



Flash Eurobarometer 531

# Citizens' awareness and perception of EU regional policy

Survey requested by the European Commission,  
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban  
Policy and coordinated by the Directorate-  
General for Communication

Fieldwork  
**9/6 – 22/6/2023**  
Fieldwork conducted by  
Ipsos European Public Affairs

Survey requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

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## Methodology

- The survey was conducted via telephone interviews
- Fieldwork: from 9 June to 22 June 2023
- Target population: EU citizens, 15 years and over
- Coverage: EU27
- Sampling methodology: dual frame, landline and mobile, probability design
- Number of interviews: 25 718
- Sample size per country: 500 in LU, CY, MT, 1000 in all other countries

## Presentation of survey data


- Survey data are **weighted** to marginal age, gender, activity status and region population distributions using *rim* weighting. The EU27 averages are weighted according to the size of the 15+ population of each country.


*Note:* Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

# Awareness of EU regional policy

# Awareness of EU cohesion policy


Europe provides financial support to regions and cities. Have you heard about any **EU co-financed projects to improve the area where you live?**

39%   
YES

59%   
NO

1%   
DK/NA


Are you aware that the EU regional policy supported the **health emergency response and economic recovery** in the context of the **COVID-19 pandemic?**

66%   
YES

32%   
NO

2%   
DK/NA

Are you aware of **cooperation between regions** from different countries because of EU regional funding?

26%   
YES

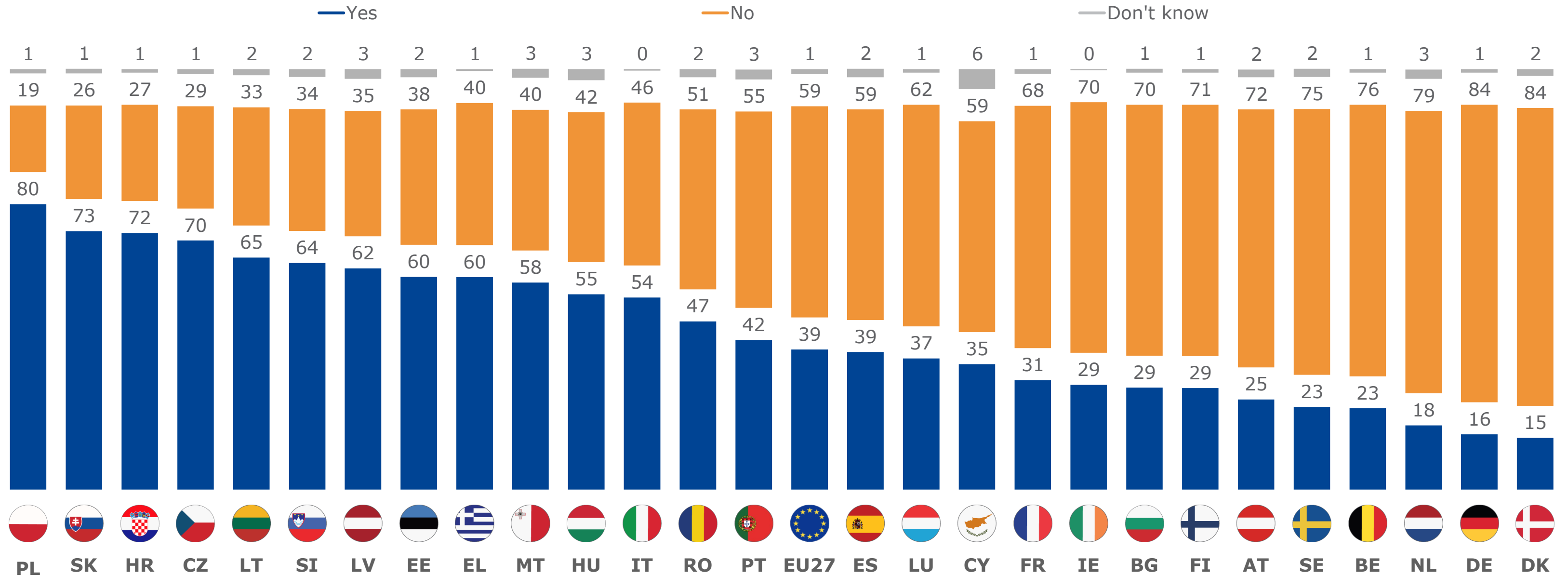
72%   
NO

2%   
DK/NA

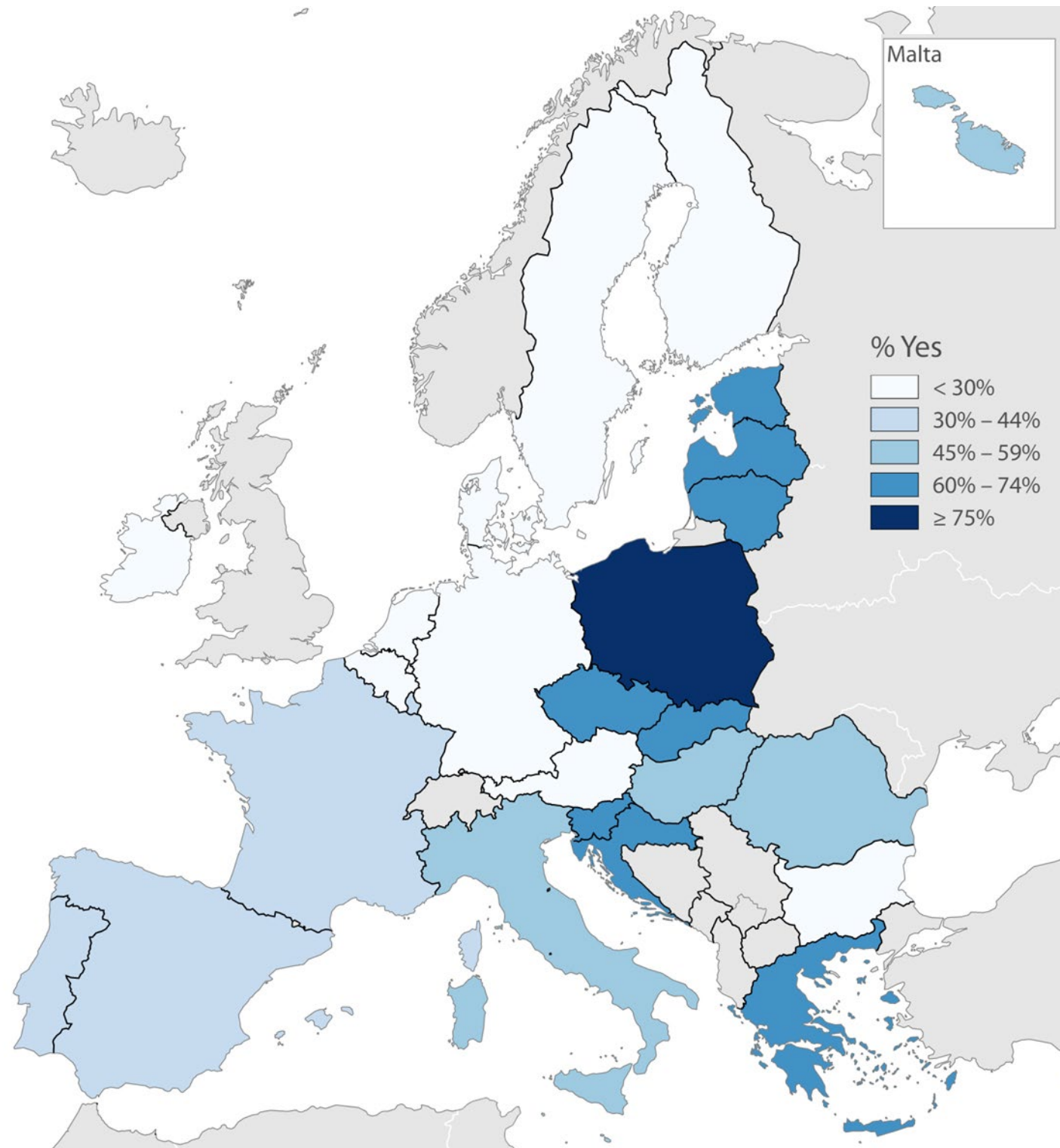
## EU27 average

# Awareness of EU co-financed projects

Europe provides financial support to regions and cities. Have you heard about any EU co-financed projects to improve the area where you live? (%)



