



Flash Eurobarometer 430

Summary

European Union Citizenship

Fieldwork

October 2015

Publication

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Survey requested by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
and co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

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.

Flash Eurobarometer 430 – TNS Political & Social

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(DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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INTRODUCTION

In 1993, the Treaty of Maastricht established the citizenship of the European Union and set out a set of rights available to nationals of all EU Member States. European citizenship is additional to and does not replace national citizenship of a Member State. The additional rights EU citizenship confers include, among others, the right to move and reside freely within the EU; the right to be protected by the diplomatic and consular authorities of any other EU country; the right to petition the European Parliament and complain to the European Ombudsman; and the right to vote for and stand as a candidate in European Parliament and municipal elections. The Treaty also prohibits discrimination based on nationality.

In addition, the Lisbon Treaty introduced a new form of public participation for European citizens, the Citizens' Initiative. This allows one million EU citizens who are nationals of at least one quarter (7) of the Member States to call directly on the European Commission to propose a legal act within the framework of its powers.

This Flash Eurobarometer survey on EU citizenship (No 430) builds on the work of previous EU Citizenship Flash Eurobarometer surveys conducted in 2012¹, 2010², 2007³ and 2002⁴. It also includes some questions about electoral rights that were first included in the 2007 Flash Eurobarometer EU Citizenship survey, but subsequently formed part of a separate Flash Eurobarometer survey on Electoral Rights conducted in both 2010⁵ and 2012⁶. The survey investigates how familiar Europeans are with their status as EU citizens; their understanding of some of the key rights conferred by EU citizenship; their knowledge of electoral voting rights; and their opinions about whether such rights should be available to EU citizens who reside in an EU country that is not their country of origin.

This survey was carried out by the TNS Political & Social network in the 28 Member States of the European Union between the 21st and the 23rd of October 2015. Some 26,555 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed via telephone (mobile and fixed line) in their mother tongue on behalf of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission. The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)⁷ of the European Commission.

A technical note on the manner in which interviews were conducted by the Institutes within the TNS Political & Social network is appended as an annex to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence intervals⁸.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_365_en.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/justice/citizen/files/eu_citizenship_analytical_report_102010_en.pdf

³ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_213_en.pdf

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl133_en.pdf (EU15 Member States only)

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_292_en.pdf

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_364_en.pdf

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

⁸ The results tables are included in the annex. It should be noted that the total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondent has the possibility of giving several answers to the question.

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

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czech Republic	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Greece	EL	Poland	PL
Spain	ES	Portugal	PT
France	FR	Romania	RO
Croatia	HR	Slovenia	SI
Ireland	IE	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus*	CY	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV	United Kingdom	UK
European Union – weighted average for the 28 Member States			EU28
BE, IT, FR, DE, LU, NL, DK, UK, IE, PT, ES, EL, AT, SE, FI**			EU15

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the ‘acquis communautaire’ has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the ‘CY’ category and in the EU28 average.

** EU15 refers to the 15 countries forming the European Union before the enlargements of 2004, 2007 and 2013.

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

I. EU CITIZENS' AWARENESS OF THEIR STATUS AS CITIZENS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1 Familiarity with the term 'citizen of the European Union'

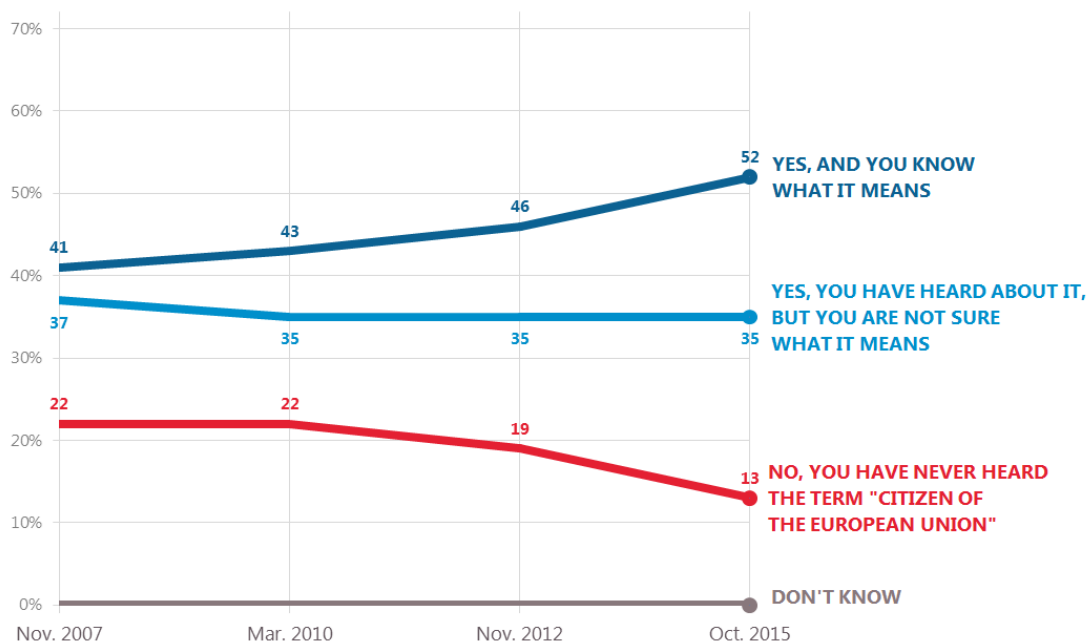
Almost all Europeans are familiar with the term 'citizen of the European Union'

Just under nine in ten respondents (87%) say they are **familiar⁹ with the term 'citizen of the European Union'** in 2015. This is the highest level of familiarity recorded, showing an improvement of six percentage points on 2012 (81%) and an increase of nine points on 2007 (78%).

A little over half of all respondents (52%) say they are familiar with the term **and know what it means**. Again, this is the highest level recorded, and represents an improvement of six percentage points on the figure recorded in 2012 (46%) and an overall increase of 11 points since 2007 (41%).

Just over a third of respondents (35%) say they have heard of the term, but they are not sure what it means – there has been little change in the proportion of respondents saying this since 2007 (37%). One in eight respondents (13%) say they have never heard of the term 'citizen of the European Union'. This is the lowest level recorded since 2007, and represents a decline of six percentage points on 2012 (19%) and an overall drop of nine percentage points from the high of 22% in 2007 (also recorded in 2010).

Q1 This survey is about European Union citizenship. Are you familiar with the term "citizen of the European Union"? (% - EU)



Across all Member States the majority of respondents say they are **familiar with the term 'citizen of the European Union'**.

In terms of **knowing what the term 'citizen of the European Union' means**, a majority of respondents say that they know this in 16 Member States¹⁰, with the highest proportions in Spain (72%), Italy (64%), Romania (63%), Poland and Slovakia (both 62%), Hungary (61%) and Ireland (60%).

⁹ Either saying 'Yes, and you know what it means' or 'Yes, you have heard of it, but you are not sure what it means'.

