## Perspectives on Online Voting from EU and UN Professionals

Presenting the Results of a LinkedIn Survey conducted by POLYAS GmbH



In November 2024, <u>POLYAS</u> conducted a survey through LinkedIn to gain insights into perspectives on online voting among professionals working in EU and UN organizations.

This survey aimed to explore attitudes, expectations, and potential challenges associated with adopting online voting systems in these key international institutions.

## Overview

The participants provided valuable input on various aspects of online voting, from security concerns to accessibility and user-friendliness. These insights offer a glimpse into how decision-makers in influential organizations perceive the transition from traditional voting methods to digital alternatives.

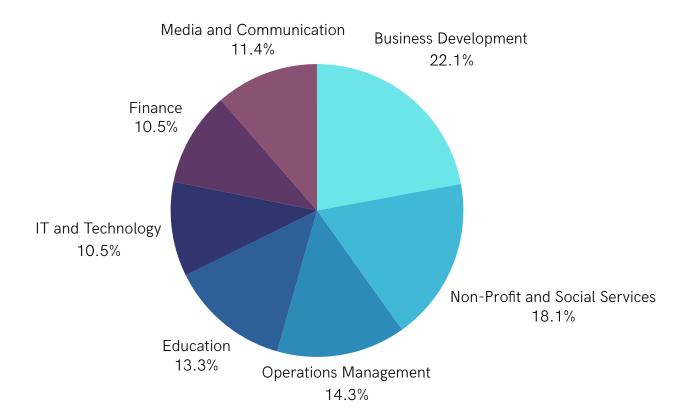
We are excited to share the results of this survey, shedding light on trends and opinions that could shape the future of online voting within international contexts.

#### Three questions were asked:

- 1. How familiar are you with the concept of online voting in EU and UN organizations?
- 2. In the case of EU and UN organizational elections, do you think online voting could increase participation?
  - a. Could you tell us why?
- 3. How likely is your organisation to consider an online voting solution in the future?

### **Audit**

To ensure relevant and insightful results, our survey targeted professionals actively working within EU and UN organizations. The 52 participants represented a diverse range of roles, including policymakers, administrative officers, IT specialists, and electoral process managers.

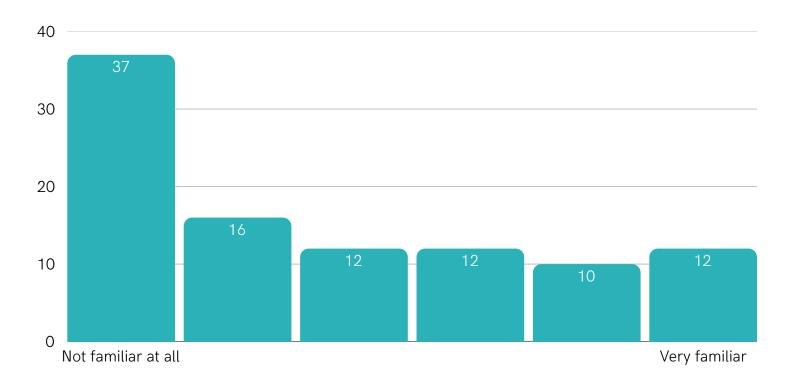


## Results

# How familiar are you with the concept of online voting in EU and UN organizations?

We asked our community to rate, on a scale from 1 (not familiar at all) to 6 (very familiar), how familiar they were with the concept of online voting in EU and UN organizations.

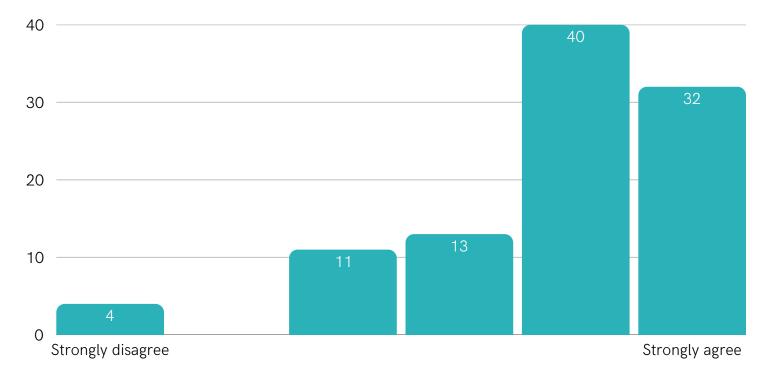
As shown in the graphic, the majority of respondents (37%) indicated they were not familiar at all with the concept of online voting, while only 12% reported being very familiar with it.



## In the case of EU and UN organizational elections, do you think online voting could increase participation?

We asked our community whether they believed online voting could increase participation in EU and UN organizational elections.

As shown in the graphic below, the majority of respondents (72%) believe that online voting could boost participation, while only 4% disagree.



### Could you tell us why?

The survey responses highlighted several key themes regarding how online voting could influence participation rates. Here is a consolidated overview:

#### 1. Ease of Use and Accessibility (32,4%)

 Online voting simplifies the voting process by making it faster, more accessible, and less burdensome. It eliminates the need for physical travel, avoids queues, and allows individuals to vote from anywhere, including remote areas or while balancing work commitments.

