

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

**PUBLIC OPINION OF
EUROPEAN CITIZENS ON
THE WAR IN UKRAINE**

B&A Ireland Report

March 25, 2022



Methodology



Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CAWI-Interviews (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing)
Target Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Population aged 18 years and over
Sample	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 24.509 interviews in total▪ 23.004 interviews in 24 EU-countries (per country: representative of the (web-active) population 18+)*▪ 1.505 interviews in 2 Non-EU-countries: Serbia and Switzerland (per country: representative of the (web-active population 18+))
Fieldwork period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 7th -22rd March 2022

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Gallup International Association does not accept responsibility for opinion polling other than its own. We require that our surveys be credited fully as Gallup International (not Gallup or Gallup Poll).

* In the following "EU Total" refers to the 24 EU-countries; Switzerland and Serbia are shown separately.

REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLES IN 26 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



EU TOTAL	23.004
COUNTRY	
Austria	1.000
Belgium	1.012
Bulgaria	861
Croatia	507
Czech Republic	1.030
Denmark	1.020
Estonia	1.002
Finland	1.112
France	1.020
Germany	1.000
Greece	1.093
Hungary	1.022
Ireland	750
Italy	1.000
Latvia	1.006
Lithuania	1.000
Netherlands	1.020
Poland	1.001
Portugal	600
Romania	1.018
Slovakia	1.000
Slovenia	735
Spain	1.013
Sweden	1.182
NON EU	
COUNTRY	
Serbia	505
Switzerland	1.000



B&A conducted the fieldwork for Ireland through our online Acumen Panel.

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Summary

Summary – European Union

EU citizens' fears: inflation, war, bottlenecks in energy supply

The biggest concerns of EU citizens at the moment are rising prices, fear of a widening war and possible shortages in energy supply. Issues that were on the list of top priorities a month ago, such as Covid pandemic and climate change, have faded into the background.

Energy supply

Awareness of the dependence of one's own country on Russian energy imports is high (79% on average in the EU); only Sweden considers itself largely independent of Russian energy. Switching to renewable energy sources to be less dependent on Russian energy supplies is welcomed across all countries (91%).

National security

More than half of EU citizens fear that the equipment and operational capability of their country's army is unsatisfactory. 52% say their country's defense spending should be increased. The majority of 60% is in favor of a common EU army. The desire to build a common European army is highest in Portugal and Poland, Belgium, Lithuania, Spain and Romania.

Support for Ukraine

- More than half of EU citizens believe that we have already provided sufficient support to Ukraine, 43% would like to see even more help. Portugal, Spain, Ireland, France, Finland and Sweden show the most solidarity.
- There is a high willingness to accept refugees in the EU: More than 90% of EU citizens are in favor of taking in refugees. 50% of them advocate an unrestricted admission of refugees, 44% prefer a limitation.
- Only one fifth of EU citizens are strictly against admitting Ukraine to the EU. 52% say Ukraine should join the EU, 27% are undecided. Poland, Estonia, Portugal, Lithuania, Ireland and Spain are most in favor of Ukraine joining the EU.
- 42% agree with the EU's sanctions against Russia, and 43% would even like to see more of them. Only 15% say the sanctions are too strict - this opinion is most common in Greece, the eastern EU countries Bulgaria, Slovakia and Hungary, and the non-EU country Serbia.

Attitude towards the EU

61% see big cohesion among EU member states, and for 63% the EU is a stabilizing world power. The vast majority (78%) believes that the EU should play a more active role in world politics in the future. Compared to the other member states, the mood towards the EU is most negative in Greece and Bulgaria. The EU accession country Serbia is also critical of the EU.



Irish fears: inflation, war, energy supply and climate change

In line with the EU, the Irish are most concerned about inflation and a widening of the war in Ukraine, followed by possible shortages in energy supply. People in Ireland are generally more concerned about these topics compared to the EU average.

Compared to the EU average, Ireland is also more concerned about climate change, despite the higher concerns about inflation and war.

Women are generally more concerned about a widening of the war than men.

Energy supply

Although lower than the EU average, 70% of the Irish are aware of our dependency on energy supplies from Russia. 95% feel it is important that we switch to renewable energy sources to be less dependent on Russian energy supplies.

National security

Ireland rates its army lower than anybody else in the EU, apart from Bulgaria, with almost half feeling the Irish army is “not good at all”. As a result of this, a majority of the Irish (53%) want increased defence spending, while 34% want a cut in defence spending.

However, the Irish is more reluctant to support a common EU army, with 55% being against this, compared to just 40% among EU citizens.

Support for Ukraine

- Higher than the EU average, 64% of the Irish want more support for Ukraine – only Portugal scores higher.
- Ireland is also more willing to accept refugees from Ukraine, with 58% wanting to take in as many refugees as possible.
- 7 in 10 Irish are in favour of Ukraine joining the EU – significantly higher than the EU average.
- 42% agree with the EU's sanctions against Russia, and 52% would like more/harsher sanctions – this is higher than the EU average.

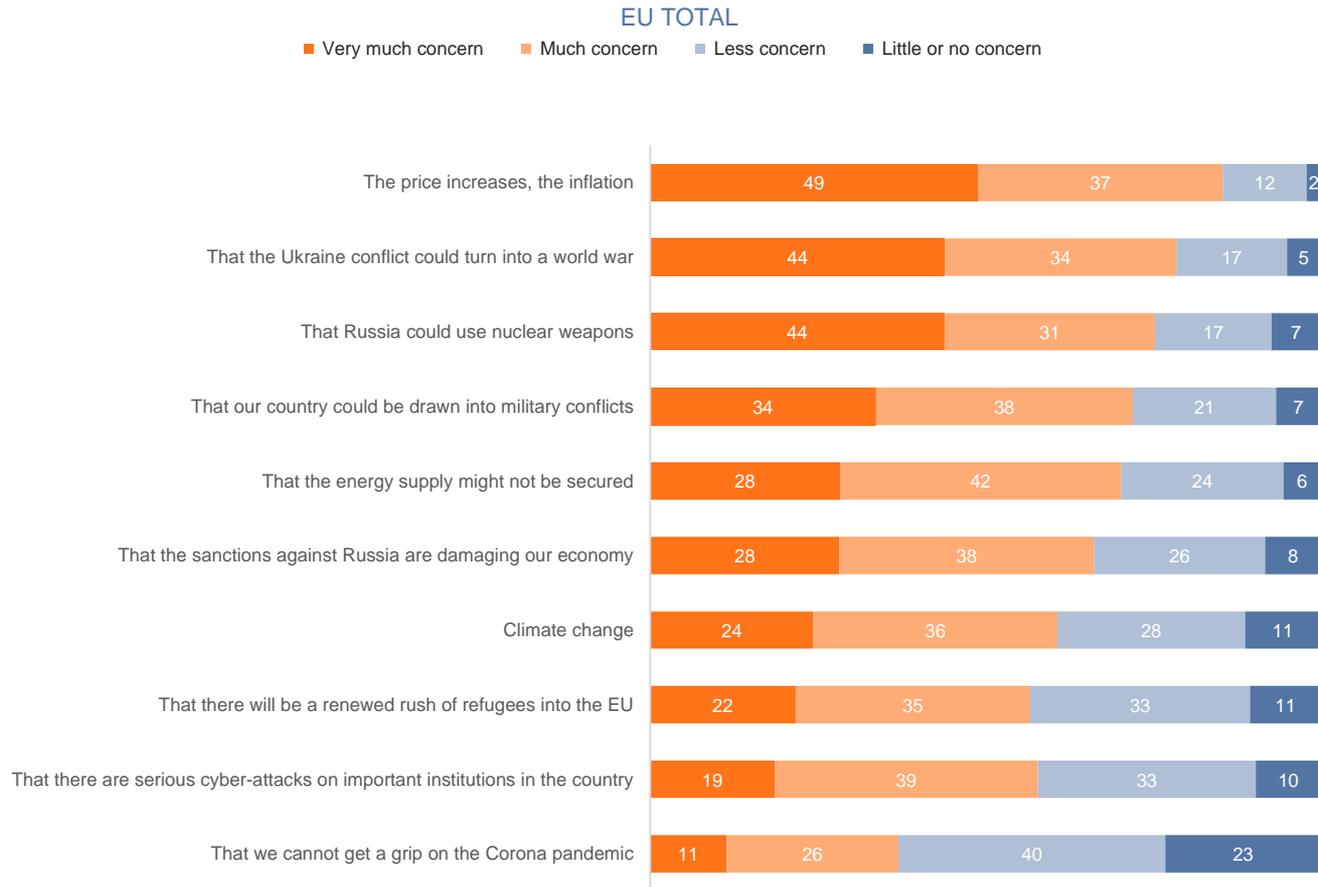
Attitude towards the EU

76% of the Irish see big cohesion among EU member states – higher than the EU average. 72% see the EU as a stabilising world power. The vast majority (75%) believes that the EU should play a more active role in world politics.



