



Европейска  
КОМИСИЯ

#BG10xEU

**BULGARIA'S FIRST 10 YEARS IN THE EU –  
TAKING STOCK AND LOOKING FORWARD**

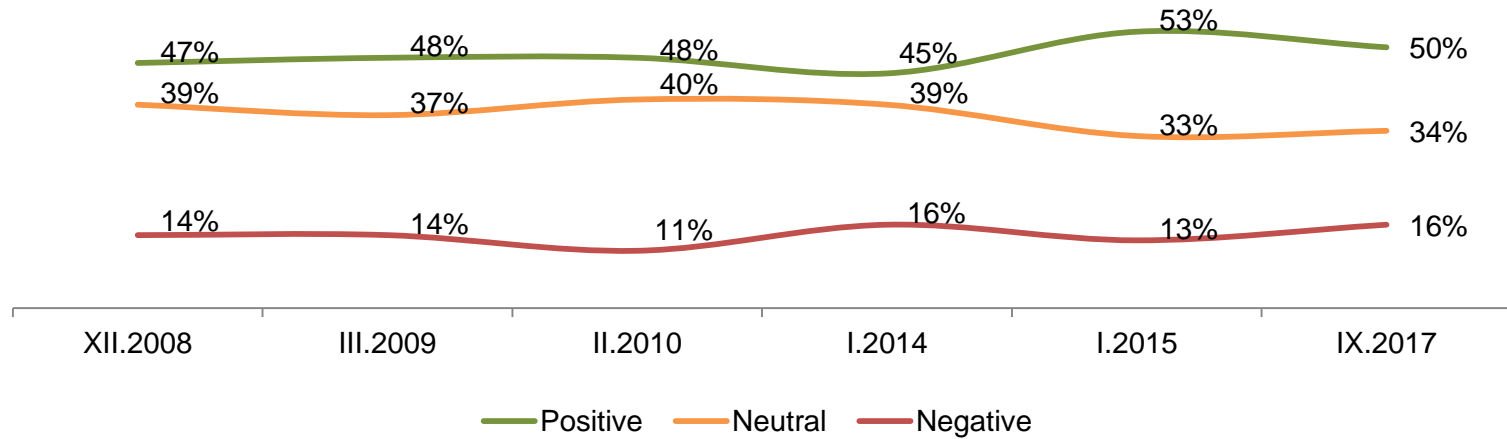
# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SURVEY

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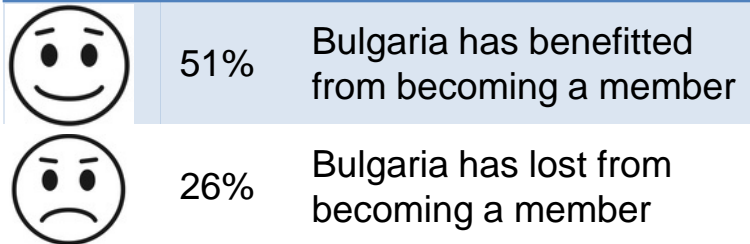
<b>Contractor</b>	Alpha Research
<b>Contracting Authority</b>	Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria
<b>Fieldwork period</b>	16–25 September 2017
<b>Representativeness</b>	For the adult population of the country
<b>Sample</b>	1021 effective interviews
<b>Sampling method</b>	Stratified, quota sample, based on main socio-demographic characteristics (sex, age, education)
<b>Method of collection of information</b>	Direct standardized interview at the homes of respondents
<b>Aims of the survey</b>	To study the public attitudes towards the European Union and the EU membership of Bulgaria ten years after joining the Union.

