TUI FOUNDATION

Policy Breakfast  Brussels
27th of September 2018
Focus: Young People in Europe

Fostering equal opportunities for young people through education and training

Supporting projects that encourage young people to actively shape their future

Giving young people a voice in European debates and inspire them to take part

Creating initiatives that inspire young people to engage in politics and society
EUROPEAN YOUTH 2018

What young Europeans think of Europe
A study by TUI Stiftung, conducted by YouGov
Study Design

- 6,080 interviews with young Europeans aged 16 to 26 years from 7 countries
- Online survey (14 February to 4 March 2018)
- Representative by age and gender (based on quotas retrieved from EUROSTAT)
- Survey on 4 basic topics:
  1. Perception of the European Union
  2. Political attitudes
  3. Media usage
  4. Perception of the future
- Time series: Data from 2017 on some questions (6,000 interviews)
In 2018, young Europeans have a more positive attitude towards Europe than in 2017.
In France, Italy, Spain and the UK, the share of young people describing themselves as European has increased.

How would you be most likely to describe yourself?

- as citizen of my country
- as a European first, and then as citizen of my country
- only as a European
- other/don't know/no response

Basis: all respondents, 2018: n=6080, 2017: n=6000
In %
The share of those who think the relationship between their country and the EU is interdependent has increased.

When you think about the relationship between your country and the EU: Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

- [country] needs the EU more than the EU needs [country]
- [country] and the EU need each other equally
- The EU needs [country] more than [country] needs the EU
- Neither the EU nor [country] needs one another
- don’t know/no response

Basis: all respondents, 2018: n=6080, 2017: n=6000
In %
Compared to 2017, the approval of the EU membership has increased across all countries.

If a referendum was held tomorrow about the EU membership of your country: How would you vote?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>EU</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>Romania</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not vote</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basis: all respondents, 2018: n=6080, 2017: n=6000
In %
The most important tasks of the EU are fighting terrorism and protecting the environment.
Fighting terrorism
Protecting the environment and climate
Regulating immigration
Protecting human rights and civil rights
Promoting economic growth
Reducing social inequality
Promoting education and science
Increasing solidarity (within own country / between EU members)
Increasing public participation in decisions
Strengthening the EURO as single currency
Promoting the Internet, digitization and new technologies
Making democratic decisions more transparent for the public

Which of the following tasks are most important for the country / the EU over the next 5 years? Please select the 3 tasks that are most important in your opinion.

Most important national tasks
- Fighting terrorism: 29
- Protecting the environment and climate: 28
- Regulating immigration: 30
- Protecting human rights and civil rights: 26
- Promoting economic growth: 39
- Reducing social inequality: 35
- Promoting education and science: 26
- Increasing solidarity (within own country / between EU members): 17
- Increasing public participation in decisions: 17
- Strengthening the EURO as single currency: 6
- Promoting the Internet, digitization and new technologies: 12
- Making democratic decisions more transparent for the public: 11

Most important tasks for the EU
- Fighting terrorism: 44
- Protecting the environment and climate: 34
- Regulating immigration: 33
- Protecting human rights and civil rights: 30
- Promoting economic growth: 26
- Reducing social inequality: 25
- Promoting education and science: 17
- Increasing solidarity (within own country / between EU members): 17
- Increasing public participation in decisions: 13
- Strengthening the EURO as single currency: 13
- Promoting the Internet, digitization and new technologies: 10
- Making democratic decisions more transparent for the public: 10

Basis: all respondents, n=6080
In %; multiple answers possible

TUI STIFTUNG
POLITICAL ATTITUDES
Almost two out of three think that democracy is the best form of government. French and Poles are more skeptical.

When you think of democracy as a form of government: Which of the following statements do you agree with?

- All in all, democracy is the best form of government
- Democracy is just as good or bad as other forms of government

Base: all respondents, n=6080
In %
TUI STIFTUNG
A vast majority demands change – one out of four even supports radical change.

When you think about the political system in your country, which of the following statements do you most agree with?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>EU</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By and large, the political system in [country] works the way it is supposed to.</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The political system in [country] does not work, but it could be fixed with a few changes.</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The political system in [country] works so badly that only radical change could fix it.</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don't know / no response</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: all respondents, n=6080
In %
Trust in science, the police and courts is highest. European institutions are ranked fourth.

How much do you trust the following organisations and groups?

- **Science and scientists**: 71% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 7% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **The police**: 52% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 19% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Courts**: 39% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 27% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Institutions of the EU**: 33% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 29% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Banks**: 25% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 43% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Trade unions**: 24% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 33% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Churches**: 21% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 49% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Public broadcasters**: 21% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 44% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Large companies and corporations**: 19% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 41% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Parliament**: 19% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 49% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Government**: 18% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 54% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Private media**: 16% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 44% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.
- **Political parties**: 8% I generally trust them / I trust them completely, 63% I do not generally trust them / I do not trust them at all.

