



# THE EIB CLIMATE SURVEY

- 6<sup>th</sup> edition -  
2023/2024

## Citizens call for green recovery

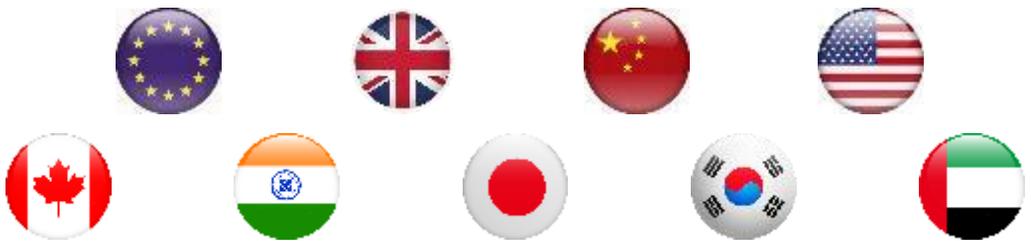


# How we conducted the survey



Survey conducted online (computer, tablet or mobile) by the BVA Group consulting firm from **August 7<sup>th</sup>** to **September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

In all 27 EU countries, the United Kingdom, China, the United States, Canada, India, Japan, South Korea, and the United Arab Emirates.



Total sample of **30,245 people**, with **35 representative samples** of the population aged 15 and over in each country (16+ for Luxembourg).

Respondents were randomly selected from nationally representative panels and participated via self-administered web surveys.



The representativeness of the data was ensured through the use of the quota method, and each country's data was weighted according to gender, age, occupation, and region.

# Samples

## Size of the representative citizen panel per country

COUNTRY	SAMPLE SIZE	LANGUAGE USED
 Austria	1,000	German
 Belgium	1,003	French, Flemish
 Bulgaria	1,009	Bulgarian
 Croatia	1,000	Croatian
 Cyprus	444	Greek
 Czech Republic	1,000	Czech
 Denmark	1,000	Danish
 Estonia	502	Estonian
 Finland	1,000	Finnish
 France	1,000	French
 Germany	1,000	German
 Greece	1,009	Greek
 Hungary	1,000	Hungarian
 Ireland	1,011	English
 Italy	1,009	Italian
 Latvia	500	Latvian
 Lithuania	500	Lithuanian
 Luxembourg	513	French, German, Luxembourgish
 Malta	210	English
 Netherlands	1,004	Dutch
 Poland	1,009	Polish
 Portugal	1,000	Portuguese
 Romania	1,001	Romanian
 Slovakia	500	Slovak
 Slovenia	500	Slovenian
 Spain	1,005	Spanish
 Sweden	1,000	Swedish
 United States	1,000	English
 China	1,000	Simplified Chinese
 UK	1,000	English
 Canada	1,000	English, French
 India	1,007	Hindi, English
 Japan	1,000	Japanese
 South Korea	1,000	Korean
United Arab Emirates	509	Arabic (UAE)

# Margin of error

All surveys are subject to the **margins of error**, inherent in statistical laws.

The table below shows the values of the margins of error (at the 95% level of confidence) according to the result obtained and the size of the sample considered.

SAMPLE SIZE	95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL BY SCORE					
	5 or 95%	10 or 90%	20 or 80%	30 or 70%	40 or 60%	50%
100	4,4	6,0	8,0	9,2	9,8	10,0
200	3,1	4,2	5,7	6,5	6,9	7,1
300	2,5	3,5	4,6	5,3	5,7	5,8
400	2,2	3,0	4,0	4,6	4,9	5,0
500	1,9	2,7	3,6	4,1	4,4	4,5
600	1,8	2,4	3,3	3,7	4,0	4,1
700	1,6	2,3	3,0	3,5	3,7	3,8
800	1,5	2,1	2,8	3,2	3,5	3,5
900	1,4	2,0	2,6	3,0	3,2	3,3
1 000	1,4	1,8	2,5	2,8	3,0	3,1
2 000	1,0	1,3	1,8	2,1	2,2	2,2
3 000	0,8	1,1	1,4	1,6	1,8	1,8
6 000	0,6	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,4
10 000	0,4	0,6	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0

**Example:** For a sample of 1,000 respondents, for a survey percentage of 20%, the margin of error is 2,5. The percentage therefore has a 95% chance of being between 17,5% and 22,5%.

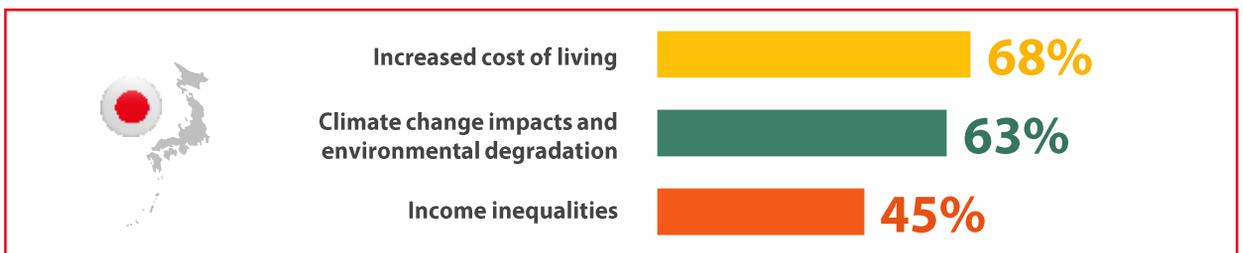
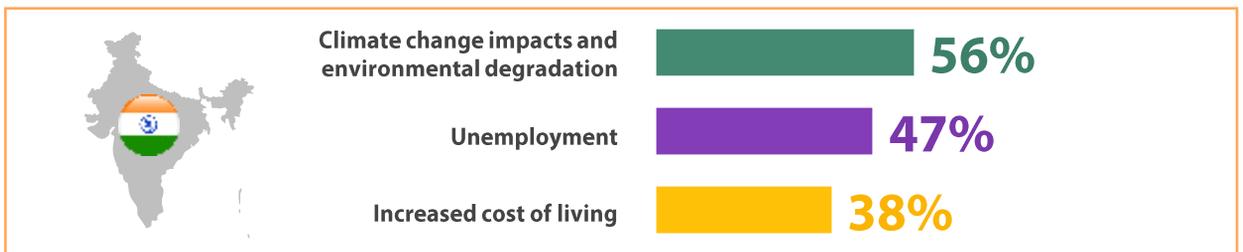
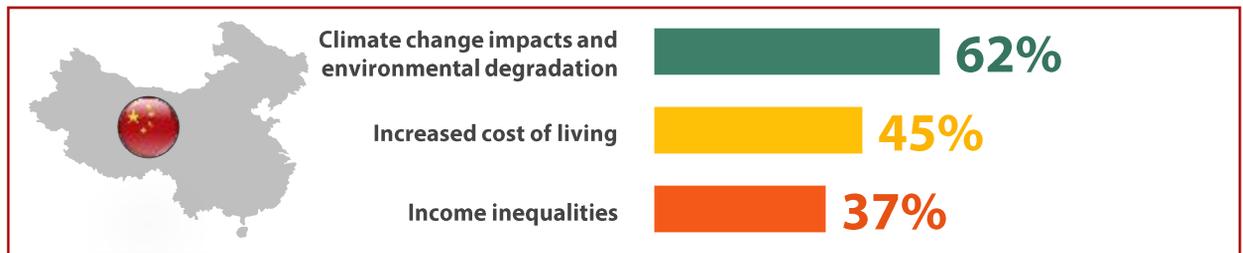
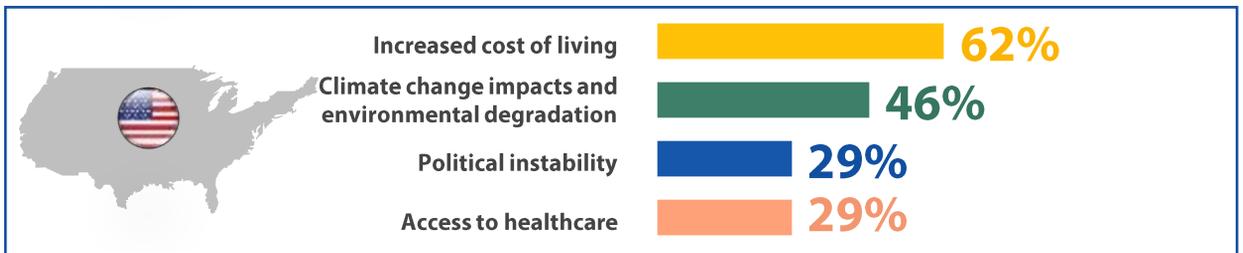
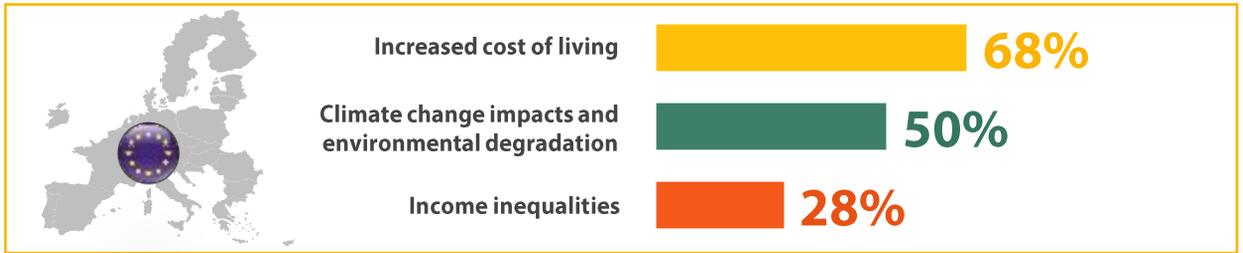
**PEOPLE'S OPINION ON  
THEIR COUNTRY'S CLIMATE  
ACTION AND THE  
IMPORTANCE OF EQUITY-  
CONSCIOUS POLICIES.**

**Purchasing power and  
environmental issues,  
people's main concerns**

# Climate change and environmental degradation are consistently ranked in the top concerns of citizens across major economies.

Q1. What are the three biggest challenges that people in your country are currently facing?

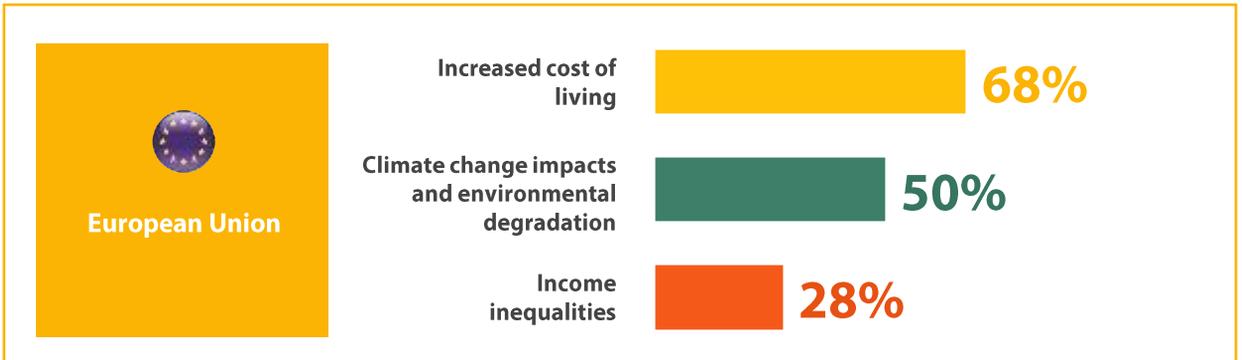
## 3 biggest challenges



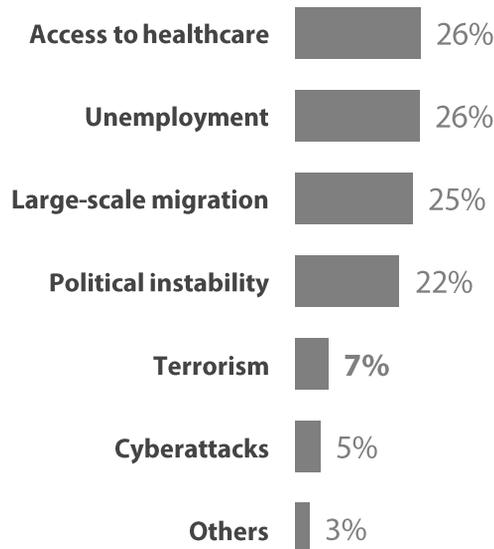
# Despite high concern for the rising cost of living, Europeans still rank climate change and environmental issues as some of the most pressing challenges facing their countries.

Q1. What are the three biggest challenges that people in your country are currently facing?

## 3 biggest challenges



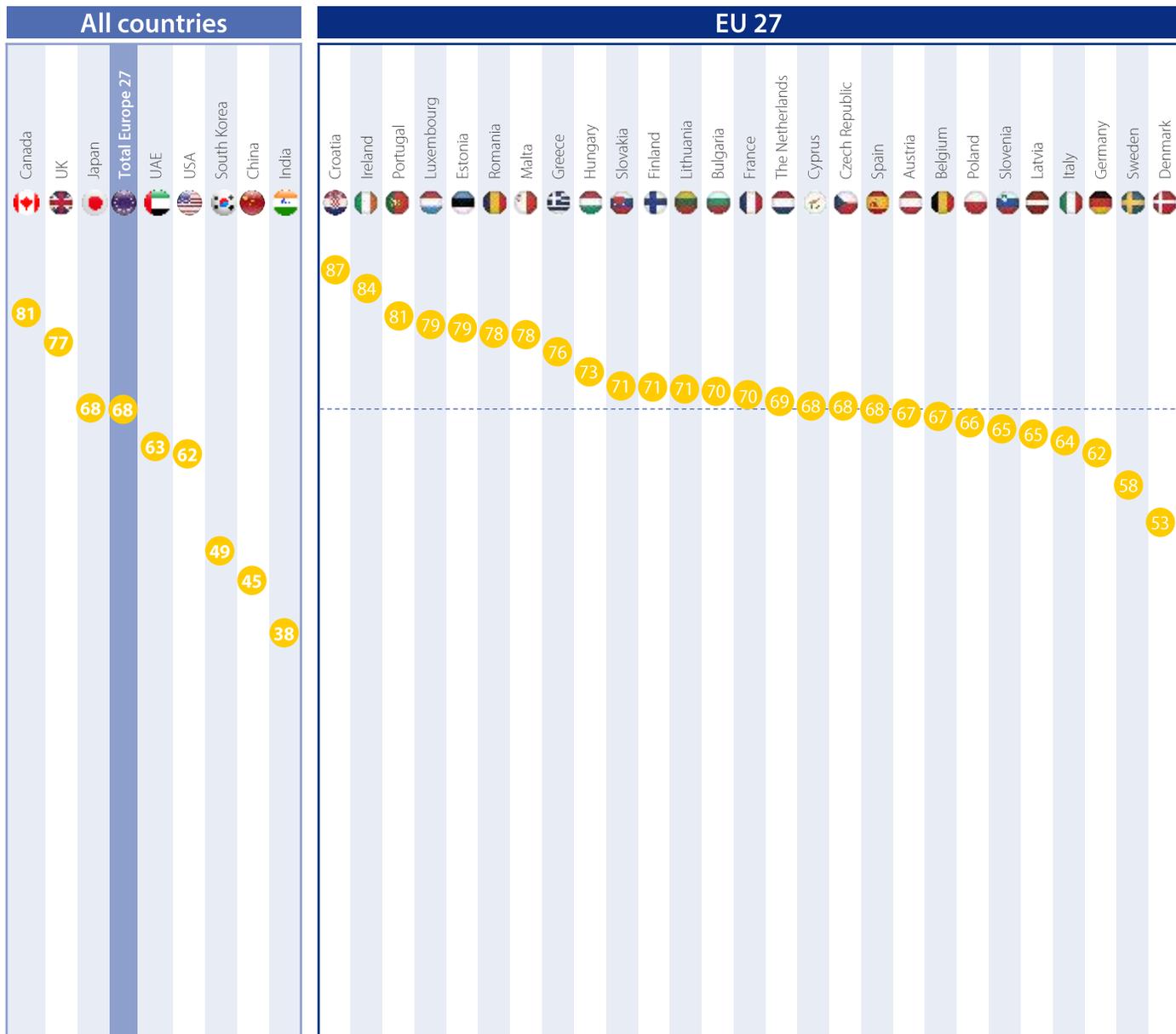
## *Other challenges*



# In major economies, inflation is a significant worry for more than half of citizens, except for China and India where it is comparatively less frequently cited.

Q1. What are the three biggest challenges that people in your country are currently facing?

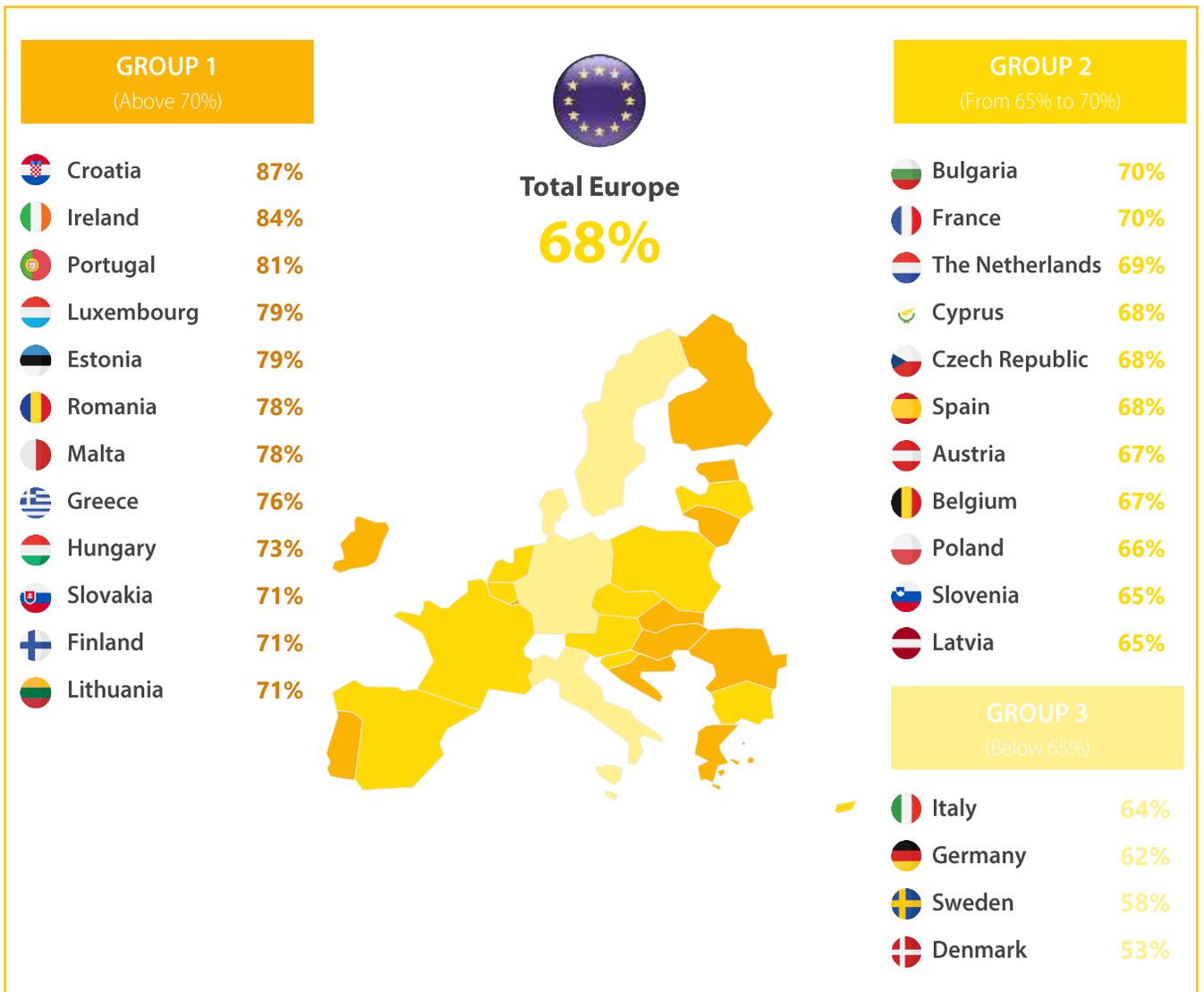
## % ranking increased cost of living as one of the biggest challenges



# Europeans are highly preoccupied with the increased cost of living, with slightly more concern expressed in the eastern regions of the European Union.

Q1. What are the three biggest challenges that people in your country are currently facing?

