

# „United in Diversity“ Event zum Europatag



**YFU AUSTRIA**  
**Interkultureller Austausch**



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Austrians and the European Union

## Results of the European Values Study Austria survey

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# European Values Study (EVS)

## **EVS: Values-oriented research since 1981**

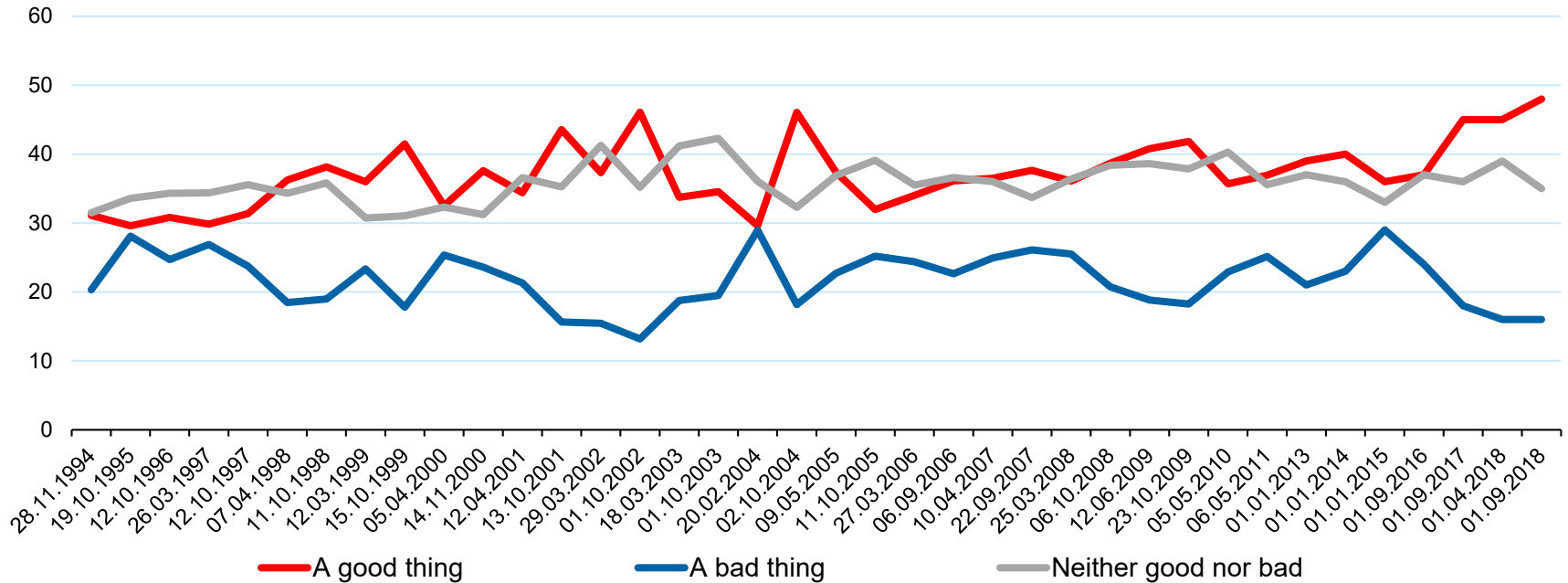
- Survey research comparing values and cultures in Europe, in more than 40 countries
- Emphasis: work and employment, family and relationships, religion and politics
- Four times in Austria: 1990, 1999, 2008, 2018

## **EVS-Wave 2018 in Austria**

- Survey conducted between 08.01. and 14.05.2018 by IFES
- 1948 individuals, with 2 subsamples of individuals with migration background (BKS and Turkey)
- Face-to-face interviews – CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing)
- Sample representative of the Austrian population older than 18

