Do you think your own generation will be better or worse off in terms of income and quality of life?



# Migration and asylum is the most pressing issue at an EU level by some margin.

What are the most important current political problems in the EU in your opinion? Please first select the single most important problem and then the second and third most important problem.

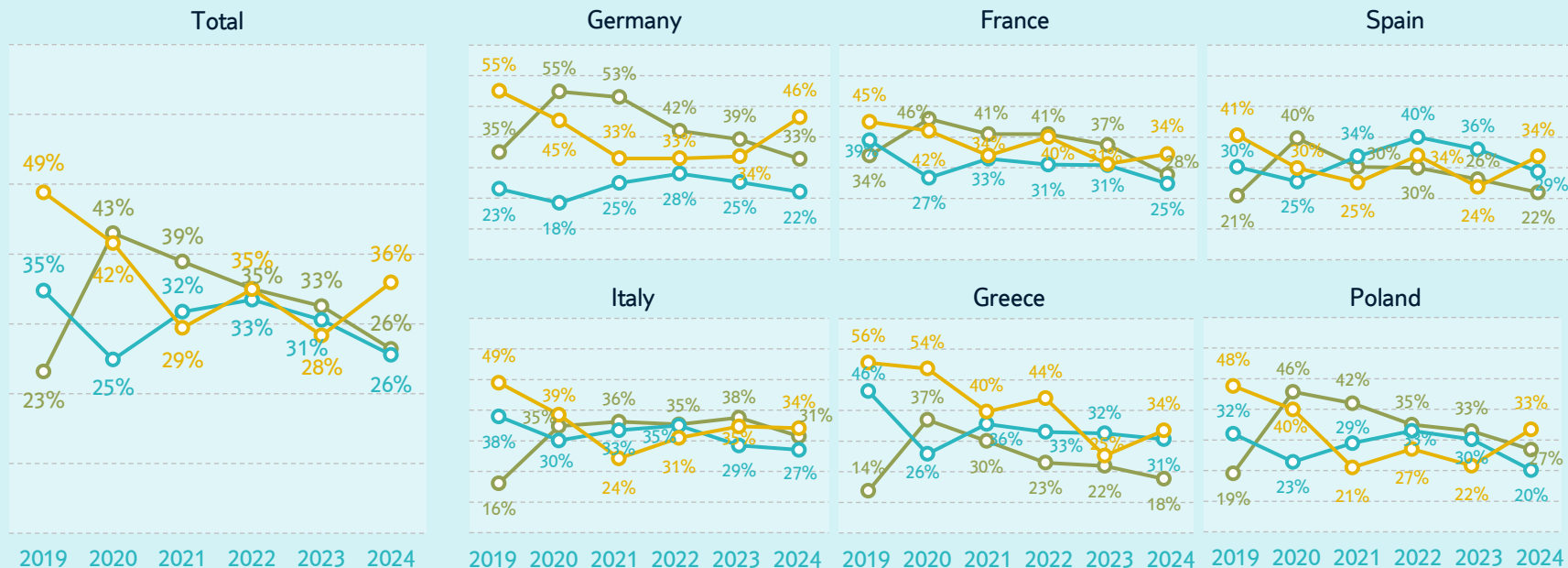
The sum of the ranks of the most important, second and third most important problems is depicted.



# The issue of migration and asylum has strongly increased in importance everywhere. The downward trend for the issue of the environmental and climate protection continues.

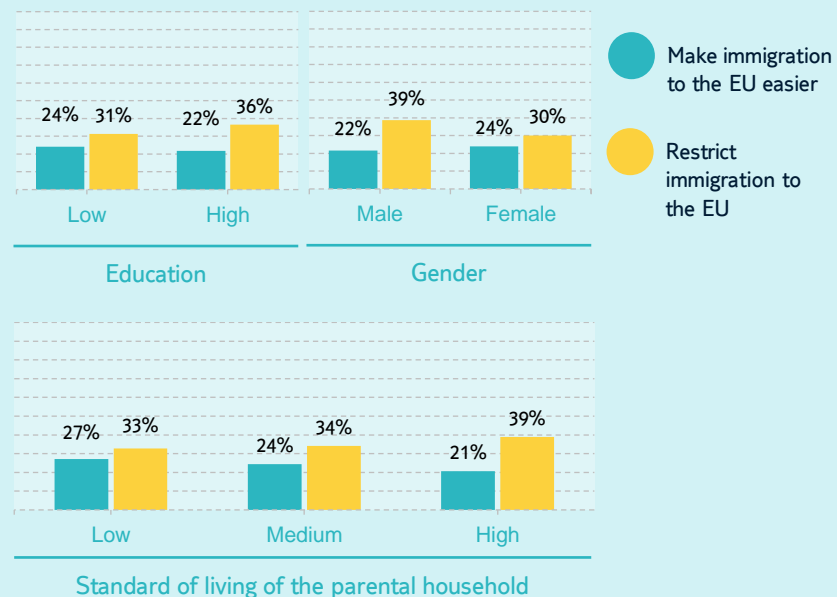
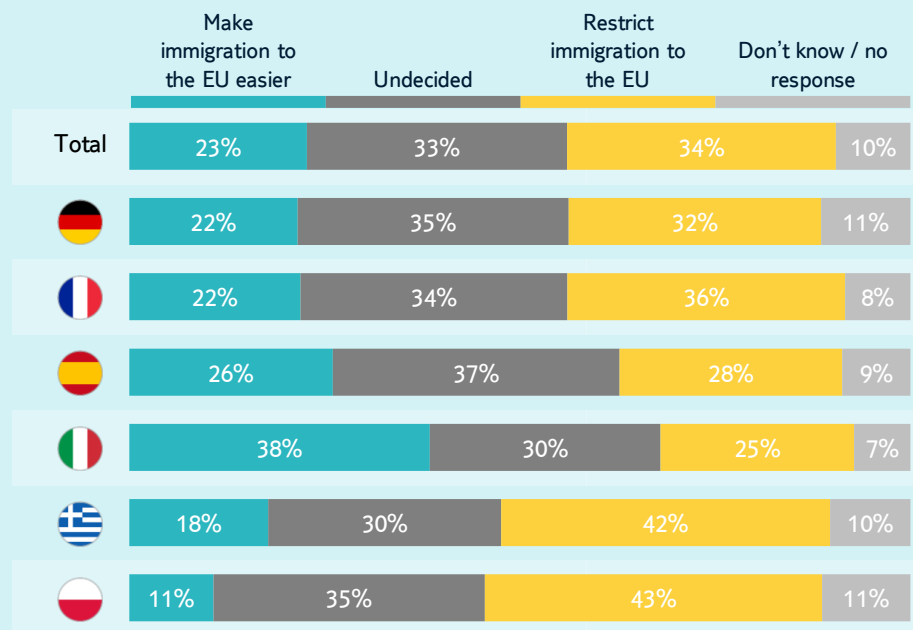
What are the most important current political problems in the EU in your opinion? Please first select the single most important problem and then the second and third most important problem.

The sum of the ranks of the most important, second and third important problems is depicted.



# A good third of young Europeans support restricting immigration options to the EU for foreigners.

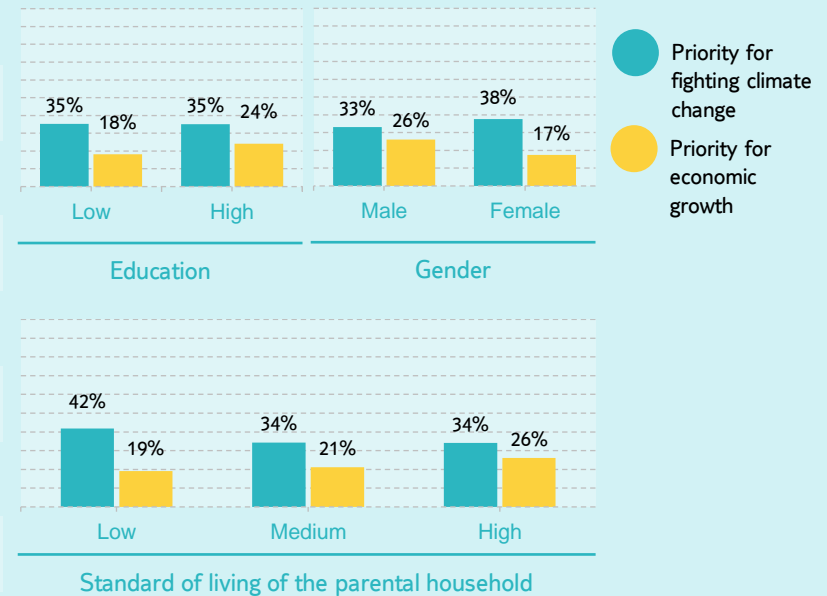
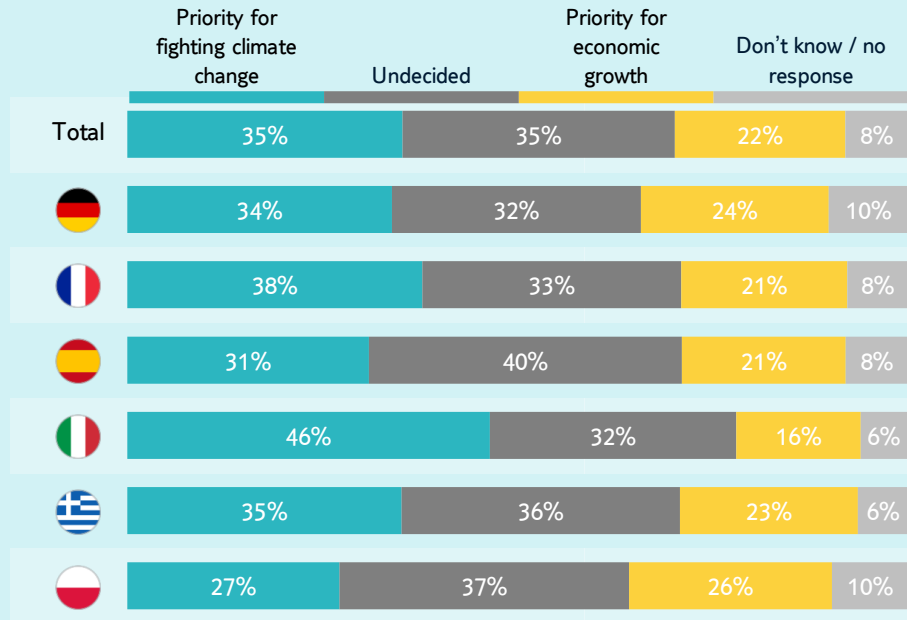
Some want to make it easier for foreigners to move to the EU, others want to restrict the opportunities for foreigners to move to the EU. What is your opinion on this?





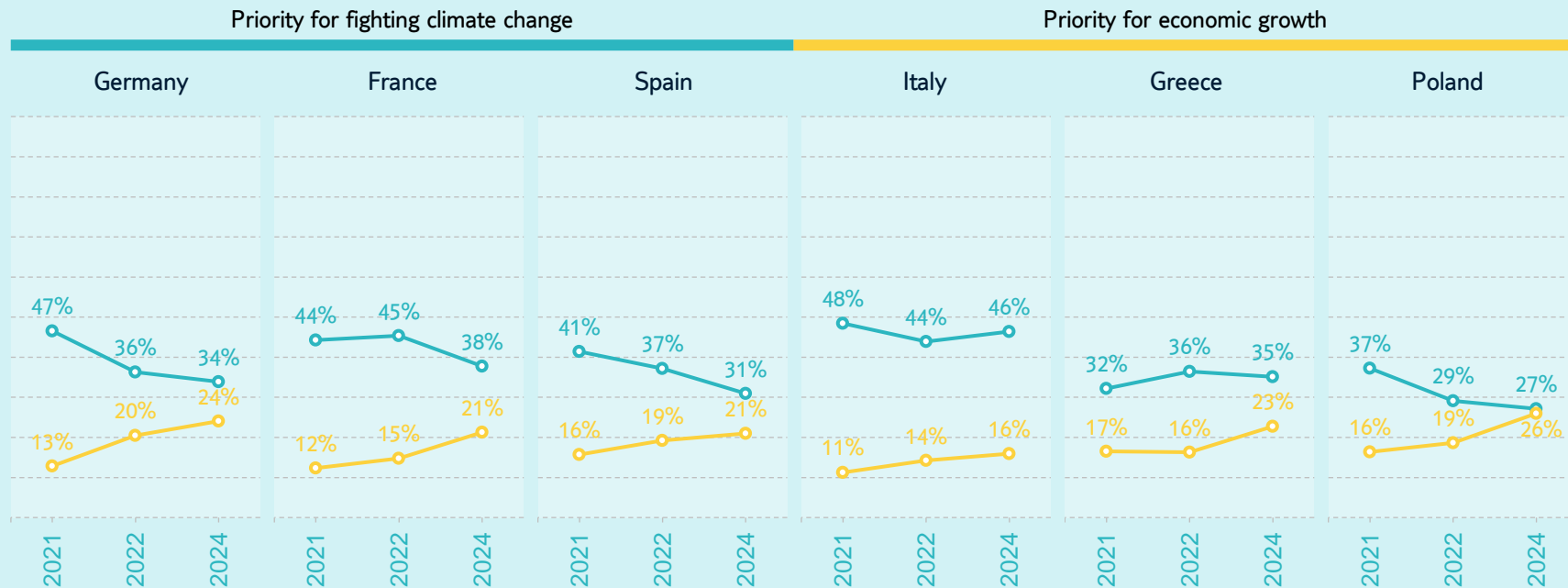
# Over one third of respondents think that fighting climate change should have priority over economic growth.

Some think that fighting climate change should definitely take priority even if this damages economic growth. Others think that economic growth should definitely take priority even if this makes fighting climate change more difficult. What is your opinion on this topic?



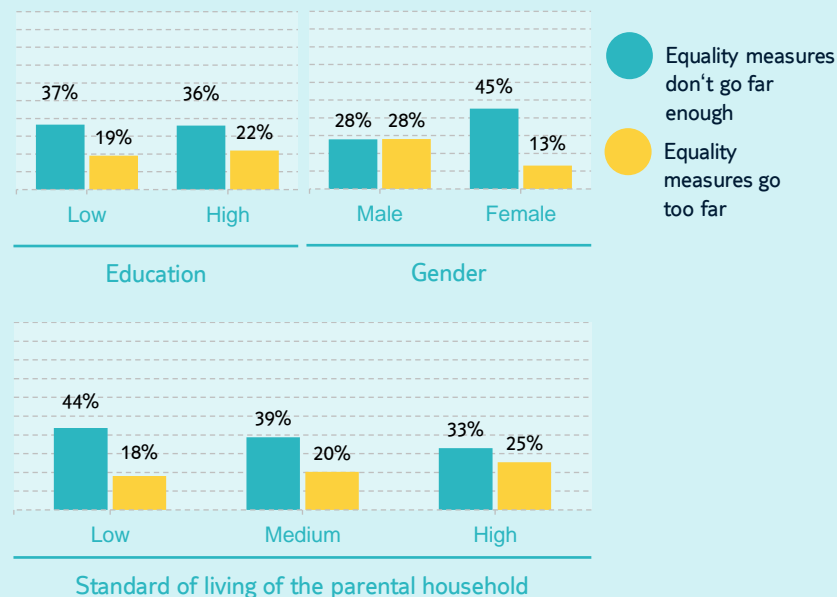
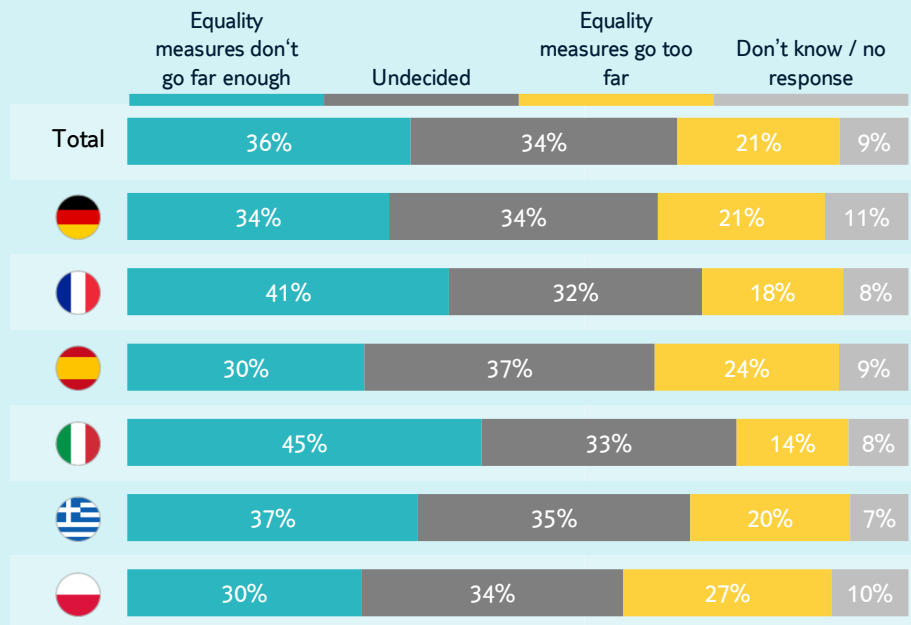
# With the exception of Poland, fighting climate change continues to have clear priority – but this is reduced in Germany, France and Spain.

