European Commission

Special Eurobarometer 494

Summary

EU citizens and development cooperation

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Survey requested by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
and co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

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The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

Special Eurobarometer 494 – Wave EB91.5 – Kantar

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Summary

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Survey and report by Kantar Belgium at the request of the European Commission,
Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

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(DG COMM "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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INTRODUCTION

The European Union and its Member States continue to be the biggest global donors of official development cooperation, contributing 74.4 billion euros in 2018 and representing over half of the world's development effort. Excluding in-donor refugee costs, the EU and its Member States have increased their development cooperation efforts by 4% compared with 2017. EU and Member States' collective official development assistance represents 0.47% of the EU Gross National Income (GNI), and the European Council is committed to increasing collective assistance to 0.7% of GNI by 2030[1].

EU development policy is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and provides a framework for action and a shared vision for Member States in assisting developing countries. Work in Africa has been a particular focus since the previous survey in 2018. In September of that year, the European Commission released its Communication on a new Africa – Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs. This communication outlines a new approach to working with the continent, focusing on Africa's economic potential and unlocking the potential of the private sector to facilitate economic benefits for both African and European economies[2].

This survey follows on from previous ones on the topic, including those conducted annually since 2009[3]. The current survey covers the following areas:

- Attitudes of Europeans towards the importance of helping people in developing countries and tackling poverty in these areas, as well as the perceived challenges for the future of developing countries;
- Whether tackling poverty in developing countries should be a priority for EU and/or national governments;
- Opinions about the role of the EU in developing countries, and benefits to the EU from involvement in development cooperation;
- The level of support for strengthening the EU-Africa partnership;
- Opinion about the role of private companies in development.

1 https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2075_en.htm

2 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/soteu2018-africa-europe-jobs-alliance-communication-643_en.pdf

3 For the most recent report (2018) see https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2202

This survey was carried out by the Kantar network in the 28 EU Member States between the 7 and the 26 June 2019. Some 27,464 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed face-to-face at home in their mother tongue. This survey was commissioned by the European Commission, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit)[4]. It is the same for all countries and territories covered in the survey. A technical note on the manner in which interviews were conducted is appended as an annex to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence interval[5]

Note: In this report, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	FR	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus	CY *	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV	United Kingdom	UK

European Union – weighted average for the 28 Member States	EU28

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the 'acquis communautaire' has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the 'CY' category and in the EU28 average.

We wish to thank the people throughout the European Union

who have given their time to take part in this survey.

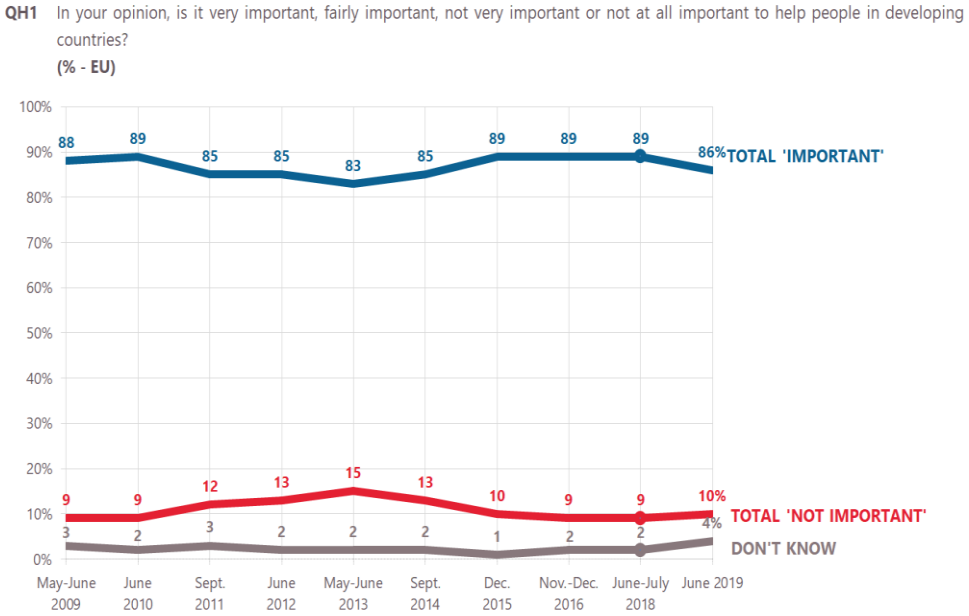
Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.

[4] https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion

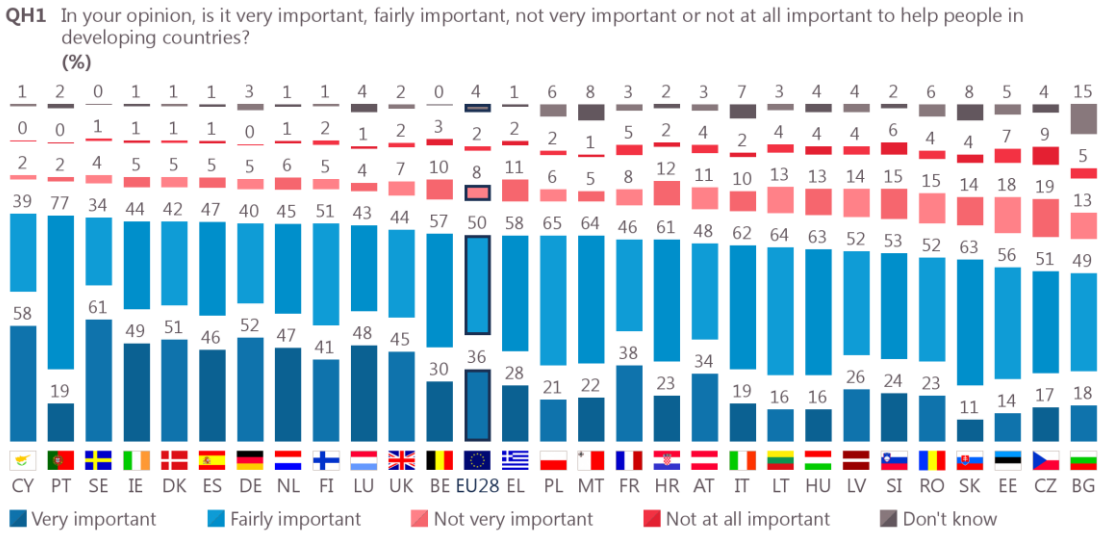
I. IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

