



THE EIB CLIMATE SURVEY

7TH EDITION 2024

Attitudes towards
climate change adaptation



European
Investment Bank

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- 66. Most respondents think assistance with climate change adaptation should go beyond national borders

Survey method



The survey was run online by the BVA Group from **6 August** to **23 August 2024** and could be completed on PC, tablet or smartphone.

It covered all 27 EU countries and the United States.



The sample totalled **24 148** people, encompassing **28 representative country samples** of the population aged 15+ (16+ for Luxembourg).

Country groups:

- **Nordic countries** include Sweden, Finland and Denmark
- **Eastern countries** include Czechia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Croatia
- **Southern countries** include Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus and Malta



The respondents were randomly selected from panels representative of each country's population, and participated via the self-administered, web-based survey.



The quota method was used to ensure that the data were representative. The data for each country were weighted by gender, age, occupation and region.

Samples

Size of each representative country panel

	COUNTRY	SAMPLE SIZE	LANGUAGE USED
	Austria	1 004	German
	Belgium	1 008	French, Flemish
	Bulgaria	1 007	Bulgarian
	Croatia	1 005	Croatian
	Cyprus	508	Greek
	Czechia	1 005	Czech
	Denmark	1 000	Danish
	Estonia	507	Estonian
	Finland	1 000	Finnish
	France	1 008	French
	Germany	1 008	German
	Greece	1 000	Greek
	Hungary	1 008	Hungarian
	Ireland	1 003	English
	Italy	1 008	Italian
	Latvia	508	Latvian
	Lithuania	510	Lithuanian
	Luxembourg	500	French, German, Luxembourgish
	Malta	500	English
	Netherlands	1 008	Dutch
	Poland	1 000	Polish
	Portugal	1 009	Portuguese
	Romania	1 000	Romanian
	Slovakia	510	Slovak
	Slovenia	503	Slovenian
	Spain	1 004	Spanish
	Sweden	1 007	Swedish
	United States	1 000	English

Margin of error

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

The table below shows the margins of error (at a 95% level of confidence) by score and sample size.

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%.



Results with a significant difference between the US and EU averages

1

**RESPONDENTS
RECOGNISE
THE CHALLENGE
OF ADAPTATION
AND THE BENEFITS**

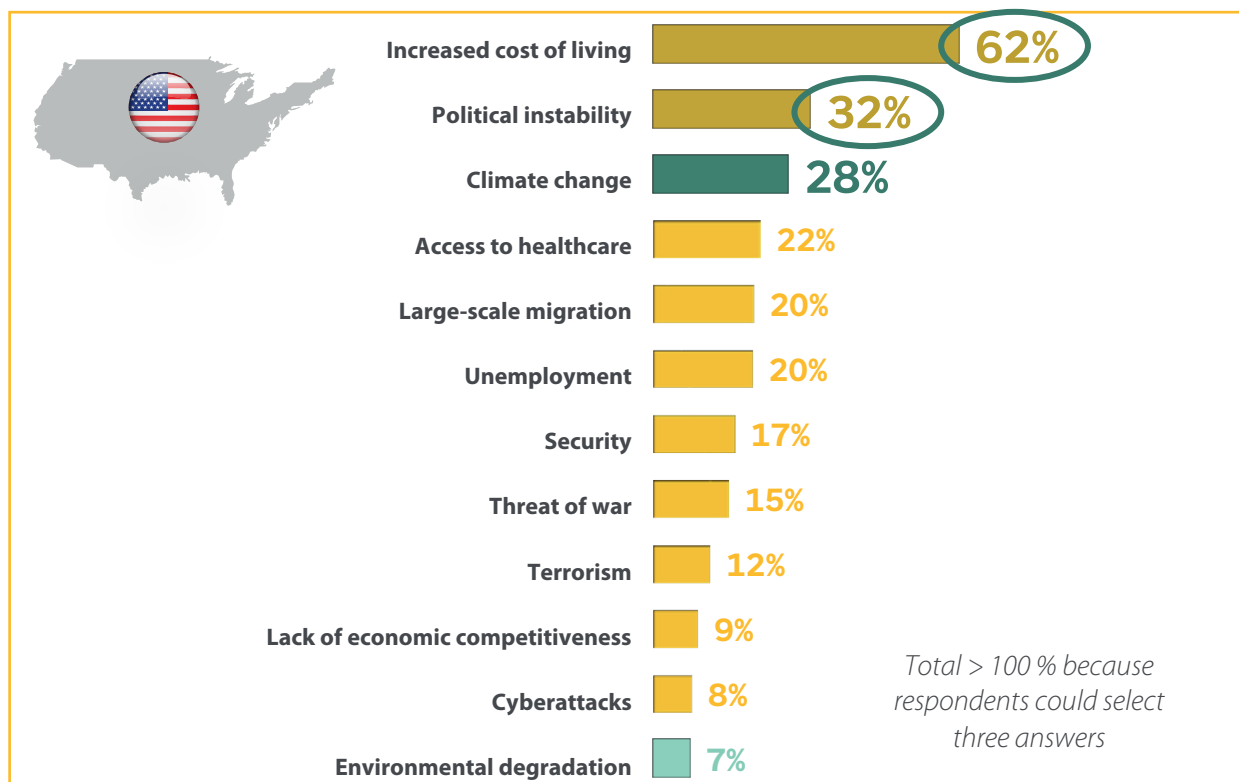
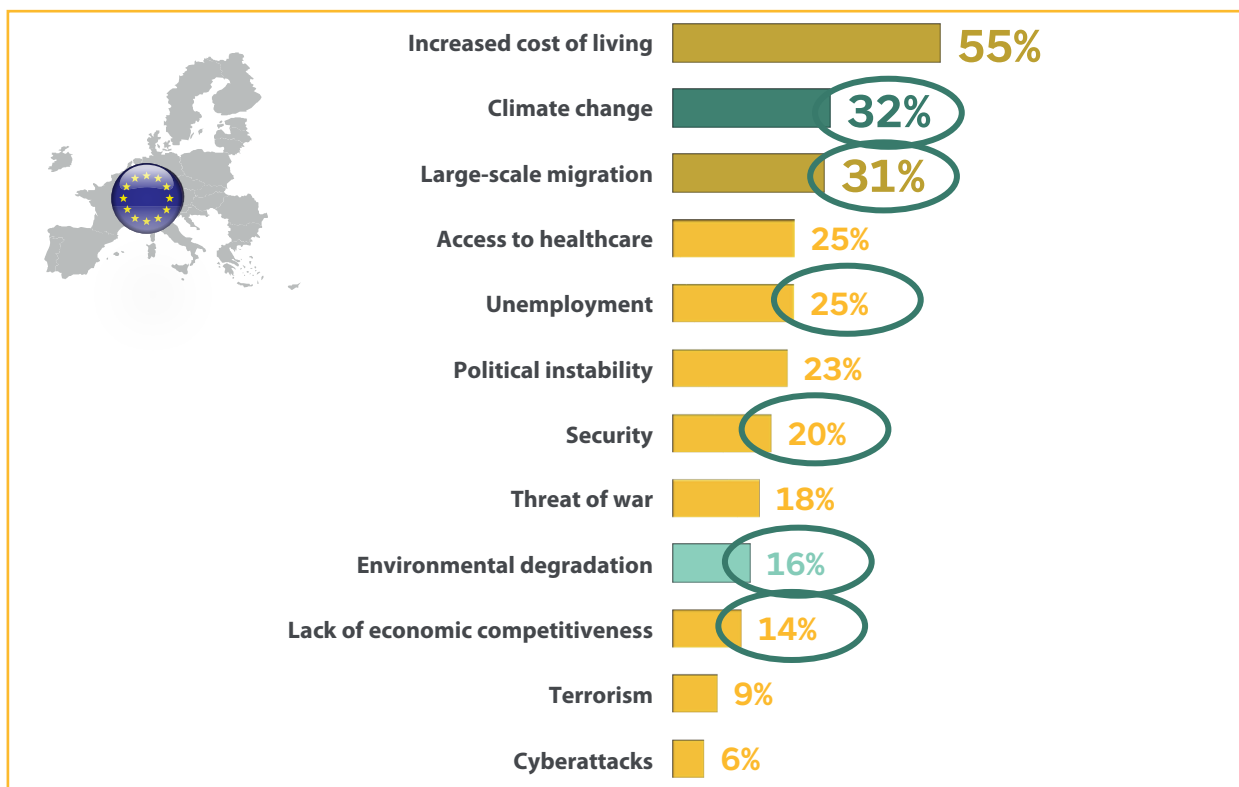
a

Respondents perceive climate change as one of the biggest challenges facing their country, but there is considerable variation across Europe

Respondents in both the EU and the US rank climate change among their top three concerns

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

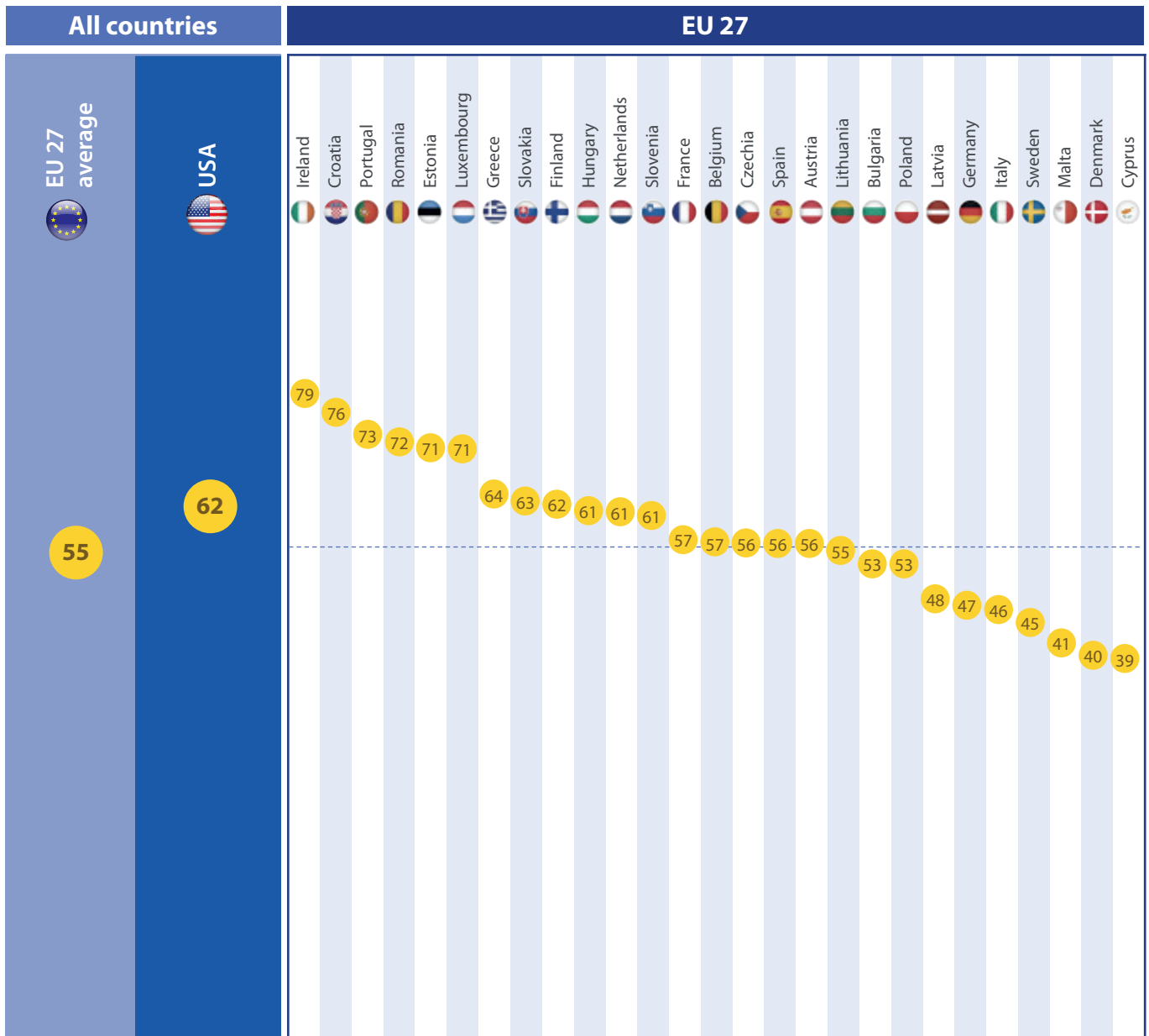
Biggest challenges



Inflation is a significant concern for more than half of respondents in major economies

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

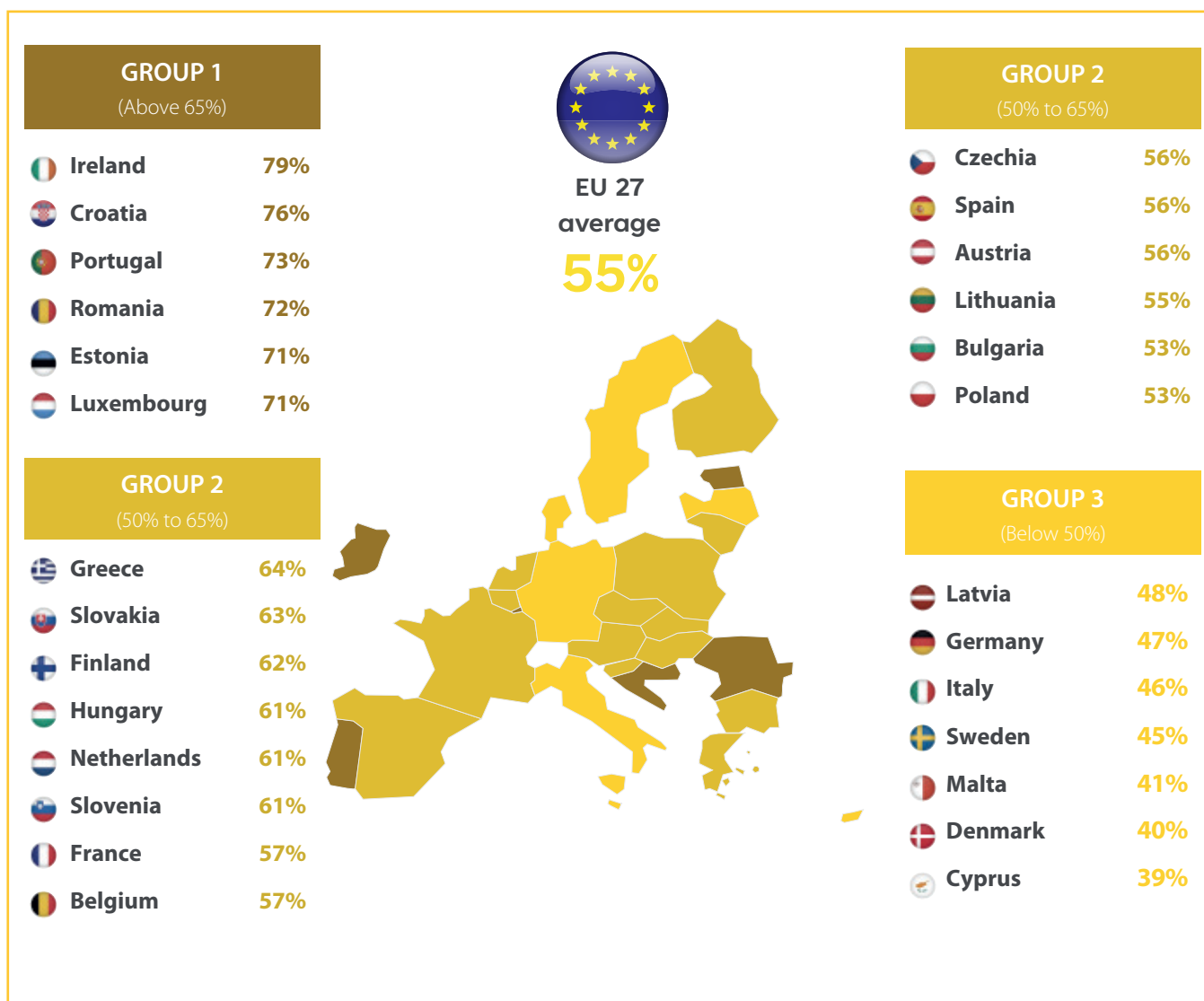
% that ranked the increased cost of living as one of the biggest challenges



EU respondents are very concerned about the rising cost of living, especially those in Eastern Europe (average 60%)

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

% that ranked the increased cost of living as one of the biggest challenges



Attitudes towards the challenge posed by climate change vary widely between countries, with respondents in Western Europe ranking it a higher priority than those in Eastern Europe

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

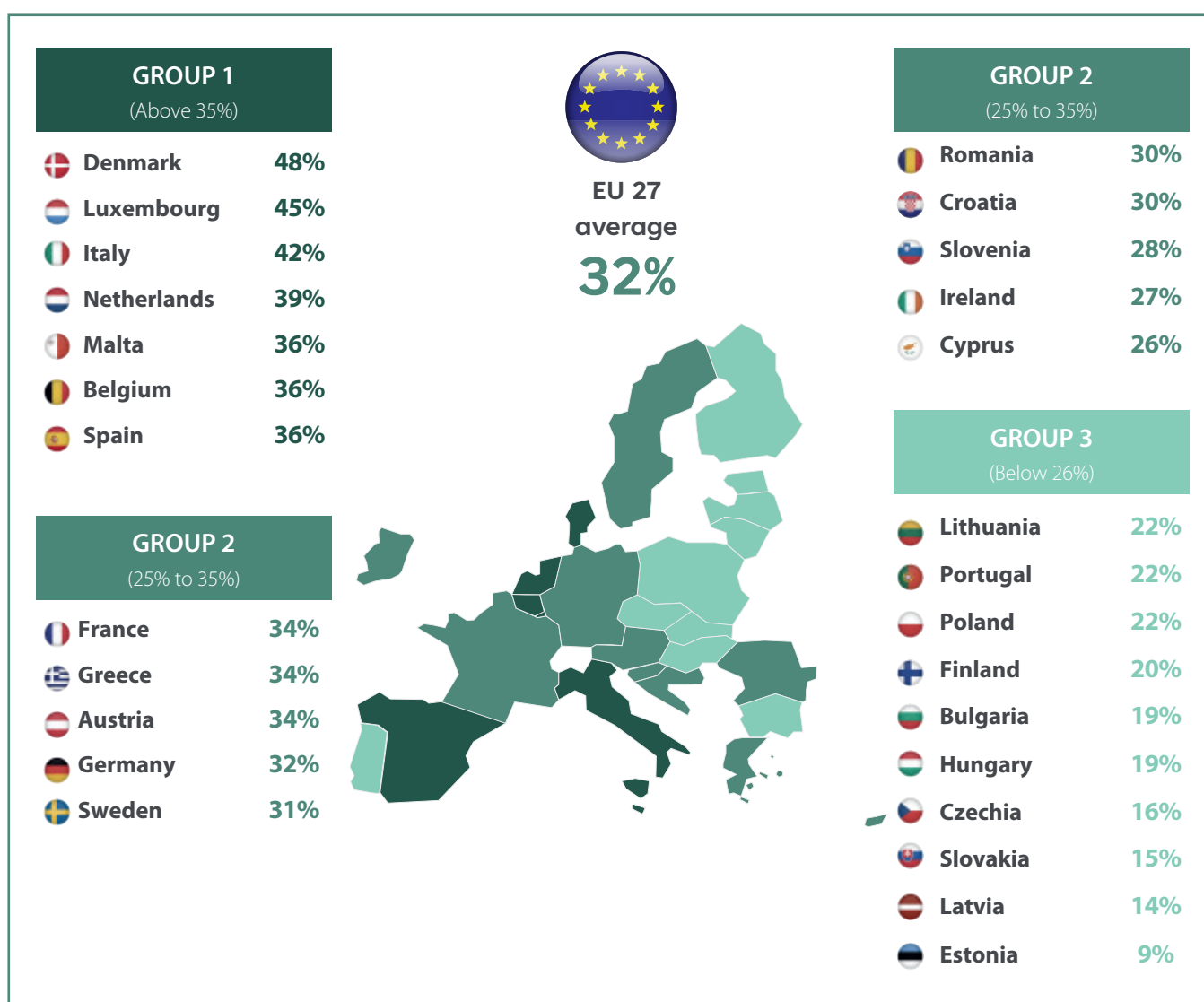
% that ranked climate change as one of the biggest challenges



Opinion varies widely: 9% of Estonian respondents rank climate change among the biggest challenges facing their country, while this figure shoots to 48% in Denmark – the only country where it is considered the top challenge

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

% that ranked climate change as one of the biggest challenges



b

**Adapting to climate change
is considered a priority
in most countries surveyed, and
equally so in the US
and the EU**

While most respondents in the EU and the US view adapting to climate change as a priority, the share that does not consider it important is significantly higher in the US

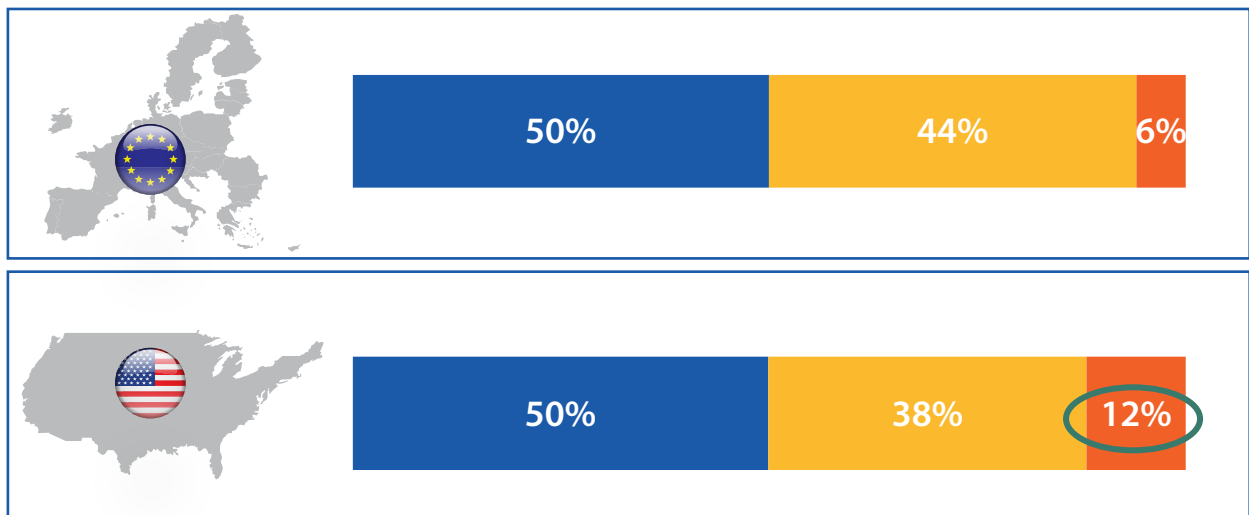
3. Among the actions that your country must take in the coming years, you would say that adapting to climate change is...

Adapting to climate change is...

A priority

Important but not a priority

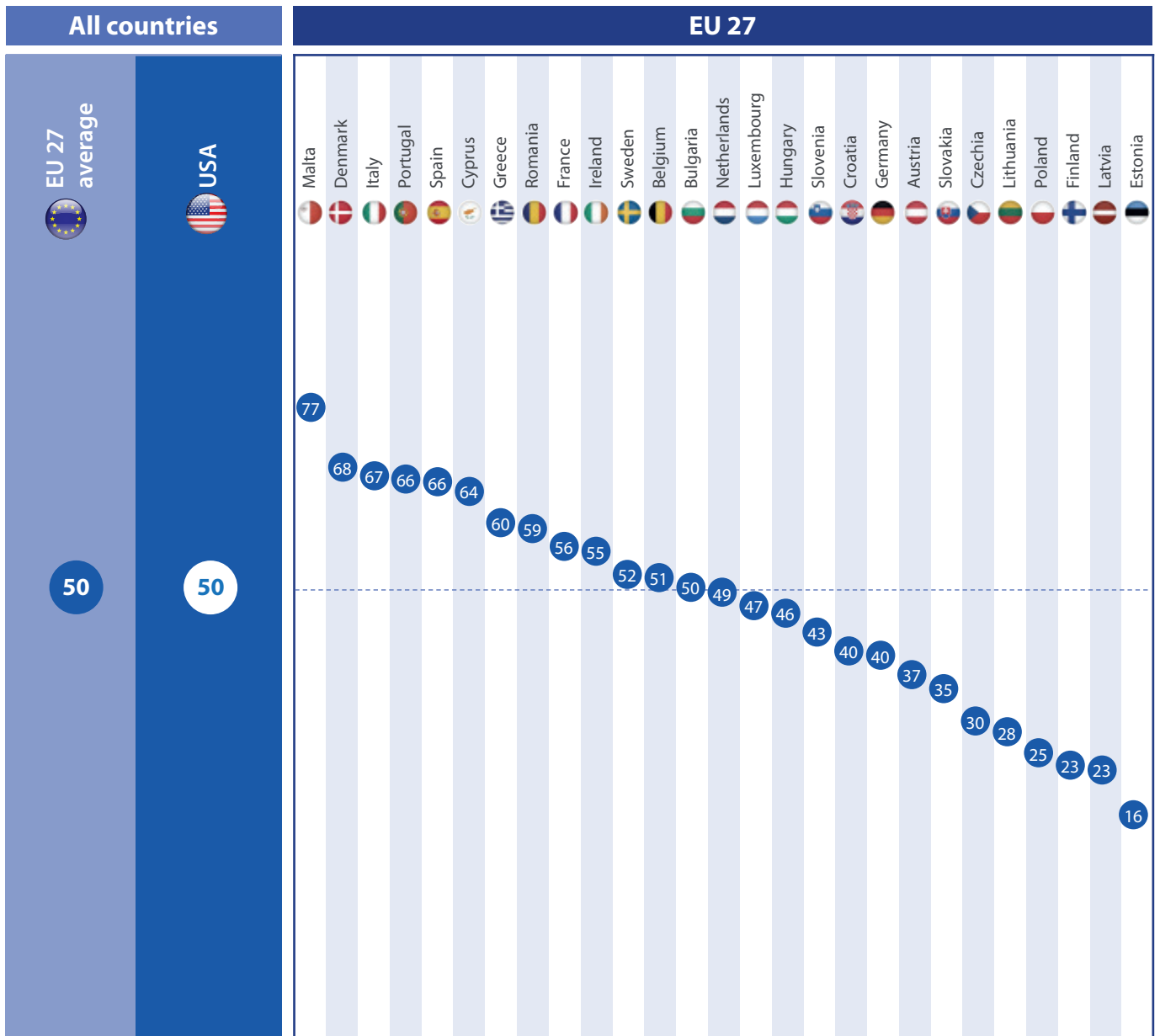
Not important



Respondents in Southern Europe are more likely to view adapting to climate change as a priority

3. Among the actions that your country must take in the coming years, you would say that adapting to climate change is...

