
SURVEY RESULTS AND INITIAL ANALYSIS

The Anna Lindh Foundation/Ipsos MORI Poll on Intercultural Trends in the Euro-Med region

27 April 2017

Funded by:



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Introduction

The INTERCULTURAL TRENDS REPORT of the Anna Lindh Foundation, established in 2010, represents a landmark study in cross-cultural trends and social change across Europe and the southern Mediterranean region. The REPORT entering its third edition in 2017, is based on a unique public opinion survey carried out with citizens across the Mediterranean, as an instrument for measuring trends in cultural relations and triggering action for change at the policy level of regional cooperation.

The Intercultural Trends Survey, commissioned by the Anna Lindh Foundation and carried out by Ipsos, was conducted in eight European countries (Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal and the Netherlands) and five Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEM) countries/territories (Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia); the target population consisted of all individuals, aged 15 or older, resident in the country/territory. Fieldwork took place between 19 September 2016 and 8 November 2016; during that period, 1,000 interviews were completed in each of the countries/territories covered. In most countries, a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) methodology was implemented; in Israel and Palestine, on the other hand, face-to-face interviewing was applied.

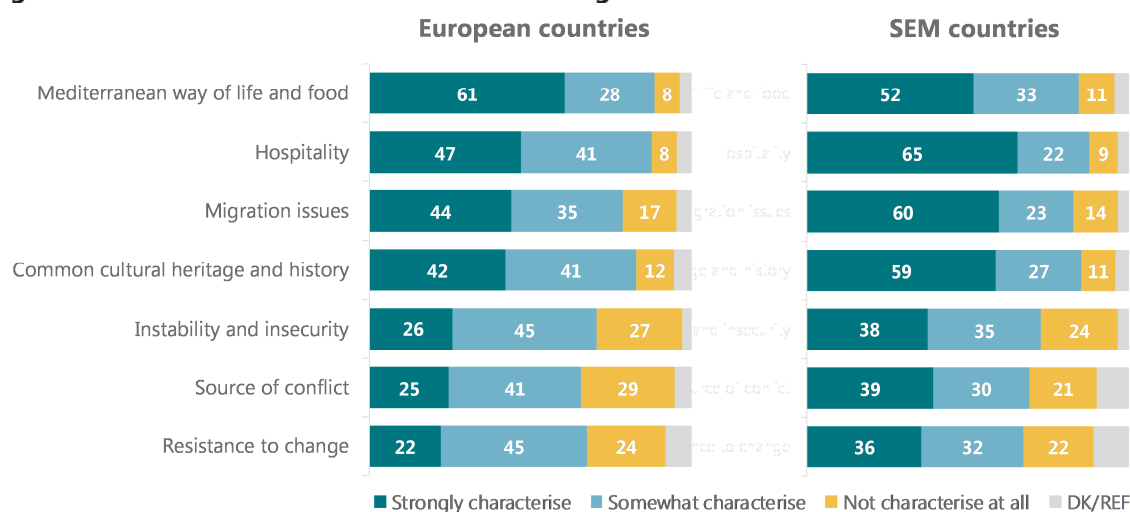
This initial analytical report summarises some important findings observed in the survey. The results of the survey are analysed at overall level for both country groups – European countries and countries of the SEM, and at country level. For some questions, differences between responses based on socio-demographic characteristics are also analysed. All findings presented in this report are based on weighted data. A post-stratification weight was calculated that corrects for imbalances in the samples with respect to gender, age and activity status.

Representation of the Mediterranean

Characteristics of the Mediterranean region

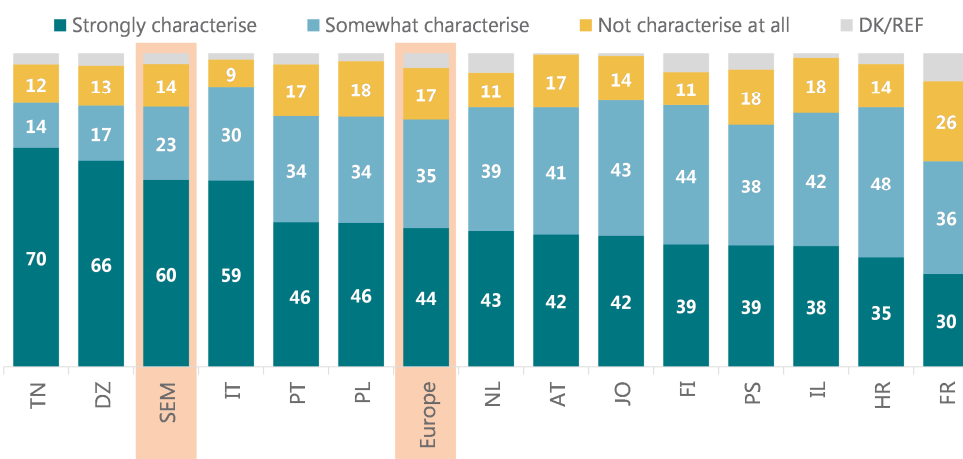
At the start of the interview, respondents were presented with several associations that people may have when thinking about the Mediterranean region. The largest share of respondents in the European countries surveyed (61%) thought that the region was *strongly characterised* by a **Mediterranean way of life and food**. As in previous waves, respondents in SEM countries were more likely to associate the region with **hospitality**, followed by a **common cultural heritage and history** (65% and 59% of “strongly characterise” responses, respectively).

Although respondents from both country groups tended to choose positive associations over negative ones, the exception was the association with **“migration issues”**. In the European countries, a minority of respondents answered that the Mediterranean region was *strongly characterised* by a resistance to change, as a source of conflict, or by issues of instability and insecurity (between 22% and 26% of “strongly characterise” responses); however, when asked whether the Mediterranean region was strongly characterised by migration issues, 44% answered affirmative. Negative associations were somewhat more common in SEM countries than in European countries (between 36% and 39% of “strongly characterise” responses for “resistance to change”, “source of conflict”, and “instability and insecurity”), and 60% of respondents in SEM countries answered that the region was *strongly characterised* by migration issues.

Figure 1: Characteristics of the Mediterranean region


Survey question: Different people have different thoughts about what the Mediterranean region represents. I will read out a set of ideas and images; please tell me if you think these characterise the Mediterranean region strongly, somewhat or not at all. **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

Figure 2 shows that there is a large variation across countries in the proportion of respondents who answered that the Mediterranean region was *strongly characterised* by migration issues. In two SEM countries and one European country, a majority of respondents shared the view that the Mediterranean region was *strongly characterised* by migration issues: Tunisia (70%), Algeria (66%) and Italy (59%). Although Jordan hosts a large number of refugees, respondents in the country were less likely to *strongly* associate the Mediterranean region with migration issues; the results for Jordan were very similar to those of some of the European countries, such as Austria and the Netherlands. Respondents in France were overall the least likely to think about migration issues as *strongly* characterising the Mediterranean region.

Figure 2: Is the Mediterranean Region characterised by migration issues?


Survey question: Different people have different thoughts about what the Mediterranean region represents. I will read out a set of ideas and images; please tell me if you think these characterise the Mediterranean region strongly, somewhat or not at all. **Base:** all respondents (%), by country

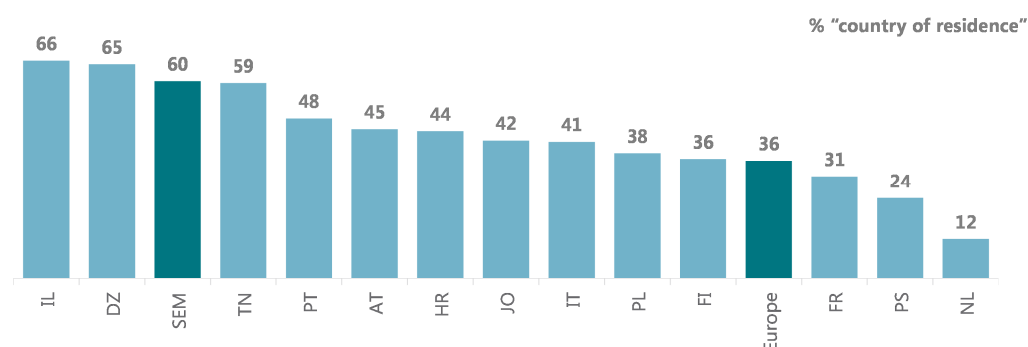
The media in Europe frequently report on the migration and refugee crisis, and this may have influenced the associations that respondents make when thinking about the Mediterranean region. In the survey, respondents were asked whether they had seen or heard anything in the media that had influenced their views about people in SEM countries. Among European respondents who had seen or heard something in the media about SEM countries, 47% said the Mediterranean region was *strongly characterised* by migration issues; however, among respondents who had not been exposed to media coverage about the SEM region, just 33% shared the view that the Mediterranean region was *strongly characterised* by migration issues.

