

CERV-2022-CITIZENS-CIV: Discussions and Actions on Climate and Environment (DACE)

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## SURVEY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The survey on Climate rights was conducted in March 2023. It was executed by the agency Valicon, using method CAWI on a representative sample of 1000 Slovenian citizens.

The survey included 7 questions:

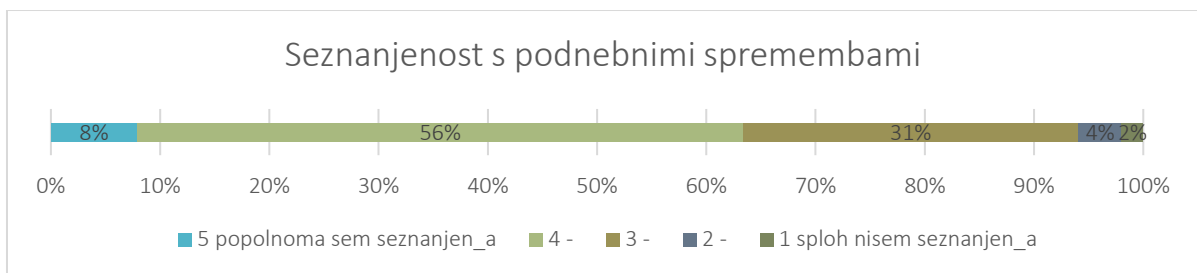
1. To what extent are you familiar with the phenomenon of climate change?
2. To what extent are you concerned about the effects of climate change?
3. Do you feel the effects of climate change in your personal, family or work environment? Assess whether your way of life has changed in any way due to climate change.
4. Please rate your agreement with the following statements on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means that you do not agree with the statement at all and 5 means that you completely agree with it:
  - In my opinion, it is the state's responsibility to take measures to protect citizens from the negative effects of climate change.
  - The Republic of Slovenia takes sufficient measures to protect residents from the negative effects of climate change (e.g. floods, droughts, natural disasters, price of gasoline, price of electricity, price of cars, ban on the use of certain fuels, etc.).
  - I have rights that are affected by the impacts of climate change.
5. Would you personally be willing to go to court to protect your rights affected by climate change?
6. Would the cost of taking legal action to protect your rights in court affect your willingness to take such action?
7. Apart from a lawsuit, what would you personally be willing to do to protect your rights affected by climate change?

The whole questionnaire is included at the end of this summary document.

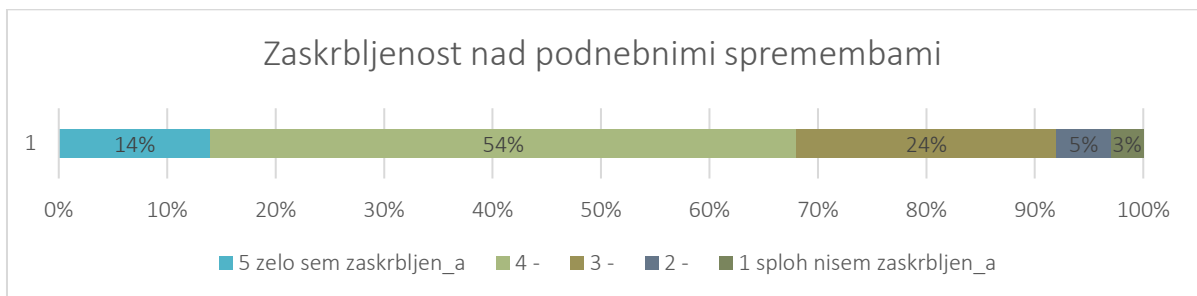
## SUMMARY

1. **63.3% of Slovenians are familiar** with the issue of climate change, while 5.8% are not familiar with the issue. The **lowest level of familiarity** with the issue is shown by the **age group of 25-34 years**.
2. **68% of Slovenians are worried about the effects of climate change**, and the **concern is greatest in the 18-24 age group** (73% of this age group). When compared to general population, the concern is also noticeably higher among women.

The proportions of awareness and concern are largely parallel (see charts below), suggesting a link between the two. Under this assumption, the data suggest that a higher level of awareness would also raise general concern about the effects of climate change.



