



**Dipartimento Scienze sociali
politiche e cognitive (DISPOC)**

EU citizenship and its perspectives

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What is it ?

- Every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union.
- Citizenship of the Union shall be **additional** to and not replace national citizenship

(Art. 20 TFEU)

It is for each EU country to lay down the conditions for the acquisition and loss of nationality of that country.

Which issues?

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/>

- your **rights** as a citizen of an EU member country
 - EU **Charter** of Fundamental Rights
 - **SOLVIT** & **problems solved**
 - **EURES**
- ways to **get involved** in EU politics and shape the EU's political agenda
 - The **ECI** (*how it works: enjoy this [video!](#)*)
 - **Public consultations**
- **volunteering** to encourage young people to actively participate in society
 - European Voluntary Service (**EVS**), part of Erasmus+, offers young people aged 17-30 the chance to volunteer in another MS as well as outside the EU
 - **European Solidarity Corps** (launched in Dec 2016) open to people aged 18-30, has both volunteering & occupational activities



Rights according to the Treaty

- (a) the right to **move and reside** freely within the territory of the MSs (art. 21 TFEU)
- (b) the right **to vote and to stand as candidates** in elections to the EP and in municipal elections in their MS of residence, under the same conditions as nationals of that State (art. 22 TFEU)
- (c) the right to enjoy, in the territory of a third country in which the MS of which they are nationals is not represented, the **protection of the diplomatic and consular authorities** of any MS on the same conditions as the nationals of that State (art. 23 TFEU)
- (d) the right to **petition** the EP, to apply to the European Ombudsman, and to address the institutions and advisory bodies of the Union in any of the Treaty languages and to obtain a reply in the same language (art. 24 TFEU)





(European Employment Services)

The purpose is to provide **information, advice and recruitment/placement** (job-matching) **services** for the benefit of workers and employers, as well as any citizen wishing to benefit from the principle of the ***free movement of persons***.

- it targets both **job-seekers** interested in moving to another country to work or to study, and **employers** wishing to recruit from abroad.

Set up in 1993, EURES is a **co-operation network** between the **European Commission** & the **Public Employment Services** of the EEA Member States (the EU countries plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and other partner organisations. Switzerland also takes part in EURES co-operation.

- **32 countries** are now involved



The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

brings together in a single document the fundamental rights protected in the EU

The Charter contains rights and freedoms under 6 titles: **Dignity, Freedoms, Equality, Solidarity, Citizens' Rights, and Justice**

- proclaimed in 2000, the Charter has become **legally binding** on the EU with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, in December 2009.

When the Charter applies

The provisions of the Charter are addressed to:

- the institutions and bodies of the EU with due regard for the [principle of subsidiarity](#)
- the national authorities only when they are implementing EU law

For example, the Charter applies when EU countries adopt or apply a national law implementing an EU directive or when their authorities apply an EU regulation directly.

In cases where the Charter does not apply, the protection of fundamental rights is guaranteed under the **constitutions or constitutional traditions of EU countries** and **international conventions** they have ratified.

The Charter **does not extend the competence of the EU** to matters not included by the Treaties under its competence.

