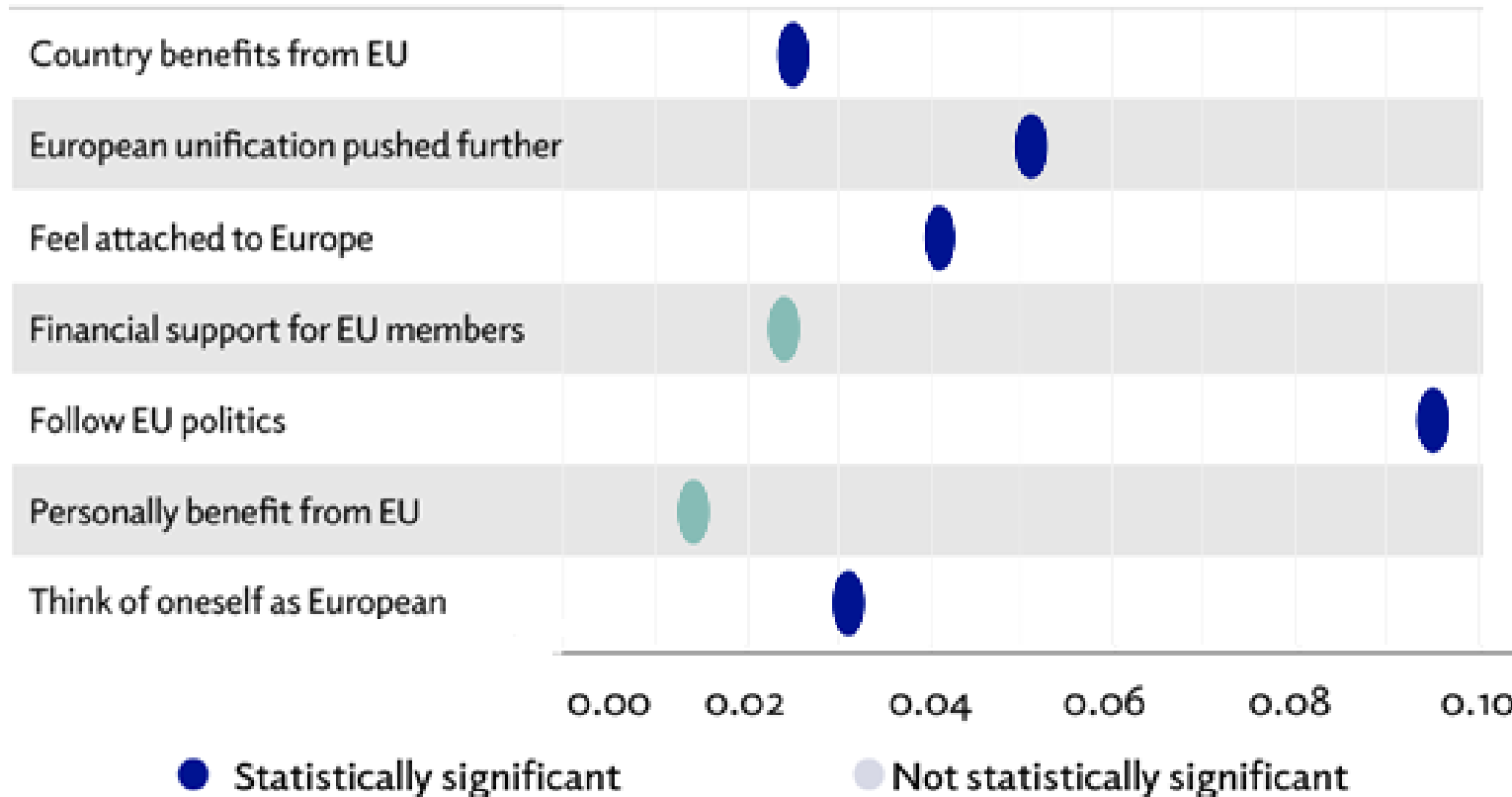


The invasion of Ukraine led to students having more pro-European sentiments

Increase in pro-European attitude after the invasion of Ukraine began

Statement



What is going on?

What The Graph 32: teacher notes

Notes/comments

- This is a slightly-edited version of a graph created by the research group “UK in a changing Europe”.
- The zero on the x-axis should be labelled a little to the left.
- “Not statistically significant” means that there was an increase in the average, but that this could have been caused by sampling or by random effects. Essentially, the error bounds that ought to be shown on each number are too big for them to say that there really is an increase.
- Should there therefore be error bounds on all of the numbers?
- What does the x-axis mean?
- The small-print of the original graph reads: “All outcome variables were measured on five-point scales and have been re-scaled to range from 0 to 1.” The same students were questioned before and after the invasion. Does this mean they were asked: “How much do you think of yourself as being European?”, with the answer possibilities: “Not at all”, “A little”, “Some”, “A fair amount”, “Totally European” – and that these have then been scaled and compared? The article doesn’t make it clear.
- If this is right then presumably the first answer to each question is rescaled to be 0, the next to be 0.25, the middle one to be 0.5, the fourth one to be 0.75 and the best answer is rescaled to be 1.
- The biggest increase (“follow EU politics”) is about 9%. If the above is correct then on average 1 in 3 people have moved up a single point on the 5-point scale. Is that a massive increase? (Doesn’t feel like it to me!)

Source:

- <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/has-putin-brought-europeans-closer-together/>