

The background of the slide is a blue map of Europe with a cracked, dry texture. Overlaid on the map are twelve yellow five-pointed stars arranged in a circle, similar to the flag of the European Union. The text is centered over the map.

What causes Euroscepticism?

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Definition of Euroscepticism and Eurosceptic

- Euroscepticism is a political doctrine that advocates disengagement from the European Union (EU) (Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://global.britannica.com/topic/Euroskepticism>)
- Eurosceptic is a person who is opposed to increasing the powers of the European Union (Oxford English Dictionary <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/Eurosceptic>)

History

- Started as an English phenomenon (Hansen, Spiering, 2004)
- In 1990s spread to Continental Europe
- Many opponents of the idea of united Europe in every EU country

Trust but verify

Do you tend to trust the European Union?

% responding "yes", spring 2015, selected countries



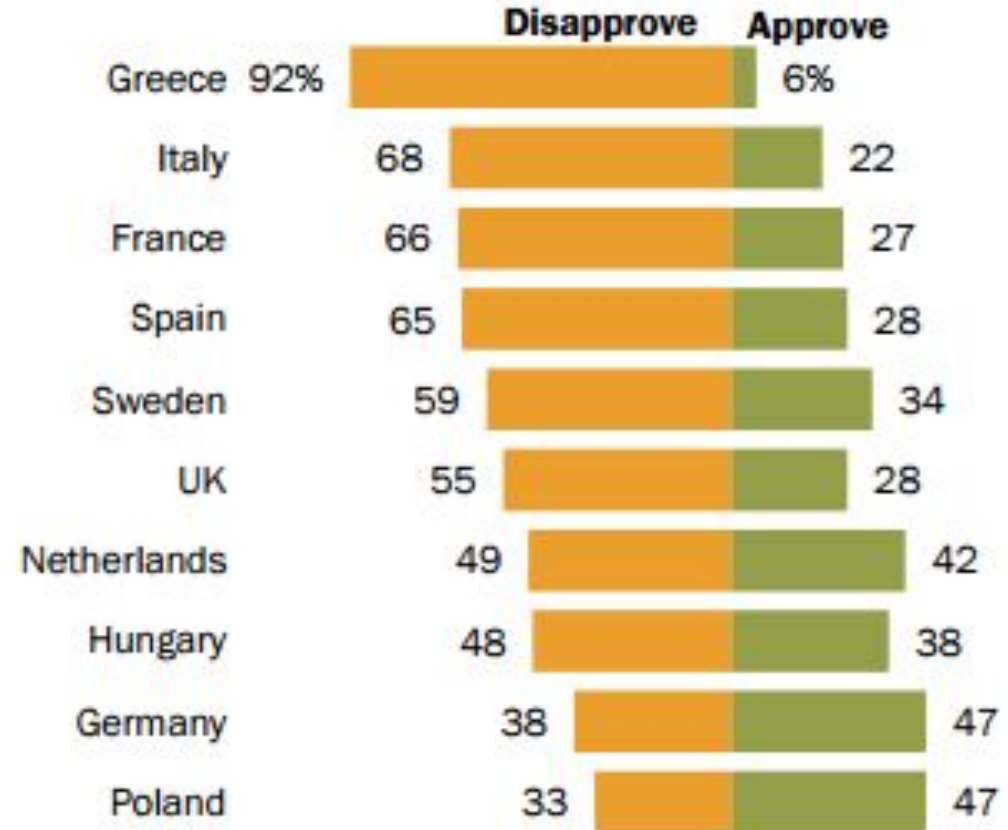
Source: European Commission

Reason 1) Economic crisis

- 2008 - economic and financial crises
- People – not satisfied with EU's economic policy (Pew Research center, 2016)
- Problems – not solved
- Policy - not success

Europeans generally disapprove of EU's handling of economy

Do you ___ of the way the European Union is dealing with European economic issues?



Source: Spring 2016 Global Attitudes Survey. Q50a.

