

Greek Youth and Europe

IDENTITY, GOALS AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

FINAL REPORT
2022

SYNOPSIS AND HIGHLIGHTS



**EUROPEAN
YEAR OF
YOUTH**

EKKE - General Secretariat for Vocational
Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth

Prepared by

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01

The Project:

The survey "Young people and Europe: How young people perceive Europe and their identity within it – Sustainable Development Goals and young people" aims to explore the identity of young Greeks, their expectations from Europe and the way their national and European identity is formed. It is an initiative under the **European Year of Youth 2022** and focuses on the following thematic areas:

- 1.National and European identity
- 2.Joint European experiences
- 3.Greece in Europe
- 4.Entitativity
- 5.Climate change
- 6.Environment and climate
- 7.Digital transition and rights
- 8.European Youth Strategy

The project "[Youth, Europe, Democracy](#)" is part of the national planning of actions of the [General Secretariat of Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth](#) of the [Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs](#), which is the National Coordinator in Greece for the [European Year of Youth 2022](#) and is financed by the European Union. In collaboration with the Institute of Political Research of the [National Centre for Social Research](#) two surveys are being carried out with young people in Greece as target population.



02

The Data:

All data presented in this synopsis are part of the "Young people and Europe" online survey.

Target population: young people in Greece, aged 18-29, registered in an online panel.

Mode of data collection: CAWI

Geographic coverage: nationwide

Sampling: Quotas for gender, area of residence and level of urbanisation.

Fieldwork: 4-20 October 2022.

Sample size: 747 individuals.

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03

Young Greeks and Europe

The data paint a complex picture of today's young people in Greece. These young Greeks are native Europeans from birth and carry a dual identity as they identify themselves mainly as Greeks and additionally as Europeans, while many of them describe themselves as citizens of the world. They believe that Greece has significant benefits to be a member of the European Union whilst young people base their national self-esteem on their history and cultural identity.

Young people today recognise the importance of the EU for their lives and for the profit of Greece and consider it highly important to be EU citizens. Free movement within EU and the common currency are critical factors that have formed their common European identity. However, both the Eurozone crisis and a feeling that burdens and successes are not distributed equally between members of the Union may prevent them from perceiving the EU as a social category with coherent entity.



04

Young people, however, do not oppose the enlargement of the European Union and despite what separates its members, future risks appear to set the EU as a solid basis for the future.

The climate crisis and the environment concern and worry them to a great extent; ensuring gender equality, protecting personal data in the modern digital age, as well as climate change put young people on alert, as they recognize their individual responsibility to protect the environment, while at the same time they expect collective institutions such as the European Union to safeguard their rights by emphasizing on ensuring the basic living conditions for all.

[Click here to read the full report \[in Greek\]](#)

