

Summer University on European Citizenship



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DG JUSTICE & CONSUMERS - Unit D3: EU Citizenship Rights and Free Movement

Overview

1. EU Citizenship

2. The 2017 EU Citizenship Report : priorities and Follow-up



Union Citizenship

Article 20

Citizenship of the Union is hereby established. Every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union.

Citizenship of the Union shall be additional to and not replace national citizenship.

EU Citizenship rights

- *The right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States*
- *Right to vote and right to stand in elections to the EP and in local elections*
- *the right of unrepresented citizens to consular protection by authorities of any Member State*
- *The right to petition the European Parliament, to apply to the European Ombudsman and*
- *The right to present a European Citizens' Initiative.*

Free movement : **Figures**

- *More than **16 million** EU citizens resident in another Member State in 2017*
- *Mobility has steadily increased over the last 10 years →*

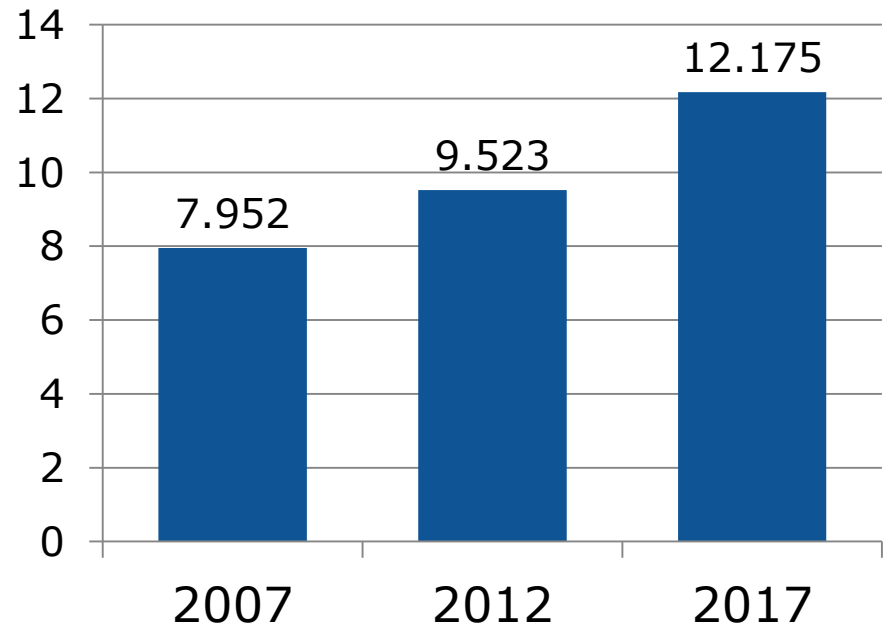


Figure:
EU citizens of working age (20-64) who usually reside in another EU country (Eurostat)

The EU Citizenship Report 2017 - "Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic change"

Four themes



Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values



Promoting and enhancing citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU



Simplifying daily life for EU citizens



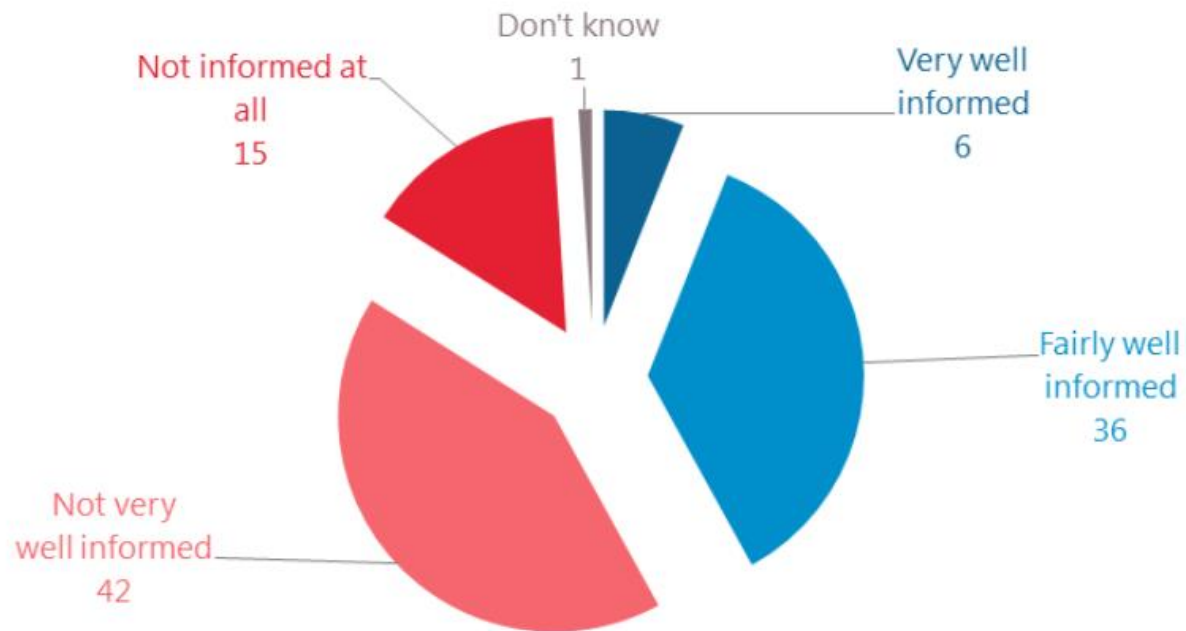
Strengthening security and promoting equality

