European Commission

Standard Eurobarometer 80
Autumn 2013

EUROPE 2020

REPORT

Fieldwork: November 2013

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

Standard Eurobarometer 80 / Autumn 2013 – TNS opinion & social

Eurobarometer

Standard Eurobarometer 80
Autumn 2013

Europe 2020

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

Survey coordinated by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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INTRODUCTION

The European Commission launched the Europe 2020 strategy in March 2010 with three aims: to emerge from the economic and financial crisis; to prepare the European economy for the challenges of the future; and to create the conditions for innovative, sustainable and inclusive growth for the benefit of all[1].

European public perceptions of this strategy have been monitored since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2010 (EB73)[2]. In this new survey of autumn 2013 (EB80), three indicators are used to assess opinion.

The first draws up a hierarchy of the seven flagship initiatives set out by the European Commission in the Europe 2020 strategy, based on their perceived importance.

The second measures how realistic European citizens believe the quantified targets of the strategy to be.

Finally, the third focuses on European public approval of the direction taken by the European Union in order to emerge from the crisis.

Since spring 2010, the Europe 2020 strategy indicators have been largely stable, a trend which continues in this most recent Standard Eurobarometer survey.

The full report of the Standard Eurobarometer 80 survey consists of several volumes. The first volume analyses current public opinion in the European Union. Four further volumes analyse the opinions of Europeans on other themes: European citizenship; the economic and financial crisis; the Europe 2020 strategy; and media use in the European Union. The present volume focuses on Europe 2020 strategy.

This Standard Eurobarometer survey was carried out between 2 and 17 November 2013[3] in 34 countries and territories: the 28 Member States of the European Union[4], the five candidate countries (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.

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm
[2] Fieldwork carried out in May 2010, a couple of months after the European Commission launched the Europe 2020 strategy (in March 2010)
[3] Please consult the technical specifications for the exact dates when the interviews were conducted in each country.
[4] This is the first Standard Eurobarometer since the accession of Croatia to the EU on 1 July 2013. Therefore, the results presented in this report represent the weighted average for the 28 Member States.

The methodology used is that of the Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)[5]. A technical note on the manner in which the interviews were conducted by the institutes within the TNS Opinion & Social network is appended as an annex to this report. This note also specifies the confidence intervals[6], which allow for the reliability of survey results to be evaluated, in line with the size of the sample compared with the total size of the population studied.

The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

ABBREVIATIONS			
BE	Belgium	LV	Latvia
BG	Bulgaria	LU	Luxembourg
CZ	Czech Republic	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
HR	Croatia	SI	Slovenia
IE	Ireland	SK	Slovakia
IT	Italy	FI	Finland
CY	Republic of Cyprus *	SE	Sweden
LT	Lithuania	UK	The United Kingdom
CY (tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	EU28	European Union– weighted average for the 28 Member States
TR	Turkey	Euro area	BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **	Non-euro area	BG, CZ, DK, HR, LT, LV, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK
IS	Iceland		
ME	Montenegro		
RS	Serbia		

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 Member States of the European Union. However, the "acquis communautaire" is suspended in the part of the country that is not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews conducted in the part of the country controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY" category and in the EU28 average. The interviews conducted in the part of the country that is not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY(tcc)" category [tcc: Turkish Cypriot Community].

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

[5] http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

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

I. THE PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S EUROPE 2020 INITIATIVES

This Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2013 first asked respondents to rate the importance of the seven initiatives set out in the Europe 2020 strategy[7]. To do this, they gave each initiative a score of between 1 and 10, where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "very important". The scores were then aggregated into three response categories ("important" for scores of 7 to 10, "fairly important" for scores of 5 and 6, and "not important" for scores of 1 to 4) in order to rank the perceived level of importance of each initiative.

As was the case in the previous Standard Eurobarometer of spring 2013 (EB79), an absolute majority of respondents regard all seven initiatives as important. On the whole, the hierarchy of initiatives has not changed: the social measures (employment and combatting exclusion) and environmental initiatives (supporting a sustainable economy) continue to top the list, as has been the case since this indicator was established in spring 2010 (EB73), ahead of measures to support competitiveness, education and innovation.

Compared with the spring 2013 survey, the perceived importance of six of these seven initiatives has increased slightly, while it remains unchanged for the seventh. This rise nevertheless comes after the reverse trend between autumn 2012 (EB78) and spring 2013 (EB79), meaning that this indicator has remained generally stable over a one-year period.

In more detail:

At least eight in ten Europeans regard the initiatives **"to help the poor and socially excluded and enable them to play an active part in society"** (81%, +3 percentage points since spring 2013) and **"to modernise labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels"** (80%, unchanged) as important.

