

A study



for



European Space Agency
Agence spatiale européenne

Europeans and space activities

How do Europeans perceive issues related to space?

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Summary

Survey methodology

P.3

Image of space activities

P.5

Information on space activities and the ESA

P.17



Study methodology



Study carried out **online** on **20** and **21 December** 2018.



Sample of **5,227** Europeans, comprising 5 representative samples of the national population aged 18 or over in each of the following countries:

- Sample of 1,051 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in Germany
- Sample of 1,059 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in France
- Sample of 1,068 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in the United Kingdom
- Sample of 1,037 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in Italy
- Sample of 1,012 people representative of the population aged 18 and over in Spain



Quotas and adjustment applied to each of the following variables in each national sample: **interviewee's gender, age, socio-professional category and region**

The influence of each country in the global sample has been **weighted according to the number of inhabitants** aged 18 or over in each country.



Reading aid for the detailed results:

- The figures shown are expressed as percentages.
- For the purposes of this document, the term “Europeans” refers to inhabitants of 1 of the 5 countries covered by this study. The results obtained in the different countries are represented by flags:



Confidence interval

The confidence interval (sometimes called “margin of error”) determines the trust which can be placed on a particular value, taking into account the value observed and the sample size. If the calculation of the confidence interval concerns randomised surveys, it is generally acknowledged that the figure would be close to that obtained from surveys carried out with a quota method.

Sample size	5% or 95%	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
100 interviews	4.4	6.0	8.0	9.2	9.8	10
200 interviews	3.1	4.3	5.7	6.5	6.9	7.1
300 interviews	2.5	3.5	4.6	5.3	5.7	5.8
400 interviews	2.2	3.0	4.0	4.6	4.9	5.0
500 interviews	2.0	2.7	3.6	4.1	4.4	4.5
600 interviews	1.8	2.4	3.3	3.8	4.0	4.1
800 interviews	1.5	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.5
1,000 interviews	1.4	1.8	2.5	2.9	3.0	3.1
2,000 interviews	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.3
3,000 interviews	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8
4,000 interviews	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.6
6,000 interviews	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4

Reading note: In a sample of 1,000 people, if the percentage obtained is 10%, the margin of error is equal to 1.8. There is therefore a 95% chance that the actual percentage is between 8.2% and 11.8% (plus or minus 1.8 points).

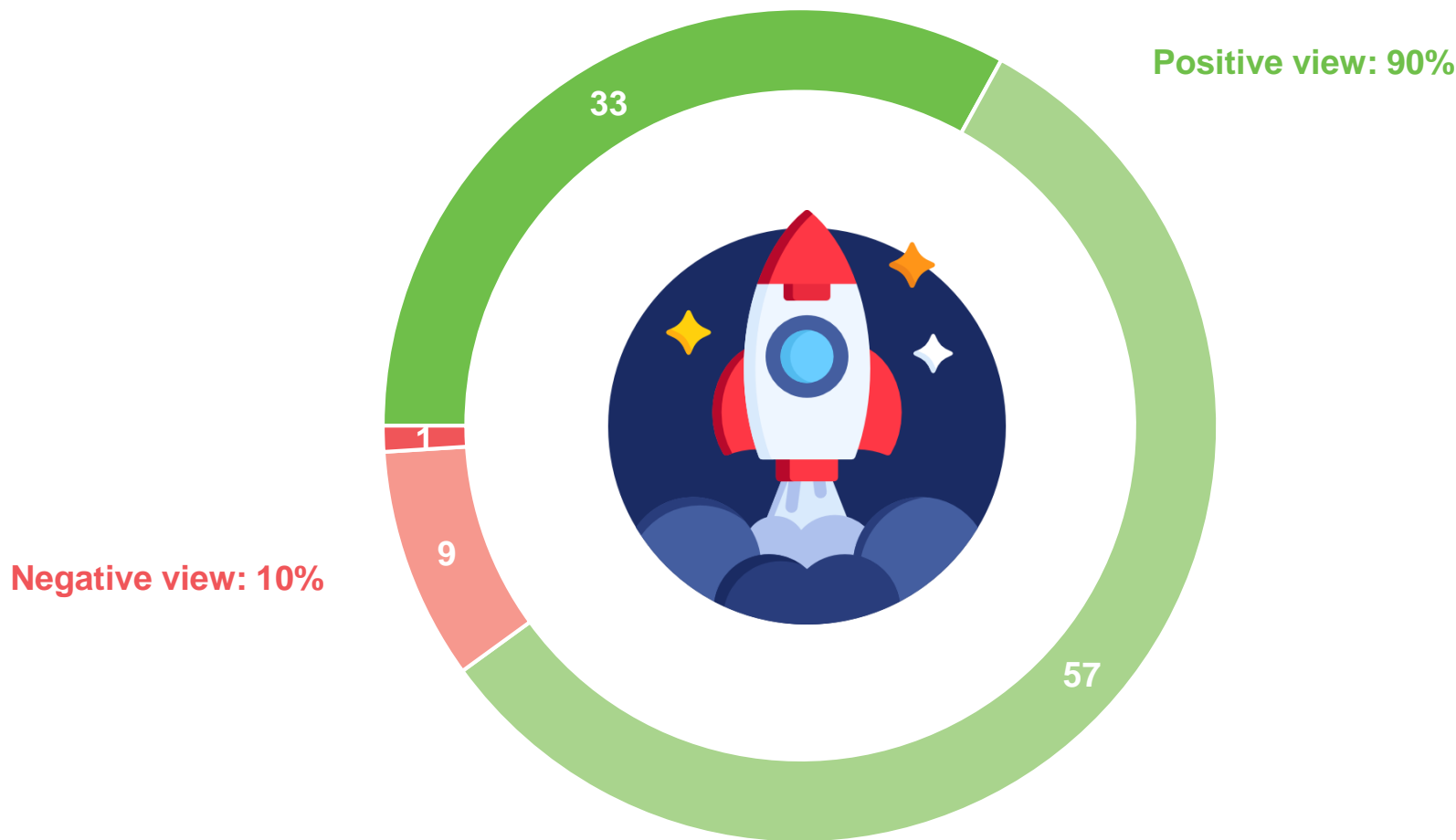
Image of space activities



9 Europeans out of 10 say they have a positive view of space activities in general, of which a third (33%) claim to have a “very positive view”

Do you personally have a positive or negative view of space activities?

- To all, % -



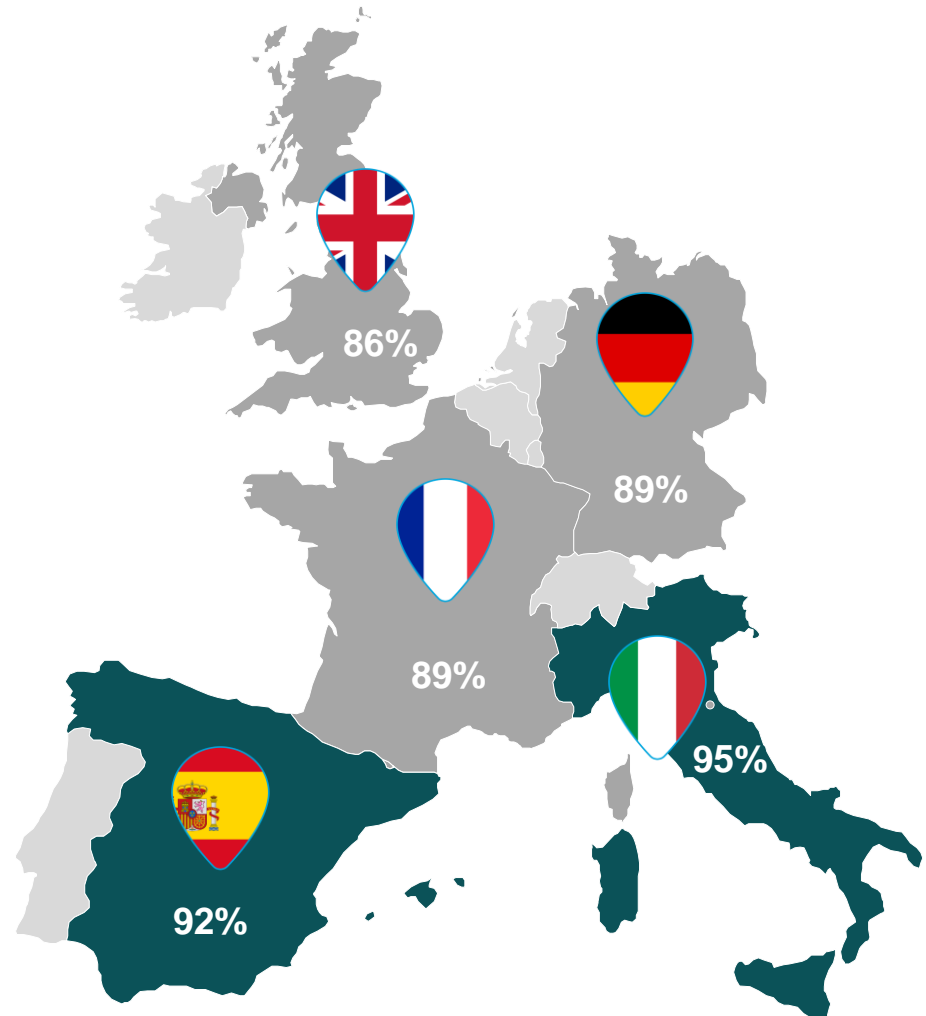
In all countries, more than 85% of inhabitants say they have a positive view of space activities, and even more so in Italy (95%)

Do you personally have a positive or negative view of space activities?