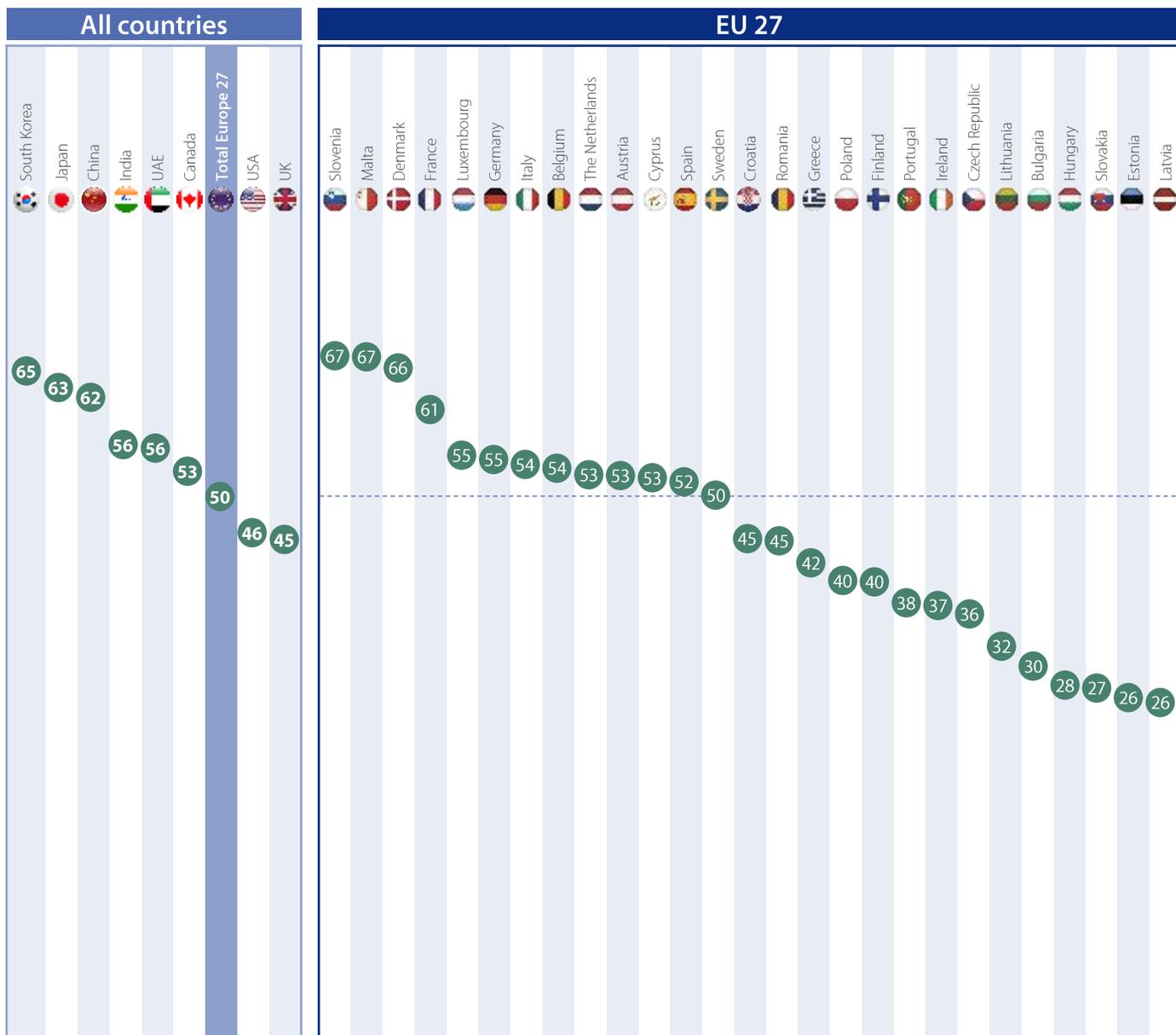
## % ranking increased cost of living as one of the biggest challenges



# The share of citizens ranking climate change and environmental degradation as at top challenges varies significantly across different regions and countries.

Q1. What are the three biggest challenges that people in your country are currently facing?

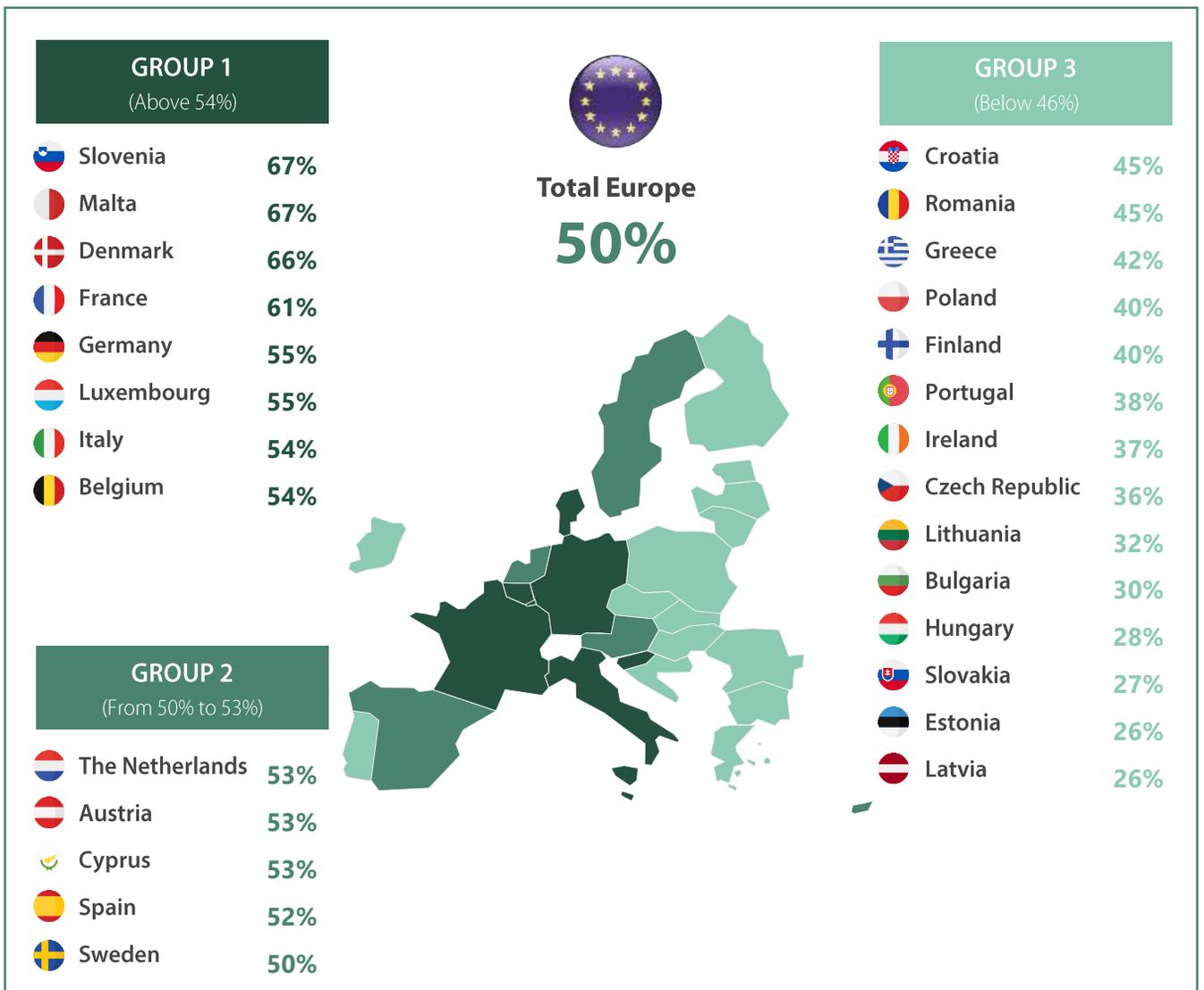
% ranking climate change impacts and environmental degradation as one of the biggest challenges



# Eastern European countries tend to place less emphasis on climate change and environmental issues.

Q1. What are the three biggest challenges that people in your country are currently facing?

% ranking climate change impacts and environmental degradation as one of the biggest challenges



**Historical climate  
change accountability:  
Majority in favour of  
compensations to  
affected nations**

# Most citizens recognize historical climate change accountability and agree that their country should compensate affected nations.

Q17. Your country has emitted a significant amount of CO2 in the past 200 years and is responsible for part of the climate change that is affecting some developing countries today. Do you agree that your country should financially compensate these developing countries to help them fight climate change?

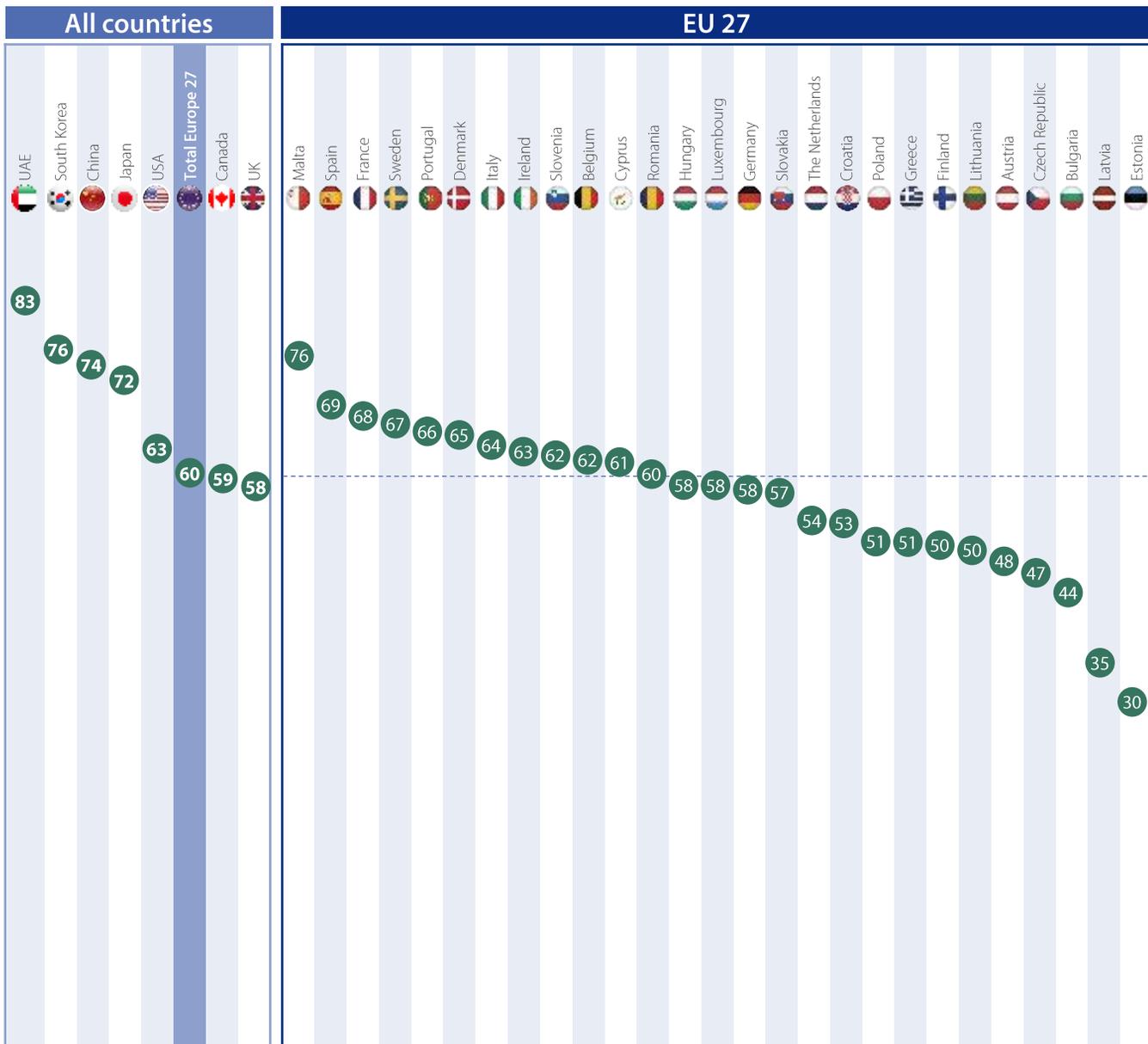
% agree that their country should financially help developing countries fight climate change



# The UAE and Asian countries (South Korea, China, Japan) are most willing to compensate developing countries affected by climate change.

Q17. Your country has emitted a significant amount of CO2 in the past 200 years and is responsible for part of the climate change that is affecting some developing countries today. Do you agree that your country should financially compensate these developing countries to help them fight climate change?

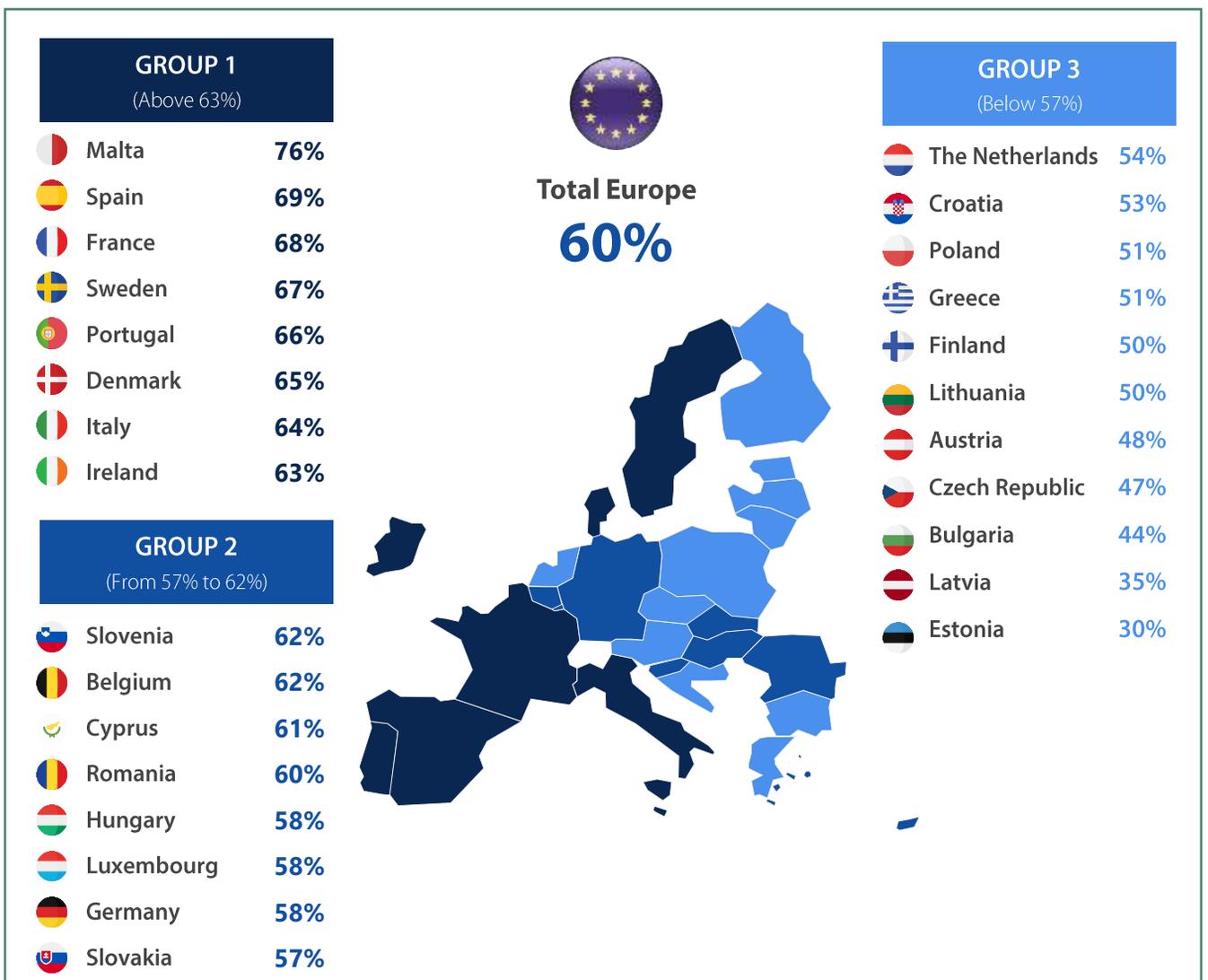
% agree that their country should financially compensate these developing countries to help them fight climate change



# Within the EU, opinions on historical climate change accountabilities are polarized on an East/West axis.

Q17. Your country has emitted a significant amount of CO2 in the past 200 years and is responsible for part of the climate change that is affecting some developing countries today. Do you agree that your country should financially compensate these developing countries to help them fight climate change?

% agree that their country should financially compensate these developing countries to help them fight climate change



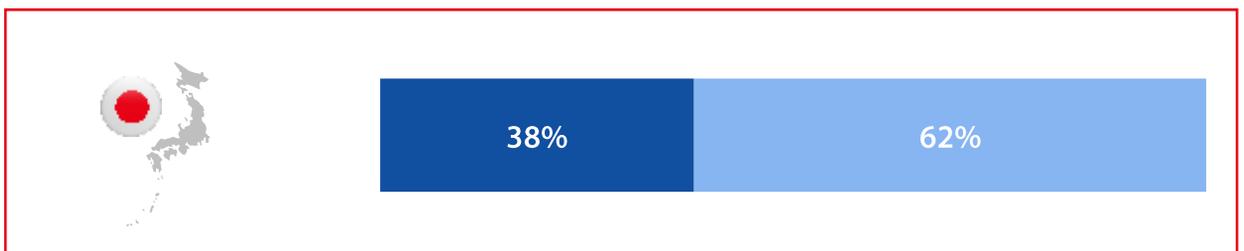
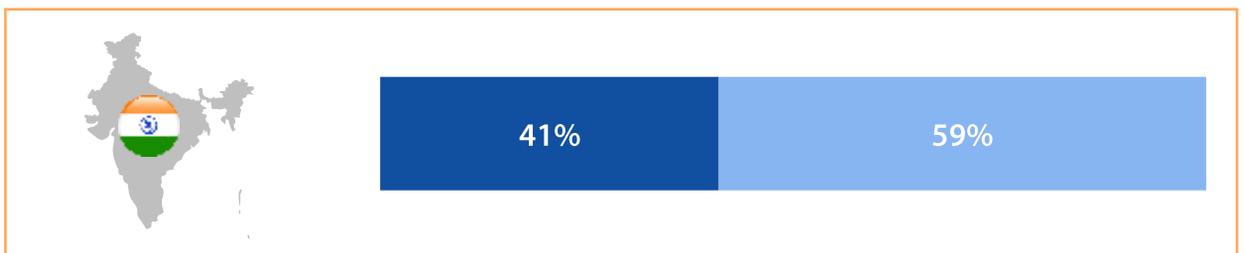
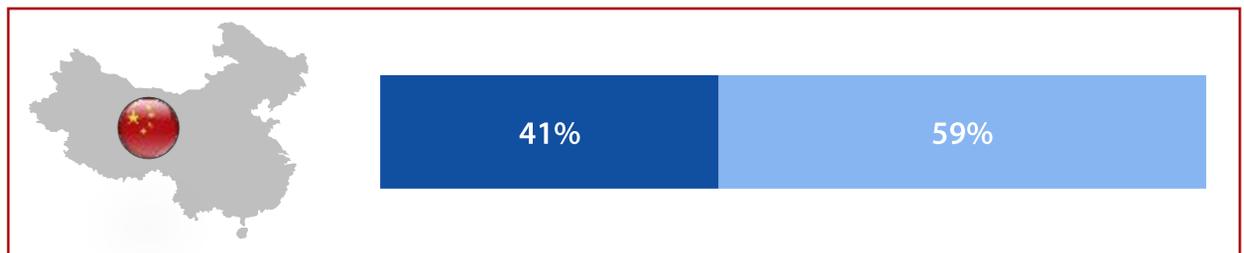
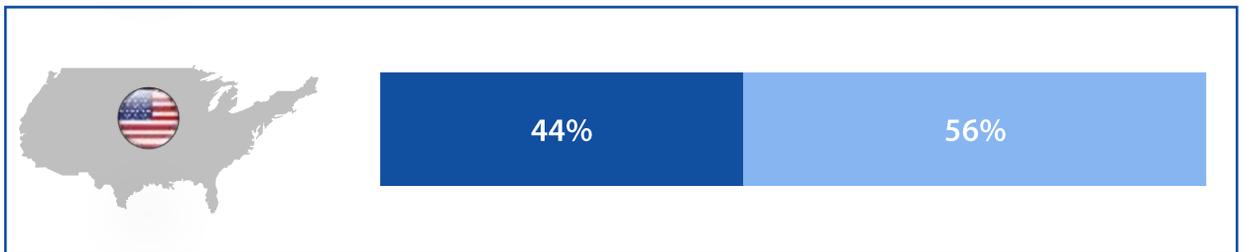
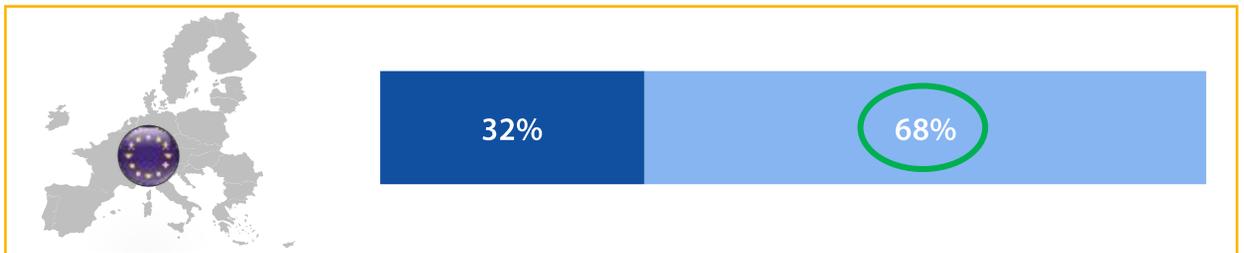
**Despite strong  
economical challenges,  
there is no opposition  
between social equity  
and environmental  
policies**

# Across all major economies, most citizens believe that addressing at the same time inequalities is necessary for a successful transition to a low-carbon economy.