# Awareness of EU co-financed projects

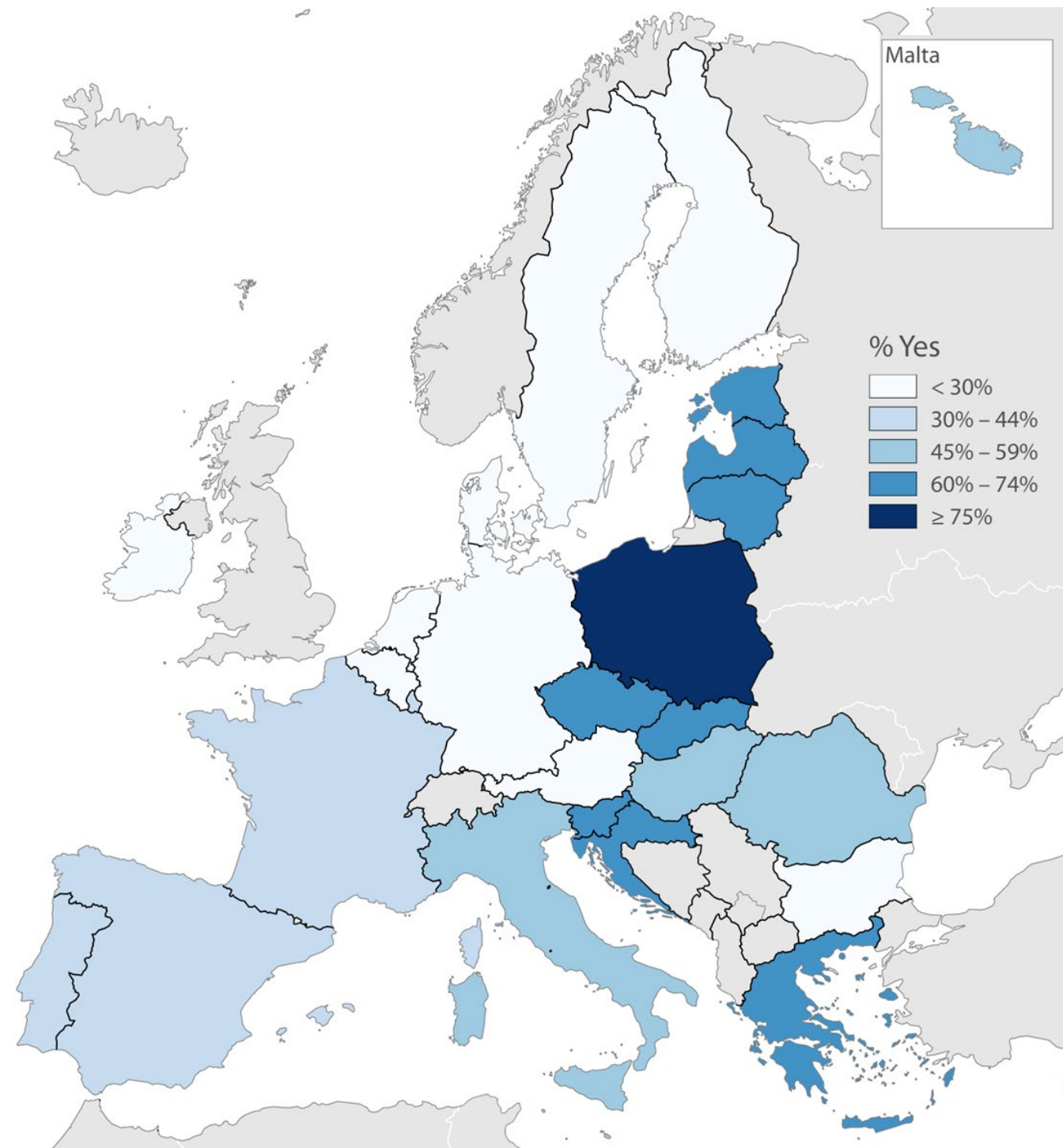


Europe provides financial support to regions and cities. Have you heard about any **EU co-financed projects to improve the area where you live?** (% yes)

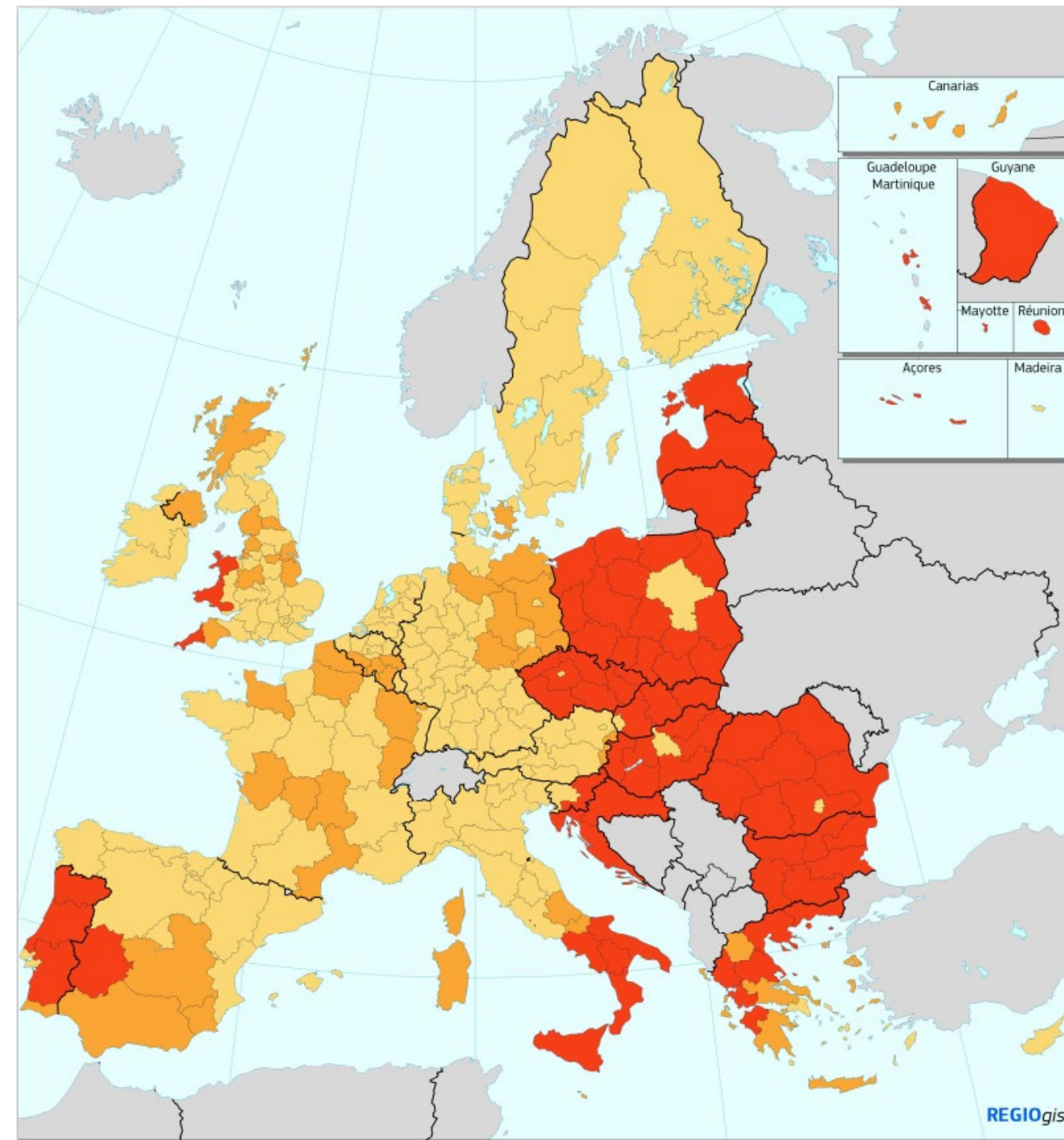
<b>EU27</b>		39%	LV		62%
BE		23%	LT		65%
BG		29%	LU		37%
CZ		70%	HU		55%
DK		15%	MT		58%
DE		16%	NL		18%
EE		60%	AT		25%
IE		29%	PL		80%
EL		60%	PT		42%
ES		39%	RO		47%
FR		31%	SI		64%
HR		72%	SK		73%
IT		54%	FI		29%
CY		35%	SE		23%

