

# **European Union citizens living in the United Kingdom**

Survey 2023 – Report

## IMPRESSUM

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### **LINGUISTIC VERSIONS**

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### **ABOUT THE EDITOR**

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## 1. Objectives

On behalf of the European Parliament, Kantar Public Belgium has conducted a survey targeting European Union (EU) citizens living in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2023, following up on a survey conducted in 2018 before the European Parliament elections. The aim was to investigate their attitudes to the EU and EU citizenship, as well as their attitudes to the European Parliament elections and their voting intentions. Respondents were asked if they voted in the 2019 elections and to identify any issues they experienced when voting or their reasons for not voting on that occasion. They were also asked if they planned to vote in the next European Parliament elections. The survey also aimed to understand the most important political issues for these EU citizens living in the UK and to map the sources they rely on for political news.

## 2. Key takeaways

- EU citizens living in the UK are on average more interested in and more positive about the EU than the general EU population. The most interested are German (92%), Dutch (87%) and Polish (87%) respondents, and the most positive are German (82%), Dutch (78%), French and Portuguese (73%) respondents. There is also a widely shared feeling that they are EU citizens.
- EU citizens living in the UK say that they are less likely to vote in the next European Parliament elections than the general EU population, with a quarter of the respondents reporting that they are not at all likely to vote in 2024. The most likely to vote are German (7,2/10 average likelihood), Italian (7,2) and Polish (6,5) respondents.
- A comparison between the different nationalities suggests that nationals from Member States that joined the EU after 2004 appear on average less interested, less positive, and less likely to vote in the next elections (except Polish respondents, the exception to this trend). The least interested are Romanian (51%), Latvian (64%) and Lithuanian (68%) respondents, the more negative are Bulgarian (39%), Romanian (28%) and Latvian (27%) respondents, and the less likely to vote are Latvian (4), Lithuanian (4,5) and Bulgarian (4,6) respondents.
- Overall, 43% of respondents say that they voted in the 2019 European Parliament elections (overall EU turnout: 51%). All respondents, whether or not they voted in 2019, mention a lack of information and being abroad as barriers to voting in the European Parliament elections.
- Brexit has had a mixed impact on the feeling of being an EU citizen. While more than half the respondents say it has had no impact, over a quarter feel more European as a result of Brexit. For 37% of respondents, Brexit has increased their feeling of being part of their own national community.
- The issue of rising prices is overall considered the most important issue that respondents currently face. When it comes to the issues that the respondents see as important in the next European Parliament elections, the relationship between the UK and the EU and the rights of EU citizens living in the UK are both among the top issues.
- For news and information, the majority of respondents rely on British and national media sources equally (53%). When it comes to political matters, respondents mostly refer to information websites (43%), television (18%) and online social networks (15%).
- The sources of political information respondents trust the most are experts (51%) and journalists (38%), followed by European institutions (33%). Conversely, the sources they trust the least are politicians (5%), trade unions (10%), and their national government (11%).
- Respondents use a variety of online social networks on a weekly basis. Their favourites among these appear to be Facebook (86%), WhatsApp (62%) and YouTube (58%).

### 3. Overall findings

In the subsequent report, findings from the survey of EU citizens living in the UK are compared with findings from surveys conducted in all EU Member States: the Parlemeter 2022<sup>1</sup> (conducted in October and November 2022) and the Standard Eurobarometer 98<sup>2</sup> (conducted in January and February 2023). It is important to note that the methodology of these surveys was different, they were conducted with face-to-face interviews while this survey of EU citizens living in the UK was online.

#### 3.1. Attitudes towards the EU

Our results show that 78% of respondents are interested in European affairs, and 80% report that they follow what is going on in EU politics at least from time to time, while 56% of the general EU population (Parlemeter) do so. **EU citizens living in the UK therefore appear more interested in European affairs than the general EU population.**

Overall, 65% of respondents say they have a positive image of the EU, as opposed to 19% who hold a negative view. In comparison, 45% of the general EU population have a positive image of the EU (EB 98). Similarly, 73% of respondents consider it is important that their country is a Member State of the EU, including 58% for whom it is extremely important<sup>3</sup>. In comparison, 66% of the general EU population consider it is important and 21% extremely important (Parlemeter). Therefore, **EU citizens living in the UK are overall more positive about the EU than the general EU population.**

When we compare respondents of different nationalities, **respondents from older Member States appear on average to be more interested in and more positive about the EU than respondents from Member States that joined the EU after 2004.** Respondents from older Member States are more likely to be interested in European affairs (85% compared with 70%)<sup>4</sup> and they more frequently follow what is going on in European politics (83% compared with 73%). They also tend to have a more positive image of the EU (72% compared with 54%) and are more likely to say that their country's membership of the EU is extremely important (59% compared with 48%).

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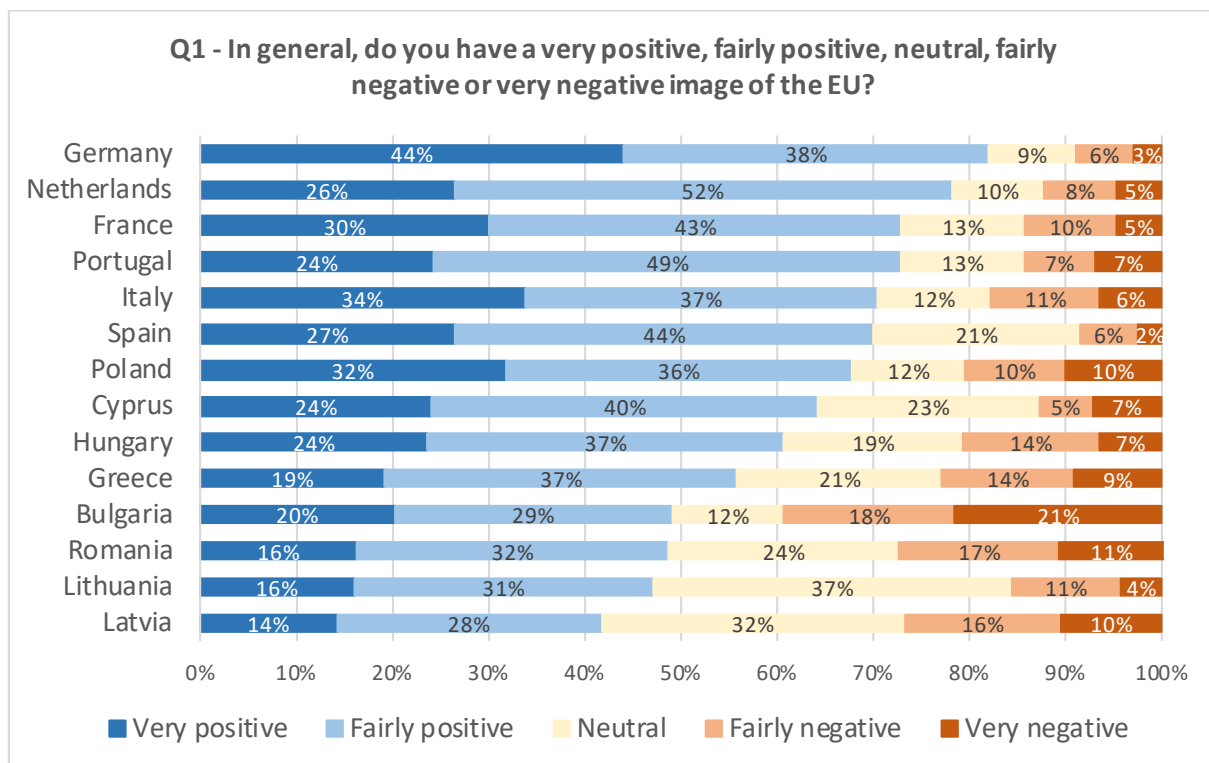
<sup>1</sup> EP Autumn 2022 Survey: Parlemeter, <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2932>

<sup>2</sup> Standard Eurobarometer 98 - Winter 2022-2023, <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2872>

<sup>3</sup> Aggregation of data based on a 10-point scale of importance, ranging from 1 – not important at all and 10 – extremely important. Here and throughout the rest of text, 'important' reflects an aggregation of the responses 7 to 10 in the importance scale. Conversely, 'not important' would reflect an aggregation of all responses 1 to 4.

<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of comparing older Member States with those that joined the EU after 2004 under "overall findings", the values given represent the unweighted average across nationalities. The overall result for respondents from older Member States is the mean value for German, Dutch, French, Italian, Greek, Spanish and Portuguese nationals. The overall result for respondents from Member States that joined the EU after 2004 is the mean value for Polish, Hungarian, Cypriot, Lithuanian, Latvian, Romanian and Bulgarian citizens.

Figure 1: Image of the EU



### 3.2. Citizenship

This overall positive view is also mirrored by a **strong feeling of EU citizenship**, as 83% of respondents say that they consider themselves EU citizens, a feeling they share with 74% of the general EU population (EB 98). This feeling is common to all nationalities: 82% of respondents from Member States that joined the EU after 2004 and 86% of respondents from older Member States say that they feel they are EU citizens. Brexit has had little influence here, as on average 53% of respondents claim it has had no impact, 26% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger, and only 20% feel less so.