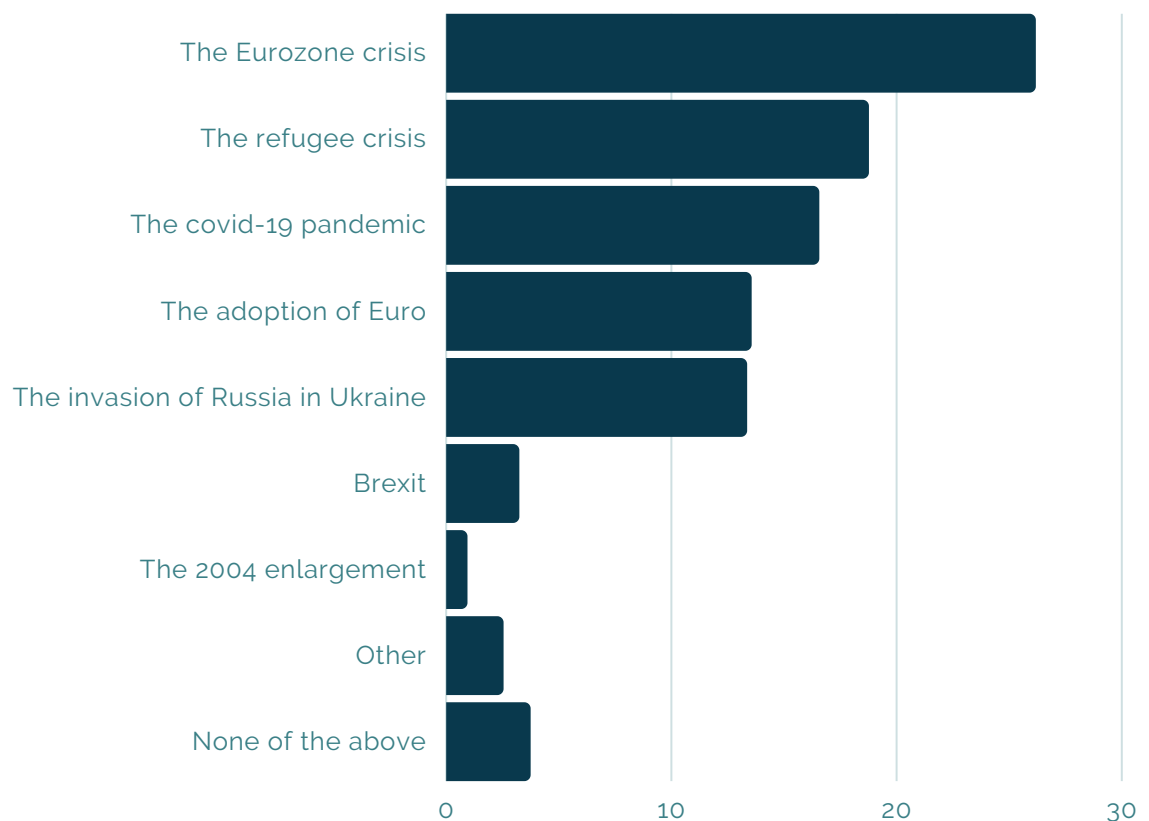
Highlights/1

WHICH EUROPEAN MOMENT WAS FORMATIVE FOR YOUNG GREEKS?

Major social and political events may have shaped the way young people in Greece view the EU. The survey respondents were asked to point out the European event of the 21st century that shaped their image of the EU.

The **Eurozone crisis is the dominant event for approximately one in four Greeks**, however both the **refugee crisis** and **the pandemic** also shaped the way they perceive the EU.

Event of the 21st century that shaped personal image of the EU ... (%)



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Highlights/2

FREQUENCY AND REASONS TO TRAVEL TO THE EU

Travelling to other European countries is an essential part in order to understand and gain firsthand experience of other cultures within the EU. Respondents were asked about the frequency of their travel to another EU country and for the main reasons behind it.

Nearly **eight out of ten** young Greeks (78,5%) have travelled at least once to another EU country in the last 12 months



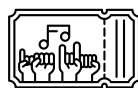
Reasons for the trip (multiple responses):



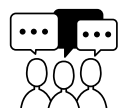
Leisure and tourism (72.3%)



Studying or training (21.3%)



Cultural event (concert, theater, festival etc.). (9,1%)



Conference (7,6%)



Sports game (6,3%)

