

# Market Monitoring Survey 2019





# Electronic products







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Online seller location check

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Experience of problems

Experience of physical harm/product recall

Type of physical harm

Seriousness of harm

Experience of financial loss or non-financial impact

Type of non-financial impact

Size of financial loss

Making a complaint

Satisfaction with complaint outcome

Registration of personal details (yes + reasons)

Registration of personal details (no + reasons)

**ANNEX: TECHNICAL NOTE** 

### Introduction



The Consumer Market Monitoring Survey (MMS) assesses the performance of a range of goods and service markets across the European Union, the UK, Iceland and Norway. It looks at consumers' experiences and perceptions of the markets using a standard set of indicators to allow consistent and comparable monitoring across markets countries and survey waves. The indicators include both 'core' items, asked for all markets, as well as market-specific indicators that are asked for selected markets only (and in varying combinations).



### **TECHNICAL NOTE**

The MMS is conducted using CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews) and the target population is the general public aged 18 and older. Around 50,000 people are interviewed each wave across the 30 countries in scope. The 2019 wave of the survey was conducted between 18 December 2019 and 19 May 2020. More detailed technical information about the survey can be found in the Annex to this report.



### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Survey microsite:** 

**EC** website:

### THE 2019 WAVE OF THE MMS COVERED THE FOLLOWING TEN MARKETS:







### Overview of key findings

#### Trust

- A majority of EU27 consumers 82% trust the electronic products market. The figure varies by Member State, from a high of 94% in Italy to a low of 67% in Poland.
- A large majority of consumers 94% report positive experiences of making purchases in the market, with no notable differences between countries or sociodemographic subgroups.

#### **Choosing goods and services**

- Three-quarters of consumers (75%) report finding it easy to compare the offers of different retailers in the electronic products market although, again, the figure varies by Member State, from a low of 59% in Slovenia and Luxembourg, to a high of 86% in Spain and Cyprus.
- Ninety four per cent of consumers say that durability is important in determining their choice of electronic products, while 79% say repairability is important, and 70% the likely environmental impact of the product this compared with the 90% who attach importance to price.
- Around two-thirds (65%) of consumers say that, when buying electronic products online, they 'always' or 'sometimes' check where the seller is located. This figure is stable across sociodemographic subgroups, but there is wide variation by Member State, with the figure ranging from a high of 84% (in Cyprus) to a low of 48% (in Latvia).

#### The in-market experience

- Twelve per cent of EU27 consumers have experienced a problem with an electronic product they have purchased that they felt gave grounds for complaint. This figure is highest in Ireland (23%), and lowest in Italy (5%).
- The most common problem experienced is that of a product breaking shortly after the legal guarantee or commercial warrantee period (reported by 17% of consumers), followed by receipt of inaccurate or misleading information or unclear terms and conditions (reported by 15%).
- Of all those who have experienced a problem, 28% experienced financial detriment as a result and almost two-thirds (65%) experienced other, non-financial impacts; most commonly a loss of time (reported by 80% of those experiencing non-financial impacts) or anger/frustration (75%) though 40% also reported suffering stress or other negative mental health impacts.
- Few consumers (4% in the EU27) have experienced physical harm in using electronic products they have purchased. The figure is notably higher in Latvia (14%), however most often because the product had no or poor user instructions (11%).
- Just under half (49%) of all EU27 consumers who have experienced a problem have gone on to make a complaint. Complaints are most commonly made to the retailer (43%). Comparatively few people have complained to a consumer protection agency (5%), though this figure is higher than average in Italy (15%) and Portugal (20%). The majority (56%) of all EU27 consumers who have made a complaint report being satisfied with the outcome.





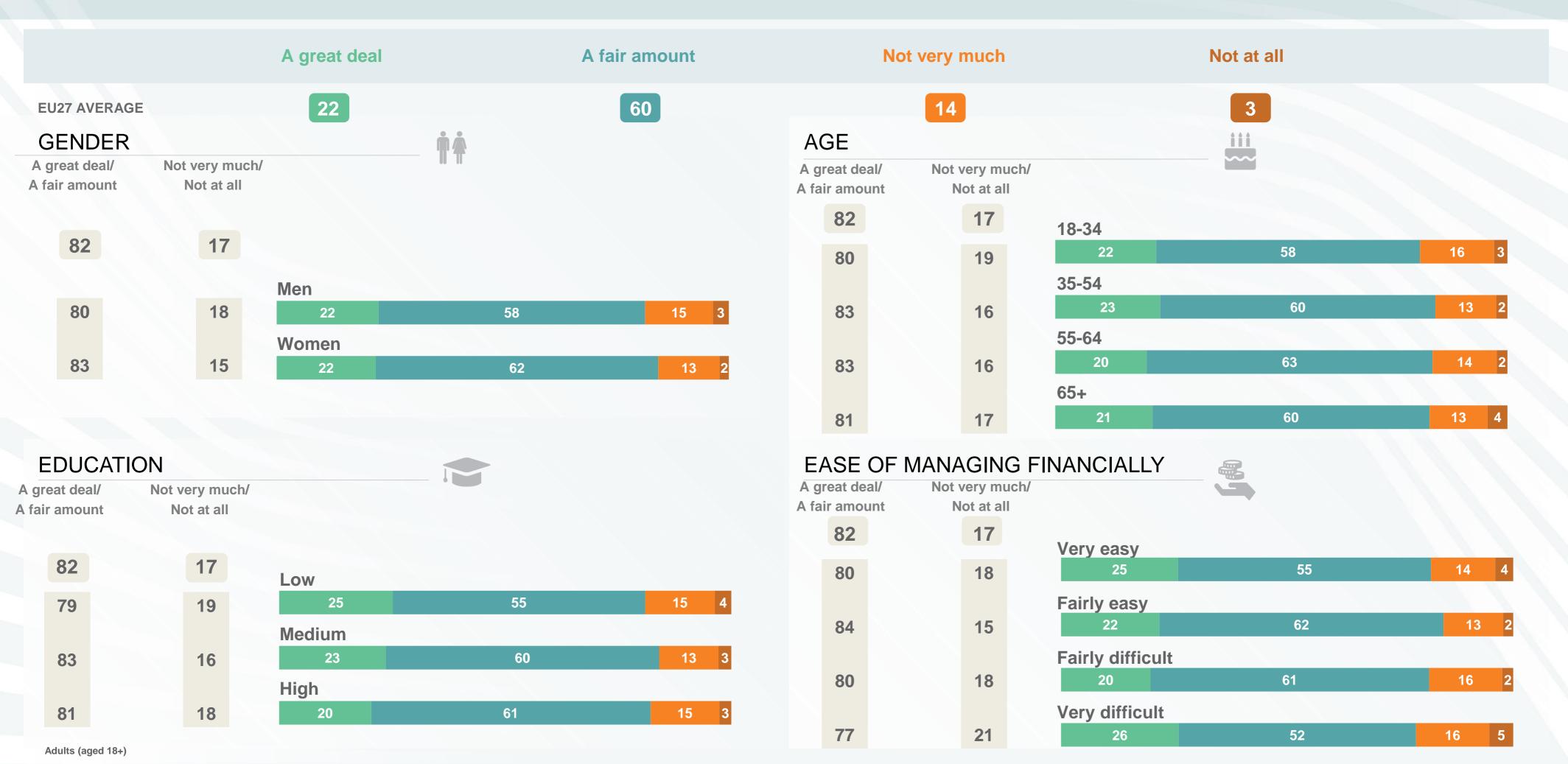
### How much do you trust the retailers overall? (%)







### How much do you trust the retailers overall? (%)







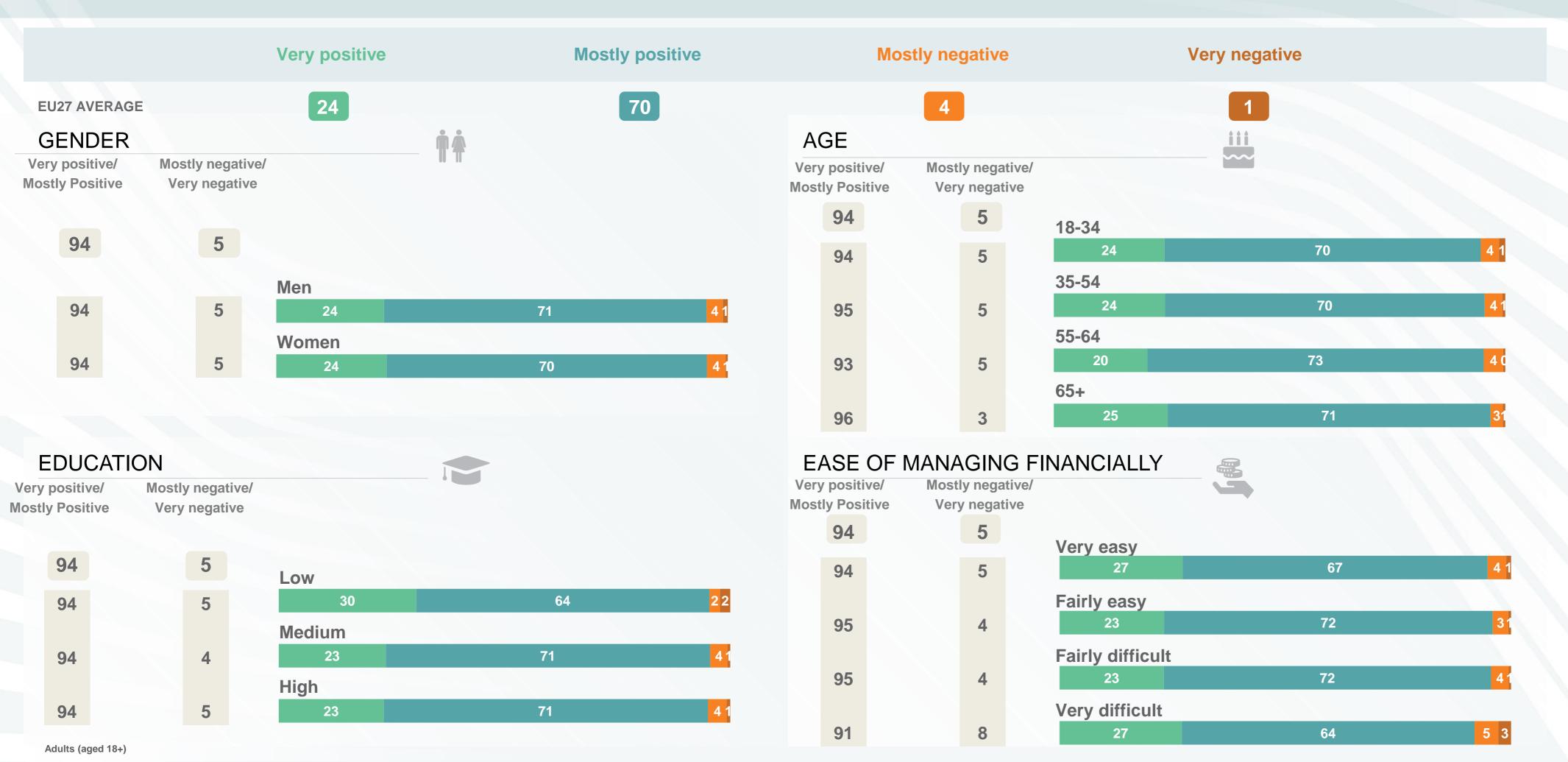
### How would you rate your experiences of purchasing products/services in this market? (%)