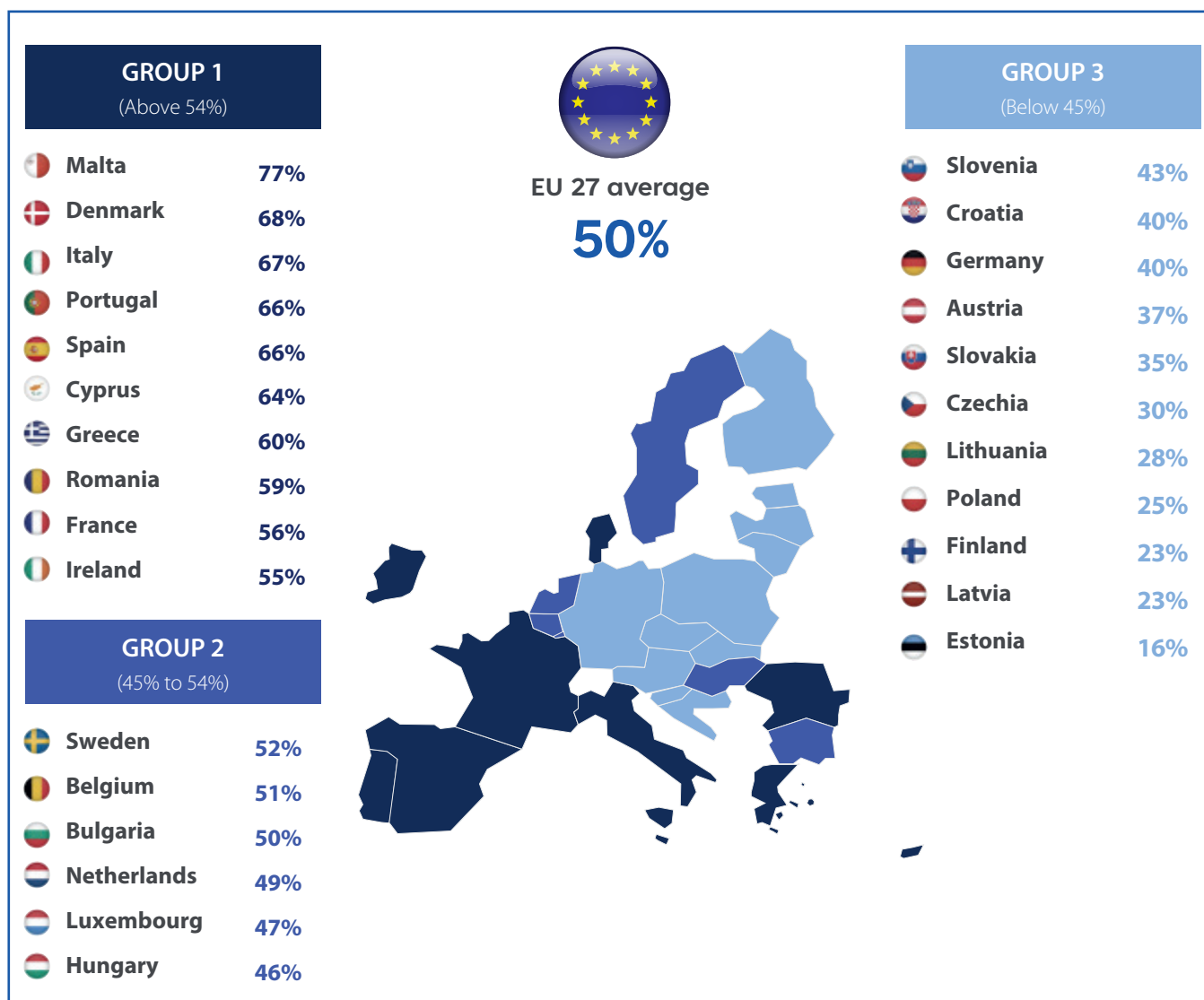
% that view adapting to climate change as a priority



77% of respondents in Malta view adaptation as a priority, while just 16% of those in Estonia do

3. Among the actions that your country must take in the coming years, you would say that adapting to climate change is...

% that view adapting to climate change as a priority



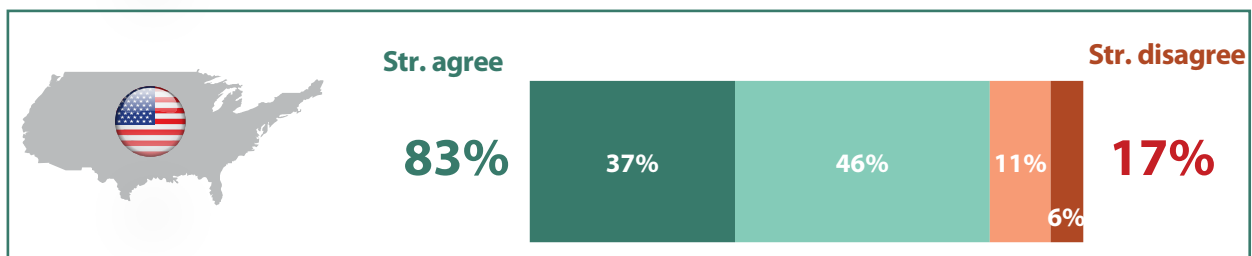
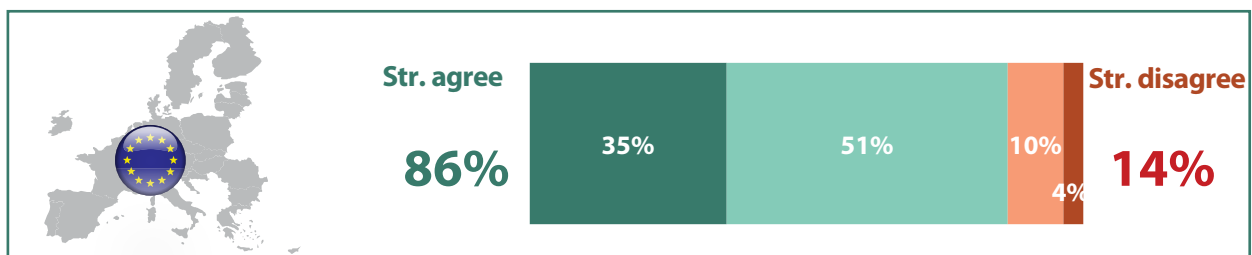


Adapting to climate change
is broadly perceived as
an attractive economic
opportunity that could
boost local economies
and create jobs

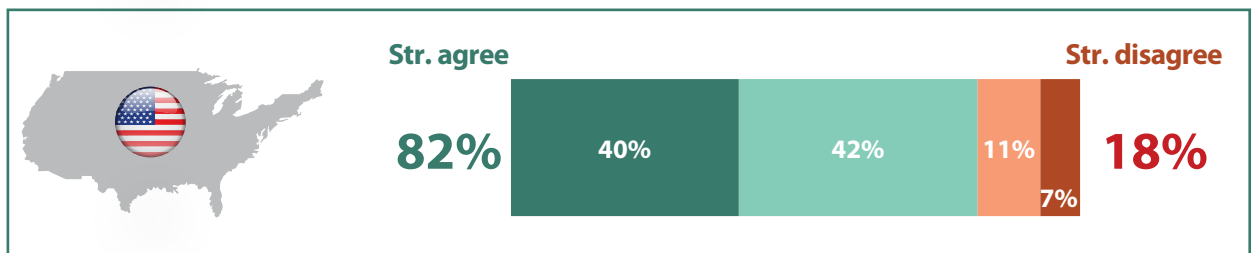
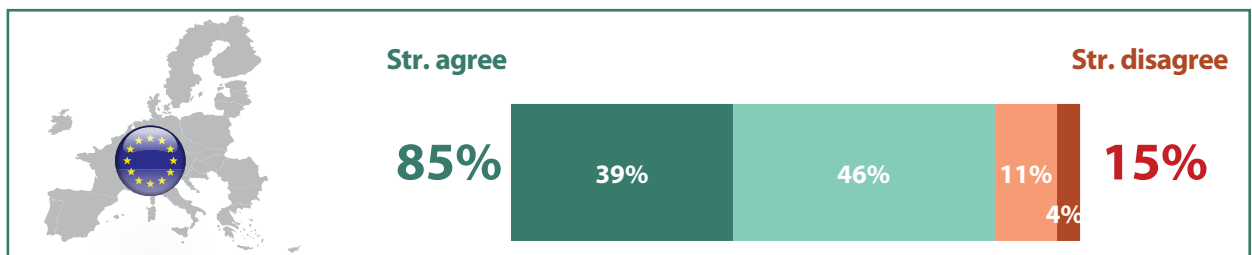
Most EU and US respondents agree that we should invest in adaptation now to avoid higher costs later, and many are aware of collateral benefits like job creation and boosting local economies

4. Do you agree with the following statements?

% that said investing in climate adaptation infrastructure can help create jobs and boost the local economy



% that feel climate change adaptation requires costs now to avoid greater costs in the future

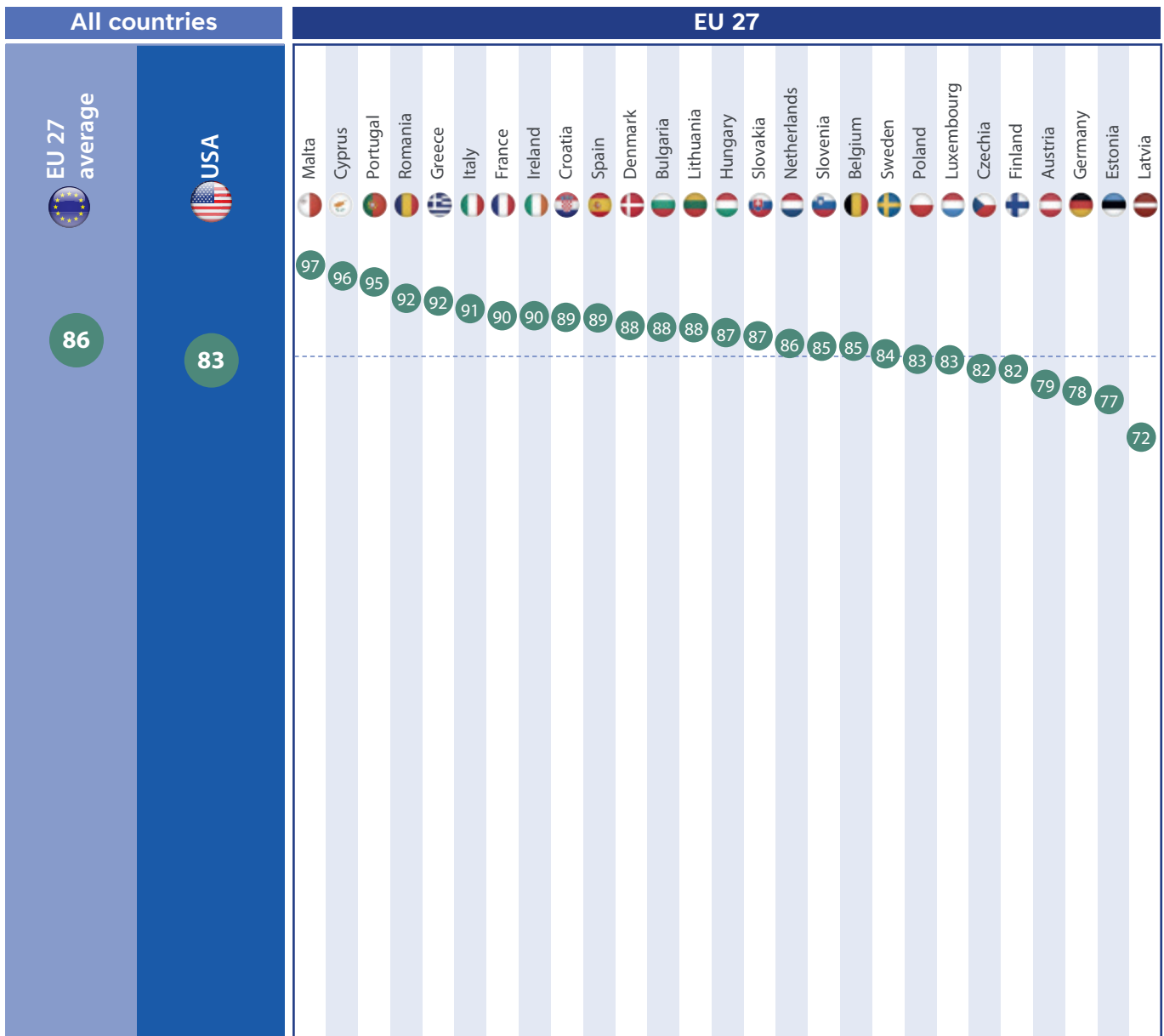


Strongly agree
 Somewhat agree
 Somewhat disagree
 Strongly disagree

EU respondents feel very positively about the possible benefits of climate change adaptation, like job creation and boosting the local economy

4. Do you agree with the following statements?

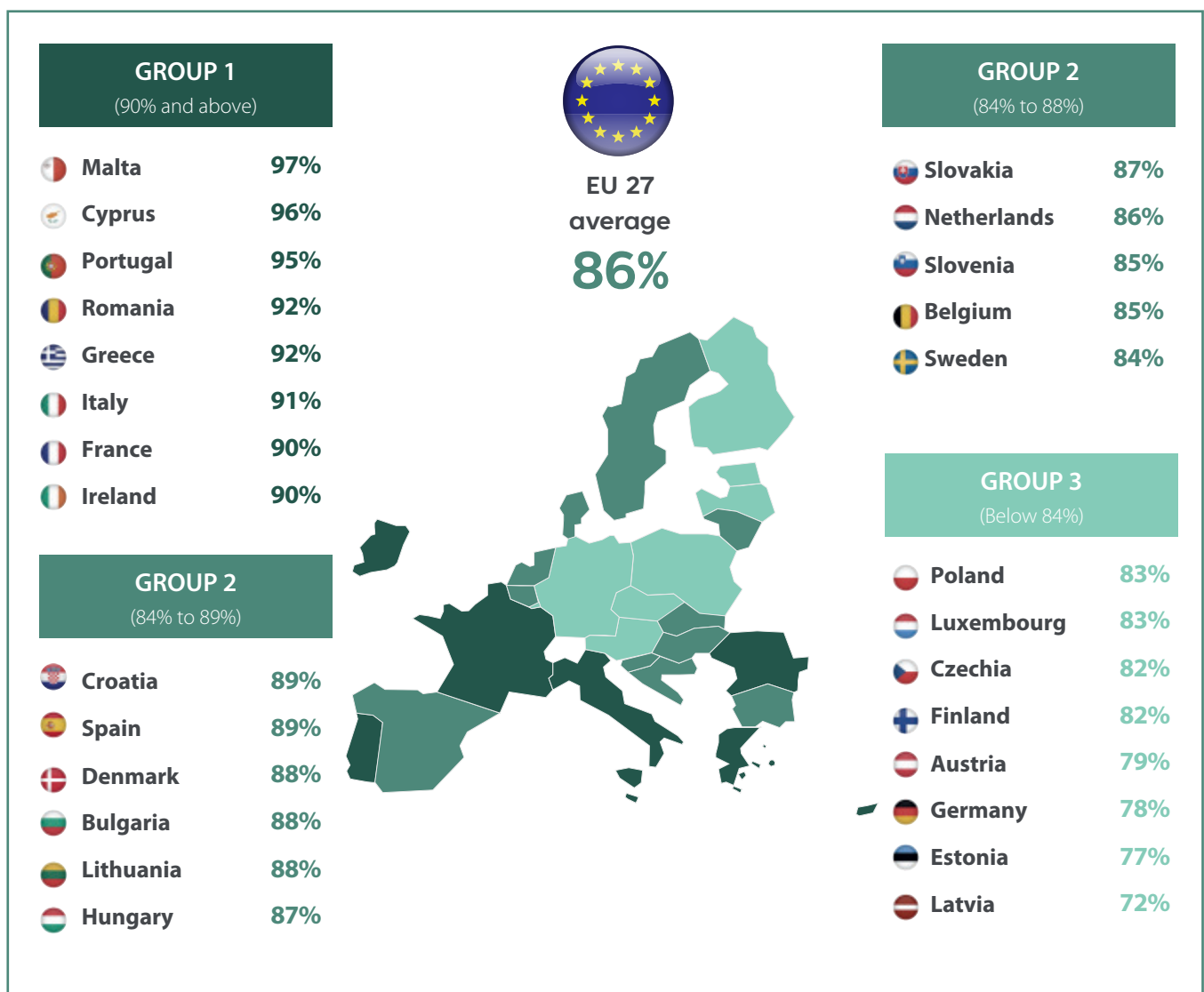
% that agree investing in climate adaptation infrastructure can help create jobs and boost the local economy



Collateral benefits are perceived positively across countries, and even more so in Southern Europe (91% average)

4. Do you agree with the following statements?

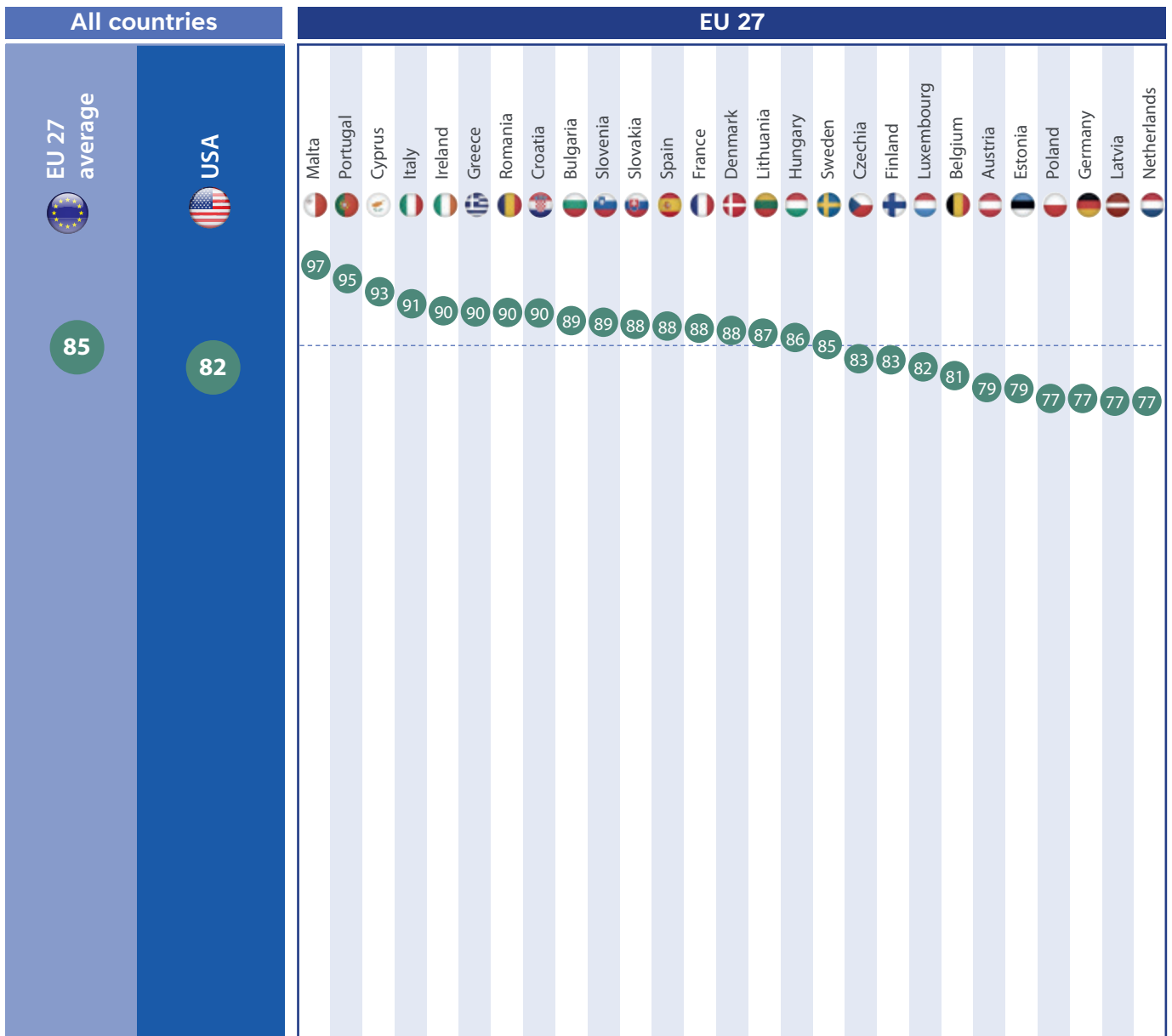
% that agree investing in climate adaptation infrastructure can help create jobs and boost the local economy



Adaptation is thought to have multiple benefits, and over 85% of EU respondents believe it requires investment today to avoid higher costs in the future

4. Do you agree with the following statements?

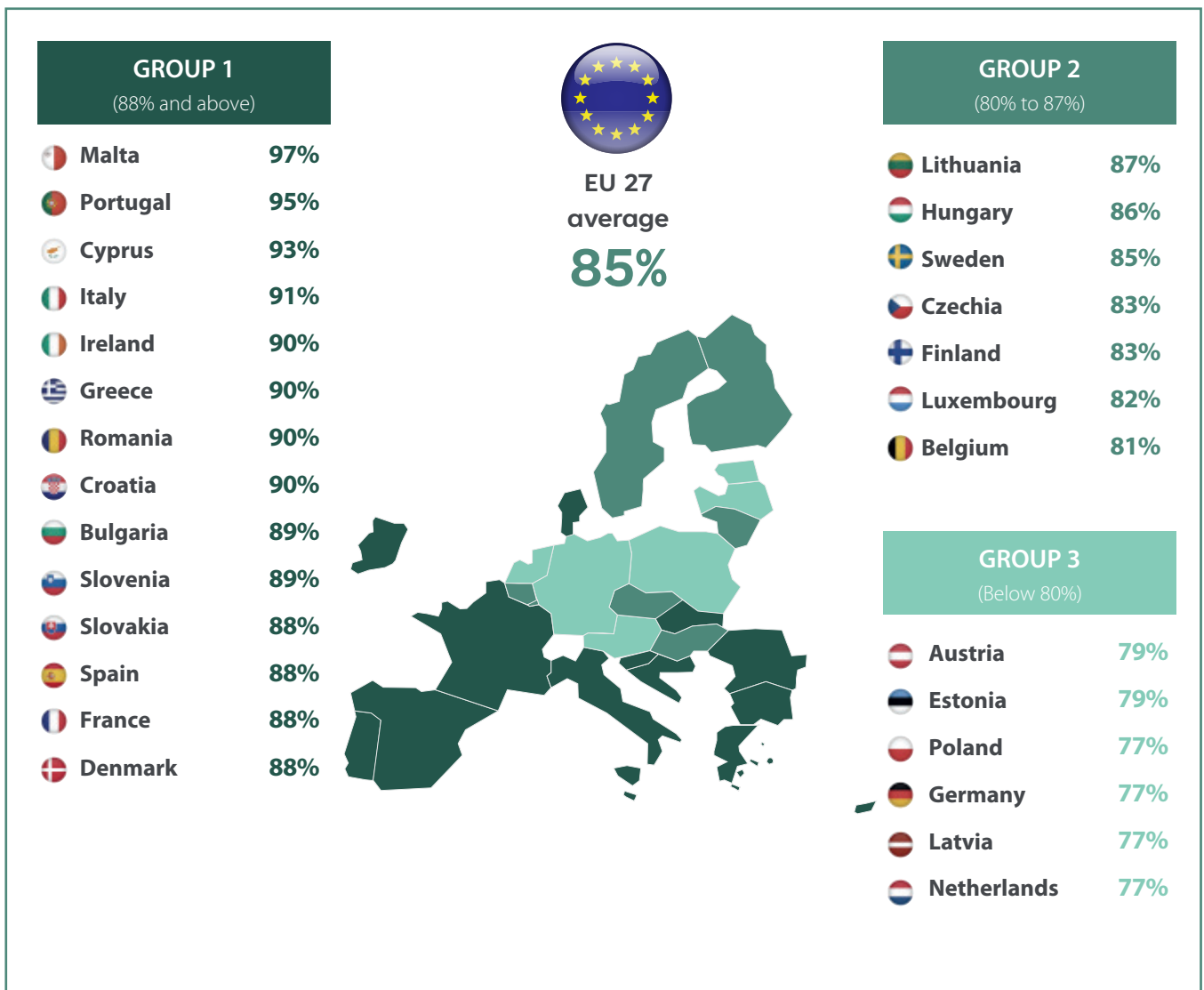
% that agree climate change adaptation requires investment now to avoid greater costs in the future



Respondents across countries – and especially in Southern Europe – agree on the need to invest now to avoid greater costs in the future

4. Do you agree with the following statements?

% that agree climate change adaptation requires investment now to avoid greater costs in the future