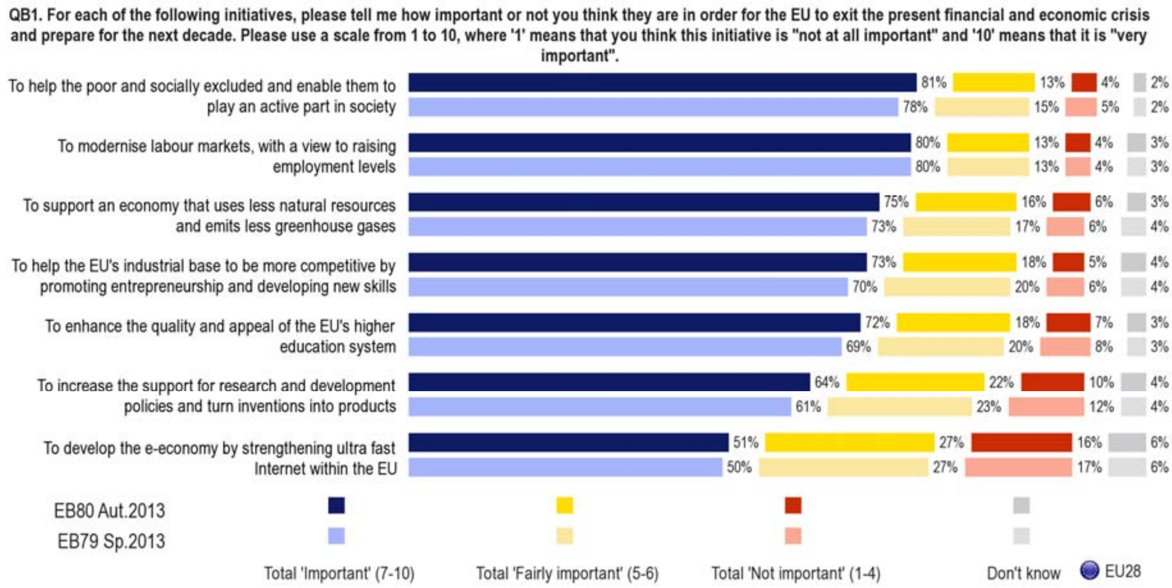
Three-quarters of respondents (75%, +2 percentage points) say it is important **"to support an economy that uses less natural resources and emits less greenhouse gases".**

More than seven in ten respondents agree that it is important **"to help the EU's industrial base to be more competitive by promoting entrepreneurship and developing new skills"** (73%, +3 percentage points) and **"to enhance the quality and appeal of the EU's higher education system"** (72%, +3).

Close to two-thirds (64%, +3 percentage points) believe that the initiative **"to increase the support for research and development policies and turn inventions into products"** is important.

[7] 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".

Finally, more than half of Europeans (51%, +1 percentage point) think it is important **"to develop the e-economy by strengthening ultra-fast Internet within the EU"**.



Six of these seven initiatives appear important to an absolute majority of respondents in all the Member States of the European Union (with the sole exception of the United Kingdom in the case of support for research policies). The seventh initiative, developing the e-economy and high-speed Internet in Europe, is more divisive, giving rise to more marked differences of opinion between the countries.

The seven initiatives are considered more important by respondents within the euro area than outside it, with differences varying from one percentage point more for "help the poor and socially excluded and enable them to play an active part in society" and "modernise labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels", to seven percentage points for "support an economy that uses less natural resources and emits less greenhouse gases".

At least seven in ten respondents recognise the importance of the initiatives to promote employment and social inclusion in each of the 28 Member States of the European Union. The perceived importance of **combatting social exclusion and promoting the social inclusion of vulnerable people** ranges from 91% in Greece, Spain, Finland and Cyprus, to 70% in Italy. Similarly, the perceived importance of **modernising the labour market and creating employment** ranges from 93% in Slovakia to 70% in France and Luxembourg.

The most significant evolutions occurred in Portugal (90%, +6 percentage points) and the United Kingdom (78%, +6) in the case of helping the poor and socially excluded and enabling them to play an active part in society, and in Portugal for modernising the labour market and creating employment (91%, +7).

More than six in ten respondents in each EU country believe it is important to support a **sustainable economy that emits less greenhouse gas** (from 92% in Sweden to 64% in the United Kingdom) and to **increase competitiveness by promoting entrepreneurship** (from 88% in Finland to 66% in the United Kingdom and Luxembourg).

The perceived importance of supporting a **sustainable economy that reduces the greenhouse effect** has risen significantly in Ireland (75%, +9 percentage points), Portugal (75%, +7), Latvia (73%, +7), France (71%, +6) and Belgium (77%, +6), while it has fallen the most in Poland (67%, -6). The belief that **supporting competitiveness** is important has become more widespread in Portugal (83%, +9), the Netherlands (79%, +8), Ireland (78%, +8), Latvia (83%, +6) and Austria (73%, +6), but has declined in Bulgaria (86%, -6).

At least six in ten respondents in each of the 28 Member States say it is important to **strengthen the appeal and quality of the higher education system,** with support ranging between 88% in Spain and 60% in France. The perceived importance of this initiative has increased by ten percentage points in Portugal (80%) and by six percentage points in Sweden (80%), Ireland (78%), Belgium (71%) and France (60%).

