



Standard Eurobarometer 82 Autumn 2014

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

FIRST RESULTS

Fieldwork: November 2014

Publication: December 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

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 82 / Autumn 2014 – TNS opinion & social

Project number	2014.7256
Project title	Standard Eurobarometer 82 "Public opinion in the European Union, First results"
Linguistic Version	EN
Catalogue Number	NA-07-14-081-EN-N
ISBN	978-92-79-44547-7
DOI	10.2775/68303

Standard Eurobarometer 82
Autumn 2014

First results

Survey conducted by TNS opinion & social at the request of
the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
I. EUROPEANS AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS	6
1. THE IMAGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND	6
2. THE IMAGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: NATIONAL RESULTS.....	7
3. TRUST IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS, AND IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND	8
4. MY VOICE COUNTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND	9
5. MY VOICE COUNTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: NATIONAL RESULTS	10
6. THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND	11
7. THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: NATIONAL RESULTS	12
II. THE MAIN CONCERNS OF EUROPEANS	13
1. MAIN CONCERNS AT NATIONAL LEVEL: EVOLUTIONS	13
2. MAIN CONCERNS AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL RESULTS	14
3. MAIN CONCERNS AT EUROPEAN LEVEL: EVOLUTIONS	15
4. MAIN CONCERNS AT EUROPEAN LEVEL: NATIONAL RESULTS.....	16
III. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE EURO	17
1. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE ECONOMY AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL RESULTS AND EVOLUTIONS	17
2. IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON JOBS: TREND	19
3. IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON JOBS: NATIONAL RESULTS AND EVOLUTIONS	20
4. EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS: GENERAL AND PERSONAL ASPECTS	22
5. SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION WITH A SINGLE CURRENCY, THE EURO: TREND	23
6. SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION WITH A SINGLE CURRENCY, THE EURO: NATIONAL RESULTS.....	24
IV. EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP	26
1. FEELING LIKE A CITIZEN OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND	26
2. FEELING LIKE A CITIZEN OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: NATIONAL RESULTS.....	27
3. MOST POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE EU: EVOLUTIONS	28

V. PRIORITY ISSUES	29
1. INVESTMENT	29
2. INDUSTRY	30
3. SUPPORT FOR A COMMON ENERGY POLICY AMONG EU MEMBER STATES	31
4. SUPPORT FOR A FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED STATES	32
5. MIGRATION	33
6. SUPPORT FOR A COMMON EUROPEAN POLICY ON MIGRATION	34
CONCLUSION	35

ANNEXES

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the first results of the Standard Eurobarometer 82 survey (EB82), which was carried out between 8 and 17 November 2014 in 35 countries or territories¹: the 28 European Union (EU) Member States, the six candidate countries (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania), 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 European political situation and the economy. It is published jointly with the results of the Standard Eurobarometer questions, which are set out in an annex.

The autumn 2014 survey was conducted a few weeks after the nomination by the European Council of the new European Commission on 23 October 2014. Before their nomination, the new Commissioners passed through a series of hearings, where they answered questions from Members of the European Parliament. The new Commission, led by its President, Jean-Claude Juncker, started its term of office on 1 November 2014.

The priorities of the new Commission were announced by the then President-elect in a statement made to the European Parliament on 15 July 2014² and in the political guidelines. The ten policy areas to be tackled under the Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change are: 1. A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment; 2. A Connected Digital Single Market; 3. A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy; 4. A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base; 5. A Deeper and Fairer Economic and Monetary Union; 6. A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.; 7. An Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights Based on Mutual Trust; 8. Towards a New Policy on Migration; 9. A Stronger Global Actor; and 10. A Union of Democratic Change.

The previous Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (EB81) was conducted a few days after the 2014 European elections³. Its results were marked by increased optimism about the economic indicators – though this remained at a low level –, a slight increase in most indicators of support for the EU, and a steep rise in the proportion of Europeans who felt that their voice counted in the EU, a likely consequence of the European elections.

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

² *A New Start for Europe: My Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change. Political Guidelines for the next European Commission.* Text available at: http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/docs/pg_en.pdf

³ The Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 (EB81) was carried out between 31 May and 14 June 2014 just after the European elections that took place across the EU between 22 and 25 May 2014.

The fieldwork was conducted just after the European Commission's publication of the autumn 2014 European economic forecast⁴. GDP growth for the whole year 2014 is expected to stand at 1.3% in the EU and 0.8% in the euro area, slightly lower than was forecast in the spring. The unemployment rate remains high in the EU, but the trend is positive⁵: at 10.1% in September 2014, the unemployment rate for EU28 has remained unchanged since August 2014, but is lower than in September 2013 (-0.7, from 10.8%). At 11.5%, it is also stable in the euro area, but has decreased more significantly compared with September 2013 (-0.5, down from 12%).

Though still at a very high level, the unemployment rate for young people aged under 25 has fallen since September 2013 in both EU28 (21.6%, -1.9 down from 23.5% in September 2013) and the euro area (23.3%, -0.7 down from 24% in September 2013).

Since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014, national elections have taken place in Slovenia, Sweden, Latvia, Bulgaria and Romania. Additionally, a referendum on independence was held in Scotland on 18 September 2014: 55% of voters decided that Scotland should not become an independent country

This report focuses on the results obtained in the 28 EU Member States and is divided into five parts. The first part analyses how Europeans perceive their political institutions, both national governments and parliaments, and the EU and its institutions. It also examines whether EU citizens feel that their voice counts in the EU. The second part looks at the main concerns of Europeans at national and at European level. The report then considers how respondents perceive the current economic situation, what they expect for the next twelve months and their opinions of the euro. The fourth part addresses the question of European citizenship, while the fifth part focuses on Europeans' opinions on priority issues: investment, industry, energy, trade and migration.

Most of these questions were asked in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, and for these we are able to analyse trends in public opinion.

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2014/pdf/ee7_en.pdf

⁵ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/3-31102014-BP/EN/3-31102014-BP-EN.PDF

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication (“Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer” Unit)⁶. 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 intervals⁷.

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
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, LV
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **	NON-EURO AREA	BG, CZ, DK, LT, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK, HR
IS	Iceland		
ME	Montenegro		
RS	Serbia		
AL	Albania		

* 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 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 EU28 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.*

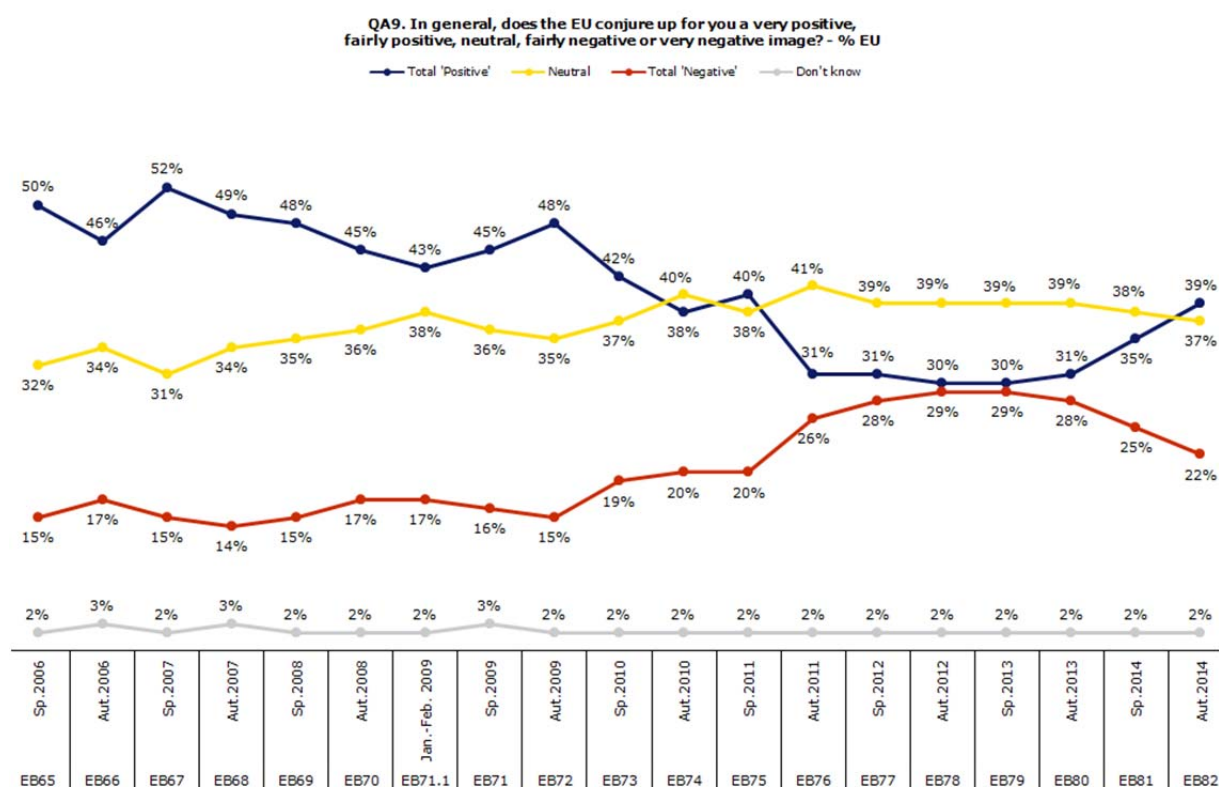
⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

⁷ The results tables are annexed. It should be noted that the total of the percentages indicated in the tables in this report may exceed 100% when the respondent was able to choose several answers to the same question.

I. EUROPEANS AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

1. THE IMAGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND

The image of the EU continues to improve: a majority of Europeans have a positive image of the EU (39%, +4 percentage points since spring 2014), while 37% have a neutral image (37%, -1), and fewer have a negative image (22%, -3). This is the third consecutive time that the proportion of Europeans with a positive image of the EU has increased (+1 percentage point between spring 2013 and autumn 2013; +4 between autumn 2013 and spring 2014). As a consequence the proportion of Europeans for whom the EU conjures up a positive image exceeds the proportion with a neutral image for the first time since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2011 (EB75).
































2. THE IMAGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: NATIONAL RESULTS

Majorities of Europeans have a positive image of the EU in 12 Member States, led by Poland (61%), Romania (59%), Ireland (53%), Bulgaria (51%) and Luxembourg (51%), where the EU conjures up a positive image for more than half of the population. In the Netherlands, equal proportions of the population have a positive and a neutral image of the EU (37% positive, 37% neutral, 26% negative). Respondents are most likely to have a neutral image in 12 countries. In the remaining three Member States, majorities of respondents have a negative image of the EU: Greece (44%), Cyprus (38%) and Austria (36%).

