

EUROBAROMETER 75

SPRING 2011

Europeans and the European Union budget

REPORT

Fieldwork: May 2011

Publication: August 2011

This survey has been requested and co-ordinated by Directorate-General for Communication.
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

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

Standard Eurobarometer 75 Spring 2011

Europeans and the European Union budget

Study conducted by TNS Opinion & Social
at the request of the European Commission -
Directorate-General Communication

Coordinated by the European Commission -
Directorate-General Communication

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| INTRODUCTION..... | 3 |
| 1. EUROPEANS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET | 6 |
| 2. THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET: PERCEPTIONS | 9 |
| 3. THE BUDGET AND THE EUROPEAN UNION: EXPECTATIONS | 14 |
| TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS | 22 |

INTRODUCTION

On 20 April 2011 the European Commission passed the European Union's 2012 draft budget¹. Budget and Financial Programming Commissioner Janusz Lewandowski described it as 'A delicate balancing act combining austerity and growth boosting measures for 500 million Europeans (...) The key objective of the 2012 Draft Budget is to fully support the European economy and EU citizens.'

Some weeks later on 29 June, about a month after the end of the Standard Eurobarometer fieldwork, the European Commission set out its proposed multiannual financial framework for the European Union for 2014 to 2020².

This is the background against which the spring 2011 Standard Eurobarometer 75 was carried out.

The European Union budget is under debate, in terms of both its general level and the allocation of expenditure. But what do Europeans think? The objective of this survey is to shed some light on:

- Europeans' perceptions of the European Union's budget and its main areas of expenditure;
- Future expectations of the budget.

The full report of the spring 2011 Standard Eurobarometer is made up of several volumes. The first volume analyses the results of the historical indicators of the Standard Eurobarometer. Three other volumes cover the state of European public opinion on: the financial and economic crisis; the Europe 2020 strategy; the European Union budget. The current volume examines the European Union's budget.

The general analysis, as well as the socio-demographic analyses, is based on the average of the 27 Member States. This average is weighted to reflect the actual population of each Member State. The averages for previous years represent the results obtained in all the Member States who made up the Union at the time when the survey was conducted.

*

*

*

¹<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/499&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=fr>

²<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/799&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en>

The methodology used is that of the Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General Communication ('Research and Speechwriting' Unit). A technical note concerning the interviews carried out by the institutes of the TNS Opinion & Social network is appended to this report. It specifies the interview methodology as well as the confidence intervals³.

*

*

*

The Eurobarometer website can be found at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those interviewed across Europe for taking the time to take part in this survey.

Without their active participation this survey would not have been possible.

³ The results tables are in the appendix. Please note that the percentage totals in the tables can be more than 100% where the interviewee could choose more than one response to a question.

In this report the countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report and their corresponding meanings are as follows:

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| EU27 | European Union – 27 Member States |
| EU15 | “EU15 countries”** |
| NMS12 | “NMS12 countries”*** |
| DK/NA | Don’t know/No answer |
| BE | Belgium |
| BG | Bulgaria |
| CZ | Czech Republic |
| DK | Denmark |
| DE | Germany |
| EE | Estonia |
| EL | Greece |
| ES | Spain |
| FR | France |
| IE | Ireland |
| IT | Italy |
| CY | Republic of Cyprus*** |
| CY (tcc) | Zone not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus |
| LT | Lithuania |
| LV | Latvia |
| LU | Luxembourg |
| HU | Hungary |
| MT | Malta |
| NL | The Netherlands |
| AT | Austria |
| PL | Poland |
| PT | Portugal |
| RO | Romania |
| SI | Slovenia |
| SK | Slovakia |
| FI | Finland |
| SE | Sweden |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| HR | Croatia |
| TR | Turkey |
| MK | Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**** |
| IS | Iceland |
| ME | Montenegro |

* EU15 refers to the 15 countries forming the European Union before the enlargements of 2004 and 2007: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

** The NMS12 are the 12 ‘new Member States’ which joined the European Union during the 2004 and 2007 enlargements. These are Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia.

*** Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union Member States. However, the “acquis communautaire” has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the “CY” category and in the EU27 average. The interviews carried out in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included under “CY (tcc)” [tcc: *Turkish Cypriot Community - Communauté chypriote turque*].

**** Provisional abbreviation which in no way prejudices the definitive name of this country, which will be agreed once the current negotiations at the United Nations have been completed.

1. EUROPEANS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET

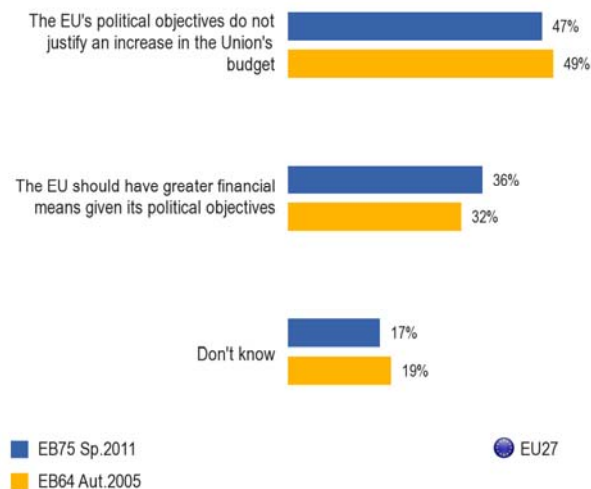
- Support for increasing the European Union budget is growing but is still the minority view -

When asked for their position on the European Union (EU) budget, **a majority of Europeans agree that 'the political objectives of the EU do not justify an increase in the Union's budget'. (47%)⁴**, but this opinion is slightly less widespread than the last time it was measured, in the autumn 2005 Standard Eurobarometer 64 (-2 points). 36% of respondents (+4 points) believe that 'given its political objectives, the EU should have greater financial means.'

A significant number respond 'don't know' to this question, though this has fallen slightly (17%, -2 points).

Differences appear by Member State: a majority in the NMS12 are in favour of increasing the Union's budget (46% versus 33%), while this is opposed by a majority in the EU15 (33% versus 51%).