Theme 1: Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values



Theme 1: Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values

Q2 How well informed do you feel about your rights as a citizen of the European Union?
(% - EU)



Eurobarometer on EU Citizenship,
October 2015



Theme 1: Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values

*87% of EU citizens aware of their **status** as EU citizens.*

*However, **awareness of certain rights**, such as the right to consular protection, **remains low**.*

EU citizens want to know more about their EU citizenship rights and about what to do if their rights are not respected.



Theme 1: Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values

Information and awareness raising activities

- *Consular protection*
- *Electoral rights*



Information and awareness raising campaign on consular protection

- *Campaign in the summer holiday period (July/August), with a focus on using social media*
- *Campaign topics: Consular protection in general, loss of passport, what to do when unrepresented abroad*
- *Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram) and Google Ads*
- *Connected to the larger corporate campaign #**EUandME***

Messages on social media



Interactive infographics in all EU languages



EUROPEAN UNION

Consular Protection

The EU, your lifeline abroad

You're taking the trip of a lifetime. Chances are you haven't thought about what you would do if things went wrong. It might never happen, but it's better to be prepared.

If you get into serious difficulties somewhere outside the EU, and your own country doesn't have an embassy there, you can get help from another EU country's embassy. This is your right as an EU citizen. One day it may be your lifeline.



Informational website



CONSULAR PROTECTION

European Commission > Home

Consular protection for European Union citizens abroad

[Home](#) [About Consular Protection](#) [Travel Advice](#) [Site Map](#)



FIND AN EMBASSY/CONSULATE

Select your own country or all EU
Member States...

Select Member States ▼

Country/territory where you
are/will be...

Select a target country ▼

Search



When living or travelling outside the EU, you might sometimes need help from your embassy or consulate, e.g. in case you

✕
Travel Advice

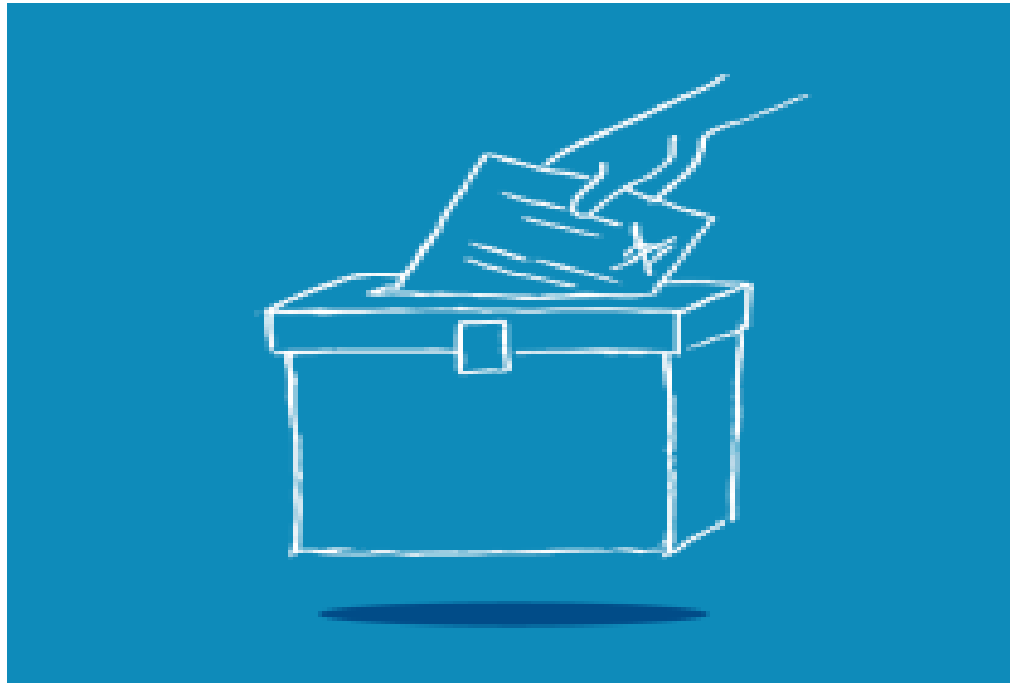


Theme 1: Promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values

Safeguard the essence of EU citizenship and its inherent values

=> Report on **national schemes granting EU citizenship to investors** describing the Commission's action in this area, current national law and practices, and providing some guidance to Member States.