Attractiveness of Europe and the SEM countries as places to live

In order to find out more about the attractiveness of Europe and the SEM countries as places to live, respondents were asked which country in the world they would choose to start a new life. Two-thirds of respondents in the European countries surveyed said they would stay in Europe if they had a free choice; among these respondents, a majority answered they would simply start a new life in their own country. However, in the SEM countries included in this study, many more respondents than in the European countries replied that, if given a choice, they would start a new life in their current country of residence (60% in SEM countries vs. 36% in European countries).

Looking at the individual country results, it can be seen that respondents in the Netherlands were overall the least likely to respond that they would start a new life in the Netherlands (12% would start again in the Netherlands, compared to 43% who would prefer to start a new life in another European country, 15% in North America and 15% in Australia or Oceania). Palestine was also found at the bottom of the country ranking with only 24% of respondents who would stay in Palestine if given a choice (roughly equal shares of respondents in Palestine would prefer to start a new life in another SEM country – 16%, in a Gulf country – 17%, or in Europe – 21%). In Algeria and Israel, on the other hand, close to two-thirds of respondents indicated that their country of residence would be their preferred place to start a new life (65% and 66%, respectively); a somewhat lower, but still relatively high proportion was also observed in Tunisia (59%).

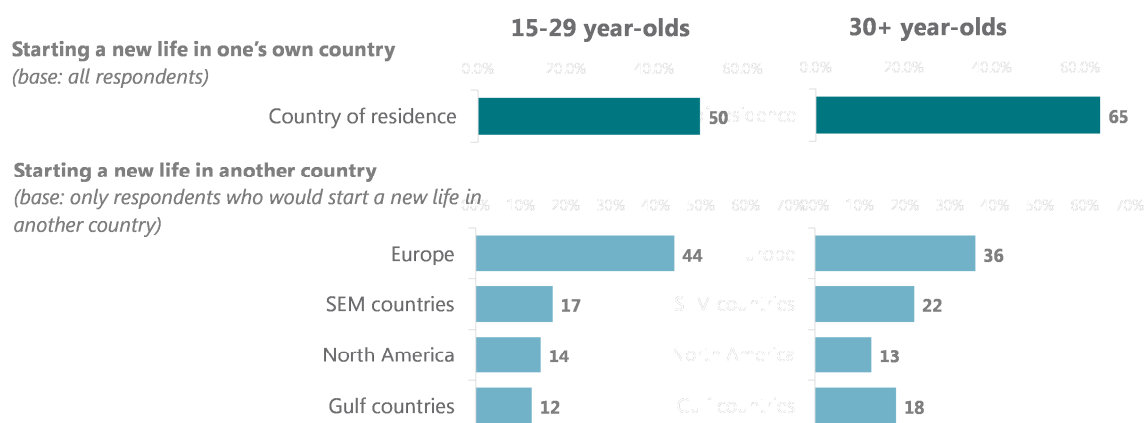
Figure 3: Country of residence as preferred place to start a new



Survey question: If you could start a new life, in which country of the world would you start it? **Base:** all respondents (% "country of residence"), by country

In both country groups, young people were less likely to state that they would start a new life in their country of residence. In the European countries, this response was selected by 40% of respondents aged 30 and higher, compared to 17% of under 30 year-olds. In the SEM countries, this difference was 65% vs. 50% (see Figure 4).

Focussing solely on respondents in SEM countries who replied that would prefer to start a new life in a country other than their country of residence (see the bottom chart of Figure 4), it can be seen that respondents under 30 years-of-age were more oriented towards Europe than respondents aged 30 and higher (44% vs. 36%). Compared to young people, over 29 year-olds more frequently selected another SEM country (22% vs. 17% for under 30s) or a Gulf country (18% vs. 12%).

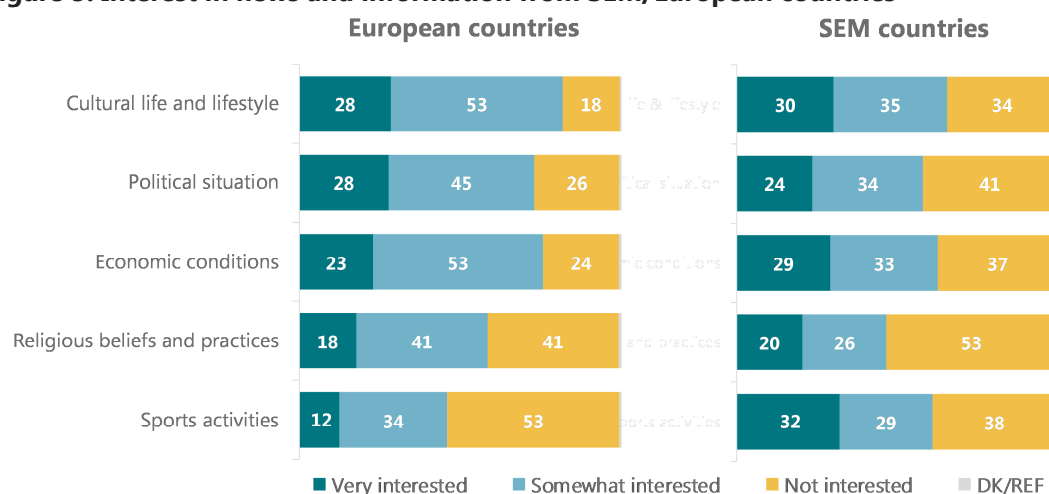
Figure 4: Preferred countries to start a new life for respondents in SEM countries

Survey question: If you could start a new life, in which country of the world would you start it? Base: all respondents – SEM countries (%), by age group

Cross-cultural media reporting

Interest in news and information about the other country group

Similar proportions of respondents in European and SEM countries surveyed indicated being *very interested* in news and information about the other countries' cultural life and lifestyle, political situation and economic conditions. For example, roughly 3 in 10 respondents in both country groups answered that they were *very interested* in news and information about cultural life and lifestyle in the other country group. Looking at the overall level of interest (i.e. summing "very" and "somewhat interested" responses), however, a clear difference emerges between the European and SEM countries. In the European countries, respondents were more likely to respond being "somewhat interested" in news and information, while fewer respondents replied not being interested. For example, 28% of respondents in the European countries said they were *very interested* in news and information about the political situation in SEM countries, and 45% reported being *somewhat interested*, compared to 26% who were not interested. In the SEM countries, on the other hand, 41% of respondents reported not being interested in news and information about the political situation in Europe.

Figure 5: Interest in news and information from SEM/European countries

Survey question: Thinking about the countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries), how much interest would you say you personally have in news and information about their [TOPICS A-E]? Base: all respondents (%), by region

Although a majority of respondents in both country groups were at least *somewhat interested* in news and information about the other countries' cultural life and lifestyle, political situation and economic conditions, the level of interest in news and information about **religious beliefs and practices** tended to be lower.

Some of the highest levels of interest in news and information were observed among European respondents with **friends or relatives in SEM countries**. By way of example, 34% of respondents in Europe who indicated having friends or relatives in a country of the SEM were also very interested in news and information about the political situation in SEM countries; among respondents without friends or relatives in SEM countries, just 25% reported being very interested in news and information about this topic.

