

The European Project in 2020 survey, carried out by Ipsos' online platform 'Global Advisor', provides much needed insights into EU citizens' views of the European Union. It focuses on three key aspects: 1) the past and present direction of the EU, 2) the EU's impact in the world and the necessity for its Member States to act together and 3) the EU's role in the handling of Coronavirus.

**Has the European project made Europe stronger or weaker today than it would have been without it?** Figures have been relatively stable since this question was first asked in 2017. Almost half of Europeans surveyed (47%) believe Europe has been made stronger by the European Union. Almost two in five (42%) say the same about their own country. Countries that have been EU members since its creation are less likely to express the view that it has strengthened Europe as a whole, whilst later joiners (Sweden, Hungary and Poland) are more positive. In terms of the EU's direction, the proportion of Europeans that believe the European Union is heading in the wrong direction has continued to fall over the last three years, with 29% saying it is on the right track. Similar to the dichotomy above, majorities in Belgium, France and Italy believe that the European Union is heading in the wrong direction.



**How can the European Union impact the world by acting together?** Nearly half of respondents agree that together the countries of the European Union have more influence on the rest of the world (46% - drop from 51% in 2017) and are stronger in solving global problems (47%). Sweden, the Netherlands and Hungary are the most positive about the EU boosting their global influence and ability to solve problems, while France and Italy are the least positive. Further, the proportion agreeing that together EU countries have more influence on the rest of the world has declined in almost every country since 2017, especially in Poland.

**Has the European Union been able to make a difference in handling the Coronavirus?** A fifth (20%) of respondents say that the European Union has helped reduce the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic in their country, whilst just over one in four (27%) hold the opinion that it has helped manage the crisis. However, roughly two in five think the EU has either made no difference to the impact (44%) or not been involved enough (39%). The eastern European nations of Poland and Hungary are most positive about the EU's response to the pandemic, whilst France, Sweden, the Netherlands and Belgium are the least impressed by the impact of the EU's involvement during the pandemic. Italy, the first country in the EU to suffer a serious outbreak, has the highest proportion of those who believe the EU has made the effects worse, closely followed by France and Belgium.

## Methodological note

This Global Advisor survey was conducted in 9 EU Member States between 25 September and 9 October 2020. For the purpose of this survey, Ipsos interviewed a total of 7,500 adults aged 16-74. The sample consisted of 1,000+ individuals in each of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and of c.500 individuals in Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden. If interested results are also available for other countries, including the UK.

## Ipsos European Public Affairs

Pan-European and international research is conducted to the highest standards of methodological rigour through our European Public Affairs (EPA) hub based in Belgium (<https://www.ipsos.com/en/international-social-research>), which has a solid track record of successfully delivering large scale, multi-country solutions for a range of clients, from European and international institutions, through to NGOs and leading academic institutions.

For more results of this study or other information, please contact Christine Tresignie [Christine.tresignie@ipsos.com](mailto:Christine.tresignie@ipsos.com) (Managing Director European Public Affairs) or Henri Wallard [Henri.Wallard@ipsos.com](mailto:Henri.Wallard@ipsos.com) (Chairman of Global Public Affairs)

Other interesting reads: [Quality of Life in European Cities](#) - [Staying Afloat during a Crisis](#)