

EUROBAROMETER 72

PUBLIC OPINION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

AUTUMN 2009

NATIONAL REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SLOVAK REPUBLIC

This survey was requested and coordinated by Directorate-General for Communication.
































This report was produced for the European Commission's Representation in the Slovak Republic.

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.

1. Views on the European Union

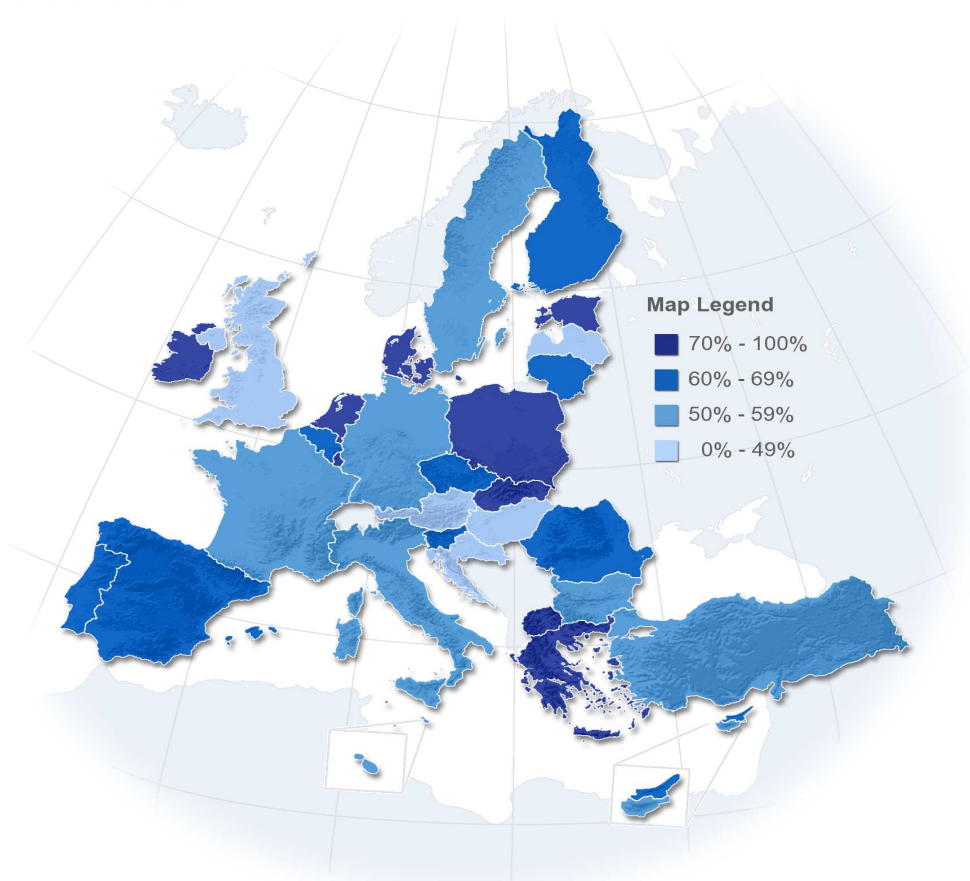
The Slovak Republic traditionally belongs to those EU member states with the highest number of citizens satisfied with their country's EU membership. In autumn 2009, 68% of Slovak citizens considered EU membership to be a good thing, placing it in fourth place after Luxemburg (74%), the Netherlands (74%) and Ireland (72%). In comparison with the EU27 average, satisfaction with EU membership is 15 percentage points higher. From the point of view of trends, it can be seen that following the spring 2009 Eurobarometer survey, in which the highest number of respondents considered EU membership to be a good thing was recorded since Slovakia joined the EU, this figure has recorded an increase, once again, in autumn 2009.

Slovaks are even more positive as far as the assessment as to whether the Slovak Republic has benefited or not from the membership in the European Union is concerned. 80% of citizens think that Slovakia has benefited from Union membership. This result ranks the country in second place among all EU member states, only 1 point behind Ireland and 1 point ahead of Estonia.

