

EUROBAROMETER 63.4

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

SPRING 2005

NATIONAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SLOVAKIA (Slovak Republic)

The survey was requested and coordinated by the Directorate General Press and Communication.

This report was produced for the European Commission's Representation in the Slovak Republic.

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

1. THE CLIMATE OF OPINION

Public opinion polls and sociological research undertaken in Slovakia since 1989 reveal the prevailing dissatisfaction of citizens with the economic, social and political situation in their country, as well as their pessimism in terms of expectations of change. However, the results of the Eurobarometer No. 63 survey show a slight decrease in dissatisfaction with the state of affairs and a less pessimistic outlook.

While in the EU25 an average of 80% of respondents declared that they are very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the life they lead, in Slovakia, only 63% of respondents held this view. The other side of the coin was that only 19% of respondents in the EU25 are not very satisfied or not at all satisfied, whereas in Slovakia the corresponding figure reached 37%. In comparison to the previous survey undertaken in autumn 2004 a moderate increase by 4 points among the very satisfied and fairly satisfied can be seen. At the same time, a similar moderate decrease by 3 points among those not very satisfied or not at all satisfied can be observed. In comparison with the survey undertaken in 2003 we can observe a bout of growth in satisfaction of 9 points and a corresponding decrease in levels of dissatisfaction. Long-standing, although narrowing, differences in satisfaction with the quality of life are understandable in view of the differences in GDP per capita in Slovakia and in the EU25 countries on average. However, it is difficult to determine what the factors of the change in attitudes are. One of the reasons could be the positive impact of Slovakia's EU membership on its economy. Another reason could be the significant increase in foreign direct investment in the Slovak economy in the recent period of time. The lower levels of dissatisfaction could also be related to the fact that a significant part of the population is beginning to benefit from the economic and social reforms implemented since 1989.

Looking at citizens' assessment of the change in their personal situation over the last five years, there are more people in Slovakia who think that their situation has worsened (36%) than people who think their situation has improved (29%). In the EU25, the situation is the contrary: 37% believe their situation has improved and 29% the contrary. Comparing these results with the results of the survey carried out in autumn 2004, the percentages of those who think their personal situation has improved has risen slightly (from 27% to 29%) and the number who think their situation has remained the same has stayed almost the same (34% and 35% respectively). There has been a corresponding decrease in the number of people who think their situation has worsened (from 39% to 36%). However, when comparing these results with those of the survey carried out in spring 2004, the percentages of those who think their personal situation has improved has risen more significantly (from 20% to 29%) and the number who think their situation has stayed the same has also increased sharply (from 25% to 35%). There has been a corresponding decrease in the number of people who think their situation has worsened (from 53% to 36%). It is also possible to observe a modest change in Slovaks' views regarding their personal situation in the next five years, where the number of those expecting things to worsen has fallen from 21% to 18% since the last survey in autumn 2004 and from 28% to 18% since the survey undertaken in spring 2004.

2. TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

The results of this survey confirm the long-term trends concerning the low level of trust of Slovak citizens in certain institutions. Compared with average EU25 citizens, Slovaks trust their government, parliament, justice and legal system less. Only 11% of Slovaks trust political parties while in the EU25 the average is 19%. There is slightly higher trust in the national government: the Slovak Government has the trust of 22% of its citizens, while the national governments in the EU25 countries overall had the trust of 31% of citizens. Highest trust levels among the political institutions were in the national parliaments, although levels of distrust are greater than those for trust. Trust in the National Council of the Slovak Republic

was claimed by 23% of respondents while, in the EU25 overall, 35% stated they trusted their national parliament. The greatest difference between Slovakia and the EU25 is in the level of trust in the legal and justice system. Only 27% of Slovak citizens trust their justice system, while in the EU25 the average is 50%. The level of trust in institutions is closely related to the satisfaction with the functioning of the democratic system. From this point of view, Slovaks are the second most dissatisfied citizens in all of the European Union's Member States. Only 26% of Slovak citizens are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country. Only Lithuanians are less satisfied with the functioning of the democracy in their country (24%). At the other end of the scale, are Denmark with 92% of satisfied citizens and Luxembourg with 83% of satisfied citizens. In the EU25 overall, 53% of citizens are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country.