# Membership in the EU

„Generally speaking, do you think that Austria's membership of the EU is...?“

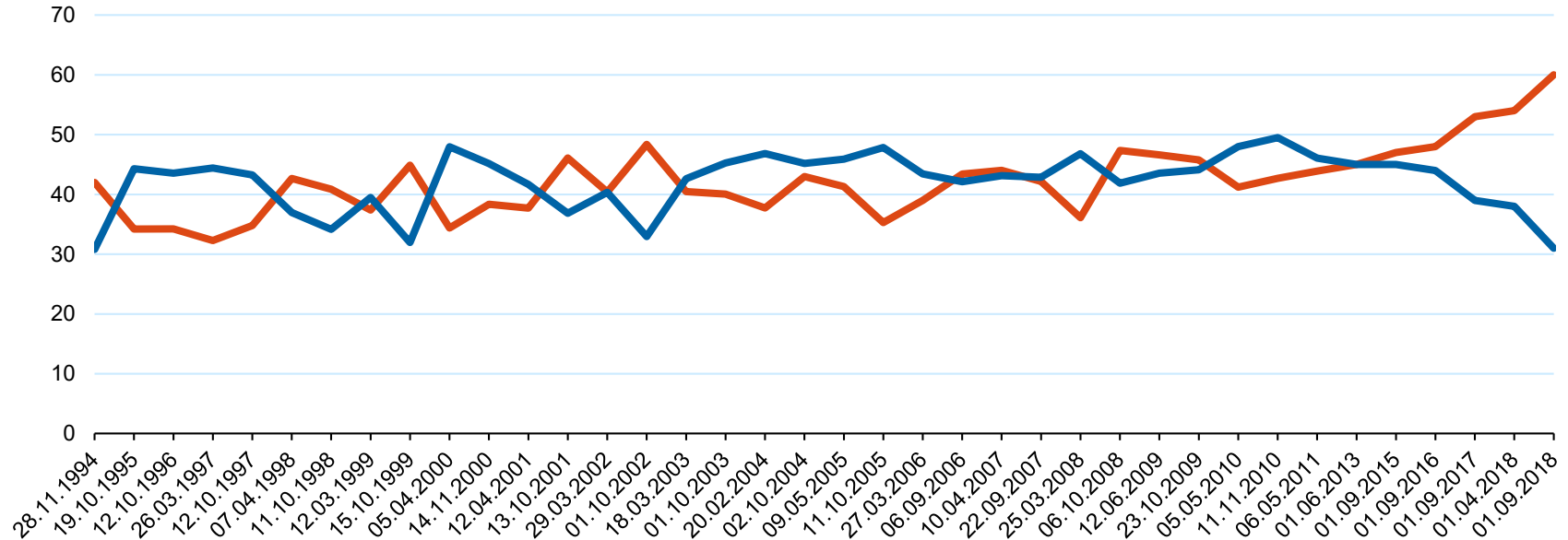


Results in percentages,  
3-level scale

Source: Eurobarometer

# Benefits of being a member

„Taking everything into account, would you say that Austria has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU??“



