



Standard Eurobarometer 77 Spring 2012

EUROPE 2020

REPORT

Fieldwork: May 2012

This survey has been requested and co-ordinated by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication.

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

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Standard Eurobarometer 77 / Spring 2012 – TNS Opinion & Social

Standard Eurobarometer 77
Spring 2012

Europe 2020

Survey carried out by TNS Opinion & Social at the request of the
European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication

Survey coordinated by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication
"Research and Speechwriting" Unit

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INTRODUCTION

The Europe 2020 strategy was launched in March 2010 by the European Commission in order to prepare the European economy for the key issues and challenges of the 2010-2020 decade¹ and to promote innovative, sustainable and inclusive growth for the benefit of European citizens as a whole.

The way in which this framework strategy is perceived by European public opinion has been measured since the spring 2010 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB73). In this survey carried out in spring 2012 (EB77), it is measured via three indicators. First, we asked Europeans about the importance they attach to the seven initiatives determined by the European Commission under the banner of the Europe 2020 strategy. Secondly, they were asked for their views on the realism of the strategy's targets for 2020. Finally, in the light of these flagship initiatives and targets, Europeans were asked whether they consider the European Union is going in the right direction to emerge from the crisis.

Except for views on the policy direction taken to emerge from the crisis, which vary significantly in some cases, the indicators of opinion on the Europe 2020 strategy are exceptionally stable. Since spring 2010, there has been a broadly-based consensus within the European Union on the importance of the flagship initiatives and the credibility of the targets. This stability reflects the wish of a large majority of European citizens to see the EU do everything it can to overcome the crisis and the current difficulties.

This Standard Eurobarometer survey was carried out between 12 and 27 May 2012 in 34 countries and territories²: the 27 Member States of the European Union, the six candidate countries (Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia), and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. The questions regarding the Europe 2020 strategy were asked only in the 27 European Union Member States.

The full Standard Eurobarometer report consists of several volumes. The first volume analyses the results of the historical indicators of the Standard Eurobarometer survey. Four other volumes present the state of European public opinion on other themes: the financial and economic crisis; the Europe 2020 strategy; European citizenship; values. This volume is devoted to the Europe 2020 strategy.

The general analysis and the socio-demographic analyses are based on the average results for the 27 Member States. This average is weighted so that it reflects the actual population of each Member State. The averages for previous years represent the results obtained in all the Member States of the European Union, as it was composed at the time the survey was conducted.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

² Please consult the technical specifications for the exact dates of the fieldwork in each country

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32,728 people from different social and demographic backgrounds were interviewed face to face in their homes in their mother tongue at the request of the European Commission. The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys conducted by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Research and Speechwriting" Unit)³. A technical note concerning the interviews carried out by the institutes within the TNS Opinion & Social network is annexed to this report. This note also describes the confidence intervals⁴

The following abbreviations are used in this report:

ABBREVIATIONS			
BE	Belgium	LV	Latvia
CZ	Czech Republic	LU	Luxembourg
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary
DK	Denmark	MT	Malta
DE	Germany	NL	The Netherlands
EE	Estonia	AT	Austria
EL	Greece	PL	Poland
ES	Spain	PT	Portugal
FR	France	RO	Romania
IE	Ireland	SI	Slovenia
IT	Italy	SK	Slovakia
CY	Republic of Cyprus***	FI	Finland
LT	Lithuania	SE	Sweden
		UK	United Kingdom
CY (tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community		
HR	Croatia	EU27	European Union – 27 Member States
TR	Turkey		
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ****	EU15	BE, IT, FR, DE, LU, NL, DK, UK, IE, PT, ES, EL, AT, SE, FI*
IS	Iceland	NMS12	BG, CZ, EE, CY, LT, LV, MT, HU, PL, RO, SL, SK**
ME	Montenegro	Euro zone	BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK
		Non- euro zone	BG, CZ, DK, LV, LT, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK
RS	Serbia		

* EU15 refers to the 15 European Union Member States before the enlargements of 2004 and 2007

** The NMS12 countries are the 12 "new Member States" that joined the European Union at the time of the 2004 and 2007 enlargements

*** 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 in the "CY(tcc)" (tcc: *Turkish Cypriot Community*) category)

**** 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

* * * * *

*We wish to thank all the people interviewed throughout Europe
who took the time to participate in this survey.*

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

³ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

⁴ The results tables are annexed. It should be noted that the total of the percentages indicated in the tables in this report may exceed 100% when the respondent was able to choose several answers to the same question.

I. THE PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF THE EU'S EUROPE 2020 INITIATIVES

- **Despite a slight fall in scores since autumn 2011, a large majority of Europeans still perceive these measures, in particular the social and environmental initiatives, as important -**

Respondents first were asked to say how much importance they attach to seven initiatives determined by the European Union⁵ to emerge from the financial and economic crisis and to prepare for the future under the Europe 2020 strategy. To this end, they were asked to rank each initiative on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 corresponds to "not at all important" and 10 corresponds to "very important". The percentages were then aggregated into three response categories: "important" for scores 7 to 10, "quite important" for scores 5 and 6 and "not important" for scores 1 to 4. The same question had been asked in the autumn 2011 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB76).

