



Flash Eurobarometer 409

LITHUANIA BEFORE THE CHANGEOVER

SUMMARY

Fieldwork: December 2014

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This survey has been requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs and co-ordinated by the 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.

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Lithuania before the changeover

Conducted by TNS Political & Social at the request of
the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs

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

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INTRODUCTION

Lithuania became the 19th EU Member State to adopt the euro as its currency on 1 January 2015. To help ease the transition for the general public, it was decided that the old national currency, the Lithuanian litas, would remain in circulation for two weeks alongside the euro. After two weeks, the litas would no longer be accepted as legal tender, and the euro would become Lithuania's sole currency.

This Flash Eurobarometer survey looks at Lithuanians' awareness of these aspects of the changeover in the immediate run-up to the euro's introduction. Respondents were asked how long the litas and the euro would both be accepted in shops. They were also asked whether they already had any euro banknotes and coins in their possession and, if so, how they had obtained them. Finally, they were also asked whether they had purchased one of the euro coins starter kits which had been made available before the changeover.

This survey was carried out by TNS political & social network in Lithuania between 29 and 30 December 2014. Some 1,025 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed by telephone in their mother tongue on behalf of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN). The methodology used was that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)¹. A technical note on the manner in which interviews were conducted by the institutes within the TNS political & social network is appended as an annex to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence intervals².

Note: In this report, Lithuania is referred to by its official abbreviation (LT).

* * * * *

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

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

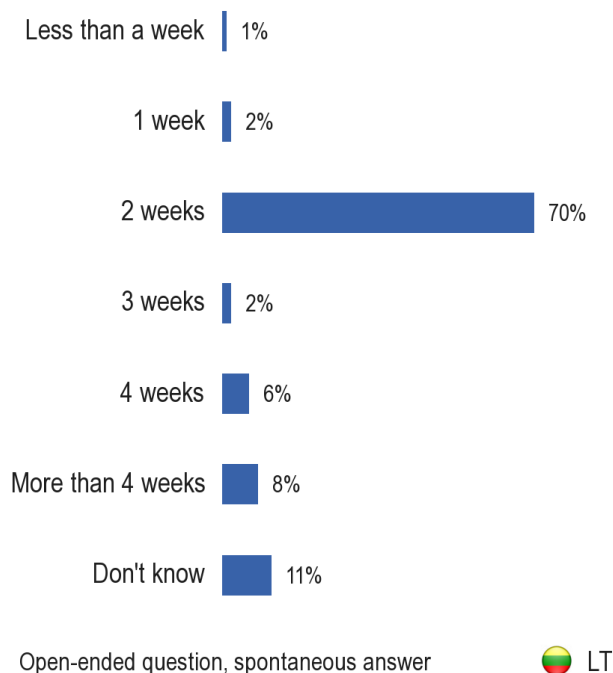
² The results tables are included in the annex. It should be noted that the total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondent has the possibility of giving several answers to the question.

I. DURATION OF DUAL CIRCULATION

Leading up to the changeover in Lithuania, seven out of ten respondents (70%) were aware that both the litas and the euro would be accepted for cash payments in shops for a period of roughly two weeks. Only 3% of people thought that the two currencies both would be accepted for less than two weeks, although 16% thought they would be accepted for more than two weeks. Of these, 2% thought they would be accepted for three weeks; 6% thought they would be accepted for four weeks; and 8% thought they would be accepted for more than four weeks.

Round a tenth of respondents (11%) said they did not know how long both currencies would remain valid.

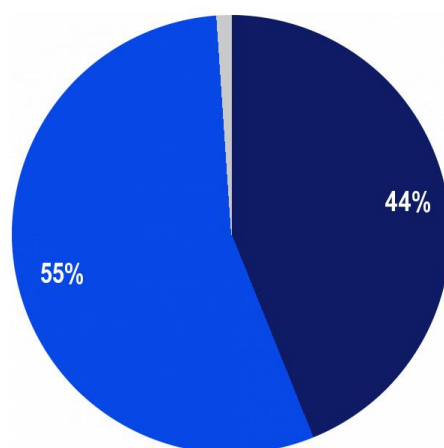
Q1. What is the approximate duration of the period during which both the Lithuanian litas and the euro will be accepted for cash payments in the shops?



