

# EUROBAROMETER 70

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## AUTUMN 2008

NATIONAL REPORT  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
COUNTRY NAME

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## 1. State of Opinion

In spite of the world financial crisis, Slovaks assess the situation of the national and European economy rather positively. The Standard Eurobarometer No 70 survey has found that 54% of citizens of the Slovak Republic think that the situation of the national economy is very good or rather good. In the EU27, only 29% of citizens shares that opinion. Even more Slovaks have such a positive view on the situation of the European economy. 62% of Slovak citizens consider the situation of the European economy to be very good or rather good while in the European Union as a whole, an average of only 33% of citizens have this opinion. Slovak citizens are thus more optimistic in their assessment of the situation of both the national and the European economy than the EU27 average. Optimism and a positive assessment of the national economy results from the fact that, in recent years, the Slovak economy has experienced extremely high growth, as well as from the fact that, in autumn 2008, the impact of the world financial crisis on the Slovak economy had not yet been observed.

Despite their positive assessment of the state of the national economy, Slovaks assess negatively the employment situation in their country. 65% of citizens think that the employment situation in Slovakia is rather bad or very bad. However, even in the case of this indicator, Slovaks are more positive in comparison to the European average of 69% of citizens considering the employment situation in their country to be rather bad or very bad. Citizens of both the Slovak Republic and the European Union as a whole assess more positively their personal job situation, which is considered to be very good or rather good by 56% of respondents in Slovakia, which is the same as the European average. From the point of view of trends, there was a period of significant growth in the positive assessment of the situation of the national economy: in spring 2006, only 20% of citizens considered the situation of the Slovak economy to be good (the total of the very good and rather good responses), in autumn 2006, the figure was 34% and, in spring 2007, it rose to 55% of citizens. We can then observe a change in the opinion with, in autumn 2007, 45% of citizens assessing the situation of the Slovak economy as good but, in autumn 2008, it was again as many as 54% of citizens. In the case of the employment situation in Slovakia, we can observe a gradual growth of the positive assessment, although, in this case, at very low percentage level. In spring 2006, only 5% of citizens assessed the employment situation in Slovakia to be good; in autumn 2006, the figure was 12%, rising to 26% in autumn 2007 and then again to 33% in autumn 2008.

However, Slovaks are more pessimistic in regard to their expectations concerning the development of the economic situation in their country in the next twelve months. As many as 40% of Slovak citizens expect a worsening of the situation in this area. Even so, Slovaks are optimists in comparison to the European average, as in the EU27 as many as 51% of citizens expect worsening of the economic situation in their country in the next twelve months. Improvement of the economic situation in their country is expected by only 19% of Slovak citizens, i.e. 4 points above the EU27 average. From point of view of trends, from spring 2007, the number of citizens who expect the improvement of the economic situation in Slovakia has decreased from 40% to 19% and, at the same time, the number of citizens who expect a worsening of the situation has sharply increased from 22% to 40%.

Slovaks, in comparison with the European average, are less pessimistic, as far as their expectations concerning the employment situation in their country in the next twelve months. While a majority of citizens in the EU27 (53%) expect a worsening of the situation, in Slovakia, only one-third (33%) of citizens have such expectations. 42% of Slovaks do not expect any change in the next twelve months in this area (13 points above the EU27 average) and 21% (8 points above EU27 average) even expect an improvement of the situation. As far as expectations related to the employment situation in Slovakia in the next twelve months are concerned, during the last half a year, there has been a dramatic

decrease in the positive mood and a corresponding increase in negative expectations. While, in spring 2008, 32% of citizens expected an improvement of the employment situation in Slovakia in the next twelve months, in autumn 2008, only 21% of citizens had such optimistic expectations. Conversely, a worsening of the situation was expected by 25% of citizens in the spring and this was recorded by 33% of Slovak citizens in the autumn.