# Awareness of EU co-financed projects

Have you heard about any **EU co-financed projects to improve the area where you live?** (% yes)

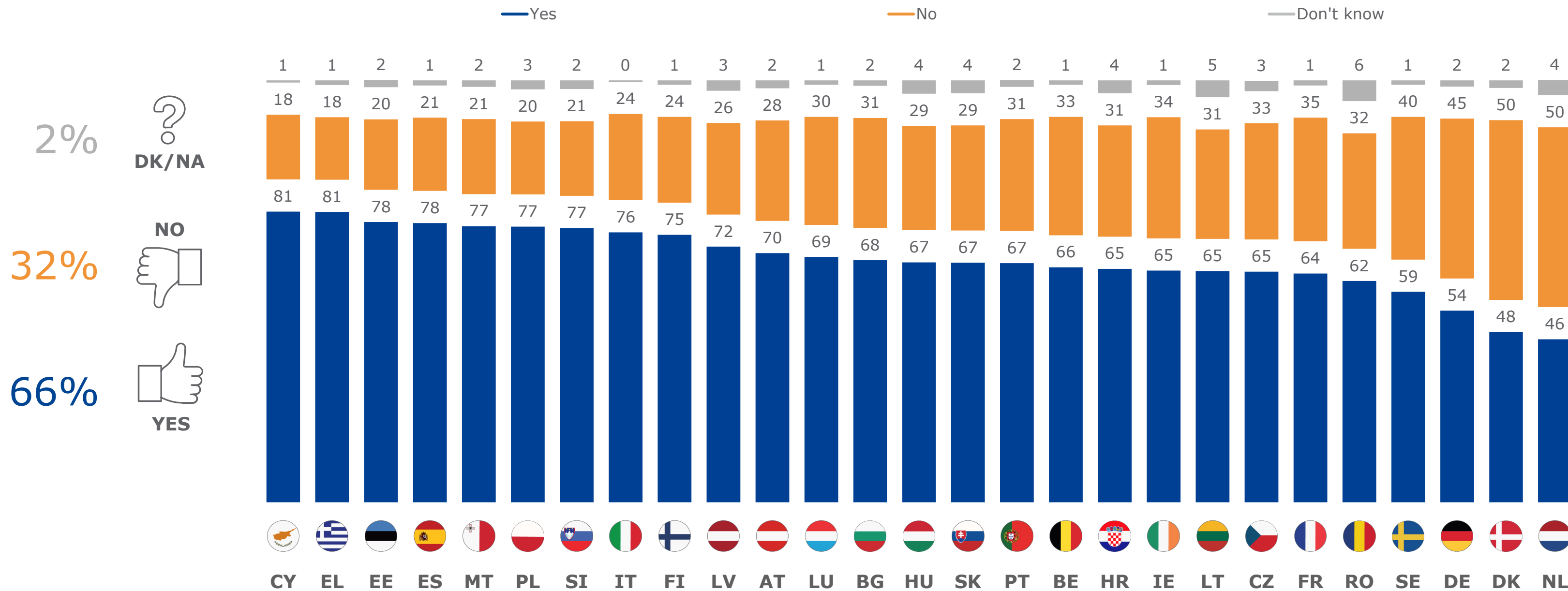


**Structural funds (ERDF and CF) eligibility, 2014-2020**  
(Source: European Commission, DG REGIO)



# EU regional support to COVID-19 recovery

Are you aware that the EU regional policy supported Member States in the health emergency response and economic recovery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

