BBVA Foundation European Values Study Part one: Values and attitudes in Europe regarding the public sphere



**Department of Social Studies and Public Opinion** 

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- The BBVA Foundation's <u>2019 European Values Survey</u> examines a broad set of values and attitudes held by the adult population of five European countries: Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Spain. The values and attitudes considered address both the <u>public</u> (politics, economics, the media, trust) and <u>private</u> (religion, ethics, science, environment) domains.
- This presentation confines itself to diverse aspects of the public sphere. A <u>comparative</u> analysis of these values and attitudes identifies commonalities and differences across and within the five societies by reference to sociodemographic and cultural factors: age, sex, educational level and declared political orientation.
- Empirical information was gathered through a survey of a representative sample of <u>1,500</u> people aged <u>18 and over</u> in each of the European Union's top five most populated countries.
- The fieldwork was carried out by <u>Ipsos</u> between <u>April and July 2019</u>. The design and analysis of the study data are the work of the BBVA Foundation <u>Department</u> <u>of Social Studies and Public Opinion</u>.

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- The aim of the study is to capture a broad set of preferences, values and beliefs that inform individual conduct in multiple facets of public and private life, and to examine how these conducts interrelate in the two domains.
- Values operate as a kind of "cognitive, normative and emotional GPS" that helps individuals navigate their way around complex issues and situations on which they have limited information, aiding them in their decision-making: they help identify what is "good" (valuable) and "right" (which kind of individual and institutional behaviours are obligatory, permitted or "forbidden"). This is a "soft" and "latent" universe, but one that is effective and stable.
- At different times there may exist an alignment or dissonance, a state of compatibility or inconsistency (open or latent) between the dominant values and attitudes of a given society and that same society's institutional and normative framework. Social and political change is in large part driven by the interaction between institutions and policies and the latent universe of the public's perceptions, values and attitudes. In democratic, plural societies, the dominant values and attitudes tend to coexist and, occasionally, clash with the specific worldviews of certain (minority) groups or segments with their own sub-cultures.

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- The map of cultural "intangibles" values and attitudes of the adult population is fairly stable in its main contours, but may be affected or modified as a result of exceptional events (crises) or the emergence of new information of singular importance, visibility and reach. On the individual plane, the universe of internalized values will hold out strongly against any attempt at change based on persuasion or propaganda. And any wholesale shift in public values and attitudes will tend to unfold only slowly, the product of fragmentary and cumulative processes.
- In these times of globalization and real-time communications networks, a society's values and attitudes can be shaped over a shorter time frame by particularly significant events ("tipping points") and movements arising in other geographical areas.
- When mapping a society's values and attitudes, it is neither necessary nor useful to posit the existence among the population of structured, allencompassing ideologies of the kind found solely among "elites" (in the sociological sense of the term). But although relations may be looser than those bounded by an ideological framework (endowed with a cognitive, evaluative foundation and doctrinal "sources"), we do find meaningful (non-random) affinities or clusters among values and attitudes (of the public sphere, the private sphere and also between the two).

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• The study provides an essentially descriptive map of values and attitudes relative to the public sphere, identifying the characteristics of Spain that most stand out in comparison to the other four European countries in mid-2019 and, for selected indicators, considering how they have varied over the last fourteen years. Four main strands:

Interest, information and participation in the public sphere

Declared political orientation, democracy, the role of the state and territorial identification

Trust in groups and institutions

## **Concerns over global issues**

- Map of interest in current affairs
- Following current events though the media
- Participation in social and political activities
- Associationism
- Declared political orientation
- Views on how democracy is working and its relationship with the rule of law
- Attitudes to political parties and the political class
- View of the responsibilities of the state
- Territorial identification
- Trust in professional groups
- Trust in institutions
- Perceptions of corruption
- Perceptions of the law courts and the media
- Perception of the economic situation
- Attitudes towards global challenges: climate change, immigration, reception of refugees and "fake news"

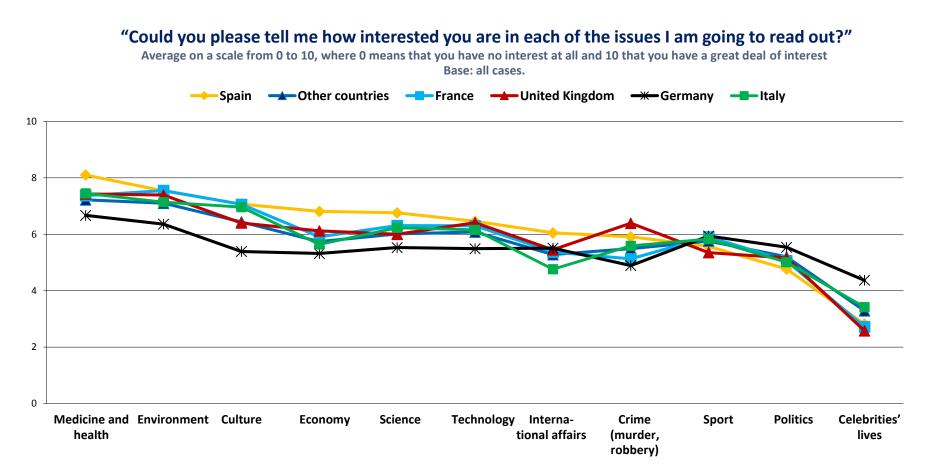
# Interest, information and participation in the public sphere

- Map of interest in current affairs
- Following current events through the media
- Participation in political and social activities
- Associationism

## **MAP OF INTERESTS**

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- In all countries, interest in <u>politics</u> stands at a mid-point on the interest scale (from 0 to 10). <u>Health</u> and the <u>environment</u> are the issues attracting most declared interest, followed by <u>culture</u>, the <u>economy</u>, <u>technology</u> and <u>science</u>. The bottom spot is occupied by interest in <u>celebrities</u>.
- The Spanish score below the average of the other four European countries in interest in politics, and above the average in interest in world affairs, the economy, science and medicine and health.



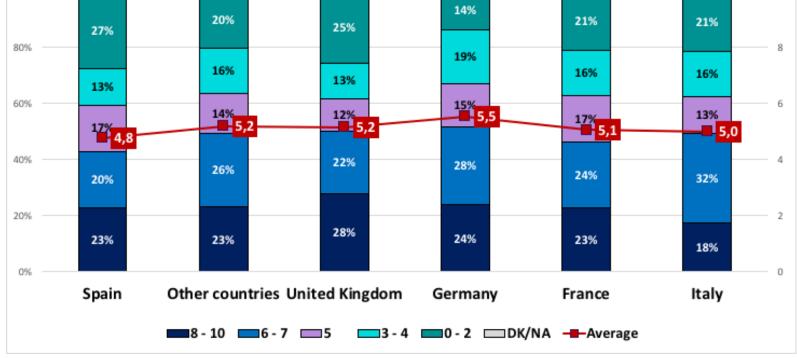
## **INTEREST IN POLITICS**

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• The distribution of interest in <u>politics</u> shows a large segment in Spain positioned at the lowest end of the scale (scores from 0 to 2), distant from the European average. In Germany, by contrast, this group represents around half the percentage recorded for Spain.

#### "Could you please tell me how interested you are in each of the issues I am going to read out?"



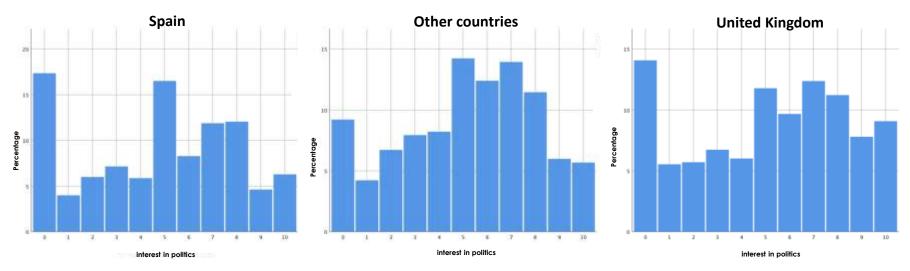


### **INTEREST IN POLITICS**

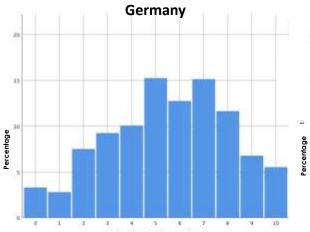
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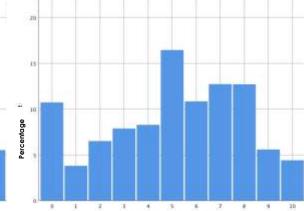
• In Spain, and in the United Kingdom, the "mode" (response with most mentions) on the interest scale is "0", evidencing extreme disinterest or outright rejection. This extremely low score distorts (reduces) the average.

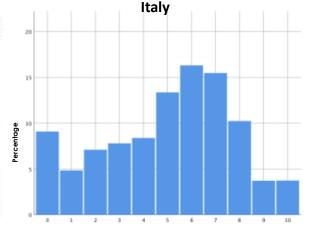
"Could you please tell me how interested you are in each of the issues I am going to read out?" <u>POLITICS</u>. Distribution on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that you have no interest at all and 10 that you have a great deal of interest. Base: all cases.



France







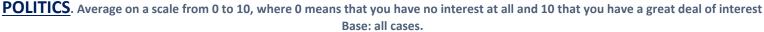
### **INTEREST IN POLITICS BY SEGMENT**

#### Fundación

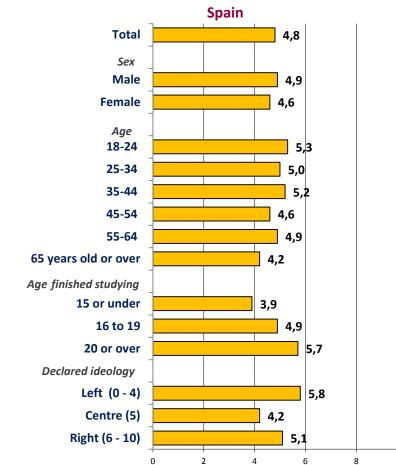
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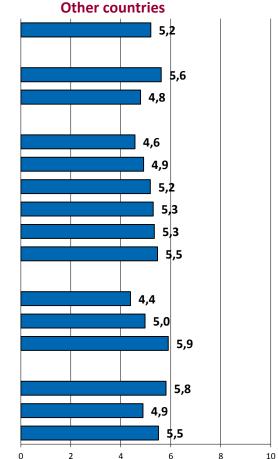
- In Spain interest in politics is keener among younger people, those with more years of study and those identifying as on the political left. There is only a minor difference between men and women.
- In the other four countries, men report more interest in politics and the age distribution is the opposite of Spain's, with interest growing as we advance through the age groups. Interest is also greater among those of a higher educational level and those declaredly on the political left.

"Could you please tell me how interested you are in each of the issues I am going to read out?"



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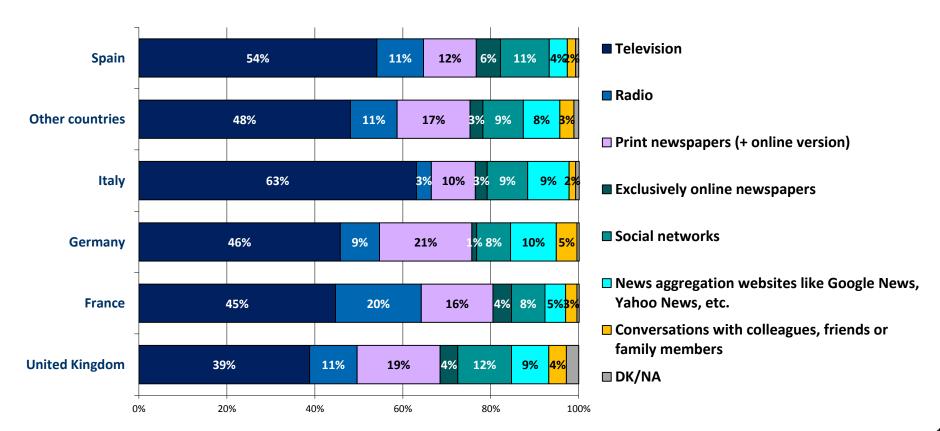




## MAIN NEWS SOURCE

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 Alongside <u>interest</u>, <u>informedness</u> about current issues is a prerequisite for participating in the diverse aspects of public life. TELEVISION remains the <u>main medium</u> for keeping up with current affairs. Next come NEWSPAPERS, adding together <u>print</u> and <u>online</u> editions, while a similar proportion opt for DIGITAL MEDIA (<u>social networks</u> and <u>news aggregation websites</u>). A smaller proportion state RADIO as their first option. Television leads by a wide margin in Italy and Spain, while in Germany, France and the United Kingdom preferences are more evenly distributed.



"What is the main medium you use to keep up with current affairs?" First mention. Base: all cases.

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- Focusing on the <u>two main media</u> used to follow news in the five European countries, it is clear that <u>television</u> dominates strongly, particularly in Italy and Spain.
- In second place come <u>newspapers</u>, in both print and digital versions, with the former especially popular in Germany and the latter winning out in France and United Kingdom. Spanish respondents are the least likely of this group to state print newspapers as their first or second news channel of choice.
- The third spot goes to strictly digital media like <u>social neworks and news aggregation sites</u>, an option particularly favored in the United Kingdom and Italy, where they are already closing in or level with newspapers.
- Radio lags behind the rest, despite being a widely followed medium in France.

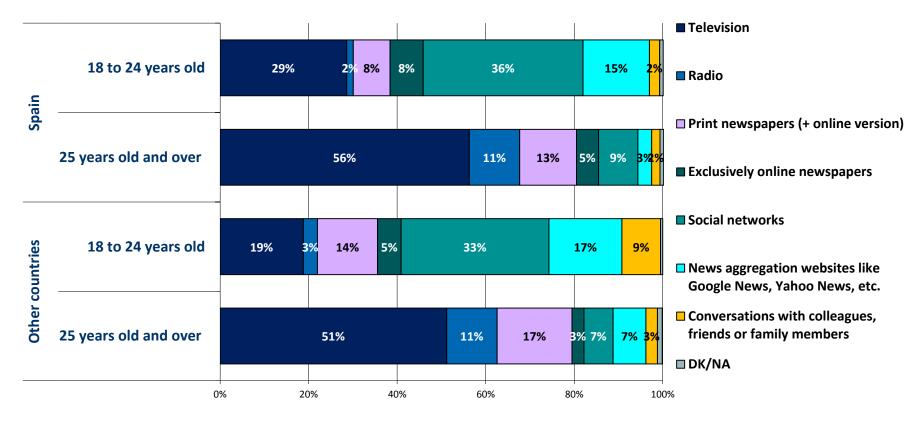
"What is the main medium you use to keep up with current affairs?"

			11.1			United
	Spain	Other countries	Italy	Germany	France	Kingdom
Television	78%	71%	82%	75%	69%	60%
All newspapers	37%	43%	39%	43%	46%	45%
Print newspapers	12%	24%	23%	35%	20%	19%
Online newspapers that also have a print version	16%	14%	11%	6%	18%	20%
Exclusively online newspapers, that is, with no print version	9%	6%	6%	2%	8%	6%
Social networks + news aggregation websites	31%	35%	39%	33%	27%	41%
Social networks	22%	19%	20%	16%	17%	23%
News aggregation websites like Google News, Yahoo News, etc.	9%	16%	19%	17%	10%	18%
Radio	28%	29%	16%	32%	41%	28%
Conversations with colleagues, friends or family members	16%	15%	17%	15%	11%	15%

First + second mention Base: all cases.



