PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND PUBLIC BUDGETS

€724

What people thought a typical citizen paid in tax each year for space exploration.

Europe’s public space budget answers a different question.

Weighted average across France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK. Online survey, 27 Dec 2024 to 6 Jan 2025. 5,607 adults in the five-country sample.

PUBLIC BUDGET PER RESIDENT

What Europe actually budgeted

€26

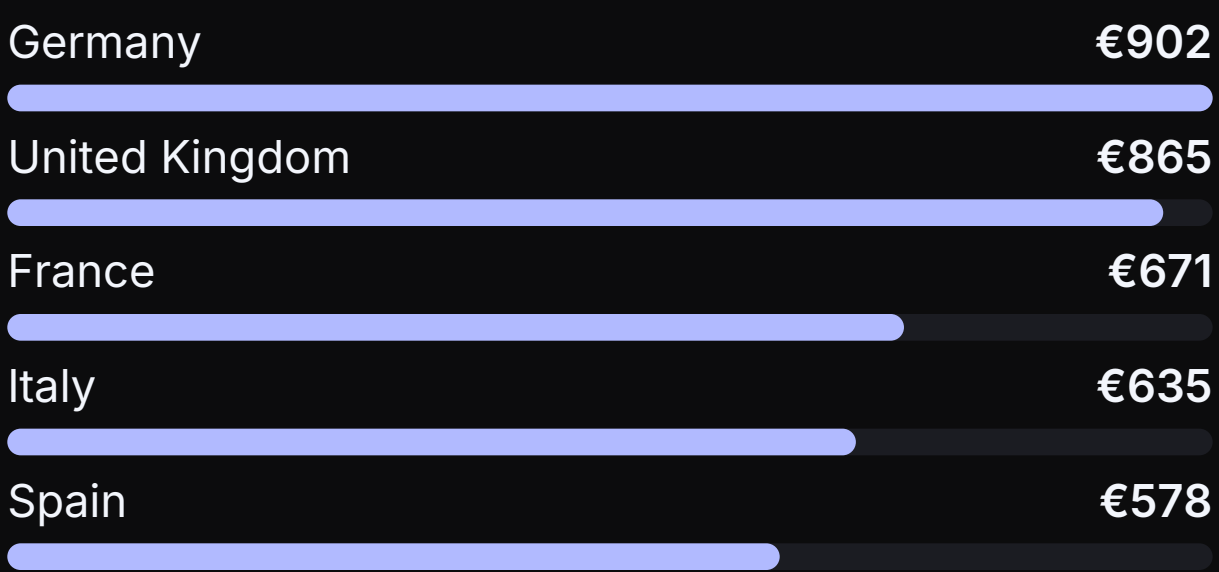
About €26 per resident for public space programmes in 2024, of which ESA's own share is €15.

This averages public budgets across residents: ESA, EU, Eumetsat and national programmes. The survey asked about taxes for exploration in five countries, so the figures cover different populations and activities.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX CONTRIBUTION

How estimates varied by country

What respondents thought a typical citizen in their country paid in tax each year for space exploration.



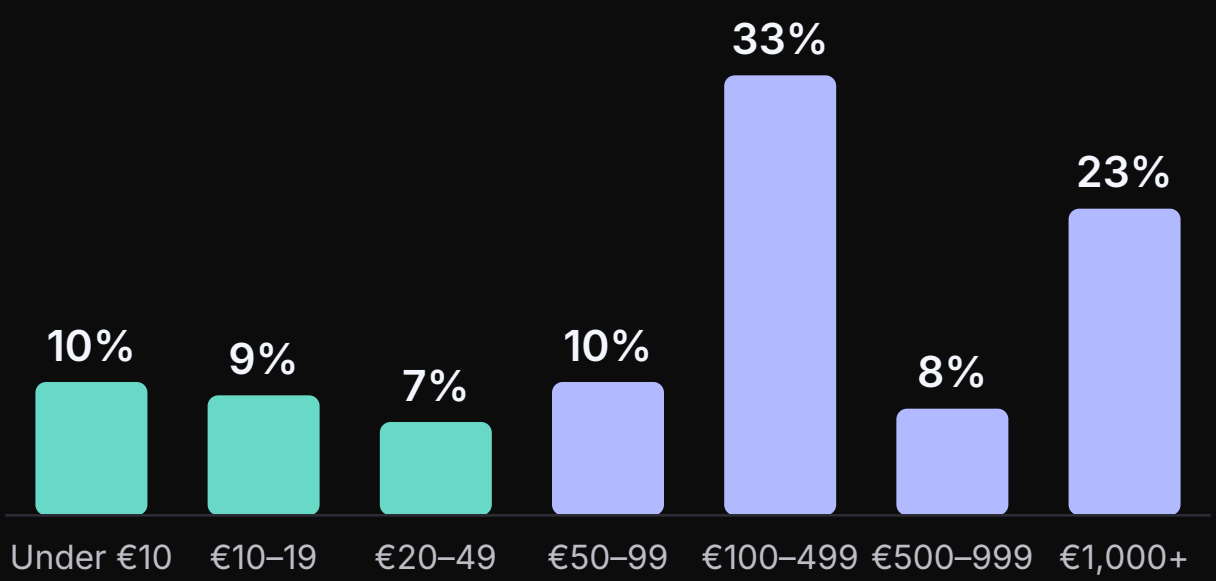
€724 weighted average

The survey weighted the five national samples to calculate this overall figure.

