

# Report: research on public opinion towards deep-sea mining in Europe

July, 2024

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## Introduction

In assignment of WeMove Europe, Ipsos conducted research into public opinion on deep-sea mining following the below framework:

- **Target countries:** Italy, Poland, and Belgium.
- **Target respondent group:** General population aged 18 and above, nationally representative (in terms of age, gender, region).
- **Achieved sample sizes per country:** Belgium n=1012, Italy n=1026, Poland n=1005.
- **Survey mode:** The survey was conducted online (CAWI), with sample drawn from Ipsos' Access Panels. Reminder emails were sent to target respondents who had not completed the survey to reach the final target sample size.

## Survey results Belgium

Q1 Are you familiar with deep-sea mining?

1 Yes, I know exactly what it is	9,07%
2 Yes, I've heard of it but don't know exactly what it is	42,37%
3 No, I have never heard of it	47,85%
4 Prefer not to say	0,72%

Q2 Based on the information you just read and any other knowledge you may have on the topic, are you yourself for or against deep-sea mining?

1 Completely in favour	3,21%
2 Somewhat in favour	14,30%
3 Not for, not against	27,68%
4 Somewhat against	28,19%
5 Completely against	22,47%
6 Don't know	4,15%

Q2 Based on the information you just read and any other knowledge you may have on the topic, are you yourself for or against deep-sea mining?

1 Top 2 (in favour)	17,51%
2 Middle	27,68%
3 Bottom 2 (against)	50,66%
4 Don't know	4,15%

Q3 [For those indicating favour] Which of the following arguments in favour of deep-sea mining are most convincing to you? You can pick up to 2 arguments.

1 It could help reduce our dependence on countries like China for metals and minerals.	46,30%
2 It could replace other more harmful forms of mining (for example where there is child labour involved).	30,52%
3 Deep-sea mining is necessary as innovation and recycling will not develop fast enough to meet our demand for minerals and metals for batteries.	32,95%
4 It is necessary to obtain the minerals and metals needed for green technologies (e.g. electrical vehicles) that can help combat climate change.	38,00%
5 It could help boost {#country}'s maritime industry and economy.	26,66%
6 Other	0,63%
7 None of the above	0,54%
Total	178

Q4 [For those indicating not in favour] Which of the following arguments against deep-sea mining are most convincing to you? You can pick up to 2 arguments.

1 It could cause serious and irreversible damage to the ocean and a loss of deep-sea life including species (such as whales), organisms and plants.	77,54%
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2 The ocean floor plays an important role in storing carbon dioxide that causes climate change. Deep-sea mining could disrupt this, and worsen climate change.	43,00%
3 Very little is known about the deep sea, meaning it is impossible to accurately judge the risks that deep-sea mining carries. Better research and understanding of what is at stake is first needed.	29,39%
4 Deep-sea mining is unnecessary as innovation and recycling will be able to supply most of the minerals needed for the green transition.	17,38%
5 It may have a negative impact on the fishing industry and communities whose survival depend on the ocean.	18,21%
6 Other	0,19%
7 None of the above	1,34%
Total	514

Q5 Which of the following statements about deep-sea mining most closely matches your own opinion?

Deep-sea mining should always be allowed	1,54%
Deep-sea mining should be allowed if the damage is limited	30,44%
Deep-sea mining should be prohibited until we know more about its consequences	40,89%
Deep-sea mining should always be prohibited	18,90%
Don't know	8,23%

Q5 Which of the following statements about deep-sea mining most closely matches your own opinion?

Top 2 (should be allowed)	31,98%
Bottom 2 (should be prohibited)	59,79%
Don't know	8,23%

Q6 To which extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I think it is important that my government protects life in the sea and oceans."

Totally agree	59,49%
Somewhat agree	26,87%
Neither agree nor disagree	9,70%
Somewhat disagree	0,68%
Strongly disagree	1,08%
Don't know	2,18%

Q6 To which extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I think it is important that my government protects life in the sea and oceans."