- To all, % of « **Positive view** » -



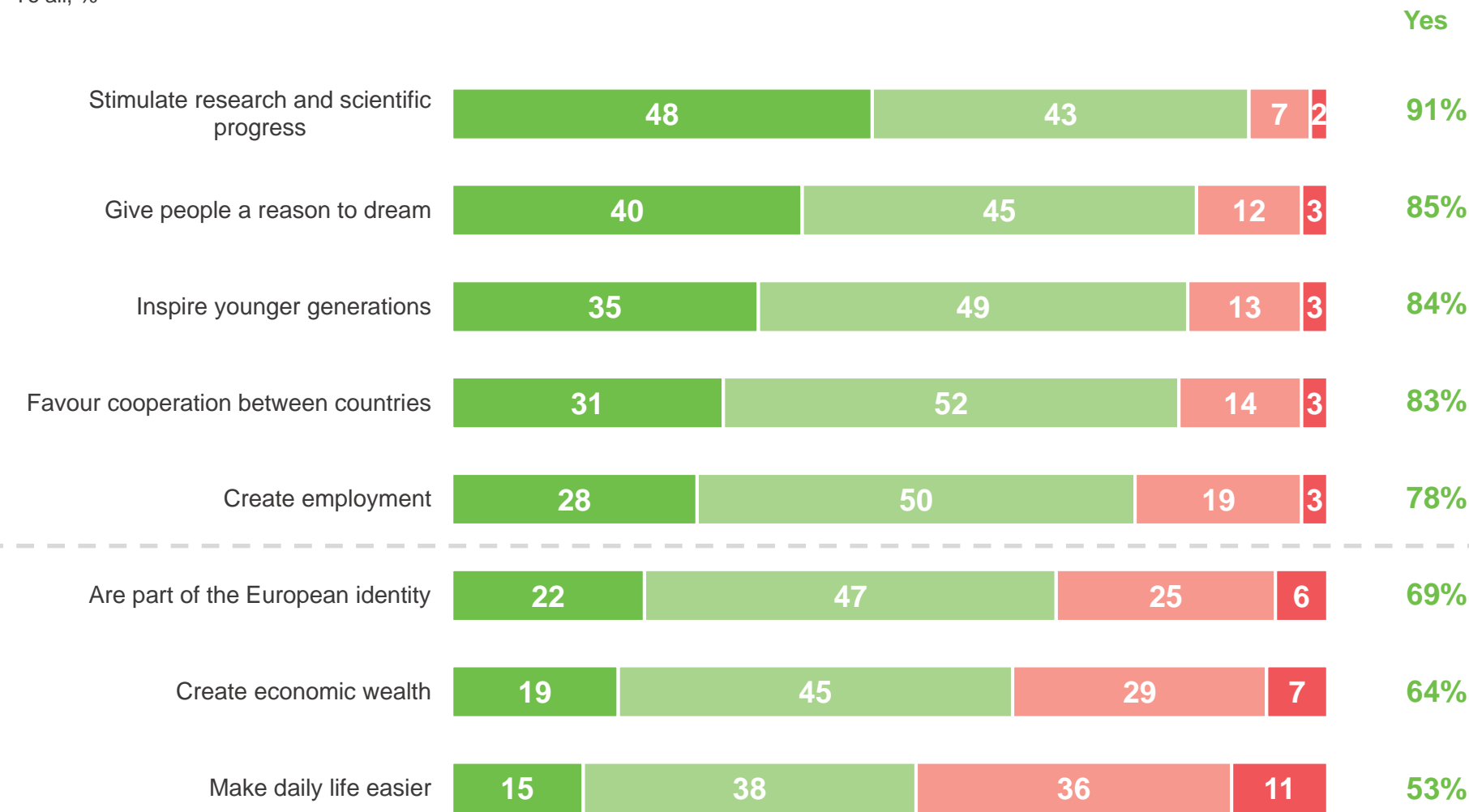
European average:
90% positive view



Space activities are unanimously identified as stimulating research, and as a source of dreams, inspiration and cooperation; their capacity to create economic prosperity and to make everyday life easier, however, gives rise to split opinions

Do you think that European space activities...?

- To all, % -



Italians and Spaniards see more positive aspects of European space activities, whereas Britons are slightly more reserved

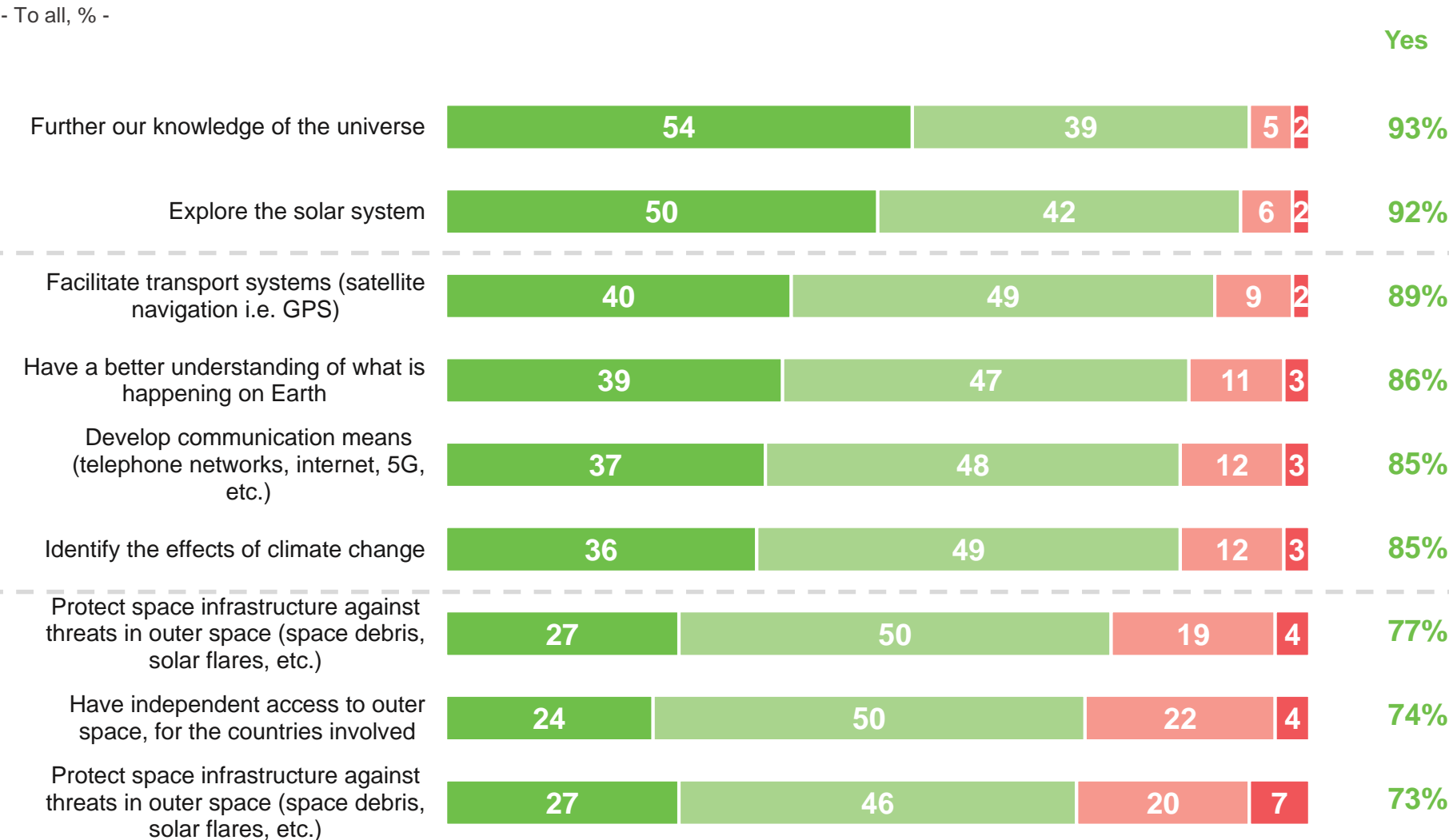
Do you think that European space activities...?

- To all, % of « Yes » -



More than 8 out of 10 Europeans feel that space activities not only enable better understanding of both the universe and our planet, but that they can also bring about improvements in transport and communication






In your opinion, do space activities today allow us to...?