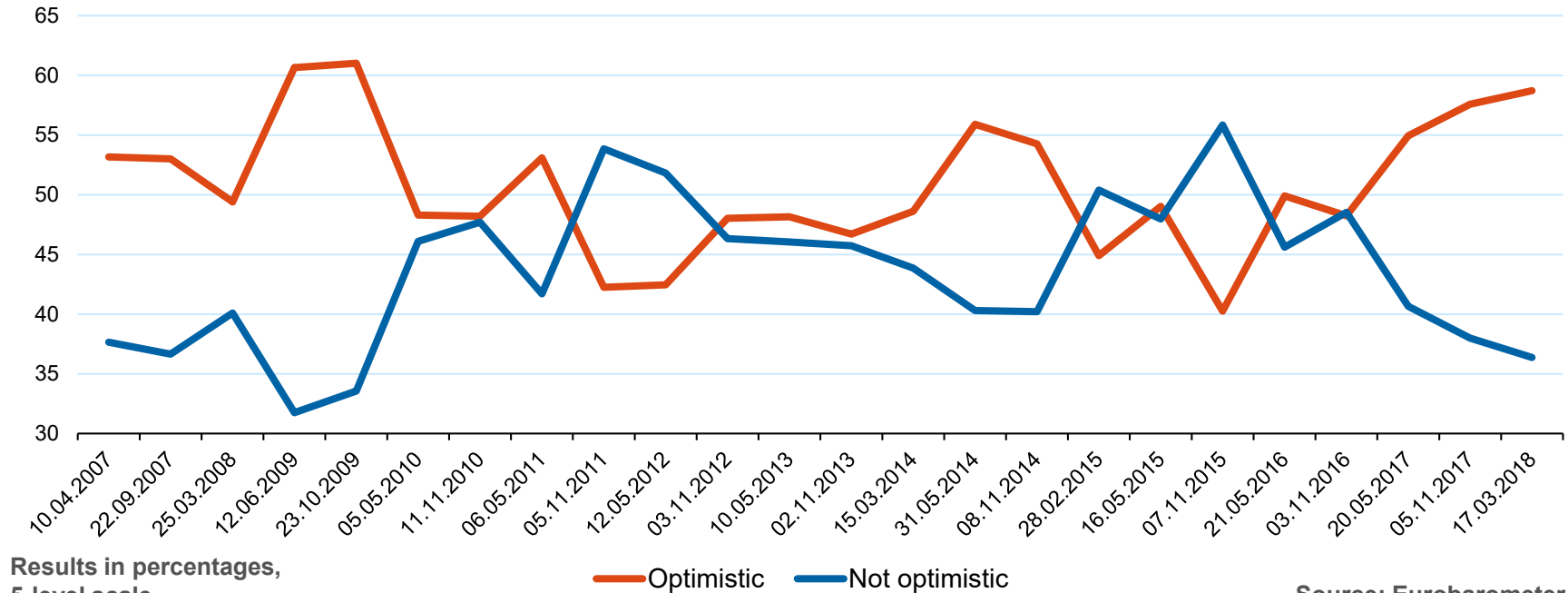
Results in percentages,  
2-level scale

— Benefited — Not benefited

Source: Eurobarometer

# Future of the EU

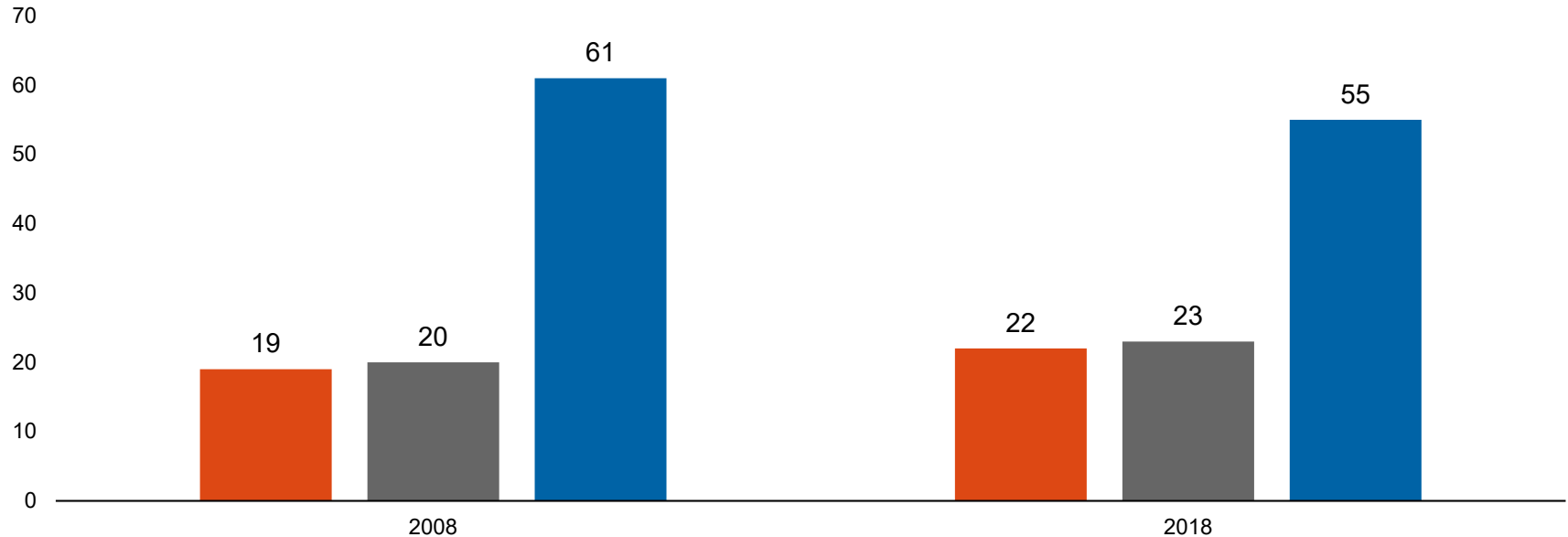
“Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?”



Source: Eurobarometer

# Attitudes towards the EU enlargement

■ „Some say that the European Union enlargement should go further. Others say it has already gone too far.“



Results in percentages,  
10-level scale

■ For the EU enlargement

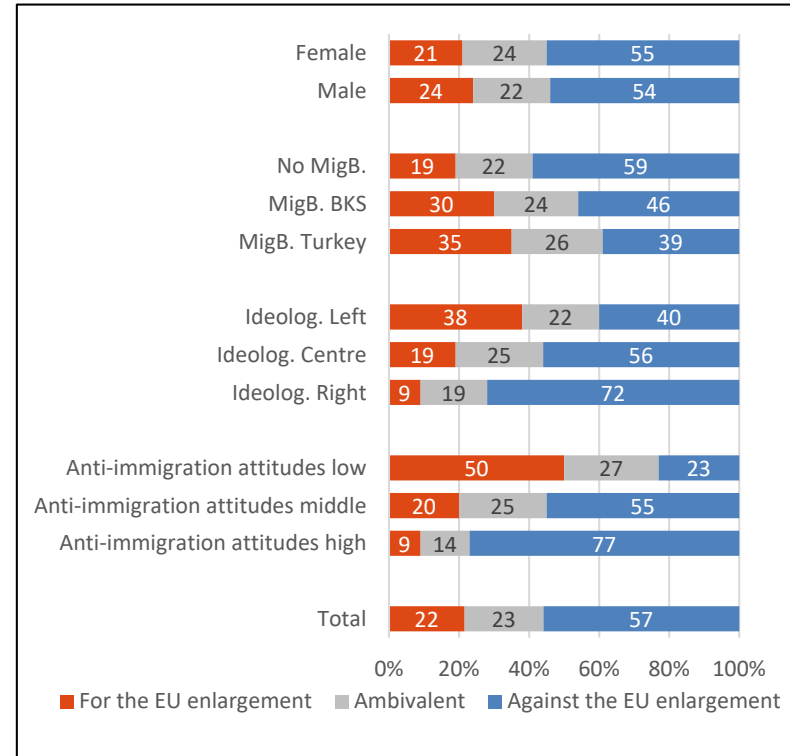
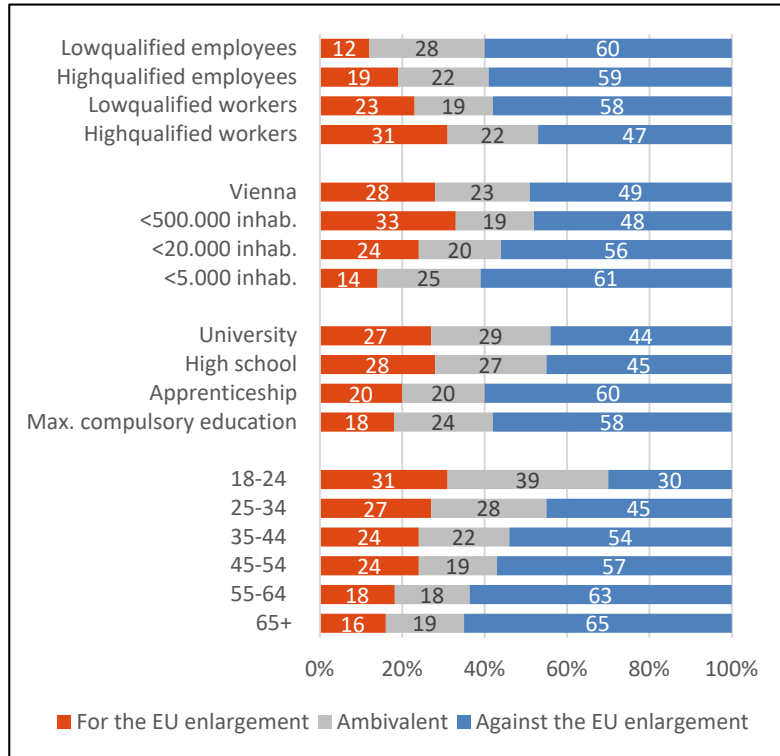
■ Ambivalent

