



Assessing public understanding of climate change

THE EIB CLIMATE SURVEY
- 6th edition -
2023/2024



European
Investment Bank

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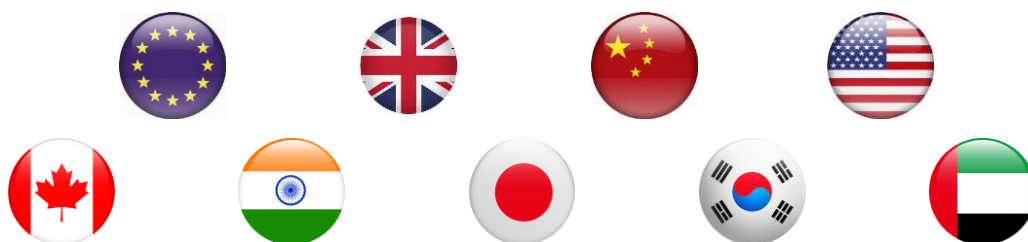
- Understanding Causes of Climate Change
- Awareness of Climate Change Impacts
- Knowledge of Climate Change Mitigation Measures

How we conducted the survey



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

Methodology



To assess the public's understanding of climate change, the sixth edition of the EIB Climate Survey focuses on people's knowledge of climate change in three key areas: definitions and causes, consequences, and solutions.



Based on a list 12 questions, a **overall knowledge score** is calculated as the average of **three sub-scores**, each of which has an equal weight in the calculation. It ranges from 0 (no answer is correct) to 10 (all answers are correct).

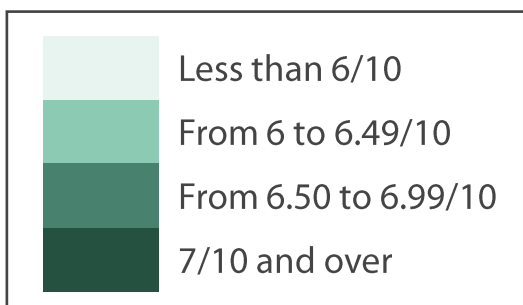
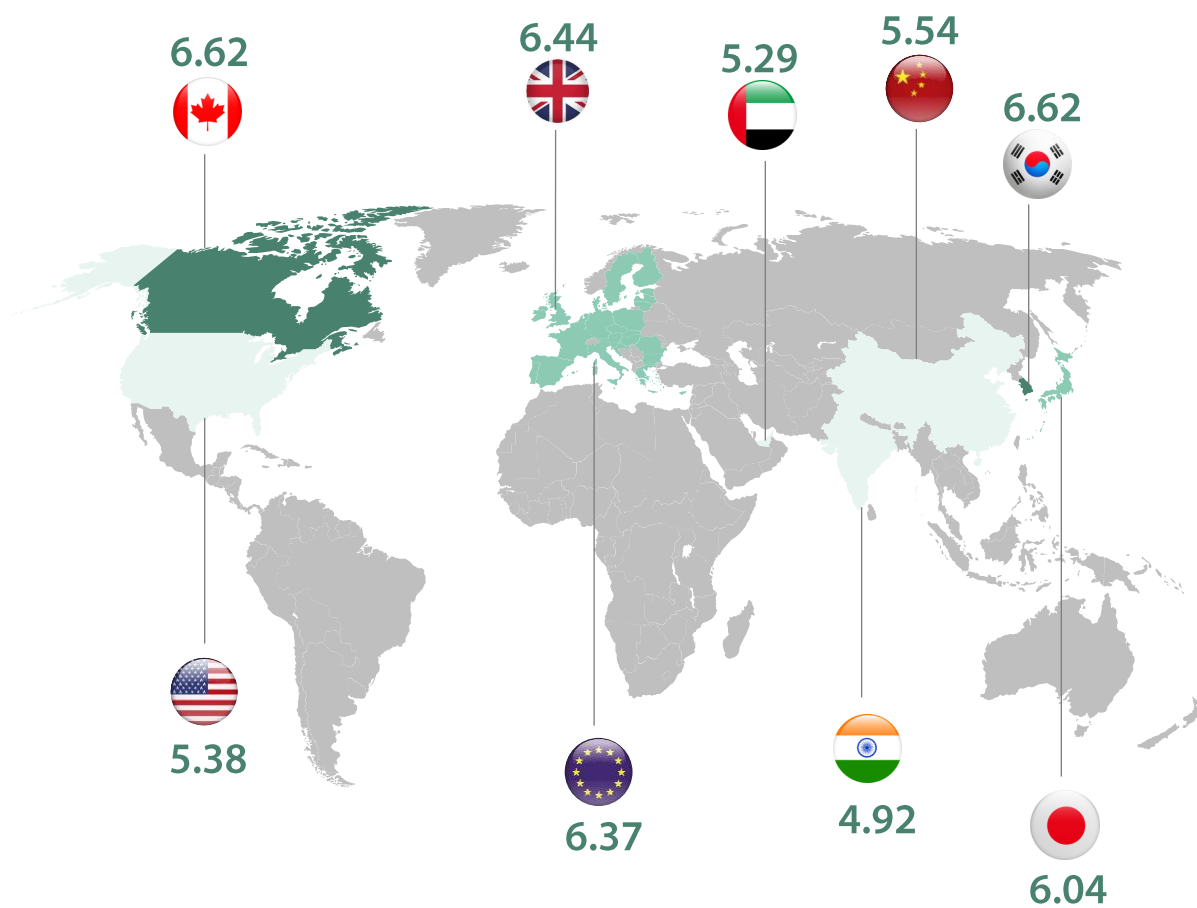


- a. The first sub-score consists of questions related to the **definition of climate change** and its causes
- b. The second sub-score consists of questions related to the **consequences** of climate change.
- c. The third sub-score includes questions on various **measures to address climate change**.

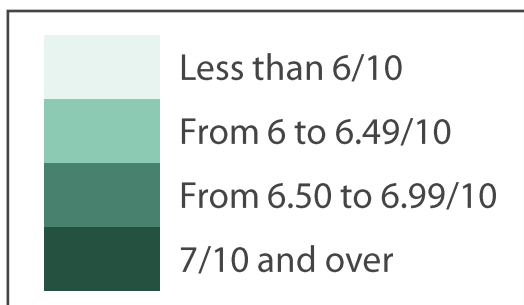
Each question within a sub-score has an equal weight.

1.RESULTS BY GEOGRAPHIES

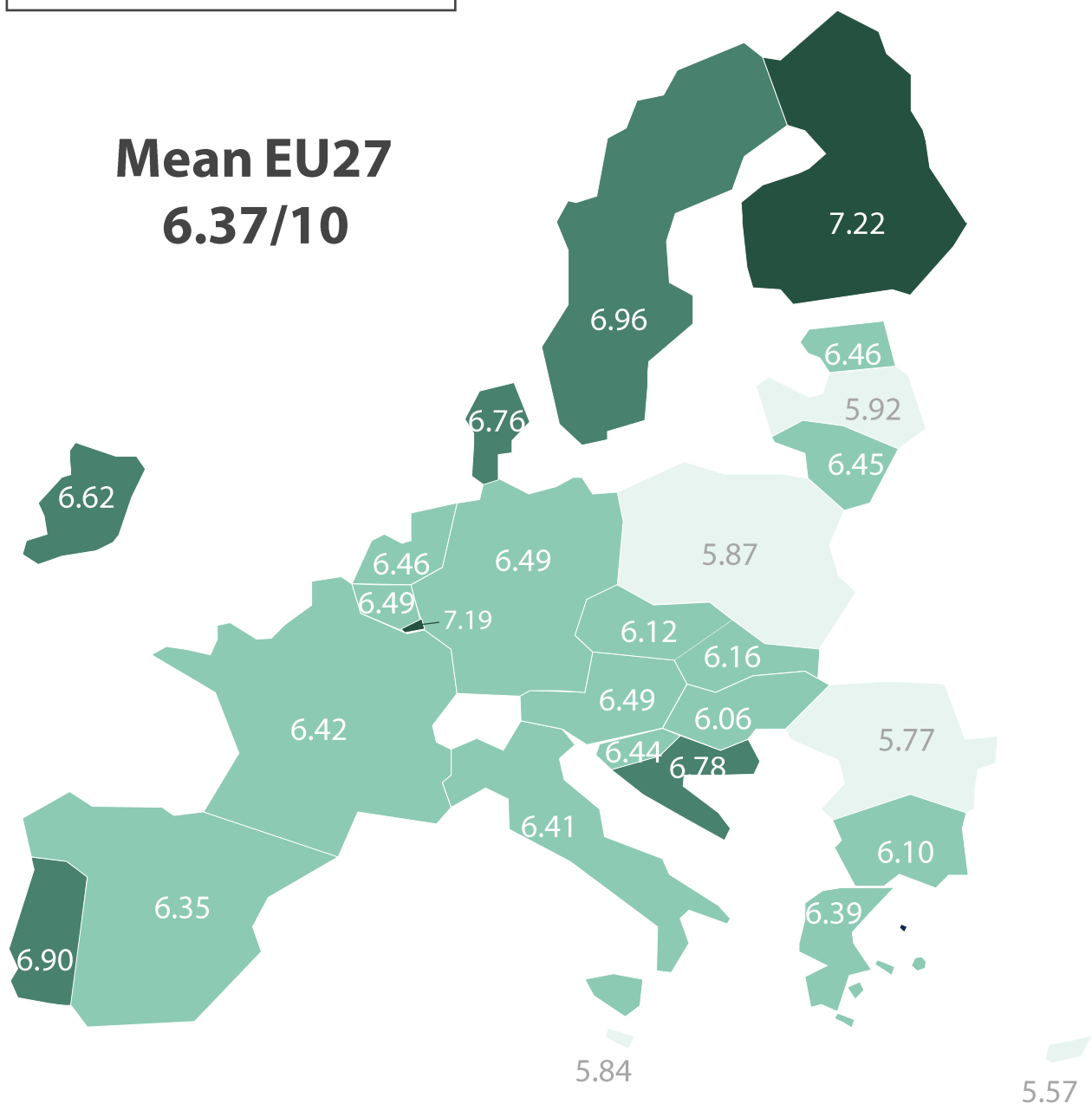
Overall knowledge score in the test: Europeans well ahead of people in the USA. Canadians and Koreans lead.



Overall scores in the various EU countries are relatively close to each other, with Finland leading the way.

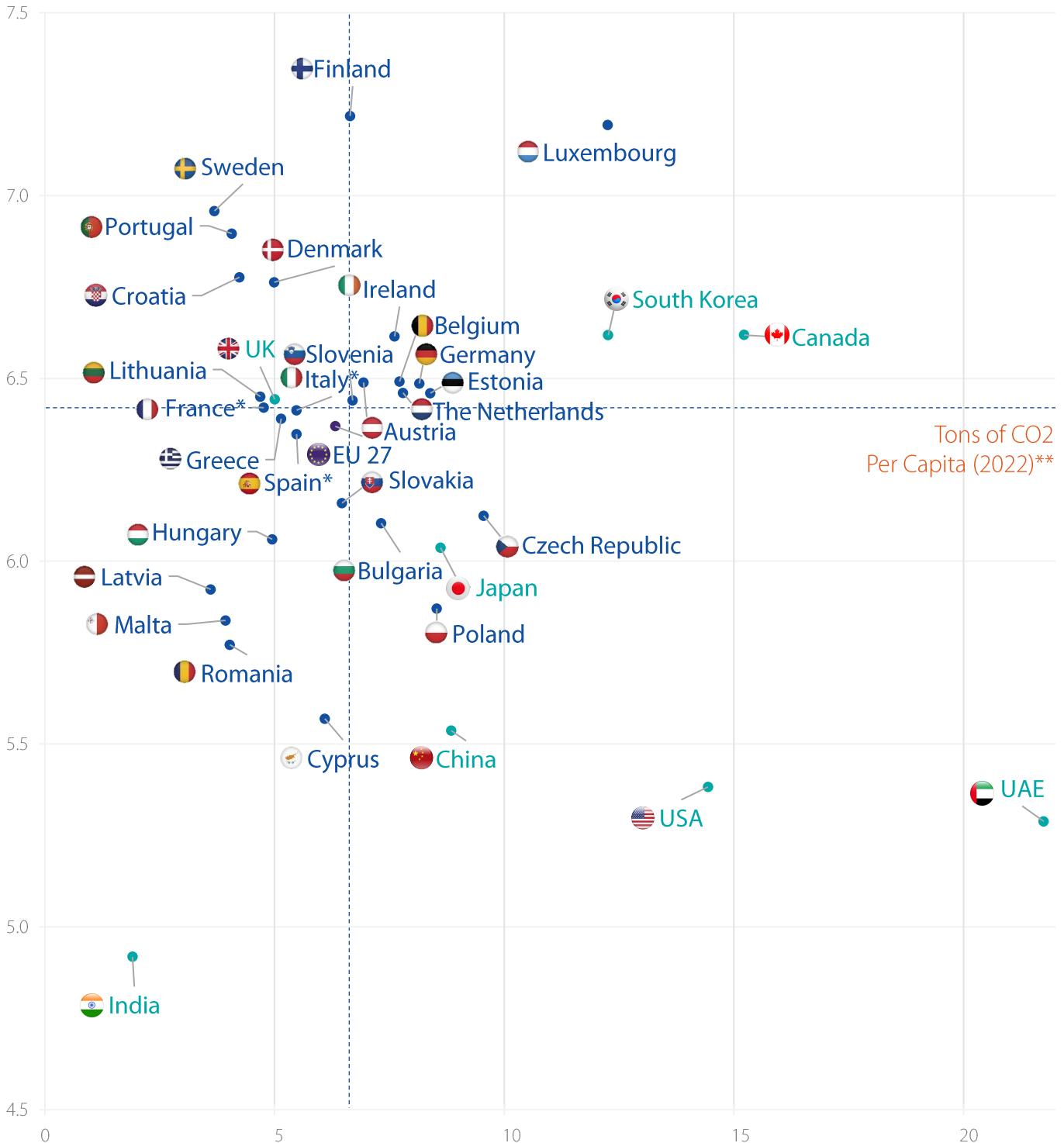


Mean EU27
6.37/10



Overall scores of the 35 countries relative to their CO2 emissions per capita over one year

Overall Knowledge score

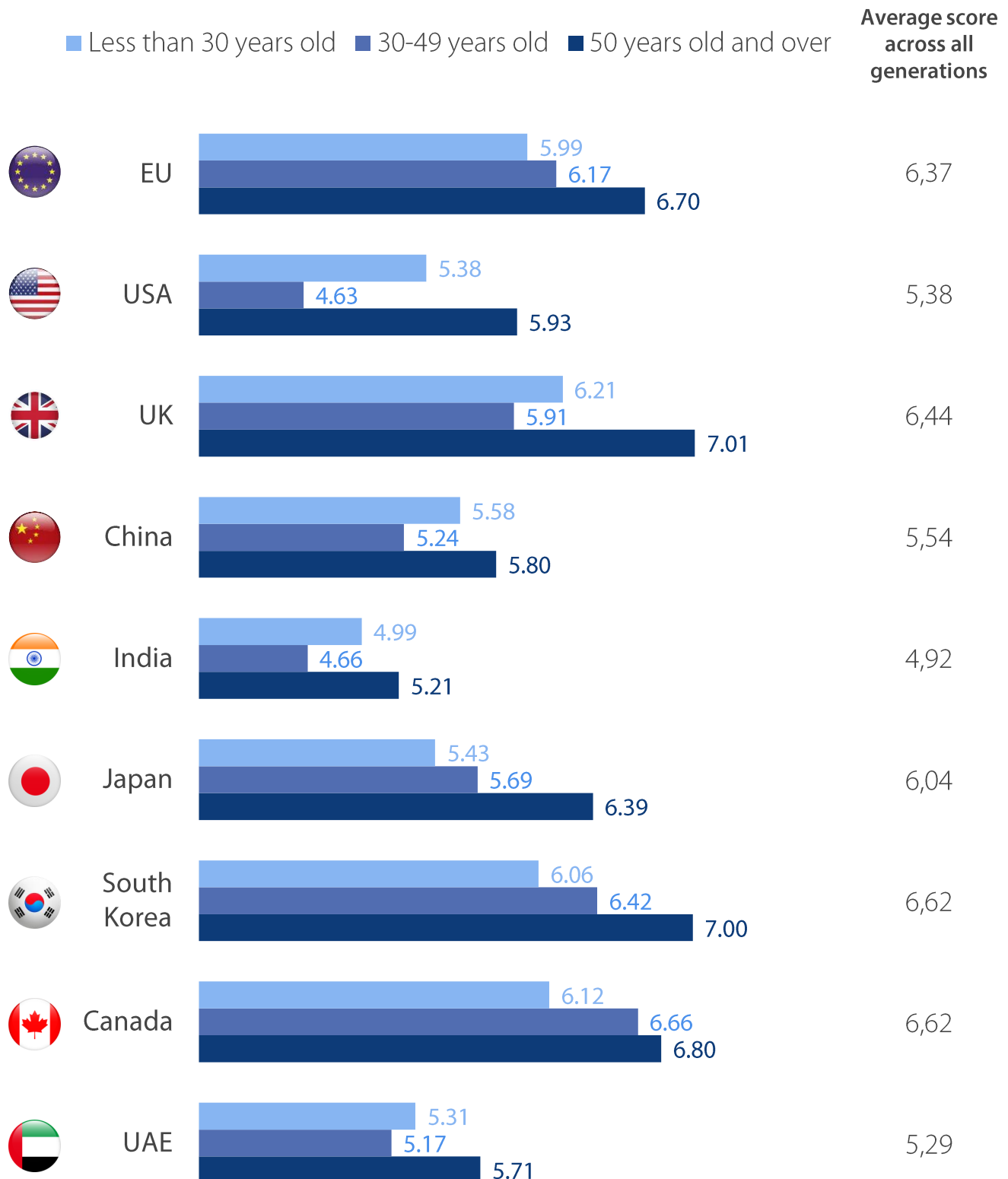


** SOURCE : EDGAR (Emissions Database for Atmospheric Research) Community GHG Database (a collaboration between the European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), the International Energy Agency (IEA), and comprising IEA-EDGAR CO2, EDGAR CH4, EDGAR N2O, EDGAR F-GASES version 8.0, (2023) European Commission.

