



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Brussels, 23 April 2015

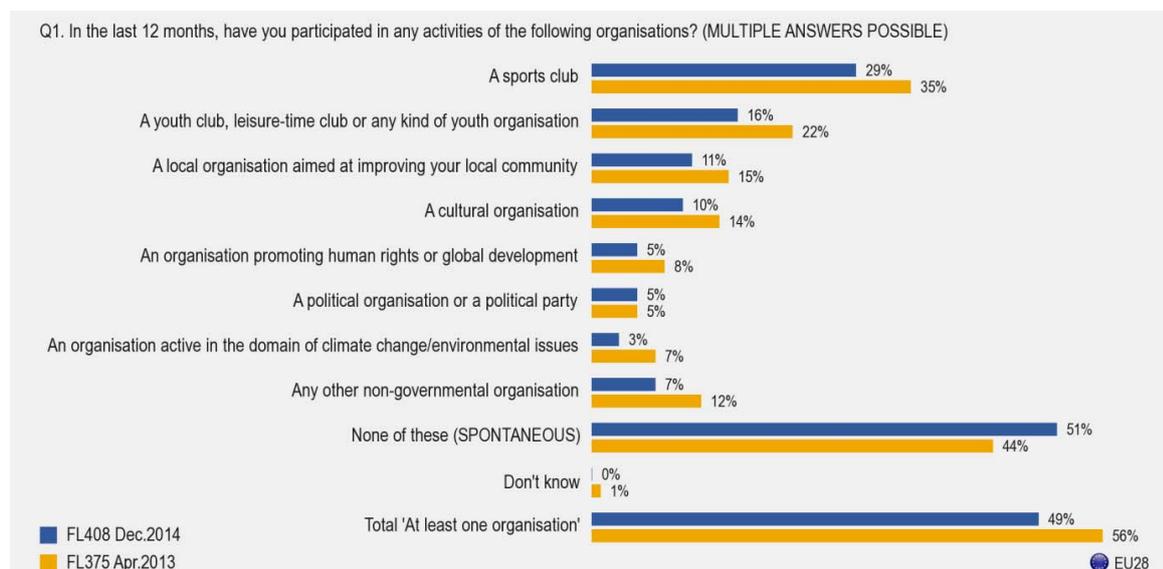
A new Eurobarometer Survey on young people reveals decreasing involvement in out-of-school activities

Over 13.000 young people between 15 and 30 were interviewed in 28 Member States to hear their views on democratic participation, volunteering and on their employment perspectives. This [Flash Eurobarometer Survey n°408](#) was carried out by the market research group *TNS Political & Social network* in December 2014 at the request of the European Commission.

Key findings

Participation in organisations is decreasing

Around half (49%) of respondents say they have been active over the last 12 months in at least one organisation (such as sports club, youth club or other youth organisation, local organisation, cultural organisation, political organisation, or any other non-governmental organisation) **compared to 56% in 2013** ([Eurobarometer 375](#)).



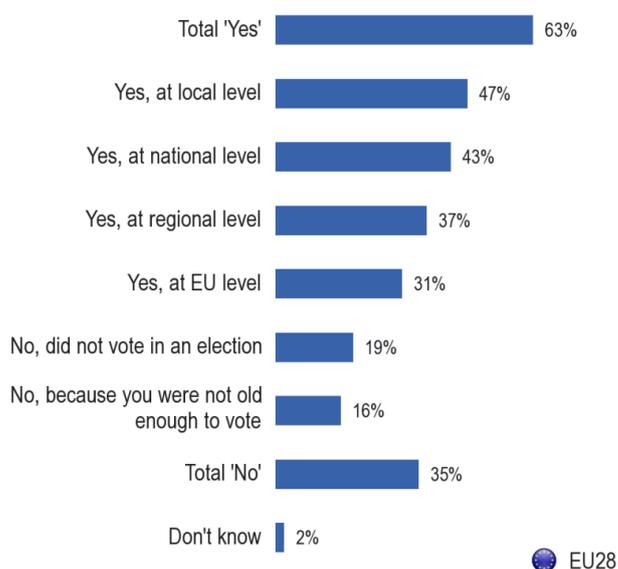
The most popular activity is being involved in a sports club (29%) followed by a youth club, leisure-time club or any kind of youth organisation (16%); 11% of respondents have been involved in a local organisation aiming to improve the local community; and 10% have been active in a cultural organisation. Comparing this survey with a similar one from

2013, participation in various organisations decreased in 24 Member States with the exception of the UK, Latvia, Cyprus and Sweden.¹

Participation in elections is linked to the educational level and the involvement in non-formal learning activities.

63% of respondents voted in a political election at local, regional, national or EU level in the last three years, while 16% were not old enough yet. 47% voted at local level, 37% at regional level, 43% at national level and 31% at EU level. **This represents an increase of 4%** when compared to the previous Eurobarometer survey of 2013.

Q2. During the last 3 years, did you vote in any political election at the local, regional, national or EU level? If you were, at that time, not eligible to vote, please say so. (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



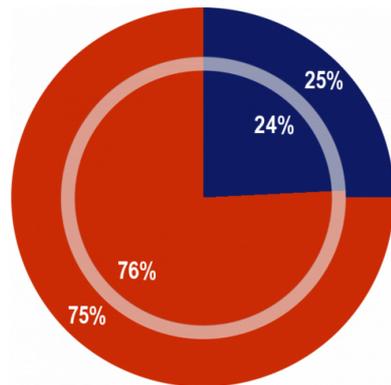
One fourth of young Europeans take part in voluntary activities.