Concerns of EU Citizens

Inflation, the war and the energy supply are the biggest concerns of EU citizens



In percent

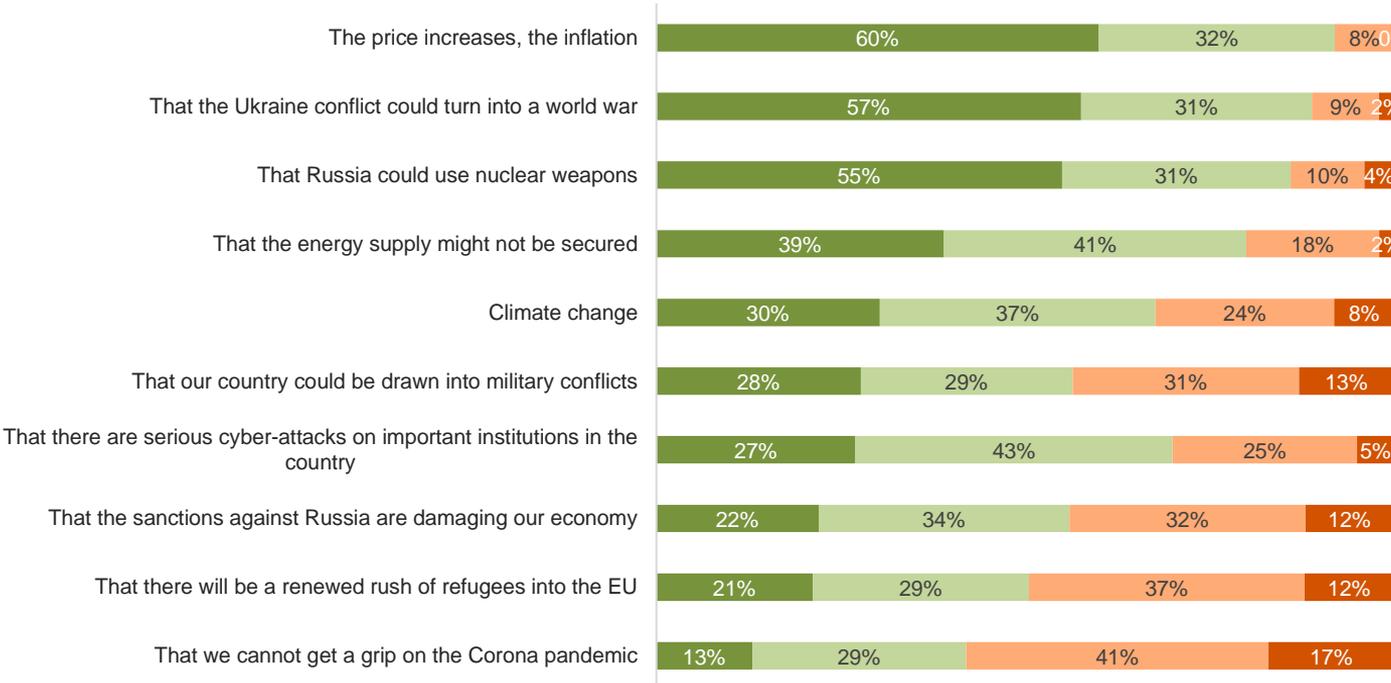
Which of the following points are currently causing you very much concern, which are causing you much concern, which are causing you less concern and which are causing you little or no concern?

Higher concerns about inflation, the war and energy supply in Ireland



IRELAND

■ very much concern ■ much concern ■ less concern ■ little or no concern



In percent

Which of the following points are currently causing you very much concern, which are causing you much concern, which are causing you less concern and which are causing you little or no concern?

Irish women are more concerned about the war in Ukraine than men



IRELAND

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	18-24 years	25-39 years	40-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
The price increases, the inflation	92%	90%	93%	87%	93%	93%	92%	91%
That the Ukraine conflict could turn into a world war	88%	82%	94%	89%	86%	85%	90%	93%
That Russia could use nuclear weapons	86%	77%	94%	82%	85%	85%	88%	90%
That the energy supply might not be secured	80%	77%	83%	70%	81%	81%	82%	81%
That there are serious cyber-attacks on important institutions in the country	70%	69%	71%	65%	66%	68%	73%	78%
Climate change	67%	63%	72%	71%	68%	62%	67%	72%
That our country could be drawn into military conflicts	57%	42%	70%	63%	57%	50%	65%	57%
That the sanctions against Russia are damaging our economy	56%	54%	59%	61%	59%	55%	54%	52%
That there will be a renewed rush of refugees into the EU	51%	49%	52%	51%	48%	49%	54%	54%
That we cannot get a grip on the Corona pandemic	42%	36%	48%	42%	42%	39%	41%	48%

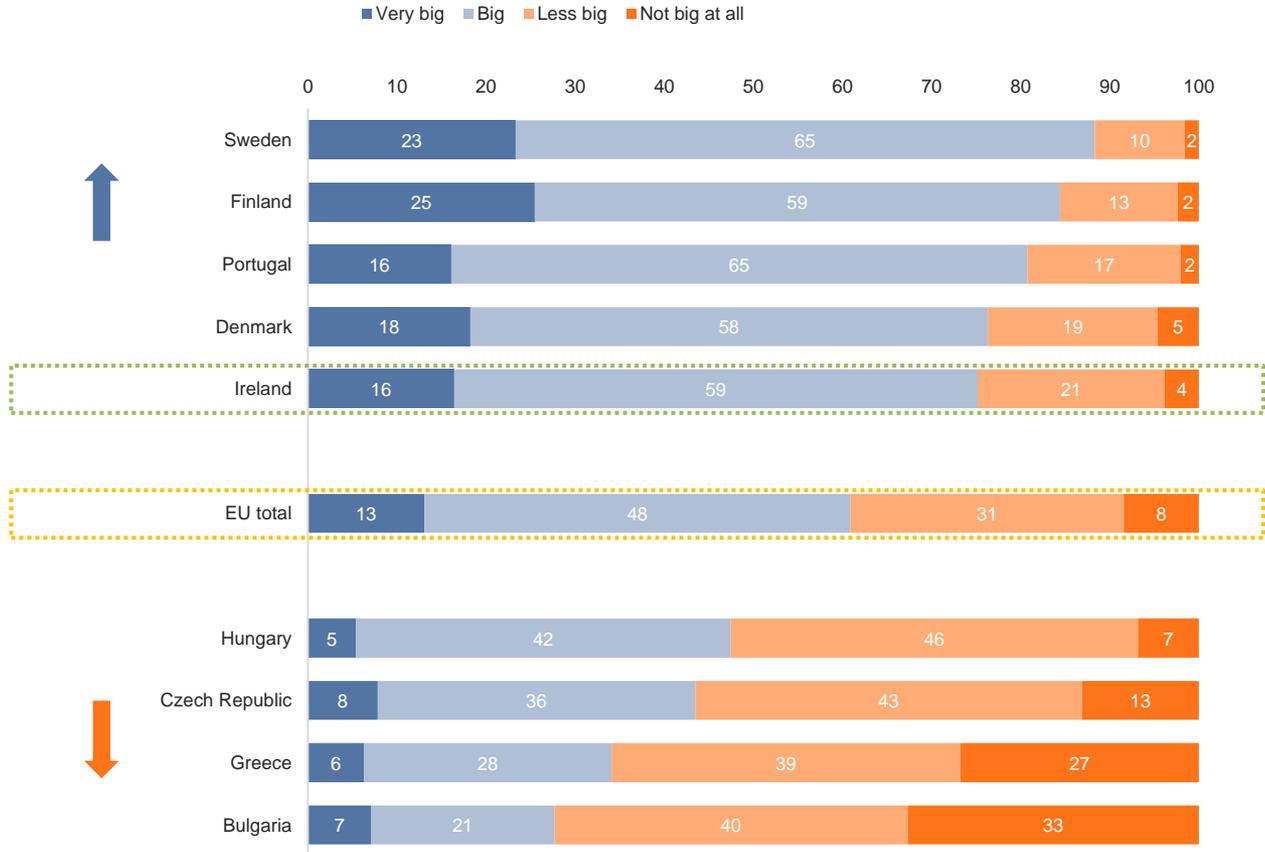
In percent

Which of the following points are currently causing you very much concern, which are causing you much concern, which are causing you less concern and which are causing you little or no concern?