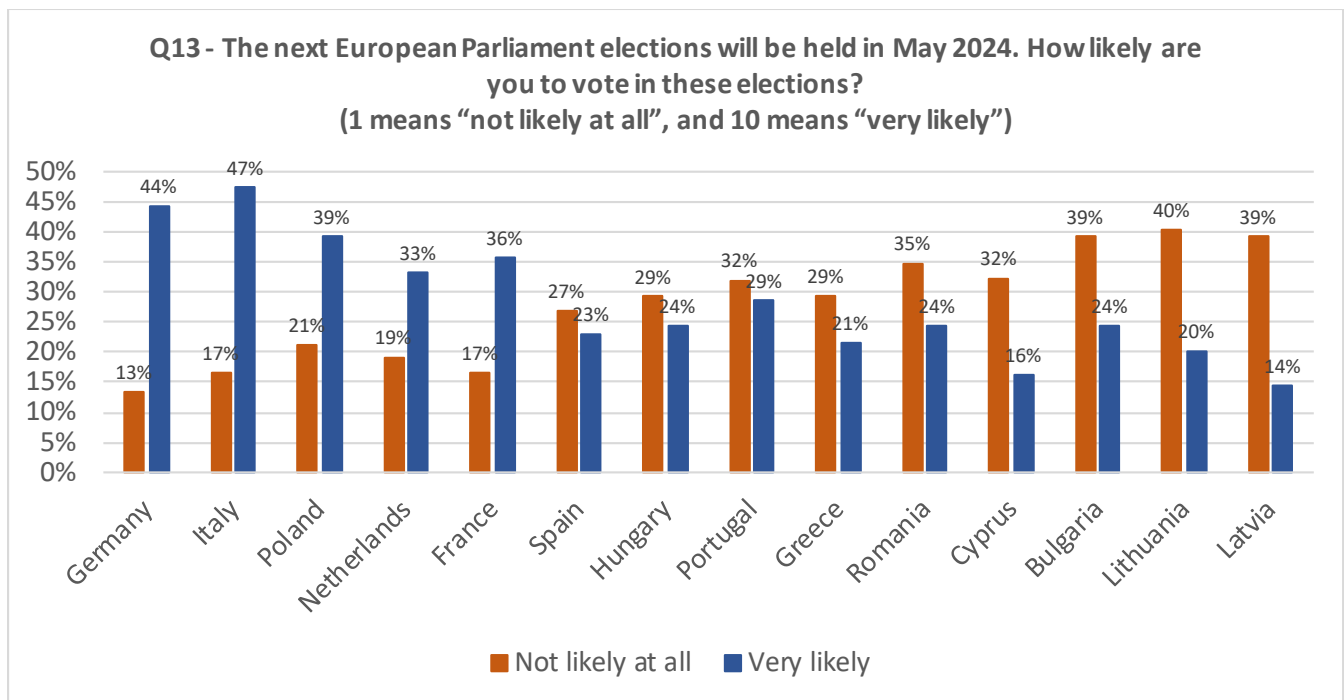
Over a quarter of respondents also either hold British citizenship (17%) or are in the process of applying (9%). A smaller share of respondents feel more British than their first nationality (8%), while **53% feel more attached to their first nationality** and 29% feel attached to their British identity and their first nationality in equal measure. Brexit has not generally increased the feeling of being part of a national community, as 62% of respondents do not feel they are more part of their national community following Brexit.

### 3.3. Voting in European Parliament elections

Respondents are very polarised about the perceived importance of voting in European Parliament elections. While 23% think it is not important at all, 31% believe it is essential to vote in European Parliament elections. **The share of EU citizens living in the UK who feel it is not at all important to vote is higher than in the general EU population**, where it stands at 8% (Parlemeter). Similarly, respondents are very polarised on their stated likelihood of voting in the next European Parliament elections, 25% saying that they are not at all likely to vote, while 33% are very likely to vote. **The share of EU citizens living in the UK who are not at all likely to vote is higher than in the general EU population**, where it stands at 9% (Parlemeter). This

may be explained by the context and the fact that it is more difficult to vote in these elections from abroad. It may be also explained by a feeling that these elections have less direct impact over their lives.

Figure 2: Likelihood of voting in 2024 European Parliament elections



Respondents from Member States that joined the EU after 2004 are more likely to say they will definitely not vote in the next European Parliament elections (34%) than respondents from older Member States (22%). Conversely, the latter are more likely to say they will definitely vote (33%) than the former (23%).

### 3.4. Barriers to voting

When asked about the last European Parliament elections, 43% of our sample of EU citizens living in the UK say that they voted, a difference of 8% when compared with the actual turnout of the overall EU population in the EU elections (51%). It appears that on average respondents coming from older Member States were more likely to vote in the 2019 European Parliament elections (46%) than respondents from Member States that joined the EU after 2004 (30%). **It also appears that a higher share of UK-resident respondents voted in the last national elections in their country of origin (55%) than in the last European Parliament elections (43%).**

Close to a third of respondents say they voted for a UK party or candidate in the 2019 European Parliament elections, either at a polling station in the UK (30%), or by other means (3%). Most of them, however, voted for national parties or candidates, either by postal vote (26%), at their embassy or consulate in the UK (22%), at a polling station in their country (16%), or by other means (3%).

Among the respondents who voted in the 2019 European Parliament elections, 55% faced no issues. Among those who did experience issues, 13% felt they lacked information about parties and candidates and 9% about how and where to vote. A substantial share of respondents also mentioned the limited number of polling stations (13%) and the distance of the polling stations from where they live (11%) as significant issues.

Table 1: Issues faced when voting in 2019

Q17 - When you voted in the European Parliament elections in May 2019, did you face any of the following difficulties as a result of living in the United Kingdom?	
Issue faced	Share of respondents
No issues	55%
Lack of information on the parties or candidates to vote for	13%
Limited number of polling stations in the United Kingdom	13%
Polling stations were far away from where I live	11%
Lack of practical information on how and where to vote	9%
I was not living in the United Kingdom at that time	8%
Issues when registering to vote	5%
Other issues	2%
Don't know/ Refusal	1%

Turning to the reasons mentioned by respondents who did not vote in 2019, **lack of information about the elections** is also cited as an important issue: 19% did not know where or when to vote, 12% lacked information on parties and candidates, and 10% did not know there were elections. **Being abroad was also mentioned as a barrier to voting**, as 15% felt it was too complicated to vote from abroad and 9% believed it was simply not possible to vote from abroad.

Table 2: Reasons why respondents did not vote in 2019

Q18 - What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent European Parliament elections? You may select up to three answers.	
Most frequently cited reasons	Share of respondents
I did not know where or how to vote	19%
Lack of trust in/ dissatisfaction with politics generally	15%
It was too complicated to vote from abroad	15%
Voting has no consequences/ does not change anything	12%
Lack of information on the parties or candidates to vote	12%
Not really satisfied with the European Parliament as an institution	11%
I did not know there were elections	10%
It was not possible to vote from abroad	9%
Limited number of polling stations in the United Kingdom	8%
Too busy/ no time/ work	8%
Not interested in politics as such	7%
I rarely or never vote	7%



### 3.5. Most important issues

Respondents were asked to select the most important issues they currently face. **Rising prices is the issue cited most often**, mentioned by up to 66% of respondents. Other important issues for respondents are the UK economic situation (40%), health (28%), the environment and climate change (17%), and the household financial situation (17%). “My rights as an EU citizen” is cited as an important issue by 13%, primarily respondents who are nationals of older Member States, such as German (27%), Dutch (25%), French (19%), Spanish (17%), Italian (16%) and Portuguese (16%) citizens.

Respondents were then asked what themes they think are the most important to be discussed during the electoral campaign ahead of the next European Parliament elections. Cost of living is again the most frequently cited issue (47%), followed by two issues related to the situation post-Brexit: **the relationship between the EU and the UK (45%)** and **the rights of EU citizens living in the UK (41%)**. These themes are among those most frequently mentioned by respondents of all nationalities.

Table 3: Most important issues for the next European Parliament elections campaign

<b>Q14 - Which of the following themes do you think the most important to be discussed during the electoral campaign in the next European Parliament elections? You may select up to six answers.</b>	
<b>Most frequently cited issues</b>	<b>Share of respondents</b>
Cost of living	<b>47%</b>
The relationship between the EU and the United Kingdom	<b>45%</b>
The rights of EU citizens living in the United Kingdom	<b>41%</b>
The fight against poverty and social exclusion	<b>38%</b>
Combating climate change and protecting the environment	<b>37%</b>
Public health	<b>34%</b>
The EU's defence and security, including the protection of the EU's	<b>34%</b>
The way the EU should be working in the future	<b>31%</b>
Promoting human rights and democracy	<b>29%</b>
Economy and creation of new jobs	<b>29%</b>
Consumer protection and food safety	<b>20%</b>
Migration and asylum	<b>15%</b>
Gender equality, inclusion, and diversity	<b>15%</b>
Housing	<b>14%</b>
The fight against terrorism	<b>11%</b>
The digitalisation of the European economy and society	<b>9%</b>
Other	<b>4%</b>

