# POLI3280/CANA3100/EURO3000

## Session 7 – Part 2

## IDENTITY AND NATIONALISM  IN EUROPE

# PLAN OF LECTURE





1. Identity and Europe
2. Building an European identity
3. Do you Europeans feel 'European'?
4. The identity-migration nexus in Europe

# IDENTITY

- **Identity**

  => the conception and expression of a person's

  individuality

**Two dimensions:**

1) personal

2) collective

# COLLECTIVE IDENTITY

- ## Collective identity
  the idea that a group of people accept a fundamental and consequential similarity that causes them to feel solidarity amongst themselves (Brubaker and Cooper, 2000).

Similarities in collective identity:

- Language
- Religion
- Ethnicity
- common formative experience

=> shared 'culture'

# IDENTITY AND NATIONALISM

- Nationalism
  => ideology that emphasises shared
     culture to build a cross-class alliance
     around a nation-building project

- Nationalism and identity
  Nationalism => Since 19$^{th}$ century the
     most popular form of collective ID

- Types of nationalism
  ➢ Ethnic
  ➢ Civic

# IDENTITY AND EUROPE

- **European experience with nationalism**
  **=> mostly negative**



- **'European' identity**
  **=> as alternative to national**
  **=> mostly civic conception**

- **But:**
  - ➢ **contested**
  - ➢ **nested (regional, national, subnational)**
  - ➢ **European = EU?**

# THE MYTH OF EUROPE

# UNITED EUROPE: PRECEDENTS



IMPERATOR II: Charlemagne's Europe

# BUILDING AN EUROPEAN IDENTITY: THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

# BUILDING AN EUROPEAN IDENTITY: EU'S 'STATE-LIKE' SYMBOLS



The European flag

The European anthem

Europe Day, 9 May

The motto: United in diversity

# BUILDING AN EUROPEAN IDENTITY: THE EURO



The European anthem

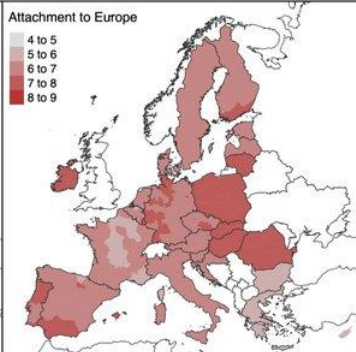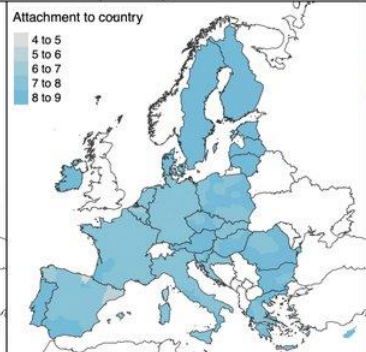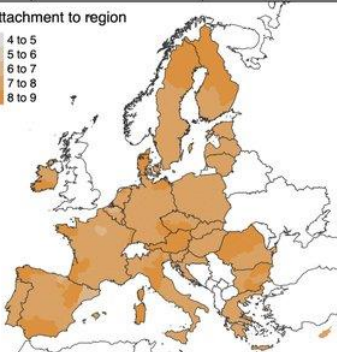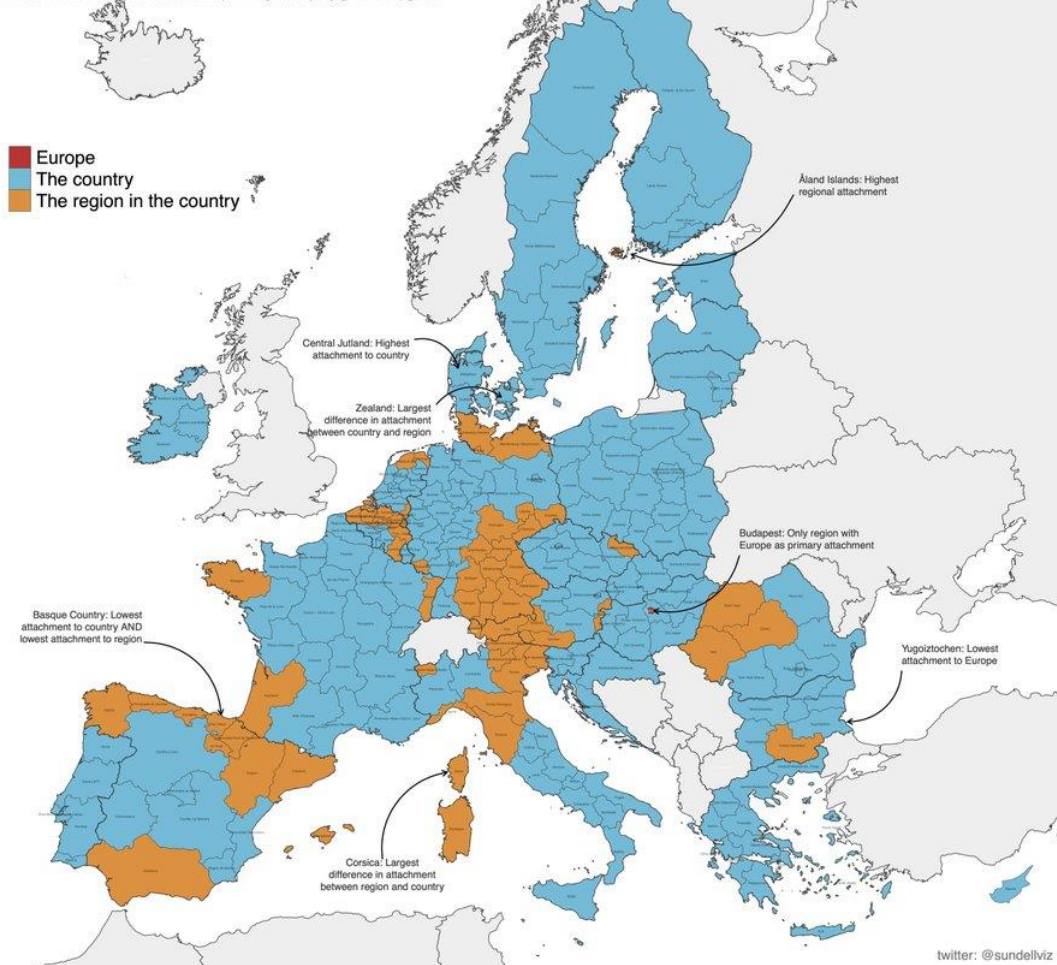Motto: United in diversity

