



Technology, innovation and digitalization
EU opinion poll

Opinion in Poland

Within the framework of the “Fostering Innovation. Unlocking Potential.” project, the Bertelsmann Stiftung has conducted an online survey in all EU countries with the eupinions¹ survey tool. This survey elicits information regarding citizens’ attitudes – across the EU and within individual countries – toward technological innovation. The results for Poland are representative.

How Poles view their country

Overall, Polish respondents have a rather positive view of their country’s innovation performance and the conditions needed to facilitate it. In addition, most Polish respondents expect innovations to have a largely positive effect on their lives in the next 15 years. Expectations regarding innovations in the energy supply sector are particularly high in Poland.

- Whereas only slightly more than half of all EU respondents (54%) consider **their country to be innovative in international comparison**, 61% of those surveyed in Poland have faith in the innovative capacity of their country.
- Polish respondents also tend to have a more positive view of their country’s **economic environment and policy framework** than do respondents in other EU countries. Every second Polish respondent (50%) considers the conditions in Poland to be facilitative of innovation. Across the EU, only 45% of respondents on average gave a positive assessment of their own country’s economic and policy environment.

¹ eupinions is an independent platform for European public opinion. They collect, analyse and comment on what the European public thinks about current political issues and megatrends. eupinions employs cutting-edge data collection techniques. Every quarter, they collect samples from each EU member state in 22 languages. The data meets the highest scientific standards and is representative with regard to age, gender, education and country/region. eupinions is a project of Bertelsmann Stiftung. The data is collected by Dalia Research.

- More than three-fourths (77%) of Poles expect technological innovations to have positive **effects on their lives** in the next 15 years. In the EU as a whole, this applies to only 68% of respondents.
- Of all EU countries included in the representative survey, Poland has the largest number of respondents (39%) anticipating positive effects from innovations in the **energy supply sector**. The **mobility sector** is the only other area eliciting a greater sense of optimism among Polish respondents (41%).
- **The desire to do more to foster innovation** in particular areas has increased noticeably since 2019 as a result of the coronavirus crisis. Polish respondents are most likely to favor fostering innovation in **healthcare and long-term care** (59%, +19%), **creating jobs** (58%, +16%), **environmental protection** and **battling climate change** (39%, +4%), and in **defense and security** (22%, +4%).

Poland and the European Union

Poland features a very high level of confidence in the EU's innovative and competitive capacity. Compared with other EU respondents, Polish respondents generally consider the economic competition posed by China and the United States to be much lower. Most Poles consider it a good idea to deepen EU cooperation.

- Of all the populations included in the representative survey, none sees the EU's **competitiveness in terms of innovation** in such positive terms as do the Poles. Some 82% of Polish respondents consider it to be good to very good by international comparison.
- In fact, the Poles are less fearful of **competition in innovation coming from China and the United States** than their counterparts across the EU. For example, only one-half (50%) of Polish respondents consider the United States to be more innovative than the EU. On average across the EU, however, some 59% of respondents consider Chinese innovative capacity to be stronger than that of the EU. Even fewer Poles (46%) see the United States as outpacing Poland in terms of innovation (EU-wide: 52%).
- More than two-thirds of Polish respondents (62%) are in favor of **closer cooperation among EU countries** in order to foster a competitive and innovative economy. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, however, this figure was at 68%.

Differences according to specific respondent characteristics

In Poland, the higher the level of education, the more likely a respondent is to take a critical view of one's own country and the EU. Which innovations a respondent considers particularly useful depends on their age and place of residence (urban vs rural). Women are less convinced than men of the positive effect of innovations in the next 15 years.

- Of those Polish respondents with a **medium to high level of formal education**, 38% rate their country's economic environment and policy framework for facilitating innovation poorly. Among those with **no to low levels of formal education**, only 23% share this view.
- In Poland, **the younger the respondent**, the greater the desire for innovations in the **mobility sector and education**. However, **the older the respondent**, the greater the desire for a focus on the areas of **healthcare as well as defense and security**.
- While **Poland's urban population** is most in favor of innovations for job creation (47%) (rural population: 37%), the **rural population** supports primarily innovations in the health sector (40%) (urban population: 41%).
- Overall in Poland, **more men (82%) than women (72%)** expect innovations to have positive effects on their lives in the next 15 years.