

# ROUND TABLE: The European Institutions

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The case of Europe Direct Emilia-Romagna, Italy

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

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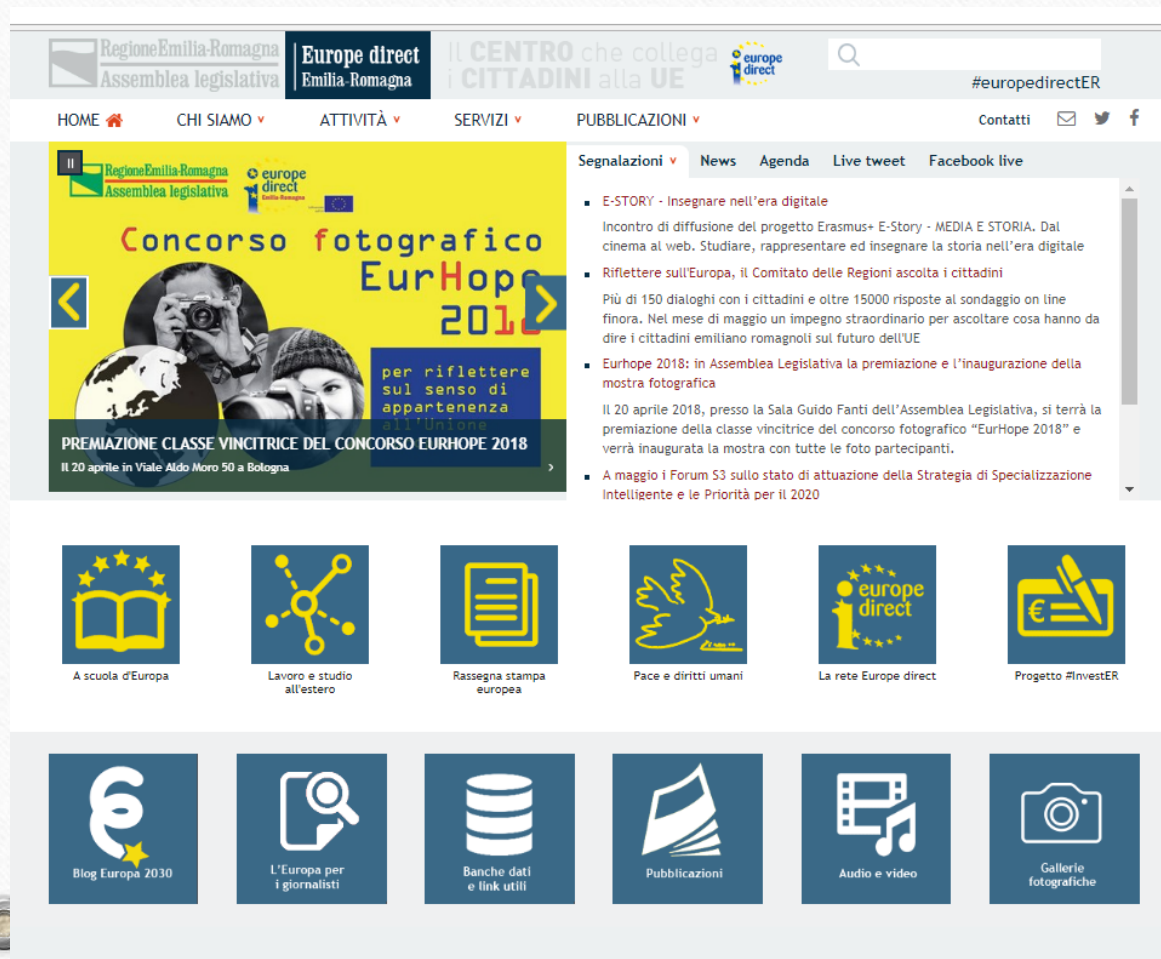


# What is a «Europe Direct» Centre?

- Is part of a European network coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication of the European Commission (n.434 in Europe – n.44 in Italy – n.2 in Emilia-Romagna Region);
- It represents the closest contact that the common citizen has with the European Union: it gives general information on the EU, its policies, its programs and opportunities;
- Main objective: to reduce the distance between the EU institutions and citizens;
- Through its local activity the Europe Direct Centres can also give a feed back to the European Commission on the opinions and on the local reality of the territory it represents;
- A Europe Direct Centre also organizes events, information campaigns, training seminars for students, teachers, adults, local businesses, ecc.