### 1. Familiarity with climate change



### 2. Concern about the effects of climate change

As much as a quarter of respondents answered that they are neither concerned nor unconcerned, which is interpreted as indifference. The proportion of those indifferent about the effects of climate change is evenly represented across all age groups.

According to the Eurobarometer 2021 survey, 93% of people in the EU consider climate change to be a serious problem, while 7% consider climate change not to be a serious problem<sup>1</sup>. In the same survey, the percentage of Slovenians who consider climate change to be a serious problem was almost the same as the European average (92%). Our survey (Valicon, 2023) corresponds with the results as it shows that **8% of Slovenians consider climate change not to be a serious problem**. The share therefore has not changed from 2021 (Eurobarometer 2021).

3. When asked about climate change impacts, **more than 80% of the respondents answered that they are experiencing at least minor impacts of climate change** in their personal, family or work environment. Across all age groups, the proportions do not differ significantly. **19% of the representative sample answered that**

<sup>1</sup> Special Eurobarometer 513, Climate Change: p. 22. <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2273>

they do not feel the effects of climate change in their life, with the highest percentage in the 35-49 age group. When compared to general population, the concern is also noticeably higher among men.

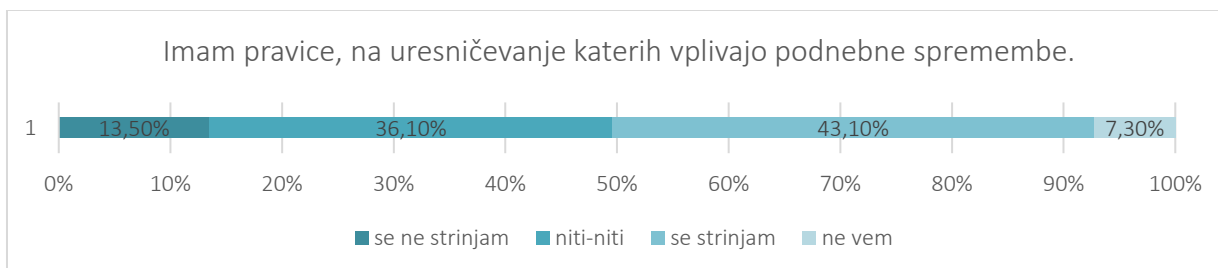
- Majority of respondents **agree that it is responsibility of the state to take measures to protect citizens from the negative effects of climate change (68.4%)**. The percentage of people who agree that the state has a responsibility is comparable across all age groups. **9.8% of respondents disagree** with the statement, with the highest proportion in the 18-24 age group. The Eurobarometer 2021 survey also shows similar results: young people in the 15-24 age group are considerably less prone to attributing responsibility to the state than the older age groups, and instead attribute responsibility to the EU, to themselves personally, or to environmental groups.<sup>2</sup>

In Eurobarometer survey in 2021, when asked who in the EU bears the responsibility to take measures on climate change, only 52% of Slovenian respondents answered that it was responsibility of the state, while business and industry were placed first. The European average for this answer was 63%, with people in most European countries ranking the state as the first responsible party for taking measures. Observing the data from surveys, there is a **noticeable trend towards greater awareness of the responsibility of the state in Slovenia**: in 2019 (Eurobarometer 2019) only 37% of people in Slovenia answered that the state is responsible for measures on climate change, compared to 68.4% in 2023 (Valicon). The percentage has thus increased by 31% over the last four years.

**42% of Slovenians believe that the state is not taking sufficient measures** to protect the population from the negative effects of climate change, almost **20% believe that the state is taking sufficient measures** and **35% are indifferent**. Comparing the results of our current survey to the European Eurobarometer survey of 2021, the percentage of Slovenians (42%) in 2023 who think that the state is not doing enough is **33% lower than the European average** in 2021 (which was 75%).

In our survey, the percentage of those who think the state is not doing enough is **lowest among the youngest age group, 18-24, at just 34%**. In the 2021 European survey, the reverse was true, with the highest percentage in the youngest age group, at 79%.

