



Flash Eurobarometer 365

EUROPEAN UNION CITIZENSHIP

SUMMARY

Fieldwork: November 2012

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

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

Flash Eurobarometer 365 - TNS Political & Social

Flash Eurobarometer 365

European Union Citizenship

Conducted by TNS Opinion & Social at the request of
the European Commission, Directorate-General Justice

Survey co-ordinated by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM "Research and Speechwriting" Unit)

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INTRODUCTION

In 1993, the Treaty of Maastricht established the citizenship of the European Union, and set out a clear set of rights available to nationals of all EU Member States¹. European citizenship does not replace citizenship of a member state. Instead it confers additional rights to those already granted via national citizenship.

This Flash Eurobarometer survey on European Union citizenship (No 365) builds on the work of previous Flash Eurobarometers on the subject², and investigates how familiar Europeans are with their status as European citizens and their understanding of the rights conferred by EU citizenship.

This survey was carried out by TNS Opinion & Social network in the 27 Member States of the European Union between the 8th and the 10th of November 2012. Some 25,584 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed via telephone (mobile and fixed line) in their mother tongue on behalf of Directorate-General for Justice. The methodology used is that of Flash surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Research and Speechwriting" Unit)³. A technical note on the manner in which interviews were conducted by the Institutes within the TNS Opinion & Political network is appended as an annex to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence intervals⁴.

¹ http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/treaties_maastricht_en.htm

² No 294 in 2010; 213 in 2007 and 133 in 2002 (15 Member States only)

³ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion

⁴ 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 has the possibility of giving several answers to the question.

Note: In this report, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

ABBREVIATIONS			
BE	Belgium	LV	Latvia
CZ	Czech Republic	LU	Luxembourg
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary
DK	Denmark	MT	Malta
DE	Germany	NL	The Netherlands
EE	Estonia	AT	Austria
EL	Greece	PL	Poland
ES	Spain	PT	Portugal
FR	France	RO	Romania
IE	Ireland	SI	Slovenia
IT	Italy	SK	Slovakia
CY	Republic of Cyprus*	FI	Finland
LT	Lithuania	SE	Sweden
		UK	The United Kingdom

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union Member States. However, the 'acquis communautaire' has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the 'CY' category and in the EU27 average.

** EU15 refers to the 15 countries forming the European Union before the enlargements of 2004 and 2007

*** The NMS12 are the 12 'new Member States' which joined the European Union during the 2004 and 2007 enlargements

* * * * *

We wish to thank the people throughout European Union who have given their time to take part in this survey. Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.

KEY FINDINGS

EU Citizens' awareness of their status as citizens of the European Union

- The vast majority of respondents (slightly more than eight out of ten) say they are familiar with the term "citizen of the European Union" (81%). This is an increase of three percentage points since 2007.
- Slightly fewer than half of all respondents (46%) say they know what the term means. Nevertheless this represents an improvement by five percentage points since 2007.
- Those living in NMS12 countries are more likely to be familiar with the term 'citizen of the European Union' than those in EU15 countries (89% vs. 79%).
- There is very little confusion as to how EU citizenship can be "obtained", with most Europeans (78%) correctly saying that you do not have to ask to become a citizen of the EU.
- Almost all respondents know that it is true that they can be both a citizen of the Union and of their country at the same time (89%).
- Almost three quarters (72%) correctly say that the statement 'If you so wish, you can choose not to be a citizen of the Union' is false.

EU citizens' awareness of their rights and of what they can do if these are not respected

- Across the EU, just over one third of respondents (36%) say that they feel well informed about their rights as citizens of the European Union. Respondents feel slightly more informed about their rights as EU citizens than they did in 2007 (an improvement of five percentage points).
- Respondents are most familiar with their right to free movement and their right to petition key EU institutions: 88% are aware that a citizen of the Union has the right to reside in any Member State of the European Union (subject to certain conditions) (almost unchanged since 2010) and 89% are aware that a citizen of the Union has the right to make a complaint to the European Commission, European Parliament or European Ombudsman (an increase of 2 percentage points since 2010).
- In addition, there is a high level of awareness that citizens residing in another Member State have the right to be treated exactly in the same way as nationals of that state (82%, -3 percentage points compared to 2010).
- 79% are aware that when outside the EU, a citizen of the Union has the right to ask for help at embassies of other EU Member States, if his/her country does not have an embassy there (same level as in 2010).

