



Standard Eurobarometer 78 Autumn 2012

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

FIRST RESULTS

Fieldwork: November 2012

Publication: December 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

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 78 / Autumn 2012 – TNS Opinion & Social

Standard Eurobarometer 78
Autumn 2012

First results

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

Survey coordinated by the European Commission's
Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM "Research and Speechwriting" Unit)

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the First results of the Standard Eurobarometer 78 survey, which was carried out between 3 and 18 November 2012, in 34 countries or territories¹: the 27 European Union (EU) Member States, 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 that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

This “First results” report provides a selection of data on various topics such as the economy and the European political situation. It is published jointly with the results of the Standard Eurobarometer questions on the economic crisis and other political trends in the EU, which are set out in an annex.

The previous Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012 (EB77) was marked by the relative stability of most indicators regarding perceptions of the economic situation. It also highlighted a slight deterioration in the indicators of support for the European Union and its institutions: however, these evolutions needed to be analysed in the light of the significant declines recorded in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2011 (EB76).

Just after the launch of this autumn 2012 survey, the European Commission published its economic forecasts for autumn 2012²: these pointed to a low annual GDP growth rate of 0.5% for the EU in 2013, while GDP in the euro area is expected to remain unchanged. An increase is forecast in 2014, with GDP growth expected to rise to around 1.5% in the EU and the euro area.

The weeks and months before the survey was carried out were marked by several major events for the EU and its institutions. Important steps were taken towards a more integrated European Union: the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) was established on 27 September, after ratification by Germany. The Treaty on Stability, Cooperation and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union was ratified by several additional Member States, marking a further step towards adoption at EU level, expected in early January 2013. Another encouraging event was the official recognition of the EU's work to promote democracy, peace and human rights through the announcement of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2012 on 12 October.

National elections took place in Lithuania and in the Netherlands. During the survey, the first round of the presidential election was held in Slovenia. In the spring Eurobarometer survey (EB77), the effects of the recent elections in France and Slovakia were clear, with evolutions in economic indicators and indicators of trust in political institutions recorded in these EU Member States³. In the autumn 2012 survey, these countries' results may show whether these increases were only a consequence of the recent political changes, or a more long-term positive trend in public opinion.

¹ Please consult the technical specifications for the exact fieldwork dates in each Member State

² http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/eu/forecasts/2012_autumn_forecast_en.htm

³ Large increases of most economic indicators, and of trust in national political institutions. More moderate increase in trust in the EU.

Outside Europe, Barack Obama was elected President of the United States for a second term on 6 November.

This report focuses on the results obtained in the 27 EU Member States and is divided into five main parts. The first part analyses how Europeans perceive the current economic situation, while the second looks at the main concerns of Europeans and their expectations for the next twelve months. The report then considers how respondents view political institutions: national governments and parliaments, and the EU and its institutions. The fourth part is devoted to the euro and the issues raised by the crisis. Finally, the fifth part examines the way in which Europeans perceive the various initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy and whether they think that the European Union is going in the right direction to emerge from the crisis.

As these questions have been asked in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys we are able to analyse trends in opinion.

The methodology used is that of the Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication (“Research and Speechwriting” Unit)⁴. A technical note concerning the interviews conducted by the member institutes of the TNS Opinion & Social network is annexed to this report. It also specifies the confidence intervals⁵

In this report, the following abbreviations are used:

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	The United Kingdom
CY (tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	EU27	European Union – 27 Member States
HR	Croatia		
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 AREA	BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK
RS	Serbia	NON-EURO AREA	BG, CZ, DK, LV, LT, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK

* 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 take part in this survey.*

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

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

⁵ 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 were able to choose several answers to the same question

I. EUROPEANS AND THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

1. ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION: GENERAL AND PERSONAL ASPECTS

Overall, respondents' assessments of their household financial situation (+1 percentage point) and their own job situation (+1) have remained almost stable since the previous survey carried out in spring 2012, continuing the trend towards great stability in these indicators observed since autumn 2011. Perceptions of the economic situation nationally (stable), at European level (stable) and at a global level (+1) are also almost unchanged.

QA3a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

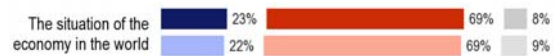
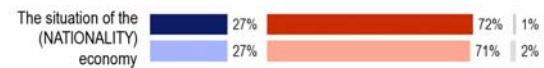


EB78 Aut.2012
EB77 Sp.2012

Total 'Good' Total 'Bad' Don't know

EU27

QA3a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?



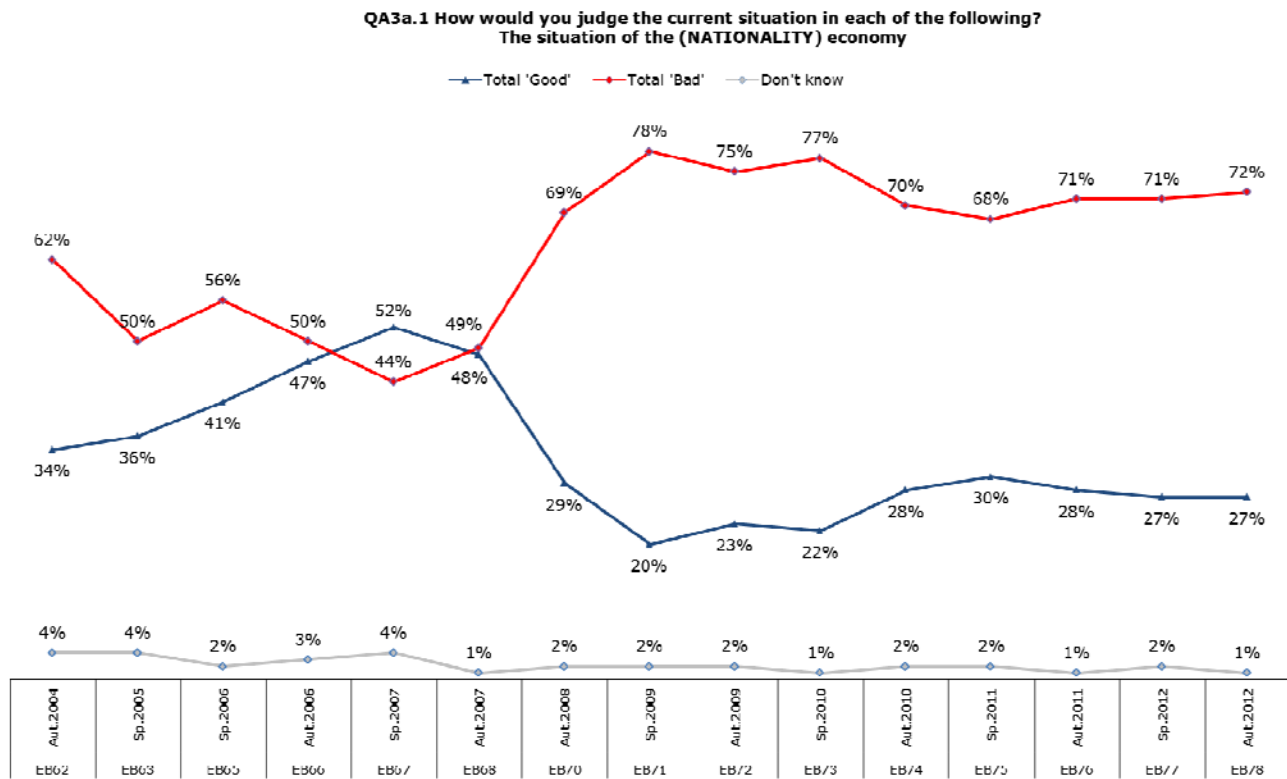
EB78 Aut.2012
EB77 Sp.2012

Total 'Good' Total 'Bad' Don't know

EU27

2. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE ECONOMY AT NATIONAL LEVEL: TREND

Perceptions of the national economic situation remain very gloomy, continuing a trend that began in 2007 and was amplified since autumn 2008 (EB70). The proportion of Europeans who say that the situation of their national economy is rather bad or very bad exceeds two-thirds for the ninth consecutive time. The aggregate EU-wide results in the 27 Member States conceals very contrasting situations from one Member State to another.