¹⁰ Hungary, Romania, Italy, Poland, Spain, Finland, Sweden, Slovakia, Ireland, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia and the UK

2 Understanding of how EU citizenship is obtained

To test their understanding of how EU citizenship is obtained, respondents were read out three statements and asked whether they thought each was true or false: "You have to ask to become a citizen of the Union", "You are both a citizen of the Union and (Nationality) at the same time" and "If you so wish, you can choose not to be a citizen of the Union".

You have to ask to become citizen of the EU - False

Most respondents (78%) correctly say that one does not have to ask to become a citizen of the EU. This result is the same as the one recorded in 2012, but it is slightly higher than the one recorded in 2007 and 2010 (+3 points and +4 points respectively).

Looking at the national picture, at least six in ten respondents in all but one country know that **one does not have to ask to become a citizen of the EU**. This understanding is most widespread among respondents in Hungary (88%), Sweden (86%) and Spain (85%). The exception is Bulgaria, where only half (50%) of respondents know that you do not have to ask to become a citizen of the EU, which still represents an improvement as compared to 2012 (+5 points).

You are both a citizen of the EU and (NATIONALITY) at the same time - True

Around nine in ten respondents know it is true that they can be both a citizen of the Union and of their country at the same time (91%). This is consistent with the results from earlier surveys (90% in 2007 and 2010, and 89% in 2012).

Across all Member States, more than three quarters of respondents know that they are **citizens of the EU and their own country at the same time**. This understanding is almost universal in Malta (97%), Spain (96%), and Romania, France, Germany and Croatia (94% in each). Respondents in Lithuania and the UK are the least likely to know this (79% and 82% respectively).

There are few notable shifts since 2012 in the proportions knowing that they are citizens of the EU and their own country at the same time. The largest increases are in Germany (+8 percentage points, from 86% in 2012 to 94% in 2015), Spain (+6 points, from 90% to 96%), Cyprus (+5 points, from 87% to 92%), Latvia (+5 points, from 79% to 84%) and Lithuania (+5 points, from 74% to 79%).

If you so wish, you can choose not to be a citizen of the EU - False

Just under three quarters of respondents (73%) correctly say that one **cannot choose not to be a citizen of the Union**. This finding is in line with the results recorded in previous surveys and shows a small increase on the lowest level recorded in 2010 (+3 percentage points).

At least eight in ten respondents in Sweden (83%), the Netherlands (81%) and Italy (80%) correctly say that the statement 'if you so wish, you can choose not to be a citizen of the Union' is false. In contrast, only 46% of respondents in Estonia, 53% in Latvia and 56% in Lithuania know that this statement is false.

II. EU CITIZENS' AWARENESS OF THEIR RIGHTS AND OF WHAT THEY CAN DO IF THESE ARE NOT RESPECTED

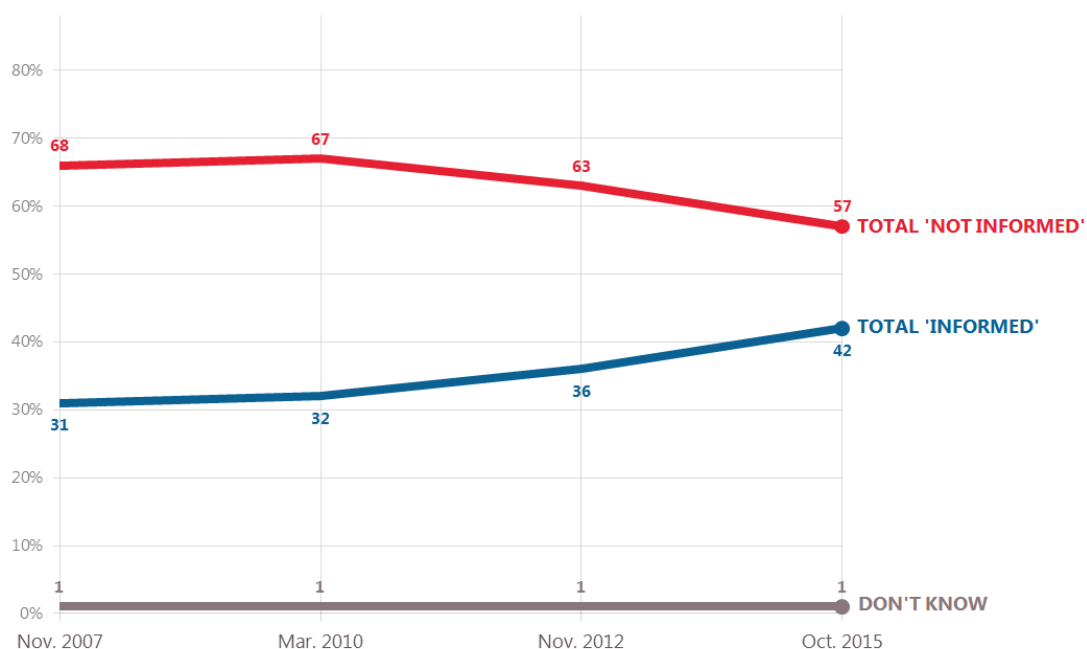
1 How informed EU citizens feel about their EU rights

Around two in five Europeans feel informed about their rights as EU citizens

Just over two fifths of respondents (42%) say that they feel informed (either 'very well informed' or 'fairly well informed') about their rights as a citizen of the European Union. Amongst this group, only a very small minority (6%) feel 'very well informed', with most (36%) saying that they feel 'fairly well informed'. Just over two fifths of respondents (42%) say that they are 'not very well informed' about their rights as a citizen of the EU and just over one in ten (15%) say they do 'not feel informed at all'.

Across the EU as a whole, the proportion of respondents who say that they feel informed about their EU rights is at its highest level, and shows a notable improvement on that recorded in 2007 (+11 points). The proportion remained stable between 2007 (31%) and 2010 (32%), but since then has increased – by four percentage points between 2010 and 2012, and a further six points between 2012 and 2015.

Q2 How well informed do you feel about your rights as a citizen of the European Union? (% - EU)



