

# Geographical and labour market mobility

## Summary

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The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.



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## INTRODUCTION

There is a long history of Europeans moving to another country in search of a better place, a good education, a job, higher income and moving to a nice place for retirement has been a choice for many Europeans. However, it is only a relatively recent phenomenon that people have been granted the right to move to and work freely in another EU country without having to get a residence or work permit. The free movement of EU workers within the then "European Common Market" first became possible in 1968 and was the first of the four basic economic freedoms of the European market to be implemented. The other principles covering the free movement of goods, services and capital were to follow only 25 years later with the emergence of the single European Market in 1993.

Subsequent to the adoption of the principle of free movement of workers, restrictions to the principle were only applied for limited periods of time at different stages of the European Union's enlargements.<sup>1</sup> For the enlargements of May 2004 when 10 countries joined the Union and the 2007 enlargement for Bulgaria and Romania, transitional arrangements for the free movement of workers were put in place that must come to an end by May 2011 and January 2014 respectively.<sup>2</sup>

This Eurobarometer survey aims to take a closer look at Europeans' mobility experiences and intentions. It also wants to help explore the reasons that make people move or, indeed, stay home. It follows the themes of the 2005 and 2007 Eurobarometer mobility surveys<sup>3</sup>, but has been modified and expanded to cover a range of areas relating to cross-border mobility, particularly in relation to working abroad. This summary report presents the main findings from the latest survey.

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<sup>1</sup> The only enlargement for which transitional arrangements for the free movement of workers were not applied was in 1995, when Austria, Finland and Sweden joined.

<sup>2</sup> Transitional arrangements were not applied to workers from Cyprus and Malta. For details concerning the application of transitional arrangements on the free movement of workers see <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=466&langId=en>.

<sup>3</sup> Eurobarometer waves 64.1 and 67.1, respectively.

The survey was commissioned by the European Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and was coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication. It was carried out by TNS Opinion & Social network between 13 September and 9 October 2009. The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate General for Communication ("Research and Political Analysis" Unit)<sup>4</sup>. A technical note on the manner in which interviews were conducted by the Institutes within the TNS Opinion & Social network is appended as an annex to this report. This note indicates the interview methods and the confidence intervals<sup>5</sup>.

This summary report describes Europeans' attitudes to mobility as well as their past mobility and future mobility intentions. A full report is also available which presents a more thorough analysis of the results.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> The results tables are included in the annex. It should be noted that the total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondent can give several answers to the same question.

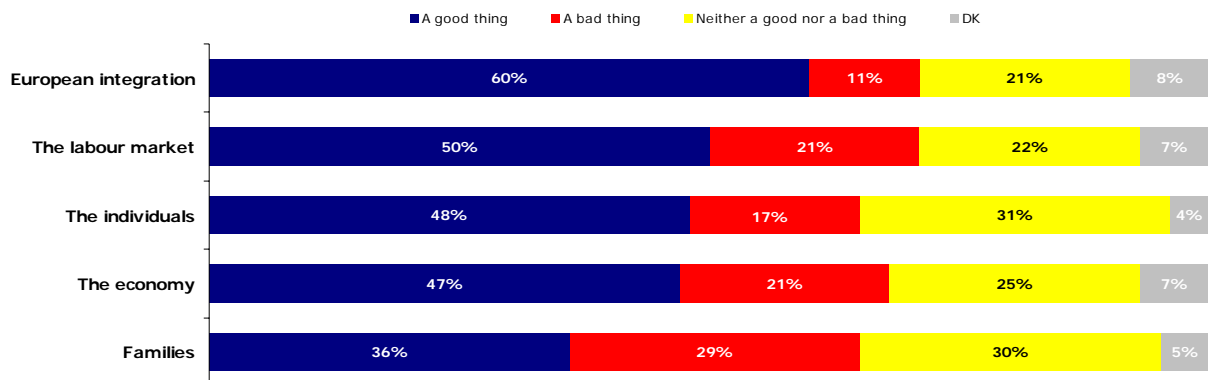
## 1. EUROPEANS' ATTITUDES TO MOBILITY

Europeans highly value the right to move freely within the European Union. They cherish the possibility that if so desired they are free to move to any other Member State.

### - The majority of Europeans think moving countries or regions is good for European integration, but only one third think it is good for families -

A majority of Europeans (60%) think that people moving within the EU is a good thing for European integration, 50% think it is a good thing for the labour market, and 47% think it is a good thing for the economy. Although 48% think moving around is a good thing for individuals, when it comes to the impact on families people are less certain. Only 36% say this kind of mobility is a good thing for families, and 29% say that it is a bad thing.

QC1 Generally speaking, do you think that when people move across regions or countries within the European Union it is a good thing, a bad thing or neither a good nor a bad thing for... - % EU

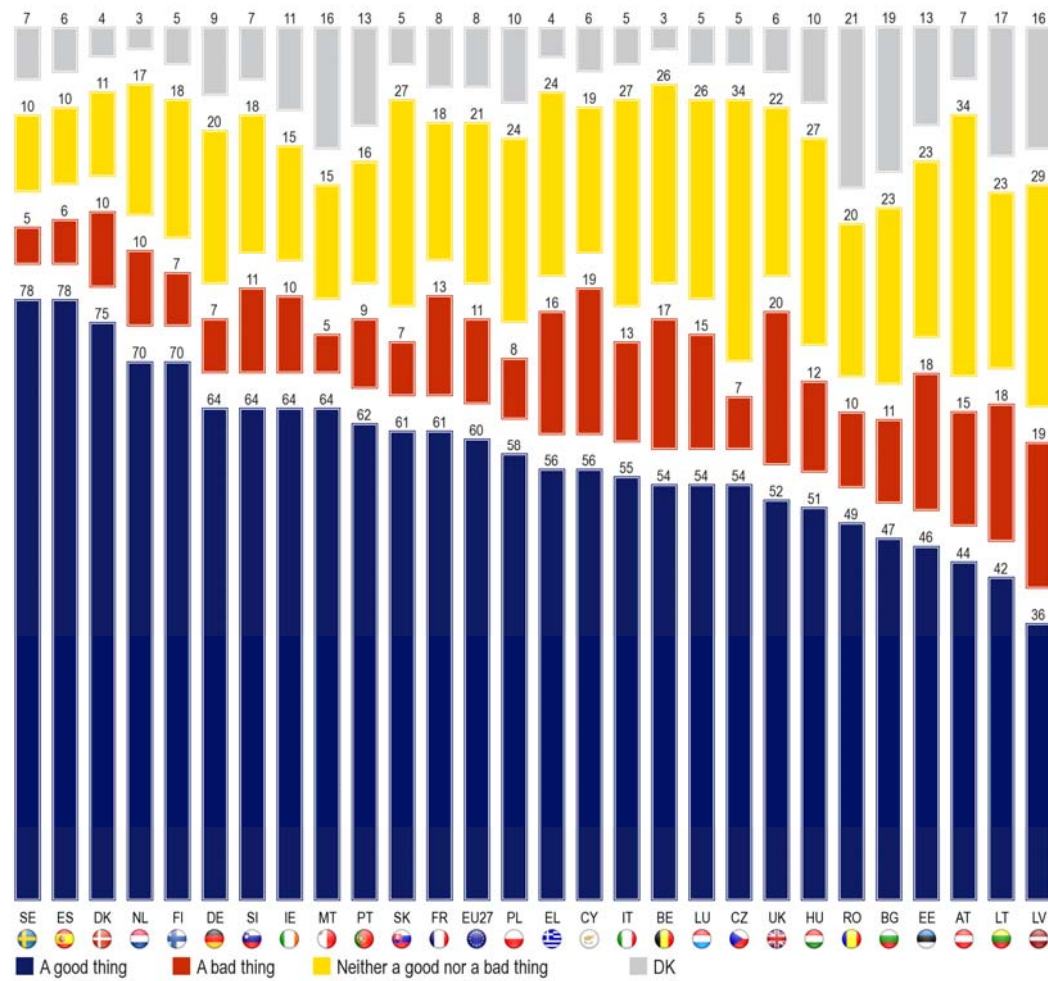


Looking in more detail at the impact of mobility on European integration we find that respondents in Sweden and Spain are the most positive, with 78% saying that it is a good thing. Seven out of ten Dutch and Finnish respondents agree. In fact, this is the majority view in all countries. Latvians and Lithuanians are least likely to say that mobility is good for integration (36% and 42% respectively). Austrians are similarly unenthusiastic, with only 44% agreeing, and 34% neutral.

