



**THE VACCINE  
CONFIDENCE  
PROJECT**

# HPV vaccine confidence worldwide

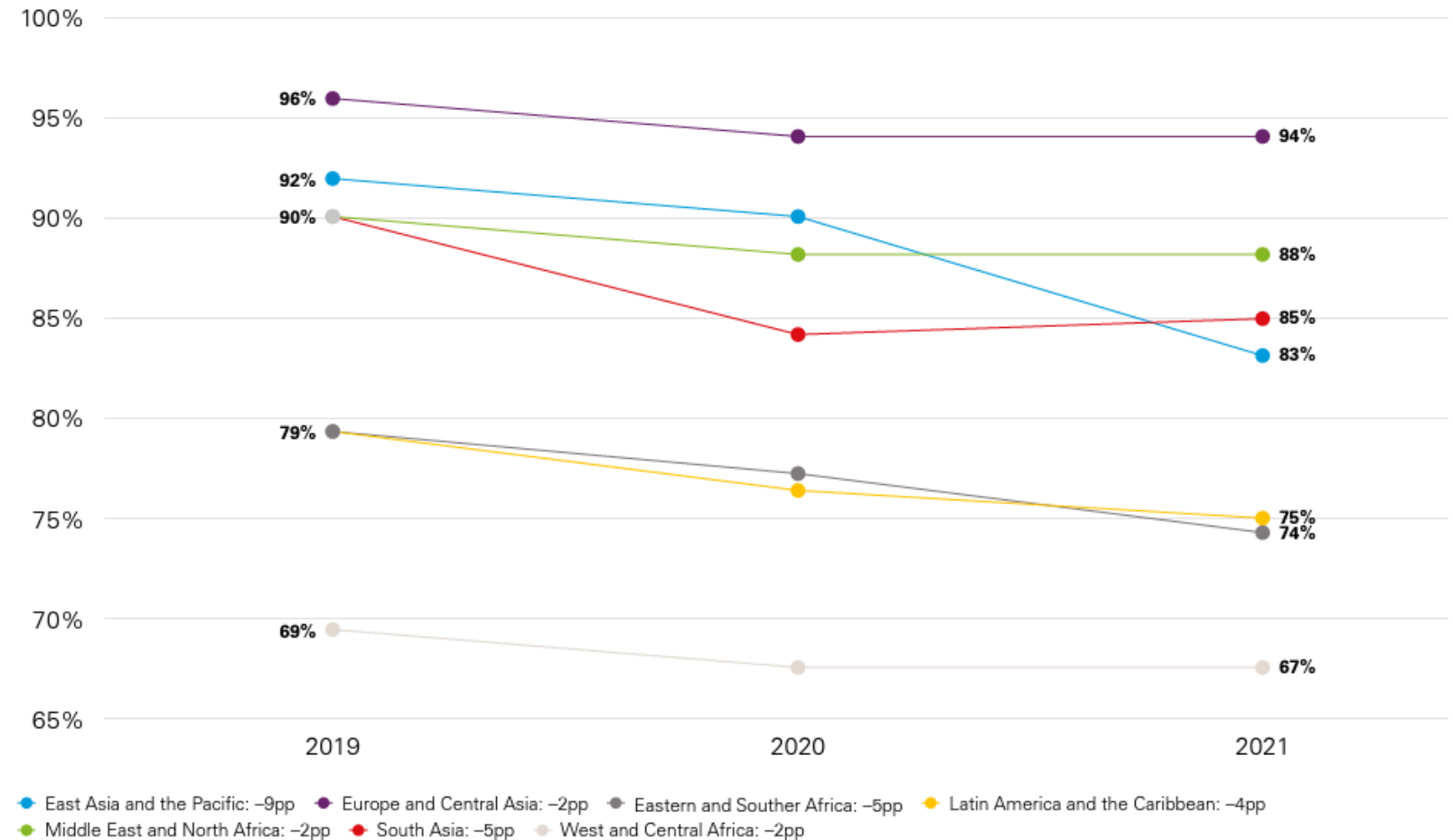
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# The impact of COVID-19 on routine immunisation