2

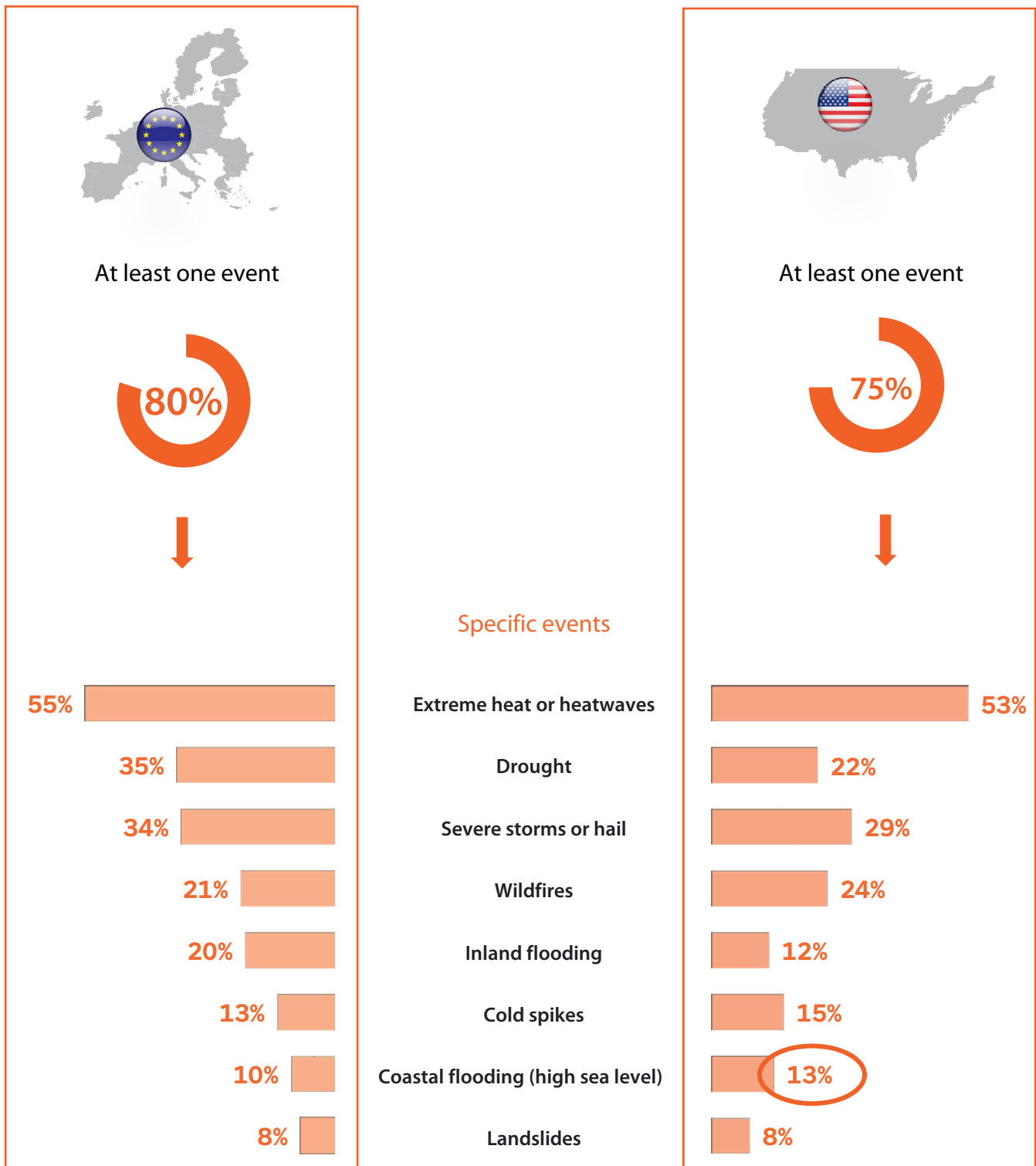
**RESPONDENTS
HAVE ALREADY BEEN
IMPACTED BY
EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS,
ARE WORRIED ABOUT
THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE, AND ARE
READY TO ADAPT**

a

Most respondents
have faced at least
one extreme weather
event in the
past five years

Respondents in both the EU and the US have already lived through extreme weather events with direct negative consequences

5. In the past five years, which of the following extreme weather events have had a direct negative impact on your everyday life?

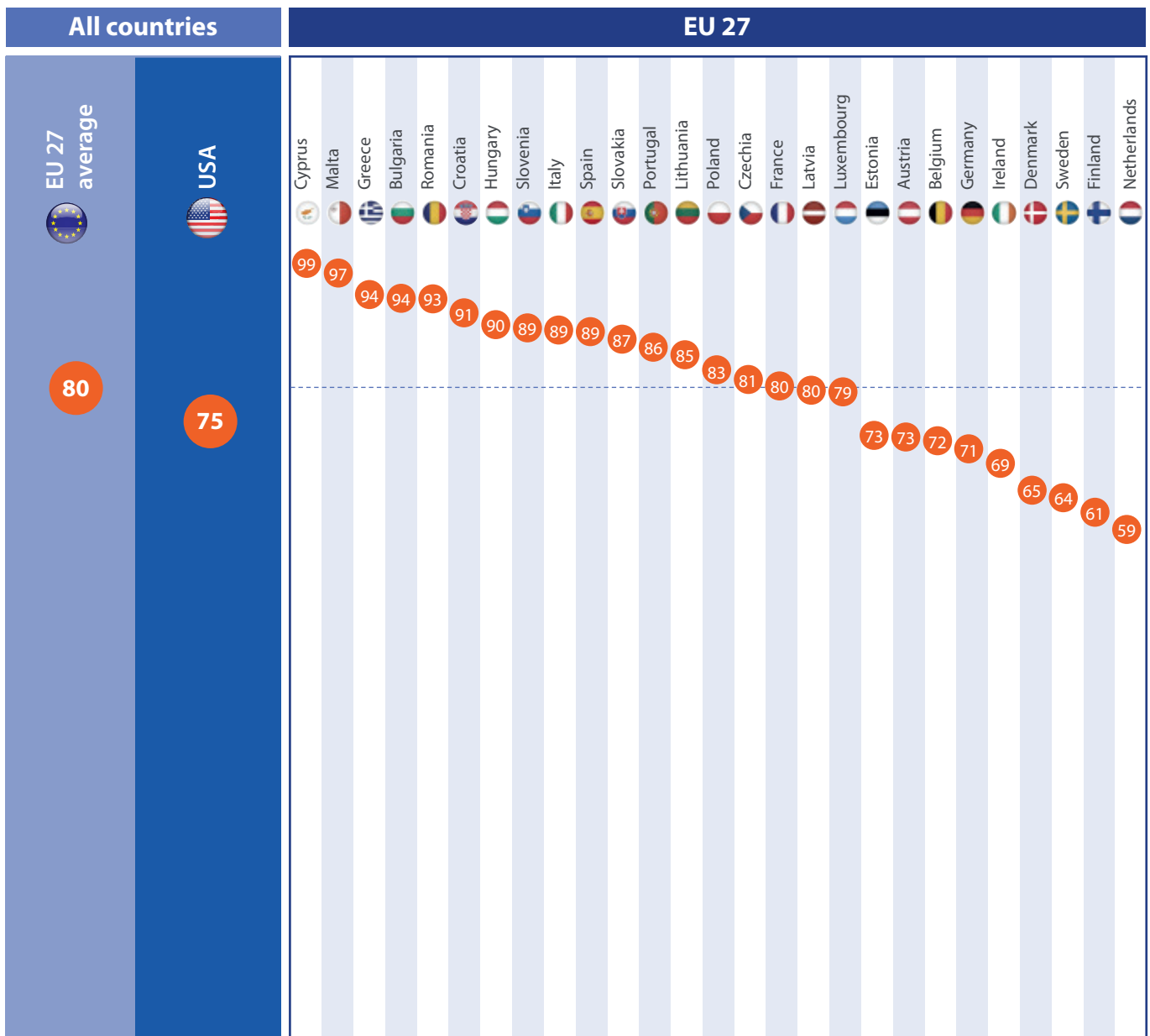


Total > 100 % because respondents could select multiple answers

Nordic countries seem less affected by extreme weather events than Southern and Eastern European countries

5. In the past five years, which of the following extreme weather events have had a direct negative impact on your everyday life?

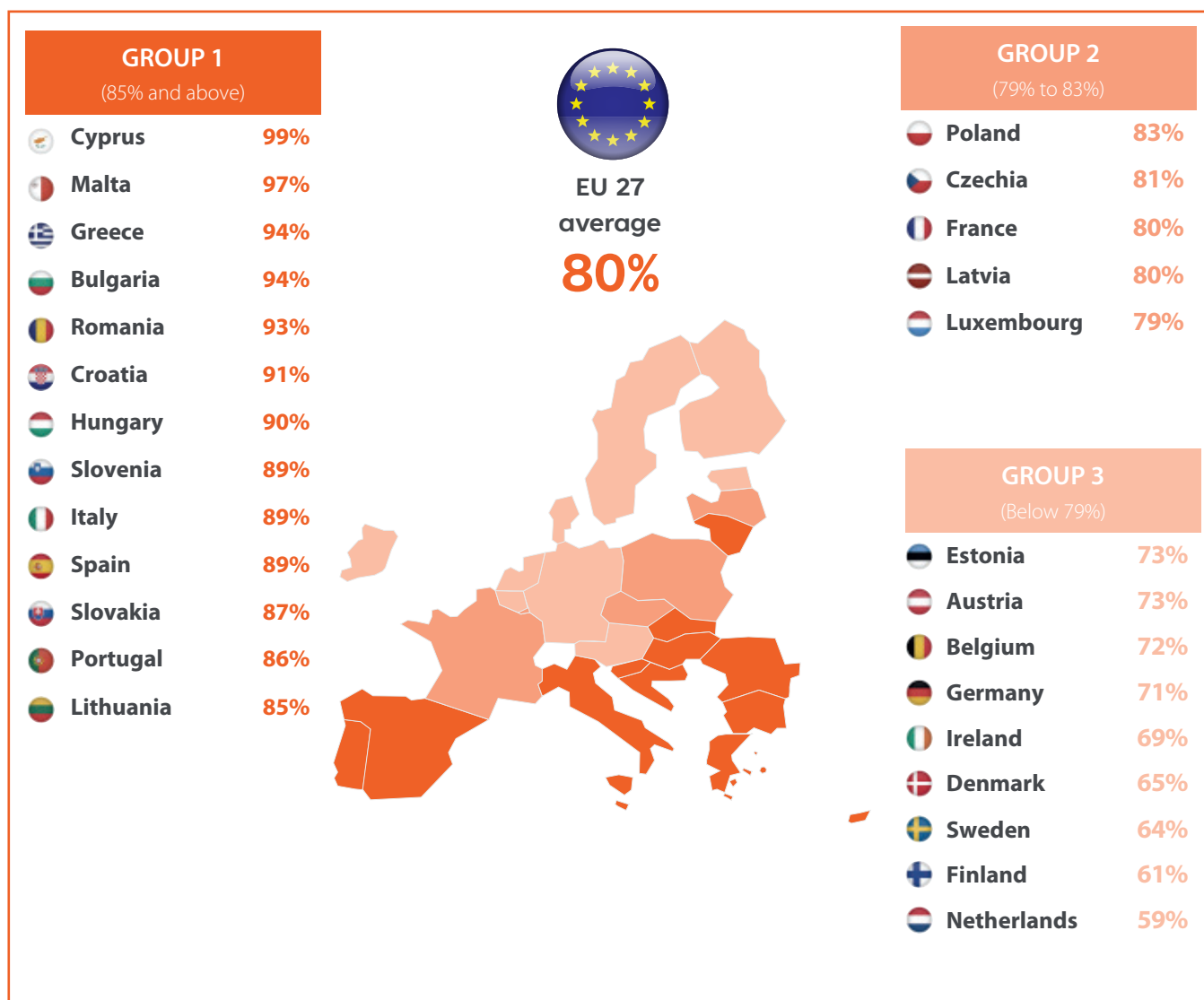
% that reported at least one extreme weather event



Respondents in Southern and Eastern Europe report significantly more impact from extreme weather events

5. In the past five years, which of the following extreme weather events have had a direct negative impact on your everyday life?

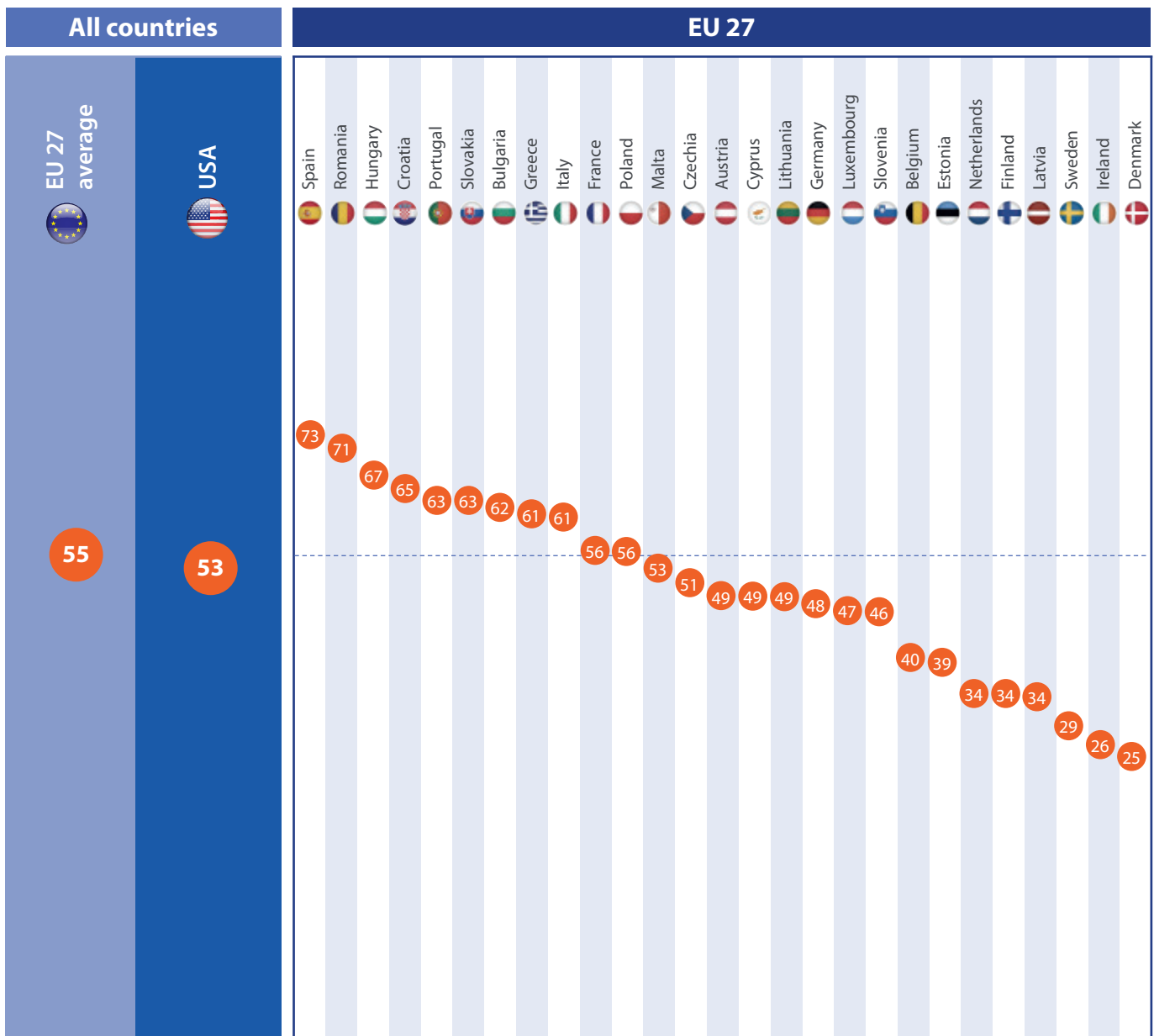
% that reported at least one extreme weather event



Extreme heat and heatwaves are the most frequently reported extreme weather events for the EU, but with vast differences between Nordic countries (29% average) and Southern countries (65% average)

5. In the past five years, which of the following extreme weather events have had a direct negative impact on your everyday life?

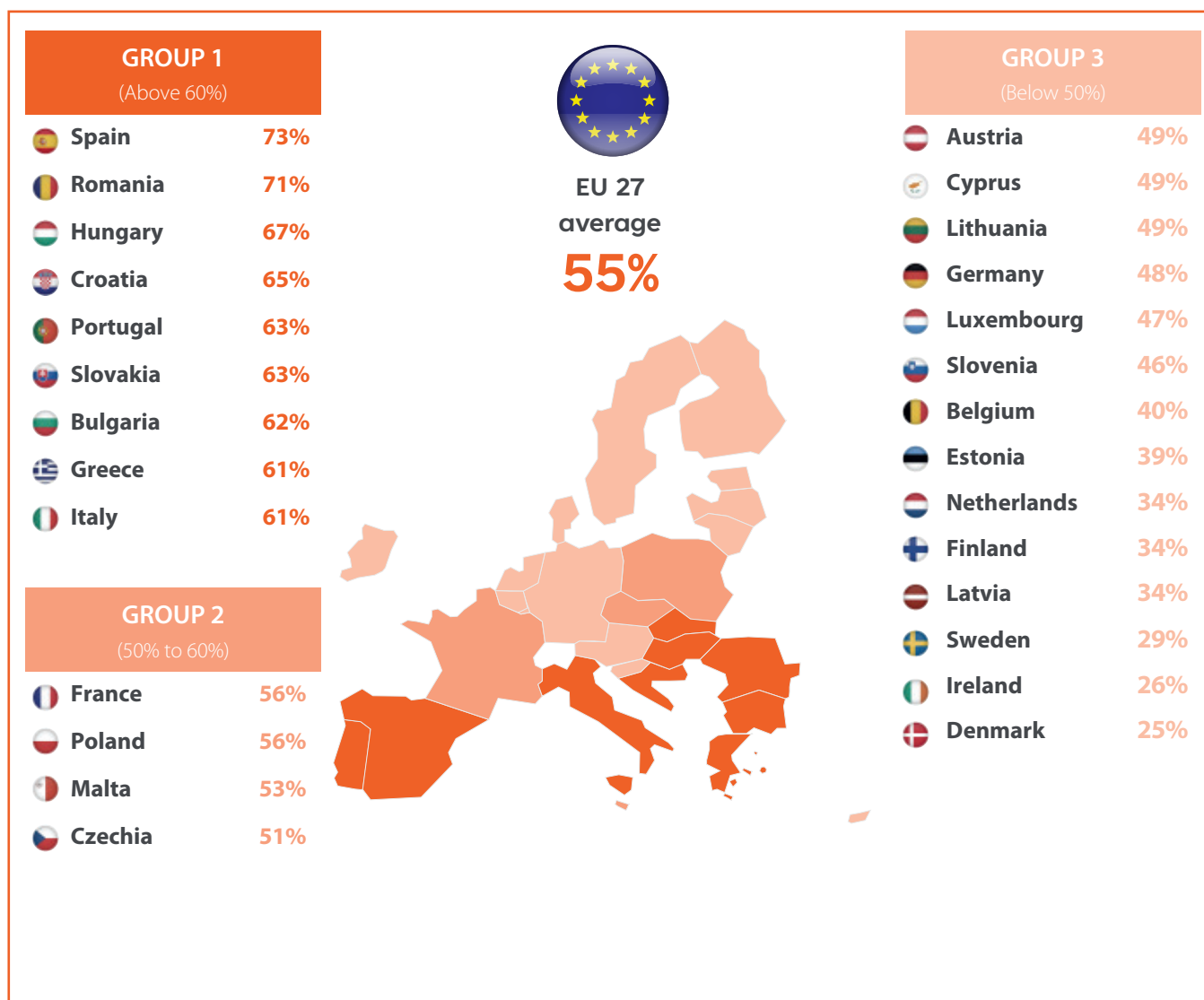
% that reported extreme heat or heatwaves



Respondents in Southern Europe are the hardest hit by extreme heatwaves

5. In the past five years, which of the following extreme weather events have had a direct negative impact on your everyday life?

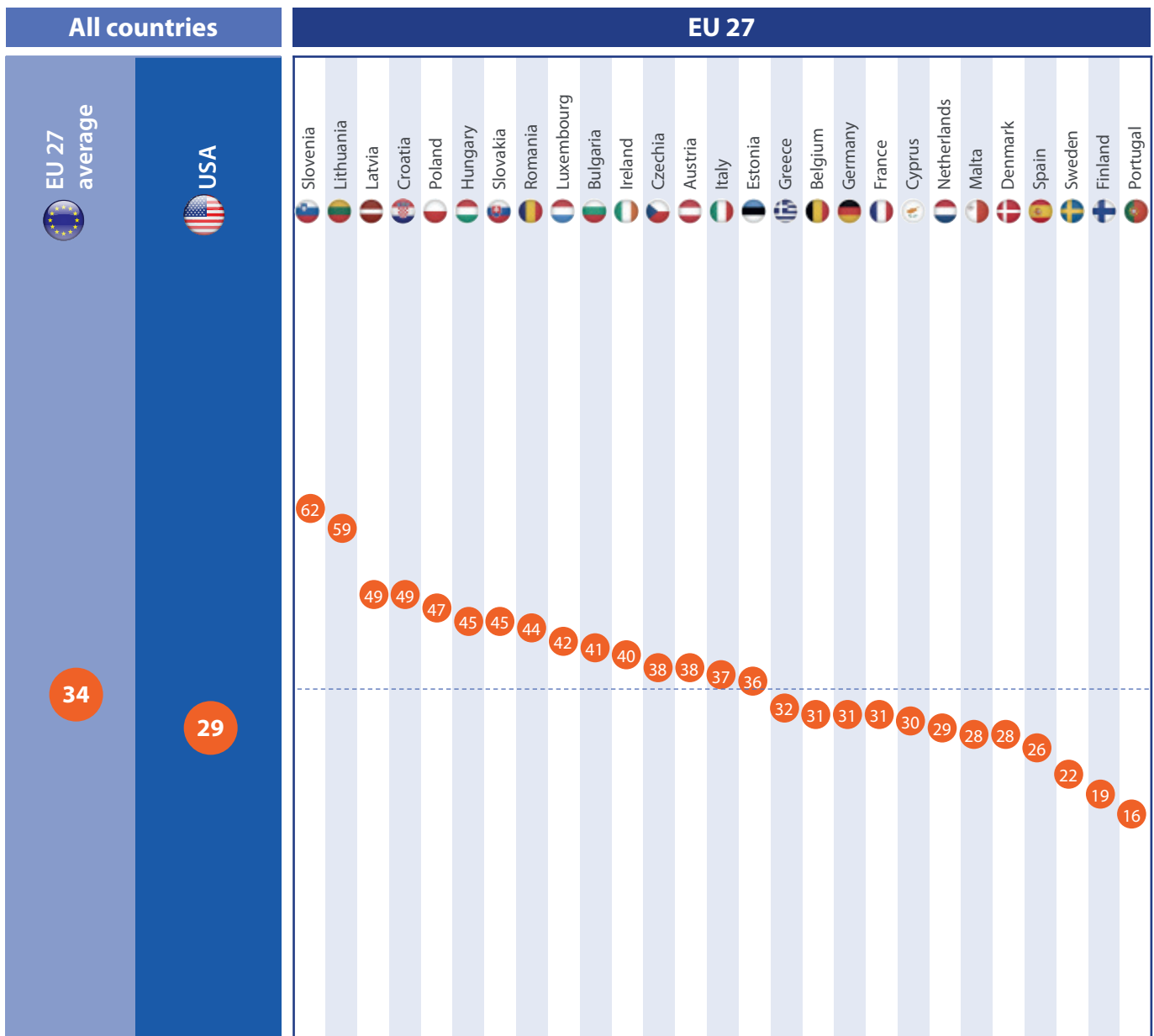
% that reported extreme heat or heatwaves



EU respondents report severe storms and hail more frequently than US ones, but responses between EU countries vary

5. In the past five years, which of the following extreme weather events have had a direct negative impact on your everyday life?