From this point of view, the assessment of the European Union is positive with higher levels of trust being recorded by Slovaks than in the EU25 on average. The EU has the confidence of 55% of Slovak respondents (44% in EU25), whereas only 31% of Slovaks say they do not trust the EU compared with 43% in the EU25. This pattern is followed also in the case of trust in individual EU institutions. While Slovak citizens' trust in domestic/national institutions is lower than the corresponding EU25 average, Slovaks have higher than average trust in the EU institutions. This is most marked in the case of the European Parliament, which has a trust level of 63% among Slovaks whereas, in the EU25, it has an average trust level of 52% of citizens. A similar situation also arises in the case of the European Court of Justice (trusted by 58% of Slovaks), the European Commission (trusted by 56% of Slovaks), the Council of Ministers (trusted by 55% of Slovaks) and the European Central Bank (trusted by 56% of Slovaks).

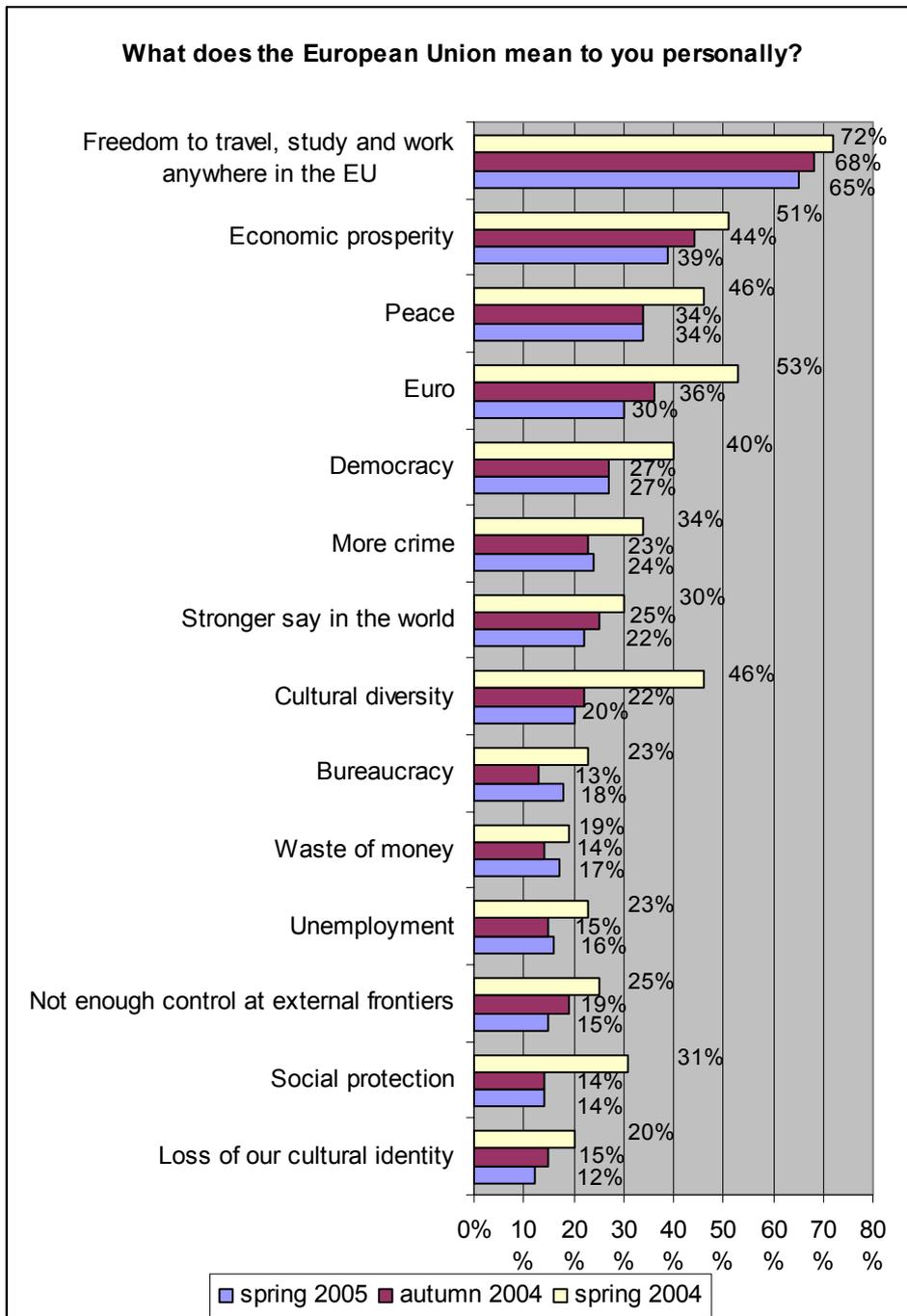
Compared with the results of the previous survey, a slight decrease can be seen in the level of trust in the EU institutions. It is a change worth noting in light of the significant increase in trust in EU institutions that had been recorded between the surveys undertaken in spring and autumn 2004. The only exception to this relates to the trust in the Council of Ministers that has continued to grow throughout this period. The reason of the decrease in trust in the European Union and its institutions is most probably the decrease of euphoria that occurred after Slovakia's accession to the EU. In the case of the Council of Ministers, the increase of the trust may be related to the fact that the citizens are beginning to understand that this institution has more competences than the European Commission or the European Parliament. Already in the previous survey, it was seen that there is a direct relationship between the importance assigned to the European institutions and the level of trust in these institutions. In the case of the European Parliament, where the most significant decrease in the trust of 7 points has been recorded, the lower level of trust may be related to the recognition that this institution is not, in fact, the most influential one. Recent discussions in the media about the salaries of Members of the European Parliament could also contribute to lower levels of trust from the point of view of Slovak citizens.

