

**#CLIMATE
OFCHANGE**

**The perceptions of young Europeans
on the interlinkages between
climate change and migration**

**Pan-European Survey
Executive Summary**

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02/2021

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<https://climateofchange.info/>

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Methodological note

The percentages in this report are given without a decimal. Where results do not sum to 100 or the ‘difference’ appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, this may be due to rounding. The bars in charts take into account decimals, explaining small differences in the length of bars showing the same percentage.

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Comparative Analysis

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The pan-European “End Climate Change, Start Climate of Change” #ClimateOfChange campaign, funded by the European Commission, aims to engage young Europeans in understanding the complex relationships between climate change and migration.

Feeding into the www.climateofchange.info campaign, Ipsos performed a survey of young people (15 to 35 years old) in 23 European countries.

The survey was conducted between 29 October and 19 November 2020. In total 22,377 surveys were completed across countries. In 21 of the 23 countries surveyed >1,000 interviews were conducted. In Cyprus and Malta >500 respondents were interviewed.

YOUNG EUROPEANS CONSIDER CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AS TOP PRIORITIES. IMMIGRATION IS DEEMED OF LESS CONCERN.

Close to half (46%) of young Europeans consider climate change to be among the most serious problems facing the world, which puts it in first place among problems listed, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In second place comes “environmental degradation, including for example air pollution, deforestation and the extinction of animals” (44%). Just 13% consider “large-scale migration” to be among the most serious problems facing the world.

FIG. 1: PERCEIVED MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING THE WORLD

Which of the following do you consider to be the most serious problems facing the world as a whole?

CLIMATE CHANGE

46%

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

44%

SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

36%

POVERTY AND HUNGER

36%

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT

30%

TERRORISM

29%

ARMED CONFLICTS

14%

LARGE-SCALE MIGRATION

13%

THE INCREASING GLOBAL POPULATION

13%

LACK OF DRINKING WATER

12%

OTHER

1%

NONE

1%

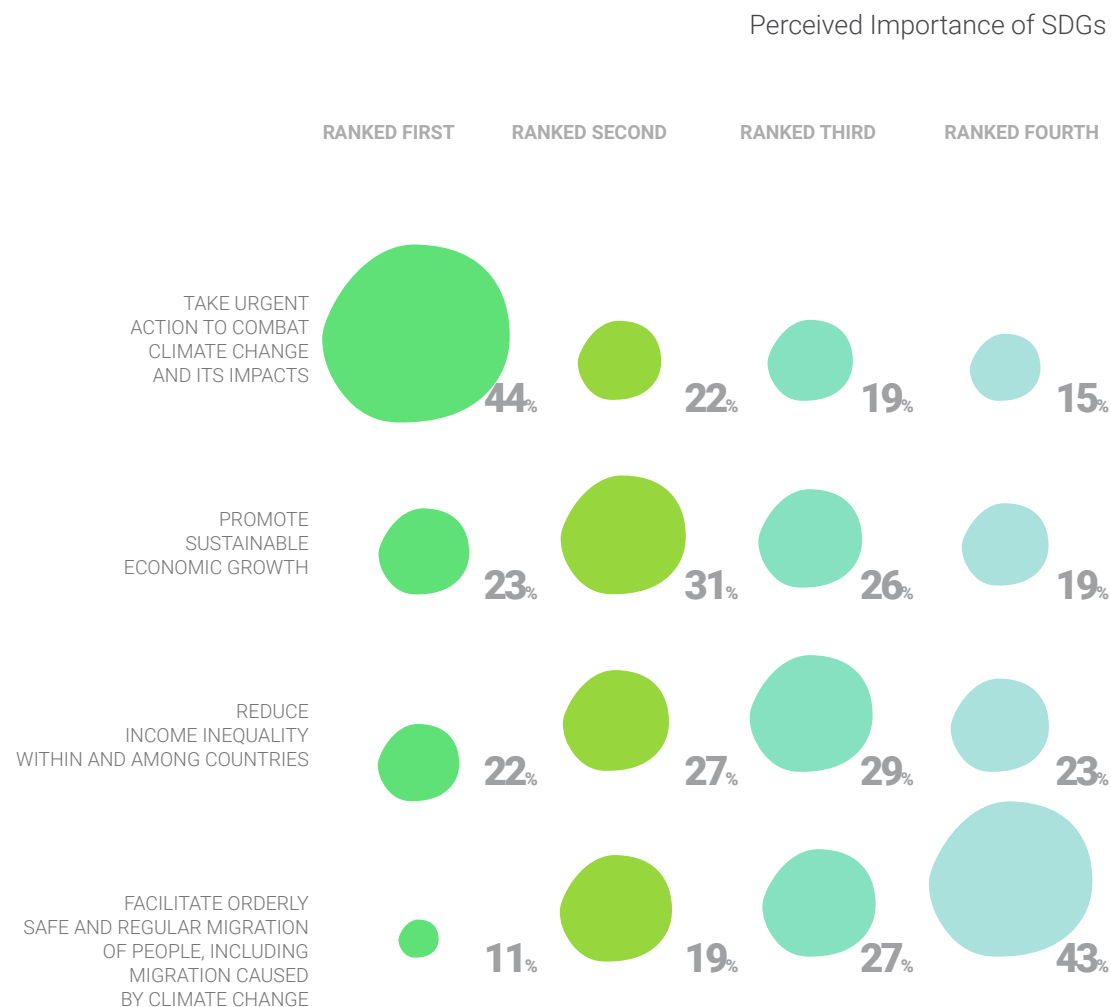
Climate change and environmental degradation are considered to be among the two most serious problems facing the world by young people in all main European regions covered by the survey (Eastern, Southern and Western Europe). Even so, important differences can be observed at individual country level. While in Austria and Germany, 55% to 54% of young people consider climate change to be among the most serious problems facing the world, this figure is 32%-24% in Romania and Cyprus (although in a country like Romania, environmental degradation is considered an important concern).

