

SustainERA

ERA CHAIR IN SUSTAINABLE FUTURES



Kestliku tuleviku väljakutsed Eestis:

SustainERA projekti tutvustus

Anu Realo

Warwicki Ülikool, Tallinna Ülikool, Tartu Ülikool

SustainERA ID: 101186958 – HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01



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WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK





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Towards a Sustainable Future

Making sure people today can live happy, healthy lives while preserving the same opportunity for future generations



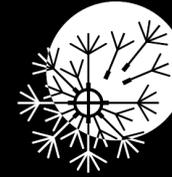
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Main Goals



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CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen interdisciplinary research excellence, capacity, and capability at TLU, by establishing a **new high-level research group in the field of Sustainable Futures**, focusing on sustainability and non-growth.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

To create an **Open Lab for Sustainable Futures research**, fostering collaboration across various TLU Schools and with external private and public partners, with the aim of **enhancing interdisciplinary research excellence** and informing evidence-based interventions and policy development in this field.



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Dealing with the Planetary Crisis **ea sac**

5 Years of Global Negative Trends



Recycling rate down
by 20.8%



Coal consumption up
1.3 billion tonnes



Increase of CO₂ and CH₄
(CO₂ up by 3.6 ppm from 2023–24)



Biodiversity
still declining



Extreme weather cost
increased by €44 billion
(EU only)



Increase of subsidies for fossil
fuels 52.2% to €6.7 trillion

6 out of 9

Almost 7 planetary
boundaries breached



CO₂ levels exceeding those
of 3.3 million years ago

In the Pliocene, temperatures
were around 3 °C hotter and
sea levels were 20 metres
higher



5 Policy Actions for a Sustainable Future

Rethink economic growth: Move beyond GDP-centric growth models towards sustainability-focused well-being indicators

End harmful subsidies: Stop fossil fuel subsidies and ensure a just transition to clean energy

Promote circular economy: Improve recycling and resource efficiency to increase circularity

Protect biodiversity: Enforce stricter regulations on habitat preservation and restoration

Base policies on facts: Prioritize scientific evidence over political expediency in decision-making

European Academies



Science Advisory Council

European Academies

ea sac

Science Advisory Council

5 Policy Actions

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Research Programme

**Focus on
individuals**



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ERA CHAIR IN SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Research Programme

**Focus on
individuals**

**Education as
a key driver**



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ERA CHAIR IN SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Research Programme

**Focus on
individuals**

**Education as
a key driver**

**Focus on
Estonia**



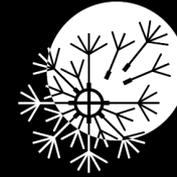
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Focus on Estonia



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- Among Central and Eastern European countries a leader in sustainable performance and innovation growth.
- Low concern for climate change and minimal eco-conscious behaviour.
- Broader international and historical perspectives will complement the Estonian focus.



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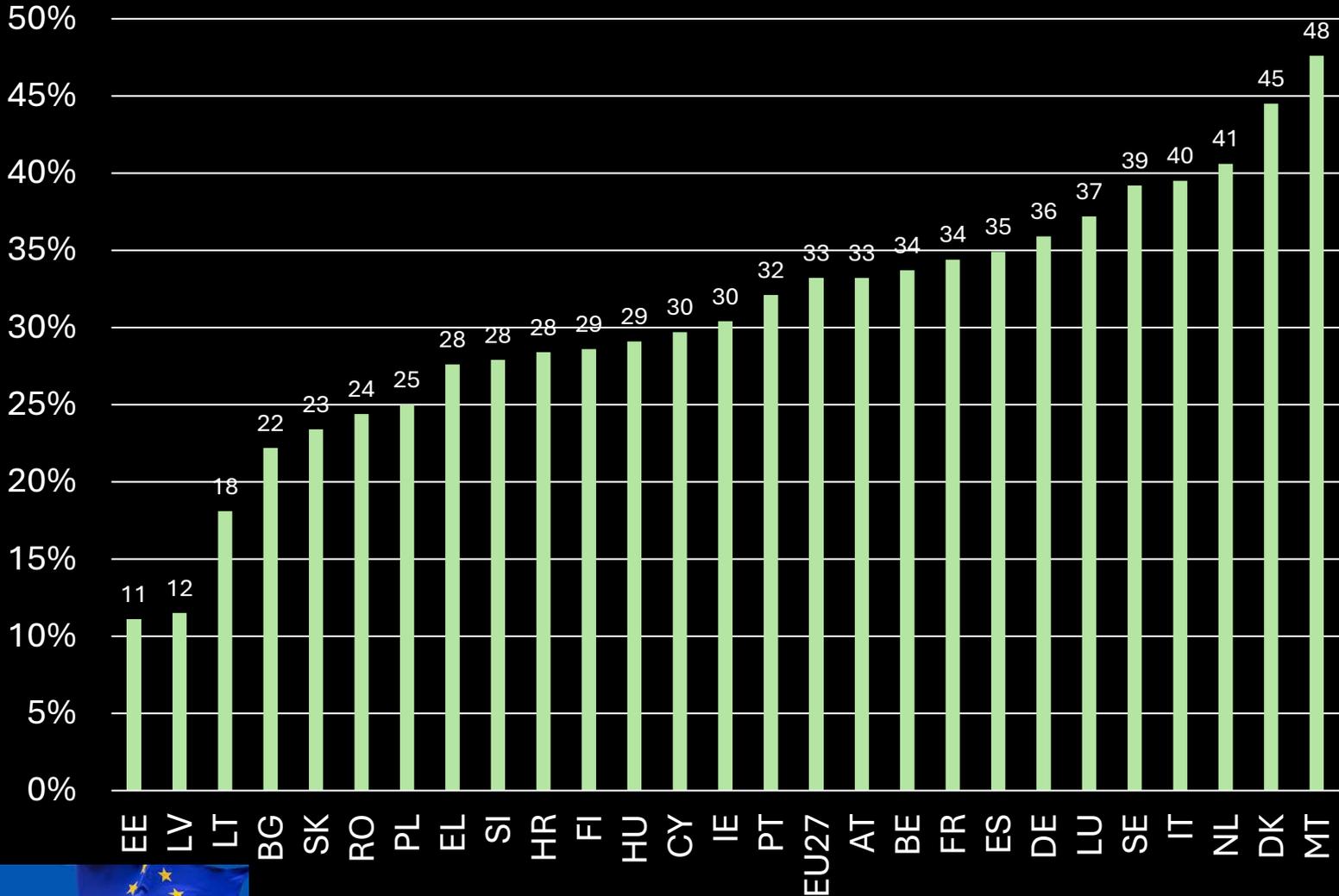