The United Kingdom is the only Member State where less than an absolute majority of respondents (49%, -1 percentage point) consider the initiative to **support research and innovation** as important. Conversely, this initiative is the most widely perceived as important in Spain (79%, +8). The perceived importance of this initiative has grown markedly in Portugal (72%, +10), Finland (68%, +9) and the Netherlands (69%, +9), but has fallen significantly in Slovenia (62%, -8).

Finally, the initiative to **develop the digital economy and high-speed Internet** is seen as important by less than half of respondents in eight countries (Sweden, Luxembourg, France, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Belgium, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands). The development of the digital economy is therefore considered important by an absolute majority of respondents in 20 Member States, led by Ireland (71%, +2 percentage points), Romania (67%, +9), Slovakia (67%, +6), Greece (66%, -4), Bulgaria (66%, -5) and Croatia (66%, +2). As well as in Romania and Slovakia, this initiative has also grown in perceived importance in Spain (56%, +6), while it has lost ground considerably in Malta (53%, -9) and Cyprus (51%, -7).

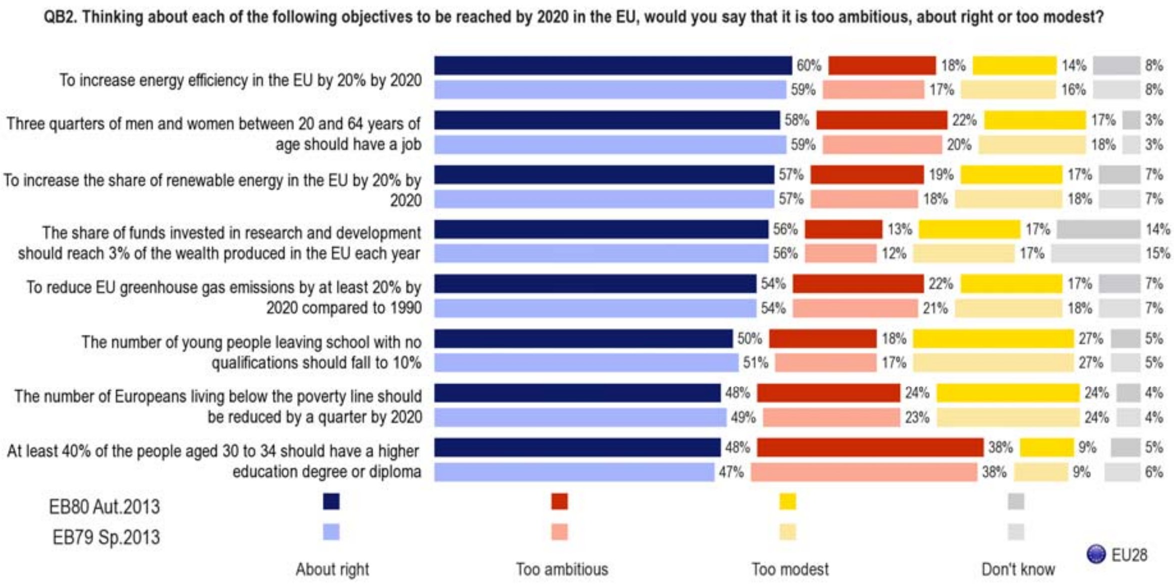
QB1. For each of the following initiatives, please tell me how important or not you think they are in order for the EU to exit the present financial and economic crisis and prepare for the next decade. Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where '1' means that you think this initiative is "not at all important" and '10' means that it is "very important".
Total 'Important' (7-10)

	To help the poor and socially excluded and enable them to play an active part in society	To modernise labour markets, with a view to raising employment levels	To support an economy that uses less natural resources and emits less greenhouse gases	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 the 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
EU28	81%	80%	75%	73%	72%	64%	51%
EURO AREA	81%	80%	78%	74%	74%	66%	52%
NON-EURO AREA	80%	79%	71%	71%	68%	60%	50%
BE	**81%**	80%	77%	70%	71%	60%	*44%*
BG	87%	**89%**	84%	86%	77%	74%	*66%*
CZ	75%	**86%**	77%	76%	66%	62%	*47%*
DK	78%	78%	75%	75%	**80%**	73%	*44%*
DE	**85%**	84%	84%	70%	84%	67%	*55%*
EE	78%	**79%**	74%	77%	73%	58%	*55%*
IE	**85%**	84%	75%	78%	78%	*67%*	71%
EL	**91%**	**91%**	82%	82%	87%	76%	*66%*
ES	**91%**	86%	83%	82%	88%	79%	*56%*
FR	**75%**	70%	71%	70%	60%	52%	*32%*
HR	**86%**	85%	80%	80%	80%	70%	*66%*
IT	70%	**72%**	69%	68%	62%	63%	*59%*
CY	91%	**92%**	73%	85%	76%	53%	*51%*
LV	79%	**87%**	73%	83%	75%	*58%*	*58%*
LT	**83%**	80%	78%	77%	74%	70%	*61%*
LU	**78%**	70%	73%	66%	70%	52%	*30%*
HU	79%	**80%**	79%	79%	67%	67%	*55%*
MT	89%	**90%**	84%	76%	85%	66%	*53%*
AT	80%	82%	**83%**	73%	76%	71%	*55%*
NL	**83%**	80%	79%	79%	73%	69%	*48%*
PL	**79%**	77%	67%	67%	62%	61%	*55%*
PT	90%	**91%**	75%	83%	80%	72%	*56%*
RO	85%	**86%**	74%	74%	78%	*65%*	67%
SI	**90%**	**90%**	79%	85%	63%	62%	*57%*
SK	83%	**93%**	80%	85%	78%	71%	*67%*
FI	91%	**92%**	85%	88%	69%	68%	*53%*
SE	88%	79%	**92%**	79%	80%	73%	*28%*
UK	**78%**	75%	64%	66%	64%	49%	*41%*

