

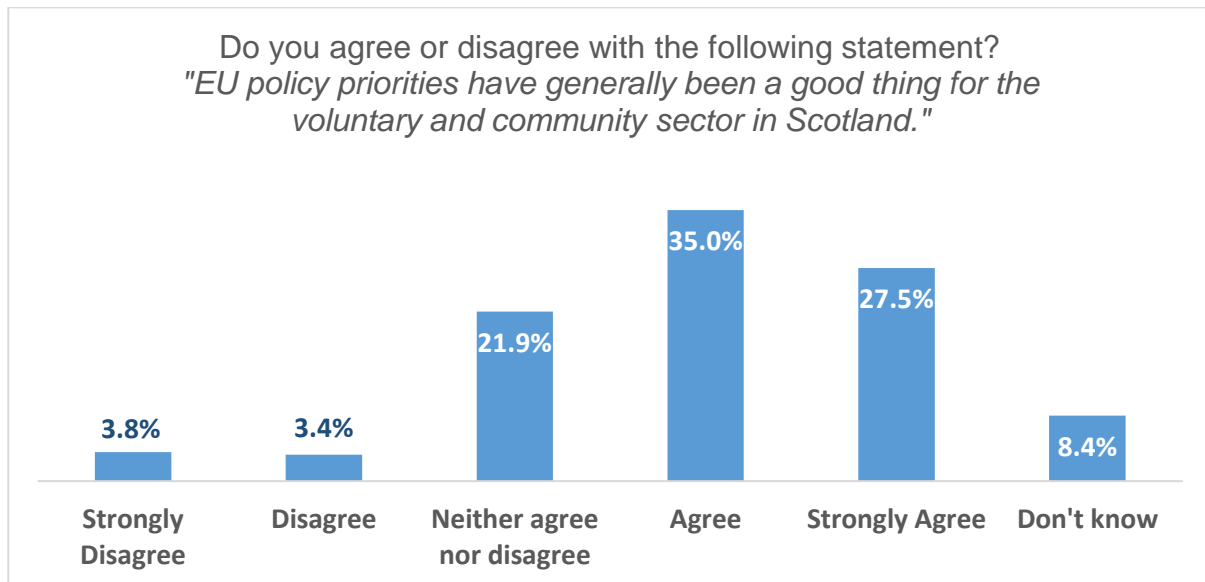
# SCVO Third Sector Forecast for 2017 – EU and Brexit section responses

## About the survey

The EU related questions formed a standalone section of the 2016 SCVO Third Sector Forecast survey, which asks SCVO members what they think the year ahead will hold for them. The survey ran during November and December 2016, with findings published in February 2017. The survey overall had 404 respondents, with 320 respondents completing the European section of the survey.

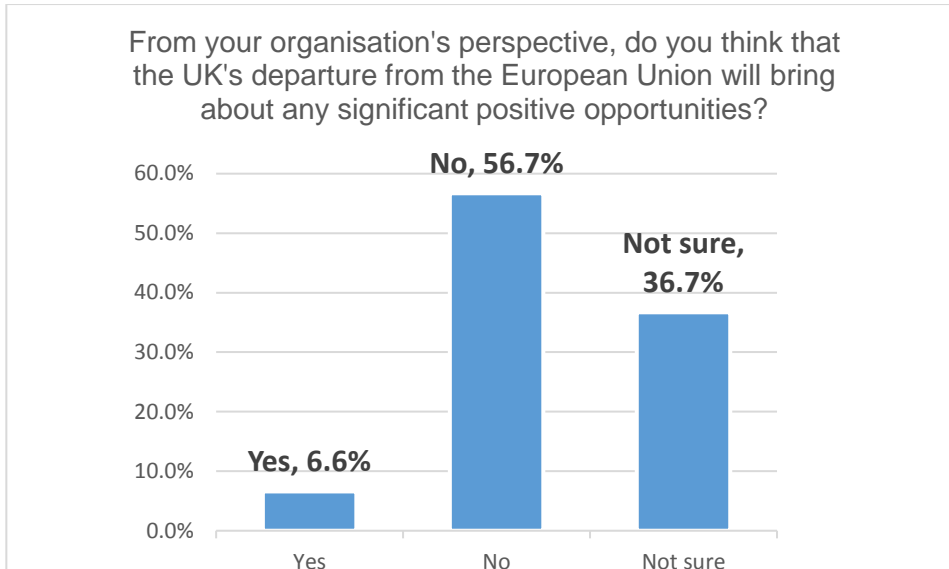
### 1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *"EU policy priorities have generally been a good thing for the voluntary and community sector in Scotland."*