QA20. With which of the following two statements do you most agree?

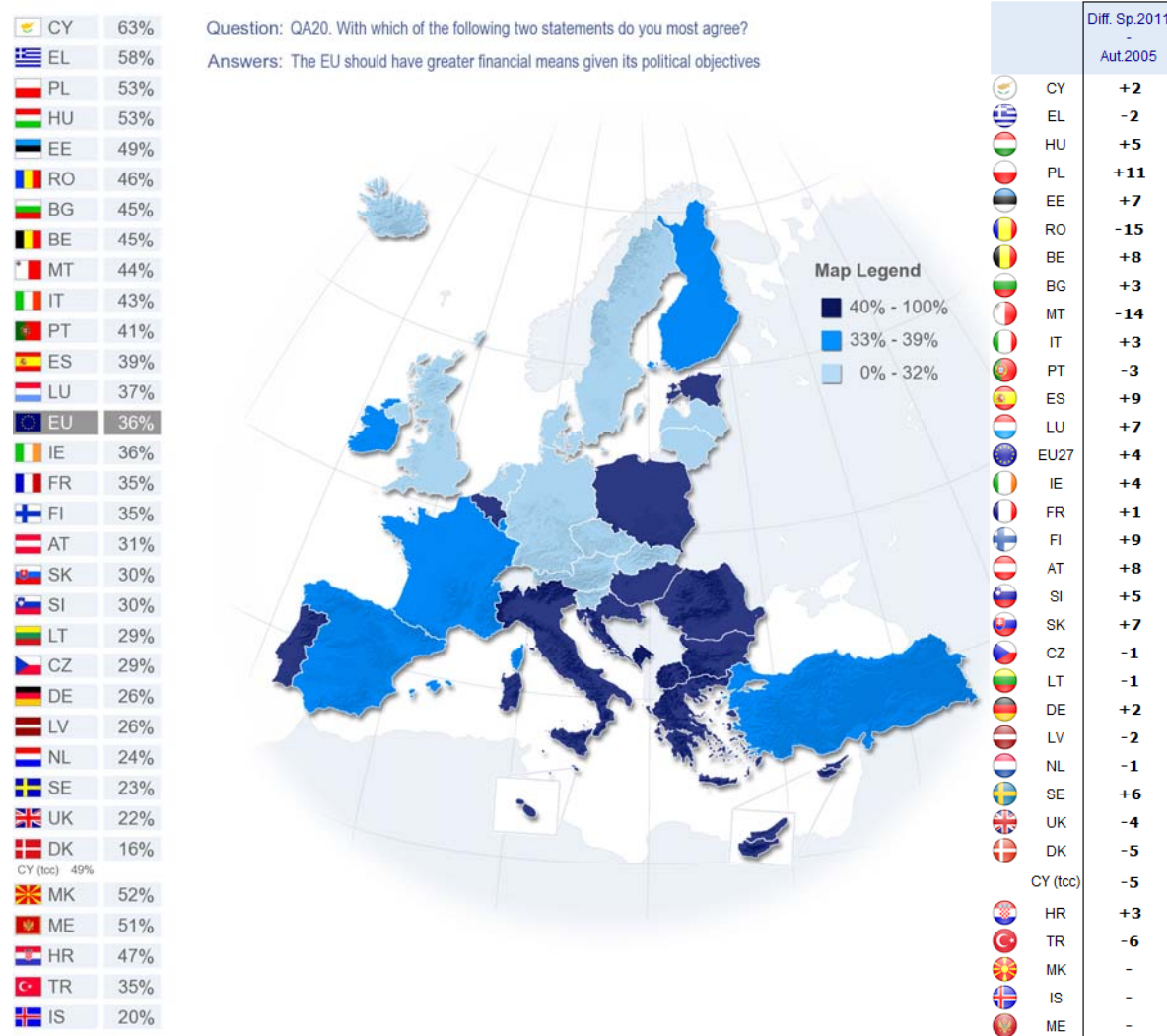


The countries where public opinion is most opposed to an increase in the European Union's budget are Denmark (75%), the Netherlands (67%), Sweden (67%), Slovakia (63%), the United Kingdom (63%) and Germany (61%).

Conversely, there is majority support for an increase in the budget in twelve Member States, led by Cyprus (63%), Greece (58%), Hungary (53%) and Poland (53%), ahead of Estonia (49%), Romania (46%), Bulgaria (45%), Malta (44%), Italy (43%), Portugal (41%), Spain (39%) and Ireland (36%).

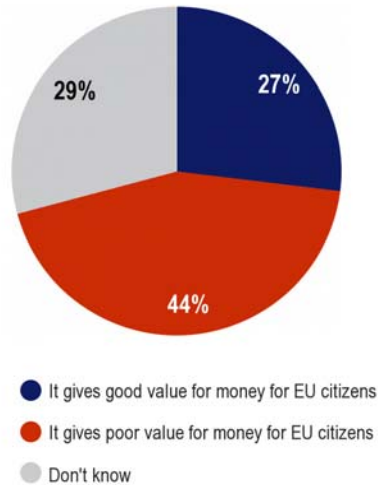
⁴ QA20 With which of the following two statements do you most agree? The EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives; The EU's political objectives do not justify an increase in the Union's budget.

In all the candidate countries public opinion is in favour of an increase in the Union's budget, with the exception of Iceland (where 61% of respondents do not think that this would be justified).



The majority of Europeans say that the EU budget 'gives poor value for money for EU citizens' (44%, versus 27% 'good value for money')⁵. It should be noted that the 'don't know' rate is very high for this question (29%)⁶.

QD3. Generally speaking, thinking about the EU budget, would you say that...?



EU27

Public opinion about whether the European Union's budget provides value for money is most positive in Poland (49%), Estonia (45%), Cyprus (42%) and Slovakia (42%). Overall a majority in 21 Member States are critical of the value for money represented by the EU budget.

Greece, which is among the countries which most strongly support an increase in the European Union budget, is also one of the most critical regarding its value for money (54% say it is 'poor').

