

eupinions slides April 13, 2022

# With a tailwind

Support for political measures backing Ukraine is high. Meanwhile, Europeans see their personal prospects compromised.

Russia's attack on Ukraine and the war that followed changed the political landscape and priorities in the EU profoundly. How do Europeans perceive these changes and how do they expect their personal prospects to adapt? In March 2022 we asked them about it.

Previewing our upcoming study on the topic, the following slides give a quick overview of their answers. The first set of questions addresses issues related to the war. The second set of questions examines their personal outlook. In a nutshell, we see that:

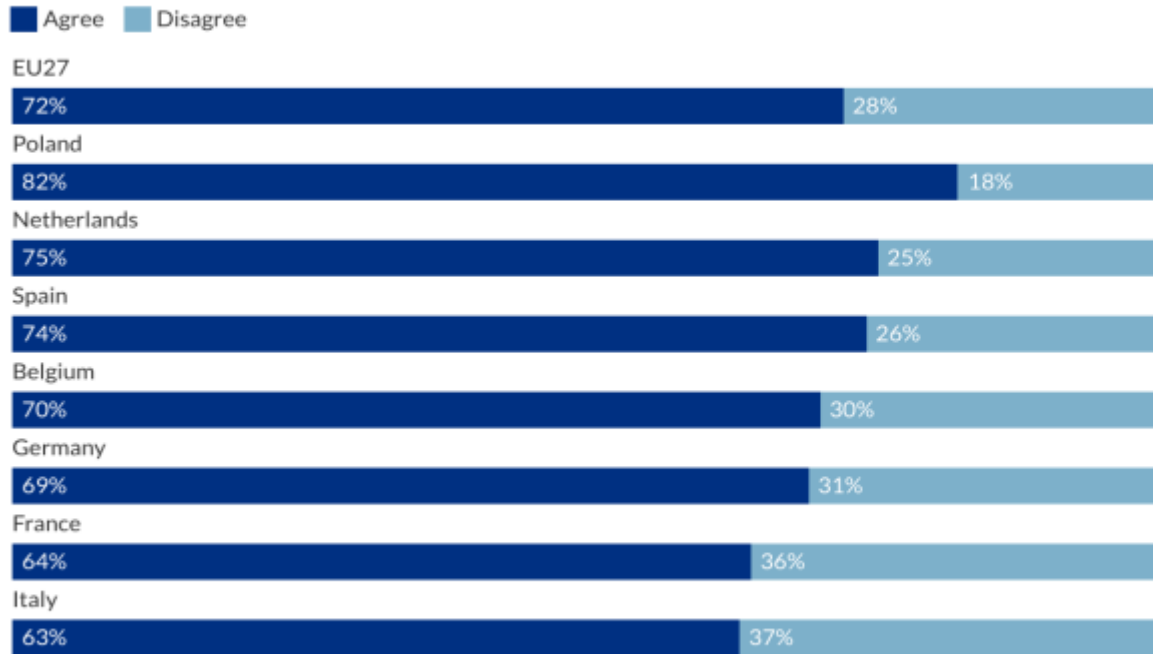
- Europeans back measures taken in support of Ukraine.
- At the same time, their personal outlook takes a turn for the worse.

The six following graphs show how people think about:

1. EU's role in world affairs
2. Acceptance of refugees
3. Weapons supply for Ukraine
4. EU membership for Ukraine
5. Common European defence policy
6. EU Energy dependency