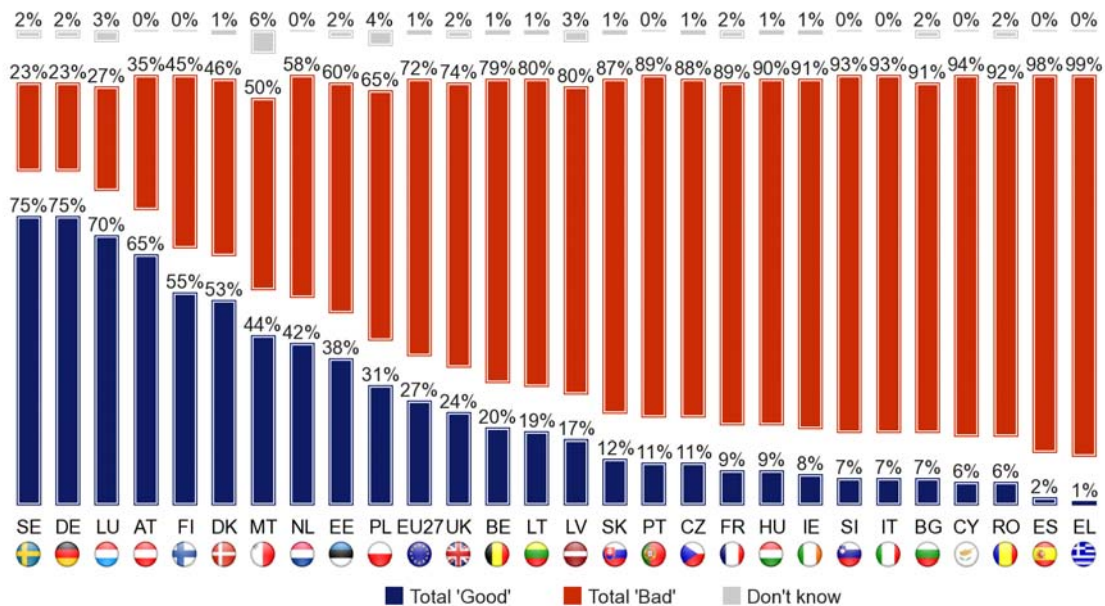


3. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE ECONOMY AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL RESULTS

Wide differences exist between EU Member States: in Sweden, Germany and Luxembourg, more than two-thirds of the population say that the situation of their national economy is good. At the other end of the scale, fewer than 5% of respondents agree in Spain and Greece. However, the gap between countries has somewhat narrowed since the spring 2012 survey: while 'good' assessments of the economy then ranged from 83% to 0%, they now range from 75% to 1%. Respondents in EU Member States where optimism was the strongest in spring 2012 are now slightly less optimistic (Sweden, Luxembourg, Germany and Finland), while those who were the most pessimistic are slightly less so (in Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland).

QA3a.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

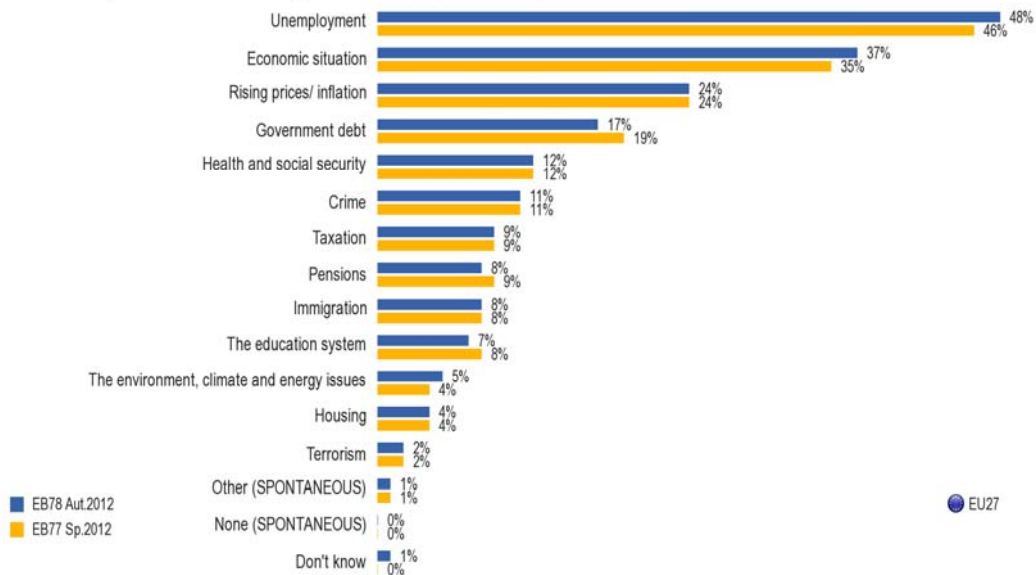


II. THE MAIN CONCERNS OF EUROPEANS

1. MAIN CONCERNS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

The answers regarding the main concerns of Europeans at national level are quite stable, with a continuing emphasis on economic matters: unemployment (48%, +2 percentage points, first place), and the economic situation in general (37%, +2, second place). Mentions of rising prices (24%) are unchanged, in third place, and government debt maintains its fourth place, despite a slight decrease (17%, -2). Answers for other issues are very stable and are all mentioned by less than one in eight Europeans.

QA5a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?



2. MAIN CONCERNS AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL RESULTS

Concerns about economic issues continue to outweigh social and other issues in European public opinion: in every EU Member State, the first item of concern is directly related to the economy. Unemployment is the most frequently mentioned concern in 18 Member States, with particularly high scores in Spain (78%), Cyprus (73%), and Ireland, Poland and Sweden (all 65%). Since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012, it has become the main concern in Belgium and in Greece. The economic situation is the first item mentioned in four Member States: Slovenia (60%), the Netherlands (55%), Romania (48%) and the Czech Republic (37%), and this issue also figures prominently in Cyprus (65%) and Denmark (58%). Rising prices are the main concern in Estonia (58%), Lithuania (43%), Malta (39%) and Austria (36%), but are also of serious concern in Poland (40%). As in the spring 2012 survey, Germany is the only Member State where government debt is the main worry for respondents (34%).

