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# Research on knowledge, perception and expectations of Europeans from the EU

Podgorica, 10 May 2016



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- Research is part of the project *Homo Europeanus – Overcoming the Knowledge Deficit*, jointly implemented by 14 organisations from EU and candidate states, financed through the EU programme *Europe for citizens*. CCE is partner for Montenegro.
- Research was conducted from **15 October till 23 November 2015** in **9 EU member states** (Spain, Italy, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and Bulgaria) and **3 candidate states** (Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia)
- **Methodology:** online questionnaire and direct survey (*face to face*) on the sample of 6719 respondents. In each state the sample consisted of min 500 respondents stratified based on the area of living, gender, age, education and employment status.
- **Responses on 70 questions were analysed on two levels: European and national perspective**, and in the correlation with the following crosscutting questions - *Have you ever had citizenship education during your schooling? Was/is learning about EU part of your education? Have you ever been educated about EU through non-formal education?*



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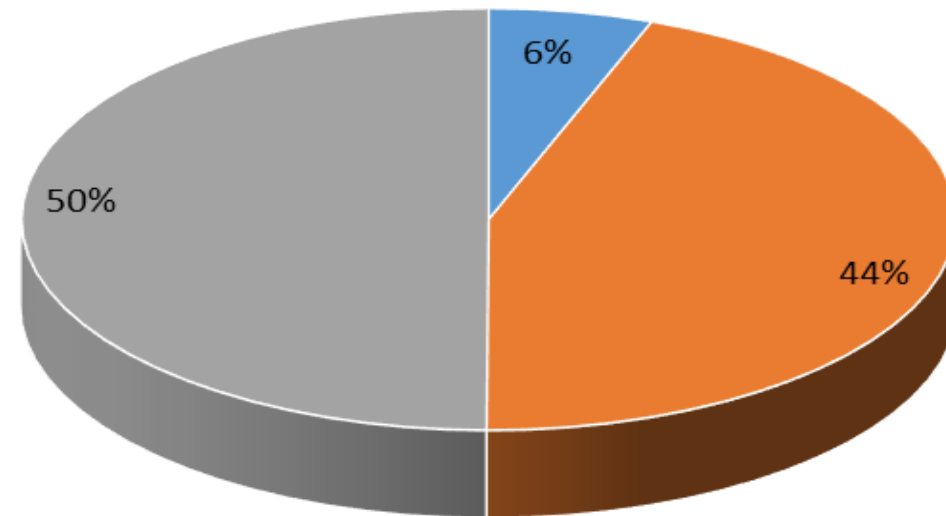
- **Within content, research has been divided in three segments:**
  - **Concept of *Education Europea*** – brings short review of respondents education about Europe in terms of formal and informal education about Europe, as well as quality and satisfaction of that education and citizenship education
  - **European Union and Europeans** – focus on perceptions about the EU and European and national identity, as well as particular issues, including positions on EU enlargement.
  - **European Parliament** – provides an insight into the awareness of respondents on European Parliament and its activities, as well as on the values and policies based on which the MPs are elected and the priorities which they set in their work.



## Concept of Education Europeae

Have you ever had Citizenship Education (CE) during you schooling?

- Yes 49,7%
- No 44,2%
- Does not know 5,6%



■ Don't know ■ No ■ Yes



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In average, **every other respondent had some form of CE in his/her formal education (49.7%)**.

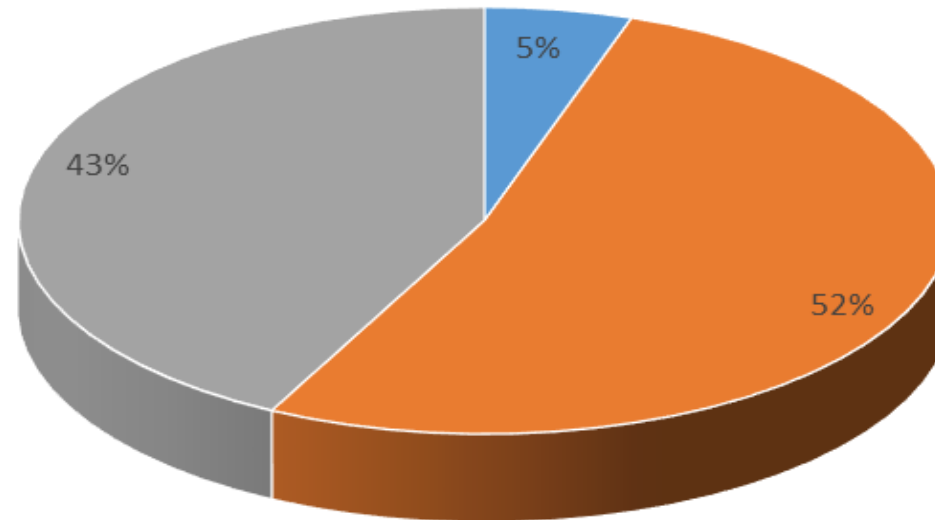
**Montenegro is below average in that part** with 67.7% of the respondents who stated that they did not have CE in their formal education, similar to its neighbours – in Serbia, where this percentage is 59,4% and in Croatia 71,6%.

On contrary, Slovaks stated in 94,6% of the cases that they had CE in some part of their formal education, and the percentage of Italians is also high (77,6%), but also of Macedonians (56,9%), when reflecting on the region.



## Was/is learning about EU part of your formal education?

- Yes 42,1%
- No 52,1%
- Does not know 5,1%



■ Don't know ■ No ■ Yes



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**In general, 4 out of 10 respondents learnt about the EU within their education.**

**Montenegrin respondents mainly stated that they did not have this kind of education (61%), and the percentage is similar in Serbia (62,4%) and Croatia (60,4%).**

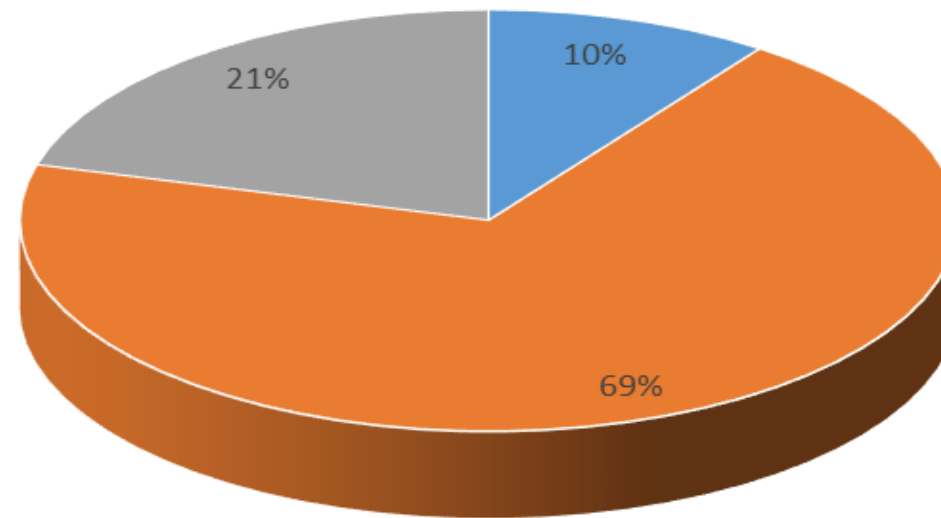
It is interesting that the majority of respondents, from a significant number of member states, states that they did not have this kind of education, whereby the percentage is highest in Bulgaria (74,3%).

Slovenians and Poles, in more than 50% of the cases, stated that they had the education on EU within their formal system.



Do you think that you have been taught enough about the EU during your formal education?