## EU's role in world affairs

### EU27: The EU does play an important role in world affairs.



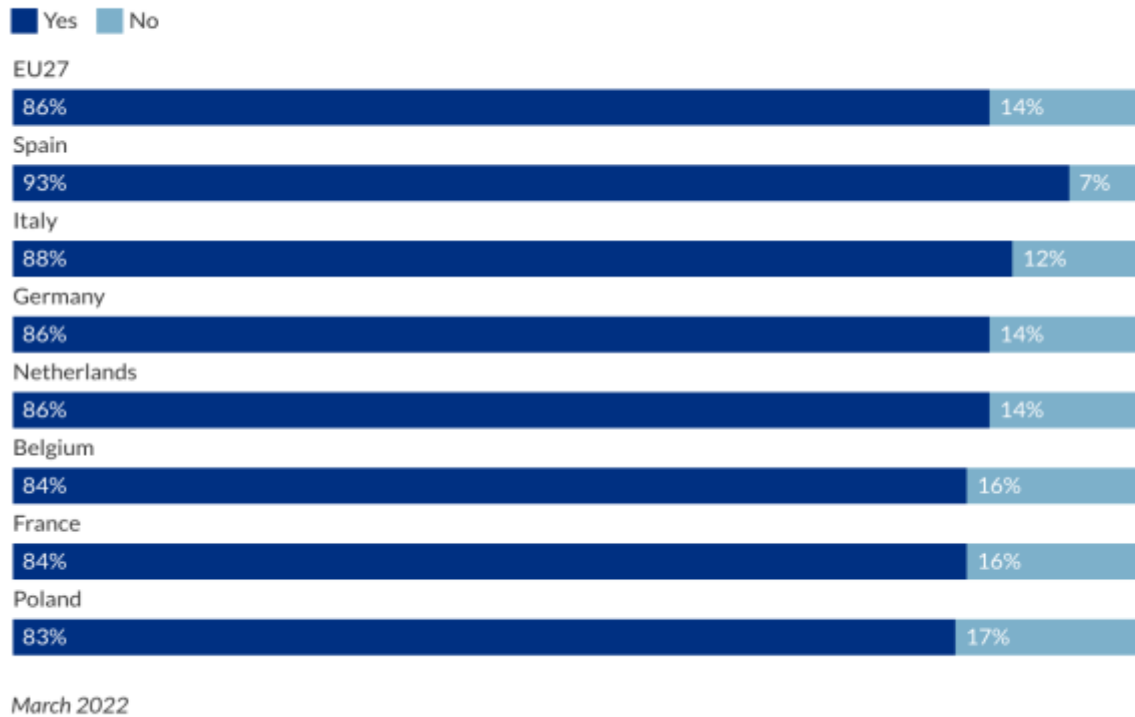
March 2022

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In our [eupinions trends](#), 80% of European citizens want the EU to play a more active role in world affairs. But do they see it realised? 72% do.