Since it was first introduced in the Eurobarometer survey in the spring 2010 survey (EB73), this indicator has been exceptionally stable, with only marginal changes. It is therefore unaffected by the economic impact of the crisis. Successive surveys have revealed an overwhelming consensus among Europeans on the importance of the Europe 2020 initiatives. Changes in the European average for their perceived importance have never exceeded 3 percentage points since spring 2010. Six out of seven initiatives continue to be considered as important by an absolute majority of Europeans; among them, social and environmental measures continue to top the list, followed by measures to support competitiveness, education and innovation. The crisis has created a deep-seated, unswerving demand for action to address issues of employment, sustainable growth, competitiveness and the fight against poverty.

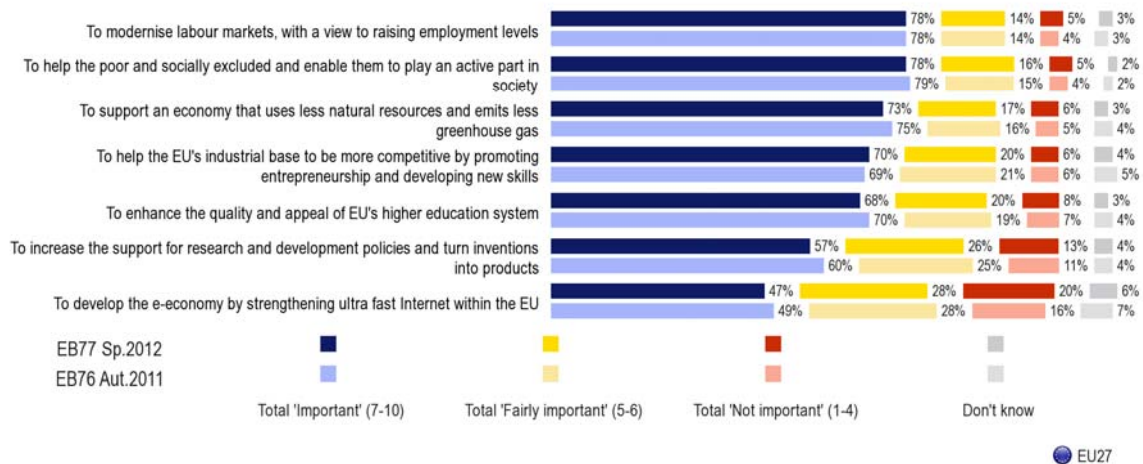
In more detail, more than seven out of ten Europeans consider that it is important **"to help the poor and socially excluded and enable them to play an active part in society"** (78%, -1 percentage point since autumn 2011 (EB76)), **"to modernise labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels"** (78%, unchanged) and **"to support an economy that uses fewer natural resources and emits less greenhouse gas"** (73%, -2). Since this indicator was introduced in the spring 2010 Eurobarometer survey (EB73), combating exclusion, promoting employment and sustainable development have invariably been perceived as the three most important Europe 2020 initiatives.

⁵ QB1. For each of the following initiatives, please tell me how important or not you think they are in order for the EU to exit the present financial and economic crisis and prepare for the next decade. Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where '1' means that you think that this initiative is "not at all important" and '10' means that it is "very important".

Next, three initiatives are seen as important by between 57% and 70% of Europeans, namely “helping the EU’s industrial base to be more competitive by promoting entrepreneurship and developing new skills” (70%, +1 percentage point), “enhancing the quality and appeal of the EU’s higher education system” (68%, -2) and “increasing support for research and development policies and turning inventions into products” (57%, -3). Within this group, boosting competitiveness has now narrowly overtaken improving the education system.

In the ranking, only one initiative seems to be of more secondary importance to Europeans. “Developing the e-economy by strengthening ultra-fast Internet within the EU” is seen as important by fewer than half of Europeans (47%, -2 percentage points). Just over a quarter of respondents say that this initiative is “quite important” (28%, unchanged), while 20% (+4) think that it is “not important”.

QB1. For each of the following initiatives, please tell me how important or not you think they are in order for the EU to exit the present financial and economic crisis and prepare for the next decade. Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where '1' means that you think this initiative is “not at all important” and '10' means that it is “very important”.



There is a broad consensus among EU citizens on the importance of the main Europe 2020 initiatives: an absolute majority of respondents in the EU15, NMS12, Eurozone and non-Eurozone countries agree on the importance of the first six initiatives, with levels similar to the European average, without any significant differences between these groups. The national analysis also shows that an absolute majority of respondents in each EU country agree on the level of importance of the first five initiatives tested.





