 IE	81%
 SK	80%
 EE	79%
 DK	75%
 PL	74%
 NL	74%
 LU	72%
 EL	71%
 LT	66%
 RO	66%
 ES	66%
 BE	65%
 SI	64%
 PT	64%
 CZ	62%
 FI	60%
 MT	59%
 DE	57%
 EU27	57%
 SE	55%
 FR	54%
 CY	50%
 IT	50%
 BG	50%
 AT	46%
 HU	38%
 LV	37%
 UK	36%
<small>* CY (tcc) 62%</small>	
 MK	76%
 TR	50%
 HR	36%



Question: QA8. Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the European Union?

Answers: Benefited



In Slovakia, the number of citizens who believe their country has benefited from EU membership is 23 points above the EU27 average. From the point of view of trends, it can be seen that the highest ever proportion of citizens thinking Slovakia had benefited from its EU membership, recorded in spring 2009, has, once again, been observed in this latest survey.

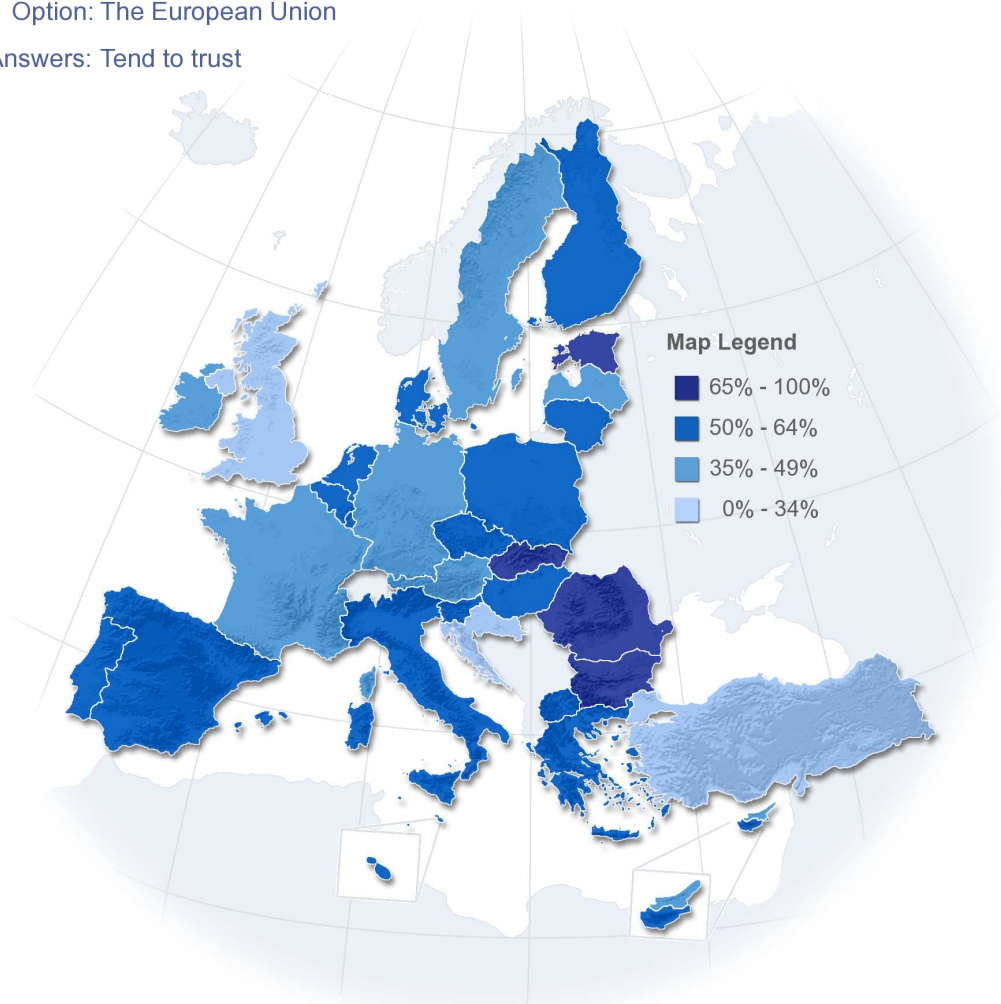
Slovaks have also, for several years, been among those EU citizens, who trust the European Union most. In autumn 2009, 71% Slovak citizens trusted the EU - the highest percentage in the whole EU. Trust in the EU in Estonia and Bulgaria was 2 points lower. In terms of this indicator, Slovakia reached a new record in autumn 2009. Never before, since Slovakia joined the EU, had such a high number of Slovaks trusted the European Union.

