



Standard Eurobarometer 94
Winter 2020 - 2021

Media use in the European Union

Report

Fieldwork: February-March 2021



Standard Eurobarometer 94
Winter 2020 - 2021

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

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INTRODUCTION



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The Standard Eurobarometer 94 (EB94) survey was conducted from 12 February to 18 March 2021 in 39 countries or territories: the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU), the five candidate countries (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey), the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus as well as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo¹, Norway, Switzerland and in the United Kingdom.

The full report of the Standard Eurobarometer 94 survey consists of multiple volumes. The first volume presents the results of general questions about the state of public opinion in the European Union. Four other volumes present Europeans' opinions about the following topics: the European Union's priorities; European citizenship; media use in the European Union and the European Union and the coronavirus pandemic.

This volume analyses European citizens' media use, a topic which is addressed through the following issues:

- Media use and trust in the media: which media are used most by European citizens? Do Europeans trust the media and the information they provide?
- The level of information about European matters: do Europeans feel well informed about European issues? Do they feel that citizens in their country are well-informed about these issues?
- Information sources for political matters and the European Union: what are the main information sources used by Europeans when it comes to European political matters, and when searching for information about the European Union? Do Europeans believe that the European Union is treated in an objective manner by their national media?
- Opinion about pluralism and the independence of national media: do European citizens think that European media provide a plurality of views and opinions? Are these media subject to political and commercial pressures?
- Europeans and fake news: are European Union citizens often faced with fake news or news that misrepresents reality? Are they able to identify it? Do they consider it a problem in their country and for democracy in general?

Exceptionally, this Standard Eurobarometer survey 94 was conducted during winter 2020-2021 (February-March 2021) instead of autumn because of the coronavirus pandemic and in some countries, alternative interview modes to face-to-face were necessary as a result of the situation.

When possible, the methodology used was that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit). However, because of the coronavirus pandemic, it was difficult, and sometimes impossible to conduct face to face interviews in a number of countries of the European Union. In these countries, we have interviewed respondents online, mostly after recruiting them in a probabilistic way by telephone. A technical note concerning the interviews conducted by the member institutes of the Kantar network is annexed to this report. It also specifies the confidence intervals.

Caveat:

Because of these changes in the methodology, evolutions with the previous wave, where fieldwork in all countries was conducted face to face, should be analysed with caution.

Following the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), respondents were asked whether or not they would agree to be asked questions on issues that could be considered "sensitive".

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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Note: In this report, EU countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

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	FR	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus	CY*	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV		
Turkish Cypriot Community			CY (tcc)
Albania	AL	Turkey	TR
Montenegro	ME	Serbia	RS
North Macedonia	MK		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	Norway	NO
Iceland	IS	Switzerland	CH
Kosovo ¹	XK	The United Kingdom	UK
European Union - weighted average for the 27 Member States of the European Union			EU27
BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT			Euro area
BG, CZ, DK, HR, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK			Outside euro area

** Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 Member States of the European Union. However, the 'Community acquis' is suspended in the part of the country not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the category 'CY' and in the average of the EU27. Interviews carried out in the part of the country not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the category 'CY (tcc)' [tcc: Turkish Cypriot Community].*

We would like to thank all respondents in Europe who took the time to take part in this survey. Without their active participation, this survey would not have been possible.

I. MEDIA USE AND TRUST IN MEDIA



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1. Media use

Internet use and social media continue to grow while readership of the written press continues to decline

In terms of media use, television remains the most common source of media among Europeans: 95% watch television via a TV set or via the Internet at least once a week (+1 percentage point since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey) and more than eight in ten respondents (82%, +1) watch it every day or almost every day.

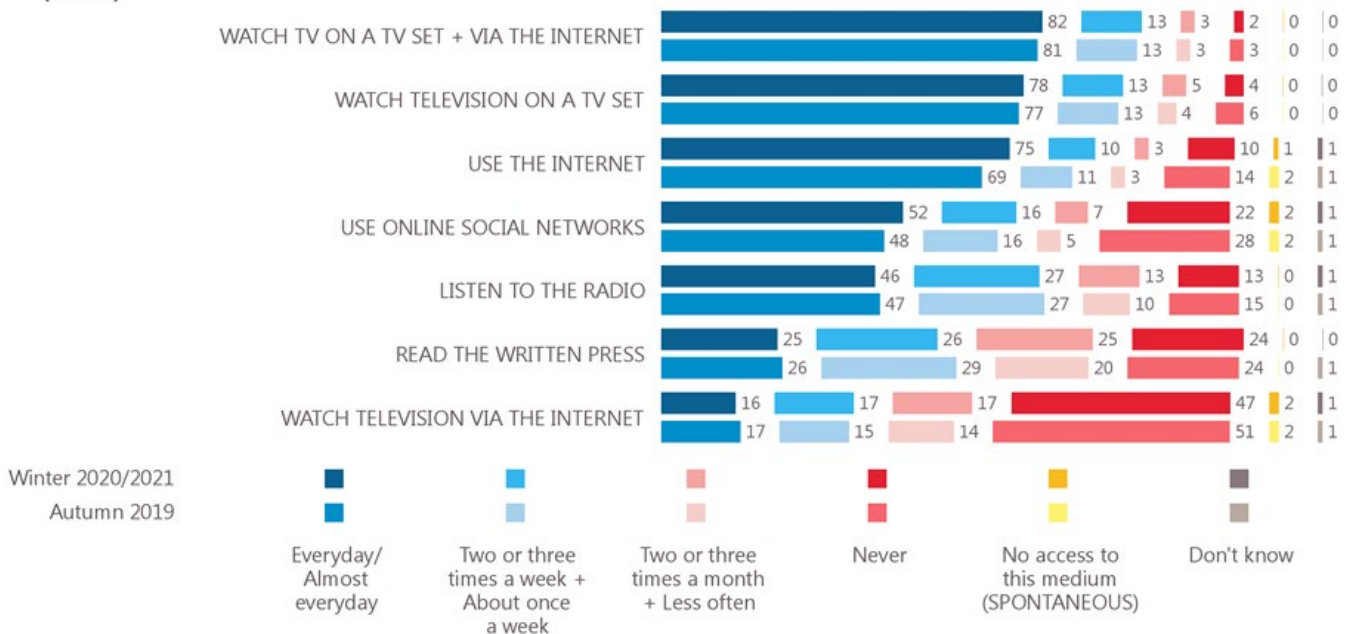
The longer-term trend results indicate a pattern of growth among Europeans since autumn 2010 (EB74) in terms of their use of the Internet, social networks and accessing television via the Internet. On the other hand, the trend results indicate a longer-term pattern of decline among Europeans in terms of their use of the television via a TV set, the radio and written press. Readership of written press has fallen more steeply over this time period.

Most Europeans still watch television on a TV set: 91% watch **television** via a **TV set** at least once a week, a rise of one percentage point since autumn 2019 (90%) and similar to autumn 2018 (92%). However, although these results have remained stable between autumn 2018 and winter 2020-2021, there has been a longer-term pattern of decline since autumn 2011 (EB76), when this was almost universal (97%).

A third of Europeans now watch **TV via the Internet** at least once a week (33%, +1 percentage point since autumn 2019), which continues a gradual pattern of increased use over time. Since autumn 2011 (EB76), when this question was first asked, the proportion of Europeans watching TV via the Internet at least weekly has more than doubled (from 16% to 33%, +17).

Over eight in ten Europeans use the Internet at least once a week (85%, +5 percentage points since autumn 2019). Once again, this continues a rising trend since 2010: internet use at least once a week has increased from 63% in autumn 2010 to 85% in winter 2020-21 (+22).

QD3 Could you tell to what extent you...? (% - EU)



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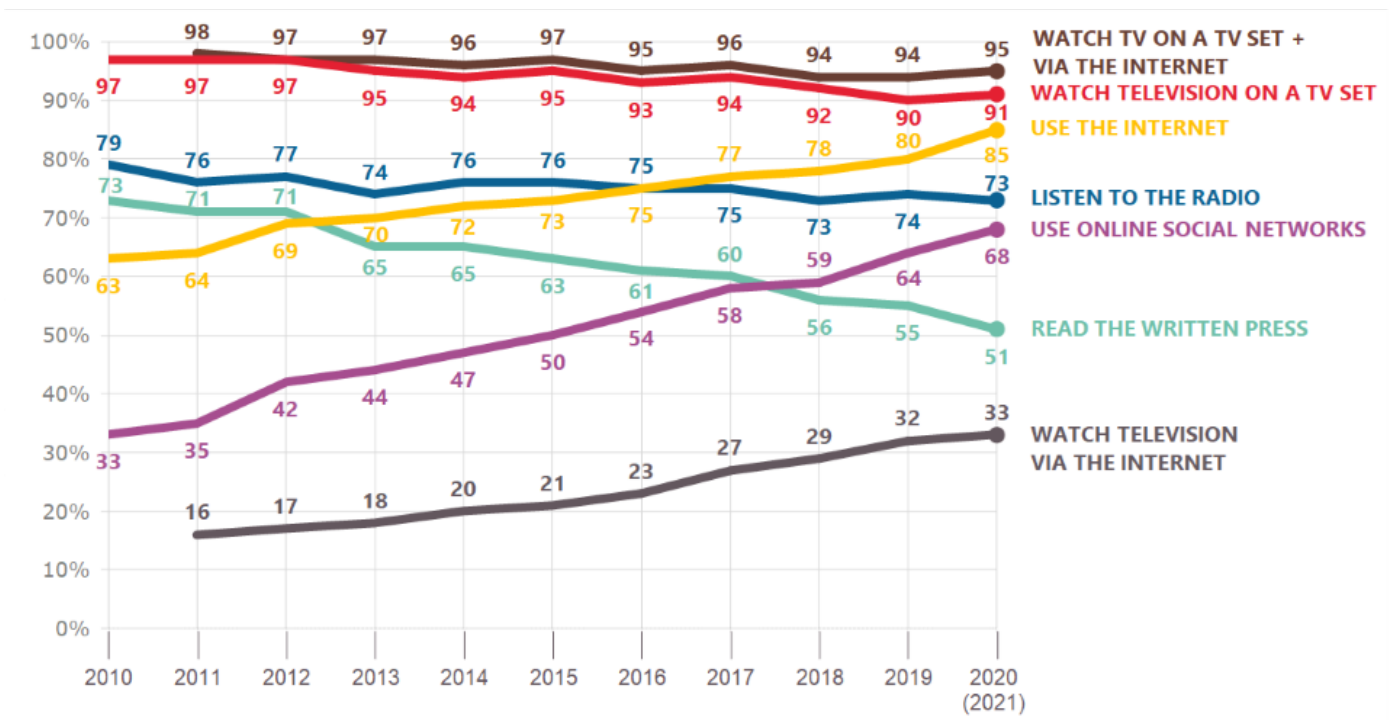
Nearly three in four Europeans (73%, -1 percentage point since autumn 2019) say they listen to the **radio** at least once a week, which continues a general longer-term decline over time from 79% in autumn 2010 (-6).

Nearly seven in ten Europeans (68%, +4 percentage points since autumn 2019) use **online social networks** at least once a week. Once again this continues a steady increase over time. Since autumn 2010, the proportion of Europeans who use online social

networks at least weekly has more than doubled from 33% to 68% (+35).

Just over half of Europeans read the **written press** at least once a week (51%, -4 percentage points since autumn 2019). Again, this continues a longer-term pattern of decline. Since autumn 2010, the proportion of respondents reporting that they read the written press at least once a week has fallen by 22 percentage points (from 73%, in third place, to 51%, in fifth).

QD3 Could you tell to what extent you...?
(% - EU - AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK)



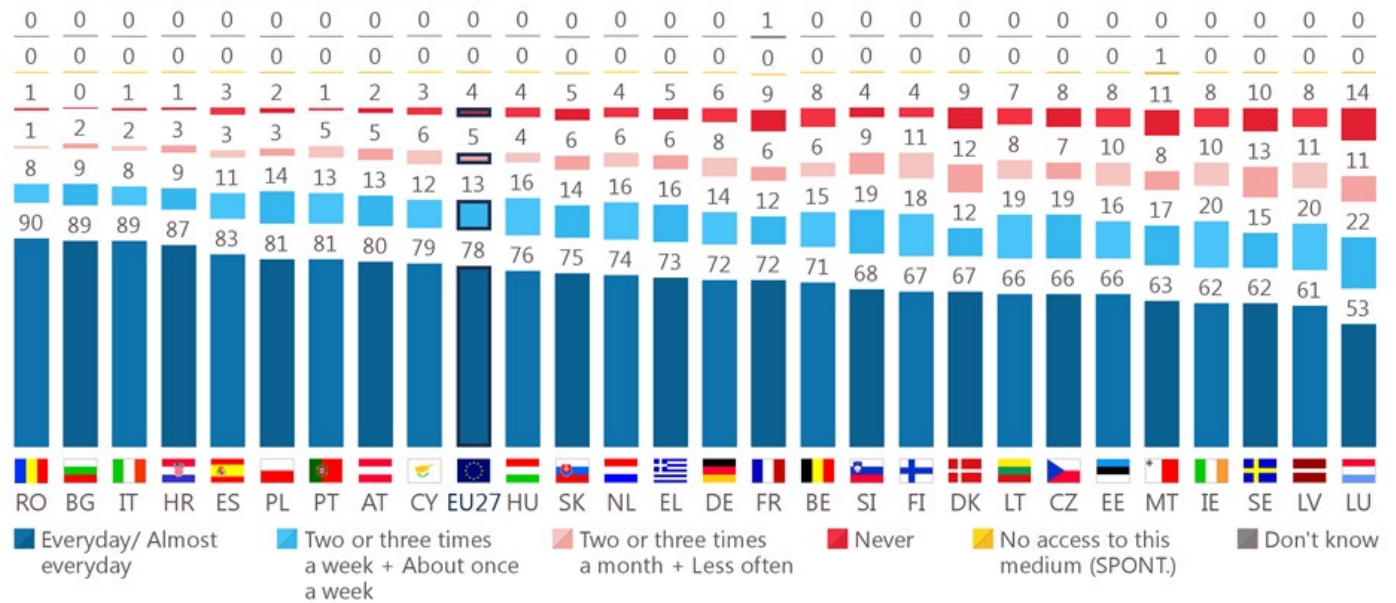
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In the EU Member States overall, a majority of respondents (78%) watch **television on a TV set** every day or almost every day. The highest score on this measure is recorded in Romania (90%, +3 percentage points since autumn 2019 EB92 survey) and the lowest in Luxembourg (53%, -9).

Since the autumn 2019 survey, however, the proportion of respondents reporting they watch TV on a TV set every day or almost every day has fallen in 19 EU Member States, most strongly in Ireland (62%, -17 percentage points), Portugal (81%, -13) and Greece (73%, -12). Conversely, it has increased in seven Member States, most markedly in Germany (72%, +9) and remains unchanged in Bulgaria (89%).







QD3.1 Could you tell to what extent you...?

Watch television on a TV set (%)



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QD3.1 Could you tell to what extent you...?
Watch television on a TV set (% - EU)

	Everyday/ Almost everyday	Two or three times a week	About once a week	Two or three times a month	Less often	Never	No access to this medium (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know	At least once a week
EU27	78	10	3	2	3	4	0	0	91
 Gender									
Man	75	11	3	2	4	5	0	0	89
Woman	80	8	3	2	3	4	0	0	91
 Age									
15-24	51	19	7	4	10	9	0	0	77
25-39	66	13	5	3	5	8	0	0	84
40-54	80	10	3	1	2	4	0	0	93
55+	92	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	97
 Education (End of)									
15-	94	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	99
16-19	84	8	2	1	2	3	0	0	94
20+	74	11	3	2	4	6	0	0	88
Still studying	48	19	8	4	11	10	0	0	75
 Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	75	12	3	2	3	5	0	0	90
Managers	71	12	4	3	4	6	0	0	87
Other white collars	76	11	3	2	3	5	0	0	90
Manual workers	78	11	3	1	3	4	0	0	92
House persons	87	6	2	0	3	2	0	0	95
Unemployed	74	9	4	1	5	7	0	0	87
Retired	93	3	1	0	1	2	0	0	97
Students	48	19	8	4	11	10	0	0	75
 Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	74	12	4	2	3	5	0	0	90
From time to time	80	10	3	1	3	3	0	0	93
Almost never/ Never	77	9	3	2	4	5	0	0	89
 Consider belonging to									
The working class	82	7	2	1	4	4	0	0	91
The lower middle class	79	9	3	2	3	4	0	0	91
The middle class	77	10	3	2	3	5	0	0	90
The upper middle class	69	11	4	3	6	7	0	0	84
The upper class	70	13	2	7	5	3	0	0	85

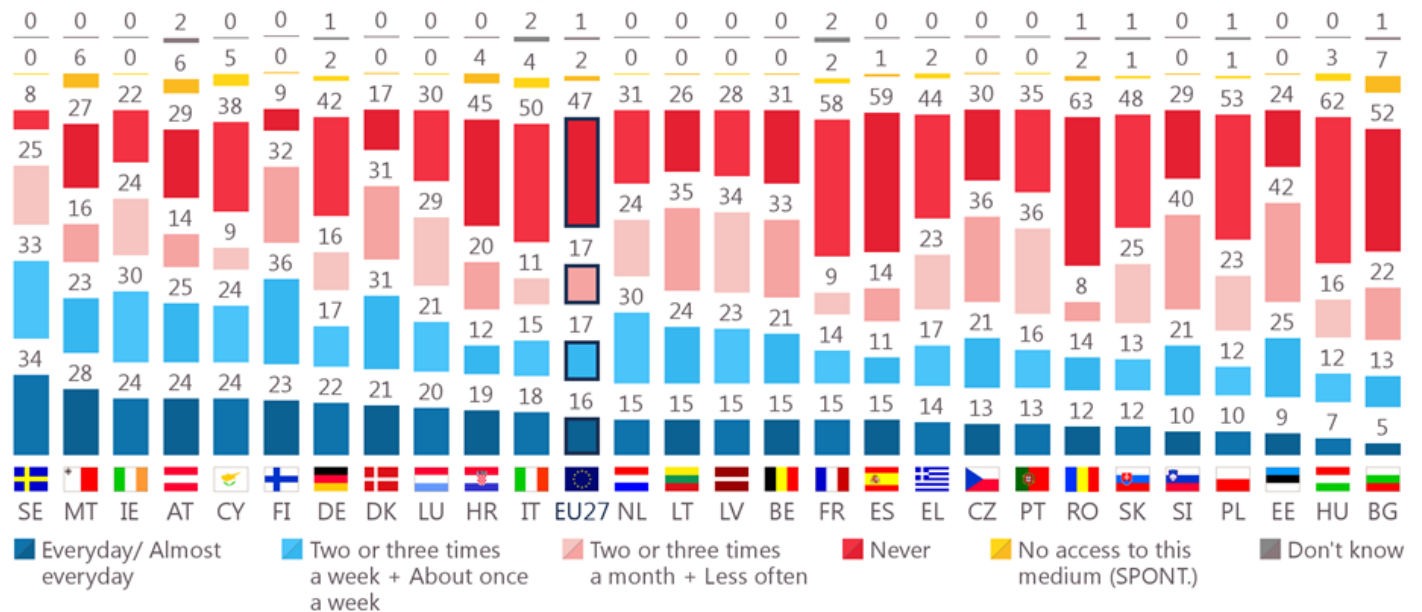
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There is wide variability in the proportions of respondents who watch television via the Internet at least once a week, ranging from 18% in Bulgaria to 67% in Sweden. Over a third of respondents in Sweden (34%) say they watch television via the Internet every day or almost every day, which is the highest on this measure among all EU countries.

Since the autumn 2019 survey, television watching via the Internet at least once a week has increased in 21 EU Member States, particularly in Finland (59%, +11 percentage points) and Sweden (67%, +8) while it has fallen in four EU Member States, most notably in Hungary (19%, -10). The proportion watching television via the Internet at least once a week has remained unchanged in Belgium (36%) and Denmark (52%).

QD3.2 Could you tell to what extent you...?







Watch television via the Internet (%)



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QD3.2 Could you tell to what extent you...?

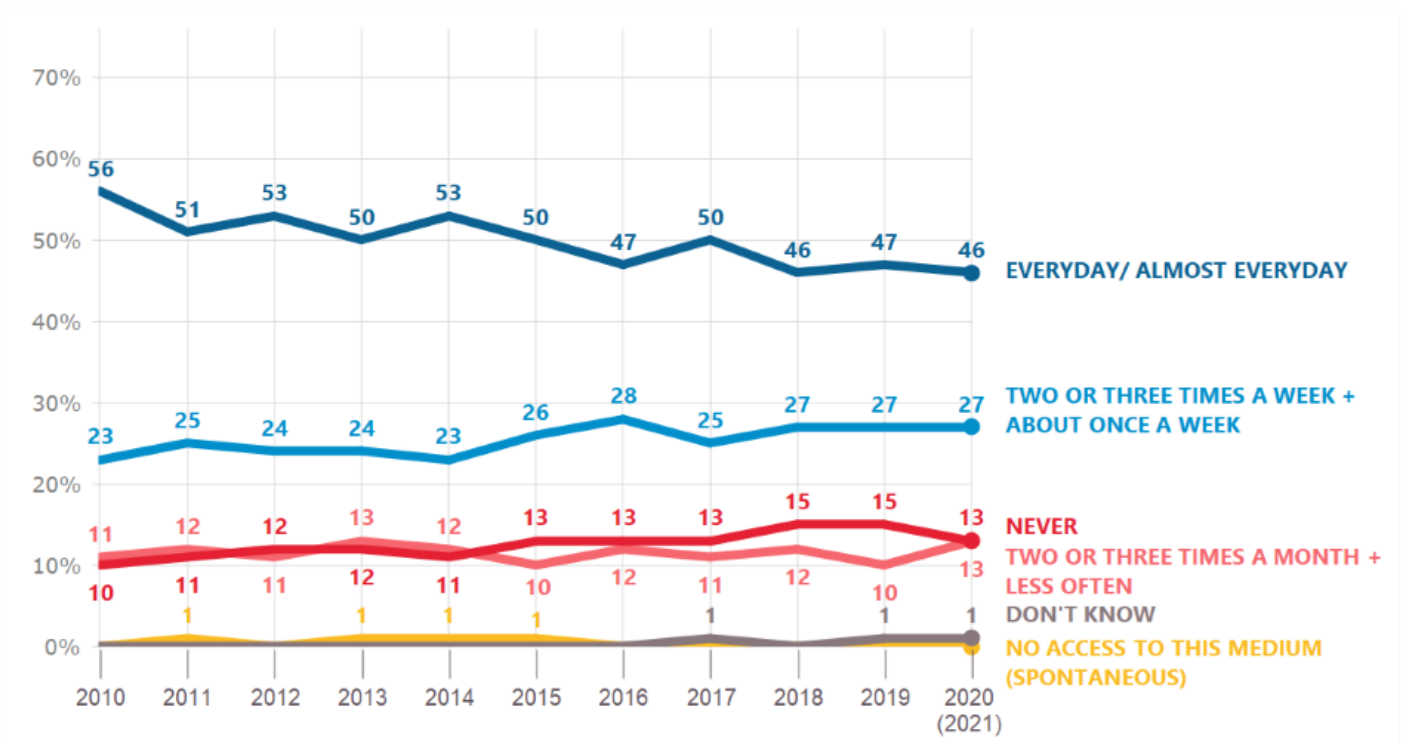
Watch television via the Internet (% - EU)

	Everyday/ Almost everyday	Two or three times a week	About once a week	Two or three times a month	Less often	Never	No access to this medium (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know	At least once a week
EU27	16	10	7	4	13	47	2	1	33
 Gender									
Man	18	11	7	4	13	44	2	1	36
Woman	15	9	6	4	13	50	2	1	30
 Age									
15-24	27	14	8	7	15	29	0	0	49
25-39	23	14	8	5	15	34	1	0	45
40-54	17	11	9	5	15	41	1	1	37
55+	9	5	4	2	11	63	4	2	18
 Education (End of)									
15-	8	2	2	1	5	69	8	5	12
16-19	14	9	5	3	12	54	2	1	28
20+	18	13	9	5	15	39	1	0	40
Still studying	27	15	8	8	17	25	0	0	50
 Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	18	11	9	5	15	41	1	0	38
Managers	18	16	10	6	17	33	0	0	44
Other white collars	20	13	8	5	15	38	1	0	41
Manual workers	16	10	7	4	13	48	1	1	33
House persons	16	6	4	2	10	58	4	0	26
Unemployed	21	8	7	3	13	47	1	0	36
Retired	7	4	3	2	9	66	5	4	14
Students	27	15	8	8	17	25	0	0	50
 Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	15	9	6	2	11	53	3	1	30
From time to time	16	9	7	4	12	49	2	1	32
Almost never/ Never	17	10	7	4	14	45	2	1	34
 Consider belonging to									
The working class	13	5	4	2	11	60	3	2	22
The lower middle class	16	9	7	4	14	47	2	1	32
The middle class	17	11	7	5	14	43	2	1	35
The upper middle class	19	16	10	6	15	33	0	1	45
The upper class	20	10	13	9	14	33	1	0	43

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Overall, the findings for radio listening among Europeans remains similar to the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB92). Almost three-quarters of Europeans **listen to the radio** at least once a week (73%, -1 percentage point since autumn 2019), and 46% listen to it every day or almost every day (-1). Overall, 13% (-2) of Europeans never listen to the radio.