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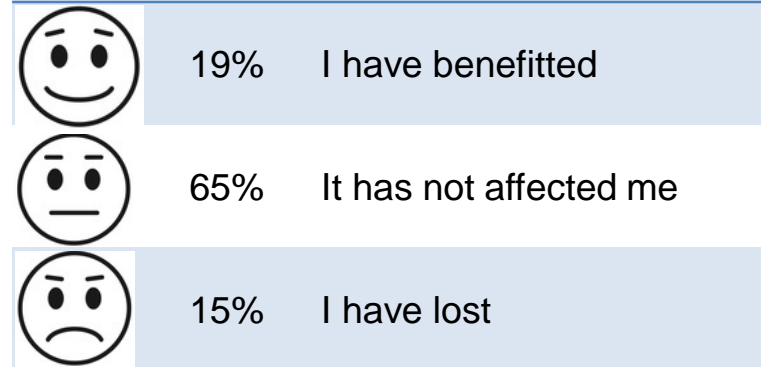
# ATTITUDE TOWARDS BULGARIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (%):



## Bulgaria in the EU



## Me in the EU

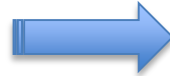


## BULGARIANS ABOUT THE EU – 10 YEARS AFTER THE ACCESSION

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The EU has a positive image among Bulgarian citizens

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It is perceived as democratic (63%), protective (52%), solidary (52%), and to a lesser extent – as bureaucratic (46%) and inefficient (32%)

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Notable progress in areas with direct input from the EU

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Bulgaria is more stable economically and politically; infrastructure and towns and villages have improved – 40%

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Slower progress in areas where Bulgaria has to advance on its own

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Bulgaria's voice is more clearly heard in the EU according to 36%

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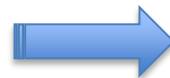
Bulgaria has a greater influence in international trade negotiations for 35%

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Gradual rise of Bulgarians' self-esteem as citizens of the EU; the majority still say otherwise

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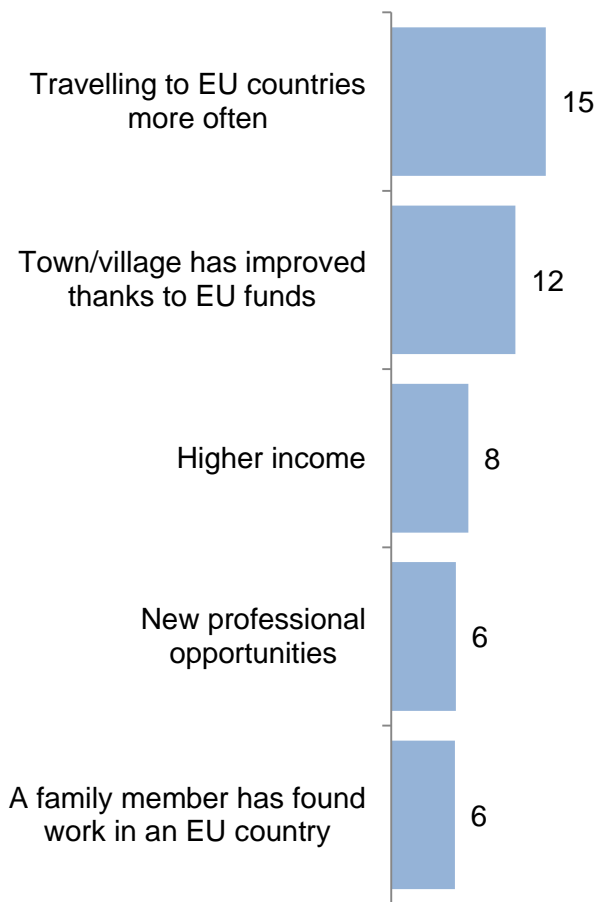
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The share of Bulgarians expressing self-confidence as EU citizens has risen from 24% to 34%. 66% still lack such confidence

