

**What Do You Know
and Think About
Europe?**



European History and Treaties

The European Union is a **political** and **economic union** of **European countries** that was built on a series of important treaties. These agreements have shaped how member states cooperate over time.



1952

Treaty of Paris: It created the European Coal and Steel Community, which brought countries together for economic reasons after World War II.



1992

Maastricht Treaty: This is a very important treaty. It officially created the European Union and introduced the idea of a single currency, which became the euro.



2009

Treaty of Lisbon: This treaty updated the EU's structure. It gave more power to the European Parliament and made the EU's decision-making process more efficient and democratic.

1 What is a treaty and what does it do?

A treaty is a **formal, legally binding agreement** between two or more sovereign states (countries) or international organizations. Treaties are used to govern relationships and set rules on a wide range of issues



2 Research the following EU treaties and write a short summary of the purpose and main changes of each treaty below.

- **Treaty of Rome:** The Treaty establishing the European Economic Community created a common market among the six participating countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). The aim was to foster closer links and boost economic growth through increased trade.
- **Schengen Treaty :** On 14 June 1985 the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the Schengen Agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at their common borders. The Agreement is named after the small town in Luxembourg on the border to France and Germany where it was signed.
- **Maastricht Treaty:** With the Maastricht Treaty, the European Economic Community became the European Community. The codecision procedure was introduced and the scope of the cooperation procedure was expanded, giving the European Parliament more legislative and supervisory powers.

3 How has the European Union membership evolved from 1954 to 2025?

From 1954 to 2025, the **European Union** evolved from 6 founding countries to **27 member states**. Integration deepened through several enlargements. The United Kingdom left in 2020 (Brexit). The EU expanded its powers and cooperation but also faced challenges such as economic, migration, and geopolitical crises.