Highlights/3

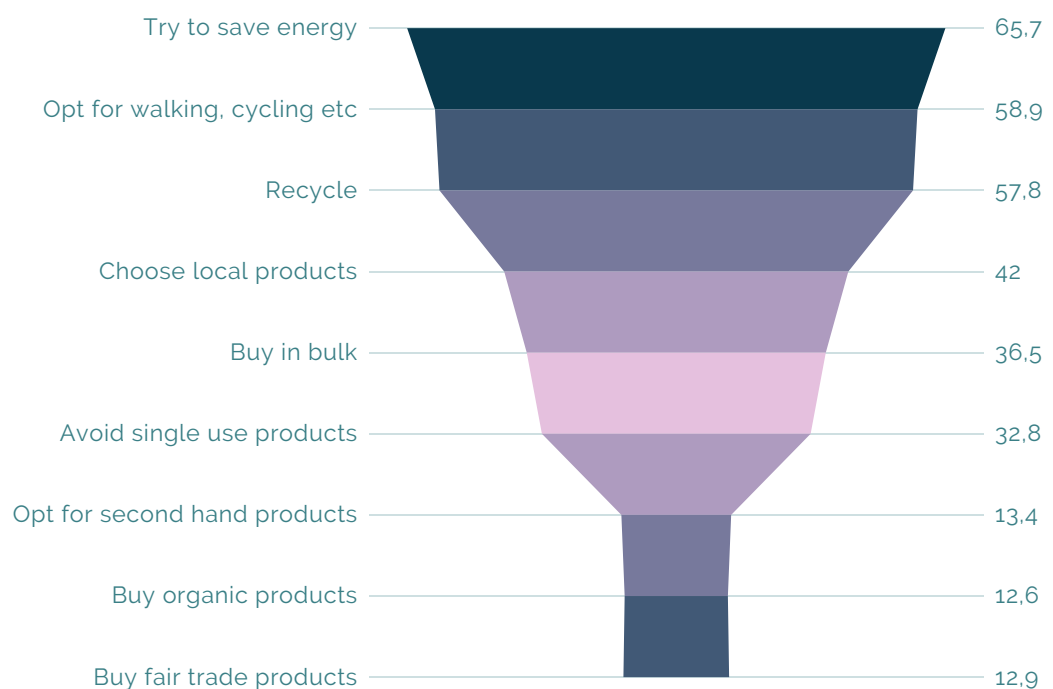
EVERYDAY HABITS & THE ENVIRONMENT

The protection of the environment and the way individual lifestyle choices may affect it are perceived as interdependently by young people. Respondents were asked on their everyday habits regarding various lifestyle options that save energy and protect the environment,

Young Greeks appear particularly alert when it comes to lifestyle changes for the protection of the environment. **Saving energy in electricity and water consumption** are the most frequently adopted habits concerning energy saving.

Recycling is also a habit adopted by many young adults in Greece. Also, many choose **environmentally friendly methods of transportation**, support **local producers**, **buy in bulk** and **avoid single use packaging**.

Respondents that often ... (%)



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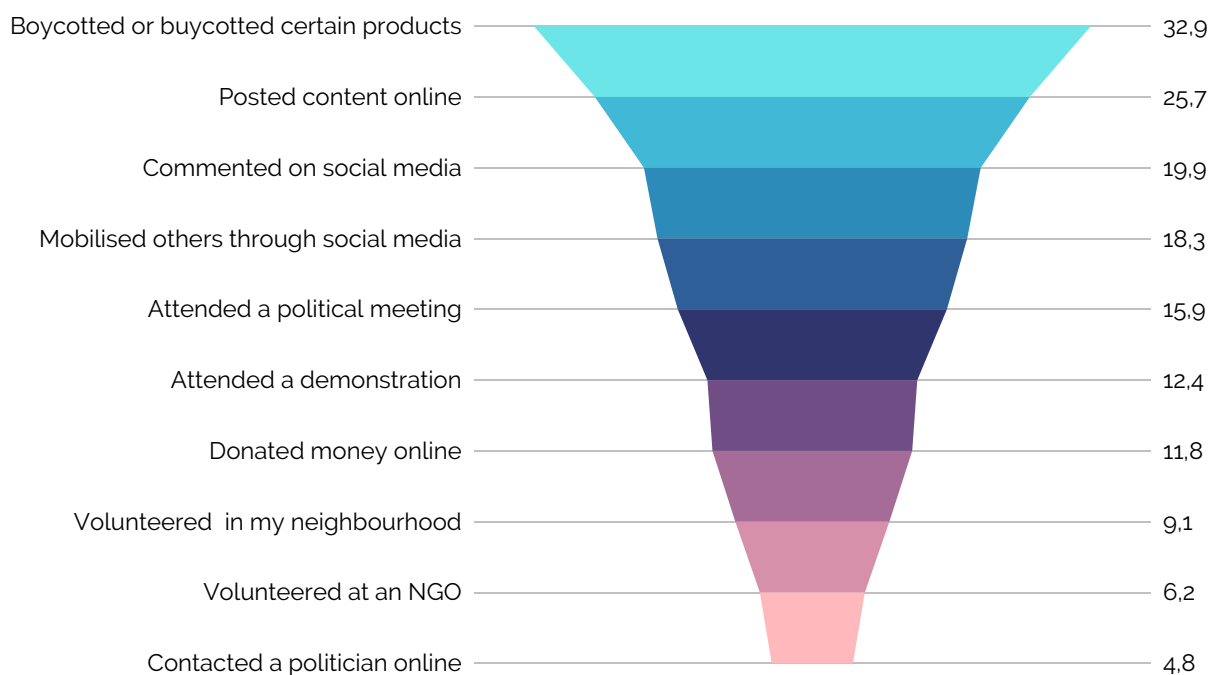
Highlights/4

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Collective and individual actions targeted at climate awareness and the protection of the environment are part of youth's repertoire of action all over Europe. Young people in Greece were asked whether they have engaged in the previous year in a selection of actions, related specifically to climate and/or the environment.