'SITUATIONAL EUROPEANS'? EUROPEAN VS (SUB) NATIONAL IDENTITY

# THE EU'S APPEAL

Share of respondents with the following views
on the EU by country (in percent)

■ Favorable  ■ Unfavorable

| Country | Favorable | Unfavorable |
|---|---|---|
| Germany | 73 | 25 |
| Denmark | 70 | 28 |
| Spain | 68 | 32 |
| Netherlands | 66 | 33 |
| Sweden | 66 | 34 |
| Belgium | 63 | 35 |
| France | 61 | 37 |
| Italy | 58 | 42 |
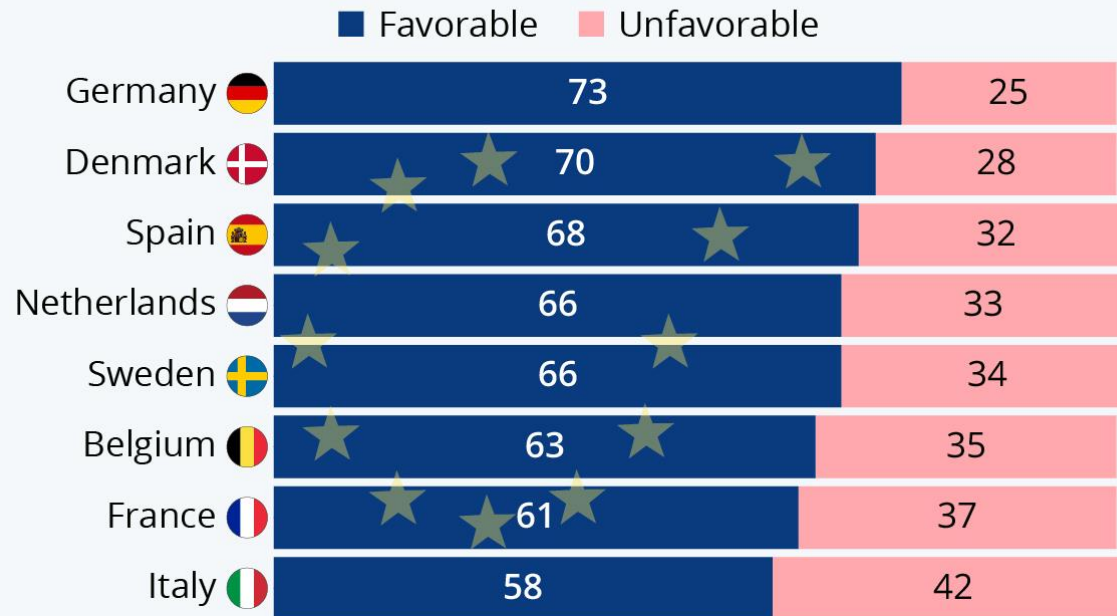
Based on a survey of 14,000 people in eight EU countries; Jun 10-Aug 3 2020
Source: Pew Research