Theme 2: Promoting and enhancing citizens participation in the democratic life of the EU





Electoral Rights of EU Citizens in the European Union

European Elections

EU Citizenship

National Elections

National Citizenship

Regional Elections

National Citizenship + Residence

Local Elections

EU Citizenship + Residence

issues of **turnout**,
accessibility and
inclusive participation of
vulnerable and
underrepresented
groups

Electoral Rights of EU Citizens: An Overview

European Elections

EU Citizenship

- **EU right for mobile EU citizen**
- mobile EU citizens may choose between nationality-based and residence-based constituencies
- issue of **double-voting**

National Elections

National Citizenship

- national competence
- sometimes also bound to residence (DK, IE, UK)
- issue of **disenfranchisement** of mobile EU citizens

Regional Elections

National Citizenship + Residence

- national competence
- issue of **city-states/city-regions** (Brussels, Berlin, Madrid, ...)

Local Elections

EU Citizenship + Residence

- **EU right for mobile EU citizen**
- mobile EU citizens enjoy the same rights as nationals
- passive electoral rights may be restricted for executive office (especially mayors)
- issues of **information and registration**

Mobile EU citizens of voting age in the Member States: absolute numbers

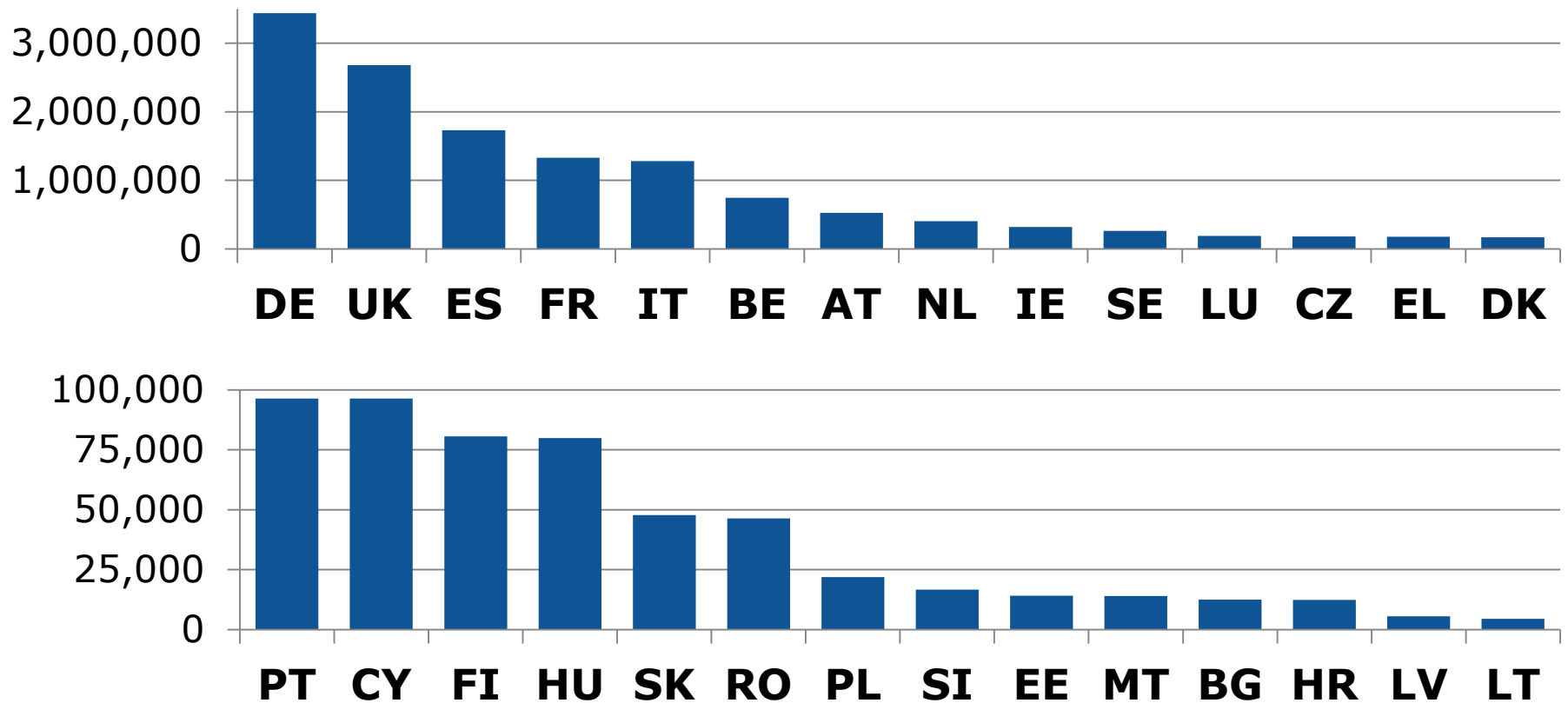


Figure: Population on 01.01.2016 of mobile EU citizens of voting age (15 years and older) per Member State

