



Special Eurobarometer 519
Summary

Integration of immigrants in the European Union

Fieldwork: November-December 2021

Special Eurobarometer 519
November – December 2021

Survey conducted by Kantar at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME)

Survey co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM “Media monitoring and Eurobarometer Unit”)

Project title

Integration of immigrants in the European Union

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
I. GENERAL PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR INTEGRATION	7
1. Self-assessed levels of information about immigration and integration matters	8
2. Perception and knowledge about the order of magnitude of immigration across the EU countries	10
3. Personal experiences and attitudes towards immigrants	12
4. Personal ties with immigrants	14
5. General perceptions about the impact of immigrants on the EU societies and their integration	17
II. EUROPEAN VIEWS ON THE CONDITIONS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS	19
1. European views of the successful integration of migrants	20
2. Potential obstacles to integration	21
3. Measures to support the integration of immigrants	22
4. Impact of COVID-19 on the process of integration of immigrants	23
III. THE INTEGRATION AS A MULTI-FACETED PROCESS	24
1. Integration: a two-way process	25
2. The role of various actors in the integration of immigrants	26
3. Evaluation of governments' actions to foster the integration of immigrants	27
CONCLUSION	28

INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

In the European Union (EU), immigration has become a fact of life. Today, approximately 37 million persons born outside the EU reside in the Union making around 8% of its total population¹. Both inside the EU, and between the EU and the rest of the world, populations have become more mobile, moving for work, family, leisure, and, unfortunately, fleeing persecution and war. In all likelihood, migration will remain a key feature of European societies for years to come. Effective integration policies, particularly for the inclusion of third-country nationals, is crucial.

Immigrant integration is the other side of the coin as far as the immigration debate in our societies is concerned: successful integration is the elusive ingredient as to whether immigration policy is also successful or not. Yet the issue of the integration outcomes for immigrants and their children in the host society as well as the integration policies and programs that help ease their inclusion into society often receive far less attention, certainly in some Member States more than in others, in respect of questions around immigration levels, border management, and the size of unauthorized immigrant population. Some countries are quite assertive about their immigrant integration policies, while others have a more decentralized approach, even as immigrants have moved beyond the handful of traditional destinations in recent decades. This Eurobarometer survey hopes to contribute to this debate, by highlighting why integration is important not just for immigrants and their families but for the whole society as well.

Immigration and the integration of immigrants have become, and is likely to remain, a politically sensitive issue. The return to pre-COVID situation concerning the number of refugee applications, particularly in the aftermath of upheavals in neighbouring countries but also in further away regions, is also an important element of discussion across Member States, even if refugees and beneficiaries of international protection are a specific segment of legal immigrants. According to a Standard Eurobarometer survey conducted in spring 2021², immigration is among the top three issues facing the EU by 25% of EU citizens, up five percent from the previous wave.

To address the challenges of integration and contribute to alleviate EU citizens' concerns about the ability of their countries to manage these challenges, the EU has taken steps to support Member States in their integration policies³, even if the latter retain primary competence in this domain. While the needs of migrants may differ depending on their reason for coming to the EU, many Member States face similar challenges with respect to integration that can more effectively be addressed with the policy, operational and financial support of the EU.

In order to better understand how the EU institutions can work with Member States and other actors to tackle the challenges of

integration, it is necessary to have a clearer understanding of public opinion on the issue. In addition, it is crucial to understand how views differ across Member States, as well as among Europeans across socio-demographic groups and depending on existing interactions and ties with immigrants. This survey follows a survey conducted in 2017⁴⁵ to measure the attitudes of Europeans towards immigration and the integration of non-EU immigrants⁶.

To this purpose, this report focuses on:

- General perceptions of immigrants and knowledge about the extent and nature of immigration in the respondent's home country;
- Self-reported personal experiences, ties with, and level of comfort in interacting with immigrants;
- Evaluation of the success in integrating immigrants, the factors which facilitate integration, the obstacles that may prevent it and the measures that could support it;
- Opinions about the roles and responsibilities of various actors, the media and government institutions with respect to the integration of immigrants.

¹ Eurostat, 1/1/2021, table: migr_pop3ctb (Last update: 18/11/2021), http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_pop3ctb&lang=en

² https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/europe-immigration-most-important-issue-facing-eu-eurobarometer-says_en

³ EC(2020) Action Plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2028 (758) final

⁴ Special Eurobarometer survey 469 "Integration of immigrants in the European Union", <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2169>

⁵ In 2017, the survey was conducted in the EU28, including the UK; while in 2022 it was conducted in the EU27 (excluding the UK).

⁶ In this survey, in all questions except in Q1, immigrants are defined as people born outside the European Union, who have moved away from their country of birth and are at the moment staying legally in an EU country. This definition was repeated several times during the interviewing process to ensure all respondents have the same understanding of how an immigrant is defined in the survey. It was also added: We are not talking about EU citizens, children of immigrants who have (NATIONALITY) nationality and immigrants staying illegally. Official statistics show that most of the non-EU immigrants staying legally in (OUR COUNTRY) come from [LIST TOP 4-5 origin countries of non-EU born].

METHODOLOGY

This survey was carried out by the Kantar network in the 27 EU Member States between the 2nd of November and the 3rd of December 2021. Some 26,510 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed in their mother tongue. This survey was commissioned by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) in the framework of the Communication on the 'Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade'.

The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out for the Directorate-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and analysis" Unit). However, in order to run fieldwork during the COVID pandemic, it was necessary to change the methodology in some countries (total or partial online interviews in some countries). A technical note on the way the interviews were conducted by the institutes within the Kantar network is annexed to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence intervals.

Note: In this report, Member States are referred to by their official abbreviation, as listed below:

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	EN	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus*	CY*	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV		
European Union - weighted average for the 27 Member States of the European Union			EU27

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union Member States. However, the "acquis communautaire" has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY" category and in the EU27 average.

We would like to thank all respondents in Europe who took the time to take part in this survey.

Without their active participation, this survey would not have been possible.

I. GENERAL PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR INTEGRATION



1. Self-assessed levels of information about immigration and integration matters

Close to four in ten of Europeans say they are well informed about immigration and integration⁷.

- Close to four in ten (38%) respondents say that they are well informed about immigration and integration-related matters, with close to a third (34%) saying they are fairly well informed, and only 4% saying they are very well informed.
- Close to two thirds (62%) of respondents say they are not well informed, with nearly half of them (49%) indicating they are not very well informed, while 13% say they are not at all informed about these matters.

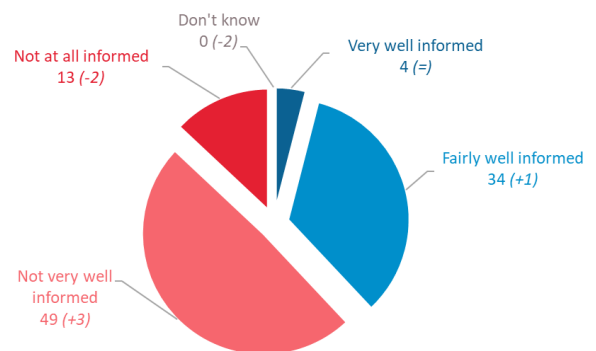
A **national analysis** reveals that in 23 of the 27 Member States, less than half of those surveyed say that they are well informed about immigration and integration related matters. Notably Sweden (69%) and Denmark (68%) stand out with a high proportion of the population indicating that they are well informed about these issues, followed by the Netherlands (54%) and Germany (52%). Compared to 2017, overall, no great changes can be noted.

Among socio-professional groups, managers are most likely to report being aware of these issues, with just over half (51%) of respondents in this group considering themselves well informed, compared with just over a quarter (27%) of house persons.

A majority of Europeans obtain their information on immigration and integration-related matters through traditional mass media such as newspapers, television, and radio⁸.

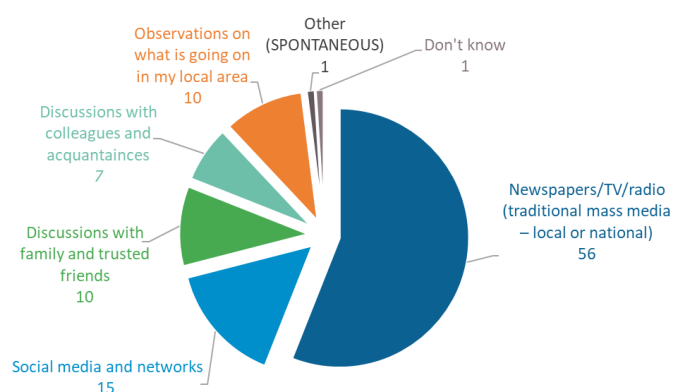
- More than half (56%) of those polled say that they obtain their information on immigration and integration related matters through traditional mass media such as newspapers, television, and radio, while 15% saying they get this from social media and networks.
- One in ten respondents say they obtain such information from discussions with family and trusted friends, with the same proportion referring to observations on what is going on in their local area, and 7% discussions with colleagues and acquaintances.

QB4 Overall, to what extent do you think that you are well informed or not about immigration and integration related matters? (% - EU)



(Nov/Dec 2021 - Oct 2017)

QB5 How do you predominantly/mainly obtain the relevant information on immigration and integration related matters? (% - EU)



(Nov/Dec 2021)

⁷ QB4. Overall, to what extent do you think that you are well informed or not about immigration and integration related matters? Very well informed. Fairly well informed. Not at all informed. Don't know.

⁸ QB5. How do you predominantly/mainly obtain the relevant information on immigration and integration related matters? Newspapers/TV/radio (traditional mass

media – local or national), Social media and networks, Discussions with family and trusted friends, Discussions with colleagues and acquaintances, Observations on what is going on in my local area, Other (SPONTANEOUS), Don't know





























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At the **national level**, respondents are most likely to indicate obtaining their information on immigration and integration related matters through traditional media in the Netherlands (79%), Finland and Denmark (both 76%), and Sweden (75%). Respondents are most likely to indicate that they obtain their information on this topic from social media and networks in Malta (31%), Cyprus (29%), and Slovakia, Croatia and Greece (24% all). They are least likely to do so in Portugal (4%), Italy (8%), and the Netherlands (9%).