In general however, few Europeans explicitly think mobility is bad for integration - overall in Europe the percentage is only 11%, and the highest individual country level response is 20%, in the UK.

QC1.5. Generally speaking, do you think that when people move across regions or countries within the European Union it is a good thing, a bad thing or neither a good nor a bad thing for...

European integration











There has been a significant shift in public opinion in several Member States since autumn 2005. In particular many more Greeks (up from 40% to 56%) and Spaniards (up from 56% to 78%) think that mobility is good for integration. There have also been significant increases in positive responses in Germany (up from 53% to 64%), Lithuania (up from 31% to 42%), the Netherlands (up from 59% to 70%), Slovakia (up from 48% to 61%) and Sweden (up from 67% to 78%).



In all other Member States the difference between the two surveys was below 10 percentage points.

**QC1.5 Generally speaking, do you think that when people move across regions or countries within the European Union it is a good thing, a bad thing or neither a good nor a bad thing for...  
European integration - % A good thing**

		<b>EB64.1, Sept. 2005 (EU25)</b>	<b>EB72.5, Nov. - Dec. 2009 (EU27)</b>	<b>Evolution 2005-2009</b>
	EU27	57%	60%	+3
	ES	56%	78%	+22
	EL	40%	56%	+16
	SK	48%	61%	+13
	DE	53%	64%	+11
	LT	31%	42%	+11
	NL	59%	70%	+11
	SE	67%	78%	+11

## 2. PAST MOBILITY EXPERIENCES

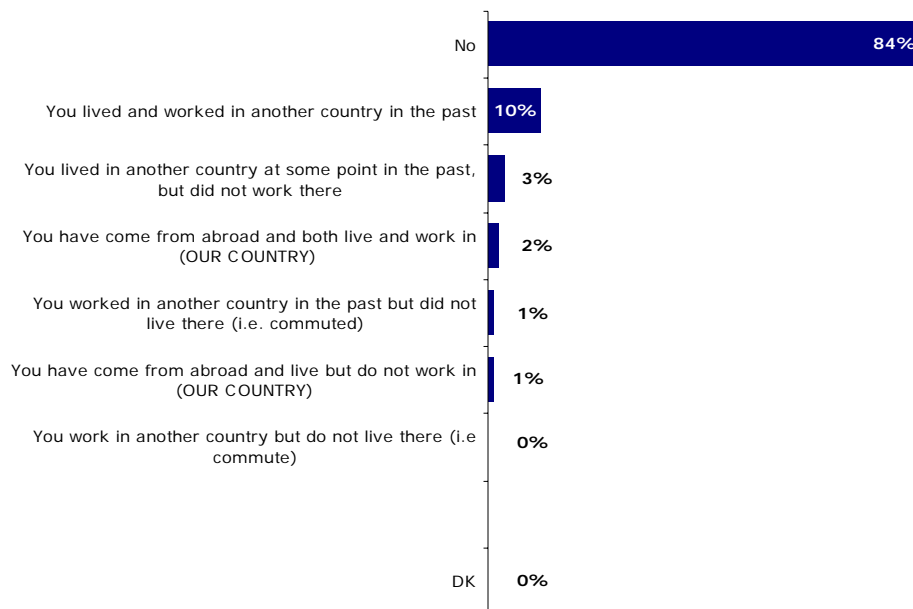
### - The majority of Europeans have not lived or worked in another country -

Ten percent of Europeans say they have lived and worked in another country (inside or outside the EU) at some point in their past, whilst three percent have lived in another country but did not work there, and one percent worked in another country before but did not live there<sup>6</sup>. Less than one percent of respondents currently commute to another country for work. Of those surveyed, two percent have come from abroad to live and/or work in their current country. This means that the vast majority of Europeans (84%) have no experience of living or working in another country. Respondents living in NMS12 countries are slightly more likely to say they have never lived/worked abroad than those living in EU15 countries (88% vs. 83%), something which may be explained by the fact that for those living in many NMS12 Member States the ability to move to other countries has only happened fairly recently.

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<sup>6</sup> QC3 Did you ever live and/or work in a country other than (OUR COUNTRY) or have you come from abroad to live and/or work in (OUR COUNTRY) (multiple answers possible)? You lived and worked in another country in the past; You lived in another country at some point in the past, but did not work there; You worked in another country in the past but did not live there (i.e. commuted); You have come from abroad and both live and work in (OUR COUNTRY); You have come from abroad and live but do not work in (OUR COUNTRY); You work in another country but do not live there (i.e commute). When interpreting these results, the following needs to be borne in mind: the survey does not capture many of those that are currently still in another country. Therefore, there is a degree of under-reporting and actual mobility levels will be higher. Furthermore, for citizens from the countries that joined the European Union from 2004 onwards, freedom of movement is only a relatively recent possibility.

QC3 Did you ever live and/or work in a country other than (OUR COUNTRY) or have you come from abroad to live and/or work in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) - % EU



The table below illustrates that Luxembourg<sup>7</sup>, the Scandinavian EU countries and Ireland - with its long history of migration to other countries - have had the most mobile populations. To date, respondents in Italy, Malta and the band of eastern Member States of Hungary, the Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia are most likely to say that they have never lived or worked abroad.

Respondents in Luxembourg are most likely to have lived and worked in another country (24%), followed by the Irish (21%) and the Danes (20%).

Equally, respondents in Luxembourg are most likely to have lived abroad without working there (13%), followed by the Cypriots and the Swedes (both 9%). Dutch and Danish respondents are most likely to have worked in another country without living there, but the percentage is very small, at just four and three percent respectively.

<sup>7</sup> Luxembourg is different from most EU countries when it comes to mobility as many of its residents are foreign. In fact, only 65% of the Luxembourg respondents hold that country's nationality. In the other Member States, this share is 95% or higher. It should also be noted that until recently Luxembourgians had to go abroad for further education, a factor which further influences the different past mobility figures for Luxembourg.

Luxembourg (6%) and Spain (5%) have the highest number of respondents saying they have come from abroad to live and work there.