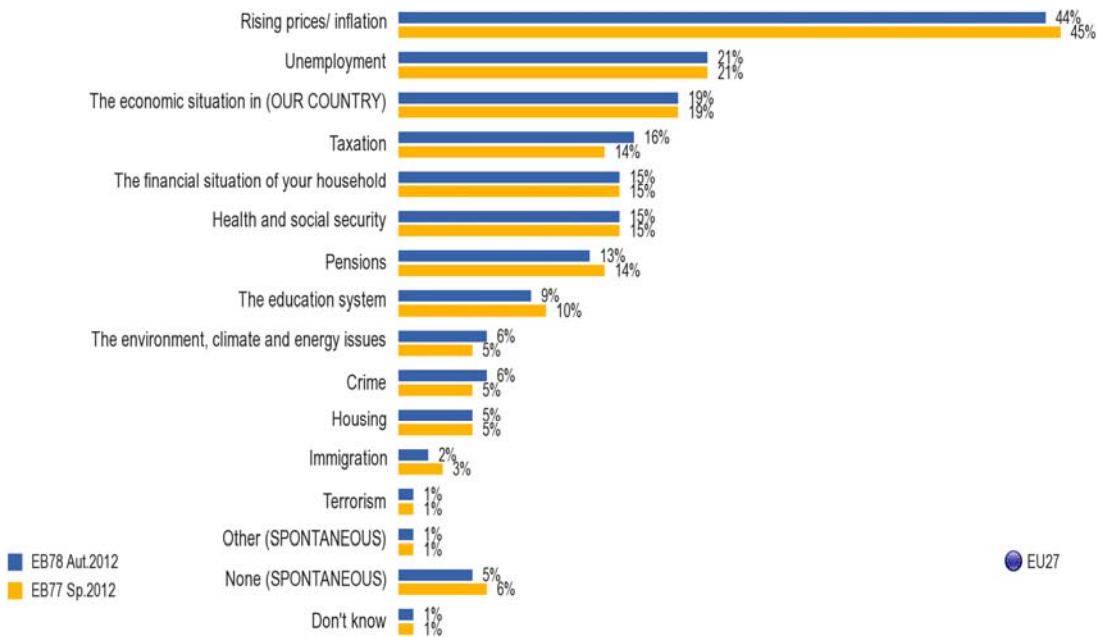
QA5a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?
(3 highest scores)

	UE27		IE		LT		PT
Unemployment	48%	Unemployment	65%	Rising prices/ inflation	43%	Unemployment	57%
Economic situation	37%	Economic situation	43%	Unemployment	42%	Economic situation	43%
Rising prices/ inflation	24%	Government debt	21%	Economic situation	36%	Rising prices/ inflation	25%
	BE		EL		LU		RO
Unemployment	44%	Unemployment	58%	Unemployment	45%	Economic situation	48%
Economic situation	40%	Economic situation	55%	Economic situation	31%	Rising prices/ inflation	37%
Rising prices/ inflation	23%	Government debt	20%	Housing	23%	Unemployment	32%
Government debt	23%						
	BG		ES		HU		SI
Unemployment	55%	Unemployment	78%	Unemployment	59%	Economic situation	60%
Economic situation	41%	Economic situation	55%	Economic situation	40%	Unemployment	55%
Rising prices/ inflation	35%	Government debt	10%	Rising prices/ inflation	30%	Government debt	22%
		Health and social security	10%				
	CZ		FR		MT		SK
Economic situation	37%	Unemployment	55%	Rising prices/ inflation	39%	Unemployment	50%
Rising prices/ inflation	35%	Economic situation	35%	Economic situation	33%	Economic situation	40%
Unemployment	35%	Rising prices/ inflation	20%	Government debt	24%	Rising prices/ inflation	38%
	DK		IT		NL		FI
Unemployment	61%	Unemployment	51%	Economic situation	55%	Unemployment	44%
Economic situation	58%	Economic situation	45%	Health and social security	46%	Health and social security	40%
Crime	13%	Taxation	28%	Unemployment	32%	Economic situation	28%
	DE		CY		AT		SE
Government debt	34%	Unemployment	73%	Rising prices/ inflation	36%	Unemployment	65%
Rising prices/ inflation	29%	Economic situation	65%	Economic situation	32%	Economic situation	31%
Economic situation	22%	Crime	12%	Unemployment	26%	Health and social security	28%
Unemployment	22%	Government debt	12%				
	EE		LV		PL		UK
Rising prices/ inflation	58%	Unemployment	51%	Unemployment	65%	Unemployment	40%
Economic situation	37%	Economic situation	41%	Rising prices/ inflation	40%	Economic situation	30%
Unemployment	30%	Rising prices/ inflation	23%	Economic situation	26%	Immigration	24%

3. MAIN CONCERNS AT PERSONAL LEVEL

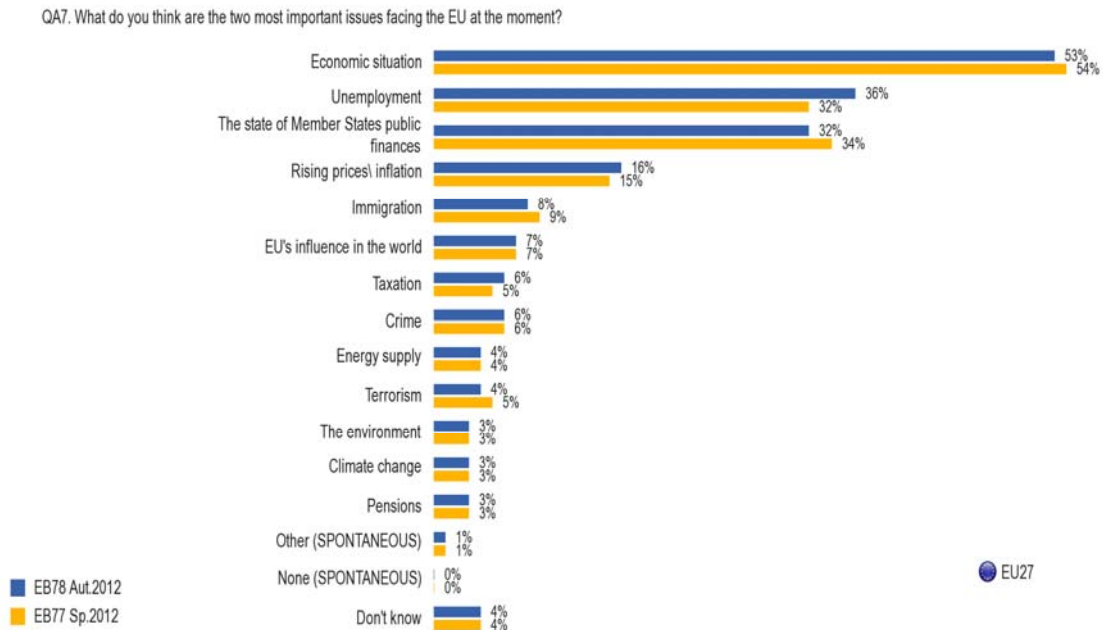
The main personal concerns of Europeans are quite stable, and are still largely dominated by rising prices/inflation (44%, -1). Unemployment (21%, unchanged) and the national economic situation (19%, unchanged) are second and third most important issues.

QA6a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?



