

EU Awareness Project:-

The results of questionnaire survey from All participating countries.

Spain, Denmark, Italy, Portugal & Poland.

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAM

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Introduction

The main aim of this survey was to identify the views, knowledge and misconceptions of the Target Group questioned in respect of EU Institutions, policies and legislation; to determine correlations, trends and anomalies, intra and interregional. The results of this survey will serve for two purposes:

- To provide reliable data to develop tailor-made communication campaigns in each of the countries
- To serve as an open information source.

The project received 311 completed surveys.

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Age Group

The vast majority of our respondents (70%) are between 30 and 60 years old.

Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Under 30	76	24%
30 to 65	219	70%
Over 65	16	6%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

Gender

The correct selection of the research sample allowed to keep the right balance between the number of women and men participating in the survey

Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	162	52%
Female	149	48%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

Nationality

Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Spanish	49	16%
Italian	43	14%
Polish	42	14%
Danish	89	29%
Portuguese	64	20%
Other	24	7%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

Educational level

The vast majority of our respondents (63%) have higher education.

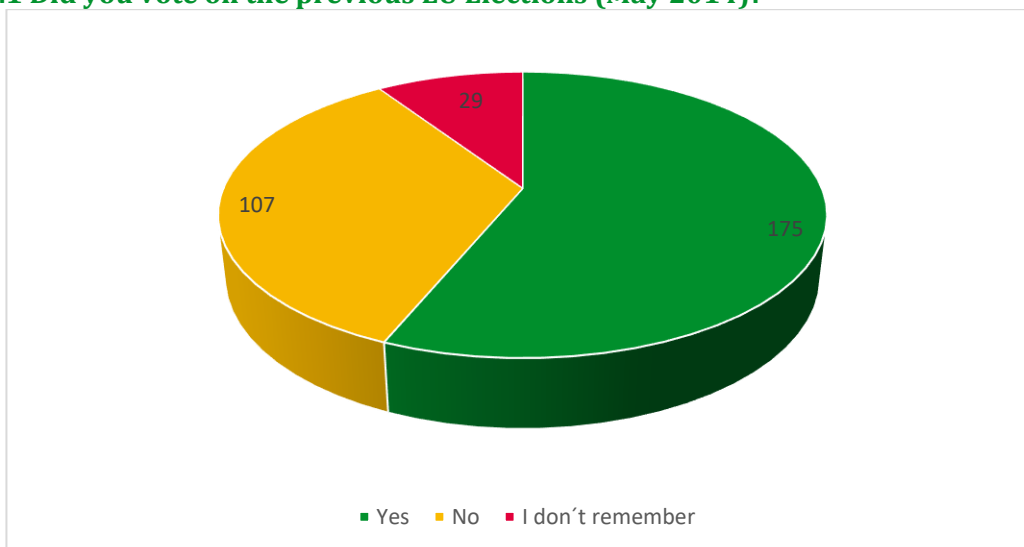
Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Primary education	8	3
Secondary education	48	15
Vocational education	61	19
Higher education	194	63
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

EU PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

2.1 Did you vote on the previous EU Elections (May 2014)?



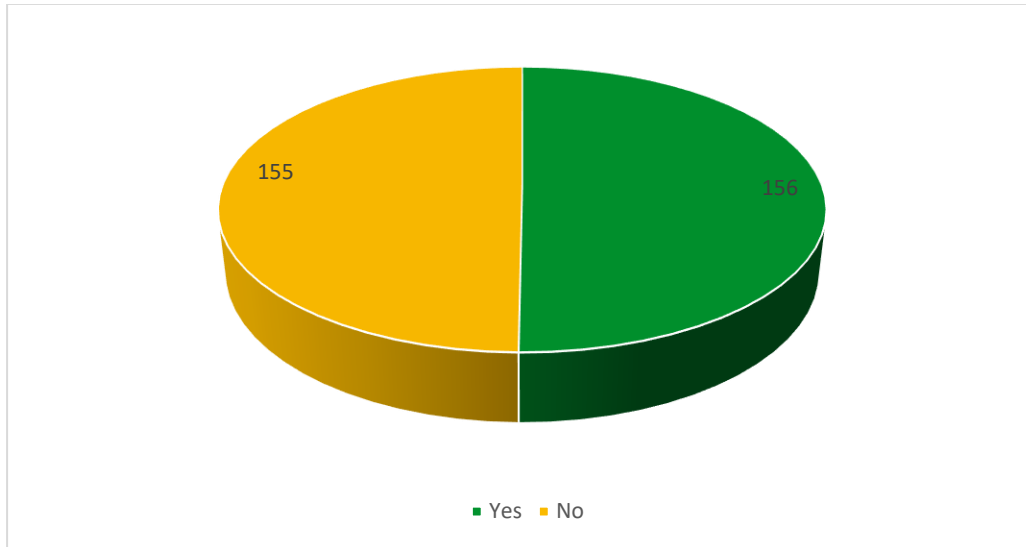
A little more than half of the respondents (56%) voted in the elections in 2014.

Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	175	56%
No	107	35%
I don't remember	29	9%
Overall	311	100

Resource: own research

2.3 Do you know who your MEP EU Representatives are?



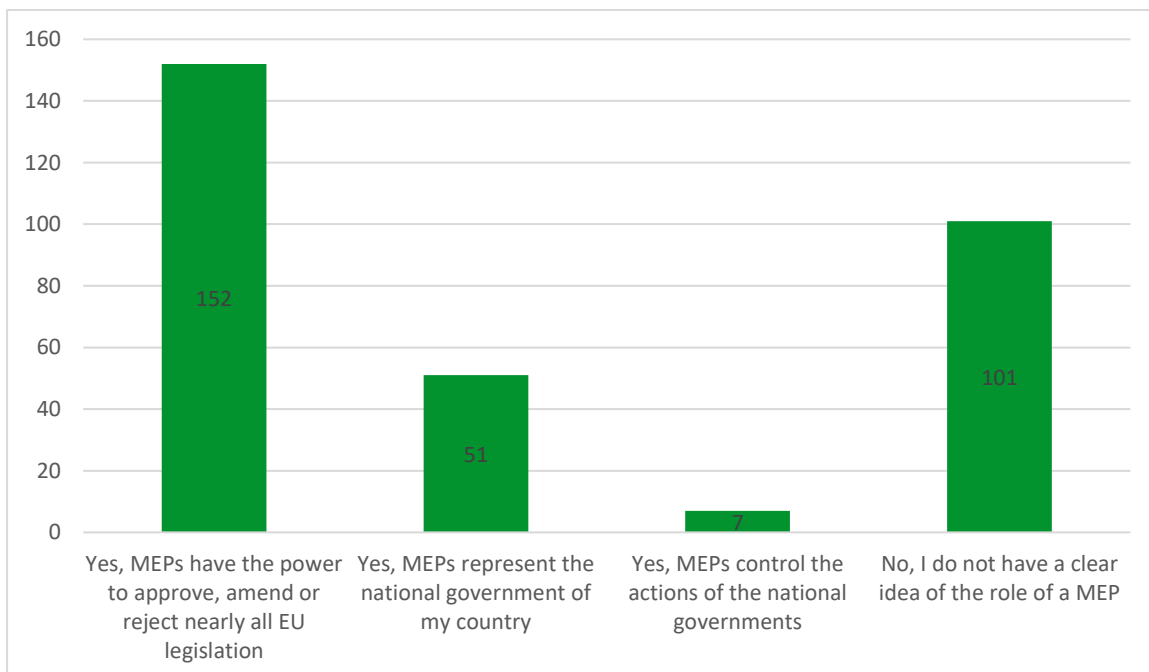
Half of the respondents declares that they know their MEP EU representatives.

Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	156	50%
No	155	50%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

2.4 Do you know what is the role of a MEP?



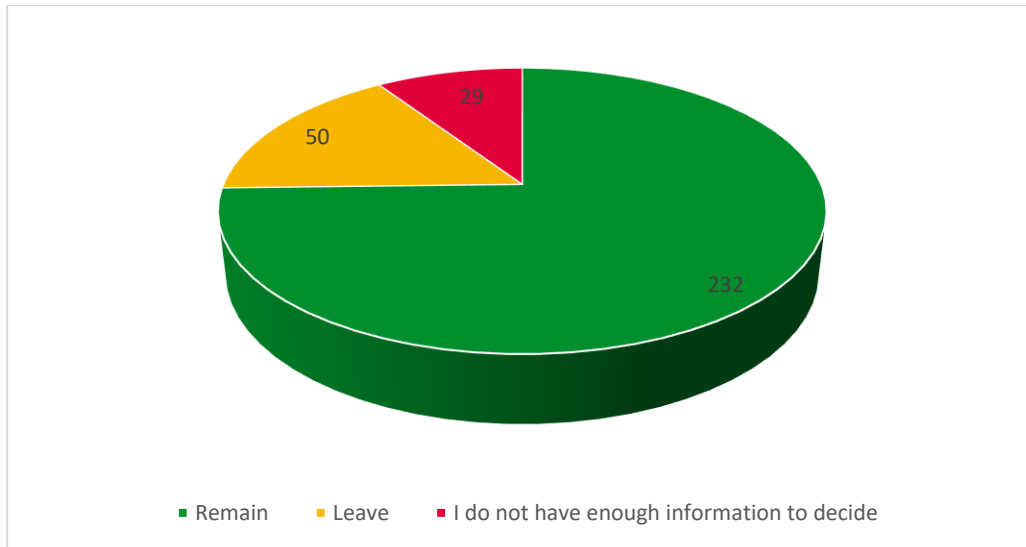
Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, MEPs have the power to approve, amend or reject nearly all EU legislation	152	49%
Yes, MEPs represent the national government of my country	51	17%
Yes, MEPs control the actions of the national governments	7	2%
No, I do not have a clear idea of the role of a MEP	101	32%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