- Yes 20,8%
- No 69,4%
- Don't know 9,8%



■ Don't know ■ No ■ Yes





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**In overall, 7 out of 10 respondents, or more than 2/3 are not satisfied with the education on EU throughout the course of formal education, whereby the most dissatisfied are the respondents from Serbia (88%), followed by Bulgarians (83,6%), Montenegrins (77,2%), Spanish (76,8%), Italians (73,3%), Czechs (72,3%) and Croats (71,9%).** On the other hand, Slovaks are very satisfied because they think that they had sufficient opportunities to learn about these subjects during their formal education.

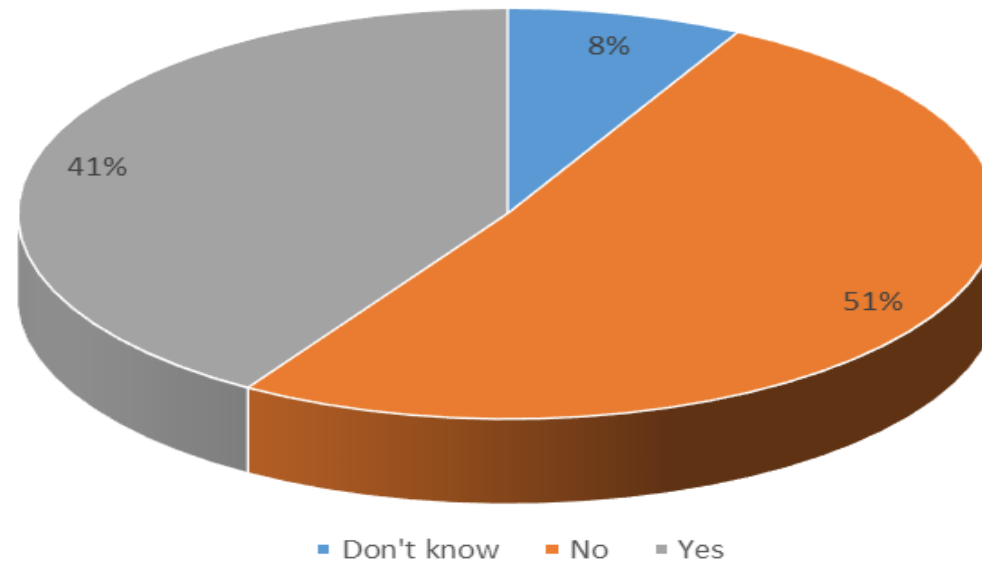
**In terms of gender, there is no noticeable difference, however the number of those who are satisfied with the education on EU decreases with age, in other words, it is inversely proportional with age, thus the older respondents (55+) mainly state that they did not have some specific education on EU, especially on modern Europe. One of the possibilities learning through an informal system, but that depends on the availability and the existence of such possibility and level of their interest.**

Data indicate that **those who have been longer in formal system mostly state that they had the opportunity to gain more information on subjects related to EU and learn more, but that there is also the influence of environment to it - respondents from bigger cities learned more and know more about the EU.** This also conveys a direct message that the programmes of education on EU should be brought closer to target groups outside of big cities.



## Have you ever been educated about the EU through non-formal education?

- Yes 40,8%
- No 50,7%
- Don't know 7,7%





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**Every other respondent states that s/he has never been educated about the EU through informal education.** Still, it is evident that those states with lower percentage of respondents who learned about the EU through formal programmes, have a considerable percentage of respondents who learned about the EU through informal programmes.

**Slovenia (56,6%), Serbia (52,7%) and Montenegro (50,3%) precede in terms of the number of informal education programmes on EU.**

**Research indicates that citizens of EU member states learn more through formal system, while in candidate states informal education dominates**



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## European Union and Europeans – views on citizenship

- 8 out of 10 respondents agree that citizenship is important (83,2%)
- 2 out of 10 respondents (11,6%) estimate that citizenship requires the same religion.
- Every other respondent (50%) agrees with the claim that citizenship implies that everybody shares the same values.
- Every third respondent agrees that citizenship belongs only to those who were born in some country, as well as that citizenship implies that everybody speaks the same language....

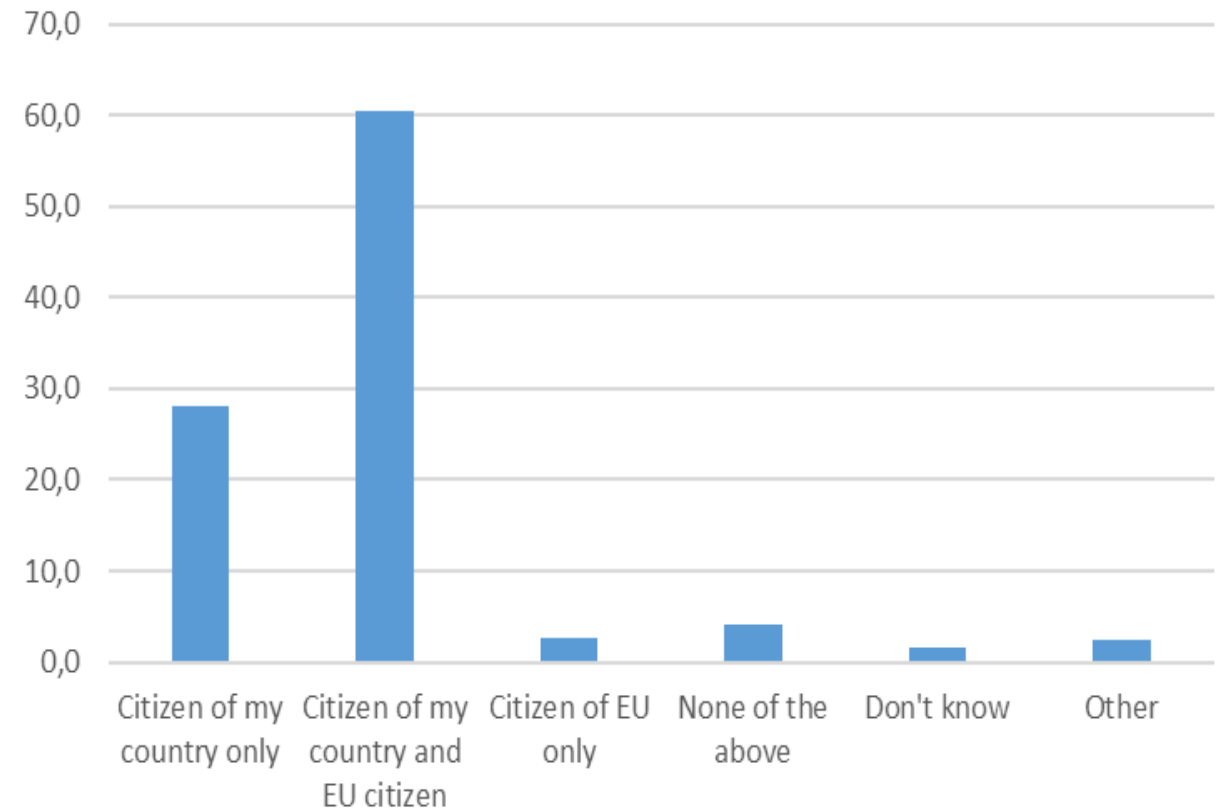
Conclusion is that **citizenship is very important for the majority of respondents, but only 1/3 knows what citizenship means, and the remaining views are to say the least the grounds or cause for further discussion.**

**For Montenegrin respondents**, citizenship is very important, but they find it hard to define it. They disagree that same religion makes the basis for citizenship, or that citizenship is for those who share the same values, but they firmly agree that a person can hold the EU citizenship if s/he has the citizenship of one of the member states.