Q14. Would you say that...

The transition to a low carbon economy must happen even if that means that inequalities will rise

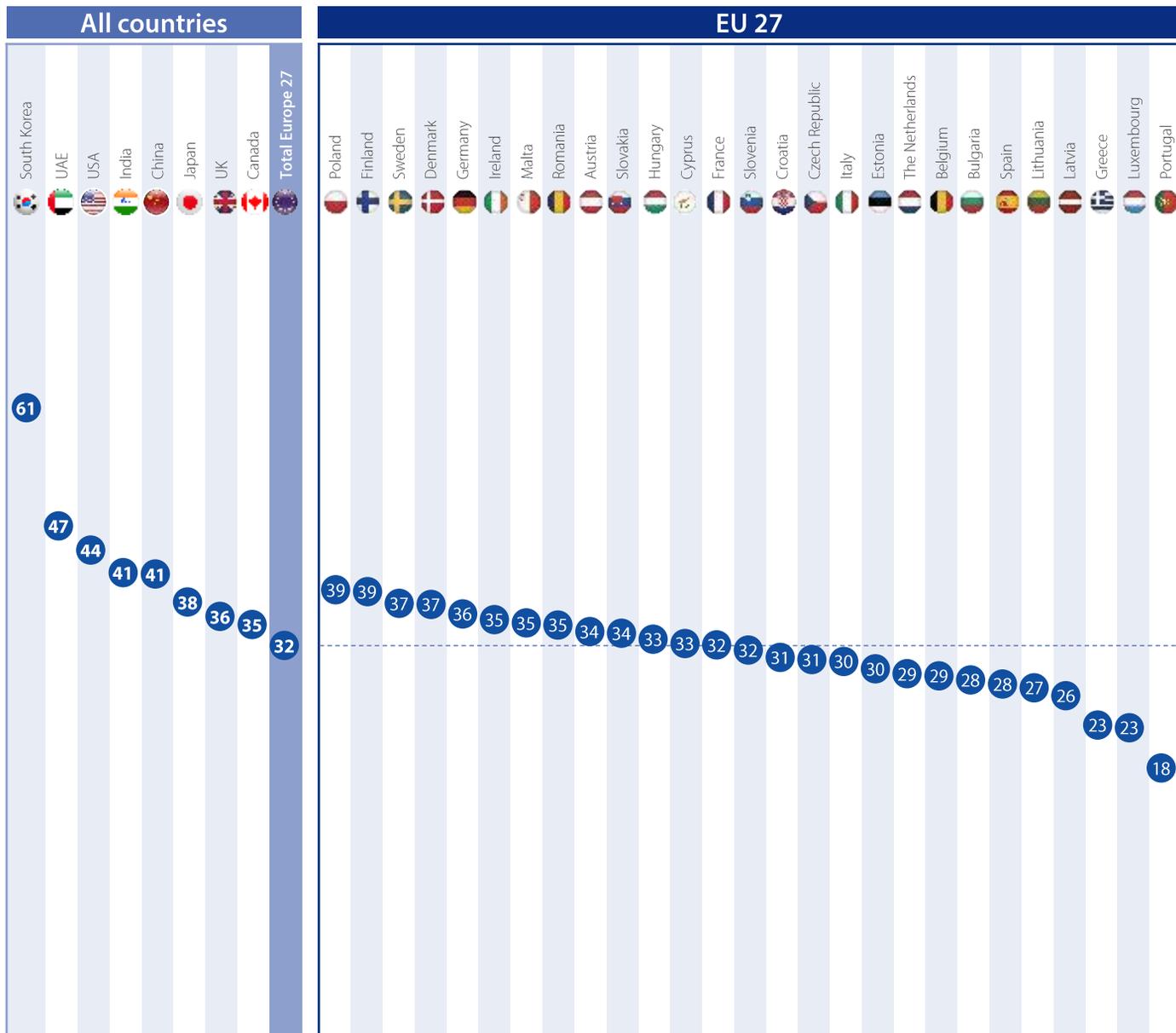
The transition to a low carbon economy can only happen if inequalities are addressed at the same time



# In all the surveyed countries, except for South Korea, only a minority of citizens support the idea that the transition to a low-carbon economy should come even if that means rising inequalities.

Q14. Would you say that...

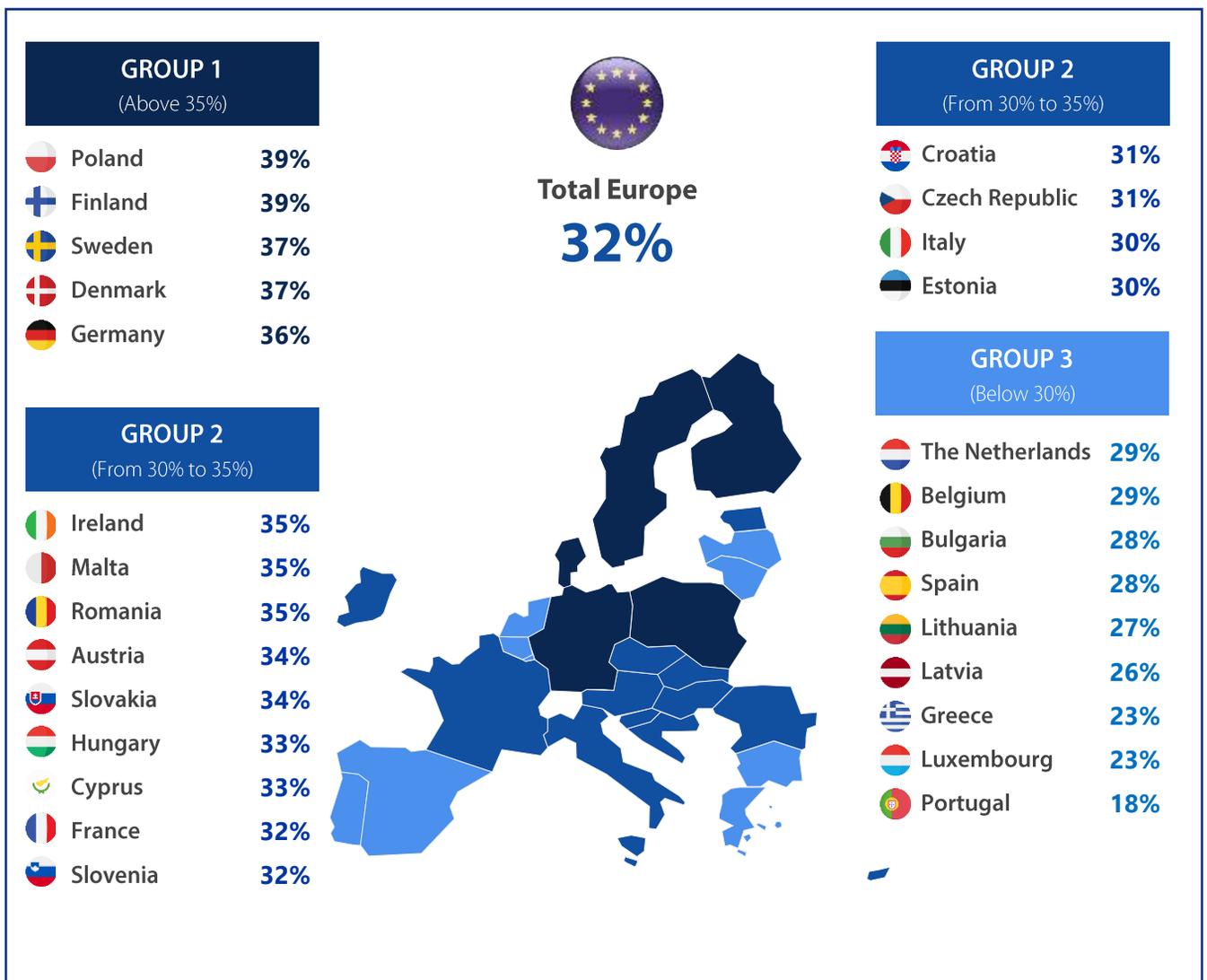
% Thinking that the transition to a low carbon economy must happen even if that means that inequalities will rise



# Fewer than one-third of Europeans think that the shift to a low-carbon economy outweighs the potential increase in inequalities.

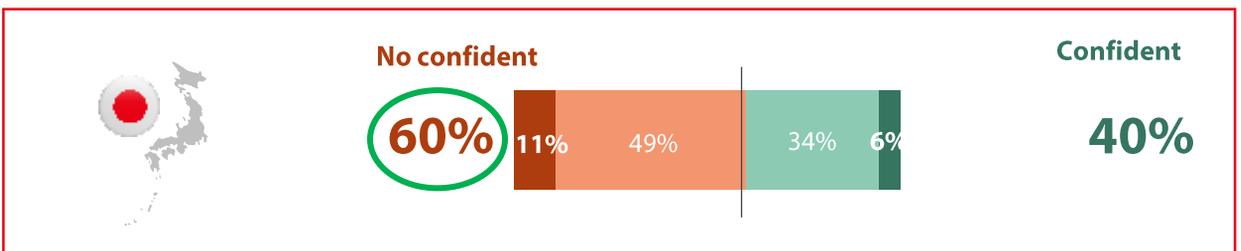
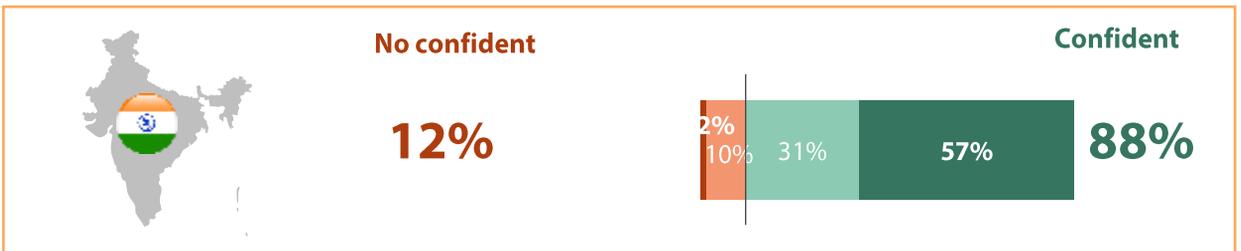
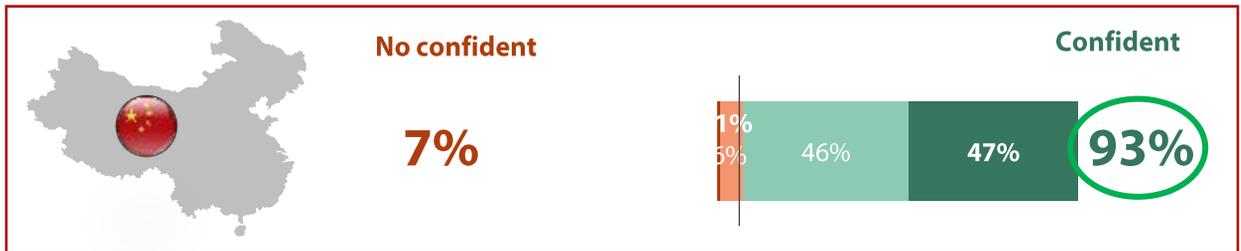
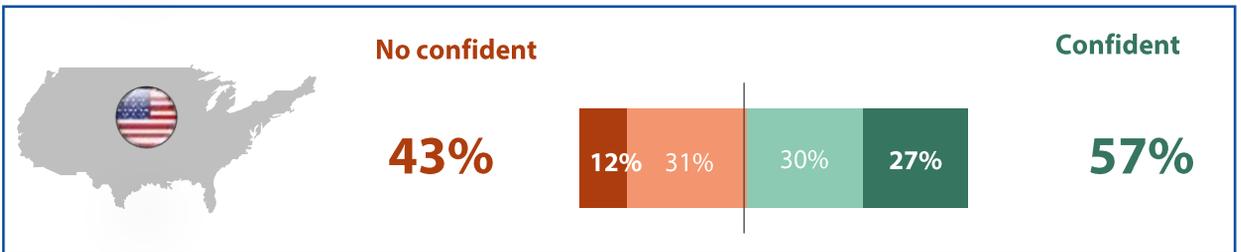
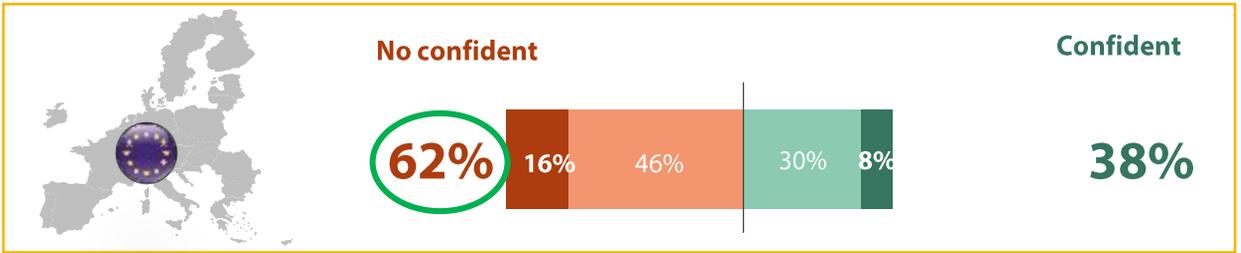
Q14. Would you say that...

% thinking that the transition to a low carbon economy must happen even if that means that inequalities will rise



# The level of confidence in fair climate change policies varies significantly across major economies, with Europeans and Japanese's being the most skeptical on this issue.

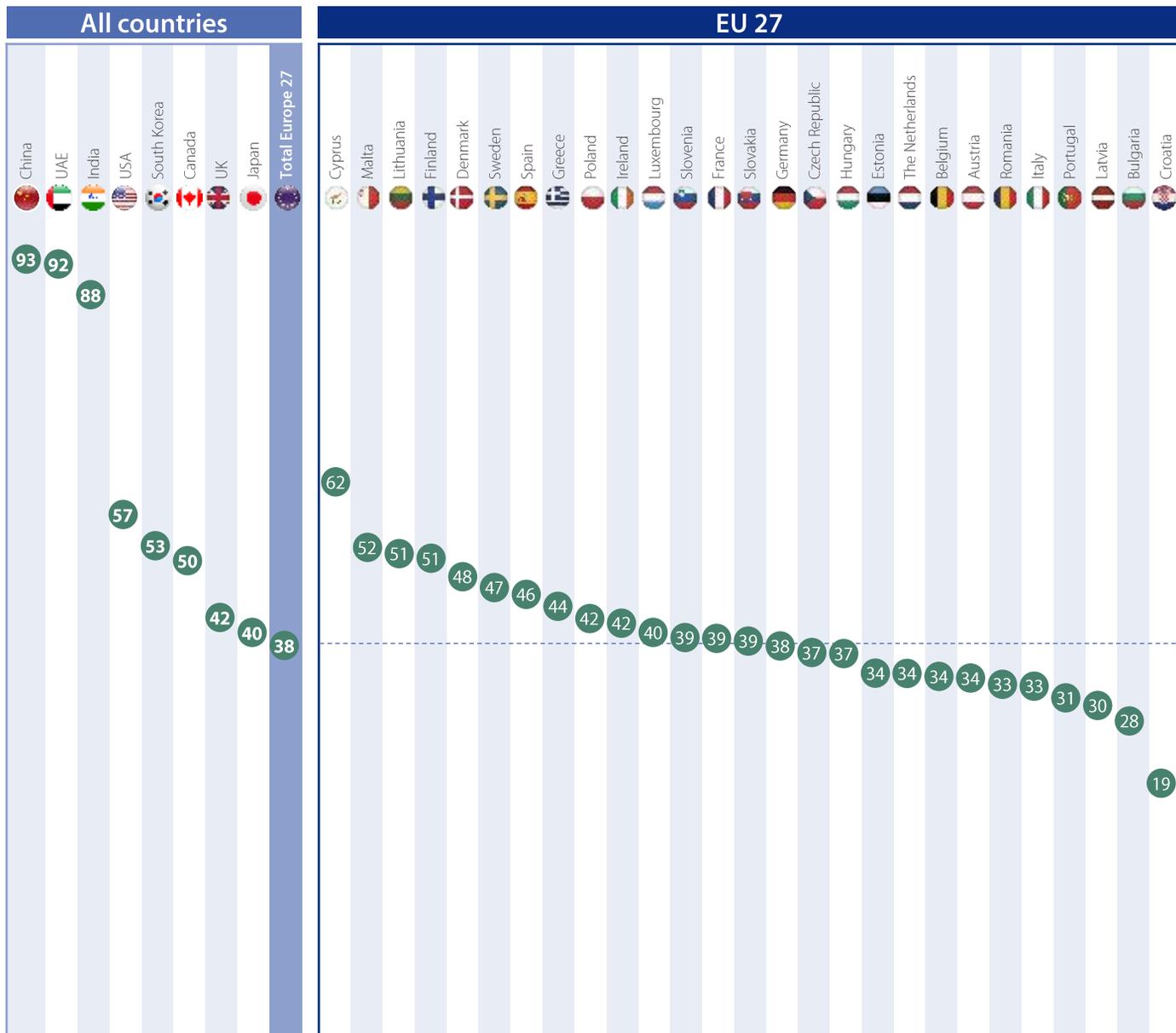
Q16. How confident are you in your country's ability to adopt climate change policies that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address social inequalities?



# Citizens are divided on whether their countries can effectively address both social inequalities and climate change simultaneously.

Q16. How confident are you in your country's ability to adopt climate change policies that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address social inequalities?

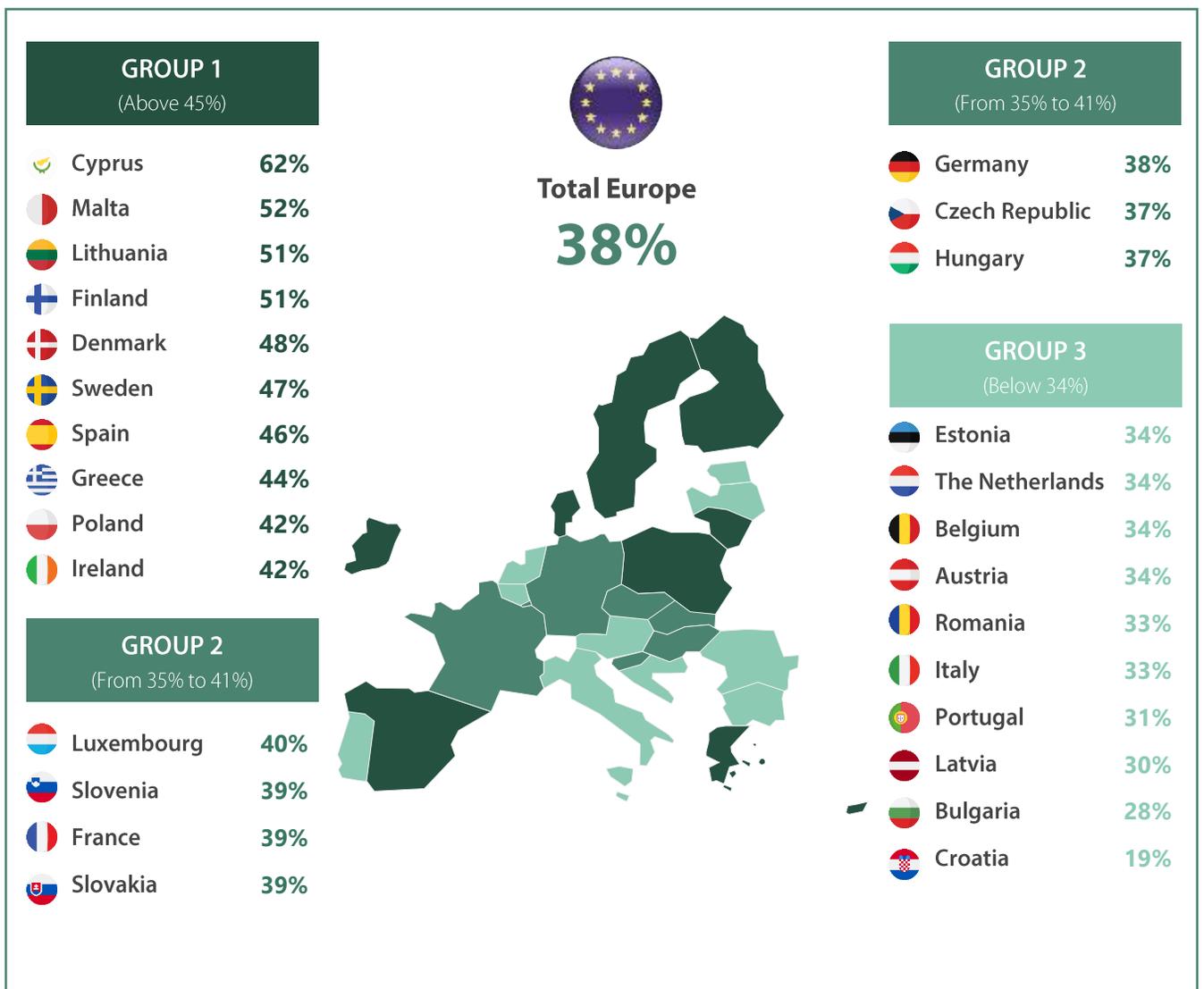
% confident in their country's ability to adopt climate change policies that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address social inequalities



# Cyprus, Malta, Lithuania and Finland are the only European countries where a slim majority of citizens trust that climate change and social justice can be addressed simultaneously.