Political consumerism, through boycotting/buycotting certain products was the most popular action for young Greeks. The remaining most popular actions are all digital: **posting** of relevant **content online**, **commenting on social media** and **mobilising others through social media**.

Have in the previous 12 months (in relation to climate/the environment) ... (%)



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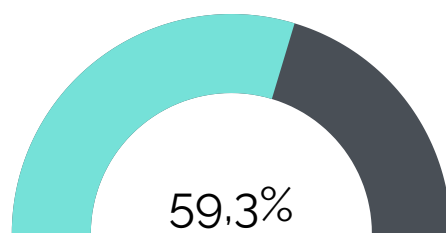
Highlights/5

EUROPEAN YOUTH STRATEGY: TOP PRIORITIES

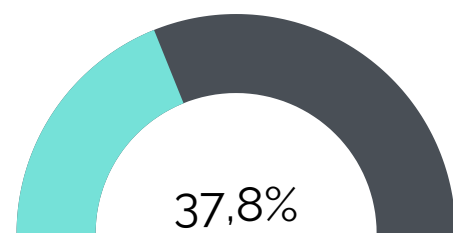
The **EU Youth Strategy** is set to improve the situation of young people in Europe. Young people in Greece were asked to point the **top three priorities** in which the EU should focus.

Ensuring basic right for those in need, such as housing, work, health etc. was selected by nearly six out of ten young people. **Combatting discrimination and gender equality** emerges as second priority, and **funding for youth programmes is** the third most popular priority for them.

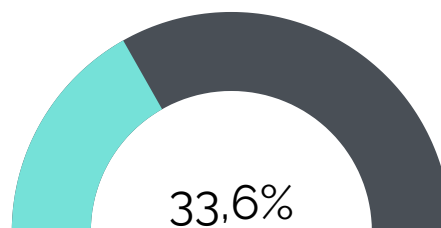
Top 3 priorities of the EU Youth Strategy as chosen by respondents ... (%)