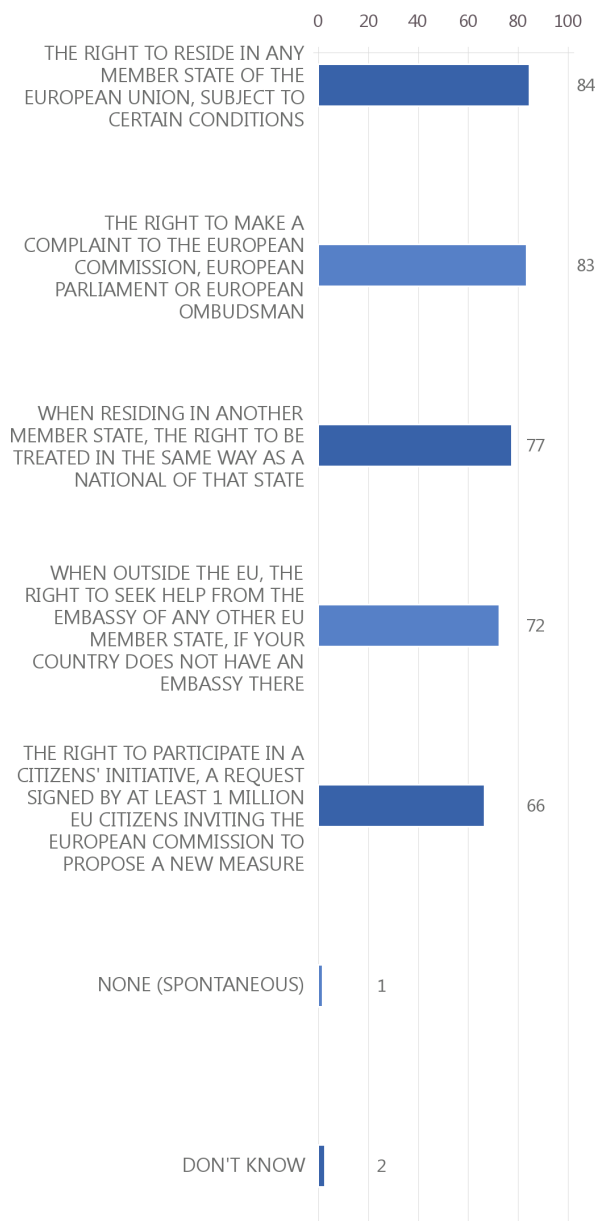
Looking at the national picture in 2015, there are now five Member States where more than half of respondents say that they feel informed about their rights as a citizen of the European Union. Respondents in Sweden are the most likely to say they feel informed (57%), followed by those in Denmark (55%), Malta (54%) and Luxembourg and Ireland (both 52%). At the other end of the scale, the Member States where respondents are least likely to say they feel informed about their rights are Croatia (25%), France (30%), Austria (31%), and the Netherlands and Latvia (both 32%).

Since 2012, the proportion of respondents who say they feel informed about their rights as EU citizens has increased in 22 Member States.

2 Awareness of EU citizens' rights

Europeans are most aware of their right to free movement and their right to petition key EU institutions

Q4 In fact, all citizens of the EU Member States are "citizens of the European Union" since 1993. In your opinion, which of the following rights does an EU citizen have? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)



More than four in five respondents (84%) are aware that an EU citizen has the right to reside in any Member State of the European Union, subject to certain conditions and a similar proportion (83%) are aware that an EU citizen has the right to make a complaint to the European Commission, European Parliament or European Ombudsman.

There is a relatively high awareness (77%) that citizens residing in another Member State have the right to be treated in the same way as a national of that State.

Around seven in ten respondents (72%) are aware that an EU citizen, when outside the EU, has the right to seek help from the embassy of any other EU Member State, if his/her country does not have an embassy there.

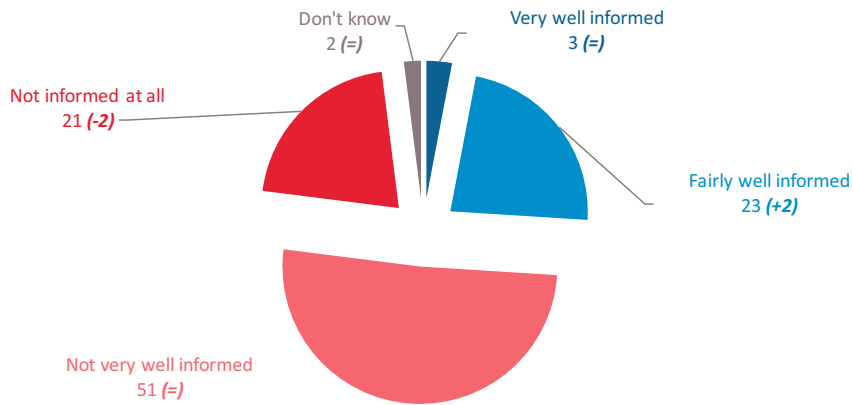
Two thirds of respondents (66%) are aware that EU citizens have the right to participate in a Citizens' Initiative.

3 Knowing what to do when rights are not respected

A quarter of Europeans feel informed about what they can do if their rights as an EU citizen are not respected

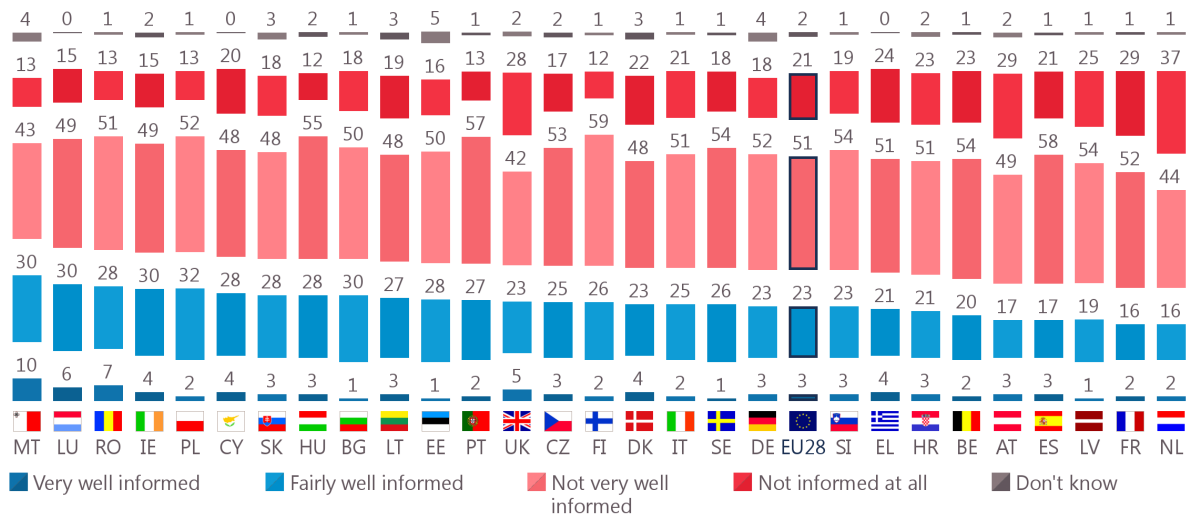
Just over a quarter of respondents (26%) say that they feel informed about what they can do when their rights as an EU citizen are not respected. Amongst this group, most feel 'fairly well informed' (23%), while 3% feel 'very well informed'. On the other hand, around half of respondents (51%) say that they are 'not very well informed' about what they can do if their rights as an EU citizen are not respected and one in five (21%) say they are 'not informed at all' about what to do in such a situation.

Q5 How well informed do you feel about what you can do when your rights as an EU citizen are not respected? (% - EU)



Respondents living in Malta are the most likely to say that they feel informed about what they can do if their rights as an EU citizen are not respected (40%), followed by those in Luxembourg (36%), Romania (35%) and Ireland and Poland (both 34%). At the other end of the scale, only around one in five respondents feel informed about what they can do in France and the Netherlands (both 18%), and Austria, Spain and Latvia (all 20%).