# Europe Direct Emilia-Romagna: who are we?



**Europe Direct Emilia-Romagna** is hosted by the Regional Council of the Emilia-Romagna Region (Legislative Assembly)

[www.assemblea.emr.it/europedirect](http://www.assemblea.emr.it/europedirect)



@europedirect.emiliar



@europedirectER



# Networking: it's how we work

## The regional social dynamics

- Creation of a **Regional Network of actors**
- Training and educational projects for the schools of the Emilia-Romagna region
- Other collaborations within various projects with:
  - University of Bologna
  - Regional Office of the Ministry of Education
  - Historical Institutions



# The impact on the political dynamics

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The regional Law is changing:

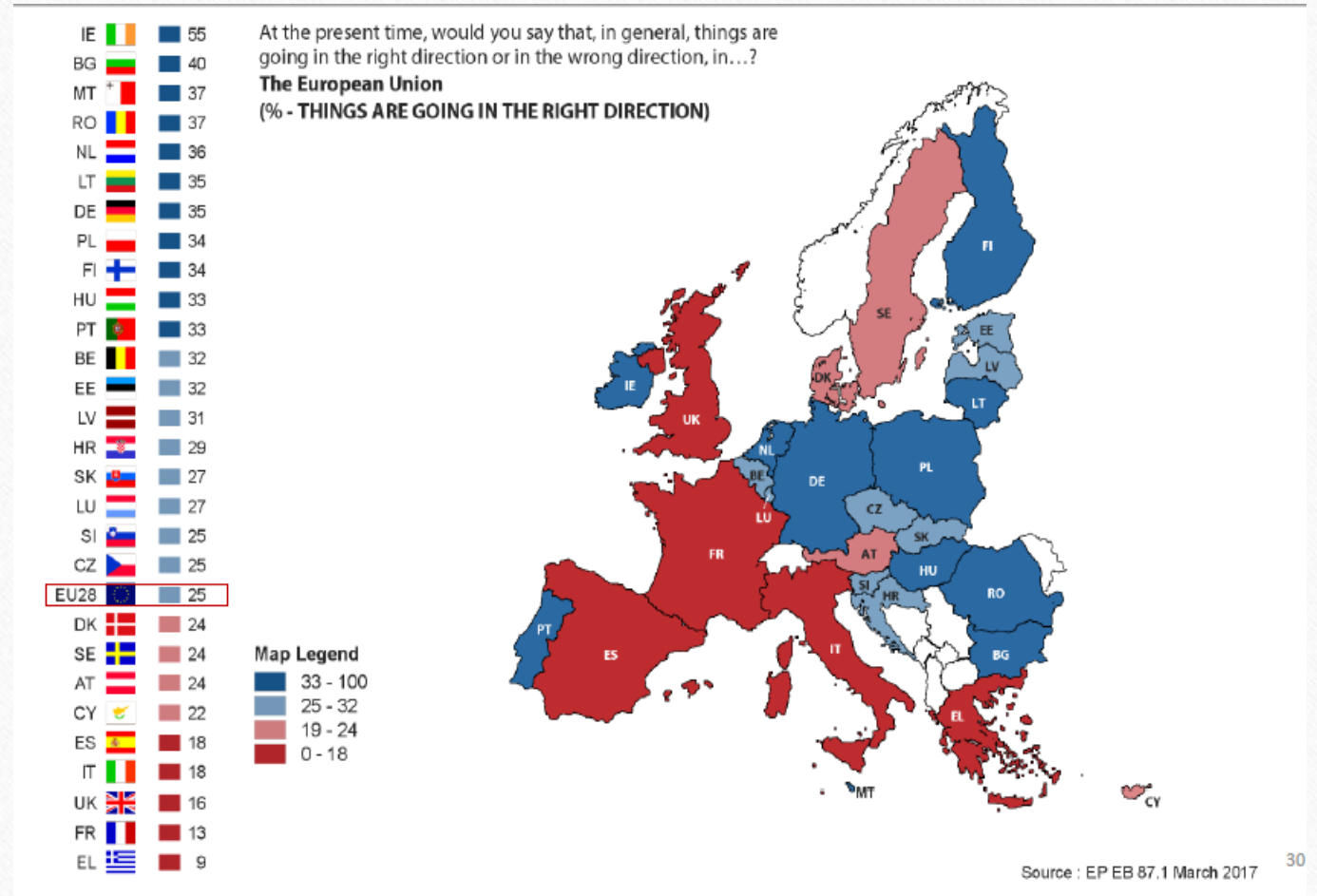
- reform of the Law on Regional participation in the European Law creation and of civil participation in Emilia-Romagna Region;