■ Against the EU enlargement

Source: EVS 2008- 2018

Recoded as (1-4) "For the EU enlargement", (5-6) "Ambivalent" and (7-10) "Against the EU enlargement"

# EU Enlargement: In detail

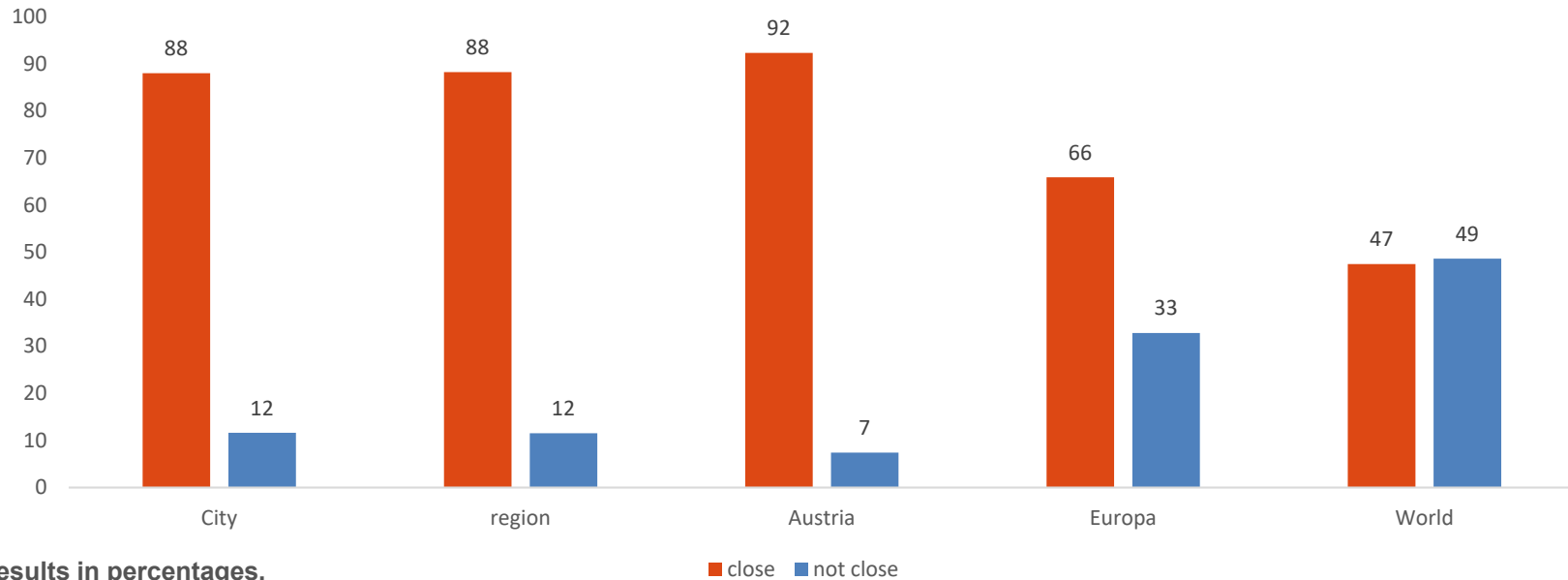


Source: EVS 2018



# Closeness to Europe

■ „People have different views about themselves and how they relate to the world.  
Would you tell me how close do you feel to...?“