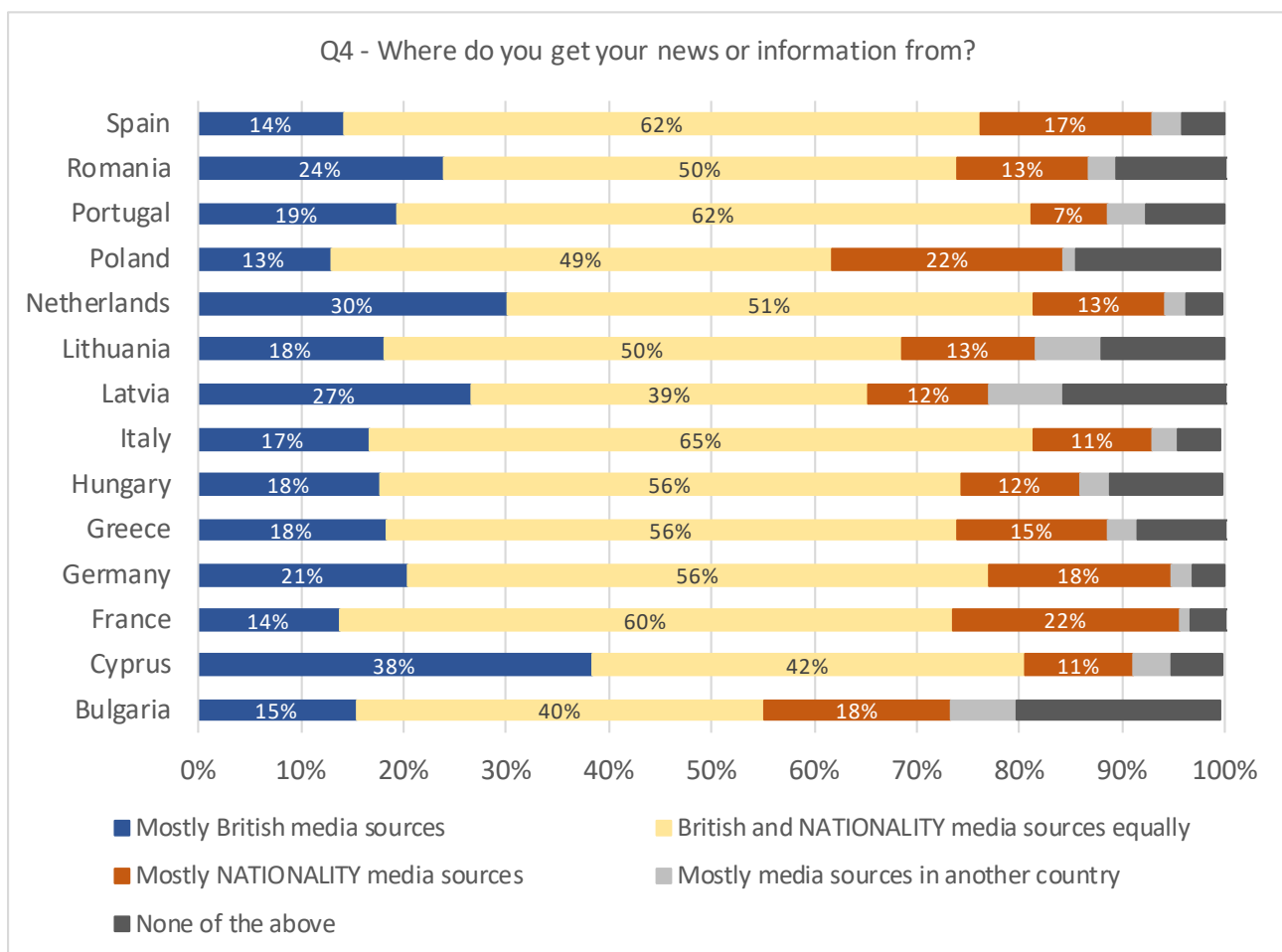
### 3.6. Media consumption

For news or information, **the majority of respondents rely on both British and national media sources more or less equally (55%)**, while 18% of respondents rely mostly on British media sources and 17% mostly on national media sources. British media sources are mostly used by Cypriot (38%), Dutch (30%), Latvian (27%) and Romanian (24%) respondents, while national media sources are mostly used by French (22%), Polish (22%), German (18%) and Bulgarian (18%) respondents.

Respondents mostly get news on political matters from information websites (43%), television (18%) and online social networks (15%). The most frequently used online social networks are Facebook (86%), WhatsApp (62%) and YouTube (58%).

When it comes to political matters, the sources of information respondents trust the most are experts (51%), journalists (38%), European institutions (33%) and NGOs (25%). Conversely, the sources they trust the least are politicians (5%), trade unions (10%), the national government (11%) and business leaders (12%). **Accordingly, European institutions are the third most trusted source of information.** This is the information source most mentioned by Cypriot (45%), Italian (41%), Spanish (40%) and German (39%) respondents. Lithuanian (19%), Latvian (20%), Bulgarian (22%) and Romanian (28%) respondents are the least likely to trust European institutions as a source of information on political matters.

Figure 3: Media sources



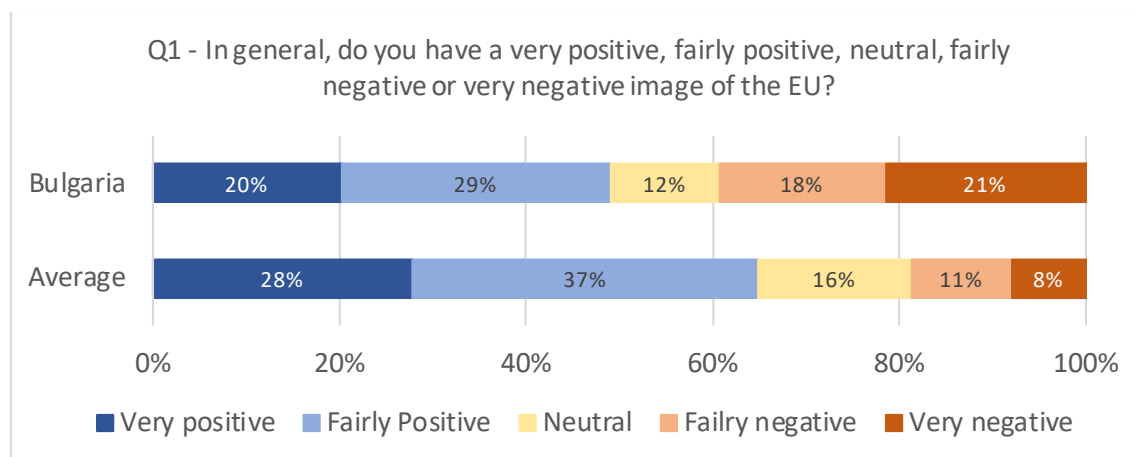
## 4. Findings per nationality

### 4.1. Bulgaria

Bulgarian respondents form a relatively new community in the UK, as the majority of them have lived in the UK for less than 10 years. Despite this, Bulgarian respondents are the fourth nationality likely to hold British citizenship (25%, average is 17%), with an additional 13% who are in the process of applying. Like most EU nationals living in the UK, the great majority of Bulgarian respondents say that they feel they are EU citizens (71%, average is 83%) and this feeling is stronger than among Bulgarians living in Bulgaria (54%, EB 98). The feeling of being EU citizens has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 67% of Bulgarian respondents claim it has had no impact and 13% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. However, 63% of Bulgarian respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit.

Bulgarian respondents are the fourth nationality in the survey least interested in European affairs (71%). A slightly lower than average share of Bulgarian respondents report that they follow European politics at least from time to time (72%, average is 80%). **Bulgarian respondents are the most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold negative views of the EU (39%).** A substantially lower than average share of Bulgarian respondents say it is important<sup>5</sup> that their country is in the EU (50%, average is 73%). For 26% of Bulgarian respondents, it is not at all important that their country is a member of the EU, which is the largest share across all nationalities, only matched by Latvian respondents. These results are quite different from those observed for the general population in Bulgaria, where 40% state that they follow European politics and 54% say it is important that Bulgaria is part of the EU (Parlemeter).

Figure 4: Image of the EU for Bulgarian respondents



Only 33% of Bulgarian respondents say it is likely that they will vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024<sup>6</sup>. This is a much lower than the figure for Bulgaria, where 53% say that they are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). Bulgarian respondents are the third nationality from the survey less likely to vote in 2024.

The overwhelming majority of Bulgarian respondents (72%) report that they did not vote in the 2019 elections. This value reflects the turnout in Bulgaria, as in 2019 67% of Bulgarians did not vote. Among those who did vote, the majority encountered no difficulties as a result of living in the UK (65%), while a minority

<sup>5</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>6</sup> Aggregation of data based on a 10-point scale of likelihood, ranging from 1 – not likely at all and 10 – very likely. Here and throughout the rest of text, 'likely' reflects an aggregation of the responses 7 to 10 in the likelihood scale. Conversely, 'not likely' would reflect an aggregation of all responses 1 to 4.

mentioned either a limited number of polling station in the UK (12%) or the excessive distance of such stations from their place of residence (10%). The top reasons for not voting in 2019 reflect a general political disenchantment among Bulgarian respondents, who mainly steered clear of the polls because of dissatisfaction with politics in general (26%), with the European Parliament as an institution (25%), or because they did not find voting useful at all (19%).

Bulgarian respondents perceive the cost of living, the fight against poverty, and creation of new jobs as the most important issues to be discussed ahead of the next EU elections. For political news, Bulgarian respondents rely on both traditional and new sources of information. Like respondents of other nationalities, their first sources of information are information websites (29%), such as newspapers and accredited media websites. However, Bulgarians are more likely than average to turn to online social networks (28%) and television (22%) for political news. While it is true that most Bulgarian respondents tend to trust traditional sources of information, such as experts (42%, their top choice) or the EU itself (22%), their trust in non-traditional sources, such as bloggers (25%, second highest choice) might explain their over-reliance on online social networks for political news. The online social networks that attract Bulgarian respondents the most are Facebook (86% use it on a weekly basis), YouTube (56%), and Messenger (46%).