Older respondents, particularly those aged 55 and over, are much more likely to source their information on this topic from traditional media like newspapers, TV, and radio (69%) than younger ones, particularly those aged 15-24 (32%). The inverse is true with regards to social media and networks, which are substantially more likely to be used for this purpose by the youngest group than those aged 55 and up (35% vs 6%).

Respondents who say they are not well-informed about immigration and integration-related matters are slightly more likely (57%) to get their info from traditional media than those who are well-informed (55%), while the latter are slightly more likely (16%) to obtain this information through social media and networks than those who feel not well informed (14%).

QB5 How do you predominantly/mainly obtain the relevant information on immigration and integration related matters?
(%-EU27)

		Newspapers/TV/radio (traditional mass media – local or national)	Social media and networks	Discussions with family and trusted friends	Observations on what is going on in my local area	Discussions with colleagues and acquaintances	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27		56	15	10	10	7	1	1
NL		79	9	3	5	3	1	0
DK		76	11	6	3	4	0	0
FI		76	11	4	5	4	0	0
SE		75	11	4	3	5	1	1
LT		70	20	4	3	3	0	0
LV		63	23	3	7	4	0	0
BG		62	11	7	8	6	1	5
EE		60	16	6	7	7	1	3
FR		60	15	7	10	6	1	1
BE		58	16	8	11	6	0	1
DE		58	18	9	7	6	1	1
IT		58	8	12	14	7	0	1
PT		56	4	10	20	4	3	3
ES		54	15	12	12	5	1	1
CZ		53	20	9	11	6	0	1
LU		50	22	10	11	7	0	0
HR		49	24	10	9	7	0	1
SI		49	17	8	15	8	2	1
RO		48	12	14	9	10	2	5
HU		47	18	18	7	9	0	1
PL		47	15	14	13	10	0	1
IE		46	23	12	9	9	0	1
SK		44	24	11	10	8	1	2
CY		43	29	7	12	8	0	1
AT		43	18	14	10	12	2	1
MT		41	31	9	11	8	0	0
EL		34	24	19	15	6	1	1
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM								
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM								
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM								

2. Perception and knowledge about the order of magnitude of immigration across the EU countries

2.1 Knowledge about the proportion of immigrants across the EU countries

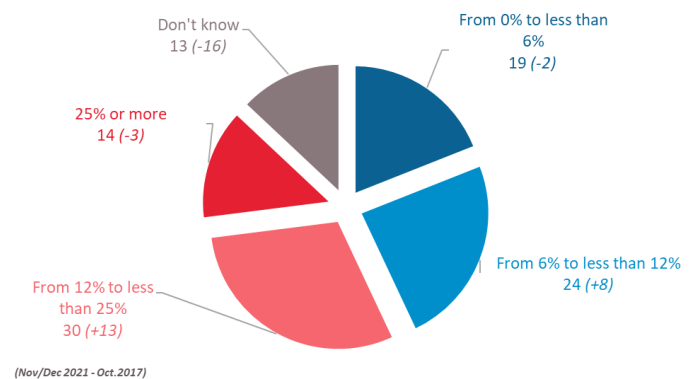
Respondents across the EU tend to overestimate the proportion of immigrants in their countries in some cases significantly while around three in ten do not know⁹

Close to a fifth (19%) suggest that immigrants represent between 0% and 6% of their country's total population, while close to one in four (24%) estimate it as being between 6% and 12%, three in ten (30%) between 12% and 25%, while 14% think it is higher than 25%¹⁰. This compares to the real share of immigrants in the population which averages around 5% in the EU but with significant variation across EU Member States¹¹. By this measure, on average across the EU, close to seven in ten (68%) overestimate the real share of immigrants in the population, while close to one in five (19%) correctly guess the range (between 0% and 6%) of the proportion of immigrants in their countries.

A **country-level analysis** shows significant differences among EU Member States. Among those who were interviewed, more than four in ten estimated the proportion of immigrants in their country correctly; in Lithuania (46%), Romania and Hungary (both 44%), and Denmark (43%). They were least likely to give a correct estimation in Spain (14%), Latvia and Estonia (both 16%) and Austria (17%).

Social class plays a considerable role. More than one in three (35%) respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class offer an accurate estimate, while less than one in five (16%) of those who identify themselves as working class have the same accuracy.

QB3.1 To your knowledge, what is the proportion of immigrants in the total population in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)



⁹ QB3. To your knowledge, what is the proportion of immigrants in the total population in (OUR COUNTRY)? 0% to less than 3%, 3% to less than 6%, 6% to less than 9%, 9% to less than 12%, 12% to less than 15%, 15% to less than 20%, 20% to less than 25%, 25% to less than 35%, 35% to less than 50%, 50% or higher.

¹⁰ Respondents were asked to estimate the share of immigrants (defined as "born outside the EU") in their country's population. This estimation was therefore based

solely on their perception of what an immigrant is in their country, without necessarily considering the definition used in this survey, and was given without any indication of what this proportion is in reality in their country or in the EU.

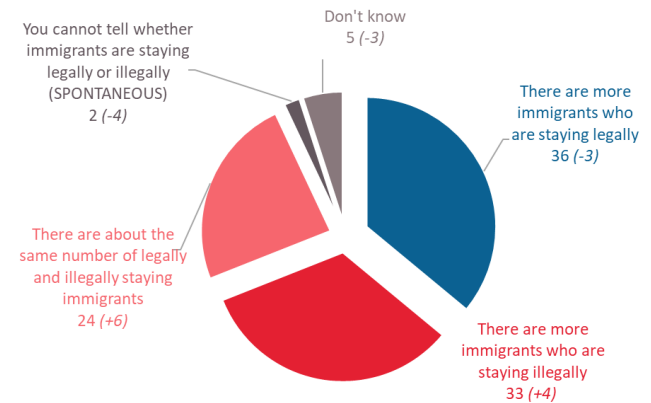
¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics

2.2 Overall perception of the relative proportion of immigrants staying legally or illegally across the EU countries

A majority of respondents think there are at least as many illegally staying immigrants as there are legally staying immigrants¹²

- Just over one in three (36%) respondents say that there are more immigrants who are staying legally than staying illegally in their country, while one in three think the opposite is true.
- About a quarter (24%) say that the number of immigrants staying legally is about the same as the number staying illegally.
- In contrast, available data from Eurostat show that significantly smaller proportions of immigrants are staying illegally than legally in the EU. According to available data, during 2020, 557.455 third-country nationals were found to be illegally present in the EU¹³, while 23 million third-country nationals were legally residing in the EU on 1st January 2020¹⁴.
- Compared to 2017¹⁵, a slight decrease (36%, -3) can be noted in the proportion of respondents who think that there are more immigrants who are staying legally than illegally in their country.

QB1 Generally speaking, would you say that there are more immigrants who are staying legally or illegally in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)



A look at **country-specific patterns** reveals significant variations. In ten Member States, at least half of respondents think there are more immigrants staying legally, most notably in Sweden and Denmark (both 83%), Finland (77%), and the Netherlands (66%). Countries with high proportions of respondents thinking there are more immigrants staying illegally than legally are situated either along the Mediterranean coast, such as Spain (41%), Malta (36%), and France (35%), or near the Eastern border of the EU like Bulgaria (36%), Hungary (35%), and Lithuania (35%). The lowest proportions of people who think this way are found in the Nordic countries such as Denmark (3%), Sweden (5%) and Finland (7%).

There is a strong association between the level of education and the perception of proportions of legally and illegally staying immigrants. Those who enjoyed a higher education are more than twice as likely as those who left school aged 15 or under to give this answer (46% vs 20%).

¹² QB1. Generally speaking, would you say that there are more immigrants who are staying legally or staying illegally in (OUR COUNTRY)? ONE ANSWER ONLY There are more immigrants who are staying legally, There are more immigrants who are staying illegally, There is about the same number of legally and illegally staying immigrants, You cannot tell whether immigrants are staying legally or illegally (SPONTANEOUS), Don't know.

¹³ http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_eipre&lang=en

¹⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/statistics-migration-europe_en

¹⁵ This question has been modified into a split question compared to 2017. That is why the evolutions registered for this question compared to previous surveys need to be analysed with caution.

3. Personal experiences and attitudes towards immigrants

3.1 Opportunities to interact with immigrants

At the EU level, four in ten (40%) respondents interact with immigrants at least weekly, although this varies by country¹⁶

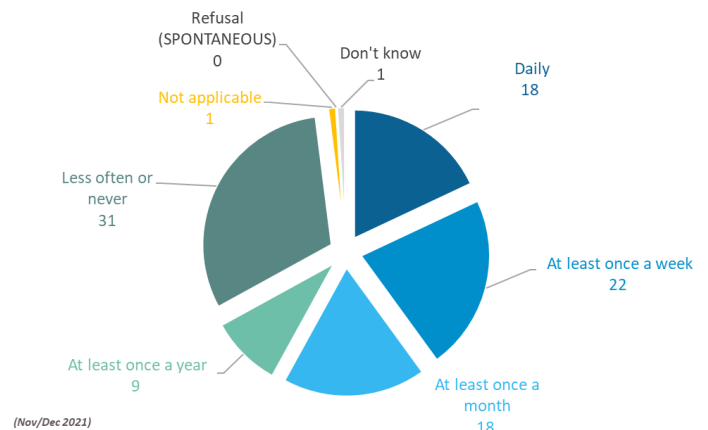
- Close to one fifth of respondents say they interact socially with immigrants on a daily basis (18%), while just above a fifth of respondents indicate they interact at least once a week (22%).
- Close to one in five (18%) indicate doing this at least once a month, while almost a third (31%) say this happens less often or never.
- Close to one in ten (9%) respondents indicate interacting with immigrants on a social level at least once a year.
- On average, four out of ten of those polled indicate interacting at least on a weekly basis with immigrants, be it having a conversation or engaging in an activity together.