DTP3 vaccination coverage by UNICEF programme region, 2019–2021



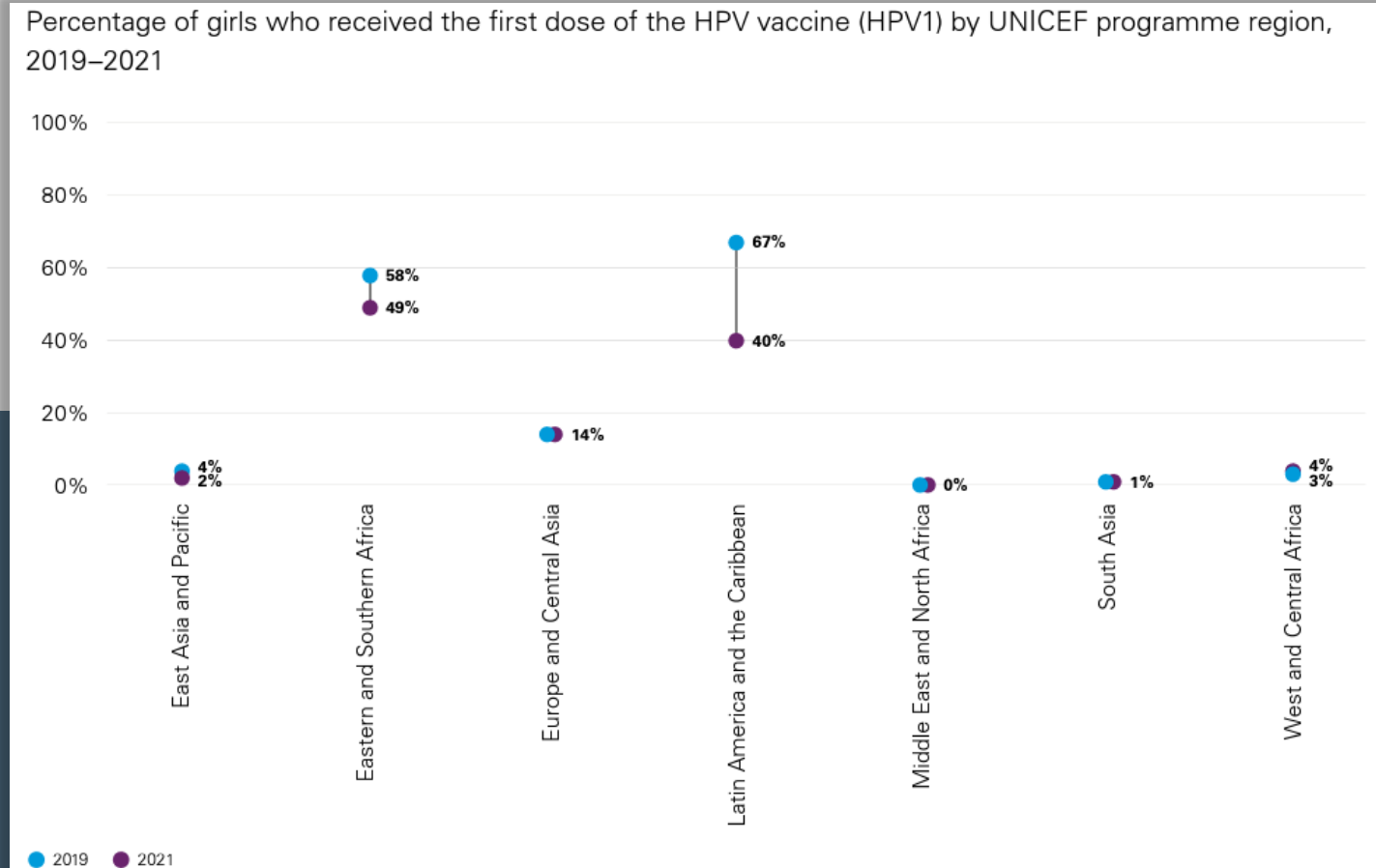
*“The COVID-19 pandemic has been a disaster for childhood immunization. It set immunization back to levels last seen in 2008. In just two years, the world lost more than a decade’s progress in ensuring every child is adequately immunized.”*

# The pandemic set back already low rates of HPV vaccine coverage

Since 2019, HPV vaccination coverage dropped by an alarming 15%, in part due to the closure of schools where children often receive their vaccines