CONCERN ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE IS REFLECTED IN THE IMPORTANCE YOUNG EUROPEANS ATTACH TO SPECIFIC UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

The young Europeans participating in the survey were asked to rank a selection of actions based on the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, in order of what they thought to be most important¹. As can be seen in the figure below, “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” is ranked first or second most often, ahead of “promote sustainable economic growth”. Overall country differences are limited, but **young Europeans who rank climate change first relatively often are less than 24 years old, female and inactive on the labour market (this category includes mainly students)**.

¹ The SDGs are described in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, see: https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

FIG. 2: PERCEPTIONS OF UNITED NATIONS' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



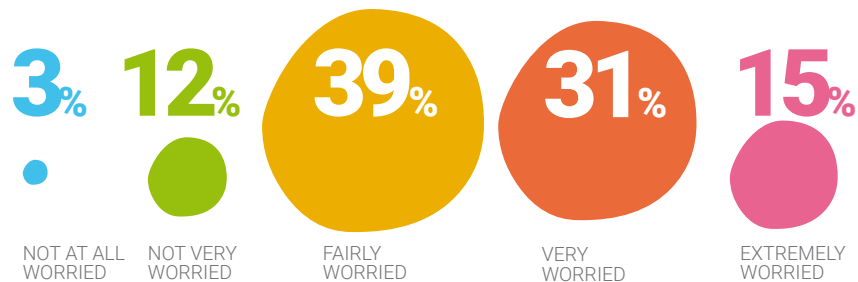
NOT ONLY ARE YOUNG EUROPEANS RELATIVELY CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE COMPARED TO OTHER MAJOR ISSUES FACING THE WORLD, THEY ARE ALSO WORRIED IN ABSOLUTE TERMS.

More than eight out of ten young Europeans (84%) are fairly, very or extremely worried about climate change. Close to half (46%) are very or extremely worried. Few (16%) are not very worried or not worried at all about climate change.

At regional level, Southern European youngsters are markedly more worried about climate change than their peers elsewhere on the continent.

Socio-demographic groups who relatively often are very or extremely worried include the highly educated, young women and those living in urban areas.

FIG. 3: CONCERN ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE
How worried, if at all, are you about climate change?



YOUNG EUROPEANS' CONCERN ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE COINCIDES WITH A FAIRLY HIGH KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS ABOUT THE ISSUE.

This is for example illustrated by the fact that 86% of young Europeans think that the statement "Climate change has had an impact on every ocean and every continent over the past few decades" is correct. **Less than one out of ten young Europeans (8%) deny climate change.** The proportion who deny climate change is low (around one in ten or less) across European countries and socio-demographic groups.

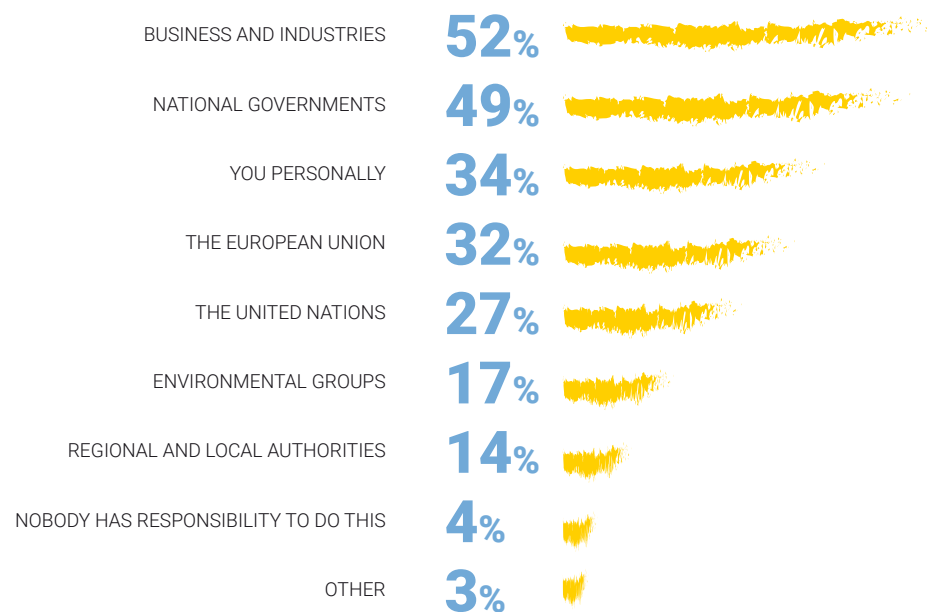
Many young Europeans think that climate change will affect them. **Close to two thirds of young Europeans (65%) agree that climate change will have a big impact on people like themselves.** In Eastern and Southern Europe this proportion is notably higher (in Romania and Portugal, the countries topping the list, its 83% and 81% who think this).

THE FACT THAT YOUNG EUROPEANS WORRY ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE IS REFLECTED BY THEIR STRONG SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY THEMSELVES.

The great majority of young Europeans think that if government plans do not tackle pollution and climate change, this is "bad for the economy" (70% agree), "a sign the government has the wrong priorities" (75% agree), "proof that the government does not listen to ordinary people" (74% agree), and "dangerous and irresponsible" (72% agree).

Young Europeans find that business and industry carry most responsibility – 52% answered that the latter are mainly responsible for tackling climate change. This is followed by 'national governments', with 49% of young Europeans thinking that national governments are mainly responsible. **About a third of young Europeans (34%) think that they themselves ("you personally") are mainly responsible for tackling climate change.**

FIG. 4: PERCEIVED RESPONSIBILITY FOR TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE
Who is mainly responsible for tackling climate change?





The perceived self-responsibility for addressing climate change is similar across socio-demographic groups but differs considerably across countries. In Malta, Austria and Lithuania about half (51%, 50% and 49%, respectively) feel personally responsible for tackling climate change. In France, Slovakia, Cyprus and Czechia, on the other hand, less than three out of ten (29%, 28%, 27% and 25%, respectively) feel personal responsibility.

YOUNG EUROPEANS THINK RICH COUNTRIES CARRY AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY IN ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ALTHOUGH MANY THINK THIS IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OF BOTH RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES.