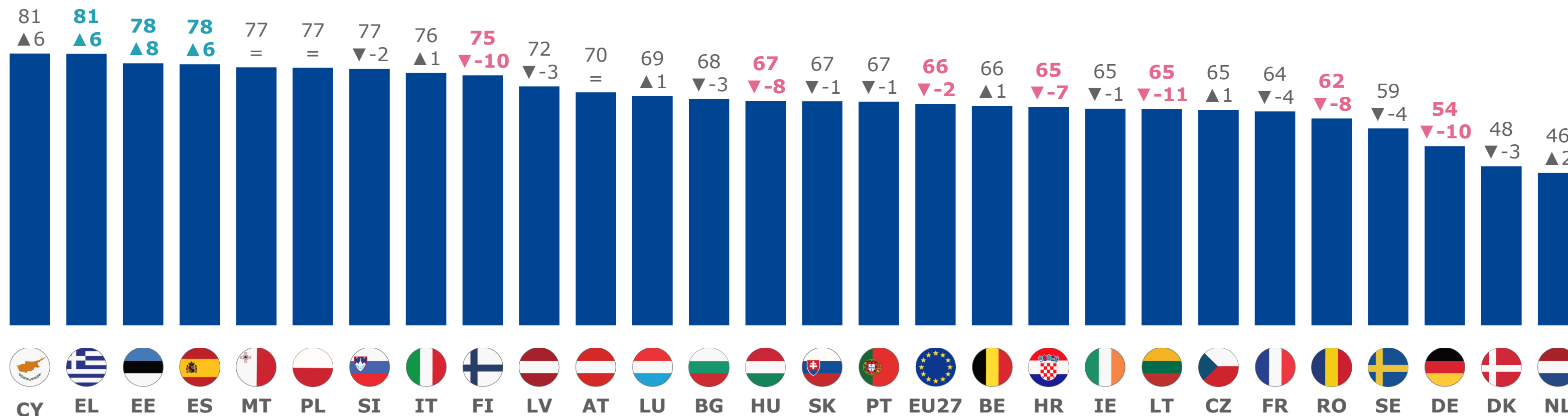




# EU regional support to COVID-19 recovery

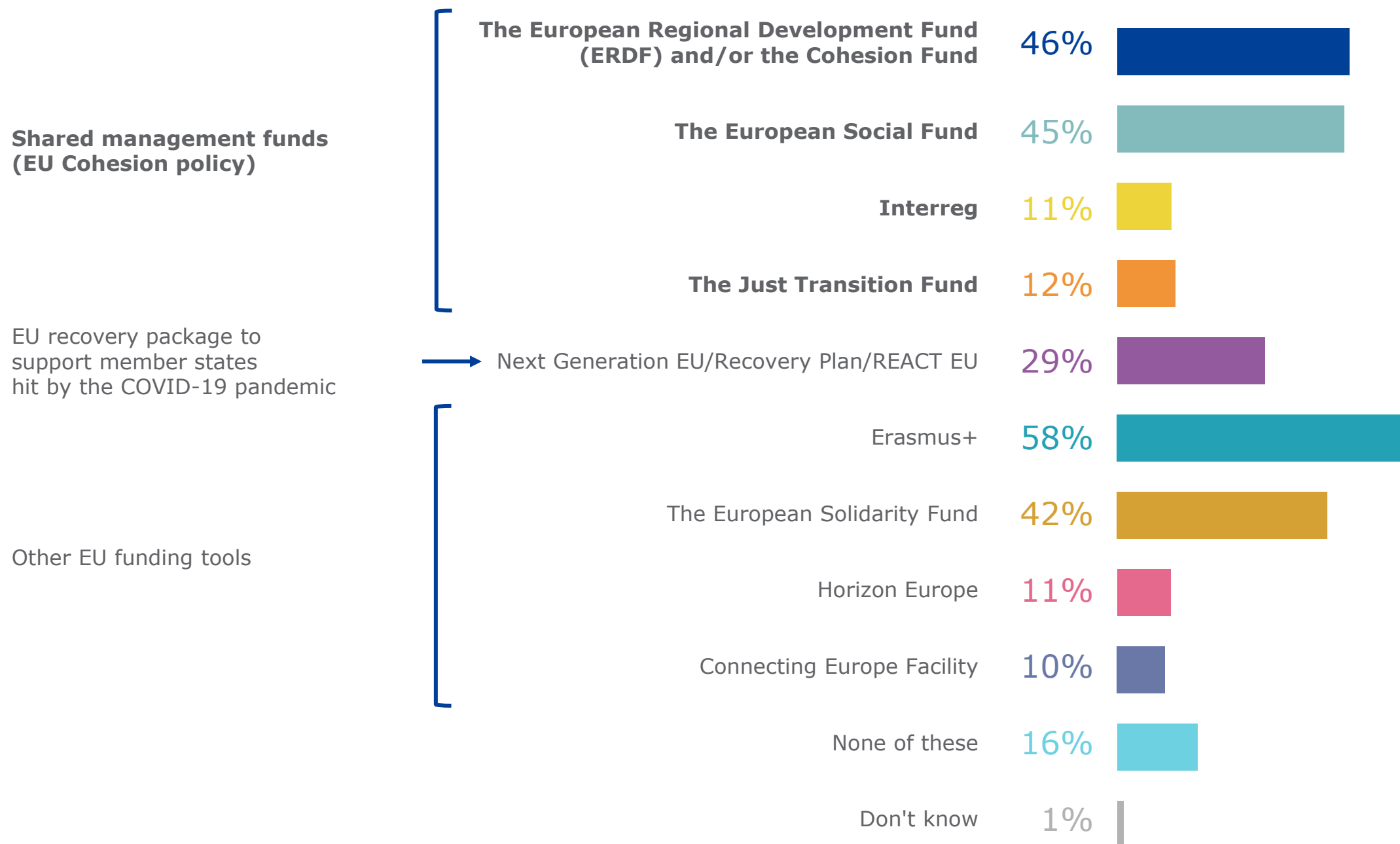
Are you aware that the EU regional policy supported Member States in the health emergency response and economic recovery in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

% 'Yes', comparison with 2021 (modified trend)



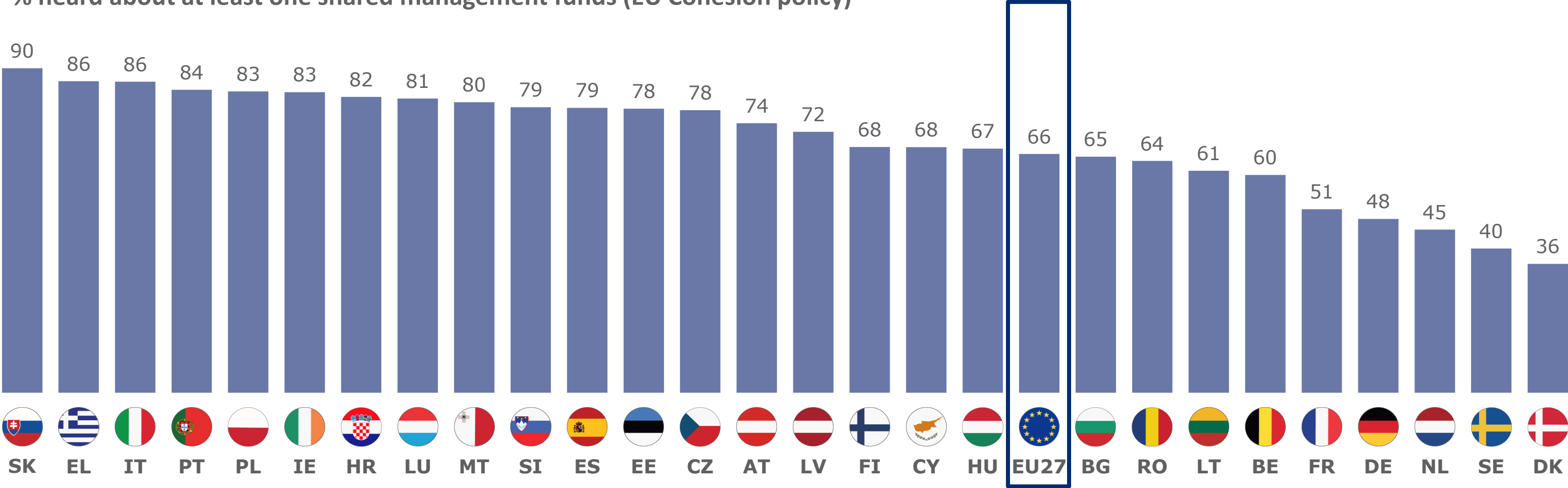
# Awareness of EU funds

Which, if any, of the following forms of EU support you've heard about before?  
(EU27 average)