*Datas for Tons of CO2 per capita include:
 - For France: Monaco
 - For Spain: Andorra
 - For Italy: San Marino and Holy see

2. SCORES BASED ON AGE AND GENDER

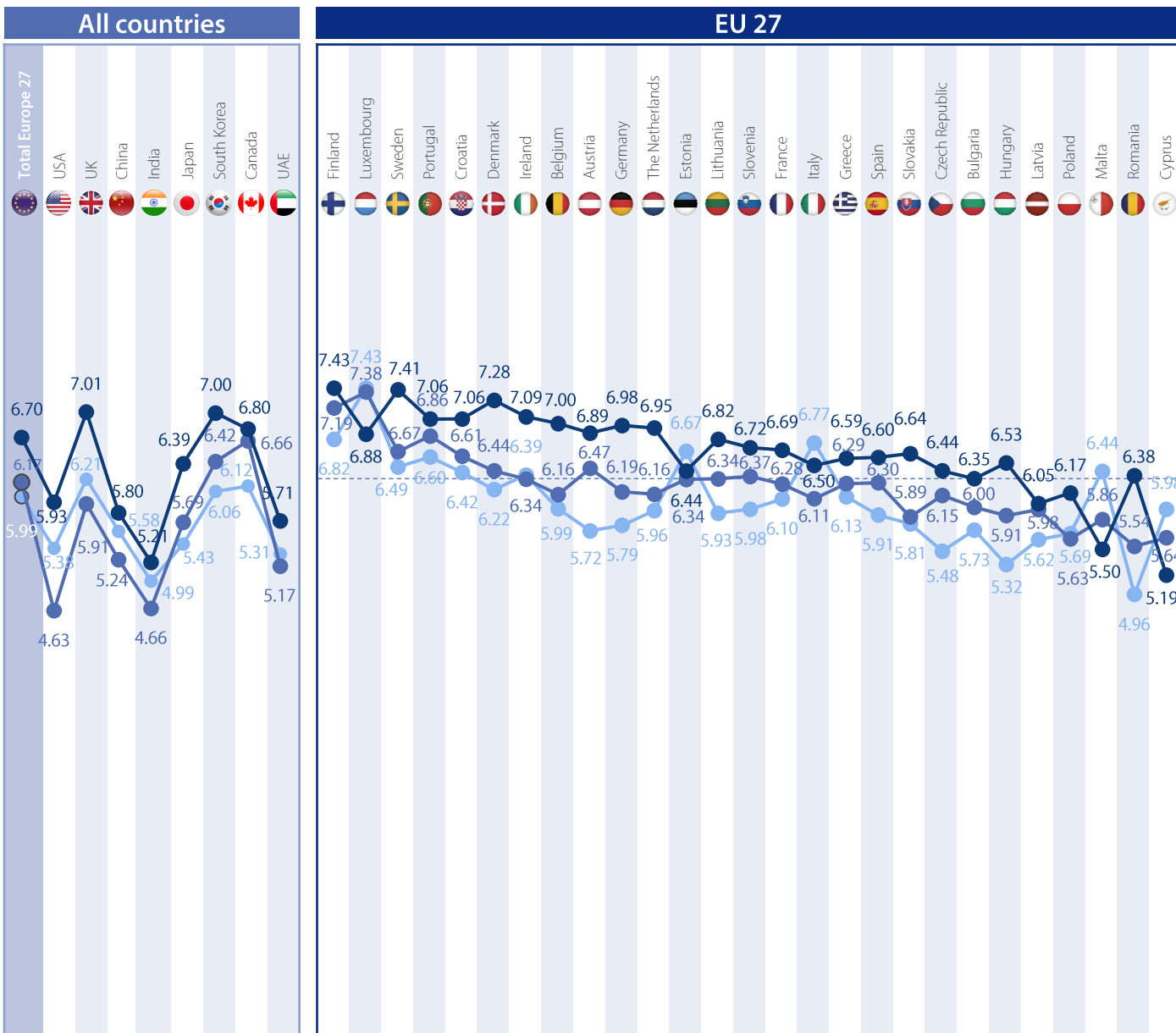
In a large majority of the countries surveyed, people aged 50 and over obtain better scores



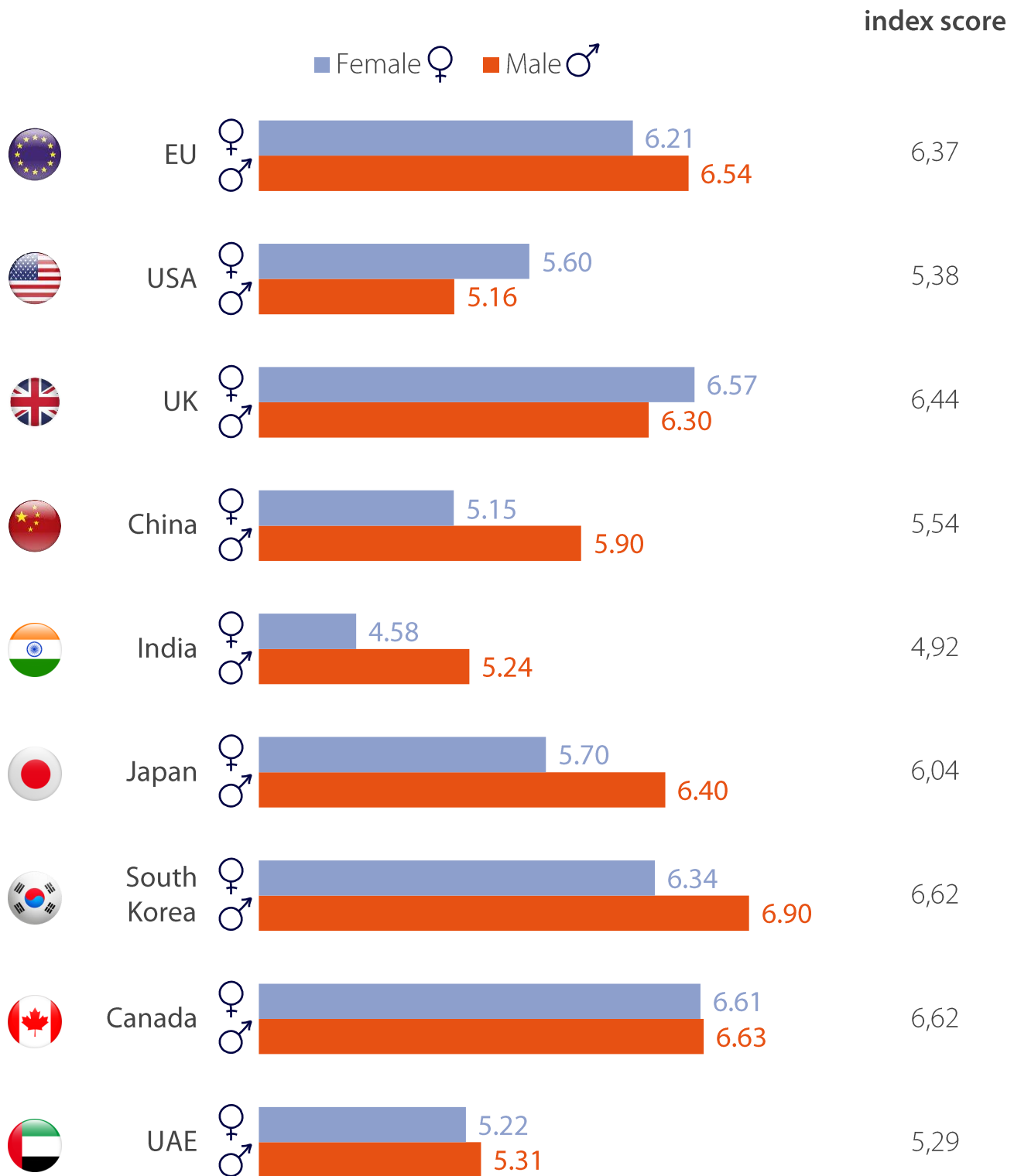
Most Europeans over 30 understand climate change better than the young

Overall knowledge score depending on age

● Less than 30 years old ● 30-49 years old ● 50 years old and over



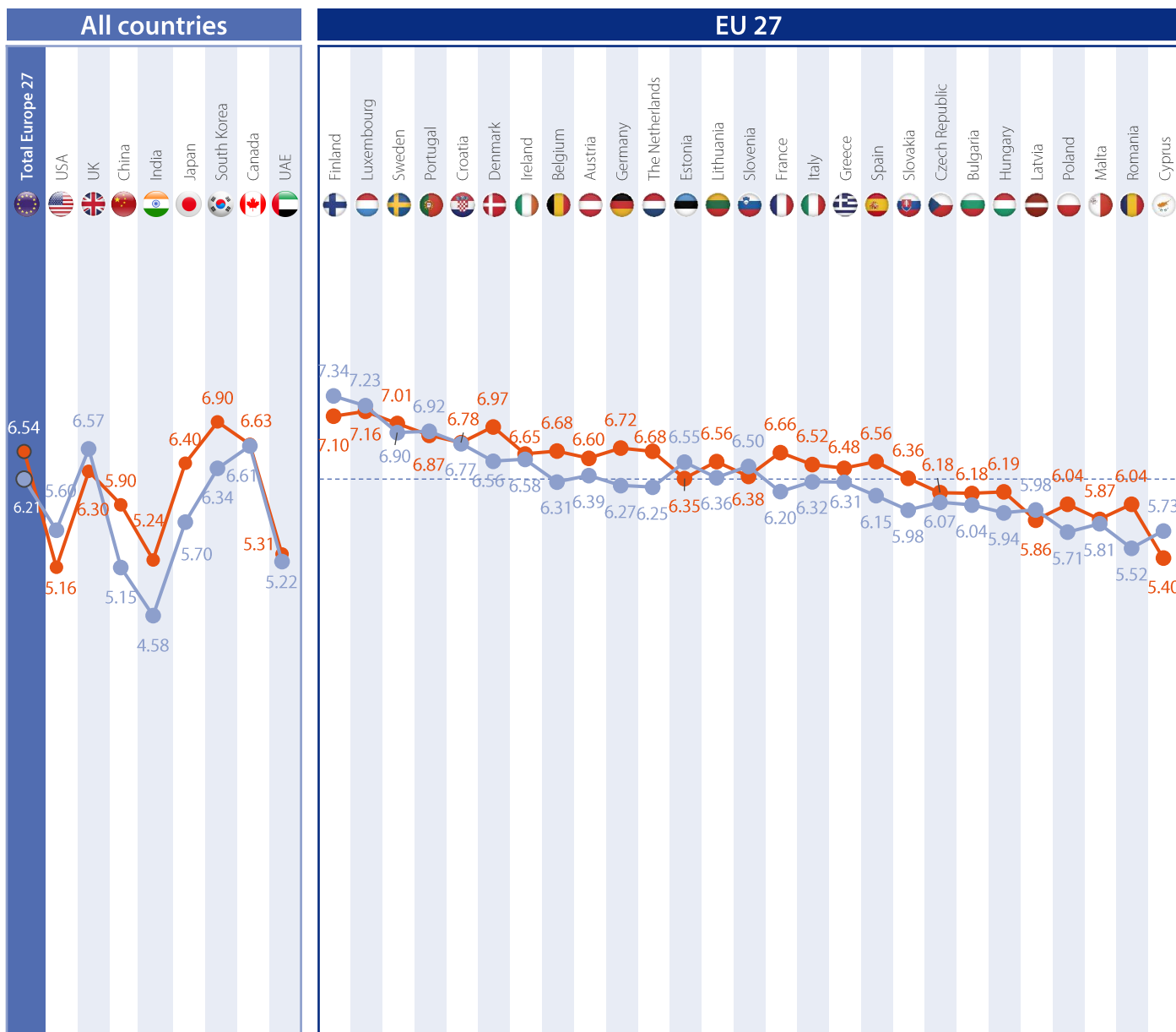
In most countries surveyed, men score higher. It is the opposite in 9 countries including the USA, the UK, Finland and Portugal.



In most countries surveyed, men score higher. It is the opposite in 9 countries including the USA, the UK, Finland and Portugal.

Overall knowledge score depending on gender

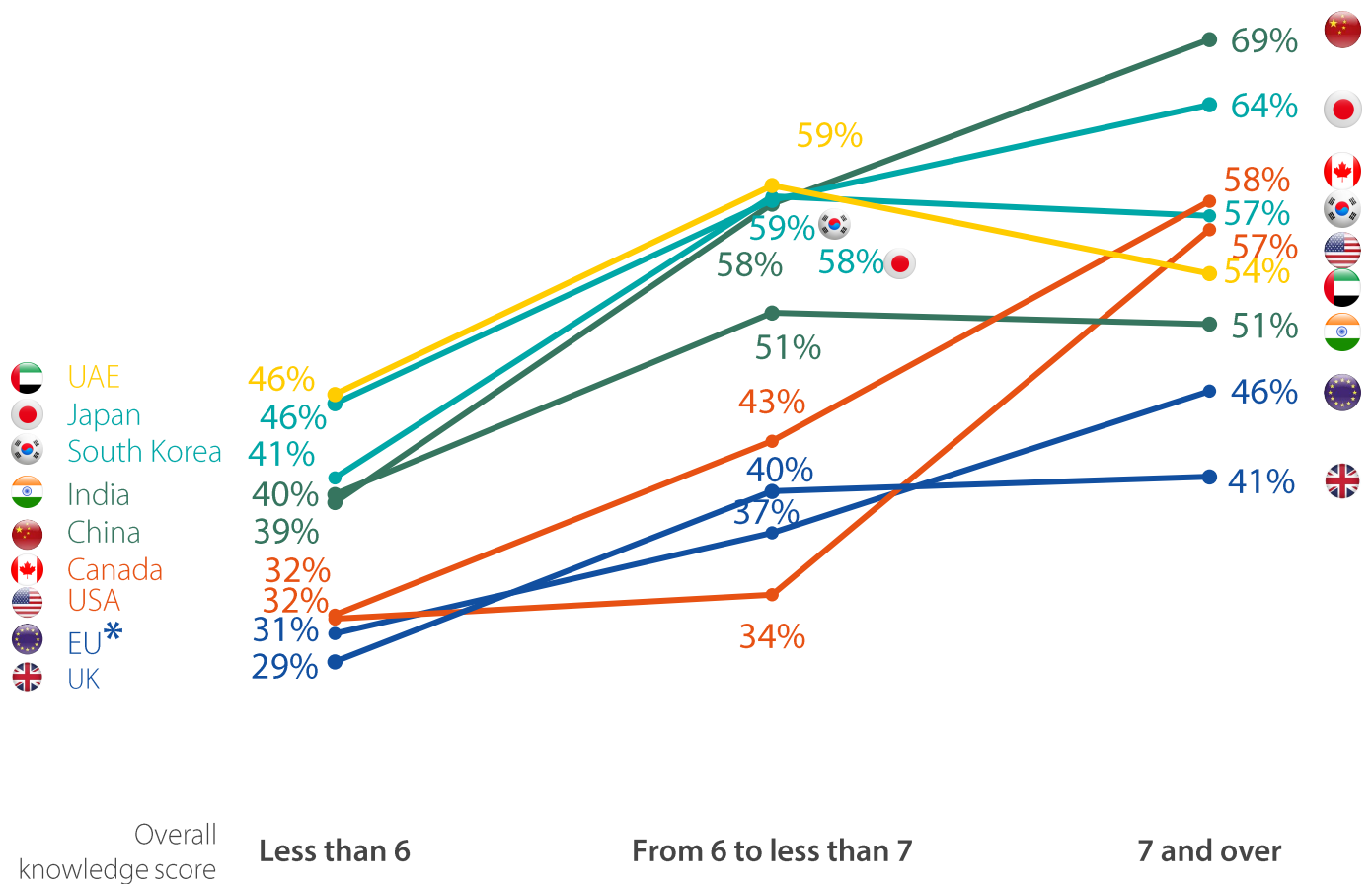
● Female ♀ ● Male ♂



3. PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN RELATION TO OVERALL KNOWLEDGE SCORE

In most countries, higher levels of concern about climate change are observed among those with higher levels of knowledge about the issue.