⁵ QD3 Generally speaking, thinking about the EU budget, would you say that...? It gives good value for money for EU citizens; It gives poor value for money for EU citizens.

⁶ The most significant 'don't know' rates for this question were recorded in Romania (47%), Bulgaria (46%), Malta (44%), Ireland (38%), Lithuania (37%), Spain (36%), Italy (35%), Portugal (32%) and France (32%).

2. THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET: PERCEPTIONS

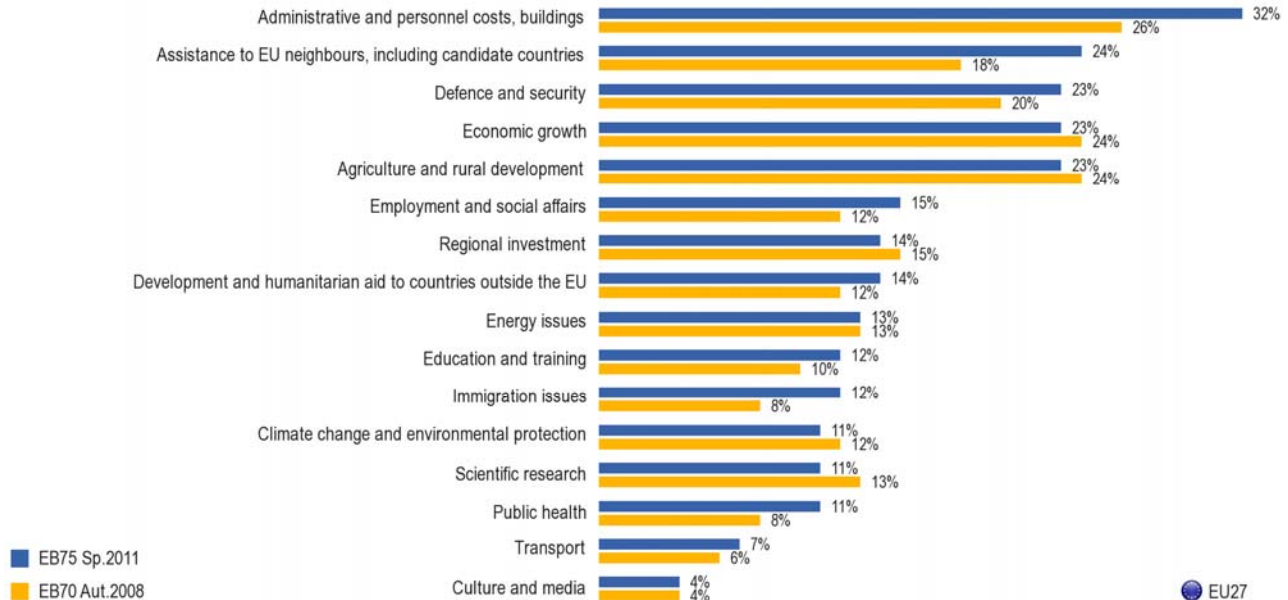
- *Administrative costs are perceived as the main area of expenditure of the European Union* -

Europeans were asked to identify the area in which they thought the European Union spent most (*first*); then the others (*and then*), with the possibility of giving up to three responses⁷. The sum of the answers given to the two parts of the question provides an overall ranking – aggregation of the first response (*first?*) and the other responses given second (*and then?*). In this report we will concentrate on the combined results (the total of the responses) as given in the table below⁸.

Europeans think that the European Union budget is primarily spent on the administrative costs of staff and buildings (32%). This opinion has strengthened since the autumn 2008 Standard Eurobarometer EB70 (+6 points). The item leads the ranking even when we only consider the '*first*' responses (16%).

Economic growth (23%, -1), agriculture and rural development (23%, -1) and security and defence (23%, +3) are also among the main areas of expenditure identified. 'Help to the EU's neighbouring countries, including candidate countries' attracts a significantly higher score (24%, +6). Somewhat behind these, social welfare and employment (15%, +3) and immigration (12%, +4) are also mentioned more than previously.

QD1T. On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? Firstly? Any others?



⁷ QD1 On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? Firstly? Any others?

⁸ The accumulated results are the sum of the results from the questions 'firstly' and 'any others': for example the item **the administrative costs of personnel and buildings** is mentioned 'first' by 16% of the total sample (QD1a), then by 19% of those who responded to the question 'any others' (QD1b). The total of the answers to these two questions represents 32% of the total sample of those interviewed (QD1T).

Administrative costs are the most mentioned item in ten Member States, led by Slovenia (53%), Germany (51%) and Austria (51%). In general the EU15 countries (34%) mention this expenditure more than the NMS12 (21%).

Help to neighbouring countries is mentioned very frequently in Slovenia (49%) and leads the responses given in Luxembourg (32%) and Slovakia (31%). The topic is also mentioned more in the EU15 countries (26% compared to 17% for the NMS12).

Economic growth is the first response given in eleven Member States including Cyprus (41%), Lithuania (37%) and Ireland (36%).

There are some differences by country which should be highlighted:

- In Sweden (57%), Denmark (55%) and Poland (30%) **agriculture** is given as the Union's main area of expenditure;
- In Greece it is **security and defence** (39%);
- Ireland is much more likely than its European neighbours to mention **employment and social welfare** among the main areas of expenditure for the European budget (28%);
- Bulgaria mentions **energy** (30%) more than the rest of Europe;
- **Immigration** is particularly mentioned in Italy (23%) and Cyprus (21%).