4 Now has the European Union contributed to maintaining peace and stability in Europe since its foundation?

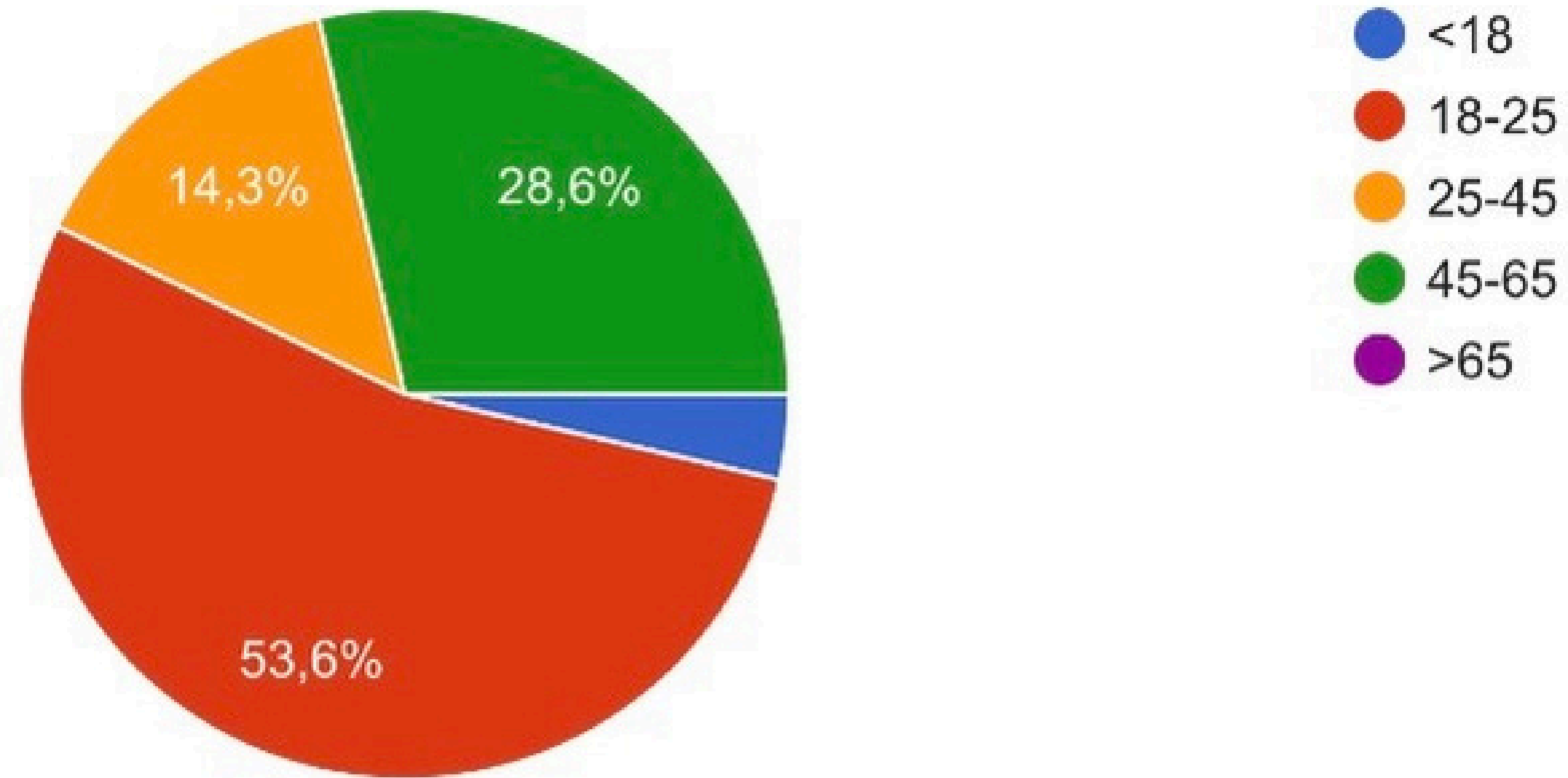
THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS BEEN ESSENTIAL FOR KEEPING PEACE IN EUROPE SINCE IT BEGAN. Here are the main ways it has helped:

- **Making war unthinkable** : the EU started as a way for countries to share important resources like coal and steel. By tying their economies together, it made it impossible for them to go to war with each other.