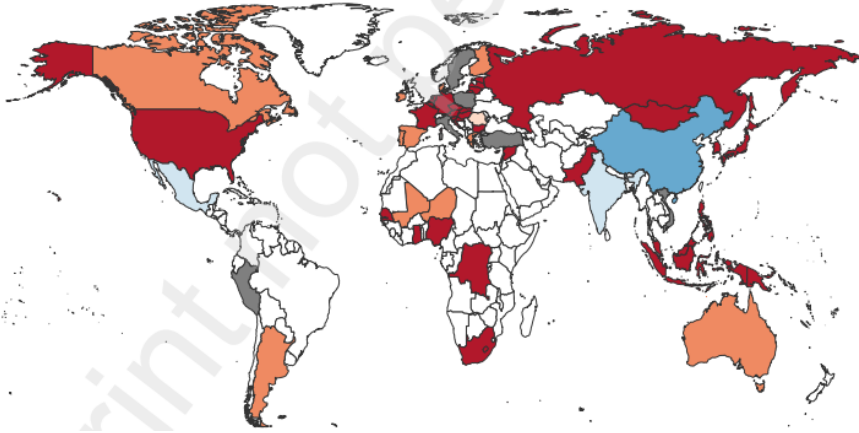
## Other reasons may include:

- Overstretched health systems and HCPs
- Diversion of resources from immunization to control the pandemic
- Challenges with surveillance, supply chains
- Reduced willingness to vaccinate: travel restrictions, fear of going to clinics, changes in disease perception, exposure to misinformation



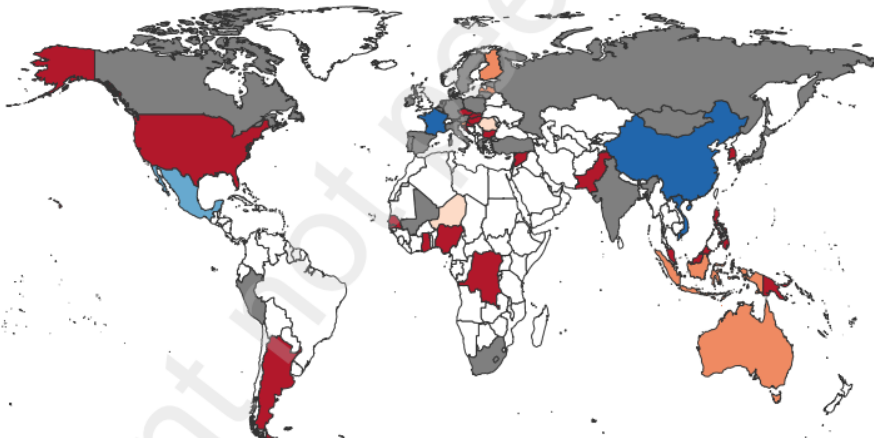
## Confidence in the importance of vaccines for children

B



## Confidence in the safety of vaccines

B



Pre- to post-pandemic change in vaccine confidence



# Global changes in vaccine confidence since COVID-19

## Vaccine importance

- Increased in 3 countries: India (+3.9pp), Mexico (+4.7pp), and China (+8.9pp)
- Decreased in 46 countries: South Korea (-45.6pp), Papua New Guinea (-45.6pp), Ghana (-36.4pp), Japan (-30.9pp), Senegal (-29.7pp), Croatia (-28.8pp), Philippines (-26.7pp), South Africa (-26.7pp), Latvia (-26.5pp), and Russia (-26.4pp)

## Vaccine safety

- Increased in 4 countries: France (11.9pp), China (11.9pp), Vietnam (10.3pp), and Mexico (7.6pp)
- Decreased in 24 countries: South Korea (-34.9pp), Papua New Guinea (-33.0pp), and Ghana (-25.2pp), Syria (-22.9pp), Pakistan (-21.0pp), DRC (-18.8pp)