Top 2 (agree)	86,35%
Middle	9,70%
Bottom 2 (disagree)	1,76%
Don't know	2,18%

#### **Demographics of public polled in Belgium:**

##### Gender

Male	48,81%
Female	50,91%
Non-binary	0,09%
Prefer not to say	0,19%

##### Age category

18 – 24 years	10,12%
25 – 34 years	16,18%
35 – 44 years	16,29%
45 – 54 years	16,25%
55 – 64 years	16,57%
65 years and older	24,59%

#### Educational level

Low	14,62%
Medium	32,99%
High	52,39%

Total: 1012

## Survey results Italy

### Q1 Are you familiar with deep-sea mining?

1 Yes, I know exactly what it is	13,01%
2 Yes, I've heard of it but don't know exactly what it is	51,28%
3 No, I have never heard of it	35,42%
4 Prefer not to say	0,29%

### Q2 Based on the information you just read and any other knowledge you may have on the topic, are you yourself for or against deep-sea mining?

1 Completely in favour	4,47%
2 Somewhat in favour	23,10%
3 Not for, not against	20,45%
4 Somewhat against	29,25%
5 Completely against	19,02%
6 Don't know	3,72%

### Q2 Based on the information you just read and any other knowledge you may have on the topic, are you yourself for or against deep-sea mining?

1 Top 2 (in favour)	27,57%
2 Middle	20,45%
3 Bottom 2 (against)	48,26%
4 Don't know	3,72%

Q3 [For those indicating favour] Which of the following arguments in favour of deep-sea mining are most convincing to you? You can pick up to 2 arguments.

1 It could help reduce our dependence on countries like China for metals and minerals.	39,10%
2 It could replace other more harmful forms of mining (for example where there is child labour involved).	31,56%
3 Deep-sea mining is necessary as innovation and recycling will not develop fast enough to meet our demand for minerals and metals for batteries.	28,99%
4 It is necessary to obtain the minerals and metals needed for green technologies (e.g. electrical vehicles) that can help combat climate change.	34,28%
5 It could help boost {#country}'s maritime industry and economy.	26,58%
6 Other	0,36%
7 None of the above	1,35%
Total	284

Q4 [For those indicating not in favour] Which of the following arguments against deep-sea mining are most convincing to you? You can pick up to 2 arguments.

1 It could cause serious and irreversible damage to the ocean and a loss of deep-sea life including species (such as whales), organisms and plants.	71,94%
2 The ocean floor plays an important role in storing carbon dioxide that causes climate change. Deep-sea mining could disrupt this, and worsen climate change.	43,32%
3 Very little is known about the deep sea, meaning it is impossible to accurately judge the risks that deep-sea mining carries. Better research and understanding of what is at stake is first needed.	25,70%
4 Deep-sea mining is unnecessary as innovation and recycling will be able to supply most of the minerals needed for the green transition.	24,71%

5 It may have a negative impact on the fishing industry and communities whose survival depend on the ocean.	18,32%
6 Other	0,70%
7 None of the above	0,20%
Total	490

Q5 Which of the following statements about deep-sea mining most closely matches your own opinion?

Deep-sea mining should always be allowed	5,72%
Deep-sea mining should be allowed if the damage is limited	29,19%
Deep-sea mining should be prohibited until we know more about its consequences	42,94%
Deep-sea mining should always be prohibited	16,83%
Don't know	5,32%

Q5 Which of the following statements about deep-sea mining most closely matches your own opinion?

Top 2 (should be allowed)	34,91%
Bottom 2 (should be prohibited)	59,77%
Don't know	5,32%

Q6 To which extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I think it is important that my government protects life in the sea and oceans."

Totally agree	61,62%
Somewhat agree	27,51%
Neither agree nor disagree	7,62%
Somewhat disagree	1,16%
Strongly disagree	0,29%
Don't know	1,80%



Q6 To which extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “I think it is important that my government protects life in the sea and oceans.”

