

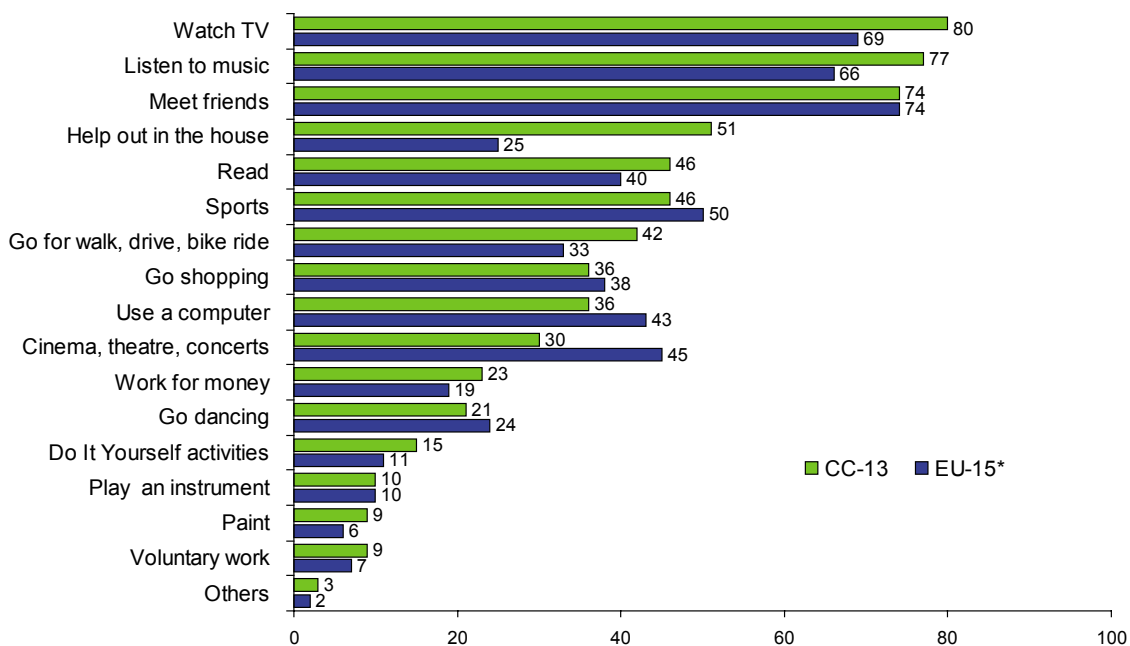
## YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

The main objective of this Eurobarometer survey is to present a picture of young people in the candidate countries. The questions cover issues ranging from young people's concerns about employment and unemployment, the values they hold, to their perceptions of the European Union and its benefits. The results are compared with those measured in 2001 for the countries that were already members of the European Union (Standard Eurobarometer 55.1). This comparison will serve to highlight the many differences that exist in the fields under examination, particularly concerning financial matters, revealing that young people have a somewhat different profile depending on whether they are from the candidate countries or from the current European Union.

The main results of the survey are the following:

- **INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOCIETY**

### How young people spend their leisure time (%)



Watching television is the most widely practiced activity in the 13 candidate countries (80%). In the countries that will become members in 2004<sup>1</sup>, this activity holds an equal second position with listening to music (77% each). Meeting friends (79%) is the most popular activity of all among young people in the countries that will become members in 2004.

Listening to music is the second most preferred activity in the candidate countries (77%) and meeting friends (74%) the third. The data from the Standard Eurobarometer 55.1 survey show that young people in the EU meet their friends (74%), watch television (69%) and listen to music (66%) more than any other activity.

Only 46% of young people in the candidate countries take part in sport, while the figure in the countries that will become members in 2004 is 52% and in the EU 50%. Within the 13 candidate countries, only 42% walk, cycle or drive. These activities are, however, practiced by 53% of the sample in the countries that will be EU members in 2004.

It is important to note that more than half the young people surveyed in the candidate countries (51%) and in the countries that will become EU members in 2004 (53%) state that they help in the house, while this activity is only undertaken by a quarter of young people in the EU (25%).

46% of young people in the candidate countries read during their spare time as do 50% of those in the countries that will become members in 2004. This is only the case for 40% of young people in the EU. On the other hand, 45% of young people in the EU go to the cinema, concerts or the theatre in contrast to 30% in the candidate countries and 36% from the countries that will become members in 2004.

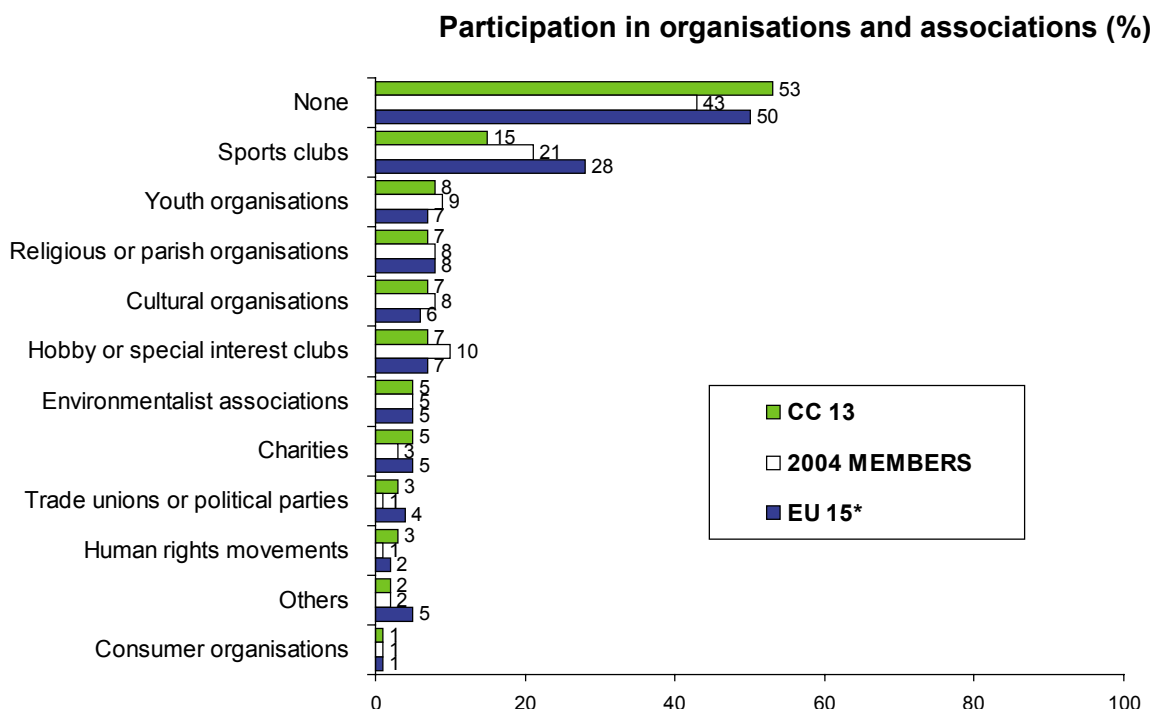
Watching television is the most frequently practiced activity in six of the candidate countries, particularly in Lithuania (89%). Meeting friends is the most popular activity in five other candidate countries ranging from 93% in Bulgaria to 72% in Latvia. The Poles state that their first preference is listening to music.