QC3 Did you ever live and/or work in a country other than (OUR COUNTRY) or have you come from abroad to live and/or work in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

		You lived and worked in another country in the past	You lived in another country at some point in the past, but did not work there	You have come from abroad and both live and work in (OUR COUNTRY)	You worked in another country in the past but did not live there (i.e. commuted)	You have come from abroad and live but do not work in (OUR COUNTRY)	You work in another country but do not live there (i.e commute)	No	DK
	EU27	10%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	84%	0%
	BE	8%	6%	1%	2%	1%	1%	83%	0%
	BG	9%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	89%	0%
	CZ	4%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	93%	0%
	DK	20%	7%	2%	3%	0%	1%	72%	0%
	DE	8%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	86%	0%
	EE	13%	3%	1%	2%	0%	1%	78%	1%
	IE	21%	2%	3%	1%	1%	0%	74%	1%
	EL	10%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	85%	0%
	ES	10%	3%	5%	1%	1%	0%	81%	0%
	FR	12%	4%	1%	1%	1%	0%	82%	0%
	IT	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	95%	0%
	CY	12%	9%	2%	0%	2%	0%	78%	0%
	LV	11%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	86%	0%
	LT	11%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%	85%	0%
	LU	24%	13%	6%	2%	1%	0%	54%	0%
	HU	3%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	94%	0%
	MT	8%	2%	2%	0%	1%	0%	88%	1%
	NL	16%	5%	1%	4%	0%	0%	75%	0%
	AT	8%	3%	3%	1%	1%	0%	86%	0%
	PL	11%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	85%	1%
	PT	11%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%	85%	0%
	RO	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	90%	0%
	SI	10%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	86%	0%
	SK	7%	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	87%	0%
	FI	17%	5%	1%	2%	0%	0%	76%	0%
	SE	19%	9%	3%	2%	0%	1%	71%	0%
	UK	16%	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%	77%	0%

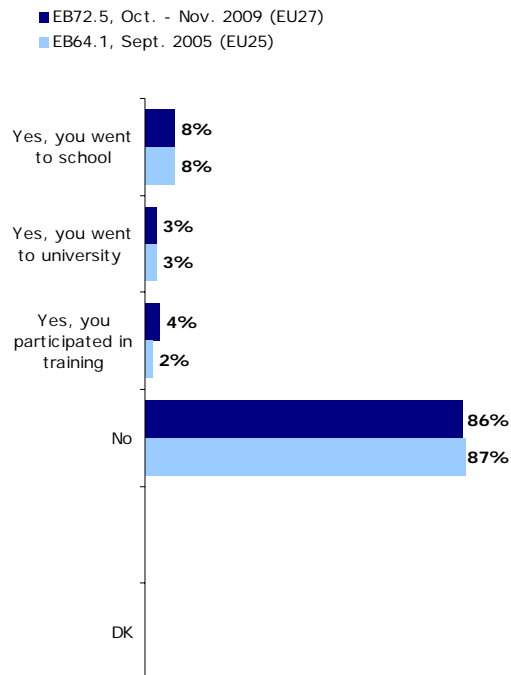
Highest percentage by country  
Highest percentage by item

Lowest percentage by country  
Lowest percentage by item

### - Very few Europeans have gone abroad for education or training -

In line with the relatively low share of respondents with an experience of having lived abroad, not many respondents report that they have gone abroad for education or training in the past (13%)<sup>8</sup>. Those who have studied or undertaken training abroad are most likely to have gone to school in another country (8%), whilst three percent have attended university abroad, and four percent have done some form of extended training (more than two months) abroad. There has been no significant change in these proportions since autumn 2005.

QC2 Have you ever gone to school, university or participated in some form of training (e.g. language, professional, traineeship) in a country other than (OUR COUNTRY) for more than two months? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) - % EU



<sup>8</sup> QC2 Have you ever gone to school, university or participated in some form of training (e.g. language, professional, traineeship) in a country other than (OUR COUNTRY) for more than two months? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE); Yes, you went to school; Yes, you went to university; Yes, you participated in training No. Please note that the first three items are "multiple choice" ones, while "no" is a "single choice" answer. This means that each respondent can make more than one choice amongst the first three items; while if a respondent picks up the item "no", the interviewer will pass directly to the following question. 13% represents the number of respondents that chose *at least* one of those three items. The total percentage of *replies* for the three items is 15%.





























Respondents living in Luxembourg have most often gone abroad for education - in fact 48% have done so – three times more than the EU average of 13%. As Luxembourg has a high proportion of foreign residents, this figure is not surprising, and is in line with previous surveys<sup>9</sup>. The majority of these respondents went to school (30%) abroad, but a considerable 20% went to university abroad<sup>10</sup>. Cypriots follow at a distant second, with 26% going abroad for education or training, whilst one in five Italians have also gone abroad for some kind of extended study. At the other end of the spectrum, going abroad for education or training is extremely uncommon in the Czech Republic (5%), Latvia, Bulgaria (both 6%) and Malta (7%).

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<sup>9</sup> As noted earlier, Luxembourg also has few facilities for tertiary education.

<sup>10</sup> Please note percentages will not add to 100 as multiple responses were possible

QC2 Have you ever gone to school, university or participated in some form of training (e.g. language, professional, traineeship) in a country other than (OUR COUNTRY) for more than two months? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

	Yes, you went to school	Yes, you went to university	Yes, you participated in training	Total Yes	No	DK
 EU27	8%	3%	4%	13%	86%	0%
 BE	8%	3%	4%	14%	86%	0%
 BG	3%	1%	2%	6%	94%	0%
 CZ	1%	1%	3%	5%	95%	0%
 DK	11%	7%	7%	19%	81%	0%
 DE	7%	2%	2%	10%	89%	1%
 EE	6%	3%	7%	13%	87%	0%
 IE	8%	6%	5%	14%	86%	1%
 EL	8%	4%	2%	14%	86%	0%
 ES	7%	3%	4%	10%	90%	0%
 FR	6%	4%	5%	12%	88%	0%
 IT	14%	4%	4%	20%	79%	1%
 CY	12%	15%	7%	26%	74%	0%
 LV	2%	2%	3%	6%	94%	0%
 LT	4%	1%	3%	8%	92%	0%
 LU	30%	20%	6%	48%	52%	0%
 HU	7%	2%	3%	12%	88%	0%
 MT	2%	2%	4%	7%	93%	0%
 NL	7%	4%	3%	13%	87%	0%
 AT	9%	4%	6%	14%	86%	0%
 PL	7%	2%	4%	11%	88%	1%
 PT	12%	2%	4%	16%	84%	1%
 RO	7%	1%	3%	9%	90%	1%
 SI	4%	2%	4%	10%	90%	0%
 SK	3%	1%	5%	9%	91%	0%
 FI	8%	5%	6%	17%	83%	0%
 SE	9%	7%	7%	17%	83%	0%
 UK	12%	4%	6%	19%	81%	0%

Highest percentage by item

Lowest percentage by item

Only three countries have seen a significant change in the proportion of respondents spending time abroad for education or training since autumn 2005. In the UK, 19% say they have been abroad for education or training - an increase of 11 percentage points since autumn 2005 (up from 8%). In Denmark, the proportion spending time abroad in education has increased from 9% to 19%, and the proportion of Finns studying abroad has also increased by 10 points from 7% to 17%.