Role of the European Union

COHESION IN THE EU: More than 60% see solid cohesion between member states – this is higher for Ireland, with 3 in 4 seeing solid cohesion between EU member states



In percent

What is your impression: How big is the cohesion between the member states of the European Union at the moment?

A GLOBAL ROLE FOR EU: 78% are in favour of a more active role for the EU in global politics – Ireland is in line with the EU average.

EU TOTAL

■ Yes, the EU should play a more active role in world politics ■ No, the EU should not



Yes, the EU should play a more active role in world politics ↑	
Portugal	94
Spain	90
Poland	90
Lithuania	90
No, the EU should not ↑	
Denmark	37
Austria	36
Serbia	45
Switzerland	36

In percent

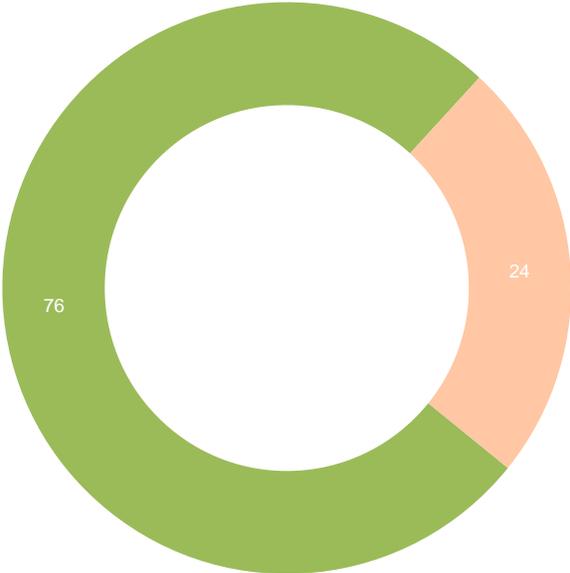
Should the EU play a more active role in world politics in the future?

Men and the 65+ year olds are more in favour of EU playing a more active role in world politics



IRELAND

■ Yes, the EU should play a more active role in word politics ■ No, the EU should not



yes, the EU should play a more active role in word politics

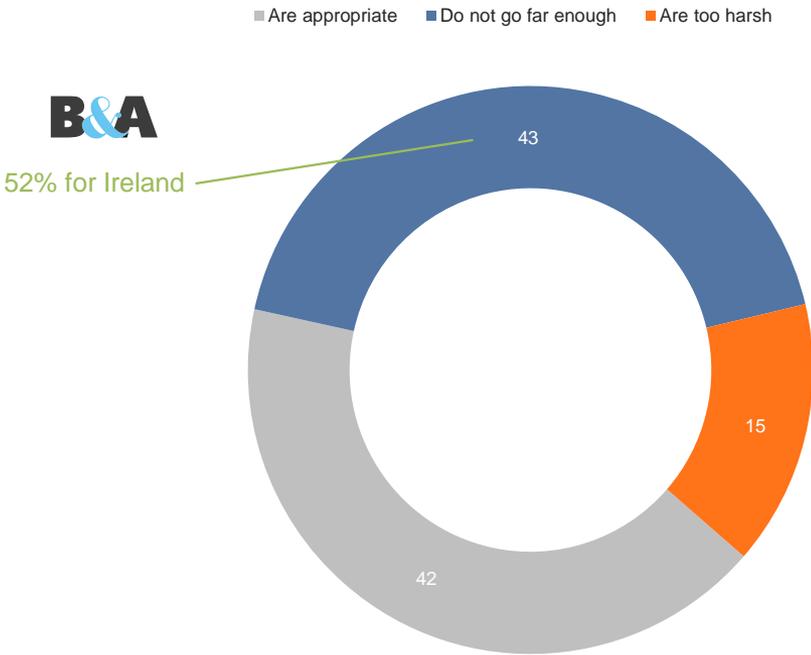
Male	79 %
Female	73 %
18-24 years	67 %
25-39 years	74 %
40-54 years	75 %
55-64 years	77 %
65+ years	84 %



Attitudes towards the War in Ukraine

VERY HIGH SUPPORT FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA: 43% of EU citizens want even stricter sanctions for Russia. In Ireland, more than half (52%) want stricter sanctions, with just 6% feeling the sanctions are too harsh.

EU TOTAL



Do not go far enough	↑
Lithuania	66
Poland	65
Finland	55
Are too harsh	↑
Bulgaria	42
Slovakia	34
Greece	32
Hungary	25
Serbia	73

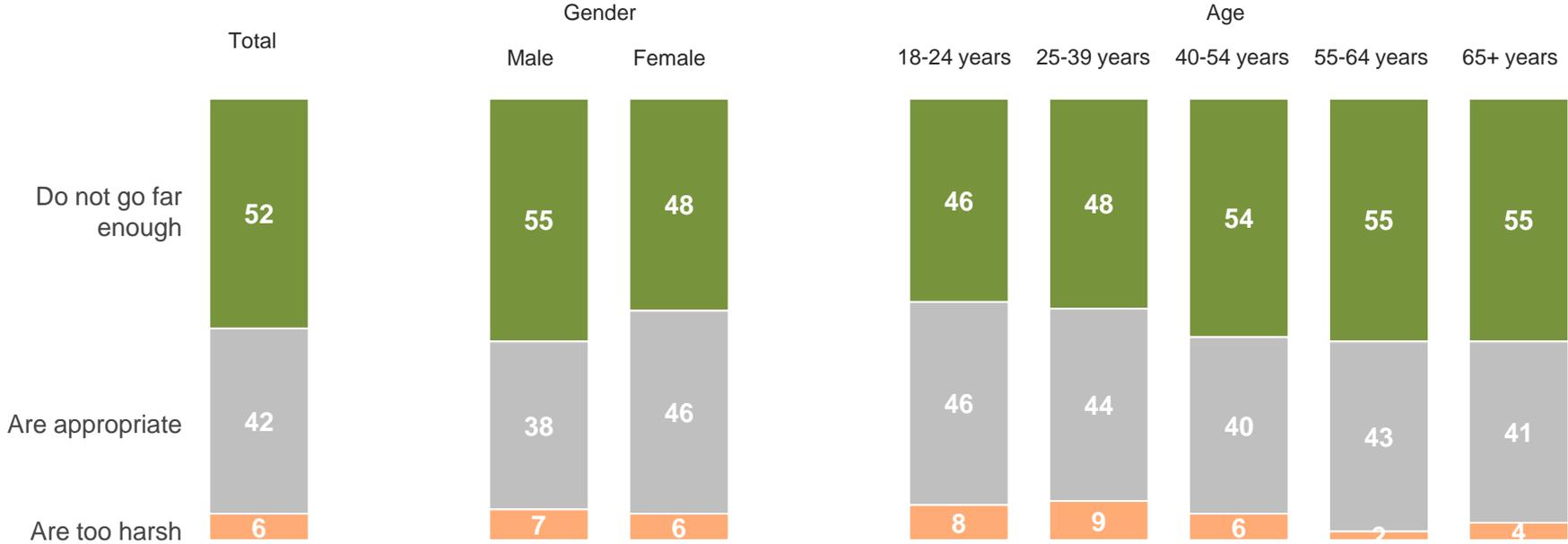
In percent

Do you think the sanctions that the EU has imposed on Russia are appropriate, or are the sanctions too harsh, or do the sanctions not go far enough?