QD3.3 Could you tell to what extent you...?
Listen to the radio (% - EU)



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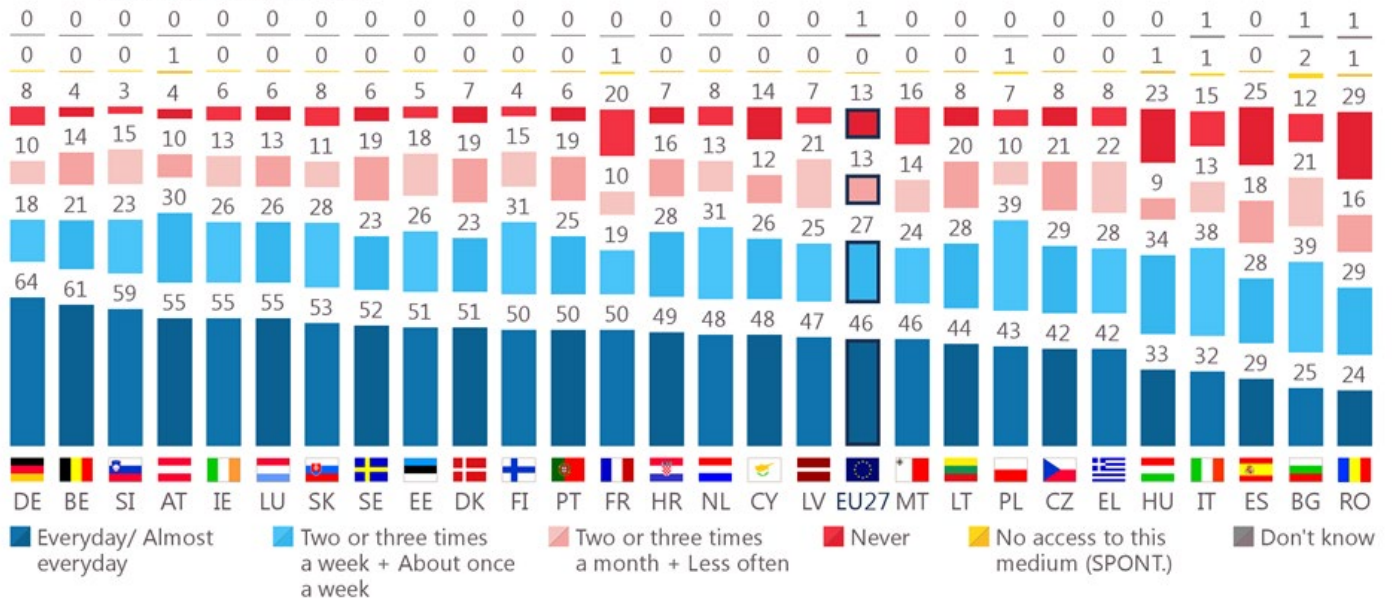
The proportion of respondents who listen to the **radio** every day or almost every day ranges from 24% in Romania to 64% in Germany.

Since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey, daily (or almost daily) radio listening has fallen in 20 Member States, most notably in Ireland (55%, -10 percentage points), Denmark (51%,

-9), Malta (46%, -9) and Slovakia (53%, -9). The proportion of people listening to the radio every day or almost every day has risen in just four EU Member States, particularly in Greece (42%, +9) and has remained unchanged in Belgium (61%) and Lithuania (44%).

QD3.3 Could you tell to what extent you...?







Listen to the radio (%)



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QD3.3 Could you tell to what extent you...?

Listen to the radio (% - EU)

	Everyday/ Almost everyday	Two or three times a week	About once a week	Two or three times a month	Less often	Never	No access to this medium (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know	At least once a week
EU27	46	18	9	4	9	13	0	1	73
 Gender									
Man	47	19	9	4	9	12	0	0	75
Woman	44	18	9	4	10	15	0	0	71
 Age									
15-24	26	18	11	8	16	21	0	0	55
25-39	43	20	10	5	10	12	0	0	73
40-54	51	19	9	3	8	10	0	0	79
55+	51	16	7	2	8	14	1	1	74
 Education (End of)									
15-	37	15	8	3	9	24	2	2	60
16-19	46	18	10	4	9	13	0	0	74
20+	53	19	8	4	8	8	0	0	80
Still studying	27	19	12	8	15	19	0	0	58
 Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	52	20	11	4	5	8	0	0	83
Managers	59	17	9	4	7	4	0	0	85
Other white collars	47	21	10	4	9	9	0	0	78
Manual workers	46	20	9	4	9	12	0	0	75
House persons	32	13	10	4	12	28	1	0	55
Unemployed	35	17	9	4	14	21	0	0	61
Retired	50	15	7	2	8	16	1	1	72
Students	27	19	12	8	15	19	0	0	58
 Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	33	16	10	5	11	25	0	0	59
From time to time	37	20	10	4	12	16	0	1	67
Almost never/ Never	50	18	9	4	8	11	0	0	77
 Consider belonging to									
The working class	39	15	8	3	12	21	1	1	62
The lower middle class	46	17	10	4	9	13	0	1	73
The middle class	48	19	9	4	9	11	0	0	76
The upper middle class	52	19	9	6	7	7	0	0	80
The upper class	44	27	10	7	6	6	0	0	81

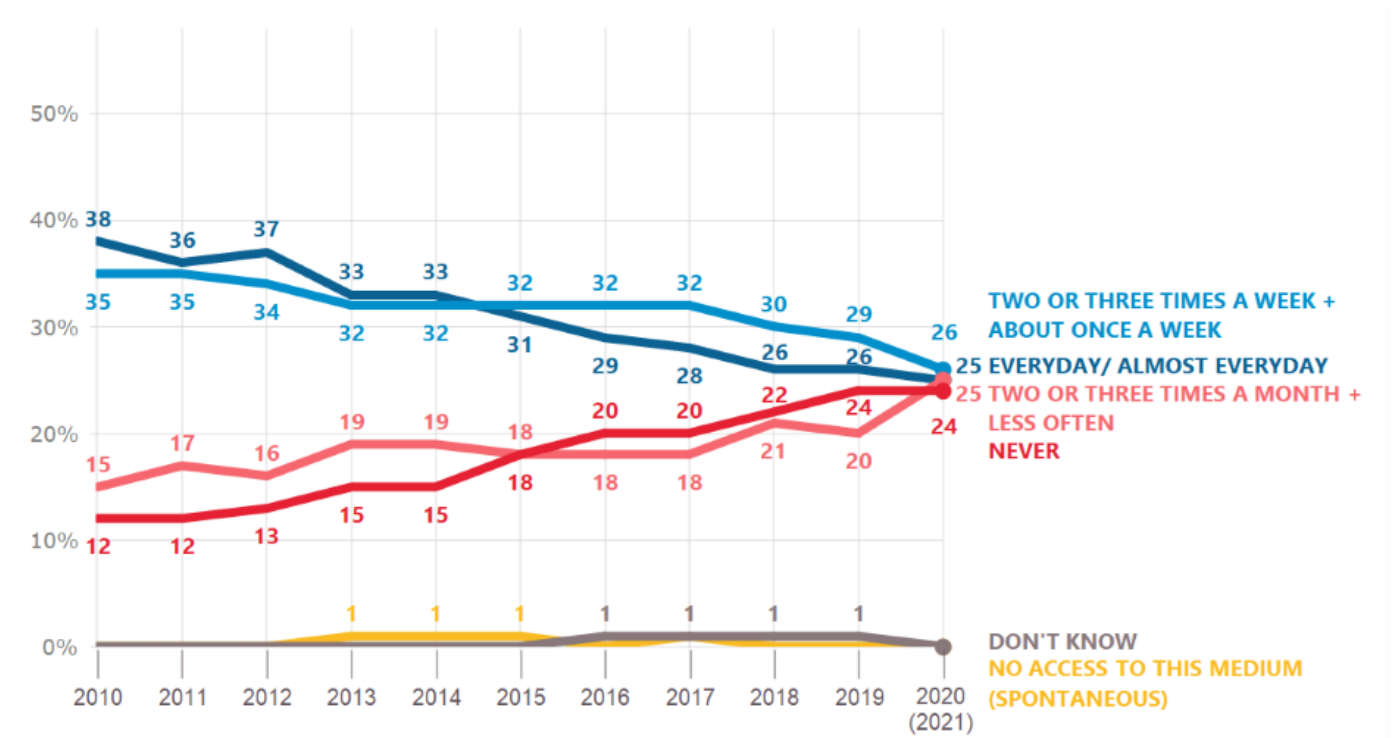
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The share of Europeans who said that they read the written press every day or almost every day has decreased only slightly from 26% in the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB92) to 25% in the winter 2020-2021 survey (EB94). Over this period, the proportion who read the written press at least weekly has fallen from 55% to 51%, while the proportion who read it

infrequently that is no more than twice a month – has increased from 20% to 25%.

It should be noted that nearly a quarter of Europeans (24%) never read the written press; this proportion has remained unchanged since autumn 2019 but has doubled since autumn 2010 (from 12% to 24%, +12 percentage points).

**QD3.4 Could you tell to what extent you...?
Read the written press (% - EU)**

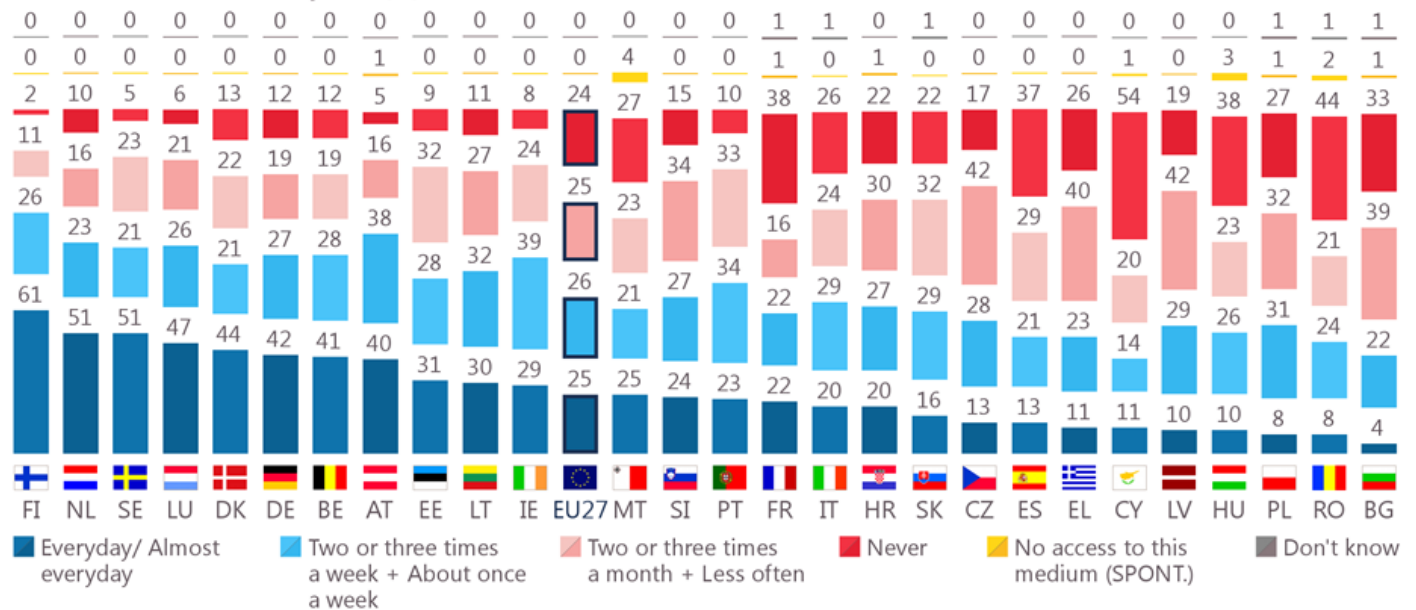


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There are striking differences between EU Member States in terms of their readership of the written press: while under 10% of respondents read the written press every day or almost every day in Bulgaria (4%), Romania and Poland (8% in both), the figures exceed 50% in Finland (61%), Sweden and the Netherlands (51%).

Readership of the written press every day or on an almost daily basis has increased since the autumn 2019 survey in eight EU Member States, most notably in Lithuania (30%, +13 percentage points). On the other hand, this proportion has fallen in 14 EU Member States: more notably in Sweden (51%, -8), Hungary (10%, -6) and Spain (13%, -6). This figure has remained unchanged in five Member States: Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Austria and Slovakia.







QD3.4 Could you tell to what extent you...?
Read the written press (%)



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QD3.4 Could you tell to what extent you...?

Read the written press (% - EU)

	Everyday/ Almost everyday	Two or three times a week	About once a week	Two or three times a month	Less often	Never	No access to this medium (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know	At least once a week
EU27	25	13	13	8	17	24	0	0	51
 Gender									
Man	28	14	13	7	16	22	0	0	55
Woman	23	13	13	8	17	26	0	0	49
 Age									
15-24	12	10	13	9	20	35	1	0	35
25-39	16	13	15	10	20	26	0	0	44
40-54	26	14	13	8	17	22	0	0	53
55+	34	14	11	6	13	21	0	1	59
 Education (End of)									
15-	20	11	8	6	16	36	1	2	39
16-19	22	13	13	8	17	26	1	0	48
20+	33	14	13	8	15	17	0	0	60
Still studying	14	12	15	9	20	30	0	0	41
 Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	27	15	14	9	15	20	0	0	56
Managers	35	16	14	8	15	12	0	0	65
Other white collars	24	14	15	9	20	18	0	0	53
Manual workers	18	14	14	7	19	28	0	0	46
House persons	15	10	8	7	18	40	1	1	33
Unemployed	13	9	11	7	20	39	0	1	33
Retired	36	12	11	5	12	22	1	1	59
Students	14	12	15	9	20	30	0	0	41
 Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	11	12	10	7	17	41	1	1	33
From time to time	16	14	13	9	19	28	0	1	43
Almost never/ Never	30	13	13	7	16	21	0	0	56
 Consider belonging to									
The working class	15	11	11	7	18	37	1	0	37
The lower middle class	21	14	14	8	17	25	0	1	49
The middle class	29	14	13	8	16	20	0	0	56
The upper middle class	40	15	13	7	13	12	0	0	68
The upper class	38	13	15	10	13	11	0	0	66

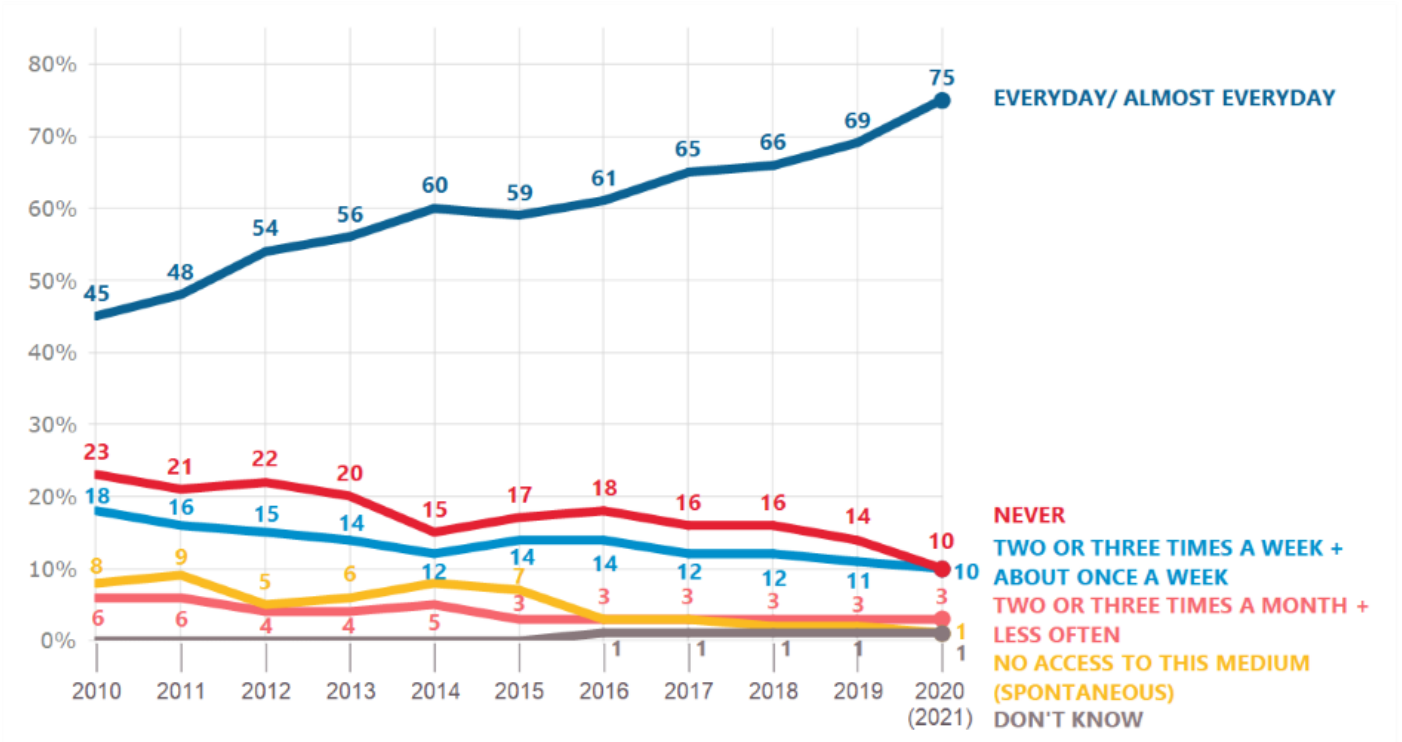
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The proportion of Europeans using the Internet every day or almost every day has been rising almost continuously since the autumn 2010 survey (EB74), gaining a total of 30 percentage points between autumn 2010 and winter 2020-2021 (from 45% to 75%).

The proportion of Europeans in winter 2020-2021 who say they never use the Internet has fallen by four percentage points since autumn 2019 (from 14% to 10%) and by 13 percentage points since autumn 2010 (from 23% to 10%).

Over eight in ten Europeans (85%) now use the Internet at least once a week, a five percentage point increase since autumn 2019 (and +22 since autumn 2010).

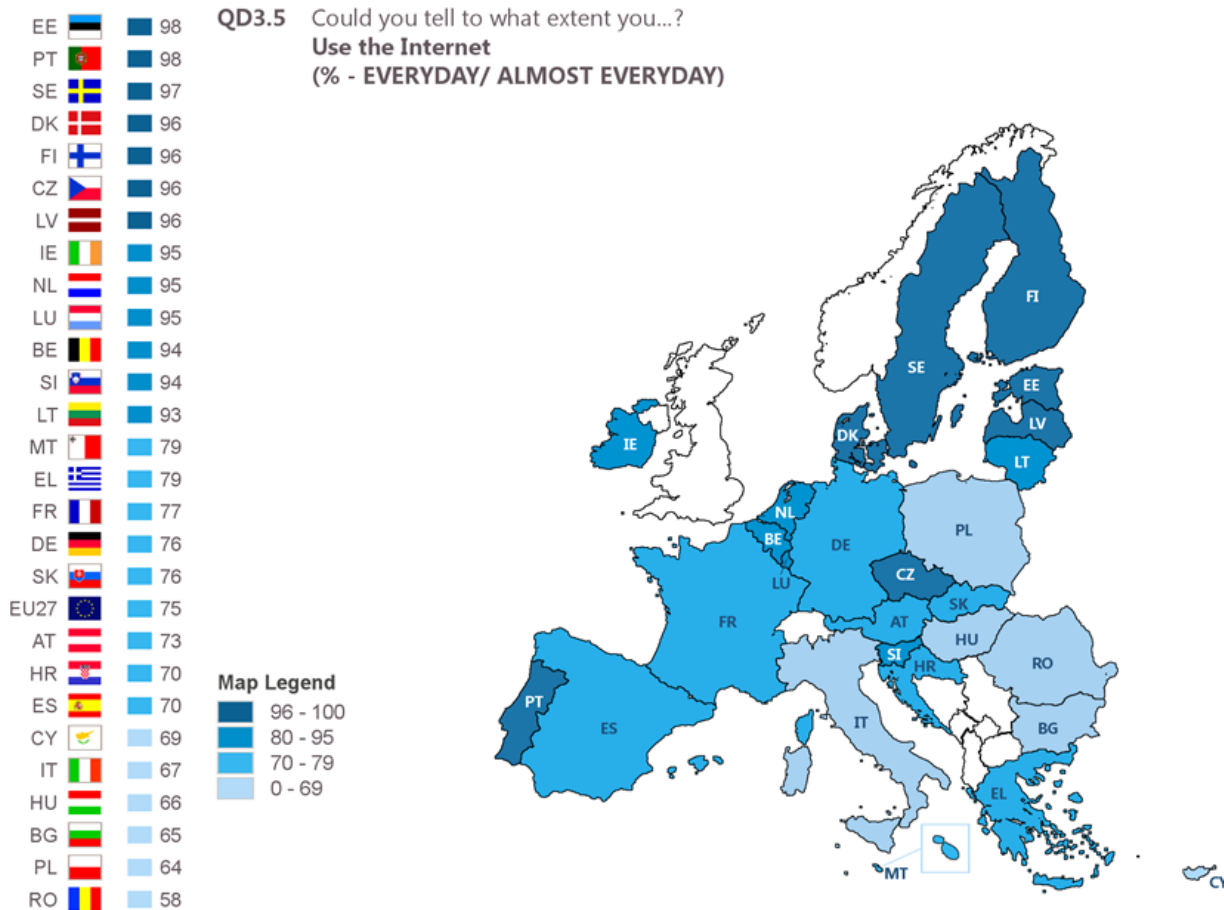
**QD3.5 Could you tell to what extent you...?
Use the Internet (% - EU)**



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Internet use varies substantially among different EU Member States but this still represents the majority of respondents in all 27 EU countries: 58% of respondents in Romania use the Internet every day or almost every day, compared with 98% in Estonia and







Portugal. Since the autumn 2019 survey, the proportion of respondents using the Internet on a daily or almost daily basis has increased in almost all EU Member States (26 out of 27).²



² Because of the change in methodology in several countries, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the national evolutions should be analysed with caution.

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QD3.5 Could you tell to what extent you...?
Use the Internet (% - EU)

	Everyday/ Almost everyday	Two or three times a week	About once a week	Two or three times a month	Less often	Never	No access to this medium (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know	At least once a week
EU27	75	8	2	1	2	10	1	1	85
 Gender									
Man	78	7	2	1	1	9	1	1	87
Woman	73	8	3	1	2	11	1	1	84
 Age									
15-24	94	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	98
25-39	92	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	99
40-54	84	9	2	1	1	3	0	0	95
55+	54	10	3	1	3	24	3	2	67
 Education (End of)									
15-	36	7	3	1	2	40	7	4	46
16-19	69	11	3	1	3	11	1	1	83
20+	89	6	2	0	1	2	0	0	97
Still studying	96	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	99
 Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	86	8	2	0	1	3	0	0	96
Managers	93	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	100
Other white collars	89	7	2	1	0	1	0	0	98
Manual workers	76	11	3	1	2	6	1	0	90
House persons	67	8	3	1	2	17	2	0	78
Unemployed	83	7	2	0	2	6	0	0	92
Retired	46	10	3	1	3	30	4	3	59
Students	96	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	99
 Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	68	9	2	1	2	15	3	0	79
From time to time	70	10	3	1	1	12	2	1	83
Almost never/ Never	78	7	2	1	1	9	1	1	87
 Consider belonging to									
The working class	62	7	2	1	2	21	3	2	71
The lower middle class	72	9	3	1	2	10	2	1	84
The middle class	79	8	2	1	1	7	1	1	89
The upper middle class	91	4	1	1	1	2	0	0	96
The upper class	85	9	2	2	1	1	0	0	96

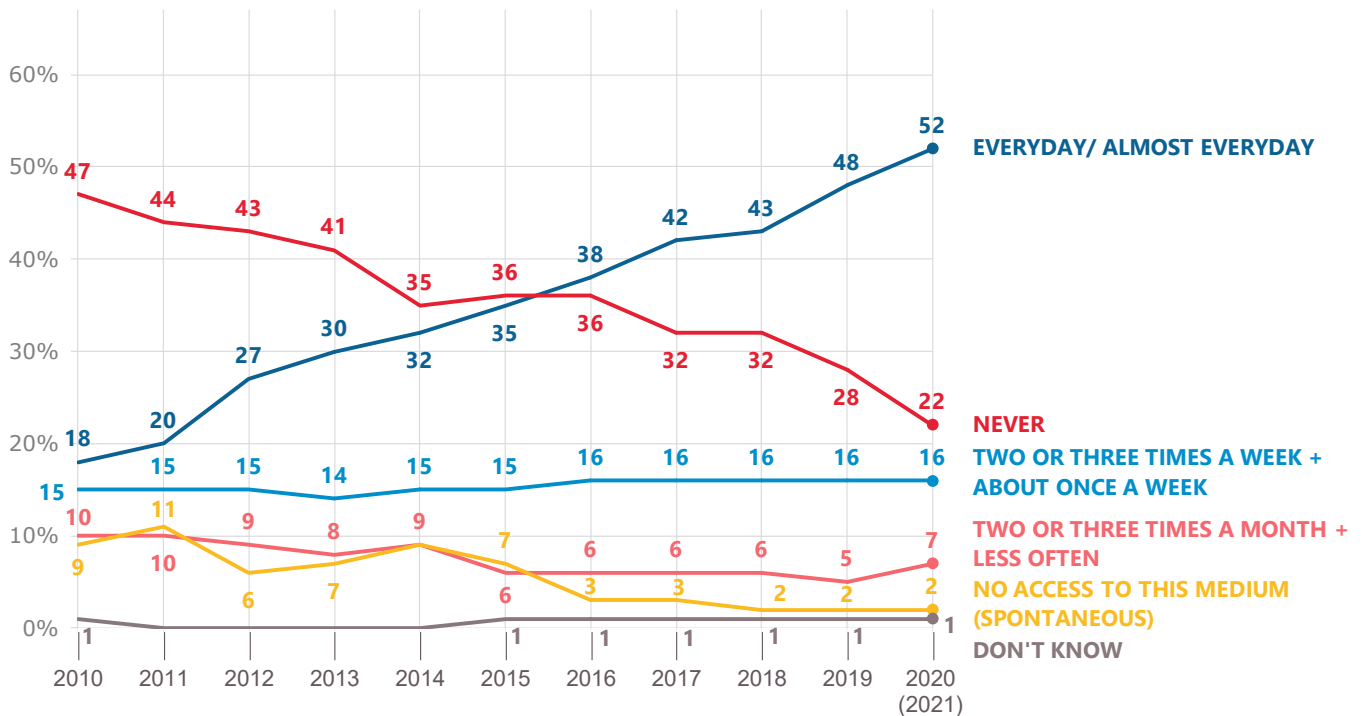
Standard Eurobarometer 94 Winter 2020 - 2021

Just over half of Europeans now use **online social networks** every day or almost every day (52%, up by four percentage points since the autumn 2019 survey), which keeps up a steady increasing trend since autumn 2010 (daily or almost daily use of the Internet has increased by +34 over this period).