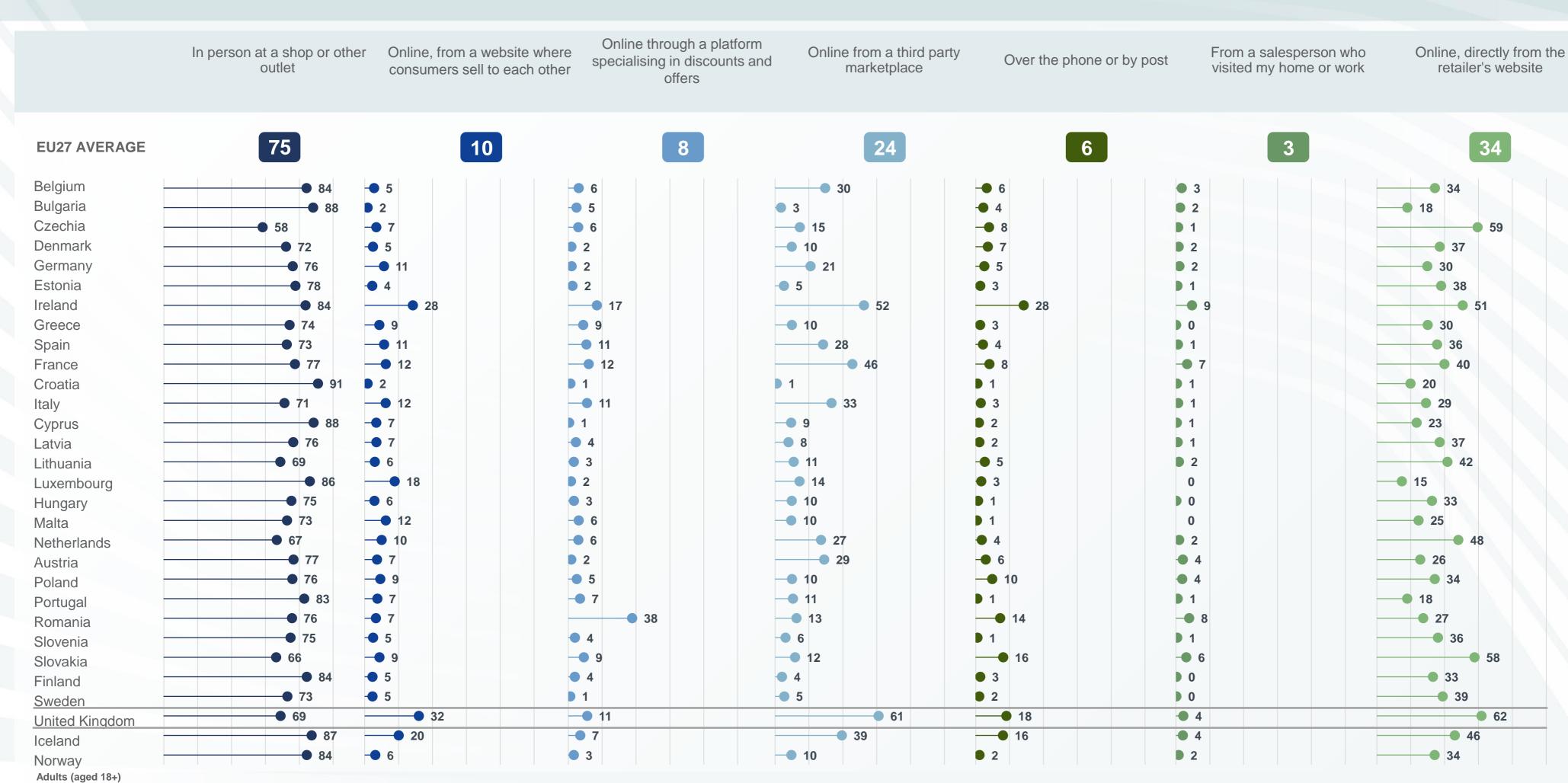
### How would you rate your experiences of purchasing products/services in this market? (%)







### From where have you purchased products or services? (%)







### From where have you purchased products or services? (%)







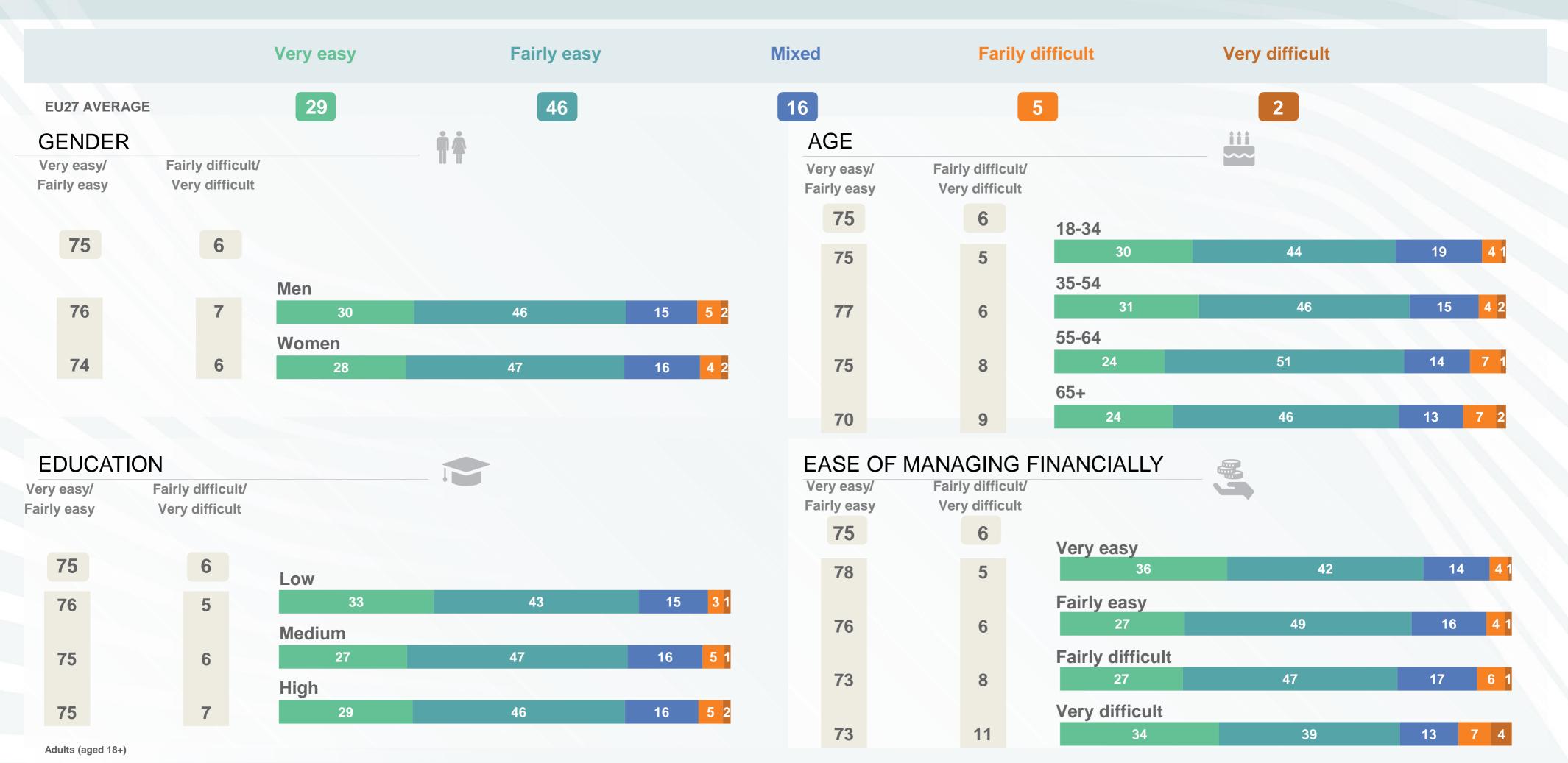
### How easy or difficult was it to compare the products or services of different retailers? (%)

	Very easy/	Fairly difficult/	Very easy	Fairly easy	Mixed	Farily difficult	Very difficult
	Fairly easy	Very difficult	voly cucy	Tuniy cacy	mixed	rany announ	vory announc
	7.5						
EU27 AVERAGE	<b>75</b>	6	29	46	16	5	2
Belgium	69	8	2	<b>6</b>	<b>(3)</b>		0
Bulgaria	76	4	100	50	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	0
Czechia	79	3	<b>1</b>	<u>(5)</u>	6	Ø	0
Denmark	65	10		Ω	<b>6</b>	0	0
Germany	68	5		•	<u></u>	0	0
Estonia	70	7	25		0	6	Ō
Ireland	75	5	<b>2</b>	0	<u>o</u>	<u> </u>	0
Greece	72	9	<u>0</u>	•	O .	8	0
Spain	86	4	30	55	0	0	0
France	69	13	15	<b>3</b>	0	0	
Croatia	71	5	2	0	2		O O
Italy	84	5	0	<u> </u>	0		0
Cyprus	86	6	0	33	0	6	Ō
Latvia	74	8		0	0		
Lithuania	65	7	2		2	6	0
Luxembourg	59	4	0	<u>o</u>	3		Ō
Hungary	71	4	2	0	0		Ŏ
Malta	63	3	2)	<u> </u>		0	0
Netherlands	80	8	<b>3</b>		0	6	0
Austria	69	7	23	ā	2	6	0
Poland	76	6	<u> </u>	<u>o</u>	G		0
Portugal	84	2		<b>3</b>	O.		0
Romania	76	5	1	<u> </u>	O _		0
Slovenia	59	9	25	0	29	8	O O
Slovakia	72	4	25	6	20	<u> </u>	Ŏ
Finland	76	9	<b>3</b>	<u>a</u>	Q		0
Sweden	67	9	<b>2</b>	0	<b>3</b>	6	0
United Kingdom	76	6	35	0	(5)	0	0
Iceland	70	7	2	46		6	0
Norway	61	11	25		<b>2</b> 0		0





### How easy or difficult was it to compare the products or services of different retailers? (%)







### Why do you say it was difficult to compare the products or services of different retailers? (%)







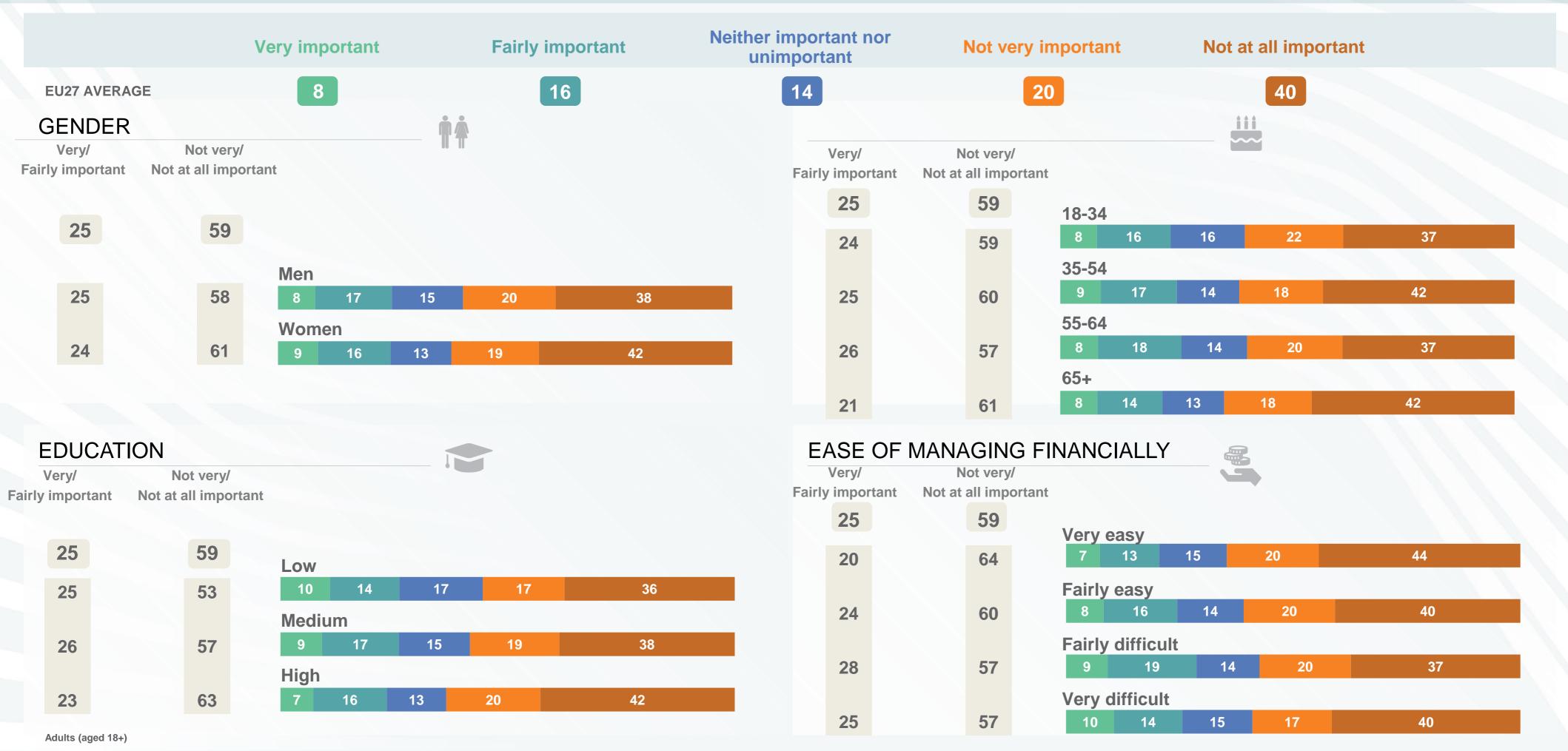
# Overall, how important to you were each of the following when choosing products or services?... Recommendations from bloggers or other influencers (%)







