

Flash Eurobarometer 292
March 2010

Electoral Rights of EU Citizens

Basic questionnaire

The GALLUP Organization

**FLASH EUROBAROMETER
ON ELECTORAL RIGHTS FOR CITIZENS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

I would like to ask you about some issues regarding the rights that a citizen of the European Union has

Q1. For each of the statements which I am going to read out, please tell me if this is true or false:

[ONE ANSWER PER LINE]

- True 1
- False 2
- [DK/NA] 9

A. A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY), has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in municipal elections. 1 2 9

ITEM B SHOULD BE ASKED ONLY IN:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden the United Kingdom.

B. A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY), has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in regional elections. 1 2 9

C. A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY), has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in elections to national Parliaments. 1 2 9

D. A citizen of the EU living in (OUR COUNTRY), has the right to vote or to stand as a candidate in European Parliament elections. 1 2 9

Q2. Let's take a situation where a citizen of the EU lives in another Member State than his/her Member State of origin (i.e. of which he/she is a national).

Should this citizen have the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in REGIONAL elections organised in the Member State where he/she lives in case regional elections are held there?

- Yes..... 1
- No..... 2
- [DK/NA] 9

Q3. Let's stay with the same situation where a citizen of the EU lives in another Member State than his/her Member State of origin (i.e. of which he/she is a national).

Should this citizen have the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in NATIONAL elections organised in the Member State where he/she lives?

- Yes..... 1

- No..... 2
- [DK/NA] 9

Q4. If you lived in another Member State than your Member State of origin (i.e. of which you are a national) would you rather vote in European elections for... ..

- The candidates of your Member State of residence, or 1
- The candidates of your Member State of origin? 2
- [DK/NA] 9

Q5. Do you think that a list in the European elections can attract more voters if it includes candidates who are nationals of other Member States?

- Yes..... 1
- No..... 2
- [DK/NA] 9

Q6. In future European elections turnout would be higher if ...

- Yes..... 1
 - No..... 2
 - [DK/NA] 9
-
- A. - ... The polling date was switched from June to May? 1 2 9
 - B. - ... More information was provided on the European Parliament elections? 1 2 9
 - C. - ... More information was provided on the programmes and objectives of candidates and parties in the European Parliament? 1 2 9
 - D. - ... More information was provided on the impact of the European Union on your daily life? 1 2 9
 - E. - ... The elections were held on a same day across the European Union?..... 1 2 9
 - F. - ... [Other] 1 2 9

Q7. Do you think that a list in local elections can attract more voters if it included candidates who are the nationals of other Member States?

- Yes..... 1
- No..... 2
- [DK/NA] 9

D1. Gender

(DO NOT ASK- MARK APPROPRIATE)

- Male..... 1
- Female 2

D2. How old are you?

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

D3. How old were you when you stopped full-time education?

(Write in THE AGE WHEN EDUCATION WAS TERMINATED)

- [][] years old
- [99] [REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]
- [01] [NEVER BEEN IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
- [00] [STILL IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]

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 - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- 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

Flash EB Series #292

Electoral rights of EU citizens

Conducted by
The Gallup Organization, Hungary
upon the request of the former Directorate-
General for Justice and Security (after an
administrative reorganisation now DG Justice).



Survey organised and managed by the
Directorate-General for Communication (DG
COMM "Research and Speechwriting" Unit).

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.

THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION

6. Survey details

This survey on the General population survey on “*Awareness of electoral rights of the EU citizens*” (No 292) was conducted for the European Commission, Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security, Directorate D - Fundamental Rights and Citizenship –Unit D4.

Telephone interviews were conducted in each country, with the exception of the Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia where both telephone and face-to-face interviews were conducted (70% webCATI and 30% F2F interviews). Note: Flash Eurobarometer surveys systematically include mobile phones in samples in Austria, Finland, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Telephone interviews were conducted in each country between the 10/03/2010 and the 14/03/2010 by the following institutes:

Belgium	BE	Gallup Europe	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Czech Republic	CZ	Focus Agency	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Denmark	DK	Hermelin	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Germany	DE	IFAK	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Estonia	EE	Saar Poll	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Greece	EL	Metroanalysis	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Spain	ES	Gallup Spain	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
France	FR	Effience3	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Ireland	IE	Gallup UK	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Italy	IT	Demoskopoea	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Cyprus	CY	CYMAR	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Latvia	LV	Latvian Facts	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Lithuania	LT	Baltic Survey	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Luxembourg	LU	Gallup Europe	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Hungary	HU	Gallup Hungary	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Malta	MT	MISCO	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Netherlands	NL	MSR	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Austria	AT	Spectra	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Poland	PL	Gallup Poland	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Portugal	PT	Consulmark	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Slovenia	SI	Cati d.o.o	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Slovakia	SK	Focus Agency	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Finland	FI	Norstat Finland Oy	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Sweden	SE	Hermelin	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
United Kingdom	UK	Gallup UK	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Bulgaria	BG	Vitosh	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)
Romania	RO	Gallup Romania	(Interviews : 10/03/2010 - 14/03/2010)

Representativeness of the results

Each national sample is representative of the population aged 15 years and above.