Which of the following areas do you think the EU should address as a priority?

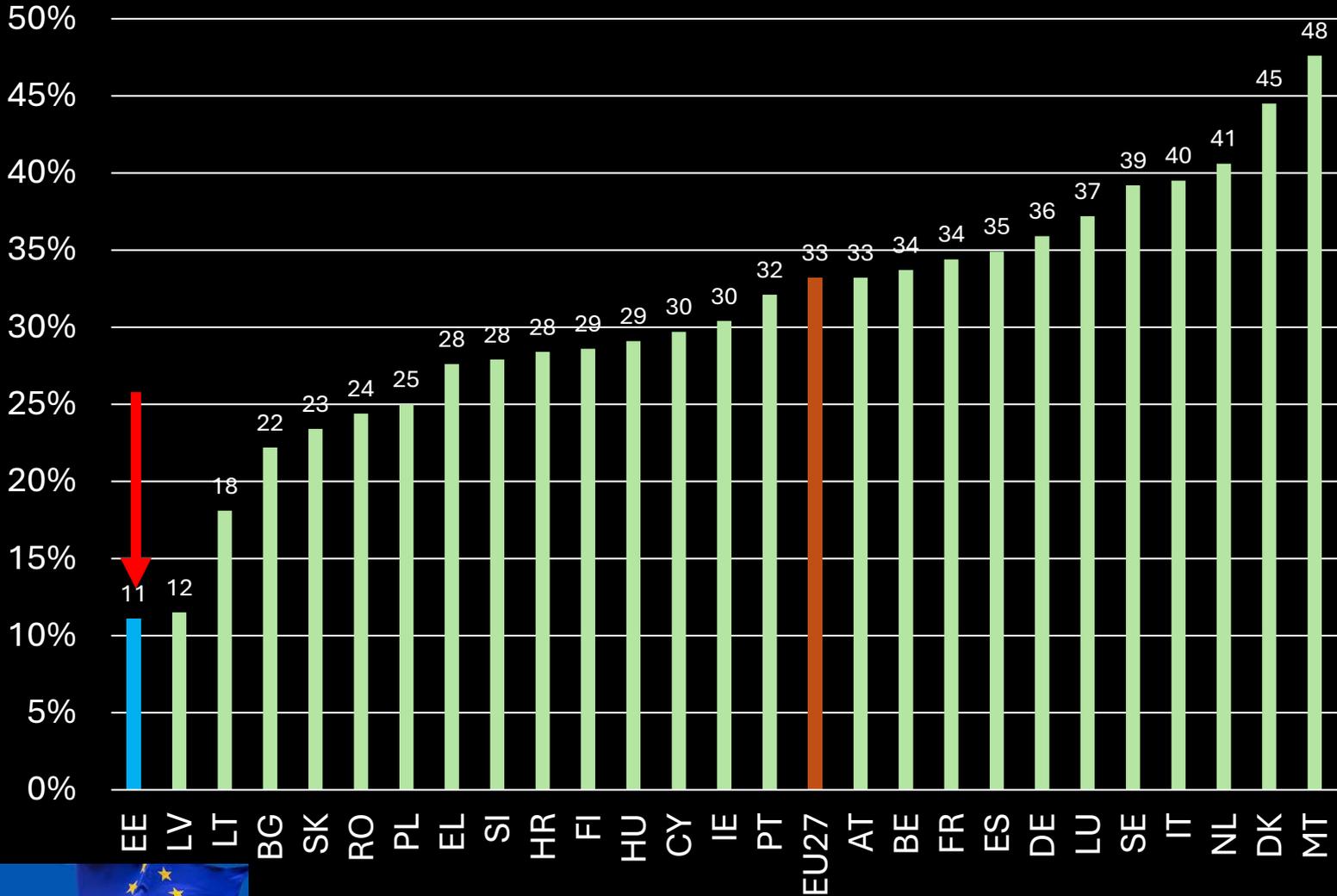


June-July 2024,
Flash Eurobarometer 550 EU

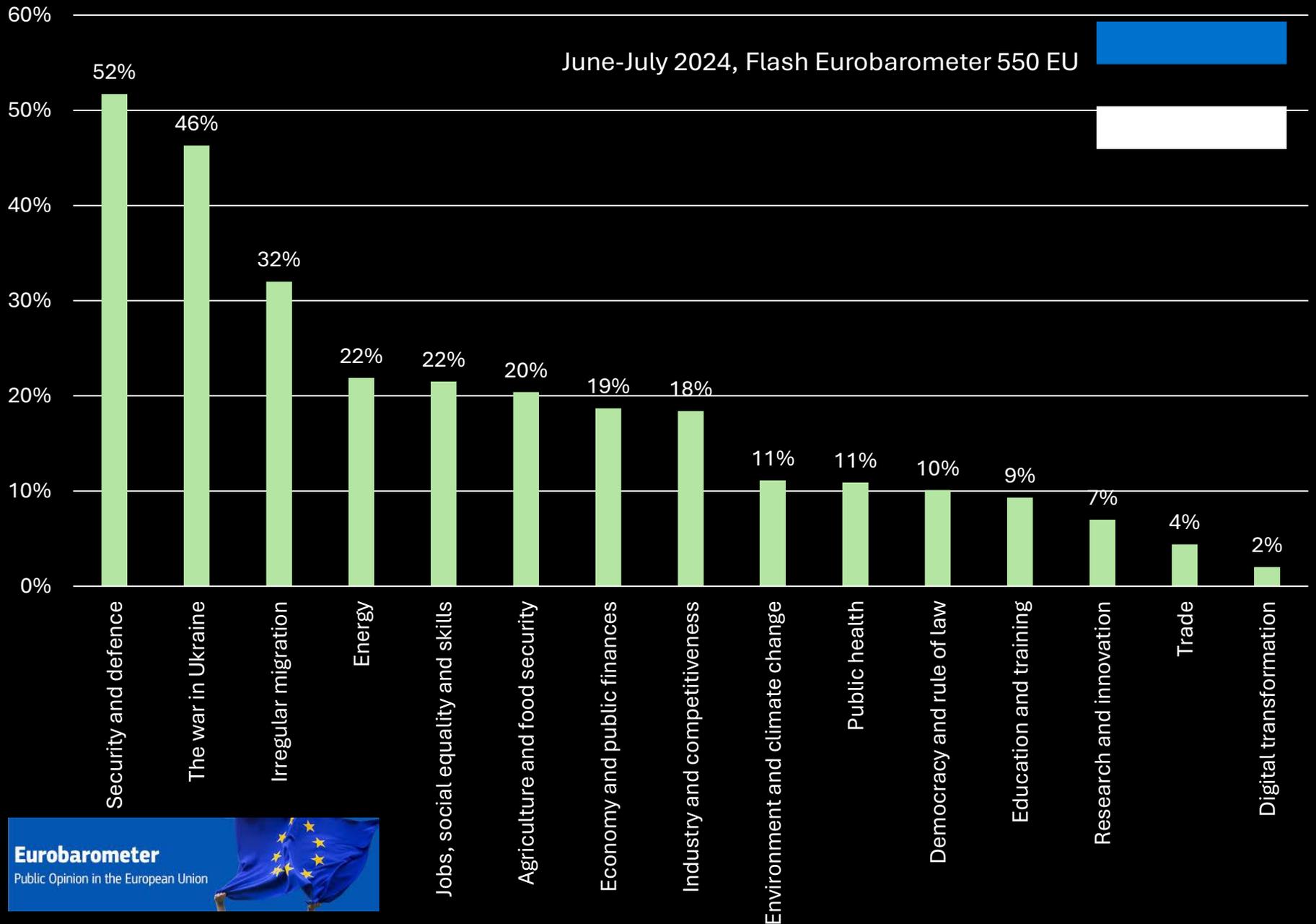
Which of the following areas do you think the EU should