



Nationwide Survey on Climate Change

Prepared for the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

September 2023

METRON ANALYSIS



Survey methodology

Company: Metron Analysis (NCRTV Registration Number 4, General Commercial Registry Number 002305501000)

Commissioned by: Syndicated survey

Type of survey: Nationwide public opinion survey - Combination of Computer Assisted Telephone & Web Interviews

Sampling method: Telephone survey: Simple random sampling from a file of randomly generated landline and mobile telephone numbers (RDD-Random Digit Dialing) with the following ratio: 69% landline phones and 31% mobile phones.
Online survey: Quota-based random selection from an online panel

Time period: 29/08-04/09/2023

Sample size: 1.005 individuals aged 17 and above, 601 contacted by phone (416 on landline phones and 185 on mobile phones) and 404 online.
Maximum sampling error $\pm 3,1\%$

Weightings: The sample was post-weighted by gender, age, and vote in the 2023 Parliamentary election

Field staff/Checks: Three supervisors and 26 interviewers worked on the telephone survey. 23% of telephone interviews were checked by listening-in. 100% of interviews were checked electronically.

Comments: In the tables that follow, data is only indicative when bases are smaller than 60 respondents.

Note: Due to rounding some distributions may not add up to 100%

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Introduction

Climate change is emerging today as one of the major issues that concerns and worries citizens and governments. It is also a key "piece" in the mosaic of the "permacrisis" i.e., the successive crises we face both on an international and on a national level.

The present survey attempts to capture the attitudes and perceptions of Greek citizens that shed light on how **our relationship with the natural environment** is shaped or transformed today, as well as the **threats and challenges** related to climate change.

The survey was conducted between August 29 and September 4, 2023, i.e., after a summer during which large-scale wildfires occurred in Greece, but before the occurrence of Storm Daniel, that severely affected significant parts of the country.

The general climate

The **significant worsening of the general climate** of optimism/pessimism prevailing in the country can be attributed, at least partially, to the extensive natural disasters caused by the wildfires during the summer period.

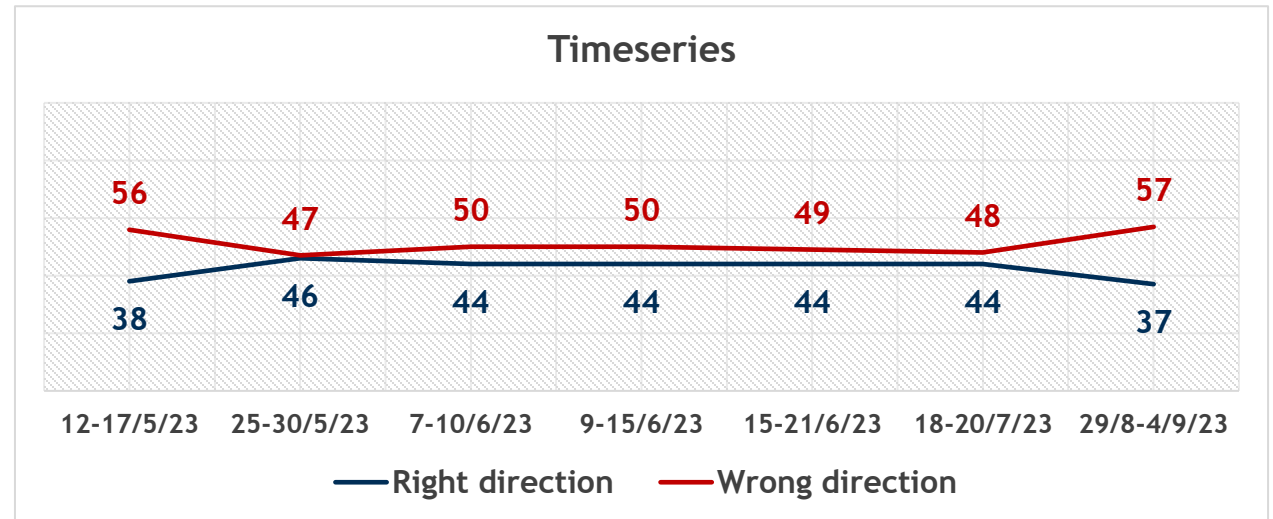
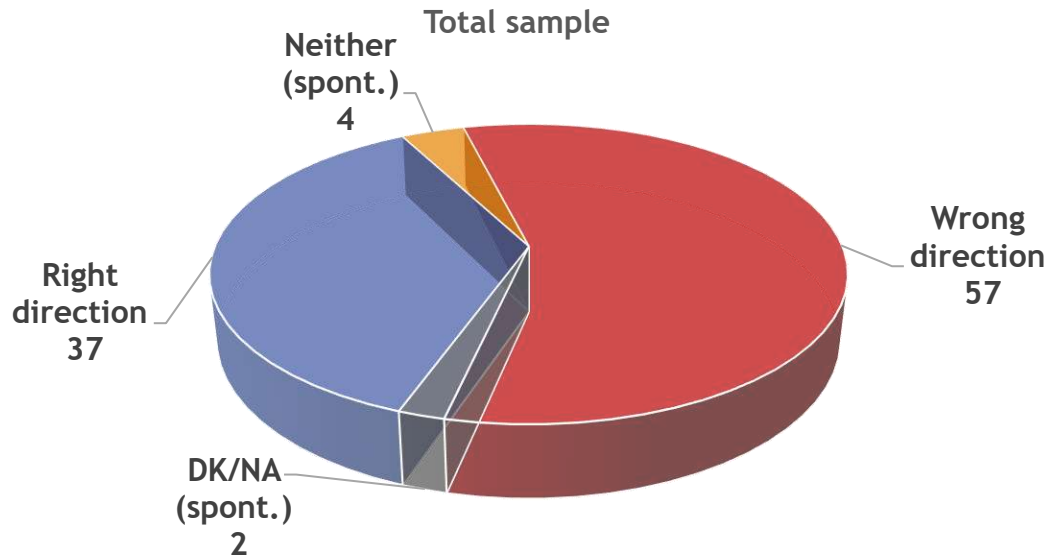
As a result, **37%** of respondents think that the country is currently moving in the right direction, while **57%** think that it is moving in the wrong direction. In fact, the evolution of this index over time suggests that after a period of relative optimism that followed the May-June elections, the balance of optimism/pessimism became particularly negative again, reaching -20%.

It is characteristic that **the feeling of pessimism is more strongly shared by the younger generations**, as the percentage of 57% of those who say that the country is moving in the wrong direction rises to 71% among Generation Z respondents (17-26 years old) and to 67% among Millennials (27-42 years old).

The general climate of optimism in the country is at 37%. The direction balance (in the right direction-in the wrong direction) is negative and reaches -20%

%

'In your opinion is our country currently moving in the right direction or in the wrong direction?'



The country's direction by gender and generations

%

	Gender			Generations				
	Total	Male	Female	Generation Z (17-26 y.o.)	Millennials (27-42 y.o.)	Generation X (43-58 y.o.)	Boomers (59-77 y.o.)	Silent (78+ y.o.)**
Right direction	37	41	32	25	29	39	45	50
Neither right nor wrong direction (spont.)	4	5	3	2	3	4	4	13
Wrong direction	57	52	63	71	67	54	50	33
DK/NA (spont.)	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	4

• Percentage <0.5%
** Base smaller than 60 respondents

The country's direction by region of residence

%

	Region						
	Total	Attica	Macedonia/Thrace	Epirus/Ionian Islands**	Thessaly/Central Greece	Peloponnese/Western Greece	Crete/Aegean Islands
Right direction	37	35	35	40	31	46	40
Neither right nor wrong direction (spont.)	4	4	3	6	4	2	3
Wrong direction	57	58	61	51	62	50	56
DK/NA (spont.)	2	3	1	2	3	2	1

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

The country's direction by education level and employment status

%

	Education level				Employment status							
	Total	Basic	Middle	Higher/ Highest	Self-employed	Farmers**	Public sector employees	Private sector employees	Unemployed	Students**	Pensioners	Housewives
Right direction	37	40	36	36	41	63	38	31	20	25	42	47
Neither right nor wrong direction (spont.)	4	5	3	4	6	2	4	2	3	2	6	3
Wrong direction	57	55	59	57	50	35	56	64	77	73	48	50
DK/NA (spont.)	2	*	2	3	3	*	2	3	1	*	3	*

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

The country's direction by self-positioning on the political scale

%

Self-positioning on the political scale

	Total	Left	Centre-left	Centre	Centre-right	Right	None (spont.)
Right direction	37	12	21	42	72	48	16
Neither right nor wrong direction (spont.)	4	3	2	8	3	4	1
Wrong direction	57	85	76	48	23	46	80
DK/NA (spont.)	2	1	2	2	2	2	3

• Percentage <0.5%
** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Most important problems

In this climate, what are considered to be the most important problems the country is facing?

