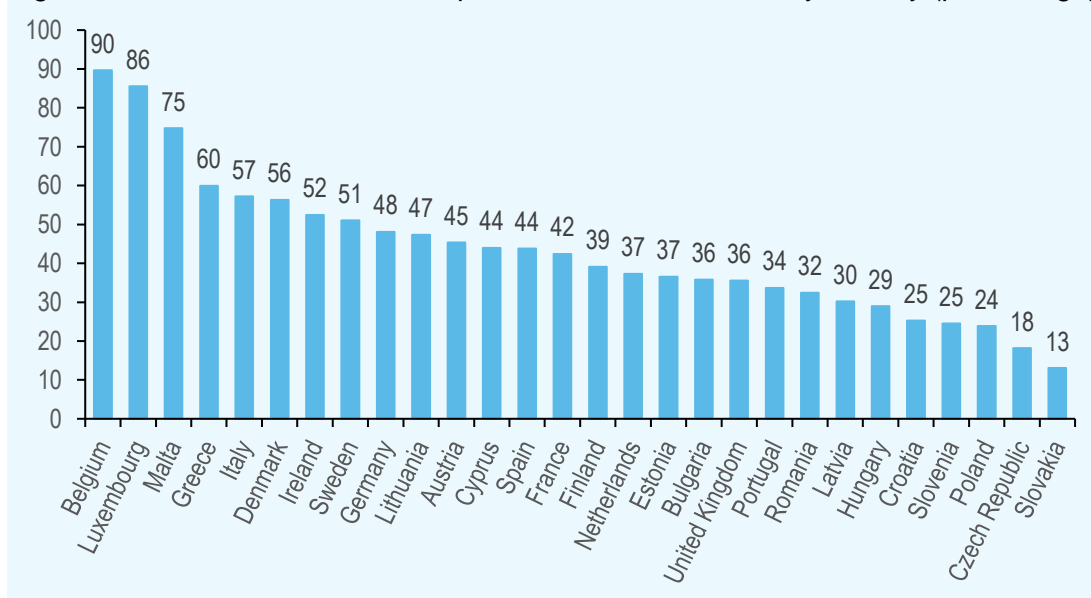


Dramatic differences in turnout across the EU

The European Parliament election in 2014 showed large variations in turnout among the Member States, similar to many previous elections. The reasons explaining this situation are numerous. One reason is that some Member States have mandatory participation, meaning that citizens are obligated by law to participate in both the national and European Parliament elections. This law is established in the two countries with the highest turnout, Belgium and Luxembourg, but also in Greece and Cyprus. Other aspects that may affect turnout are the attitudes of citizens towards the EU and also the traditions for voting behavior in the Member States. For example, some countries generally have a lower turnout in national elections, as well. Sweden has the eighth highest turnout with 51 percent. Slovakia and the Czech Republic, on the other hand, have turnout percentages under 20 percent. The 2014 election was the first EU election in which Croatia was able to vote. Croatia's turnout was 25 percent.

Figure 1. Turnout in the 2014 European Parliament election by country (percentage).



Source: TNS/ScytI in cooperation with the [European Parliament](#).

Comments: Turnout is calculated as the total number of votes cast in member states as a percentage of the total number of registered voters in respective member state at actual time of the election. Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece and Cyprus are member states with compulsory voting, where penalties vary from state to state. For more information regarding compulsory voting, see International IDEA: <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/voter-turnout/compulsory-voting>