Basis: all respondents, n=6080

In %
Young Europeans with populist attitudes wish for a different type of democracy
Measuring populist attitudes

- **Anti elitism**: 5 questions, e.g.: “The Members of Parliament quickly lose contact with the public.”
  - Approving at least 2 questions

- **Belief in unrestricted popular sovereignty**: 4 questions, e.g.: “The public should have the final say in political issues, by means of referendums.”
  - Approving at least 2 questions

- **Understanding the people as being homogenous and virtuous**: 6 questions, e.g.: “Although the [people] may have their differences, they all think the same way when it matters.”
  - Approving at least 2 questions

Additionally: Approving 12 questions in total

Share of young Europeans with populist attitudes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Populist attitudes</th>
<th>No Populist attitudes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basis: all respondents, n=6080
In %
By and large, the political system in [country] works the way it is supposed to.

The political system in [country] does not work, but it could be fixed with a few changes.

The political system in [country] works so badly that only radical change could fix it.

don’t know / no response
It would be better if important political decisions were made by independent experts, and not by elected politicians.

No progress is being made because political decisions always have to be compromises.

It should be easier for the government to implement its objectives, even if that means the rights of the opposition need to be restricted.

Sometimes it is important to violate the rules of democracy in order to make important changes possible.

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**Young Europeans with populist attitudes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It would be better if important political decisions were made by independent experts, and not by elected politicians.</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No progress is being made because political decisions always have to be compromises.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It should be easier for the government to implement its objectives, even if that means the rights of the opposition need to be restricted.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes it is important to violate the rules of democracy in order to make important changes possible.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Young Europeans without populist attitudes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It would be better if important political decisions were made by independent experts, and not by elected politicians.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No progress is being made because political decisions always have to be compromises.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>It should be easier for the government to implement its objectives, even if that means the rights of the opposition need to be restricted.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes it is important to violate the rules of democracy in order to make important changes possible.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

**Basis:** all respondents, n=6080

In %
EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES AND THEIR EFFECTS
Young British participate below average in exchange programmes

Have you ever participated in an exchange programme with other European countries (e.g. at school, university, with clubs or (youth) organisations)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Yes (%)</th>
<th>No (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basis: all participants, n=6080

"Don’t know" category not shown
Higher educated are more likely to take part in exchange programmes

“Yes, I participated in an exchange programme” (by level of education)

Basis: all participants, n=6080
The educational gap is even larger when accounting for the education of parents.

“Yes, I participated in an exchange programme” (by level of parental education)

Basis: all participants, n=6080
Only small differences between young people with and without migration background

Participation in exchange programmes by migration background

- **WITH MIGRATION BACKGROUND**
  - Participated: 33%
  - Not Participated: 29%

- **WITHOUT MIGRATION BACKGROUND**
  - Participated: 65%
  - Not Participated: 69%

Basis: all participants, n=6080

"Don’t know" category not shown
Participants identify stronger with Europe

How would you be most likely to describe yourself? a) as British b) as British first, and then as a European c) as a European first, and then as British d) only as a European

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basis: all participants, n=6080</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NATIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated: 26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Participated: 37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HYBRID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated: 61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Participated: 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROPEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DON'T KNOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participants show stronger support for the EU

If a referendum was held tomorrow about the EU membership your country: How would you vote?

- Stay in EU: 78% (Participated), 69% (Not Participated)
- Leave EU: 12% (Participated), 16% (Not Participated)
- Wouldn't vote: 4% (Participated), 7% (Not Participated)
- Don't know: 5% (Participated), 8% (Not Participated)

Basis: all participants, n=6080
The effect of exchange programmes on democratic support is comparatively lower

When you think of democracy as a form of government: Which of the following statements do you agree with?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses among participants and non-participants.]

- **Best form of government**: 64%
- **Equal to other forms**: 23%
- **Alternatives are better**: 5%
- **Don't know**: 7%

Participated: 6080 participants

Basis: all participants, n=6080
No difference in populist attitudes between participants and non-participants in an European exchange program

Exchange programme participation and populist attitudes

![Bar chart showing the percentage of participants and non-participants with populist attitudes.](chart)

- **Participated**:
  - With Populist Attitudes: 14%
  - Without Pop. Att.: 86%

- **Not Participated**:
  - With Populist Attitudes: 15%
  - Without Pop. Att.: 85%

Basis: all participants, n=6080

"Don’t know" category not shown
THANK YOU