Turning to the socio-demographic side, a certain number of stereotypes - already identified in the EU countries in the Standard Eurobarometer 55.1 – are just as apparent among young people in the candidate countries. Girls aged between 15 and 24 in the candidate countries are much more likely than boys to go shopping (45% in contrast to 27%), read (56% in contrast to 37%), go dancing (29% in contrast to 14%) and help in the house (62% as opposed to 40%). Conversely, considerably more boys practice sport (61% as opposed to 29%), use a computer (44% as opposed to 27%) and work for money (30% as opposed to 16%).

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1 There are ten countries in this group: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. We will refer to them as the 'member countries in 2004' or 'the countries which will be members in 2004'.

## **PARTICIPATION IN ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS**



Overall, young people in the candidate countries showed low levels of participation in organizations and associations: 53% do not belong to any organization or association. This is not something that is peculiar to the candidate countries since half the young people in the EU are in the same situation. In the countries that will become members in 2004, the figures are even lower (43%).

Of all the types of organisations cited, sports clubs are the most popular: 15% of young people in the candidate countries, 21% of those that will become members in 2004 and 28% of young people in the EU are members of a sports club. Way behind in the candidate countries, are youth organisations (8%), religious organisations (7%) and cultural organisations (7%).

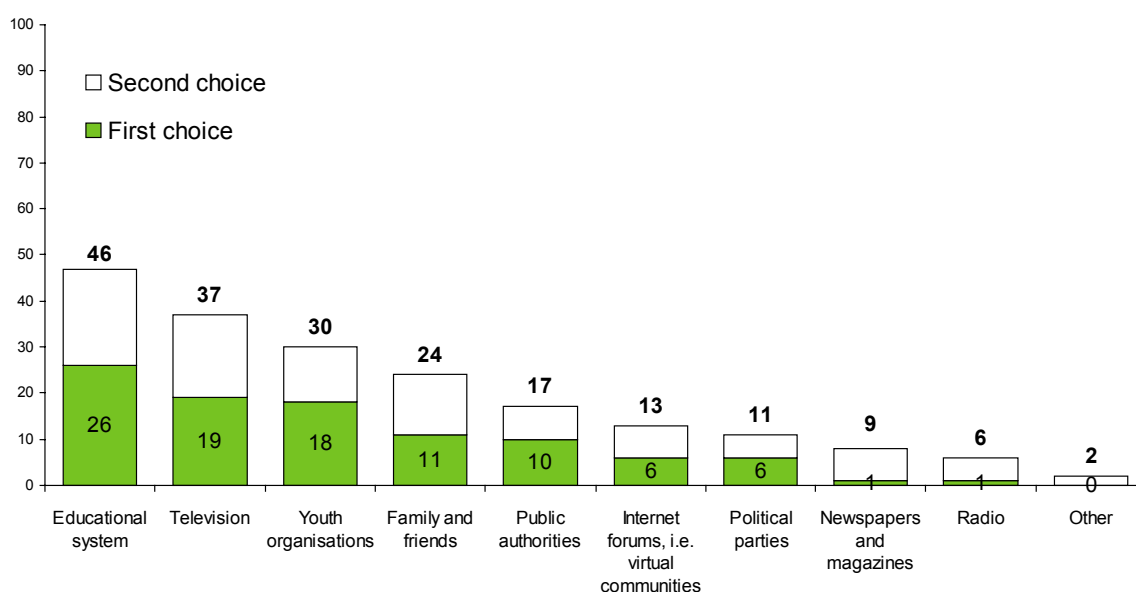
If we look at national differences, we can see that 72% of young people in Bulgaria are not involved in any kind of an association or organization, whereas this is the case for only 29% of young Slovaks and 33% of young Slovenes. Nevertheless, in each of the countries 'None' appears at the top of the ranking of the possible answers provided.

Sports clubs are mentioned in second place in twelve out of thirteen of the candidate countries (in particular in the Czech Republic 34%, Estonia 28% and Slovakia 28%). There is only one exception, Bulgaria, where sports clubs are ranked behind hobby and special interest clubs (11%).

Hobby and special interest clubs are cited less frequently than sports clubs in five countries (Estonia: 17%, the Czech Republic: 16%, Slovakia: 14%, Poland: (8%) and youth organizations in four countries (Lithuania: 16%, Malta: 15%, Cyprus: 14% and Slovenia: 14%). Religious organizations occupy this position in Hungary (12%) and in Romania (8%), while this is the case for charities in Turkey (8%).

## Participation of young people in society

### Channels used by young people (%)



Of all the 'channels' that make social or political participation easier, the first choice of young people in the candidate countries is the educational system – chosen by one out of every four (26%). The second choice is television (19%), followed by youth organisations (18%). At least one out of every ten polled mentions family and friends (11%) or public authorities (10%) as playing the role of catalyst in their social participation.

Only 6% of young citizens in the candidate countries think that Internet forums and political parties are the most important channels for encouraging active participation of young people in society. Newspapers and magazines were mentioned by barely 1% of young people surveyed, as was the radio.

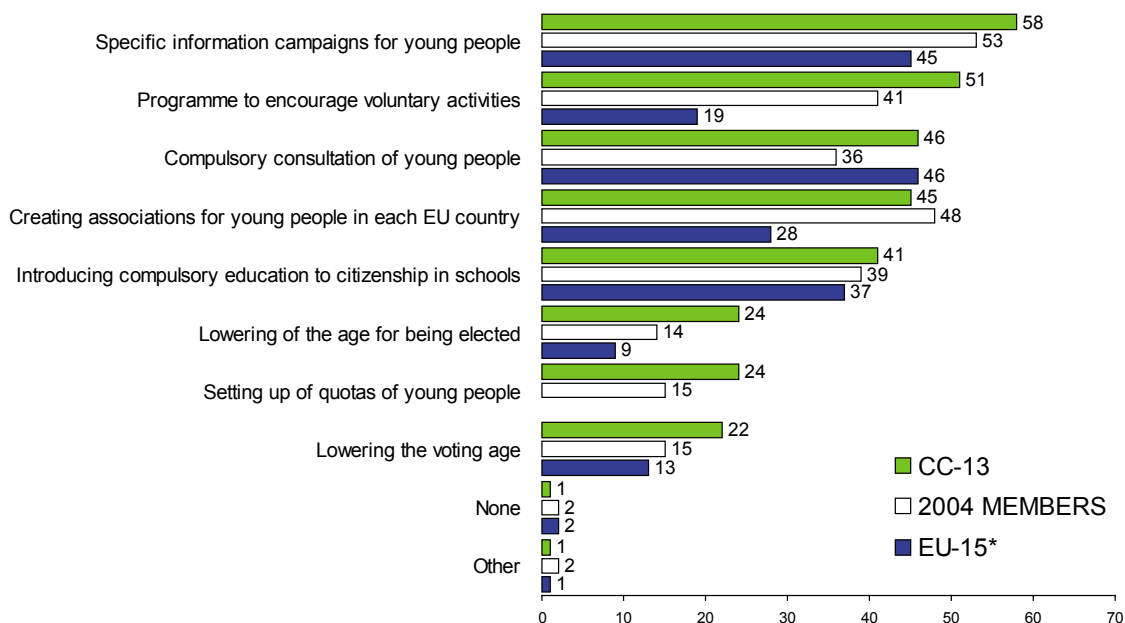
When for each channel, we add together the percentage of 'first choice' replies to the percentage of 'second choice' answers, it becomes apparent that the ranking does not change very much although the segmentation is clearer. The educational system is always the most frequently selected channel (46%), followed by television (36%). Youth organisations come in third position with 30% and family and friends are in fourth in terms of importance. In this context, radio and newspapers and magazines still play a less important role (6% and 9% respectively).