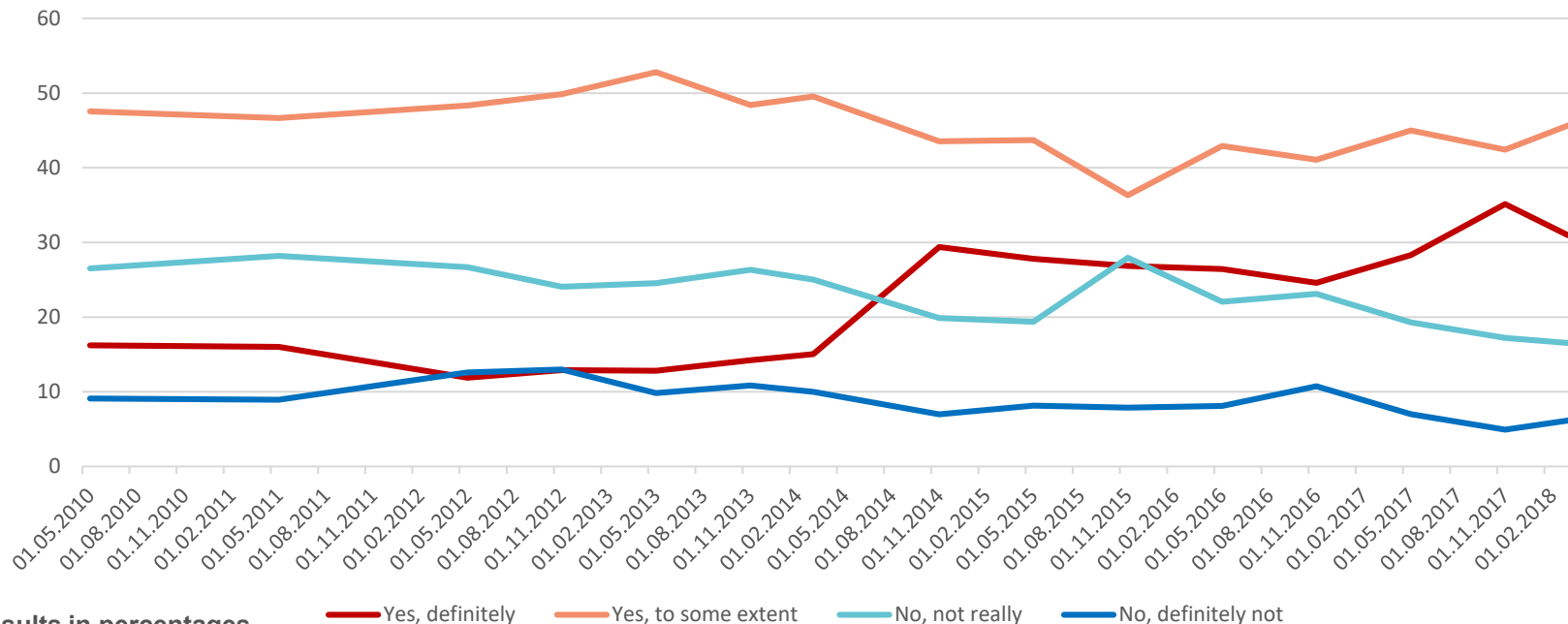
Source: EVS 2018

Recoded as “Very close and close“ and (3-4) “Not very close and not close at all“

# European Citizenship



„You feel you are a citizen of the EU“



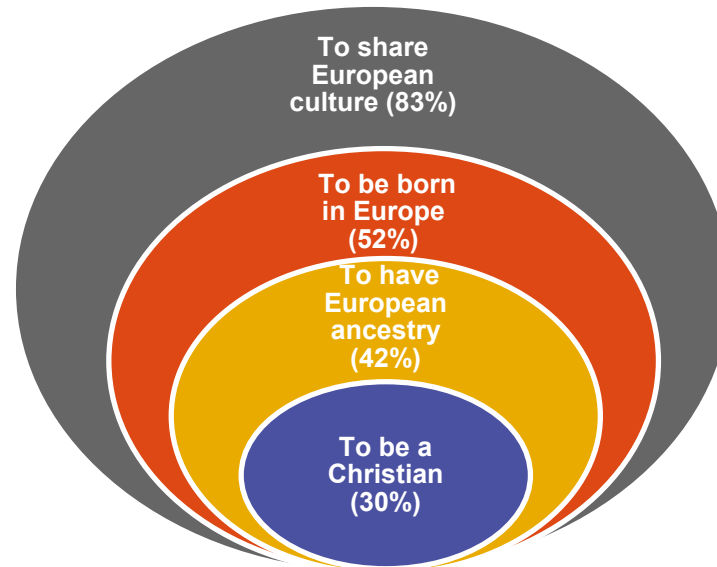
Results in percentages,  
4-level scale

— Yes, definitely — Yes, to some extent — No, not really — No, definitely not

Source: Eurobarometer

# What means to be European?

- „People differ in what they think it means to be European. In your view, how important is each of the following to be European?“



Results in percentages,  
4-level scale

Quelle: EVS 2018

Recorded as (1-2) "Very and quite important"