1 Perceived importance of development cooperation

More than eight in ten respondents think it is important to help people in developing countries (86%). The proportion of respondents who think it is important to help people in developing countries has, however, declined slightly since 2018 (-3 percentage points)[6].



More than two thirds in each country think helping people in developing countries is important, and, in ten countries, more than nine in ten think this way. There is, however, much greater variation in the proportion of respondents in each country that think it is 'very important' to help people in developing countries,



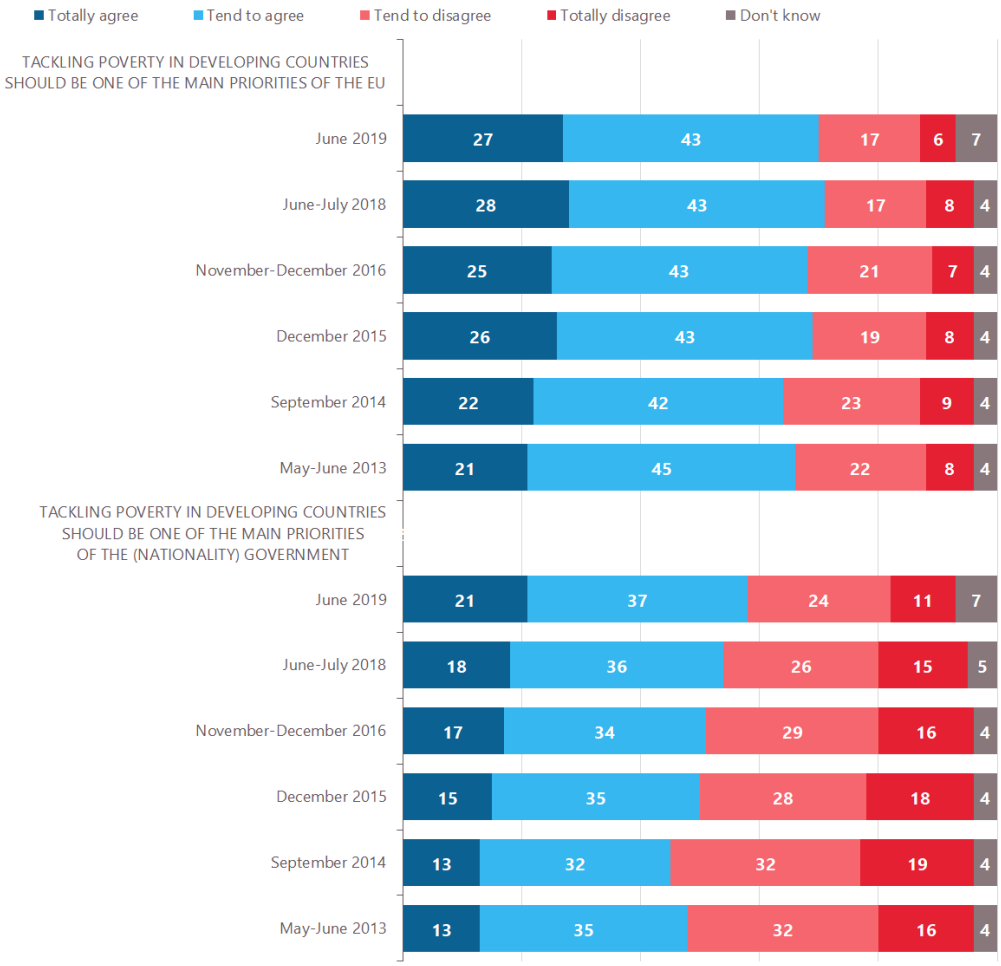
[6] QH1. In your opinion, is it very important, fairly important, not very important or not at all important to help people in developing countries? Very important; Fairly important; Not very important; Not at all important; Don't Know.

2 Tackling poverty in developing countries as one of the priorities for the EU and national governments

Seven in ten agree tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the EU, while fewer than six in ten say this about their national government (58%)[7]. Compared to 2018, respondents are slightly more likely to think tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of their national government (+4 pp).

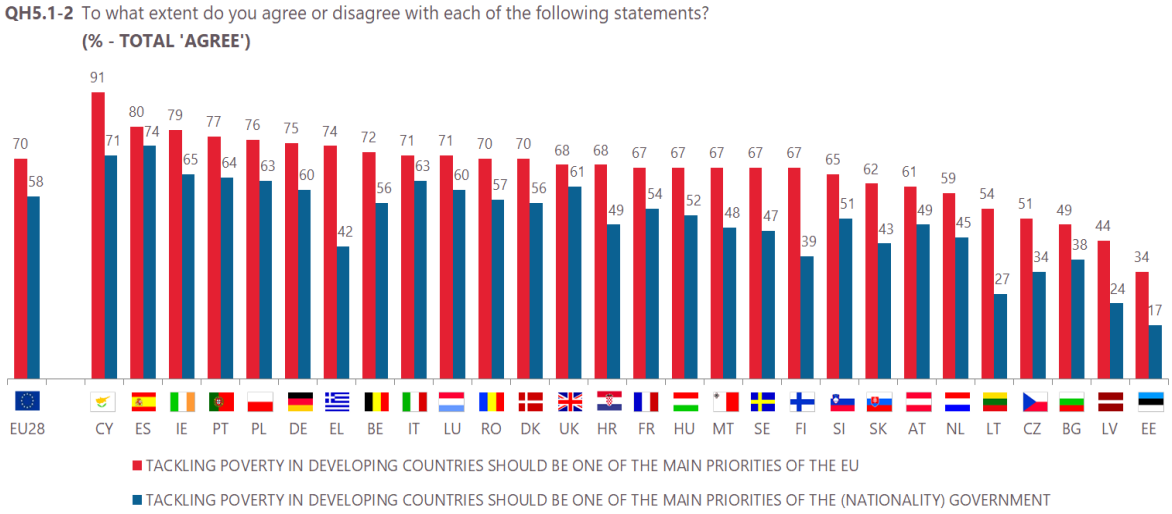
QH5.1 and 2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