address as a priority? – ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



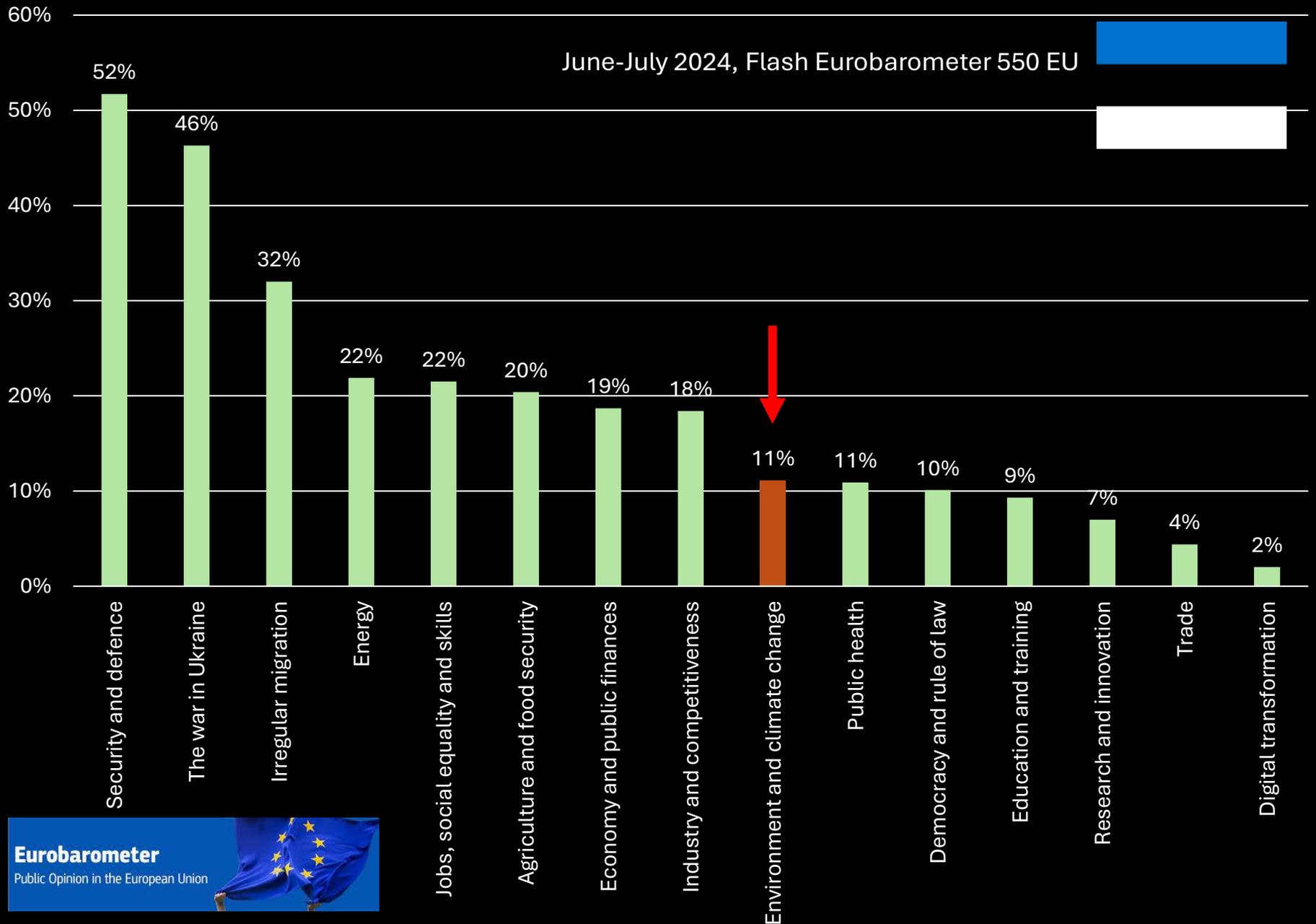
Which of the following areas do you think the EU should address as a priority? – ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