## Acceptance of refugees

### EU 27: Should your country accept refugees from Ukraine?

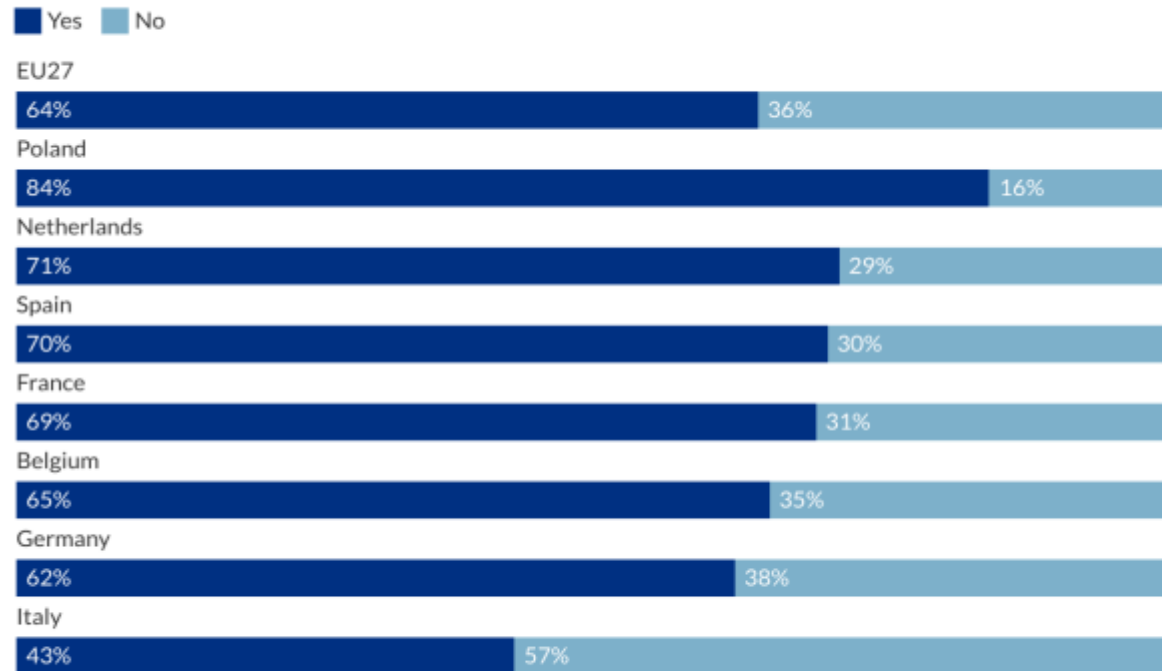


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Over 4.5 million Ukrainians had to flee from war. More are likely to follow. Nonetheless, EU citizens remain overwhelmingly in favor of welcoming refugees from Ukraine.

## Weapons supply for Ukraine

### EU27: Should the EU support Ukraine by delivering weapons?



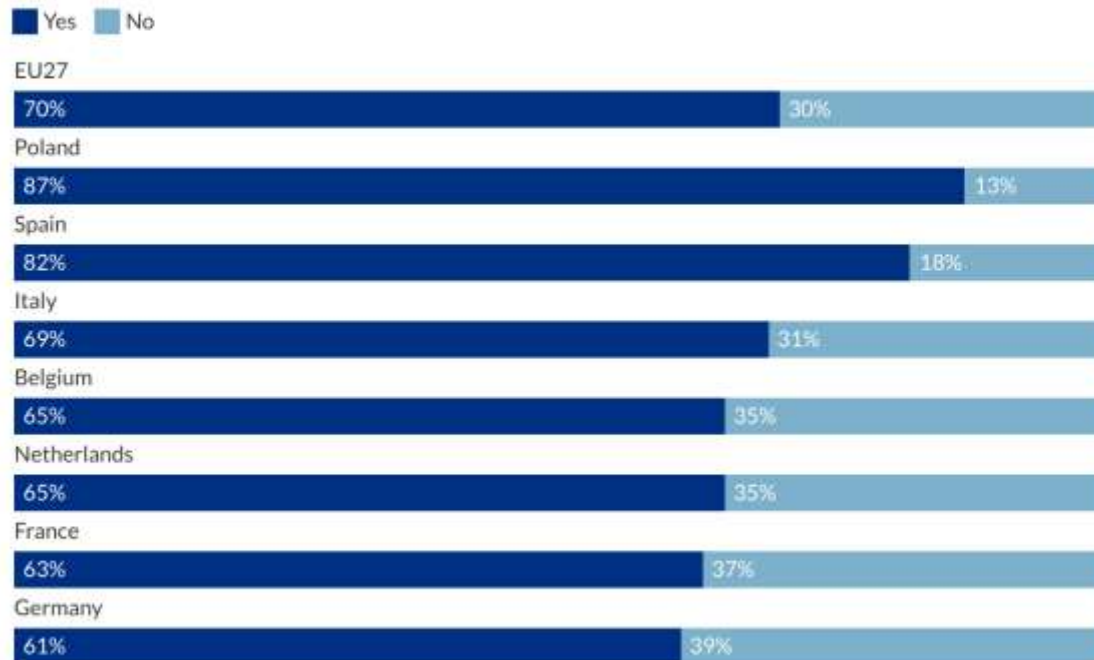
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Russia's attack on Ukraine led the European Union to fund the delivery of weapons for the very first time. 64% of Europeans support this, but views in Italy and Poland diverge significantly.