Ensure basic rights to housing, work, health for socially excluded young people



Combat discrimination and guarantee rights for all genders



Increase funding for youth programmes



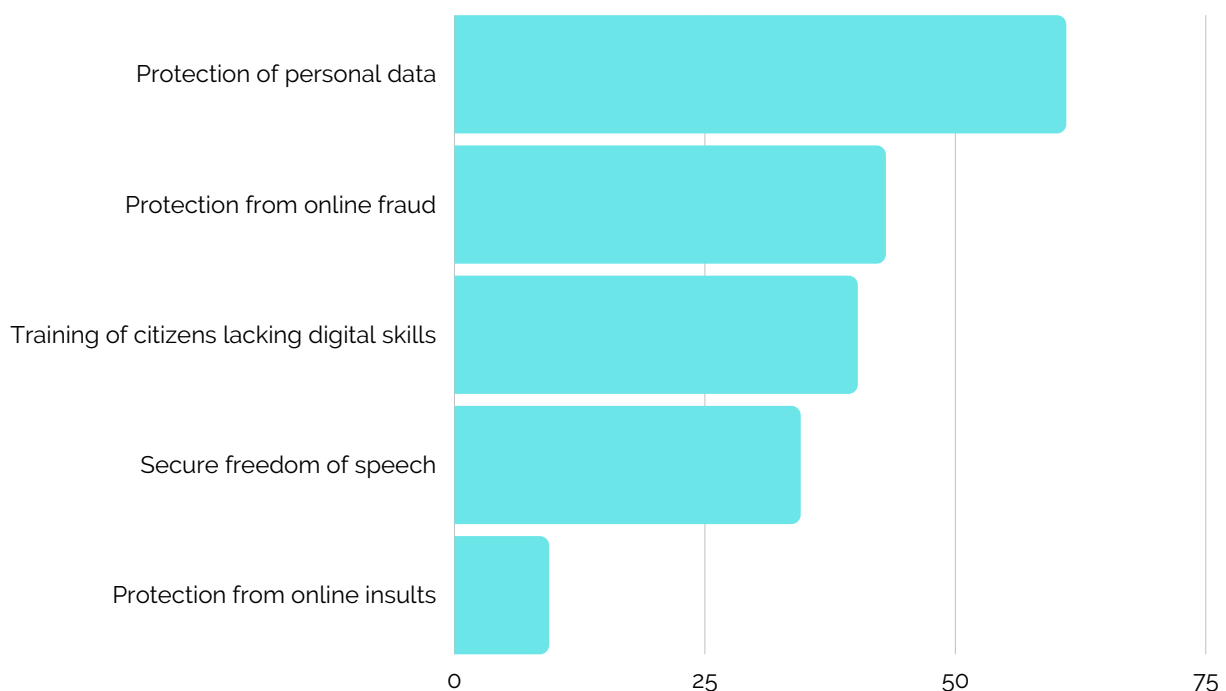
Highlights/6

DIGITAL RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS: EU PRIORITIES

The EU has set to adopt a set of principles regarding **digital rights**. These will ensure that all people will be able to enjoy a safe and secure digital public space. Young people in Greece were asked to point the priorities on which the EU should focus.

Protection of personal data is the top priority for young Greeks (61.0%). Next comes the **protection from online fraud** (43.0%), and the **training of citizens that lack digital skills** (40.2%).

EU priorities for individual digital rights ... (%)



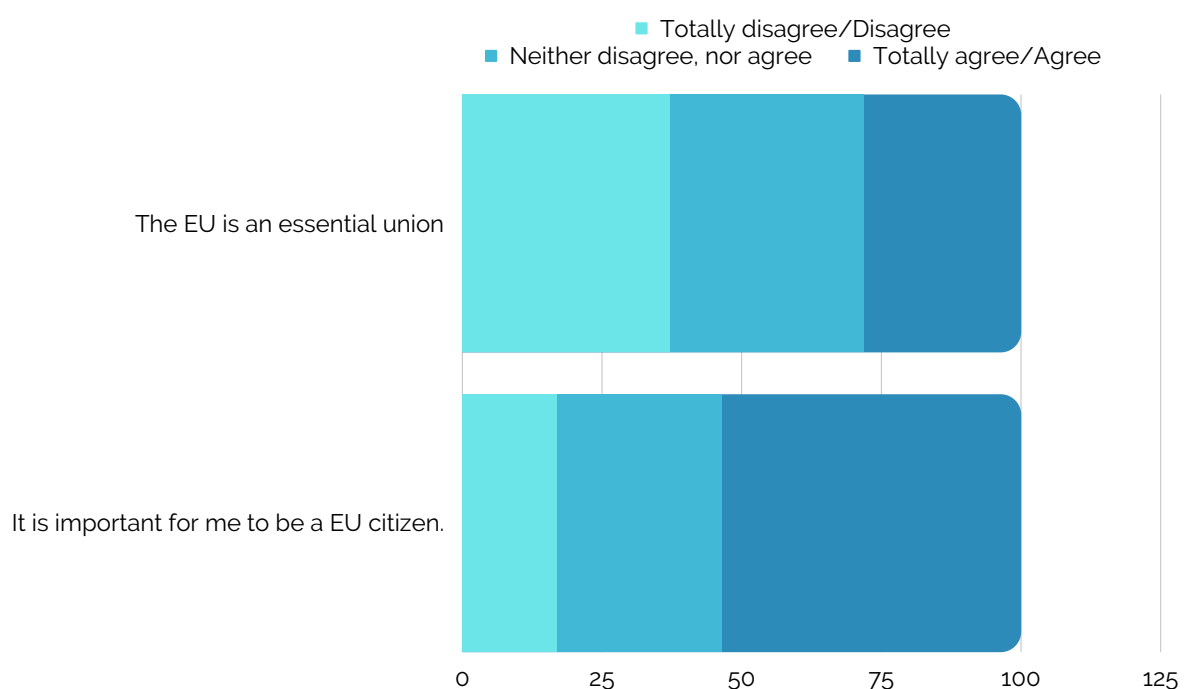
Highlights/7

ENTITATIVITY OF EU: PERCEPTIONS ON ENTITY AND CITIZENSHIP

Participants are asked to define if they perceive the EU as a coherent and unified entity as well as the importance of European citizenship for themselves.