A substantial proportion of young Europeans (43%) believe that economically developed, rich countries should make the most economic and political efforts to reduce the effects of climate change. However, the same proportion (43%) feel that rich and poor countries should both carry responsibility. Noteworthy is that in **Western Europe**, compared to other regions, young people are relatively least likely to say that rich countries should make most efforts to address the effects of climate change.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS SUGGEST THAT YOUNG EUROPEANS ARE IN FAVOUR OF A DIFFERENT, MORE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC MODEL, BOTH IN THEIR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD.

Notably, close to seven out of ten young Europeans (71%) agree that the economy in their country is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful. More than three quarters (77%) agree that “our consumption habits are not sustainable if we want to preserve the environment.

On average, the proportion agreeing that our society's consumption habits are not sustainable is lowest in Western European countries, the figure ranging from 85% in Portugal, to 69% percent in Germany. Socio-demographic differences with regard to opinions on the economic model are small.

- STRONGLY AGREE
 - AGREE
 - TEND TO AGREE
 - NEUTRAL
- TEND TO DISAGREE
 - DISAGREE
 - STRONGLY DISAGREE
 - DON'T KNOW

FIG. 5: PERCEPTIONS OF CURRENT ECONOMIC MODEL

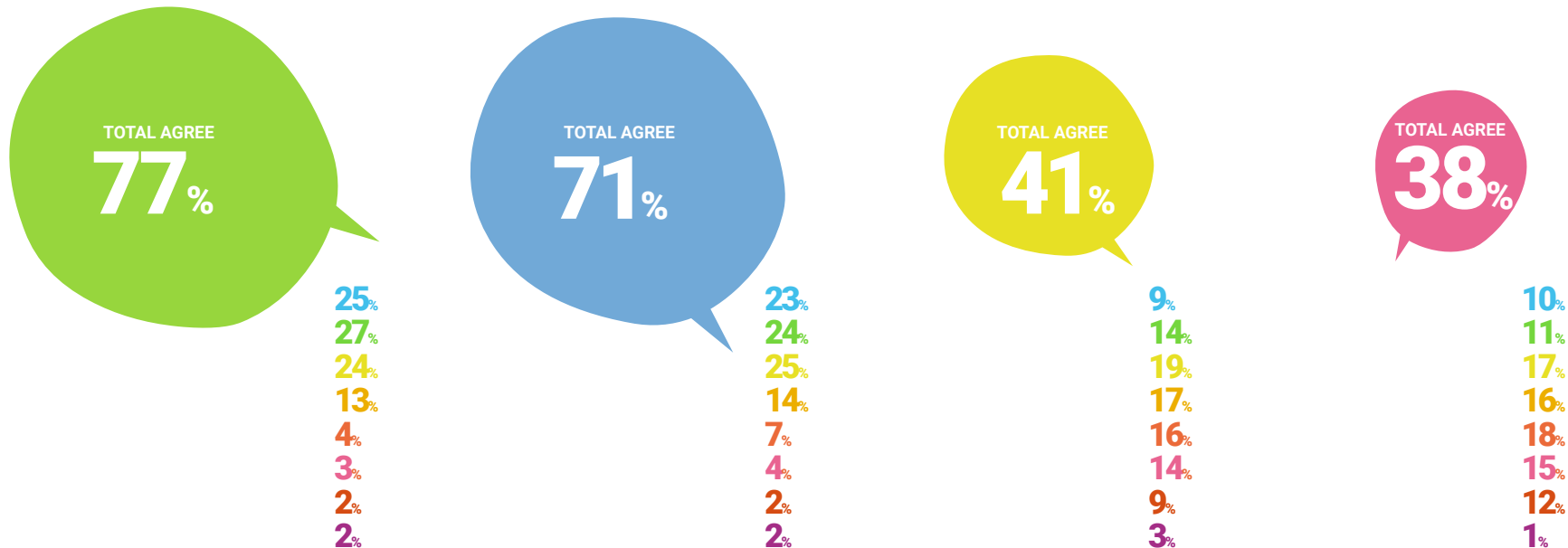
Agreement with statements

OUR CONSUMPTION HABITS ARE NOT SUSTAINABLE IF WE WANT TO PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT

THE ECONOMY (COUNTRY) IS RIGGED TO ADVANTAGE THE RICH AND POWERFUL

ECONOMIC GROWTH BENEFITS EVERYONE, INCLUDING PEOPLE IN POOR COUNTRIES

THE GOVERNMENT IN (COUNTRY) SHOULD FOCUS ON HELPING THE ECONOMY TO RECOVER FIRST AND FOREMOST, EVEN IF THAT MEANS TAKING SOME ACTIONS THAT WILL BE BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT





Migration and Climate Change

YOUNG EUROPEANS' OPINIONS ON MIGRATION ARE DIVIDED.

For instance, slightly less than half (45%) agree that migrants coming to their country contribute to society, while about a third (30%) disagree. And 51% of young Europeans agree with the statement that most migrants who come to their country as a refugee are not really refugees but are economic migrants, compared to 24% who disagree.

On average opinions on migration do not differ dramatically across regions, but Southern Europeans appear slightly more positive about migration overall, and Eastern Europeans more negative.

When looking at socio-demographic groups, the highly educated, those living in large cities, the inactive (who are mainly students) and those born abroad, appear somewhat more favourable towards migration.

AWARENESS OF THE TERM "CLIMATE MIGRATION" IS LOW AND IT IS NOT CONSIDERED A MAIN DRIVER FOR MIGRATION.