Mobile EU citizens of voting age in the Member States: population share

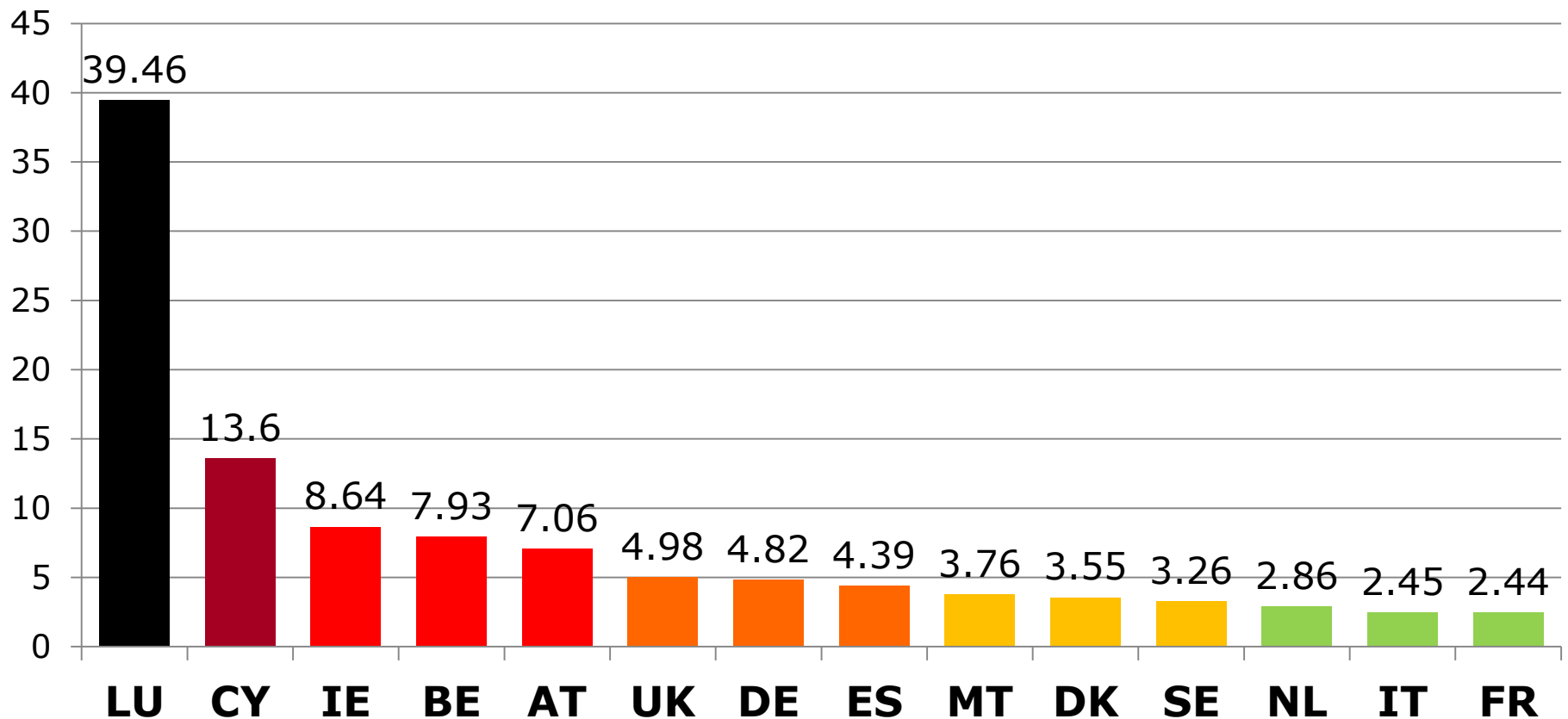