Q16. How confident are you in your country's ability to adopt climate change policies that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address social inequalities?

% confident in their country's ability to adopt climate change policies that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address social inequalities



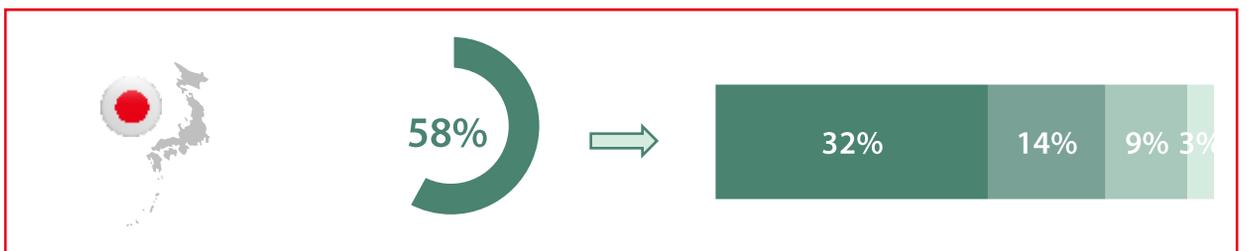
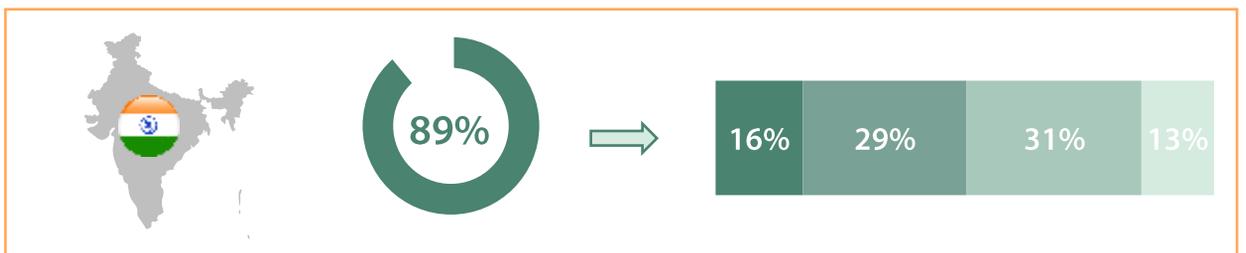
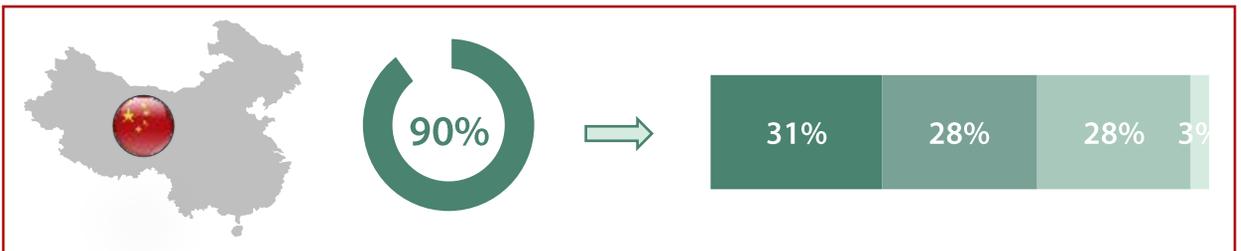
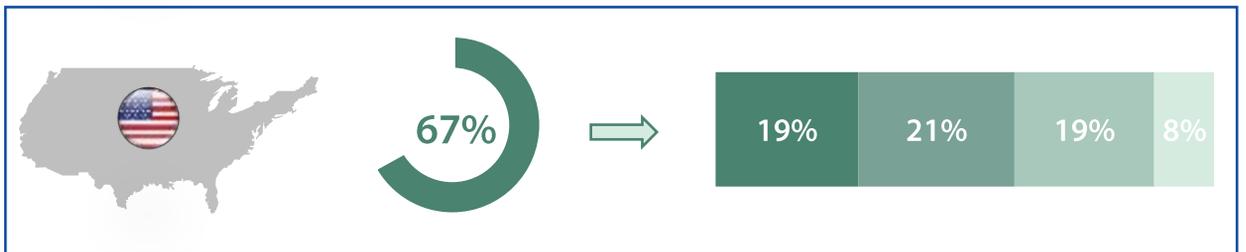
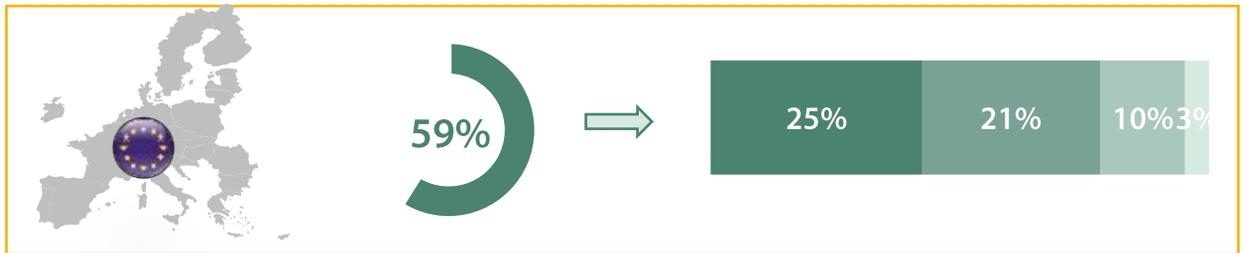
**Strong support for  
financial policies aimed  
at reducing inequality**

# Most citizens in major economies would agree to allocate a share of their income to finance fair climate policies, especially in China and India.

Q20. How much extra taxes on your yearly income would you be willing to pay to finance climate policies that benefit people with lower income than yourself?

Agree to pay a tax to finance climate policies

Additional share of their income they would be willing to allocate to this tax

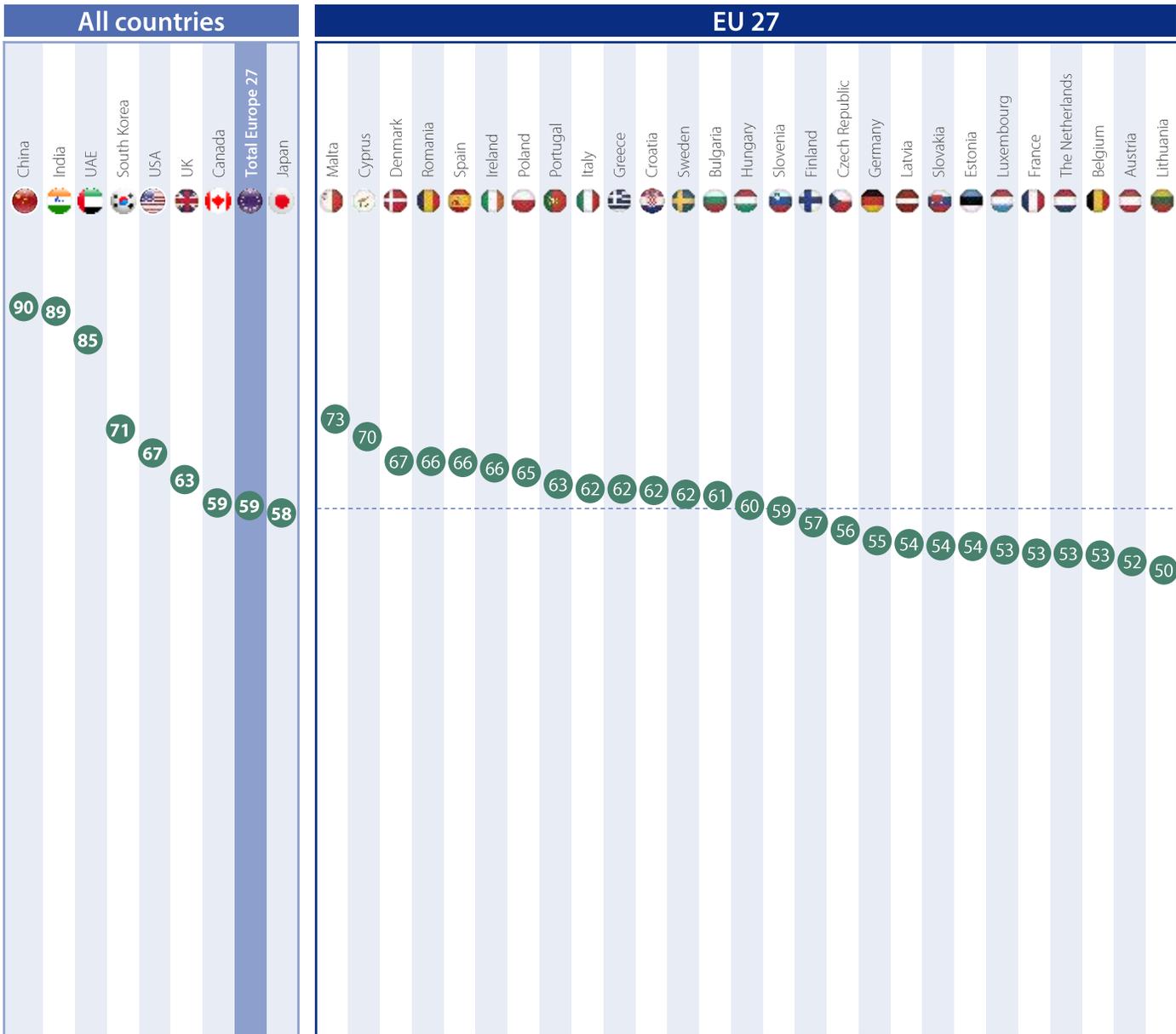


■ 1% ■ 2% ■ 5% ■ 10%

# At least half of citizens in all countries surveyed are open to contribute to fair climate change policies through additional taxes on their income.

Q20. How much extra taxes on your yearly income would you be willing to pay to finance climate policies that benefit people with lower income than yourself?

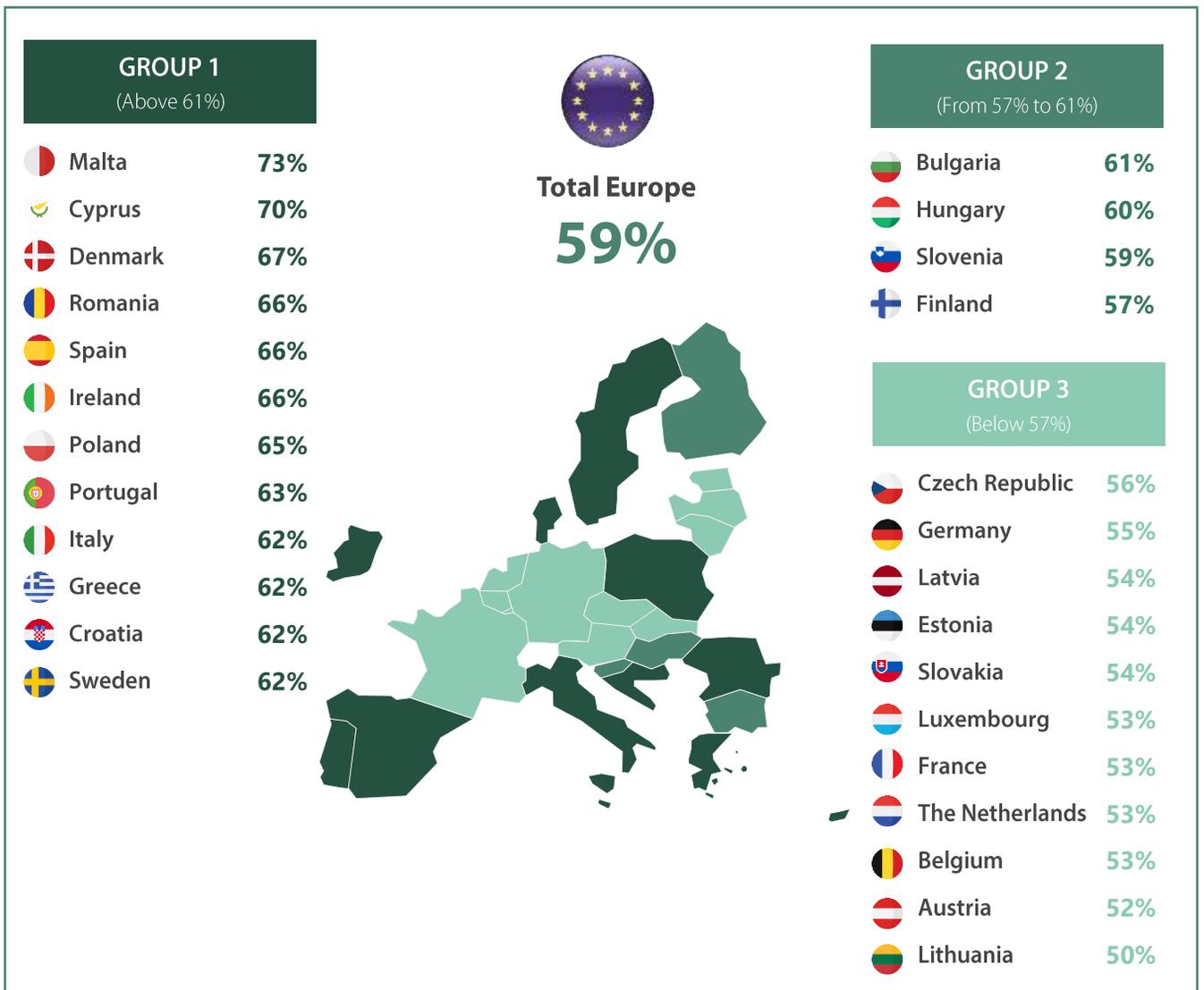
% agree to pay extra taxes to finance climate policies that benefit people with lower income than themselves



# Most EU citizens are willing to allocate a portion of their income towards financing climate change policies.

Q20. How much extra taxes on your yearly income would you be willing to pay to finance climate policies that benefit people with lower income than yourself?

% agree to pay extra taxes to finance climate policies that benefit people with lower income than themselves



## Next Question

**Q21. To promote social equity while addressing the climate emergency, some suggest implementing the following new taxation methods. Would you agree with these?**

**a. A progressive tax on carbon emissions:** This means that people who earn more would pay a higher tax rate when they buy things like petrol, to help fight climate change. People who earn less would pay a lower tax rate. The goal is to make sure that everyone pays their fair share to address the climate crisis.

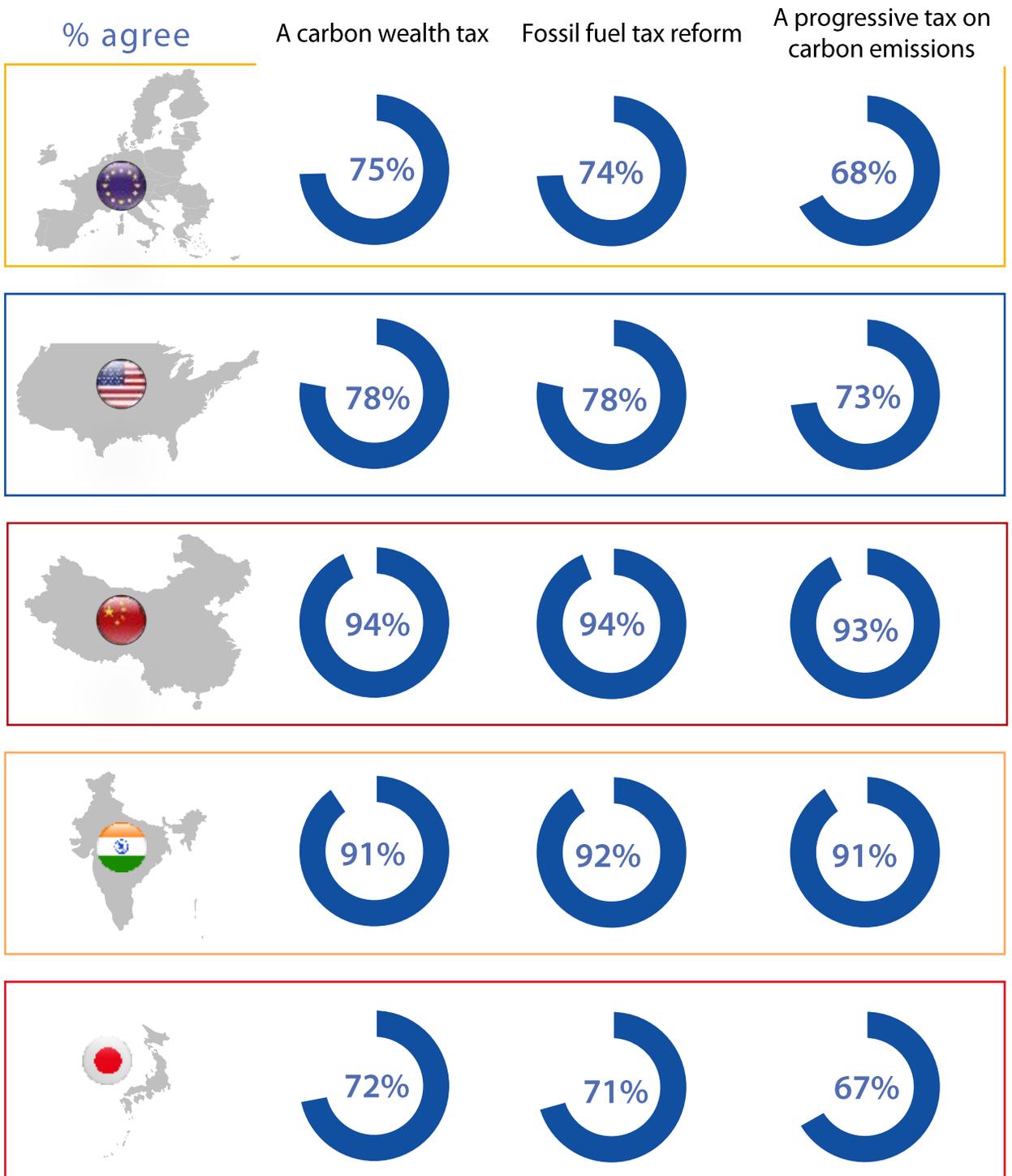
**b. A carbon wealth tax:** This would mean that the more people or companies earn from activities that harm the environment, like extracting or using fossil fuels, the higher their taxes on those earnings. The goal is to create incentives to reduce harmful activities and fund efforts to address the climate emergency.

**c. Fossil fuel tax reform:** This involves eliminating subsidies and tax breaks for companies that use fossil fuels and air transport. This additional public money would be used to subsidise renewable energy and clean technologies to fight climate change. The goal is to ensure that public funds are used fairly to address the climate crisis.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

# New taxations methods to promote social equity while fighting climate change are welcomed positively by most citizens in major economies.