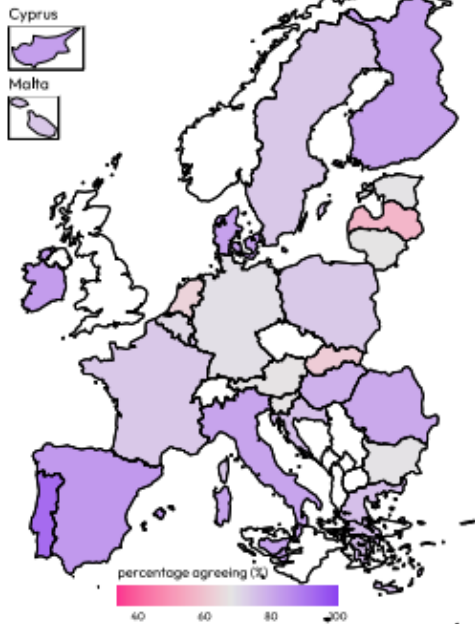
## Widening vaccine confidence age gap

- Alarming falls in vaccine confidence reported among under 35s

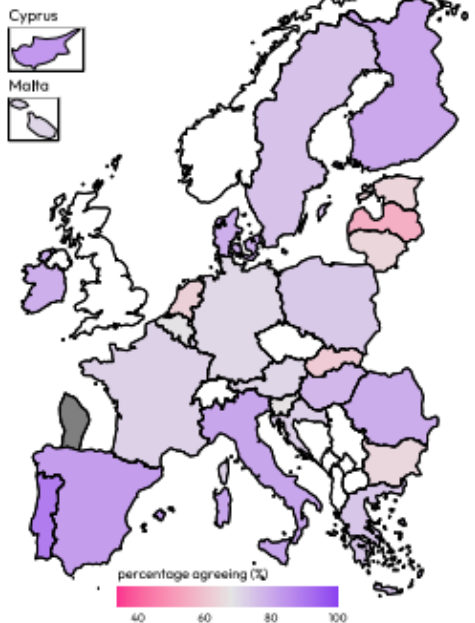
PREPRINT: Wiegand, M., Eagan, R. L., Karimov, R., Lin, L., Larson, H.J., de Figueiredo, A. Global Declines in Vaccine Confidence from 2015 to 2022: A Large-Scale Retrospective Analysis.

Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4438003>

**HPV vaccine is important  
2022**



**HPV vaccine is safe  
2022**

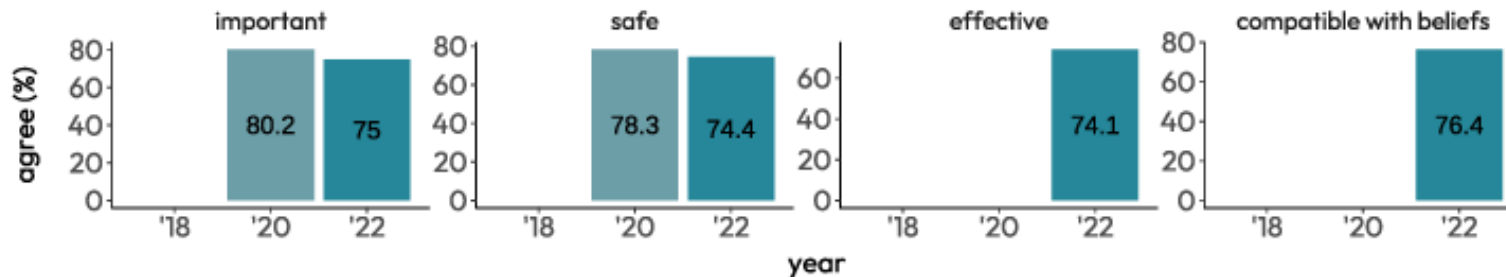


# HPV vaccine confidence in the EU

Public confidence in **HPV vaccine importance** in 2022 is highest in Portugal (92.5%), Spain (83.4%), and Ireland (82.7%), and lowest in Latvia (57.2%), Slovakia (62.2%), and Netherlands (63.7%)

Public confidence in **HPV vaccine safety** in 2022 is highest in Portugal (89%), Cyprus (83.6%), and Spain (82.5%) and lowest in Latvia (55.6%), Slovakia (61.9%), and Netherlands (63.2%).