QD1T On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? Firstly? Any others?

| | | Administrative and personnel costs, buildings | Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries | Economic growth | Agriculture and rural development | Defence and security | Employment and social affairs | Regional investment | Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU | Energy issues | Education and training | Immigration issues | Scientific research | Climate change and environmental protection | Public health | Transport | Culture and media |
|------|--|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|
| EU27 | | 32% | 24% | 23% | 23% | 23% | 15% | 14% | 14% | 13% | 12% | 12% | 11% | 11% | 11% | 7% | 4% |
| BE | | 33% | 26% | 35% | 28% | 26% | 18% | 11% | 17% | 20% | 15% | 17% | 15% | 19% | 18% | 8% | 4% |
| BG | | 28% | 18% | 34% | 23% | 21% | 17% | 14% | 22% | 30% | 9% | 12% | 16% | 14% | 7% | 13% | 3% |
| CZ | | 31% | 27% | 21% | 18% | 25% | 15% | 23% | 21% | 17% | 10% | 12% | 12% | 12% | 8% | 10% | 6% |
| DK | | 50% | 25% | 17% | 55% | 25% | 9% | 31% | 17% | 10% | 7% | 10% | 9% | 19% | 7% | 6% | 2% |
| DE | | 51% | 39% | 21% | 31% | 25% | 17% | 17% | 24% | 13% | 7% | 11% | 10% | 16% | 8% | 4% | 3% |
| EE | | 13% | 19% | 28% | 19% | 23% | 15% | 10% | 12% | 15% | 10% | 8% | 8% | 9% | 9% | 8% | 3% |
| IE | | 31% | 21% | 36% | 30% | 20% | 28% | 21% | 8% | 15% | 25% | 10% | 15% | 13% | 12% | 8% | 5% |
| EL | | 25% | 14% | 34% | 24% | 39% | 15% | 20% | 8% | 25% | 14% | 14% | 21% | 13% | 10% | 10% | 6% |
| ES | | 33% | 19% | 17% | 8% | 26% | 13% | 6% | 10% | 7% | 9% | 12% | 8% | 6% | 11% | 5% | 4% |
| FR | | 31% | 29% | 22% | 28% | 24% | 12% | 9% | 15% | 10% | 11% | 11% | 11% | 7% | 12% | 7% | 3% |
| IT | | 24% | 14% | 24% | 10% | 21% | 17% | 11% | 11% | 17% | 16% | 23% | 22% | 10% | 9% | 5% | 6% |
| CY | | 37% | 25% | 41% | 38% | 24% | 12% | 12% | 10% | 23% | 18% | 21% | 25% | 16% | 15% | 6% | 6% |
| LV | | 25% | 15% | 24% | 24% | 26% | 20% | 13% | 10% | 16% | 14% | 7% | 8% | 6% | 7% | 6% | 6% |
| LT | | 11% | 10% | 37% | 35% | 23% | 13% | 9% | 7% | 23% | 14% | 6% | 11% | 9% | 12% | 5% | 3% |
| LU | | 27% | 32% | 30% | 26% | 13% | 13% | 11% | 16% | 14% | 14% | 7% | 8% | 12% | 15% | 6% | 4% |
| HU | | 22% | 15% | 35% | 24% | 21% | 20% | 15% | 15% | 28% | 15% | 13% | 14% | 24% | 15% | 3% | 9% |
| MT | | 25% | 7% | 27% | 11% | 13% | 16% | 9% | 13% | 21% | 26% | 10% | 12% | 16% | 14% | 5% | 2% |
| NL | | 42% | 38% | 28% | 41% | 20% | 15% | 19% | 19% | 7% | 8% | 11% | 7% | 15% | 9% | 6% | 2% |
| AT | | 51% | 41% | 28% | 33% | 21% | 21% | 16% | 21% | 17% | 14% | 17% | 11% | 16% | 15% | 16% | 7% |
| PL | | 21% | 9% | 22% | 30% | 15% | 18% | 15% | 8% | 14% | 13% | 4% | 7% | 11% | 18% | 9% | 5% |
| PT | | 23% | 12% | 24% | 11% | 14% | 19% | 5% | 7% | 9% | 21% | 5% | 13% | 5% | 15% | 5% | 5% |
| RO | | 9% | 19% | 31% | 25% | 27% | 14% | 19% | 8% | 15% | 17% | 9% | 16% | 15% | 10% | 14% | 2% |
| SI | | 53% | 49% | 22% | 28% | 39% | 13% | 11% | 11% | 13% | 7% | 6% | 9% | 9% | 8% | 5% | 3% |
| SK | | 29% | 31% | 24% | 18% | 26% | 25% | 21% | 19% | 19% | 9% | 12% | 12% | 15% | 10% | 13% | 5% |
| FI | | 47% | 27% | 20% | 39% | 21% | 22% | 28% | 11% | 17% | 2% | 8% | 4% | 14% | 6% | 4% | 3% |
| SE | | 37% | 27% | 27% | 57% | 21% | 11% | 40% | 14% | 14% | 7% | 7% | 7% | 20% | 6% | 8% | 1% |
| UK | | 26% | 22% | 17% | 14% | 25% | 13% | 10% | 11% | 10% | 12% | 12% | 5% | 9% | 12% | 8% | 4% |

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item



Lowest percentage per item

Respondents who say that they are interested in European politics are more likely to mention the following main areas of EU expenditure: agriculture (28% compared to 16% of those who are not interested in European politics), regional investment (17% compared to 10%), and help to neighbouring countries (26% compared to 20%); but they also mention administrative costs (34% compared to 27%).

There are also other socio-demographic differences: young Europeans (15 to 24 years old) are less likely than average to mention administrative costs (25% compared to an average of 32%) and agriculture (15% compared to an average of 23%) as items of EU expenditure, but they are more likely to mention economic growth (28% compared to an average of 23%), employment and social welfare (19% compared to an average of 15%) and education (17% compared to an average of 12%).

Education is also a discriminating variable: those who finished their education after 19 years of age are more likely to mention agriculture and rural development (32% compared to an average of 23%), economic growth (26% compared to an average of 23%) and regional investment (19%, compared to 14%).

