

EUROBAROMETER 67

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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NATIONAL REPORT

IRELAND

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Introduction

The spring 2007 Eurobarometer survey was conducted in Ireland at a time of greatly enhanced political activity. After a five year interval, the voters were either on the verge of being plunged into a general election campaign or had actually been plunged into one, depending on the precise date on which each individual was interviewed. Interviewing commenced with most interviewees presumably aware that an election was imminent. By the time interviewing had concluded, two weeks of a three and a half week election campaign had passed.

Interviewees might also have been aware that, in the EU political domain, recent months had seen an increasing resolve to address issues surrounding a proposed constitution, or a new draft treaty, for the European Union. The ‘period of reflection’ in Europe, initiated after French and Dutch rejections of the draft constitution, had almost ended. Thus, increased awareness of moves by EU leaders to address the constitutional issue might have been expected.

In this context, the Spring 2007 Eurobarometer provides a good opportunity to examine Irish attitudes to European integration and to the issues at the intersection of European and domestic politics, as well as issues of trust in institutions, attitudes to policy attribution and to the experience, so far, of the 2004 enlargement of the Union.

This is the eleventh report in a series of six-monthly reports on Irish attitudes to the European Union. Each report is based on evidence from the most recent Eurobarometer survey of public opinion. This report is based on *Eurobarometer 67.2*, which was fielded between April 10th and May 15th of this year.¹

Personal satisfaction, domestic outlook and levels of political engagement

The high levels of personal satisfaction and optimism found in this survey would have made many European leaders envious of the Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Bertie Ahern, as he prepared to face the electorate in search of a third successive term. Irish levels of satisfaction, as seen in Figure 1, and personal optimism are well above the European average. Figure 1 shows that 90 per cent of Irish people claim to be satisfied with the life they lead, eight per cent being dissatisfied. This level of satisfaction is 10 per cent higher than that found across the EU as a whole (80 per cent) and is in the

¹ See appendix of technical specifications for details.

upper range of satisfaction levels. At the other end of the spectrum only 36 per cent of Bulgarians and 51 per cent of Hungarians express satisfaction.

A similar level of contentment is found in Ireland regarding personal expectation for the next twelve months. Forty-seven per cent of Irish people believed their personal situation will improve over the next twelve months, a similar proportion believing it will stay the same (46 per cent), and only five per cent of people believing it will get worse. Only the United Kingdom and Latvia had higher levels of belief that their lives will be better in the next twelve months. Hungary and Bulgaria are at the other end of the spectrum again: only 20 per cent of Hungarians and 22 per cent of Bulgarians believed their situations will improve, with 52 per cent and 42 per cent respectively believing that their situation will be worse in the coming twelve months.

On the issue of whether respondents believed their personal job situation would be better, worse or the same over the coming twelve months, Irish people were largely positive, with 29 per cent of people believing it will be better, 57 per cent of people believing it will stay the same, and only four per cent of people saying it will be worse. This is similar to the level of optimism across the EU as a whole.

Not only do the majority of Irish respondents in this survey express satisfaction at both their personal situation and job prospects for the next twelve months but many believe that the Irish situation is better both economically and in employment terms than other EU member states. As seen in Figure 2, 71 per cent of Irish people believe the economic situation is much or somewhat better than the average of the EU countries (16 per cent believing it to be definitely or somewhat less good), which places Ireland fifth highest in the ranking. Sixty-eight per cent of Irish people also believe the employment situation is much better or somewhat better than the EU average, with only 18 per cent believing it to be somewhat worse or much worse. Four per cent of Irish people believe the Irish employment situation is the same as the EU average.

Returning to the election that was more or less concomitant with this Eurobarometer survey, one might add that, given these numbers, it was always going to be difficult to dislodge the dominant incumbent party when the Irish general election finally occurred in May 2007.

Figure 3 shows that 28 per cent of people said they believed their economic situation will be better in the next twelve months while 27 per cent of people said they believed it will be worse. The most frequent response however, at 37 per cent, was the

view that the domestic economy will stay the same. The view on the employment situation over the next twelve months is slightly more pessimistic. Thirty-eight per cent of people believe it will remain the same; 30 per cent of people believe it will be worse over the next twelve months, with 24 per cent of people believing it will get better.

The question of which issues are the most important facing Ireland (a maximum of two issues was elicited from respondents) must certainly be seen in the context of a looming general election. Answers are at least likely to have been influenced by the high level of public debate and engagement during the run-in to the election. In any event, we can see from Figure 4 that the frequency of Irish citations of certain issues differed significantly from levels across the EU as a whole.

The four most frequently cited issues amongst Irish respondents were health, crime, rising prices/inflation and housing, in rank order of frequency. Fifty per cent of respondents cited the healthcare system. Forty-seven per cent cited crime, 28 per cent of people cited rising prices/inflation and 15 per cent of people mentioned housing.

On the issues of crime, the economy, unemployment, the healthcare system, and rising prices/inflation there were significant differences between Irish levels of response and levels throughout the European Union as a whole. Whilst 47 per cent of Irish respondents cited crime as being one of the most important issues facing their country only 24 per cent of European respondents did the same. Only nine per cent of Irish people cited the economy and seven per cent cited unemployment as being the most important issue facing the country, contrasting with 20 per cent and 34 per cent of European respondents respectively. Whilst the frequencies of the issue of immigration being cited were similar – 12 per cent in Ireland and 15 per cent in Europe – the issues of health and rising prices/inflation were of greater concern in Ireland than across the Union. Fifty per cent of Irish people cited health and 28 per cent cited rising prices/inflation as being one of the most important issues facing the country in comparison with 18 per cent of Europeans citing either issue. Some of this may be election-related. On the other hand, a glance at previous reports in this series will affirm that Irish people have quite a different perspective on issues of economic issues compared to most of their fellow Europeans.

Despite the fact that interviews for this survey were conducted on the cusp of, and during, the first national election in five years, Irish levels of political engagement look comparatively weak. Figure 5 shows that in the middle of the Irish general

election campaign only 10 per cent of Irish respondents said they discuss political matters frequently when they meet up with friends. Forty-eight per cent of respondents said they discuss it occasionally, whilst 41 per cent said they never discuss it at all. The proportion of people who say they never discuss political matters with friends is substantially higher than the EU rate of 28 per cent. Only Spain, Malta and Cyprus have higher numbers of respondents claiming to never discuss politics. In contrast with the Irish level of 10 per cent who discuss political matters frequently, 23 per cent of Greeks and Germans and 25 per cent of Danes engage in political discussions frequently. This relatively low level of political discussion in Ireland needs to be borne in mind by all sides as planning for another EU referendum gets underway.

Consistent with these weak levels of political discussion in Ireland is the frequency with which Irish respondents said they find themselves trying to convince others of their political views. Forty-four per cent of Irish people said they try to persuade friends, relatives or fellow workers to share their political views often or from time to time, in contrast with 55 per cent of people who don't. In comparative terms, this places Irish levels of attempting to persuade others politically at the lower end of the scale, compared with 78 per cent of Dutch people, 64 per cent of Lithuanians, 59 per cent of Italians, and 50 per cent of the EU's as a whole. These figures for Ireland suggest that not only are levels of political engagement in general low but also that for half of the Irish population there is insufficient political conviction to motivate them to persuade others of their views.

Given the enveloping election campaign and all the bru ha ha in the media about political issues and political manoeuvring, it is worth noting that none of this seems to have raised levels of political engagement. The two questions just considered (levels of political discussion and personal political persuasion) were also asked six months previously in Eurobarometer 66.1. There were simply no differences in the levels of frequency with which Irish people discuss political matters with friends, election or no election. People were also asked this question five years ago in Eurobarometer 57.1, in the same month as the general election of 2002. Eleven per cent of Irish respondents in that survey said they discussed political matters frequently; 49 per cent said they discussed them occasionally. Thirty-eight per cent of respondents said they never discussed it, and two per cent said they didn't know. Over time, therefore, we see no change in the low levels of political engagement in Ireland.

The same lack of difference over time is evident regarding the question of how often people find themselves trying to persuade others of their political views when they themselves hold a strong opinion. One can conclude from these trend comparisons that the intensification over recent months of political debate amongst the media and political elites in Ireland had little impact on the levels of political discussion and communication among friends.

Attitudes to the European Union

Against this background of high life satisfaction and relatively low levels of political engagement Irish attitudes towards European integration and the European Union as it is are very positive. Seventy-six per cent of Irish people believed Irish membership of the EU is a good thing, with only seven per cent believing it to be a bad thing and 13 per cent believing it to be neither. This is compared with the European figures of 57 per cent of people believing membership of its country in the EU to be a good thing, 15 per cent believing it to be a bad thing and 25 per cent believing it to be neither. On a comparative table, Ireland ranks high in its support of membership, similar to the Netherlands (the result of the referendum on the draft EU constitution notwithstanding) and Spain, with levels of belief in EU membership being a good thing above 70 per cent. While only seven per cent of Irish people believed membership to be bad thing, 30 per cent took this view in the UK, 24 per cent in Sweden and 25 per cent in Austria.

Similarly positive attitudes are found in Ireland on the issue of whether one's country has benefited from being a member of the EU. A remarkable 86 per cent believed Ireland has benefited from being a member; seven per cent of people believed it has not benefited. No European population had a higher proportion of respondents believing its country to have benefited from EU membership. The seven per cent of Irish people who believed Ireland has not benefited from being a member of EU is in contrast with 36 per cent of German people, 44 per cent of people in the UK, and 46 per cent of Cypriots.

Comparatively speaking, the overall image of the EU in Ireland is also quite positive. Figure 6 shows that 68 per cent of Irish people said the EU evokes a very positive or fairly positive image for them. Romania ranks second highest, with 67 per cent of Romanians saying they have a very positive or fairly positive image of the EU.

Only seven per cent have a negative image of the Union, whilst 20 per cent have a neutral image of it. As well as having the highest level of positive responses to the question in the EU, Ireland is only one of five member states with over 60 per cent of respondents saying they have positive images of the Union. The low level of negative image holding (seven per cent) is in stark contrast with 27 per cent of respondents in Sweden, 29 per cent in Austria and 31 per cent in the United Kingdom.

This being the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome it was perhaps inevitable that Eurobarometer 67.2 asked respondents about it. Respondents were asked: 'We are celebrating this year the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, which marks the origin of the creation of the European Union as we know it today. When you think of this anniversary, which words come to your mind first?' The questionnaire then presented respondents with a list of words from which to choose. Thirty-four per cent selected the word 'hope', 15 per cent said 'satisfaction', and six per cent said 'pride'. The words 'sorrow', 'worry' and 'disappointment' all individually drew response rates below three per cent. Twenty-seven per cent, however, said no words came to mind, while a further 13 per cent of people said they didn't know.

Irish responses to this question show two contrasting patterns. On the one hand there is a high level of positive responses on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. On the other hand there was a high level of apathy or indifference to the issue. The proportion of Irish people who expressed satisfaction - 15 per cent - is in the upper range of satisfaction levels across the EU, and is also above the EU total level. It compares favourably with low levels in Portugal and Romania (six per cent), the UK (six per cent), Greece (five per cent) and Latvia (three per cent). It is significantly lower, however, than the levels found in Luxembourg (21 per cent), Belgium (22 per cent) and Malta (24 per cent). Perhaps a reason for it (though Ireland did have the lowest levels of 'worry' and 'disappointment' responses throughout the EU) is the high proportion of people who either didn't know what their response to the anniversary was or couldn't choose any words to express their reaction to the anniversary. When these response categories are combined Ireland had a rate of 40 per cent with no opinion on the matter. Only five countries had similar or higher levels (Poland 41 per cent, Sweden 45 per cent, the UK 48 per cent, Lithuania 52 per cent and Latvia 61 per cent). When compared with low levels of 'Don't knows' plus 'Nothing' in Malta (22 per cent), Slovakia (22 per cent) and Italy (15 per cent), these

findings suggest that Irish people are somewhat disengaged from the process of European integration and the evolution of the European project.

Knowledge of EU institutions

Irish levels of knowledge of the EU's workings, as measured in Eurobarometer 67.2, were mixed. Respondents were asked to state whether each of three statements was true or false. On the statement that the European Union currently has 15 member states 56 per cent of respondents said the statement was false, with 25 per cent saying it was true and 19 per cent saying they did not know. On the other two questions, Ireland had higher correct rates. Sixty-three per cent of people said the statement that the members of the European parliament are directly elected by the citizens of the EU was true, compared with 45 per cent of citizens throughout the EU. Ireland's correct response rate to this question was high compared to other countries, ranking fourth after Denmark, Greece and Malta.

The rate of incorrect responses to this question throughout the EU is noteworthy. Whilst the use of the phrase 'directly elected' may have been slightly ambiguous for some respondents in countries that use list systems of proportional representation, it is nonetheless remarkable that in eleven countries 40 per cent or more of respondents gave the wrong answer, and that in nine other countries (as well as two of the eleven countries previously referred to) 20 per cent or more said 'Don't know' to this question. What is also noteworthy is that when the 15 countries that constituted the EU until 2004 are grouped together, the correct response rate to this question is 45 per cent, with 36 per cent giving the incorrect response. Amongst the twelve countries that recently joined the EU a correct response rate of 48 per cent and an incorrect response rate of 33 per cent occurred. These figures would suggest that there is equal, if not greater, awareness of the European parliament's democratic process in accession countries than in some countries where European elections have taken place for several decades.

Regarding the third statement (that a different member state hosts the presidency of the Council of the European Union every six months), 58 per cent of Irish people correctly stated that this was true, 12 per cent said it was false, and 30 per cent said they didn't know. This compared with an EU total of 49 per cent saying it is true, 25 per cent of people saying it is false and 26 per cent of people saying they did

not know. The successful response rate to this question in Ireland placed it mid-table when compared with other countries.

When the scores of Irish respondents are totalled, as seen in Figure 7, just under 19 per cent of respondents answered no question correctly, 20 per cent of respondents gave one correct answer, 29 per cent gave two correct answers, and 33 per cent giving three correct answers. This final total compares favourably with other EU country's individual score levels. Fourteen countries, however, had a higher proportion of respondents who got at least one answer correct.

It is worth noting at this point that Irish levels of knowledge of EU institutions, as measured in Eurobarometer 67.2, are greater than that found in previous Eurobarometer reports. However, it is possible that this particular set of questions was easier to answer correctly from an Irish perspective. Firstly, EU enlargement from 15 to 25 member states and the successful conclusion of negotiations for a draft EU constitution occurred during a recent Irish presidency of the EU Council (from January to June of 2004). Secondly, the presidency of the Council of the European Union is accompanied by much media publicity in Ireland, which is likely to create widespread public awareness of it. Thirdly, the electoral system used in Ireland, with its highly personalised voting system, means it is likely that Irish people are more aware of European parliament members being directly elected by citizens than people under other electoral systems might be. In short one should not assume that the problem of low Irish levels of knowledge of the EU has been solved.

On a subjective assessment of their own understanding of how the EU works, Figure 8 shows a less impressive picture of Irish people's level of knowledge regarding the EU's workings. Only 33 per cent of Irish people agreed with the statement that they understood how the EU works, with 57 per cent saying they disagreed with the statement and a further 10 per cent saying they didn't know. The level saying they understood how the EU works was 10 percentage points lower than amongst EU citizens as a whole (43 per cent). On a country-by-country comparison only one country showed a lower understanding of how the EU works (Bulgaria had twenty-eight per cent). Italy equalled Ireland's percentage of people claiming to understand how the EU works, with 35 per cent of people in the UK making the same claim. This compares with high levels of people claiming to understand the EU in Poland (59 per cent), Lithuania (60 per cent) and Slovenia (64 per cent).

Although objective and subjective measures are related to each other, they do not coincide, as Table 1 shows.