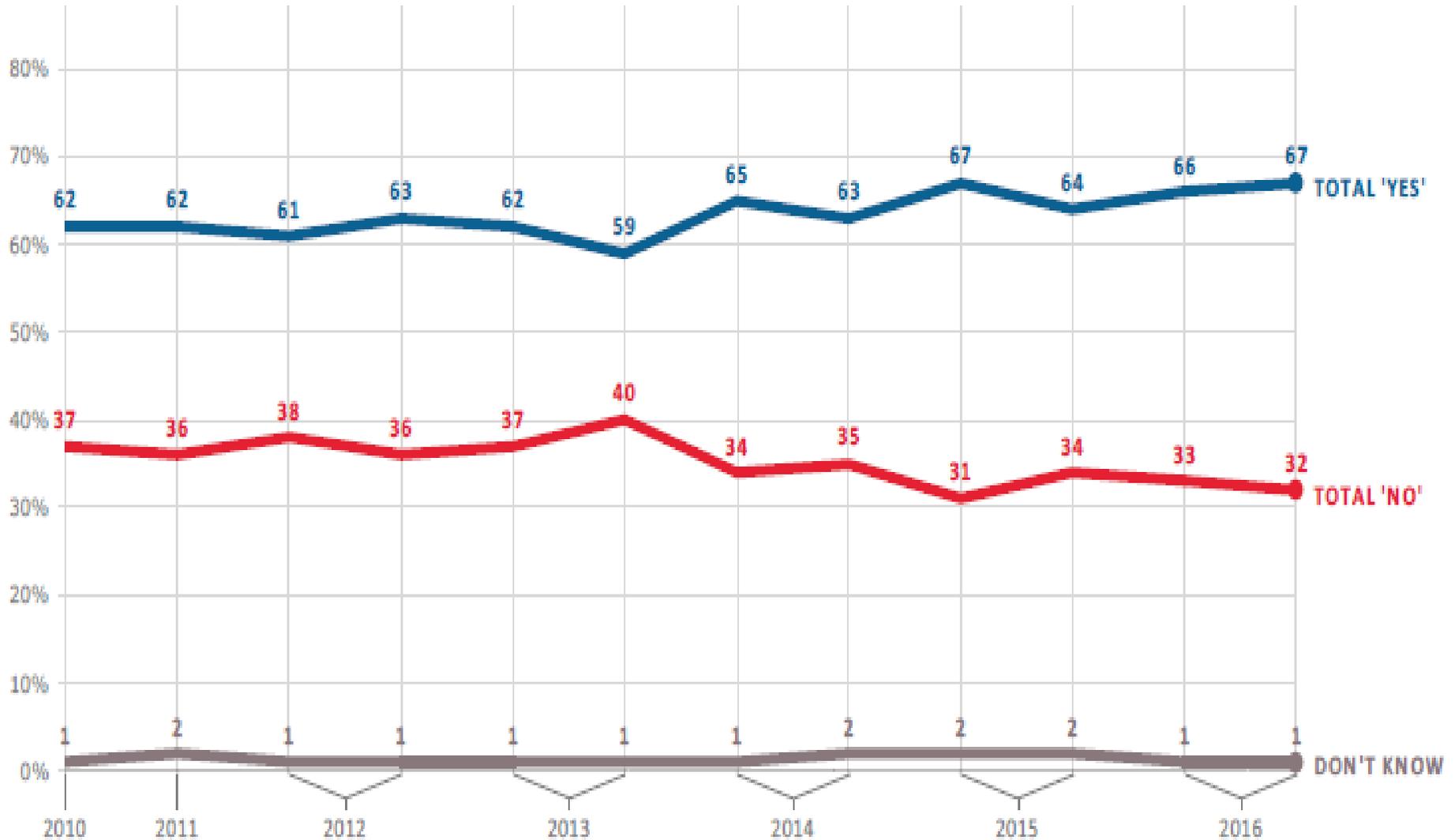


Standard EUROBAROMETER 86 (Nov 2016)