### 3. MOBILITY INTENTIONS

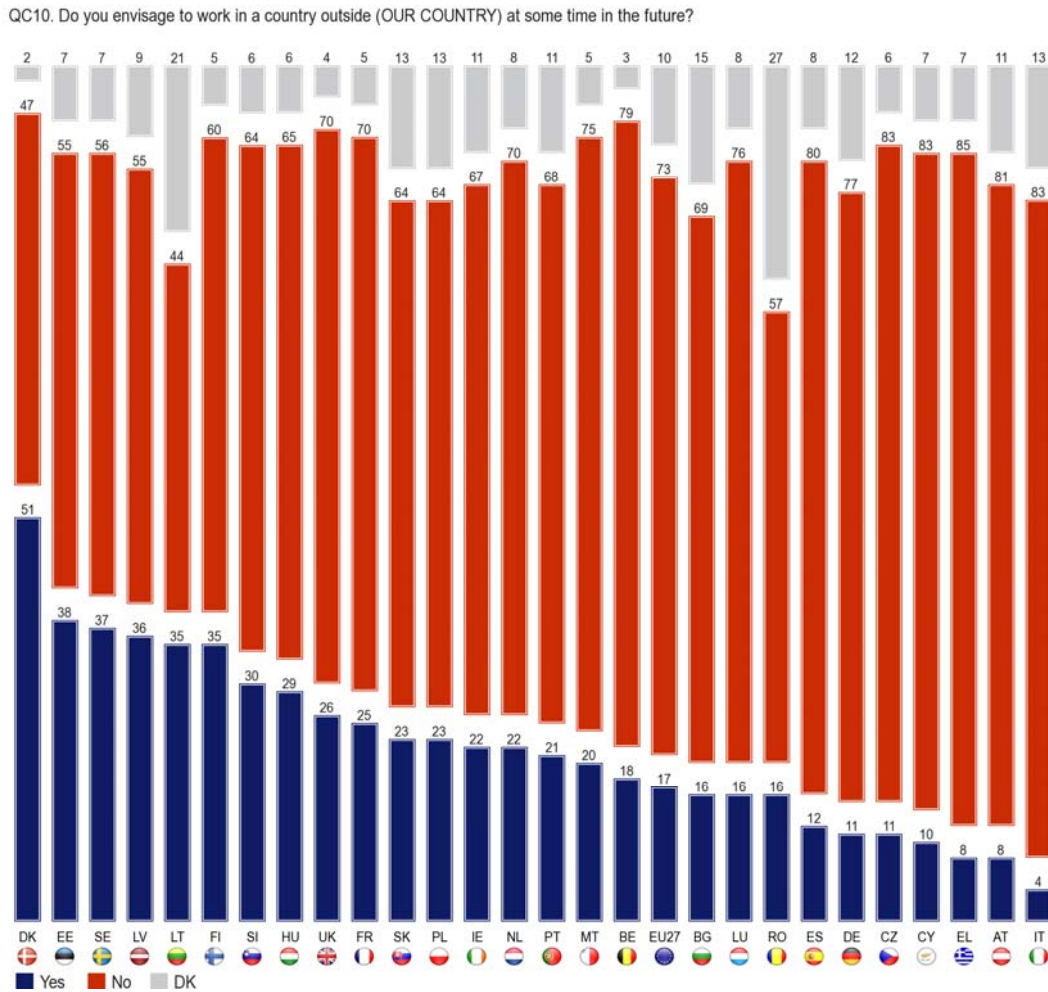
#### - Close to one European in five envisages working abroad in the future -

Close to one European in five (17%) envisages working abroad at some time in the future<sup>11</sup>. Almost three quarters do not plan to work abroad in the future, whilst 10% are unsure. Denmark is the only country where a majority (51%) envisages working abroad at some time in the future. This is followed by Estonia (38%), Sweden (37%), Latvia (36%) and Lithuania and Finland (both 35%). At the other end of the spectrum only 4% of Italians, and 8% of Austrians and Greeks said they could see themselves working in another country in the future.\*

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<sup>11</sup> QC10 Do you envisage to work in a country outside (OUR COUNTRY) at some time in the future?



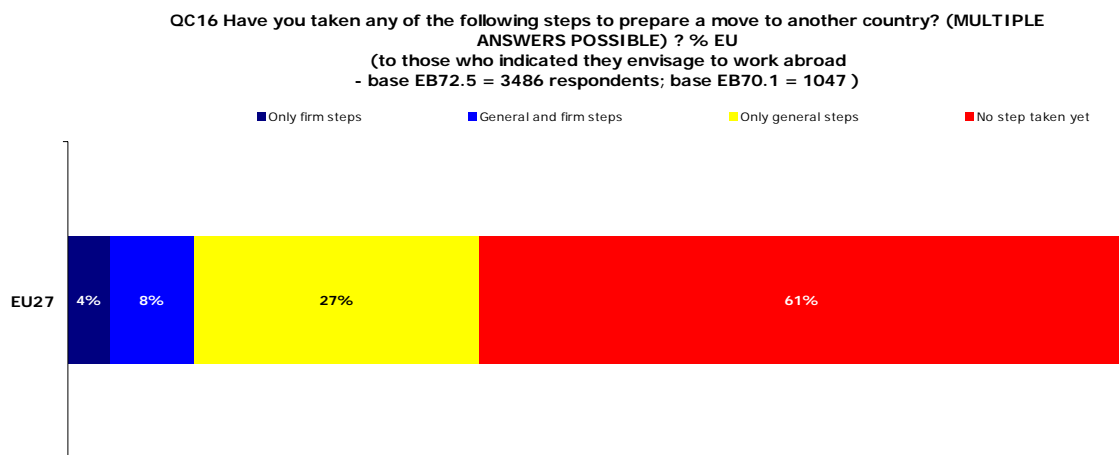


\* Note. Asked to all respondents except retired people, base = 19793 respondents

It is also important to note that the share of respondents with concrete plans to move in the near future is much smaller. Most respondents are unsure about when they will work abroad (32% say “don’t know yet” and 3% don’t know)<sup>12</sup>. For those that are able to give a timeframe, most think they will be working abroad in the next 3-5 years (22%) or even later (18%). Only 12% envisage working abroad within a year.

<sup>12</sup> QC11 (N=3486) How soon are you likely to work there? During the next 6 months; In 6 to 11 months; In 1 to 2 years; In 3 to 5 years; Later; Don't know yet

Furthermore, if we look at the preparations respondents actually make to move abroad, we find that four percent of those who plan to work abroad have taken any firm steps (e.g. applying for jobs or work permits, looking for places to live or selling properties) towards this goal<sup>13</sup>. A slightly larger proportion, eight percent, have taken firm and general steps, 27% have taken general steps (e.g. learning a language, improving skills or qualifications and obtaining information about moving), whilst the majority (61%) have not taken any steps towards working abroad<sup>14</sup>.



Moving intentions are strongly linked to the perceived chances of finding a job abroad. Overall, 27% of Europeans who feel that the chance of finding a job is better abroad than in their own country have moving intentions, compared to 13% who feel their chances abroad are the same or worse than in their own country.

Perhaps not surprisingly, those who have been abroad for study or training for at least two months are more likely to envisage working abroad (29% vs. 16%), as are those with a relative or friend living or working abroad (28% vs. 9%). The differences are even more marked when comparing those with experience of living/working abroad - 38% of this group envisage working abroad in the future, compared to only 14% of

<sup>13</sup> QC16 (N=3486) Have you taken any of the following steps to prepare a move to another country? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) Learned a language; Improved your skills or qualifications; Sold\ let out your property or cancelled your rental contract; Obtained information about moving; Applied for jobs; Looked for a place to live; Applied for a work permit; No steps taken yet; Other (SPONTANEOUS)

those without this experience. These results clearly indicate that personal experience of being abroad, or that of a friend or relative, makes people more likely to imagine working abroad.

The majority of respondents who envisage working abroad (55%) have friends or relatives in their chosen countries that could help them with information<sup>15</sup>, 44% do not, and one percent is unsure.

