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EUROSCOPE
The pulse of the European public Opinion

Perception of High-Speed Rail in Europe

Survey report

May 2025

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology

This survey has been **conducted online** through CAWI method (Computer Assisted Web Interview) on a sample representative of the European Union 18+ population.

The **total sample size is 5.107** complete interviews, distributed proportionally to the population of the 27 EU countries with a slight correction which allows to analyze the data on the pan-European level, with breakdowns for the 5 largest countries (Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Poland) and for 3 different areas: Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe. For each country proportional quotas were set for age and gender. Quotas were calculated regarding the most recent parameters provided by Eurostat.

Interviews were collected **between the 16th and 25th of May 2025.**

The report shows breakdowns by the following geographical areas:

1) Germany
2) France

3) CEE – Central and Eastern Countries (Baltic states, Poland, Czech R., Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia)

4) Northern Countries (Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Netherlands, Lux., Ireland, Austria)

5) Southern Countries (Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Malta, Cyprus)

+ separate data for Italy, Spain and Poland.

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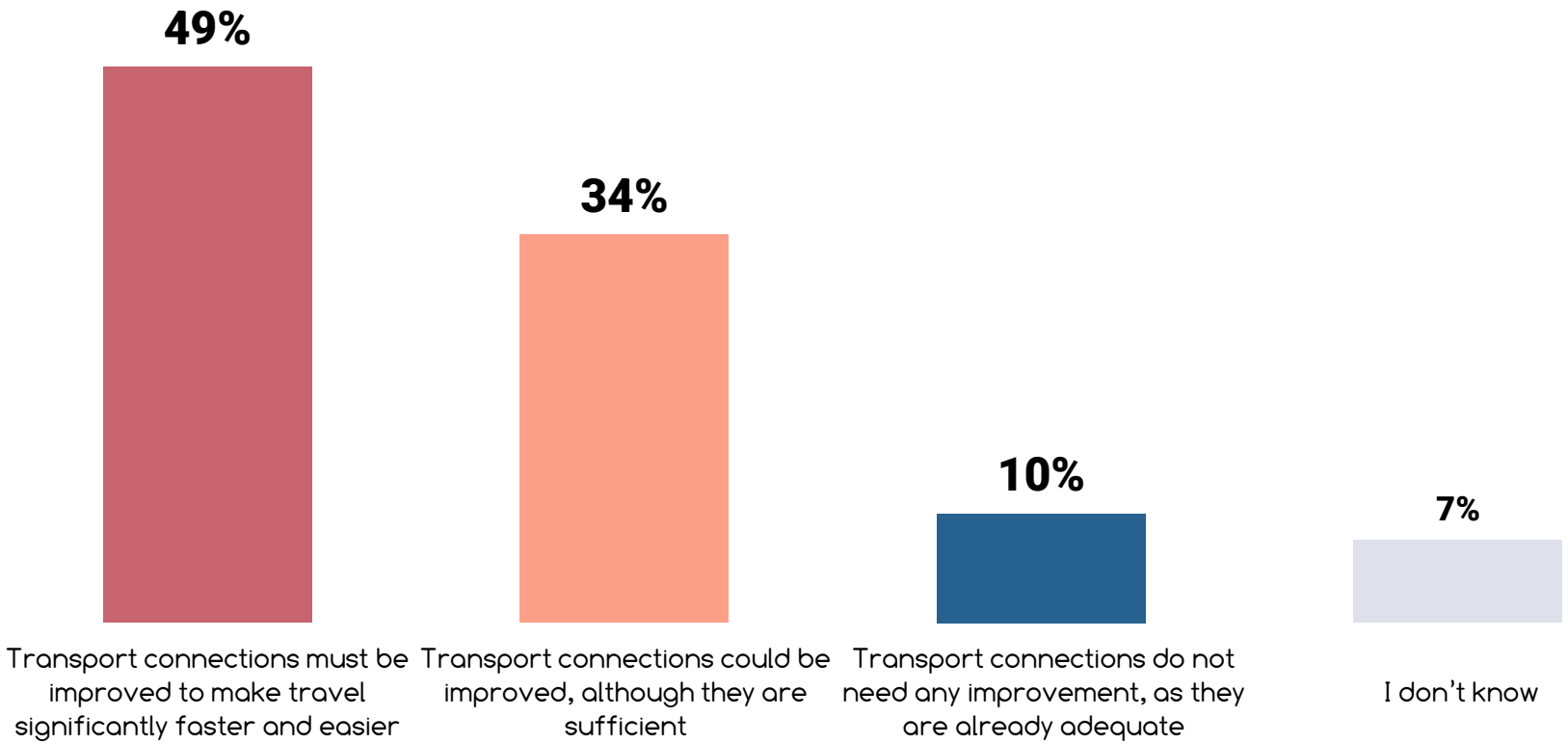
PERCEPTION OF HIGH-SPEED RAIL IN EUROPE