Thus, opinions on the importance of modernising the labour market and increasing employment range from 70% in Luxembourg, France and Italy to 94% in Cyprus. Views on the importance of promoting the social inclusion of persons in financial difficulties vary between 69% in Italy and 93% in Cyprus. Opinions on the importance of supporting a sustainable economy and reducing greenhouse gas effects vary between 65% in the United Kingdom and 87% in Bulgaria. The highest score for boosting competitiveness by promoting entrepreneurship was recorded in Bulgaria (89%), while the lowest score was recorded in Poland (64%). Finally, the importance attached to improving the education system varies between 86% in Spain and 56% in Italy and the United Kingdom.

The national differences are more striking for two initiatives: supporting research and innovation and, to an even greater extent, the development of the e-economy. In three countries, support for research, development and innovation is seen as of secondary importance: 41% of respondents in Luxembourg, 43% in France and 45% in the United Kingdom say that this is important. This result is stable in the United Kingdom (-1 percentage point) but has fallen significantly in France (-5) and even more sharply in Luxembourg (-15). Respondents are the most likely to perceive this initiative as important in Ireland (76%).

The development of the e-economy is seen as a secondary initiative in twelve countries (Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom); within this group the lowest levels of perceived importance were recorded in Sweden (22%), Luxembourg (28%) and Denmark (30%). However, a majority of respondents in the fifteen other countries perceive the development of the e-economy as important, notably in Bulgaria (71%), Ireland (71%), Greece (62%), Cyprus (61%) and Slovakia (61%). The development of the digital economy is the only initiative on which there is a clear difference of opinion in the EU15 and NMS12 countries: 56% of respondents in the NMS12 countries perceive this initiative as important, compared with 44% of respondents in the EU15 countries.

QB1 For each of the following initiatives, please tell me how important or not you think they are in order for the EU to exit the present financial and economic crisis and prepare for the next decade. Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where '1' means that you think this initiative is "not at all important" and '10' means that it is "very important".

Answers: Total 'Important' (7-10)

	To modernise labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels	To help the poor and socially excluded and enable them to play an active part in society	To support an economy that uses less natural resources and emits less greenhouse gas	To help the EU's industrial base to be more competitive by promoting entrepreneurship and developing new skills	To enhance the quality and appeal of EU's higher education system	To increase the support for research and development policies and turn inventions into products	To develop the e-economy by strengthening ultra fast Internet within the EU
 EU27	78%	78%	73%	70%	68%	57%	47%
EU15	77%	77%	73%	69%	68%	56%	44%
NMS12	83%	79%	73%	73%	68%	62%	56%
Euro area	78%	78%	75%	70%	70%	58%	47%
Non euro-area	79%	77%	71%	69%	63%	56%	46%
 BE	77%	78%	71%	67%	66%	53%	36%
 BG	92%	88%	87%	89%	80%	74%	71%
 CZ	87%	74%	75%	77%	67%	61%	46%
 DK	76%	73%	73%	65%	71%	63%	30%
 DE	79%	79%	79%	66%	79%	63%	46%
 EE	75%	71%	70%	74%	66%	50%	48%
 IE	85%	84%	74%	81%	78%	76%	71%
 EL	86%	88%	78%	76%	80%	67%	62%
 ES	87%	90%	82%	78%	86%	71%	53%
 FR	70%	71%	70%	66%	58%	43%	33%
 IT	70%	69%	67%	67%	56%	53%	51%
 CY	94%	93%	78%	86%	84%	60%	61%
 LV	87%	80%	71%	82%	72%	51%	51%
 LT	80%	80%	80%	78%	72%	65%	60%
 LU	70%	78%	74%	65%	63%	41%	28%
 HU	87%	86%	80%	81%	69%	67%	54%
 MT	88%	87%	82%	77%	84%	67%	54%
 NL	77%	79%	75%	71%	68%	56%	39%
 AT	81%	78%	82%	69%	76%	65%	51%
 PL	76%	74%	67%	64%	60%	57%	55%
 PT	84%	86%	68%	77%	73%	65%	55%
 RO	85%	84%	74%	75%	74%	63%	59%
 SI	89%	86%	70%	80%	62%	61%	47%
 SK	93%	80%	81%	85%	77%	71%	61%
 FI	85%	87%	81%	78%	60%	56%	45%
 SE	76%	87%	86%	72%	67%	67%	22%
 UK	74%	72%	65%	65%	56%	45%	37%
Highest percentage per country				Lowest percentage per country			
Highest percentage per item				Lowest percentage per item			