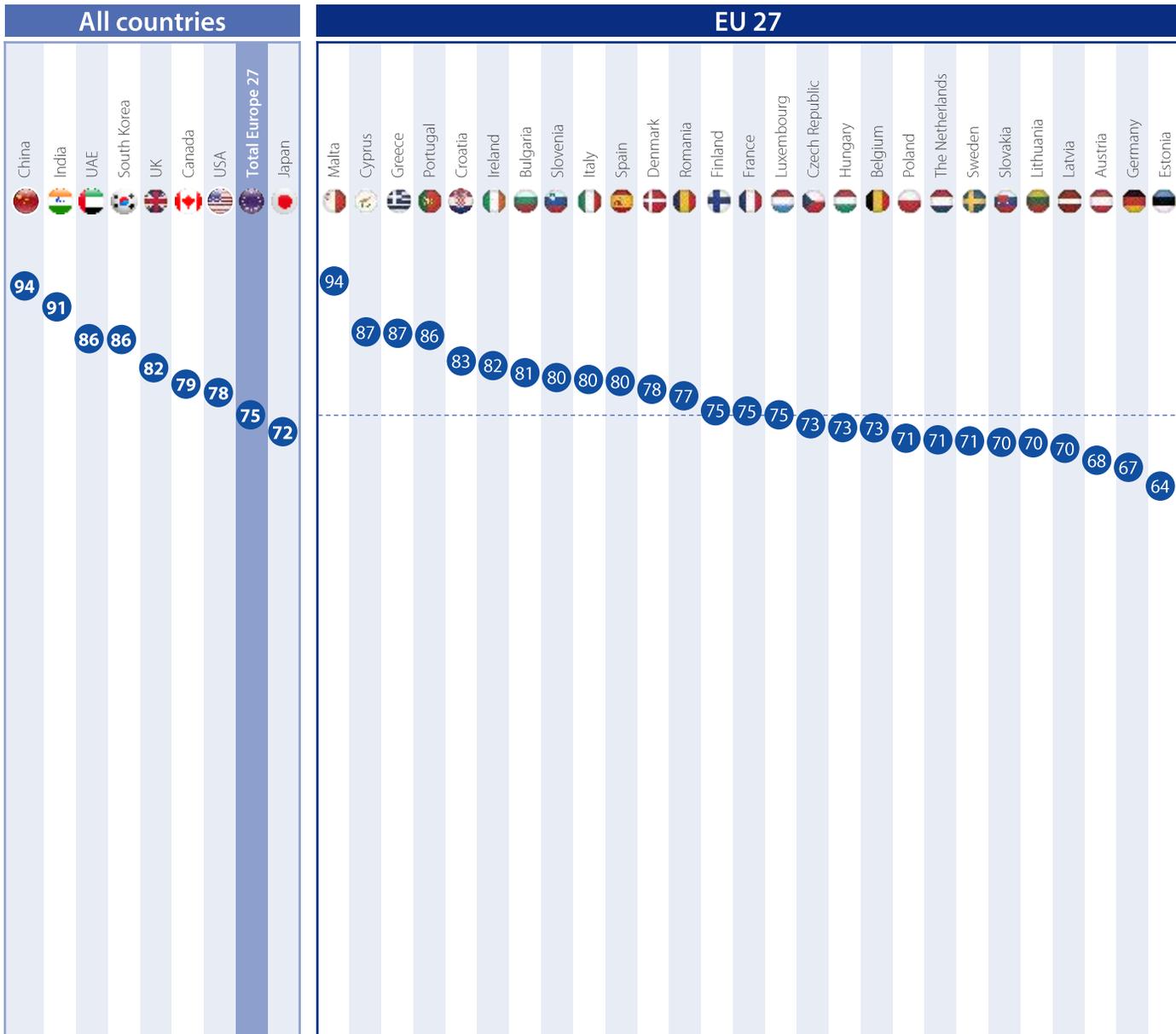
Q21. To promote social equity while addressing the climate emergency, some suggest implementing the following new taxation methods. Would you agree with these?



# In Asian countries and the UAE, as well as in some Southern European countries, the introduction of a carbon wealth tax is strongly supported by citizens.

Q21. To promote social equity while addressing the climate emergency, some suggest implementing the following new taxation methods. Would you agree with these?

## % agree to implement a carbon wealth tax

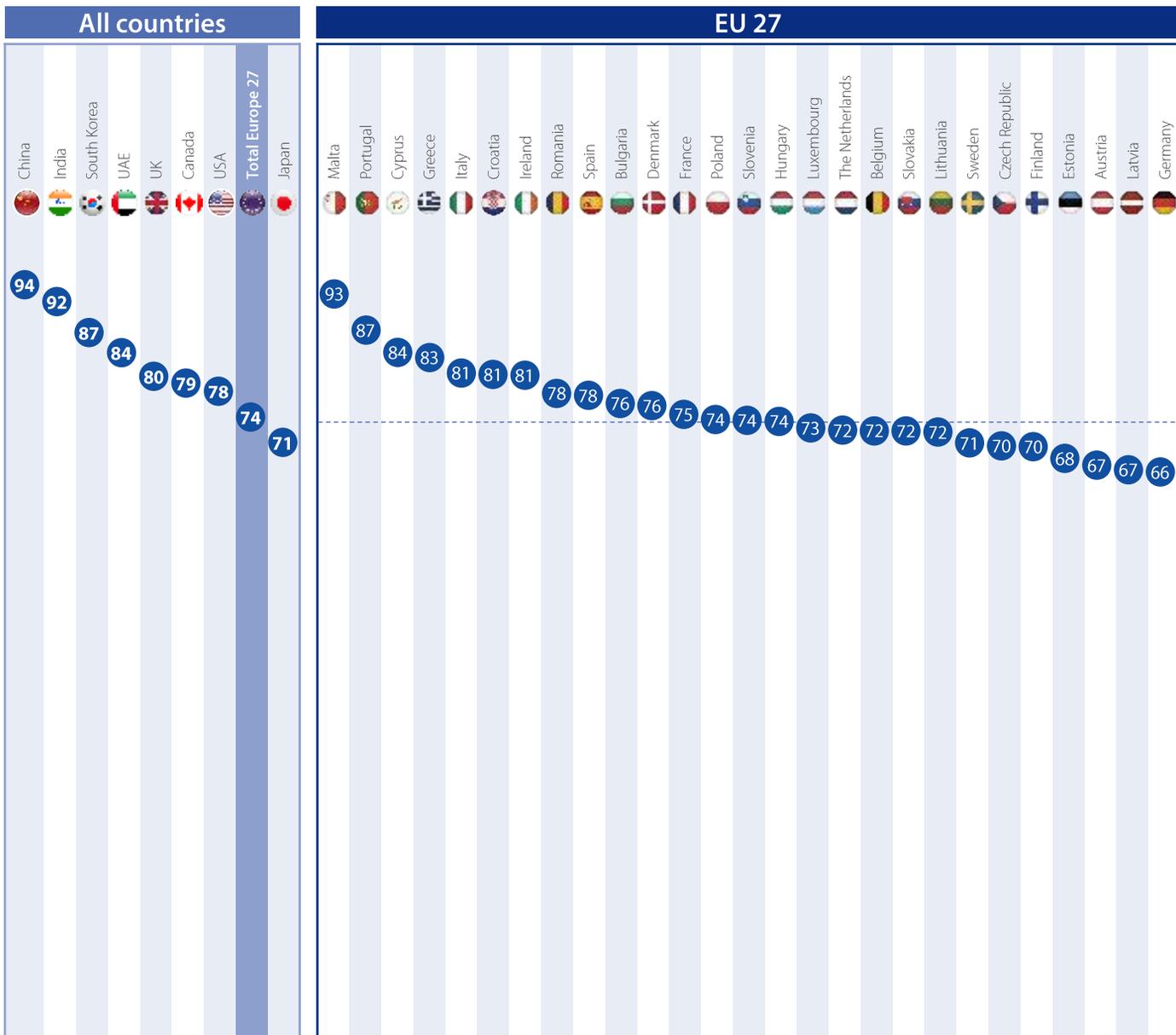


This would mean that the more people or companies earn from activities that harm the environment, like extracting or using fossil fuels, the higher their taxes on those earnings. The goal is to create incentives to reduce harmful activities and fund efforts to address the climate emergency.

# Over two-thirds of citizens in all countries surveyed agree that subsidies and tax breaks should be eliminated for companies that use fossil fuels and air transport.

Q21. To promote social equity while addressing the climate emergency, some suggest implementing the following new taxation methods. Would you agree with these?

## % agree to implement a fossil fuel tax reform



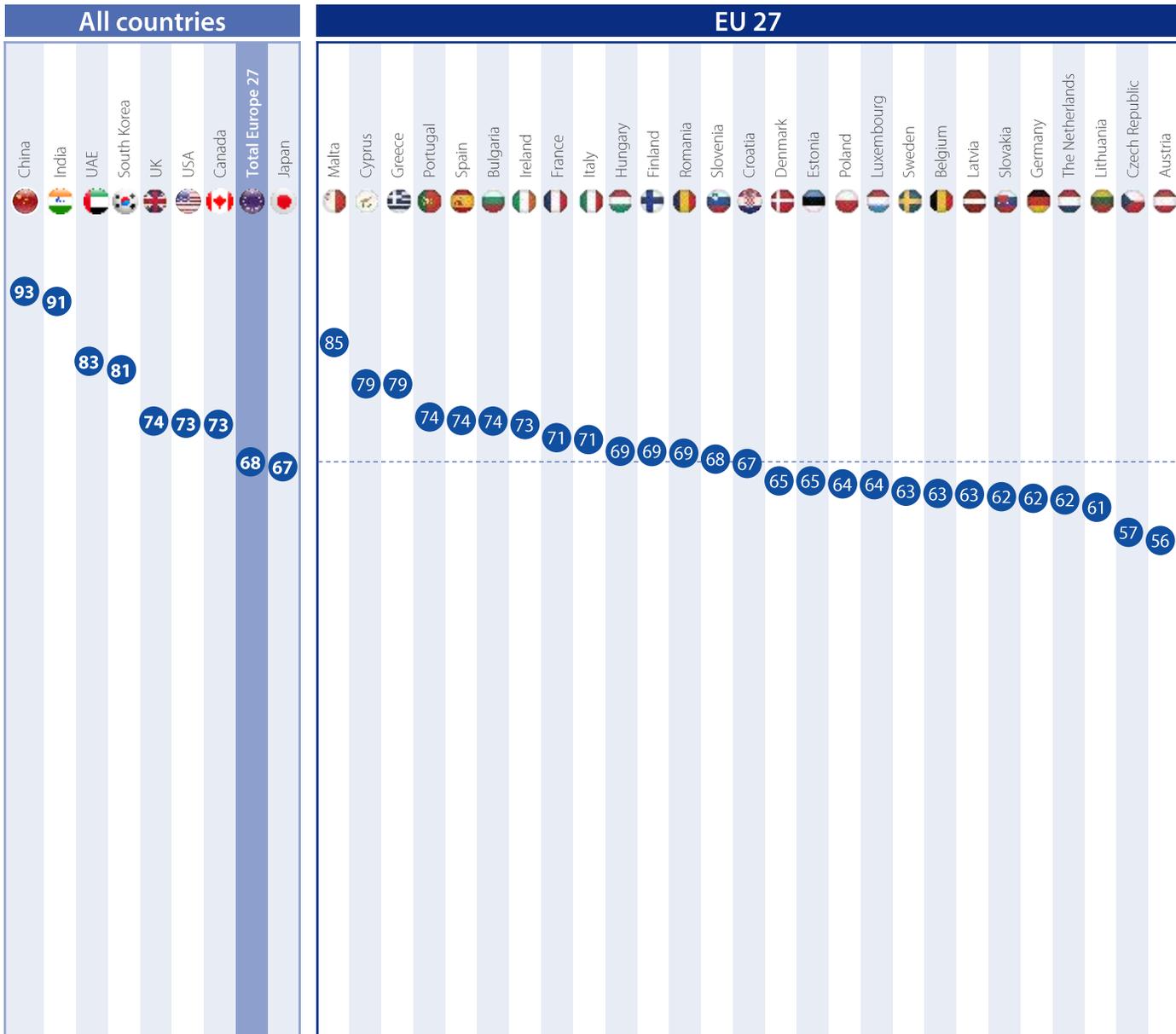
This involves eliminating subsidies and tax breaks for companies that use fossil fuels and air transport.

31 This additional public money would be used to subsidise renewable energy and clean technologies to fight climate change. The goal is to ensure that public funds are used fairly to address the climate crisis.

# Among the three proposed taxes, the progressive tax on carbon emissions receives slightly less support, particularly in the EU and Japan.

Q21. To promote social equity while addressing the climate emergency, some suggest implementing the following new taxation methods. Would you agree with these?

## % agree to implement a progressive tax on carbon emissions



This means that people who earn more would pay a higher tax rate when they buy things like petrol, to help fight climate change. People who earn less would pay a lower tax rate. The goal is to make sure that everyone pays their fair share to address the climate crisis.

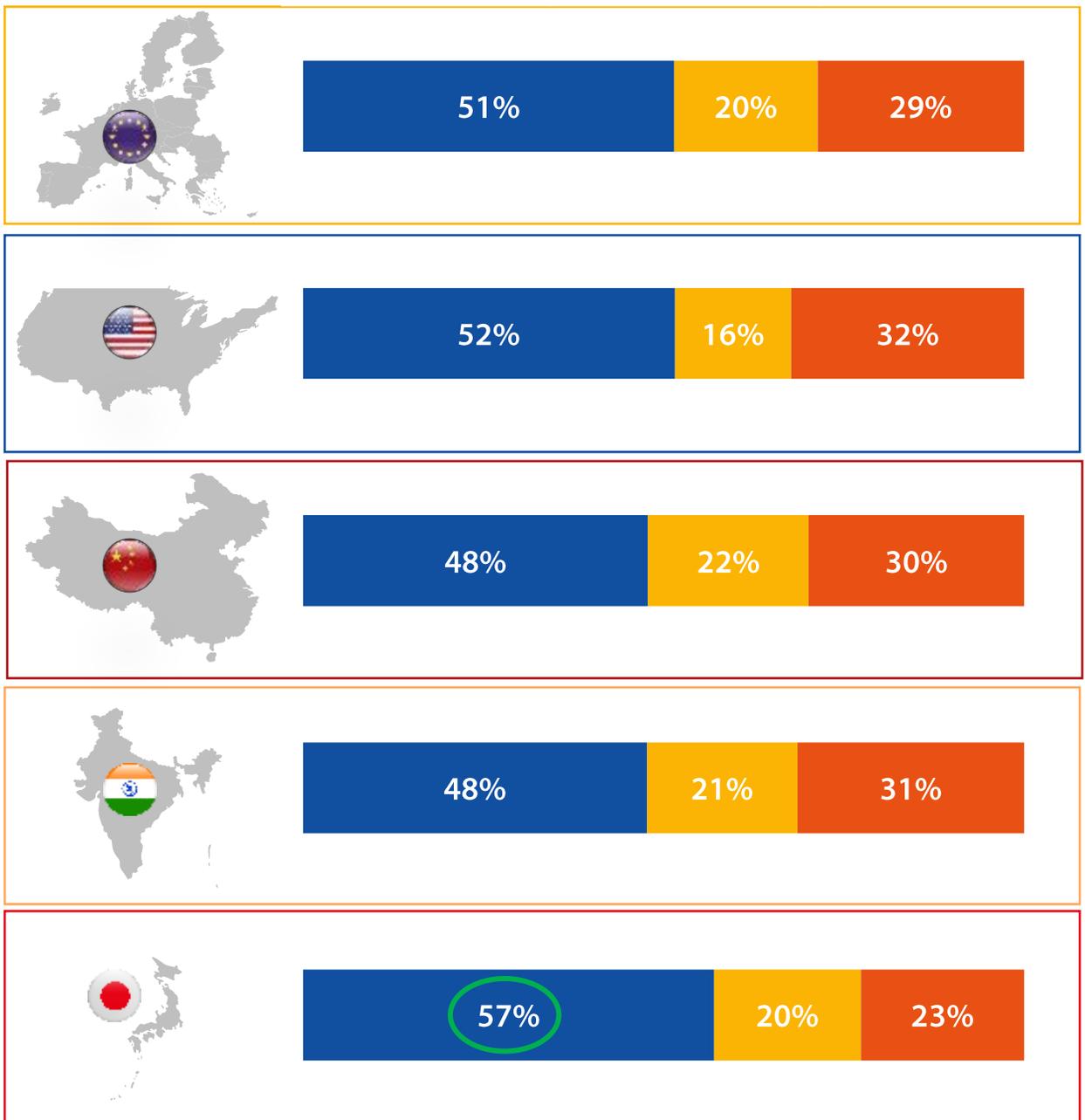
# In major economies, citizens mostly agree that governments should subsidize and support the phasing out of fossil fuels to limit job losses.

Q18. Phasing out fossil fuels (like oil, gas and coal) means that millions of jobs in the coal, gas, automotive and, oil industry will disappear. How do you think this issue should be addressed?

Governments should subsidise and support training that enables workers in these industries to change careers

Nothing specific should be done, green industries will create new jobs and absorb the losses of the transition

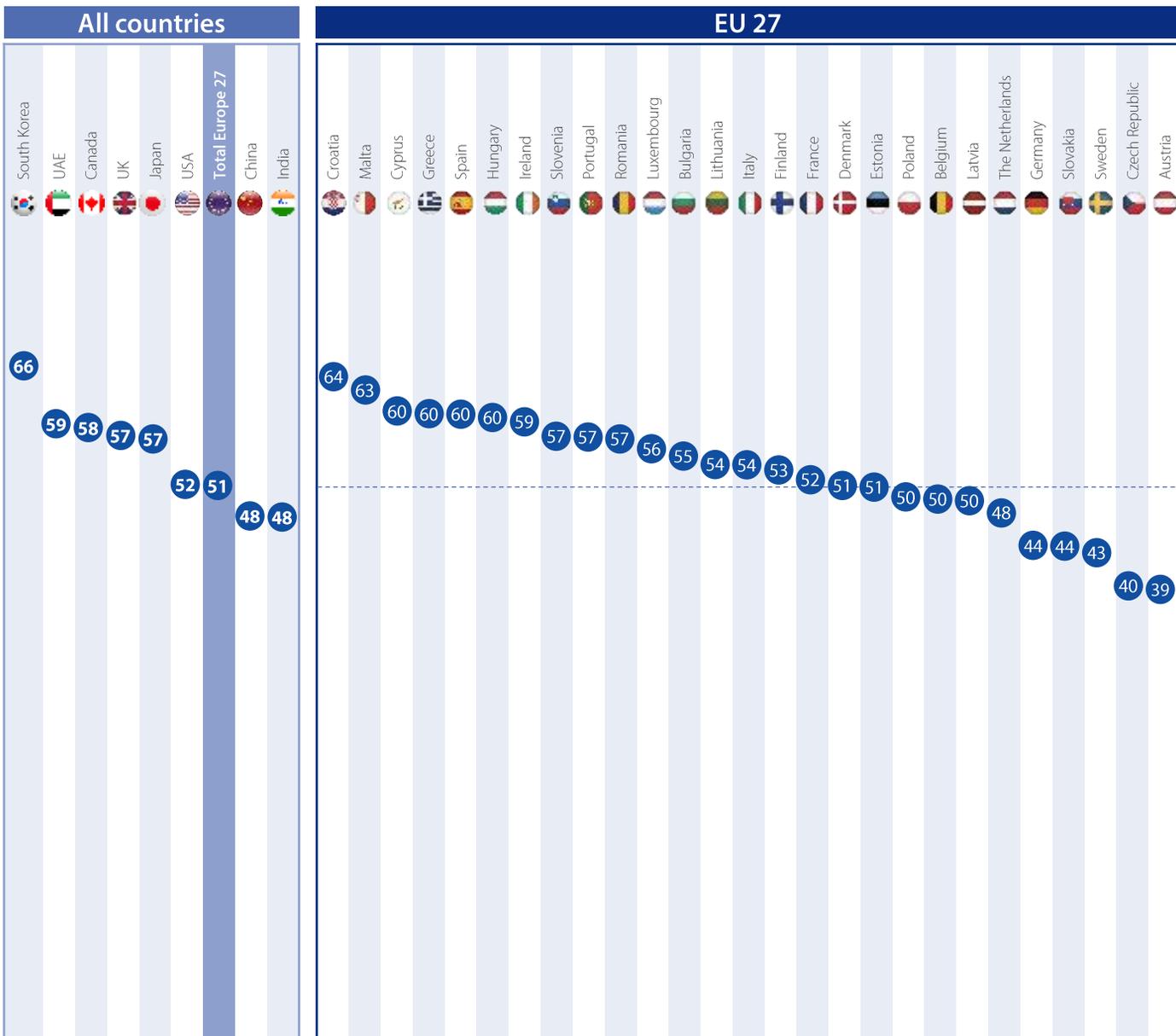
Governments should not phase out fossil fuels because this may push people into poverty and cost jobs, in both developing and industrialised countries



# In some Central European countries, incl. Austria and the Czech Republic, only a minority of citizens support the notion of subsidizing the phase-out of fossil fuels.

Q18. Phasing out fossil fuels (like oil, gas and coal) means that millions of jobs in the coal, gas, automotive and, oil industry will disappear. How do you think this issue should be addressed?