4. MAIN CONCERNS AT EUROPEAN LEVEL: EVOLUTIONS

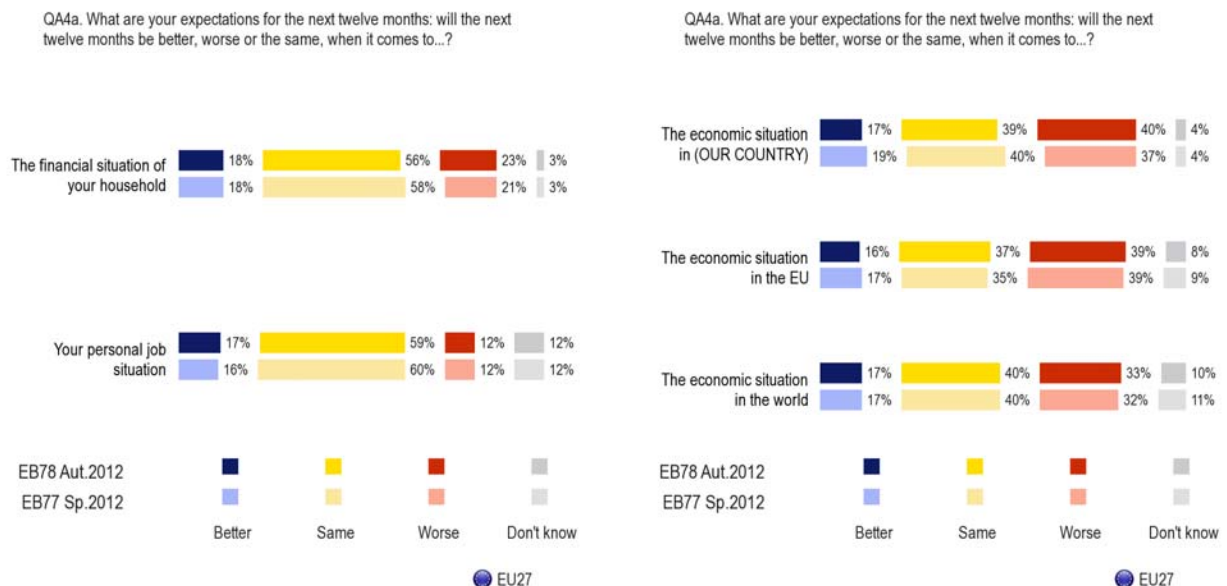
The economic situation remains the most important issue facing the EU according to most Europeans (53%, -1 percentage point). Unemployment is a growing concern and is now the second most frequently issue (36%, +4). The state of Member States' public finances is now the third most important issue (32%, -2).



5. EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS: GENERAL AND PERSONAL ASPECTS

Europeans' short-term expectations for their financial and employment situations have remained relatively stable since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012 (EB77). In both cases, a large majority of Europeans think that the next twelve months will be the same (56%, -2 percentage points, and 59%, -1 respectively). Close to a quarter consider that their household financial situation will worsen (23% vs. 18% who say that it will get better). When it comes to prospects for their job situation, 17% of Europeans are expecting it to be better in 12 months' time.

Expectations for the national economy over the next twelve months are lower than in spring 2012: the proportion of Europeans who fear that the situation will get worse has increased (40%, +3 percentage points), though without reaching the high level recorded in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2011 (EB76: 44%). The proportions have remained almost unchanged for the European economy (39%, stable) and the world economy (33%, +1).

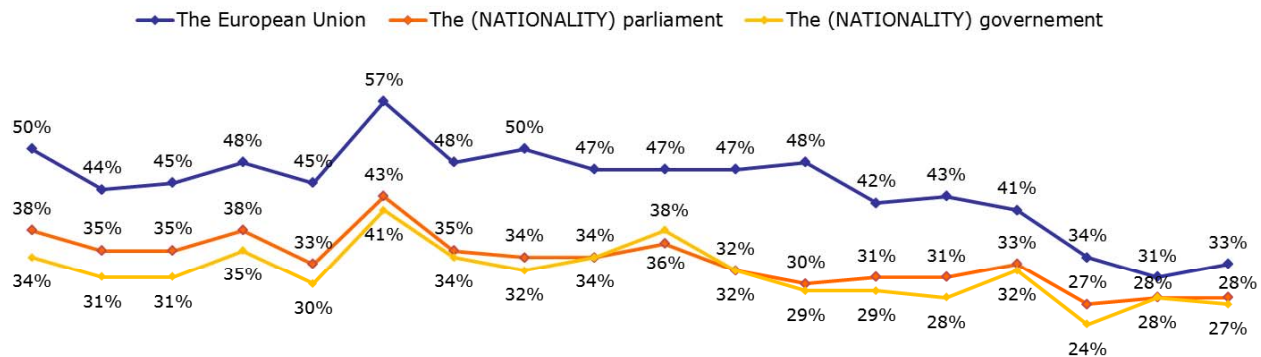


III. EUROPEANS AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

1. TRUST IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS AND IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND

Trust in the European Union has increased since spring 2012 (33%, +2 percentage points). Though limited, this 2-point rise is the largest since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2008 (EB69). Trust in the EU exceeds trust in national governments (27%, -1) and parliaments (28%, unchanged).

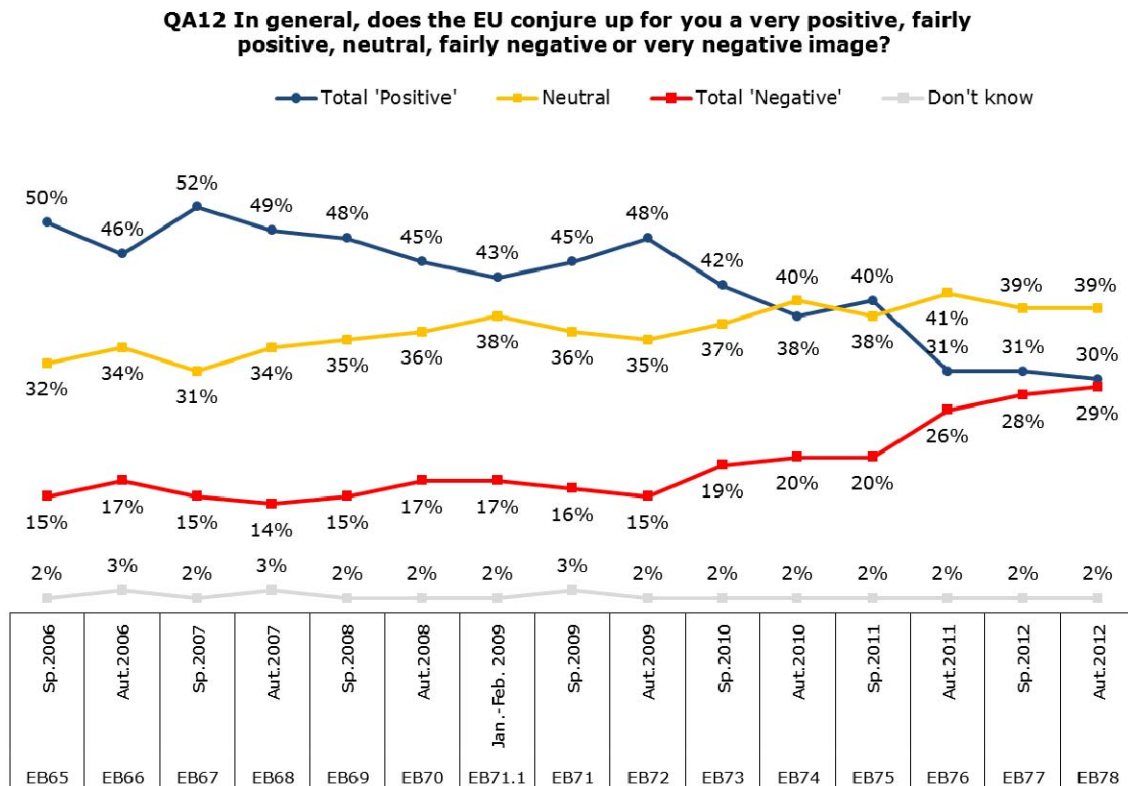
QA11 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.