According to the survey, 54% of Slovak citizens think that their country's EU membership is a good thing. This figure is at the same level as the EU25 average and it is the second highest among the ten new member states. When compared with the EU25 average, in Slovakia there are a much lower number of people who think membership in the EU is a bad thing – only 6% compared with 15% in the EU25. After significant growth in support for Slovakia's EU membership observed during the period between the spring and autumn 2004 a slight decrease in support can be seen in comparison to the previous survey. However, a fall in support for EU membership had been observed in 20 out of 25 member states over this period. Support for EU membership is closely related to the expected benefits. Although Slovakia has been an EU member only since 1 May 2004, 63% of citizens think that their country benefits from its membership (compared with 55% in the EU25). Slovakia therefore ranks second (behind Lithuania) among the new member states in their positive assessment of the benefits of EU membership. Generally speaking, for the vast majority of Slovaks, the

European Union presents a rather positive or neutral image and evokes a negative image for only for 10% of them.

3. MEANINGS

For the majority of Slovak citizens, as is the case throughout the EU25, the European Union above all means freedom of travel, study and work wherever in the EU. This answer was chosen by 65% of Slovak respondents. There is a decrease of 3 points compared with the survey undertaken in autumn 2004 and a decrease of 7 points compared with the survey undertaken in spring 2004, but the figure is still higher than the EU25 average (52%). The main difference between Slovak citizens and the EU25 average is what they rank in second place. For EU25 citizens, the second most frequently cited meaning of the European Union is the Euro (currency) and peace (each 37%) while for Slovaks it is economic prosperity.



For 39% of Slovaks, the EU is associated with economic prosperity (a decrease of 5 points from autumn 2004 and of 12 points from spring 2004), while in the EU25, only 21% of citizens connect the EU with economic prosperity. Other associations with the EU, frequently cited by Slovaks, are peace (34%), the Euro (30%) and democracy (27%). The main observation is that the number of people for whom the European Union means the freedom of travel, study and work wherever in the EU is gradually decreasing. This may be caused by the fact that the majority of the old member states are applying a transition period during which they are limiting the access of citizens from the new member states to their labour markets.