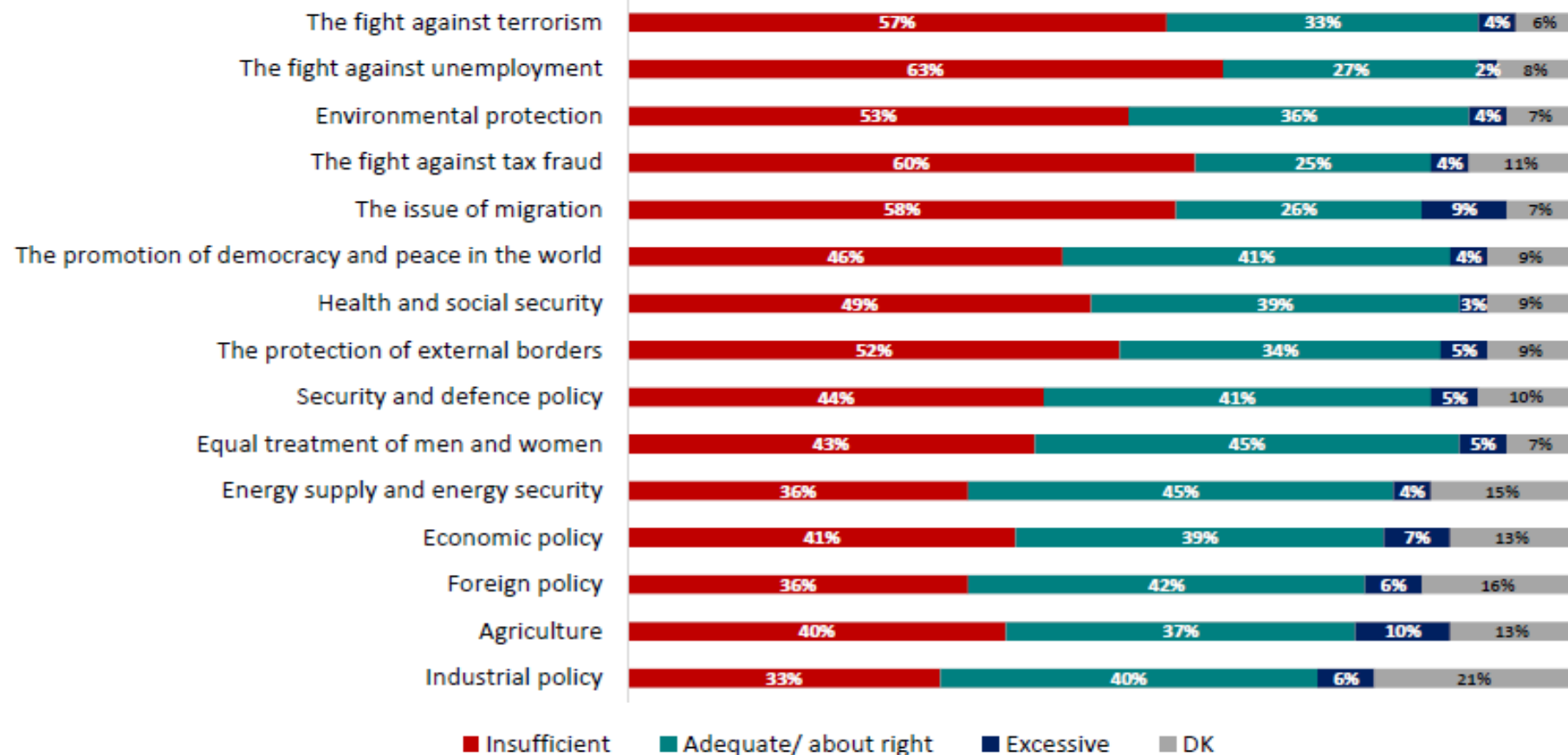
# What do the citizens think about the EU?