In order to find a job, most respondents who envisage working abroad would turn to their personal contacts (44%) and the Internet (43%)<sup>16</sup>. About one in five would enlist the help of a public employment service or make direct contact with an employer in another country (each 21%). Newspapers (12%) and private employment services (14%) are less popular options.

Twelve percent of Europeans have heard of EURES, the European network of public employment services designed to help both jobseekers find positions in other European countries, and employers to recruit from abroad. Two percent of respondents have actually used EURES.

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<sup>14</sup> In this instance "No steps taken" also includes those who responded "Don't know" and "Other steps", in order to be able to make like-for-like direct comparisons with the previous wave.

<sup>15</sup> QC17 (N=3204) Do you have any friends or relatives in the country(ies) you would like to work in who could help you or provide you with information? Yes; No; Don't Know

<sup>16</sup> QC19 (N=3486) How would you go about finding a job in another country or region? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE); Through a public employment service; Through a private employment service; Through the internet; Through newspaper advertisements; Through personal contacts (colleagues, friends or family); Through your employer for a transfer abroad; Through direct contact with an employer abroad; Other (SPONTANEOUS).

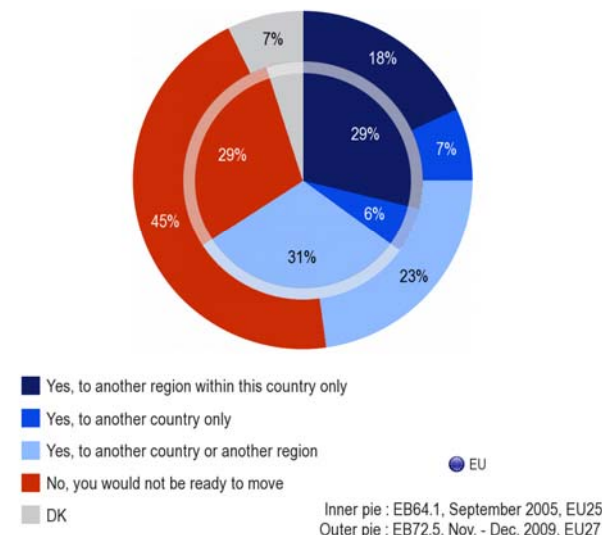
#### 4. MOTIVATIONS AND DISINCENTIVES TO MOVE FOR WORK

##### - Almost half of all respondents would consider moving regions or countries to find work if they were unemployed -

Almost half of all Europeans would consider moving to another region or country if they were unemployed<sup>17</sup>. Almost one quarter (23%) would be ready to move to another country or region, 18% would only move to another region in their country, and 7% would only consider moving to another country.

In spite - or perhaps due to the worsening economic climate since autumn 2005, in general Europeans are now less willing to move if they become unemployed and are unable to find a job where they live. In fact, the proportion willing to move to another region and/or country has decreased from 66% to 48%. The strongest decrease has been among those willing to move to another region within the same country - down from 29% in autumn 2005 to 18%.

QC20. If you were unemployed and had difficulties finding a job here, would you be ready to move to another region or country to find one?

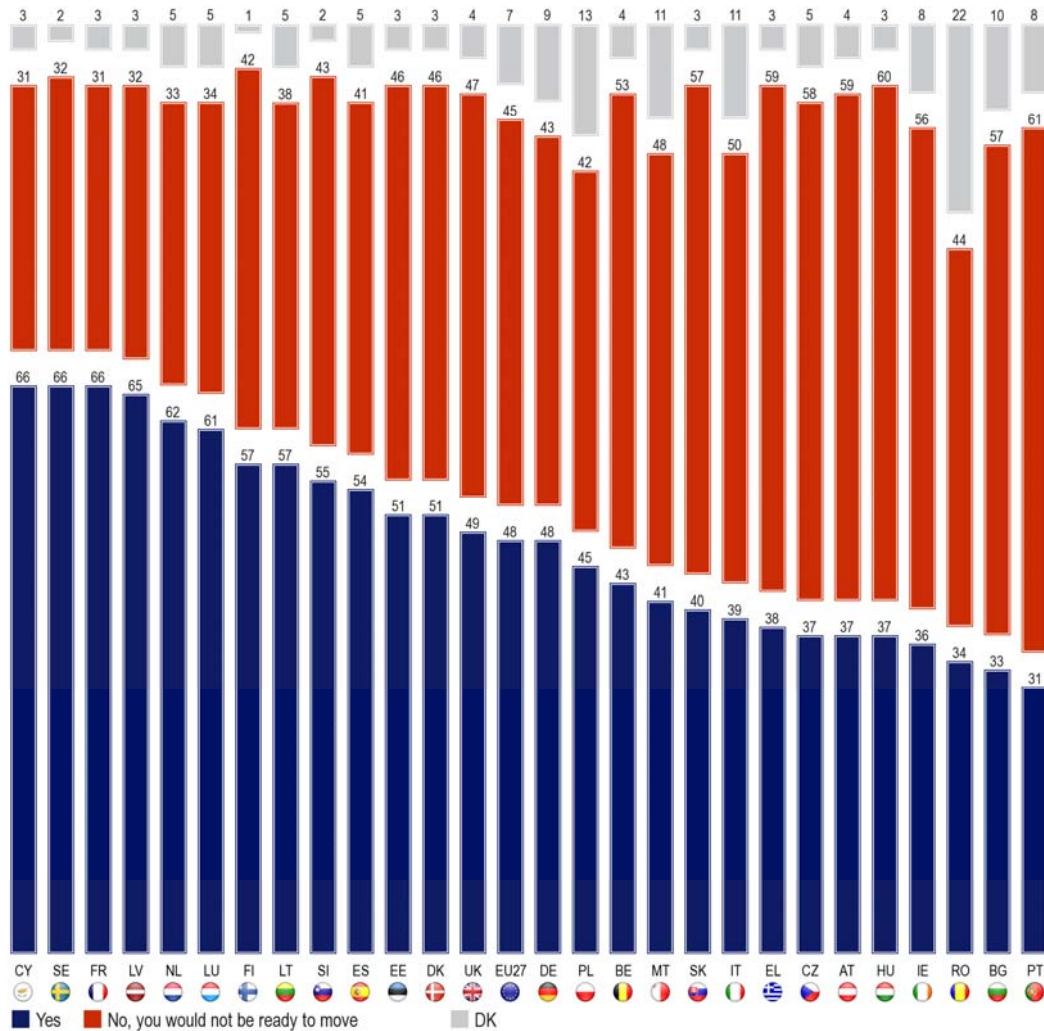


Looking at an overall willingness to move either region, country or both - two thirds of those living in France, Cyprus and Sweden are willing to move to another region or country (66%) if they became unemployed and had trouble finding a job in their country. They are closely followed by those living in Latvia (65%), the Netherlands (62%) and Luxembourg (61%). Conversely, the Portuguese (31%), Bulgarians (33%) and Romanians (34%) are the least willing to move to find work - although Romania has the highest level of "don't know" responses - at 22%.

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<sup>17</sup> QC20 If you were unemployed and had difficulties finding a job here, would you be ready to move to another region or country to find one? Yes, to another region within this country only; Yes, to another country only; Yes, to another country or another region; No, you would not be ready to move; Don't know

QC20. If you were unemployed and had difficulties finding a job here, would you be ready to move to another region or country to find one?