Q5 How well informed do you feel about what you can do when your rights as an EU citizen are not respected? (%)

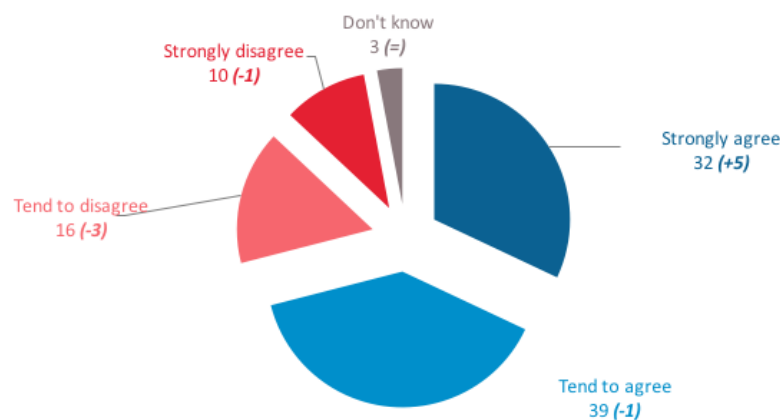


III. THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF FREE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Around seven in ten Europeans think that free movement of people within the EU has economic benefits for their country

Around seven in ten respondents (71%) agree with the statement that free movement of people within the EU brings overall benefits to the economy of their country. Among this group of people, around a third (32%) 'strongly agree' while around two in five (39%) say they 'tend to agree'. Around one in six respondents (16%) 'tend to disagree' that free movement of people benefits their country economically, while one in ten (10%) say they 'strongly disagree'.

Q6 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Free movement of people within the EU brings overall benefits to the economy of (OUR COUNTRY).
(% - EU)



An absolute majority of respondents across all Member States agree that free movement of people within the EU has economic benefits for their country. Respondents living in Romania are the most likely to agree (87%), followed by those in Germany (85%), Luxembourg (82%) and Austria (81%). In fact, in Romania and Germany the majority of respondents 'strongly agree' that free movement brings economic benefits to their country (61% and 52% respectively). In contrast, 57% of Cyprus respondents (+6 percentage points since 2012), and 59% of the UK respondents (+7 percentage points since 2012) agree that free movement of people within the EU brings economic benefits to their country.

The proportion of respondents thinking that free movement brings economic benefits to their country has increased in 13 Member States and decreased in 12 since 2012. The most notable increases in agreement are among respondents in Germany (+21 percentage points, from 64% in 2012 to 85% in 2015), Austria (+14 points, from 67% to 81%), Spain (+9 points, from 67% to 76%), Luxembourg (+7 points, from 75% to 82%), the Netherlands (+7 points, from 67% to 74%) and the UK (+7 points, from 52% to 59%).

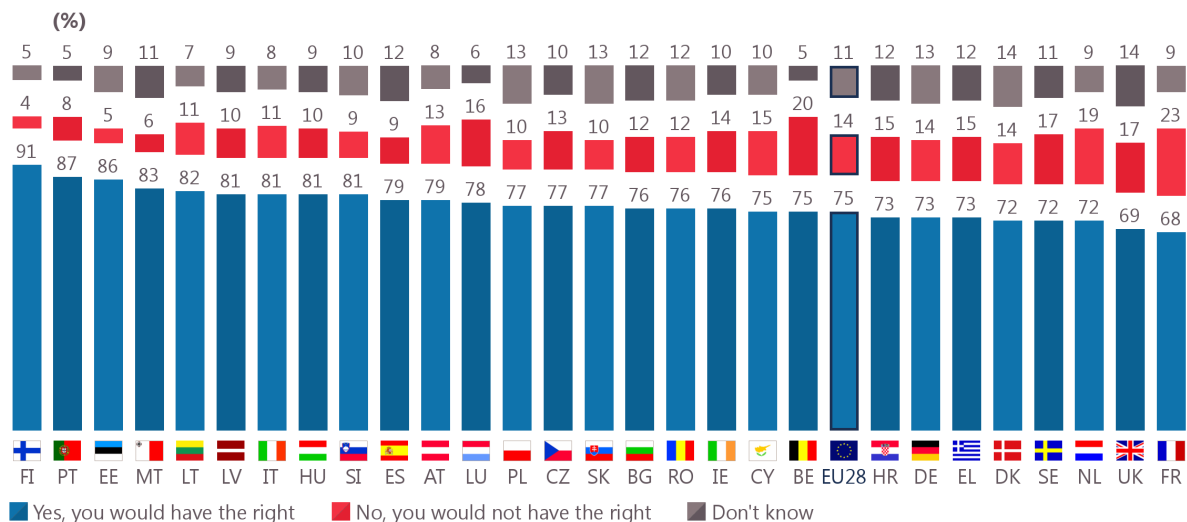
IV. SEEKING HELP FROM OTHER EU EMBASSIES WHILE STAYING IN AN EU COUNTRY

A small minority of Europeans know they would not have the right to seek help from the embassy of another EU country, if they are staying in an EU country where their own country does not have an embassy.

A majority of citizens are aware of their right to seek help from other EU embassies when in need of help **in a country outside the EU** where their own Member State does not have an embassy or a consulate (Chapter II.2). They are entitled to receive such help under the same conditions as the nationals of the EU country that helps them.

Respondents were now asked “If you needed help (for example, if you lost your passport) **while staying in an EU country** where your country does not have an embassy, would you have the right to seek help at the embassy of another EU Member State instead?” One in seven of respondents (14%) know they do not have such a right. One in nine (11%) do not know if they have such a right. In contrast, three quarters of respondents (75%) and an absolute majority of respondents across all Member States, wrongly believe they would have the right to seek such help.

Q7 If you needed help (for example, if you lost your passport) while staying in an EU country where (OUR COUNTRY) does not have an embassy, would you have the right to seek help at the embassy of another EU Member State instead?



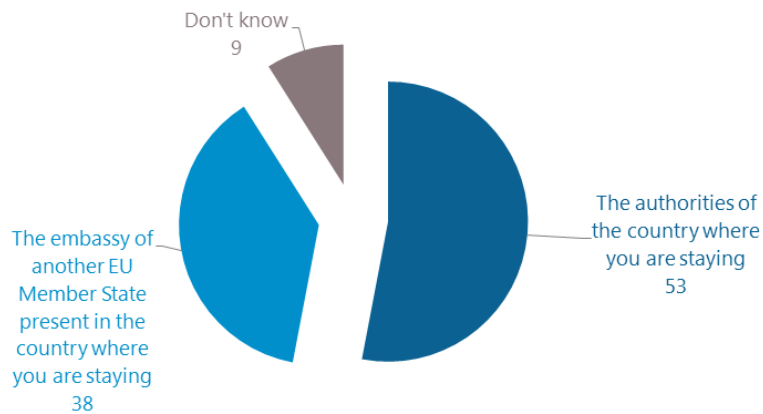
If they need help in an EU country where their own country does not have an embassy, Europeans are more likely to prefer to seek help from the authorities of that country than to seek help from the embassy of another EU country

Having asked the respondent whether they would have the right, while staying **in an EU country**, to seek help from the embassy of any other EU country if their own EU country did not have an embassy there, the interviewer then followed up with the question: “And in this situation, would you prefer to seek help from.....the authorities of the country where you are staying or the embassy of another EU Member State present in the country where you are staying?”

Just over half of all respondents (53%) say they would prefer to seek help from the authorities of the EU country in which they are staying. Around two in five respondents (38%) say they would prefer to seek help from the embassy of another Member State present in the country where they are staying. A notable minority (9%) are unable to express a preference.