(% - EU)



[7] QH5.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the EU. Totally agree; Tend to agree; Tend to disagree; Totally disagree; Don't Know.
QH5.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the (Nationality) government. Totally agree; Tend to agree; Tend to disagree; Totally disagree; Don't Know.

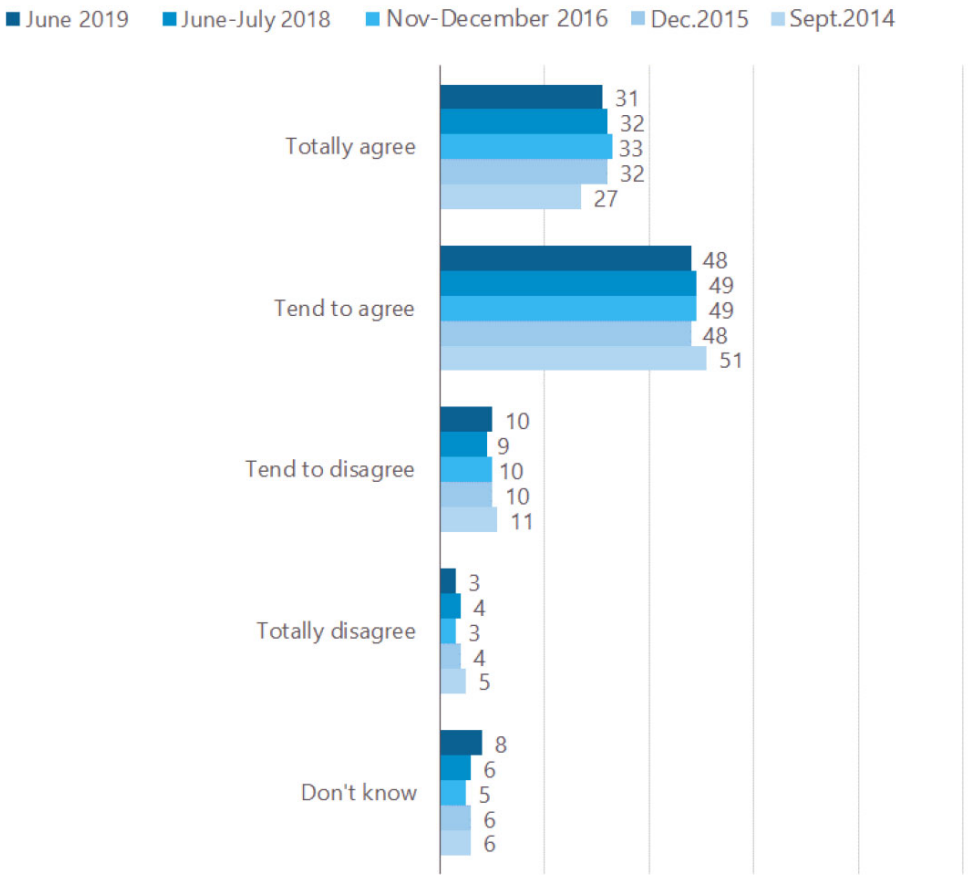
In 25 Member States, more than half of the respondents agree that tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the EU. In each Member State, respondents are more likely to agree tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the EU than it should be of the main priorities of their national government.



3 Tackling poverty in developing countries is in the EU's own interest

A large majority of respondents (79%) agree tackling poverty in developing countries is also in the EU's own interest, with 31% saying they 'totally agree'[8].

QH5.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Tackling poverty in developing countries is also in the EU's own interest (e.g. by creating trade opportunities or better access to energy and raw materials) (% - EU28)