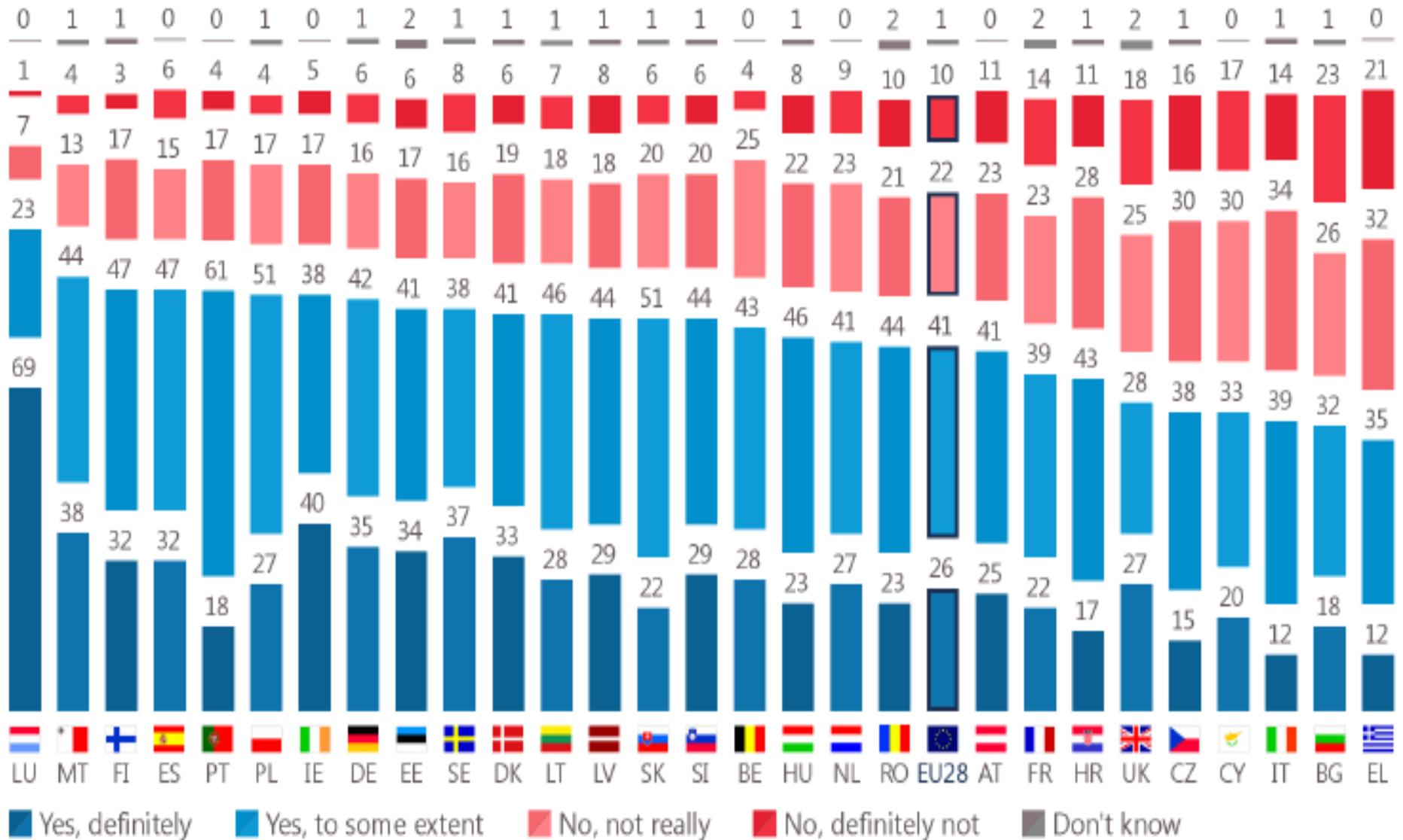
The sense of EU citizenship

- do Europeans see themselves as European citizens?
- what factors create a sense of European citizenship?
- do they know their rights as European citizens?
- do they want information about these rights?
- what values best represent the EU?

You feel you are a citizen of the EU? (% - EU)