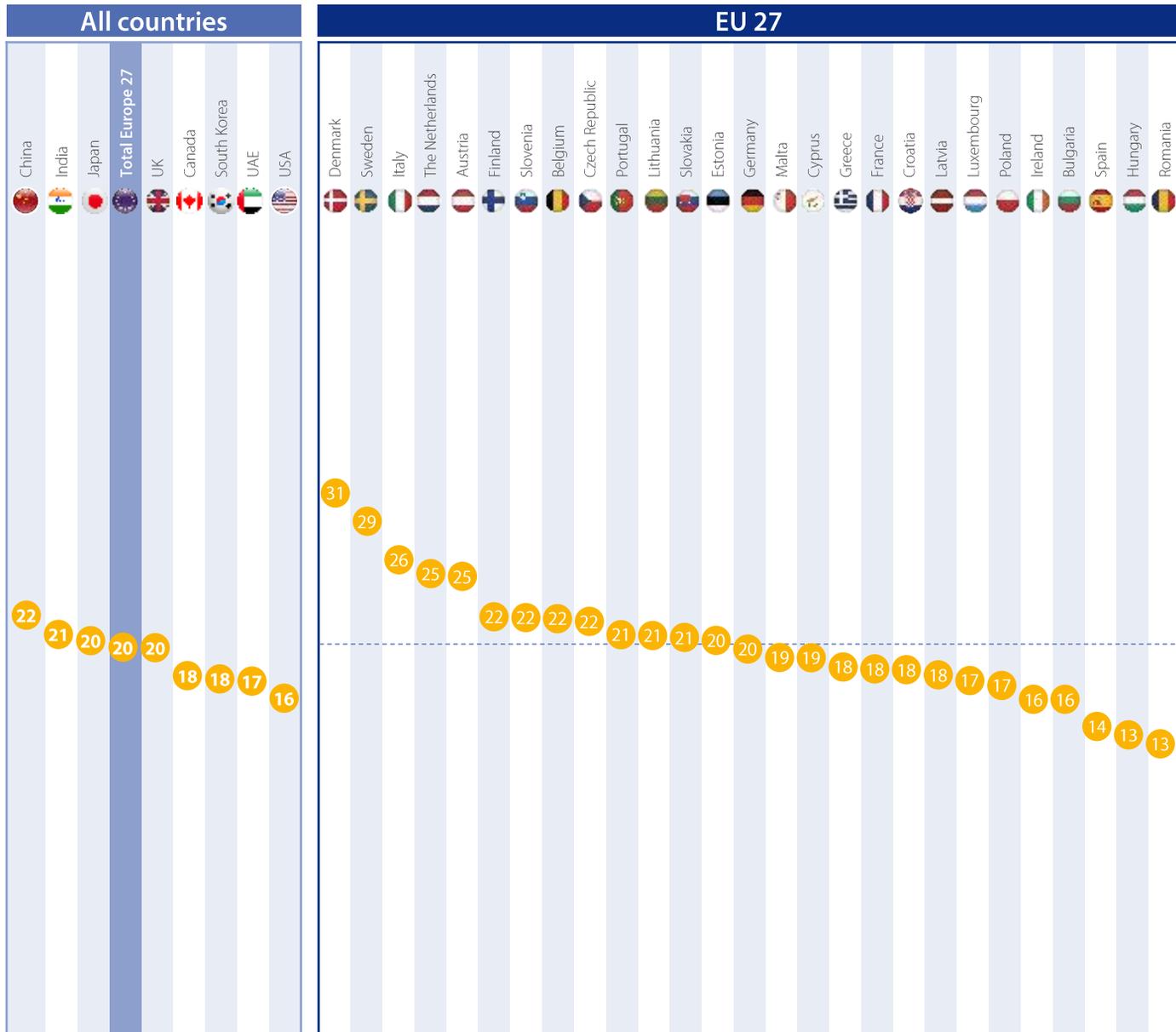
**% thinking that governments should subsidise and support training that enables workers in these industries to change careers**



# Fewer than one-third of citizens in the surveyed countries believe that the development of green industries will naturally offset the negative effects of phasing out fossil fuels.

Q18. Phasing out fossil fuels (like oil, gas and coal) means that millions of jobs in the coal, gas, automotive and, oil industry will disappear. How do you think this issue should be addressed?

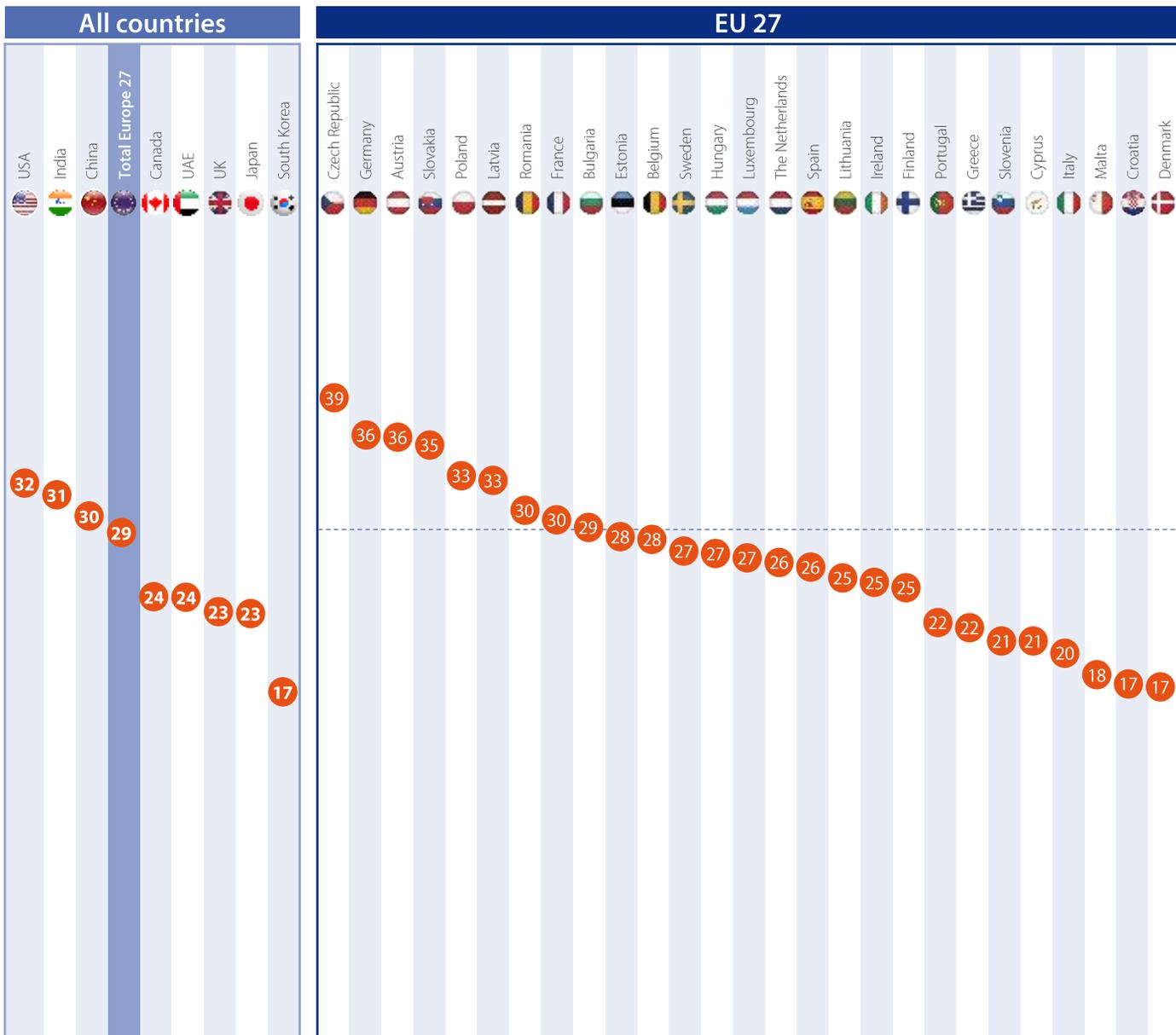
**% thinking that nothing specific should be done, green industries will create new jobs and absorb the losses of the transition**



# A significant minority in the USA, India, China as well as in Central European countries believe that their governments should not phase out fossil fuels.

Q18. Phasing out fossil fuels (like oil, gas and coal) means that millions of jobs in the coal, gas, automotive and, oil industry will disappear. How do you think this issue should be addressed?

**% thinking that governments should not phase out fossil fuels because this may push people into poverty and cost jobs, in both developing and industrialised countries**



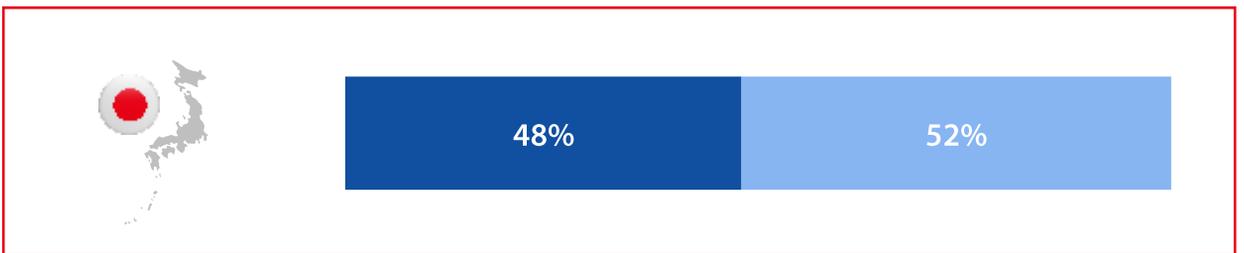
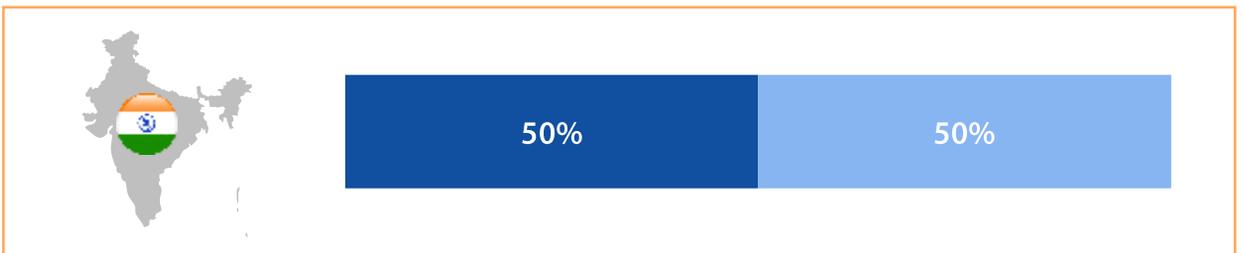
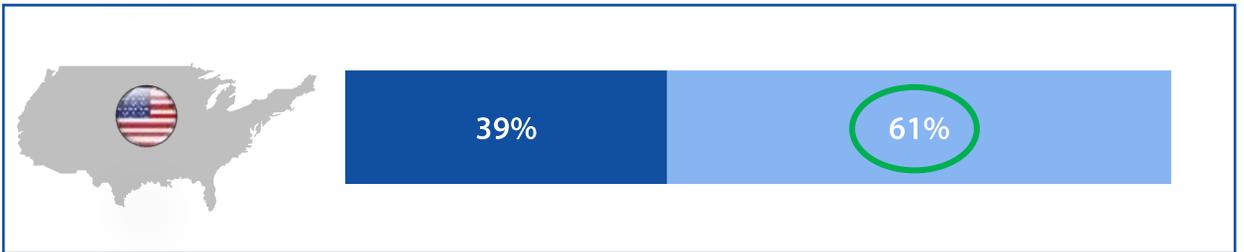
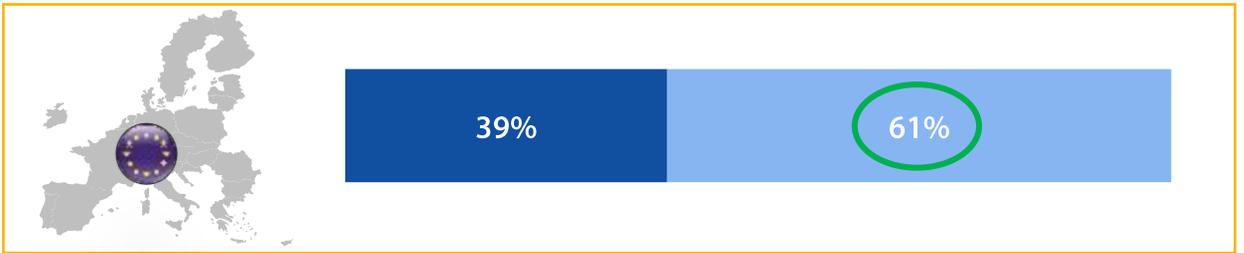
**But fears that these  
policies will affect their  
personal resources**

# Europeans and Americans citizens do not believe that climate change policies should impact their finances, while most Chinese hold the opposite view.

Q14. Would you say that...

Your government should address climate change even if it affects your personal budget

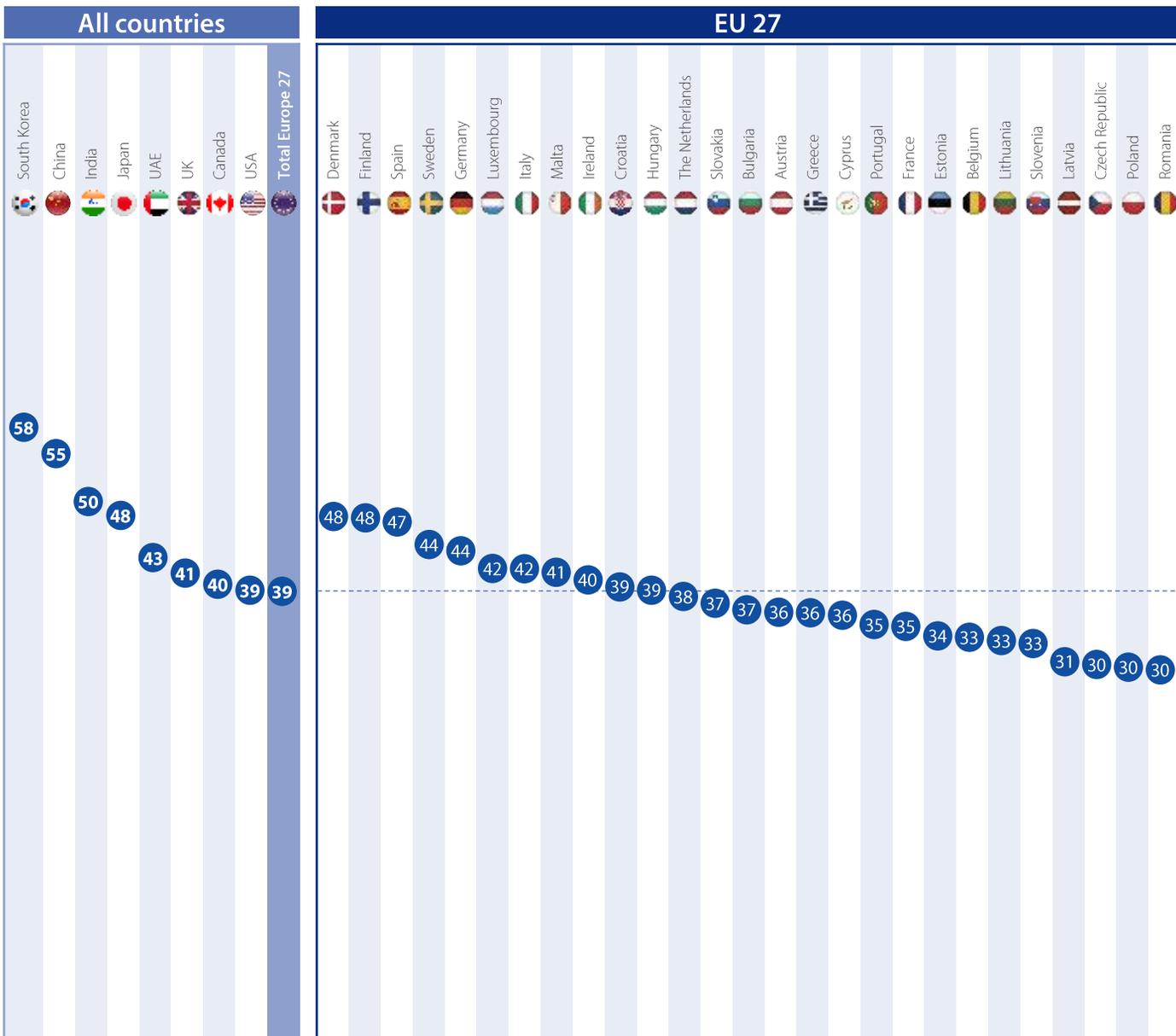
Your government should address climate change without affecting your personal budget



# Countries like South Korea, China, and India, where concerns about rising living costs are less prominent, tend to accept that fighting climate change could impact personal budgets.

Q14. Would you say that...

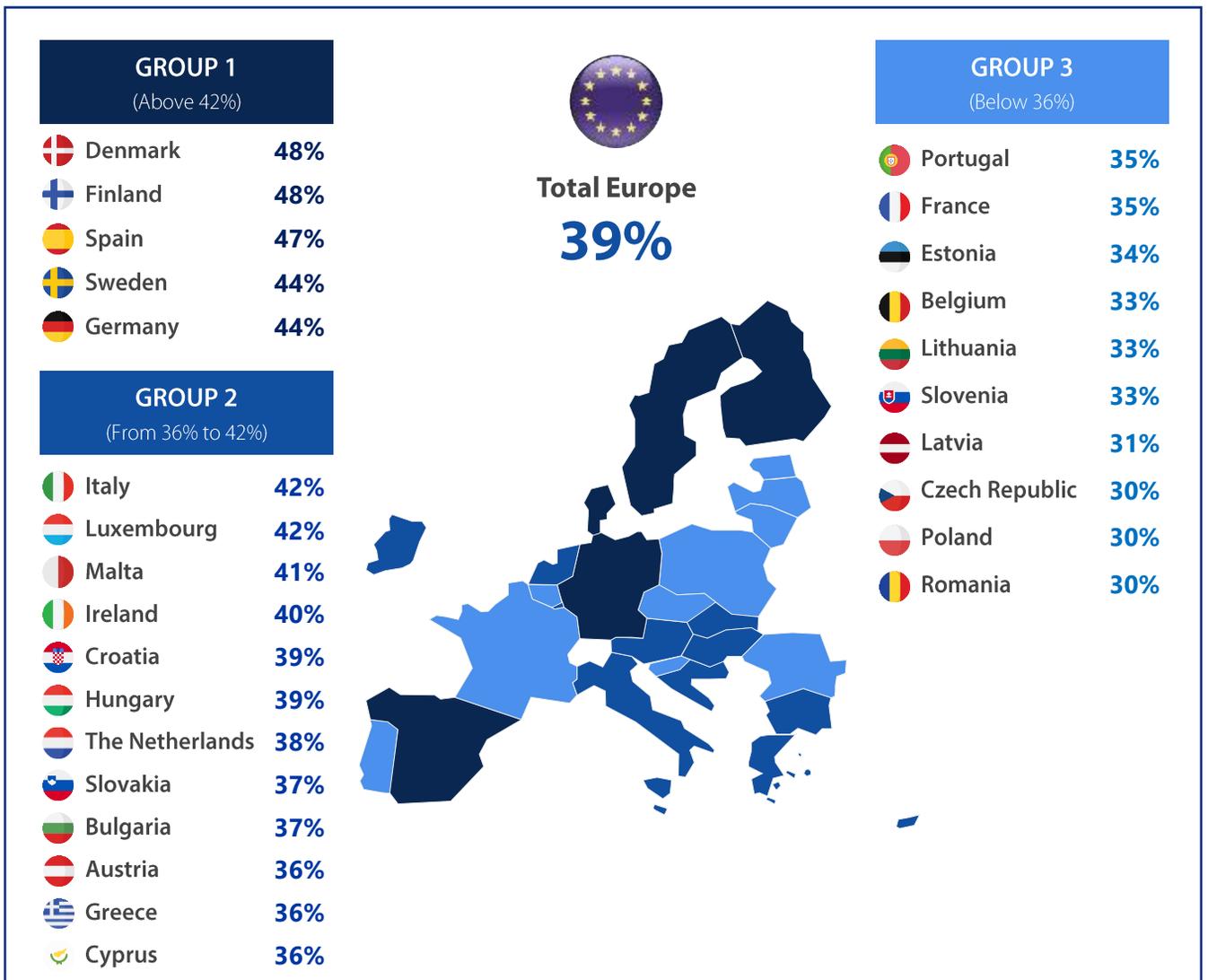
% thinking their government should address climate change even if it affects their personal budget



# Eastern European countries are generally less willing to accept the idea of their governments addressing climate change at their own expense.

Q14. Would you say that...

% thinking their government should address climate change even if it affects their personal budget



# A large majority of citizens anticipate that they will need financial support in order to transition to a low-carbon economy, especially in India.