# Awareness of ERDF/CF, ESF, Interreg, JTF

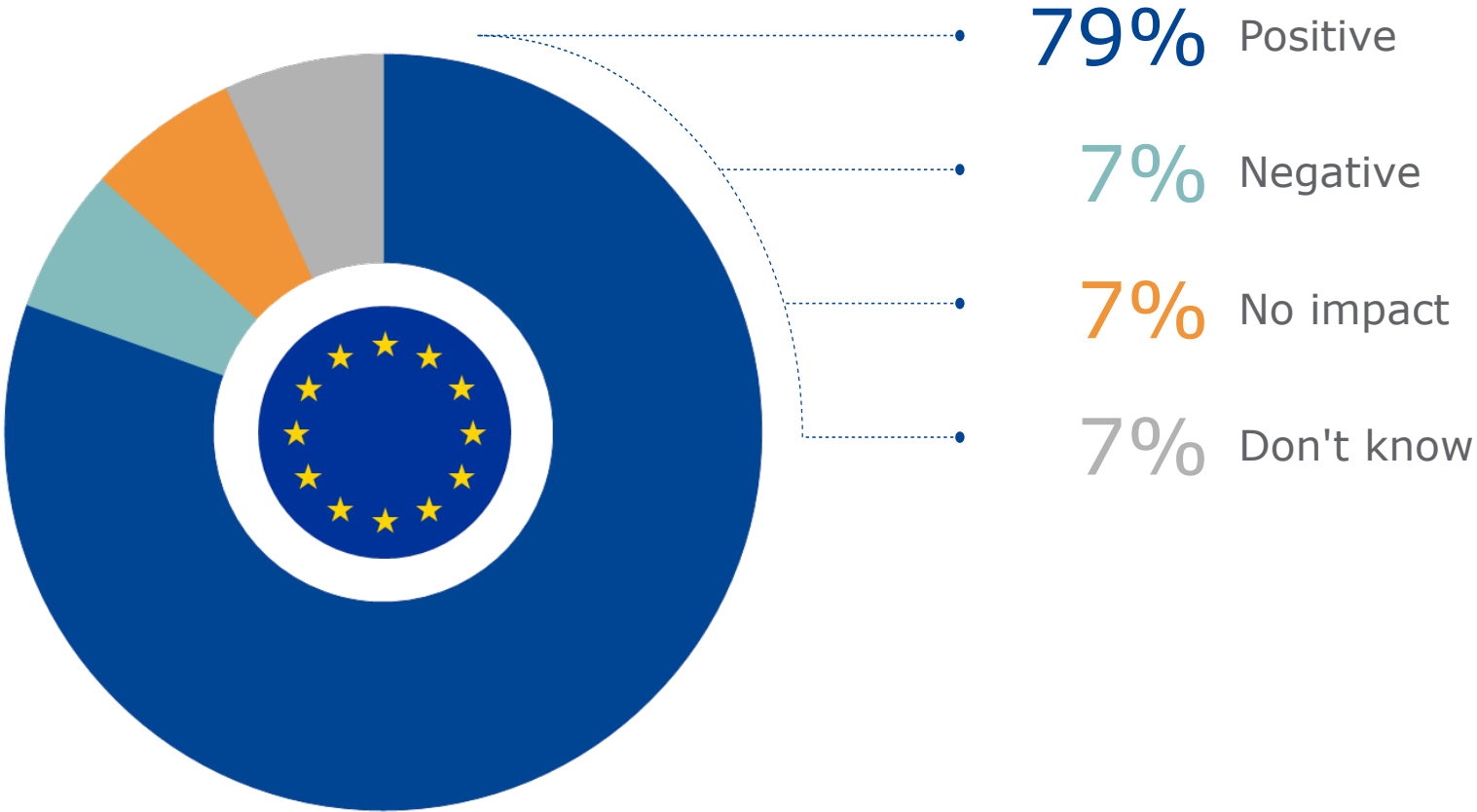
% heard about at least one shared management funds (EU Cohesion policy)



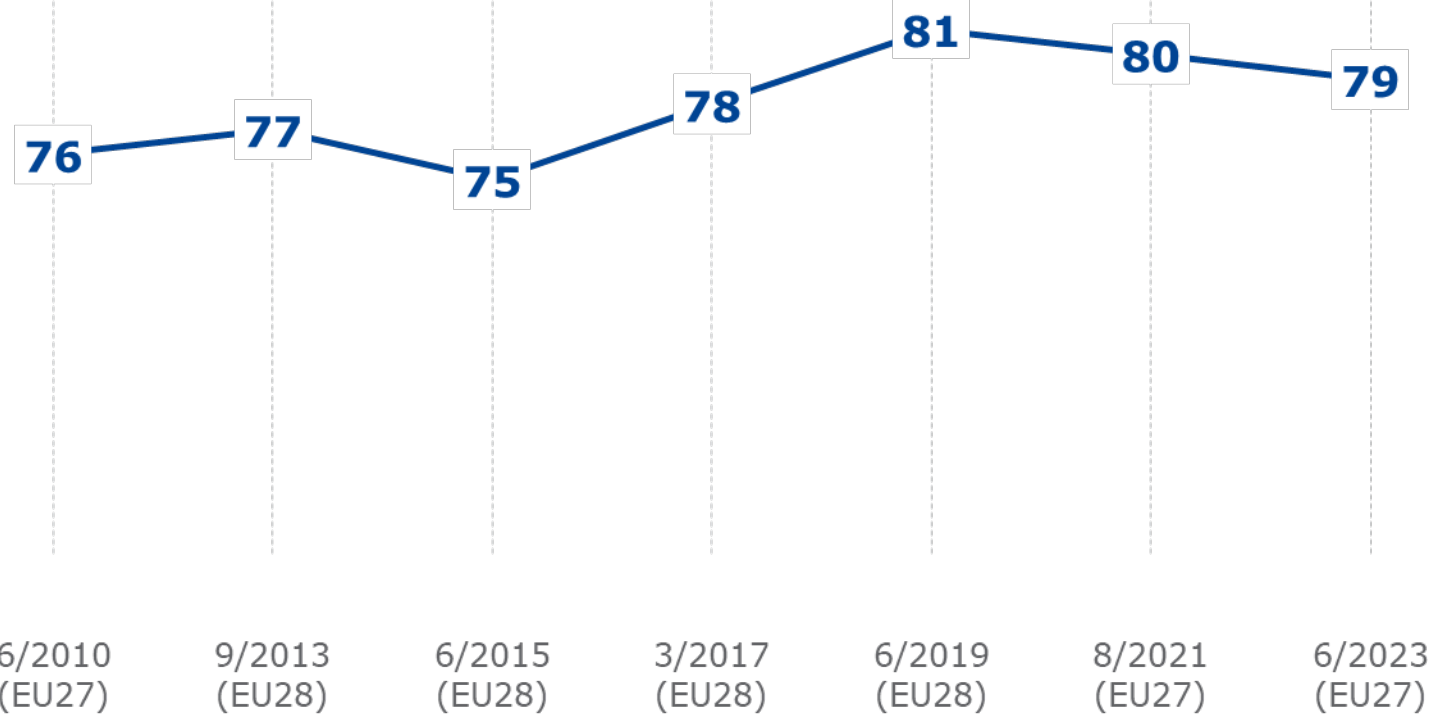
# Impact of EU co-financed projects on development in local areas

Taking into consideration all the projects you have heard about, would you say that this support has had a **positive or negative impact on the development of your city or region?**