In the spontaneous mentions, **High prices** come in first place (30%) followed by the **Economy** (21%), both issues that public opinion is "traditionally" concerned about; **but at third place we find the Destruction of the environment** (9%).

It is worth noting that in the corresponding question posed in a survey we conducted in April 2022 (Ministry for the Climate Crisis and Civil Protection / Dianeosis), High prices and the Economy were again at the top spots (at 26% and 24% respectively), however the Destruction of the environment **had much fewer mentions (at 3%)**, lower than Poverty/Inequality, Unemployment, and Corruption.

Most important problems

When the same question is asked regarding the **most important problems that the planet is facing**, we see a noteworthy difference, but also a crucial similarity.

In the aforementioned 2022 survey, respondents rated the most important issues on a global level in the following order: Destruction of the environment (17%), Regional conflicts/War (14%) - due also to the topicality of the Ukraine war - Climate change (13%), but also High prices (11%), as inflationary pressures were beginning to be felt.

In the current survey however, **Climate change has been propelled to first place with 29%** as the major problem that the planet is currently facing, followed by **Destruction of the environment (with an increased percentage of 21%)**, while all other mentions are at single-digit percentages.

It is worth noting that climate change is mentioned by far as the most important problem on a global level by respondents from the entirety of the political spectrum (Left to Centre-right), with the exception of those who position themselves as being on the Right.

Most important problems

As a result, a **double observation** can be made:

- ❑ **Climate change**, possibly also due to the summer season of extensive natural disasters (wildfires) that were largely attributed to the climate crisis, seems to be by far **the number 1 perceived problem of the planet**; and if we also take into account the increased references to the Destruction of the natural environment, there is perhaps **an indication of increased sensitivity to environmental issues**.
- ❑ However, the current survey confirms an observation also made in the corresponding 2022 survey: while citizens consider environmental problems to be major on a global level, **at the same time** - and despite the destructive wildfires of the summer season - **they do not attribute the same importance on a national level** (as we saw, Destruction of the natural environment is at third place with 9% vs. 3% in the 2022 survey, while in both surveys climate change only gets a percentage of 1%).

Most important problems

This shows a **cognitive gap that has not yet been bridged**. The global does not translate to the local.

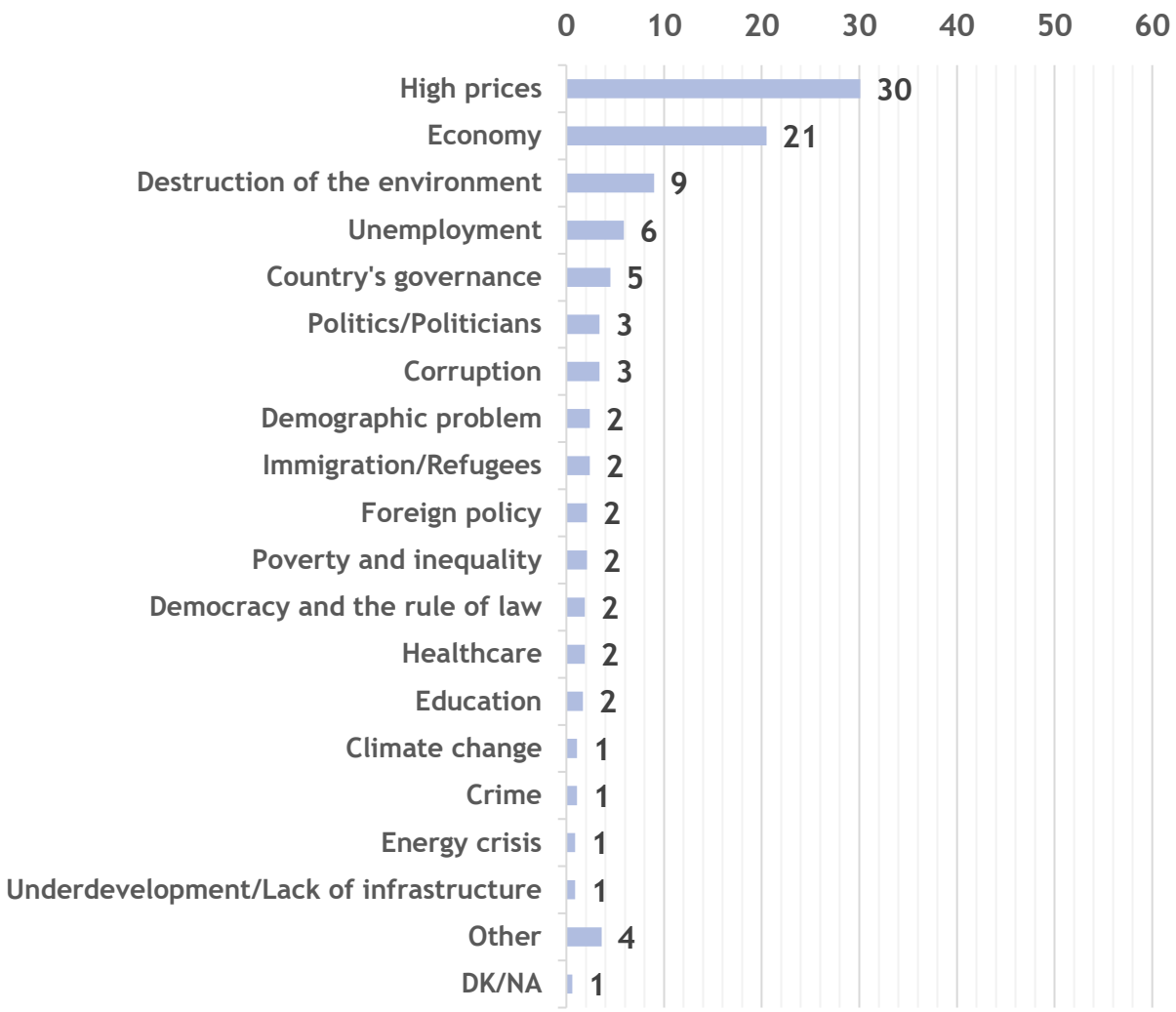
The potentially increased public awareness of environmental and climate crisis issues on a global level **does not go hand in hand** with a similarly intense sensitivity on the national level. Different national priorities arise precisely because people **perceive the problem as global rather than local**.

The apparent **absence of strong regulatory rules and global interventions** contributes to this asymmetry, as does the **ineffectiveness of national policies**, especially when the phenomena associated with the climate crisis are more violent.