Table 1 Subjective knowledge rating by actual knowledge score (Ireland)

		Level of EU knowledge				Total
		No questions correct	One question correct	Two questions correct	Three questions correct	
Self-assessment	I understand how the EU works	19 11.8%	46 26.3%	108 41.1%	153 50.3%	326 36.1%
	I don't understand how the EU works	142 88.2%	129 73.7%	155 58.9%	151 49.7%	577 63.9%
Total		161 100.0%	175 100.0%	263 100.0%	304 100.0%	903 100.0%

Table 1 shows that the vast majority of those who either answered no question correctly or answered one question correctly said, perhaps justifiably, that they don't understand how the EU works (88 per cent of those who answered no questions correctly and 74 per cent of those who answered only one question correctly). However, only 41 per cent of Irish people who answered two questions correctly said they understood how the EU works. Amongst those who answered three questions correctly – demonstrating some awareness of European parliamentary democracy, recent enlargement and the institution of a rotating EU presidency – just under half of respondents (49.7 per cent) said they don't understand how the EU works. It is clear that a huge proportion of Irish citizens have little faith in their own understanding of the EU and its political and decision-making processes.

Trust in national, European and societal institutions

Trust in political institutions is a complex thing. It is the bedrock of political legitimacy. On the other hand, it can be argued that political systems can have levels of trust that are too high, as when citizens become deferential, uncritical or inactive. Ireland's position on the trust dimension varies depending on the political or societal institution in question. The Eurobarometer measures trust in a wide range of political and societal institutions ranging from the media to core institutions of government.

As can be seen from Figure 9, radio and television had the highest level of trust of any of the institutions surveyed about. Seventy-seven per cent of people said they trusted the radio and 72 per cent said they trusted the television, with 10 per cent and 25 per cent distrusting them respectively. The institutions which commanded

medium levels of trust in Ireland were the European institutions, with 63 per cent of people trusting the European parliament, 58 per cent of people trusting both the European Commission and European Central Bank and 54 per cent trusting the European Union itself. Interestingly, the EU institution commanding the lowest level of trust in Ireland is that where an Irish presence can be most influential: only 49 per cent of people said they trust the Council of the European Union.

The institutions which commanded the lowest levels of trust were the national government (41 per cent), the national parliament (43 per cent), the written press (45 per cent) and the relatively new communications institution of the internet (36 per cent). The more polarised view regarding the internet (and the high level of ‘Don’t know’s – 28 per cent) is perhaps explained by the unfamiliarity with it amongst older generations as well as awareness of possible use of the internet for illegal activities of one sort or another. The high level of people who don’t know if they trust the Council of the European Union or not is perhaps also explained by a lack of familiarity among many people with what this body does.

The Irish level of trust in the national government is low in comparison to the pre-2004 EU15 member states, with 73 per cent of people in the Netherlands and 66 per cent of people in Luxembourg saying they trust their government. It is notable that at the lower end of the table many of the accession countries – the Czech republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Romania – showed levels of trust in their national government below 30 per cent.

The Irish level of trust in the European Union is in line with the overall European level. The European level of trust, distrust, and having no view regarding the EU are 57 per cent, 32 per cent and 11 per cent respectively. Significantly higher levels of trust in the EU were found in Belgium (73 per cent), Estonia (72 per cent) and the Netherlands (69 per cent) than in Ireland. In fact Ireland has one of the lowest levels of trust in EU throughout the Union. Respondents in France showed equally low levels of trust (51 per cent) while only three other member states – Latvia (47 per cent), Austria (46 per cent) and the UK (36 per cent) – showed lower levels of trust in the EU than those found in Ireland.

It is also worth noting the level of ‘Don’t know’ responses to the three questions on trust in political institutions. Ten per cent of Irish people said they didn’t know if they trusted their government; 13 per cent of people said they didn’t know if

they trusted their parliament; but 21 per cent of people said they didn't know if they trusted the EU.

Table 2 Trust in the EU by level of knowledge of the EU (Ireland)

	Level of knowledge of the EU				Total
	No question correct	One question correct	Two questions correct	Three questions correct	
Tend to trust the EU	29.9%	47.9%	61.7%	61.7%	53.1%
Tend not to trust the EU	34.2%	26.3%	21.4%	23.7%	25.5%
Don't know	35.8%	25.8%	16.9%	14.6%	21.4%
Total	187 100.0%	194 100.0%	290 100.0%	329 100.0%	1000 100.0%

Trust in the EU is related to knowledge of the EU. Table 2 shows that over two-thirds of those with the least knowledge of how the EU works either said they tend not to trust the Union or don't know if they trust it. This proportion drops to just over a half of those who display some knowledge of its workings (one questions answered correctly), to approximately a third of those who answered either two or three questions correctly.

Table 3 Trust in the EU by subjective knowledge rating (Ireland)

	'I understand how the EU works.'			Total
	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Don't Know	
Tend to trust the EU	69.0%	45.4%	45.4%	53.1%
Tend not to trust the EU	19.0%	29.5%	23.7%	25.5%
Don't Know	12.0%	25.1%	30.9%	21.4%
Total	326 100.0%	577 100.0%	97 100.0%	1000 100.0%

The proposition that there is a link between knowledge of and trust in the European Union is also supported by an analysis of the relationship between respondents' level of trust in the EU and their self-assessment of how well they understand how the EU works, as shown in Table 3. Amongst those who say they understand how the EU works, 69 per cent of people say they tend to trust the Union, with 31 per cent of people either saying they tend not to trust it or don't know if they do. The proportion of those who say they do not to trust the Union increases to 30 per

cent among those who said they don't understand how the EU works, with a further 25 per cent saying they don't know if they trust it. The majority of those who say they don't know if they understand how the EU works say they either don't trust it or don't know if they trust it.

On the issue of levels of trust in the various societal institutions, there was no significant difference between Irish trust in the press and that found across the EU as a whole. The Irish trust level of 45 per cent contrasts however with high levels found in Austria (64 per cent) and Romania (68 per cent) and low levels found in Hungary (30 per cent) and in the UK, where, remarkably, only 18 per cent of people said they trusted the press. This finding regarding British attitudes is interesting to an Irish readership because of the high accessibility of British newspapers in Ireland.

Irish levels of trust in the radio and television rank high against other European countries. Regarding trust in radio, Ireland's level of 78 per cent ranks beside Portugal (78 per cent), Sweden (80 per cent) and Finland (85 per cent) at the top of the table. Ireland's high level of trust in television was comparatively high, ranking beside Estonia (78 per cent), Romania (88 per cent) and Bulgaria (89 per cent) in this regard.

With the EU level of trust in the internet at 39 per cent the Irish level is comparatively low, ranking amongst member states such as Cyprus and Sweden (33 per cent) and the UK (32 per cent), and is stark contrast with the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, where 55 per cent and 62 per cent of people respectively trust the internet.

In conclusion, Irish people's levels of trust in their own political institutions (national government and parliament) are low, but trust in the European Union and in various EU institutions is somewhat higher. A more varied view is found in Irish opinion towards the media. Trust in the internet is also low compared with other member states but trust in radio and television is amongst the highest in the European Union.

Attitudes to policy attribution to national government or joint decision-making

Allocation of responsibility for policy-making in various areas is a crucial aspect of European integration. When asked whether certain policy areas should have decisions

made at national government level or made jointly within the European Union, a majority of Irish respondents expressed a preference for joint decision-making in ten of eighteen policy areas, whilst in eight other policy areas a majority of respondents expressed a preference for policy decisions to be taken at national government level.

In the policy domains of energy (63 per cent for joint decision-making), defence and foreign affairs (63 per cent for joint decision-making), protecting the environment (60 per cent for joint decision-making), competition (62 per cent for joint decision-making), agriculture and fisheries (50 per cent for joint decision-making) and in the policy area of immigration (52 per cent for joint decision-making) the majorities of Irish respondents were in favour of joint decision-making at EU level.

In several other key areas of policy a majority of Irish respondents expressed a preference for policy decisions to be made by the national government. In the areas of crime (53 per cent in favour of the national government making policy decisions), health and social welfare (63 per cent), taxation and the economy (64 per cent and 53 per cent respectively), education (71 per cent) and transport (50 per cent) the majority of Irish respondents were in favour of decisions being made by the national government. In all but the area of crime policy Irish opinion seems reflective of opinion in most member states regarding decision-making remaining with the national government. On crime policy Figure 11 shows that while only 38 per cent of EU citizens wanted responsibility for decisions on it to remain with the national government, 53 per cent of Irish people wanted decision to be taken domestically. Ireland was only one of four member states where a majority opposed joint decision-making. It is noticeable that the country with the biggest majority in favour of national government decision-making on crime policy – 61 per cent – was the other island nation off the coast of mainland Europe, the UK. Despite widespread international drug-smuggling, in particular, it may be that their island status inclines the publics of Britain and Ireland to see the issue of crime in a national rather than a European context. Countries with the most secure borders – i.e. surrounded by sea – are least concerned about the need for co-operation to fight issues of cross-border crime. Irish opinion on the issue of crime policy decision-making at this point in time is important in the context of the opt-out given to the UK and Ireland (should it want it) for further integration of policies concerning justice and the police. Irish public opinion would appear to support such an opt-out for the national government.

On the issues of economic decision-making, health and social welfare, taxation, education and transport, a majority of EU citizens, and the majority in a majority of member states, also expressed the view held by a majority of Irish respondents that decision-making should remain in the domain of the national government. Much of this, it could be argued, is in line with the principle of subsidiarity.

In line with the findings in this survey regarding EU action on environmental issues (69 per cent of Europeans and 60 per cent of Irish people want environmental protection policies to be made jointly within the EU) there is strong support across Europe among its citizens for action to be taken by the EU on the issue of global warming.

In Ireland 88 per cent of people said that the issue of global warming should be dealt with by the EU urgently. Four per cent said they it should not be dealt with urgently and eight per cent said they did not know. The figure of 88 per cent support corresponds with the overall proportion in favour of it in the EU, whilst seven per cent said it should not be dealt with urgently. Only three member states did not have support levels at 80 per cent or higher for such an approach. The exceptions were the three accession 2004 countries of Latvia (79 per cent), Lithuania (77 per cent) and Estonia (73 per cent). Amongst other countries the Danes showed the highest level of opposition to the proposal, with 12 per cent against.

There was even higher support amongst member states for the idea of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 per cent by 2020. Eighty-six per cent of Irish people supported the idea, three per cent disagreeing with the idea and a further 11 per cent not knowing. Support amongst citizens across the EU for the proposal was at 89 per cent, with five per cent disagreeing and six per cent not knowing. Every member state had support above 80 per cent for the proposal.

A qualification to this finding is the wording of the question regarding global warming. Respondents were asked: '[Overall, thinking about global warming] do you think that it is a matter that should be dealt with by the European Union or not?' Respondents were not given scope to express a preference for non-immediate action or for the issue to be tackled at national level. This minor criticism, however, does not take away from the fact that throughout the EU there is support for global warming to be tackled at EU level.

Attitudes towards the 2004 enlargement of the EU

Irish people's experience of the EU enlargement in 2004 has been quite positive, according to this latest Eurobarometer survey. When asked which of several responses came closest to their experience of the EU's 2004 enlargement, 23 per cent said it has been as positive as they thought it would. 19 per cent said it has been positive and did not expect it to have been the case. Nine per cent said it has been as negative an experience as they thought it would be, while three per cent said it has been negative and did not expect this to be the case. Twenty-one per cent of Irish respondents, however, felt that enlargement had neither been positive or negative and 25 per cent said they did not know what they felt the impact of enlargement had been on the Union. Forty-six per cent of Irish people, therefore, had no view on the impact of the 2004 enlargement on the European Union. In many ways these findings reinforces the impression of remoteness of key European developments for large sections of the Irish public.

In sum, 42 per cent of Irish people felt enlargement had been positive, with only 12 per cent expressing a negative view of the experience. Along with Denmark Ireland had the highest rate of opinion deeming enlargement to have been positive among the pre 2004 EU's 15 member states. This high proportion of respondents deeming the experience to have been positive is particularly noteworthy when seen in the context of high immigration levels to Ireland in the aftermath of enlargement. It contrasts strongly with 29 per cent of Germans expressing a positive view and 28 per cent in the UK (a country that did not place labour restrictions on accession countries in 2004).

The combined level of negative responses, 12 per cent, is also very low by comparative standards. Only Sweden, the third country along with Ireland and the UK not to have imposed initial labour restrictions on accession countries, had a lower level of negative responses, with 11 per cent of Swedes giving negative responses. The levels in Sweden and Ireland are in contrast with 31 per cent of respondents in the UK and 34 per cent of respondents in Luxembourg giving negative views on the impact of enlargement.

It should also be noted that Ireland's combined level of 'Don't know's and neutral answers ('It has been neither positive nor negative') is quite high. In effect, 46

per cent of Irish people demonstrated a lack of awareness of or engagement with the issues surrounding the 2004 EU enlargement.

Respondents were also asked whether they were in favour or against further enlargement of the EU. Figure 12 shows that 42 per cent of Irish people said they were in favour of it, while 38 per cent said they were against it. Comparatively, Ireland's level of support for further enlargement is low with 18 of the 26 other member states showing higher levels of support, with the highest levels in accession countries like Romania and Slovenia (67 per cent), Lithuania (68 per cent) and Poland (76 per cent). Ireland's level of support for further enlargement is towards the bottom of the table, with the UK (41 per cent), Germany (34 per cent), France (32 per cent) and Luxembourg (25 per cent) amongst the six countries with lower levels of support. It is notable that support for further enlargement is generally higher in member states that have recently joined the EU and less so in countries of the pre-2004 EU. Seven of the former fifteen member states have support levels below 50 per cent in favour of enlargement. Indeed when one looks at total support for further enlargement amongst these two blocs – the former fifteen and the accession-twelve - there is a big difference. Forty-three per cent of people in the old EU-15 support further enlargement, compared with 68 per cent of people in the twelve countries that recently joined the EU.

Attitudes to the idea of an EU constitution

Prior to the recent jettisoning of the EU draft constitution and its replacement with a more modest 'treaty' a decisive majority of Irish respondents expressed support for a constitution for the EU. Sixty-two per cent of Irish people, albeit before the June 2007 EU summit had killed off the grander project, said they are in favour of a constitution, with 15 per cent of people against it. Twenty-three per cent of people said they did not know. It must be noted here that this support level is for a constitution, in principle, and not for the specific document signed by EU leaders in 2004 and which was subsequently rejected by French and Dutch voters in 2005.

The Irish level of support for a constitution ranks mid-table when compared to support levels in other Member States. Support levels of approximately 80 per cent were found in some countries (82 per cent in Belgium, 80 per cent in Slovenia, 78 per

cent in Germany) while support was as low as 43 per cent in the UK, 47 per cent in both Sweden and Finland, and 49 per cent in Austria.

The level of opposition in Ireland to a constitution for the EU is approximately half-way between the most supportive and least supportive countries. At 15 per cent it is approximately twice the rate of Romania (seven per cent) and Spain (eight per cent), but is low compared with Greece (38 per cent), the Netherlands (41 per cent) and Finland (43 per cent). The percentage of Irish people saying they don't know if they are in favour or against a constitution for the EU is quite high however. It is the fourth highest level across the EU, with only Romania (24 per cent), Malta (25 per cent) Estonia and Belgium (28 per cent each) with higher levels of 'Don't know's. It suggests that in the event of any possible referendum in Ireland it will be vital to inform the electorate of the differences and the specifics of the new 'reform' treaty.

Figure 13 shows the change in support levels for a constitution in four countries over the past two and a half years, the countries being France and the Netherlands (because of their rejection of a draft constitution) and the UK on account of continuing debate there on whether any constitution or 'reform treaty' will be put before the electorate. The first point to note is that Irish support for a constitution is higher than that found in France, the Netherlands or the UK. Whilst support is only six percentage points higher than in France, it is 13 percentage points higher than the Netherlands and 25 percentage points higher than the UK. Secondly, in all four countries there was a bounce in support for the idea of a constitution in the autumn of 2005, after a draft constitution was rejected by French and Dutch voters. Since the following spring – Eurobarometer 65.2 conducted in April/May 2006 – support for a constitution has continued to rise in Ireland and in France. In the Netherlands, however, support for the idea of a constitution has fallen slightly, down seven percentage points in eighteen months; support for a constitution there has declined back to the support level of the spring of 2005. Thirdly, support in the UK for a constitution is comparatively extremely low (the lowest, along with Denmark, in the EU) and has remained static.

This graph does suggest that a majority of opinion in Ireland, France and the Netherlands are consistently supportive of a constitution for the EU. Support for such a document amongst British people remains low and unchanging.