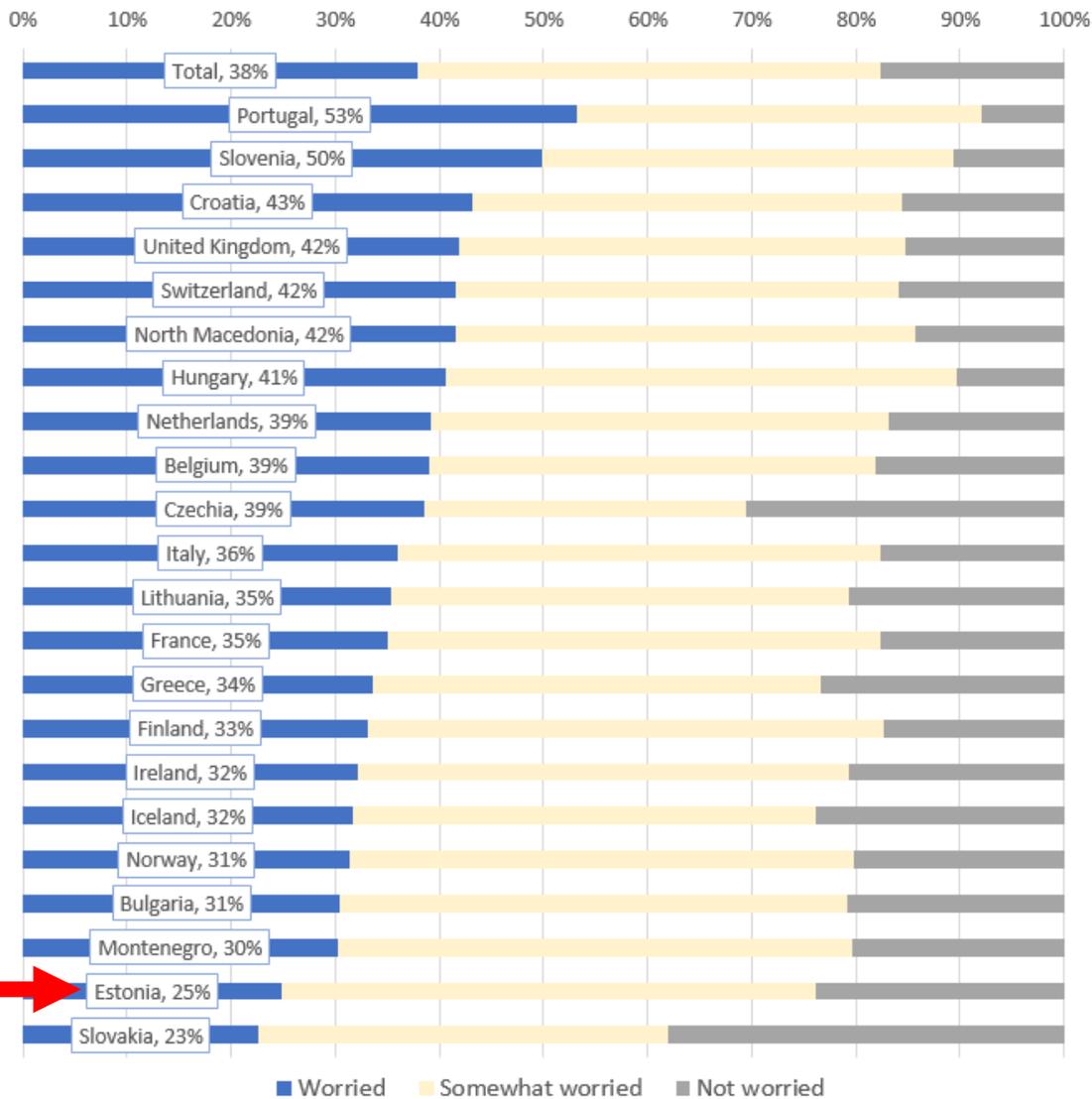
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Which of the following areas do you think the EU should address as a priority?