High prices and the economy are at the top positions of spontaneous mentions of the most important problem in our country

%

'Which do you think is the most important problem that our country is currently facing?' (spontaneous)



	6-24/4/22	29/8-4/9/23
High prices	26	30
Economy	24	21
Destruction of the environment	3	9
Unemployment	7	6
Country's governance	*	5
Politics/Politicians	2	3
Corruption	5	3
Demographic problem	1	2
Immigration/Refugees	*	2
Foreign policy	1	2
Poverty and inequality	9	2
Democracy and the rule of law	3	2
Coronavirus/Pandemics/Healthcare	4	2
Education	1	2
Climate change	1	1
Crime	*	1
Energy crisis	4	1
Underdevelopment/Lack of infrastructure	*	1
Regional conflicts/War	2	*

Country's most important problem by gender and generations

%	Gender			Generations				
	Total	Male	Female	Generation Z (17-26 y.o.)	Millennials (27-42 y.o.)	Generation X (43-58 y.o.)	Boomers (59-77 y.o.)	Silent (78+ y.o.)**
High prices	30	29	31	33	39	30	21	22
Economy	21	18	23	21	14	22	27	12
Destruction of the environment	9	9	9	14	5	7	12	15
Unemployment	6	6	6	9	5	7	4	6
Country's governance	5	4	5	4	5	5	4	4
Politics/Politicians	3	4	3	3	5	2	5	4
Corruption	3	4	3	2	5	3	3	*
Demographic problem	2	4	*	1	4	2	2	2
Immigration/Refugees	2	3	2	*	1	4	3	4
Foreign policy	2	2	2	1	1	1	4	8
Poverty and inequality	2	1	3	3	2	3	1	5
Democracy and the rule of law	2	2	2	*	3	2	3	*
Healthcare	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	4
Education	2	2	2	3	4	1	*	*
Climate change	1	1	2	*	2	2	*	*
Crime	1	1	2	*	*	2	1	6
Energy crisis	1	2	*	*	2	1	1	*
Underdevelopment/ Lack of infrastructure	1	1	1	3	*	1	1	2
Other	4	4	3	1	1	5	5	6
None	*	*	*	1	*	*	*	*
DK/NA	1	*	1	*	1	1	1	*

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Country's most important problem by region of residence

%

Region

	Total	Attica	Macedonia/Thrace	Epirus/Ionian Islands**	Thessaly/Central Greece	Peloponnese/Western Greece	Crete/Aegean Islands
High prices	30	31	28	28	33	37	24
Economy	21	19	23	25	25	19	16
Destruction of the environment	9	10	10	*	9	5	10
Unemployment	6	5	8	4	7	8	4
Country's governance	5	5	3	4	2	3	13
Politics/Politicians	3	3	6	3	6	2	1
Corruption	3	3	5	4	1	5	1
Demographic problem	2	3	1	6	3	5	*
Immigration/Refugees	2	3	3	2	1	3	2
Foreign policy	2	3	2	6	*	1	2
Poverty and inequality	2	3	1	2	1	3	3
Democracy and the rule of law	2	2	1	4	4	*	2
Healthcare	2	1	2	5	1	3	4
Education	2	2	1	*	1	*	4
Climate change	1	1	2	*	*	*	1
Crime	1	1	1	*	1	1	2
Energy crisis	1	1	1	*	3	*	1
Underdevelopment/Lack of infrastructure	1	*	1	4	1	2	*
Other	4	4	1	4	2	6	10
None	*	1	*	*	*	*	*
DK/NA	1	1	*	2	*	*	*

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Country's most important problem by education level and employment status

%	Education level				Employment status							
	Total	Basic	Middle	Higher/ Highest	Self-employed	Farmers**	Public sector employees	Private sector employees	Unemployed	Students**	Pensioners	Housewives
High prices	30	31	32	29	22	23	34	39	37	24	23	30
Economy	21	19	20	21	17	34	21	20	15	22	23	18
Destruction of the environment	9	9	8	9	12	12	5	7	4	11	13	10
Unemployment	6	13	6	4	5	16	5	3	15	7	3	11
Country's governance	5	4	4	5	4	*	8	5	7	4	3	2
Politics/Politicians	3	3	4	3	5	*	4	1	5	4	5	4
Corruption	3	*	4	4	6	2	2	3	4	5	4	1
Demographic problem	2	*	3	3	3	4	6	2	1	2	1	*
Immigration/ Refugees	2	5	3	2	1	5	1	3	1	*	3	8
Foreign policy	2	1	2	3	3	*	1	1	1	*	5	2
Poverty and inequality	2	4	1	2	1	*	2	3	2	3	2	2
Democracy and the rule of law	2	1	3	1	3	*	2	3	*	*	3	*
Healthcare	2	2	2	2	1	4	3	1	2	8	2	2
Education	2	2	1	2	2	*	2	2	4	5	*	*
Climate change	1	*	1	1	3	*	2	1	*	*	*	*
Crime	1	3	1	1	1	*	1	1	*	*	2	4
Energy crisis	1	*	1	1	2	*	*	2	*	*	1	*
Underdevelopment/ Lack of infrastructure	1	1	1	1	2	*	*	*	*	5	2	*
Other	4	3	3	4	6	*	3	3	1	2	5	5
None	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2
DK/NA	1	*	1	1	2	*	1	*	1	*	*	1

* Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Country's most important problem by self-positioning on the political scale

%

Self-positioning on the political scale

	Total	Left	Centre-left	Centre	Centre-right	Right	None (spont.)
High prices	30	34	29	28	31	33	30
Economy	21	24	19	26	20	18	15
Destruction of the environment	9	3	11	7	16	12	5
Unemployment	6	7	3	5	5	7	9
Country's governance	5	5	5	4	3	2	8
Politics/Politicians	3	2	3	5	2	1	10
Corruption	3	3	4	4	1	3	7
Demographic problem	2	1	2	3	2	6	1
Immigration/Refugees	2	*	*	3	3	6	3
Foreign policy	2	1	2	2	4	3	*
Poverty and inequality	2	3	4	1	2	1	2
Democracy and the rule of law	2	4	3	1	1	2	1
Healthcare	2	5	5	1	*	*	2
Education	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Climate change	1	*	1	1	1	1	2
Crime	1	*	1	2	2	1	1
Energy crisis	1	1	2	*	1	1	1
Underdevelopment/Lack of infrastructure	1	1	*	2	1	1	*
Other	4	6	4	3	4	2	2
None	*	*	*	*	*	1	1
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	*	1