Aut.2004	Sp.2005	Aut.2005	Sp.2006	Aut.2006	Sp.2007	Aut.2007	Sp.2008	Aut.2008	Jan.-Feb. 2009	Sp.2009	Aut.2009	Sp.2010	Aut.2010	Sp.2011	Aut.2011	Sp.2012	Aut.2012
EB62	EB63	EB64	EB65	EB66	EB67	EB68	EB69	EB70	EB71.1	EB71	EB72	EB73	EB74	EB75	EB76	EB77	EB78

2. THE EU'S IMAGE: TREND

A relative majority of Europeans have a neutral image of the EU (39%, unchanged). The proportion of respondents for whom the EU conjures up a positive image has fallen slightly (30%, -1); meanwhile, there has been a slight rise in the numbers with a negative image of the EU (29%, +1), continuing the trend observed since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2009 (EB72).

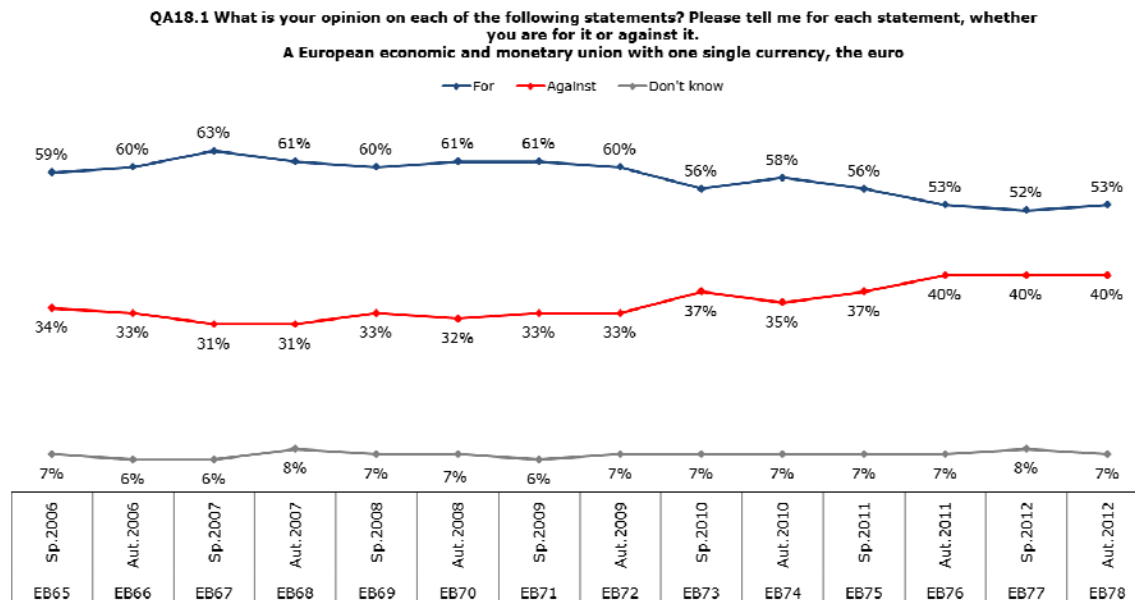


IV. THE CRISIS

1. SUPPORT FOR A EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION WITH A SINGLE CURRENCY, THE EURO: TREND

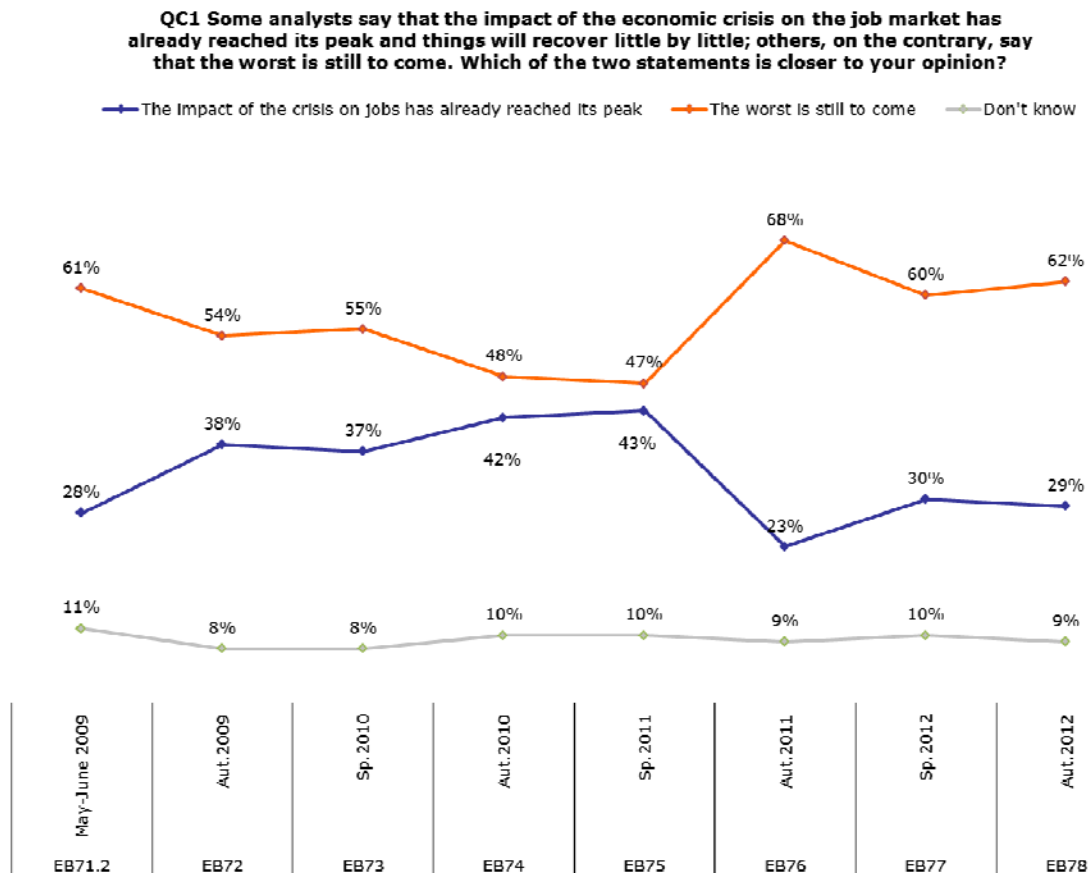
Support for European economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro, has remained almost stable: more than half of Europeans (53%, +1 percentage point since spring 2012) are for, and 40% against (unchanged).

Most Europeans continue to support the single currency, but EU-wide average conceals a wide variety of opinions in the different EU Member States: two-thirds of the respondents share this opinion in the euro area (66%), for only 30% outside the euro area.