Highest percentage per country	*Lowest percentage per country*
Highest percentage per item	Lowest percentage per item

II. OPINIONS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION'S EUROPE 2020 QUANTIFIED TARGETS

After they had ranked the importance of the seven Europe 2020 initiatives, respondents were asked to give their opinion of the *quantified targets* set by the European Union as part of this strategy. The respondents were given three options ("about right", "too ambitious" or "too modest") in order to evaluate the realism of each of these targets[8]. Since it was established in spring 2010, this indicator has remained very stable. This Standard Eurobarometer of autumn 2013 continues the trend, with only minimal changes since spring 2013. As in previous surveys, the targets tested are all considered to be "about right", i.e. realistic and achievable, by an absolute majority of Europeans for six of them and by a relative majority for the remaining two.



In more detail:

- Six in ten Europeans (60%, +1 percentage point since spring 2013) say it is realistic "to increase energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020";
- 58% (-1) agree that it is feasible that "three-quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age should have a job";
- 57% (unchanged) say it realistic "to increase the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020";
- 56% (=) say that "the share of funds invested in research and development should reach 3% of the wealth produced in the EU each year" is a realistic target;
- 54% (=) believe that the target "to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 compared to 1990" is "about right";
- 50% (-1) consider that "the number of young people leaving school with no qualifications should fall to 10%" is an achievable target;
- 48% (-1) think that the target to "reduce the number of Europeans living below the poverty line by a quarter by 2020" is realistic, while 24% (unchanged) say it is too modest and 24% (+1) too ambitious;
- Finally, 48% (+1) say that "at least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 should have a higher education degree or diploma" is a feasible target, while 38% (=) think it too ambitious and 9% (=) too modest. Of the eight targets, this is by far the most widely regarded as too ambitious.

This indicator has undergone few changes. Since spring 2010, the tendency has been for the social and educational targets to be seen as slightly less realistic while the environmental and economic (investment in research) targets have generally remained at the same level. Thus the perceived feasibility of **getting three-quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age into employment** and of **reducing poverty by a quarter** has fallen by five percentage points between spring 2010 and autumn 2013; that of **40% of 30 to 34 year olds having a higher education degree or diploma** has fallen by four percentage points, while that of **reducing the number of young people leaving school with no qualifications to 10%** has fallen by three percentage points.

[8] 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?

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	EB77 Sp.2012	Diff. Sp.2012 - Aut.2011	EB78 Aut.2012	Diff. Aut.2012 - Sp.2012	EB79 Sp.2013	Diff. Sp.2013 - Aut.2012	EB80 Aut.2013	Diff. Aut.2013 - Sp.2013	Diff. Aut.2013 - Sp.2010
To increase the energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020	60%	59%	-1	60%	+1	60%	=	60%	=	59%	-1	59%	=	60%	1	=
Three quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age should have a job	63%	59%	-4	61%	+2	60%	-1	60%	=	59%	-1	59%	=	58%	-1	-5
To increase the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020	58%	57%	-1	57%	=	57%	=	58%	+1	57%	-1	57%	=	57%	=	-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	56%	+1	57%	+1	56%	-1	56%	=	=
To reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 compared to 1990	55%	53%	-2	54%	+1	53%	-1	55%	+2	55%	=	54%	-1	54%	=	-1
The number of young people leaving school with no qualifications should fall to 10%	53%	51%	-2	51%	=	50%	-1	50%	=	51%	+1	51%	=	50%	-1	-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	50%	+1	49%	-1	49%	=	48%	-1	-5
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	49%	+1	48%	-1	47%	-1	48%	1	-4

**This item was worded slightly differently until the Eurobarometer survey of spring 2012 (EB77): "At least 40% of the young generation should have a diploma or a qualification"*

A national analysis of the results reveals that respondents are most likely to think each of the eight targets is "about right" in Italy. They are also systematically more likely than the European average to do so in Croatia and Lithuania and, to a lesser extent, in Poland, but significantly less likely than average for each target in Greece and Luxembourg.