The **country-level analysis** indicates notable differences across different Member States. In five countries, at least half of those polled indicate interacting socially with immigrants at least once a week, notably in Spain (64%), Sweden (62%) and Ireland (60%). Least likely to do so are respondents in Bulgaria and Romania (both 4%), Lithuania (8%), and Latvia (12%).

There seems to be an association between the proportion of immigrants in a given country and the likelihood of respondents interacting with them on a daily basis, however with some exceptions. In Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania less than 5% interact daily with immigrants, while in each of these countries immigrants amount to no more than 3% of the population¹⁷. In Croatia, which has a non-EU immigrant population of 11%, only 5% of respondents indicate interacting with them on a daily basis. In Luxembourg, with 11% of non-EU-born residents, 21% of respondents say that they have social interactions with immigrants on a daily basis. In Sweden, with a non-EU immigrant population of 14%, 29% of respondents indicate the same. Respondents in Spain, where non-EU immigrant population is 11%, are very likely (35%) to interact socially on a daily basis with immigrants. Those polled in Ireland are almost as likely (32%) to do so, despite the country having a non-EU immigrant population of only 5%.

More than half (53%) of those aged 15-24 interact weekly with immigrants. Those aged 55 and up are least likely (31%) to do so.

QB6 On average, how often do you interact socially with immigrants? Interaction can mean anything from having a few minutes conversation to doing an activity together. (% - EU)



¹⁶ QB6. On average, how often do you interact socially with immigrants? Interaction can mean anything from having a few minutes conversation to doing an activity

together. Daily, At least once a week, At least once a month, At least once a year, Less often or never, Not applicable, Don't know.

¹⁷ Source: Eurostat, migr_pop3ctb (Last update: 18/11/2021)

3.2 Levels of comfort to interact with immigrants across various social categories

The majority of Europeans feel comfortable with all listed ways of interactions with immigrants, but this varies widely across countries

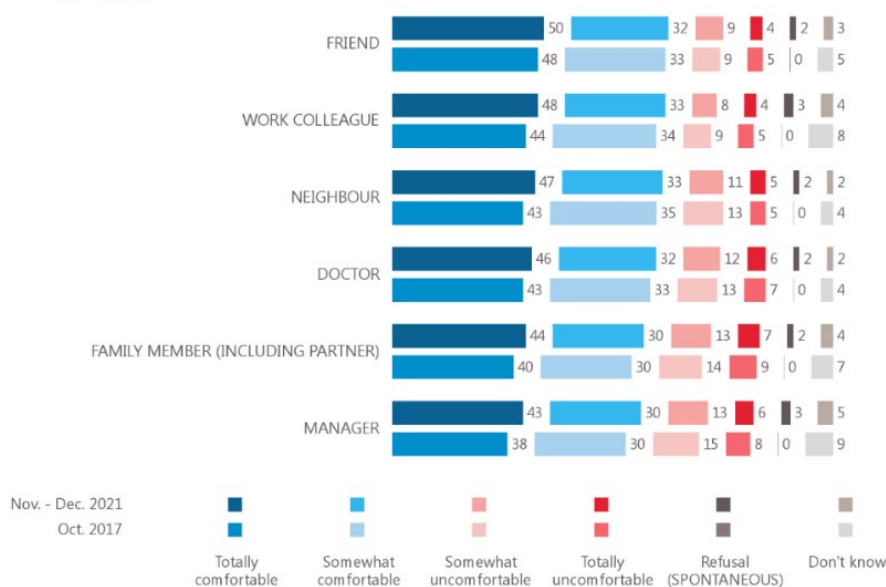
A majority of respondents say they would feel comfortable having social relations with immigrants of any of the types explored¹⁸.

- Over eight in ten (82%, +1%) would feel comfortable having an immigrant as a **friend**.
- Respondents are equally comfortable having an immigrant as a **work colleague**, with 81% feeling comfortable, up from 78% in 2017.
- The same goes for having an immigrant as a **neighbour**. Eight in ten (80%, +2) feel comfortable with this.
- As a **doctor**: 78% (+2) feel comfortable.
- Slightly fewer, but still a high number of respondents would be comfortable having an immigrant as a **family member**, with close to three quarters (74%, +4) feeling comfortable.
- As a **manager**: close to three quarters (73%, +5) feel comfortable, 43% (+5) totally comfortable and 30% somewhat comfortable – unchanged compared to 2017.

Overall, among the different EU Member States, significant variations exist in terms of having social relationships with immigrants. In six countries, more than eight in ten respondents feel comfortable having social relations with immigrants of any of the types explored in this study, most notably in Portugal and Ireland (both 89%), Spain (88%), and the Netherlands (85%). Conversely, Hungary (24%), Bulgaria (29%), and Romania (35%) stand out with the lowest proportions of respondents who would feel comfortable with immigrants¹⁹.

There is a clear relationship between age and the extent to which respondents feel comfortable with immigrants in various social relations, albeit mostly evident in the case of respondents aged 55 or more. For example, close to two thirds (64%) of those aged 55 or more feel comfortable with having an immigrant as their **manager**, compared with 85% of those aged between 15 and 24 and 78% of those aged 25 to 39, while 76% of those aged 40 to 54 give the same response.

QB7 Would you personally feel comfortable or uncomfortable having an immigrant as your...
(% - EU27)



¹⁸ QB7.1-6 Would you personally feel comfortable or uncomfortable having an immigrant as your... Manager, Work colleague, Neighbour, Doctor, Family Member, Friend.

¹⁹ QB7. Would you personally feel comfortable or uncomfortable having an immigrant as your... Feels uncomfortable with all the social categories, Feels uncomfortable with

at least one social category, Feels uncomfortable with only one or two social categories, Feels uncomfortable with three or more social categories, Does not know in at least one social category.

4. Personal ties with immigrants

4.1 Personal ties with immigrants

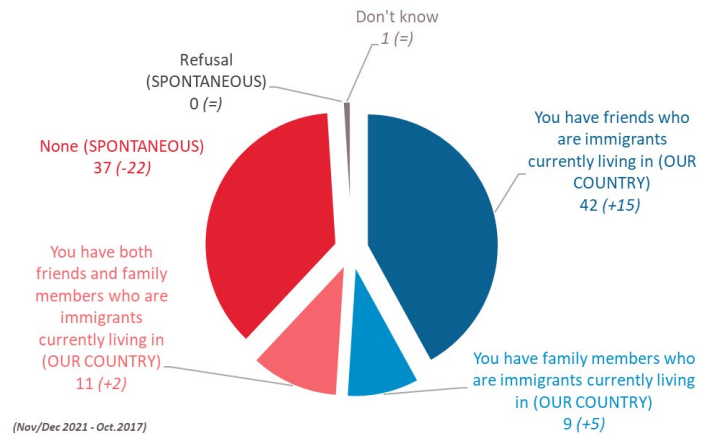
A majority of Europeans have either friends or family members who are immigrants²⁰

- More than four in ten (42%) have friends who are immigrants. Close to one in ten (9%) of those polled have an immigrant as a family member, while just over one in ten (11%) have both friends and family members who are immigrants currently living in their country.
- Overall, more than half (51%) of EU citizens say that they have either friends or family members who are immigrants currently residing in their country, while just over a third (37%) do not.
- Between 2017 and 2021 a significant increase can be noted with regards to respondents' personal ties with immigrants, notably in terms of those who say that they have friends or family members who are immigrants currently residing in their country (+20).

At the **country level**, some notable differences appear. The highest proportion of respondents who **have immigrants as friends** are found in Ireland (59%), Sweden (58%), and Italy and Finland (both 57%). Respondents are least likely to say this in Romania (13%), Lithuania (14%), and Bulgaria (21%). In 21 out of 27 EU Member States, less than one in ten respondents indicate **having family members who are immigrants** currently living in their country, with the exception of Romania (17%), Poland and Belgium (both 15%), Luxembourg (13%), Austria (12%), and Italy (10%). Sweden also has one of the highest proportion of respondents with **both immigrant friends and immigrant family members** (21%). In seven Member States, at least half of the respondents say that they **have neither friends nor family who are immigrants** currently living in their country, most notably in Lithuania (76%), Bulgaria (70%), and Romania (61%).

Respondents who use the Internet every day are almost twice as likely to say the same as those who never go online (46% vs 24%).

QB8 Which of the following statements applies best to you? (% - EU)



²⁰ QB8. Please tell me which of the following statements best applies to you? ONE ANSWER ONLY You have friends who are immigrants currently living in (OUR COUNTRY), You have family members who are immigrants currently living in (OUR

COUNTRY), You have both friends and family members who are immigrants currently living in (OUR COUNTRY), None, Don't know.

4.2 Personal family history

Over nine in ten of those surveyed were born in the country in which the survey was conducted and nearly as many say their parents were also born there²¹

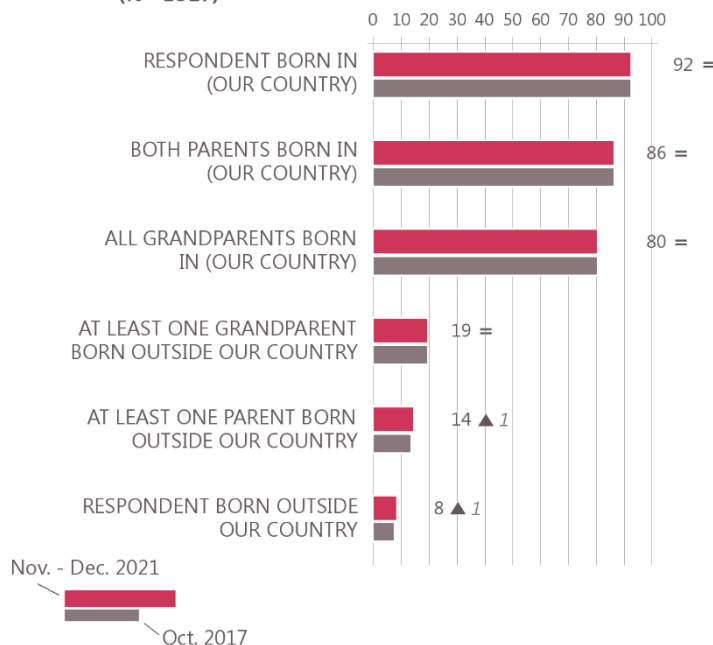
A substantial majority of respondents say they were born in the country where the survey was carried out, with over nine in ten (92%) giving this response. Only 8% say were born in another (EU or non-EU) country.