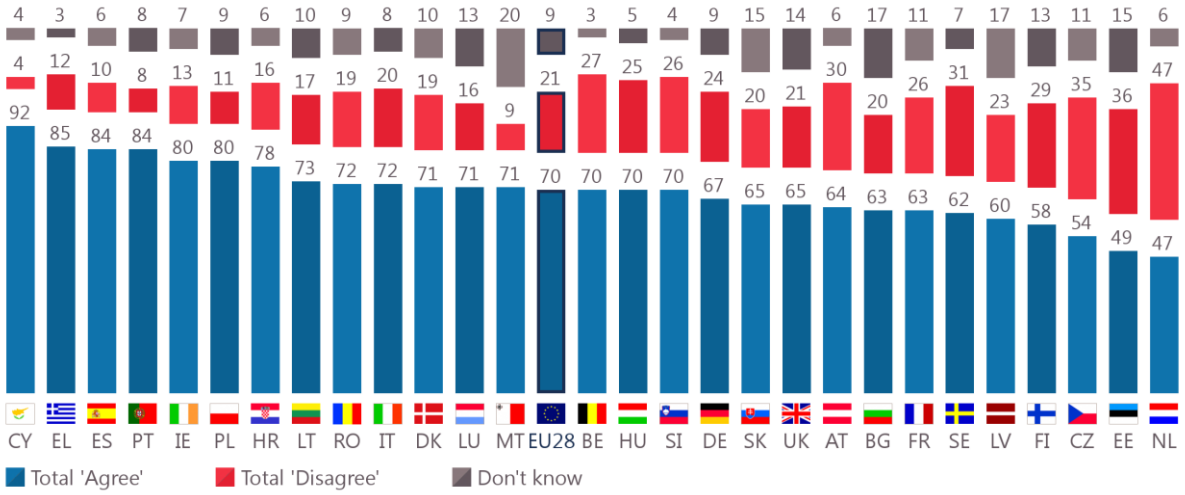


[8] QH5.3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Tackling poverty in developing countries is also in the EU's own interest (e.g. by creating trade opportunities or better access to energy and raw materials): Totally agree; Tend to agree; Tend to disagree; Totally disagree; Don't Know.

4 Is financial assistance to developing countries an effective way to strengthen the EU's influence in the world?

A large majority agree providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to strengthen the EU's influence in the world (70%)[9]. In all but two countries at least half of all respondents agree, although proportions vary considerably: from 92% in Cyprus, 85% in Greece and 84% in Spain and Portugal to 54% in Czechia.

QH5.7 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to strengthen the EU's influence in the world (%)

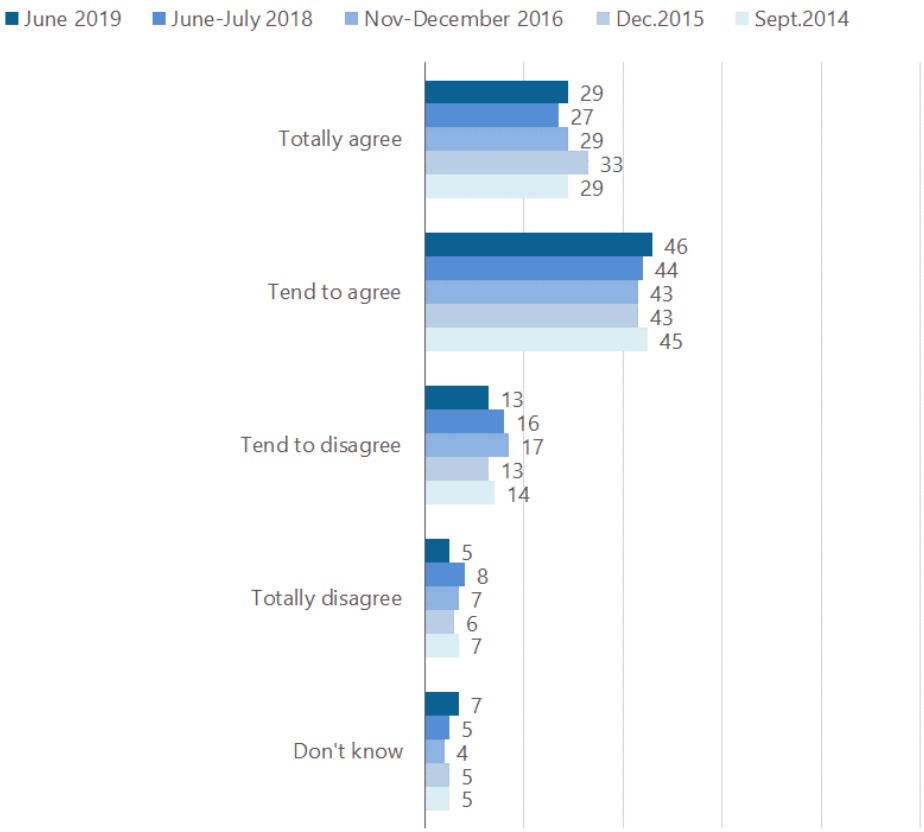


[9] QH5.7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to strengthen the EU's influence in the world: Totally agree; Tend to agree; Tend to disagree; Totally disagree; Don't Know.

5 Development cooperation contribution to a more peaceful and equal world

Three quarters of respondents agree providing financial assistance for developing countries contributes to a more peaceful and fairer world[10].Overall agreement has increased by four points since 2018.

QH5.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Providing financial assistance to developing countries contributes to a more peaceful and fairer world (% - EU28)

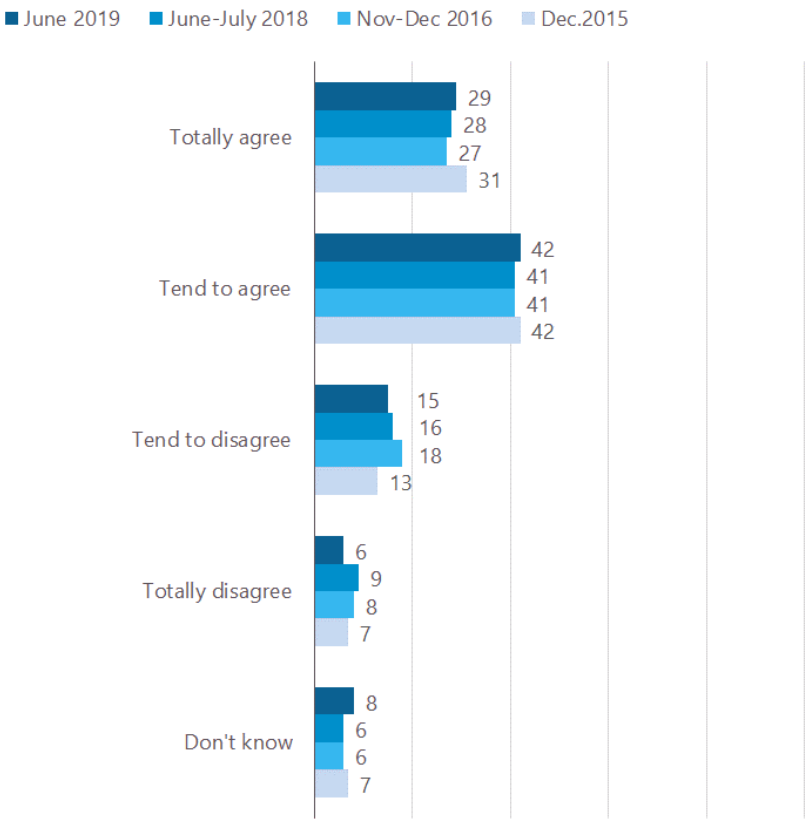


[10] QH5.4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Providing financial assistance to developing countries contributes to a more peaceful and fairer world. Totally agree; Tend to agree; Tend to disagree; Totally disagree; Don't Know.