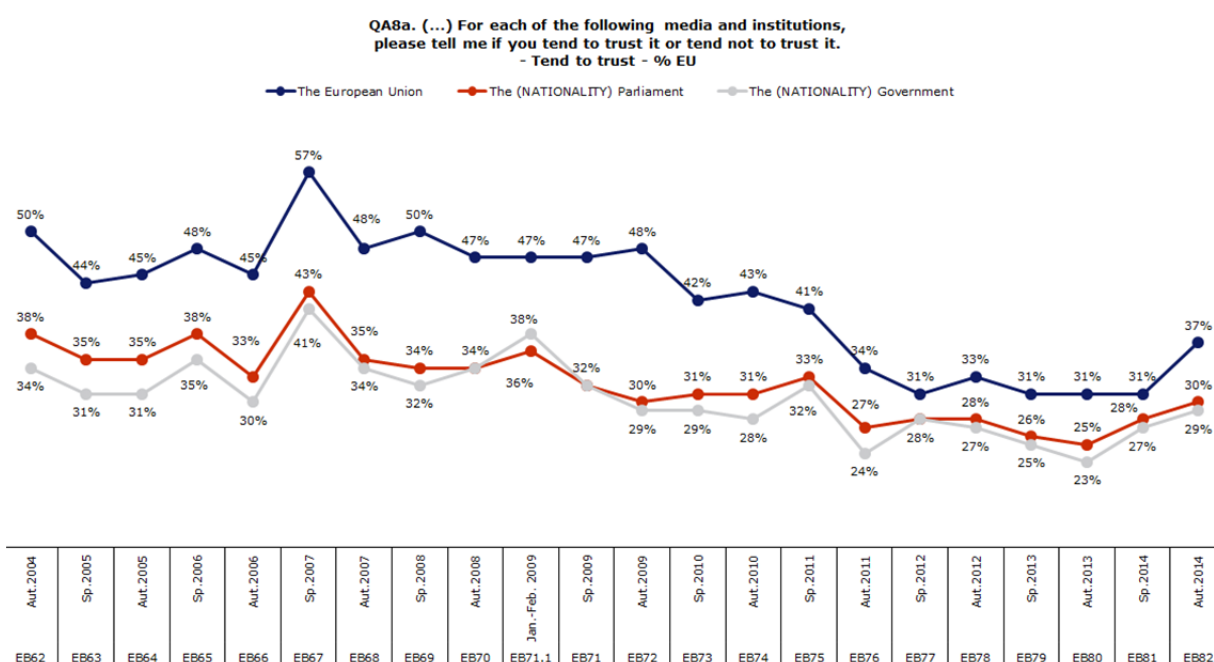
The proportion of EU citizens with a positive image of the EU has increased in 23 countries, most strikingly in Ireland (53%, +12 percentage points since spring 2014), Luxembourg (51%, +9), Poland (61%, +9) and Slovakia (39%, +9).

QA9 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

	Total 'Positive'	Diff. Aut. 2014-Sp.2014	Neutral	Diff. Aut. 2014-Sp.2014	Total 'Negative'	Diff. Aut. 2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut. 2014-Sp.2014
 EU28	39%	+4	37%	-1	22%	-3	2%	=
 IE	53%	+12	29%	-9	16%	-1	2%	-2
 LU	51%	+9	32%	-1	16%	-9	1%	+1
 PL	61%	+9	32%	-3	6%	-4	1%	-2
 SK	39%	+9	42%	-1	19%	-7	0%	-1
 CZ	37%	+8	40%	-3	22%	-6	1%	+1
 PT	38%	+8	35%	-2	25%	-6	2%	=
 HU	40%	+7	42%	-3	18%	-3	0%	-1
 UK	30%	+7	35%	-1	32%	-4	3%	-2
 ES	31%	+6	46%	+3	21%	-8	2%	-1
 DK	39%	+4	42%	+4	18%	-8	1%	=
 IT	34%	+4	35%	-3	28%	-1	3%	=
 MT	47%	+4	44%	-1	8%	-1	1%	-2
 RO	59%	+4	29%	-6	9%	=	3%	+2
 FR	41%	+3	35%	+1	23%	-4	1%	=
 LV	37%	+3	51%	-2	11%	-1	1%	=
 BE	42%	+2	35%	-1	22%	-1	1%	=
 DE	38%	+2	41%	-2	20%	=	1%	=
 LT	50%	+2	43%	+1	6%	-2	1%	-1
 NL	37%	+2	37%	-3	26%	+1	0%	=
 EE	45%	+1	46%	+1	7%	-3	2%	+1
 EL	23%	+1	32%	-2	44%	=	1%	+1
 HR	42%	+1	38%	-1	19%	-1	1%	+1
 FI	35%	+1	48%	+4	17%	-4	0%	-1
 AT	31%	=	32%	-2	36%	+2	1%	=
 CY	24%	-2	37%	+2	38%	=	1%	=
 SI	38%	-2	44%	+6	17%	-3	1%	-1
 SE	40%	-2	38%	+9	22%	-7	0%	=
 BG	51%	-3	30%	=	18%	+5	1%	-2

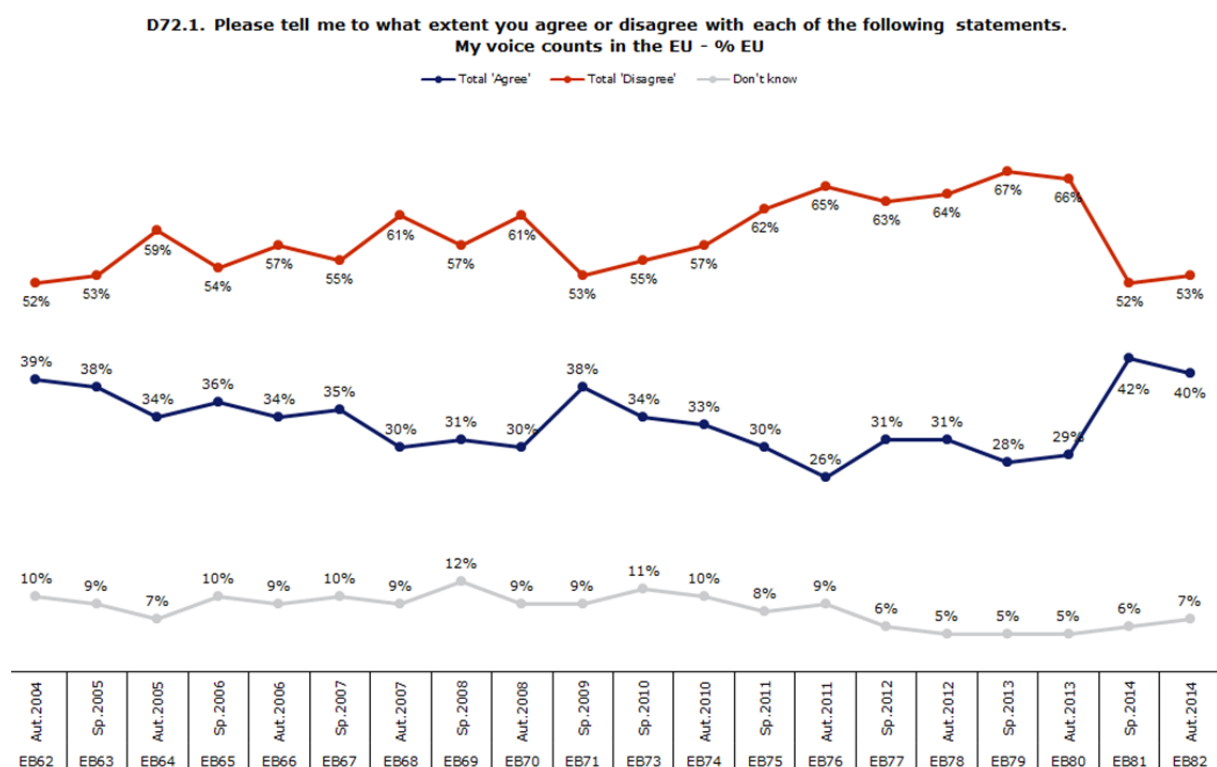
3. TRUST IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS, AND IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND

Trust in the European Union has increased significantly (37%, +6 percentage points since spring 2014). Trust in national governments (29%, +2) and national parliaments (30%, +2) has also increased. This is the first time since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2007 (EB67) that trust has increased *simultaneously* in the national political institutions and the European Union. Moreover, this 6-point rise in trust in the European Union is the largest since spring 2007. Meanwhile, the proportions of Europeans who tend not to trust national governments (65%, -3), national parliaments (62%, -3), and the European Union (50%, -6) have fallen, continuing the trend observed in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014.



4. MY VOICE COUNTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND

Four in ten Europeans agree that "their voice counts in the EU" (40%, -2 percentage points since spring 2014), while more than half say that their voice does not count (53%, +1). After the sharp increase measured between autumn 2013 and spring 2014, probably as a consequence of the European elections⁸, the belief that "my voice counts" is still at a relatively high level: this is the second highest proportion of Europeans to think their voice counts in the EU since 2004, behind only the 42% recorded in spring 2014.

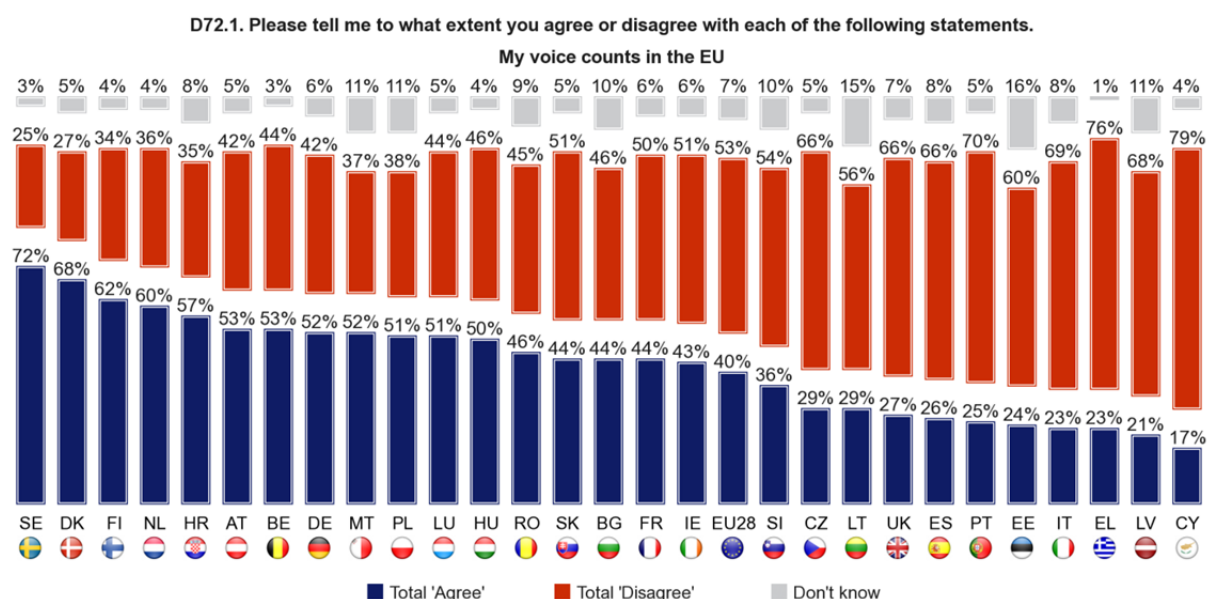


⁸ The 2014 EP elections were held between 22 and 25 May 2014; the fieldwork of the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014 started on 31 May, and ended on 14 June 2014.

5. MY VOICE COUNTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: NATIONAL RESULTS

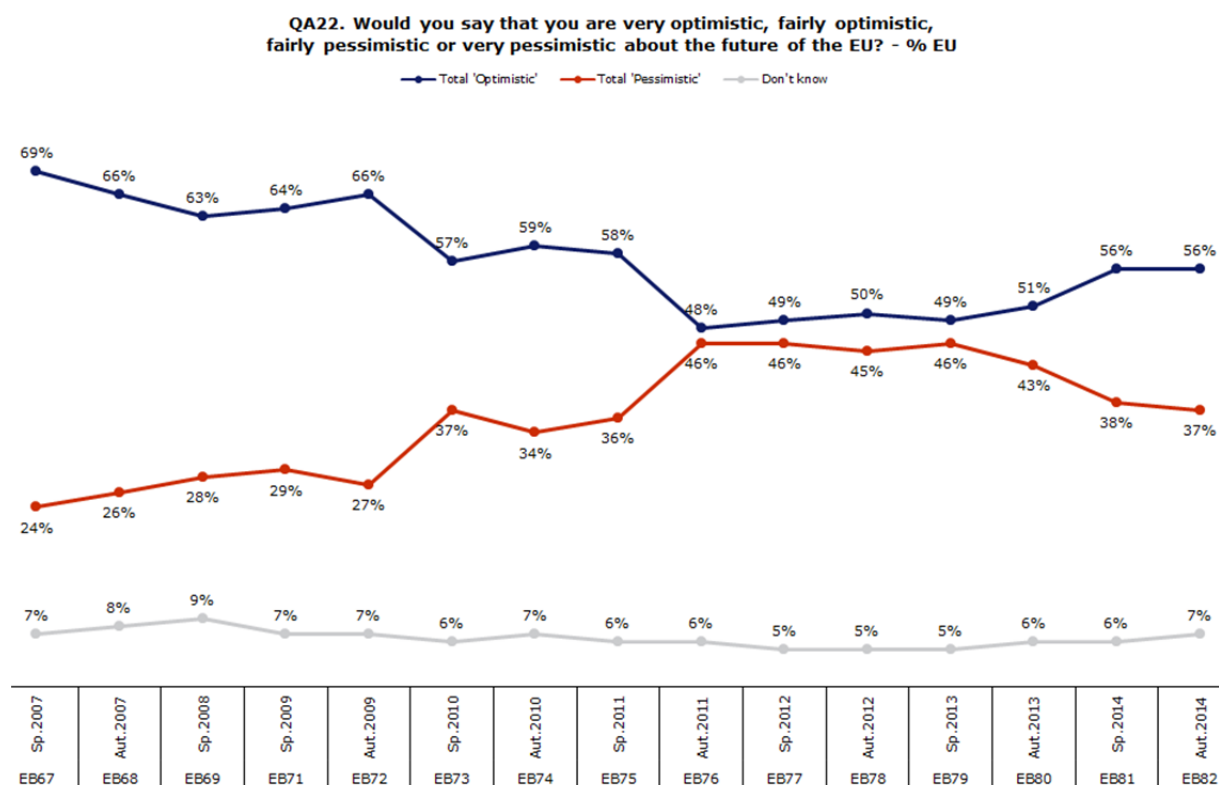
In 13 Member States, a majority of respondents say that their voice counts in the EU, though slightly fewer Europeans do so at EU level (-2 percentage points since spring 2014). More than two-thirds of citizens feel this way in Sweden (72%) and Denmark (68%), and between two-thirds and half do so in 10 countries: Finland (62%), the Netherlands (60%), Croatia (57%), Austria (53%), Belgium (53%), Germany (52%), Malta (52%), Poland (51%), Luxembourg (51%) and Hungary (50%). A relative majority of the population in Romania also think that their voice counts in the EU (46% vs. 45%). Conversely, in the remaining 15 countries, majorities of respondents think that their voice does not count in the EU, in proportions that ranged from 46% in Bulgaria to 79% in Cyprus.

The 2-point decrease at EU level in agreement that “my voice counts in the EU” conceals large variations between countries: this opinion has lost ground in 15 countries, most strikingly in Portugal (25%, -12 percentage points since spring 2014) and France (44%, -10); however, positive evolutions are recorded in 12 countries, especially in Romania (46%, +11, after the +16 recorded between autumn 2013 and spring 2014), Hungary (50%, +11) and Ireland (43%, +10).



6. THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND

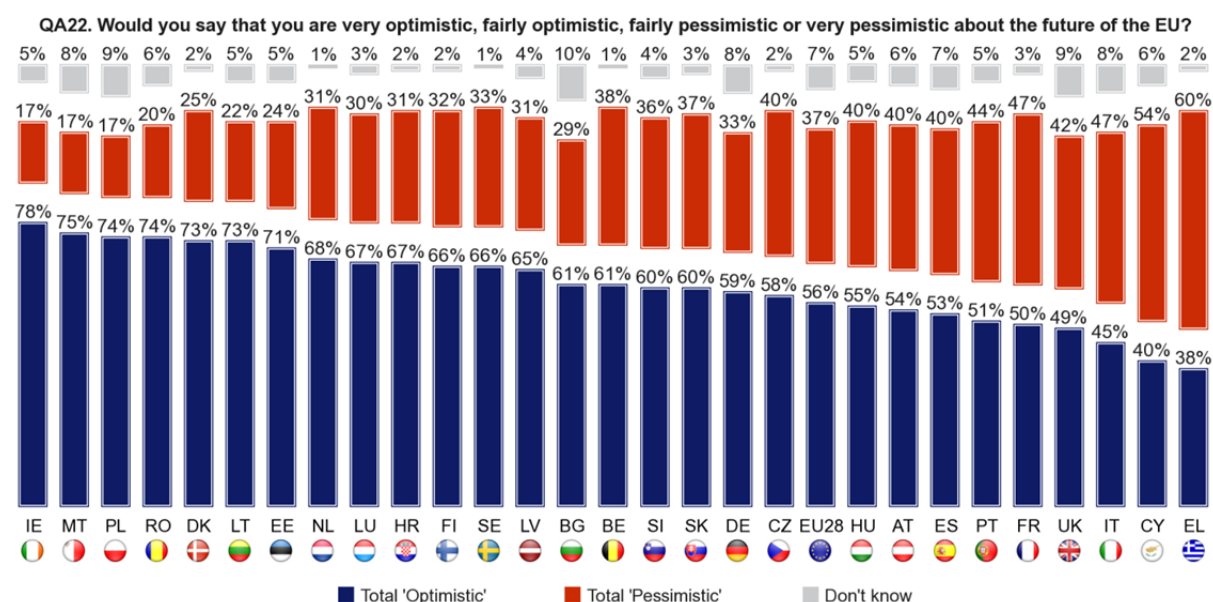
Optimism about the future of the EU is stable: a clear majority of Europeans are optimistic about the future of the EU (56%, unchanged since spring 2014), whereas pessimism has decreased slightly (37%, -1 percentage point). The positive trend observed since autumn 2013 (EB80) has thus been confirmed.



7. THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: NATIONAL RESULTS

Majorities of respondents say they are optimistic about the future of the EU in 25 Member States. This is the case for more than seven in ten respondents in Ireland (78%), Malta (75%), Poland (74%), Romania (74%), Denmark (73%), Lithuania (73%) and Estonia (71%), whereas optimism is more moderate in the UK (49% vs. 42% pessimistic), France (50%) and Portugal (51%). In three Member States, respondents are pessimistic: Greece (60% vs. 38%), Cyprus (54% vs. 40%) and Italy (47% vs. 45%).

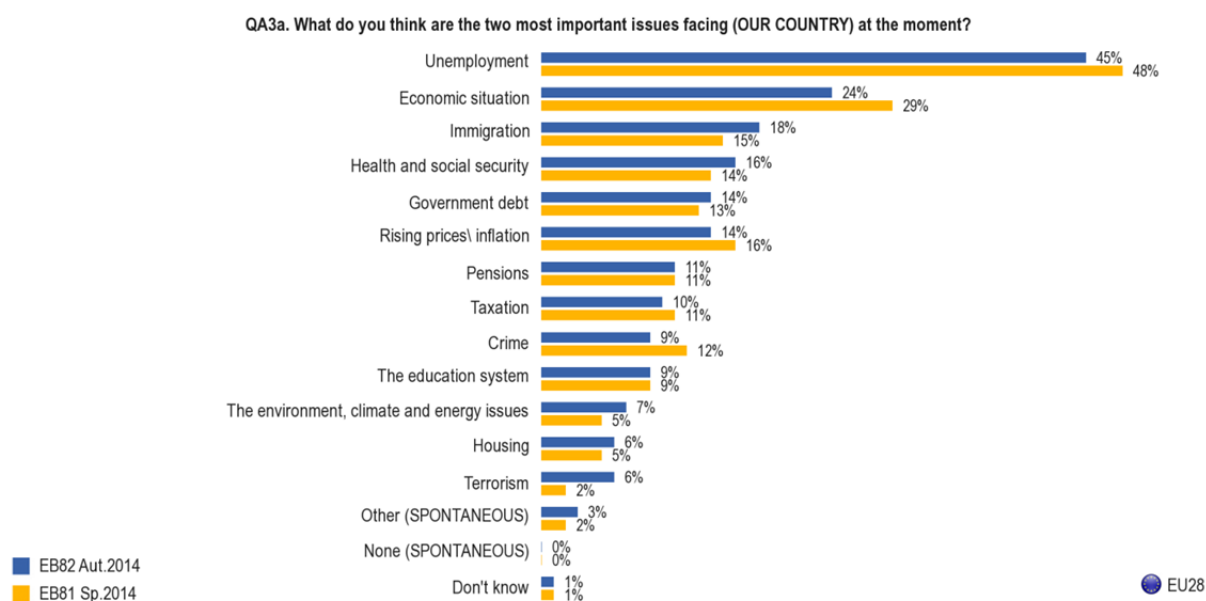
Optimism has grown in 13 countries, most strikingly in Ireland (78%, +7 percentage points since spring 2014) Sweden (66%, +6) and Poland (74%, +6). It has become the majority view in the UK (49% vs. 42%) and in Portugal (51% vs. 44%). Conversely, it has decreased in 15 countries, most steeply in Cyprus (40%, -10).



II. THE MAIN CONCERNS OF EUROPEANS

1. MAIN CONCERNS AT NATIONAL LEVEL: EVOLUTIONS

Unemployment remains by far the most important national concern of EU citizens: it is mentioned by 45% of them. However, the 3-point decrease registered since spring 2014 continues the downward trend first seen in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2013 (EB79) (-6 percentage points between spring 2013 and autumn 2014). In second position, the economic situation is mentioned by less than a quarter of respondents (24%, -5 since spring 2014 and -18 since autumn 2011). Immigration is now the third most important national issue (18%, +3 since spring 2013 and +11 since autumn 2011). This is the first time since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2009 (EB72) that a theme not directly related to the economy is found among the three most important concerns (at that time, crime was in third position, equal with rising prices and inflation). Health and social security (16%, +2) is in fourth position, above government debt (14%, +1) and rising prices and inflation (14%, -2). The other most notable evolutions since spring 2014 are the 3-point decrease for crime (9%), and the 4-point increase for terrorism (6%).



2. MAIN CONCERNS AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL RESULTS

Unemployment is the main national concern, mentioned by 45% of Europeans: it is the most cited item in 21 countries. In second position, the economic situation is cited by 24% of Europeans: it is the second mentioned item in 14 Member States, but the only first mentioned item in none of them. Immigration is the third most important national concern (mentioned by 18% of Europeans), and it comes first in three countries: Malta (57%), the UK (38%), and Germany (37%), after a 15-point increase in this survey following a previous 6-point increase between autumn 2013 and spring 2014. Health and social security, mentioned by 16% of Europeans, in fourth position, is the first item mentioned in the Netherlands (56%).

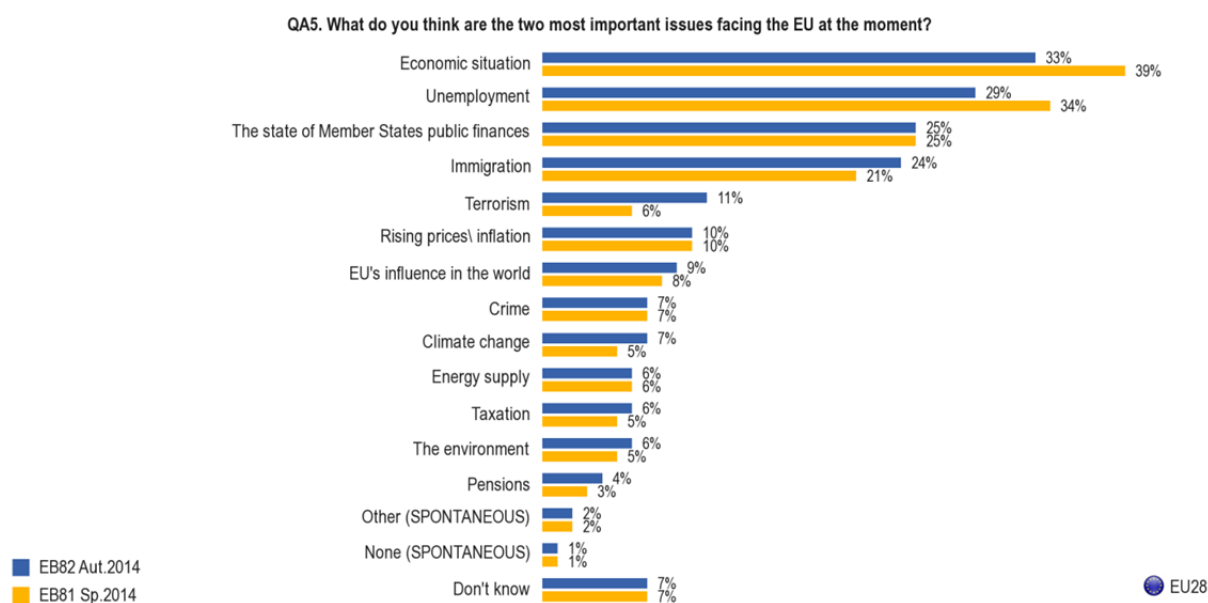
QA3a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

	Unemployment	Economic situation	Immigration	Health and social security	Government debt	Rising prices/inflation	Pensions	Taxation	Crime	The education system	The environment, climate and energy issues	Housing	Terrorism
EU28	45%	24%	18%	16%	14%	14%	11%	10%	9%	9%	7%	6%	6%
BE	42%	25%	16%	9%	20%	14%	24%	11%	9%	5%	9%	5%	2%
BG	49%	44%	10%	24%	5%	19%	12%	3%	13%	6%	3%	1%	1%
CZ	40%	20%	8%	14%	27%	24%	17%	6%	20%	6%	3%	5%	1%
DK	35%	18%	34%	23%	6%	3%	3%	6%	11%	17%	28%	2%	6%
DE	16%	11%	37%	11%	17%	12%	15%	5%	14%	17%	16%	7%	11%
EE	30%	28%	5%	29%	1%	25%	19%	16%	6%	11%	6%	3%	3%
IE	48%	24%	8%	19%	17%	14%	4%	19%	13%	7%	3%	13%	1%
EL	60%	46%	6%	13%	22%	8%	6%	22%	5%	6%	1%	0%	1%
ES	78%	36%	3%	13%	11%	5%	4%	5%	6%	8%	1%	5%	1%
FR	63%	26%	11%	7%	18%	13%	9%	13%	8%	6%	8%	7%	5%
HR	66%	33%	2%	9%	30%	12%	6%	4%	19%	4%	1%	4%	0%
IT	60%	37%	18%	4%	14%	10%	9%	24%	7%	3%	3%	2%	3%
CY	79%	68%	8%	4%	10%	6%	2%	7%	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%
LV	35%	31%	9%	31%	4%	19%	19%	20%	4%	10%	1%	4%	1%
LT	37%	20%	10%	13%	13%	41%	14%	22%	8%	6%	3%	4%	0%
LU	39%	14%	11%	5%	10%	17%	7%	11%	7%	22%	6%	39%	2%
HU	50%	30%	3%	21%	13%	20%	13%	10%	12%	5%	3%	7%	1%
MT	12%	11%	57%	15%	15%	14%	9%	6%	10%	8%	22%	1%	1%
NL	31%	28%	8%	56%	6%	4%	11%	10%	8%	9%	7%	2%	12%
AT	33%	19%	20%	12%	17%	21%	12%	10%	13%	17%	10%	7%	5%
PL	54%	17%	7%	25%	11%	19%	19%	7%	6%	5%	4%	5%	2%
PT	66%	31%	2%	13%	20%	22%	11%	14%	4%	5%	2%	1%	0%
RO	30%	30%	4%	24%	5%	30%	19%	9%	11%	14%	2%	5%	1%
SI	57%	47%	1%	11%	25%	5%	7%	8%	11%	1%	4%	1%	0%
SK	57%	31%	1%	23%	11%	21%	13%	7%	8%	7%	4%	6%	1%
FI	49%	36%	3%	35%	28%	8%	7%	8%	4%	4%	8%	3%	1%
SE	37%	17%	24%	30%	1%	2%	5%	3%	5%	34%	27%	7%	1%
UK	22%	13%	38%	22%	12%	17%	6%	5%	9%	8%	6%	16%	16%

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

3. MAIN CONCERNS AT EUROPEAN LEVEL: EVOLUTIONS






























Though still leading the hierarchy of most important issues currently facing the EU, economic themes are continuing to lose ground: the economic situation (33%, -6 percentage points) and unemployment (29%, -5) remain the top two concerns, but these scores are lower than in spring 2014, continuing the downward trend started in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2011 (EB76) in the case of the economic situation (-26 percentage points, down from 59% in autumn 2011 after falling in six successive waves) and in spring 2013 for unemployment (-9, down from 38% in spring 2013). The state of Member States' public finances (25%, unchanged since spring 2014) remains in third position, but is now only one point above immigration (24%, +3 since spring 2014 and +16 up from 8% in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2012). The most significant increase is observed for terrorism, which becomes the fifth most important concern facing the EU after a 5-point increase (11%). All other items have gained ground slightly or remained stable.



4. MAIN CONCERNS AT EUROPEAN LEVEL: NATIONAL RESULTS

The economic situation is seen as the main issue facing the EU: it is mentioned by 33% of Europeans and it comes first in 13 Member States (down from 18 in spring 2014). In second place, unemployment is mentioned by 29% of Europeans: it is the most cited item in five countries (up from three in spring 2014): Cyprus (49%), Luxembourg (44%), Italy (42%), Ireland (39%) and Poland (25%). In third position for Europeans as a whole (25%), the state of Member States' public finances is in first place in four countries (up from three in spring 2014): Finland (47%), Austria (34%), Slovakia (33%) and the Czech Republic (27%). Immigration, which is now the fourth most important concern at EU level with 24% of mentions, is the first item mentioned in four countries: Malta (46%), Germany (37%), Bulgaria (35%) and the UK (33%).

QA5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

		Economic situation	Unemployment	The state of Member States' public finances	Immigration	Terrorism	Rising prices/inflation	EU's influence in the world	Crime	Climate change	Energy supply	Taxation	The environment	Pensions
	EU28	33%	29%	25%	24%	11%	10%	9%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	4%
	BE	32%	31%	23%	21%	9%	9%	8%	8%	10%	10%	6%	8%	10%
	BG	27%	13%	11%	35%	18%	7%	10%	10%	5%	10%	2%	4%	2%
	CZ	25%	21%	27%	26%	17%	10%	9%	13%	5%	7%	4%	6%	7%
	DK	32%	30%	16%	32%	10%	2%	10%	8%	25%	5%	1%	14%	0%
	DE	24%	26%	36%	37%	14%	7%	8%	8%	8%	7%	3%	6%	3%
	EE	28%	12%	26%	24%	13%	7%	15%	4%	2%	19%	4%	4%	3%
	IE	34%	39%	21%	12%	7%	14%	7%	8%	9%	7%	11%	5%	2%
	EL	47%	38%	32%	18%	6%	8%	14%	7%	2%	5%	6%	2%	2%
	ES	45%	40%	24%	11%	3%	8%	7%	3%	4%	4%	6%	2%	3%
	FR	35%	32%	22%	20%	13%	13%	11%	5%	9%	5%	4%	9%	3%
	HR	28%	27%	27%	11%	9%	11%	11%	12%	10%	9%	5%	3%	4%
	IT	41%	42%	19%	29%	5%	9%	5%	9%	3%	4%	13%	4%	4%
	CY	45%	49%	27%	12%	9%	6%	8%	8%	1%	0%	7%	3%	1%
	LV	27%	16%	26%	24%	11%	11%	14%	6%	3%	13%	8%	4%	4%
	LT	23%	17%	22%	20%	12%	13%	11%	11%	7%	12%	10%	2%	3%
	LU	28%	44%	25%	23%	13%	11%	7%	8%	7%	7%	4%	5%	4%
	HU	32%	28%	29%	18%	7%	11%	10%	11%	6%	10%	7%	5%	7%
	MT	23%	20%	17%	46%	17%	5%	5%	9%	10%	9%	3%	7%	3%
	NL	42%	21%	40%	21%	17%	5%	16%	4%	5%	6%	4%	5%	2%
	AT	28%	25%	34%	22%	15%	15%	9%	14%	9%	5%	4%	8%	3%
	PL	23%	25%	18%	15%	14%	12%	9%	6%	7%	13%	5%	7%	7%
	PT	32%	35%	35%	6%	4%	12%	7%	5%	3%	2%	7%	2%	7%
	RO	29%	17%	17%	15%	10%	17%	5%	14%	4%	7%	7%	4%	7%
	SI	37%	32%	27%	15%	5%	4%	7%	11%	9%	7%	5%	5%	2%
	SK	30%	29%	33%	11%	11%	13%	11%	11%	6%	13%	4%	6%	4%
	FI	33%	28%	47%	13%	6%	9%	11%	7%	14%	11%	5%	8%	2%
	SE	32%	28%	24%	28%	7%	1%	10%	5%	28%	7%	1%	22%	1%
	UK	32%	17%	16%	33%	15%	11%	10%	4%	4%	5%	5%	3%	2%

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

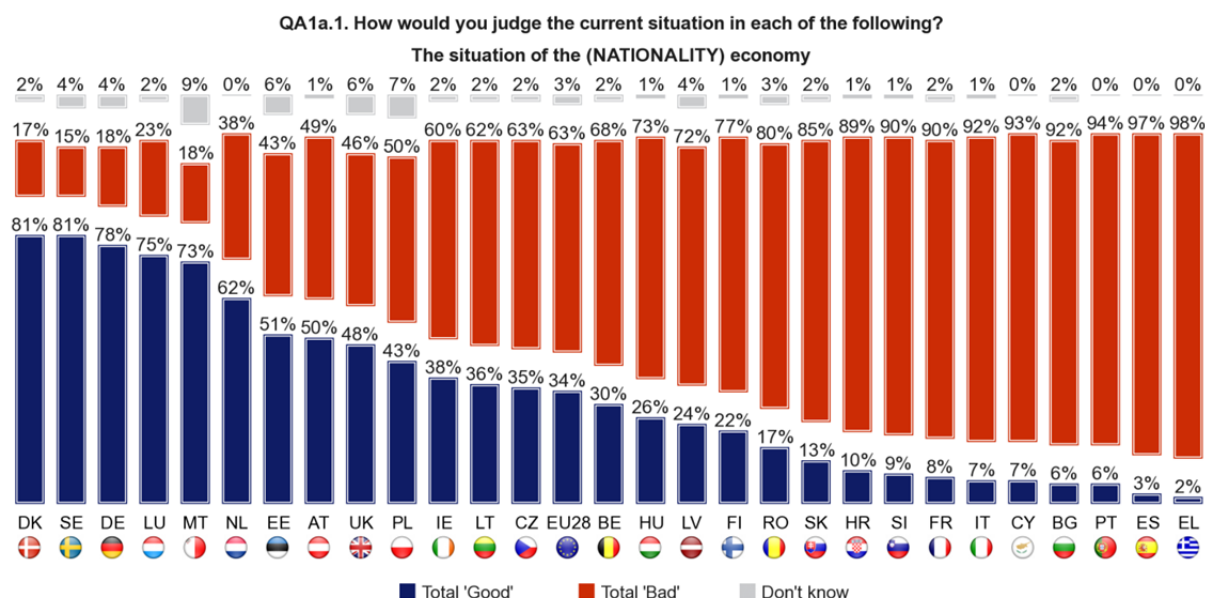
III. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE EURO

1. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE ECONOMY AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL RESULTS AND EVOLUTIONS






























The way EU citizens evaluate their national economic situation varies a lot between Member States. In nine countries, majorities of people consider that it is 'good': more than two-thirds of the population do so in Denmark (81%), Sweden (81%), Germany (78%), Luxembourg (75%) and Malta (73%); and majorities agree in the Netherlands (62%), Estonia (51%), Austria (50%) and the UK (48% vs. 46% for the total 'bad'). At the other end of the scale, the situation continues to be viewed very pessimistically in eight Member States where fewer than one in ten respondents believe that the situation of their economy is good: Greece (2%), Spain (3%), Portugal and Bulgaria (both 6%), Cyprus and Italy (both 7%), France (8%) and Slovenia (9%).

The stability at overall EU level since spring 2014 conceals a wide variety of evolutions in different Member States. The feeling that the situation of the national economy is 'good' has grown in 13 Member States (down from 19 in spring 2014), remained stable in five, and declined in ten. The rise in 'good' answers is most striking in Ireland (38%, +14 percentage points since spring 2014, after a 6-point increase between autumn 2013 and spring 2014), the Czech Republic (35%, +9, after a 11-point increase) and Poland (43%, +7). Conversely, the largest declines are observed in Belgium (30%, -14) and Finland (22%, -14, after a 11-point decrease between autumn 2013 and spring 2014).

The gap between the top and bottom of the scale has remained unchanged at 79 points.

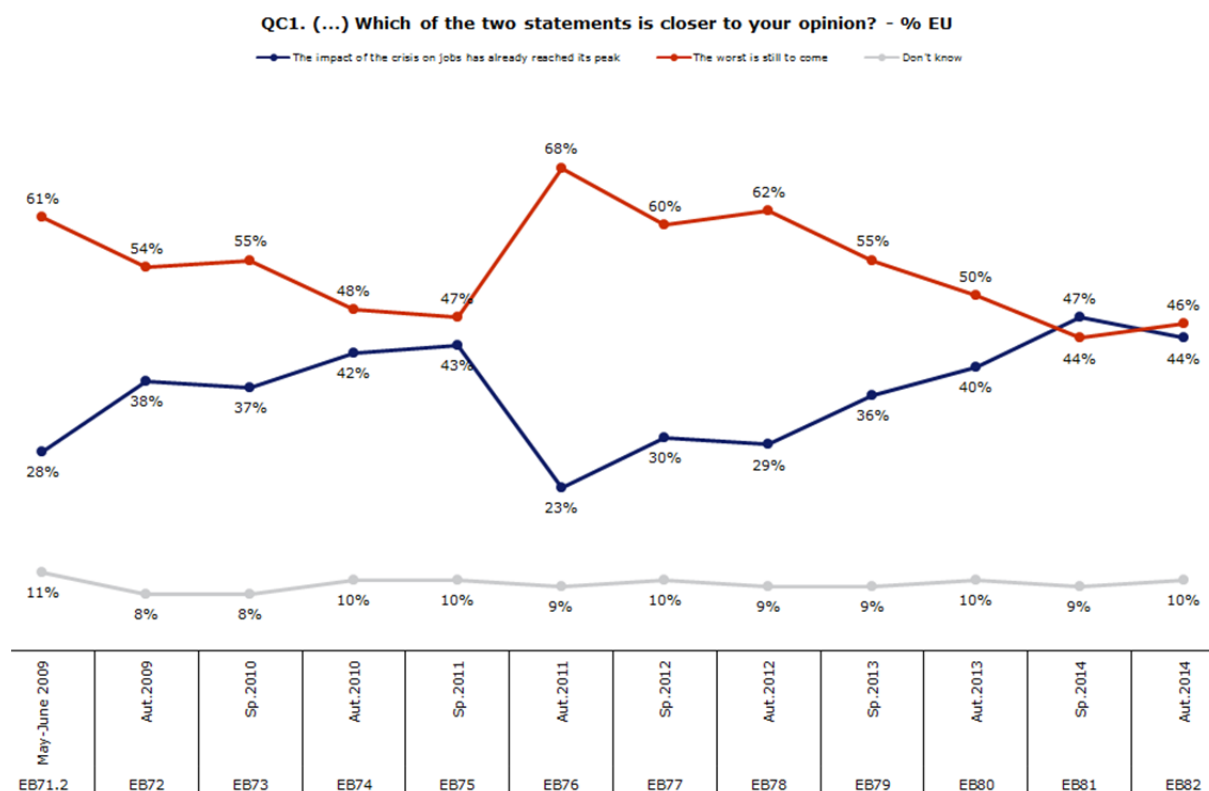


QA1a.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy

		Total 'Good'	Diff. Aut.2014- Sp.2014	Total 'Bad'	Diff. Aut.2014- Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014- Sp.2014
	EU28	34%	=	63%	=	3%	=
	EURO AREA	30%	-2	68%	+2	2%	=
	NON-EURO AREA	41%	+3	54%	-3	5%	=
	IE	38%	+14	60%	-15	2%	+1
	CZ	35%	+9	63%	-10	2%	+1
	PL	43%	+7	50%	-6	7%	-1
	HR	10%	+5	89%	-6	1%	+1
	LV	24%	+3	72%	-4	4%	+1
	RO	17%	+3	80%	-5	3%	+2
	NL	62%	+2	38%	-1	0%	-1
	EE	51%	+2	43%	-3	6%	+1
	SI	9%	+2	90%	-3	1%	+1
	IT	7%	+2	92%	-2	1%	=
	PT	6%	+2	94%	-2	0%	=
	UK	48%	+1	46%	-1	6%	=
	BG	6%	+1	92%	-1	2%	=
	SE	81%	=	15%	-1	4%	+1
	HU	26%	=	73%	=	1%	=
	SK	13%	=	85%	+1	2%	-1
	FR	8%	=	90%	+1	2%	-1
	CY	7%	=	93%	=	0%	=
	DK	81%	-1	17%	+1	2%	=
	LT	36%	-1	62%	+1	2%	=
	ES	3%	-1	97%	+1	0%	=
	EL	2%	-2	98%	+2	0%	=
	MT	73%	-3	18%	+3	9%	=
	DE	78%	-5	18%	+4	4%	+1
	LU	75%	-6	23%	+8	2%	-2
	AT	50%	-6	49%	+7	1%	-1
	BE	30%	-14	68%	+14	2%	=
	FI	22%	-14	77%	+13	1%	+1

2. IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON JOBS: TREND

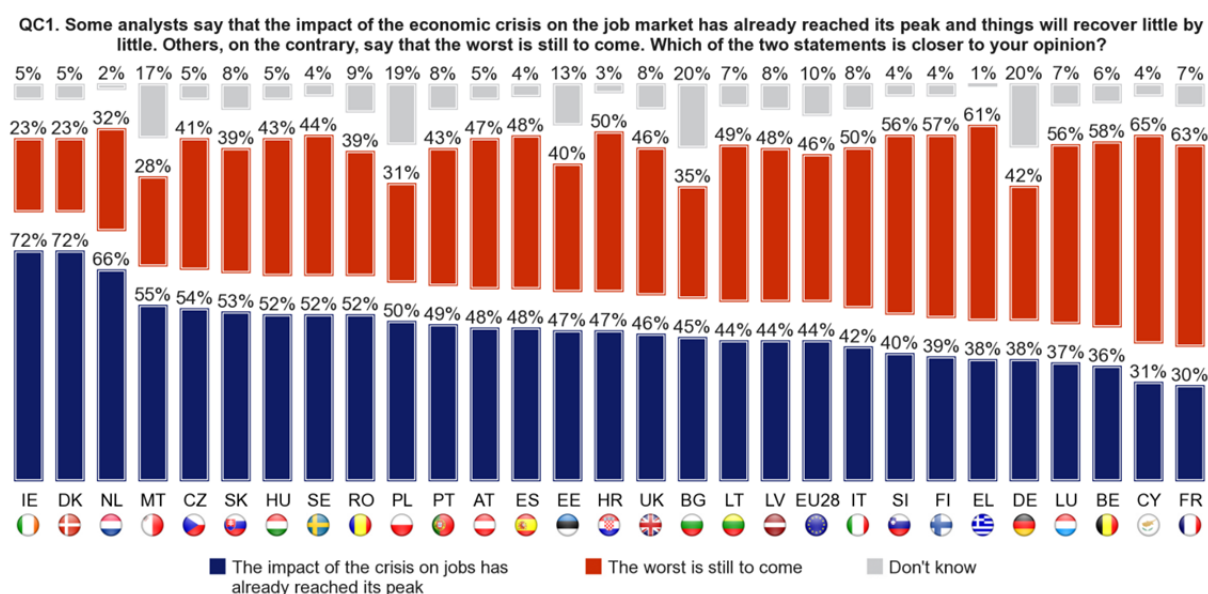
Europeans are divided regarding the impact of the crisis on the job market: a slim majority are pessimistic, and think that “the worst is still to come” (46%, +2 percentage points since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014), while 44% consider that it has “already reached its peak”, after a 3-point decrease. Pessimism is once again the majority view, whereas only a minority of Europeans were pessimistic in spring 2014 for the first time since May-June 2009, when this question was asked for the first time.
































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

Optimism regarding the impact of the crisis on the job market outweighs pessimism in 14 Member States (down from 22 in spring 2014). The highest proportions of respondents who think that it has “already reached its peak” are found in Denmark (72%), Ireland (72%) and the Netherlands (66%). Conversely, the feeling that “the worst is still to come” is the majority view in 12 Member States (up from 6 in spring 2014), with the highest proportions in Cyprus (65%), France (63%), and Greece (61%). Respondents are evenly divided in Spain (48% vs. 48%) and the United Kingdom (46% vs. 46%).

Optimism has declined in 19 Member States, most significantly in Belgium (36%, -15 percentage points), Luxembourg (37%, -15) and Finland (39%, -14). In these three Member States, majorities are now pessimistic, whereas the opposite was true in spring 2014. This inversion is also seen in Lithuania, Germany, Latvia, and Croatia. The largest rises in optimism are seen in Ireland (72%, +11) and in Portugal (49%, +8), where majorities now think that the impact of the crisis has reached its peak.



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 impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	The worst is still to come	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014-Sp.2014
	EU28	44%	-3	46%	+2	10%	+1
	EURO AREA	41%	-5	49%	+3	10%	+2
	NON-EURO AREA	50%	+2	40%	-1	10%	-1
	IE	72%	+11	23%	-11	5%	=
	PT	49%	+8	43%	-9	8%	+1
	PL	50%	+7	31%	-7	19%	=
	CZ	54%	+3	41%	-5	5%	+2
	SK	53%	+1	39%	-6	8%	+5
	RO	52%	+1	39%	-5	9%	+4
	UK	46%	+1	46%	+3	8%	-4
	AT	48%	=	47%	=	5%	=
	BG	45%	=	35%	-1	20%	+1
	EE	47%	-1	40%	-3	13%	+4
	HR	47%	-2	50%	+3	3%	-1
	ES	48%	-3	48%	+2	4%	+1
	EL	38%	-3	61%	+4	1%	-1
	MT	55%	-4	28%	+3	17%	+1
	LV	44%	-4	48%	+4	8%	=
	FR	30%	-4	63%	+3	7%	+1
	IT	42%	-5	50%	+2	8%	+3
	SI	40%	-5	56%	+6	4%	-1
	DE	38%	-5	42%	+3	20%	+2
	DK	72%	-6	23%	+5	5%	+1
	NL	66%	-6	32%	+7	2%	-1
	SE	52%	-6	44%	+6	4%	=
	CY	31%	-7	65%	+6	4%	+1
	LT	44%	-8	49%	+9	7%	-1
	HU	52%	-9	43%	+7	5%	+2
	FI	39%	-14	57%	+13	4%	+1
	LU	37%	-15	56%	+16	7%	-1
	BE	36%	-15	58%	+12	6%	+3

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

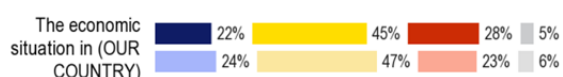
A majority of respondents continue to expect both the national (45%, -2 percentage points since spring 2014) and the European economy (42%, unchanged) to remain “the same” in the next twelve months. However, pessimism has increased, with rising proportions of Europeans thinking that the economic situation will get worse both nationally (28%, +5) and in Europe as a whole (24%, +6). In the same time, optimism has lost ground in both cases (22% for the answer “better” at national level, -2; 20%, -4 for the European situation).

In the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014, after a substantial improvement in these indicators, optimism outweighed pessimism for the first time since autumn 2009 (EB72) for the economic situation in the EU and since spring 2007 (EB67) for the national economic situation. The situation reversed again in autumn 2014, highlighting a degree of uncertainty in EU citizens’ short-term outlook on the economy. However, despite this deterioration since spring 2014, expectations for the economy remain slightly better than was the case in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2013 (EB80).

Respondents’ expectations regarding their personal situation have remained stable since spring 2014: a large majority of Europeans consider that the financial situation of their household (61%, -1 percentage point since spring 2014) and of their personal job situation (60%, unchanged) will remain “the same” in the next twelve months. The proportion of respondents who think that the next twelve months will be “better” has remained almost unchanged (22%, +1; 20%, unchanged respectively), as has the proportion who say it will be “worse” (14%, unchanged; 8%, +1).

QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?



EB82 Aut.2014
EB81 Sp.2014



EB82 Aut.2014
EB81 Sp.2014



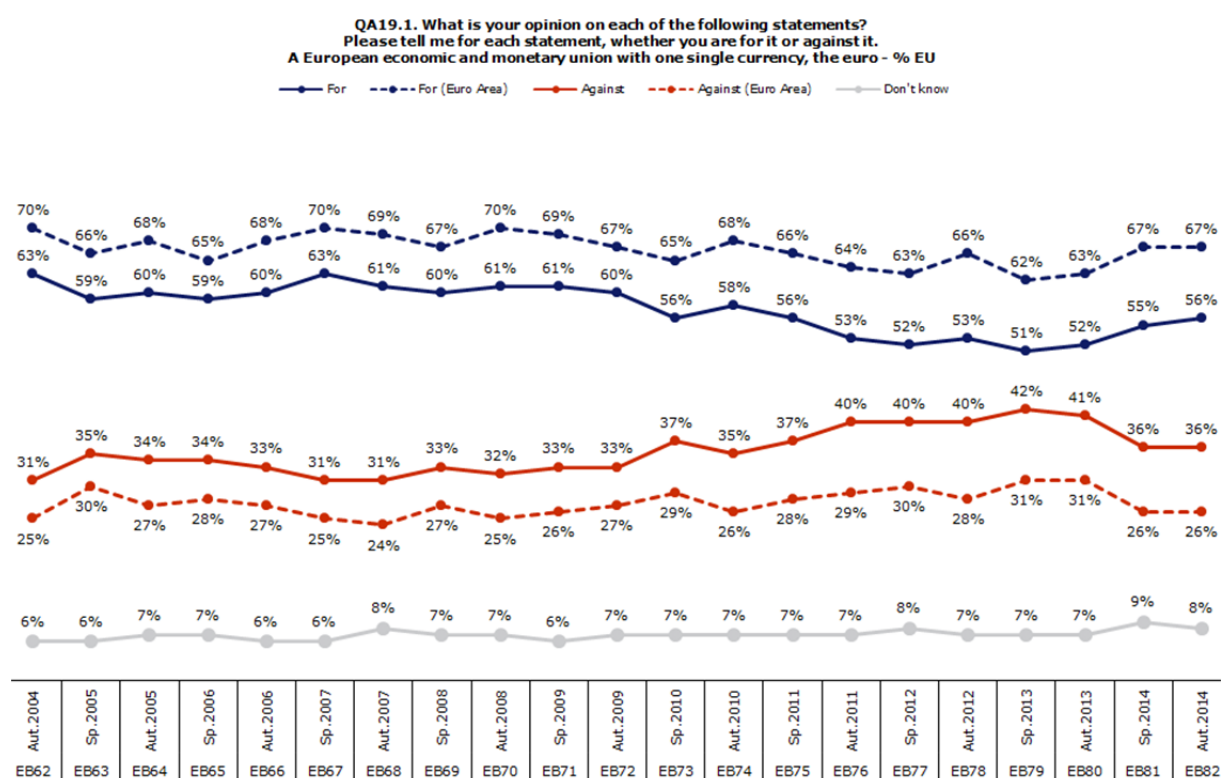
EU28

EU28

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

An absolute majority of EU citizens are in favour of the euro: 56% support "an economic and monetary union with a single currency, the euro". Moreover, support for the euro has gained ground, though slightly, for the third successive time since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2013 (EB79) (+1 percentage point between spring 2013 and autumn 2013, +3 between autumn 2013 and spring 2014, and +1 since spring 2014). Opposition has remained unchanged, at 36%. At +41, the index of support⁹ for the euro in the euro area has reached its highest level since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2010 (EB74), when it stood at +42.

Support for the euro remains far more widespread within the euro area than outside it. However, it is stable in the euro area (67% are in favour vs. 26%, unchanged), while it has risen outside it (35%, +3 percentage points, vs. 55%, -2).



⁹ Difference between the proportion of "for" answers and the proportion of "against" answers

6. SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION WITH A SINGLE CURRENCY, THE EURO: NATIONAL RESULTS






























In 23 Member States, including all the members of the euro area, majorities of citizens say they are in favour of “a European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro”. In nine countries, at least three-quarters of respondents are for the euro: Estonia (83%), Luxembourg (80%), Slovakia (79%), Malta (77%), Ireland (76%), the Netherlands (76%), Belgium (76%), Slovenia (75%) and Finland (75%). At the other end of the scale, respondents in Bulgaria are much more divided, but a majority of them now support the euro (45% vs. 42%). Conversely, majorities oppose the euro in five Member States: Sweden (73%), the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic (both 70%), Denmark (61%) and Poland (48% vs. 40% “for”).

Support for the single currency has risen in 18 Member States, most strikingly in Lithuania¹⁰ (63%, +13 percentage points since spring 2014) and Latvia (74%, +6). In these two countries, the increases are even more spectacular when the results are compared with the Eurobarometer survey of spring 2013 (EB79): +23 in Lithuania, up from 40%, and +31 in Latvia, up from 43%. Conversely, opposition to the euro has gained ground in seven countries, most strikingly in Greece (35%, +6). Noticeably, the index of support¹¹ for the euro has increased since spring 2014 in the five Member States where a majority oppose the euro (+10 in Denmark, +8 in Sweden, +7 in the United Kingdom, +4 in the Czech Republic and +2 in Poland).

¹⁰ Lithuania is due to join the euro area on 1 January 2015.

¹¹ Difference between the proportion of “for” answers and the proportion of “against” answers

QA19.1 What is your opinion on each of the following statements?
Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.
A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro

		For	Diff. Aut.2014- Sp.2014	Against	Diff. Aut.2014- Sp.2014	Don't know	Diff. Aut.2014- Sp.2014
	EU28	56%	+1	36%	=	8%	-1
	EURO AREA	67%	=	26%	=	7%	=
	NON-EURO AREA	35%	+3	55%	-2	10%	-1
	LT	63%	+13	31%	-10	6%	-3
	LV	74%	+6	19%	-6	7%	=
	SK	79%	+5	17%	-4	4%	-1
	ES	65%	+5	29%	-3	6%	-2
	DK	34%	+5	61%	-5	5%	=
	MT	77%	+4	18%	-3	5%	-1
	BG	45%	+4	42%	=	13%	-4
	SE	23%	+4	73%	-4	4%	=
	UK	20%	+4	70%	-3	10%	-1
	EE	83%	+3	10%	-4	7%	+1
	HR	56%	+3	36%	-2	8%	-1
	PL	40%	+3	48%	+1	12%	-4
	LU	80%	+2	17%	=	3%	-2
	IE	76%	+2	16%	-2	8%	=
	AT	69%	+2	25%	-3	6%	+1
	RO	65%	+2	23%	-3	12%	+1
	HU	54%	+1	39%	-1	7%	=
	CZ	25%	+1	70%	-3	5%	+2
	NL	76%	=	21%	=	3%	=
	IT	54%	=	32%	+3	14%	-3
	FI	75%	-1	20%	=	5%	+1
	DE	74%	-1	22%	=	4%	+1
	FR	67%	-1	27%	+1	6%	=
	PT	58%	-1	36%	+2	6%	-1
	BE	76%	-2	21%	+1	3%	+1
	CY	51%	-2	44%	=	5%	+2
	SI	75%	-4	19%	+3	6%	+1
	EL	63%	-6	35%	+6	2%	=

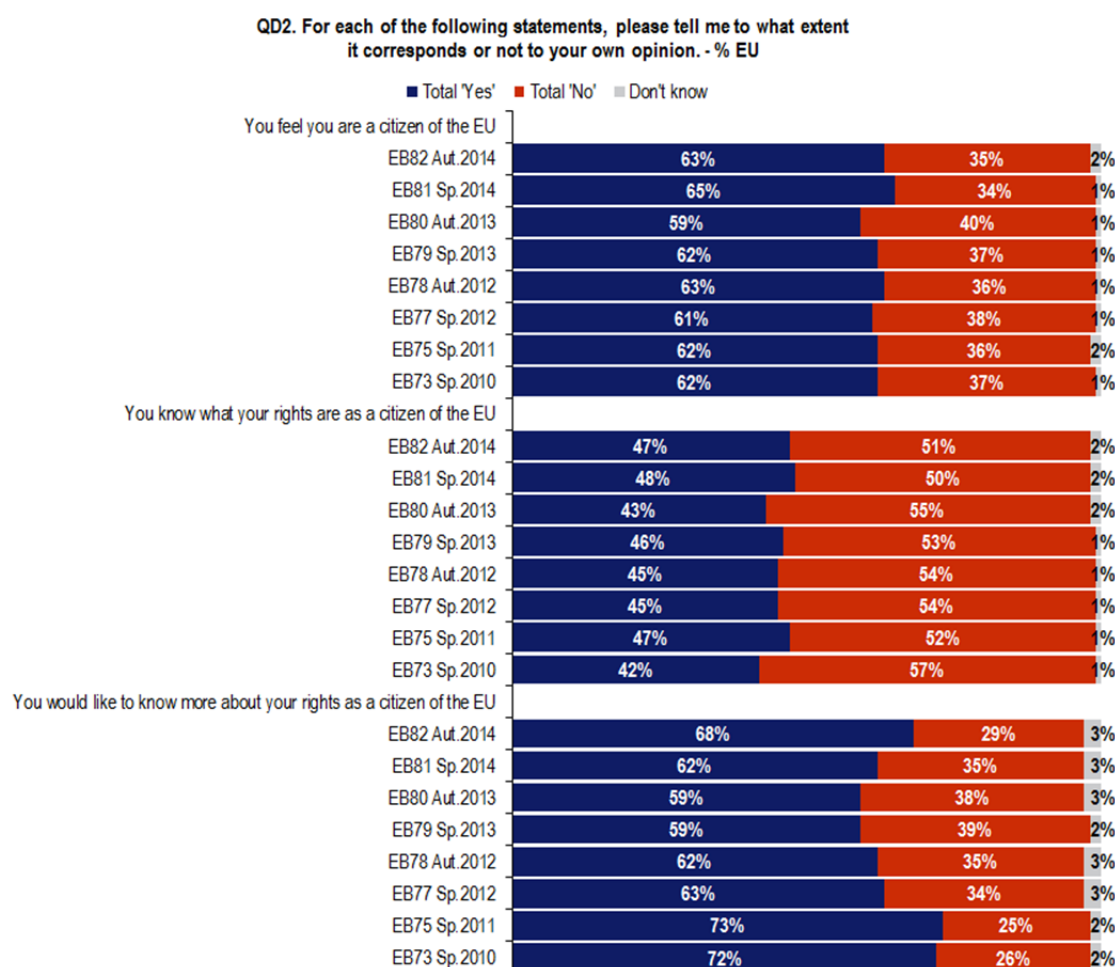
IV. EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

1. FEELING LIKE A CITIZEN OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: TREND

A large majority of Europeans feel that they are citizens of the EU (63% for the total 'yes'). After the steep increase observed between autumn 2013 and spring 2014 (+6 percentage points), support for this opinion has now registered a 2-point decrease. Conversely, over a third of Europeans do not feel they are EU citizens (35% for the total 'no', +1).

The proportion of respondents who say that they know their rights as EU citizens remains broadly stable: 47% of Europeans consider that they know these rights (-1 percentage point), whereas 51% do not (+1).

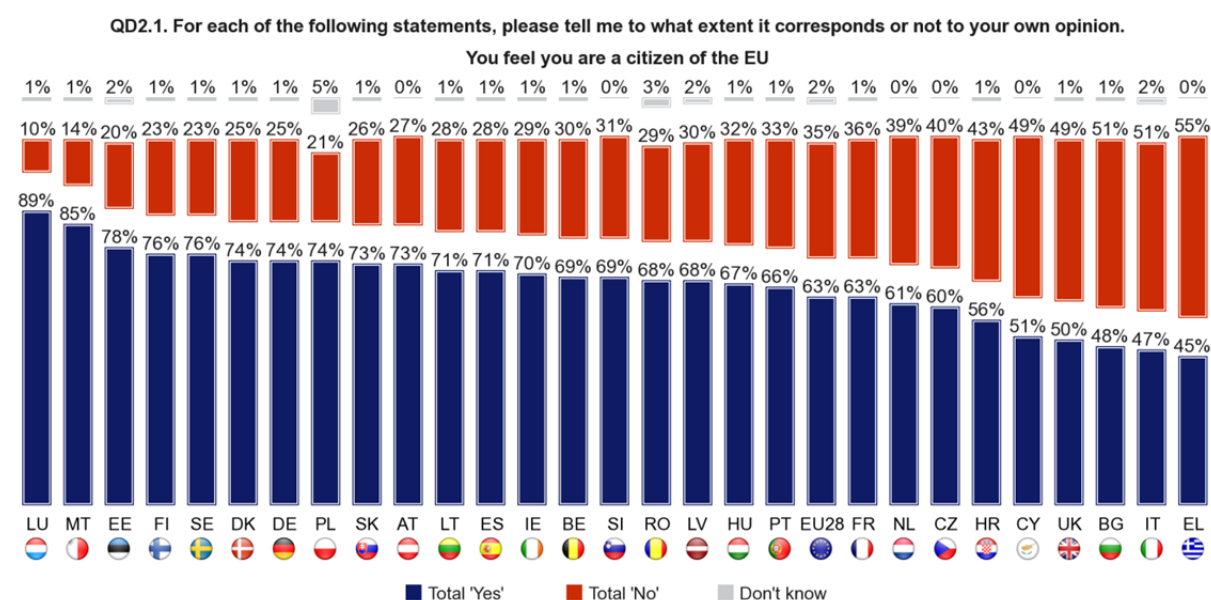
More than two-thirds of Europeans would like to know more about their rights as citizens of the EU (68% for the total 'yes' vs. 29% for the total 'no'). This opinion has gained ground since spring 2014, and this 6-point increase is the largest ever measured since this question was first asked in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2010 (EB73).



2. FEELING LIKE A CITIZEN OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: NATIONAL RESULTS

Majorities of respondents feel that they are citizens of the EU in 25 Member States: this feeling is most widespread in Luxembourg (89%) and Malta (85%), but substantial proportions are also measured in Estonia (78%), Finland (76%), Sweden (76%), Denmark (74%), Germany (74%), Poland (74%), Slovakia (73%) and Austria (73%). In contrast, more than half of Europeans do not feel that they are citizens of the EU in Greece (55%), Italy (51%) and Bulgaria (51%).

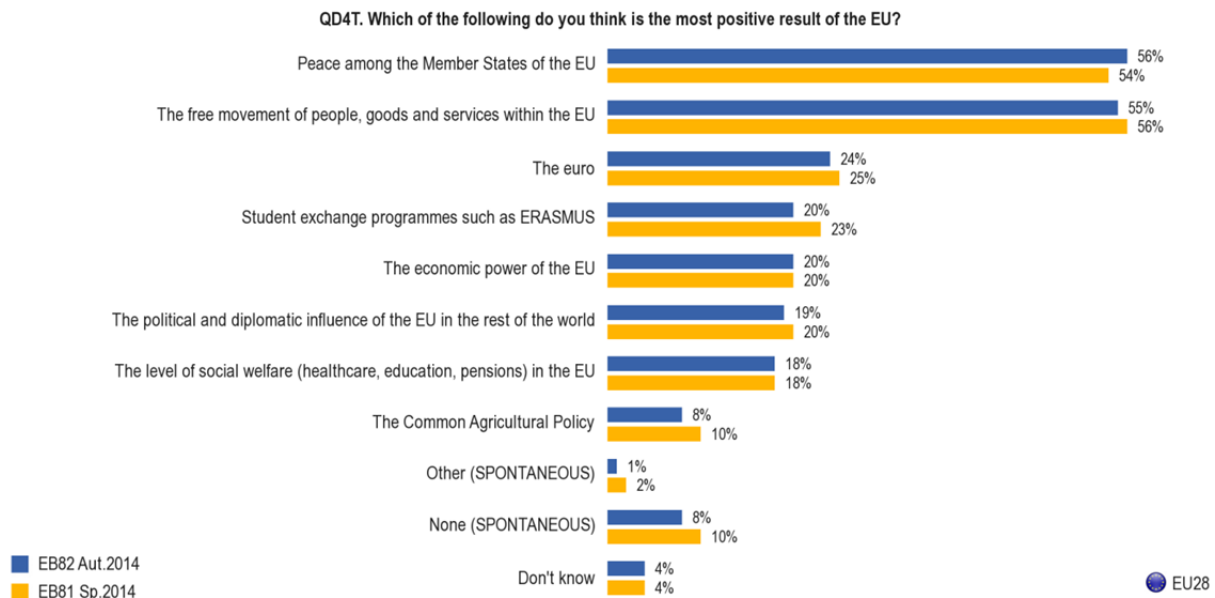
The proportion of respondents who feel they are citizens of the EU has increased in nine Member States, most strikingly in Hungary (67%, +8 percentage points since spring 2014), Romania (68%, +7) and Latvia (68%, +6). It has remained stable in six countries and decreased in 13, but these decreases are relatively limited: the largest declines are observed in Germany (74%, -5), Ireland (70%, -4), the Netherlands (61%, -4), Austria (73%, -4) and Greece (45%, -4).



3. MOST POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE EU: EVOLUTIONS

“Peace among the Member States of the EU” is now regarded as the most positive result of the EU by Europeans (56% of the total answers, +2 percentage points since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014), almost at par with “the free movement of people, goods and services within the EU” (55%, -1). Both of these items have always been mentioned by at least a half of Europeans since this question was first asked.

Lagging behind these two items, “the euro” continues to be seen as the third most positive result of the EU (24%, -1 percentage point). Four items are then cited by around a fifth of EU citizens: “student exchange programmes such as ERASMUS” (20%, -3), “the economic power of the EU” (20%, unchanged), “the political and diplomatic influence of the EU in the rest of the world” (19%, -1), and “the level of social welfare (healthcare, education, pensions) in the EU” (18%, unchanged).



V. PRIORITY ISSUES

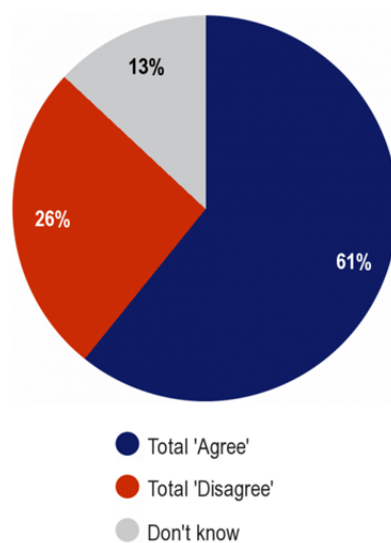
1. INVESTMENT

More than six Europeans in ten agree that public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level (61%); around a quarter disagree (26%), and 13% of respondents answer that they “don’t know”.

Majorities of the population agree that public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level in each of the 28 Member States.

QC2.6. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

Public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level



 EU28

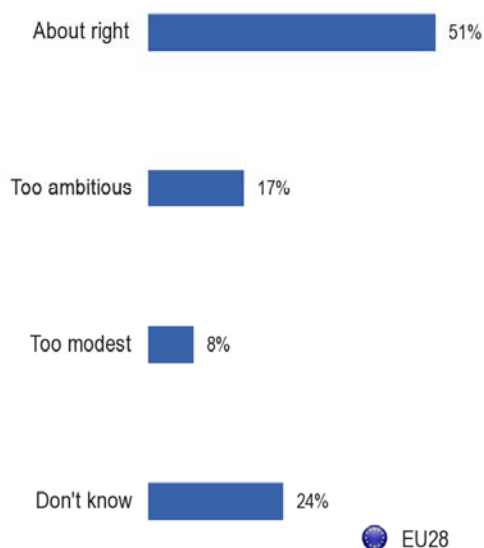
2. INDUSTRY

Aiming “to bring industry’s contribution to the economy to 20% of GDP by 2020” is seen as realistic by more than half Europeans (51% “about right”). 17% think that it is “too ambitious”, and 8% that it is “too modest”.

A majority of respondents in 27 EU Member States agree that the objective of bringing industry’s contribution to the economy to 20% of GDP by 2020 is about right.

QB2.9. 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?

To bring industry's contribution to the economy to 20% of GDP by 2020



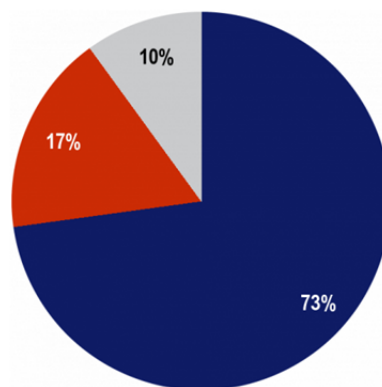
3. SUPPORT FOR A COMMON ENERGY POLICY AMONG EU MEMBER STATES

Close to three-quarters of EU citizens are in favour of a common energy policy among EU Member States (73%). Less than a fifth are against (17%), while one in ten Europeans have no opinion.

In all 28 EU Member States, majorities of the population are in favour of a common energy policy, in proportions ranging from 85% in Luxembourg to 61% in the United Kingdom.

QA19.7. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

A common energy policy among EU Member States



● For
● Against
● Don't know

EU28

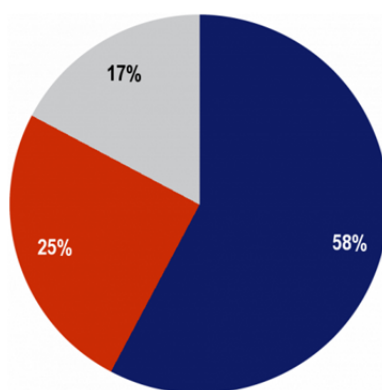
4. SUPPORT FOR A FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED STATES

A majority of Europeans are in favour of a free trade and investment agreement between the European Union and the United States (58%). A quarter are opposed to such an agreement (25%), while 17% answer that they “don’t know”.

Support for a free trade and investment agreement between the European Union and the United States is shared by majorities of people in 25 EU Member States. The three exceptions are Austria (39% vs. 53% “against”), Germany (39% vs. 41%) and Luxembourg (40% vs. 43%).

QA19.5. What is your opinion on each of the following statements? Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

A free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the USA



● For
● Against
● Don't know

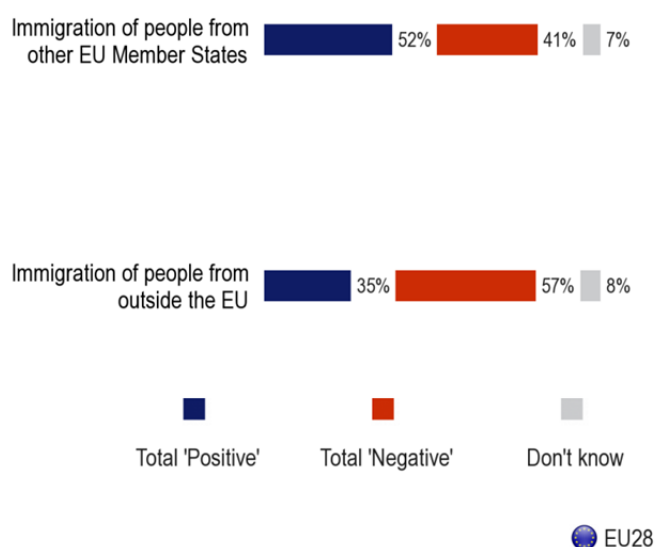
EU28

5. MIGRATION

For more than half of Europeans, the statement “immigration of people from other EU Member States” evokes a positive feeling (52%), while for 41% it evokes a negative feeling. Overall, this statement is seen positively in 21 Member States, led by the Nordic countries - Sweden (82%), Finland (76%), Denmark (69%) - and Luxembourg (72%).

The results are quite different in the case of immigration from outside the EU: this evokes a positive feeling for around a third of Europeans (35%) and a negative feeling for a majority (57%). In 23 EU Member States, a majority of the population have a negative view of the “immigration of people from outside the EU”.

QA11. Please tell me whether each of the following statements evokes a positive or negative feeling for you.

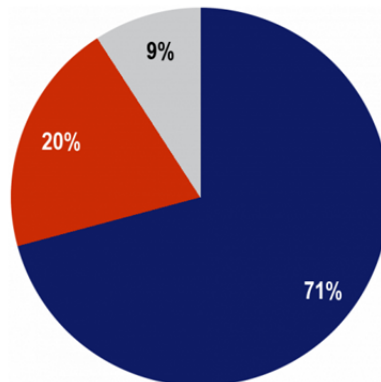


6. SUPPORT FOR A COMMON EUROPEAN POLICY ON MIGRATION

More than seven in ten Europeans are in favour of a common European policy on migration, while 20% are against it. This opinion is held by an absolute majority of respondents in all 28 EU Member States, in proportions ranging from 84% in Lithuania to 59% in Austria, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom and Finland.

QA19.6. What is your opinion on each of the following statements?
Please tell me for each statement, whether you are for it or against it.

A common European policy on migration



● For
● Against
● Don't know

 EU28

CONCLUSION

This Standard Eurobarometer survey was conducted in November 2014 (EB82), a few weeks after the nomination by the European Council of the new European Commission on 23 October 2014. The new Commission, led by its President, Jean-Claude Juncker, started its term of office on 1 November 2014.

Indicators of support for the EU have generally improved since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014. **A majority of Europeans have a positive image of the EU.** It is the first time since spring 2011 that the proportion of Europeans for whom the EU conjures up a positive image exceeds the proportion with a neutral image.

Trust in the EU has also gained ground, while distrust has declined, though remaining the majority opinion, held by half of Europeans.

Four in ten Europeans feel that their voice counts in the EU, this proportion remaining higher than in previous years. It has decreased slightly in the present survey after the sharp rise recorded in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2014. However, an absolute majority continue to say that their voice does not count in the EU.

Optimism about the future of the EU has remained stable, confirming the advances observed since 2013: more than half of Europeans are optimistic about the future of the EU (unchanged), whereas pessimism has decreased slightly.

Economic themes remain the most mentioned issues at national and European level, though they continue to lose ground. Meanwhile, **concern about immigration continues to grow**: it is now the third most mentioned issue at national level, after unemployment and the economic situation; and the fourth at European level, after the economic situation, unemployment and the state of Member States' public finances.

Around a third of Europeans believe **their national economic situation** is "good", while close to two-thirds consider that it is "bad". There are still large variations between Member States, with the gap between countries with the highest and lowest proportions of total 'good' remaining unchanged at 79 points.

Europeans are divided regarding the impact of the crisis on the job market: a majority consider that "the worst is still to come", but a similar proportion think that it has "already reached its peak".

Expectations for economic development over the next 12 months have deteriorated: **pessimists again outnumber optimists** regarding the economic situation at both national and European level.

Support for the euro has risen slightly, for the third successive time since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2013.

A large majority of Europeans **feel they are citizens of the EU**, though slightly fewer than in spring 2014. Close to half of them say that they know their rights as EU citizens, and more than two-thirds would like to know more about these rights, after a steep increase. This rise is the sharpest for this indicator since spring 2010, when the question was first asked.

Peace among the Member States of the EU and the free movement of people, goods and services within the EU continue to be seen as the most positive results of the EU: both are mentioned by absolute majorities of Europeans, more than twice as often as any of the other items. The euro comes in third position, cited by around a quarter of Europeans.

More than six Europeans in ten agree that **public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level**, and this opinion is shared by a majority of respondents in every EU Member State.

The objective of bringing industry's contribution to the economy to 20% of GDP by 2020 is perceived as achievable: more than half of Europeans say this objective is "about right".

Close to three-quarters of Europeans are in favour of **a common energy policy among EU Member States**. An absolute majority also support **a free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the U.S.**

Opinions on migration vary, depending on whether migrants are moving within the EU, or into the EU from outside: the **immigration of people from other EU Member States** evokes a positive feeling for a majority of Europeans, whereas the opposite is true in the case of **immigration from outside the EU**. Overall, more than seven in ten Europeans are in favour of a common European policy on migration.

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 82

Public opinion in the European Union

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 8th of the 17th of November 2014, TNS opinion & social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 82.3 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" unit.

The wave 82.3 is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 82 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 82 survey has also been conducted in the six candidate countries (Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) 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	1.001	8/11/14	17/11/14	9.263.570	2,18%
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.006	8/11/14	17/11/14	6.294.563	1,48%
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.055	8/11/14	17/11/14	8.955.829	2,11%
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.004	8/11/14	17/11/14	4.625.032	1,09%
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.610	8/11/14	17/11/14	71.283.580	16,79%
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1.002	8/11/14	17/11/14	1.113.355	0,26%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1.002	8/11/14	17/11/14	3.586.829	0,84%
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.009	8/11/14	17/11/14	8.791.499	2,07%
ES	Spain	TNS Spain	1.055	8/11/14	17/11/14	39.506.853	9,31%
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.012	8/11/14	17/11/14	51.668.700	12,17%
HR	Croatia	HENDAL	1.027	8/11/14	17/11/14	3.625.601	0,85%
IT	Italy	TNS Italia	1.016	8/11/14	17/11/14	51.336.889	12,09%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR	500	8/11/14	17/11/14	724.084	0,17%
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.003	8/11/14	17/11/14	1.731.509	0,41%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.002	8/11/14	17/11/14	2.535.329	0,60%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	507	8/11/14	17/11/14	445.806	0,11%
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann	1.061	8/11/14	17/11/14	8.477.933	2,00%
MT	Malta	MISCO	506	8/11/14	17/11/14	360.045	0,08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.010	8/11/14	17/11/14	13.901.653	3,27%
AT	Austria	ipr Umfrageforschung	1.032	8/11/14	17/11/14	7.232.497	1,70%
PL	Poland	TNS Polska	1.033	8/11/14	17/11/14	32.736.685	7,71%
PT	Portugal	TNS Portugal	1.005	8/11/14	17/11/14	8.512.269	2,01%
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.018	8/11/14	17/11/14	16.880.465	3,98%
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.046	8/11/14	17/11/14	1.760.726	0,41%
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.037	8/11/14	17/11/14	4.580.260	1,08%
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.002	8/11/14	17/11/14	4.511.446	1,06%
SE	Sweden	TNS Sifo	1.023	8/11/14	17/11/14	7.944.034	1,87%
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.317	8/11/14	17/11/14	52.104.731	12,27%
TOTAL EU28			27.901	8/11/14	17/11/14	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	8/11/14	17/11/14	143.226
TR	Turkey	TNS Piar	1.087	8/11/14	17/11/14	54.844.406
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS BRIMA	1.057	8/11/14	14/11/14	1.678.404
IS	Iceland	Capacent	500	8/11/14	17/11/14	252.277
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	536	10/11/14	16/11/14	492.265
RS	Serbia	TNS Medium Gallup	1.017	10/11/14	17/11/14	6.409.693
AL	Albania	TNS BBSS	1.064	8/11/14	17/11/14	2.221.572
TOTAL			32.598	8/11/14	17/11/14	490.533.615