The perception of transport connections between European countries

All respondents: 5,107

83%

Needs improvement + could be improved



1 EU citizen every 2 believes that transport connections must be improved. Only 1 out of 10 deems the transport connections adequate.

Q. Let's talk about travelling between European countries. Do you think that:

The perception of transport connections between European countries

All respondents: 5,107

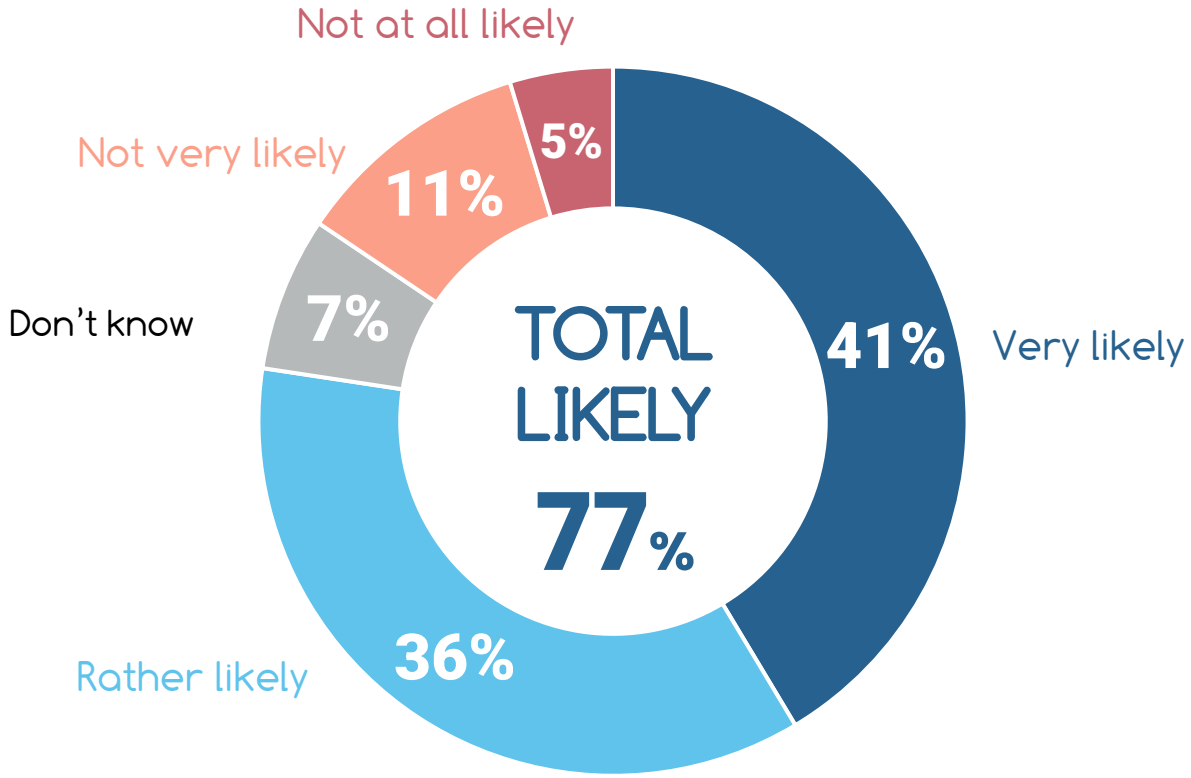
Split according to geographical areas

	TOTAL	France	Germany	Italy	Spain	Poland	Southern Europe	CEE	Northern Europe
Base	5.107	675	924	588	522	425	1,392	1,135	981
Total Needs Improvement	**83%**	**79%**	**77%**	**89%**	**89%**	**88%**	**90%**	**85%**	**79%**
Transport connections must be improved to make travel significantly faster and easier	***49%***	***55%***	***37%***	***54%***	***54%***	***48%***	***56%***	***52%***	***38%***
Transport connections could be improved, although they are sufficient	***34%***	***23%***	***40%***	***35%***	***36%***	***40%***	***34%***	***34%***	***40%***
Transport connections do not need any improvement, as they are already adequate	**10%**	**10%**	**13%**	**7%**	**6%**	**7%**	**7%**	**8%**	**12%**
I don't know	***7%***	***12%***	***9%***	***4%***	***4%***	***5%***	***4%***	***6%***	***9%***

Q. Let's talk about travelling between European countries. Do you think that:

Likelihood of using high-speed trains instead of flights if infrastructures were to be improved

All respondents: 5,107



If there were fast and reliable high-speed trains most of EU citizens would switch to this transportation method for short and medium distances connections.
A significant share, 41%, shows a strong propensity to prefer the train.

Q. If there were fast and reliable high-speed trains between all European capitals and major urban areas, how likely would you be to take a high-speed train instead of flying for short and medium-distance trips in Europe?

Likelihood of using high-speed trains instead of flights if infrastructures were to be improved

