



1.1 People who perceived that the government is likely to be prepared for the next pandemic (% of respondents, Trust) (R-13)

1.1.1 Documentation sheet

Description	People who perceived that the government is likely to be prepared for the next pandemic
Calculation	<p>Primary indicator</p> <p><u>Numerator:</u> Number of respondents who perceive that the government is likely to be prepared to protect people's lives in the event of a new serious contagious illness</p> <p><u>Denominator:</u> Total number of respondents to the survey</p> <p>Secondary indicator</p> <p><u>Numerator:</u> Number of respondents who reported: neutral, unlikely, or don't know for the perceived likelihood that the government is prepared to protect people's lives in the event of a new serious contagious illness</p> <p><u>Denominator:</u> Total number of respondents to the survey</p>
Rationale	The population's perceived likelihood that government would be prepared for the next pandemic can reflect a health system's resilience to public health crisis. Trust in the national government is closely related to perceptions of preparedness for a future pandemic. Indeed, countries where a majority of people think their government learned from the pandemic are also the countries where more people are likely to trust that government. ¹ Recent studies highlight the importance of trust during a pandemic, as higher levels of trust in government were associated with lower standardised infection rates, lower numbers of deaths and lower excess mortality. ^{2 3 4} Countries where citizens have higher confidence in government, science, the rule of law and each other are more likely to comply with government guidance, such as mask wearing, physical distancing or vaccination programmes. ⁵
Primary data source	OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions ("Trust Survey"), 2021
Technical definitions	<p>The OECD Trust Survey took place in November-December 2021 in most countries (26 Nov - 7 Dec 2021 in Belgium), with a few surveys taking place in 2020 and January-March 2022. Questionnaires were sent out online to a representative sample of citizens, which was ensured through the use of quotas (gender, age, region, education). The sample size in Belgium was 2 036 and the response rate to the total number of questionnaires sent was 67%.⁶</p> <p>Participants were asked to answer to the following question: "If a new serious contagious disease spreads, how likely or unlikely do you think is it that government institutions will be prepared to protect people's life?" using a 0-10 scale (0: unlikely, 10: likely). The "likely" proportion is the aggregation of responses from 6-10 on the scale; "neutral" is equal to a response of 5; "unlikely" is the aggregation of responses from 1-4; and "Don't know" was a separate answer choice.</p>
Limitations	Data for this indicator was only available at one point in time and it is uncertain whether this data will be available for future Belgium HSPA reports.



	Responses to this survey may be affected to a certain extent by pandemic fatigue, as the survey was conducted around the time of the introduction of some new COVID-19 restrictions in Europe. Data was only available at the national level, which might not reflect the regional variability in perceived likelihood that that government would be prepared for the next pandemic.
International comparability	The OECD Trust Survey was carried across 22 OECD countries, including 12 EU countries.
Performance dimensions	Sustainability
Related indicators	Trust in the healthcare system (S-30); Preparedness to public health risks and acute events (R-14)
Reviewer	Stefaan Van Der Borght (FPS Public Health)

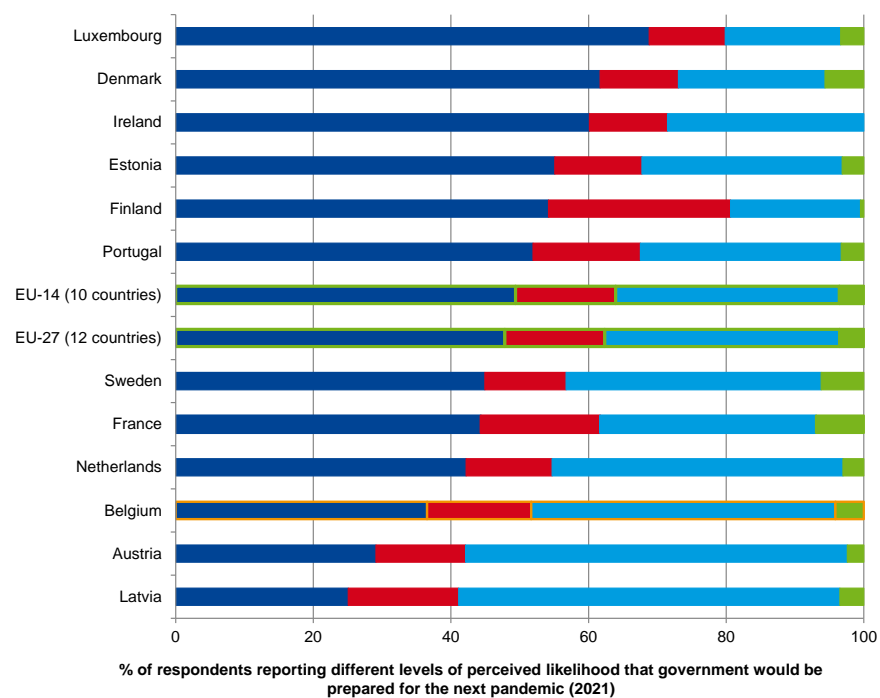
1.1.2 Results

In 2021, approximately 37% of respondents in Belgium expressed confidence that the government would be prepared to protect people's lives in the event of a new pandemic, 15% were neutral, and 44% reported that the government is unlikely to be prepared for the next pandemic (see Figure 1, below). Combining the respondents with a positive view on government preparedness with the respondents with a "neutral" view on government preparedness represents a majority of respondents (52%).

The share of respondents with a positive view on government preparedness was lower in Belgium than the EU-14 (49%) and EU-27 (48%) average shares. Belgium was one of the countries with the lowest share of respondents expressing confidence that the government would be prepared for the pandemic.



Figure 1 – Share of respondents reporting different levels of perceived likelihood that government would be prepared for the next pandemic (2021)



Source: OECD Trust Survey 2021

■ Likely ■ Neutral ■ Unlikely ■ Don't know

Key points

- In 2021, approximately 37% of Belgian respondents expressed confidence that the government would be prepared for the next pandemic, which was lower than in the EU-14 (49%) and EU-27 (48%) countries.

References

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