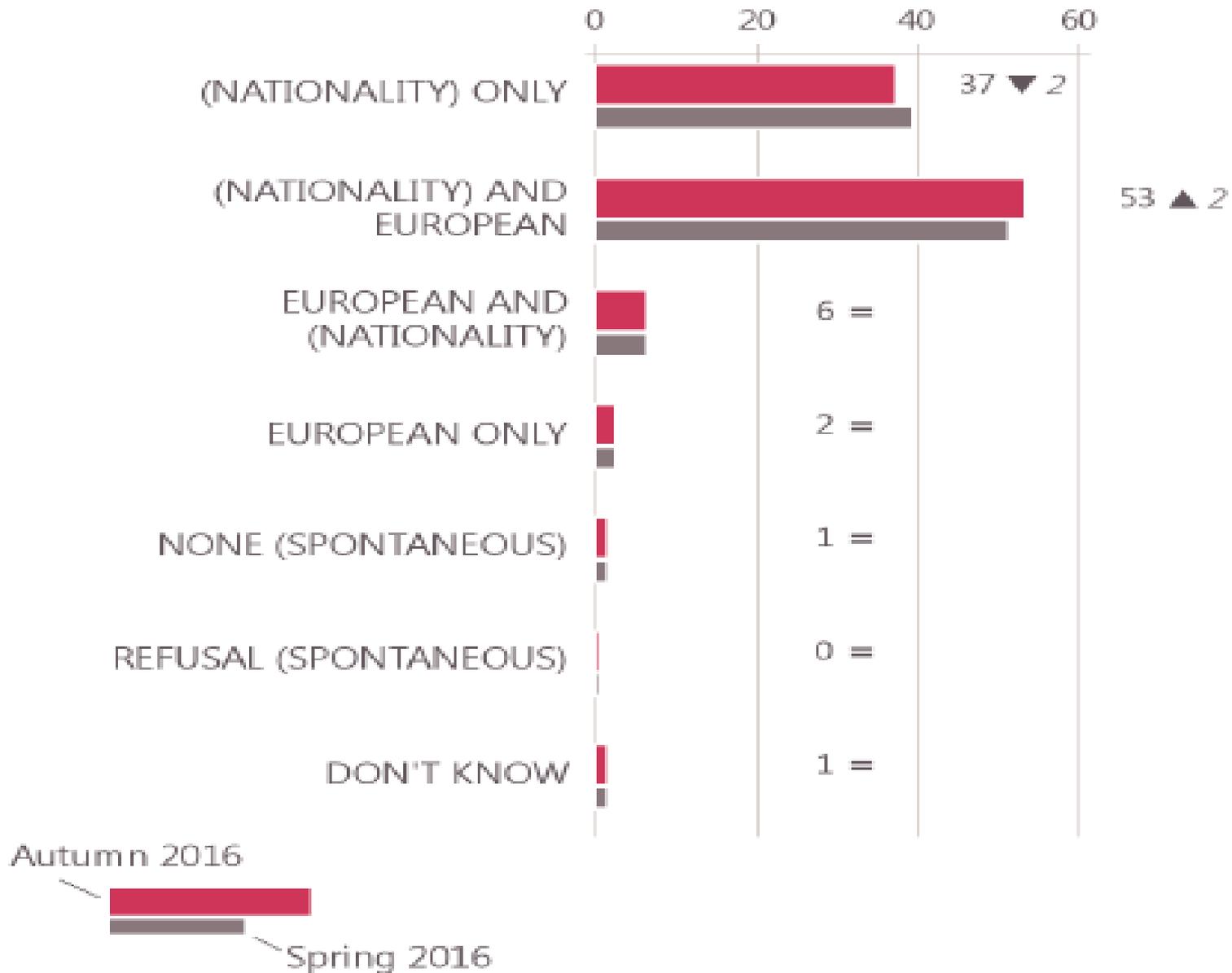
You feel you are a citizen of the EU? (% - EU; 2016)