*Base: respondents who have heard about EU co-financed projects in their area*



**% 'Positive'** – Longer trend shows continued high awareness of EU's role in improving their city or region

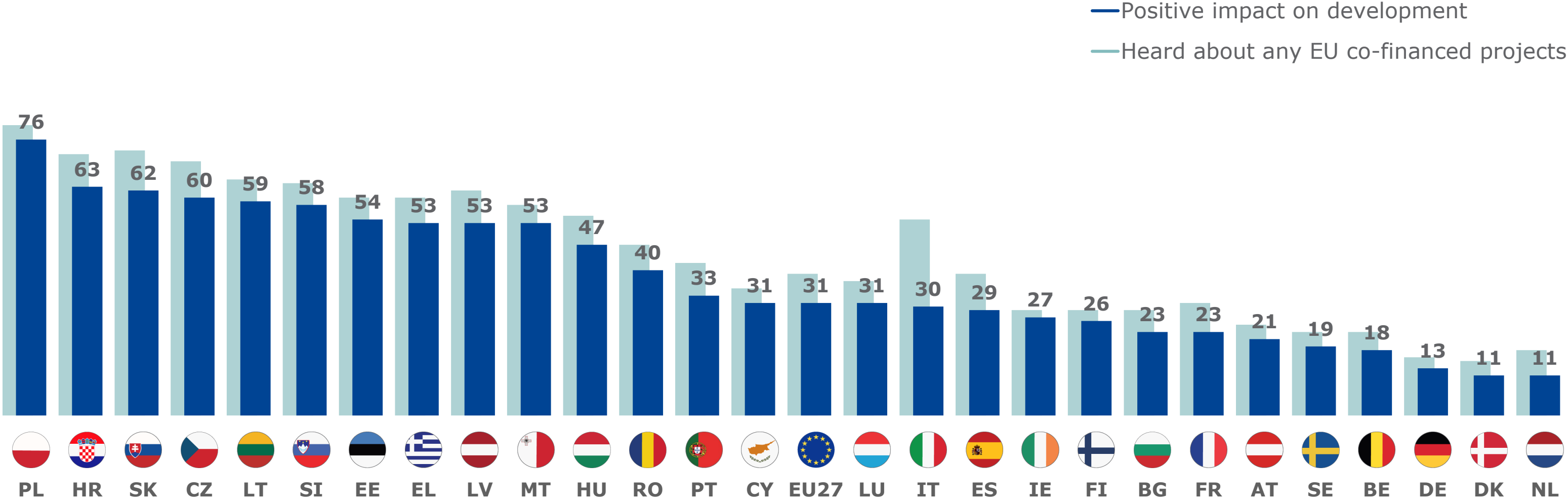


**EU27 average**

# Impact of EU co-financed projects on development in local areas

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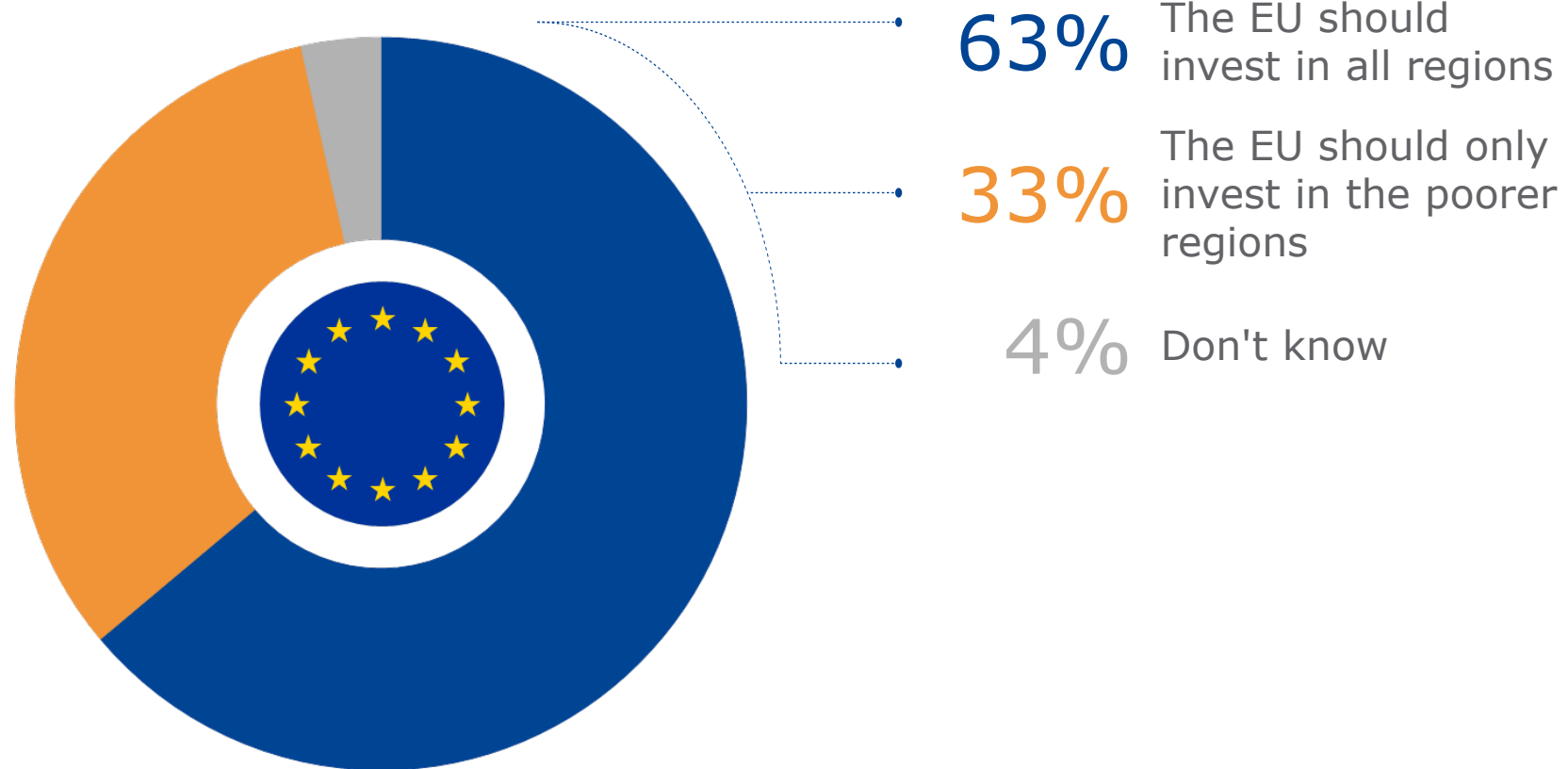
Base: all respondents



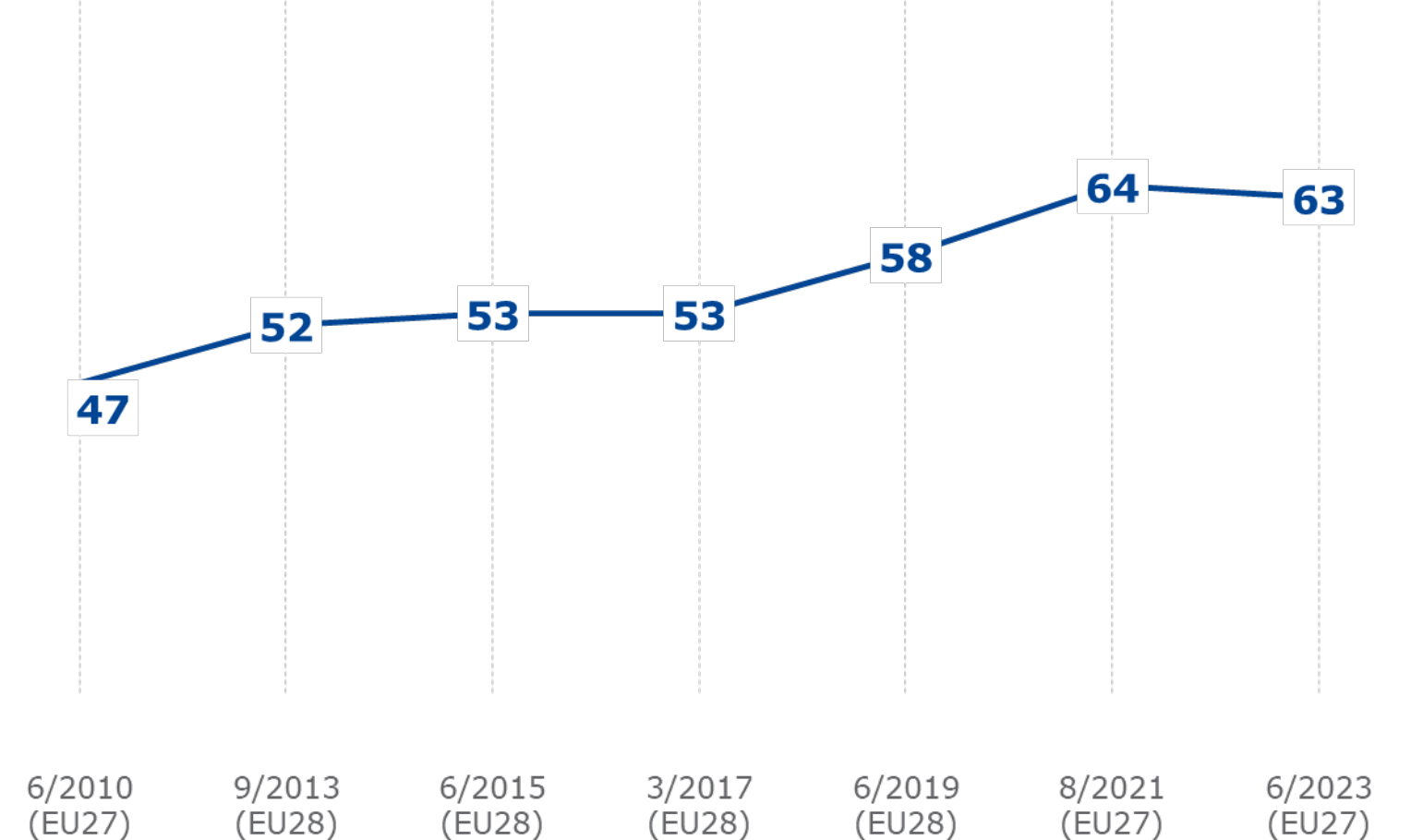
# Setup and priorities of EU regional funds