- 62.5% of respondents either agree or agree strongly that EU policy priorities have generally been a good thing for the voluntary and community sector in Scotland. This rises to 68% when we exclude the 'don't knows'.
- 7% disagreed or disagreed strongly with the statement (or 8% when *don't knows* are excluded).



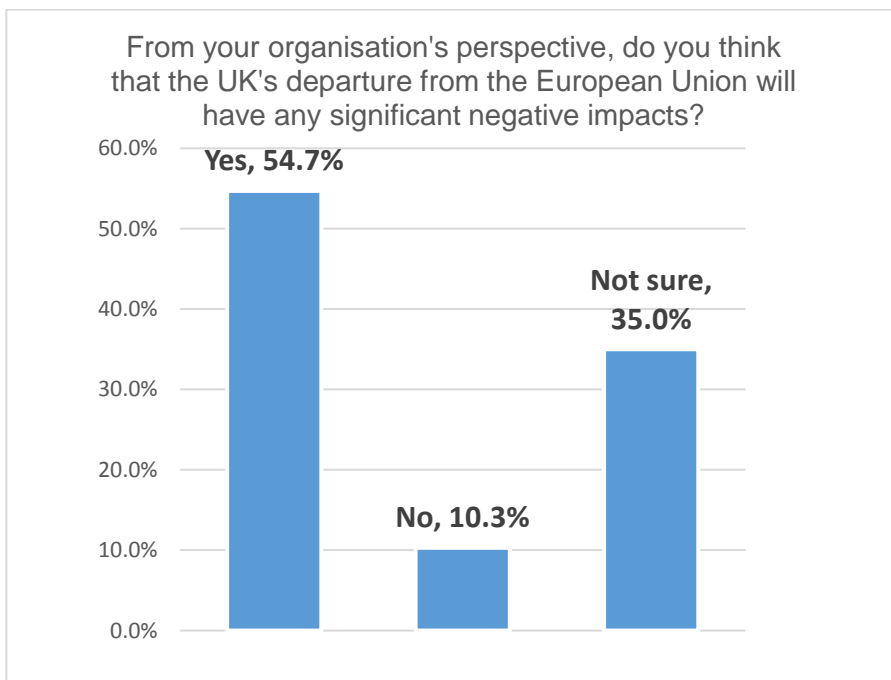
### 2. From your organisation's perspective, do you think that the UK's departure from the European Union will bring about any significant positive opportunities?

- 6% of respondents thought leaving the EU would bring significant positive opportunities.
- 57% of respondents thought that leaving would not bring opportunities.
- 37% were 'not sure', reflecting high levels of uncertainty around this issue.