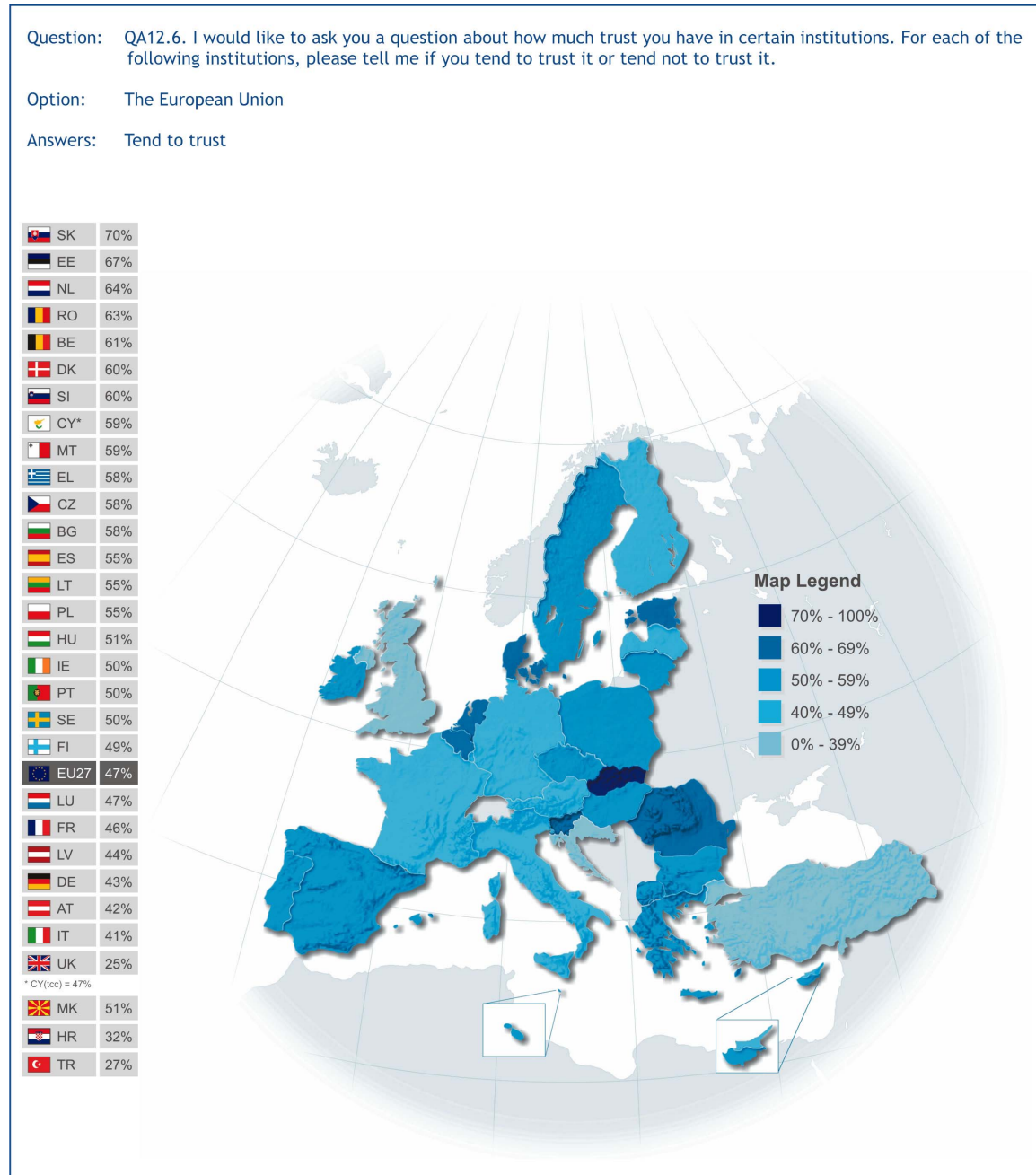
As far as expectations related to their personal job situation in the next twelve months are concerned, Slovaks and EU27 citizens are not great pessimists but they are also not great optimists. A majority of citizens (53% in Slovakia and 58% in the EU27) do not expect any change. Only 13% of Slovaks and 12% of EU27 citizens expect a worsening and 14% of Slovaks and 18% of EU27 citizens expect an improvement in their personal job situation. As many as 20% of Slovaks (8 points above the European average) gave a 'don't know' response to this question. This is a much higher percentage than in the questions concerning their life in general, the economic situation in Slovakia, the financial situation of households and the employment situation in Slovakia, which indicates, that a considerable part of Slovaks live in insecurity. From the trends point of view, from spring 2007, we can observe decrease in the number of the Slovak citizens who expect an improvement in their personal job situation from 25% to 14%. Also, in comparison with the previous survey, undertaken in the spring 2008, the number of Slovaks who did not expect any change has decreased and the number of those who expected a worsening of their personal job situation, or were not able to answer this particular question, has increased.