- **Using diplomacy**: the EU uses its influence to solve problems peacefully.
- **Promoting democracy**: to join the EU, a country must be a democracy and respect human rights. This rule has encouraged many countries, especially in Eastern Europe, to become more stable and peaceful.

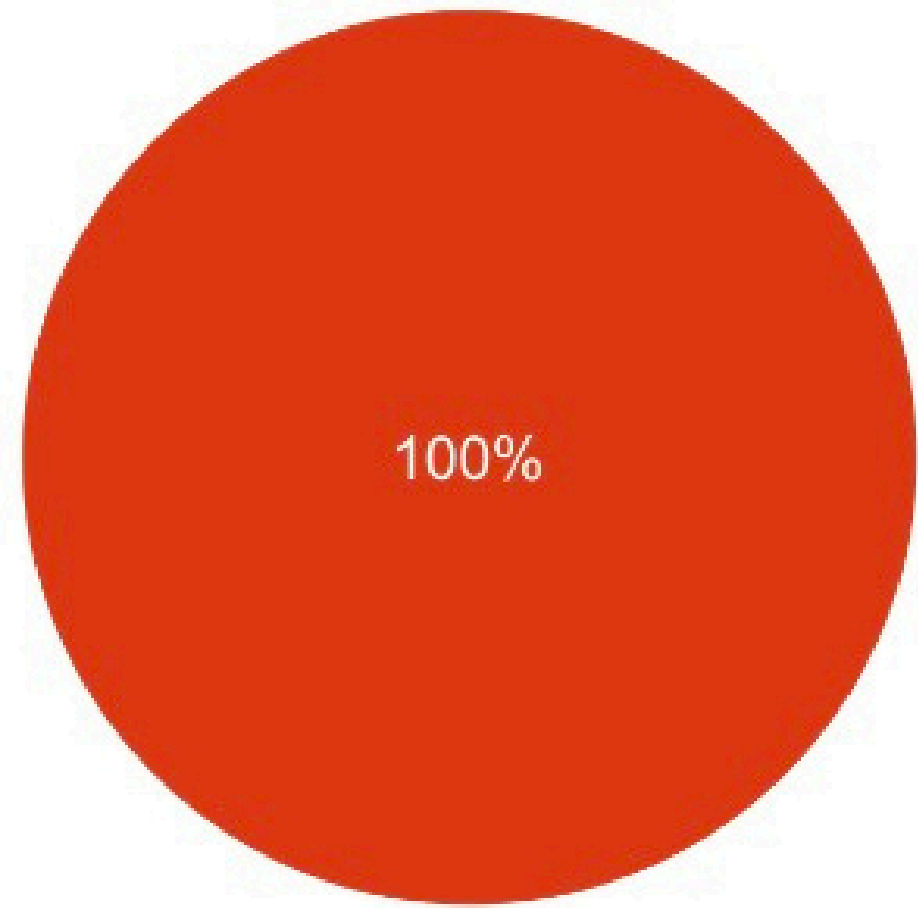
5 What major challenges and turning points has the EU faced throughout its History?