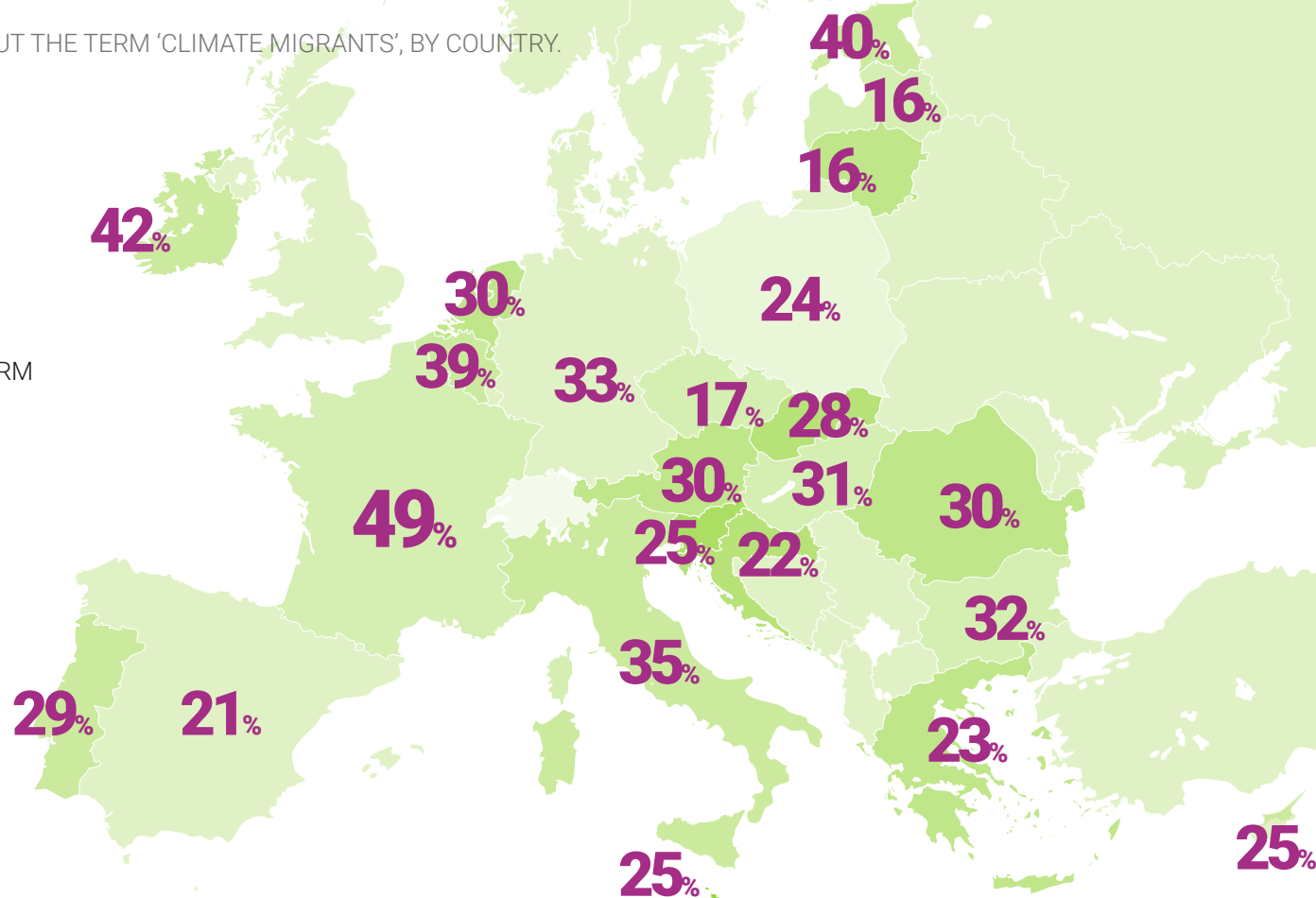
Around two thirds of young Europeans (68%) have heard not very much or nothing at all about the term 'climate migrants' (note that the concept of climate migration was briefly explained before this question was asked)³. On average, awareness about the term 'climate migrants' is highest in Western European countries.

FIG. 6: AWARENESS ABOUT THE TERM 'CLIMATE MIGRANTS', BY COUNTRY.

% WHO HAVE HEARD A GREAT DEAL OR A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE TERM "CLIMATE MIGRANTS".

32%

EU23



Young Europeans consider war and armed violence and the pursuit of economic opportunities as the most important reasons for immigration to their country, with about half (49% to 50%) of young Europeans mentioning these drivers. In line with the actual situation (climate migration towards Europe being so far a limited phenomenon), far fewer young Europeans (17%) mention “climate change causing extreme weather and environmental changes” as a key driver for immigration to their country.

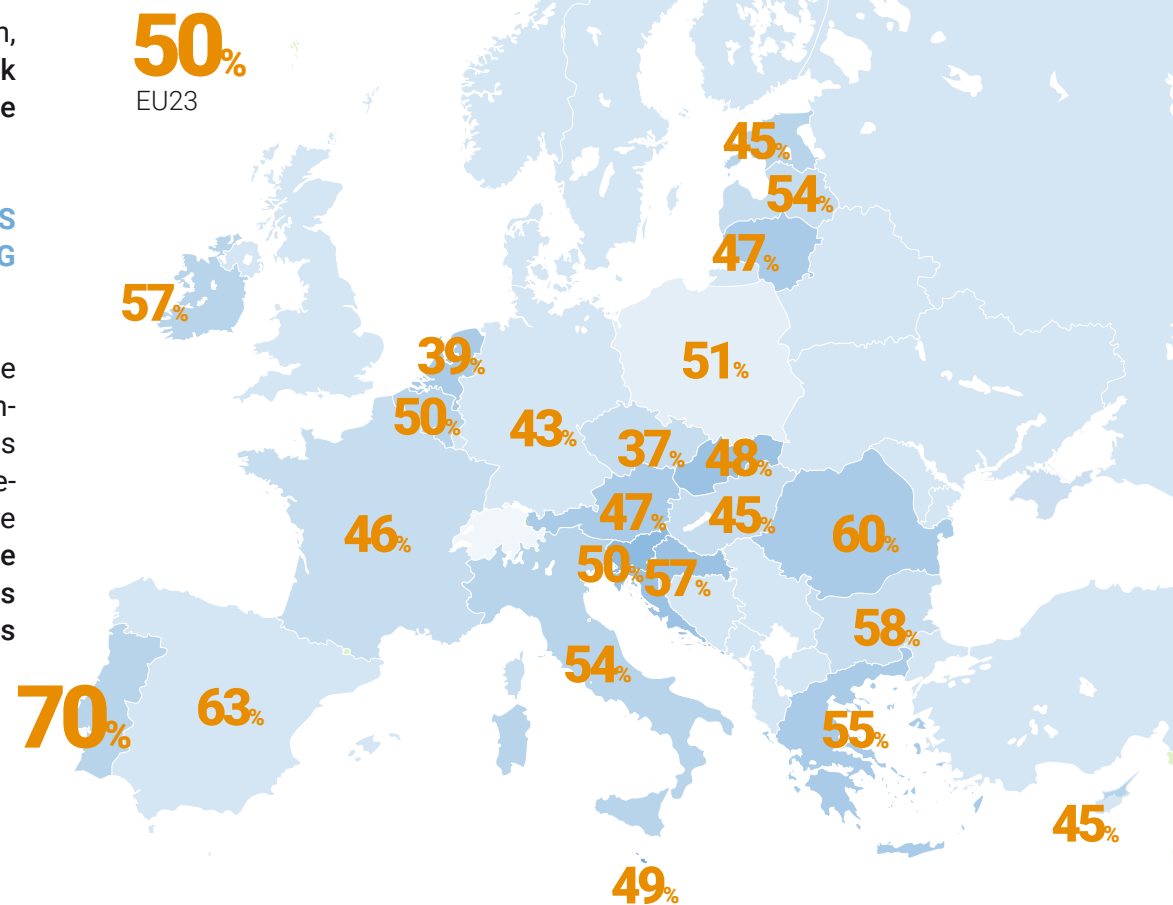
When it comes to the future impact of climate change on migration, the picture is different. About half of young Europeans (52%) think that climate change will lead to more migration to their country in the future.