Although Slovaks assess very positively the current situation of the European economy, they do not see its prospects for the next twelve months in the pink. Almost one-third of Slovak citizens (32%) expect, that the situation of the European economy in the next twelve months will worsen, while in the EU27 as many as 41% of citizens have such expectations. Only 20% of Slovaks (4 points above the European average) expect an improvement of the European economy.

According to Slovaks, the most important issue their country is facing at the moment is rising prices/inflation. 46% of Slovak citizens consider rising prices/inflation to be one of the two most important issues their country is facing, which is 9 points above the European average. The second most important issue is the economic situation, which is considered to be an important problem by 29% of Slovaks. In the EU27, citizens consider rising prices/inflation and the economic situation to be the two most important issues their country is facing (37% of citizens for each of the options). In third place, in the chart of the most important issues, 26% of Slovaks ranked unemployment (in the EU27 also 26%) and the health care system (in the EU27 only 16%). When asked which are the two most important issues they are personally facing at the moment, the issue of rising prices/inflation appeared even more markedly. This issue is perceived as an important issue they are facing personally by 52% of Slovak citizens (2 points above the European average). On the other hand, the economic situation is not perceived to be such an important problem. Only 22% of citizens perceive the economic situation as a problem they are facing. The same percentage of citizens perceives the healthcare system as an important issue that they are personally facing. From the point of view of trends, we see a continuation of the growth of the number of Slovaks, who consider rising prices/inflation to be one of the two most important issues Slovakia is facing. In comparison with the previous survey, there is only a modest increase of 3 points and thus we observe a slowing in the increase of fears about rising prices compared with the previous year. However, from spring 2007, the number of Slovaks who consider rising prices/inflation to be an important issue has risen from 19% to 46%. On the other hand, the trend of decrease in fears regarding unemployment continues. In comparison with the survey undertaken in spring 2008, the number of Slovaks, who cited unemployment as one of the most important issues Slovakia is facing has decreased by 3 points. However, from spring 2006, the number of Slovak citizens who consider unemployment to be an important issue in their country decreased from 61% to 26%.

## 2. Trust

Trust in national institutions in Slovakia is significantly lower than the trust in EU institutions; despite this, trust in the national government in Slovakia is 12 points higher than the EU27 average. 46% of citizens trust to the Government of the Slovak Republic while exactly half of Slovaks do not trust to the current government. In comparison to the EU27 average, Slovaks had significantly less trust in their country's justice and legal system. While an average of 48% of European Union respondents trust in their country's justice and legal system and 47% of citizens do not trust, in Slovakia, only 30% of citizens trust their country's justice and legal system, while 65% of citizens do not.



Slovakia is the country with the highest level of trust in the European Union among all the twenty seven EU member states. 70% of Slovak citizens trust in the European Union, which is 23 points above the European average and 3 points more than in Estonia and 6 points more than in the Netherlands, the countries that are in second and third place. The high level of trust of Slovaks in the European Union has a long-term character and, in autumn 2008, the highest level of trust in the EU since Slovakia joined the EU was observed.