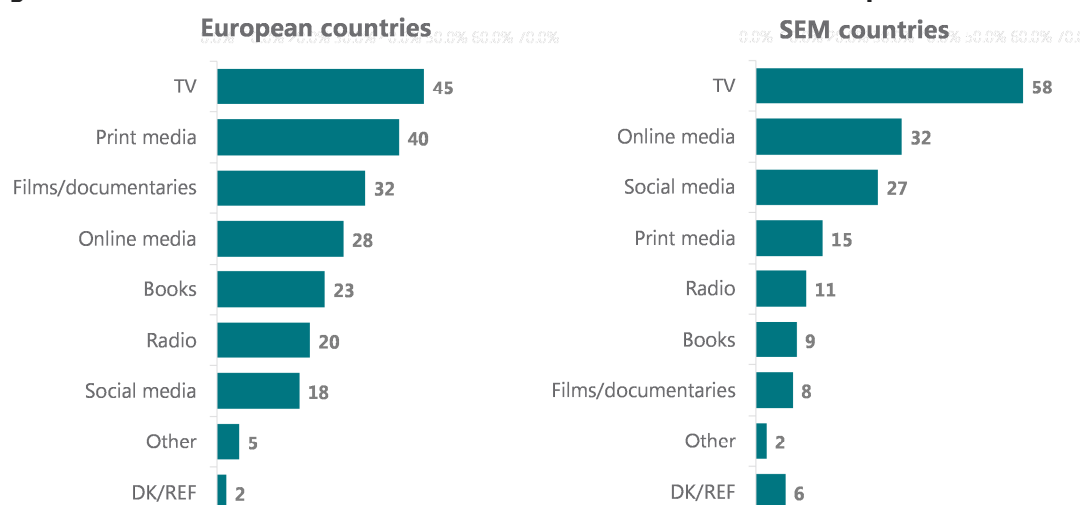
In the European countries, respondents were the least likely to report being interested in news and information about **sports activities** in the countries of the SEM; for this item, a slim majority (53%) selected the "not interested" response. In the SEM countries, on the other hand, the proportion expressing an interest in news and information about sports activities in Europe (32% "very interested" and 29% "somewhat interested" responses) is similar to the proportions observed for some of the other topics, such as cultural life and lifestyle, political situation and economic conditions.

Most trusted media sources for news and information about the other country group

In both country groups, **television** was the most used and most trusted source for information about the other country group. In the European countries, television (mentioned by 45%) was followed by **print media** (40%) and films/documentaries (32%). In the SEM countries, television was selected by 58% of respondents, while all other sources were listed by considerably smaller proportions of respondents: such as, 32% for online media and 27% for social media.

Although print media was an important information source for respondents in Europe, this source was selected by just 15% of respondents in SEM countries. **Social media**, on the other hand, were an important and trusted source for information about European countries for respondents in SEM countries, while they were less frequently mentioned by respondents in European countries as a source of information about SEM countries. In the SEM countries, respondents in Jordan were the most likely to rely on social media (mentioned by 46% of respondents as one of the most trusted information sources), followed by respondents in Tunisia, Palestine and Israel (between 29% and 33%).

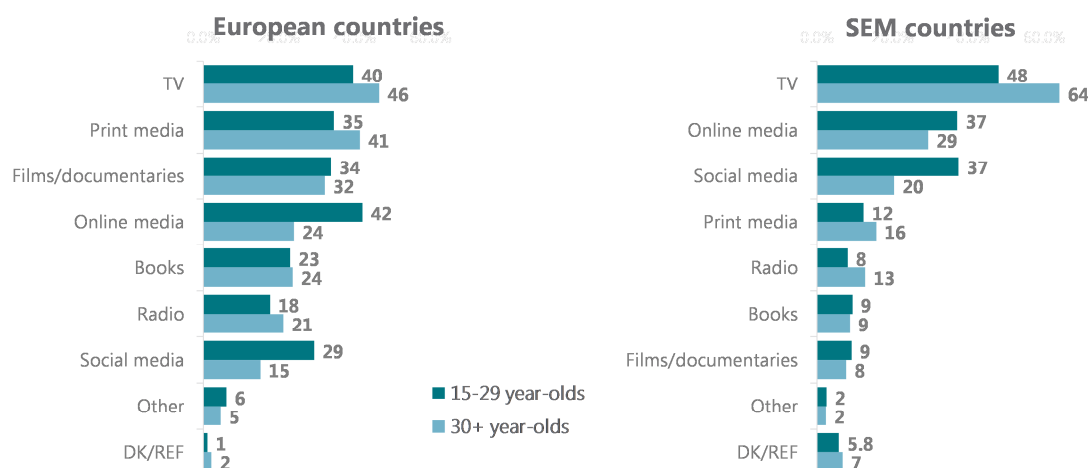
Figure 6: Most trusted media sources for information about SEM/European countries



Survey question: Which of the following sources do you trust most for information about European countries/SEM countries? **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

In both country groups, television was a more important information source for respondents aged 30 and over than for respondents between 15 and 29 years-of-age; the largest difference was observed in the SEM countries, where 64% of respondents aged 30 and over selected television as a trusted media source for information about Europe, compared to 48% of respondents younger than 30. Online media and social media, on the other hand, were more popular, and more trusted information sources for young people in both country groups. Notwithstanding, even when focussing solely on young people's use of media, the observation that social media was a more important source for information in SEM countries remains valid (37% of under 30s in SEM countries selected social media, compared to 29% in European countries).

Figure 7: Most trusted media sources for information about SEM/European countries, by age group

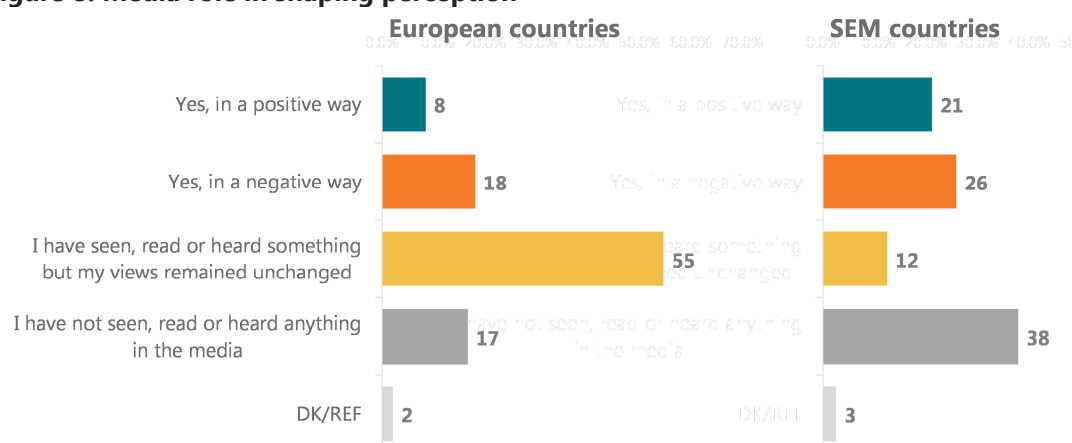


Survey question: Which of the following sources do you trust most for information about European countries/SEM countries? **Base:** all respondents (%), by age group and region

Cross-cultural media reporting

While 81% of respondents in European countries reported having seen, heard or read something in the media about people living in SEM countries, this figure was lower in SEM countries where 59% had seen, heard or read something about people living in Europe. Another important difference in the results of the two country groups relates to the **impact of media in shaping perceptions**. A slim majority (55%) of respondents in European countries reported that their views had remained unchanged, compared to 26% who reported a change in their perceptions (8% "positive" vs. 18% "negative"). In SEM countries, just 12% reported no change in their views, compared to 21% who said their views had changed in a positive direction and 26% in a negative direction. It is interesting to note that this difference in the media's role in shaping perceptions was also observed in the 2009 survey, when a large majority of respondents in Europe said that the media in their countries did not encourage a more positive image of people in countries bordering the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Across almost all countries surveyed, respondents who said that media stories had changed their views in a negative way outnumbered those reporting a positive impact. For example, in the Netherlands, 30% of respondents now had a more negative image about people in SEM countries, while 8% has changed their views in a positive way. In Israel and Palestine, on the other hand, positive responses outnumbered negatives ones (30% "positive change" vs. 22% "negative change" in Israel; 39% vs. 15% in Palestine).

Figure 8: Media role in shaping perception


Survey question: During the past 12 months, have you seen, read or heard anything in the media that has influenced your view of people in European countries/SEM countries? **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

The impact of media in shaping perceptions not only varied across countries, but also across socio-demographic groups. For example, in both country groups, more highly-educated respondents were more likely to have seen, heard or read something in the media about people living in the other country group. In European countries, higher educated respondents were more likely to state that there had been no change in their views due to these media stories (61% vs. 40% for the least educated respondents), and there was also a small difference in the proportions reporting a positive change (19% vs. 16%, respectively). In the SEM countries, on the other hand, respondents with a university degree most frequently reported that media stories had changed their views about Europeans in a negative way (32% vs. 21% for the least educated respondents).