According to the official figures, around 12.2% of the EU population were born in another country (EU or non-EU)²². This discrepancy relates specifically to the non-EU born group of immigrants: according to the most recent figures (2021)²³, around 7.9% of the EU population were not born in the EU, compared to only 5% of the respondents of this survey. The respondent's answers are somewhat more accurate when it comes to the proportion of those respondents who were born in another EU country, which is 3% according to this survey, similar (but not identical) to the proportion in reality (3,9%)²⁴.

Just under nine in ten (86%) respondents say that both of their parents were born in the country where the survey was carried out, with over one in ten (14%) saying at least one parent was born outside that country, more or less equally divided between those born in another EU country (7%), and outside the EU (7%). Eight in ten say that all of their grandparents were born in that country, while around a fifth (21%) say that at least one grandparent was born in another country.

Between 2017 and 2021, the proportions of respondents who indicate being born in the country and with both of their parents where the survey was carried out, has remained the same. Just slightly more (8%, +1) were born in another (EU or non-EU) country and (14%, +1) saying that one parent was born outside that country.

QB18.1.1 You're now going to be asked some questions about where you and your family were born.
(% - EU27)



²¹ QB18. I am now going to ask you some questions about where you and your family were born. You were born in..., Your mother was born in..., Your father was born in..., Your grandmother on your mother's side was born in..., Your grandfather on your mother's side was born in..., Your grandmother on your father's side was born in..., Your grandfather on your father's side was born in... ONE ANSWER PER LINE (OUR COUNTRY) or a place that is a part of (OUR COUNTRY) today; Another country that is today a member of the EU; Another country in Europe, not today a member of the EU;

USA, Canada, Japan, Australia or New Zealand; Another country outside Europe; Refusal, Don't know.

²² https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/statistics-migration-europe_en

²³ Source: Eurostat. Last updates: 18/11/2021

²⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/statistics-migration-europe_en

Special Eurobarometer 519
November – December 2021

A **national analysis** shows that in all but four countries, at least nine in ten of those polled were born in the country where the survey was carried out. Luxembourg results in being an outlier with only just over half (52%) of respondents indicate being born in the country where they were surveyed. Logically, respondents in Luxembourg are also the likeliest (48%) to indicate that they are born outside of the country (from another country in the EU and outside the EU). This pattern for Luxembourg can be retrieved as well when showing the lowest percentage of respondents with both parents born in the country where the survey was conducted (36%) and being the country with the highest proportion of respondents who have at least one parent born in a country outside the EU (63%). Lastly, countries with the highest proportions of respondents who have at least one grandparent born in a country outside the EU are Luxembourg (76%) and Latvia (53%).

The socio-demographic analysis discloses that managers and manual workers are equally likely (both 10%) to be born outside the country, but managers are slightly more likely to have at least one parent born outside the country (17% vs 15%), and at least one grandparent born outside the country (24% vs 20%). Conversely, respondents who are retired on the other hand are more likely (95%) to be born inside the country than other socio-professional categories like managers, manual workers, and house persons (90% all).

QB18.1.1 You're now going to be asked some questions about where you and your family were born.
(%)

		Respondent born in (OUR COUNTRY)	Both parents born in (OUR COUNTRY)	All grandparents born in (OUR COUNTRY)	At least one grandparent born outside our country	At least one parent born outside our country	Respondent born outside our country
EU27		92	86	80	19	14	8
SK		98	94	89	11	5	7
FI		98	95	90	9	5	2
BG		97	96	93	6	4	3
EL		97	94	89	11	6	3
LT		97	92	87	12	8	3
HU		97	94	90	10	6	3
DK		96	92	84	16	8	4
PT		96	93	92	7	7	4
RO		96	95	93	7	5	4
CZ		95	88	79	20	12	4
NL		95	91	85	14	9	5
CY		94	91	90	10	9	6
PL		94	91	87	11	8	6
ES		93	91	90	10	9	7
FR		93	80	66	30	18	7
MT		93	88	85	14	11	6
EE		92	73	61	35	25	8
IT		92	90	88	12	10	8
AT		91	81	67	29	19	9
SI		91	80	72	27	20	9
LV		90	62	47	53	38	10
SE		90	80	70	28	20	10
BE		88	78	68	30	22	11
DE		88	77	70	28	23	12
IE		87	84	83	17	16	13
HR		87	79	71	27	20	12
LU		52	36	24	76	63	48
Highest percentage per country							
Highest percentage per item							
Lowest percentage per country							
Lowest percentage per item							

5. General perceptions about the impact of immigrants on the EU societies and their integration

5.1 Assessment of the perception of immigration as a problem or opportunity

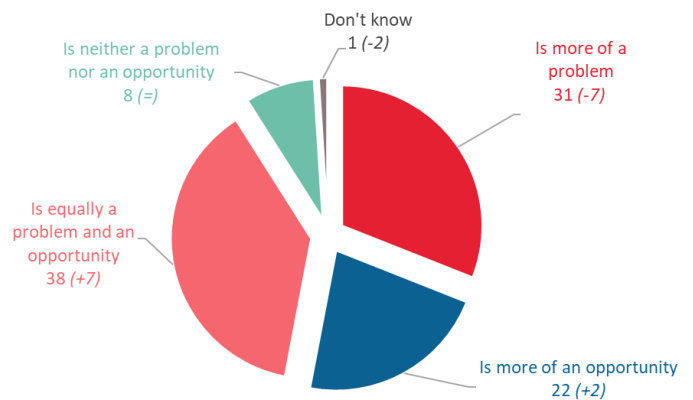
Close to one in four Europeans think that immigration is equally a problem and an opportunity²⁵

Just under four in ten (38%) see it as equally a problem and an opportunity, while almost a quarter (22%) see it as more of an opportunity. Close to one in three (31%) Europeans think that immigration from outside the EU is more of a problem than an opportunity. Less than one in ten (8%) of those polled regard immigration as neither a problem nor an opportunity. Compared to 2017, a significant drop (-7) has occurred in the proportion of EU citizens who think that immigration from outside the EU is more of a problem than an opportunity.

In seven countries, at least four in ten respondents see *immigration as equally a problem and an opportunity*. This is particularly the case in Portugal (47%), Finland (45%), and Slovakia (44%).

The tendency to view immigration as a problem increases with age. While less than one in five (18%) of those aged 15 to 24 have this view of immigration, close to four in ten (38%) of those aged 55 or more hold this view. Conversely, close to a third (32%) of the youngest respondents see immigration as an opportunity, compared with less than a fifth (18%) of the oldest cohort

QB2. Generally speaking, do you think immigration from outside the EU is more of a problem or more of an opportunity for (OUR COUNTRY) today? (% - EU)



(Nov/Dec 2021 - Oct. 2017)

²⁵ QB2. Generally speaking, do you think immigration from outside the EU is more of a problem or more of an opportunity for (OUR COUNTRY) today? Is more of a problem,

Is more of an opportunity, Is equally a problem and an opportunity, Is neither a problem nor an opportunity, Don't know

5.2 Europeans' perception of the successful integration of immigrants

Half of Europeans agree that integration of immigrants is successful in their local area or city while a minority of Europeans think that integration of immigrants is successful in their country²⁶.

Respondents are more likely to agree that integration is successful in their **city or local area**, with half (50%) of those polled giving this response. A small proportion of respondents (8%) are of the opinion that immigration is not at all successful, with nearly three in ten respondents (28%) indicating that it's not very successful.

Less than half (42%) of those polled think that integration is successful in their **country**. Only small minority (5%) of respondents agree that integration is very successful in their country. Nearly half of the respondents (47%) say that integration is not successful, with one in ten considering it not at all successful.

Respondents who have daily interactions with immigrants are much more likely (67%) to say that integration has been successful than those who have 'less frequent' contact (53%).

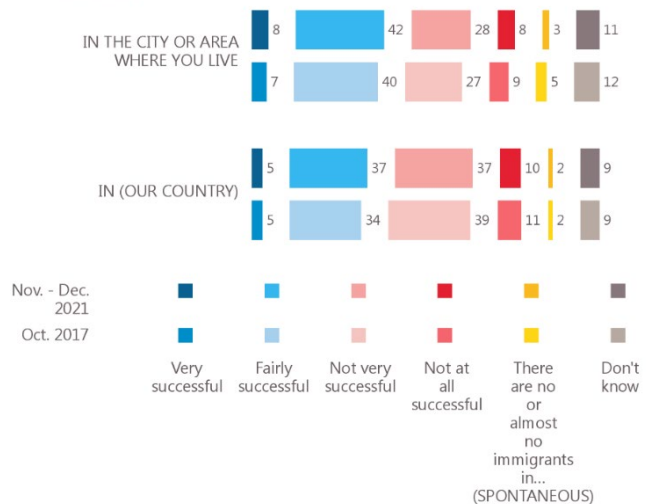
Overall, around 1 in 3 Europeans consider that the immigrants' situation improved over the last 10 years in their country²⁷.

With regards to the **education outcomes of children of immigrants**, close to one in four (39%) think that they have improved over time. Just over a third (34%) of respondents think that **education levels of adult immigrants** with long-term residence have improved over time. Similarly, a third (33%) of respondents think that **the likelihood of male immigrants to have a job** has improved, while close to four in ten (39%) think it has stayed the same. With regards to the **likelihood of female immigrants to have a job**, the proportions follow a similar pattern. Close to a third (30%) of those polled are of the opinion that the likelihood of female immigrants to have a job has improved.