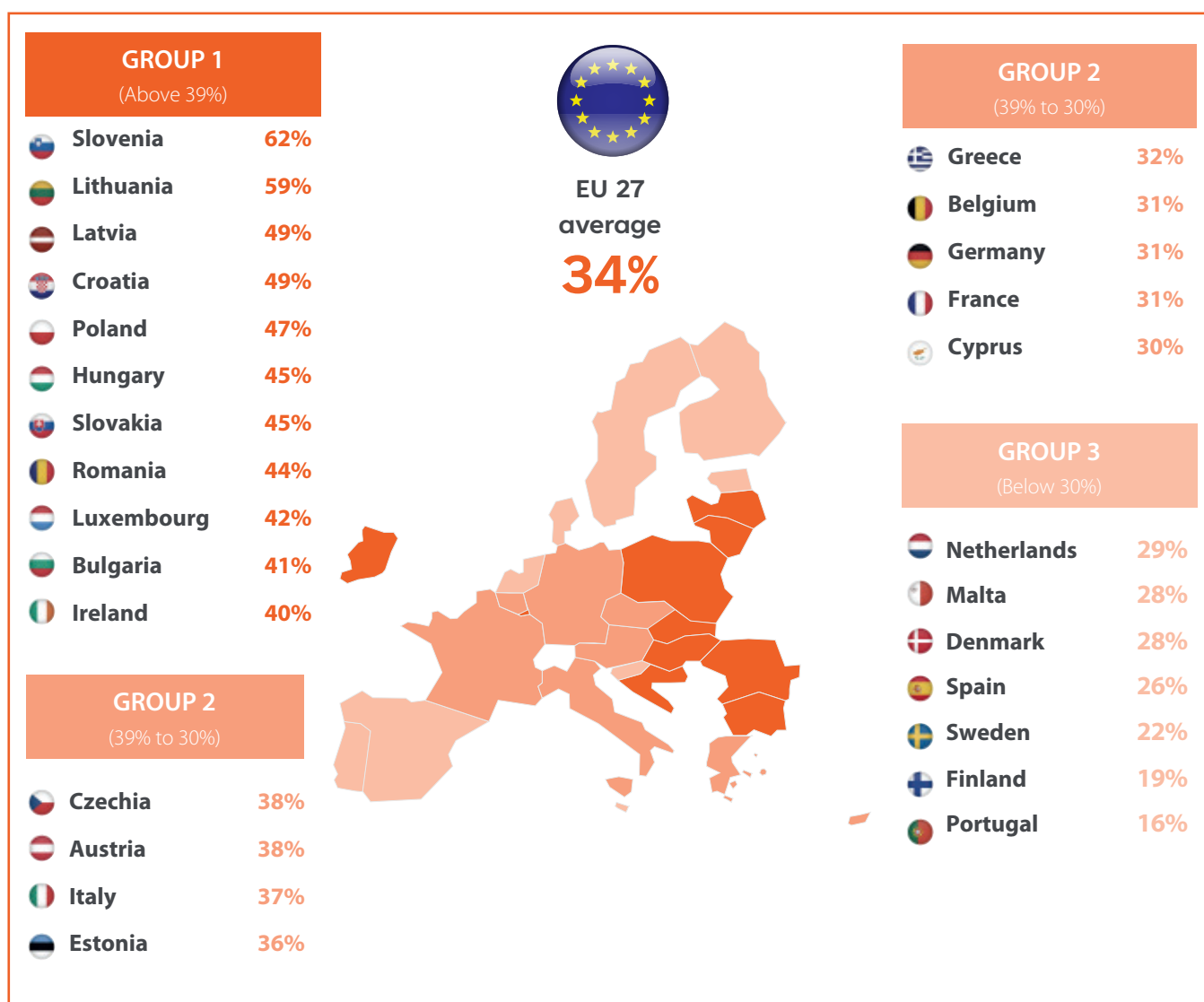
% that reported severe storms or hail



Respondents in Eastern Europe and Ireland report more impact from severe storms and hail

5. In the past five years, which of the following extreme weather events have had a direct negative impact on your everyday life?

% that reported severe storms or hail

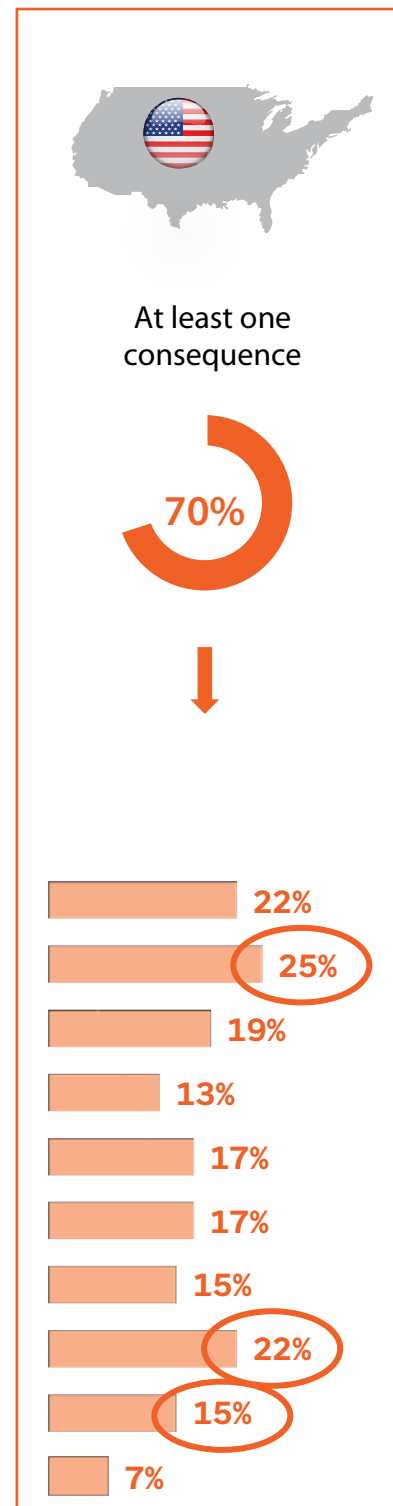
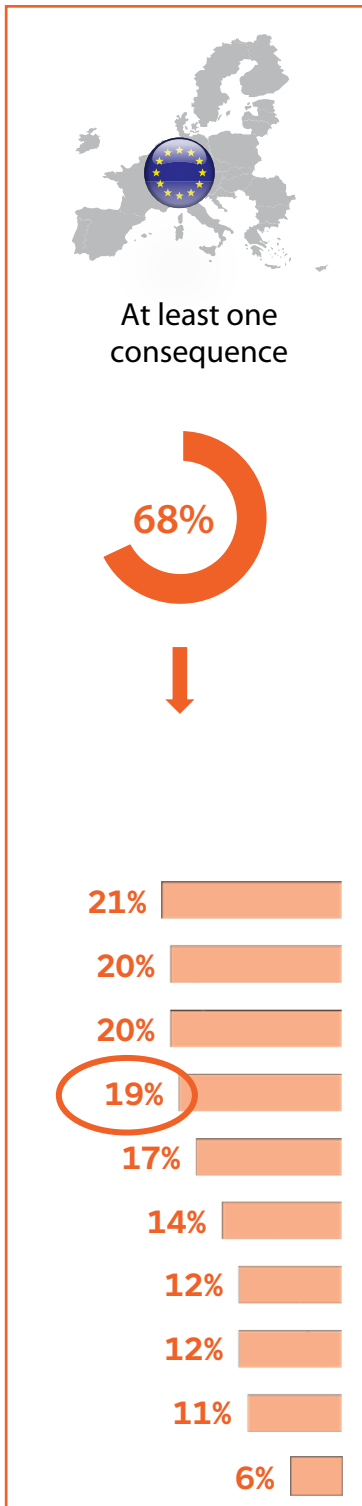


b

**Extreme weather events
have wide-ranging,
serious consequences
for people: In EU countries, the
most common are
transportation disruptions,
power cuts and health
problems**

Respondents are already seeing consequences like disrupted transport, power cuts or energy supply issues, and health problems, with some major differences between the US and the EU

6. Over the past five years, have you experienced any of the following consequences due to extreme weather events?

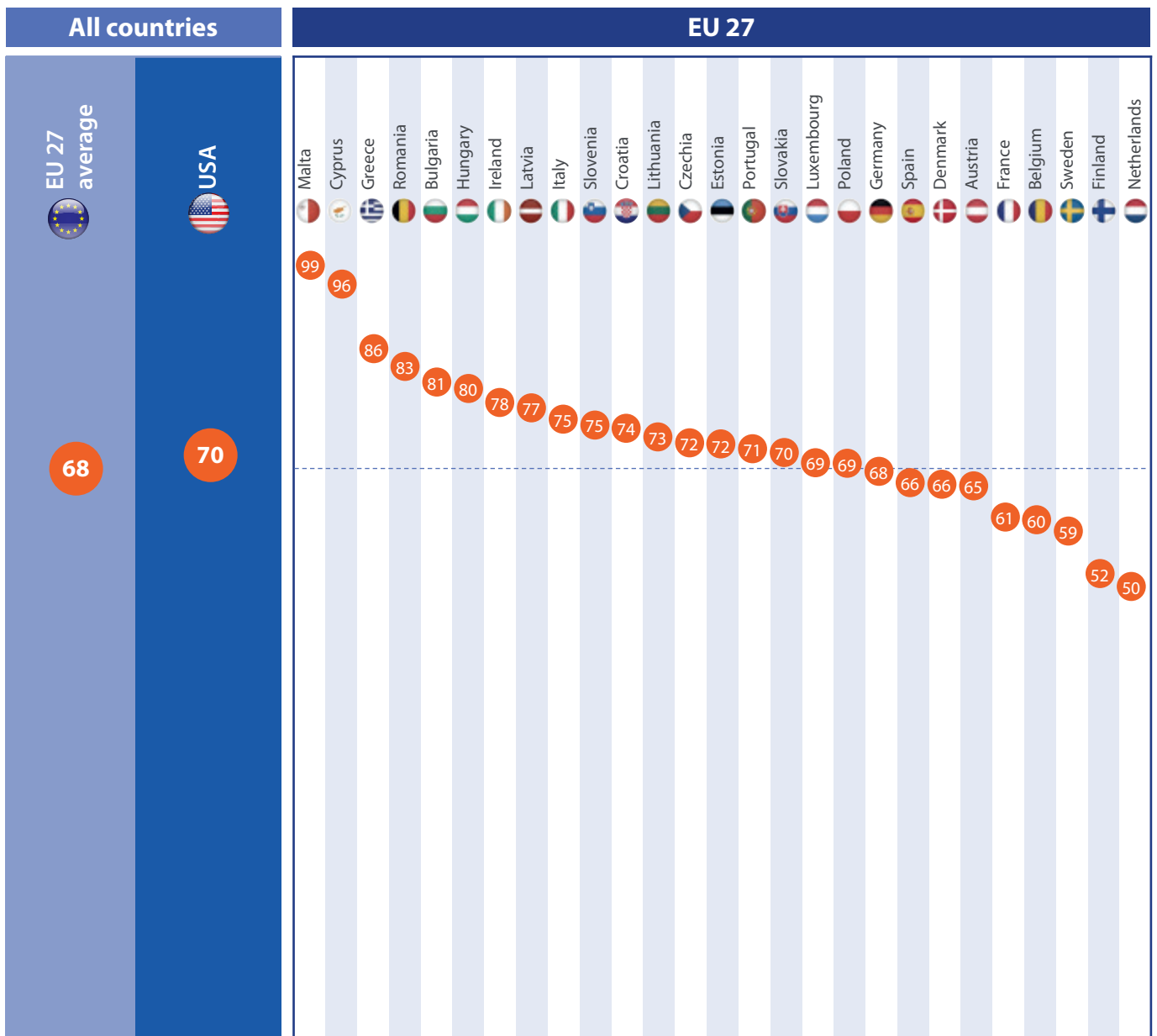


Total > 100 % because respondents could select multiple answers

A large share of EU respondents have already felt the consequences of climate change, but with major differences between countries

6. Over the past five years, have you experienced any of the following consequences due to extreme weather events?

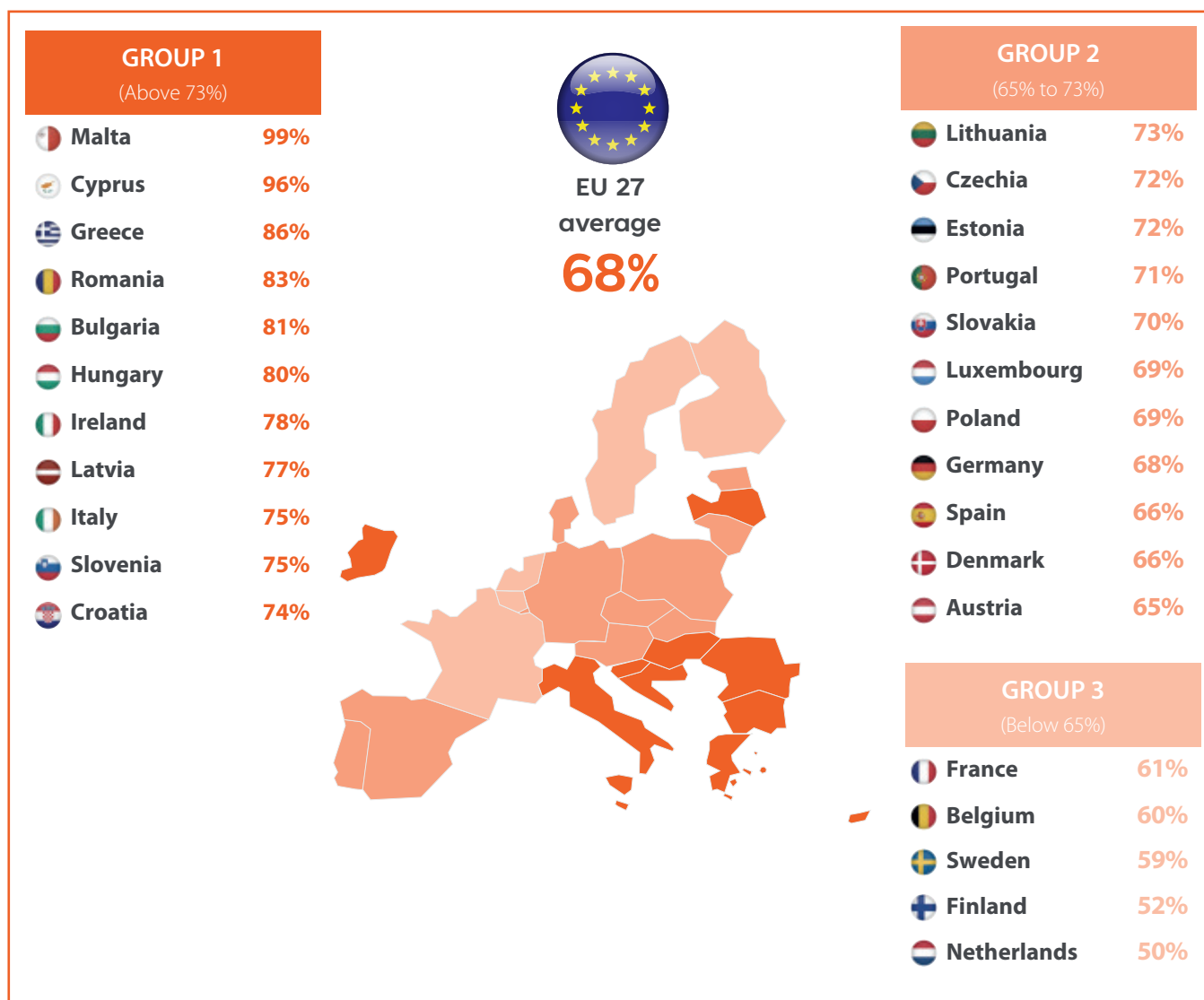
% that reported at least one consequence



Respondents in Southern Europe remain more severely impacted by extreme weather events

6. Over the past five years, have you experienced any of the following consequences due to extreme weather events?

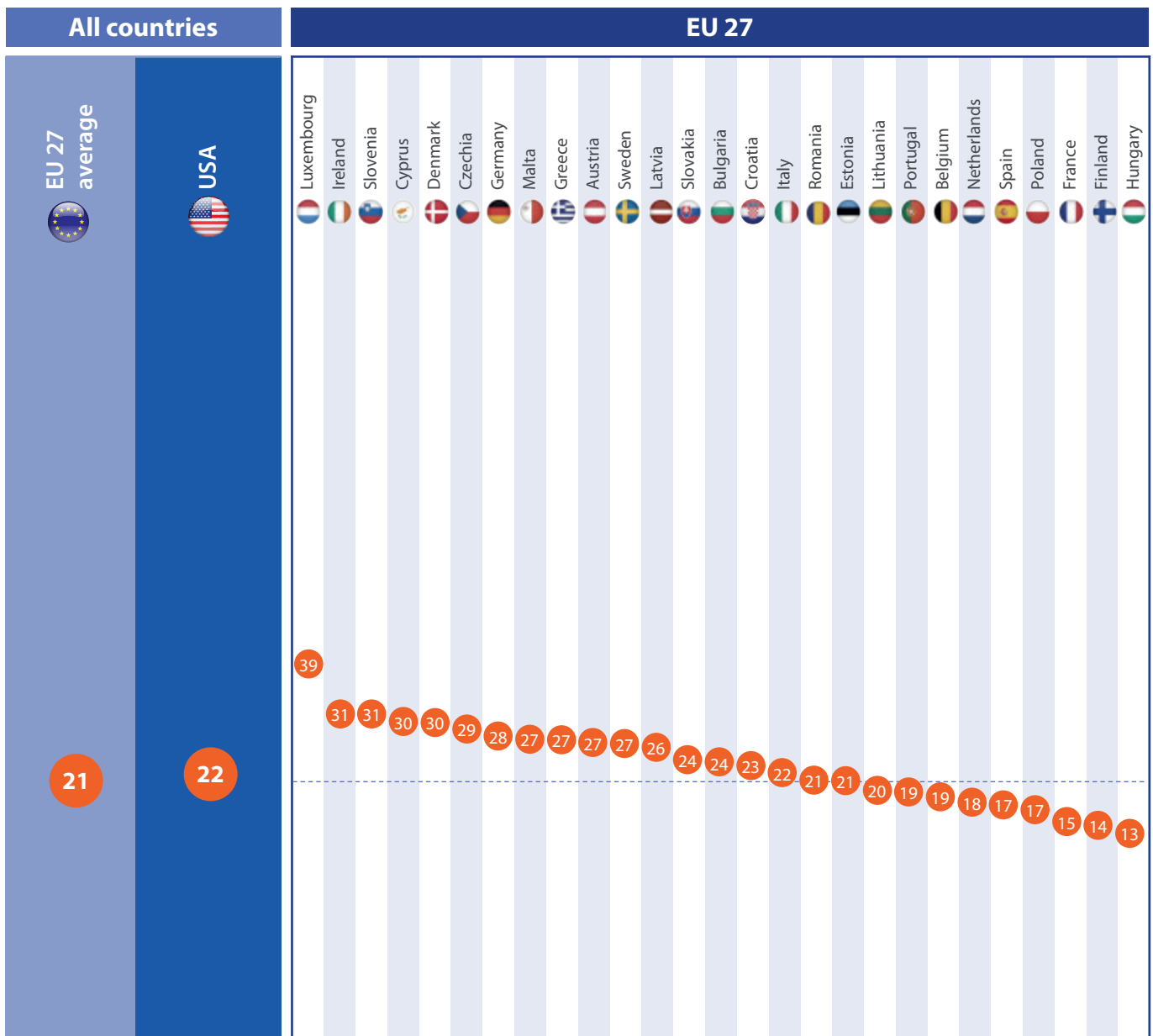
% that reported at least one consequence



One in five EU respondents has already dealt with disrupted transport due to climate change

6. Over the past five years, have you experienced any of the following consequences due to extreme weather events?

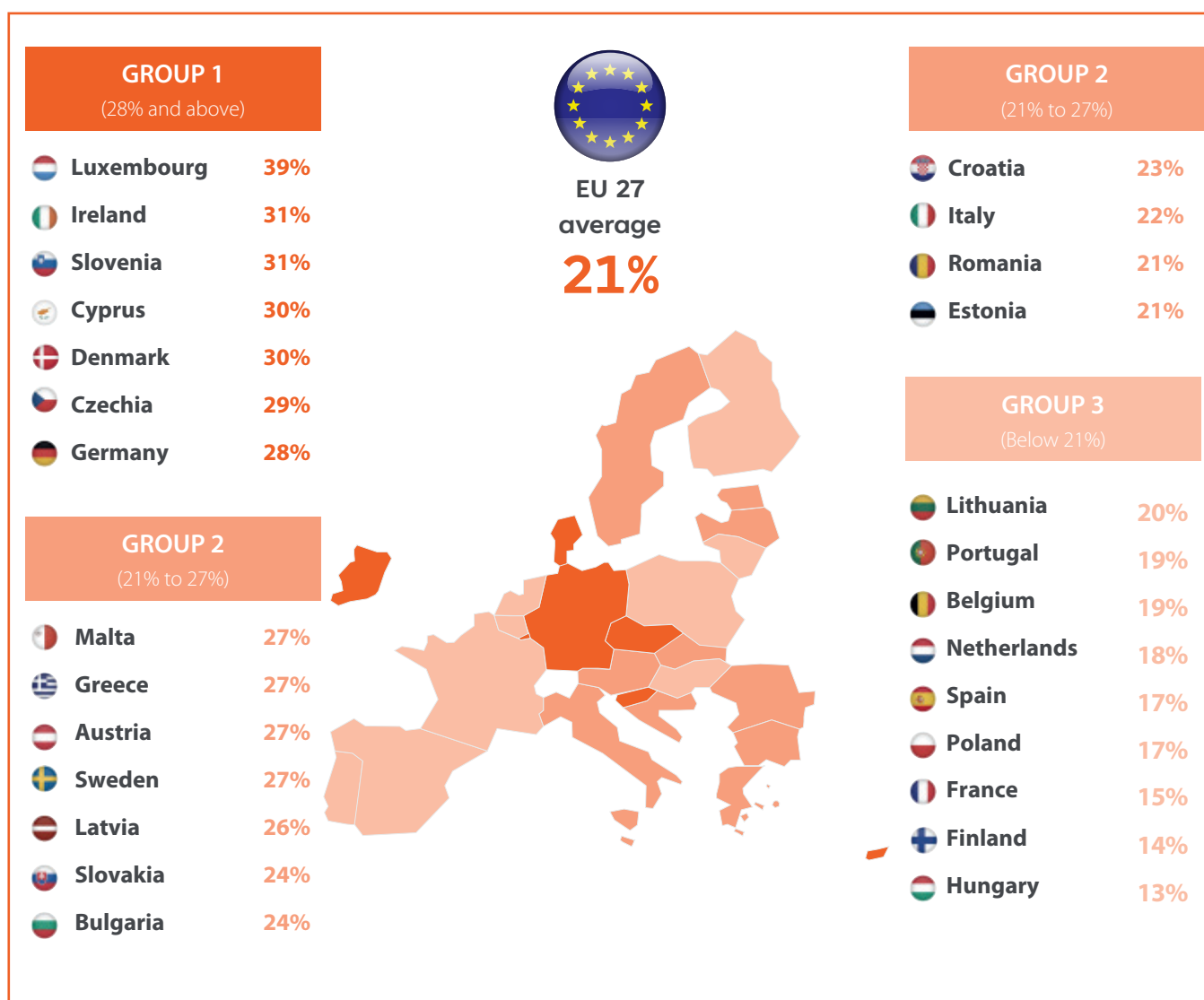
% that reported transport disruptions (such as closed roads, destroyed bridges or delayed public transport)



Transport disruptions are reported mainly by respondents in Central Europe (Germany, Czechia, Slovenia, Luxembourg, etc.)

6. Over the past five years, have you experienced any of the following consequences due to extreme weather events?

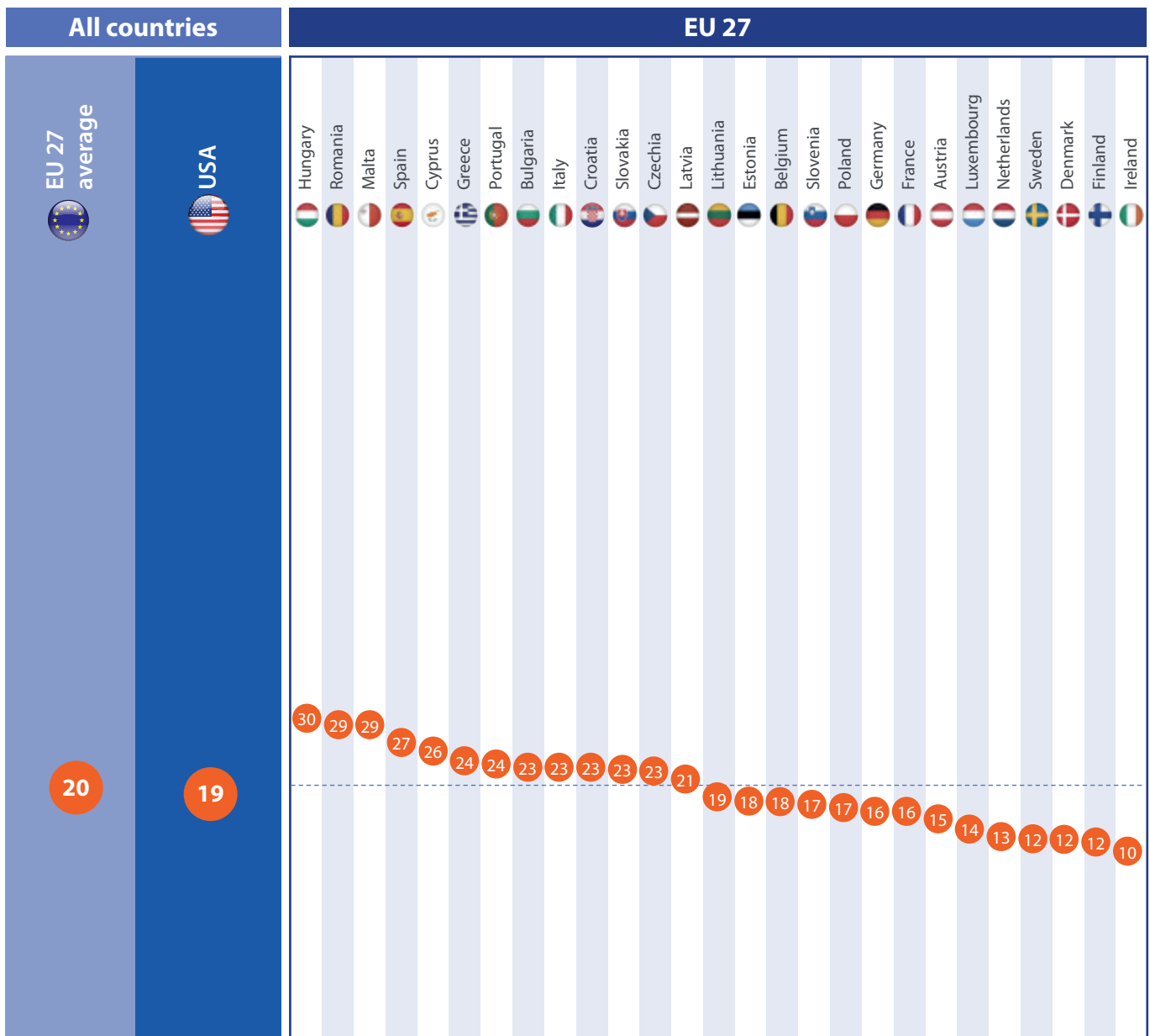
% that reported transport disruptions (such as closed roads, destroyed bridges or delayed public transport)



