



EU NEIGHBOURS  
south

# OPINION POLL FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS FOR THE SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNTRIES





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## Methodology

For more than two decades now, the European Union has been actively cooperating with its southern partners on diverse and important areas including but not limited to good governance, socio-economic development, migration, support to refugees, climate change, environment, energy, and security. This cooperation essentially takes place through the European Neighbourhood Policy and was implemented through bilateral, regional, neighbourhood-wide, and cross-border cooperation programmes<sup>1</sup>.

This survey was commissioned within the framework of the EU Neighbours South Communication Programme designed to create awareness about the European Union in the 10 Southern Neighbourhood: Algeria, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia. This survey aims to help better understand the awareness amongst citizens of each of the 10 countries about the EU and about its initiatives and action, in the region and at the national level. The survey also gauges the populations support and perceptions about these actions and about the partnership with the EU.

This year's report has been upgraded to refine the analysis by taking into consideration the socio-economic, political, and cultural environment of the different countries. The questionnaires have been designed and reviewed through a consultation process with the EU delegations in the southern neighbourhood.

This report presents the results of this survey for **Syria**, conducted in autumn 2022, and explores a range of issues, including:

- » Image and perceptions of the European Union
- » Awareness of cooperation programmes
- » Citizens' opinion on the relations of their country with the EU
- » The use of media (mainstream and online) to find information about the EU.

The survey covers the population aged 15 years.

Using the latest official statistics, broad demographic quotas were set in each country to ensure all subgroups are adequately included and represented in the sample. This stratification was designed using the following sociodemographic variables:

1. Gender (male, female)
2. Age (15 – 24, 25 – 39, 40 – 54, 55 – 64, 65 years or more)
3. Region: The widest geographical coverage of the population was sampled to ensure representativeness. All citizens living in Syria were eligible to participate in the survey
4. Urbanisation (rural area, small or middle size town, large city)

<sup>1</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/european-neighbourhood-policy/southern-neighbourhood\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/european-neighbourhood-policy/southern-neighbourhood_en)



Gender	
Male	48 %
Female	52 %
Age	
15 – 24 years	13 %
25 – 39 years	36 %
40 – 54 years	31 %
55 – 64 years	12 %
65+ years*	8 %
Education	
Still studying	12 %
No education	21 %
15 years or less	5 %
16 – 19 years	34 %
20 years and more	25 %
Occupation	
White collar, manager*	6 %
Employee	18 %
Self employed	21 %
Manual worker	1 %
Not occupied	53 %
Type of locality	
Rural area or village	45 %
Small/middle size town*	13 %
Large town	42 %

The Syrian sample profile achieved for the 2022 survey is detailed in the table to the left.

Respondents in Syria were interviewed by telephone, using fixed lines and mobile. In total, 1000 interviews were conducted with fieldwork taking place autumn 2022. A national weighting procedure was carried to make sure that the samples match the target population distribution.

Readers are reminded that the survey results are estimates, the accuracy of which, other things being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage.



## 1. Key Findings

### 1.1 Knowledge and Perceptions of the EU

**A low level of subjective and factual knowledge about the EU, however improving since 2021.**

**The EU suffers from an extremely negative perceived image in Syria, denounced for not doing enough to help Syrian people.**

- » There has been an increase in the proportion of respondents who believe they know what the EU is all about which has increased to 32% from 27% in the survey conducted in 2021.
- » 63% of Syrian respondents say that they do not know about the EU (- 4 ppt since 2021).
- » The low level of subjective knowledge is confirmed by the factual questions where 11% answered all of the questions incorrectly, with an average of 2.2 correct answers out of a possible six.
- » The proportion of Syrian respondents who have a positive image of the EU has decreased reaching only 8% (- 4 ppt since 2021), while the proportion expressing a negative sentiment has also decreased from 71% to 64%.
  - The proportion describing themselves as neutral has increased from 12% to 22%.
- » Only 83 respondents in total had a positive image of the EU in total. Amongst them, the main reason mentioned by 46% of those who felt the EU had a positive image was related to the EU's role in promoting global peace.
- » Of those who believe that the EU has a negative image, 45% say that it does not do enough to help Syrian people, followed by the EU's role in the region (26%) and its position in international affairs (18%).

### 1.2 Values of the EU

**All values presented are associated with the EU by at least a third of the respondents in Syria except for religious freedom.**

- » The values most likely to be associated with the EU are economic prosperity (46%), rule of law (44%), peace and security (43%), democracy (42%), and social justice (42%).
- » The value least likely to be associated with the EU was religious freedom (18%).
- » Respondents are divided across all the values with high proportions of “don't know” responses.



### 1.3 Relationship with the European Union

A ramping number of respondents don't recognise any relations of their country with the EU. Although the ones considering the relation as bad have fallen by - 23 ppt since 2021, only 1% consider it as good in 2022.

The EU support to Syria is weakly recognised, seen as ineffective (an increasing number consider that Syria has not benefitted in any areas from the EU) and having a negative impact on the development of the country.

The EU is neither seen as an important partner nor as a lead donor, those places being held by Russia, and is also not trusted as an institution, similarly to the UN or the Arab League.

- » Only 1% of respondents in Syria believe that the European Union has a good relationship with their country, a proportion which has decreased from 8% since 2021.
- » Four in ten (41%) feel that the relationship is poor – a considerable decrease from the 64% observed in the 2021 survey.
- » The proportion of respondents who feel there is no relationship between the EU and Syria has increased from 26% to 48%.
- » There has been an increase in the level of awareness in Syria for most cooperation programs, but awareness remains extremely low.
- » As in 2021, the highest level of awareness is for EU support programmes for refugees and displaced people (25% cf. 23% in 2021).
  - One in ten (10%) are aware of support programmes for social protection with a similar proportion of 8% mentioning either civil society or youth.
- » Personal participation in an EU-funded project remains low: 88% have never been involved as part of any project. However almost 1 in 10 say that they have been a beneficiary of an EU funded project.
- » Only a tiny proportion of respondents in Syria (2%) think that support from the EU to their country is effective. This is a decrease from 2021 when 9% considered EU support to be effective.
- » The vast majority (95%) describe EU support as ineffective, with 27% describing it as “not at all effective”.
- » Humanitarian aid (20%), civil society (13%) and education and skills (8%) are the areas most likely to be mentioned as the areas where they feel that Syria has benefitted the most from current EU policies.
- » The proportion of respondents who believe Syria has not benefitted in any areas from EU support has risen dramatically to 40% (9% in 2021)
  - Conversely, the proportion unaware of any benefits to Syria has fallen dramatically from 46% in 2021 to 6% in the current survey.
- » The top five areas where respondents think that Syria has benefitted the most from current EU policies include:
  - Humanitarian aid (20%, +4ppt)
  - Civil society (13%, +3ppt)
  - Education and skills (8%, -5ppt)
  - Human rights (8%, +2ppt)
  - Health (8%, no change)



- » As observed in the 2021 survey, humanitarian aid is the priority area for increased EU engagement for Syrian respondents (12% cf. 9% in 2021).
- » In general, however, the proportion wishing for more EU engagement remains extremely low across all areas and has even decreased slightly across the majority of areas since 2021.
- » The most commonly mentioned areas where less engagement from the EU is favoured include tourism (55%), access to more products and services (52%) and the rule of law (52%).
- » There has been an increase in the preference for less EU engagement across most areas.
- » Only 6% of respondents said that the European Union has a positive impact on the development of their country (- 4 ppt since 2021).
- » 71% said that the impact has been negative, a sharp increase of + 18 ppt since 2021.
  - The proportion who do not feel that the EU has any impact, either positive or negative, has decreased from 33% to 15%.
- » 10% in Syria believe the EU is an important partner of their country (13% in 2021). 9 in 10 describe the partnership as not important, an increase from the 82% observed in the 2021 survey.
- » Syrian respondents are still most likely to see Russia as a key partner (53% cf. 59% in 2021), compared to 18% who believe the UAE to be their closest partner (7% in 2021). The EU and the US are both only mentioned by 1% of respondents
- » The UN is the most trusted institution with 11% saying they trust it, followed by 8% who trust the EU. There is less trust in the Arab League (5%). Trust in both the EU and Arab League has decreased since 2021.
- » The level of mistrust is extremely high for all three institutions with around three quarters expressing mistrust in the UN (75%) and EU (73%), and a somewhat lower proportion of 62% saying they tend not to trust the Arab League.
- » For 18%, the EU's response to the war in Ukraine has changed their view positively. 31% said that it had affected their perceptions negatively. For half of respondents in Syria, the EU's response is described as not changing their perception.

#### 1.4 Information about the European Union

##### **Almost inexistant exposure to information about the EU.**

**When proactively looked into, the information on the EU is searched essentially through other sources than main media outlets or official EU channels.**

##### **A declared negative impact of the EU communication on the perception of the institution.**

- » The top three preferred channels for information about the EU are online social networks (26%, + 6 ppt), other internet sources (19%, + 2 ppt) and discussions with friends and family (14%, + 4 ppt). Television remains widely used by 12% but has seen a decrease of - 6 ppt.
- » The usage of EU "official" online information sources remains very low with EU official web-sites being the most likely to be mentioned (6%).
- » The proportion of respondents who never look for information about the EU has remained at 35%.
- » Only 5% said that they had seen or heard anything about the EU in the last 12 months. Around two thirds (68%) said they not seen or heard anything with 27% who didn't know.



- » Around four in ten (79%) of those who said that they had seen or heard something about the EU in the last 12 months recalled seeing or hearing a specific campaign. The Lifeline to Syrians was mentioned by 71%, 20% claimed to be aware of International Justice Day, followed by 4% who mentioned “Debunking Myths”.
- » Of the other campaigns, awareness was highest for #StandWithUkraine with 41% knowing at least something about it (including 38% who said they did not know much).
- » Only 4% said the communications had changed their perception positively. Around two thirds (69%) said that these communications had negatively affected their perception, while 44% said that it had not changed their perceptions.

### 1.5 Personal Life in general

**Life satisfaction has worsened for Syrian respondents, mainly preoccupied by the economic situation, crime, and rising prices.**

- » Life satisfaction in Syria has worsened since 2021 with 23% describing themselves as very or fairly satisfied (- 7 ppt since 2021).
- » 7 in 10 Syrian respondents describe themselves as not very or not at all satisfied as in 2021.
- » The proportion who do not feel at all satisfied with their life has increased from 17% to 30%.
- » The key issue facing Syria is the economic situation which was the most important issue for 23% (19% in 2021) and mentioned in total by 65%.
  - The next issues most likely to be mentioned are crime (mentioned by 20% as the most important issue and 50% in total) and rising prices and inflation (mentioned by 15% as the most important issue and by 56% in total).