Dialogue and contacts

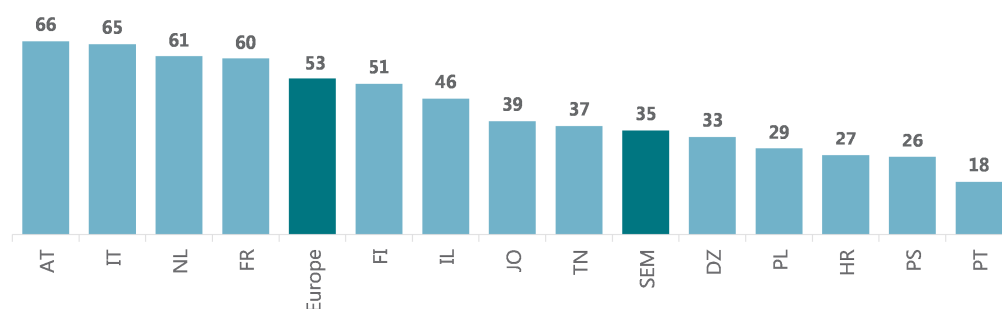
Cross-cultural encounters and method of interaction

Looking at the possibilities for dialogue between the regions, the survey found that interactions are most common in some of the European countries surveyed. On average, 53% of respondents in the European countries replied that, in the past 12 months, they had talked to or met someone from a SEM country. In the SEM countries, 35% of respondents had talked to, or met with someone from a European country in the past 12 months.

In France, the Netherlands, Italy and Austria, between 60% and 66% of respondents answered that, in the past 12 months, they had talked to or met someone from a SEM country. A different picture emerged in Portugal, Croatia and Poland, where less than 3 in 10 respondents reported having talked to or met someone from a SEM country (between 18% and 29%). In the SEM countries, in line with the findings from the previous survey, cross-cultural interactions occurred less frequently than in some of the European countries; between 26% and 46% of respondents in the SEM countries had talked to or met with some Europeans in the past 12 months.

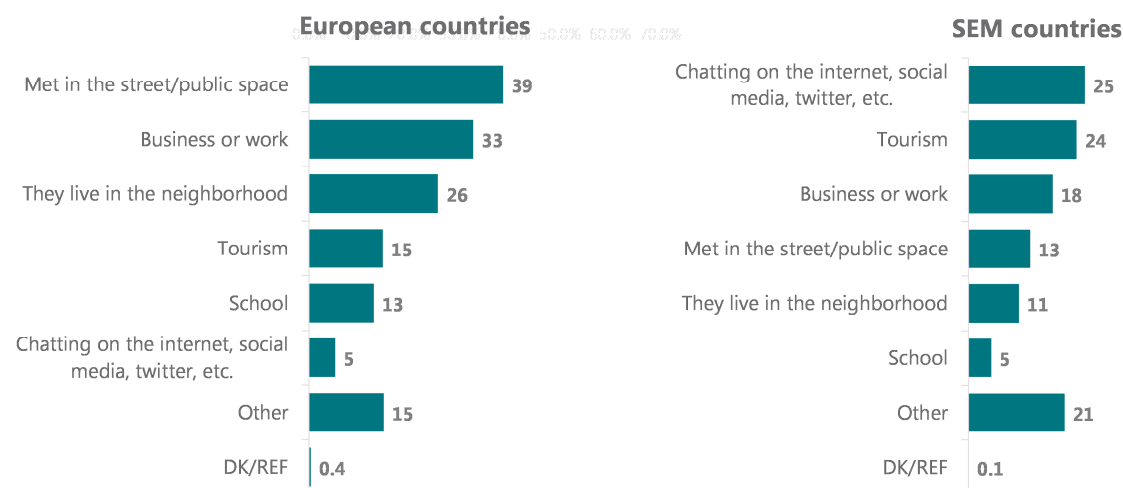
Figure 9: Interactions with people from SEM/European countries

% who talked to or met someone from a SEM/European country (in the past 12 months)



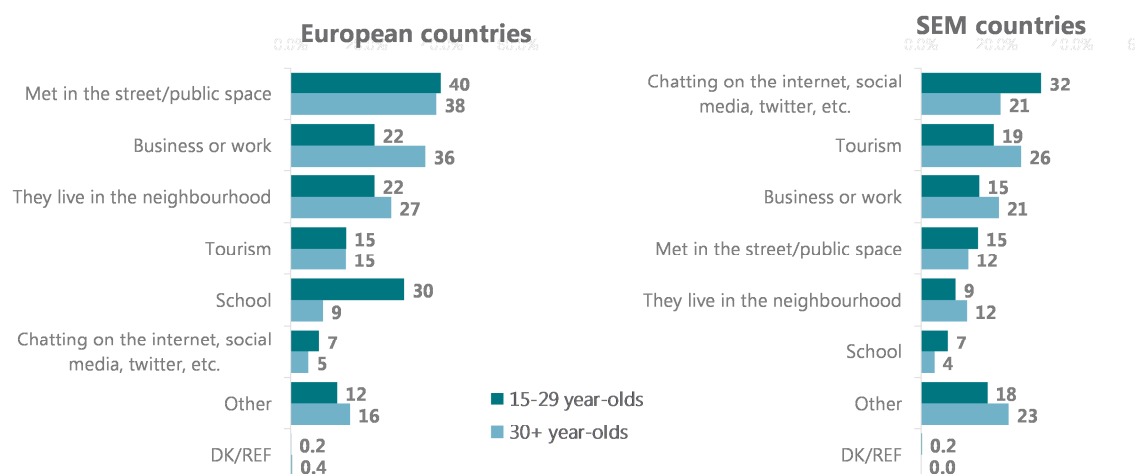
Survey question: In the past 12 months, have you talked to or met someone from a country bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/a European country (asked in SEM countries)? **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

Not only the frequency of interactions differs across countries, but also the **method of interaction**. In the European countries, 39% of respondents who had talked to or met someone from a SEM country in the past 12 months, said they had met these people in the street or at a public place, and an additional 26% answered that people from SEM countries lived in their neighbourhood. In the SEM countries, on the other hand, more casual encounters in the street or neighbourhood occurred less frequently, while the main methods of interaction were using social media, chatting on the internet (mentioned by 25% of respondents who had talked to or met someone from a European country) and meeting Europeans via tourism (mentioned by 24%). Once again, as in the previous wave of the survey, the study confirms the importance of the internet in the SEM countries not only as a source for information but also as a means of communication.

Figure 10: Cross-cultural encounters: method of interaction

Survey question: Thinking of this/these person(s) you have interacted with, was this mainly through: **Base:** respondents who have talked to or met someone from a SEM/European country in the past 12 months (%), by region

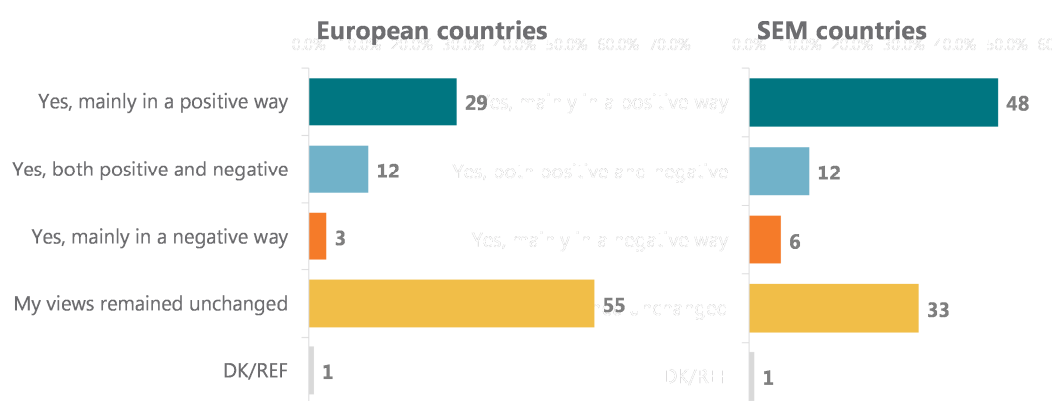
Figure 9 illustrated that interactions via social media (e.g. chatting on the Internet, following posts on Twitter etc.) were the most important type of cross-cultural interactions for young people in the SEM countries, but were not important for young people in the European countries (32% vs. 7%, respectively). Another important difference between young people in the two country groups is linked to education; while 30% of under 30 year-olds in the European countries who had talked to or met someone from a SEM country in the past 12 months, said they had met them at school, the corresponding figure for under 30 year-olds in the SEM countries was just 7%.