Even more worrying are the direct consequences of extreme weather events for health, especially in Hungary, Romania and Malta

6. Over the past five years, have you experienced any of the following consequences due to extreme weather events?

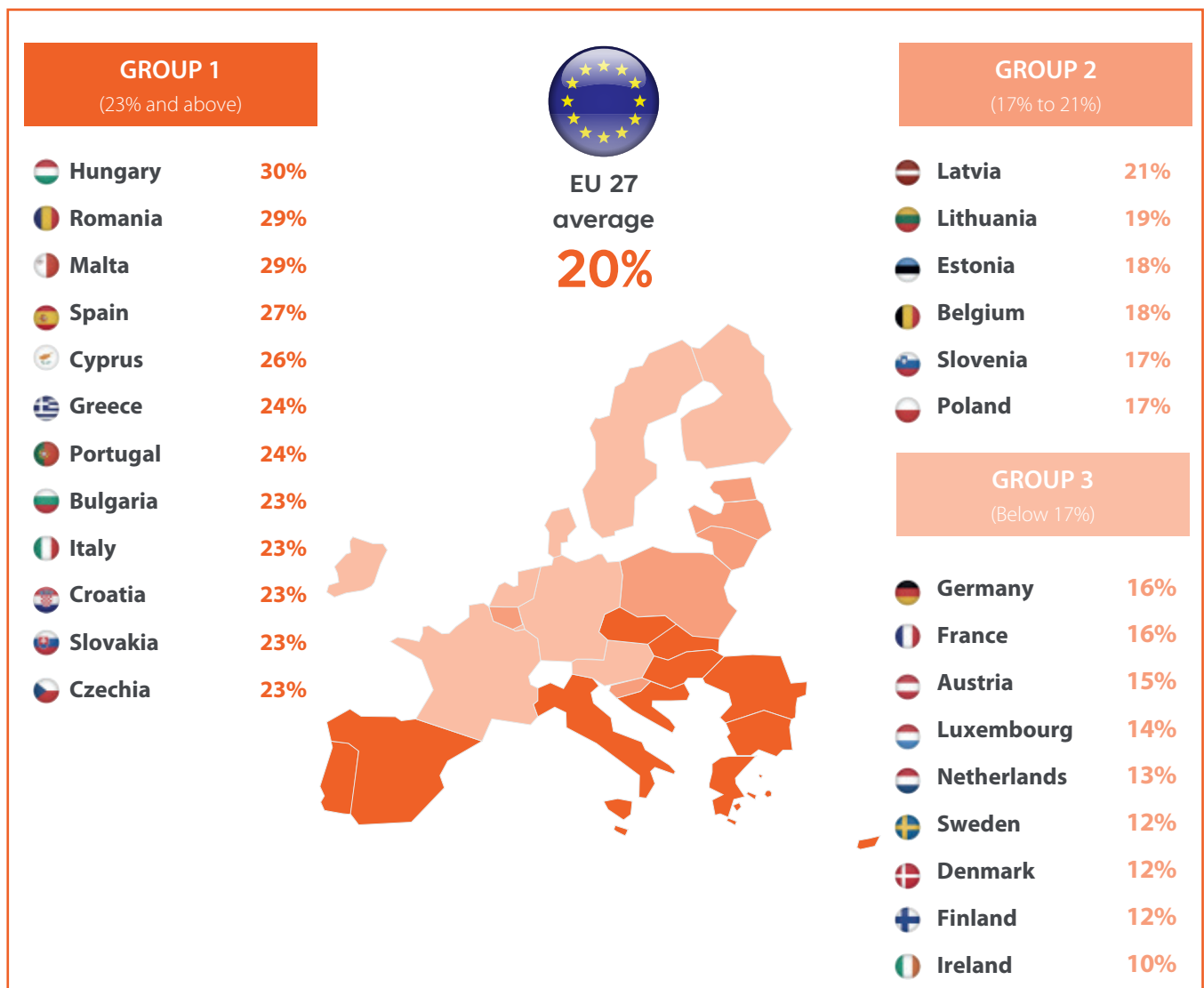
% that reported health issues (such as heat stroke or respiratory problems)



25% of respondents in Southern Europe report health problems due to extreme weather events, compared to 12% in Northern Europe – very similar to the results for heatwaves and drought

6. Over the past five years, have you experienced any of the following consequences due to extreme weather events?

% that reported health issues (such as heat stroke or respiratory problems)





**Respondents express
acute concern about
how climate change
could impact their future**

There are high levels of concern about the potential impact of climate change on people's futures, with EU respondents significantly more concerned than US respondents

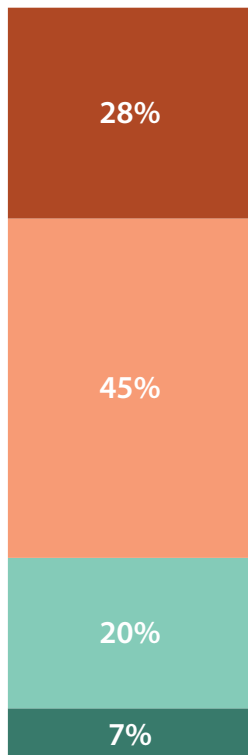
7. When you think of the potential impact of climate change on your life in the future, you feel...

% that reported being worried



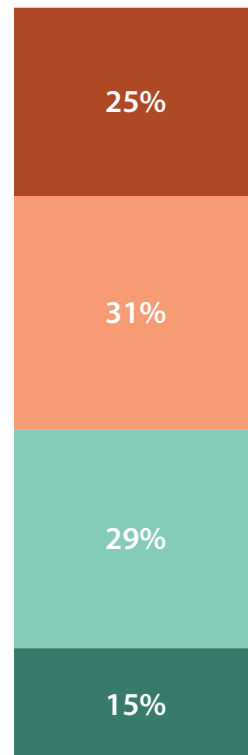
More than slightly worried

73%



More than slightly worried

56%

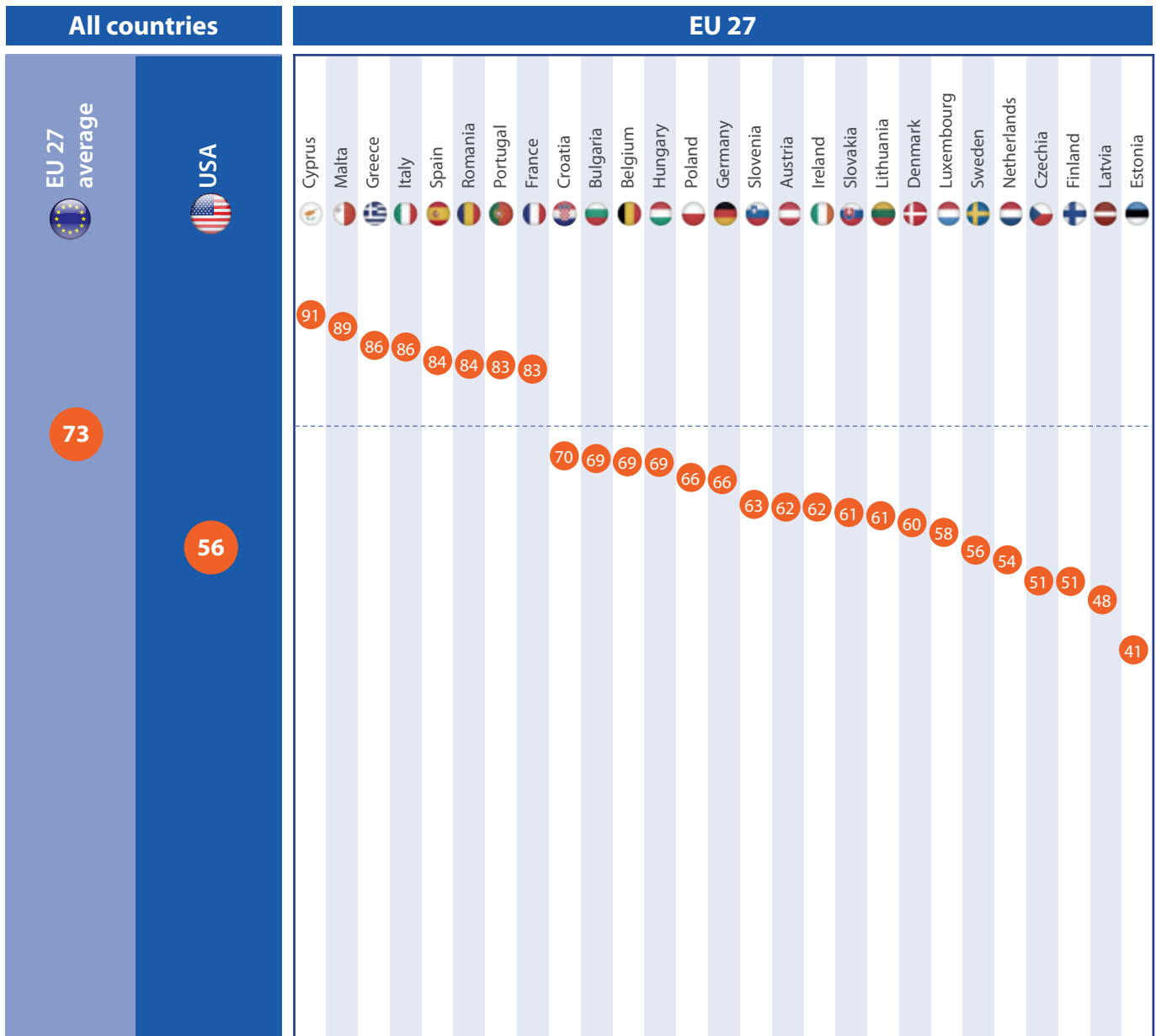


Very worried Quite worried Slightly worried Not worried at all

73% of EU respondents are worried about the potential impact of climate change on their future, with wide geographical variation

7. When you think of the potential impact of climate change on your life in the future, you feel...

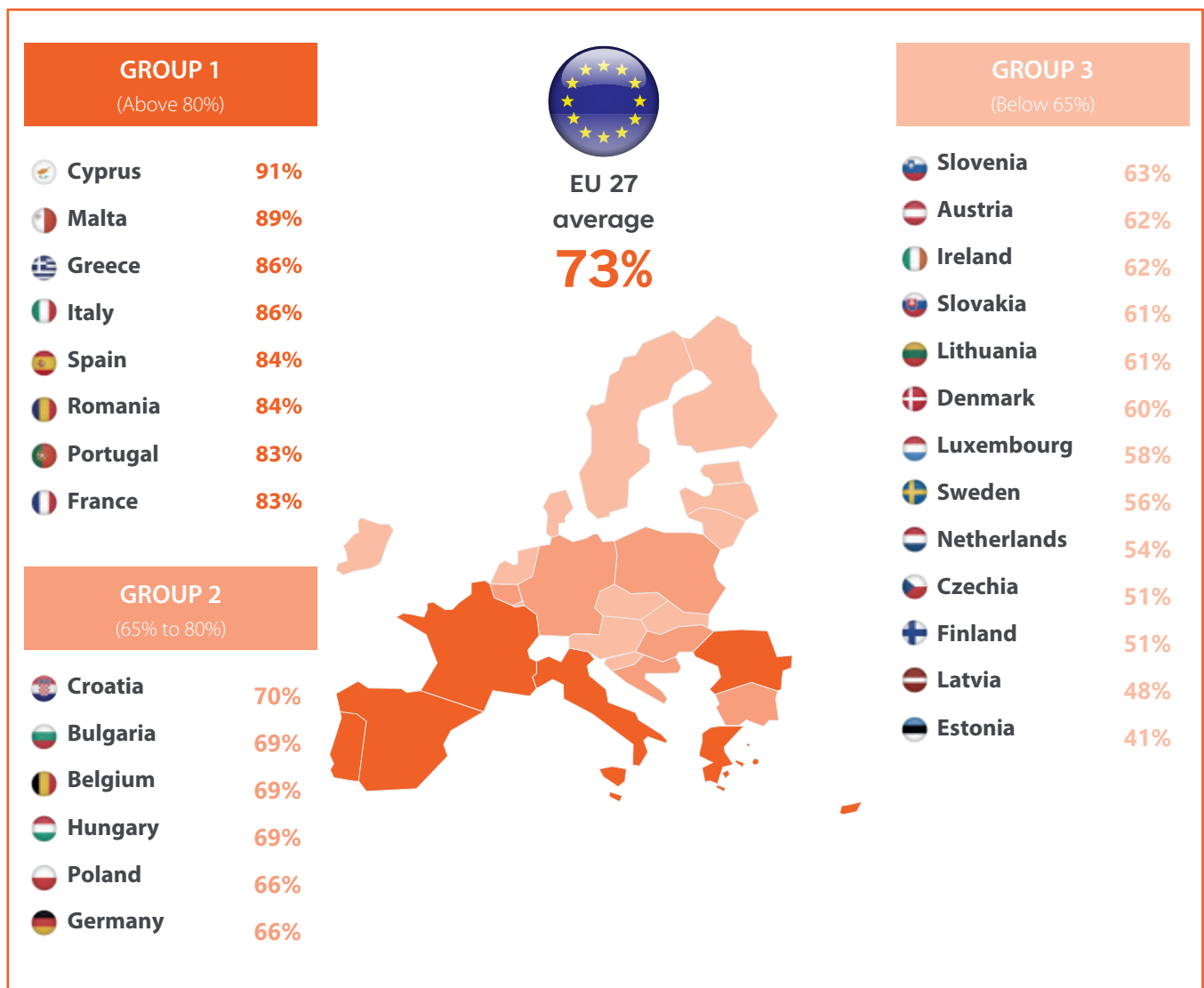
% that reported being worried



Concern is especially high in Southern Europe, where up to 91% of respondents feel worried, while it is non-negligible even where they reported fewer consequences (such as Nordic and Eastern European countries)

7. When you think of the potential impact of climate change on your life in the future, you feel...

% that reported being worried



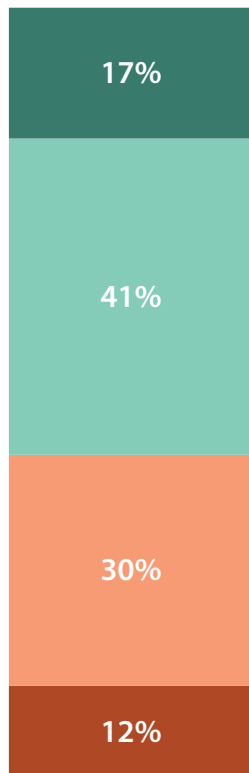
More than half of respondents fear property damage, with little difference between the US and the EU

14. How concerned are you that your home (house or apartment) or your car could be damaged in the coming years due to the impact of climate change?

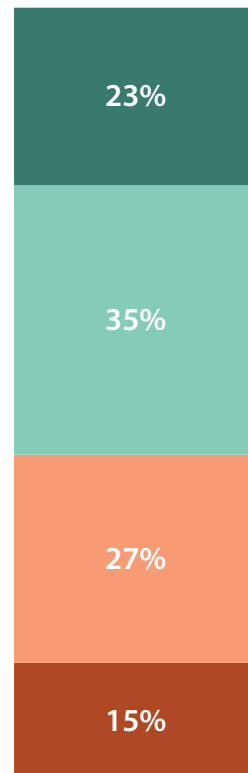
% that expressed concern about damage to their home or car



At least somewhat concerned
58%



At least somewhat concerned
58%

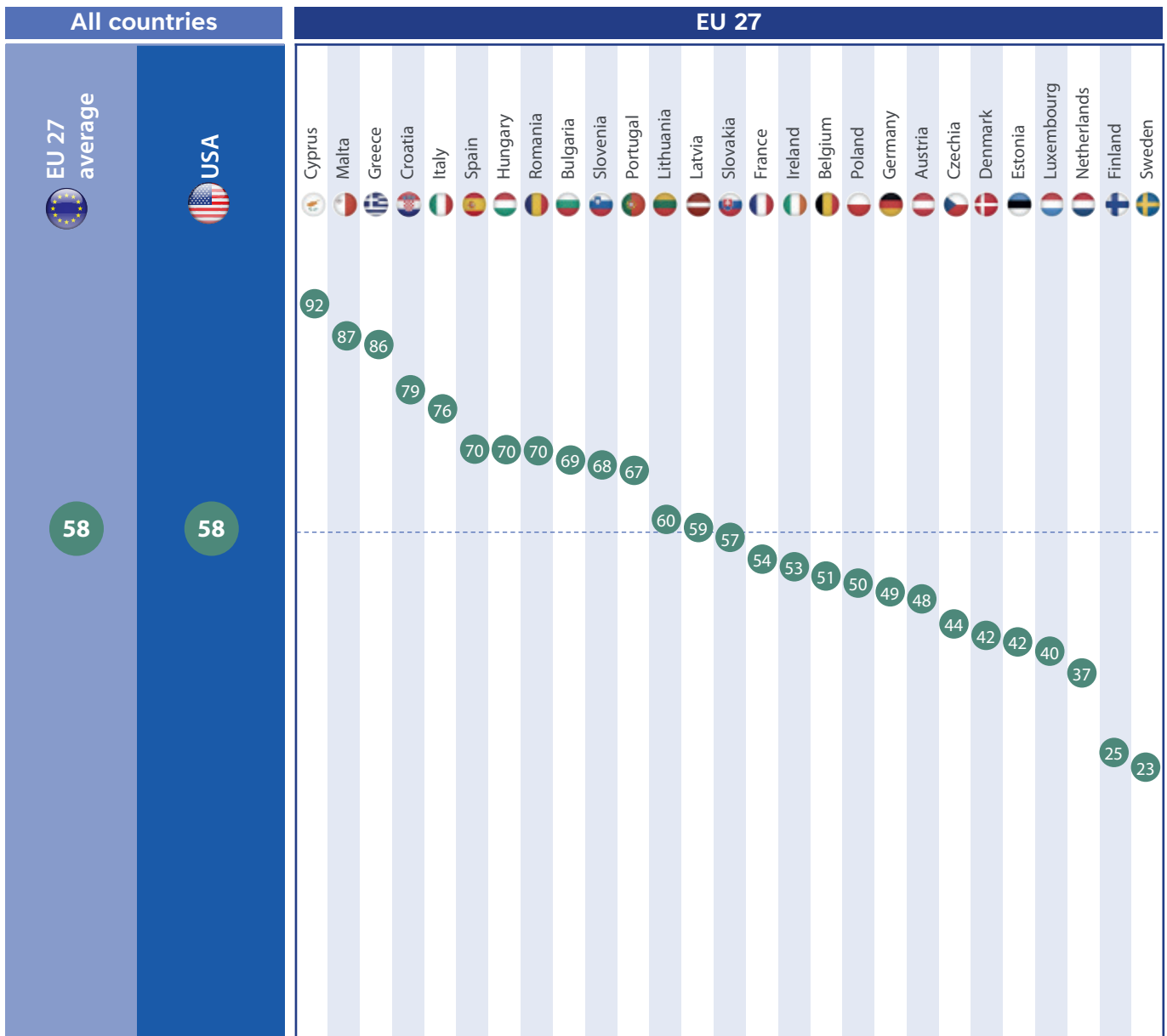


Very concerned Somewhat concerned Not very concerned Not concerned at all

Fear of property damage due to climate change varies widely, with respondents in Southern Europe more worried about losing their home or car than those in Northern Europe

14. How concerned are you that your home (house or apartment) or your car could be damaged in the coming years due to the impact of climate change?

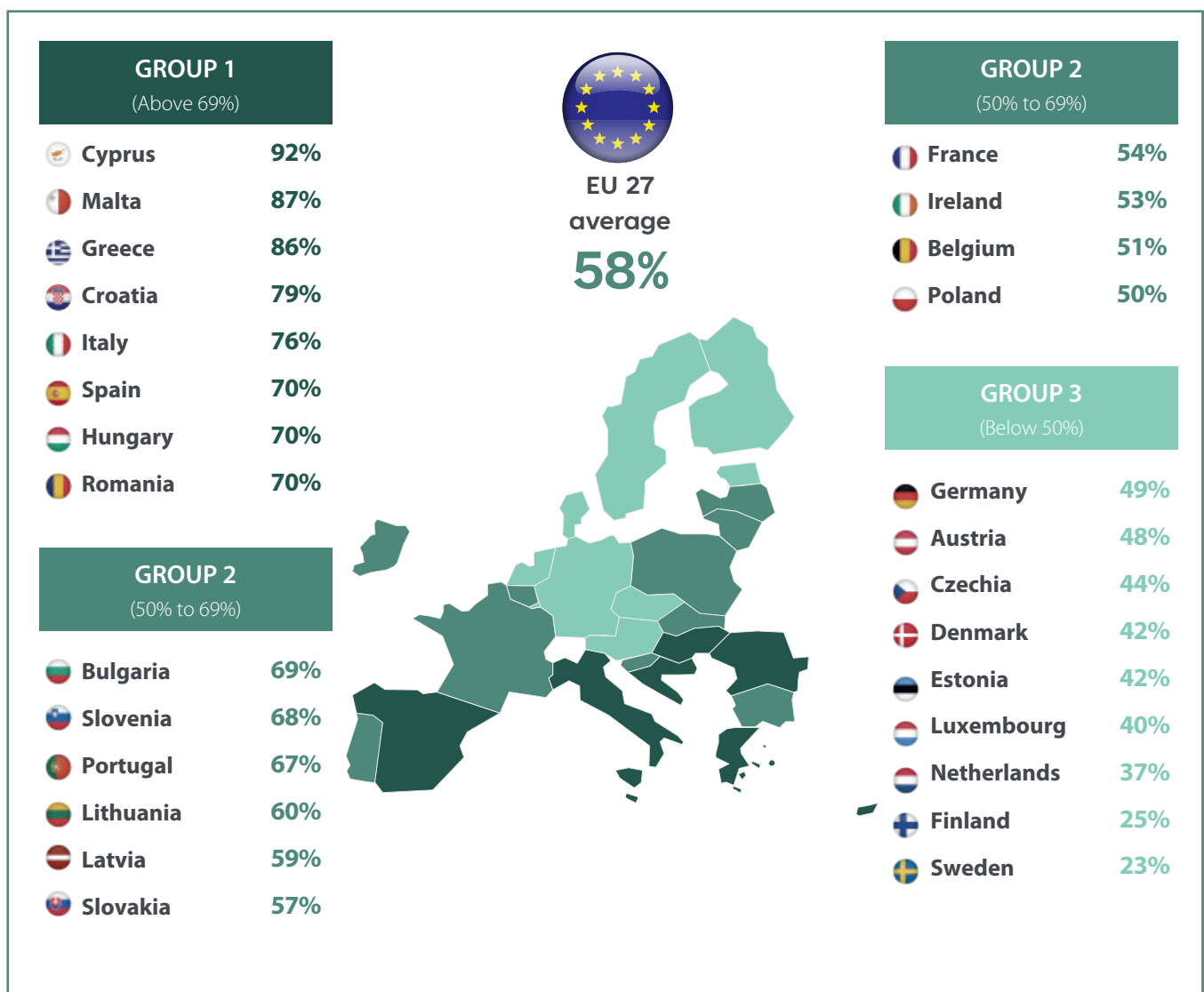
% that expressed concern about damage to their home or car



The three countries reporting the highest concern about property damage due to climate change (Cyprus, Malta and Greece) have already seen severe natural disasters

14. How concerned are you that your home (house or apartment) or your car could be damaged in the coming years due to the impact of climate change?

% that expressed concern about damage to their home or car





There is high awareness
of the need to adapt
to climate change,
especially in Southern Europe

Respondents in the EU seem more aware of the need to adapt their lifestyle (9 points above the US)

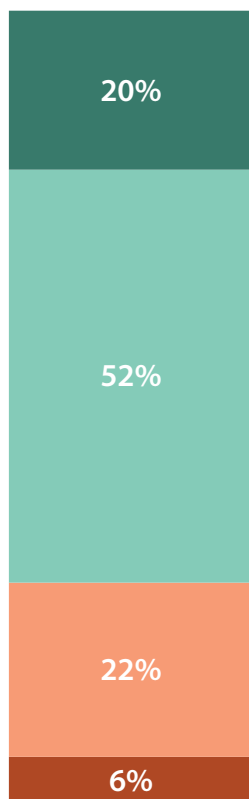
8. When you think of the potential impact of climate change on your life in the future, you think you will have to change and adapt the way you live...