Conclusion

The Spring 2007 Eurobarometer was conducted at a time of heightened political activity in Ireland. The electorate was preparing to go to the polls, and, at the political centres of Europe, and across European political capitals and especially in Berlin, elite activity aimed at resolving the issue of an EU constitution was increasing. The timing of the survey provides a highly focused snapshot of Irish public opinion.

Irish levels of personal satisfaction and optimism are confirmed in this. With 47 per cent of Irish people believing their personal situation will improve in the next twelve months and only four per cent of people saying they expected their job situation to get worse in the next twelve months, it is easy to see in retrospect that the outgoing government had grounds for optimism. Furthermore, the majority of Irish people said they believe the domestic economy and employment situation to be better than the EU average. Irish respondents were almost equally divided on whether the national economy and the employment situation would improve, disimprove or stay the same in the coming twelve months.

Overall satisfaction with personal situation and employment outlook is reflected in the issues mentioned being the most important facing the country. Healthcare, crime, rising prices and housing figured most frequently among responses – at higher levels than cited across the EU – while preoccupation with issues of economy, unemployment and terrorism were low by European standards. Note also, however, that the evidence suggests high levels of political disengagement in Ireland.

Attitudes to the European Union were, once again, found to be very positive in Ireland. Sixty-eight per cent of Irish people held a positive image of the European Union. Seventy-six per cent said they believe Irish membership of the EU is a good thing, and 86 per cent believed that Ireland has benefited from membership. When asked which words came to mind when reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, nearly 60 per cent chose the words ‘satisfaction’, ‘pride’ or ‘hope’. However, a degree of disengagement from the European project was also found in responses to this question, with 40 per cent of Irish people saying they didn’t know or that no words came to mind.

The sense of disengagement was in part confirmed and part qualified by measures of knowledge of the EU’s workings. On questions about the workings of various EU institutions, Irish respondents scored well comparatively speaking. When

asked for their subjective view on how well they understood how the EU works, however, 57 per cent of people said they didn't understand how it works with a further 10 per cent saying they didn't know. Levels of knowledge of the EU appear to have improved when compared with findings in previous Eurobarometers, but a high proportion of Irish people seem uninformed about the EU's workings. It was also found that those who know more about the EU are more likely to trust it.

On the issue of trust in various political and societal institutions, trust in EU institutions was found to be high in Ireland, but below the levels of trust in television or radio. The press, the national parliament and government and the internet, respectively, were the least trusted of the institutions asked about.

Irish attitudes to where decisions should be made are mixed. In key areas like energy, defence and foreign affairs, environmental protection, agriculture and immigration a majority of Irish people expressed a preference for joint decision-making at EU level, whereas on issues of healthcare, education, taxation, the economy, transport and crime Irish respondents were in favour of decisions being taken by the national government. On the issue of crime policy the dissonant view of the Irish and British public, when compared with attitudes throughout much of Europe, should be noted.

Irish attitudes to their experience of the 2004 enlargement were found to be quite positive in this survey. Over 40 per cent of people said they had found it to have been positive, while only 12 per cent had found it to have been negative. With 21 per cent of respondents saying it was neither positive nor negative, and 25 per cent saying they did not know, a degree of obliviousness of disengagement from European developments is again evident in Ireland. Comparatively speaking, attitudes to the 2004 enlargement were found to be quite positive. On the issue of further enlargement, however, Irish public opinion reflected that found in several of the member states that constituted the EU until 2004. It was one of seven 'former 15' countries where less than 50 per cent of respondents favoured further enlargement to include other countries in future years. Ireland was only one of two of these countries where a majority were against further enlargement.

With a referendum on a new EU treaty now in prospect, the level of support for an EU constitution found in this survey might seem to suggest that there is a strong chance of such a treaty being ratified by Irish voters. Support for a constitution has increased from 54 per cent to 62 per cent over the last two and a half years, with

the level of 'Don't know's down seven percentage points since the previous Eurobarometer six months ago. The trend in support is similar to that being experienced in France, and contrasts with stagnant levels of support (the mid-forties) in the UK, and a drop in support in this most recent Eurobarometer in the Netherlands.

It must be emphasised however that this is support for a constitution as such without specifying the (now aborted) draft European constitution of 2004. whether such general support can be translated into votes for the revised 'reform treaty' will depend on the actions and strategies of political leaders and activists and especially on their ability to engage and inform a public that is very positively disposed but is also prone to hesitation and a degree of self-doubt.

Figure 1 Personal satisfaction levels of EU citizens, by country (Note: Source for all tables and graphs is EB67.2 unless otherwise noted.)

Question: QA3. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

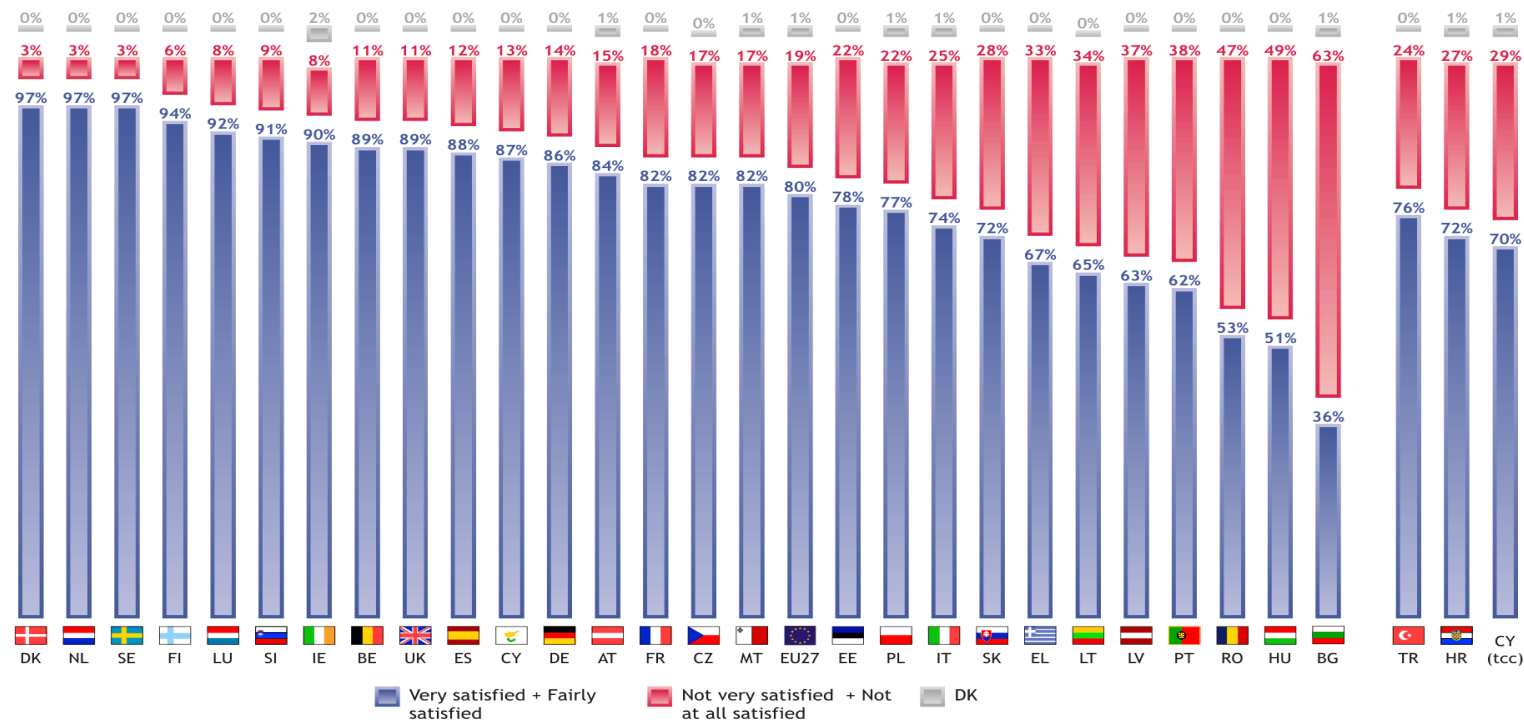


Figure 2 View amongst EU citizens of their national economy, by country

Question: QA7a.1. For each of the following domains, would you say that the situation in (OUR COUNTRY) is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

Option: The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

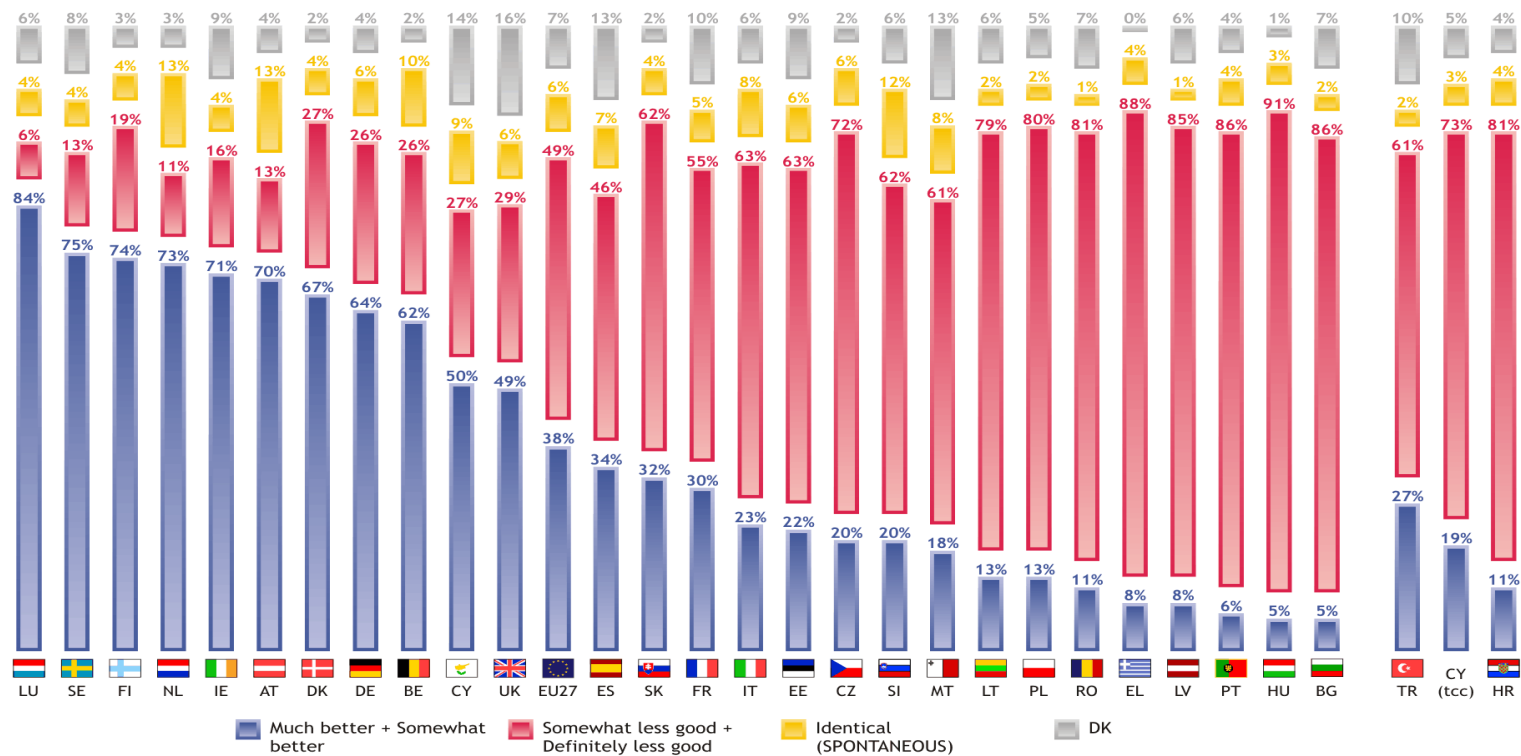


Figure 3 Economic expectations of EU citizens, by country

Question: QA4.2. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

Option: The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

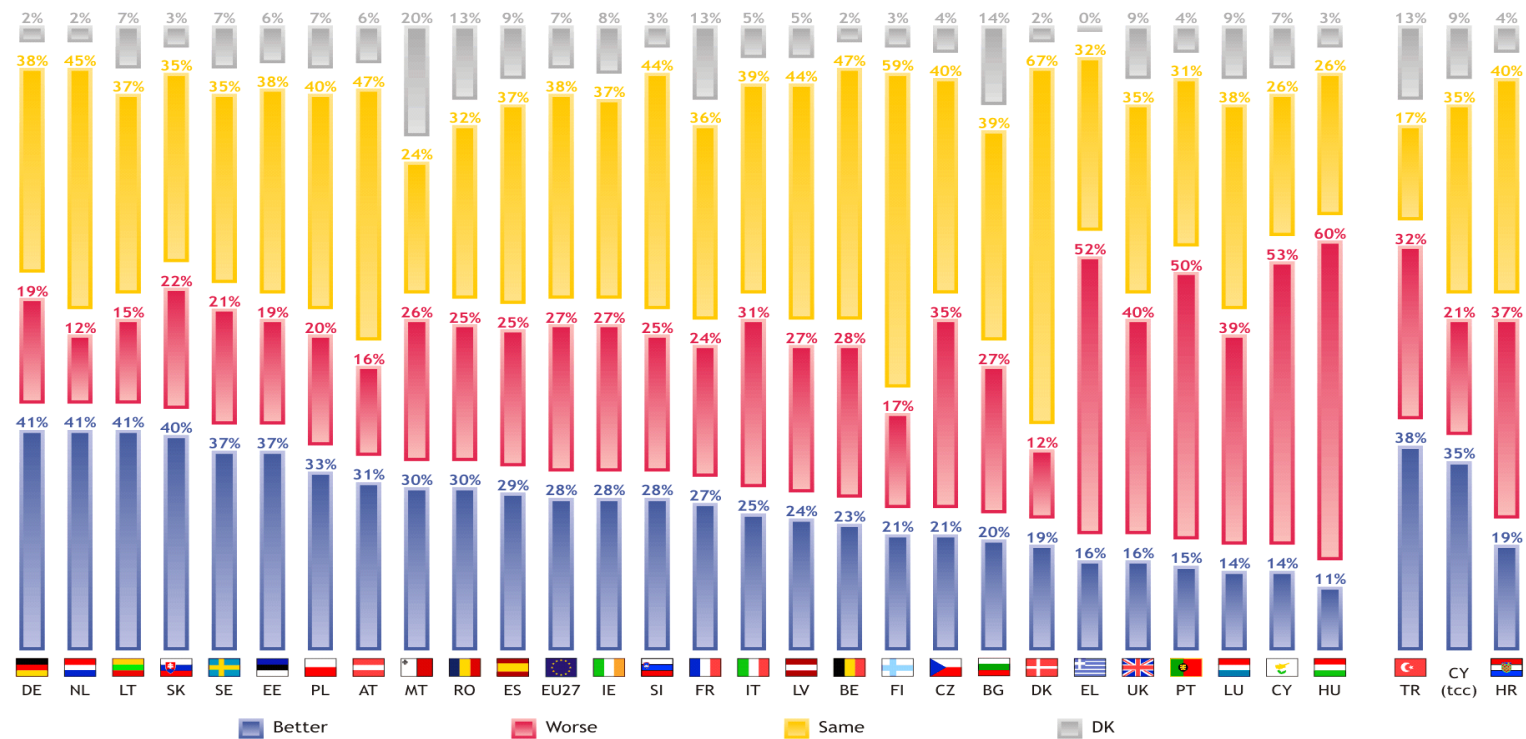
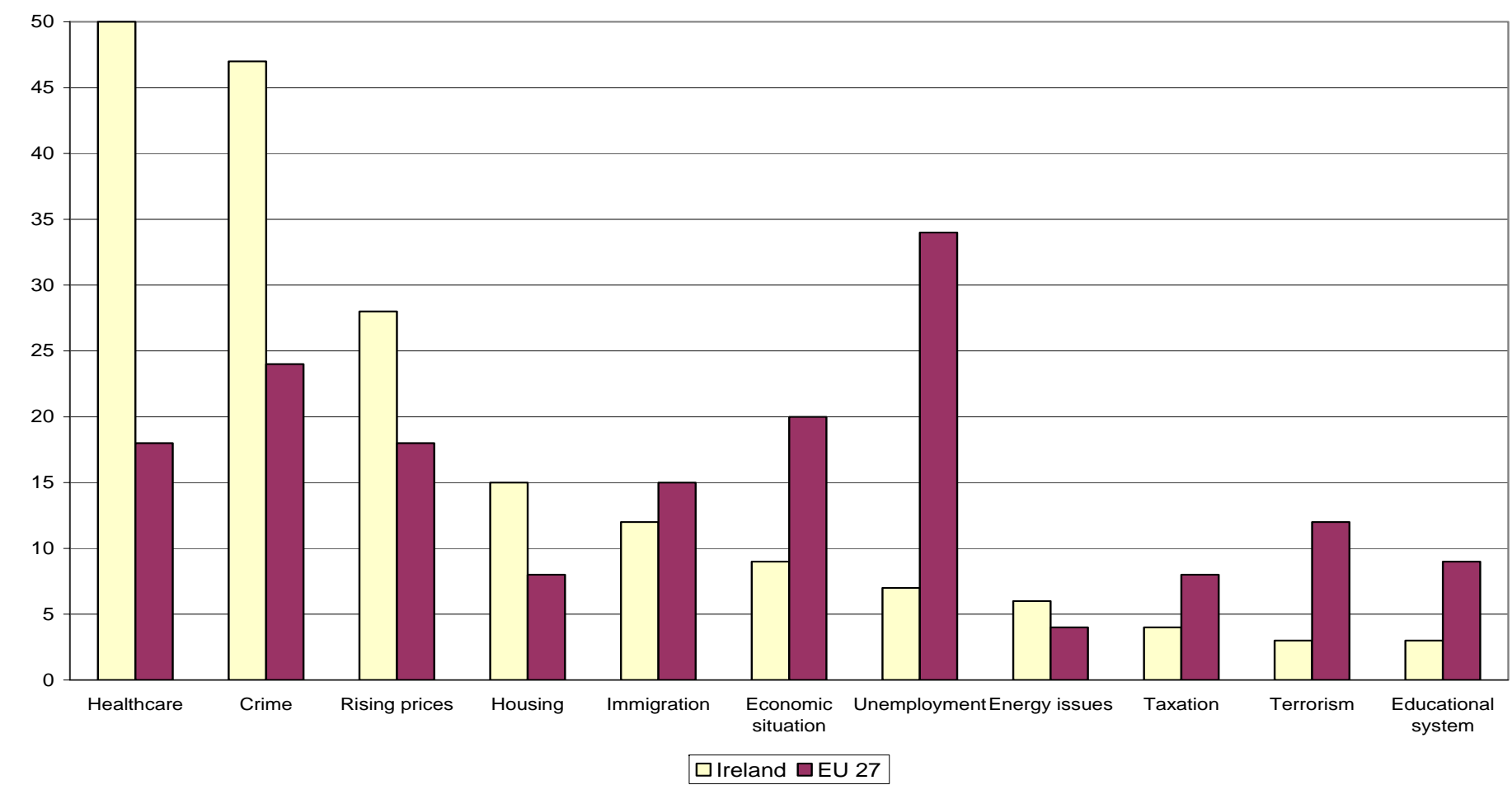