Men and the 40+ year olds are more likely to want harder sanctions on Russia



IRELAND



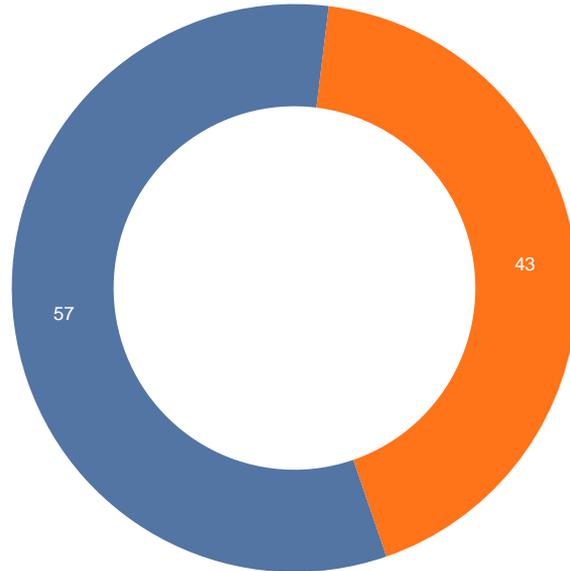
In percent

Do you think the sanctions that the EU has imposed on Russia are appropriate, or are the sanctions too harsh, or do the sanctions not go far enough?

57% say that Ukraine is sufficiently supported – but Ireland stands out with 64% wanting more support for Ukraine – only Portugal scores higher than Ireland.

EU TOTAL

■ Was sufficiently supported ■ Would like to see more support



Was sufficiently supported		↑
Slovakia	84	
Czech Republic	79	
Hungary	78	
Bulgaria	76	
Slovenia	70	
Latvia	69	
<i>Serbia</i>	<i>80</i>	
Would like to see more support		↑
Portugal	66	
Spain	64	
Ireland	64	
France	60	
Finland	58	
Sweden	58	



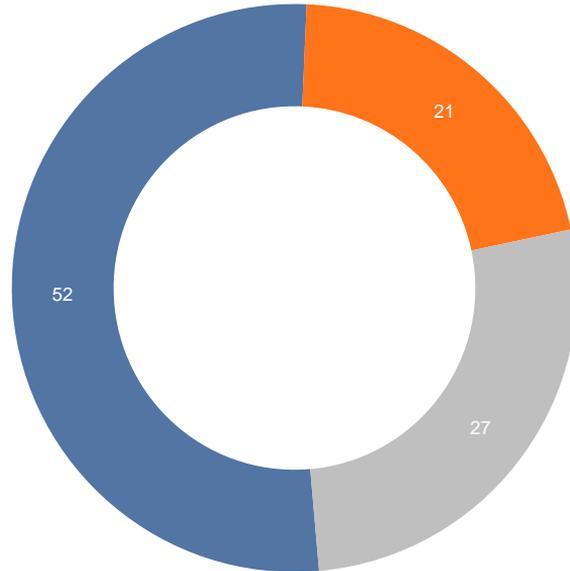
In percent

Do you feel that the Ukraine has received sufficient support from us, or would you like to see more support for the Ukraine?

Over half of EU citizens are in favour of Ukraine joining the EU – 7 in 10 in Ireland are in favour of Ukraine joining the EU.

EU TOTAL

■ I am in favour of Ukraine becoming a member of the EU ■ I am against Ukraine becoming a member of the EU ■ Undecided



I am in favour of Ukraine becoming a member of the EU ↑	
Poland	77
Estonia	73
Portugal	73
Lithuania	73
Ireland	71
Spain	66
I am against Ukraine becoming a member of the EU ↑	
Greece	46
Slovakia	38
Hungary	36
Austria	35



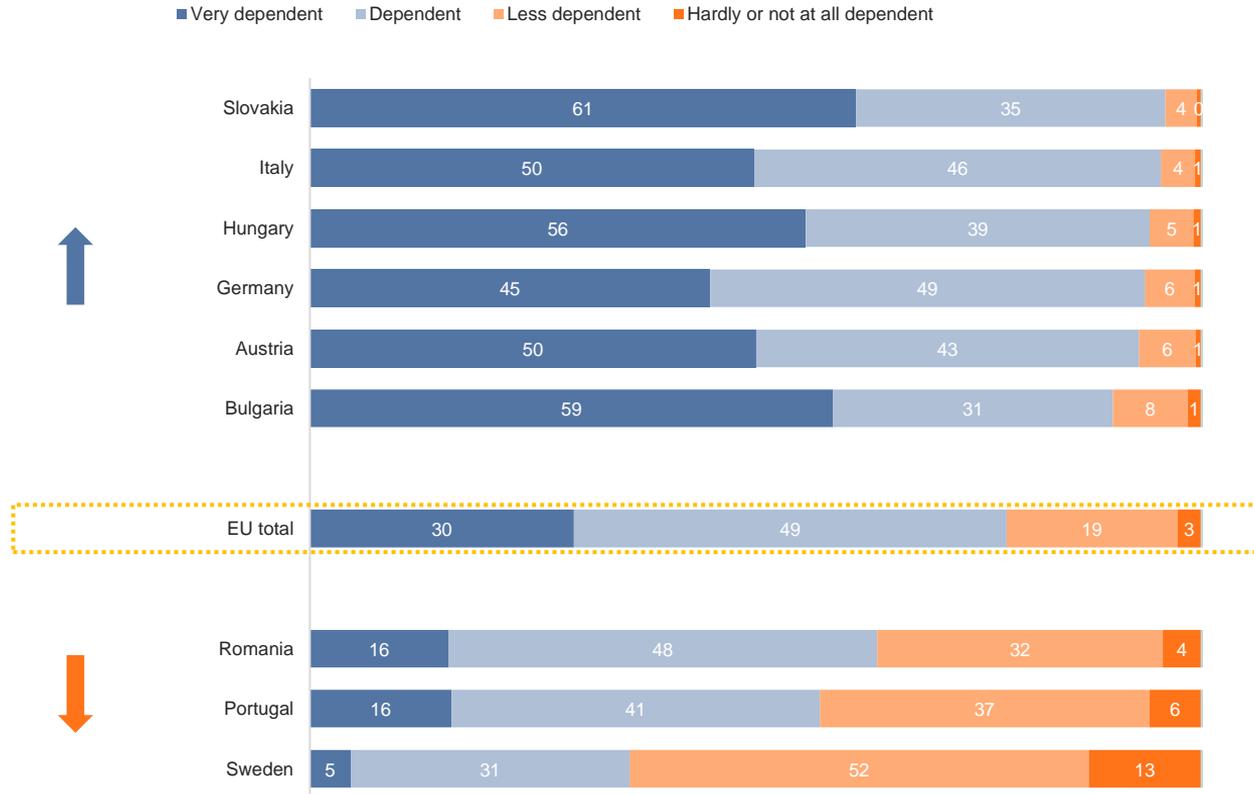
In percent

Ukraine and Georgia have now applied to become EU members. How do you see this: are you for or against? Ukraine



Energy Supply

Most EU members consider their own country's dependence on Russian energy supplies to be high



