

## INTRODUCTION

In the wake of WWII, the idea of European integration, or the political and economic intertwining of European states, gained traction as a new path forward. In 1993, the European Union was created as the ultimate triumph of integration. This project seeks to evaluate the EU's ability to solve crises in order to determine whether further integration is a viable solution.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

- In order to analyze the effectiveness of the European Union, I will analyze the EU's responses to three crises: the eurozone crisis, the European migrant crisis, and the Russia-Ukraine war. For all three crises, I did the following:
  - Collected expert analyses of the EU response
  - Conducted investigation on the performance of major EU institutions
    - Eurozone Crisis: European Central Bank & European Commission
    - European Migrant Crisis: Dublin System & European Commission
    - Russia-Ukraine War: European Commission & European Council
  - Collected polling data on public opinion

## DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

In both the eurozone crisis and migrant crisis, the EU was unprepared and under equipped to respond effectively.

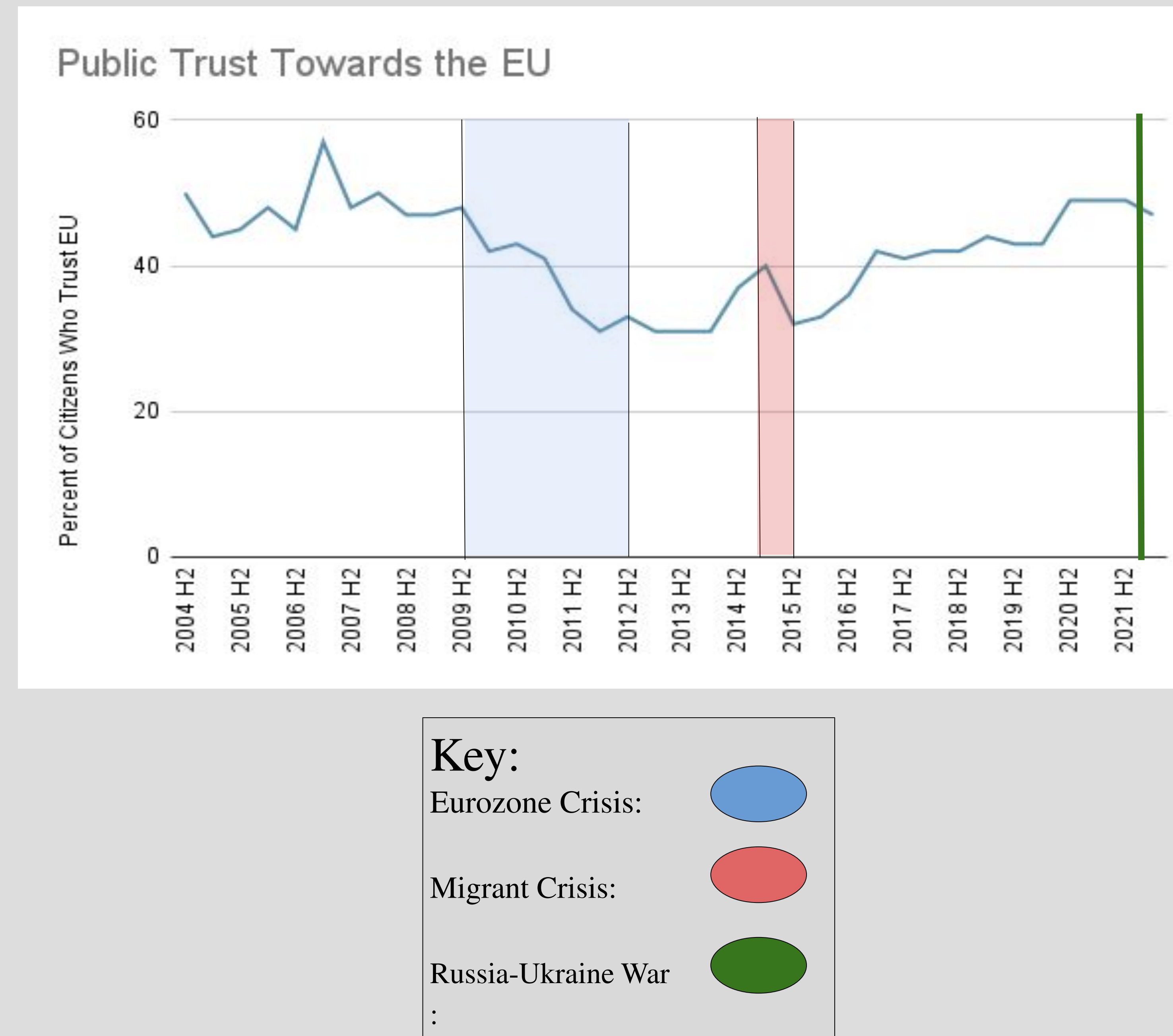
In the eurozone crisis, however, the European Central Bank adapted and economic integration actually increased as time went on. Interestingly, the EU's response to the sovereign debt crisis was spearheaded by a single country (Germany) that sought a top-down approach to ensuring fiscal responsibility. German demands for such fiscal reforms led to poor public opinion throughout Europe.

In the migrant crisis, on the other hand, the EU preformed poorly as individual countries undertook unilateral policies. Public opinion towards the EU suffered tremendously when the EU sought to coordinate a unified migrant policy.

The EU's response to the Ukraine-Russian war is quite different from both of the other crises analyzed. The invasion of Ukraine led to a scale of multilateral cooperation never seen before in the EU's history. The case of integration will persist for much longer given the EU's effectiveness.

## DATA AND FINDINGS

### Polling Data



## Institutional Rankings

Ranking System On 5 Point Scale  
 (5 is most effective; 1 is least effective)  
 Scale based on the magnitude, scope, and success of institutional response

### Eurozone Crisis

- ECB: Ranking 4
- EU Commission: 3

### European Migrant Crisis

- Dublin System: 2
- EU Commission: 2

### Russia-Ukraine War

- EU Commission: 4
- EU Council: 4

## CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

In all three crises, further integration would have helped strengthen the EU's responses. In the eurozone crisis, greater EU fiscal oversight would have helped to prevent the debt problems in Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. In addition, a more integrated banking system would have aided banks that fell during the crisis. Further integration would have also helped during the migrant crisis. A more unified and strong Dublin system would have helped countries handle the masses of migrants more effectively. In regards to the Ukraine-Russia crisis, a more integrated Europe could have helped prevent the war before it started.

However, as my public polling data has demonstrated, further integration will lead to public backlash. The heterogeneity of political thought in the member states of the EU will prevent effective integration in certain areas such as fiscal policy. However, public opinion has had limited effect on areas such as monetary policy and coordinated responses against external powers.

In conclusion, further integration should be pursued by Europe. Recent events such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine have displayed the importance of a unified European continent. It is to be noted, however, that integration in certain areas will be much harder given the heterogeneity of political opinion. In such areas, integration might not be logical.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

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List all your references here, alphabetically by author last name

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