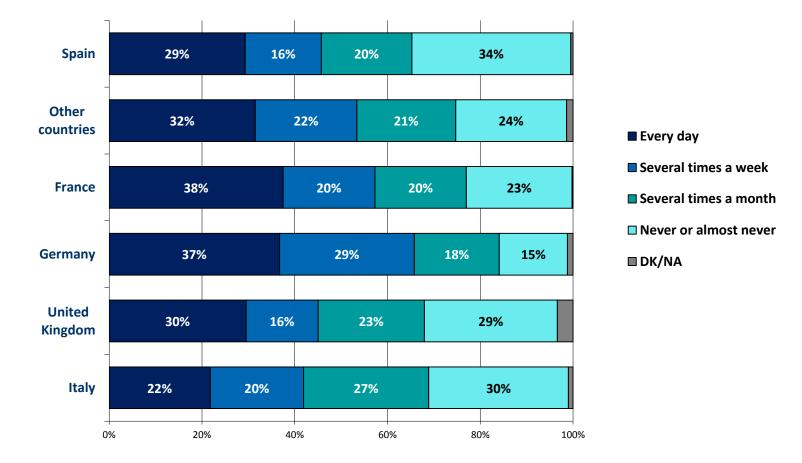
- While those aged 25 and older state the television as their medium of choice to follow current affairs, its
  popularity drops considerably among the <u>18-24 age group</u>, which exhibits a clear preference for digital media
  like news aggregation websites and, principally, <u>social networks</u>.
- The importance of exclusively digital media among the 18-24 age group is common to all the countries analyzed (in declining order, social networks, news aggregation websites and online newspapers).



"What is the main medium you use to keep up with current affairs?" First mention. Base: all cases.

- <u>Newspaper reading (print + online) varies significantly across the five European countries.</u>
- The highest <u>daily readership</u> is in France and Germany, with Italy bringing up the rear. In Spain, reading frequency stands below the average of the other four countries, with a third of respondents reporting that they never read a newspaper.

"How often do you read the newspaper in either the print or online edition (excluding sports only newspapers)?" Base: all cases.



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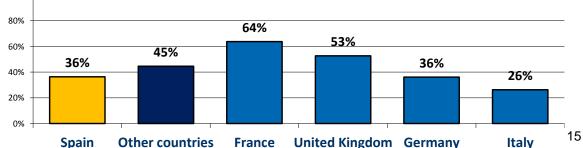
• A key indicator of individuals' connection with the public sphere is their <u>participation</u> in diverse <u>political and</u> <u>social actions</u>, over and above voting. This participation varies between countries, with petition signing and product boycotts the most common forms of activism. The French are the most active on this count with the British in second place. The <u>Spanish population</u> stands out for its higher participation vs. the European average in <u>demonstrations</u> and strikes, on a par with France.

"Have you done any of the things I am going to read out in the last 12 months?"

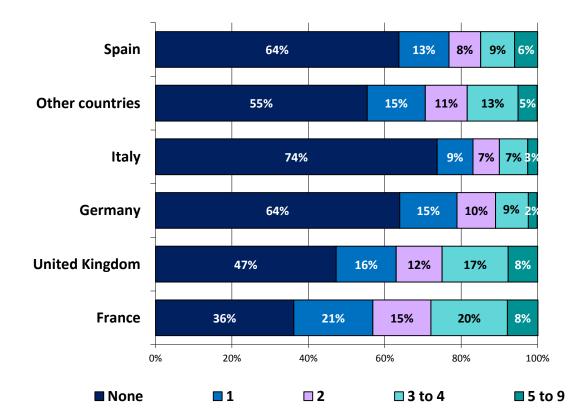
	Spain	Other countries	France	United Kingdom	Germany	Italy
Signed a petition in a signature collection campaign	20%	27%	37%	39%	20%	14%
Boycotted or stopped using certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons	10%	24%	42%	28%	20%	7%
Taken part in online surveys or referendums to approve or reject some measure	8%	14%	17%	24%	9%	8%
Collaborated with some civic association or non- governmental organization (NGO) to support social causes	18%	12%	23%	15%	6%	6%
Taken part in demonstrations	18%	10%	18%	7%	7%	9%
Got in contact with a politician or authority to draw their attention to some problem	6%	11%	12%	19%	7%	6%
Taken part in a strike	10%	5%	9%	2%	3%	6%
Collaborated in the campaigns or activities of a political party	3%	4%	3%	5%	3%	4%
Given money to a political party or organization	2%	4%	3%	6%	3%	3%

Percentage answering yes. Base: all cases.

Those carrying out at least one of the public participation actions listed



- Almost two thirds of Spanish respondents had not engaged in any of the actions listed, showing that participation is a minority pursuit.
- The distribution of number of actions per country confirms a higher degree of activism in France, followed by the United Kingdom, with the Italians at the other extreme.



#### Distribution of actions engaged in over the last 12 months. Base: all cases.

- In 2019, participation in <u>demonstrations</u> was highest in Spain and France. This squares with the results of 2009 and 2012, when the same two countries headed the list.
- In Spain, involvement in demonstrations in 2019 was rather less than in 2012, but ahead of the level of 2009.

#### "Have you done any of the things I am going to read out in the last 12 months?" Take part in demonstrations

	Spain	France	Italy	Germany	United Kingdom
BBVA FOUNDATION EUROPEAN MINDSET STUDY 2009	12%	17%	8%	5%	3%
BBVA FOUNDATION WORLDVIEWS STUDY 2012	23%	14%	14%	7%	4%
BBVA FOUNDATION EUROPEAN VALUES STUDY 2019	18%	18%	9%	7%	7%

Percentage answering yes. Base: all cases.



#### Participation in the last legislative elections and European elections

	Last legislative elect	European elections 2019	
Spain	2019	75.8%	60.7%
Germany	2017	76.2%	61.4%
France	2017 (avge 1st and 2nd round)	45.7%	50.1%
Italy	2018	72.9%	54.5%
United Kingdom	2017	68.7%	36.9%

## **CONNECTION WITH POLITICAL PARTIES**

- Only a small minority report any kind of direct support for political parties or involvement with their activities.
- In Spain, 4% have participated by <u>collaborating in campaigns and activities</u> and/or <u>giving money</u>, against a 6% average in the other four countries.

#### "Have you done any of the things I am going to read out in the last 12 months?"

	Spain	Other countries	France	United Kingdom	Germany	Italy
Collaborated in the campaigns or activities of a political party	3.3%	3.9%	3.0%	5.1%	3.4%	4.2%
Given money to a political party or organization	2.1%	3.7%	3.2%	5.7%	2.9%	3.0%
TOTAL: Collaborated in the campaigns or activities of a political party and/or given money to a political party or organization	4.2%	6.0%	4.6%	8.1%	5.4%	5.8%

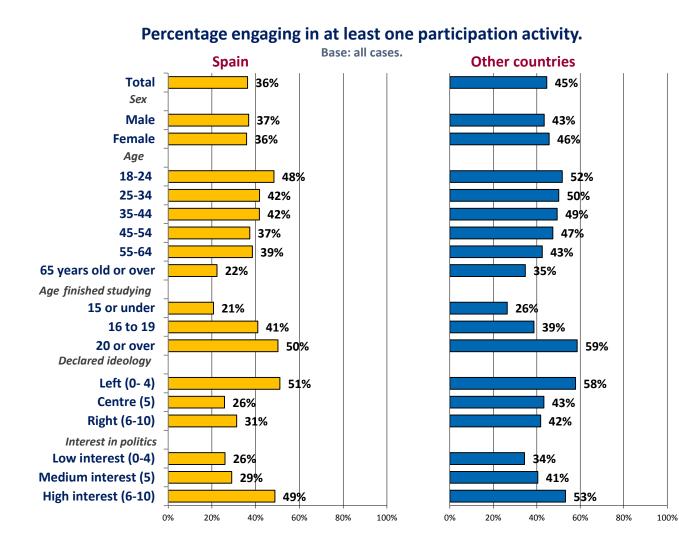
Percentage answering yes. Base: all cases.

### PARTICIPATION BY SEGMENT

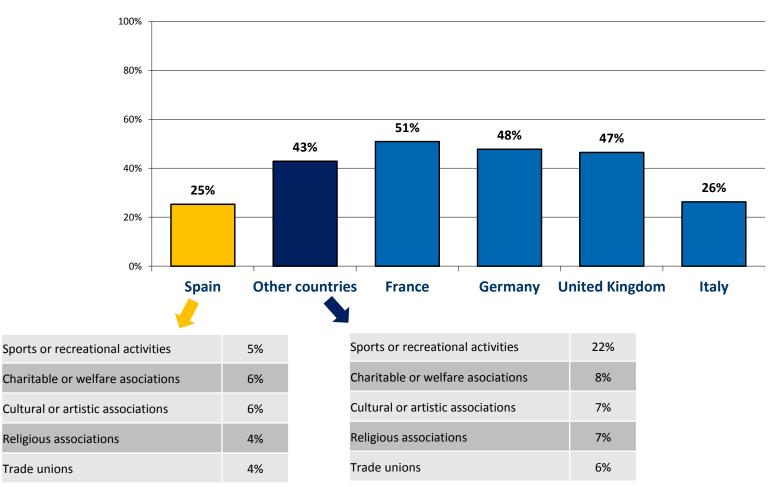
# Fundación

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• A look at the percentage engaging in at least one of the nine personal participation activities (excluding voting) reveals that participation by segment is notably uneven; higher among young people, those of a higher educational level, those most interested in politics and, most patently, those identifying with the political left. In Spain, the segments identifying with the right and, especially, the center, are relatively inactive.

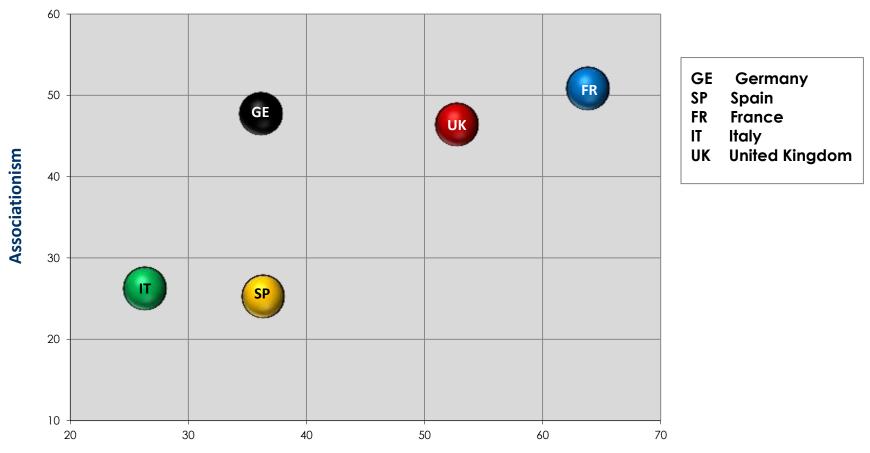


- <u>Associationism</u> is a strongly ingrained practice in France, Germany and the United Kingdom, with Italy and Spain at more than twenty points distance.
- By type of activity, associationism is largely concentrated in activities of a non-political nature such as sports or leisure.



Percentage belonging to at least one association. Base: all cases.

# MAP OF COUNTRIES BY LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ASSOCIATIONISM



Aggregate indicator of participation in political and social activities

Public participation and associationism						
	Took part in		tionism o at least ociation)			
	at least 1 activity	Belongs	Doesn't belong			
	Took part	62%	28%			
Spain	Didn't take part	38%	72%			
Other	Took part	64%	29%			
countries	Didn't take part	36%	70%			
	Took part	75%	52%			
France	Didn't take part	25%	48%			
United	Took part	72%	36%			
Kingdom	Didn't take part	28%	64%			
	Took part	53%	21%			
Germany	Didn't take part	47%	79%			
	Took part	52%	17%			
Italy	Didn't take part	48%	83%			

Newspaper consumption and public participation						
		Took part in at lea 1 activity				
	Newspaper consumption	Took part	Didn't take part			
	Every day	44%	21%			
Spain	Never-Almost never	20%	43%			
Other	Every day	37%	27%			
countries	Never-Almost never	19%	28%			
	Every day	41%	32%			
France	Never-Almost never	18%	31%			
United	Every day	36%	23%			
Kingdom	Never-Almost never	22%	36%			
	Every day	39%	36%			
Germany	Never-Almost never	12%	16%			
	Every day	29%	19%			
Italy	Never-Almost never	22%	33%			

Newspaper consumption and associationism						
		Associationism (belong to at leas one association)				
	Newspaper consumption	Belongs	Doesn't belong			
	Every day	39%	26%			
Spain	Never-Almost never	26%	37%			
Other	Every day	38%	26%			
countries	Never-Almost never	17%	29%			
	Every day	41%	34%			
France	Never-Almost never	18%	28%			
United	Every day	35%	24%			
Kingdom	Never-Almost never	22%	35%			
	Every day	44%	30%			
Germany	Never-Almost never	10%	19%			
	Every day	28%	20%			
Italy	Never-Almost never	22%	33%			

# Relations between indicators of connection with the public space (associationism, participation, following of news media)

# Greater involvement in the public sphere

- Medium or medium-high connection with the public sphere via diverse types of political and social participation
- Medium to medium-high level of associationism
- Medium-high level of daily press readership

# Less involvement in the public sphere

- Medium or medium-low connection with the public sphere via diverse types of political and social participation
- Low level of associationism
- Low level of daily press readership



> Declared political orientation, democracy, the role of the state and territorial identification

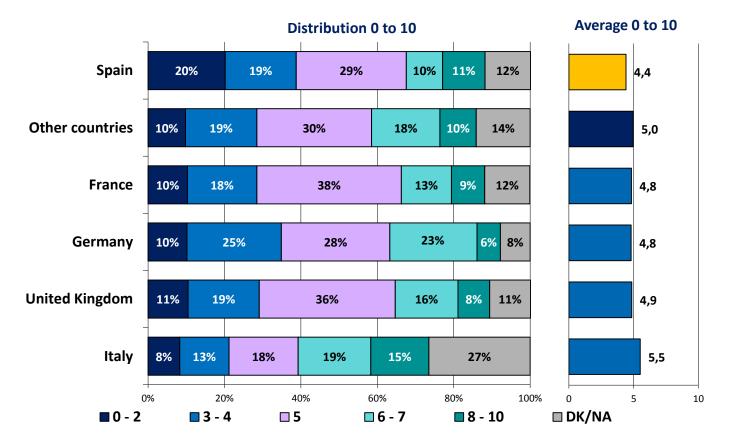
- Political self-identification
- Views on how democracy is working and its relationship with the rule of law
- Attitudes to political parties and the political class
- Views on the responsibilities of the state
  - **Territorial identification**

## **DECLARED POLITICAL ORIENTATION**

#### Fundación BBVA

- A standard indicator to classify or segment citizens is to ask them to position themselves politically on the leftright spectrum (in this study, on a scale from 0 to 10).
- A relative majority position themselves at or close to the center of the political arc. The Spanish are the most declaredly left-wing of the Europeans, with the left group almost twice the size of the group identifying as on the right, and the furthest left segment (0, 1, 2) doubling that of all other countries analyzed.

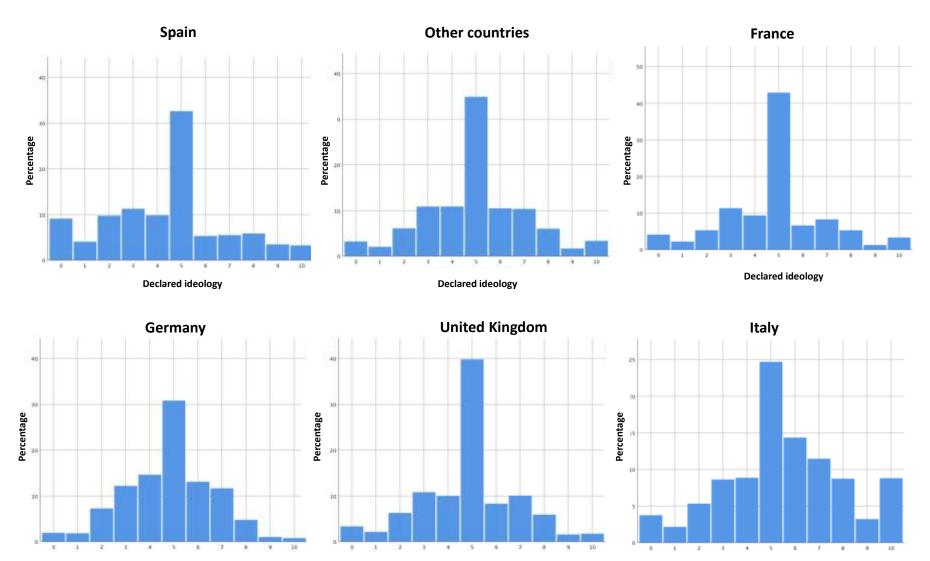
"When talking about politics, we tend to use the expressions left and right. Imagine a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 corresponds to the "left" and 10 to the "right". In which box would you place yourself?" Base: all cases.