## EU membership for Ukraine

**EU27: Should the EU accept Ukraine as a member of the EU in the coming years?**



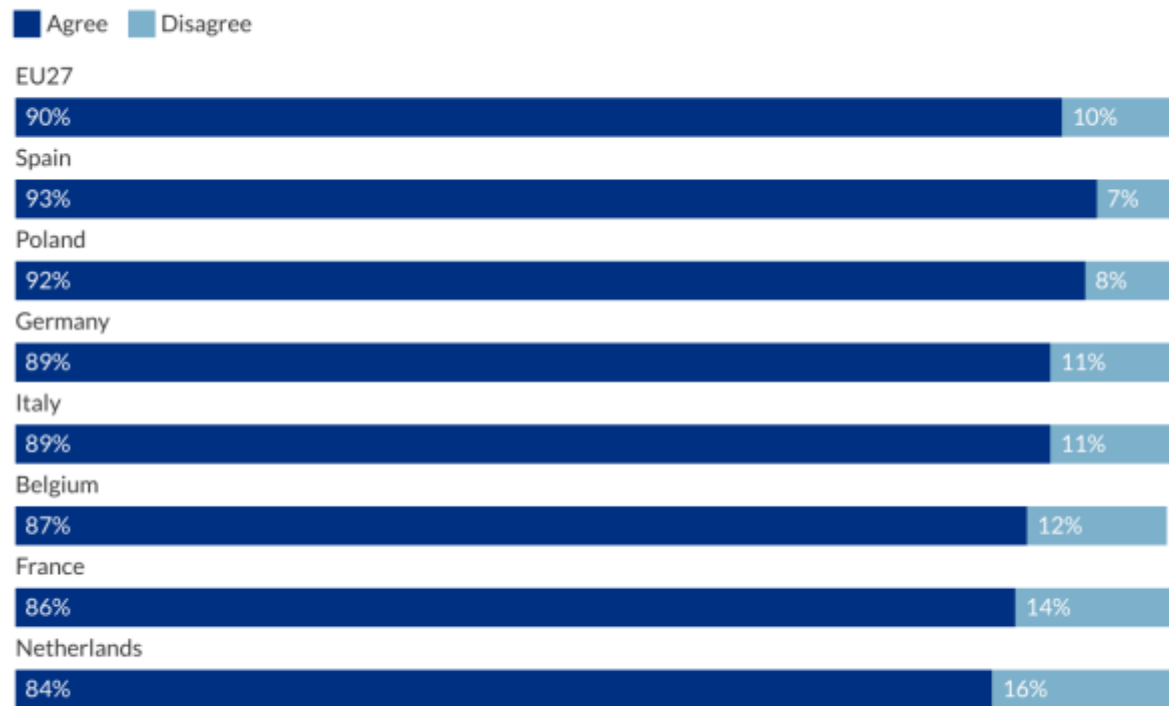
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Over the past decade, the idea of EU enlargement was mostly met with skepticism. Now, a clear majority of Europeans favor accepting Ukraine as an EU member. Some countries are more reserved than others, however. While just over 60% of Germans and French welcome the proposal, over 80% of Spanish and Polish citizens do.

## Common European defence policy

### EU27: The European Union needs a common defence policy.



March 2022

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Russia's war on Ukraine has revived efforts to enhance Europe's defence capabilities. 9 out of 10 Europeans think that the EU does need a common defence policy. Clear majorities in all countries, with numbers highest in Spain (93%) and Poland (92%).



## EU Energy dependency

**EU27: Do you think the EU should be more independent in terms of its energy supply even if that means energy prices are rising further?**



March 2022

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This war has shown Europe's dependency on Russian energy to be toxic. A political fight about how to counter it is in full swing. At the same time, energy prices have risen significantly. Despite this, EU citizens declare to be willing to put up with even higher bills to end dependency on Russian energy.

