OPINION POLLS in Syria

Fieldwork 2022
METHODOLOGY

**Data Collection mode**
Survey conducted face-to-face except in Egypt and Libya

**Target**
Representative sample of citizens aged 15 years and above

**Sample size**
1000 in each country except 2006 in Egypt

**Coverage**
Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria & Tunisia

**Fieldwork Period**
September – October 2022

**Questionnaire**
Translated into English, French, Arabic & Hebrew
KNOWLEDGE & PERCEPTION OF THE EU
A different knowledge level across the South region

Could you tell me to what extent you know what the European Union is all about?

The "Subjective knowledge" of the EU has improved since 2021 (+5 pts)

Syria:
Low level of "Subjective knowledge" of the EU
Who are those with knowledge of the EU?

Total “know what the EU is all about”

SYRIA

- 25% (Rural Areas)
- 38% (Small or middle size towns)
- 36% (Large towns)

Education

- Total "Know what the EU is all about"
  - 20 years and more: 46%
  - 16-19 years: 28%
  - 15 years or less: 5%
  - No education: 10%

Age Groups:
- 15-24 years: 48%
- 25-39 years: 39%
- 40-54 years: 29%
- 55 years: 17%
Subjective Knowledge

For each of the following statements about the European Union could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false?

The European Union has a Parliament directly elected by its citizens
The European Union is an economic and political union of 27 European countries
The European Union is a regional institution of the United Nations
The euro is the currency of all Member States of the European Union
The European Union has an embassy and an appointed ambassador of its own in Israel
The European Union's has its main headquarters in Brussels

Objective knowledge in Syria:
2,16 (out 6) correct answers on average
1,57 in 2021
In general, does the European Union conjure up to you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

The wide majority of citizens (65%, -5 pts) in Syria have a negative image of the EU. Since 2021, important increase of “neutrality” towards the EU (+10 pts).
The image of the EU

A2e/f. Which of the following, if any, could be the main reasons for having a positive/negative image of the European Union?

### Reasons for having a positive image of the EU

- EU promotes peace in the world: 46%
- EU's high social standards: 24%
- The EU is an important trade partner for OUR COUNTRY: 17%
- The democratic values of the EU: 13%
- EU's ambition in fighting climate change and protecting the environment: 0%

### Reasons for having a negative image of the EU

- The EU is not doing enough to help the NATIONALITY people: 45%
- EU's role in the region: 26%
- EU's position in International affairs: 17%
- EU's lack of political support to our government: 6%
- The absence of religious values in the EU society: 4%
- The EU close relations with the USA: 3%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total &quot;Positive&quot;</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Total &quot;Negative&quot;</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HIGH LEVELS of Positive Perceptions**

In 5 out 10 countries, more than 50% of citizens have a positive image of the EU.

Syria (64%) and Libya (31%): Highest negative perception of the image of the EU.
The values that represent the EU the most

To what extent does the European Union represent the following values for you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Total &quot;Represent the EU&quot;</th>
<th>Total &quot;Don't Represent the EU&quot;</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic prosperity</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rule of law, good governance, transparency</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and security</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social justice</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom of speech</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media freedom</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidarity</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality, gender equality</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious freedom, Individual freedom, tolerance, respect</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Economic prosperity, The rule of law, Peace and security, democracy and Social justice are the values that are seen to represent the EU the most.
RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE EU
Overall, EU’s relation and partnership are negatively perceived by a wide majority of citizens.

**EU’s relation with SYRIA**

A5. Would you describe the European Union's relation with Syria as very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

- Total "Bad" (41%)
- Total "Not bad" (59%)
- EU does not have any relationship with Syria (22%)
- Don’t know (1%)

**EU’s partnership with SYRIA**

A11. Could you tell me to what extent you believe that the European Union is an important partner of Syria or not? Is the European Union a ?..

- Total "Important" (89%)
- Total "Not important" (10%)
- Don’t know (1%)
- Don’t know
Would you describe the European Union’s relation with (COUNTRY) as very good, fairly good, fairly bad or very bad?

A wide majority of citizens in 8 out 10 countries believe that EU’s relations with their country is “Good”.

Highest in Morocco (77%)

Lowest in Syria (1%)
Could you tell me to what extend you believe that the European Union is an important partner of (OUR COUNTRY) or not?

The EU partnership is widely acknowledged as “important” in 7 countries in the region and an opposite view is widely spread in Syria.
For each of the following areas, could you tell me whether you have heard of any existing EU cooperation programmes in Syria? Have you ever heard of an EU cooperation programme in....