statista

# THE EU'S APPEAL



D78    In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?
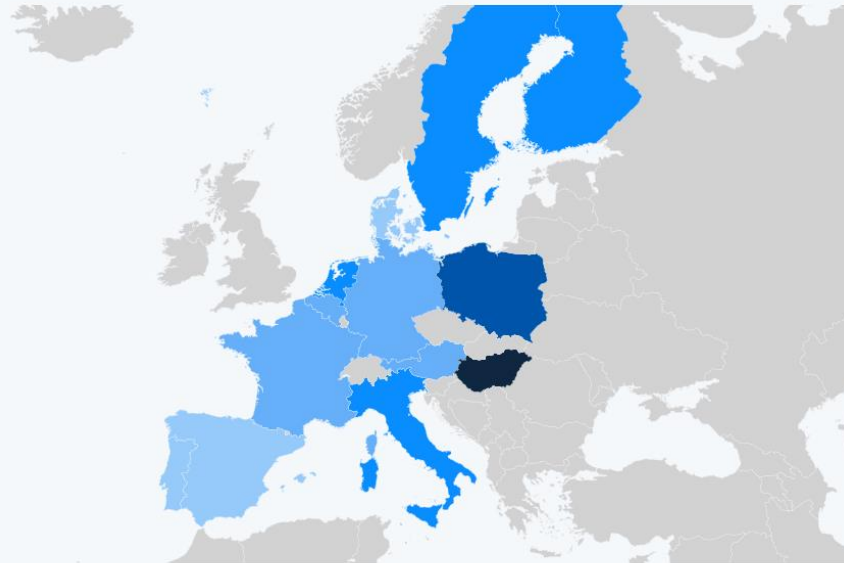(% - EU)
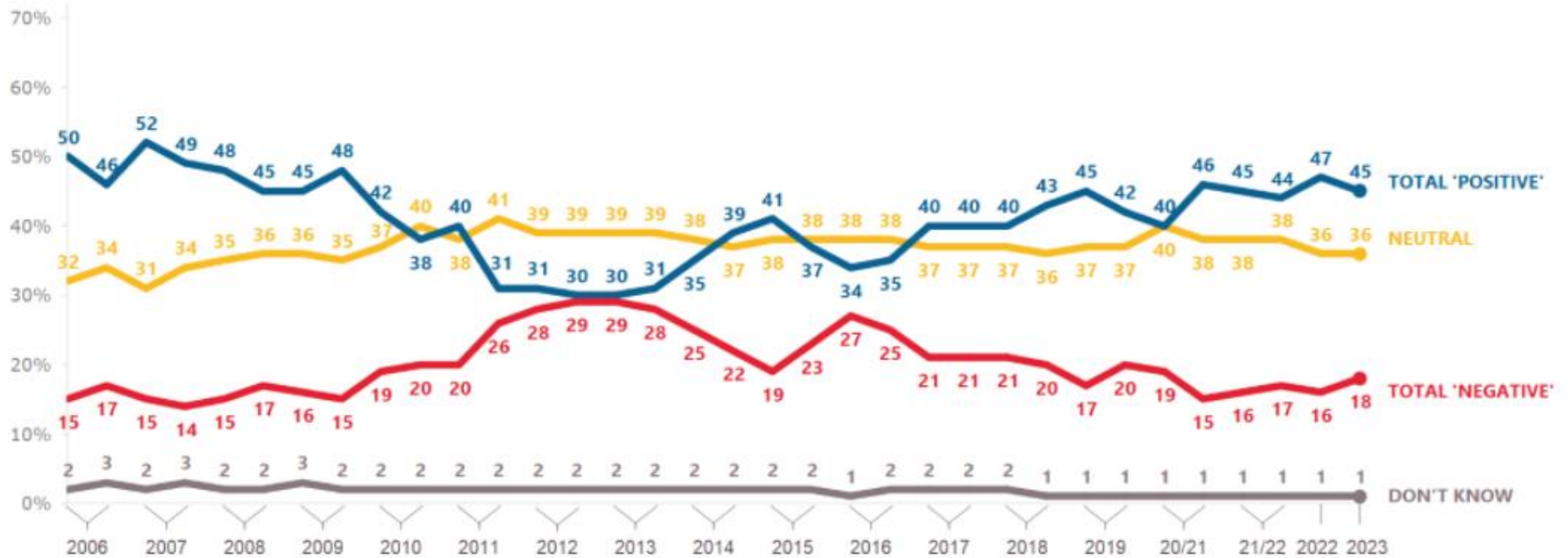
# A EURO-SCEPTIC EUROPE?