YOUNG EUROPEANS TEND TO BELIEVE THAT CLIMATE MIGRANTS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME LEGAL PROTECTION AS PEOPLE FLEEING WAR OR PERSECUTION.

A majority (55%) of young Europeans agree that people should be able to migrate to their country to escape extreme weather and environmental changes. Moreover, half (50%) agree that climate migrants should have the same legal protection as people fleeing war or persecution, while just about one out of five (21%) disagree. This figure varies significantly across countries. Whereas in Portugal 70% agree that climate migrants should have the same legal protection as people fleeing war or persecution, in Czechia just 37% agree with this statement.

FIG. 7: VIEWS ON LEGAL PROTECTION FOR CLIMATE MIGRANTS, BY COUNTRY.

% WHO AGREE THAT CLIMATE MIGRANTS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME LEGAL PROTECTION AS PEOPLE FLEEING WAR OR PERSECUTION.



Taking Action

YOUNG EUROPEANS APPEAR QUITE WILLING TO CHANGE THEIR LIFESTYLE HABITS.

The most common habits (that young people always, very frequently or frequently do) are to sort waste for recycling (79%) and trying to save energy at home (78%), while 80% do not frequently throw away food waste. Just under a third (31%) frequently avoid buying new things, with 37% buying fair-trade products and organic food. The primary diet followed by 85% of young Europeans includes meat and fish. The remainder are mostly vegetarians (6%) and those eating fish but no meat or 'pescatarians' (5%).

When it comes to actions that young people are taking, or have taken in the past, to tackle the issues of climate change, migration and climate migration, some actions are clearly more commonplace than others. Common actions undertaken include voting for politicians that give priority to addressing these issues (25% have done so) and having signed a petition (30% have done so).



FIG. 8: READINESS TO ENGAGE.

HAVE DONE OR WOULD DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, MIGRATION AND CLIMATE MIGRATION.

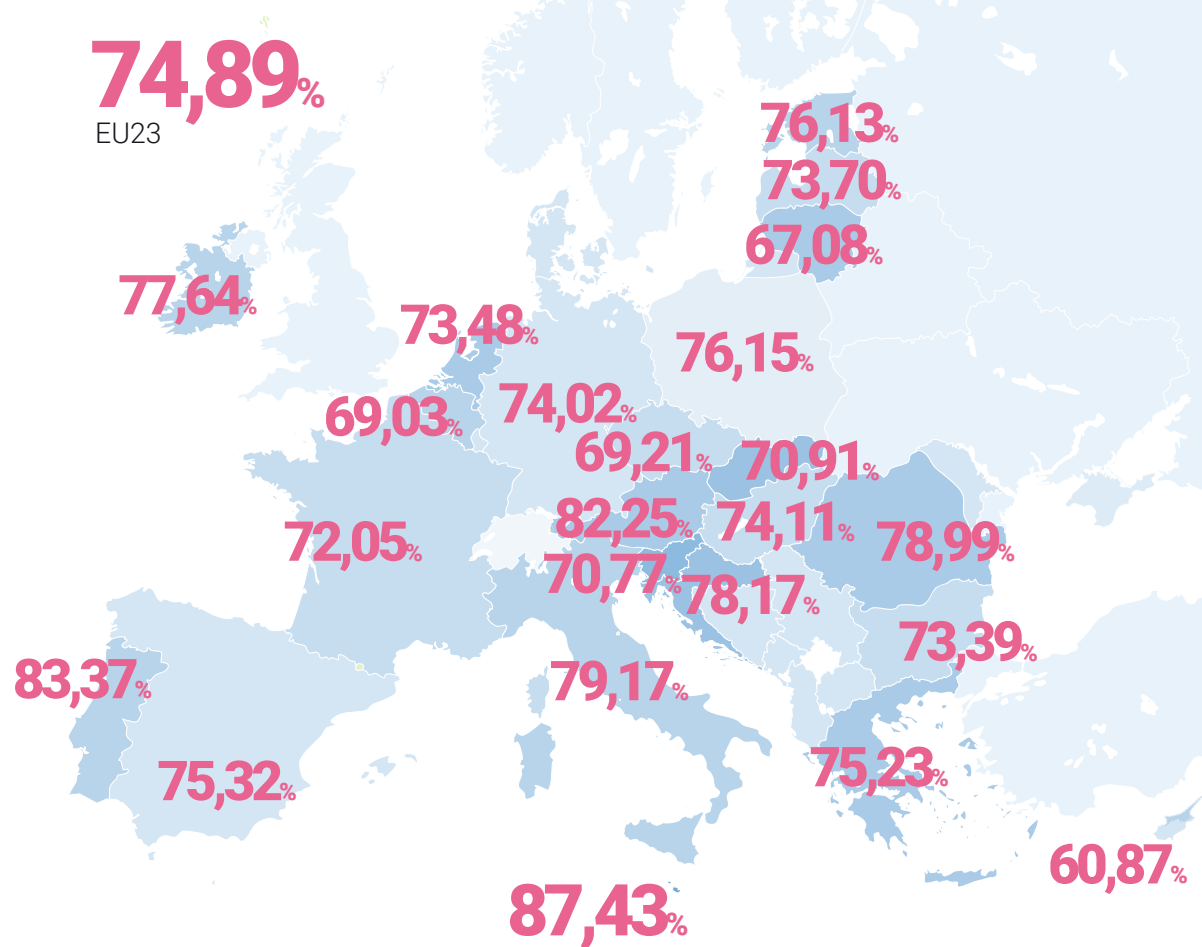
HAVE DONE +
MIGHT DO





FIG. 8/B: READINESS TO ENGAGE.
 FOCUS ON PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WHO "HAVE DONE" OR "MIGHT DO" VOTING FOR POLITICIANS BY COUNTRY.