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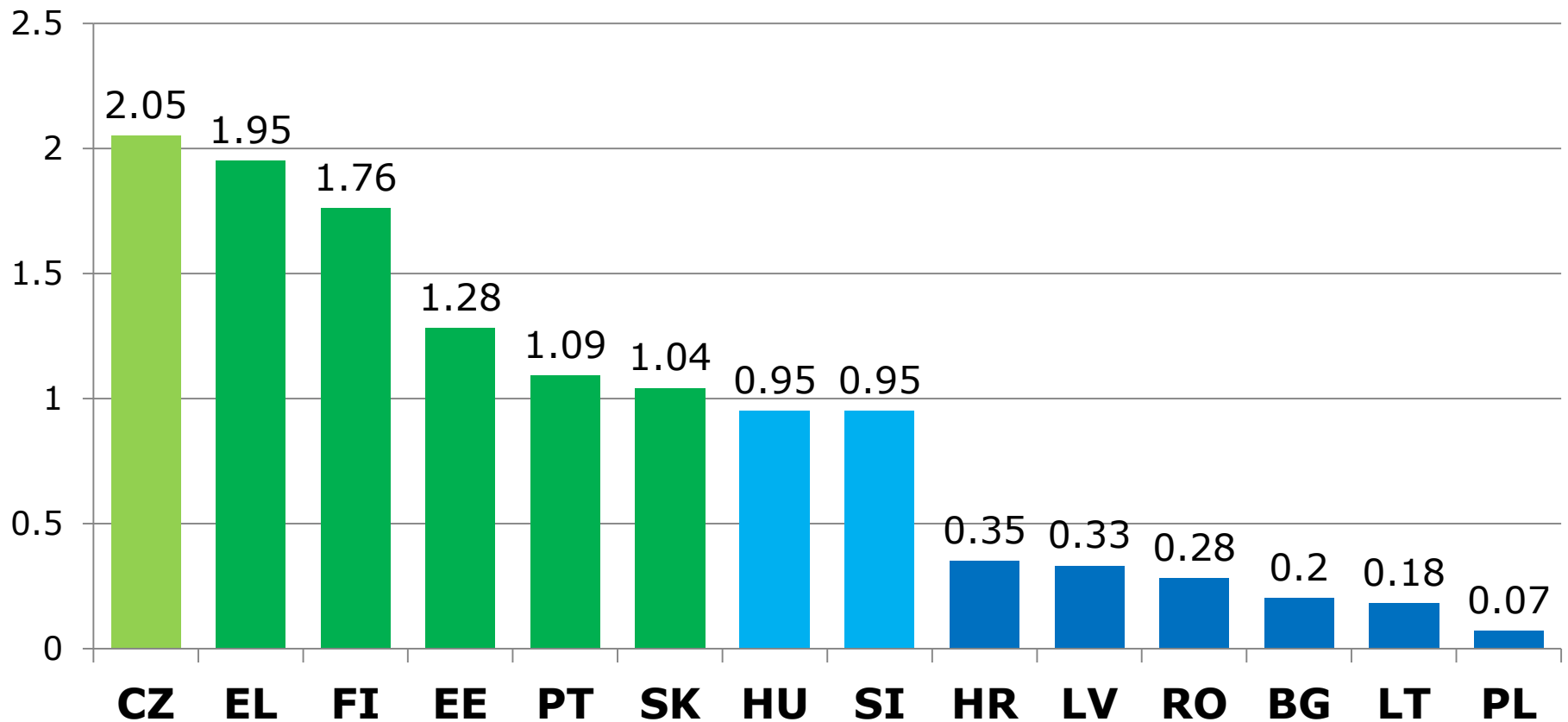
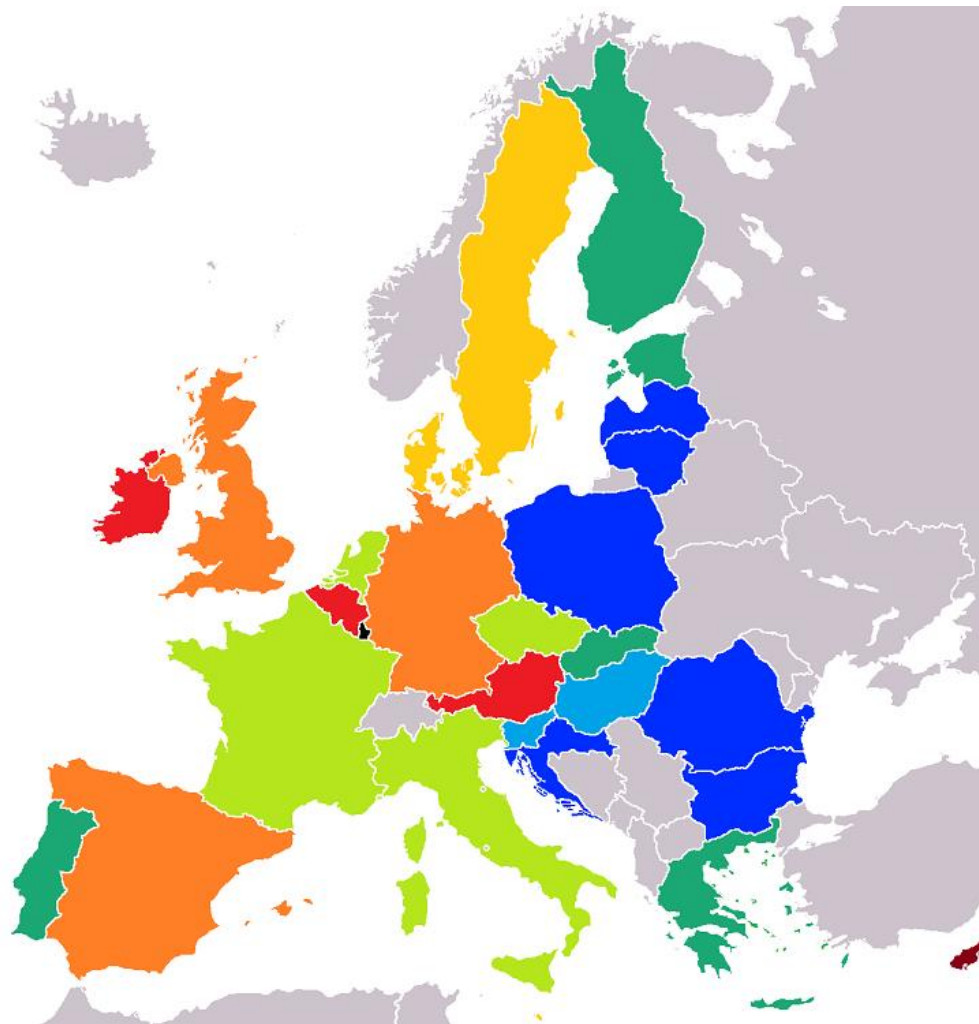


