



Standard Eurobarometer 81 Spring 2014

EUROPE 2020

REPORT

Fieldwork: June 2014

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 81 / Spring 2014 – TNS opinion & social

Standard Eurobarometer 81
Spring 2014

Europe 2020

Survey conducted by TNS opinion & social at the request of
the European Commission,
DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and
Eurobarometer" Unit

Survey co-ordinated by the European Commission,
DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and
Eurobarometer" Unit

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INTRODUCTION

Since the spring 2010 Standard Eurobarometer (EB73)¹, the Standard Eurobarometer surveys have measured European public perceptions of the Europe 2020 framework strategy launched by the European Commission in March 2010 in order to emerge from the economic and financial crisis, prepare the EU economy for future challenges and create favourable conditions for growth that is innovative, sustainable and benefits as many people as possible².

In this spring 2014 survey (EB81), Europeans' views on the Europe 2020 strategy are measured using two indicators.

The first aims to determine how realistic respondents find the eight quantified objectives set by the European Commission as part of this strategy.

The second gathers their judgments regarding the direction taken by the European Union to combat the crisis and face the contemporary world's challenges.

The full Standard Eurobarometer 81 report consists of several volumes. The first volume presents the state of public opinion in the European Union (EU). Four other volumes present Europeans' views on other issues: the Europe 2020 strategy; the economic and financial crisis; European citizenship; the living conditions of Europeans. This volume is dedicated to the Europe 2020 strategy.

This Standard Eurobarometer survey was conducted between 31 May and 14 June 2014³ in 34 countries or territories: the European Union's 28 Member States, 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 that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

¹ Fieldwork conducted in May 2010, a few months after the launch of the Europe 2020 strategy by the European Commission in March 2010.

² http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

³ Please refer to the technical specifications for information on the exact dates of the interviews in each country.

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the DG COMM “Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer” Unit⁴. A technical note describing how the institutes within TNS Opinion & Social’s network conduct interviews is included in this report’s annexes. This note also describes the confidence intervals⁵, which enable us to assess the accuracy of a survey’s results, depending on the size of the survey sample in relation to the total size of the population that is examined.

The abbreviations used in this report and their corresponding territories or entities are as follows:

ABBREVIATIONS			
BE	Belgium	LV	Latvia
CZ	Czech Republic	LU	Luxembourg
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary
DK	Denmark	MT	Malta
DE	Germany	NL	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	United Kingdom
CY (tcc)	Turkish Cypriot community	UE28	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, LV
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**	Non-euro area	BG, CZ, DK, HR, LT, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK
IS	Island		
ME	Montenegro		
RS	Serbia		

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the *acquis communautaire* has been 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 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 prejudices the definitive name of this country, which will be agreed upon once current negotiations at the United Nations have been completed.

* * * * *

We wish to thank all of the respondents across Europe who took the time to take part in this survey.

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

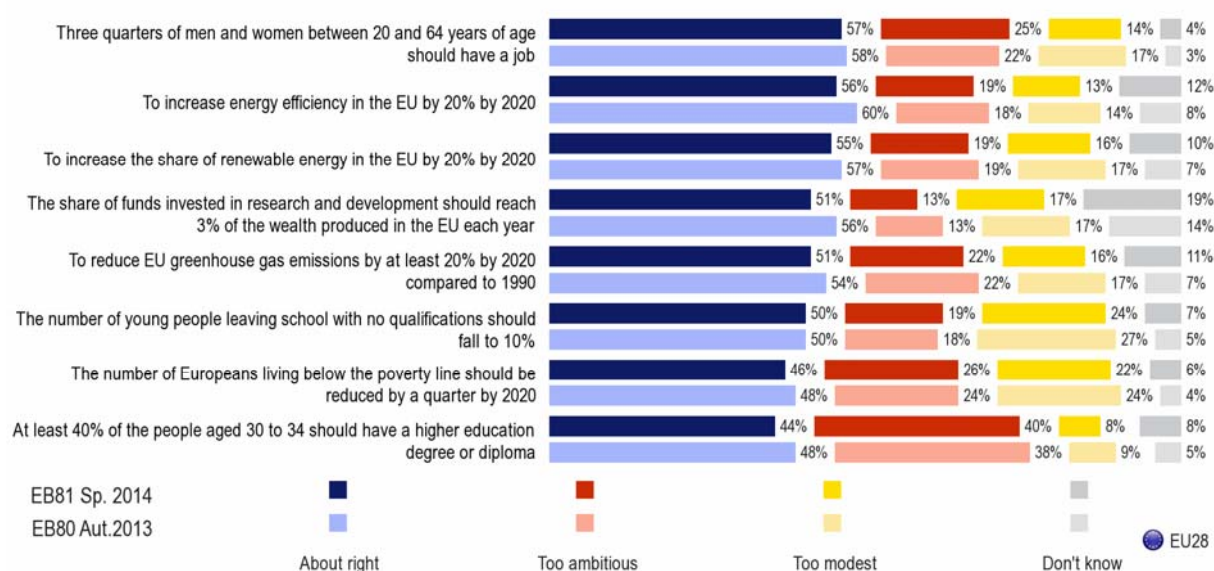
⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

⁵ The results tables are included in the appendices. It should be noted that the sums of the percentages shown in the tables in this report may exceed 100% in cases where respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer to a question.

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

In this survey, Europeans were first asked questions regarding the eight *quantified targets* set by the EU as part of the Europe 2020 strategy. Respondents were given three options (“about right”, “too ambitious” and “too modest”) for assessing how realistic each target appeared. As in the previous surveys, a majority of Europeans – an absolute majority for six objectives, a relative majority for two of them – considered them to be realistic (the “about right” answer). Although this indicator has been broadly stable since its inception in spring 2010, greater variations are observed in this survey. The trend, compared with the autumn 2013 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB80), therefore represents a decline in the perceived realism of most of these objectives in European public opinion⁶.

QB1. 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?



More specifically:

- 57% of Europeans (-1 percentage point since autumn 2013) consider the objective stating that “three quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 of age should have a job” to be realistic;
- 56% (-4) agree on the realism of the objective whose purpose is “to increase the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020”;
- 55% (-2) believe that it is possible to meet the objective aiming “to increase the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020”;

⁶ QB1. 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?

- 51% (-5) agree that the objective stating that “the share of funds invested in research and development should reach 3% of the wealth produced in the EU each year” is realistic;
- 51% (-3) believe that “the reduction of EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 compared to 1990” is a realistic objective;
- 50% (unchanged) share the same view regarding the objective stating that “the number of young people leaving school with no qualifications should fall to 10%”;
- 46% (-2) consider the objective stating that “the number of Europeans living below the poverty line should be reduced by a quarter by 2020” is “about right”, while 26% (+2) consider it to be “too ambitious” and 22% (-2) “too modest”;
- Lastly, the objective stating that “at least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 should have a higher education degree or diploma” seems realistic to 44% of Europeans (-4). 40% (+2) believe this is too ambitious and 8% (-1) too modest.

The “too ambitious” responses are stable for three objectives (a 20% increase in the share of renewable energy in the EU; ensuring that the share of funds invested in research and development reaches 3% of the wealth produced in the EU; a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions). They have increased a little, but to a limited extent, for the other five objectives (from +1 to +3 percentage points).

Lastly, the proportions of “don’t know” responses gained ground for each of the eight objectives (with increases ranging from +1 to +5 percentage points).

The downward trends measured in this survey highlight an erosion of the perceived realism of these objectives. This trend is most pronounced for the social objectives: as such, since spring 2010 the perceived realism of **increasing to 40% the proportion of those aged 30 to 34 who hold a higher education degree or diploma** fell by eight percentage points; that of **reducing poverty by a quarter** decreased by seven points and that of the objective regarding **access to jobs by three-quarters of men and women aged 20 to 64 years of age** fell by six points.

In comparison, the decline is three percentage points for the education target of **reducing the number of young people leaving school with no qualifications to under 10%**, three to four points for the three environmental objectives (**increasing energy efficiency in the EU by 20%**; **increasing the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20%**; **reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20%**) and five points for the objective which aims to **invest 3% of the wealth produced in the EU in research and development**.

QB1. 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	EB81 Sp.2014	Diff. Sp.2014 - Aut.2013	Diff. Sp.2014 - 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	60%	=	59%	-1	59%	=	58%	-1	57%	-1	-6
To increase energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020	60%	59%	-1	60%	+1	60%	=	60%	=	59%	-1	59%	=	60%	+1	56%	-4	-4
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%	=	55%	-2	-3
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%	=	51%	-5	-5
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%	=	51%	-3	-4
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	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	50%	+1	49%	-1	49%	=	48%	-1	46%	-2	-7
At least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 should have a higher education degree or diploma*	52%	48%	-4	50%	+2	48%	-2	49%	+1	48%	-1	47%	-1	48%	+1	44%	-4	-8

*This item was worded slightly differently until the spring 2012 Eurobarometer survey (EB77):

"At least 40% of the younger generation should have a degree or a qualification"

An analysis of the national data suggests that the perceived realism of the eight objectives is strongest in seven countries, where the percentage of respondents who believe each objective is realistic is greater than or equal to the European average for all of the targets tested: Italy, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, Lithuania, Croatia and Hungary. However, the evolutions are different within this group of countries: the perceived realism of these objectives has been boosted in Malta and Hungary (for all eight tested objectives), Romania (for seven), Slovenia (for six) and Lithuania (five), while it has tended to erode in Croatia (for all eight tested objectives) and Italy (for seven of them).

Compared with the autumn 2013 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB80), perceived realism is declining for all of the objectives in Poland, Estonia, Croatia and Ireland.

In greater detail:

An absolute majority of respondents in 23 Member States say that the objective aiming for **three quarters of men and women between 20 to 64 years of age to have a job** is realistic, with the largest number of mentions in Italy (71%) and Romania (70%). A relative majority agree in the remaining five countries: Greece (38%), Cyprus (39%), Slovakia (45%), the Czech Republic (45%) and Sweden (46%). Within this last group, respondents are significantly more likely than average to consider this objective to be too ambitious (EU28, 25%) in Slovakia (39%) and the Czech Republic (36%); and significantly more likely than average to think it is too modest (EU28, 14%) in Sweden (37%), Greece (30%) and Cyprus (28%).

Since autumn 2013, the perceived realism of this objective has risen in Cyprus (39%, +12 percentage points) and is clearly consolidating in Bulgaria (62%, +8) and Romania (70%, +7); in contrast, it is falling sharply in Poland (54%, -8) and the United Kingdom (54%, -7).

The realism of **the objective aiming to increase energy efficiency in the European Union by 20% by 2020** commands an absolute majority of respondents in 25 of the 28 Member States, with the highest levels in Lithuania and Slovenia (both 71%), and a relative majority in three countries: Slovakia (49%), Sweden (47%) and Greece (43%).

Since autumn 2013, the perceived realism of this objective has declined sharply in Estonia (55%, -11 points), Sweden (47%, -11), Finland (59%, -9), the Czech Republic (50%, -9), Italy (63%, -8), Slovakia (49%, -8), Croatia (59%, -7) and Poland (58%, -7). It is growing strongly in Malta (68%, +8) and Luxembourg (52%, +7).

A **20% increase in the share of renewable energy in the EU by 2020** is seen as an achievable objective by an absolute majority of respondents in 22 EU countries, especially in Slovenia (70%) and Lithuania (69%), and a relative majority in five: the Czech Republic (49%), Austria (49%), Slovakia (47%), Bulgaria (46%) and Greece (44%).

Sweden clearly stands out on this indicator as it is the only country where the perception of this objective as too modest (42%, +2 points) outweighs its perceived realism (40%, -6). The perceived realism of this objective has risen sharply in Belgium (56%, +8), Romania (63%, +7) and Malta (66%, +7); however it has declined significantly in Croatia (57%, -9), the Czech Republic (49%, -7), Spain (59%, -6) and Estonia (56%, -6).

An absolute majority of respondents agree that the objective of investing 3% of the wealth of the European Union in research is realistic in 18 EU countries, with the highest levels observed in Denmark (67%) and Slovenia (66%). This target commands a relative majority in the ten other countries: the Netherlands, Bulgaria and Sweden (all 48%), Poland, Slovakia and the United Kingdom (all 46%), Luxembourg (45%), Estonia (44%), Cyprus (43%) and Greece (38%). Within this last group, the proportion of respondents saying that the objective is “too ambitious” is significantly higher than the European average (EU28, 13%) in Slovakia (27%), while those who consider it “too modest” sharply exceed this average (EU28, 17%) in Sweden (32%) and Greece (29%).

The perceived realism of the research and development objective has declined in 21 of the 28 EU countries since autumn 2013, with the largest decreases in Poland (46%, -17 percentage points), Estonia (44%, -16), Slovakia (46%, -11), Sweden (48%, -9), Cyprus (43%, -9) and Italy (58%, -8).

As is the case for the objective of increasing renewable energy in the EU, Sweden stands out in its assessment of the other environmental objective: **reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to 1990**. Indeed, it is the only country where more respondents think this target lacks ambition (43% “too modest” responses, unchanged) than think that it is realistic (39%, -5 percentage points). This objective is considered realistic by an absolute majority of respondents in 14 EU countries and a relative majority in 13. This majority is the largest in Italy (63%, -5), Slovenia (62%, unchanged), Romania (62%, +9) and Malta (62%, +8); it is weaker in Greece (40%, -1, compared with 26%, -3, of “too modest” answers). The perception of this target as realistic has gained considerable ground in Romania (62%, +9), Belgium (50%, +9) and Malta (62%, +8); however, has declined sharply in Estonia (46%, -11), Slovakia (45%, -7) and Poland (52%, -7).

Sweden is also the only country in which the objective of **reducing the number of young people leaving school with no qualifications to 10%** is seen as too modest by a majority (48%, compared with 37% who think it is “about right”). In all of the other countries, the perception that this is realistic ranks first, with an absolute majority of mentions in 17 of them. It is most widely seen as realistic in Italy (65%) and Romania (65%). The opinion ratio between those who believe that the objective is “about right” and those who believe it is too modest is the closest in Germany (40% to 37%) and Greece (40% to 32%).

The perceived realism of this education target has increased significantly in Romania (65%, +12 percentage points), Malta (60%, +7) and Belgium (47%, +7), but it has declined sharply in Croatia (53%, -11), Ireland (52%, -6), Slovakia (51%, -6) and the Czech Republic (46%, -6).






























The objective of **reducing poverty in the European Union by a quarter** seems too ambitious to a relative majority of respondents in the Czech Republic (40%, compared with 38% who think it is “about right”) and Cyprus (39%, compared with 33%). The opinion ratio between the perception that the objective is too ambitious and the view that it is realistic is strictly balanced in Slovakia (39% to 38%) and France (37% to 37% cases). Respondents are likely to consider this target too modest in Sweden (48%, compared with 32% who think it is “about right”) and Greece (38% vs. 29%). In the other countries most respondents think the target is realistic, with an absolute majority in 10 of them, led by Romania (61%) and Italy (60%).

The perceived realism of this objective has risen sharply in Cyprus (33%, +13 percentage points), Malta (55%, +11), Romania (61%, +7) and Hungary (52%, +7). In contrast, it has declined markedly in Croatia (51%, -7) and Sweden (32%, -7).

A majority of respondents believe that the target of **enabling at least 40% of those aged 30-34 to obtain a higher education diploma or degree** in Europe is too ambitious in 10 Member States: the Netherlands (70%), Germany (67%), Finland (57%), Austria (56%), Estonia (53%), Luxembourg (48%, compared with 34% who think it is “about right”), France (47%, vs. 35%), the Czech Republic (45%, vs. 41%), Slovakia (44%, vs. 41%) and Latvia (42%, vs. 40%). The perception that it is too ambitious and the view that it is realistic are balanced in the United Kingdom (both 40%). In the 17 other countries, majorities regard the objective as realistic, with the highest agreement levels in Italy (65%) and Spain (63%).

The perceived realism of this objective has declined sharply in Poland (52%, -10 percentage points), Latvia (40%, -7), the United Kingdom (40%, -7) and Estonia (32%, -7). It is gaining ground in Malta (56%, +7).

QB1 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

		Three quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age should have a job	To increase 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 should have a higher education degree or diploma
	EU28	57%	56%	55%	51%	51%	50%	46%	44%
	BE	53%	56%	56%	50%	50%	47%	42%	43%
	BG	62%	52%	46%	48%	46%	52%	48%	48%
	CZ	45%	50%	49%	57%	48%	46%	38%	41%
	DK	59%	62%	58%	67%	48%	54%	46%	56%
	DE	56%	51%	50%	52%	47%	40%	40%	25%
	EE	61%	55%	56%	44%	46%	48%	46%	32%
	IE	56%	56%	58%	53%	52%	52%	44%	55%
	EL	38%	43%	44%	38%	40%	40%	29%	44%
	ES	55%	61%	59%	51%	55%	54%	49%	63%
	FR	52%	55%	58%	50%	49%	43%	37%	35%
	HR	61%	59%	57%	61%	56%	53%	51%	51%
	IT	71%	63%	63%	58%	63%	65%	60%	65%
	CY	39%	51%	50%	43%	44%	48%	33%	48%
	LV	58%	61%	57%	60%	55%	51%	54%	40%
	LT	66%	71%	69%	62%	58%	53%	58%	57%
	LU	50%	52%	53%	45%	42%	40%	39%	34%
	HU	57%	61%	58%	60%	55%	52%	52%	50%
	MT	64%	68%	66%	57%	62%	60%	55%	56%
	NL	55%	54%	51%	48%	46%	50%	42%	23%
	AT	51%	55%	49%	51%	44%	47%	45%	29%
	PL	54%	58%	58%	46%	52%	52%	51%	52%
	PT	55%	58%	58%	51%	56%	53%	50%	53%
	RO	70%	62%	63%	56%	62%	65%	61%	57%
	SI	64%	71%	70%	66%	62%	61%	51%	49%
	SK	45%	49%	47%	46%	45%	51%	39%	41%
	FI	59%	59%	58%	58%	56%	57%	47%	31%
	SE	46%	47%	40%	48%	39%	37%	32%	54%
	UK	54%	55%	51%	46%	47%	46%	47%	40%

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

QB1 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: Too ambitious

	At least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 should have a higher education degree or diploma	The number of Europeans living below the poverty line should be reduced by a quarter by 2020	Three quarters of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age should have a job	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%	To increase the share of renewable energy in the EU by 20% by 2020	To increase energy efficiency 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
EU28	40%	26%	25%	22%	19%	19%	19%	13%
BE	38%	29%	28%	22%	23%	18%	17%	13%
BG	34%	20%	19%	18%	16%	19%	15%	10%
CZ	45%	40%	36%	26%	29%	27%	23%	16%
DK	14%	27%	20%	24%	20%	17%	16%	9%
DE	67%	26%	26%	24%	18%	22%	21%	10%
EE	53%	32%	20%	20%	22%	16%	16%	10%
IE	26%	29%	30%	25%	23%	19%	21%	16%
EL	32%	31%	29%	25%	25%	23%	24%	19%
ES	22%	24%	29%	20%	22%	17%	17%	14%
FR	47%	37%	32%	27%	29%	20%	22%	15%
HR	32%	22%	21%	19%	15%	16%	16%	13%
IT	18%	21%	19%	16%	14%	17%	15%	11%
CY	25%	39%	31%	24%	25%	23%	22%	17%
LV	42%	14%	22%	14%	7%	15%	12%	9%
LT	28%	19%	16%	20%	14%	10%	9%	9%
LU	48%	37%	32%	30%	29%	23%	23%	14%
HU	39%	23%	26%	22%	20%	19%	18%	17%
MT	27%	27%	25%	19%	21%	15%	14%	11%
NL	70%	33%	30%	29%	24%	22%	23%	17%
AT	56%	21%	25%	23%	19%	17%	15%	12%
PL	25%	14%	16%	17%	10%	12%	11%	8%
PT	30%	27%	26%	19%	21%	19%	18%	17%
RO	29%	20%	20%	17%	16%	17%	17%	17%
SI	42%	26%	24%	23%	19%	16%	15%	9%
SK	44%	39%	39%	30%	25%	30%	29%	27%
FI	57%	33%	24%	24%	16%	22%	19%	9%
SE	24%	15%	15%	15%	9%	15%	12%	5%
UK	40%	25%	26%	27%	22%	22%	20%	10%

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage by item

Lowest percentage per item

QB1 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: Too modest

	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	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	To increase the share of renewable energy 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 energy efficiency in the EU by 20% by 2020	At least 40% of the people aged 30 to 34 should have a higher education degree or diploma
EU28	24%	22%	17%	16%	16%	14%	13%	8%
BE	26%	26%	23%	23%	21%	16%	20%	14%
BG	22%	25%	15%	10%	8%	11%	10%	7%
CZ	20%	19%	15%	16%	14%	16%	16%	9%
DK	22%	23%	13%	23%	21%	18%	14%	25%
DE	37%	30%	22%	23%	21%	16%	17%	2%
EE	17%	11%	13%	7%	7%	11%	5%	3%
IE	17%	19%	11%	10%	11%	9%	11%	11%
EL	32%	38%	29%	26%	25%	30%	24%	21%
ES	19%	25%	19%	13%	13%	14%	11%	10%
FR	23%	21%	17%	16%	15%	13%	12%	6%
HR	24%	20%	11%	11%	14%	10%	12%	8%
IT	15%	15%	14%	11%	9%	7%	9%	11%
CY	22%	27%	18%	16%	14%	28%	13%	24%
LV	34%	25%	12%	8%	8%	14%	8%	9%
LT	24%	16%	8%	8%	6%	12%	7%	7%
LU	22%	20%	16%	19%	16%	13%	14%	8%
HU	24%	21%	13%	16%	18%	15%	16%	7%
MT	9%	8%	5%	4%	4%	2%	5%	5%
NL	23%	22%	17%	20%	23%	13%	16%	3%
AT	30%	29%	24%	26%	28%	20%	23%	8%
PL	18%	24%	19%	13%	14%	22%	12%	9%
PT	19%	17%	12%	13%	12%	13%	12%	10%
RO	15%	13%	9%	10%	10%	7%	10%	8%
SI	12%	18%	10%	7%	6%	8%	6%	2%
SK	15%	16%	10%	12%	10%	12%	8%	8%
FI	18%	11%	9%	11%	11%	12%	10%	4%
SE	48%	48%	32%	43%	42%	37%	34%	13%
UK	22%	16%	13%	11%	12%	13%	11%	7%

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage by item

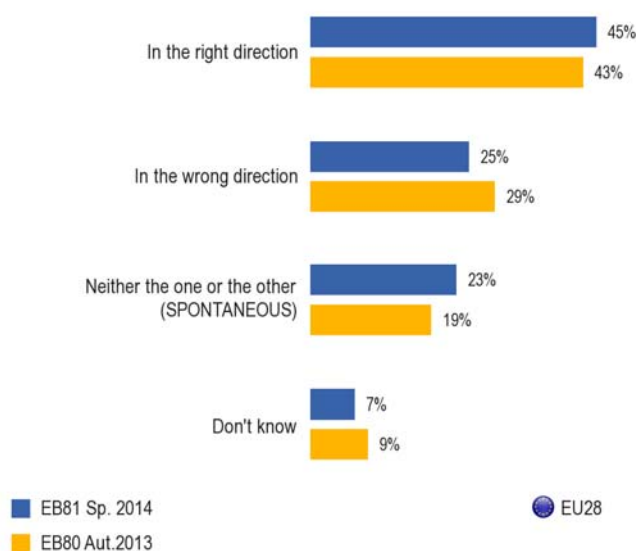
Lowest percentage per item

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

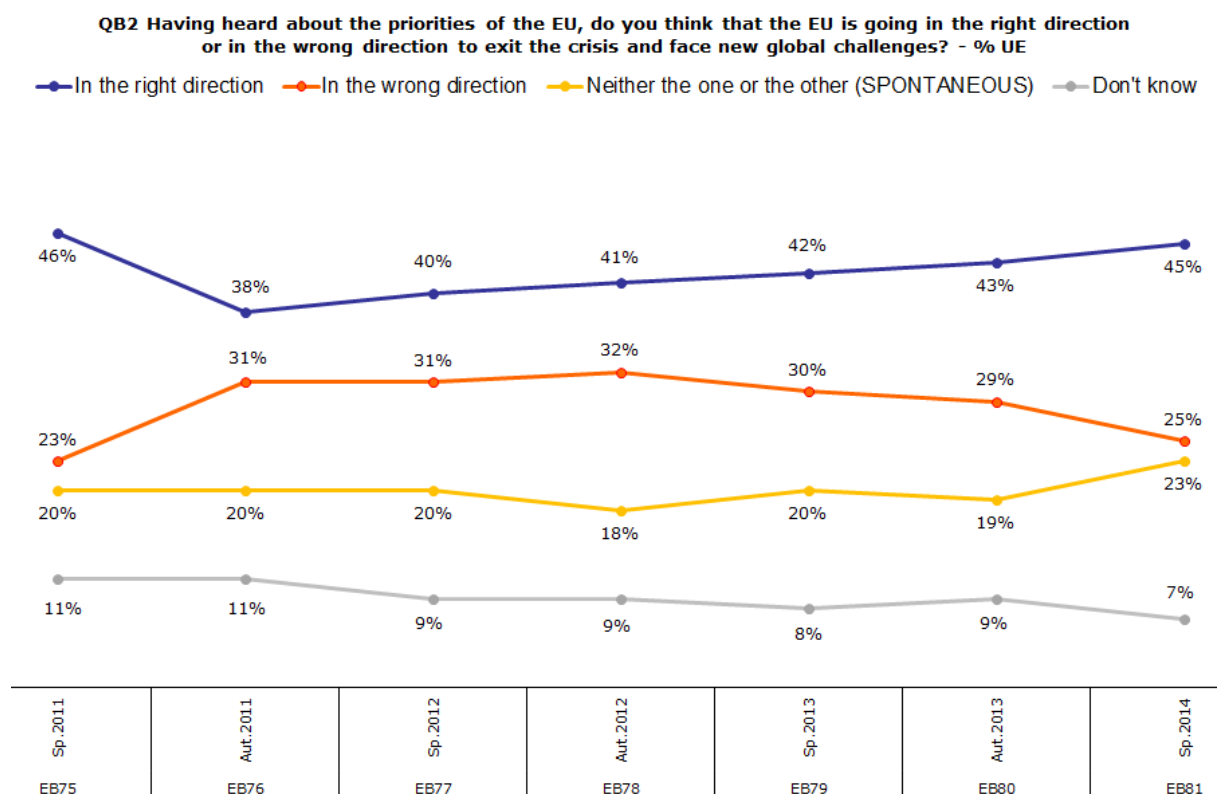
The trend towards an upturn in European public opinion regarding the European Union's policy for emerging from the crisis, first observed in the spring 2013 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB79), has been confirmed in spring 2014. 45% of Europeans (+2 percentage points compared with autumn 2013) consider that the EU "is going in the right direction to exit the crisis and face new global challenges", while 25% (-4) instead believe that it is going in the wrong direction. Nearly a quarter of Europeans (23%, +4) spontaneously respond that the EU is going in neither the right nor the wrong direction, and 7% (-2) expressed no opinion⁷.

The difference between approval and disapproval of the EU's policy for tackling the crisis currently stands at +20 (compared with +14 in autumn 2013, +12 in spring 2013, and +9 in autumn 2012 and spring 2012). This ratio is therefore very close to its best level, +23, recorded in both autumn 2010 (EB74) and spring 2011 (EB75).

QB2. Having heard about the objectives 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?



⁷ QB2. Having heard about the objectives 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?



The most noteworthy finding since autumn 2013 relates to the significant improvement of the opinion ratio within the euro area countries. The difference between approval and disapproval has risen by 10 points (from +5 to +15: it was 38% to 33% in autumn 2013, while today it stands at 43% to 28%). This ratio remains very positive (+30) and has improved slightly (+3) within the countries that are outside the euro area.






























Under the effect of a sharp increase in approval (+14 percentage points), the opinion ratio has reversed favourably in Cyprus since the autumn 2013 survey (40% to 29%, while in autumn 2013 the ratio stood at 26% to 39%). There are therefore only four countries left (Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy) where disapproval of the path taken by the EU to tackle the crisis is currently the majority position. Within this group, although the opinion ratio remains stable in Spain, approval is gaining ground in the remaining three countries: Italy (27%, +9), Portugal (35%, +6) and Greece (27%, +5).

Positive judgments of the direction taken by the EU to emerge from the crisis are therefore dominant in 24 countries, representing an absolute majority of respondents in 16 of them (Lithuania, Malta, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Romania, Sweden, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Hungary, Latvia and Poland) and a relative majority in eight (Slovenia, Austria, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic, France, Cyprus, Slovakia and the United Kingdom). The highest levels are recorded in Lithuania (71%, +7 points), Malta (68%, +6) and Finland (66%, +4). Within this group, approval has consolidated significantly in Cyprus (40%, +14), Romania (61%, +12), Lithuania (71%, +7), Belgium (61%, +7), Germany (57%, +7) and Slovenia (48%, +7).

Conversely, approval is down sharply in Sweden (60%, -10 percentage points), the United Kingdom (34%, -10), Slovakia (35%, -8) and Poland (51%, -7). This downturn is not the result of an increase in disapproval (which is also decreasing in these countries); rather it is the result of a surge in the spontaneous neutral view that the direction taken by the EU is “neither right nor wrong”. This opinion has gained 16 points in Sweden (22%), 15 points in Poland (29%), 12 points in the United Kingdom (25%) and 11 points in Slovakia (30%). It has also risen sharply in Luxembourg (33%, +12).

Ultimately, and in response to the improvement observed throughout the European population, the approval rating for the EU’s policy for tackling the crisis (the difference between the positive and negative judgments) has improved in this survey in 19 of the 28 EU countries. It is stable or has declined slightly in the other nine countries (Sweden, Bulgaria, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and Spain). However, in none of them has there been a sharp deterioration in this opinion ratio.

QB2 Having heard about the objectives 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 or the other (SPONTANEOUS)		Don't know	
	EU28	45%	+2	25%	-4	23%	+4	7%	-2
	LT	71%	+7	6%	-5	16%	+4	7%	-6
	MT	68%	+6	5%	-1	20%	-1	7%	-4
	FI	66%	+4	14%	-6	15%	+3	5%	-1
	DK	64%	+3	19%	-3	12%	+3	5%	-3
	NL	62%	+4	17%	-5	16%	+7	5%	-6
	BE	61%	+7	24%	-3	13%	-4	2%	=
	RO	61%	+12	18%	=	16%	-8	5%	-4
	SE	60%	-10	15%	-3	22%	+16	3%	-3
	BG	59%	=	7%	-1	23%	=	11%	+1
	HR	59%	+4	14%	-3	24%	+1	3%	-2
	DE	57%	+7	14%	-2	25%	-2	4%	-3
	EE	57%	+4	8%	-1	27%	-3	8%	=
	IE	54%	-3	18%	-2	22%	+8	6%	-3
	HU	53%	+6	24%	-2	19%	+2	4%	-6
	LV	52%	=	14%	+2	28%	+4	6%	-6
	PL	51%	-7	12%	-7	29%	+15	8%	-1
	SI	48%	+7	18%	-9	29%	+4	5%	-2
	AT	46%	+4	22%	=	27%	-5	5%	+1
	LU	45%	-2	18%	-8	33%	+12	4%	-2
	CZ	44%	-3	28%	+1	25%	+6	3%	-4
	FR	42%	+2	33%	-4	16%	+3	9%	-1
	CY	40%	+14	29%	-10	27%	+3	4%	-7
	PT	35%	+6	39%	+1	21%	-5	5%	-2
	SK	35%	-8	32%	-1	30%	+11	3%	-2
	UK	34%	-10	23%	-9	25%	+12	18%	+7
	ES	30%	=	45%	=	19%	+1	6%	-1
	EL	27%	+5	53%	-3	18%	-2	2%	=
	IT	27%	+9	30%	-12	35%	+6	8%	-3

The feeling that the EU is going in the right direction to emerge from the crisis and face new global challenges decreases in a linear fashion with age (52% of “in the right direction” responses among those aged 15-24, compared with 47% among those aged 25-39, 43% among those aged 40-54 and 41% among those aged 55 and over). This view is more pronounced at higher levels of society: for example, 35% of respondents who left school at or before the age of 15 agree that the EU is going in the right direction (vs. 31% for whom it is moving “in the wrong direction”), compared with 42% of those who left school between the ages of 16 and 19 (vs. 25%), and 50% of those who studied until the age of 20 or later (vs. 23%). Lastly, the view is shared by 37% of those who consider that they belong to the working class, 50% of those who believe they are part of the middle class, and 66% of those who see themselves as “upper class”.
















QB2. Having heard about the objectives 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 or the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28	45%	25%	23%	7%
Gender				
Man	46%	26%	22%	6%
Woman	43%	24%	25%	8%
Age				
15-24	52%	21%	20%	7%
25-39	47%	24%	22%	7%
40-54	43%	26%	25%	6%
55 +	41%	26%	24%	9%
Education (End of)				
15-	35%	31%	25%	9%
16-19	42%	25%	25%	8%
20+	50%	23%	21%	6%
Still studying	58%	18%	18%	6%
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	45%	24%	24%	7%
Managers	55%	20%	19%	6%
Other white collars	46%	21%	27%	6%
Manual workers	42%	26%	24%	8%
House persons	41%	26%	24%	9%
Unemployed	36%	35%	22%	7%
Retired	41%	25%	25%	9%
Students	57%	19%	18%	6%
Consider belonging to				
The working class	37%	30%	24%	9%
The middle class	50%	21%	23%	6%
The upper class	66%	16%	14%	4%

The table below shows the socio-demographic results throughout the European Union (EU28) on average, for the six largest EU countries and for four countries that have been particularly badly affected by the economic crisis.

QB2 Having heard about the objectives 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

	UE28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
											
	45%	57%	30%	42%	27%	51%	34%	27%	35%	54%	40%
 Gender											
Male	46%	58%	30%	43%	29%	51%	34%	27%	36%	57%	43%
Female	43%	55%	30%	41%	24%	50%	35%	28%	33%	50%	38%
 Age											
15-24	52%	64%	39%	52%	34%	52%	44%	33%	43%	50%	51%
25-39	47%	58%	29%	47%	30%	57%	37%	28%	38%	54%	36%
40-54	43%	52%	29%	33%	28%	47%	38%	25%	39%	57%	40%
55 +	41%	57%	29%	41%	22%	47%	26%	26%	27%	52%	38%
 Education (End of)											
15-	35%	50%	29%	37%	22%	27%	27%	23%	31%	41%	30%
16-19	43%	53%	29%	39%	22%	50%	34%	25%	36%	51%	38%
20+	50%	64%	34%	43%	38%	56%	37%	30%	41%	62%	45%
Still studying	57%	76%	40%	56%	40%	56%	44%	35%	46%	58%	51%
 Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	45%	46%	31%	41%	32%	62%	46%	28%	34%	61%	44%
Managers	55%	66%	38%	47%	53%	60%	43%	30%	35%	64%	51%
Other white collars	46%	62%	32%	45%	32%	48%	27%	22%	49%	60%	41%
Manual workers	42%	49%	33%	35%	28%	44%	30%	30%	35%	51%	29%
House persons	41%	52%	29%	41%	20%	61%	53%	30%	38%	45%	25%
Unemployed	36%	45%	24%	35%	16%	43%	35%	23%	30%	45%	39%
Retired	41%	57%	29%	42%	16%	48%	24%	27%	30%	52%	38%
Students	57%	76%	40%	56%	40%	56%	44%	35%	46%	58%	51%

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 81

Europe 2020

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 31th of May and the 14th of June 2014, TNS opinion & social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 81.4 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" unit.

The wave 81.4 is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 81 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 81 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	1.012	31/05/14	9/06/14	9.263.570	2,18%
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.074	31/05/14	9/06/14	6.294.563	1,48%
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.011	31/05/14	9/06/14	8.955.829	2,11%
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.006	31/05/14	9/06/14	4.625.032	1,09%
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.576	31/05/14	9/06/14	71.283.580	16,79%
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1.031	31/05/14	9/06/14	1.113.355	0,26%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1.003	31/05/14	9/06/14	3.586.829	0,84%
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.017	31/05/14	9/06/14	8.791.499	2,07%
ES	Spain	TNS Spain	1.033	31/05/14	9/06/14	39.506.853	9,31%
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.004	31/05/14	9/06/14	51.668.700	12,17%
HR	Croatia	HENDAL	1.003	31/05/14	9/06/14	3.625.601	0,85%
IT	Italy	TNS Italia	1.036	31/05/14	9/06/14	51.336.889	12,09%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR	500	31/05/14	9/06/14	724.084	0,17%
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.012	31/05/14	9/06/14	1.731.509	0,41%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.015	31/05/14	9/06/14	2.535.329	0,60%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	506	31/05/14	9/06/14	445.806	0,11%
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann	1.087	31/05/14	9/06/14	8.477.933	2,00%
MT	Malta	MISCO	504	31/05/14	9/06/14	360.045	0,08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.016	31/05/14	9/06/14	13.901.653	3,27%
AT	Austria	ipr Umfrageforschung	1.000	31/05/14	9/06/14	7.232.497	1,70%
PL	Poland	TNS Polska	1.001	31/05/14	9/06/14	32.736.685	7,71%
PT	Portugal	TNS Portugal	1.075	31/05/14	9/06/14	8.512.269	2,01%
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.022	31/05/14	9/06/14	16.880.465	3,98%
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.043	31/05/14	10/06/14	1.760.726	0,41%
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.024	31/05/14	10/06/14	4.580.260	1,08%
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.012	31/05/14	10/06/14	4.511.446	1,06%
SE	Sweden	TNS Sifo	1.008	31/05/14	12/06/14	7.944.034	1,87%
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.373	31/05/14	14/06/14	52.104.731	12,27%
TOTAL EU28			28.004	31/05/14	14/06/14	424.491.772	100%*

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

CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	KADEM	500	31/05/14	9/06/14	143.226
TR	Turkey	TNS Piar	1.026	31/05/14	10/06/14	54.844.406
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS BRIMA	1.033	31/05/14	9/06/14	1.678.404
IS	Iceland	Capacent	501	31/05/14	9/06/14	252.277
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	551	31/05/14	9/06/14	492.265
RS	Serbia	TNS Medium Gallup	1.074	31/05/14	9/06/14	6.409.693
TOTAL			32.689	31/05/14	14/06/14	488.312.043