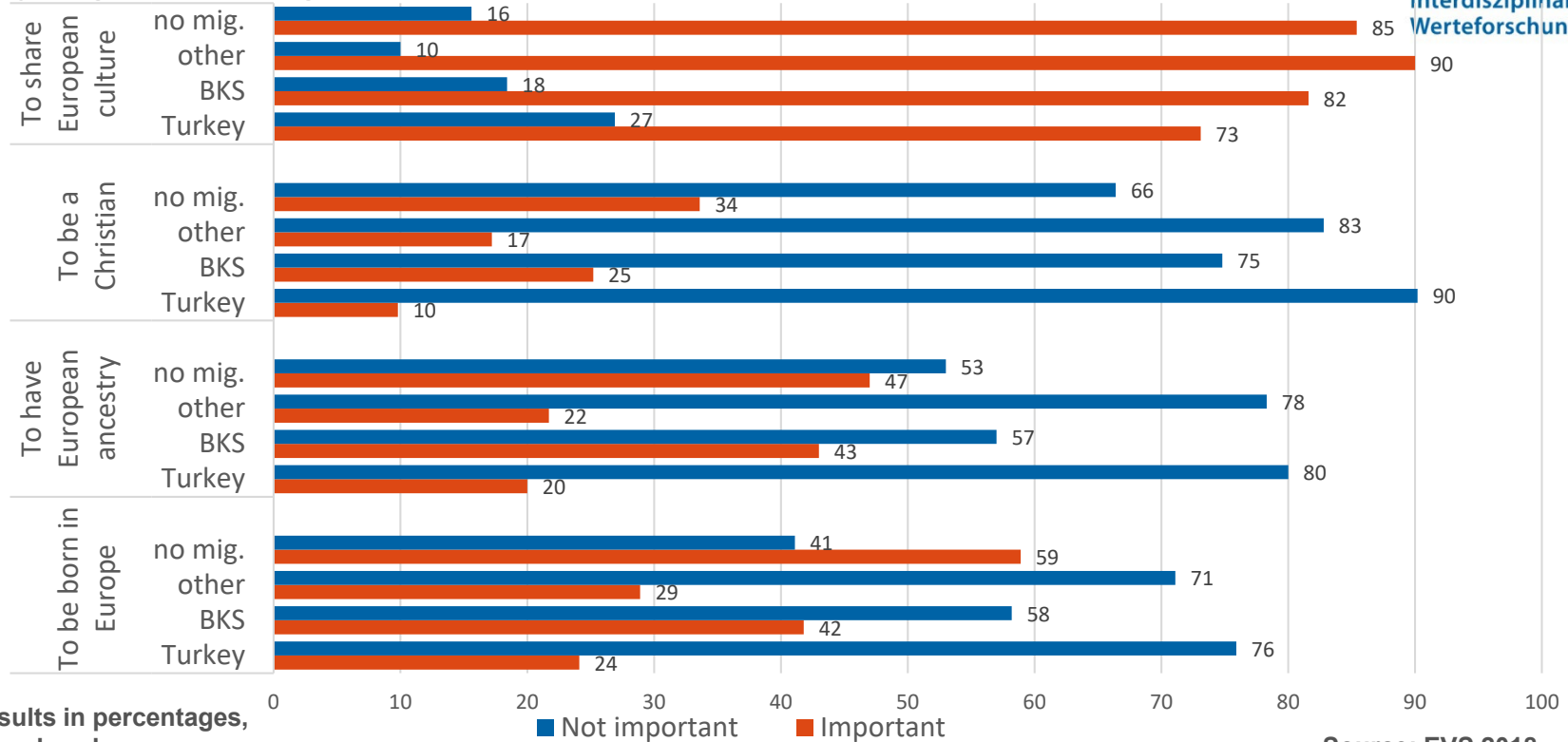
# What means to be European?