% WHO ANSWER "HAVE DONE" OR "MIGHT DO" VOTING FOR POLITICIANS THAT GIVE PRIORITY TO ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES



Amongst all the actions, the only one that is more common amongst the older age cohorts in comparison to the younger cohorts is that the **older cohorts are more likely to have boycotted certain products**. The youngest age cohort (15-19) is especially likely to have attended a (peaceful) demonstration (17% has done so).

Irrespective of whether young people have taken any of the above actions, the survey asked whether they think these types of actions actually have an impact. Young Europeans were almost evenly split between thinking that on the one hand, 'yes they do' (48%) and on the other hand either 'kind of maybe' (36%) or 'no' (16%). **Socio-demographic groups who are relatively likely to think these actions have an impact include young women, the highly educated, those who voted in recent elections, and those who self-identify as religious or spiritual.** There are also some cultural differences with those in Southern Europe more likely to believe these actions make an impact.

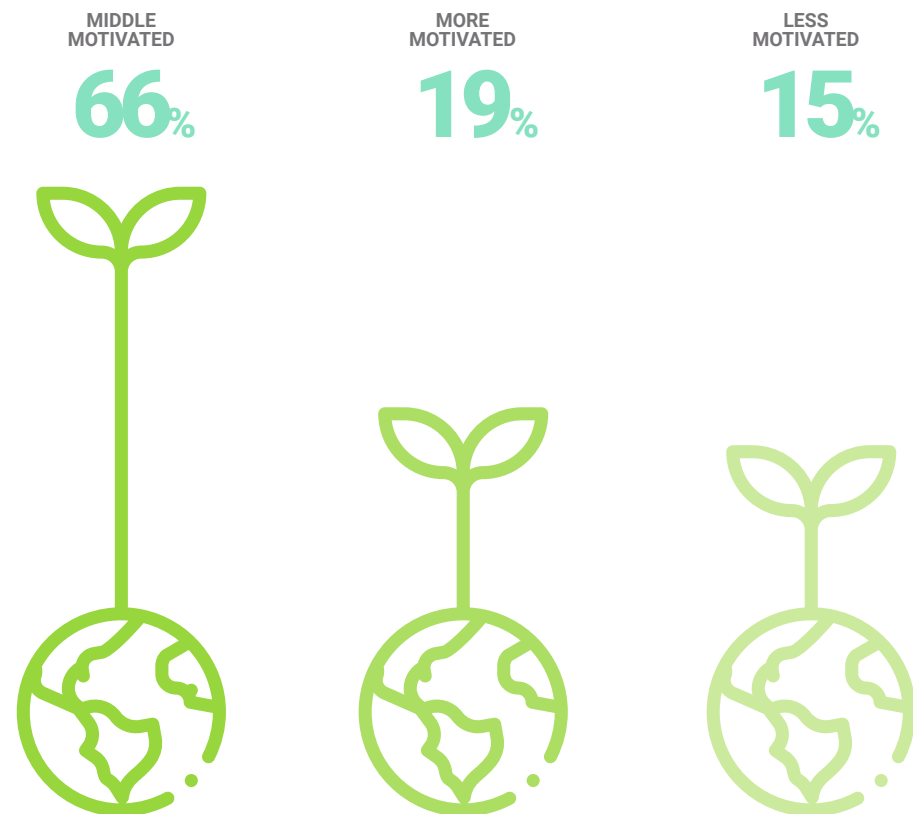
A SIZEABLE PROPORTION OF YOUNG EUROPEANS IS MOTIVATED TO LIVE SUSTAINABLY, EVEN IF MANY SEE A LIMITED ROLE FOR THEMSELVES.

About one in five young Europeans (19%) can be considered as **more motivated to live sustainably**, based on their disagreement to a number of statements in the opposite direction, such as for example "In theory, I want to live more sustainably, but it is simply not practical" (see the main report for an explanation of the index applied). The remainder can be characterised as middle (66%) or less motivated (19%).

The proportion who are very motivated to live sustainably is higher among young women compared to men (22% vs. 15%), the highly

educated compared to the low educated (21% vs. 11%), those living in urban areas compared to **those living in rural areas** (20% vs. 16%), and **those who voted in recent elections** compared to those who did not (21% vs. 11%, excluding those who were too young to vote). **Southern Europeans are more often very motivated** (23% compared to 17% of Western and Eastern Europeans).

FIG. 9: SUSTAINABILITY MOTIVATION LEVEL.



The survey findings suggest there is a strong link between the level of motivation to live sustainably and awareness about climate change and climate migration.

For example, young Europeans who are more motivated to live sustainably more often consider the issue of climate change as being amongst the most serious problems facing the world (60% amongst the more motivated, compared to 34% of the less motivated).

Motivated young Europeans are also far more likely to have voted for politicians that give priority to addressing climate change, migration or climate migration (40% compared to 23%).

THOSE WHO ARE MORE MOTIVATED TO LIVE SUSTAINABLY ARE MORE LIKELY TO RECOGNISE SOME OF THE POTENTIAL DOWNSIDES OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC MODEL.

Only 38% of the 'more motivated' agree with the statement 'economic growth benefits everyone, including people in poor countries' compared to 58% of those who are less motivated. Motivated young Europeans are also more likely to disagree (65%) that the government should focus on helping the economy to recover first, even if it means taking actions that are bad for the environment (compared to only 22% disagreeing with this statement amongst those who are not motivated to live sustainably).