## I see myself as...

- Citizen of my country only 28,1%
- Citizen of my country and EU citizen 60,4%
- Citizen of EU only 2,7%
- None of the above 4,2%
- Don't know 1,6%
- Other 2,4%





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Every third respondent (28,15%) sees him/herself only as a citizen of his/her state, while **2/3 see themselves as citizens of his/her state and an EU citizen.**

**Respondents from EU member states, who had CE, feel more like citizens of their states and of the EU.** On the level of EU, Czechs mostly feel like citizens of their state only (57,1%), and **citizens of Montenegro dominate the research in terms of the sentiment of being the citizen of Montenegro only (66,1%).**

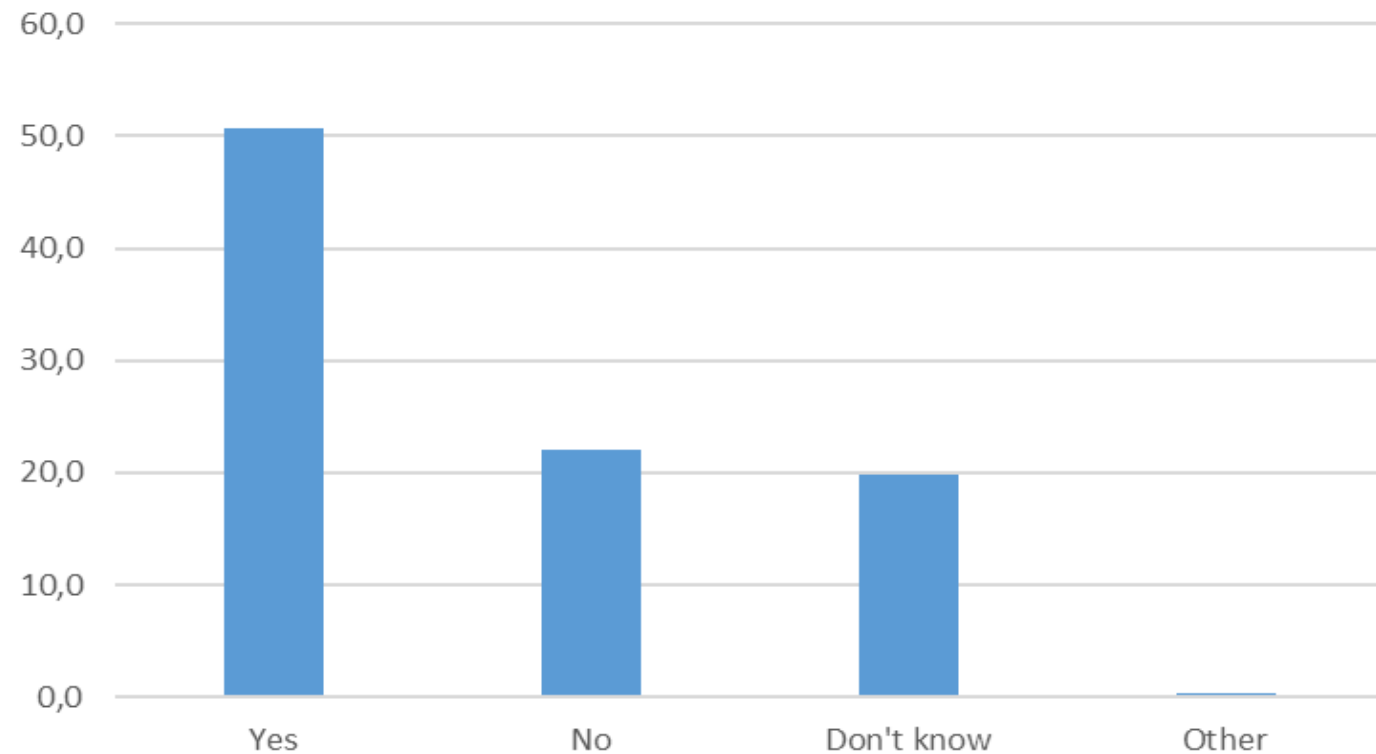
**Since its establishment, the EU has been investing great efforts to empower and promote the concept of European citizenship which does not deny national identity. The research confirms that these efforts have been identified by the respondents** given that the majority of them simultaneously feel as citizens of their own state and as EU citizens, despite not being formally from an EU member state. Also, high percentage of respondents from candidate states partially feels like a member of EU which is reflected in the great desire to join the EU and due to the fact that they always perceived themselves as part of the European context.

Respondents from candidate states who informally learned about the CE and EU feel more like citizens of their states and EU, due to the use of European exchange programmes, trainings and similar.



## European identity doesn't deny national identities

- Yes 50,7%
- No 22%
- Don't know 19,8%





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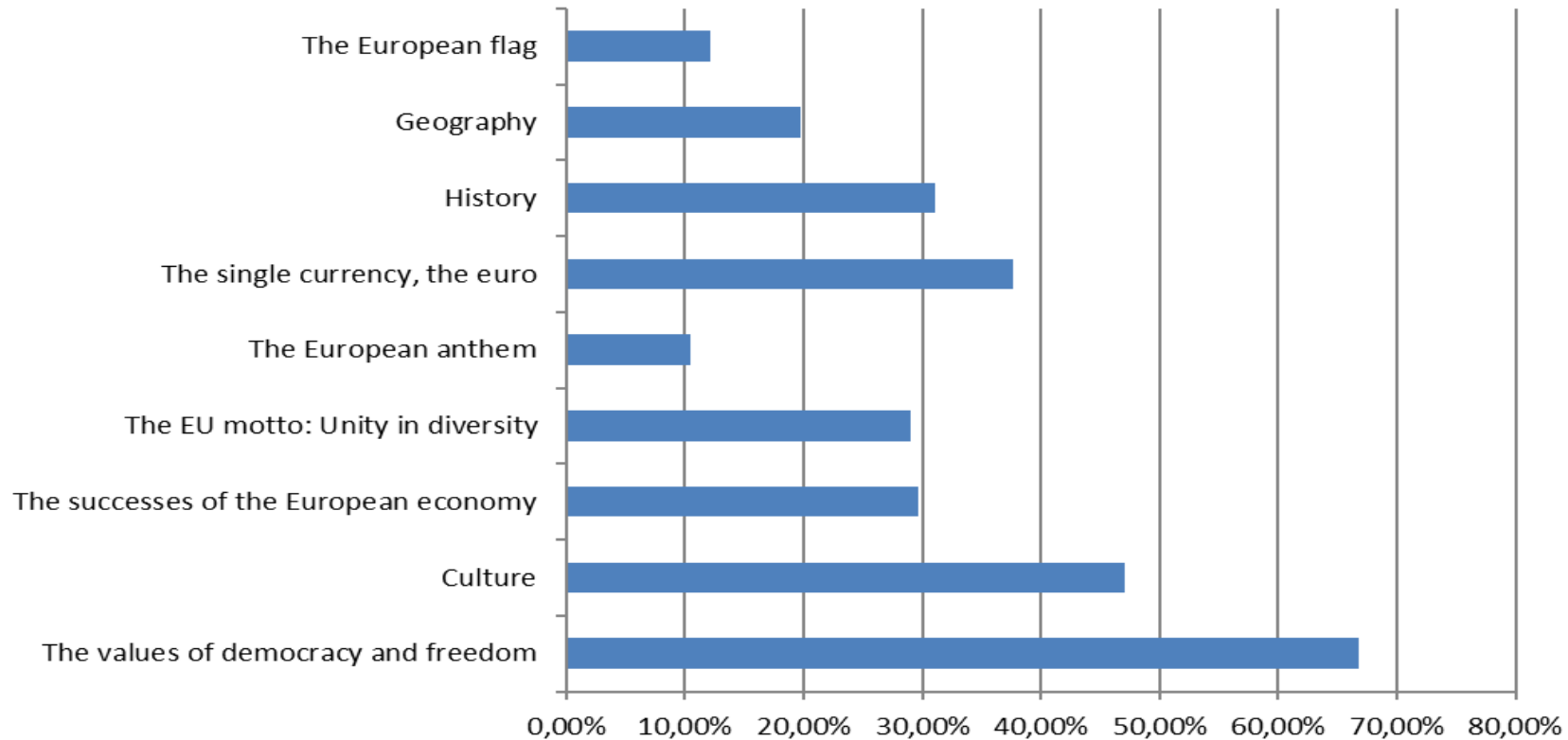
**Every other respondent (50,7%) states that European identity does not deny the national identity.**

Surprisingly, respondents from some of the member states mostly disagree with this statement or they don't know the answer, especially in Bulgaria, Spain, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland, even though they have been for quiet some time EU member and one would expect different results.