# Targeting all regions vs less developed regions

European regional policy supports economic development projects in all regions.  
In your opinion, should the **EU continue to invest in all regions or concentrate exclusively on the poorer ones?**



% The EU should invest in all regions, longer trend

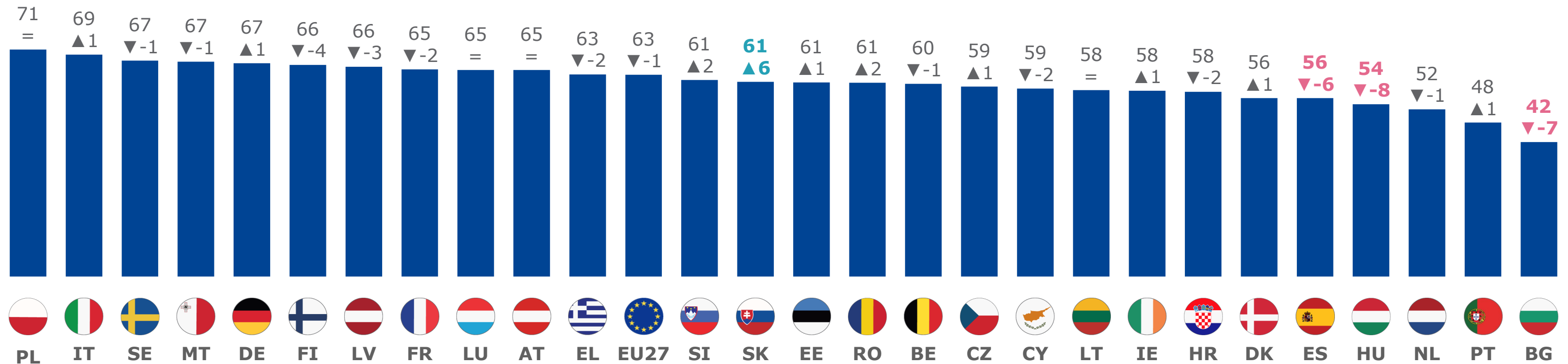


EU27 average

# Targeting all regions vs less developed regions

European regional policy supports economic development projects in all regions.  
 In your opinion, should the **EU continue to invest in all regions or concentrate exclusively on the poorer ones?**

% 'The EU should invest in all regions'