#### **DECLARED POLITICAL ORIENTATION**



# "When talking about politics, we tend to use the expressions left and right. Imagine a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 corresponds to the "left" and 10 to the "right". In which box would you place yourself?" Base: all cases.



Declared ideology

Declared ideology

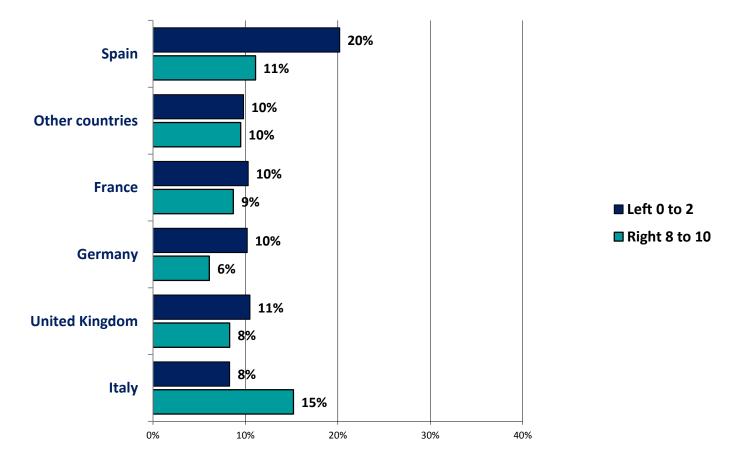
Declared ideology

## **DECLARED POLITICAL ORIENTATION**



• Spain stands out for the size assymetry between its most left-leaning segment (2 out of every 10) and that of the extreme right (1 out of every 10), breaking with the pattern observed in other European countries.

Segments placing themselves furthest to the left (scores 0+1+2) and furthest to the right (scores 8+9+10)



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- There is a sharp difference in the proportion of young Spaniards identifying as on the left with respect to their European peers, to the extent that the furthest left segment (0, 1, 2) is almost four times larger.
- In the five countries, identification with the political left increases with degree of interest in politics and educational level. This last factor operates especially strongly in Spain (difference of 9 versus 4 points between the two extremes of years of study).

Spain

"When talking about politics, we tend to use the expressions left and right. Imagine a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 corresponds to the "left" and 10 to the "right". In which box would you place yourself?" Distribution on a scale from 0 to 10. Base: all cases.

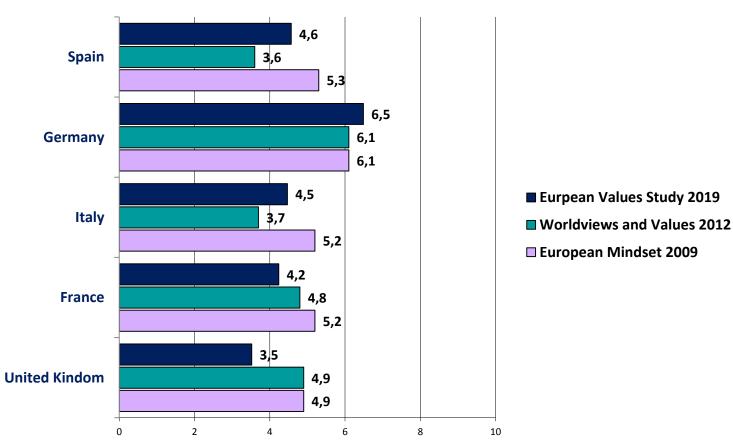
				Spain		
	Total	20%	19%	29%	10% 11	1% 12%
ie t.	Sex					
10	Male	21%	21%	28%	9% 1	<b>1%</b> 9%
ne	Female	19%	17%	30%	<b>10%</b> 11	<mark>%</mark> 14%
<b>.</b>	Age					
	18-24	31%	16	% 25	% <mark>10</mark> %	<mark>65%</mark> 11%
to	25-34	27%	13%	27%	<mark>6%</mark> 15	<mark>%</mark> 12%
	35-44	22%	19%	32%	<mark>8%</mark> 1	.0% 11%
	45-54	14%	21%	31%	14% 7	<mark>/%</mark> 13%
	55-64	23%	19%	28%	8% 1	0% 12%
65 years	old or over	14%	21%	27%	11% 15	<mark>% 12%</mark>
Age finis	shed studying					
	15 or under	15%	19%	29%	<b>10%</b> 11%	17%
	16 to 19	21%	17%	30%	<b>10%</b> 1	.2% 10%
	20 or over	24%	20%	28%	6 <mark>9%</mark>	<b>10%</b> 9%
Inter	rest in politics					
Low ir	nterest (0-4)	14% 13	3% 3	3%	9% 10%	22%
Medium	interest (5)	16%	19%	35%	9%	11% 9%
High int	erest (6-10)	28%	24	% 2	.3% <mark>10</mark> %	<mark>6 12%4</mark> %
	0	% 20	)% 40	)% 60'	% 80%	% 100%
	0 - 2		<b>3</b> -	4	🗖 5	

#### **Other countries**

10%	19%	30%		18%	10%	14%
10%	20%	28%		20%	11%	12%
10%	18%	32%		16%	8%	16%
8%	23%	27%		15%	9%	18%
11%	21%	28%	6	16%	8%	15%
9%	21%	31%	6	16%	8%	15%
10%	18%	31%		19%	9%	12%
14%	18%	305	%	16%	10%	<b>12%</b>
11%	17%	30%		18%	12%	14%
8%	13%	28%	15%	<b>13%</b>		22%
8%	16%	33%		19%	10%	15%
12%	25%	5 2	29%	18	8% 8	<mark>3%</mark> 9%
8%	15%	34%		15% 8	%	20%
10%	16%	33%		19%	9%	14%
11%	23%	269	%	20%	11	<mark>%</mark> 10%
0%	20%	40%	60	)%	80%	100
6 - 7		<b>8</b> - 10			] DK/	NA

## **CHANGING VIEWS ON HOW DEMOCRACY IS WORKING**

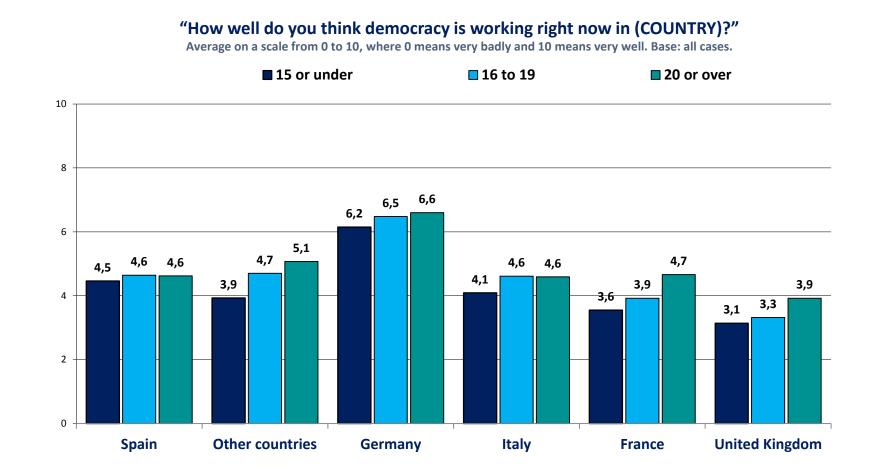
- The balance of opinion on <u>how democracy is working</u> is negative in every country except Germany, where the average scores are strongly positive. British respondents exert a large negative influence on this outcome.
- Views on the health of democracy have turned sharply for the worse in the United Kingdom and, also, France, if we compare 2019 results with those of 2009 and 2012. Scores in Spain and Italy have improved with respect to 2012 (by one point in Spain) but without recouping the higher values of ten years back.



"How well do you think democracy is working right now in (COUNTRY)?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means very badly and 10 means very well. Base: all cases.

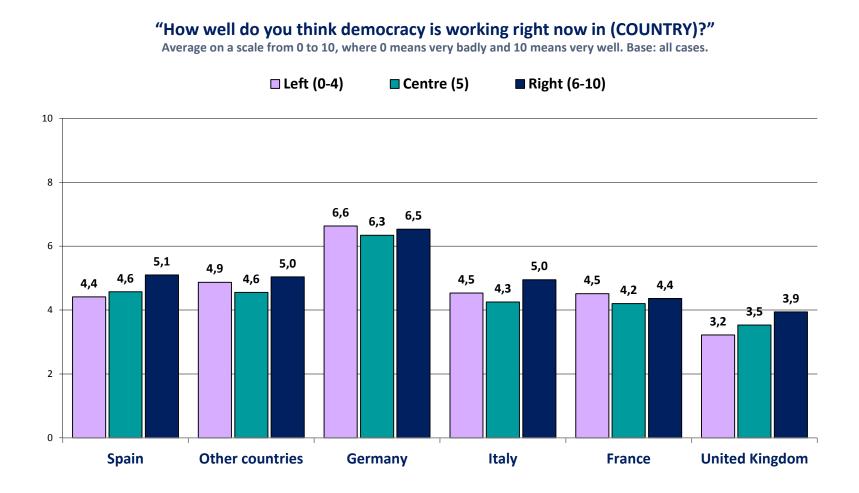


• Views on how well democracy is working turn more positive with years of study. This effect is readily discernible in Germany, France and the United Kingdom, less so in Italy, and absent in the case of Spain.



## VIEWS ON DEMOCRACY BY DECLARED POLITICAL ORIENTATION

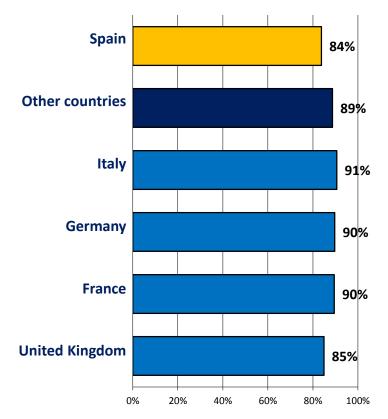
- In Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom, those politically on the right are more upbeat about how democracy is working than those identifying as on the left.
- Declared ideology produces no significant differences in either Germany or France.



• There is an ample consensus in all countries to the effect that "respect for the law is essential to safeguard democracy."

"Could you tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

Percentage in agreement, with scores from 6 to 10 on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means completely disagree and 10 means completely agree. Base: all cases.



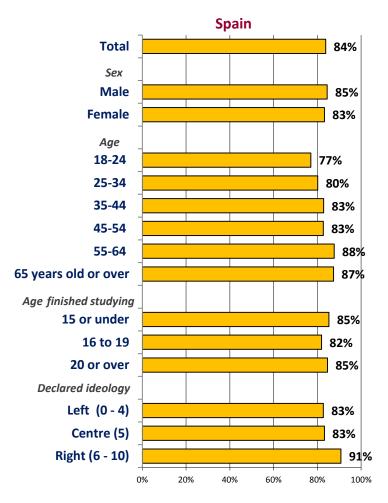
#### Respect for the law is essential to safeguard democracy

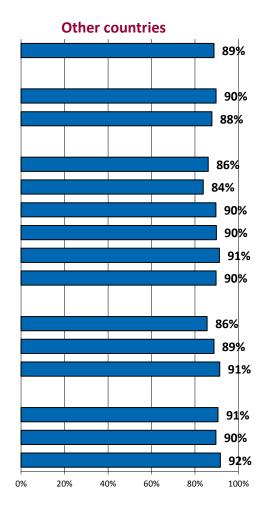


#### "Could you tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

Percentage in agreement, with scores from 6 to 10 on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means completely disagree and 10 means completely agree. Base: all cases.

#### Respect for the law is essential to safeguard democracy

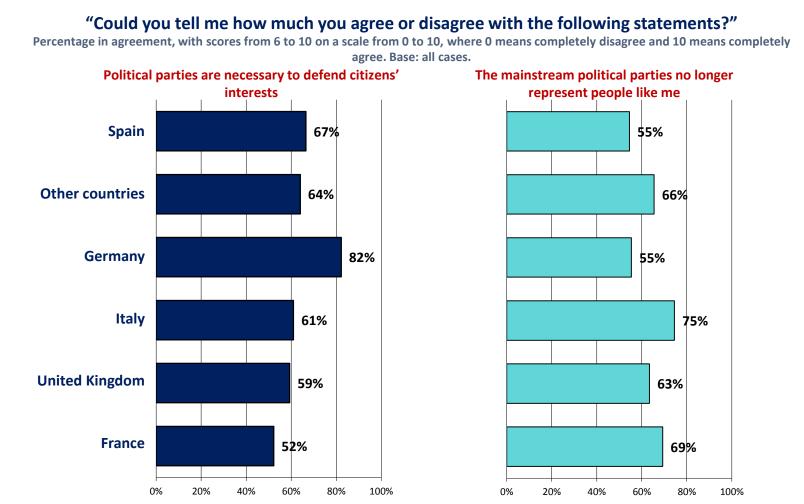




## POLITICAL PARTIES

# BBVA

- A salient aspect of each society's political culture is the view held of the role of <u>political parties</u> and <u>political</u> <u>elites</u>.
- There is a broad consensus that political parties are necessary to defend citizens' interests, expressed most strongly in Germany and moderately in France. This blanket agreement stands alongside the widespread perception that the mainstream parties are falling down in their duty to represent people, a feeling particularly strong in Italy and France.

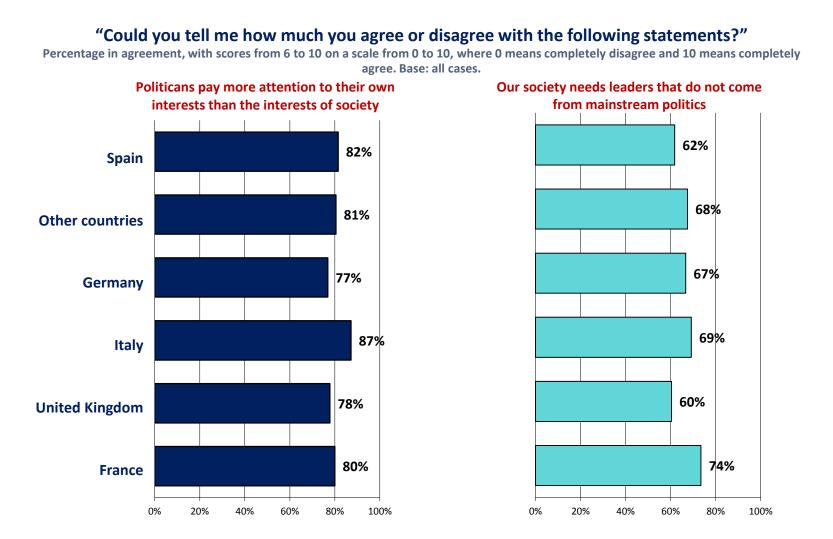


35

# THE POLITICAL CLASS

# Fundación BBVA

- Citizens express strong disaffection with the <u>political class</u>: in every country, the political class is seen as placing their own interests before the interests of society.
- It is perhaps not surprising then that clear majorities share the idea that society needs leaders who have not come from mainstream politics, a view that finds particular support in France.



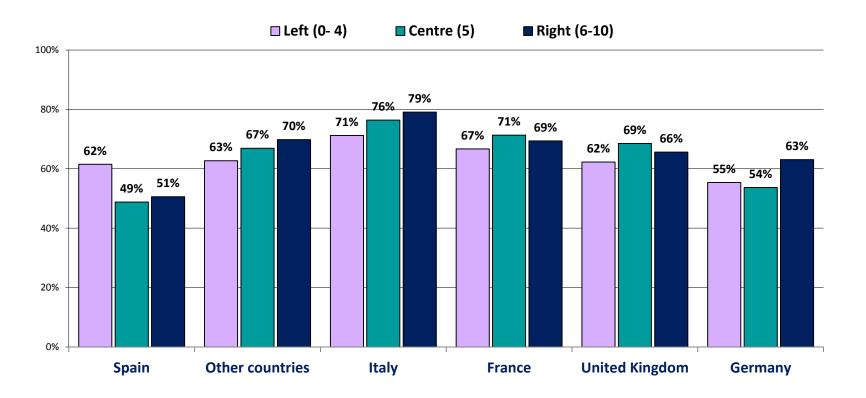
### **VIEW OF PARTIES BY DECLARED POLITICAL ORIENTATION**

- The disaffection expressed in the statement "the mainstream political parties no longer represent people like me" varies as a function of citizens' political leanings:
  - In Italy and Germany, agreement is strongest among those declaredly on the right
  - In Spain, conversely, this view finds more support among those identifying with the left.