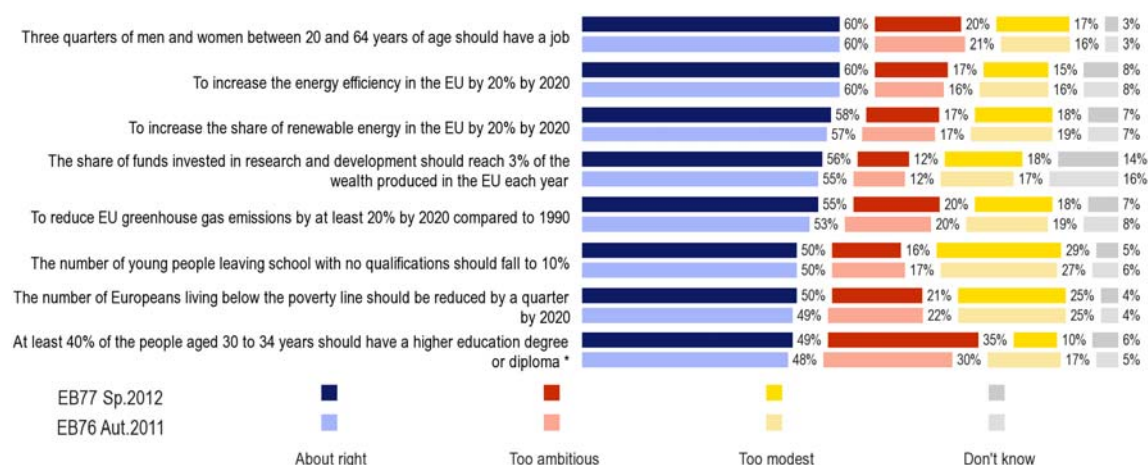
II. OPINIONS ON THE EU'S EUROPE 2020 TARGETS

- The Europe 2020 targets are still seen as realistic by a majority of Europeans, despite a very slight decline since spring 2010 -

Respondents were then asked to assess the credibility of the EU's Europe 2020 strategy targets, based on three possible answers: "about right", "too ambitious" or "too modest"⁶. As in the previous surveys, a large majority of Europeans consider that the targets tested are "about right", i.e. credible. An absolute majority of respondents say that seven of the eight targets are realistic and the remaining target is seen as feasible by a relative majority. In more detail:

- 60% of Europeans agree that the targets proposing that "three-quarters of men and women aged between 20 and 64 should have a job" and to "increase energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020" are realistic.
- 58% consider that the target of "increasing the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020" is credible.
- 56% agree on the feasibility of the target of ensuring that "the share of funds invested in research and development should reach 3% of the wealth produced in the EU each year".
- 55% consider that the target of "reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 compared to 1990" is "about right".
- 50% think that the targets of "reducing the number of young people leaving school with no qualifications to 10%" and "reducing the number of Europeans living below the poverty line by a quarter by 2020" are realistic.
- Finally, 49% consider that the target of ensuring that "at least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 years should have a higher education degree or diploma" is realistic, while 35% believe that it is "too ambitious" and 10% find it "too modest".

QB2. Thinking about each of the following objectives to be reached by 2020 in the EU, would you say that it is too ambitious, about right or too modest?



EU27

* This item was worded slightly differently in the EB76 survey:
 "At least 40% of the younger generation should have a degree or diploma"

⁶ QB2. Thinking about each of the following objectives to be reached by 2020 in the EU, would you say that it is too ambitious, about right or too modest?

As with the previous indicator, the results for this indicator have been exceptionally stable since its introduction. There have been few changes since the autumn 2011 Eurobarometer survey. The perceived credibility of three targets is stable, while it has increased by one percentage point for four of them and by two points for the remaining target. As a result of the increase in the “too ambitious” answers (+5 points) for the target of increasing to 40% the proportion of the younger generation with a degree or diploma, the ratio has narrowed slightly (49% versus 35% today, compared with 48% versus 30% in autumn 2011), but this change can undoubtedly be attributed in part to the change in the wording of this item*. The fact remains, however, that the conclusion is the same as that in previous reports, namely that a majority of Europeans consider that all the Europe 2020 targets are realistic and attainable.

The long-term trend suggests that, although the changes since the spring 2010 survey (EB73) are negligible, this indicator has been nevertheless been affected very slightly by the crisis. Although perceptions of the realism of the environmental and R&D targets have remained stable between spring 2010 and spring 2012, support for the credibility of the social targets (employment, number of young people with no qualifications, reducing poverty, increasing the education level of a given age group) has fallen by three percentage points over the same period. Therefore, although a majority of respondents still see these targets as realistic, there is a slight downward trend, probably due to economic and social difficulties within the European Union.

QB2 Thinking about each of the following objectives to be reached by 2020 in the EU, would you say that it is too ambitious, about right or too modest? - %EU
Answer: About right

	EB73 Sp.2010	EB74 Aut.2010	Diff. Aut.2010 - Sp.2010	EB75 Sp.2011	Diff. Sp.2011 - Aut.2010	EB76 Aut.2011	Diff. Aut.2011 - Sp.2011	Diff. Aut.2011 - Sp.2010	EB77 Sp.2012	Diff. Sp.2012 - Aut.2011	Diff. Sp.2012 - Sp.2010
Three quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age should have a job	63%	59%	-4	61%	+2	60%	-1	-3	60%	=	-3
To increase the energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020	60%	59%	-1	60%	+1	60%	=	=	60%	=	=
To increase the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020	58%	57%	-1	57%	=	57%	=	-1	58%	+1	=
The share of funds invested in research and development should reach 3% of the wealth produced in the EU each year	56%	54%	-2	56%	+2	55%	-1	-1	56%	+1	=
To reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 compared to 1990	55%	53%	-2	54%	+1	53%	-1	-2	55%	+2	=
The number of young people leaving school with no qualifications should fall to 10%	53%	51%	-2	51%	=	50%	-1	-3	50%	=	-3
The number of Europeans living below the poverty line should be reduced by a quarter by 2020	53%	48%	-5	50%	+2	49%	-1	-4	50%	+1	-3
At least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 years should have a higher education degree or diploma *	52%	48%	-4	50%	+2	48%	-2	-4	49%	+1	-3

