

Spanish people are the most politically active in Europe

- **31% of Spanish people say they are likely to join a protest or demonstration within the next 12 months compared to 19% of Europeans.**
 - **42% of Spanish students are likely to join a protest compared to 14% of European students.**
 - **Only 27% of Spanish say they are ‘not at all likely’ to join a protest compared to 41% of Europeans who say the same.**
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Berlin, 21 April 2017

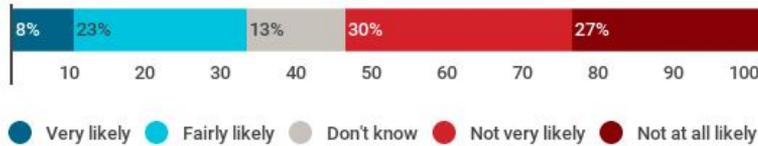
It seems that every week there’s a new protest movement in Spain. Recently, on May 1st, Spanish protestors took to the streets for improved [working](#) conditions. In March, Spain protested the [Brussels-Ankara draft](#) that would send immigrants back to Turkey. On International Women’s Day in March, Spanish women took a stand to end gender violence and [femicide](#). Last year, Spanish demonstrators rallied to abolish the national tradition of [bullfighting](#) due to animal cruelty.

Two years ago, a [protest to end all protests](#) was fought over [Spain’s “gag law”](#) or “ley mordaza”. The law threatened a 30,000 fine for anyone protesting in front of government buildings and unauthorized photos of law enforcement. Fittingly, citizens protested this law in front of parliament.

Dalia decided to look deeper into this phenomenon and determine if Spanish people are really showing greater activism than other Europeans. The results of Dalia’s survey show that Spanish people are, indeed, more likely to join a protest than any of the 6 largest EU countries. 31% of Spanish respondents say they are likely to join a protest within the next 12 months compared to 19% of all Europeans. Only 27% say they are not at all likely to join a protest, compared to 41% of Europeans who say the same.

Spain's Protest Participation Rate

SPAIN: "How likely are you to join a protest or demonstration within the next 12 months?"



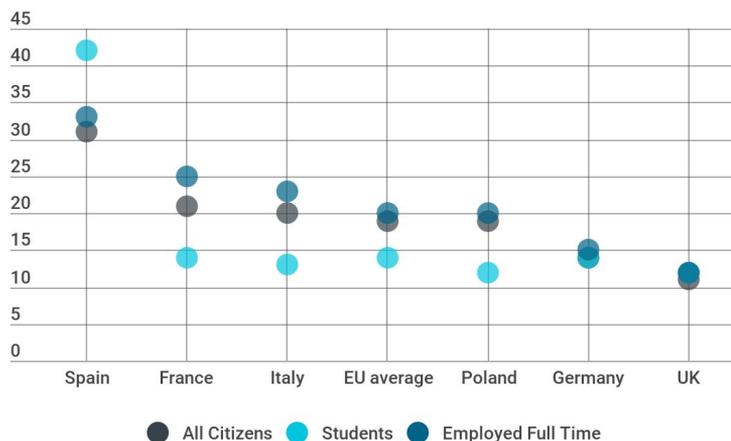
Based on a census-representative survey of 11,021 people across the 28 EU countries completed in March 2017 by Dalia Research.

source: Dalia Research 2017 

Additionally, the protest culture in Spain has a large base of student activists. In Europe as a whole, the tendency is that full time workers are more likely to protest than other citizens and students (presumably because of labor union strikes, protests for wage increases, etc). But in Spain, the reverse is true: while 33% of full time workers are likely to join a protest, a staggering 42% of students also plan to protest in the coming year. In the EU as a whole, only 14% of students plan to do the same.

Protest Participation in Europe

% likely to join a protest or demonstration within the next 12 months



Based on a census-representative survey of 11,021 people across the 28 EU countries completed in March 2017 by Dalia Research.

source: Dalia Research 2017 

While protesting has been an effective way for people to put pressure on the government and implement change, some argue that an overabundance of protests can indicate an unhealthy government. For example, as Quartz's [Tripti Lahiri](#) explains, while South Korea's protest culture is extremely efficient and effective (they succeeded in getting President Park Geun-Hye impeached) it actually indicates that people's only recourse is public demonstration because the formal institutional processes have been corrupted or are malfunctioning.

Notes to editors

About the survey

This report presents an overview of a study conducted by Dalia Research in March 2017 on public opinion across 28 EU Member States. The sample of n=11.021 was drawn across all 28 EU Member States, taking into account current population distributions with regard to age (14-65 years), gender and region/country. In order to obtain census representative results, the data were weighted based upon the most recent Eurostat statistics. The target weighting variables were age, gender, level of education (as defined by ISCED (2011) levels 0-2, 3-4, and 5-8), and degree of urbanization (rural and urban). An iterative algorithm was used to identify the optimal combination of weighting variables based on sample composition within each country. An estimation of the overall design effect based on the distribution of weights was calculated at 1.46 at the global level. Calculated for a sample of this size and considering the design-effect, the margin of error would be +/-1.1 % at a confidence level of 95 %.

Survey Question

1. "How likely are you to join a protest or demonstration within the next 12 months?"
(*Very likely / Fairly likely / Not very likely / Not at all likely*)

About Dalia Research

Dalia Research was founded in Berlin in 2013 with a clear vision to utilize mobile technology to change the way attitudinal data is collected, analysed and presented. For more information about Dalia and its work, please visit: www.daliaresearch.com

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