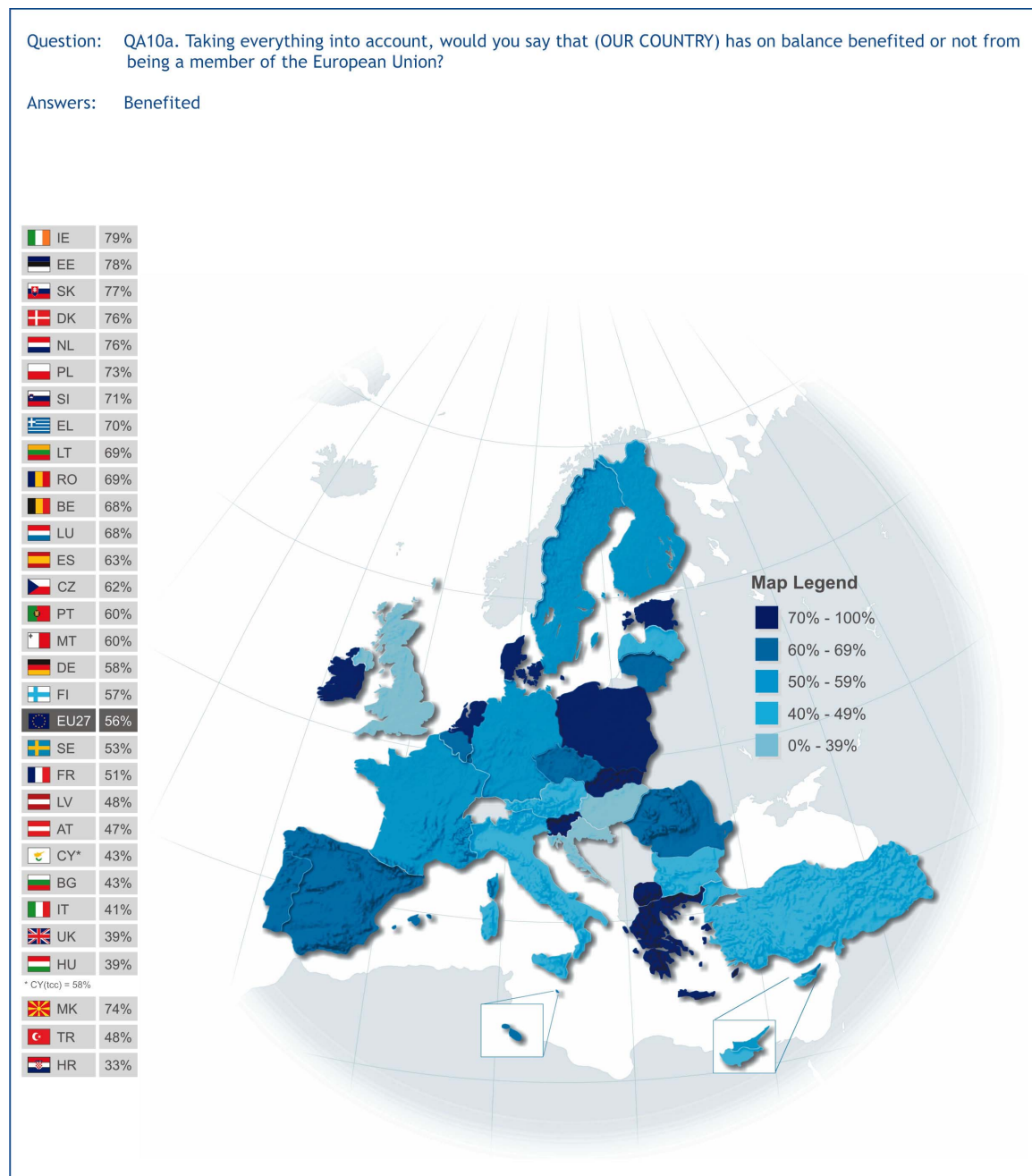
Slovaks' trust in the European Union as a whole is mirrored by their trust in its individual institutions. The European Commission has the trust of 63% of citizens, 16 points above the European average and only 1 point less than in Belgium where trust in the European Commission is the highest in the whole EU.