Nearly seven in ten Europeans use online social networks at least once a week (68%) – an increase of four percentage points since autumn 2019.

Conversely, the proportion of Europeans who say they never use online social networks has fallen from 28% to 22% between autumn 2019 and winter 2020-2021 and has fallen by 25 points between autumn 2010 and winter 2020-2021.

QD3.6 Could you tell to what extent you...? Use online social networks (% - EU)



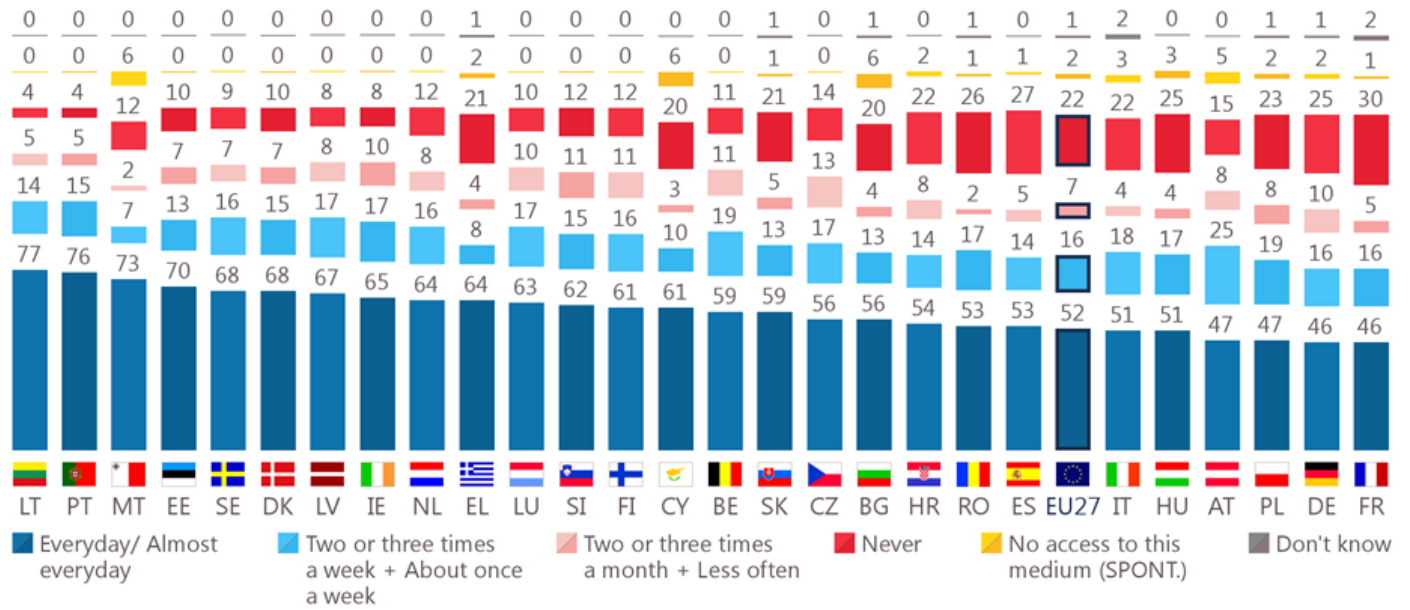
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As was the case for internet use, wide variations among Member States are observed: the use of **online social networks** every day or almost every day ranges from 46% in Germany and France, to 77% in Lithuania.

Since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey, the proportion using online social networks every day or almost every day has increased in 25 EU Member States.³

QD3.6 Could you tell to what extent you...?







Use online social networks (%)



³ Because of the change in methodology in several countries, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the national evolutions should be analysed with caution.

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QD3.6 Could you tell to what extent you...?
Use online social networks (% - EU)

	Everyday/ Almost everyday	Two or three times a week	About once a week	Two or three times a month	Less often	Never	No access to this medium (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know	At least once a week
EU27	52	11	5	2	5	22	2	1	68
 Gender									
Man	51	12	6	2	5	22	1	1	69
Woman	54	10	4	2	5	22	2	1	68
 Age									
15-24	86	8	3	1	1	1	0	0	97
25-39	74	12	5	1	3	5	0	0	91
40-54	56	15	7	2	5	15	0	0	78
55+	27	10	5	2	7	43	4	2	42
 Education (End of)									
15-	24	6	3	1	4	51	7	4	33
16-19	49	12	6	2	5	24	2	0	67
20+	57	13	5	2	6	17	0	0	75
Still studying	85	8	3	1	1	2	0	0	96
 Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	56	13	8	3	5	15	0	0	77
Managers	57	14	7	2	7	13	0	0	78
Other white collars	65	12	5	2	5	11	0	0	82
Manual workers	57	14	6	2	5	15	1	0	77
House persons	51	8	5	1	4	28	2	1	64
Unemployed	66	9	4	2	4	14	1	0	79
Retired	22	8	4	1	6	51	5	3	34
Students	85	8	3	1	1	2	0	0	96
 Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	51	11	6	2	3	24	3	0	68
From time to time	55	12	6	2	3	19	2	1	73
Almost never/ Never	51	11	5	2	6	23	1	1	67
 Consider belonging to									
The working class	46	9	4	1	4	31	3	2	59
The lower middle class	52	10	6	2	5	22	2	1	68
The middle class	54	12	6	2	5	20	1	0	72
The upper middle class	58	11	6	2	7	16	0	0	75
The upper class	63	10	2	6	7	12	0	0	75

1. Trust in the media

Levels of trust in the written press, radio, television, and internet have all increased slightly

Europeans' trust in the traditional media has risen slightly since the Standard Eurobarometer autumn 2019 survey (EB92)⁴:

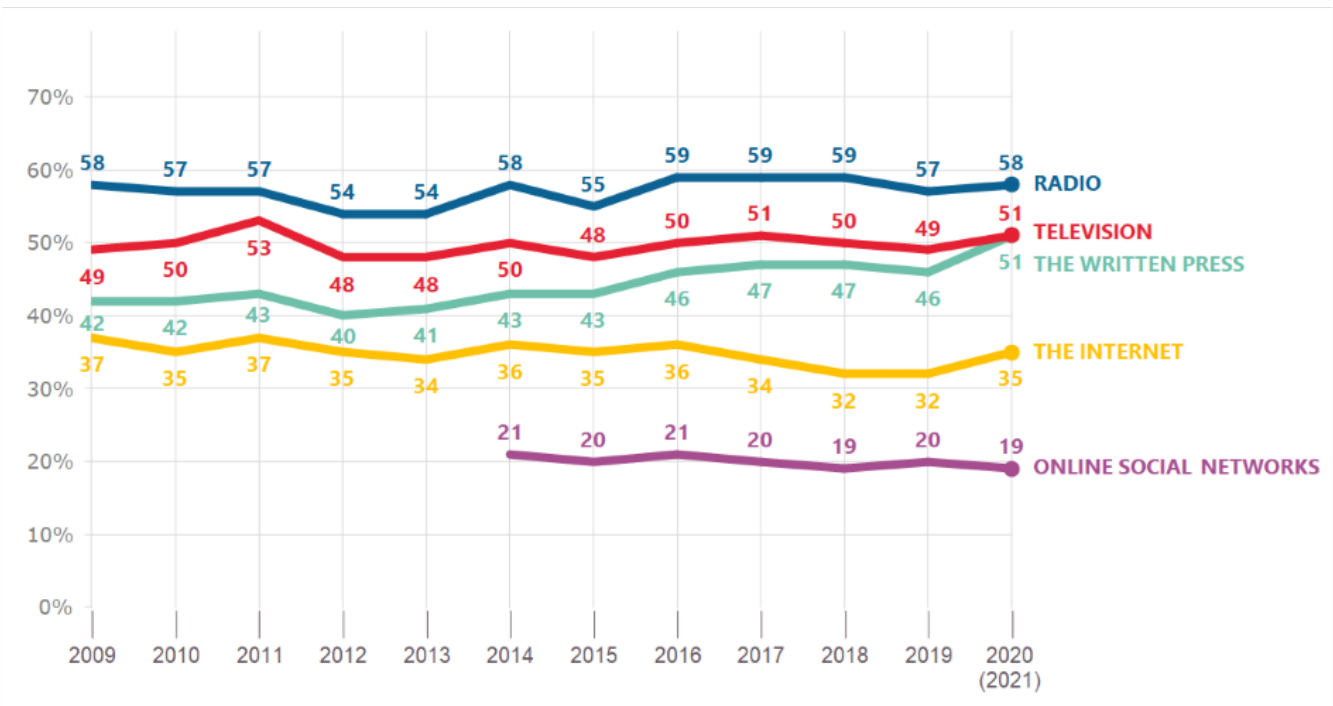
- Radio is the medium which Europeans trust most: 58% of respondents say they "tend to trust" it (+1 percentage point since autumn 2019), compared with 35% of respondents (-1) who "tend not to trust" it.
- About half of Europeans (51%, +2 percentage points since autumn 2019) say they "tend to trust" television, while 45% (-2) "tend not to trust" it.

- About half of Europeans now trust the written press (51%, +5 percentage points since autumn 2019), while 42% (-5) "tend not to trust" it. Over the longer-term, there has been a pattern of increasing trust in the written press, from 42% in autumn 2009 to 51% in winter 2020-2021 (+9).

However, levels of trust in the Internet and online social networks are much lower.

- Just over a third of Europeans (35, +3 percentage points since autumn 2019) say they "tend to trust" the Internet, while just over half (54%, -1) "tend not to trust" this medium.
- Online social networks are the medium which is trusted the least. One in five Europeans (19%, -1 percentage point since autumn 2019) "tend to trust" them, while 68% of respondents (+3) "tend not to trust" them.

QA6a How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)









⁴ QA6a.1-5. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

1. The written press; 2. Radio; 3. Television; 4. The Internet; 5. Online social networks

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QA6a How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)





























	Radio	Television	The written press	The Internet	Online social networks
EU27	58	51	51	35	19
 Gender					
Man	59	49	51	38	20
Woman	58	52	51	33	19
 Age					
15-24	58	47	52	45	29
25-39	56	45	49	44	25
40-54	61	51	53	39	21
55+	58	56	51	25	12
 Education (End of)					
15-	46	48	37	18	11
16-19	53	49	44	34	21
20+	66	53	61	40	18
Still studying	62	52	59	46	28
 Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	56	50	53	42	21
Managers	73	58	67	42	18
Other white collars	63	52	55	46	25
Manual workers	53	44	42	36	24
House persons	50	50	42	30	18
Unemployed	43	35	36	36	22
Retired	58	56	49	20	10
Students	62	52	59	46	28
 Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	38	34	32	30	17
From time to time	50	47	42	37	22
Almost never/ Never	64	54	56	35	18
 Consider belonging to					
The working class	46	41	36	25	15
The lower middle class	53	47	44	35	20
The middle class	63	54	56	39	22
The upper middle class	75	64	72	39	17
The upper class	65	60	61	47	24

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More than 50% of respondents in 19 EU Member States (down from 25 EU Member States in autumn 2019) tend to trust the radio. There are significant differences between EU Member States in levels of trust associated with the radio. This ranges from 41% in Hungary to 87% in Denmark.

Since the autumn 2019 survey, trust in radio has grown in 15 EU Member States, particularly in Estonia (77%, +15 percentage points), Portugal (81%, +14) and Greece (49%, +14). It has declined in 11 EU Member States, most notably in Romania (48%, -13) and has remained unchanged in the Netherlands (77%).

QA6a.2 How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
Radio (%)

		Tend to trust	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Tend not to trust	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		58	▲ 1	35	▼ 1	7
EU28-UK		58	▼ 1	35	▲ 1	7
EE		77	▲ 15	23	▼ 2	0
PT		81	▲ 14	18	▼ 11	1
EL		49	▲ 14	49	▼ 13	2
IE		80	▲ 12	20	▼ 7	0
CZ		72	▲ 10	28	▼ 5	0
DK		87	▲ 9	13	▼ 3	0
LU		76	▲ 8	24	=	0
SI		58	▲ 6	42	▼ 2	0
SE		85	▲ 5	14	▼ 2	1
LV		70	▲ 5	30	▲ 7	0
FI		82	▲ 4	18	▲ 4	0
LT		66	▲ 4	34	▲ 4	0
BE		76	▲ 3	24	▼ 2	0
MT		49	▲ 3	36	=	15
FR		52	▲ 2	39	▼ 4	9
NL		77	=	17	=	6
DE		70	▼ 1	26	▲ 2	4
AT		66	▼ 2	31	▲ 3	3
PL		52	▼ 2	38	▲ 3	10
HR		48	▼ 2	49	▲ 1	3
ES		42	▼ 2	46	▼ 2	12
SK		60	▼ 4	35	▲ 3	5
IT		51	▼ 4	39	▲ 1	10
HU		41	▼ 5	53	▲ 4	6
BG		43	▼ 8	38	▲ 8	19
CY		43	▼ 9	46	▲ 5	11
RO		48	▼ 13	44	▲ 10	8

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QA6a.2 How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

Radio (% - EU)





























	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	58	35	7
 Gender			
Man	59	35	6
Woman	58	34	8
 Age			
15-24	58	35	7
25-39	56	39	5
40-54	61	33	6
55+	58	33	9
 Education (End of)			
15-	46	41	13
16-19	53	40	7
20+	66	29	5
Still studying	62	31	7
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	56	38	6
Managers	73	23	4
Other white collars	63	32	5
Manual workers	53	41	6
House persons	50	38	12
Unemployed	43	49	8
Retired	58	33	9
Students	62	31	7
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	38	54	8
From time to time	50	42	8
Almost never/ Never	64	30	6
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	46	43	11
The lower middle class	53	40	7
The middle class	63	32	5
The upper middle class	75	21	4
The upper class	65	33	2

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In 19 EU Member States a higher proportion of respondents trust television compared with the levels who distrust it. Levels of trust in television were lowest in Greece (25%), Spain (31%) and France (32%). The highest levels of trust were found in Denmark (84%), Sweden and Finland (both 78%).







Since the autumn 2019 survey, trust in television has increased in 15 Member States, most notably in Denmark (84%, +9 percentage points) and Estonia (68%, +7). Conversely, it has fallen in 10 Member States, particularly in Bulgaria (54%, -11) and Portugal (61%, -8). In the remaining two Member States, Lithuania and France, levels of trust are unchanged.

QA6a.3 How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
Television (%)

		Tend to trust	Win 2020/2021 - Aut. 2019	Tend not to trust	Win 2020/2021 - Aut. 2019	Don't know
EU27		51	▲ 2	45	▼ 2	4
EU28-UK		51	▲ 1	45	▼ 1	4
DK		84	▲ 9	16	▼ 5	0
EE		68	▲ 7	32	▲ 1	0
SE		78	▲ 6	21	▼ 4	1
IE		68	▲ 6	32	▼ 3	0
NL		73	▲ 5	25	▼ 3	2
LU		61	▲ 5	39	▲ 1	0
IT		56	▲ 5	39	▼ 6	5
CZ		53	▲ 4	47	▼ 1	0
AT		66	▲ 3	33	▼ 1	1
MT		48	▲ 3	40	▼ 2	12
EL		25	▲ 3	74	▼ 4	1
FI		78	▲ 2	22	▲ 3	0
ES		31	▲ 2	64	▼ 4	5
DE		60	▲ 1	36	=	4
SI		48	▲ 1	52	▲ 2	0
LT		57	=	43	▲ 5	0
FR		32	=	63	▼ 2	5
BE		65	▼ 2	35	▲ 3	0
HR		45	▼ 2	53	▲ 1	2
RO		56	▼ 4	43	▲ 5	1
PL		46	▼ 4	47	▲ 5	7
LV		58	▼ 5	42	▲ 10	0
CY		43	▼ 5	54	▲ 5	3
HU		47	▼ 6	51	▲ 7	2
SK		53	▼ 7	45	▲ 8	2
PT		61	▼ 8	39	▲ 10	0
BG		54	▼ 11	38	▲ 9	8

QA6a.1 How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The written press (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	51	42	7
 Gender			
Man	51	43	6
Woman	51	42	7
 Age			
15-24	52	40	8
25-39	49	46	5
40-54	53	41	6
55+	51	42	7
 Education (End of)			
15-	37	52	11
16-19	44	49	7
20+	61	34	5
Still studying	59	35	6
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	53	43	4
Managers	67	30	3
Other white collars	55	41	4
Manual workers	42	51	7
House persons	42	46	12
Unemployed	36	56	8
Retired	49	43	8
Students	59	35	6
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	32	60	8
From time to time	42	50	8
Almost never/ Never	56	38	6
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	36	53	11
The lower middle class	44	49	7
The middle class	56	39	5
The upper middle class	72	25	3
The upper class	61	35	4





























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In only five EU Member States (compared with two in autumn 2019) the level of trust in the Internet reaches at least 50%. Across the EU Member States, trust in the Internet ranges from 20% in France to 54% in Greece and Poland.

Since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey, trust in the Internet has grown in 14 EU Member States, notably in Greece (54%, +12 percentage points) and Sweden (31%, +12). On the other hand, it has fallen in 13 EU Member States, with more notable decreases in Bulgaria (44%, -10), Belgium (31%, -9) and Portugal (33%, -8).

QA6a.4 How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The Internet (%)

		Tend to trust	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Tend not to trust	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		35	▲ 3	54	▼ 1	11
EU28-UK		35	▲ 1	54	▲ 1	11
EL		54	▲ 12	39	▼ 5	7
SE		31	▲ 12	68	▼ 3	1
EE		53	▲ 11	47	▲ 12	0
LV		42	▲ 8	58	▲ 12	0
LT		50	▲ 7	50	▲ 13	0
PL		54	▲ 6	32	▲ 1	14
IT		46	▲ 6	41	▼ 7	13
DK		39	▲ 5	61	▲ 4	0
ES		25	▲ 4	59	▼ 6	16
DE		31	▲ 2	58	▲ 1	11
HU		52	▲ 1	37	▲ 2	11
MT		36	▲ 1	43	▲ 4	21
LU		33	▲ 1	67	▲ 8	0
NL		31	▲ 1	64	▲ 1	5
AT		42	▼ 1	50	▲ 1	8
FR		20	▼ 1	69	▲ 2	11
HR		37	▼ 2	52	▲ 1	11
SI		34	▼ 3	66	▲ 20	0
SK		39	▼ 4	51	▲ 10	10
CY		35	▼ 4	47	▲ 1	18
FI		33	▼ 4	67	▲ 19	0
CZ		43	▼ 5	57	▲ 18	0
IE		27	▼ 5	73	▲ 15	0
RO		37	▼ 7	48	▲ 3	15
PT		33	▼ 8	67	▲ 19	0
BE		31	▼ 9	69	▲ 15	0
BG		44	▼ 10	32	▲ 11	24

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QA6a.4 How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The Internet (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	35	54	11
 Gender			
Man	38	53	9
Woman	33	55	12
 Age			
15-24	45	52	3
25-39	44	52	4
40-54	39	55	6
55+	25	55	20
 Education (End of)			
15-	18	48	34
16-19	34	55	11
20+	40	55	5
Still studying	46	51	3
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	42	51	7
Managers	42	54	4
Other white collars	46	50	4
Manual workers	36	57	7
House persons	30	57	13
Unemployed	36	57	7
Retired	20	54	26
Students	46	51	3
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	30	59	11
From time to time	37	53	10
Almost never/ Never	35	54	11
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	25	55	20
The lower middle class	35	56	9
The middle class	39	53	8
The upper middle class	39	56	5
The upper class	47	48	5





























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In 25 out of 27 EU Member States, a majority of respondents say they "tend not to trust" online social networks. Trust in online social networks ranges from less than 10% in Luxembourg (7%), France (8%) and Portugal (9%) to 44% in Poland. The only country where a minority tends not to trust the Internet is Poland (44% "tend to trust versus 37% "tend not to trust") and in Bulgaria levels of trust are balanced (37% "tend to trust and 37% "tend not to trust").

Trust in online social networks has increased in six EU Member States, including Poland (44%, +9 percentage points). It has fallen in 21 EU Member States, and this is particularly marked in Portugal (9%, -16), Czechia (15%, -15), Ireland (10%, -14) and Belgium (10%, -14).

QA6a.5 How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

Online social networks (%)

		Tend to trust	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Tend not to trust	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		19	▼ 1	68	▲ 3	13
EU28-UK		19	▼ 2	68	▲ 4	13
PL		44	▲ 9	37	▼ 3	19
EL		33	▲ 6	58	▼ 1	9
SE		11	▲ 4	88	▲ 4	1
IT		28	▲ 2	56	▼ 3	16
ES		14	▲ 2	68	▼ 5	18
CY		31	▲ 1	51	▼ 3	18
MT		24	▼ 1	55	▲ 8	21
EE		22	▼ 1	78	▲ 31	0
LV		21	▼ 1	79	▲ 23	0
LT		27	▼ 2	73	▲ 27	0
DK		14	▼ 2	86	▲ 13	0
DE		12	▼ 2	74	▲ 5	14
NL		10	▼ 2	85	▲ 6	5
FI		10	▼ 2	90	▲ 18	0
HR		29	▼ 3	59	▲ 3	12
FR		8	▼ 3	79	▲ 2	13
AT		27	▼ 7	63	▲ 6	10
SI		13	▼ 7	87	▲ 26	0
HU		31	▼ 8	56	▲ 11	13
LU		7	▼ 8	93	▲ 20	0
BG		37	▼ 9	37	▲ 11	26
SK		22	▼ 10	66	▲ 17	12
RO		28	▼ 11	56	▲ 8	16
BE		10	▼ 14	90	▲ 22	0
IE		10	▼ 14	90	▲ 25	0
CZ		15	▼ 15	85	▲ 34	0
PT		9	▼ 16	91	▲ 28	0

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QA6a.5 How much trust do you have in certain media? For each of the following media, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

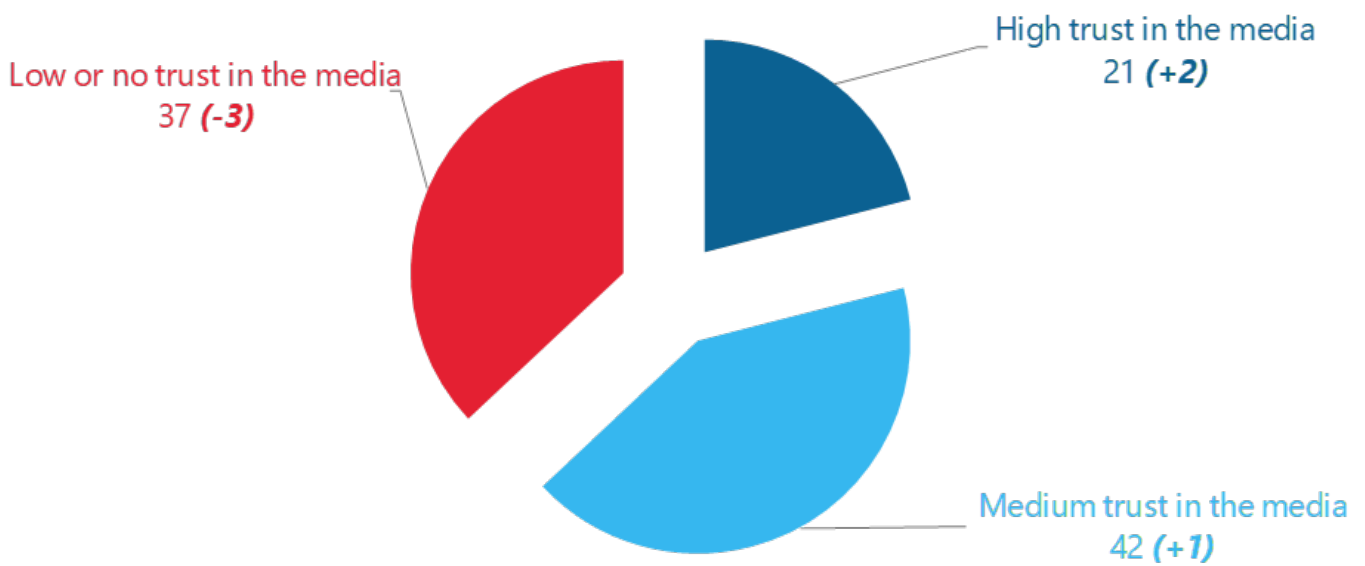
Online social networks (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	19	68	13
 Gender			
Man	20	68	12
Woman	19	67	14
 Age			
15-24	29	67	4
25-39	25	71	4
40-54	21	71	8
55+	12	64	24
 Education (End of)			
15-	11	52	37
16-19	21	66	13
20+	18	75	7
Still studying	28	69	3
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	21	70	9
Managers	18	78	4
Other white collars	25	69	6
Manual workers	24	67	9
House persons	18	66	16
Unemployed	22	69	9
Retired	10	61	29
Students	28	69	3
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	17	69	14
From time to time	22	66	12
Almost never/ Never	18	69	13
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	15	63	22
The lower middle class	20	68	12
The middle class	22	68	10
The upper middle class	17	77	6
The upper class	24	70	6

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The **Europeans' media trust index** (based on trust in the five tested media)⁵ is slightly higher than observed in the autumn 2019 survey (EB92). One in five (21%, +2 percentage points) have a "high" level of trust in the media, 42% (+1) have "medium" trust and 37% (-3) have a "low" level of trust or no trust in the media.