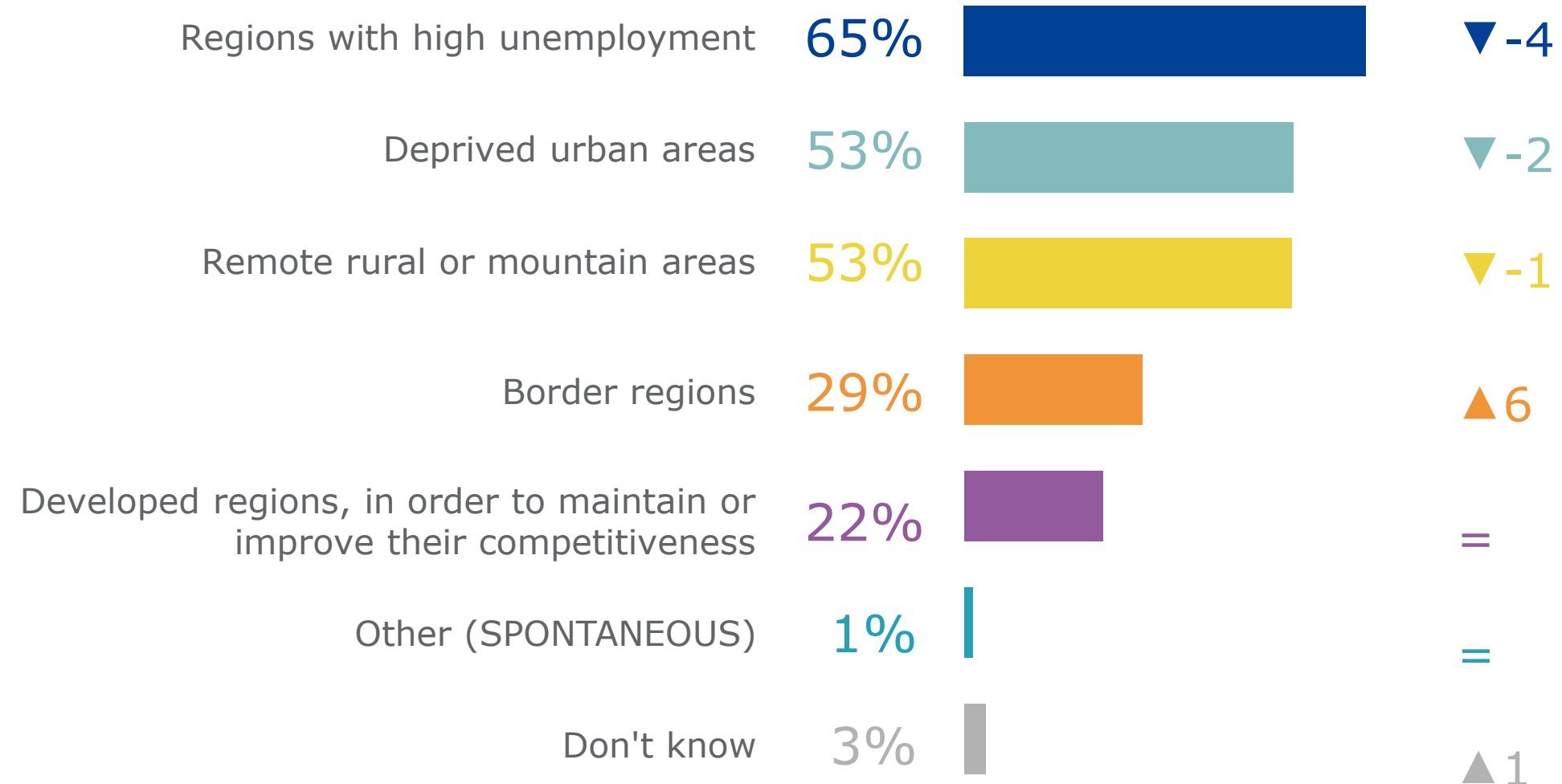




# Targeting specific territories

## Which regions would you target for investments under EU regional policy?

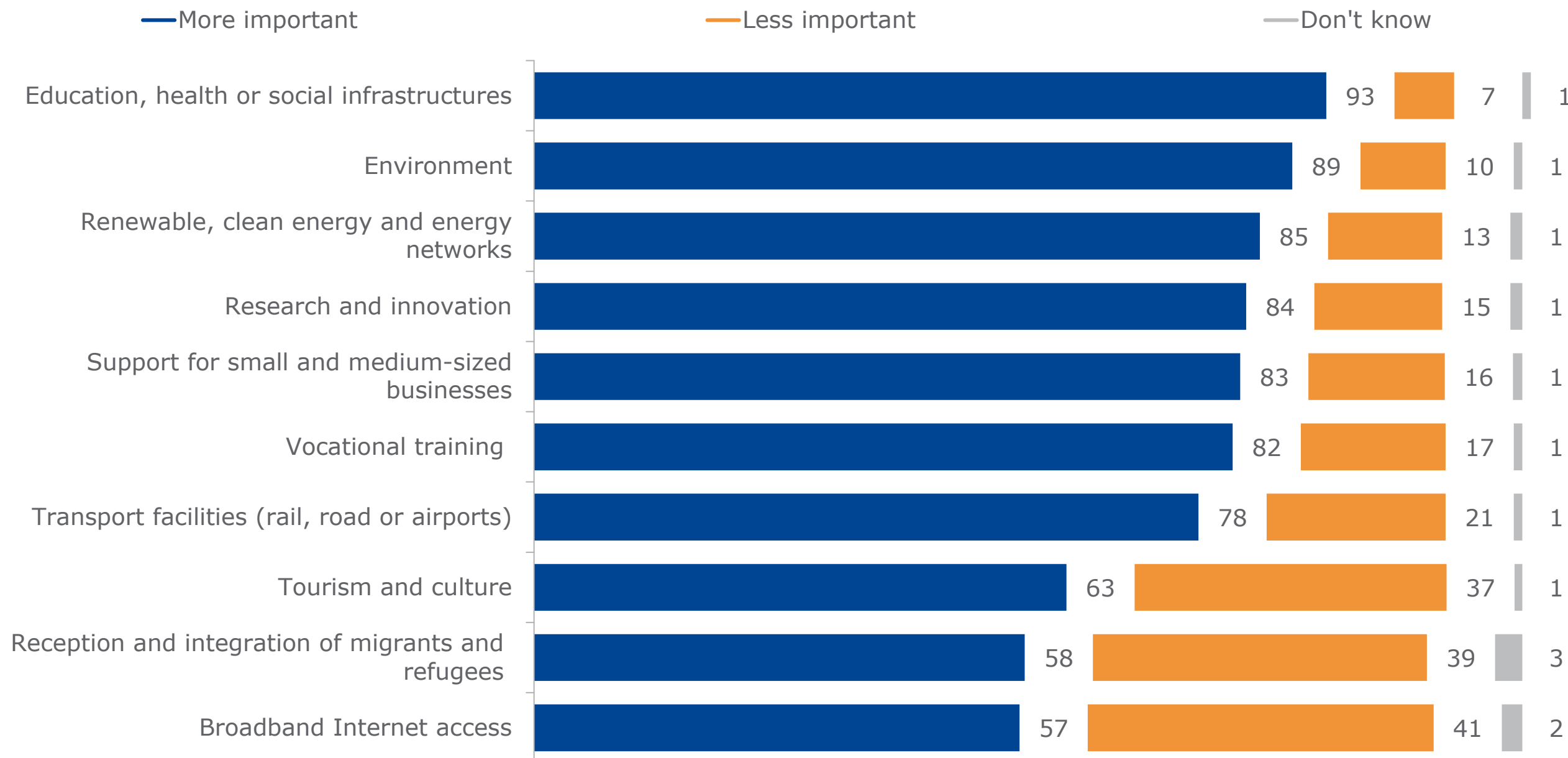
▼▲ Evolution  
2023-2021



### EU27 average

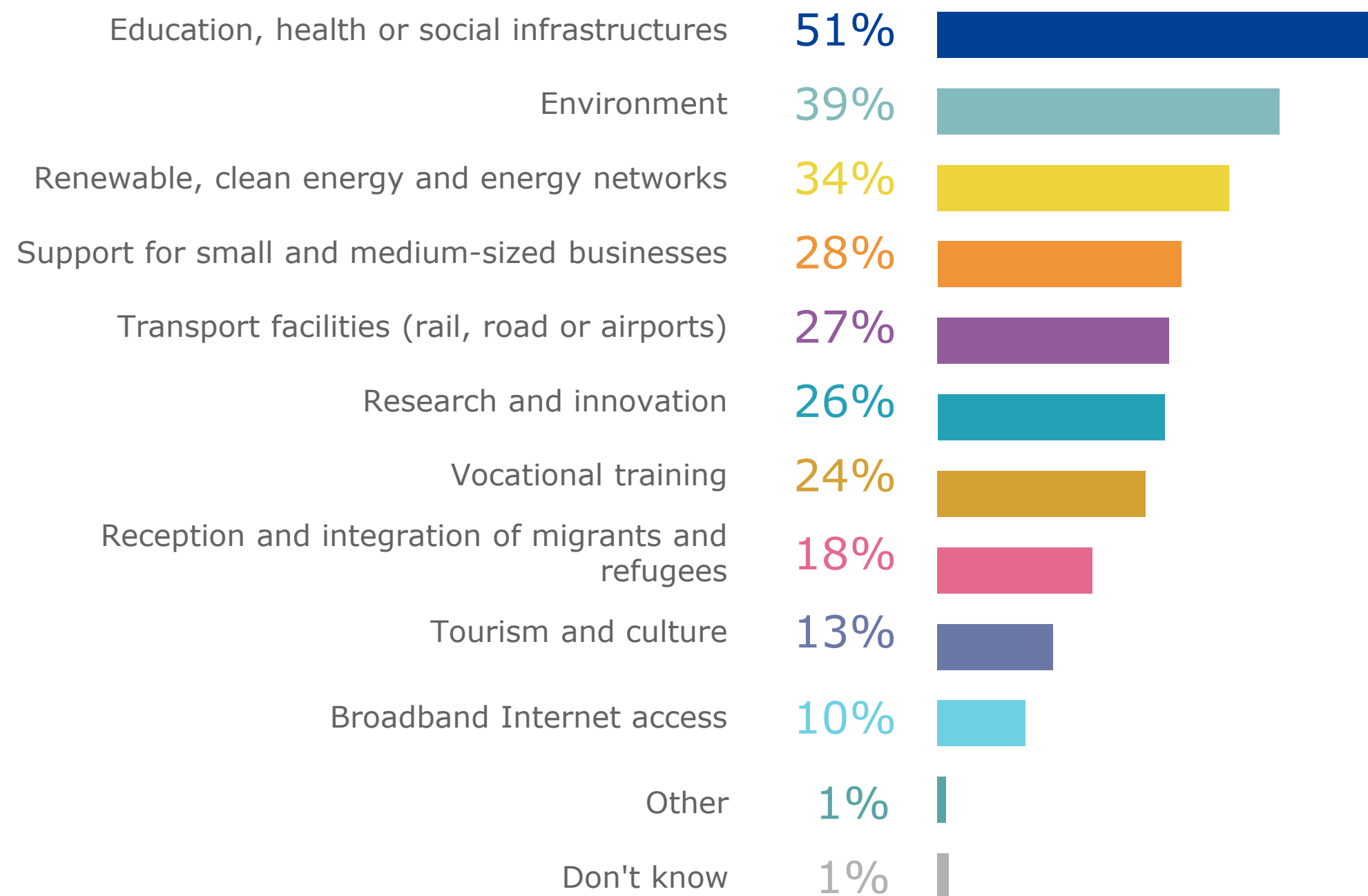
# EU regional investment in the regions

EU regional policy can invest in many different domains. Which of the following examples do you consider among the more important or less important for your city or region?



# EU regional investment in the next few years

In which domains should the EU invest in the next few years?



**Education, health or social infrastructures** emerges as the top (or top equal) policy domain in 24 Member States, and **the environment** in 6 Member States.

In Italy, research and innovation is the top policy domain, and in Denmark, this is renewable, clean energy and energy networks (joint-highest).

**EU27 average**

Thank you!

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## **Citizens' awareness and perception of EU regional policy**

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