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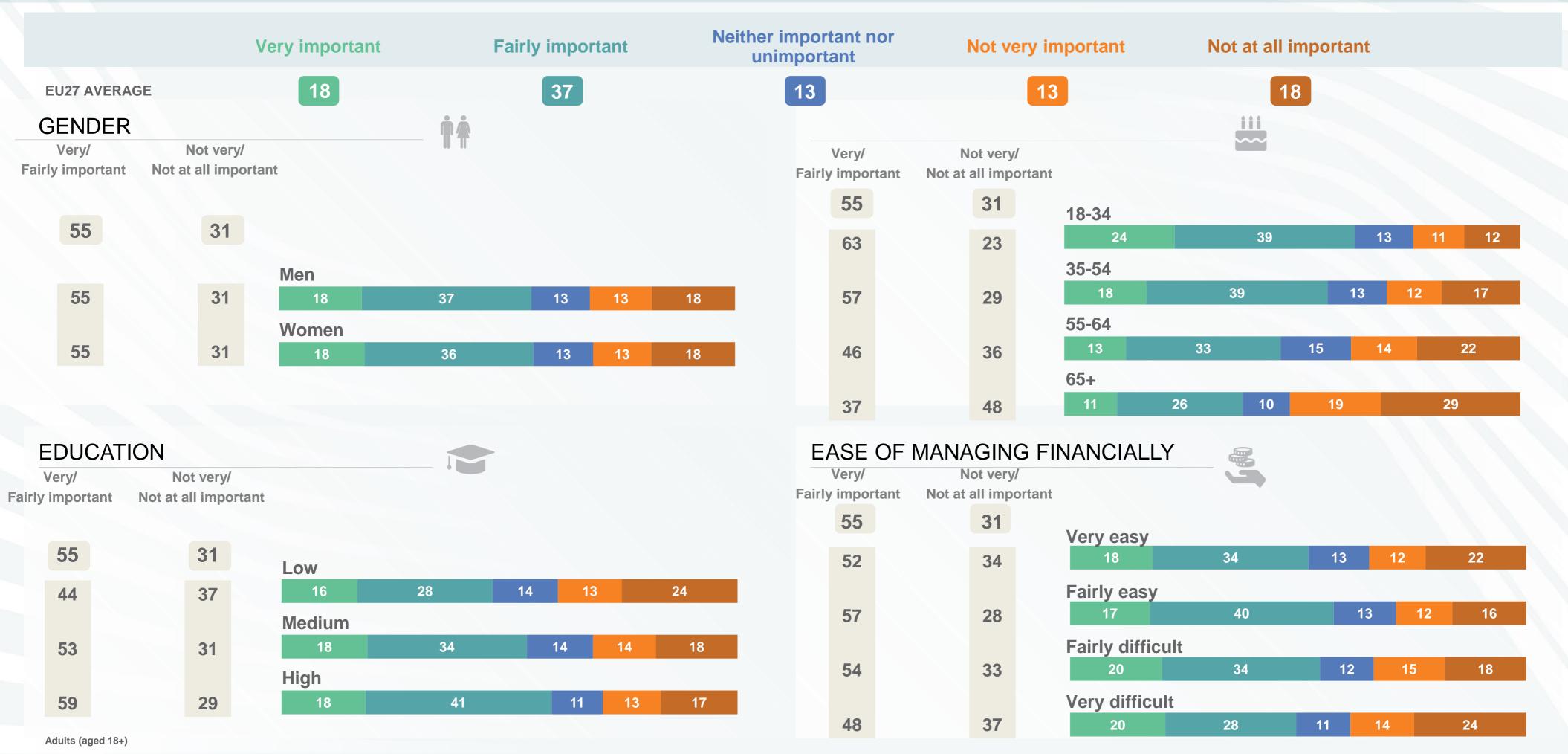
# Overall, how important to you were each of the following when choosing products or services?... Other reviews or comments online (%)

	Very/ Fairly important	Not very/ Not at all important	Very important	Fairly important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not very important	Not at all important	
EU27 AVERAGE	55	31	18	37	13	13	18	
Belgium	59	32	0		8	<b>(5)</b>	0	
Bulgaria	49	38	O O	<b>5</b>	0		<b>D</b>	
Czechia	<b>72</b>	14	2	<u> </u>	0		6	
Denmark	38	45	0		G	<u>(5)</u>	30	
Germany	43	32	0	<b>2</b>	<b>B</b>	<u> </u>		
Estonia	44	38	0	<u></u>	(3)	<u>(6)</u>	22	
Ireland	67	26	23		6	<u> </u>	03	
Greece	55	30	(3)	•	0	<u></u>	(5)	
Spain	51	38	23	23	0	<u></u>	23	
France	63	31	2	<b>Q</b>		(2)	20	
Croatia	34	44	0	2	2		23	
Italy	67	22	23	0	0	9		
Cyprus	63	25	<b>Ø</b>	25	0	0		
Latvia	32	46	0	<b>1 2 3 3</b>	2	<u> </u>	0	
Lithuania	49	40	<u>Q</u>	9	0	2		
Luxembourg	41	25		23	33	<u> </u>	0	
Hungary	40	34	<u> </u>	25	2	9	2)	
Malta	53	29	25	D	0	0	10	
Netherlands	64	25		50	0	0	0	
Austria	42	38	Ō	25)	(3)		(C)	
Poland	59	31	O	0	0		0	
Portugal	47	35	<b>3</b>	23	0	<u> </u>	C	
Romania	53	32	<u>o</u>	35	0	<u> </u>		
Slovenia	42	36	0	3	2	<u> </u>	<b>B</b>	
Slovakia	62	21	ā	03	Ø	0	0	
Finland	51	38	0	0		<u></u>	23	
Sweden	48	40	(3)	0	The state of the s		30	
 Jnited Kingdom	74	17	27	Ø	0	8	8	
celand	64	24	20	<u>a</u>	0	10	0.	
Norway	42	43	0	<b>①</b>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	30	





# Overall, how important to you were each of the following when choosing products or services?... Other reviews or comments online (%)







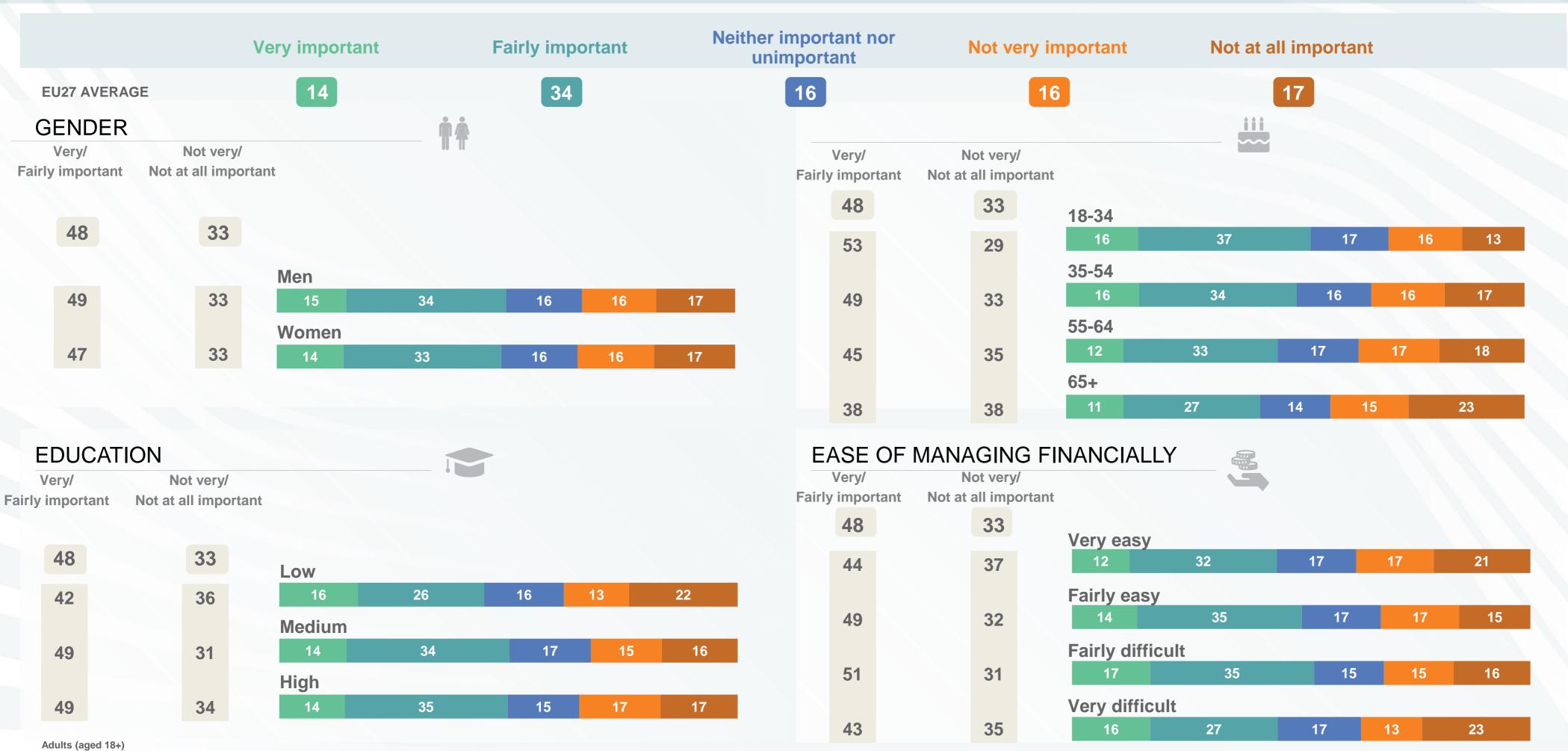
# Overall, how important to you were each of the following when choosing products or services?... The ranking of the products or services in internet search results (%)

	Very/ Fairly important	Not very/ Not at all important	Very important	Fairly important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not very important	Not at all important	
EU27 AVERAGE	48	33	14	34	16	16	17	
Belgium	41	42	<b>9</b>	33	<b>a</b>		0	
Bulgaria	54	30	<u> </u>	33	0	0		
Czechia	73	11	0	50	<u>G</u>	0		
Denmark	33	44			O O	<b>2</b>	2	
Germany	30	35	0		3	0	3	
Estonia	30	52	6			<u>o</u>	33	
reland	62	29	2		0		0	
Greece	50	33	G	33	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	C C	
Spain	55	33	2		<u>o</u>	<u> </u>	0.	
- rance	47	40	(2)	Ω	10	<u> </u>	2	
Croatia	31	45	9	2	2	To the second se	29	
taly	66	21	2	6	0	0	0	
Cyprus	60	28	3	25	0	0	0	
_atvia	29	52	<b>8</b>	25	0	1	0	
_ithuania	42	46			0	2	0	
_uxembourg	49	29	<b>.</b>		20	0		
Hungary	36	38	0	<b>3</b>	20	<u> </u>	15	
Malta	54	24	23	30	<u>o</u>	0	0	
Netherlands	47	41	C C	33	0	2	0	
Austria	27	45	8	(9)	2	2	22	
Poland	54	32	3		0	0	16	
Portugal	59	21		The state of the s	20	<u> </u>	0	
Romania	63	21	2	The state of the s	0	0	0	
Slovenia	39	39	0	Ω	2)	<u> </u>	20	
Slovakia	69	12	O	2	0	0	0	
inland	34	52	0	2	0	1		
Sweden	27	53	ō	20	The state of the s		<b>3</b>	
Jnited Kingdom	49	36	0	3	(3)	2	(2)	
celand	55	22	(3)	(1)	0	0	0	
Vorway	40	43	0	30	G	0	0	