### "Could you tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?"

Percentage in agreement, with scores from 6 to 10 on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means completely disagree and 10 means completely agree. Base: all cases.

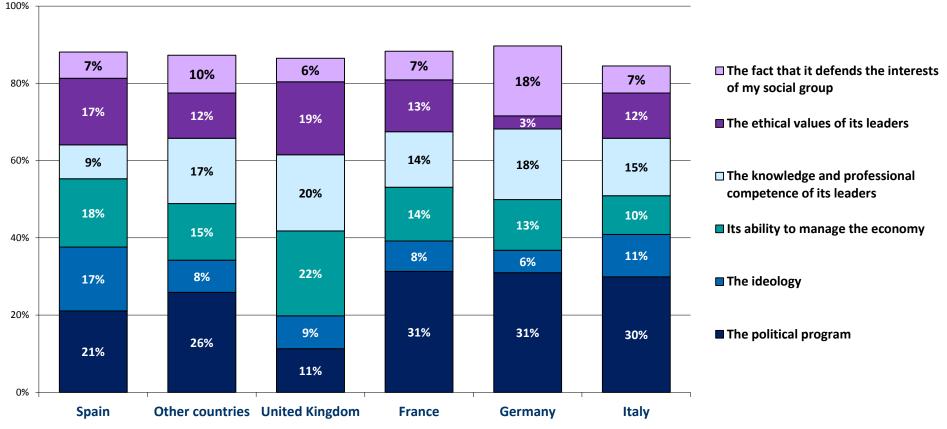
#### The mainstream political parties no longer represent people like me



### FACTORS INFLUENCING PEOPLE'S VOTES

### Fundación BBVA

- Respondents cite a range of factors as influencing their decision to vote for a particular party: ideological or
  programmatic factors, others to do with professional competence and ability to manage the economy, the
  ethical values of the party's leaders, and the impression that it defends the interests of their social group.
- In <u>Spain</u>, the <u>political program</u> is singled out as <u>the most important factor</u> weighing in the choice of party, followed by <u>ability to manage the economy</u>, <u>ideology</u> and the <u>ethical values of its leaders</u>. Only 9 percent choose the more abstract considerations of <u>knowledge</u> and professional competence

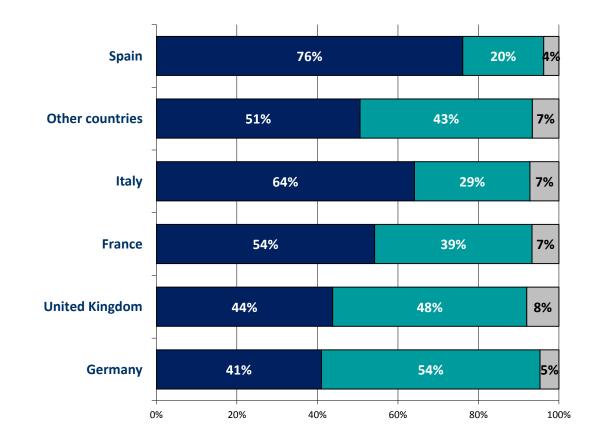


### "Which of the following factors weighs most in your decision to vote for a party at election time?" Base: all cases

### STATE VERSUS INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILTY

### Fundación BBVA

- The role assigned to the state in ensuring citizens a decent standard of living is a key dimension of Europe's political culture. Very large majorities in Spain, Italy and, at a distance, France believe that it is primarily the state rather than the individual that should exercise this responsibility.
- In Germany, followed by the United Kingdom, a majority believe that each individual is responsible for ensuring themselves a decent standard of living.



### "Of the two statements I am going to read out, which one comes closer to your opinion?" Base: all cases.

- Responsibility for ensuring that all citizens enjoy a decent standard of living should lie mainly with the state
- It is mainly up to each individual to ensure they enjoy a decent standard of living

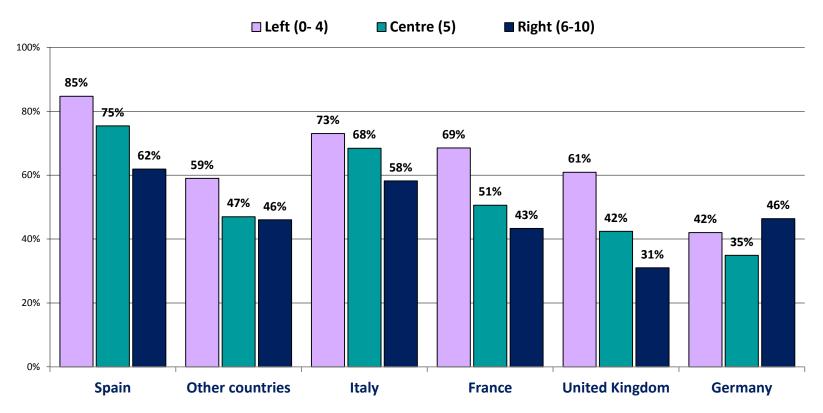
#### DK/NA



## **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE ACCORDING TO DECLARED POLITICAL** ORIENTATION

- Political leanings are a clear differentiating factor for how people see the state's role in ensuring citizens a decent standard of living: with the exception of Germany, those declaredly on the left assign more responsibility to the state than those on the political right.
- In Spain and Italy, even a sizeable majority of those identifying with the center and a smaller majority on the right believe that the state should exercise this role.

Percentage responding: "Responsibility for ensuring that all citizens enjoy a decent standard of living should lie mainly with the STATE" Base: all cases



### **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE**

24%

27%

18%

21%

80%

14% 5%

8%

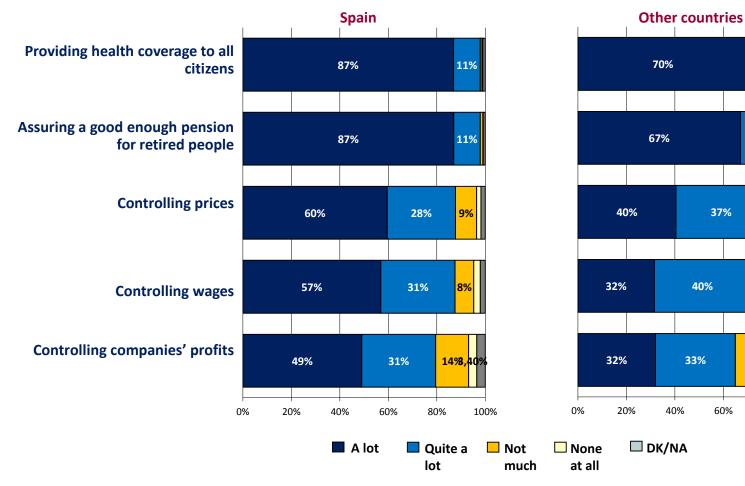
11%

100%

### Fundación BBVA

- Ample consensus around the state taking on provision of classic welfare state functions like universal health coverage and pensions, but lesser agreement ("quite a lot of responsibility") around it curbing the operation of market mechanisms with regard to prices, wages and company profits.
- Spaniards stand out in their stronger preference for the state to intervene in every area and facet.





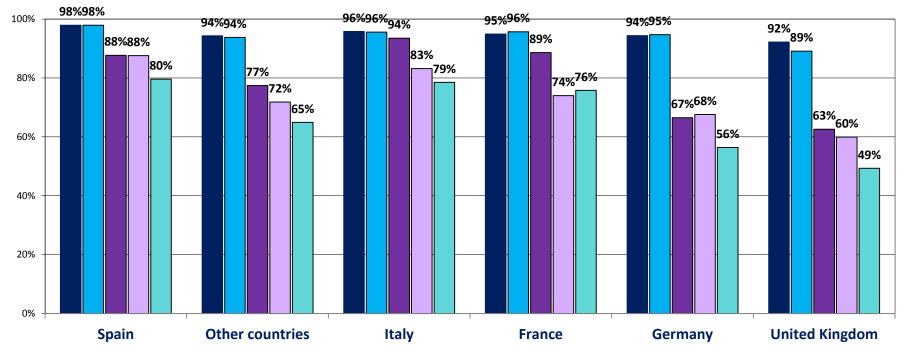


• The preference for greater state intervention in market variables like prices, wages and profits is especially marked in Spain, Italy and France. Respondents in the United Kingdom are far less keen, especially regarding company profits, with Germans the second most reluctant for the state to impinge on such terrain.

Do you think the state should take a lot of, quite a lot of, not much or no responsibility for ...?

Percentage answering a lot + quite a lot. Base: all cases

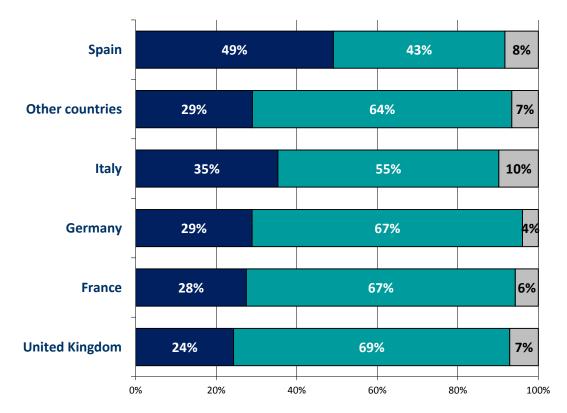
- Providing health coverage to all citizens
- Assuring a good enough pension for retired people
- Controlling prices
- □ Controlling wages
- Controlling companies' profits



### **DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME**

### Fundación BBVA

- Citizens in four of the five countries analyzed accept that income should vary according to a person's qualifications, with agreement strongest in the United Kingdom, France and Germany.
- Spain is the outlier in this respect: opinions are <u>split</u> between the two options offered, with a slight edge for those defending income equality irrespective of qualifications.



"Of the two statements I am going to read out, which comes closer to your opinion?" Base: all cases

- Income should be more evenly distributed, even if it means that those who are more qualified earn about the same amount as those who are less qualified
- Differences in income are necessary so those who are more qualified earn more than those who are less qualified

DK/NA

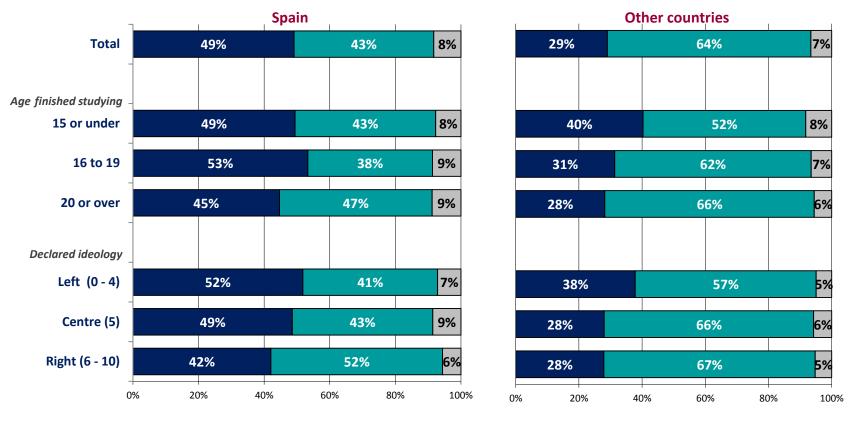
#### Fundación

# BBVA

## DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME ACCORDING TO EDUCATION AND POLITICAL ORIENTATION

- In Spain, income differentiation according to qualifications finds slightly more support among those with university studies and, particularly, those positioning themselves on the right of the political spectrum. A majority of those identifying as centrists favor an even distribution.
- In the other <u>four countries</u>, the preference for <u>income differences</u> extends to <u>all segments</u>, and increases with educational level and as we move rightwards along the political spectrum.

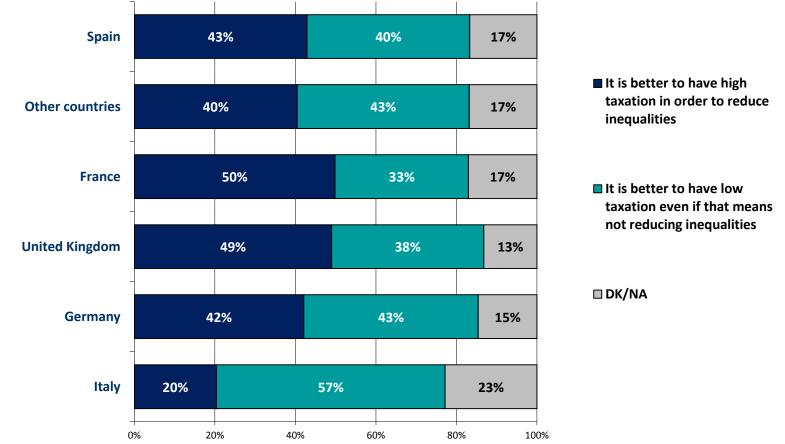
"Of the two statements I am going to read out, which comes closer to your opinion?" Base: all cases



Income should be more evenly distributed, even if it means that those who are more qualified earn about the same amount as those who are less qualified

Differences in income are necessary so those who are more qualified earn more than those who are less qualified

- Opinions are divided in almost every country regarding the ideal level of taxes to correct inequalities.
  - A majority in France and the United Kingdom line up behind high taxation to reduce inequalities
  - A majority of Italians state a preference for low taxation, even if it means not reducing inequalities
  - Spaniards and Germans are divided between both alternatives.



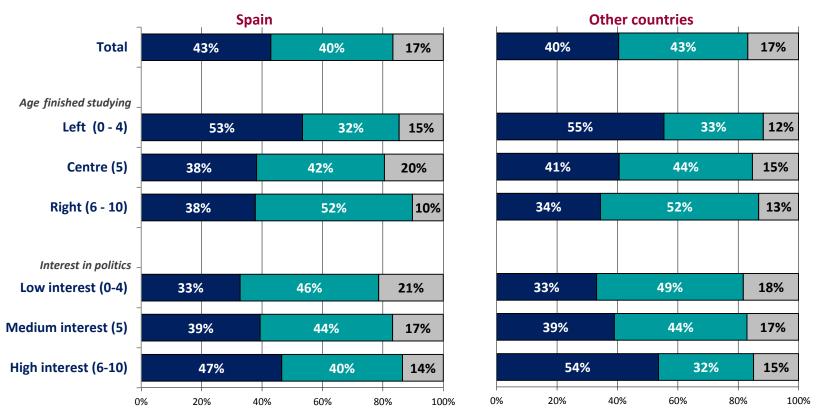
### "Of the two statements I am going to read out, which comes closer to your opinion?" Base: all cases

Fundación

# BBVA

### TAXATION VERSUS INEQUALITY ACCORDING TO POLITICAL ORIENTATION AND INTEREST IN POLITICS

• Both in Spain and across the other four countries, on average, the preference for high taxation to reduce inequalities is significantly greater among those declaredly on the left than those positioning themselves in the centre or on the right. This option also finds wider support as a function of interest in political issues.

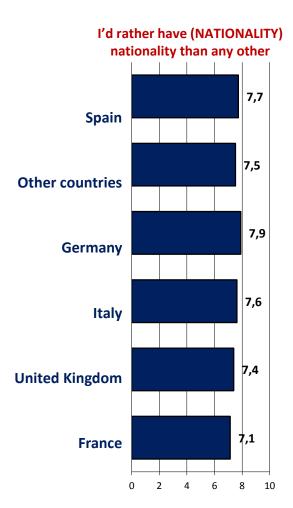


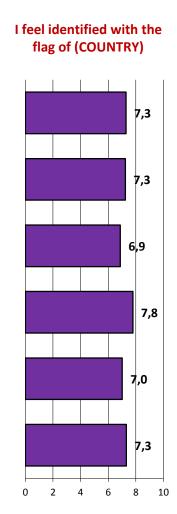
"Of the two statements I am going to read out, which comes closer to your opinion?" Base: all cases.

