

Online Dashboard: Opinions on Climate policy

Capable conducted two waves of surveys in 2024 and 2025 to reveal how much European citizens are willing to support different kinds of climate policies. The main results of the first wave conducted among 19,328 individuals (from Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) between June-August 2024 are now explorable online thanks to a user-friendly interface.

Table of Contents

Highlights 3

Key Policy Messages 4

Preliminary surveys results..... 5

How to use the online tool 9

Methodology.....13

Disclaimer14

Highlights

The first wave of the CAPABLE surveys highlights interesting trends in the preferences and opinions of European citizens on 15 policies selected based on their relevance to ongoing policy debates and existing climate strategies within the EU. These results are now [browsable in an online tool](#) which allows the user to analyse and compare opinions about a set of different climate policies in Europe.

The CAPABLE online tool can be a valuable support of information for the general public and for policy makers who wish to have an overview of how different types of climate policies are perceived by the population, but in order to draw conclusions on the data displayed, please refer to the [peer reviewed publications](#) produced by the CAPABLE consortium.

Key Policy Messages

- Certain policies are likely to have greater acceptability across the EU, and can present readily achievable opportunities for policymakers.
- 70% of the European population would support the creation of an EU Rail Fund, while 55% would support both household insulation mandates and banning private planes.
- Europeans generally strongly oppose the policies which foresee any kind of tax on polluting behaviours, such as the one on cars and meat.
- A few European countries, such as Greece, France and Italy, show support for at least five of the policies while overall the level of support is lower in Eastern European countries, like Poland and the Czech Republic.
- Women, higher-educated individuals, and younger persons are consistently more willing to support all the climate policies queried across all the countries surveyed.

Preliminary surveys results

Capable conducted two waves of surveys in 2024 and 2025 to reveal how much European citizens are willing to support different kinds of climate policies.

The main results of the first wave conducted among 19,328 individuals (from Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) between June and August 2024 are now explorable online through a user-friendly interface.

The first wave of the CAPABLE surveys highlights interesting trends in the preferences and opinions of European citizens on 15 policies selected based on their relevance to ongoing policy debates and existing climate strategies within the EU.

The CAPABLE online tool can be a valuable source of information for the general public and for policy makers who wish to have an overview of how different types of climate policies are perceived by the population. In order to draw conclusions on the data displayed, please refer to the peer reviewed publications produced by the CAPABLE consortium at:
<https://capableclimate.eu/resources>

These preliminary results highlight important heterogeneity of climate policies support in Europe, but also a potential way to garner majority support for effective climate action.

Climate policies

The survey finds that several climate change mitigation policies are supported by a majority of the respondents across the European Union. For instance, **70% of the European population would support the creation of an EU Rail Fund¹**, while **55% would support both household insulation mandates² and banning private planes**. According to Keith Smith at ETH Zurich, lead researcher of these surveys, "these policies are likely to have greater acceptability across the EU, and can present more low-hanging fruit opportunities for policymakers".

Policy name	All countries	Austria	Czech republic	Denmark	France
Ban fossil fuel private planes	55%	51%	43%	46%	66%
Ban intensive cattle farming	34%	41%	11%	29%	55%
ETS agriculture	43%	41%	24%	42%	47%
ETS heating	42%	39%	23%	41%	49%
ETS transport	43%	39%	24%	41%	48%
EU Fit for 55	48%	46%	40%	51%	58%
Fossil fuel ad ban	47%	42%	34%	42%	56%
General EU ETS	36%	30%	16%	44%	33%
Mandatory household insulation	55%	55%	42%	47%	66%
New fossil fuel car sales ban	27%	22%	7%	37%	25%
New fossil fuel car sales ban with..	44%	43%	28%	48%	49%
Rail fund	70%	64%	68%	65%	72%

Figure 1 Screenshot from the CAPABLE ONLINE DASHBOARD: EUROPEAN OPINIONS ON CLIMATE POLICIES

On the opposite side of the spectrum, certain policies are seen negatively by a vast majority of the public in all the countries surveyed, including most notably **taxes**, such as the ones on beef and flights, and a **ban** on the sale of new fossil fuel cars, receiving the lowest scores.