In more detail:

The target of increasing energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020 is seen as "about right" by an absolute majority of respondents in 26 of the 28 Member States, with the highest levels observed in Italy (71%, +3 percentage points) and Slovenia (69%, +2). There is only a relative majority in Luxembourg (45%, -7) and Greece (48%, -5). The largest fall in the perceived feasibility of this target is recorded in Luxembourg.

Ensuring that **three-quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age have a job** is perceived as a realistic target by an absolute majority of respondents in 24 Member States, with the highest level of support observed in Italy (71%, unchanged) and Croatia (64%, =). This target is perceived as realistic by a substantial relative majority of respondents in Belgium (48%, -6 percentage points, versus 30%, +6 who say it is too ambitious), and by a smaller relative majority in Greece (39%, -2, versus 33%, +2 who think it too ambitious) and Sweden (44%, -1, versus 43%, +2 who say it is too modest). Finally, Cyprus stands out for this indicator by being the only country where the target is not seen as realistic by a majority of the population: 43% of respondents say it is too ambitious (+4), while 29% say it is too modest (=), and only 27% think it is "about right" (-3). The number of respondents who think this objective is realistic has fallen sharply in Bulgaria (54%, -8) and Belgium (48%, -6), while it has grown in Malta (60%, +7) and the Czech Republic (50%, +6).

Increasing the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020 is seen as "about right" by an absolute majority of respondents in 23 EU countries, led by Slovenia (68%, unchanged) and Italy (68%, +2 percentage points). In the five remaining countries, a relative majority share this view: Belgium (48%, -5), Greece (47%, -5), Luxembourg (47%, +1), Austria (46%, -2) and Sweden (46%, -3). In the latter country, however, the gap between those who think this target is "about right" and those who think it is "too modest" has narrowed in this survey to 46/40, compared with 49/38 in spring 2013. The perceived feasibility of this target has fallen the most sharply in Latvia, Belgium and Greece (-5 in all three countries).

The proportion of respondents who believe that **investing 3% of the wealth produced in the European Union in research and development** is a realistic target exceeds 50% in 24 EU countries led by Italy (66%, unchanged), Finland (65%, -4 percentage points), Croatia (64%, -1), Lithuania (64%, +1) and the Czech Republic (64%, +4). A relative majority of respondents in four countries share this view: Bulgaria (49%, -1), Luxembourg (47%, +1), France (45%, -2) and Greece (45%, -3). The perceived feasibility of this target has grown in Cyprus (52%, +6) and Poland (63%, +5), while it has declined in Portugal (50%, -6) and Slovenia (59%, -5).

An absolute majority of respondents agree that it is feasible to **reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020 compared with 1990** in 20 Member States, with the most widespread support in Italy (68%, +3 percentage points), Slovenia (62%, +3), Lithuania (61%, unchanged), Latvia (61%, +1), Spain (61%, -2) and Croatia (60%, -4). A relative majority share this opinion in the remaining countries (France, Austria, Sweden, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Greece, Belgium and Luxembourg), though opinions in Sweden are fairly evenly divided (44% of respondents in this country say this target is about right, while 43% think it is too modest). Close to one-third of respondents in Luxembourg (31%, -1), the Netherlands (31%, +6) and France (30%, +3) believe this target is too ambitious, a proportion which is markedly higher than the European average (EU28, 22%, +1), while the proportion who think this target is too modest is significantly higher than the European average (EU28, 17%, -1) in Sweden, Austria (37%, +2) and Belgium (31%, +3). Compared with spring 2013, the perceived feasibility of this target has declined in the Netherlands (44%, -6), Greece (41%, -6) and Belgium (41%, -5).

As was the case in previous surveys, an absolute majority of respondents in Sweden (55%, +3 percentage points) believe that the objective of **reducing the number of young people who leave school without qualifications to 10%** is too modest. A relative majority of respondents in Germany now share this view, which was not the case in spring 2013 (41% “too modest” versus 40% “about right”, compared with 38% versus 42% in spring 2013). The target is regarded as realistic in the remaining countries, and by absolute majorities in 17 Member States (with the highest levels in Italy (67%, + 4) and Croatia (64%, -3)). The gap between those who say this target is “about right” and those who think it is too modest remains narrow in Belgium (40% versus 37%, compared with 43% versus 37% in spring 2013) and in Austria (45% versus 40%, unchanged since spring 2013). The perceived feasibility of this target has risen by seven percentage points in Luxembourg (42%).

Since spring 2013, opinion ratios regarding the feasibility of reducing **poverty in the European Union by a quarter** have changed in two countries. Following growth of seven and six percentage points respectively, majorities say that this target is too ambitious, rather than realistic, in France (39% versus 35%, compared with 32% versus 40% in spring 2013) and the Czech Republic (38% versus 37%, compared with 32% versus 38% in spring 2013), whereas the opposite situation existed six months ago. Respondents continue to see the target as too ambitious in Cyprus (48% versus 20% “about right”, compared with 47% versus 24% in spring 2013) and Luxembourg (37% versus 33% “about right”, compared with 36% versus 34% in spring 2013).