Source: «Europeans in 2017. Two years until the 2019 European Elections» DG COMM  
 Public Opinion Monitoring Unit



# Perception of EU action

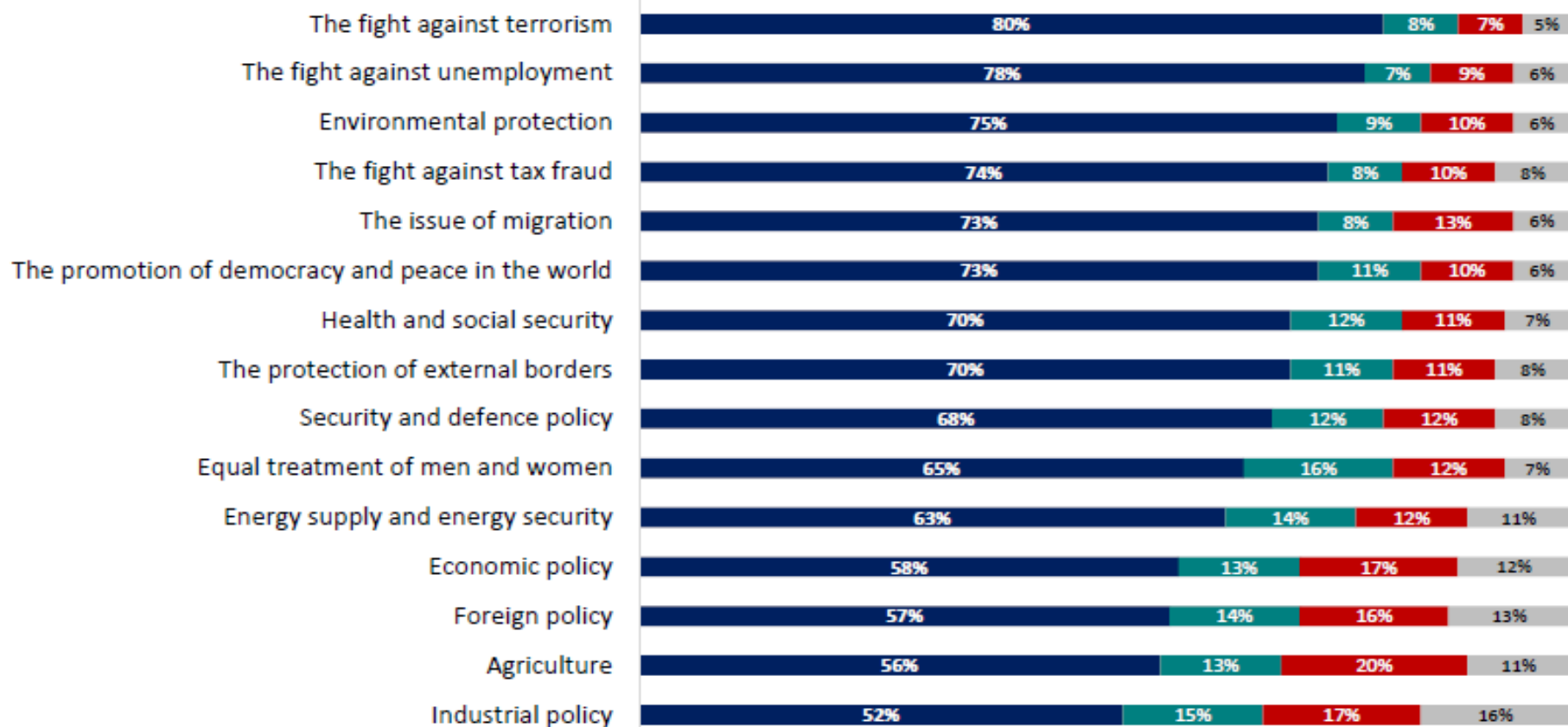
*Q: For each of the following, would you say that current European Union action is excessive, adequate/ about right or insufficient?*