Policy name	All countries	Austria	Czech republic	Denmark	France
Ban fossil fuel private planes	55%	51%	43%	46%	66%
Ban intensive cattle farming	34%	41%	11%	29%	55%
ETS agriculture	43%	41%	24%	42%	47%
ETS heating	42%	39%	23%	41%	49%
ETS transport	43%	39%	24%	41%	48%
EU Fit for 55	48%	46%	40%	51%	58%
Fossil fuel ad ban	47%	42%	34%	42%	56%
General EU ETS	36%	30%	16%	44%	33%
Mandatory household insulation	55%	55%	42%	47%	66%
New fossil fuel car sales ban 	27%	22%	7%	37%	25%
New fossil fuel car sales ban with..	44%	43%	28%	48%	49%
Rail fund	70%	64%	68%	65%	72%

Figure 2 Screenshot from the CAPABLE ONLINE DASHBOARD: EUROPEAN OPINIONS ON CLIMATE POLICIES

¹ Refers to a policy which may be used to expand the rail network and lower the cost of rail ticket prices within Europe by 50%.

² Refers to a policy where there is a mandatory insulation of residential buildings by 2040 to meet a minimum energy efficiency standard on the condition that the government pays at least half of the cost for low-income households.

Countries

Also across countries, some wide differences are noticeable. A few countries, such as Greece, France and Italy, show support for at least five of the policies proposed while overall the level of support is lower in **Eastern European countries**, like Poland and the Czech Republic.

Czech republic	Denmark	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary
43%	46%	66%	51%	60%	51%
11%	29%	55%	39%	35%	23%
24%	42%	47%	42%	49%	54%
23%	41%	49%	41%	50%	52%
24%	41%	48%	42%	50%	49%
40%	51%	58%	47%	49%	48%
34%	42%	56%	41%	59%	45%
16%	44%	33%	34%	42%	44%
42%	47%	66%	48%	64%	67%
7%	37%	25%	27%	33%	27%
28%	48%	49%	42%	55%	42%
68%	65%	72%	58%	75%	75%
38%	53%	59%	43%	64%	45%
7%	28%	23%	31%	14%	16%
21%	35%	37%	39%	17%	30%

Figure 3 Screenshot from the CAPABLE ONLINE DASHBOARD: EUROPEAN OPINIONS ON CLIMATE POLICIES

These findings highlight the diversity of climate policy support, emphasizing the need for a tailored and multidimensional policymaking approach to develop robust constituencies for feasible and effective measures.

Demographics

Looking closer into socio-demographics, **women, higher-educated individuals, and younger persons** are nevertheless consistently more willing to support all the climate policies queried across all the countries surveyed.

France: Overall opinions on Ban intensive cattle farming



France - Gender



France: Age



France: Education



Figure 4 Screenshot from the CAPABLE ONLINE DASHBOARD: EUROPEAN OPINIONS ON CLIMATE POLICIES

How to use the online tool

The CAPABLE online tool is a user-friendly set of Dashboards that allow the exploration of data collected during two wave of surveys conducted in Europe between 2024 and 2025.

CAPABLE online tool is available at the url: <https://capableclimate.eu/online-tool/> where you will find two tabs: the first tab is named “**Main Dashboard**” and gives an overview of the opinions at the European level while the second tab is named “**Compare data**” is more dynamic and allows for dedicated to multivariate analyses.

Each dashboard comes with its own set of instructions on the right hand of the screen, while the left part is dedicated to the general presentation of the interface.

Legend and colors

Each of the horizontal bars in the graphs represents 100% of the population, with each color representing the percentage of the population from strongly opposing a particular policy to strongly supporting it.



For each policy proposed, participants indicated their level of support on a 7-point Likert scale:

- from strongly opposing a particular policy (in dark blue) while the light blues indicate milder degrees of opposition
- to strongly supporting it (in dark green) while the light greens indicate on the opposite, moderate support.
- the grey indicates the neutrals

Main Dashboard

The main dashboard allows for two distinct types of explorations.

You can first browse different climate policies via the dropdown menu on the left (1) and see rapidly how opinion compares at the European level thanks to the numbers and colors displayed on map (2). You may also compare how opinions are distributed in different countries on the bar chart on the right (3). The bottom left part of the interface is dedicated to the definition of the chosen policy (4).