% that said they will need to adapt how they live



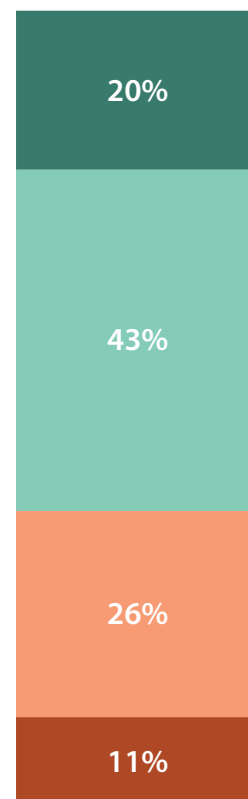
Quite a bit at least

72%



Quite a bit at least

63%



■ A lot

■ Quite a bit

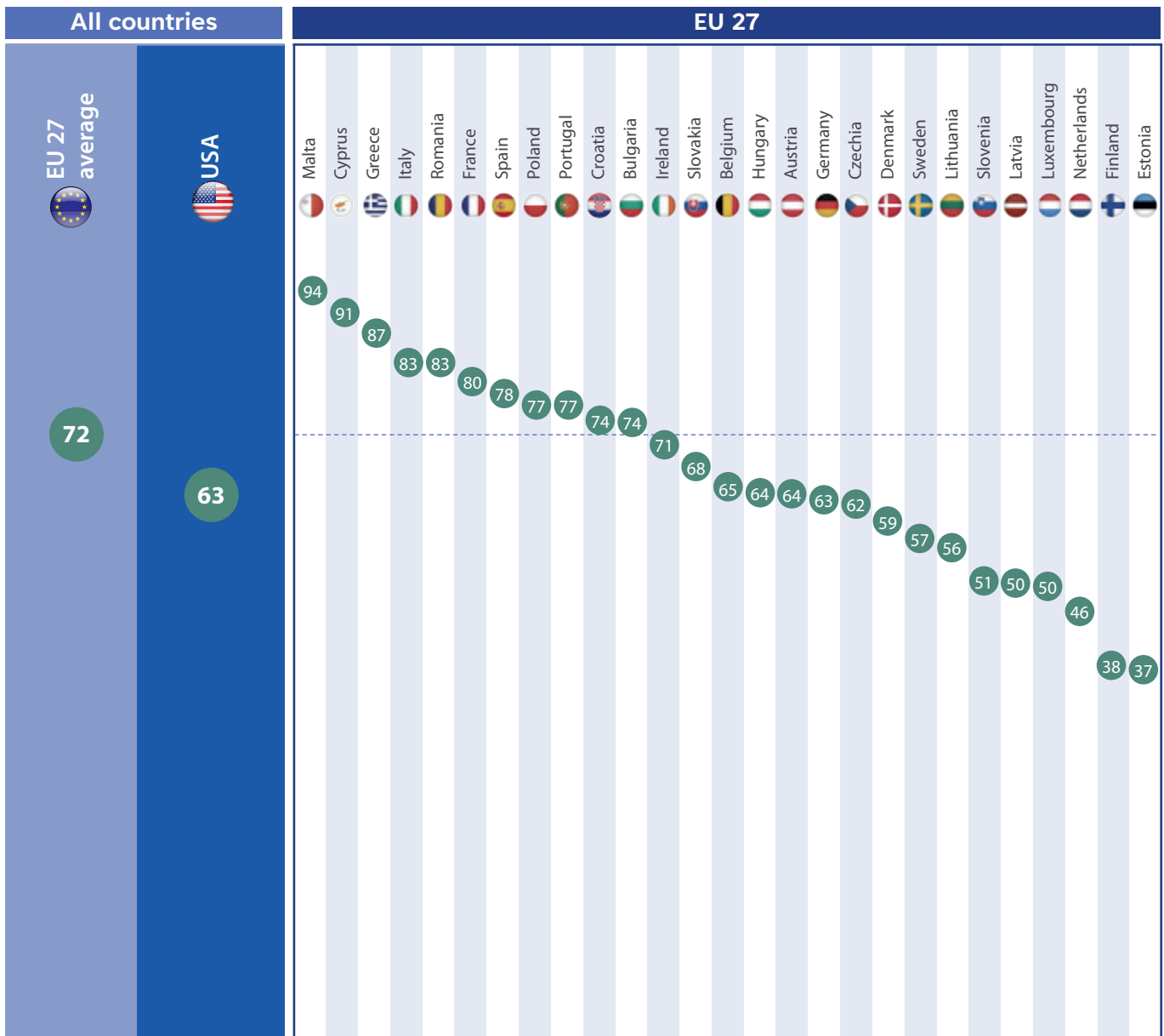
■ Not much

■ Not at all

EU respondents are acutely aware of the need to change, with 72% saying they will have to adapt the way they live in the coming years

8. When you think of the potential impact of climate change on your life in the future, you think you will have to change and adapt the way you live...

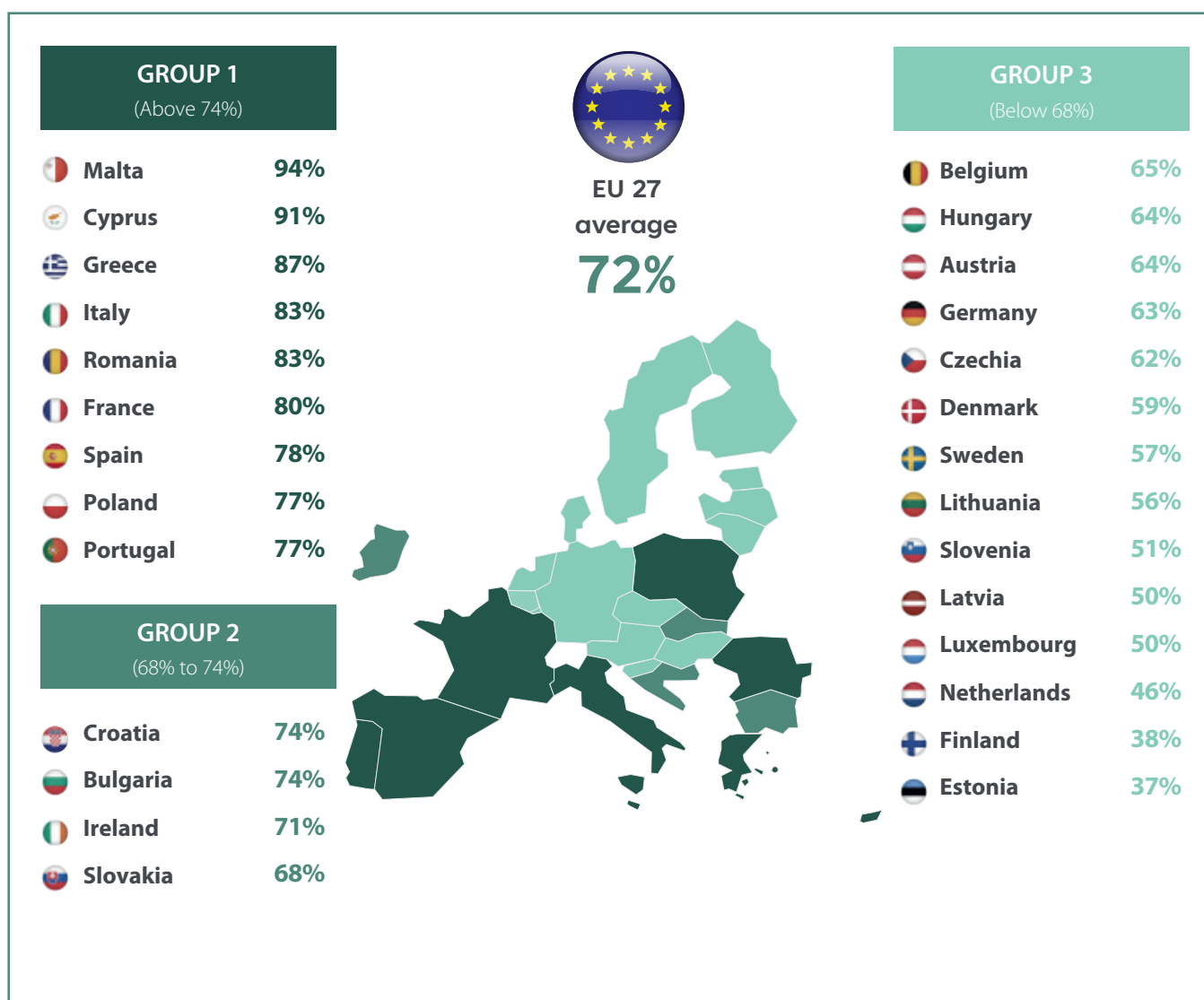
% that said they will need to adapt how they live



The highest awareness of the need to adapt lifestyle is expressed by respondents in Southern Europe and the areas most affected by extreme weather events, particularly the Mediterranean (Cyprus, Malta, Greece, etc.)

8. When you think of the potential impact of climate change on your life in the future, you think you will have to change and adapt the way you live...

% that said they will need to adapt how they live



One in two US respondents think climate change will force them to move to a cooler or less risky place in the future

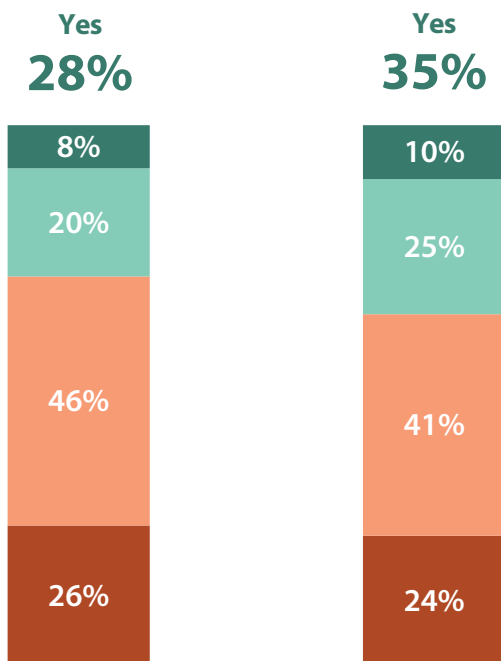
10. Do you think that you will have to take the following actions in the future because of the impact of climate change?

% that said they will have to move to a cooler or less risky place



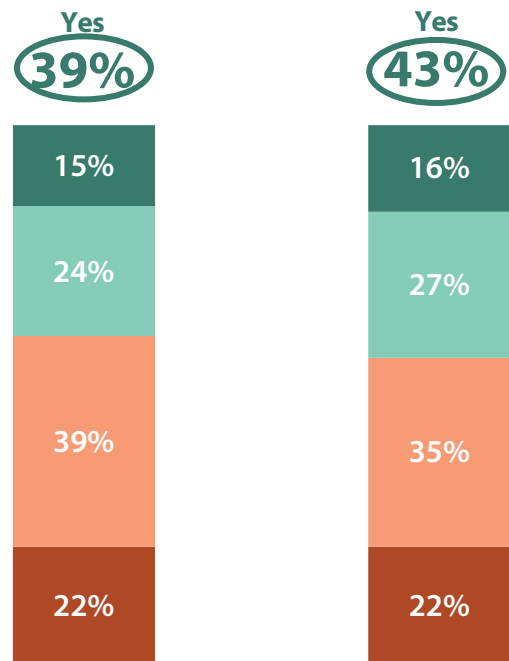
People who say they will have to move

40%



People who say they will have to move

51%



% Move to a cooler region or country

% Move to a less risky place, even locally

% Move to a cooler region or country

% Move to a less risky place, even locally

■ Yes, certainly

■ Yes, probably

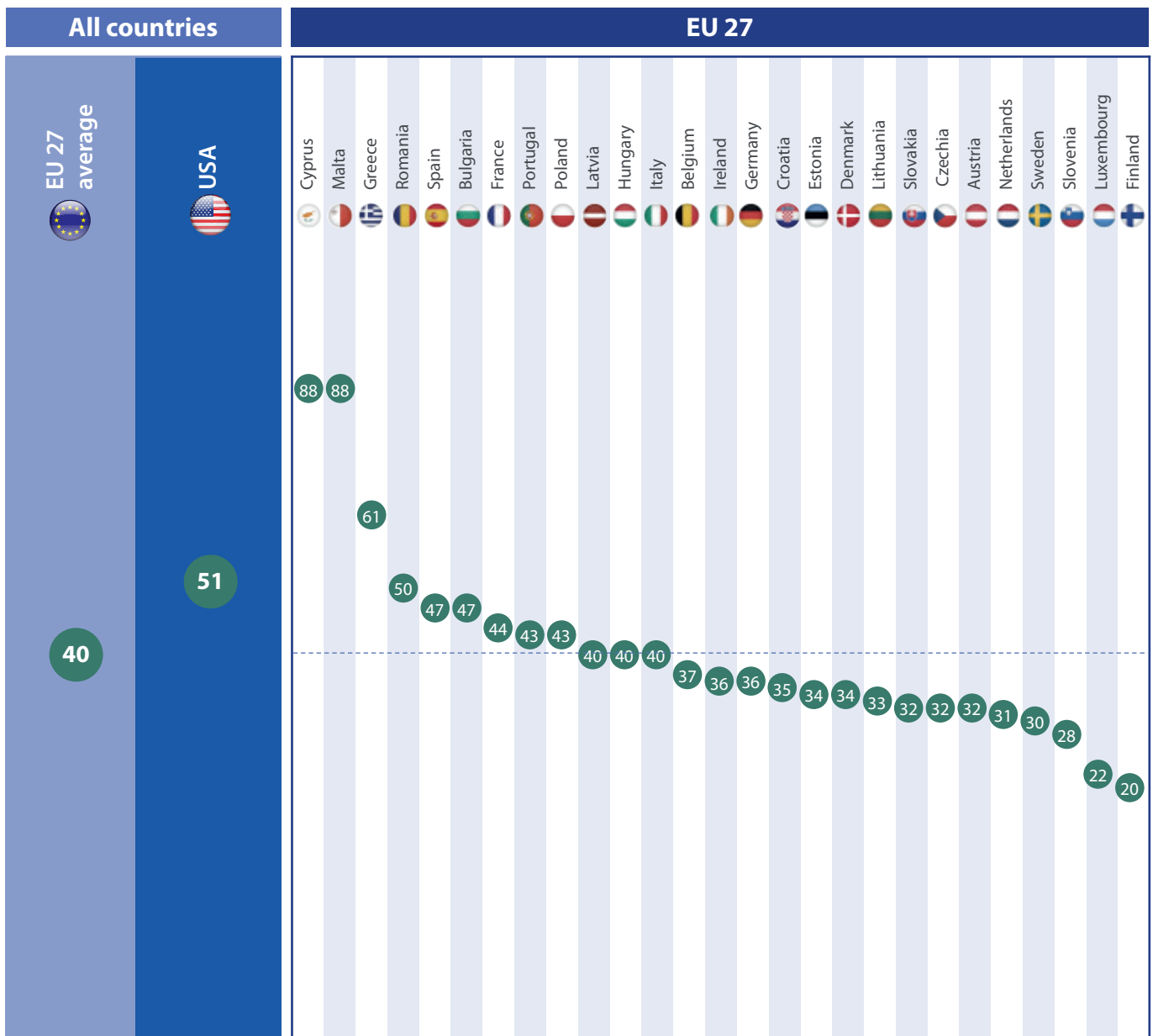
■ No, probably not

■ No, certainly not

Two in five EU respondents think climate change will force them to move to a cooler or less risky place in the future

10. Do you think that you will have to take the following actions in the future because of the impact of climate change?

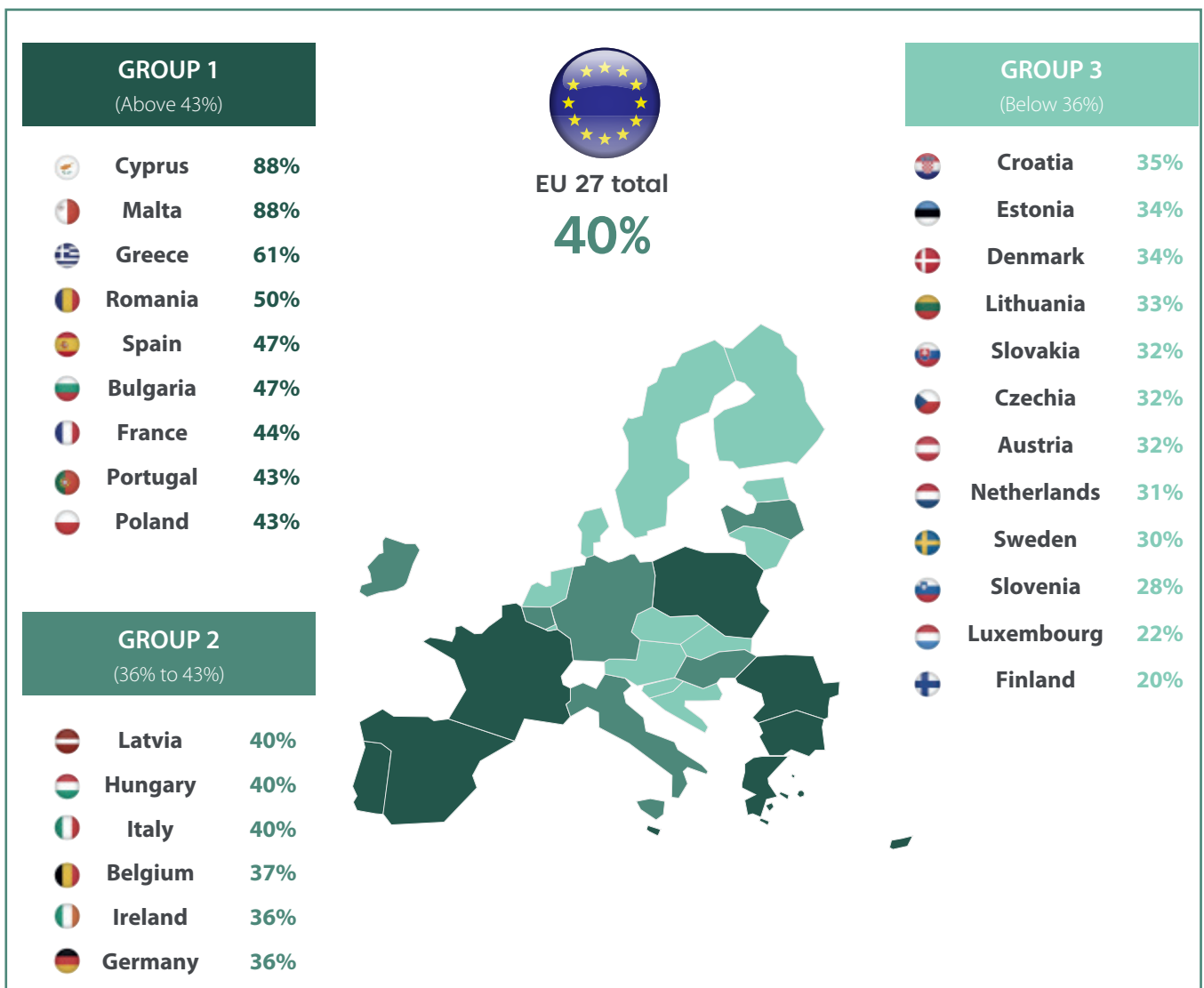
% that said they will have to move to a cooler or less risky place



Countries like Cyprus, Malta and Greece stand out for the high share of respondents that say they will have to move to a cooler or less risky place in the future

10. Do you think that you will have to take the following actions in the future because of the impact of climate change?

% that said they will have to move to a cooler or less risky place





e

Respondents seem reasonably well informed about what they personally can do to adapt, but are less informed about which public subsidies or financial incentives are available to help residents adapt their homes to rising temperatures

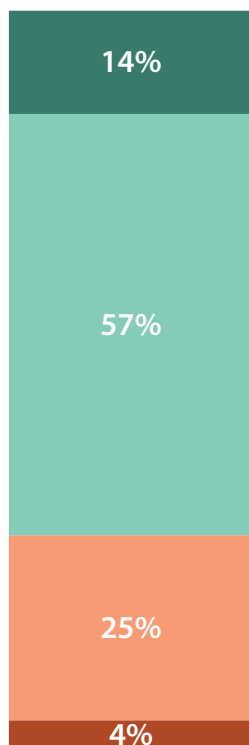
In the EU and US combined, more than seven in ten respondents feel informed about what they can do to adapt their homes and lifestyles to climate change

9. How well informed do you feel about the action you can take to adapt your home and lifestyle to the impact of climate change?

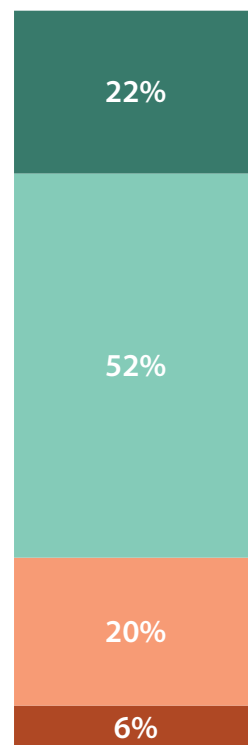
% that said they feel informed



At least somewhat informed
71%



At least somewhat informed
74%

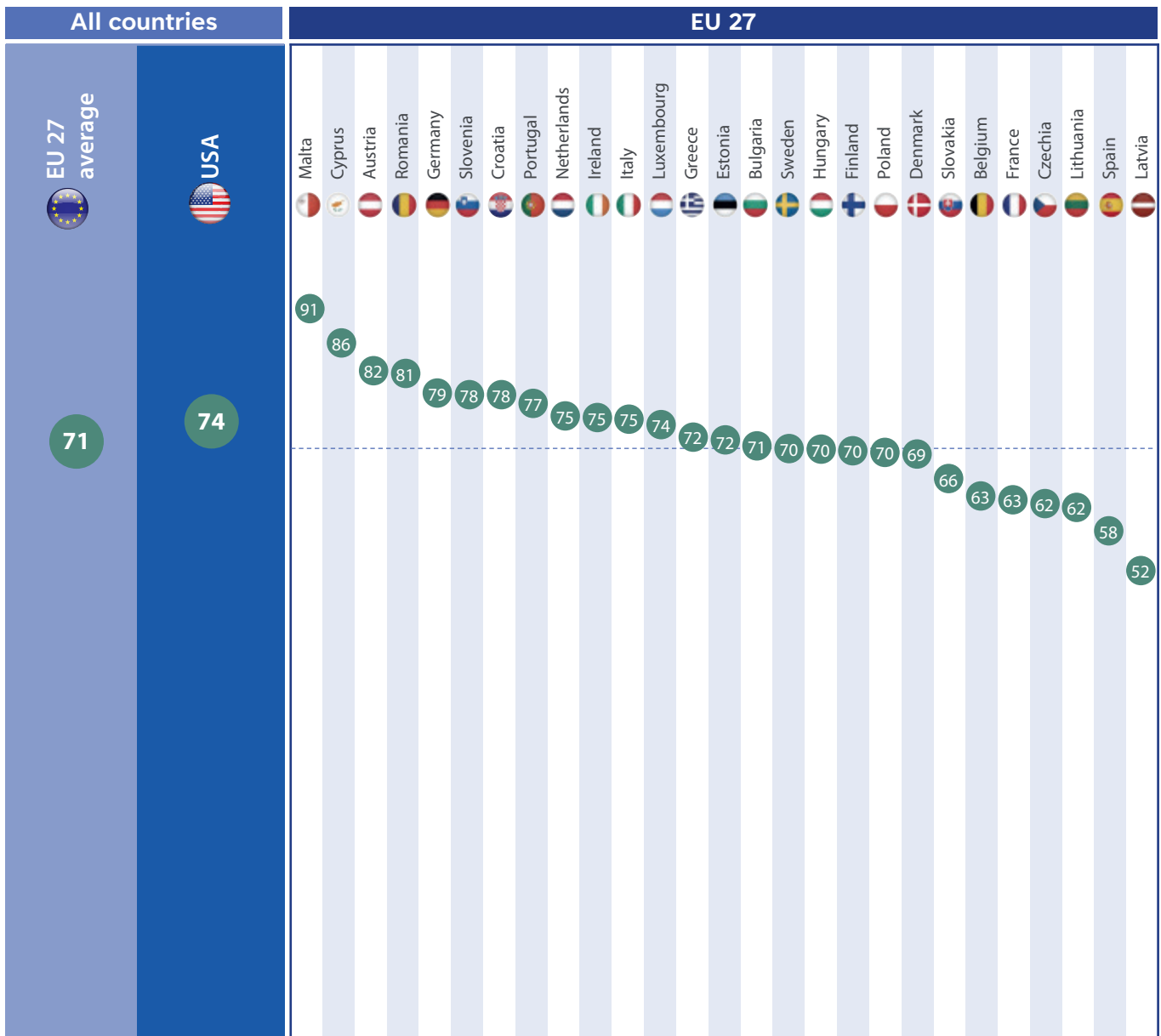


Very well informed Somewhat informed Not very informed Not informed at all

EU respondents already seem prepared to adapt: 71% feel informed about what they can do to adapt their homes and lifestyles to climate change

9. How well informed do you feel about the action you can take to adapt your home and lifestyle to the impact of climate change?

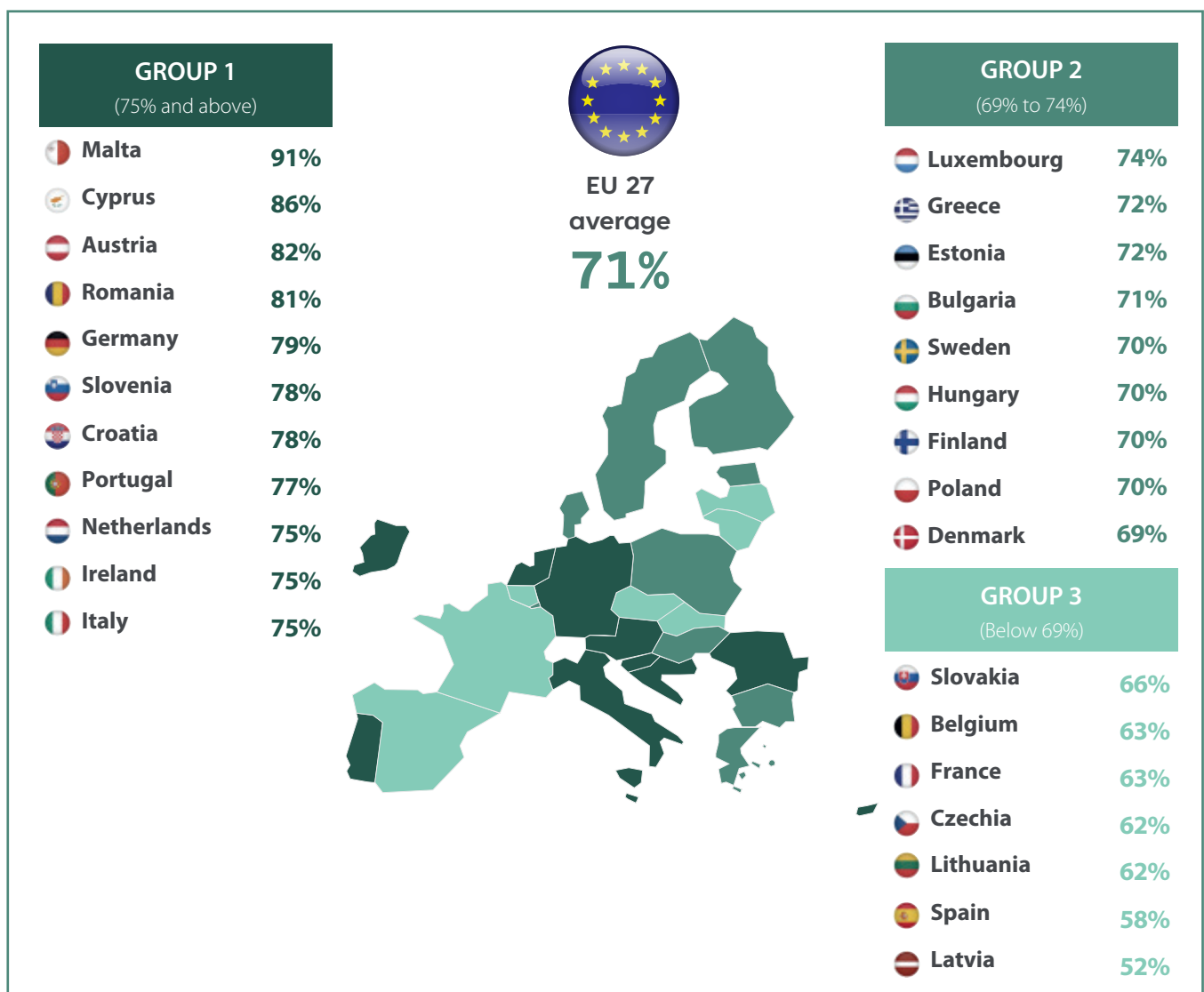
% that said they feel informed



There is variation between EU countries, with respondents in some countries feeling much better informed (91% in Malta and 86% in Cyprus vs. 58% in Spain and 52% in Latvia)

9. How well informed do you feel about the action you can take to adapt your home and lifestyle to the impact of climate change?