## 2. Knowledge and Perceptions of the European Union

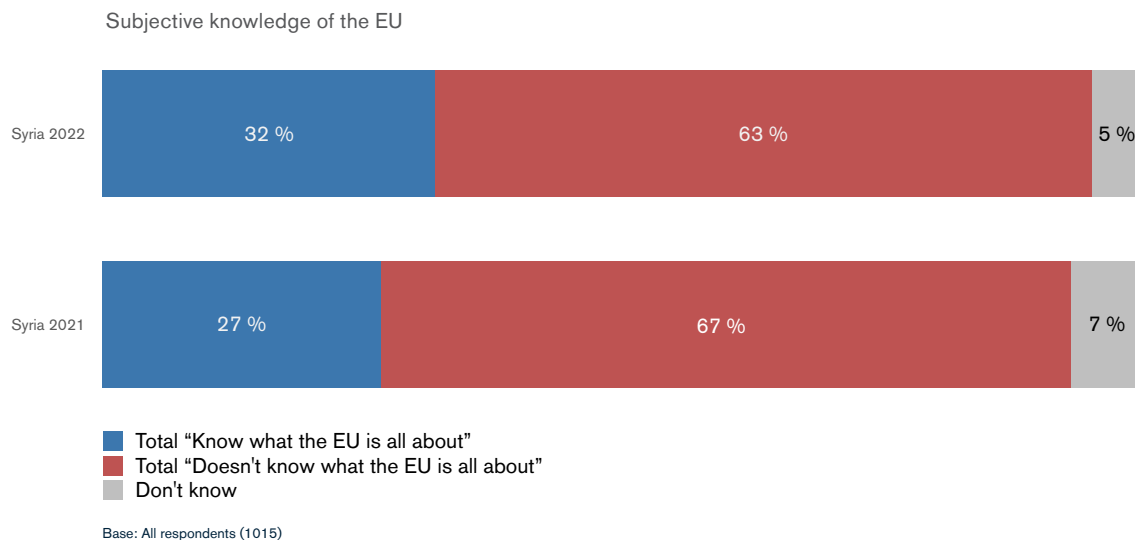
The knowledge and perceptions of Syrian respondents about the European Union are analysed in this section of the report. The analysis covers the following themes:

- » The image of the EU the respondents are holding, the characteristics they think best represent the EU; and the assessment of their country's relationship with the EU.
- » The respondent's level of awareness of the EU's cooperation, the perceived effectiveness of EU's support and the most beneficial areas of this support.
- » The respondent's perception of the EU's impact on development in Syria, the importance of its partnership and the level of trust they have in the EU.

### 2.1 Knowledge of the European Union

At the beginning of the survey, respondents were asked the extent to which they feel that they know what the EU is all about.

There has been an increase of +5 ppt in the proportion of respondents who believe they know what the EU is all about which has increased (32%) compared to the survey conducted in 2021. Over six in ten (63%) of Syrian respondents say that they do not know about the EU (- 4 ppt since 2021).



Sociodemographic analysis<sup>2</sup> show that the results to this question was different depending on the age, the education, the occupation, and the area of residence.

Younger respondents are more likely to feel knowledgeable about the EU (48% of those aged 15 – 24 compared to 16% of those aged 55 – 64).

10% of the respondents with no formal education said that they feel knowledgeable compared to almost half (46%) of those who finished education aged 20 and older. It is interesting to note that the

<sup>2</sup> Throughout the report the sociodemographic analysis includes some groups with extremely low base sizes – these are indicated by an asterisk in the tables – where data should be treated cautiously. Any differences shown by these groups is unlikely to be statistically significant and is not commented upon in this report.



ones still studying are the ones with a greater proportion of respondents feeling knowledgeable. White collar workers and employees were more likely to feel knowledgeable than those in other occupations. Those living in rural areas feel less knowledgeable than those in more urbanised areas.

A clear correlation can also be drawn between positive sentiment towards the EU and level of self-stated knowledge. 64% of those who have a positive image of the EU believe they know all about it against only 25% of those who feel negatively, and 40% who have a neutral image.

Base All Respondents	Syria 1015		
	Total "Know what the EU is all about"	Total "Don't know what the EU is all about"	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	32 %	63 %	5 %
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	33 %	58 %	8 %
Female	30 %	67 %	2 %
<b>Age</b>			
15 – 24 years	48 %	49 %	2 %
25 – 39 years	39 %	59 %	3 %
40 – 54 years	29 %	68 %	3 %
55 – 64 years	16 %	70 %	13 %
65+ years*	13 %	72 %	15 %
<b>Education</b>			
Still studying	57 %	41 %	1 %
No education	10 %	78 %	12 %
15 years or less*	5 %	81 %	15 %
16 – 19 years	28 %	68 %	4 %
20 years and more	46 %	53 %	1 %
<b>Occupation</b>			
White collar, Manager	45 %	49 %	6 %
Employee	49 %	48 %	3 %
Self employed	25 %	65 %	9 %
Manual worker*	35 %	44 %	22 %
Not occupied	27 %	69 %	4 %
<b>Type of locality</b>			
Rural area or village	25 %	68 %	6 %
Small/ middle size town	38 %	57 %	6 %
Large town	36 %	60 %	4 %
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	64 %	34 %	1 %
Neutral	40 %	56 %	5 %
Negative	25 %	70 %	6 %
Don't know	29 %	63 %	8 %



To provide a more objective assessment of the knowledge levels in all countries, respondents were also asked a series of factual questions about the EU:

- » 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 Syria.
- » The European Union's has its main headquarters in Brussels.

Base All Respondents	Syria 1015	
	No correct answers	Average number of correct answers
<b>Total</b>	11 %	2,2
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	7 %	2,3
Female	15 %	2,0
<b>Age</b>		
15 – 24 years	8 %	2,3
25 – 39 years	9 %	2,3
40 – 54 years	13 %	2,0
55 – 64 years	14 %	1,8
65+ years*	11 %	2,2
<b>Education</b>		
Still studying	3 %	2,8
No education	20 %	1,7
15 years or less*	7 %	2,1
16 – 19 years	11 %	1,9
20 years and more	9 %	2,5
<b>Occupation</b>		
White collar, Manager	3 %	2,8
Employee	11 %	2,4
Self employed	5 %	2,4
Manual worker*	21 %	1,8
Not occupied	14 %	2,0
<b>Type of locality</b>		
Rural area or village	14 %	1,9
Small/ middle size town	18 %	1,8
Large town	6 %	2,5
<b>Image of the EU</b>		
Positive	2 %	3,0
Neutral	8 %	2,4
Negative	12 %	2,0
Don't know	22 %	1,4
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>		
Total "know what the EU is all about"	5 %	2,9
Total "don't know what the EU is all about"	14 %	1,8

By calculating the average number of correct answers, the data provides a more objective assessment of the knowledge that citizens have of the EU. In the case of Syria, the relatively low level of subjective knowledge is confirmed by the factual questions where 11% answered all of the questions incorrectly, with an average of 2.2 correct answers out of a possible six.

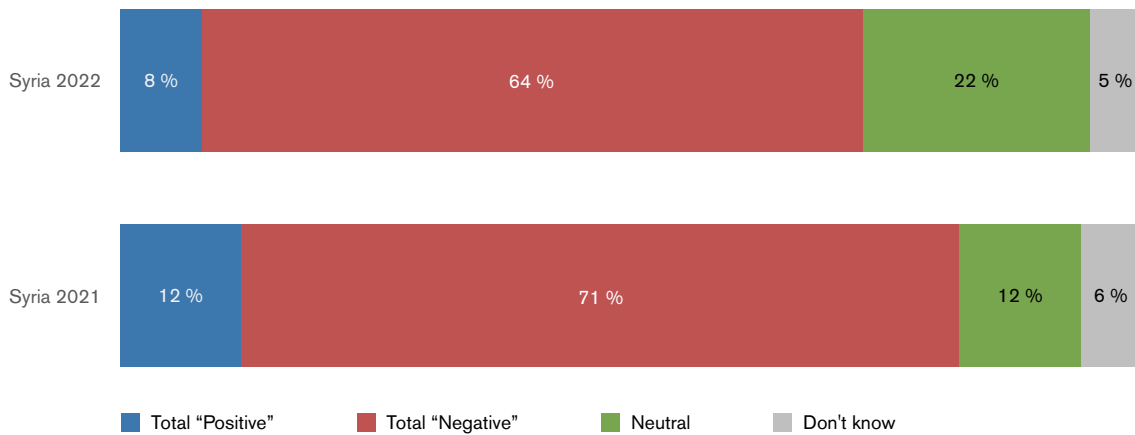
Those who believed they were knowledgeable about the EU were indeed more likely to answer correctly, scoring 2.9 correct answers compared to 1.8 for those who felt they were not knowledgeable.

The profiles of the respondents who were less likely to correctly answer these factual questions are older respondents, with a lower level of education, aged over 55, in manual work or unemployed and women.

## 2.2 Perceived Image of the European Union

8% of Syrian respondents have a positive image of the EU, dropping by - 4 ppt since 2021. A decrease of - 7 ppt has also been observed in the proportion of the ones expressing a negative sentiment (64%). The proportion describing themselves as neutral has increased from 12% to 22%.

A2. In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative, or very negative image?



Base: All respondents (1015)

There are some notable sociodemographic differences, mostly linked to the age, education, and gender. Men are more likely to have a positive image than women (9% cf. 7%), as are younger respondents compared to older ones (11% of the 15–24 years and 12 % of the 25–39 years cf. 4% of those aged 55–64). None of those with no education feel positive compared with 19% of those who finished education aged 20 or older and 15% of those still studying. Only 1% of the respondents living in rural areas have a positive image compared to 14% of the ones living in urban areas. White-collar workers and employees are more likely to have a positive image than other occupations.

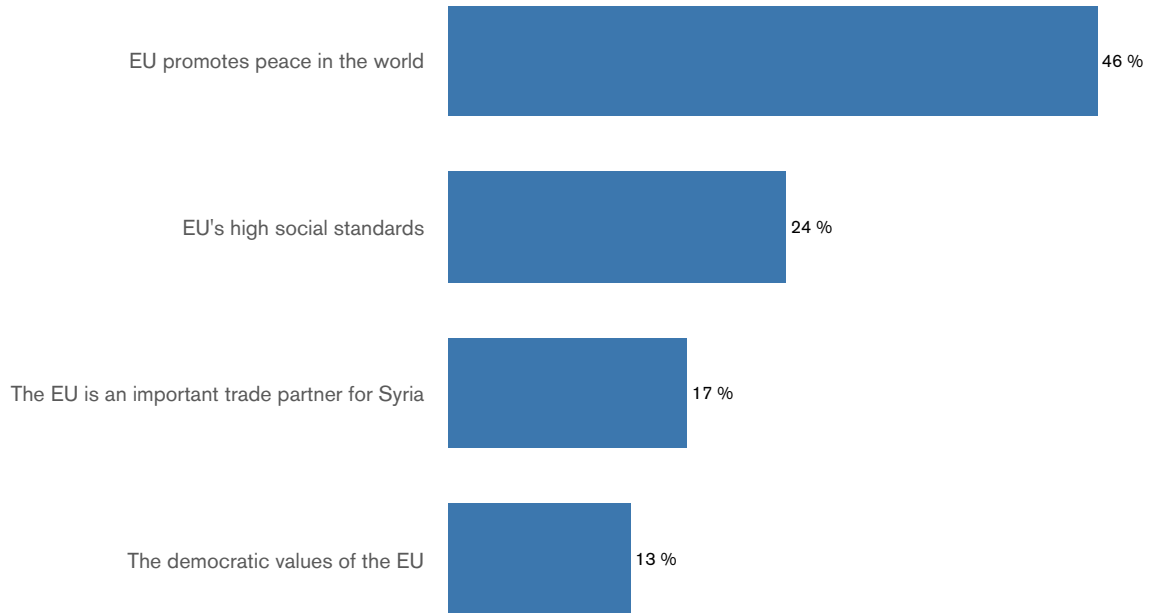
Base All Respondents	Syria 1015			
	Total "Positive"	Neutral	Total "Negative"	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	8 %	22 %	64 %	5 %
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	9 %	23 %	63 %	4 %
Female	7 %	21 %	66 %	6 %
<b>Age</b>				
15 – 24 years	11 %	32 %	55 %	2 %
25 – 39 years	12 %	17 %	67 %	4 %
40 – 54 years	7 %	22 %	68 %	4 %
55 – 64 years	4 %	17 %	67 %	11 %
65+ years*	2 %	35 %	54 %	9 %
<b>Education</b>				
Still studying	15 %	26 %	58 %	2 %
No education	0 %	21 %	68 %	10 %
15 years or less*	5 %	23 %	69 %	5 %
16 – 19 years	1 %	26 %	68 %	5 %
20 years and more	19 %	16 %	62 %	3 %
<b>Occupation</b>				
White collar, Manager	20 %	20 %	60 %	0 %
Employee	15 %	23 %	60 %	3 %
Self employed	7 %	24 %	67 %	2 %
Manual worker*	7 %	14 %	71 %	7 %
Not occupied	5 %	22 %	66 %	7 %
<b>Type of locality</b>				
Rural area or village	1 %	15 %	80 %	5 %
Small/ middle size town	14 %	17 %	61 %	9 %
Large town	14 %	31 %	50 %	5 %
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>				
Total "know what the EU is all about"	17 %	28 %	51 %	5 %
Total "don't know what the EU is all about"	4 %	20 %	70 %	5 %

## Reasons for positive or negative perceptions of EU image

For the 2022 survey, those who said either that the EU had a positive or negative image were asked a follow-up question concerning what they considered to be the main reasons for this image.