Some think that fighting climate change should definitely take priority even if this damages economic growth. Others think that economic growth should definitely take priority even if this makes fighting climate change more difficult. What is your opinion on this topic?



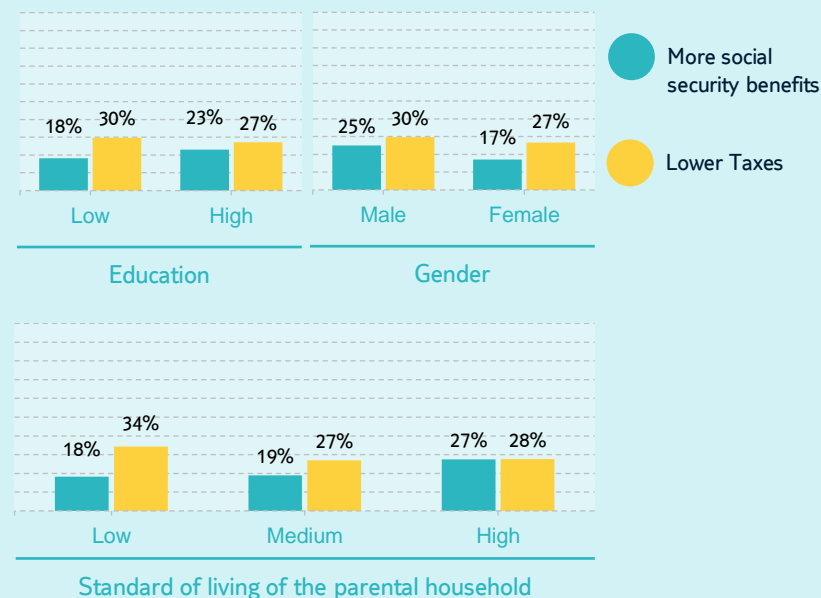
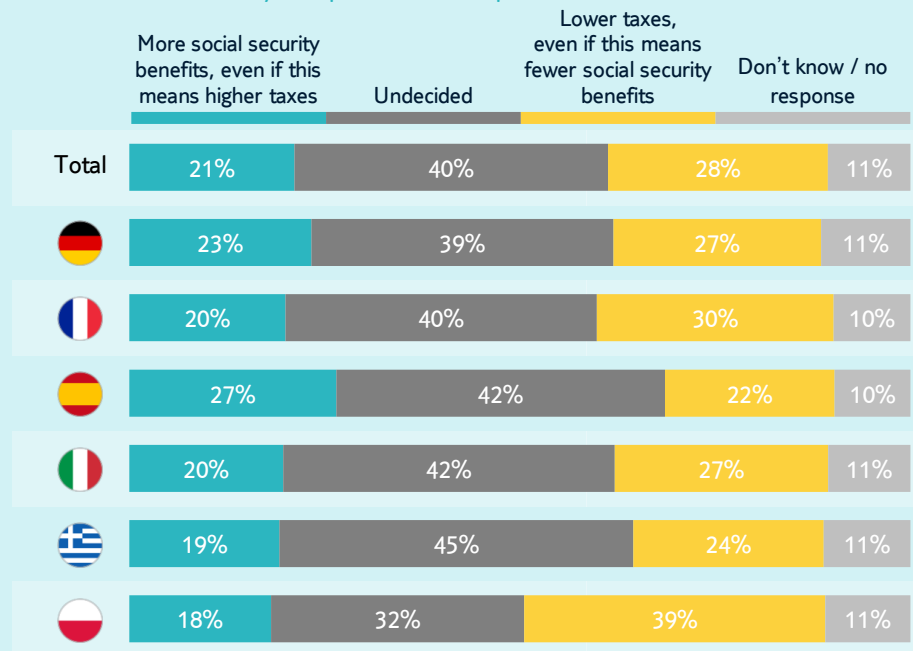
# Gender measures to promote equality for women tend to not go far enough, rather than too far, for young Europeans.

We would now like to know what you think about government measures to promote equality for women in society. Some people think that the government equality measures do not go nearly far enough, others think that they are already going much too far. What is your opinion on this topic?



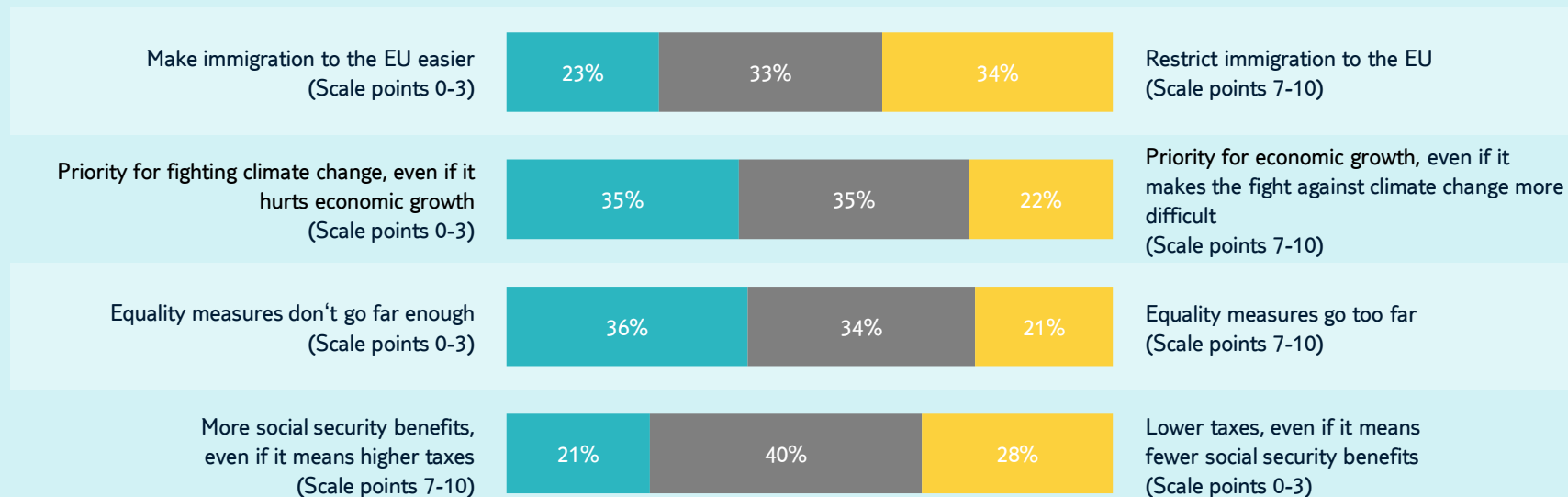
# The majority of respondents are undecided whether there should be more social security benefits or lower taxes and deductions.

Some want lower taxes and deductions, even if that means fewer social security benefits. Others want more social security benefits – even if that means higher taxes and deductions. What is your opinion on this topic?



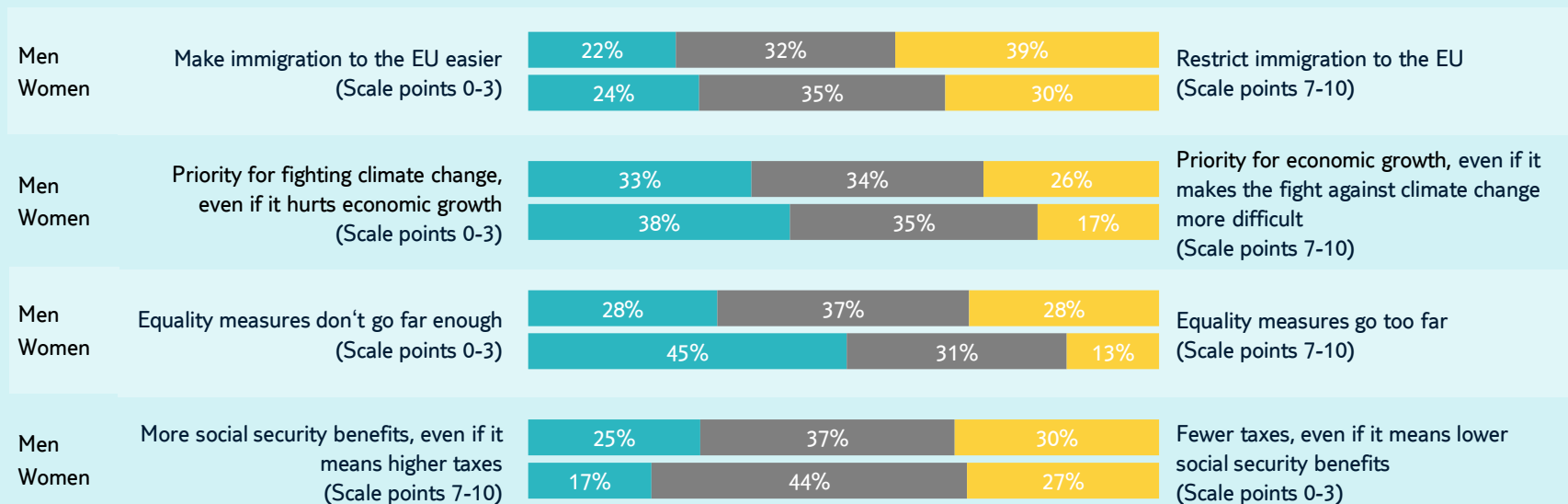
# Young Europeans do not take up a clear position in the political classification system.

Lines of conflict, depiction for total



# Young female respondents more often take up a progressive stance on socio-political and identity politics issues than male respondents.

Lines of conflict, depiction for total by men and women



# Young people's view of democracy

# Young people's view of democracy

## Great dissatisfaction with existing democracies

- The largest group of young Europeans (39%) are currently **dissatisfied with the existing democracy in their country**. Only around one quarter (23%) of young respondents in Europe are (quite) satisfied.
- One exception is Germany: around four in ten respondents there (42%) are (quite) satisfied with democracy in their country. Germany therefore also continues to be the only country where not the majority, but at least a large percentage, of respondents is more satisfied than dissatisfied. Young Greeks are least satisfied: 61 percent report being (quite) dissatisfied overall with democracy.
- Looking at the results compared over time, it is notable that **satisfaction with democracy is increasing slightly**. This development is particularly clear in Germany (2024: 42%, 2023: 35%) and Poland (2024: 23%, 2023: 10%). Despite this, the dissatisfaction of young Europeans is still generally at a high level.
- More than half (53%) also (mainly) agree that democracy has big strengths. As such, **the strengths outweigh the weaknesses** (44% agreement). The strengths mainly include freedom of opinion and the press (46%) but also political participation (43%). Corruption (43%) and too slow decisions (37%) are identified as weaknesses.

## Societal tension between left and right

- Young Europeans increasingly perceive societal conflicts. Three quarters of young respondents (75%) see **conflicts of interest between people in the political left and political right**. In 2023,

this level was at 71 percent and has therefore increased slightly. Increased conflicts were also seen between different societal groups: between men and women (2024: 55%, 2023: 51%), persons with and without a migration background (2024: 65%, 2023: 61%) and persons who want to keep and not keep traditions (2024: 64%, 2023: 59%).

- **Tensions between the left and right** have been perceived particularly strongly in Germany (77%), Italy (79%) and Greece (80%). Italy stands out in particular – almost all social groups surveyed recorded increases: poor versus rich (2024: 77%, 2023: 71%), young versus old (2024: 61%, 2023: 55%) and men versus women (2024: 62%, 2023: 52%).

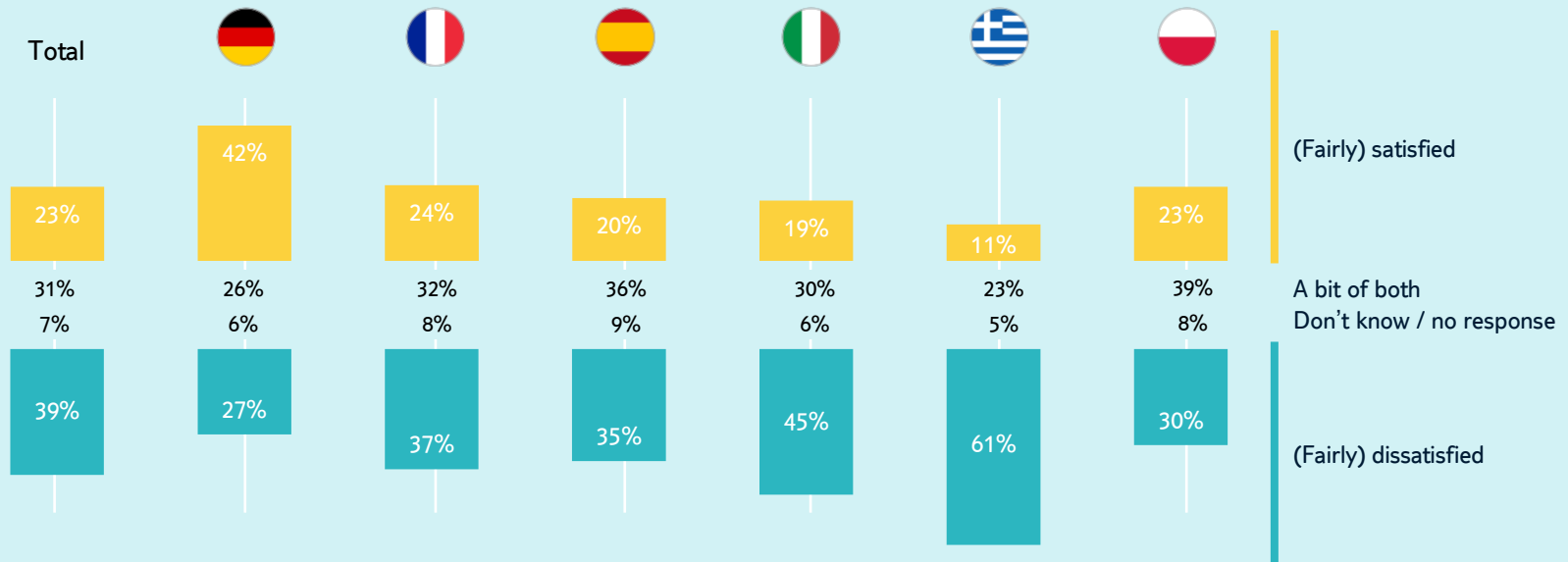
## Democracies are perceived as being at risk

- Almost one half of young Europeans (49%) have observed **increased undemocratic behaviour** in their own country. In fact, more than two thirds (67%) report this in Greece. 55 percent observe increased undemocratic behaviour in Germany. It is 48 percent in Spain.
- In this context it is not surprising that many young Europeans perceive **democracy in their country as not being very stable**. Around two in five respondents (42%) either mainly or completely agree with the statement that democracy is at risk in their country. An additional third (26%) partly agrees. But for six out of ten respondents (58%), it does not matter if the form of government they live under is democratic or not.
- Respondents in Germany most commonly hold the opinion that democracy is at risk (48%), with comparably the highest satisfaction with the existing democracy, and in Greece (66%), with comparably the lowest satisfaction. Here, and in Italy, the respondents also significantly more commonly report that the form of government matters to them.