The accession to the European Union also means the challenge of a new identity – a European identity in addition to the national identity. The citizens of the Slovak Republic are the most attached to their city/town/village. 54% are very attached and another 36% are fairly attached to their city/town/village. In second place, the Slovaks are attached to their country. 41% of citizens are very attached and 48% are fairly attached to their country. In third place, Slovak citizens are attached to their region. 37% of people are very attached and 48% are fairly attached to their region. Slovaks have ranked attachment to Europe the last of four possibilities. Only 21% of them are very attached and 46% are fairly attached to the Europe. Young people (15-24 years old and still studying) in Slovakia are less attached to their city/town/village, region and their country than the average for the whole population. 84% of young Slovaks are attached to their city/town/village (82% in the same category in the EU25), 76% of young Slovaks are attached to their region (82% in the EU25), 77% are attached to their country (84% in the EU25) and 57% to Europe (70% in the EU25). That means that attachment to Europe is among young studying Slovaks lower than is the average for the whole Slovak population.

The benefit of the Constitutional Treaty for the European Union would, according to Slovak citizens, mainly be in the more efficient functioning of the EU. 71% of Slovaks say that the functioning of the EU will be more efficient after the adoption of the Constitution. 69% of them believe that the EU will be more democratic and 68% believe it will be more transparent. Slovak citizens also expect that in the event of the adoption of the EU Constitution the Union will be stronger in the world (80%), more competitive (74%) and more socially oriented (58%).

4. BEING INFORMED ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

When speaking about the level of knowledge, a distinction needs to be made between the subjective and the actual level of knowledge, i.e. what people think they know versus what they actually know about the European Union. When asked to choose a response to the statement “I know how the European Union works”, only 28% of Slovaks stated that they agree with this statement (compared with 43% in the EU25). On the other hand, 60% of Slovak respondents stated that they do not agree (50% in the EU25).

The results of the survey clearly show that Slovaks have an interest in information about the European Union. Only 8% of respondents answered that they have no interest in such information. This is 2 points below the EU25 average. The most frequent source of information remains the television, which is currently used as a source of information by 78% of respondents. In second place is, as in the previous survey, radio – the source used by 44% of Slovaks, which is 3 points less than in the last survey. This shows a continuous decrease, as in spring 2004, 68% of respondents cited radio as one of the most frequently used sources of information about the EU. In third place are daily newspapers – used by 43% of Slovaks. There is also continuous decrease of the use of magazines (by 6 points compared with previous survey) and discussions with family and friends as a source of information about the EU. The use of the Internet as the source of information about the European Union remains at the same (and fairly low) level of 20% - figure close to the EU25

average (22%). The survey indicates that the importance and the influence of television in providing information on the European Union is significantly higher compared with other media and can be characterised as dominant.

As far as the mass media are the dominant sources of information compared with other sources (Internet, brochures, booklets, books, meetings and discussions), it is interesting to analyse respondents' views concerning the way the media present the EU. The majority of Slovaks think that the volume of the information about the EU that is provided by the Slovak media is adequate. In the case of the press, this view had been given by 59% of respondents, in the case of television by 57% and in the case of radio by 56%. Only 10% of respondents think that the press and television inform too much, and in the case of radio it is even less - only 5%. Compared with the EU25 average, it could be said that Slovaks are slightly more satisfied with the quantity of information in their national media. While 24% of EU25 respondents stated that the national press does not provide enough information about the EU, in Slovakia this figure was 20%. In the case of television, 35% of EU25 respondents stated that national television does not provide enough information about the EU, whereas, in Slovakia, the figure was 30%.

Concerning the objectivity of the Slovak media's coverage of the EU, the majority of the poll thinks that the media are objective. In the case of radio, 58% of respondents expressed their opinion that the information on the EU is objective (45% in the EU25), and in the case of the press, 53% of respondents believe that the coverage is objective (47% in the EU25). 52% of Slovaks think that the television provides objective information about the European Union compared with 48% in the EU25. This means that the assessment of the objectivity of the national media in Slovakia differs from that in the EU25. Slovak citizens think that the Slovak media are rather too positive than too negative. In the case of newspapers, 29% of Slovak respondents think that the information provided on the EU is too positive while 4% think it is too negative. In the EU25, the corresponding ratio is 17% to 11%. In the case of radio, 26% of Slovaks think that the information is too positive and only 2% think it is too negative. In the EU25, the ratio is 16% to 8%. The greatest difference is in the case of television – 38% of Slovak citizens think that the information provided on the EU is too positive, while 3% think it is too negative. In the EU25, the corresponding ratio is 26% to 11%.