ESS10 (2021)



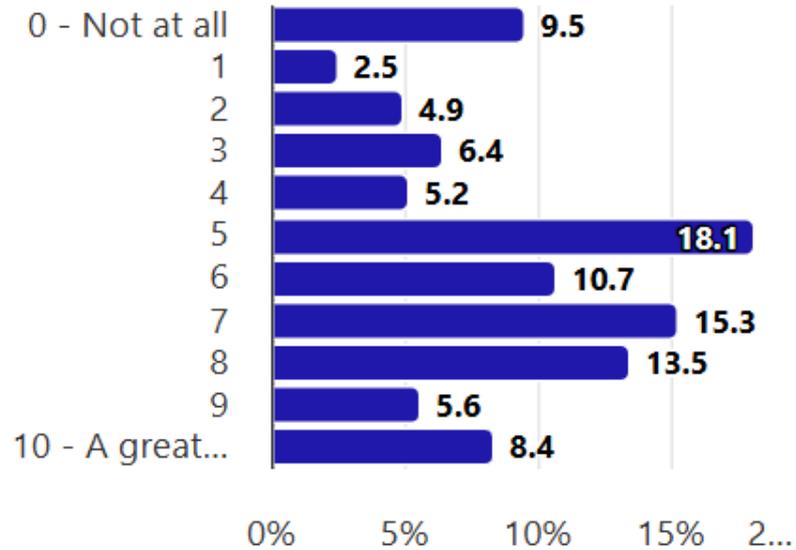
How worried are you about climate change? (2021)



To what extent feel personal responsibility to reduce climate change

Estonia

To what extent feel personal responsibility to reduce climate change



To what extent feel personal responsibility to reduce climate change



ESS round 10 - 2020. Democracy, Digital social contacts | N = 36519

Average monthly maximum temperature in July in 1960-1990

20.2 29.3°C



Estimated monthly average maximum temperature in July in 2070 based on IPCC RCP

20.2 29.3°C



Research: Estonians are too selective when it comes to sustainable behavior

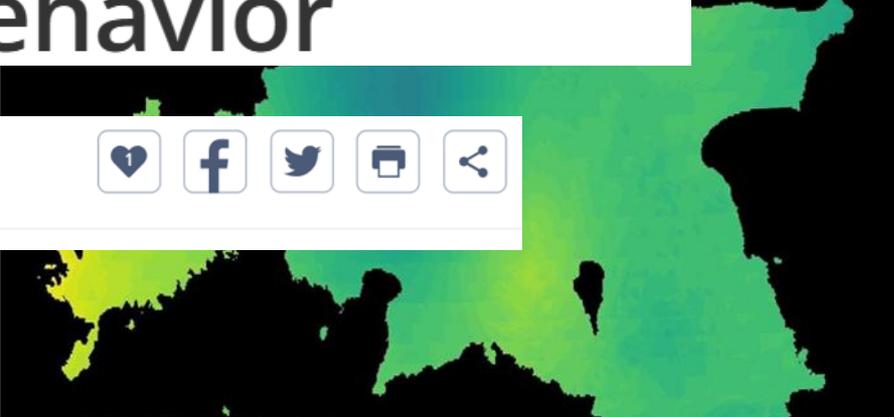
Average precipitation

37



Data from WorldClim. Average monthly climate data for precipitation for 1960-1990.

@evelyuuemas



Data from WorldClim. Climate projection from HadGEM2-ES model that has been downscaled. Greenhouse gas scenario: RCP 8.5. Time period: 2070 (average for 2061 - 2080).

@evelyuuemas

NEWS

Reimo Sildvee

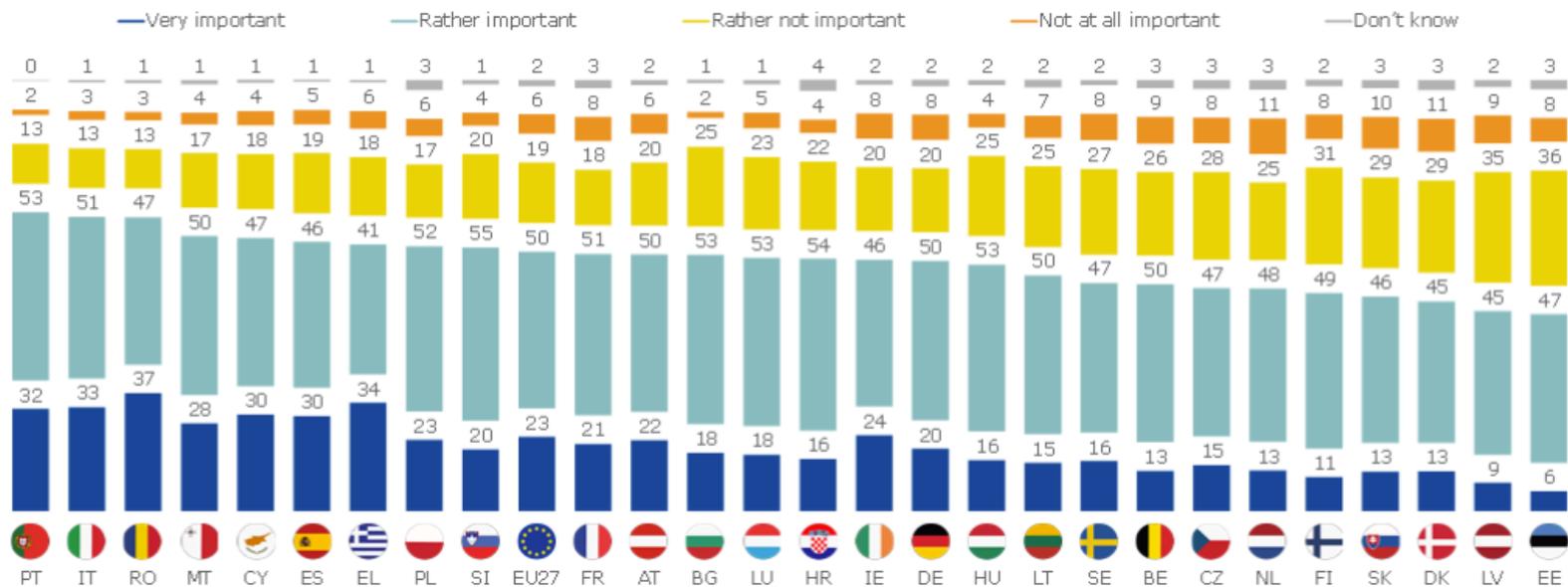
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Importance of the Environmental Consequences of Consumer Purchases"

DX1 How important are the following aspects when making a decision on what products (goods or services) to buy?