By migration background



universität  
wien

Interdisziplinäre  
Werteforschung



Results in percentages,  
4-level scale

■ Not important ■ Important

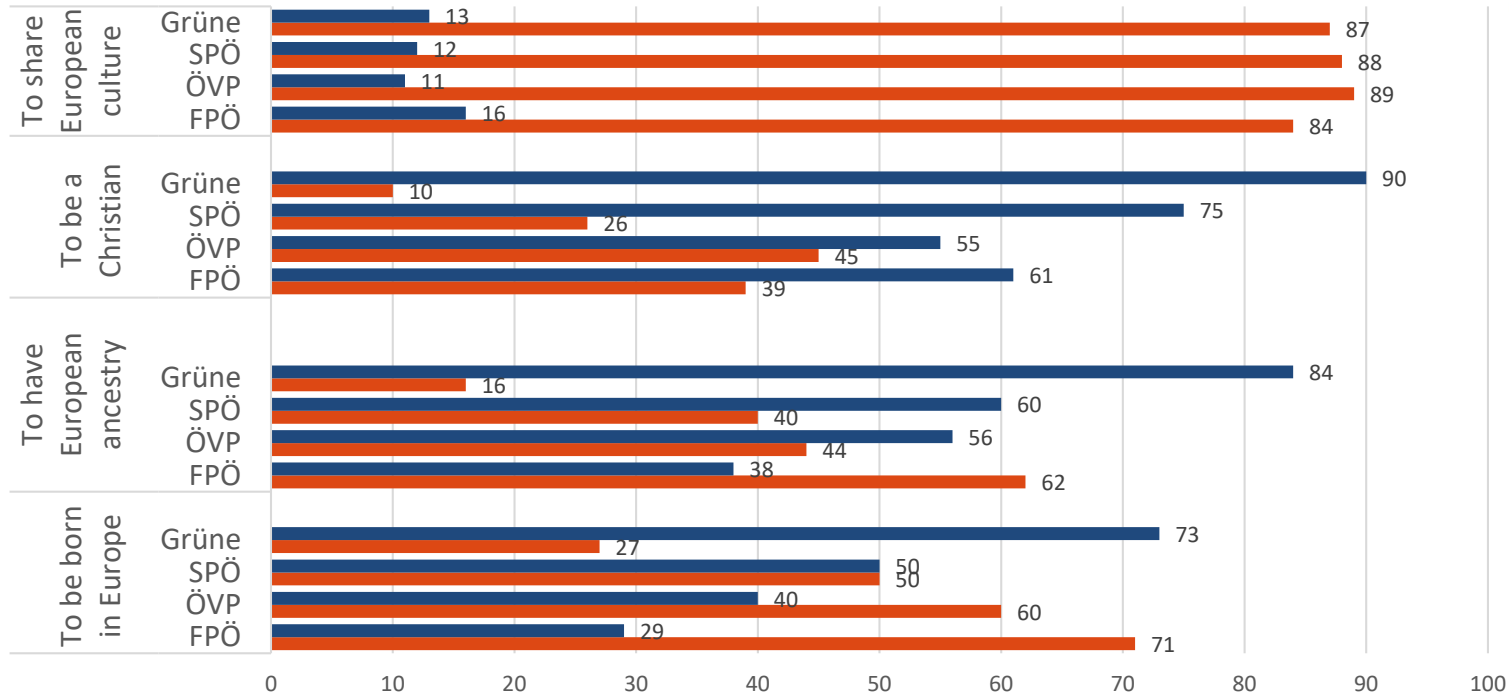
Source: EVS 2018

Recoded as (1-2) "Very and quite important" and (3-4) "Not at all and not important"

# What means to be European?



## By vote choice



Results in percentages,  
4-level scale

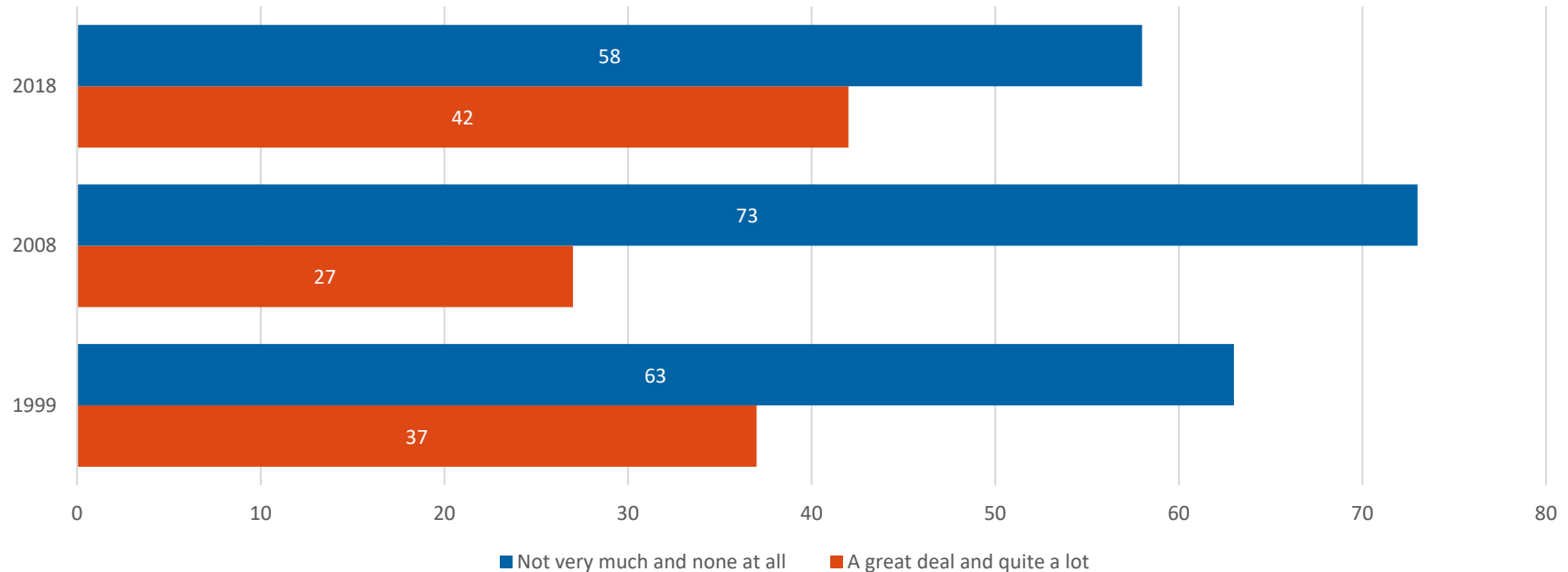
■ Not important ■ Important

Source: EVS 2018

Recoded as (1-2) "Very and quite important" and (3-4) "Not at all and not important"