An analysis of the national results first reveals that respondents in Greece and Luxembourg are more sceptical about the realism of these targets. These are the only two countries in which not one of the eight targets was thought to be realistic by an absolute majority. Next, the analysis shows that there are greater contrasts between countries on the education targets (reducing the number of young people without qualifications and ensuring that at least 40% of people aged 30 to 34 have a higher education degree or diploma) and the social target of combating poverty than on the environmental, employment and R&D targets.

In more detail, **the objective of ensuring that three-quarters of men and women aged between 20 and 64 years should have a job** is seen as realistic by an absolute majority of respondents in 23 EU countries – led by Romania (71%) – and by a relative majority in Sweden (49%), Luxembourg (47%), Cyprus (42%) and Greece (40%). Respondents in Greece are the most likely to see this target as too ambitious (31%).

Increasing energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020 is seen as realistic by an absolute majority of respondents in 24 Member States – most strikingly in Lithuania (72%) – and by a relative majority in Austria (48%), Luxembourg (48%) and Greece (47%). Whereas the “too modest” and “too ambitious” results are fairly evenly balanced in Luxembourg and Greece, respondents in Austria are far more likely to mention “too modest” (33%, versus 14% for “too ambitious”). These are also the only three countries where fewer than half the respondents say that the objective of **increasing the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020** is realistic (45% in Luxembourg, 46% in Greece and 47% in Austria). Again, opinion in Austria stands out, 37% of respondents saying that this target is too modest (versus 14% for “too ambitious”).

The target of investing 3% of the wealth produced in the European Union to research & development is seen as credible by an absolute majority of respondents in 23 countries, led by Lithuania (67%), and by a relative majority in France (49%), Greece (41%) and Luxembourg (39%).





























The target of reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to 1990 is considered realistic by an absolute majority of respondents in 18 EU countries, the highest score being recorded in Italy (65%). A relative majority of respondents think that it is achievable in the nine remaining countries: Hungary (49%), the Netherlands (48%), Denmark (48%), Sweden (46%), Belgium (46%), Austria (45%), Greece (43%), Cyprus (42%) and Luxembourg (38%). In this group of countries, respondents in Luxembourg are the most likely to consider that this objective is too ambitious (30%), while those in Sweden are the most likely to take the opposite view (39% for “too modest”).

Sweden stands out as regards the target of **reducing the number of young people leaving school with no qualifications to 10%** in that it is the only EU country where a majority of respondents say that it is too modest (54%). This target is seen as realistic by an absolute majority in 13 EU countries, notably in Romania (65%). It is also seen as predominantly realistic in the 13 other EU countries, but by narrow margins in Luxembourg (37% see it as realistic, versus 36% for “too modest”), Germany (43% versus 41%), Austria (42% versus 37%), France (41% versus 36%) and Belgium (42% versus 35%). However, in Cyprus, where 42% answered “about right”, and Greece (41%), respondents are more likely to see the target as too ambitious (31% in both countries) than as too modest.

The target of **reducing the number of EU citizens living in poverty by a quarter** is not predominantly seen as realistic in three EU countries: Sweden (44% replied “too modest”, 13% “too ambitious” and 40% “about right”), Greece (37% for “too modest”, 33% for “too ambitious” and 28% for “about right”) and Cyprus (36% for “too ambitious”, 33% for “too modest” and 30% for “about right”). Respondents in Austria are divided between “about right” and “too modest” (41% each). This target is regarded as realistic by a relative majority of respondents in 12 countries and by an absolute majority in 11, the highest score being recorded in Romania (65%).

Finally, eight countries stand out sharply in their opinions of the **target of ensuring that at least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 should have a higher education degree or diploma**. This target is seen as too ambitious by an absolute majority of respondents in the Netherlands (68%), Germany (58%) and Estonia (54%) and by a relative majority in Slovakia (48%, versus 43% who answered “about right”), the Czech Republic (47% versus 46%), Austria (47% versus 37%), France (46% versus 40%) and Luxembourg (44% versus 38%). However, it is seen as realistic in all the other Member States, with an absolute majority in nine countries, and the highest scores in Spain (64%) and Italy (63%).