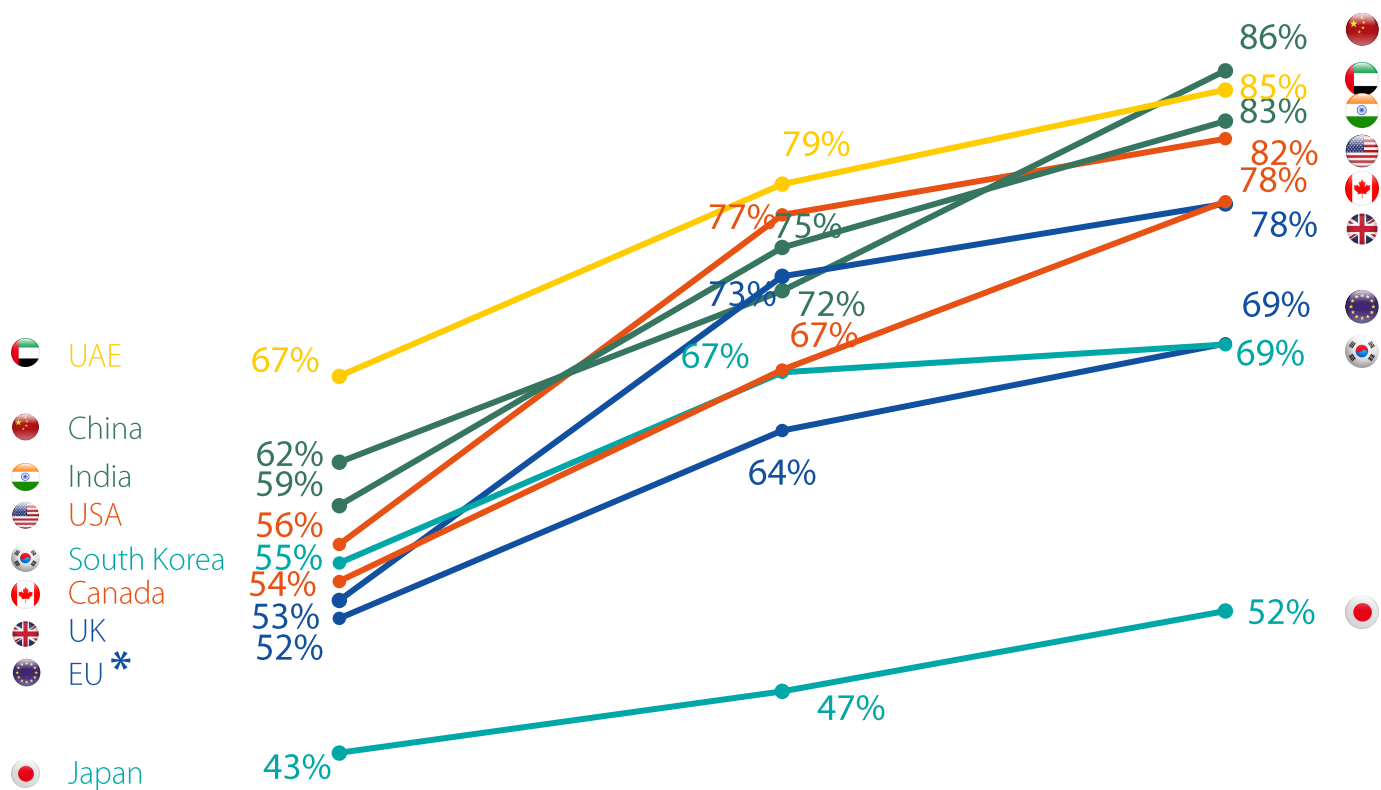
% of respondents who consider climate change to be one of the biggest challenges facing their country



* Reading key : 31% of EU residents scoring less than 6 on the overall score think that climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing their country, compared with 46% of those scoring 7 or more.

Higher levels of awareness often lead to greater confidence in the ability of climate change measures to improve their daily quality of life.

% of respondents who believe that measures taken by their country to combat climate change will improve their daily quality of life, including the quality of food and their health.

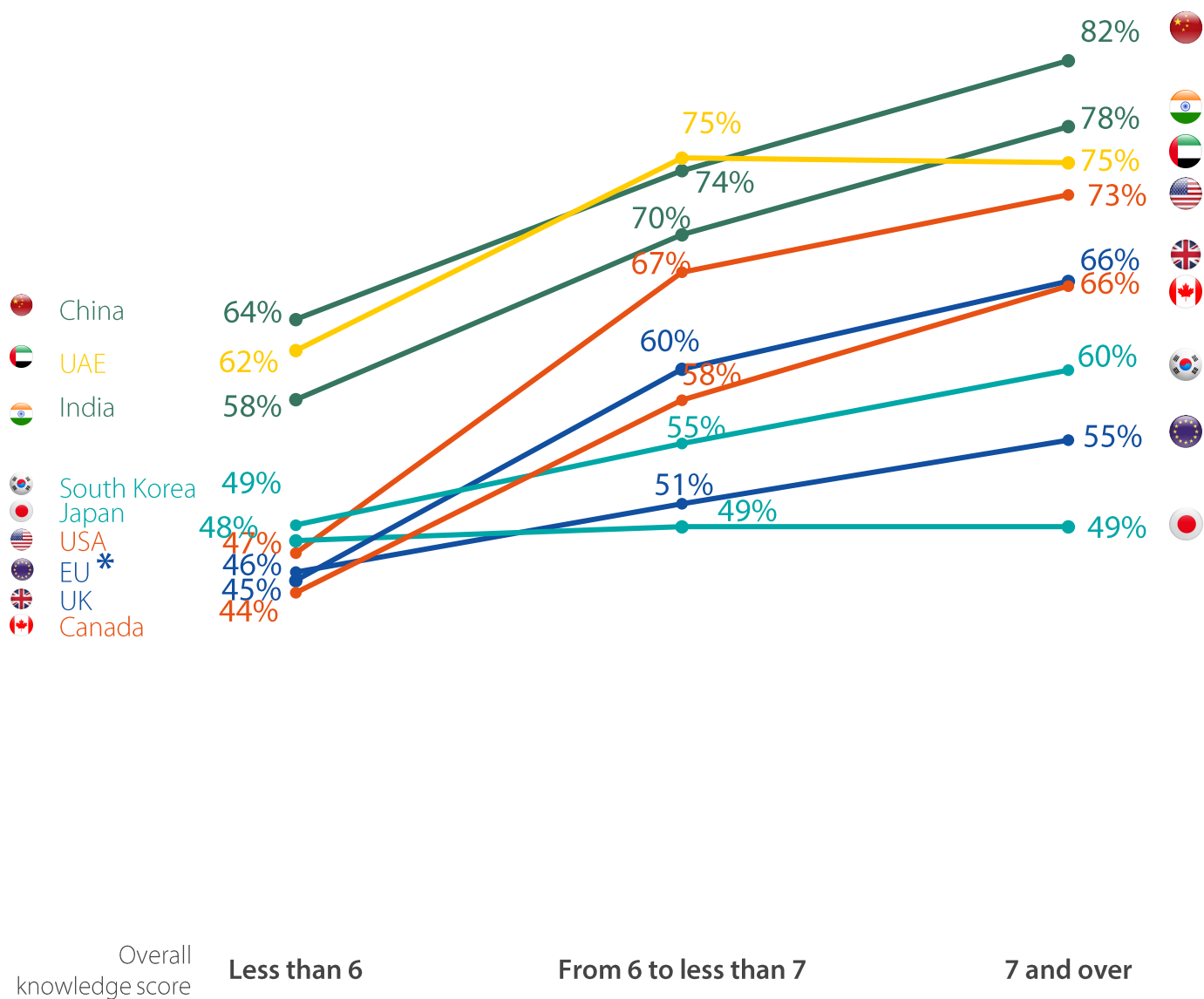


Overall knowledge score: Less than 6, From 6 to less than 7, 7 and over

* Reading key : 52% of EU residents scoring less than 6 on the overall score think measures adopted by their country to fight climate change will improve their daily life quality, including the quality of food and their health, compared with 69% of those scoring 7 or more.

People with higher overall scores are also more likely to believe that action to tackle climate change will create more jobs.

% of respondents who believe that the measures taken by their country to combat climate change will create more jobs than they destroy.

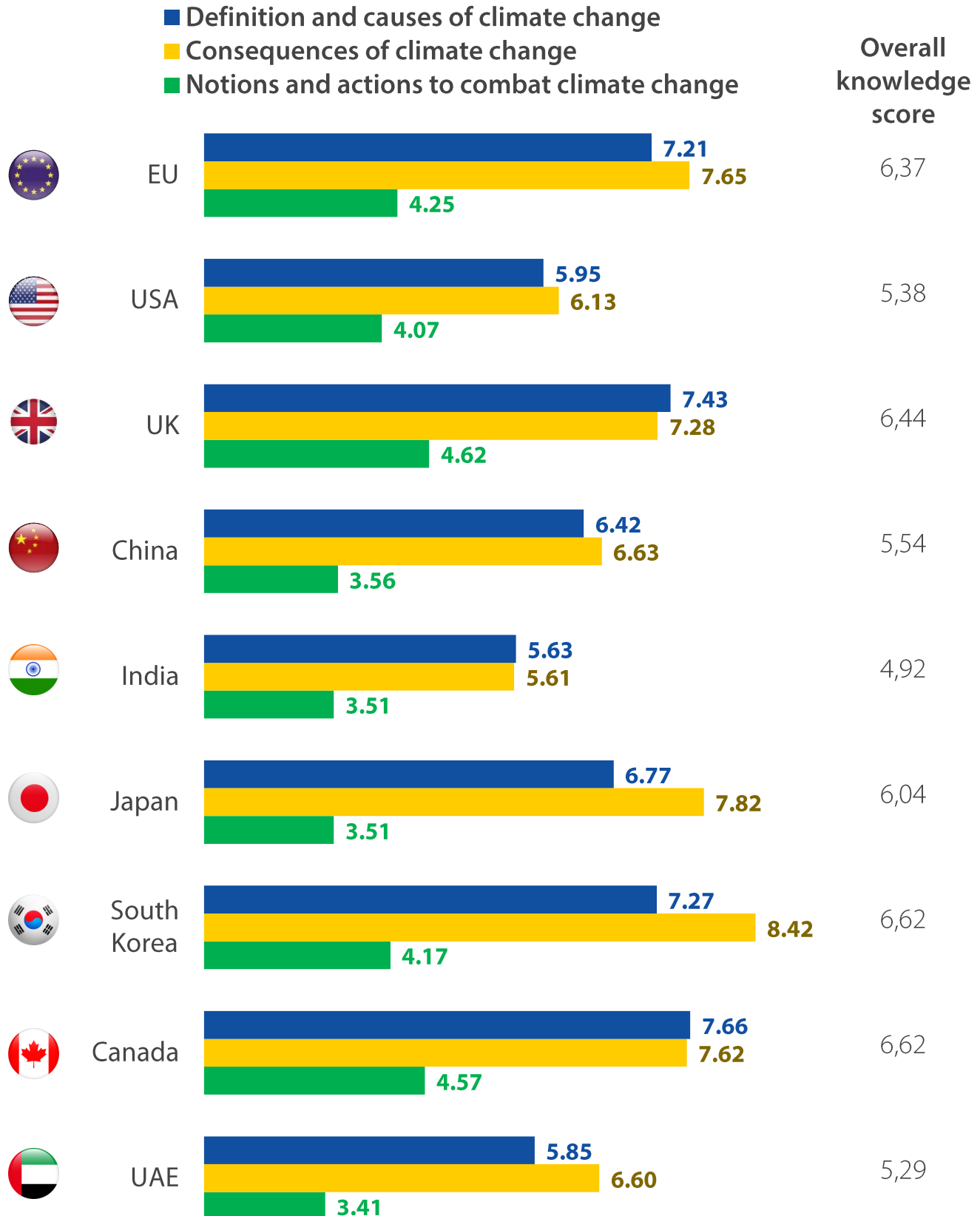


* Reading key : 46% of EU residents scoring less than 6 on the overall index think measures adopted by their country to fight climate change will create more jobs than they will destroy existing ones, compared with 55% of those scoring 7 or more.

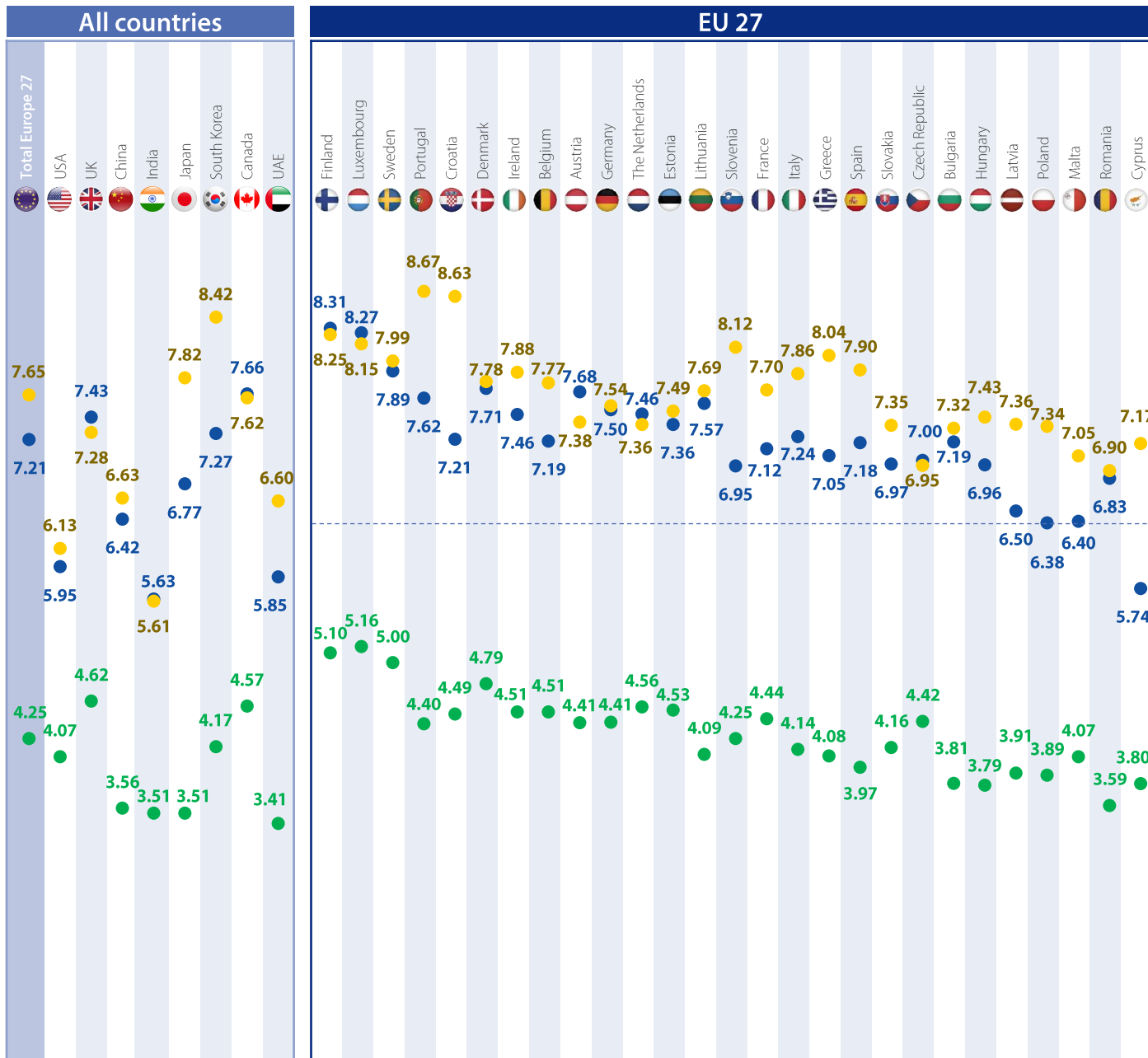
4. RESULTS BY SUB-SCORES

- **Sub-score #1:** Causes of climate changes
- **Sub-score #2:** Consequences of climate change
- **Sub-score #3:** Measures to address climate change

In most countries, respondents demonstrate a good knowledge of climate change causes and consequences. Meanwhile knowledge about solutions lags behind.