Q19. Do you believe that you personally need financial support to go through the transition to a low-carbon economy, considering your own financial situation and privileges?

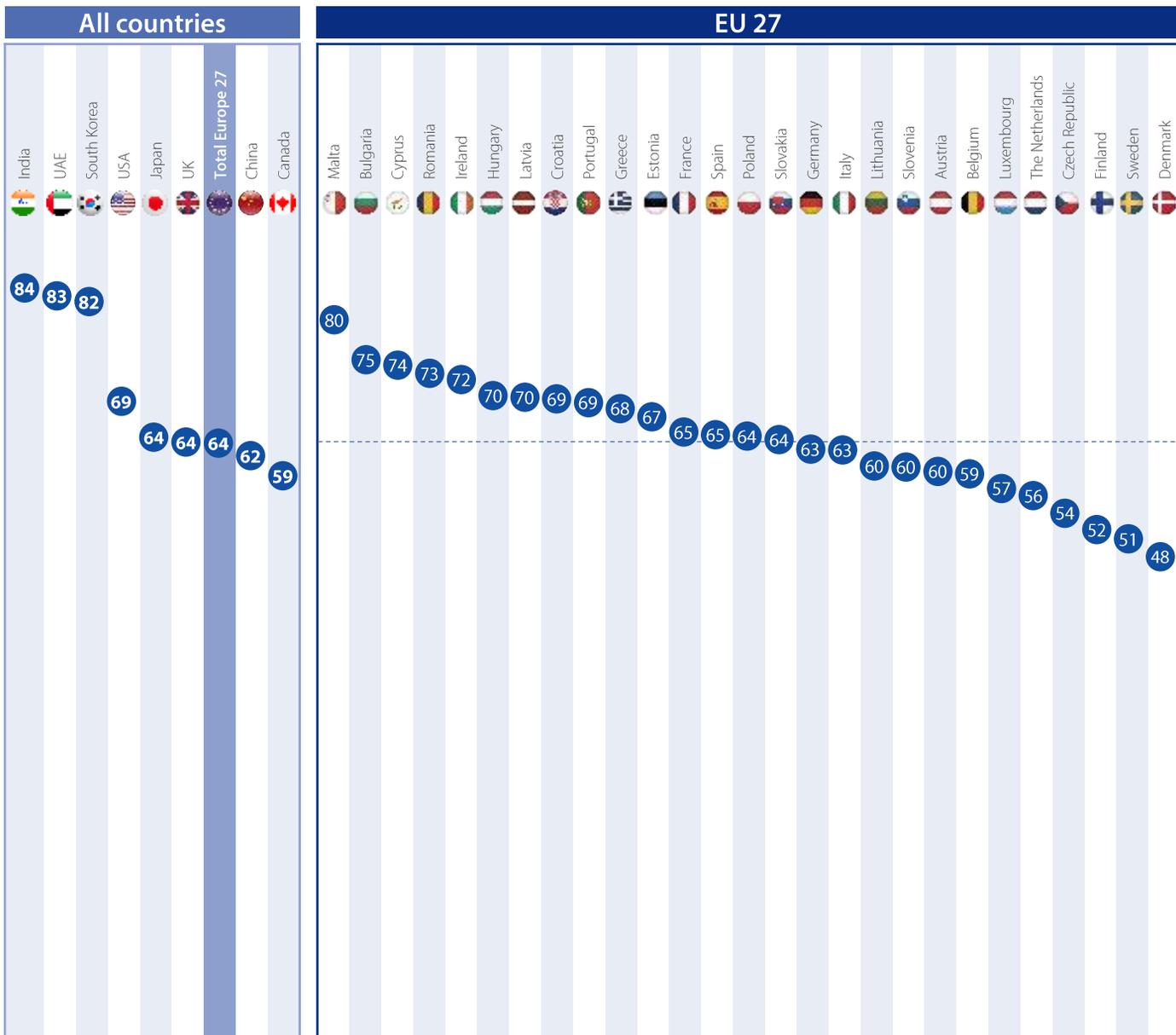
% believe that they personally need financial support to go through the transition to a low-carbon economy



# The need for financial support to transition to a low carbon economy is expressed by over three-quarters of citizens in India, the UAE and South Korea as well as in Malta and Bulgaria.

Q19. Do you believe that you personally need financial support to go through the transition to a low-carbon economy, considering your own financial situation and privileges?

% believe that they personally need financial support to go through the transition to a low-carbon economy



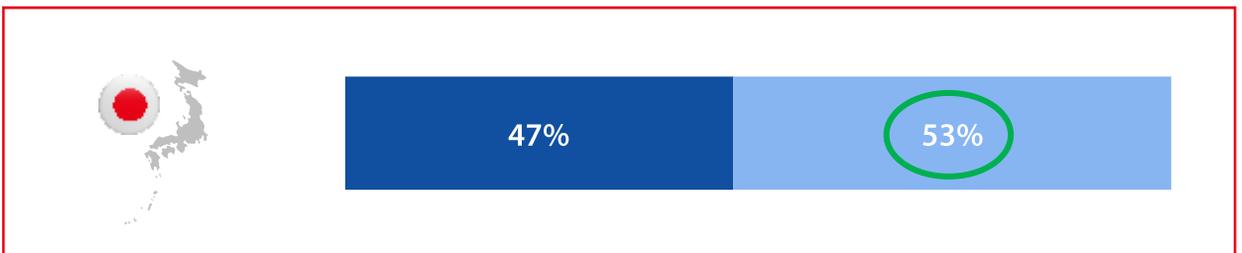
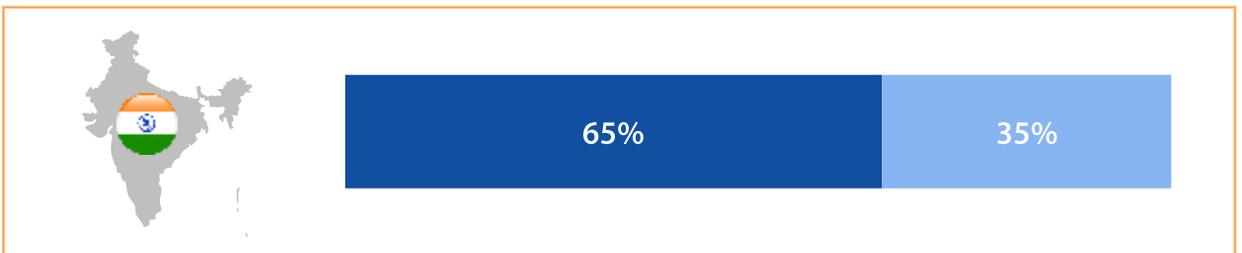
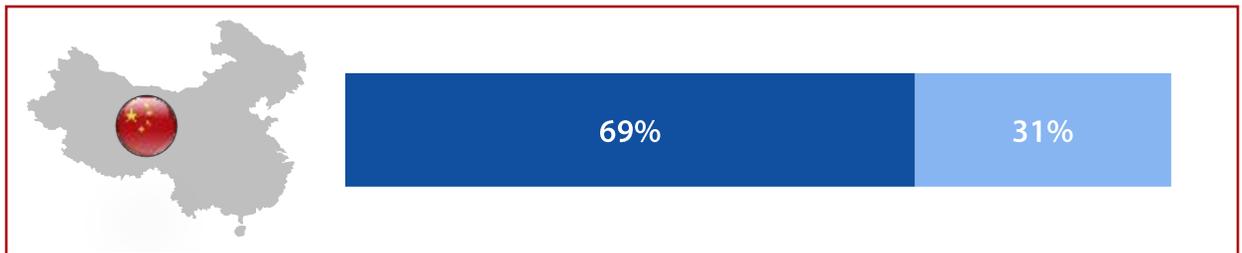
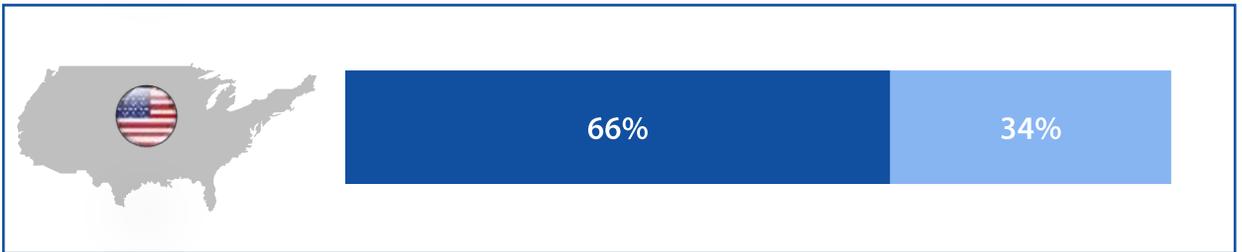
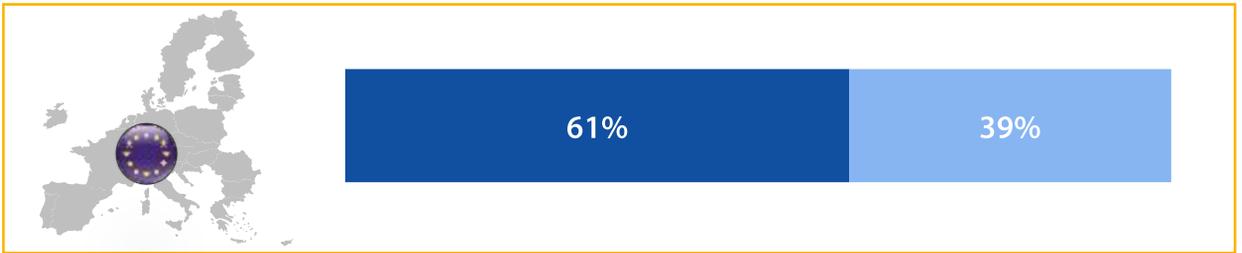
**Mixed feelings about  
the impact of these  
policies**

# Except in Japan, most citizens in major economies share the belief that measures to combat climate change could improve their daily quality of life.

Q15. What impact do you think the measures adopted by your country to fight climate change and protect the environment will have?

They will improve my daily life quality, including the quality of food and my health

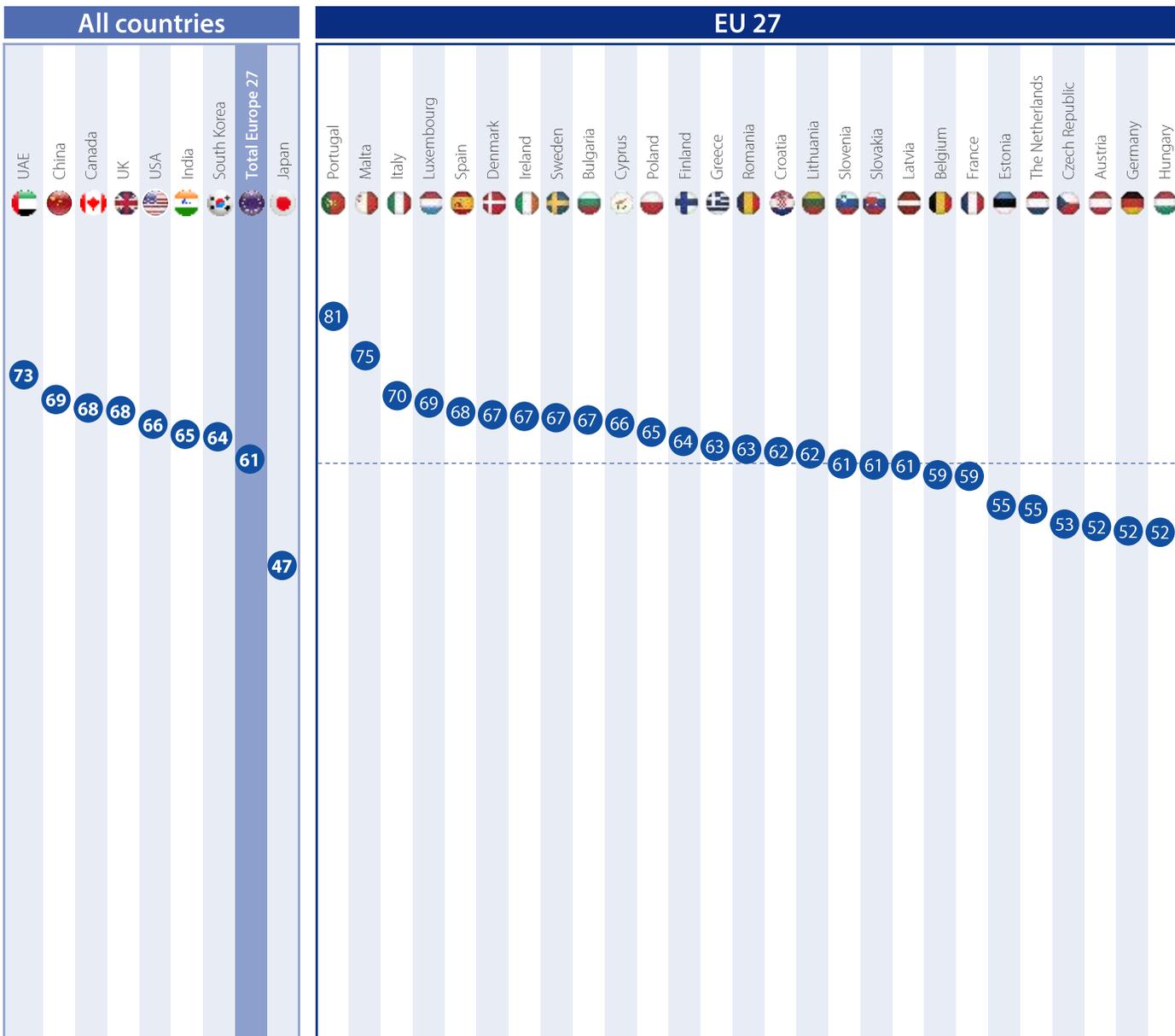
They will negatively affect my daily life, including the quality of food and my health



# Portuguese and Maltese stand out by being particularly optimistic about the impacts of climate change policies on their daily lives.

Q15. What impact do you think the measures adopted by your country to fight climate change and protect the environment will have?

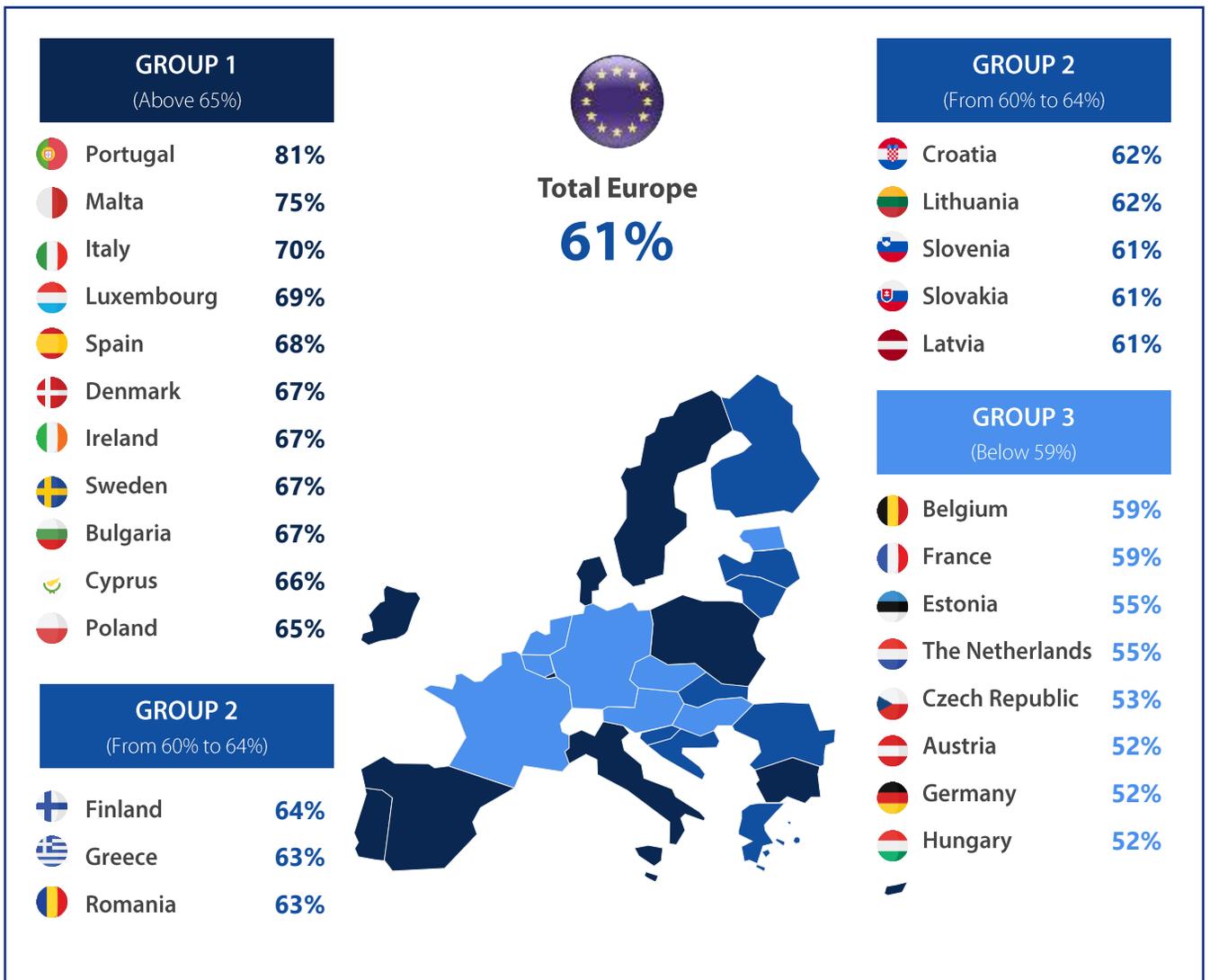
**% thinking they will improve their daily life quality, including the quality of food and my health**



# Hungary, Germany and Austria are displaying a lower level of trust in the positive impact that measures adopted to combat climate change will have on their quality of life.

Q15. What impact do you think the measures adopted by your country to fight climate change and protect the environment will have?

% thinking they will improve their daily life quality, including the quality of food and my health

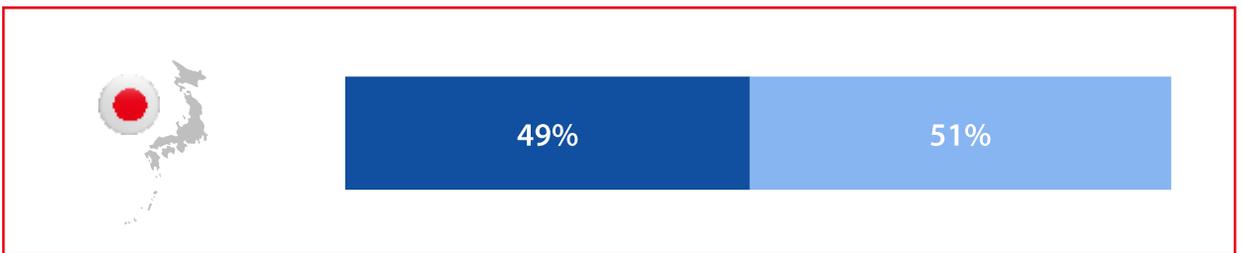
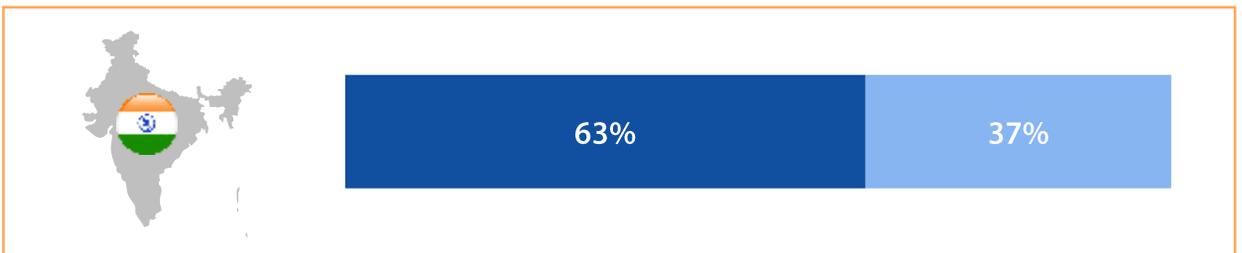
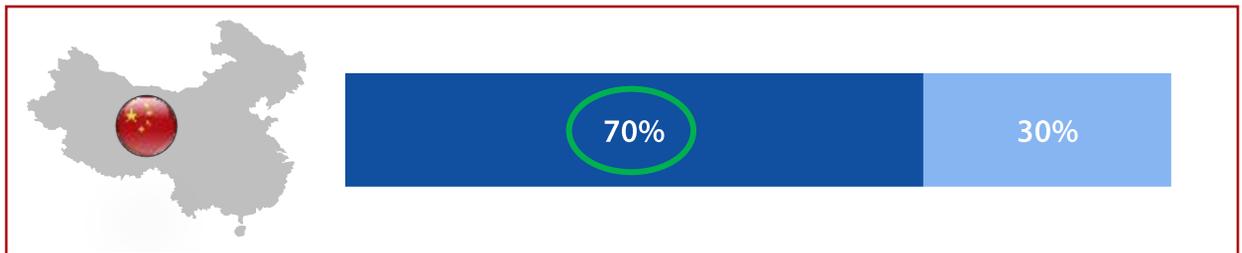
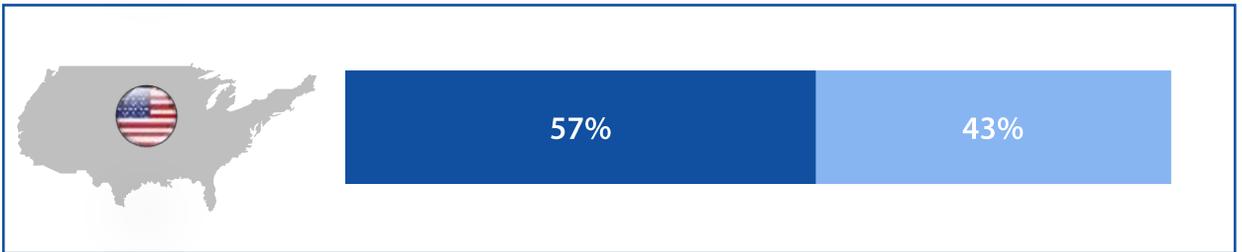
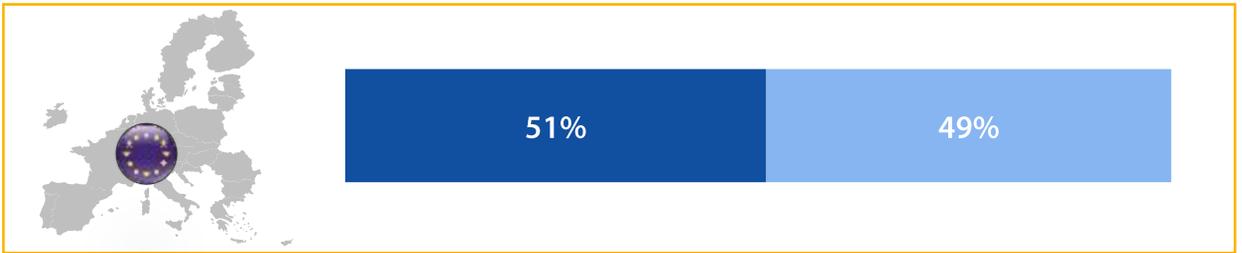


# Citizens in the US, India and China tend to have a positive outlook on how climate change policies will impact the job market while Europeans and Japanese appear more divided.