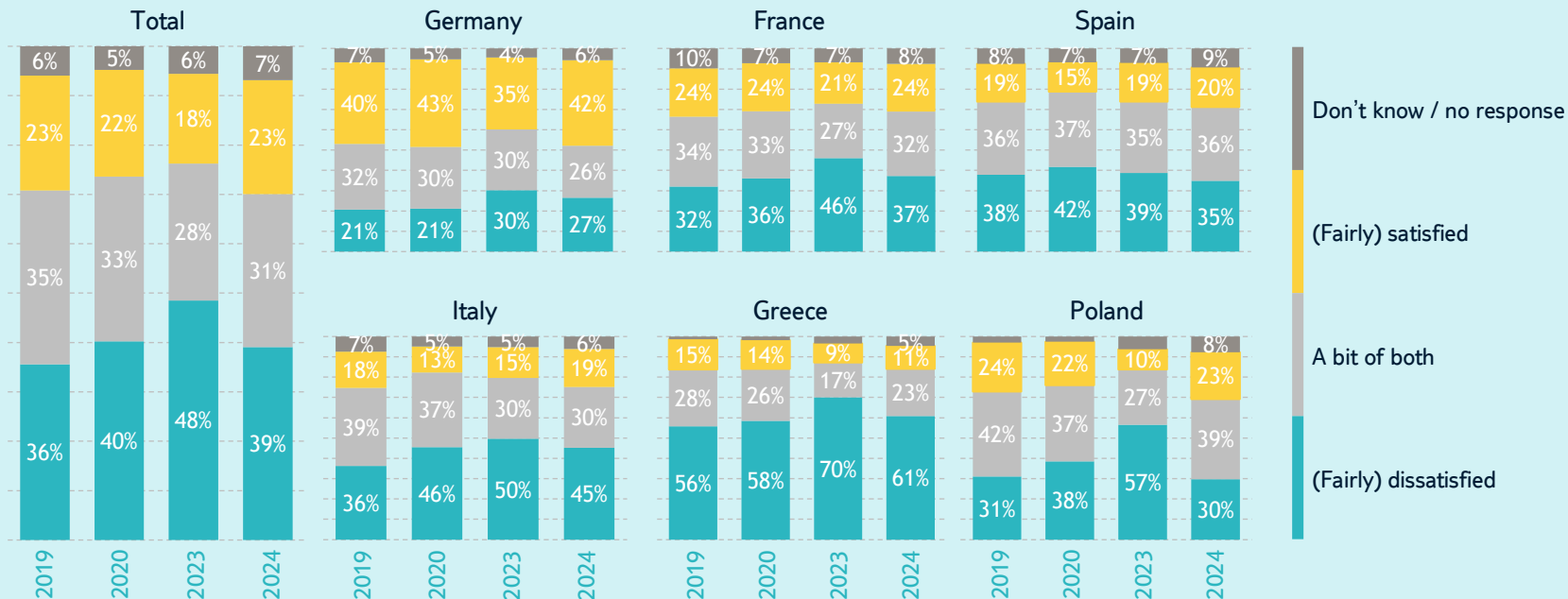
# Dissatisfaction with existing democracies is high. Young respondents from Germany are most satisfied.

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you, all in all, with democracy as it exists in [country]?



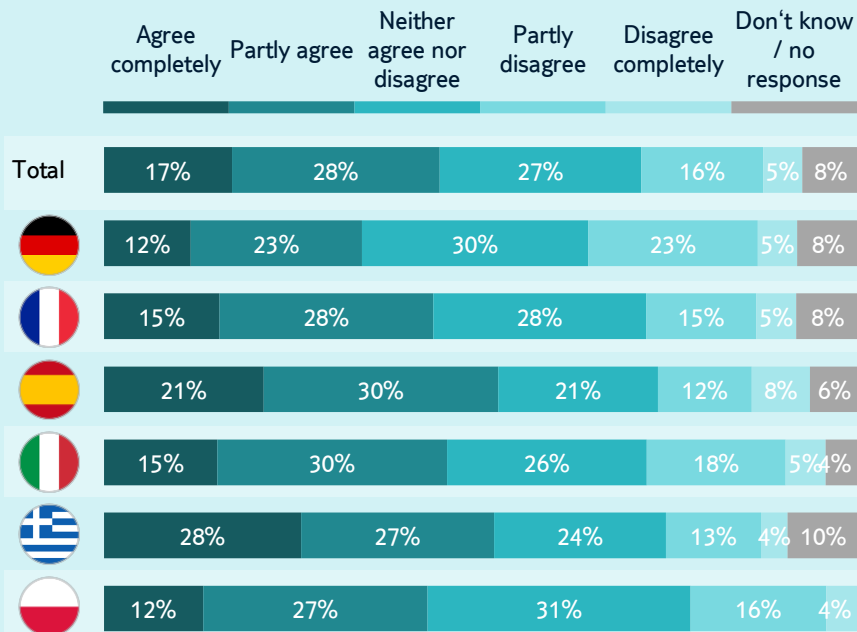
# Growing dissatisfaction with democracy is dropping this year. In Poland in particular, the percentage of those who are quite satisfied has considerably increased.

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you, all in all, with democracy as it exists in [country]?

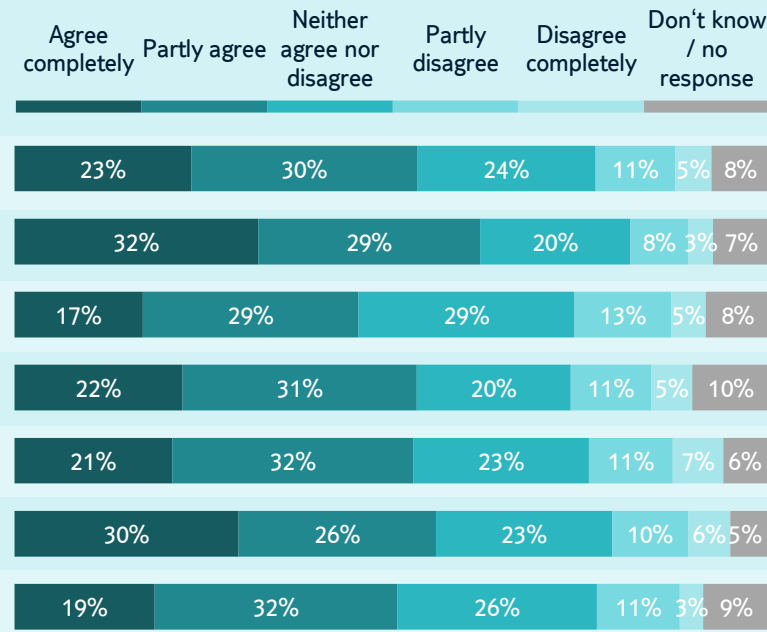


# Democracy is recognised as having both strengths and weaknesses, with the majority agreeing with the strengths.

How much, if at all, would you agree with the statement:  
**Democracy has big weaknesses.**

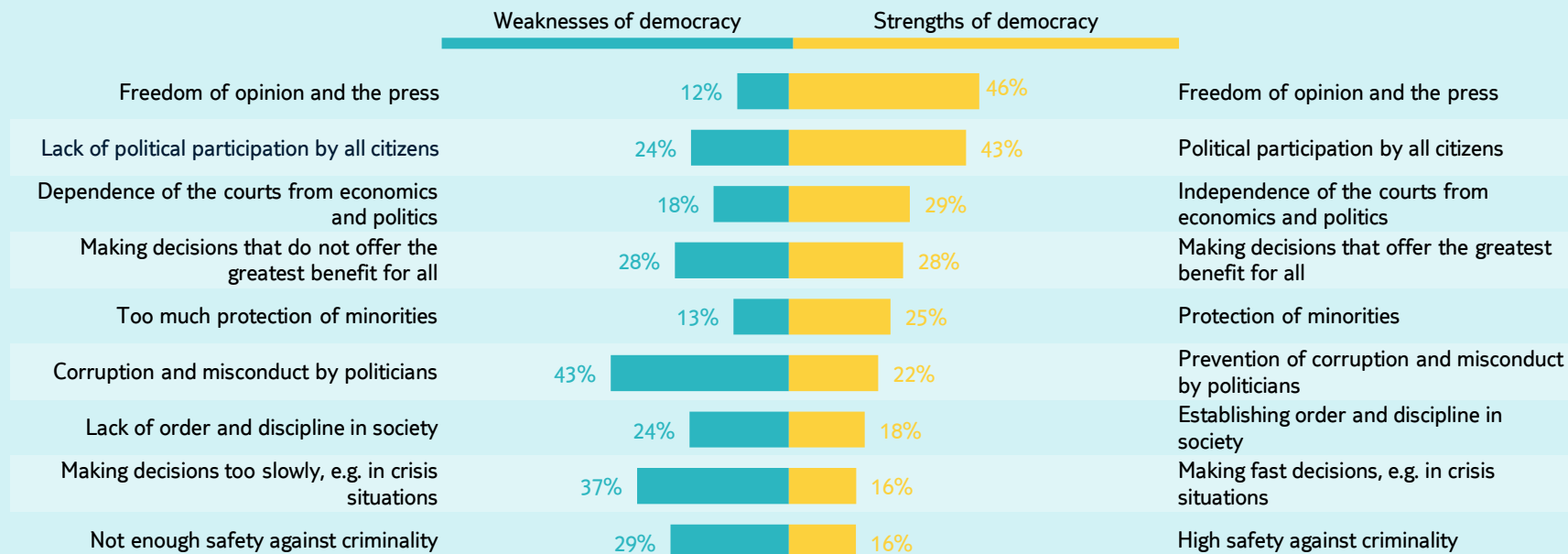


How much, if at all, would you agree with the statement:  
**Democracy has big strengths.**



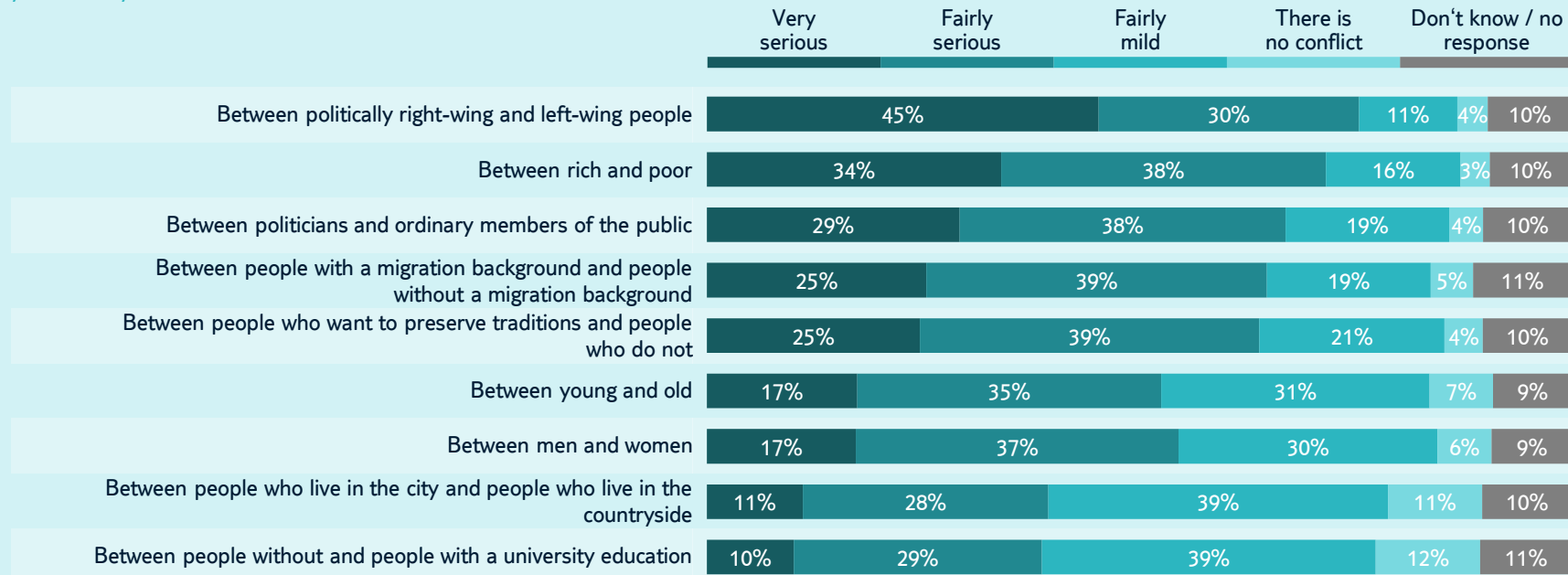
## The strengths mainly include freedom of opinion and the press and political participation. Corruption and slow decision making are considered weaknesses.

Which of the following characteristics would you consider to be strengths of democracy? / And which of the following characteristics would you consider to be weaknesses of democracy?



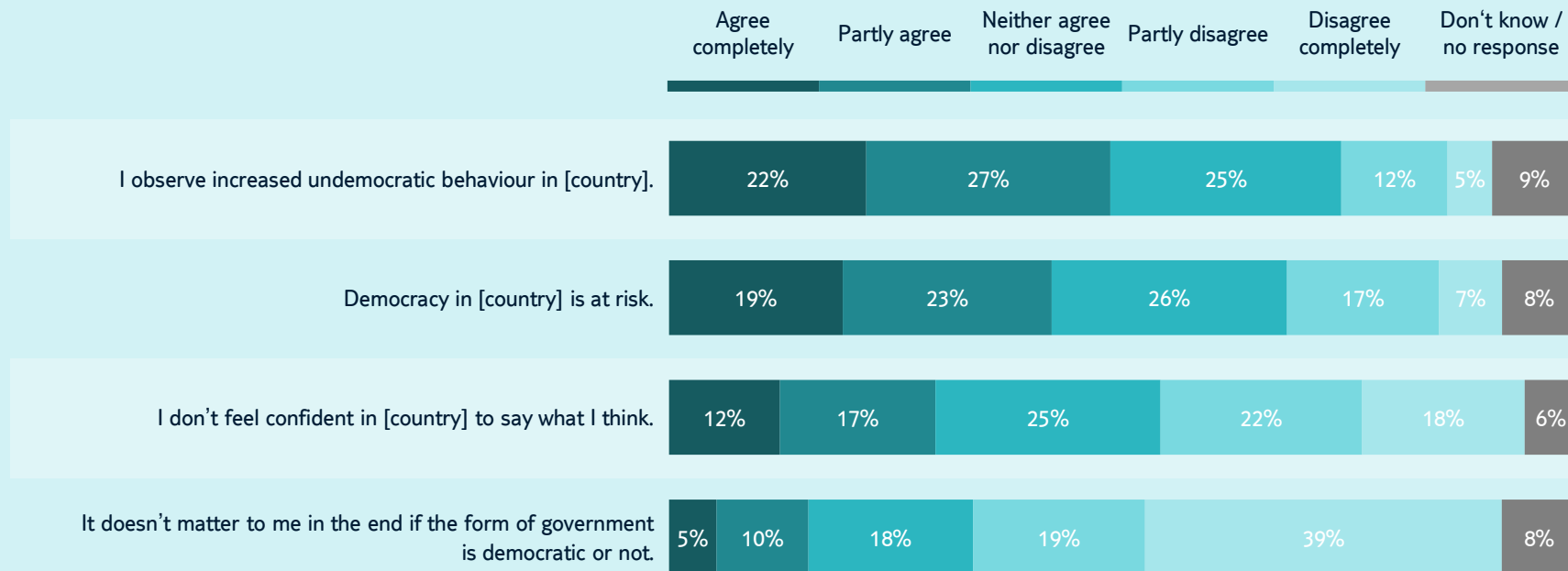
## Three quarters of respondents perceive strong conflicts of interest between people on the political left and right.

Some say there are conflicts of interests between different groups. How serious, if they even exist, do you think the conflicts are between the following groups in your country?