In most countries, the consequences of climate change are significantly better known than its definition and causes



- Definition and causes of climate change
- Consequences of climate change
- Notions and actions to combat climate change

**a. DEFINITION AND CAUSES
OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Sub-score #1)

In almost all countries, a majority of respondents give an accurate definition of climate change

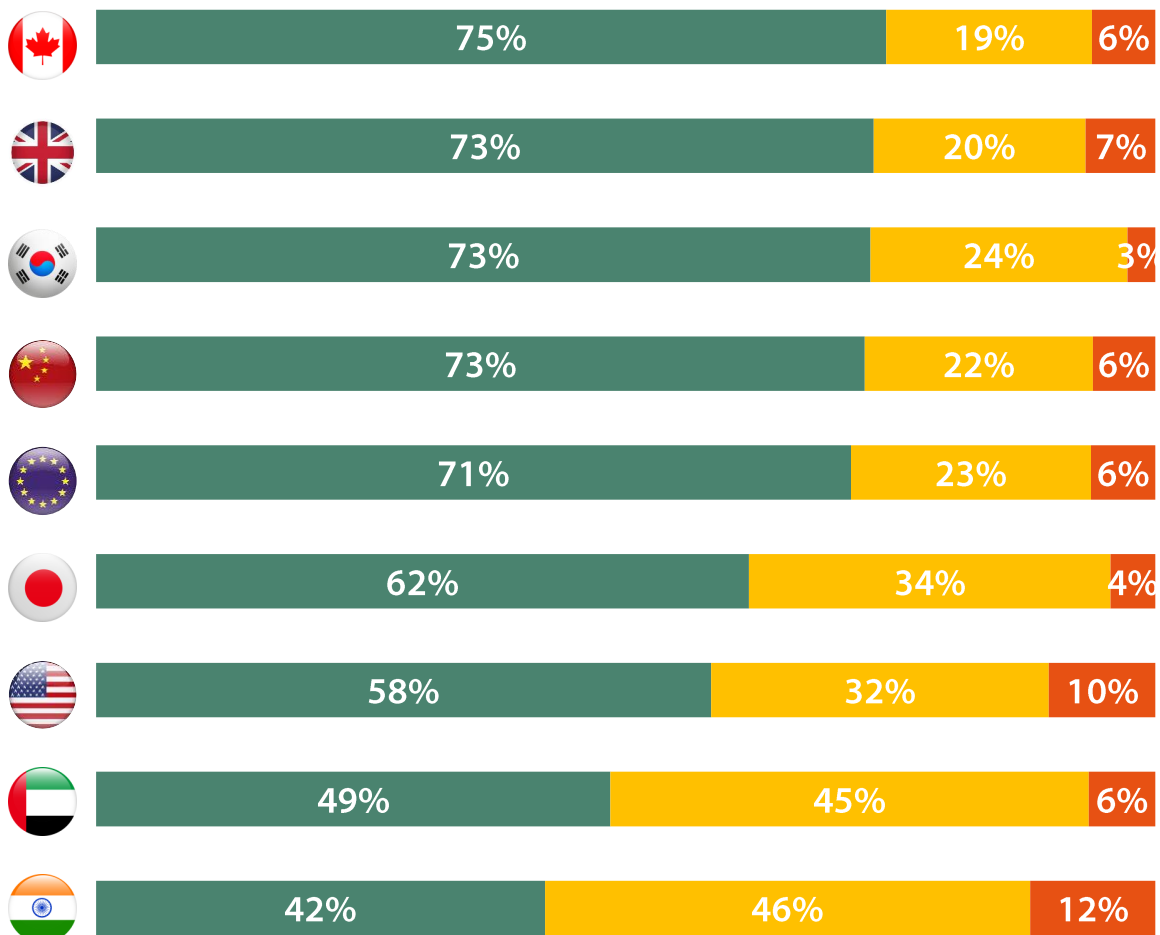
Climate change is

... a long-term shift in climate patterns



... a rapid change in the weather over a short period of time, especially in the summer

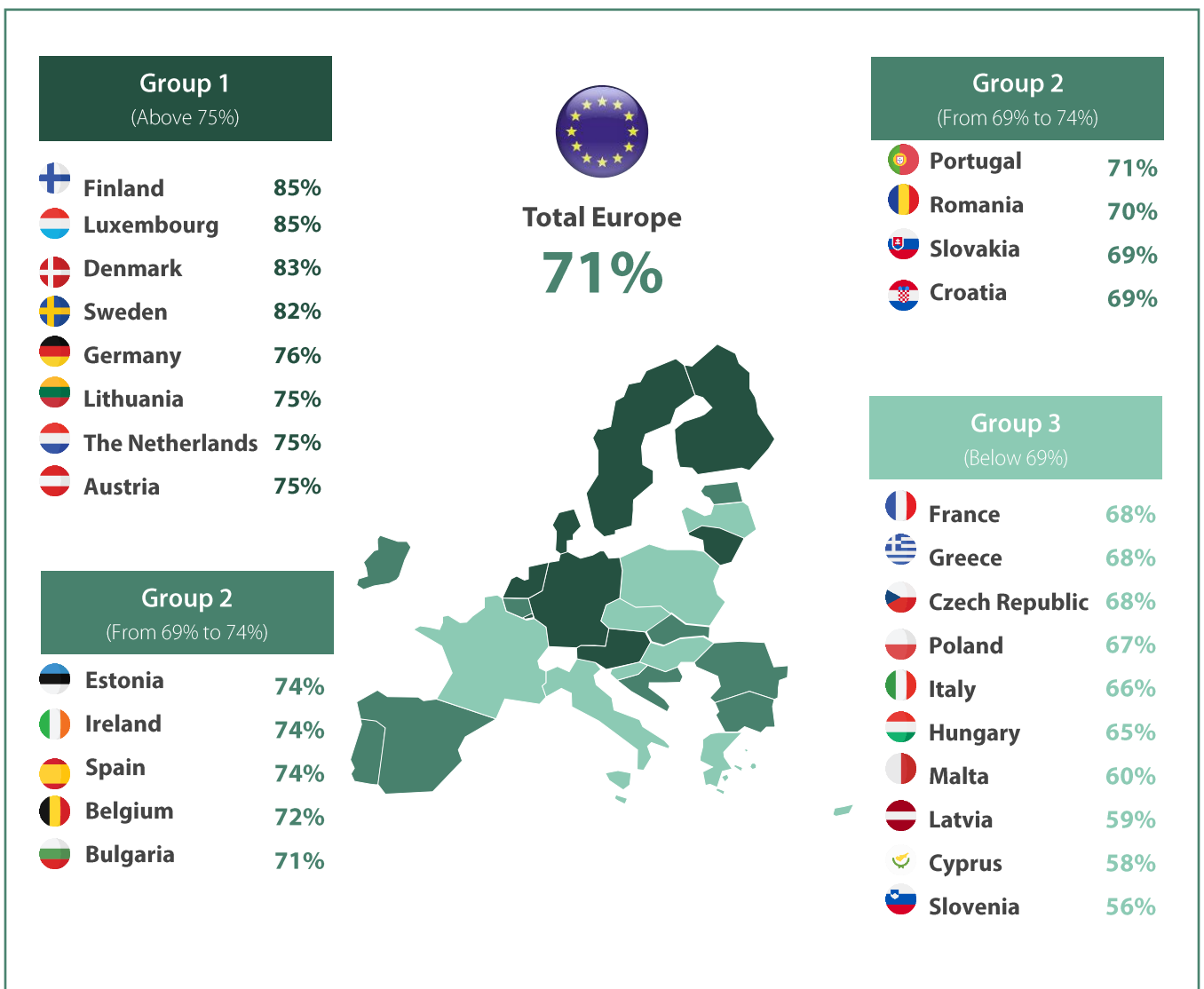
... a hoax



The majority of respondents in all EU countries give an accurate definition of climate change.

Climate change is....

% Climate change is a long-term shift in climate patterns



The majority of respondents across all geographies are aware of the human origin of climate change

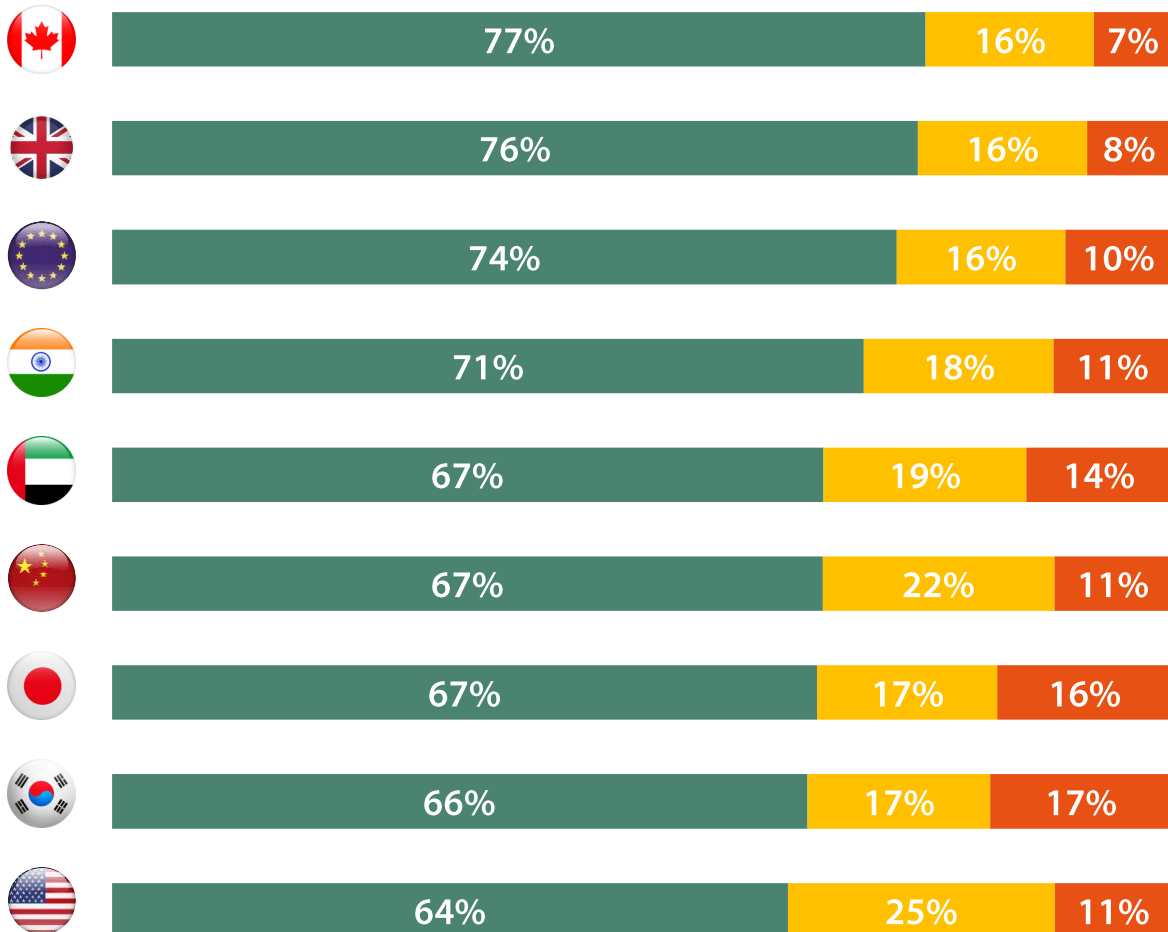
What is the main cause of climate change?

Human activity such as deforestation, agriculture, industry and transport



Extreme natural phenomena, such as volcanic eruptions and heat waves

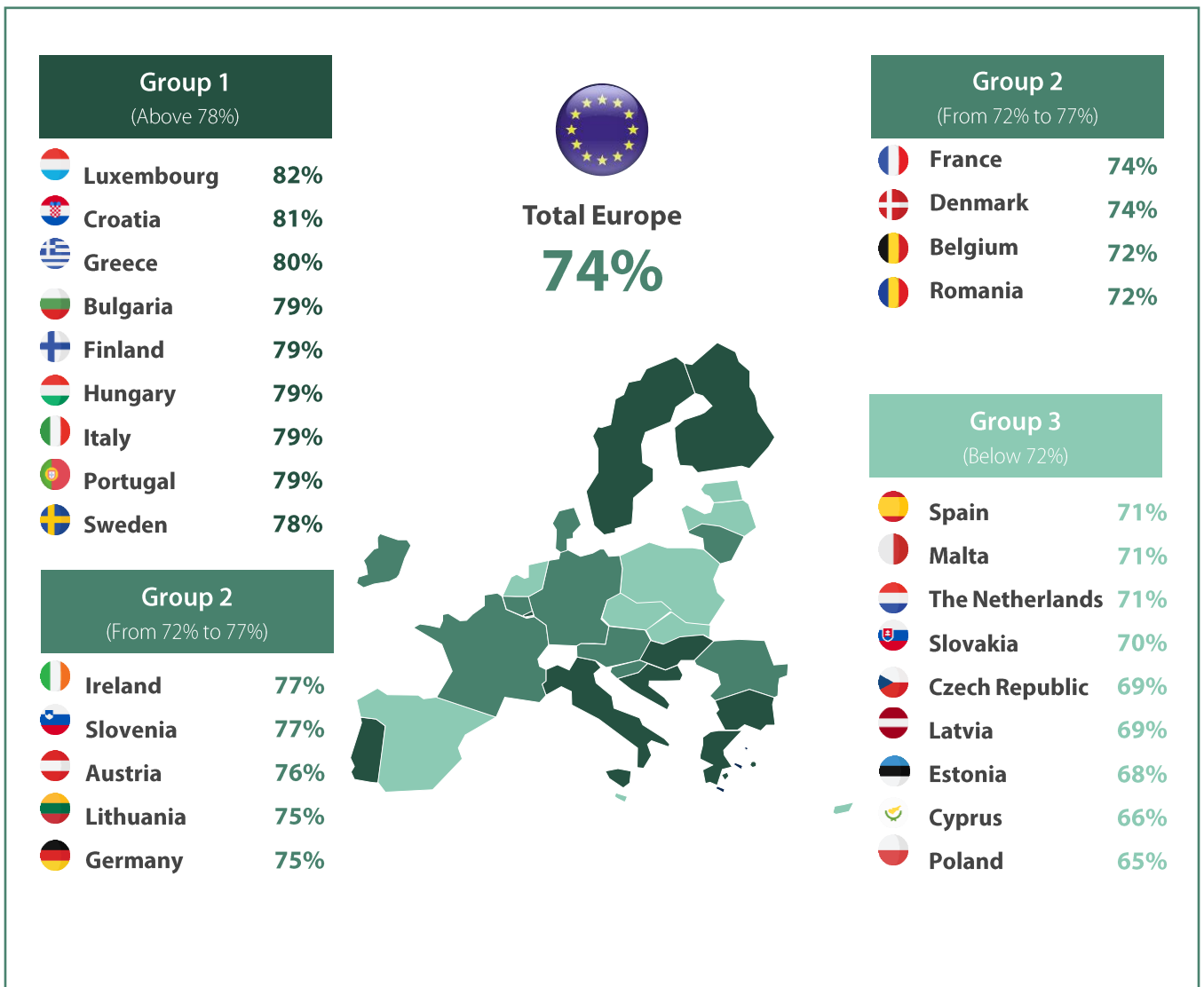
The ozone hole



Across the 27 European countries, more than two-thirds of citizens recognise human activity as the main cause of climate change.

What is the main cause of climate change?

% responding that it is due to human activities such as deforestation, agriculture, industry and transport

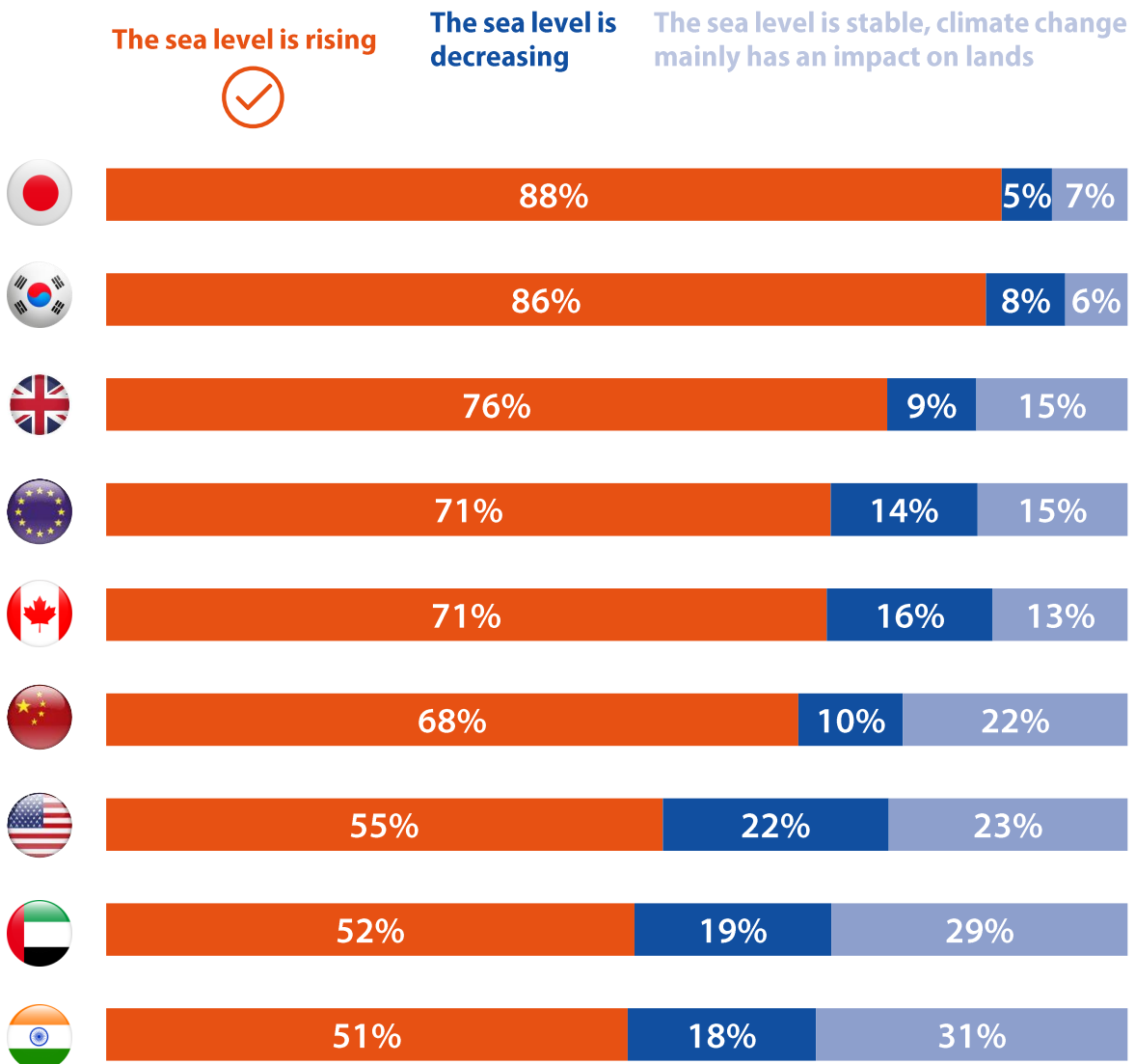


b. CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

(Sub-score #2)

A majority of respondents in all countries are aware of the impact of climate change on sea levels, but with significant gaps.