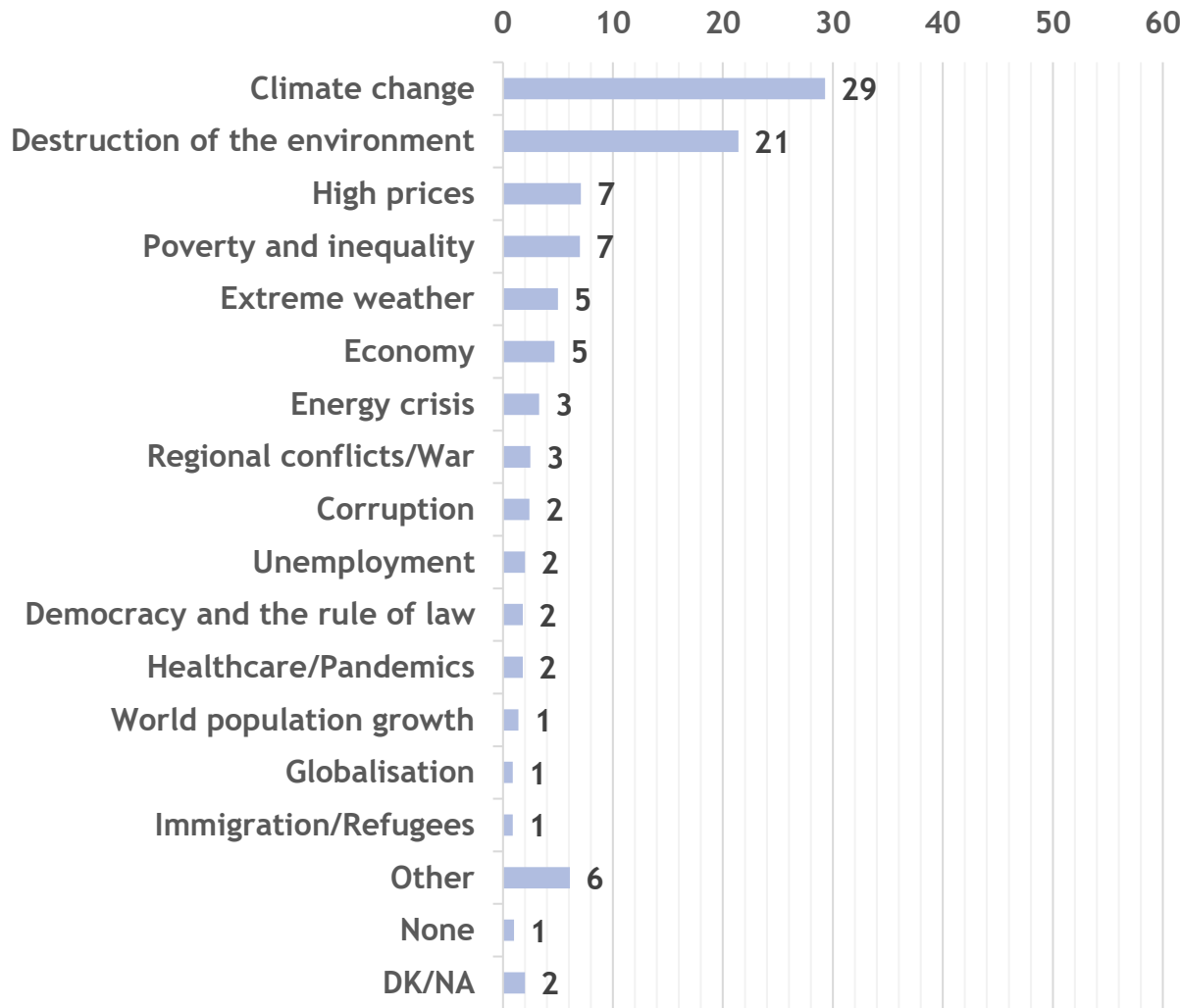
• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Climate change and the destruction of the environment are at the top positions of spontaneous mentions of the planet's most important problem, with a significant margin compared to other problems

%

'Which do you think is the most important problem that the planet is currently facing?' (spontaneous)



	6-24/4/22	29/8-4/9/23
Climate change	13	29
Destruction of the environment	17	21
High prices	11	7
Poverty and inequality	9	7
Extreme weather	2	5
Economy	8	5
Energy crisis	4	3
Regional conflicts/War	14	3
Corruption	3	2
Unemployment	4	2
Democracy and the rule of law	1	2
Healthcare/Pandemics	5	2
World population growth	1	1
Globalisation	*	1
Immigration/Refugees	*	1
International terrorism	1	*

Planet's most important problem by gender and generations

%	Gender			Generations				
	Total	Male	Female	Generation Z (17-26 y.o.)	Millennials (27-42 y.o.)	Generation X (43-58 y.o.)	Boomers (59-77 y.o.)	Silent (78+ y.o.)**
Climate change	29	26	33	20	19	29	43	39
Destruction of the environment	21	18	26	24	21	24	18	22
High prices	7	7	7	8	14	5	3	2
Poverty and inequality	7	8	6	11	9	6	5	2
Extreme weather	5	5	5	6	6	5	3	8
Economy	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	2
Energy crisis	3	3	3	3	6	3	2	*
Regional conflicts/War	3	4	1	4	1	2	4	2
Corruption	2	3	2	2	4	2	1	2
Unemployment	2	3	1	5	4	1	*	*
Democracy and the rule of law	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	*
Healthcare/Pandemics	2	2	1	6	2	2	*	4
World population growth	1	2	1	*	*	3	2	*
Globalisation	1	1	1	*	*	*	4	*
Immigration/Refugees	1	1	*	*	*	2	1	*
Other	6	7	6	3	5	8	6	8
None	1	1	*	2	*	*	*	*
DK/NA	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	9

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Planet's most important problem by region of residence

%

	Region						
	Total	Attica	Macedonia/Thrace	Epirus/Ionian Islands**	Thessaly/Central Greece	Peloponnese/Western Greece	Crete/Aegean Islands
Climate change	29	27	33	32	26	31	26
Destruction of the environment	21	23	20	16	21	17	26
High prices	7	8	6	2	11	5	7
Poverty and inequality	7	7	6	13	8	7	7
Extreme weather	5	4	4	4	7	8	8
Economy	5	4	6	*	6	6	4
Energy crisis	3	3	5	7	1	2	2
Regional conflicts/War	3	3	2	*	6	*	1
Corruption	2	2	3	4	3	4	2
Unemployment	2	3	3	*	1	2	*
Democracy and the rule of law	2	2	1	2	2	4	*
Healthcare/Pandemics	2	2	2	6	2	1	*
World population growth	1	2	1	4	*	1	1
Globalisation	1	2	1	3	1	*	*
Immigration/Refugees	1	1	2	2	2	1	*
Other	6	6	5	5	*	7	13
None	1	1	*	*	1	*	*
DK/NA	2	2	1	2	3	5	4

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Planet's most important problem by education level and employment status

%	Education level				Employment status							
	Total	Basic	Middle	Higher/ Highest	Self-employed	Farmers**	Public sector employees	Private sector employees	Unemployed	Students**	Pensioners	Housewives
Climate change	29	33	29	29	29	32	32	24	18	31	41	30
Destruction of the environment	21	20	19	24	22	21	23	21	19	21	21	24
High prices	7	5	8	7	9	13	8	9	10	5	3	3
Poverty and inequality	7	4	5	9	6	11	5	9	8	11	3	6
Extreme weather	5	6	6	5	4	3	7	5	6	3	5	4
Economy	5	5	5	5	6	12	3	5	5	6	3	4
Energy crisis	3	*	4	4	2	*	3	5	7	2	2	3
Regional conflicts/War	3	*	2	3	2	*	2	2	3	5	4	2
Corruption	2	*	5	1	4	*	*	4	1	*	2	1
Unemployment	2	6	2	2	*	4	3	2	7	1	*	1
Democracy and the rule of law	2	*	3	1	1	*	4	2	3	4	*	1
Healthcare/Pandemics	2	3	2	2	3	*	2	1	2	5	1	1
World population growth	1	2	1	2	2	*	1	1	3	*	2	*
Globalisation	1	1	*	1	1	*	*	*	2	*	3	2
Immigration/Refugees	1	4	1	*	*	*	2	1	1	*	1	2
Other	6	5	7	6	8	4	3	5	6	6	7	11
None	1	*	1	*	1	*	1	*	*	*	*	*
DK/NA	2	6	2	1	2	*	1	3	1	*	2	5

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Planet's most important problem by self-positioning on the political scale

%

Self-positioning on the political scale

	Total	Left	Centre-left	Centre	Centre-right	Right	None (spont.)
Climate change	29	33	35	33	39	16	11
Destruction of the environment	21	25	25	22	17	19	21
High prices	7	5	4	9	5	13	9
Poverty and inequality	7	9	8	5	5	5	13
Extreme weather	5	7	3	6	5	7	4
Economy	5	4	3	4	6	7	6
Energy crisis	3	3	4	3	4	4	3
Regional conflicts/War	3	2	1	2	4	3	2
Corruption	2	1	3	2	*	3	7
Unemployment	2	1	2	1	3	1	4
Democracy and the rule of law	2	1	2	2	1	1	4
Healthcare/Pandemics	2	1	3	3	1	1	1
World population growth	1	2	*	*	4	2	*
Globalisation	1	1	1	1	*	1	1
Immigration/Refugees	1	*	*	1	1	2	2
Other	6	5	7	6	3	8	9
None	1	1	*	*	*	1	2
DK/NA	2	2	1	2	1	6	1

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Is climate change real?