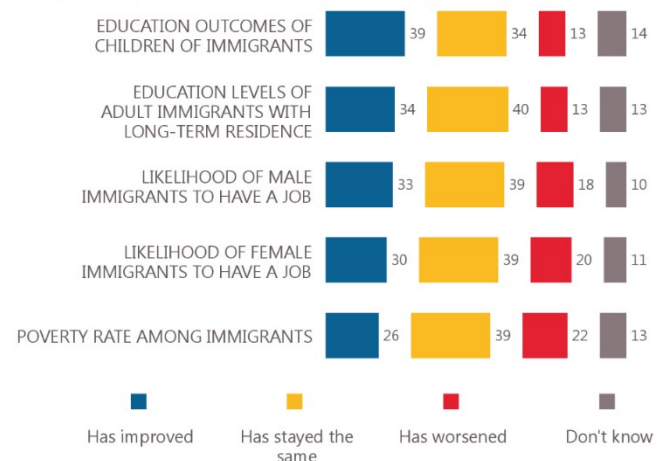
Just over one in four (26%) of those polled are of the opinion that **the poverty rate among immigrants** has improved.

Social class has a strong bearing on the question regarding the **poverty rate among immigrants**. More than a third (36%) of the respondents saying they belong to the upper class think that the poverty rate among immigrants has improved. Other social classes are less convinced: the working class (28%), the middle class and the upper middle class (both 26%), and the lower middle class (22%).

QB9 Generally speaking, how successful or not is the integration of most immigrants living... (% - EU27)



QB10 For each of the following aspects, please tell us if you think that the situation of legal immigrants has improved, stayed the same or worsened in (OUR COUNTRY) over the last 10 years? (% - EU27)



²⁶ QB9. Generally speaking, how successful or not is the integration of most immigrants living... In the city or area where you live, In (OUR COUNTRY)? ONE ANSWER PER LINE Very successful, Fairly successful, Not very successful, Not at all successful, There are no or almost no immigrants in (OUR COUNTRY), Don't know.

²⁷ QB10. For each of the following aspects, please tell us if you think that the situation of legal immigrants has improved, stayed the same or worsened in (OUR COUNTRY)

over the last 10 years? Likelihood of male immigrants to have a job. Likelihood of female immigrants to have a job. Education levels of adult immigrants with long-term residence. Education outcomes of children of immigrants. Poverty rate among immigrants.

II. EUROPEAN VIEWS ON THE CONDITIONS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS



1. European views of the successful integration of migrants

Among the main mentioned factors contributing to the successful integration being able to speak country language (85%) and contributing to welfare system (78%) ranked as top two statements at EU level²⁸

A large majority (85%) see it as important for integration to be successful that immigrants **speak the (or one of the) official language(s) of the host country**. Close to one in ten (9%) respondents consider this somewhat important.

Close to eight in ten (78%) respondents think that for integration to be successful it is important that immigrants **contribute to the welfare system** through paying taxes. Close to one in ten (8%) say it's not important. Similarly, close to eight in ten (78%) say that **being committed to the way of life by accepting the values and norms of the host society** is important for integration to be successful.

Close to eight in ten (77%) think that immigrants should **have educational qualifications and skills that are sufficient to find a job** in order for their integration to be successful, while more than one in ten (14%) think this is somewhat important, and 7% that it's not important.

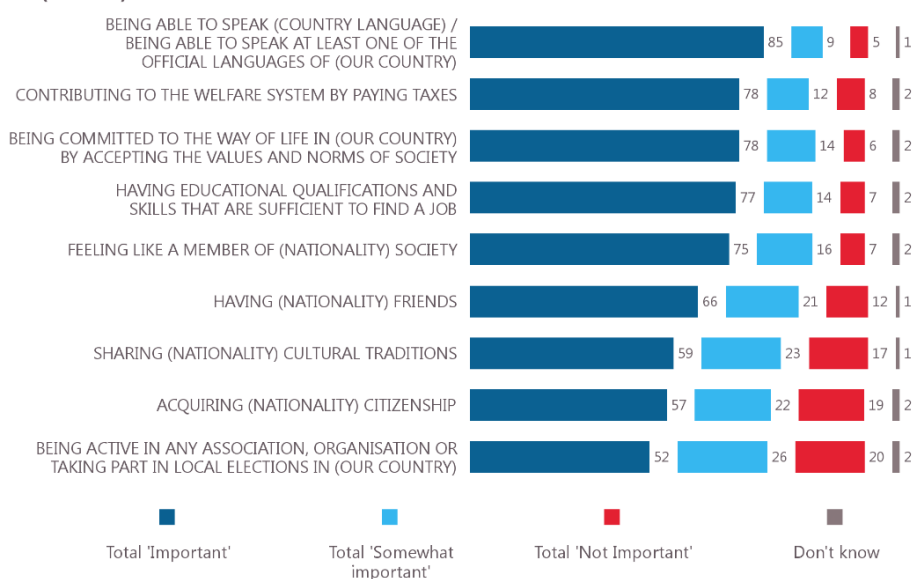
Just over three quarters (75%) think it's important to **feel like a member of the society of the host country** for integration to be successful. Two thirds (66%) think it is important for integration to be successful that immigrants **have 'locals' as friends**, i.e. who have the nationality of the host country. A majority (57%) of EU citizens think it is important for integration to be successful that immigrants **acquire the citizenship** of their host country

Close to six in ten of those (59%) polled think immigrants should **share their host country's national cultural traditions** for their integration to be successful. Close to one in five (17%) don't think this is important.

More than half (52%) of those polled think immigrants should **be active in any association, organization or take part in local elections in their host country** for their integration to be successful. While one in five (20%) don't think this is important.

Respondents who think immigrants themselves are largely responsible for their successful integration in society are more likely (68%) to think it is important for immigrants to **share their host country's national cultural traditions** than those who think society is largely responsible (47%), or both society and the immigrants (59%).

QB11 People have different views about what it means to be well-integrated into (NATIONALITY) society. How important is each of the following for the successful integration of immigrants in (OUR COUNTRY)? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means 'not at all important' and 10 means 'extremely important'. (% - EU27)



²⁸ QB11. People have different views about what it means to be well-integrated into (NATIONALITY) society. How important is each of the following for the successful integration of immigrants in (OUR COUNTRY)? Sharing (NATIONALITY) cultural traditions, Feeling like a member of (NATIONALITY) society, Being able to speak (COUNTRY LANGUAGE) / Being able to speak at least one of the official languages of (OUR COUNTRY), Being committed to the way of life in (OUR COUNTRY) by accepting the values and norms of society, Being active in any association, organisation or taking

part in local elections in (OUR COUNTRY), Contributing to the welfare system by paying taxes, Having (NATIONALITY) friends, Having educational qualifications and skills that are sufficient to find a job, Acquiring (NATIONALITY) citizenship ONE ANSWER PER LINE Very important, Somewhat important, Not very important, Not at all important, Don't know. Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important".

2. Potential obstacles to integration

Across the EU the majority of respondents see each of the proposed factors as an obstacle to integration²⁹.

The obstacle identified by the largest share of respondents (69%) is **difficulties in finding a job**, followed closely **limited efforts by immigrants to integrate** (67%).

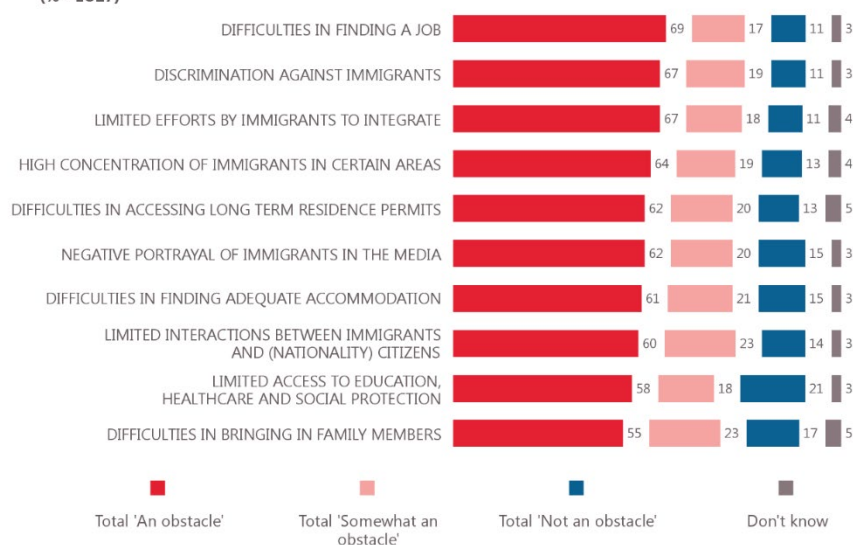
At least two thirds identify **discrimination against immigrants** (67%) as a situation which could prove obstacles to integration. Almost two thirds (64%) of those polled think that the **high concentration of immigrants in certain areas** could also be a obstacle to their integration.

Over six in ten (62%) regard **difficulties in accessing long term residence permits** and the **negative portrayal of immigrants in the media** as obstacles (both 62%).

Over six in ten consider **difficulties in finding adequate accommodation** (61%) as a obstacle. Six in ten think the same of **limited interactions between immigrants and the host country's citizens**. Across the EU, more than half (58%) of the respondents cite **limited access to education, healthcare and social protection**. Lastly, more than half of the respondents (55%) think that **difficulties in bringing in family members** represents an obstacle to the integration of immigrants.

Respondents who interact daily with immigrants are more likely (74%) to see difficulties in finding a job as an obstacle than those who interact less frequent with immigrants (67%). The same is true with regards to those respondents who see limited access to education, healthcare and social protection as an obstacle to integration (63% vs 55%).

QB12 Please tell for each of the following issues if it is, in your view, an obstacle or not for the successful integration of immigrants in (OUR COUNTRY)? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means 'not an obstacle at all' and 10 means 'an enormous obstacle'.
(% - EU27)



²⁹ QA11. Please tell me for each of the following issues if they could be a major obstacle, a minor obstacle or not an obstacle at all for the successful integration of immigrants in (OUR COUNTRY)? Discrimination against immigrants, Limited efforts by immigrants to integrate, Difficulties in accessing long term residence permits, Difficulties in finding a job, Limited access to education, healthcare and social

protection, Limited interactions between immigrants and (NATIONALITY) citizens, Negative portrayal of immigrants in the media, Difficulties in bringing in family members. ONE ANSWER PER LINE

For this question it was adopted a regrouped scale based on the following subtotals: An obstacle (1-4), Somewhat of an obstacle (5-6), Not an obstacle (7-10).