# Overall, how important to you were each of the following when choosing products or services?... The ranking of the products or services in internet search results (%)







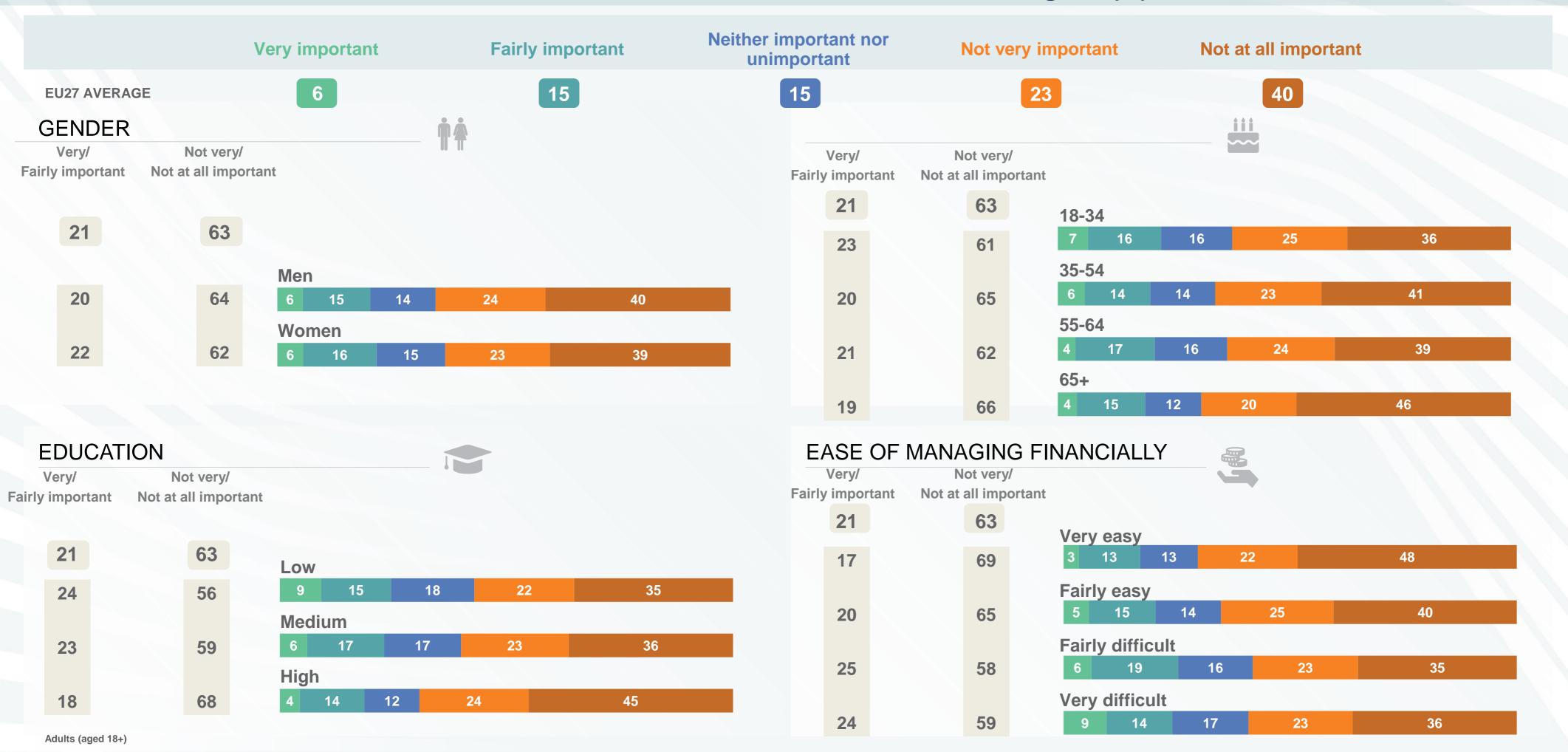
## Overall, how important to you were each of the following when choosing products or services?... Advertisements on TV, radio or on social media sites like Facebook or Instagram (%)







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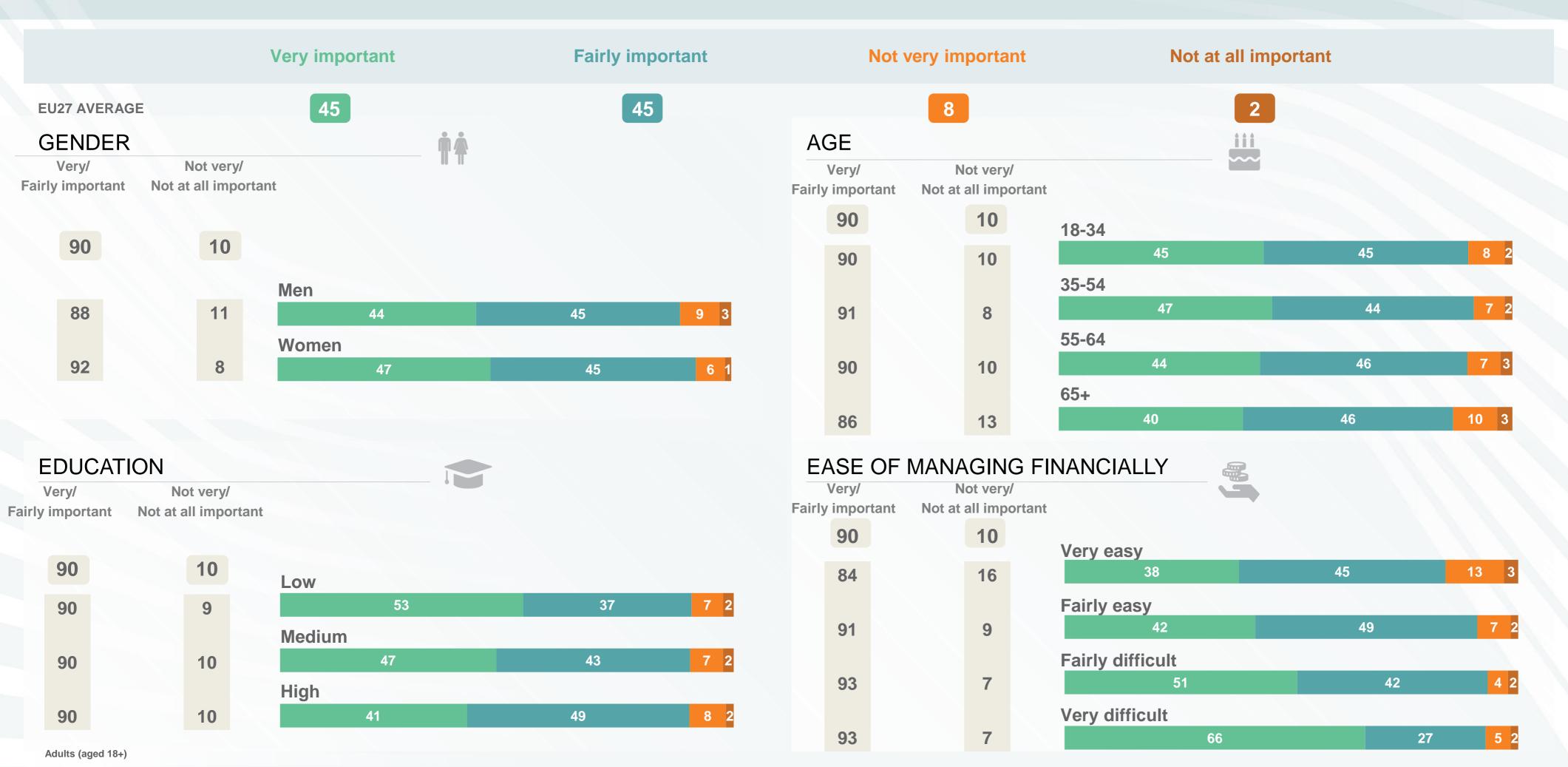
### And how important to you were each of the following?... Price (%)







### And how important to you were each of the following?... Price (%)







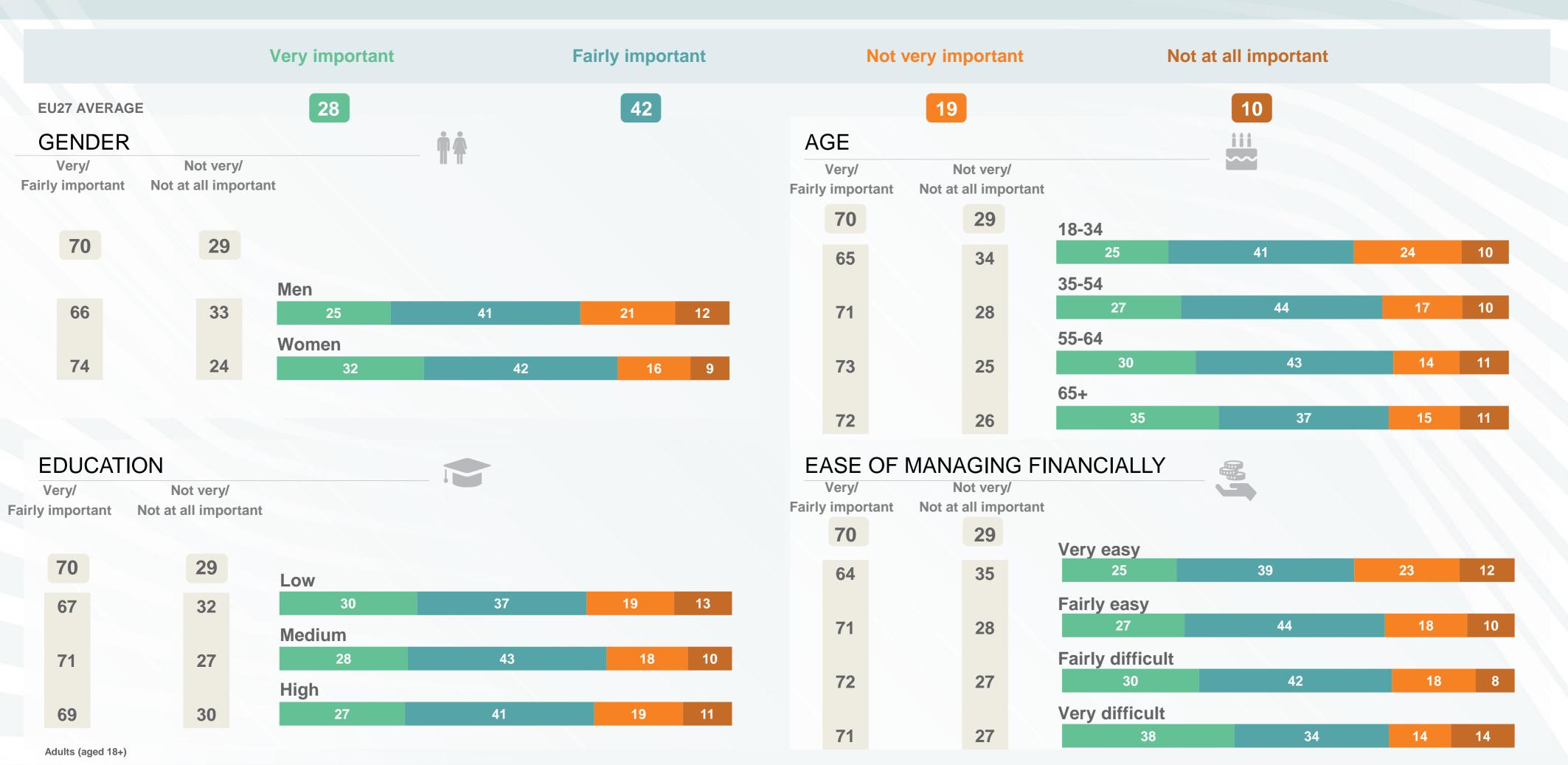
### And how important to you were each of the following?... The likely environmental impact of the product or service (%)