A quiz in the survey tests respondents' knowledge about the European Union and the results are not convincing:

- 31% of Slovaks incorrectly think that the EU currently consists of 15 member states (the corresponding figure was also 31% in the EU25),
- 34% of Slovak citizens say that it is false that Members of the European Parliament are elected directly by citizens (30% in the EU25),
- 29% of Slovaks wrongly think that the last elections to the European Parliament had taken place in June 2002 (36% in the EU25),
- 27% of respondents do not know the EU has its own anthem (37% in the EU25).

These answers clearly show that there are still considerable gaps in the level of knowledge of Slovak citizens about the European Union, especially in view of the fact that the questions concerned only the most basic facts about the EU. The survey did not deal with issues such as competencies of individual EU institutions, their agenda, mutual relations and issues that the EU and their institutions are currently dealing with. On the other hand, it has to be said that the level of knowledge of the Slovak respondents does not differ significantly from the European average. It was even slightly better. However, in the comparison with the results of the previous survey, there has been a modest decrease in the levels of knowledge of Slovak citizens.

The results of the survey also confirm that Slovak citizens have no clear picture concerning the EU budget. 34% of Slovak citizens think that the greatest part of the EU budget is spent

on administrative and personnel costs, 16% think it is spent on foreign policy and aid to countries outside the European Union, 14% think it is spent on assistance to regions and 13% did not answer the question. Only 8% of Slovaks correctly answered that the greatest part of the European Union's budget is spent on agriculture. In comparison with the previous surveys undertaken in spring and autumn 2004, it can be seen that there has been an increase in the number of Slovaks who think that the greatest part of the EU budget is spent for administrative and personnel costs. No significant change is discernible in the number of those who correctly know where the most of the EU money really goes. Thus, there is a significant information deficit regarding the EU budget and how it is spent.

5. EU ROLE IN THE WORLD

Slovak citizens perceive the role of the European Union in the world mostly positively and more positively than the citizens within the EU25 overall. The role of the EU in maintaining peace in the world is perceived positively by 79% of Slovaks, that is 16 points more than in the EU25. The role of the USA in maintaining peace in the world is perceived positively by 34% of Slovaks. Slovak citizens perceive positively also the role of the EU in fight against terrorism - 73% of citizens shared this opinion, that is 13% points more than in the EU25. The role of the USA in the fight against terrorism is perceived positively by 53% of Slovaks. The greatest difference in the opinion of Slovak and EU25 citizens was in the case of the role of the EU in the growth of the world economy. 70% of Slovak citizens perceive the role of the EU in the growth of the world economy positively, that is 20 points more than in the EU25.

64% of Slovak citizens also think that the European Union's international role has become more important in the last five years.