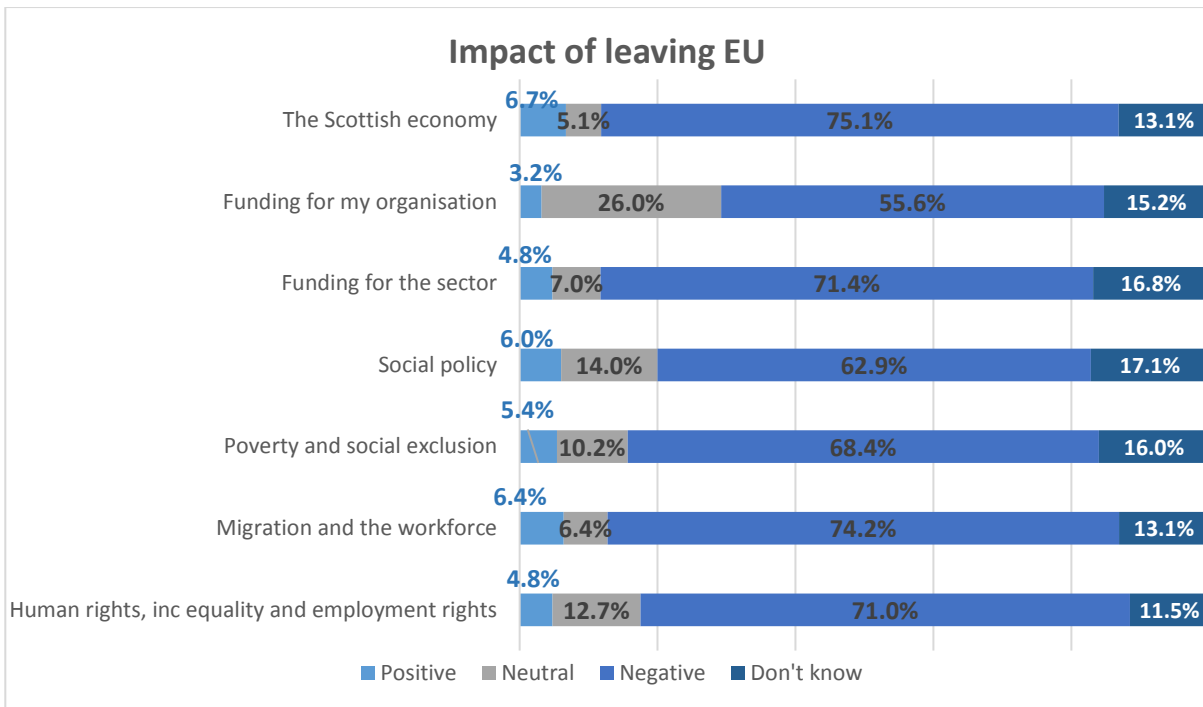
**3. From your organisation's perspective, do you think that the UK's departure from the European Union will have any significant negative impacts?**

- 55% of respondents thought leaving the EU would have significant negative impacts.
- 10% of respondents thought there would not be significant negative impact.
- 35% were 'not sure', again highlighting significant uncertainty.



**4. Do you think the UK's decision to leave the European Union will have any impact (positive or negative) on the following areas?**

When asked whether they anticipated any impact on key areas, the majority of respondents thought that the impact would be negative. The areas that respondents were most worried about were: the Scottish economy, funding for the sector, workforce and migration, and human rights:



If we remove the significant number of 'Don't Knows' the responses were as follows:

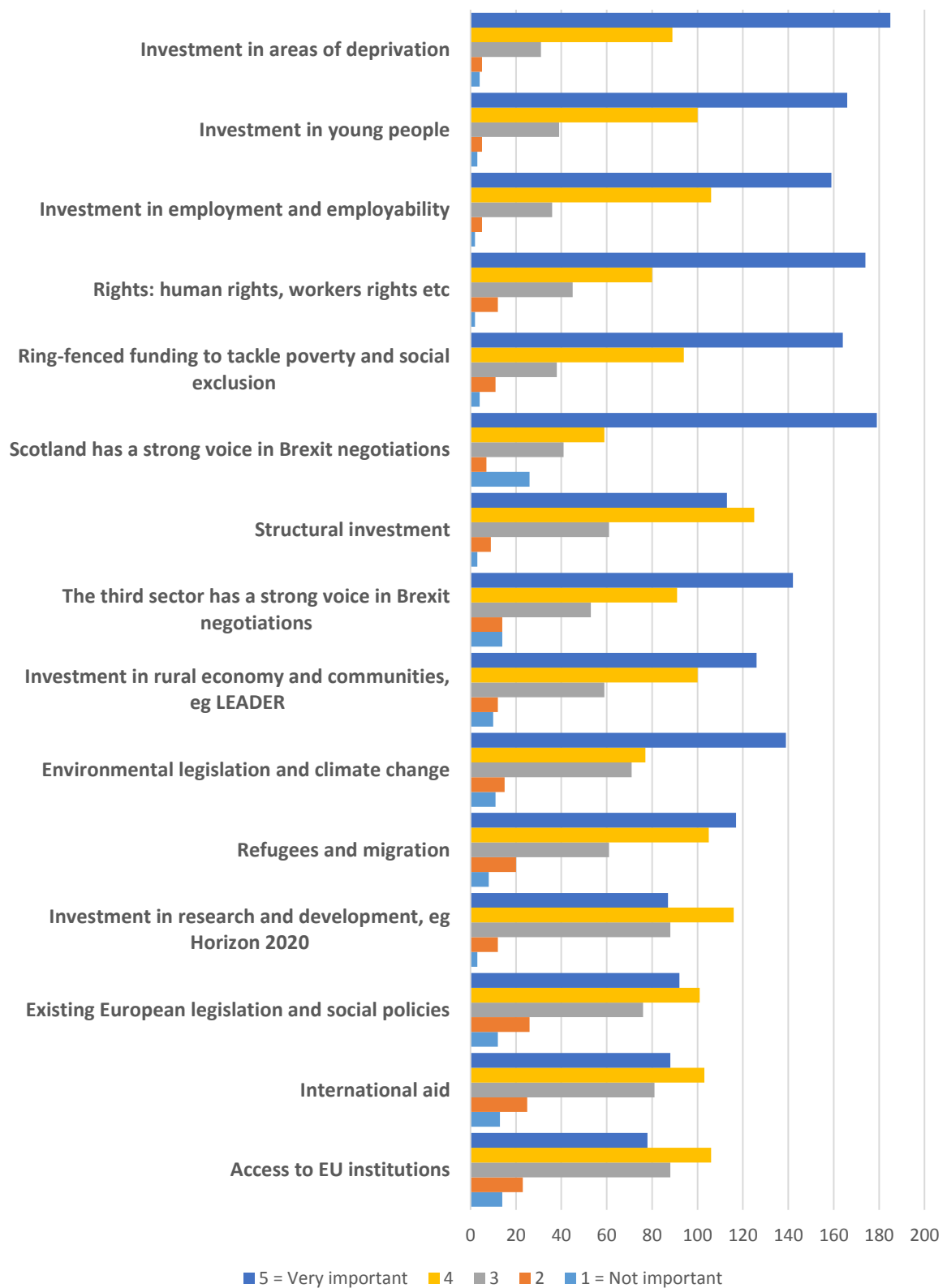
- The Scottish Economy – 86% negative impact
- Funding for the sector – 86% negative impact
- Migration and workforce – 85% negative impact
- Poverty & Social Exclusion – 81% negative impact
- Human Rights & Equality – 80% negative impact
- Social policy – 76% negative impact
- Funding for own organisation – 65% negative impact

Key additional area mentioned in comments: environmental policy

5. **EU How important do you think it is to have the following issues kept high on the agenda, on a scale of 1-5?**

- **88%** said it was important or very important to focus on **Investment in areas of deprivation**
- **81%** said it was important or very important to focus on **Human Rights/Workers Rights**
- **70%** said it was important or very important to focus on **Climate Change/Environment**

How important do you think it is to have the following issues kept high on the agenda, on a scale of 1-5?  
**Responses sorted by rating average**



## 6. Is your organisation part of any European networks, projects, collaborations or learning exchanges?

- 122 respondents are currently or have previously been, part of European networks, projects, collaborations or learning exchanges.
- This works out as 39% of the EU and Brexit section respondents.



## What impact do you think leaving the EU will have on your organisation's ability to network, share learning etc with your counterparts in Europe?