Figure 11: Method of interaction for cross-cultural encounters, by age group

Survey question: Thinking of this/these person(s) you have interacted with, was this mainly through: **Base:** respondents who have talked to or met someone from a SEM/European country in the past 12 months (%), by region and age group

Impact of cross-cultural encounters on respondents' views

It was noted above that cross-cultural encounters in European countries tended to more casual than in SEM countries – i.e. more interactions happened in the street, in a public place etc. This difference in method of interaction may also help to explain some other findings of the survey. Respondents who had talked to or met with someone from the other country group in the past 12 months were asked whether these encounters had changed their views. In the European countries, where a larger share of interactions happened in public spaces, 55% of respondents stated that their encounters with people from SEM countries had not had any impact on their views about people from these countries, while 29% said that these encounters had changed their views in a positive way. The results for SEM respondents are almost a mirror image with 48% of respondents stating that, due to meeting people from European countries, their views about Europeans had changed in a positive way and 33% answering that there had been no impact on their views.

Figure 12: Did meeting people from SEM/European countries cause a change in views?

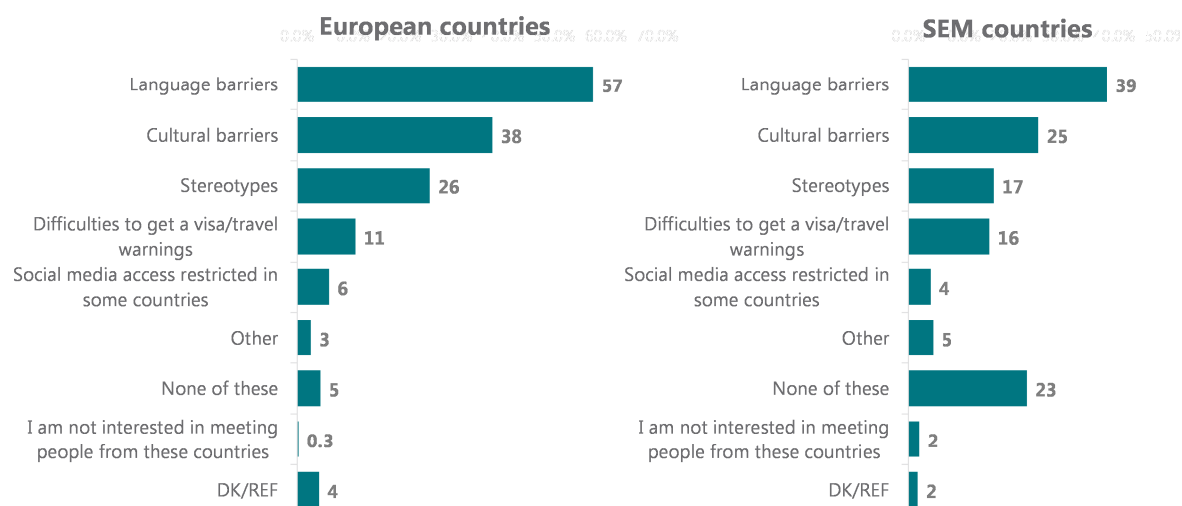
Survey question: Thinking of your encounter(s) with this/these person(s), did meeting or talking to them change or reinforce your view of people from countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries)? **Base:** respondents who have talked to or met someone from a SEM/European country in the past 12 months (%), by region

In line with the results of differential impact of media across socio-demographic groups, the impact of cross-cultural encounters on someone's perceptions also depends on characteristics of the respondent. For example, in the European countries surveyed, respondents who tended to be more tolerant towards other cultures not only more frequently reported having talked to or met someone from a SEM country in the past 12 months, but they also more frequently reported that these encounters had changed their view in a positive way (31% vs. 23% for respondents with a low level of tolerance towards other cultures); a similar pattern was also observed in the SEM countries.

Barriers to cross-cultural encounters

In the European countries, language problems were identified as the most important barriers to cross-cultural encounters (selected by 57% of respondents). Although language barriers were also ranked highest in the SEM countries (selected by 39%), the picture that emerged is quite different. Cross-cultural encounters tended to occur less frequently in SEM countries, but the type of interactions tended to be less casual (e.g. chatting over the internet can help to maintain regular contact with one's social network). This difference in the type of cross-cultural encounters probably offers a partial explanation for the fact that more respondents in the SEM countries thought there were in fact no barriers to cross-cultural encounters (23% vs. 5% in Europe).

Figure 13: Barriers to cross-cultural encounters



Survey question: What do you think are the main barriers when meeting with or talking to people in or from countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries)? **Base:** respondents who have talked to or met someone from a SEM/European country in the past 12 months (%), by region

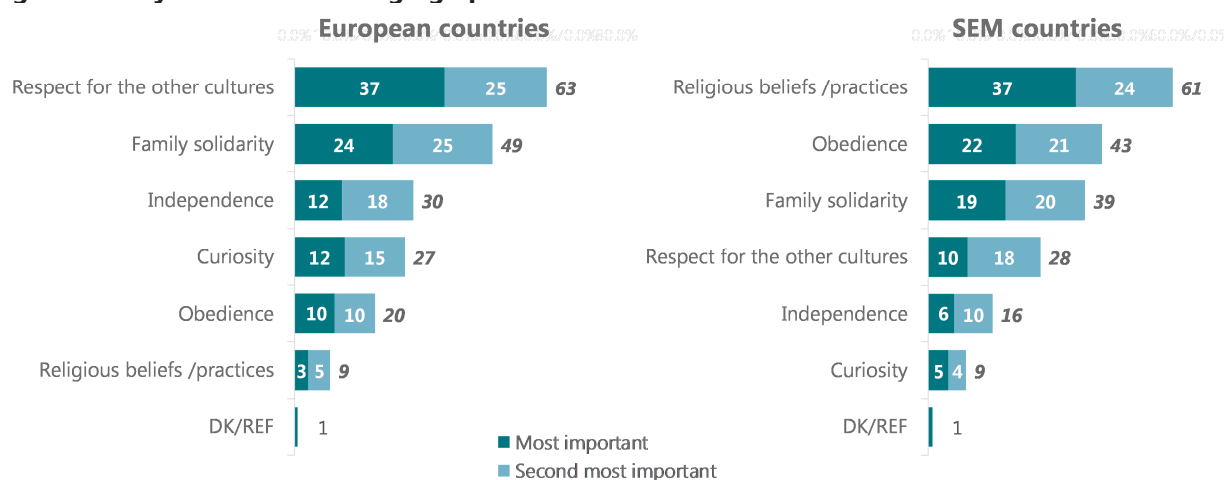
Key values when bringing up children

As in previous waves, one of the aims of the survey was to find out whether values were shared or differed between respondents from European and SEM countries. In order to find out more about respondents' key values, a question was included that asked respondents to identify the two main values (out of a list of six values) that were the most important for them personally when raising children.

Respondents in the European countries selected respect for other cultures (63%) and family solidarity (49%) as the most important values for them personally when raising children. In Austria, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal, **respect for other cultures** was the highest ranked value (mentioned by between 64% and 71% of respondents as the first or second most important value), while in Poland, Croatia and Finland, **family solidarity** (mentioned by between 57% and 62%) ranked higher than respect for other cultures. Religious beliefs and practices ranked lowest across all European countries surveyed.

In the SEM countries, on the other hand, **religious beliefs and practices** were the most important value when raising children; 61% of respondents selected this value as the most or second most important value. **Obedience** and **family solidarity** were selected by, respectively, 43% and 39% of respondents. The importance of religious beliefs and practices was observed across all age groups and was chosen as most important or second most important value when raising children by 61% of 15-29 year-olds, 63% of 30-49 year-olds and 60% of 50+ year-olds.