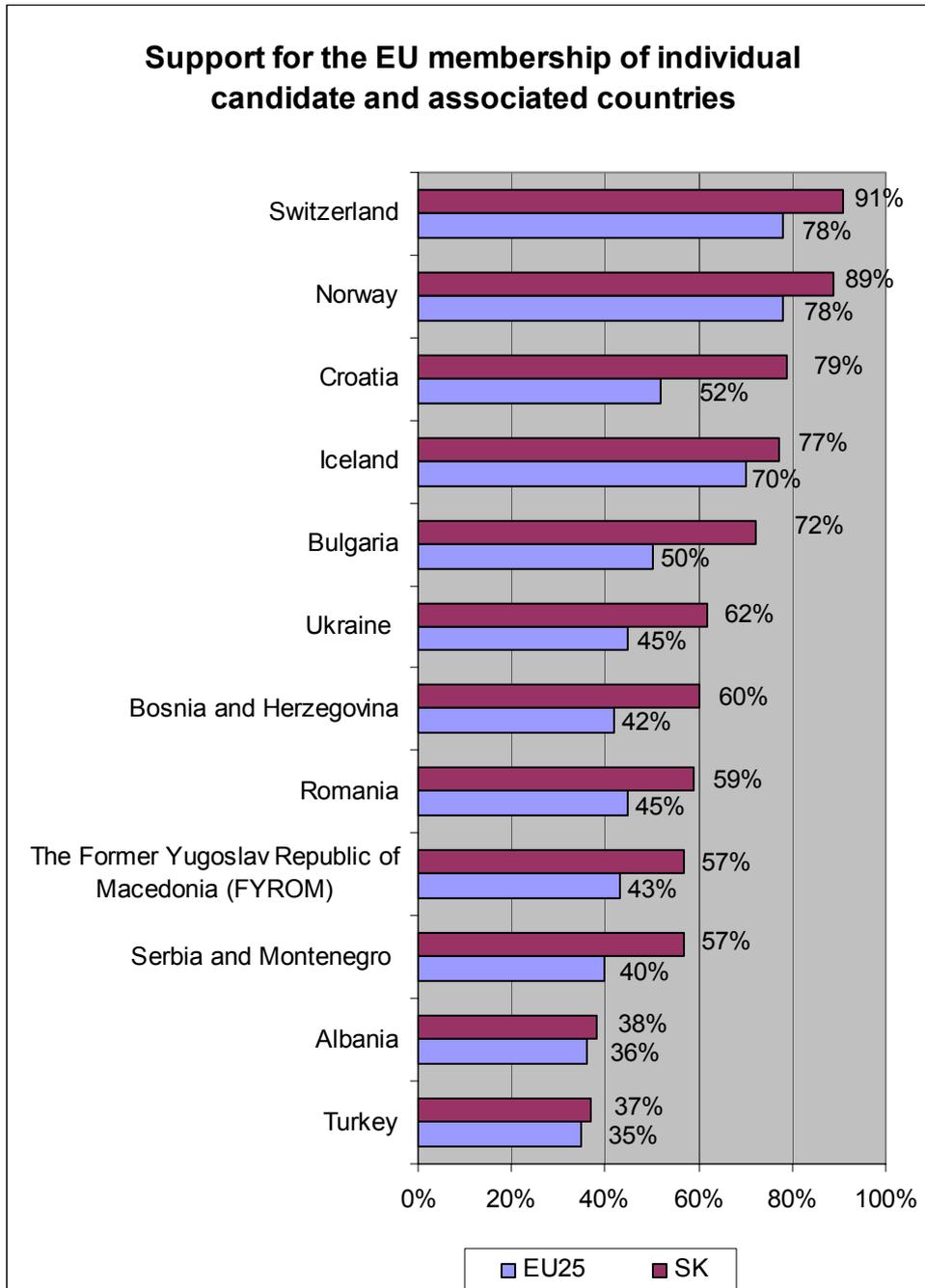
As was described in the first chapter, Slovak citizens tend to assess their situation more negatively than the EU25 average. 41% of Slovaks perceive their financial situation as good, 23 points less than the EU25 average. Only 6% of Slovak citizens say that the employment situation in their country is good (21% in the EU25).

A great difference is in the assessment of social welfare. Only 12% of Slovaks think that the social welfare system in their country is good, that is 35 points below the EU25 average. Also in regard to the situation of their national economy, Slovak citizens are more negative than EU25 citizens. 22% of Slovaks say that their country's economic situation is good, while, in the EU25, 36% of citizens has this opinion. On the other hand, Slovak citizens are more positive concerning the situation of the European economy. 70% of Slovaks think that the situation of the European economy is good, that is 20 points more than in the EU25. In line with these facts, Slovak citizens say that their country's economic situation, its employment situation, social welfare situation and the quality of the life in their country is worse than the European average.

The majority of Slovak citizens consider the performance of the European economy to be better than the economies of China and India but worse than those of Japan and the USA. Slovaks think that the European Union is ahead of the USA in protection of the environment and education but behind in research, in medicine, in scientific research in general, in innovative technologies and in the creation of new companies.