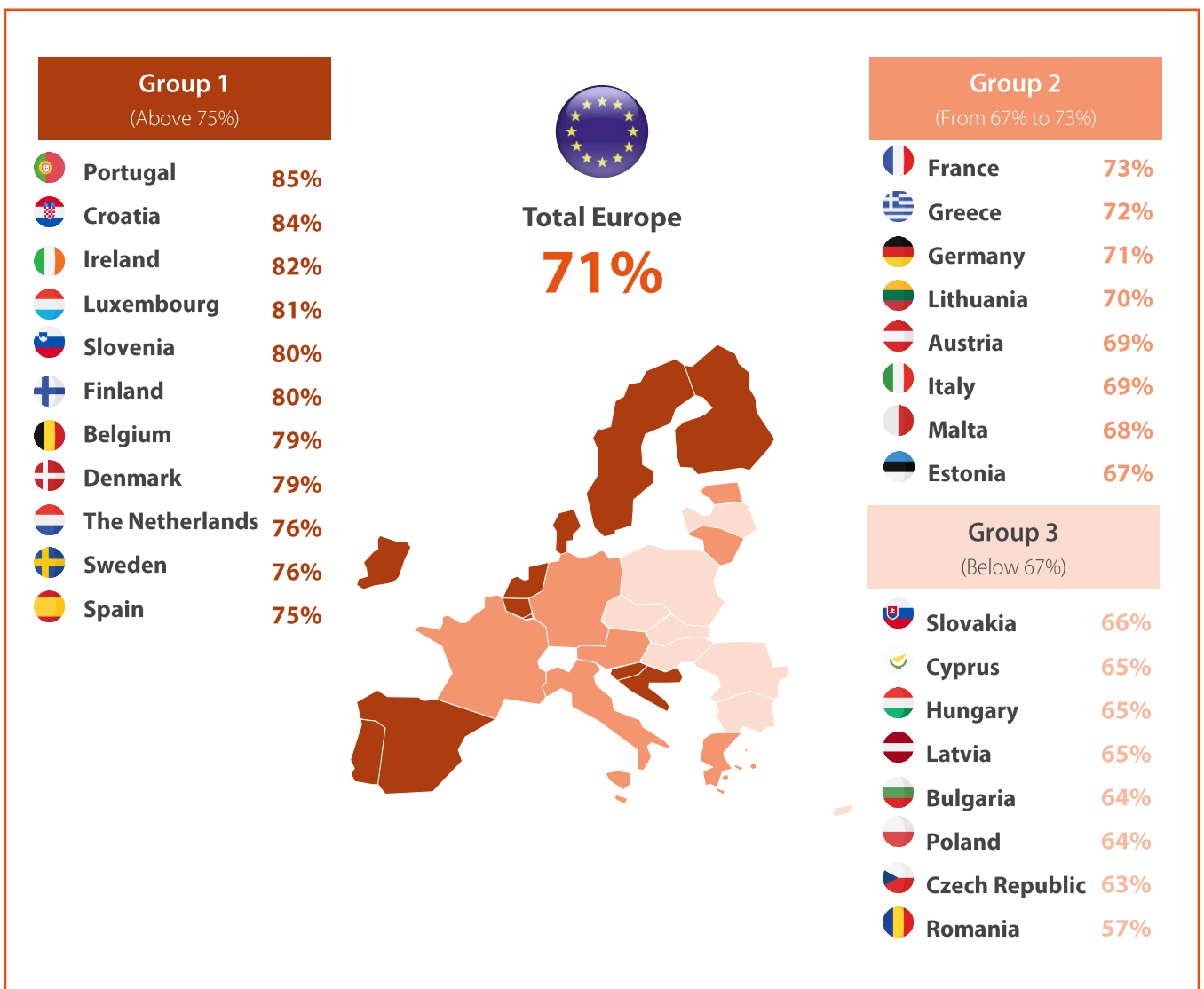
Because of climate change...



A majority of respondents in all EU countries are aware of the impact of climate change on sea levels, but with significant gaps

Because of climate change...

% The sea level is rising



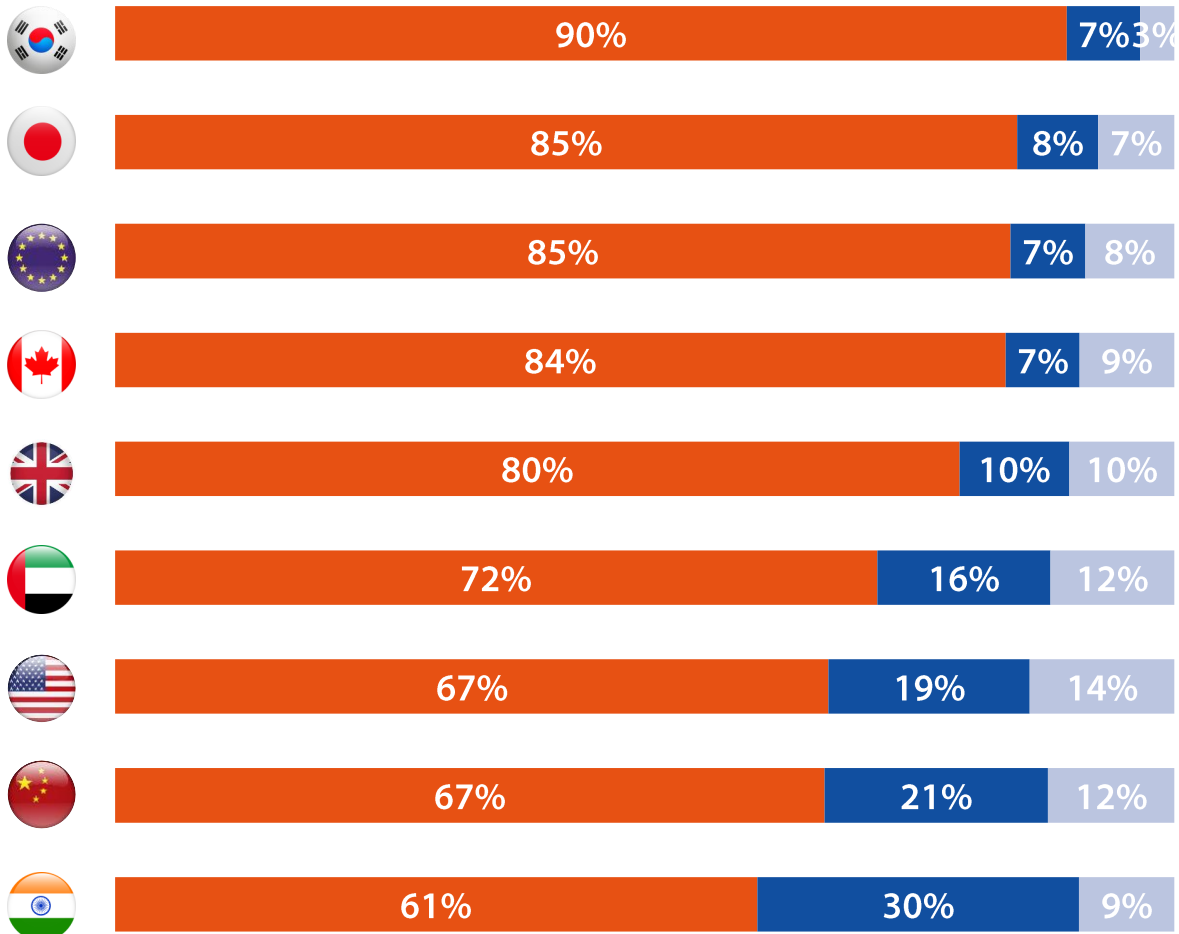
Most repondents across various geographies surveyed are aware of the impact of climate change on world hunger

Climate change...

Is worsening world hunger by affecting yield of crops due to extreme weather

Is reducing world hunger by boosting crops yields thanks to warmer temperatures throughout the year

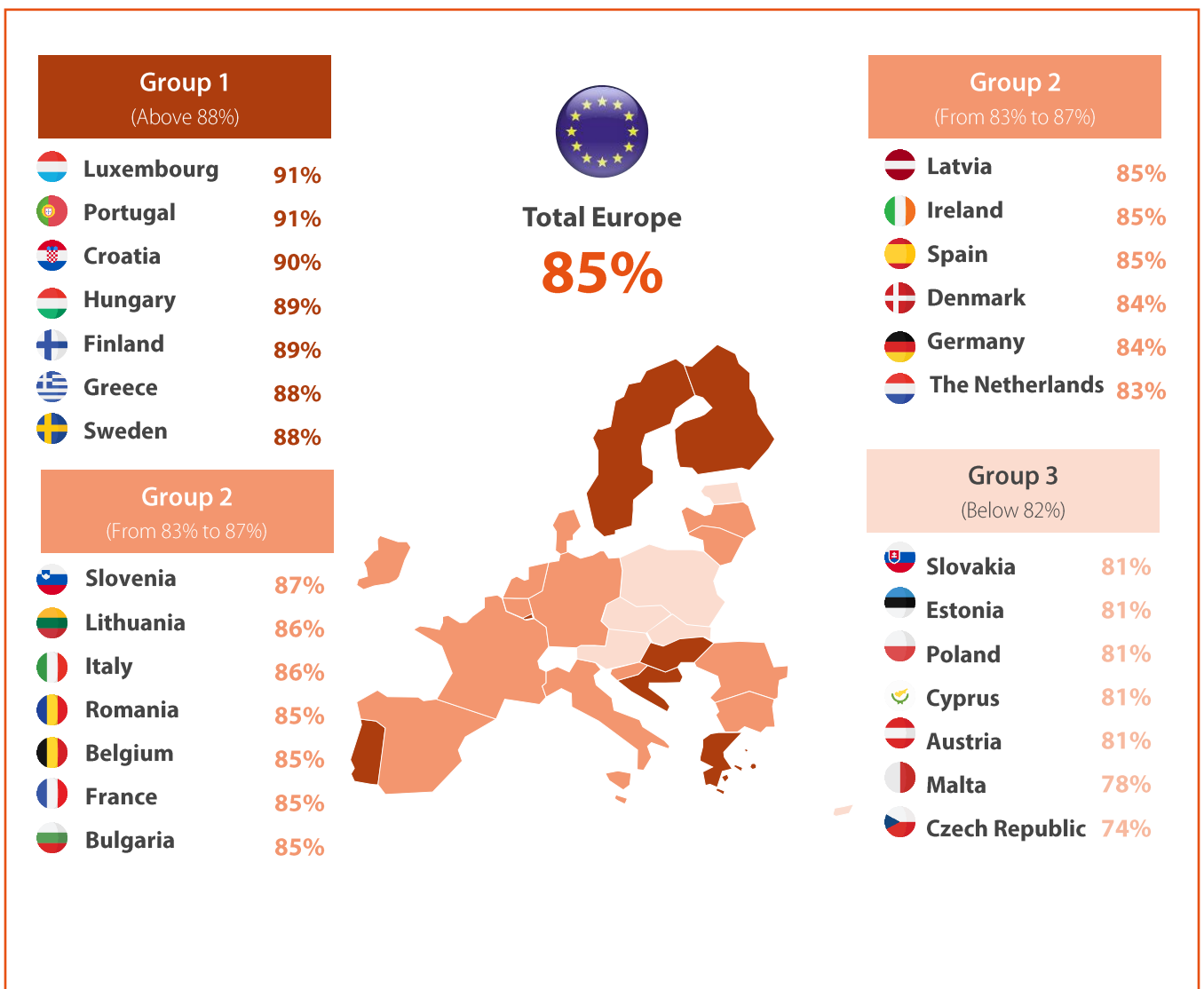
Has no influence on world hunger



In all EU countries, at least three quarters of citizens are aware that climate change will have a negative impact on world hunger.

Climate change...

% aware that climate change is worsening world hunger



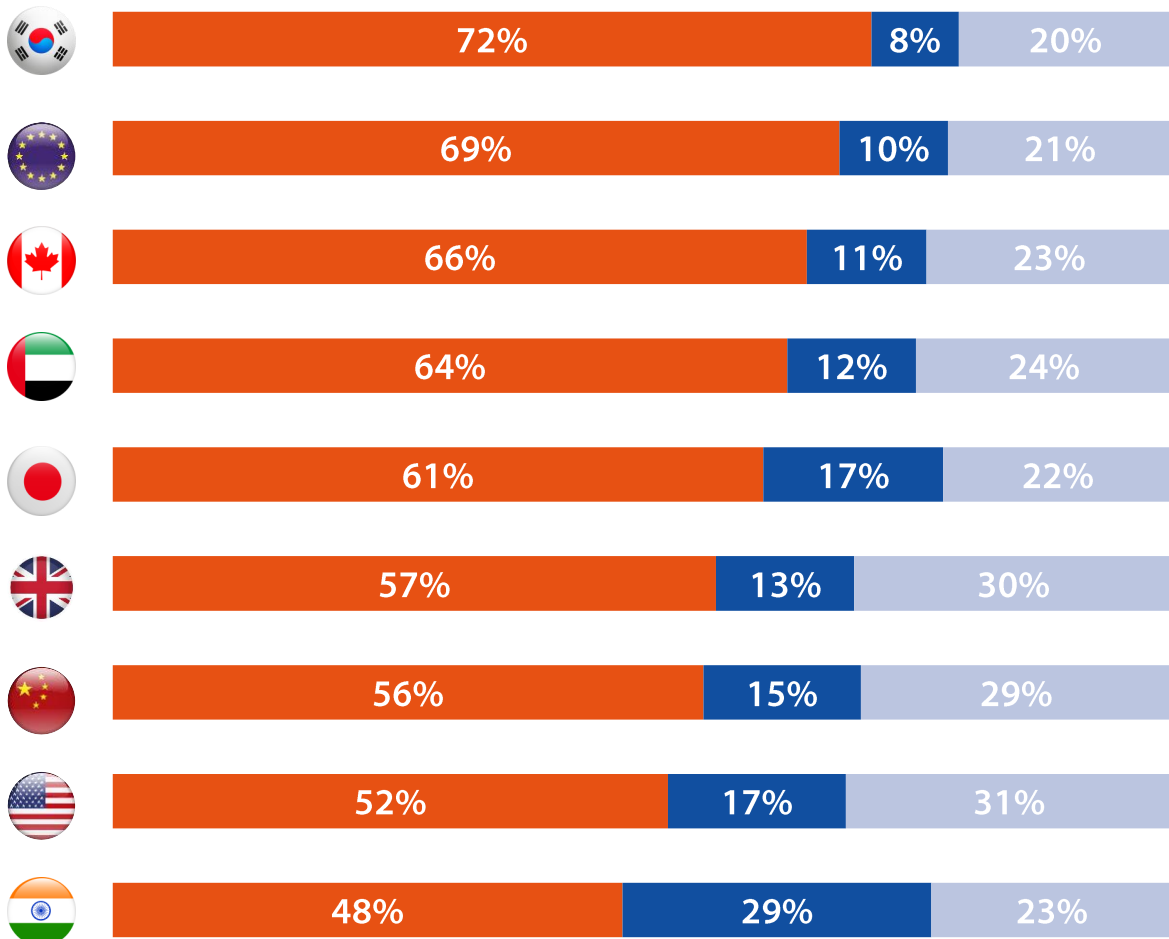
Majority of respondents in almost all countries surveyed aware of increased migration due to climate change.

Climate change ...

Triggers an increase in migrations worldwide

Triggers an increase in the world population

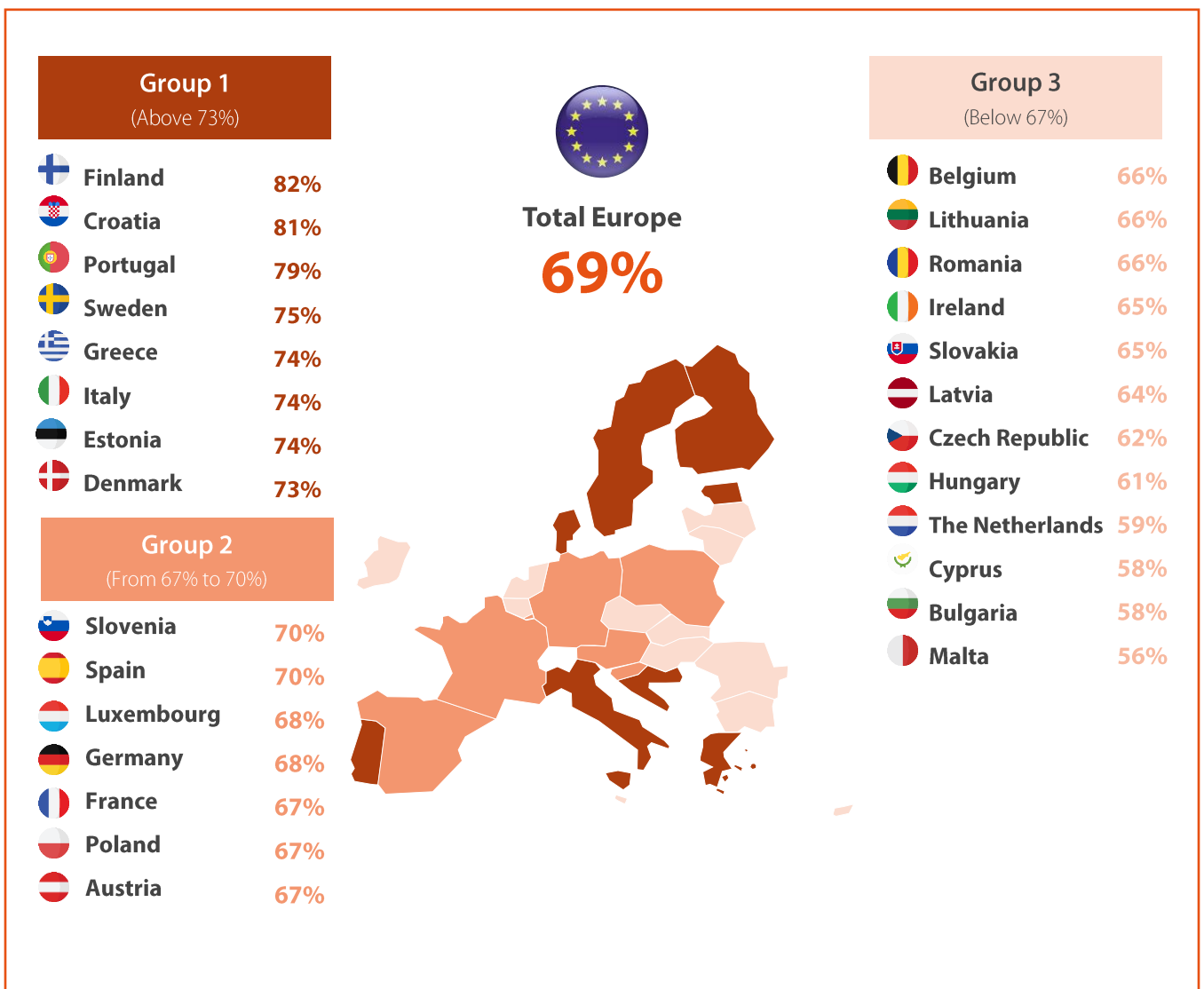
Has no specific influence on the world population or migrations



In all EU countries, a majority of respondents are aware of the impact of climate change on global migration, but with significant gaps.