The impact on the environment of the product (% by country)



Eurobarometer September 2023



Main Research Themes



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Lead Investigators: Anu Realo and Grete Arro

➤ **Individual Characteristics and Behaviours in Sustainability Transitions:**

Investigates individual-level attitudes, values, knowledge, and behaviours related to sustainability and non-growth in Estonia, within the Nordic-Baltic context. It includes developing methods for monitoring and evaluating the impact of sustainability initiatives on public awareness and individual actions.

➤ **Agency, Trust, and Personal Responsibility in Sustainable Futures:**

Examines how agency, personal responsibility, and trust influence sustainable behaviour. Focuses on how individuals attribute responsibility for sustainability and how these attributions shape their actions and responses to sustainability campaigns, using mixed-method research approaches.



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Main Research Themes



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Lead Investigators: Mari-Liis Jakobson and Leif Kalev

➤ **Political Communication and Attitudes:**

Explores political communication on sustainability and degrowth in Estonia. It includes analysing media, manifestos, and social media, examining political actors' positions and communication strategies, and assessing their impact on public attitudes and behaviour.

➤ **Policy Development for Governing Sustainability Transition:**

Examines how policymakers adopt and adapt EU sustainability regulations, focusing on policy implementation, societal acceptance, and co-governance. It aims to identify best practices for effective and legitimate sustainability governance.



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Main Research Themes



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Lead Investigators: Jaanus Terasmaa, Katrin Männik, Terje Väljataga

➤ **Sustainable Organisation and Ecosystems:**

Investigates how organisations transition to sustainability using ESG frameworks, identifying key drivers and barriers. It aims to develop flexible lifelong learning models for organisations, focusing on universities and their ESG strategies, with TLU as a case study.

➤ **Organisational Transitions to Sustainability in Estonia: An ESG-Based Analysis:**

Focuses on mid-level managers and marketing specialists in Estonian organisations, exploring how ESG frameworks influence sustainability transitions. Identifies barriers, competency gaps, and strategies, while developing tailored models using European sustainability competence frameworks.



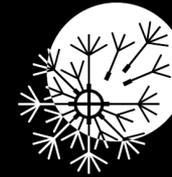
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Main Research Themes



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Lead Investigators: Tarmo Pikner, Kai Pata, Terje Väljataga

➤ **The Role of Communities and Rural-Urban Contexts in Driving Sustainability Transitions:**

Explores community-based sustainability transformations in rural and urban settings, focusing on circular bioeconomy and other sustainable practices, with an emphasis on rural communities and innovation hubs like technoparks.

➤ **The Role of Urban and Rural Contexts and Time Dimensions Related to Non-growth and Sustainability Transitions:**

Examines how spatial, cultural, and temporal factors influence sustainability transitions, focusing on communities, care, and anticipated futures in non-growth contexts, and how historical experiences shape attitudes towards sustainability.



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Enhancing Research Excellence and Developing the Next Generation of Researchers



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- **Collaboration and Capacity Building with Graduate Schools**
Integrate interdisciplinary approaches to social science research for sustainable futures into the doctoral school programme in Estonia and into relevant international doctoral schools.
- **Organisation of Summer/Winter Schools for Early Career Researchers**
In collaboration with other TLU Schools, two summer and/or winter schools for ECRs (doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows) in the field of Sustainable Futures will be organised. The schools will accommodate 20+ participants.
- **PhD Supervisors Support**
Regular workshops targeting both younger and more experienced supervisors.



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We're recruiting!



Anu Realo • You

Professor * University of Warwick * Tallinn University * University of Tartu * Est...

2w •



Exciting PhD and postdoc opportunities at [Tallinn University](#)!

We're recruiting 4 fully funded PhD students and 3 postdocs—a unique opportunity to join our SustainERA interdisciplinary research team led by me and [Kai Pata](#)!

Four PhD students

<https://lnkd.in/eHvM5RSw>

Three postdocs

<https://lnkd.in/e3yKxRne>

<https://lnkd.in/eYkv5TrC>

<https://lnkd.in/e78Wp9WE>

Apply by 16th April



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Thank you!

Please follow us on social media:

 Bluesky



 [@sustainera.bsky.social](https://sustainera.bsky.social)

 linkedin.com/company/106934630 (ERA Chair in Sustainable Futures)