 SK	71%
 EE	69%
 BG	69%
 RO	67%
 LU	62%
 PT	62%
 EL	60%
 NL	60%
 DK	60%
 CY	59%
 CZ	59%
 BE	57%
 ES	56%
 FI	55%
 MT	54%
 LT	54%
 HU	53%
 IT	52%
 PL	52%
 SI	50%
 EU27	48%
 IE	47%
 AT	47%
 SE	45%
 DE	44%
 LV	44%
 FR	42%
 UK	23%
* CY (tcc) 43%	
 MK	62%
 HR	34%
 TR	33%

Question: QA10.10. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

Option: The European Union

Answers: Tend to trust



Slovak citizens had markedly lower levels of trust in their national institutions. 36% of citizens trust the national government (7 points above the EU27 average) and 35% of citizens trust the national parliament (5 points above the EU27 average). Of all the institutions they were asked about, Slovaks have the lowest level of trust in their justice and legal system. Only 29% of citizens trust their national justice and legal system, i.e. 14 points below the EU27 average. The same low level of trust in their national justice and legal system is also seen in the Czech Republic. Only citizens of Romania (28%), Latvia (26%), Slovenia (19%), Bulgaria (17%) and Lithuania (15%) have lower levels of trust in their national justice and legal systems. From the point of view of trends, since autumn 2008, a further fall in the level of trust in the Slovak government, as well as in the Slovak parliament, may be observed. While, in autumn 2008, a record high of 46% trusted the Slovak government, in spring 2009, the figure was only 40%, and, in autumn 2009, only 36%. However, it is still double the level of trust that the previous government had approximately half a year before the last parliamentary elections. A similar decrease may also be observed in the case of the Slovak parliament. In spring 2008, 41% trusted the Slovak parliament, in spring 2009, only 37%, and in autumn 2009, only 35%.

After one and half years, questions concerning trust in the media were, once again, included in the survey. In general, Slovaks have a high level of trust in the media, and higher in the electronic media than in the press. 75% of citizens trust radio (17 points above the EU27 average) and 74% trust television (25 points above the EU27 average). 55% of citizens trust the press, i.e. still 13 points above the EU27 average.

Like the European Union as a whole, Slovaks have a high level of trust in the EU institutions. Traditionally, among all EU institutions, Slovaks trust the European Parliament most. In spite of the fact that, in Slovakia, in 2009, European election turnout was only 19.6%, 71% of Slovaks trust the newly elected European Parliament. That is the highest percentage in the entire European Union, 21 points above the EU27 average and 5 points more than in Luxemburg, which is second in the ranking. Also, as far as trust in the European Commission is concerned, Slovakia ranked first, with 64% of Slovaks trusting this European institution, while, in second place, was Estonia (62%) and, in third, the Netherlands (61%). Slovakia also ranked first in terms of trust in the Council of the European Union. 63% of Slovaks trust the Council of the EU, while Estonia was ranked second (59%), followed by the Czech Republic (58%). Slovakia was not ranked in first place in the case of trust in the European Central Bank. Finland, where 71% of citizens trust the ECB, ranked first. Slovakia, where 65% of citizens trust the ECB ranked second, just ahead of Denmark with 64%.