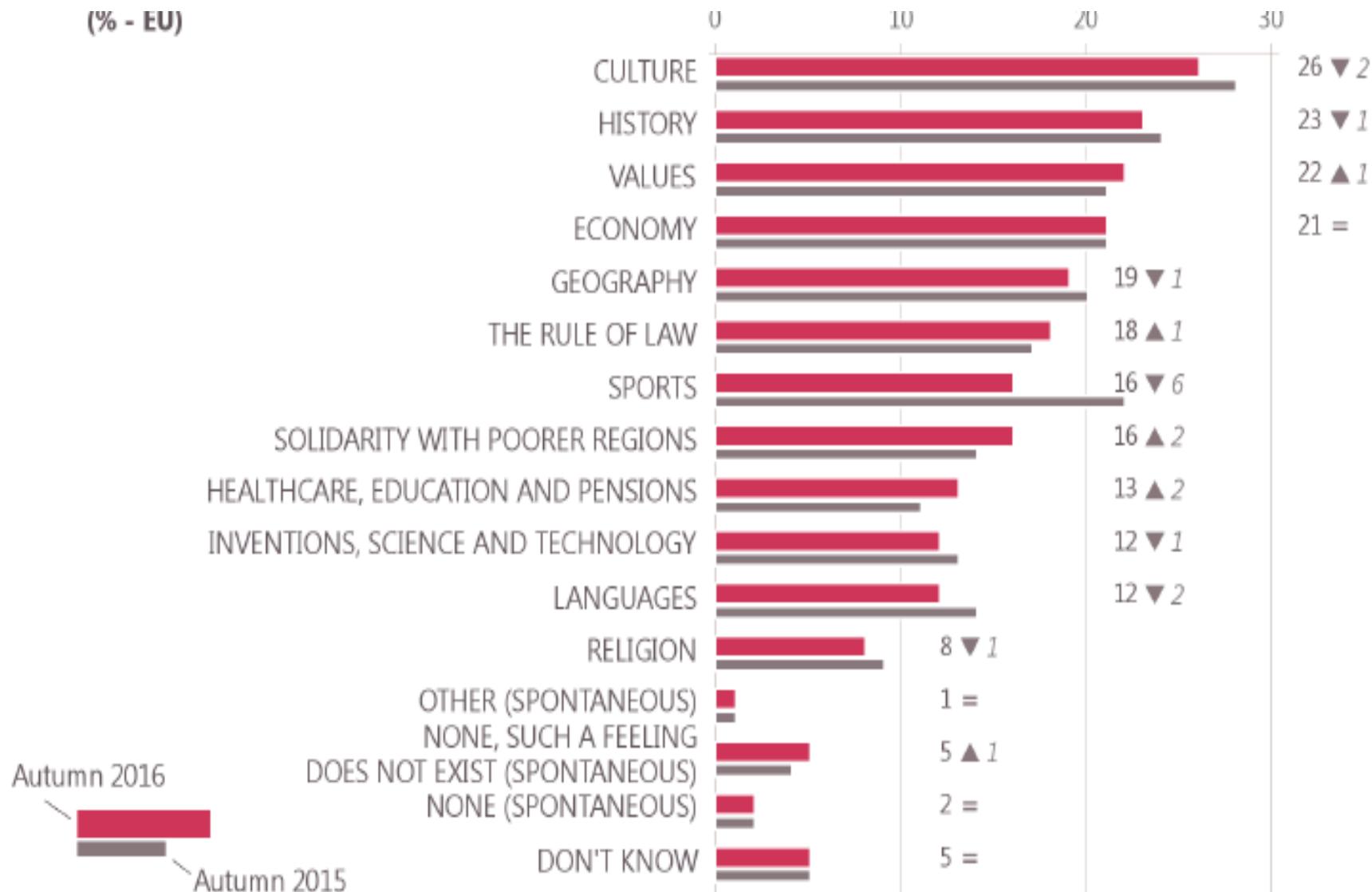
Who feels to be a citizen of the EU?

- 15-24 year-olds citizens (75%)
- those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (78%)
- managers (79%)
- students (80%)
- those who see themselves as upper middle class (80%) or upper class (78%)

Do feel yourself as...? (% - EU)



Factors contributing the most to create a feeling of community among EU citizens



A national analysis reveals **significant variations between MSs**

- **CULTURE is in first place in** ten countries (compared with 13 in autumn 2015), with its highest score in Portugal (40%) and its lowest in Romania (15%)
- In 6 other countries (compared with 4 in autumn 2015), **GEOGRAPHY tops the list, though it ranks** only fifth in the European average. “Geography” obtained its highest score in the Netherlands (39%) and its lowest in Cyprus (9%)
- **The ECONOMY is seen as the most unifying factor by a majority of respondents in 5 MSs** (compared with 3 in autumn 2015), with its highest and lowest scores in Slovenia (35%) and the Czech Republic (14%) respectively
- Although **HISTORY is ranked second at European level, it tops the list in only 2 MSs** (compared with 3 in autumn 2015): the Czech Republic (38%) and Hungary (32%). In contrast, it is mentioned by only 12% of respondents in Cyprus
- **The RULE OF LAW is ranked first in 2 countries (compared with none in autumn 2015): Finland (36%) and Germany (30%).** It obtained its lowest score in Lithuania (6%)
- **SPORTS continue to be ranked first in Ireland (30%); they were in first place in 3 countries in** autumn 2015. Respondents in Slovenia (33%) are most likely to mention this factor, while those in Bulgaria (6%) are the least likely to do so
- **VALUES** stand in third place in Europe overall, but do not head the list on their own in any MS. Their highest score is obtained in Finland (35%) and their lowest in Hungary (11%).