## 4.2. Cyprus

The majority of Cypriot respondents have lived in the UK for less than 10 years. Despite this, they are the nationality with the highest share of individuals holding British citizenship (29%, average is 17%), while an additional 19% are in the process of applying. Like other EU nationals resident in the UK, the great majority of Cypriot respondents say that they feel they are EU citizens (88%, average is 83%) and this feeling is slightly stronger than in Cyprus (79%, EB 98). For most, the feeling of being EU citizens has not been undermined by Brexit, as 55% of Cypriot respondents claim it has had no impact and 16% report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. However, 62% of Cypriot respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit.

Cypriot respondents are the fifth nationality in the survey least interested in European affairs (71%). The large majority of Cypriot respondents say that they follow European politics at least from time to time (80%, in perfect line with the average) and 76% state that it is important for them that their country is part of the EU (average is 73%)<sup>7</sup>. Cypriot respondents are the eight most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (64%). These results are strikingly higher than in Cyprus where 60% follow European politics and only 54% say it is important that Cyprus is in the EU (Parlemeter).

45% of Cypriot respondents say they are likely to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024<sup>8</sup>. This is close to the figure obtained in Cyprus, where 51% of respondents are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). Cypriot respondents are the fourth nationality from the survey less likely to vote in 2024.

More than two-thirds of Cypriot respondents say they did not vote in the 2019 elections, a much higher proportion than in Cyprus (55%). Lack of information, rather than a politically motivated decision, appears to be the main reason for this. In fact, 21% of respondents admit that they did not know where and how to vote, 20% that they do not know much about EU elections, and 19% that they did not know elections were to be held at all. Half of those who voted encountered no particular issues in voting from abroad, while 18% mentioned the limited number of polling stations in UK. **Cypriots returned the highest share of respondents who had voted in UK polling stations for a UK candidate (59%).** This is probably explained by the high share of Cypriot respondents who hold the British nationality.

<sup>7</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>8</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

Table 4: How Cypriot respondents voted in 2019

<b>Q16 - How did you vote in the European Parliament elections in May 2019?</b>		
	<b>Average</b>	<b>Cypriot</b>
At a polling station in the United Kingdom for a United Kingdom party and/or candidate	30%	59%
By postal vote for a NATIONALITY party and/or candidate	26%	3%
At my embassy/consulate in the United Kingdom for a NATIONALITY party and/or candidate	22%	23%
At a polling station in COUNTRY for a NATIONALITY party and/or candidate	16%	12%
By another means for a NATIONALITY party and/or candidate	3%	3%
By another means for a United Kingdom party and/or candidate	3%	

At present, Cypriot respondents are mostly worried about rising inflation (64%) and the economic situation in the UK (52%) and are keen to see these economic issues addressed in the campaign ahead of the 2024 elections, along with climate change and relations between the EU and the UK.

When it comes to political matters, Cypriot respondents mostly trust experts (among the top choices for 51% of them), European institutions (45%), and journalists (32%). Their trust in accredited and reliable sources of information is reflected in their consumption of political news. Cypriot respondents mainly turn to traditional information sources for their political news, such as newspapers and accredited media websites (46%). A quarter of them prefer to get their political news on online social networks. Of these, their favourite platforms are Facebook (used on a weekly basis by 92% of them), Instagram (69%), and YouTube (66%).

#### 4.3. France

French respondents state that they have lived in UK for almost 19 years on average (ranking third behind only German and Dutch respondents). Despite the fact that most have lived in the UK for a long time, 20% of French respondents hold British citizenship. Like other EU nationals living in the UK, the large majority of French respondents say that they feel they are EU citizens (88%, average is 83%), and this feeling is more widespread than in France (61%, EB 98). The feeling of being EU citizens has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 39% of French respondents say it has had no impact and 41% even say that their feeling of EU citizenship is stronger. However, 57% of French respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit.

French respondents are the fourth nationality in the survey most interested in European affairs (86%). 78% of French respondents say that they follow European politics at least from time to time (average is 80%) and 80% that it is important that their country is in the EU (average is 73%)<sup>9</sup>. **French respondents are the third most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (73%).** Among the general population in France, fewer people follow European politics (48%) or say it is important that France is in the EU (57%) (Parlemeter).

<sup>9</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

Little more than half of French respondents report that they are likely to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024 (56%)<sup>10</sup>. This figure is close to that observed for respondents in France, 57% of whom say that they are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). French respondents are the fifth nationality from the survey most likely to vote in 2024.

Half the French respondents say that they voted in the 2019 elections, a high turnout compared with other nationalities but still lower than among Italian, German, and Dutch respondents. The declared turnout for respondents is almost identical to the actual turnout of voters in France, as in 2019 50% of French people did not vote. 48% of French respondents encountered no particular issue when voting in the UK. For the 52% who did face some issues, these were mostly due to the distance of the polling stations from their place of residence. Those who did not vote mostly appear to have had issues with the additional complications of voting from abroad (18%) and because did not know where and how to vote (16%).

Like the other nationalities covered by the study, and to a certain extent in even larger measure, French respondents are rather worried by rising inflation (a top issue for 69% of them) and the economic situation in the UK (50%). These issues continue to be significant ahead of the EU elections, and a considerable proportion of French respondents believe that rising inflation (40%) and EU-UK relations (50%) should have a prominent place in the upcoming electoral campaign. However, what French respondents would mostly like to see addressed are measures against climate change (56%).

In gathering information on political matters, French respondents place their trust mostly in experts, journalists, and EU institutions (top choices for 53%, 55%, and 37% of them). French respondents are the most likely to trust journalists, along with Dutch respondents (55%) and slightly ahead of German respondents (50%). They are also the nationality most likely to declare they get their news from national (here French) media sources (22%, together with Polish respondents). They do not trust the British government (10%), a value that is significantly low, especially in comparison with their trust in the French government (among the top trustworthy sources at 22%). Only German respondents trust the British government less than French respondents (5%, ranking first for distrust).

When they look for accredited sources of information on political matters, French respondents prefer online accredited newspapers (44%) and their reliance on online social networks (10%) is limited compared with most of the nationalities in this study. Among the various online social networks, French respondents have a clear preference for Facebook (84%) and WhatsApp (74%).

#### 4.4. Germany

German respondents have lived in UK for 19.7 years on average (only Dutch respondents report living in the UK for longer, 19.9 years). Despite this, 22% of German respondents hold British citizenship. Like other EU nationals living in the UK, a large majority say that they feel they are EU citizens (89%, average is 83%), and this feeling is slightly stronger than in Germany (81%, EB 98). This feeling of being EU citizens has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 33% of German respondents claim it has had no impact and 48% even say their feeling of EU citizenship is stronger, which is the highest share among all nationalities. However, 63% of German respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit.

German respondents are the nationality in the survey the most interested in European affairs (92%). A higher than average share of German respondents say that they follow European politics at least from time to time (90%, average is 80%) and a slightly higher than average share state that it is important that their country is in the EU (84%, average is 73%)<sup>11</sup>. **German respondents are the most likely of all the nationalities**

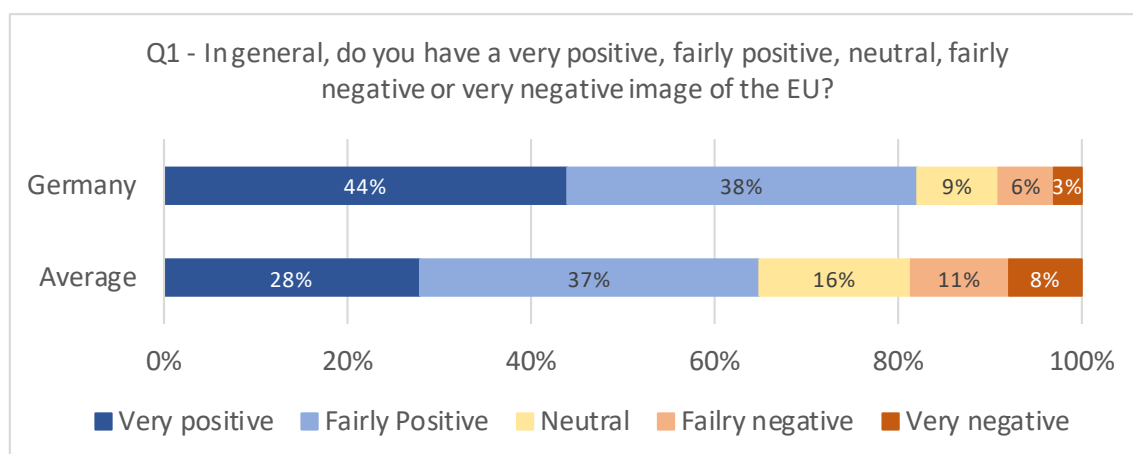
<sup>10</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

<sup>11</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.



**covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (82%).** In Germany, fewer people follow European politics (68%) and fewer people say it is important that Germany is in the EU (71%) (Parlemeter).