2. State of Opinion

While Slovaks assess the financial situation of their household and their personal job situation reasonably positively, their views on the situation of the Slovak, European and world economies, as well as on the employment situation in Slovakia, are markedly negative and pessimistic. The financial situation of their households is assessed as good (when adding together 'very good' and 'rather good' responses) by 58%, i.e. 6 points below the EU27 average. Their personal job situation is considered good by 53%, i.e. only 1 point below the EU27 average.

However, the employment situation in their country is considered as good by only 7% of citizens, while 49% consider it to be rather bad and a further 43% even saying it is very bad. The situation of the national economy is considered to be good only by 18% of Slovak citizens, while 60% assess it as rather bad and an additional 21% as very bad. Slovaks are moderately positive as far as the situation of the European economy is concerned, which is assessed as good by 39% of citizens, while 49% consider it to be rather bad and 8% very bad.

Slovaks' expectations are more optimistic (although less than the European average) concerning the next twelve months. An improvement of the economic situation in their own country is expected by 19% of Slovaks, i.e. 9 points below the EU27 average. 38% of Slovaks do not expect any change, i.e. the same as the European average, and a worsening of the economic situation is expected by 40%, i.e. 9 points below the EU27 average. Although these figures do not look very optimistic, from the point of view of trends, a turning-point may have been reached. While from spring 2007 till spring 2009, the number of Slovak citizens who expected an improvement in the economic situation in Slovakia decreased from 40% to 14%, in autumn 2009, the figure has increased by 5 points.

Slovaks are even more positive as far as their expectations concerning the economic situation in the EU. An improvement is expected by 26% of Slovaks, i.e. a figure that is 4 points below the EU27 average. No change is expected by 43%, i.e. 5 points above the European average and a worsening of the situation is expected by 26%, i.e. 5 points above the EU27 average. Another break in the trend may also be seen here: while, from spring 2007 till spring 2009, the number of Slovaks who expected an improvement of the economic situation in the EU decreased from 41% to 17%, in autumn 2009, it increased by 9 points.

There has also been an increase in Slovaks' optimism in the case of responses to the question concerning expectations for the next twelve months, as far as the employment situation in their country is concerned. An improvement in the situation is expected by 17% of Slovaks, i.e. 5 points above the EU27 average. No change is expected by 29% of Slovaks, i.e. 5 points below the European average and a worsening of the situation is expected by 51% of Slovak citizens, i.e. 11 points above the EU27 average. Although these figures show the significantly negative opinion of the Slovak population, from the point of view of trends, it can be seen that, over the period from spring 2007 till spring 2009, the number of Slovaks who expected an improvement in the employment situation in Slovakia fell from 39% to 10%, in autumn 2009, their number has risen by 7 points.

The situation is somewhat different in the case of answers to the question concerning expectations for the next twelve months regarding personal job situation. In this case, the majority of Slovaks does not expect any change. This opinion was expressed by 53% of Slovaks, i.e. 6 points above the European average. An improvement in the situation is expected by 14% of Slovaks, i.e. 5 points below the EU27 average, and a worsening by 17%, i.e. 6 points above the EU27 average. Expectations of Slovaks for the next twelve months regarding the financial situation of their households are moderate. The majority of Slovak (56%), as well as EU27 respondents (57%), do not expect any change. An improvement is expected by 17% of Slovak citizens and by 21% of EU27 citizens, while a worsening of the situation is expected by 25% of Slovaks and by 19% of EU27 citizens.

The most important issue Slovakia faces is unemployment. 64% of Slovak citizens hold this opinion, i.e. 13 points above the European average. The second most important issue is the economic situation. 45% of Slovaks cited the economic situation as one of two most important issues their country is facing, i.e. 5 points above the EU27 average. In third and fourth place are crime (20% in Slovakia, 21% in the EU27) and rising prices/ inflation (18% in Slovakia, 19% in the EU27). From the trends point of view, a dramatic change since autumn 2008 may be observed. In the period from autumn 2008 to spring 2009, the previous trend of falling numbers of Slovak citizens considering unemployment to be one of the two most important issues faced by Slovakia has been reversed. From 26% in spring 2008, the number of those citizens jumped to 60% in spring 2009. In autumn 2009, it has risen by an additional 4 points. In the case of the economic situation, the development was different. In the period from autumn 2008 to spring 2009, a similar dramatic reverse occurred and the number of citizens who considered the economic situation to be one of the two most important issues their country is facing increased from 29% to 52%. However, in autumn 2009, it has decreased again by 7 points.