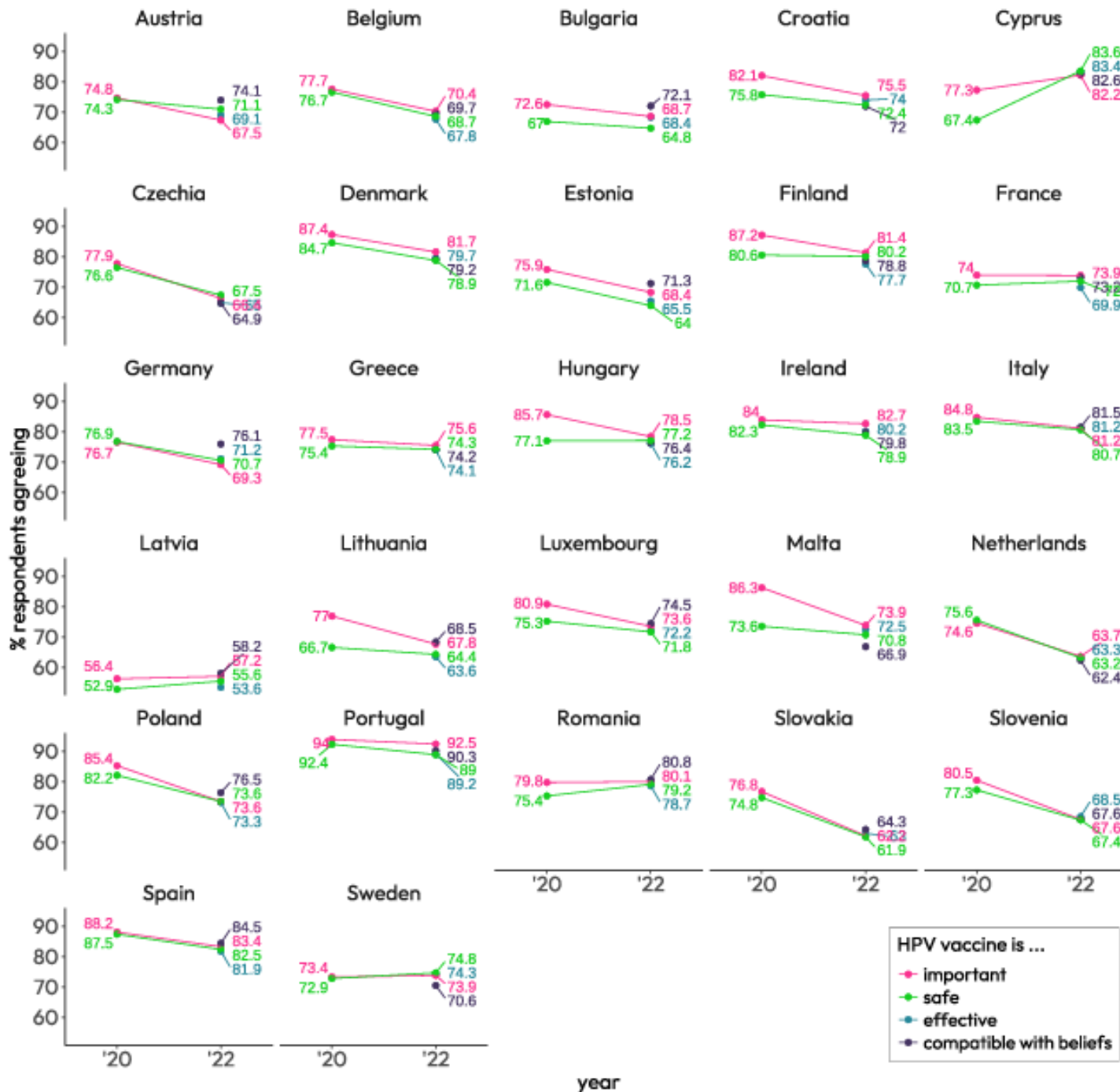
**HPV vaccine is ...**



# Public confidence in HPV vaccine is decreasing in most EU member states

*Between 2020 and 2022*

- agreement that HPV vaccine is important has decreased in 17 countries and increased in none. The largest decreases are in Slovakia (-14.6pp) and Slovenia (-13pp)
- agreement that the HPV vaccine is safe has increased in Cyprus (+16.2pp) and Romania (+3.8pp) but decreased across 11 countries, with the largest falls in Netherlands (-12.4pp) and Slovakia (-12.9pp)