In 15 Member States¹¹, an absolute majority of respondents say they would prefer to seek help from the authorities of the country in which they are staying. In a further eight Member States¹², the balance of opinion is in favour of this option.

Q8 And in this situation, would you prefer to seek help from...
(% - EU)



¹¹ Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Hungary, Croatia, Latvia, Romania, Poland, France, Portugal, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Italy, Slovenia and Belgium

¹² Luxembourg, Germany, Finland, Slovakia, Denmark, the UK, Ireland and Estonia

V. VOTING RIGHTS WHEN RESIDING IN OTHER EU COUNTRIES

1 Right to vote in local and European elections

Respondents were read out a series of statements about electoral rights in the European Union, and asked to say if each was true or false.¹³

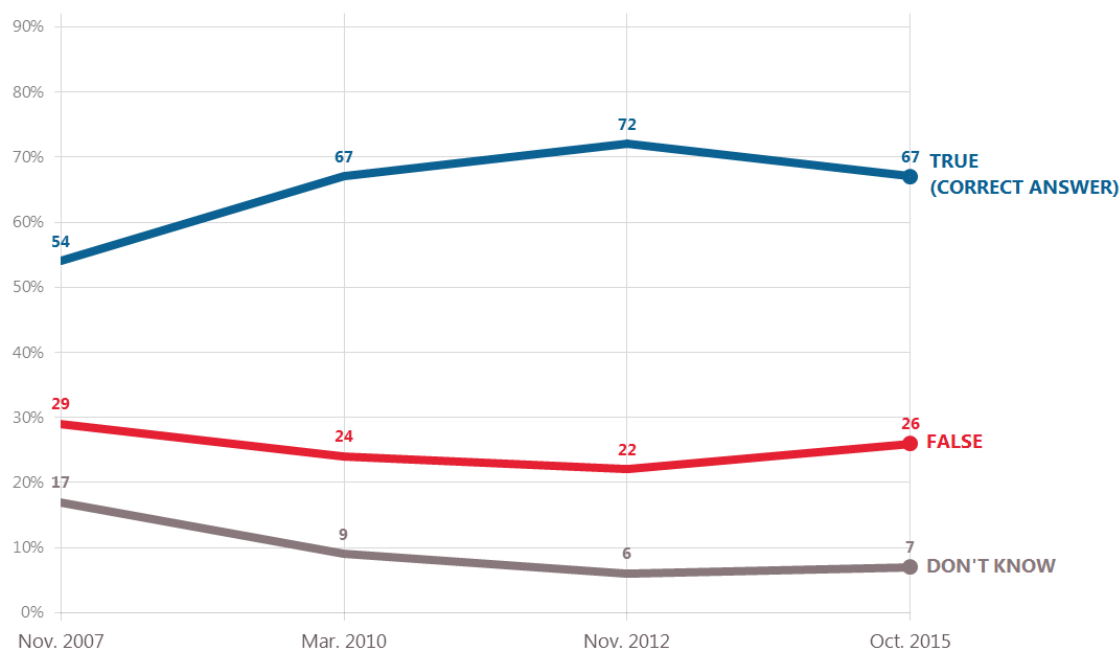
The majority of Europeans correctly identify their electoral rights at local and European level

The majority of Europeans correctly identify the electoral rights that a citizen of the EU has in relation to voting or standing as a candidate in European Parliament elections and in municipal elections.

The right to vote or to stand as a candidate in European Parliament elections

Two thirds (67%) of respondents know that a citizen of the EU living in their country has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in European Parliament elections. The proportion of respondents correctly identifying this right has dropped slightly (-5 percentage points) since 2012, but awareness of this right is notably higher now than in 2007 (+13 points), when it was at its lowest level (54%).

Q9.1 For each of the statements which I am going to read out, please tell me if this is true or false:
A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY) has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in European Parliament elections (% - EU)



Across all but one Member State the majority of respondents know that a citizen of the EU living in another EU country has the right to vote or stand as a candidate in European Parliament elections.

¹³ Q9: "For each of the statements which I am going to read out, please tell me if this is true or false: A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY) has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in European Parliament elections; A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY) has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in municipal elections; A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY) has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in elections to the national Parliament; (ONLY IN AT, BE, CZ, DK, DE, ES, FR, IT, NL, PL, SK, SE, UK) A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY) has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in regional elections (by "regional" we mean any sub-national level of government between municipalities and the State); (Answers: True; False; DK/NA) [Note: Prior to the 2015 survey the question was asked in a separate survey about electoral rights; in 2007 the question was formulated differently: In fact, all citizens of the EU Member States are 'citizens of the European Union'. In your opinion, what rights does a citizen of the European Union have?]

The level of awareness is the highest in Ireland (76%), and Italy and Luxembourg (both 73%). At the other end of the scale, the levels of awareness are lower in Lithuania (46%), Denmark (53%), Hungary (58%) and Cyprus (59%).

Since 2012, the proportion of respondents knowing that an EU citizen living in their country has the right to vote or stand as a candidate in European Parliament elections has declined in all but four countries¹⁴. In the four countries where awareness of this right has increased, one – Luxembourg – shows a notable increase in the proportion of respondents correctly identifying this right as being true (+11 points, from 62% to 73%).

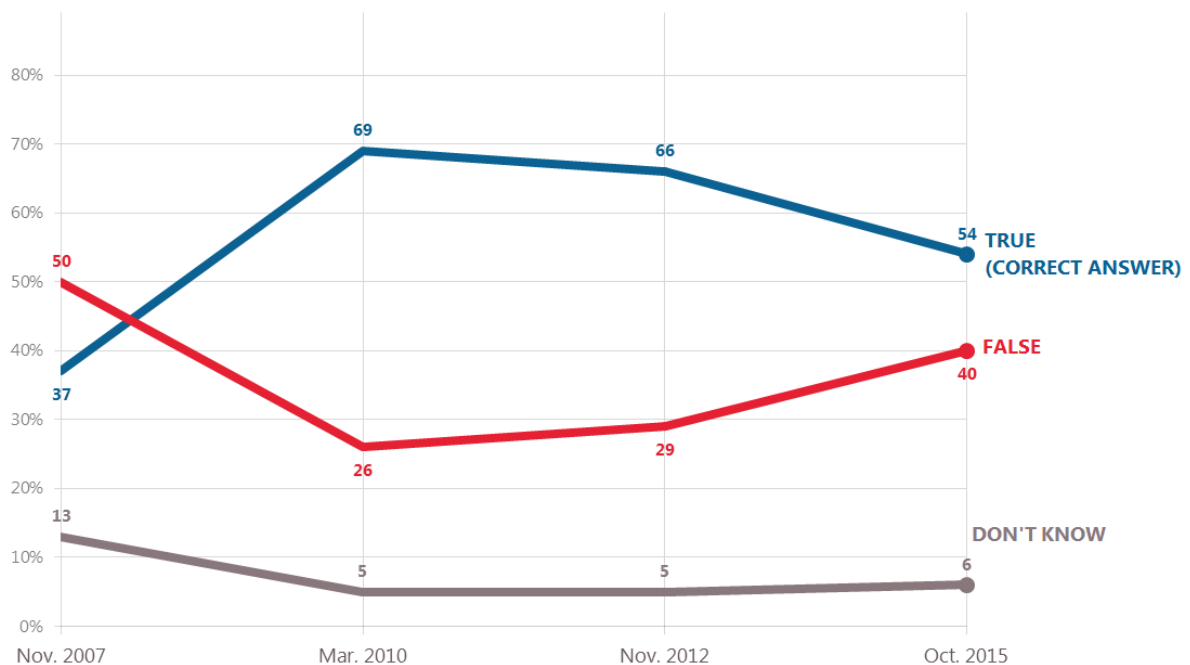
Looking at longer term trends, despite the recent downward shifts in many countries since 2012, the overall level of awareness amongst respondents since 2007 has notably increased. Indeed, there has been an increase of 20 percentage points or more in eight countries, such as in Hungary (+29 points, from 29% to 58%); Romania (+26 points, from 46% to 72%); Latvia (+26 points, from 42% to 68%) and Sweden (+26 points, from 40% to 66%).