Since autumn 2005 overall willingness to move if unemployed has decreased most dramatically in Greece (down from 67% to 38%), Italy (down from 68% to 39%) and Poland (down from 73% to 45%). A further five countries saw decreases of 15-25 percentage points: Portugal (down 22 points), Belgium (down 20 points), Germany and the Czech Republic (down 18 points) and Slovakia (down 17 points).

**QC20 If you were unemployed and had difficulties finding a job here would you be ready to move to another region or country to find one?**

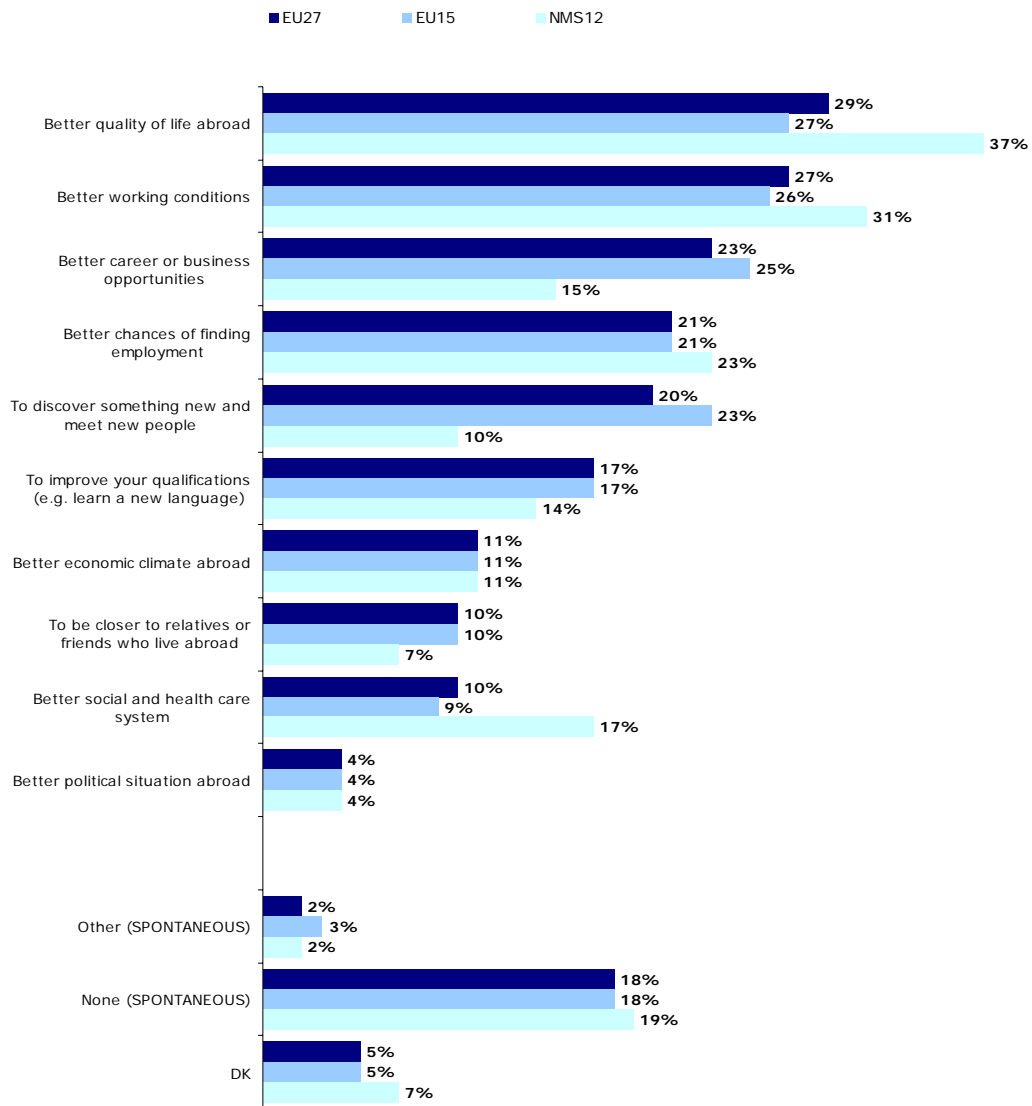
		<b>EB64.1, Sept. 2005 (EU25)</b>	<b>EB72.5, Nov. - Dec. 2009 (EU27)</b>	<b>Evolution 2005-2009</b>
	EU27	66%	48%	-18
	CY	57%	66%	+9
	LT	54%	57%	+3
	LV	63%	65%	+2
	CZ	55%	37%	-18
	DE	66%	48%	-18
	BE	63%	43%	-20
	PT	53%	31%	-22
	PL	73%	45%	-28
	EL	67%	38%	-29
	IT	68%	39%	-29

**- Better quality of life and better working conditions encourage people to work abroad -**

All respondents were asked what might encourage them to work abroad in the future - regardless of whether they had done so in the past.<sup>18</sup> Better quality of life was the most common reason given (29%), closely followed by better working conditions (27%) and better career opportunities (23%).

<sup>18</sup> QC26 Regardless of whether you have worked in another country or might do or not so in the future, what reasons might encourage you to work in another country? Better chances of finding employment; Better working conditions; Better career or business opportunities; To be closer to relatives or friends who live abroad; To discover something new and meet new people; To improve your qualifications (e.g. learn a new language); Better quality of life abroad ; Better political situation abroad; Better economic climate abroad; Better social and health care system; Other (SPONTANEOUS); None (SPONTANEOUS); Don't Know

QC26 Regardless of whether you have worked in another country or might do or not so in the future, what reasons might encourage you to work in another country? (ROTATE – MAX .3 ANSWERS)



Better quality of life is the most common reason for considering working abroad, with highest responses noted in Hungary (47%) and the UK (43%). It is interesting to note that the UK is the only EU15 country that appears in the top 10 for the number of respondents picking this option. A better quality of life is least likely to influence those in the Nordic region (Denmark: 8%, Finland: 19%, Sweden: 20%).



Better working conditions are most motivating for the Spanish (48%), Maltese (41%) and the Slovaks (39%), but would have little influence on the Danes (7%), Swedes or the Dutch (both 10%). Better career opportunities are most motivating for the Swedes (36%), French (32%) and Italians (30%), but least important for the Poles (12%), Romanians (13%) or Hungarians (14%). Better chances of finding a job are most likely to attract the Maltese (37%) and Spanish (36%), whilst a better economic climate abroad appeals most to the Latvians (33%). The prospect of meeting new people and discovering new things appeals most to those living in the Nordic region (Sweden: 56%, Denmark: 52%, Finland: 46%) and the Netherlands (42%).