C5 Media trust index
(% - EU)



(Winter 2020/2021 - Autumn 2019)

⁵ For each of the five media for which trust was tested in QA6a (television, radio, the written press, the internet and online social networks) we ascribed a score of 1 point for the "tend to trust" answers and 0 for the "tend not to trust" and "don't know" answers. Each

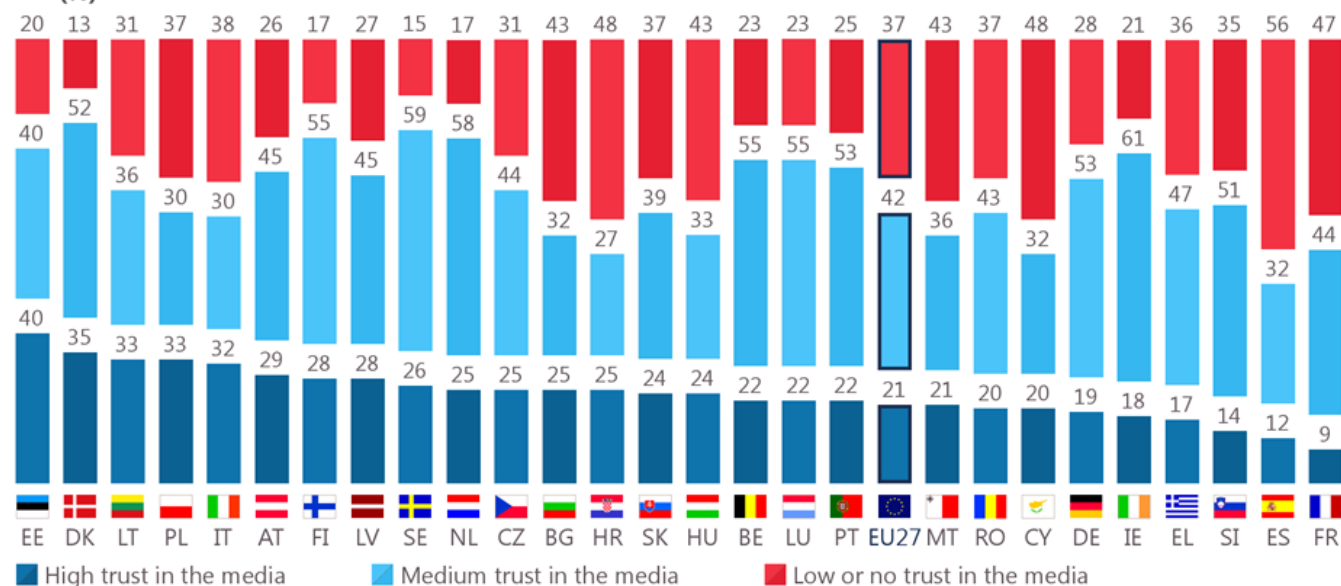
respondent was thus given a trust index ranging between 0 and 5. A score of 0 to 1 corresponds to little or no trust in the media, a score of 2 to 3 with medium trust in the media, and a score of 4 to 5 with a high level of trust in the media.

In 17 European Union Member States (up from 16 in autumn 2019), respondents with a “medium” level of trust in the media represent the largest share, with the highest proportions of medium-level trust observed in Ireland (61%), Sweden (59%), and the Netherlands (58%).

In nine Member States, respondents with “low or no trust” in the media represent the largest share, notably in Spain (56%), Croatia (48%) and Cyprus (48%).

In Estonia, an equal share of respondents rate their trust in the media as “high” and “medium” (40% in each).



C5 Media trust index (%)



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The proportion of respondents with a “high” trust index for the media has increased since the autumn 2019 survey in 12 European Union Member States, particularly in Estonia (40%, +14 percentage points), Sweden (26%, +12) and Denmark (35%, +11). The opposite is true in 12 Member States, with the highest falls observed in Portugal (22%, -15), Romania (20%, -13) and Slovakia (24%, -11). High levels of trust remain unchanged in Finland, France and Germany.

C5 Media trust index (%)

		High trust in the media	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Medium trust in the media	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Low or no trust in the media	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019
EU27		21	▲ 2	42	▲ 1	37	▼ 3
EU28-UK		21	=	42	=	37	=
EE		40	▲ 14	40	▼ 3	20	▼ 11
SE		26	▲ 12	59	▼ 5	15	▼ 7
DK		35	▲ 11	52	▼ 2	13	▼ 9
LV		28	▲ 7	45	▼ 4	27	▼ 3
IT		32	▲ 6	30	▼ 7	38	▲ 1
LT		33	▲ 5	36	▼ 1	31	▼ 4
PL		33	▲ 5	30	▼ 4	37	▼ 1
NL		25	▲ 3	58	=	17	▼ 3
MT		21	▲ 3	36	▼ 1	43	▼ 2
EL		17	▲ 3	47	▲ 15	36	▼ 18
ES		12	▲ 2	32	=	56	▼ 2
LU		22	▲ 1	55	▲ 5	23	▼ 6
FI		28	=	55	▲ 2	17	▼ 2
DE		19	=	53	=	28	=
FR		9	=	44	=	47	=
HR		25	▼ 1	27	▼ 2	48	▲ 3
AT		29	▼ 2	45	▲ 1	26	▲ 1
CZ		25	▼ 3	44	▲ 5	31	▼ 2
HU		24	▼ 4	33	▼ 2	43	▲ 6
CY		20	▼ 4	32	▼ 3	48	▲ 7
BG		25	▼ 6	32	▼ 5	43	▲ 11
BE		22	▼ 8	55	▲ 8	23	=
IE		18	▼ 8	61	▲ 19	21	▼ 11
SI		14	▼ 9	51	▲ 20	35	▼ 11
SK		24	▼ 11	39	▲ 7	37	▲ 4
RO		20	▼ 13	43	▲ 6	37	▲ 7
PT		22	▼ 15	53	▲ 24	25	▼ 9

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Six in ten Europeans believe that the media in their country provide trustworthy information, which represents an increase since autumn 2019

The majority of Europeans (62%, +6 percentage points since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey) believe that **"the (NATIONALITY) media provide trustworthy information"**⁶. However, about one in three (34%, -4) do not share this opinion and 3% (-2) say they do not know.

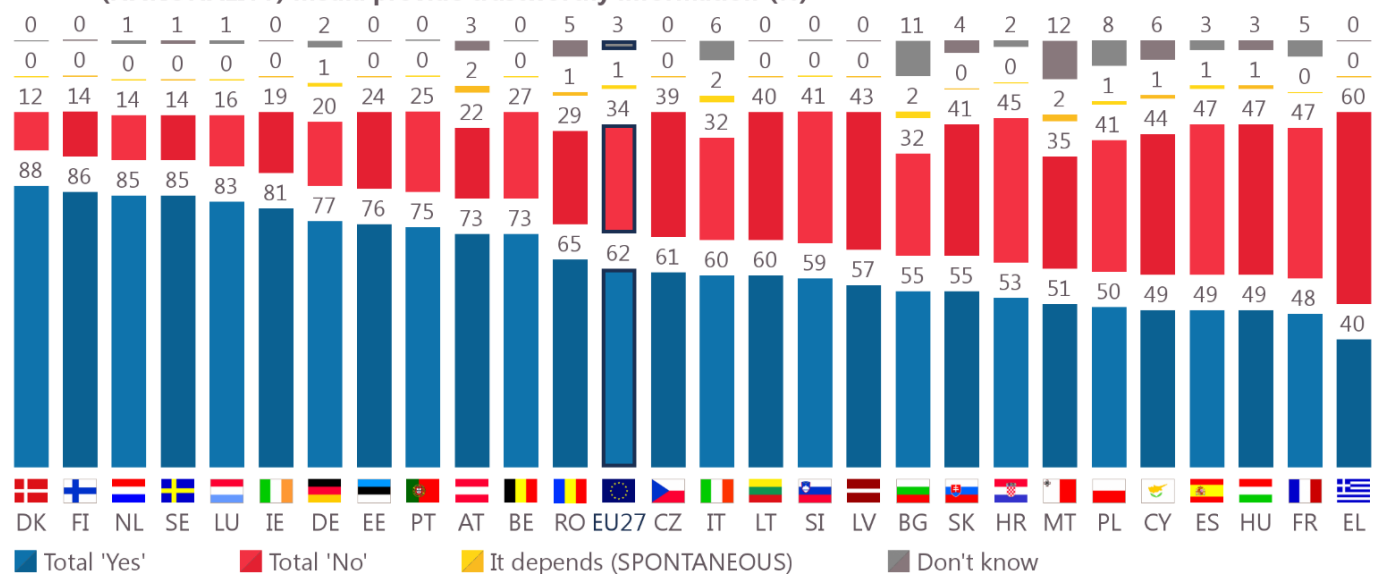
In 26 EU Member States (compared with 23 in autumn 2019), a larger share of respondents agree rather than disagree that the media in their country provide trustworthy information, with the

highest proportions observed in Denmark (88%), Finland (86%), the Netherlands and Sweden (both 85%). In Greece a larger share considers that the national media does not provide trustworthy information (60% consider that this is not the case versus 40% who think that this is the case).

Since the autumn 2019 survey, the proportion of respondents who consider the information provided by the media in their country to be trustworthy has increased in 16 EU Member States, most strongly in Luxembourg (83%, +21 percentage points) and Malta (51%, +21). Conversely, this proportion has decreased in eight Member States, most notably in Slovakia (55%, -12). In three Member States, the proportion is unchanged: Spain (49%), Croatia (53%) and Finland (86%).

QD7.1 For each of the following statements, please tell to what extent it corresponds or not to the situation of the (NATIONALITY) media:

(NATIONALITY) media provide trustworthy information (%)



⁶ QD7.1. For each of the following statements, please tell me to what extent it corresponds or not to the situation of the (NATIONALITY) media: (NATIONALITY) media provide trustworthy information

II. THE LEVEL OF INFORMATION ABOUT EUROPEAN MATTERS



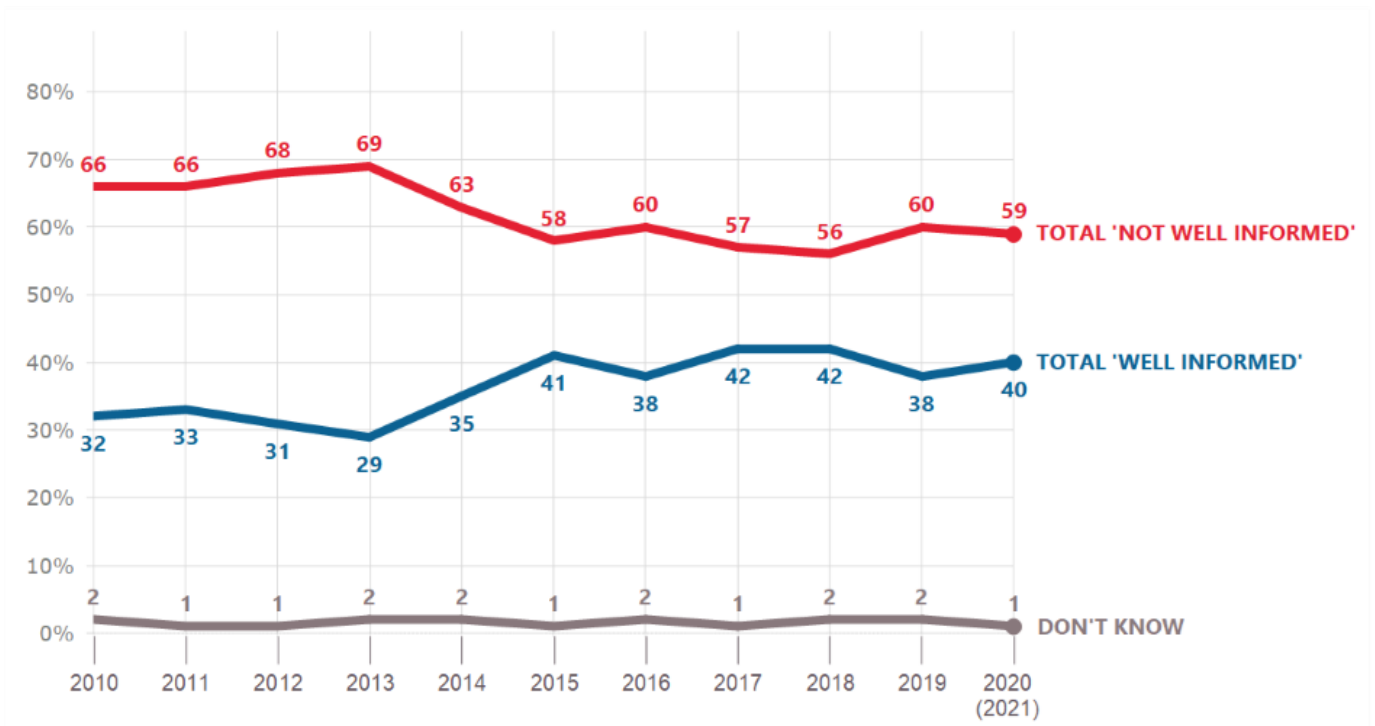
Standard Eurobarometer 94
Winter 2020 - 2021

A majority of Europeans do not feel well-informed about European matters

Six in ten Europeans (59%) feel they are **not well-informed about European matters**, a decrease of one percentage point since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey. Overall, four in ten Europeans (40%, +2) feel 'well-informed'⁷. These levels

remain similar to autumn 2019, and although the feeling of being well-informed has not regained the peak of 42% observed in autumn 2017 (EB88) and autumn 2018 (EB90), it is higher than when this was first measured in autumn 2010 (EB74) (an increase from 32% to 40%).

QD2 And overall, to what extent do you think that you are well informed or not about European matters? (% - EU)



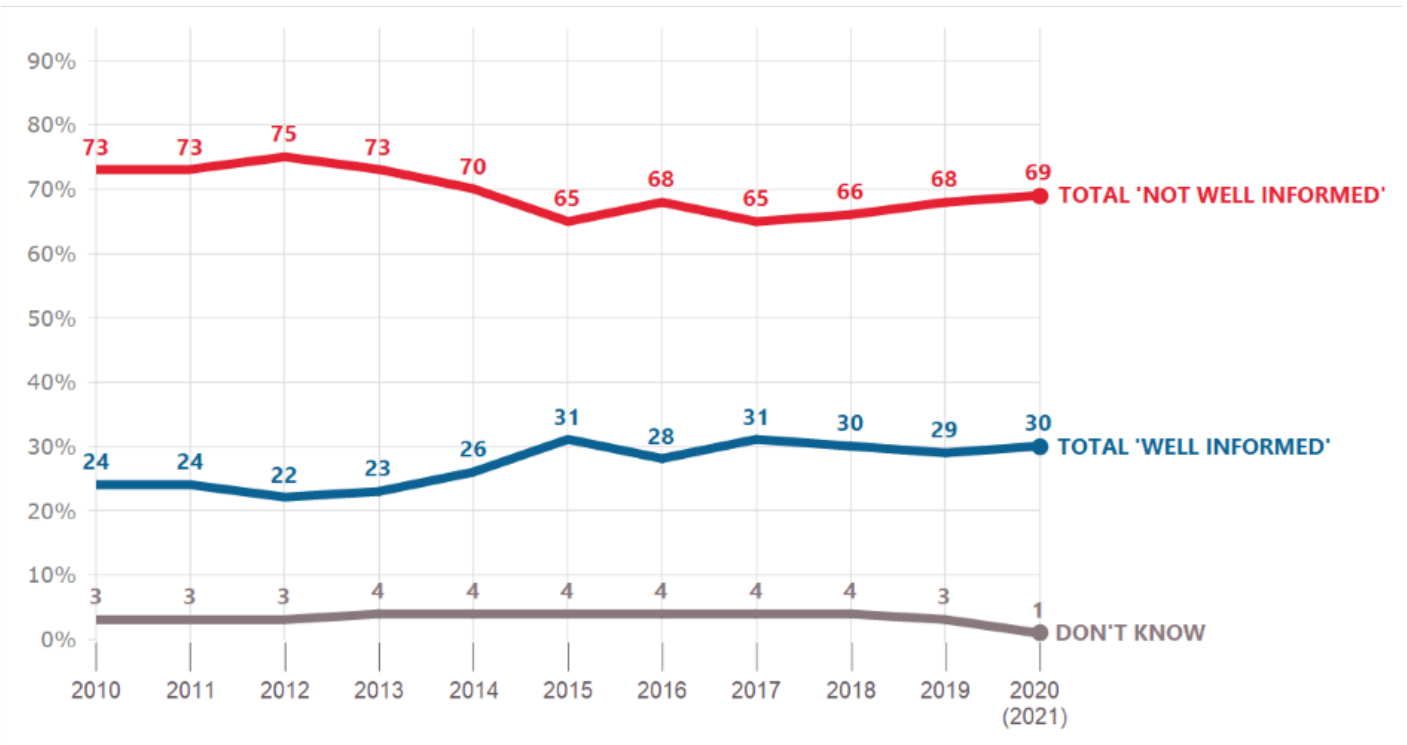
⁷ QD2. And overall, to what extent do you think that you are well-informed or not about European matters?

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Nearly seven in ten Europeans believe **that people in their country are not well-informed about European matters** (69%, +1 percentage point since autumn 2019)⁸. Conversely, only 30% think that people are well-informed (+1) and 1% (-2) "don't know".

Over the longer-term there was an increase in the proportion who felt that people in their nation were well-informed between autumn 2012 (22%) and autumn 2015 (31%); thereafter, this measure has remained reasonably stable, fluctuating between 28% and 31%.

QD1 Overall, to what extent do you think that in (OUR COUNTRY) people are well informed or not about European matters?
 (% - EU)



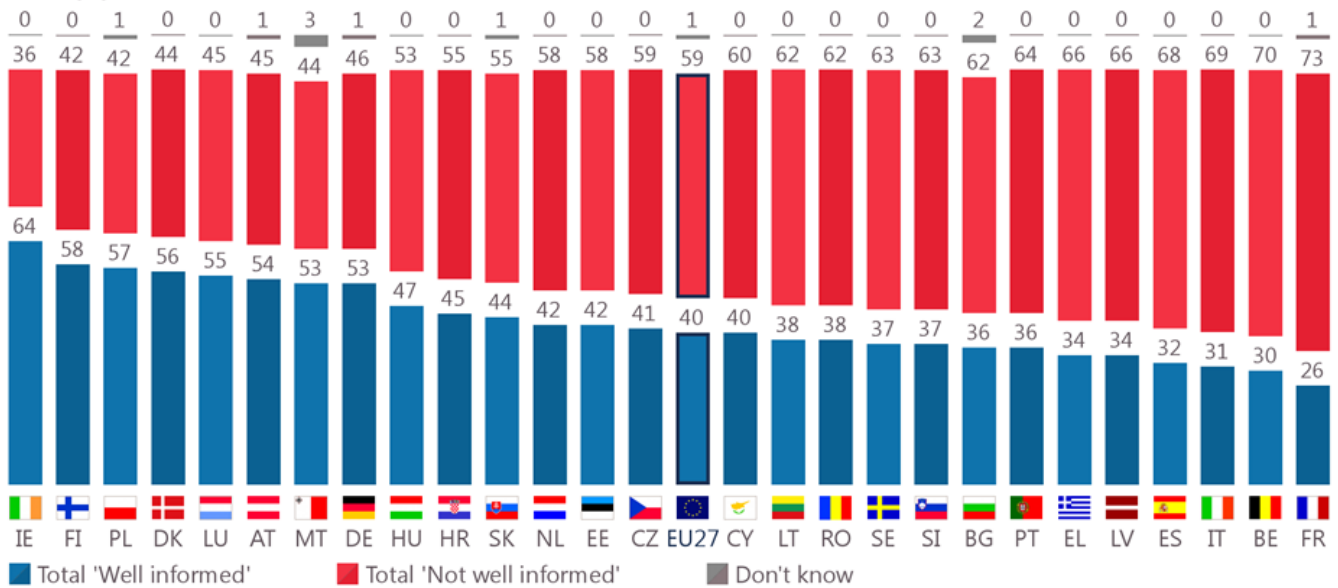
⁸ QD1. Overall, to what extent do you think that in (OUR COUNTRY) people are well informed or not about European matters?

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In eight EU Member States (up from seven in autumn 2019), a majority of respondents believe that they are well-informed about European matters. There are wide variations between countries on this measure, with the highest score recorded in Ireland (64% “well-informed”) and the lowest in France (26%).

In most EU Member States (19 in total) a majority believe they are not well-informed, and the level who do not feel well-informed is highest in France (73%), Belgium (70%), Italy (69%) and Spain (68%).





























QD2 And overall, to what extent do you think that you are well informed or not about European matters?
 (%)



Standard Eurobarometer 94
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Since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB92), the proportion of respondents feeling well-informed about European matters has fallen in 12 EU Member States, most markedly in Lithuania (38%, -11 percentage points). It has risen in 13 Member States, most notably in Portugal (36%, +13) and is unchanged in two Member States (Austria and Italy).

QD2 And overall, to what extent do you think that you are well informed or not about European matters?
(%)

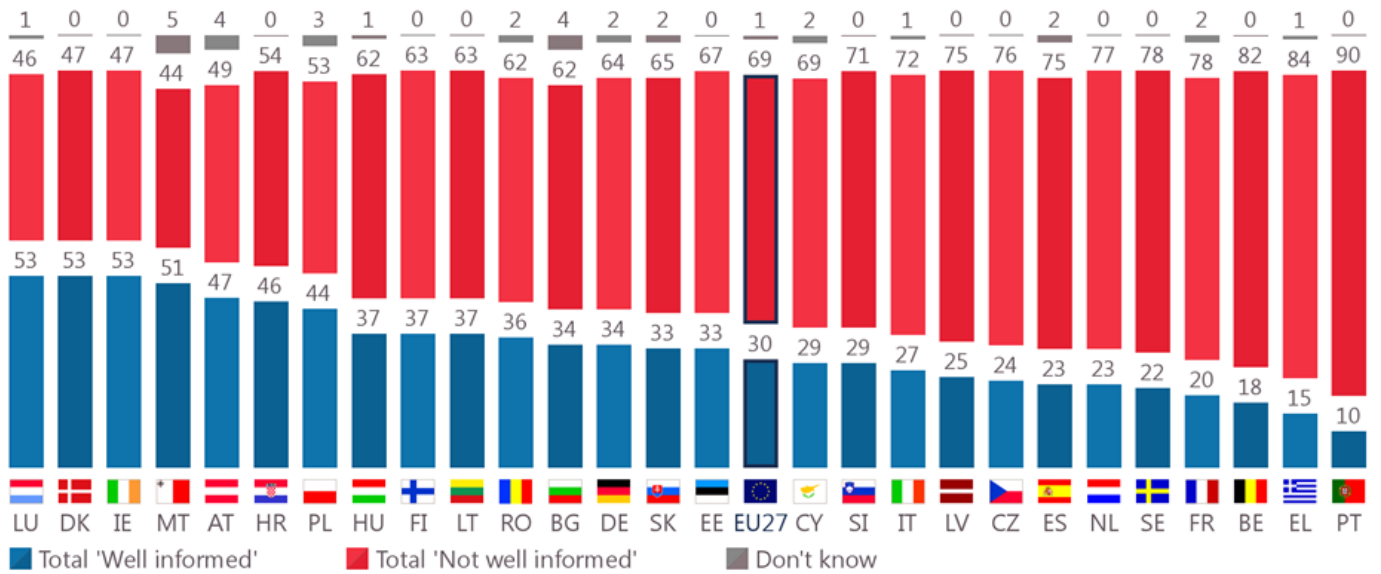
		Total 'Well informed'	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Total 'Not well informed'	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		40	▲ 2	59	▼ 1	1
EU28-UK		40	▲ 3	59	▼ 2	1
PT		36	▲ 13	64	▼ 13	0
PL		57	▲ 9	42	▼ 4	1
ES		32	▲ 8	68	▼ 8	0
FR		26	▲ 7	73	▼ 7	1
FI		58	▲ 6	42	▼ 5	0
MT		53	▲ 6	44	▼ 2	3
EL		34	▲ 6	66	▼ 6	0
DE		53	▲ 5	46	▼ 4	1
HU		47	▲ 5	53	▼ 5	0
HR		45	▲ 4	55	▼ 3	0
CY		40	▲ 4	60	▼ 4	0
IE		64	▲ 3	36	▼ 3	0
CZ		41	▲ 1	59	=	0
AT		54	=	45	▲ 1	1
IT		31	=	69	▲ 2	0
EE		42	▼ 1	58	▲ 2	0
NL		42	▼ 2	58	▲ 2	0
BG		36	▼ 2	62	▲ 5	2
DK		56	▼ 3	44	▲ 3	0
SK		44	▼ 4	55	▲ 6	1
RO		38	▼ 4	62	▲ 5	0
LU		55	▼ 5	45	▲ 6	0
BE		30	▼ 5	70	▲ 5	0
SE		37	▼ 7	63	▲ 7	0
SI		37	▼ 8	63	▲ 9	0
LV		34	▼ 8	66	▲ 8	0
LT		38	▼ 11	62	▲ 11	0

Standard Eurobarometer 94
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The opinion that **"in (OUR COUNTRY) people are well-informed about European matters"** is held by a majority in only four EU Member States, down from five in autumn 2019. These are Luxembourg, Denmark, Ireland (all 53%) and Malta (51%).

Conversely, in the other 23 Member States, there is a predominant feeling that people in their country are not well-informed about European matters: at least eight in ten respondents in Portugal (90%), Greece (84%), and Belgium (82%) share this opinion.





