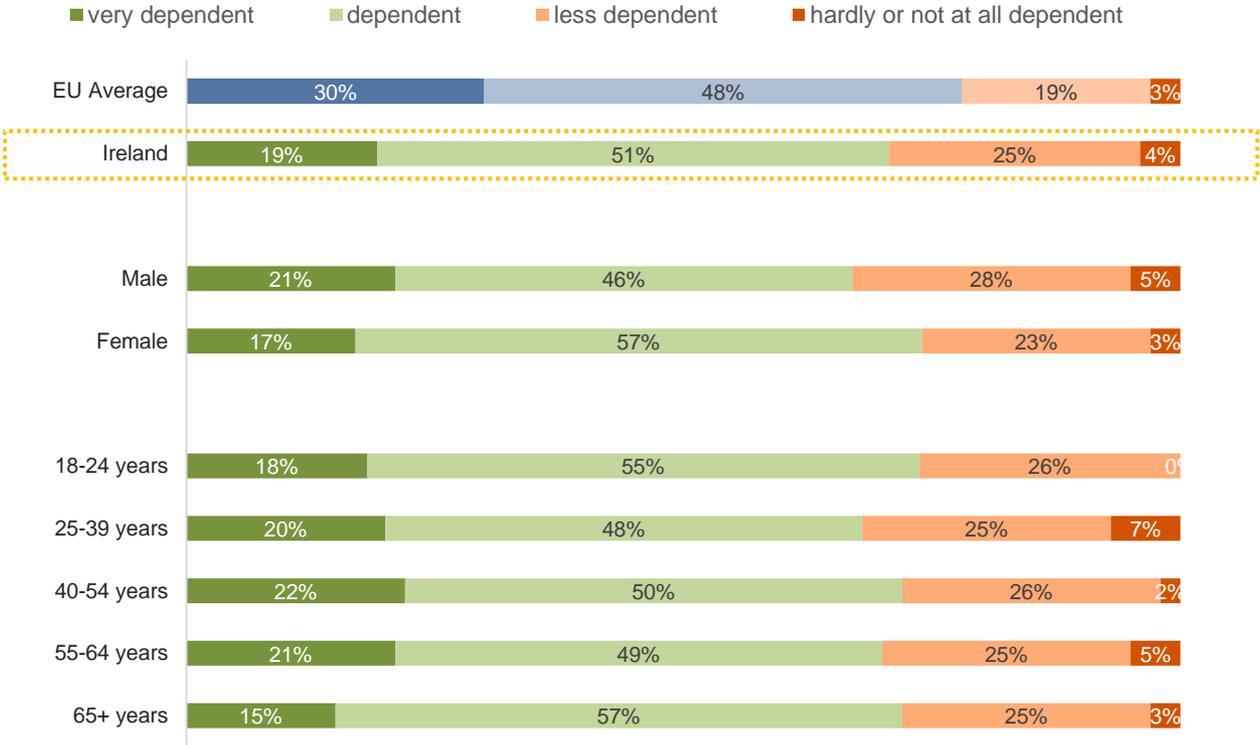
In percent

How do you assess that: How dependent is our country on energy supplies from Russia?

Relative to the EU average, Ireland feels less dependent on energy supplies from Russia, but 7 in 10 still feel we are quite dependent.



IRELAND



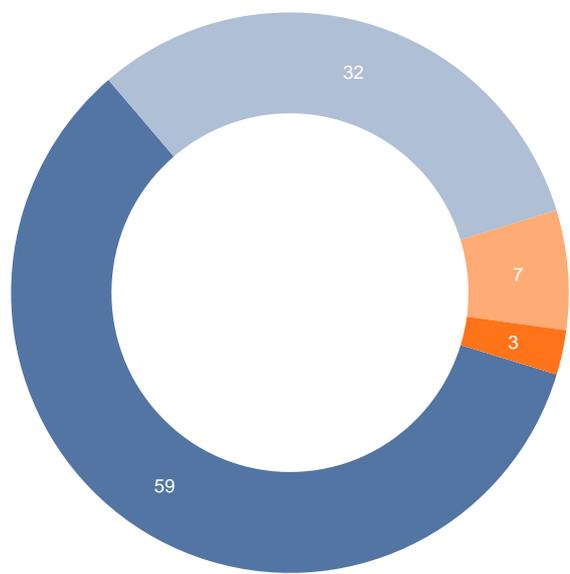
In percent
How do you assess that: How dependent is our country on energy supplies from Russia?

There is a great consensus in all EU countries to switch to renewable energy sources in order to be less dependent on Russian energy supplies – Ireland scores higher than the EU average.



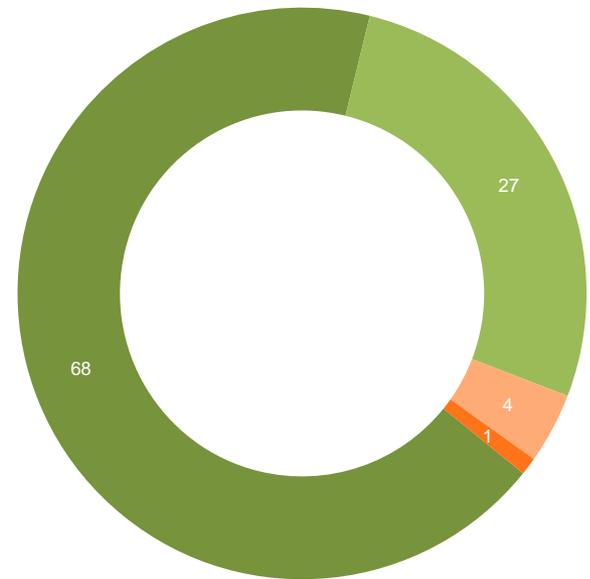
EU TOTAL

Very important Important Less important Not important at all



IRELAND

Very important Important Less important Not important at all



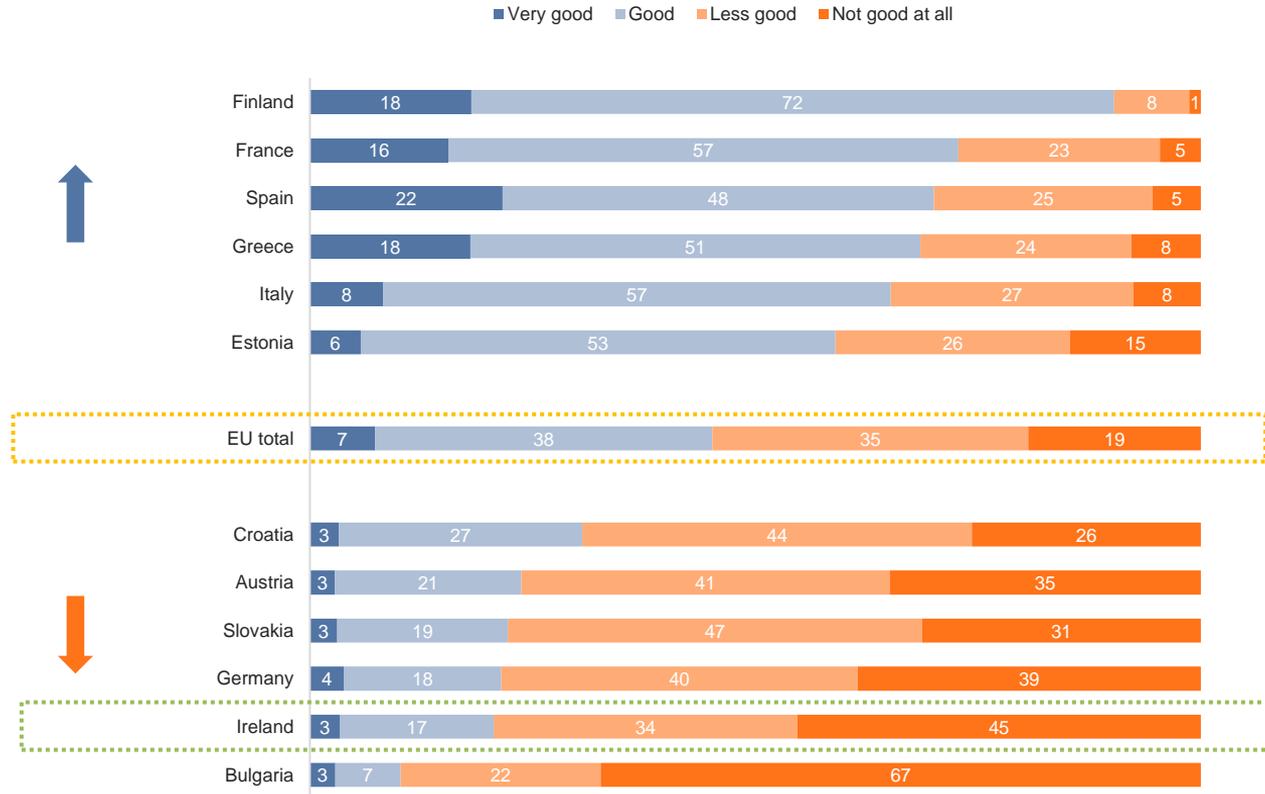
In percent

How important do you think it is for us to switch to renewable energy sources, to be less dependent on Russian energy supplies? Basis: think that their country is dependent on energy supplies from Russia