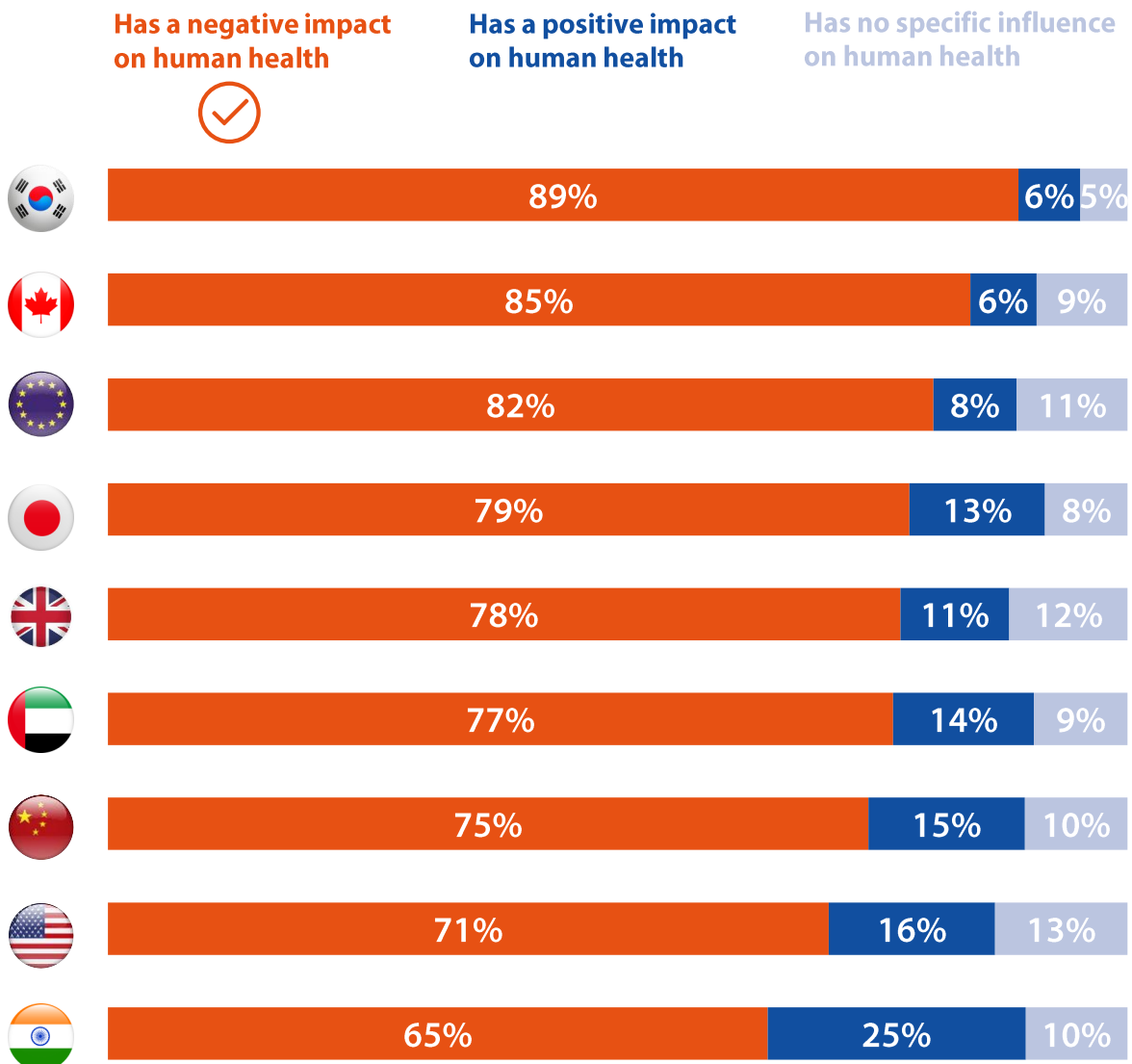
Climate change...

% Triggers an increase in migrations worldwide



The negative impact of climate change on human health is widely recognised in all the regions surveyed.

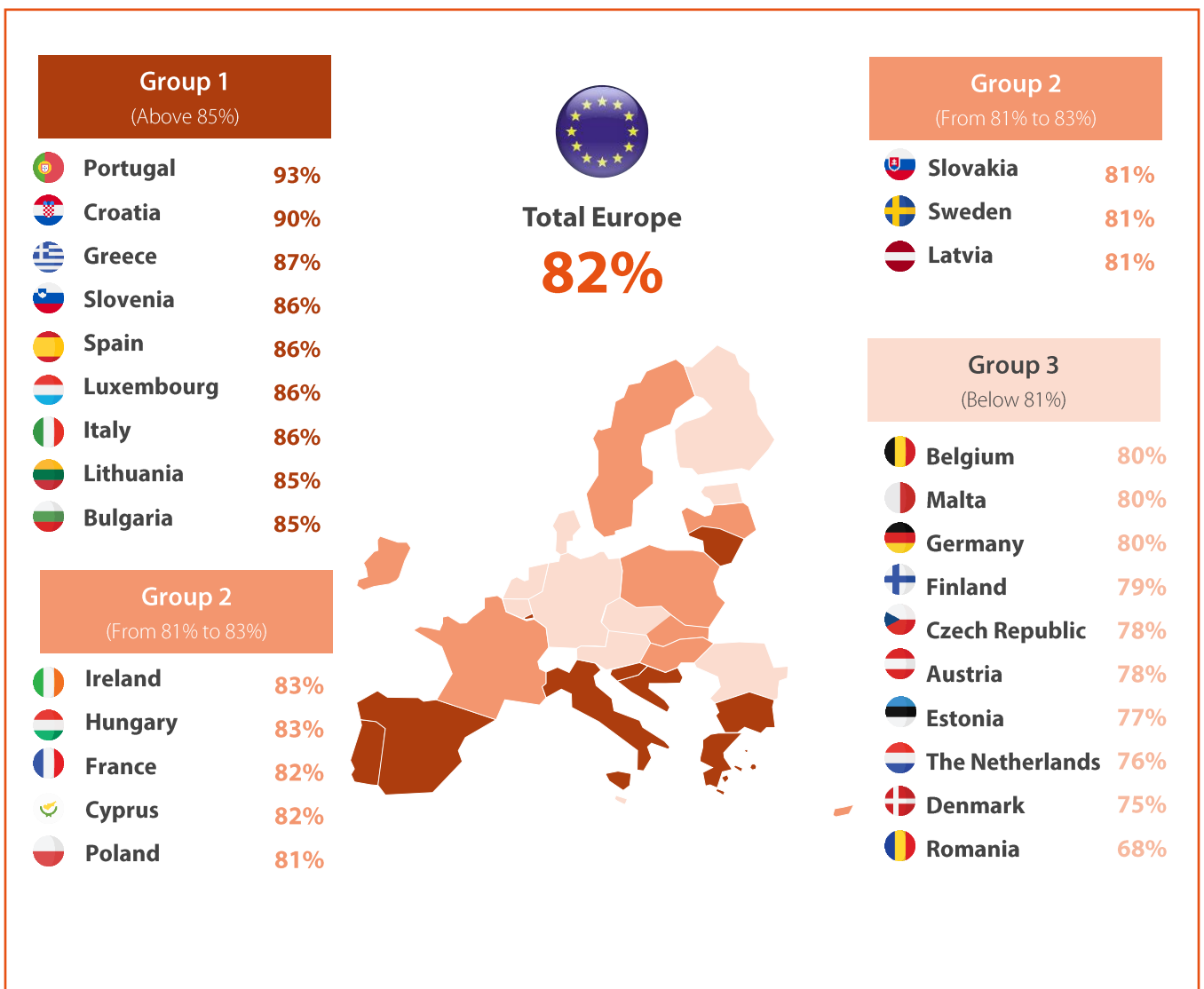
Climate change ...



Citizens in southern European countries are most aware of the negative impact of climate change on human health.

Climate change...

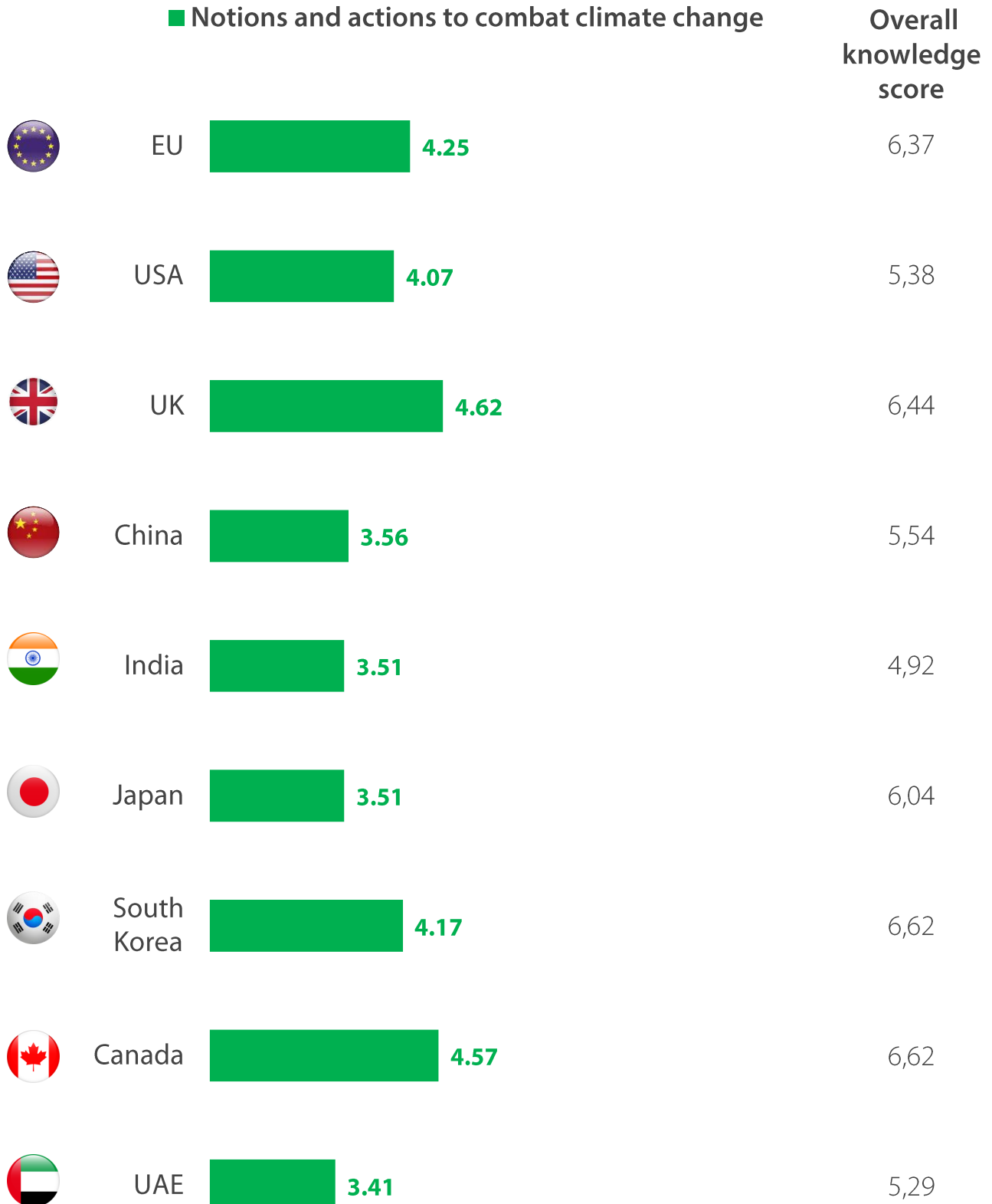
% aware of the negative impact of climate change on human health



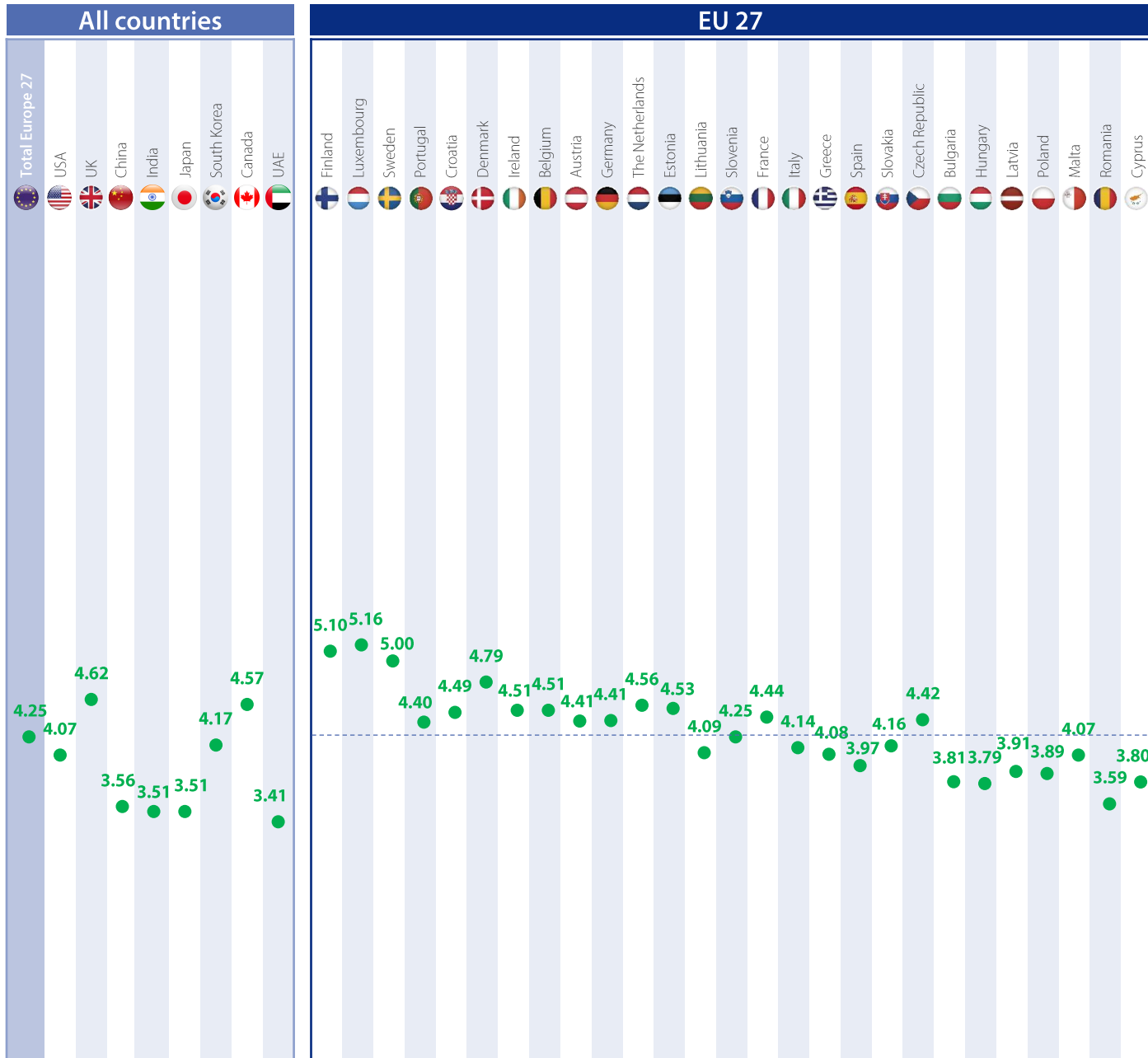
**c. MEASURES TO ADDRESS
CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Sub-score #2)

In all regions, the level of knowledge about the actions to combat climate change is significantly lower than the level of knowledge about the causes and consequences of climate change.