Above we have shown how Europeans think about political action aiming to support Ukraine.

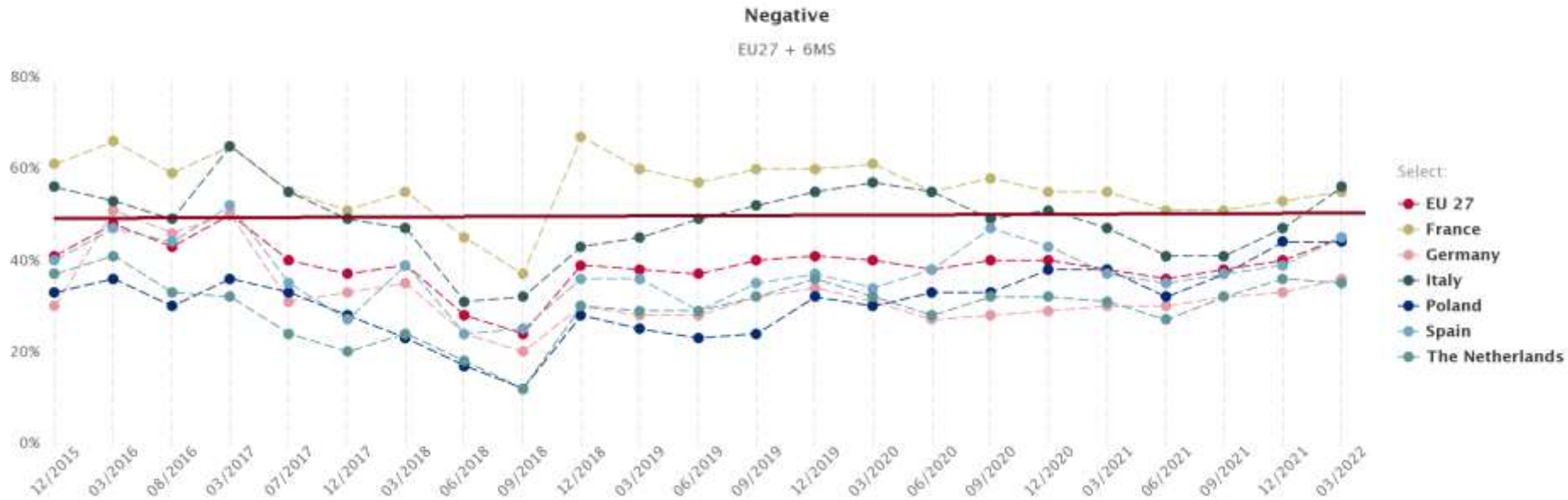
In the following five graphs, we show how people feel about their personal prospects in the current environment:

1. Personal outlook
2. Change of economic situation
3. Biggest personal worries
4. Self-efficacy
5. Nostalgia

# Personal outlook

**eupinions trends/ Personal Outlook**

In general what is your personal outlook on the future? Positive or negative?