3. Measures to support the integration of immigrants

A majority of Europeans agree that it is necessary for their country to invest in integrating immigrants (69%). More than half of Europeans agree that the national Governments are doing enough for their integration (53%)

When asked to what extent respondents agree or not with the statements that **'actively promoting the integration of immigrants is a necessary investment in the long run for their country'**,³⁰ across the EU a clear majority (69%) of respondents agreed. Compared to 2017, the proportion of respondents who believe that actively promoting the integration of immigrants is a necessary investment in the long run for their country³¹ has remained constant.

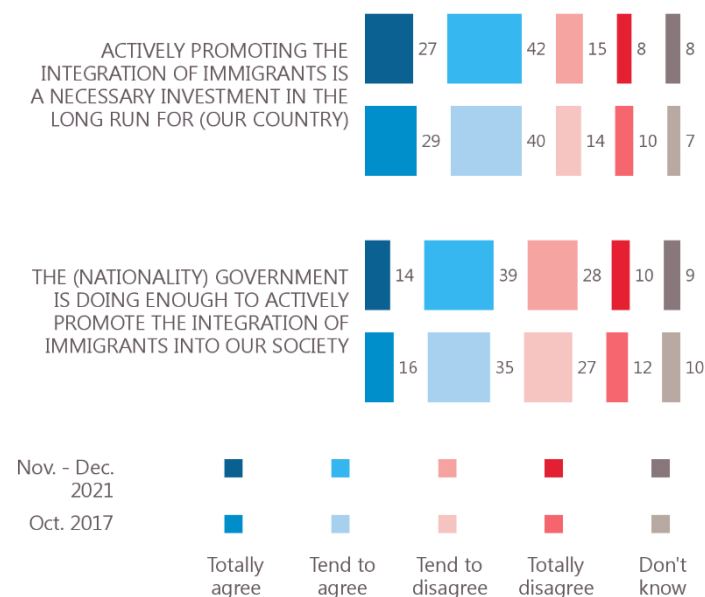
Among all those polled, a small majority (53%) of respondents agree that their **national government is doing enough to actively promote the integration** of immigrants into society. Compared to 2017, the proportion of respondents who agree that their national government is doing enough to actively promote the integration of immigrants into society³² has slightly increased (53%, +2).

When looking at the **country results**, in 22 out of the 27 Member States, more than half of respondents agree with the benefits of **actively promoting the integration of immigrants** as a necessary investment in the long run for their country. In 19 out of the 27 Member States, at least half of those polled agree that their **national government is doing enough to actively promote the integration of immigrants into society**.

Less than six in ten (55%) of those who have difficulty paying bills most of the time agree that fostering integration is necessary, compared with nearly three quarters (74%) of those who almost never or never have this problem.

Over three quarters (77%) of those who consider themselves well informed about immigration and integration issues agree that their country should encourage integration in the long term, compared with less than two thirds (64%) of those who feel that they are poorly informed.

QB15 To what extent do you agree or not with the following statements?
(% - EU27)



³⁰ QB15.1. To what extent do you agree or not with the following statements? Actively promoting the integration of immigrants is a necessary investment in the long run for (OUR COUNTRY). Totally agree, Tend to agree, Tend to disagree, Totally disagree, don't know.

³¹ Formulated in the previous report as "fostering integration of immigrants is a necessary investment in the long run for their country"

³² QB15.2. To what extent do you agree or not with the following statements? The (NATIONALITY) government is doing enough to actively promote the integration of immigrants into our society. Totally agree, Tend to agree, Tend to disagree, Totally disagree, don't know.

4. Impact of COVID-19 on the process of integration of immigrants

A majority of Europeans say that it is important that measures to fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic take into account the integration needs of immigrants³³

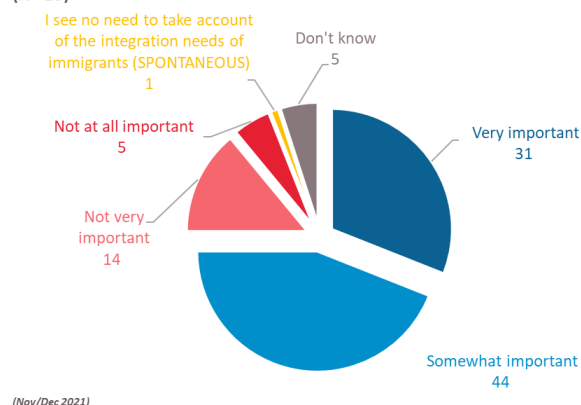
Across the EU, three quarters of those polled think it is important that measures to fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in their country take into account the integration needs of immigrants.

Close to a fifth (19%) think it's not important, with over one in ten (14%) saying that this is not very important and a further 5% saying it's not important at all.

In 15 out of the 27 Member States, at least three quarters of those polled agree think it is important that measures to fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in their country take into account the integration needs of immigrants. In four EU Member States, more than a third think it's not important that measures to fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in their country take into account the integration needs of immigrants.

Among the **socio-professional categories**, except for students (80%), other white-collar workers are most likely (77%) to think that COVID-19 measures should be taken into account the integration needs of immigrants than managers (71%), and house persons and the unemployed (both 70%).

QB17 How important do you think it is that measures to fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in (OUR COUNTRY) take into account the integration needs of immigrants? (% - EU)



³³ QB17. How important do you think it is that measures to fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in (OUR COUNTRY) take into account the integration needs of immigrants? Very important, Somewhat important, Not very important, Not at all

important, I see no need to take account of the integration needs of immigrants, Don't know.

III. THE INTEGRATION AS A MULTI-FACETED PROCESS



1. Integration: a two-way process

A broad share of Europeans (70%) view integration as a two-way process in which both host society and immigrants are responsible

When asked about the responsibility of immigrants and the host society for bringing about successful integration³⁴, across the EU, a large majority of respondents (70%) say that this is a two-way process, with responsibility borne by both immigrants and their host society.

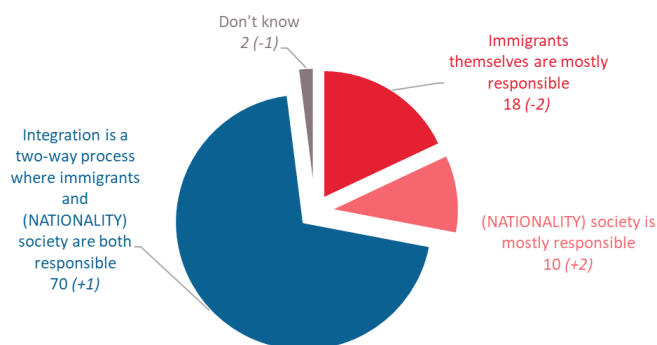
Close to a fifth (18%) think that immigrants themselves are mostly responsible for this, while one in ten say that the host society is largely responsible for the integration of immigrants (10%).

Between 2017 and 2021, these proportions have largely stayed the same, with a small (+1) uptick among the respondents who see integration as a two-way process.

In all EU Member States except Hungary (48%), a majority of respondents think that the responsibility for successful integration of immigrants lies with **both the host society and immigrants themselves**.

Respondents with a higher **education level** are substantially more likely than those who finished their education at or before the age of 15 to think that integration is a two-way process involving both immigrants and the host society (75% vs. 65%), and more likely to think that immigrants themselves are mostly responsible 22% vs 16%).

QB14 Thinking about the successful integration of immigrants into the (NATIONALITY) society which of the following statements is closest to your personal view? (% - EU)



(Nov/Dec 2021 - Oct. 2017)

³⁴ Q14. Thinking about the successful integration of immigrants into the (NATIONALITY) society which of the following statements is closest to your personal view? Immigrants themselves are mostly responsible, (NATIONALITY) society is mostly responsible,

Integration is a two-way process where immigrants and (NATIONALITY) society are both responsible, Don't know.

2. The role of various actors in the integration of immigrants

Across the EU, there is widespread agreement on all listed statements with between 65% and 83% of respondents saying each actor's role is important in the integration process of immigrants³⁵

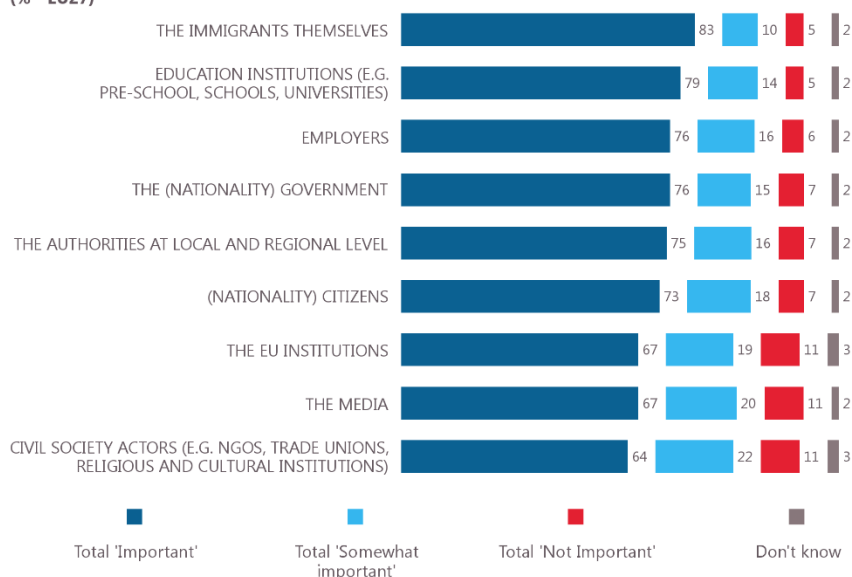
More than eight in ten (83%) think that the **immigrants themselves** play an important role. Close to eight in ten (79%) say that **education institutions** also play an important role in the successful integration of immigrants. **Employers** are seen as playing an important role by over three quarters of respondents (76%).

Over three quarters (76%) hold this view about the **national government** of their country. **Local authorities** is seen as important for the successful integration of immigrants by 75% of those polled. For more than seven in ten (73%) of those polled, it's the **citizens of the host country** who are seen as playing an important role in this question. Close to seven in ten (67%) say that **EU institutions** play an important role in the successful integration of immigrants.