## Where Europe's Far-Right Has Gained Ground

Share of seats held by the main far-right party
in the national parliament of selected EU countries*

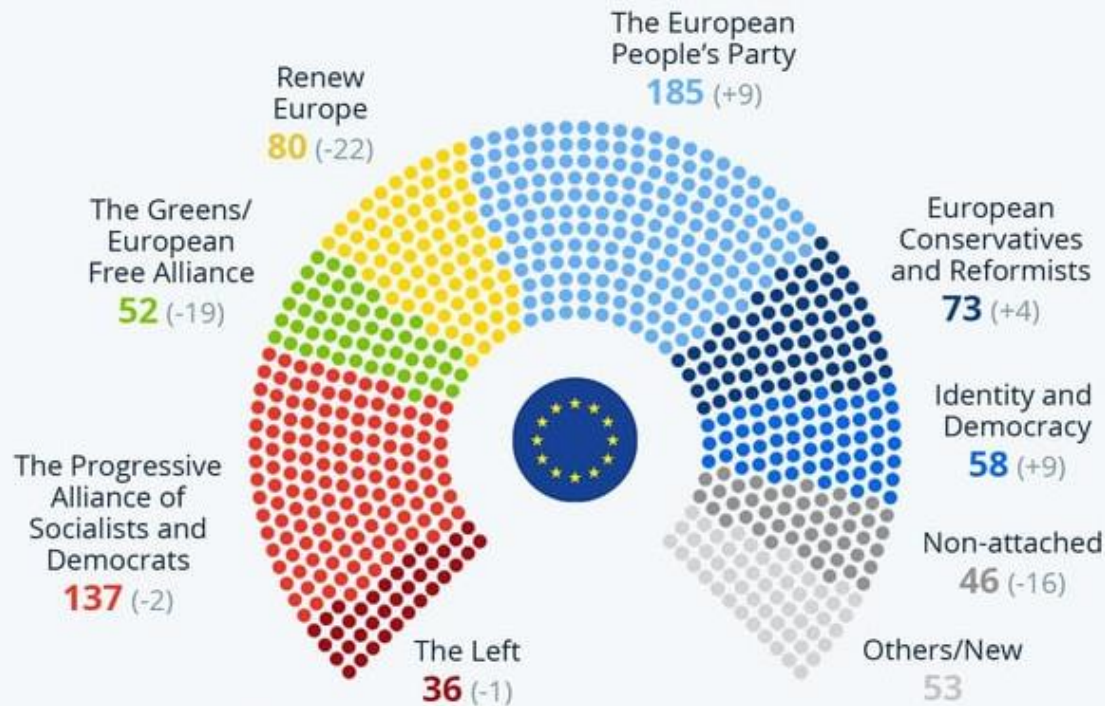| | Share | Party |
|---|---|---|
| 🇭🇺 | 59% | Fidesz |
| 🇵🇱 | 35% | PiS |
| 🇮🇹 | 30% | FdI |
| 🇳🇱 | 23% | PVV |
| 🇫🇮 | 23% | PS |
| 🇸🇪 | 21% | SD |
| 🇦🇹 | 16% | FPÖ |
| 🇫🇷 | 15% | RN |
| 🇧🇪 | 12% | VB |
| 🇩🇪 | 11% | AfD |
| 🇪🇸 | 9% | Vox |
| 🇵🇹 | 5% | Chega |
| 🇩🇰 | 4% | DF |

As of Nov. 23, 2023. Figure for the Netherlands is preliminary.
* Ideologically, these parties share a stance on nationalism, social conservatism
  and anti-immigration. Some parties may be part of a broader coalition.

Sources: Respective parliaments, YouTrend, Statista research

statista ↗

# 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS: A RIGHT TURN?



The European People's Party
185 (+9)

Renew Europe
80 (-22)

The Greens/European Free Alliance
52 (-19)

European Conservatives and Reformists
73 (+4)

The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats
137 (-2)

Identity and Democracy
58 (+9)