# Expectations for EU action

*Q: And for each of the following, would you like the European Union to intervene less than at present or more than at present?*



■ More than at present   ■ No change necessary/ As it is now (SPONTANEOUS)   ■ Less than at present   ■ DK



# What do the citizens think about the EU?

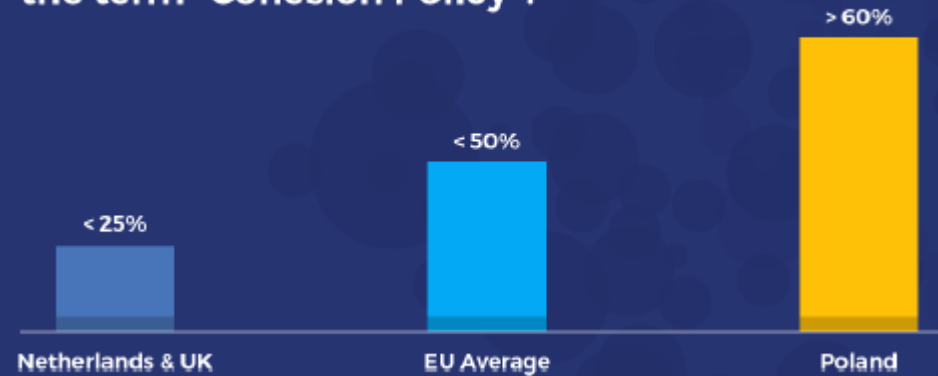
## An example: PERCEIVE PROJECT

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- **PERCEIVE Project: “Perception and evaluation of Regional and Cohesion Policies by Europeans and Identification with the values of Europe”**
- A 3-year project, coordinated by the **University of Bologna**, aiming at investigating, in different European regions, how much citizens feel European starting from the implementation of the European Cohesion Policy.
- Partners:
  - University of Gothenburg (**Sweden**);
  - Department of Rural Development - Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics (**Romania**);
  - Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics – National Research Institute (**Poland**);
  - Universitat de Barcelona (**Spain**);
  - University of Portsmouth (**UK**);
  - Vienna University of Economics and Business (**Austria**);
  - BAM! Cultural Strategies (**Italy**)

[www.perceiveproject.eu](http://www.perceiveproject.eu)

Have you ever heard  
the term “Cohesion Policy”?



Have you ever heard  
of any EU funded project  
in the area in which you live?



Who is best equipped  
to handle the most relevant  
problems?



How do you feel  
about EU membership?





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Thank you for  
your attention!