Just over two thirds (67%) of respondents say that the **media** play an important role. As concerns **civil society actors** like NGOs and trade unions, close to two thirds of those polled see them as important (64%).

Nearly nine in ten (88%) of respondents who have daily interactions with immigrants think that the **immigrants themselves** play a significant role in the integration process, while among those who have less frequent contact with immigrants, eight in ten agree with this.

QB13 In your opinion, how important or not is the role of each of the following actors for the successful integration of immigrants? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important".
(% - EU27)



³⁵ QA13. In your opinion, how important or not is the role of each of the following actors for the successful integration of immigrants? The immigrants themselves, (NATIONALITY) citizens, The (NATIONALITY) government, The EU institutions, The authorities at local and regional level, The media, Education institutions (e.g. pre-

school, schools, universities), Civil society actors (e.g. NGOs, trade unions, religious and cultural institutions), Employers. ONE ANSWER PER LINE Very important, Fairly important, Fairly unimportant, Not at all important, Don't know.

3. Evaluation of governments' actions to foster the integration of immigrants

A majority of Europeans see integration as a high priority but not the top priority for their government

Across the EU, more than half (53%) of respondents think that their governments treat the integration of immigrants (from outside the EU) as a high priority, but not among the top issues of concern for their national government^{36,37}.

More than a quarter (27%) think that the issue holds low priority for their national government. Less than one in ten (5%) indicate that they don't know.

A **country- analysis** shows that in seven EU Member States, at least six in ten respondents are of the opinion that the integration of immigrants from outside the EU is a high priority but not among the top issues of concern for their government.

Almost half of the respondents think that integration should be placed higher on the political agenda³⁸

Across the EU, on average close to half (43%) of the respondents think no change is needed³⁹.

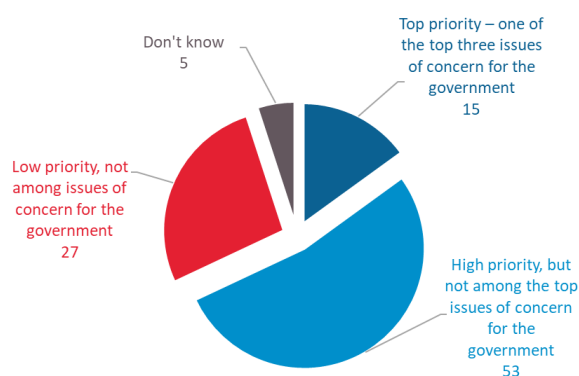
More than a third (35%) are of the opinion that it should be placed higher on the political agenda.

Close to one in five (17%) think that immigration should take a lower place on the national political agenda.

Noticeable differences appear across the different EU Member States. In five EU Member States, more than half of those polled think that the integration of immigrants from outside the EU receives more or less the right amount of political attention. Only in three countries, more than half think that the issue of integration of immigrants from outside the EU should be placed higher on the national political agenda: Sweden (53%), Malta and the Netherlands (both 51%).

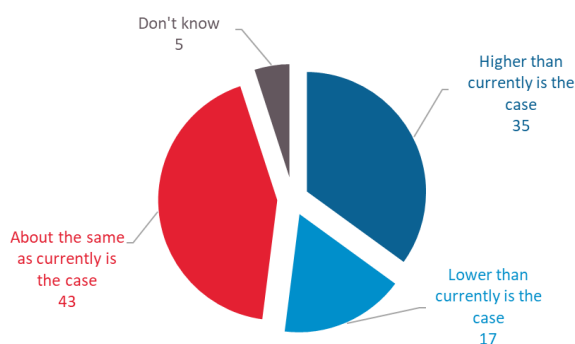
More than half (57%) of managers think integration is a high priority for their national government, while less than half (46%) of house persons think this. Managers are also much more likely to think the issue should receive more political attention than manual workers and house persons (43% vs 30%).

QB16A In your view, how important is the issue of integration of immigrants (from outside the EU) for your national government? (% - EU)



(Nov/Dec 2021)

QB16B In your view, how high should the issue of integration of immigrants (from outside the EU) be placed on the national government policy agenda? Higher than currently is the case; Lower than currently is the case; About the same as currently is the case; Don't know.



(Nov/Dec 2021)

³⁶ QB16A. In your view, how important is the issue of integration of immigrants (from outside the EU) for your national government? Top priority – one of the top three issues of concern for the government; High priority, but not among the top issues of concern for the government; Low priority, not among issues of concern for the government; Don't know.

³⁷ This question is a split question. Base of respondents = 13193

³⁸ QB16B. In your view, how high should the issue of integration of immigrants (from outside the EU) be placed on the national government policy agenda? Higher than currently is the case; Lower than currently is the case; About the same as currently is the case; Don't know.

³⁹ This question is a split question. Base of respondents = 13317

CONCLUSION



In respect of 2017, this survey reveals an improvement in personal experiences and attitudes towards immigrants among Europeans: more than half of them declare to have at least immigrant friend or family living in their country and the large majority feel comfortable in any kind of social relationship with immigrants. On the other hand, the level of knowledge, awareness and information on integration and immigration related matters remained fairly stable compared to the recent past. Overall, the integration of immigrants is decreasingly perceived as a problem and increasingly acknowledged as a two-way process where both immigrants and society are responsible and considered to be as well as a high governmental priority.

Limited knowledge of immigrants and immigration

The results of this survey point to some noteworthy trends in the EU, some positive and some negative. Firstly, it is clear that many Europeans still feel ill-informed about immigration and integration-related issues; less than four in ten say that they are well-informed, which is the case in most countries with a few exceptions. Between 2017 and 2021, respondents have become only marginally better informed.

Notable misconceptions exist regarding the number of illegally staying immigrants as compared with those staying legally. A majority of respondents think there are at least as many illegally staying immigrants as there are legally staying immigrants. However, the proportion of people thinking this has decreased markedly from 2017, and while one in three think there are more non-EU nationals who are staying illegally than legally in the EU, this also represents a noticeable drop from 2017.

Europeans also tend, as in the past, to overestimate the overall proportion of immigrants in their countries, in some cases significantly. Close to a quarter correctly estimate the range to be between 6% and 12% (in line with the actual EU average of 8%).

There is also a significant lack of awareness of the real extent of immigration arrivals from non-EU countries into the EU, with more Europeans overestimating how many immigrants are present in their country than underestimating. For reference: according to available Eurostat data, during 2020, 557.455 third-country nationals were found to be illegally present in the EU, while 23 million third-country nationals were legally residing in the EU on 1st January 2020⁴⁰.

Personal experiences and increasing relations with immigrants

Regarding Europeans' personal experiences with immigrants and their level of familiarity and comfort with them, at the EU level, we see that four in ten respondents interact at least weekly with immigrants. Significant variations exist across EU countries, explained by the differences in the size and nature of migration and migratory arrivals between EU countries.

Overall, we note a slight increase in the proportion of Europeans who say they interact regularly with immigrants. A substantial increase is seen in the proportion of Europeans who say that they have friends or family members who are immigrants currently residing in their country. Currently, a majority of Europeans acknowledge this.

Between 2017 and the 2021, the proportion of respondents who say that they were born themselves in the country where the survey was carried out has stayed the same in about a third of the EU Member States.

Over nine in ten of those surveyed were born in the country in which the survey was conducted, with nearly as many saying their parents were also born there. In reality, around 12.2% of the EU population were born in another country (EU or non-EU). According to the most recent figures (2021), around 7.9% of the EU population were born outside the EU, compared to 5% of the respondents of this survey.

A majority of Europeans obtain their information on immigration and integration-related matters mainly through traditional mass media such as newspapers, television, and radio. Only a minority say they get this predominantly from social media.

Improving perceptions and attitudes in the balance

With respect to general perceptions of and attitudes towards immigrants, Europeans are substantially more likely to say that immigration represents both a problem and an opportunity, with a slight increase in those who see immigration as more of an opportunity.

In more than half of the EU Member States the proportion of respondents who say that all of their grandparents were born in the country decreased, which can serve as a good indicator of overall increased intra-EU mobility, as well as from immigrants coming from outside the EU.

When we consider personal experiences and attitudes towards immigrants, the majority of Europeans feels comfortable with immigrants as friends, neighbours, work colleagues or in other social roles, representing a substantial increase from 2017. However, there does not seem to be a clear relation between the relative number of immigrants that are present in a country and overall attitudes towards immigrants.

There are also significant differences between age and education cohorts. Younger respondents, and those who are better educated, are more likely to see immigration as more of an opportunity, while older respondents and those with lower levels of education are more likely to see it as more of a problem. Respondents who obtain their information on social media and networks tend to consider the immigration as more of an opportunity than respondents who use traditional mass media. Overall, it is safe to say that Europeans seem to have grown more comfortable with immigrants. This is true in most but not all countries.

Difficulties of integration

Concerning what constitutes 'integration' Europeans are largely unanimous. A large majority (close to nine in ten) think it is important that immigrants speak the language of the country they move to, that they contribute to its welfare system by paying taxes, and that they are committed to the values and norms of society.

⁴⁰ Eurostat, 1/1/2021, table: migr_pop3ctb (Last update: 18/11/2021), http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_pop3ctb&lang=en

Half of Europeans agree that integration of immigrants is successful in their local area or city. Here, an increase can be noted between 2017 and 2021. Only a minority of Europeans think that integration of immigrants has been successful in their country.

In terms of respondents' assessment of the evolution in the situation of legal immigrants in their country over the last 10 years, different aspects were surveyed. Overall, only a minority of Europeans think that there has been an improvement.

A large majority of Europeans think that the integration of immigrants is hampered by difficulties finding a job, the immigrants' own limited efforts to integrate, and discrimination, and to a lesser extent—but still a majority among respondents: high concentration of immigrants in certain areas, difficulties in accessing long term residence permits, negative portrayal of immigrants in the media, difficulties in finding adequate accommodation, limited interactions between immigrants and the host country's citizens, limited access to education, healthcare and social protection, and difficulties in bringing in family members. Younger and better educated respondents are more likely to acknowledge the barriers to integration that immigrants face.