6 Aid for developing countries as a way to tackle irregular migration

The majority of respondents (71%) agree providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to address irregular migration[11]. There has been a slight increase in agreement since 2018 (+2 pp), but respondents are still less likely to agree than they were in 2015 (-2 pp)[12] .

QH5.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to address irregular migration (% - EU28)



[11] QH5.5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to address irregular migration. Totally agree; Tend to agree; Tend to disagree; Totally disagree; Don't Know.

[12] In 2015 the response option wording was slightly different: 'Aid for developing countries is an effective way to tackle irregular migration'

In 23 countries, respondents are now more likely to agree providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to address irregular migration than they were in 2018.

QH5.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

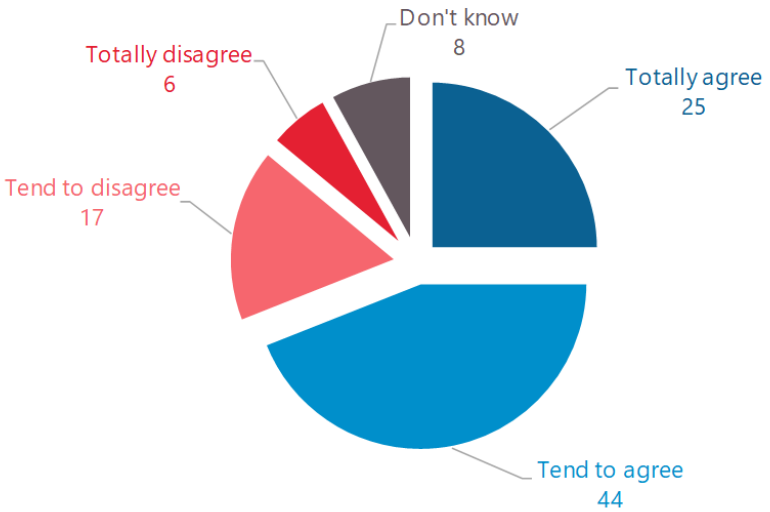
Providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to address irregular migration (%)

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. June 2019 - June-July 2018	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. June 2019 - June-July 2018	Don't know
EU28	71	▲ 2	21	▼ 4	8
EE	45	▲ 8	44	▼ 11	11
DK	77	▲ 7	16	▼ 8	7
SI	64	▲ 7	32	▼ 6	4
SE	70	▲ 7	24	▼ 7	6
BE	76	▲ 6	22	▼ 6	2
NL	62	▲ 6	33	▼ 7	5
AT	69	▲ 6	27	▼ 7	4
CZ	57	▲ 5	35	▼ 7	8
EL	84	▲ 5	13	▼ 5	3
FR	67	▲ 5	24	▼ 8	9
LV	59	▲ 5	24	▼ 9	17
PL	78	▲ 5	12	▼ 7	10
SK	65	▲ 5	21	▼ 8	14
FI	69	▲ 5	24	▼ 7	7
IE	81	▲ 4	12	▼ 6	7
CY	93	▲ 4	6	▼ 4	1
HU	66	▲ 4	28	▼ 5	6
UK	66	▲ 4	21	▼ 5	13
LU	75	▲ 2	14	▼ 8	11
DE	72	▲ 1	21	▼ 5	7
ES	87	▲ 1	9	▼ 2	4
PT	81	▲ 1	11	▼ 3	8
RO	67	▲ 1	23	▼ 3	10
HR	73	=	22	▼ 2	5
IT	74	▼ 1	20	▲ 1	6
LT	63	▼ 1	26	▼ 2	11
BG	57	▼ 2	27	=	16
MT	74	▼ 6	11	▼ 5	15

7 Financial assistance to developing countries as an effective way to reduce inequalities

More than two thirds of respondents (69%) agree providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to reduce inequalities in these countries[13].

QH5.6 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to reduce inequalities in these countries (% - EU)



(June 2019)