When it comes to the region, youngest EU member state – Croatia has an extremely high percentage of those who believe that European identity is complementary (71%), but that sentiment is **above average** in Serbia (76,5%) **and in Montenegro (58,2%)**, and somewhat lower in Macedonia (43,5%).

**Concordance with this statement increases with education, both formal or informal.**







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**As most elements that form the European identity, respondents underline democracy and freedoms (66, 7%), followed by culture (47,15%), and then Euro as common currency (37,7%) and history (31,1%).**

The success of European economy is important for European identity for 29,6% of the respondents, and 28,9% agrees with the EU motto “Unity in diversity”, while geographic connectivity, flag and anthem are the least important elements of identity for the majority of respondents, or are recognized by few as such.

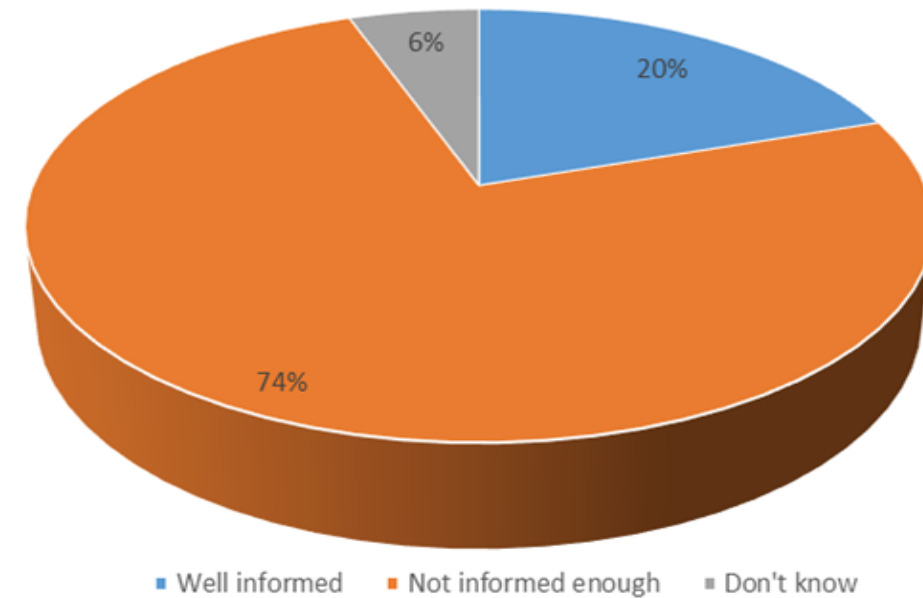
**For Montenegrins the most important are common culture, values of democracy and freedoms, Euro, history, geographic connectivity, but few can affiliate with the motto “Unity in diversity”, success of European economy, anthem or EU flag.**

**All member and candidate state underline the freedom and democracy as important aspects, while in other categories their views differ.**



## How informed are you about EU citizens' rights in the EU?

- Well informed 19,7%
- Not informed enough 74%
- Don't know 6%





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**Respondents from all states included in research, both member or candidate, dominantly believe that they are not sufficiently informed on civil rights of citizens of EU (74%), every fifth thinks that he/she is.**

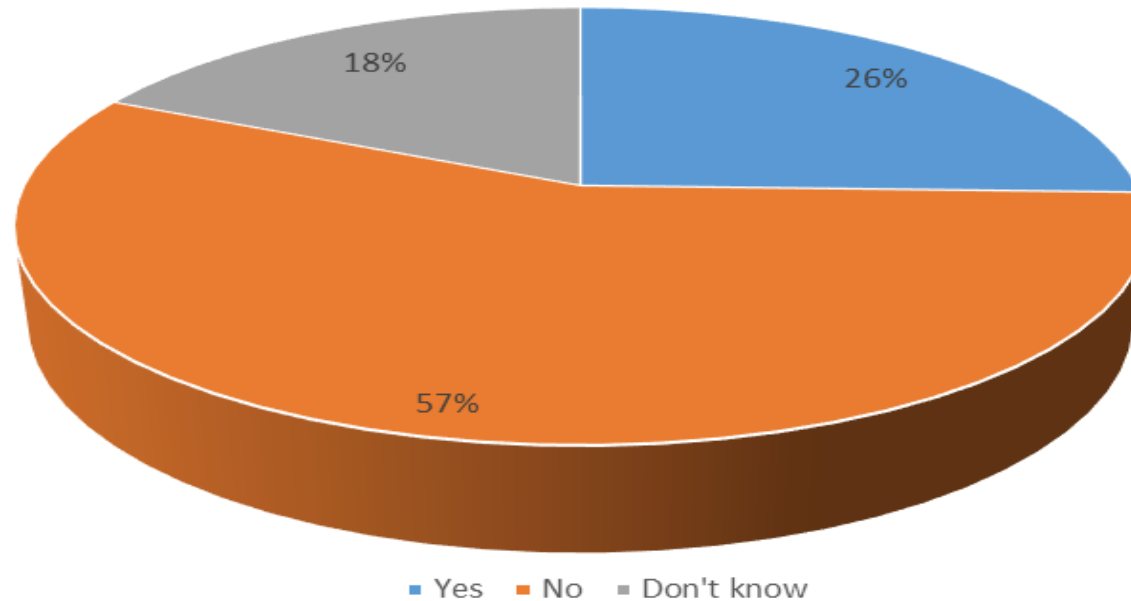
**Majority of Montenegrin citizens believes that they are not well informed on civil rights of citizens of EU (75,8%).**

The level of awareness increases with the experience in CE and education on EU, both through formal and informal system, even though it is evident that citizens need to be informed much more about these rights.



## Do you know what is European Citizen Initiative?

- Yes 25,2%
- No 56,5%
- Don't know 18%





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**Only a quarter of respondents on the level of entire sample is informed and knows what is European Citizen Initiative.**

Montenegrin, Serbian and Macedonian citizens know little about this institute.

Member states are also not that advanced in terms of this matter, whereby the most informed are the Slovenians, Slovaks and Croats, while the least informed are Bulgarians and Czechs.

Those who had some sort of education on EU or CE are better informed, especially the group which attended some form of informal education.



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## **Jean-Claude Juncker defined 10 priorities for EU at the beginning of his term of office, and the respondents ranked them as follows:**

1. A new boost for jobs, growth and investments (74,4% )
2. An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust (44,7%)
3. A deeper and more fair Economic and Monetary union (41,6%)
4. A deeper and more fair internal market along with a strengthened industrial base (33,6%)
5. Towards a new policy on migration (29, 2%)
6. A Union of democratic change (25,4% )
7. A resilient Energy Union with a forward looking climate change policy (24%)
8. A stronger global actor (20.8%)
9. A connected digital single market (16,7%)
10. A reasonable and balanced Free Trade Agreement with the USA (11,8%)



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**When it comes Juncker's plan, Montenegrin respondents emphasise the boost for jobs as most important, as well as growth and investments, followed with an area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust, while they are least interested in the outcome of agreement with the USA and the establishment of a digital single market.**

A deeper Economic and Monetary Union is high on the list of the priorities, as well as just society, migrations, energy policy, development of internal market, and the strengthening of Union in terms of democracy and being a competitive global actor.





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When asked about **the most significant benefits based on the EU enlargement policy**, more than a half of Europeans states the **extension of peace, stability and prosperity**, while every other European believes that the **accession of new member states enriches the EU by increasing the cultural diversity, exchange of ideas and better understanding of other nations**. Next they stated the improvement of quality of life of citizens in Europe through the adoption of EU standards by new member states in the area of environmental protection, more efficient fight against organised crime, drugs and illegal immigration.