Spaniards (as well as Italians) again are more positive regarding all possible uses for space activities, notably protection against extra-terrestrial threats, whereas Germans are less positive

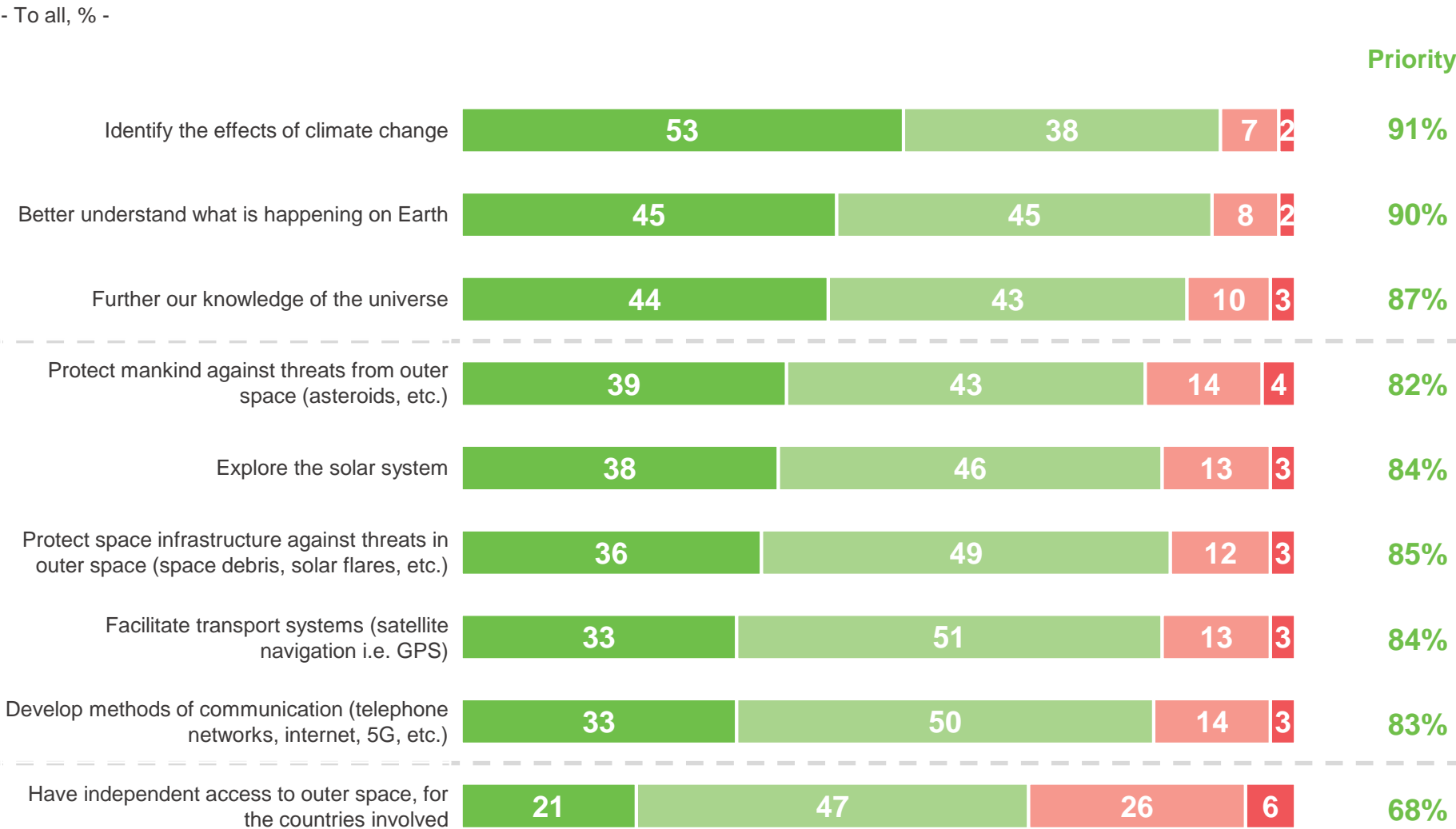
In your opinion, do space activities today allow us to...?

- To all, % of « **Yes** » -

					
Further our knowledge of the universe	91	92	91	95	96
Explore the solar system	92	91	90	93	95
Facilitate transport systems (satellite navigation i.e. GPS)	84	90	88	90	94
Have a better understanding of what is happening on Earth	81	88	86	89	90
Develop communication means (telephone networks, internet, 5G, etc.)	79	88	83	87	93
Identify the effects of climate change	81	85	81	89	89
Protect space infrastructure against threats in outer space (space debris, solar flares, etc.)	71	78	76	81	85
Have independent access to outer space, for the countries involved	66	74	77	76	79
Protect mankind against threats from outer space (asteroids, etc.)	65	72	73	76	83

In the eyes of Europeans, the primary area of progression for space activities would be to foster a better understanding of what is happening on Earth, particularly regarding the climate






In the future, do you believe that priority should be given or not to space activities that allow us to...?



The levels of priority vary from country to country, but all Europeans agree on climate change being the number one priority for space activities, ahead of understanding what is happening on Earth (except in Germany)

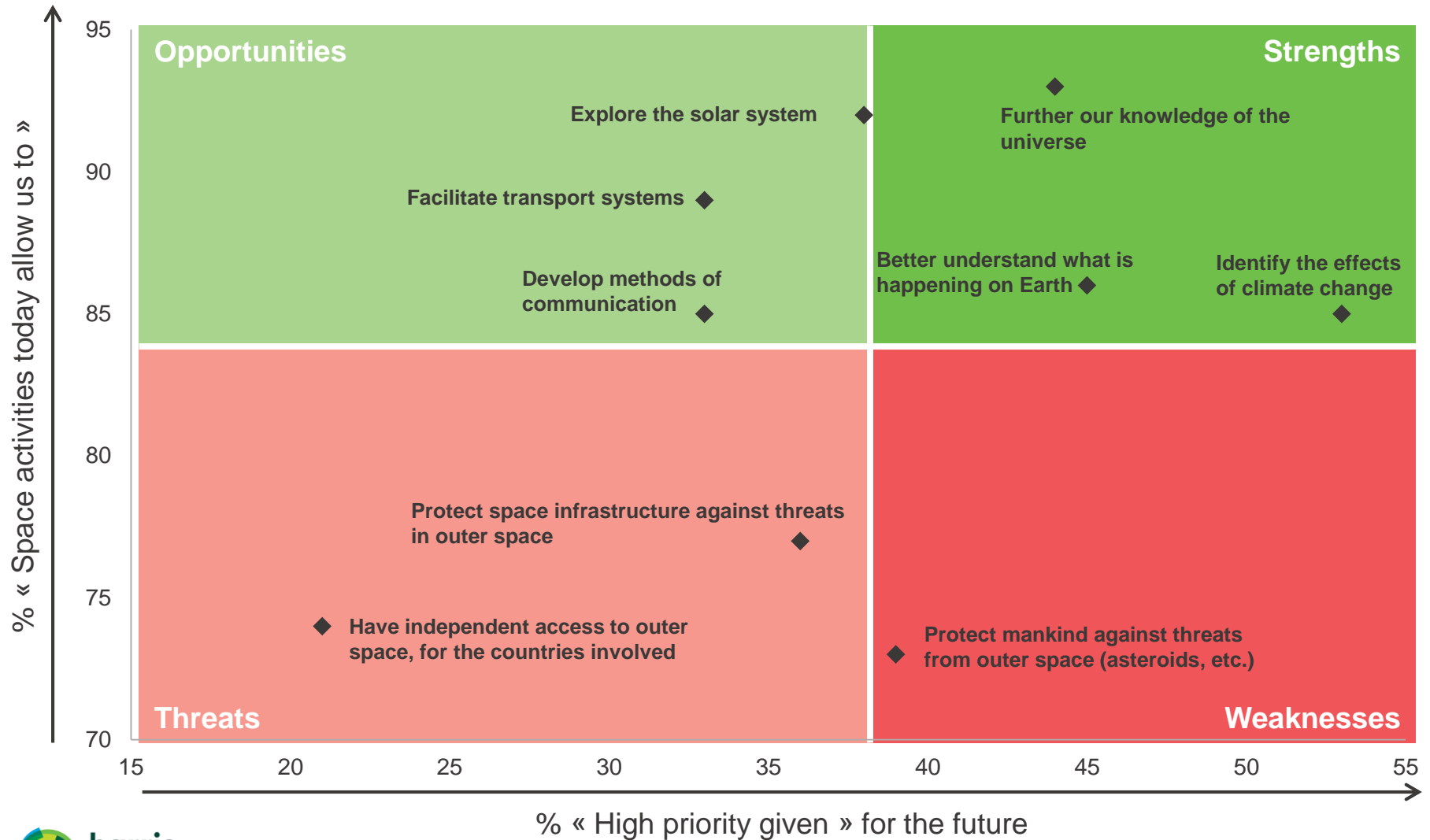
In the future, do you believe that priority should be given or not to space activities that allow us to...?