The right to vote or to stand as a candidate in municipal elections

Just over half of respondents (54%) know that a citizen of the EU living in their country has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in municipal elections. There has been a drop in this proportion since 2012 by 12 percentage points. It is now notably lower than the highest level recorded in 2010 (69%) but awareness of this right is substantially higher now than in 2007, when it was at its lowest level (37%).

Q9.2 For each of the statements which I am going to read out, please tell me if this is true or false:

A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY) has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in municipal elections
(% - EU)



There are 15 Member States where the majority of respondents think that a citizen of the EU living in their country has the right to vote or stand as a candidate in municipal elections, the proportion being the highest in Slovakia (68%), Belgium and Luxembourg (both 65%). Among the remaining 13 Member States, the proportion of respondents who believe this to be a right is lowest in Lithuania (29%), followed by Finland (39%).

¹⁴ Italy, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria

The majority of Europeans knows that their electoral rights do not cover the right to vote and stand as a candidate in national and regional elections

The majority of Europeans believe that a citizen of the EU does not have the right to vote or stand as a candidate in national and regional elections in the EU country in which they live.

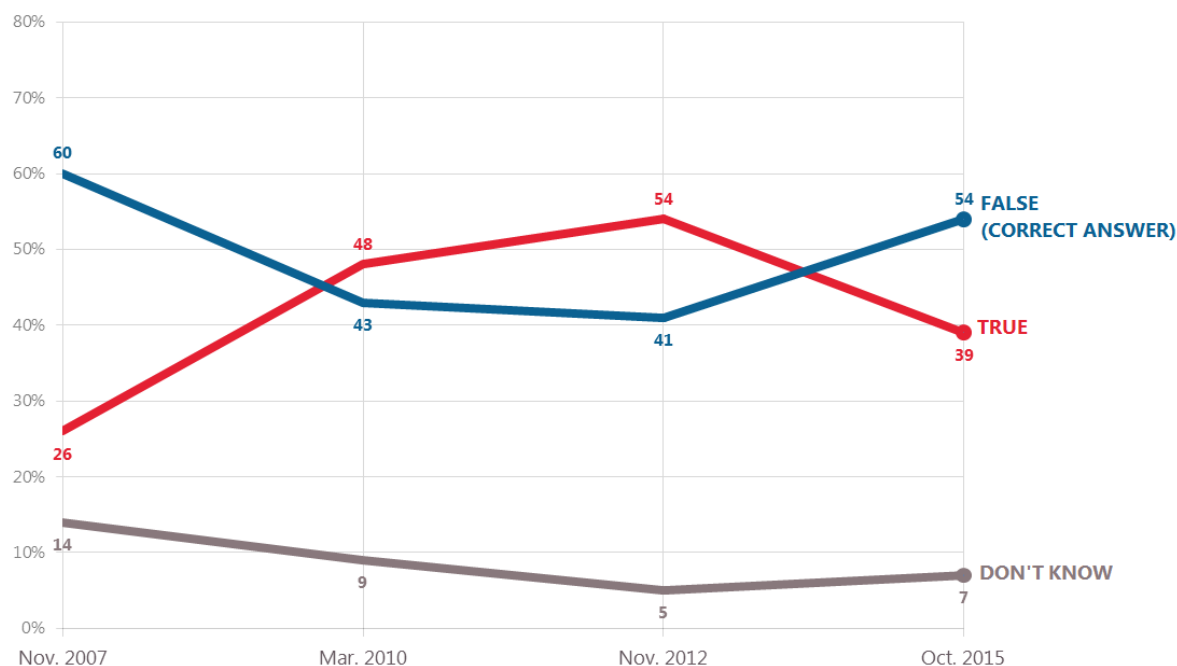
Voting or standing as a candidate in elections to the national Parliament

Just over half of respondents (54%) correctly say it is **false** that a non-national citizen of the EU in their country has the right to vote or stand as a candidate in elections to the national Parliament. There has been a large increase in the proportion of respondents being aware of this since 2012 (+13 percentage points), and this has reversed the downward trend since 2007. That said, the proportion of respondents answering this question correctly remains somewhat lower than in 2007, when it was at its highest level (60%).

A sizeable minority (39%) of respondents incorrectly think that a non-national citizen of the EU living in their country **does** have the right to vote or stand as a candidate in national elections. In line with the findings above, this proportion shows a big drop on that recorded in 2012 (-15 percentage points) but remains much higher than the lowest level seen in 2007 (26%).

Q9.3 For each of the statements which I am going to read out, please tell me if this is true or false:

A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY) has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in elections to the national Parliament (% - EU)



There are 20 Member States where the majority of respondents correctly state that a non-national citizen of the EU living in their country does **not** have the right to vote or stand as a candidate in elections to the national Parliament, with this proportion being highest in Lithuania (75%), Sweden (74%), Denmark (68%) and France (66%). Among the remaining eight Member States¹⁵, the proportion of respondents giving the correct answer is lowest in Slovakia (35%) and Romania (38%).

¹⁵ Belgium, Hungary, the UK, Ireland, Latvia, Croatia, Romania and Slovakia

Since 2012, the proportion of respondents correctly saying it is **false** that a non-national EU citizen living in their country has the right to vote or stand as a candidate in elections to the national Parliament has increased in all but one Member State – Latvia, where there has been no change.

