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● European Power

## EU Coalition Explorer

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The EU Coalition Explorer presents the results of the EU27 Survey conducted by the European Council on Foreign Relations in the 27 member states of the European Union. It illustrates the expert opinions of more than 800 respondents who work on European policy in governments, think-tanks, academia, the media, and elsewhere. The Coalition Explorer creates a visual understanding of the views held by Europe's professional political class – information that otherwise is not available to policymakers or the public.

Across 20 policy areas, the EU Coalition Explorer shows the potential for future coalition building between EU member states. The interactive tool can be used to locate the EU's political centre – or centres – from which a more capable and cohesive European Union can be built.

*The 2020 edition of the EU27 Survey ran from 11 March to 28 April 2020. The EU Coalition Explorer 2020 was published on 8 July 2020.*



Findings

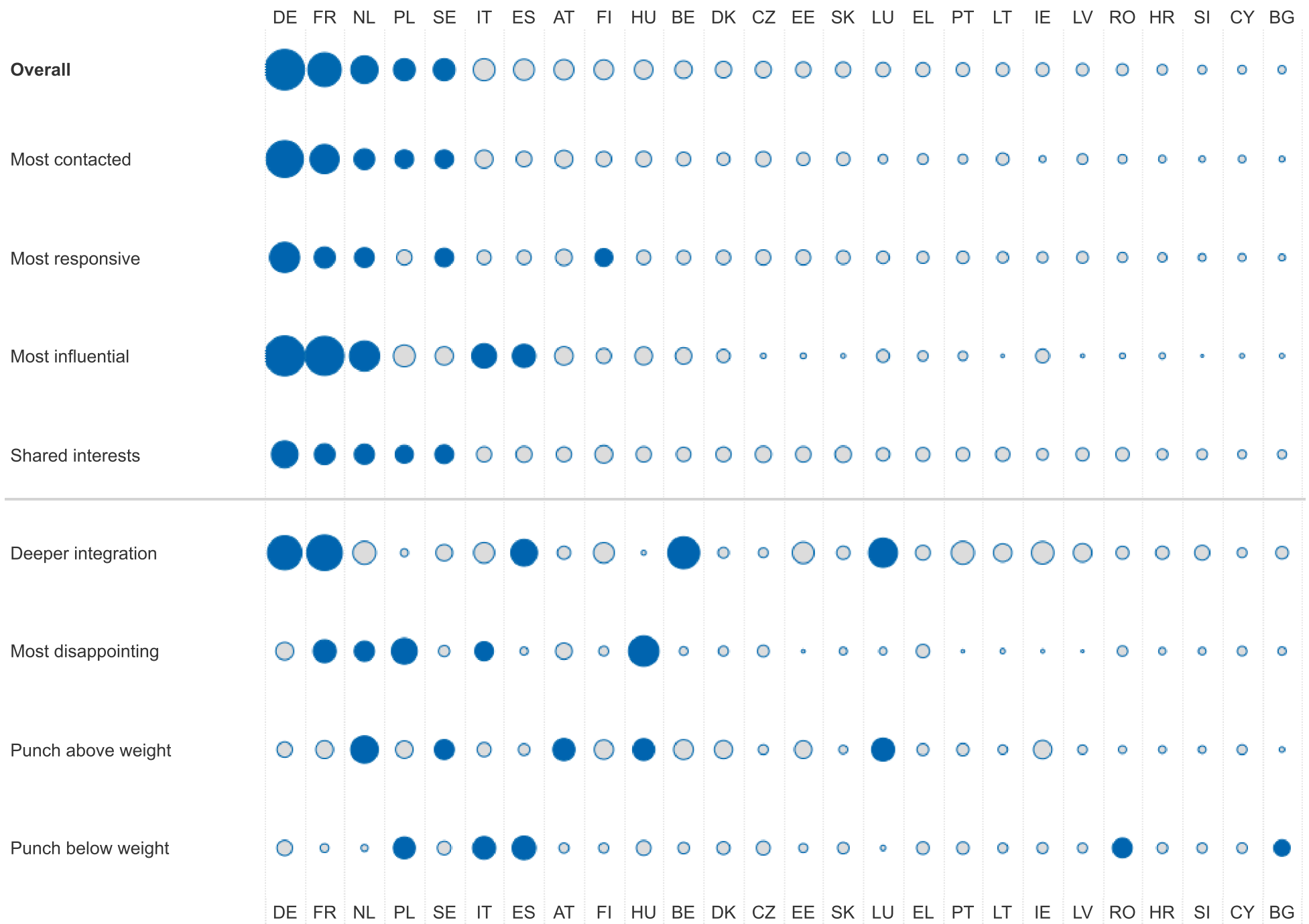
Highlight

**Overall results**

**Top 5**

Bottom 5

By countries and main survey questions



Source: ECFR  
ecfr.eu/eucoalitionexplorer



**FAQ**

**What is the EU Coalition Explorer?**

The EU Coalition Explorer is an interactive tool for exploring coalition building in the European Union. It illustrates the results of ECFR’s EU27 Survey of more than 800 professionals who work on European policy in governments, think-tanks, academia, the media, and elsewhere. It is an open resource to explore the survey results for the EU as a whole and for individual member states.

The 2020 edition of the EU Coalition Explorer has four main chapters: Preferences, Actor Level, Priorities, and Partners. Additional sections present the results of a supplemental expert survey on European cooperation in the coronavirus crisis and more detailed information on national policy intentions collected by ECFR’s associate researchers.