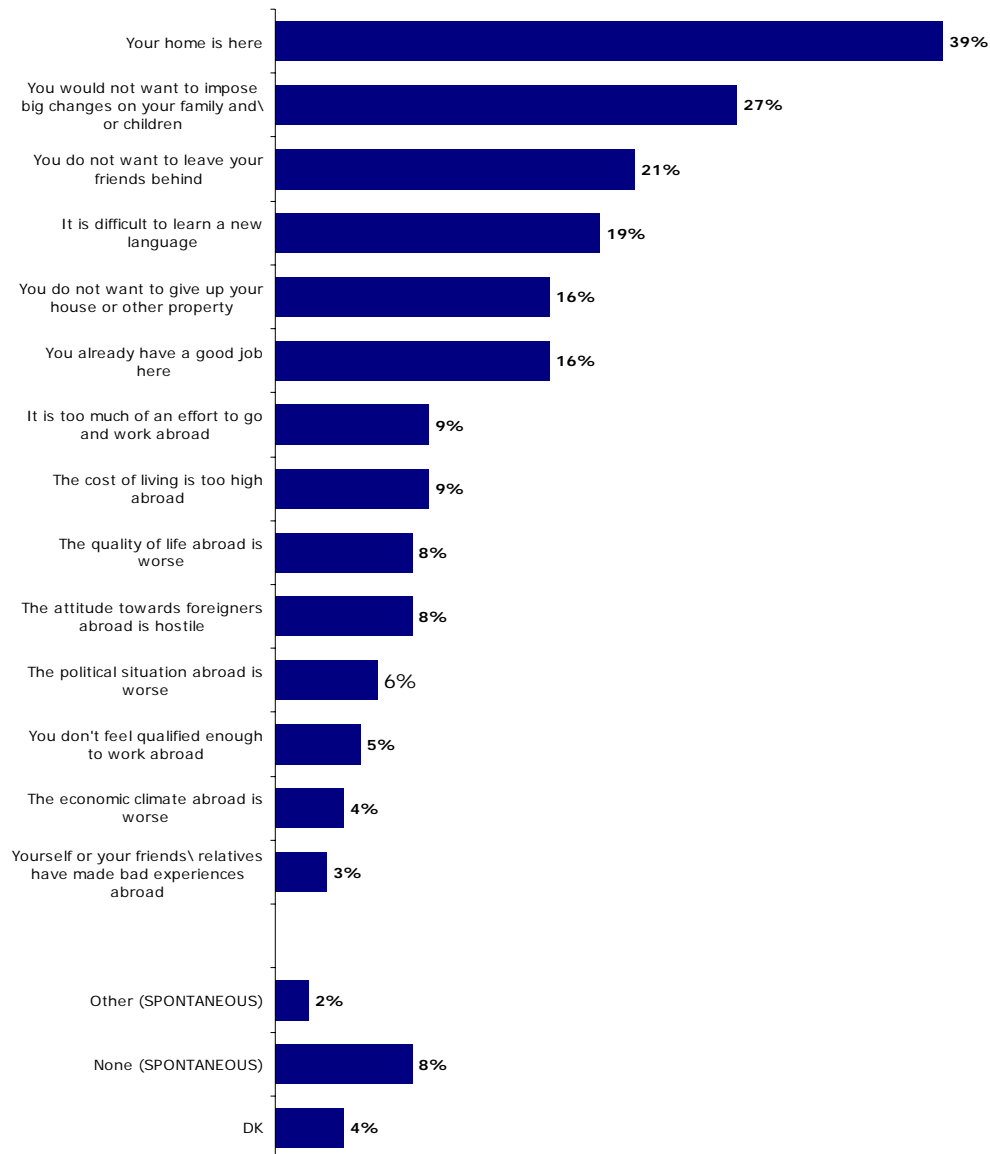
**- Having to leave behind one's home is the main disincentive for working abroad -**

Home is certainly where the heart is - 39% of Europeans are discouraged from working abroad because it would mean leaving home<sup>19</sup>. Concern for family and friends is also key - 27% do not want to impose large changes on their families, whilst 21% do not want to leave their friends. Problems learning a new language is a disincentive for 19% of Europeans. Least important factors are that friends / family have had a bad experience abroad (3%), and believing that the economic climate abroad is worse than in one's own country (4%).

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<sup>19</sup> QC27 And what would be the reasons which might discourage you from working abroad? (ROTATE – MAX. 3 ANSWERS) Your home is here; You would not want to impose big changes on your family and\ or children; You do not want to leave your friends behind; You do not want to give up your house or other property; You already have a good job here; It is too much of an effort to go and work abroad; It is difficult to learn a new language; The cost of living is too high abroad; Yourself or your friends\ relatives have made bad experiences abroad; You don't feel qualified enough to work abroad; The quality of life abroad is worse; The political situation abroad is worse; The economic climate abroad is worse; The attitude towards foreigners abroad is hostile; Other (SPONTANEOUS); None (SPONTANEOUS)

QC27 And what would be the reasons which might discourage you from working abroad? (ROTATE – MAX. 3 ANSWERS) - % EU



Looking first at the top three reasons at an EU level: Bulgarians and the Irish are most likely to say that having to leave their home would discourage them from working abroad (both 60%), and 57% of Estonians and Spanish agree. In all cases these proportions are significantly higher than the EU average of 39%. The French (29%), Italians (31%) and Germans (33%) are least likely to be put off by leaving home.

Those living in Cyprus (57%) and Malta (51%) are most likely to say they do not want to impose big changes on their families, but this is not a major discouraging factor for those in Poland (16%) and Portugal (19%). Leaving friends behind is most likely to discourage those living in Sweden (32%), Ireland (31%) and Greece (30%), but is least likely to be an issue for Romanians (11%), the Portuguese and Bulgarians (both 4%).

Difficulties in learning a new language is most likely to discourage the Czechs from moving (31%), reluctance to give up house or property is most likely to be an issue for Greeks (29%) and Austrians (25%), whilst 40% of Swedes say they already have a good job - this is much higher than the EU average of 16% for this issue. High cost of living abroad is most likely to concern Slovaks (19%), and they are also most likely to be concerned by a hostile attitude against foreigners abroad (19%), as are 18% of Romanians.

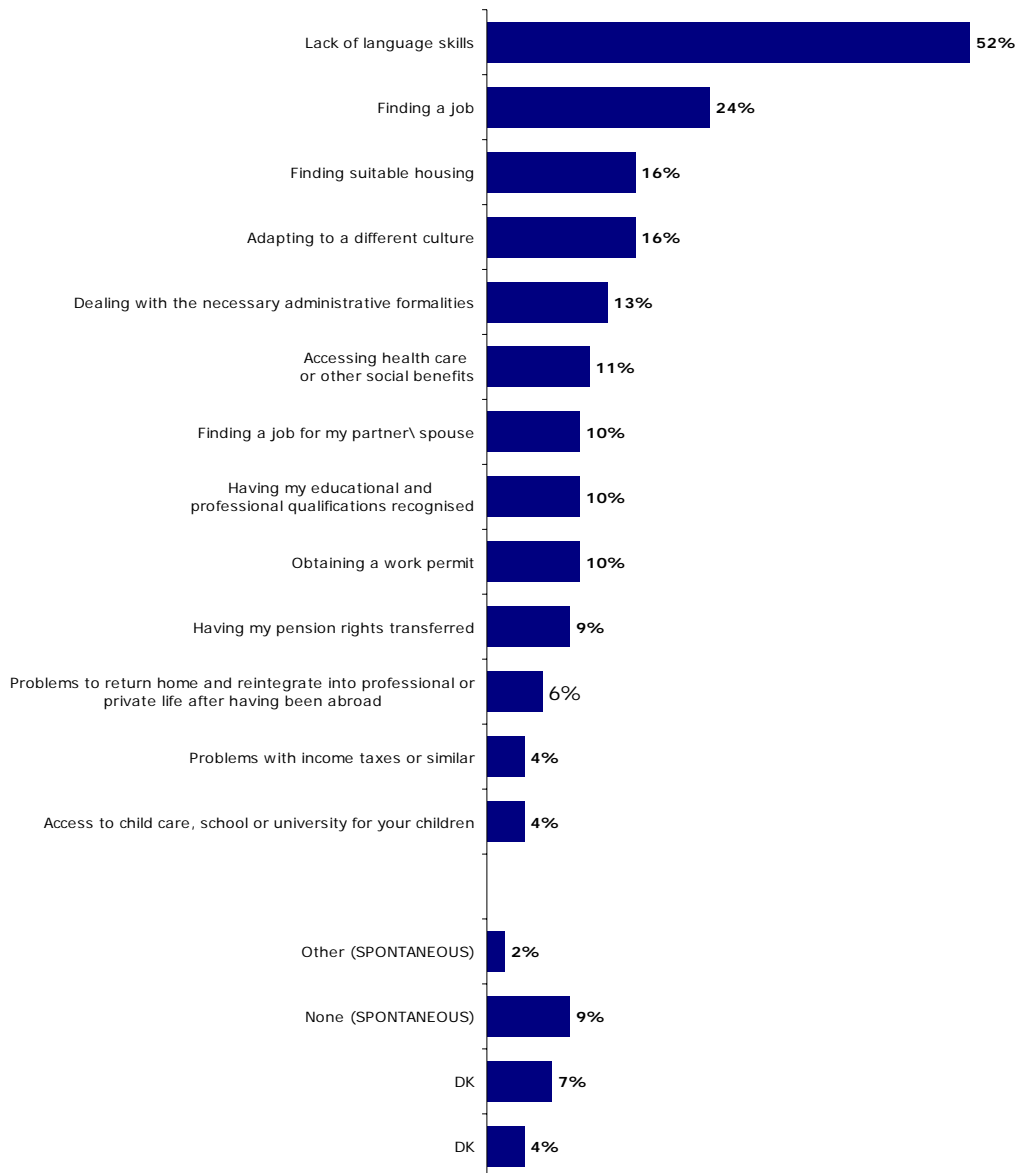
**- Language issues are seen as most likely difficulty encountered if working abroad -**