- **Enlargements** (especially Eastward in 2004) → more influence but also internal divergences.
- **Euro and financial crisis (2008-2012)** - deeper economic integration but exposed Eurozone weaknesses
- **Migration crisis (2015)** → divisions among states on solidarity and border management.
- **Brexit (2016-2020)** - first member exit, with major political and economic impact.
- **COVID-19 pandemic** - new cooperation on health and economy (NextGenerationEU).
- **War in Ukraine (since 2022)** - sanctions, stronger political unity, and energy challenges.

What's your age?

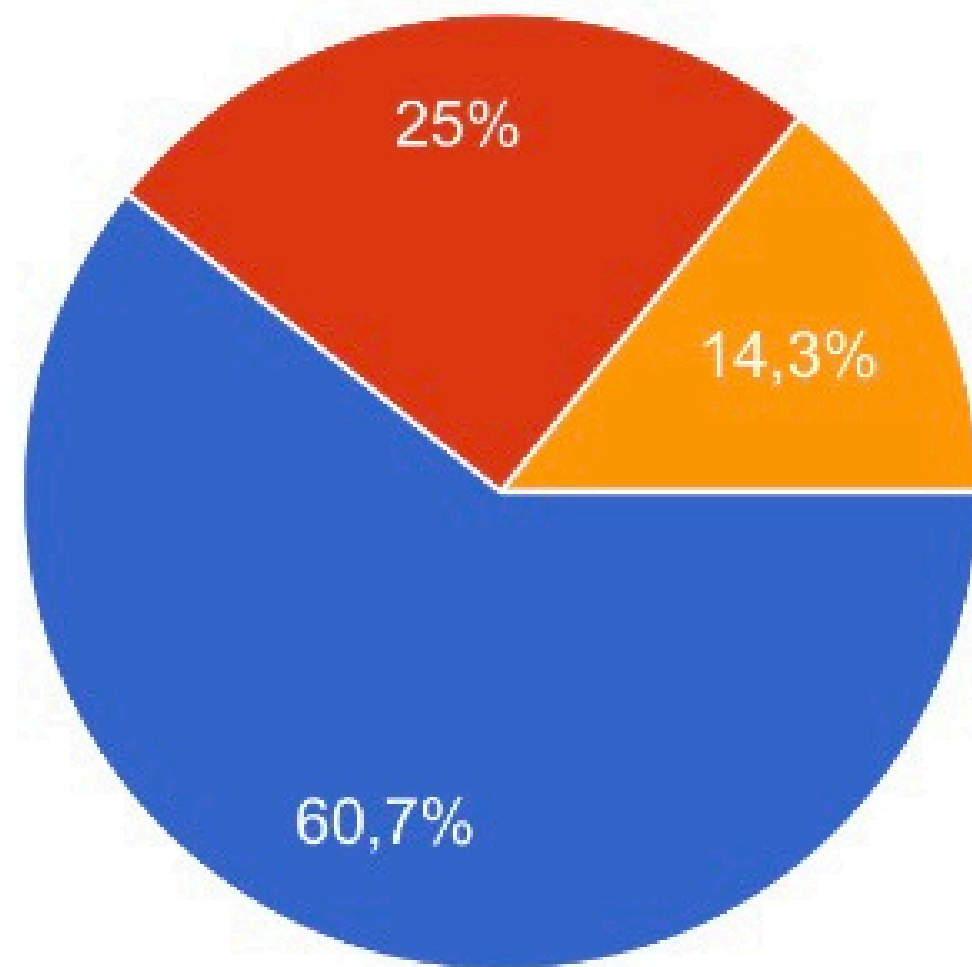


Where are you from?



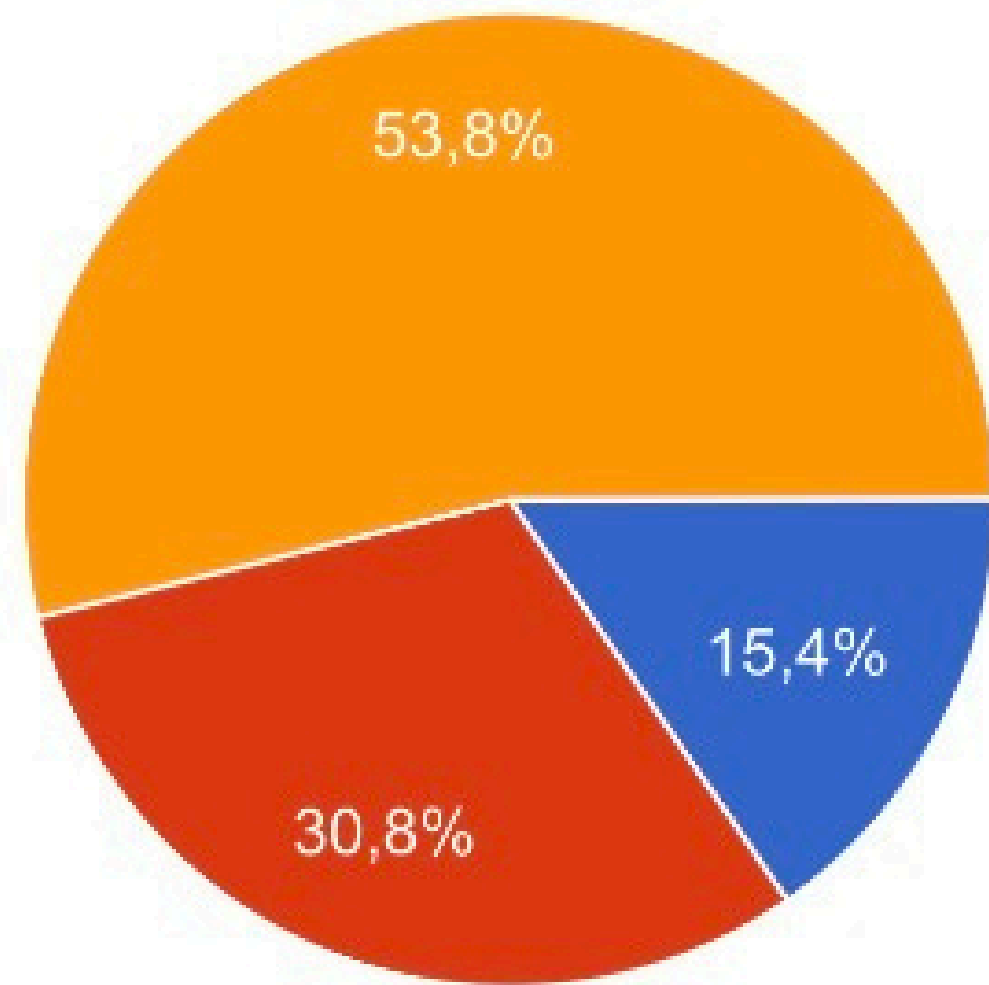
- Belgium (Belgio)
- Italy (Italia)