- To all, % of « **High priority given** » -

					
Identify the effects of climate change	51	55	44	58	58
Have a better understanding of what is happening on Earth	42	44	40	50	49
Further our knowledge of the universe	49	38	39	50	44
Protect mankind against threats from outer space (asteroids, etc.)	35	36	36	42	46
Explore the solar system	46	30	34	43	36
Protect space infrastructure against threats in outer space (space debris, solar flares, etc.)	39	31	35	34	40
Facilitate transport systems (satellite navigation i.e. GPS)	32	29	27	36	41
Develop communication means (telephone networks, internet, 5G, etc.)	34	29	29	34	39
Have independent access to outer space, for the countries involved	22	21	18	23	23

Summary table: what space activities make possible today/what should be a priority in the future

All Europeans



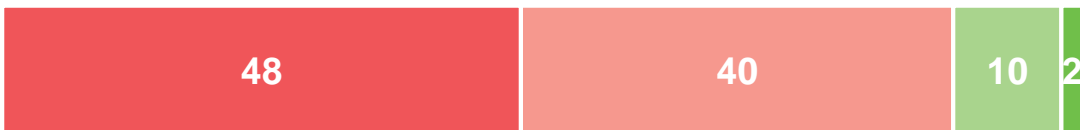
Almost all Europeans identify the theft of digital data as a substantial threat, but around 3 people out of 4 deem threats related to space activities to be important: debris, asteroids, and solar flares

In your opinion, how important are each of the following threats?

- To all, % -



Data hacking

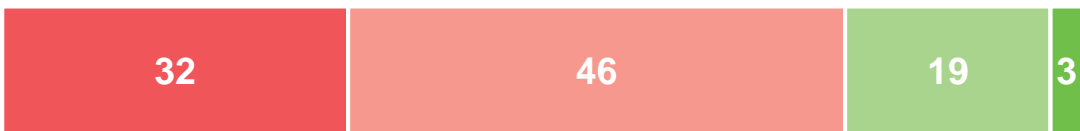


Important threat

88%



Space debris



78%



Asteroids



74%



Solar flares

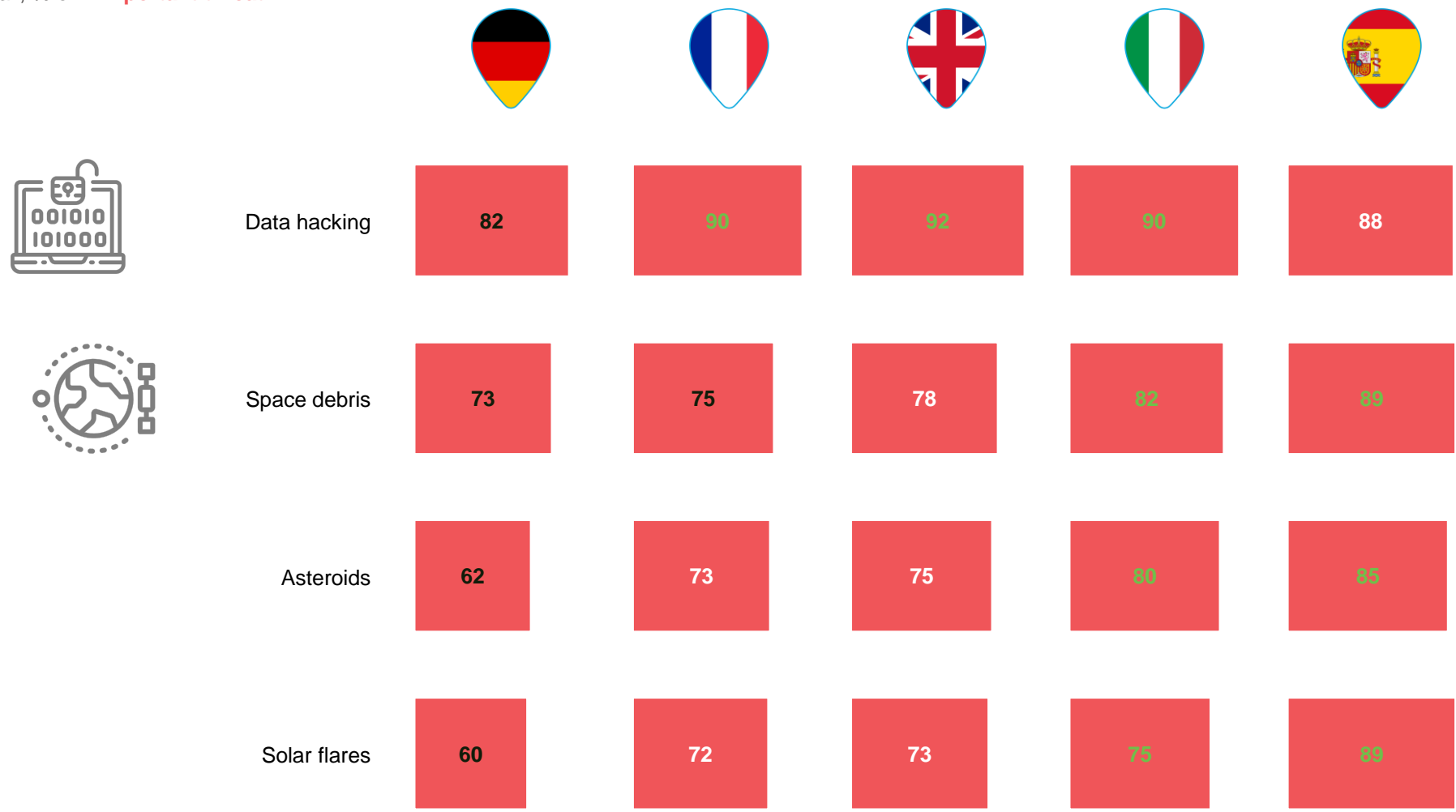


73%

In Spain, and to a lesser extent, Italy, threats related to space activities (debris, asteroids, and solar flares) are identified as being as important as the theft of digital data

In your opinion, how important are each of the following threats?

- To all, % of « Important threat » -

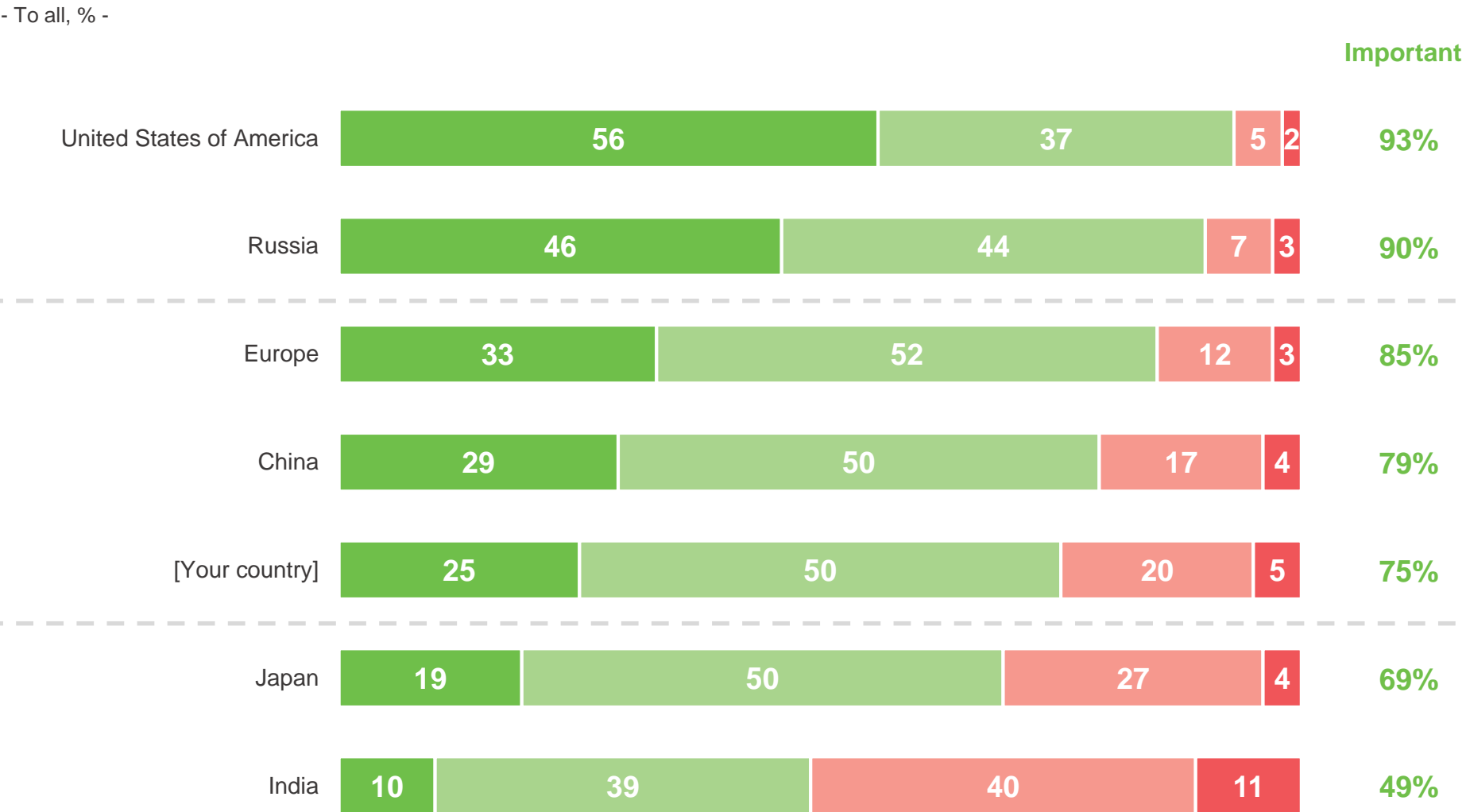


Information on space activities and the ESA



Europeans feel that the United States and Russia have a narrow lead over their continent (and even more so over their country) in the field of space activities