The educational system is considered the most important structure in five candidate countries out of thirteen. The percentage of young people expressing this opinion is highest in Turkey (31%) and Slovakia (29%), and its lowest rankings are seen in Malta and Romania (16% each). The educational system is ranked second in Hungary (25%), in Estonia (24%), in Cyprus (23%), in Slovenia (23%), in Lithuania (23%) and in Bulgaria (22%). Youth organisations are the first to be cited in Slovenia (39%), in Cyprus and Malta (35% each), in Estonia (33%) and in Lithuania (32%).

Probably because they have remained within the educational system longer, young people who finished studying aged 20 or over (30%), executives (29%) and employees (28%) tend more frequently than the unemployed (23%) and those who finished their formal education at age 15 or between 15 and 19 years (24% each) to hold the view that the educational system is the best channel for encouraging young people to participate in society.

## POLICY MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Policy measures to encourage young people's social participation (%)



Of all the policies that were proposed, young people in the candidate countries (58%) and countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 (53%) feel that specific information campaigns should be the main measure to encourage young people's social participation.

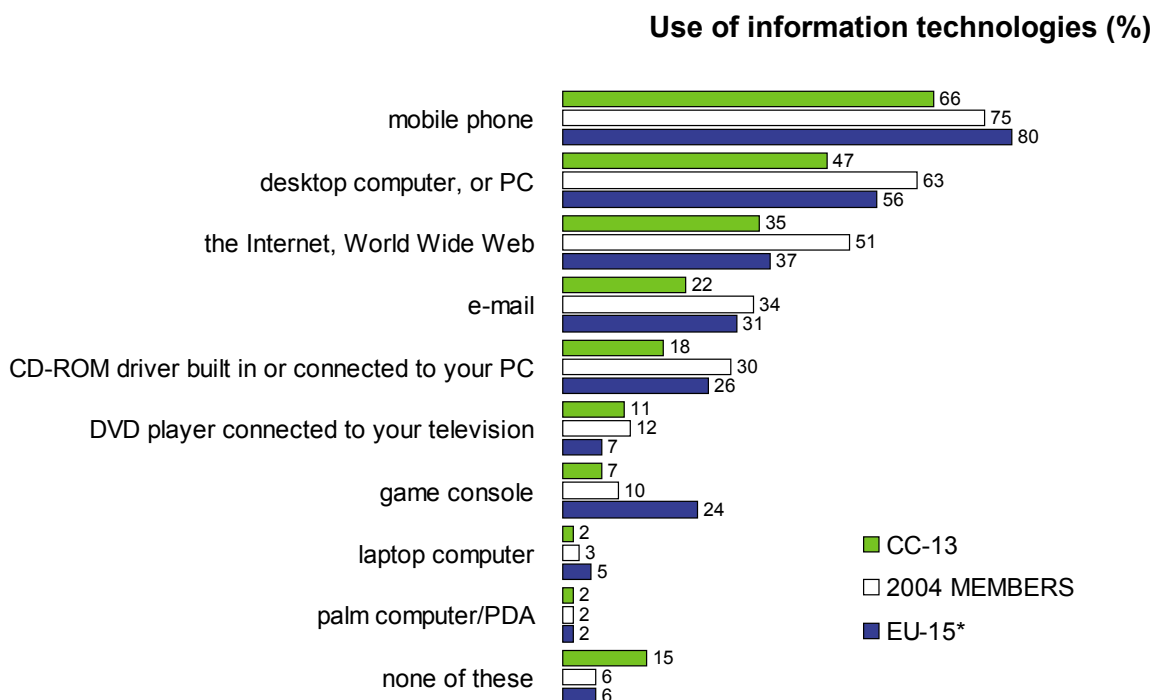
The second most frequently cited measure is the introduction of a programme to encourage voluntary activities. This view is shared by 41% of young people in the countries joining the EU in 2004 but only 19% in the EU. The third most popular initiative is 'compulsory consultation of young people'. This was chosen by the same proportion of young people in the candidate countries as in the EU countries (46% each).

In fifth position, respondents chose the option of compulsory education on citizenship in schools (41%). The importance that young people attach to school as a channel to assist their social participation is seen here.

The lowering of the voting age or the right to run for election is only mentioned by 22% and 24% of young people in the candidate countries. It should be noted that young people aged 15 to 17 (and therefore those who do not yet hold the right to vote) are much more numerous than other young people in citing these two measures (27% as opposed to 17% of those aged 18 and over). On the other hand, fewer of them tend to mention specific information campaigns (56% as against 61%).

• **INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**



In focusing less on ownership but more on the regular use of information technologies, the gulf between young people from the future and current European Union becomes apparent.

The mobile telephone is, by far, the most widespread information technology application in use among young people aged between 15 and 24 in the candidate countries and the EU: 80% of young people in the EU, 75% in the countries that will become EU members in 2004 and 66% in the candidate countries overall, use a mobile telephone each week. This is practically the case of all young people in Slovenia (97%), followed by the Maltese (95%), the Cypriots (92%) and the Czechs (90%). On the other hand, only four out of ten Bulgarians and Romanians (40% and 41% respectively) use a mobile telephone.

In the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004, more than one in ten young people uses a PC at least once a week. This is also the case of 56% of young people in the EU Member States and 47% of young people in the candidate countries overall. PC use is most common in Slovenia (77%), Estonia (71%) and Malta (71%). At the other end of the scale, only 30% of Turks and 41% of Bulgarians use a PC on a regular basis.

Half the young people in the countries joining the EU in 2004 regularly use the Internet, and 34% send and receive e-mails. These two results are the highest of those measured among young EU citizens (Internet: 37%, e-mail: 31%).

Weekly use of the Internet is most widespread in Slovenia and Estonia (62% each), in the Czech Republic (57%) and in Malta (56%). Young people in these four countries also make frequent use of e-mail. Use of the Internet and e-mail is lowest in Romania (Internet: 29%, e-mail: 20%) and in Turkey (Internet: 19%, e-mail: 9%).

Game consoles are less common in the candidate countries than in the EU countries. While one young EU citizen out of four (24%) uses a PlayStation, Xbox or similar visual game, only 7% of young people in the candidate countries do so and 10% in the countries that will become EU members in 2004. Consoles are most common in Malta with 30% of young people using them each week. At the other end of the scale, only 5% of young Estonians do so.