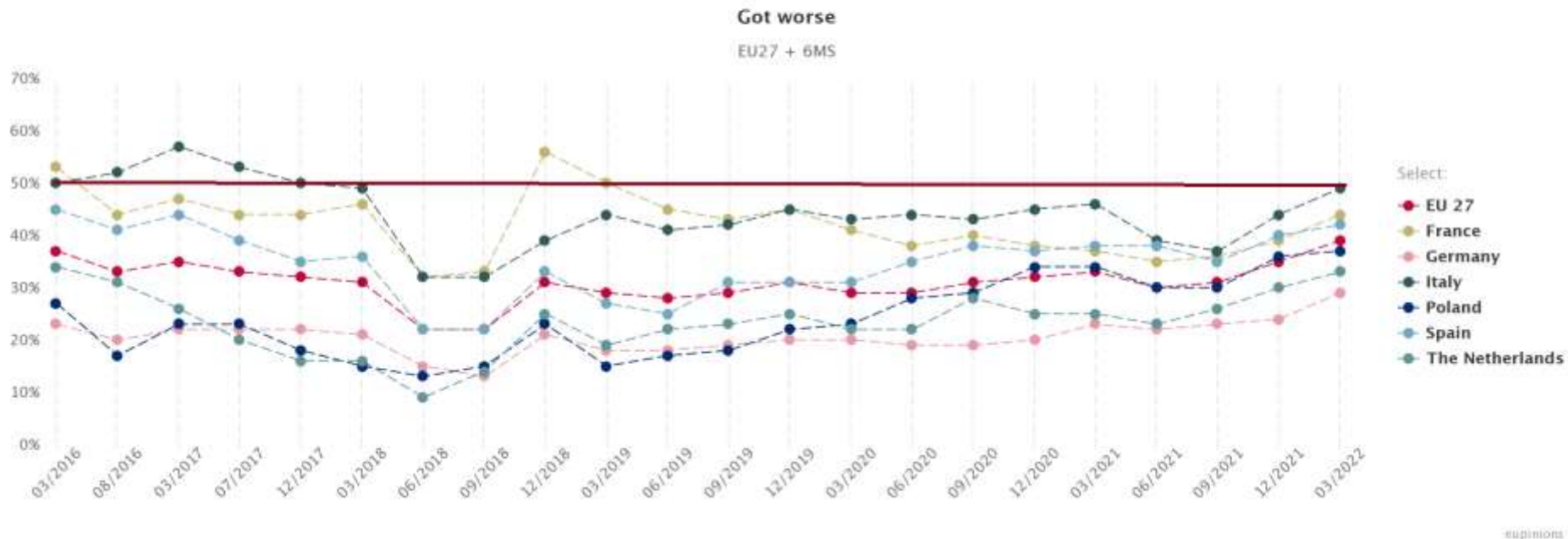


Since June 2021, Europeans' personal outlook has taken a turn for the worse. 46% (+9pp) of EU citizens have a generally negative outlook on the future. Most drastic shift in Italy, where 57% (+15pp) are now pessimistic.

# Change of economic situation

eupinions trends/ Economic situation

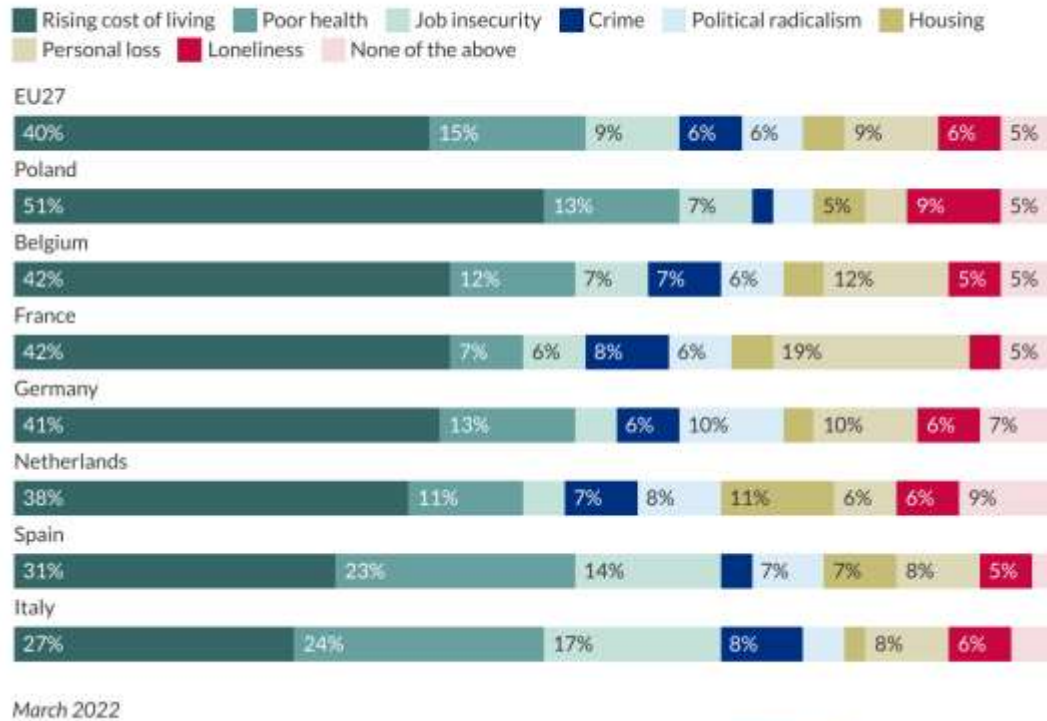
How has your personal economic situation changed in the last two years?