Slovaks' trust in the European Parliament is even higher. 70% of Slovak citizens trust in the European Parliament. That is the highest proportion among all EU member states (and 19 points above the EU27 average). Related to this, it is interesting to observe, whether the high level of trust of Slovak citizens towards the EP will be followed by the increased turnout of Slovak voters in the forthcoming European elections, which will take place in June 2009. In the first European elections in which citizens of the Slovak Republic participated, an historically lowest participation rate (16.96%) of all the EU member states was recorded.

With regard to the fact that Slovak Republic became a Eurozone member on January 1, 2009, the level of the trust of Slovaks in the European Central Bank is more interesting than ever before. Also, in the case of this European Union institution, the level of trust of Slovak citizens is well above the EU27 average. In Slovakia, 65% of citizens (17 points above the European average) trust the ECB.

### 3. View on the European Union

Slovakia belongs to those countries of the European Union in which a majority of citizens has a positive view on their country's EU membership. 62% of Slovaks think that their country's EU membership is a good thing. Among the new member states, only in Romania and Poland, is there a higher proportion of citizens with such a positive view. In Ireland, a higher percentage of respondents than in Slovakia consider their country's EU membership to be a good thing even though it is the country where citizens voted against the Lisbon Treaty in a referendum. It is also interesting, that in the other three EU member states that are Slovakia's neighbours, less than half of the population consider their country's EU membership to be a good thing. In the Czech Republic it is 46%, in Austria 39% and, in Hungary, only 31% of citizens.



77% of Slovaks believe that their country has benefited from being a member of the European Union. Slovakia found itself in third place in the ranking of the EU member states.

Only in Ireland and Estonia is there is higher proportion of citizens who believe that their country has benefited from being a member of the European Union. Regarding the view of citizens as to whether the Slovak Republic has benefited or not from being a member of the European Union, from spring 2006, we can observe a certain level of stabilization of the opinion with only a minor divergence. However, in autumn 2008, Slovakia has recorded the highest percentage of citizens, since Slovakia joined the Union believing that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU.

For a majority of Slovaks, the European Union means the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU. 63% of Slovak respondents have chosen this from a wide choice of options. Likewise, in the EU27, as a whole, citizens have most often chosen this option, although less than half of the respondents (44%) made this choice. The European Union for Slovak citizens also means the euro (49%, 15 points above the EU27 average), economic prosperity (32%, 15 points above the EU27 average), democracy (24%, 3 points above the EU27 average) and a peace (24%, 3 points below the EU27 average).

From the point of view of trends during the last twelve months, we can observe the decrease in the number of Slovaks, for whom the European Union means freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU, by 10 points between autumn 2007 (73%) and autumn 2008 (63%). Since spring 2008, this number has decreased by 7 points. The reason for such a decrease could be the world financial crisis and the return of some of the Slovaks who work in other EU member states, especially in the United Kingdom, to Slovakia. Another reason could be the fact, that some EU member states, such as Austria and Germany, have still not opened their labour markets to citizens of the Slovak Republic. The last reason could be that four and half years after Slovakia joined the European Union, the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU is no longer something extraordinary and Slovaks associate the EU with other issues. This could be confirmed with the fact that, in the last three years, for more and more Slovaks, the European Union means the euro. While, in spring 2005, the EU meant the euro for 30% of citizens of Slovakia, in spring 2006, it was 38%; in spring 2007, 39%, and in spring 2008, 43% of Slovak citizens. Between spring and autumn, their number has increased by another 6 points. This is a natural development related to the decision of the Slovak government to adopt the euro from January 1, 2009.