*Figure 5: Image of the EU for German respondents*



Up to 66% of German respondents say they are likely to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024<sup>12</sup>. This is close to the figure for Germans resident in Germany, 73% of whom report that they are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). **German respondents are the nationality from the survey the most likely to vote in 2024.**

58% of German respondents confirm that they voted in the 2019 European polls, a proportion that is 15% higher than the average for all respondents and only just below the proportion of German voters at home (61%). In the process leading to the vote, the majority of German respondents say that they encountered no particular issues as result of living in the UK (67%). Only a minority complained of a lack of information on parties and candidates (10%). For the 42% who did not vote, a lack of information about where and how to vote (22%) and the complications resulting from voting abroad (21%) are the most important issues that prevented them from voting.

In the run-up to the upcoming EU elections, the most important issues identified by German respondents are measures to tackle climate change (among the top choices for 56% of them), the fight against poverty (45%), and the EU-UK relationship (44%).

The first choice for German respondents when obtaining information on political matters is accredited media and newspaper websites (56%). Television and online social networks are among the top choices for 14% and 10% of German respondents respectively. These media consumption habits reflect their perceptions of what counts as a trustworthy source. For political matters, in fact, German respondents mostly trust experts (among the top choices for 66%), journalists (50%), and, unlike most other nationalities, NGOs (40%). Their trust in the British government as a source of information is minimal. The British government is considered a trustworthy source by just 5% of German respondents, less than in any other group of EU nationals in the UK (5% lower than French respondents, in second-lowest place). German respondents can mostly be found on Facebook (86%) and WhatsApp (73%), though they are unlikely to be looking for information on political matters, as only a minority use online social networks for this purpose (10%).

<sup>12</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

## 4.5. Greece

Greek respondents form a relatively new community in the UK, where the majority of them have lived for less than 10 years. Despite this, Greek respondents are among the most likely to hold British citizenship (25%, average is 17%), with an additional 14% who are in the process of applying. Like other EU nationals in the UK, a large majority feel they are EU citizens (84%, average is 83%), and this feeling is stronger than among Greeks living in Greece (56%, EB 98). This feeling of being EU citizens has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 59% of Greek respondents say it has had no impact and 14% even say that their feeling of EU citizenship is stronger. However, 62% of Greek respondents do not feel more part of their national community as a result of Brexit.

Greek respondents are the ninth nationality in the survey most interested in European affairs (78%). 84% of Greek respondents say that they follow European politics at least from time to time (average is 80%) and 71% say it is important that their country is in the EU (average is 73%)<sup>13</sup>. Greek respondents are the fifth less likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (56%). Among the general population in Greece, fewer people follow European politics (61%) and fewer people say it is important that Greece is in the EU (59%) (Parlemeter).

44% of the Greek respondents say they are likely to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024<sup>14</sup>. This is a low number compared with Greeks in Greece, 75% of whom are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). Greek respondents are the ninth nationality from the survey most likely to vote in 2024.

Less than half the Greek respondents report that they took part in the 2019 European elections (40%), a value that falls very close to the average for all nationalities but is sensibly different to the turnout registered in Greece (59%). 57% of those who voted encountered no particular issues due to their status in the UK and only a minority report a lack of information around elections (10%). **It should be noted that Greek respondents are the most likely to have cast their ballot in their own country for a Greek candidate** (ranking first with 44% ahead of Bulgarians and Romanians). For those who did not vote, the main reasons were lack of information about where and how to vote (24%), and the fact that it was not possible (24%) or too complicated (17%) to vote from abroad.

Table 5: How Greek respondents voted in 2019

Q16 - How did you vote in the European Parliament elections in May 2019?		
	Average	Greek
At a polling station in the United Kingdom for a United Kingdom party and/or candidate	30%	37%
By postal vote for a NATIONALITY party and/or candidate	26%	3%
At my embassy/consulate in the United Kingdom for a NATIONALITY party and/or candidate	22%	11%
At a polling station in COUNTRY for a NATIONALITY party and/or candidate	16%	44%
By another means for a NATIONALITY party and/or candidate	3%	3%
By another means for a United Kingdom party and/or candidate	3%	2%

<sup>13</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>14</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.



Greek respondents are overwhelmingly worried about rising inflation and the cost of living (among the top choices for 71%) and, to a lesser extent, the economic situation in the UK (41%). It is no surprise, therefore, that Greek respondents are keen to see the cost of living (among the top choices for 55%) and the fight against poverty (45%) as the most important issues to be addressed in the campaign leading to the 2024 elections.

Greek respondents get most of their political news from the information websites of accredited media (53%) and, in the second instance, from online social networks (25%). Despite their significant reliance on online social networks, where generally non-traditional sources of information tend to flourish, Greek respondents tend to trust traditional sources for political matters, such as experts (among the top choices for 57%), journalists (36%), and EU institutions (34%). The British government does not feature among their top choices, as a lower than average share find it trustworthy (19%, average is 20%). Facebook (89%), YouTube (66%), and Messenger (65%) are the preferred online social networks for Greek respondents.

#### 4.6. Hungary

Hungarian respondents form a relatively new community in the UK, as the majority have lived in the UK for less than 10 years. 15% of Hungarian respondents already hold British citizenship, with an additional 16% who are in the process of applying. Like other EU nationals living in the UK, the great majority say that they feel they are EU citizens (91%, average is 83%) and this feeling is stronger than in Hungary (76%, EB 98). The feeling of being EU citizens has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 58% of Hungarian respondents claim it has had no impact and 31% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. However, 87% of Hungarian respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit, more than among any other nationality.

Hungarian respondents are the eighth nationality in the survey most interested in European affairs (78%). 77% of Hungarian respondents say they follow European politics at least from time to time (average is 80%) and 70% say it is important that their country is in the EU (average is 73%)<sup>15</sup>. Hungarian respondents are the ninth most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (61%). Among the population in Hungary, fewer people follow European politics (54%), while 67% say it is important that Hungary is in the EU (Parlemeter).

43% of Hungarian respondents say they are likely to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024<sup>16</sup>. This is a low number compared to the population in Hungary, 70% of whom are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). Hungarian respondents are the seventh nationality from the survey most likely to vote in 2024.

More than two-thirds of Hungarian respondents state that they did not vote in the 2019 European elections, significantly fewer than voters in Hungary (57%). Among their reasons for not voting, they mainly mention a general dissatisfaction with politics and the complications of voting from abroad. For most of the Hungarian respondents who did vote in the 2019 elections, living in the UK presented no particular obstacle (59% reported no issues). Those who did encounter difficulties say that these were mostly due to the distance of the polling stations from their residence (22%) and the limited number of such stations in UK (19%).

At present, Hungarian respondents are most concerned about the rising cost of living (among the top choices for 64% of them) and the economic situation in the UK (36%). In line with these concerns, they are

<sup>15</sup> Answers 7-10 on a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>16</sup> Answers 7-10 on a 10-point likelihood scale.

mostly keen to see the EU-UK relationship (47%) and the cost of living (46%) being addressed in the political campaign ahead of the 2024 elections.

Hungarian respondents get their political news mostly from the information websites of accredited media (among the top choices for 47% of them). In the second instance, they rely on online social networks (19%). For political matters, Hungarian respondents mainly trust experts (61%), EU institutions (35%), and, like Germans, NGOs (32%). In general, the favourite online social networks of Hungarian respondents are Facebook (among the top choices for 92% of them), YouTube 72%, and Messenger 68%. In this survey, Hungarian respondents are the top users of Facebook, followed by Cypriots and Romanians.

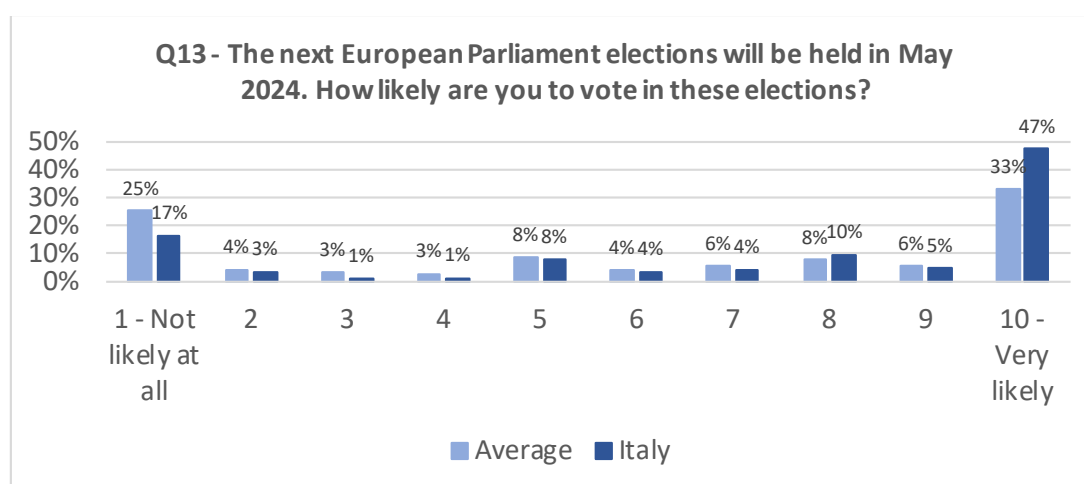
#### 4.7. Italy

Italian respondents have lived in the UK for 16 years on average. They are among the respondents most likely to hold British citizenship (25%, average is 17%), with an additional 11% who are in the process of applying. Like other EU nationals living in the UK, the great majority say that they feel they are EU citizens (83%, average is 83%), and this feeling is stronger than in Italy (65%, EB 98). This feeling of being EU citizens has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 41% of Italian respondents claim it has had no impact and 39% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. **48% of them feel more part of the Italian community following Brexit, which is the largest share among all nationalities** (along with Spanish respondents).

