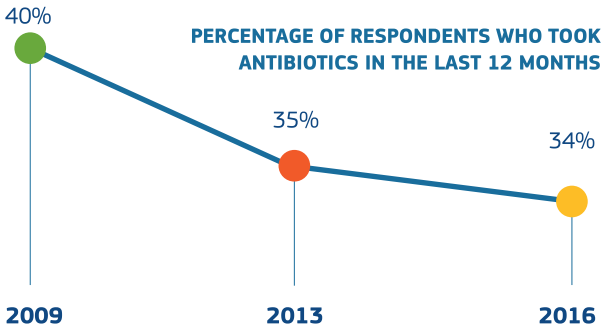
European Commission

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
Antibiotics in the EU - Use & Perceptions

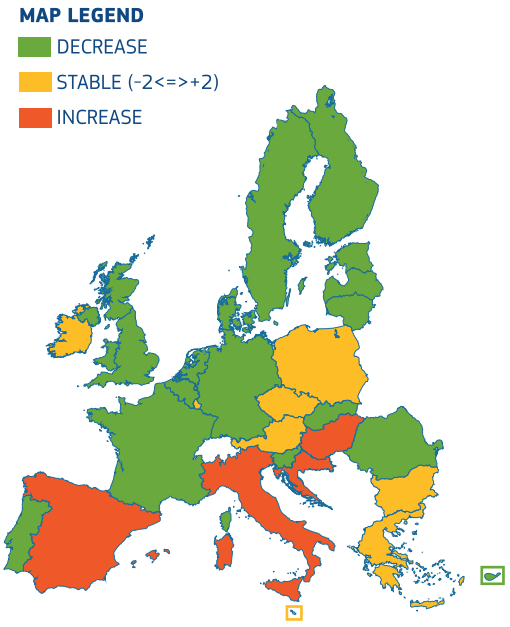
CONSUMPTION OF ANTIBIOTICS

Consumption has decreased by 6 percentage points in the last seven years.
Nevertheless, a **third of Europeans have taken antibiotics in the last 12 months.**



CONSUMPTION BY COUNTRY

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO TOOK ANTIBIOTICS IN THE LAST YEAR BY COUNTRY AND EVOLUTION SINCE 2013



EU28	34	▼ 1
AT	32	▼ 1
BE	32	▼ 6
BG	39	▲ 2
CY	41	▼ 6
CZ	33	=
DE	23	▼ 4
DK	23	▼ 8
EE	32	▼ 3
EL	38	▲ 2
ES	47	▲ 9
FI	31	▼ 5
FR	39	▼ 5
HR	36	▲ 4
HU	34	▲ 5
IE	44	▲ 1
IT	43	▲ 7
LT	35	▼ 4
LU	41	▼ 2
LV	31	▼ 8
MT	48	=
NL	20	▼ 8
PL	28	▲ 2
PT	33	▼ 5
RO	38	▼ 9
SE	18	▼ 6
SI	25	▼ 3
SK	35	▼ 6
UK	35	▼ 6

A majority of countries (16) have shown a decrease in consumption since 2013. However:

- in Spain, the proportion of those taking antibiotics has increased by 9 percentage points and by 7 in Italy.
- The largest decreases are found in Romania (-9), Latvia, Denmark and the Netherlands (-8).

Use of antibiotics is **higher among those with low levels of education (39%) and in worse economic circumstances (44%).**

The vast majority **obtain antibiotics from their health care provider (93%)**, although 4% still consume them without a prescription or use those left over from a previous prescription (2%).

KNOWLEDGE

Large numbers of Europeans are **unaware** that:

1- antibiotics are ineffective against viruses (57%).

2- antibiotics are ineffective against cold and flu (44%).