#### 2. Convenience (16,2%)

 Online voting is widely perceived as more convenient due to several factors: it removes barriers to participation, minimizes effort, allows voting to be done remotely, and eliminates queues, saving both time and energy.

#### 3. Inclusivity and Accessibility (16,2%)

Online voting can significantly benefit individuals who are unable to access
physical polling stations due to health issues, disabilities, or work constraints.
Additionally, it provides a solution for engaging younger generations who are often
less inclined to participate in traditional voting methods.

#### 4. Trust and Perception (8,1%)

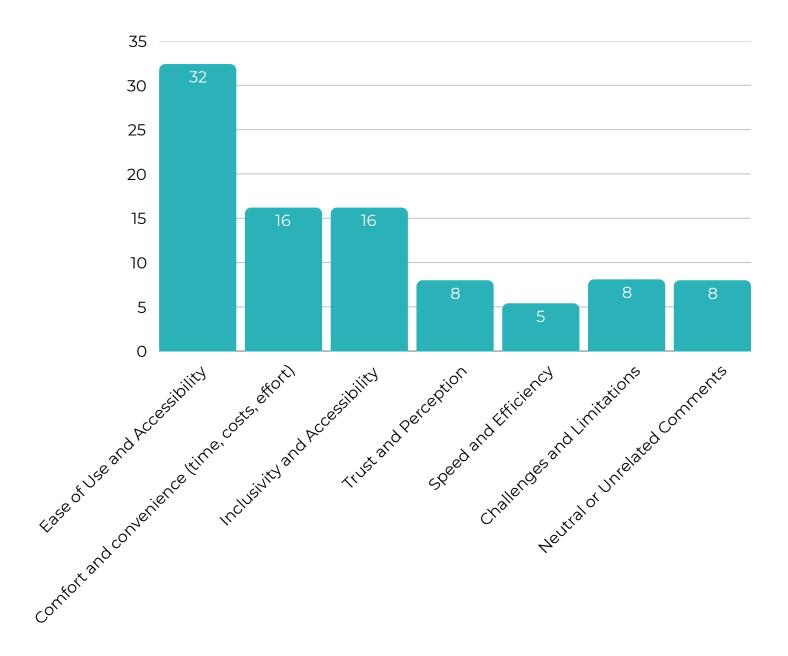
o Trust and perception were mentioned several times. Trust in online voting systems is closely tied to transparency and ethical safeguards, as 51% of EU citizens believe that accuracy in information is crucial. However, some individuals may be hesitant to trust online voting without clear protections in place. Additionally, simply changing the method of voting, whether physical or online, will not address underlying systemic issues such as political disengagement or corruption.

#### 5. Challenges and Limitations (8,1%)

Concerns about external pressure or coercion, though considered negligible by some, still remain when it comes to online voting. The effectiveness of this system also depends on the digital literacy of different generations, as not everyone may be equally equipped to participate. Furthermore, issues like nepotism and the perceived lack of relevance in certain organizations could undermine the effectiveness of online voting.

#### 6. Speed and Efficiency (5,4%)

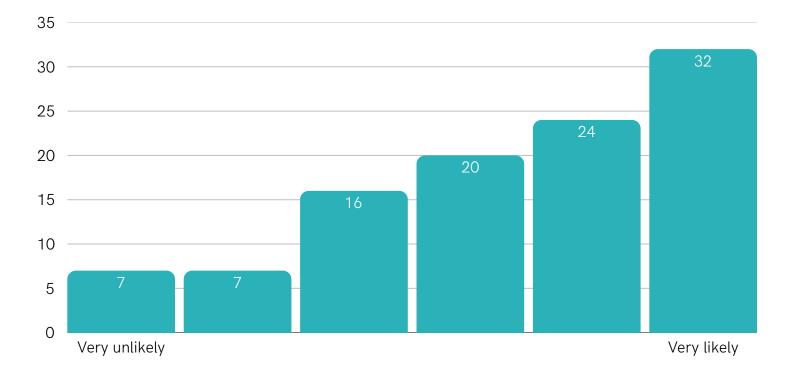
 Some believe online voting could enhance efficiency improving the voting process.



## How likely is your organization to consider an online voting solution in the future?

We then asked if respondents believed the EU or UN organizations would consider adopting an online voting solution in the future.

As illustrated in the graphic, the majority (32%) think it is very likely that online voting will be considered by these organizations. Meanwhile, only 7% believe it is very unlikely, and 20% remain uncertain.



## Key Takeaways

- Online voting is widely regarded as a promising solution for EU and UN organizations. It is seen as easier, faster, and more convenient, which could help boost participation among specific groups.
- While the audience believes online voting could be a beneficial option, many are not yet familiar with its application within the EU and UN organizations where they work.
- However, respondents indicated that it is likely EU and UN organizations will consider adopting online voting as a solution in the future.