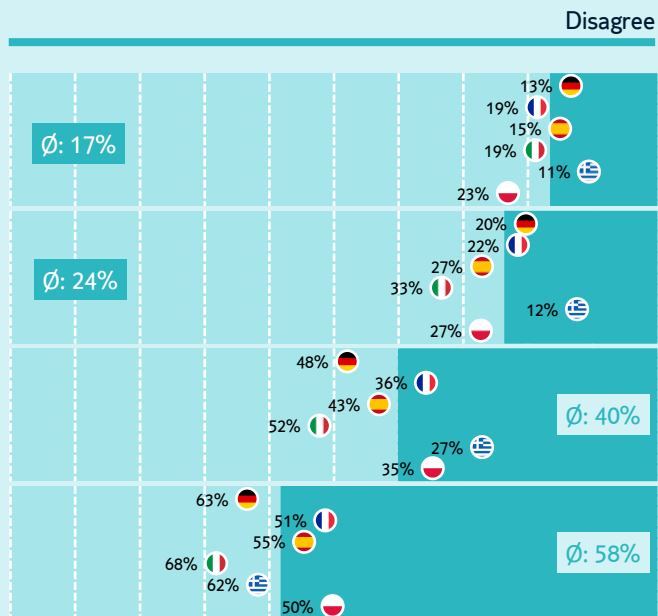
## Almost one half of respondents report observing increased anti-democratic behaviour in their own country. Four in ten respondents consider democracy to be at risk.

The next section is about your estimation of democracy as it is in [COUNTRY]. You can more or less agree with the following statements. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



# Young Greeks, in particular, are concerned about democracy in their country and most commonly observe undemocratic behaviour.

Now we want to ask about your assessment of democracy as it exists in [COUNTRY]. You can more or less agree with the following statements. To what extent do you agree with each statement?

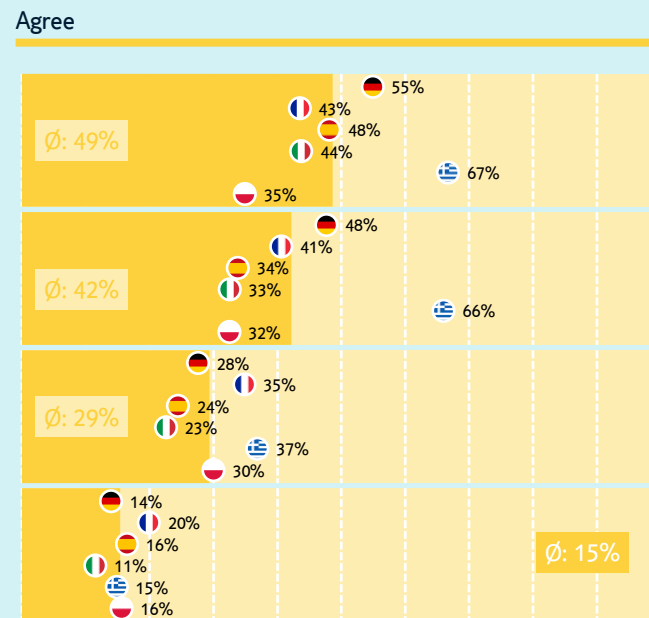


In [country], I am increasingly observing anti-democratic behavior.

Democracy in [country] is at risk.

I don't dare to say what I think freely in [country].

For me, it ultimately doesn't matter whether the form of government is democratic or not.



# Political self-conception



# Political self-conception

## Young respondents are very interested in the system they live in

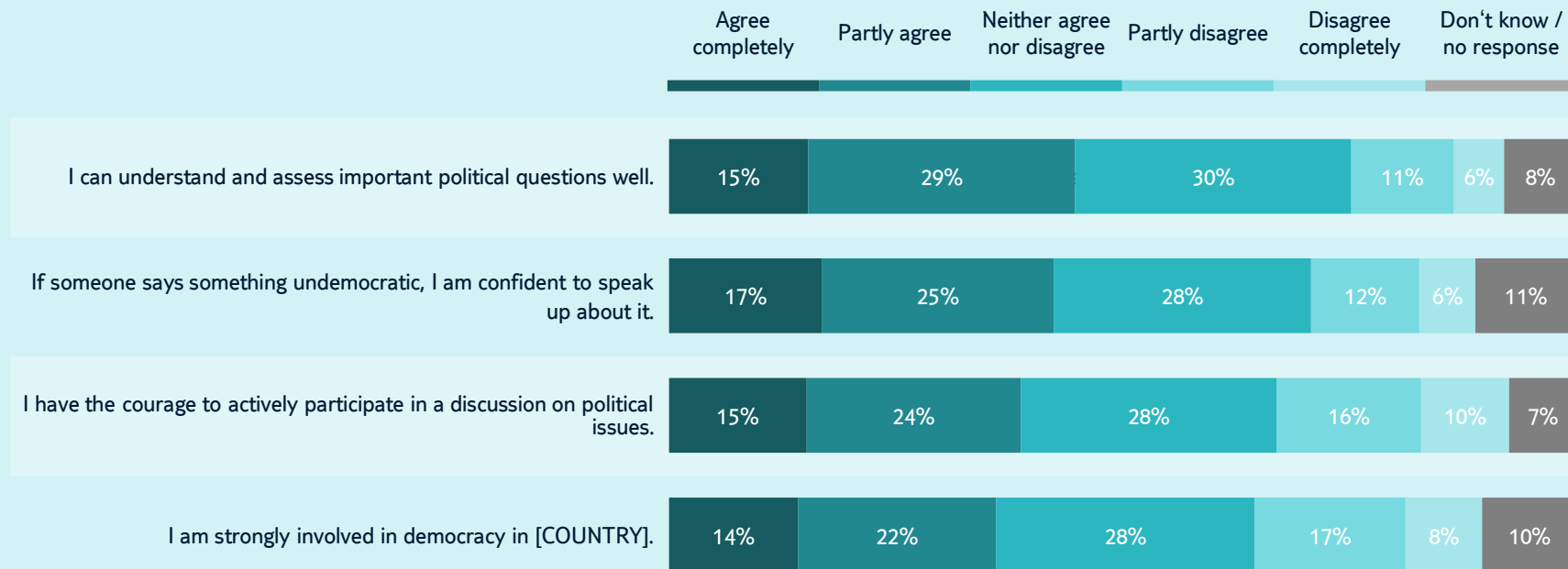
- Among young respondents, **political identity** is tending to increase again: 45 percent of respondents report that they understand political questions well and can evaluate them. This is up by six percentage points from last year. Furthermore, four in ten respondents (39%) report feeling confident to be actively involved in a discussion on political questions. Four in ten (42%) would also feel confident in saying something if someone said something undemocratic.
- In Germany especially, young respondents demonstrate **high political self-confidence**: for example, one half (50%) report being able to understand important political questions well. Their political interest is also substantially above the European average (43%). Moreover, around half (48%) would actively involve themselves in political discussions and be confident about saying something about undemocratic statements (49%).
- In general, the **political self-confidence strongly depends on socio-demographic factors**: men (51%) are more commonly confident about correctly evaluating political questions than women (38%). It is similar with regard to education (high: 49% versus low: 38%) and standard of living (high: 49% versus low: 44%).
- Despite the slight growth in political confidence, only just over one third (36%) of young Europeans report strongly engaging in democracy.

## Generally high internalisation of basic democratic values

- When asked what makes a **good citizen**, it was seen that mainly your own independent opinion (69%) and tolerance for other opinions (67%) are qualities of good citizens for young Europeans. It continues to be important to seven in ten respondents (69%) to help friends and acquaintances.
- More than half (53%) also feel that good citizens **involve themselves in democracy**. Four in ten respondents (42%) consider being politically active to be an important characteristic. In general however, these aspects appear to be substantially less important than the values of freedom of opinion, tolerance and charity. Greece stands out a bit here: not only were all aspects selected more often overall than in other countries, but also the surveyed items on political engagement are significantly more important than for other respondents. Consistent with this, Greeks most commonly (51%) report strong engagement in democracy (compared to Germany: 27%).
- Overall, three quarters (75%) of young Europeans say that **voting is a citizen's duty**. At the same time, elections are commonly seen as an effective method of changing things (68%). But around half, 49 percent, still (mainly) decline the right to vote from 16 years old. Germany forms the exception here, where respondents will be allowed to vote in the upcoming European election from the age of 16 for the first time. The majority (56%) support this, with only one third (33%) holding a different opinion. The Spanish and Greeks, in particular, do not feel that they are well prepared from school for voting. This could be an explanatory factor for why the rejection of voting rights from the age of 16 is the highest (Spain: 60%, Greece: 57%).

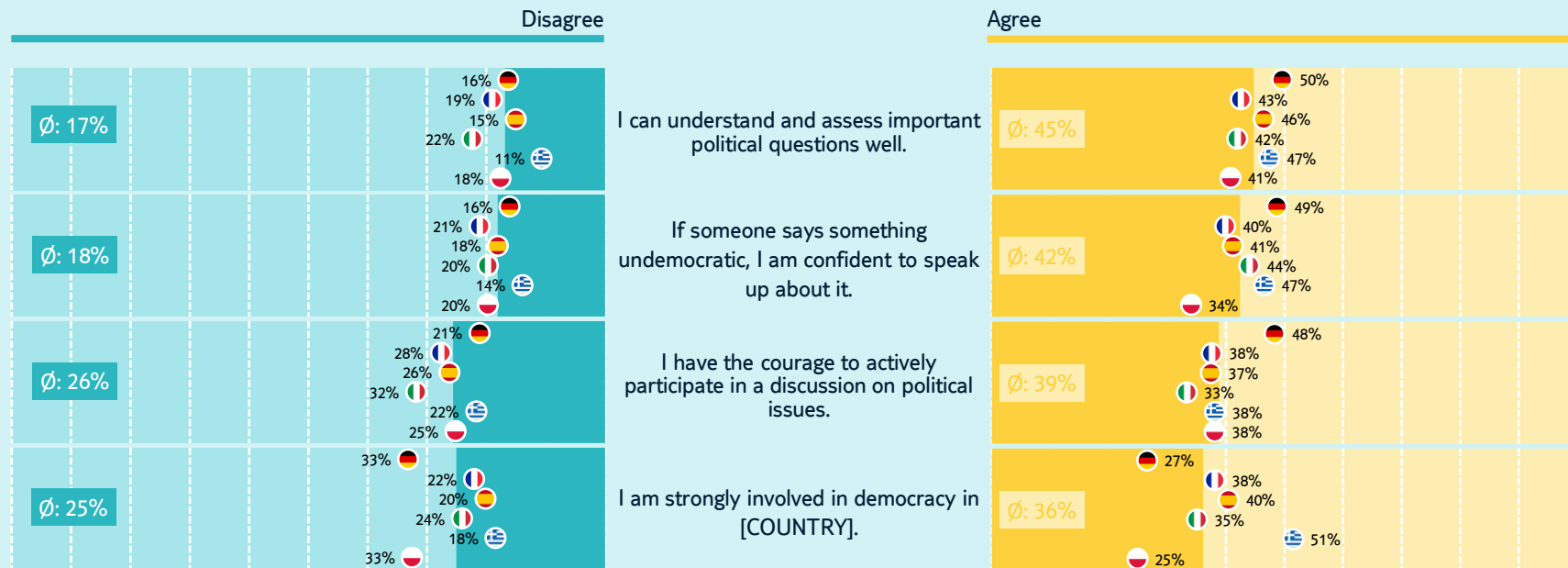
# A good four out of ten respondents believe that they are basically in a position to intervene if someone says something undemocratic.

Now we want to ask about your assessment of political issues. You can more or less agree with the following statements. To what extent do you agree with each statement?



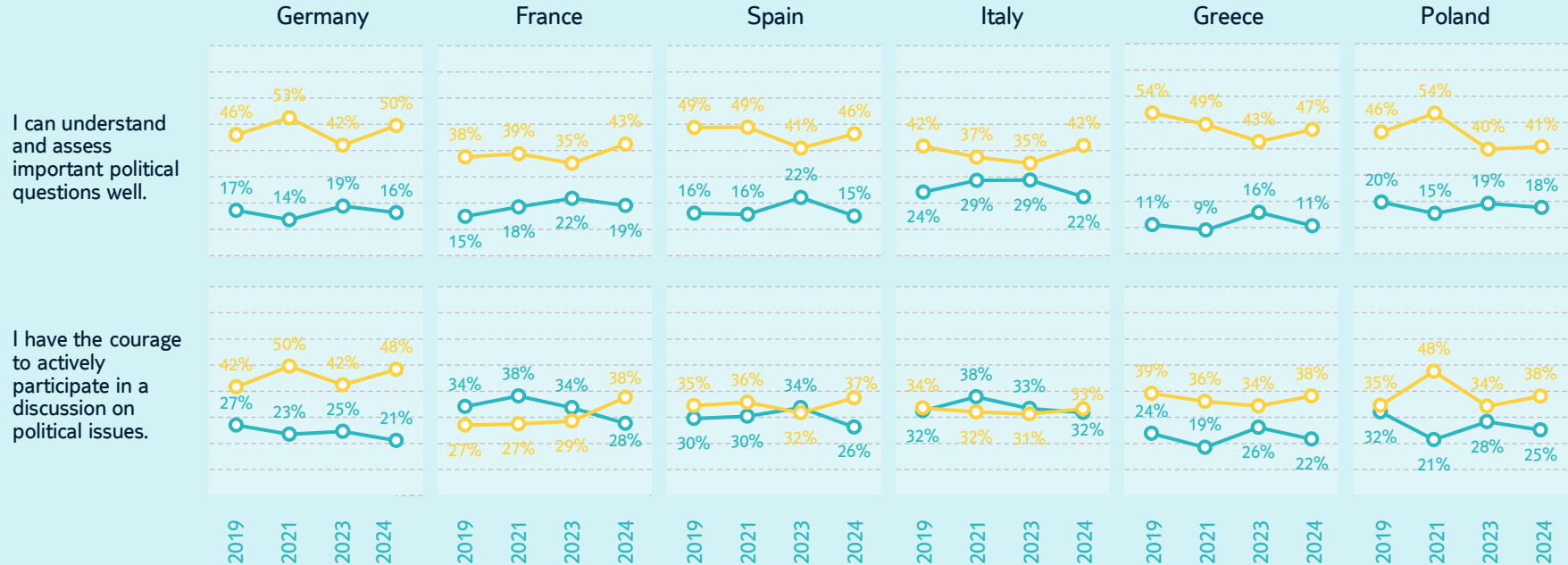
# Young German people have the highest confidence with regard to political questions and discussions. Greeks express the strongest involvement in democracy.

Now we want to ask about your assessment of political issues. You can more or less agree with the following statements. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each statement?