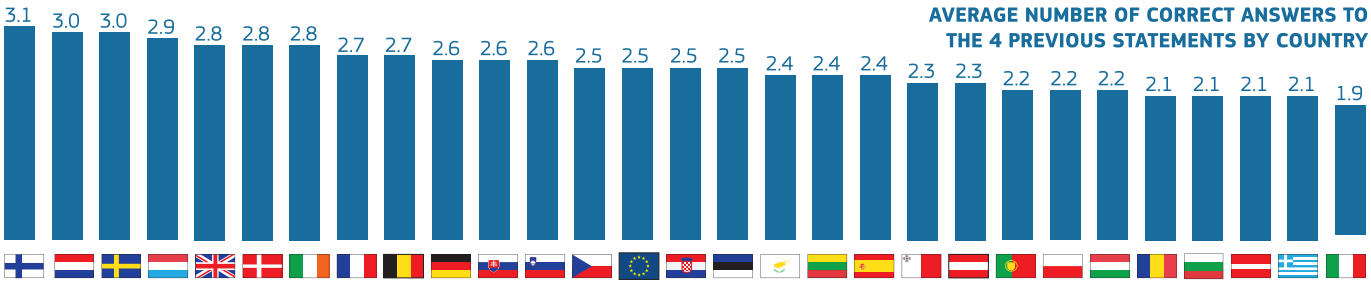
However, most Europeans are **aware** that:

3- unnecessary use of antibiotics makes them become ineffective (84%).

4- you should only stop taking antibiotics after taking all of the prescribed treatment (82%).

Special Eurobarometer 445, Antimicrobial Resistance, April 2016 http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/PublicOpinion.
Survey included 27,969 interviews (face-to-face) in the 28 MS.

The European countries where the **level of knowledge** is **highest** are **Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden** and the **lowest** levels are found in **Latvia, Greece and Italy**.



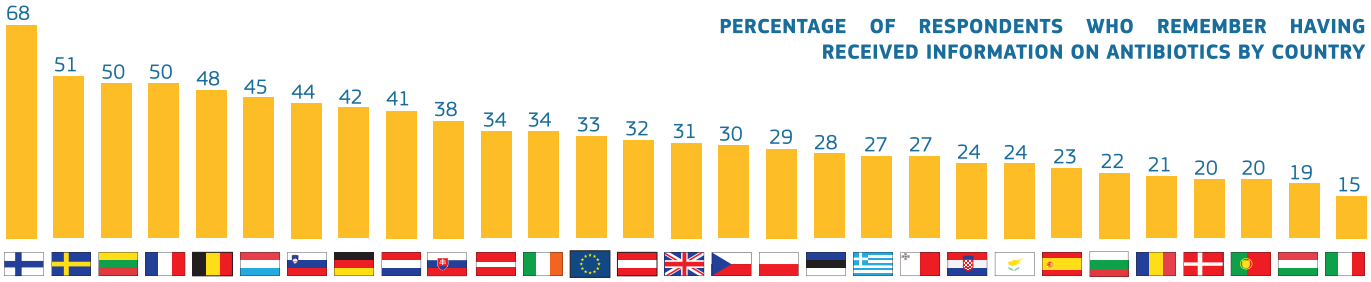
CONSUMPTION DECREASES AS KNOWLEDGE INCREASES

Those who are aware of the 4 previous statements on antibiotics are less likely to have consumed them (31%) than those who are aware of only one statement (40%) or none at all (35%).

AND KNOWLEDGE INCREASES AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION ON ANTIBIOTICS

Those who say they have received information on antibiotics are significantly more likely to be aware of the 4 previous statements (34% compared with 19% of those who did not receive information).

HOWEVER, INFORMATION ON THE CORRECT USE OF ANTIBIOTICS HAS ONLY REACHED A THIRD OF EUROPEANS



Europeans express interest in **receiving (more) information on a range of topics,** such as:

- information on the **medical conditions** for which antibiotics are used (26%),
- **antimicrobial resistance** (23%),
- the links between **human and animal health** and the environment (23%),
- how to **use antibiotics** (22%).

ONE HEALTH – USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

More than half of Europeans (56%) agree that **sick animals have the right to be treated** with antibiotics.

Just over a **third of Europeans (37%) say that they are aware of the EU ban** on the use of antibiotics on farm animals to stimulate growth, while the majority either say that they are not aware or did not know (63%).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Europeans receive information on antibiotics from their **doctor (32%) or different media** such as television advertisements (27%) or television news (26%).

Doctors are the most trustworthy source of information (84%), followed by **pharmacies** (37%) and **hospitals** (19%).

POLICY RESPONSE

Europeans are in favour of action at all levels to tackle antibiotic resistance.

Europeans are aware that action is needed at all levels, with 35% supporting action at **global and EU level**. 28% think that action should be taken at **national/regional level**, whereas 19% consider it should be tackled at **individual level or within the family.**

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_food-safety/amr/index_en.htm