QB2 Thinking about each of the following objectives to be reached by 2020 in the EU, would you say that it is too ambitious, about right or too modest?
Answer: About right

		Three quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age should have a job	To increase the energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020	To increase the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020	The share of funds invested in research and development should reach 3% of the wealth produced in the EU each year	To reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 compared to 1990	The number of young people leaving school with no qualifications should fall to 10%	The number of Europeans living below the poverty line should be reduced by a quarter by 2020	At least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 years should have a higher education degree or diploma *
	EU27	60%	60%	58%	56%	55%	50%	50%	49%
	BE	53%	52%	50%	53%	46%	42%	37%	43%
	BG	62%	57%	56%	50%	54%	50%	49%	42%
	CZ	51%	55%	52%	60%	51%	53%	41%	46%
	DK	62%	64%	57%	65%	48%	54%	52%	58%
	DE	57%	57%	51%	59%	52%	43%	46%	35%
	EE	57%	58%	58%	52%	51%	45%	46%	34%
	IE	57%	51%	52%	51%	52%	49%	48%	48%
	EL	40%	47%	46%	41%	43%	41%	28%	46%
	ES	62%	67%	68%	61%	63%	61%	61%	64%
	FR	58%	61%	57%	49%	51%	41%	39%	40%
	IT	66%	66%	64%	57%	65%	58%	58%	63%
	CY	42%	55%	56%	52%	42%	42%	30%	48%
	LV	59%	67%	67%	61%	61%	49%	55%	47%
	LT	66%	72%	69%	67%	63%	56%	64%	59%
	LU	47%	48%	45%	39%	38%	37%	37%	38%
	HU	53%	55%	51%	55%	49%	47%	39%	51%
	MT	59%	62%	60%	51%	56%	60%	55%	46%
	NL	58%	58%	54%	55%	48%	47%	46%	26%
	AT	57%	48%	47%	54%	45%	42%	41%	37%
	PL	59%	64%	60%	60%	61%	56%	56%	59%
	PT	61%	56%	55%	55%	54%	56%	54%	55%
	RO	71%	60%	61%	55%	58%	65%	65%	58%
	SI	64%	68%	65%	61%	60%	61%	53%	46%
	SK	53%	57%	57%	55%	52%	58%	44%	43%
	FI	55%	61%	62%	59%	50%	52%	41%	45%
	SE	49%	59%	53%	59%	46%	35%	40%	59%
	UK	65%	60%	58%	54%	54%	48%	54%	49%
Highest percentage per country		Lowest percentage per country							
		Highest percentage per item				Lowest percentage per item			

III. THE DIRECTION TAKEN BY THE EU TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS

- The decline in approval of the EU's policy for emerging from the crisis has been halted in this survey -

With a decrease of eight percentage points, approval of the policy pursued by the European Union to emerge from the crisis had declined sharply in the previous Eurobarometer survey in autumn 2011 (EB76). That trend has been halted in this survey and has even been reversed slightly, but without a return to spring 2011 levels (EB75).





























Four out of ten Europeans now consider that the EU "is going in the right direction to exit the crisis and face the new world challenges", a rise of two percentage points since the autumn 2011 Eurobarometer survey (EB76). However, 31% (unchanged) consider that the EU is going in the wrong direction, while 20% (unchanged) answered spontaneously that the EU is going in neither the right direction nor the wrong direction and 9% (-2 points) did not express an opinion⁷. Therefore, the ratio of positive to negative judgements has improved in six months, from 38%-31% in autumn 2011 to 40%-31% now. However, it is still far less favourable than in spring 2011 (EB75) and autumn 2010 (EB74): 46%-23%.

The positive-negative ratio is narrow in the EU15 countries (37% versus 33%) and in the Eurozone countries (36% versus 32%). Positive assessments have increased by two percentage points in EU15 and by one point in the Eurozone, while negative opinions are unchanged. The ratio is far more favourable in the non-Eurozone countries (47%-28%, versus 46%-29% in autumn 2011) and the NMS12 countries (50%-21%, versus 51%-23% in autumn 2011).

As in the previous survey, assessments are predominantly negative in five countries: Greece (56%), Spain (46% versus 24%), the United Kingdom (40% versus 38%), Portugal (38% versus 27%) and Italy (38% versus 17%). Except in the United Kingdom, where the positive-negative ratio has improved by 8 percentage points, there is a clear downward trend in the four other countries: the positive-negative ratio has deteriorated by 24 percentage points in Greece, by 8 points in Italy and Portugal and by 4 points in Spain.