All respondents: 5,107

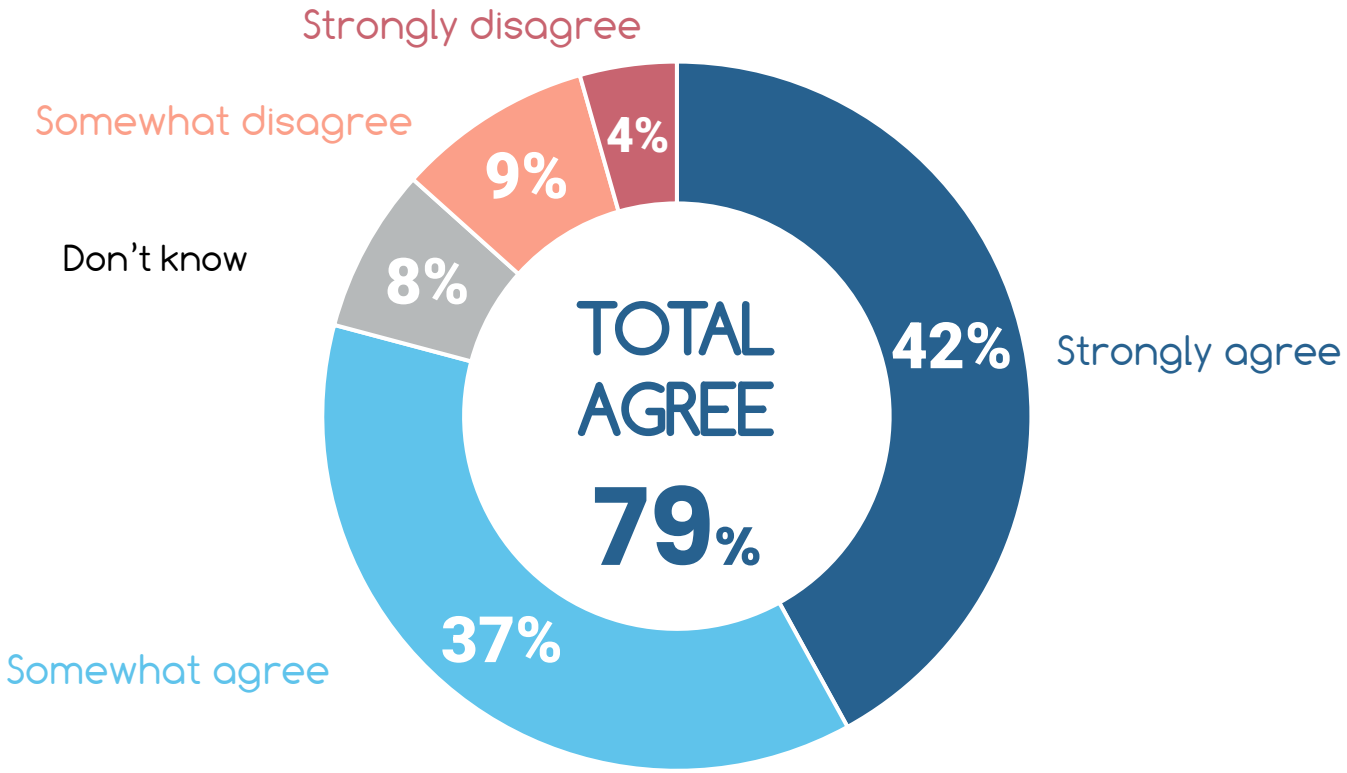
Split according to geographical areas

	TOTAL	France	Germany	Italy	Spain	Poland	Southern Europe	CEE	Northern Europe
Base	5,107	675	924	588	522	425	1,392	1,135	981
Total likely	77%	75%	69%	84%	86%	81%	85%	80%	67%
Very likely	41%	38%	35%	43%	44%	46%	46%	48%	31%
Rather likely	36%	37%	34%	41%	42%	35%	39%	32%	36%
Total not likely	16%	15%	21%	10%	11%	13%	10%	14%	22%
Not very likely	11%	8%	14%	8%	9%	9%	8%	11%	15%
Not at all likely	5%	7%	7%	2%	2%	4%	2%	3%	7%
I don't know	7%	10%	10%	6%	3%	6%	5%	6%	11%

Q. If there were fast and reliable high-speed trains between all European capitals and major urban areas, how likely would you be to take a high-speed train instead of flying for short and medium-distance trips in Europe?

Agreement with European investment on high-speed rail

All respondents: 5,107



The large majority of EU citizens believes Europe should invest more on high-speed rails, 4 out of 10 strongly support this perspective.

Q. Do you agree or disagree that Europe should invest more in high-speed rail to make it easier to travel between European countries?

Agreement with European investment on high-speed rail

All respondents: 5,107

Split according to geographical areas

	TOTAL	France	Germany	Italy	Spain	Poland	Southern Europe	CEE	Northern Europe
Base	5,107	675	924	588	522	425	1,392	1,135	981