6. SUPPORT FOR FUTURE ENLARGEMENT

The Slovak Republic is ranked third among the EU member states that support the future enlargement the most. Slovenia is first with 79% support for future enlargement, Poland second with 76% support and in Slovakia the enlargement is supported by 73% of the adult population. In the EU25 overall, the enlargement is supported only by half of the population. Compared with the previous survey, support for enlargement has increased in Slovakia by 4 points while in the EU25 has fallen by 3 points.



The difference between Slovakia and the EU25 is more or less the same as the difference between the new and the old member states. There might be a few reasons for this difference and also for different trends. The first reason is the fact that the new member states have lower per capita GDP than the old member states and are therefore net

beneficiaries of the financial assistance from the EU funds. The old member states are mostly net contributors to the EU budget. After the accession of the new, even poorer states, the pressure on financing the Structural and Cohesion policies in the new member states would increase. That could lead to increase of contribution of “richer” member countries and/or to decrease of the assistance to the old member states. This issue does not concern so much the 10 new member states. The second reason might be the fact that the citizens of 8 out of the 10 member states who had lived decades behind the “iron curtain” have probably more understanding for ambitions of the countries that share similar historical experience. Another reason that could influence respondents is related to the meaning of enlargement. In old member states the first country that usually comes to people’s mind in relation to enlargement is Turkey. Turkey’s membership has the lowest support among the all candidate and associated countries. For people from the 10 new member states including Slovakia, the enlargement means first of all accession of Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and other states of former Yugoslavia. The accession of these countries to the EU has substantial support in the new member states of Eastern Europe. For instance, Slovak respondents ranked Croatia third, just behind Switzerland and Norway.

7. EUROPEAN PROFILES

A vast majority, 74% of Slovak citizens, state that they consider themselves to be catholic. However, only 36% of Slovaks attend a religious service at least once a week.

Slovakia lags behind the EU25 average in terms of household equipment. This is understandable given the difference in GDP per capita. A significant difference between Slovak and EU25 households is in access to Internet. Only 18% of citizens have access to Internet at home that is 26 points below the EU25 average. In the case of ownership of personal computers, the difference between Slovakia and the EU25 is only 13 points. Therefore the problem is not the price of computers but the price of Internet access. The low penetration of the Internet in Slovak households is probably also related to the following fact. According to the survey, 80% of Slovaks own a mobile phone (78% in the EU25) but only 55% of them have a fixed telephone line in their household (82% in the EU25). As far as the connection through the fixed phone line (including DSL) is concerned, which is, at the moment, the most frequent form of the Internet connection, the lower percentage of fixed telephone in Slovak households results in a lower percentage of the household’s Internet connections.

Of the foreign languages Slovaks speak are in first place Czech (31%) followed by German (28%), Russian (25%) and English (24%). French is spoken only by 3% of the Slovak population.

8. DISCUSSION ON CONSTITUTION

Adoption of the Constitutional Treaty for the European Union has long-term support among the Slovak population. When answering the question “According to what you know would you say that you are in favour of or opposed to the European Constitution?” 57% of Slovak citizens answered that they are in favour and 19% are against. In the EU25 overall, 48% of people are in favour and 28% are against the adoption of the EU Constitution. From the point of view of trends, after previous growth in support in favour of the adoption of the European Constitution, in the period from the last survey in autumn 2004, we can observe a decrease of 11 points in support for the adoption of the Constitution. Among those, who support the adoption of the Constitution, the main reasons are that the Constitution is essential in order to pursue European integration (58% out of those in favour) and also it is essential for the smooth running of the European institutions (37%). Among those who are against the adoption of the Constitution, the main reasons are the lack of information (41% out of those against) and the loss of national sovereignty (34%).

CONCLUSION

The results of the survey can be summarised in the following conclusions:

Slovaks are less satisfied with their life in comparison with the EU25 average; however, their satisfaction has been growing over the last year. They are also beginning to be more optimistic regarding their future prospects.

The citizens of the Slovak Republic are more satisfied with the membership of their country in the European Union than the EU25 average. They also believe that Slovakia benefits from its membership of the EU. For Slovaks, the European Union means, first of all, the freedom to travel, study and work wherever in the EU. Slovak citizens' image of the EU is predominantly neutral or rather positive.

Slovaks link the possibility of an improvement in their economic situation to their country's membership of the European Union, although their expectations in this regard are decreasing.