### And how important to you were each of the following?... The likely environmental impact of the product or service (%)







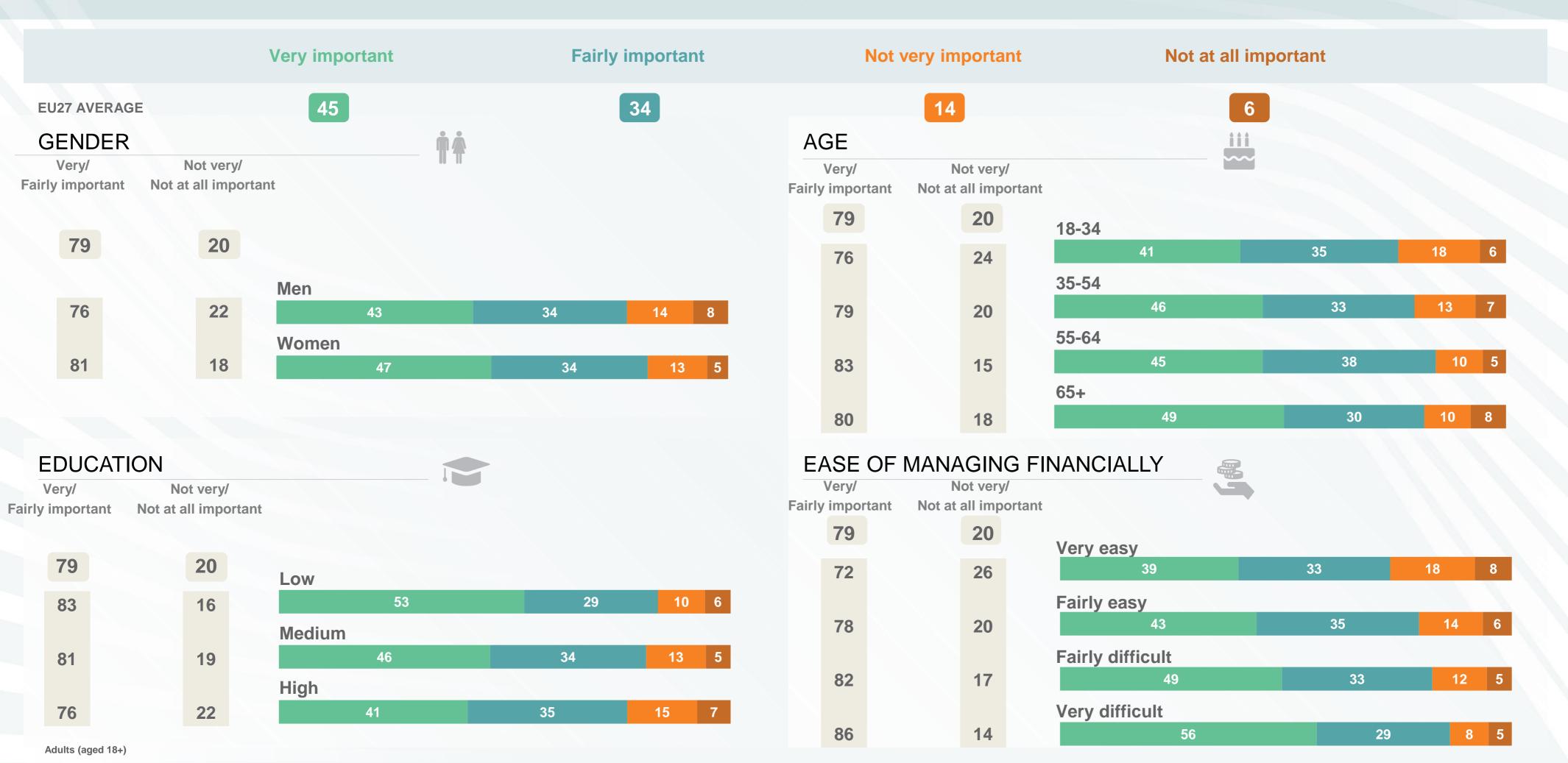
### And how important to you were each of the following?... That the product coud be easily repaired (%)







### And how important to you were each of the following?... That the product coud be easily repaired (%)







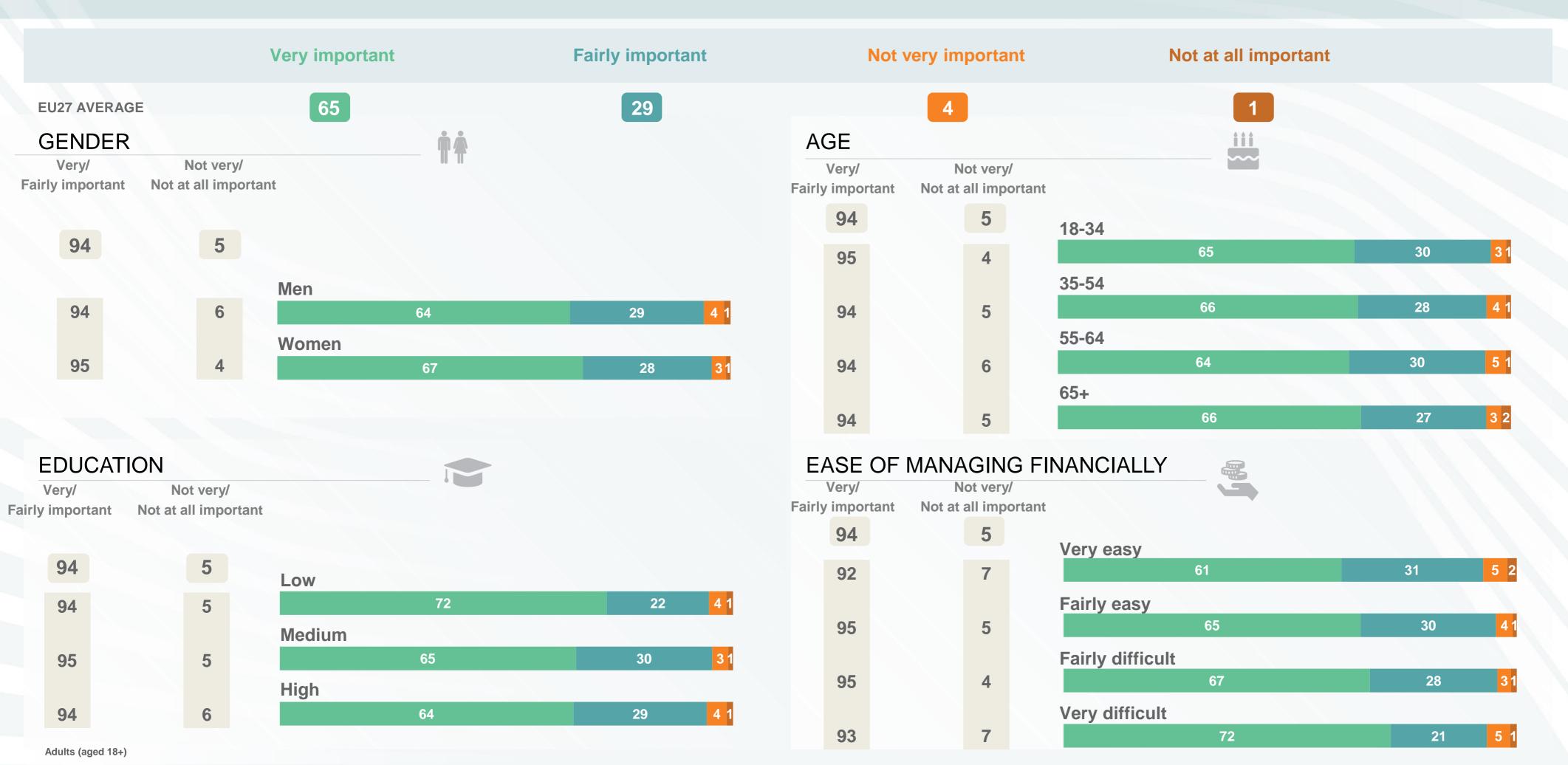
### And how important to you were each of the following?... That the product will last a long time (%)







### And how important to you were each of the following?... That the product will last a long time (%)







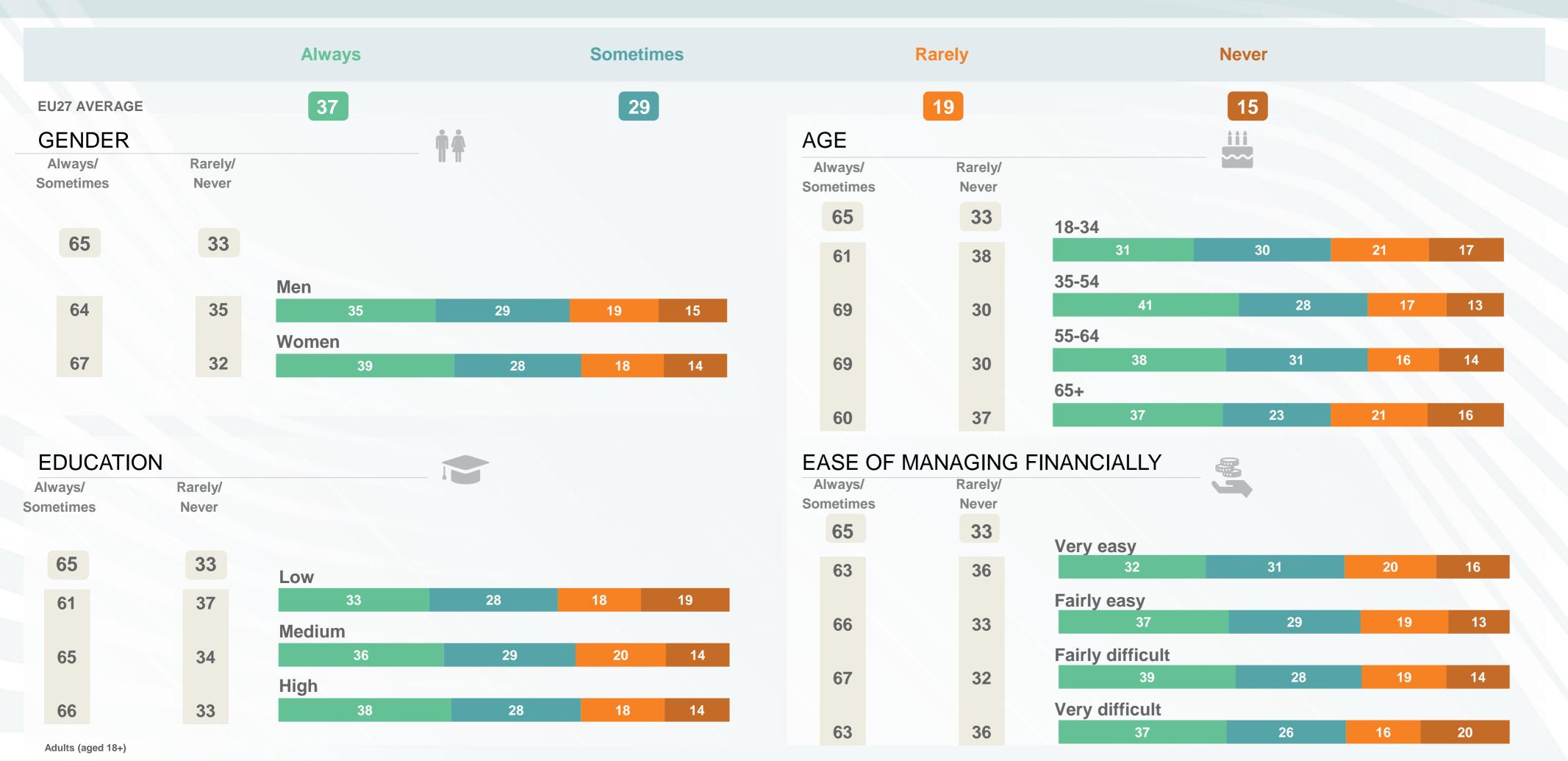
### When you are buying products or services online, how often, if at all, do you check where the seller is located? (%)