Figure 4 Most important issues facing (COUNTRY), Ireland and EU27 (in descending order of frequency of issue in Ireland).²



² Source: EB67.2, QA18a

Figure 5 Levels of political discussion, by country

Question: QA1. When you get together with friends, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, or never?

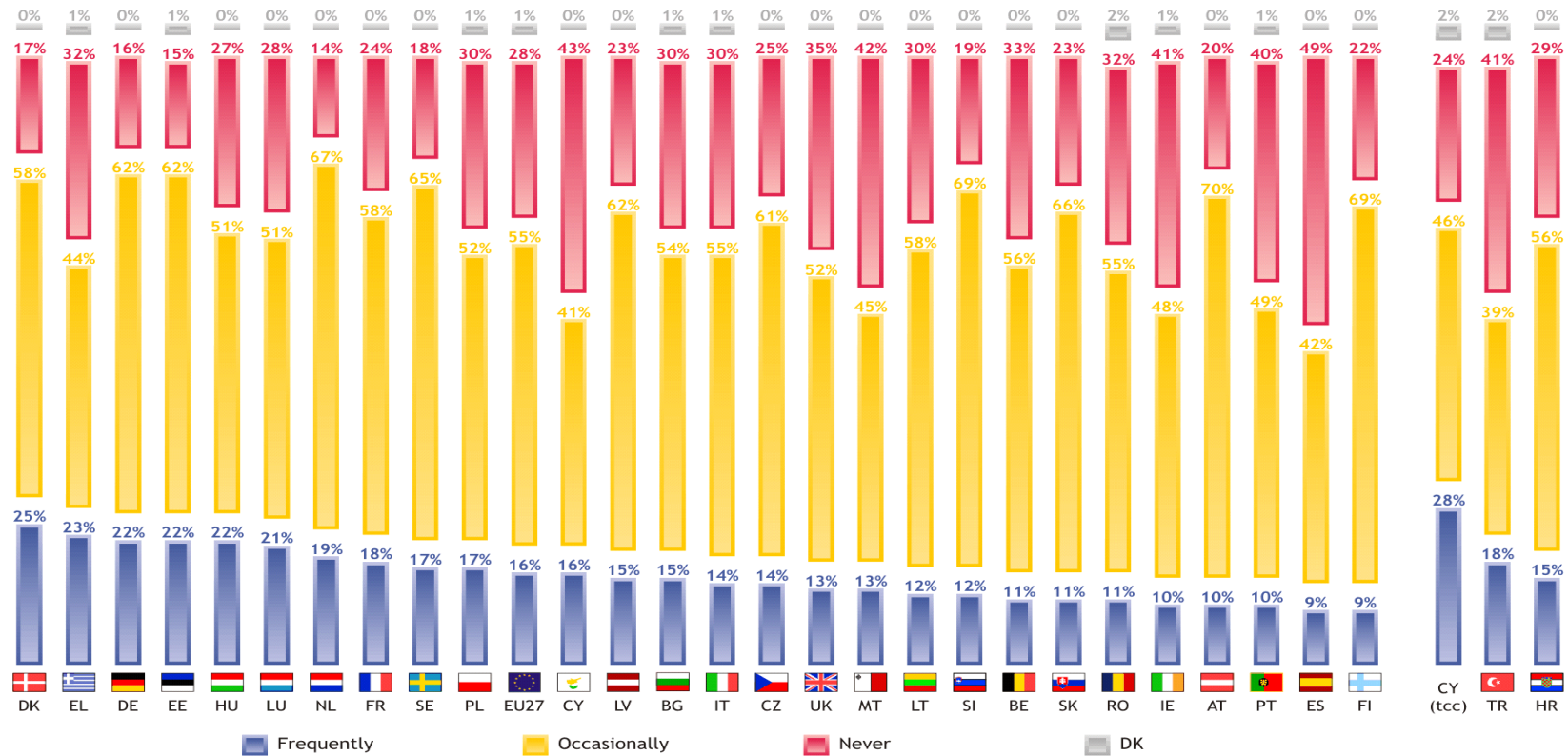


Figure 6. Image of the EU amongst EU citizens, by country

Question: QA11. In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

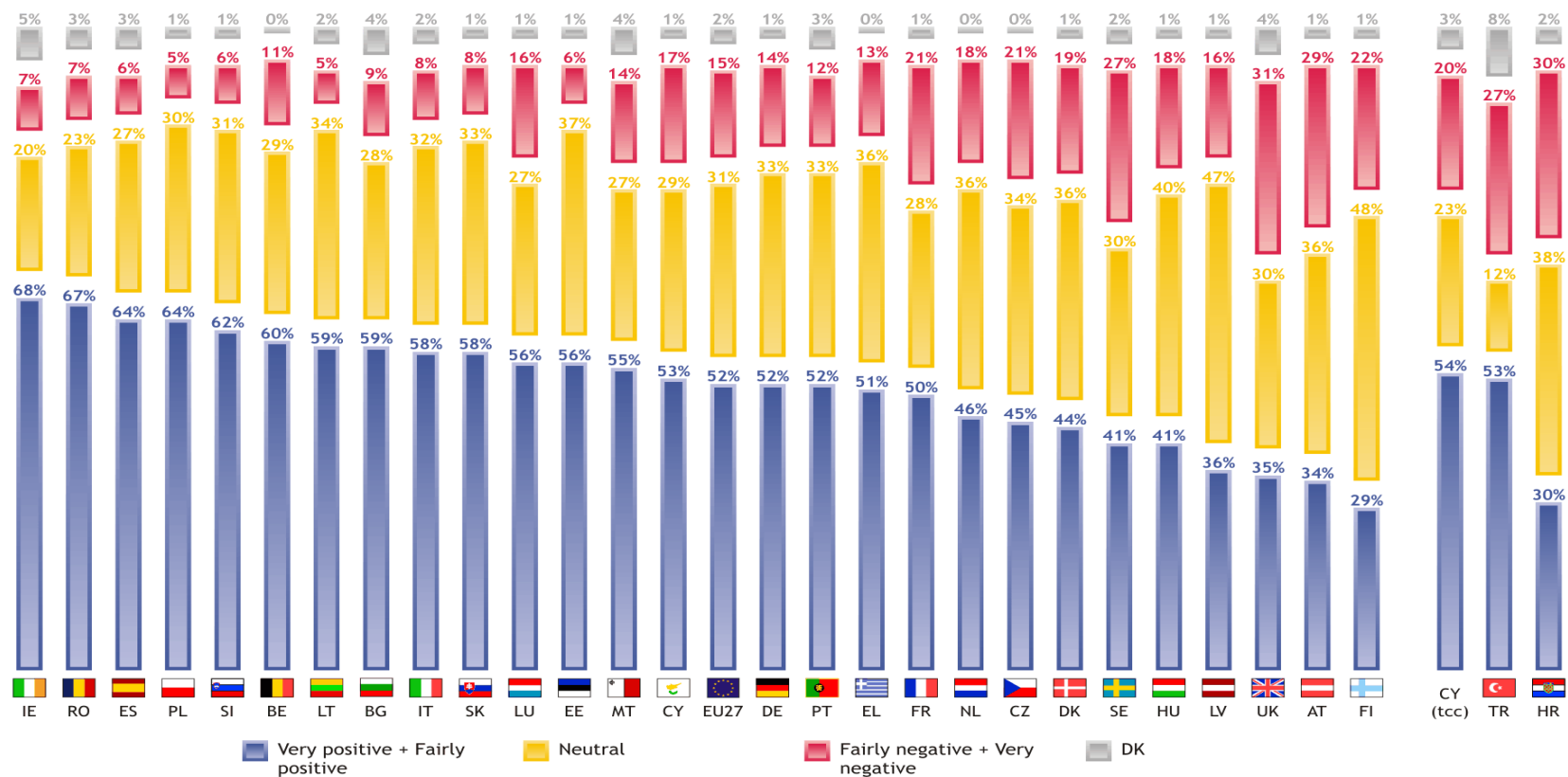
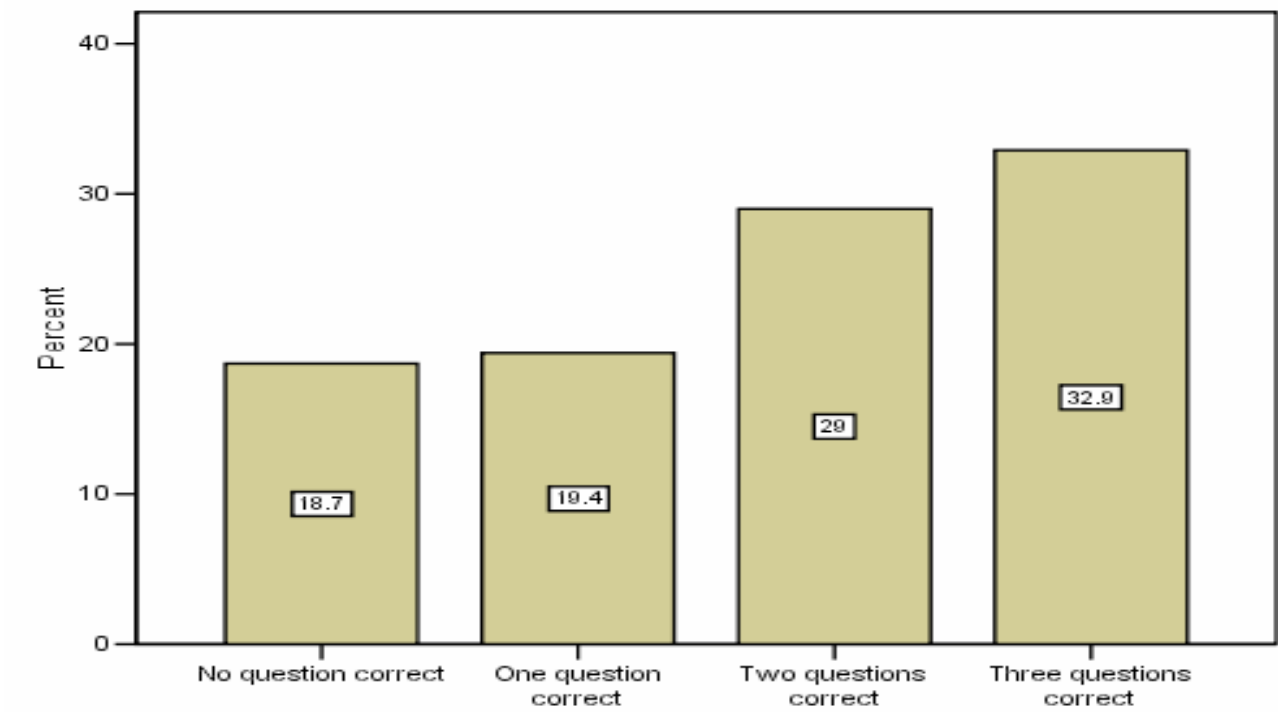


Figure 7 Correct score levels in Ireland for knowledge questions regarding the EU³



³ Source: EB67.2, QA17

Figure 8 Subjective assessment of how well EU workings are understood by EU citizens, by country

Question: QA34a.5. Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree.