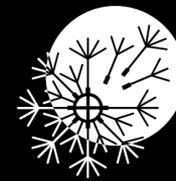


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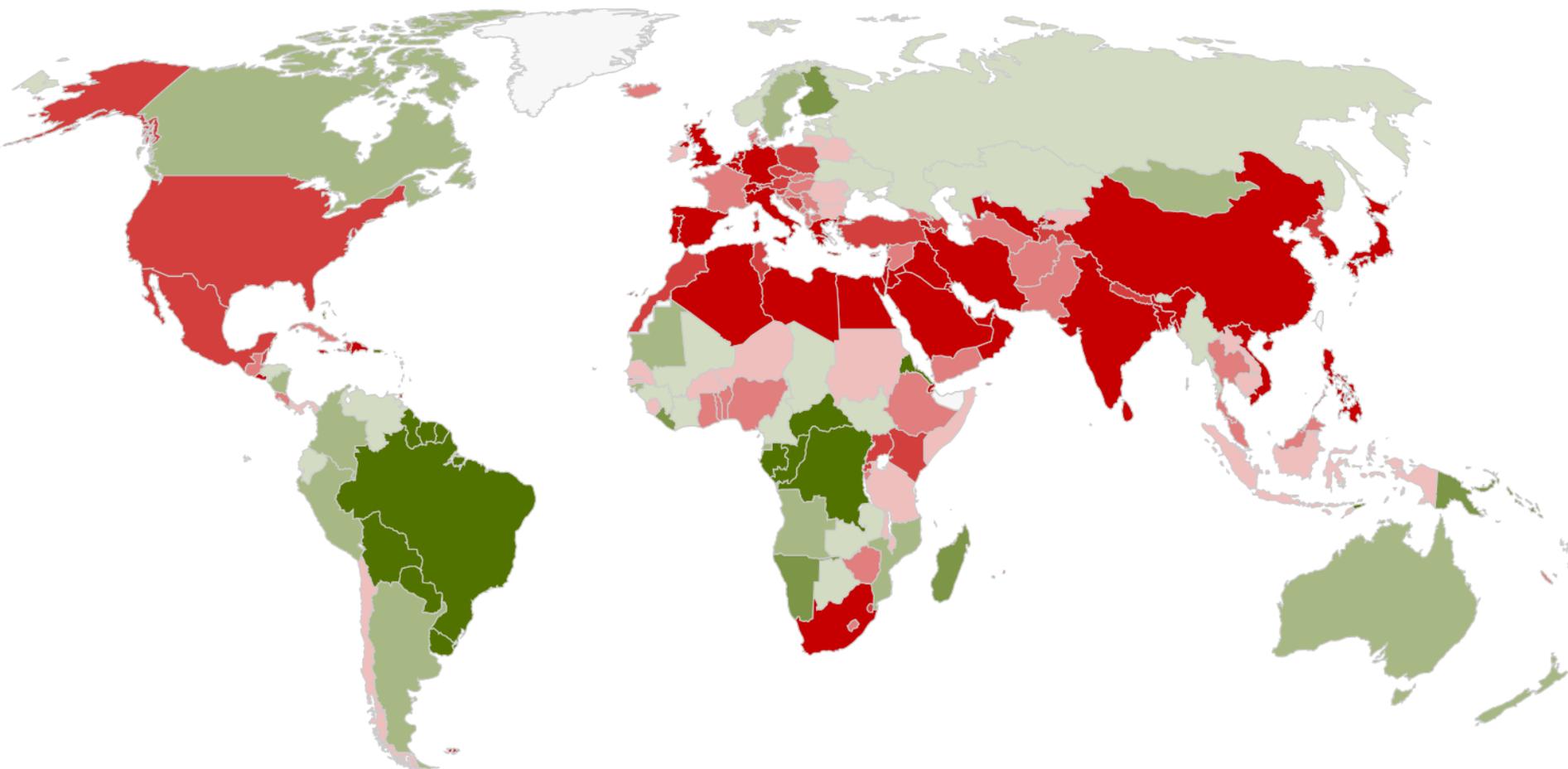


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ECOLOGICAL DEFICIT/RESERVE

An ecological deficit occurs when the [Ecological Footprint](#) of a population exceeds the [biocapacity](#) of the area available to that population. A national ecological deficit means that the country is net-importing biocapacity through trade, liquidating national ecological assets or emitting more carbon dioxide waste into the atmosphere than its own ecosystems absorb. In contrast, an ecological reserve exists when the biocapacity of a region exceeds its population's Ecological Footprint.

BIOCAPACITY CREDITORS
BIOCAPACITY GREATER THAN FOOTPRINT



BIOCAPACITY DEBTORS
FOOTPRINT GREATER THAN BIOCAPACITY



Biocapacity
per person

9.8

gha

Ecological Footprint
per person

8.1

gha

=

BIOCAPACITY
RESERVE(+)/DEFICIT(-)