With EU inflation around the 7%-mark, EU citizens' economic situation has taken a hit. 4 in 10 Europeans report a worsening of their finances over the last 2 years, while half of Italians report accordingly (+12pp since 09.2021).

## Biggest personal worries

### EU27: What are you most worried about in your personal life?

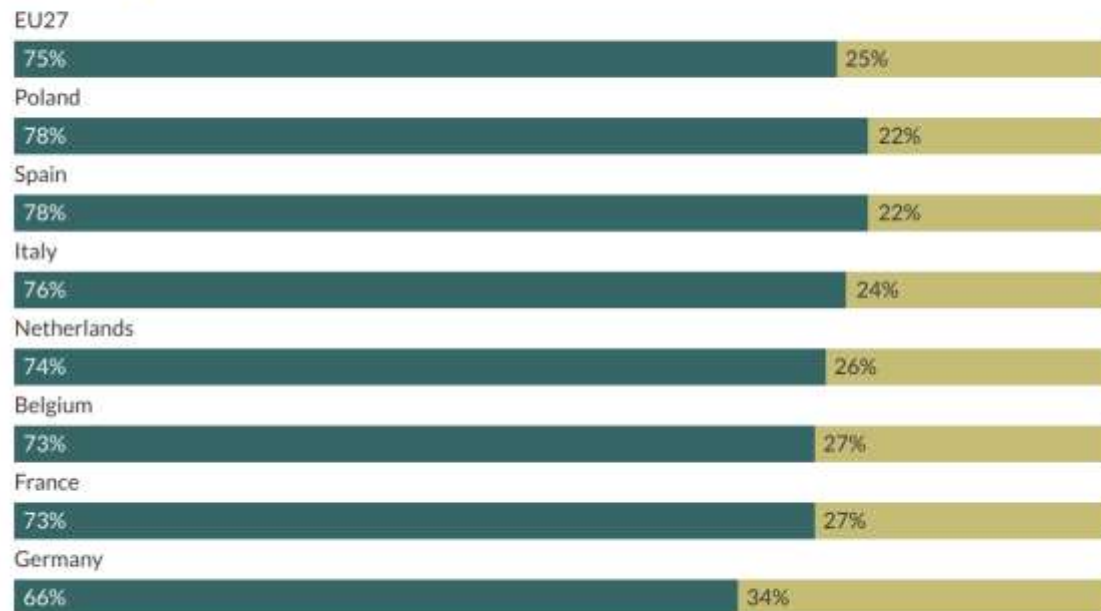


Rising costs of living, followed by health concerns, top the list of European citizens' personal worries. Polish citizens are especially concerned about rising costs. Italians and Spaniards, hit very hard and early by Covid19, remain worried about their health and job security.

## Self-Efficacy

EU27: Many times I feel that I have little influence over the things that happen to me.