EU MYTHS AND EUROSCEPTICISM

3.1 If you were asked to vote in a referendum for remain or leave the EU, which way would you vote?

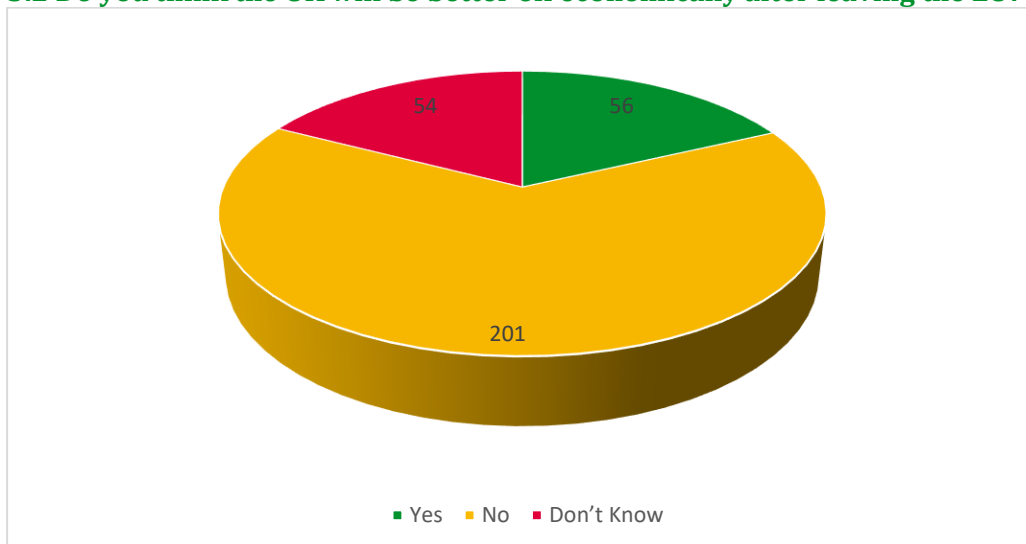


Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Remain	232	75%
Leave	50	16%
I do not have enough information to decide	29	9%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

3.2 Do you think the UK will be better off economically after leaving the EU?



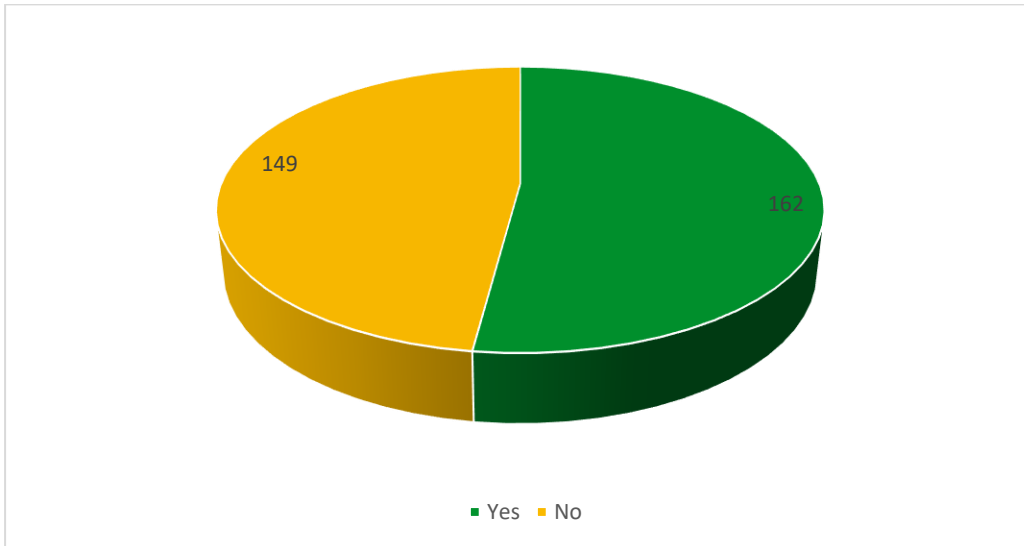
Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	56	18%

No	201	64%
Don't Know	54	18%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

3.3 Have you heard of the term Euromyth?



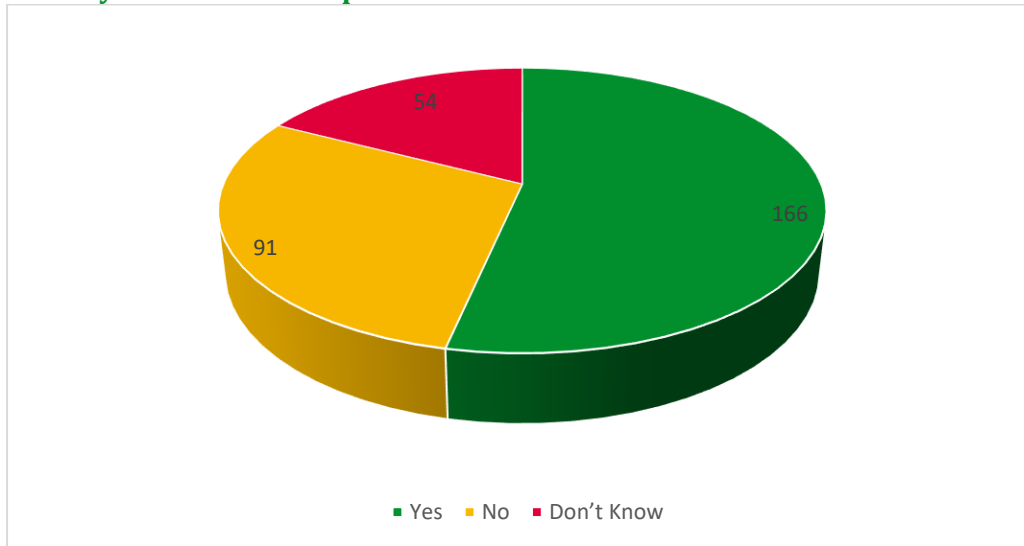
Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	162	52%
No	149	48%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

