

# Ipsos European Pulse August 2015

## Views on the EU



# ARE THINGS GOING IN RIGHT DIRECTION OR WRONG TRACK ACROSS THE EU?

Large - and increasing - majorities in most countries think the EU is going in the wrong direction.

Indeed, a **majority of EU citizens in all nine countries** agree that things across the EU are heading off on the wrong track.

The proportion thinking things are headed in the wrong direction **has increased in eight of nine** countries since 2014.

IPSOS EUROPEAN PULSE: AUGUST 2015

# Are things across the European Union going in the right direction or are they on the wrong track?

% saying 'heading in right direction'

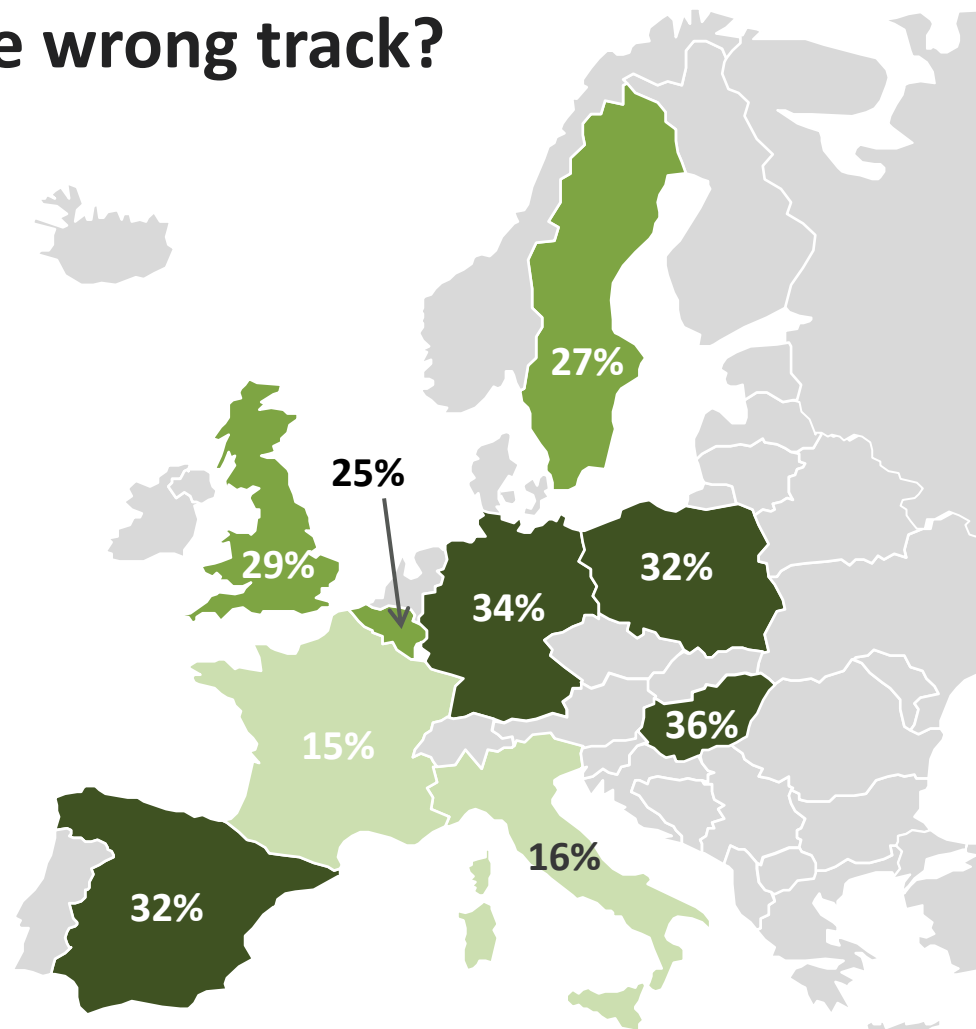


Country average: 27%

30% OR MORE

20% TO 29%

19% OR LESS



Generally speaking, would you say things across the European Union are heading in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

**Base:** 7,096 respondents from nine countries (Belgium: 505, France: 1,016, Germany: 1,015, Great Britain: 1,019, Hungary: 500, Italy: 1,015, Poland: 505, Spain: 1,016, Sweden: 505), July 24th - AUGUST 7TH, 2015.

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# Are things across the European Union going in the right direction or are they on the wrong track?

% saying 'off on the wrong track'