Recognising that our consumption habits are not sustainable if we

want to preserve the environment is a more universal phenomenon – 86% of more motivated young Europeans agree compared to 76% of those who are less motivated.

BROADLY SPEAKING MORE MOTIVATED YOUNG EUROPEANS SEEM TO BE MORE ENGAGED IN TAKING ACTION AND ARE MORE LIKELY TO THINK THESE ACTIONS ACTUALLY HAVE AN IMPACT.

For example, when it comes to recycling and saving energy, 90% of those who are more motivated to live sustainably frequently do this compared to 76% of those who are less motivated. Motivated young Europeans are also far more likely to have voted for politicians that give priority to addressing these issues (40% of the more motivated compared to 23% of the less motivated), have signed a petition (47% vs. 27%), encouraged others to take action (41% vs. 23%), posted or shared on social media (33% vs. 22%), boycotted certain products (33% vs. 19%) and made a donation (25% vs. 17%).

Whereas 65% of young Europeans who are more motivated think the type of actions described above make an impact, this figure is 48% for the less motivated.

This could indicate that there are further opportunities to engage more motivated young Europeans in calls to action given their bigger belief individual action can lead to change.

The role of the media

VIRTUALLY ALL YOUNG EUROPEANS ARE ONLINE, BUT TV REMAINS A POWERFUL COMMUNICATOR.

The primary channel where young Europeans get most of their information on the topics of interest - climate change, migration and climate migration - is TV (48% get climate change information, 51% get information on migration and 29% get information on climate migration on TV).

Nevertheless, social media networks and information websites both feature highly and taken together mean that young Europeans rely on online channels to get most of their information about these topics. The written press also still plays an important role in informing young Europeans about the three topics mentioned, certainly in contrast to the relatively low overall use of this medium.

ENGAGEMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA ON THE TOPICS OF INTEREST IS SUBSTANTIAL.

Nearly half (47%) of young Europeans are reading content created by others on the topic of migration on social media with a similar proportion (41%) reading content created by others on the topic of climate change. A third of young Europeans (33%) are reading content about climate migration. Between about a fifth and third repost or share content on climate change, migration and climate migration created by third parties (24%, 29% and 17%, respectively).



Conclusions

Perceptions

What are young people's views on the issues of climate change and sustainability?

How do young Europeans feel about climate migration? Because a low awareness about this complex subject was expected based on earlier research, the survey first asked young Europeans about their more general views on both climate change and migration separately. The findings show that climate change is a top priority for many young Europeans (46%), who consider climate change and environmental degradation as the most important issues facing the world, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among actions based on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, "take action to combat climate change" is considered the most important one (66% rank it first or second).

In line with this, a clear majority of young Europeans are aware that climate change is a phenomenon that affects all countries globally, not only in the future, but also today.² Most (65%) also think that climate change will affect them personally. Few deny that climate change exists (8%), also compared to earlier surveys (see the background and context section), while the great majority of young Europeans think climate change is caused by human activity (83%). The high awareness about climate change translates in a high level of concern. Almost half (46%) of young Europeans are extremely or very worried about climate change; in some Southern European countries, including Spain, Portugal and Italy, as well as in Romania, this figure is (well) above 50%.

Young Europeans' high awareness and concern about climate change is evident in a strong demand for government action. For example, more than two thirds to close to three quarters (70%-75%) of young Europeans find that if government plans do not tackle pollution and climate change, this is "bad for the economy" or "a sign that the government has the wrong priorities". A large share of young Europeans find that business and industry (52%) and national governments (49%) carry main responsibility for addressing climate change. Young Europeans also feel a personal responsibility, with 34% saying they themselves are mainly responsible for tackling climate change.

A substantial proportion of young Europeans (43%) believe that economically developed, rich countries should make the most economic and political efforts to reduce the effects of climate change. However, the same proportion (43%) feel that rich and poor countries should both carry responsibility. Does this imply that many young Europeans are happy to shift the responsibility for addressing climate change to poor countries, or do they think that in reality poor countries will be forced to carry a heavy burden? Either way, young Europeans do appear to support a fairer, more sustainable economic model. Just 41% agree that economic growth benefits everyone, including people in poor countries. And three quarters (77%) agree that our society's consumption habits are not sustainable if we want to preserve the environment.

² Close to nine out of ten young Europeans (86%) think that the statement "Climate change has had an impact on every ocean and every continent over the past few decades" is correct. Slightly more than half (55%) think the statement "it will take decades before the effects of climate change will be felt in [COUNTRY]" is false.



How do young people feel about migration in general and do they see the link between climate change and migration?

Compared to climate change, migration looks to be a less salient issue for young Europeans, with just 13% perceiving it among the most serious problems facing the world (for climate change this is 46%). However, even if young Europeans in the survey are not as negative about migration as observed in some recent other surveys, the topic does appear to be quite divisive. For example, less than half (45%) of young Europeans agree that migrants coming to their country contribute to society. And only slightly less agree than disagree (38% versus 42%) that “the border of their country should be closed to migrants entirely”. There also appears to be a certain mistrust about the motives of migrants, with about half (51%) of young Europeans thinking that migrants who come to their country only pretend to be refugees, while in reality they come for economic reasons (although somewhat contradictory, ‘war and armed’ violence is seen by young Europeans as the most important drivers for migration to Europe). And while some population sub-groups, notably women and the high educated, are slightly more positive towards immigration, overall socio-demographic differences are limited.

On the other hand, young Europeans are welcoming towards what could be defined as ‘classic’ refugees, as defined by the Geneva Convention. Notably, 71% agree that people should be able to migrate to their country to escape war and armed violence, which is seen as the most important driver for migration to Europe, as mentioned above. The share of young Europeans who would welcome climate migrants is smaller, but

still constitutes a majority: 55% agree that people should be able to migrate to their country to escape extreme weather and environmental changes. Moreover, half of young Europeans (50%) agree that climate migrants should have the same legal protection as people fleeing war or persecution, while just about one out of five (21%) disagree.