National/EU Security

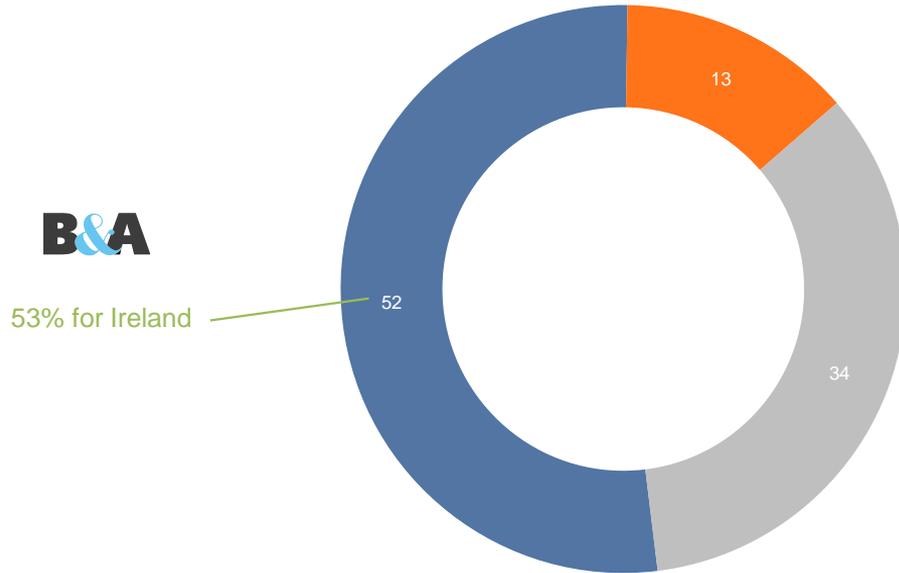
EU citizens recognise, at least partially, the weaknesses of their country's army – Ireland is second from bottom in rating of the country's army.



Half of EU citizens say their country should increase defense spending – Ireland is in line with the EU average.

EU TOTAL

■ Should be increased ■ Should be cut ■ There should be no change



Should be increased		↑
Sweden	78	
Poland	69	
Netherlands	68	
Bulgaria	65	
Estonia	64	
Should be cut		↑
Slovenia	34	
Italy	26	
Slovakia	26	

In percent

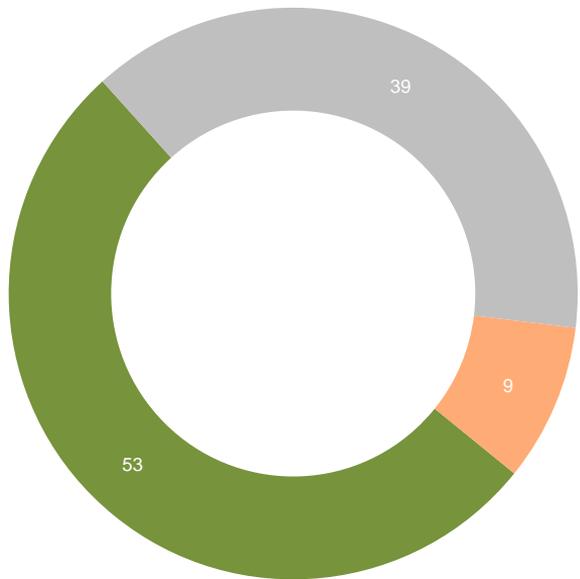
What is your opinion: Should your country's defence spending be increased, or should it be cut, or should there be no change in defence spending?

More than half of the Irish want to increase defense spending – this is higher among males and 40+ year olds.



IRELAND

■ should be increased ■ there should be no change ■ should be cut



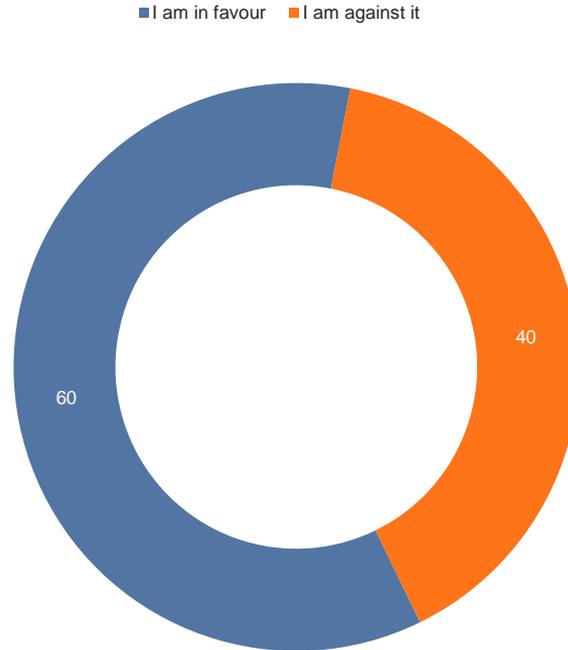
Should be increased ↑	
Male	58
Female	47
18-24 years	39
25-39 years	40
40-54 years	59
55-64 years	58
65+ years	66
Should be cut ↑	
Male	10
Female	8
18-24 years	14
25-39 years	14
40-54 years	8
55-64 years	4
65+ years	4

In percent

What is your opinion: Should your country's defence spending be increased, or should it be cut, or should there be no change in defence spending?

The majority of EU citizens is in favour of a common European army – however, the majority of the Irish is against a common European army, second after only Finland.

EU TOTAL



I am in favour		↑
Portugal	83	
Poland	80	
Belgium	76	
Lithuania	76	
Spain	75	
Romania	72	
I am against it		↑
Finland	57	
Ireland	55	
Austria	54	
Sweden	53	
Serbia	79	
Switzerland	56	



In percent

There is talk from time to time of building a common European army: What is your position on this? Are you for or against the creation of a common European army?

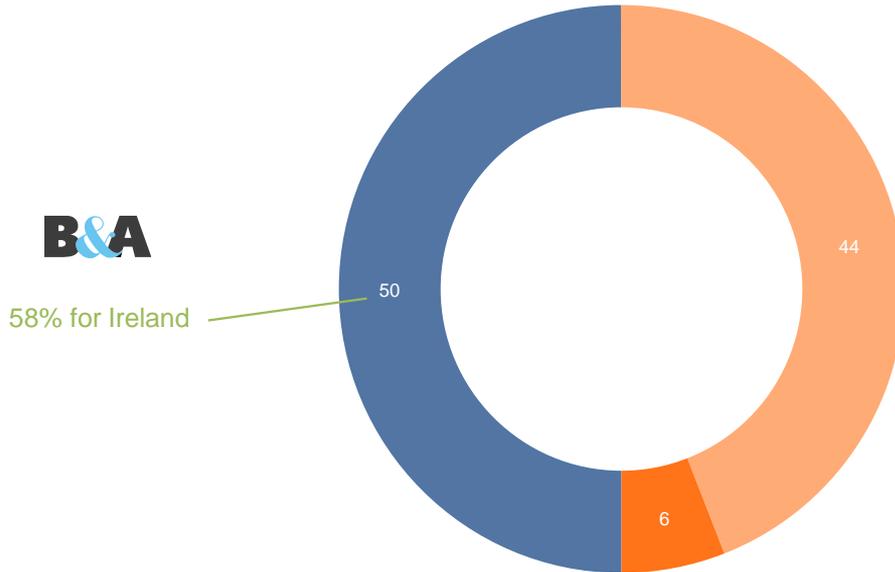


Ukrainian Refugees

A relative majority is in favour of the unrestricted admission of Ukrainian refugees – this is higher for Ireland.