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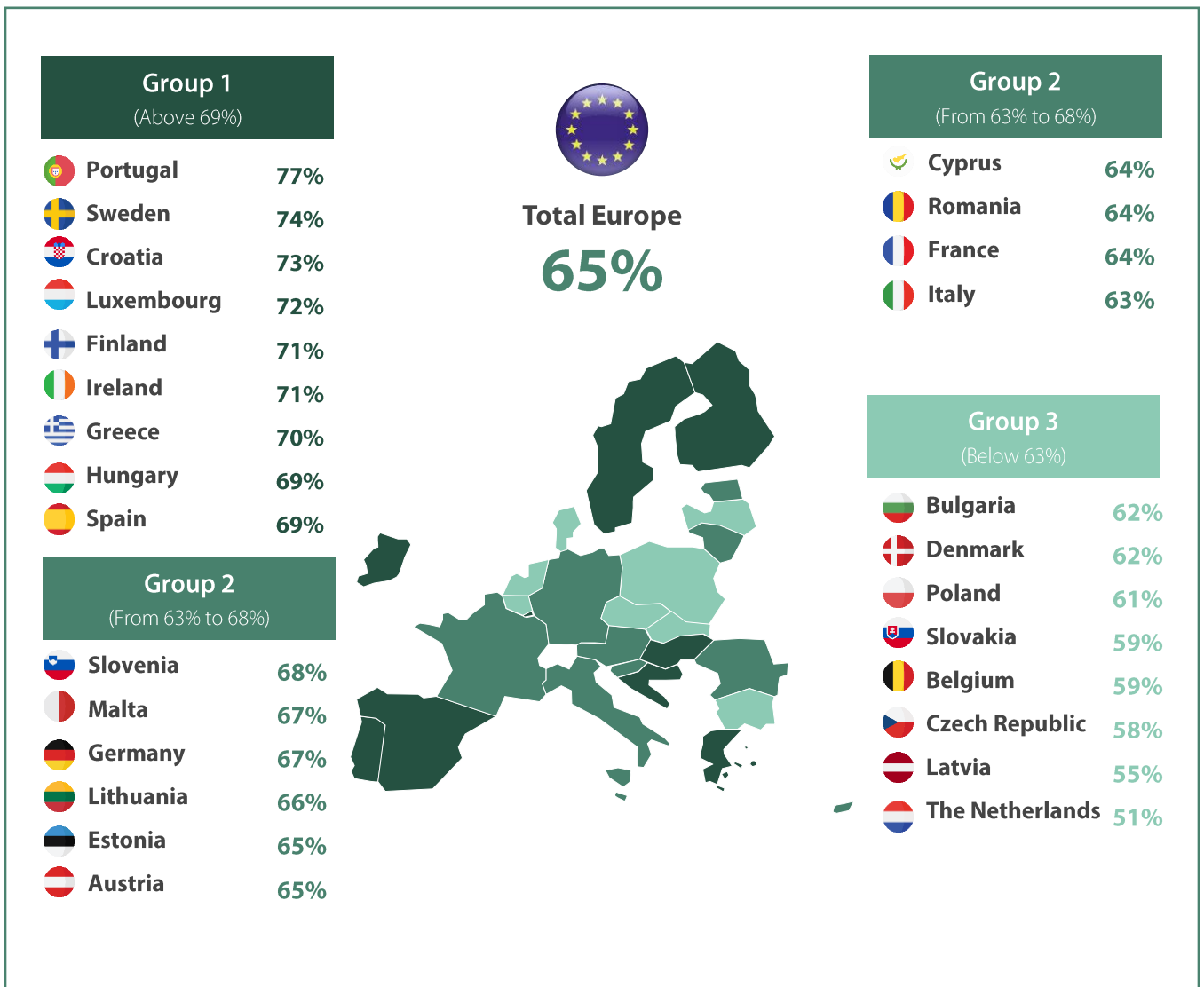


- Notions and actions to combat climate change

Two-thirds of Europeans are aware that using public transport is identified as an action that contributes to the fight against climate change - but there are significant gaps between countries.

Which of the following actions can help mitigate climate change ?

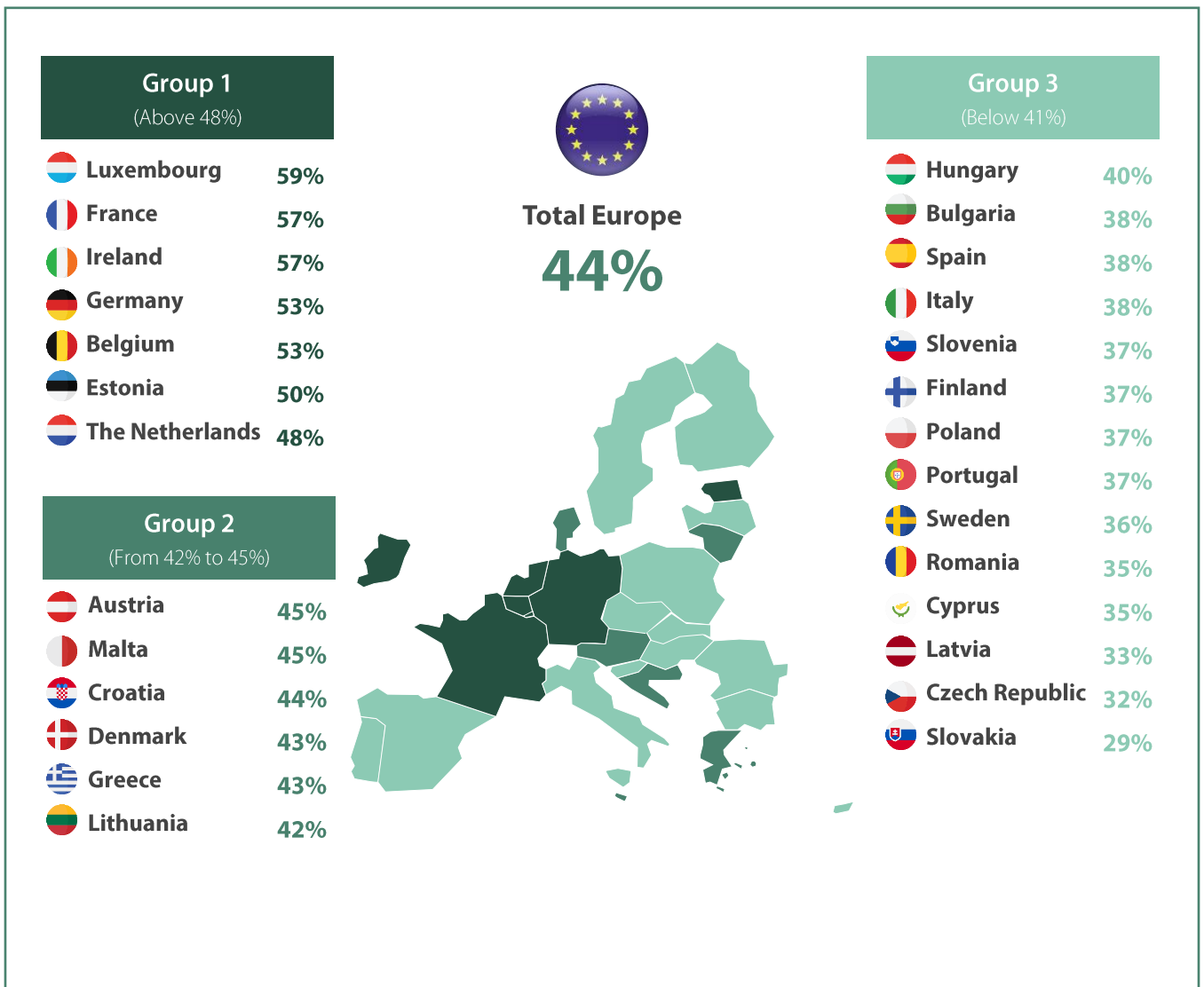
% Using public transportation instead of a car



Most Europeans are unaware of the positive effects of improved building insulation.

Which of the following actions can help mitigate climate change ?

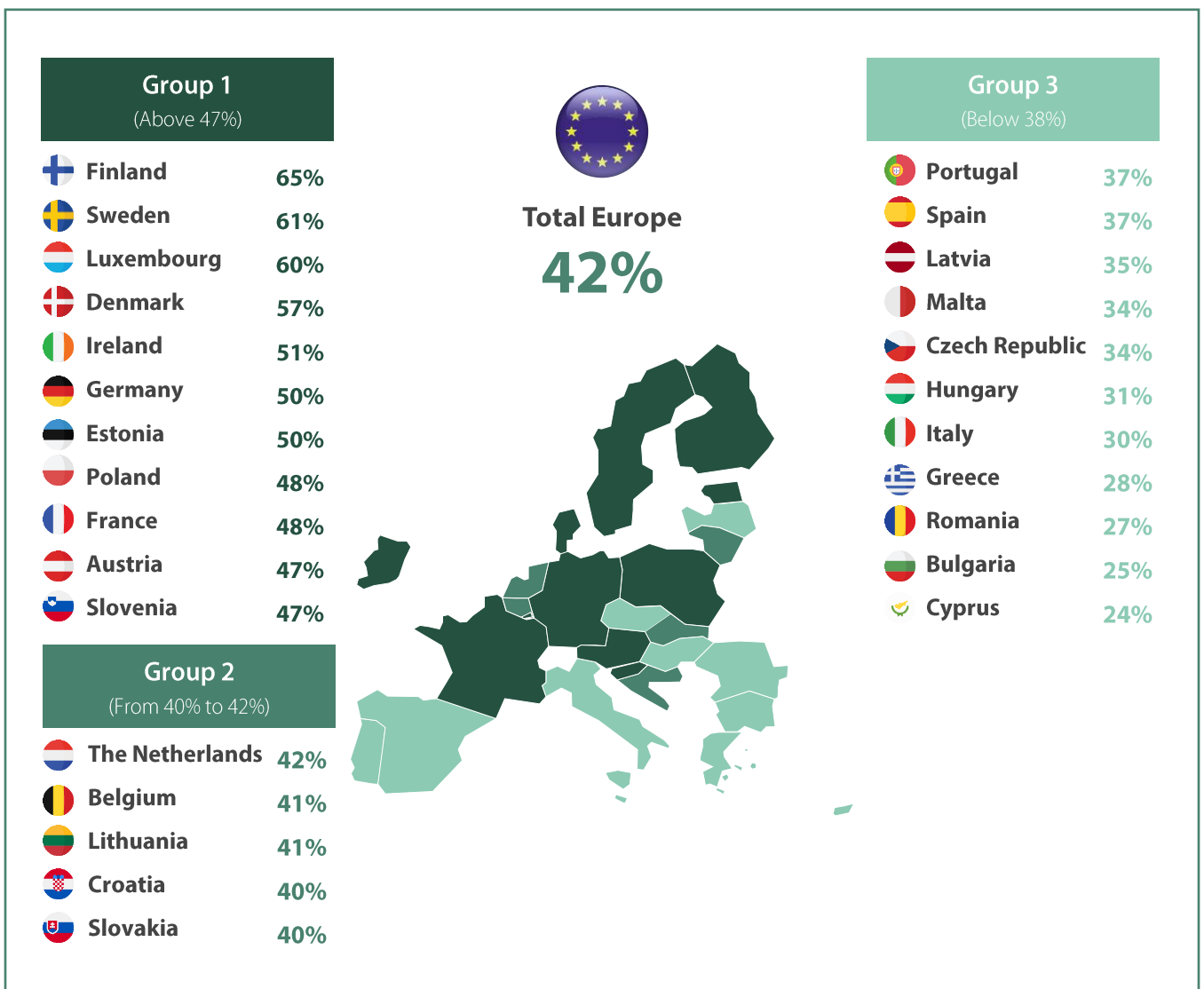
% Better insulating buildings and homes



Most Europeans are not aware of the positive effects of buying new clothes less often.

Which of the following actions can help mitigate climate change ?

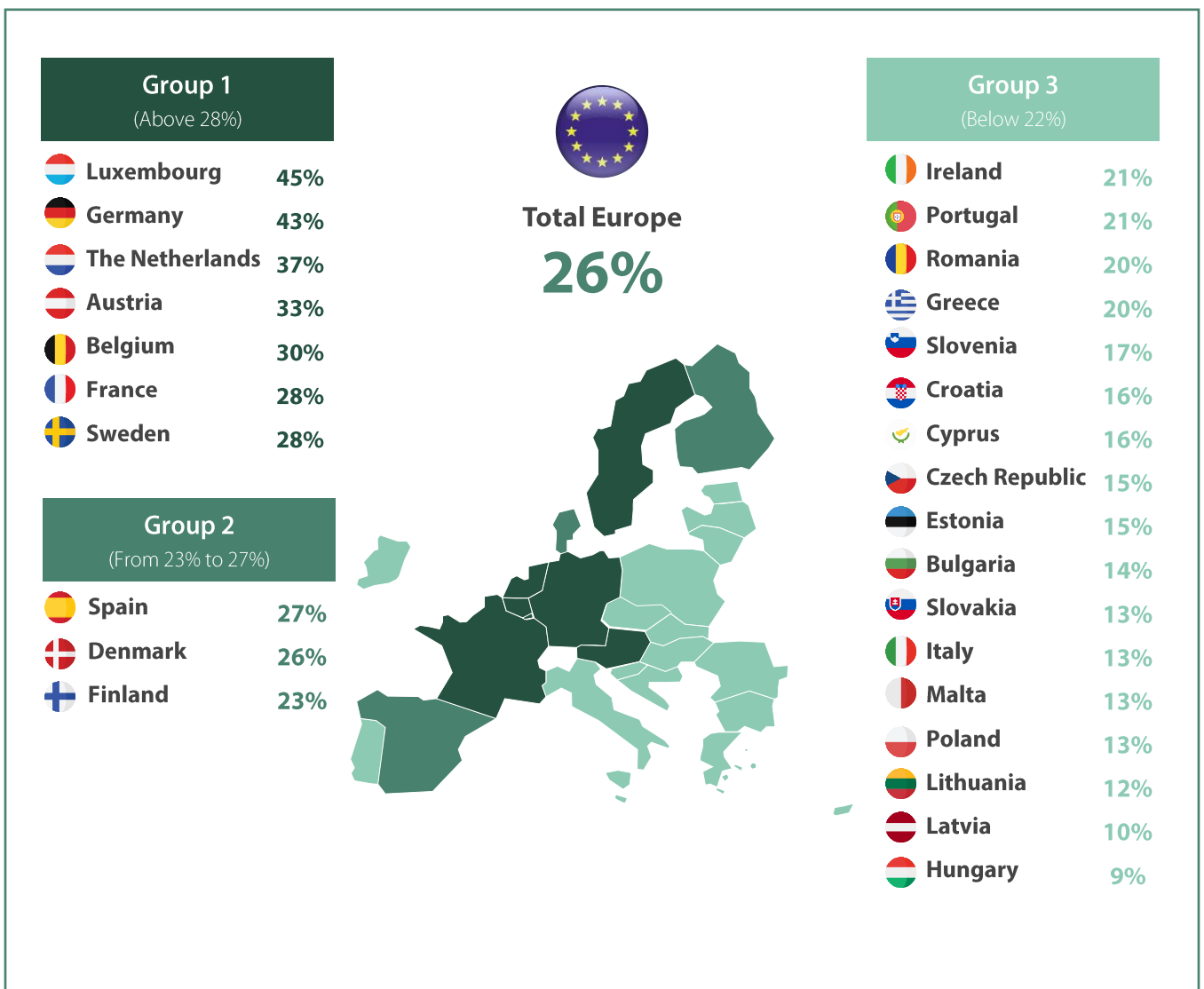
% Buying new clothes less frequently



Most Europeans are unaware that reducing the speed limit on roads could help fight climate change

Which of the following actions can help mitigate climate change ?

% Reducing the speed limit on roads



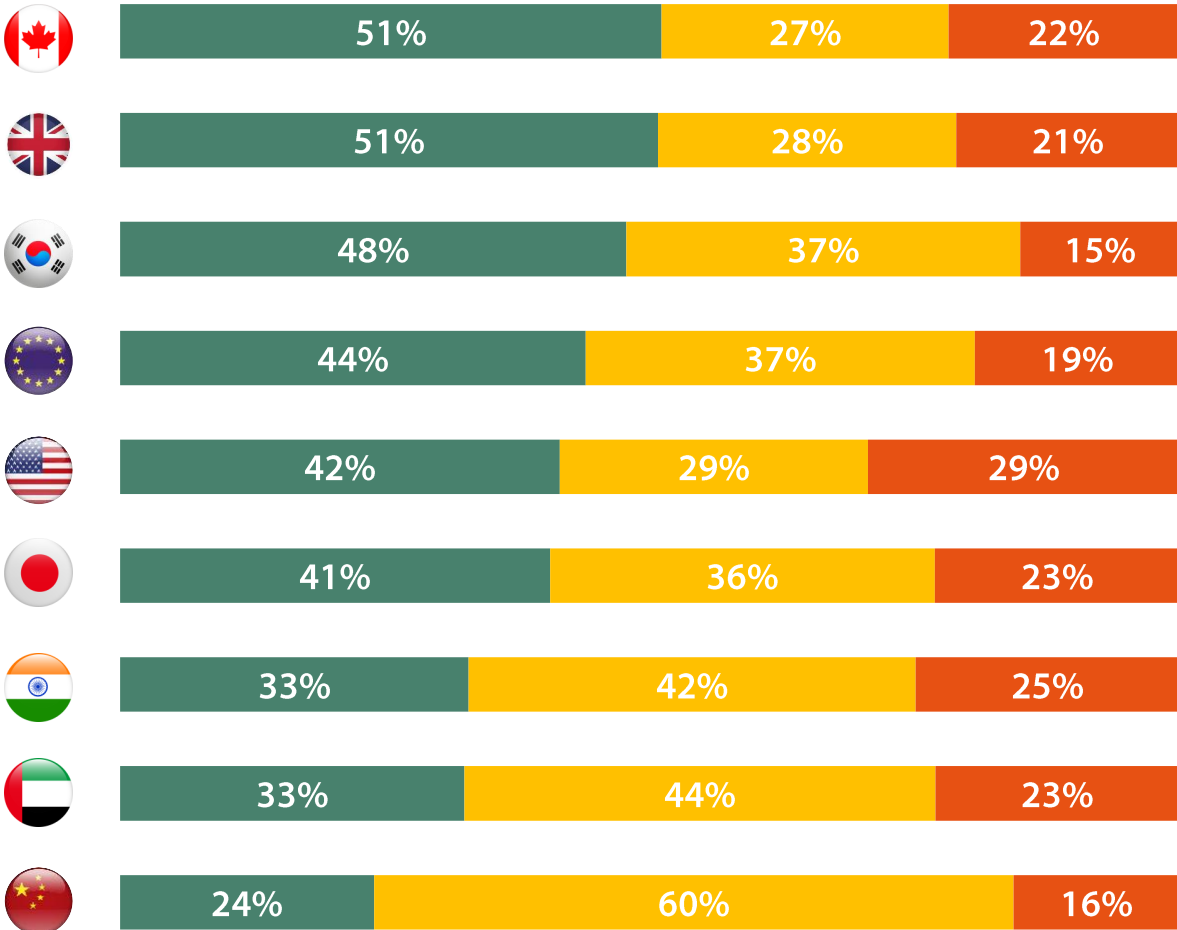
In most countries, only a minority know the correct definition of an individual's carbon footprint.