■ Agree ■ Disagree



March 2022

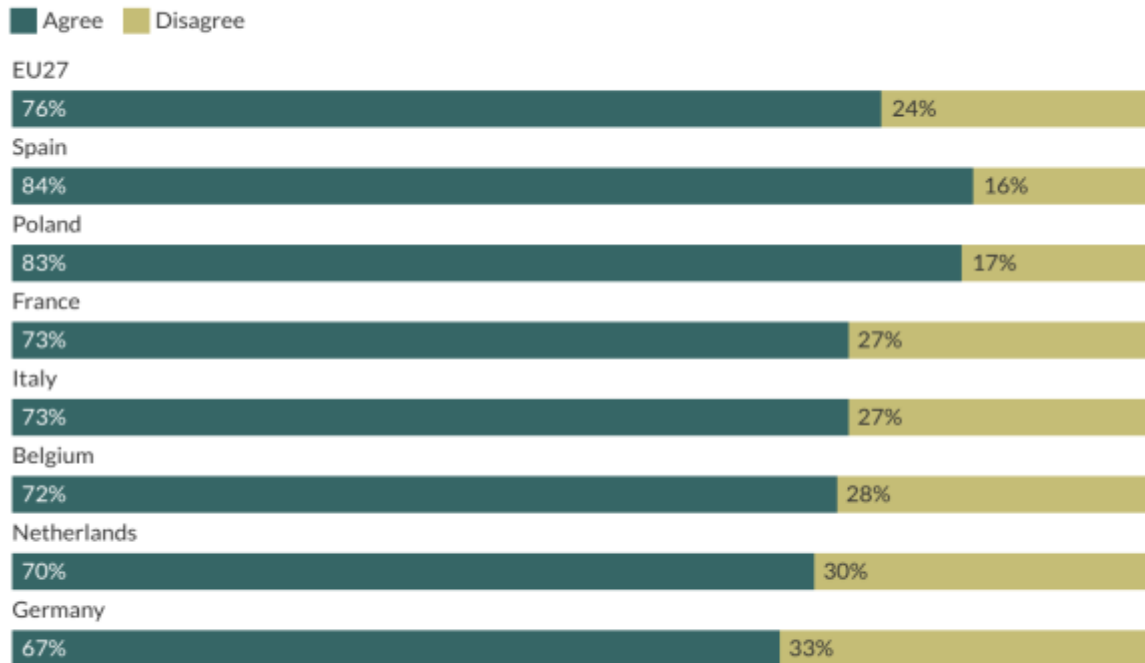
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With large-scale political events unfolding, European citizens are feeling powerless over what is happening to their lives. Germans least likely to feel this way, Spaniards most likely.

To learn more about the influence of self-efficacy on political attitudes, please read our study “[The Hopeful, the Fearful and the Furious](#)”.

# Nostalgia

## EU27: The world used to be a much better place.



March 2022

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With insecure times come feelings of nostalgia. More than 3 in 4 Europeans feel the world used to be a better place. Nostalgia most pronounced in Spain, and least so in the Netherlands.

For a deep dive on the influence of nostalgia on political attitudes, please read our study [“The Power of the Past”](#).

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# Final remarks

- Europeans generally back political measures in support of Ukraine as they see their personal prospects dampening.
- The shock of war, the human suffering and the horrible pictures coming out of Ukraine have created an environment for decisive political action.
- As of spring 2022, European politics is sailing with a tailwind. Talk of a „Zeitenwende“ is all around. However, if personal prospects keep degrading, so could support for far reaching policies.



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# Methodology Note

The sample with a size of  $n=11824$  was drawn by Dalia Research between 2022-03-11 and 2022-03-23 across all 27 EU Member States, taking into account current population distributions with regard to age (14-69 years), gender and region/country. In order to obtain census representative results, the data were weighted based upon the most recent Eurostat statistics. Any references to differences between countries

in the report pertain only to the seven countries with sufficiently large sample sizes, namely: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland and Spain. Calculated for a sample of this size and considering the design-effect, the margin of error would be  $\pm 1\%$  at a confidence level of 95 %.

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