

Study conducted for the Identity and
Democracy Foundation (ID)



Quantitative Study on the perception of immigration in the **European Union**

Overall results

Note technique

Study sponsor: Identity and Democracy Foundation.

The ID Foundation is partly funded by the European Parliament and is sole responsible for this publication.

Sampling:

The study was carried out on five representative samples of the country's population aged 18 and over, totalling 3002 people.

- 600 people in Germany
- 600 people in France
- 601 people in Netherlands
- 600 people in Italy
- 601 people in Czechia

The representativeness of the sample in relation to the population of the country concerned was established using the quota method: gender, age, social category (profession or income bracket), level of education, region, and category of conurbation.

Fieldwork dates:

Interviews were conducted from October 15 to October 20, 2023.

For you, is the subject of immigration and its consequences for the member states of the European Union:

	Top priority	Important	Secondary	Insignificant
GERMANY	24%	57%	15%	4%
FRANCE	34%	53%	11%	2%
ITALY	34%	60%	5%	1%
NETHERLANDS	40%	50%	7%	3%
CZECHIA	31%	57%	9%	3%

The subject of immigration and its consequences for the member states of the European Union – PRIORITY TOPIC FOR :

In Germany

- ✓ 30% of men and 19% of women
- ✓ 64% of graduates consider the subject "important", and 21% "top priority"

In France

- ✓ 41% of men and 28% of women
- ✓ 47% of those aged 65 and over
- ✓ 47% of blue-collar workers
- ✓ And 60% of those who think immigration plays a very negative role

The subject of immigration and its consequences for the member states of the European Union – PRIORITY TOPIC FOR :

In Italy

- ✓ 63% of those who think immigration plays a very negative role

In the Netherlands

- ✓ 48% of men and 32% of women
- ✓ 52% of the over 65s, and 17% of the under 25s
- ✓ 60% of those who think immigration plays a very negative role
- ✓ 57% of PVV supporters

✓ In Czechia

- ✓ 40% of 50-64 year-olds
- ✓ No particular effect of education
- ✓ 44% of those who think immigration plays a very negative role

The subject of immigration and its consequences for the member states of the European Union – PRIORITY TOPIC FOR :

Despite national differences, an **age and gender effect** can be observed almost everywhere.

Above all, the importance attached to this subject is **correlated with a very negative opinion** of the phenomenon.

Social level and level of education, which play a major role in France, are less significant elsewhere.

But in all countries, it is a subject that is widely considered to be important or a priority.

For each of the following statements, would you say you agree or disagree?

The European Union is effectively protecting member states from rising migratory flows.

	Agree	Disagree
GERMANY	26%	74%
FRANCE	28%	72%
ITALY	19%	81%
NETHERLANDS	30%	70%
CZECHIA	21%	79%

For each of the following statements, would you say you agree or disagree?

The European Union is effectively protecting member states from rising migratory flows.

Inhabitants of the five European countries surveyed do not believe that the EU protects them from migratory flows.

This is particularly true of those who believe that immigration has a negative effect.

For each of the following statements, would you say you agree or disagree?

The EU's demographic decline should primarily be offset by immigration from outside Europe.

	Agree	Disagree
GERMANY	29%	71%
FRANCE	39%	61%
ITALY	34%	66%
NETHERLANDS	33%	67%
CZECHIA	22%	78%

The same general trend can be observed when it comes to demographics :
non-European immigration is overwhelmingly rejected.

For each of the following statements, would you say you agree or disagree?

The EU's demographic decline should be offset as a matter of priority by more incentive-based family policies, enabling couples to have as many children as they wish.

	Agree	Disagree
GERMANY	71%	29%
FRANCE	70%	30%
ITALY	85%	15%
NETHERLANDS	48%	52%
CZECHIA	84%	16%

Widely approved elsewhere, the use of incentive-based family policies divides opinion in the Netherlands. This fairly even split is reflected in the different analysis categories.

For each of the following statements, would you say you agree or disagree?

Asylum applications should be lodged and processed outside the EU.

	Agree	Disagree
GERMANY	75%	25%
FRANCE	54%	46%
ITALY	49%	51%
NETHERLANDS	73%	27%
CZECHIA	65%	35%

The balanced responses in Italy can be explained by the broad opposition of ecologist, left-wing and centrist sympathizers.
In France, over half of women (52%) are opposed to the idea

For each of the following statements, would you say you agree or disagree?

The EU must finance physical barriers - i.e. walls, fences, and surveillance systems - at its external borders.

	Agree	Disagree
GERMANY	60%	40%
FRANCE	56%	44%
ITALY	43%	57%
NETHERLANDS	54%	46%
CZECHIA	81%	19%

Geographical location largely explains the differences in opinion.
This is particularly true of Italy, compared with Czechia, for example.

Have you ever heard of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum?

	Yes	No
GERMANY	46%	54%
FRANCE	29%	71%
ITALY	47%	53%
NETHERLANDS	39%	61%
CZECHIA	39%	61%

There are significant national differences in this respect.
Within each country, the usual factors of political information come into play:
men, young people and graduates are better informed.

Regarding migrants who arrived illegally, the EU could decide to distribute them on its own authority among the various member countries, and each European country would be obliged to pay a fine of 20,000 euros for each illegal migrant it refused to take in.

Would you support or oppose this project ?

	Support	Oppose
GERMANY	57%	43%
FRANCE	36%	64%
ITALY	66%	34%
NETHERLANDS	33%	67%
CZECHIA	14%	86%

Public opinion is very mixed on this subject.

Some countries, such as Italy and Germany, already have large numbers of migrants on their soil, and welcome the idea.

In Germany, for example, 75% of those who think immigration is a positive thing, and almost 50% of those who think it's a negative thing, are in favour.

In Italy too, anti-immigrationists are divided almost equally on this question.

Do you believe that non-European immigration is worsening insecurity in Europe?

	Absolutely	Rather	Not really	Not at all
GERMANY	49%	35%	14%	2%
FRANCE	42%	34%	20%	4%
ITALY	41%	40%	16%	3%
NETHERLANDS	41%	40%	17%	2%
CZECHIA	71%	24%	5%	0%

There's no real divide on this question, although the Czechs are the most assertive. Elsewhere, only 16% to 24% of people don't think that immigration makes insecurity worse.

Even in France, where this rate is highest, 55% of LFI and PS supporters, and 53% of EELV supporters, say that immigration aggravates insecurity strongly or rather.

Do you think that immigration to (name of country) is currently a positive or negative factor?

	Very	Rather	Positive	Rather	Very	Negative	No role
GERMANY	2%	18%	20%	35%	40%	75%	5
FRANCE	3%	19%	22%	32%	34%	66%	12%
ITALY	4%	25%	29%	35%	27%	62%	9%
NETHERLANDS	3%	13%	16%	42%	37%	79%	5%
CZECHIA	2%	13%	15%	35%	41%	76%	9%

Between 62% and 79% of people in the five countries surveyed believe that **immigration plays a negative role** for their country.

In France, we find the usual 66% of people opposed to immigration.

There is also a direct link with the importance of the issue: the proportion of those who judge immigration negatively rises from 46% among those who think it's a secondary issue to 83% among those who think it's **a priority issue**.

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Participation 