Just over half of Europeans expect that a lack of language skills will be a difficulty they encounter when working abroad<sup>20</sup>. Just under one quarter (24%) expect to or have encountered problems finding a job, whilst 16% expect difficulties finding suitable housing and/or adapting to a different culture. Europeans are least likely to expect problems with taxes or accessing education or care for their children. In general the expectation that any of these problems will be encountered is fairly low, with most under the 20% and many under 10%.

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<sup>20</sup> QC28 What practical difficulties have you encountered or would you expect to encounter when going to work abroad? Lack of language skills; Finding a job; Finding a job for my partner\ spouse; Having my educational and professional qualifications recognised; Dealing with the necessary administrative formalities; Having my pension rights transferred; Problems with income taxes or similar; Obtaining a work permit; Finding suitable housing; Accessing health care or other social benefits; Access to child care, school or university for your children; Adapting to a different culture; Problems to return home and reintegrate into professional or private life after having been abroad; Other (SPONTANEOUS); None (SPONTANEOUS); DK

QC28 What practical difficulties have you encountered or would you expect to encounter when going to work abroad? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) - % EU



Almost two thirds of Latvians expect to have difficulties due to a lack of language skills if they worked abroad, but those living in Luxembourg (21%), Malta (24%) are the Europeans least likely to be worried about this. Greeks are much more likely than other Europeans to worry about finding a job (48%), particularly compared to the EU average of 24%, but only 16% of Swedes and 17% of French expect to encounter this

problem. Swedes (27%) and Danes (20%) are most likely to worry about finding a job for their spouse or partner - compared to only 2% of Germans.

Respondents in Cyprus (34%) and in Malta (27%) are most likely to expect problems finding suitable housing, and Maltese are also most likely to expect problems adapting to a different culture (32%) which compares starkly to the lowest country - Hungary - where only 6% expect to have these problems. Those living in Sweden (27%) and the Netherlands (22%) are most likely to anticipate problems dealing with administrative formalities, whilst the French (24%), Swedes and Austrians (22%) are most likely to anticipate difficulties accessing health care or social benefits. Slovaks are most likely to worry about having their qualifications recognised (22%).



## CONCLUSION

Since its implementation, the free movement of people and labour has become a symbol for European integration. A 2005 Eurobarometer already showed that Europeans consider the free movement of people, goods and services within the EU as the most positive result of European integration. The current survey reinforces this result, finding that six out of ten Europeans believe mobility is good for European integration. Moreover, half say that geographic mobility is good for the labour market and almost half say that it is a good thing for the individual.

However, while people express positive opinions about mobility, the survey shows that just ten percent of Europeans have lived and worked in another country inside or outside the EU at some point in their life. Close to one European in five can envisage working outside their own country at some time in the future, although the share of those with concrete plans to move in the near future is much smaller.

Motivation obviously plays a part in the decision as well - when unemployment is included into the equation almost half of Europeans would consider moving to another region or country to find work. The chance to make more money and a liking for culture and lifestyle of the destination are the main motivating factors. People are also drawn to living and working abroad by the prospect of improved quality of life and working conditions, but put off moving by having to leave home, uproot their families and leave friends behind. Problems with language are seen as a key obstacle to overcome when moving to work in another country.

Not surprisingly, those who think the chances of finding a job are better abroad than at home are more open to a move. Furthermore, those who have already worked abroad, or who know people that have, are also more likely to see themselves working in another country, so both first and second hand experience of life abroad makes people more receptive to the idea of moving themselves.

So although Europeans in general agree mobility is a good thing, and value their right to live and work in another country within the EU, the majority have no plans to exercise this right in the near future.





# **ANNEXES**



# **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**



## **SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER N° 337**

### **“Geographical and labour market mobility”**

### **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Between the 13<sup>th</sup> of November and the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2009, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out wave 72.5 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, “Research and Speechwriting”.

The SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER N°337 is part of wave 72.5 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the “administrative regional units”, after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard “random route” procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the “closest birthday rule”). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people’s homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

ABBREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES	POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.003	19/11/2009 07/12/2009	8.866.411
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.007	13/11/2009 23/11/2009	6.584.957
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.096	14/11/2009 27/11/2009	8.987.535
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.008	14/11/2009 09/12/2009	4.503.365
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.522	13/11/2009 02/12/2009	64.545.601
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.000	13/11/2009 06/12/2009	916.000
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1.014	13/11/2009 29/11/2009	3.375.399
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	14/11/2009 03/12/2009	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.023	13/11/2009 06/12/2009	39.059.211
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.005	13/11/2009 08/12/2009	47.620.942
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.039	13/11/2009 29/11/2009	51.252.247
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	502	13/11/2009 04/12/2009	651.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.004	13/11/2009 30/11/2009	1.448.719
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.027	13/11/2009 29/11/2009	2.849.359
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	502	13/11/2009 05/12/2009	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.017	13/11/2009 30/11/2009	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	13/11/2009 04/12/2009	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.004	13/11/2009 06/12/2009	13.288.200
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.001	13/11/2009 01/12/2009	6.973.277
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	14/11/2009 02/12/2009	32.306.436
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.038	17/11/2009 08/12/2009	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.008	14/11/2009 27/11/2009	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.017	13/11/2009 06/12/2009	1.748.308
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.047	14/11/2009 27/11/2009	4.549.954
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.041	17/11/2009 08/12/2009	4.412.321
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.014	13/11/2009 06/12/2009	7.723.931
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.322	13/11/2009 03/12/2009	51.081.866
TOTAL			26.761	13/11/2009 09/12/2009	406.827.648

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS Opinion & Social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

<b>Observed percentages</b>	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
<b>Confidence limits</b>	± 1.9 points	± 2.5 points	± 2.7 points	± 3.0 points	± 3.1 points