Country average: 73%

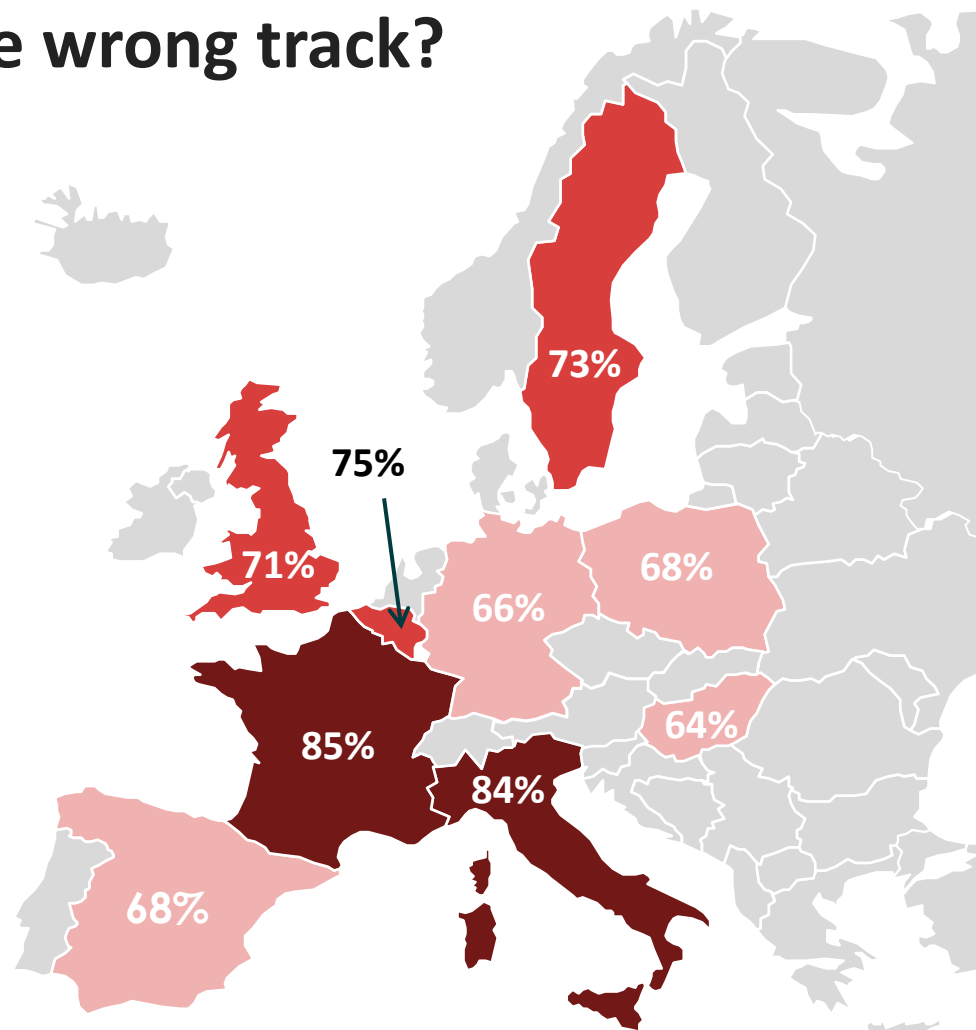
80% OR MORE



71% TO 79%



70% OR LESS



GENERALLY SPEAKING, WOULD YOU SAY THINGS ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION ARE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR ARE THEY OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK?

**BASE:** 7,096 RESPONDENTS FROM NINE COUNTRIES (BELGIUM: 505, FRANCE: 1,016, GERMANY: 1,015, GREAT BRITAIN: 1,019, HUNGARY: 500, ITALY: 1,015, POLAND: 505, SPAIN: 1,016, SWEDEN: 505), JULY 24TH - AUGUST 7TH, 2015.

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# Are things going in the right direction or are they on the wrong track? TREND FROM 2014