# HPV vaccine acceptance in Africa

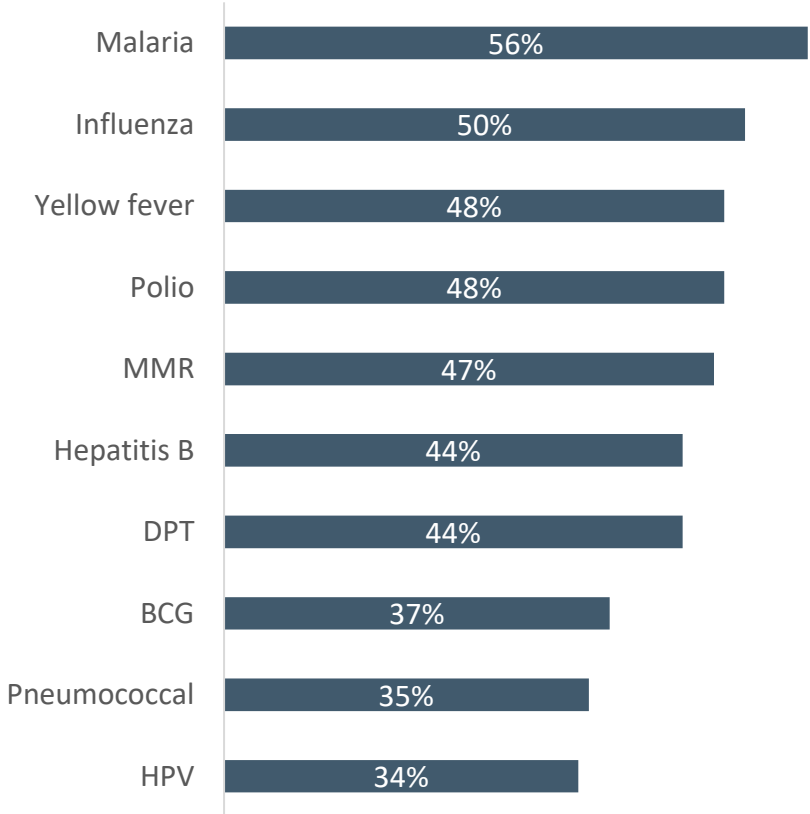
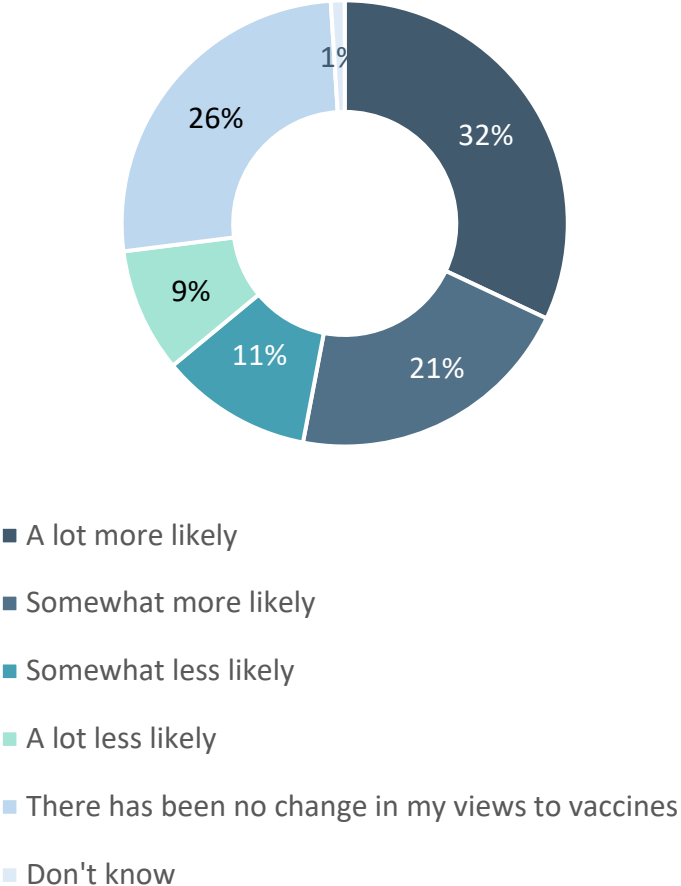
Just over half of the total sample (53%) report that they are more likely to get vaccinated as a result of the pandemic.

This sentiment is strongest for malaria (56%) followed by influenza (50%).