One fourth of respondents have been involved in organised voluntary activities in the last 12 months. 27% of those involved in volunteering have received formal recognition for this activity.

Volunteering was aimed at bringing about change in the local community (66%), rather than in the country as a whole (27%), in other European countries (7%) or other parts of the world (11%). 6% of young people say that they have volunteered abroad at some point. Besides volunteering, 7% of young people say that, in the past 12 months, they have participated in activities or projects that foster cooperation with young people from other countries.

¹ Based on the latest Eurobarometer surveys and the two previous ones (2011, 2013), the United Kingdom (+2 pp. since 2013 and +4 pp. since 2011) and Latvia (+1 pp. and +5 pp. respectively) are the only two countries that registered an increase in the level of participation. Cyprus also recorded a slight increase of 2 pp. since 2013 and Sweden an increase of 6 pp. since 2011.

Q3. In the last 12 months, have you been involved in any organised voluntary activities?



- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Inner pie : FL319a Feb.2011
Outer pie : FL408 Dec.2014

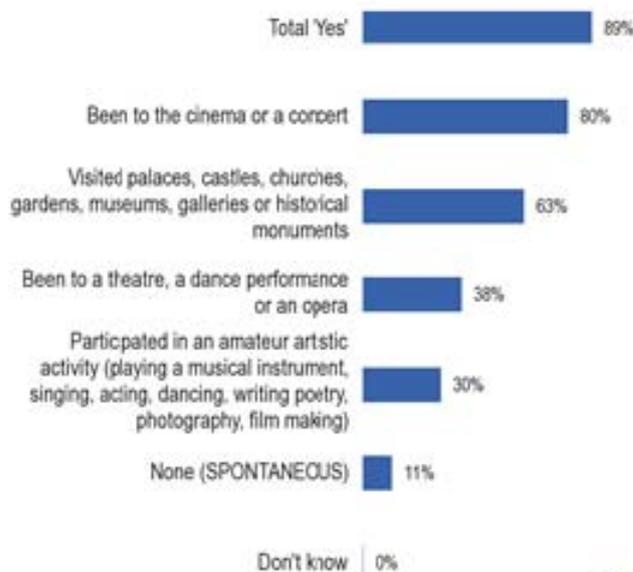
EU28

Participation in cultural activities is decreasing.

Almost 9 out of 10 respondents have participated in a cultural activity in the last 12 months.

80% of respondents have been to the cinema or a concert, while 63% have been to a visitor attraction (such as a palace, castle, church, garden, museum, gallery or historical monument). Young people are less likely to have been to a theatre, dance performance or opera (38%), or to have participated in an amateur artistic activity (30%). Overall, the level of participation has decreased by 5 percentage points since 2011, when 94% of young people said they had engaged in at least one cultural activity.

Q10. In the last 12 months, have you participated in any of the following cultural activities? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



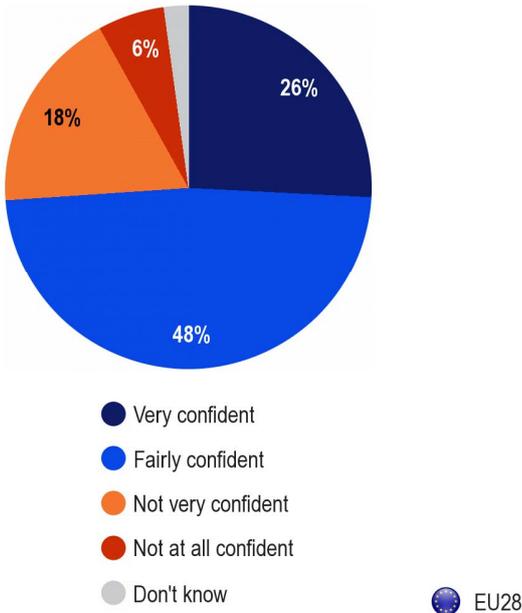
EU28

Confidence about finding a job is fairly high, although there is much less confidence in job stability.

Three-quarters of young people who are still studying are at least fairly confident about finding a job (74%).

Levels of confidence about finding a job after education vary considerably across different EU Member States. Young people in the Czech Republic are the most confident about finding a job after they finish education (92% very or fairly confident), followed by those in Luxembourg (89%) and Austria (89%). Relatively high levels of confidence can also be seen in the United Kingdom (87%), Ireland (87%), Estonia (86%), Sweden (86%) and Finland (86%). Less than half of respondents are confident of finding a job after education in Greece (just 32% are very or fairly confident and 25% are not at all confident), Spain (37% very or fairly confident) and Cyprus (49%).

Q11. How confident are you that you will find a job after finishing education?



But almost a third of respondents are concerned about not finding a long term contract or a stable job.

There are differences by gender in the concerns that young people have about getting a job. Women are more likely than men to be concerned about not finding a long-term contract or a stable job (74% compared with 61%) and lacking the right knowledge or skills (34% compared with 25%), whereas men are more concerned than women about the level of salary (55% compared with 44%).

Q12T - What would be your concerns when you think about getting a job? Firstly (main reason)? And then?

	Not finding a long term contract or a stable job	The level of salary	Having to move to find a job	Lacking the right knowledge or skills	Other
EU28	68%	49%	45%	30%	16%
 Sex					
Male	61%	55%	43%	25%	22%
Female	74%	44%	47%	34%	12%