Every third respondent believes that membership of Central and Eastern European states led to economic reforms which influenced high economic growth and increase in the employment opportunities

29,4% of respondents believes that enlargement will empower the role of the EU in the world, in foreign and security policy, trade, as well as in other global policies.

28,7% believes that the enlargement yields another 100 million people on the market which already consists of 350 million thus significantly improving the economic growth and boost for jobs, both in new and old member states.

For 19% this process leads to the creation of new stable democracies with strong institutions and protection of minorities in Central and Eastern European states.



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**Respondents from Montenegro find the enlargement important because it resulted with economic growth** in Central and Eastern European states which previously acceded the Union, hence they hope for the same scenario in Montenegro.

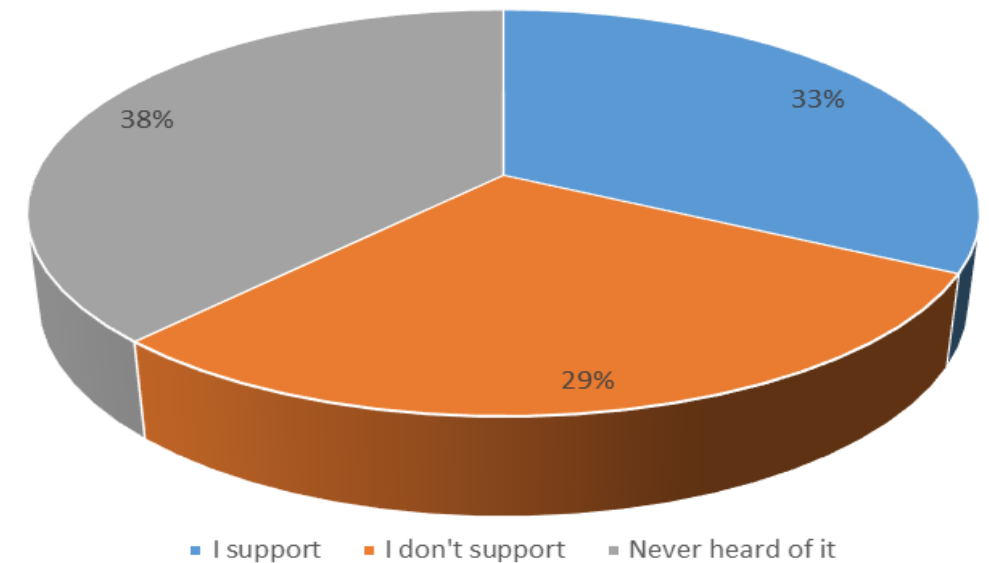
They also believe that the enlargement will expand the zone of peace, stability and prosperity and empower the role of the EU on global level.

In addition, they believe that the accession will yield a better quality of life due to the adoption of ecological standards, fight against organized crime, narcotics and illegal immigration, and because the EU will be enriched with new cultures.



## Do you support Juncker's plan that EU citizens need a five-year pause from enlargement of EU?

- I support 32,6%
- I don't support 29,3%
- Never heard of it 38,1%





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**32, 6% of respondents supports Juncker's plan and thinks that citizens of EU need a five-year long break from the enlargement, while 29,3% does not support the plan, and even 38,1% never heard of it.**

Majority of member states does not oppose this plan, such as Poland (58,3%), Slovenia (56,5%), Croatia (45,5%), Latvia (44,4%), Slovakia (44,2%), Spain (38,8%), while the respondents from Bulgaria and Czech Republic support it the least.

As expected, candidate states mostly do not support this plan, as Macedonia, although a considerable number of citizens of these states never heard of this plan.

**In general, member states dominantly agree with the plan, while candidate states do not, even though a considerable number of their citizens is not informed, i.e. has never heard of this plan.**

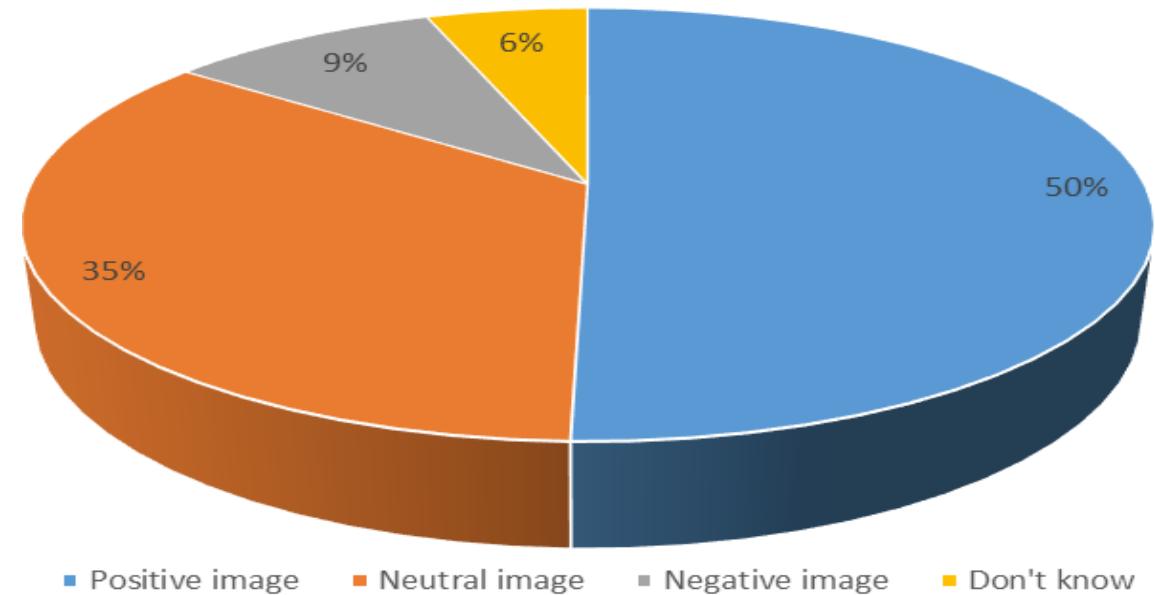
Those who had CE or some sort of focused education on EU, whether through formal or informal system, are more informed about this plan, while the majority never heard of it.

The difference is not that great between those who support this plan as opposed to those who had CE or some sort of focused education on EU.



## What type of image EU presents to you?

- Positive 50,4%
- Negative 9,3%
- Neutral 34,8%
- Don't know 5,5%





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**For every other respondent EU presents positive image**, while the percentage of those who have a negative image is limited in total number of respondents for every state (9,3%), and the number of those who are neutral is significant (34,8%).

The opinion of majority of citizens from member states is positive, whereby the percentage of those who are neutral is the highest in Czech Republic and Latvia.