Most young Greeks (53.6%) consider **European citizenship** as an important element of their identity. However, they seem to participate in a union that is **not defined as coherent and unified** (37.2% disagree that the EU is an essential union).

Perceptions on entitativity of EU and European citizenship (%)



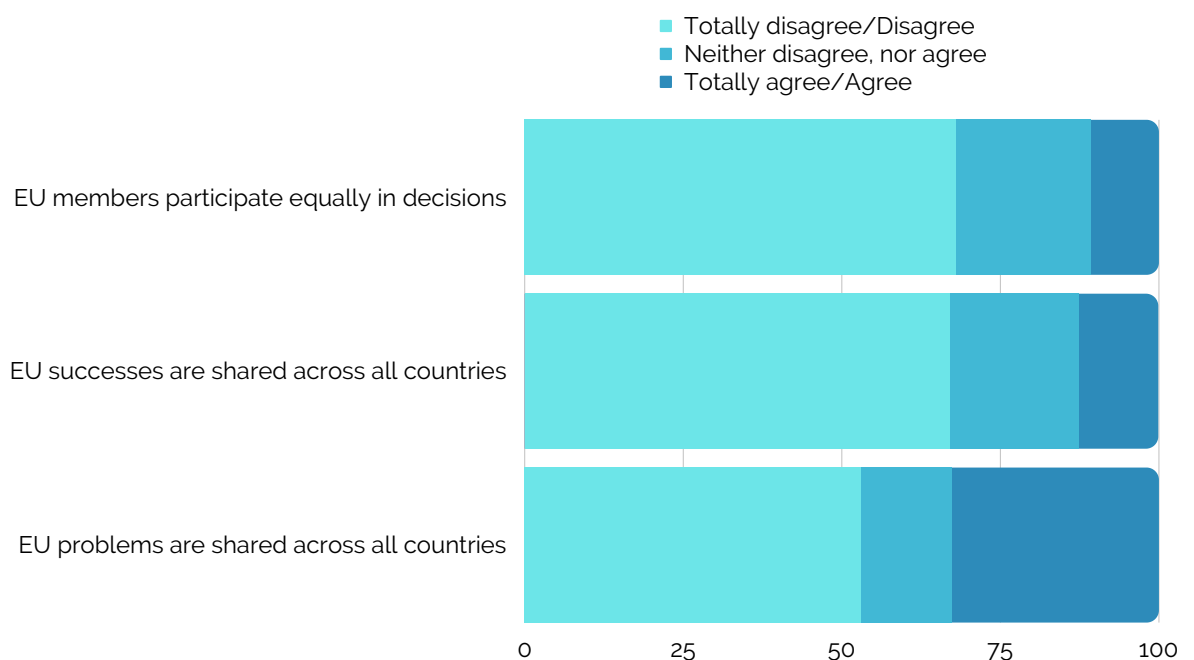
Highlights/8

ENTITATIVITY OF EU: EQUALITY AND EQUITY AMONG MEMBERS

Perceptions on entitativity of a social category may rely on individuals' opinions on equality and bonds among members of the group. Therefore, impression formation about EU may depend on who takes part in decisions; how common may problems and successes be among Europeans?

Europe is outlined as a rather **unequal union** since the majority of respondents claim that members do not participate equally in decisions (68%), successes are not shared across all countries (67%), not even the burdens (53%).