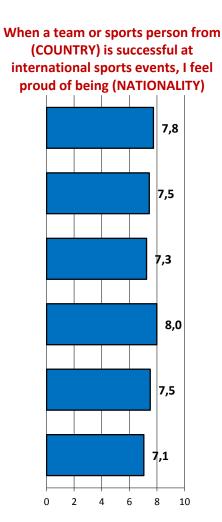
It is better to have high taxation in order to reduce inequalities
 It is better to have low taxation even if that means not reducing inequalities
 DK/NA

• Citizens in the five European countries express a <u>high degree of identification</u> and pride of belonging with regard to their respective <u>nation-state</u> and some of its symbolic manifestations.

"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you "completely disagree" and 10 means you "completely agree". Base: all cases.



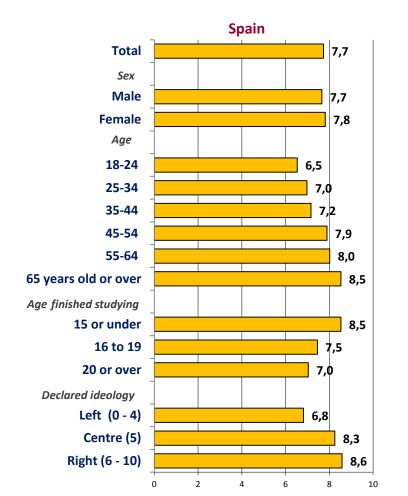




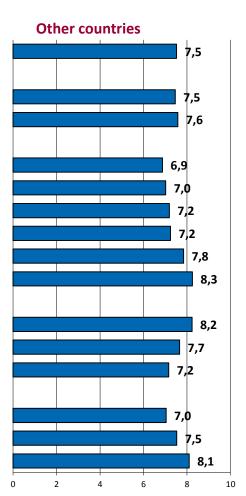
• Pride of belonging is <u>extremely strong across all segments</u>, reaching its highest levels, both in Spain and the other countries, on average, among older age groups and those declaredly on the right and centre, but tendng to decline with educational level.

"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you

"completely disagree" and 10 means you "completely agree". Base: all cases.



I'd rather have (NATIONALITY) nationality than any other



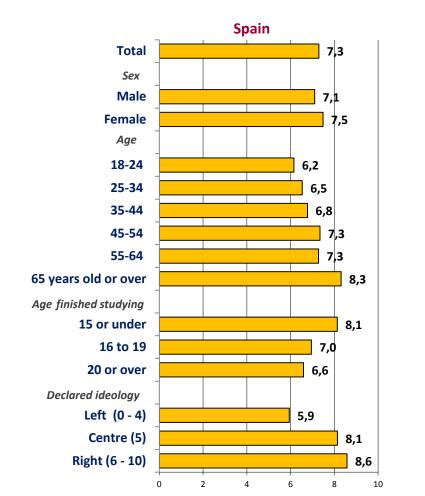
### **NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION**

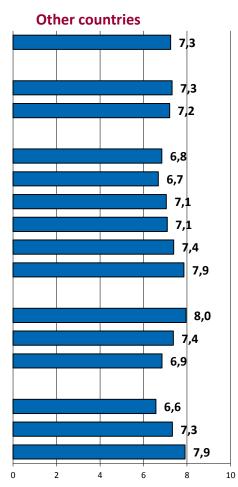
### Fundación BBVA

- The strong identification observed with national flags accentuates as we ascend through the age groups and also among those positioning themselves centre or right, and again diminishes with educational level.
- The left-right divide around identification with the national flag is especially marked in Spain.

"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you "completely disagree" and 10 means you "completely agree". Base: all cases.

I feel identified with the flag of (COUNTRY)





• Compared to ten years ago (*BBVA Foundation European Mindset Study 2009*), the high observed level of national identification and pride of belonging has increased in France and, to a lesser extent, in Italy and Spain. Though still high, it has nonetheless diminished slightly in the United Kingdom.

"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you "completely disagree" and 10 means you "completely agree". Base: all cases.

I'd rather have (NA	TIONALITY) natio	nality than any ot	her		
	Spain	Germany	Italy	France	United Kingdom
BBVA FOUNDATION EUROPEAN MINDSET STUDY 2009	7.4	8.1	7.5	6.9	8.3
BBVA FOUNDATION EUROPEAN VALUES STUDY 2019	7.7	7.9	7.6	7.1	7.4

I feel identified with the flag of (COUNTRY)								
	Spain	Germany	Italy	France	United Kingdom			
BBVA FOUNDATION EUROPEAN MINDSET STUDY 2009	6.9	6.4	7.4	5.8	7.5			
BBVA FOUNDATION EUROPEAN VALUES STUDY 2019	7.3	6.9	7.8	7.3	7.0			

When a team or sportsperson from (COUNTRY) is successful at international sporting events, I feel proud to be NATIONALITY								
	Spain	Germany	Italy	France	United Kingdom			
BBVA FOUNDATION EUROPEAN MINDSET STUDY 2009	7.4	7.2	7.5	6.1	8.0			
BBVA FOUNDATION EUROPEAN VALUES STUDY 2019	7.8	7.3	8.0	7.1	7.5			

#### Fundación

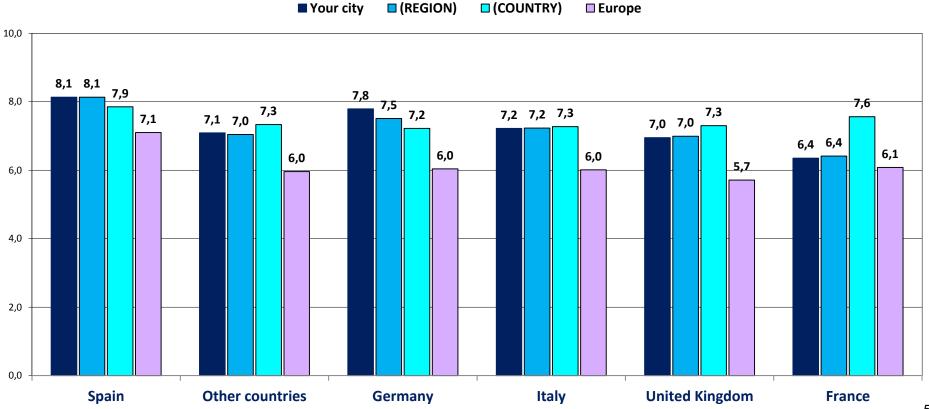
### **IDENTIFICATION WITH DIFFERENT TERRITORIES**

# BBVA

Most citizens in the five European societies happily reconcile various territorial identities. Although
preferences lean slightly towards the areas closest to home and their daily lives (city and region), they also
identify strongly with their respective countries. Degree of identification with Europe is in the medium-high
interval (upwards of six points with the United Kingdom just a little behind the other countries average). The
French stand out for the strength of their identification with their country.

"People can identify with or feel part of different places. Can you tell me to what extent you identify with ...?



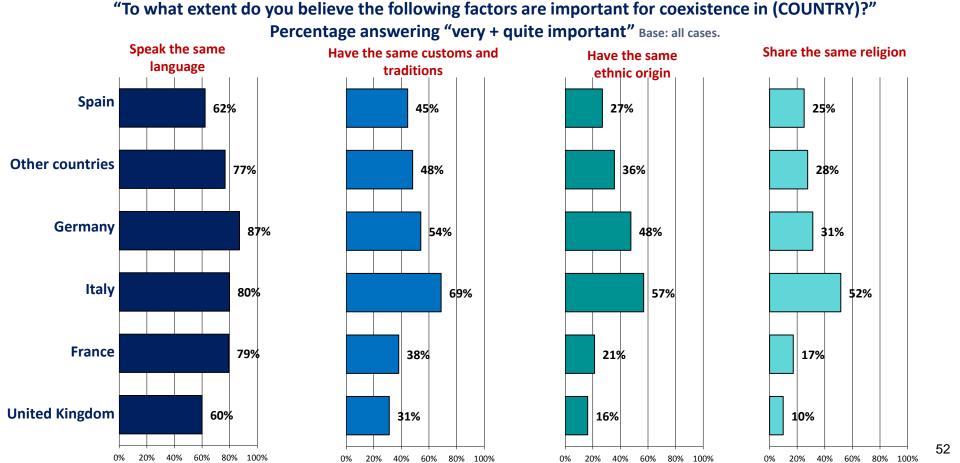


### NATIONAL INTEGRATION FACTORS

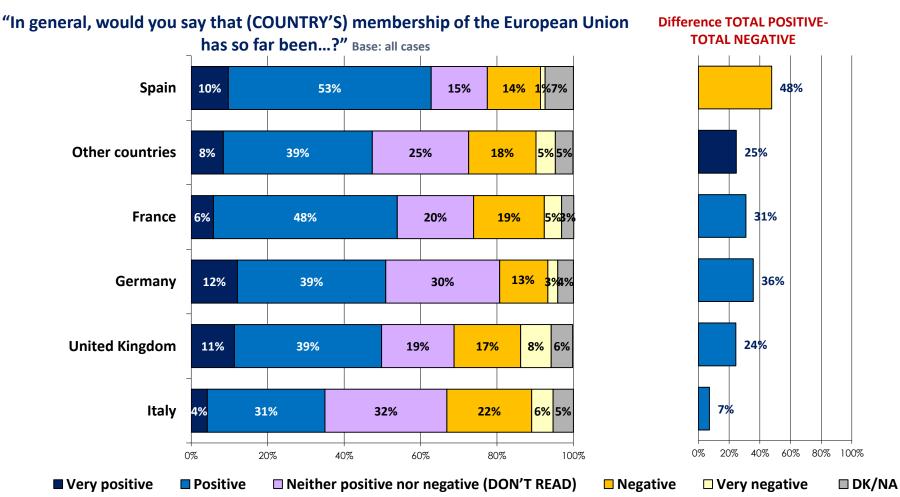
#### Fundación

# BBVA

- Europeans attach considerable importance to a <u>common language</u> in facilitating coexistence within a country. This is most strongly felt in Germany, followed by Italy and France, with citizens in Spain and the United Kingdom rather less convinced. The second placed factor is having the <u>same customs and traditions</u>, which finds support among a wide majority of Italians and over half of Germans. A third believe it is important to have the <u>same ethnic origin</u> – a majority in Italy and almost half in Germany, while a smaller percentage, with the notable exception of Italy, see sharing a <u>religion</u> as of less weight.
- The Italians are those attaching most importance to homogeneity across all four aspects mentioned, followed by the Germans. The British, conversely, exhibit perceptions proper to a multicultural society.



- A majority are of the opinion that belonging to the European Union has been good for their country.
  - This feeling is especially strong in Spain more than 15 points above the average of the other four countries. The French, Germans and British see membership as "positive" or "very positive". The exception is Italy, where views are more evenly split between positive, negative and neutral, albeit with the favourable position winning out.

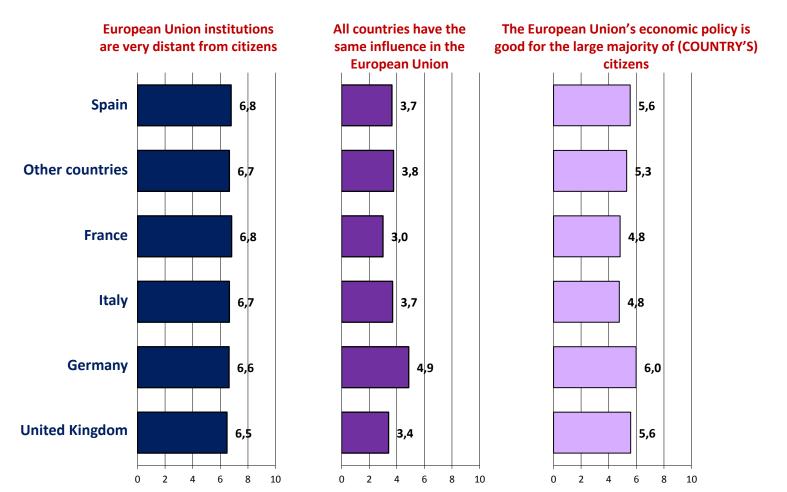


## Fundación

# BBVA

- The idea that "EU institutions are very distant from citizens" finds widespread support, and a majority are not convinced that all member countries exercise an equal influence. Where respondents most differ is on whether the EU's economic policy benefits the citizens of their own country.
- The Germans stand out as having the most favourable views on the EU and its effects.

"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you "completely disagree" and 10 means you "completely agree". Base: all cases.



### THE UNITED KINGDOM'S EXIT FROM THE EU

#### Fundación

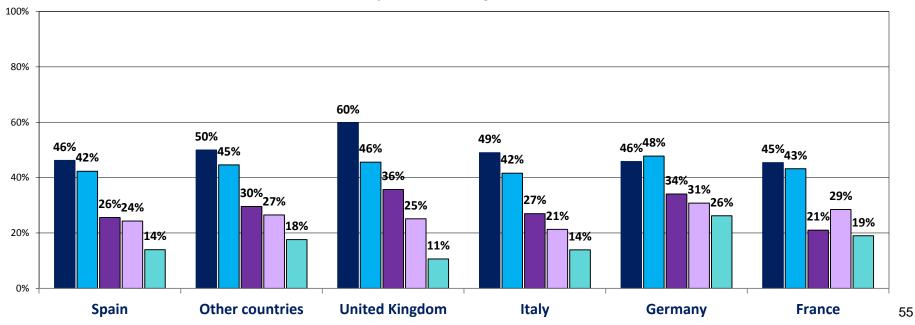
# BBVA

 Asked about the United Kingdom's prospective exit from the European Union, citizens perceive negative fallout on various fronts. Chiefly: over 45% in every country (60% in the United Kingdom) believe it may lead other countries to follow suit, and a large proportion are convinced that it will weaken the EU's influence in the world. They are also dubious as to whether Brexit will improve cooperation among the remaining member countries or make the EU stronger overall. Between 21 and 36 percent see it as likely to weaken European science and culture, especially in Germany and the UK itself.

"Facing a possible exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union, I would like you to tell me how much you agree (strongly, quite strongly, not much or not at all) with the following statements"

Percentage agreeing "strongly + quite strongly" Base: all cases

- Will lead to other countries also wanting to leave the European Union
- Will weaken the European Union's role in the world
- Will weaken European science and culture
- □ Will improve cooperation among the remaining member countries
- Will make the European Union stronger



## What do Europeans think?

Democracy	Negative view of how democracy is currently working in their respective countries (with the exception of Germany)
Rule of law	Ample agreement around the importance of the rule of law in safeguarding democracy
Political parties	Recognition of the need for political parties coexists with reservations about mainstream parties (especially in France and Italy)
The state	Regarded as necessarily responsible for provision of pensions and universal healthcare, and less so in controlling variables central to the operation of markets (prices, wages, profits)
Income	Spain excepted, the preference is for differences in income reflective of educational level and personal qualifications
National identification	High degree of national identification and pride of belonging. A shared language is seen as an essential pillar in facilitating coexistence within each country
The EU	The balance of opinion is largely positive on EU membership, except in Italy, though EU institutions are widely regarded as being too distant from citizens.