Only 83 respondents in total had a positive image of the EU. Amongst them, the main reason mentioned by 46% was related to the EU's role in promoting global peace. A quarter (24%) mention its high social standards, 17% that it is an important trade partner for Syria and 13% mention its democratic values.

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



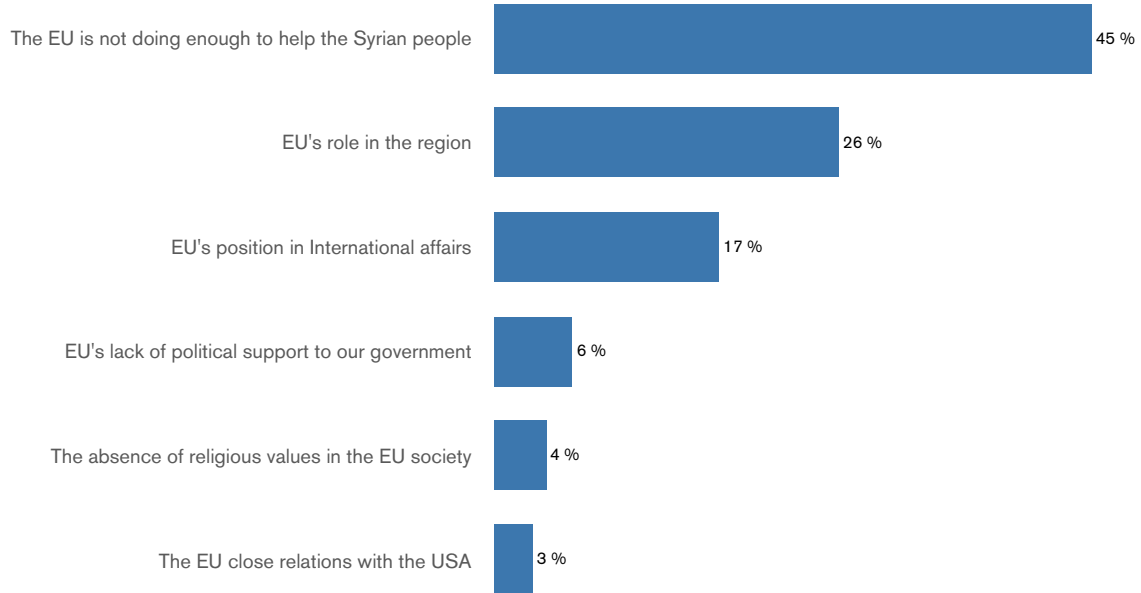
Base: All respondents with a positive image of EU (83)

Overall base sizes are too small to draw meaningful comparisons between sociodemographic groups.

The same question was asked to the respondents who believe that the EU has a negative image. Of the statements presented, the one most likely to be agreed with – mentioned by 45% – is that the EU does not enough to help Syrian people. It was followed by the EU's role in the region is mentioned by 26% and its position in international affairs by 18%.

Smaller proportions mention the EU's lack of political support for the Syrian government (6%), the absence of religious values in EU society (4%), or its close relations with the USA (3%).

A2f. Which of the following, if any, could be the main reasons for having a **negative** image of the European Union?



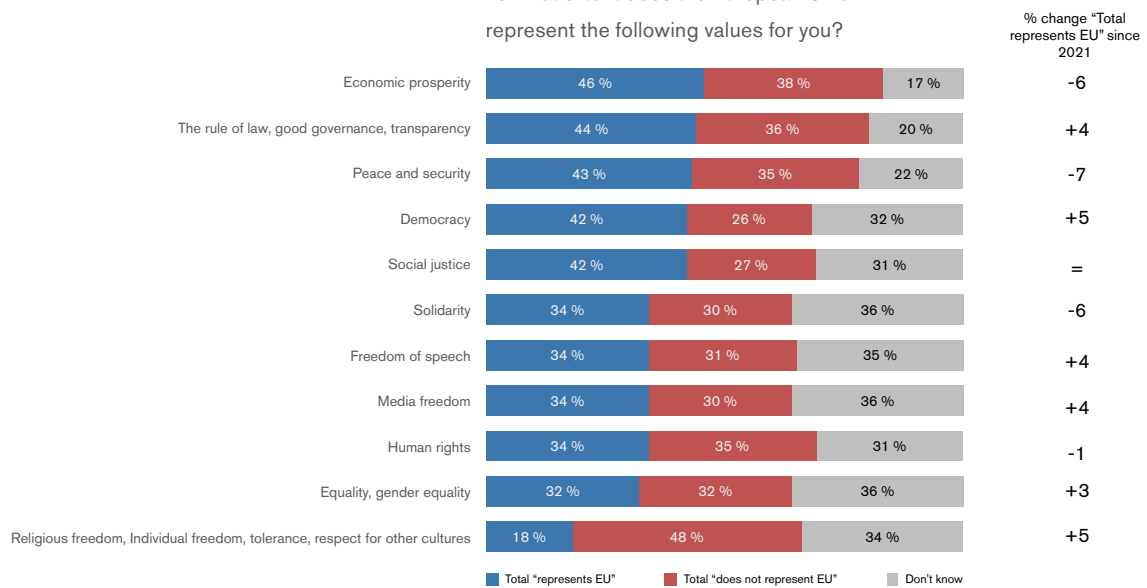
Base: All respondents with a negative image of EU (658)

The base size is too small to allow any sociodemographic analysis.

### 2.3 Characteristics that exemplify the European Union

Respondents were asked the extent to which the European Union represents several values to them.

A4. To what extent does the European Union represent the following values for you?



Base: All respondents (1015)

Respondents are divided across all of the values which for most cases, at least a third responded "don't know". There have been some increases in the level of agreement in a number of values as



democracy or religious freedom, but also many decreases, the most important one being for peace and security (- 7 ppt).

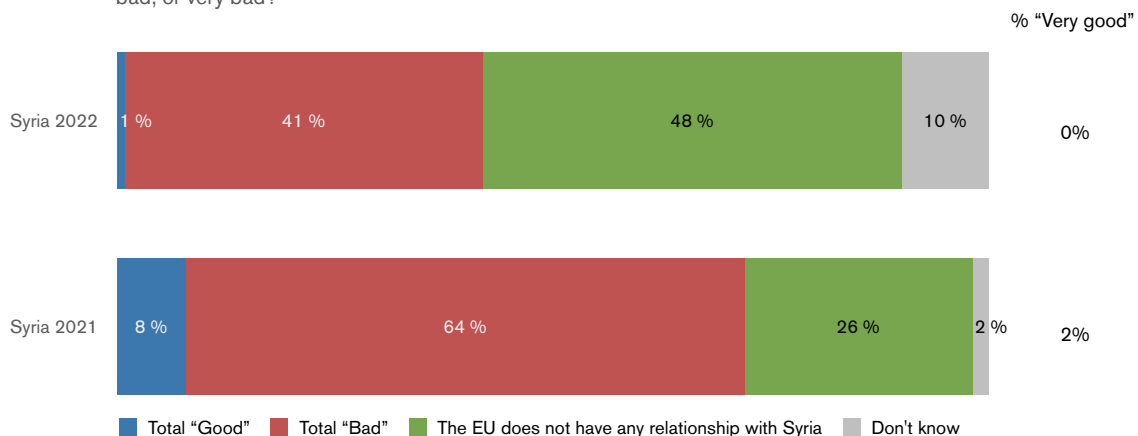
The values most likely to be associated with the EU economic prosperity (46%), rule of law (44%), peace and security (43%), democracy (42%), and social justice (42%). The value least likely to be associated with the EU was religious freedom (18%).

### 2.4 Relation with the European Union

Only 1% of respondents in Syria believe that the European Union has a good relationship with their country, a proportion which has decreased from 8% since 2021. There were no respondents describing the relationship as “very good” (0% cf. 2% in 2021). 41% feel that the relationship is poor – a considerable decrease of - 23 ppt since the 2021 survey. The proportion of respondents who feel there is no relationship between the EU and Syria has increased in almost same proportion (+22 ppt) from 26% to 48%.

These results suggest a predictable reaction of the public opinion on the restrictive measures the EU has put in place due to the conflict.

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



Base: All respondents (1015)

The socio-demographic analysis reveals differences by gender and age, with men more likely to describe the relationship between the EU and Syria as poor (46% cf. 36%) and younger respondents more likely to view the relationship positively than older respondents. Those with a lower level of education are in general less likely to be positive – 44% of those with no education view the relationship negatively compared with 36% of those who finished aged 20 and over. Those in white collar occupations are the less positive (55% consider the relation as bad), compared to other occupations.

Those who have a positive image of the EU overall are less likely to be negative about the relationship than those with a negative view (35% cf. 44%). The difference is less pronounced by subjective level of knowledge, although the ones feeling knowledgeable are less likely to describe the relation negatively (39% cf. 43%).





Base All Respondents	Syria 1015			
	Total "Good"	Total "Bad"	No relation	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	1 %	41 %	48 %	10 %
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	1 %	46 %	43 %	10 %
Female	2 %	36 %	52 %	9 %
<b>Age</b>				
15 – 24 years	1 %	35 %	51 %	13 %
25 – 39 years	1 %	40 %	49 %	10 %
40 – 54 years	2 %	41 %	48 %	9 %
55 – 64 years	4 %	42 %	43 %	11 %
65+ years*	1 %	47 %	44 %	7 %
<b>Education</b>				
Still studying	0 %	34 %	49 %	17 %
No education	2 %	44 %	48 %	5 %
15 years or less*	4 %	48 %	35 %	13 %
16 – 19 years	2 %	44 %	44 %	11 %
20 years and more	0 %	36 %	55 %	9 %
<b>Occupation</b>				
White collar, manager	2 %	55 %	35 %	8 %
Employee	1 %	38 %	54 %	7 %
Self employed	1 %	42 %	46 %	12 %
Manual worker*	0 %	35 %	57 %	8 %
Not occupied	2 %	40 %	48 %	10 %
<b>Type of locality</b>				
Rural area or village	3 %	40 %	38 %	19 %
Small/ middle size town	0 %	39 %	58 %	3 %
Large town	0 %	43 %	55 %	3 %
<b>Image of the EU</b>				
Positive	0 %	35 %	64 %	1 %
Neutral	1 %	36 %	52 %	10 %
Negative	1 %	44 %	42 %	12 %
Don't know	0 %	21 %	79 %	0 %
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>				
Total "know what the EU is all about"	1 %	39 %	51 %	10 %
Total "don't know what the EU is all about"	2 %	43 %	46 %	10 %



## 2.5 Awareness of EU Cooperation

This section of the report analyses the level of awareness of respondents towards EU cooperation programmes in their country. The cooperation programmes that were included in this question differ slightly between countries.