**COUNTRIES SURVEYED:**



**WILLINGNESS TO GET VACCINATED AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC:**



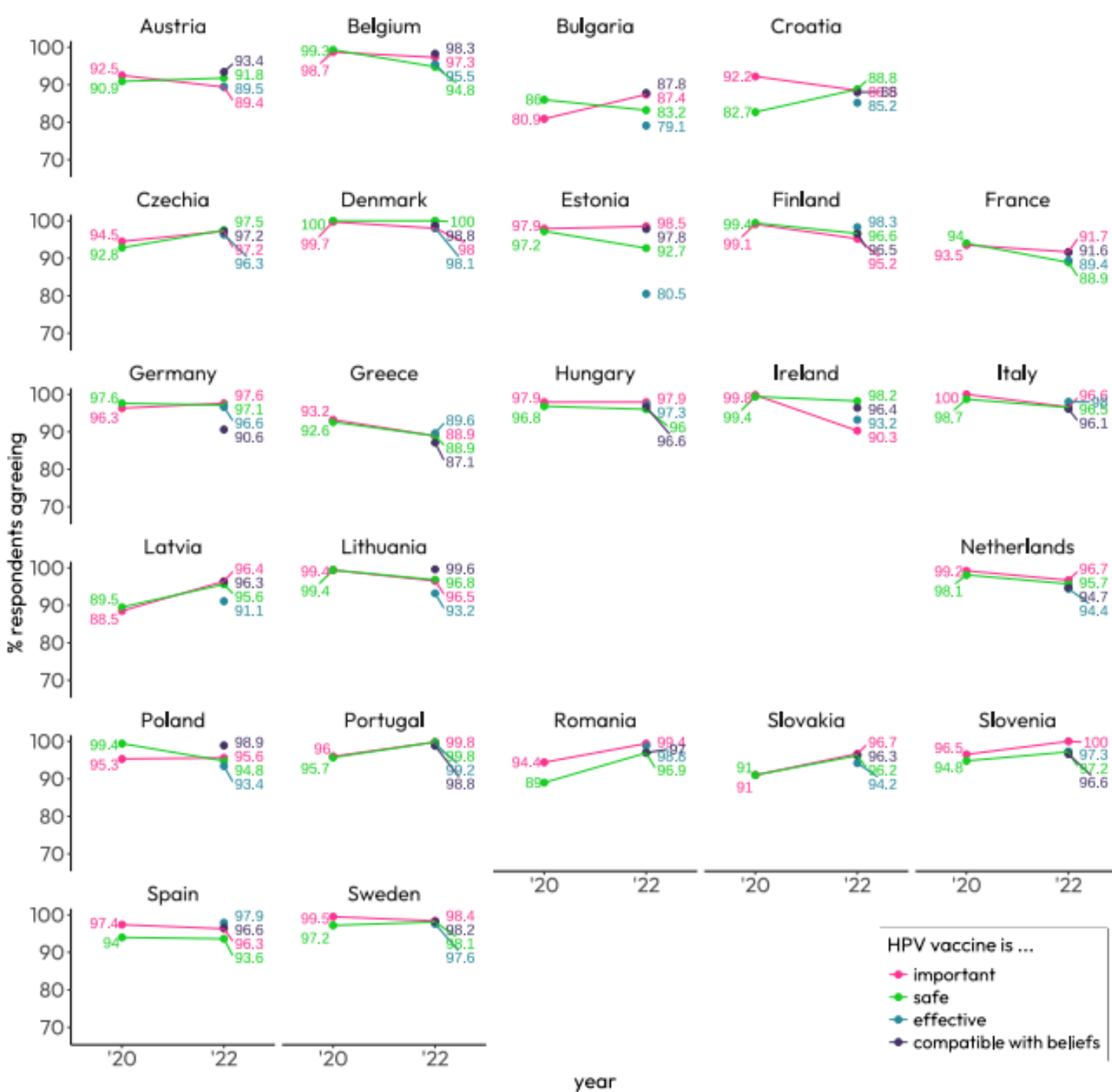
All interviews: n= 7,179

# HCP confidence in HPV vaccination

Confidence in HPV vaccination remains high among HCPs in Europe.