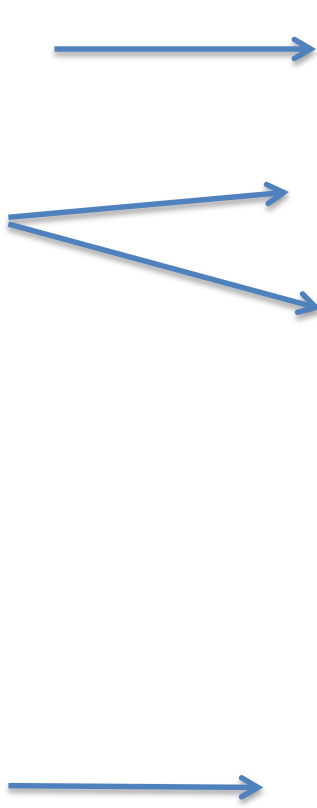
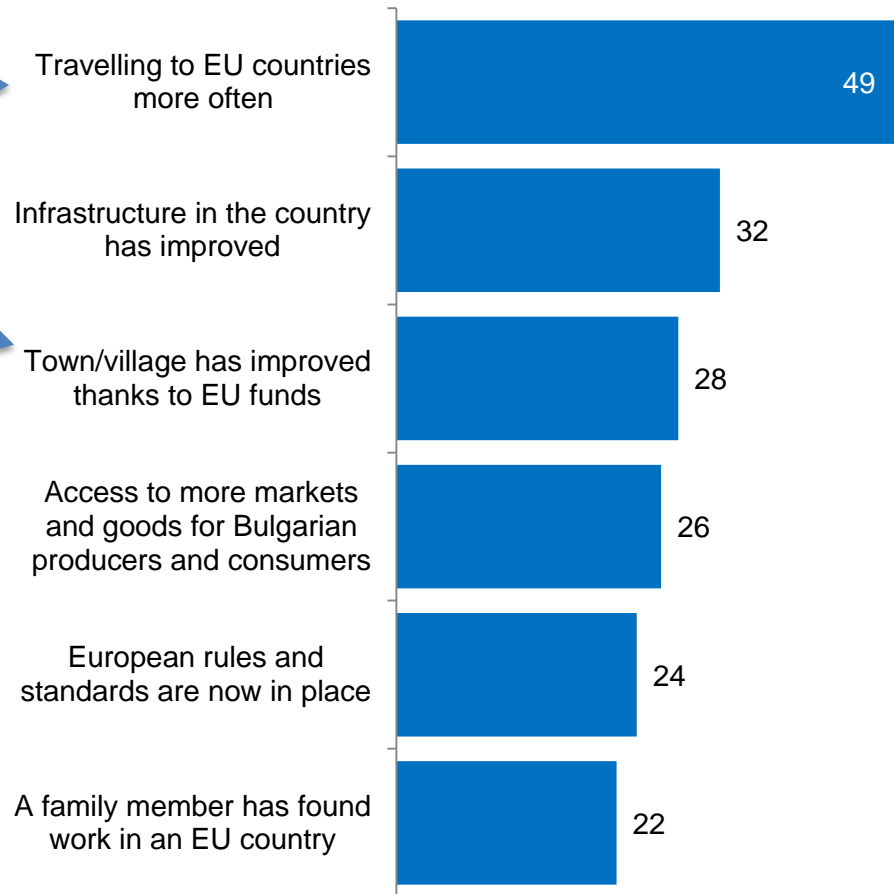
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# MAJOR ADVANTAGES OF JOINING THE EU (%):

## Major advantages of EU membership in 2008



## Major advantages of EU membership in 2017



# GREATEST CHALLENGES FOR THE EU AND BULGARIA



2007

Competition from non-EU economies (**47%**)  
Energy self-sufficiency (**44%**)  
Common agricultural policy (**38%**)  
Common foreign and security policy (**30%**)  
Overcoming difficulties due to linguistic diversity (**20%**)



2017

Fight against terrorism (**63%**)  
Immigration policy (**49%**)  
Common foreign and security policy (**44%**)  
Relations with Russia (**36%**)  
Competition from non-EU economies (**35%**)