EUROSCEPTICISM AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

4.1 Do you think Euroscepticism is a real threat to the future of the EU?

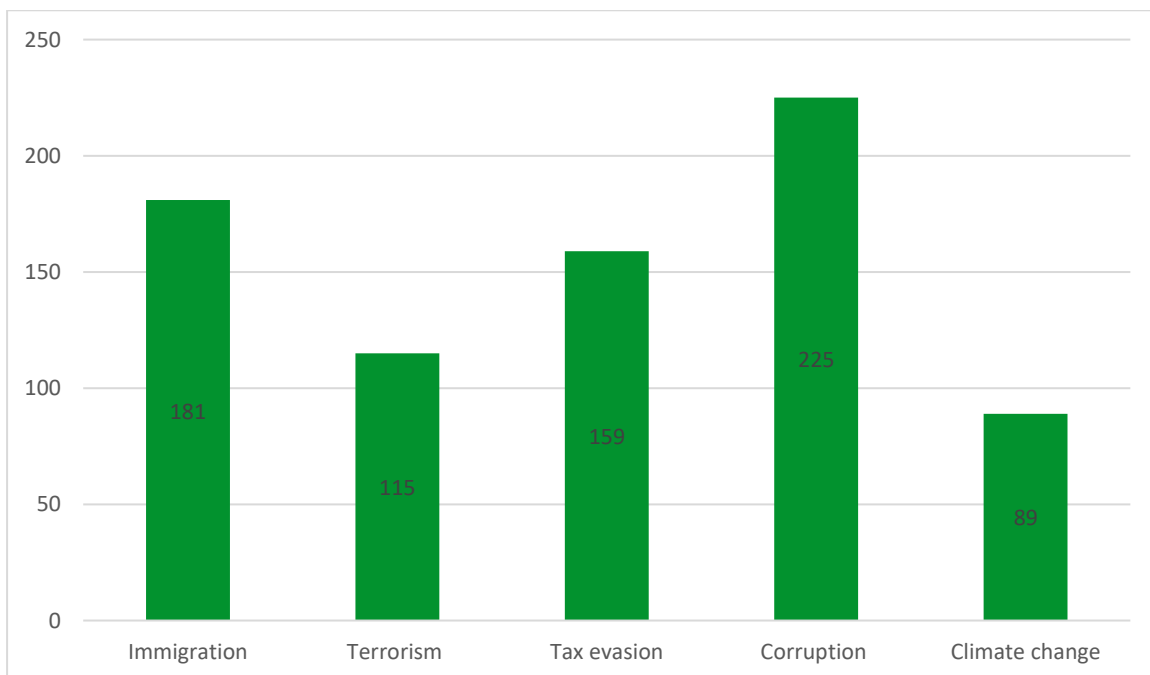


Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	166	54%
No	91	29%
Don't Know	54	17%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

4.2 Which of the following issues in your opinion could cause the EU to fail? (Choose a maximum of 3 answers)

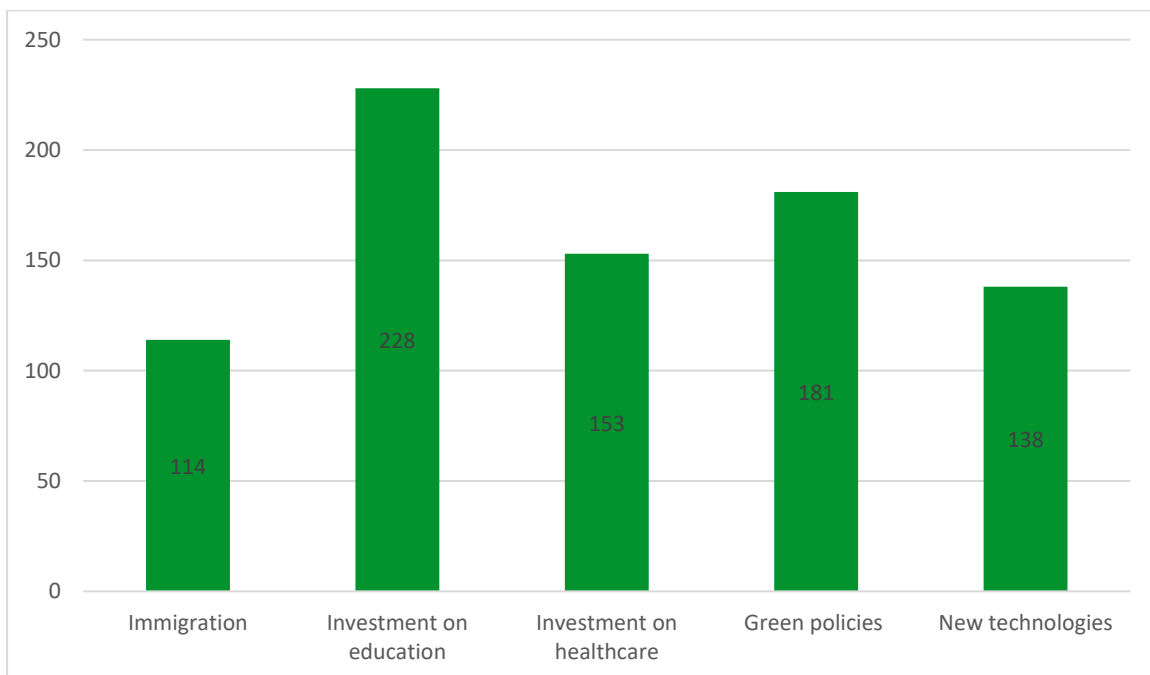


Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Immigration	181	23
Terrorism	115	16
Tax evasion	159	20
Corruption	225	29
Climate change	89	12
Overall	769	100%