What is one of the results of the Maastricht Treaty?



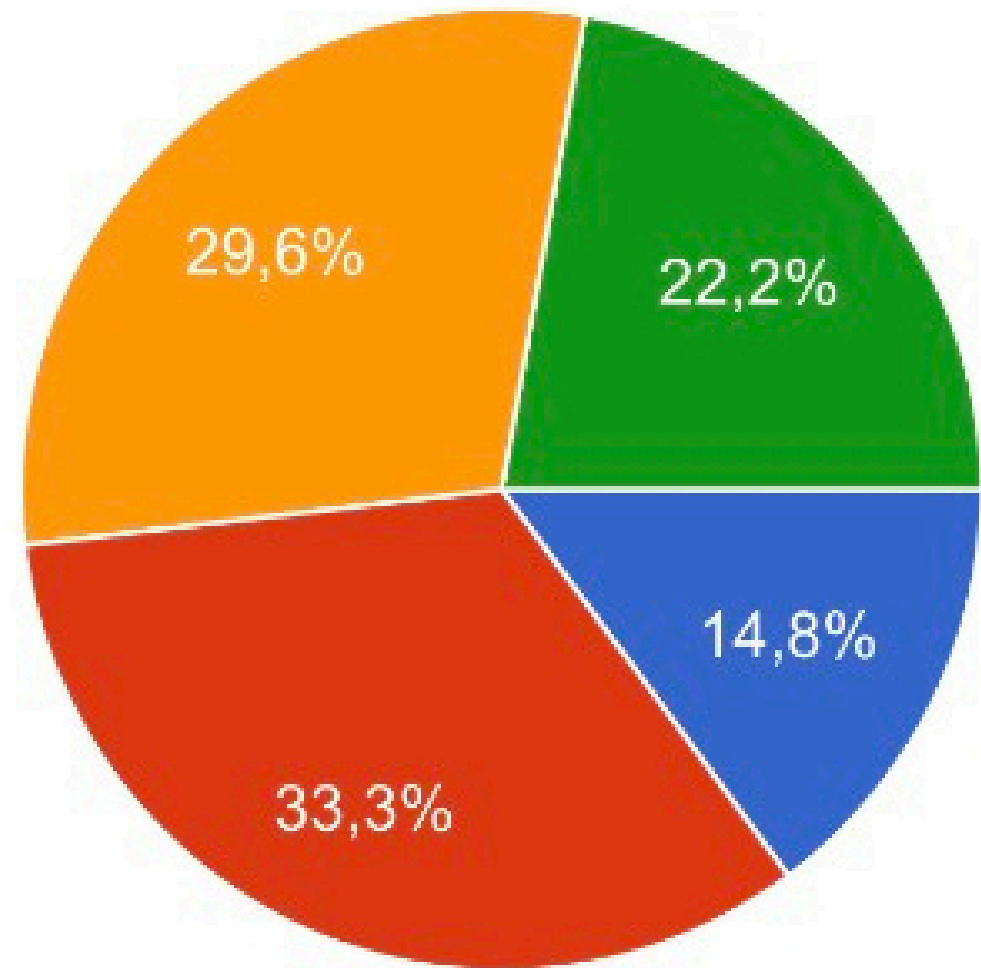
- Introduction of the Euro currency (Introduzione della moneta Euro)
- No border control between EU countries (Nessun controllo di frontiera tra i paesi dell'UE)
- Equal taxes for every EU country (Tasse uguali per tutti i paesi dell'UE)

What does the Schengen Treaty entail?