% point change saying 'heading in right direction' since March 2014



**Country average: 27%**  
**(-5 from March 2014)**

INCREASE OF 7 POINTS OR MORE

INCREASE OF 4 – 6 POINTS

INCREASE OF 1 – 3 POINTS

NO CHANGE

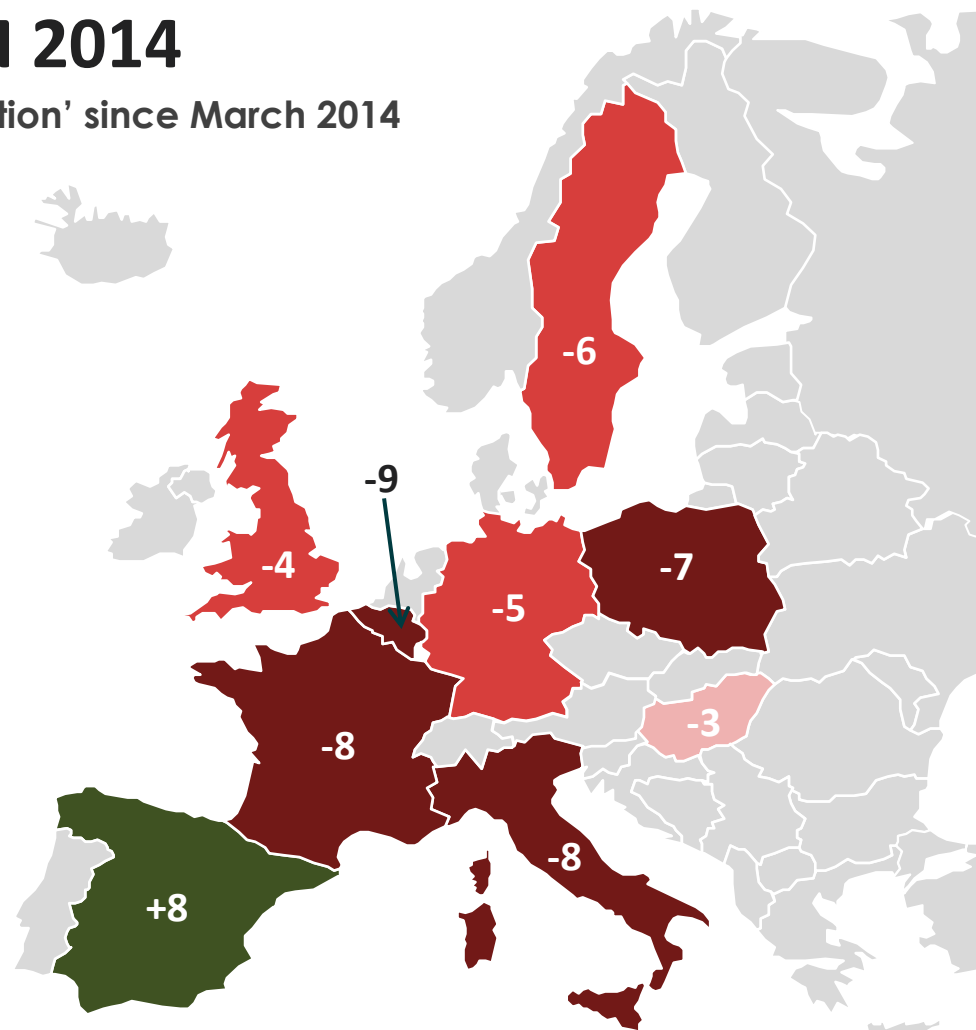
DECREASE OF 1 – 3 POINTS

DECREASE OF 4 – 6 POINTS

DECREASE OF 7 POINTS OR MORE

GENERALLY SPEAKING, WOULD YOU SAY THINGS ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION ARE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR ARE THEY OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK?

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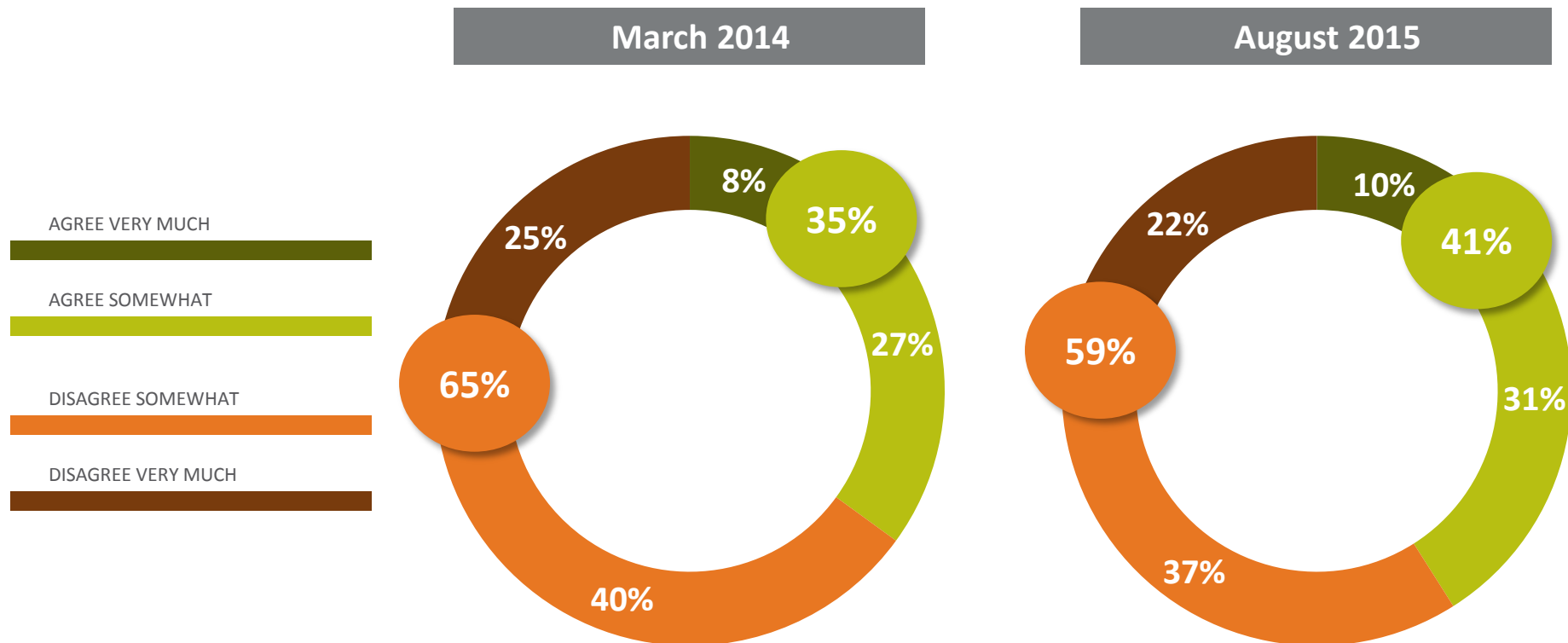
# HAS EU MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTED MEMBER STATES' LIVING STANDARDS?

Six in ten in disagree that their personal standard of living is higher now than if their country had not joined the EU.

However, this is a slight improvement in views of the living standard benefits of EU membership **since 2014**.

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# Has EU membership helped support living standards?