Resource: own research

**4.3 Which of the following issues, in your opinion, would help make the EU stronger?
(Choose a maximum of 3 answers)**



Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Immigration	114	14%
Investment on education	228	28%
Investment on healthcare	153	19%
Green policies	181	22%
New technologies	138	17%
Overall	814	100%

Resource: own research

REAL IMPACT OF THE EU

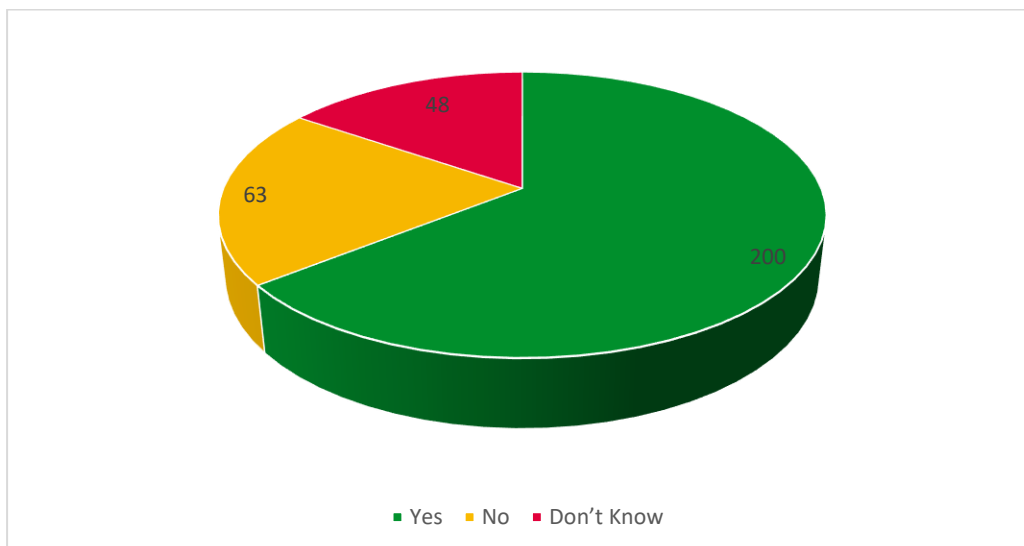
5.1 Do you think the issues below are better because of the European Union?

Detailed results:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Social stability	26 (8%)	38 (12%)	74 (24%)	111 (36%)	62 (20%)
Economy	21 (7%)	47 (15%)	62 (20%)	107 (34%)	74 (24%)
Environment	14 (5%)	35 (11%)	81 (26%)	110 (36%)	68 (22%)
Peace and Security	18 (6%)	33 (11%)	61 (20%)	98 (31%)	101 (32%)

Resource: own research

5.2 Do you think that the EU sustained peace in Europe?



Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	200	64%
No	63	20%
Don't Know	48	16%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

5.3 To which extent do you think the EU has an influence in any of the following issues, globally?

Detailed results:

	None	Little	Some	Large
Political Issues	5 (2%)	64 (20%)	134 (43%)	108 (35%)
Economic Issues	6 (2%)	51 (17%)	122 (39%)	132 (42%)
Security Issues	14 (5%)	81 (26%)	127 (40%)	89 (29%)
Environmental Issues	9 (3%)	68 (22%)	133 (43%)	101 (32%)

Resource: own research

CRITICAL THINKING AND MEDIA

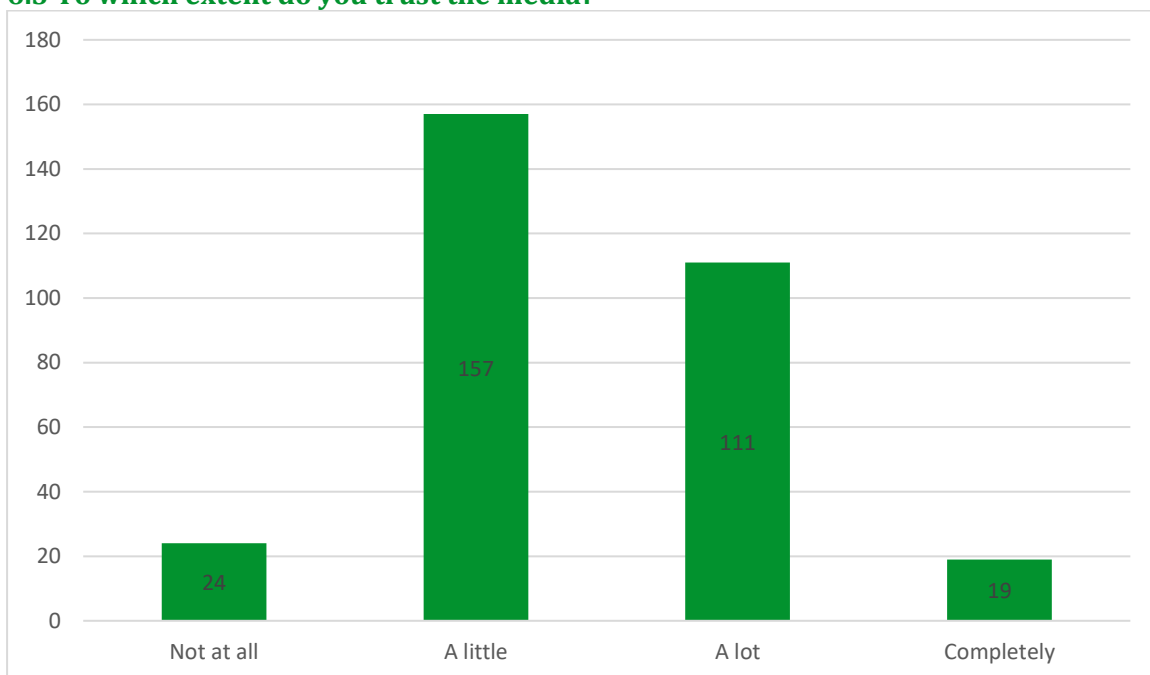
6.1 How many media sources do you use for your news and information?