When it comes specifically to the perception of climate change, **over 8 out of 10 respondents (84%) believe that climate change is in fact real.**

It is interesting to note that compared to the aforementioned 2022 survey this percentage shows a **slight decline** (down from 91%) and there is a respective rise in the percentage of those who believe that climate change is not real (up from 9% to 15%).

From a demographic point of view, it is worth noting that the percentage of **15% of respondents who do not accept that climate change is real rises slightly among the younger generations** (Gen Z 19%, Millennials 17%), among respondents with a **basic or middle education level (20%)** and among those who position themselves politically as being **on the Right (28%)**, an indication that this scepticism may be multifaceted.

This is an indication that the importance or even the existence of climate change **does not automatically translate** to an equally strong perception on the level of direct experience, despite events such as the summer wildfires pointing perhaps in the opposite direction.

It could be hypothesized that **the recorded decline in the acceptance of the existence of the climate crisis is also due to the gradual politicization of the issue**, and this can be seen from the aforementioned **differences on the Left-Right scale**, as has already been seen to a greater degree in other Western countries

Is climate change real?

In any case, it is necessary to monitor the **long-term evolution** of the specific issue, which nevertheless indicates that the vast majority of Greek society does not deny the existence of climate change.

If we attempt to place the Greek case in a **comparative international context**, a useful indication is the "International Public Opinion on Climate Change" survey of the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, as an order of magnitude; since this survey was conducted over a different time period (February-March 2021) among active Facebook users from 31 countries, who may have different demographics characteristics than the total population.

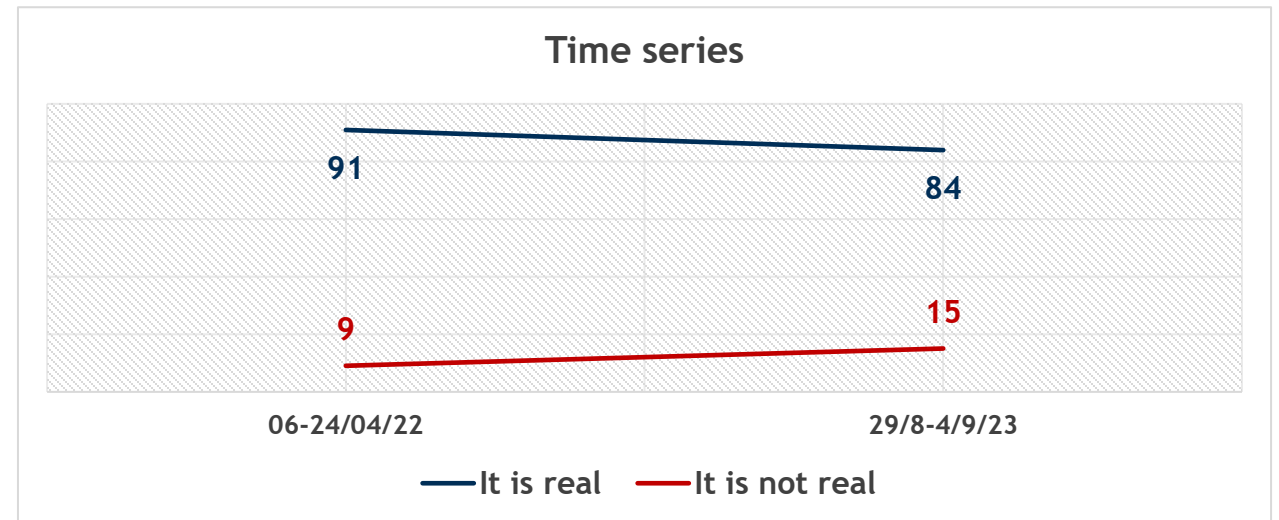
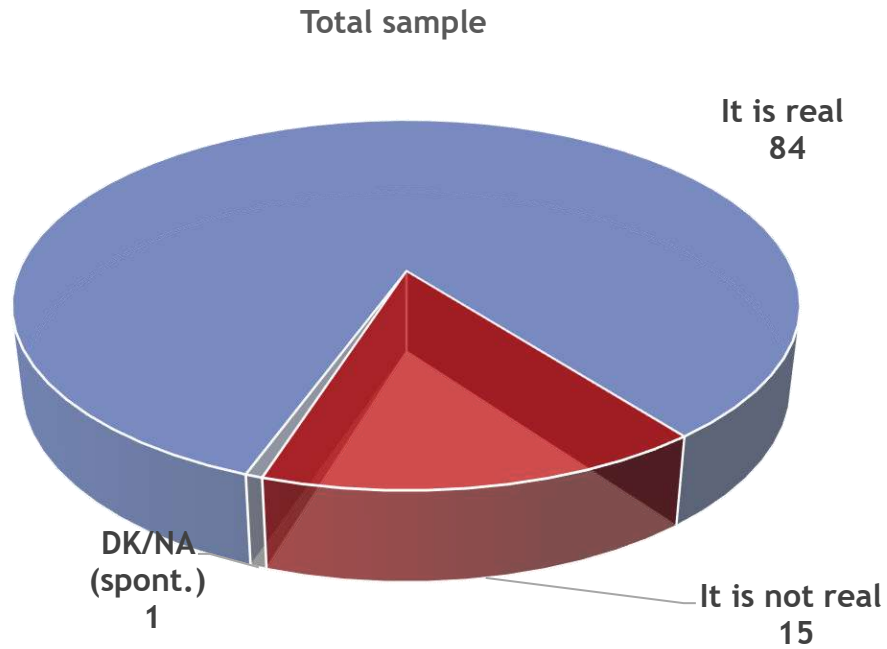
In the corresponding question, the percentage of 84% of those who think that climate change is real brings Greece closer to countries such as South Africa and Australia (with a corresponding percentage of 84%) and above the USA (80%) - although at a distance from countries with a particularly high corresponding percentage (Costa Rica 94%), but also from other Mediterranean countries facing similar climatic conditions (Spain 92%, Turkey 89%, Italy 88% - but above Egypt, 79%).

In any case, the 91% percentage in our own 2022 survey places our country among the higher positions in the relevant ranking, together with France or Mexico.

More than 8 out of 10 respondents (84%) think that climate change is real.

%

'Do you think that climate change is real or not?'



Climate change by gender and generations

%

	Gender			Generations				
	Total	Male	Female	Generation Z (17-26 y.o.)	Millennials (27-42 y.o.)	Generation X (43-58 y.o.)	Boomers (59-77 y.o.)	Silent (78+ y.o.)**
It is real	84	79	89	80	83	84	84	93
It is not real	15	20	11	19	17	16	15	2
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	1	1	*	*	1	5

• Percentage <0.5%
** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Climate change by region of residence

%

	Region						
	Total	Attica	Macedonia/Thrace	Epirus/Ionian Islands**	Thessaly/Central Greece	Peloponnese/Western Greece	Crete/Aegean Islands
It is real	84	86	84	85	81	79	84
It is not real	15	14	16	15	19	20	15
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	1	*	*	2	1

- Percentage <0.5%
- ** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Climate change by education level and employment status

%

	Education level				Employment status							
	Total	Basic	Middle	Higher/ Highest	Self-employed	Farmers**	Public sector employees	Private sector employees	Unemployed	Students**	Pensioners	Housewives
It is real	84	76	79	88	80	89	93	84	74	84	84	83
It is not real	15	20	20	12	19	12	7	16	26	14	14	17
DK/NA (spont.)	1	4	1	*	1	*	*	*	*	2	2	*

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Climate change by self-positioning on the political scale

%

Self-positioning on the political scale

	Total	Left	Centre-left	Centre	Centre-right	Right	None (spont.)
It is real	84	94	88	90	89	72	63
It is not real	15	6	11	9	11	28	38
DK/NA (spont.)	1	*	1	1	1	*	*

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Climate change: anthropogenic or not?