"Euroskepticism Beyond Brexit"

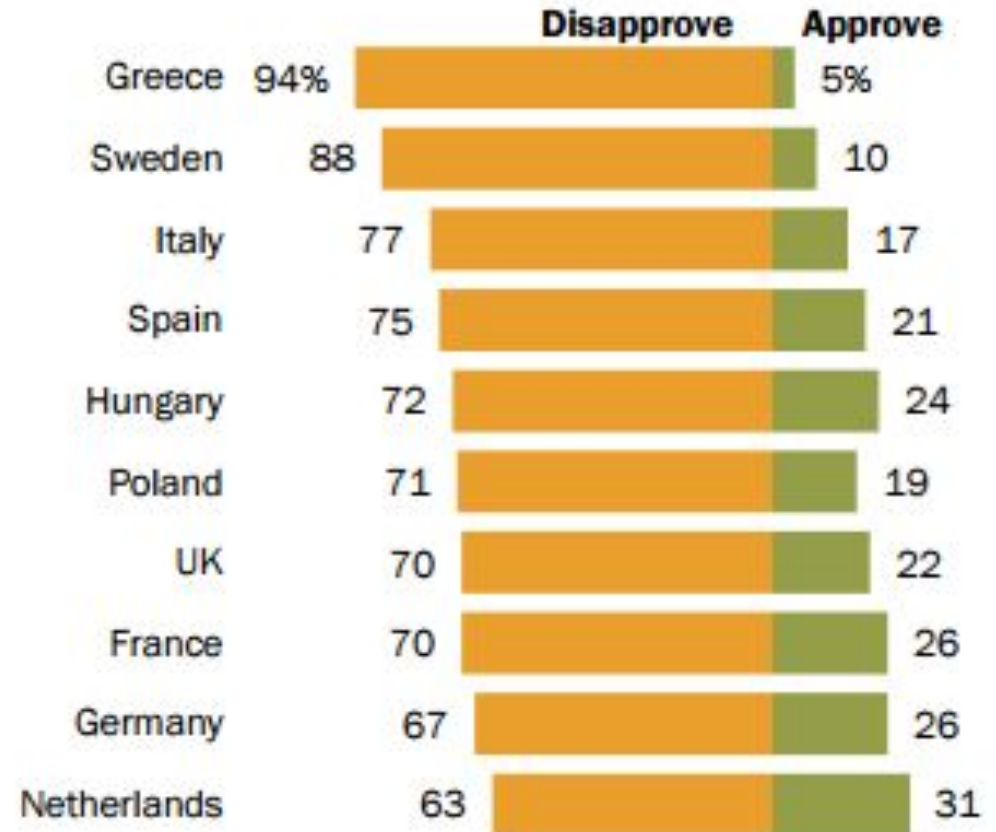
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Reason 2) Immigration and the Refugee Crisis

- Year 2015 - > 1 mln refugees in Europe
- Refugee-friendly policy - tensions between the EU and national governments

Overwhelming majorities unhappy with EU's handling of refugees

Do you ___ of the way the European Union is dealing with the refugee issue?



Source: Spring 2016 Global Attitudes Survey. Q50b.

"Euroskepticism Beyond Brexit"