However, Slovaks have a different perception of problems they are facing personally at the moment. Rising prices/inflation, the economic situation and the healthcare system are the top three most important issues they are facing. Rising prices/inflation are perceived as a

problem they are facing personally by 38% of Slovak citizens, which is the same as the European average. The economic situation is perceived as a personal problem by 30% of Slovaks. The healthcare system is a problem which 19% of Slovak citizens are facing personally. From the point of view of trends, since autumn 2008, the number of Slovaks who perceive rising prices/inflation as their personal problem has decreased from 52% to 38%. From the comparison of the areas which Slovaks consider the most important issue their country is facing and the issues they are facing personally comes out that while unemployment is considered by 64% of Slovak citizens to be the most important issue Slovakia is facing, only 15% of them consider it to be their personal problem. The economic situation is also considered to be one of the most important issues Slovakia is facing by 45% of its citizens. However, only 30% of them consider it to be a problem they are facing personally. And, last but not least, crime is considered by 20% of Slovaks to be one of the most important issues their country is facing. However, only 4% consider it to be the problem they are facing personally. On the other hand, rising prices/inflation is considered to be one of the most important issues their country faces by only 18% of Slovaks. Nevertheless, 38% consider it to be one of the most important issues they face from a personal point of view.

3. Democracy and Values

The results of this Eurobarometer No. 72 survey show that, while the European average of respondents' satisfaction with the way democracy works in the European Union and in their own country is almost at the same level, citizens of the Slovak Republic are more satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union, but are less satisfied than the European average with the way democracy works in their own country. 61% of Slovaks are very satisfied or rather satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union while the EU27 average is 54%. However, only 40% of Slovaks are satisfied with the way democracy works in their own country while the corresponding EU27 average is 53%. From the point of view of trends since spring 2006, growth in the satisfaction of Slovaks with the way democracy works both in Slovakia as well as in the European Union is observed. Between autumn 2007 and autumn 2009, the proportion of citizens who were satisfied (addition of 'very satisfied' and 'rather satisfied' responses) with the way democracy works in Slovakia has increased by 5 points. At the same time, the number of Slovaks satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU has increased by 13 points. The reason for such a strong increase in satisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU may be credited to the approval of the Lisbon Treaty and citizens' expectations that the Lisbon Treaty will strengthen democracy in the EU.

Just as Slovaks' satisfaction with the way democracy works in the European Union has increased in recent years, so too has the number of Slovaks who think that they understand how the EU works. While, in autumn 2007, only 27% of Slovaks thought that they understood how the EU works, in autumn 2009, the figure reached 53%, thus almost double. Moreover, in autumn 2009, for the first time since Slovakia joined the EU, a majority of Slovaks believed that they understand how the EU works. Slovakia is thus also significantly – by 9 points – above the EU27 average of 44% of citizens who think they understand how the European Union works, while 48% of EU27 citizens do not think so.

More Slovaks on average than EU27 citizens think that the interests of their country are well taken into account in the European Union. 63% of Slovaks think this, while 32% of them do not share this opinion. In the EU27, only 39% of citizens think that the interests of their country are well taken into account in the EU, with 47% holding the contrary view. Back in autumn 2007, only 29% of Slovaks felt that their country's interests of Slovakia were well taken into account in the EU, with 60% holding the contrary opinion.