Q15. What impact do you think the measures adopted by your country to fight climate change and protect the environment will have?

They will create more jobs than they will destroy existing ones

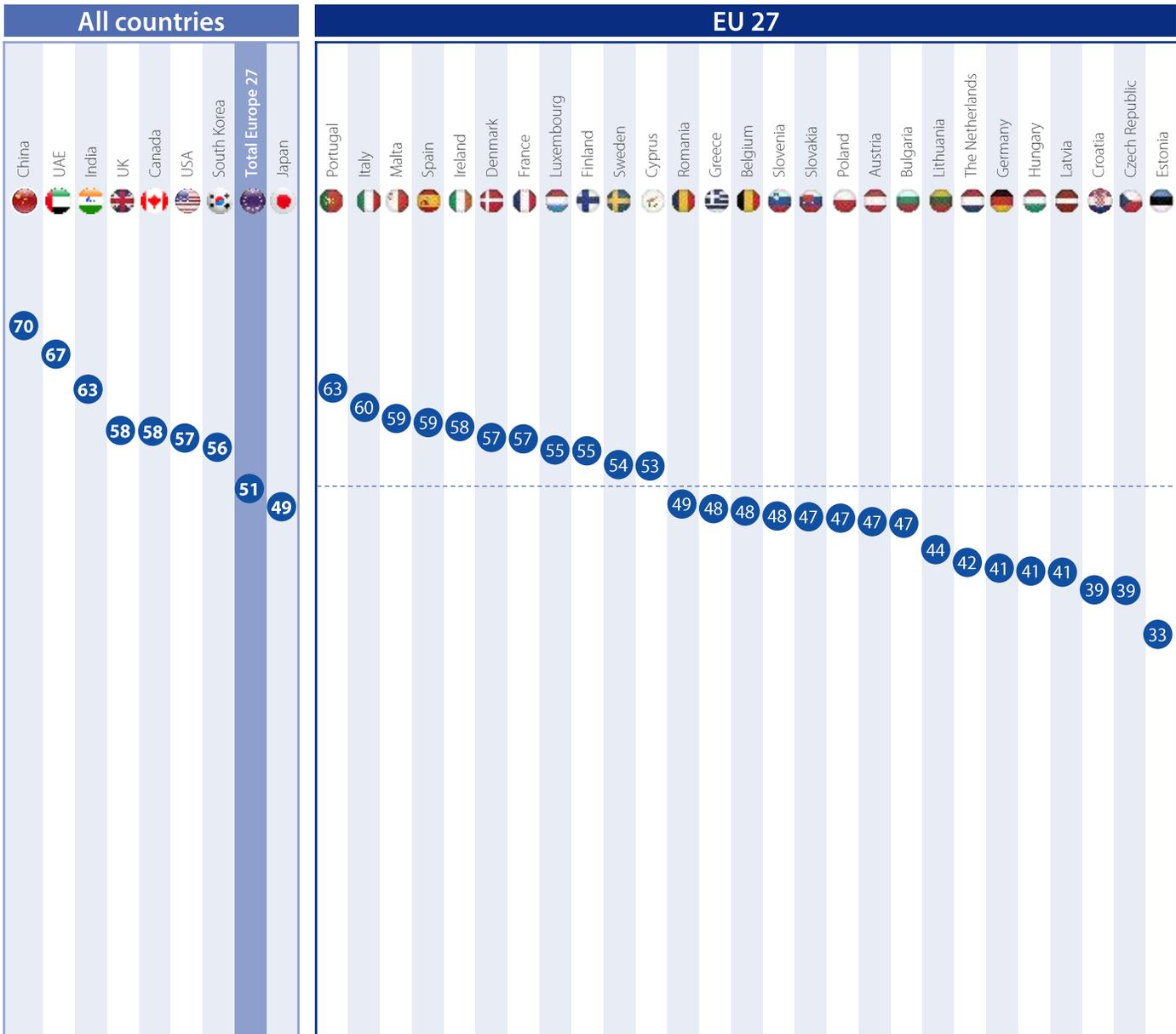
They will destroy more jobs than they will create new ones



# Citizens appear divided on whether climate change policies will create more jobs than they will destroy.

Q15. What impact do you think the measures adopted by your country to fight climate change and protect the environment will have?

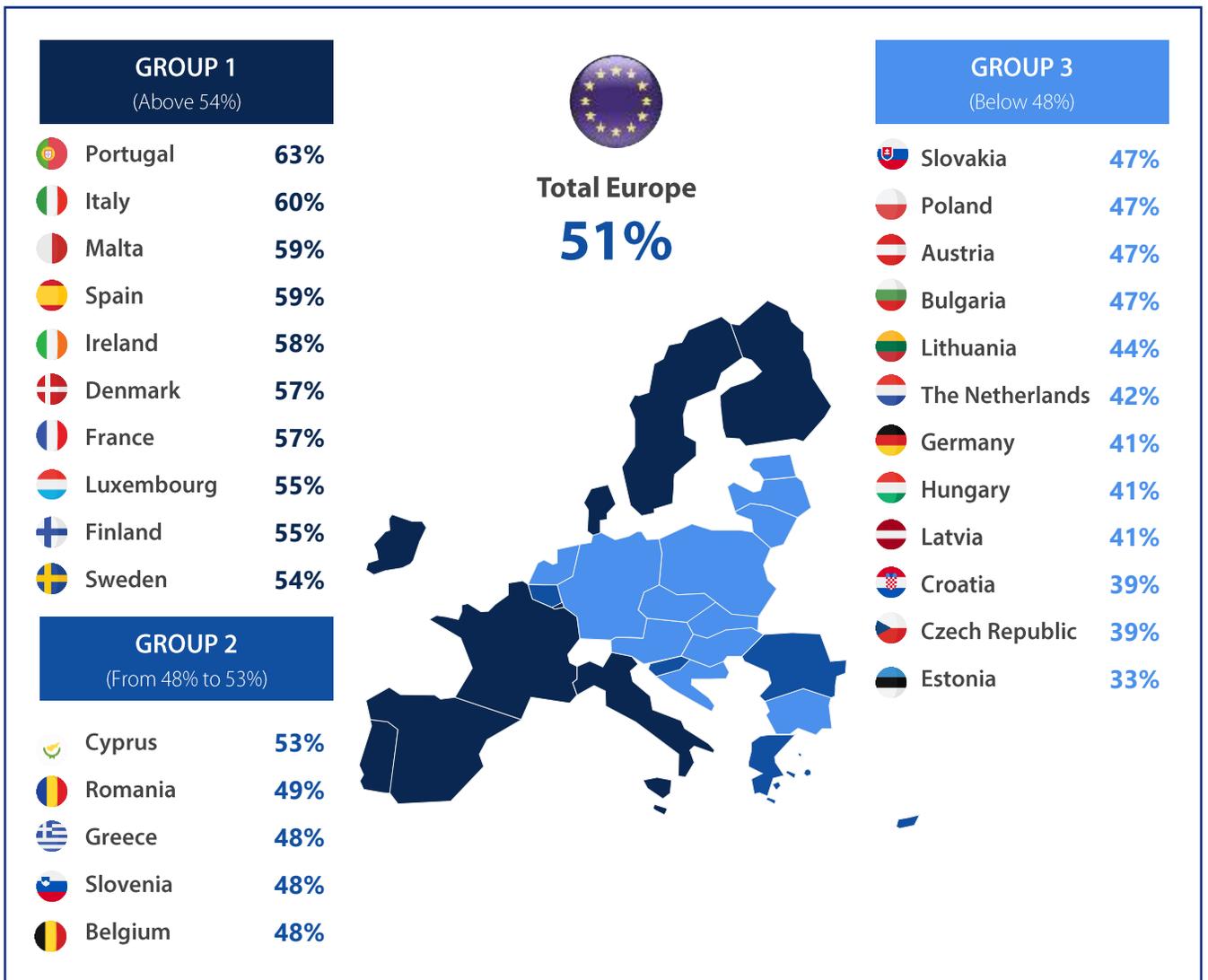
% thinking they will create more jobs than they will destroy existing ones



# Eastern European countries are the most sceptical regarding the positive outcomes of climate change policies on the job market.

Q15. What impact do you think the measures adopted by your country to fight climate change and protect the environment will have?

% thinking they will create more jobs than they will destroy existing ones

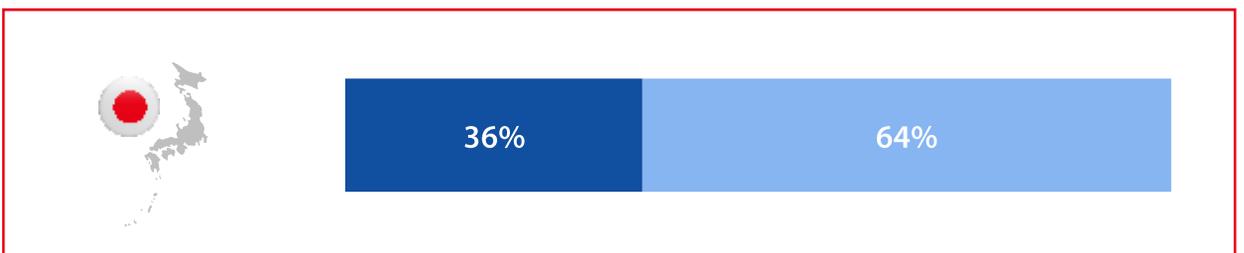
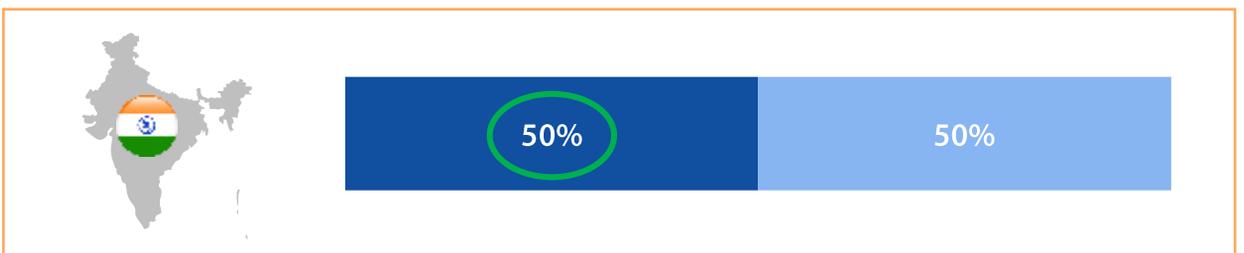
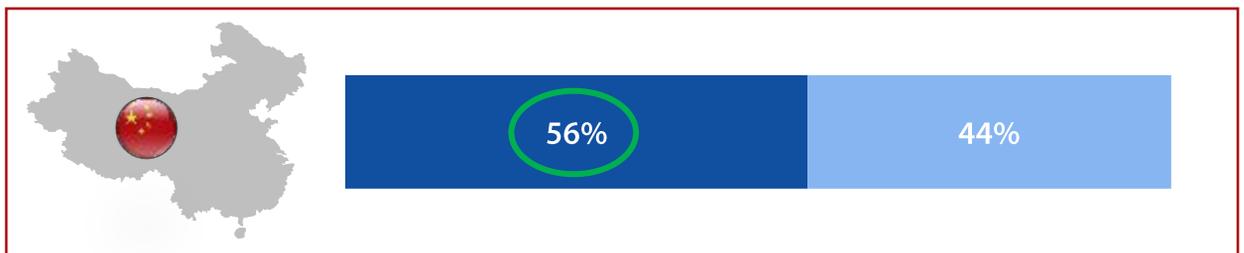
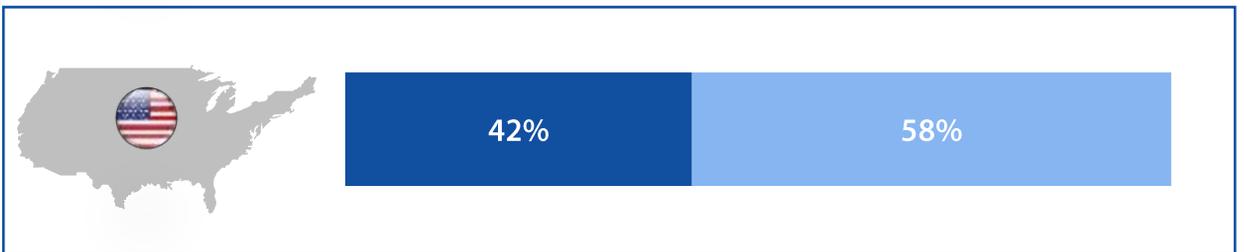
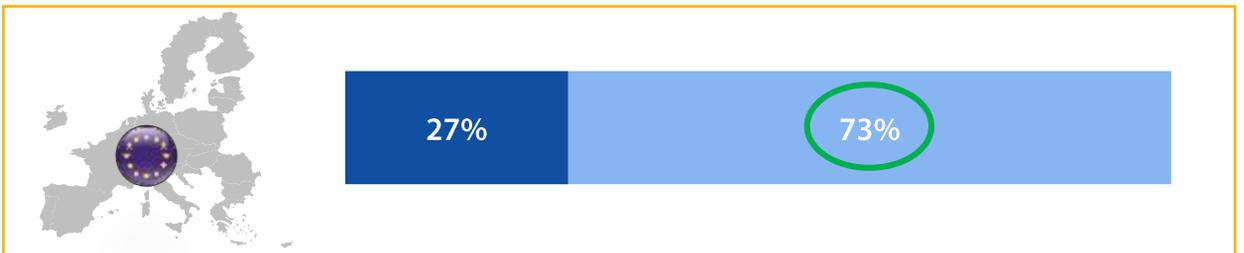


# Among major economies surveyed, Europeans are the least likely to believe that measures taken to combat climate change will increase their purchasing power.

Q15. What impact do you think the measures adopted by your country to fight climate change and protect the environment will have?

They will increase my purchasing power

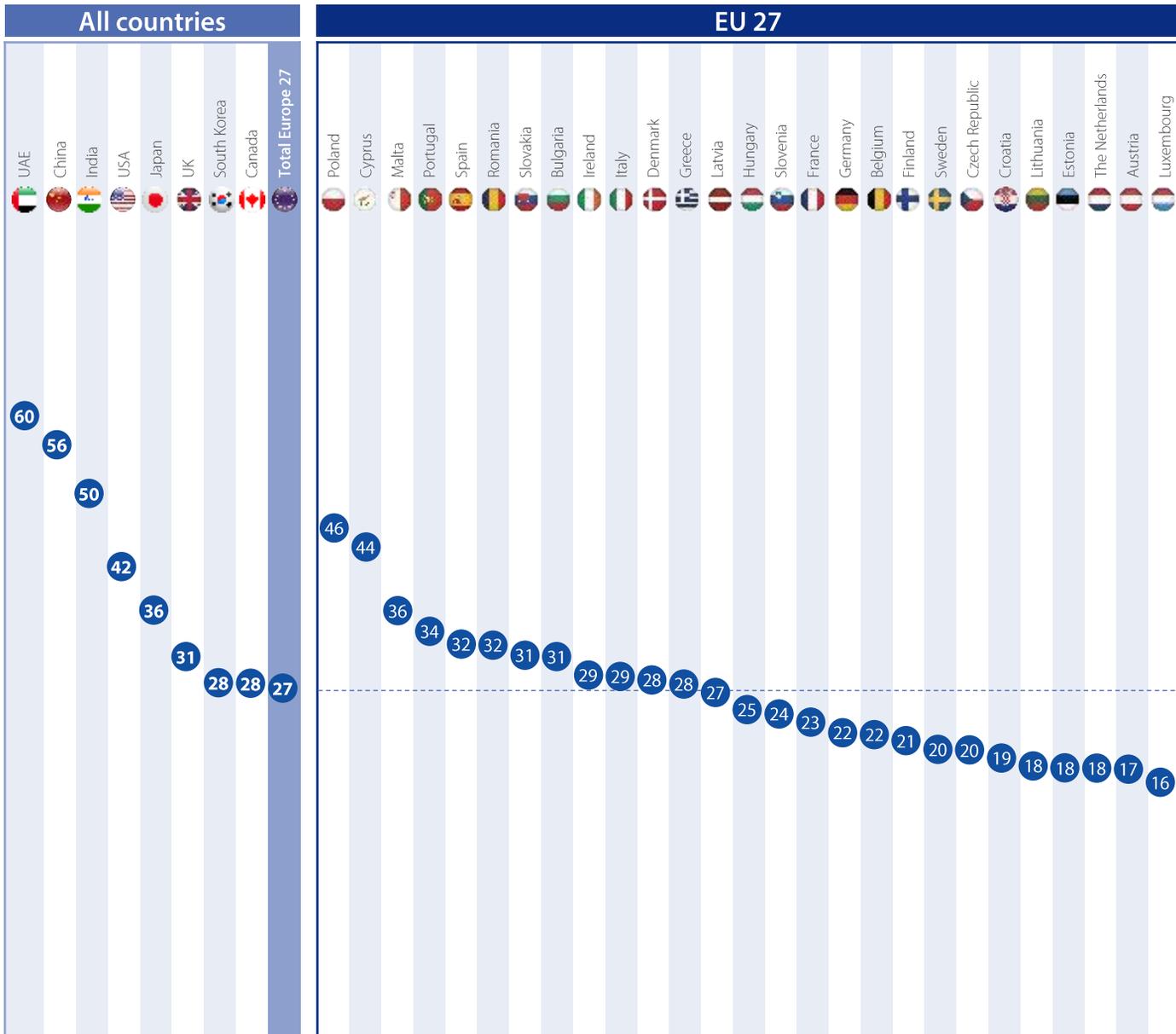
They will reduce my purchasing power



# UAE, China and India are the only countries in which citizens anticipate that the fight against climate change will increase their purchasing power.

Q15. What impact do you think the measures adopted by your country to fight climate change and protect the environment will have?

## % thinking they will increase their purchasing power



# In most European countries, fewer than a quarter of citizens associate climate change policies with an increase in purchasing power, but this idea is more widespread in Eastern Europe

Q15. What impact do you think the measures adopted by your country to fight climate change and protect the environment will have?

% thinking they will increase their purchasing power