- 73% say that a citizen of the Union has the right to participate in a Citizens' initiative - a five percentage point increase since 2010.
- Only 48% correctly say that when residing in another Member State, an EU citizen does not have the right to address him/herself directly to the authorities of that country to get a passport or other travel document instead of requesting it from his/her national embassy/consulate - slightly more than four in ten (41%) believe that this is a right of EU citizens.
- Just under one quarter of respondents say they feel fairly or very well informed about what they can do when their rights as an EU citizen are not respected (24%).

The economic benefits of free movement within the European Union

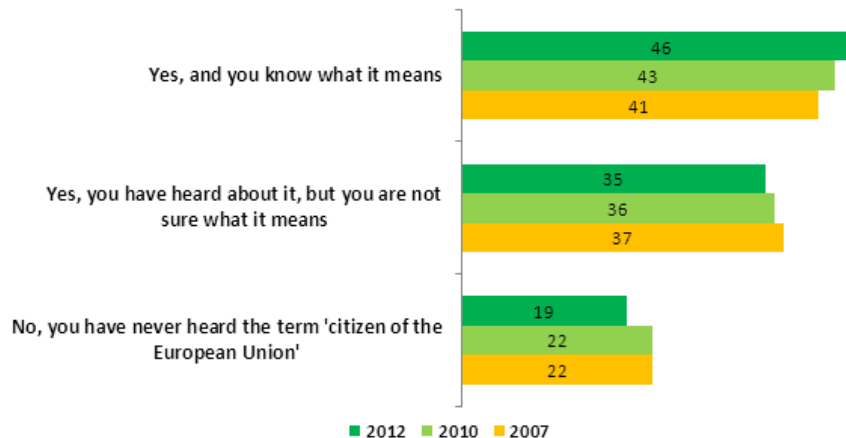
- More than two thirds consider that free movement of people within the EU has economic benefits for their country (67%). Furthermore, an absolute majority of respondents in all countries think that this is the case.

Desired forms of consular protection

- Respondents were asked about the type of consular assistance they expected to be provided with by embassies of other EU countries in a third country where their own EU country was not represented. More than half (55%) think that all embassies should provide exactly the same type of help as they would receive from their own embassy. Respondents are less likely to think this way than they were in 2010 (-7 percentage points).
- Just over one third (34%) think that all embassies should provide at least a minimum level of help - an increase of six percentage points since 2010.
- Two thirds (66%) think that family members who are not EU citizens themselves should be entitled to the same consular help and assistance as EU citizens – same level as in 2010.

I. EU CITIZENS' AWARENESS OF THEIR STATUS AS CITIZENS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Familiarity with the term "citizen of the European Union", 2007-2012



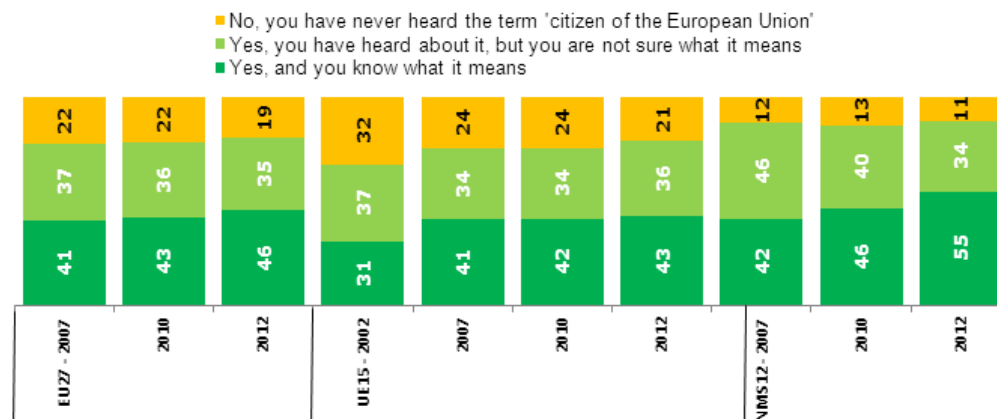
Q1. This survey is about European Union citizenship. Are you familiar with the term "citizen of the European Union"?

The vast majority of respondents (eight out of ten) say they are familiar with the term "citizen of the European Union" (81%). This is an increase of three percentage points since 2007. However, less than half of all respondents (46%) say they know what the term means.

Just under one in five (19%) respondents say they have never heard of the term 'citizen of the European Union' - this proportion has changed little since 2007 when it was 22%.

Those living in NMS12 countries are more likely to be familiar with the term 'citizen of the European Union' than those in EU15 countries (89% vs. 79%).

Familiarity with the term 'citizen of the European Union', 2002-2012



Q1. This survey is about European Union citizenship. Are you familiar with the term "citizen of the European Union"?