However, in Slovakia, there still prevails the opinion that public authorities in the country have a greater impact on citizens' living conditions than public authorities at the European level. The highest proportion of Slovaks (38% - the same as the EU27 average) identified themselves with the opinion that local and regional authorities have the most impact on their living conditions. A somewhat smaller proportion (35% - 10 points below the EU27 average)

thinks that public authorities at national level have the most impact on their living conditions. Only 23% (12 points above the EU27 average) think that public authorities at European level have the most impact on their living conditions. From the point of view of trends, it can be seen that, in comparison with spring 2009, the proportion of citizens who think that public authorities at national level have the most impact on their living conditions has decreased from 43% to 35%. At the same time, between spring and autumn 2009, the proportion of citizens who think that public authorities at European level have the most impact on their living conditions has increased from 19% to 23%. This increase could be influenced by approval of the Lisbon Treaty in the Irish referendum and following public discussion on changes in the functioning of the EU after the Lisbon Treaty comes into force.

A majority of Slovaks believe that free competition is the best guarantee for economic prosperity. 79% of Slovaks agree with this view, i.e. 13 points above the EU27 average. At the same time, a majority (61%, same as in the EU27 as a whole) of Slovaks agree with the opinion that the state intervenes too much in their lives.

According to Slovaks, the most important values are human rights, peace and respect for human life. These three issues are also the most important values for EU27 citizens in general, although the order and the emphasis on individual issues differ. While in the EU27, citizens cite respect for human life (44%, 9 points more than in Slovakia), then peace (42%, 3 points more than in Slovakia) and then human rights (40%), 2 points less than in Slovakia), in Slovakia, human rights (42%) are in first place, then peace (39%), followed by respect for human life (35%).

From the point of view of Slovaks, the European Union is best represented by the following values: democracy, human rights and peace. More than half of Slovaks (52%) think that democracy is the value that represents the European Union the best. In the EU27, democracy is also in first place but at only 39%. The greatest difference in the opinions of Slovak and EU27 citizens as a whole is in their view on democracy, human rights and rule of law. Slovaks put greater emphasis on democracy (13 points more than EU27 average) and human rights (8 points more than EU27 average). On the other hand, EU27 respondents as a whole put greater emphasis than Slovaks on rule of the law (8 points more).

4. Role of the European Union in the Time of Economic Crisis

Less than a year after introduction of Euro, Slovaks have a much more positive opinion on the common European currency than the European average. 68% of them agree with the opinion that, overall, the Euro has mitigated the negative effects of the current financial and economic crisis. In the EU27, as a whole, only 41% of citizens share this opinion, while 45% do not agree.

In the time of financial and economic crisis, Slovaks, unlike EU27 respondents, prioritise investments in transport infrastructure as the best tool to improve the performance of the European economy. 49% of Slovaks hold this view. In the EU27, only 25% of citizens agree. In the EU27, the majority of citizens prioritise improving education and professional training (60%), whereas in Slovakia, only 46% of citizens cite this tool. In Slovakia, citizens also prefer to use energy more efficiently (44%, 11 points above EU27 average), whereas, in the EU27, citizens put greater emphasis on facilitating the creation of companies (42%, 12 points more than in Slovakia). From the point of view of trends, an interesting development has occurred. In comparison to spring 2009, the number of Slovaks who, as a tool to improve the performance of the European economy, prioritise improving education and vocational training had decreased by 17 points, the proportion of those who prioritise investments in transport infrastructure had decreased by 10 points and of those who prioritise investment in research and innovation had decreased by 8 points. However, there was no corresponding increase observed in Slovaks citing any of the other alternative tools proposed in the questionnaire,

which would suggest that Slovaks feel that none of the tools to improve the performance of the European economy that are listed are the right ones.

Slovaks, like EU27 citizens as a whole, think that the European Union's priority to help people overcome the effects of the financial and economic crisis should be support to SMEs/small business. This opinion is shared by 36% of Slovaks and 37% of EU27 citizens. Slovaks put in second place support for the unemployed (30%, 6 points above the EU27 average), while, in the EU27 as a whole, citizens put investment in education/training/research (28%, 6 points more than in Slovakia) in second place. From the point of view of trends since spring 2009, considerable changes in Slovak opinion may be observed. While in spring 2009, 47% of Slovaks preferred support to SMEs/small business, in autumn 2009, the figure was only 36%. On the other hand, in spring 2009, 20% of Slovaks preferred support for the unemployed, but in autumn 2009, the figure rose to 30%. Support for the poorest, cited in spring 2009 by 12% of Slovaks, rose to 22% in autumn 2009.