Figure 14: Key values when bringing up children

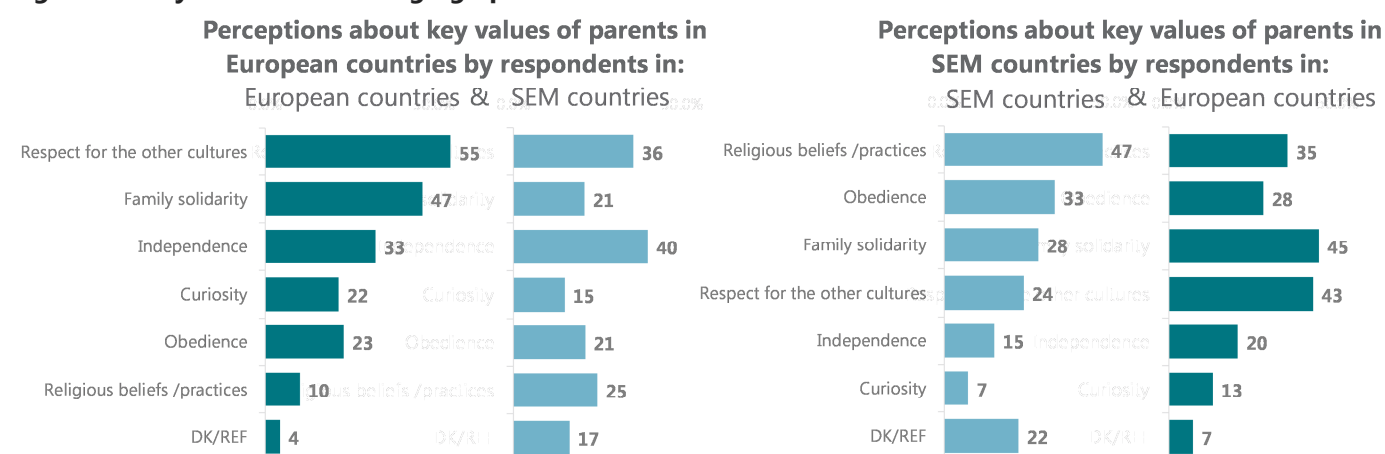


Survey question: In bringing up their children, parents in different countries may place different emphasis on different values. Assuming that we limit ourselves to six values only, I'd like to know which one of these is most important, to you personally, when raising children? And the second most important? **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

A more detailed look at the results for the European countries shows that respondents who described themselves as "very religious" (a score of 8 or higher on a scale from 0 to 10) were less likely to focus on curiosity (20% vs. 41% for non-religious respondents in European countries) and independence (19% vs. 33%), but more frequently referred to family solidarity (53% vs. 40%) and religious beliefs and practices (23% vs. 2%). Nonetheless, both for very religious respondents and non-religious respondents in the European countries, respect for other cultures was by far the most important value (selected by, respectively, 61% and 65% of respondents). Although religious beliefs and practices were mentioned by 23% of very religious respondents in the European countries surveyed, this remains in sharp contrast to the 61% of respondents in the SEM countries who placed this value first.

Respondents were also asked which values they thought were central to people from their country group and to those from the other group. Respondents in European countries not only expected that the values most important to them personally – i.e. respect for other cultures and family solidarity – would also be the most important values for other European parents, but they also thought that these same values would be important for parents raising children in SEM countries (45% selected family solidarity and 43% respect for other cultures as most important values for parents in SEM countries). This also means that respondents in Europe strongly underestimated the importance of religious beliefs for parents raising children in SEM countries (selected by 35%, compared to the 61% observed in the SEM countries – see right-hand chart in Figure 14). Respondents in the SEM countries in turn overestimated the importance of religious beliefs for parents in European countries (selected by 25%, compared to 9% observed in the European countries – see left-hand chart in Figure 14), but also the importance of independence (mentioned by 40%, compared to 30% observed in the European countries).

Figure 15: Key values when bringing up children



Survey question: And which one of these six do you think is most important to parents raising children in Europe? And the second most important? And which one of these six do you think is most important to parents raising children in countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea? And the second most important?

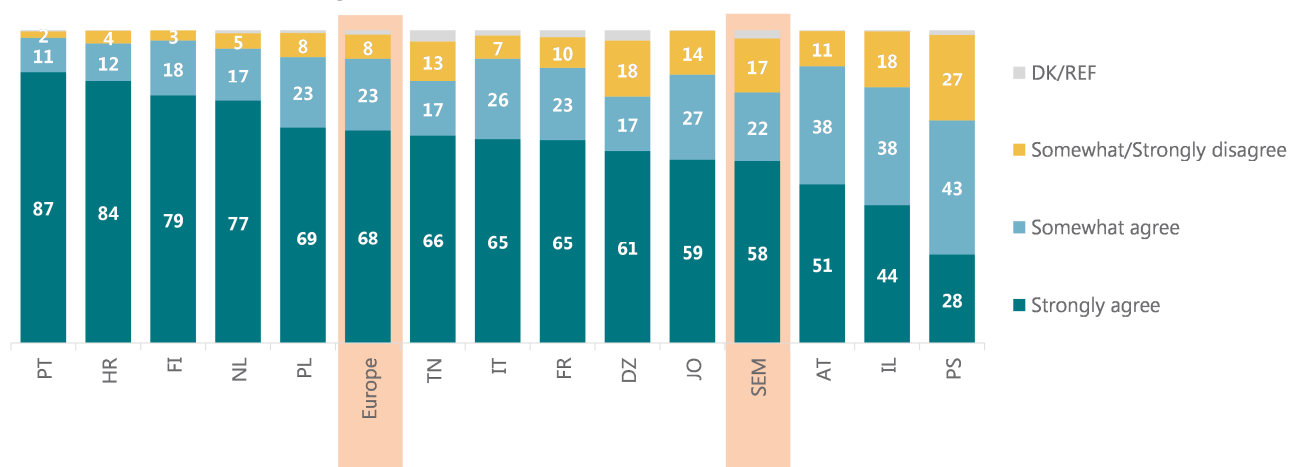
Base: all respondents (%), by region

Cultural and religious diversity

Perceptions about diversity

It was noted in the previous section that respect for other cultures was the highest ranked value for respondents in the European countries surveyed. The importance of this value can also be observed when looking at the level of agreement with the statement that “people from different cultural and religious backgrounds should have the same rights and opportunities”. On average, 91% of respondents in the European countries *strongly or somewhat agreed* when presented with this statement, compared to just 8% who disagreed with the statement. In the SEM countries, 79% of respondents *strongly or somewhat agreed*, that people from different cultural and religious backgrounds should have the same rights and opportunities. One in six respondents in the SEM countries disagreed with this proposition.

Figure 16: Agreement with the statement: “People from different cultural and religious backgrounds should have the same rights and opportunities”



Survey question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

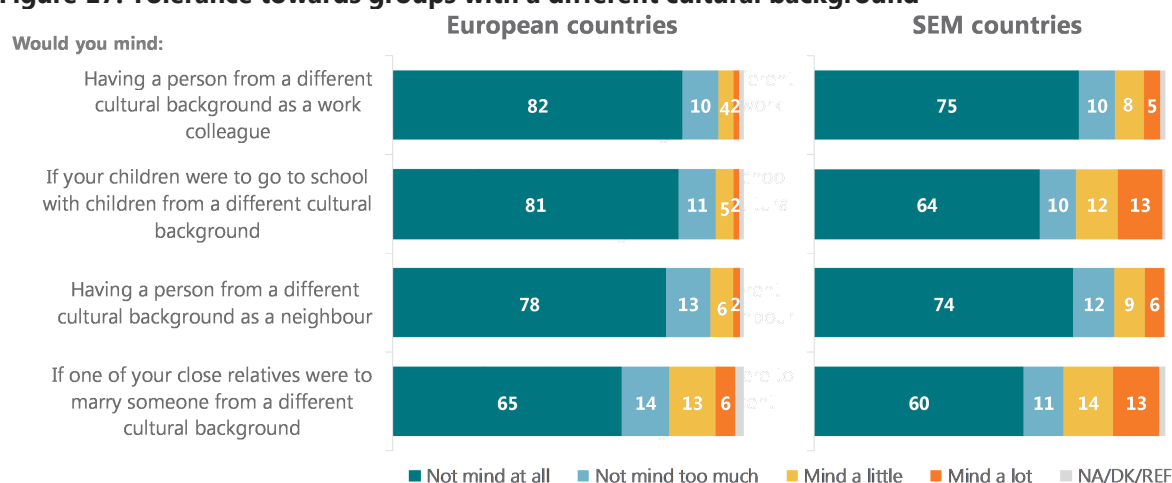
Figure 16 illustrates that, in four countries, 5% – or less – of respondents expressed doubts that all people should have the same rights and opportunities: Portugal, Croatia, the Netherlands and Finland. In the latter country, 71% of respondents *somewhat or strongly disagreed* that **cultural and religious diversity constitutes a threat to the stability of society**. In the Netherlands, Portugal and Croatia, however, a larger share of respondents than in Finland thought that there could be a threat from diversity (between 45% and 53% *somewhat or strongly agreed*). In Tunisia, Algeria and Palestine, respondents were overall the most likely to accept the statement that diversity constitutes a threat to stability (between 54% and 63% *somewhat or strongly agreed*).