- 43% of Slovenians agree that they have rights that are affected by climate change, 36% are indifferent and 13.5% say they have no rights** affected by climate change. More than 7% of respondents chose the answer "I don't know" for this question, which is the highest percentage of "I don't know" answers among all questions in the survey. The latter, together with the high level of indifferent responses, could indicate a greater **general lack of knowledge on this topic**.



- I have rights that are affected by the impacts of climate change.

<sup>2</sup> Special Eurobarometer 513, Climate Change: str. 32.  
<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2273>



6. The survey shows that **68% of the population would be willing to take action to protect their climate rights** in a variety of ways (other than lawsuit), while **43.8% of the respondents would be willing to take legal action** to protect their rights, but **only 7.7% without legal aid**. Of those who would be willing to take legal action to protect their rights, 88.5% of the respondents say that the **cost of taking legal action would have an impact on their willingness** to take it.

The majority of respondents would be willing to take part in a **rally or protest (43%)**, almost a third would be willing to **initiate or participate in proceedings before the competent national and/or local institutions**, and almost a third would not be willing to undertake any of these activities to protect their climate rights.
  
7. The majority (**78.7%**) of respondents believe that **the impact of climate change on a person does not depend on that person's gender**. The opposite opinion is most pronounced in the 25-34 age group and among those with lower education (primary school, vocational school). Of those who consider the impact of climate change to be gender-specific (21.30%), more than 50% consider climate change to have globally **the greatest impact on women**.



**0. Demographics: Age, sex, municipality**

**1. To what extent are you familiar with the phenomenon of climate change?**

- 1 I am not familiar at all
- 2 I'm not familiar with it
- 3 Neither
- 4 I'm familiar
- 5 I am fully familiar

**2. To what extent are you concerned about the effects of climate change?**

- 1 I am not worried at all
- 2 I'm not worried
- 3 neither
- 4 I'm worried
- 5 I'm very worried

**3. Do you feel the effects of climate change in your personal, family or work environment? Assess whether your way of life has changed in any way due to climate change.**

- 1 I don't feel any changes in my life
- 2 I feel minor changes in my life (no adjustment necessary, I can function normally without adjustments)
- 3 I feel changes that have a greater direct/visible/concrete effect on my life (I can either adapt or tolerate)
- 4 I feel changes that have a significant effect on my life (the changes are no longer optional, I cannot live without adaptation)

**4. Please rate your agreement with the following statements on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means that you do not agree with the statement at all and 5 means that you completely agree with it:**

	1- I completely disagree	2	3	4	5- I completely agree	I don't know, I can't estimate
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In my opinion, it is the state's responsibility to take measures to protect citizens from the negative effects of climate change.						
The Republic of Slovenia takes sufficient measures to protect residents from the negative effects of climate change (e.g. floods, droughts, natural disasters, price of gasoline, price of electricity, price of cars, ban on the use of certain fuels, etc.).						
I have rights that are affected by the impacts of climate change.						

Some of the rights affected by climate change are the right to family life, the right to drinking water, the right to life, the right to personal dignity and other rights related to the decent existence of present and future generations.

**5. Would you personally be willing to go to court to protect your rights affected by climate change?**

YES

YES, but only with proper legal assistance

NO

I can't estimate

**6. Would the cost of taking legal action to protect your rights in court affect your willingness to take such action?**

YES

YES, but I would try to initiate the process even if the cost was high

NO

**7. Apart from a lawsuit, what would you personally be willing to do to protect your rights affected by climate change? (Multiple answers are possible)**

1 Initiation or participation in proceedings before the competent state and/or local institutions (everything that is not the initiation of a lawsuit before a court)



2 Participation in rallies, protests

3 Organization or co-organization of a rally or protest

4 Establishment of civil initiative

5 Establishment of a NGO

**8. Do you think that the impact of climate change on an individual person is greater or lesser depending on that person's gender?**

YES

NO

**9. According to gender, which people do you think are most affected by global climate change?**

1 Women

2 Men

3 Non-binary people

4 I can't rate

**10 Please mark your gender.**

Female / Male / Non-binary / Prefer not to identify