Detailed results:

	1	2	3	4
Newspaper (online or paper version)	87 (28%)	66 (21%)	62 (20%)	96 (31%)
TV/Radio	80 (26%)	68 (22%)	75 (24%)	88 (28%)
News in social networks	96 (31%)	64 (21%)	63 (20%)	88 (28%)
Original sources	158 (51%)	63 (20%)	28 (9%)	62 (20%)

Resource: own research

6.3 To which extent do you trust the media?



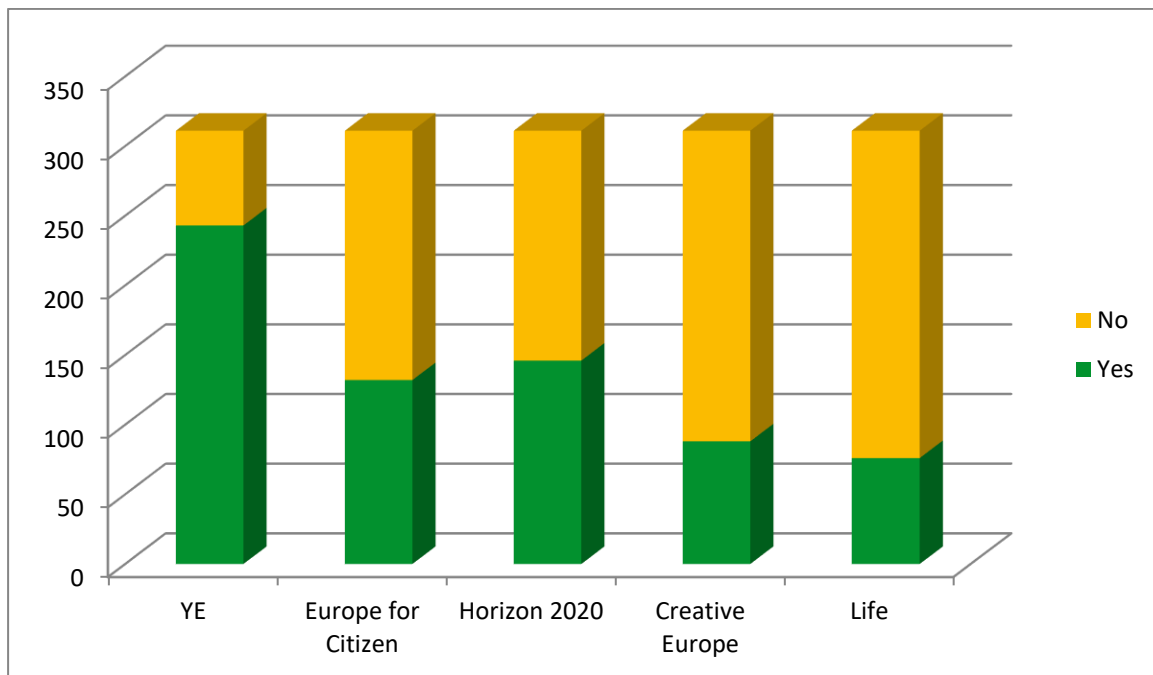
Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Not at all	24	8%
A little	157	50%
A lot	111	36%
Completely	19	6%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

HOW TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE EU

7.1 Have you heard of any of the following EU Programmes?

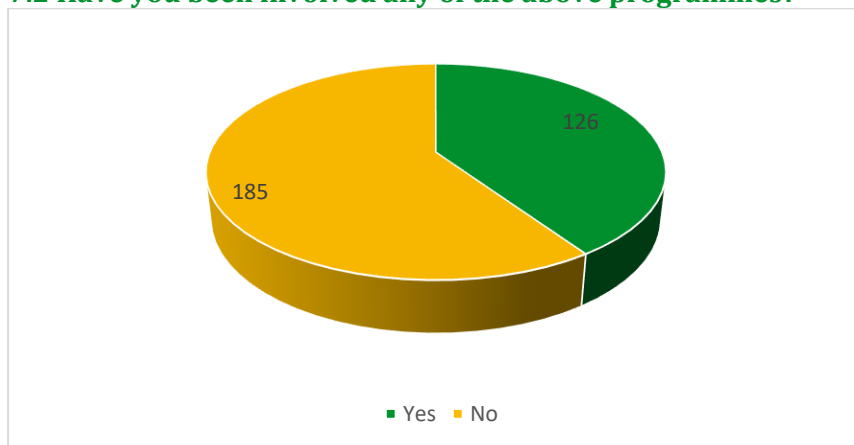


Detailed results:

	Yes	No
Erasmus +	243 (78%)	68 (22%)
Europe for Citizen	132 (42%)	179 (58%)
Horizon 2020	146 (47%)	165 (53%)
Creative Europe	88 (28%)	223 (72%)
Life	76 (24%)	235 (76%)

Resource: own research

7.2 Have you been involved any of the above programmes?

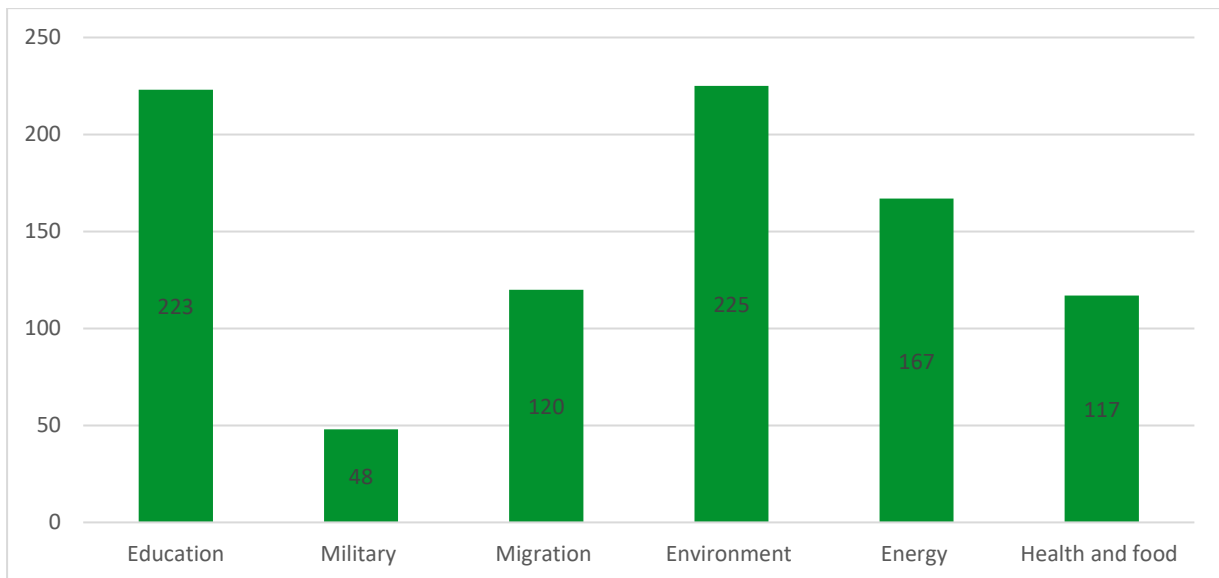


Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	126	41%
No	185	59%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

7.3 Where do you think the EU should focus its resources? (Choose a maximum of 3 answers)

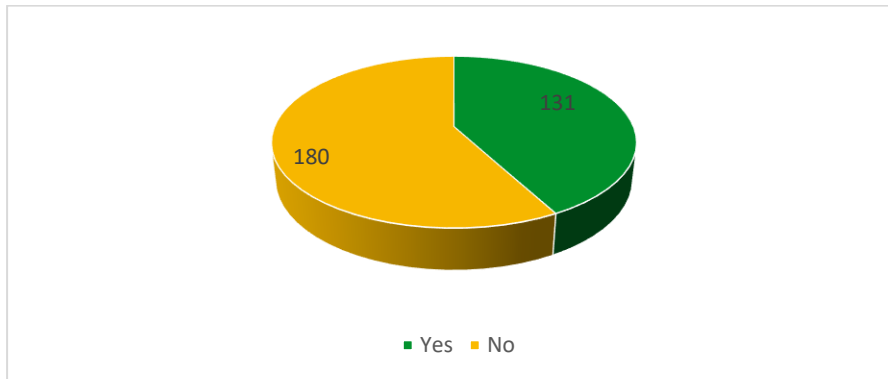


Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Education	223	25%
Military	48	5%
Migration	120	13%
Environment	225	25%
Energy	167	19%
Health and food	117	13%
Overall	900	100%

Resource: own research

7.4 Have you heard of the EU Petitioning system?

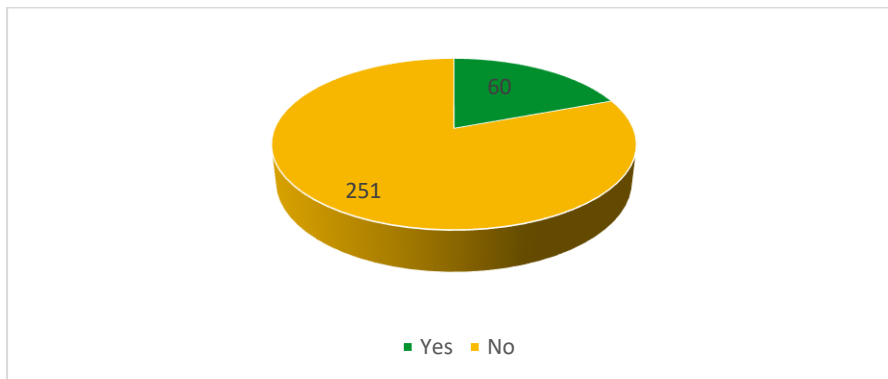


Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	131	42%
No	180	58%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