Jordan ranked closest to the European countries in terms of disagreeing with the statement that diversity constitutes a threat (62% *somewhat or strongly disagreed*); moreover, respondents in Jordan were overall the most likely to *strongly or somewhat agree* that **cultural and religious diversity was important for the prosperity of their society** (89%). Respondents in Poland were divided in their perception whether cultural and religious diversity would constitute a threat to stability (45% agreed and 53% disagreed).

Respondents' level of tolerance towards other cultures

The next question tried to assess respondents' level of tolerance towards people from different cultural backgrounds. Most respondents in the European countries indicated that they would *not mind at all* having a person from a different cultural background as **work colleague** (82%) or as **neighbour** (78%), or that their **children were to go to school with children from a different cultural background** (81%). When asked whether respondents would mind that a close relative were to marry someone from a different cultural background, in the European countries, just 65% replied that they would not mind at all, while the remaining respondents selected a response between “not mind too much” and “mind a lot”.

In the SEM countries, three-quarters of respondents replied that that would *not mind at all* having a person from a different cultural background as work colleague (75%) or as neighbour (74%), but fewer respondents said the same when asked whether they would mind that their children went to school with children from a different cultural background (64% “would not mind at all”).

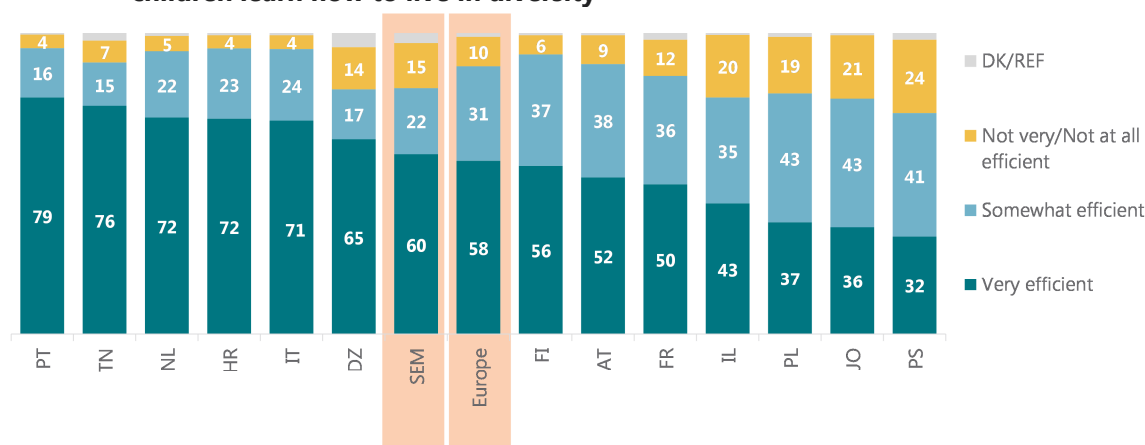
Figure 17: Tolerance towards groups with a different cultural background

Survey question: I am now going to read out a number of scenarios. For each of them, please tell me whether you would mind a lot, mind a little, or whether you would not mind too much, or not mind at all. **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

The level of tolerance towards people from different cultural backgrounds was highest among respondents who had talked to or met someone from the other country group in the past 12 months, and who indicated that these encounters had been positive. Respondents who had not been in contact with people from the other country group, or who had been in contact, but described these encounters as negative, on the other hand, were more likely to express a level of intolerance towards groups with a different cultural background. For example, while 87% of European respondents who had had positive encounters with people from SEM countries answered that they would *not mind at all* having a person from a different cultural background as a neighbour; this figure decreased to 73% for those who had not been in contact with people from SEM countries and 72% for those who described their encounters with people from SEM countries as negative. The corresponding proportions in SEM countries were 77%, compared 74% and 65%, respectively.

Living together in multicultural environments

In the European countries, 89% of respondents thought that ensuring that schools are places where children learn how to live in diversity would be an efficient measure in order to help people live better together in a multi-cultural environment; the corresponding figure in the SEM countries was 82%.

Figure 18: Actions that can help people living better together: “To ensure that schools are places where children learn how to live in diversity”

Survey question: Today's societies are becoming more and more diverse, with people from different cultures and countries living together. How efficient do you think that each of the following actions would be in helping people live better together in a multi-cultural environment? **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

Figure 18 presents the variation across countries in the proportion of respondents who thought that this measure would be *very efficient* in order to help people live better together in a multi-cultural environment. In Finland and France, 56% and 50%, respectively, of respondents thought that ensuring that schools are places where children learn how to live in diversity would be a *very efficient* measure in order to help people live better together in a multi-cultural environment. Overall the highest level of support for this measure was observed in Portugal (79% “very efficient” responses). In just four countries, less than half of respondents selected the “very efficient” response: Palestine (32%), Jordan (36%), Poland (37%) and Israel (43%).

Respondents were also asked whether they thought that **promoting the organisation of multi-cultural events** would be efficient in helping people live better together in a multi-cultural environment. The proportion of “very efficient” responses for this measure, however, was lower across all countries surveyed. In the Netherlands, for example, 72% of respondents thought that helping people live better together could be *very efficiently* done via ensuring that schools are places where children learn how to live in diversity, but just 29% thought that promoting multi-cultural events would be very efficient.

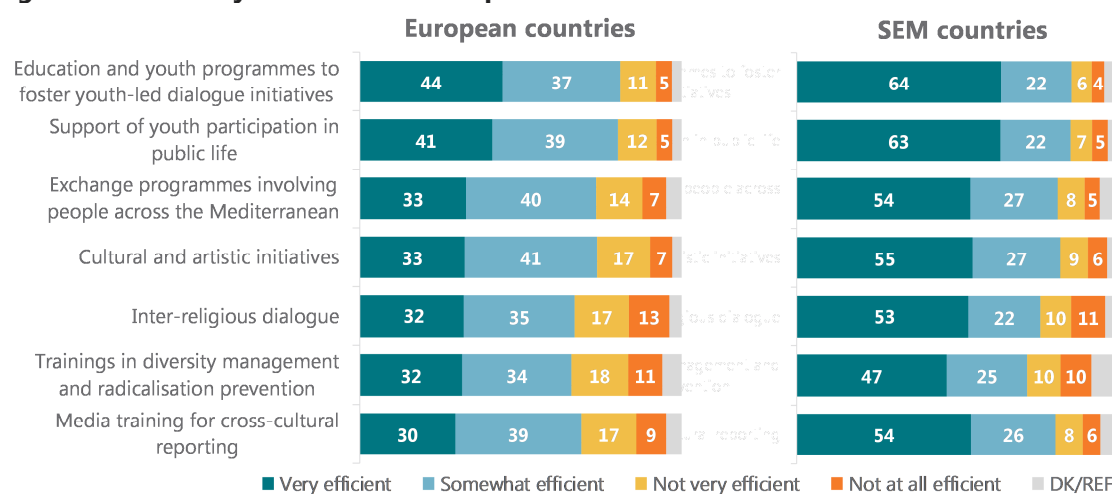
Respondents with a high level of tolerance towards people from different cultural backgrounds, compared to those with lower levels of tolerance, were more likely to believe that ensuring that schools are places where children learn how to live in diversity and promoting the organisation of multi-cultural events would be efficient measures to help people live better together. Moreover, respondents who tended to be more tolerant towards other cultures were also more likely to think that the **expression of cultural diversity should be enabled at the work place and at public spaces**. For example, in the European countries surveyed, two-thirds of respondents with a high level of tolerance¹ answered that it was easier for people from different cultures to live together if the expression of cultural diversity was allowed at the workplace (67% “very efficient” and “somewhat efficient” responses); however, among those with a low level of tolerance just 41% shared this view.