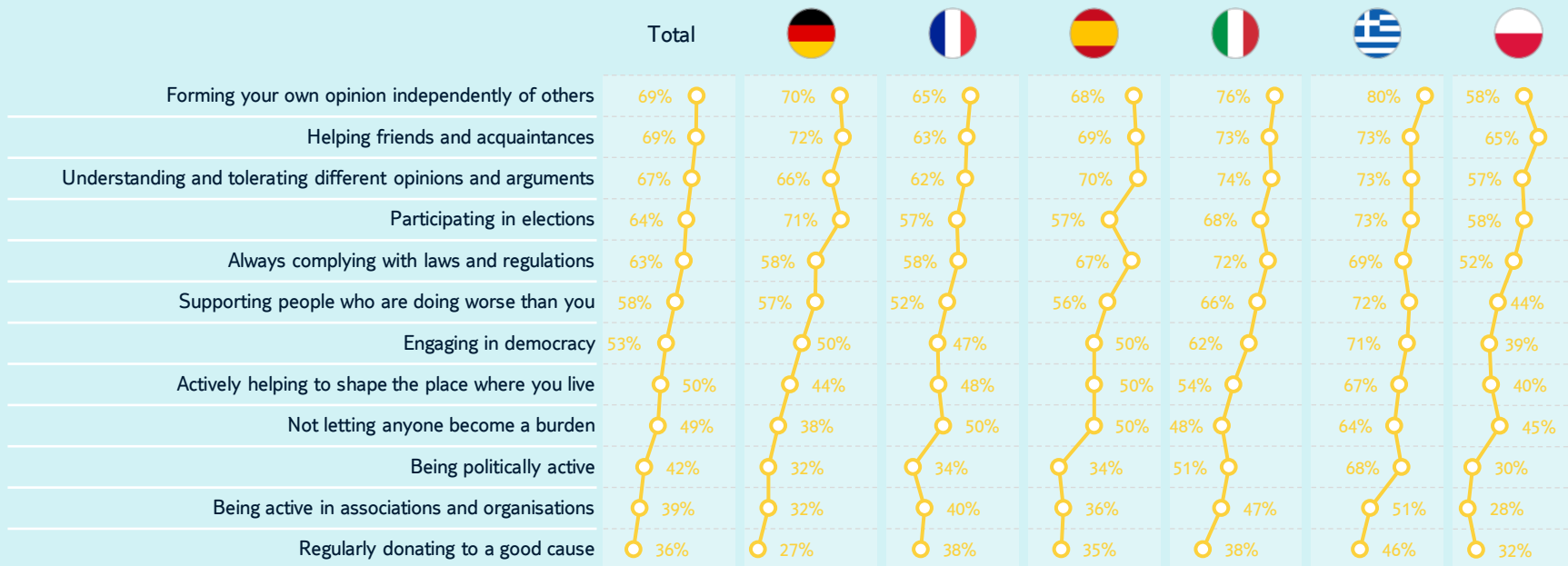
# The political identity has increased again in all countries.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each statement?



# Forming your own opinion as well as tolerating other opinions counts as one of the most important attributes of a good citizen for young Europeans.

There are differing opinions of what makes a “good citizen”. How important do you think the following characteristics are? Please use the scale from 0 to 10, whereby 0 means “not at all important” and 10 means “very important”.



# Pluralism of opinion and adherence to the law are included in the most important characteristics of a good citizen in the German population as a whole.

There are differing opinions of what makes a “good citizen”. How important do you think the following characteristics are? Please use the scale from 0 to 10, whereby 0 means “not at all important” and 10 means “very important”. – Comparison with population-representative results from Germany

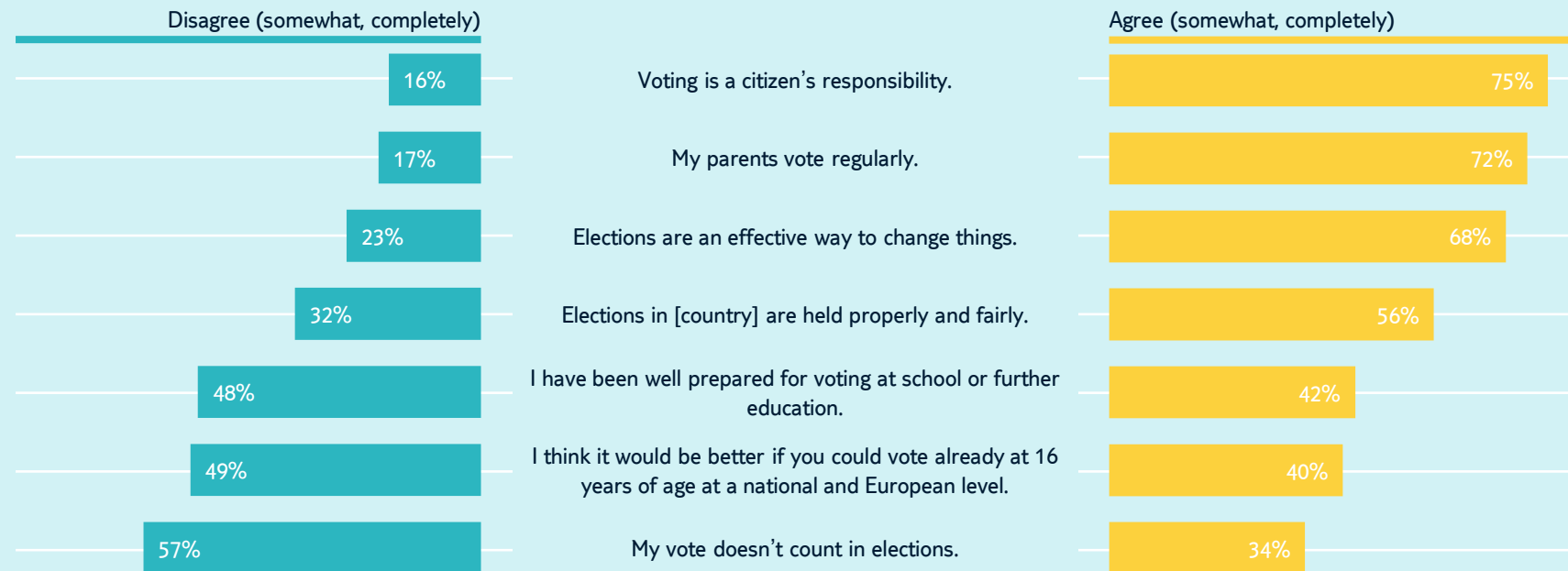


Among the young respondents in Germany, female respondents more frequently cite supporting people who are doing worse than you (59%) as an **important characteristic of a good citizen** than men (55%). Adherence to the law is also cited by female respondents more often (61%) than by male respondents (54%). Substantially more male respondents (48%) instead cite the aspect of actively helping to shape the place where you live than women (39%). In addition, it is more important for male respondents to not let anyone become a burden (41% versus 34% by female respondents).

- Young Europe sample GER
- Population-representative sample

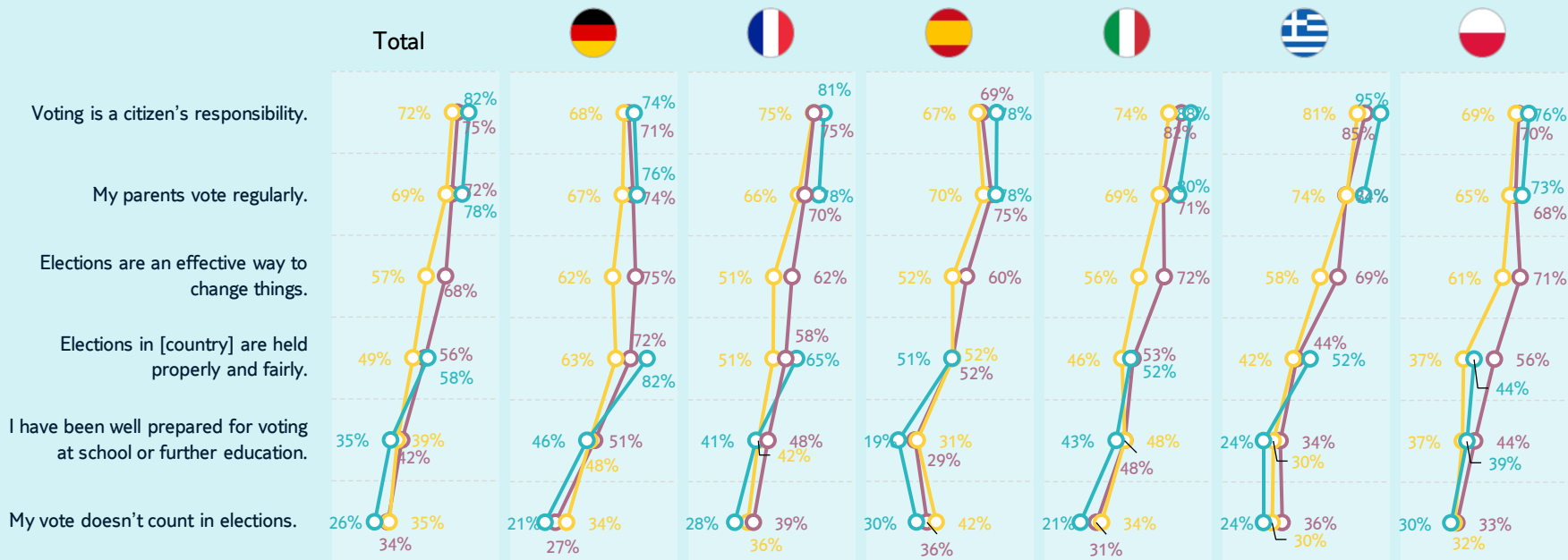
# Three quarters of respondents consider voting to be a citizen's obligation.

Next we will show you some statements on the topic of elections and voting rights. Please state how much you agree or do not agree with them.



# More than two thirds of respondents feel that elections are an effective method for political change – substantially more than the previous year.

Next we will show you some statements on the topic of elections and voting rights. Please state how much you agree or do not agree with them.



A portion of the sample are not yet eligible to vote yet.



# Representation & political participation

# Representation & political participation

## Young people often feel at a disadvantage compared to older people

- Around one third of young Europeans (35%) generally believe that the **interests of younger generations are disadvantaged** by the political system compared to the interests of older generations.
- There are considerable differences between the countries here, however: in Germany, the perception that the interests of the older generation are represented more is increasing again over the course of time (2024: 40%, 2023: 36%). It is also substantially increasing in Italy (from 44% to 49%). In Poland, the percentage of those who feel that mainly the interests of older people are represented reduced from 52 percent to 34 percent, which may be a result of the national election and government formed at the end of 2023.
- The perceived disadvantage owing to the political system continues to be expressed in the **receptiveness to populist arguments**, to which the agreement is high in general. More than half (56%, 2023: 60%), (mainly) agree with the statement that politicians don't care very much what people like them think. More than two thirds of respondents (68%) feel that politicians talk too much and don't do enough. Young Greeks, in particular, relate to this.
- In a comparison over time, it becomes clear, however, that the level of agreement is dropping slightly within European respondents for individual statements. 47 percent of respondents continue to believe that "people like

them" do not influence what the government does, but this level was at 53 percent in 2023.

## Trust deficit and representation problem

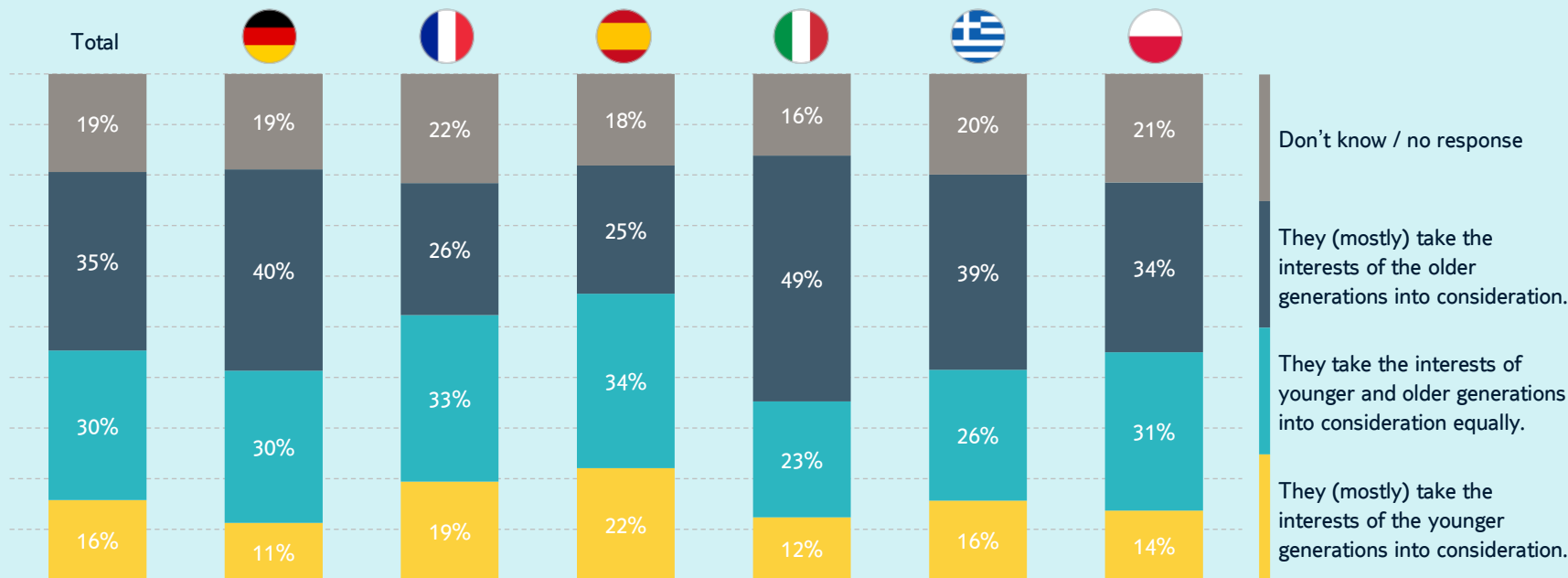
- National parliaments, governments and parties are still recording a **substantial trust deficit**. Only one in ten respondents (10%) report having trust in political parties. 16 percent trust the national parliament and the national government respectively. In contrast, the trust that young people have towards EU institutions comes out substantially higher: just over one third (35%) of young Europeans reports trusting EU institutions (slight increase compared to the previous year: 32%).
- This is not reflected in the **perception of representation by the EU parliament**, however. Only 17 percent feel represented by the EU parliament. Just over one third of respondents feel not or a little (36%) or moderately (35%) represented. With regard to the national parliament, representation is perceived to be deficient as well: similarly just 17 percent of young Europeans feel represented by their national parliament. The situation is especially precarious in Italy and Greece, where over half of respondents do not feel represented (55% each).

## Political participation

- Over three quarters of respondents consider petitions (79%) and demonstrations (77%) to be **justified methods of having political influence**. 69 percent feel sharing political articles is justified, but many would not do this themselves (41%). The trend is similar when considering citizen involvement or cooperation in parties. Apart from in France, elections are listed everywhere as the **most effective measure** in order to have political influence.

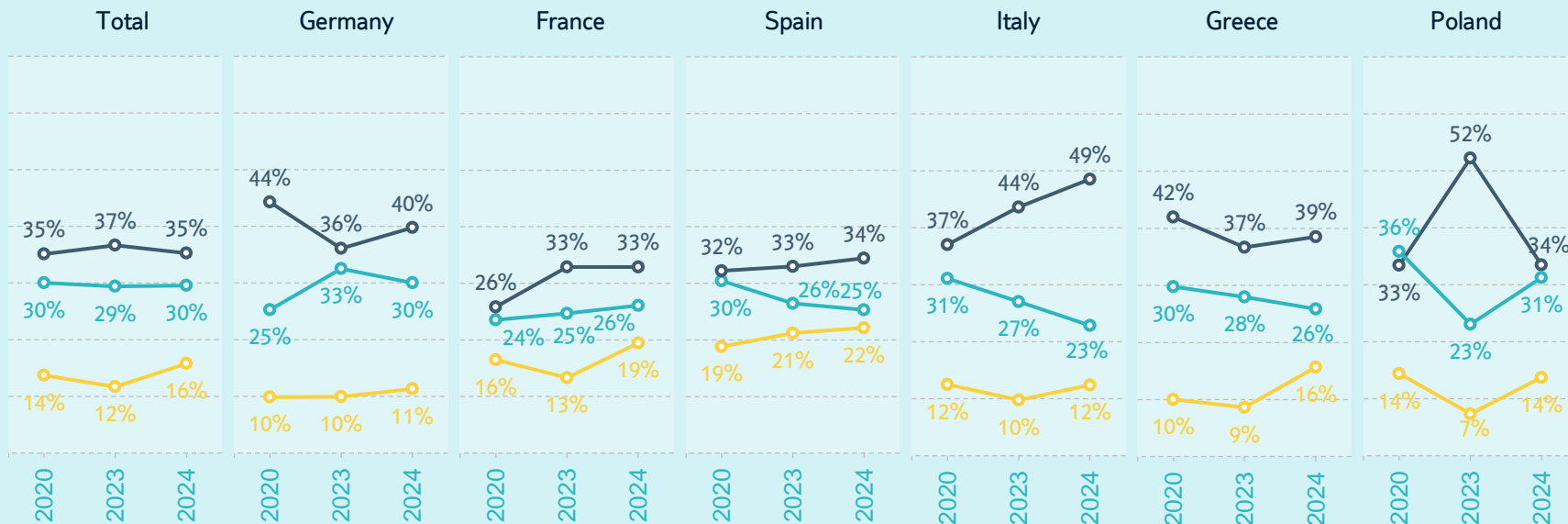
# Young Europeans consider themselves to be at a disadvantage compared to older generations.