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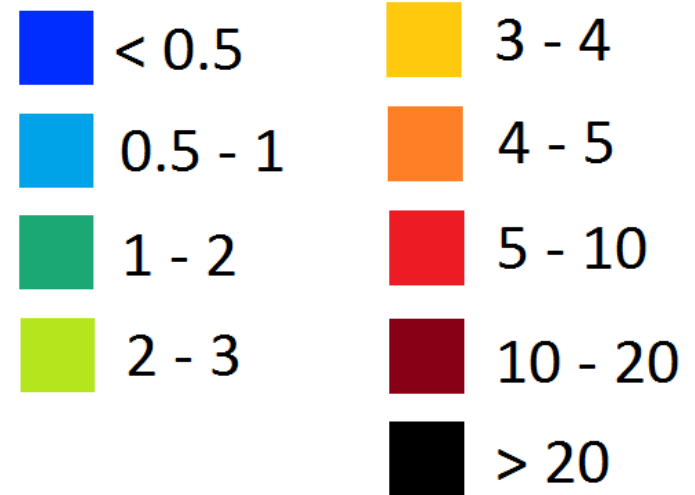


Figure: Population on 01.01.2016 of mobile EU citizens of voting age (15 years and older) per Member State



Participation in local elections:

- ***12 February 2018 : Report issued by the Commission on the application of EU law in local elections.***
- ***European week of Regions and Cities 2018 Programme. Workshop on 11/10. « How to support the Participation of Mobile EU Citizens in Local Communities ».***

Participation in local elections

- Awareness

on average, **54 %** of Union citizens knew about their **right to vote and stand as a candidate** in municipal elections in their Member State of residence in 2015

(decrease compared to 2012)

- Eligibility:

almost **14 million** mobile EU citizens of voting age and eligible to vote in 2016 (16 million total)

→ **3.25 %** of the voting population

(significant increase since the 2012 report)



Participation in local elections

Registration & Voting

- Few mobile citizens appear to have exercised their electoral rights in municipal elections in recent years in their states of residence
- Rates of **voter registration** vary greatly between registration systems where residents have to request entry into electoral rolls ($\sim 18.5\%$) and those employing automatic enrolment ($\sim 51.2\%$)
- Overall, **low rates** of voter registration in the states which provided data, but only **limited data** available

Mobile EU citizens as candidates

- Few data
- Highest number of EU citizens who are non-nationals standing as candidates: **Spain (1.913)**
- Highest percentages of mobile EU citizens elected in relation to those who stood as candidates: **Malta (22.2 %)** and **Sweden (20.8 %)**
- On average **15.5 %** of EU citizens who run for office in their host Member State's municipal elections get elected