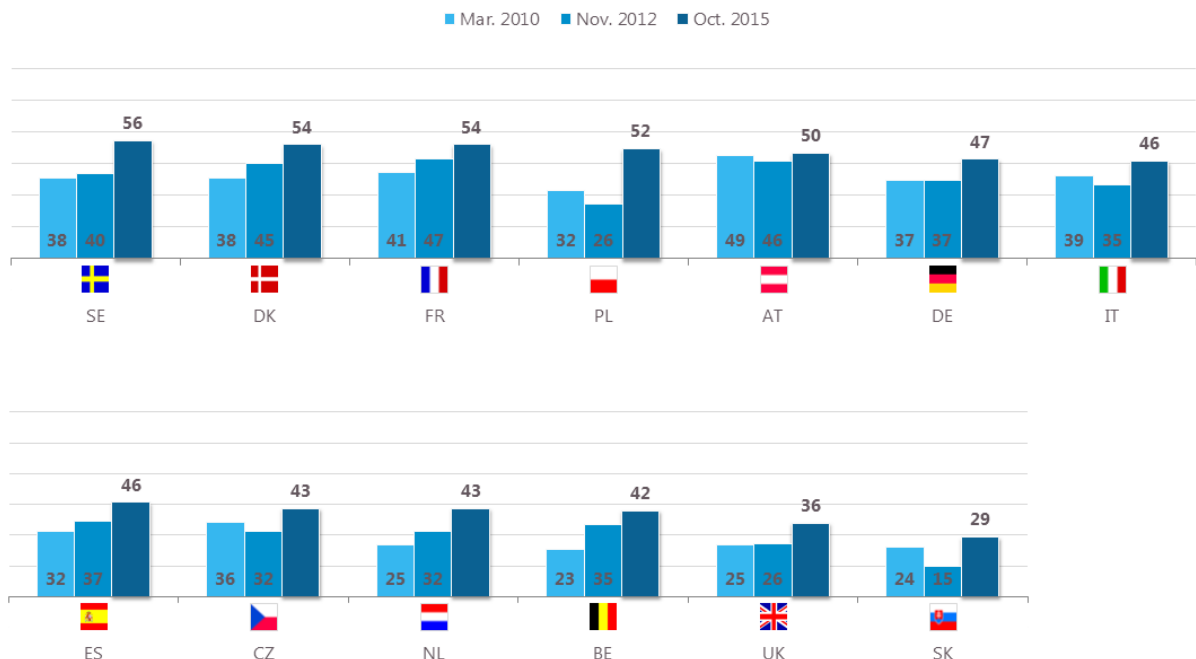
Voting or standing as a candidate in regional elections

In 13 Member States, where regional governments are elected, respondents were asked if a non-national citizen of the EU living in their country has the right to vote or stand as a candidate in regional elections. This question was first asked in 2010.

In four of the 13 Member States, the majority of respondents correctly state that a citizen of the EU living in their country does **not** have the right to vote or stand as a candidate in regional elections, with the proportion of respondents being aware of this being the highest in Sweden (56%), followed by Denmark and France (both 54%) and Poland (52%). The countries where respondents are least likely to know that this is not a right are Slovakia (29%) and the UK (36%).

Q9.4 For each of the statements which I am going to read out, please tell me if this is true or false:

A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY) has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in regional elections (by "regional" we mean any sub-national level of government between municipalities and the State) (% - FALSE)



Since 2012, the proportion of respondents correctly saying it is **false** that a non-national EU citizen living in their country has the right to vote or stand as a candidate in regional elections has increased in all of these 13 Member States. The most notable increases are in Poland (+26 percentage points, from 26% in 2012 to 52% in 2015), Sweden (+16 points, from 40% to 56%) and Slovakia (+14 points, from 15% to 29%).

Similarly, the proportion of respondents correctly saying that the statement is **false** has increased in all of these 13 Member States since 2007. All but two countries¹⁶ show a percentage increase of 7% or more, with the biggest shifts in Poland (+20 points), Belgium (+19 points) Sweden (+18 points) and the Netherlands (+18 points).

¹⁶ Austria and Slovakia

2 Views on the full political participation of EU citizens

a. Losing electoral rights in the country of origin

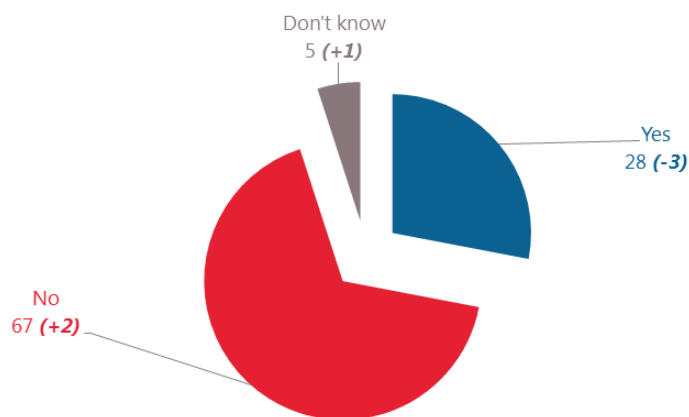
Just under three in ten Europeans consider it justified that EU citizens living in EU countries that are not their country of origin should lose their national election voting rights in their country of origin

Just under three in ten respondents (28%) think it is justified that EU citizens who live in an EU country other than their country of origin (i.e. the country of their nationality) should lose their rights to vote in the national elections of their country of origin. Two thirds of respondents (67%) think that losing this right would not be justified.

The results are broadly similar to those reported in 2012. There has been a small drop in the proportion of respondents who think it is justified that an EU citizen living in another EU country loses his/her right to vote in national elections in their country of origin (-3 percentage points, from 31% in 2012), with a corresponding increase in the proportion who do not think this is justified (+2 points, from 65% in 2012).

Q10.1 Let's take a situation where a citizen of the EU lives in another EU country than his/her country of origin (i.e. of which he/she is a national).

Would you consider it justified that this citizen loses his/her right to vote in national elections in the country of which he/she is a national? (% - EU)



(October 2015 - November 2012)

At a national level, there is a minority of respondents in all 28 countries who think it is justified that EU citizens living in another EU country should lose their rights to vote in the national elections of their country of origin. Those living in the UK are most likely to think such citizens should lose such a right (42%), followed by those in Slovakia (39%) and Luxembourg (37%). The countries where respondents are least likely to think that losing such a right would be justified are Finland (17%) and Sweden (19%).

b. Acquiring electoral rights in the country of residence

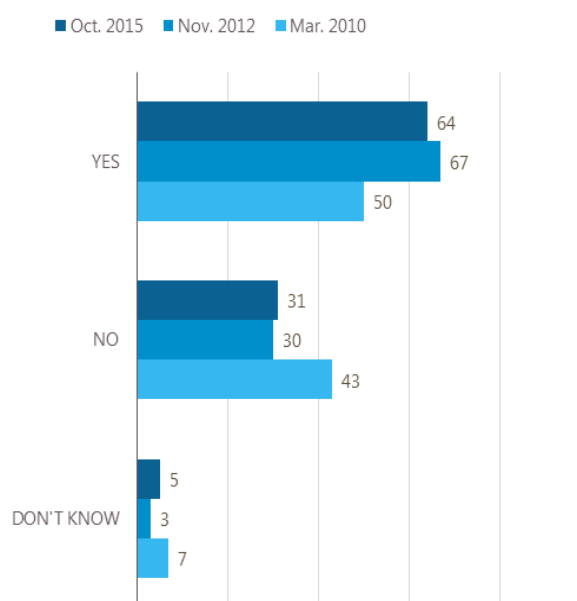
The majority of Europeans think that EU citizens who live in an EU country that is not their country of origin should acquire both the right to vote in national elections and the right to vote and stand in regional elections in their country of residence

Just under two thirds of respondents (64%) think it is justified that EU citizens who live in an EU country other than their country of origin should acquire the right to vote in the national elections in the country they are living in. Around three in ten respondents (31%) do not think such citizens should have this electoral right in their country of residence.