Do the politicians in [country] generally take the interests of the younger or the older generations into consideration? Or do they take the interests of younger and older generations into consideration equally?



# Around one third of young Europeans consider the interests of younger generations are at a disadvantage compared to those of older generations.

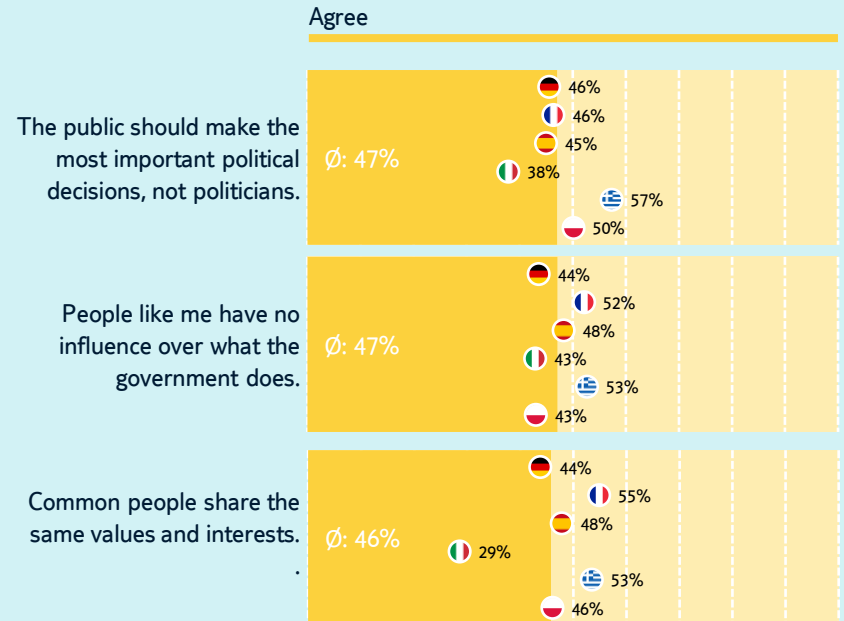
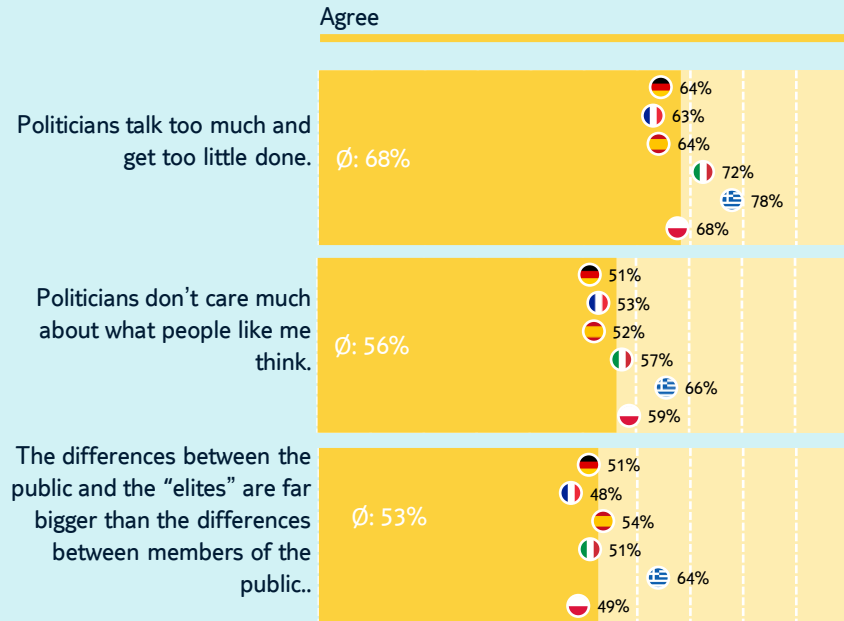
Do the politicians in [country] generally take the interests of the younger or the older generations into consideration? Or do they take the interests of younger and older generations into consideration equally?



- They (mostly) take the interests of the older generations into consideration.
- They take the interests of younger and older generations into consideration equally.
- They (mostly) take the interests of the younger generations into consideration.

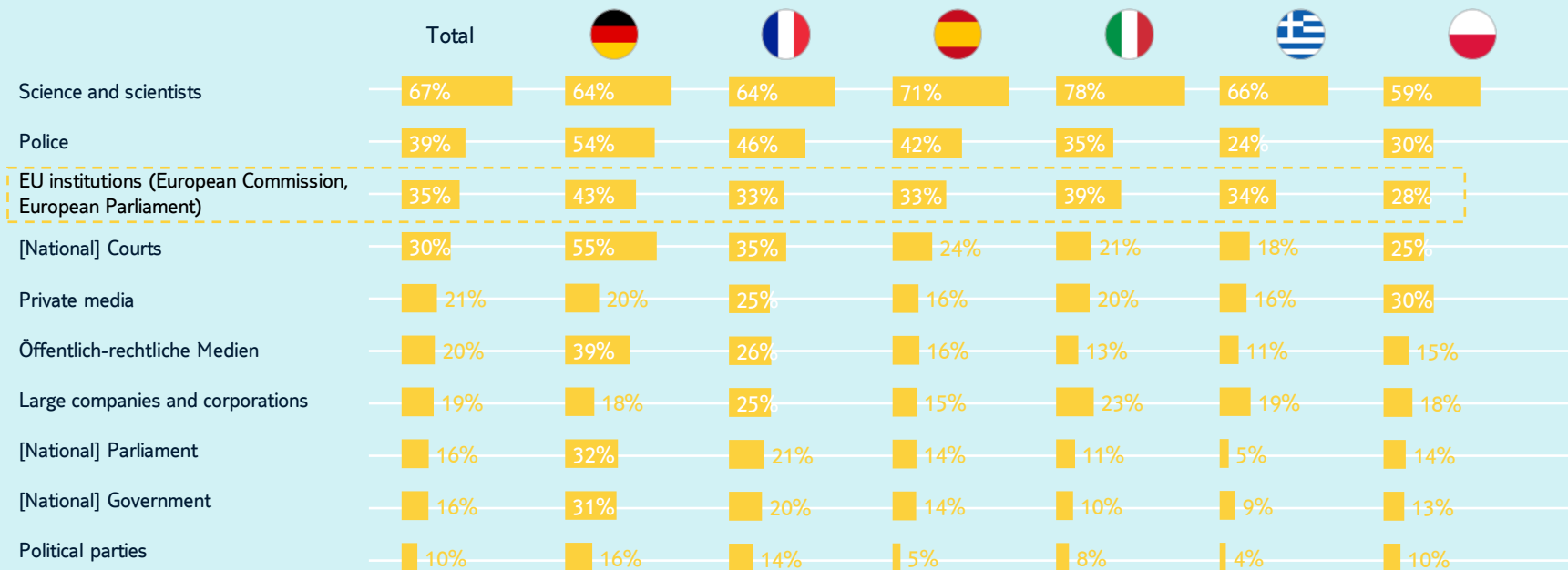
# Overall, there is a high level of agreement with populist statements. Young people in Greece relate to this, in particular.

To what extent do you agree with the respective statement?



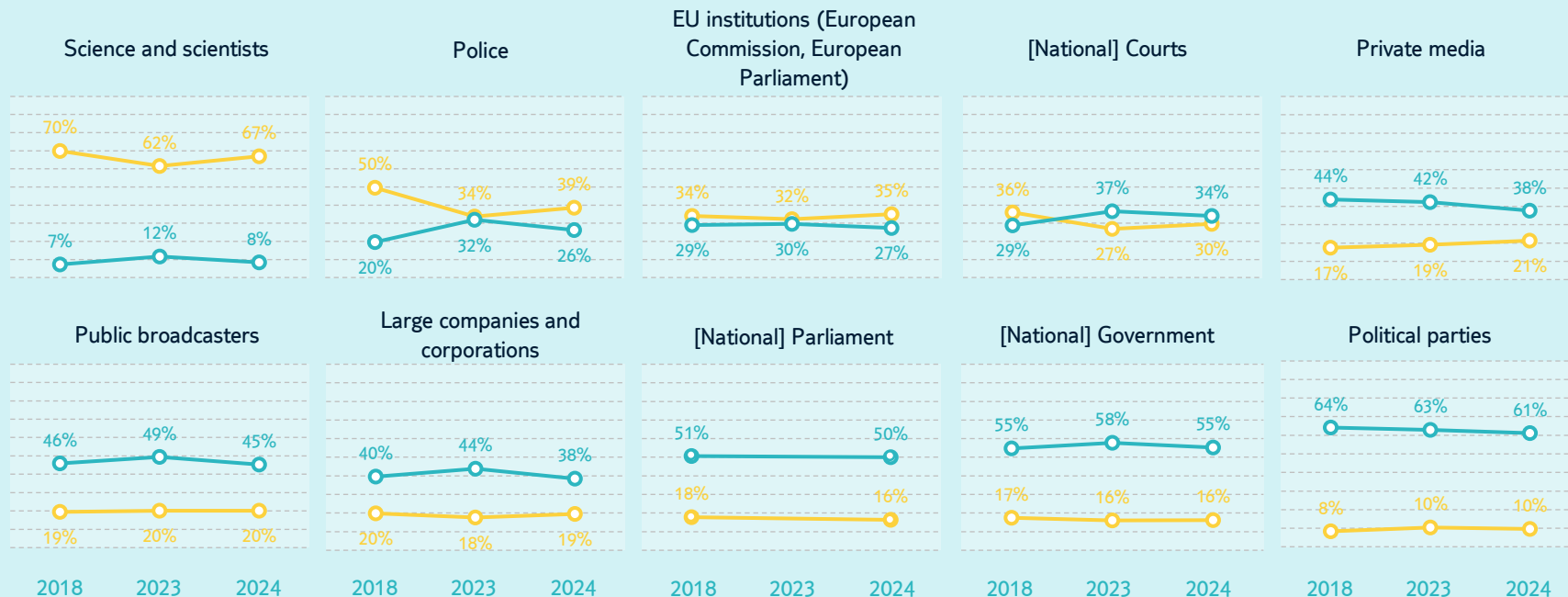
# The trust in national political institutions and parties is very low among young Europeans.

How much do you trust the following organisations and groups?



# The trust in national political institutions and parties is stable at a very low level among young Europeans.

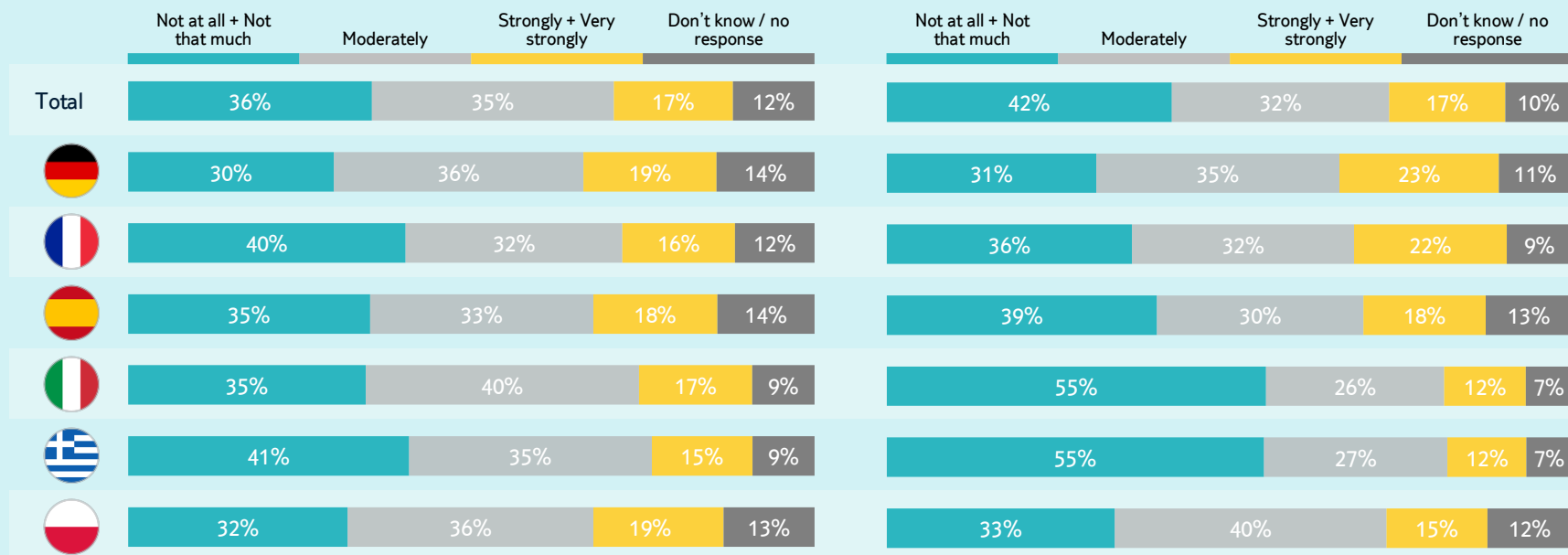
How much do you trust the following organisations and groups? – Total



# Around one half feel at least partly represented by the European parliament. The lowest perception of representation is in Italy and Greece.

How much do you feel you and your interests are represented by the European parliament?

How much do you feel you and your interests are represented by the parliament of [country]?

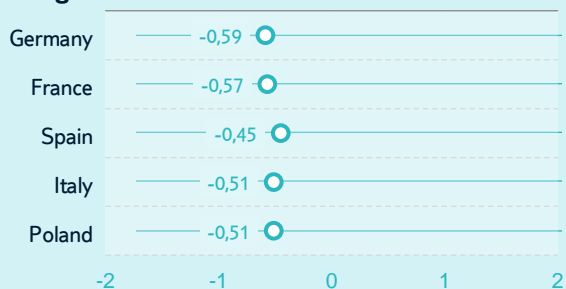




# The factors of a candidate's age and party affiliation influence the feeling of being represented by a delegate.

Badge experiment: next we will show you three candidates as they will stand in the European election in June. Please state for each person shown how well you feel they could represent you and your interests as a delegate in the European parliament. Please use a scale of 0 to 10 for this, where 0 means "the person cannot represent me and my interests well at all" and 10 "the person can represent me and my interests very well".