Challenges and actions for the future

...according to the European Commission:

EU citizenship Report 2017

Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of **Democratic Change**



Věra Jourová,

*European Commissioner
for Justice, Consumers
and Gender Equality*



Dimitris Avramopoulos,

*European Commissioner for
Migration, Home Affairs and
Citizenship*



Priorities for 2017–19:

Promoting EU citizenship rights and common values

The Commission will:

1. In 2017 and 2018 conduct an EU-wide information and awareness raising campaign on EU citizenship rights including on consular protection and electoral rights ahead of the 2019 European elections³⁷.
2. Take action to strengthen the **European Voluntary Service** and promote the benefits and integration of volunteering in education. By 2020, invite the first 100,000 young Europeans to volunteer with the **European Solidarity Corps** which will provide the opportunity to develop new skills and meaningful experiences, to make an important contribution to society across the EU, and to gain invaluable experience and acquire valuable skills at the start of their career³⁸.
3. Safeguard the essence of EU citizenship and its inherent values; in 2017/2018 produce a report on **national schemes granting EU citizenship to investors** describing the Commission's action in this area, current national law and practices, and providing some guidance for Member States.

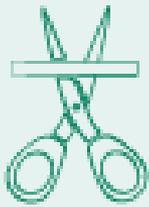


Priorities for 2017–19:

Promoting and enhancing citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU

The Commission will:

1. Intensify **Citizens' Dialogues** and encourage public debates, to improve public understanding of the impact of the EU on citizens' daily lives and to encourage an exchange of views with citizens.
2. Report in 2017 on the implementation of **EU law on local elections** to ensure that EU citizens can effectively exercise their voting rights at local level.
3. In 2018, promote best practices which **help citizens vote and stand for EU elections**, including on retaining the right to vote when moving to another Member State and cross-border access to political news, to support turnout and broad democratic participation in the perspective of the 2019 European elections⁵⁰.



Priorities for 2017–19:

Simplifying travel, living and working across the EU for citizens

The Commission will:

1. Submit a proposal for setting up a **'Single Digital Gateway'** to give citizens easy, online access to information, assistance and problem-solving services and the possibility to complete online administrative procedures in cross-border situations by linking up relevant EU and national-level content and services in a seamless, user-friendly and user-centric way. Moreover, assess cutting red tape in national administrations by requiring citizens to supply their data only once.
2. Further facilitate and promote **EU-wide multimodal travel** in order to make mobility of EU citizens more efficient and user-friendly, through the specification of EU-wide multimodal travel information services and improvements to the interoperability and compatibility of systems and services.



Priorities for 2017–19:

Strengthening security and promoting equality

The Commission will:

1. In the first quarter of 2017 finalise the study on EU policy options to improve the security of EU citizens' **identity cards and residence documents** of EU citizens residing in another Member State and of their non-EU family members¹²⁵. The Commission will evaluate the next steps, options and their impacts in view of a possible legislative initiative by the end of 2017.
2. In 2017 assess how to modernise the rules on **emergency travel documents for unrepresented EU citizens**, including the security features of the EU common format, to guarantee that citizens can effectively exercise their right to consular protection.
3. Carry out in 2017 a **campaign on violence against women** and actively support the accession of the Union to the Istanbul Convention alongside Member States and present proposals to address the challenges of **work-life balance** for working families.
4. Act to improve the social acceptance of LGBTI people across the EU by implementing the list of actions to advance LGBTI equality and actively support the conclusion of the negotiations on the proposed horizontal **Anti-Discrimination Directive**¹²⁶.

And what about duties?

A 'thicker' form of EU level citizenship could only arise by creating **civic obligations** at the EU level.

Which are your responsibilities as a EU citizen?