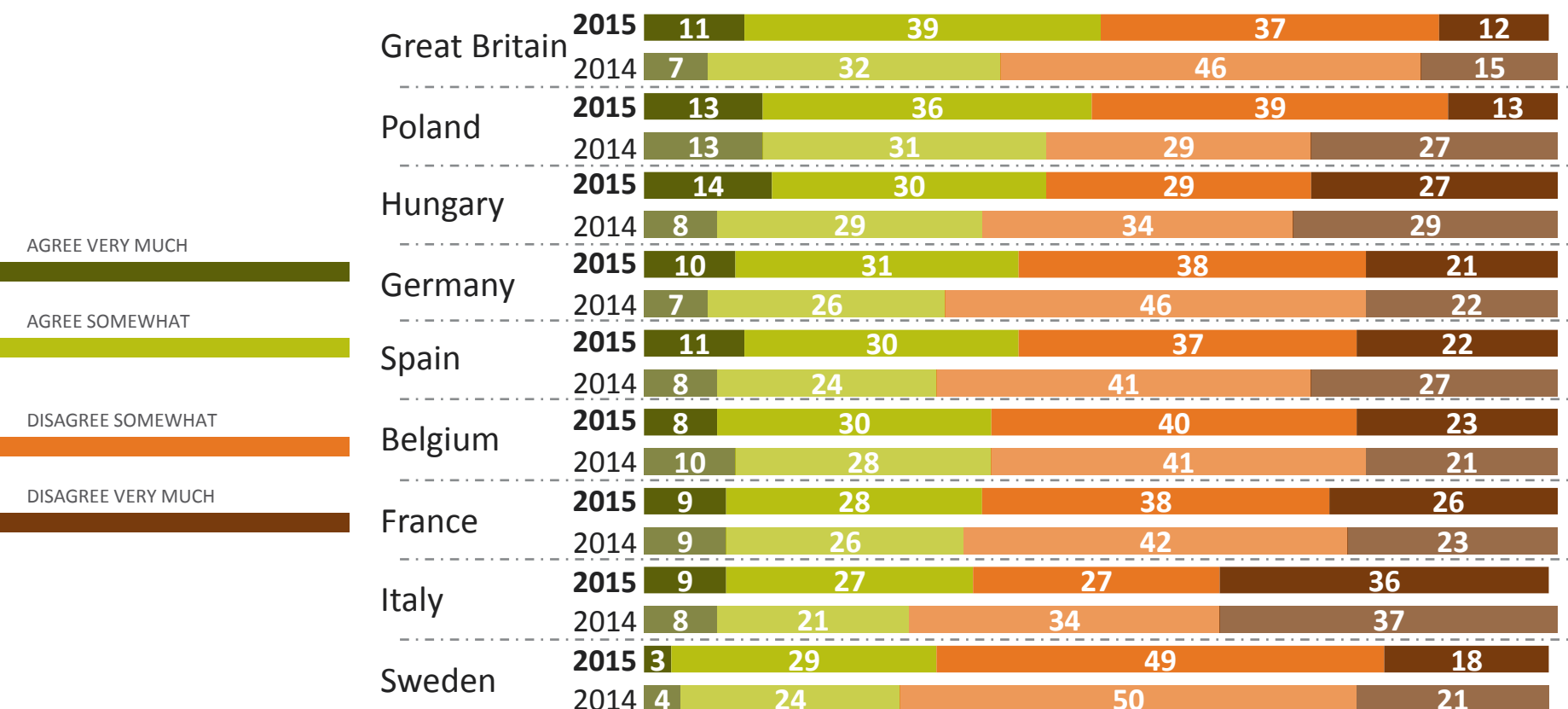


PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: THE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ME AND MY FAMILY IS HIGHER NOW THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF MY COUNTRY HAD NOT JOINED THE EUROPEAN UNION

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# Has EU membership helped support living standards? COUNTRY TREND



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# DOES THE EU UNFAIRLY ADVANTAGE MORE DEVELOPED MEMBER STATES?

**Large majorities of citizens in more economically challenged EU countries** feel that the EU gives an advantage to their more economically developed neighbours.

Three quarters of Italian citizens agree, as do a similar proportion of Spaniards. However, the majority disagree in Germany and Sweden.

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# Does the EU unfairly advantage the Union's more developed members?

March 2014

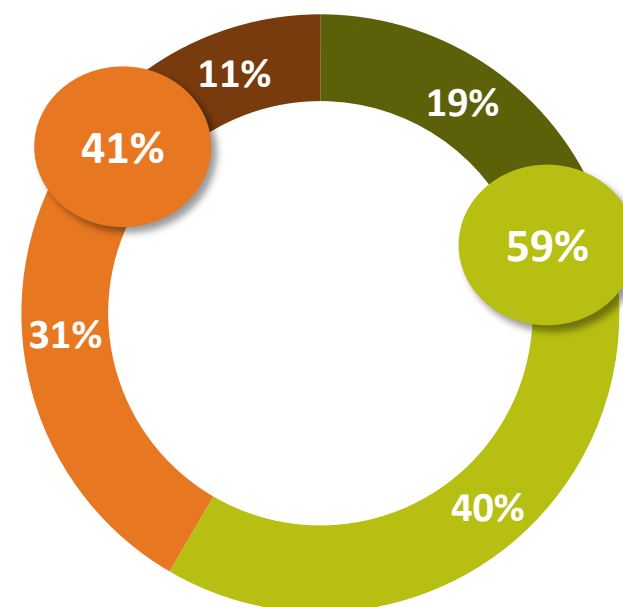
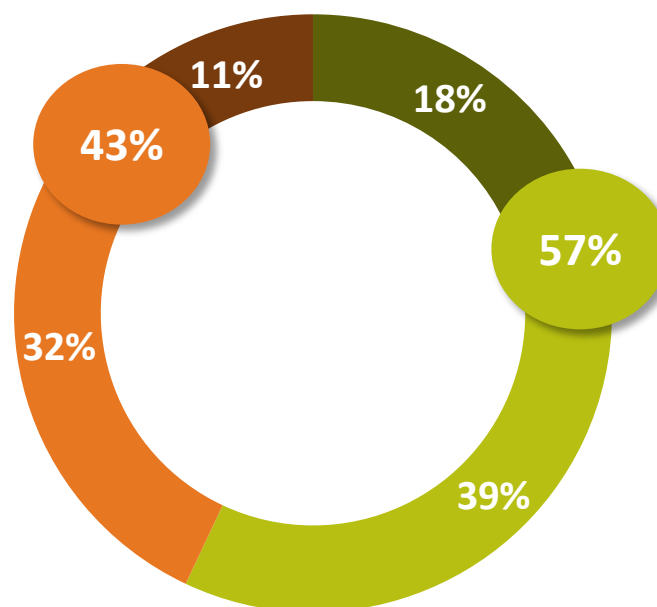
August 2015