While in the case of trust in the European Union and the European institutions, as well as in the case of benefiting from their country's EU membership, Slovaks are more "Europositively" tuned than the EU average, in the case of their own influence, or the influence of their country on the operation of the EU, Slovaks are rather sceptical (that does not necessarily mean "Euro-sceptic"). Only 24% of citizens (6 points below EU27 average) think that their voice counts in the European Union, while more than two-thirds (67%) do not think so. Slovaks are more sceptical than the EU27 average also as far as their influence on the operation of their own country is concerned. Only 42% of citizens think, that their voice counts in their country (4 points below the EU27 average), while a majority (52%) do not think so.

On the other hand, Slovaks are little bit more positive as far as the influence of the Slovak Republic on the operation of the European Union is concerned. Less than half of Slovak citizens (49%) think that their country's voice counts in the EU, while in the European Union, on average, 60% of citizens hold this opinion. However, it is still more than those who think that the voice of their country does not count in the EU (41%). It is interesting that, in spite of the fact that less than half of Slovak citizens think that the voice of their country counts in the EU, 57% think that the interests of their country are well taken into account in the EU. At the same time, 55% of Slovak citizens think that the European Union imposes its views on their country.

In the situation when only 44% of Slovaks think that they understand how the European Union works and 48% do not think so, we have to ask ourselves to what extent the answers of Slovak respondents to the previous questions are based on their knowledge on the EU and to what extent they are based on feelings. In the EU27, on average, the percentage of citizens who think that they do understand how the EU works is even lower than in Slovakia.

Moreover, it is possible to assume that Slovaks (but also citizens of all EU member states) overestimate their knowledge on the functioning of the European Union, rather than underestimating it. The knowledge quiz on the EU, which the respondents undertook within the survey, indicates that this might be the reality. For instance, according to this test, 19% of Slovak citizens (and 21% of EU27 citizens) think that the EU still consists of 15 member states despite the fact that the enlargement from 15 to 25 states already took place in 2004 and the enlargement from 25 to 27 states in 2007. 18% of Slovaks also think that Switzerland is also the member of the EU. On the basis of these answers, we cannot expect that a major part of the population would know how the decision-making process in the EU works, what is the legislation process in the EU, what are the competencies of the institutions they trust so much and what is the division of competencies between the EU and its member states.

In spite of the fact that, based on the answers of the Slovak respondents to the questions concerning the assessment of Slovakia's EU membership and the benefits of membership, it could be possible to conclude that Slovak citizens are highly satisfied with the current functioning of the EU, the answers to a different group of questions indicate that this satisfaction has its limits. For instance, a significant majority of Slovaks think that the EU has too many competencies and only a small segment is satisfied with their current scope or even think that the EU should have more competencies. 62% of Slovak citizens (23 points above the EU27 average) think that there are too many areas where the EU can take decisions, 23% of citizens (5 points above the EU27 average) think that the number of areas where the EU can take decisions is about right and only 9% of Slovak citizens (13 points below the EU27 average) think that there are not enough areas where the EU can take decisions.

A more precise picture on the ideas of Slovaks concerning the optimal division of competencies between the European Union and the member states can be drawn from another group of questions. A majority of Slovaks favour the joint decision making of their national government together with the European Union in such areas as the fight against terrorism (92%, in EU27 79%), defence and foreign affairs (85%, in EU27 64%), fighting crime (78%, in EU27 59%), immigration (70%, in EU27 60%) and support for regions facing economic difficulties (73%, in EU27 62%). While in Slovakia, in the case of fighting unemployment, a majority (59%) prefers the joint decision making of the national government with the EU, in the EU27, only 40% of citizens support joint decision-making while the majority (57%) prefers that, in this area, the national government should make decisions exclusively. Slovak citizens share the same opinion with the EU27 citizens in the case of taxes. In this case, a majority (65% of citizens of Slovak Republic and 66% of citizens of the EU27) favours the exclusive competence of the national governments.