5. Future of European Integration

The top priority for the European Union for the years to come should be economic recovery, According to 72% of Slovaks and 69% of EU27 respondents. In second place, boosting growth in a sustainable way should be an EU priority according to 45% of Slovaks and 49% of EU27 respondents. Slovaks want the EU to pay more attention to progress on citizens' rights (34%, 6 points above EU27 average) more than EU27 citizens. On the other hand, Slovaks cite fighting climate change less frequently than EU27 respondents as a whole. In Slovakia, only one-third (33%) of citizens considers this to be a priority, while, in the EU27 as a whole, the corresponding figure is 44%.

In order to fight climate change, EU27 respondents prioritise the development of environmentally-friendly industries, services and technologies the most (44%, 9 points more than in Slovakia) whereas Slovaks prioritise both taking into account the fight against climate change in all European Union policies such as in industry, agriculture or transport (36%) as well as developing environmentally-friendly industries, services and technologies (35%). Slovaks also think that the priorities of the European Union should be to secure energy supply (26%, 6 points above EU27 average) more than EU27 citizens in general, as well as developing the use of nuclear energy (16%, 6 points above EU27 average). In order to make progress on citizens' rights, according to Slovaks, the EU's priority should be to enhance the dialogue between the European Union's citizens and its institutions. 44% of Slovaks share this opinion, a figure which is 7 points above the EU27 average. In second place, 39% of Slovaks (8 points more than the EU27 average) cite the need to respond to the challenges created by the ageing of the population.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 23rd of October and the 18th of November 2009, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out wave 72.4 of the EUROBAROMETER, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Research and Political Analysis".

The EUROBAROMETER 72.4 is the "STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 72" 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 STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 72 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.

ABBREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.006	30/10/2009	17/11/2009	8.866.411
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.008	29/10/2009	09/11/2009	6.584.957
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.056	30/10/2009	13/11/2009	8.987.535
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.006	24/10/2009	17/11/2009	4.503.365
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.514	30/10/2009	15/11/2009	64.545.601
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.002	23/10/2009	16/11/2009	916.000
IE	Ireland	TNS MRBI	1.011	30/10/2009	15/11/2009	3.375.399
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	28/10/2009	15/11/2009	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.020	30/10/2009	17/11/2009	39.059.211
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.005	28/10/2009	16/11/2009	47.620.942
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.036	30/10/2009	14/11/2009	51.252.247
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	Synovate	506	26/10/2009	15/11/2009	651.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.006	30/10/2009	16/11/2009	1.448.719
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.023	27/10/2009	11/11/2009	2.849.359
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	502	27/10/2009	15/11/2009	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.023	29/10/2009	15/11/2009	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	28/10/2009	14/11/2009	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.004	29/10/2009	18/11/2009	13.017.690
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.030	27/10/2009	13/11/2009	6.973.277
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	30/10/2009	15/11/2009	32.306.436
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.025	29/10/2009	15/11/2009	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.021	30/10/2009	11/11/2009	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.015	24/10/2009	15/11/2009	1.748.308
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA SK	1.040	30/10/2009	15/11/2009	4.549.954
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.018	29/10/2009	18/11/2009	4.412.321
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.032	26/10/2009	15/11/2009	7.723.931
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.322	30/10/2009	17/11/2009	51.081.866
TOTAL EU27			26.731	23/10/2009	18/11/2009	406.557.138
CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	Kadem	500	02/11/2009	14/11/2009	143.226
HR	Croatia	Puls	1.000	27/10/2009	12/11/2009	3.749.400
TR	Turkey	TNS PIAR	1.002	27/10/2009	15/11/2009	52.728.513
MK	Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	TNS Brima	1.005	27/10/2009	02/11/2009	1.678.404
TOTAL			30.238	23/10/2009	18/11/2009	464.856.681

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:

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