AGREE VERY MUCH

AGREE SOMEWHAT

DISAGREE SOMEWHAT

DISAGREE VERY MUCH



PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: THE EUROPEAN UNION GIVES AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE TO MORE ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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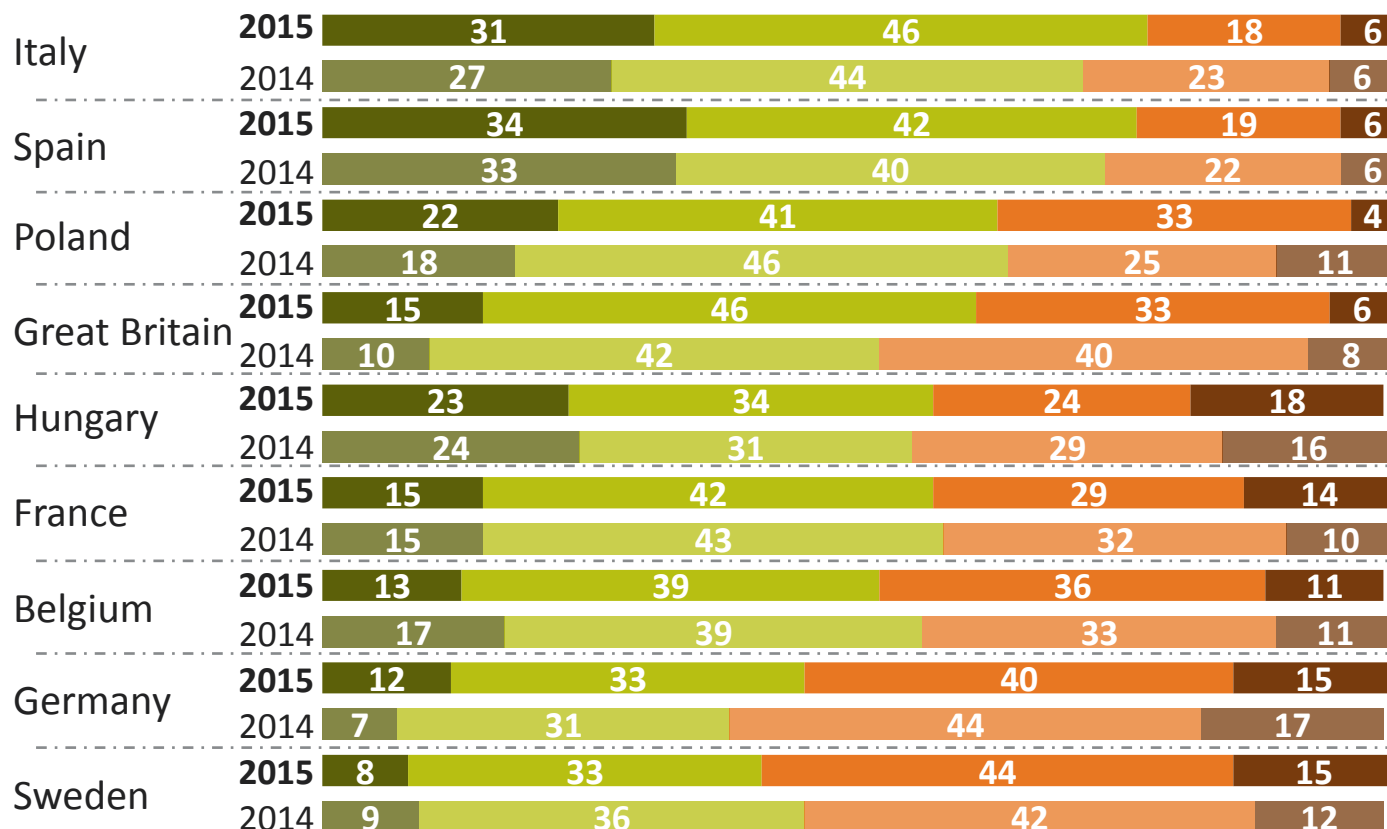
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# HAS EU PRESSURE TO CUT SPENDING DAMAGED MEMBER STATES' ECONOMIES?

**Two thirds say that their country's economy has been damaged by EU pressure on their governments to cut spending.**

**Eight in ten Italians** say their country's economy has been damaged by EU pressure to implement spending cuts.

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# Has EU pressure to cut spending damaged member states' economies?