Non-attached
46 (-16)
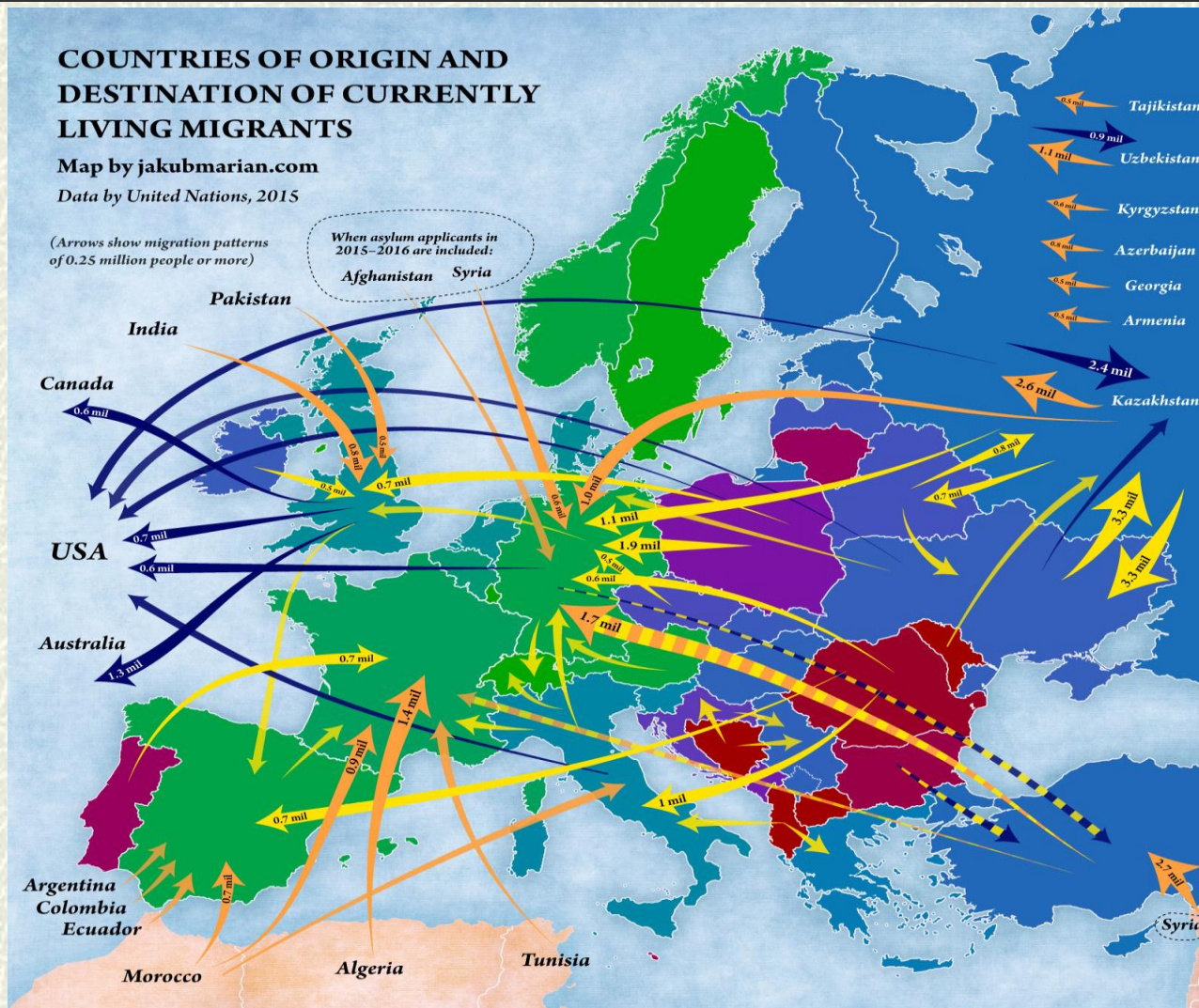
The Left
36 (-1)