Understanding of how EU citizenship is obtained

Respondents were given three statements about citizenship in the European Union, and asked to say if each was true or false.

Most Europeans (78%) correctly say that you do not have to ask to become a citizen of the EU. Awareness of this right has improved 7 percentage points since 2002 in EU15 countries, but declined six percentage points in NMS12 countries since 2007.

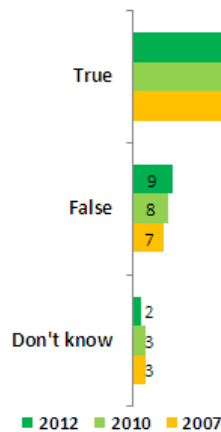
You have to ask to become a citizen of the Union, 2007-2012



Q3. For each of the statements which I am going to read out, please state whether you think they are true or false.

Almost all respondents know that it is true that they can be both a citizen of the Union and of their country at the same time (89%).

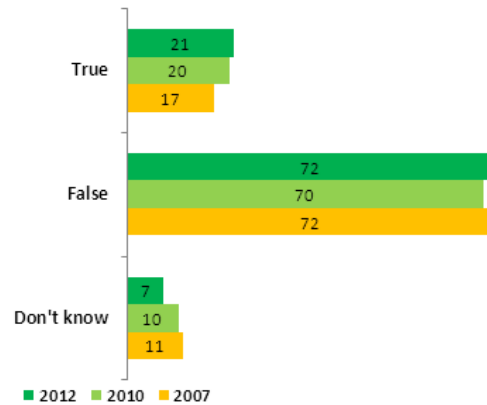
You are both a citizen of the Union and (NATIONALITY) at the same time, 2007-2012



Q3. For each of the statements which I am going to read out, please state whether you think they are true or false.

Almost three quarters (72%) correctly say that the statement 'If you so wish, you can choose not to be a citizen of the Union' is false.

If you so wish, you can choose not to be a citizen of the Union, 2007-2012



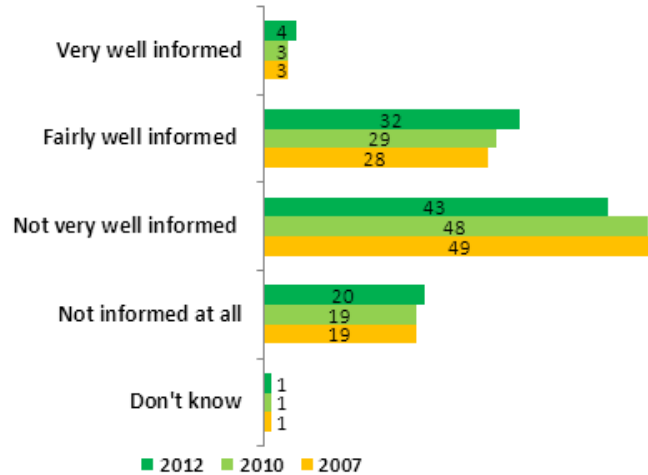
Q3. For each of the statements which I am going to read out, please state whether you think they are true or false.

Awareness that one is unable to choose not to be an EU citizen has improved 12 percentage points in EU15 since 2002. Conversely, since 2007 awareness of this fact has declined six percentage points amongst respondents in NMS12 countries.

II. EU CITIZENS' AWARENESS OF THEIR RIGHTS AND OF WHAT THEY CAN DO IF THEY ARE NOT RESPECTED

Just over one third of respondents (36%) say that they feel informed about their rights as a citizen of the European Union - an improvement of five percentage points since 2007.

Being informed about the rights as a citizen of the European Union, 2007-2012



Q2. How well do you feel that you are informed about your rights as a citizen of the European Union?

Fewer than half of respondents in each country say that they feel informed about their rights as a citizen of the European Union - although in the majority of countries respondents now feel more informed about their rights as EU citizens than they did in 2007.

Respondents were given six statements describing the rights of EU citizens, and asked to say in each case if the statement was correct or false.



The right that was most familiar to respondents (roughly 9 out of ten) continued to be that of free movement and residence. The right to petition the key EU institutions was correctly identified by a similarly high percentage of respondents.

89% are aware that a citizen of the Union has the right to make a complaint to the European Commission, European Parliament or European Ombudsman.

88% are aware that a citizen of the Union has the right to reside in any Member State of the European Union, subject to certain conditions (-1 percentage point - essentially unchanged since 2007).

82% say that a citizen of the Union residing in another Member State has the right to be treated exactly in the same way as a national of that State. This result represents a slight decrease since 2010 (-3 percentage points).