QD1 Overall, to what extent do you think that in (OUR COUNTRY) people are well informed or not about European matters?
(%)



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The proportion of respondents who believe that people in their country are well-informed about European matters has risen since autumn 2019 in seven EU Member States, most strikingly in Malta (51%, +19 percentage points). It has fallen in 19 other Member States, particularly in Czechia (24%, -19), Slovakia (33%, -16), Belgium (18%, -15) and Slovenia (29%, -15). Finally, it is unchanged in Italy.

QD1 Overall, to what extent do you think that in (OUR COUNTRY) people are well informed or not about European matters?
(%)

		Total 'Well informed'	Wfn.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Total 'Not well informed'	Wfn.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		30	▲ 1	69	▲ 1	1
EU28-UK		30	▲ 1	69	▲ 1	1
MT		51	▲19	44	▼12	5
HR		46	▲ 8	54	▼ 7	0
CY		29	▲ 8	69	▼ 8	2
FR		20	▲ 8	78	▼ 8	2
ES		23	▲ 5	75	▼ 5	2
PL		44	▲ 3	53	▲ 4	3
DE		34	▲ 3	64	=	2
IT		27	=	72	▲ 2	1
AT		47	▼ 1	49	=	4
SE		22	▼ 1	78	▲ 1	0
HU		37	▼ 2	62	▲ 3	1
EL		15	▼ 2	84	▲ 4	1
DK		53	▼ 3	47	▲ 5	0
BG		34	▼ 3	62	▲ 9	4
PT		10	▼ 3	90	▲ 5	0
FI		37	▼ 4	63	▲ 6	0
NL		23	▼ 4	77	▲ 4	0
IE		53	▼ 5	47	▲ 7	0
RO		36	▼ 6	62	▲ 6	2
LU		53	▼ 7	46	▲ 9	1
EE		33	▼ 7	67	▲14	0
LV		25	▼ 8	75	▲12	0
LT		37	▼13	63	▲17	0
SI		29	▼15	71	▲17	0
BE		18	▼15	82	▲15	0
SK		33	▼16	65	▲18	2
CZ		24	▼19	76	▲22	0

III. INFORMATION SOURCES FOR POLITICAL MATTERS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION



1. European political matters

Although television is still the preferred source of news on European political affairs, a growing proportion of Europeans turn to the Internet for this and the gap between television and the Internet has narrowed

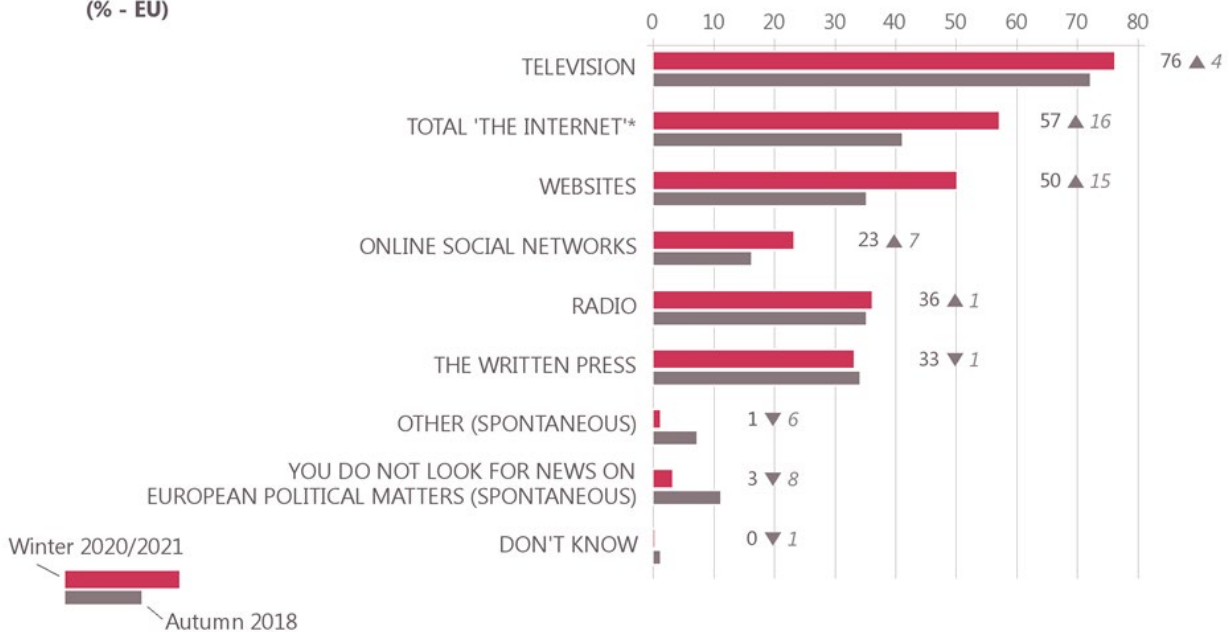
Television is still the medium of choice for Europeans wishing to be informed about European political matters⁹(76%, an increase of 4 percentage points compared with the autumn 2018 Standard Eurobarometer survey, EB90). Television as the preferred choice for being informed has fallen over the longer-term from 81% in autumn 2010 to 76% in winter 2020-2021. The increase between autumn 2018 and winter 2020-2021 reverses a previously declining trend observed between autumn 2014 and autumn 2018.

The Internet continues to gain ground as one of Europeans' preferred source of news on European political matters and there has been a notable increase between autumn 2018 and winter 2020-2021 (57%, +16 percentage points)¹⁰, which has led to a narrower gap between television and internet in winter 2020-2021. Over the longer-term this represents a +31 percentage point increase since autumn 2010, when 26% mainly used the Internet for European political news. More specifically, the increase between autumn 2018 and winter 2020-2021 is driven by the score for websites (50%, +15), as well as for online social networks (23%, +7).

Radio is chosen as the preferred source for being informed about European political matters by just over a third of Europeans in winter 2020-2021 (36%, +1 percentage point since autumn 2018), while 33% prefer the written press (-1). Over the longer-term, **written press** is used by increasingly small proportions of Europeans, falling from 49% in autumn 2010 to 33% in winter 2020-2021, which represents the lowest recorded level.

Finally, 3% (-8) stated that they do not look for news on national political affairs.

QD4T Where do you get most of your news on European political matters? Firstly? And then?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)



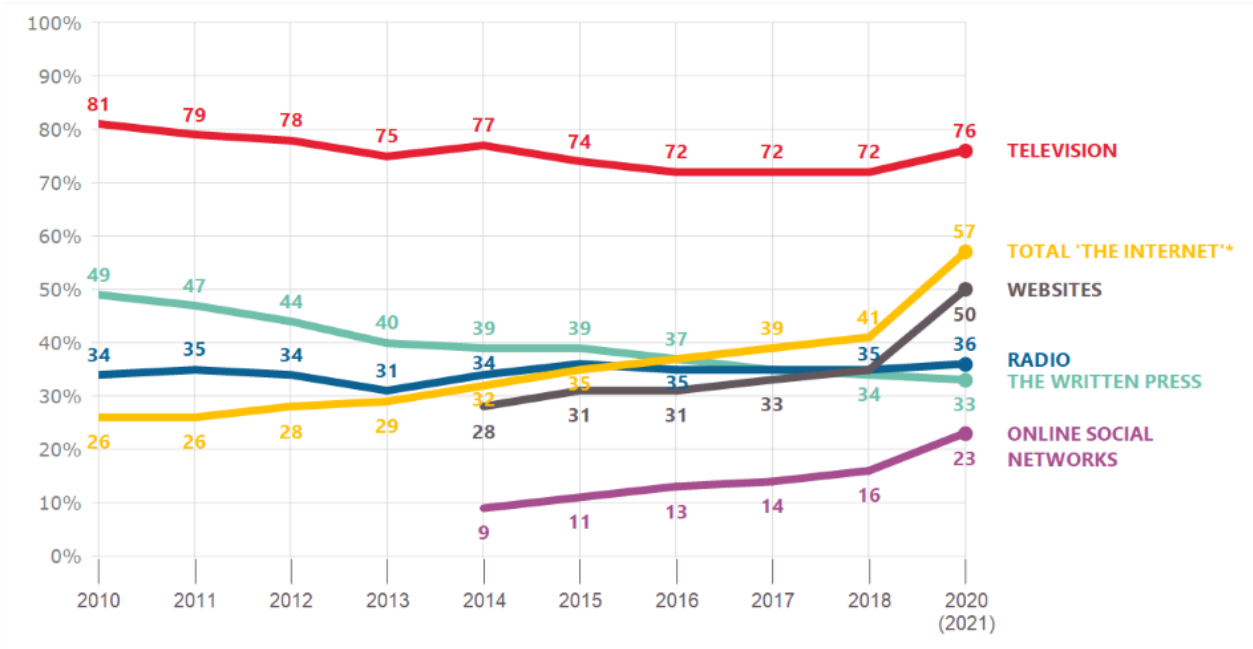
* Internet total: combined scores for the two items "Websites" and "Online social networks"

⁹ QD4T. Where do you get most of your news on European political matters? Firstly? And then?

¹⁰ Because of changes in the methodology, evolutions with the previous wave, where fieldwork in all countries was conducted face to face, should be analysed with caution.

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QD4T Where do you get most of your news on European political matters? Firstly? And then?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)

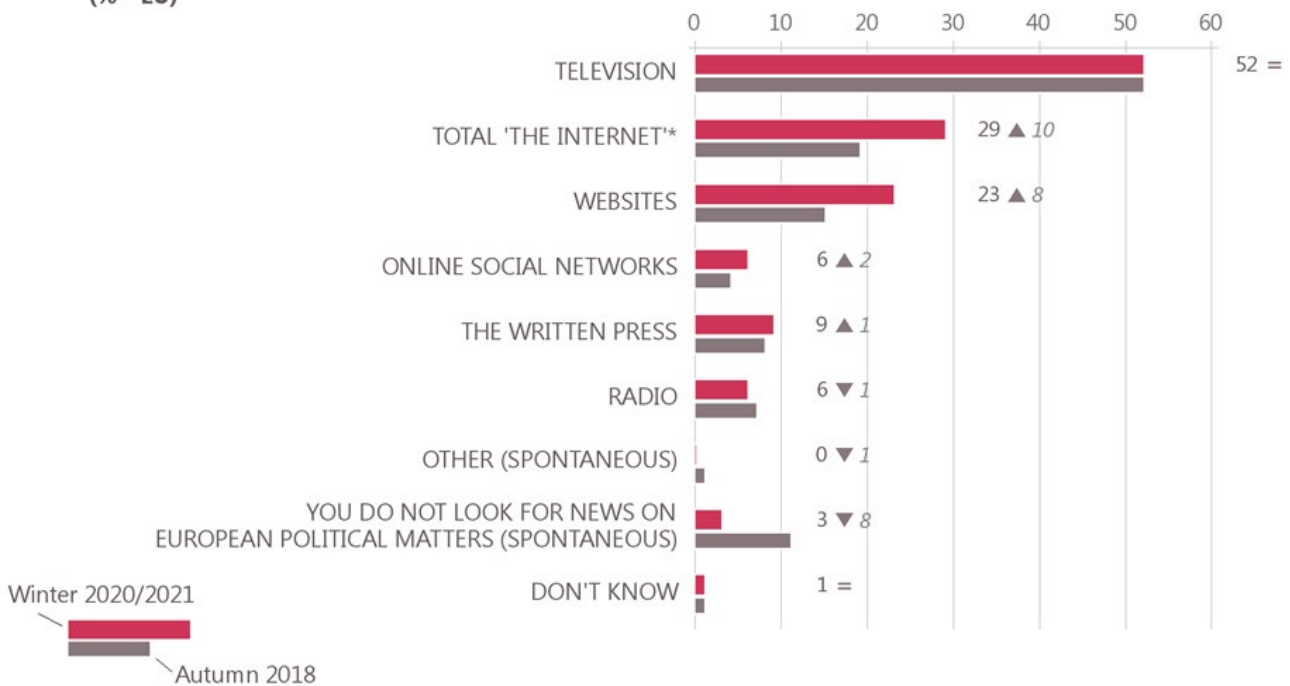


* Internet total: combined scores for the two items "Websites" and "Online social networks"

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If we examine only the first (highest ranking) response given by respondents, it can be seen that television's dominance in the ranking of the main source of news on European political affairs remains unchanged (52%) since autumn 2018. In second place is the Internet (29%, +10 percentage points) which indicates that the gap has narrowed since autumn 2018. The scores for the Internet as the first ranked source for European political affairs are made up by 23% (+8) choosing websites and 6% (+2) choosing online social networks. Radio is cited as a first choice by 6% (-1) of respondents.







QD4a Where do you get most of your news on European political matters? Firstly?
 (% - EU)



Only one answer possible
 * Internet total: combined scores for the two items
 "Websites" and "Online social networks"

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QD4T Where do you get most of your news on European political matters? Firstly? And then? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

	Television	Total 'The Internet'	Websites	Online social networks	Radio	The written press	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	You do not look for news on European political matters (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	76	57	50	23	36	33	1	3	0
 Gender									
Man	74	61	54	24	36	35	1	2	0
Woman	79	53	46	23	36	32	1	4	1
 Age									
15-24	58	81	68	47	19	21	1	5	1
25-39	66	77	67	35	29	23	1	3	0
40-54	77	63	57	23	36	32	1	2	0
55+	88	33	30	9	44	44	1	3	0
 Education (End of)									
15-	85	24	20	10	37	33	1	8	1
16-19	82	53	46	22	38	30	1	3	1
20+	74	64	58	22	37	40	1	1	0
Still studying	56	83	70	48	20	24	1	4	1
 Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	74	64	59	22	39	35	0	2	0
Managers	73	65	60	19	41	43	1	0	0
Other white collars	77	70	64	28	33	32	1	1	0
Manual workers	76	61	51	27	35	23	1	3	1
House persons	77	49	42	21	25	22	1	10	1
Unemployed	69	68	58	32	26	19	1	7	1
Retired	89	27	25	8	45	46	1	3	0
Students	56	83	70	48	20	24	1	4	1
 Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	71	58	47	30	31	20	2	7	0
From time to time	78	58	50	27	32	27	1	3	1
Almost never/ Never	77	56	50	21	37	37	1	2	0
 Consider belonging to									
The working class	77	48	41	21	37	23	1	7	0
The lower middle class	75	56	48	26	38	27	1	3	1
The middle class	78	60	53	23	35	37	1	2	0
The upper middle class	70	61	55	20	35	48	0	1	0
The upper class	69	71	65	25	37	41	2	0	0

Several answers possible

** Internet total: combined scores for the two items
"Websites" and "Online social networks"*

In 21 Member States of the European Union, **television** is the most popular source of news on European political affairs. The highest scores are observed in Portugal (86%), Romania, Italy and Bulgaria (85% in all three countries) and the lowest in Luxembourg (54%), and Ireland (63%).

Since the autumn 2018 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB90), the proportion choosing television as a preferred source is down in 12 Member States, more notably in Ireland (63%, -6 percentage points). It is up in 14 other Member States, including Bulgaria (85%, +16), Romania (85%, +15) and Italy (85%, +12), and is unchanged in Belgium.

The **written press** is most frequently cited as a preferred source of news on European political affairs in Finland (63%) and Austria (54%). Since autumn 2018, the written press is cited less frequently in 13 Member States but more frequently in nine others, particularly in Belgium (52%, +12 percentage points) and Malta

(22%, +9). The proportion of mentions is unchanged in five Member States (Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Portugal).





























Radio as the preferred source of news on European political affairs is mentioned by the largest proportions of respondents in Slovakia (51%), Germany and Austria (both 46%) and Ireland (45%). Since autumn 2018, the proportion of respondents citing this item has fallen in 17 Member States and has risen in eight others, more so in Croatia (37%, +8 percentage points) and Poland (39%, +8). The figure is unchanged in two other Member States: Germany and Malta.

The proportion of respondents who prefer to use the Internet for news on European political affairs ranges from 45% in France to 90% in Czechia. Since autumn 2018, this proportion has increased in all but one (26) EU Member States¹¹. More specifically, **websites** are particularly frequently mentioned in Czechia (88%) and **online social networks** by respondents in Malta (55%).

¹¹ Because of the change in methodology in several countries, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the national evolutions should be analysed with caution.

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QD4T Where do you get most of your news on European political matters?
Firstly? And then? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(%)

		Television	Total 'The Internet'	Websites	Online social networks	Radio	The written press	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	You do not look for news on European political matters (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27		76	57	50	23	36	33	1	3	0
EU28-UK		76	57	50	23	36	33	1	3	0
BE		72	48	38	19	38	52	0	0	0
BG		85	58	46	37	31	19	2	5	1
CZ		72	90	88	22	26	20	1	0	0
DK		77	50	37	20	39	42	2	0	0
DE		77	52	43	22	46	45	1	1	0
EE		69	78	74	25	40	34	0	0	0
IE		63	62	50	31	45	44	0	0	0
EL		70	78	71	45	31	24	1	0	0
ES		73	55	53	19	30	24	1	8	1
FR		67	45	39	16	37	30	1	6	1
HR		81	67	62	32	37	25	1	1	0
IT		85	55	49	22	26	37	1	4	1
CY		71	66	56	49	35	14	3	4	1
LV		68	86	75	37	34	13	0	0	0
LT		74	83	78	32	30	28	0	0	0
LU		54	61	50	26	41	53	0	0	0
HU		76	71	66	36	35	18	0	3	0
MT		70	74	53	55	31	22	2	2	0
NL		77	66	61	16	25	52	0	0	0
AT		78	52	39	32	46	54	1	4	1
PL		78	64	61	26	39	17	0	1	0
PT		86	76	67	22	21	35	0	0	0
RO		85	52	37	33	30	20	1	5	1
SI		77	78	70	28	37	23	0	0	0
SK		74	68	57	36	51	23	0	1	0
FI		73	66	64	18	29	63	0	0	0
SE		73	50	40	19	42	49	1	0	0
		1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM								
		2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM								
		3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM								

2. The active search for information about the European Union

The Internet has overtaken television as the main source of information about the European Union for the first time since tracking began

The most popular medium among Europeans when looking for information about the EU, its policies and institutions¹² was the Internet¹³ (55% in the winter 2020-2021 Standard Eurobarometer survey). This represents a substantial rise of 12 percentage points since autumn 2019 (EB92)¹⁴ and the Internet has now replaced television as the most important source of information for the first time since this measure was first tracked in spring 2005 (EB63).

This increase since autumn 2019 continues a longer-term growing trend: mentions of the Internet have been rising almost steadily since spring 2005, with an overall increase of 33 percentage points over this period. However, the sharp increase between autumn 2019 and winter 2020-2021 is especially notable in the context of this longer-term trend.

More specifically, this increase in internet usage to find information about the EU, its policies and institutions between autumn 2019 and winter 2020-2021 is driven by the following:

- **Information websites** (the sites of newspapers, magazines, etc.) are the most popular internet sources (33%, +7 percentage points since autumn 2019);
- **Institutional and official websites** come in second place (28%, +10 percentage points);
- **Online social networks** are in third place with (16%, +2 percentage points);
- Finally, **video-sharing sites** (6%, +2 percentage points) and **blogs** (4%, +1) are less frequently cited.

In second overall place, Europeans turn to **television** when they want to find information about the EU, its policies and institutions¹⁵ (54%, +7 percentage points since autumn 2019). The increase between autumn 2019 and winter 2020-2021 represents the first notable increase following a period of relative stability between autumn 2012 and autumn 2019 when mentions of television fluctuated at around the 50% mark.

After the Internet and television, the preferred sources of information about the EU are through **discussions with family, colleagues and friends** (23%, +3 percentage points); **daily newspapers** (22%, +1), and **the radio** (21%, unchanged).

Other **newspapers and magazines** (9%, unchanged) and **books, brochures and factsheets** (7%, +1) are mentioned less often, as

are **conferences, discussions or meetings** (4%, +1), and the telephone (Info Lines, Europe Direct, etc.) (1%, =).

The proportion of Europeans who *spontaneously* state they do not look for this type of information has decreased from 20% to 8% (-12 percentage points). This suggests that there has been overall increase in the proportion of respondents who want to seek out information about the EU, and this helps explain the increases across most types of media.

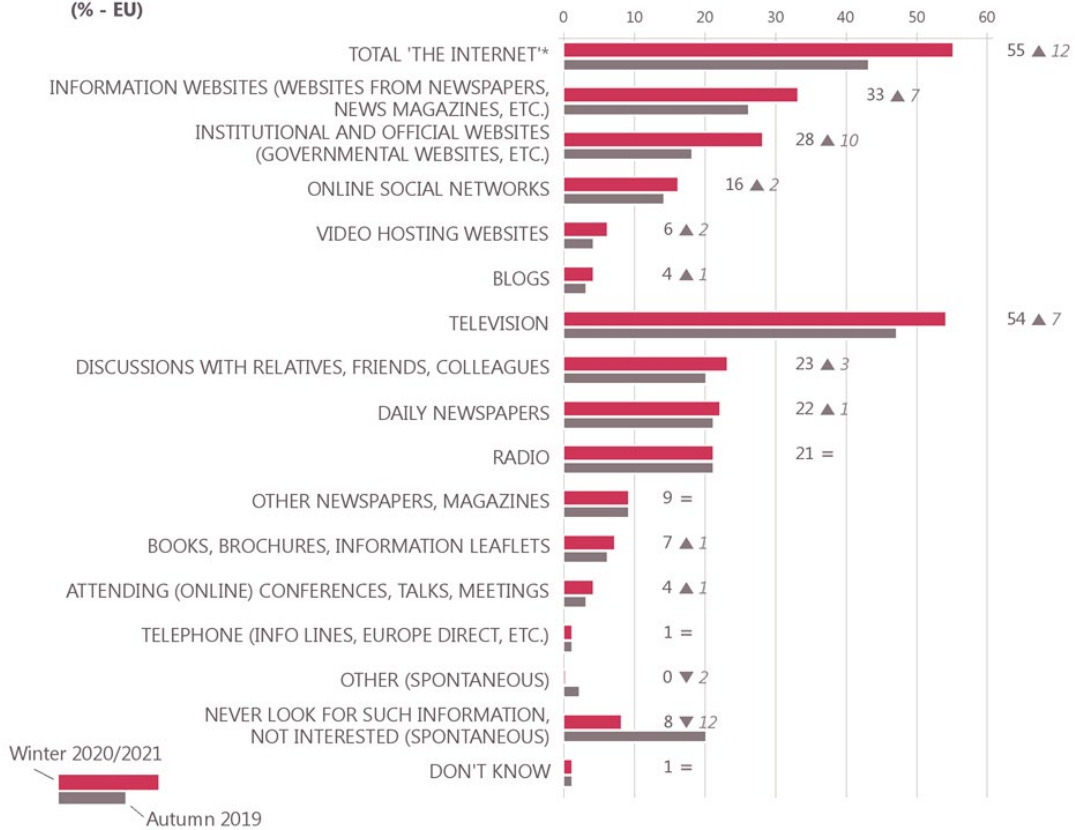
¹² QD5. When you are looking for information about the EU, its policies, its institutions, which of the following sources do you use?

¹³ The Internet item is the aggregation of five items: news websites (sites of newspapers, magazines, etc.); institutional and official websites (government sites, etc.); online social networks; video-sharing sites; and blogs.

¹⁴ Because of changes in the methodology, evolutions with the previous wave, where fieldwork in all countries was conducted face to face, should be analysed with caution.

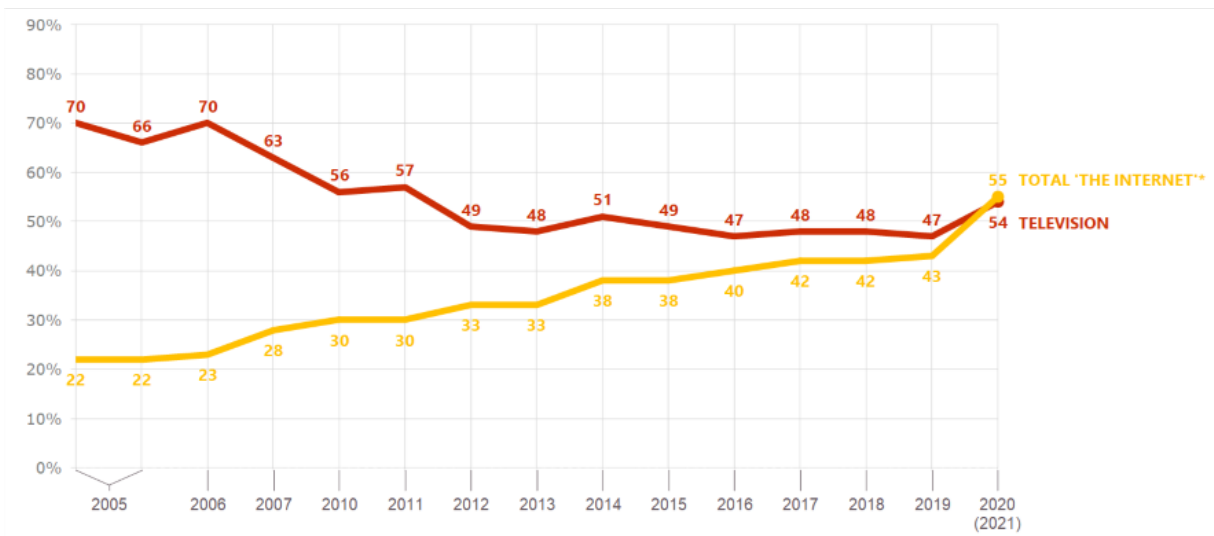
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QD5 When you are looking for information about the EU, its policies, its institutions, which of the following sources do you use? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)



* Internet total: combined scores for the five items "Information websites", "Institutional and official websites", "Online social networks", "Blogs" and "Video hosting sites".