1.7

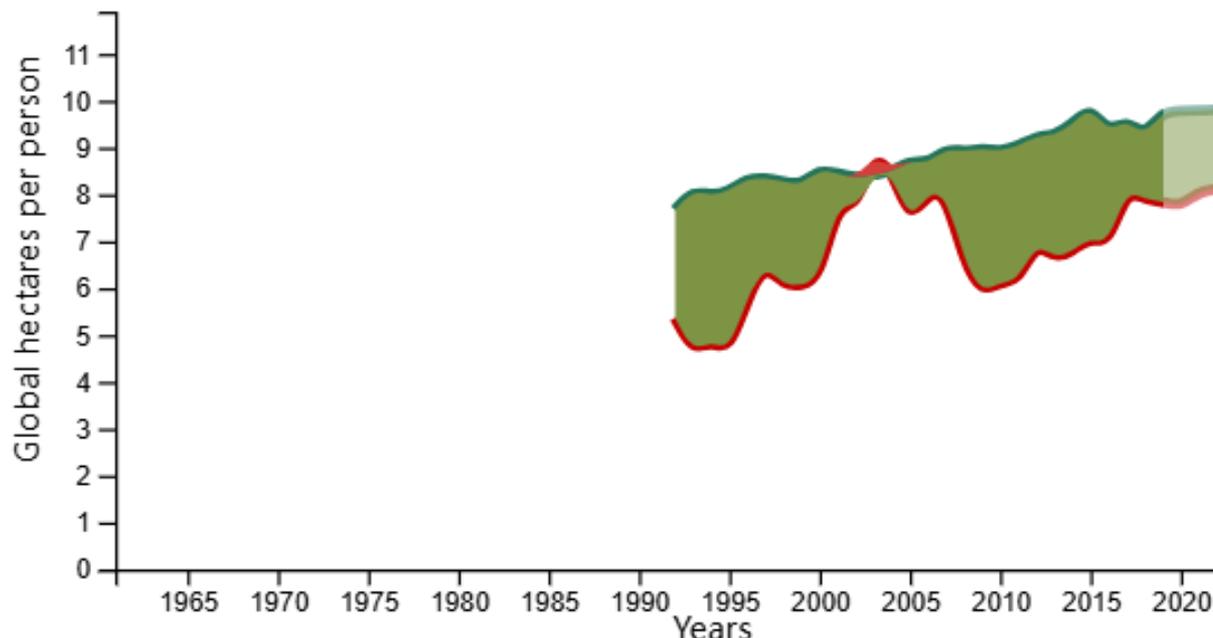
gha

Ecological Footprint and
Biocapacity
From 1961 to 2022
(last 3 years are estimates)

Ecological
Footprint per
person

Biocapacity per
person

Learn More



Data Sources: [National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts 2023 edition \(Data Year 2019\)](#);
GDP, International Financial Statistics (IFS); Population, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

Q4 Which of the following do you think are the current main challenges the EU is facing?
Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

		The war in Ukraine	Irregular migration	Environmental issues and climate change	The cost of living	Terrorism and security issues	Social inequalities	The conflict in the Middle East	Insufficient economic growth	Disinformation and information manipulation	Impact of digital technologies on the society
EU27		50	41	35	32	29	21	20	19	19	8
BE		51	38	39	31	27	20	20	18	17	8
BG		54	43	26	26	25	26	19	25	25	7
CZ		54	54	26	20	31	13	13	22	23	8
DK		58	37	45	16	32	16	24	9	18	14
DE		49	40	36	27	34	23	22	17	18	6
EE		63	44	16	46	27	20	12	30	19	5
IE		52	45	30	51	21	13	29	11	17	7
EL		33	46	32	54	29	23	17	23	15	5
ES		43	42	35	36	24	25	23	21	21	8
FR		45	42	34	37	37	19	16	24	20	7
HR		58	51	26	37	27	16	16	24	18	7
IT		48	38	43	34	14	24	26	24	13	9
CY		28	64	28	48	35	19	23	19	11	4
LV		63	35	16	36	30	24	14	25	27	5
LT		74	48	24	17	35	17	20	12	25	5
LU		58	35	36	32	29	28	22	10	21	8
HU		62	33	33	24	30	29	17	19	20	6
MT		53	52	47	51	20	7	24	11	14	6
NL		56	40	48	27	27	16	21	8	21	10
AT		42	48	35	33	33	22	15	18	19	6
PL		56	51	30	29	30	15	15	16	24	9
PT		59	50	32	29	30	23	26	17	15	5
RO		52	33	29	34	36	18	14	21	21	10
SI		52	52	34	32	25	15	25	17	19	6
SK		53	41	26	28	25	24	13	24	30	12
FI		69	23	36	27	41	17	20	18	22	6
SE		58	32	41	18	44	15	20	11	26	8

June-July 2024
Flash Eurobarometer
550 EU

Q6 Which of the following areas do you think the EU should address as a priority?
Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	Environment and climate change	Irregular migration	Security and defence	The war in Ukraine	Public health	Jobs, social equality and skills	Democracy and rule of law	Agriculture and food security	Energy	Economy and public finances	Education and training	Industry and competitiveness	Research and innovation	Trade	Digital transformation
EU27	33	33	29	25	21	20	18	18	17	15	13	11	8	6	5
BE	34	32	31	23	19	20	15	19	17	17	14	7	6	5	4
BG	22	22	27	21	31	27	23	18	16	20	25	11	5	5	3
CZ	17	45	33	30	17	13	12	21	28	13	6	13	7	6	4
DK	45	25	32	34	14	13	24	13	16	9	9	10	8	10	7
DE	36	35	31	24	16	15	23	12	15	9	16	16	8	6	9
EE	11	32	52	46	11	22	10	20	22	19	9	18	7	4	2
IE	30	41	22	32	23	21	16	16	18	19	10	5	6	7	3
EL	28	31	25	14	28	23	27	18	21	28	12	8	6	6	3
ES	35	35	22	23	24	26	18	19	11	17	14	10	11	5	5
FR	34	36	31	19	20	16	15	27	19	17	14	12	6	5	4
HR	28	32	29	24	23	24	19	33	19	19	11	10	5	5	3
IT	40	27	20	29	26	26	15	13	18	17	9	8	10	6	6
CY	30	50	32	12	24	19	20	11	10	31	14	6	6	5	4
LV	12	25	45	41	18	27	10	17	15	19	12	15	6	6	2
LT	18	32	51	48	14	20	13	10	14	18	9	8	5	4	2
LU	37	31	38	19	13	30	21	13	16	11	18	11	12	2	5
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AT	33	41	26	19	23	18	19	17	15	11	14	14	10	5	6
PL	25	41	38	30	15	16	15	22	22	15	6	8	5	4	4
PT	32	39	37	29	24	31	15	14	10	17	14	7	6	4	3
RO	24	17	36	21	26	23	23	23	18	19	16	8	9	7	6
SI	28	36	23	18	29	27	17	32	18	17	7	11	6	6	4
SK	23	24	27	19	25	26	20	31	22	17	9	12	10	6	3
FI	29	17	45	42	15	21	22	18	11	18	8	13	7	5	3
SE	39	31	33	37	14	19	22	11	16	13	8	8	9	9	3



June-July 2024
Flash Eurobarometer
550 EU