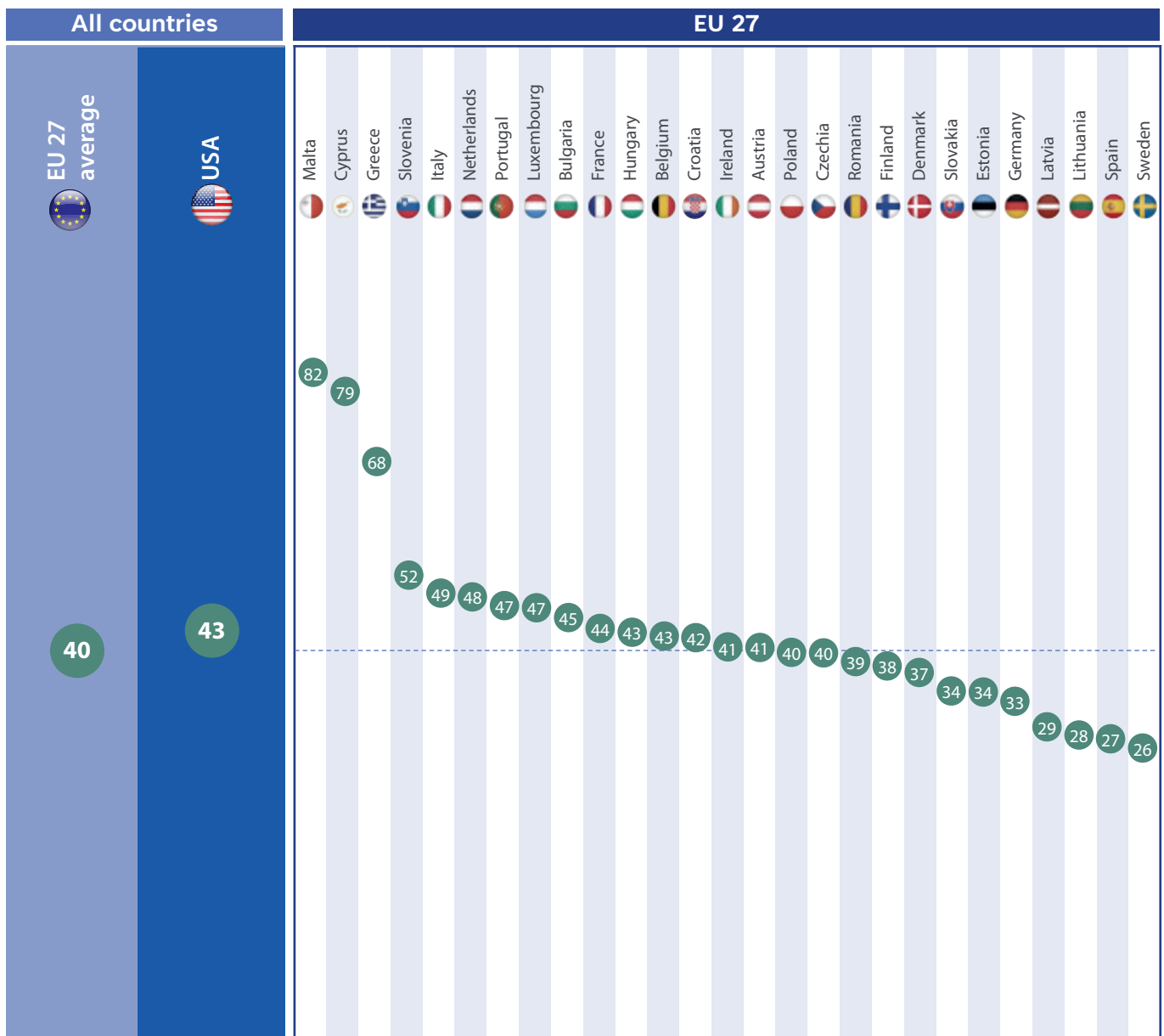
% that said they feel informed



There is a general lack of awareness of public aid for adapting housing to rising temperatures, except in Malta, Cyprus and Greece

15. Are you aware of any public subsidies or financial incentives available to help residents adapt their homes to rising temperatures (such as installing air conditioning, adding window coverings or shades, using dehumidifiers, installing ceiling fans, improving insulation or upgrading windows)?

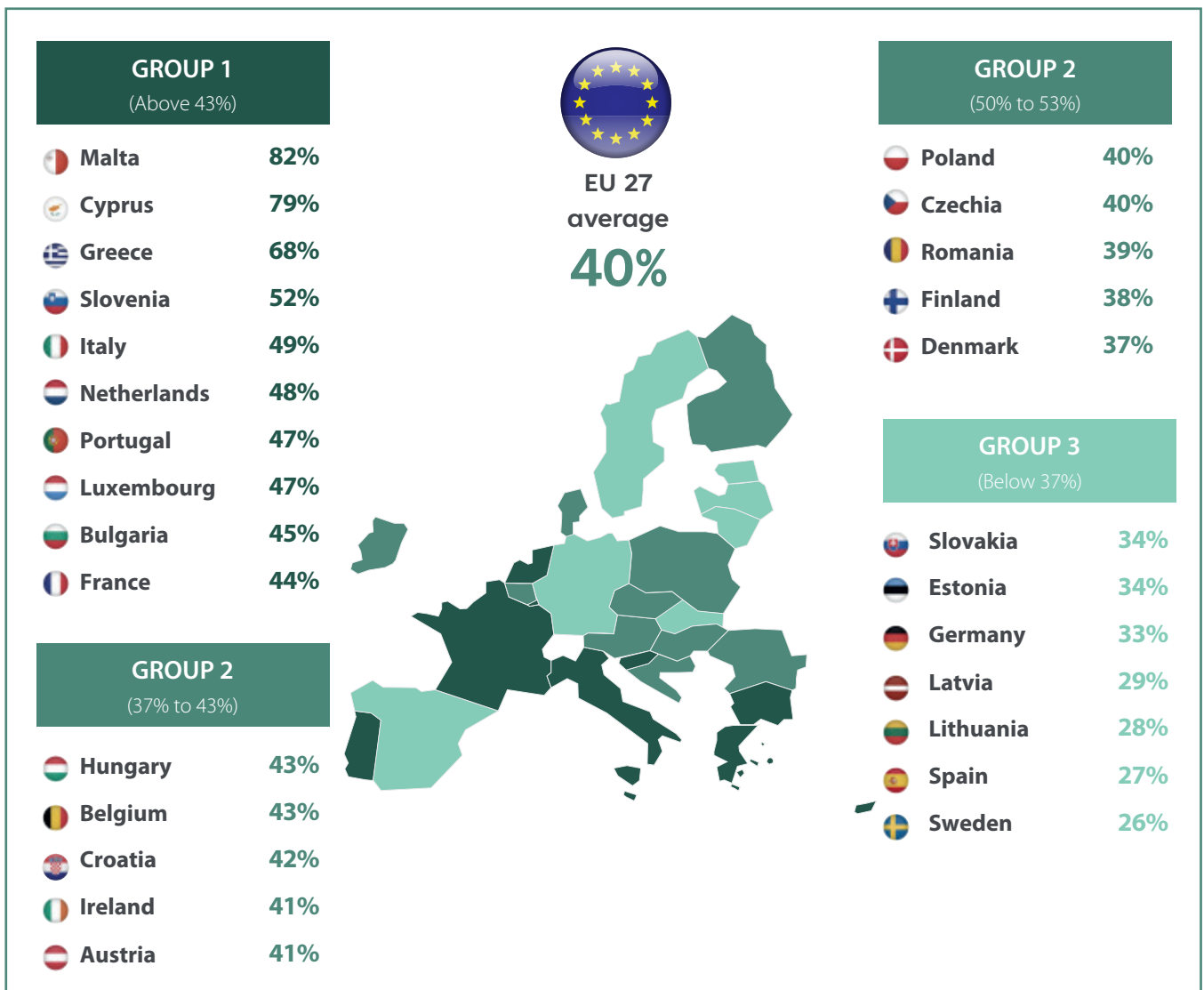
% that said they know of public subsidies or financial incentives to help residents adapt their homes



Respondents in the Mediterranean are better informed about existing public aid to adapt housing to rising temperatures

15. Are you aware of any public subsidies or financial incentives available to help residents adapt their homes to rising temperatures (such as installing air conditioning, adding window coverings or shades, using dehumidifiers, installing ceiling fans, improving insulation or upgrading windows)?

% that said they know of public subsidies or financial incentives to help residents adapt their homes



3

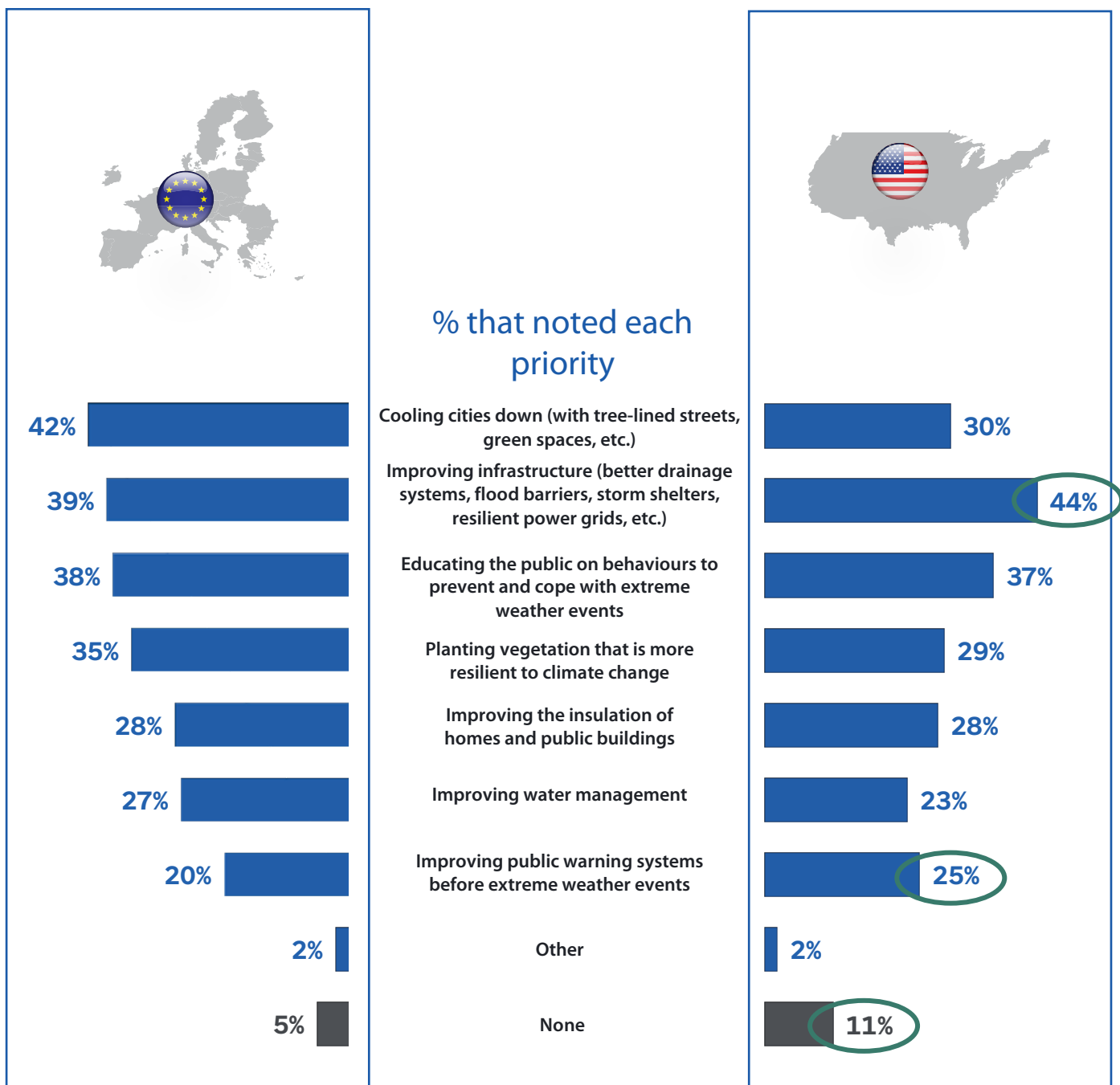
EXPECTATIONS AND PRIORITIES FOR ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

a

Respondents propose
different measures
to help adapt their area
to climate change

Both EU and US respondents think cooling cities down, improving infrastructure and educating the public should be prioritised as adaptation measures

12. What do you think should be prioritised to adapt to climate change in your local area?

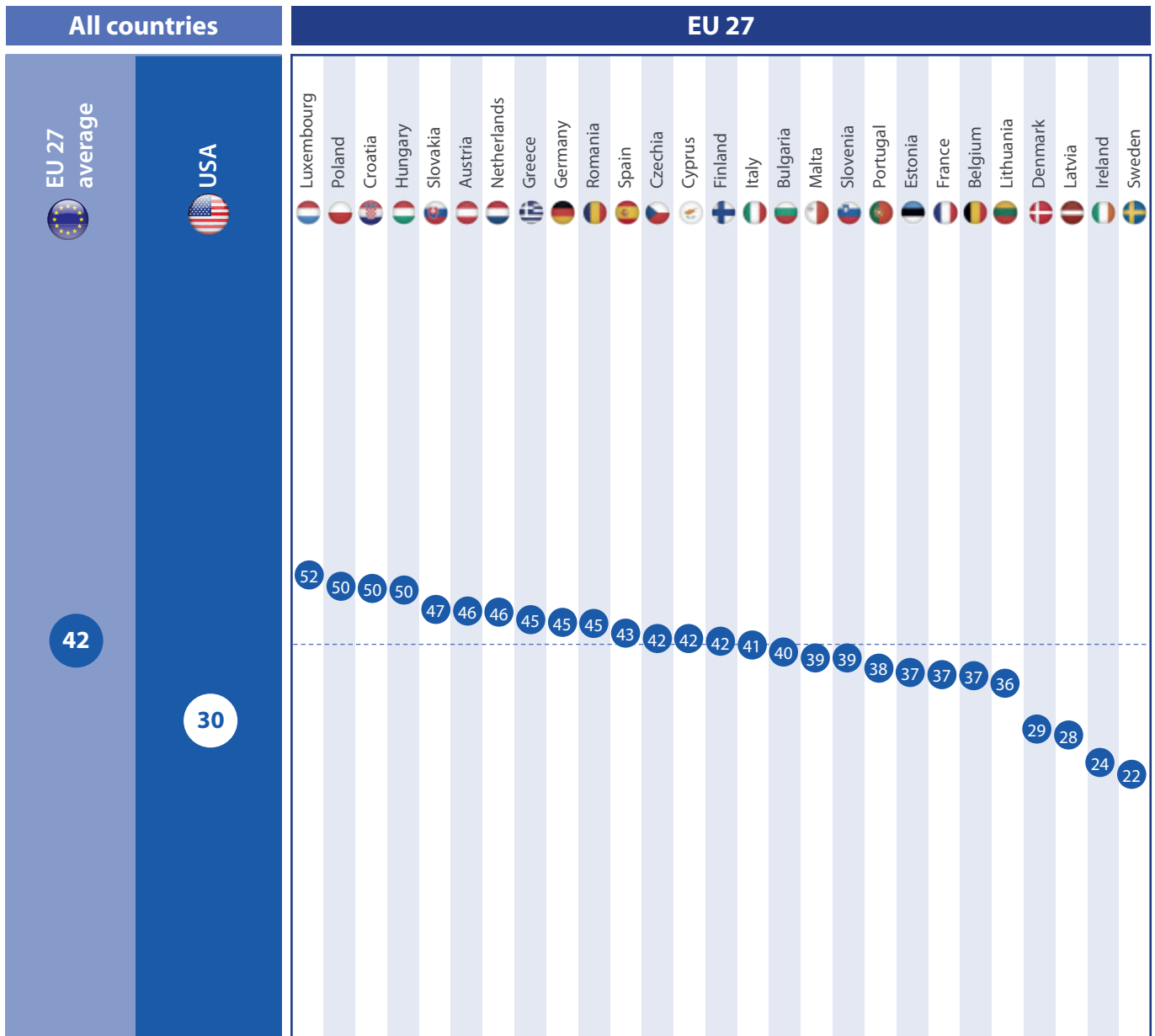


Total > 100 % because respondents could select multiple answers

Many respondents think that cities should first be cooled down with tree-lined streets and green spaces

12. What do you think should be prioritised to adapt to climate change in your local area?

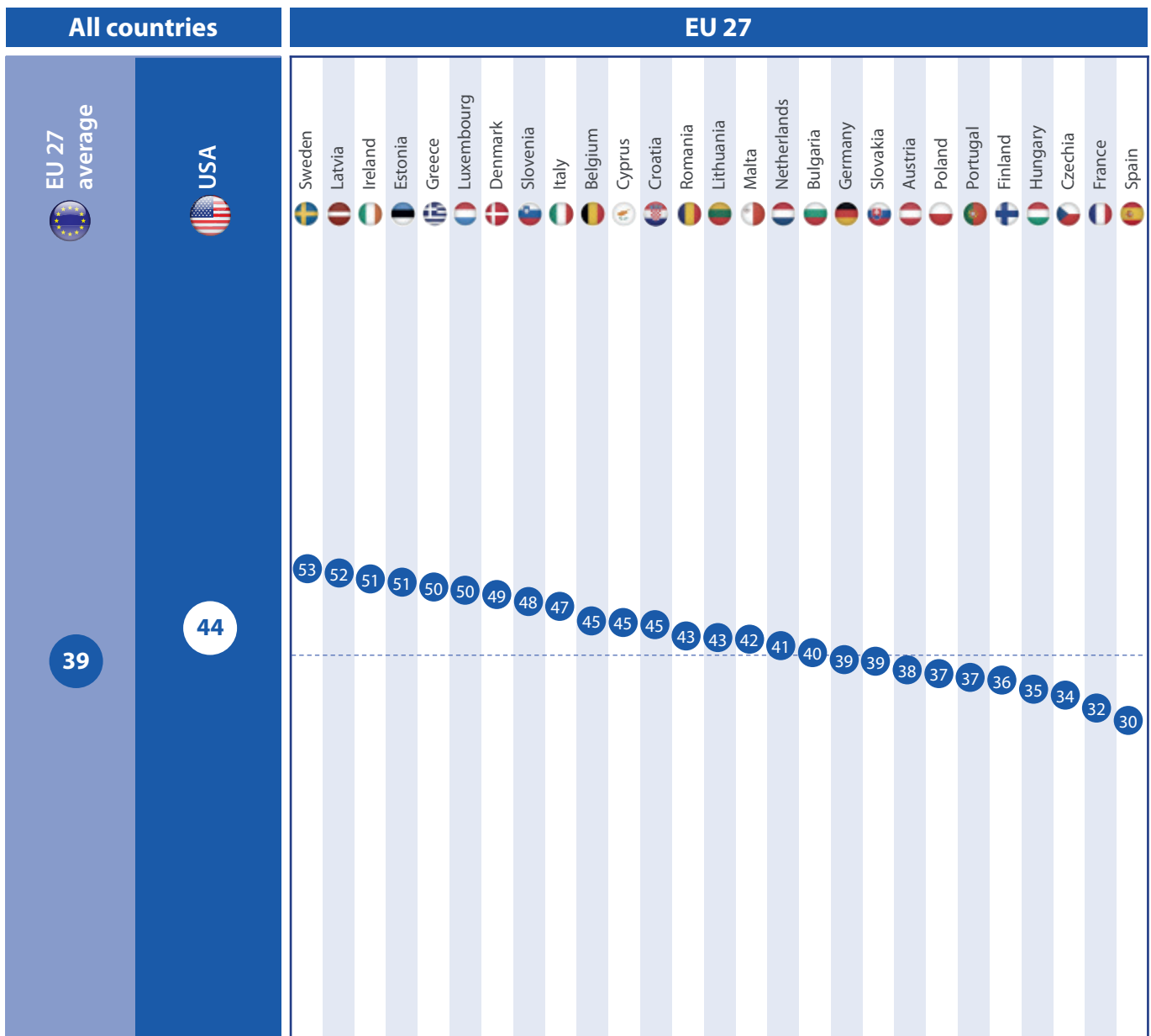
% that proposed cooling cities down (with tree-lined streets, green spaces, etc.)



EU respondents also support improving infrastructure to adapt their local area to climate change

12. What do you think should be prioritised to adapt to climate change in your local area?

% that proposed improving infrastructure (better drainage systems, flood barriers, storm shelters, resilient power grids, etc.)