Conversely, this target is seen as too modest by a majority of respondents in Sweden (46% versus 39% “about right”, unchanged) and Greece (36% versus 28%, compared with 36% versus 32% in spring 2013). In Austria, opinion is evenly divided between those respondents who think the target is too modest and those who say it is about right (42% versus 42%, compared with 43% versus 42% in spring 2013). In the remaining countries, majorities see the target as realistic, including absolute majorities in ten Member States, led by Italy (65%, +2), Latvia (60%, =) and Croatia (58%, -3).

The target of **ensuring at least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 have a higher education degree or diploma** in Europe is regarded as realistic by an absolute majority of respondents in the non-euro area countries (52%) and by a relative majority within the euro area (45%). This target is seen as too ambitious in ten Member States. As was the case in the spring 2013 survey, this is the majority view in the Netherlands (68%, -1 percentage point since spring 2013), Germany (63%, unchanged), Finland (60%, +6), Slovakia (51%, +6), Estonia (51%, +3), Luxembourg (50%, +3), France (47%, =, versus 37%, +1) and Austria (46%, =, versus 41%, =). It has gained ground in this survey in the Czech Republic (49% versus 45% “about right”, compared with 45% versus 46% in spring 2013) and Slovenia (46% versus 44%, compared with 44% versus 47%), where opinion ratio has reversed.

The perception that this target is realistic leads the way in the other countries, with absolute majorities in 11 of them, led by Italy (69%, +5 percentage points), Spain (63%, +2), Poland (62%, +6) and Sweden (60%, +2). The balance of opinion has shifted in Hungary: this target is now predominantly seen as realistic again (48% versus 42% “too ambitious”), whereas the majority regarded it as too ambitious in spring 2013 (46% versus 44%).

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?
Response: 'About right'

	To increase energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020	Three quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age should have a job	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 should have a higher education degree or diploma
EU28	60%	58%	57%	56%	54%	50%	48%	48%
BE	52%	48%	48%	**53%**	41%	40%	*37%*	42%
BG	51%	**54%**	50%	49%	52%	50%	46%	*44%*
CZ	59%	50%	56%	**64%**	53%	52%	*37%*	45%
DK	**65%**	62%	61%	63%	*50%*	51%	51%	57%
DE	54%	58%	52%	**59%**	50%	40%	44%	*29%*
EE	**66%**	63%	62%	60%	57%	50%	49%	*39%*
IE	**60%**	57%	59%	59%	54%	58%	*49%*	57%
EL	**48%**	39%	47%	45%	41%	39%	*28%*	42%
ES	**67%**	58%	65%	55%	61%	57%	*54%*	63%
FR	**60%**	53%	56%	45%	47%	43%	*35%*	37%
HR	**66%**	64%	**66%**	64%	60%	64%	58%	*56%*
IT	**71%**	**71%**	68%	66%	68%	67%	*65%*	69%
CY	**55%**	27%	50%	52%	44%	41%	*20%*	52%
LV	**64%**	60%	58%	61%	61%	49%	60%	*47%*
LT	**67%**	62%	65%	64%	61%	*55%*	57%	*55%*
LU	45%	**50%**	47%	47%	38%	42%	*33%*	36%
HU	**55%**	53%	**55%**	**55%**	51%	50%	*45%*	48%
MT	**60%**	**60%**	59%	56%	54%	53%	*44%*	49%
AT	50%	53%	46%	**54%**	45%	45%	42%	*41%*
NL	**56%**	53%	52%	52%	44%	46%	42%	*25%*
PL	**65%**	62%	63%	63%	59%	58%	*54%*	62%
PT	**56%**	54%	55%	*50%*	55%	54%	*50%*	51%
RO	57%	**63%**	56%	56%	53%	53%	54%	*52%*
SI	**69%**	59%	68%	59%	62%	63%	50%	*44%*
SK	**57%**	50%	**57%**	**57%**	52%	**57%**	41%	*40%*
FI	**68%**	58%	60%	65%	56%	59%	49%	*35%*
SE	58%	44%	46%	57%	44%	*37%*	39%	**60%**
UK	55%	**61%**	54%	53%	52%	*44%*	48%	47%

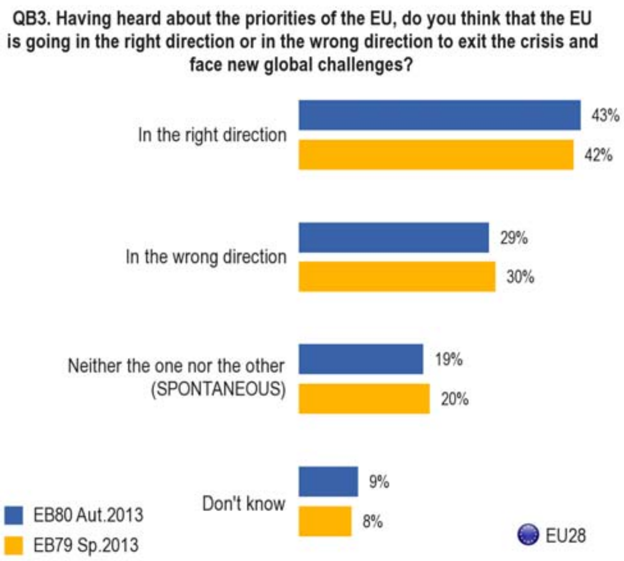
Highest percentage per country *Lowest percentage per country*