WHAT PEOPLE GUESSED

Only a quarter guessed under €50

Share of respondents by how much they thought a typical citizen paid in tax each year for space exploration.



- 26% guessed under €50
- 23% guessed €1,000 or more

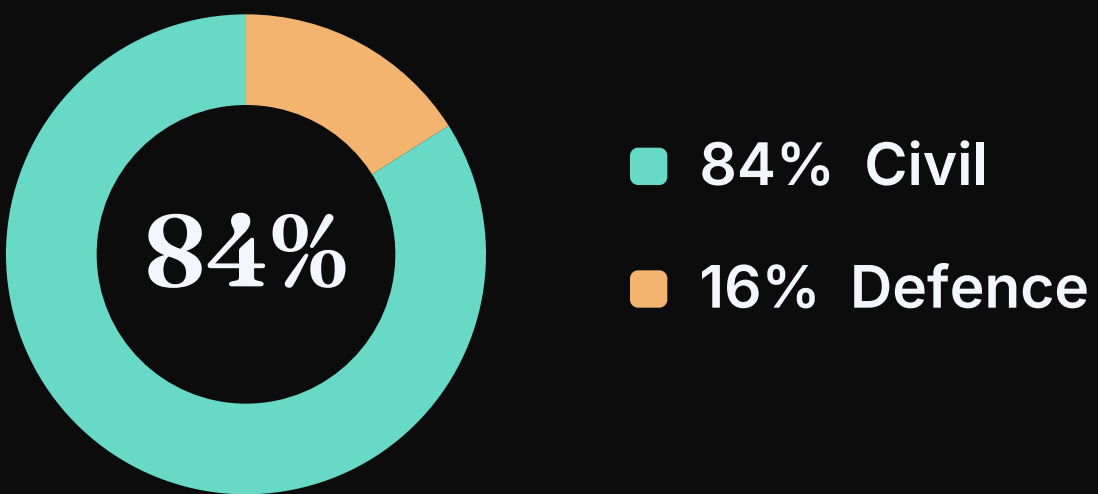
Toluna Harris Interactive for ESA · January 2025 · Q14

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PUBLIC BUDGETS

84% civil. Defence drove most of the growth.

Europe budgeted €13.5 billion for space in 2025, up 12%.

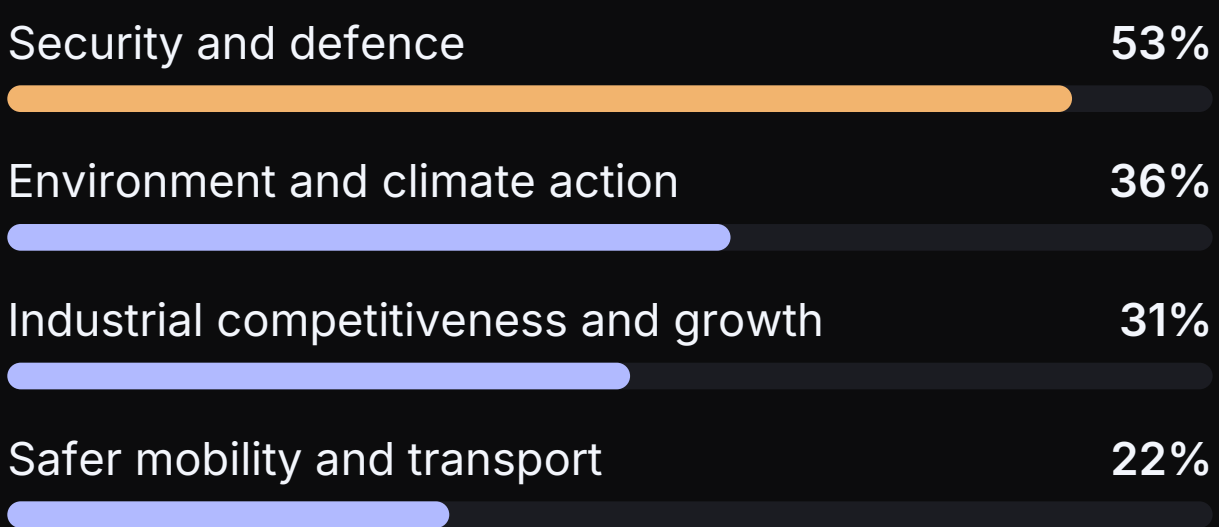


ESA classifies funding by organisation and counts all ESA and EU programmes as civil, including dual-use ones. The 2025 rise was driven mainly by national defence budgets, led by Germany.

PUBLIC OPINION

Asked about EU space policy, defence came first

Share of EU respondents who chose each priority for future EU space policy.



Multiple answers were allowed. Four leading choices shown.

MARKET DEMAND

Space supports services we use every day

€94bn

European demand for satellite-enabled products and services in 2025, as estimated by ESA.

Navigation and timing
Routing freight and synchronising power grids

Earth observation
Mapping floods and monitoring water

Satellite communications
Connecting aircraft and remote sites

This is demand, not a return on public budgets. Globally the market splits 77% navigation, 22% satcom and 1% Earth observation.

ESA Report on the Space Economy 2026 · §3.6

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SPACE FLUENCY

Space is already part of life on Earth

A debate about Europe’s space budget is also a debate about the services we rely on and the ones we want to build.

Which of those services would you want Europe to protect or improve?

LAUNCHING 16 NOVEMBER

We need to talk about space.

Strategic communication for a changing world.

Hana El Mourad · Link in the first comment