	Always/	Rarely/	Alwaya	Comotimos	Darah	Nover
	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
EU27 AVERAGE	65	33	37	29	19	15
Belgium	63	36			20	<b>6</b>
Bulgaria	62	37		0	23	a
Czechia	65	35		25	2)	0
Denmark	66	32		29	20	0
Germany	55	44	23		15	0
Estonia	66	31	0	23	(5)	G C
Ireland	79	20	539	23	0	0
Greece	82	17	<b>G</b>	2	0	6
Spain	68	31	33	<b>2</b>		0
France	64	34	335	23	<b>G</b>	0
Croatia	77	20	<u> </u>	75		6
Italy	76	24	0	<b>3</b>	<u>o</u>	The state of the s
Cyprus	84	12	<u> </u>	20	6	6
Latvia	48	47	23		CS CS	32
Lithuania	69	28		2	0	0
Luxembourg	74	25				
Hungary	60	35		0		2
Malta	73	21		<b>3</b>	G	6
Netherlands	66	33	3	33	<u></u>	0
Austria	57	42	33	23		22
Poland	68	30				
Portugal	56	44	33	<b>Q</b>		
Romania	69	30				0
Slovenia	72	27		2	6	<u>o</u>
Slovakia	69	29		25	2	8
Finland	72	24		2		o l
Sweden	59	38	$\odot$	Ø		0
United Kingdom	72	27	3	0	G	0
Iceland	78	22	(3)	100		0
Norway	66	32	335	20	<b>6</b>	





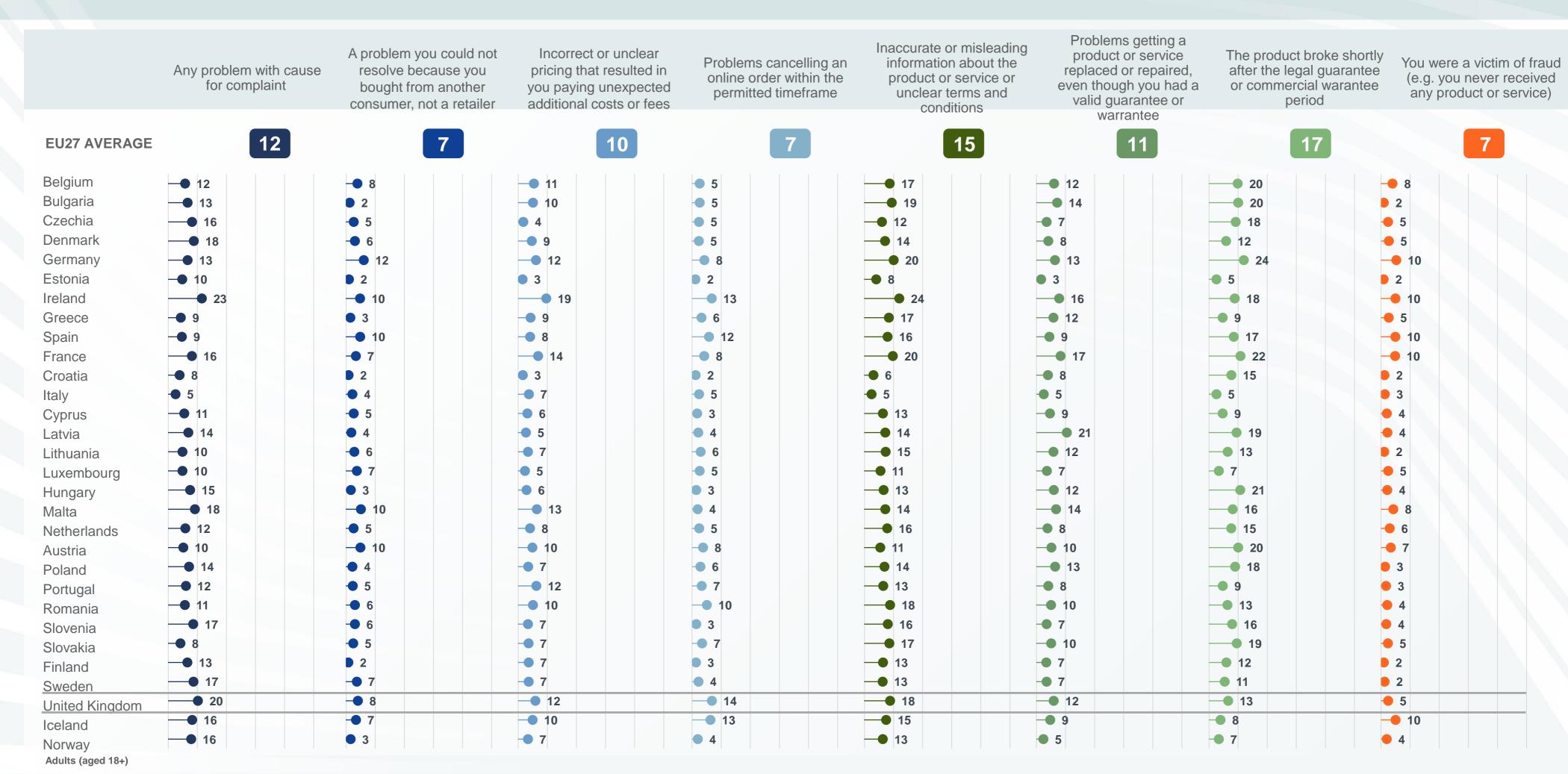
### When you are buying products or services online, how often, if at all, do you check where the seller is located? (%)







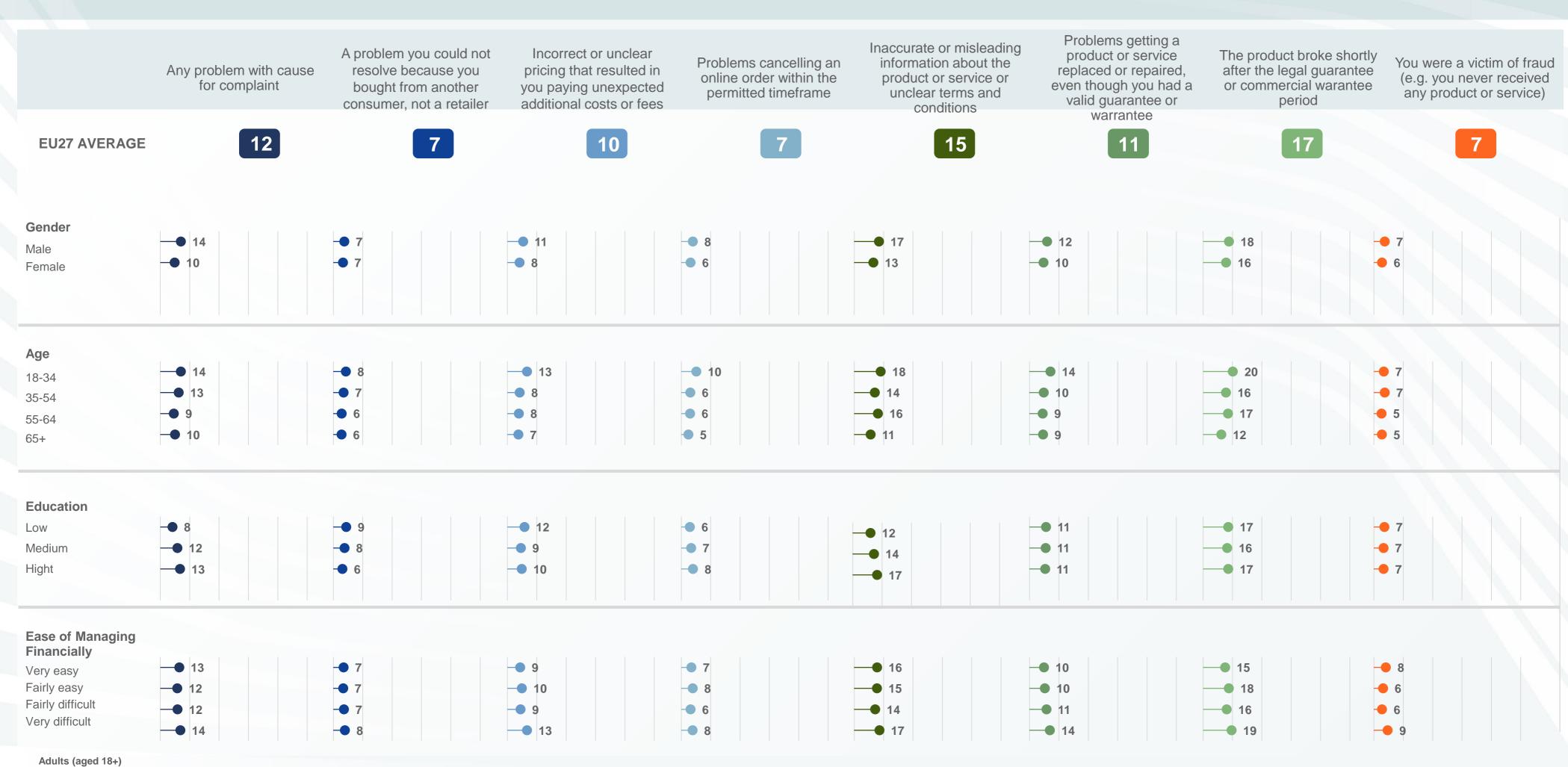
### Did you personally experience any of the following with products or services you purchased? (%)







### Did you personally experience any of the following with products or services you purchased? (%)







### Have you experienced any of the following with products you purchased? (%)

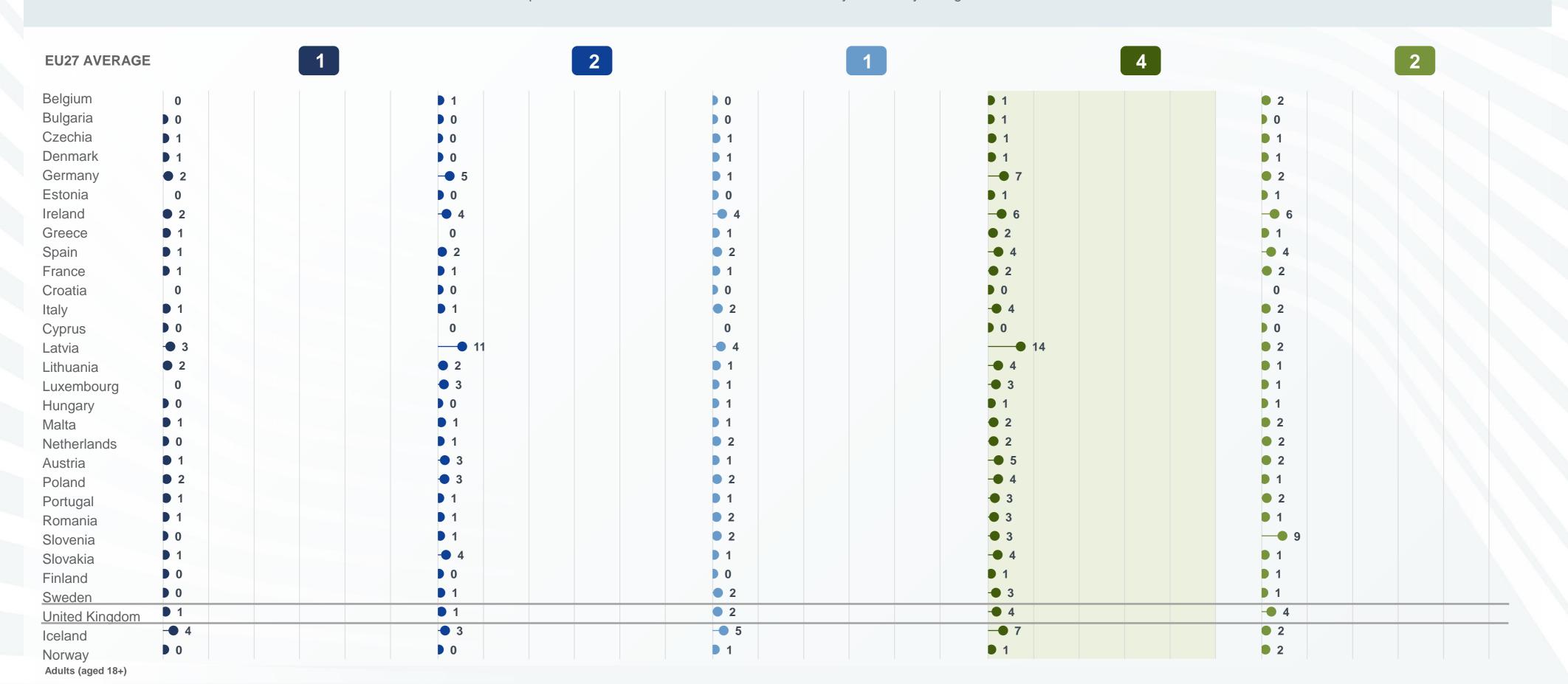
You or someone else in your household was harmed because the product was unsafe