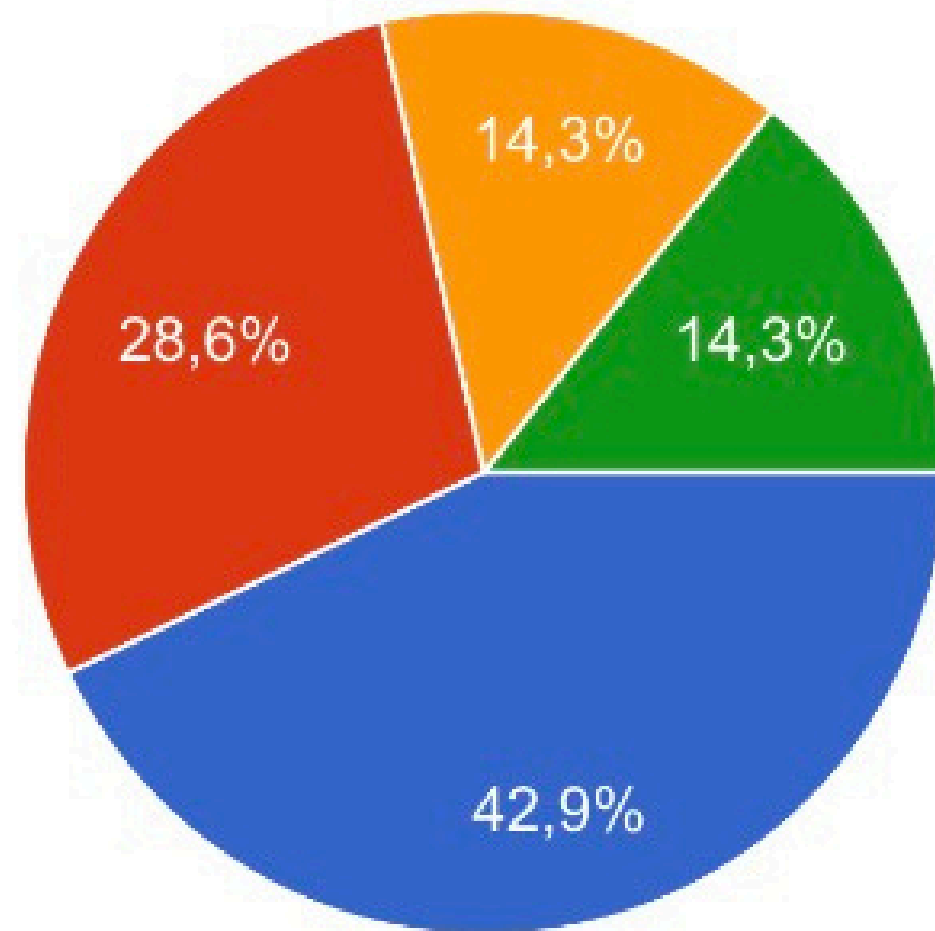
- An establishment the European Coal and Steel Community (Un'istituzione della Comunità europea del carbone e dell'acciaio)
- The forming of the European Union (La formazione dell'Unione Europea)
- An agreement on the gradual abolition of checks at common borders (Un accordo per l'abolizione graduale dei controlli alle frontiere comuni))

Do you think the EU managed the Covid-19 crisis well?