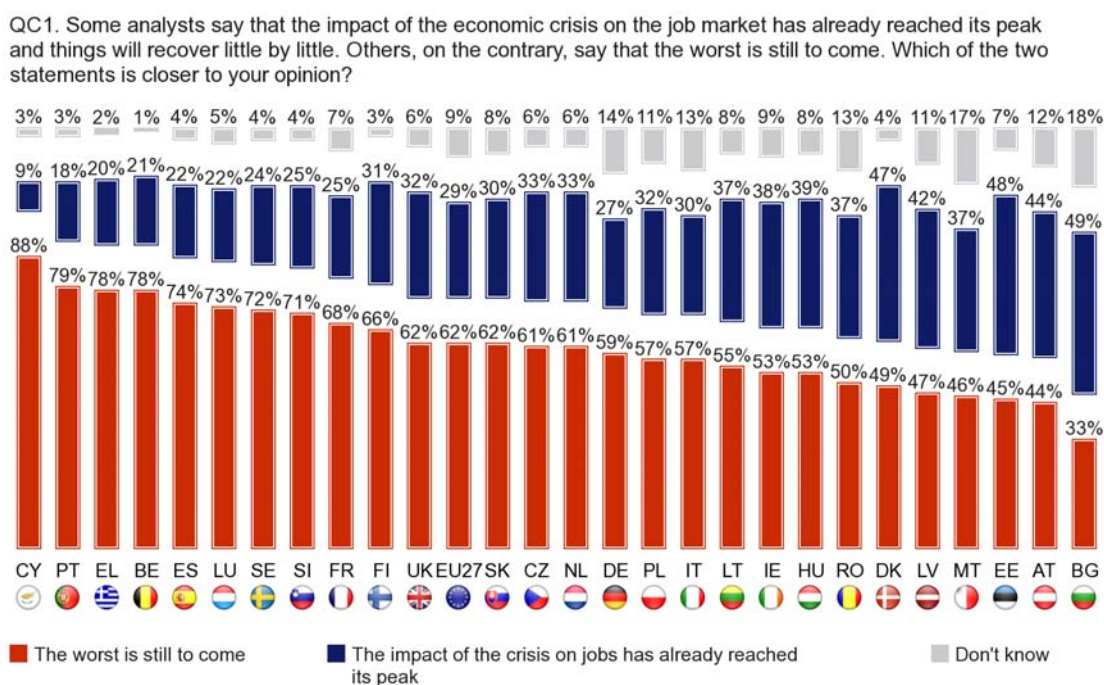
2. IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON JOBS: TREND

More than six Europeans in ten believe that "the worst is still to come" when it comes to the impact of the economic crisis on the job market (62%); furthermore, they are slightly more likely to say this than in spring 2012 (+2 percentage points). In contrast, 29% of respondents (-1) think that the impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak. After the very sharp deterioration in public opinion recorded in autumn 2011 (a 21-point rise for "the worst is still to come", at 68%), the Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012 had shown a decline in this opinion (-8 percentage points, at 60%). However, this positive trend did not last for long, and pessimism is regaining ground. The situation is now almost identical to the first time this question was asked, in May-June 2009 (61%, vs. 28% who said that the impact of the crisis on jobs had already reached its peak).



3. IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON JOBS: NATIONAL RESULTS AND EVOLUTIONS

There are wide differences in public opinion between the EU Member States on whether the “worst is still to come”, when it comes to the impact of the economic crisis on the job market. While more than three-quarters of the population hold this view in Belgium (78%), Greece (78%), Portugal (79%) and Cyprus (88%), this proportion falls to 45% in Estonia and 33% in Bulgaria: in these two Member States, it is the view of a minority of respondents. Despite these variations, in 24 Member States, majorities consider that the worst is still to come; respondents in Austria are evenly divided on this question.































Though the evolution at EU level has been relatively limited, the trend towards pessimism is more visible at national level, and has increased in 19 countries, most strikingly in Sweden (+14 percentage points, to 72%), Belgium (+13, 78%), Slovakia (+13, 62%) and Cyprus (+11, 88%). However, it should be remembered that in the Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012, pessimism had declined in 23 Member States, including these four.

In the euro area, slightly fewer respondents than in spring 2012 say that the impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak (27%, -2), whereas they are more optimistic in the Member States outside the euro area (34%, +2).

QC1 Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come.

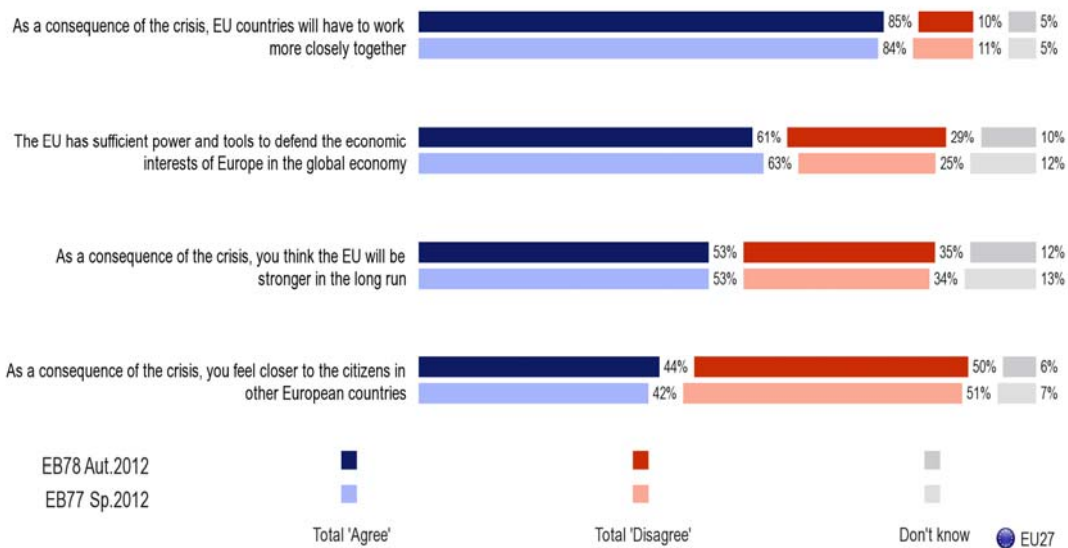
Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?

		The worst is still to come	Diff. Aut. 2012 - Sp. 2012	The impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak	Diff. Aut. 2012 - Sp. 2012	Don't know	Diff. Aut. 2012 - Sp. 2012
	EU27	62%	+2	29%	-1	9%	-1
	Euro area	64%	+3	27%	-2	9%	-1
	Non-Euro area	58%	=	34%	+2	8%	-2
	SE	72%	+14	24%	-13	4%	-1
	BE	78%	+13	21%	-11	1%	-2
	SK	62%	+13	30%	-15	8%	+2
	CY	88%	+11	9%	-8	3%	-3
	FR	68%	+9	25%	-7	7%	-2
	RO	50%	+8	37%	-5	13%	-3
	CZ	61%	+7	33%	-7	6%	=
	LU	73%	+6	22%	-6	5%	=
	DE	59%	+5	27%	-5	14%	=
	DK	49%	+4	47%	-4	4%	=
	PL	57%	+4	32%	=	11%	-4
	SI	71%	+4	25%	-4	4%	=
	FI	66%	+4	31%	-2	3%	-2
	ES	74%	+2	22%	-1	4%	-1
	LT	55%	+2	37%	-1	8%	-1
	EE	45%	+1	48%	-2	7%	+1
	EL	78%	+1	20%	=	2%	-1
	NL	61%	+1	33%	-1	6%	=
	PT	79%	+1	18%	+2	3%	-3
	AT	44%	=	44%	+1	12%	-1
	HU	53%	-1	39%	=	8%	+1
	LV	47%	-2	42%	+1	11%	+1
	IT	57%	-5	30%	+5	13%	=
	BG	33%	-7	49%	+7	18%	=
	IE	53%	-7	38%	+4	9%	+3
	MT	46%	-10	37%	+6	17%	+4
	UK	62%	-11	32%	+10	6%	+1

4. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CRISIS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

Opinions regarding the consequences of the crisis on the EU and its citizens have little changed since the Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012: a large majority of Europeans consider that EU countries will have to work more closely together (85%, +1 percentage point). More than half of Europeans also believe that the EU will be stronger in the long run as a result of the crisis (53%, stable). Though still a minority, slightly more respondents now say they feel closer to citizens in the other EU Member States (44%, +2). Finally, just above six Europeans in ten agree that the European Union has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy (61%, -2).