## What do the Spanish think and want?

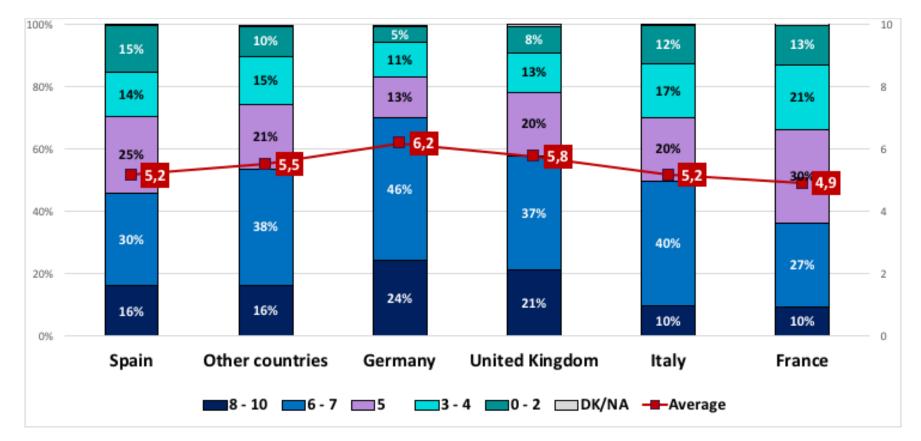
- Reservations about how well democracy is working, although sentiment has improved somewhat since 2012
- Of the five survey countries, the one whose citizens identify most strongly with the political left
- They are rather less critical towards the mainstream political parties
- Identification with the nation state and its symbols on a par with the other survey countries
- Most vehement in their demand for classic welfare state provisions and the first to advocate greater state intervention in key areas of the market
- They believe income should be more evenly distributed, even if that means more and less qualified people earn about the same
- The country most positive on EU membership.

# Trust in groups and institutions

- Trust in professional groups
- Trust in institutions
- Perceptions of corruption
- Perceptions of the law courts and media

- Interpersonal trust hovers around the mid-point on the scale in all survey countries, with some variation: the highest levels correspond to Germany and the United Kingdom, and the lowest to France.
- Spain, together with Italy, occupies an intermediate position. The least trusting segment is largest in Spain, followed by France and Italy.

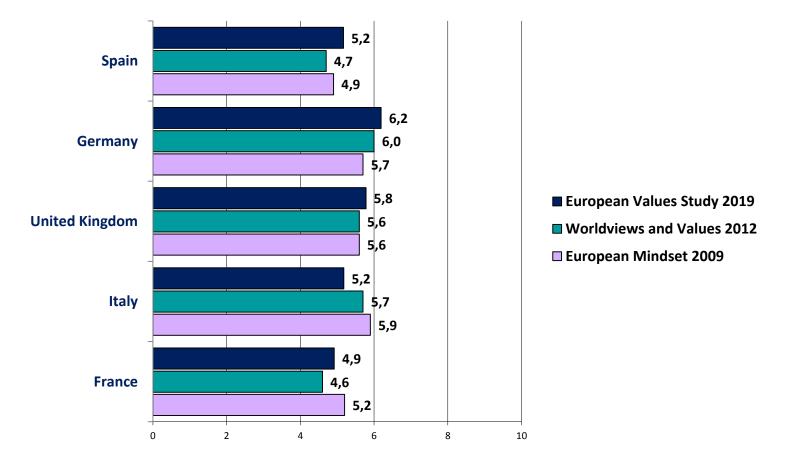
"On the whole, would you say most people can or cannot be trusted?" Average and distribution on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that the majority of people "cannot be trusted at all" and 10 means that the majority of people "can be trusted completely". Base: all cases.



### **CHANGING LEVELS OF INTERPERSONAL TRUST**

- Interpersonal trust has risen slightly in Spain with respect to 2012 and 2009, and by 2019 had edged above the mid-point on the scale. In Germany too, levels of interpersonal trust have augmented in the decade.
- In Italy, conversely, the level of trust accorded to "the majority of people" has steadily deteriorated.

"On the whole, would you say most people can or cannot be trusted?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that the majority of people "cannot be trusted at all" and 10 means that the majority of people "can be trusted completely". Base: all cases.

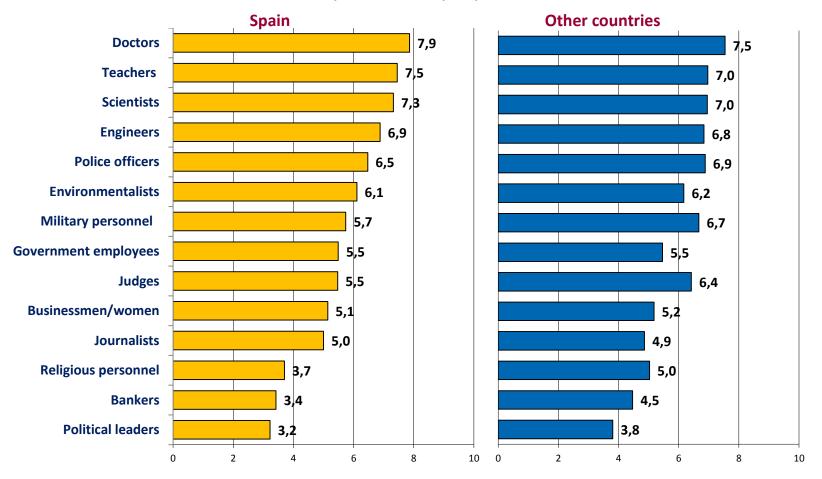


### TRUST IN PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

### Fundación BBVA

• Doctors, teachers, scientists and engineers, in that order, occupy the upper reaches of the professional trust map, while politicians, bankers and religious personnel fall below the trust threshold, most notably in Spain.

"How much do you trust the following groups and persons?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that "you do not trust them at all" and 10 means that "you trust them completely". Base: all cases.



- With the exception of politicians, professional groups related to the state obtain high levels of trust, with the police occupying the top spot ahead of military personnel and judges.
- In contrast, citizens in every country, with the sole exception of Germany, express a strong distrust of <u>political</u> <u>leaders</u>.
- Average trust in these groups in Spain trails the average of the other four countries, except in the case of government employees.

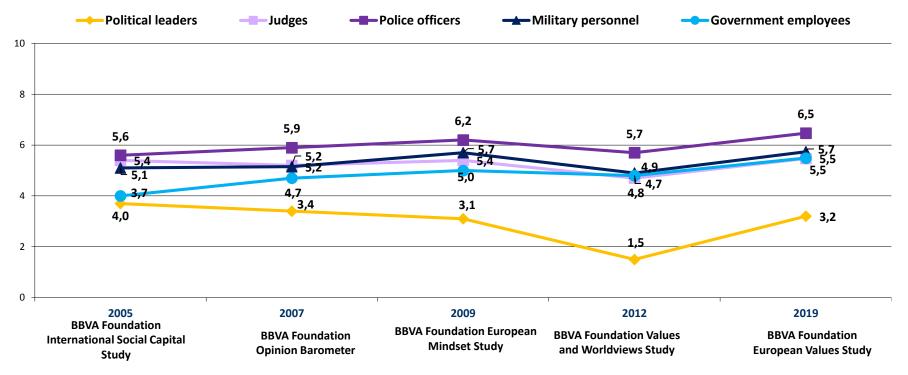
"How much do you trust the following groups and persons?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that "you do not trust them at all" and 10 means that "you trust them completely". Base: all cases.

	Spain	Other countries	Germany	United Kingdom	France	Italy
Police officers	6.5	6.9	7.3	7.0	6.5	6.7
Military personnel	5.7	6.7	6.3	7.0	6.9	6.6
Judges	5.5	6.4	7.2	6.7	6.0	5.7
Government employees	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.8	5.3
Political leaders	3.2	3.8	5.0	3.4	3.2	3.6



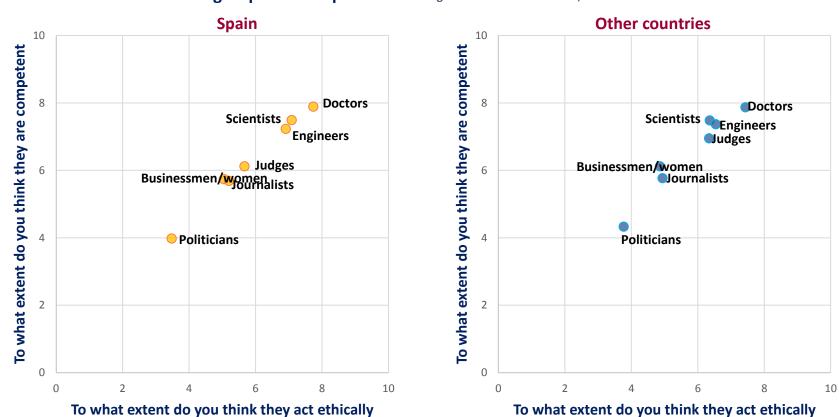
- On a time series perspective, Spaniards' level of trust in different state-related professional groups improved with respect to the results obtained in 2012. In that year, all these professions, with the exception of the police, fell short of the trust threshold, with politicians scraping a minimum level of 1.5 points.
- The level of trust expressed in state-related professional groups in 2019 is similar to that of ten years ago.





### **ETHICS AND COMPETENCE OF PROFESSIONAL GROUPS**

- The two main facets of trust in professional groups are <u>ethics</u> and <u>competence</u> or ability.
  - In Europe on average (excluding Spain), <u>doctors</u>, <u>scientists</u> and <u>engineers</u> are the groups perceived as being the most competent and ethical in their conduct, followed by <u>judges</u>. <u>Businessmen/women</u> and <u>journalists</u> make up a second group. <u>Politicians</u> again score very low on both counts.
  - The structure of the resulting map in Spain is broadly similar to that of the other four countries, except that judges trail further behind the leading group made up of doctors, scientists and engineers.



# "To what extent do you think the following groups act in an ethical way? To what extent do you think the following groups are competent?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, Base: all cases

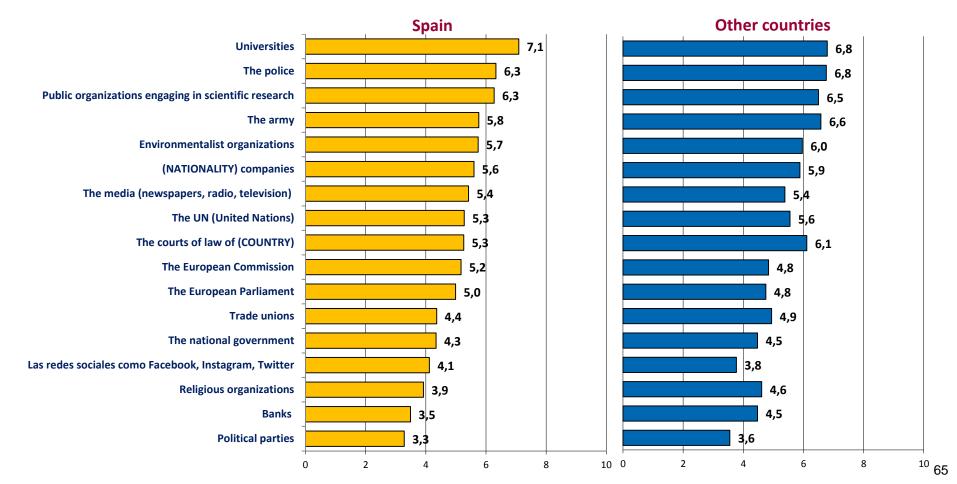
#### Fundación

### **INSTITUTIONAL TRUST**

# BBVA

The <u>institutional trust</u> map shows <u>universities</u>, the <u>police</u>, <u>public research organizations</u> and <u>the army</u> occupying the top spots in the ranking. <u>Political parties</u>, <u>social networks</u>, <u>banks</u>, <u>national governments</u> and <u>religious organizations</u> lie below the mid-point trust threshold. In general, Spaniards express a somewhat lower level of trust in most institutions (with the chief exception of universities) than the average of the other four countries.

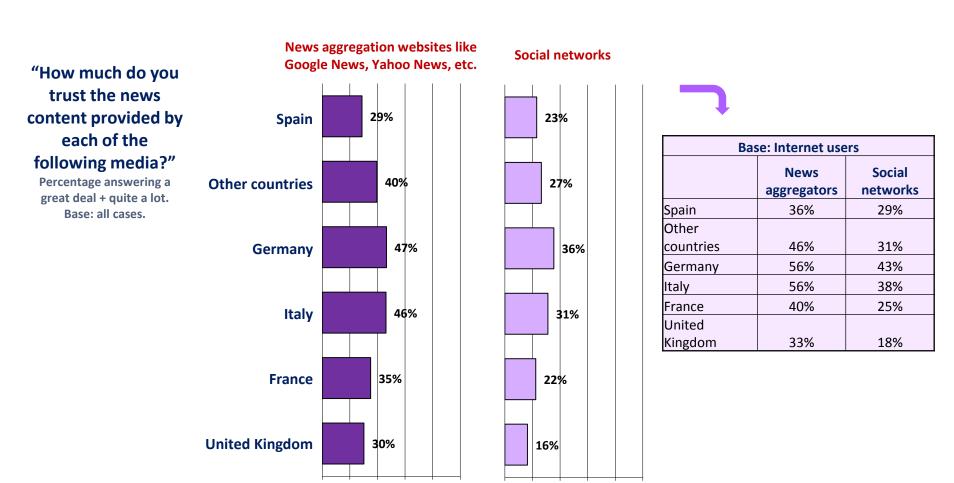
"How much do you TRUST the following organizations?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that "you do not trust them at all" and 10 means that "you trust them completely". Base: all cases.



### TRUST IN AGGREGATORS AND NETWORKS

### Fundación BBVA

 Compared to the trust accorded conventional media, only a relative majority of the general population and an absolute majority among Internet users in Germany and Italy express trust in the information provided by <u>news aggregation websites</u>. <u>Social networks</u>, meantime, fail to gain the trust of the majority in any country, and although levels are higher among Internet users, they still fall below the threshold in all five countries.



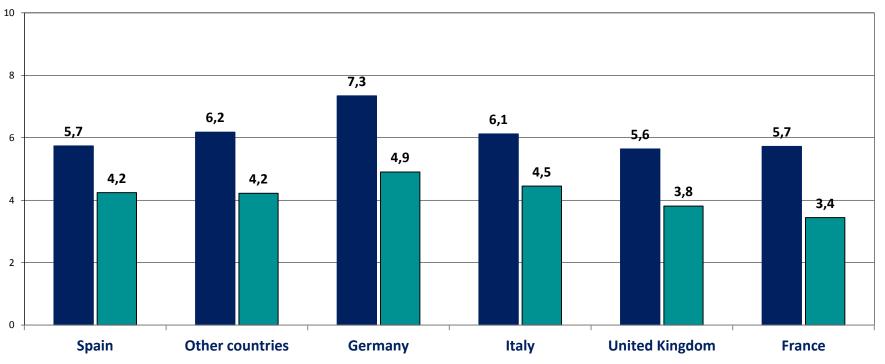




 Confidence in <u>conventional media</u> is corroborated by widespread agreement with the assertion that "the information transmitted through the press, radio, and television is objective and true"; on the contrary, there is considerably more skepticism as to whether the same can be said about the information circulating round social networks.

"How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you completely disagree and 10 that you completely agree. Base: all cases.

■ In general, the information transmitted through the press, radio and television is objective and true



■ In general, the information transmitted through social networks is objective and true

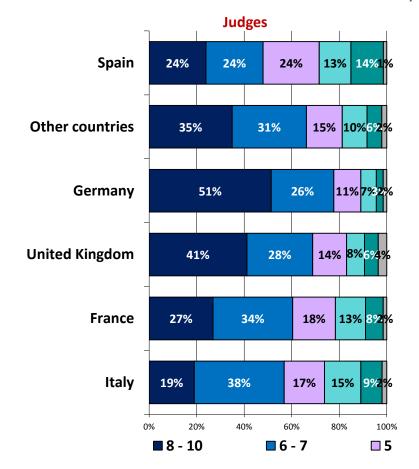
#### Fundación

### TRUST IN JUDGES AND THE COURTS OF LAW

# BBVA

- Zooming in on another fundamental institution, the <u>courts of law</u>, and the professional group of <u>judges</u>, opinions vary significantly between countries. Although <u>trust in the institution and its professionals prevails</u> across the board, it is deeper and wider (scores of 8 to 10) among the Germans, followed by the British.
- In almost all countries, trust in the professional group judges exceeds trust in the institution the courts of law.