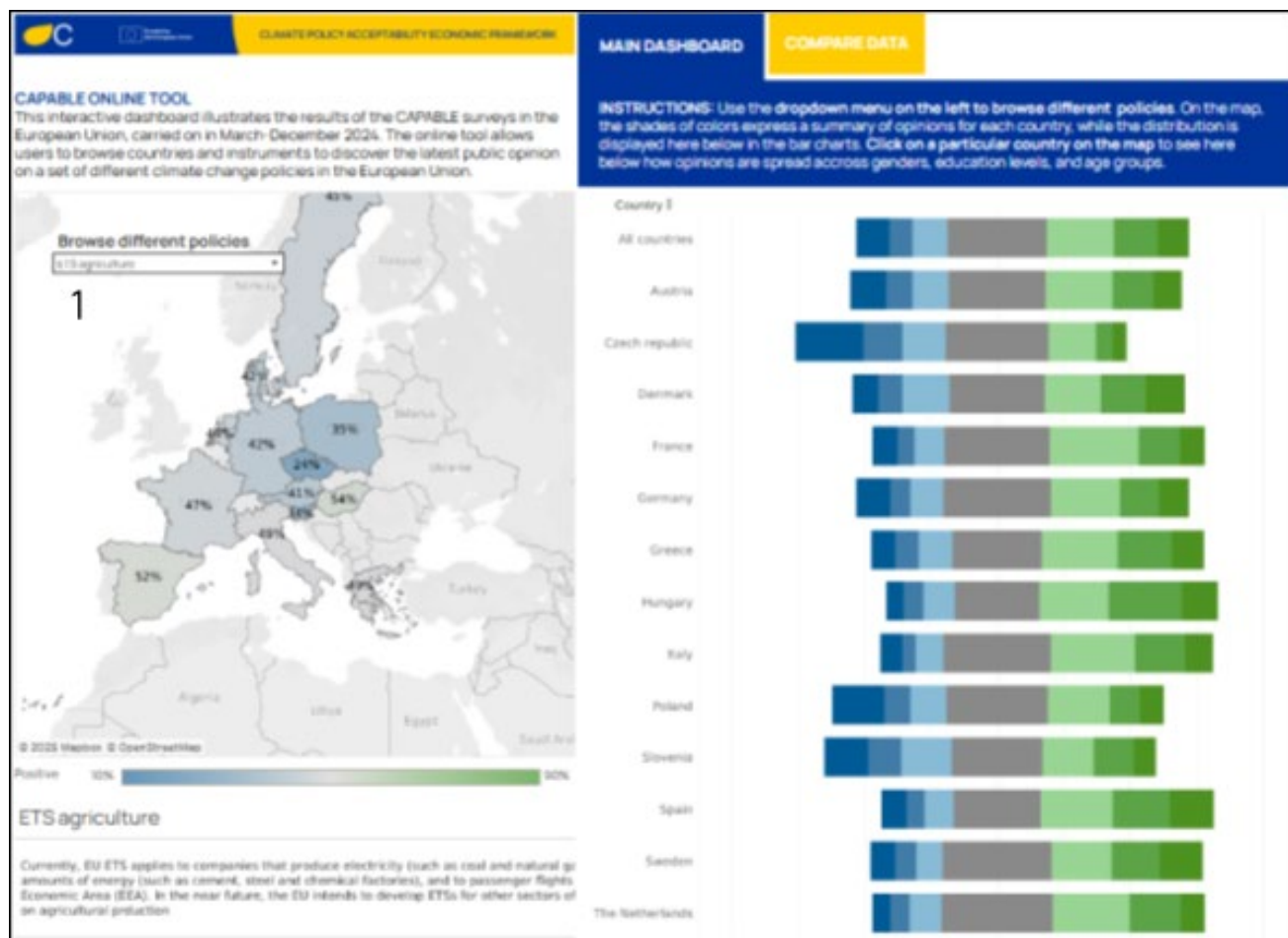


Figure 5 Compare opinions on different climate policies across Europe with the CAPABLE online tool

Secondly, by clicking on a single country on the map, you can also appreciate how the opinions on a given climate policy are distributed across genders, age groups, and education for this particular country of your choice.