“Individual carbon footprint” means...

The total amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by a person in a year

The total amount of carbon emissions a person is allowed to emit per year under international climate agreements

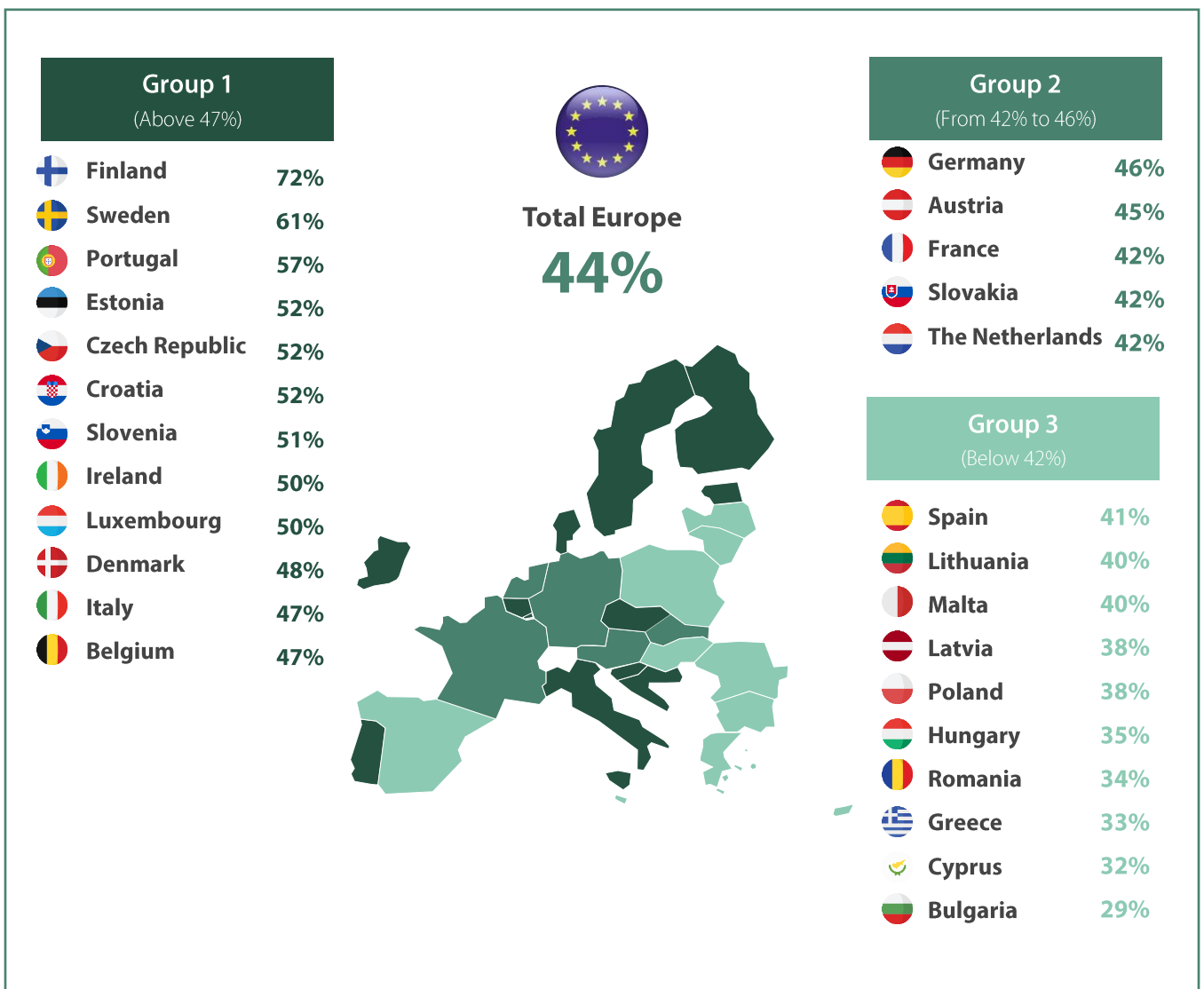
The total amount of non-recyclable waste generated by an individual



Knowledge of the definition of "individual carbon footprint" varies widely across European countries

"Individual carbon footprint" means...

% The total amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by a person in a year

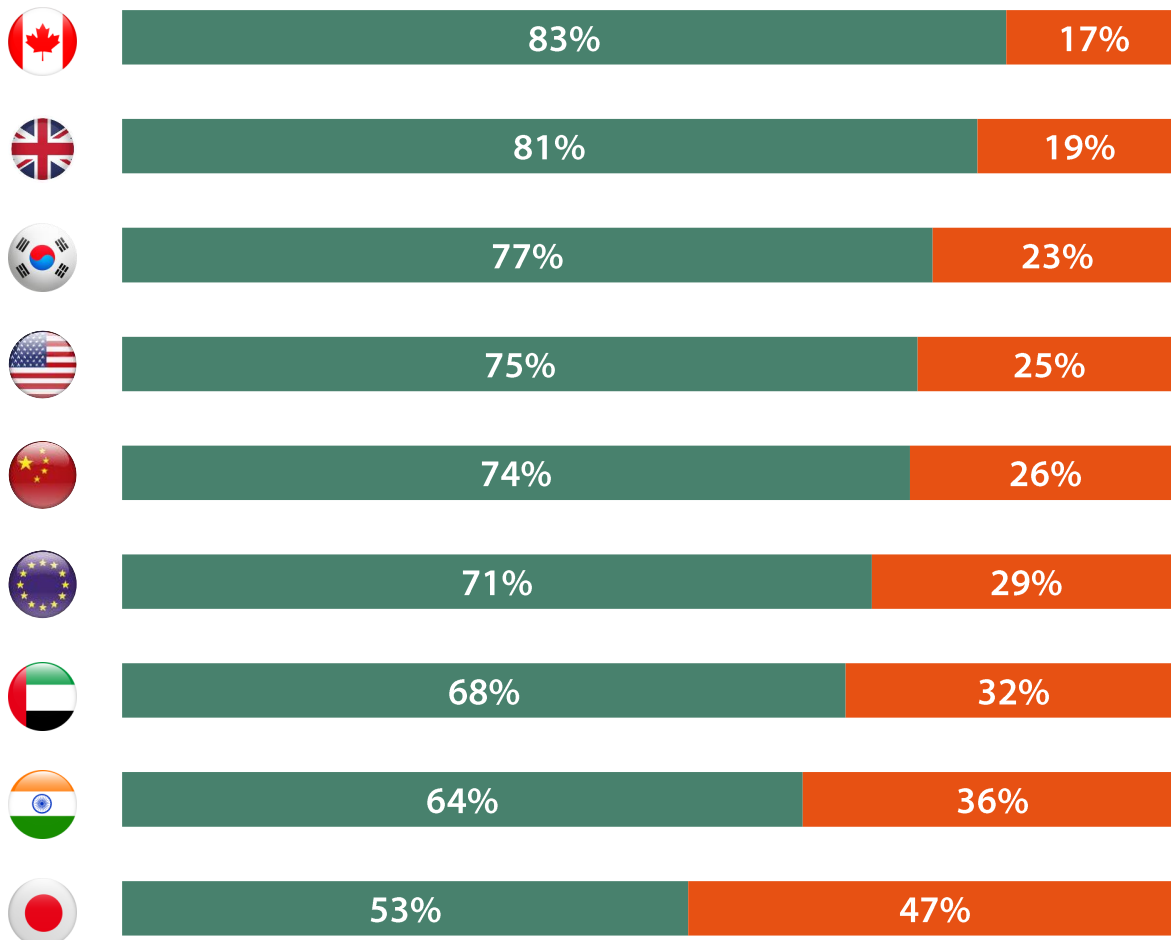


Majority of citizens in all regions surveyed have a correct understanding of the concept of adaptation to climate change.

"Climate change adaptation" means...

Making changes to our ways of living and organizing societies to deal with the current and future impacts of climate change

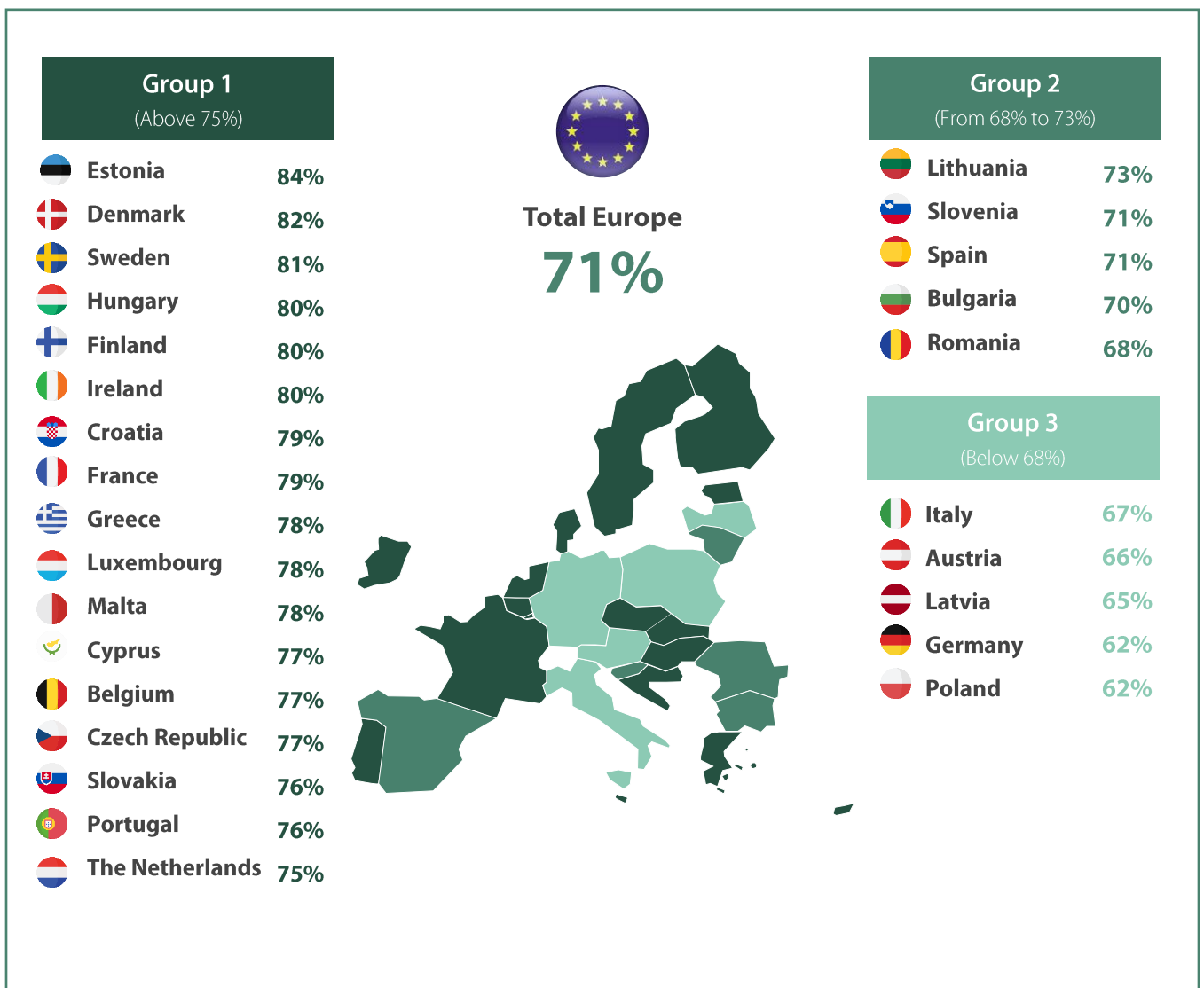
Getting rid of everything that causes climate change, especially greenhouse gases emissions



Majority of citizens in all EU countries have a correct understanding of the concept of adaptation to climate change.

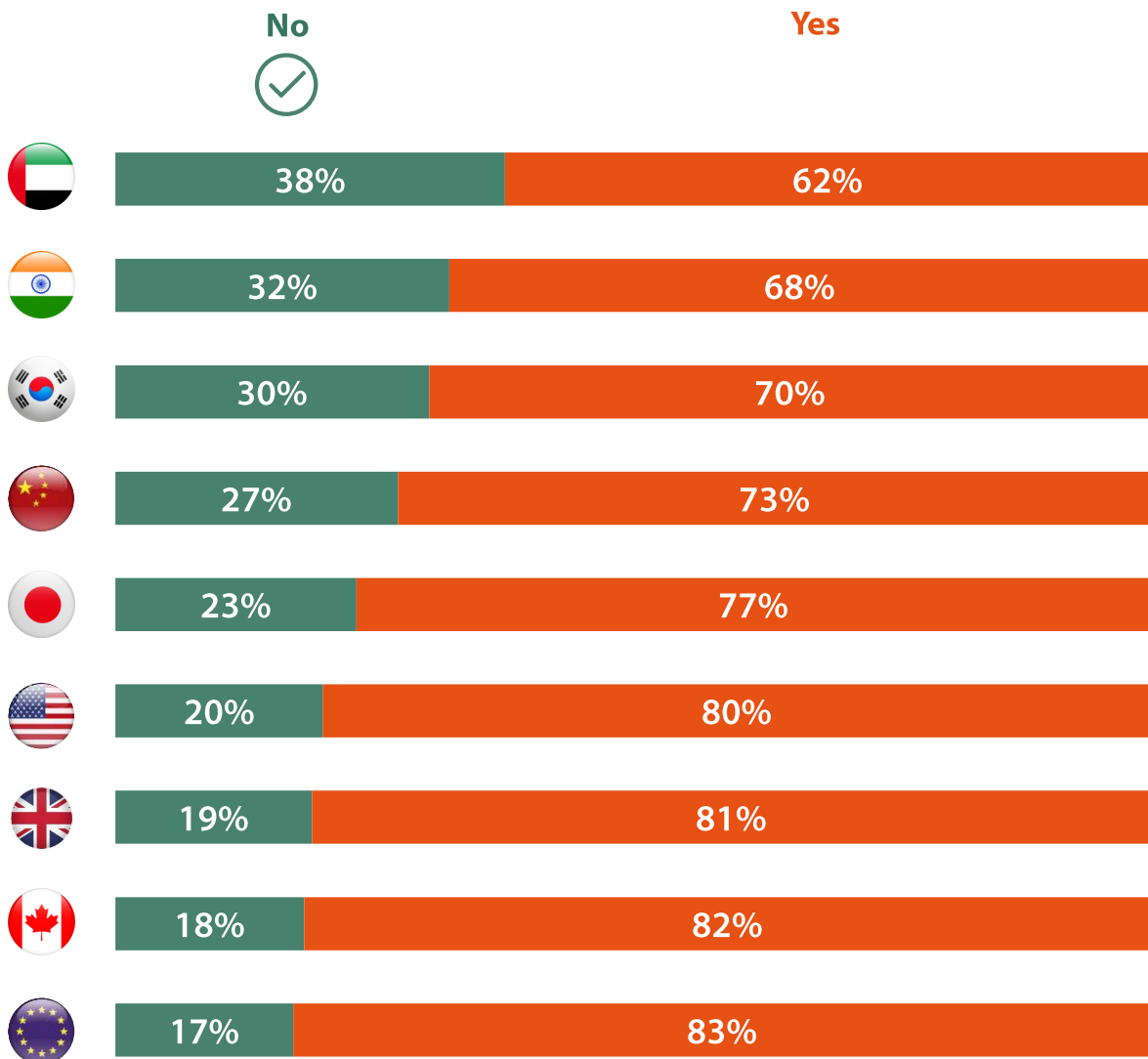
"Climate change adaptation" means...

% Making changes to our ways of living and organizing societies to deal with the current and future impacts of climate change



There is a lack of clarity among most citizens surveyed about the urgency of tackling biodiversity loss compared to climate change.

Addressing climate change is more important and more urgent than addressing biodiversity loss.



There is a lack of clarity among EU respondents about the urgency of tackling biodiversity loss compared to climate change.

Addressing climate change is more important and more urgent than addressing biodiversity loss.

Addressing biodiversity loss is more important and more urgent than addressing climate change