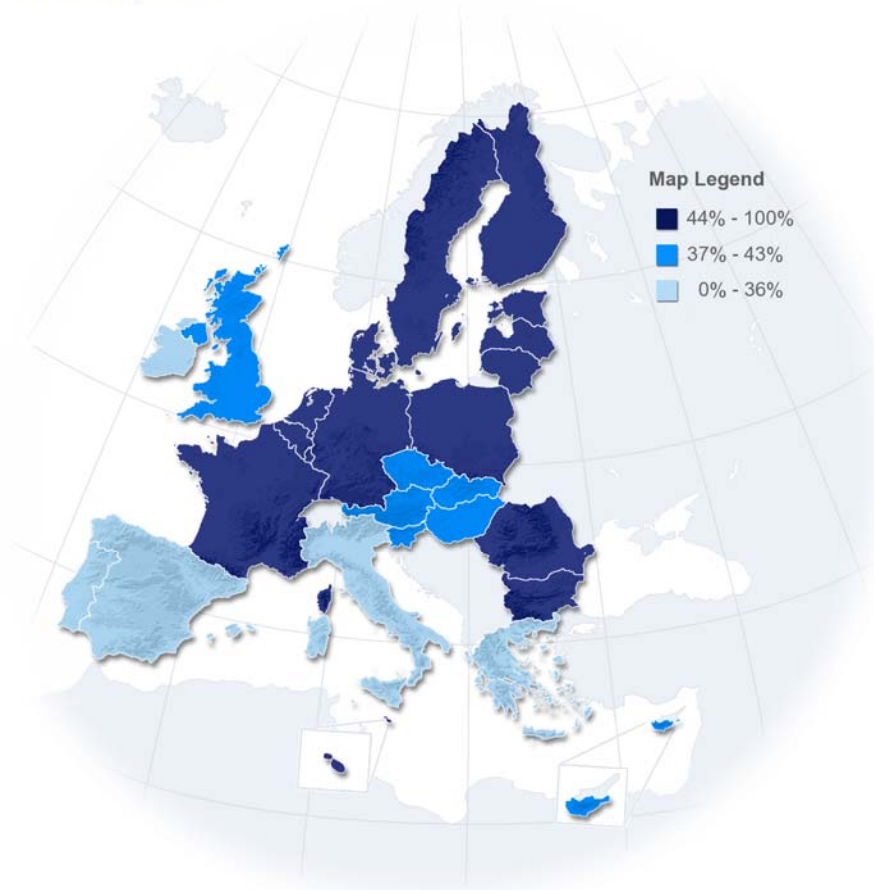
⁷ QB3. Having heard about the priorities of the EU, do you think that the EU is going in the right direction or in the wrong direction to exit the crisis and face the new world challenges?

However assessments are predominantly positive in 22 European Union countries, commanding an absolute majority in 10 countries: Lithuania (64%), Sweden (63%), Denmark (55%), Finland (55%), Romania (54%), Bulgaria (53%), Estonia (52%), Poland (52%), Germany (50%) and Latvia (50%); and a relative majority in 12 countries: the Netherlands (48% versus 32%), Malta (46% versus 19%), France (45% versus 28%), Belgium (44% versus 32%), Luxembourg (44% versus 26%), Slovakia (43% versus 32%), the Czech Republic (42% versus 32%), Cyprus (41% versus 26%), Slovenia (41% versus 28%), Hungary (39% versus 32%), Austria (38% versus 31%, where 38% of respondents also spontaneously say “neither the one or the other”) and Ireland (33% versus 20%, behind 38% for “neither the one or the other”).

	LT	64%
	SE	63%
	DK	55%
	FI	55%
	RO	54%
	BG	53%
	EE	52%
	PL	52%
	LV	50%
	DE	50%
	NL	48%
	MT	46%
	FR	45%
	LU	44%
	BE	44%
	SK	43%
	CZ	42%
	CY	41%
	SI	41%
	EU	40%
	HU	39%
	AT	38%
	UK	38%
	IE	33%
	PT	27%
	ES	24%
	EL	22%
	IT	17%

Question: QB3. Having heard about the priorities of the EU, do you think that the EU is going in the right direction or in the wrong direction to exit the crisis and face the world new challenges?





























Answers: In the right direction



Within this group of countries where approval of the crisis exit strategy is dominant, there are contrasting trends. Whereas the opinion ratio has improved significantly in France (+15 percentage points), Romania (+12), Germany (+8) and the Netherlands (+6), it has deteriorated sharply in Cyprus (-20), Malta (-12), Bulgaria (-9), Sweden (-8) and Slovenia (-6).






QB3 Having heard about the priorities of the EU, do you think that the EU is going in the right direction or in the wrong direction to exit the crisis and face the world new challenges?