Continuing, the majority of respondents, **over 6 out of 10 (63%) in the total population, attribute climate change to human activity**, while **only 8%** think it is due to natural-environmental factors, while 13% attribute it to both.

Again, we notice that **the anthropogenic dimension of climate change is relatively less accepted among younger generations (Gen Z 52%, Millennials 60%)** as well as among respondents with a **basic/middle education level (56%/57%)** and those who position themselves politically as being on the **Right (52%)**.

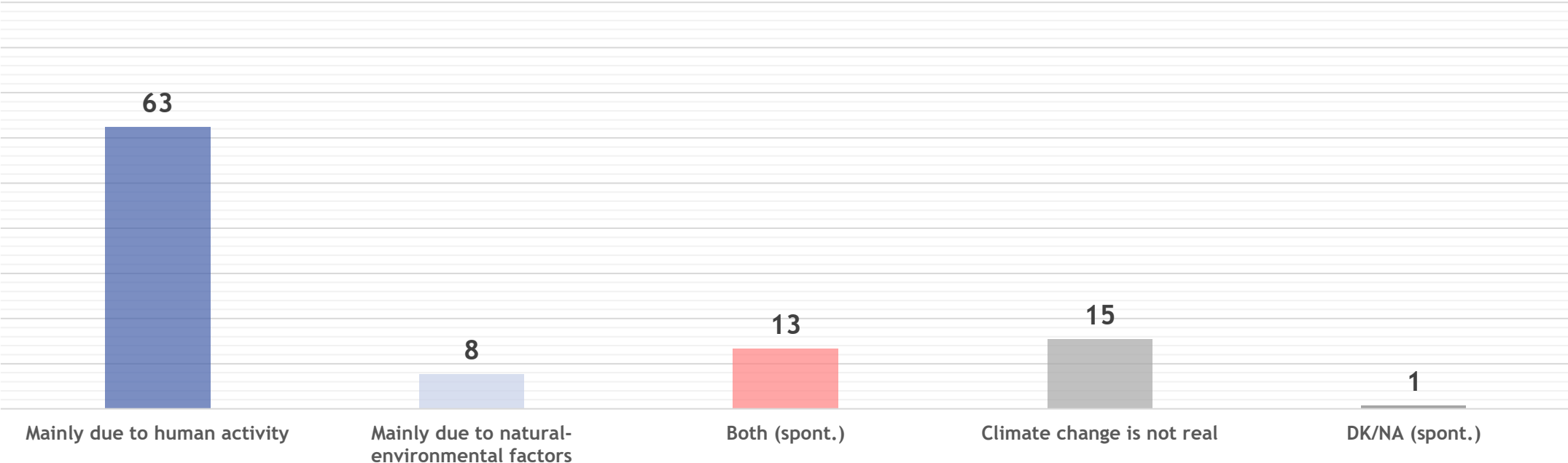
If we once again compare these findings with the findings of the Yale survey, we see that the percentage of 63% of Greeks who think that the climate crisis is anthropogenic is **similar to the relevant percentages in countries, especially Mediterranean ones, where this view is stronger (Spain 64%, Italy 60%)**, while it differs from other Mediterranean countries (Turkey 41%, Egypt 29%) and the USA (40%).

More than 6 out of 10 respondents (63%) attribute climate change mainly to human activity

%

'What do you think climate change is mainly due to?'

Total sample



Main responsibility for climate change by gender and generations

%

	Gender			Generations				
	Total	Male	Female	Generation Z (17-26 y.o.)	Millennials (27-42 y.o.)	Generation X (43-58 y.o.)	Boomers (59-77 y.o.)	Silent (78+ y.o.)**
Mainly due to human activity	63	59	66	52	60	66	65	67
Mainly due to natural-environmental factors	8	10	6	9	10	4	8	14
Both (spont.)	13	11	16	19	14	14	11	10
Climate change is not real	15	20	11	19	17	16	15	2
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	1	1	*	1	1	7

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Main responsibility for climate change by region of residence

%

	Region						
	Total	Attica	Macedonia/Thrace	Epirus/Ionian Islands**	Thessaly/Central Greece	Peloponnese/Western Greece	Crete/Aegean Islands
Mainly due to human activity	63	63	64	69	61	52	65
Mainly due to natural-environmental factors	8	8	6	6	8	10	7
Both (spont.)	13	14	13	10	12	15	12
Climate change is not real	15	14	16	15	19	20	15
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	1	*	*	3	1

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Main responsibility for climate change by education level and employment status

%

	Education level				Employment status							
	Total	Basic	Middle	Higher/ Highest	Self-employed	Farmers**	Public sector employees	Private sector employees	Unemployed	Students**	Pensioners	Housewives
Mainly due to human activity	63	56	57	67	62	75	76	60	59	48	64	56
Mainly due to natural-environmental factors	8	11	7	8	8	9	7	7	3	7	10	5
Both (spont.)	13	9	15	13	11	5	9	16	12	29	10	21
Climate change is not real	15	20	20	12	19	12	7	16	26	14	14	17
DK/NA (spont.)	1	5	1	*	1	*	*	*	*	2	2	2

• Percentage <0.5%
 ** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Main responsibility for climate change by self-positioning on the political scale

%

Self-positioning on the political scale

	Total	Left	Centre-left	Centre	Centre-right	Right	None (spont.)
Mainly due to human activity	63	74	69	70	62	52	39
Mainly due to natural-environmental factors	8	6	7	7	10	11	6
Both (spont.)	13	14	13	14	16	9	17
Climate change is not real	15	6	11	9	11	28	38
DK/NA (spont.)	1	*	1	1	2	*	*

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Concern about climate change

Regarding feelings towards climate change, **almost 8 out of 10 respondents, i.e., 79% express a strong concern** (specifically: 43% say they are “very concerned” and 39% “quite concerned”), while only 21% say that they are “not so much” or “not at all” concerned.

Here we see the same demographic pattern, as this concern seems to be relatively **less pronounced among the younger generations** (Gen Z 72%, Millennials 76%), respondents with a **basic/middle education level** (75% and 76%), and those who position themselves politically as being on the **Right** (68%).

Furthermore, **the perception that climate change is not real is clearly associated with a lower degree of concern about it**, as the overall percentage of 9% of respondents who say they are “not at all” concerned **rises to 48%** among those who think that climate change is not real.

Concern about climate change

It is worth noting that **among farmers** the degree of concern reaches **90%**, while this is also the group with the highest levels of acceptance of the reality of climate change and of acknowledgment of its anthropogenic origins. We might say that this is **possibly due to their direct and lived relationship with the natural environment**, resulting in increased sensitivity.

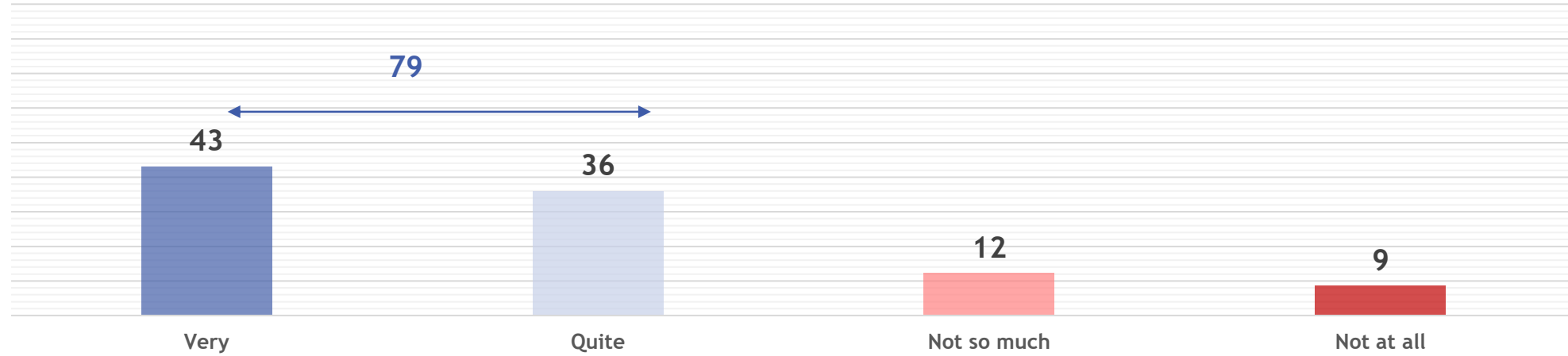
A comparison with the findings of the aforementioned Yale survey suggests that the feeling of concern about climate change seems to be internationally at moderate to high levels, while **the Greek case seems to be similar to countries with relatively high levels of concern** (Malaysia: 80%, Poland: 79%), but lower than Mediterranean countries such as Spain (89%), Italy (88%) or Turkey (85%).