### Current members of EU networks

- 26% of respondents (83 respondents) are currently members of EU networks.
- The majority of these respondents provided comments, with most feeling that there would be a negative impact on their work:  
*"Fewer opportunities, funding for knowledge exchange likely to be unavailable. Loss of prestige for UK as a whole, therefore less weight in negotiations and strategic thinking."*
- A smaller proportion felt that there would be no impact or hoped it would be minimal
- **While many felt that they would continue with the relationships they had built in some form, key concerns were:**
  - **practical issues such as not being able to access EU funding would inevitably have an impact on their ability to participate in networks.**
  - **increased difficulty building new relationships**
  - **loss of important infrastructure**
  - **no longer able to lead projects**

### Past members

- 12% (39 respondents) have been members of EU networks in the past.
- One respondent interestingly noted that they had moved away from EU partnerships as *"we were not able to manage the delays and difficult cash flow issues it caused for us"*
- Another person noted that they are currently focussing on partnerships with US instead.
- However, most respondents who had previously been part of an EU network or collaborative project were concerned about the negative impact on funding and opportunities for future collaboration, the negative impact on infrastructure, and negative impact on specific types of activity such as research.

## Not part of a network

Two-thirds (62%) of respondents were not and have never been part of any EU networks. This group (as one would expect) did not provide many comments. The 15 who did respond almost all felt that there would be no real impact: *“No impact. There’s nothing stopping us networking etc with organisations anywhere, not just in EU. EU has led to great parochialism in many areas of life as people tend to focus on this small corner of the globe, forgetting everywhere else”*

## **7. Are you hoping to get EU funding over the coming years? If so, - how much?- what do you think the impact of leaving the EU will be on your ability to carry out your activities? - And are you looking for alternative funding sources?**

134 respondents completed this section of the survey.

- Around three-quarters of respondents answered no / not applicable to this question.
- 28% of respondents (37) said their organisation is currently in receipt of EU funding.
- LEADER was the most frequently mentioned single source of funding, followed by ESF.
- 11 responding organisations gave a specific figure for the funding they were in receipt of, totalling £1.4million, or around £127k per organisation (in many cases covering multiple years).
- Those in receipt of EU funding were generally extremely concerned about post-Brexit funding. While many were looking for alternative sources of funding, there was concern that this would be very difficult/competitive and that services would suffer. Other respondents felt that there were few alternative sources of funding for their organisations. Several respondents also highlighted concerns about having to revert to chasing short-term funding to replace.
- Some commented that while they did not directly receive EU money, the loss of EU funding would have indirect impact on them and those they work with.
- Many of those who were not in receipt of EU money noted that as smaller organisations they did not feel it was appropriate for them.
- Others noted that while they had planned to apply, the current situation meant it would be unlikely they would do so.
- Uncertainty about the funding implications of leaving EU was a common thread through many comments.

The table below summarises the comments on what EU funding if any the organisation receives:

<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Count of orgs</b>	<b>Sum of Amount</b>	<b>Orgs giving fund £</b>
Creative Europe	1		
ESF	3		
EVS	1		
LEADER	12	£983,000	7
Match funding	1		
SRDP	1	£100,000	1
Yes - unspecified	16	£316,000	3
unsure	9		
no or n/a	82		
not any more	4		
not directly	2		
Employability / skills	2		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>£1,399,000</b>	<b>11</b>

**8. What actions or guarantees do you think the third sector should be asking for?**

**Sample comments:**

- *Guarantees human rights will not be affected*
- *A move away from short term project funding to secure core funding to enable longer term planning and ensure ongoing support of beneficiaries.*
- *Support from government for collaborative projects with other parts of Europe.*
- *Resources to ensure services are equipped to meet the needs of those who may find themselves in a crisis as Brexit moves from transition to reality.*
- *It is important that our voice is heard - loud and clear- as our work is interwoven into public policy; the economy; the environment etc. We should be confident - advocating for the vulnerable in our society - proposing solutions that come from a strength of common/shared beliefs.*
- *More funding to be ring-fenced so that local authorities can't divert money into other projects. More funding directed towards preventing issues rather than solving them.*
- *Continued involvement in the European Medicines Agency; continued adherence to EU tendering rules; contribution to the running costs of EU umbrella organisations*