## Country of origin of the candidate



## Party affiliation of the candidate



## Gender of the candidate

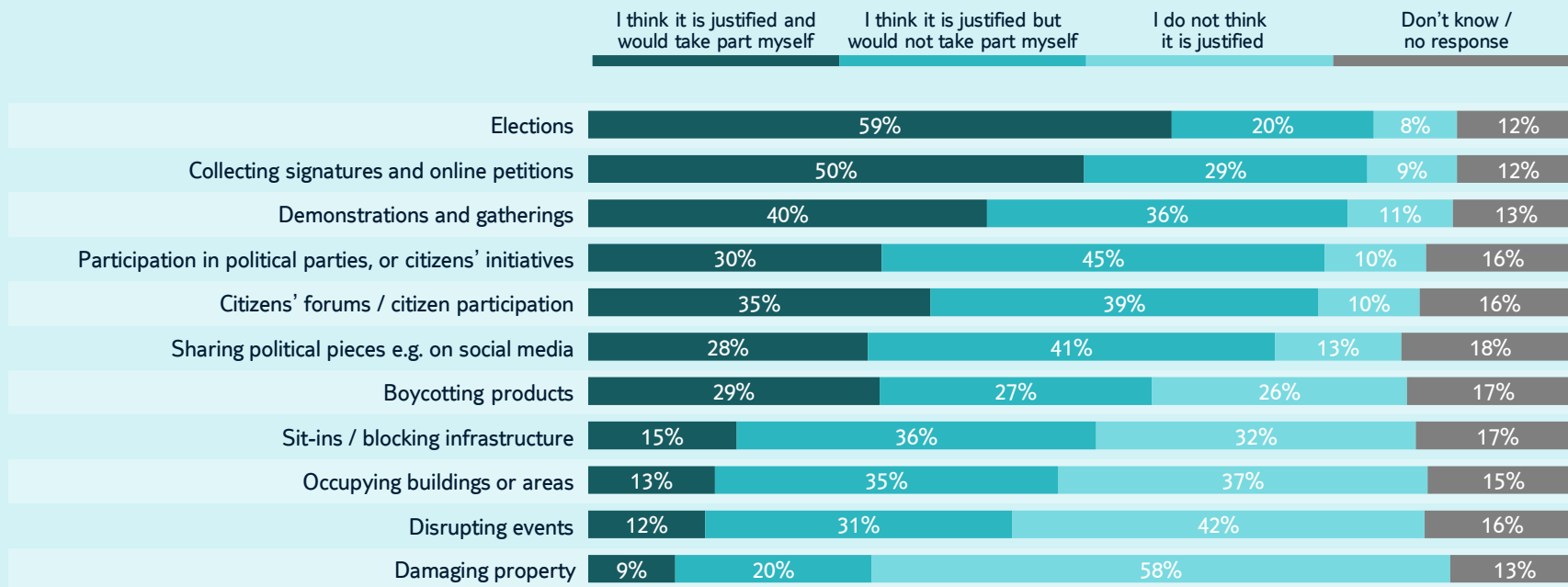


## Age of the candidate



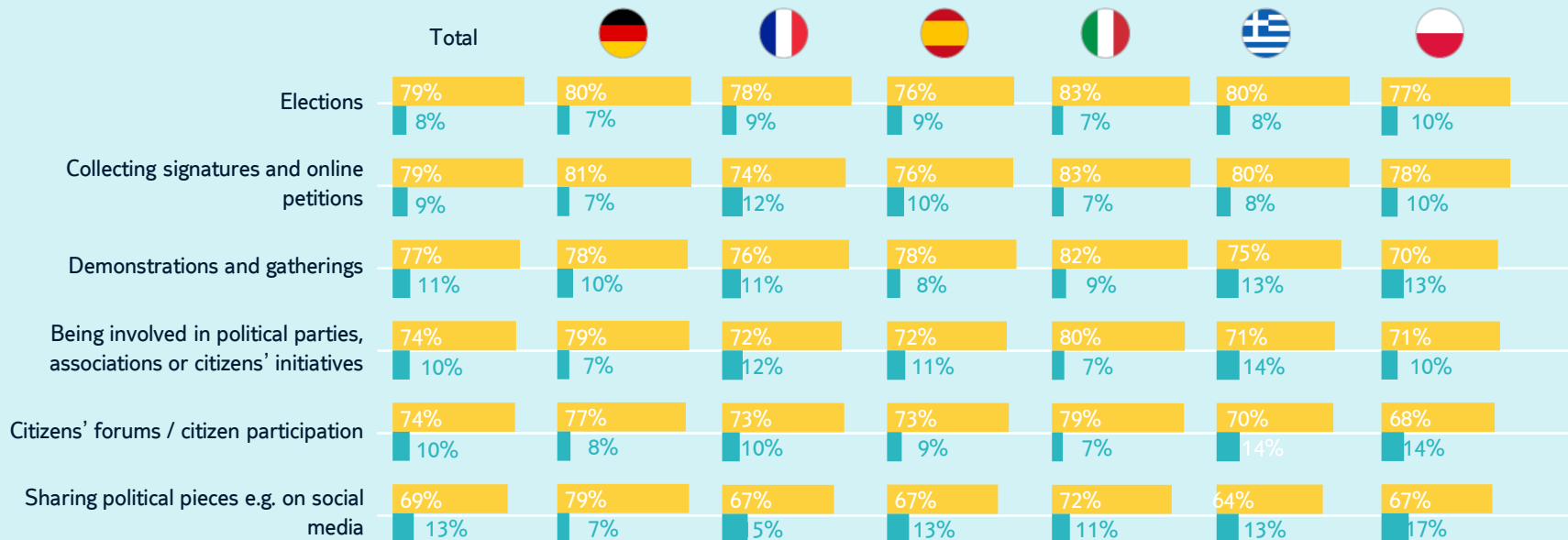
# Young Europeans mainly see elections, petitions and demonstrations as legitimate methods of having political influence.


To what extent, if at all, do you consider the following to be justified and would you participate in order to exert political influence and make your point publicly?




# Four out of five German respondents consider sharing political articles, for example on social media, to be a justified method of expressing an opinion.

To what extent, if at all, do you consider the following to be justified and would you participate in order to exert political influence and make your point publicly?



 I think it is justified: („I think it is justified and would take part myself“ + „I think it is justified but would not take part myself“)

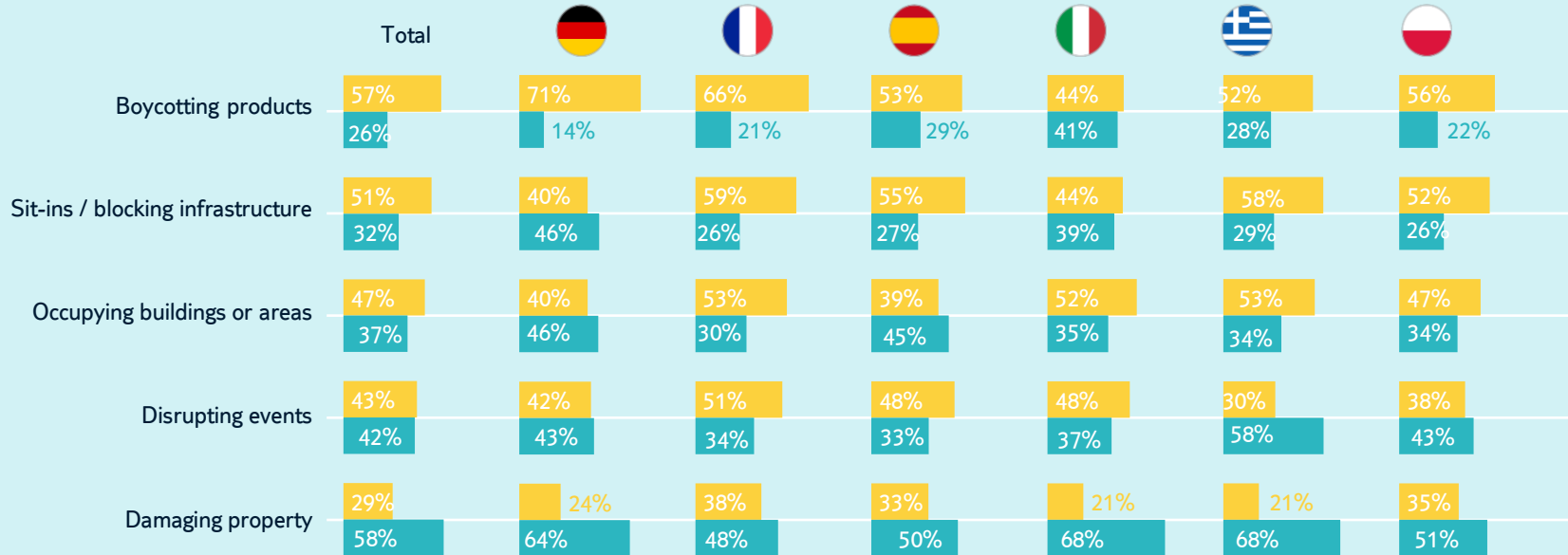
 I do not think it is justified



A portion of the sample are not yet eligible to vote yet.

Base: all respondents, n=5.874, „Don't know / no response“ not shown

# Boycotting products is considered to be a legitimate method of having political influence by young Germans, in particular.

To what extent, if at all, do you consider the following to be justified and would you participate in order to exert political influence and make your point publicly?



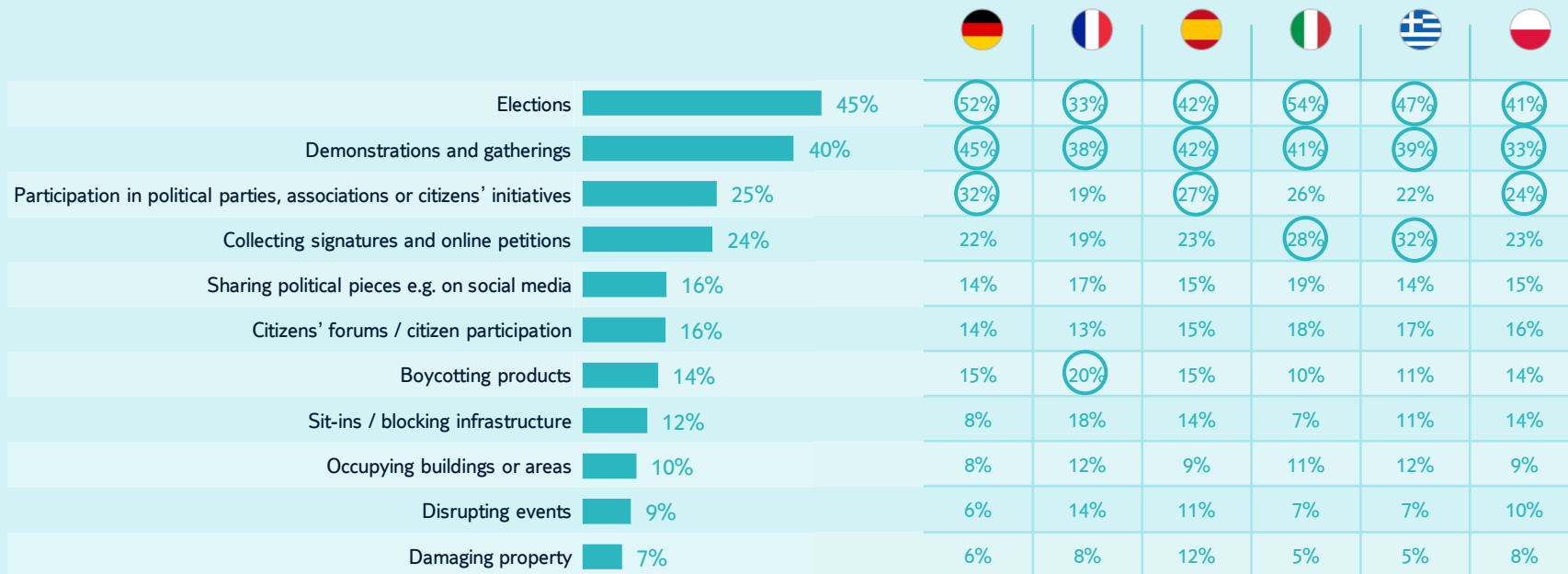
 I think it is justified: („I think it is justified and would take part myself“ + „I think it is justified but would not take part myself“)
   
 I do not think it is justified

A portion of the sample are not yet eligible to vote yet.

Base: all respondents, n=5.874, „Don't know / no response“ not shown

# Elections and demonstrations are in the top three most effective methods of having political influence in all countries.

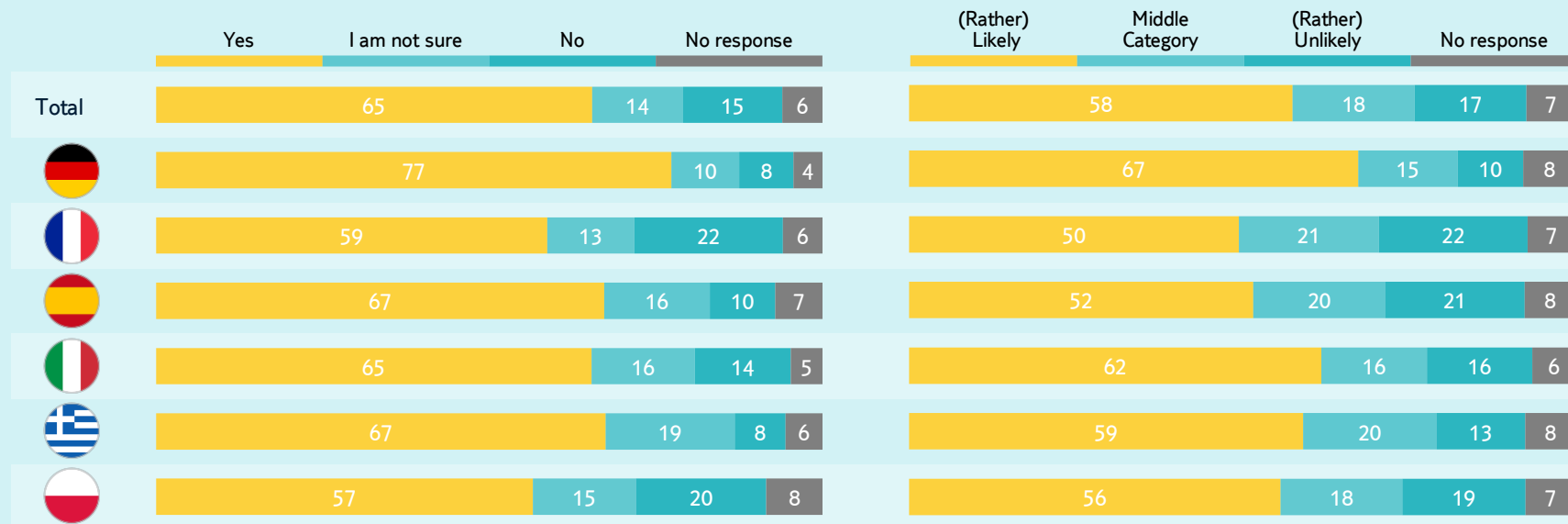
Which of the following do you think is the most effective way of exerting political influence? You can choose up to three things.



# Almost one in three respondents report wanting to vote in the upcoming European election.

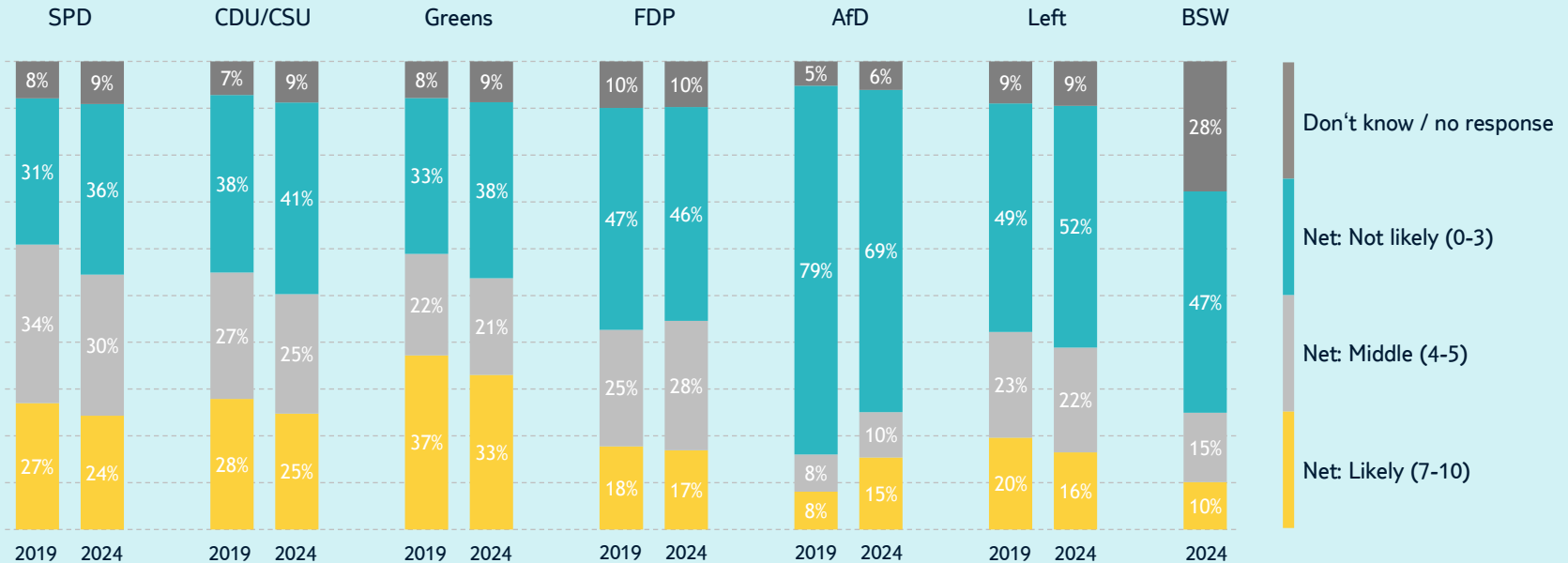
The European elections are taking place in June. How about for you: will you be eligible to vote?