QD5 When you are looking for information about the EU, its policies, its institutions, which of the following sources do you use? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)



* Internet total: combined scores for the five items "Information websites", "Institutional and official websites", "Online social networks", "Blogs" and "Video hosting sites".

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In 21 European Union Member States (a large increase up from eight in autumn 2019), the Internet is cited by at least 50% of respondents as a source of information about the EU and its policies and institutions. The highest scores are recorded in Czechia (84%), Portugal (83%), Slovenia, Latvia and Estonia (all 79%). In contrast, only 38% of respondents in Romania and 41% in Belgium use the Internet to search for information about the European Union.

Since autumn 2019, the Internet is used more widely for this purpose by all 27 EU Member States¹⁶.







In 15 European Union Member States (up from 11 in autumn 2019), television is cited by at least 50% of respondents as a source of information on European political matters. The highest scores are observed in Romania (64%), Portugal and Italy (both 63%). At the other end of the scale, scores are lowest in Luxemburg (41%), Belgium (43%) and Ireland (43%).

Since the autumn 2019 survey, the use of television to provide information about the EU has increased in 22 Member States, most notably in Estonia (45%, +19 percentage points) and Malta (50%, +16%). Conversely, it is mentioned by smaller proportions in three countries, particularly in Belgium (43%, -9) and unchanged in Czechia and Greece.

¹⁶ Because of the change in methodology in several countries, because of the coronavirus pandemic, the national evolutions should be analysed with caution.

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QD5 When you are looking for information about the EU, its policies, its institutions, which of the following sources do you use? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)

	Total 'The Internet'	Television	Information websites (websites from newspapers, news magazines, etc.)	Institutional and official websites (governmental websites, etc.)	Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues	Daily newspapers	Radio	Online social networks	Never look for such information, not interested (SPONTANEOUS)
EU27	55	54	33	28	23	22	21	16	8
 Gender									
Man	59	52	38	29	22	23	21	16	7
Woman	52	55	29	26	24	21	20	15	10
 Age									
15-24	72	38	45	39	27	13	12	28	9
25-39	70	43	41	35	25	15	16	24	7
40-54	61	53	37	31	22	22	21	15	7
55+	37	65	23	18	21	29	26	8	9
 Education (End of)									
15-	21	63	11	7	21	17	20	8	19
16-19	48	59	27	20	23	21	21	16	10
20+	69	50	43	39	23	27	22	14	4
Still studying	77	36	50	43	27	14	12	28	7
 Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	67	51	41	35	20	22	19	15	5
Managers	73	50	46	44	25	30	24	14	2
Other white collars	68	52	42	36	24	22	21	19	5
Manual workers	52	52	28	20	23	16	19	18	9
House persons	41	55	22	17	20	14	16	16	21
Unemployed	56	47	34	22	22	12	14	22	14
Retired	32	68	19	15	21	30	26	7	10
Students	77	36	50	43	27	14	12	28	7
 Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	48	50	24	19	22	12	15	19	14
From time to time	50	56	26	22	25	17	15	19	9
Almost never/ Never	58	54	37	31	22	25	23	14	7
 Consider belonging to									
The working class	40	53	22	17	22	14	18	16	16
The lower middle class	52	55	30	24	22	18	21	18	8
The middle class	59	55	37	30	23	25	21	15	5
The upper middle class	72	48	46	45	23	33	24	13	2
The upper class	73	43	42	42	30	26	20	21	3

* Internet total: combined scores for the five items "Information websites", "Institutional and official websites", "Online social networks", "Blogs" and "Video hosting sites".

3. Media treatment of the European Union

More Europeans feel that the media presents the EU objectively than either too positively or too negatively

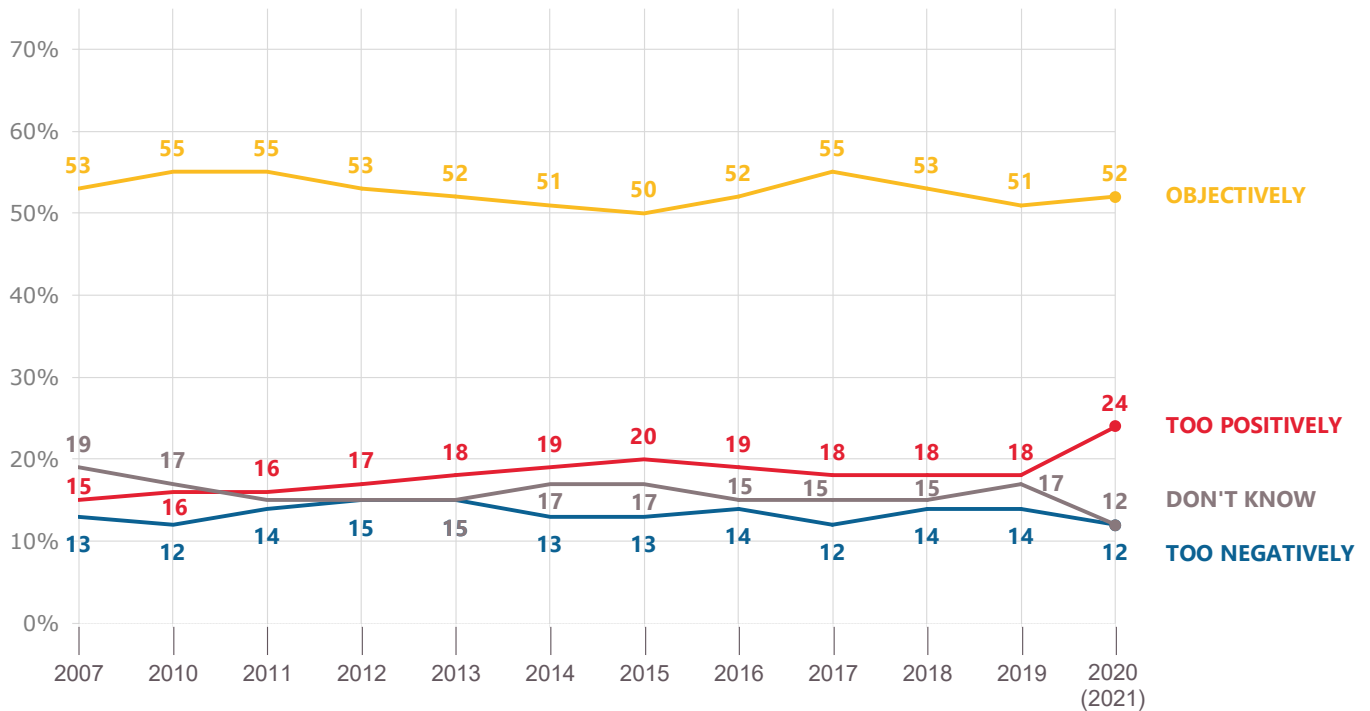
For all five media analysed, more Europeans feel that the media presents the EU objectively than either too positively or too negatively¹⁷ :

- Just over half of Europeans (52%) consider that **television** presents the European Union "objectively" (+1 percentage point since the autumn 2019 survey), while 24% (+6) consider that it presents it "too positively" and 12% (-2) that it presents it "too negatively". Over one in ten (12%, -5) say they don't know. Longer-term analysis shows this indicator to be relatively stable since 2007, although the small uptick in perceptions that television is "too positive" in its presentation of the EU is notable in the context of the longer trend.
- The view that **radio** presents the European Union "objectively" is also held by a majority (55%, +4 percentage points since autumn 2019), while 16% (+4) feel that radio presents the EU "too positively" and 8% (-2) that it presents it "too negatively". More than a fifth of respondents (21%) express no opinion on this subject (-6 since autumn 2019).
- Half of Europeans consider that the **written press** in their country presents the European Union "objectively" (+3 percentage points since autumn 2019). Conversely, 16% (+4) of Europeans believe that the written press presents the European Union "too positively" and 12% (-1) that it presents the European Union "too negatively" (-1). More than a quarter of Europeans (22%, -6) say they "don't know".
- Just under half of Europeans (46%, +4 percentage point since the autumn 2019 survey) feel that **websites** present the European Union "objectively". Following a dip between autumn 2017 and autumn 2019, this figure continues a rising trend in perceived objectivity of websites over the longer-term: the proportion considering websites to present the EU objectively has risen from 33% in autumn 2007 to 46% in winter 2020-2021 (+13). Overall, 16% of Europeans think this presentation is too negative (+3 since autumn 2019), while 11% (+3) consider that websites present the European Union "too positively". Just over a quarter of Europeans (27%) say that they "don't know", which represents a large fall since autumn 2019 (-10).
- Finally, one third of Europeans feel that **online social networks** present the European Union "objectively" (32%, -1 percentage point since autumn 2019), a proportion which has remained relatively stable autumn 2016. The largest share of respondents, however, gave a "don't know" response, although this has declined over time to reach its lowest level in winter 2020-2021 (33%, -10 since autumn 2019). More respondents feel that online social networks present the European Union "too negatively" (26%, +9) than "too positively" (9%, +2).

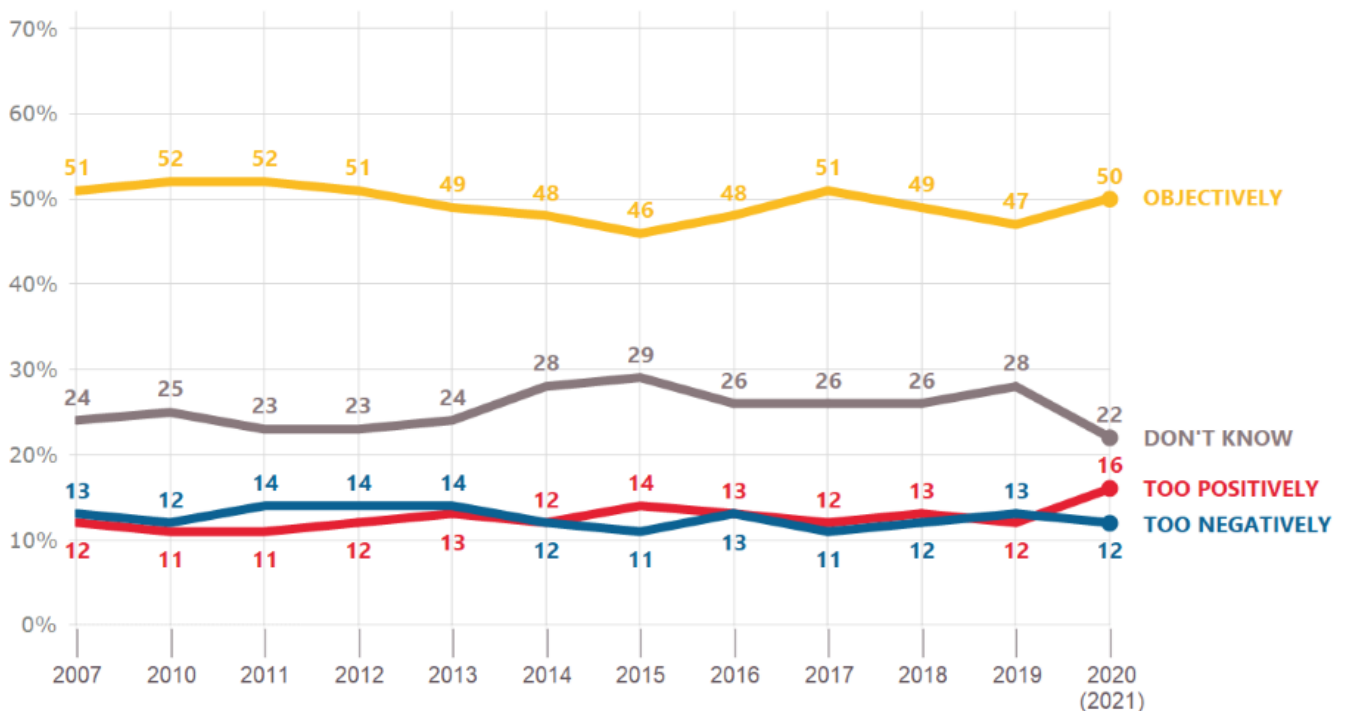
¹⁷QD6. Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) television / radio / written press / websites / online social networks ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?

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QD6.1 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?
Television (% - EU)

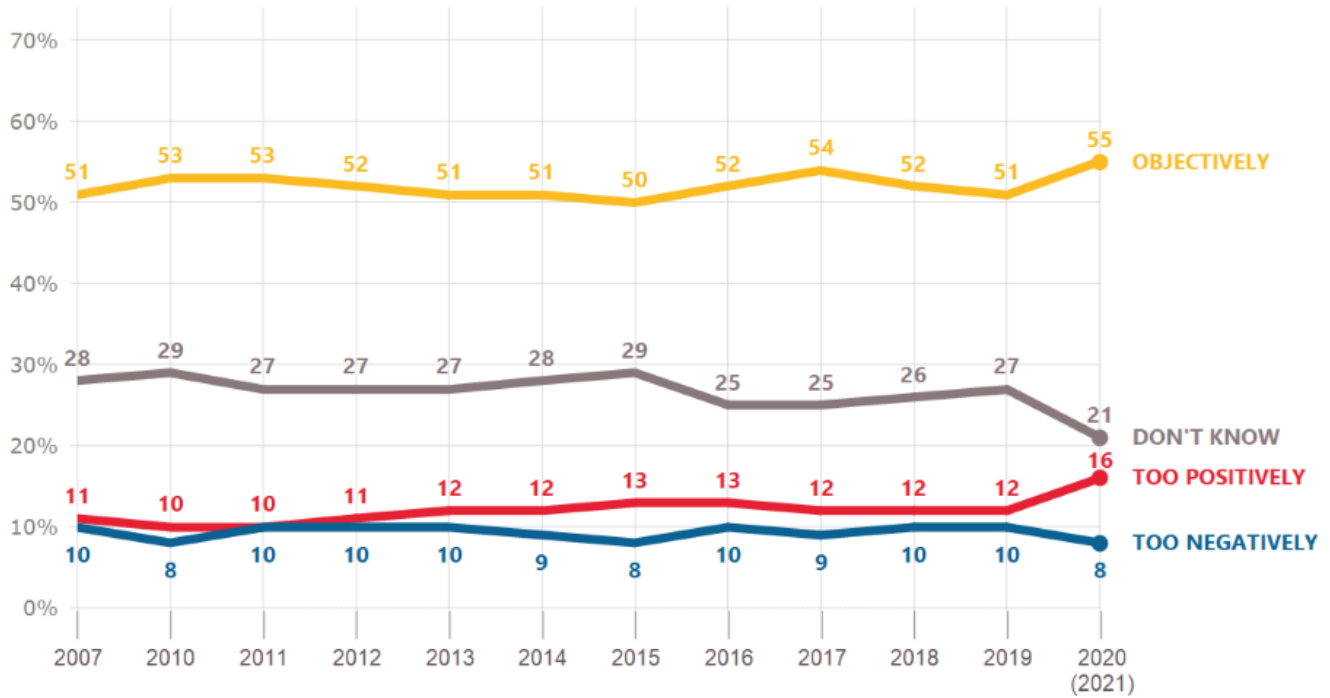


QD6.3 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?
Written press (% - EU)

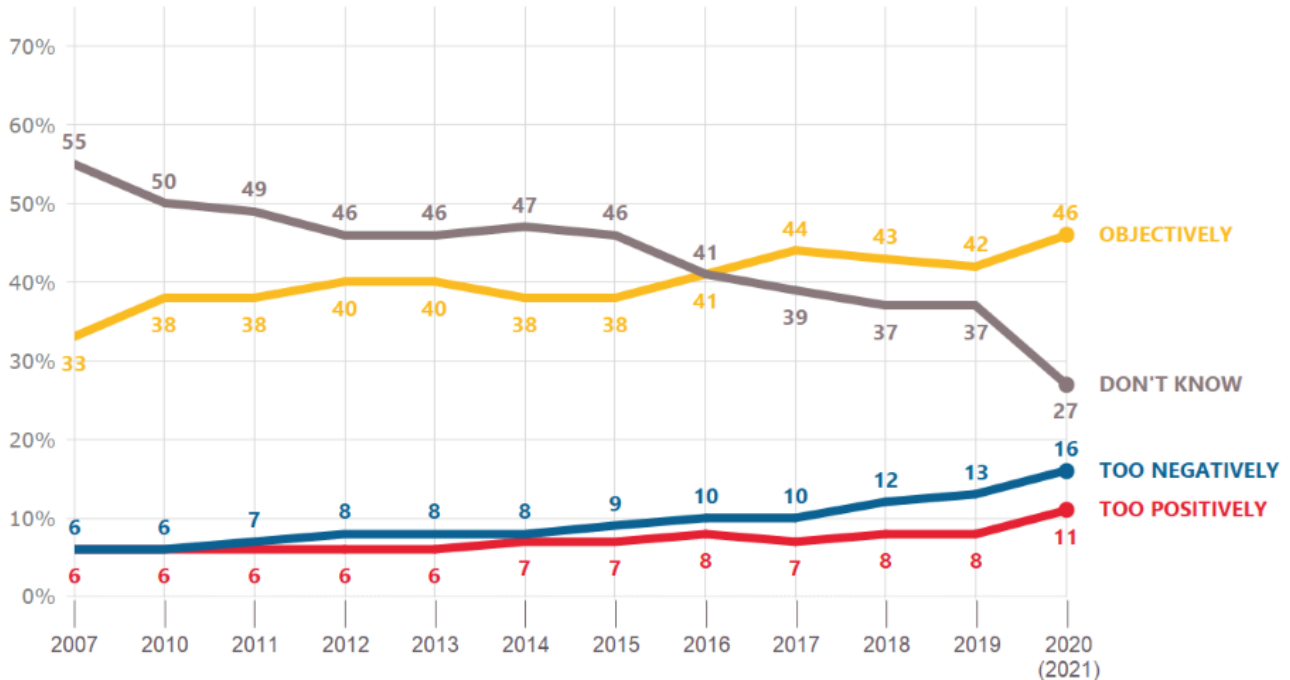


Standard Eurobarometer 94
Winter 2020 - 2021

QD6.2 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?
Radio (% - EU)

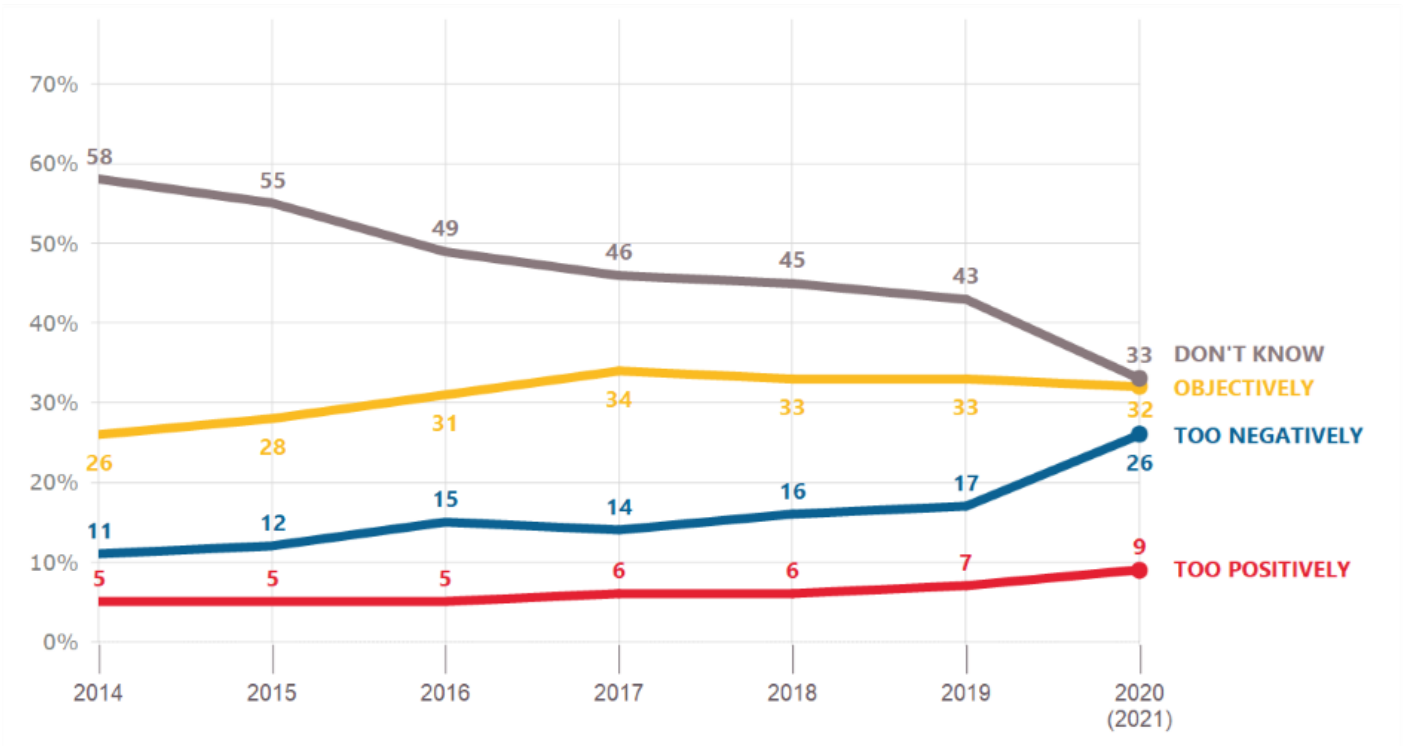


QD6.4 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?
Websites (% - EU)



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Winter 2020 - 2021

QD6.5 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?
Online social networks (% - EU)



Standard Eurobarometer 94 Winter 2020 - 2021

As in autumn 2019, the largest share of respondents in all European Union Member States, with the exception of Greece, feel that national television presents the European Union “objectively”. In Greece, the pattern is different, with over twice as many respondents feeling that the national television presents the European Union “too positively” than “objectively” (59% compared

with 24%). The feeling that television in their country presents the European Union “objectively” has increased in 14 EU Member States, most markedly in Luxembourg (73%, +27 percentage points) and Slovenia (72%, +20). This feeling has fallen in 11 others Member States, more notably in Cyprus (51%, -10) and Spain (42%, -9).

The proportion of respondents giving a “don’t know” response is especially notable in France (28%) and Spain (20%).

QD6.1 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively? Television (%)

		Too positively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Objectively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Too negatively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		24	▲ 6	52	▲ 1	12	▼ 2	12
EU28-UK		24	▲ 5	52	▼ 1	12	=	12
LV		38	▲ 22	58	▼ 1	4	=	0
PT		24	▲ 14	68	▼ 4	8	▲ 2	0
EL		59	▲ 13	24	▼ 6	16	▼ 1	1
MT		23	▲ 13	55	▼ 6	4	=	18
FI		24	▲ 11	74	▲ 5	2	▼ 1	0
CY		29	▲ 9	51	▼ 10	5	▲ 2	15
BG		34	▲ 8	46	▼ 7	6	▲ 2	14
LT		28	▲ 8	65	▲ 4	7	▲ 4	0
EE		27	▲ 8	70	▲ 14	3	=	0
PL		18	▲ 7	54	▼ 4	17	▲ 4	11
RO		32	▲ 6	53	▼ 4	7	▼ 1	8
SK		27	▲ 5	56	▼ 6	13	▲ 9	4
DE		22	▲ 5	54	▼ 4	12	▲ 3	12
DK		19	▲ 5	71	▲ 9	9	▼ 2	1
ES		21	▲ 4	42	▼ 9	17	▲ 6	20
LU		19	▲ 4	73	▲ 27	6	▲ 1	2
CZ		29	▲ 3	62	▲ 3	9	▲ 4	0
FR		21	▲ 3	34	=	17	▼ 4	28
SE		19	▲ 3	71	▲ 14	6	▼ 5	4
IT		24	▲ 1	58	▲ 3	8	▼ 3	10
HU		17	▲ 1	52	=	24	▲ 1	7
AT		28	▼ 1	59	▲ 1	7	▲ 3	6
IE		19	▼ 1	74	▲ 13	6	=	1
NL		18	▼ 1	66	▲ 9	11	▼ 3	5
BE		20	▼ 2	68	▲ 5	11	▲ 3	1
SI		17	▼ 2	72	▲ 20	11	▼ 5	0
HR		30	▼ 4	60	▲ 4	7	▲ 1	3

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The feeling that the **written press** presents the European Union “objectively” predominates in all 27 EU Member States). The proportion of respondents feeling that the European Union is presented “objectively” is up in 15 Member States, notably in Luxembourg (73%, +21 percentage points), Estonia (68%, +18)

and Ireland (73%, +18). It is down in 12 others, particularly in Cyprus (32%, -13) and Spain (36%, -9).

In four EU Member States, more than a third of respondents answered “don’t know” at this question: Cyprus (48%), Bulgaria (42%), Spain (40%), and France (39%).

QD6.3 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?
Written press (%)

		Too positively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Objectively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Too negatively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		16	▲ 4	50	▲ 3	12	▼ 1	22
EU28-UK		16	▲ 3	50	=	12	▲ 2	22
LV		33	▲ 22	57	▲ 8	9	▲ 5	1
EL		41	▲ 13	42	▲ 4	10	▼ 1	7
MT		18	▲ 13	48	▲ 5	2	=	32
EE		26	▲ 11	68	▲ 18	6	▲ 2	0
LT		26	▲ 11	62	▲ 8	11	▲ 8	1
PT		18	▲ 11	72	▲ 15	9	▲ 4	1
FI		22	▲ 10	72	▲ 2	5	▲ 1	1
CZ		22	▲ 8	59	▲ 5	18	▲ 11	1
LU		17	▲ 5	73	▲ 21	8	▲ 3	2
DK		14	▲ 5	72	▲ 15	12	▲ 4	2
PL		13	▲ 5	53	▼ 2	12	▲ 5	22
SE		17	▲ 4	65	▲ 13	12	▼ 2	6
NL		13	▲ 4	68	▲ 9	11	=	8
AT		26	▲ 3	56	▼ 2	11	▲ 2	7
SK		20	▲ 3	49	▼ 8	14	▲ 10	17
CY		15	▲ 3	32	▼ 13	5	=	48
FR		13	▲ 3	37	▼ 1	11	▼ 1	39
RO		16	▲ 2	49	▼ 4	9	▼ 1	26
BG		17	▲ 1	34	▼ 3	7	▲ 2	42
IT		17	▲ 1	50	▼ 1	11	▼ 1	22
SI		16	▲ 1	68	▲ 15	15	▲ 1	1
DE		14	▲ 1	52	▼ 2	13	▲ 4	21
ES		11	▲ 1	36	▼ 9	13	▲ 4	40
BE		17	=	68	▲ 7	13	▲ 2	2
HU		10	=	48	▼ 2	19	▲ 3	23
HR		23	▼ 2	55	▼ 1	12	▲ 5	10
IE		15	▼ 4	73	▲ 18	12	▲ 4	0

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The largest share of respondents in all 27 EU Member States hold the view that radio presents the European Union “objectively”, with the highest proportions recorded in Portugal and Finland (both 80%) and the lowest in France (38%).