Top 2 (agree)	89,13%
Middle	7,62%
Bottom 2 (disagree)	1,45%
Don't know	1,80%

**Demographics of public polled in Italy:**

Gender

Male	48,27%
Female	51,64%
Non-binary	0,00%
Prefer not to say	0,10%

Age category

18 – 24 years	8,22%
25 – 34 years	12,48%
35 – 44 years	14,30%
45 – 54 years	18,62%
55 – 64 years	17,97%
65 years and older	28,41%

Educational level

Low	12,39%
Medium	52,81%
High	34,80%

Total 1026

## Survey results Poland

Q1 Are you familiar with deep-sea mining?

1 Yes, I know exactly what it is	17,66%
2 Yes, I've heard of it but don't know exactly what it is	52,32%
3 No, I have never heard of it	29,64%
4 Prefer not to say	0,38%

Q2 Based on the information you just read and any other knowledge you may have on the topic, are you yourself for or against deep-sea mining?

1 Completely in favour	6,65%
2 Somewhat in favour	24,66%
3 Not for, not against	26,09%
4 Somewhat against	24,70%
5 Completely against	13,92%
6 Don't know	3,97%

Q2 Based on the information you just read and any other knowledge you may have on the topic, are you yourself for or against deep-sea mining?

1 Top 2 (in favour)	31,32%
2 Middle	26,09%
3 Bottom 2 (against)	38,62%
4 Don't know	3,97%

Q3 [For those indicating favour] Which of the following arguments in favour of deep-sea mining are most convincing to you? You can pick up to 2 arguments.

1 It could help reduce our dependence on countries like China for metals and minerals.	38,96%
2 It could replace other more harmful forms of mining (for example where there is child labour involved).	37,41%

3 Deep-sea mining is necessary as innovation and recycling will not develop fast enough to meet our demand for minerals and metals for batteries.	32,97%
4 It is necessary to obtain the minerals and metals needed for green technologies (e.g. electrical vehicles) that can help combat climate change.	32,89%
5 It could help boost {#country}'s maritime industry and economy.	32,40%
6 Other	0,29%
7 None of the above	2,09%
Total	310

Q4 [For those indicating not in favour] Which of the following arguments against deep-sea mining are most convincing to you? You can pick up to 2 arguments.

1 It could cause serious and irreversible damage to the ocean and a loss of deep-sea life including species (such as whales), organisms and plants.	70,34%
2 The ocean floor plays an important role in storing carbon dioxide that causes climate change. Deep-sea mining could disrupt this, and worsen climate change.	43,10%
3 Very little is known about the deep sea, meaning it is impossible to accurately judge the risks that deep-sea mining carries. Better research and understanding of what is at stake is first needed.	34,82%
4 Deep-sea mining is unnecessary as innovation and recycling will be able to supply most of the minerals needed for the green transition.	18,00%
5 It may have a negative impact on the fishing industry and communities whose survival depend on the ocean.	18,80%
6 Other	0,58%
7 None of the above	0,25%

Total	393
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Q5 Which of the following statements about deep-sea mining most closely matches your own opinion?

Deep-sea mining should always be allowed	5,56%
Deep-sea mining should be allowed if the damage is limited	38,93%
Deep-sea mining should be prohibited until we know more about its consequences	38,90%
Deep-sea mining should always be prohibited	8,96%
Don't know	7,66%

Q5 Which of the following statements about deep-sea mining most closely matches your own opinion?

Top 2 (should be allowed)	44,49%
Bottom 2 (should be prohibited)	47,86%
Don't know	7,66%

Q6 To which extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I think it is important that my government protects life in the sea and oceans."

Totally agree	56,86%
Somewhat agree	30,85%
Neither agree nor disagree	8,23%
Somewhat disagree	0,89%
Strongly disagree	1,23%
Don't know	1,94%

Q6 To which extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I think it is important that my government protects life in the sea and oceans."

Top 2 (agree)	87,71%
Middle	8,23%
Bottom 2 (disagree)	2,11%

Don't know	1,94%
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### **Demographics of public polled in Poland:**

#### Gender

Male	47,69%
Female	52,31%
Non-binary	0,00%
Prefer not to say	0,00%

#### Age category

18 – 24 years	8,26%
25 – 34 years	15,58%
35 – 44 years	19,71%
45 – 54 years	16,88%
55 – 64 years	15,21%
65 years and older	24,37%

#### Educational level

Low	0,89%
Medium	51,54%
High	47,57%

Total: 1005

## **Survey results Poland, Belgium and Italy combined**

Q1 Are you familiar with deep-sea mining?