Italian respondents are the sixth nationality in the survey most interested in European affairs (84%). 85% of Italian respondents say that they follow European politics at least from time to time (average is 80%) and 78% believe it is important that their country is in the EU (average is 73%)<sup>17</sup>. Italian respondents are the fifth most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (70%). Compared with the population in Italy, fewer people follow European politics (58%) or say it is important that Italy is in the EU (61%) (Parlemeter).

Up to 66% of Italian respondents say they are likely to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024<sup>18</sup>. This is close to the figure for Italians in Italy, 68% of whom are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). **Italian respondents are the second nationality from the survey most likely to vote in 2024.**

Figure 6: Likelihood to vote in 2024 for Italian respondents



<sup>17</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>18</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

**Italians are the respondents most likely to have voted in the 2019 European elections (59%).** Only German respondents are close (in second place at 58%). Italian respondents are those who voted the most by postal vote for an Italian party or candidate (49%). Compared with the population in Italy, the turnout for Italian nationals in the UK is 5% higher. The majority of Italian respondents encountered no issues resulting from living in the UK (60%), but a quarter of them found voting more difficult due to a lack of information on parties and candidates. For those who did not vote, it was a general dissatisfaction with politics (20%) rather than organisational and logistical issues that kept them away from the polls.

Italian respondents are mostly worried by the rising cost of living (among the top choices for 69% of them) and the economic situation in the UK (51%). Accordingly, they believe that the cost of living should have a prominent place in the campaign ahead of the 2024 elections (among the top choices for 47% of them), along with the EU-UK relationship (49%) and their rights as EU citizens in the UK (39%).

For political news, Italian respondents prefer the information websites of accredited media (among the top choices for 58% of them), followed by television (13%), and online social networks (12%). When it comes to political matters, they tend to trust traditional sources, such as experts (among the top choices for 59% of them), journalists (43%), and European institutions (41%). The British government does not feature among the top trustworthy sources for Italian respondents, as a lower than average proportion see it as trustworthy (17%). Facebook is still the favourite online social network for Italian respondents (80% use it at least weekly) though to a lesser extent than almost all the other nationalities, followed by WhatsApp (77%), and Instagram (55%).

#### 4.8. Latvia

Latvian respondents have lived in the UK for 12 years on average, and 13% of them hold British citizenship. Like other EU nationals in the UK, a large majority say they feel they are EU citizens (72%, average is 83%). Unlike most nationalities, this is slightly weaker than in Latvia (79%, EB 98). The feeling of being an EU citizen has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 74% of Latvian respondents claim it has had no impact and 12% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. However, 73% of Latvian respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit.

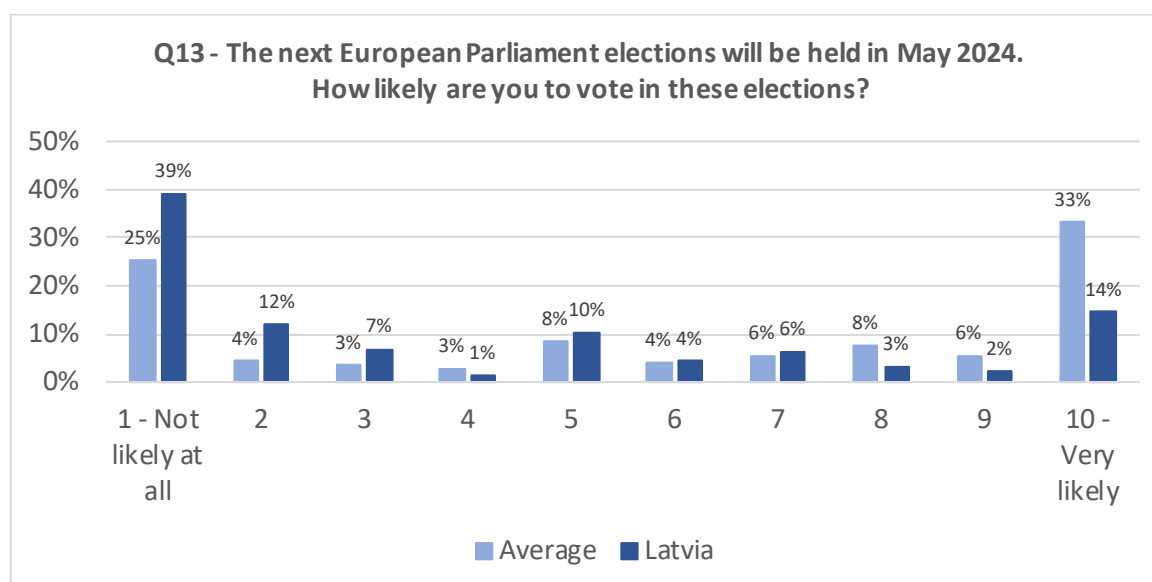
Latvian respondents are the second nationality in the survey the least interested in European affairs (64%). This is reflected in a lower than average share of respondents who say they follow European politics at least from time to time (55%, average is 80%) and who say it is important<sup>19</sup> that their country is in the EU (50%, average is 73%). As many as 26% of Latvian respondents say it is not at all important that their country is a member of the EU, sharing first place with Bulgarian respondents. Latvian respondents are the third most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold negative views of the EU (27%). That being said, in Latvia 58% say they follow European politics, while 69% say it is important that Latvia is in the EU (Parlemeter).

Only 26% of Latvian respondents say they are likely<sup>20</sup> to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024. This is a low number compared with the population in Latvia, 66% of whom are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). **Latvian respondents are the nationality from the survey the least likely to vote in 2024.**

<sup>19</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>20</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

Figure 7: Likelihood to vote in 2024 for Latvian respondents



Latvians are the respondents least likely to say that they voted in 2019 (14%). The turnout for Latvian respondents is also significantly lower than in Latvia (34%). The main reasons mentioned for not voting are dissatisfaction with politics generally (16%), a lack of information about where and how to vote (14%), and the limited number of polling stations in UK (14%).

Latvian respondents' opinions on the issues that should be discussed during the campaign ahead of the 2024 elections are rather ambiguous. Unlike other nationalities, their interests are spread across a variety of themes, none of them particularly prominent. Only EU-UK relations (41%) and the cost of living (39%) seem to attract the attention of Latvian respondents a little more.

Latvian respondents get their political news mostly from the information websites of accredited media (among the top choices for 30% of them) and online social networks (26%). For political matters, Latvians mostly trust experts (36%) and, much more than almost all the other nationalities, the British government (36%). Facebook (85%) and YouTube (65%) are their preferred online social networks.

#### 4.9. Lithuania

Lithuanian respondents have lived in the UK for 14 years on average, but only 2% of them hold British citizenship (average is 17%). Like other EU nationals in the UK, the great majority say that they feel they are EU citizens (87%, average is 83%), and this feeling is slightly stronger than in Lithuania (80%, EB 98). The feeling of being an EU citizen has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 72% of Lithuanian respondents claim it has had no impact and 11% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. However, 65% of Lithuanian respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit.

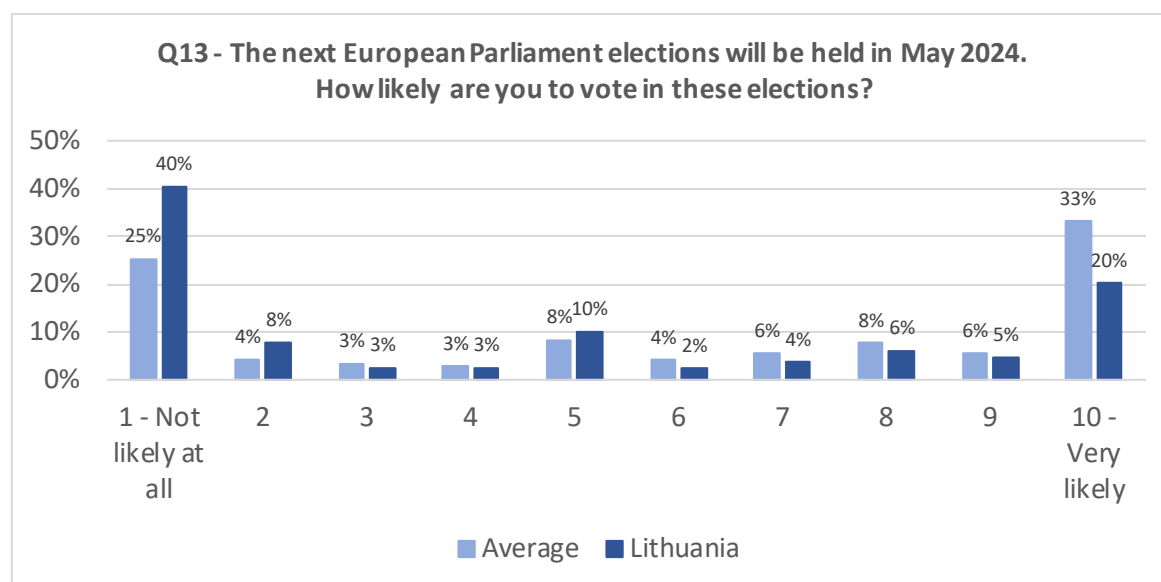
Lithuanian respondents are the third nationality in the survey the least interested in European affairs (68%). This is reflected by a lower than average share of respondents who say they follow European politics at least from time to time (68%, average is 80%) and a slightly lower than average share who say it is important<sup>21</sup> that their country is in the EU (64%, average is 73%). Lithuanian respondents are the second least likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (47%). That being said, in Lithuania

<sup>21</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

only 50% say they follow European politics, while 82% say it is important that Lithuania is in the EU (Parlemeter).