In your opinion, how important are each of the following players in the field of space activities today?



The spatial capabilities of the United States, Russia and Europe are undisputed; the Germans and the French are equally convinced of the importance of their own country regarding space activities, as opposed to the Spaniards

In your opinion, how important are each of the following players in the field of space activities today?

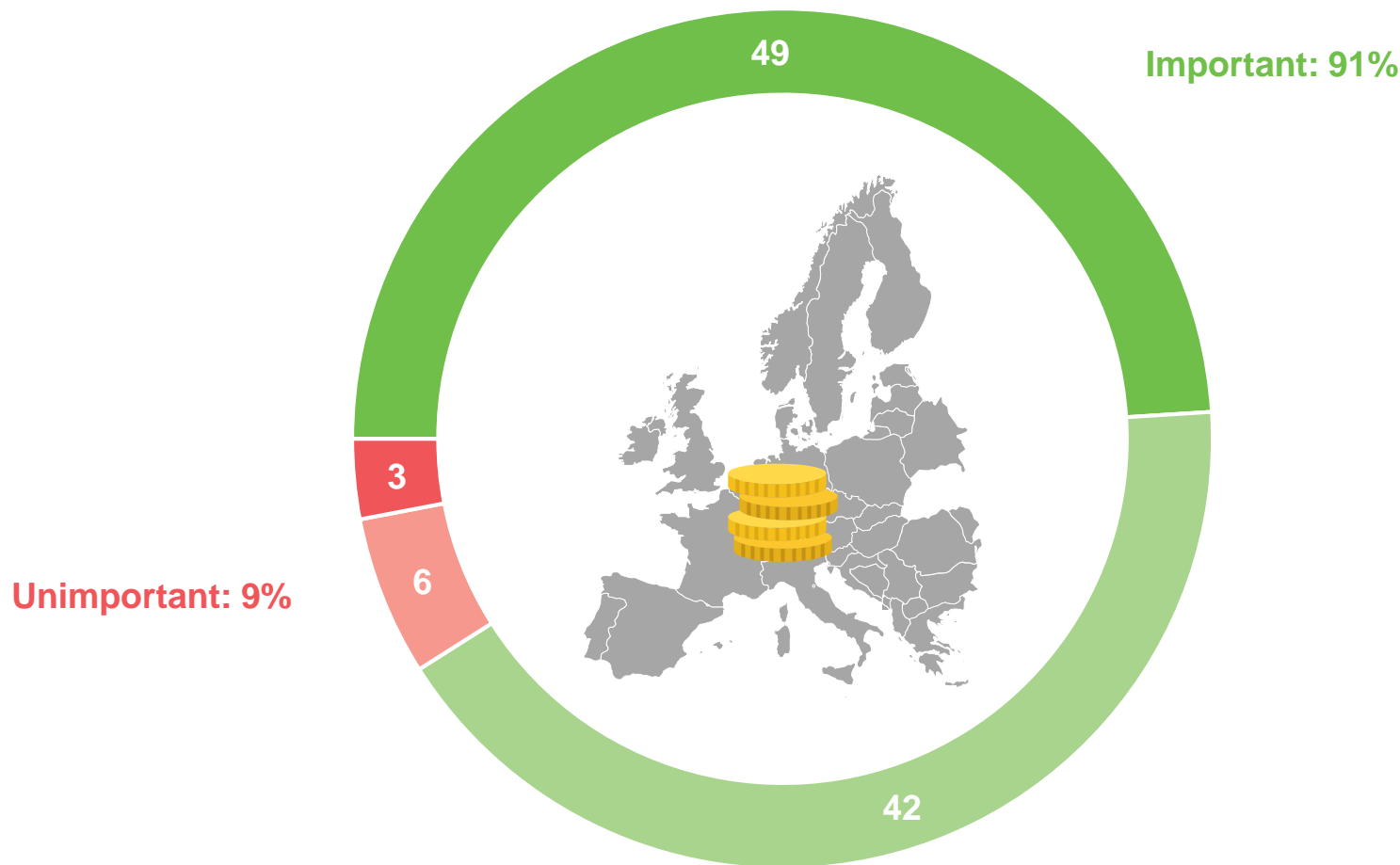
- To all, % of « Important » -



9 Europeans out of 10 consider it important that their continent pools its resources for space activities, of which 49% view this to be “very important”

In your opinion, how important is it that European countries pool their resources for space activities?

- To all, % -



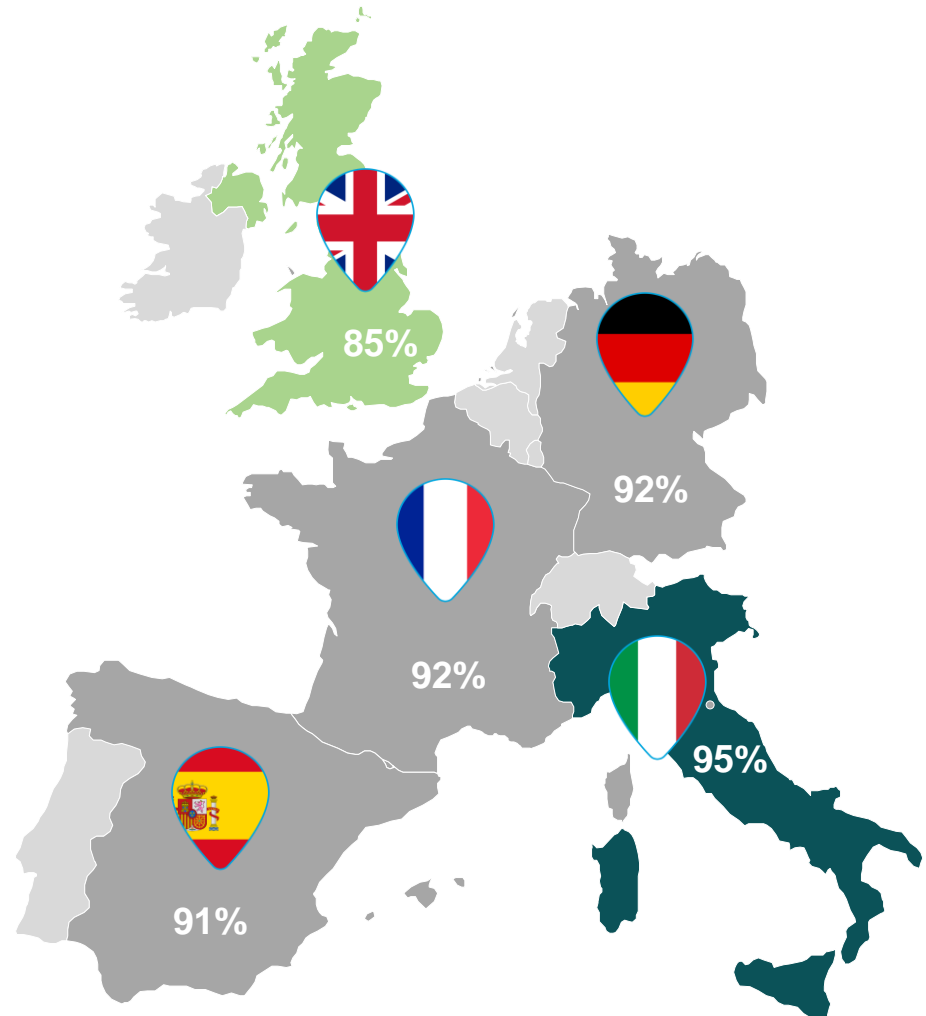
All countries surveyed as part of this study consider it important that European countries pool their resources for space activities: views are particularly unanimous in Italy, slightly less so in the United Kingdom

In your opinion, how important is it that European countries pool their resources for space activities?