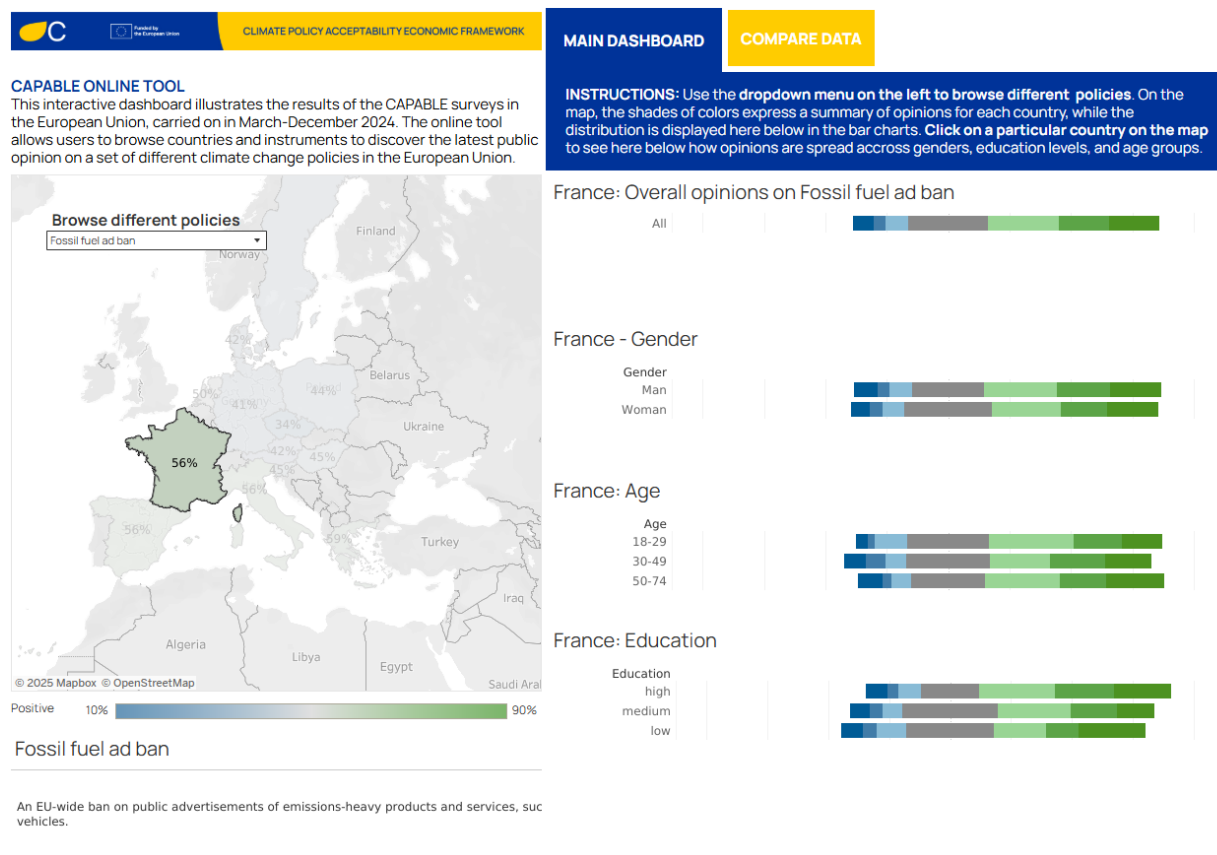


Figure 6 Overview of the Main Dashboard that compares opinions on different climate policies across genders, age and education

In order to draw conclusions on the data displayed, please refer to the peer reviewed publications produced by the CAPABLE consortium at:
<https://capableclimate.eu/resources>

Compare Data

The Compare Data dashboard gives a quick overview of the same information displayed on the map in the main dashboard, but for all policies and all countries together.

By looking at the colours of each column, this overview allows you to perceive at a glance the countries more inclined or more opposed to accepting new climate policies. Looking at the colours of the rows allows on the other hand to identify the climate policies which are seen as more problematic to the majority of Europeans (in blue), or vice versa (in green).

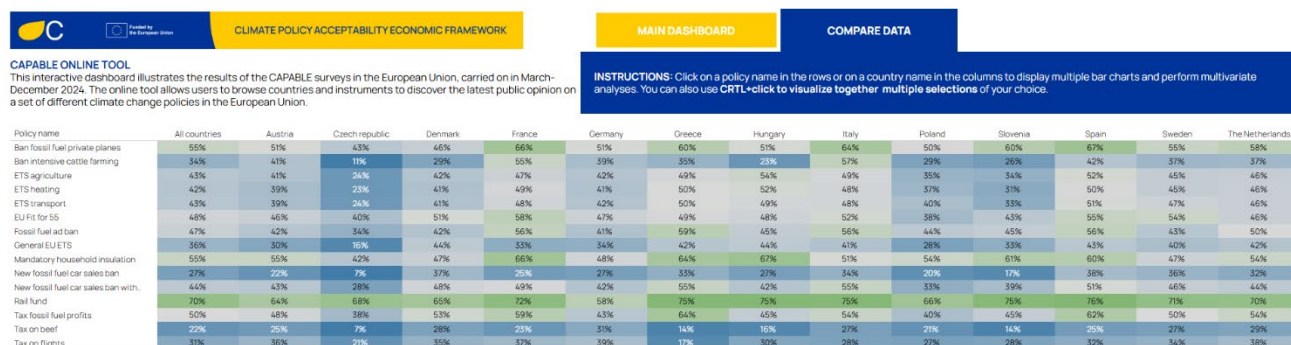


Figure 7 The compare data dashboard gives an overview of opinions on all climate policies and all countries surveyed together

You can also compare any data of his choice. By using Ctrl+click (Cmd+ click on a Mac) on any row, column or cell, the interface allows for a direct selection of the data of interest chosen by the user.