# Confidence in the EU

■ „How much confidence you have in the EU?“

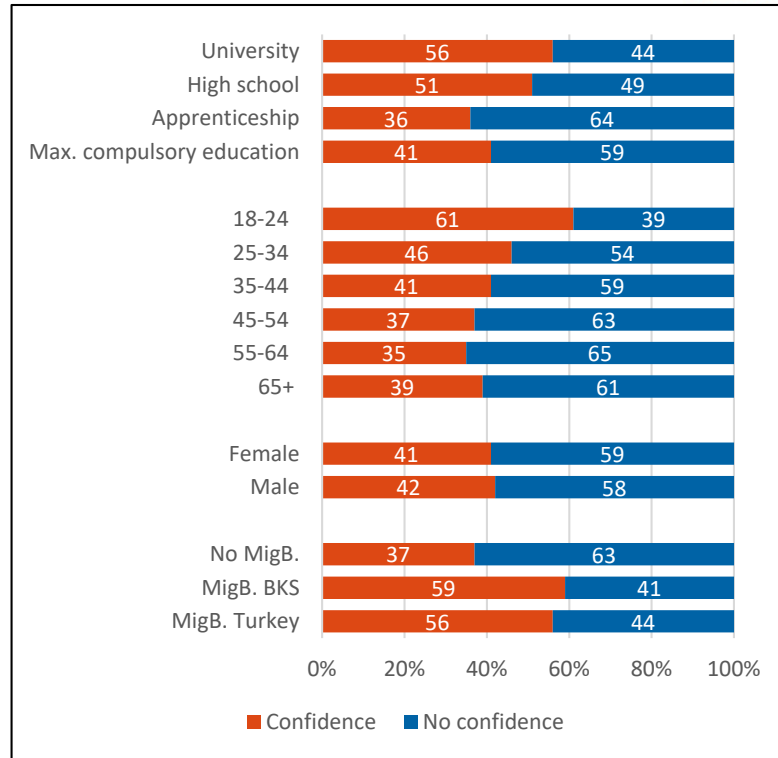
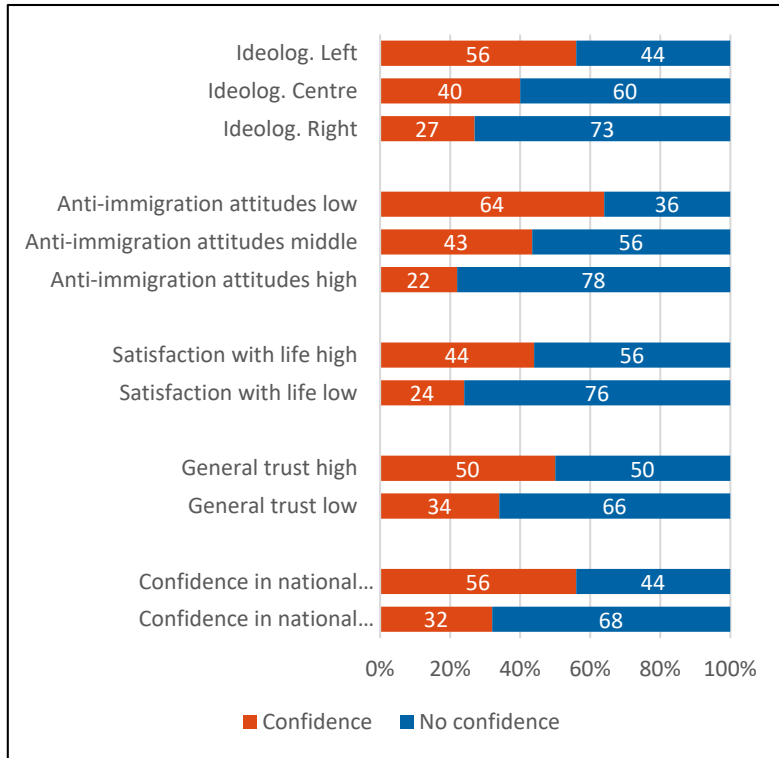


Results in percentages,  
4-level scale

Source: EVS 1999- 2018

Recoded as (1-2) “A great deal and quite a lot“ und (3-4) “Not very much and none at all“

# Confidence in the EU: In detail



## Conclusion

- How have changes within the EU (Lisbon Treaty, Eastern enlargement) and crises the EU has faced (financial, Euro and migration crisis) affected attitudes towards it?
- The Eurobarometer data indicate there has been an increase in perception that the EU membership is beneficial for Austria. Since 2016, Austrians also estimate the future of the EU increasingly optimistically.
- The 2018 European Values Study (EVS) data shows most of the Austrians are skeptical towards further EU enlargement, even though support for it increased in comparison to 2008. However, confidence in the EU is on the rise and is strongly defined by confidence in the national government, general trust and satisfaction in life.
- Self-identifying as a European citizen – very important for the EU cohesion – has been on the rise in recent years. Criteria determining who is considered to be European play a large role in the formation of a European identity. EVS 2018 shows that sharing a European culture is the most widely accepted criteria for being considered European.



# Conclusion

- Need to emphasize common European culture to support the EU and its positive public image
- Support for EU membership has remained relatively high, even in the face of major crises that have shaken Europe and Austria over the past decade.
- Support and confidence in the EU can be strengthened if crises are well managed.
- Brexit has strongly affected the attitudes towards the EU and has perhaps strengthened the sense of belonging to the EU in the existing member states.

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