You or someone else in your household was harmed because the product had no or poor instructions of use

You or someone else in your household was harmed because the product wasn't used correctly or carefully enough

You or someone else in your household was harmed (any reason)

A product was recalled on safety grounds







### Have you experienced any of the following with products you purchased? (%)

You or someone else in your household A product was recalled on safety grounds was harmed because the product wasn't was harmed because the product had no was harmed because the product was was harmed (any reason) unsafe used correctly or carefully enough or poor instructions of use 2 4 **EU27 AVERAGE** Gender **2** 2 Male **D** 1 **2 1 3 2** Female Age **5 3 2** 18-34 1 **2** 35-54 1 **2 3** 55-64 0 1 65+ **Education 3** 2 1 Low **2 2** 2 Medium **2 2 D** 1 **1** Hight **2 Ease of Managing** Financially 2 **2** Very easy Fairly easy **2 2** 1 Fairly difficult **2** 2 **2** Very difficult **2** 1 **3** 





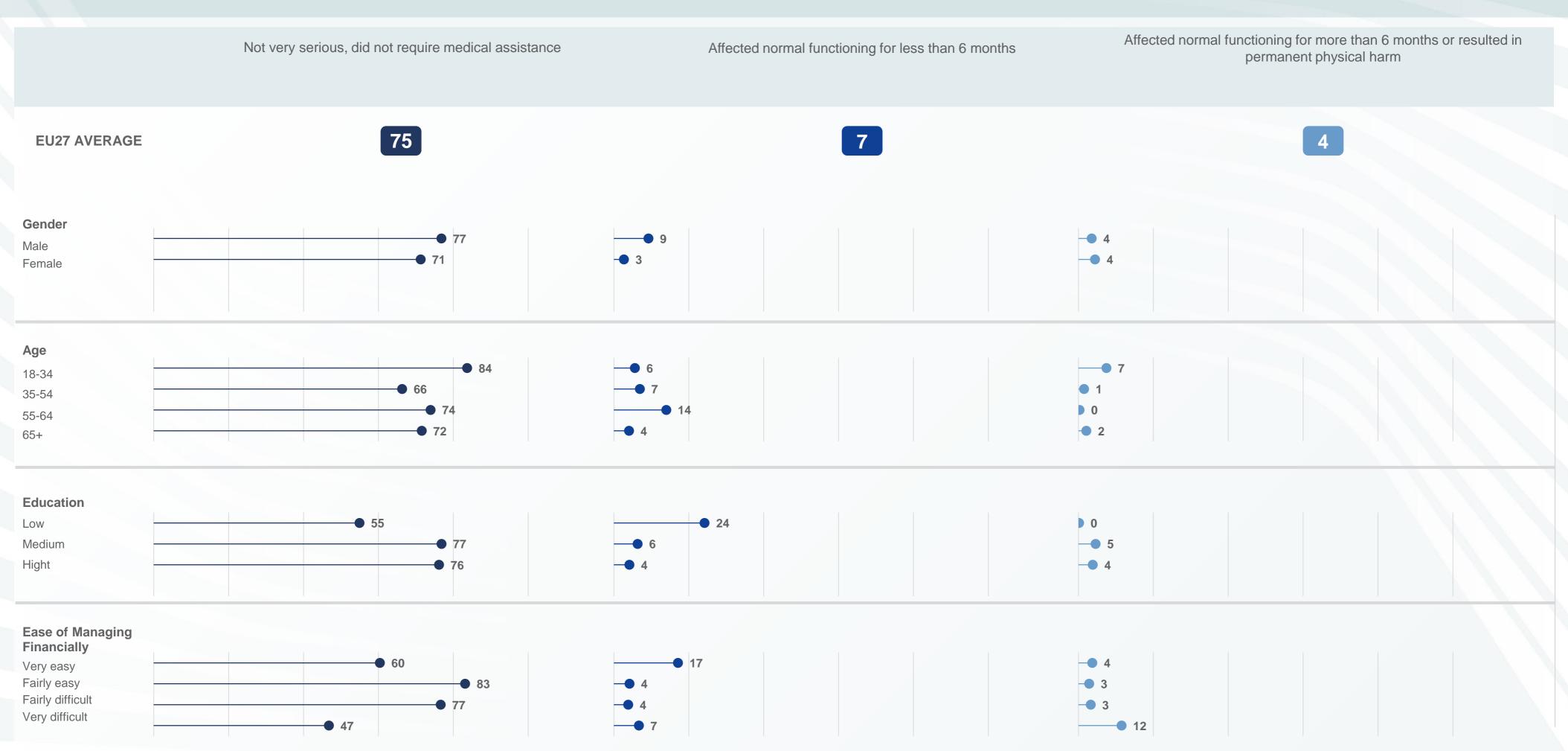
#### Which of the following best describes the type of harm? (%)







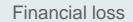
#### And how serious was this harm? (%)







#### Thinking about the most recent problem did you personally experience financial loss/other non-financial impacts? (%)



Other, non-financial impacts such as loss of time, anger, frustration, stress, anxiety

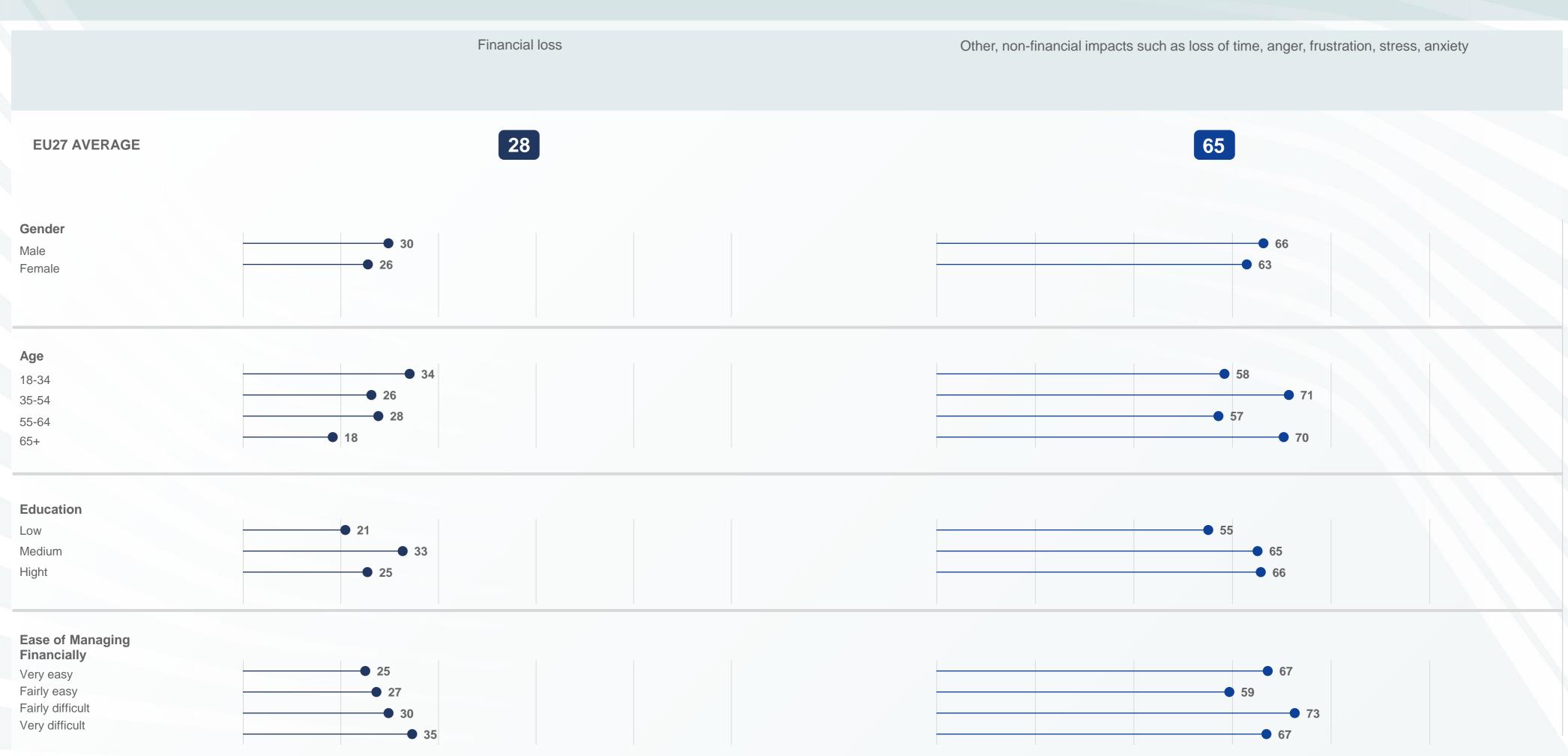


Adults (aged 18+) who experienced a problem





#### Thinking about the most recent problem did you personally experience financial loss/other non-financial impacts? (%)







#### What was the non-financial impact? (%)







#### What was the total financial loss? (%)







#### Thinking about the most recent problem, did you make a complaint? (%)

Yes, to the provider, retailer, supplier, manufacturer

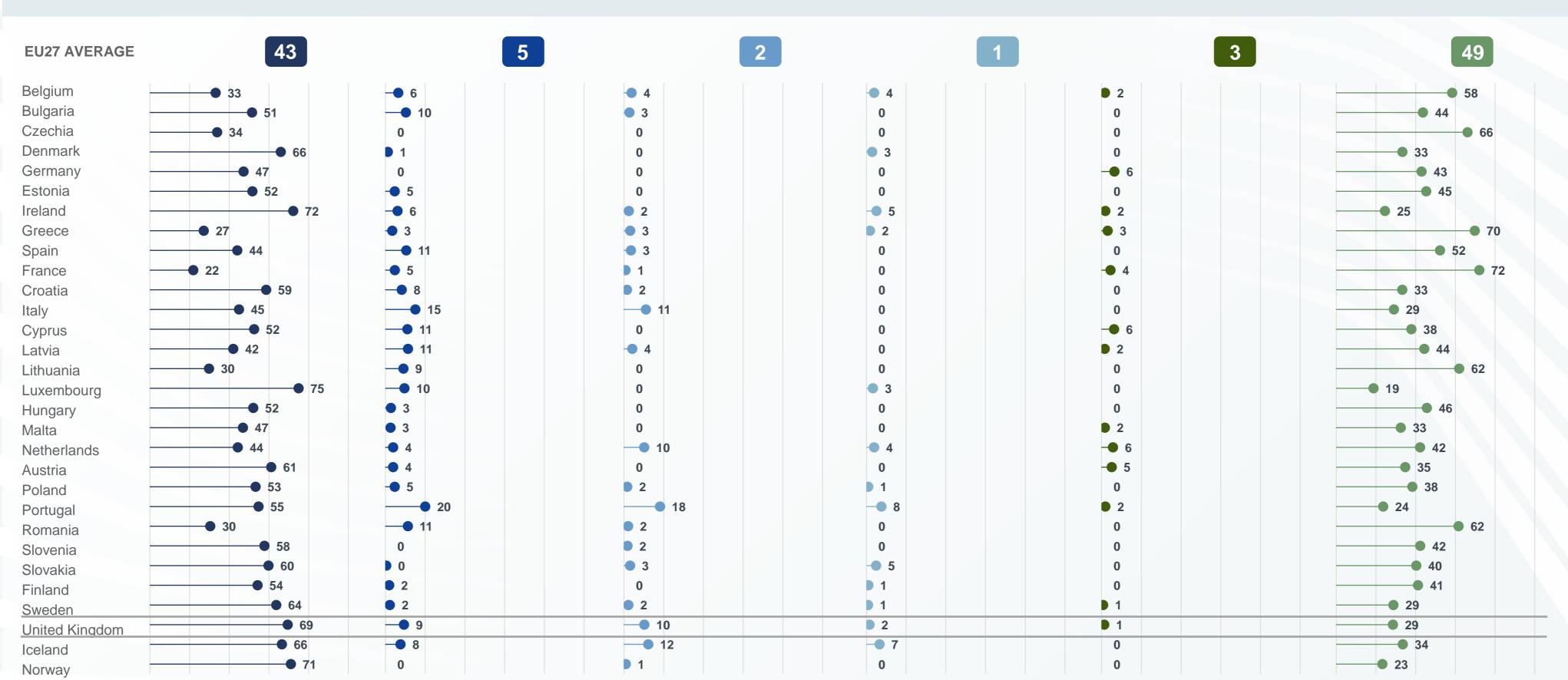
Yes, to the consumer protection authority, agency or other public authority