- To all, % of « Important » -



European average:
91% important



Around 4 out of 10 Europeans describe themselves as being well informed on the topic of European space activities, slightly more so on astronauts than everything else

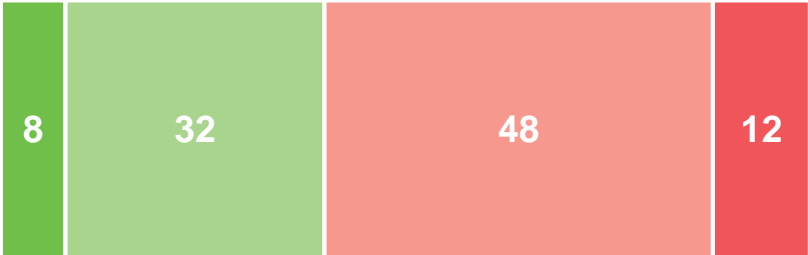
How well-informed do you feel about...?

- To all, % -

Well informed



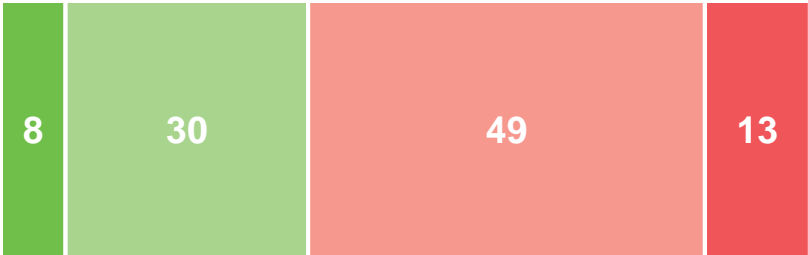
European astronauts



40%



European space activities not including astronauts



38%

■ Very well-informed

■ Somewhat well-informed

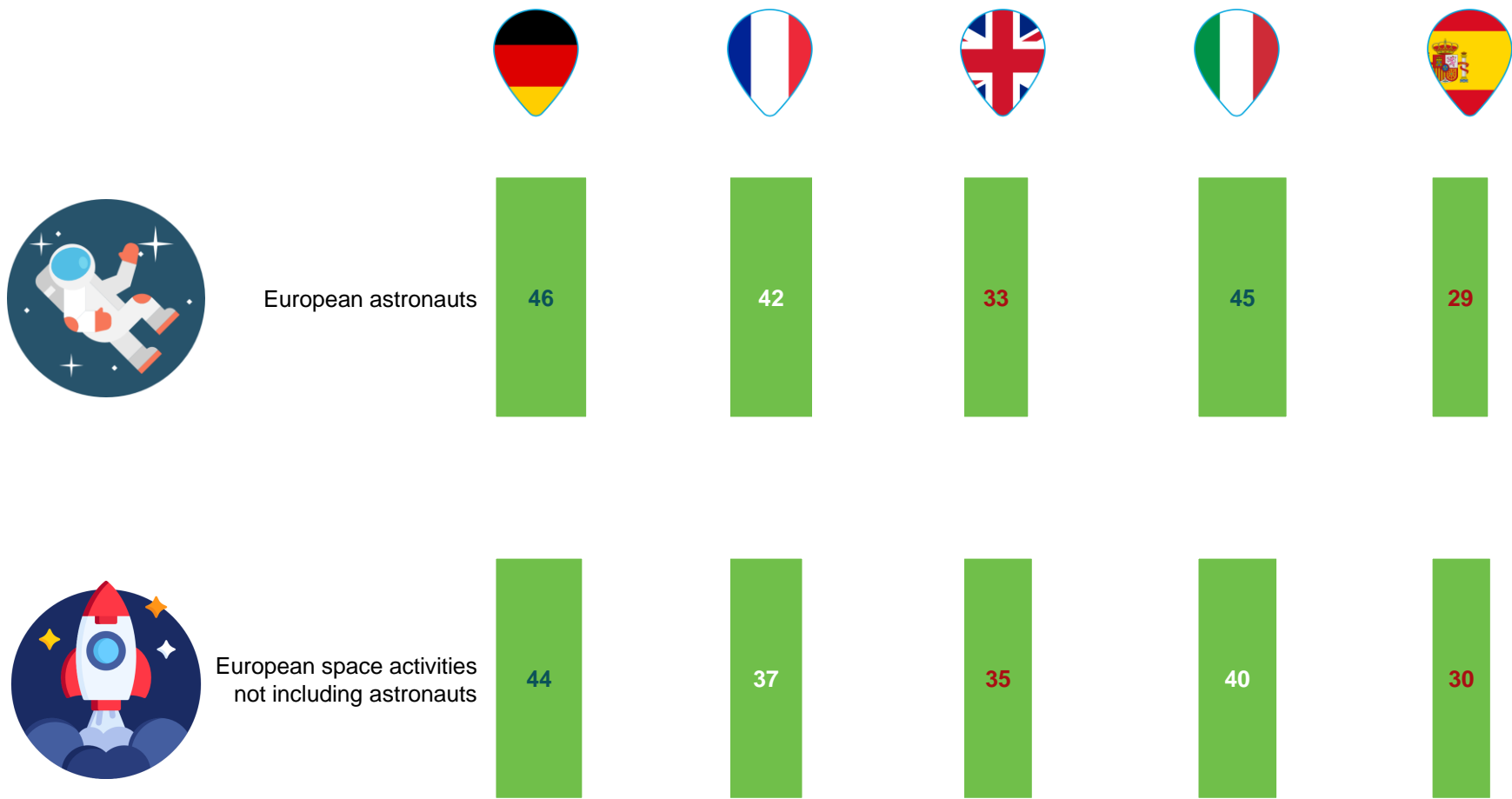
■ Not very well-informed

■ Not at all well-informed

In France and Italy, the feeling of being informed is significantly greater on the subject of astronauts, whereas this is not the case in the United Kingdom or Spain

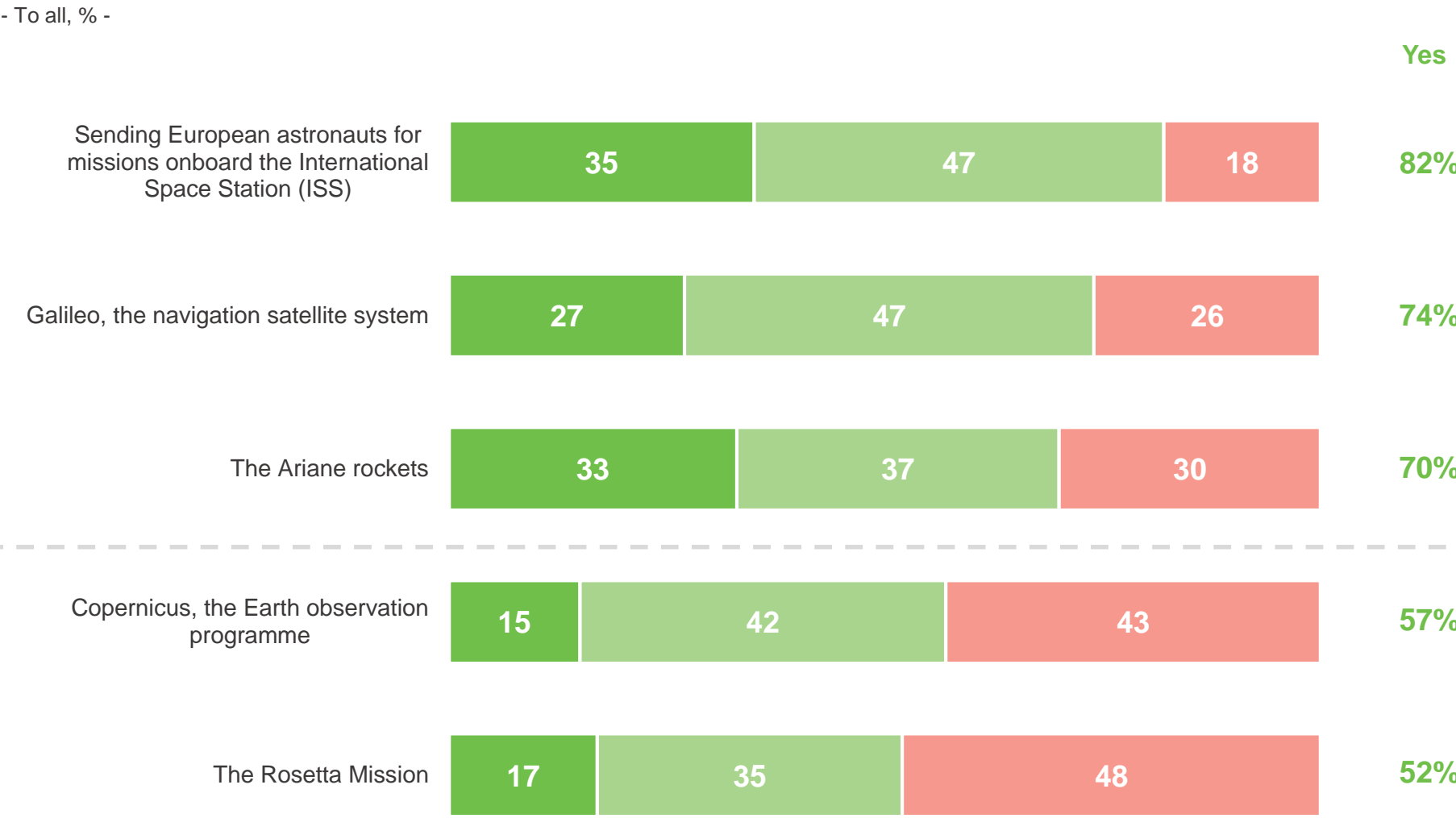
How well-informed do you feel about...?