How likely is it that you will vote in the European election in June 2024? \*



# Parties: Voting potential among German respondents

There are a range of political parties in Germany, each of which would like to get your vote. Please state for each of the following parties how likely it is that you would ever vote for them. Please use a scale of 0 to 10 for this, where 0 means “not likely at all” and 10 means “very likely”.

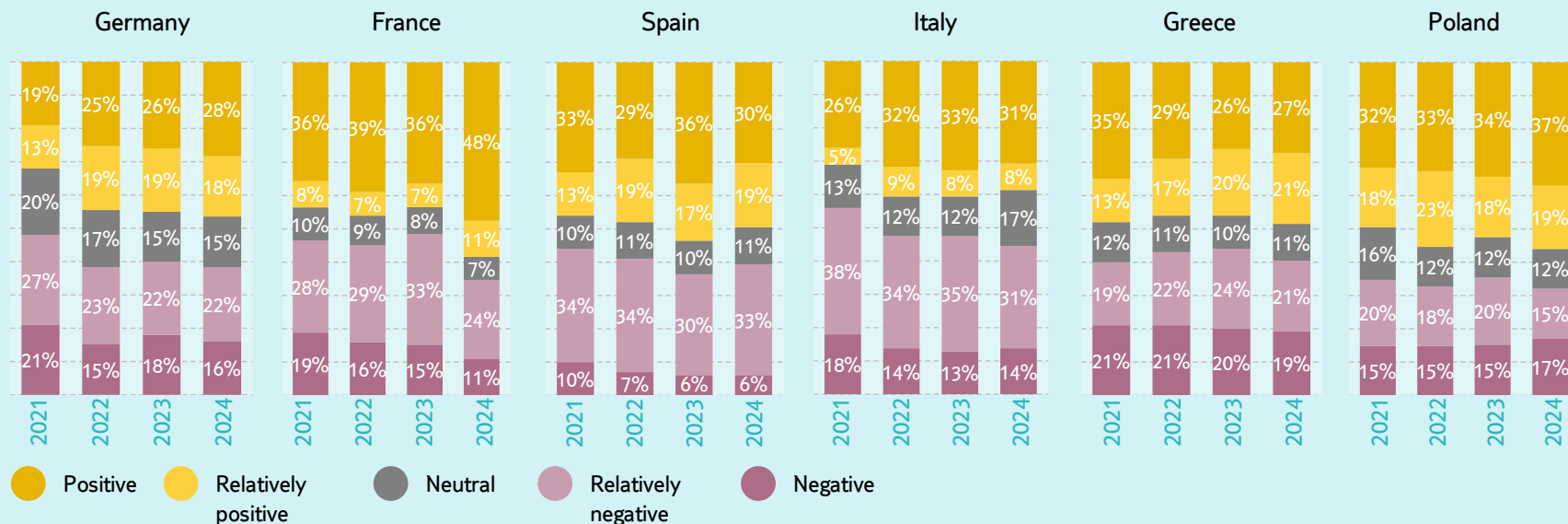


# Appendix



# Young French people describe their emotional state in 2024 more positively than in the previous year.

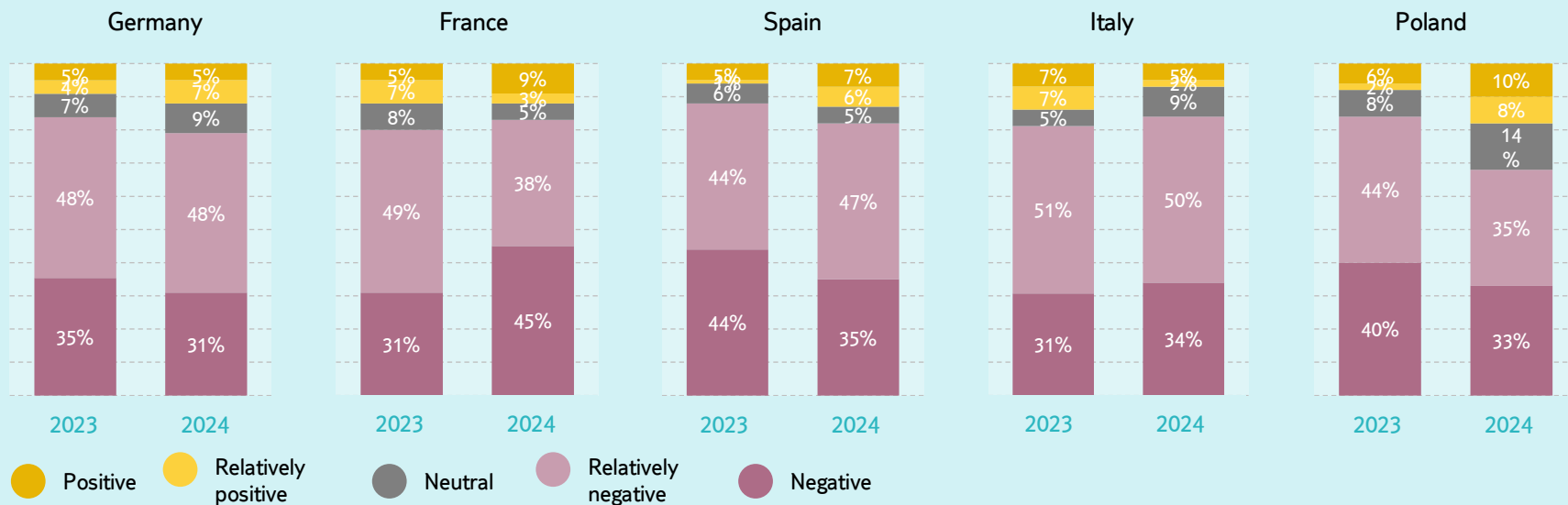
Please describe your current emotional state in one word! (Open question)



The open-ended answers of those surveyed have been evaluated by several coders whose first language is the respective national language with regard to their emotional state, and categorised as (relatively) positive, neutral or (relatively) negative. (Typing) errors were cleaned from the responses first, and words with the same meaning (e.g. "sad" and "sadness") were pooled.

# The majority of young Europeans rate the emotional state of people in their country as (quite) negative.

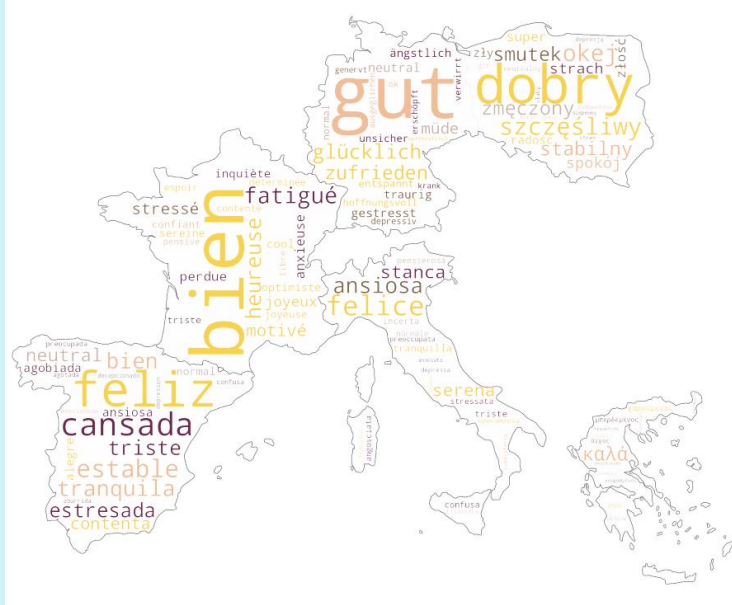
Please think about how most people in [country] feel at the moment. How would you describe the emotional state of most people in [country] in one word?



The open-ended answers of those surveyed have been evaluated by several coders whose first language is the respective national language with regard to their emotional state, and categorised as (relatively) positive, neutral or (relatively) negative. (Typing) errors were cleaned from the responses first, and words with the same meaning (e.g. "sad" and "sadness") were pooled. This question was not asked in Greece.

# This is how young Europeans assess their own emotional state and the emotional state of most people in the country in one word:

Please describe your current emotional state in one word! (open-ended questions)



Please think about how most people in [COUNTRY] feel at the moment. How would you describe the emotional state of most people in [COUNTRY] in one word? (open-ended questions)



# This is how young people in Germany are feeling in one word:

Please describe your current emotional state in one word! (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	gut	good	rather positive	49
2	glücklich	happy	positive	41
3	zufrieden	content	positive	38
4	müde	tired	neutral	25
5	neutral	neutral	neutral	15
6	gestresst	stressed	negative	14
7	traurig	sad	negative	12
8	ängstlich	anxious	rather negative	12
9	entspannt	relaxed-	positive	11
10	unsicher	insecure	rather negativ	11

# This is how young people in Germany estimate the emotional state of most people in the country in one word:

Please think about how most people in [COUNTRY] feel at the moment. How would you describe the emotional state of most people in [COUNTRY] in one word? (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	unsicher	insecure	rather negative	38
2	ängstlich	anxious	rather negative	33
3	unzufrieden	insecure	rather negative	28
4	besorgt	worried	rather negative	21
5	frustriert	frustrated	negative	21
6	gut	good	rather positive	18
7	schlecht	bad	negative	15
8	gestresst	stressed	negative	14
9	verunsichert	insecure	rather negative	12
10	angeneuert	tense	rather negative	11

# This is how young people in France are feeling in one word:

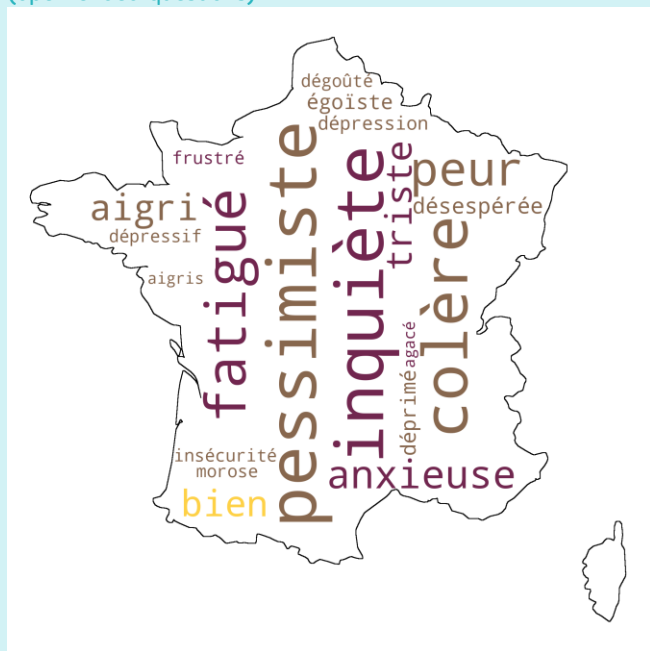
Please describe your current emotional state in one word! (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	bien	good	positive	46
2	fatigué	tired	rather negative	39
3	heureuse	happy	positive	35
4	motivé	motivated	positive	20
5	stressé	stressed	negative	18
6	joyeux	cheerful	positive	15
7	anxieuse	anxious	rather negative	13
8	perdue	lost	rather negative	12
9	cool	cool	positive	9
10	inquiète	worried	rather negative	9

# This is how young people in France estimate the emotional state of most people in the country in one word:

Please think about how most people in [COUNTRY] feel at the moment. How would you describe the emotional state of most people in [COUNTRY] in one word? (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	pessimiste	pessimistic	negative	30
2	inquiète	worried	rather negative	29
3	colère	anger	negative	25
4	fatigué	tired	rather negative	20
5	peur	Anxiety / Fear	negative	14
6	anxieuse	anxious	rather negative	13
7	aigri	embittered	negative	11
8	bien	good	positive	11
9	triste	sad	rather negative	11
10	désespérée	desperate	negative	10

# This is how young people in Italy are feeling in one word:

Please describe your current emotional state in one word! (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	felice	happy	positive	51
2	ansiosa	eager	negative	45
3	stanca	tired	rather negative	32
4	serena	carefree	positive	30
5	tranquilla	quiet	positive	22
6	triste	sad	rather negative	19
7	incerta	insecure	neutral	18
8	confusa	confused	rather negative	16
9	pensierosa	thoughtful	neutral	14
10	stressata	stressed	rather negative	14



# This is how young people in Italy estimate the emotional state of most people in the country in one word:

Please think about how most people in [COUNTRY] feel at the moment. How would you describe the emotional state of most people in [COUNTRY] in one word? (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	delusa	disappointed	rather negative	35
2	preoccupata	worried	rather negative	33
3	ansiosa	eager	negative	28
4	rassegnata	designed	negative	22
5	depressa	depressed	negative	20
6	sfiduciata	discouraged	rather negative	19
7	insoddisfatta	discontent	negative	17
8	frustrata	frustrated	negative	16
9	pessimo	very bad	negative	16
10	stanca	tired	rather negative	16

# This is how young people in Spain are feeling in one word:

Please describe your current emotional state in one word! (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	feliz	happy	positive	85
2	cansada	tired	rather negative	47
3	estable	stable	rather positive	25
4	tranquila	quiet	rather positive	22
5	bien	good	rather positive	21
6	triste	sad	rather negative	19
7	estresada	stressed	rather negative	18
8	neutral	neutral	neutral	15
9	contenta	happy	positive	14
10	agobiada	burdened	rather negative	13

## This is how young people in Spain estimate the emotional state of most people in the country in one word:

Please think about how most people in [COUNTRY] feel at the moment. How would you describe the emotional state of most people in [COUNTRY] in one word? (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	cansada	tired	rather negative	35
2	ansiosa	anxious	rather negative	26
3	estresada	stressed	rather negative	25
4	pesimista	pessimistic	negative	23
5	frustrada	frustrated	negative	22
6	triste	sad	rather negative	21
7	depresión	depression	negative	20
8	decepcionado	disappointed	negative	18
9	preocupada	worried	rather negative	18
10	desesperada	desperate	negative	16



# This is how young people in Poland are feeling in one word:

Please describe your current emotional state in one word! (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	dobry	good	positive	78
2	szczęśliwy	happy	positive	26
3	okej	okay	rather positive	25
4	stabilny	stable	rather positive	18
5	zmęczony	tired	neutral	18
6	smutek	sadness	negative	17
7	spokój	calmness	rather positive	17
8	strach	anxiety / fear	rather negativ	16
9	super	super	positive	13
10	złość	anger	negative	13

## This is how young people in Poland estimate the emotional state of most people in the country in one word:

Please think about how most people in [COUNTRY] feel at the moment. How would you describe the emotional state of most people in [COUNTRY] in one word? (open-ended questions)



Rank	Word	Translation	Rating	Frequency
1	depresją	depression	negative	48
2	strach	anxiety / fear	rather negative	43
3	dobry	good	positive	36
4	źle	bad	negative	29
5	niepewny	insecure	rather negative	19
6	złość	Anger	negative	19
7	smutek	Sadness	negative	16
8	niepokój	Unruhe	rather negative	12
9	słaby	weak	rather negative	10
10	średnio	Average	neutral	9

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The TUI Stiftung promotes and carries out projects all about “Young Europe”. The aim is to reinforce the European idea in general. This is why they undertake long-term investment in regional, national, and international projects focussing on education, training, as well as individual and professional development. Their headquarters are in Hannover and is committed to acting in the public interest as an independent, charitable foundation.

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