

EMBARGO: 22 February 2024 at 10:00am CET

New data from ICCS 2022 European Report and International Database now available open access

Young Citizens' Views and Engagement in a Changing Europe

Using a specially designed European student questionnaire, ICCS 2022 measured aspects of civic and citizenship education that have relevance within the European context, by considering social and political issues that participating European countries viewed as relevant in the region. The data gathered through this questionnaire are supplementary to the international questionnaire results released back in November and provide further region-specific information.

The European student questionnaire collected information on students' attitudes and behaviors in relation to contemporary issues (e.g., sustainability, migration, discrimination, and cooperation among European countries), as well as on specific aspects included in previous cycles of the study (e.g., expected electoral participation at the European level, students' sense of their European identity), which allows for measuring changes over time.

Eighteen countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Denmark, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) and two benchmarking participants (the German states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Schleswig-Holstein) administered the ICCS 2022 European student questionnaire (see Figure 1).

More than 66,000 eighth-grade students (approximately 14 years of age) and around 33,000 teachers from 2,800 schools participated in ICCS 2022 in these European countries.

Commenting on the results, Dr. Wolfram Schulz, ICCS 2022 International Study Director, said:

The results of the European student questionnaire confirm some of the main findings of the previous regional questionnaire, administered in the second cycle of ICCS (2016): students continue to report a strong sense of European identity; they endorse cooperation among European countries on a different range of issues, especially for the safeguarding of the environment and the adoption of common policies in Europe. They are in favor of the freedom of movement for European citizens within Europe, although findings also suggest considerable support for additional regulations. The 2022 results also shed light on eighth grade students' attitudes and engagement toward some key topics at the European level, such as sustainability, their perception of the future of Europe and of the European Union, and their trust in European Institutions.

Students reported quite strong attention to the environmental effects of their consumer behaviors and held positive expectations about the future of Europe. However, they were also concerned about socioeconomic differences, poverty, and unemployment in the future. They further expressed positive attitudes toward the EU, although at the same time they supported critical statements about specific-EU characteristics.

More than half of the students across the European ICCS 2022 participating countries trusted the European Commission and the European Parliament, and expected to participate in European elections in the future.

[Link to the full ICCS 2022 European Report](#)
[Link to the full ICCS 2022 International Report](#)
[Link to ICCS 2022 Infographics](#)
[Link to ICCS 2022 Assessment Framework](#)

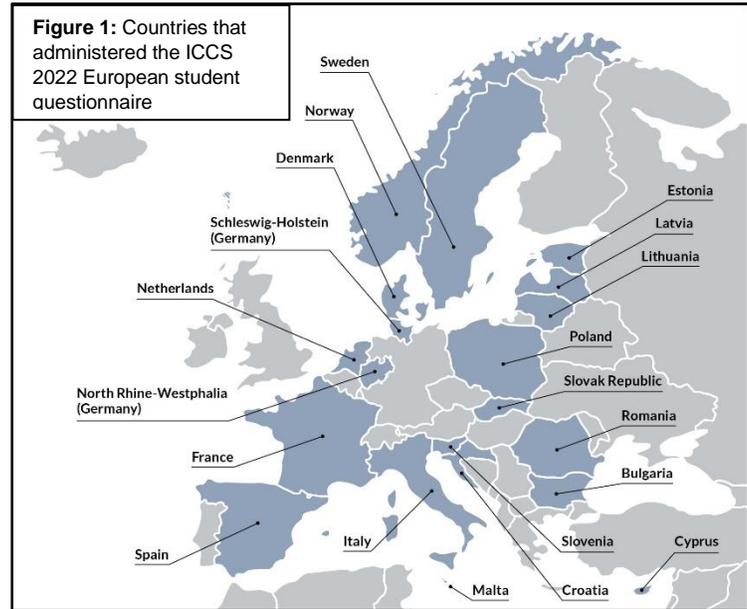
Contact for interviews: k.hill@iea.nl
Katie Hill, IEA Head of Communications



Adding to the results, Dr. Dirk Hastedt, IEA Executive Director, said:

In recent years, Europe has been facing a variety of challenges both within and beyond its borders: reforming migration policies, leading sustainable economic transitions, and dealing with the rise of populism and nationalism. Within this context, the ICCS European regional module allows countries to explore specific topics of common interest, such as students' attitudes toward the freedom of movement within Europe, toward cooperation among European countries and toward the European Union, their sense of European identity and their perceptions of the future of Europe.