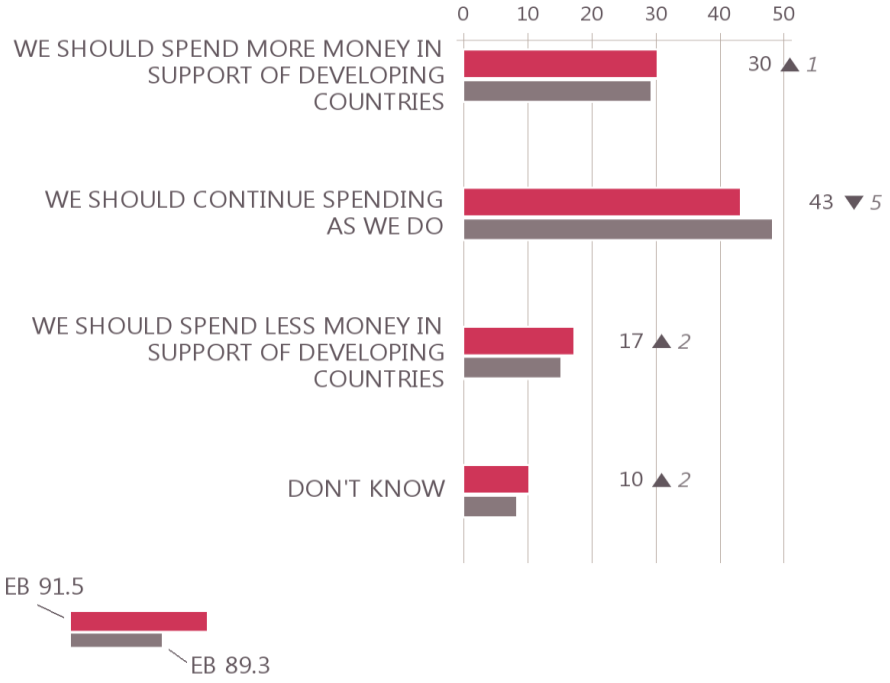
[13] QH5.6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Providing financial assistance to developing countries is an effective way to reduce inequalities in these countries. Totally agree; Tend to agree; Tend to disagree; Totally disagree; Don't Know.

II. ATTITUDES TOWARS EU AID

The majority think spending in support of developing countries should either stay the same or increase[14]. More than four in ten (43%) think the EU and its Member States should continue spending in support of developing countries at the current level, 30% think more money should be spent, while 17% think less should be spent.

The proportion who think spending should continue as it is currently has declined by five points since 2018.

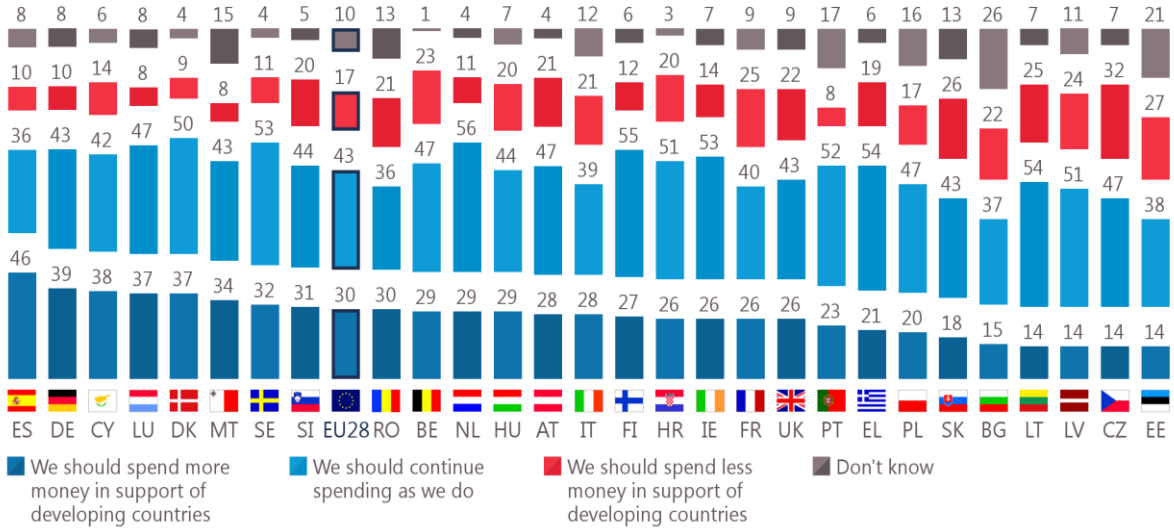
QH4 The European Union and its Member States provide financial assistance to developing countries. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion?
(% - EURO AREA)



[14] QH4 The EU and its Member States provide financial assistance to developing countries. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion? We should spend more money in support of developing countries; We should continue spending as we do; We should spend less money in support of developing countries.

In every Member State except Spain, respondents most commonly say spending should continue as it is currently. Respondents in Spain most often say spending should increase (46%).

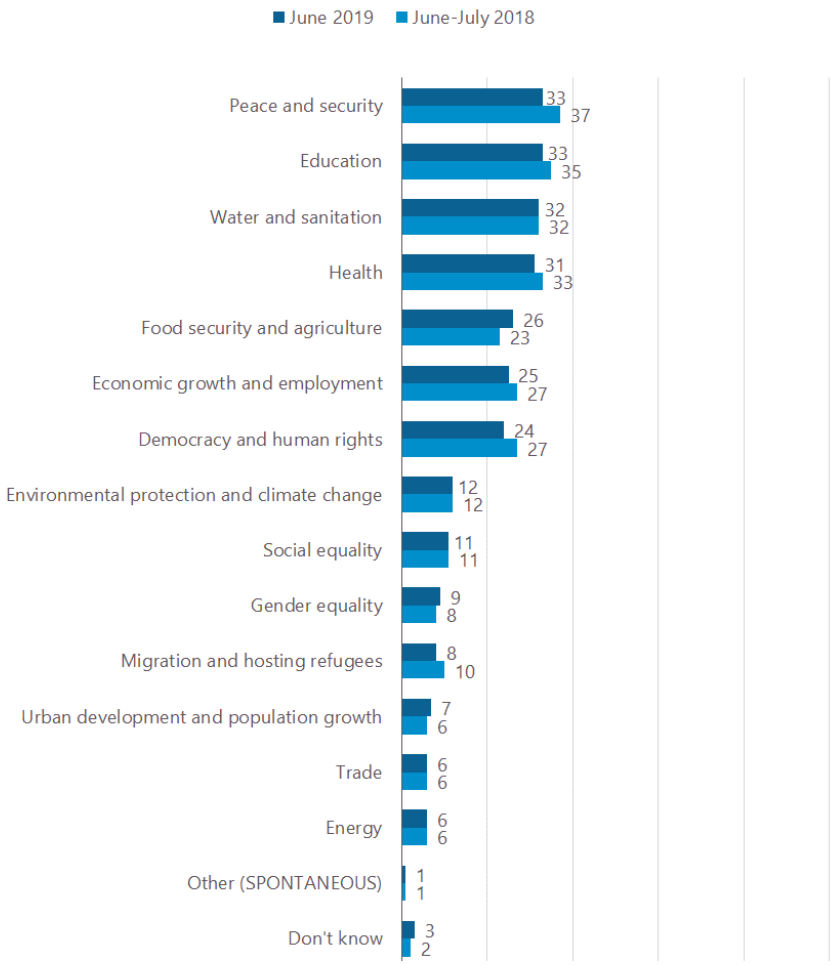
QH4 The European Union and its Member States provide financial assistance to developing countries. Which of the following statements best describes your opinion?
(%)



III. UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES FACING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Respondents consider the most pressing challenges for the future of developing countries to be peace and security, education (both 33%), water and sanitation (32%) and health (31%)[15].

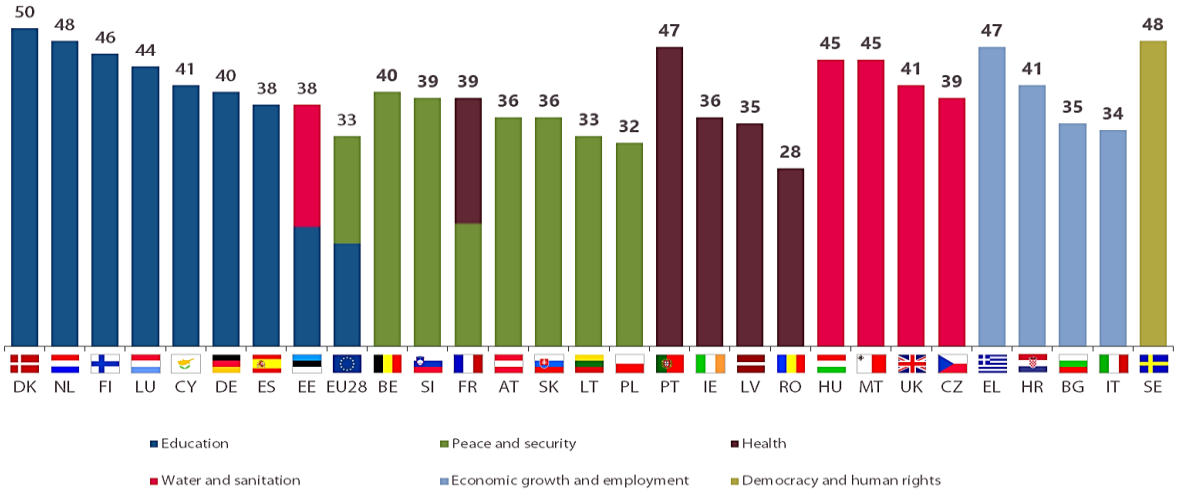
QH2 Which of the following challenges do you consider the most pressing for the future of developing countries?
(% - EU28)



[15] QH2. Which of the following challenges do you consider as the most pressing for the future of developing countries? Food security and agriculture; Health; Education; Gender equality; Trade; Water and sanitation; Peace and security; Environmental protection and climate change; Democracy and human rights; Energy; Economic growth and employment; social equality; Migration and Hosting refugees; Urban development and population growth; Other (SPONTANEOUS); Don't Know

Education is the most mentioned challenge in seven countries, while in Estonia it is equally mentioned along with water and sanitation. Peace and security is the most mentioned challenge in six countries, while in France it is equally mentioned with health.

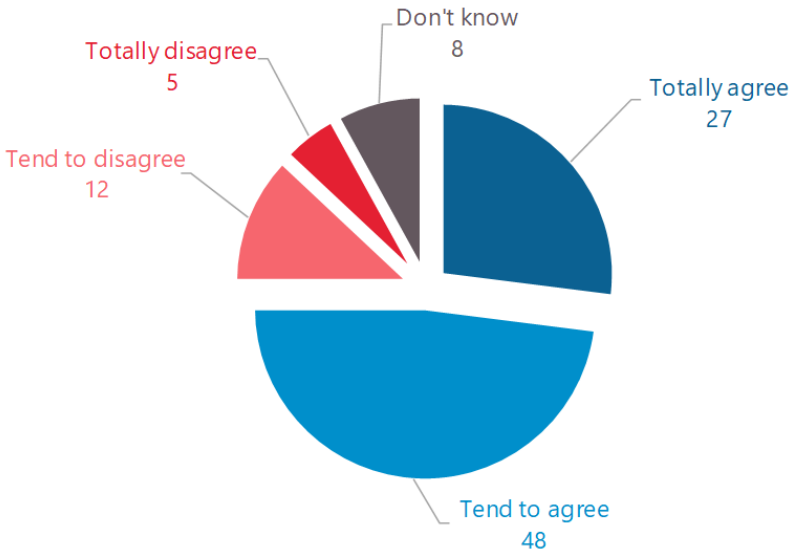
QH2 Which of the following challenges do you consider the most pressing for the future of developing countries? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



IV. STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EU AND AFRICA

A large majority (75%) agree the EU should strengthen its partnership with and increase financial investments in Africa to create jobs and ensure sustainable development on both continents. [16]