Option: I understand how the EU works

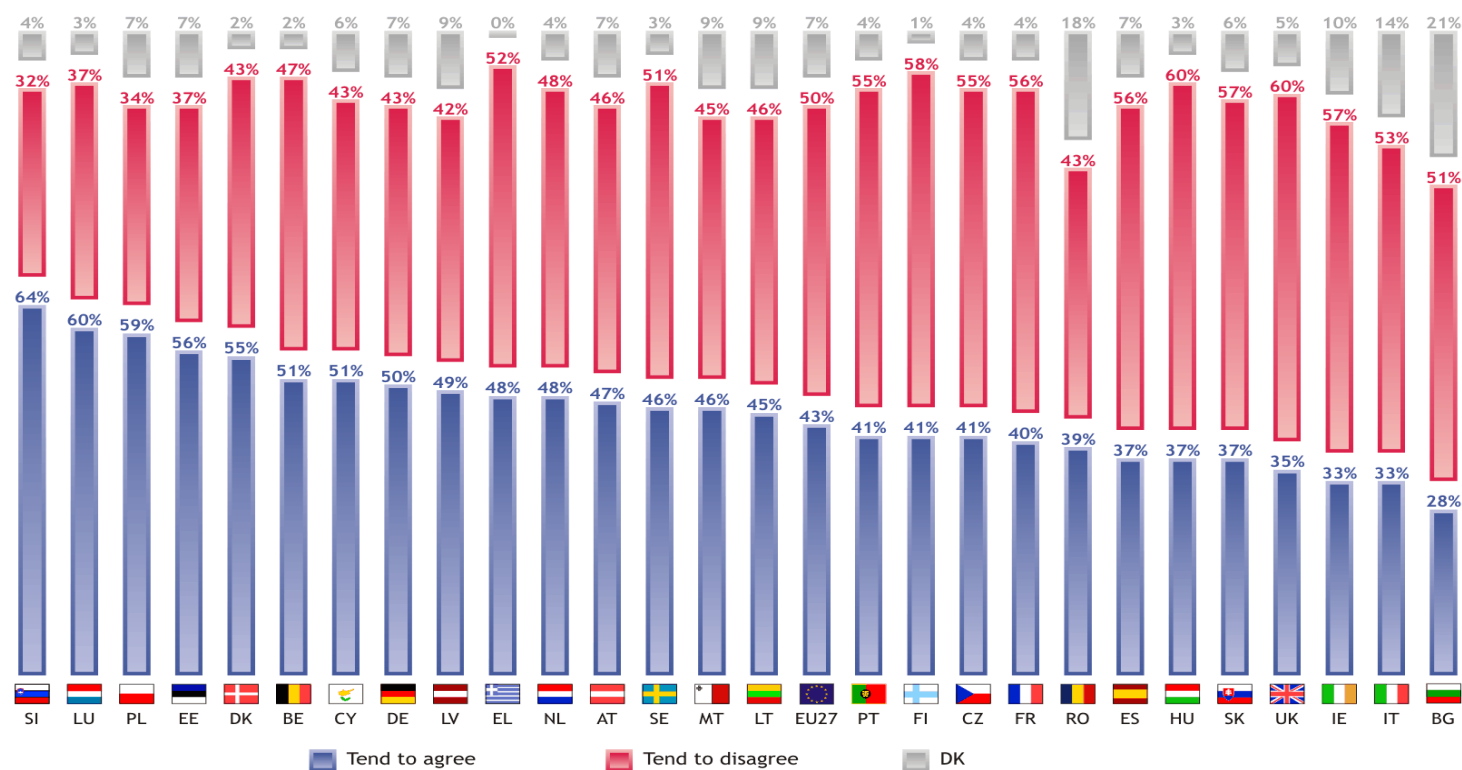
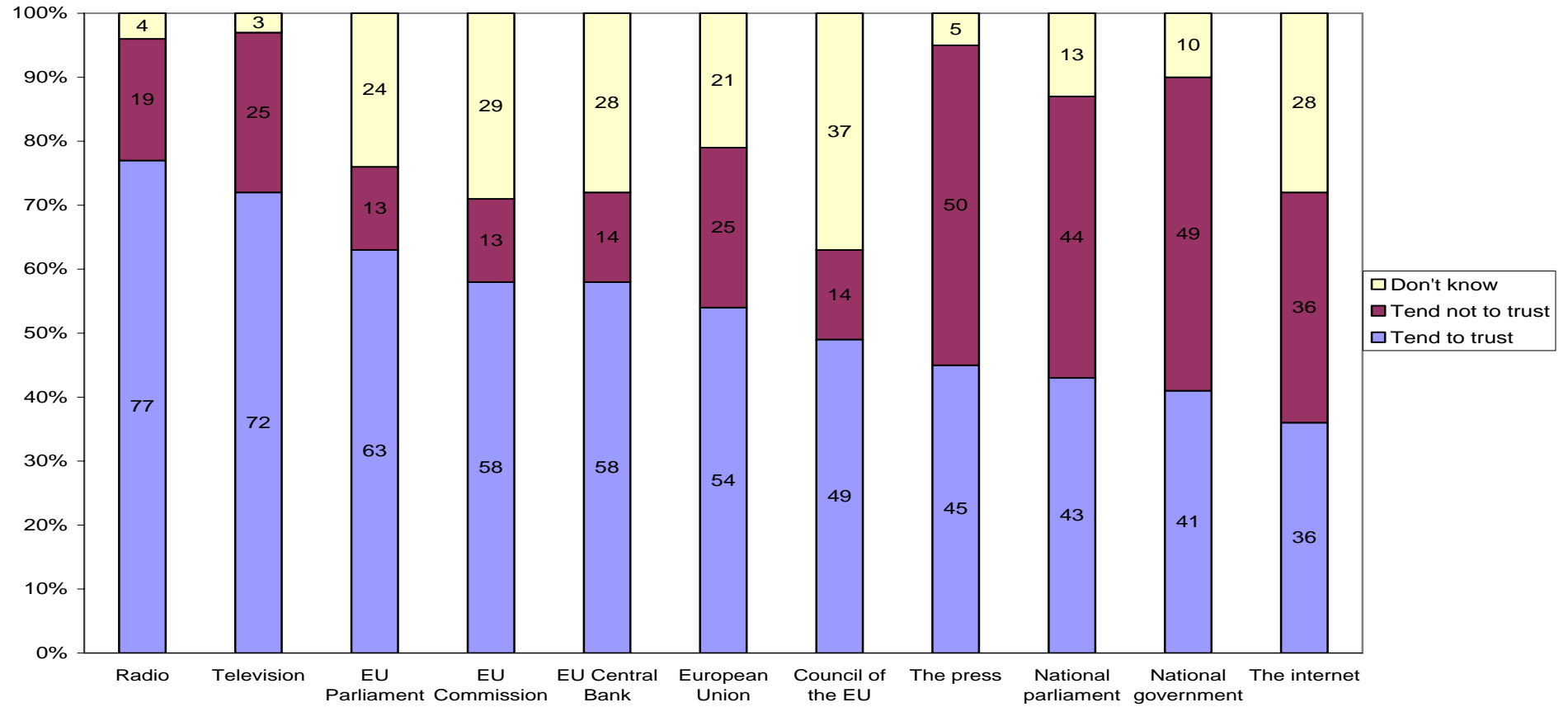


Figure 9 Irish trust levels in political and societal institutions⁴



⁴ (Source: EB67.2 QA.15 and QA.16)

Figure 9 Attitudes to preferred decision-making domain on issues of crime policy, by country

Question: QA20a.1. For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?

Option: Fighting crime

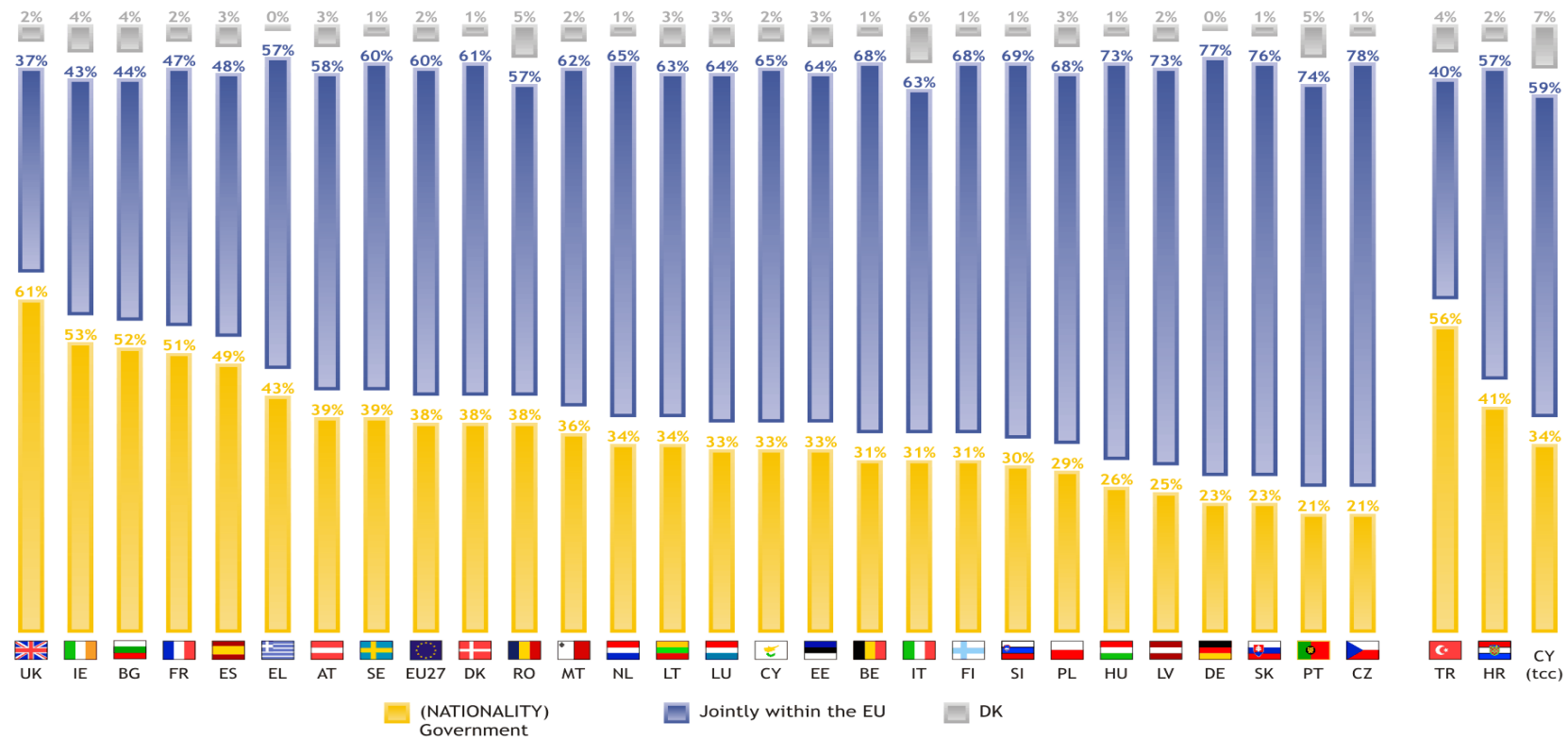


Figure 10 Support for and against further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years. (Source EB67.2: Q.A27.4)

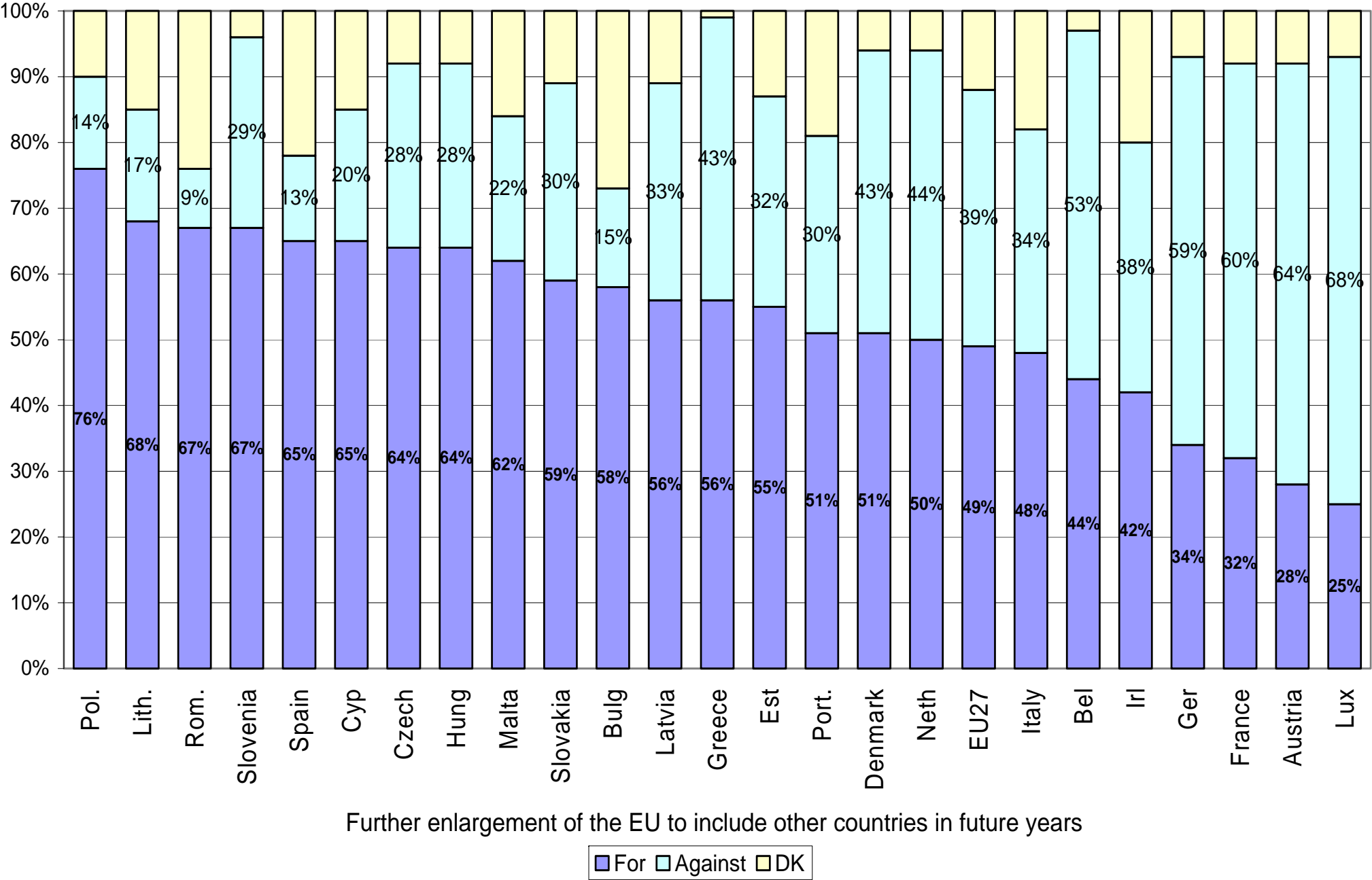
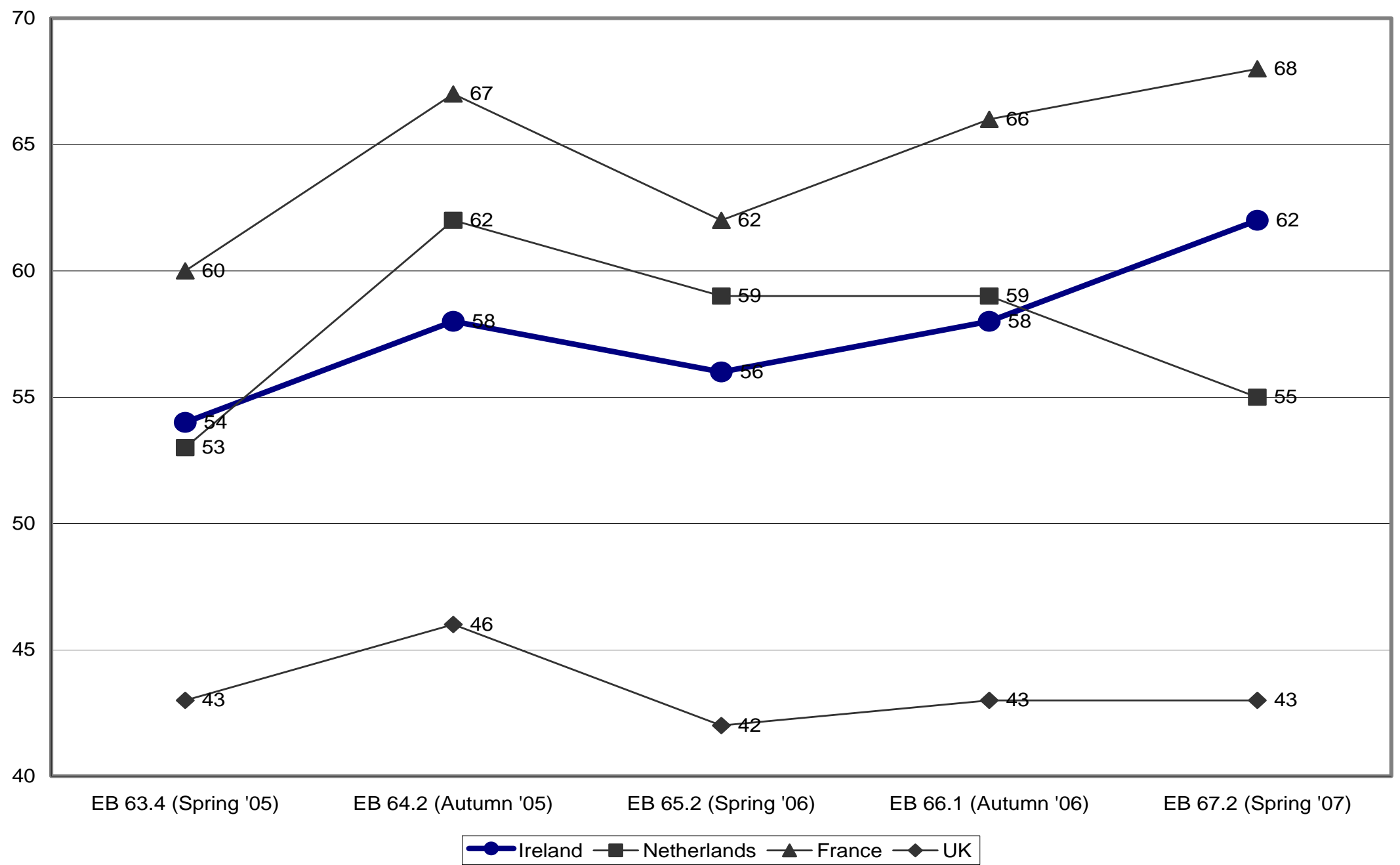


Figure 11 Levels of support for a constitution for the EU in Ireland, the UK, the Netherlands and France – Spring 2005 to Spring 2007.⁵



⁵ Sources: EB 63.4, EB 64.2, EB 65.2, EB 66.1, EB 67.2

EUROBAROMETER "Standard" 67.2

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 10th of April and the 15th of May 2007, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe, carried out wave 67.2 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate General Communication, "Public Opinion and Media Monitoring".