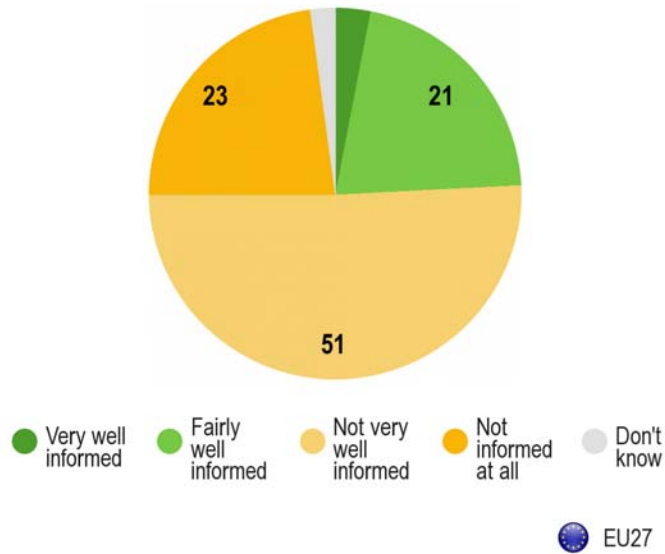
79% are aware that when outside the EU, a citizen of the Union has the right to ask for help at embassies of other EU Member States, if his/her country does not have an embassy there.

73% say that a citizen of the Union has the right to participate in a Citizens' initiative - a five percentage point increase since 2010.

48% correctly say that when residing in another Member State, an EU citizen does not have the right to address him/herself directly to the authorities of that country to get a passport or other travel document instead of requesting it from his/her national embassy/consulate – whilst slightly more than four in ten (41%) believe that this is a right of EU citizens.

Just under one quarter of respondents say that they feel fairly or very well informed about what they can do when their rights as an EU citizen are not respected (24%) whilst another quarter of respondents (23%) feel that they are not informed at all.

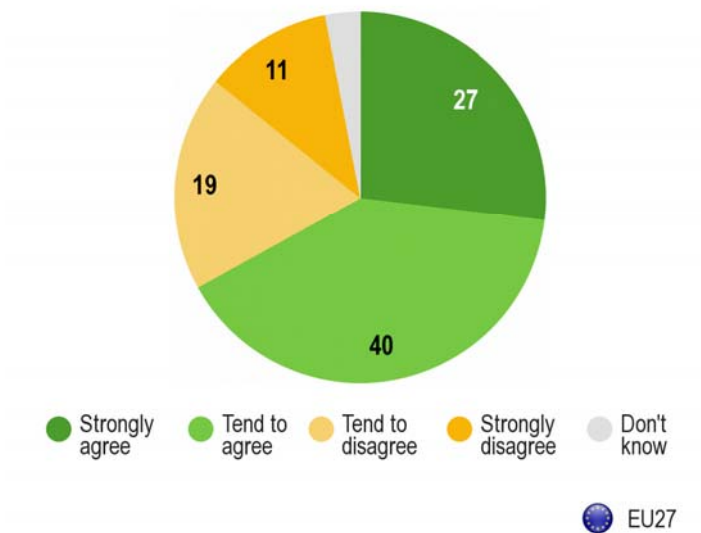
Q5. How well do you feel informed about what you can do when your rights as an EU citizen are not respected?



III. THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF FREE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Slightly more than two thirds consider that free movement of people within the EU brings economic benefits to their country (67%).

Q6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Free movement of people within the EU brings overall benefits to the economy of your country.



Furthermore, an absolute majority of respondents in all countries considers that this is the case.

IV. DESIRED FORMS OF CONSULAR PROTECTION

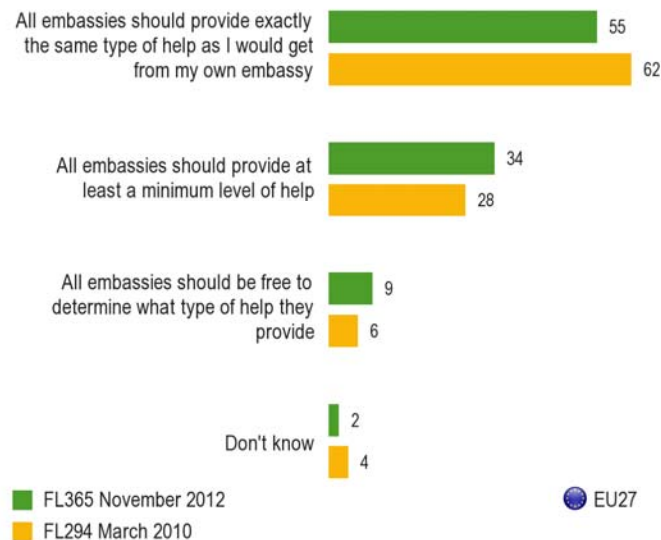
When in a country where their own Member State does not have an embassy or a consulate, citizens of the EU are entitled to ask for help at the embassy or consulate of any EU Member State, under the same conditions as the nationals of that State. In the present situation, Member States have considerable discretion over what types of assistance their embassies and consulates provide to their own citizens and therefore also to non-national EU citizens unrepresented by their own embassy or consulate.