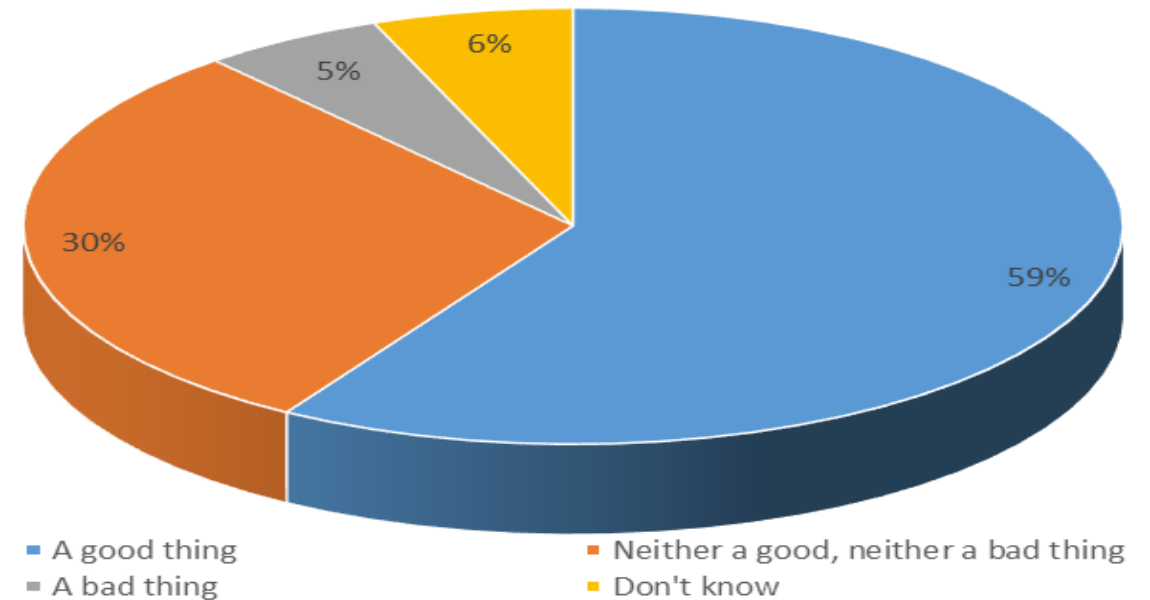
More than a half of respondents from Montenegro (61,9%) and Macedonia (73%) shares a positive opinion, while in Serbia the majority is neutral (46,4%).

Regardless of whether they have had the education on EU or not, the respondents more often have positive image on EU, while that education further strengthens it.



## Generally speaking, what do you think that membership of EU is?

- A good thing 58,7%
- A bad thing 5,4%
- Neither a good nor bad thing 30%
- Don't know 6%





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**12 out of 14 states, covered with research, mostly have positive opinion about the membership in EU.**

**Vast majority of respondents from Montenegro (68,2%) has an extremely positive opinion about the EU membership.**

The percentage of those who are neutral is higher in Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Latvia, compared to the number of those who have a positive opinion on EU membership, while the neutral opinion prevails in 10 states.

Out of the candidate states, Macedonia precedes in terms of the number of citizens with a positive opinion on EU membership (74,3%). On the other hand, respondents from Serbia in the lowest percentage have positive opinion on EU membership out of the candidate states, even though the number of respondents with this opinion is not small.

CE or focused education on EU does not affect these opinions to the great extent.





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Question: *In your opinion, if your state wasn't an EU member, how would that reflect on the situation in the following 15 areas – agriculture, inflation and costs of living, immigration, employment, economy, healthcare, education, industry, personal data protection, trade, energy, foreign affairs, protection of environment and fight against climate change, gender equality and scientific research? (for member states)*

**In the majority of areas, majority of respondents from all member states said that the situation would not be as good as it is if they weren't an EU member state, and it would appear that they are most indecisive when it comes to healthcare and agriculture.**



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On the other hand, when asked: *If your state was an EU member state, how would that reflect on the situation in the following 15 areas – agriculture, inflation and costs of living, immigration, employment, economy, healthcare, education, industry, personal data protection, trade, energy, foreign affairs, protection of environment and fight against climate change, gender equality and scientific research?* (for candidate states)

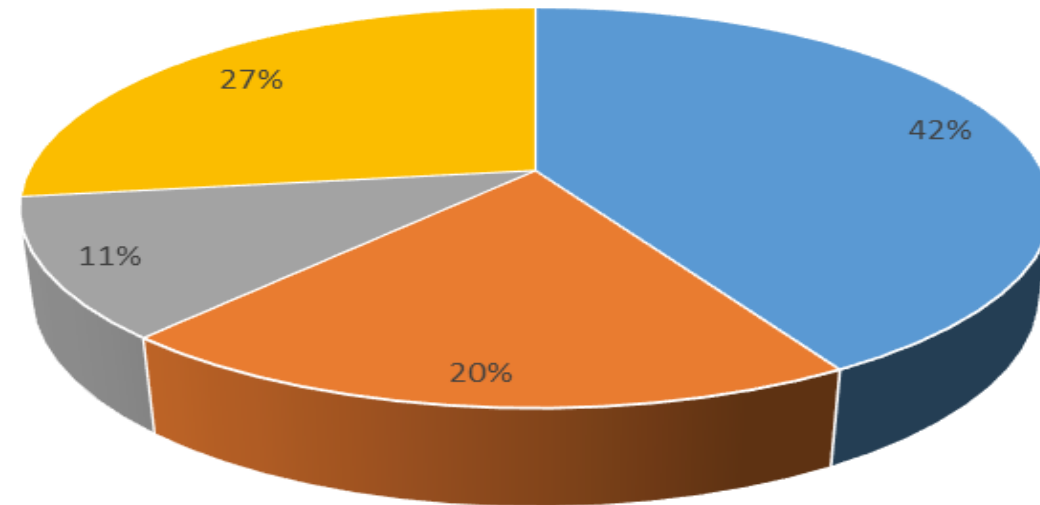
For each of the said 15 areas, the respondents dominantly assessed that they would be much better off if they were in EU.



## European Parliament

Which of the following institutions, in your opinion, best represents the EU?

- European Parliament 41,6%
- European Commission 20%
- European Council 11,35%
- Don't know 27,1%



- The European Parliament
- The European Commission
- The Council of the Europe
- Don't know



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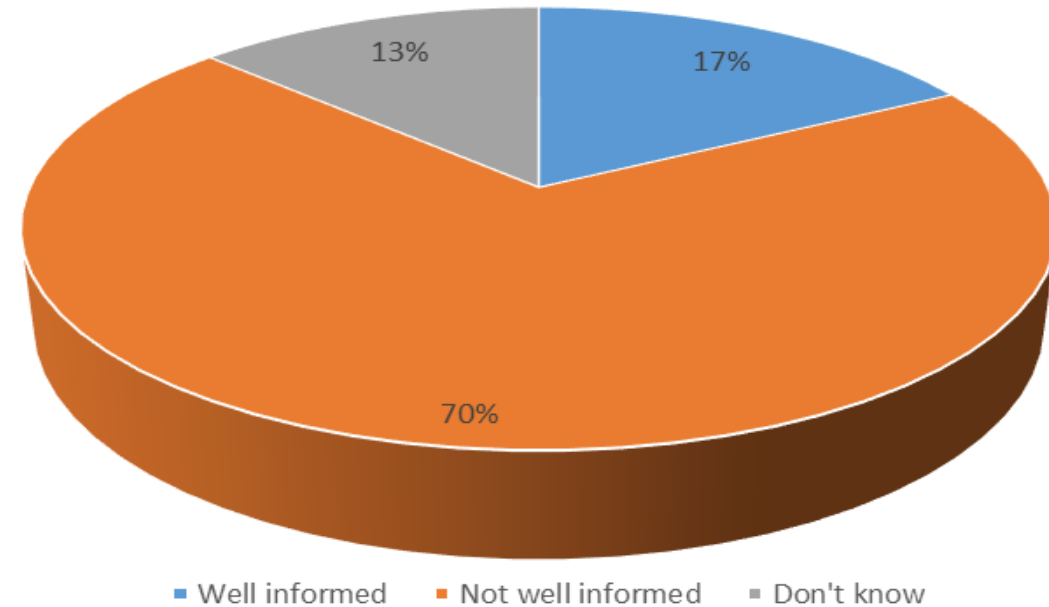
**For 41,6% of respondents, the institution that best represents the EU is the European Parliament.** For every fifth of them it is the European Commission, and for 11,3% it is the European Council.

Respondents from Montenegro also dominantly see the EP as most representative institution of EU.



## In general, how well informed do you feel about the European Parliament's activities?

- Well informed 17,2%
- Not well informed 67,8%
- Don't know 13%





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**In general, 7 out of 10 respondents from all states feel like they are not well informed about EP's activities (67,8%), while only 17, 2% of them think that they are well informed, and 13% has no definite opinion.**

Respondents from Slovakia and Czech Republic mostly declare themselves as well informed, while Spanish and Latvians as least informed.