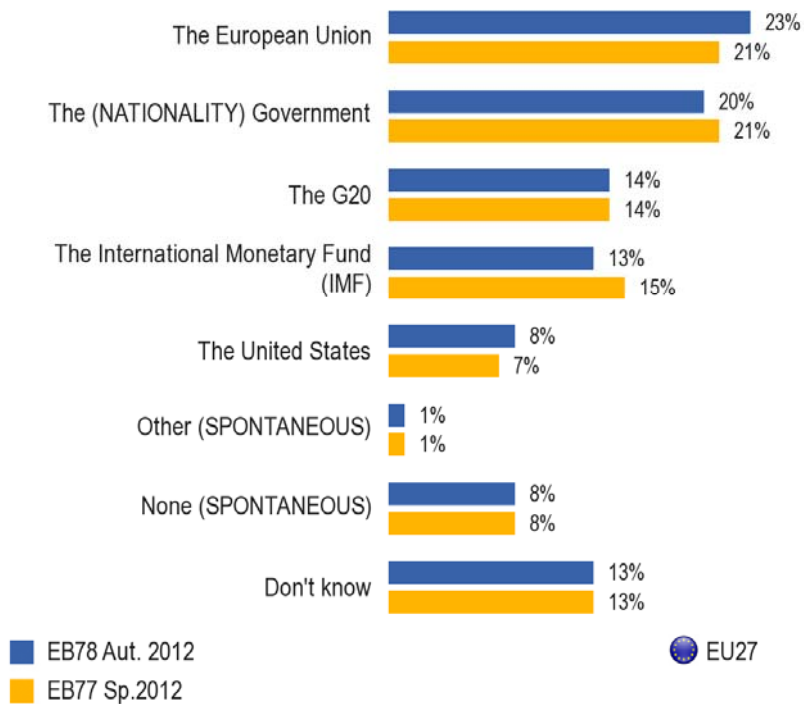
QC4. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.



5. WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE LEVEL AT WHICH TO TACKLE THE CRISIS?

The EU has strengthened its position as the actor best placed to take effective action against the effects of the economic and financial crisis: following a 2-point increase, close to a quarter of Europeans now hold this view (23%). This is the eighth successive time that Europeans have placed the EU first. The national government comes second (20%, -1), ahead of the G20 (14%, unchanged), and the IMF, in fourth place (13%, -2).

QC3a. In your opinion, which of the following is best able to take effective actions against the effects of the financial and economic crisis?



V. EUROPE 2020

1. PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY INITIATIVES

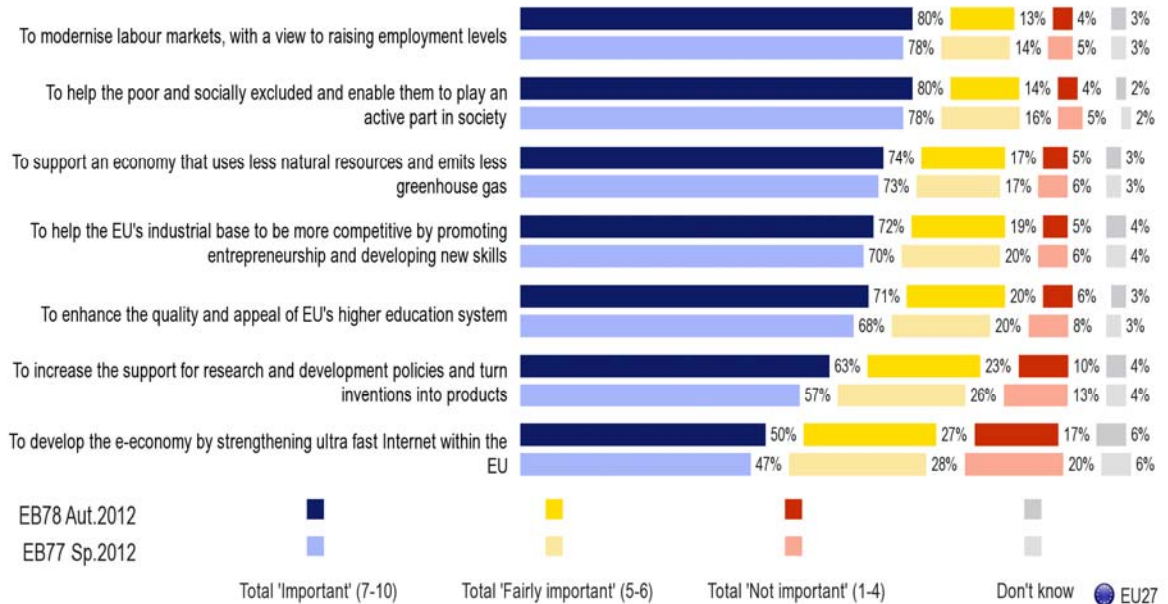
Public support for the Europe 2020 strategy and its objectives remains strong. In the Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012 the perceived importance of most of the Europe 2020 strategy initiatives had lost some ground compared with autumn 2011. This was the case for five of the seven initiatives; the two exceptions were “modernising labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels”, stable, and “helping the EU’s industrial base to be more competitive by promoting entrepreneurship and developing new skills”, with a 1-point increase. In this new Eurobarometer survey, the perceived importance of all the initiatives has risen. Public support for the Europe 2020 strategy, launched in March 2010 in order to prepare the EU economy for the challenges of the next decade, has grown since spring 2012.

Two initiatives are considered important by eight Europeans in ten: “modernising labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels” (80%, +2 percentage points since spring 2012) and “helping the poor and socially excluded and enabling them to play an active part in society” (80%, +2).

More than seven Europeans in ten think that it is important “to support an economy that uses less natural resources and emits less greenhouse gas” (74%, +1), “to help the EU’s industrial base to be more competitive by promoting entrepreneurship and developing new skills” (72%, +2) and “to enhance the quality and appeal of the EU’s higher education system” (71%, +3).

The last two initiatives are also perceived as important by large majorities of European citizens, though to a somewhat lesser extent. Furthermore, these two items registered noticeable increases in perceived importance: +6 percentage points for “increasing support for research and development policies and turning inventions into products” (63%); +3 for “developing the e-economy by strengthening ultra-fast Internet within the EU” (50%).

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".