Others/New
53

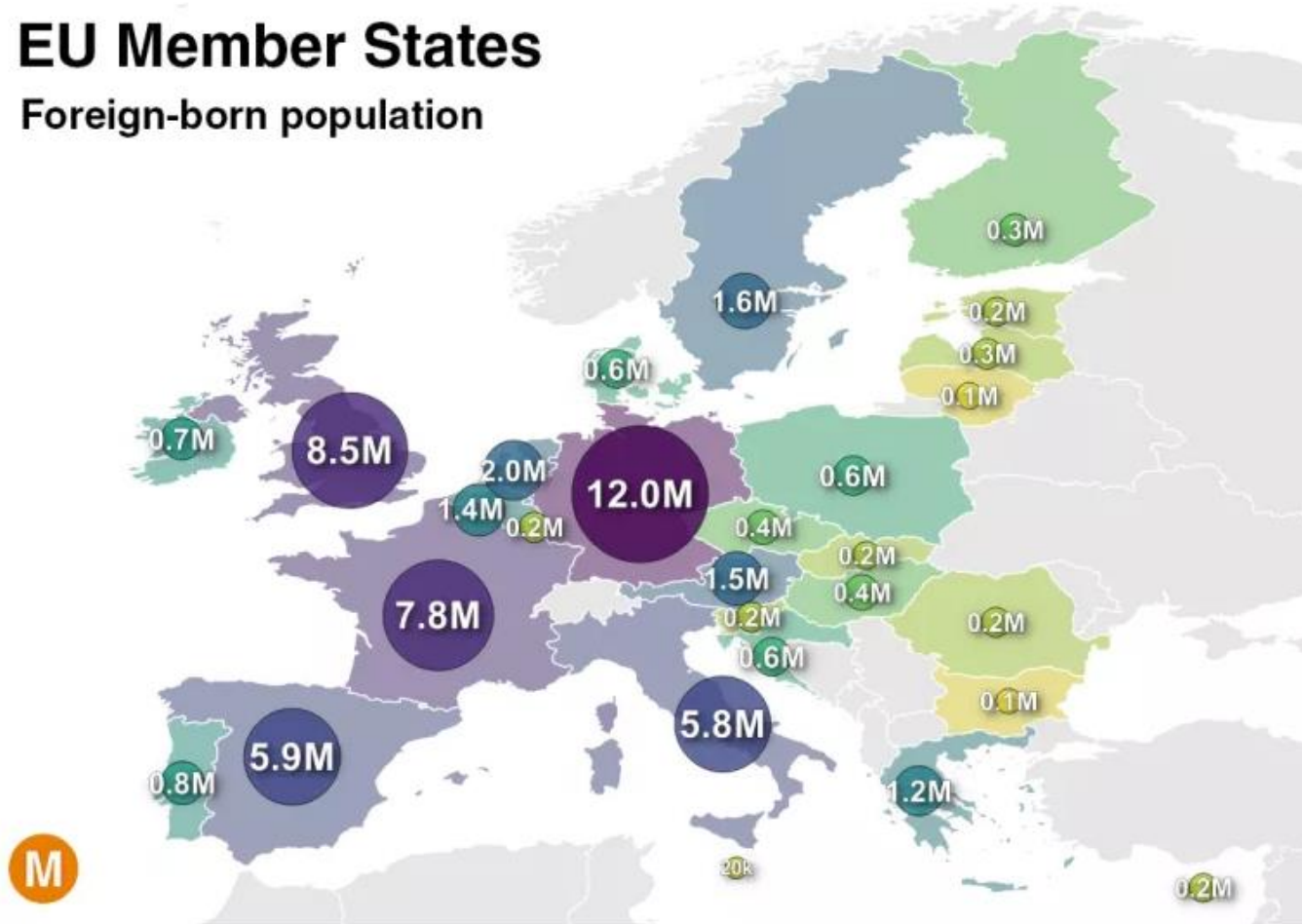* As of June 10, 10:30 GMT+2
Source: European Parliament