7.5 Have you ever participated on an EU public consultation?



Detailed results:

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	60	19%
No	251	81%
Overall	311	100%

Resource: own research

Conclusions

The Pre-project objectives were:

- 1) To understand from the target group itself the most common misconceptions that are currently underlying Euroscepticism;
- 2) To develop innovative activities that provide factual information regarding the identified misconceptions,
- 3) To create and activate local debates around these issues and the future of Europe, which will assure long-term viability to this initiative;
- 4) To show to EU citizens the tools available to shape the future of the EU they want.

As to comply with these objectives, the partnership developed a transnational survey to identify and compare misconceptions, which will be followed by a tailor-made international communication campaign, 30 debates and 30 webinars.

The outcomes are planned to provide a better understanding of the Euroscepticism, to give EU citizens a better understanding of the EU structures and policies and to raise awareness of the citizens' policy making tools and encourage an active debate on the roots for Euroscepticism.

The survey asked its participants a series of questions that try to identify their level of knowledge and understanding about the EU. These questions were divided into the following categories:

1. The EU Parliament and Elections,
2. EU Myths & Euroscepticism,
3. Euroscepticism and the future of Europe,
4. Real Impact of the EU,
5. Critical Thinking and Media,
6. How to shape the future of the EU.

The results of the survey are based on 311 completed and validated questionnaires received from the 5 project partner countries (between 40 and 90 participants country): Spain, Poland, Italy, Denmark and Portugal.

Regarding Cat. 1. The EU Parliament and Elections: The majority of participants who answered these questions voted in the last EU elections and also understood the role of their MEP but only half knew who their MEP was.

We can conclude that there exists a lack of publicity from the EU that informs the public who their MEP is and how to connect to their MEP.

Recommendation: More publicity could be given by the EU to promote who the MEPs are, which party do they represent and what does that party offer and how to connect with them?

Regarding Cat. 2. EU Myths & Euroscepticism: This category used Brexit as an example to reference the problem of EU Myths and Euroscepticism. Overwhelmingly the participants voted to say that being part of the EU is a preferred option if asked to vote in a referendum like Brexit. Most participants think that the UK's post Brexit economical position will be much worse as a result. The majority of people are aware that EU myths exist.

We can conclude that the majority of participants are pro-Europe, but as only slightly over half of the participants are aware of the existence of EU Myths, these Fake News continue to misinform EU citizens and threaten the support.

Recommendation: The EU must do more to expose and combat EU Myths and their sources.

Regarding Cat. 3. Euroscepticism and the future of Europe: A

majority of participants agreed that Euroscepticism is a real threat to the future of the EU and gave Corruption and Immigration as the leading concerns. The majority voted for more investment in Education to make the EU stronger.

Recommendation: The recommendation is for the EU to be more public about what is being done to combat Euroscepticism and to promote its actions and policies on Education, Immigration and combatting corruption.

Regarding Cat 4. Real Impact of the EU.

When asked what impact the EU has on the following; Social stability, the Economy, the environment and Peace and Security, in all cases the majority of participants agreed that the EU has significantly and positively benefitted each of these areas. 64% of participants think that Peace in Europe is as result of the existence of the EU and majority think that the EU has a significant influence on its own and a global economy.

Recommendation: Fundamental issues such as Peace & Security are of significant importance for all citizens and they should be promoted in an ongoing way to encourage the majority of voters to encourage others to follow to this view.

Regarding Cat 5. Critical Thinking and Media.

This category asked participants which type of media they used for news and information and whether they trusted news presented. A fairly equal split between the different news sources of Newspapers, Online News, Social Media Networks and Original Sources was indicated but the majority of participants did not trust the media as news source.

Recommendation: The EU must engage in more fact-based reporting regarding EU matters and much more publicity exposing 'Fake' news or Eurosceptic news reporting.

Regarding Cat 6. How to shape the future of the EU.

The EU operates several Education programs which are supported by funding and also operate a petitioning system for citizens to become more involved in EU decision making. Most participants are not aware of these programs or systems. And when asked how the EU should focus its resources a majority suggested Education and the Environment.

Recommendation: The EU could offer more information to reach a wider public in order to inform them but also benefit from more citizen involvement.

Summary:

The survey concludes that:

- Most EU citizens do not connect to their MEPs
- A vast number of people are still unaware of the existence of EU Myths
- Corruption and Immigration are the biggest concern for EU citizens
- There is a good awareness of the EU's role in keeping peace & Security among EU citizens
- EU citizens are skeptical of media sources
- Education and Environment are the areas where EU citizens wish action from the EU, but information of existing tools is insufficient.

The survey recommends:

- An engaging and innovative promotion campaign that meets the citizens in person, listens to their concerns, offers information and promotes the achievements and instruments of the EU.

The project will contribute to this by organizing a tailor-made Communication Campaign that addresses the above concluded information gaps, through Local Debates and Webinars in all partner countries.