The below table presents the awareness level of each cooperation programme that were measured in the survey.

A6. 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?

	Syria 2021	Syria 2022	Difference since 2021
Support for refugees and displaced people	23 %	25 %	+2
Support for social protection	11 %	10 %	- 1
Civil society	4 %	8 %	+4
Youth	4 %	8 %	+4
Human rights	5 %	7 %	+2
Education and skills	6 %	4 %	- 2
Culture	5 %	3 %	- 2
Green transition: climate resilience, energy and environment	1 %	3 %	+2
Economic reform or business and small or medium enterprises (SMEs)	1 %	3 %	+2
Agricultural and rural development	1 %	3 %	+2
Infrastructure development	1 %	2 %	+1
Justice or police reforms	0 %	2 %	+2
Health	4 %	2 %	- 2
Digital transition	2 %	1 %	- 1
	Lowest awareness		
	Highest awareness		

There has been an increase in the level of awareness in Syria for most cooperation programs, but awareness remains extremely low.

As in 2021, the highest level of awareness is for EU support programmes for refugees and displaced people (25% cf. 23% in 2021). 1 in 10 are aware of support programmes for social protection with a similar proportion (8%) mentioning either civil society or youth (both areas have seen a modest increase in awareness of + 4 ppt).

When asked whether they were personally involved in an EU-funded project<sup>3</sup>, participation remains low – 88% have never been involved as part of any project. While only a small number of respondents say they have either been involved as a volunteer (2%) or employee (1%), almost one in ten (9%) say that they have been a beneficiary of an EU funded project.

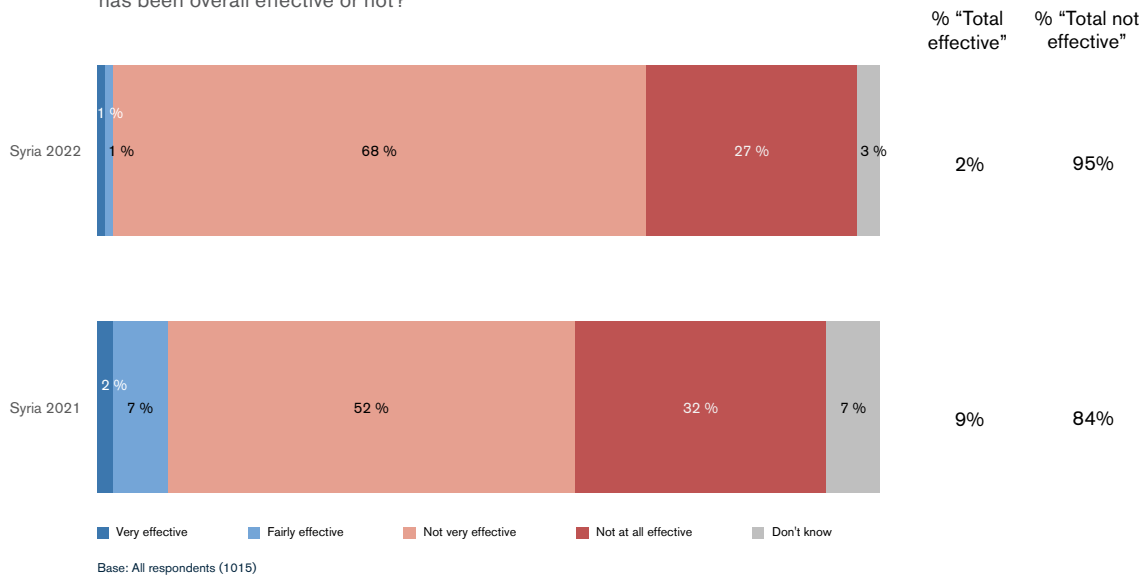
<sup>3</sup> A8. Have you ever been personally involved with an EU-funded project? Yes, as a volunteer; Yes as an employee; Yes as a beneficiary; No, Never; Other; Don't know.



## 2.6 Effectiveness of EU's Support

The proportion of respondents in Syria who think that support from the EU to their country is effective is almost insignificant (2%). It decrease from an already very low level in 2021 ( 9%) . The respondents have almost unanimously described the EU support as ineffective (95%), with 27% describing it as “not at all effective”. This represents a considerable increase of 11 percentage points since 2021, when 84% described the support from the EU as not effective.

A7. To what extent do you think that the support provided by the European Union to Syria has been overall effective or not?



The sociodemographic analysis shows only minor differences with at least 9 in 10 respondents in every subgroup describing EU support as ineffective. The only exception is amongst those who feel positively about the EU overall and even amongst this group, 85% consider the support is ineffective.



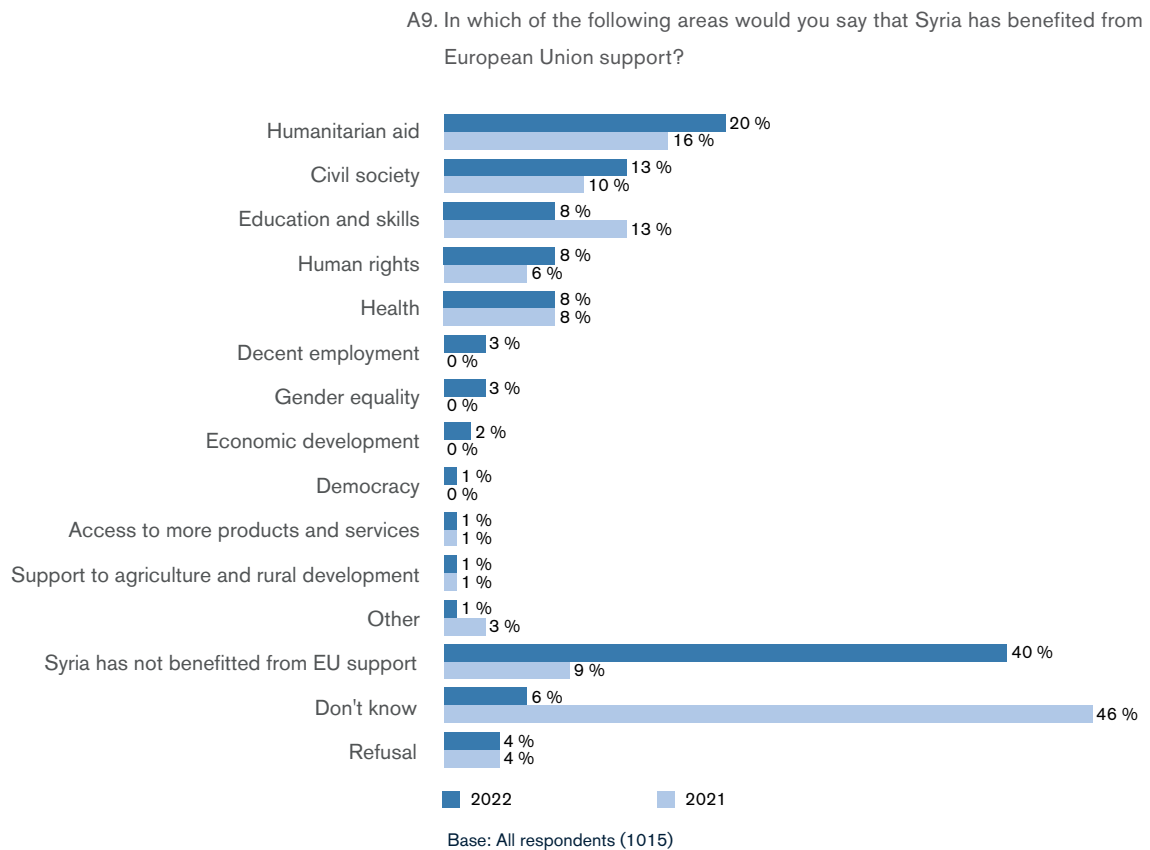
Base All Respondents	Syria 1015		
	Total "Effective"	Total "Not effective"	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	2 %	95 %	3 %
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	2 %	96 %	2 %
Female	2 %	94 %	4 %
<b>Age</b>			
15 – 24 years	1 %	93 %	7 %
25 – 39 years	3 %	95 %	2 %
40 – 54 years	2 %	97 %	2 %
55 – 64 years	3 %	97 %	1 %
65+ years*	4 %	91 %	5 %
<b>Education</b>			
Still studying	1 %	91 %	7 %
No education	2 %	94 %	3 %
15 years or less*	4 %	90 %	6 %
16 – 19 years	0 %	98 %	3 %
20 years and more	4 %	95 %	1 %
<b>Occupation</b>			
White collar, Manager	7 %	91 %	2 %
Employee	2 %	95 %	3 %
Self employed	3 %	97 %	0 %
Manual worker*	0 %	100 %	0 %
Not occupied	1 %	95 %	4 %
<b>Type of locality</b>			
Rural area or village	2 %	95 %	3 %
Small/ middle size town	1 %	93 %	6 %
Large town	3 %	95 %	2 %
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	8 %	85 %	6 %
Neutral	2 %	93 %	4 %
Negative	1 %	97 %	2 %
Don't know	4 %	86 %	10 %
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>			
Total "know what the EU is all about"	5 %	93 %	4 %
Total "don't know what the EU is all about"	1 %	97 %	3 %

## 2.7 Most beneficial Areas of EU Support

Respondents were asked about the areas where they feel that their country benefited the most from current EU policies.

In Syria, humanitarian aid (20%), civil society (13%) and education and skills (8%) are the areas most likely to be mentioned with increases since 2021 for humanitarian aid (+ 4 ppt) and civil society (+ 3 ppt).

The proportion of respondents who believe Syria has not benefited in any areas from EU support has risen dramatically to 40% (+ 31 ppt since 2021) – while conversely, the proportion unaware of any benefits to Syria falling dramatically in almost same proportion, from 46% in 2021 to 6% in the current survey.



The top five areas where respondents think that Syria has benefited the most from current EU policies include:

- » Humanitarian aid (20%, + 4 ppt)
- » Civil society (13%, + 3 ppt)
- » Education and skills (8%, - 5 ppt)
- » Human rights (8%, + 2 ppt)
- » Health (8%, no change)



## 2.8 Areas where the EU could be more engaged or less engaged

Respondents were asked whether they think the European Union should have a greater role to play (i.e. be more engaged) in their country in a range of areas. As observed in the 2021 survey, humanitarian aid is the priority area for increased EU engagement for Syrian respondents (12% cf. 9% in 2021).

There have been slight increases in the proportion of respondents who feel that the EU should be more engaged in areas such as access to more products and services (5%, + 2 ppt), and trade and investment (4%, + 1 ppt).

In general, however, the proportion wishing for more EU engagement remains extremely low across all areas and has even decreased slightly across the majority of areas since 2021.

A12. And for each of the following areas, please tell me whether or not you think the European Union could be **more engaged** in Syria?

Syria	2021	2022
Humanitarian aid	9 %	12 %
Access to more products and services	3 %	5 %
Trade and investment	3 %	4 %
Education and skills	6 %	4 %
Economic development	2 %	3 %
Green transition: climate resilience, energy and environment	1 %	2 %
Human rights	4 %	2 %
civil society	4 %	2 %
Health	4 %	2 %
Democracy	1 %	1 %
Tourism	2 %	1 %
Infrastructure development (roads, sewage, water, etc.)	1 %	1 %
Decent employment	1 %	1 %
Support to agriculture and rural development	1 %	1 %
Promotion of peace and stability	2 %	1 %
Gender equality	2 %	1 %
Digital transition	2 %	1 %
the rule of law	1 %	0 %

A12. And for each of the following areas, please tell me whether or not you think the European Union could be **less engaged** in Syria?