EU TOTAL

- We should take in as many refugees as possible without bureaucracy
- We should only accept a certain number of refugees
- We should take in very few refugees from Ukraine or none at all



We should take in as many refugees as possible without bureaucracy		↑
Spain	65	
Finland	63	
Romania	62	
We should only accept a certain number of refugees		↑
Czech Republic	66	
Slovenia	59	
Estonia	58	
Serbia	58	

In percent

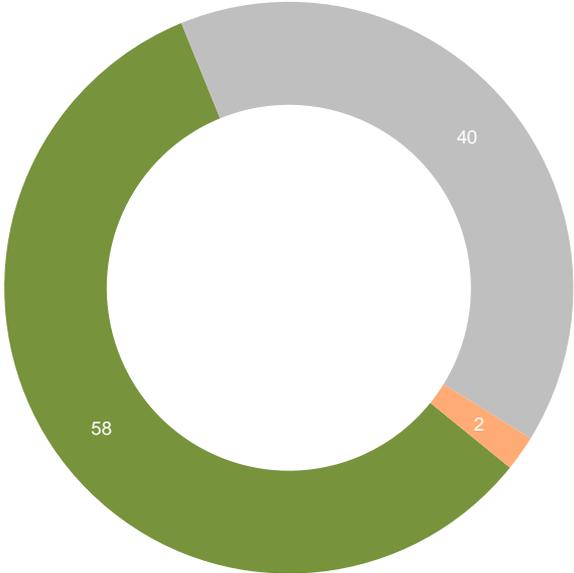
Many refugees from the Ukraine are on their way to the EU or have already arrived there. How should we behave when taking in refugees from Ukraine?

The 18-24 year olds and 65+ are more open to taking refugees from Ukraine.



IRELAND

- we should take in as many refugees as possible without bureaucracy
- we should only accept a certain number of refugees
- we should take in very few refugees from Ukraine or none at all



we should take in as many refugees as possible without bureaucracy

Male	58 %
Female	58 %
18-24 years	65 %
25-39 years	51 %
40-54 years	55 %
55-64 years	57 %
65+ years	70 %

In percent

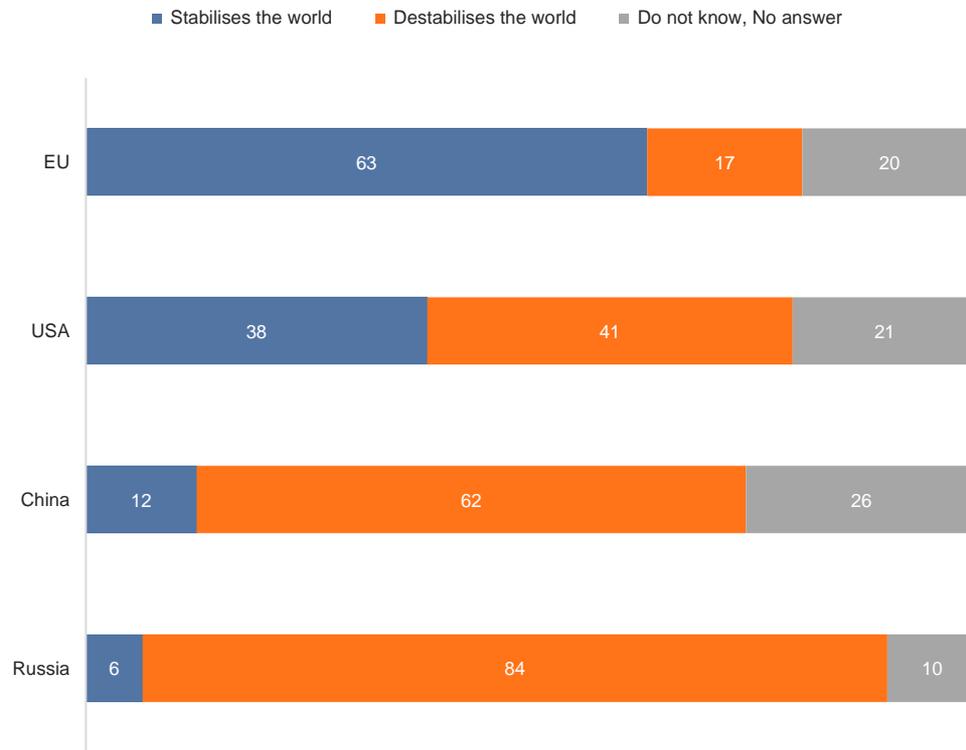
Many refugees from the Ukraine are on their way to the EU or have already arrived there. How should we behave when taking in refugees from Ukraine?



Superpowers - EU, USA, China & Russia

The EU is perceived as the most stabilising world power, the role of the USA is seen as ambivalent. A vast majority say RUSSIA and CHINA destabilise the world.

EU TOTAL



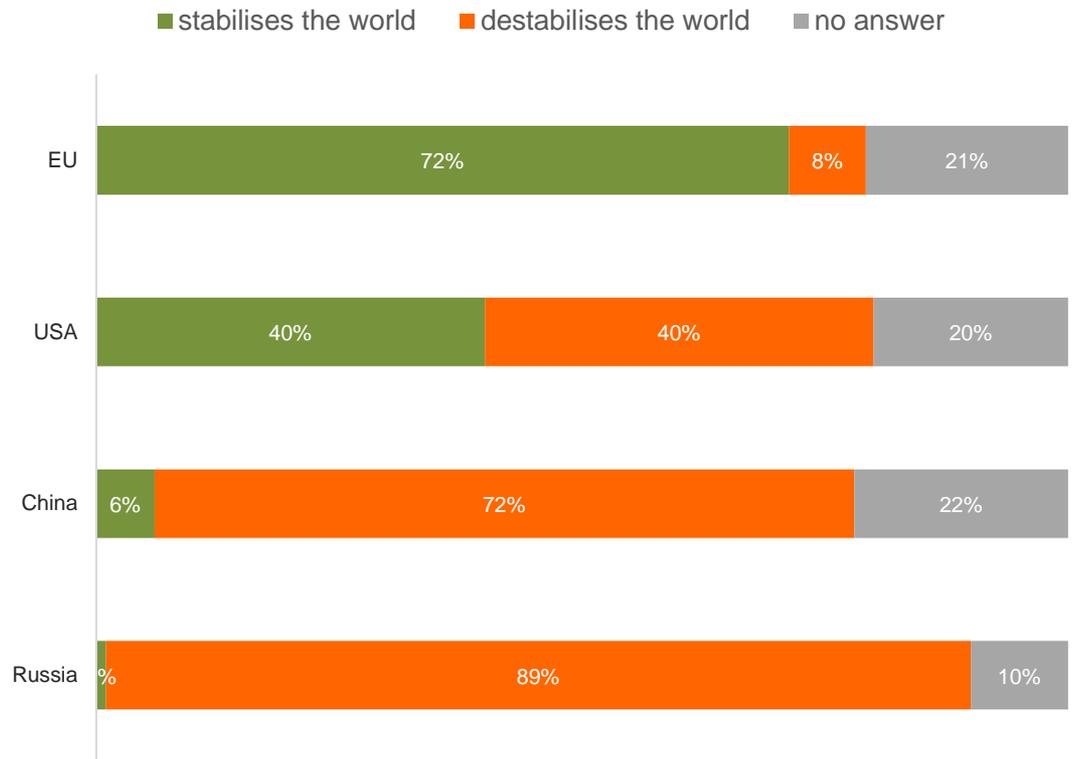
In percent

What do you think about the international policies of the following four superpowers - do their policies stabilise or destabilise the world?

Ireland is more likely than the EU average to see EU as a stabilising power, with opinions divided on USA and critical views on China and Russia.



IRELAND



In percent

What do you think about the international policies of the following four superpowers - do their policies stabilise or destabilise the world?

The 55+ year olds are more positive towards EU and USA as superpowers.