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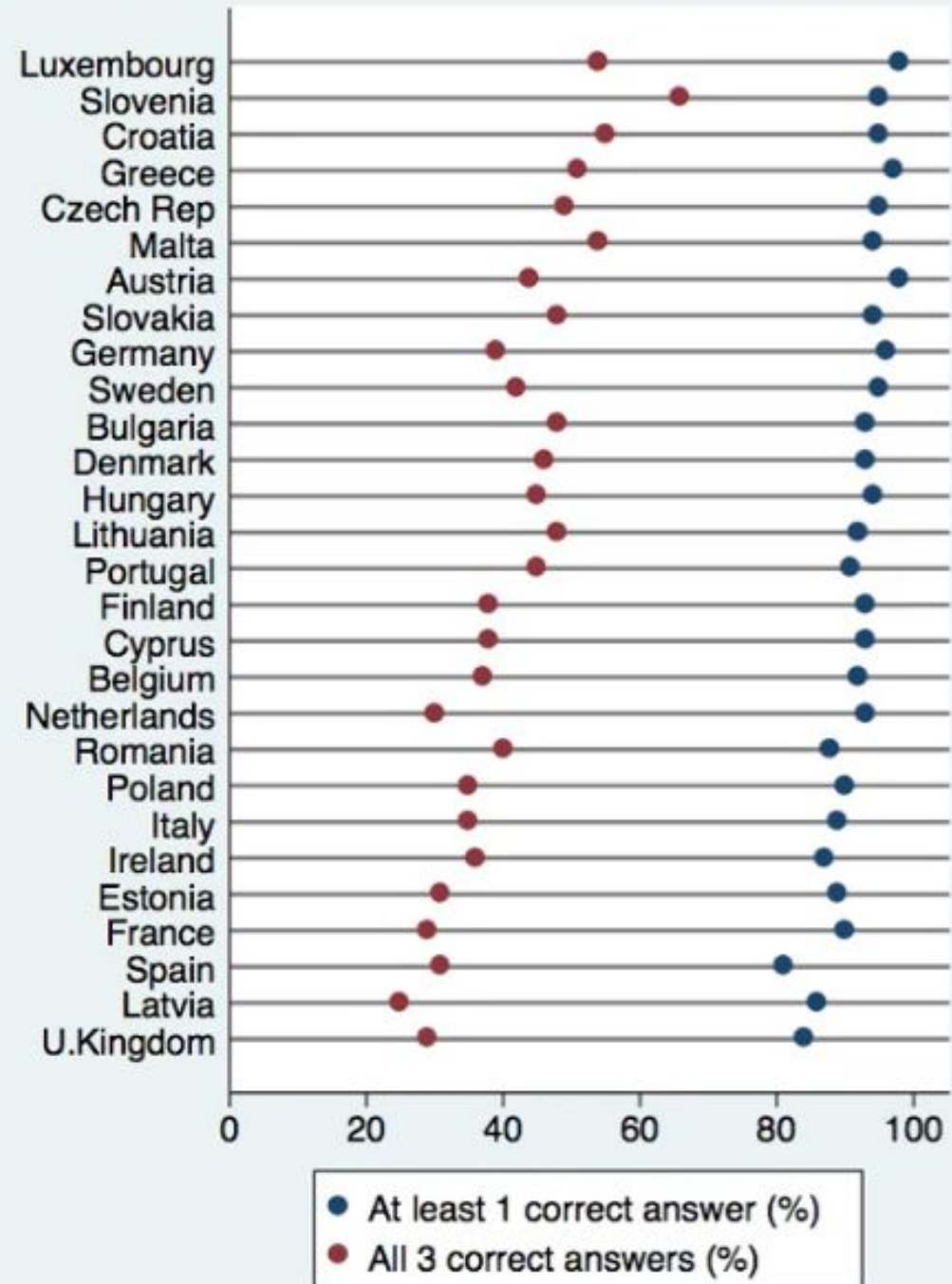
Reason 3) Lack of clarity

- Survey of Eurobarometer (2015)

Questions were:

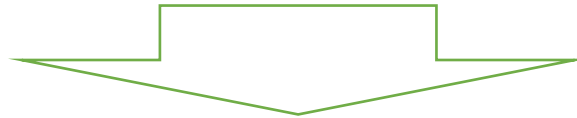
1. The EU currently consists of 28 member states.
2. The members of the European parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each member state.
3. Switzerland is a member state of the EU.

Result: people have misconceptions about the organization of the EU



Reason 4) EU's incapacity to generate identity and massive support

- Democratic deficit,
- Lack of information/communication to citizens
 - Lack of transparency
 - Complexity of the bureaucratic system
- Difficulties to promote a common European feeling of belonging



Failed at gaining support

How to address Euroscepticism?

- Creating a European identity to enhance support for the integration.

(Albert, 2015)

- Setting up a real social European model.
- Adopting measures to inform and educate toward the functioning of the EU and the real costs or gains of European integration.

Conclusion

- 4 main reasons
- 3 methods of resolving
- The main goal: to address issues
- Why?: to ensure future stability and development

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To be or not to be?

Thank you for your attention

Euroscepticism on the rise