### **TRAVEL AND KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES**

More than a quarter (28%) of the young generation in candidate countries had visited at least one foreign country in the last two years. This rate is much higher in the countries that will become EU members in 2004, where 56% of respondents mentioned that they had visited a foreign country, while in the EU 63% of young people had travelled abroad in the last two years.

Seventy one percent of young people in candidate countries had not visited any of the countries mentioned. This figure is much higher than that which was recorded for the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 and in the current EU (44% each). Young Turks had the highest number stating that they had visited none of the countries listed (98%), followed by Bulgarians (82%) and Romanians (78%).

Among the countries cited, young people in the candidate countries had mainly visited Germany (10%), Austria (7%), Italy (6%), Slovakia (6%) and the Czech Republic (6%).

Those young people who, in the last two years, visited another European country had, for the most part (76%), done so on holiday. This reason is most frequently given in those countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 (80%) and in the countries of the EU (86%). Very few young people mention another reason for travelling. Work (15%) is the second reason cited for travelling by young people from the candidate countries; 'other' (12%) is the third and learning or improving a language is the fourth (10%).

Two-thirds of young people in the candidate countries (67%) can converse in a language other than their mother tongue. Young Maltese are those who most frequently speak at least one other language (99%), followed by the Slovenes (98%) and Cypriots (91%). Fewer than one out of two young Turks speak at least one foreign language (45%).

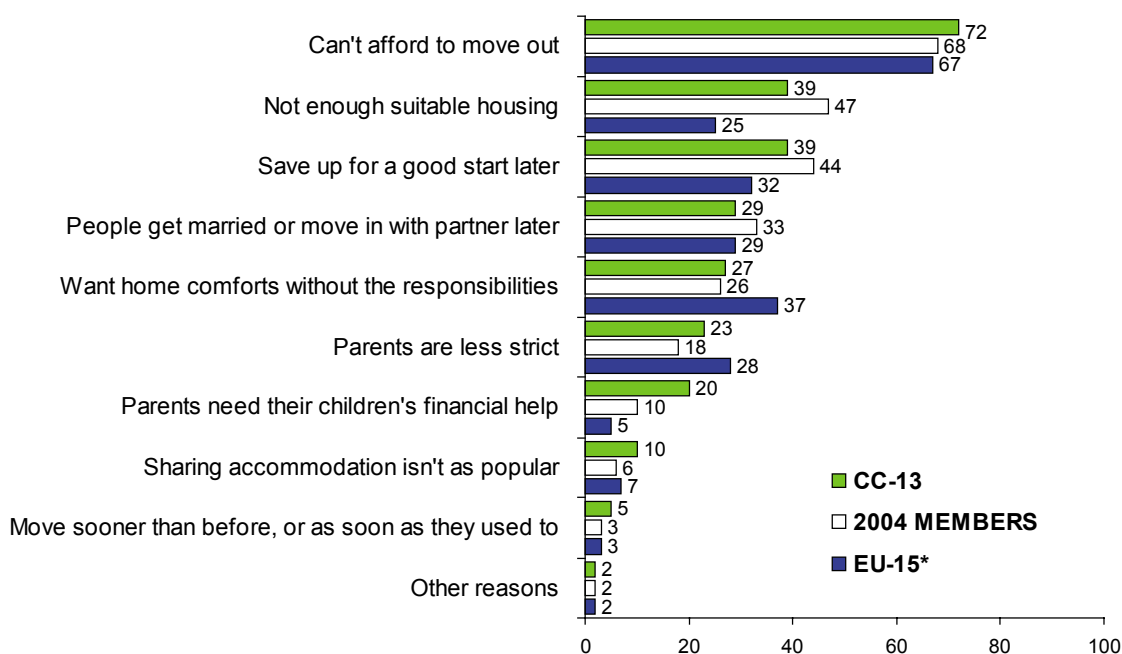


As in the EU countries, English is by far the most frequently spoken foreign language by young people in the candidate countries (47%). English is most often cited by the Maltese (97%), the Cypriots (91%) and the Slovenes (88%). Far behind, are German (17%), Russian (8%) and French (7%).

Among the young people surveyed, English, German, French and Italian are the languages they would most like to learn.

• **INDEPENDENCE**

**Reasons why people remain longer in the family home (%)**



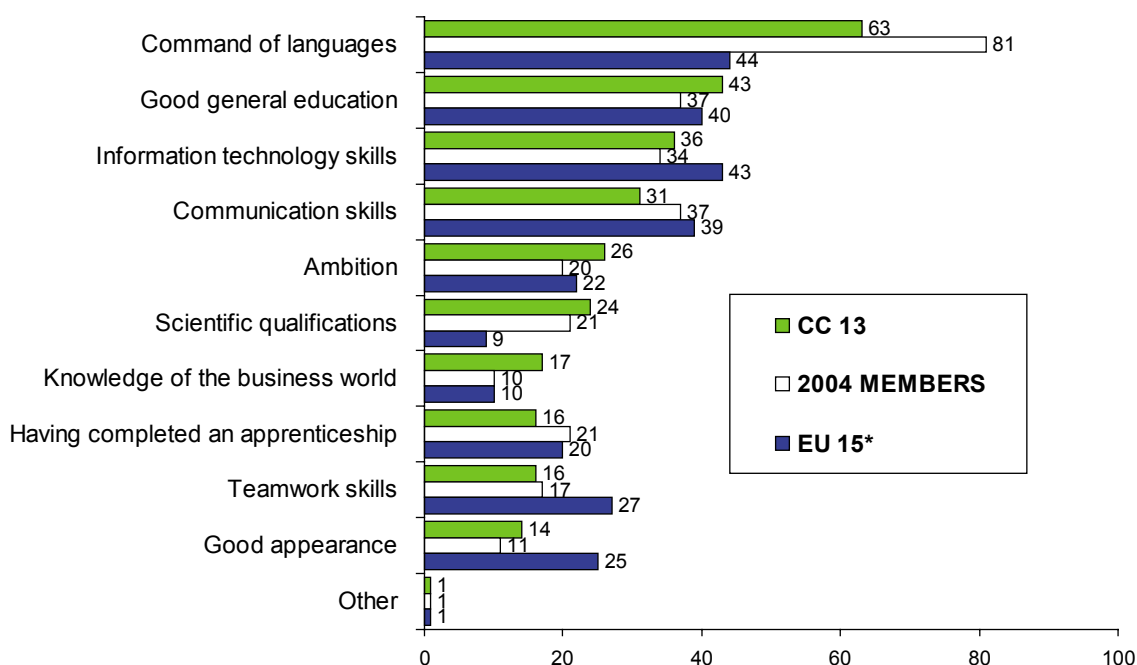
Almost three-quarters (72%) of respondents in the candidate countries stated that the reason they gave was money-related: they would not have sufficient means to set up home on their own. This is also the main reason given in the EU countries (67%) and the countries that will become EU members in 2004 (68%).