2007

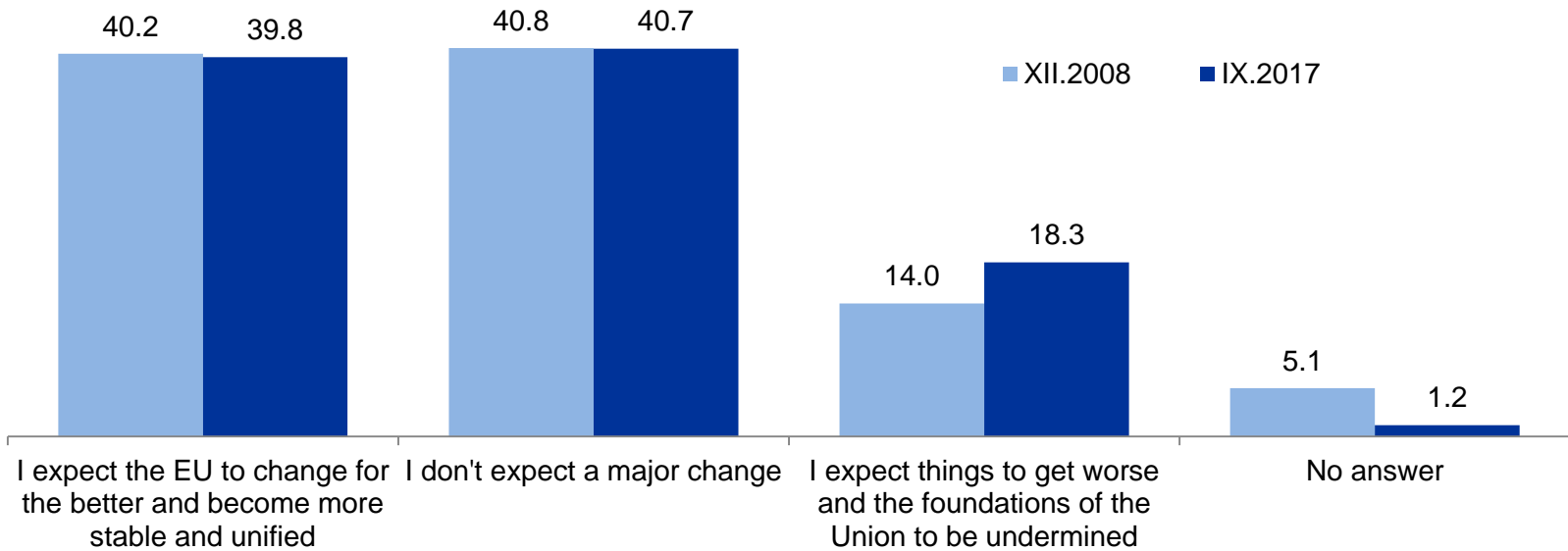
Closing of companies due to mass influx of foreign goods (**47%**)  
Bulgarians are not equal on the labour market in the EU (**39%**)  
Emigration of Bulgarian professionals to the EU (**37%**)  
Purchase of land and real estate by foreigners (**37%**)  
Competition from European goods (**34%**)



2017

Dual standards for food quality (**60%**)  
A decrease in purchasing power (**50%**)  
Human and drug trafficking (**47%**)  
Bulgarians are not equal on the labour market in the EU (**46%**)  
Emigration of Bulgarian professionals to the EU; influx of immigrants from non-EU countries; terrorist threats (**44% each**)

# PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS ABOUT EU'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS (%)



What kind of future for the EU?