Almost 8 out of 10 respondents are very/quite concerned about climate change

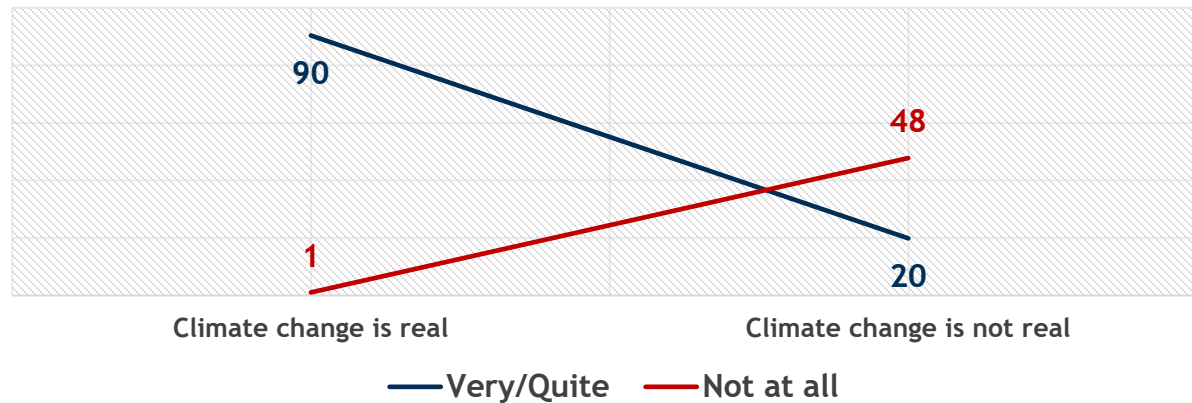
%

'How concerned are you about climate change?'

Total sample



By perceived reality of climate change



Degree of concern for climate change by gender and generations

%

	Gender			Generations				
	Total	Male	Female	Generation Z (17-26 y.o.)	Millennials (27-42 y.o.)	Generation X (43-58 y.o.)	Boomers (59-77 y.o.)	Silent (78+ y.o.)**
Very/Quite	79	71	87	72	76	80	83	89
Not so much	12	16	8	20	16	10	9	6
Not at all	9	12	4	8	9	10	8	2
DK/NA (spont.)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3

• Percentage <0.5%
 ** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Degree of concern for climate change by region of residence

%

	Region						
	Total	Attica	Macedonia/Thrace	Epirus/Ionian Islands**	Thessaly/Central Greece	Peloponnese/Western Greece	Crete/Aegean Islands
Very/Quite	79	80	78	85	79	78	79
Not so much	12	14	11	6	13	10	15
Not at all	9	6	12	10	8	12	4
DK/NA (spont.)	*	*	*	*	*	*	2

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Degree of concern for climate change by education level and employment status

%

	Education level				Employment status							
	Total	Basic	Middle	Higher/ Highest	Self-employed	Farmers**	Public sector employees	Private sector employees	Unemployed	Students**	Pensioners	Housewives
Very/Quite	79	75	76	82	78	90	86	76	72	74	81	84
Not so much	12	12	14	11	12	6	9	13	14	20	10	13
Not at all	9	11	11	7	10	4	5	11	14	6	8	2
DK/NA (spont.)	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	1

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Degree of concern for climate change by self-positioning on the political scale

%

Self-positioning on the political scale

	Total	Left	Centre-left	Centre	Centre-right	Right	None (spont.)
Very/Quite	79	91	84	81	83	68	60
Not so much	12	6	11	14	12	15	18
Not at all	9	3	5	5	5	17	20
DK/NA (spont.)	*	*	*	*	*	*	2

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Information about climate change

When it comes to information, it seems that a significant **percentage of 29%, almost 3 out of 10 respondents, would like much more information about climate change**. If we also add the **36%** who say they would like some more information, we come at a percentage of **65%** for which **more knowledge and information on climate change is considered essential** in order to have a better picture.

In fact, “much more information” is more desirable among the **older generations** (Boomers, 59-77 years old: 35%) and respondents with a **basic education level** (46%).

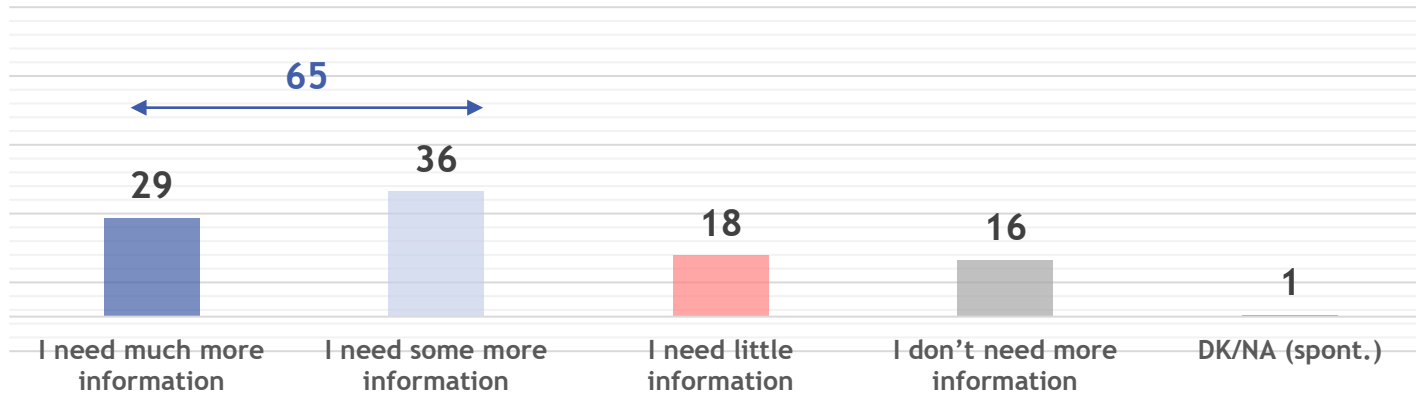
As before, respondents who think that climate change is not real **show much less willingness and need of information on the issue**, with **43%** of them saying that they “don’t need information”, compared to 16% among the total population.

A comparison with the Yale survey puts Greece in an **intermediate position** based on how strongly the demand for “much more information” is expressed (Mexico: 29%, Argentina: 27%), quite far from less developed countries where the same demand is strong (Vietnam 52%, Nigeria and Philippines 51%) but also far from more developed countries where the demand is not that strong, indicating that there is already sufficient information and public discourse (Spain 24%, Italy 20%, France 14%, Netherlands 12%).