In equal second place (with 39% each), were the lack of suitable housing and the wish to save up for a good start later. These reasons were also cited in second and third place in the countries that will become EU members in 2004: 47% felt that there was a lack of suitable housing available for them, and 44% thought that young people, in staying with their parents, could save up in order to have a better start later.

The examination of national results shows that lack of financial resources is the main reason given in all countries with the exception of the Czech Republic, where the housing shortage is the main reason selected (60%). Lithuanians and Estonians were more likely to cite the lack of financial resources in first place (86% and 84% respectively).

## EMPLOYMENT

### Most useful factors in finding a good job (%)



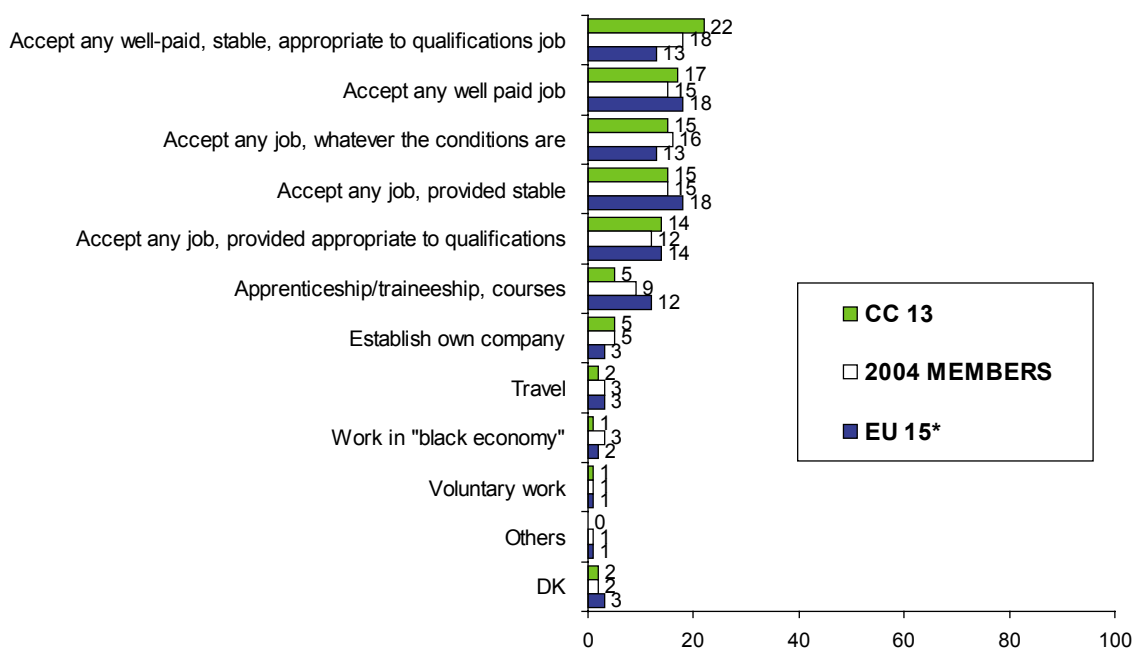
When young people in the candidate countries are asked what qualities they consider to be the most useful for finding a good job, the first three places are given to command of languages (63%), good general education (43%) and information technology skills (36%). Command of languages is also the skill that is cited in first place in the EU (44%), as well as in the countries that will become EU members in 2004 (81%). The quality considered least important was good appearance (14%).

Young people in the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 also put in second place good general education (37%) in equal position with communication skills. IT skills are mentioned by 34% of young people in countries that will become members of the EU in 2004. Only one in ten consider knowledge of the business world to be an important asset in helping them to find a good job.

In eleven of the thirteen candidate countries, the priority for finding a good job is seen to be a command of languages. This is particularly apparent in Poland - 86%. Young people in Turkey (56%) mention good general education most frequently while young people in Malta consider the most important quality for finding a good job are good IT skills (50%).

## UNEMPLOYMENT

### What would they do if they were unemployed? (%)



If they were to find themselves unemployed, the majority of young people in the candidate countries would accept any job, on condition that it is stable, well-paid and appropriate to qualifications (22%). 18% of young people in the countries that will join the EU in 2004 held a similar view, whereas this response is only in fourth place in the EU countries (13%).

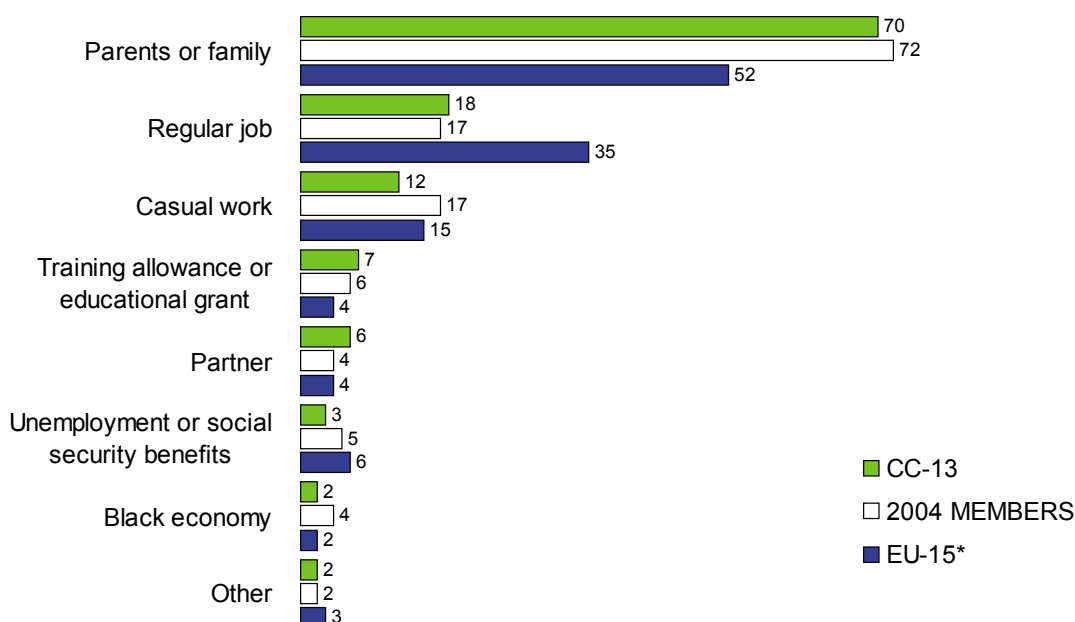
In second place, 17% of young people living in the candidate countries would accept any job on condition that it is well-paid whereas 15% would accept any job whatever the conditions. A similar number think they would accept any job as long as it is stable.

If we look at the situation in EU countries, we see that this group is less selective. Young EU citizens are more ready to accept a job even if it does not fulfil all the ideal conditions or to undertake a traineeship/apprenticeship to improve their chances of getting a job (12%). Fewer of them than their counterparts in the candidate countries (13% as opposed to 15%) would be prepared to accept a job whatever the conditions

At national level, it can be seen that in nine out of thirteen countries, young people, if they were unemployed, would accept any well-paid, stable job that corresponds to their level of qualifications. 39% of young Cypriots chose this option. A well-paid job is also highly sought after by young Lithuanians (27%), Bulgarians (22%) and Slovaks (22%), while jobs that correspond closely with qualifications are more favoured by Slovenes (21%). 23% of young Poles are the most likely to accept any kind of job - whatever the conditions.