The latter proportions can be considered remarkably high, if taking into account the complexity of climate migration (which means the drivers for climate migration are not always clear cut, as touched upon in the introduction) and young Europeans' low awareness about the subject. Clearly the latter leaves room for improvement. When unprompted, the average young European perceives climate change as a relatively unimportant driver or reason for people to migrate to Europe or their country. Among actions based on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, "Facilitate orderly, safe and regular migration of people, including migration caused by climate change" is seen as the least important one, with just 30% ranking it first or second in terms of importance. And only about a third (32%) of young Europeans have heard a great deal or a fair amount about the term 'climate migrants', although country differences are substantial – in France 49% have heard great deal or a fair amount about the term, more than double the proportion in Latvia and Lithuania (16% are aware of the term in both countries).

The above does primarily show that climate migration is not top of mind. It does not by itself point to an underestimation of the impact of climate migration. When prompted, about half of young Europeans (52%) think that climate change will lead to more migration to their country in the future. Four out of ten (43%) agree that climate change might force people in their own country to move to another region or country – a figure that is clearly higher in Southern European countries such as Portugal (61%), Spain (59%) and Italy (55%) – all countries where concern about climate change is also high (see above).





Engagement and actions

How engaged are young people in tackling issues of climate change, sustainability and migration?

Does young Europeans' overall fairly high understanding of climate change and its effects result in a willingness to act? Regarding lifestyle and dietary choices that can contribute to reducing the impact of climate change, the picture is diverse, but overall not discouraging. Various actions are widespread. This includes for example sorting waste, or trying to save energy at home; close to eight out of ten young Europeans do this frequently. Some actions are less commonly taken, but are still practiced by a substantial minority. For example, 31% of young Europeans frequently avoid buying new things by buying second-hand goods instead. When looking at dietary habits that could mitigate the effects of climate change, it can be noted that 13% of young Europeans are either vegetarian, pescatarian or vegan. A population subgroup that appears slightly more willing to act overall are young women, but socio-demographic differences in terms lifestyle and dietary choices are small.

The same varied picture arises when looking at young Europeans' readiness to engage more generally. On the one hand, young Europeans are certainly willing to undertake actions that can make an important difference. For example, a quarter (25%) voted for politicians that give priority to tackling climate change, migration and climate migration, while a further 50% say they might do in the future. On the other hand, the appetite for actions that require more effort is smaller. For

example, few young Europeans (10%) volunteered or worked in a political party or action group, although still 44% say they might do this.

Interesting is that the youngest age cohort (15-19 years old) in the survey appears most engaged when it comes attending a peaceful demonstration or participating in non-violent protest. This may relate to the recent 'school strikes for climate'. The fact that this was largely an urban phenomenon, like most demonstrations, might also explain why young European in large towns appear somewhat more engaged.

Important is also to know whether young Europeans think these kinds of actions actually make a difference. This can be answered affirmatively, even if there is a substantial degree of scepticism: 48% of young Europeans agree that these types of actions have an impact, 36% are less certain and think they may have an impact, and 16% do not think these actions have an impact. These opinions are not very strongly correlated with socio-demographic characteristics, although young men, the low educated and those who have not voted in recent elections are more sceptic overall. Country differences are more distinct, the proportion who think that these kinds of action have an impact varying between a high of 63% in Portugal, to a low of only 27% in Cyprus.

The gap between perceptions and actions

About one in five young Europeans (19%) can be considered as more motivated to live sustainably, based on their disagreement to a number of statements in the opposite direction, such as for example "In theory, I want to live more sustainably, but it is simply not practical". The remainder can be characterised as either in the middle (66%) or less motivated (19%). The survey findings suggest there is a strong link between the level of motivation to live sustainably and awareness about climate change and climate migration, as well as readiness to engage and take action to address these issues, showing how these opinions and behaviours go together and reinforce each other. For example, those young Europeans who are more motivated to live sustainably more often consider the issue of climate change as being amongst the most serious problems facing the world as whole (60% amongst the more motivated, compared to 34% of the less motivated). Motivated young Europeans are also far more likely to have voted for politicians that give priority to addressing climate change, migration or climate migration (40% compared to 23%).

Young Europeans who are more motivated to live sustainably are relatively often women, high educated, living in a large town, and have voted in a recent election. They are also relatively often Southern European, which might relate to the high concern about climate change and its impact in this region (see above).



Media

The power of media in communicating on these issues.

The general media use of young Europeans shows few surprises. The vast majority are using the internet (90%) and social networks (80%) almost every day or daily. Perhaps somewhat unexpected, taking into account the age group, is that still 66% watch TV daily or almost daily, but it should be noted that this also includes TV via the internet. Listening to the radio or reading the written press (including in digital versions) is less common, especially among the youngest age cohort (15-19 years old), even if most young Europeans still do this weekly or more often.

Interesting to note is that the online and social media channels where young Europeans obtain most of their information (as noted above), are not the channels through which they obtain most information on climate change, migration and climate migration – this is TV, although social media and information websites follow closely. The written press also still plays an important role in informing young Europeans about the three topics mentioned, certainly in contrast to the relatively low overall use of this medium.

The fact that young Europeans' awareness about climate migration is rather low (as noted above), is also visible in the fact that just 23% of young Europeans feel well informed about this subject. With regard to migration the situation is somewhat better, but not spectacularly so – 36% feel well informed about this topic. On a more positive note, 49%

feel well informed about climate issues, which of course closely aligns to the high awareness about this topic visible throughout the survey.

Population sub-groups who comparatively often feel uninformed about climate change and migration, include young women, the low educated, those who live in rural areas, and those who did not vote in a recent election (excluding those not old enough to vote). For climate migration, these differences are less visible, likely because awareness on this topic is low across the board. Country differences are substantial, the proportion who feel well informed about climate migration varying between 31% in Ireland to 12% in Cyprus.

To conclude its good to mention that young people are quite engaged in the use of social-media about the topics of climate change, migration and climate migration. Between about a fifth and third repost or share content on climate change, migration and climate migration created by third parties (24%, 29% and 17%, respectively). This shows that a substantial share of young Europeans stand ready to help spreading information relevant to the #ClimateOfChange campaign.



PARTNERS