1 Yes, I know exactly what it is	13,25%
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2 Yes, I've heard of it but don't know exactly what it is	48,66%
3 No, I have never heard of it	37,63%
4 Prefer not to say	0,46%

Q2 Based on the information you just read and any other knowledge you may have on the topic, are you yourself for or against deep-sea mining?

1 Completely in favour	4,78%
2 Somewhat in favour	20,69%
3 Not for, not against	24,74%
4 Somewhat against	27,38%
5 Completely against	18,47%
6 Don't know	3,95%

Q2 Based on the information you just read and any other knowledge you may have on the topic, are you yourself for or against deep-sea mining?

1 Top 2 (in favour)	25,47%
2 Middle	24,74%
3 Bottom 2 (against)	45,85%
4 Don't know	3,95%

Q3 [For those indicating favour] Which of the following arguments in favour of deep-sea mining are most convincing to you? You can pick up to 2 arguments.

1 It could help reduce our dependence on countries like China for metals and minerals.	40,69%
2 It could replace other more harmful forms of mining (for example where there is child labour involved).	33,72%
3 Deep-sea mining is necessary as innovation and recycling will not develop fast enough to meet our demand for minerals and metals for batteries.	31,53%
4 It is necessary to obtain the minerals and metals needed for green technologies (e.g. electrical vehicles) that can help combat climate change.	34,57%
5 It could help boost {#country}'s maritime industry and economy.	28,98%

6 Other	0,39%
7 None of the above	1,46%
Total	722

Q4 [For those indicating not in favour] Which of the following arguments against deep-sea mining are most convincing to you? You can pick up to 2 arguments.

1 It could cause serious and irreversible damage to the ocean and a loss of deep-sea life including species (such as whales), organisms and plants.	73,55%
2 The ocean floor plays an important role in storing carbon dioxide that causes climate change. Deep-sea mining could disrupt this, and worsen climate change.	43,14%
3 Very little is known about the deep sea, meaning it is impossible to accurately judge the risks that deep-sea mining carries. Better research and understanding of what is at stake is first needed.	29,62%
4 Deep-sea mining is unnecessary as innovation and recycling will be able to supply most of the minerals needed for the green transition.	20,12%
5 It may have a negative impact on the fishing industry and communities whose survival depend on the ocean.	18,41%
6 Other	0,48%
7 None of the above	0,63%
Total	1397

Q5 Which of the following statements about deep-sea mining most closely matches your own opinion?

Deep-sea mining should always be allowed	4,27%
Deep-sea mining should be allowed if the damage is limited	32,86%
Deep-sea mining should be prohibited until we know more about its consequences	40,91%

Deep-sea mining should always be prohibited	14,90%
Don't know	7,07%

Q5 Which of the following statements about deep-sea mining most closely matches your own opinion?

Top 2 (should be allowed)	37,12%
Bottom 2 (should be prohibited)	55,81%
Don't know	7,07%

Q6 To which extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I think it is important that my government protects life in the sea and oceans."

Totally agree	59,32%
Somewhat agree	28,41%
Neither agree nor disagree	8,52%
Somewhat disagree	0,91%
Strongly disagree	0,87%
Don't know	1,98%

Q6 To which extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I think it is important that my government protects life in the sea and oceans."

Top 2 (agree)	87,73%
Middle	8,52%
Bottom 2 (disagree)	1,77%
Don't know	1,98%

### Demographics of public polled in Poland, Italy and Belgium:

Gender

Male	48,25%
Female	51,62%
Non-binary	0,03%



Prefer not to say	0,09%
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Age category

18 – 24 years	8,86%
25 – 34 years	14,75%
35 – 44 years	16,77%
45 – 54 years	17,25%
55 – 64 years	16,58%
65 years and older	25,79%

Educational level

Low	9,30%
Medium	45,78%
High	44,92%

Total: 3043