II. POSSESSION AND ORIGIN OF EURO BANKNOTES

Respondents were asked whether they currently had any euro banknotes in their possession. A majority of people (55%) in Lithuania said that they did not have any euro banknotes, whilst over four out of ten respondents (44%) said that they did.

Q2. Do you currently have any euro banknotes in your possession?



- Yes
- No
- Don't know

 LT

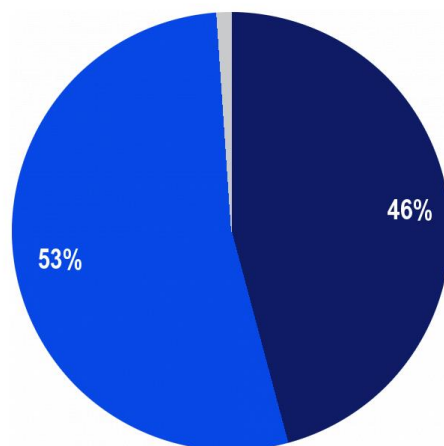
Respondents who already had euro banknotes in their possession were then asked where they got them from.

A majority of people (56%) in this group said they got them from a trip abroad, while roughly a third (35%) said they obtained their euro banknotes from an exchange in a bank in Lithuania. Just 16% of respondents got their euro banknotes from a cash transaction done in Lithuania, while roughly three out of ten (31%) received theirs by some other means.

III. POSSESSION AND ORIGIN OF EURO COINS

Much like the results seen for euro banknotes, a majority of respondents (53%) said that they did not have any euro coins in their possession. Over four out of ten respondents (46%) said that they did have some euro coins.

Q4. Do you currently have any euro coins in your possession?



- Yes
- No
- Don't know



Respondents who said they already had some euro coins ahead of the changeover were then asked where they got them from.

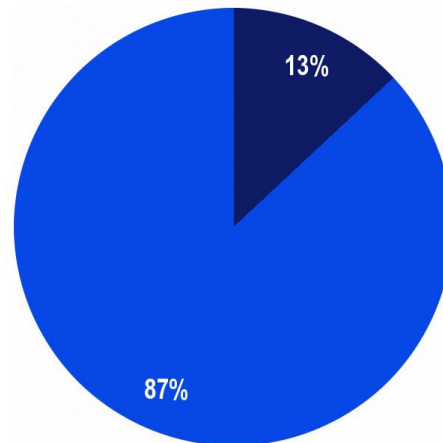
This time the respondents had an additional means of obtaining their euros, namely from a euro coins starter kit that had been made available in the run-up to the euro's introduction.

A majority of people (62%) with euro coins said that they got them from a trip abroad, while just under a third (31%) said their euro coins came from the starter kit. Nearly a fifth of respondents (18%) obtained their euro coins via an exchange in a bank in Lithuania, while just 5% obtained their euro coins from a cash transaction done in Lithuania. Roughly a fifth (19%) said their coins came from some other means.

IV. EURO COINS STARTER KIT

Around one person in eight (13%) said that they personally bought a euro coins starter kit whilst 87% of respondents said they did not.

Q6. Did you personally buy a euro coins starter kit?



- Yes
- No
- Don't know



Respondents who bought a euro coins starter kit were then asked what they intended to do with it.

A majority of respondents in this group (58%) said that they intended to open it and start using the coins from 1 January. Nearly a fifth of respondents (18%) said that they had bought several kits and planned to use some and keep others, while roughly a tenth of respondents (11%) intended to keep the kit. Just over one in ten respondents (13%) said they didn't know what they would do with the kit.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

FLASH EUROBAROMETER 409
"Lithuania before the changeover"
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 29th and the 30th of December 2014, TNS political & social, a consortium created between TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the survey FLASH EUROBAROMETER 409, 'Lithuania before the changeover'.

This survey has been requested by the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs. It is a general public survey co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication ('Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer' Unit). The FLASH EUROBAROMETER 409 covers the national population of citizens as well as the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are resident in Lithuania and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire. All interviews were carried using the TNS e-Call center (our centralized CATI system). Respondents were called both on fixed lines and mobile phones. The basic sample design applied is multi-stage random (probability). In each household, the respondent was drawn at random following the "last birthday rule".

TNS have developed their 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."

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+
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.000	29/12/2014	30/12/2014	2.829.740