Only 9% of the respondents agree that embassies should have freedom in this aspect, and therefore they approve the current situation.

More than half (55%) think that all embassies should provide exactly the same type of help as they would receive from their own embassy. Respondents are less likely to think this way than they were in 2010 (-7 percentage points).

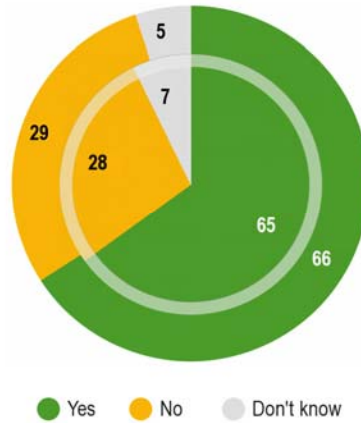
Just over one third (34%) think that all embassies should provide at least a minimum level of help - an increase of six percentage points since 2010.

Q7. If you are in a country where [Member State of which the interviewed is a national] does not have an embassy, you have the right, as an EU citizen, to get help from the embassy of any other EU Member State. The type of help you will get depends on which embassy you go to. Which statement do you agree with most?



Two thirds (66%) think that family members who are not EU citizens themselves should be entitled to the same consular help and assistance as EU citizens. This result is consistent with 2010.

Q8. In cases where family members of EU citizens are not nationals of an EU Member State, do you believe they should be entitled to assistance by the embassies of Member States under the same conditions as EU citizens?



Inner pie : FL294 March 2010
Outer pie : FL365 November 2012

EU27

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

FLASH EUROBAROMETER 365

"European Union Citizenship"

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 8th and the 10th of November 2012, TNS Political & Social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the survey FLASH EUROBAROMETER 365 about "European Union Citizenship".

This survey has been requested by the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Justice. It is a general public survey co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Research and Speechwriting" Unit). The FLASH EUROBAROMETER 365 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over. All interviews were carried using the TNS e-Call center (our centralized CATI system). In every country respondents were called both on fixed lines and mobile phones. The basic sample design applied in all states is multi-stage random (probability). In each household, the respondent was drawn at random following the "last birthday rule".

TNS has developed its own RDD sample generation capabilities based on using contact telephone numbers from responders to random probability or random location face to face surveys, such as Eurobarometer, as seed numbers. The approach works because the seed number identifies a working block of telephone numbers and reduces the volume of numbers generated that will be ineffective. The seed numbers are stratified by NUTS2 region and urbanisation to approximate a geographically representative sample. From each seed number the required sample of numbers are generated by randomly replacing the last two digits. The sample is then screened against business databases in order to exclude as many of these numbers as possible before going into field. This approach is consistent across all countries.

A comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from the national statistics office. The weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. Gender, age, region, social class and the vote in the referendum on the Stability Treaty were introduced in the iteration procedure.

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

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process (at the 95% level of confidence)											
<i>various sample sizes are in rows</i>						<i>various observed results are in columns</i>					
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1	N=1000
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

ABBR.	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.001	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	8.939.546
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.002	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	6.537.510
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa s.r.o	1.000	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	9.012.443
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup A/S	1.012	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	4.561.264
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.000	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	64.409.146
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1.002	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	945.733
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.002	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia S.A	1.000	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	39.035.867
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.003	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	47.756.439
IE	Ireland	IMS Millward Brown	1.000	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	3.522.000
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.000	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	51.862.391
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	CYMAR	507	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	660.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.002	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	1.447.866
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.000	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	2.829.740
LU	Luxembourg	TNS Dimarso	502	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann Kft	1.006	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO International Ltd	512	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.006	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	13.371.980
AT	Austria	TNS Austria	1.004	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	7.009.827
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	32.413.735
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.008	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.009	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.001	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	1.759.701
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA Slovakia	1.000	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	4.549.955
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.003	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	4.440.004
SE	Sweden	TNS SIFO	1.003	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	7.791.240
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.002	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	51.848.010
TOTAL EU27			25.587	08/11/2012	10/11/2012	408.787.006