QD1T On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? Firstly? Any others?

| | Administrative and personnel costs, buildings | Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries | Economic growth | Agriculture and rural development | Defence and security | Employment and social affairs | Regional investment | Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU | Energy issues | Education and training | Immigration issues |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| EU27 | 32% | 24% | 23% | 23% | 23% | 15% | 14% | 14% | 13% | 12% | 12% |
|  Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 25% | 22% | 28% | 15% | 26% | 19% | 13% | 13% | 14% | 17% | 13% |
| 25-39 | 29% | 25% | 26% | 22% | 25% | 16% | 15% | 15% | 14% | 13% | 12% |
| 40-54 | 35% | 26% | 23% | 26% | 24% | 15% | 14% | 15% | 14% | 10% | 13% |
| 55 + | 34% | 22% | 19% | 26% | 20% | 13% | 14% | 13% | 12% | 10% | 11% |
|  Education (End of) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 31% | 20% | 18% | 18% | 21% | 13% | 10% | 14% | 12% | 10% | 14% |
| 16-19 | 32% | 25% | 23% | 22% | 24% | 16% | 13% | 15% | 14% | 12% | 13% |
| 20+ | 34% | 26% | 26% | 32% | 22% | 16% | 19% | 13% | 13% | 11% | 10% |
| Still studying | 24% | 22% | 28% | 17% | 28% | 19% | 14% | 13% | 15% | 18% | 13% |
| Self-positioning on the social scale | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Low (1-4) | 32% | 23% | 21% | 21% | 22% | 13% | 12% | 14% | 13% | 11% | 12% |
| Medium (5-6) | 32% | 24% | 22% | 22% | 24% | 15% | 13% | 14% | 12% | 12% | 12% |
| High (7-10) | 31% | 25% | 27% | 28% | 23% | 18% | 18% | 14% | 15% | 12% | 13% |

The eleven first responses given by Europeans

3. THE BUDGET AND THE EUROPEAN UNION: EXPECTATIONS

- Expectations revolve around employment, the economy and social welfare -

Europeans were then asked to identify the area in which they would like the European Union to spend most (*first?*); then others (*any others?*), with the possibility of giving up to three responses⁹. The sum of the responses to the two parts of the question provides an overall ranking – sum of the first response given (*first?*) and the other responses given second (*any others?*).

The ranking of the areas in which the public would prefer the European Union to allocate its budget has changed since the last time this was measured in the autumn 2008 EB70¹⁰. **Social welfare and employment is now first** (42% of total responses, +6 points), **ahead of economic growth** which was mentioned slightly less and drops to second place (40%, +2). Europeans put education and training in third place with an increase of 9 points (to 39%). Public health is also mentioned more (36%, +4). When the focus is on the *first response* given, the ranking is very slightly modified with economic growth (19%) outstripping social welfare and employment (17%).

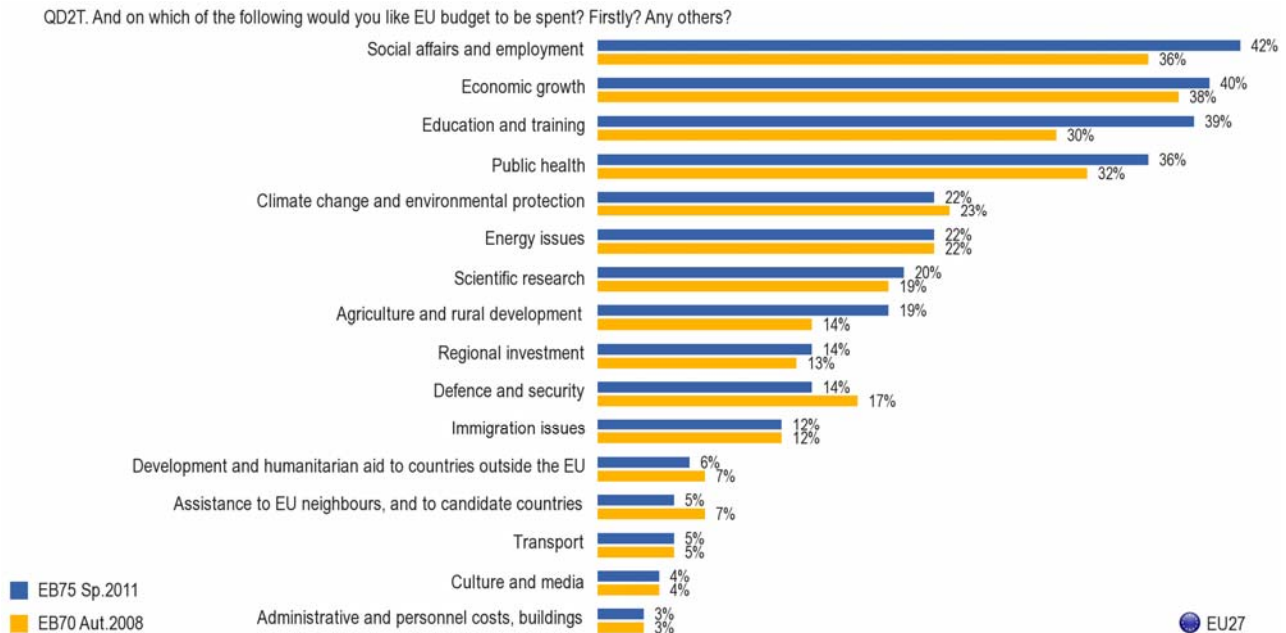
Environmental and energy also remain areas where the European Union is expected to spend money. There is no change in these expectations compared to EB70.

Agriculture is one of the areas which is mentioned more than previously (19%, +5), whereas defence and security have lost ground (14%, -3). Among the least-mentioned items are two areas in which Europeans were most likely to think that the EU budget was spent: help to neighbouring countries outside the EU (5%, -2), and administrative costs (3%, no change).

⁹ QD2 And on which of the following would you like the EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others ?

¹⁰ The fieldwork for the autumn 2008 Standard Eurobarometer 70 took place from 6 October to 6 November 2008, a few weeks after the bankruptcy of the US investment bank, Lehman Brothers, on 15 September 2008.

The graph below illustrates the cumulative results - *first?*, *any others?*¹¹



There is a sharp contrast between expectations in the EU15 countries and in the NMS12:

- The EU15 countries put education and training at the top (42%, compared to 28% for NMS12 countries) and give more importance to climate change and environmental protection (25%, versus 14%);
- The NMS12 countries place agriculture fourth after employment, growth and public health (33% compared to 15% for the EU15).

The differences are equally pronounced between Member States.