Almost 3 out of 10 respondents (29%) think that they need much more information on climate change

% *‘For some issues people think that they are adequately informed, while for other issues they would like more information to form an opinion. When it comes to climate change, what would you say about yourself?’*

Total sample



Perceived reality of climate change

	Total	Real	Not real
I need much more information	29	30	19
I need some more information	36	40	17
I need little information	18	17	21
I don't need more information	16	12	43
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	1

Perceived need to be informed about climate change by gender and generations

%

	Gender			Generations				
	Total	Male	Female	Generation Z (17-26 y.o.)	Millennials (27-42 y.o.)	Generation X (43-58 y.o.)	Boomers (59-77 y.o.)	Silent (78+ y.o.)**
I need much more information	29	26	31	15	24	31	35	48
I need some more information	36	34	40	43	42	36	32	14
I need little information	18	18	18	30	19	16	14	13
I don't need more information	16	21	11	12	16	17	19	20
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	*	*	*	*	1	6

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Perceived need to be informed about climate change by region of residence

%

	Region						
	Total	Attica	Macedonia/Thrace	Epirus/Ionian Islands**	Thessaly/Central Greece	Peloponnese/Western Greece	Crete/Aegean Islands
I need much more information	29	26	31	34	22	31	35
I need some more information	36	39	36	40	41	29	32
I need little information	18	19	17	16	27	16	9
I don't need more information	16	16	16	7	11	23	23
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	*	3	*	*	1

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Perceived need to be informed about climate change by education level and employment status

%

	Education level				Employment status							
	Total	Basic	Middle	Higher/ Highest	Self-employed	Farmers**	Public sector employees	Private sector employees	Unemployed	Students**	Pensioners	Housewives
I need much more information	29	46	31	24	30	43	24	24	22	18	35	42
I need some more information	36	17	36	40	38	19	41	41	38	38	30	36
I need little information	18	14	16	19	14	14	21	20	19	36	13	12
I don't need more information	16	20	16	16	19	25	14	15	20	8	20	10
DK/NA (spont.)	1	2	*	1	*	*	1	*	1	*	2	*

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Perceived need to be informed about climate change by self-positioning on the political scale

%

Self-positioning on the political scale

	Total	Left	Centre-left	Centre	Centre-right	Right	None (spont.)
I need much more information	29	25	27	29	31	31	26
I need some more information	36	40	41	39	37	33	27
I need little information	18	21	19	18	18	15	18
I don't need more information	16	14	13	14	15	20	29
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	2	*	*	*	*

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Priority given to climate change

Finally, we investigated how high of a priority respondents think that tackling climate change should be for Greece and the Greek government. In this question, **3 out of 4 respondents (74%) think that it should be a “very high” and a “high” priority (at 30% and 44% respectively), while only 9% think its is a low priority.**

Looking at the 30% of respondents who think that tackling climate change is a very high priority, i.e., imperative, we see that this issue is again **relatively less urgent for the younger generations (Gen Z 21%, Millennials 26%), but relatively more urgent for respondents with a basic education level (40%) and farmers (41%).**

As was the case with the previous two questions, respondents who think that climate change is not real **tend to downplay its treatment as a priority (45% of them think it is a “low priority” vs. 9% among the total).**

Priority given to climate change

In this case, comparison with the Yale survey suggests that in Greece the issue of tackling climate change as imperative (“very high priority” 30%) is much lower than in developed Mediterranean countries such as Spain (52%) and Italy (48%), while it is slightly above Egypt (28%) and Turkey (27%). But if we also add the percentage of respondents who think it is a “high priority”, then Greece is closer to countries where tackling climate change is considered a rather important government priority (France and Vietnam 81%, UK 76%, Poland and Ireland 75%, Philippines 73%, Canada 63%).

3 out of 4 respondents (74%) think that tackling climate change should be a very high/high priority for the Greek government

'Do you think that for the Greek government climate change should be a ...?'

%

Total sample



	Perceived reality of climate change		
	Total	Real	Not real
Very high priority	30	34	10
High priority	44	49	18
Medium priority	16	14	26
Low priority	9	2	45
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	2

Priority to be given by the Government to climate change by gender and generations

%

	Gender			Generations				
	Total	Male	Female	Generation Z (17-26 y.o.)	Millennials (27-42 y.o.)	Generation X (43-58 y.o.)	Boomers (59-77 y.o.)	Silent (78+ y.o.)**
Very high priority	30	26	34	21	26	28	39	42
High priority	44	40	48	43	48	46	37	49
Medium priority	16	20	12	28	14	16	15	4
Low priority	9	13	5	8	13	10	7	*
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	1	*	*	*	3	5

• Percentage <0.5%
 ** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Priority to be given by the Government to climate change by region of residence

%

	Region						
	Total	Attica	Macedonia/Thrace	Epirus/Ionian Islands**	Thessaly/Central Greece	Peloponnese/Western Greece	Crete/Aegean Islands
Very high priority	30	30	31	20	31	28	36
High priority	44	45	39	59	40	46	48
Medium priority	16	16	16	18	23	16	6
Low priority	9	8	14	3	5	9	8
DK/NA (spont.)	1	2	*	*	1	1	3

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Priority to be given by the Government to climate change by education level and employment status

%

	Education level				Employment status							
	Total	Basic	Middle	Higher/ Highest	Self-employed	Farmers**	Public sector employees	Private sector employees	Unemployed	Students**	Pensioners	Housewives
Very high priority	30	40	33	27	28	41	29	28	20	21	36	43
High priority	44	34	39	49	44	47	49	43	44	54	44	31
Medium priority	16	12	16	16	19	4	18	18	20	17	10	13
Low priority	9	11	11	8	10	8	4	11	17	8	8	8
DK/NA (spont.)	1	4	1	1	*	*	1	*	*	*	3	5

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Priority to be given by the Government to climate change by self-positioning on the political scale

%

Self-positioning on the political scale

	Total	Left	Centre-left	Centre	Centre-right	Right	None (spont.)
Very high priority	30	36	33	29	32	27	25
High priority	44	47	47	46	41	42	37
Medium priority	16	15	13	20	18	17	9
Low priority	9	1	7	6	8	14	24
DK/NA (spont.)	1	1	*	*	1	1	5

• Percentage <0.5%

** Base smaller than 60 respondents

Conclusions

This survey reflects an unfavorable climate in the country, which is significantly affected by circumstances linked to the effects of climate change.

In this context, **a strong concern emerges in the country** regarding the **destruction** (and therefore the **protection**) of the **natural environment**. At the same time, on a global level, the environment and especially climate change are considered the most serious problems that the planet is currently facing.

However, as we have seen, **perceptions about the global level do not translate to a corresponding sensitivity about the national/local level**.

In this regard, we find that the perception of the reality of climate change is at a high level in Greece, however it is **not completely and firmly embedded** - and in fact there seems to be a relative scepticism both among people with a lower educational level as well as the younger generations. These younger generations are considered more “globalised”, informed and sensitive to post-material issues such as the environment; but they are also the most pessimistic about the direction of the country. This is a pattern we see in other findings of the survey as well, together with the correlation of the issue of climate change with respondents’ self-positioning on the political scale.

Conclusions

However, climate change is considered by a strong majority to be **anthropogenic** (which simultaneously suggests there is **awareness that human-societal action is required to confront it**); relatively increased feelings of concern about its effects and evolution are recorded; and most respondents think that it should be a high priority/imperative issue for the government (which suggests a **demand for political action for tackling climate change and its effects**).

When it comes to information, a relatively strong demand for more information is expressed. An indication that **in the Greek public sphere, discourse and information are to be found but not on a satisfactory level**.

In summing up, Greek public opinion seems to be showing a **relatively increased sensitivity** about issues related to the environment and to climate change, as well as a perception that its effects must be countered by **conscious individual and collective action**.

Conclusions

At the same time however, there seems to be a **significant margin for developing educational actions**, that would cultivate a **more conscious, informed and sensitive environmental attitude** - especially among **critical social groups**, such as the younger generations and people of lower education levels.

Developing a stronger **environmental awareness and culture** would also be a necessary **precondition to bridge the cognitive gap** that this survey confirmed: how the sensitivity for the international/global issue can be translated and specified into sensitivity and action on a national/local level.



Nationwide Survey on Climate Change

Prepared for the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature

September 2023

METRON ANALYSIS