Since autumn 2019, the share of respondents who believe that radio presents the European Union 'objectively' has increased in 18 Member States, most notably in Luxembourg (74%, +24 percentage points), Sweden (78%, +22) and Estonia (76%, +22). It has fallen in seven others, particularly in Cyprus (46%, -8), and remains unchanged in France and Austria.

QD6.2 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?
Radio (%)

		Too positively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Objectively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Too negatively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		16	▲ 4	55	▲ 4	8	▼ 2	21
EU28-UK		16	▲ 3	55	▲ 2	8	=	21
LV		30	▲ 19	65	▲ 7	4	▲ 1	1
MT		20	▲ 12	53	▲ 2	2	=	25
PT		16	▲ 10	80	▲ 16	3	▲ 1	1
CY		22	▲ 8	46	▼ 8	2	▼ 2	30
FI		17	▲ 8	80	▲ 18	2	▼ 1	1
LT		23	▲ 7	71	▲ 12	6	▲ 5	0
EE		21	▲ 7	76	▲ 22	3	▲ 1	0
EL		36	▲ 6	50	▲ 7	9	▼ 1	5
LU		17	▲ 6	74	▲ 24	7	▲ 2	2
RO		23	▲ 5	51	▼ 5	7	▼ 2	19
PL		16	▲ 5	60	▲ 1	9	▲ 3	15
DK		15	▲ 5	79	▲ 16	5	▼ 2	1
CZ		20	▲ 4	74	▲ 11	5	▲ 1	1
NL		12	▲ 4	62	▲ 8	7	▼ 1	19
SK		22	▲ 3	59	▼ 4	11	▲ 8	8
SE		13	▲ 3	78	▲ 22	3	▼ 5	6
BG		18	▲ 2	45	▼ 2	5	▲ 2	32
DE		14	▲ 2	59	▼ 1	7	▲ 1	20
FR		13	▲ 2	38	=	11	▼ 3	38
ES		12	▲ 2	42	▼ 3	10	▲ 2	36
HU		9	▲ 2	53	▼ 2	22	▲ 2	16
AT		23	▲ 1	59	=	9	▲ 2	9
BE		18	=	72	▲ 6	8	▲ 2	2
IT		14	=	55	▲ 4	6	▼ 4	25
SI		13	▼ 1	78	▲ 18	8	▼ 3	1
HR		24	▼ 3	61	▲ 4	7	=	8
IE		15	▼ 4	79	▲ 19	6	▼ 1	0

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The feeling that websites present the European Union “objectively” predominates in all EU Member States (as was the case in autumn 2019): the highest rates are observed in Denmark (73%) and Finland (72%) and the lowest in France (26%). However, in almost half (47%) of respondents in France gave a “don’t know” response at this question.

The perception that websites present the EU objectively has increased in 19 Member States, notably in Portugal (66%, +31 percentage points), Denmark (73%, +26), and Sweden (56%, +24). It has decreased in seven others, particularly in Cyprus (42%, -11) and has remained unchanged in Germany (38%).

QD6.4 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?
Websites (%)

		Too positively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Objectively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Too negatively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		11	▲ 3	46	▲ 4	16	▲ 3	27
EU28-UK		11	▲ 2	46	▲ 3	16	▲ 4	27
LV		24	▲ 13	61	▲ 14	14	▲ 7	1
MT		18	▲ 13	49	▼ 1	3	▼ 4	30
PT		17	▲ 13	66	▲ 31	16	▲ 6	1
LT		22	▲ 10	64	▲ 12	14	▲ 11	0
CY		20	▲ 10	42	▼ 11	3	=	35
FI		18	▲ 10	72	▲ 13	9	▲ 4	1
SE		15	▲ 8	56	▲ 24	20	▲ 3	9
LU		15	▲ 7	63	▲ 22	20	▲ 11	2
EL		21	▲ 6	54	▲ 6	12	▲ 2	13
EE		16	▲ 6	69	▲ 22	14	▲ 8	1
RO		17	▲ 5	45	▼ 3	9	▼ 2	29
CZ		15	▲ 5	63	▲ 10	20	▲ 14	2
NL		13	▲ 5	45	▲ 7	18	▲ 5	24
DK		12	▲ 5	73	▲ 26	13	▲ 3	2
HR		19	▲ 3	55	▼ 2	13	▲ 7	13
BE		16	▲ 3	59	▲ 3	22	▲ 11	3
SI		15	▲ 3	66	▲ 19	18	▲ 8	1
SK		14	▲ 3	54	▲ 2	13	▲ 8	19
IT		11	▲ 3	50	▲ 2	12	=	27
PL		11	▲ 3	61	▲ 4	7	▲ 2	21
HU		9	▲ 3	60	▼ 3	10	▲ 2	21
BG		9	▲ 1	49	▲ 1	5	▲ 2	37
ES		9	=	39	▼ 3	15	▲ 5	37
DE		7	=	38	=	22	▲ 5	33
IE		13	▼ 1	67	▲ 19	18	▲ 10	2
AT		13	▼ 1	53	▲ 8	14	▲ 4	20
FR		7	▼ 1	26	▼ 3	20	▲ 5	47

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Finally, in 17 EU Member States (compared with 24 in autumn 2019), the largest share of respondents feel **online social networks** present the European Union “objectively”, with the highest levels observed in Denmark (56%), Poland (55%) and Lithuania (54%). In the remaining 10 Member States, the feeling that their country’s online social networks present the European Union “too negatively” is predominant, especially so in Belgium (54% “too negatively” versus 29% “objectively”) and Luxembourg (49% versus 39%).

It has fallen in 14 EU Member States, notably in Belgium (29%, -14), Cyprus (38%, -12) and Spain (25%, -10). In Belgium this proportion that views online social networks as objective about the EU remains unchanged (45%).

The rate of 'don't know' responses to this question is particularly high in seven EU Member States where at least a third of respondents are unable to answer. The rate of “don't know” is particularly high in France (54%), Spain (46%) and Germany (43%).

Since the autumn 2019 survey, the perception that online social networks present the European Union “objectively” has increased in 12 Member States, most markedly in Sweden (33%, +16 percentage points) and Denmark (56%, +16).





























QD6.5 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?
Online social networks (%)

		Too positively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Objectively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Too negatively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		9	▲ 2	32	▼ 1	26	▲ 9	33
EU28-UK		9	▲ 2	32	▼ 2	26	▲ 11	33
MT		17	▲ 13	44	▼ 4	6	▼ 2	33
PT		16	▲ 13	40	▲ 6	41	▲ 23	3
CY		20	▲ 9	38	▼ 12	4	▼ 1	38
LT		19	▲ 9	54	▲ 8	26	▲ 22	1
LV		18	▲ 9	45	▲ 8	36	▲ 24	1
FI		14	▲ 9	43	▲ 5	41	▲ 23	2
SE		13	▲ 9	33	▲ 16	41	▲ 10	13
EL		20	▲ 7	40	▼ 1	23	▲ 10	17
DK		12	▲ 7	56	▲ 16	29	▲ 14	3
CZ		11	▲ 5	37	▼ 6	47	▲ 37	5
PL		11	▲ 5	55	▲ 2	8	▲ 4	26
SK		13	▲ 3	38	▼ 9	27	▲ 21	22
EE		10	▲ 3	43	▲ 11	45	▲ 32	2
LU		9	▲ 3	39	▲ 13	49	▲ 35	3
NL		8	▲ 3	18	▲ 3	45	▲ 19	29
RO		14	▲ 2	43	▼ 7	14	▲ 5	29
IT		10	▲ 2	38	▼ 3	19	▲ 5	33
HU		8	▲ 2	53	▼ 3	13	▲ 1	26
BE		12	▲ 1	29	▼ 14	54	▲ 35	5
SI		12	▲ 1	44	▲ 7	41	▲ 28	3
BG		7	▲ 1	45	=	8	▲ 4	40
HR		14	▼ 1	53	▼ 1	15	▲ 9	18
IE		10	▼ 1	41	▼ 6	46	▲ 37	3
ES		7	▼ 1	25	▼ 10	22	▲ 11	46
FR		5	▼ 1	14	▼ 5	27	▲ 8	54
DE		4	▼ 1	21	▼ 3	32	▲ 11	43
AT		10	▼ 4	42	▲ 4	22	▲ 8	26

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QD6.4 Do you think that the (NATIONALITY) ... present(s) the EU too positively, objectively or too negatively?

Websites (%)

		Too positively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Objectively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Too negatively	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Don't know
EU27		11	▲ 3	46	▲ 4	16	▲ 3	27
EU28-UK		11	▲ 2	46	▲ 3	16	▲ 4	27
LV		24	▲ 13	61	▲ 14	14	▲ 7	1
MT		18	▲ 13	49	▼ 1	3	▼ 4	30
PT		17	▲ 13	66	▲ 31	16	▲ 6	1
LT		22	▲ 10	64	▲ 12	14	▲ 11	0
CY		20	▲ 10	42	▼ 11	3	=	35
FI		18	▲ 10	72	▲ 13	9	▲ 4	1
SE		15	▲ 8	56	▲ 24	20	▲ 3	9
LU		15	▲ 7	63	▲ 22	20	▲ 11	2
EL		21	▲ 6	54	▲ 6	12	▲ 2	13
EE		16	▲ 6	69	▲ 22	14	▲ 8	1
RO		17	▲ 5	45	▼ 3	9	▼ 2	29
CZ		15	▲ 5	63	▲ 10	20	▲ 14	2
NL		13	▲ 5	45	▲ 7	18	▲ 5	24
DK		12	▲ 5	73	▲ 26	13	▲ 3	2
HR		19	▲ 3	55	▼ 2	13	▲ 7	13
BE		16	▲ 3	59	▲ 3	22	▲ 11	3
SI		15	▲ 3	66	▲ 19	18	▲ 8	1
SK		14	▲ 3	54	▲ 2	13	▲ 8	19
IT		11	▲ 3	50	▲ 2	12	=	27
PL		11	▲ 3	61	▲ 4	7	▲ 2	21
HU		9	▲ 3	60	▼ 3	10	▲ 2	21
BG		9	▲ 1	49	▲ 1	5	▲ 2	37
ES		9	=	39	▼ 3	15	▲ 5	37
DE		7	=	38	=	22	▲ 5	33
IE		13	▼ 1	67	▲ 19	18	▲ 10	2
AT		13	▼ 1	53	▲ 8	14	▲ 4	20
FR		7	▼ 1	26	▼ 3	20	▲ 5	47

IV. OPINIONS ON THE PLURALISM AND INDEPENDENCE OF NATIONAL MEDIA

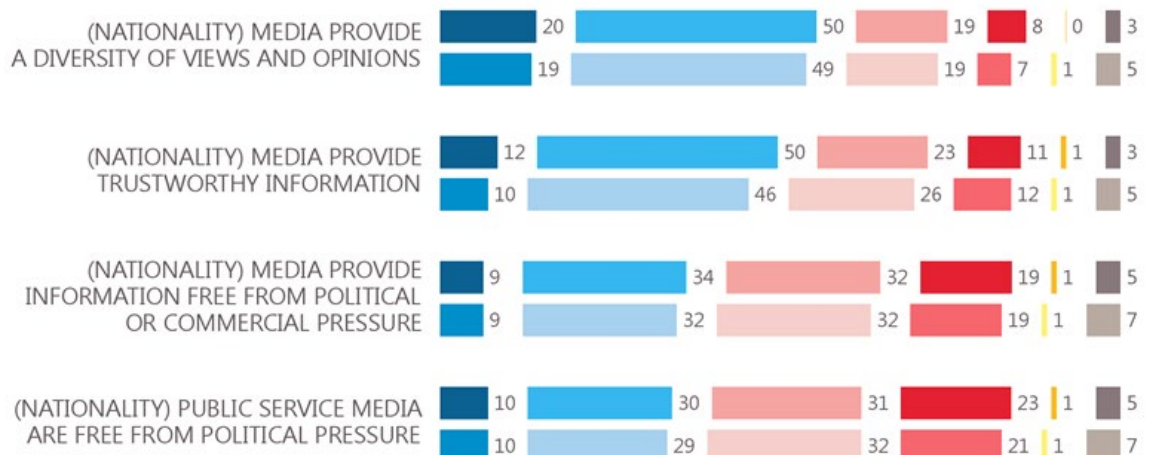


1. Pluralism in national media

Seven in ten Europeans consider that the media in their country provide a diversity of views and opinions

Seven in ten Europeans (70%) believe that "the (NATIONALITY) media provide a diversity of views and opinions"¹⁸(+2 percentage points since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey). Just over a quarter (27%, +1) disagree and 3% (-2) say they "don't know".

QD7 For each of the following statements, please tell to what extent it corresponds or not to the situation of the (NATIONALITY) media:
(% - EU)



Winter 2020/2021
Autumn 2019



¹⁸ QD7. For each of the following statements, please tell me to what extent it corresponds or not to the situation of the (NATIONALITY) media:
2. The (NATIONALITY) media provide a diversity of views and opinions.

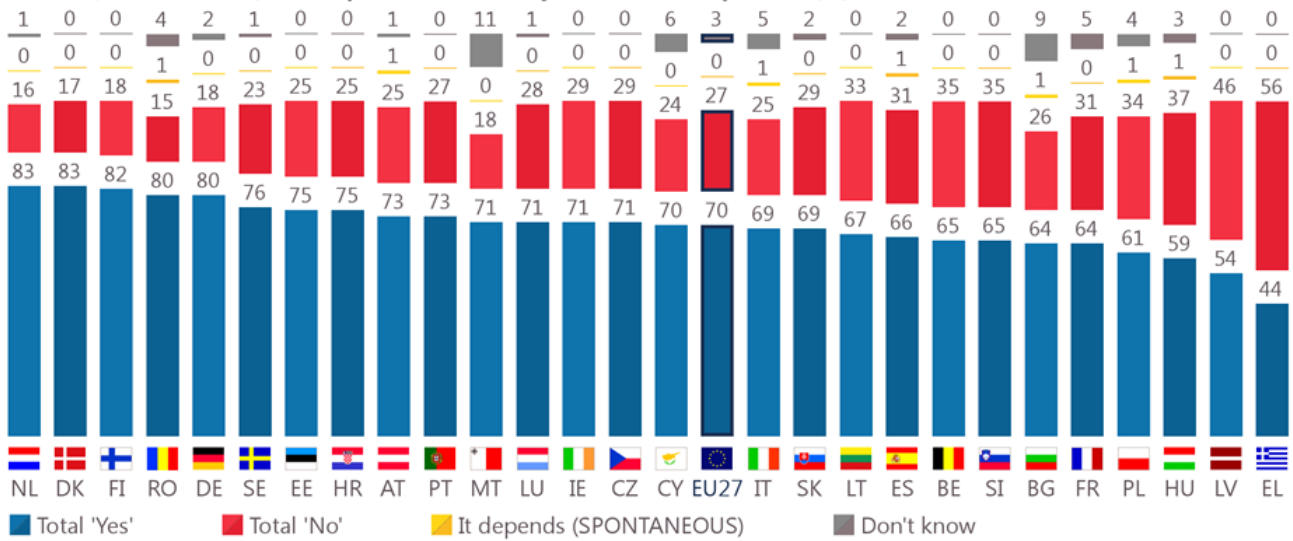
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In 26 European Union Member States (compared with 27 in autumn 2019), more than 50% of respondents consider that the media in their country provide a diversity of views and opinions. This opinion is most widely expressed in the Netherlands (83%), Denmark (83%) and Finland (82%) while fewer than six in ten express this viewpoint in Greece (44%), Latvia (54%) and Hungary (59%).

Since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey, the proportion of respondents who feel that national media provide a diversity of views and opinions has increased in 13 EU Member States, most notably in Malta (71%, +14 percentage points). It has declined in 14 other EU Member States, particularly in Greece (44%, -24).

QD7.2 For each of the following statements, please tell to what extent it corresponds or not to the situation of the (NATIONALITY) media:

(NATIONALITY) media provide a diversity of views and opinions (%)



2. Independence of national media

Over half of Europeans consider that their national media – including public service media – are subject to political or commercial pressure

To determine how Europeans feel about the independence of their national media, respondents were asked to say whether two statements corresponded or not to the situation of the media in their country¹⁹.

- A minority of 43% of Europeans consider that "the (NATIONALITY) media provide information free from political or commercial pressure", a slight increase of two percentage points since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey. Conversely, a slight majority of 51% (=) believe that this statement does not reflect the reality in their country.
- Four in ten Europeans (40%, +1 percentage point since autumn 2019) believe that "the (NATIONALITY) public service media are free from political pressure, while more than half (54%, +1) do not share this view.

¹⁹ QD7. For each of the following statements, please tell me to what extent it corresponds or not to the situation of the (NATIONALITY) media:
3. (NATIONALITY) media provide information free from political or

commercial pressure; 4. (NATIONALITY) public service media are free from political pressure.

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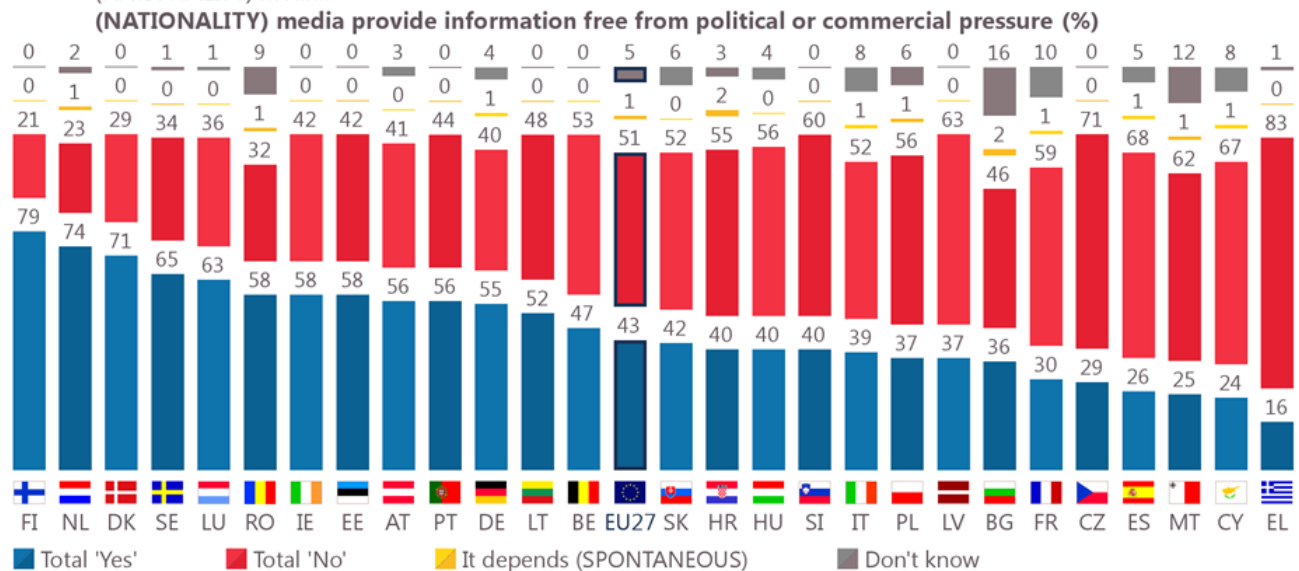
In 12 EU Member States, a majority agree that **the media in their country provide information free from political or commercial pressure**. This viewpoint is most strongly held in Finland (79%), the Netherlands (74%) and Denmark (71%). Conversely, only a minority agree with this statement in the remaining 15 EU Member States, with the lowest scores observed in Greece (16%), Cyprus (24%) and Malta (25%).

In three Member States, at least a third of respondents strongly oppose this, considering that this statement does not correspond

“at all” to the situation of the media in their country: in Greece (46%), Cyprus (35%) and Spain (34%).

Since the autumn 2019 survey, the proportion of people who consider that the information provided by their national media is free from political or commercial pressure has risen in 15 EU Member States, most notably in Luxembourg (63%, +19 percentage points) and Lithuania (52%, +17). It has fallen in 11 Member States, most markedly in Slovakia (42%, -11) and remained unchanged in Czechia (29%, =).

QD7.3 For each of the following statements, please tell to what extent it corresponds or not to the situation of the (NATIONALITY) media:



In 12 EU Member States (compared with 9 in autumn 2019), at least 50% of respondents consider that **the public service media in their country are free from political pressure**. The highest

scores are found in Finland (71%), Denmark and Sweden (both 65%). In the other 15 Member States, only a minority hold this

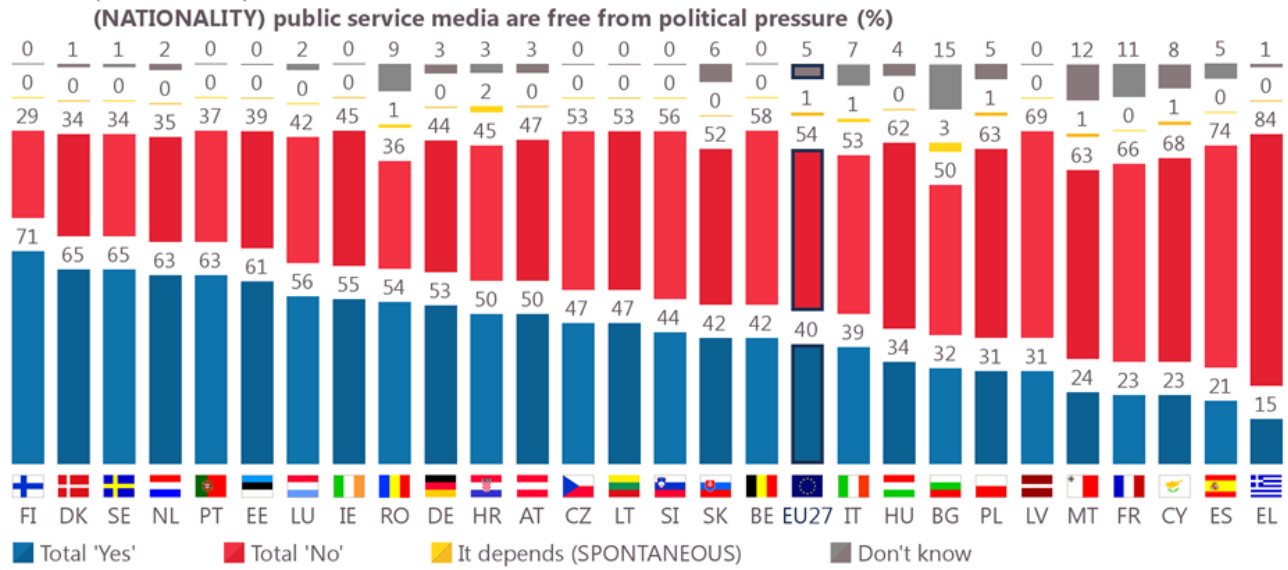
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view, with the lowest proportions recorded in Greece (15%), Spain (21%) and Cyprus (23%).

In Greece (52%), Spain and Cyprus (40%), at least four in ten respondents believe that the statement that public service media are free from political pressure does "not at all" reflect the situation in their country.





























Since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey, the feeling that national public service media are free from political pressure has gained ground in 18 EU Member States: increases are particularly marked in Portugal (63%, +25 percentage points) and Luxembourg (56%, +18). Conversely, it has declined in nine EU Member States, more notably in Slovakia (42%, -13).