- To all, % of « Well informed » -



At least three quarters of Europeans claim to have heard about European astronauts sent for missions onboard the ISS, as well as the Galileo navigation satellite system; 70% about the Ariane rockets; whereas Copernicus and Rosetta are not as well recognised by the general public

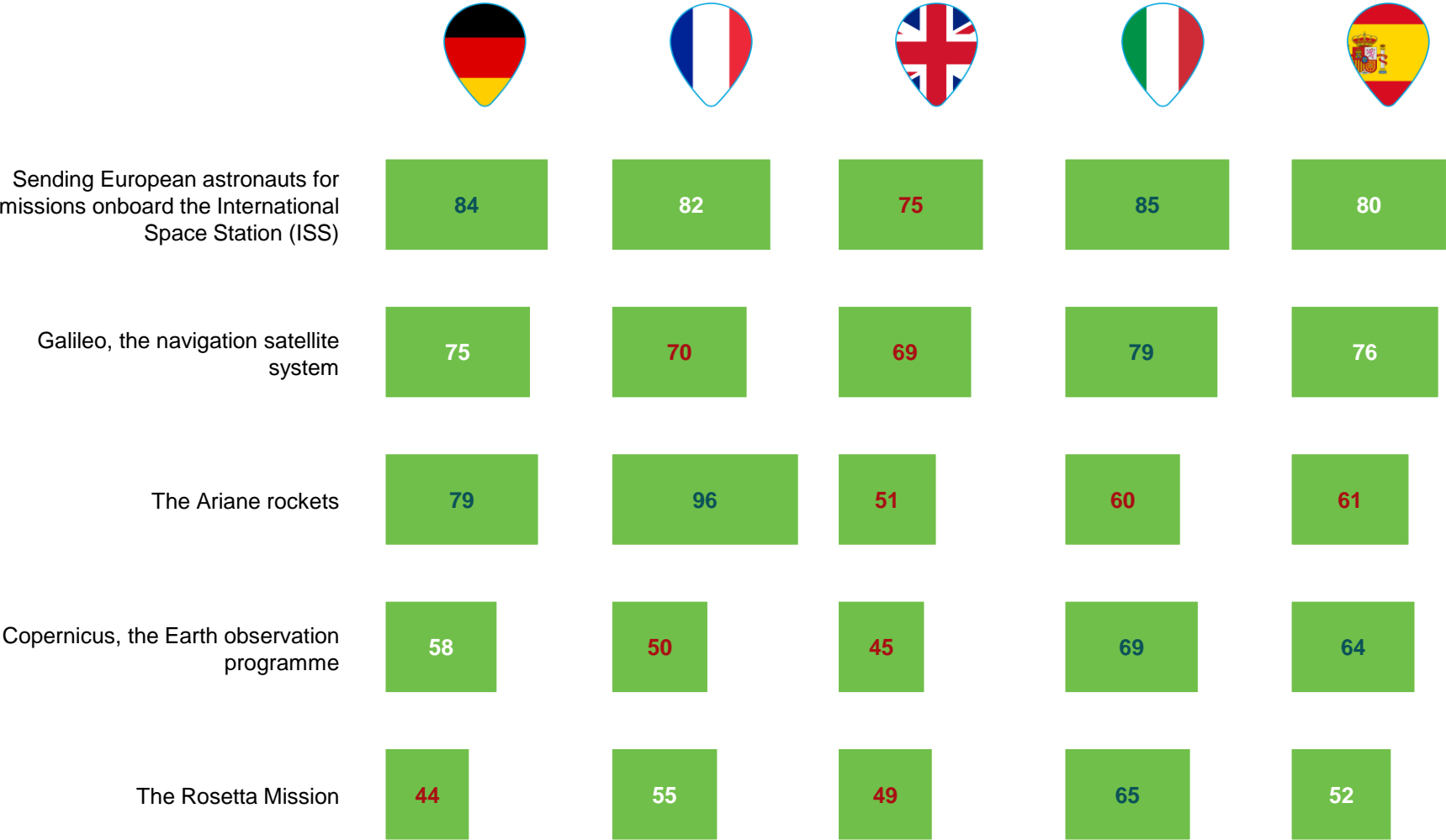
Have you heard of each of the following projects in the field of space activities?



All countries surveyed have heard about European astronauts being sent aboard the ISS (although the figure was slightly lower in the United Kingdom); the Ariane rockets are universally recognised by the French, and also well-known in Germany

Have you heard of each of the following projects in the field of space activities?

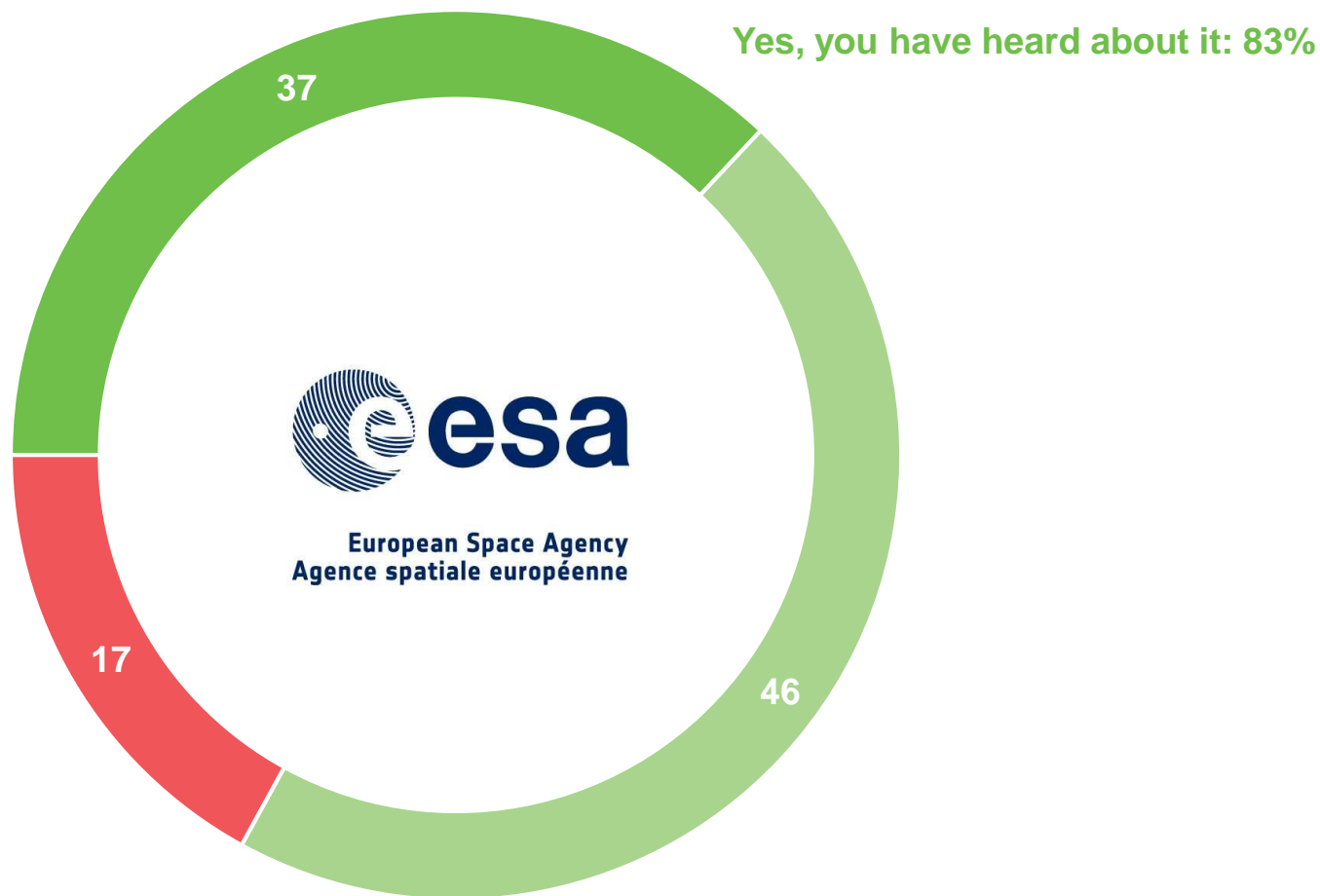
- To all, % of « Yes » -



83% of Europeans state that they have heard of the ESA, the European Space Agency, but only 37% say they know exactly what it is

Have you heard of the European Space Agency (ESA)?