Total agree	79%	80%	72%	82%	85%	83%	84%	83%	72%
Strongly agree	42%	38%	32%	45%	50%	45%	50%	48%	33%
Somewhat agree	37%	41%	40%	37%	35%	38%	34%	35%	39%
Total disagree	13%	10%	17%	12%	11%	10%	11%	11%	20%
Somewhat disagree	9%	6%	9%	9%	9%	7%	9%	8%	13%
Strongly disagree	4%	4%	8%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	7%
I don't know	8%	11%	11%	6%	4%	7%	5%	6%	8%

Q. Do you agree or disagree that Europe should invest more in high-speed rail to make it easier to travel between European countries?

Photo by christian-lue on Unplash

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Polling Europe is an innovative research firm born from the esteemed collaboration of SWG and OpinionWay, two premier market and social research entities from Italy and France.
Located in the heart of Brussels, Polling Europe specializes in conducting comprehensive public affairs surveys and opinion polls, delving into the nuanced landscape of EU public opinion.
Our expertise spans both ad hoc research endeavors and meticulously crafted multi-client surveys, providing quick and cost-effective insights into European public opinion.
With a commitment to excellence and a dedication to unveiling Europeans dynamic socio-political climate, Polling Europe will be a trusted partner in answering your questions regarding the future of Europe.

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