Syria	2021	2022
Tourism	50 %	55 %
Access to more products and services	50 %	52 %
The rule of law	51 %	52 %
Gender equality	47 %	49 %
Economic development	46 %	48 %
Trade and investment	44 %	46 %
Promotion of peace and stability	45 %	46 %
Human rights	43 %	45 %
Infrastructure development (roads, sewage, water, etc.)	41 %	45 %
Digital transition	43 %	44 %
Democracy	41 %	43 %
Humanitarian aid	41 %	42 %
Green transition: climate resilience, energy and environment	40 %	41 %
Education and skills	42 %	40 %
Decent employment	43 %	40 %
Support to agriculture and rural development	42 %	39 %
Health	29 %	30 %
civil society	26 %	28 %



The most commonly mentioned areas where less engagement from the EU is favoured include tourism (55%), access to more products and services (52%) and the rule of law (52%).

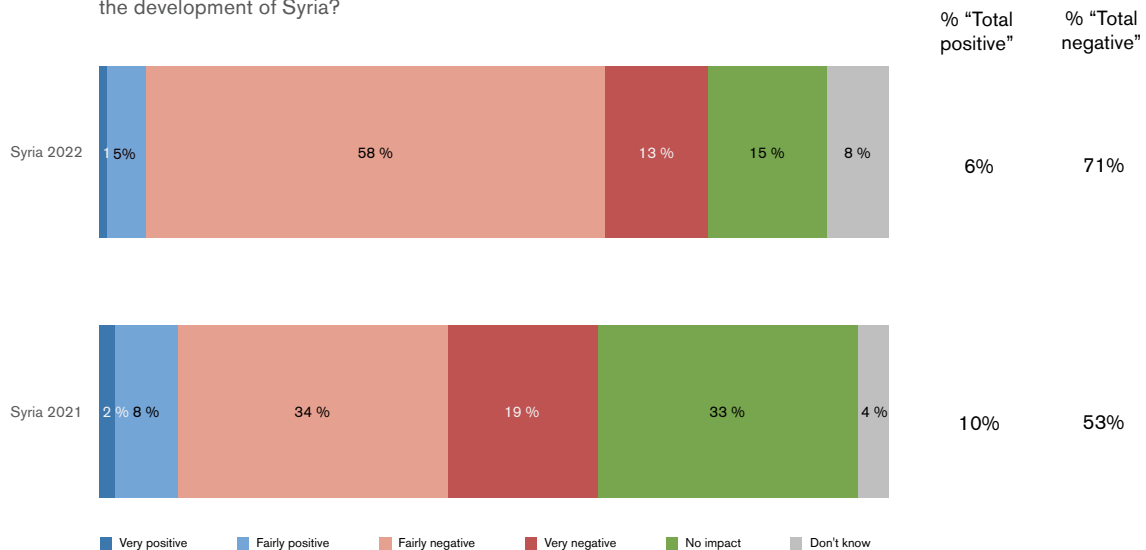
There has been an increase in the preference for less EU engagement across most areas.

### 2.9 EU's Impact on Development

Respondents were asked to evaluate the impact of the European Union on the development of their country.

In Syria, only 6% of respondents said that the European Union has a positive impact on the development of their country, with 1% believing that it has a “very” positive impact. This represents a decrease from 2021 when overall 10% described the impact as positive. A large majority of respondents, 71%, said that the impact has been negative – a sharp increase of + 18 ppt since 2021. The proportion who do not feel that the EU has any impact, either positive or negative, has decreased from 33% to 15%.

A10. To what extent do you think the European Union has a positive or a negative impact on the development of Syria?



Base: All respondents (1015)

Sociodemographic differences can be observed across most groups. Men are slightly more positive than women (9% cf. 7%), younger people are more positive than older respondents (9% of those aged 15 – 24 compared with 5% of those aged 40 – 64). Education also shows significant differences – 4% of those without a formal education compared with 11% of those who finished education aged 20 and over. Those in white collar occupations or living in more urbanised areas were also more positive. The largest difference was between those who feel the EU has a positive image overall (13%) compared to 5% who have a negative image overall. Those who feel knowledgeable about the EU were also more likely to feel the impact is positive – 11% compared with 4% of those who do not feel knowledgeable.



Base All Respondents	Syria 1015			
	Total "Positive"	Total "Negative"	No impact	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	6 %	71 %	15 %	8 %
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	7 %	73 %	13 %	8 %
Female	5 %	69 %	17 %	8 %
<b>Age</b>				
15 – 24 years	9 %	69 %	12 %	10 %
25 – 39 years	7 %	72 %	14 %	7 %
40 – 54 years	5 %	73 %	16 %	6 %
55 – 64 years	5 %	68 %	15 %	12 %
65+ years*	7 %	66 %	18 %	10 %
<b>Education</b>				
Still studying	11 %	65 %	13 %	11 %
No education	4 %	74 %	14 %	7 %
15 years or less*	7 %	76 %	13 %	4 %
16 – 19 years	2 %	71 %	20 %	8 %
20 years and more	11 %	68 %	12 %	8 %
<b>Occupation</b>				
White collar, Manager	12 %	73 %	13 %	2 %
Employee	8 %	67 %	15 %	10 %
Self employed	8 %	75 %	10 %	8 %
Manual worker*	0 %	71 %	28 %	0 %
Not occupied	4 %	70 %	17 %	9 %
<b>Type of locality</b>				
Rural area or village	5 %	70 %	16 %	9 %
Small/ middle size town	8 %	64 %	20 %	8 %
Large town	7 %	75 %	12 %	7 %
<b>Image of the EU</b>				
Positive	13 %	69 %	9 %	9 %
Neutral	6 %	74 %	13 %	6 %
Negative	5 %	71 %	15 %	9 %
Don't know	4 %	67 %	25 %	4 %
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>				
Total "know what the EU is all about"	11 %	72 %	12 %	6 %
Total "don't know what the EU is all about"	4 %	71 %	16 %	9 %

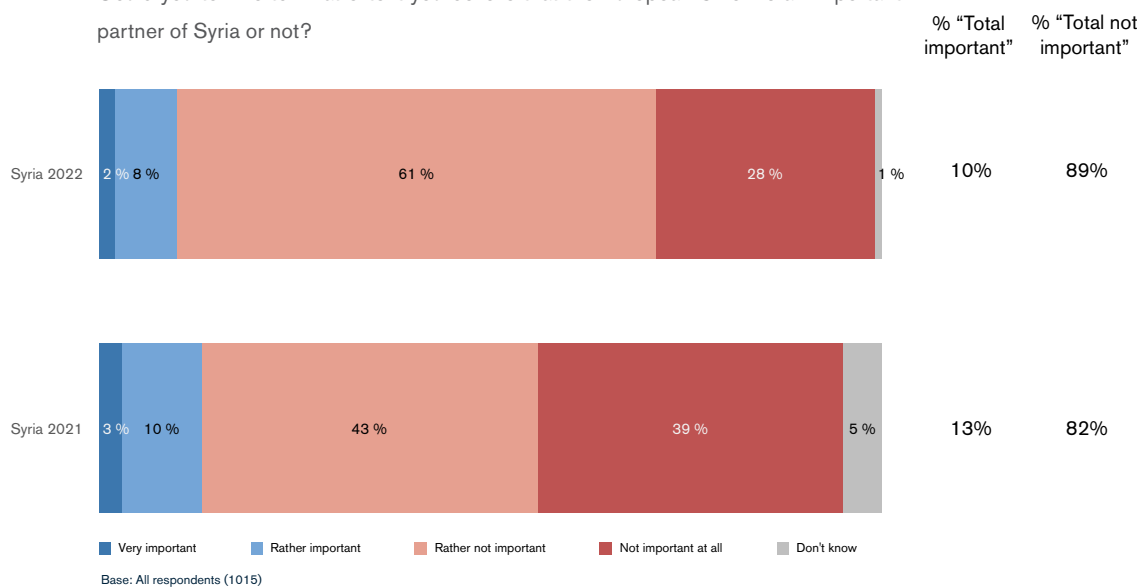




### 2.10 Importance of the EU's Partnership

When asked whether they believe the EU is an important partner of their country, 10% in Syria answered positively, with 2% saying that the EU was a very important partner and 8% a rather important partner. This represents a decrease in the perceived importance of the partnership observed in the 2021 survey when the proportion was 13%. 9 in 10 describe the partnership as not important, an increase from the 82% observed in the 2021 survey. However, respondents who describe the relationship as not important are more likely to describe it as rather not important than in 2021 (61% cf. 43%) while 28% describe the relationship with the EU as not important at all (down from 39% in 2021).

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



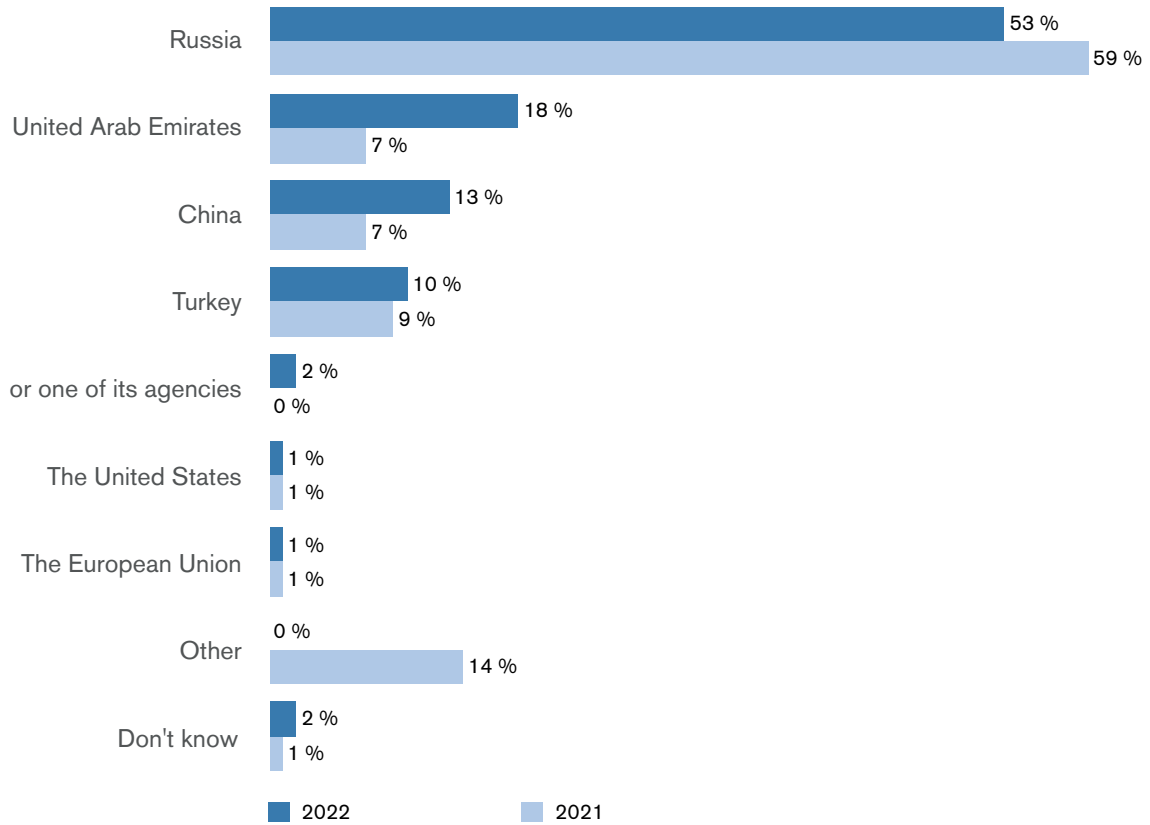
The sociodemographic analysis shows that those who believe the EU to be an important partner are most likely to be male, younger respondents, with a higher level of education, with non-manual occupations and living in large towns. Those with a positive image of the EU overall or feel knowledgeable about the EU were also much more likely to describe Syria's partnership with the EU as important.