March 2014

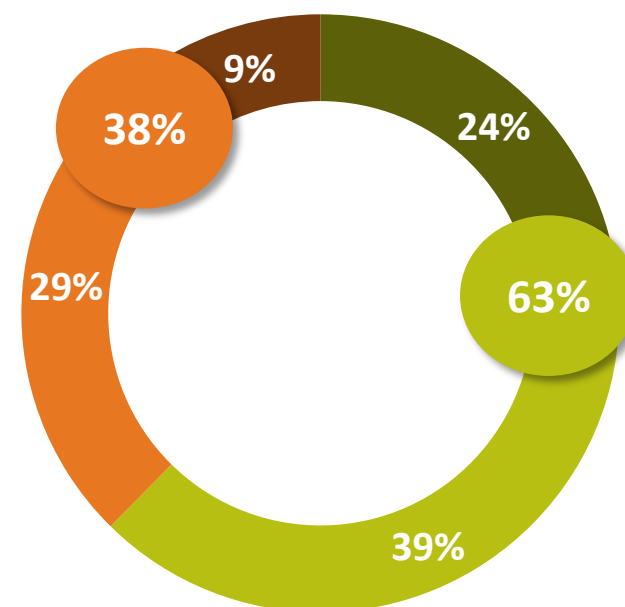
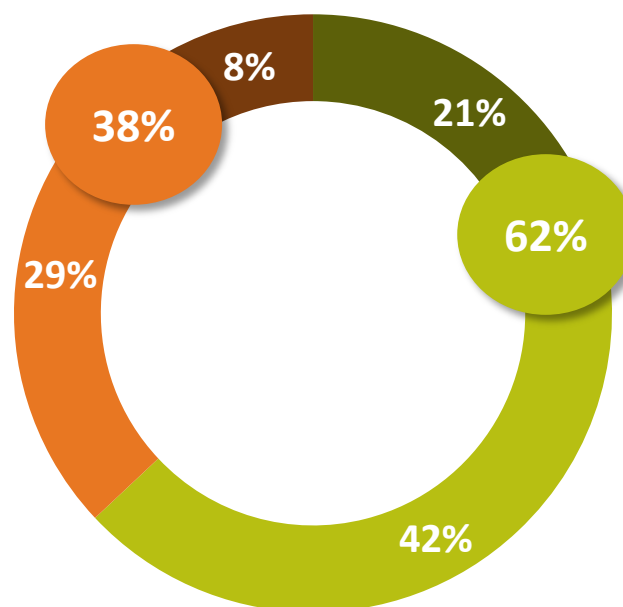
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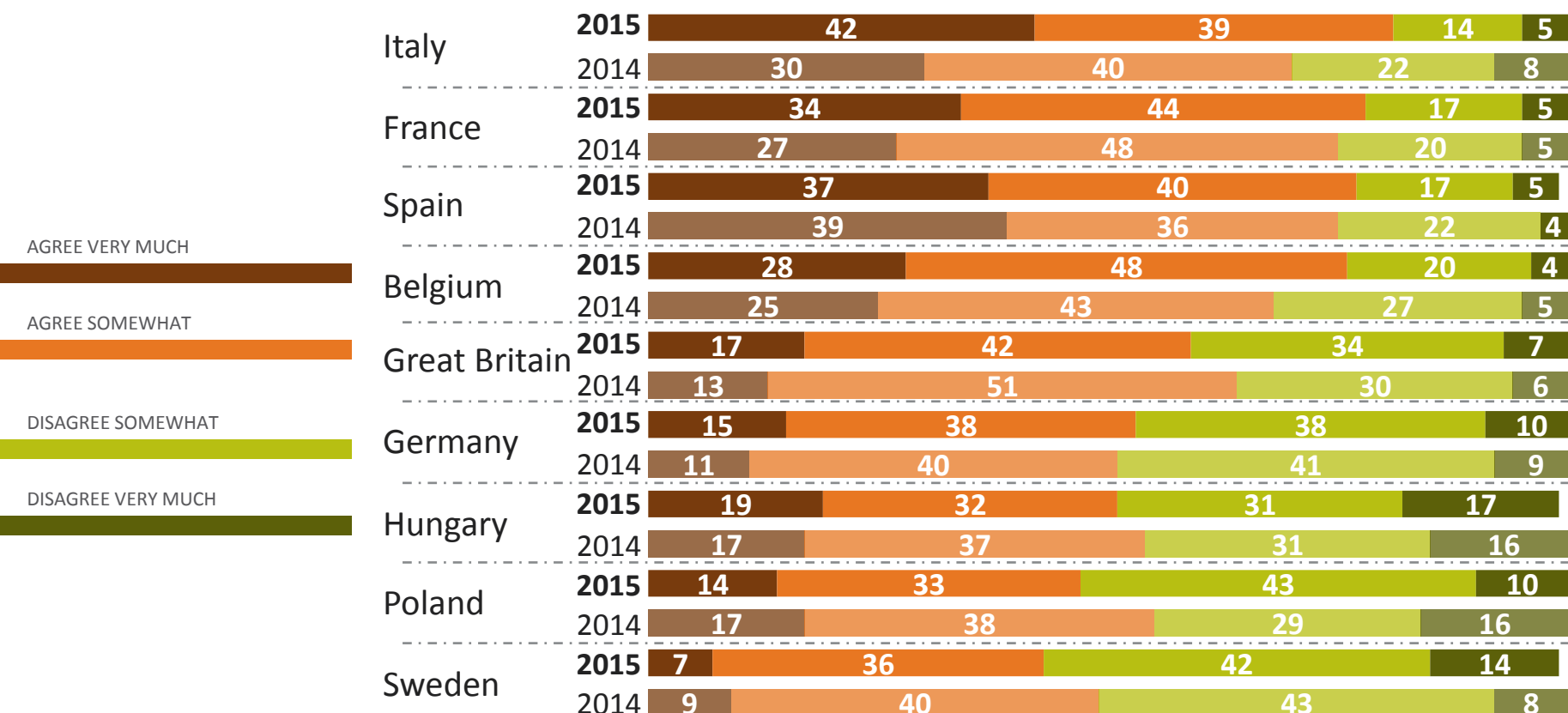


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# MORE OR LESS POWER FOR THE EU?

Despite the concerns seen, there has been **no increase in support for leaving the EU since 2014** – and in Britain the proportion who want to leave has slightly fallen.

France is more in favour of greater integration than in 2014, although both Italy and Spain are now less in favour.

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# More or less power for the EU?

