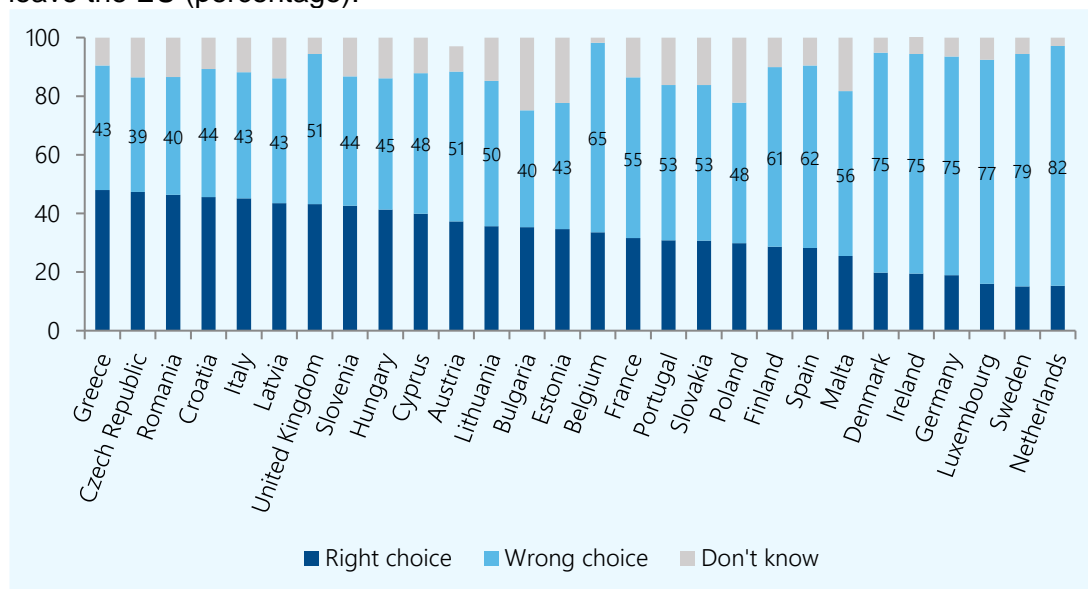


Wrong choice for the British to leave EU according to half of EU population

The British choice to leave the EU has sparked many questions and strong reactions around the EU regarding what Brexit implicates. In a survey conducted during the fall of 2018, half of the respondents stated that the British made the wrong choice to leave the EU, while 30 percent stated that the British made the right choice. But, as we can see by the figure below, there are extensive differences across the Member States. Greece, the Czech Republic and Romania are the Member States that have the largest share of respondents stating that the British made the right choice. On the other hand, the Netherlands, Sweden and Luxembourg are the Member States with the largest share of respondents stating the opposite, that the British made the wrong choice. Those countries with a large share of the population that are in favor of the EU, are also the countries that believed that the British made the wrong choice and vice versa. For Sweden, the result can be further explained by the fact that many Swedes live in the UK, that the UK is an important trading partner, and that the UK has often been an important partner for Sweden in negotiations in the EU's Council of Ministers (Huhe et al, 2017).

Figure 1. Attitudes about whether the British made the right choice in choosing to leave the EU (percentage).



Source: European Commission and European Parliament, Brussels (2019): [Eurobarometer 90.1 \(2018\)](#). Kantar Public [producer]. GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA7484 Data file Version 1.0.0

Comment: The statistics are taken from the Eurobarometer when the respondents were asked to answer the question From today's perspective, would you say that the British people made the right choice by voting to leave the EU? with the options "Yes, definitely", "Yes, probably" (coded as "Yes" in the figure), "No, probably not", "No, definitely not" (coded as "No in the figure), and "Don't know". Only people who have answered the question are included in the percentage base.

References

Huhe, Narisong, Naurin, Daniel, and Thomson, Robert (2017) "With or without you? Policy impact and networks in the Council of the EU after Brexit". Stockholm: SIEPS