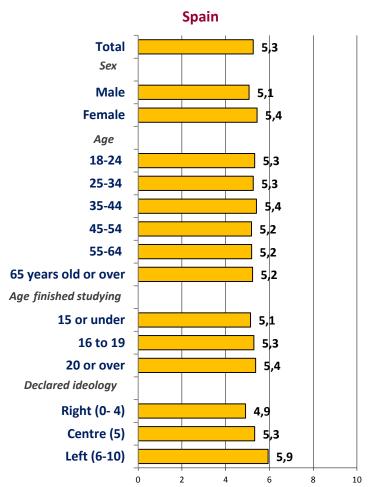
"How much do you TRUST each of the following groups/organizations?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that "you do not trust them at all" and 10 means that "you trust them completely". Base: all cases

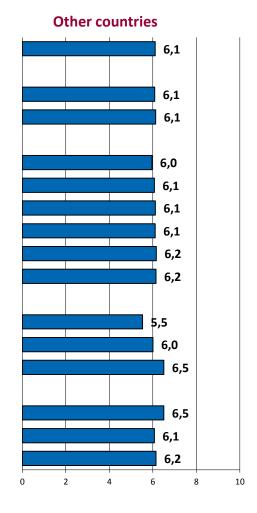






"How much do you TRUST each of the following organizations?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that "you do not trust them at all" and 10 means that "you trust them completely". Base: all cases





**Courts of law** 



### Trust in the courts of law by segment in Spain

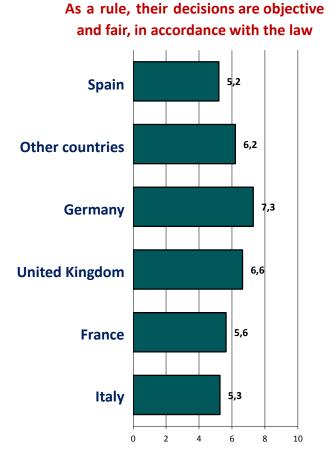
				1			
	Total	19%	26%	22%	16%	15%	3%
Sex	Male	18%	24%	22%	18%	17%	2%
	Female	21%	27%	22%	13%	<mark>6</mark> 13%	3%
	18-24	25%	25%	16%	14%	17%	2%
	25-34	18%	28%	21%	15%	15%	В%
<u></u>	35-44	19%	25%	24%	16%	11%	5%
Age	45-54	15%	31%	23%	14%	16%	2%
	55-64	22%	21%	25%	14%	17%	2%
	65 and over	21%	24%	21%	18%	14%	8%
	ears or under	19%	23%	21%	17%	16%	4%
	16 to 19	21%	25%	23%	15%	14%	8%
	20 and over	18%	30%	22%	15%	14%	2%
	Left (0-4)	16%	26%	20%	19%	19%	1%
	Centre (5)	20%	24%	28%	13	<mark>%</mark> 13%	2%
	Right (8-10)	27%	32	2%	20%	10% 10	<mark>% 2</mark> %

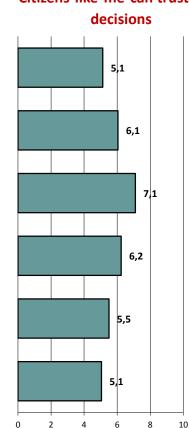


• In all countries, the objectivity and fairness in law of the sentences handed down earns the approval of the population, and there is agreement that the courts' decisions can be trusted (particularly in Germany).

"To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the courts of law in your country?"

Average on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means that you completely disagree and 10 that you completely agree. Base: all cases.





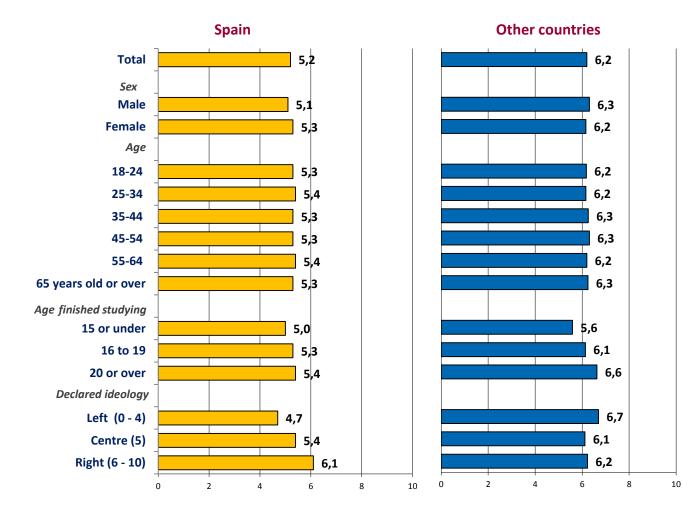
Citizens like me can trust their



## "To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the courts of law in your country?" Average on a

scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means that you completely disagree and 10 that you completely agree. Base: all cases.

#### As a rule, their decisions are objective and fair, in accordance with the law



72

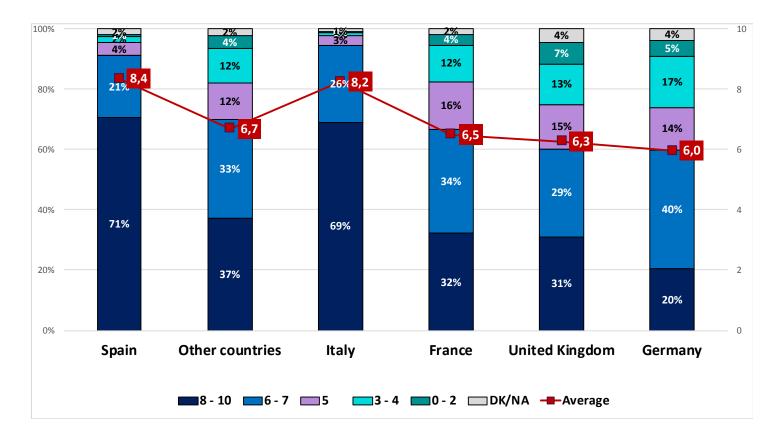
#### **CORRUPTION**

## Fundación BBVA

• A central problem of public life today is <u>corruption</u>, with adverse effects on multiple planes. The citizens of the five countries share the idea that corruption is prevalent, rating it high or very high. This perception is especially accentuated in Spain, followed by Italy, with close to 70% in both cases believing that corruption is very high. Germany lies at the other extreme.

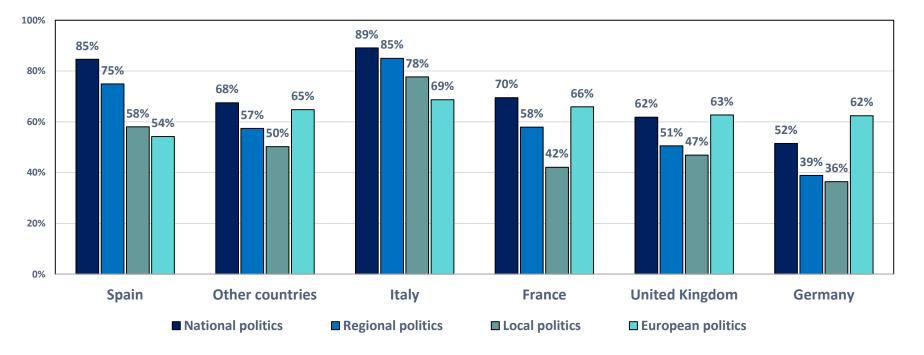
#### "To what extent do you think there is corruption in (COUNTRY)?"

Distribution and average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means there is no corruption at all and 10 means there is a great deal of corruption. Base: all cases.



- Citizens in four countries attribute a very high level of corruption to national politics. A majority also perceive corruption at regional and local levels, albeit with rather less intensity.
- The Italians are those perceiving most corruption at the local, regional and national levels, followed by the Spanish. Germans are those who least perceive corruption in their country.
- In all five countries, European politics are viewed as having a problem of corruption. The Germans rate corruption in this sphere higher than at other levels of government, while the British place it on an equal footing with national politics.

"How widespread do you think corruption is in European, national, regional and local politics?" Percentage answering "very + fairly widespread". Base: all cases.



# A differentiated trust map

### **Higher trust**

- High level of trust in groups and institutions related to the state
- Medium-high trust in the Government and political leaders
- Medium trust in groups and institutions linked to the economy (businessmen/women, trade unions, banks)
- Medium-low or low perception of corruption in national institutions.

#### Lower trust

- Medium level of trust in groups and institutions related to the state
- Medium-low or low trust in groups and institutions linked to the economy (businessmen/women, trade unions, banks)
- Strongly accentuated perception of corruption.

Germany

The United Kingdom comes close to

this same profile, but differs in

citizens' intensely critical view of

their national government and

political leaders

Characteristic countries

Italy Spain

France stands close to this group, albeit with citizens expressing higher levels of trust and a less severe perception of corruption

# **Concerns over global issues**

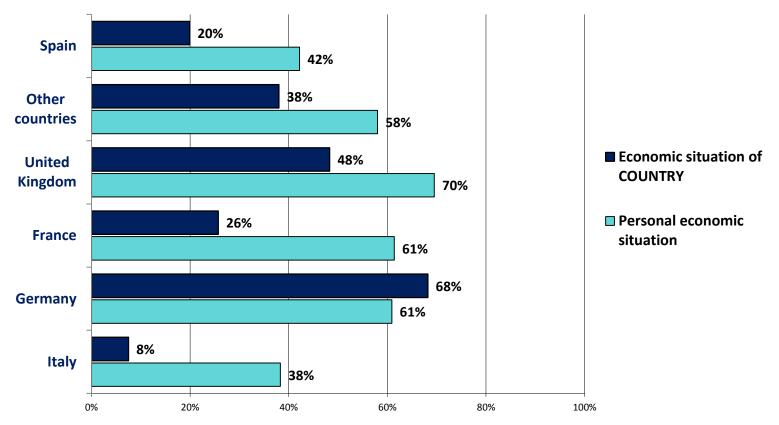
- Perception of the economic situation
  - Attitudes towards global challenges: climate change, immigration, reception of refugees and "fake news"

# BBVA

#### PERSONAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

- Only a small minority of Italians feel positive about their country's economic situation, followed by the Spanish and the French. This contrasts with the widespread satisfaction expressed by the Germans and, at a distance, the British. In all societies except Germany, citizens consider their personal economic situation a good deal better than that of the country as a whole.
- The British are those declaring themselves most content with their personal economic situation, followed by the French and the Germans, in contrast to the negative perceptions of the Italians and the Spanish.

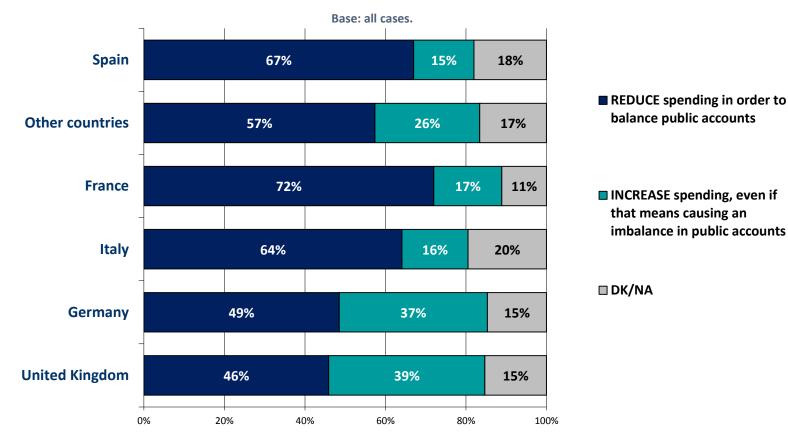
"How would you rate your personal economic situation? And that of your country?" Percentage answering very good + good. Base: all cases.



#### **PUBLIC SPENDING**

#### Fundación BBVA

- Asked about the current economic situation, an absolute or relative majority would prefer to <u>reduce spending</u> to balance public accounts rather than increase spending at the risk of causing an imbalance in public accounts.
- The option of cutting expenditure obtains a very large majority in countries with the least favourable assessment of their national economic situation: France, Spain and Italy.



#### "Given the current economic situation, what do you see as the best course?"

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#### **PUBLIC SPENDING BY DECLARED POLITICAL ORIENTATION**

26%

38%

24%

23%

80%

17%

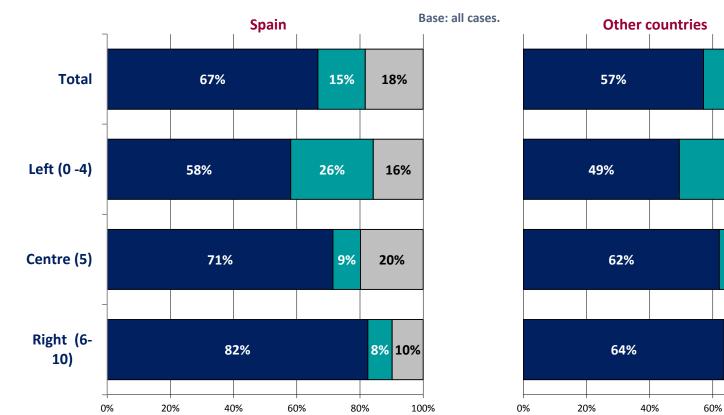
13%

14%

13%

100%

- In Spain, the preference for reducing spending to balance public accounts is much greater among those to the right of the political arc than among those identifying as on the left, although in this segment too it is clearly the majority option.
- In the average of the other four countries, the proposition finds especially strong support among those identifying with the centre and with the right.



"Given the current economic situation, what do you see as the best course?"

REDUCE spending in order to balance public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing an imbalance in public accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing accounts INCREASE spending, even if that means causing accounts INCREASE spe

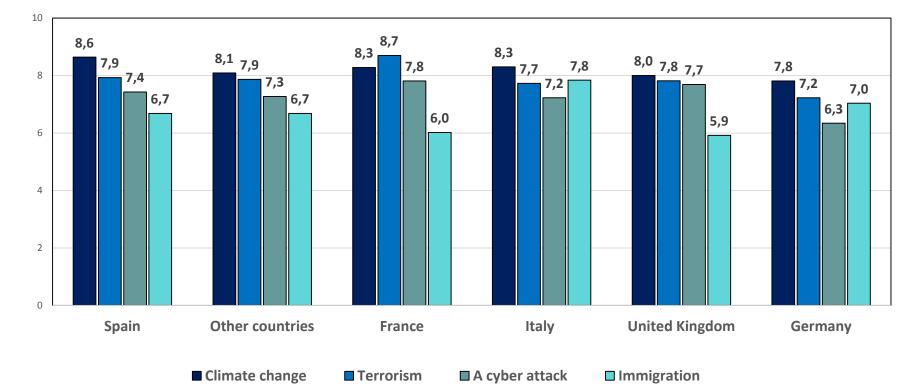
#### **GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

# Fundación BBVA

- There is a strong consensus to the effect that several of the global challenges currently under public debate are of relevance for respondents' own countries: large majorities see <u>climate change</u>, <u>terrorism</u>, a <u>cyber attack</u> and <u>immigration</u> as very important problems.
- The Italians stand out for a particularly accentuated perception of the problem of immigration, an issue also viewed as serious by the Germans then the Spanish, and less so by the French and the British.

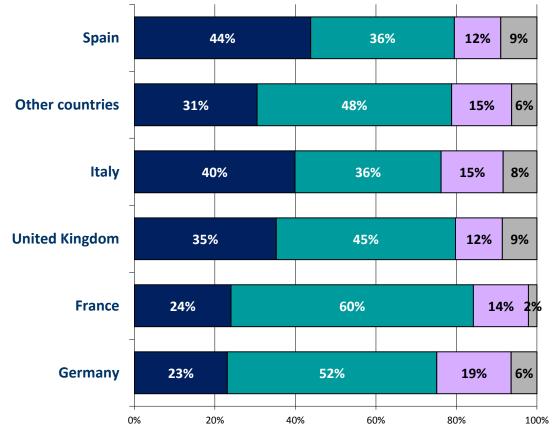
"To what extent do you believe the following issues represent a major problem for your country?"





#### **GLOBAL CHALLENGES: CLIMATE CHANGE**

• Citizens in all the countries analyzed are pessimistic about the likely future course of climate change. This is especially so among the French and Germans, who believe the process is already irreversible and the most that can be done is to mitigate some of its effects. In Spain, a relative majority are convinced that it is still possible to reverse climate change.