Highest percentage per item Lowest percentage per item

III. THE DIRECTION TAKEN BY THE EUROPEAN UNION TO TACKLE THE CRISIS

43% of Europeans (+1 percentage point since spring 2013) believe that the EU "is going in the right direction to exit the crisis and face new global challenges", while 29% (-1) think that it is going in the wrong direction. Almost one in five Europeans (19%, -1) responded spontaneously that the EU is going in neither the right direction nor the wrong direction and 9% (+1) expressed no opinion[9].

As was already noticeable in the spring 2013 survey, the slow improvement in European public opinion of the EU's policy for emerging from the crisis has continued in this survey. The difference between positive and negative opinions currently stands at +14, compared with +12 in spring 2013 and +9 in both autumn 2012 and spring 2012. Although this represents a slight improvement, it remains far from its best level, +23, recorded in both autumn 2010 (EB74) and spring 2011 (EB75).



Approval of the direction taken by the EU to overcome the crisis is greater in the countries outside the euro area (51% "in the right direction" versus 24% "in the wrong direction") than in the euro area countries (38% versus 33%). Compared with spring 2013, the difference between approval and disapproval has increased in the countries outside the euro area (from +24 to +27) but remains stable (+5) within the euro area.

[9] 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 new global challenges?

Approval is the majority position in 23 countries, shared by an absolute majority of respondents in 14 countries (Sweden, Lithuania, Malta, Finland, Denmark, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Poland, Ireland, Croatia, Belgium, Estonia, Latvia, Germany) and by a relative majority in a further nine (Romania, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Hungary, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, France).

The highest levels of approval are recorded in Sweden (70%, +4 percentage points), Lithuania (64%, -2), Malta (62%, +2), Finland (62%, unchanged) and Denmark (61%, -2). Within this group, Ireland has seen a dramatic growth in positive opinions about the direction taken by the EU to emerge from the crisis (57%, +10). Conversely, the opinion ratio is narrowest in France (40%, +1, versus 37%, +1).

In five Member States, the majority disapprove of the EU's policy for emerging from the crisis: Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus and Portugal. Disapproval is losing ground in Portugal (-5 percentage points) and Spain (-4), while it remains stable in Greece and Cyprus. It has grown significantly in Italy (+8).

Finally, in this survey the approval index for the EU's policy for emerging from the crisis (difference between positive and negative opinions) has grown significantly in Ireland (+16) and has recovered slightly in the Netherlands (+12), Portugal (+11) and Spain (+11) since spring 2013. Conversely, this index has fallen significantly in Italy (-13).

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 new global challenges?
+diff. Aut.2013 - Sp.2013

	In the right direction		In the wrong direction		Neither the one or the other (SPONTANEOUS)		Don't know	
EU28	43%	+1	29%	-1	19%	-1	9%	+1
SE	70%	+4	18%	-2	6%	-2	6%	=
LT	64%	-2	11%	+1	12%	=	13%	+1
MT	62%	+2	6%	=	21%	+1	11%	-3
FI	62%	=	20%	-1	12%	+2	6%	-1
DK	61%	-2	22%	-2	9%	+3	8%	+1
BG	59%	-2	8%	+1	23%	+1	10%	=
NL	58%	+4	22%	-8	9%	+2	11%	+2
PL	58%	+1	19%	-3	14%	=	9%	+2
IE	57%	+10	20%	-6	14%	-4	9%	=
HR	55%	=	17%	=	23%	=	5%	=
BE	54%	+5	27%	-3	17%	-2	2%	=
EE	53%	+3	9%	-4	30%	+2	8%	-1
LV	52%	=	12%	=	24%	-2	12%	+2
DE	50%	+1	16%	-2	27%	=	7%	+1
RO	49%	+3	18%	+3	24%	+1	9%	-7
CZ	47%	-2	27%	-2	19%	+2	7%	+2
LU	47%	-2	26%	-7	21%	+7	6%	+2
HU	47%	+2	26%	+1	17%	-2	10%	-1
UK	44%	+1	32%	-6	13%	+4	11%	+1
SK	43%	-1	33%	-1	19%	+2	5%	=
AT	42%	+1	22%	-1	32%	-1	4%	+1
SI	41%	=	27%	-2	25%	+2	7%	=
FR	40%	+1	37%	+1	13%	-2	10%	=
ES	30%	+7	45%	-4	18%	-1	7%	-2
PT	29%	+6	38%	-5	26%	-1	7%	=
CY	26%	+1	39%	=	24%	-2	11%	+1
EL	22%	=	56%	=	20%	-1	2%	+1
IT	18%	-5	42%	+8	29%	-4	11%	+1

A socio-demographic analysis reveals that the EU's policy for emerging from the crisis is judged most positively by 15-24 year olds (50%), students (52%), people who studied until the age of 20 or beyond (52%), managers (57%) and the comfortably-off (50% among respondents who almost never have difficulties paying their bills at the end of the month, and 52% of those who position themselves at the higher end of the social scale).