With regard to the fact that Slovakia, on January 1, 2009, as the sixteenth EU country joined the Eurozone and adopted the single European currency, the euro, the view of the Slovak citizens just a few weeks before the change has happened is interesting. The survey itself did not contain specific question for Slovaks concerning this change. However, the Standard Eurobarometer regularly contains the question concerning the opinion of the EU citizens on the European Monetary Union with one single currency. In autumn 2008, more than three-quarters (76%) of Slovak respondents expressed their view in favour of the EMU with one single currency, the euro, which is 15 points above the EU27 average.

#### **4. The Budget of the European Union**

The vast majority (70%) of Slovak citizens have already heard of the budget of the European Union but they are not very familiar with it. Only 5% claim that not only they have heard of the EU budget but that they are even very familiar with it. Many more (22%) say that they have never heard of the EU budget. These results confirm that knowledge of the operation of the European Union is very low.

The result of the quiz on the EU budget was even worse. Besides the fact that 10% of Slovak respondents openly acknowledged that they do not know on what most of the EU budget is spent, a majority of respondents made a wrong guess. Only 19% of Slovak respondents either know the budget of the European Union for the year 2008 or guessed the result correctly, that, in 2008, most of the EU budget (for the first time in the history of European integration) has to be spent on economic growth. The European average is even lower, with only 11% of respondents giving a correct answer. Another 6% of Slovak respondents answered that the European Union spends most of its budget on agriculture and rural development. Within the EU27, this answer was selected by 11% of respondents. This answer can also be considered correct, insofar as, until 2008, most of the EU budget was spent on the Common Agriculture Policy. Many more Slovaks believe that most of the budget is spent on assistance to the EU's neighbours, including candidate countries (13% in Slovakia and 7% in EU27), regional investment (10% in Slovakia and 4% in EU27), defence and security (9% in Slovakia and 7% in EU27) and administrative and personnel costs, buildings (9% in Slovakia and 13% in EU27).

The views and ideas of Slovak citizens on which areas they would like the European Union budget to be spent are also interesting. The greatest proportion of Slovaks, 21%, would like to spend the EU budget, first of all, on social affairs and employment. 20% of Slovaks would like to spend the EU budget on economic growth. Within the EU27, the order of preferences is the opposite. 19% of EU27 citizens would spend most of the EU budget on economic growth and 14% on social affairs and employment. These figures are in line with the findings of the Eurobarometer survey, according to which a majority of Slovaks want the European institutions to focus in the coming years on social issues.

## 5. Priorities of the European integration process in the coming years

According to Slovaks, the European Union should, in the coming years, focus above all on social issues, energy issues, the fight against crime, environmental issues, the internal market and European foreign policy. Social issues should become the priority of the European Union according to 39% of Slovak citizens, which is 12 points above the EU27 average. Moreover, in the European Union, social issues, together with environmental issues, are in third place behind the energy issues and immigration issues. Energy issues should become the EU priority according to 34% of Slovak citizens (4 points below the EU27 average), the fight against crime should become the EU priority according to 27% of Slovaks and environment issues should also become the EU priority according to 27%. As far as the fight against crime and environmental issues are concerned, the opinion of the Slovak citizens does not differ from the European average.

On the other hand, the opinion of the Slovak population differs most from the EU27 average in its view on immigration issues, which should become the priority of the European Union according to 29% of EU27 citizens, whereas, in Slovakia, only 15% of citizens consider this should become a priority. There is also a significant difference in the views on social issues. Considerable differences are also in the prioritisation of the European foreign policy, on which the EU should put emphasis, according to 26% of Slovak citizens (10 points above the EU27 average) and the internal market, on which the Union should also focus, according to 26% of citizens (8 points above the EU27 average).