Figure 1: Countries that administered the ICCS 2022 European student questionnaire



Also released open access today is the ICCS 2022 International Database and we encourage all those interested to dive into the data. In order to support and propel educational progress, there is a need for high-quality large-scale comparative studies as indispensable tools for gaining insights into the policies and practices that impact countries and students around the world. Studies such as ICCS play a pivotal role in aiding nations to develop their knowledge and research capacity.

Key Findings from the ICCS 2022 European Report

Students' sense of their European identity

- Most European eighth-grade students expressed a strong sense of European identity. On average, 95% of students reported seeing themselves as European.
- Findings also showed an increase in students' sense of European identity, when compared with previous cycles of ICCS.
- The majority of students from EU countries reported feeling part of the EU (81%) and were proud that their country is a member of the EU (91%).
- In all participating countries, students who expressed higher levels of trust in civic institutions also tended to have a stronger sense of European identity than students with lower levels of trust.

Students' attitudes concerning freedom of movement within Europe for European citizens

- The majority of students endorsed freedom of movement for citizens of European countries within Europe, although results also suggest considerable support among young people for additional regulations.
- On average, more than 90% of students believed that allowing citizens of European countries to work anywhere in Europe is good for the European economy (95%) and that citizens of European countries should be allowed to work anywhere in Europe (93%).
- In all countries, students from a higher socioeconomic background and those with higher levels of civic knowledge were more in favor of freedom of movement within Europe compared to students from a lower socioeconomic background and with lower levels of civic knowledge.



Students' attitudes toward cooperation among European countries

- Students supported cooperation among European countries for safeguarding of the environment and adopting common policies in Europe. 92% of students agreed with the statement that European countries should promote an economic growth sustainable for the environment.
- Majorities of students were in favor of the adoption of common rules to prevent and combat terrorism (92%), and supported the recognition of educational qualifications achieved in other European countries (91%).
- In most countries, students from higher socioeconomic backgrounds and with higher levels of civic knowledge were more supportive of cooperation among European countries with regard to environmental issues and adopting common policies.

Students' expectations about the future of Europe

- Students held positive expectations about the future of Europe in relation to stronger cooperation among European countries, the strengthening of democracy, improved access to healthcare for poor people, and increased numbers of women among political leaders.
- Many students expressed concerns related to socioeconomic differences, poverty, and unemployment. Larger economic differences between rich and poor countries in Europe was the scenario that 73% of students expected was likely or very likely to happen in Europe in future.

Students' attitudes toward the European Union

- Students expressed positive attitudes toward the EU in terms of its role in protecting human rights and freedom of speech, sharing a common set of rules and laws, and strengthening peace and the economy. On average across countries 83% of students agreed with the statement that the EU makes Europe a safe place to live.
- Many students across countries also expressed negative attitudes toward specific characteristics related to the functioning of the EU, in particular with regard to the unequal distribution of power among member states, with a perceived predominance of the richest member states (72%), the high costs of EU institutions (68%), and the length of the legislative processes (68%).
- On average, in most of the participating countries, students with higher socioeconomic backgrounds and students with higher levels of civic knowledge tended to show more positive attitudes towards the EU.

Students' trust in the European Commission and the European Parliament and students' expected participation in European elections

- Across countries over half of students expected to participate in European elections in the future (61%). Still, their expectations to vote in European elections decreased compared to 2016 (58% in 2022 compared to 64% in 2016, of those countries that participated in both cycles).
- More than half of the students across participating countries expressed complete or quite a lot of trust in the European Commission (61%) and the European Parliament (62%). Students' trust in the European Commission and Parliament also decreased in 2022 compared to 2016.
- On average across participating countries, students' trust in European institutions was higher than their trust in their national governments (51%).
- Students' expected electoral participation in national elections was, on average, higher than students' expectations to vote in European elections.