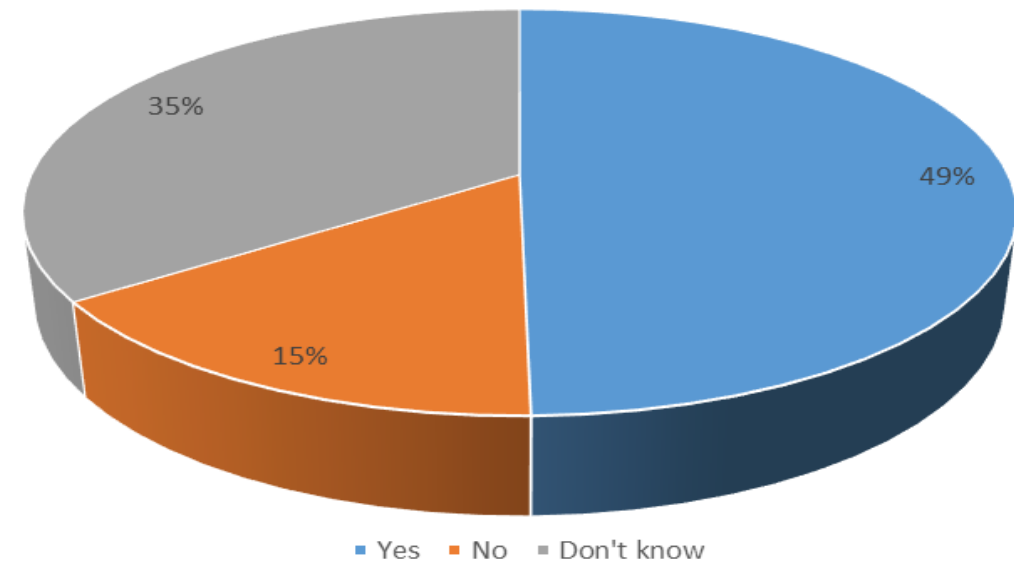
**The majority of respondents from Montenegro are poorly informed on the EP's activities (70,7%).**

Even though the respondents are generally poorly informed about the EP's activities, those who have had CE or some sort of focused education on EU feel more informed, especially those who have been educated through informal programmes.



## Does elections from 2014 for EC and the President represents significant progress for democracy within the EU?

■ Yes	49,2%
■ No	15,3%
■ Don't know	34,5%





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**For every second respondent, or 49,2%, the European elections from 2014 represent significant progress were a step forward in terms of the democracy within the EU, but the number of those with no answer on this question is also high, such as for instance in Latvia and Poland, while the Czechs are most sceptical.**

Majority of Montenegrin citizens does not have an answer, but the number of those who deem this election positive is considerably higher compared to those who think otherwise.

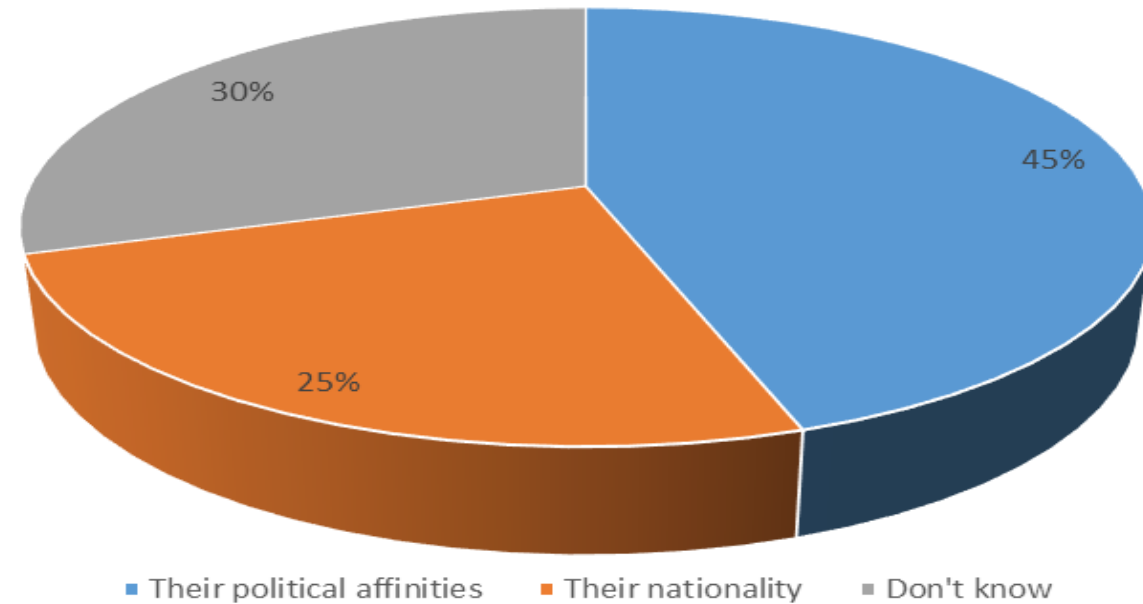
Education plays an important role when it comes to this matter, especially to those who educated on European affairs informally.





## In your opinion, do members of EP sit in the EP according to...?

- Their political affiliation 44,8%
- Their nationality 25,3%
- Don't know 29,9%





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**According to 44, 8% of the respondents, the members of EP are in the Parliament because of their political affiliation, while 25,3% believe that it is because of their nationality.**

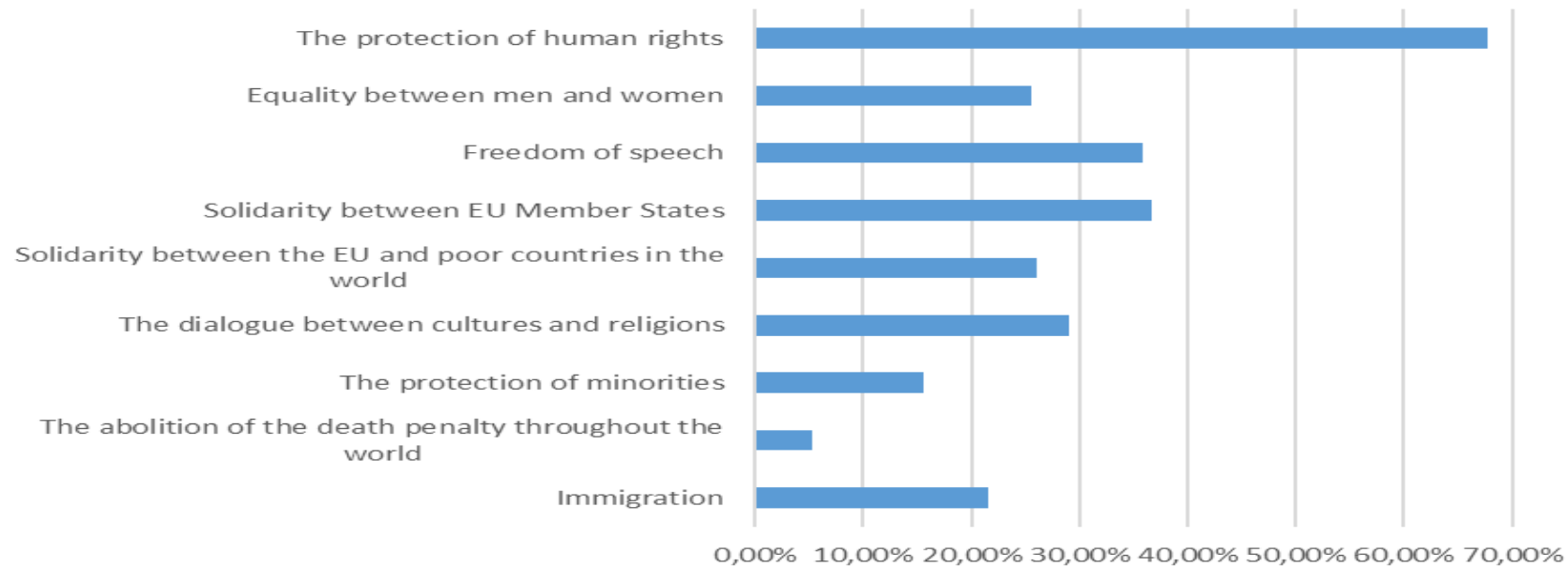
The majority of respondents from Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy, Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain believe that the MPs in the EP are situated based on political affiliation, while the majority of Bulgarians believes that the basis is nationality.