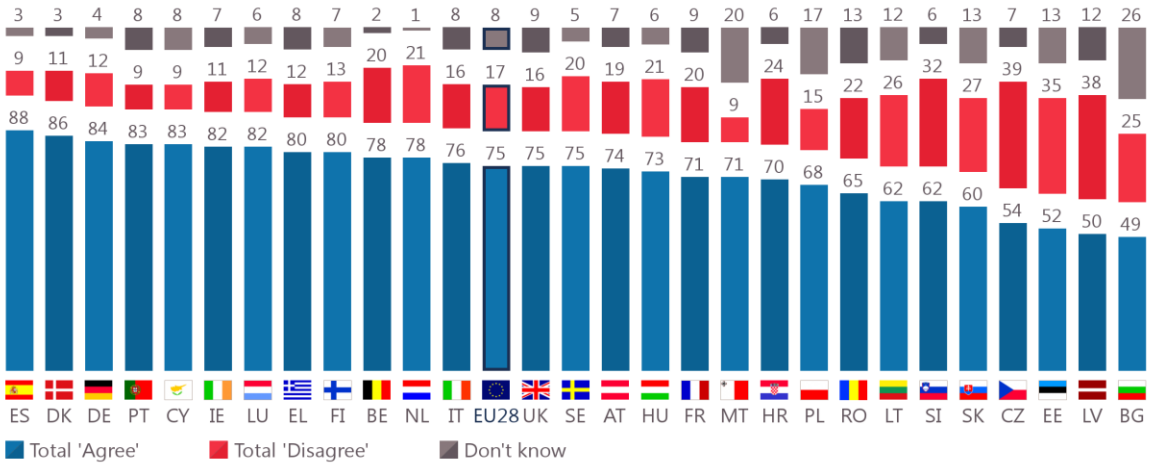
QH3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the EU should strengthen its partnership with and increase financial investments in Africa to create jobs and ensure sustainable development on both continents. **(% - EU)**



(June 2019)

In 24 Member States, at least six in ten respondents agree the EU should strengthen its partnership with and increase financial investments in Africa.

QH3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the EU should strengthen its partnership with and increase financial investments in Africa to create jobs and ensure sustainable development on both continents. **(%)**

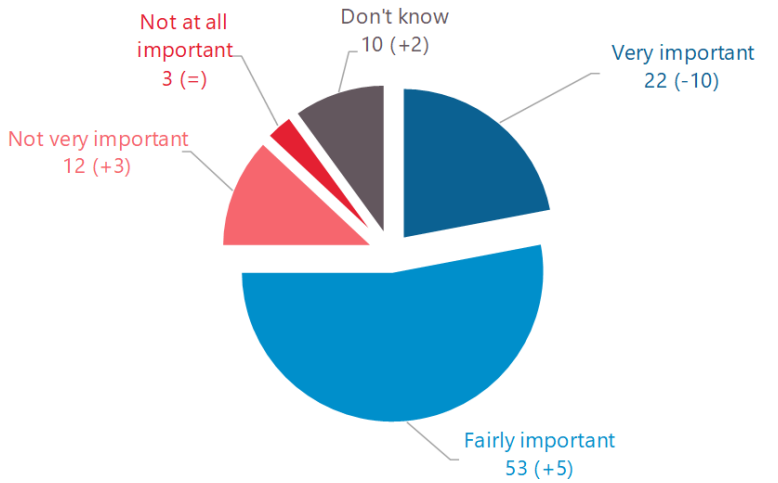


[16] QH3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the EU should strengthen its partnership with and increase financial investments in Africa to create jobs and ensure sustainable development on both continents.

V. THE ROLE OF PRIVATE COMPANIES IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Three quarters of respondents think private companies have an important role in the sustainable development of developing countries, a decline of five points since 2018[17].

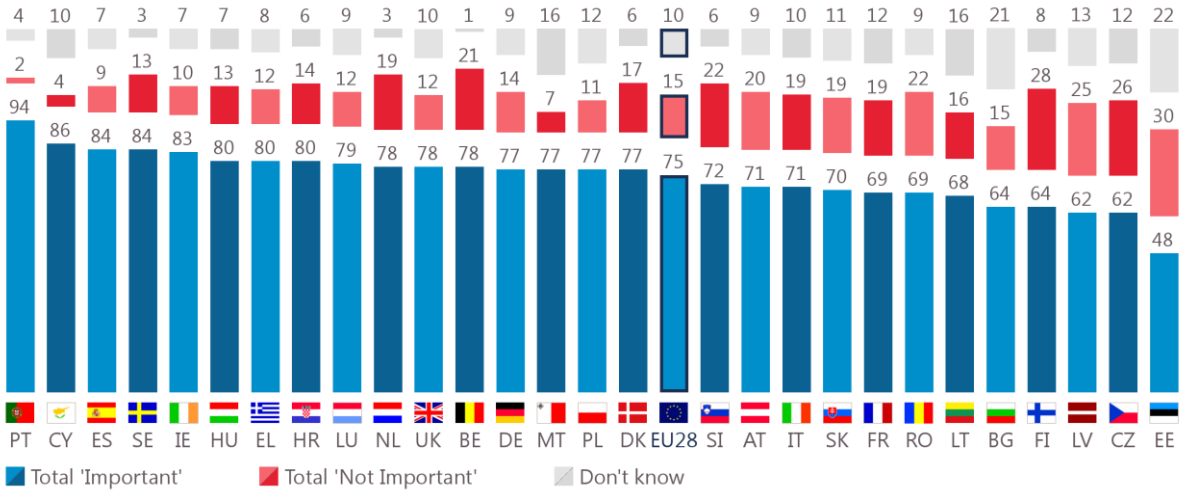
QH6 In your opinion, how important do you think the role of private companies in the sustainable development of developing countries should be? **(% - EU)**



(June 2019 - June-July 2018)

In all but one country, more than six in ten respondents think private companies should have an important role in the sustainable development of developing countries.

QH6 In your opinion, how important do you think the role of private companies in the sustainable development of developing countries should be? **(%)**



[17] QH6 In your opinion, how important do you think the role of private companies in the sustainable development of developing countries should be? Very important; Fairly important; Not very important; Not at all important.