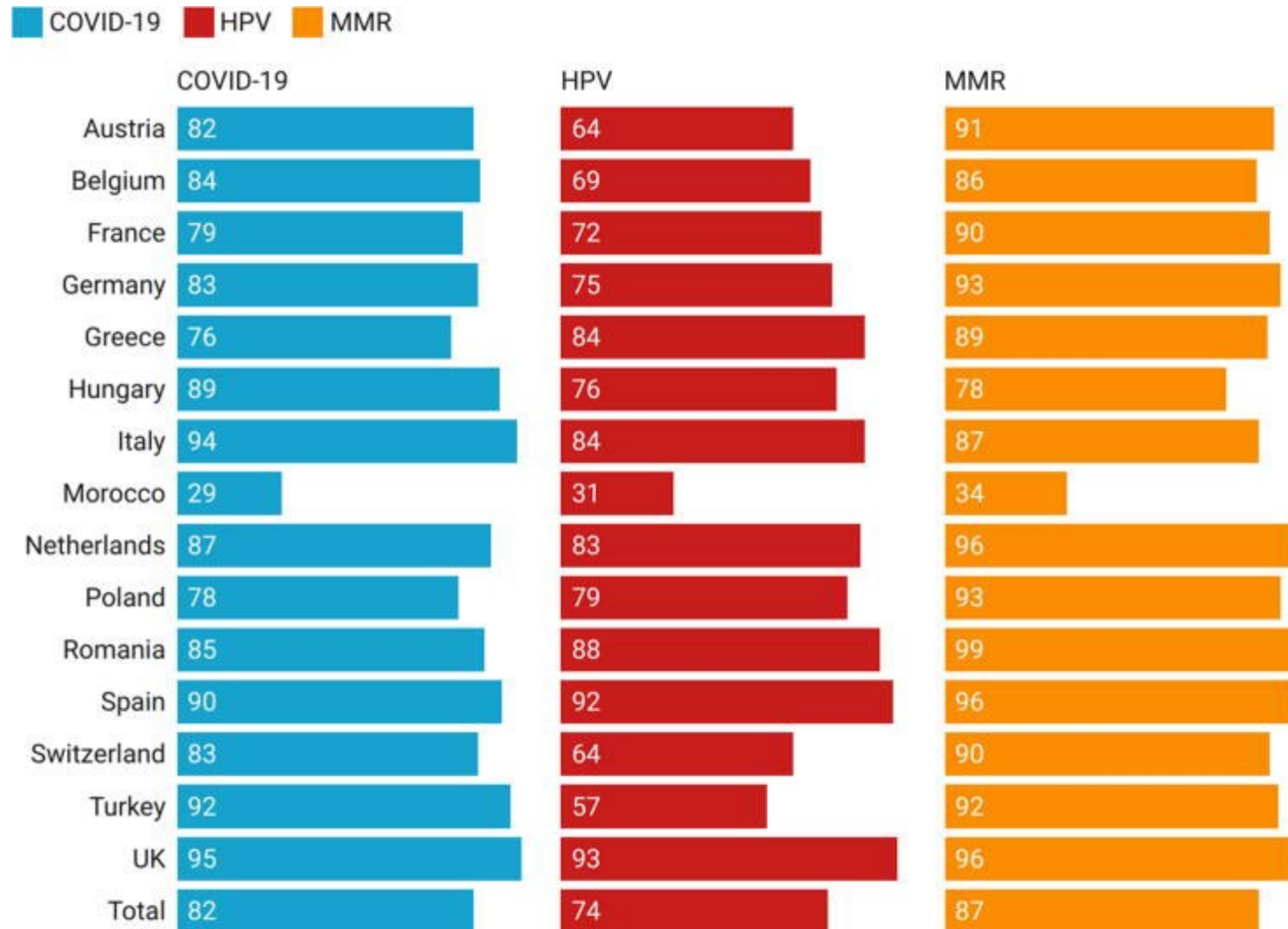
HCPs in Bulgaria, Croatia, and Greece have the lowest overall level of confidence in the HPV vaccine, with below 90% agreement across the four HPV items.

Slightly more countries have below 90% of HCP respondents who would recommend the HPV vaccine to patients (compared to MMR/flu): Croatia (86.8%), Austria (86.1%), Greece (85.9%), Bulgaria (81.6%) and Estonia (81.2%)





# HCP recommendation practices for HPV vaccination



*Percentage of HCPs who were highly likely willing to recommend MMR, HPV and COVID-19 vaccines to their patients.*

# Recent challenges with HPV vaccination confidence



## Policy changes

Changes in vaccination policy (e.g. one-dose recommendations, gender neutral policies) can sometimes create mistrust if not communicated appropriately and well in advance.



## Misinformation

The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to the spread of misinformation around vaccination at the same time as individuals have become more involved in their own care, looking for information about COVID-19 and vaccination



## Polarisation

The pandemic has also led to polarisation of vaccination attitudes and perceptions, with vaccination beliefs sometimes compared to anti-system or anti-government ideologies or the use of inflammatory language (anti-vaxxers) by the media or politicians



## Trust in governments

Control measures restricting people's freedom such as vaccine passports have contributed to growing mistrust of authorities. The impact of these issues is not restricted to COVID-19 and may have long-term effects on overall vaccine confidence.