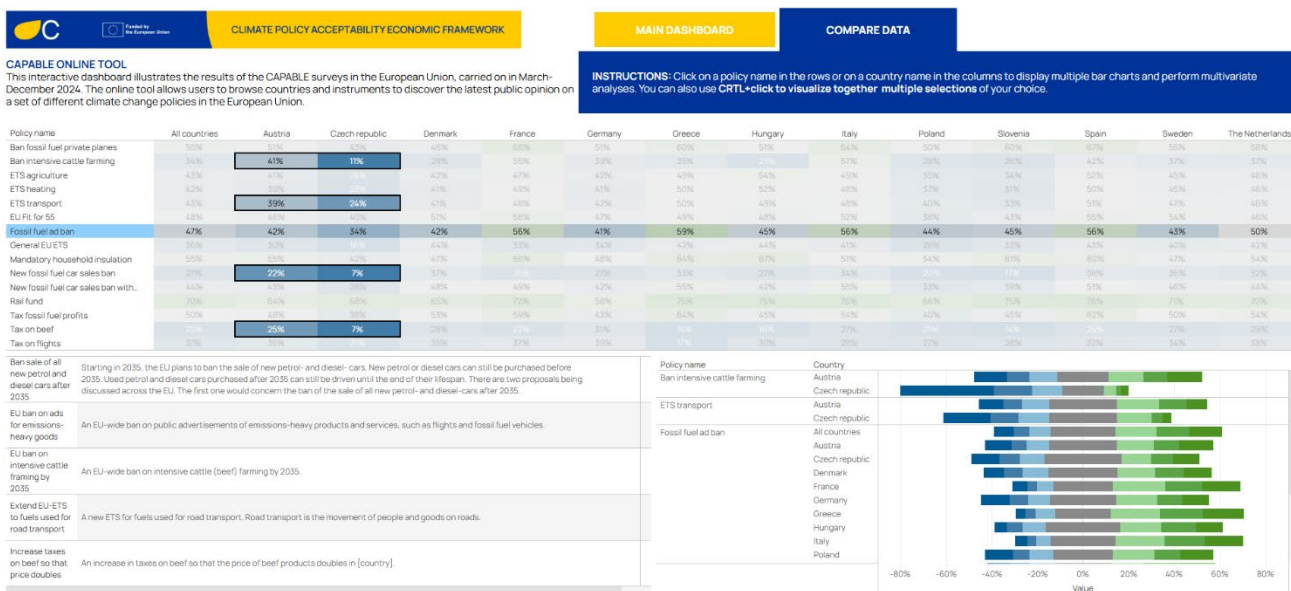


Figure 8 By using Ctrl+click (Cmd+ click on a Mac) on any row, column or cell, the interface allows for a direct selection of the data of interest

Methodology

The results presented in this policy brief are part of a large-scale survey about the opinions of European citizens on climate policies conducted by the CAPABLE consortium. The data were collected between June 24 and August 27, 2024 and include responses from 19,328 individuals representing the general populations of Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Participants completed a survey on climate change and politics, which included expressing their opinions on 15 climate change mitigation policies. These 15 policies were selected based on their relevance to ongoing policy debates and existing climate strategies within the EU. For each policy proposed, participants indicated their level of support on a 7-point Likert scale: from strongly opposing a particular policy to strongly supporting it.

The CAPABLE project

Policies to transform the European economy to meet the global climate targets of the Paris Agreement need to be cost-effective, fair, and politically and socially feasible. There is therefore a fundamental challenge for policy design which requires robust scientific methods to assess policy portfolios and the “sequencing” of policies. The project CAPABLE (ClimAte Policy AcceptaBiLity Economic framework) addresses these challenges by improving economic analysis in four ways:

- develop frameworks for decision-making under deep uncertainty, taking into account behavioral factors and heterogeneous social actors;
- account for the social acceptability and political feasibility of policies and their sequencing;
- explicitly take into account the preferences, knowledge, and capabilities of policymakers as actors in the process.
- utilize the existing evidence base, summarize it clearly and efficiently, and make it accessible and usable to policymakers;

This policy brief is the third one of a series that collects and synthesizes the findings of the CAPABLE: <https://capableclimate.eu/>

Disclaimer

In order to draw conclusions on the data displayed on the online tool, please refer to the peer reviewed publications produced by the CAPABLE consortium at:

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