Social welfare and employment are placed first in ten Member States, led by Spain (63%, +12 points), Slovenia (60%, +4) and Finland (60%, +16). This item has gained ground in the majority of Member States with the sharpest increases in Bulgaria (59%, +22), Ireland (52%, +21) and Cyprus (39%, +20).

Expectations regarding **economic growth** remain especially strong in Greece (65%, no change) and Hungary (61%, +6 points), and in six other countries which also put this area first. In terms of positive evolutions, expectations have increased the most in Denmark (44%, +19) and Slovenia (57%, +14).

¹¹ The cumulative results are the sum of the responses to the question 'Firstly' and 'Any others'.

Education and training have gained some ground in several countries, some of which now put this item at the top of the areas seen as most appropriate for the Union's expenditure. This is particularly the case in Ireland (59%, +25 points), the Netherlands (57%, +19) and Denmark (46%, +19). The three other Member States which would like the EU to prioritise the allocation of its budget to education and training are Germany (52%), Luxembourg (49%) and Malta (42%).

Public health is the first response given in Cyprus (64%, +8 points), Austria (42%, no change), the United Kingdom (40%, +13) and Poland (39%, +2).

Climate change is the leading response given in Sweden (53%), despite a drop of six points, whereas **agriculture** tops expectations in Romania (44%, +9, on a par with economic growth), and is also mentioned very frequently in Hungary (46%, +10).

QD2T And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?

| | Social affairs and employment | Economic growth | Education and training | Public health | Energy issues | Climate change and environmental protection | Scientific research | Agriculture and rural development | Regional investment | Defence and security | Immigration issues | Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU | Transport | Assistance to EU neighbours, and to candidate countries | Culture and media | Administrative and personnel costs, buildings |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| EU27 | 42% | 40% | 39% | 36% | 22% | 22% | 20% | 19% | 14% | 14% | 12% | 6% | 5% | 5% | 4% | 3% |
| BE | 46% | 42% | 43% | 37% | 30% | 27% | 22% | 14% | 11% | 13% | 20% | 7% | 8% | 4% | 5% | 4% |
| BG | 59% | 59% | 28% | 44% | 25% | 17% | 11% | 39% | 16% | 23% | 6% | 3% | 5% | 5% | 3% | 1% |
| CZ | 55% | 43% | 23% | 41% | 17% | 17% | 15% | 33% | 25% | 13% | 5% | 6% | 10% | 5% | 3% | 2% |
| DK | 36% | 44% | 46% | 30% | 30% | 40% | 29% | 13% | 9% | 11% | 14% | 13% | 3% | 6% | 2% | 2% |
| DE | 41% | 37% | 52% | 33% | 30% | 43% | 30% | 16% | 18% | 9% | 7% | 10% | 2% | 5% | 3% | 2% |
| EE | 38% | 41% | 35% | 35% | 18% | 9% | 13% | 30% | 10% | 12% | 6% | 3% | 7% | 4% | 4% | 3% |
| IE | 52% | 55% | 59% | 41% | 24% | 15% | 15% | 22% | 21% | 5% | 11% | 5% | 5% | 6% | 3% | 2% |
| EL | 51% | 65% | 47% | 44% | 19% | 20% | 16% | 36% | 13% | 12% | 17% | 5% | 2% | 8% | 2% | 2% |
| ES | 63% | 45% | 46% | 36% | 11% | 12% | 15% | 15% | 9% | 8% | 12% | 4% | 2% | 5% | 6% | 3% |
| FR | 47% | 32% | 43% | 37% | 22% | 19% | 24% | 18% | 10% | 21% | 12% | 6% | 5% | 3% | 3% | 2% |
| IT | 32% | 44% | 28% | 26% | 24% | 18% | 33% | 15% | 14% | 18% | 23% | 3% | 4% | 6% | 5% | 6% |
| CY | 39% | 56% | 54% | 64% | 20% | 34% | 15% | 28% | 7% | 18% | 18% | 10% | 2% | 3% | 8% | 1% |
| LV | 46% | 49% | 40% | 34% | 15% | 7% | 17% | 42% | 14% | 10% | 6% | 4% | 6% | 5% | 2% | 1% |
| LT | 39% | 57% | 28% | 35% | 30% | 12% | 14% | 28% | 8% | 9% | 10% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 1% |
| LU | 36% | 29% | 49% | 27% | 28% | 33% | 16% | 11% | 7% | 16% | 11% | 15% | 7% | 7% | 2% | 1% |
| HU | 47% | 61% | 26% | 34% | 34% | 23% | 12% | 46% | 12% | 14% | 6% | 5% | 1% | 6% | 3% | 2% |
| MT | 37% | 31% | 42% | 41% | 30% | 21% | 8% | 7% | 7% | 11% | 25% | 7% | 4% | 2% | 3% | 3% |
| NL | 45% | 46% | 57% | 41% | 16% | 35% | 19% | 10% | 9% | 13% | 12% | 9% | 6% | 7% | 5% | 2% |
| AT | 42% | 34% | 40% | 42% | 37% | 41% | 17% | 24% | 25% | 17% | 14% | 7% | 9% | 9% | 6% | 6% |
| PL | 37% | 35% | 27% | 39% | 14% | 9% | 11% | 23% | 17% | 11% | 5% | 5% | 8% | 3% | 5% | 3% |
| PT | 55% | 46% | 40% | 39% | 12% | 7% | 14% | 26% | 12% | 15% | 5% | 7% | 3% | 4% | 6% | 3% |
| RO | 40% | 44% | 31% | 36% | 12% | 12% | 15% | 44% | 20% | 17% | 3% | 6% | 11% | 11% | 4% | 3% |
| SI | 60% | 57% | 32% | 36% | 22% | 28% | 15% | 35% | 13% | 5% | 4% | 6% | 3% | 4% | 3% | 1% |
| SK | 59% | 39% | 21% | 43% | 23% | 20% | 15% | 31% | 29% | 13% | 6% | 5% | 12% | 6% | 3% | 3% |
| FI | 60% | 26% | 17% | 36% | 27% | 28% | 10% | 19% | 23% | 11% | 7% | 6% | 4% | 5% | 3% | 1% |
| SE | 50% | 36% | 35% | 34% | 35% | 53% | 20% | 9% | 12% | 8% | 12% | 14% | 6% | 3% | 5% | 1% |
| UK | 22% | 33% | 39% | 40% | 20% | 16% | 12% | 7% | 9% | 16% | 20% | 5% | 10% | 3% | 2% | 1% |