Improving integration

A large majority of Europeans think that actively promoting integration is a necessary investment in the long-run for their country, in slight decline compared to 2017 survey.

A majority think that their national government is doing enough to actively promote the integration of immigrants into society, although this has decreased slightly. And while a majority of Europeans see integration as a high priority but not the top priority for their government, close to half think that integration should be placed higher on the political agenda.

In particular, promoting immigrant integration is not a priority for the government in certain Member States, partially due to low immigrant numbers, but also due to the higher priorities for social and economic transformation.

Therefore, there is space to improve integration policies. An enormous challenge is the 'state of mind'—how migrants and their integration is perceived by the general public.

Most Europeans view integration as a two-way process in which both the host society and the immigrants themselves are responsible. This has hardly changed since 2017, with slightly more Europeans saying that the host society is largely responsible for the integration of immigrants. More specifically, a substantial majority of Europeans point to various different actors that can play a vital role in the integration of immigrants into their host country. While more than eight in ten point to the immigrants themselves; close to seven in ten point to education institutions, and the national and local government.

Across the EU, younger respondents and those with higher levels of education are more likely to feel that integration has been a success and that immigrants have had a positive impact on their country, while respondents who are more vulnerable economically are more likely to say their impact has been negative.

The overall picture is therefore an ambivalent one: seeing immigration as a problem may not mean hostility against immigrants, but rather reflect a perception that governments are not managing the issue of immigrant integration in an adequate way. Looking at the socio-demographic profiles, respondents who are younger, with higher education levels and that identify themselves as belonging to the upper class tend to be more concerned about immigration and integration related matters compared to those belonging to the working class and experiencing financial hardship. And while Europeans are more inclined to point to immigrants' own efforts and responsibility for their successful integration, like speaking the local language and adapting to local norms, other causes, pertaining to the host society, like discrimination and job opportunities are also seen as important. Overall attitudes towards immigrants have improved, particularly in Eastern Europe, and social and professional interaction between immigrants and locals has increased.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 1st November and 2nd December 2021, Kantar carried out the wave 96.2 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit.

The wave 96.2 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The basic sample design applied in all countries and territories is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

The sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas⁴¹.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "next birthday rule"). If no one answered the interviewer in a household, or if the respondent selected was not available (not present or busy), the interviewer revisited the same household up to three additional times (four contact attempts in total). Interviewers never indicate that the survey is conducted on behalf of the European Commission beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands and Sweden. In these countries, a sample of addresses within each areal sampling point (1km² grid) were selected from the address or population register. The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey.

⁴¹ Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA
(<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background>)

Special Eurobarometer 519
November-December 2021

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATIO 15+	PROPORTIO EU27
BE	Belgium	Mobiel Centre Market Research	1,016	02-11-21	02-12-21	9,915,439	2.53%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,020	03-11-21	28-11-21	6,094,974	1.55%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar CZ	1,035	04-11-21	29-11-21	9,190,342	2.34%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1,023	01-11-21	26-11-21	4,994,008	1.27%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1,516	02-11-21	02-12-21	74,162,306	18.89%
EE	Estonia	Norstat Estonia	1,018	03-11-21	28-11-21	1,145,208	0.29%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1,004	03-11-21	29-11-21	4,039,401	1.03%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1,014	02-11-21	26-11-21	9,568,462	2.44%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1,008	03-11-21	29-11-21	42,022,835	10.70%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1,006	03-11-21	27-11-21	57,553,554	14.66%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,039	02-11-21	24-11-21	3,569,904	0.91%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1,020	03-11-21	26-11-21	54,102,101	13.78%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	504	01-11-21	28-11-21	759,844	0.19%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,001	03-11-21	17-11-21	1,649,459	0.42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1,004	03-11-21	29-11-21	2,445,153	0.62%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS Ilres	505	02-11-21	26-11-21	538,288	0.14%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,017	03-11-21	19-11-21	8,547,786	2.18%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	505	02-11-21	29-11-21	455,041	0.12%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Netherlands	1,006	02-11-21	23-11-21	15,067,518	3.84%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1,005	02-11-21	21-11-21	7,844,329	2.00%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1,037	02-11-21	28-11-21	32,904,839	8.38%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1,004	02-11-21	28-11-21	9,221,533	2.35%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1,057	02-11-21	26-11-21	16,701,193	4.25%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,000	02-11-21	25-11-21	1,834,195	0.47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Czechia	1,001	02-11-21	29-11-21	4,677,729	1.19%
FI	Finland	Taloustutkimus Oy	1,075	04-11-21	29-11-21	4,805,266	1.22%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1,070	02-11-21	29-11-21	8,756,024	2.23%
TOTAL EU27			26,510	01-11-21	02-12-21	392,566,731	100%*

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

** Recruitments for online interviews in Belgium, Czechia and Estonia are carried out by Kantar Belgium, Kantar Czechia and Kantar Estonia respectively.

Special Eurobarometer 519

November-December 2021

	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAWI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium	849	167	1,016
BG	Bulgaria	1,020		1,020
CZ	Czechia	739	296	1,035
DK	Denmark	560	463	1,023
DE	Germany	1,516		1,516
EE	Estonia	1,018		1,018
IE	Ireland	1,004		1,004
EL	Greece	1,014		1,014
ES	Spain	1,008		1,008
FR	France	1,006		1,006
HR	Croatia	1,039		1,039
IT	Italy	1,020		1,020
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	504		504
LV	Latvia		1,001	1,001
LT	Lithuania	1,004		1,004
LU	Luxembourg	505		505
HU	Hungary	1,017		1,017
MT	Malta	336	169	505
NL	Netherlands	1,006		1,006
AT	Austria	1,005		1,005
PL	Poland	1,037		1,037
PT	Portugal	1,004		1,004
RO	Romania	1,057		1,057
SI	Slovenia	632	368	1,000
SK	Slovakia	1,001		1,001
FI	Finland	598	477	1,075
SE	Sweden	1,070		1,070
	TOTAL EU27	23,569	2,941	26,510

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

CAWI : Computer-Assisted Web interviewing

Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork

■ Face-to-face interviewing

Where feasible, interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes or on their door step and in the appropriate national language. In all countries and territories where face-to-face interviewing was feasible CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used. For all interviews conducted face-to-face, hygiene and physical distancing measures have been respected at all times in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, to remain in open air and maintain social distance.

■ Face-to-face and online interviewing

In **Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Malta, Slovenia** and **Finland** face-to-face interviewing was feasible but it was not possible to reach the target number of face-to-face interviews within the fieldwork period due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions: many potential respondents are reluctant to open their homes to interviewers, even if they respect hygiene rules and physical distancing, such as wearing masks and using hydroalcoholic gel. Therefore, to hit the target number of interviews within the fieldwork period, **additional interviews** were conducted online with Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique.

■ Online interviewing

In **Latvia**, face-to-face interviews were not feasible at all. Therefore all interviews were conducted online with CAWI technique.

Recruitment for online interviews

The online design in each country differed based on what was feasible within the fieldwork period. Where feasible, the online sample was based on a probabilistic sample design. Those recruited to the online survey were recruited through a single mobile frame or dual frame Random Digit Dialling (RDD) design. In this way the entire phone owning population in each country had a non-zero chance of being sampled. The choice of whether to use a single mobile frame or dual frame (mobile and landline) was dependent on the countries' landline infrastructure. Where the landline infrastructure is suitably advanced to support a significant minority of residential households with landline phones a dual frame design is employed. The mix of mobile and landline sample is designed to maximise the representation of the responding sample. The RDD sample for both the mobile and landline sample is drawn from the country's telephone numbering plan. The landline sample frame is stratified by NUTS3 regions based on their prefix and the mobile by operator before a systematic random sample of numbers is generated proportional in size to the total generatable numbers in each stratum. Respondents were recruited using this sample design in **Belgium, Czechia, Malta, Latvia and Slovenia**.

In **Finland** and **Denmark**, RDD samples were not used, instead the telephone sample was drawn from the country telephone directory. In these countries the telephone directories offer comprehensive coverage of the phone owning population, storing both landline and mobile phone numbers for each individual.

Special Eurobarometer 519

November-December 2021

Response rates

For each country a comparison between the responding sample and the universe (i.e. the overall population in the country) is carried out. Weights are used to match the responding sample to the universe on gender by age, region and degree of urbanisation. For European estimates (i.e. EU average), an adjustment is made to the individual country weights, weighting them up or down to reflect their 15+ population as a proportion of the EU 15+ population.

The response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete interviews with the number of all the addresses visited, apart from ones that are not eligible but including those where eligibility is unknown. For Eurobarometer 96.2, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar, are:

BE	48.7%	LV*	25.2%
BE*	10.5%	LT	42.1%
BG	45.4%	LU	24.2%
CZ	43.7%	HU	64.0%
CZ*	53.9%	MT	81.8%
DK	40.7%	MT*	28.0%
DK*	14.2%	NL	72.2%
DE	20.5%	AT	44.1%
EE	41.1%	PL	43.9%
IE	36.5%	PT	37.9%
EL	28.1%	RO	60.8%
ES	34.2%	SI	45.5%
FR	32.1%	SI*	33.5%
HR	42.9%	SK	64.0%
IT	22.3%	FI*	28.3%
CY	46.5%	SE	67.3%

* CAWI response rates, without taking into account recruitment phase.

Special Eurobarometer 519 November-December 2021

Margins of error

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process (at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6.0	8.3	9.9	11.1	12.0	12.7	13.2	13.6	13.8	13.9	N=50
N=500	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	N=500
N=1000	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	N=1000
N=1500	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	N=1500
N=2000	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	N=2000
N=3000	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	N=3000
N=4000	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	N=4000
N=5000	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	N=5000
N=6000	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	N=6000
N=7000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	N=7000
N=7500	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=7500
N=8000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=8000
N=9000	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=9000
N=10000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=10000
N=11000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=11000
N=12000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=12000
N=13000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	N=13000
N=14000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=14000
N=15000	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