2. THE EUROPE 2020 TARGETS

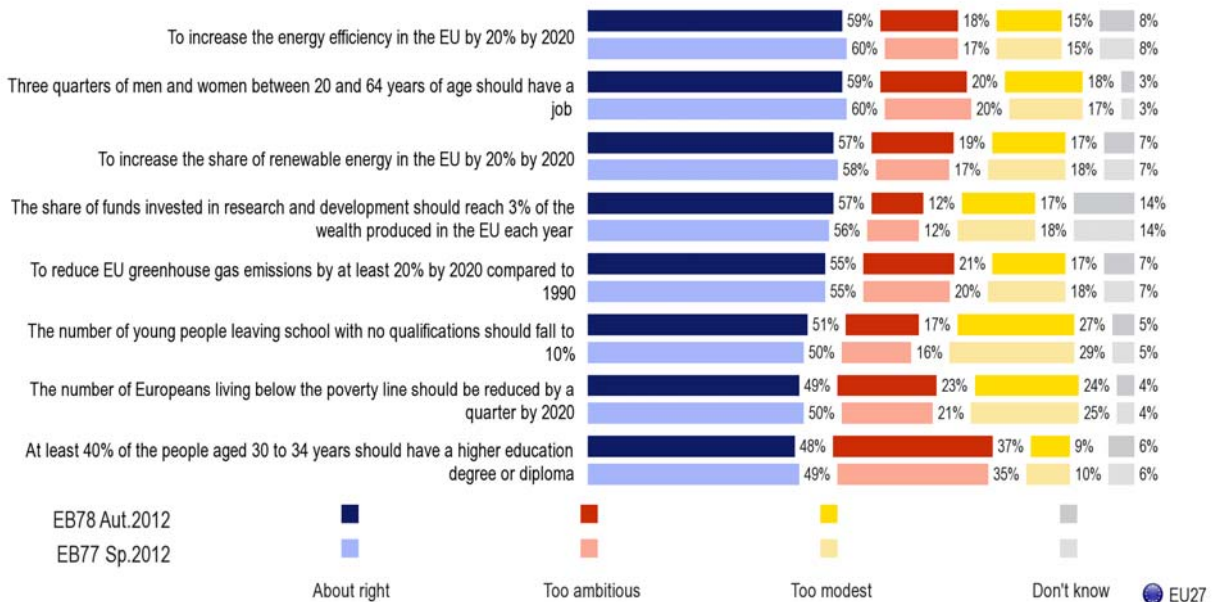
Large majorities of European citizens believe that the EU's Europe 2020 strategy objectives are "about right"; this opinion has changed only marginally since spring 2012.

The most credible targets for Europeans are "increasing energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020" (59%, -1 percentage point since spring 2012) and "three-quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age should have a job" (59%, -1).

At least 55% of respondents take the same view of the following three targets: "increasing the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020" (57%, -1 percentage point), "the share of funds invested in research and development should reach 3% of the wealth produced in the EU each year" (57%, +1) and "reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 compared to 1990" (55%, unchanged). More than half of Europeans also consider that it is reasonable to aim to reduce "the number of young people leaving school with no qualifications to 10%" (51%, +1).

Finally, relative majorities of Europeans believe that "the number of Europeans living below the poverty line should be reduced by a quarter by 2020" (49%, -1) and "at least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 years should have a higher education degree or diploma" (48%, -1).

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?

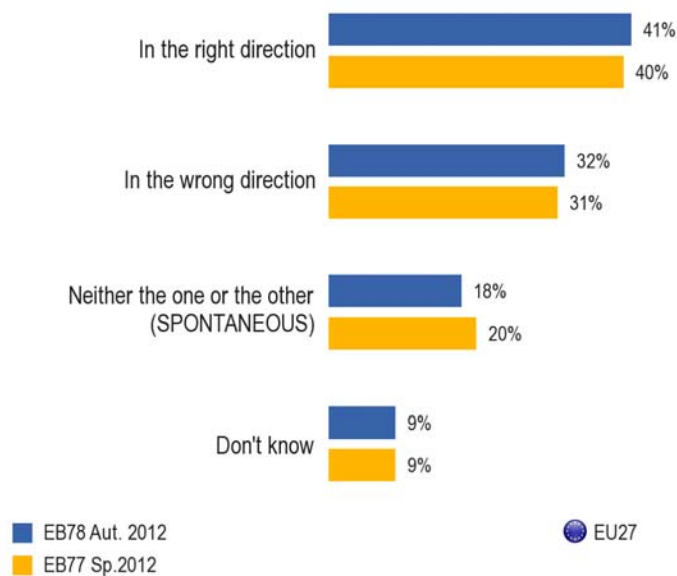


3. OVERALL

In line with their support for the Europe 2020 strategy (with majorities perceiving the various initiatives as important and the objectives as realistic), European citizens feel that the European Union is going “in the right direction” to emerge from the crisis and face the world new challenges (41%, +1 percentage point since spring 2012). Conversely, a substantial minority say that the EU is going “in the wrong direction” (32%, +1). Slightly less than one in five replied spontaneously “neither the one nor the other” (18%, -2) and 9% (unchanged) say that they “don’t know”.

While close to half the respondents outside the euro area think that the EU is going in the right direction (49%, vs. 29% “in the wrong direction”), opinions are more balanced within the euro area (37% vs. 33%).

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?



EU27

CONCLUSION

This report is based on the results of the Standard Eurobarometer questions regarding the economy and the European political situation. Opinions of Europeans about their personal situations and the economic situation in their country and in the European Union have remained relatively stable.

After the deterioration recorded in the Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2011, followed by the slight general improvement measured in spring 2012, the results of this new Standard Eurobarometer survey are generally fairly stable for most indicators: the situation of economy at the national and European levels is still perceived negatively by large majorities of Europeans; wide differences still exist between EU countries despite some narrowing trends. Expectations for the twelve months to come are also somewhat more pessimistic, especially when it comes to the national economy.

The economic and financial crisis continues to influence Europeans' answers throughout the survey; this is especially the case regarding their main concerns at personal, national and EU level.

A third of Europeans say they trust the European Union, and this proportion has slightly increased since spring 2012. The European Union continues to be seen as the actor best able to take effective action to tackle the effects of the crisis. Despite a slight fall, a large majority of Europeans continue to consider that the EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy.

Majorities of Europeans think that the economic crisis will have positive consequences for the EU: more than eight in ten say that the different EU Member States will have to work more closely together, and more than half consider that the EU will eventually emerge stronger from the economic crisis.

Finally, support for the Europe 2020 strategy remains strong, and a relative majority of Europeans think that the EU is going in the right direction to emerge from the crisis and face new challenges.

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 78

Public opinion in the European Union

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 3rd and the 18th of November, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 78.1 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Speechwriting".

The wave 78.1 is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 78 survey 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 78 survey 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	1.031	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	8.866.411
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.020	03/11/2012	11/11/2012	6.584.957
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.003	03/11/2012	14/11/2012	8.987.535
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.001	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	4.533.420
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.562	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	64.545.601
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.003	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	916.000
IE	Ireland	IMS Millward Brown	1.000	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	3.375.399
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.001	03/11/2012	17/11/2012	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.006	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	39.035.867
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.008	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	47.620.942
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.032	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	51.252.247
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	503	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	651.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.011	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	1.448.719
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.019	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	2.849.359
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	502	03/11/2012	17/11/2012	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann Kft	1.028	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.016	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	13.288.200
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	993	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	6.973.277
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	32.306.436
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.015	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.014	03/11/2012	13/11/2012	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.014	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	1.748.308
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.000	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	4.549.954
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.007	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	4.412.321
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.029	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	7.723.931
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.304	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	51.081.866
TOTAL EU27			26.622	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	406.834.359
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	Kadem	500	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	143.226
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	3.749.400
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.000	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	52.728.513
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.056	03/11/2012	09/11/2012	1.678.404
IS	Iceland	Capacent	502	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	252.277
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	1.017	03/11/2012	15/11/2012	492.265
RS	Serbia	TNS Medium Gallup	1.034	03/11/2012	15/11/2012	6.409.693
TOTAL			32.731	03/11/2012	18/11/2012	472.288.137