% YES

- Support for refugees and...: 25%
- Support for social protection: 10%
- Civil society: 8%
- Youth: 8%
- Human rights: 7%
- Education and skills: 4%
- Culture: 3%
- Green transition: climate...: 3%
- Economic reform or business...: 3%
- Agricultural and rural...: 3%
- Infrastructure development: 2%
- Justice or police reforms: 2%
- Health: 2%
A3A. Have you heard, seen or read anything about the following regarding European Union in the last 12 months?

- International Justice Day: 20%
- Debunking Myths: 4%
- LifeLineToSyrians: 71%

A3A. Have you heard, seen or read anything about the following regarding EU in the last 12 months? **To those who answered « Yes » to A3**

- International Justice Day: 20%
- Debunking Myths: 4%
- LifeLineToSyrians: 71%
Awareness of EU Regional Action in Syria

Have you ever heard, seen or read anything about the following events/initiatives/campaigns? Total “YES”

- #StandWithUkraine: 41%
- Violence against Women: 18%
- Syrie Conference: 17%
- Team Europe: 2%
- InTheirEyes: 2%
Perceived effectiveness of EU Cooperation in Syria

According to what you know, to what extent do you think that the support provided by the European Union to Syria has been overall effective or not?

- Total Effective: 95%
- Total Not effective: 3%
- Don't know: 2%

Total Effective vs 2021: -7
Total Not effective vs 2021: +11
### Most mentioned areas of benefit from EU support

**In which of the following areas would you say that Syria has benefitted from European Union support?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian aid</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil society</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and skills</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human rights</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decent employment</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender equality</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic development</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to more products and...</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to agriculture and rural...</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green transition: climate...</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and investment</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure development...</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of peace and stability</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rule of law</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital transition</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### To what extent do you think the European Union has a positive or a negative impact on the development of Syria?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Positive (%)</th>
<th>Negative (%)</th>
<th>No Impact (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POSITIVE</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGATIVE</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>+18</td>
<td>-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Areas in which the EU could be more engaged

Please tell me whether or not you think the European Union could be more engaged in Syria?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>More engaged</th>
<th>Less engaged</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian aid</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to more products and services</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and investment</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and skills</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic development</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green transition: climate resilience,...</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human rights</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>civil society</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure development (roads,...)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decent employment</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to agriculture and rural...</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of peace and stability</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender equality</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital transition</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the rule of law</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How much trust do you have in these institutions?
TOTAL “Tend to trust”

- The European Union: 8%
  - +3

- The United Nations: 11%
  - +6

- The Arab League: 5%
  - -3
In your view, which of the following international institutions or countries is the lead donor of support to Syria?

- Russia: 52% (increased by 13%)
- United Arab Emirates: 20%
- China: 6%
- The United States: 6%
- Turkey: 5%
- The European Union: 1%
- Saudi Arabia: 0%
- Qatar: 0%
- The IMF or the World Bank: 0%
- Other: 10%
- Don't know: 0%

Russia widely acknowledged as the Leader of support to Syria
Has the EU's response to the war in Ukraine changed your perceptions of the EU?

- Total ”Positively”: 18%
- Total ”Negatively”: 31%
- It did change your perception: 49%
- Don’t know: 2%
SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE EU
Sources of Information about the EU

When you look for information about the European Union, its policies and institutions, which of the following sources, if any, do you use? Any others?

Preferred sources
Online Sources
Discussion with relatives, friends
Television

Online social networks 26%
Other Internet sources (websites, …) 19%
Discussions with relatives, friends, … 14%
Television 12%
The European Union’s official… 6%
The official website / social media of… 4%
The New EU in Arabic Twitter account 2%
Daily newspapers 1%
Radio 1%
The EU Neighbours South website /… 1%
European Union Embassy in (OUR… 0%
(OUR COUNTRY) government, public… 0%
Other newspapers, magazines 0%
Books, brochures, information leaflets 0%
Meetings, conferences or events 0%
Other (SPONTANEOUS) 0%
Never look for such information, not… 35%
“Most Frequently” used national media

Sama TV 70%  
Syria Television 58%  
Syria Drama 51%  

Sham FM 55%  
Al Madeena FM 20%  
Mix FM 8%  

Al Baath 12%  
Al Thawra 10%  
Al Watan 2%  

WhatsApp 86%  
Facebook 42%  
Instagram 39%  
Youtube 35%  
Never reads Newspapers 80%
CITIZENS’ MOOD
On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

Very high and still increasing levels of life dissatisfaction of Syrian citizens.
Citizens in Syria are increasingly worried about:

**Economic issues** (Rising prices, Economic situation, and Unemployment)

What do you think is the most important issue facing Syria at the moment? Firstly?

- Economic situation: 23%
- Crime: 20%
- Rising prices/inflation: 15%
- Unemployment: 8%
- Taxation: 3%
- Housing: 2%
- Freedom of speech: 1%
- Terrorism: 1%
- Corruption: 1%
THANK YOU