Yes, to a consumer association or organisation

Yes, to an ombudsman, arbitration or mediation body

Yes, took the provider to court

No, did not make a complaint







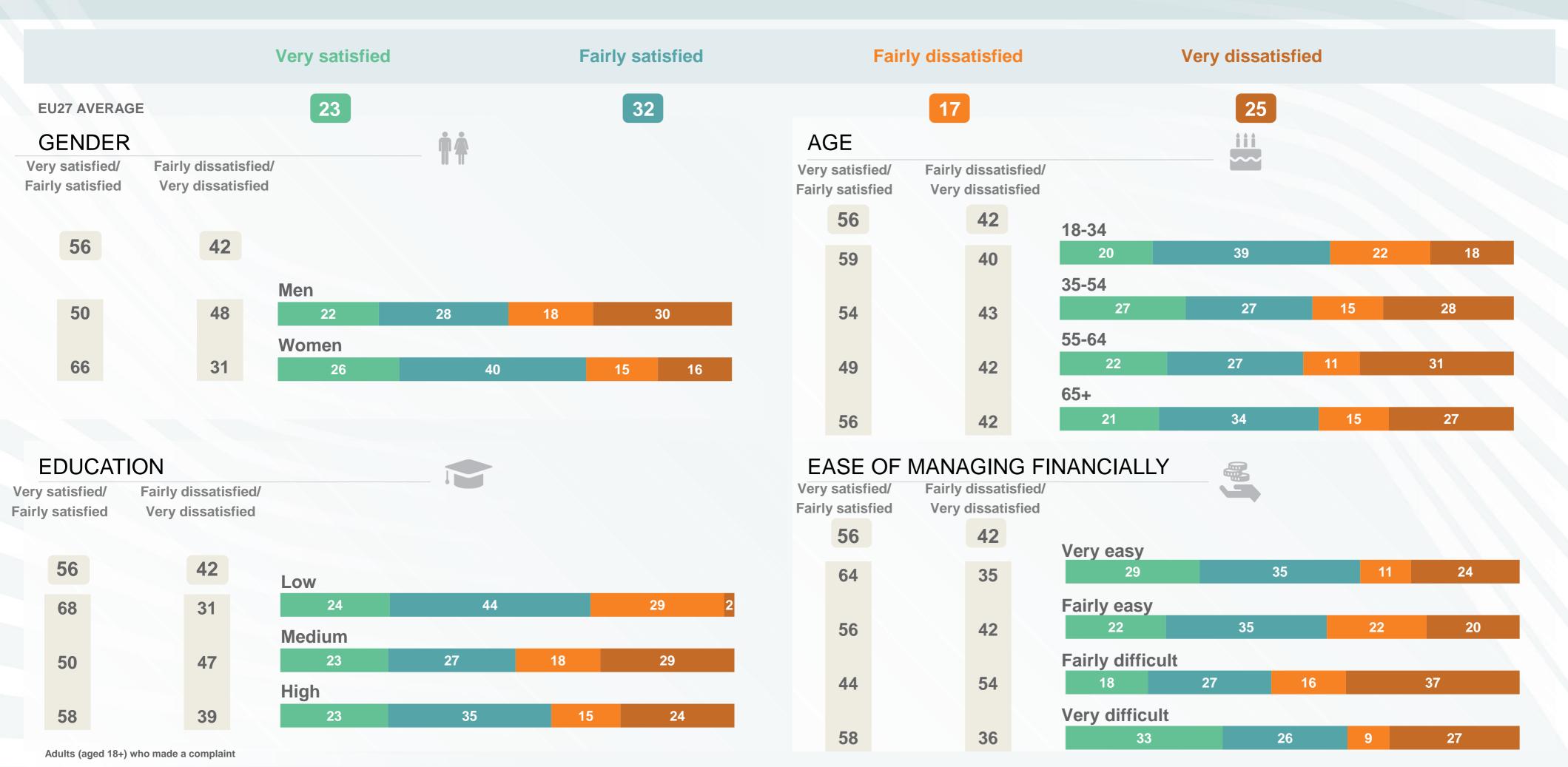
#### Thinking about the most recent problem, did you make a complaint? (%)







#### How satisfied were you with the complaint outcome? (%)









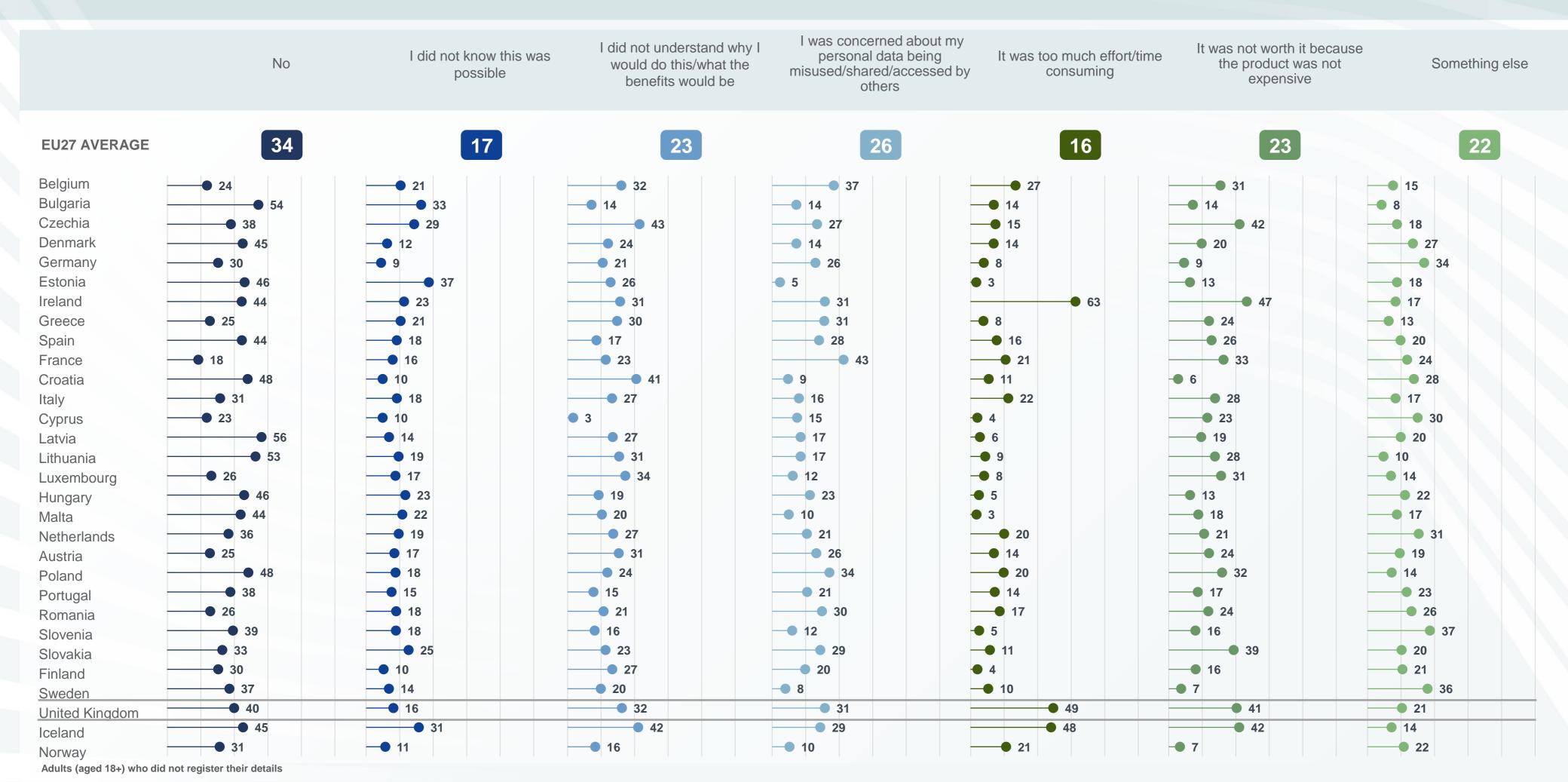




















# Annex



### **ANNEX 1: Market Monitoring Survey 2019 – technical notes**





#### **TARGET POPULATION**

The MMS is conducted in a total of 30 countries: the 27 European Union Member States, the UK, Iceland and Norway. The target population is all adults aged 18 and over, resident in these countries who have sufficient command of (one of) the respective national language(s) of the countries to answer the questionnaire. Interviews were offered to respondents in 28 languages: the 24 official European Union languages, Luxembourgish, Russian, Icelandic and Norwegian



#### MARKET REFERENCE PERIODS

Respondents' eligibility to participate in the survey is based on their having had experience of the markets within a pre-defined 'reference period' (timeframe). The reference period is set with the aim of ensuring that they will be able to recall their experiences of the markets without too much difficulty. As detailed below, the reference period varies by market, reflecting the fact that some types of goods and service are purchased more frequently than others.



Household appliances

2 years



**Electronic** products

1 year



**Products** for children

3 years



Cosmetics

1 year



House and garden **Maintenance** products

2 years



**Furniture and furnishings** 

1 year



**Airline** services

1 year

Holiday accommodation

Ĥ

1 year

Loan, credit and credit cards

2 years

connected products

Internet

1 year

## ANNEX 1: Market Monitoring Survey 2019 – technical notes





#### WEIGHTING

The Market Monitoring Survey uses a multi-stage weighting procedure. Single weight factors per market interview are calculated by calculating consecutively:

- a separate design weight per country to control for unequal selection probabilities of sample units, based on phone type ownership of the respondent (% mobile, % fixed, % mobile and fixed).
- a post-stratification weight was performed separately per country to balance out an unequal representation of different age and gender groups in the unweighted sample, so that the weighted sample is representative for these two parameters.
- for results at the country group level (e.g., EU27), a population calibration weight so that the results for each country are included in the aggregate in the same proportion as their relative population share in that country group.



# OTHER NOTES ON INTEPRETING THE DATA AND CHARTS

- This slide deck presents indicator results and allows for the comparison of differences between countries and sociodemographic groups. It should be noted that survey results are subject to sampling tolerances meaning that not all apparent differences between groups may be statistically significant. For reasons of legibility and accessibility, indications of statistical significance are not included in this slide deck.
- Where percentages do not sum to 100%, this may be due to computer rounding or multiple answers. Rounding can also cause a slight deviation between aggregate percentages (e.g., "fairly satisfied / very satisfied") and the percentages of their separate components.
- In some of the charts showing results per country, bullets representing very small percentages (< 2%) are very slightly repositioned so that they are visible in the chart, meaning that they are visually closer to 2% than they would be if positioned exactly on the axis according to their true value. The numeric values shown are always accurate.
- Countries and sociodemographic categories for which question results are based on a sample size lower than 50 are indicated in a footnote in the respective questions. If for a given question the majority of countries have a low sample size, no country comparison is shown.