Tackling radicalisation through dialogue

When asked to evaluate the efficiency of various mechanisms to prevent and deal with conflicts and radicalisation in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, 81% of respondents in the European countries thought that education and youth programmes that foster youth-led dialogue initiatives would be “very efficient” or “somewhat efficient”. Similarly, 80% believed that supporting youth participation in public life would be at least somewhat efficient. The remaining measures were considered efficient by smaller shares of respondents in Europe.

More than 80% of respondents in the SEM countries thought that education and youth programmes that foster youth-led dialogue initiatives and supporting youth participation in public life would be effective measure to deal with conflicts and radicalisation. The results for the SEM countries show that respondents in these countries appeared to be more likely than respondents in European countries to believe that each of the mechanisms presented to them would be “very efficient” or “somewhat efficient”. It should, however, be noted that this higher level of support was mainly observed in Algeria, Jordan and Tunisia.

¹ A summary measure was created to assess respondents’ level of tolerance towards people from different cultural backgrounds; this measure combines responses to the questions whether respondents would mind having a person from a different cultural background as work colleague or as neighbour, whether they would mind that their children were to go to school with children from a different cultural background or that a close relative would marry someone from a different cultural background.

Figure 19: Efficiency of mechanisms to prevent and deal with conflicts and radicalisation

Survey question: Many countries, in Europe and on the southern and eastern Mediterranean shores, are facing challenges, such as conflicts and radicalisation. How efficient do you think that each of the following mechanisms will be in preventing and dealing with these challenges? **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

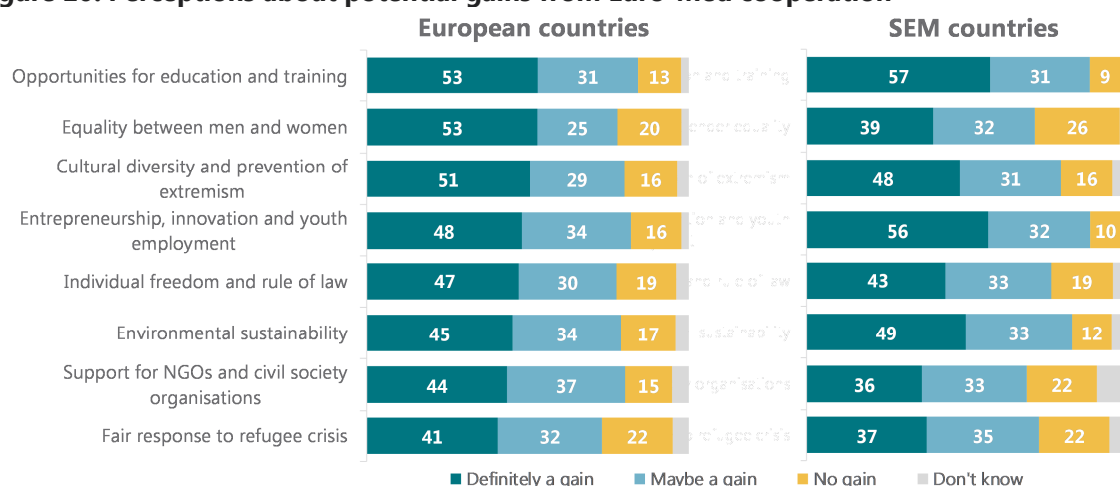
Comparing the results across the different mechanisms presented to respondents, one observation could be made across almost all countries surveyed: the proportions of “very efficient” responses were highest for the mechanisms focusing on young people. A similar observation could also be made when looking at the findings by age group. Not only respondents under 30, but also respondents across all other age groups, were most likely to think that mechanisms focusing on young people would be very efficient in preventing and dealing with conflicts and radicalisation.

The efficiency of the various mechanisms was not evaluated in a uniform way, and respondents’ evaluation depended on their experiences and interests. For example, in the European countries, respondents who reported being interested in news and information about SEM countries, displayed a stronger belief in the efficiency of various dialogue mechanisms. Across both country groups, respondents with a high level of tolerance toward other cultures were the strongest supporters of dialogue mechanisms.

Gains from ENP

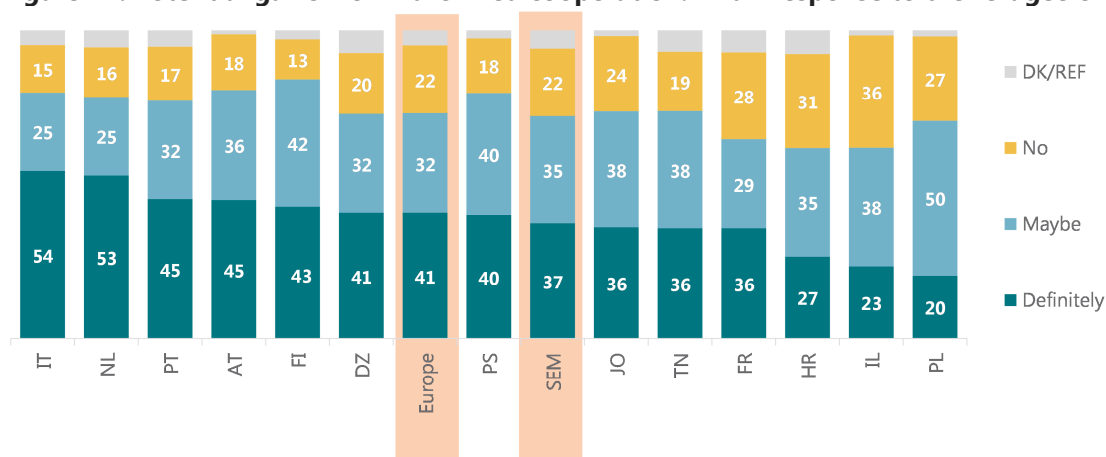
For all potential gains of Euro-Med cooperation presented to respondents, the majority view in both country groups was that there *might be* gains from reinforcing cooperation, while a minority of respondents did not expect to see any gains for their society. In the SEM countries, 88% of respondents said there could be gains for their society in terms of new opportunities for education and training and the same proportion also saw opportunities in relation to opportunities for entrepreneurship, innovation and youth employment. In the European countries, 84% expected potential gains in the area of education and training and 82% in the area of entrepreneurship, innovation and youth employment.

In the European countries, the largest proportion of “no gain” responses was measured for the item “a fair response to the refugee crisis” (22%); in SEM countries, 26% of respondents thought there would be no gains in terms of gender equality and 22% said the same for a fair response to the refugee crisis and support for NGOs and civil society organisations.

Figure 20: Perceptions about potential gains from Euro-Med cooperation

Survey question: Your country, with other European/SEM countries, has decided to reinforce closer cooperation with SEM/European countries in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Which of the following do you think your society can gain by reinforcing such cooperation? **Base:** all respondents (%), by region

We started this report with the observation that there is a large variation across countries in the proportion of respondents who answered that the Mediterranean region was *strongly characterised* by migration issues. Figure 21 illustrates that there is also a large variation among the people in the different countries surveyed in the perception of the expected gains from a reinforced cooperation in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy in relation to a fair response to the refugee crisis. While less than 3 in 10 respondents in Poland (20%), Israel (23%) and Croatia (27%) replied there would definitely a gain in this area, this view was shared by twice as many respondents in the Netherlands (53%) and Italy (54%).

Figure 21: Potential gains from Euro-Med cooperation: A fair response to the refugee crisis

Survey question: Your country, with other European/SEM countries, has decided to reinforce closer cooperation with SEM/European countries in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Which of the following do you think your society can gain by reinforcing such cooperation? **Base:** all respondents (%), by country

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ABOUT THE ANNA LINDH REPORT ON INTERCULTURAL TRENDS

The "Intercultural Trends Report" is a pioneering tool for knowledge and action on cross-cultural relations in the Mediterranean region. Published every three years by the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Report combines a unique public opinion survey gathering thousands of voices across Europe and the southern and eastern Mediterranean, with a wide range of analysis of leading cross-cultural experts. The Report is not only a scientific tool. It is also the basis for debate across the Anna Lindh Foundation's 42-country civil society network and in partnership with the main regional institutions. Previous Report presentations have included: the Italian Parliament in Rome, the UN Forum in Rio de Janeiro, the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo, and the European Commission in Brussels.