March 2014

August 2015

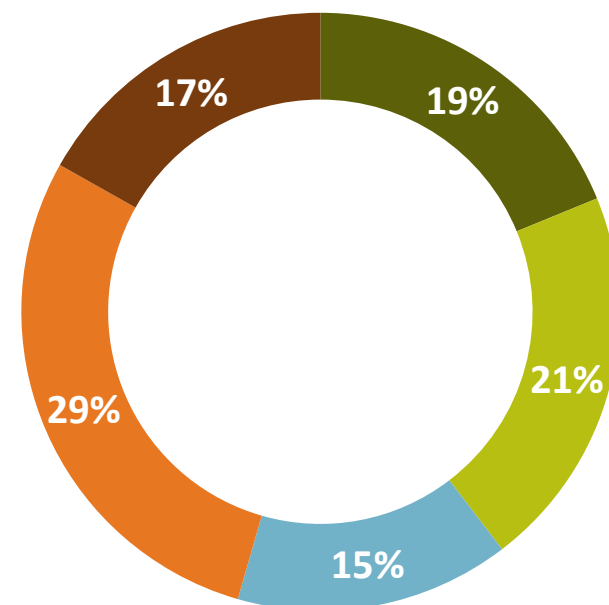
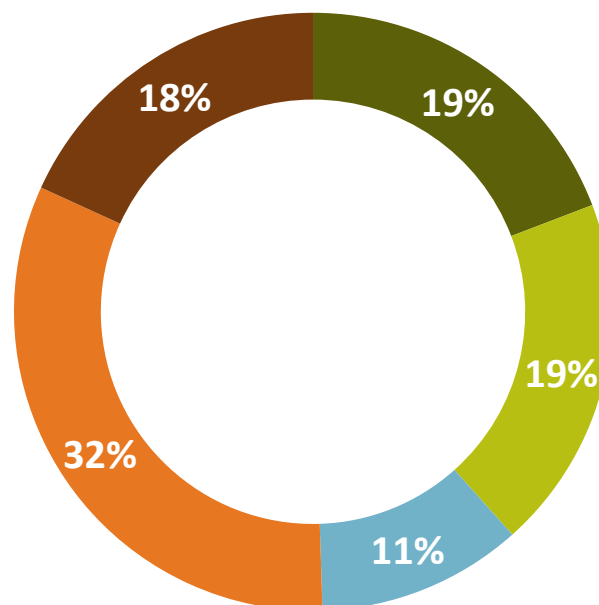
WORK FOR THE FORMATION OF A  
SINGLE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT

STAY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND  
TRY TO INCREASE THE EUROPEAN  
UNION'S POWERS

LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE

STAY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND  
TRY TO REDUCE THE EUROPEAN  
UNION'S POWERS

LEAVE THE EUROPEAN UNION



PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU THINK THE LONG-TERM POLICY OF YOUR COUNTRY SHOULD BE:

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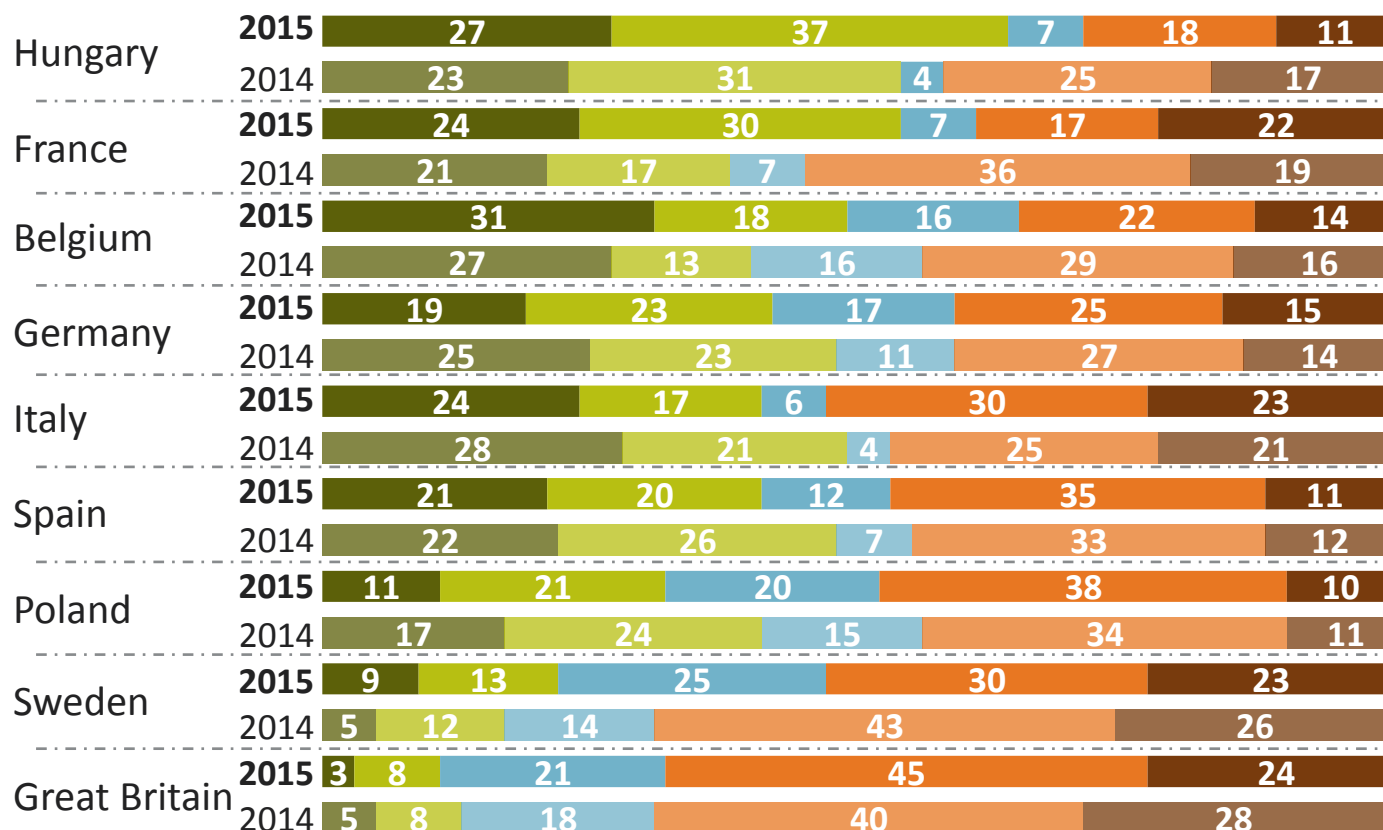
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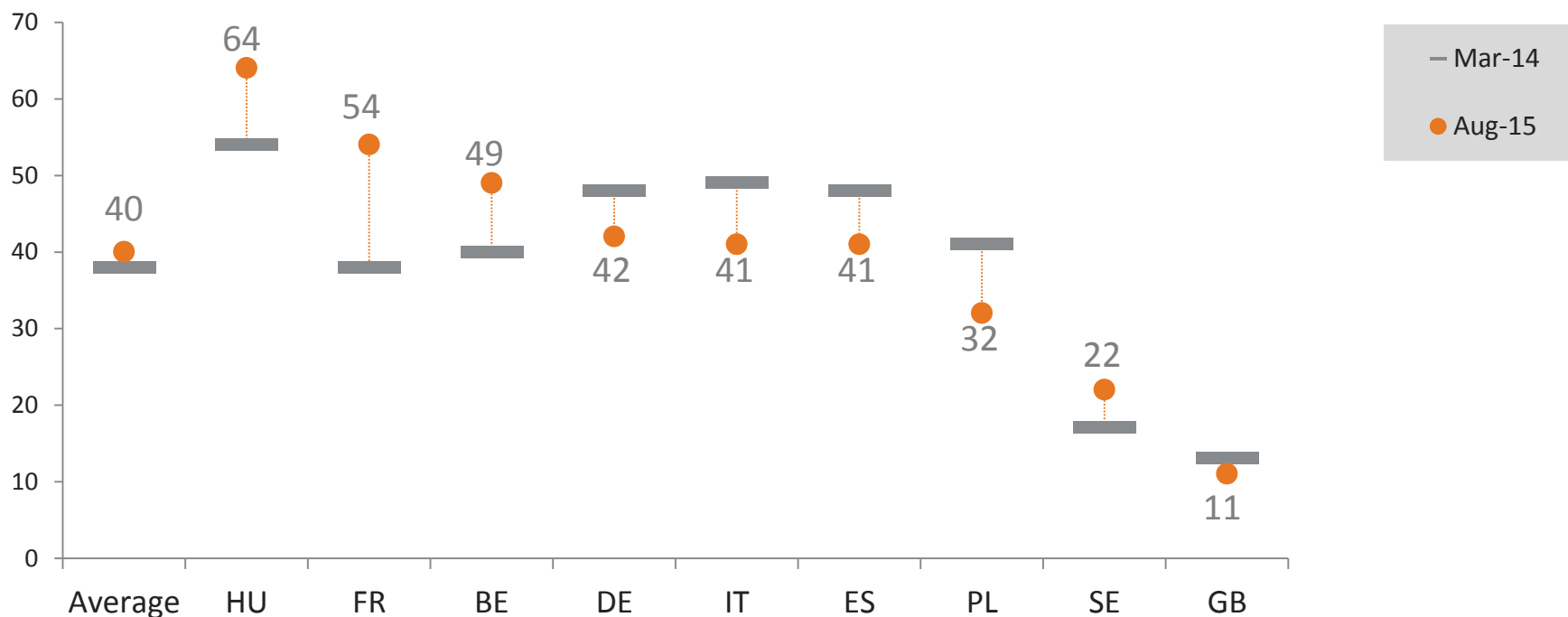
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# Support for integration stable on average, but shifts at country-level, with big increase in France

% of those saying 'work towards the formation of a single European government' or 'stay in the European Union and increase the European Union's powers'



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# Technical note

THESE ARE FINDINGS OF RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE GLOBAL RESEARCH COMPANY IPSOS.

RESPONDENTS AGED 16-64 WERE INTERVIEWED VIA THE IPSOS GLOBAL @DVISOR ONLINE PANEL IN BELGIUM, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, GERMANY, HUNGARY, ITALY, POLAND, SPAIN AND SWEDEN BETWEEN JULY 24 - AUGUST 7, 2015. APPROXIMATELY 1000+ INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED ON A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BASIS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BELGIUM, HUNGARY, POLAND AND SWEDEN WHERE EACH HAVE A SAMPLE APPROXIMATELY 500+.

# Contacts



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## GAME CHANGERS

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We believe that our work is important. Security, simplicity, speed and substance applies to everything we do.

Through specialisation, we offer our clients a unique depth of knowledge and expertise. Learning from different experiences gives us perspective and inspires us to boldly call things into question, to be creative.

By nurturing a culture of collaboration and curiosity, we attract the highest calibre of people who have the ability and desire to influence and shape the future.

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