The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 67.2 is part of wave 67.2 and covers 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 STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 67.2 has also been conducted in the two candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages 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.

ABBREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1011	11/04/2007	07/05/2007	8.650.994
BG	Bulgaria	TNS IBSS	1039	13/04/2007	26/04/2007	6.671.699
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Alsa	1043	13/04/2007	04/05/2007	8.571.710
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1002	10/04/2007	14/05/2007	4.411.580
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1513	10/04/2007	09/05/2007	64.361.608
EE	Estonia	Emor	1005	16/04/2007	14/05/2007	887.094
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1000	10/04/2007	08/05/2007	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1000	10/04/2007	10/05/2007	37.024.972
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1013	10/04/2007	08/05/2007	44.010.619
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1000	10/04/2007	10/05/2007	3.089.775
IT	Italy	TNS Abacus	1010	10/04/2007	08/05/2007	48.892.559
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	502	11/04/2007	07/05/2007	596.752
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	KADEM	500	10/04/2007	06/05/2007	157.101
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1013	13/04/2007	15/05/2007	1.418.596
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1018	10/04/2007	05/05/2007	2.803.661
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	511	10/04/2007	07/05/2007	374.097
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1006	12/04/2007	10/05/2007	8.503.379
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	10/04/2007	30/04/2007	321.114
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1009	10/04/2007	10/05/2007	13.030.000
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1011	10/04/2007	01/05/2007	6.848.736
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1000	10/04/2007	02/05/2007	31.967.880
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1011	14/04/2007	07/05/2007	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1019	10/04/2007	08/05/2007	18.173.179
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1013	10/04/2007	09/05/2007	1.720.137
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1106	13/04/2007	01/05/2007	4.316.438
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1038	16/04/2007	09/05/2007	4.348.676
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1005	10/04/2007	10/05/2007	7.486.976
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1319	10/04/2007	07/05/2007	47.685.578
HR	Croatia	Puls	1000	10/04/2007	07/05/2007	3.722.800
TR	Turkey	TNS Piar	1005	10/04/2007	10/05/2007	47.583.830
TOTAL			29222	10/04/2007	15/05/2007	444.406.021

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

A	your survey number (101-105) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 2px 0;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 2px 0;"></div>
	EB87.1 A
B	country code (106-107) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 15px; margin: 2px 0;"></div>
	EB87.1 B
C	our survey number (108-110) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 15px; margin: 2px 0;"></div>
	EB87.1 C
D	Interview number (111-116) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 120px; height: 15px; margin: 2px 0;"></div>
	EB87.1 D
E	Split ballot <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;"> (117) 1 2 </div> </div>
	EB88.1 E

ASK ITEM 28 ONLY IN TURKEY

ASK ITEM 29 ONLY IN CROATIA

ASK ITEM 30 ONLY IN TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

ASK ITEM 31 ONLY IN FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Q1	What is your nationality? Please tell me the country(ies) that applies(y).
----	--

MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE

	(138-170)
Belgium	1,
Denmark	2,
Germany	3,
Greece	4,
Spain	5,
France	6,
Ireland	7,
Italy	8,
Luxembourg	9,
Netherlands	10,
Portugal	11,
United Kingdom (Great Britain, Northern Ireland)	12,
Austria	13,
Sweden	14,
Finland	15,
Republic of Cyprus	16,
Czech Republic	17,
Estonia	18,
Hungary	19,
Latvia	20,
Lithuania	21,
Malta	22,
Poland	23,
Slovakia	24,
Slovenia	25,
Bulgaria	26,
Romania	27,
Other countries	32,
DK	33,

EB67.1 Q1 TREND MODIFIED (FILTER MODIFIED)
--

IF OTHER OR DK AT Q1, CLOSE INTERVIEW

ASK QA in EU27 + TR + HR + CY(tcc) + FYROM
--

QA1	When you get together with friends, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, or never?
-----	---

(191)

Frequently	1
Occasionally	2
Never	3
DK	4

EB86.1 QA1

QA2	When you hold a strong opinion, do you ever find yourself persuading your friends, relatives or fellow workers to share your views? Does this happen...?
-----	--

READ OUT

(192)

Often	1
From time to time	2
Rarely	3
Never	4
DK	5

EB86.1 QA2

QA3	On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?
-----	--

READ OUT

(193)

Very satisfied	1
Fairly satisfied	2
Not very satisfied	3
Not at all satisfied	4
DK	5

EB86.1 QA3

QA4: DO NOT ASK ITEMS 2 AND 5 in CY(tcc) – ASK ITEMS 3 and 6 ONLY in CY(tcc)

QA4 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

	READ OUT	BETTER	WORSE	SAME	DK
(194)	1 Your life in general	1	2	3	4
(195)	2 The economic situation in Ireland	1	2	3	4
	4 The financial situation of your household	1	2	3	4
(197)					
(198)	5 The employment situation in Ireland	1	2	3	4
(200)	7 Your personal job situation	1	2	3	4
(201)	8 The economic situation in the EU	1	2	3	4

EB88.3 QA12 TREND MODIFIED

QA5 If you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same, or got worse?

	(202)
Improved	1
Stayed about the same	2
Got worse	3
DK	4

EB88.3 QA13

QA6 In the course of the next five years, do you expect your personal situation to improve, to stay about the same or to get worse?

	(203)
Improve	1
Stay about the same	2
Get worse	3
DK	4

EB88.3 QA14

DO NOT ASK QA7a TO QA7c in CY(tcc) - CY(tcc) GO TO QA7d

QA7a For each of the following areas, would you say that the situation in Ireland is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries?

SHOW CARD WITH SCALE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE

READ OUT - ROTATE	MUCH BETTER	SOMEWHAT BETTER	SOMEWHAT LESS GOOD	DEFINITELY LESS GOOD	IDENTICAL (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
-------------------	-------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------	-------------------------	----

(204)	1	The state of the Irish economy	1	2	3	4	5	6
(205)	2	The employment situation in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6
(206)	3	The cost of living in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6
(207)	4	Energy prices in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6

EB65.2 QC2 TREND MODIFIED

QA7b And would you say that the situation in Ireland is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries in each of the following areas?

SHOW CARD WITH SCALE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE

READ OUT - ROTATE	MUCH BETTER	SOMEWHAT BETTER	SOMEWHAT LESS GOOD	DEFINITELY LESS GOOD	IDENTICAL (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
-------------------	-------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------	-------------------------	----

(208)	1	The healthcare system in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6
(209)	2	The provision of pensions in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6
(210)	3	The social welfare situation in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6

EB65.2 QC2 TREND MODIFIED

--

QA7c	And would you say that the situation in Ireland is better or less good than the average of the European Union countries in the following areas?
------	---

SHOW CARD WITH SCALE – ONE ANSWER PER LINE
--

	READ OUT – ROTATE	MUCH BETTER	SOMEWHAT BETTER	SOMEWHAT LESS GOOD	DEFINITELY LESS GOOD	Identical (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
--	-------------------	-------------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------	-------------------------	----

(211)	1	The educational system in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6
(212)	2	The quality of life in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6
(213)	3	Public transport in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6
(214)	4	The state of the environment in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6
(215)	5	The knowledge of foreign languages in Ireland	1	2	3	4	5	6

EB85.2 QC2 TREND MODIFIED

ASK QA7d TO QA7f ONLY IN CY(tcc) - OTHERS GO TO QA8

ASK ALL

QA8	Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the European Union.
-----	---

SHOW CARD WITH SCALE – ONE ANSWER PER LINE
--

	READ OUT	Describes very well	Describes fairly well	Describes fairly badly	Describes very badly	DK
--	----------	---------------------	-----------------------	------------------------	----------------------	----

(228)	1	Modern	1	2	3	4	5
(229)	2	Democratic	1	2	3	4	5
(230)	3	Protective	1	2	3	4	5
(231)	4	Inefficient	1	2	3	4	5
(232)	5	Technocratic	1	2	3	4	5

EB85.1 QA9

DO NOT ASK QA9a and QA10a in TR, HR, FYROM and CY(tcc) – FYROM, TR and HR GO TO QA9b – CY(tcc) GO TO QA9c

QA9a Generally speaking, do you think that Ireland's membership of the European Union is...?

READ OUT

	(233)
A good thing	1
A bad thing	2
Neither good nor bad	3
DK	4

EB86.1 QA7a (FILTER MODIFIED)

QA10a Taking everything into consideration, would you say that Ireland has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?

	(234)
Benefited	1
Not benefited	2
DK	3

EB86.1 QA8a (FILTER MODIFIED)

ASK ALL

QA11 In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

	(239)
Very positive	1
Fairly positive	2
Neutral	3
Fairly negative	4
Very negative	5
DK	6

EB86.1 QA10

QA12	What does the European Union mean to you personally?
------	--

SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE - ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP

	(240-255)
Peace	1,
Economic prosperity	2,
Democracy	3,
Social protection	4,
Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	5,
Cultural diversity	6,
Stronger say in the world	7,
Euro	8,
Unemployment	9,
Bureaucracy	10,
Waste of money	11,
Loss of our cultural identity	12,
More crime	13,
Not enough international border controls	14,
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	15,
DK	16,

EB65.2 QA14

QA13	Have you heard of...?
------	-----------------------

	READ OUT	YES	NO	DK
(256)	1 The European Parliament	1	2	3
(257)	2 The European Commission	1	2	3
(258)	3 The Council of the European Union	1	2	3
(259)	4 The European Central Bank	1	2	3

EB66.1 QA18 TREND MODIFIED

QA14	And for each of the following European bodies, do you think it plays an important role or not in the life of the European Union?
------	--

	READ OUT	IMPORTA NT	NOT IMPORTA NT	DK
(260)	1 The European Parliament	1	2	3
(261)	2 The European Commission	1	2	3
(262)	3 The Council of the European Union	1	2	3
(263)	4 The European Central Bank	1	2	3

EB65.2 QA24

QA15	For each of the following, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?			
------	--	--	--	--

	READ OUT	TEND TO TRUST	TEND NOT TO TRUST	DK
(264)	1 The European Parliament	1	2	3
(265)	2 The European Commission	1	2	3
(266)	3 The Council of the European Union	1	2	3
(267)	4 The European Central Bank	1	2	3

EB66.1 QA19 TREND MODIFIED

QA16: DO NOT ASK ITEMS 5 and 6 in CY(toc)

QA16	I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?			
------	---	--	--	--

	READ OUT	TEND TO TRUST	TEND NOT TO TRUST	DK
(268)	1 The press	1	2	3
(269)	2 Radio	1	2	3
(270)	3 Television	1	2	3
(271)	4 The Internet	1	2	3
(272)	5 The Irish government	1	2	3
(273)	6 The Dail	1	2	3
(274)	7 The European Union	1	2	3

EB66.1 QA6 TREND MODIFIED

QA17: DO NOT ASK item 2 in BG and RO - ASK ITEM 3 only in RO and BG

QA17	For each of the following statements about the European Union, could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false?			
------	--	--	--	--

	READ OUT	True.	False.	DK
(275)	1 The EU currently consists of fifteen Member States	1	2	3
(276)	2 The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of the EU	1	2	3
(278)	4 Every six months, a different Member State becomes the President of the Council of the European Union	1	2	3

EB66.1 QA20 TREND MODIFIED

DO NOT ASK QA18a in CY(tcc) – CY(tcc) GO TO QA18b

QA18a What do you think are the two most important issues facing Ireland at the moment?

SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MAX. 2 ANSWERS

	(279-294)
Crime	1,
Economic situation	2,
Rising prices/inflation	3,
Taxation	4,
Unemployment	5,
Terrorism	6,
Defence/Foreign affairs	7,
Housing	8,
Immigration	9,
Healthcare system	10,
The educational system	11,
Pensions	12,
Protecting the environment	13,
Energy related issues	14,
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	15,
DK	16,

EB66.1 QA23 (FILTER MODIFIED)

ASK QA18b ONLY in CY(tcc) – OTHERS GO TO QA19

ASK ALL

QA19 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Every European decision is the subject of negotiations in which the opinions of the national Governments of all Member States are taken into account.

READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(311)
Totally agree	1
Tend to agree	2
Tend to disagree	3
Totally disagree	4
DK	5

NEW

DO NOT ASK QA20a in CY(tcc) – CY(tcc) GO TO QA20b

QA20a	For each of the following areas, do you think that decisions should be made by the Irish government, or made jointly within the European Union?
-------	---

	READ OUT – ROTATE	IRISH GOVERNMENT	JOINTLY WITHIN EUROPEAN UNION	DK
(312)	1 Fighting crime	1	2	3
(313)	2 Taxation	1	2	3
(314)	3 Fighting unemployment	1	2	3
(315)	4 Fighting terrorism	1	2	3
(316)	5 Defence and foreign affairs	1	2	3
(317)	6 Immigration	1	2	3
(318)	7 The educational system	1	2	3
(319)	8 Pensions	1	2	3
(320)	9 Protecting the environment	1	2	3
(321)	10 Health and social welfare	1	2	3
(322)	11 Agriculture and fishery	1	2	3
(323)	12 Consumer protection	1	2	3
(324)	13 Scientific and technological research	1	2	3
(325)	14 Support for regions facing economic difficulties	1	2	3
(326)	15 Energy	1	2	3
(327)	16 Competition	1	2	3
(328)	17 Transport	1	2	3
(329)	18 Economy	1	2	3

EB66.1 QA24

ASK QA20b ONLY in CY(tcc) – OTHERS GO TO QA21

ASK ALL

QA21 Which of the following ideas of a "TWO SPEED EUROPE" comes closest to your personal preference?

SHOW CARD - READ OUT

(348)

Countries which are ready to intensify the development of a common European policy in certain important areas should do so without having to wait for the others

1

Countries which are ready to intensify the development of a common European policy in certain important areas should wait until all Member States of the European Union are ready for this

2

DK

3

EB42 Q59 TREND MODIFIED

ASK QA22 TO QA24 ONLY IN EU27

ASK QA22a TO QA24a SPLIT A – OTHERS GO TO QA22b

QA22a Overall, do you think that people in Ireland are well informed about European political affairs or not?

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

(349)

Very well informed

1

Fairly well informed

2

Not very well informed

3

Not at all informed

4

DK

5

NEW

--

QA23a	More specifically, do you think that people in Ireland are well informed or not well informed about the measures taken at European Union level concerning the following topics?
-------	---

--

	READ OUT – ROTATE	People are well informed	People are not well informed	DK
(350)	1 Fighting crime	1	2	3
(351)	2 Taxation	1	2	3
(352)	3 Fighting unemployment	1	2	3
(353)	4 Fighting terrorism	1	2	3
(354)	5 Defence and foreign affairs	1	2	3
(355)	6 Immigration	1	2	3
(356)	7 Protecting the environment	1	2	3
(357)	8 Health and social welfare	1	2	3
(358)	9 Agriculture and fisheries	1	2	3
(359)	10 Consumer protection	1	2	3
(360)	11 Scientific and technological research	1	2	3
(361)	12 Support for regions facing economic difficulties	1	2	3
(362)	13 Energy	1	2	3
(363)	14 Competition	1	2	3
(364)	15 Transport	1	2	3
(365)	16 Economy	1	2	3

NEW

--

QA24a	And overall, do you think that people in Ireland are well informed about the measures taken in other European Union countries to face these issues or not?
-------	--

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(366)
Very well informed	1
Fairly well informed	2
Not very well informed	3
Not at all informed	4
DK	5

NEW

ASK QA22b TO QA24b TO SPLIT B – OTHERS GO TO QA25

QA22b Overall, do you think that you are well informed about European political affairs or not?