The majority of respondents from Macedonia, Latvia and Serbia do not have the answer to this questions.

Those who had CE or focused education on EU through formal or informal education mostly state that it is on the basis of political affiliation.



## Which of the following values, in your opinion, should the EP defend in the future as a matter of priority?





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## Which of the following values, in your opinion, should the EP defend in the future as a matter of priority?

- Three crucial values according to the majority of respondents are **human rights protection (67,7%)**, **solidarity between member states (36,6%)** and **freedom of speech (35,9%)**
- The abovementioned is followed by the **dialogue between the cultures (28,9%)**, **solidarity between the EU member states and poor countries of the world (26,1%)**, **gender equality (25,5%)** and **immigration (21,5%)**
- The least of the respondents „voted” for the protection of minorities and abolition of death penalty throughout the world.



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**According to respondents from Montenegro, the most important values which the EU should defend as priorities are: human rights protection, freedom of speech, solidarity of Union and poor countries of the world, and as somewhat slightly less important, they stated migration policies and solidarity between the member states, and finally the gender equality, protection of minorities and abolition of death penalty throughout the world.**

Human rights are also the priority for Macedonians, Serbs, Slovenians, Croatians, Spanish, Italians, Latvians, Slovaks and Poles.

Gender equality is high on the list of priorities in Spain, it stands out from all other states in terms of this priority.

Freedom of expression is the priority for the respondents from Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia, and nearly in every state, some 1/3 of respondents deem this value as a priority, while in Czech Republic this is the top priority of all the values for which the respondents could have opted.

Dialogue between the cultures is important to Montenegrins and Italians, and the protection of minorities is most important to Czechs. Migrations are the priority to Poles, Italians and Latvians.



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**Out of the policies which European Parliament promotes on the EU level, the respondents dominantly favour the fight against poverty and social exclusion (more than 60%).**

Term of recent events definitely influenced the prioritization of **combating terrorism (40,7%)**.

Next there is tax management, economy and budget issues (36,6%), improvement of public healthcare and consumer protection (32,4%), security and defense policy which will enable confrontation with international crisis (27,7%) and the improvement of migration policy in the communication and cooperation with countries of origin (27,6%).

There is also climate change (26,4%) and agricultural policy based on the protection of environment (26,1%).

According to one fifth of them, there should be a foreign policy which enables the EU to speak with one voice on the international stage (21,7%), 19,7% advocate the establishment of a social model, and the same percentage advocates the policies of competitiveness and innovations.



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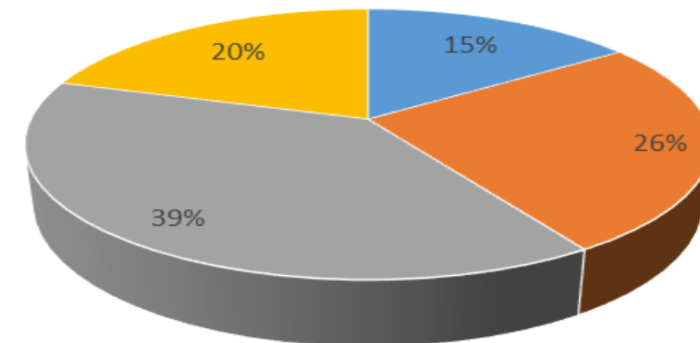
Respondents from Montenegro stated the following as key priority policies of Union which the EP should promote:

- Fight against poverty and social exclusion
- Management of economy, tax and budget
- Combating terrorism



## What would you say that the EP's decisions are adopted above all ...

- Political affiliation of the MPs 15%
- Interest of the member states from which the MPs come 25,5%
- Both 39%
- Don't know 20%



- According to the political affinities of the MEPs
- According to the interests of the Member States from which the MEPs come
- Both
- Don't know





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**Every second respondent from all states did not know the answer to this question.**

**Majority of those who knew the answer, 38,8%, believe that the decisions made are the combination of political affiliation of MPs and interest of member states.**

Montenegrin respondents favour the combination of political affiliation and interest of member state, while 20% does not know the answer.

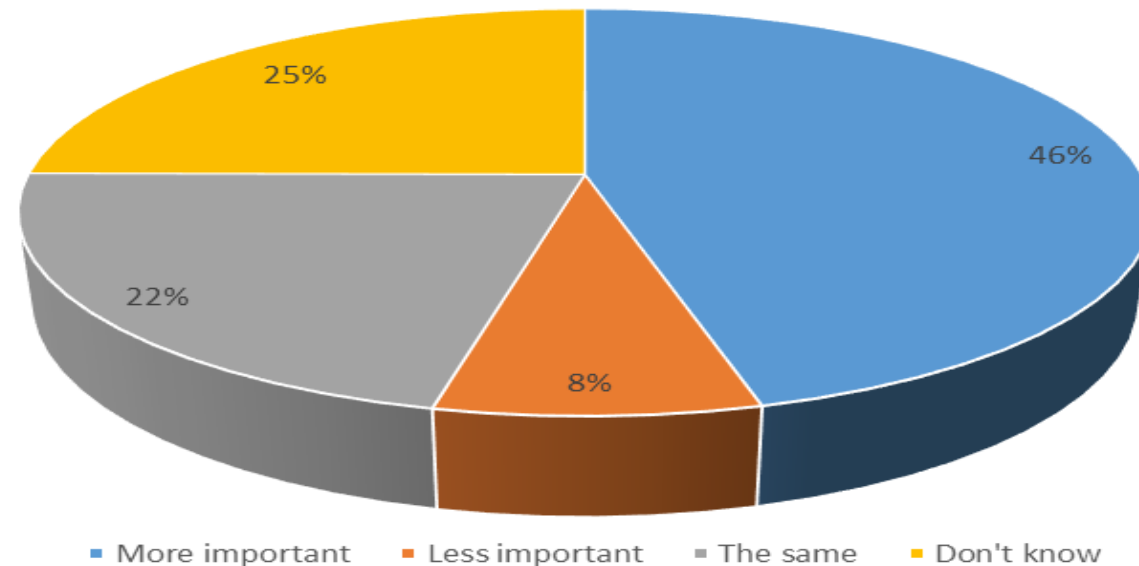
Majority of respondents from Bulgaria, Italy and Slovakia thinks that it is the interest of member states, Slovenians mostly think that it is a matter of political affiliation.

If they have had previous specific education on EU, the respondents tend to say that both criteria are used in decision-making process. Those who were educated through the informal system mostly believe that political affiliation is the basis of decision-making in EP.



## Would you like to see the EP play a more important or less important role than it currently does?

- More important 45,8%
- Less important 7,8%
- The same 21,5%
- Don't know 25%





Centar za građansko obrazovanje  
Centre for Civic Education



**Majority of 45,8% of the respondents would like to see the EP play a more important role compared to the current.**

**Respondents from Montenegro** mostly do not have the answer, but the majority of those who have one, wish to see the **EP play a more important role.**

Majority of respondents from Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain would like to see a more powerful EP in the future.

The majority of Bulgarians, Czechs and Macedonians would like to see the role of EP unchanged, while the majority of Montenegrins and Serbs does not have the answer.

Perception on future, more powerful, role of EP is mutual for the majority of respondents, regardless of whether they had CE, focused education on EU, both formal or informal. Those who did not have this sort of education most frequently check the answer *Don't know*.