The results are broadly similar to those reported in 2012. There has been a small decrease in the proportion of respondents thinking non-national citizens should have this right (-3 percentage points, from 67%), but it remains notably higher than the level recorded in 2010 (+14 points, from 50%).

Q10.2 Let's take a situation where a citizen of the EU lives in another EU country than his/her country of origin (i.e. of which he/she is a national).

Would you consider it justified that this citizen acquires the right to vote in national elections in his/her country of residence? (% - EU)

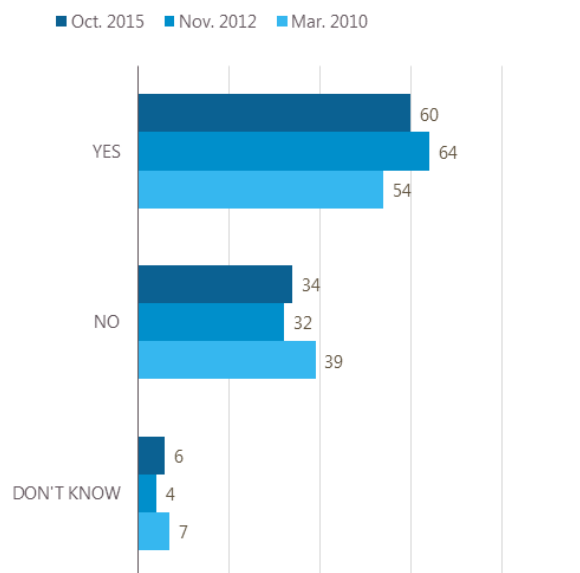


In almost all (25) Member States, the majority of respondents think it is justified that EU citizens who live in an EU country other than their country of origin should acquire the right to vote in the national elections in the country they are living in. This view is most widespread in Ireland (81%) and Romania (76%), and is held by at least seven in ten respondents in Italy (72%), the Netherlands (71%), Portugal (71%), Greece (70%) and the UK (70%). The three Member States where only a minority of respondents think it justified that such a citizen should acquire this right are Denmark and Sweden (both 43%), and Estonia (44%).

Looking at longer-term trends, the proportion of respondents who think it justified that EU citizens who live in an EU country other than their country of origin should acquire the right to vote in the national elections in their country of residence has increased in all Member States since 2010. The largest changes are in Italy (+22 points, from 50% in 2010 to 72% in 2015), Bulgaria (+22 points, from 39% to 61%), Portugal (+21 points, from 50% to 71%), Hungary (+21 points, from 35% to 56%) and Romania (+19 points, from 57% to 76%).

Europeans are somewhat less likely to think that EU citizens living in an EU country that is not their country of origin should have the right to vote and stand as a candidate in regional elections, should they take place in the country where they are living. Three fifths of respondents (60%) hold this view, whilst around a third (34%) do **not** think such citizens should have this electoral right in their country of residence.

Q10.3 Let's take a situation where a citizen of the EU lives in another EU country than his/her country of origin (i.e. of which he/she is a national).
Should this citizen have the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in regional elections organised in the country where he/she lives in case regional elections are held there? (% - EU)



Looking at the national picture, the majority of respondents in almost all (24) Member States think it is justified that EU citizens who live in an EU country other than their country of origin should acquire the right to vote and stand in regional elections in the country that they reside in. This view is most widespread in Ireland (71%) and Romania (69%). The three Member States where only a minority of respondents think it justified that such a citizen acquires this right are Denmark (43%), Estonia (47%) and Bulgaria (49%). These findings broadly reflect the findings reported earlier in relation to opinions on whether such citizens should acquire national electoral rights in their country of residence.

Looking at longer-term trends, since 2010 the proportion of respondents who think it justified that EU citizens who live in an EU country other than their country of origin should acquire the right to vote or stand in regional elections in their country of residence has increased in the majority of Member States (19). The shifts are, however, notably less marked than those seen in relation to national elections, with the largest increases in Romania (+13 points, from 56% in 2010 to 69% in 2015), Lithuania (+16 points, from 36% to 52%), the Czech Republic (+15 points, from 41% to 56%), Romania (+13 points, from 56% to 69%) and Poland (+13 points, from 50% to 63%).

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 21 and the 23 October 2015, TNS Political & Social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the FLASH EUROBAROMETER 430 survey on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers. It is a general public survey co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication, "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit.

The FLASH EUROBAROMETER 430 survey covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 28 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	DATES FIELDWORK		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.005	21/10/15	23/10/15	8.939.546	2,17%
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BB55	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	6.537.510	1,58%
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa s.r.o	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	9.012.443	2,18%
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup A/S	1.014	21/10/15	23/10/15	4.561.264	1,11%
DE	Germany	TNS Deutschland	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	64.336.389	15,59%
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	945.733	0,23%
IE	Ireland	IMS Millward Brown	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	3.522.000	0,85%
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	8.693.566	2,11%
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia S.A	1.001	21/10/15	23/10/15	39.127.930	9,48%
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	47.756.439	11,57%
HR	Croatia	HENDAL	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	3.749.400	0,91%
IT	Italy	TNS Italia	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	51.862.391	12,57%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR	501	21/10/15	23/10/15	705.360	0,17%
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	1.447.866	0,35%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	2.829.740	0,69%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS Dimarso	505	21/10/15	23/10/15	434.878	0,11%
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann Kft	1.006	21/10/15	23/10/15	8.320.614	2,02%
MT	Malta	MISCO International Ltd	503	21/10/15	23/10/15	335.476	0,08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.002	21/10/15	23/10/15	13.371.980	3,24%
AT	Austria	TNS Austria	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	7.009.827	1,70%
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	32.413.735	7,86%
PT	Portugal	TNS Euroteste	1.004	21/10/15	23/10/15	8.080.915	1,96%
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.002	21/10/15	23/10/15	18.246.731	4,42%
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.005	21/10/15	23/10/15	1.759.701	0,43%
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA Slovakia	1.003	21/10/15	23/10/15	4.549.956	1,10%
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.001	21/10/15	23/10/15	4.440.004	1,08%
SE	Sweden	TNS Sifo	1.000	21/10/15	23/10/15	7.791.240	1,89%
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.003	21/10/15	23/10/15	51.848.010	12,57%
	TOTAL EU28		26.555	21/10/15	23/10/15	412.630.644	100%*

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

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All interviews were carried using the TNS e-Call centre (our centralised CATI system). In every country the respondents were called both on fixed lines and mobile phones. The basic sample design applied in all states is multi-stage random (probability). In each household, the respondent was drawn at random following the "last birthday rule".

TNS has developed its own RDD sample generation capabilities based on using contact telephone numbers from responders to random probability or random location face-to-face surveys, such as Eurobarometer, as seed numbers. The approach works because the seed number identifies a working block of telephone numbers and reduces the volume of numbers generated that will be ineffective. The seed numbers are stratified by NUTS2 region and urbanisation to approximate a geographically representative sample. From each seed number the required sample of numbers are generated by randomly replacing the last two digits. The sample is then screened against business databases in order to exclude as many of these numbers as possible before going into field. This approach is consistent across all countries.

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%	