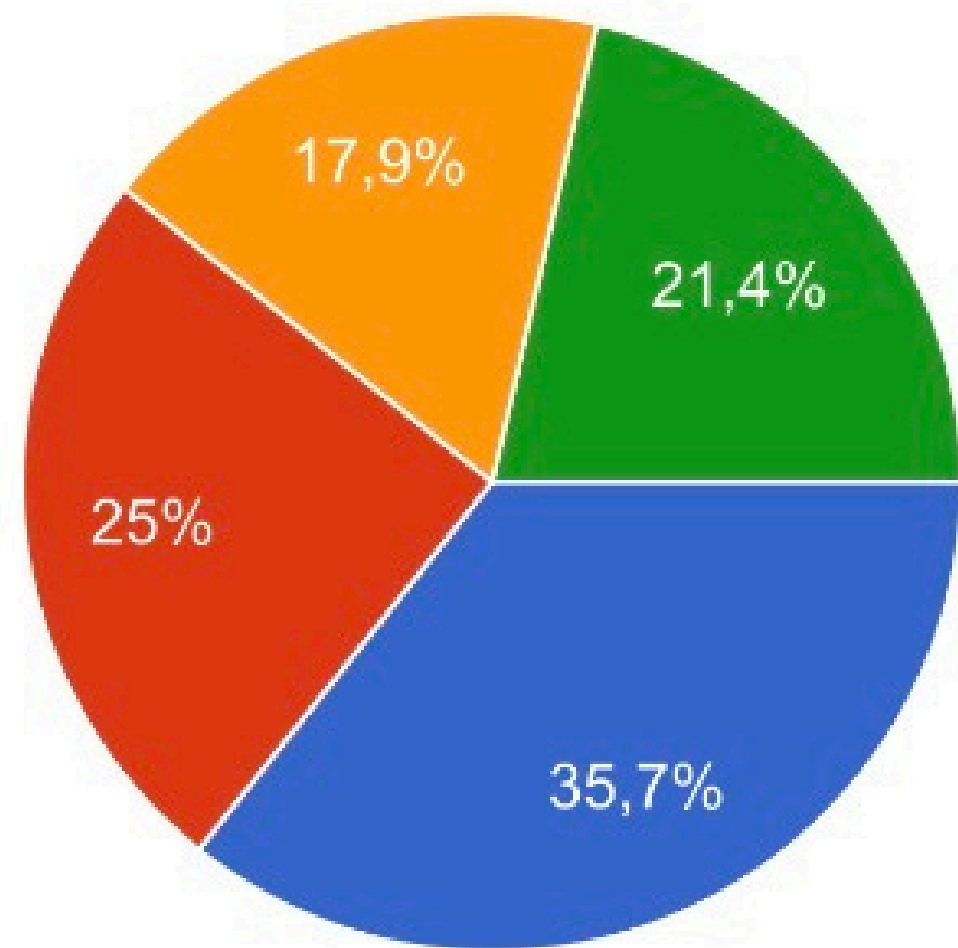
- Yes, it showed solidarity and launched important projects like NextGenerationEU (Sì, ha mostrato solidarietà e ha lanci...
- Partially, but the response was slow and not well coordinated at first (In parte, ma la risposta è stata lenta e poco coordi...
- No, each country acted on its own and the EU was barely visible (No, ogni Pa...
- I don't know / I don't have enough information (Non so / non ho abbastan...

How would you rate the EU's impact on your daily life?



- Positive, it has given me more opportunities (study, travel, work, rights) (Positivo: mi ha dato più opportunità (studio, lavoro, viaggi, diritti))
- Neutral, i don't notice much difference (Neutro: non noto grandi cambiamenti)
- Negative, i think the EU imposes too many useless rules (Negativo: credo che l'UE imponga troppe regole inutili...)
- I'm not sure (Non ne sono sicuro/a)

What do you think is the main purpose of the European Union?



- To promote trade and economic growth (Favorire il commercio e la crescita economica)
- To ensure peace and stability among member countries (Garantire la pace e la stabilità tra i Paesi membri)
- To give more power to citizens (freedom of movement, rights, etc) (Dare più po...)
- I don't think the EU has a clear purpose (Non penso che l'UE abbia uno scopo...)