IRELAND

	Total	Gender		Age				
		Male	Female	18-24 years	25-39 years	40-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
EU stabilises the world	72%	73%	70%	63%	68%	72%	79%	75%
EU destabilises the world	8%	10%	5%	8%	9%	9%	6%	5%
USA stabilises the world	40%	43%	38%	24%	41%	40%	46%	47%
USA destabilises the world	40%	45%	35%	47%	40%	42%	32%	36%
China stabilises the world	6%	8%	5%	4%	10%	6%	6%	3%
China destabilises the world	72%	75%	69%	66%	66%	74%	76%	78%
Russia stabilises the world	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Russia destabilises the world	89%	92%	87%	83%	83%	90%	96%	95%

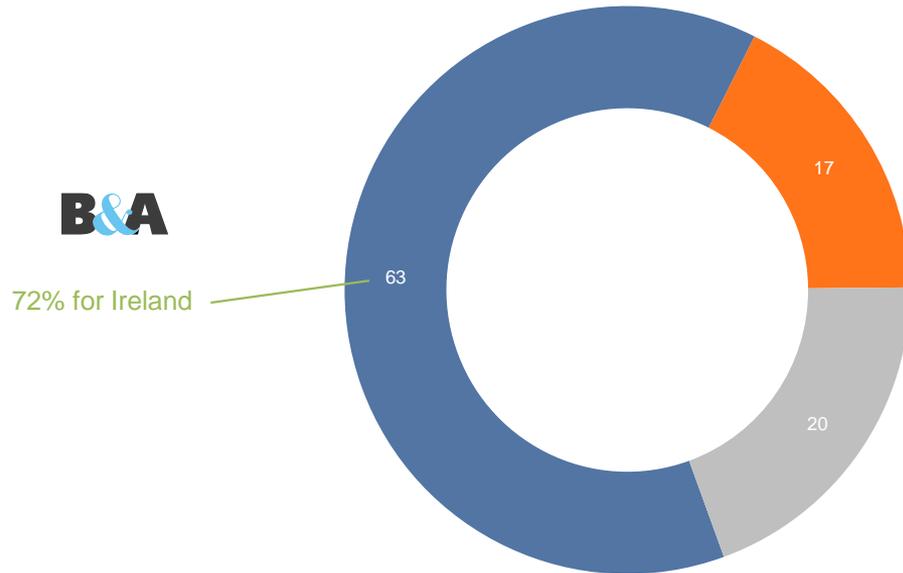
In percent

What do you think about the international policies of the following four superpowers - do their policies stabilise or destabilise the world?

The view that the EU is a stabilizing force is primarily shared by Portugal, Finland, Poland and Sweden – this view is also more common in Ireland than the EU average

EU TOTAL - EU

■ Stabilises the world ■ Destabilises the world ■ Do not know, No answer



Stabilises the world		↑
Portugal	83	
Finland	80	
Poland	76	
Sweden	75	
Destabilises the world		↑
Greece	45	
Bulgaria	33	
Slovakia	29	
Serbia	63	

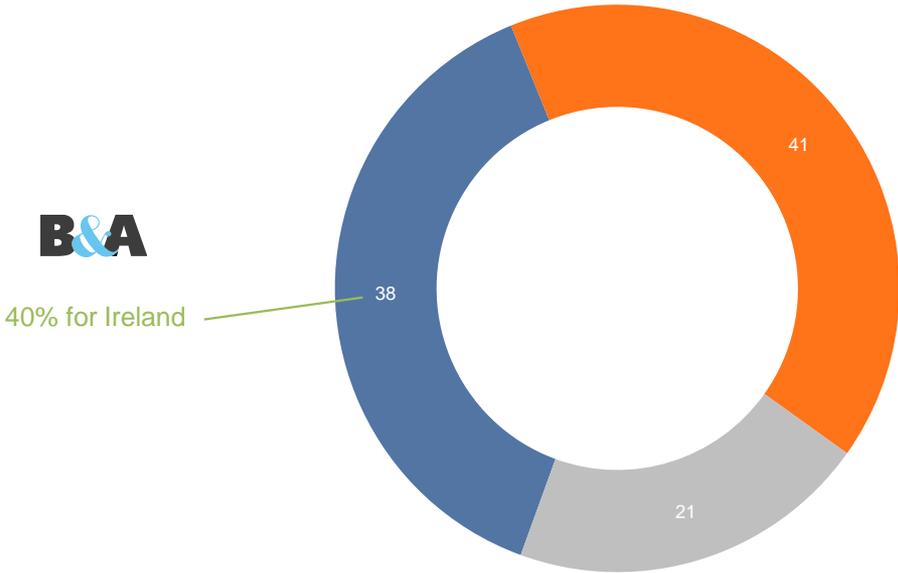
In percent

What do you think about the international policies of the following four superpowers - do their policies stabilise or destabilise the world?

The biggest fan of the USA is Poland, the most critics can be found in Greece, Croatia and Slovenia

EU TOTAL - USA

■ Stabilises the world ■ Destabilises the world ■ Do not know, No answer



Stabilises the world		↑
Poland	68	
Estonia	56	
Portugal	54	
Lithuania	53	
Denmark	52	
Sweden	50	
Destabilises the world		↑
Greece	75	
Croatia	73	
Slovenia	72	
Bulgaria	68	
Slovakia	62	
Hungary	52	
Serbia	86	

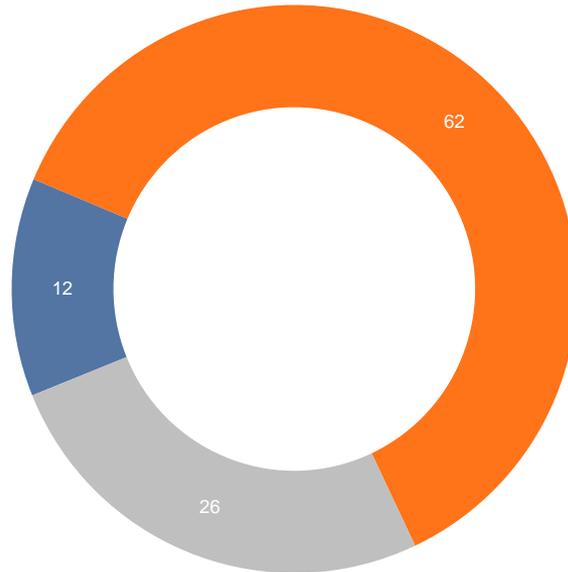
In percent

What do you think about the international policies of the following four superpowers - do their policies stabilise or destabilise the world?

China's role is seen somewhat more positively in Bulgaria, Slovakia and Greece than in other EU countries – almost 3 in 4 Irish see China as a destabilising force in the world.

EU TOTAL - China

■ Stabilises the world ■ Destabilises the world ■ Do not know, No answer



Stabilises the world		↑
Bulgaria	31	
Slovakia	24	
Greece	20	
Serbia	49	
Destabilises the world		↑
Sweden	83	
Finland	81	
Portugal	74	
Ireland	72	



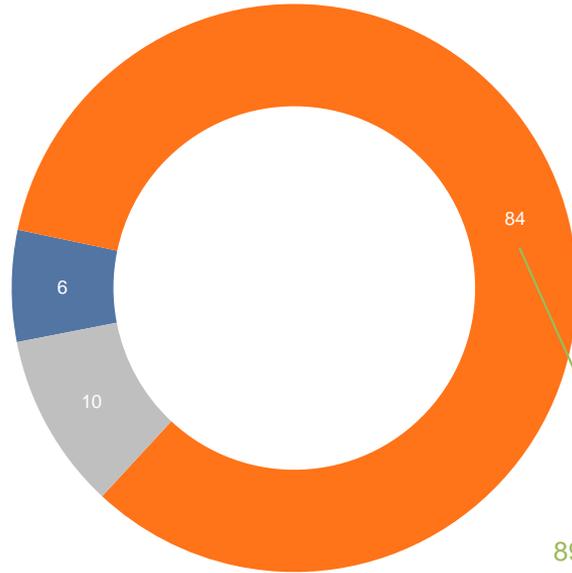
In percent

What do you think about the international policies of the following four superpowers - do their policies stabilise or destabilise the world?

These three countries are also somewhat more comfortable with Russia than other EU members

EU TOTAL - Russia

■ Stabilises the world ■ Destabilises the world ■ Do not know, No answer



89% for Ireland



Stabilises the world		↑
Bulgaria	28	
Slovakia	17	
Greece	14	
Serbia	45	
Destabilises the world		↑
Finland	97	
Sweden	95	
Poland	94	

In percent

What do you think about the international policies of the following four superpowers - do their policies stabilise or destabilise the world?

Thank you.



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& INSIGHT

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Delve Deeper