Slovak citizens admit that they do not have enough information about the EU and the test of their knowledge endorses this self-assessment. The majority of citizens say that they do not know how the European Union works.

In spite of the abovementioned statement, Slovak citizens trust the institutions of the European Union more than their national institutions. Trust in the EU institutions is declining compared with the previous survey.

The highest level of trust of Slovak citizens is vested in the European Parliament; however, trust in the EP is decreasing and trust in the Council of Ministers is increasing.

Slovaks get the majority of information on the EU from the media. They think that the amount of information on the EU in media is sufficient and that the media report about the EU either in a neutral or too positive a way.

Citizens of Slovakia assess positively the role of the European Union in the international arena. They assess the role of the EU in various areas of international relations more positively than EU25 citizens do. They also assess the role of the EU more positively than the US's role in the same areas of international relations.

Slovak citizens are more in favour than EU25 citizens of further EU enlargement. Slovaks - more than the EU25 average - support the accession of the former socialist countries. This is most visible in the case of Croatia. At the same time, the Slovak population is not in favour of Turkey and Albania's accession to the EU. In this respect, the position of Slovaks does not differ from the EU25 average.

The majority of Slovaks support the adoption of the Constitutional Treaty for the European Union, which they consider essential in order to pursue European integration. The most frequent reason for rejection of the EU Constitution is the lack of information.

In spite all the abovementioned positive attitudes towards the European Union, its institutions, policies and agenda, national identity is still more important for Slovaks than European identity.

EB63.4 - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 9th of May and the 14th of June 2005, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe, carried out wave 63.4 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General Press and Communication, Opinion Polls.

The EUROBAROMETER SPECIAL « STANDARD » + N°233 + N°234 + N°235 are part of wave 63.4 and cover the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The EUROBAROMETER 63.4 has also been conducted in the two acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the two candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey) and in the north part of Cyprus. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens of the respective nationalities and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in those countries and have a sufficient command of one of the respective national language(s) to answer the questionnaire. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

ABREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.000	10/05/2005	13/06/2005	8.598.982
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.083	18/05/2005	07/06/2005	8.571.710
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.051	20/05/2005	14/06/2005	4.380.063
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.520	14/05/2005	06/06/2005	64.174.295
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.001	12/05/2005	07/06/2005	887.094
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	16/05/2005	06/06/2005	8.674.230
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.024	12/05/2005	07/06/2005	35.882.820
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.012	14/05/2005	08/06/2005	44.010.619
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1.006	09/05/2005	10/06/2005	3.089.775
IT	Italy	TNS Abacus	1.004	13/05/2005	11/06/2005	49.208.000
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	505	10/05/2005	07/06/2005	552.213
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.015	13/05/2005	08/06/2005	1.394.351
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.003	12/05/2005	06/06/2005	2.803.661
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	504	10/05/2005	04/06/2005	367.199
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.014	16/05/2005	02/06/2005	8.503.379
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	12/05/2005	06/06/2005	322.917
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.006	12/05/2005	07/06/2005	13.242.328
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institute	1.000	12/05/2005	07/06/2005	6.679.444
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	14/05/2005	07/06/2005	31.610.437
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.005	12/05/2005	05/06/2005	8.080.915
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.045	13/05/2005	10/06/2005	1.663.869
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.108	18/05/2005	05/06/2005	4.316.438
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.024	12/05/2005	12/06/2005	4.279.286
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.024	12/05/2005	02/06/2005	7.376.680
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.347	11/05/2005	12/06/2005	47.685.578
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.018	17/05/2005	31/05/2005	6.695.512
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	10/05/2005	03/06/2005	3.682.826
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.004	23/05/2005	03/06/2005	18.145.036
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.005	12/05/2005	05/06/2005	47.583.830
NC	North part of Cyprus	KADEM	500	13/05/2005	31/05/2005	157.101
TOTAL			29.328	09/05/2005	14/06/2005	442.620.588

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Observed percentages	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
Confidence limits	± 1.9 points	± 2.5 points	± 2.7 points	± 3.0 points	± 3.1 points