+ Diff. Sp.2012 - Aut.2011

		In the right direction		In the wrong direction		Neither the one or the other (SPONT.)		Don't know	
	EU27	40%	+2	31%	=	20%	=	9%	-2
	LT	64%	-1	11%	=	13%	+2	12%	-1
	SE	63%	-4	20%	+4	10%	+3	7%	-3
	DK	55%	-1	29%	+2	9%	+1	7%	-2
	FI	55%	-2	27%	+1	10%	+2	8%	-1
	RO	54%	+8	17%	-4	15%	-4	14%	=
	BG	53%	-7	9%	+2	27%	+6	11%	-1
	EE	52%	-3	12%	-7	26%	+12	10%	-2
	PL	52%	-5	19%	-2	20%	+5	9%	+2
	DE	50%	+8	20%	=	26%	-4	4%	-4
	LV	50%	-3	15%	-3	23%	+4	12%	+2
	NL	48%	+4	32%	-2	9%	+2	11%	-4
	MT	46%	-6	19%	+6	20%	+3	15%	-3
	FR	45%	+8	28%	-7	15%	+1	12%	-2
	BE	44%	+1	32%	-3	22%	+4	2%	-2
	LU	44%	-5	26%	-1	22%	+5	8%	+1
	SK	43%	=	32%	-3	21%	+3	4%	=
	CZ	42%	-2	32%	-1	17%	+2	9%	+1
	CY	41%	-14	26%	+6	23%	+8	10%	=
	SI	41%	-2	28%	+4	25%	-1	6%	-1
	HU	39%	-4	32%	=	19%	+3	10%	+1
	AT	38%	-3	21%	-4	38%	+9	3%	-2
	UK	38%	+6	40%	-2	10%	-6	12%	+2
	IE	33%	+1	20%	-2	38%	+5	9%	-4
	PT	27%	-3	38%	+5	24%	+2	11%	-4
	ES	24%	-4	46%	=	20%	+4	10%	=
	EL	22%	-10	56%	+14	20%	-3	2%	-1
	IT	17%	-4	38%	+4	34%	+4	11%	-4

Opinions on the EU's crisis exit strategy are influenced significantly by the age, level of education and socio-economic conditions of the respondents. Approval of the EU's policy decreases linearly with age, from 50% among 15-24 year-olds to 36% among people aged 55 or over. Majorities approve of the policy in the most educated category (48% of the most educated respondents say that the EU is going in the right direction while 27% take the opposite view), managers (48% versus 27%), financially secure respondents (46% versus 27% among respondents who almost never have difficulty paying their bills) and those who place themselves at the top of the social scale (53% versus 24%). However, disapproval is more widespread among the least educated respondents (36% disapproval versus 29% approval among those who left school before the age of 16), unemployed people (40% versus 31%), respondents with financial difficulties (41% versus 27% among those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time) and those who consider themselves to be working class (35% versus 34%).

QB3 Having heard about the priorities of the EU, do you think that the EU is going in the right direction or in the wrong direction to exit the crisis and face the world new challenges?

	In the right direction	In the wrong direction	Neither the one or the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	40%	31%	20%	9%
 Gender				
Male	41%	33%	19%	7%
Female	39%	29%	21%	11%
 Age				
15-24	50%	24%	18%	8%
25-39	42%	31%	19%	8%
40-54	37%	34%	21%	8%
55 +	36%	30%	22%	12%
 Education (End of)				
15-	29%	36%	23%	12%
16-19	38%	32%	21%	9%
20+	48%	27%	18%	7%
Still studying	53%	22%	17%	8%
 Occupation scale				
Self-employed	39%	33%	21%	7%
Managers	48%	27%	18%	7%
Other white collars	40%	30%	21%	9%
Manual workers	40%	32%	20%	8%
House persons	32%	32%	24%	12%
Unemployed	31%	40%	20%	9%
Retired	38%	29%	21%	12%
Students	53%	22%	17%	8%
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	27%	41%	21%	11%
From time to time	35%	34%	22%	9%
Almost never	46%	27%	19%	8%
Consider belonging to				
The working class	34%	35%	21%	10%
The middle class	45%	28%	19%	8%
The upper class	53%	24%	18%	5%

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 12th and the 27th of May 2012, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 77.3 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Speechwriting".

This wave is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 77 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 77 has also been conducted in the six candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia) 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.

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:

**Statistical Margins due to the sampling process
(at the 95% level of confidence)**

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1	N=1000
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

ABBR.	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.076	12/05/2012	25/05/2012	8.866.411
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.016	12/05/2012	21/05/2012	6.584.957
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.002	12/05/2012	24/05/2012	8.987.535
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.007	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	4.533.420
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.502	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	64.545.601
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.000	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	916.000
IE	Ireland	Ipsos MRBI	1.000	12/05/2012	25/05/2012	3.375.399
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.001	12/05/2012	25/05/2012	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.006	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	39.035.867
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.007	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	47.620.942
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.036	12/05/2012	24/05/2012	51.252.247
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	505	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	651.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.007	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	1.448.719
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.019	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	2.849.359
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	507	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann Kft	1.010	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	12/05/2012	26/05/2012	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.012	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	13.288.200
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	993	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	6.973.277
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	32.306.436
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.010	14/05/2012	27/05/2012	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.073	12/05/2012	22/05/2012	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.023	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	1.748.308
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.000	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	4.549.954
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.001	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	4.412.321
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.019	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	7.723.931
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.305	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	51.081.866
TOTAL EU27			26.637	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	406.834.359
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	Kadem	500	12/05/2012	25/05/2012	143.226
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	3.749.400
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.000	14/05/2012	27/05/2012	52.728.513
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.056	12/05/2012	18/05/2012	1.678.404
IS	Iceland	Capacent	500			252.277
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	1.015	12/05/2012	21/05/2012	492.265
RS	Serbia	TNS Medium Gallup	1.020	12/05/2012	17/05/2012	6.409.693
TOTAL			32.728	12/05/2012	27/05/2012	472.288.137