## SOURCES OF INCOME

Sources of income (%)



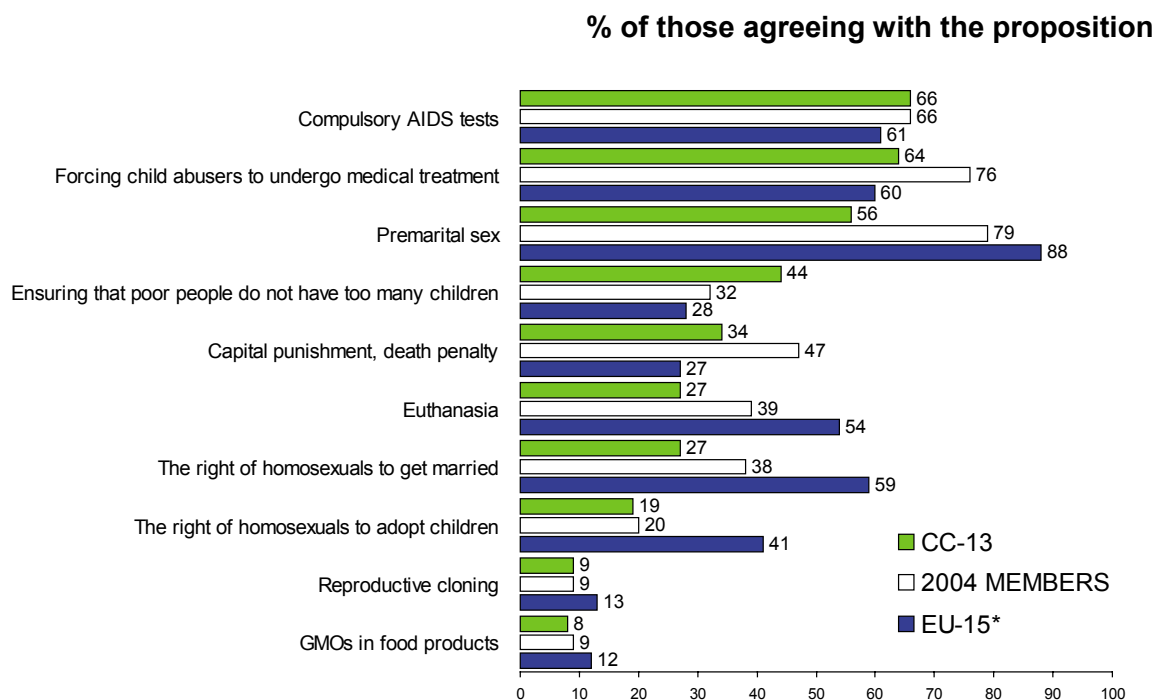
Seven out of ten young people in the candidate countries (70%) state that they receive the greater part of their income from their parents and family. This is much higher than in the EU countries (52%). In second place is regular work which is the main source of income for 18% of persons surveyed (as opposed to 35% in the EU), followed by casual work (12%).

In twelve out thirteen candidate countries, parents or family are the main source of young people's income. In Malta, the number of people citing a regular job as the main source is as high as those who cite their family (43% each). In the other countries, the proportion of people who cite their families as their source of income ranges from 79% in Bulgaria to 63% in Romania.

It might therefore be possible to conclude that, in the candidate countries, parents are more generous than in the EU countries. It is, however, more likely that the shortage of job possibilities and the nature of student grant schemes mean that young people of necessity rely more on their families as their main source of income.

• **VALUES**

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES ON ETHICAL ISSUES**



This question looks at young people's positions on a series of ethical issues. It should be noted that this question was only asked to those who had reached their majority. Furthermore, it should also be emphasised that this question is not aimed at the young person as an individual, but the young people of his/her age.

Young people are likely to believe that compulsory AIDS testing would be a good idea. In fact, 66% of young people in the candidate countries believe that young people in their countries would be in favour of such an idea. The percentage is slightly lower in the European Union (61%). A large number of respondents believe that young people would also agree with compulsory medical treatment for child abusers: 64% in the candidate countries, 74% in the countries that will become EU members in 2004 and 60% in the EU.

The first result that is somewhat surprising is the attitude that young people in candidate countries hold with respect to pre-marital sex. Compared with 88% of young people in the EU who think that people of their age are likely to be in favour of pre-marital sex, there are fewer believing this to be the case in the countries that will be members of the EU in 2004 (79%) and considerably fewer in the candidate countries as a whole (54%). It would appear, therefore, that pre-marital sex is less prevalent in these countries than in the EU. In Turkey, few young people believe that their peers are 'in favour' of pre-marital sex.

44% of respondents in the candidate countries and 32% of those that will become members of the EU in 2004 think that young people in their countries are likely to favour the idea that poor people should not be allowed to have too many children. More than one young citizen in four in the EU also holds this opinion.

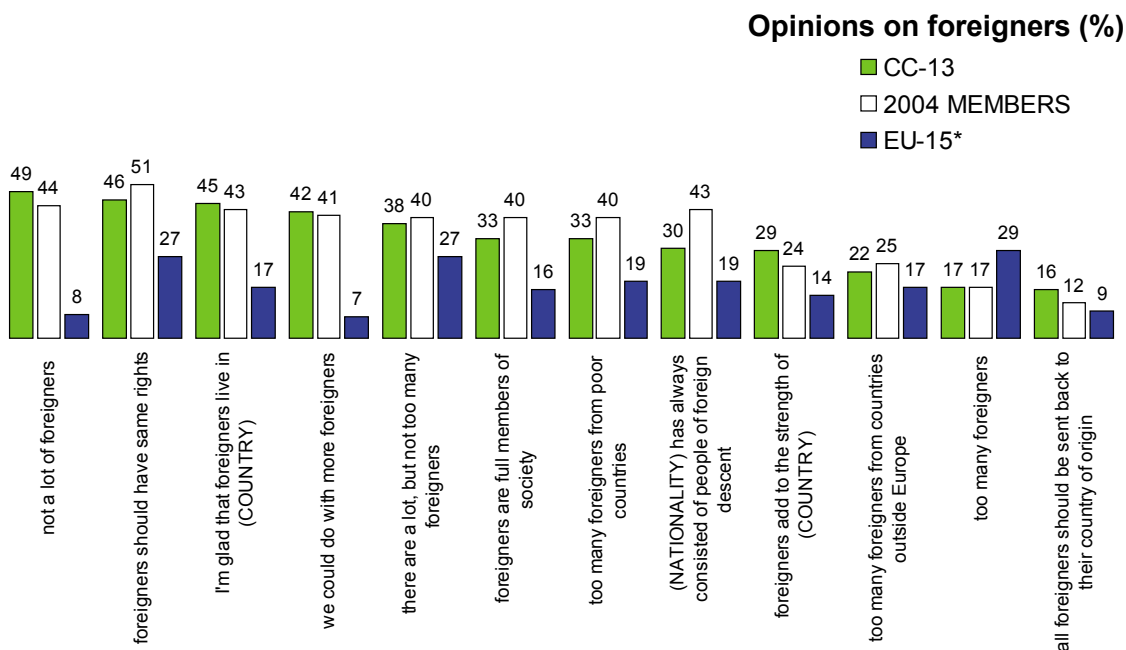
Nearly twice the number of young people in the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 (47%) compared with their counterparts in the EU (27%) tend to believe that their peers are in favour of the death penalty. Furthermore, 27% of young people in the candidate countries and 39% in those which will become members of the EU in 2004 believe that their peers are in favour of euthanasia in comparison with 54% of young people in the EU.