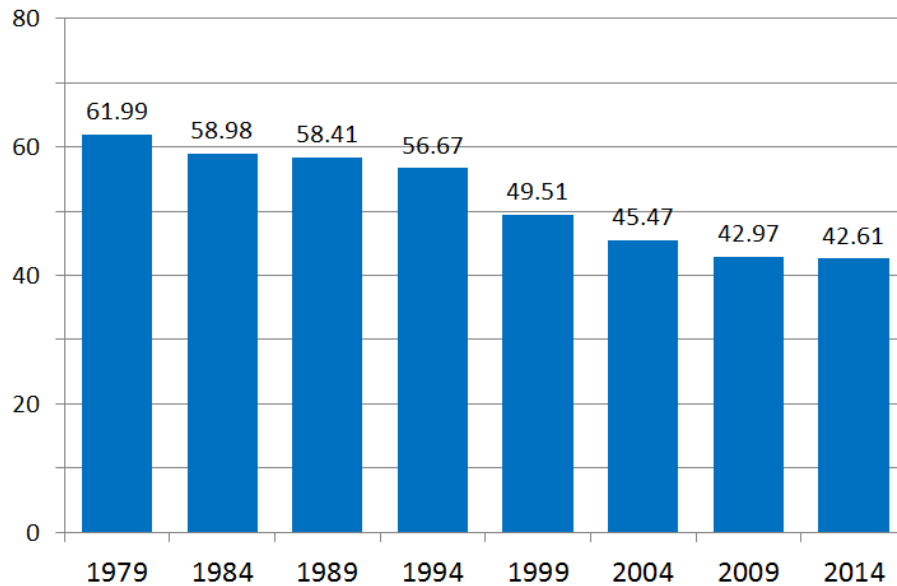


Practices supporting turnout of specific groups

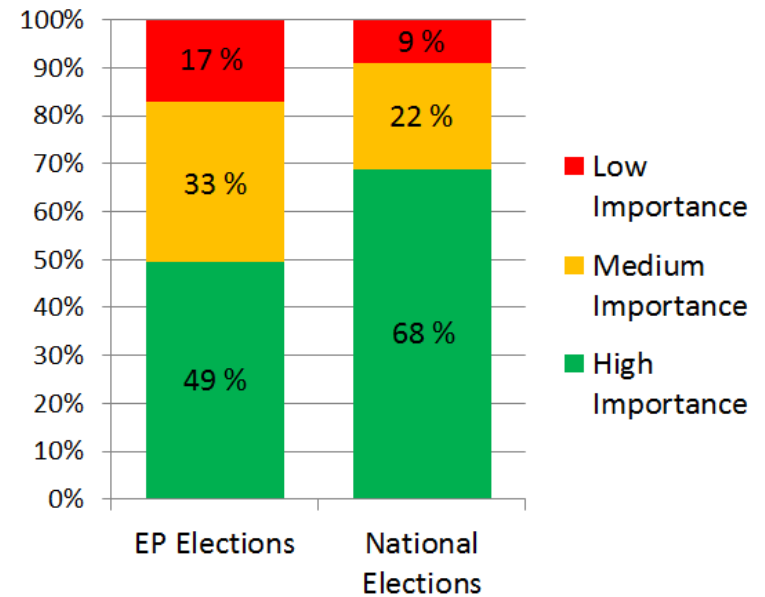
- **Automatic registration**
- **Polling cards** or individual **letters** informing mobile EU citizens about the electoral process (10 MS)
- Electoral information on **official websites** (10 MS)
- **Campaigns** specifically targeting foreign nationals to raise electoral awareness (Luxembourg, Malta, Spain)
- Dedicated '**helplines**' (Latvia, UK)
- Information in **leaflets** or the **local press** (5 MS)

European Elections

Turnout in EP Elections
(1979-2014)



"How important or not is it for you to vote in ...?" (2018)



Source:

Eurobarometer Survey 89.2 of the European Parliament:
Democracy on the Move – European Elections – One Year to Go (May 2018)



European Elections Commission initiatives

- *14 February 2018 : Recommendation on enhancing the European nature and the efficient conduct of the 2019 elections. Communication on ideas for a more efficient European Union*
- *25-26 April 2018 organised a meeting of Member State experts on electoral practices.*
- *July 2018: Adoption by the Council of the amendment to the act governing the EU elections.*
- *November 2018 : the fundamental rights Colloquium taking place at the end of November will be dedicated to « democracy on the EU ».*



European elections

14 February 2018 : Communication and Recommendation

- called on leaders to build on the on the 2014 "Spitzenkandidaten" experience and contributed to the debate on the composition of the European Parliament for the 2019-2024 term*
- announced the 2018 report on participation in municipal elections*
- hailed the intensification of the citizens dialogues, and the now adopted rules for making the elections more transparent (amending Regulation 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations)*
- and in the Recommendation, proposed concrete measures to support the 2019 elections, including 25-26 April event on electoral matters.*



European elections

26 April 2018 : Communication "Tackling online disinformation: a European approach"

- sets out the views of the Commission on the challenges associated with disinformation online;*
- outlines the key overarching principles and objectives which should guide actions to raise public awareness about disinformation and tackle the phenomenon effectively, as well as the specific measures which the Commission intends to take in this regard.*