## How do I use the explorer?

Whereas previous versions of the EU Coalition Explorer were presented in PDF format, the 2020 edition has been created as an interactive online tool using Tableau. The menu along the top of the tool displays the explorer's central chapters. By clicking on the titles, you can jump directly to any of the chapters. Within each chapter, additional menus allow for sorting the information by question, policy area, country, and other variables. Tooltips provide additional information on individual data points.

## Why did you conduct a survey on EU coalition building?

Europe's capacity to act collectively has become an increasingly critical issue as both the importance of intergovernmental decision-making and the level of political fragmentation have grown over recent years. Against this backdrop, a debate has started in member state capitals and the EU at large as to how the union can evolve and move forward. The surveys and the presentation of their results aim to inform the debate on how a more capable and cohesive EU can be built.

## Why are coalitions important?

A multi-speed Europe of differentiated integration with a progressive core and an associated periphery could serve as a template for future cooperation and solidarity within the EU and Europe at large. One could also imagine multiple, sometimes overlapping, coalitions of the willing for deeper integration in particular policy areas, with others prioritising different areas for closer cooperation. With our survey and the EU Coalition Explorer we aim to present the coalition potential of EU member states – both for coalitions that have visibly shaped European policy in the past and for those that may have been overlooked due to lack of data and accessible visualisation.

## Why did you invite “experts” to answer the questions?

The label “expert” is intentionally used to describe our survey. In contrast to public opinion polls with national representative samples, this survey aims to capture the views and insights of policy professionals. In the debate on the future of Europe, the views of Europe's political class – the professionals inside and outside government who work directly on policy or follow politics as expert observers – are central to understanding the dynamics that shape cooperation in the EU. The EU27 Survey and EU Coalition Explorer therefore complement ECFR's public opinion research, the [Unlock project](#).

## What is the [Policy Intentions Mapping](#) for?

The 2020 edition of the EU Coalition Explorer is accompanied by a mapping of the EU's 27 national governments' preferred policy outcomes across 20 policy areas. It complements the results of the expert survey. For example, while the Coalition Explorer documents whom policy professionals consider their key partners in particular policy areas, the Policy Intentions Mapping provides a reality check on whether preferences align in substance.

## What is the [Coronavirus Special](#) for?

The Coronavirus Special presents the results of a supplemental EU27 expert survey on European cooperation in the coronavirus crisis, which ran from 4 to 25 May 2020. The goal of this survey was to provide a glimpse into what happened to European cooperation as the pandemic reached its height. As a case study of European cooperation, the Coronavirus Special provides a reality check to the data collected in the Coalition Explorer 2020 and should be treated as a complementary tool.

## What is the [UK Special](#) for?

The UK Special presents the results of a supplemental survey of British policy professionals and expert observers of European affairs on the United Kingdom's relationships with the European Union and its member states. The survey ran from 27 March to 11 May 2020. The European Council on Foreign Relations asked policy experts about their personal vision for the UK's future role in global politics, as well as their assessment of the UK government's cooperation preferences, policy priorities for cooperation with the EU27, and favoured partners in various policy areas.

## How and when was the survey conducted?

The EU27 Survey and the supplemental survey on the coronavirus crisis were conducted through anonymous online questionnaires in which every question was mandatory to complete the survey. The invitations were sent by email to foreign ministries, government and parliament offices, think-tanks, research institutions, journalists, and other organisations working on European policy. Upon our request, a number of recipient institutions and individuals distributed the invitation within their professional networks or departments.

The 2020 edition of the EU27 Survey ran from 11 March to 28 April 2020 and comprised 15 individual questions. A total of 845 respondents answered at least the first substantive survey question. Of those, 684 participants completed the questionnaire. The distribution of respondents across EU member states, professional backgrounds, and areas of expertise can be viewed in the tool under “Survey Info”. All results displayed in the EU Coalition Explorer are based on the total number of responses to that respective question.

The Coronavirus Special of the EU27 Survey ran from 4 to 25 May 2020 and 7 individual questions. A total of 744 respondents answered at least the first substantive survey question. Of those, 677 participants completed the questionnaire

Research on national policy intentions across 20 policy areas was conducted by ECFR’s associate researchers between 9 March and 27 May 2020. The results are based on interviews with experts and policy professionals as well as on reviews of primary sources, such as government documents and party manifestos.

## Publications & Downloads



### Europe’s green moment: How to meet the climate challenge

Susi Dennision, Rafael Loss, Jenny Söderström – 20 April 2021

Member states are not divided into two diametrically opposed camps. This makes the implementation of the European Green Deal an intricate puzzle – yet achievable.

### EU Coalition Explorer 2020 data set

[Raw data \(XLSX, 3.67 MB\)](#)   [Questionnaire \(PDF, 687 KB\)](#)



### The big engine that might: How France and Germany can build a geopolitical Europe

Jana Puglierin, Ulrike Franke – 14 August 2020

The EU Coalition Explorer survey reveals the importance of Germany and France within the EU, and the impact they can have when they cooperate with each other.



## In sickness and in health: European cooperation during the coronavirus crisis

Pawel Zerka – 8 July 2020

ECFR research into how EU member states and institutions worked together at the height of covid-19 confirms Germany was the bloc's undisputed crisis leader

### EU Coalition Explorer 2018

*Interactive PDF (71 MB). Navigation and viewing experience optimised for Adobe Acrobat.*

PDF (71 MB) Data set (1.5 MB)

### EU Coalition Explorer 2016

*Interactive PDF (61.5 MB). Navigation and viewing experience optimised for Adobe Acrobat.*

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The invisible web from interaction to coalition-building in the EU by Josef Janning & Christel Zunneberg– 22th May, 2017

*Survey of experts in 28 capitals illuminates the complex network of relationships among EU member states.*

PDF

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