The fact that the highest number of citizens of the Slovak Republic want the European Union to focus, in the coming years, on social issues is reflected also by the fact that, according to Slovaks, the EU budget should, above all, be spent on employment and social affairs. It is a paradox that Slovaks, in another part of the Eurobarometer survey, expressed the opinion that while, in the area of fighting unemployment, decisions should be made by the national government jointly with the European Union, the decisions in the area of social welfare should be made by the national government. Although these data may be somewhat biased in that, in some cases, the areas of employment and social issues were coupled into one answer, while in another case, they were offered as two separate options, the answers of the Slovak respondents show a discrepancy in the expectations of greater engagement of the Union in social issues (including spending more money from the EU budget) with the unwillingness of the transfer of competencies from the national level to the European Union.

From the point of view of trends, in Slovakia, during the last year, it has been observed that social issues as an expected priority of the EU for the coming years remain at approximately the same level of preference of citizens. It is a different situation concerning environmental and energy issues. After a temporary rise in the perception of the importance of environmental issues, in spring 2008, there was a significant decrease in the citations of this area of 10 points. On the other hand, in the case of energy issues, since the last survey undertaken in spring 2008, we can observe an 8-point increase of the percentage of Slovaks, who would like to see this area as one of the priorities of the European Union.

In the Eurobarometer No 70 survey, the extent of the support for the membership of certain countries in the European Union (whether or not they have official status of the candidate country) has not been examined. However, respondents expressed their opinion concerning the further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years. The support for the further enlargement of the European Union is considerable higher in Slovakia than the European average. A majority (63%) of Slovak citizens favour the further enlargement of the EU, while only 24% oppose it. In the EU27, an average of less than half (44%) of citizens is in favour of further EU enlargement to include other countries in future years, and almost the same number (43%) is against it.

## **EUROBAROMETER 70.1 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Between the 6th of October and the 6th of November 2008, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe, carried out wave 70.1 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Political Analysis".

The EUROBAROMETER 70.1 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 EUROBAROMETER 70.1 has also been conducted in the three candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire. The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

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

<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>COUNTRIES</b>	<b>INSTITUTES</b>	<b>N° INTERVIEWS</b>	<b>FIELDWORK DATES</b>		<b>POPULATION 15+</b>
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.002	10/10/2008	06/11/2008	8.786.805
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.006	09/10/2008	20/10/2008	6.647.375
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.026	06/10/2008	22/10/2008	8.571.710
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.029	06/10/2008	02/11/2008	4.432.931
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.526	10/10/2008	02/11/2008	64.546.096
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.000	10/10/2008	03/11/2008	887.094
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	10/10/2008	02/11/2008	8.691.304
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.000	09/10/2008	06/11/2008	38.536.844
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.027	06/10/2008	31/10/2008	46.425.653
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1.000	06/10/2008	31/10/2008	3.375.399
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.061	08/10/2008	24/10/2008	48.892.559
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	503	08/10/2008	02/11/2008	638.900
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Comm.	KADEM	500	07/10/2008	27/10/2008	143.226
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.002	10/10/2008	04/11/2008	1.444.884
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.011	09/10/2008	28/10/2008	2.846.756
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	500	06/10/2008	03/11/2008	388.914
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.002	10/10/2008	02/11/2008	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	09/10/2008	03/11/2008	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.041	09/10/2008	05/11/2008	13.017.690
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.003	06/10/2008	28/10/2008	7.004.205
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	11/10/2008	31/10/2008	32.155.805
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.000	11/10/2008	03/11/2008	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.053	07/10/2008	03/11/2008	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.006	07/10/2008	04/11/2008	1.729.298
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.006	09/10/2008	26/10/2008	4.316.438
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.004	15/10/2008	06/11/2008	4.353.495
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.002	13/10/2008	03/11/2008	7.562.263
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.308	07/10/2008	02/11/2008	50.519.877
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	08/10/2008	29/10/2008	3.734.300
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.003	08/10/2008	05/11/2008	47.583.830
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.009	07/10/2008	16/10/2008	1.648.012
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>30.130</b>	<b>06/10/2008</b>	<b>06/11/2008</b>	<b>453.865.399</b>

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