Base All Respondents		Syria 1015		
	Total "Important"	Total "Not important"	Don't know	
<b>Total</b>				
Total	10 %	89 %	1 %	
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	11 %	89 %	0 %	
Female	9 %	88 %	2 %	
<b>Age</b>				
15 – 24 years	11 %	88 %	1 %	
25 – 39 years	12 %	86 %	1 %	
40 – 54 years	9 %	91 %	1 %	
55 – 64 years	8 %	92 %	0 %	
65+ years*	9 %	89 %	2 %	
<b>Education</b>				
Still studying	11 %	88 %	1 %	
No education	6 %	94 %	1 %	
15 years or less*	9 %	89 %	2 %	
16 – 19 years	7 %	92 %	2 %	
20 years and more	18 %	81 %	1 %	
<b>Occupation</b>				
White collar, Manager	13 %	87 %	0 %	
Employee	14 %	85 %	2 %	
Self employed	11 %	89 %	0 %	
Manual worker*	7 %	93 %	0 %	
Not occupied	8 %	90 %	1 %	
<b>Type of locality</b>				
Rural area or village	7 %	92 %	1 %	
Small/ middle size town	7 %	91 %	2 %	
Large town	14 %	85 %	0 %	
<b>Image of the EU</b>				
Positive	37 %	64 %	0 %	
Neutral	12 %	86 %	2 %	
Negative	6 %	94 %	1 %	
Don't know	16 %	84 %	0 %	
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>				
Total "know what the EU is all about"	17 %	82 %	1 %	
Total "don't know what the EU is all about"	7 %	92 %	1 %	

Respondents were then asked to select the closest partner to their country amongst a list of international institutions and countries.

As in 2021, Syrian respondents are still most likely to see Russia, who been providing a strong political, economic and humanitarian support, as a key partner (53% cf. 59% in 2021), compared to 1% for the EU (as US). 18% believe the UAE to be their closest partner (7% in 2021), 13% mention China and or Turkey (10%) while other countries and institutions are only mentioned by small proportions of respondents.

A13. In your view, which of the following international institutions or countries is the closest partner to Syria?



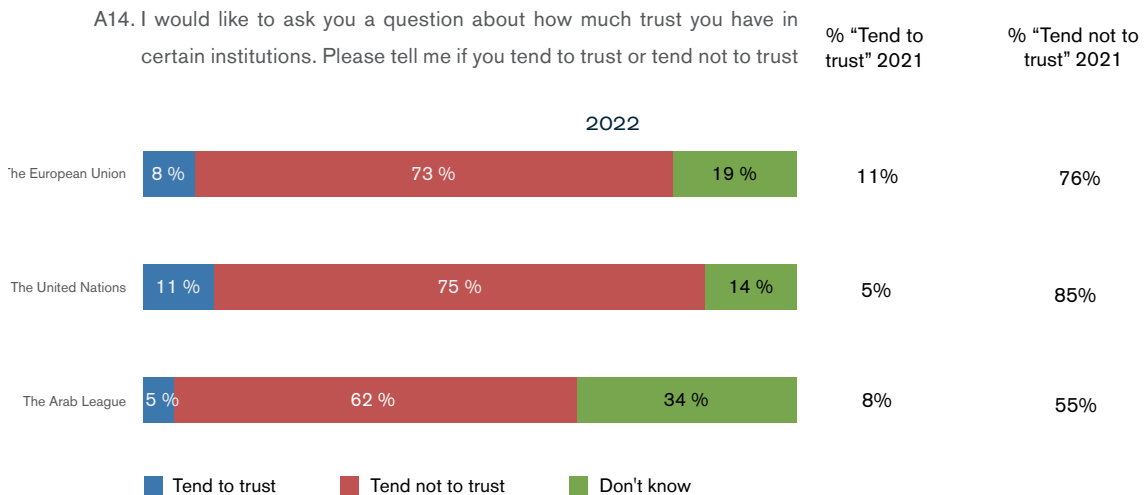
Base: All respondents (1015)

Those with a positive overall image of the EU were slightly more likely to see the EU as a close partner than those who see the EU negatively (7% cf. 0% of those with a negative image) as were those who feel knowledgeable – 3% compared to 1% of those who do not feel knowledgeable. Other than this, there was very little difference sociodemographically.



### 2.11 Trust in Institutions

Respondents were asked about the extent to which they trust (or not) three international institutions, namely the European Union, the United Nations, and the Arab League.



Base: All respondents (1015)

In Syria, the UN is comparatively the most trusted institution with 11% saying they trust it, followed by 8% who trust the EU. There is less trust in the Arab League (5%). Trust in both the EU and Arab League has decreased since 2021.

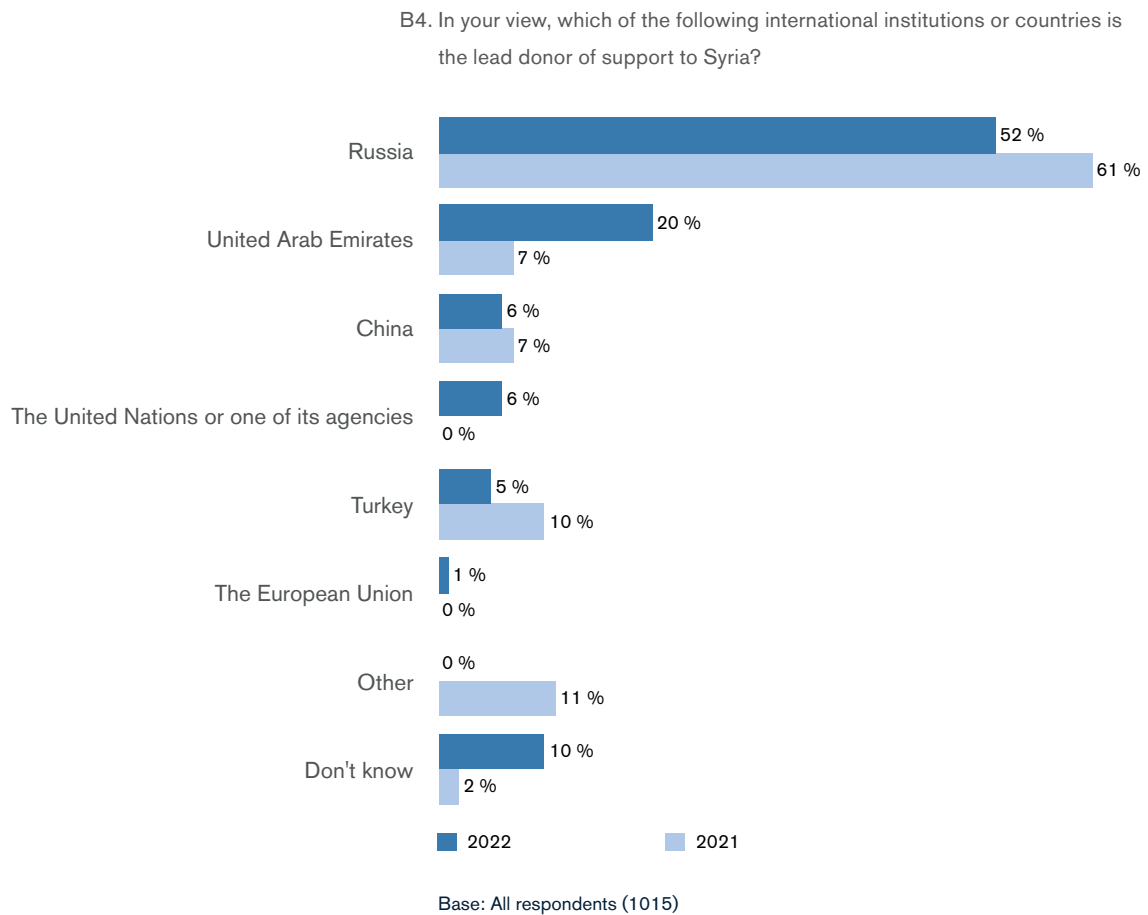
The level of mistrust is extremely high for all three institutions with around three quarters expressing mistrust in the UN (75%) and EU (73%), and a somewhat a lower proportion (62%) saying they tend not to trust the Arab League.

Looking at sociodemographic analysis, trust in the EU tends to be higher amongst younger respondents (7% of those aged 15 – 24 and 10% of those aged 25-39 compared to 6% of those aged 55 and over) and those with a high level of education – 16% of those who left education aged 20 or over compared with 5% with no education. Those in manual occupations or unemployed and those in rural areas were also likely to trust the EU. The positive image of the EU is correlated with the level of trust in the institution, with 37% of those holding a positive image of the EU trusting it, compared to 4% of those with a negative view. 15% of those who feel knowledgeable about the EU trust it, compared to 5% of those who don't feel knowledgeable.



### 2.12 Leading Donors for Country Support

A list of international institutions and countries was read out to respondents asking them to select which, in their views, was the leading donor or institution supporting their country.



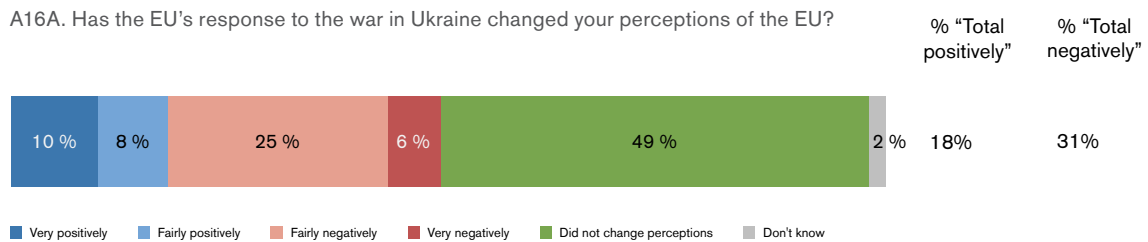
While € 6.4 billion were mobilised by the sixth Brussels conference in support to Syrian people, and in which Russia was not part, Russia is still seen as the lead donor of support to Syria, mentioned by 52% (- 8 ppt since 2021), although the UAE is mentioned by 20% (+ 13 ppt since 2021). China and the UN are both mentioned by 6% (with the UN seeing an increase of + 6 ppt since 2021. The EU is mentioned by 1% with the US not mentioned by any respondents.



### 2.13 Impact of the War in Ukraine on Perceptions of the EU

For the 2022 survey, a question was asked to measure to what extent the EU's response to the war in Ukraine had affected perceptions of the EU, and whether positively or negatively.

For 18%, the EU's response has changed their view positively. Just over 3 in 10 said that it had affected their perceptions negatively. For 49% of respondents in Syria, the EU's response is described as not changing their perception.



Base: All respondents (1015)

The EU response to the war in Ukraine was more likely to have a positive impact on perceptions of the EU overall amongst younger respondents (24% of those aged 15–24 cf. 11% of those aged 55–64) and those with a higher level of education (26% of those who left school aged 20 or over compared to 10% of those with no education). The ones still studying, which are usually more positive about the EU, were the ones with the higher proportion saying that the EU response to the war in Ukraine had a negative impact on their perception of the Union.

There were fewer clear patterns by occupation or areas of residence.

Those with a positive image of the EU overall were most likely to react positively to the EU response to the war (41% compared with 16% of those with a negative image) as were the ones who feel knowledgeable about the EU (25% cf. 14% of those who do not feel knowledgeable).