In contrast with the EU, homophobic attitudes are much more prevalent in the candidate countries. In countries joining the EU in 2004, there are 38%, and 27% in the candidate countries overall, who feel that young people are in favour of the right of homosexuals to get married as opposed to 59% in the EU.

When looking at the right of homosexuals' to adopt children, the difference is even more marked. Less than one citizen in five in the candidate countries (19%) thinks that the young generation would be in favour of the right of homosexual couples to adopt children, whereas twice this number hold this view in the EU countries (41%).

Less than one respondent in ten in the candidate countries thinks that his/her peers would be in favour of reproductive cloning or GMOs in food products. These two issues are very recent and thus any difference, if there is one, between EU data and that of the candidate countries could be the result of the two years that have elapsed in the time in which this survey was undertaken in the EU Member States and the candidate countries.

**RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA**



Overall, it could be said that in the countries in the 'new' Europe, which were until recently relatively 'closed', the idea of foreigners as being a problem is less prevalent than in the European Union. Furthermore, people are more welcoming than hostile in regard to people coming from other countries.

In contrast with the European Union where only 9% of respondents think that there are not many foreigners in their country, 49% of young people in the candidate countries hold this view. 46% of them (in comparison with 27% in the EU) think that foreigners should have the same rights as citizens of their country. And 55% are even happy to have foreigners in their country.

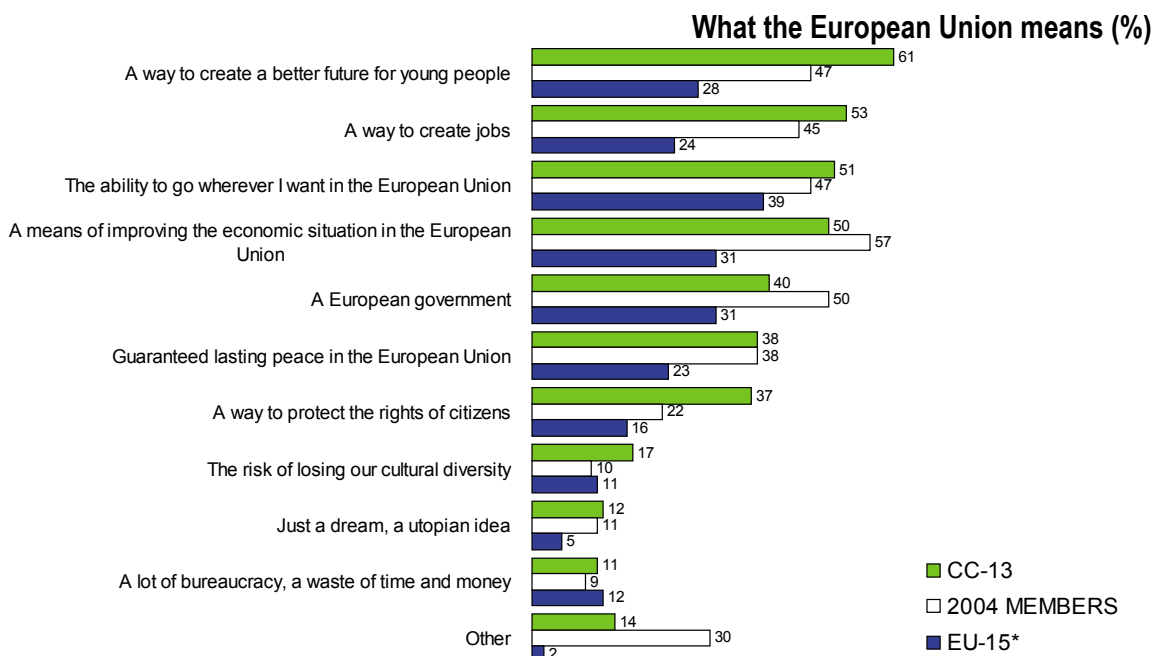
This is in general a widely held view, with the exception of one country, Cyprus. In Cyprus, 79% believe that there are too many foreigners and 50% feel that they should be sent back to their country of origin.

On average, in the candidate countries and in the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004, less than one respondent in five (17%) felt that there were too many foreigners in their country (as against 29% in the EU). 16% of young people in the candidate countries and 12% in the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 suggested that foreigners should be sent back to their countries of origin. On this issue, EU citizens were more tolerant with only 9% of them stating they were in favour of the repatriation of foreigners.

The number of young citizens stating that they were happy to have foreigners in their country varied from 51% in Poland to 8% in Cyprus. On the other hand, only 6% of young Lithuanians feel that there are too many foreigners in their country in contrast to 79% of Cypriots. As already mentioned above, young Cypriots appear to be the most hostile towards foreigners - more so than young people in the European Union.

The most significant differences in opinions emerge when we examine socio-demographic data. Young people with a higher social status are considerably less hostile to foreigners. The same is true for those who have higher incomes and educational attainment (50% each). Those living in rural areas (41%) and those who work (43%) are the least happy in regard to this issue. Those with the highest educational attainment and those with the highest household income tend to believe that that their country could do with more foreigners (52% and 48%), whereas those with poor levels of education (32%), those who do not work and those who live in villages (36% each) are the least likely to share this opinion.

## ATTITUDES TO THE EUROPEAN UNION



Looking at the analysis of the results, it can be seen that important differences in attitudes towards the EU exist among young respondents.

In the candidate countries, the European Union is mainly seen as a way of creating a better future for young people. Almost two-thirds of correspondents (61%) share this opinion (as against 47% in the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 and 28% in the EU). Lithuanians (89%), Hungarians (79%), Bulgarians (74%), Turks (72%) and Slovaks (68%) are those nationalities in the vanguard of this optimism.