QD7.4 For each of the following statements, please tell to what extent it corresponds or not to the situation of the (NATIONALITY) media:



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QD7 For each of the following statements, please tell to what extent it corresponds or not to the situation of the (NATIONALITY) media:
(% - TOTAL 'YES')

	(NATIONALITY) media provide a diversity of views and opinions	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	(NATIONALITY) media provide trustworthy information	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	(NATIONALITY) media provide information free from political or commercial pressure	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	(NATIONALITY) public service media are free from political pressure	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019
EU27 	70	▲ 2	62	▲ 6	43	▲ 2	40	▲ 1
EU28-UK	70	=	62	▲ 3	43	▲ 1	40	=
BE 	65	▼ 1	73	▲ 4	47	▲ 3	42	▲ 2
BG 	64	▼ 6	55	▼ 6	36	▼ 3	32	▼ 6
CZ 	71	▲ 7	61	▲ 13	29	=	47	▲ 2
DK 	83	▲ 2	88	▲ 6	71	▲ 5	65	▲ 3
DE 	80	▲ 4	77	▲ 4	55	▲ 2	53	▲ 3
EE 	75	▲ 3	76	▲ 13	58	▲ 13	61	▲ 16
IE 	71	▼ 5	81	▲ 7	58	▼ 1	55	▲ 2
EL 	44	▼ 24	40	▼ 5	16	▼ 5	15	▼ 6
ES 	66	▲ 2	49	=	26	▼ 2	21	▼ 4
FR 	64	▲ 6	48	▲ 11	30	▲ 4	23	▼ 1
HR 	75	▲ 4	53	=	40	▲ 5	50	▲ 6
IT 	69	▲ 1	60	▲ 1	39	▼ 1	39	▲ 2
CY 	70	▲ 1	49	▼ 2	24	▼ 2	23	▲ 2
LV 	54	▼ 6	57	▲ 6	37	▲ 8	31	▲ 5
LT 	67	▼ 9	60	▲ 2	52	▲ 17	47	▲ 13
LU 	71	▲ 9	83	▲ 21	63	▲ 19	56	▲ 18
HU 	59	▼ 3	49	▼ 4	40	▼ 3	34	▼ 7
MT 	71	▲ 14	51	▲ 21	25	▲ 13	24	▲ 12
NL 	83	▼ 3	85	▲ 1	74	▲ 8	63	▲ 4
AT 	73	▼ 2	73	▼ 1	56	▼ 1	50	▼ 4
PL 	61	▼ 6	50	▼ 4	37	▼ 5	31	▼ 6
PT 	73	▼ 6	75	▲ 5	56	▲ 15	63	▲ 25
RO 	80	▲ 5	65	▼ 1	58	▼ 1	54	▼ 5
SI 	65	▼ 2	59	▲ 3	40	▲ 6	44	▲ 7
SK 	69	▼ 10	55	▼ 12	42	▼ 11	42	▼ 13
FI 	82	▼ 1	86	=	79	▲ 9	71	▲ 8
SE 	76	▲ 7	85	▲ 6	65	▲ 12	65	▲ 3

V. EUROPEANS AND FAKE NEWS



Over seven in ten Europeans say they often come across news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false

Respondents were asked whether or not they agreed with four statements relating to the existence of news or information which is false or misrepresents reality²⁰:

- Over eight in ten Europeans (82%) agree that "the existence of news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false is a problem for democracy in general", with more than four in ten (42%) who "totally agree" with this statement. Since autumn 2019, there has been an increase of three percentage points in the proportion of Europeans believing this to be the case (and by +5 for the response "totally agree").

- Over three-quarters of Europeans believe that "the existence of news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false is a problem in (OUR COUNTRY)" (76%), including 34% who "totally agree" with this statement. Since autumn 2019, support for this statement has increased by two percentage points (and by +3 for the response "totally agree").
- Over seven in ten Europeans agree with the statement: "you often come across news or information that you believe misrepresents reality or is even false" (71%, +2 percentage points since autumn 2019) including a quarter who "totally agree" (25%, +2).
- Finally, two in three Europeans (65%) agree that "it is easy for them to identify news or information that they believe misrepresents reality or is even false", a rise of seven percentage points since autumn 2019. The proportion of Europeans who "totally agree" that they can easily identify information they believe misrepresents reality has risen from 15% to 18% (+3).

QD8 Do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements. (% - EU)



²⁰ QD8. Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements: 1. You often come across news or information that you believe misrepresent reality or are even false. 2. It is easy for you to identify news or information that you believe misrepresent reality or are even false. 3. The

existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false is a problem in (OUR COUNTRY). 4. The existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false is a problem for democracy in general

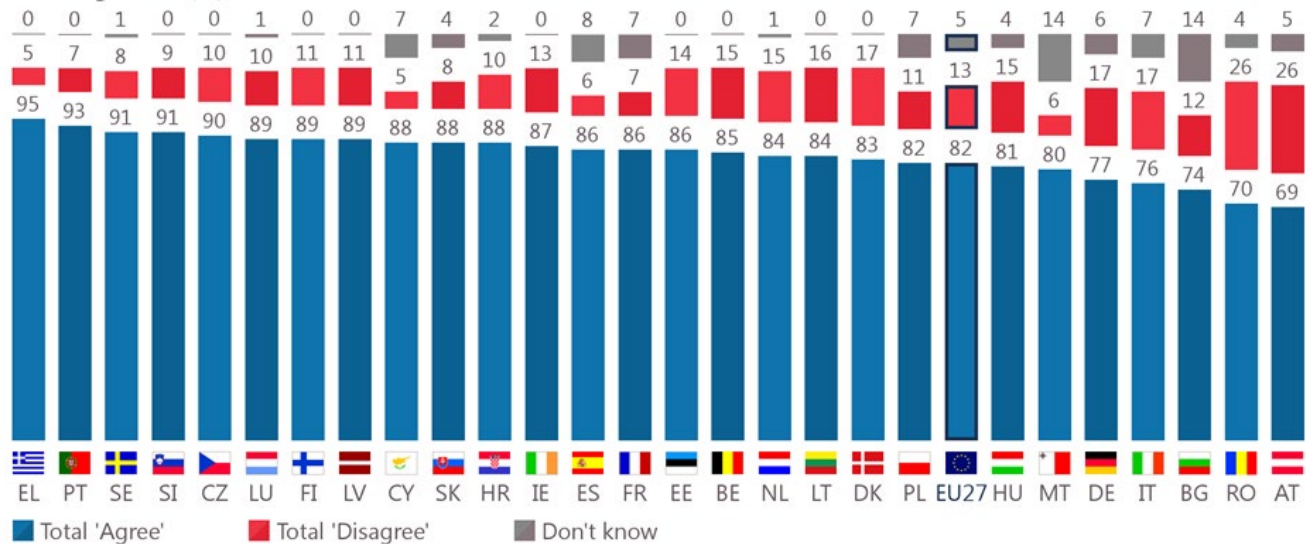
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At least seven in ten respondents across all but one EU Member State consider that **"the existence of news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false is a problem for democracy in general"**, with the highest levels recorded in Greece (95%), Portugal (93%), Sweden and Slovakia (both 91%). The lowest figures are observed in Austria (69%) and Romania (70%).

In four Member States, more than half of respondents say they "totally agree" with this statement: Greece (68%), Cyprus and Sweden (58%) and Czechia (54%).

Since the autumn 2019 Standard Eurobarometer survey, the feeling that the existence of news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false is a problem for democracy in general has increased in 20 EU Member States, most notably in Portugal (93%, +20 percentage points) and Czechia (90%, +19). At the other end of the scale, the figure has fallen in seven other Member States, most noticeably in Malta (80%, -7).

QD8.4 Do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.
The existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false is a problem for democracy in general (%)



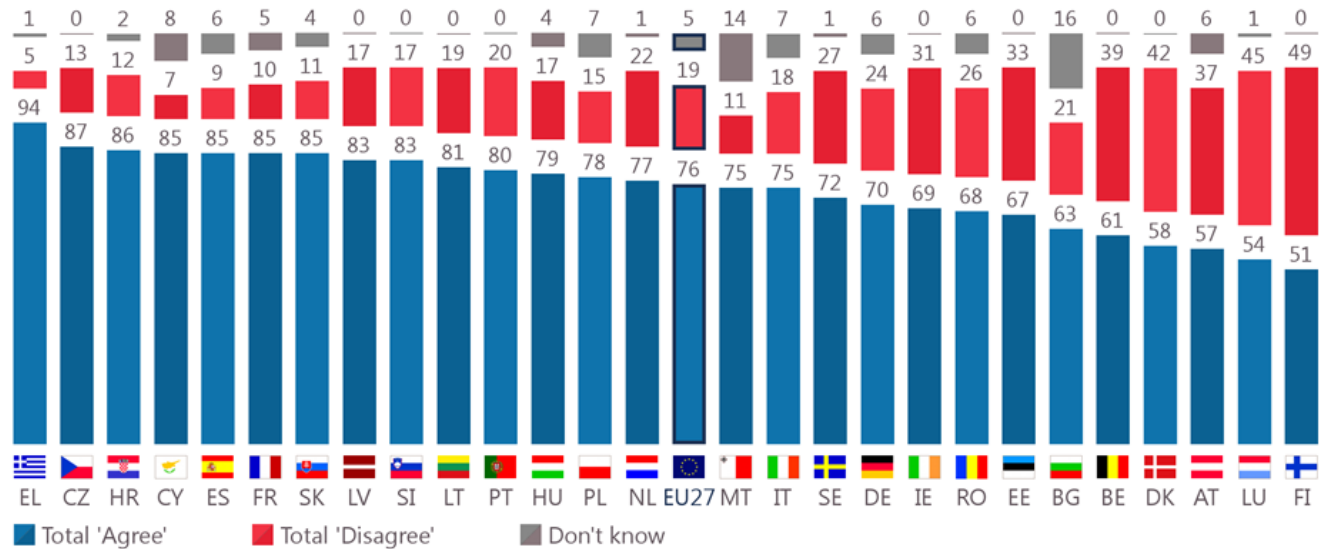
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In all 27 European Union Member States (unchanged from autumn 2019), a majority of respondents believe that **"the existence of news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false is a problem in (OUR COUNTRY)"**, with the highest proportions observed in Greece (94%), Czechia (87%), Croatia (86%), Estonia (85%), as well as Cyprus, Spain and France (all 85%).

In four Member States, more than four in ten respondents "totally agree" with this statement: Greece (58%), Cyprus (48%), Spain (47%) and France (43%).

Since the autumn 2019 survey, the proportion of respondents believing that the existence of news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false is a problem for their country has increased in 19 EU Member States, particularly in Czechia (87%, +22 percentage points), Portugal (80%, +17) and Estonia (85%, +16). The proportion agreeing with this viewpoint has fallen in seven Member States, more notably in Malta (75%, -7) and is unchanged in France (85%).

QD8.3 Do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.
The existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false is a problem in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

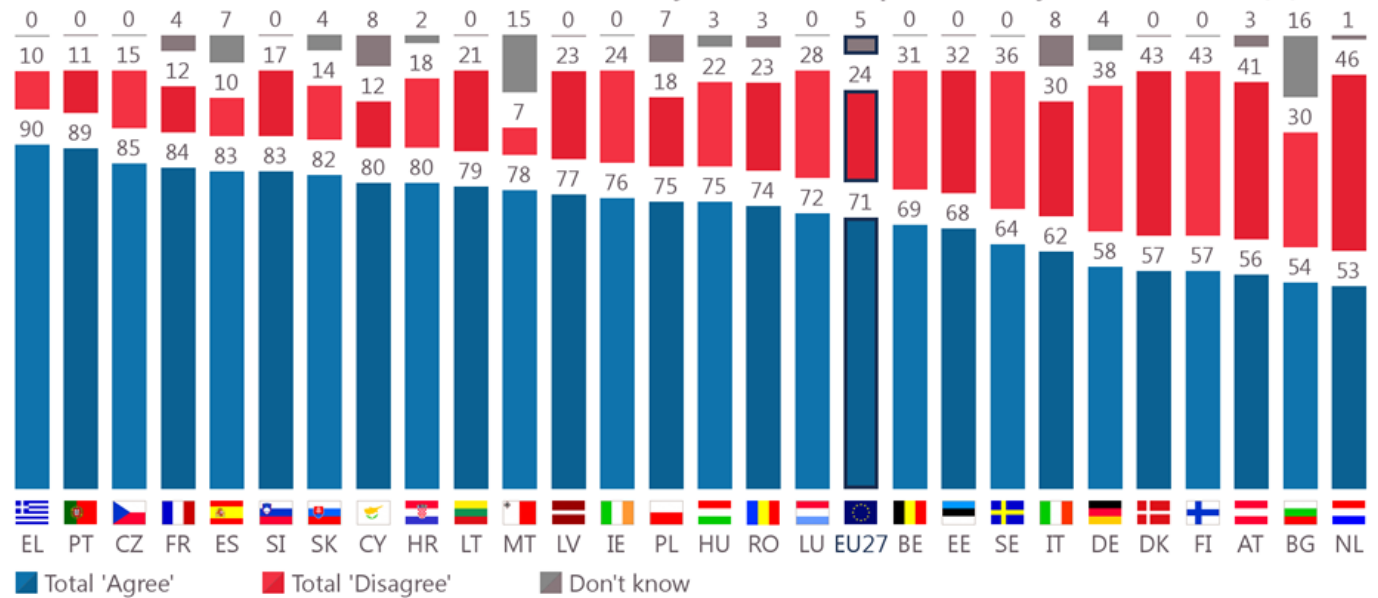


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In all 27 EU Member States (unchanged since autumn 2019), a majority of Europeans feel that they **often come across news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false**. This feeling is most prevalent in Greece (90%), Portugal (89%), Czechia (85%) and France (84%) and least prevalent in the Netherlands (53%), Bulgaria (54%) and Austria (56%). Over a third of respondents in Greece (43%), France (40%), Cyprus (37%) and Czechia (34%) say they “totally agree” with this statement.

Since the autumn 2019 survey, the proportion of Europeans who often come across news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false has increased in 16 EU Member States, particularly in Portugal (89%, +30 percentage points), Slovenia (83%, +21) and Czechia (85%, +18). Conversely, it has fallen in five Member States, more notably Malta (78%, -7), and is unchanged in five Member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, Spain and Hungary.

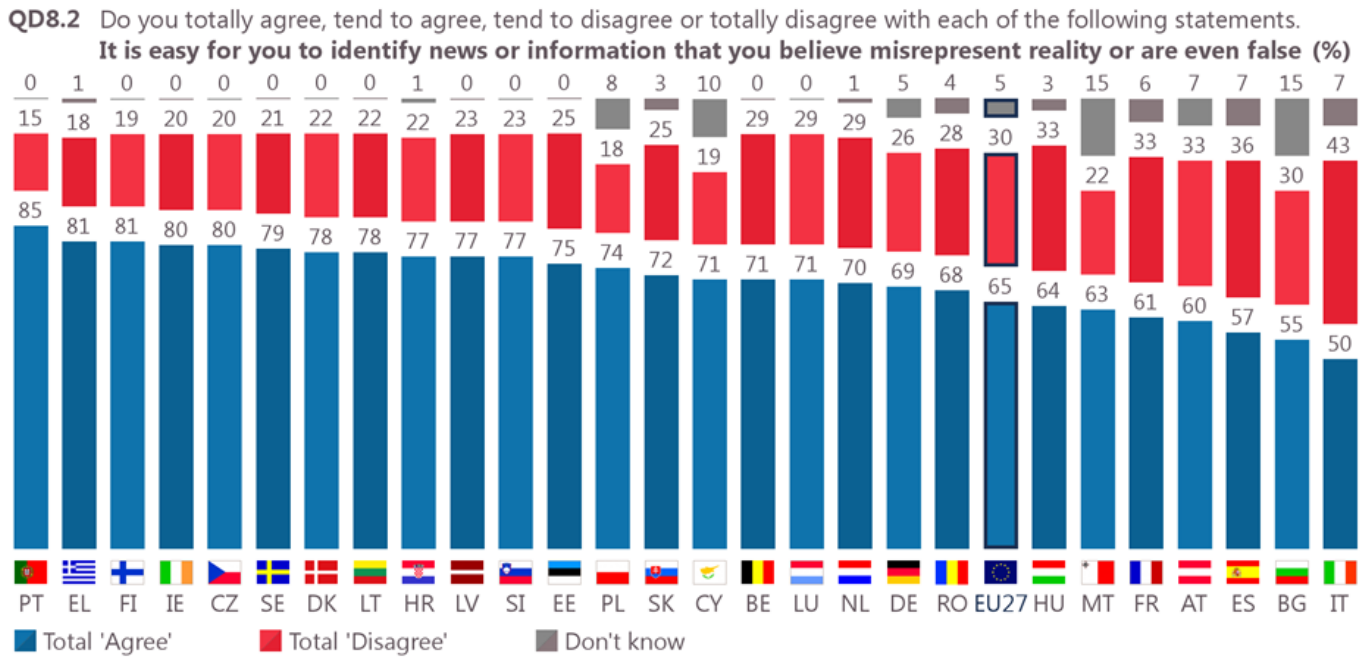
QD8.1 Do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.
You often come across news or information that you believe misrepresent reality or are even false (%)



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Finally, in all 27 EU Member States (up from 25 in autumn 2019), at least 50% respondents agree that **it is easy to identify news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false**. Agreement levels are highest in Portugal (85%), Greece and Finland (both 81%). Conversely, they are lowest in Italy (50%) and Bulgaria (55%).

Since the autumn 2019 survey, the proportion of Europeans who say they find it easy to identify news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false has increased in 24 EU Member States (up from 14 in autumn 2019), notably in Portugal (85%, +40 percentage points), Czechia (80%, +34) and Estonia (75%, +24). Conversely, it has fallen slightly (by no more than 4 points) in three Member States: Cyprus, Romania and Malta.



Technical Specifications

Between the 12th February and the 11th March 2021 (18th March 2021 for countries and territories outside the EU), Kantar on behalf of Kantar Belgium carried out the wave 94.3 of the Eurobarometer survey, on request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit.

The wave 94.3 includes the Standard Eurobarometer 94 survey and covers the population of the nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The Standard Eurobarometer 94 survey has also been conducted in 12 other countries or territories: five candidate countries (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey), the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo¹⁷, Norway, Switzerland and in the United Kingdom.

In these countries and territories, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and territories and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire.

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 was 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 areas.

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 and Sweden. In these countries, a sample of addresses within each

areal sampling point (1km² grid) were selected from the address or population register. The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey.

¹⁷ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27	
BE	Belgium	Kantar Belgium	1 060	17/02/2021	05/03/2021	9 188 369	2,45%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1 032	12/02/2021	03/03/2021	5 995 194	1,60%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar CZ	1 100	17/02/2021	22/02/2021	8 956 740	2,39%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1 010	19/02/2021	11/03/2021	4 848 611	1,29%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1 575	12/02/2021	10/03/2021	71 728 398	19,10%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Emor	1 054	17/02/2021	09/03/2021	1 073 224	0,29%
IE	Ireland	Kantar Belgium	1 094	17/02/2021	03/03/2021	3 896 482	1,04%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1 058	12/02/2021	10/03/2021	9 187 524	2,45%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1 007	12/02/2021	09/03/2021	40 006 943	10,65%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1 020	12/02/2021	04/03/2021	52 732 499	14,04%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1 028	15/02/2021	07/03/2021	3 488 460	0,93%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1 023	12/02/2021	03/03/2021	52 397 331	13,95%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	505	12/02/2021	05/03/2021	734 695	0,20%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1 037	17/02/2021	11/03/2021	1 568 124	0,42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1 040	17/02/2021	03/03/2021	2 300 257	0,61%
LU	Luxembourg	Kantar Belgium	599	18/02/2021	07/03/2021	503 275	0,13%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1 054	15/02/2021	03/03/2021	8 351 017	2,22%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	535	12/02/2021	11/03/2021	426 055	0,11%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Netherlands	1 011	15/02/2021	10/03/2021	14 165 638	3,77%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1 020	12/02/2021	05/03/2021	7 580 083	2,02%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1 036	18/02/2021	11/03/2021	32 139 021	8,56%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1 100	19/02/2021	08/03/2021	8 869 051	2,36%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studiarea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1 033	12/02/2021	08/03/2021	16 372 216	4,36%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1 038	17/02/2021	22/02/2021	1 767 202	0,47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Czechia	1 138	12/02/2021	05/03/2021	4 592 379	1,22%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1 102	17/02/2021	22/02/2021	4 488 064	1,20%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1 100	12/02/2021	11/03/2021	8 149 850	2,17%
TOTAL EU27			27 409	12/02/2021	11/03/2021	375 506 702	100%*

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

** Recruitments in Belgium, Czechia, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal and Slovakia are carried out by Kantar Belgium, Kantar Czechia, Kantar Greece, Ronin International, Infas, Kantar Portugal and Kantar Slovakia. Non-probabilistic sample in Greece was randomly drawn from Kantar's LifePoints panel.

UK	United Kingdom	Kantar UK Limited	1 301	23/02/2021	08/03/2021	53 082 345
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	Lipa Consultancy	508	26/02/2021	12/03/2021	233 547
TR	Turkey	Kantar TNS Piar	1 004	22/02/2021	18/03/2021	62 644 678
MK	North Macedonia	Kantar TNS BBSS	1 043	12/02/2021	26/02/2021	1 736 495
ME	Montenegro	TMG Insights	534	12/02/2021	07/03/2021	510 415
RS	Serbia	TMG Insights	1 035	12/02/2021	08/03/2021	5 966 740
AL	Albania	Index Kosovo	1 067	25/02/2021	06/03/2021	2 344 814
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kantar TNS BBSS	1 046	18/02/2021	11/03/2021	2 987 440
IS	Iceland	Gallup Iceland	513	22/02/2021	11/03/2021	289 125
XK	Kosovo***	Index Kosovo	1 067	26/02/2021	17/03/2021	1 357 100
NO	Norway	Kantar Norway	1 112	23/02/2021	17/03/2021	4 392 175
CH	Switzerland	Demo SCOPE AG	1 104	19/02/2021	10/03/2021	7 259 209
TOTAL			38 743	12/02/2021	18/03/2021	518 310 785

***This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAWI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium		1.060	1.060
BG	Bulgaria	1.032		1.032
CZ	Czechia		1.100	1.100
DK	Denmark		1.010	1.010
DE	Germany	1.575		1.575
EE	Estonia		1.054	1.054
IE	Ireland		1.094	1.094
EL	Greece	536	522	1.058
ES	Spain	1.007		1.007
FR	France	1.020		1.020
HR	Croatia	1.028		1.028
IT	Italy	1.023		1.023
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	505		505
LV	Latvia		1.037	1.037
LT	Lithuania		1.040	1.040
LU	Luxembourg		599	599
HU	Hungary	1.054		1.054
MT	Malta	344	191	535
NL	Netherlands	751	260	1.011
AT	Austria	1.020		1.020
PL	Poland	1.036		1.036
PT	Portugal		1.100	1.100
RO	Romania	1.033		1.033
SI	Slovenia		1.038	1.038
SK	Slovakia	775	363	1.138
FI	Finland		1.102	1.102
SE	Sweden	216	884	1.100
	TOTAL EU27	13.955	13.454	27.409
UK	United Kingdom		1.301	1.301
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community*			508
TR	Turkey	1.004		1.004
MK	North Macedonia	1.043		1.043
ME	Montenegro	534		534
RS	Serbia	1.035		1.035
AL	Albania	1.067		1.067
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.046		1.046
IS	Iceland		513	513
XK	Kosovo**	1.067		1.067
NO	Norway		1.112	1.112
CH	Switzerland		1104	1.104
	TOTAL	20.751	17.484	38.743

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing
CAWI : Computer-Assisted Web interviewing

* In CY(Tcc), neither face-to-face nor online interviews were feasible. Instead, a hybrid mode was used, whereby a random telephone sample (both mobile and landline) was drawn from telephone numbering plan and respondents were interviewed on telephone using CAPI tablets.

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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 door step and in the appropriate national language. In all countries and territories where face-to-face interviewing was feasible CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used. For all interviews conducted face-to-face, hygiene and physical distancing measures have been respected at all times in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, to remain in open air and maintain social distance.

■ Face-to-face and online interviewing

In Greece, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovakia 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 impact of Covid-19 restrictions: many potential respondents are 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.

■ Online interviewing

In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia, Finland, the UK, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland face-to-face interviews were not feasible at all. Therefore all interviews were conducted online with CAWI technique.

Recruitment for online interviews

■ In the EU

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, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia**.

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**, a proprietary panel called "Nipobase" was used, drawing a random sample from their panel. This panel uses a mix of probability based sampling to recruit panellists and non-probabilistic approaches to maximise representation where the probability based approach under-represents, such as in the younger age groups. Nipobase uses mix of offline and online modes. Offline modes are typically RDD samples and online modes

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are typically recruitment via targeted websites and social media platforms.

- Outside the EU:

In **the UK**, recruitment of respondents was made either via a face-to-face CAPI mode of data collection based on a clustered multistage random sample of addresses or via a postal invite to an online survey using a completely unclustered random sample of addresses.

In **Norway** and **Iceland**, stratified random samples were drawn from among probability based samples. Recruitments are done using offline modes of data collection (telephone and postal) based on a probability sample design.

In **Switzerland** samples were randomly drawn from the non-probabilistic sample ("Demoscope"). Demoscope is a pseudo-probabilistic sample, in that the frame for selecting households is based on a probability sample. Recruitment is done via the telephone directory – which lists landline numbers only in Switzerland, where landline coverage is very high. However the selection of individuals in the households to join the panel is not random. Demoscope was used as the primary source.

Please note that for some countries where the response rates were not sufficiently large to achieve the target sample size in the fieldwork period, we had to further supplement the samples drawn probabilistically (either face-to-face or phone-to-web) with non-probabilistic panels. This was effectively a 'last resort' option when no other probabilistic design was feasible.

In **Greece**, the sample was supplemented with a randomly drawn sample from Kantar's LifePoints non-probabilistic sample panel; in **Lithuania**, from Norstat's panel. The LifePoints panel is Kantar's proprietary panel, used exclusively for Kantar clients and the lead source for Kantar's online work, generating close to 30 million completes per year. Members are recruited via online advertising across a wide range of web and social media sites. Adverts are placed with websites with very high footfalls to ensure maximised reach. In **Switzerland**, Dynata was used to supplement Demoscope due to the shortfall in the younger age groups on the Demoscope sample.

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.

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 Standard Eurobarometer 94, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar, are:

BE**	27,8%	LU**	27,3%
BG*	45,3%	HU*	60,7%
CZ**	60,3%	MT*	80,6%
DK**	15,1%	MT**	46,5%
DE*	18,4%	NL*	53,3%
EE**	24,0%	NL**	49,4%
IE**	24,7%	AT*	42,7%
EL*	31,5%	PL*	42,3%
EL**	35,8%	PT*	67,4%
ES*	32,8%	RO*	58,5%
FR*	30,2%	SI**	53,2%
HR*	54,3%	SK*	58,7%
IT*	22,5%	SK**	47,6%
CY*	40,7%	FI**	28,1%
LV**	23,3%	SE*	57,6%
LT**	26,1%	SE**	43,6%

* CAPI ** CAWI without taking into account recruitment phase (for EL, only probabilistic sample)

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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%	

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