- To all, % -



- Yes, and you know exactly what it is about
- Yes, but you don't know exactly what it is about
- No

Germans, Italians and Spaniards in particular say they have heard of the ESA

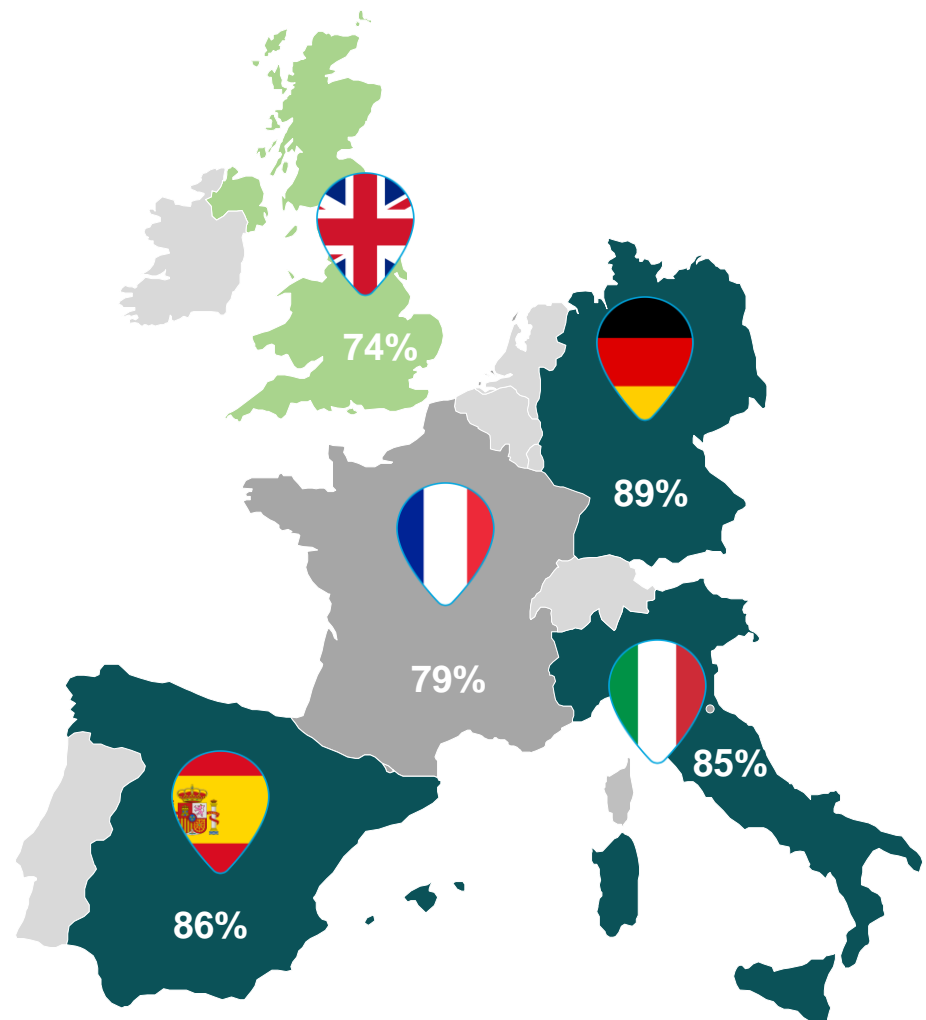
Have you heard of the European Space Agency (ESA)?

- To all, % of « Yes » -



European Space Agency
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European mean: **83%**
have heard about it



Europeans considerably overestimate the burden of space activities on public finances: on average, they estimate the annual cost to be €245 per citizen in their country; only 33% of Europeans give a good estimation (less than €20)

In your opinion, on average how much does each citizen from your country contribute a year (via tax) to finance space activities? *

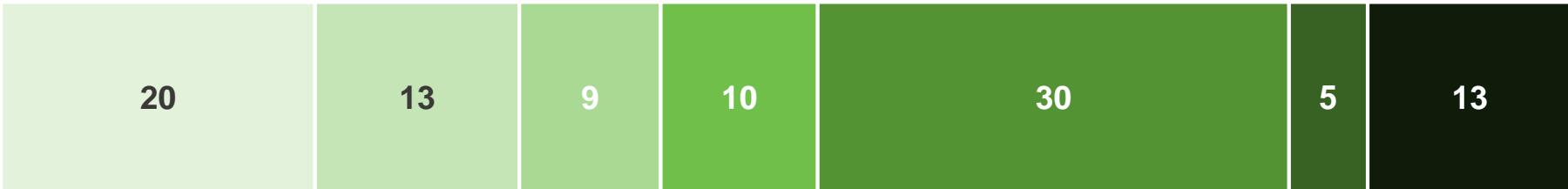
- To all, % -

European average:

245€

per year per citizen

Good estimation
(less than 20€) : 33%



■ Less than 10€ ■ 10 to 19€ ■ 20 to 49€ ■ 50 to 99€ ■ 100 to 499€ ■ 500 to 999€ ■ 1,000€ and more

The cost of space activities is particularly overestimated in Germany (€284), and is slightly less in France (€205)

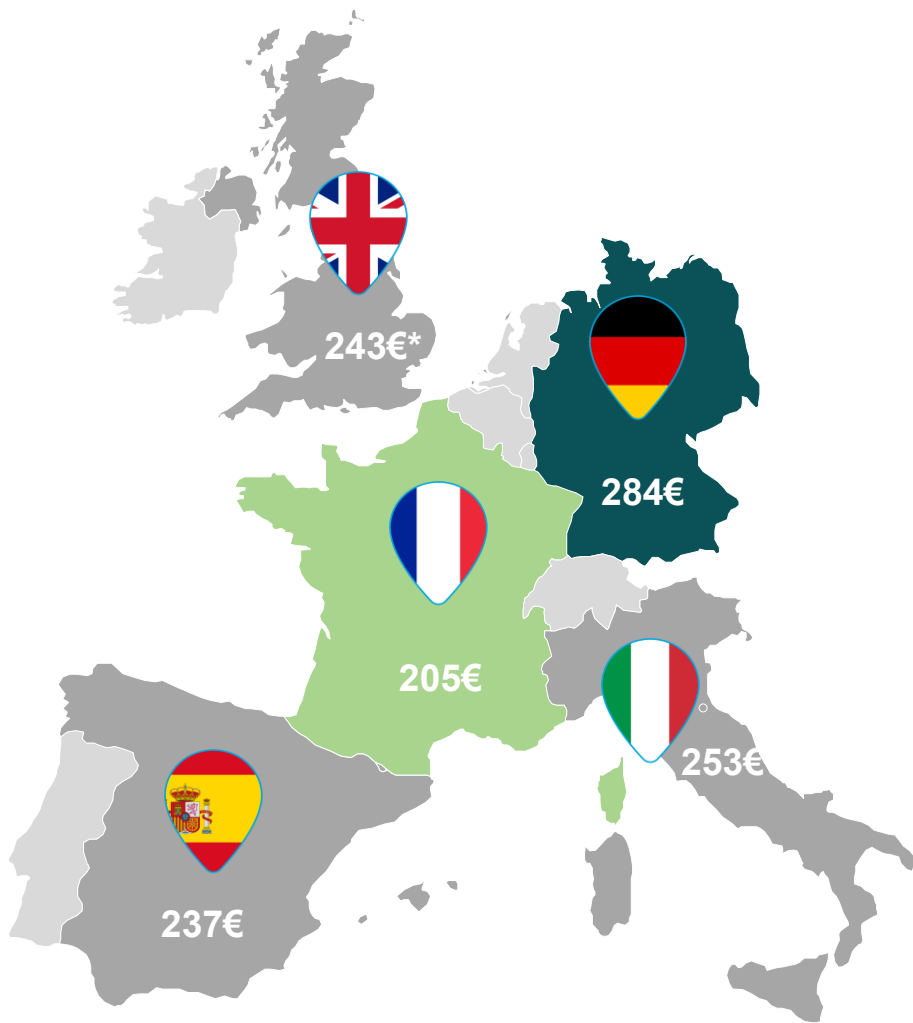
In your opinion, on average how much does each citizen from your country contribute a year (via tax) to finance space activities? *

- To all, on average -



European average: **245€**
per year per citizen

= In the UK, the respondents were asked to quote a sum in pounds (£). Data was then converted into euros (€).



Contacts

Please note that any dissemination of these results must be accompanied by the following technical elements: the name of the institute, the name of the sponsor of the study, survey method, completion dates and sample size.



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ahead of what's next