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country



Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

Analysing the results by socio-demographic criteria reveals some differences between categories:

- The most educated respondents (who studied beyond the age of 19) are more likely to mention education (42%), climate change and environmental protection (27%) and scientific research (25%) among their expectations; whereas those who left school before 16 are more likely than average to prioritise agriculture and rural development (23%) and the health system (39%);
- Likewise, respondents who place themselves at the bottom of the social scale have stronger expectations for employment and social welfare (49%), health (39%) and agriculture (24%), whereas Europeans who place themselves at the top of the social scale are more likely than the average to mention scientific research (25%), energy (25%), and climate change (26%).

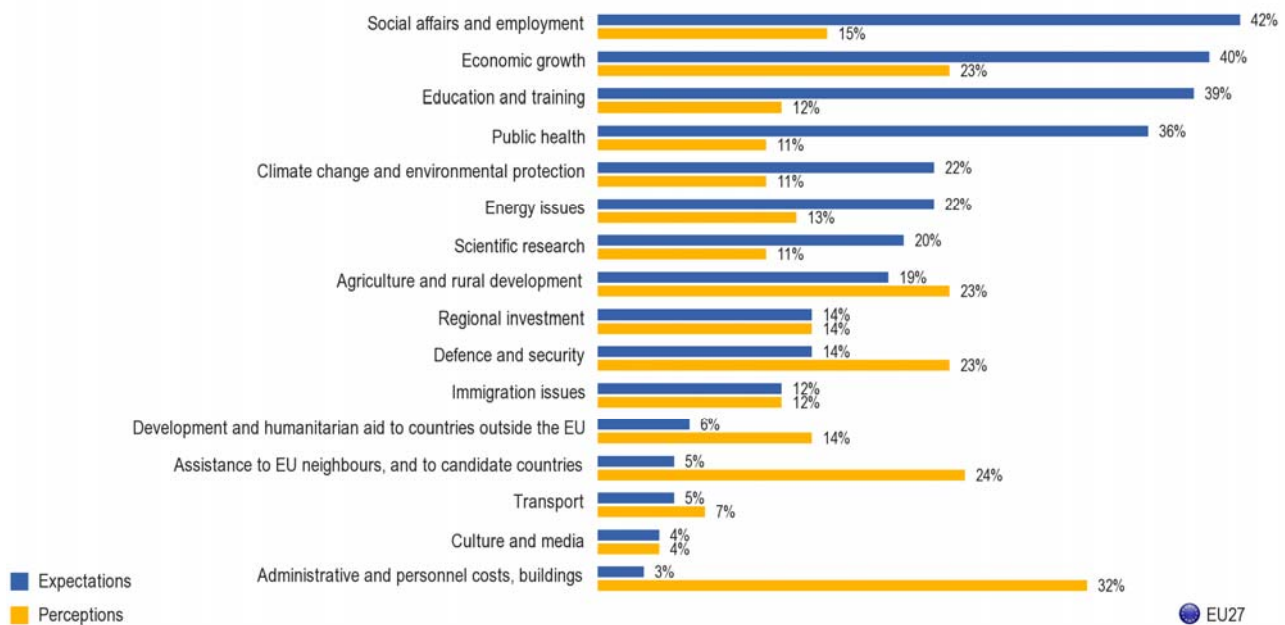
QD2T And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?

| | Social affairs and employment | Economic growth | Education and training | Public health | Energy issues | Climate change and environmental protection | Scientific research | Agriculture and rural development | Regional investment | Defence and security | Immigration issues |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| EU27 | 42% | 40% | 39% | 36% | 22% | 22% | 20% | 19% | 14% | 14% | 12% |
|  Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 38% | 36% | 48% | 35% | 21% | 25% | 21% | 16% | 9% | 15% | 11% |
| 25-39 | 43% | 41% | 41% | 35% | 23% | 21% | 21% | 18% | 15% | 13% | 12% |
| 40-54 | 45% | 44% | 40% | 35% | 23% | 25% | 20% | 18% | 14% | 14% | 12% |
| 55 + | 41% | 39% | 34% | 38% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 21% | 15% | 14% | 13% |
|  Education (End of) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 44% | 39% | 34% | 39% | 18% | 17% | 16% | 23% | 14% | 14% | 15% |
| 16-19 | 42% | 42% | 38% | 37% | 22% | 21% | 18% | 21% | 15% | 15% | 13% |
| 20+ | 42% | 42% | 42% | 32% | 24% | 27% | 25% | 15% | 14% | 11% | 11% |
| Still studying | 36% | 35% | 51% | 34% | 22% | 28% | 26% | 13% | 8% | 13% | 10% |
| Self-positioning on the social scale | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Low (1-4) | 49% | 40% | 37% | 39% | 18% | 17% | 17% | 24% | 14% | 15% | 11% |
| Medium (5-6) | 41% | 40% | 40% | 36% | 22% | 23% | 20% | 17% | 14% | 13% | 12% |
| High (7-10) | 37% | 43% | 40% | 33% | 25% | 26% | 25% | 17% | 14% | 15% | 15% |

The eleven first responses given by Europeans

Comparing Europeans' perceptions with their expectations of the European Union's budget shows significant differences:

- The areas in which respondents' expectations are greatest - employment (42%), education (39%) and public health (36%) - are not identified as the areas on which the European Union budget is currently spent (perceived as 15%, 12% and 11% respectively). Therefore, these are the main levers for improving public opinion;
- Administrative costs (32%) and help to neighbouring countries (24%) are identified as the Union's main areas of expenditure, but they are the areas in which Europeans least want the budget to be spent (3% and 5% respectively);
- Agriculture (cited in 23% of responses as a major area of expenditure), regional investment (14%) and immigration issues (12%) are issues on which perceptions are in line with expectations (scoring 19%, 14% and 12% respectively as areas of expectation);
- Finally, environmental issues (expectations: 22% compared to perceived expenditure: 11%), energy (22% / 13%) and scientific research (20% / 11%) also seem to be areas in which Europeans want more evidence of financial investment by the EU.