Sizes of the sample

In each EU countries the target sample size was 1000 respondents. The below table shows the achieved sample size by country.

A weighting factor was applied to the national results in order to compute a marginal total where each country contributes to the European Union result in proportion to its population.

The table below presents, for each of the countries:

- (1) the number of interviews actually carried out in each country
- (2) the population-weighted total number of interviews for each country

TOTAL INTERVIEWS

	Total Interviews			
	Conducted	% of Total	EU27 Weighted	% on Total (weighted)
Total	27125	100	27125	100
BE	1000	3.7	572	2.1
BG	1000	3.7	432	1.6
CZ	1001	3.7	573	2.1
DK	1015	3.7	288	1.1
DE	1001	3.7	4611	17.0
EE	1007	3.7	74	0.3
EL	1015	3.7	623	2.3
ES	1003	3.7	2473	9.1
FR	1003	3.7	3359	12.4
IE	1002	3.7	224	0.8
IT	1003	3.7	3306	12.2
CY	1010	3.7	42	0.2
LV	1006	3.7	128	0.5
LT	1001	3.7	185	0.7
LU	1006	3.7	25	0.1
HU	1001	3.7	555	2.0
MT	1010	3.7	22	0.1
NL	1001	3.7	872	3.2
AT	1000	3.7	456	1.7
PL	1010	3.7	2089	7.7
PT	1000	3.7	583	2.1
RO	1006	3.7	1187	4.4
SI	1000	3.7	113	0.4
SK	1009	3.7	294	1.1
FI	1002	3.7	285	1.0
SE	1006	3.7	492	1.8
UK	1007	3.7	3262	12.0

Questionnaires

1. The questionnaire prepared for this survey is reproduced at the end of this results volume, in English (see hereafter).
2. The institutes listed above translated the questionnaire in their respective national language(s).

Sampling error

Surveys are designed and conducted to provide an estimate of a true value of characteristics of a population at a given time. An estimate of a survey is unlikely to exactly equal the true population quantity of interest for a variety of reasons. One of these reasons is that data in a survey are collected from only some – a sample of – members of the population, this to make data collection cheaper and faster. The “margin of error” is a common summary of sampling error, which quantifies uncertainty about (or confidence in) a survey result.

Usually, one calculates a 95 percent confidence interval of the format: survey estimate +/- margin of error. This interval of values will contain the true population value at least 95% of time.

For example, if it was estimated that 45% of EU citizens are in favour of a single European currency and this estimate is based on a sample of 100 EU citizens, the associated margin of error is about 10 percentage points. The 95 percent confidence interval for support for a European single currency would be (45%-10%) to (45%+10%), suggesting that in the EU the support for a European single currency could range from 35% to 55%. Because of the small sample size of 100 EU citizens, there is considerable uncertainty about whether or not the citizens of the EU support a single currency.

As a general rule, the more interviews conducted (sample size), the smaller the margin of error. Larger samples are more likely to give results closer to the true population quantity and thus have smaller margins of error. For example, a sample of 500 will produce a margin of error of no more than about 4.5 percentage points, and a sample of 1,000 will produce a margin of error of no more than about 3 percentage points.

Margin of error (95% confidence interval)

Survey estimate	Sample size (n)									
	10	50	100	150	200	400	800	1000	2000	4000
5%	13.5%	6.0%	4.3%	3.5%	3.0%	2.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.0%	0.7%
10%	18.6%	8.3%	5.9%	4.8%	4.2%	2.9%	2.1%	1.9%	1.3%	0.9%
25%	26.8%	12.0%	8.5%	6.9%	6.0%	4.2%	3.0%	2.7%	1.9%	1.3%
50%	31.0%	13.9%	9.8%	8.0%	6.9%	4.9%	3.5%	3.1%	2.2%	1.5%
75%	26.8%	12.0%	8.5%	6.9%	6.0%	4.2%	3.0%	2.7%	1.9%	1.3%
90%	18.6%	8.3%	5.9%	4.8%	4.2%	2.9%	2.1%	1.9%	1.3%	0.9%
95%	13.5%	6.0%	4.3%	3.5%	3.0%	2.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.0%	0.7%

(The values in the table are the margin of error – at 95% confidence level – for a given survey estimate and sample size)

The examples show that the size of a sample is a crucial factor affecting the margin of error. Nevertheless, once past a certain point – a sample size of 800 or 1,000 – the improvement is small. For example, to reduce the margin of error to 1.5% would require a sample size of 4,000.

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