Perceptions on equality and equity among EU members (%)



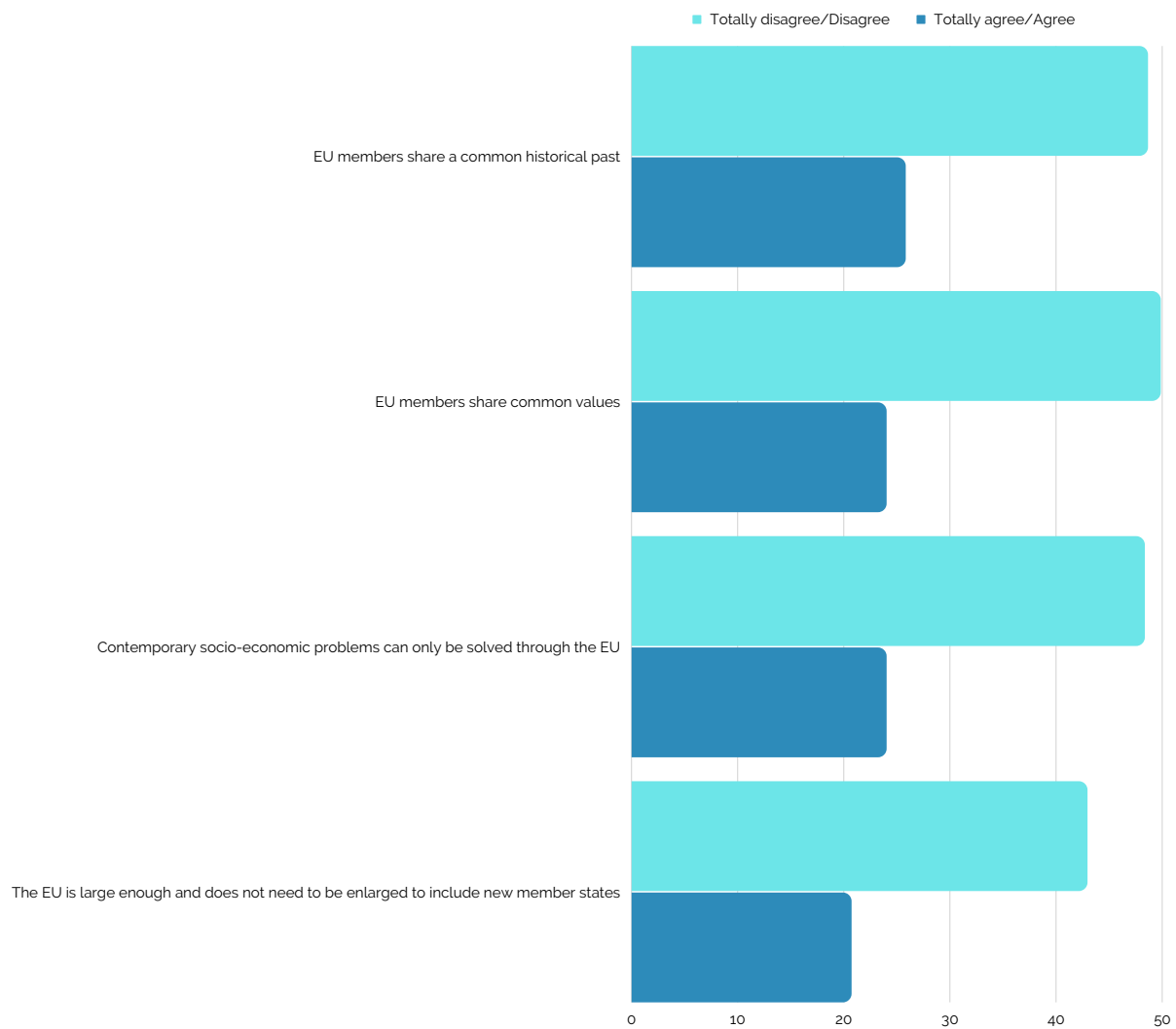
Highlights/9

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF EU

Do Europeans rely on a common past? Is the present Union cohesive? Is Europe identified as a secure union for future challenges?

The majority **rejects that the EU members share common values** (49.8%), **a common historical past** (48.6%), **even adequacy on confronting contemporary socio-economic problems** (48.3%). Nonetheless, most respondents do not stand against a future enlargement of the Union (42.9%).

Perceptions on past, present and future of EU (%)



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Contacts:

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
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General Secretariat for Vocational Education,
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**EUROPEAN
YEAR OF
YOUTH**

**DEMOCRACY
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Youth campaign
to revitalise
democracy.



**Co-funded by
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