European elections

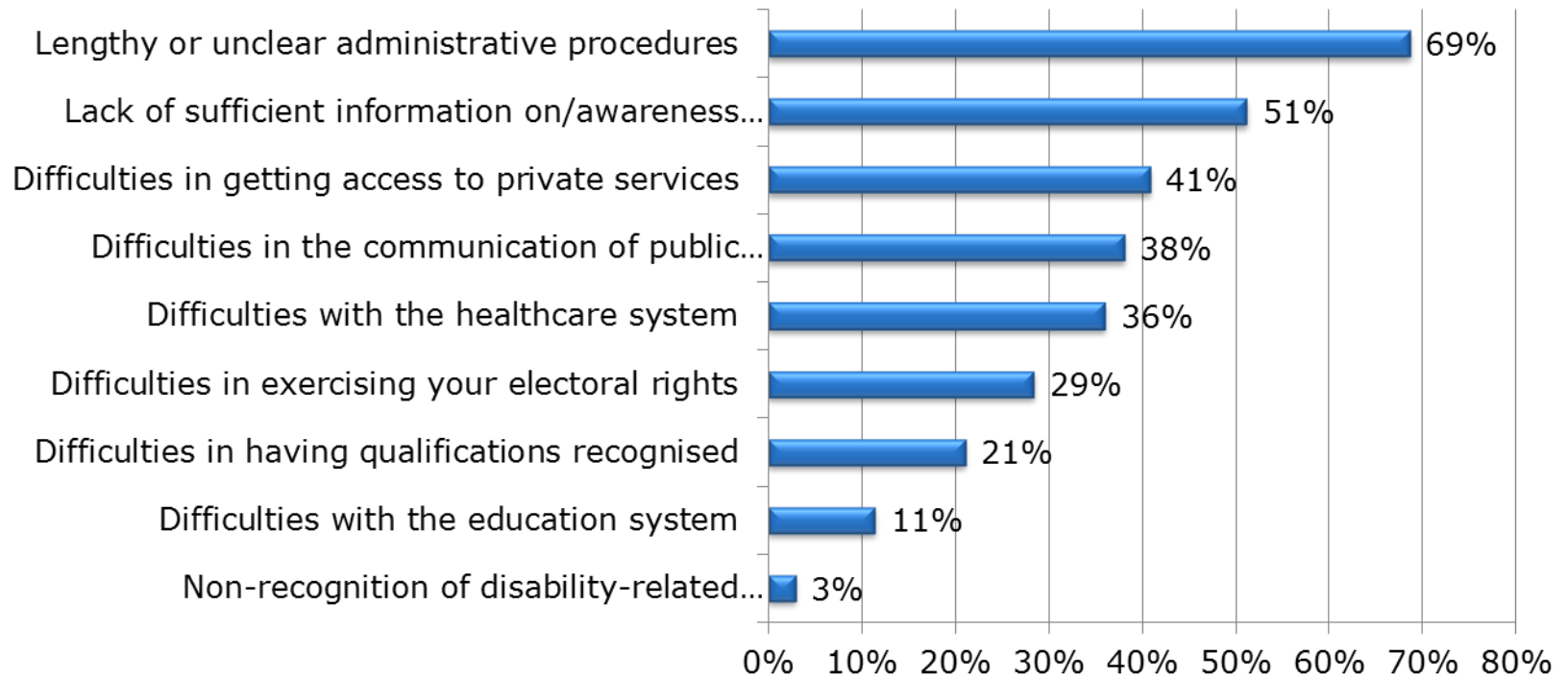
13 June 2018: Communication "Increasing resilience and bolstering capabilities to address hybrid threats".

-Specific reference to elections.

Theme 3: Simplifying daily life for EU citizens



Theme 3: Difficulties met by EU citizens when living in another country



Theme 4: Strengthening Security and Promoting Equality





Theme 4: Strengthening Security and Promoting Equality

- *Europe faces complex, often cross-border threats and the vast majority of Europeans believe more common action is needed to address them*
- *EU citizens and their family members living or traveling in the EU sometimes encounter problems when using their identity cards and/or residence documents, especially if they lack sufficient security features.*
- *Despite efforts, there has been a clear increase since 2012 in the number of Europeans who say they have experienced some form of discrimination or harassment.*



Theme 4: Strengthening Security and Promoting Equality

IDENTITY CARDS AND RESIDENCE DOCUMENTS

April 2018: Commission's proposal to improve the security of **identity cards** and **residence documents of EU citizens residing in another Member State and of their non-EU family members.**

Content? **Minimum security features** for identity cards issued by Member States so that citizens can make use of their right to free movement in a secure environment.



Theme 4: Strengthening Security and Promoting Equality

EMERGENCY TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

May 2018: proposal to modernise the rules on the **EU emergency travel document**, which Member States' consulates can issue to EU citizens from other Member States which do not have a consulate in the country concerned themselves when they **lose their passport while travelling abroad**.

Content ? streamline the issuing procedure and to increase the security of the document so that citizens can better profit from their **right to consular protection**.

Thank you!



EU Citizenship Report 2017

Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of Democratic Change