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(367)
Very well informed	1
Fairly well informed	2
Not very well informed	3
Not at all informed	4
DK	5

NEW

QA23b More specifically, do you think that you are well informed or not well informed about the measures taken at European Union level concerning the following topics?

	READ OUT – ROTATE	You are well informed	You are not well informed	DK
--	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------	----

(368)	1	Fighting crime	1	2	3
(369)	2	Taxation	1	2	3
(370)	3	Fighting unemployment	1	2	3
(371)	4	Fighting terrorism	1	2	3
(372)	5	Defence and foreign affairs	1	2	3
(373)	6	Immigration	1	2	3
(374)	7	Protecting the environment	1	2	3
(375)	8	Health and social welfare	1	2	3
(376)	9	Agriculture and fisheries	1	2	3
(377)	10	Consumer protection	1	2	3
(378)	11	Scientific and technological research	1	2	3
(379)	12	Support for regions facing economic difficulties	1	2	3
(380)	13	Energy	1	2	3
(381)	14	Competition	1	2	3
(382)	15	Transport	1	2	3
(383)	16	Economy	1	2	3

NEW

--

QA24b	And overall, do you think that you are well informed about the measures taken in other European Union countries to face these issues or not?
-------	--

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(384)
Very well informed	1
Fairly well informed	2
Not very well informed	3
Not at all informed	4
DK	5

NEW

ASK ALL

QA25	When you are looking for information about the European Union, its policies, its institutions, which of the following sources do you use? Which else?
------	---

SHOW CARD - READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
--

	(385-396)
Attending conferences, talks, meetings	1,
Discussions with relatives, friends, colleagues	2,
Daily newspapers	3,
Other newspapers, magazines	4,
Television	5,
Radio	6,
The Internet	7,
Books, brochures, information leaflets	8,
Telephone (Info lines, Europe Direct, etc.)	9,
Never look for such information, not interested (SPONTANEOUS)	10,
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	11,
DK	12,

EB65.2 QA20

ASK QA26a ONLY IN EU15 – NMS10 GO TO QA26b – OTHERS GO TO QA27

QA26a 10 new Member States joined the European Union in May 2004. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion of the impact of this enlargement on the European Union?

SHOW CARD WITH ITEMS AND SHOW CARD WITH NAMES OF THE 10 NMS – READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(397)
It has been as positive as I thought it would be	1
It has been positive and I did not expect this to be the case	2
It has been as negative as I thought it would be	3
It has been negative and I did not expect this to be the case	4
It has been neither positive nor negative	5
DK	6

NEW

ASK ALL

QA27 What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

	READ OUT – ROTATE	FOR	AGAINST	DK
(399)	1 A European Monetary Union with one single currency, the euro	1	2	3
(400)	2 A common foreign policy among the Member States of the EU, towards other countries	1	2	3
(401)	3 A common defence and security policy among EU Member States	1	2	3
(402)	4 Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years	1	2	3
(403)	5 A constitution for the European Union	1	2	3
(404)	6 The speed of building Europe being faster in one group of countries than in the other countries	1	2	3
(405)	7 Teaching school children about the way EU institutions work	1	2	3

EB66.1 QA25 (ITEMS 1-6) - EB64.2 QA32 (ITEM 7) - TREND MODIFIED

QA28	Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative.
------	---

SHOW CARD WITH SCALE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE

	READ OUT – ROTATE	Very positive	Fairly positive	Fairly negative	Very negative	DK
(406)	1 Company	1	2	3	4	5
(407)	2 Welfare State	1	2	3	4	5
(408)	3 Competitiveness	1	2	3	4	5
(409)	4 Free trade	1	2	3	4	5
(410)	5 Protectionism	1	2	3	4	5
(411)	6 Globalisation	1	2	3	4	5
(412)	7 Liberalisation	1	2	3	4	5
(413)	8 Trade unions	1	2	3	4	5
(414)	9 Reforms	1	2	3	4	5
(415)	10 Public administration	1	2	3	4	5
(416)	11 Flexibility	1	2	3	4	5

EB65.2 QA36 TREND MODIFIED

DO NOT ASK QA29a in CY(toc) - CY(toc) GO TO QA29b

QA29a	There are many consequences of the globalisation of trade. When you hear the word "globalisation", what comes to mind first?
-------	--

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(417)
Opportunities for Irish companies in terms of new outlets	1
Foreign investment in Ireland	2
Relocation of some companies to countries where labour is cheaper	3
Increased competition for Irish companies	4
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	5
DK	6

EB64.2 QA55

ASK QA29a ONLY in CY(tcc) - OTHERS GO TO QA30a

ASK QA30a TO SPLIT A - OTHERS GO TO QA30b

QA30a To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The European Union helps to protect us from the negative effects of globalisation.

READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(419)
Totally agree	1
Tend to agree	2
Tend to disagree	3
Totally disagree	4
DK	5

EB66.1 QA45a

ASK QA30b TO SPLIT B - OTHERS GO TO QA31

QA30b To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The European Union enables European citizens to benefit more from the positive effects of globalisation.

READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(420)
Totally agree	1
Tend to agree	2
Tend to disagree	3
Totally disagree	4
DK	5

EB66.1 QA45b

ASK ALL

QA31 Do you think global warming is a matter that should be urgently dealt with by the European Union or not?

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(421)
Very urgently	1
Fairly urgently	2
Not really urgently	3
Not at all urgently	4
DK	5

NEW

QA32 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement about climate change: The European Union should urgently put new policies in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020.

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(422)
Totally agree	1
Tend to agree	2
Tend to disagree	3
Totally disagree	4
DK	5

NEW

QA33: DO NOT ASK ITEM 2 in CY(tcc) – ASK ITEM 3 ONLY in CY(tcc)

QA33 People may feel different levels of attachment to their village, town or city, to their country or to the European Union. Please tell me how attached you feel to...

SHOW CARD WITH SCALE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE

	READ OUT	Very attached	Fairly attached	Not very attached	Not at all attached	DK
--	----------	---------------	-----------------	-------------------	---------------------	----

(423)	1	Your city/town/village	1	2	3	4	5
(424)	2	Ireland	1	2	3	4	5
(426)	4	European Union	1	2	3	4	5

EB67.1 QA14 (ITEMS 1-4 AND 6) - EB65.2 QA35 (ITEM 5) - TREND MODIFIED

ASK QA34a ONLY IN EU27 – ASK ITEM 10 ONLY in EU15 – OTHERS GO TO QA34b

QA34a Please tell me for each statement, whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree?

	READ OUT	TEND TO AGREE	TEND TO DISAGREE	DK
(427)	1 I feel I am safer because Ireland is a member of the EU	1	2	3
(428)	2 I feel we are more stable economically because Ireland is a member of the EU	1	2	3
(429)	3 I feel we are more stable politically because Ireland is a member of the EU	1	2	3
(430)	4 My voice counts in the European Union	1	2	3
(431)	5 I understand how the European Union works	1	2	3
(432)	6 Ireland's voice counts in the EU	1	2	3
(433)	7 Ireland will become more influential in the EU in the future	1	2	3
(434)	8 The interests of Ireland are well taken into account in the EU	1	2	3
(435)	9 The biggest countries have the most power in the EU	1	2	3
(436)	10 Ireland is more influential in the EU now than it was ten years ago	1	2	3
(437)	11 I feel very much involved in European affairs	1	2	3

EB66.1 QA12 (ITEMS 4, 5 AND 11) - EB65.2 QA15a (ITEMS 1-3 AND 7-9) - EB62.0 (ITEMS 6 AND 10) - (FILTER MODIFIED)

ASK ALL

QA35a Which of the following do you think is the most positive result of European integration?

QA35b And the second most positive result?

SHOW CARD – ONE ANSWER PER COLUMN

READ OUT	(450)	(451)
	QA35a FIRST	QA35b SECOND
Peace among the Member States of the EU	1	1
The free movement of people, goods and services within the EU	2	2
The Euro	3	3
Student exchange programmes such as ERASMUS	4	4
The Common Agricultural Policy	5	5
None (SPONTANEOUS)	6	6
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	7	7
DK	8	8

EB85.1 QA12a&b TREND MODIFIED

QA36a This year is the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaty, which marks the creation of the European Union as it stands today. When you think of this anniversary, which word first come to mind?

SHOW CARD – READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(452)
Hope	1
Sorrow	2
Pride	3
Worry	4
Satisfaction	5
Disappointment	6
Nothing	7
DK (SPONTANEOUS)	8

NEW

--

QA36b	And are there any others that come to mind?
-------	---

SHOW CARD – READ OUT – MAX. 2 ANSWERS

	(453-460)
Hope	1,
Sorrow	2,
Pride	3,
Worry	4,
Satisfaction	5,
Disappointment	6,
Nothing	7,
DK (SPONTANEOUS)	8,

NEW

--

QA37	Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the European Union ...?
------	---

ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(461)
Very optimistic	1
Fairly optimistic	2
Fairly pessimistic	3
Very pessimistic	4
DK	5

NEW

--

QA38	For each of the following, please tell me if you think that in 50 years from now the European Union...?
------	---

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	READ OUT - ROTATE	Yes, probably	No, probably not	DK
(462)	1 Will have its own president directly elected by European citizens	1	2	3
(463)	2 Will only be a secondary economic power	1	2	3
(464)	3 Will have, with the euro, a more powerful currency than the dollar	1	2	3
(465)	4 Will be a leading diplomatic power in the world	1	2	3
(466)	5 Will have its own army	1	2	3

NEW

QA39	The European Union already has a Common Foreign and Security Policy and a European Security and Defence Policy. There is now a debate about how much further these should be developed. Do you tend to agree or tend to disagree with each of the following statements?
------	---

	READ OUT - ROTATE	TEND TO AGREE	TEND TO DISAGRE E	DK
(467)	1 The EU should have its own Foreign Minister who can be the spokesperson for a common EU position	1	2	3
(468)	2 EU foreign policy should be independent of United States foreign policy	1	2	3
(469)	3 The EU should have a common immigration policy towards people from outside the EU	1	2	3

EB65.2 QA32

--

QA40	Which of the following issues do you think most create a feeling of community among European Union citizens?
------	--

READ OUT – ROTATE – MAX. 3 ANSWERS

	(470-485)
History	1,
Religion	2,
Values	3,
Geography	4,
Languages	5,
Legislation	6,
Sports	7,
Inventions, science and technology	8,
Economy	9,
Welfare State	10,
Solidarity with poorer regions	11,
Culture	12,
None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	13,
None, such a feeling does not exist (SPONTANEOUS)	14,
Others (SPONTANEOUS)	15,
DK	16,

NEW

--

QA41	European integration has focused on various issues in years past. Which of the following issues do you think should be emphasized by European institutions in the coming years to strengthen the European Union in the future?
------	--

SHOW CARD – READ OUT – ROTATE – MAX. 3 ANSWERS
--

	(486-500)
The Internal market	1,
Cultural policy	2,
European foreign policy	3,
European defence policy	4,
Immigration issues	5,
European education policy	6,
Environment issues	7,
Energy issues	8,
Solidarity with poorer regions	9,
Scientific research	10,
Social issues	11,
The fight against crime	12,
None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	13,
Others (SPONTANEOUS)	14,
DK	15,

NEW

QA42	Have you ever seen this symbol?
------	---------------------------------

SHOW EUROPEAN FLAG

	(501)
Yes	1
No	2
DK	3

EB65.2 QA7

QA43: DO NOT ASK ITEMS 1, 3 AND 4 IN CY(tcc)

QA43	This symbol is the European flag. For each of the following statements about the European Flag, could you please tell me if you tend to agree or tend to disagree?
------	--

	READ OUT	TEND TO AGREE	TEND TO DISAGRE E	DK
--	----------	------------------	-------------------------	----

(502)	1	This flag is a good symbol for Europe	1	2	3
(503)	2	This flag stands for something good	1	2	3
(504)	3	I identify with this flag	1	2	3
(505)	4	This flag should be seen on all public buildings in Ireland next to the national flag	1	2	3

EB65.2 QA9

ASK QA44a AND QA44b ONLY in DE

ASK QA44c AND QA44d ONLY in PT

ASK ALL

QA45 Can you please tell me if you think the following would be efficient measures or inefficient measures to teach pupils and students about the European Union?

	READ OUT – ROTATE	Efficient	Inefficient	DK
(510)	1 A Common European history book to be given to all pupils and students in the EU	1	2	3
(511)	2 A common European curriculum on European education for all teachers	1	2	3
(512)	3 To create European schools and universities in all Member States that would focus on European issues	1	2	3
(513)	4 To develop new and enhance existing exchange programs between European schools and universities	1	2	3

NEW

ASK QA46 TO QA48 ONLY IN EU27 - OTHERS GO TO QA49

QA46 Private companies such as airline companies, banks, hotels, telecom providers or car rental companies, can sometimes collect personal data for commercial purposes. In your opinion, how well does Irish law protect the use of such data?

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(514)
Protects very well	1
Protects fairly well	2
Does not protect very well	3
Does not protect at all	4
DK	5

NEW

QA47	How well informed would you say you are of the rules and regulations that protect the personal data of citizens in Ireland?

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(515)
Very well informed	1
Fairly well informed	2
Not very well informed	3
Not at all informed	4
DK	5

NEW

QA48	Which of the following comes closest to your opinion of giving law enforcement authorities access to personal data for the purpose of fighting crime and terrorism?
------	---

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(516)
It is an unnecessary intrusion into citizens' personal affairs	1
It is a minor inconvenience compared to the benefits	2
It is not an intrusion at all	3
DK	4

NEW

ASK ALL

QA49: DO NOT ASK ITEM 1 in CY(tcc) – ASK ITEM 2 ONLY in CY(tcc)

QA49	How would you judge the current situation in each of the following areas?
------	---

SHOW CARD WITH SCALE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE

	READ OUT	Very good	Rather good	Rather bad	Very bad	DK
(517)	1 The state of the Irish economy	1	2	3	4	5
(519)	3 Your financial situation	1	2	3	4	5

EB86.1 QA51 (ITEM 1) - EB85.2 QC1 (ITEM 2) - TREND MODIFIED

ASK QA50a TO QA58 ONLY IN EU27 + HR + TR - OTHERS GO TO DEMOGRAPHICS

ASK QA50a and QA51a TO SPLIT A – OTHERS GO TO QA50b

QA50a What do you think was the official growth rate of the economy (measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product) in Ireland in 2006? To help, I can tell you this figure is between -1% and 15%.

RECORD ANSWER BELOW. IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW CODE AS '99999'

(520-524)

--	--	--	--	--

NEW

QA51a Do you think that the economic growth rate in Ireland in 2006 was higher, lower or the same as the growth rate in 2005?

	(525)
Higher	1
Lower	2
The same	3
DK	4

NEW

ASK QA50b and QA51b TO SPLIT B – OTHERS GO TO QA52

QA50b In 2005, the official economic growth rate (measured in terms of Gross Domestic product) in Ireland was 5.5%. What do you think the official economic growth rate was in Ireland in 2006? To help, I can tell you this figure is between -1% and 15%.

RECORD ANSWER BELOW. IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW CODE AS '99999'

(526-530)

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NEW

QA51b Do you think that the economic growth rate in Ireland for 2007 will be higher, lower or the same as the 2006 growth rate?

	(531)
Higher	1
Lower	2
The same	3
DK	4

NEW

ASK ALL IN EU27 + HR + TR

QA52 What do you think was the official inflation rate in Ireland in 2006, that is the rate at which consumer prices increase or decrease? To help, I can tell you the figure is between -1% and 20%.

RECORD ANSWER BELOW. IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW CODE AS '99999'

(532-536)

NEW

QA53 Do you think that the inflation rate in Ireland in 2006 was higher, lower or the same as the inflation rate in 2005?

	(537)
Higher	1
Lower	2
The same	3
DK	4

NEW

QA54 What do you think was the official unemployment rate, that is the percentage of the total labour force who do not have a job, in Ireland in 2006? To help, I can tell you that the figure is between 0% and 20%.

RECORD ANSWER BELOW. IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW CODE AS '99999'

(538-542)

NEW

QA55 Do you think that the unemployment rate in Ireland in 2006 was higher, lower or the same as the unemployment rate in 2005?

