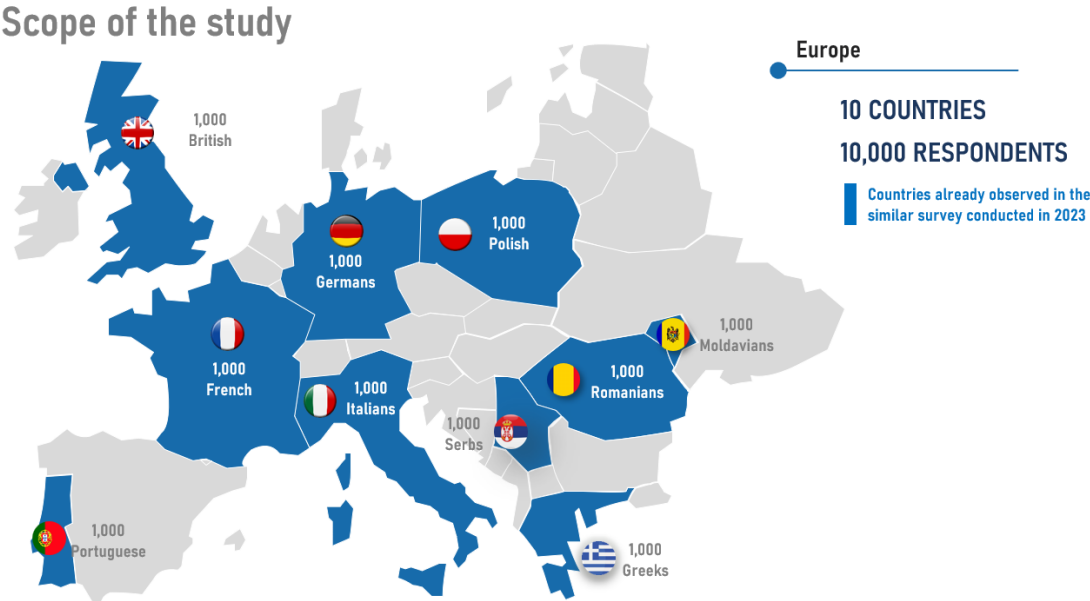


# Barometric study on poverty and economic Precariousness - 2024

## Secours Populaire



For the third year in a row, the European Poverty and Precariousness Barometer was conducted in 10 European countries : France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, The United Kingdom, Moldova, Portugal, Romania and Serbia. The survey was carried out online between the 13<sup>th</sup> of June and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2024 among 10,000 people, representative of the national population aged 18 and over in each of the 10 countries surveyed.



## Precariousness remains a worrying reality throughout Europe

- Nearly a third of Europeans (29%) currently consider themselves to be in a precarious situation, a worrying situation across the continent and particularly in Greece and Moldova, where almost half the population say they are in a precarious situation (46% and 45% respectively). A majority of Europeans (56%) say they are managing to get by but must watch their spending. Only 15% say they are in a good financial situation.
- For almost three quarters (72%) of people who say they are in a precarious situation, insufficient income is the main reason for their situation. This is followed by unexpected or large expenses (31%) and, in fourth place, excessive debt (17%). Although financial problems are clearly at the top of the list of reasons for precariousness, other explanatory factors such as physical health problems (19%) or job loss (13%) also play an important role.
- The risk of falling into precariousness remains a preoccupation shared by many Europeans: more than 2 in 5 Europeans (43%) believe that they are at high risk of falling into precariousness in the next few months. However, this proportion is down on last year (-5 points), in a context of decreasing inflation.

## A precarious existence and a pessimistic perception of future living conditions

- A significant proportion of Europeans feel that access to certain things is more difficult for them than for their parents' generation. This is particularly the case for steady jobs (53%) and decent housing (46%), but also for healthcare (42%) and holidays (41%).
- Europeans are even more pessimistic about the next generation. They believe that the situation will get worse for future generations, who will find it harder to obtain steady jobs (60%), decent housing (59%), healthcare (52%) and good working conditions (50%).
- This pessimism comes at a time where Europeans are witnessing the precariousness of their daily lives. Indeed, a significant number of respondents said that there are many people in precarious situations to be found in their neighborhood (40%), in their workplace (31%) and among their family or friends (28%). This feeling is particularly strong in Southern and Eastern European countries.

## Working does not necessarily mean a stable financial situation

- Today, having a job does not necessarily mean having a stable financial situation. In fact, more than a third of working Europeans (35%) say that their income from work is not enough to cover all their expenses.
- The situation is even more worrying in Moldova, where more than half of working people are unable to cover all their expenses with their salary alone (58%). In Portugal, Greece and Serbia, almost half of working people are also unable to cover all their expenses with their salary.

## The majority of Europeans have already had to make sacrifices because of their difficult financial situation

- More than half of Europeans (52%) have recently experienced at least one situation of deprivation as a result of their financial situation. Leisure activities are the first to be sacrificed: more than 2 parents out of 3 have been unable to take part in family outings or leisure activities (68%) and a similar proportion of Europeans have been unable to afford to go out (62%).
- More than one in two Europeans (58%) have already had to cut back on their travel and 51% have not been able to buy new clothes when they have already worn out. A similar proportion (46%) cannot always take care of their physical appearance.
- More worryingly, some Europeans have had to go without essentials such as medical treatment when they have a health problem (34% have experienced this) or skipping a meal when they are hungry (27%).
- Greece and Moldova remain the countries where people are most likely to deprive themselves because of a lack of financial resources: 67% of Moldovans and 63% of Greeks have experienced at least one situation of deprivation in the last 6 months.

## A complicated financial situation that is a source of anxiety for many Europeans

- Almost one in five Europeans (19%) say they are currently in a complicated financial situation. This proportion is even higher in Greece, Moldova and Serbia (34%, 29% and 21% respectively).
- Many Europeans who are struggling to make ends meet also have difficult feelings about their situation. Around 7 out of 10 feel anxious or afraid, sad or depressed, and ashamed (72%, 69% and 62% respectively).

- This anxiety is also reflected in Europeans' concern about their financial situation and their ability to overcome certain elements. More than half of Europeans say they are worried about their ability to cope with food inflation (60%), unexpected expenses (58%) or rising fuel prices (58%). More than 4 in 10 are also concerned about their ability to pay their bills at the end of the month.

## But a strong desire for solidarity exists among Europeans

- Despite this difficult context, Europeans are willing to show solidarity. The vast majority of Europeans say they are prepared to help their relatives financially (75%, including 30% who are already doing so), but they are also prepared to donate items (69%) or money (58%) to a charity.