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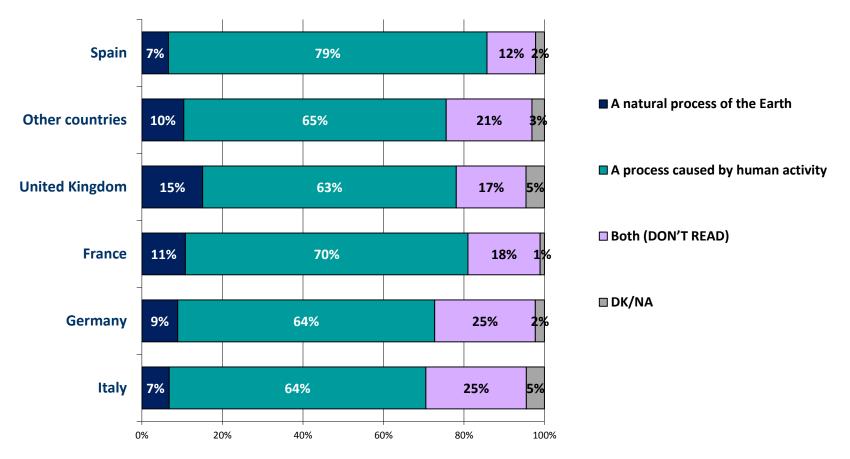
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#### "Which of these statements is closest to your view about global warming?" Base: all cases.

- ... is right now a REVERSIBLE process, meaning we are in time to prevent it
- I... is IRREVERSIBLE, but we can mitigate some of its effects
- ... is already an IRREVERSIBLE process, meaning it is too late to prevent it
   DK/NA

- Strong consensus in identifying human activity as the main cause of global warming.
- This view finds especially strong support in Spain.

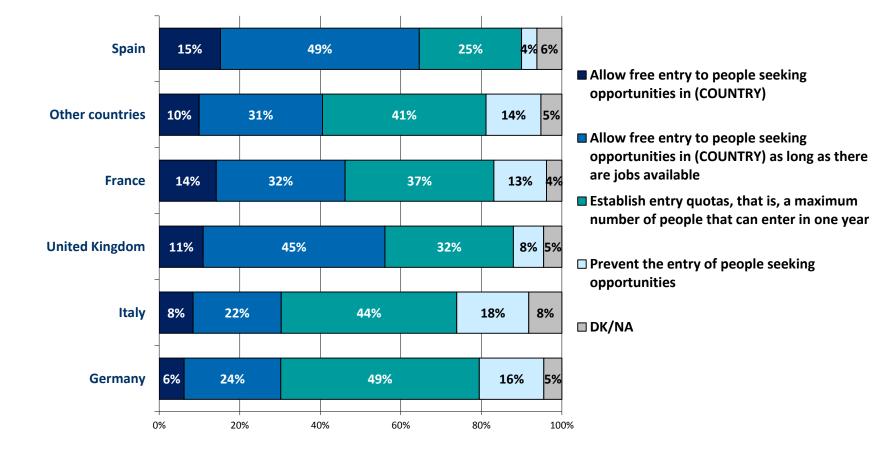
"Which of these two views is closer to your own?" Global warming is primarily: Base: all cases.



#### **GLOBAL CHALLENGES: IMMIGRATION**

#### Fundación BBVA

- A large majority approve of immigration policies that allow the entry of nationals of other countries subject to the availability of jobs and, most notably, the prior establishment of annual maximum quotas. The quotas option dominates in Germany, Italy and, less so, France, but receives only minority support in Spain, where the preference would be to condition immigration to the existence of jobs.
- Only a minority of citizens support free entry, with the Spanish and French the likeliest to favor this option and the Germans and Italians most strongly against.



#### "What do you think the Government should do about immigration to (COUNTRY)?" Base: all cases.

#### **GLOBAL CHALLENGES: REFUGEES**

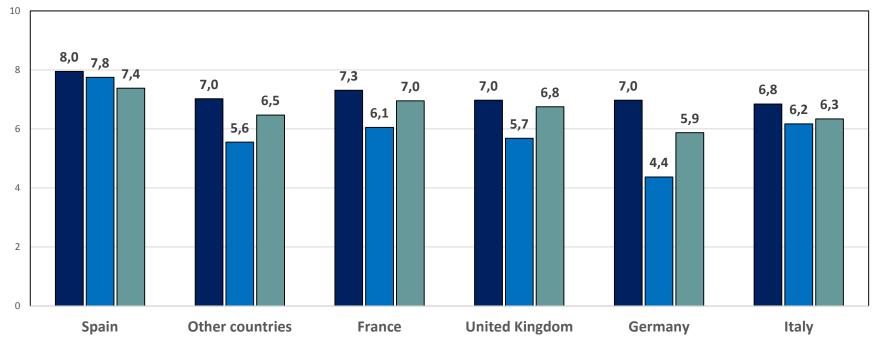
# BBVA

 With regard to <u>refugees</u>, an ample majority agree that their country should receive people fleeing war or political, ethnic or religious persecution and, at a distance, those fleeing poverty. Spaniards are more supportive than the average of the other four countries towards receiving refugees for all three reasons. In the other societies, there is greater agreement for receiving those fleeing from countries at war or from persecution than those who are trying to escape poverty (the opposite to Spain). Germans are the least favourable of all towards receiving this latter group.

#### "How much do you agree or disagree with the idea of (each country) receiving the following groups of people as

refugees?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means you "completely disagree" and 10 means that you "completely agree". Base: all cases.

- People fleeing from countries at war
- People fleeing from poverty
- People fleeing from political, ethnic or religious persecution

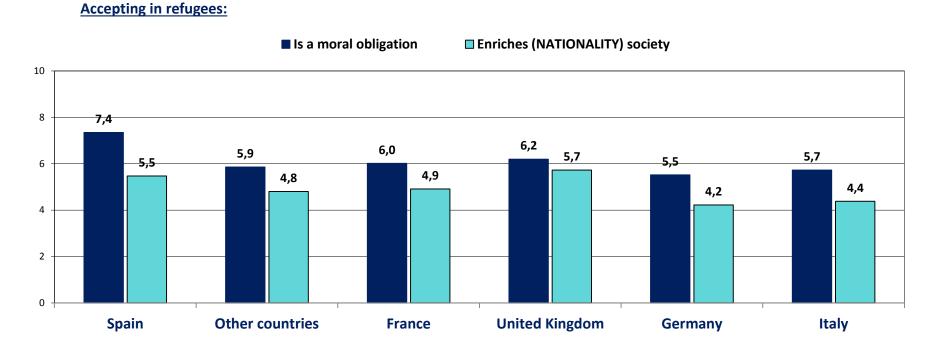


#### **GLOBAL CHALLENGES: REFUGEES**

# Fundación BBVA

- Most agree that the reception of refugees is a <u>moral obligation</u>, with agreement particularly strong in Spain, and more moderate in Germany and Italy.
- Opinions are divided as to whether or not receiving refugees enriches society itself: citizens in the United Kingdom and Spain tend to agree that it does, with the idea rejected elsewhere, notably in Germany and Italy.

"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that you "completely disagree" and 10 that you "completely agree". Base: all cases.



#### **GLOBAL CHALLENGES: REFUGEES**

# Fundación BBVA

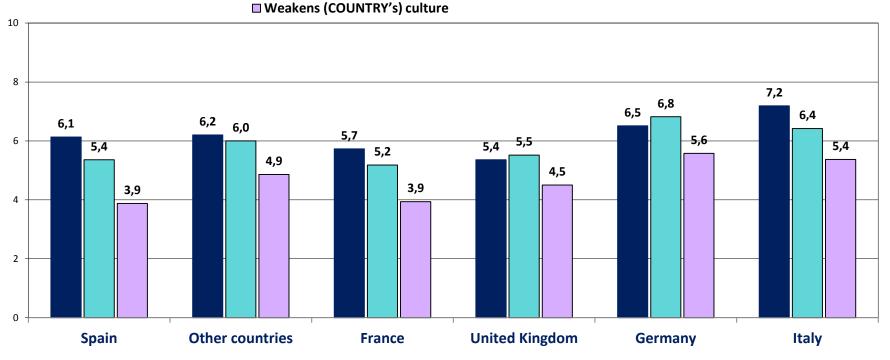
- Among the hypothetical downsides of the refugee reception process, a majority in all countries believe that it is an economic burden that the country cannot afford and, also, that it increases the danger of terrorist attacks. Opinions are more divided regarding its effects on a country's culture
- Germans and Italians are again the most critical with regard to its possible adverse effects.

"How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?" Average on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means that you "completely disagree" and 10 that you "completely agree". Base: all cases.

■ Is an economic burden that (COUNTRY) cannot afford

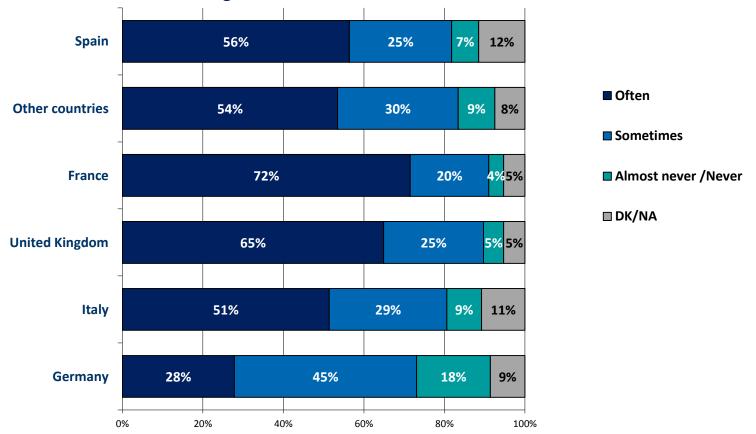
Increases the likelihood of terrorist attacks in (COUNTRY)

Accepting in refugees:



- The dissemination of "fake news" is regarded as common nowadays in four of the five countries, with particular intensity in France and the United Kingdom.
- Germans tend to see it as an occasional phenomenon.

"We often hear nowadays about "fake news", that is, untrue stories spread primarily via Internet and social media, designed to manipulate people's opinions. How often do you think this kind of fake news gets circulated?" Base: all cases.

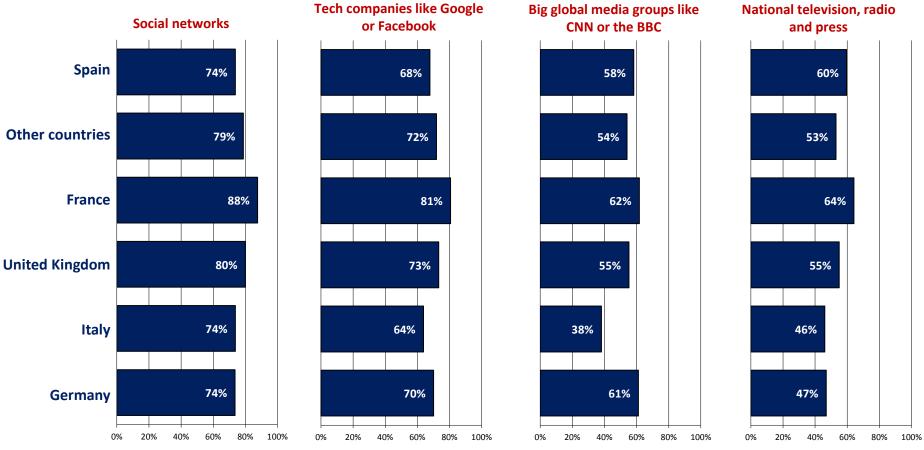


#### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAKE NEWS**

#### Fundación BBVA

• A majority attribute responsibility for "fake news" to social networks and tech companies like Google or Facebook, followed at a distance by big global media groups and the national media. In Italy and Germany, the majority of citizens exempt their national media from responsibility for the spread of "fake news".

"And how much responsibility do you think the following groups and organizations have for the spread of fake news?" Percentage answering "a great deal" + "guite a lot" of responsibility. Base: all cases.



# Conclusions

- Commonalities
- Differences

# BBVA

## **COMMONALITIES**

- The study finds cross-country consensus on matters linked to Europeans' political culture, such as the expectation for the state to take major responsibility for the provision of welfare state services, and for it to limit the operation of market mechanisms with regard to prices, wages or corporate profits.
- Europeans continue to regard political parties as being necessary to safeguard their interests, but also share a critical view of mainstream political parties.
- State-related professional groups like police officers, military personnel, judges and government employees enjoy a solid level of trust. Conversely, respondents in almost every country place political leaders below the trust threshold.
- They have a shared perception that corruption is high in their own countries (weak in the German case).
- They place more trust in the information provided by conventional media like televion, radio and the newspapers than they do in digital media like social networks and news aggregation websites.
- They identify strongly with their respective nation state and its symbols, and stress the importance of a shared language as a glue for social coexistence.
- The balance of opinion on EU membership is generally positive in all countries, but is offset by the widespread view that its institutions are distant from citizens.
- There is broad consensus around the importance for their country of several key global challenges at the center of public debate: climate change, terrorism, cyber attacks and immigration.

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## **DIFFERENCES**

- Despite these many points in common, the results of the survey reflect different models of participation and political culture.
- Spain and Italy stand out for their low levels of associationism and participation and lower readership of the press. Citizens call more strongly for welfare state services and are more approving of state intervention in diverse aspects of market functioning. Trust in institutions is rather more fragile and the presence of corruption is more keenly felt. Respondents are also the most downbeat about the economic situation of their respective countries.
- This two-country block nonetheless exhibits considerable divergences:
  - The Spanish, who tend more towards the left of the political spectrum, demand more state presence, prefer greater income equality irrespective of qualifications, are among the most positive on the European Union, and dissent from the Italians in their views on immigration and refugees. They are the most strongly supportive of accepting refugees who have fled their countries for diverse reasons and of immigration policies that allow people in provided jobs are available.
  - The Italians are more rightward leaning, take a more critical view of mainstream politics a characteristic they share with the French and express strongly negative opinions about European institutions. They are the likeliest to see immigration as a very serious problem, and the least sympathetic to the acceptance of refugees and all that it entails.



## **DIFERENCIAS**

- France shares certain traits with Spain and Italy, but differs in citizens' greater connection with the public space and lesser perception of corruption. Trust in institutions stands in the medium to low interval and, as in Italy, the mainstream political parties tend to be regarded with distrust.
- Germany stands apart from this first group of countries in expressing greater confidence in how democracy is working at home, and in its high levels of both interpersonal trust and trust in institutions and professional groups. These trust levels extend to state-related institutions and others such as the media and economic organizations. Citizens also express strong satisfaction with their courts of law and have a very limited perception of corruption. Their assessment of the national economic situation is particularly upbeat.
- The United Kingdom shares some features with Germany overall trust levels, perception of corruption, view of the courts of justice – albeit less forcibly expressed. Where it distances itself is in citizens' strongly critical view of the current functioning of democracy in the country and low level of trust in state institutions, and also the media. The British exhibit the perceptions proper to a multicultural society, more so than the Germans, and attach less importance to a homogeneity of traits as being necessary for civic coexistence. They are less opposed than the Germans to immigration and also to refugee reception and its effects.

# **TECHNICAL NOTES**

- Geographical scope of the study: Germany, Spain, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom.
- Universe: in each country, the general population aged 18 and over.
- Method: administered face-to-face interview in the home.
- Sample size and distribution: 1,500 cases in each of the 5 countries. Multistage sample distribution stratified by region (NUTS classification or equivalent)/size of habitat, with primary units selected by lot at municipal level. Individuals randomly selected.
- Sampling error: The estimated sampling error is +/- 2.6% in each country for a confidence level of 95.5% and in the worst-case scenario (p=q=0.5).
- Survey period: April to July 2019

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- Weighting: Total European results are arrived at by weighting each country's data according to its population weight in the universe of European countries surveyed.
- Fieldwork: coordinated and executed by the IPSOS network.
- Study design and analysis: BBVA Foundation Department of Social Studies and Public Opinion.