Only 34% of Lithuanian respondents say they are likely<sup>22</sup> to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024. This is a low number compared with the population in Lithuania, 59% of whom are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). **Lithuanian respondents are the second nationality from the survey less likely to vote in 2024.**

Figure 8: Likelihood to vote in 2024 for Lithuanian respondents



The declared turnout in 2019 among Lithuanian respondents was only 22%, which is significantly lower than in Lithuania where 53% of registered voters turned out. While the majority of respondents who did vote reported no issues when voting, the biggest issue - faced by 18% of the respondents - was a lack of information on the parties and candidates, followed by the absence of practical information on how and where to vote, reported by 12% of the respondents who had not voted in the 2019 European Parliament elections.

In general, respondents identify rising prices (58%), health (30%) and the economic situation in the UK (28%) as the most important issues for them. Unsurprisingly, 47% of respondents say that the cost of living is the most important issue for the upcoming European Parliament elections, followed by the relationship between the UK and the European Union (43%)

Overall, 34% of the Lithuanian respondents turn to information websites and news sources for political news. The sources of information they trust the most are experts (30%) and the British government (29%). Lastly, 90% of the respondents say their preferred online social network is Facebook.

#### 4.10. Netherlands

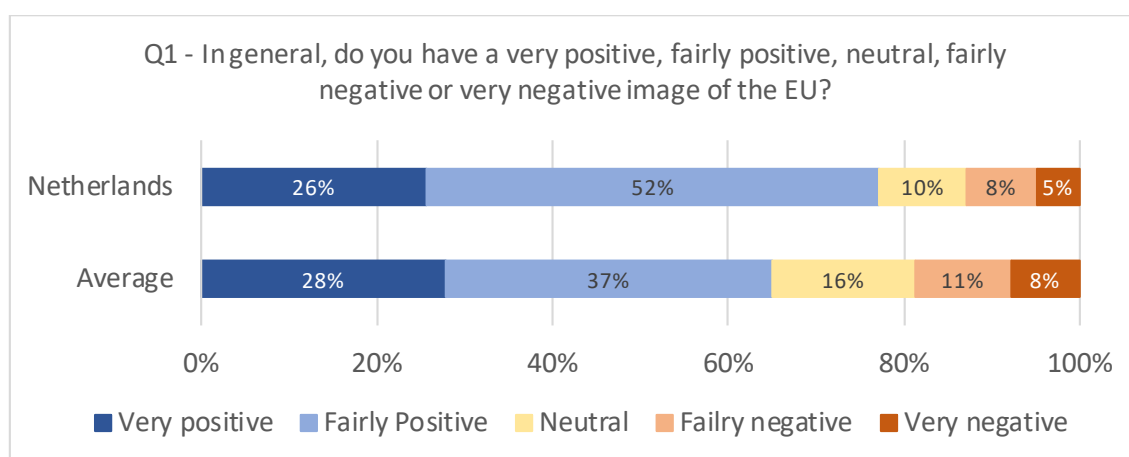
Dutch respondents form one of the oldest communities living in the UK, where they have lived for 20 years on average (only German and French respondents have lived in the UK for a comparable period of time). Despite this, only 15% of Dutch respondents hold British citizenship. Like other EU nationals in the UK, the great majority say that they feel they are EU citizens (85%, average is 83%), and this feeling is slightly stronger than in the Netherlands (81%, EB 98). The feeling of being an EU citizen has not been undermined

<sup>22</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

by the effects of Brexit, as 26% of Dutch respondents claim it has had no impact and 42% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. However, 67% of Dutch respondents do not feel more part of their national community as a result of Brexit.

Dutch respondents are the second nationality in the survey the most interested in European affairs (87%). Among Dutch respondents, 85% say that they follow European politics at least from time to time (average is 80%) and 80% say it is important<sup>23</sup> that their country is in the EU (average is 73%). **Dutch respondents are the second most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (78%).** In the Netherlands, fewer people follow European politics (69%), while 79% believe that it is important that the Netherlands is in the EU (Parlemeter).

Figure 9: Image of the EU for Dutch respondents



60% of Dutch respondents say they are likely<sup>24</sup> to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024. This is much lower than in the Netherlands, where 83% are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). Dutch respondents are the fourth nationality from the survey most likely to vote in 2024.

Interestingly, the declared turnout in 2019 among Dutch respondents was higher than the overall turnout in the Netherlands. While 52% of Dutch respondents say they voted in 2019, only 42% of registered voters voted in the Netherlands. While the majority of respondents who did vote report no issues when voting, the biggest issue faced by 19% of the respondents was a lack of information on the parties and candidates, followed by a lack of trust in/dissatisfaction with politics (31%), while 19% gave the complications of voting from abroad as a reason for not having voted in the 2019 European Parliament elections.

In general, Dutch respondents say that the economic situation in the UK (55%) and rising prices, inflation and cost of living (54%) are the most important issues for them, while 55% of respondents identify the relationship between the EU and the UK as the most important issue for the upcoming European Parliament elections. Another 54% say it is combatting climate change and protecting the environment.

Overall, 32% of Dutch respondents get their news from television. They mostly trust experts (69%) and journalists (55%) as sources of political information. Lastly, 84% of the respondents frequently use Facebook, and 78% frequently use WhatsApp as their preferred online social networks.

<sup>23</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>24</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

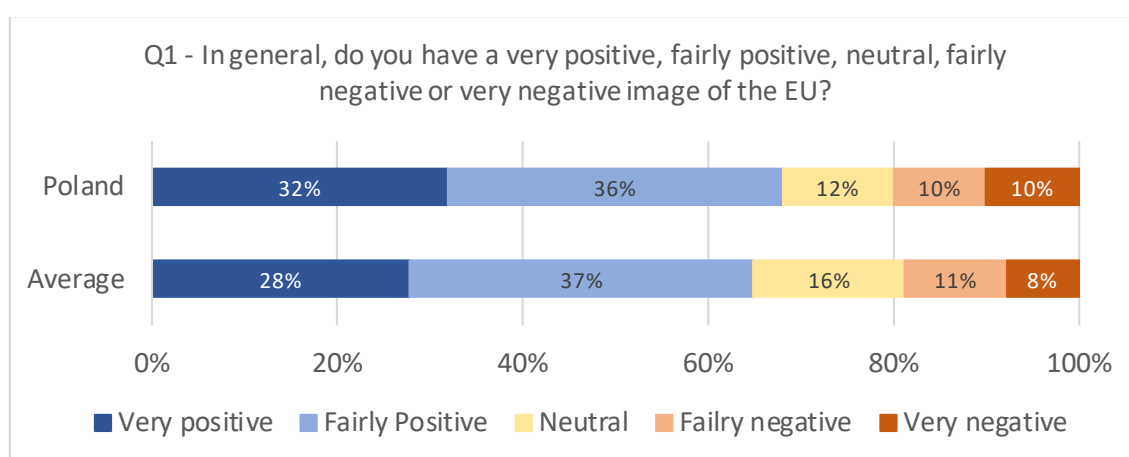


#### 4.11. Poland

Polish respondents have lived in the UK for 14 years on average, and 15% of them hold British citizenship. Like other EU nationals in the UK, most feel they are EU citizens (82%, average is 83%), exactly the same proportion as in Poland (EB 98). The feeling of being an EU citizen has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 64% of Polish respondents claim it has had no impact and 19% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. However, 69% of Polish respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit.

Polish respondents are the third nationality in the survey most interested in European affairs (87%). **Polish respondents form an exception among nationals of Member States that joined the EU after 2004**, since 85% say that they follow European politics at least from time to time (average is 80%) and 75% believe it is important<sup>25</sup> that their country is in the EU (average is 73%). Polish respondents are the seventh most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (68%). In Poland, fewer people follow European politics (52%), while 77% say it is important that Poland is in the EU (Parlemeter).

Figure 10: Image of the EU for Polish respondents



58% of Polish respondents say they are likely<sup>26</sup> to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024. This is slightly less than in Poland, where 67% of citizens say they are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). Polish respondents are the third nationality from the survey most likely to vote in 2024.

In the 2019 European Parliament elections the declared turnout was similar for Polish citizens living in the UK and the overall population in Poland. Indeed, 48% of Polish respondents say that they voted in 2019, while the actual turnout in Poland was 46%. Although over half the respondents report they had no issues voting in the 2019 European Parliament elections, a minority of 16% said the polling stations were far away from where they lived. Of those respondents who did not vote in the previous elections, 18% report that the main reason was not knowing where or how to vote, while another 18% mention a lack of trust in or dissatisfaction with politics generally.

In general, 73% of respondents identify the cost of living as the most important issue for them, and 34% mention health. Unsurprisingly, 47% say that the cost of living is the most important issue for the upcoming European Parliament elections.

