

**ZA4984**

**Flash Eurobarometer 257  
(Views on European Union enlargement)**

**Country Specific Questionnaire  
Ireland**

# FLASH 257 - ENLARGEMENT

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In 1989, regimes of Central and Eastern Europe countries linked to the Soviet Union collapsed, and in a number of countries significant political changes took place. These events are now known under the generic names of 'fall of the Iron Curtain' or 'fall of the Berlin Wall'. In 2004 eight Eastern and Central European countries joined the European Union followed by Bulgaria and Romania in 2007.

We would like to know your opinion about these two events, the fall of the so called Iron Curtain twenty years ago and integration of Central/Eastern European countries into the European Union.

**Q1. Bearing in mind the changes following "the fall of the Iron Curtain" in 1989, would you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

- Agree .....1
- Disagree .....2
- [DK/NA] .....9

- a) These changes have brought more freedom to everyone in Europe.....1 2 9
- b) These changes resulted in better living standards in Central and Eastern Europe  
☐ .....1 2 9
- c) These changes created new opportunities only for the younger generation .....1 2 9
- d) These changes contributed to the disappearance of borders and allowed the free movement of people within Europe .....1 2 9
- e) These changes were only important for the Central and Eastern European countries  
☐ .....1 2 9
- f) These changes have offered good business opportunities for Western European companies in Central and Eastern Europe .....1 2 9

**Q2. Now, I would like to ask you to evaluate the overall impact of these changes. Would you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

- Agree .....1
- Disagree .....2
- [DK/NA] .....9

- a) The quality of life in Central and Eastern European countries has improved considerably since 1989  
.....1 2 9
- b) The situation which prevailed in Central and Eastern European countries before 1989 was better than today's one  
☐ .....1 2 9

c) These changes made life more insecure in our country.....1 2 9

**Q3. Regarding the consequences of the integration of Central and Eastern European countries into the European Union, would you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

- Agree .....1
- Disagree .....2
- [DK/NA] .....9

a) It has helped to preserve security and stability in Europe as a whole .....1 2 9

b) It has created problems because of the existence of too different cultures and values among the different countries of the European Union

☐ .....1 2 9

c) It has led to the spread of democratic values and has consolidated the protection of human rights across Europe

☐ .....1 2 9

d) It has contributed to job losses in our country .....1 2 9

e) It has increased the European Union's weight in world politics .....1 2 9

f) It has lowered social standards in Europe as a whole .....1 2 9

g) It has increased prosperity and economic competitiveness for Europe as a whole

☐ .....1 2 9

h) It has increased the feeling of insecurity in Europe as whole .....1 2 9

i) It has increased European security by allowing progress in the fight against organized crime and illegal immigration

☐ .....1 2 9

j) It has led to growth and modernisation in the economies of Central and Eastern European countries

☐ .....1 2 9

k) It has led to Western European countries making massive financial transfers to help these countries to modernize

☐ .....1 2 9

l) It has increased people's possibilities to freely move and travel within the European Union

☐ .....1 2 9

m) It has made the European Union more difficult to manage .....1 2 9

**Q4A. In case the European Union would consider accepting new Member countries in the future, according to you, what should be the two most important issues from the following list to be taken into account by Europe as a whole when making a decision.**

*For Europe as a whole*

- Freedom and democratic values .....1
- Ageing of European population.....2
- European Union’s role in the world.....3
- Economic issues.....4
- Stability at European Union’s borders.....5
- Cultural and religious issues .....6
- Immigration issues.....7
- [No second choice] .....8
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q4B.** In case the European Union would consider accepting new Member countries in the future, according to you, what should be the two most important issues FROM the following list to be taken into account by [our country] when making a decision.

*For [OUR COUNTRY]*

- Freedom and democratic values .....1
- Ageing of European population.....2
- European Union’s role in the world.....3
- Economic issues.....4
- Stability at European Union’s borders.....5
- Cultural and religious issues .....6
- Immigration issues.....7
- [No second choice] .....8
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q4C.** In case the European Union would consider accepting new Member countries in the future, what would be the two most important issues for you personally from the following list to be taken into account when making a decision.

*For you personally?*

- Freedom and democratic values .....1
- Ageing of European population.....2
- European Union’s role in the world.....3
- Economic issues.....4
- Stability at European Union’s borders.....5
- Cultural and religious issues .....6
- Immigration issues.....7
- [No second choice] .....8
- [DK/NA] .....9

## BACKGROUND VARIABLES

### D1. Gender

*[DO NOT ASK - MARK APPROPRIATE]*

- [1] Male
- [2] Female

### D2. How old are you?

- [ ][ ] years old
- [00] [REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]

### D11. What is the highest level of education you have acquired?

- Primary education .....1
- Secondary education .....2
- Higher education .....3
- [REFUSED] .....9

### D4. As far as your current occupation is concerned, would you say you are self-employed, an employee, a manual worker or would you say that you are without a professional activity? Does it mean that you are a(n)...

*[IF A RESPONSE TO THE MAIN CATEGORY IS GIVEN, READ OUT THE RESPECTIVE SUB-CATEGORIES]*

#### - Self-employed

- i.e. : - farmer, forester, fisherman ..... 11
- owner of a shop, craftsman ..... 12
- professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect,...) ..... 13
- manager of a company ..... 14
- other ..... 15

#### - Employee

- i.e. : - professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect) ..... 21
- general management, director or top management ..... 22
- middle management ..... 23
- Civil servant ..... 24
- office clerk ..... 25
- other employee (salesman, nurse, etc...) ..... 26
- other ..... 27

#### - Manual worker

- i.e. : - supervisor / foreman (team manager, etc...) ..... 31
- Manual worker ..... 32
- unskilled manual worker ..... 33
- other ..... 34

#### - Without a professional activity

- i.e. : - looking after the home ..... 41
- student (full time) ..... 42
- retired ..... 43

- seeking a job .....	44
- other .....	45
- [Refusal] .....	99

**D6. Would you say you live in a ...?**

- metropolitan zone .....	1
- other town/urban centre .....	2
- rural zone.....	3
- [Refusal].....	9