(543)

Higher	1
Lower	2
The same	3
DK	4

NEW

QA56 To what extent do you agree or disagree it is necessary to know the economic figures we have just been talking about?

READ OUT

(544)

Totally agree	1
Tend to agree	2
Tend to disagree	3
Totally disagree	4
DK	5

NEW

--

QA57	Some people say that statistical information plays an important role in business, public and political decision making. Do you think that political decisions in Ireland are made on the basis of statistical information?
------	--

READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(545)
Yes, certainly	1
Yes, probably	2
No, probably not	3
No, certainly not	4
DK	5

NEW

--

QA58	How much trust do you have in official Irish statistics, for example the statistics on unemployment, inflation or economic growth? Would you say that you tend to trust these official statistics or tend not to trust them?
------	--

READ OUT

	(546)
Tend to trust	1
Tend not to trust	2
DK	3

NEW

Let's move on to another topic.

ASK QB in EU27 - OTHERS GO TO DEMOGRAPHICS

QB1 Which of the following news areas are you most interested in...?

SHOW CARD - READ OUT – MAX. 3 ANSWERS

	(567-574)
Politics	1,
Sport	2,
Scientific research	3,
Arts and Culture	4,
Economy	5,
Entertainment and celebrities	6,
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	7,
DK	8,

NEW

QB2 Would you say that you are very interested, fairly interested, not very interested or not at all interested in scientific research...?

	(575)
Very interested	1
Fairly interested	2
Not very interested	3
Not at all interested	4
DK	5

NEW

ASK QB3 IF INTERESTED IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (CODE 3 AT QB1) – OTHERS GO TO QB4

QB3 And more specifically, are you most interested in news related to scientific research in the field of...?

READ OUT – MAX. 2 ANSWERS

(576-584)

Medicine	1,
Telecommunications	2,
Space	3,
Environment	4,
Information technology	5,
Biology	6,
Energy	7,
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	8,
DK	9,

NEW

ASK ALL

QB4 Do you regularly, occasionally, hardly ever or never...?

SHOW CARD WITH SCALE – ONE ANSWER PER LINE

	READ OUT	Regularly	Occasionally	Hardly ever	Never	DK
(585)	1 Watch TV programs about scientific research	1	2	3	4	5
(586)	2 Listen to radio programs about scientific research	1	2	3	4	5
(587)	3 Buy specialised press about scientific research	1	2	3	4	5
(588)	4 Look on the Internet for information about scientific research	1	2	3	4	5
(589)	5 Read science articles in general newspapers and magazines	1	2	3	4	5

NEW

QB5	In general, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way the media provide information about scientific research?

	(590)
Very satisfied	1
Fairly satisfied	2
Not very satisfied	3
Not at all satisfied	4
DK	5
NEW	

QB6	Would you say that, in general, the place of scientific research in the media is...?
-----	--

READ OUT	
	(591)
Too important	1
Sufficient	2
Not important enough	3
DK	4
NEW	

QB7a	For each of the following adjectives or expressions, please tell me if it applies very well, fairly well, not very well or not at all, to the information provided by the media on scientific research.
------	---

SHOW CARD WITH SCALE – ONE ANSWER PER LINE

	READ OUT	It applies very well	It applies fairly well	It does not apply very well	It does not apply at all	DK
(592)	1 Useful for you	1	2	3	4	5
(593)	2 Difficult to understand	1	2	3	4	5
(594)	3 Entertaining	1	2	3	4	5
(595)	4 Covers a varied enough range of topics	1	2	3	4	5
(596)	5 Reliable	1	2	3	4	5
(597)	6 Objective	1	2	3	4	5
(598)	7 Visual enough	1	2	3	4	5
(599)	8 Too far away from your concerns	1	2	3	4	5
NEW						

--

QB7b	When the media presents a piece of news about scientific research, which of the following most matter to you?
------	---

SHOW CARD - READ OUT – MAX. 3 ANSWERS

	(600-611)
Its usefulness to you	1,
Its easiness to understand	2,
Its entertainment value	3,
Its topic	4,
Its variety of topics	5,
Its reliability	6,
Its objectiveness	7,
Its visual appeal	8,
Its proximity to your concerns	9,
At what time the news item is broadcasted	10,
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	11,
DK	12,

NEW

--

QB8a	From the following list, which are the information media you trust the most? Firstly?
------	---

QB8b	And which would be your next preference?
------	--

SHOW CARD - ONE ANSWER PER COLUMN

	(612)	(613)
READ OUT - ROTATE	QB8a	QB8b
	FIRST	SECOND
Newspapers	1	1
Written magazines	2	2
Television	3	3
Radio	4	4
Internet	5	5
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	6	6
DK	7	7

NEW

--

QB9a	And if you had to choose between the following means of getting information about scientific research, which would you prefer? Firstly?
------	---

QB9b	And secondly?
------	---------------

SHOW CARD - ONE ANSWER PER COLUMN

	(614-615)	(616-617)
READ OUT - ROTATION	QB9a	QB9b
	FIRST	SECOND
Traditional television channels	1	1
Thematic TV channels such as Discovery, National Geographic	2	2
Interactive TV channels	3	3
Traditional websites	4	4
Interactive websites containing blogs and wikis	5	5
Podcasts	6	6
Pieces of information sent by SMS	7	7
Radio	8	8
General written press	9	9
Specialist written press	10	10
None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	11	11
DK	12	12

NEW

--

QB10	Would you say that the media offers different points of views on the same topic when presenting a science news item?
------	--

READ OUT

	(618)
Yes, most of the time	1
Yes, sometimes	2
Rarely	3
Never	4
DK	5

NEW

--

QB11	In general, who do you think decides how news items related to scientific research are presented in the media?
------	--

SHOW CARD - READ OUT

	(619)
Journalists	1
The scientific community	2
Politicians	3
Business or interest groups	4
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	5
DK	6

NEW

--

QB12	What would be your preferred time of day to watch TV programmes on scientific research? Would it be...?
------	--

SHOW CARD - READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY
--

	(620-621)
Between 7.00 AM and 9.00 AM from Monday to Friday	1
Between 9.00 AM and 6.00 PM from Monday to Friday	2
Between 6.00 PM and 8.00 PM from Monday to Friday	3
Between 8.00 PM and 10.00 PM from Monday to Friday	4
After 10.00 PM from Monday to Friday	5
Between 7.00 AM and 9.00 AM during the week-end	6
Between 9.00 AM and 6.00 PM during the week-end	7
Between 6.00 PM and 8.00 PM during the week-end	8
Between 8.00 PM and 10.00 PM during the week-end	9
After 10.00 PM during the week-end	10
Never (SPONTANEOUS)	11
DK	12

NEW

QB13	Among the following formats aiming at presenting scientific research on TV in different ways, which one do you prefer?

READ OUT

	(622-623)
Documentaries	1
TV Series	2
"Docu-fictions" (Documentaries presented as TV drama)	3
Educational programmes	4
Debates	5
Entertainments (quizz, shows, games, etc.)	6
Scientists/researchers biographies	7
Cartoons	8
None (SPONTANEOUS)	9
DK	10

NEW

QB14	Suppose a media is organizing a debate on a scientific research topic you are interested in. Which of the following statements corresponds best to your opinion?
------	--

READ OUT

	(624)
You would like to take part in the debate because you believe you could bring something to it	1
The debate should be restricted to scientists and other experts as they are the best placed to exchange their views on the matter	2
None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	3
DK	4

NEW

QB15	In general, would you prefer to get...?
------	---

READ OUT

	(625)
Short news about scientific research on a regular basis	1
In-depth information about scientific research occasionally	2
Neither (SPONTANEOUS)	3
It is the same (SPONTANEOUS)	4
DK	5

NEW

--

QB16	And do you prefer scientific news to be presented in a dedicated section in the press or rather spread throughout the newspaper\ magazine or included in your favorite news section?
------	--

READ OUT

	(626)
Dedicated section	1
Spread throughout the newspaper\ magazine	2
Included in your favorite news section	3
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	4
DK	5

NEW

--

QB17	Do you prefer science information to be presented to you by journalists or by scientists?
------	---

READ OUT

	(627)
By journalists	1
By scientists	2
By journalists and by scientists together (SPONTANEOUS)	3
It is the same (SPONTANEOUS)	4
DK	5

NEW

ASK QB18 IF JOURNALISTS MENTIONED AT QB17 (CODE1) – OTHERS GO TO QB19

QB18 What are the main reasons why you prefer to have science information presented to you by journalists? Is it because it is ...

READ OUT – MAX. 3 ANSWERS

	(628-636)
More objective	1,
More precise	2,
Easier to understand	3,
More varied	4,
More trustworthy	5,
More useful to your everyday life	6,
More up-to-date	7,
Other (SPONTANEOUS - SPECIFY)	8,
DK	9,

NEW

ASK QB19 IF SCIENTISTS MENTIONED AT QB17 (CODE 2) – OTHERS GO TO QB20

QB19 What are the main reasons why you prefer to have science information presented to you by scientists?

READ OUT – MAX. 3 ANSWERS

	(637-645)
More objective	1,
More precise	2,
Easier to understand	3,
More varied	4,
More trustworthy	5,
More useful to your everyday life	6,
More up-to-date	7,
Other (SPONTANEOUS - SPECIFY)	8,
DK	9,

NEW

ASK ALL

QB20 Would you say that, in general, the place of researchers and scientists in the media is...?

READ OUT

	(646)
Too important	1
Sufficient	2
Not important enough	3
DK	4

NEW

QB21 According to you, "European research" is...?

READ OUT

	(647)
Research financed by the European Union	1
Research not automatically financed by the European Union but done in Europe	2
DK	3

NEW

QB22 Do you have the feeling that the media present more often...?

READ OUT

	(648)
Scientific research done in your country	1
European research	2
Scientific research from outside the EU (like American, Japanese, Chinese, Indian or Russian scientific research)	3
Neither (SPONTANEOUS)	4
DK	5

NEW

DEMOGRAPHICS

D1 In political matters people talk of "the left" and "the right". How would you place your views on this scale?

SHOW CARD - INT.: DO NOT PROMPT - IF CONTACT HESITATES, TRY AGAIN

(669-670)

1 Left	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Right
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) 11

DK 12

EB67.1 D1

NO QUESTIONS D2 TO D6

D7 Could you give me the letter which corresponds best to your own current situation?

SHOW CARD - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY

(671-672)

X Married	1
F Remarried	2
K Unmarried currently living with partner	3
Y Unmarried having never lived with a partner	4
R Unmarried having previously lived with a partner, but now on my own	5
B Divorced	6
M Separated	7
Q Widowed	8
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	9
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	10

EB67.1 D7

D8 How old were you when you stopped full-time education?

CODE STILL STUDYING AS '00' - CODE NO FULL-TIME EDUCATION AS '98' - CODE DK AS '99'

(673-674)

--	--

EB67.1 D8

NO QUESTION D9

D10	Record Gender.
-----	----------------

	(675)
Male	1
Female	2

EB67.1 D10

D11	How old are you?
-----	------------------

(676-677)		
<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		

EB67.1 D11

NO QUESTION D12 TO D14

ASK D15b ONLY IF RESPONDENT IS NOT DOING ANY PAID WORK CURRENTLY - CODE 1 TO 4 AT D15a

D15a	What is your current occupation?
------	----------------------------------

D15b	Did you do any paid work in the past? What was your last occupation?
------	--

	(678-679)	(680-681)
	D15a	D15b
	CURRENT OCCUPATION	LAST OCCUPATION
NON-ACTIVE		
Responsible for ordinary shopping and looking after the home, or without any current occupation, not working	1	
Student	2	
Unemployed or temporarily not working	3	
Retired or unable to work through illness	4	
SELF EMPLOYED		
Farmer	5	5
Fisherman	6	6
Professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect, etc.)	7	7
Owner of a shop, craftsmen, other self-employed person	8	8
Business proprietors, owner (full or partner) of a company	9	9
EMPLOYED		
Employed professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)	10	10
General management, director or top management (managing directors, director general, other director)	11	11
Middle management, other management (department head, junior manager, teacher, technician)	12	12
Employed position, working mainly at a desk	13	13
Employed position, not at a desk but travelling (salesmen, driver, etc.)	14	14
Employed position, not at a desk, but in a service job (hospital, restaurant, police, fireman, etc.)	15	15
Supervisor	16	16
Skilled manual worker	17	17
Other (unskilled) manual worker, servant	18	18
NEVER DID ANY PAID WORK		19

EB67.1 D15a D15b

NO QUESTIONS D16 TO D24

D25 Would you say you live in a...?

READ OUT

	(682)
Rural area or village	1
Small or middle sized town	2
Large town	3
DK	4

EB67.1 D25

NO QUESTIONS D26 TO D39

D40a Could you tell me how many people aged 15 years or more live in your household, yourself included?

RECORD BELOW

(683-684)

--	--

EB67.1 D40a

D40b Could you tell me how many children less than 10 years old live in your household

RECORD BELOW. CODE NONE AS '00'

(685-686)

--	--

EB67.1 D40b

D40c Could you tell me how many children aged 10 to 14 years old live in your household?

RECORD BELOW. CODE NONE AS '00'

(687-688)

--	--

EB67.1 D40c

D41 You personally, were you born...?

SHOW CARD - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(689)
In Ireland	1
In another Member State of the European Union	2
In Europe, but not in a Member State of the European Union	3
In Asia, in Africa or in Latin America	4
In Northern America, in Japan or in Oceania	5
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	6

EB67.1 D41

D42	Which of these proposals corresponds to your situation?
-----	---

SHOW CARD - READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY

	(690)
Your mother and your father were born in Ireland	1
One of your parents was born in Ireland and the other was born in another Member State of the European Union	2
Your mother and your father were born in another Member State of the European Union	3
One of your parents was born in Ireland and the other was born outside of the European Union	4
Your mother and your father were born outside the European Union	5
DK/Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	6

EB67.1 D42

D43a	Is there a fixed telephone available in the household?
------	--

D43b	Do you personally own a mobile telephone?
------	---

	(691)	(692)
	D43a	D43b
	Fixed	Mobile
Yes	1	1
No	2	2

EB67.1 D43a D43b

NO QUESTIONS D44 TO D45

D46	Which of the following goods do you have ?
-----	--

SHOW CARD - READ OUT - SEVERAL ANSWERS POSSIBLE

	(693-702)
Television	1,
DVD player	2,
Music CD player	3,
Computer	4,
An Internet connection at home	5,
A car	6,
An apartment / a house which you have finished paying for	7,
An apartment / a house which you are paying for	8,
None (SPONTANEOUS)	9,
DK	10,

EB67.1 D46

INTERVIEW PROTOCOLE									
P1	DATE OF INTERVIEW (723-724) (725-726) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> DAY </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> MONTH </div> </div>								
EB67.1 P1									
P2	TIME OF THE BEGINNING OF THE INTERVIEW INT.:USE 24 HOUR CLOCK (727-728) (729-730) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> HOUR </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> MINUTES </div> </div>								
EB67.1 P2									
P3	NUMBER OF MINUTES THE INTERVIEW LASTED (731-733) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> MINUTES								
EB67.1 P3									
P4	Number of persons present during the interview, including interviewer (734) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Two (interviewer and respondent)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Three</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Four</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Five or more</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </table>	Two (interviewer and respondent)	1	Three	2	Four	3	Five or more	4
Two (interviewer and respondent)	1								
Three	2								
Four	3								
Five or more	4								
EB67.1 P4									
P5	Respondent cooperation (735) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Excellent</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bad</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </table>	Excellent	1	Fair	2	Average	3	Bad	4
Excellent	1								
Fair	2								
Average	3								
Bad	4								
EB67.1 P5									
P6	Size of locality (LOCAL CODES) (736-737) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>								
EB67.1 P6									

P7	Region
	(LOCAL CODES) (738-739)
	<input type="text"/>
	EB67.1 P7
P8	Postal code
	(740-747)
	<input type="text"/>
	EB67.1 P8
P9	Sample point number
	(748-755)
	<input type="text"/>
	EB67.1 P9
P10	Interviewer number
	(756-763)
	<input type="text"/>
	EB67.1 P10
P11	Weighting factor
	(764-771)
	<input type="text"/>
	EB67.1 P11