Base All Respondents	Syria 1015			
	Total "positively"	Total "negatively"	Did not change perceptions	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	18 %	31 %	49 %	2 %
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	17 %	33 %	49 %	1 %
Female	18 %	30 %	49 %	3 %
<b>Age</b>				
15 – 24 years	24 %	39 %	37 %	0 %
25 – 39 years	19 %	32 %	47 %	2 %
40 – 54 years	20 %	28 %	51 %	2 %
55 – 64 years	11 %	26 %	58 %	4 %
65+ years*	7 %	33 %	55 %	6 %
<b>Education</b>				
Still studying	27 %	46 %	27 %	0 %
No education	10 %	29 %	54 %	8 %
15 years or less*	18 %	27 %	49 %	6 %
16 – 19 years	12 %	30 %	57 %	1 %
20 years and more	26 %	26 %	47 %	0 %
<b>Occupation</b>				
White collar, Manager	18 %	26 %	54 %	2 %
Employee	22 %	32 %	46 %	1 %
Self employed	14 %	30 %	55 %	1 %
Manual worker*	21 %	14 %	65 %	0 %
Not occupied	19 %	32 %	47 %	3 %
<b>Type of locality</b>				
Rural area or village	18 %	33 %	46 %	3 %
Small/ middle size town	13 %	25 %	57 %	5 %
Large town	19 %	31 %	49 %	1 %
<b>Image of the EU</b>				
Positive	41 %	24 %	34 %	1 %
Neutral	16 %	28 %	51 %	5 %
Negative	16 %	34 %	50 %	1 %
Don't know	10 %	20 %	57 %	14 %
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>				
Total "know what the EU is all about"	25 %	30 %	45 %	0 %
Total "don't know what the EU is all about"	14 %	31 %	51 %	3 %

### 3. Information on the European Union

#### 3.1 General Media Landscape

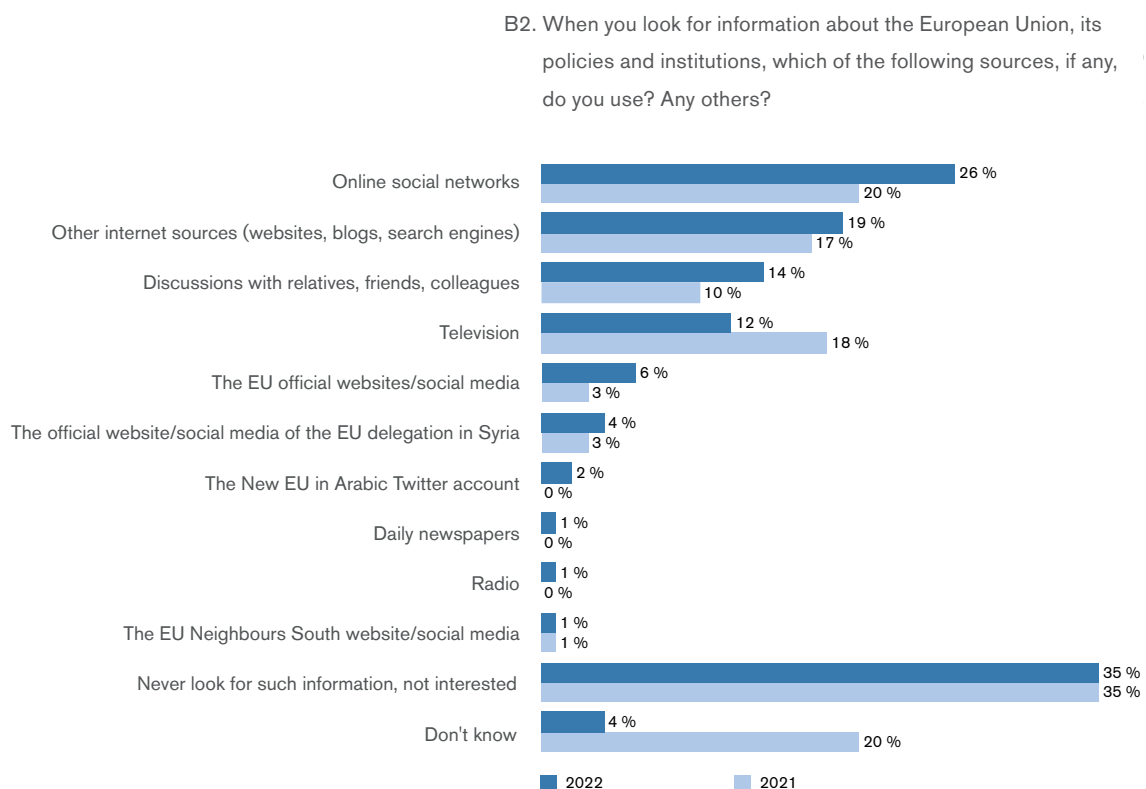
Respondents were asked a series of questions about general media consumption. The questions asked about which media were watched or read “regularly”, which was defined in the question as at least five times per week.

On television, Sama TV is the most watched channel (70%), followed by Syria Television (58%) and Syria Drama (51%). Only 1% never watch TV. Sham FM is the radio station most listened to (55%), followed by Al Madeena FM (20%). A quarter (25%) do not listen to radio. Only 20% of respondents read at least one newspaper regularly, with Al Baath (12%) and Al Thawra (10%) most likely to be mentioned.

The most common social media used regularly are Whatsapp (86%), Facebook (42%), Instagram (39%) and Youtube (35%). One in ten (12%) never use the internet.

#### 3.2 Sources of Information about the EU

In Syria, the media landscape when it comes to finding information about the EU has changed since 2021 with the internet becoming more dominant compared to traditional media. The top three preferred channels for information about the EU are online social networks (26%, + 6 ppt), other internet sources (19%, + 2 ppt) and discussions with friends and family (14%, + 4 ppt). Television remains widely used by 12% but has seen a decrease of - 6 ppt.



Base: All respondents (1015)





The usage of EU “official” online information sources remains very low with EU official websites most likely to be mentioned (6%).

The proportion of respondents who never look for information about the EU has remained at 35%.

### 3.3 EU Communication Campaign Awareness

For the 2022 survey, questions were added concerning awareness of any communication campaigns run by the EU in Syria, including the following specific campaigns:

- » International Justice Day
- » Debunking Myths
- » LifelineToSyrians

Overall, only 5% said that they had seen or heard anything about the EU in the last 12 months. Around two thirds (68%) said they not seen or heard anything with 27% who didn't know.

Base All Respondents	Syria 1015		
	Yes	No	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	5 %	68 %	27 %
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	6 %	70 %	23 %
Female	4 %	66 %	31 %
<b>Age</b>			
15 – 24 years	6 %	87 %	7 %
25 – 39 years	8 %	72 %	20 %
40 – 54 years	4 %	69 %	27 %
55 – 64 years	2 %	50 %	49 %
65+ years*	1 %	47 %	52 %
<b>Education</b>			
Still studying	9 %	89 %	2 %
No education	1 %	43 %	56 %
15 years or less*	4 %	35 %	60 %
16 – 19 years	3 %	62 %	35 %
20 years and more	9 %	90 %	1 %
<b>Occupation</b>			
White collar, manager	10 %	68 %	23 %
Employee	10 %	79 %	11 %
Self employed	5 %	66 %	29 %
Manual worker*	7 %	57 %	36 %
Not occupied	3 %	65 %	32 %
<b>Type of locality</b>			
Rural area or village	1 %	56 %	43 %
Small/ middle size town	4 %	74 %	22 %
Large town	9 %	78 %	13 %
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	20 %	77 %	2 %
Neutral	6 %	73 %	21 %
Negative	3 %	66 %	32 %
Don't know	6 %	60 %	34 %
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>			
Total “know what the EU is all about”	9 %	81 %	10 %
Total “don't know what the EU is all about”	3 %	62 %	35 %

Younger age groups were somewhat more likely to have seen or heard something (6% of those aged 15–24 compared with 2% of those aged 55–64), as were those with a high level of education (9% of those who left education aged 20 or over compared with 1% of those with no education). Employed respondents and those living in cities were also more likely to have seen or heard something than those without employment or living in rural areas.

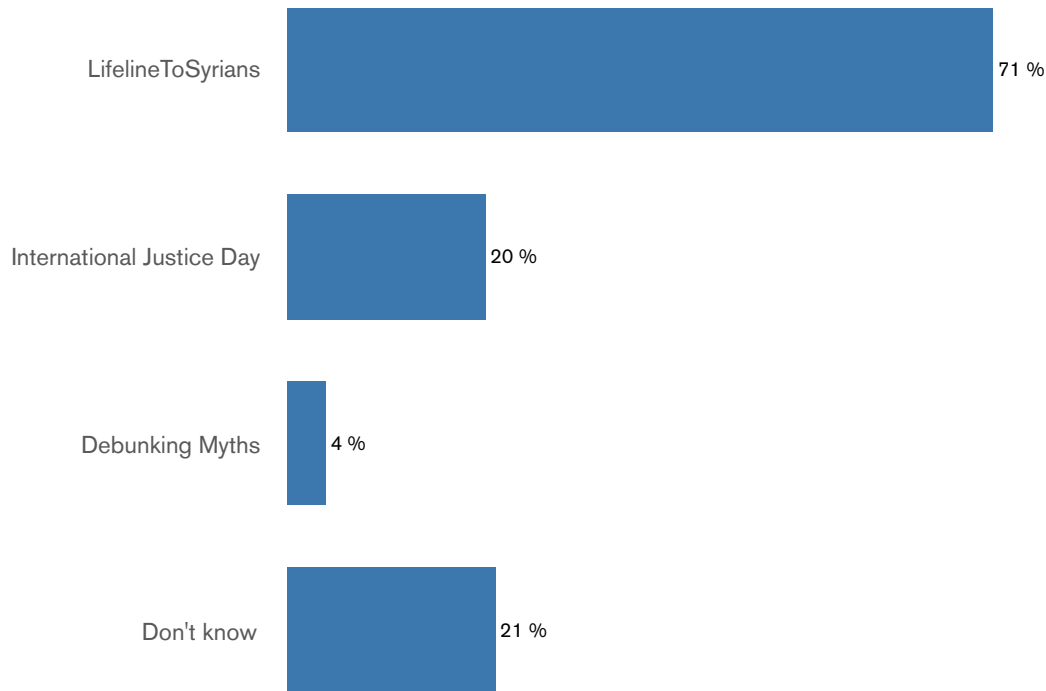
Those who are positive about the EU overall were more likely to have seen or heard something about it (20% cf. 3% of those with a negative image), as are those who feel knowledgeable about the EU (9%) compared with those who do not (3%).

Those who said that they had seen or heard something about the EU in the last 12 months<sup>4</sup> were then prompted with specific campaigns.

Around four in ten (79%) recalled seeing or hearing a specific campaign. The LifelinetoSyrians was mentioned by 71%, 20% claimed to be aware of International Justice Day, followed by 4% who mentioned “Debunking Myths”.

<sup>4</sup> Caution, this equates to only 51 respondents in total.

A3a. Have you heard, seen or read anything about the following regarding the European Union in the last 12 months?



Base: All respondents who have seen or heard something about the EU in the last 12 months (51)

Sample sizes for this question are too small to allow sociodemographic analysis.