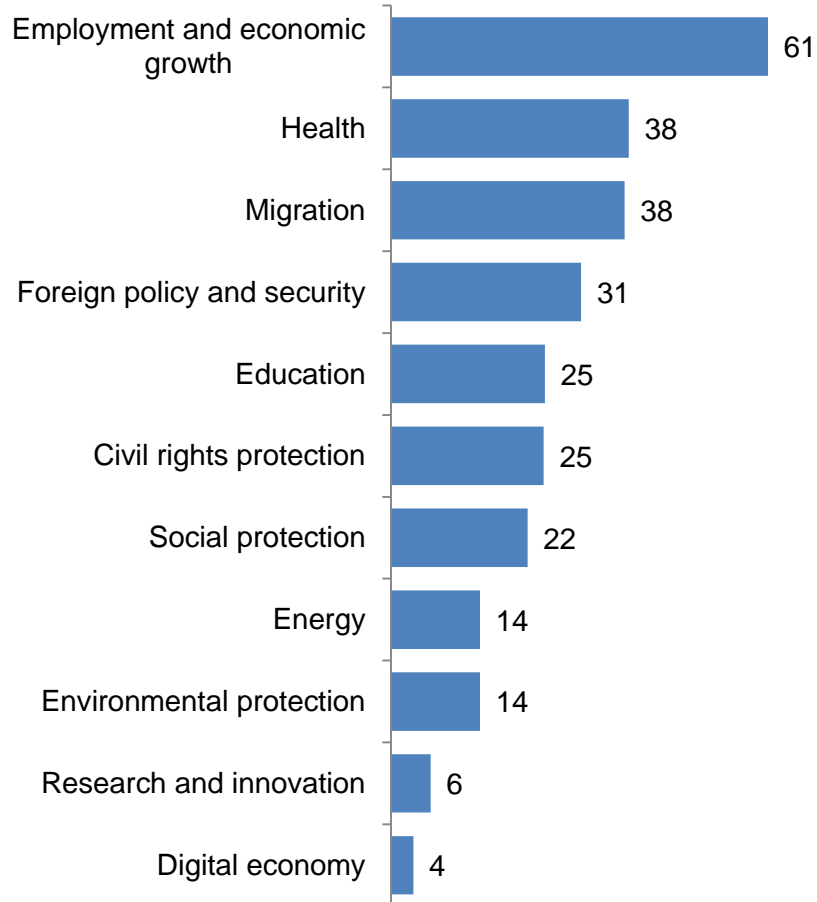
Option 6 "A stronger, more connected and more democratic EU through greater integration of member states, including in Schengen and the euro area" – 48%

Option 1 "EU carries on as before" – 31%

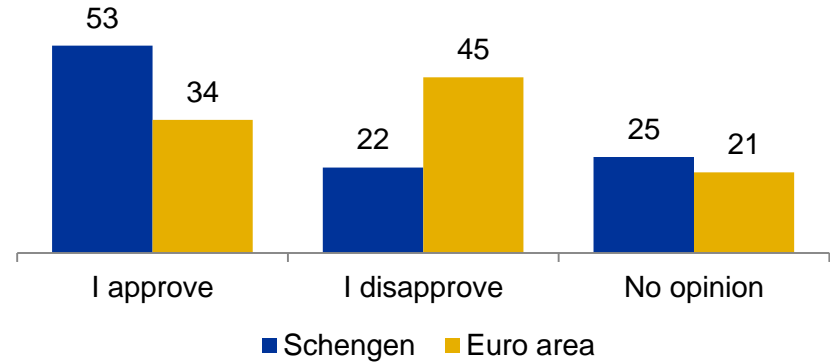
Option 5 "Doing more together" – 29%

# FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EU

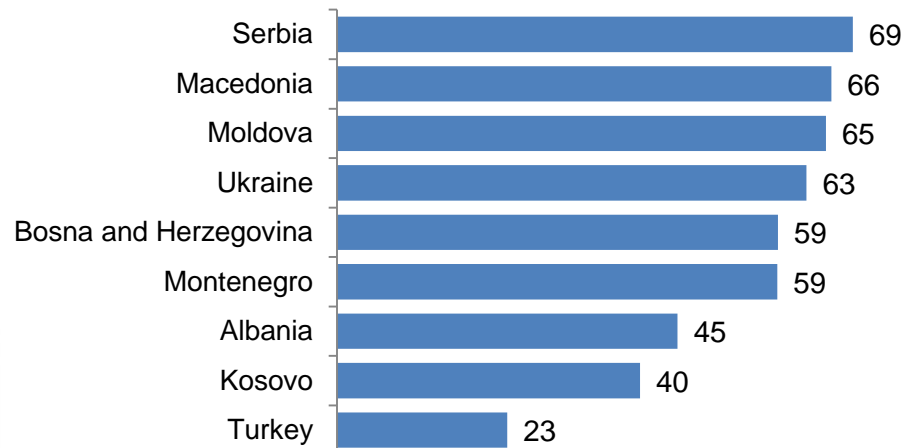
## Major priorities for the future development of the EU (%)



## Should Bulgaria join the Schengen area and the euro area? (%)



## Support for new countries joining the EU (%)





Thank you for your attention!