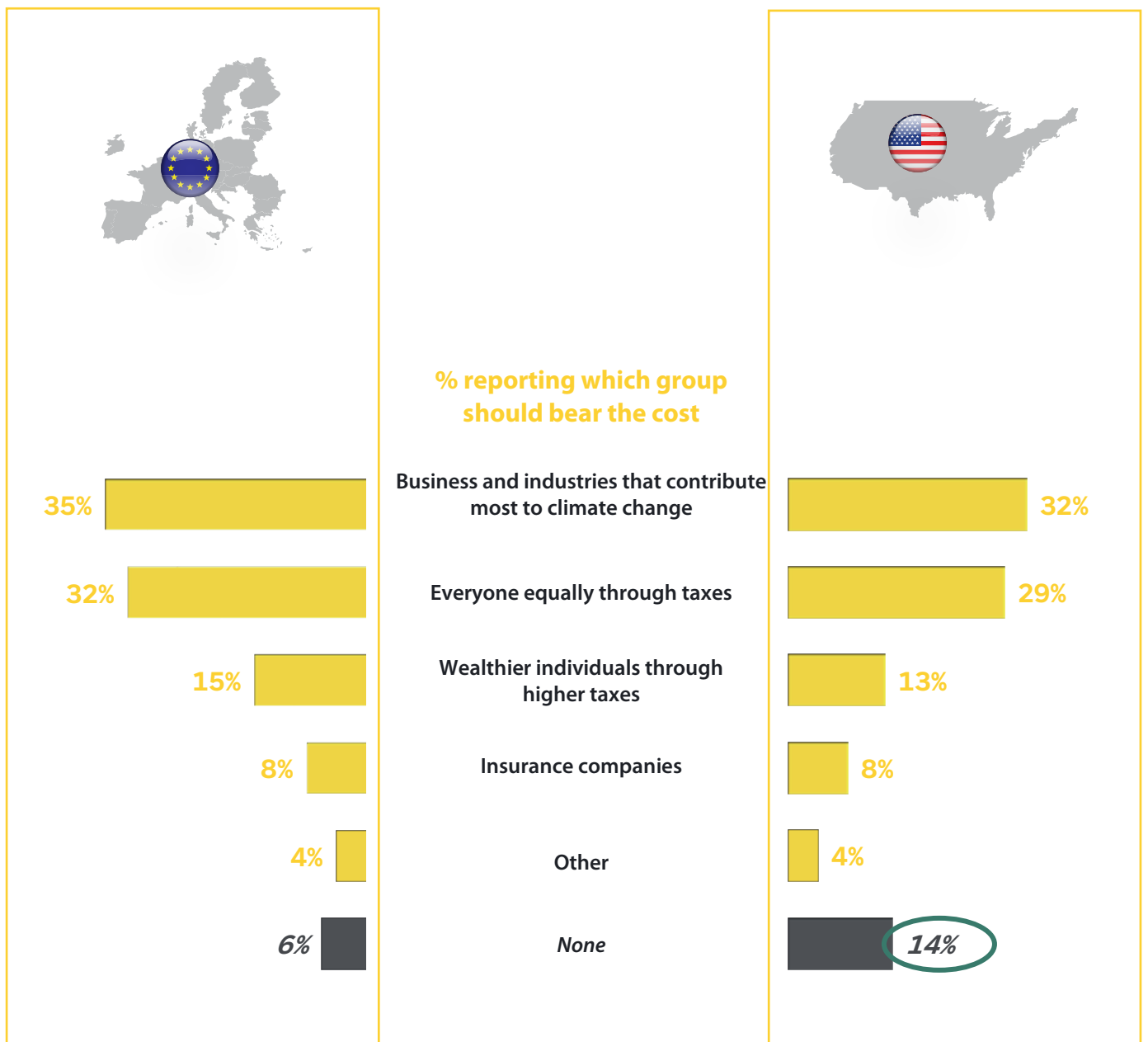


b

Opinions are divided
about who should bear
the costs of climate change,
and who should be prioritised
to receive help adapting to it

There is no real consensus on who should bear the cost of climate change adaptation

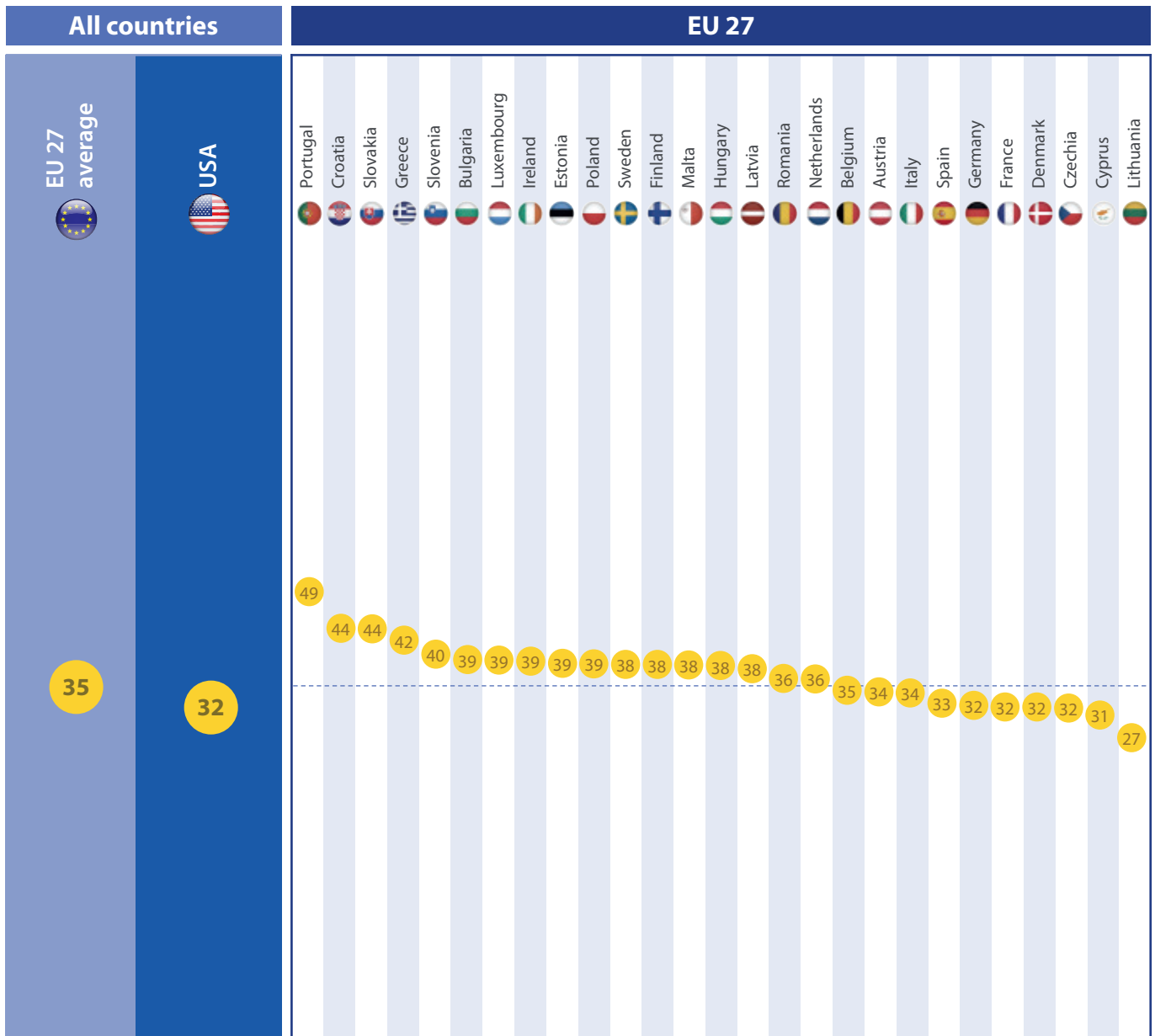
18. Who do you think should bear the cost of climate change adaptation?



A large share of EU respondents want the cost to be absorbed by the industries that contribute most to causing climate change

18. Who do you think should bear the cost of climate change adaptation?

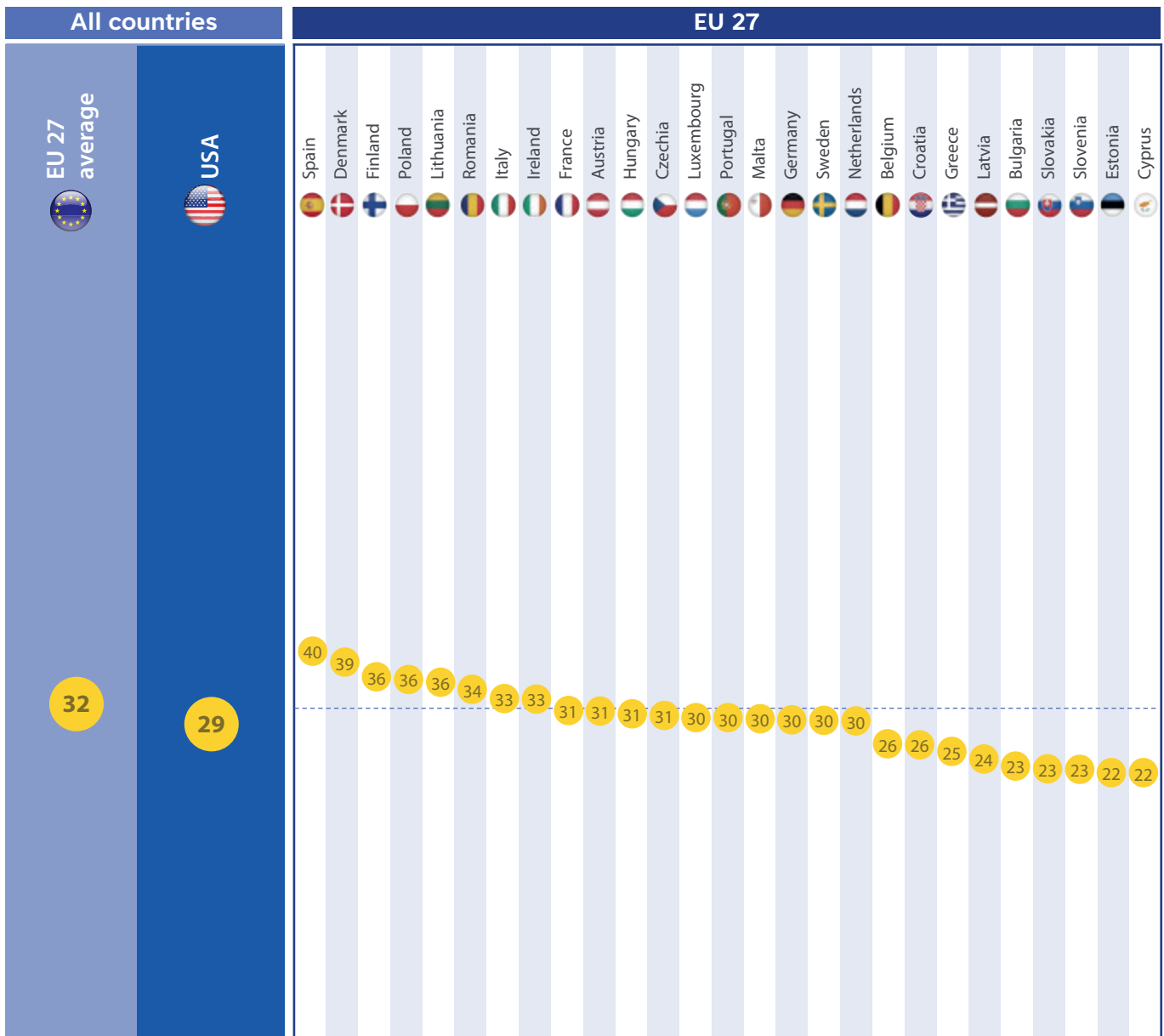
% that said the industries that contribute most to climate change should pay



A third of EU respondents feel that everyone should bear the cost of adapting to climate change

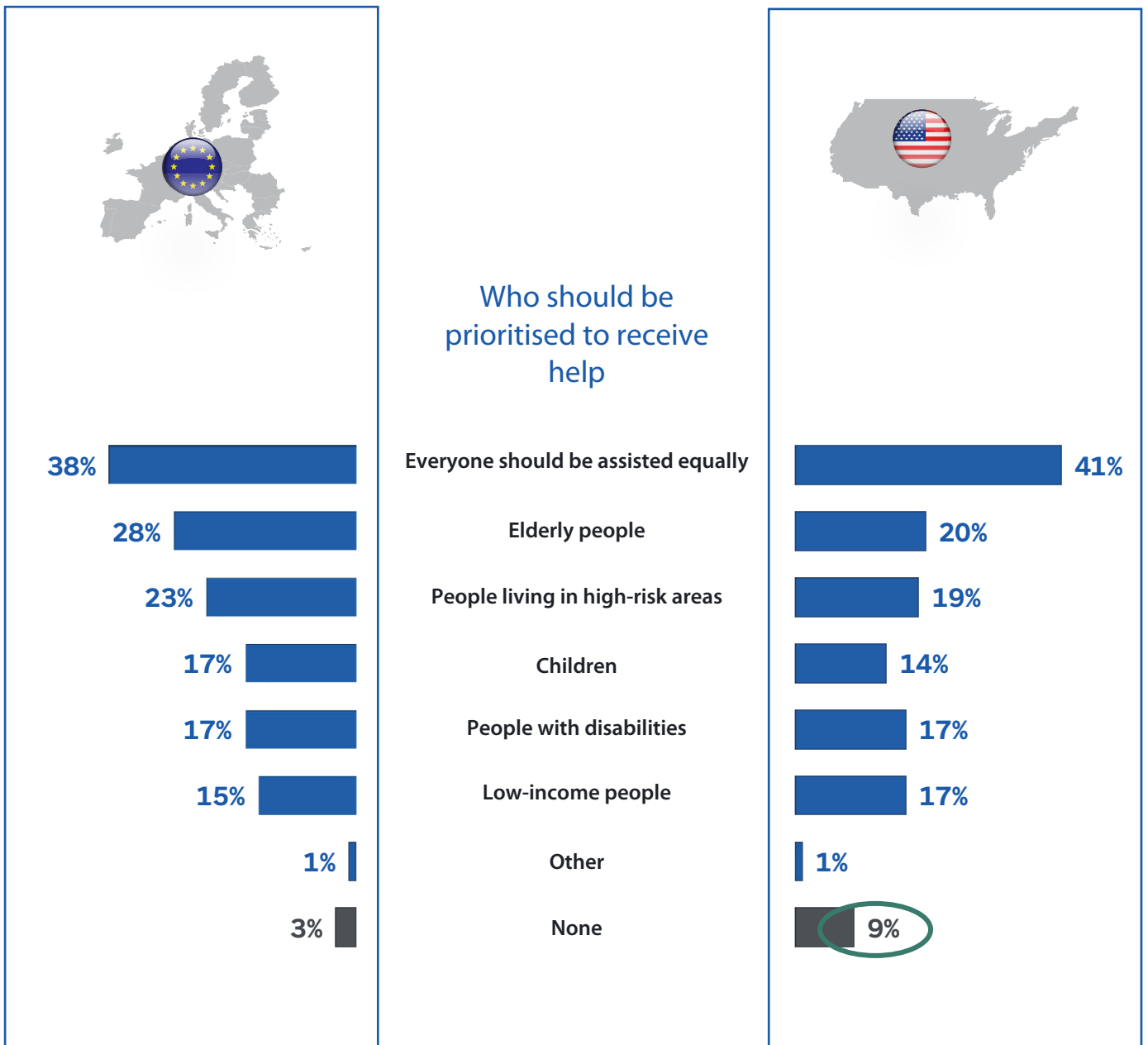
18. Who do you think should bear the cost of climate change adaptation?

% that said the cost should be borne equally through taxes



Opinions are divided about who should be prioritised to receive help coping with climate change, with major differences between the US and the EU

13. Which sections of the population should be prioritised for help with adapting to climate change?

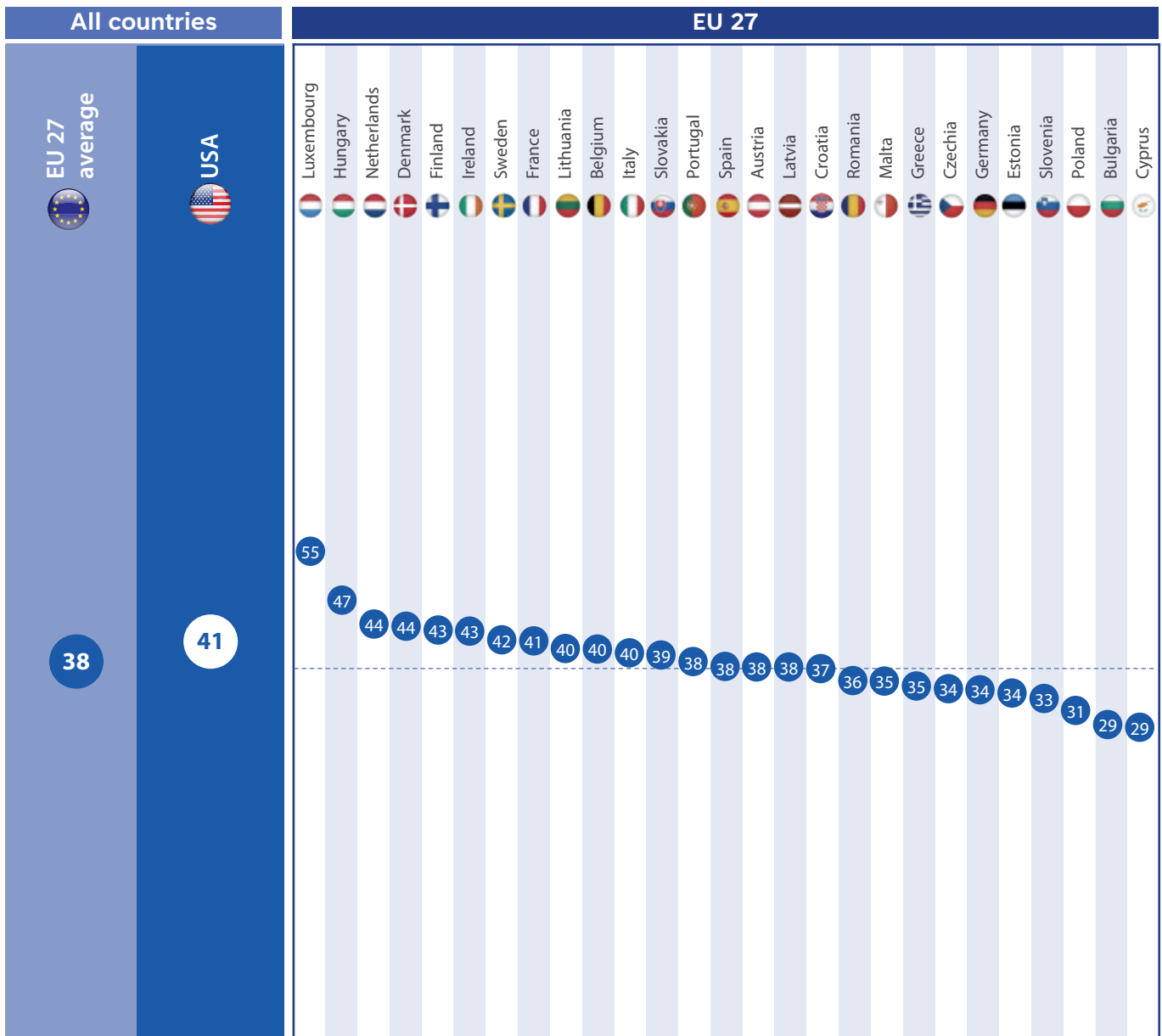


Total > 100 % because respondents could select multiple answers

Most EU respondents feel that help facing climate change should be distributed equally

13. Which sections of the population should be prioritised for help with adapting to climate change?

% that said everyone should benefit equally





**Most respondents
think assistance with
climate change adaptation
should go beyond
national borders**

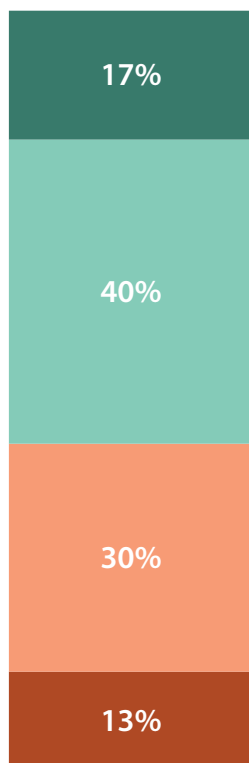
Most respondents in the EU and the US believe their countries should do more to help the most vulnerable developing countries cope with climate change

19. Do you think that your country should pay more to help the most vulnerable developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change?

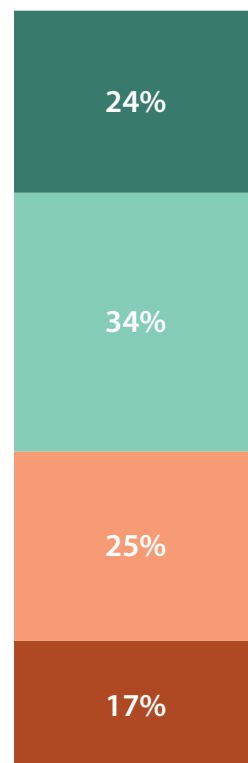
% that think their country should pay more to help the most vulnerable developing countries adapt



Yes
57%



Yes
58%



■ Yes, absolutely

■ Yes, somewhat

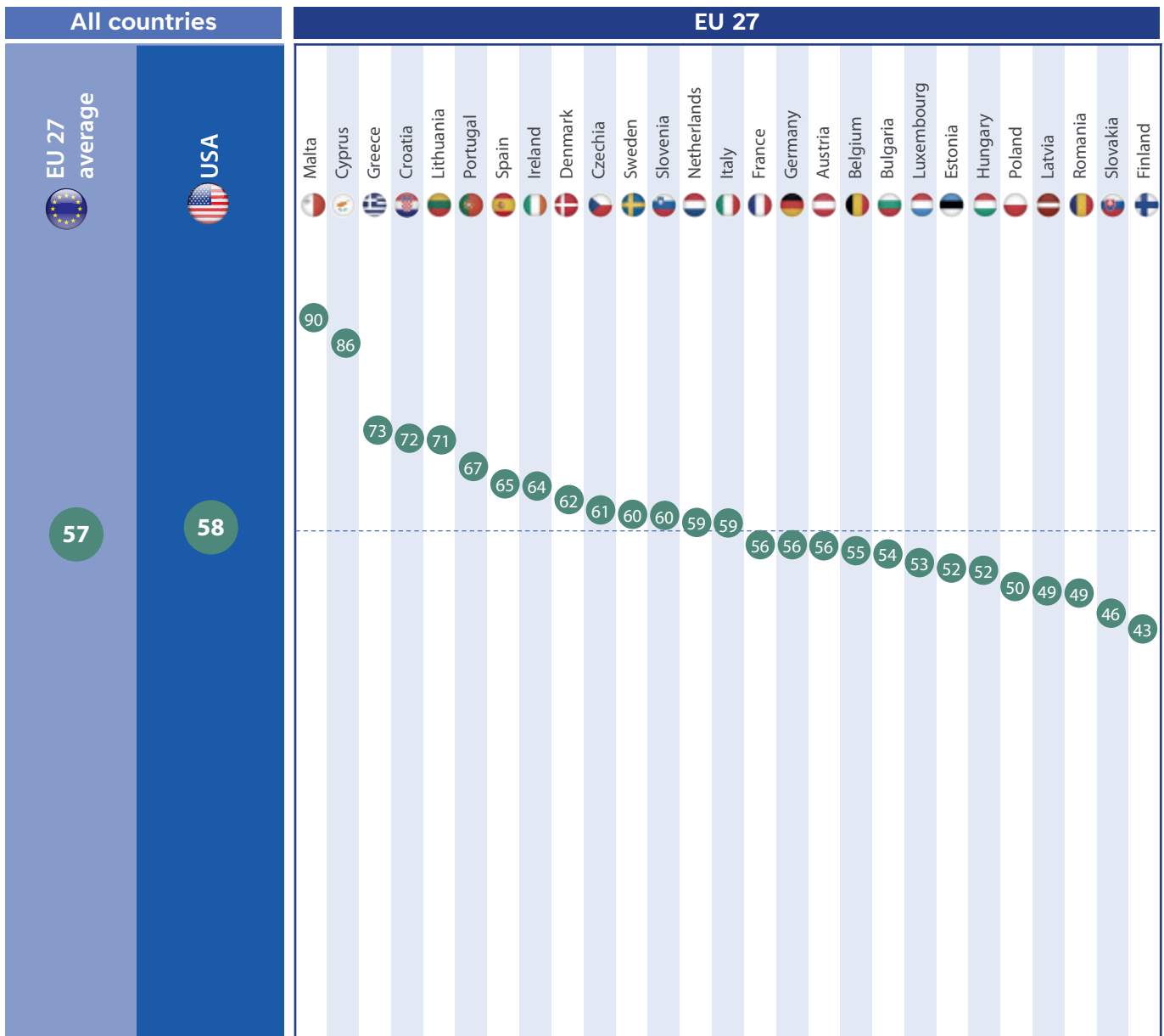
■ No, not really

■ No, absolutely not

There is wide variation across the EU: Respondents in Southern Europe are more willing to help the most vulnerable countries adapt to climate change

19. Do you think that your country should pay more to help the most vulnerable developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change?

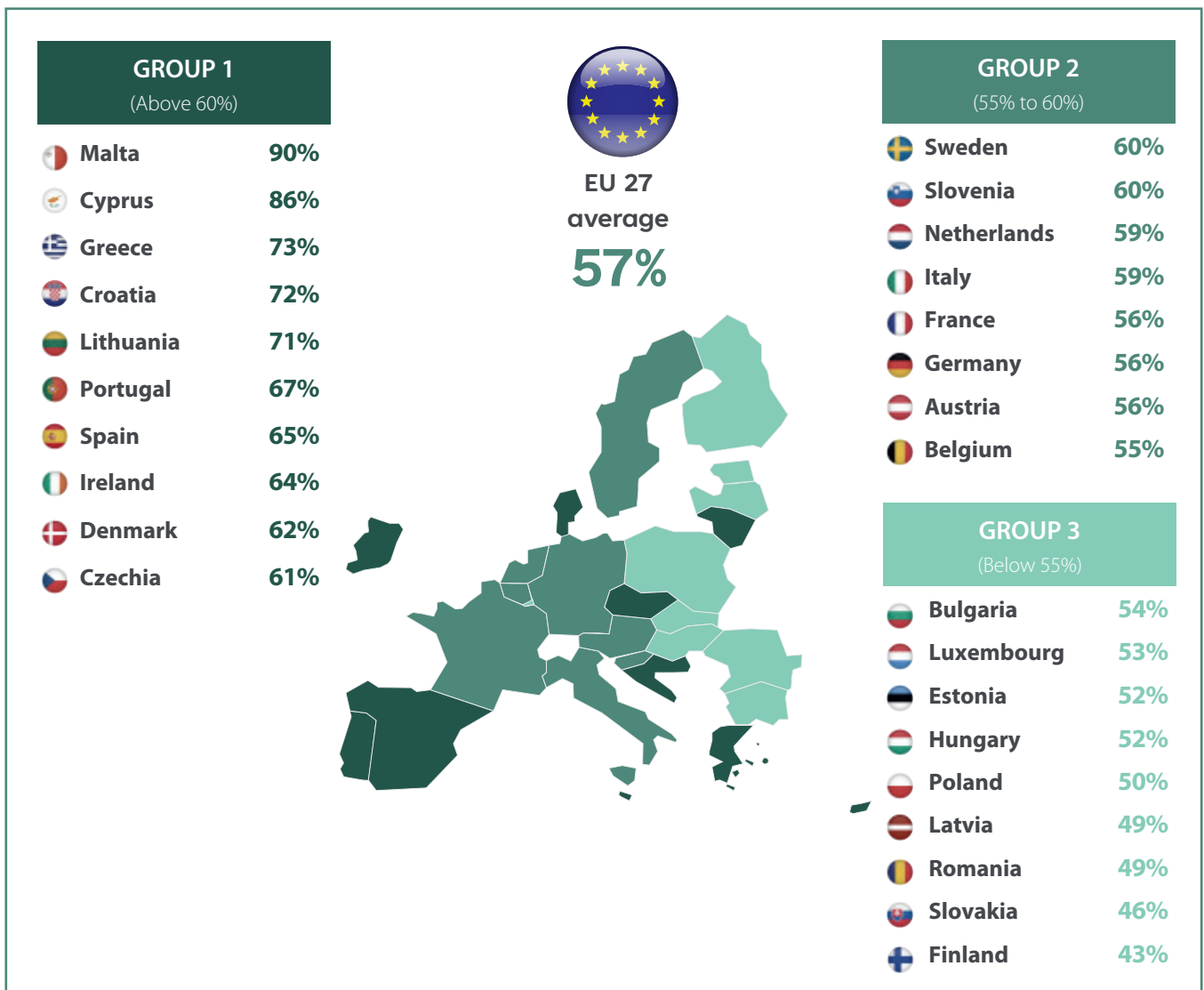
% that think their country should pay more to help the most vulnerable developing countries adapt



Respondents in Eastern Europe express more reluctance to help the most vulnerable developing countries adapt to climate change

19. Do you think that your country should pay more to help the most vulnerable developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change?

% that think their country should pay more to help the most vulnerable developing countries adapt



THE EIB CLIMATE SURVEY

7TH EDITION 2024

Attitudes towards
climate change adaptation