statista

# THE MIGRATION-IDENTITY NEXUS IN EUROPE

# THE MIGRATION-IDENTITY NEXUS IN EUROPE



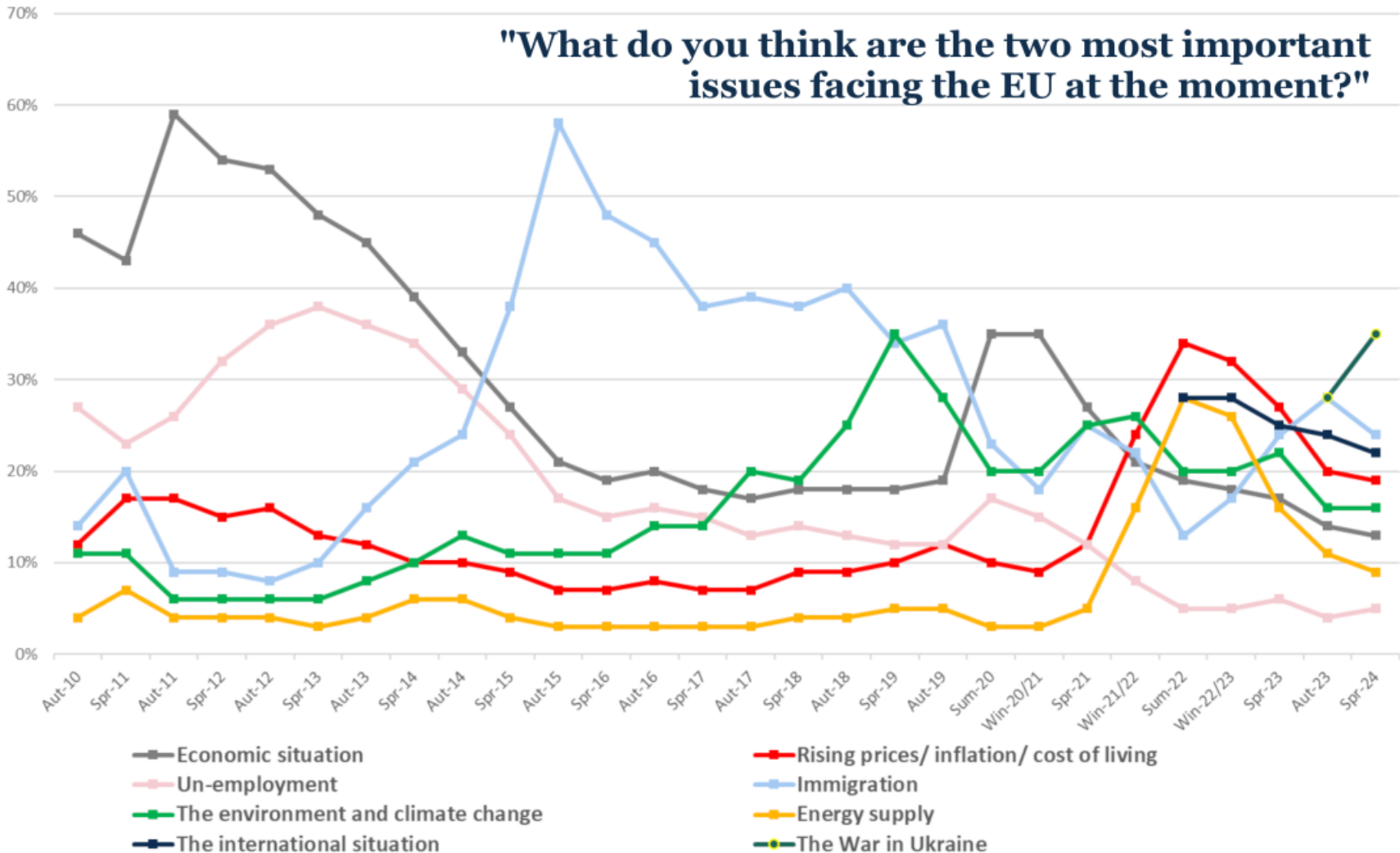EU Member States
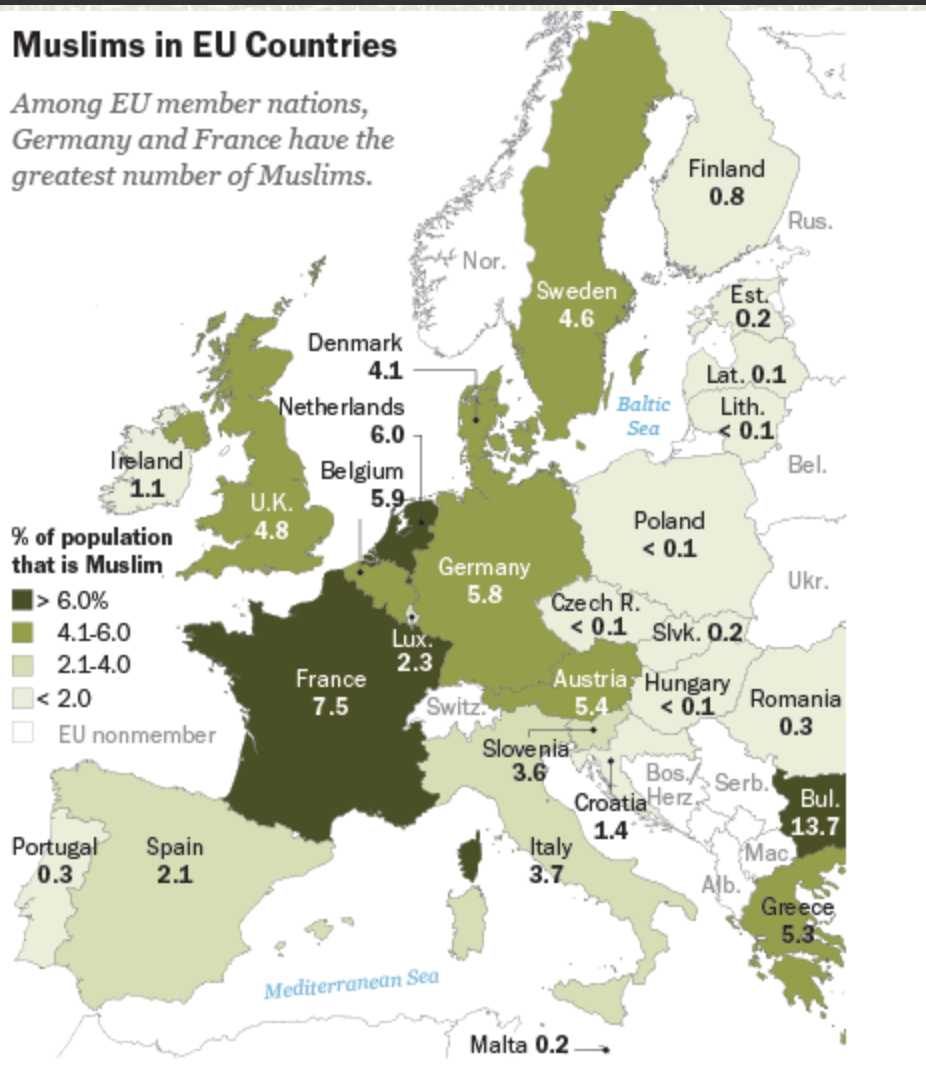Foreign-born population

# THE SALIENCE OF MIGRATION IN EUROPE

WIRE



"What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?"