Information websites are the most used news source (42%), followed by television (22%). Over half the respondents say they trust experts (54%) followed by journalists (44%) as news sources. They are also the

<sup>25</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>26</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

nationality most likely to declare they get their news from national (here Polish) media sources (22%, together with French respondents). Lastly, 87% of respondents say they frequently use Facebook, 57% WhatsApp, and another 57% Messenger as their preferred online social networks.

#### 4.12. Portugal

Portuguese respondents have lived in the UK for 14 years on average and 9% report that they hold British citizenship. Like other EU nationals living in the UK, a large majority say they feel they are EU citizens (71%, average is 83%). Unusually, this feeling is less widespread among Portuguese citizens in the UK than it is in Portugal (82%, EB 98). The feeling of being an EU citizen has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 39% of Portuguese respondents claim it has had no impact and 31% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. However, 62% of Portuguese respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit.

Portuguese respondents are the seventh nationality in the survey most interested in European affairs (82%). Among Portuguese respondents, 80% say that they follow European politics at least from time to time (average is 80%) and 72% say it is important<sup>27</sup> that their country is in the EU (average is 73%). Portuguese respondents are the fourth most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (73%). In Portugal, fewer people follow European politics (47%), while 75% say it is important that Portugal is in the EU (Parlemeter).

42% of Portuguese respondents say they are likely<sup>28</sup> to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024, a much lower figure than in Portugal, where 59% are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). Portuguese respondents are the eighth nationality from the survey most likely to vote in 2024.

Up to 72% of Portuguese respondents report that they did not vote in the 2019 European Parliament elections, while 28% say they did so, a proportion that is similar to the turnout registered in Portugal (31%). Although a majority of 63% of respondents say that they had no issues voting in the 2019 European elections, a minority of 11% say they lacked information on the parties or candidates to vote for. Among respondents who did not vote in the previous 2019 elections, 26% say that not knowing where or how to vote was the main reason for this, whereas 21% say it was too complicated for them to vote abroad.

The majority of Portuguese respondents identify rising prices, inflation and living costs as the most important issue they are facing at the moment, and 48% of them mention the economic situation in the UK. Similarly, 53% of respondents believe the cost of living to be among the most important issues for the upcoming European elections, while 53% mention the rights of EU citizens living in the UK and 51% the relationship between the EU and the UK.

While most respondents, accounting for 27% of total answers, mention information websites as their most frequent source of political news, 26% identify television as their preferred news source. Almost half the respondents report that the source they trust most is experts, followed by European institutions (37%). Lastly, a majority of 85% of respondents said they use Facebook and 60% said they use WhatsApp as their preferred online social networks.

<sup>27</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>28</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.



### 4.13. Romania

Romanian respondents form a relatively new community in the UK, as the majority of them have lived in the UK for less than 10 years. 18% of Romanian respondents already hold British citizenship, with an additional 16% who are in the process of applying. Like other EU nationals in the UK, a large majority of Romanian respondents say that they feel they are EU citizens (79%, average is 83%), and this feeling is more widespread than in Romania (58%, EB 98). The feeling of being an EU citizen has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 59% of Romanian respondents claim it has had no impact and 14% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. However, 56% of Romanian respondents do not feel more part of their national community following Brexit.

Romanian respondents are the nationality in the survey the least interested in European affairs (51%). Among Romanian respondents, 74% say they follow European politics at least from time to time (average is 80%) and 63% say it is important<sup>29</sup> that their country is in the EU (average is 73%). Romanian respondents are the second most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold negative views of the EU (28%). In Romania, fewer people follow European politics (53%), while 54% say it is important that Romania is in the EU (Parlemeter).

42% of Romanian respondents say they are likely<sup>30</sup> to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024. This is much lower than in Romania, where 60% are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). Romanian respondents are the fifth nationality from the survey least likely to vote in 2024.

While 62% of the Romanian respondents report they did not vote in the previous European elections, 37% say they did. Compared with the turnout in Romania (51%), the turnout for Romanians in the UK is considerably lower. The biggest issue, faced by 31% of the Romanian respondents who did vote, was the limited number of polling stations in the UK. For 20% of respondents, lack of trust in/dissatisfaction with politics generally was the main reason for not voting in the 2019 European elections.

In general, Romanian respondents report that rising prices, inflation and the cost of living are the most important issues for them. Rising prices are an issue for 65% of respondents, whilst 34% say that the economic situation in the UK is one of the most important issues they are facing. Unsurprisingly, 57% of these respondents identify the cost of living as the most important issue for the upcoming European elections, while 46% say it is the relationship between the European Union and the UK.

Overall, 34% of Romanian respondents get their political news mostly from information websites. The source of political information they trust the most is the British government (37%). Lastly, 90% of respondents say they frequently use Facebook, the most widely used online social network.

### 4.14. Spain

Spanish respondents form a relatively new community in the UK, as the majority of them have lived in the UK for less than 10 years and 13% hold British citizenship. Like other EU nationals in the UK, a large majority say that they feel they are EU citizens (91%, average is 83%), a slightly higher figure than in Spain (86%, EB 98). The feeling of being an EU citizen has not been undermined by the effects of Brexit, as 37% of Spanish respondents claim it has had no impact and 37% even report that their feeling of EU citizenship is now stronger. Among Spanish respondents, 48% now feel more part of the Spanish community, the highest proportion of nationalities (along with Italian respondents).

<sup>29</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>30</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

Spanish respondents are the fifth nationality in the survey most interested in European affairs (85%). Among Spanish respondents, 76% report that they follow European politics at least from time to time (average is 80%) and 88% say it is important<sup>31</sup> that their country is in the EU (average is 73%). Spanish respondents are the sixth most likely of all the nationalities covered by the study to hold positive views of the EU (70%). In Spain, fewer people follow European politics (48%) and fewer people say it is important that Spain is in the EU (70%) (Parlemeter).

46% of Spanish respondents say they are likely<sup>32</sup> to vote in the European Parliament elections in 2024, much lower than in Spain, where 64% are likely to vote in 2024 (Parlemeter). Spanish respondents are the sixth nationality from the survey most likely to vote in 2024.

Whereas 63% of Spanish respondents report that they did not vote in the 2019 EU Parliament elections, 37% did. This is considerably lower than the turnout in Spain, where it reached 61%. Almost half the respondents encountered no issues when voting in the previous elections. Among those who did experience issues, most mention a lack of information on which party or candidate to vote for (20%), followed by 15% who complained of a lack of practical information on how and where to vote. The main reasons given for not voting in the previous European Parliament elections are lack of information on where or how to vote (22%) and complications resulting from voting abroad (21%); 17% of the respondents even claim that it was impossible for them to vote from abroad.

The majority of Spanish respondents, making up 75% of the total, say that the most important issues they are currently facing are rising prices, inflation and the cost of living. The economic situation in the UK is the most worrying factor for 39% of respondents. For 58% of respondents, the most important issue they are keen to see addressed in the political campaign ahead of the upcoming European Parliament elections is the cost of living, while 50% mention public health and 48% the relationship between the European Union and United Kingdom. A similar number, amounting to 46% of respondents, see their rights as EU citizens living in the UK as one of the most important issues.

Finally, Spanish respondents mainly get their political news from information websites (49%), while only 19% use online social networks as their go-to source for political news. Most of the respondents, accounting for 54% of the total answers, say that experts are the most trustworthy source. Experts are closely followed by journalists (among the top choices for 43% of them) and European institutions (40%). Overall, WhatsApp and Facebook are the most common online social networks that the respondents use weekly, the top choice for 79% and 74% of respondents respectively.

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<sup>31</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point importance scale.

<sup>32</sup> Answers 7-10 of a 10-point likelihood scale.

## Annex I – Methodology

Participants were recruited via Facebook, so as to target EU citizens living in the UK. Fourteen EU nationalities with the highest numbers of UK-resident citizens were selected (excluding the Irish <sup>33</sup>): Polish, German, Romanian, Italian, Portuguese, French, Spanish, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Dutch, Bulgarian, Latvian, Greek, and Cypriot.

Facebook advertisements were prepared in national languages for these 14 nationalities. These advertisements were displayed on the respondents' devices based on the following parameters extracted from their settings and profile: resident in the United Kingdom, default language setting – also localised to the country (French – France).

Facebook users interested in the advertisement could click on it and were directed to a landing page hosted on the Kantar Public website, where they were given more information and a link to the survey if they agreed to take part.

The text of the advertisements read: "To all [nationality] living in the UK: we are interested in your opinion! Click on the link and tell us what [nationality] in the UK think about their life and future in the UK."



<sup>33</sup> Because language was used as a proxy when targeting nationalities, it was too complicated to target Irish citizens without including British citizens.

## Annex II - Technical annex

Fieldwork took place from 23 January to 8 February 2023. In total, 4816 respondents completed the survey. The target of 200 respondents of each nationality was reached, except for Cypriots who are less numerous in the UK. There were no quota for other characteristics. Respondents come from all regions of the United Kingdom, but 27% live in London (where 13% of the total UK population live).

The results were weighted on nationality and gender. The average was weighted according to the size of the national groups.

*Table 4: Number of respondents by nationality*

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Respondents</b>
Bulgarian	453	Latvian	279
Cypriot	67	Lithuanian	271
French	443	Dutch	383
German	452	Polish	481
Greek	365	Portuguese	229
Hungarian	589	Romanian	255
Italian	386	Spanish	209

Note: Some respondents hold multiple nationalities