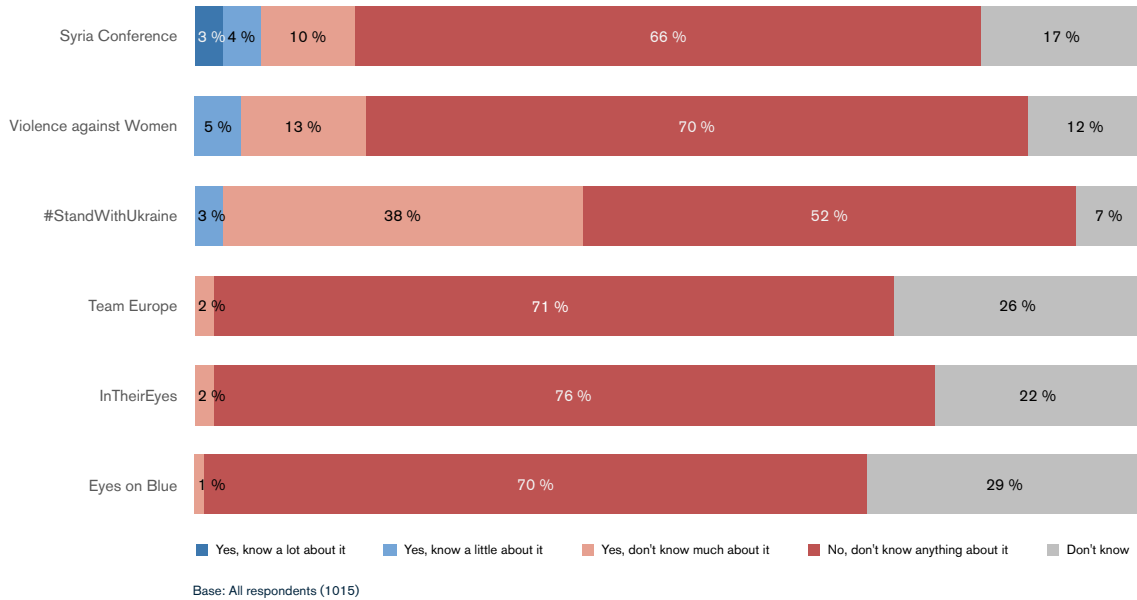
### 3.4 EU Initiative Awareness

Respondents were asked to give their level of knowledge about certain EU initiatives in Syria. These initiatives were:

- » Team Europe
- » #StandWithUkraine
- » Syria Conference
- » InTheirEyes
- » Violence against Women
- » Eyes on Blue

Overall, awareness was highest for #StandWithUkraine with 41% knowing at least something about it (including 38% who said they did not know much), 18% knew something of “Violence against women” (13% said they did not know much). There was slightly more detailed knowledge about the “Syria Conference” with 17% saying that they knew at least something about it and 3% saying they knew a lot about it. Awareness levels for the other campaigns were much lower.

A3A. Level of knowledge of specific EU communications



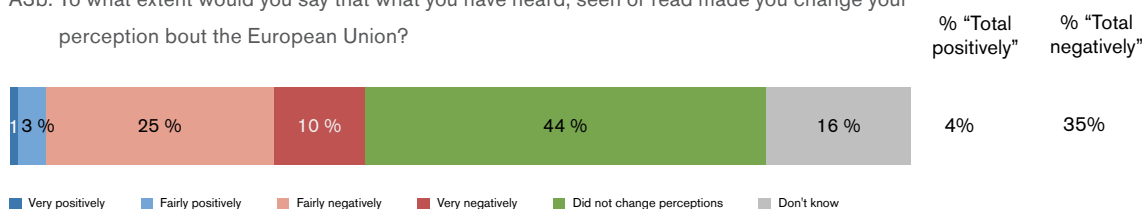
Awareness of the Syria conference was slightly higher among men, 15–24-year-olds, those with a high level of education and those with a positive image of the EU overall or who feel knowledgeable about the EU.

### 3.5 Impact of Communications on Perceptions of the EU

Respondents were asked whether what they had heard, seen, or read about the EU had changed their perceptions of the EU.

Only 4% said the communications had changed their perception positively with 1% saying very positively. Around two thirds (69%) said that these communications had negatively affected their perception, while 44% said that it did not change their perceptions. Finally, 16% said that they didn't know.

A3b. To what extent would you say that what you have heard, seen or read made you change your perception about the European Union?



Sociodemographic analysis reveals differences by gender, age, level of education and areas of residence. Men were slightly more positive than women (5% cf. 3%). Younger people were more likely to respond positively – 7% of those aged 15–24 compared with none (0%) of those aged 55–64. None (0%) of those without education or who left education under the age of 20 felt more positively about the impact of the EU communication on their perception of the institution, compared with 7% of those who left education aged 20 and over. Those in rural areas were less likely to be positive than those in urban areas.



However, the key differentiator is the existing sentiment towards the EU – 30% of those who already feel positive about the EU in general are the most likely to feel their perceptions had been improved by the communications they had seen, compared to none (0%) of those with a negative or neutral image.

Base : All respondents who have heard or seen anything about the EU in the last 12 months		Syria			
		1015			
	Total "positively"	Total "negatively"	Did not change perceptions	Don't know	
<b>Total</b>					
Total	4 %	35 %	44 %	16 %	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	5 %	35 %	46 %	15 %	
Female	3 %	37 %	42 %	18 %	
<b>Age</b>					
15 – 24 years	7 %	30 %	54 %	10 %	
25 – 39 years	6 %	33 %	46 %	15 %	
40 – 54 years	3 %	41 %	42 %	14 %	
55 – 64 years	0 %	47 %	31 %	22 %	
65+ years*	3 %	22 %	44 %	0 %	
<b>Education</b>					
Still studying	9 %	34 %	49 %	8 %	
No education	0 %	40 %	35 %	25 %	
15 years or less*	0 %	23 %	67 %	10 %	
16 – 19 years	0 %	41 %	39 %	19 %	
20 years and more	7 %	32 %	47 %	14 %	
<b>Occupation</b>					
White collar, manager	0 %	27 %	59 %	14 %	
Employee	9 %	31 %	50 %	11 %	
Self employed	5 %	33 %	45 %	18 %	
Manual worker*	0 %	60 %	40 %	0 %	
Not occupied	3 %	40 %	39 %	19 %	
<b>Type of locality</b>					
Rural area or village	0 %	43 %	33 %	25 %	
Small/ middle size town	14 %	35 %	42 %	10 %	
Large town	5 %	31 %	53 %	11 %	
<b>Image of the EU</b>					
Positive	30 %	0 %	70 %	0 %	
Neutral	0 %	17 %	82 %	2 %	
Negative	0 %	53 %	21 %	26 %	
Don't know	0 %	0 %	79 %	21 %	
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>					
Total "know what the EU is all about"	5 %	31 %	52 %	11 %	
Total "don't know what the EU is all about"	4 %	38 %	38 %	20 %	

## 4. Citizens' Mood

This section of the report considers respondents' views on how satisfied they are with their personal life as well as the main challenges facing their country today.

### 4.1 Life Satisfaction

Life satisfaction in Syria has worsened since 2021 with 23% describing themselves as very or fairly satisfied (- 7 ppt since 2021). 71% Syrian respondents describe themselves as not very or not at all satisfied (same as in 2021). The proportion who do not feel at all satisfied with their life has increased by 13 ppt to reach 30%.



The sociodemographic analysis reveals considerable differences between subgroups of the population. Life satisfaction is highest amongst younger age groups – 40% of those aged 15–24 compared with 17% of those aged 55–64. Those with the highest level of education are most likely to describe themselves as not satisfied (81%) while those still studying are most likely to be satisfied (40%). Those living in large towns are more satisfied than those in rural areas (25% cf. 21%).



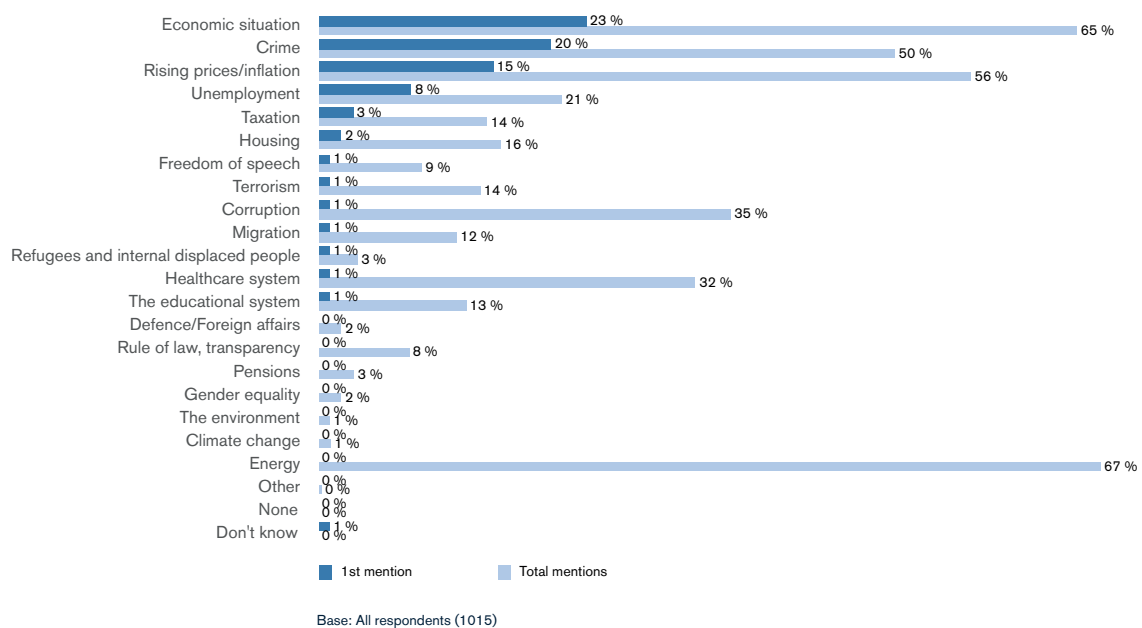
Base All Respondents	Syria 1015		
	Total "Satisfied"	Total "Not satisfied"	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	23 %	71 %	6 %
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	23 %	72 %	4 %
Female	22 %	70 %	8 %
<b>Age</b>			
15 – 24 years	40 %	53 %	6 %
25 – 39 years	22 %	74 %	5 %
40 – 54 years	21 %	73 %	6 %
55 – 64 years	17 %	74 %	9 %
65+ years*	16 %	77 %	8 %
<b>Education</b>			
Still studying	40 %	50 %	10 %
No education	17 %	72 %	11 %
15 years or less*	28 %	60 %	13 %
16 – 19 years	24 %	72 %	4 %
20 years and more	16 %	81 %	2 %
<b>Occupation</b>			
White collar, manager	26 %	72 %	2 %
Employee	16 %	80 %	4 %
Self employed	23 %	72 %	5 %
Manual worker*	0 %	100 %	0 %
Not occupied	25 %	67 %	8 %
<b>Type of locality</b>			
Rural area or village	21 %	73 %	6 %
Small/ middle size town	14 %	78 %	9 %
Large town	26 %	67 %	6 %
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	26 %	71 %	4 %
Neutral	30 %	65 %	5 %
Negative	21 %	71 %	7 %
Don't know	6 %	92 %	2 %
<b>Respondents perceived knowledge of the EU</b>			
Total "know what the EU is all about"	27 %	68 %	5 %
Total "don't know what the EU is all about"	21 %	72 %	7 %

## 4.2 Issues facing the Country

The chart below shows the most important issues facing Syria.

Unsurprisingly, Syrian respondents have identified the economic situation as the key issue (23%, + 4 ppt since 2021) and mentioned in total by 65%. Given the hardship Syrians live in since a decade, these results reflect a more structural worry than if it was, like several other countries, the conjunctural issue of rising prices/inflation which was cited as the most important one.

C2a/C2b. What do you think is the most important issue facing Syria at the moment? Firstly? And then?



The next issues most likely to be mentioned are crime (mentioned by 20% as the most important issue and 50% in total) and rising prices and inflation (mentioned by 15% as the most important issue and by 56% in total).

After prompting, respondents expressed concern about other key issues including energy (mentioned in total by 67% of respondents), corruption (35%) and the healthcare system (32%).