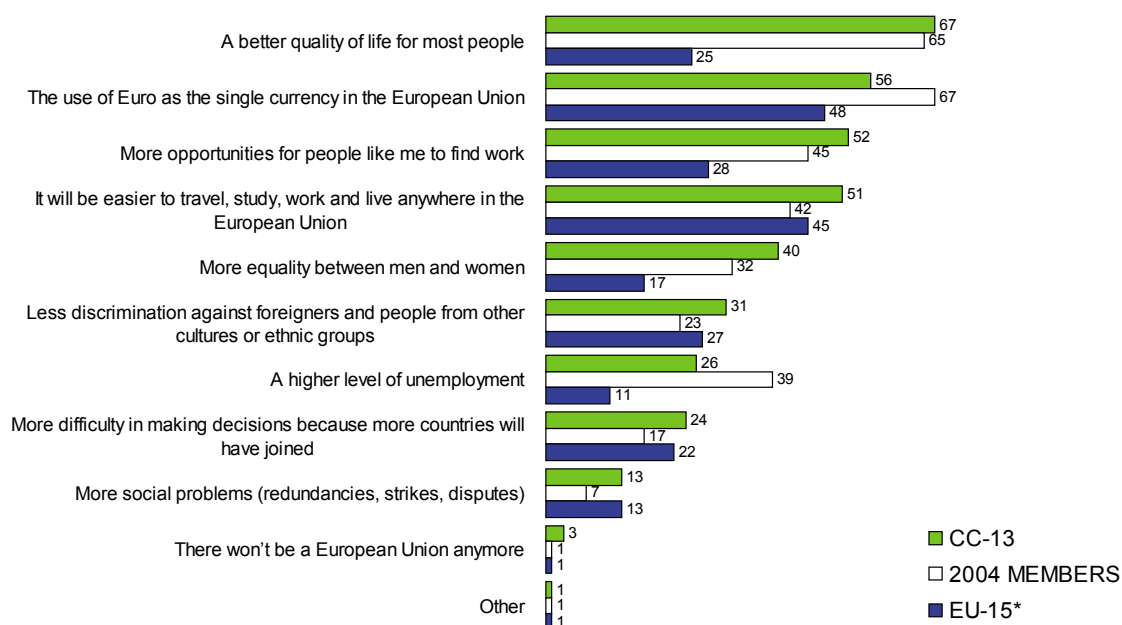
More than one respondent in two feels that the EU is important as a way to create jobs (53%), free movement within the EU (51%) and a better quality of life thanks to an improved economic situation (50%).

Young respondents in the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 do not have such high expectations with respect to job creation as those in the candidate countries overall (45% in comparison with 53%). Nevertheless, these figures are substantially higher than those in the EU (24%).

In Slovakia (72%) and Lithuania (71%), young people are most likely to believe in the possibility that jobs will be created thanks to the EU. Significant numbers of Bulgarians, Hungarians, Slovenes, Romanians and Turks also share this belief.



### What the EU will have brought in ten years time (%)



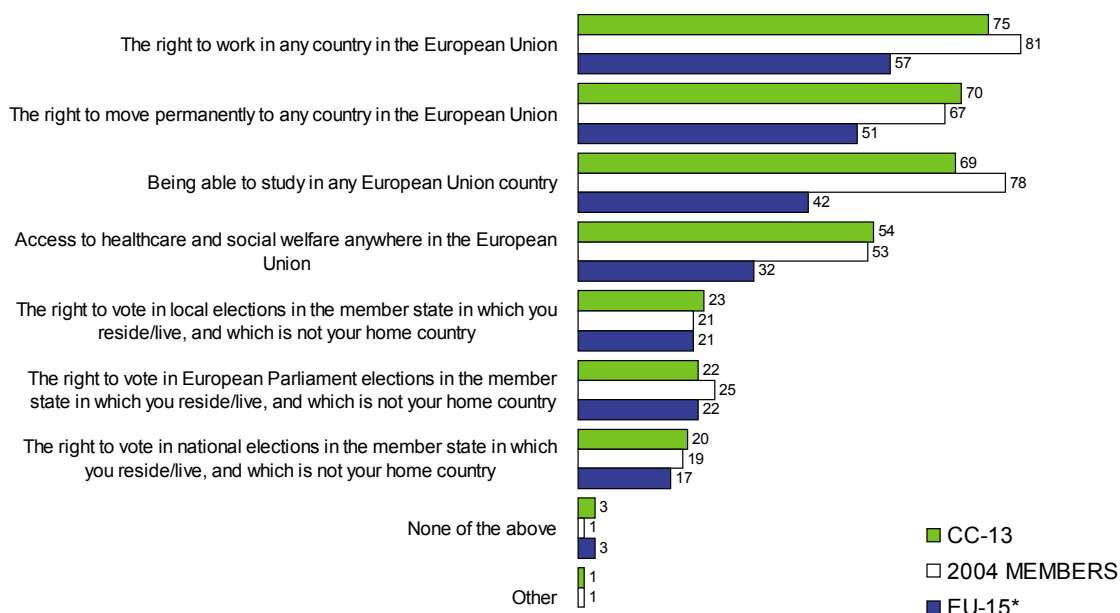
When asked what the European Union would bring to them in ten years, more than two-thirds of young people in the candidate countries (67%) felt it would be an improved quality of life. This response rate is virtually identical to that from the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 (65%). Young Poles are the most likely to hold this opinion (72%), followed by the Hungarians and Turks (69% each) and the Romanians (65%). At the other end of the scale were the Estonians with a figure of 39%. On the other hand, barely a quarter of young people in EU countries share this view (25%).

56% of young people in the candidate countries expect that, within ten years, the euro will have become the single currency. This view is shared by 67% of respondents in the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004. Young Lithuanians (73%) and Poles (71%) tend to hold this belief whereas Estonians (48%) and Turks (42%) are least likely to do so.

Half of young people in candidate countries believe that in ten years' time the EU would bring more job opportunities (52%) and that they will have the right to work, travel and study in all of the Member States (51%).

## EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

### What does it mean to be a European citizen? (%)



The right to work throughout the European Union is, for young people in the candidate countries, the most important benefit that they attach to the concept of European citizenship (75%). In the countries that will become members of the EU in 2004, the relevant figure is 81%, whereas only 57% of young people in the European Union share this view.

The second most popular benefit is the possibility to move permanently anywhere in the EU (70%), followed closely by the right to study throughout the EU (69%). It can be seen, therefore, that mobility within the EU is important for those living in the new EU Member States.

Among the other results of this survey we should mention are that in the candidate countries almost two-thirds of young people (63%) think that education and training should be the main priority of the EU (as opposed to 53% in countries that will become members of the EU in 2004 and 52% in the EU).

Education and training are particularly important for young people in Turkey (80%) and Cyprus (77%), and less so in Bulgaria (46%) and Hungary (48%).

The second priority of the EU is, for these young people, freedom to travel, study, live and work where they want in the EU (55% in the candidate countries, 54% in the countries that will join the EU in 2004, but only 37% in the EU). This difference can be easily explained because young people in the EU can already enjoy this benefit - something that is not the case in the candidate countries.

As in the EU countries, the area most frequently cited as being a field in which the EU should not intervene at all is that of culture and artistic associations (18%), which was also the area the least frequently cited among the priority actions.

58% of young people in the candidate countries feel they have been informed in school or university on their rights and responsibilities as citizens in the Europe of today. The European institutions are next on the scale at 42%.

With respect to the media, as in the EU countries, television (77%) is top of the list in terms of the channels by which young people would like to receive information about the EU. Next in line, but considerably less popular, are newspapers (49%) and radio (41%).