**Legend:**
- Economic situation
- Un-employment
- The environment and climate change
- The international situation
- Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living
- Immigration
- Energy supply
- The War in Ukraine

# MIGRATION-IDENTITY NEXUS: THE 'OTHER' WITHIN



**Muslims in EU Countries**

Among EU member nations, Germany and France have the greatest number of Muslims.

# VIEWS OF THE 'OTHER' IN EUROPE
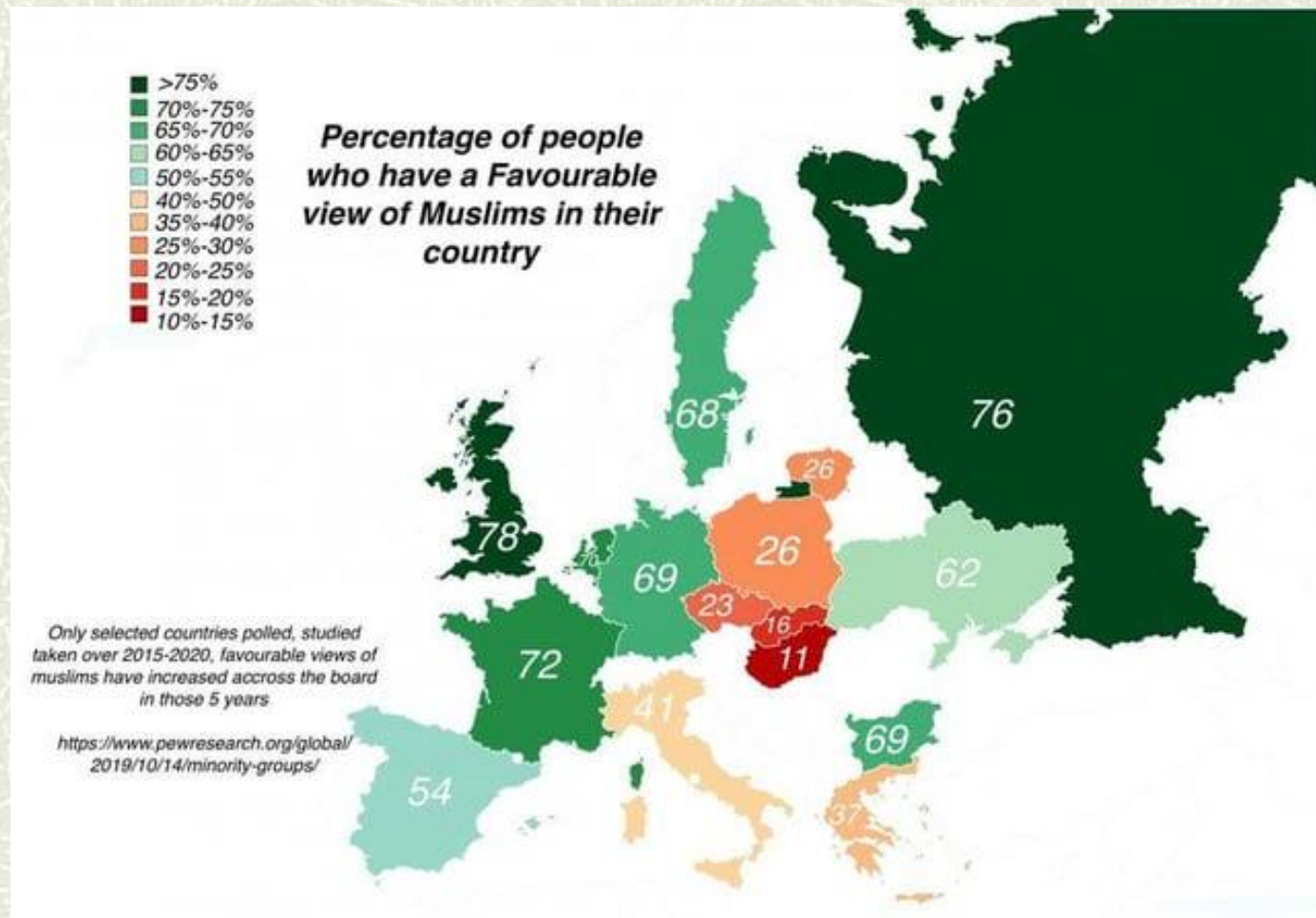
# MULTICULTURALISM IN EUROPE



This multicultural approach, saying that we simply live side by side and live happily with each other has failed. Utterly failed.

(Angela Merkel)

# MULTICULTURALISM IN EUROPE