Conversely, it is less favourably perceived by people who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (37% disapproval versus 30% approval), the unemployed (38% versus 34%), people with financial difficulties (44% versus 27% of those who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time) and those who position themselves at the bottom of the social scale (36% versus 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 new global challenges?

	In the right direction	In the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28	43%	29%	19%	9%
Gender				
Man	45%	29%	19%	7%
Woman	41%	29%	20%	10%
Age				
15-24	50%	24%	18%	8%
25-39	44%	30%	19%	7%
40-54	43%	31%	18%	8%
55 +	39%	30%	21%	10%
Education (End of)				
15-	30%	37%	21%	12%
16-19	41%	30%	20%	9%
20+	52%	25%	16%	7%
Still studying	52%	23%	20%	5%
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	45%	28%	21%	6%
Managers	57%	23%	14%	6%
Other white collars	43%	28%	20%	9%
Manual workers	42%	31%	18%	9%
House persons	35%	35%	20%	10%
Unemployed	34%	38%	19%	9%
Retired	39%	29%	21%	11%
Students	52%	23%	20%	5%
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	27%	44%	20%	9%
From time to time	37%	34%	21%	8%
Almost never/ Never	50%	24%	18%	8%
Self-positioning on the social staircase				
Low (1-4)	33%	36%	21%	10%
Medium (5-6)	43%	29%	20%	8%
High (7-10)	52%	25%	16%	7%

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 80
Europe 2020
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 2nd and the 17th of November 2013, TNS opinion & social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 80.1 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, “Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer” unit.

The wave 80.1 is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 80 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 80 survey has also been conducted in the five candidate countries (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 below.

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	DATES FIELDWORK		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.063	2/11/13	17/11/13	8.939.546	2,16%
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.027	2/11/13	11/11/13	6.537.510	1,58%
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.000	2/11/13	13/11/13	9.012.443	2,18%
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.001	2/11/13	17/11/13	4.561.264	1,10%
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.543	2/11/13	17/11/13	64.336.389	15,57%
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1.004	2/11/13	17/11/13	945.733	0,23%
IE	Ireland	IMS Millward Brown	1.004	3/11/13	17/11/13	3.522.000	0,85%
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	2/11/13	16/11/13	8.693.566	2,10%
ES	Spain	TNS Spain	1.012	2/11/13	17/11/13	39.127.930	9,47%
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.027	2/11/13	17/11/13	47.756.439	11,56%
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	2/11/13	16/11/13	3.749.400	0,91%
IT	Italy	TNS Italia	1.000	2/11/13	14/11/13	51.862.391	12,55%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	Synovate	503	2/11/13	17/11/13	838.897	0,20%
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.007	2/11/13	17/11/13	1.447.866	0,35%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.030	2/11/13	17/11/13	2.829.740	0,69%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	508	2/11/13	12/11/13	434.878	0,11%
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann	1.000	2/11/13	17/11/13	8.320.614	2,01%
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	2/11/13	17/11/13	335.476	0,08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.019	2/11/13	17/11/13	13.371.980	3,24%
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.032	2/11/13	17/11/13	7.009.827	1,70%
PL	Poland	TNS Polska	1.000	2/11/13	17/11/13	32.413.735	7,85%
PT	Portugal	TNS Portugal	1.047	2/11/13	17/11/13	8.414.215	2,04%
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.069	2/11/13	12/11/13	18.246.731	4,42%
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.086	3/11/13	17/11/13	1.759.701	0,43%
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.000	2/11/13	17/11/13	4.549.955	1,10%
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup	1.002	2/11/13	17/11/13	4.440.004	1,07%
SE	Sweden	TNS Sifo	1.019	2/11/13	17/11/13	7.791.240	1,89%
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.326	2/11/13	17/11/13	51.848.010	12,55%
TOTAL EU28			**27.829**	**2/11/13**	**17/11/13**	**413.097.480**	**100%***
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Comm.	Kadem	500	2/11/13	17/11/13	143.226	
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.001	2/11/13	17/11/13	54.844.406	
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. Of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.048	2/11/13	8/11/13	1.678.404	
IS	Iceland	Capacent	500	2/11/13	17/11/13	252.277	
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	499	2/11/13	17/11/13	492.265	
RS	Serbia	TNS Medium Gallup	1.034	2/11/13	17/11/13	6.409.693	
TOTAL			**32.411**	**2/11/13**	**17/11/13**	**476.917.751**	

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding