Attitudes towards minority groups
in the European Union

A special analysis of the Eurobarometer 2000 survey
on behalf of the

European Monitoring Centre
on Racism and Xenophobia

by
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Preface

In 1997 - the European year against racism - results from a Eurobarometer survey were presented, measuring the majority of the population's attitudes towards minorities and migrants. The results showed a worrying level of negative attitudes in the 15 EU Member States. Three years later the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia commissioned a follow up survey, and is pleased to present the results.

The results from the 2000 survey show that in some ways the attitudes towards minority and migrant groups have changed for the better. For instance there has been an increase over the past three years with regard to people favouring policies designed to improve the coexistence of majorities and minorities in the Member States. The results also show a negative development. There has been an increase of people worrying about unemployment, loss of social welfare and drop in educational standards and who, at the same time, blame minorities for the changes. The data show that rejecting cultural diversity is closely related to this fear for socio-economic changes.

The Eurobarometer survey is an important measurement for the Community, but as the authors of this report say, the methodology, for example of the sampling techniques, has to be improved. I am very pleased for the more advanced statistical analysis done with the 2000 data and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the SORA team for their excellent work. The EUMC is planning to continue to follow the political climate by measuring the attitudes towards minorities and migrants in the coming years.

Finally, I hope that this survey will initiate and stimulate discussion in society and politics about how to reduce racism and support cultural, ethnic and religious diversity.

Beate Winkler

Director of the EUMC

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Executive Summary

The aim of this research

The aim of this research was to report on attitudes towards minorities and immigrants in EU Member States as measured in a survey[1] undertaken in spring 2000 in all EU Member States.

This report covers the most important questions pertaining to the relationship between majority and minority groups[2]. The most important set of questions asked in the survey is related to the tendency to blame minorities for negative social phenomena such as unemployment, crime or loss of welfare. These xenophobic concerns seem to constitute the core attitude within a set of negative and positive attitudes towards minorities.

Several questions were asked to measure the level of agreement with certain policies designed to improve the social coexistence between majority and minority groups. Another set of questions investigated people's opinions towards multiculturality, e.g. whether minorities were seen as enriching a society's culture. Some questions addressed the extent of the demand for the cultural assimilation of minorities.

Furthermore, the questionnaire measured the acceptance of different groups of immigrants as well as respondents' demand for the repatriation of immigrants.

In some EU countries, no distinction is made in terms of language use between minorities and immigrants. In other countries, public opinion towards immigrants and refugees from non-European communities may not be the same as that towards national minority groups. Minority groups may include very different social groups, such as refugees and working immigrants as well as groups with a long history of having already lived in certain regions for decades.

In this survey, however, it was not that important to point out the different opinions regarding minorities and immigrants. The main emphasis was placed on measuring public opinion towards minorities and immigrants as 'out-groups', i.e. measuring attitudes among the majority population towards minority populations as an expression of the current political climate.

Eurobarometer survey in spring 2000

In this report, the authors present the results of a special survey on racism and xenophobia, which was included in the standard Eurobarometer survey (EB53) in spring 2000. Eurobarometer is a European Union polling tool designed to monitor values and attitudes, their variations and changes in Europe twice a year[3]. This special survey on racism and xenophobia was initiated and commissioned by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia and carried out by INRA (EUROPE) – E.C.O.

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[1] The questionnaire is found in Annex 5.3.

[2] The use of the concept "race" in the survey needs to be explained. The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia rejects theories which attempt to determine the existence of separate human races. The use of the term does not imply an acceptance of such theories. See also the Council Directive 2000/43/EC.((6)

[3] Responsible for the Eurobarometer is the Public Opinion Analysis Unit of the General Directorate "Education and Culture" of the European Commission.

In total 16,078 people were interviewed in the 15 EU Member States over the period 5 April - 23 May 2000. On average, 1,000 interviews were conducted in each country[4].

The special survey conducted in spring 2000 (EB53) was the fourth in a series of studies that included questions related to the majority population's attitudes towards immigrants and 'out-groups' (more exactly: minority groups) in the European Union. Analysing possible tendencies and developments over time, the results of the spring 2000 survey are compared with those of a previous study conducted in spring/autumn 1997. 12 questions from the 1997 study were used a second time. The European Commission initiated and administered the 1997 survey and previous studies carried out in the years 1988 and 1993[5].

Reading the results, please consider ….

When reading the results of this survey, one has to bear in mind that they reflect not only public opinion towards minority groups, but also the current political debate in different countries at the time the survey was conducted.

Survey-research is conducted within a multicultural setting. The complexity of the European Union and the challenge this complexity poses are also to be found in the research process. Different cultures give rise to different views of the world, different concepts and different interpretations of survey questions – however literally correct the translation may be.

Misunderstandings due to cultural differences occur in everyday life just as they occur in survey research – ultimately leading to a bias in measurements. It is far from trivial to establish which survey questions may be compared, and those cases in which comparison is biased owing to such misunderstandings. In the process of data analysis SORA undertook a major effort – and it proved necessary – to reduce such bias. In this report, some questions are marked as incomparable in certain countries given the statistical analysis of the comparability.

Research findings depend on people answering questions. People who refuse to answer individual questions or refuse to answer an interview at all do not necessarily have the same attitudes as those who provide answers. Our analysis of 'missing data' reveals a tendency to mask negative attitudes. Correction procedures were considered and applied carefully by SORA to minimise this problem. That notwithstanding, the picture of the Europeans drawn in this report might be overly optimistic owing to this very problem.

Data analysis and reporting were performed by Eva Thalhammer, Vlasta Zucha, Edith Enzenhofer, Brigitte Salfinger and Günther Ogris, researchers attached to SORA, a Vienna-based research company, experienced in conducting research into xenophobia as well as addressing methodological problems with cross-national comparisons.

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[4] Except for Luxembourg (600 people), the United Kingdom (1,070 in Great Britain and 300 in Northern Ireland) and Germany (1,015 in West and 1,034 East-Germany). A special paper comparing Great Britain vs. Northern Ireland and West vs. East Germany will be published separately.

[5] Commision of the European Communities (1988) Eurobarometer 30: Immigrants and Out-Groups in Western Europe, October-November, Brussels
Commision of the European Communities (1993) Eurobarometer 39: Public Opinion in the European Community, June, Brussels
Commision of the European Communities (1997) Eurobarometer 47.1: Racism and Xenophobia, Brussels

Empirical Findings

Over the period 1997 - 2000 the attitudes of the citizens of the European Union towards minority groups have changed in a contradictory way.

- On the one hand, many EU citizens favour policies designed to improve the coexistence of majorities and minorities. Support for such policies has increased over the past three years.

- On the other hand, a majority of Europeans have voiced concern over minorities because they fear minorities are threatening social peace and welfare; this percentage increased over the period 1997 - 2000. People are worried about unemployment, a loss of social welfare and a drop in educational standards. A small, but relevant minority of Europeans feels personally disturbed by the existence of minorities.

Most Europeans are optimistic about multiculturalism. The opinions on whether minorities in general enrich a country's cultural and social life have not changed over time. However, the number of those who view immigrants as enriching the cultural life of a country has increased (from 33% in 1997 to 48% in 2000). There is also a strong relationship between multicultural optimism and blaming minorities: If a person is afraid of social conflict and fears loss of economic status attributable to minorities, he/she more likely does not believe in enrichment of cultural life by those minorities.

In addition, a vast majority rejects repatriation programmes.

One European out of five supports the cultural assimilation of minorities; they argue that in order to become fully accepted members of society, people belonging to minority groups should abandon their own culture. There has been no change of opinion in this respect over the past three years.

In 13 EU Member States the 'actively tolerant' people outnumber the 'intolerant'. By far the largest groups in Europe, however, are the 'passively tolerant' and the 'ambivalent'. One European out of four has been categorised as 'ambivalent' – meaning that they have both positive and negative attitudes towards minorities at the same time. This group should be considered the group that reacts most to political leadership.

In some countries, questions relating to attitudes towards minorities were politically sensitive and resulted in a high proportion of 'don't know' answers or refusals. The factors that best explain attitudes towards minorities are voting behaviour, education, family relations to persons of different race, religion, nationality and culture, as well as experience of unemployment. For example:

- Higher education is associated with more positive attitudes towards minority groups.

- Family relations (if one has parents or grandparents of a different nationality, race, religion or culture from his/her own) in general go together with more positive attitudes, with some notable exceptions.

- Experience of unemployment often is linked to more negative attitudes towards minority groups.

Interestingly enough these factors failed to provide a sound explanation for the attitudes shown towards minorities in the countries of Southern Europe. On the level of the Member States the following characteristic features could be observed:

Austria. Compared to other EU Member States, respondents in Austria occupy a median position in most rankings; some attitudes towards minorities are slightly more negative than the EU average.

Support for the idea of repatriating all legally established immigrants from non-EU countries decreased between 1997 and 2000. In 2000, two Austrian respondents out of three tended to disagree with the

statement that legally established immigrants from non-EU countries should be sent back to their countries of origin.

In addition, the survey in Austria displayed a large number of missing values. A marked percentage of people refused to answer all questions.

Belgium. Attitudes towards minority groups in Belgium are more negative than the EU average. Over time, certain opinions have changed. In 2000, more respondents in Belgium concur with policies aimed at improving relationships between people of different races, religions and cultures. Support for multicultural optimism is greater than in 1997.

In Belgium, voting behaviour, level of education and family relations explain many of the different attitudes towards minorities. Voters of the Vlaams Block or the Front Nationale share higher negative attitudes than the voters of other parties.

Denmark. Denmark is a quite polarised country. The sample showed firm support to policies, which improve coexistence between majority and minority groups. In comparison to other EU Member States, Denmark voices almost no support for repatriating immigrants. However, there is fear of social conflict and the possible loss of welfare standards.

In the period 1997 – 2000, most attitudes towards minorities became increasingly positive.

Finland. In Finland there are more positive attitudes towards minority groups than in the EU average. They are the most confident of all Member States that the presence of minority groups does not induce an increase in unemployment in their country.

Over time, there has been growing support for policies designed to improve social coexistence among different ethnic groups.

France. In France, attitudes towards minorities are around the EU average. The respondents in France are more afraid of social conflict and loss of welfare than people from other EU Member States. In France, two people out of three tend to agree with the statement that minority groups abuse the social welfare system. On the other hand, the majority is convinced that France's diversity in terms of race, religion and culture adds to the country's strength.

Responses to some questions show a slight decrease in positive attitudes towards minorities over the period 1997 – 2000.

Germany. In Germany, the level of acceptance of immigrants, especially of those who wish to work in the EU, is low. More respondents in Germany favour the repatriation of immigrants than other Europeans; however, the level of support decreased over the period 1997 - 2000. The support for policies designed to improve social coexistence between majority and minority groups is similar to the support displayed by other Europeans and showed a slight increase over this period.

In addition, Germany displays a high percentage of missing values (i.e. people who did not answer all questions).

Greece. In Greece, negative attitudes towards minority groups are above the EU average. The respondents in Greece claim that they are not very willing to accept refugees and that they are afraid of unemployment and insecurity because of these minority groups. The influx of refugees is a plausible explanation because intolerance and negative attitudes have increased over the past three years.

Ireland. The attitudes in Ireland towards minorities are similar to the attitudes of other Europeans. They do differ, however, with respect to the question whether minority groups are accorded preferential treatment by the authorities. The Irish respondents tend to agree most on that statement.

Over time, the respondents in Ireland have expressed more insecurity on account of minority groups. In 1997, 16% tended to agree that the presence of people from minority groups offered grounds for insecurity. Three years later, the percentage of those who agreed with that view had increased to 42% .

In Ireland, a high percentage of missing values was also recorded.

Italy . In Italy there is less support than in the EU average for policies designed to improve the social coexistence of different ethnic groups; however, support for these policies has increased over the period 1997 - 2000.

There is greater acceptance of immigrants compared with other EU Member States; however, one in two of the respondents in Italy demands that if unemployed legally established immigrants from non-EU countries should be repatriated. In comparison to the other Europeans, Italians express less support for the cultural assimilation of minority groups.

Luxembourg. In most rankings, Luxembourg is near the EU average. It is one of the countries where many people support policies for improving social coexistence between different ethnic groups. Nevertheless, acceptance of working immigrants is quite low and the wish to repatriate unemployed immigrants quite high.

In Luxembourg, negative attitudes have increased over the past three years.

Netherlands. In comparison, the respondents in the Netherlands are the strongest supporters of policies promoting equality of opportunity in all areas of social life and promoting understanding for different cultures and lifestyles. In general, they tend to have more positive attitudes towards cultural enrichment by minority groups. However, the respondents in the Netherlands are more in favour of cultural assimilation of minorities than most other Europeans. Other attitudes towards minorities tend to be the EU average.

In the Netherlands, most attitudes towards minorities remained stable over time or displayed a slightly more negative trend.

Portugal. In Portugal, the respondents do not favour certain policies designed to improve social coexistence between different ethnic groups, e.g. they do not favour minorities taking part in politics. Most other attitudes towards minorities are similar to those found in the other EU Member States and for the most part remained stable over the period 1997 – 2000.

Portugal displays a high percentage of missing values.

Spain. In Spain, a high level of acceptance of immigrants could be observed. The respondents show less fear of a loss of social welfare than many other EU Member States. They feel least disturbed by the presence of people of another nationality, race or religion. They regard minority groups as an enrichment of their cultural life and do not demand the cultural assimilation of minority groups. The other attitudes towards minorities are similar to those found in the other EU Member States.

In Spain, attitudes changed slightly and took various directions over the period 1997 – 2000.

Sweden. In Sweden, respondents display positive attitudes towards minorities; they support encouraging members of minority groups to take part in social and political life. For the most part, they believe in the enrichment of society through minority groups. Acceptance of immigrants is also high. In comparison to other EU Member States, only a few respondents in Sweden insist on repatriating immigrants from non-EU countries. Attitudes regarding the fear of social conflict and loss of welfare, the feeling of personal disturbance and the demand for cultural assimilation of minorities are similar to those found in the other EU Member States.

In Sweden, attitudes changed differently over the period 1997 – 2000.

United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom, the support shown for policies aimed at improving social coexistence between members of different ethnic groups is similar to the EU average. There is a lower level of acceptance where refugees and persons seeking political asylum are concerned.

Multicultural optimism is decreasing in the United Kingdom. In 2000, there is less agreement with the statement that it is a good thing for any society to be made up of people of different races, religions and cultures. Furthermore, fewer people concur with the statement that a country's diversity in terms of race, religion and culture adds to its strength. At the same time, the demand for the repatriation of immigrants is increasing.

In the United Kingdom, the percentage of missing values is high.

Conclusions

These conclusions are based on findings in the data-analysis. They are linked and clearly connected to the evidence within the data.

Political leadership. A quarter of all Europeans can be categorised as 'ambivalent' – meaning that they harbour positive and negative attitudes towards minorities at the same time. Data show that party affiliation is a part of the causal system producing attitudes towards minorities. Ambivalent people should be considered those who react most to political leadership – awareness of this fact can help politicians to make their decisions.

Unemployment. Experience with unemployment and the expectation of higher unemployment rates are linked to an increase in hostile attitudes towards minorities. Decreasing unemployment rates and information about a decrease in unemployment might reduce concerns about migration and minorities.

Welfare. Since a large part of xenophobic concerns is about loss of welfare standards, policies, which lend large majorities the feeling that they can participate in the increase of wealth within a growing economy, will contribute significantly to reducing xenophobic concerns. Demographic developments and their impact have to be considered and researched. Particular attention should be paid to the number of retired people and the increasing number of old people with lower income and with low expectations within that group. An increase in hostility towards minorities might well get stronger in this group.

Education. Higher education clearly correlates with positive attitudes towards minorities. More research should be carried out to determine the nature of this effect and establish whether the increase of higher education – which is a stable trend – will result in a more tolerant attitude within Europe in the coming decades.

Personal relations. Supporting personal relationships between people of different religions, nations or with different skin colour increases tolerance.

In the countries of Southern Europe, other factors than in the rest of Europe seem to influence attitudes towards minorities. There is not enough evidence about causal relationships within this analysis to confirm that the conclusions mentioned above are meaningful for the southern part of Europe.

1 Dimensions of attitudes towards minorities

To deal with the responses of the poll and analyse them in a systematic way all at once, SORA applied a special statistical tool, exploratory factor analysis. This statistical technique allows the large number of questions to be reduced to a few sub-dimensions of attitudes. This method identifies coherent attitudinal dimensions from within a large number of questions or items.

As previously stated, this survey describes attitudes towards minority groups. The questions about immigrants were included in the analysis since immigrants are part of the minority groups in all EU Member States.

Running exploratory factor analysis with all the available data from spring 2000 at the level of the fifteen EU Member States, the authors were able to specify seven dimensions of attitudes towards minorities described in the following paragraphs[6].

1.1 'Blaming minorities'

This dimension encompasses attitudes, which express the fear of social conflicts and loss of economic status. It combines the following attitudes:

- In schools where there are too many children from these minority groups, the quality of education suffers.

- People from these minority groups abuse the system of social welfare.

- The presence of people from these minority groups is a cause of insecurity.

- People from these minority groups are given preferential treatment by the authorities.

- The presence of people from these minority groups increases unemployment in (COUNTRY).

- They (immigrants) are more often involved in criminality than the average.

1.2 'Policies improving social coexistence'

The second dimension includes attitudes towards various policies, which may improve relationships between people of different races, religions and cultures.

The question was asked as follows:

What ought to be done to improve the relationship between people of different races, religions and cultures?

- Outlaw discrimination against minority groups

- Encourage the creation of organisations that bring people from different races, religions and cultures together

- Promote equality of opportunity in all areas of social life

- Promote understanding of different cultures and lifestyles in (COUNTRY)

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[6] SORA used a special type of exploratory factor analysis: the principal factor analysis with oblique rotation, i.e. one assumes the factors as correlated. Oblique rotation was used because the authors are convinced that the underlying processes are not independent of each other. The explanatory power of the dimensions differs in each country; details are described in a technical report.

- Give a greater role to organisations which have already gained experience in the fight against racism

- Encourage the participation of people from these minority groups in the political life of (COUNTRY)

- Encourage trade unions and churches to do more against racism

1.3 'Restrictive acceptance of immigrants'

The questions included in this dimension measure the degree of acceptance (with restrictions, without restrictions, no acceptance) of immigrants, with distinctions being made in terms of origin and reasons for migrating:

- People from Muslim countries who wish to work in the EU

- People coming from Eastern Europe who want to work in the West

- People fleeing from countries where there is a serious internal conflict

- People suffering from human rights violations in their country who are seeking political asylum

- Citizens of other countries of the European Union who wish to settle in (COUNTRY)

1.4 'Disturbance'

Another dimension describes whether people feel personally 'disturbed' by the opinions, customs and ways of life of people different from their own.

- Do you personally find the presence of people of another nationality disturbing in your daily life?

- Do you personally find the presence of people of another race disturbing in your daily life?

- Do you personally find the presence of people of another religion disturbing in your daily life?

1.5 'Multicultural optimism'

The fifth dimension consists of attitudes towards the enrichment of a society's cultural and social life by minority groups.

- People from these minority groups are enriching the cultural life of (COUNTRY).

- Where schools make the necessary efforts, the education of all children can be enriched by the presence of children from minority groups.

- It is a good thing for any society to be made up of people from different races, religions and cultures.

- (COUNTRY'S) diversity in terms of race, religion and culture adds to its strengths.

- They (immigrants) enrich the cultural life of (COUNTRY).

1.6 'Conditional repatriation'

This dimension is linked to negative attitudes towards legally (or illegally) established immigrants from non-EU countries, particularly in relation to conditions governing the repatriation of immigrants.

- Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should be sent back to their country of origin if they are unemployed.

- Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should all be sent back to their country of origin.

- All immigrants whether legal or illegal, from outside the EU and their children, even those who were born in (COUNTRY) should be sent back to their country of origin.

1.7 'Cultural assimilation'

The final factor is linked to attitudes, which promote cultural assimilation of minority groups.

- In order to become fully accepted members of (COUNTRY) society, people belonging to these minority groups must give up their own culture.

- In order to become fully accepted members of (COUNTRY) society, people belonging to these minority groups must give up such parts of their religion and culture which may be in conflict with (COUNTRY) law.

The seven dimensions described above were chosen for further analysis because of their importance and explanatory power in the model. The exploratory factor analysis identified five other dimensions of attitudes towards minorities. These dimensions were not included in the further analysis.

2 Explaining attitudes towards minority groups

2.1 The influence of socio-demographic factors

We analysed the impact of socio-demographic factors by comparing indices of each dimension. All items making up the dimensions pertaining to disturbance and multicultural optimism are comparable among countries. For the dimension pertaining to policies improving social coexistence, the sum index (see also chapter 4) can be used that contains a reduced set of four comparable items. The least comparable item was excluded from the dimension 'blaming minorities'. Although that dimension as well as the remaining three are not perfectly comparable among all EU countries, EU average data were used simply to obtain an idea of the pattern of relationships.

Table 1:   Dimensions of attitudes toward minority groups by gender

gender	Mean values at EU level						
	blaming minorities	policies	restrictive acceptance	disturbance	multicult.	repatriation	assimilation
men	,55	,72	,43	,16	,38	,31	,46
women	,54	,73	,43	,15	,37	,30	,45
total	,54	,73	,43	,16	,37	,31	,45

Higher scores indicate attitudes that are more negative.

There is nearly no difference between men in women in either dimension. Gender obviously has no influence on attitudes towards minority groups.

Table 2:   Dimensions of attitudes toward minority groups by age groups

age group	Mean values at EU level						
	blaming minorities	policies	restrictive accept.	disturbance	multicult.	repatriation	assimilation
15 to 24	,46	,70	,38	,13	,31	,26	,40
25 to 39	,51	,71	,42	,14	,34	,28	,45
40 to 54	,53	,73	,43	,13	,36	,30	,44
55 or older	,62	,75	,47	,20	,44	,36	,50
total	,54	,73	,43	,16	,37	,31	,45

Higher scores indicate attitudes that are more negative.

The older the people, the higher the mean values in all dimensions. This indicates that negative attitudes towards minority groups increase with age.

Younger age groups have benefited from better education systems and rising education standards in recent decades. This means that older people tend to be less well educated than younger people; hence, the age effect may partly be an effect of education.

Table 3: **Dimensions of attitudes toward minority groups by education**

Age on completing full-time education	Mean values at EU level						
	blaming minorities	policies	restrictive accept.	disturbance	multicult.	repatriation	assimilation
up to 15	0,59	0,78	,47	,19	,43	,37	,47
16 to 19	0,57	0,75	,46	,18	,40	,33	,49
20 or older	0,47	0,63	,36	,10	,28	,21	,40
still studying	0,40	0,66	,33	,10	,25	,19	,38
total	0,54	0,73	,43	,16	,37	,31	,45

Higher scores indicate attitudes that are more negative.

People with better education display less negative attitudes towards minority groups than those with less education.

The differences between those who left school at the age of fifteen (or earlier) and those who finished school between the age of 16 and 20 are rather small. Greater differences can be found between those who completed their fulltime education before the age of 20 and those at the age of twenty or older.

Looking only at the people who have already finished school, an age effect can still be observed: older people tend to exhibit more negative attitudes than younger people with the same level of education. However, the age effect is considerably weaker when controlled for the level of education.

Table 4: **Dimensions of attitudes toward minority groups by political standpoints**

Left-right scale	Mean values at EU level						
	blaming minorities	policies	restrictive accept.	disturbance	multicult.	repatriation	assimilation
left	,47	,63	,35	,12	,29	,23	,42
centre left	,46	,65	,37	,10	,27	,23	,41
centre	,55	,73	,43	,14	,36	,30	,47
centre right	,61	,74	,46	,19	,44	,33	,49
right	,69	,79	,52	,34	,59	,48	,56
don't know	,56	,78	,47	,18	,41	,36	,44
Total	,54	,73	,43	,16	,37	,31	,45

Higher scores indicate attitudes that are more negative.
left: 1, 2; centre left: 3, 4; centre: 5, 6; centre right: 7, 8; right: 9, 10 on the 10 point self placement scale

As you move towards the upper end of the scale, the attitudes towards minority groups become more negative.

Table 5: Dimensions of attitudes toward minority groups by affiliation to minority or majority groups

Respondent belongs to	Mean values at EU level						
	blaming minorities	policies	restrictive accept.	disturbance	multicult.	repatriation	Assimilation
majority	,54	,71	,42	,16	,36	,29	,46
minority	,59	,73	,47	,24	,43	,40	,50
neither	,52	,75	,43	,13	,37	,31	,41
don't know	,56	,83	,48	,15	,43	,37	,50
total	,54	,73	,43	,16	,37	,31	,45

Higher scores indicate attitudes that are more negative.

People who define themselves as part of a minority group tend to have more **negative** attitudes towards minority groups than people from the majority group. This difference remains even when controlled for age and education.

A possible explanation for this phenomenon may be the greater fear of economic and social competition among members of different minorities and between established minorities and new waves of immigrants.

The data give no hint whether this is due to negative attitudes toward their own minority group or another minority group.

At the EU level, people from minority groups tend to display attitudes that are more negative; however, there is no uniform pattern in the European countries.

In France, Belgium, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Sweden the pattern is similar to the EU as a whole.

In all other countries, in some dimensions, people from minority groups exhibit more negative attitudes, and in some others, people from majority groups exhibit more negative attitudes.

2.2 Multivariate models explaining attitudes toward minority groups

To compare the strengths of different socio-demographic, socio-economic and political effects, a multivariate regression model was applied to each country and each dimension[7].

In general, the models explain only a low percentage of total variance. The explained variance varies between 0 and 25%. In the following only those models that explain more than 15% of the variance are presented. These were obtained using regression models for three dimensions: 'blaming minorities', 'multicultural optimism' and 'restrictive acceptance'. Interestingly, there is no model for the Mediterranean countries that explains more than 15% of the variance.

For Belgium, Denmark and France rather good results were obtained in some models.

- Voting behaviour, education, satisfaction with one's personal situation, family relationships to persons of different race, religion, nationality and culture, and experience with unemployment are the variables that explain variations within the sum indices best.

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[7] Multivariate regression explains variations in the dependent variable (in this case a dimension) by means of a linear combination of independent variables, see the technical report for a summary table.

- Voting for right-wing or nationalist parties (most of them are found in the group of parties in the Member States that do not belong to any political group in the European Parliament) explains negative attitudes rather well. In many models, Green-voters tend to have less negative attitudes towards minorities. Self-placement on a left-right scale also helps to explain attitudes towards minorities. The effect is small, but significant in most models.

- Higher education goes together with positive attitudes towards minority groups.

- Family relationships with people of other races, religions and cultures reduce negative attitudes in general, but there are some notable exceptions.

- Prior experience with unemployment often results in more negative attitudes towards minority groups.

The most significant effects will be described dimension by dimension and country by country in the following chapter. Tables with technical and methodological details one can find in the technical supplement to this report.

In the following, we elaborate on the statistical influence and contribution of certain factors to explain various attitudes in the Member States[8].

2.2.1 Models for 'policies improving social coexistence'

Belgium. In Belgium 15% of the variance of the variable 'disagreement with anti-racism policies' (a specific attitude, measured by a sum index) can be explained by the multivariate regression model. Voting behaviour (one of the factors investigated) shows the strongest effects. Voting for the Greens (ECOLO or AGALEV) (another factor) is linked with a decrease of the sum index by 0.21 (i.e. more support for anti-discrimination policies), whereas voting for the Vlaams Block or the Front Nationale is linked with an increase of disagreement with such policies by 0.10.

Higher education leads to greater support for anti-racism policies (minus 0.05).

Pessimistic expectations with respect to one's situation in the future are linked to an increase of negative attitudes (0,07).

Denmark. In Denmark, the model explains 16% of the variance. Relationships to persons of a different religion help best to explain agreement with anti-racism policies. Having a parent or grandparent with a different religion reduces disagreement by 0.18. Parents or grandparents of a different nationality or culture also decrease disagreement.

Voting behaviour also has a strong effect. Voting for the Radikale Venstre is linked to a reduction of disagreement with anti-racism policies by 0,19, voting for Socialistisk Folkeparti by 0.12.

Higher education leads to greater support for anti-racism policies (minus 0.05).

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[8] One should keep in mind that statistical relationships do not per se reveal any causal relationship, where the factor (like gender, age etc.) could be understood as the cause and the specific attitude or behaviour (measured by the "sum index" – see also chapter 4) as the resulting effect. Significant statistical relationships just represent a kind of coincidence. They are necessary, but not sufficient for the existence of a causal relationship. To identify causal relationships one has to do investigations that are more complex. They usually involve analyses of time series, which are not available in this database.

2.2.2 Models for 'restrictive acceptance'

Belgium. The strongest effect on restrictive acceptance of immigrants comes from the voters for the Vlaams Block or the Front Nationale; the voters of these parties display more restrictive acceptance and an increase of the sum index by 0.18.

Relations with a different religion have a weak reducing effect. All other effects are rather weak.

France. In France, restrictive acceptance of immigrants is best explained by voting behaviour. Voting for the Mouvement pour la France or the Front Nationale is linked with an increase of restrictive acceptance by 0.18 each, voting for MRG even by 0.30. All other effects are rather weak.

2.2.3 Models for 'blaming minorities'

Denmark. In Denmark, 16% of the variance can be explained by the linear regression model.

The strongest effect in Denmark lies in the relationship to a person of a different race. Interestingly, it increases negative attitudes (within this dimension) by 0.23. However, a relationship with someone of a different religion reduces negative attitudes by 0.12, relationship with someone of a different nationality by 0.05.

Voting behaviour also has strong effects in Denmark. Voters for Radikale Venstre display less fear of social conflict and loss of welfare caused by minorities. Voting for the other parties is also linked with a reduction of negative attitudes in comparison with people who do not vote, refuse to declare for whom they vote or vote for a party that is not represented in the European Parliament.

Higher education reduces negative attitudes in Denmark by 0.06.

France. In France the model explains 21% of the variance, it is one of the best models found.

Voting behaviour has the strongest effect. Voting for the Front Nationale is linked with an increase of negative attitudes by 0.20. All other parties exhibit rather weak effects.

Having parents or grandparents of a different culture leads to less negative attitudes (minus 0.14).

Education has stronger effects in France than in any of the countries analysed above. Higher education reduces negative attitudes (within this) by 0.09.

In France, belonging to a minority increases xenophobic fears by 0.07.

Sweden. The Swedish model explains 15% of the variance. Voting for the Vänsterpartiet or Miljöpartiet is linked with a decrease of negative attitudes (0.12 each).

Higher education decreases negative attitudes by 0.07.

Austria. Relationships with people of a different nationality (minus 0.15) and a different culture (minus 0.10) have the most marked reducing effects on negative attitudes (within this dimension).

Voting behaviour comes second. FPÖ-voters tend to have more negative attitudes towards minorities (an increase by 0.11).

Experience with unemployment is also important. Working in a company that had to lay off workers increases negative attitudes by 0.08.

Higher education slightly decreases negative attitudes by 0.04

2.2.4   Models for 'multicultural optimism'

Belgium. Here again, voting for the Front Nationale or Vlaams Block displays the strongest effects, negative attitudes increase drastically (by 0.32). Green-voters (ECOLO or AGALEV) have less negative attitudes (decrease by 0.15).

Family relations to different religions or nationalities help to explain increasing agreement with the statement that minorities enrich culture (0.09 each). Higher education reduces negative attitudes (0.07).

Denmark . The model explains 20% of the variance in Denmark. As with other dimensions, having a parent or grandparent of a different race increases negative attitudes in Denmark (by 0.21, strongest effect). However, having a parent or grandparent of a different nationality reduces negative attitudes and increases agreement with the statement that minorities enrich society.

Being employed or self-employed reduces negative attitudes compared to people who do not work (e.g. retired people, unemployed, people still at school and housewives) by 0.13 and 0.15.

Education also has a strong negative effect in Denmark. Higher education reduces negative attitudes by 0.12.

Radikale Venstre-voters have less negative attitudes (decrease by 0,14). Also voting for the other parties is linked with a reduction of negative attitudes compared to people who do not vote, refuse to declare for whom they vote or vote for a party not represented in the European Parliament.

France. The model explains 21% of the variance in France.

Strongest effects are related to voting behaviour. Voting for the Front Nationale (plus 0.28) is linked with more negative attitudes. The same holds true for voting for the Mouvement pour la France (0.36). Voting for these parties has people disagreeing with the statement that minorities enrich society. Voting for the Greens displays the opposite effect: the tendency to agree with the statement increases positive attitudes by 0.14.

The second strongest effect comes from having parents or grandparents of a different religion (reduces negative attitudes by 0.17).

Belonging to a minority group also increases negative attitudes (0.08).

Higher education makes people more tolerant. Acceptance of the statement that minorities enrich society increases slightly.

2.2.5   Models for 'conditional repatriation'

Belgium. The strongest effect is caused by voting behaviour. Voting for the Vlaams Block or Front Nationale is linked with an increase of negative attitudes (in terms of sending immigrant back) by 0.34.

Higher education reduces the wish to send immigrants back.

France. As in Belgium, voting behaviour has the strongest effects. Voter of Front Nationale display more negative attitudes (increase by 0.37) as well as the voters of Mouvement pour la France (increase by 0.30).

Second comes education: higher education reduces the wish to send immigrants back by 0.10.

People who belong to a minority group support repatriation of immigrants to a higher degree than others (0.10).

3 Typology of people according to their attitudes towards minority groups

This chapter gives a typology of people according to their attitude towards minority groups[9]. Six of the seven dimensions were used for this typology. As the calculation was carried out at the EU level, the dimension 'blaming minorities' had to be excluded from the analysis owing to poor comparability of this dimension between the Member States. The typology divides the EU-population into four groups: actively tolerant; intolerant; ambivalent; and passively tolerant people.

- **Actively tolerant**

People classified as 'tolerant', 21% of the total EU-population, do not feel disturbed by people from different minority groups. They agree that minority groups enrich society. Additionally, they do not demand assimilation. The tolerant do not support repatriation of immigrants or restrictive acceptance of immigrants. They show the strongest support for anti-racism policies. Actively tolerant people tend to be higher educated and more optimistic (according to their personal situation) than the average.

- **Intolerant**

People classified as 'intolerant', 14% of the total EU-population, display strong negative attitudes towards minority groups. They feel disturbed by people from different minority groups and see minorities as having no positive effects on the enrichment of society. They have a strong wish for assimilation. Furthermore, the intolerant support repatriation of immigrants and the very restrictive acceptance of immigrants. Intolerant people tend to be less educated and less optimistic (according to their personal situation) than the average.

- **Ambivalent**

People classified as 'ambivalent', 25% of the total EU-population, have ambivalent attitudes toward minority groups. On the one hand, they do not see minority groups making positive inputs to society. They greatly desire the assimilation of minority groups. On the other hand, they do not feel disturbed by minority groups. Furthermore, they have medium scores on the dimensions 'restrictive acceptance' and 'repatriation'. This ambivalence leads to no consequences. The ambivalent do not support anti-racism policies.

- **Passively tolerant**

In general, people classified as 'passively tolerant', 39% of the total EU-population, have positive attitudes toward minority groups, but they do not support policies in favour of minorities. They do not feel disturbed by minorities; they think that minorities can enrich society, and therefore do not wish minorities to abandon their own culture and accept the culture of the majority. Passive tolerance is related to medium scores on restrictive acceptance and leads to no consequences. The passively tolerant neither support anti-racism policies, nor do they favour the repatriation of immigrants.

The percentage of tolerant and intolerant people differs systematically by socio-economic group, similar to the explanation of attitudes in chapter 2.1. Socio-economic status has a much weaker effect on passively tolerant and ambivalent people, and its effect is not that systematic.

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[9] SORA applied here another statistical tool, cluster analysis, a method that allows identifying groups of persons who are 'similar' to each other. In this case, similarity means exhibiting similar attitudes towards minority groups. Details on the method and the results can be found in the technical report.

Table 6:   Typology by country

Country	intolerant	ambivalent	passively tolerant	actively tolerant
Belgium	25	28	26	22
Denmark	20	17	31	33
Germany	18	29	29	24
Greece	27	43	22	7
Italy	11	21	54	15
Spain	4	18	61	16
France	19	26	31	25
Ireland	13	21	50	15
Luxembourg	8	32	33	28
Netherland	11	25	34	31
Portugal	9	34	44	13
United Kingdom	15	27	36	22
Finland	8	21	39	32
Sweden	9	15	43	33
Austria	12	30	37	20
EU 15	14	25	39	21

Figures represent percentages. Differences of 6% and more are statistically significant.

In Belgium, all four types are nearly equal in size. Belgium has a higher percentage of people classified as intolerant (25%) than the EU average. The percentage of actively tolerant people is similar to the EU average, but there are far fewer passively intolerant people in Belgium (26%). France and Germany are similar to Belgium, but display a slight shift from intolerant to passively tolerant.

Denmark is a more polarised country. It has a large percentage of intolerant people (20%) as well as the highest percentage of actively tolerant in the EU (33%, on a par with Sweden).

Greece stands out. It has the lowest percentage of people classified as tolerant (7%) and a high percentage of intolerant (27%) and ambivalent (43%) people. The passively tolerant are only half the EU average.

Italy, Spain and Portugal are similar. There are few intolerant people, and yet high percentages of passively tolerant and low percentages of actively tolerant people. Ireland also fits into that group, although the percentage of intolerant people is not significantly lower than the EU average.

In Sweden and Finland, the share of less intolerant and more actively tolerant people is above the EU average.

The Netherlands and Luxembourg attract attention because of the high percentage of actively tolerant people and a lower percentage of passively tolerant people.

The UK and Austria are both very close to the EU average.

4 Descriptive analysis of attitudes toward minorities

4.1 Comparison between countries

As was found out in this analysis, country comparisons should take account of the fact that not every question means the same thing in each country[10]. In this chapter, the results of questions for countries, which are not comparable to the others will be described separately (i.e. not within a ranking) and presented on the side.

The degree to which differences are statistically significant depends on both sample size and share. With the usual Eurobarometer sample size of 1000, differences of 6 per cent can be assumed to be statistically significant as a rule of thumb.

For example, a graph displays the answers to the question "What do you think ought to be done to improve relationship between people of different races, religions and cultures? Promote equality of opportunity in all areas of social life". In the Netherlands, 51% of the respondents agree with this statement, in Finland 43% agree. This difference of 8 is statistically significant. The difference of 4 percentage points between the Finns and Spanish (39% agreement) is not statistically significant; it could have occurred by chance.

For proportions increasingly distant from 50% even smaller differences are significant. For proportions of 20% (or the equivalent 80%) differences of 5% between groups are significant, whereas for proportions of 10% (or the equivalent 90%) differences of 4% are significant.

Table 7: Proportion and statistically significant differences

observed percentage	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
significant variation	4%	5%	5%	6%	6%

In addition, a sum index is calculated for each dimension[11]. The sum index is a standardised value between 0 and 1 that gives information on the 'average answering' of a person within the dimension. Sum indices are calculated in a way that higher values can be interpreted as more negative attitudes toward minority groups. The exact meaning of the sum indices is described for each dimension separately. In the following section, the results of the sum indices are shortly described, the exact tables are to be found in the annex. Again, countries that are not comparable to the others are not included in the rankings. Their results will be published separately.

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[10] The comparability of questions and items between countries was screened by means of confirmatory factor analysis and is described in the technical report.

[11] The sum index is an equally weighted sum of the answers to all items within the dimension, i.e. standardised to values between 0 and 1 by means of simple linear transformation. Furthermore, the sum index uses imputed values and can therefore be calculated for all respondents, even those who have missing answers.

For graphs and large tables, the report uses the following country abbreviations:

Table 8:   Country abbreviations

abbreviation	country	abbreviation	country	abbreviation	country
A	Austria	F	France	L	Luxembourg
B	Belgium	FIN	Finland	NL	Netherlands
D	Germany	GR	Greece	P	Portugal
DK	Denmark	I	Italy	S	Sweden
E	Spain	IRL	Ireland	UK	United Kingdom

4.1.1   'Policies improving social coexistence'

In the interviews various policies for improving coexistence between majorities and minorities have been proposed to the respondents. Their agreement or disagreement with these policies creates a dimension within the field of attitudes towards minority groups, even if Europeans vary in their attitudes towards these policies across countries.

Figure 1:   Outlaw discrimination against minority groups.
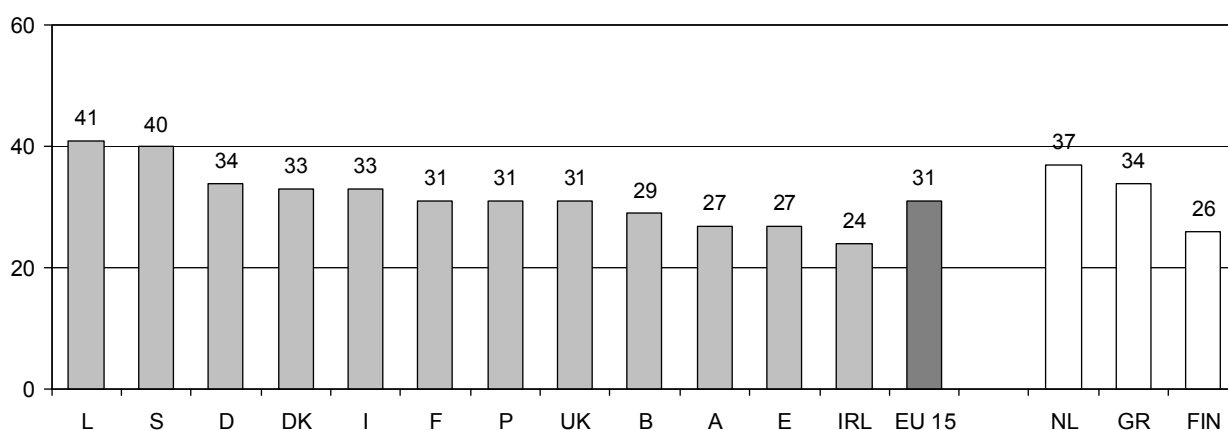
In the EU, 31% of the respondents agree that discrimination against minority groups should be outlawed in order to improve the relationship between people of different races, religions and cultures. In Luxembourg and Sweden, agreement is above the EU average. Lowest levels of agreement are found in Austria, Spain and Ireland.

In the Netherlands, Greece and Finland, the answers are not comparable to the other countries. This item has not been included in the sum index (see above).

Figure 2:   Encourage the creation of organisations that bring people from different races, religions and cultures together.
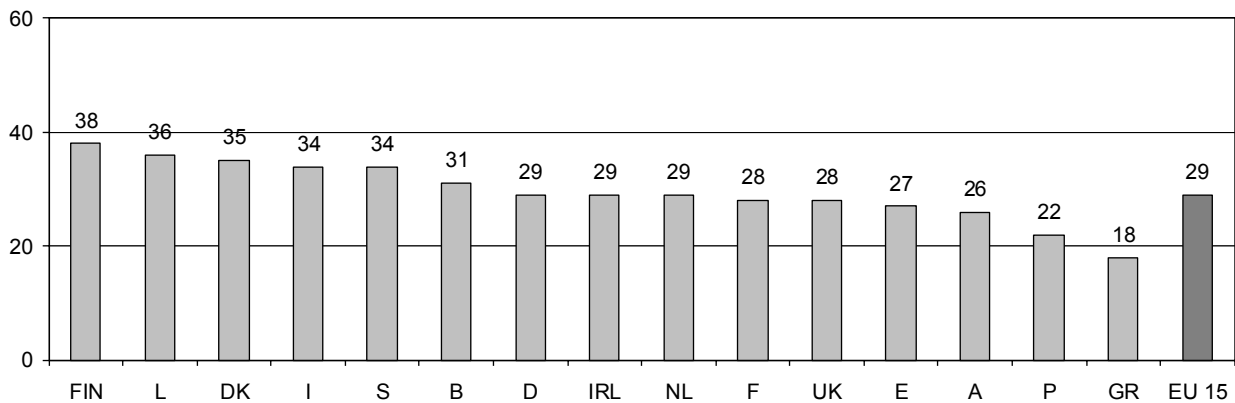
29% of all EU citizens agree that encouraging the creation of organisations that bring people from different races, religions and cultures together can improve relationships between people. In Finland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Italy and Sweden, more than one third of the respondents agree with this statement, whereas Greece stands out with only 18% positive responses. Portugal is the second country with less than one fourth of the respondents agreeing with the statement.

Figure 3:   Promote equality of opportunity in all areas of social life.
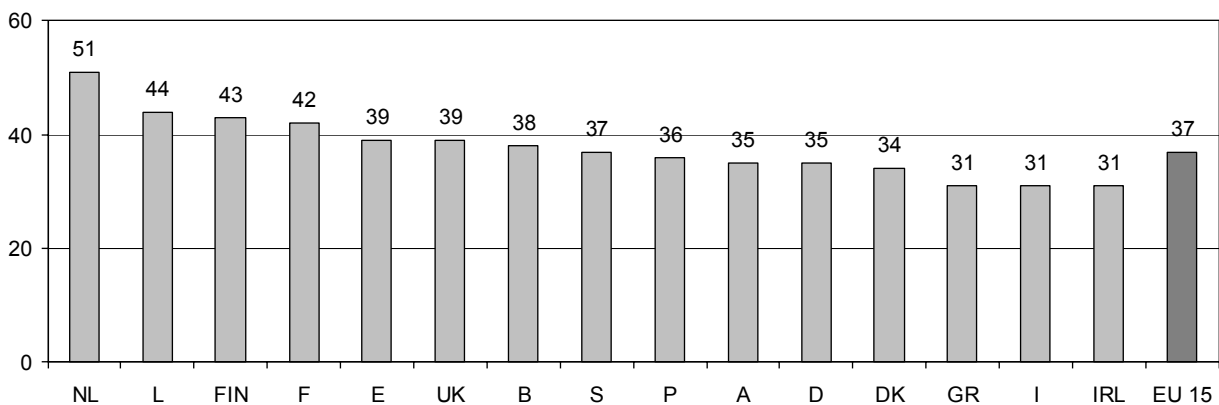

Of all the items constituting the dimension 'policies improving social coexistence', the item promoting equal opportunities in all areas of social life meets with the highest rate of approval at the EU-level. Thirty seven per cent of the respondents agree that such policies should be pursued in order to improve the relationship between people from different groups.

In the Netherlands, agreement with this statement is extraordinary high (51%). This percentage is significantly higher than in all other EU countries.

The rate of agreement in Luxembourg and Finland is also above the EU-level.

Greece, Italy and Ireland (31% agreement each) are the three countries with the lowest proportion of people supporting an equal opportunities policy.

Figure 4:   Promote understanding of different cultures and lifestyles in (COUNTRY)
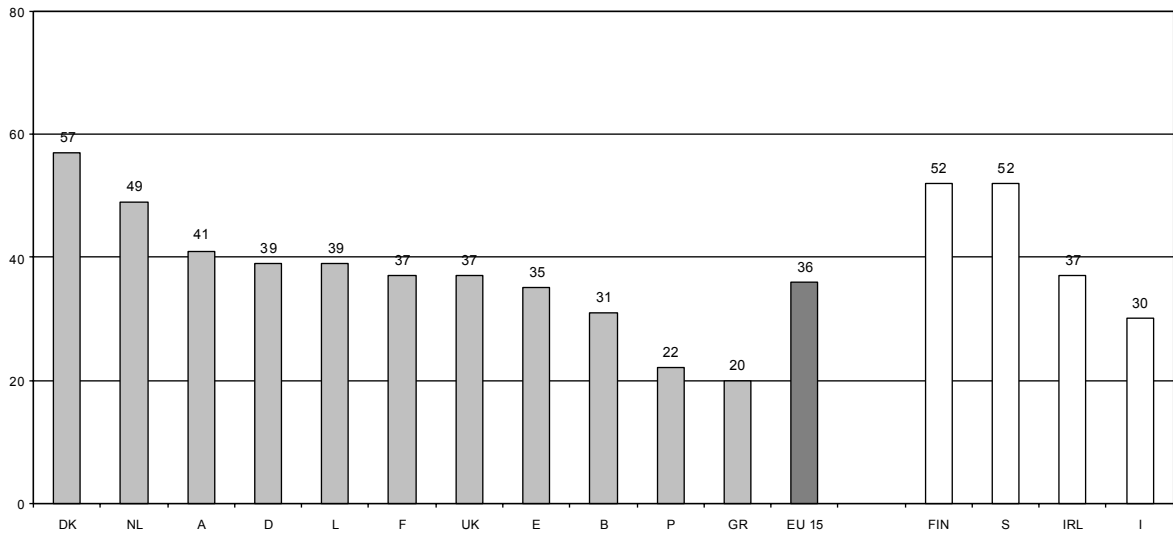

Positive reactions to the promotion of understanding of different lifestyles vary greatly between the EU member countries. The highest and lowest percentage of agreement spans 37%.

In both Denmark and the Netherlands, a much higher percentage of respondents considers understanding of different lifestyles a useful approach, whereas in the countries of Southern Europe agreement is much lower – Greece and Portugal are far to the rear (20% to 30%).

In Finland and Sweden the proportion of respondents agreeing with this statement is also very high (52%); however, both countries (and Ireland and Italy) are not comparable to the other countries. This item has not been included in the sum index (see above).

Figure 5:   Give a greater role to organisations which have already gained experience in the fight against racism
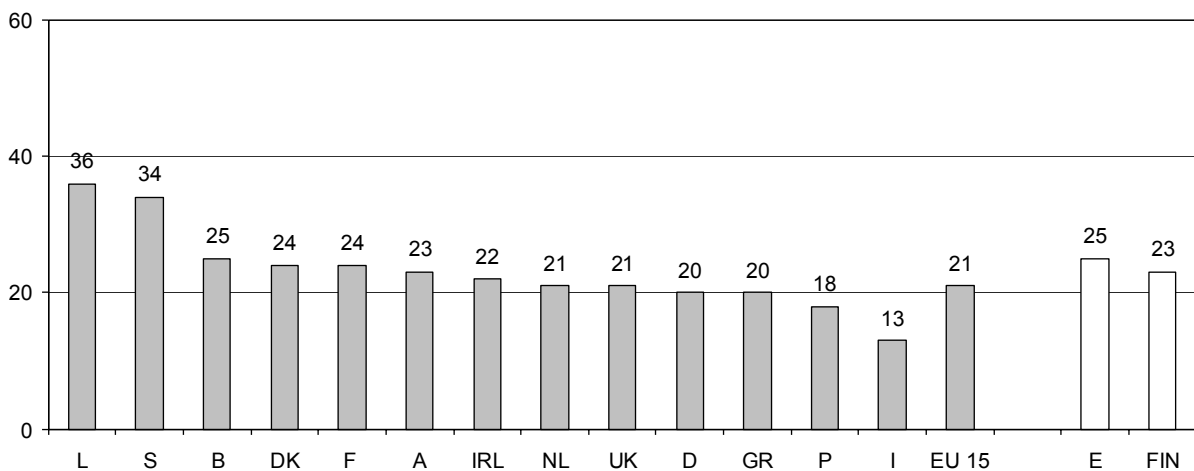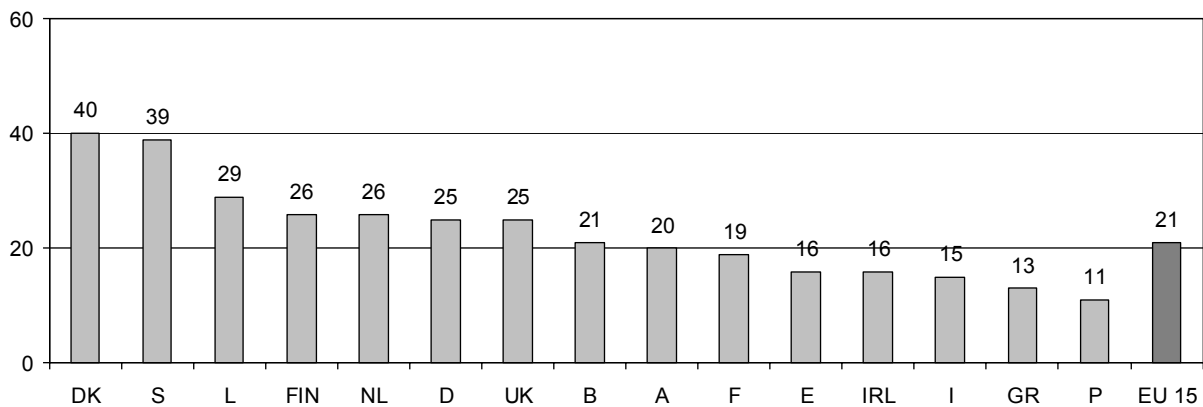
Only one in five EU citizens (21%) agrees with the statement that in order to improve relationships between people of different race, religion or culture, a greater role should be accorded to those organisations which have already gained experience in combating racism.

Sweden (34%) and Luxembourg (36%) have agreement rates far above the EU-level. Italy is a rank outsider in the opposite direction – only 13% of the Italian respondents agree with the statement.

All other countries show rather similar proportions of people in agreement (near the EU overall percentage of 21%).

As Spain and Finland cannot be compared to the other countries, this item has not been included in the sum index (see Figure 5).

Figure 6:   Encourage the participation of people from these minority groups in the political life of (COUNTRY).

Here again, one in five EU citizens (21%) agrees with the statement that people from minority groups should be encouraged to participate in the political life of the country. With respect to this item, the EU countries can be divided in four groups:

Denmark and Sweden display the highest level of agreement to the political participation of minority groups (around 40%). In Luxembourg, Finland, the Netherlands, Germany and UK, the rate of agreement is slightly higher than the EU level (25 to 29%). Countries such as Belgium, Austria and France show agreement rates similar to those found at the EU level. Respondents from countries in the South (Spain, Italy, Greece and Portugal) as well as the Irish respondents display certain reluctance towards promoting political participation of people from minority groups (11% to 16%).

Figure 7:   **Encourage trade unions and churches to do more against racism**
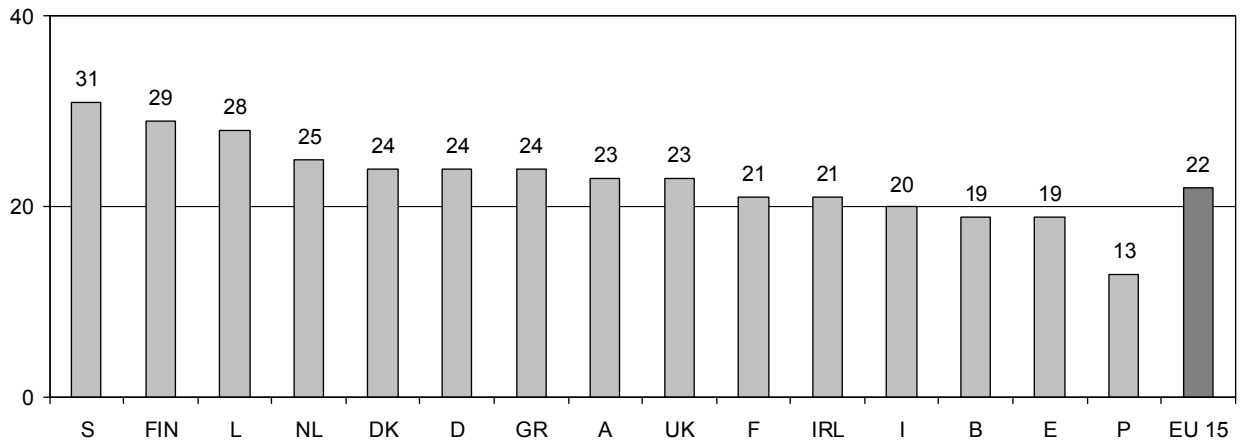
In the EU, 22% of the respondents want the trade unions and churches to act against racism. In countries such as Sweden (31%), Finland (29%) and Luxembourg (28%), the anti-racism activities of the churches and trade unions enjoy greater support. In Portugal, only 13% of the respondents agree with the above statement.

The sum index of the dimension 'policies improving social coexistence' (as mentioned on page 26) was computed based on the four comparable items.

Portugal and Greece display the highest rate of disagreement with policies improving social coexistence between people of different races, religions and cultures. Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany and Belgium form a group in the middle of the index field. The highest rates of agreement with such policies are observed in Sweden, Luxembourg, Finland and Denmark.

4.1.2 'Restrictive acceptance of immigrants'

Various groups of people are coming to EU Member States with the wish to work, settle or survive there, such as refugees, asylum seekers, foreign workers and people from Muslim countries, Eastern Europe or other EU Member States. Attitudes towards these groups are related to a common dimension: people who tend to accept one of these groups also tend to accept all the other groups.

Figure 8:   **Acceptance of people from Muslim countries who wish to work in the EU**
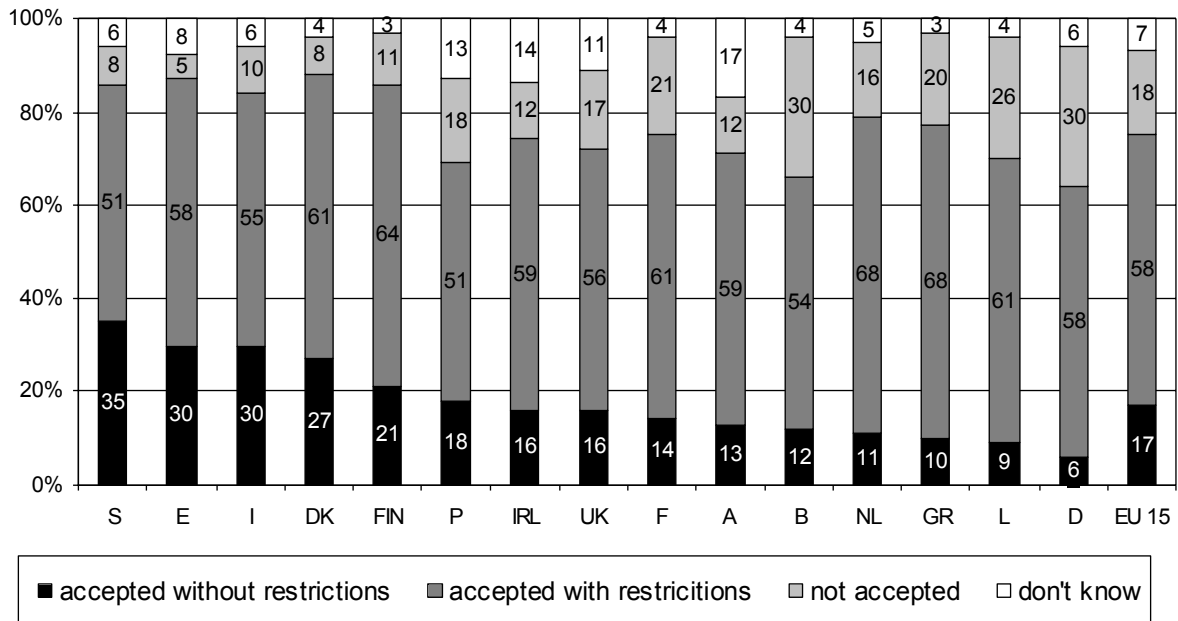
Respondents were asked about their acceptance of people from Muslim countries who wish to work in the EU. Within the EU, 17% would accept such people without restriction.

People from Muslim countries are more likely to be accepted in Sweden (35%) and Denmark (27%), as well as in Spain and Italy (30% each).

Negative attitudes towards workers from Muslim countries are most prevalent in Germany (6% unrestricted acceptance), but are also palpable among respondents from Luxembourg, Greece, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and France (between 9% and 14% unrestricted acceptance).

Highest percentages of complete non-acceptance are observed in Germany (30%), Belgium (30%) and Luxembourg (26%).

Figure 9: **Acceptance of people coming from Eastern Europe who want to work in the West**
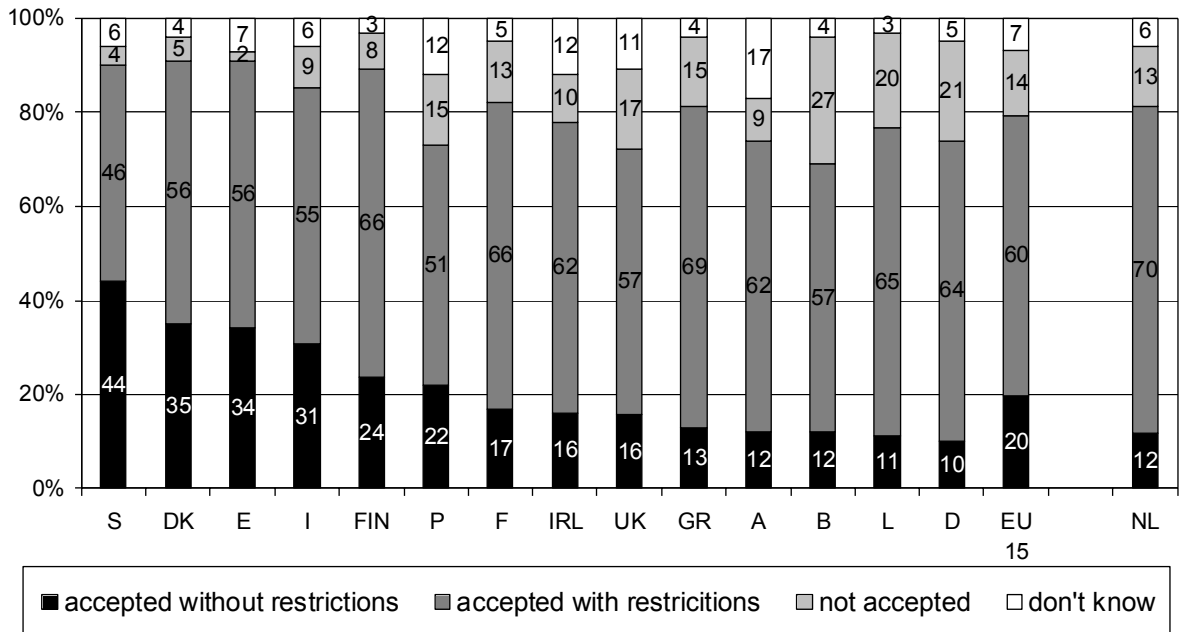
Attitudes towards the acceptance of people coming from Eastern Europe wishing to work in the West show a similar pattern of responses as in figure 8.

In the EU, every fifth respondent (20%) would accept these people without restriction.

Unrestricted acceptance of people from Eastern Europe is: exceptionally high in Sweden (44%); high in Denmark (35%), Spain (34%) and Italy (31%); and low in Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria and Greece (acceptance between 10% and 13%).

Once again, complete non-acceptance of people from Eastern Europe is highest in Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg.

For statistical reasons, the Netherlands cannot be compared to other countries.

Figure 10:   Acceptance of people fleeing from countries where there is serious internal conflict
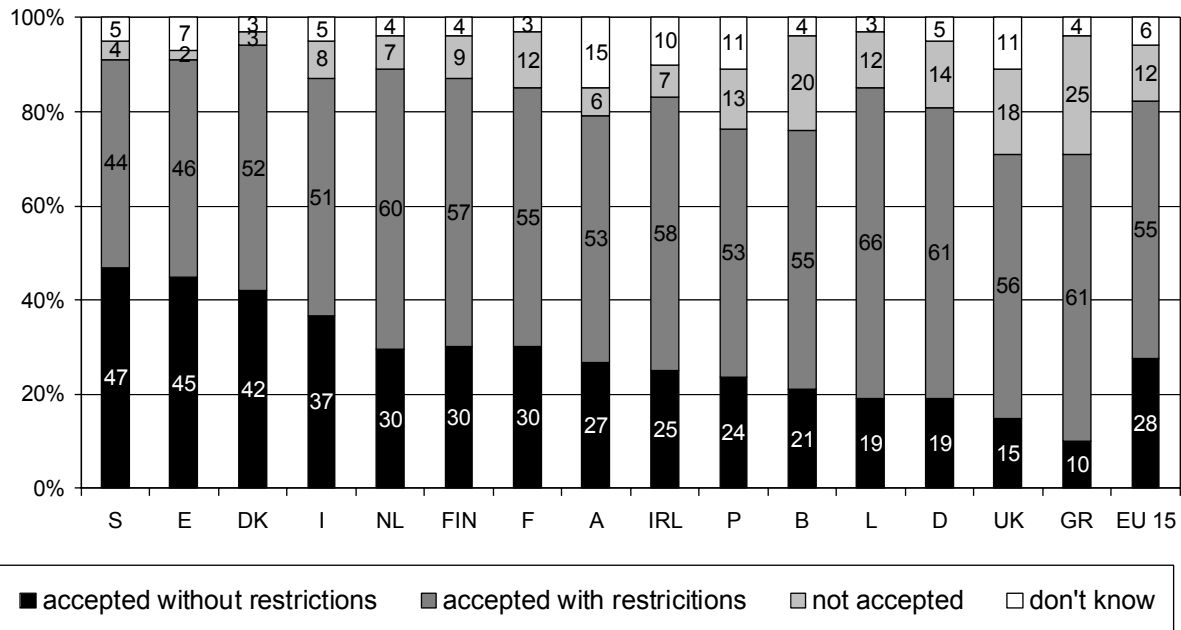
28% of the respondents from all EU countries would accept without restriction people fleeing from countries embroiled in serious internal conflict.

The highest rates of acceptance are found in Sweden (47%), Denmark (42%), Spain (45%) and Italy (37%).

Acceptance of refugees from countries facing serious internal conflict is particularly low in Greece (10%), but it is also low in the UK (15%), Germany (19%), Luxembourg (19%) and Belgium (21%).

Non-acceptance is highest in Greece (25%) and Belgium (20%).

Figure 11:   Acceptance of people suffering from human rights violations in their country, who are seeking political asylum
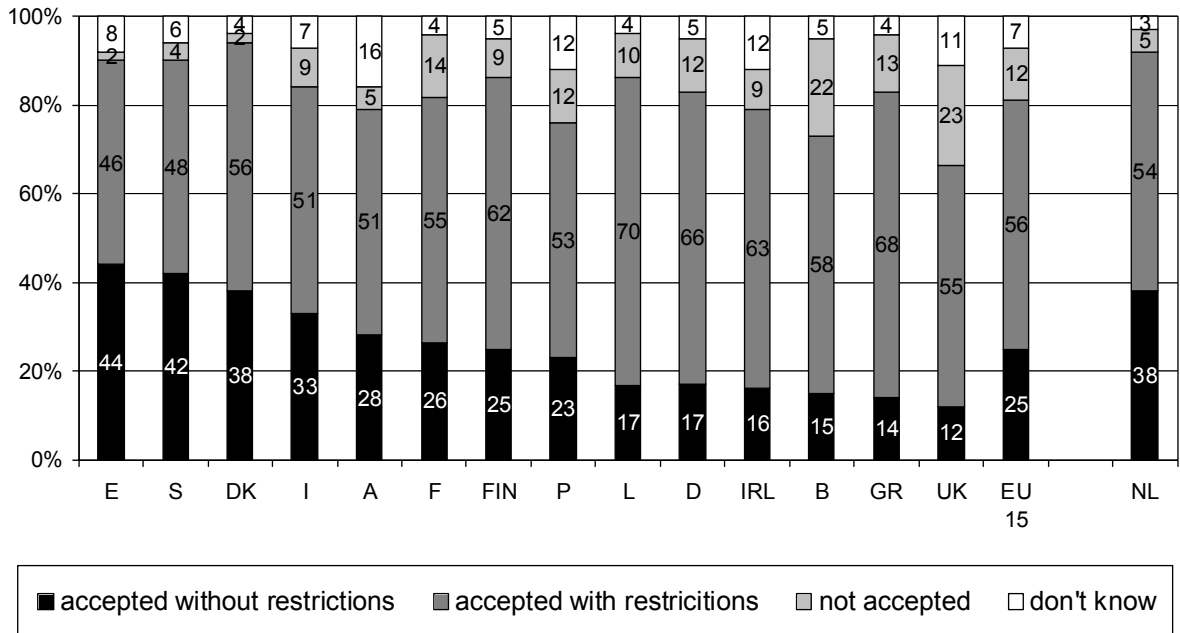
In Europe, acceptance of people suffering from the violation of human rights can be described as follows:

One fourth of all respondents (25%) would accept as seekers of political asylum people suffering from the violation of human rights in their countries of origin.

People in Spain (44%), Sweden (42%), Denmark and The Netherlands (38% each) as well as Italy (33%) are most likely to accept refugees for humanitarian reasons.

Respondents from the UK, Greece, Belgium, Ireland, Germany and Luxembourg tend to be more restrictive in their stance towards people seeking political asylum (12% to 17% acceptance).

As for non-acceptance of people fleeing from an internal conflict, non-acceptance of people suffering from the violation of human rights is highest in Greece (23%) and Belgium (22%).

Once again, the Netherlands cannot be compared to the other countries.

Figure 12: **Acceptance of citizens of other countries of the European Union, who wish to settle in (COUNTRY)**
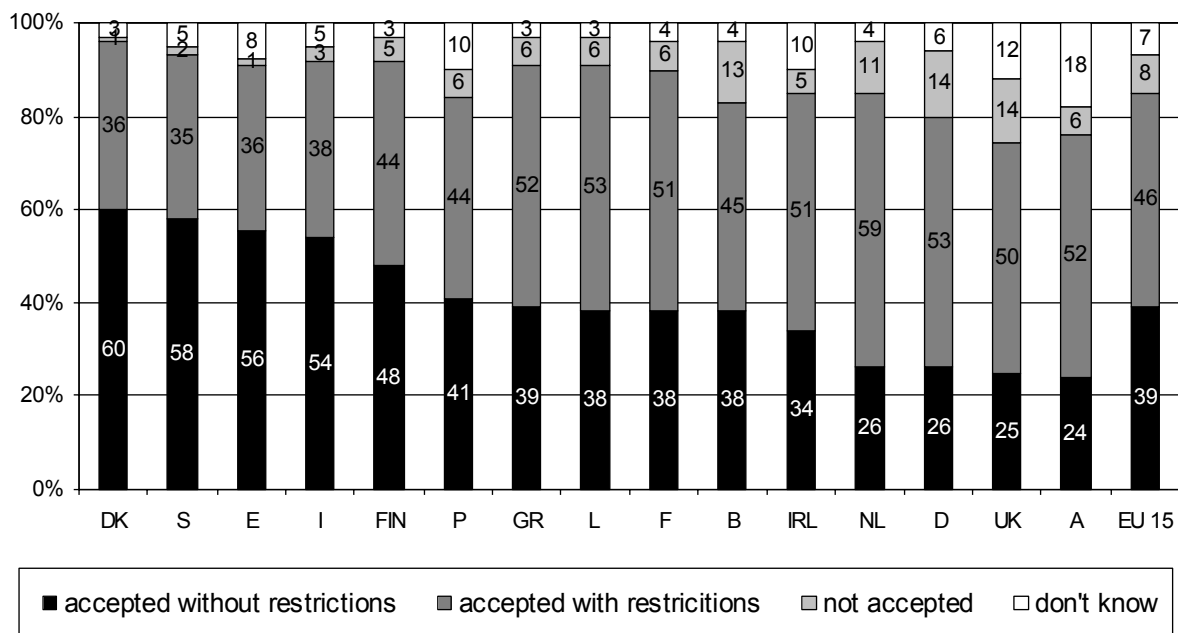
39% of all EU citizens would accept without restriction citizens of other EU countries wishing to settle in the (COUNTRY). This means that at least 54% of the respondents refuse other EU citizens the right to settle in their particular country.

People from other EU countries are more likely to be accepted as residents in the Scandinavian countries – Denmark (60%), Sweden (58%) and Finland (48%) – and also in the Mediterranean countries – Spain (56%) and Italy (54%).

The lowest proportions of unrestricted acceptance (24% to 26%) are found in Austria, the UK, Germany and the Netherlands.

In Germany, the UK and Belgium about one seventh of the respondents would not accept other EU citizens at all.

The sum index of the dimension 'restrictive acceptance of immigrants' indicated that the highest proportions of negative attitudes are observed in Germany, Belgium and the UK. People in Sweden, Spain and Denmark are those most open to foreigners.

4.1.3   'Blaming minorities'

The populations in different the EU Member States vary in their concern over increasing social conflict and decreasing welfare standards. These concerns revolve around unemployment, crime, insecurity and a drop in schooling standards and can be related to the presence of religious, cultural, ethnic and racial minorities. Holding minorities responsible for negative developments within the 'home-country' can go hand-in-hand with the perception that minorities enjoy preferential treatment from the authorities and members of these minorities abuse the social welfare system.

Figure 13:   In schools where there are too many children from these minority groups, the quality of education suffers.
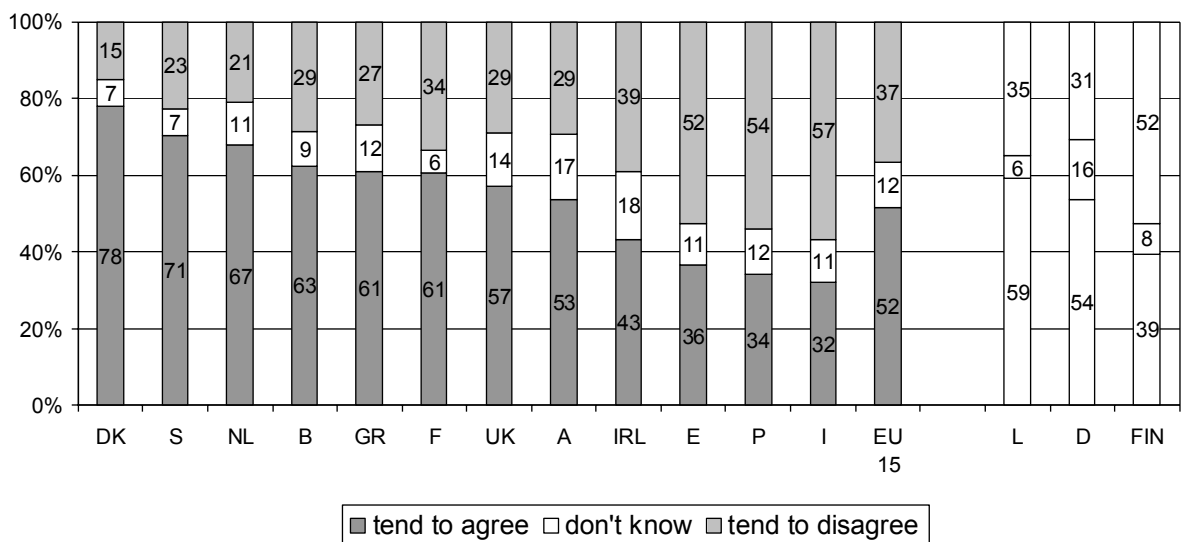
Every second EU citizen (52%) fears a decline in educational standards if the percentage of children from minority groups in a school is too high.

This fear is exceptionally widespread in Denmark, where more than three out of four respondents (78%) fear that education might suffer; it is also very common in Sweden (71%) and the Netherlands (67%).

In Belgium, Greece and France, between 57% and 63% of the respondents fear for the quality of their school systems.

Least worried about declining educational standards are the respondents from Italy, Portugal and Spain (32% to 36%).

Figure 14:   People from these minority groups abuse the system of social welfare
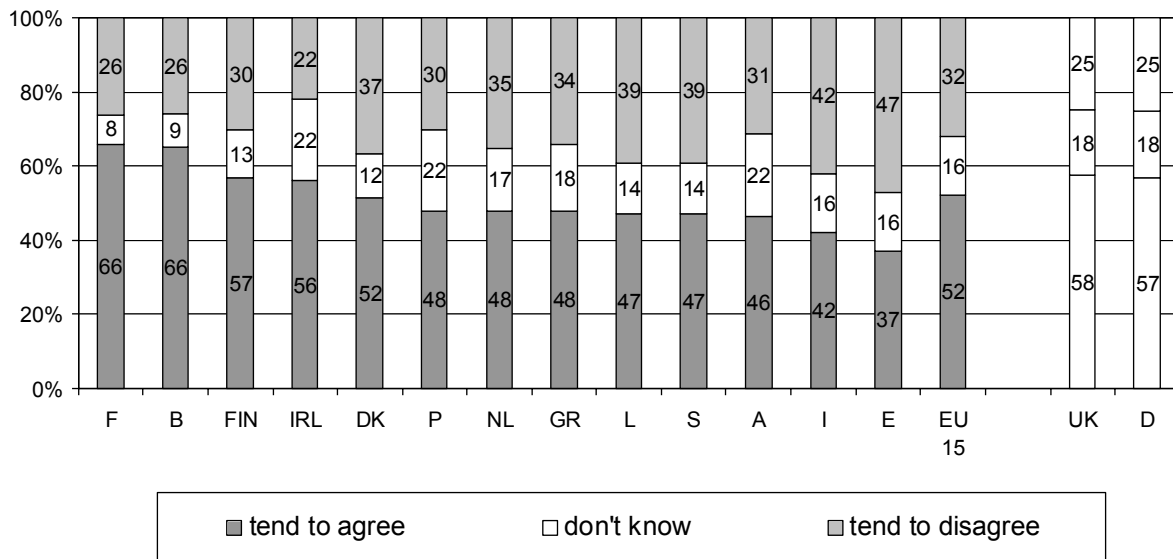
About every second EU citizen interviewed (52%) supports the statement that people from minority groups abuse the social welfare system. In France and Belgium (66% each), two out of three respondents fear that their welfare system might be abused, whereas respondents from Spain (37%) and Italy (42%) are the least afraid.

In response to the question "The presence of people from these minority groups is a cause of insecurity" (see Table 16/page 53), 42% of the respondents in the EU support the statement that the presence of people from minority groups engenders insecurity.

The percentage of respondents subscribing to that statement is particularly high in Greece (77%), but it is also marked in Denmark (60%) and Belgium (56%).

In Sweden, only 24% of the respondents think that the presence of minorities contributes to insecurity. In Finland (32%), the UK (32%) and Spain (34%) the percentage is also below the EU average.

Figure 15:   People from these minority groups are given preferential treatment by the authorities
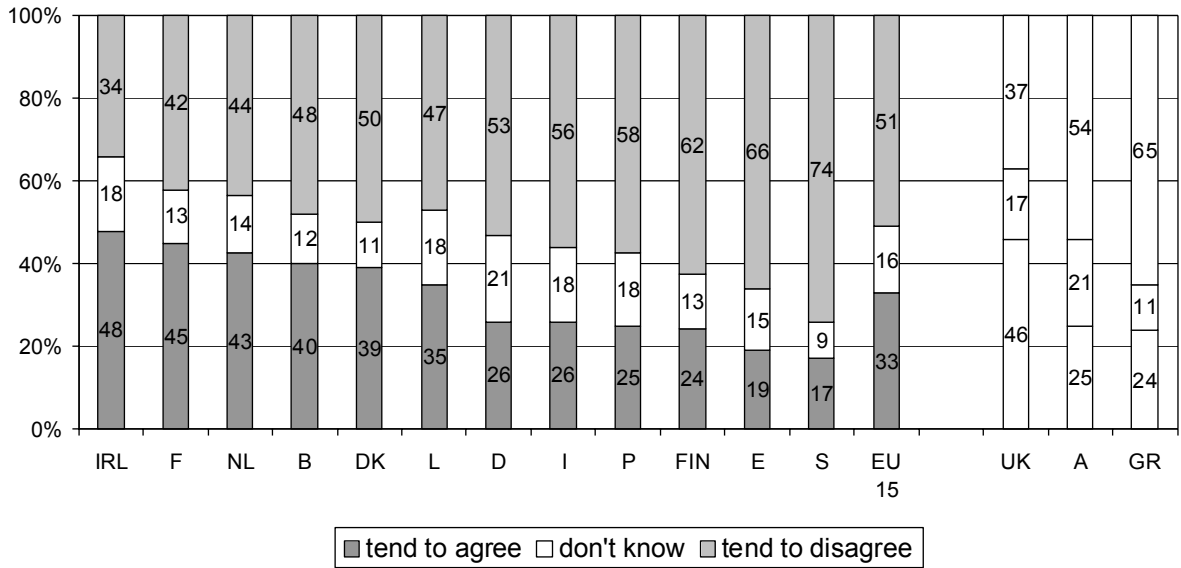
The Europeans' opinion whether authorities give preferential treatment to minority groups, is described in Figure 15:

One third of the people interviewed (33%) agree with the statement that people from minority groups enjoy preferential treatment. This belief is most widespread in Ireland (48%), Finland (45%) and the Netherlands (43%).

In Sweden, only 17% perceive preferential treatment being extended to minority groups, and in Spain 19% subscribe to this statement. In Finland, Portugal, Italy and Germany, the percentage of people subscribing to this opinion is also below average.

Figure 16:   The presence of people from these minority groups increases unemployment in (COUNTRY)
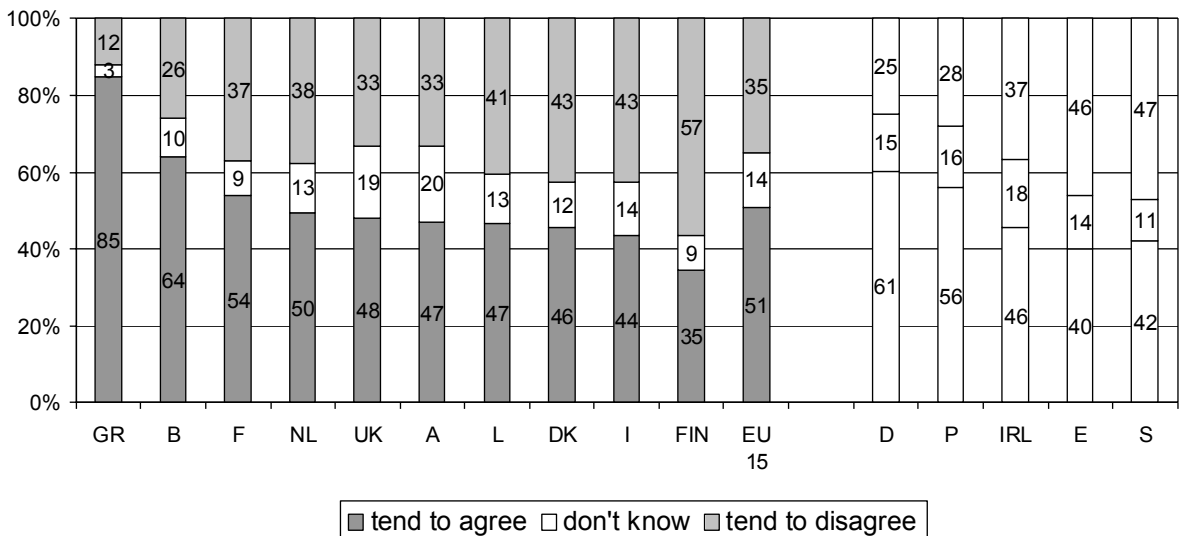
One in two EU citizens (51%) is afraid of job losses due to the presence of people from minority groups.

This fear is outrageously high in Greece: 85% of respondents see minorities as a cause of unemployment in their country. In Belgium (64%), this opinion also enjoys strong support.

People in Finland (35%) and Italy (44%) are rather confident that the minority groups are not a contributory factor.

As this item is not comparable for 5 countries, it has not been included in the sum index (see below).

Figure 17:   They (immigrants) are more often involved in criminality than the average
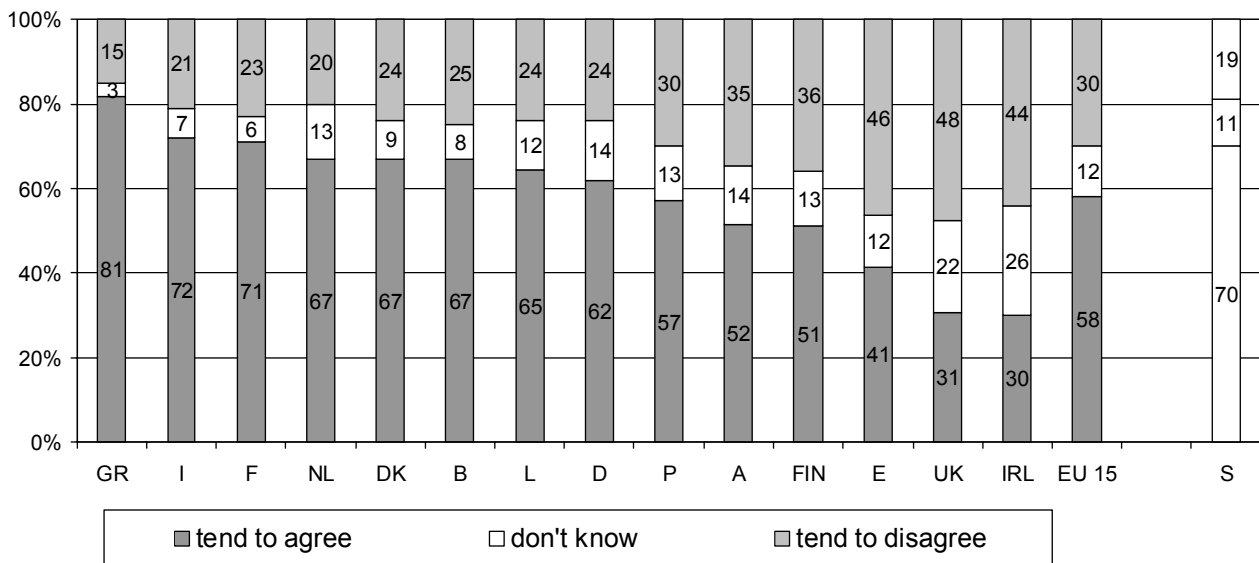
EU-wide, 58% of the respondents support the statement that migrants' involvement in crime is above average

In Greece, public opinion conforms strongly with this view (81%). In a range of countries (Italy, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium and Luxembourg) the numbers are below average.

In Ireland (31%), the UK (31%) and Spain (41%) distrust of immigrants is less prevalent.

The question 'The presence of people from these minority groups increases unemployment in (COUNTRY)' was omitted when computing the sum index because of its very bad comparability. That notwithstanding, the sum index is not comparable for many countries (see annex). Denmark, Belgium, France and the Netherlands appear as the countries with the highest tendency to blame minorities, whereas Spain and Italy seem to have the lowest levels of xenophobic fear.

4.1.4 'Disturbance'

Only a minority of Europeans feels personally disturbed by the presence of minorities. Lurking behind these feelings is a common attitude towards outsiders. People who feel disturbed by religious minorities tend to display the same feelings towards 'racial' or national minorities.

Figure 18: **Do you personally find the presence of people of another NATIONALITY disturbing in your daily life?**
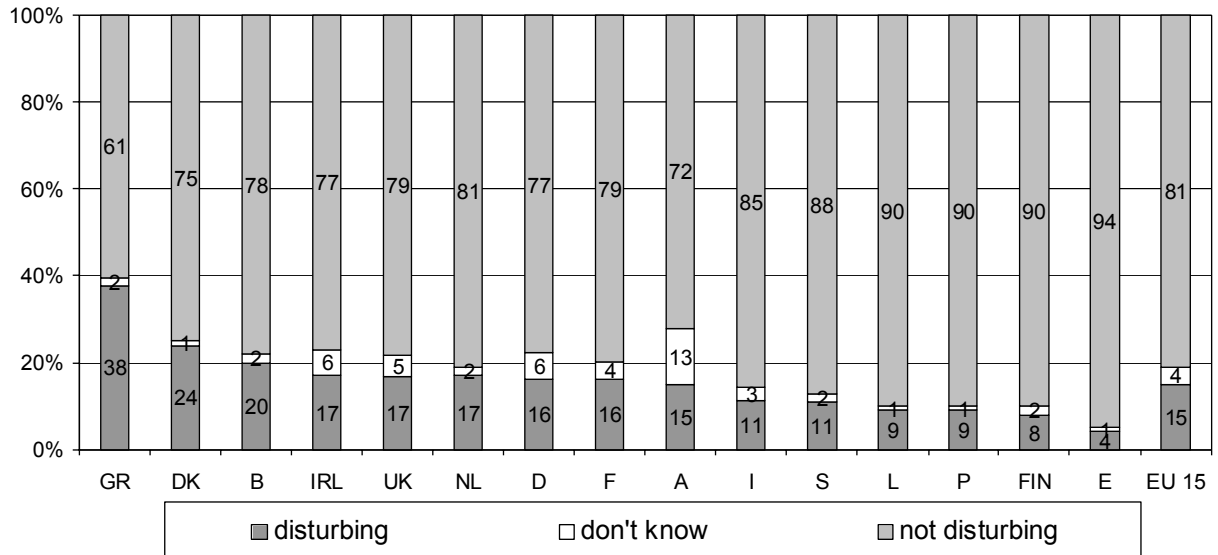
In the EU, 15% of the respondents find the presence of people of another nationality disturbing in their daily life (see Figure 18). In Greece, a much higher percentage of respondents (38%) find people from different nationalities disturbing. Denmark is the country with the second highest percentage (24%).

In Spain (4%), Finland (8%), Portugal and Luxembourg (9% each), only a very low proportion of respondents express that fear. Austria fits the average of 15% who support that statement, but 13% responded to the question with 'don't know'.

Figure 19: **Do you personally find the presence of people of another RACE disturbing in your daily life?**
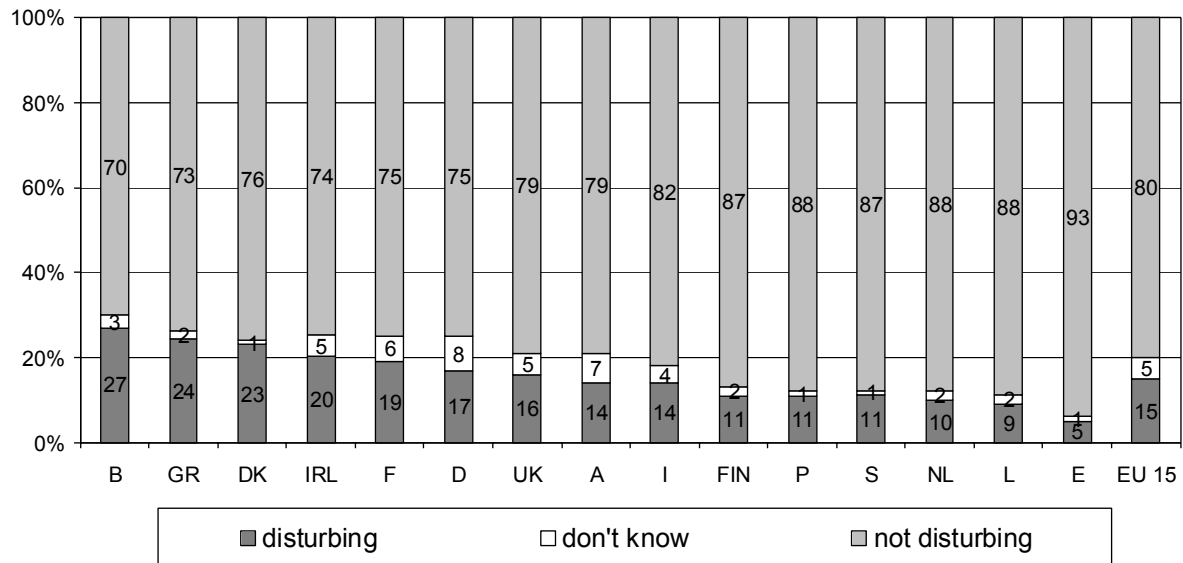
Only 15% of the respondents in the EU claim that they personally find the presence of people of another race disturbing in their daily life.

The percentage is highest in Belgium (27%), Greece (24%) and Denmark (23%) and lowest in Spain (5%).

Figure 20: **Do you personally find the presence of people of another religion disturbing in your daily life?**
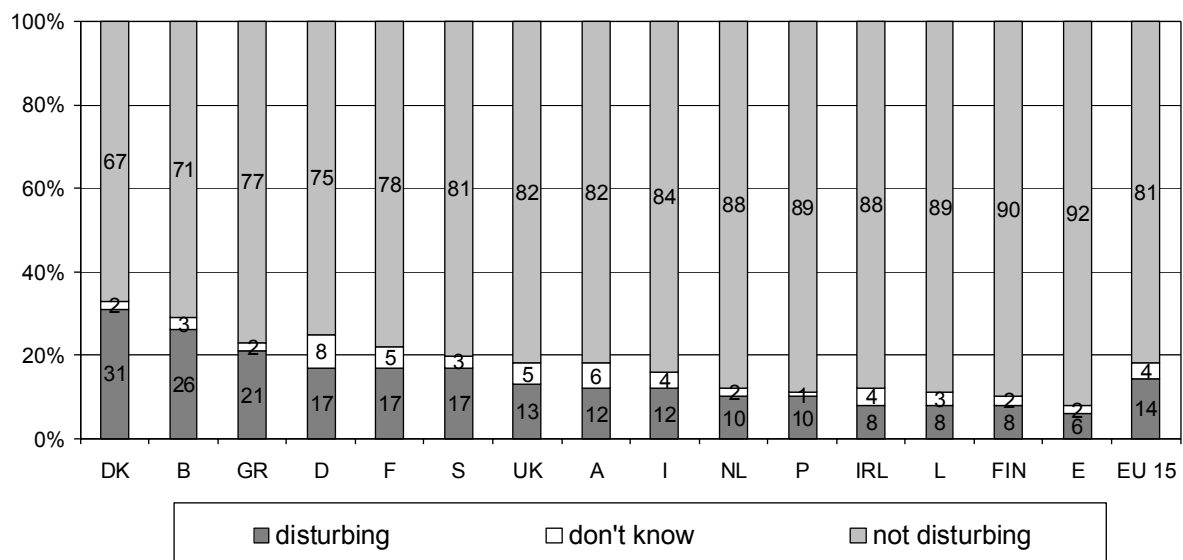
Similar to the previous question, 14% of the EU citizens claim that they find the presence of people of another religion disturbing in their daily life.

In Denmark (31%) and Belgium (26%), the presence of different religions is most often found disturbing, whereas in Spain (6%), Finland, Luxembourg and Ireland (8% each) only a minor segment of the population shares this attitude.

The sum index of this dimension indicates the feeling that daily life gets disturbed by people from minority groups is most widespread in Greece, Denmark and Belgium.

People in Luxembourg, Finland and Spain are the most tolerant, i.e. they do not feel affected in their daily lives by the presence of people from another religion, race or nationality.

4.1.5 'Multicultural optimism'

A majority of Europeans display a positive attitude towards minorities called 'multicultural optimism'. Diversity in terms of religion, race and nationality is accepted as 'enrichment' and 'a good thing' or it is seen as a 'strength of a society'.

Figure 21:   People from these minority groups are enriching the cultural life of (COUNTRY).
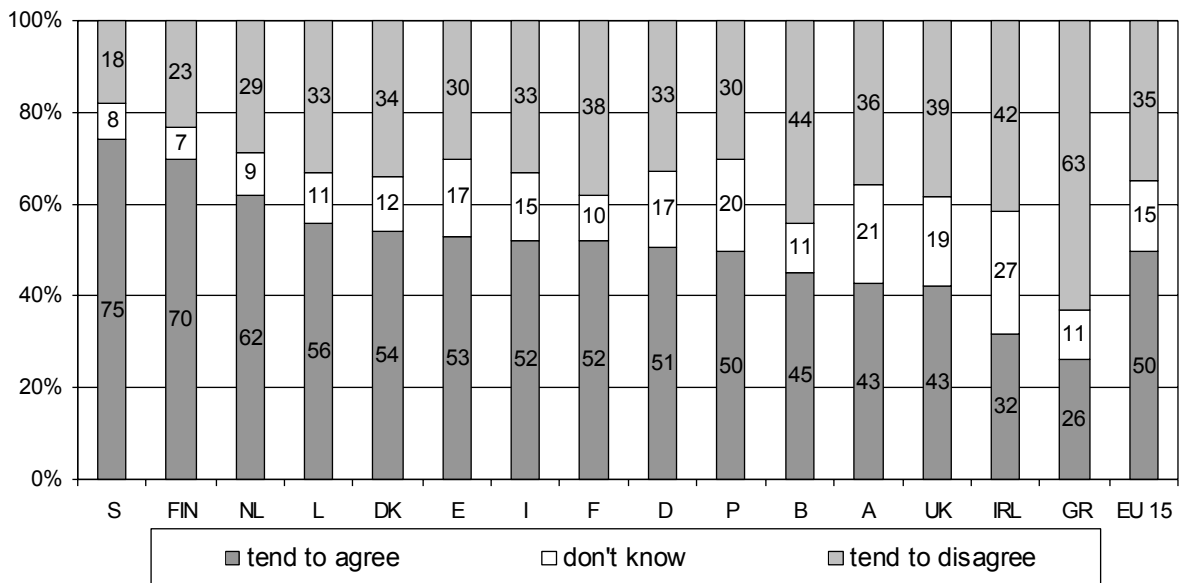
50% of all EU citizens consider the presence of minority groups an enrichment of cultural life.

In Sweden (75%) and Finland (70%), about three out of four respondents welcome the contribution of minority groups to the cultural life of their countries; in the Netherlands, nearly two thirds (62%) tend to agree with this statement. People from Greece (26%) and Ireland (32%) tend not to appreciate this kind of cultural diversification.

In Europe, the statement 'Where schools make the necessary efforts, the education of all children can be enriched by the presence of children from minority groups.' is answered as follows (see Figure 22):

Figure 22: **Where schools make the necessary efforts, the education of all children can be enriched by the presence of children from minority groups.**
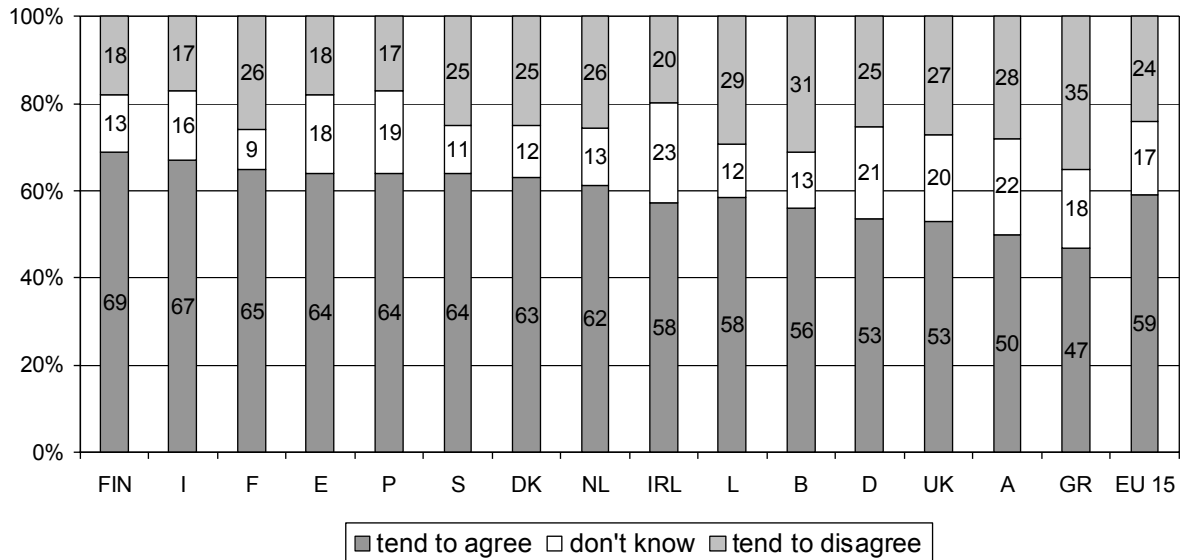
59% of the respondents in all EU countries agree with the statement that the education of all children can be enriched by the presence of children from minority groups, if schools make the necessary effort.

Interestingly, variation between the various EU countries is limited. The strongest support is observed in Finland (69%) and Italy (67%), the least support in Greece (47%) and Austria (50%).

Figure 23: **It is a good thing for any society to be made up of people from different races, religions and cultures.**
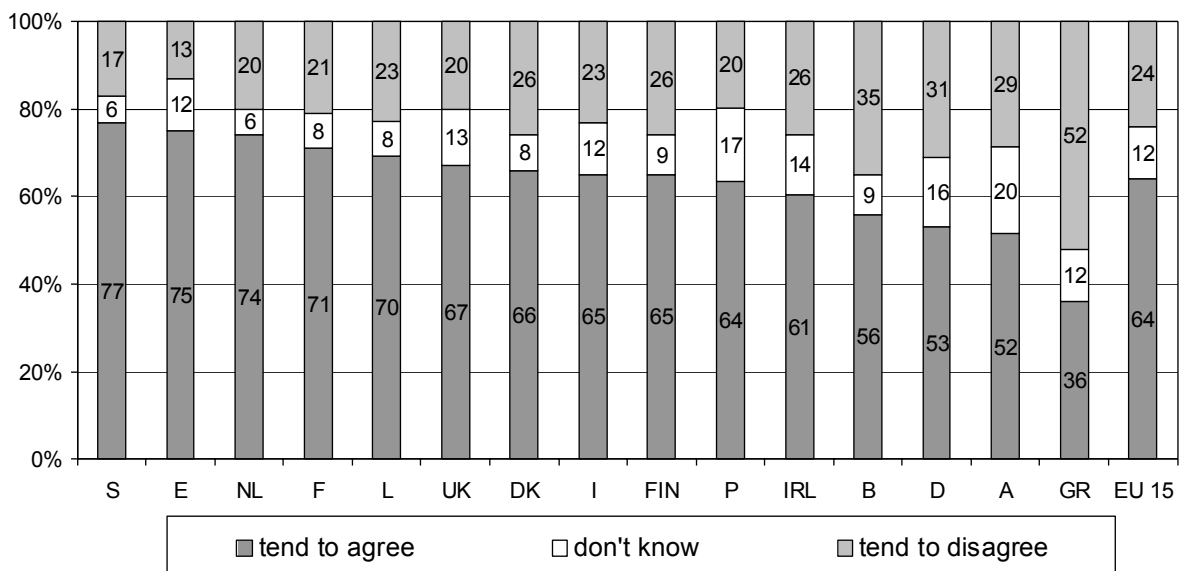
Two out of three EU citizens (64%) consider it a good thing for any society to be made up of people from different races, religions and cultures

In Sweden (77%), Spain (75%) and the Netherlands (74%), three out of four people feel that their countries benefit from cultural diversity.

As in the prior statement, reluctance towards a multicultural society is most pronounced in Greece (36% agreement). People from the German-speaking countries (Austria 52% and Germany 53%) and the Belgians (56%) tend to be more critically inclined towards the idea of cultural diversity. (see Figure 23).

Figure 24:   (COUNTRY'S) diversity in terms of race, religion and culture adds to its strengths.
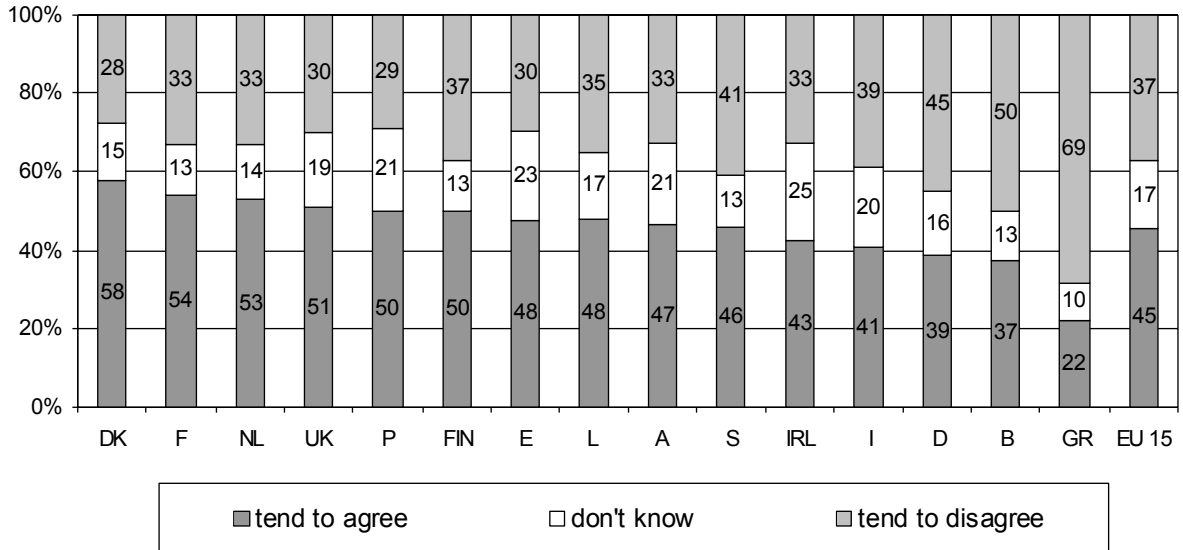
Overall, 45% of respondents think a country's diversity in terms of race, religion and culture adds to its strengths.

People from Denmark (58%), France (54%) and the Netherlands (53%) express the strongest support for this statement, whereas people from Belgium (37%) and Germany (39%) seem to be more sceptical.

In Greece, only 22% consider cultural diversity to be of benefit to their country.

The Europeans' opinion on immigrants enriching the cultural life of a country, is described in Table 25:

In the EU, about the half (48%) of the respondents think that minorities enrich the cultural life of their country.

In Sweden, three out of four (75%) and in Finland, two thirds (67%) of the respondents tend to agree with the above-mentioned statement.

Once again, Greece displays an outstandingly low acceptance rate of only 17%. People from Ireland (36%) and the UK (40%) are also rather sceptical.

Figure 25: **They (immigrants) enrich the cultural life of (COUNTRY).**
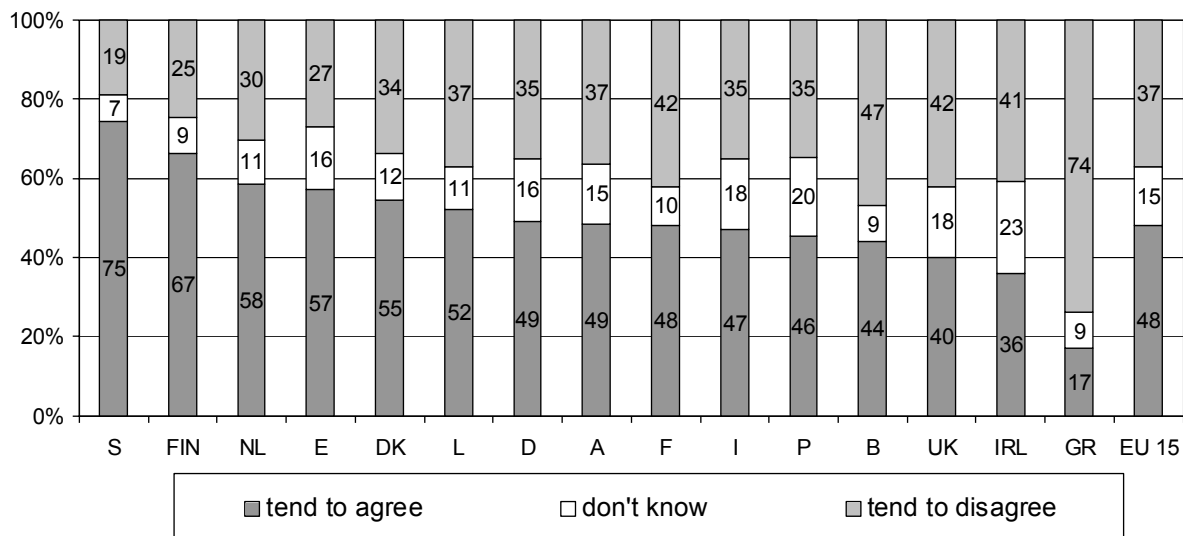
In general, in Greece there is least agreement that diversity enriches society. Still pessimistic, but less so than Greece, are Belgium, Germany, Austria and Ireland. The people from Finland, Spain and Sweden are the most optimistic (see sum index).

4.1.6 'Conditional repatriation'

A minority of Europeans favour the repatriation of all immigrants – an attitude, which is more prevalent, if immigrants from non-EU countries are involved.

Figure 26: **Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should be sent back to their country of origin if they are unemployed.**
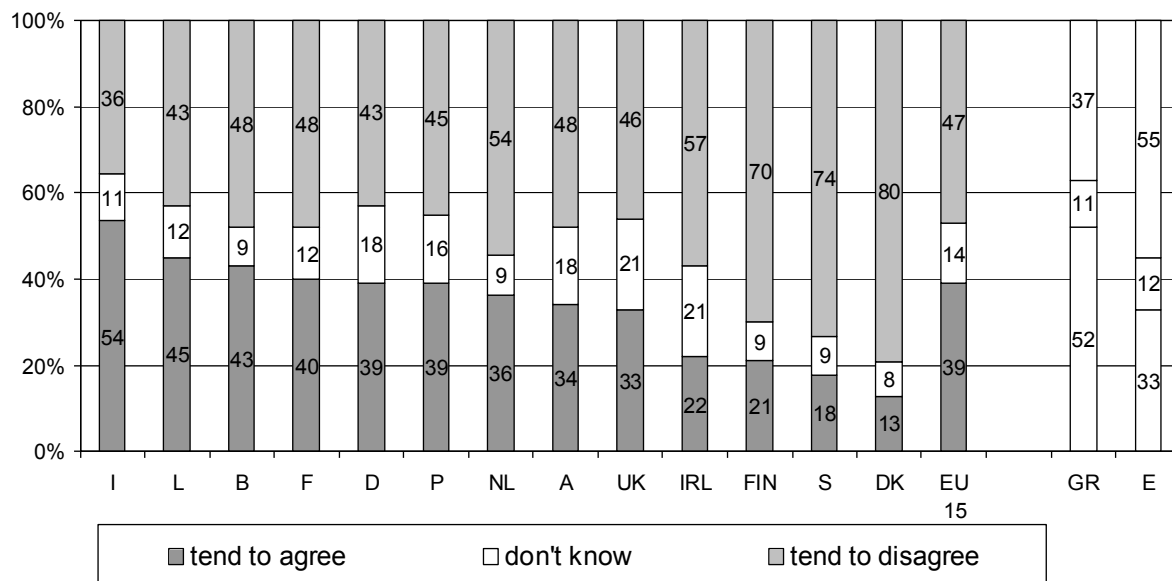
In the EU, 39% support the statement that legally established immigrants from non-EU countries should be sent back to their countries of origin, should they lose their jobs.

In Italy (54%), one in two people are in favour of that policy.

In the Scandinavian countries such as Finland (21%), Sweden (18%) and especially Denmark (13%), repatriating jobless immigrants is not considered a suitable policy for dealing with the problem.

A remarkable proportion of people give no answer to this question ('don't know'), especially in the UK, Ireland, Germany and Austria.

Question: "Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should all be sent back to their country of origin" (see Table 24/page 57).

Every fifth respondent in the EU holds the opinion that all legally established immigrants from non-EU countries should be sent back to their countries of origin.

In Greece and Belgium (27% each) an even larger proportion of respondents agrees with that statement, whereas in countries such as Denmark (7%), Spain (10%) or Sweden (12%) this statement finds less support.

Here as well, nearly a fifth of the respondents in the UK, Ireland, Germany, as well as in Austria and Portugal, chose 'don't know'.

Figure 27: All immigrants, whether legal or illegal, from outside the EU and their children, even those who were born in (COUNTRY) should be sent back to their country of origin.
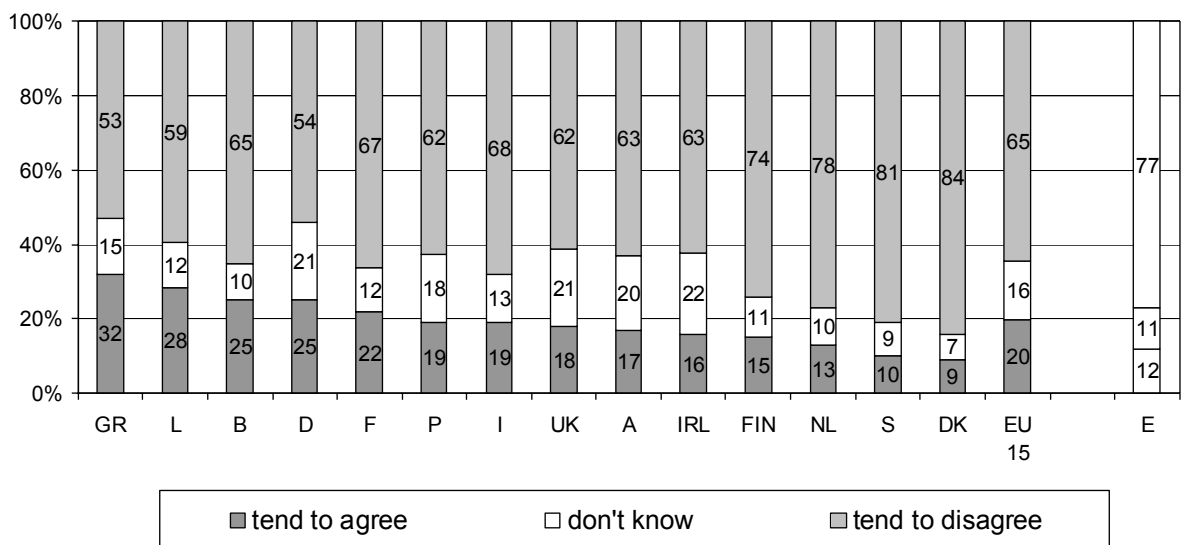
Here again, one fifth of all EU citizens interviewed agree with the statement that all immigrants, whether legal or illegal, and their children, even those born in the respective country, should be sent back to their countries of origin.

This opinion is most prevalent in Greece (32%) and Luxembourg (28%) and meets with least approval in Denmark (9%), Sweden (10%) and the Netherlands (13%).

Large proportions of 'don't knows' are to be found in Ireland, the UK, Germany and Austria.

With regard to the sum index of the dimension 'conditional repatriation', Germany and Luxembourg are the countries where the demand for the repatriation of immigrants is most widespread. People in Denmark, Sweden and Finland display the highest degree of tolerance towards immigrants.

4.1.7 'Cultural assimilation'

A minority of Europeans would like minorities to give up their culture and assimilate to the culture of the majority population. Most Europeans limit their demand for assimilation to those aspects of the other culture that might be in conflict with national law.

Figure 28: In order to become fully accepted members of (COUNTRY) society, people belonging to these minority groups must give up their own culture.
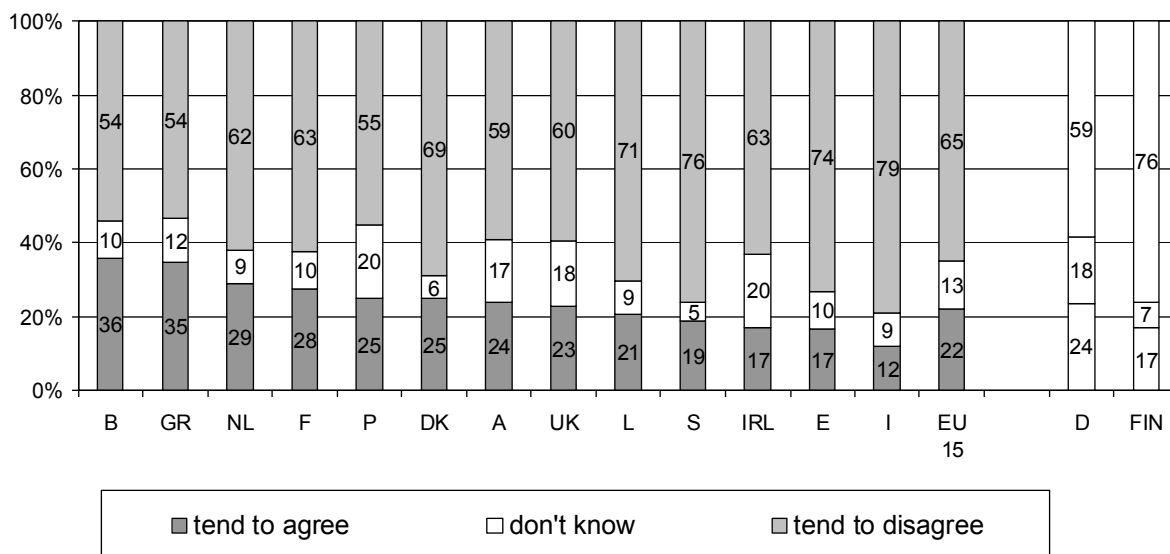
In the EU, 22% of the respondents support the statement that in order to become fully accepted members of society, people from minority groups must abandon their own culture.

In Belgium (26%) and Greece (35%), pressure for assimilation seems to be particularly strong, whereas in Italy (12%) this aspect is of much less importance.

Another form of demand for assimilation is described in Figure 29 below:

56% of EU respondents agree with the statement 'In order to become fully accepted members of the country's society, people belonging to these minority groups must give up such parts of their religion and culture which may be in conflict with the country's law'

In Denmark (85%) as well as in Sweden (79%), the Netherlands (75%) and Belgium (73%), assimilation seems not to focus on cultural habits in general, but only on those aspects of cultural life that violate domestic legislation.

In Roman Catholic countries such as Spain (33%), Italy (34%) and Ireland (42%), this opinion is held by less respondents than in the EU on average.

Figure 29: ... people belonging to these minority groups must give up such parts of their religion and culture which may be in conflict with (COUNTRY) law.
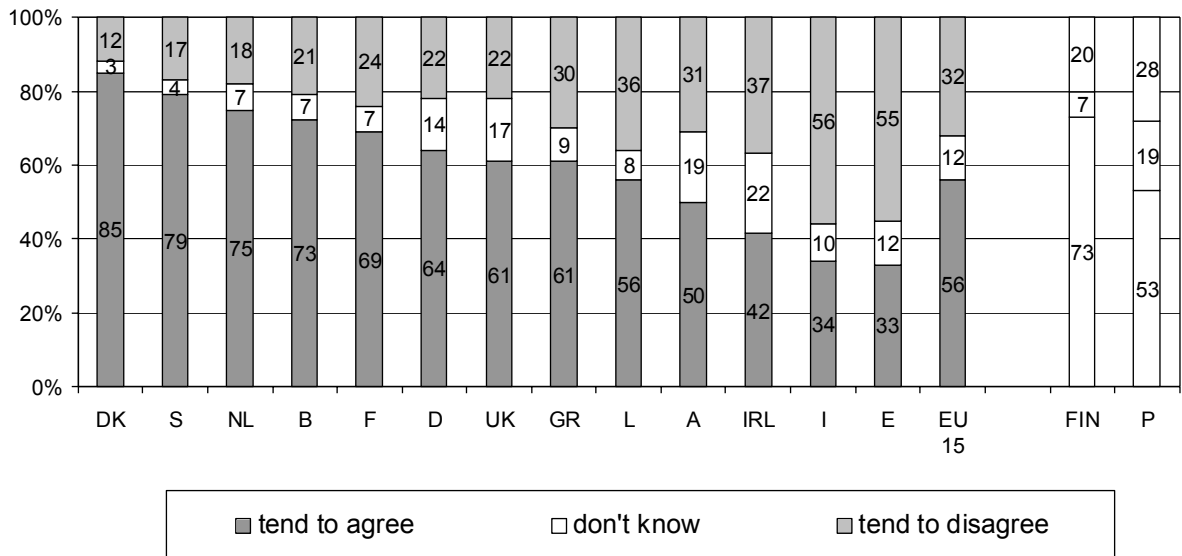
As the sum index of this dimension indicates, the greatest demand for cultural assimilation is voiced in Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands. In Spain and Italy, this assimilation trend is much weaker and below the EU average.

4.2   Comparison over time

The findings of the survey 2000 are directly comparable with the five sub-dimensions that were also the subject of questions in the1997 survey. The questions relating to the sub-dimensions 'restrictive acceptance of immigrants' and 'disturbance of daily life' were not asked in 1997. All relevant items are described at the EU level. For at least one item in each sub-dimension, comparison has been made over time at the level of individual countries.

4.2.1 'Policies improving social coexistence'

Table 9: **In order to improve relationships between people of different races, religions and cultures …**

	1997	2000	diff.
encourage the creation of organisations that bring people from different races, religions and cultures together	28	29	+1
promote equality of opportunity in all areas of social life	36	37	+1
encourage the participation of people from these minority groups in the political life of (COUNTRY)	17	21	+4
encourage trade unions and churches to do more against racism	22	22	0

At the EU level, the only significant difference between the 1997 and 2000 items is a gain of 4% in the statement: 'Encourage the participation of people from these minority groups in the political life would improve the relationship between people of different races, religions and cultures' (Table 9). The percentage of agreement increased from 17% to 21%.

The other changes are too small to rule out variations by chance. The statement evincing the most agreement in both 1997 and 2000 (36% - 37%) was 'promote equality of opportunity in all areas of social life' in 1997 as well as in 2000.

Table 10: **Encourage the creation of organisations that bring people from different races, religions and cultures together.**

	1997	2000	difference
Finland	26	38	+12
Luxembourg	32	36	+4
Denmark	33	35	+2
Italy	31	34	+3
Sweden	34	34	0
Belgium	25	31	+6
Netherlands	34	29	-5
Ireland	26	29	+3
Germany	25	29	+4
United Kingdom	37	28	-9
France	29	28	-1
Spain	19	27	+8
Austria	23	26	+3
Portugal	20	22	+2
Greece	18	18	0
EU	27	29	+2

In Finland, the percentage of respondents who agree with encouraging the creation of organisations that bring people together increased from 26% in 1997 to 38% in 2000. Another major difference can be observed in Spain, where the percentage was low (19%) in 1997 and increased to 27% in 2000. The most perceptible decrease occurred in the UK. In 1997, agreement in the United Kingdom was far above the EU average, yet was 9% lower in 2000.

Table 11: Promote equality of opportunity in all areas of social life.

	1997	2000	difference
Netherlands	50	51	+1
Luxembourg	42	44	+2
Finland	41	43	+2
France	46	42	-4
Spain	44	39	-5
United Kingdom	37	39	+2
Belgium	30	38	+8
Sweden	33	37	+4
Portugal	33	36	+3
Germany	32	35	+3
Austria	31	35	+4
Denmark	27	34	+7
Greece	33	31	-2
Ireland	28	31	+3
Italy	25	31	+6
EU	35	37	+2

At the EU level, support for the promotion of equality of opportunity increased by 2%. The highest increase between 1997 and 2000 occurred in Belgium (8%) and Denmark (7%). Spain (-5%) and France (-4%) display the largest decrease.

4.2.2 'Blaming minorities'

Table 12: In schools where there are too many children from these minority groups, the quality of education suffers.

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	46	52	+6
tend to disagree	41	37	-4
don't know	14	12	-2

In the EU as a whole, more people than in the previous survey subscribe to the opinion that schools with too many children from minority groups encounter more problems concerning the quality of education (Table 12). While an absolute majority of 52% (a plus of 6% compared to 1997) went along with this argument, the tendency to disagree (-4%) dropped.

Table 13: People from these minority groups abuse the system of social welfare.

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	48	52	+4
tend to disagree	33	32	-1
don't know	19	16	-3

An increasing percentage of EU citizens think that people from the minority groups abuse the social welfare system (Table 13).

With a rise of 4%, a majority of 52% agreed with this statement in 2000.

Table 14: People from these minority groups are given preferential treatment by the authorities.

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	27	33	+6
tend to disagree	54	51	-3
don't know	19	16	-3

In 2000, one third of the overall EU respondents (33%) agreed with the statement that the authorities accord people from minority groups preferential treatment, whereas in 1997 only 27% were in agreement (Table 14).

In 2000 about one half (51%) of the EU citizens disagreed with this statement. This percentage is significantly lower (-3%) than 3 years ago.

Table 15: They are more often involved in criminality than the average.

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	64	58	-6
tend to disagree	26	30	+4
don't know	10	12	+2

system missings excluded

In 1997 nearly two thirds of the people interviewed (64%) tended to agree with the opinion that minorities are more frequently involved in criminal acts than the average (Table 15). Three years later agreement with this statement has dropped significantly by 6%.

By way of comparison, the percentage of disagreement (+4%) as well as the percentage of 'don't know' answers (+2%) can be seen to have increased in the latest survey.

Table 16: **The presence of people from these minority groups is a cause of insecurity.**

	1997			2000		
	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know
Greece	66	27	8	77	19	3
Denmark	60	33	8	60	33	7
Belgium	59	31	10	56	35	9
France	46	45	10	51	41	8
Germany	41	37	22	46	34	19
Portugal*	45	38	17	45	41	14
Netherlands	34	59	7	45	44	11
Austria	45	37	18	44	39	17
Ireland	16	61	23	42	43	14
Luxembourg	29	57	14	40	47	13
Italy	28	56	16	38	46	16
Spain	27	55	19	34	56	11
United Kingdom	33	50	18	32	48	20
Finland	24	67	9	32	61	8
Sweden	21	65	15	24	66	10
EU	37	47	16	42	43	15

* Results are not comparable with the results from the other countries.

Ireland exhibits an extreme change with respect to this statement. The tendency to agree that minority groups can be a cause of insecurity increased from 16% in 1997 to 42% in 2000. The percentage of people disagreeing and refusing to answer decreased over the same period.

Compared to 1997, the percentage of EU citizens who think the presence of people from these minority groups is a cause of insecurity, increased by 5%. Disagreement with this statement decreased by 4%.

4.2.3 'Multicultural optimism'

Table 17: **People from these minority groups are enriching the cultural life of (COUNTRY).**

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	47	50	+3
tend to disagree	34	35	+1
don't know	19	15	-4

Agreement with the statement that people from minorities groups enrich the cultural life of a respective country is 3% higher than in 1997; it now stands at 50% (see Table 17).

The percentage of respondents who did not answer this question decreased by 4%.

Table 18: **Where schools make the necessary efforts, the education of all children can be enriched by the presence of children from minority groups.**

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	59	59	0
tend to disagree	22	24	+2
don't know	19	17	-2

Public opinion in the EU with regard to the statement that where schools make the necessary effort, the education of all children can be enriched by the presence of children from minorities, has proved stable, remaining at the same level (59%). The tendency to disagree increased from 22% to 24% whereas the percentage of the people with no opinion on this statement decreased by 2%.

Table 19: **They (immigrants) enrich the cultural life of (COUNTRY)**

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	33	48	+15
tend to disagree	54	37	-17
don't know	13	15	+2

system missings excluded

In remarkable contrast to the previous item, public opinion has dramatically changed on the subject of immigrants enriching the cultural life of the respective country. The tendency to agree has risen by 15% up to a relative majority of 48% and the tendency to disagree has dropped by 17% (see Table 19). The percentage of 'don't know' answers increased from 13% to 15%.

Table 20: **It is a good thing for any society to be made up of people from different races, religions and cultures**

	1997			2000		
	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know
Sweden	79	11	10	77	17	6
Spain	74	12	15	75	13	12
Netherlands	76	18	6	74	20	6
France	74	19	7	71	21	8
Luxembourg	82	12	6	70	23	8
United Kingdom	75	15	10	67	20	13
Denmark	59	33	8	66	26	8
Finland	67	21	12	65	26	9
Italy	62	21	17	65	23	12
Portugal	70	16	15	64	20	17
Ireland	76	10	14	61	26	14
Belgium	52	35	13	56	35	9
Germany	55	27	18	53	31	16
Austria	71	15	14	52	29	20
Greece	38	41	21	36	52	12
EU	66	21	13	64	24	12

In Austria, the proportion of those supporting the statement that it is a good thing for a society to be made up of people from different races, religions and cultures decreased from nearly three quarters to

just over one half (52%) of the respondents. A decrease is also observed in Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal and the United Kingdom. An increase was recorded in Belgium and Denmark.

In 1997, at the EU level, two out of three persons agreed with the statement that it is a good thing for a society to be made up of people from different races, religions and cultures. Three years later, the tendency to agree decreased by 2%. Over the period 1997 - 2000, the tendency to oppose the statement has increased significantly from 21% to 24%.

Table 21: **(COUNTRY´S) diversity in terms of race, religion and culture adds to its strengths**

	1997			2000		
	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know
Denmark	46	40	14	58	28	15
France	52	34	14	54	33	13
Netherlands	54	31	14	53	33	14
United Kingdom	59	23	18	51	30	19
Finland	58	25	17	50	37	13
Portugal	51	26	24	50	29	21
Luxembourg	54	27	19	48	35	17
Spain	48	24	28	48	30	23
Austria	46	30	24	47	33	21
Sweden	38	37	24	46	41	13
Ireland	50	24	26	43	33	25
Italy	32	42	27	41	39	20
Germany	34	43	23	39	45	16
Belgium	24	52	24	37	50	13
Greece	23	54	23	22	69	10
EU	44	35	21	45	37	17

Similar to the statement mentioned above, agreement with the statement '(COUNTRY´S) diversity in terms of race, religion and culture adds to its strengths' has likewise decreased in Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and Finland over the past three years. Marked increases can be observed once again in Belgium, Denmark, Italy and Sweden.

At the EU-level, almost no significant change was observed, except the percentage of respondents with no opinion on this statement has decreased by 4% over the period 1997 - 2000.

4.2.4 'Conditional repatriation'

Table 22: **Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should be sent back to their country of origin if they are unemployed**

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	37	39	+2
tend to disagree	49	47	-2
don't know	15	14	-1

Support for the statement that if unemployed, legally established immigrants from non-EU countries should be sent back to their country of origin increased by 2% over the period 1997- 2000 (see Table 22). The percentage of respondents who tended to disagree with this statement decreased from 49% to 47%.

Table 23: **All immigrants whether legal or illegal, from outside the EU and their children, even those who were born in (COUNTRY) should be sent back to their country of origin.**

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	18	20	+2
tend to disagree	66	65	-1
don't know	16	16	0

Disagreement with the statement that all immigrants from non-EU countries should be sent back to their countries of origin remains constantly high. In 1997, the percentage was 66%; in 2000, it was 65% (see Table 23). The tendency to agree with this statement increased from 18% to 20%.

Table 24: **Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should all be sent back to their country of origin.**

	1997			2000		
	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know
Belgium	21	64	14	27	65	8
Greece	21	67	12	27	61	13
Luxembourg	14	77	9	25	67	9
Germany	28	53	20	24	56	20
United Kingdom	15	71	14	22	58	20
France	20	74	6	21	71	8
Italy	16	71	13	19	73	9
Austria	22	56	22	17	66	17
Portugal	16	67	17	17	66	17
Ireland	8	69	23	16	64	20
Finland	10	82	8	14	80	6
Netherlands	10	87	4	14	78	8
Sweden	9	82	9	12	81	8
Spain*	8	81	11	10	80	10
Denmark	15	77	7	7	88	6
EU	18	69	13	20	67	13

* Results are not comparable with the results from the other countries.

In the UK, the percentage of people disagreeing with the statement that all legally established immigrants should be sent back to their countries of origin decreased from 71% in 1997 to 58% in 2000. About half of this difference is due to increase in favour of the statement, the other half due to an increase in the 'don't knows'. A similar tendency can be observed in the Netherlands where disagreement with the statement decreased from 81% in 1997 to 78% in 2000. Even with this percentage, the Netherlands is still above the EU average in 2000, but it has lost its position as the most liberal country to Denmark. In Denmark, the supporters of repatriation have dropped from 15% in 1997 to 7% in 2000.

At the EU level, disagreement with this statement has shifted from 69% in 1997 to 67% in 2000. The tendency to agree has increased from 18% to 20% over the same period.

4.2.5 'Cultural assimilation'

Table 25: In order to become fully accepted members of (COUNTRY) society, people belonging to these minority groups must give up such parts of their religion and culture which may be in conflict with (COUNTRY) law.

	1997	2000	diff.
tend to agree	50	56	+6
tend to disagree	35	32	-3
don't know	14	12	-2

In 1997 one in two respondents tended to agree with the statement that minority groups must give up those components of their religion and culture which may be in conflict with the law of the respective country in order to become fully accepted members of society (see Table 25). This tendency increased by 6% in 2000. The tendency to disagree fell from 35% to 32%. The 'don't know' answers also decreased by 2%.

Table 26: In order to become fully accepted members of (COUNTRY) society, people belonging to these minority groups must give up their own culture.

	1997			2000		
	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know	tend to agree	tend to disagree	don't know
Belgium	37	48	15	36	54	10
Greece	30	57	13	35	54	12
Netherlands	25	69	6	29	62	9
France	29	64	7	28	63	10
Denmark	35	60	5	25	69	6
Portugal	20	60	20	25	55	20
Austria	27	53	21	24	59	17
Germany	20	60	20	24	58	18
United Kingdom	21	66	13	23	60	18
Luxembourg	18	71	10	21	71	9
Sweden	21	68	11	19	76	5
Finland*	17	75	8	17	76	7
Spain	14	68	18	17	74	10
Ireland	13	68	19	17	63	20
Italy	9	79	12	12	79	9
EU	21	65	14	22	65	13

* Results are not comparable with the results from the other countries.

Public opinion in favour of cultural assimilation lost support in Denmark.

In both 1997 and 2000, about two thirds of all EU citizens (65%) tended to disagree with the statement that minority groups must abandon their own culture in order to become fully accepted members of the respective country.

5   Annex

The annex contains more technical details, e.g. a table on the relationships between the seven dimensions (sum indices) of attitudes towards minority groups. There are also tables of each sum index by country. The results were shortly mentioned in the report (descriptive part), the detailed tables are reported in this annex.

We recommend that in the future the sampling techniques be further developed. Improvements could be made in the following areas:

Sample frames. Reported sample frames differ greatly in quality. The share of 'invalid addresses' varies from 0% in Germany to as high as 61% in Spain or 56% in Finland. More systematic research should be conducted into the possible bias due to sample frames within Eurobarometer.

Response rates. SORA suggests paying more attention to response rates. 62% of all interviews in Spain were successfully completed within the course of the first visit, in the Netherlands it was reported that the percentage of 'immediate refusals at the first contact' was 69%. Reported overall response rates vary from 25% in the Netherlands to 81% in France. Efforts should thus focus on standardising sampling procedures and increasing response rates, as well as on the impact of low response rates and correction procedures.

Sample correction. Weighting was introduced to correct for non-representative characteristics of the sample. Weights vary in magnitude from country to country, lowest sample corrections are reported for Belgium (weights ranging between 0,66 and 1,5) and the Netherlands (ranging between 0,27 and 7,29). The lowest weight was applied in Sweden (0,17). This means that a persons characteristic is over-represented six fold within the sample. Weighting is a procedure designed to correct for a small set of variables such as age, gender and region, in those instances where detailed information about the sample is available. The structure of weights implies that more research should be carried out into the most important 'explaining variables' and the variables that should be explained.

Missing values. The proportion of missing values varies greatly between countries. As persons with missing values seem to display certain response patterns, the results in countries with high proportions of missing values might have a systematic bias. In this analysis, the authors have tried to reduce these systematic effects by imputing values. Further research on missing values could help to reduce the problem per se instead of merely containing the consequences within reasonable limits. Improving the scale might also help.

Cultural bias. Several questions had to be dropped owing to the bias detected. More methodological research and experience are needed in order to come up with standards governing the conditions under which bias is considered too strong to permit comparisons to be drawn.

5.1 Relationship between dimensions

The questions comprising each dimension were grouped into seven additive indices[12]. Table 27 shows the relationships between the additive indices of the dimensions.

Table 27: **Relationships between sum indices of dimensions**

factor	correlation coefficients[13]						
	blaming minorities	policies	restrictive accept.	disturbance	multicult.	repatriation	assimilation
blaming minorities	1,00						
policies	,32	1,00					
restrictive acceptance	,46	,30	1,00				
disturbance	,40	,25	,37	1,00			
multicult.	,53	,37	,48	,46	1,00		
repatriation	,48	,30	,44	,39	,48	1,00	
assimilation	,41	,15	,31	,30	,32	,32	1,00

The strongest relationship exists between the dimensions 'blaming minorities' and 'multicultural optimism': If a person is afraid of social conflict and fears loss of economic status attributable to minorities, he/she more likely does not believe in enrichment of cultural life by those minorities. A strong correlation also exists between 'blaming minorities' and 'conditional repatriation', 'restrictive acceptance of immigrants' and 'multicultural optimism/pessimism', as well as between 'conditions of repatriation' and 'multicultural optimism'.

The other seven dimensions of attitudes toward minorities identified in exploratory factor analysis display only weak correlations and contribute but marginally to the explanation of the described model.

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[12] The sum index is an equally weighted sum of the answers of all items within the dimension, which is standardised to values between 0 and 1 by simple linear transformation. Furthermore, the sum index uses imputed values and can therefore be calculated for all respondents, even those who have missing answers. Higher values always indicate more negative attitudes towards minority groups.

[13] scales:
0 … not blaming minorities	1 … blaming minorities
0 … support for policies	1 … no support for these policies
0 … acceptance without restriction	1 … no acceptance of immigrants
0 … not feeling disturbed	1 … feeling disturbed
0 … multicultural optimism	1 … multicultural pessimism
0 … not repatriating immigrants	1 … repatriating immigrants
0 … no cultural assimilation	1 … cultural assimilation of immigrants

5.2 Sum indices

Table 28: Sum index 'support for policies improving social coexistence', by country

country	mean	standard deviation
Portugal	0,80	0,25
Greece	0,78	0,27
Ireland	0,76	0,27
Italy	0,75	0,26
Spain	0,75	0,29
Austria	0,74	0,31
Belgium	0,73	0,32
Germany	0,72	0,32
France	0,72	0,31
United Kingdom	0,71	0,34
Netherlands	0,67	0,29
Denmark	0,67	0,33
Finland	0,66	0,31
Luxembourg	0,66	0,34
Sweden	0,64	0,34
EU	0,73	0,31

0 … minimum disagreement with policies, 1 … maximum disagreement with policies

(a higher index score indicates more disagreement)

Table 29: Sum index 'restrictive acceptance of immigrants', by country

country	mean	standard deviation
comparable		
Germany	0,52	0,22
Belgium	0,51	0,26
United Kingdom	0,51	0,25
Greece	0,49	0,21
Luxembourg	0,48	0,22
France	0,44	0,25
Ireland	0,43	0,22
Portugal	0,43	0,26
Austria	0,43	0,20
Finland	0,39	0,22
Italy	0,35	0,25
Denmark	0,31	0,22
Spain	0,29	0,22
Sweden	0,28	0,23
EU	0,43	0,25
not comparable		
Netherlands	0,43	0,20

0 … maximum acceptance, 1 … minimum acceptance

A higher index score indicates more restricted acceptance of immigrants (working immigrants, refugees, EU citizens etc.)

Table 30:   Sum index 'blaming minorities', by country

country	mean	standard deviation
comparable		
Denmark	0,65	0,31
Belgium	0,64	0,34
France	0,64	0,36
Netherlands	0,62	0,33
Ireland	0,53	0,34
Italy	0,48	0,31
Spain	0,37	0,32
EU	0,54	0,34
not comparable		
Greece	0,64	0,26
Germany	0,60	0,31
Luxembourg	0,55	0,31
Austria	0,54	0,32
United Kingdom	0,53	0,35
Sweden	0,51	0,28
Portugal	0,50	0,32
Finland	0,46	0,33

0 … minimum agreement, 1 … maximum agreement
(**a higher index score indicates more agreement**, that is more fear of social conflicts and loss of welfare)

Table 31:   Sum index 'disturbance', by country

country	mean	standard deviation
Greece	0,28	0,38
Denmark	0,26	0,39
Belgium	0,25	0,37
France	0,19	0,35
Germany	0,19	0,34
United Kingdom	0,16	0,34
Austria	0,15	0,32
Ireland	0,15	0,31
Italy	0,13	0,29
Sweden	0,13	0,30
Netherlands	0,12	0,26
Portugal	0,10	0,27
Luxembourg	0,09	0,25
Finland	0,09	0,25
Spain	0,05	0,19
EU 15	0,16	0,32

0 … minimum disturbance, 1 … maximum disturbance
(**a higher index score indicates that people feel more disturbed by people from a different nationality, race or culture**)

Table 32: **Sum index 'multicultural optimism', by country**

country	mean	standard deviation
Greece	0,67	0,30
Belgium	0,46	0,40
Germany	0,41	0,40
Austria	0,41	0,39
Ireland	0,40	0,35
United Kingdom	0,38	0,38
France	0,36	0,38
Luxembourg	0,36	0,35
Italy	0,35	0,36
Denmark	0,34	0,38
Portugal	0,31	0,34
Netherlands	0,31	0,35
Finland	0,28	0,34
Spain	0,28	0,33
Sweden	0,26	0,32
EU 15	0,37	0,38

0 … minimum disagreement, 1 … maximum disagreement
(**a higher index score indicates more disagreement with the view** that people belonging to minority groups enrich a country's cultural and social life)

Table 33: **Sum index 'conditional repatriation', by country**

country	mean	standard deviation
comparable		
Germany	0,36	0,40
Luxembourg	0,36	0,39
Italy	0,34	0,33
Belgium	0,34	0,38
United Kingdom	0,31	0,39
France	0,31	0,38
Portugal	0,29	0,35
Austria	0,27	0,33
Ireland	0,24	0,37
Netherlands	0,23	0,32
Finland	0,18	0,33
Sweden	0,14	0,29
Denmark	0,11	0,26
EU 15	0,31	0,37
not comparable		
Greece	0,41	0,36
Spain	0,20	0,28

0 … minimum desire for repatriation, 1 … maximum desire for repatriation
(**a higher index score indicates more agreement with the view** that immigrants should be sent back to their countries of origin under certain conditions)

Table 34:   **Sum index 'cultural assimilation', by country**

country	mean	standard deviation
comparable		
Belgium	0,59	0,35
Denmark	0,57	0,29
Netherlands	0,56	0,32
Greece	0,55	0,39
France	0,53	0,36
Sweden	0,52	0,29
United Kingdom	0,52	0,34
Austria	0,45	0,37
Luxembourg	0,42	0,35
Ireland	0,38	0,38
Spain	0,27	0,38
Italy	0,24	0,34
EU 15	0,45	0,37
not comparable		
Finland	0,49	0,28
Germany	0,54	0,34
Portugal	0,51	0,37

0 … minimum desire for assimilation, 1 … maximum desire for assimilation

(**a higher index score indicates more agreement with the view** that people belonging to minority groups should abandon their cultural identity)

5.3   Questionnaire

Q.1.   On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead ? Would you say you are ?
Very satisfied / Fairly satisfied / Not very satisfied / Not at all satisfied / Don't know.

Q.2.   If you compare your present situation with five years ago, would you say it has improved, stayed about the same or got worse ?
Improved / Stayed about the same / Got worse / Don't know.

Q.3.   In the course of the next five years, do you expect your personal situation to improve, to stay about the same or to get worse ?
Improve / Stay about the same / Get worse / Don't know

Q.4.   If you think back over the last five years, could you please tell me for each of these situations whether it applies to you, or not ? During the last five years, ...

	Yes / No / Don't know / Not applicable
1. I have been unemployed once or more	
2.. at least one member of my family has been unemployed	
3. at least one of my close friends has been unemployed	
4.. there has been at least one occasion when the company in which I was working has made people redundant	

Q.5.   Do you personally have the feeling that you belong in (OUR COUNTRY) to one of the majority groups or one of the minority groups in terms of race, religion and culture ?
Majority groups / Minority groups / I don't feel I belong to any group (SPONTANEOUS) / Don't know

Q.6.   a) Have you, or have you had, a parent or grandparent of a different nationality from your own, or not ?
b) And of a different race? c) And of a different religion? d) And of a different culture?

READ OUT	Yes / No / Don't know
a) Nationality	
b) Race	
c) Religion	
d) Culture	

Q.7.   For each of the following opinions, please tell me whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree ?   (SHOW CARD - ROTATE)

READ OUT   (Tend to agree   / Tend to disagree / Don't know)
1. In schools where there are too many children from these minority groups, the quality of education suffers
2. People from these minority groups get poorer housing, largely because of discrimination
3. People from these minority groups abuse the system of social benefits
4. Without people from these minority groups, (COUNTRY) would do less well in international sport
5. The authorities should make efforts to improve the situation of people from these minority groups
6. People from these minority groups are enriching the cultural life of (COUNTRY)
7. The religious practices of people from these minority groups threaten our way of life
8. People from these minority groups pay more into our social security system than they claim
9. Where schools make the necessary efforts, the education of all children can be enriched by the presence of children from minority groups
10. The presence of people from these minority groups is a cause of insecurity
11. People from these minority groups are given preferential treatment by the authorities
12. People from these minority groups do the jobs which others do not want to do
13. When hiring personnel, employers should only take account of qualifications, regardless of the person's race, religion or culture
14. People from these minority groups keep entire sections of (COUNTRY)'s economy going
15. The presence of people from these minority groups increases unemployment in (COUNTRY)
16. People from these minority groups are being discriminated against in the job market
17. Discrimination in the job market on grounds of a person's race, religion or culture should be outlawed

Q.8.   Again, speaking generally about people from minority groups in terms of race, religion and culture, do you think there are not many, a lot but not too many, or too many of them living in (OUR COUNTRY)?
Not many / A lot, but not too many / Too many / Don't know

Q.9.   What do you think ought to be done to improve the relationship between people of different races, religions and cultures in (OUR COUNTRY)?

Take to court people who incite racism
Promote the teaching of mutual acceptance and respect in schools
Outlaw discrimination against minority groups
Promote fair reporting in the press, radio and TV

Encourage the creation of organisations that bring people from different races, religions and cultures together
Promote equality of opportunity in all areas of social life
Promote understanding of different cultures and lifestyles in (OUR COUNTRY
Give a greater role to organisations which have already gained experience in the fight against racism
Encourage the participation of people from these minority groups in the political life of (OUR COUNTRY
Encourage trade unions and churches to do more against racism
Nothing.
Don't know

Q.10. For each of the following opinions, could you please tell me whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree?

READ OUT   (Tend to agree   / Tend to disagree / Don't know)
1. It is a good thing for any society to be made up of people from different races, religions and cultures
2. (COUNTRY) has always consisted of various cultural and religious groups
3. (COUNTRY)'s diversity in terms of race, religion and culture adds to its strengths
4. In order to be fully accepted members of (NATIONALITY) society, people belonging to these minority groups must give up their own culture
5. In order to be fully accepted members of (NATIONALITY) society, people belonging to these minority groups must give up such parts of their religion or culture which may be in conflict with (NATIONALITY) law
6. In two or three generations' time, people belonging to these minority groups will be like all other members of society
7. There is a limit to how many people of other races, religions or cultures a society can accept
8. (OUR COUNTRY) has reached its limits; if there were to be more people belonging to these minority groups we would have problems
9. Not everybody belonging to these minority groups wants to be a full member of (NATIONALITY) society
10. Whether people belonging to these minority groups can be fully accepted members of (NATIONALITY) society depends on which group they belong to
11. People belonging to these minority groups are so different, they can never be fully accepted members of (NATIONALITY) society

Q.11. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree?

READ OUT   (Tend to agree   / Tend to disagree / Don't know)
1. Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should have the same social rights as the (NATIONALITY) citizens
2. Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should have the right to bring members of their immediate family in (OUR COUNTRY)
3. Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should be sent back to their country of origin if they have been convicted of serious offenses
4. Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should be sent back to their country of origin if they are unemployed
5. Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should all be sent back to their country of origin
6. Legally established immigrants from outside the European Union should be able to become naturalised easily
7. All illegal immigrants should be sent back to their country of origin without exception
8. Employers who hire illegal workers should be punished more severely
9. As regards illegal immigrants, whether they are allowed to stay in (OUR COUNTRY) should always depend on their personal circumstances
10. All immigrants, whether legal or illegal, from outside the EU and their children, even those who were born in (OUR COUNTRY), should be sent back to their country of origin
11. The right to asylum in (OUR COUNTRY) should be easier to obtain

Q.12. I am now going to read out some statements about people from this group.
For each of them, could you please tell me whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree?

READ OUT (Tend to agree   / Tend to disagree / Don't know)
1. Their religious practices threaten our way of life
2. They are more often involved in criminality than the average
3. They enrich the cultural life of (OUR COUNTRY)
4. They are so different, they can never be fully accepted members of (NATIONALITY) society
5. Without them, (OUR COUNTRY) would do less well in international sport
6. In order to become fully accepted members of (NATIONALITY) society, they must give up their own culture