The differences between public perceptions and expectations of the European Union's budget merit close examination. The gap between perceptions and expectations widened by between three and eight points between autumn 2008 and spring 2011 in respect of half these issues. For example, where the difference between perceptions and expectations in education and training was 20 points in the autumn 2008 EB70, it is now 27 points. The gap has widened from 11 to 19 points for help to neighbouring countries, and from 23 to 29 points for administrative costs; this is the area in which the gap between perceptions and expectations remains the greatest.

Absolute value difference between perceptions and expectations

| | EB70 Aut.2008 | EB75 Sp.2011 | Evolution of differences Sp. 2011 - Aut. 2008 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries | 11 | 19 | +8 |
| Education and training | 20 | 27 | +7 |
| Defence and security | 3 | 9 | +6 |
| Administrative and personnel costs, buildings | 23 | 29 | +6 |
| Economic growth | 14 | 17 | +3 |
| Scientific research | 6 | 9 | +3 |
| Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU | 5 | 8 | +3 |
| Employment and social affairs | 24 | 27 | +3 |
| Transport | 1 | 2 | +1 |
| Public health | 24 | 25 | +1 |
| Energy issues | 9 | 9 | = |
| Climate change and environmental protection | 11 | 11 | = |
| Culture and media | = | = | = |
| Regional investment | 2 | = | -2 |
| Immigration issues | 4 | = | -4 |
| Agriculture and rural development | 10 | 4 | -6 |

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 75.3 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Speechwriting". Interviews took place between 6 May and 26 May 2011.

The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 75 is part of wave 75.3 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 75 has also been conducted in the five candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro) 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 | 1.020 | 06/05/2011 | 24/05/2011 | 8.939.546 |
| BG | Bulgaria | TNS BBSS | 1.000 | 06/05/2011 | 16/05/2011 | 6.537.510 |
| CZ | Czech Rep. | TNS Aisa | 1.022 | 07/05/2011 | 20/05/2011 | 9.012.443 |
| DK | Denmark | TNS Gallup DK | 1.007 | 06/05/2011 | 23/05/2011 | 4.561.264 |
| DE | Germany | TNS Infratest | 1.535 | 06/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 64.409.146 |
| EE | Estonia | Emor | 1.000 | 06/05/2011 | 24/05/2011 | 945.733 |
| IE | Ireland | Ipsos MRBI | 1.015 | 09/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 3.522.000 |
| EL | Greece | TNS ICAP | 1.000 | 07/05/2011 | 21/05/2011 | 8.693.566 |
| ES | Spain | TNS Demoscopia | 1.010 | 09/05/2011 | 24/05/2011 | 39.035.867 |
| FR | France | TNS Sofres | 1.022 | 06/05/2011 | 24/05/2011 | 47.756.439 |
| IT | Italy | TNS Infratest | 1.039 | 06/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 51.862.391 |
| CY | Rep. of Cyprus | Synovate | 501 | 06/05/2011 | 21/05/2011 | 660.400 |
| LV | Latvia | TNS Latvia | 1.007 | 06/05/2011 | 23/05/2011 | 1.447.866 |
| LT | Lithuania | TNS Gallup Lithuania | 1.026 | 07/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 2.829.740 |
| LU | Luxembourg | TNS ILReS | 501 | 06/05/2011 | 19/05/2011 | 404.907 |
| HU | Hungary | TNS Hungary | 1.019 | 06/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 8.320.614 |
| MT | Malta | MISCO | 500 | 06/05/2011 | 21/05/2011 | 335.476 |
| NL | Netherlands | TNS NIPO | 1.016 | 06/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 13.371.980 |
| | | Österreichisches Gallup- | | | | |
| AT | Austria | Institut | 1.018 | 06/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 7.009.827 |
| PL | Poland | TNS OBOP | 1.000 | 07/05/2011 | 23/05/2011 | 32.413.735 |
| PT | Portugal | TNS EUROTESTE | 1.048 | 07/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 8.080.915 |
| RO | Romania | TNS CSOP | 1.023 | 06/05/2011 | 20/05/2011 | 18.246.731 |
| SI | Slovenia | RM PLUS | 1.018 | 06/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 1.759.701 |
| SK | Slovakia | TNS Slovakia | 1.010 | 10/05/2011 | 25/05/2011 | 4.549.955 |
| FI | Finland | TNS Gallup Oy | 1.003 | 07/05/2011 | 26/05/2011 | 4.440.004 |
| SE | Sweden | TNS GALLUP | 1.044 | 06/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 7.791.240 |
| UK | United Kingdom | TNS UK | 1.309 | 06/05/2011 | 23/05/2011 | 51.848.010 |
| TOTAL EU27 | | | 26.713 | 06/05/2011 | 26/05/2011 | 408.787.006 |
| | Turkish Cypriot | | | | | |
| CY(tcc) | Community | Kadem | 500 | 07/05/2011 | 19/05/2011 | 143.226 |
| HR | Croatia | Puls | 1.000 | 07/05/2011 | 25/05/2011 | 3.749.400 |
| TR | Turkey | TNS PIAR | 1.000 | 06/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 54.844.406 |
| | Former Yugoslav | | | | | |
| MK | Rep. of Macedonia | TNS Brima | 1.056 | 06/05/2011 | 12/05/2011 | 1.678.404 |
| IS | Iceland | Capacent | 500 | 06/05/2011 | 24/05/2011 | 252.277 |
| ME | Montenegro | TNS Medium Gallup | 1.000 | 07/05/2011 | 22/05/2011 | 492.265 |
| TOTAL | | | 31.769 | 06/05/2011 | 26/05/2011 | 469.946.984 |

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 |