Flash Eurobarometer 234
January-February 2008
Citizens' awareness and perceptions of EU Regional Policy

Questionnaire

The GALLUP Organization

FLASH EUROBAROMETER 234 ON REGIONAL POLICY

A. GENERAL AWARENESS OF THE EU REGIONAL POLICY

Q1A.   Europe supports its regions and cities through EU regional policy. Are you aware that your city or region receives support from the EU Regional Policy?

- yes, aware 1
- no, not aware 2
- [DK/NA]...9

IF THE ANSWER IS "YES"

Q1B.   Do you feel that your city or region benefits from this support?

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

Q2.   What are the most important channels of information where you get information on EU-support for your region and city?

[READ OUT – ROTATE]

- National newspapers 1
- Regional newspapers 2
- TV 3
- Radio 4
- Internet..5
- [Other]...6
- [DK/NA]...9

First choice 1 2 3 4 5 6 9
Second choice...1 2 3 4 5 6 9

B. ACCEPTANCE OF EU REGIONAL POLICY

Q4.   European regional policy is concentrated on the poorest regions in order to help them to catch up faster with the rest of the EU. In your opinion, is this rather a good or rather a bad thing?

- rather a good thing...1
- rather a bad thing...2
- [DK/NA]...9

Q5. In all the other regions, European regional policy intervenes to help them to foster innovation, to create jobs and to work together. In your opinion, should the EU support all regions or concentrate exclusively on the poorer ones?

- The EU should help all its regions 1
- The EU should only support the poorer regions..........................2
- [DK/NA]..9

C. THE PRIORITIES OF EU REGIONAL POLICY

Q6. EU regional policy can support different activities and areas in different regions. I will read a list of activities/areas to you. Please tell me for each of them, if you consider them among the more important or less important ones for your city or your region?

- - among the more important ones 1
- - less important 2
- - [DK/NA]...9

a) better transport facilities (rail, road, airports); 1 2 9

b) infrastructure in the field of energy supply including sustainable energy

supply; 1 2 9

c) research and innovation; 1 2 9

d) information and communication technologies; 1 2 9

e) environmental protection and risk prevention; 1 2 9

f) support for small businesses, ...1 2 9

g) employment training; 1 2 9

h) education, health and social infrastructure; 1 2 9

D. ON THE WAY IN WHICH THE EU REGIONAL POLICY OPERATES (MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE; PARTNERSHIP)

Q7. When it comes to selecting strategies and projects, EU regional policy gives the right to decide on them to the Member States and regions. Do you think this is a good thing or not?

ONLY ONE ANSWER IS POSSIBLE!

- yes, this is a good thing 1
- no, this is not a good thing..2
- [DK/NA]..9

Q8. EU regional policy obliges Member States and regions to involve in the selection of projects local business associations, trade unions and organizations taking care of equal opportunities and the environment. In your opinion, is the involvement those organizations a good thing or not?

- yes, this is a good thing 1
- no, this is not a good thing..2

- [DK/NA]..9

THE FUTURE OF EU REGIONAL POLICY

Q9.   Do you think that in the future EU regional policy should address issues such as globalisation, climate change and demographic change?

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

I F Q 9 = Y E S

Q10.   Which of these would be most important in your view? And what would be the second most important?

- globalization...1
- climate change...2
- demographic change 3
- [DK/NA]...9

First answer... 1 2 3 9
Second answer.. 1 2 3 9

D E M O G R A P H I C S

D1.   Gender

[DO NOT ASK - MARK APPROPRIATE]

- [1]...Male
- [2]..Female

D2.   How old are you?

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

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

[WRITE IN THE AGE WHEN EDUCATION WAS TERMINATED]

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

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

Survey Details

This survey on the General population survey on "EU Regional Policy" was conducted for the European Commission, Directorate General Regional Policy DG, Information and Communication Unit

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).

Telephone interviews were conducted in each country between the 1/30/2008 and the 2/04/2008 by these Institutes:

Belgium	BE	Gallup Europe	(Interviews : 01/31/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Czech Republic	CZ	Focus Agency	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Denmark	DK	Hermelin	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Germany	DE	IFAK	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Estonia	EE	Saar Poll	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Greece	EL	Metroanalysis	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Spain	ES	Gallup Spain	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
France	FR	Efficience3	(Interviews : 01/31/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Ireland	IE	Gallup UK	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Italy	IT	Demoskopea	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Cyprus	CY	CYMAR	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Latvia	LV	Latvian Facts	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Lithuania	LT	Baltic Survey	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Luxembourg	LU	Gallup Europe	(Interviews : 01/31/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Hungary	HU	Gallup Hungary	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Malta	MT	MISCO	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Netherlands	NL	Telder	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Austria	AT	Spectra	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Poland	PL	Gallup Poland	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Portugal	PT	Consulmark	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Slovenia	SI	Cati d.o.o	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Slovakia	SK	Focus Agency	(Interviews : 02/01/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Finland	FI	Hermelin	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Sweden	SE	Hermelin	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
United Kingdom	UK	Gallup UK	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Bulgaria	BG	Vitosha	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)
Romania	RO	Gallup Romania	(Interviews : 01/30/2008 - 02/04/2008)

Representativeness of the results

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

Sizes of the sample

In most 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	**27147**	**100**	**27147**	**100**
BE	1001	3.7	576	2.1
BG	1006	3.7	448	1.7
CZ	1006	3.7	582	2.1
DK	1007	3.7	292	1.1
DE	1010	3.7	4759	17.5
EE	1005	3.7	76	0.3
EL	1009	3.7	623	2.3
ES	1006	3.7	2339	8.6
FR	1009	3.7	3221	11.9
IE	1000	3.7	214	0.8
IT	1008	3.7	3330	12.3
CY	1006	3.7	41	0.1
LV	1015	3.7	131	0.5
LT	1001	3.7	190	0.7
LU	1000	3.7	24	0.1
HU	1006	3.7	561	2.1
MT	1000	3.7	22	0.1
NL	1002	3.7	889	3.3
AT	1006	3.7	448	1.6
PL	1001	3.7	2130	7.8
PT	1001	3.7	583	2.1
RO	1013	3.7	1197	4.4
SI	1003	3.7	115	0.4
SK	1017	3.7	299	1.1
FI	1008	3.7	290	1.1
SE	1001	3.7	498	1.8
UK	1000	3.7	3270	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

The results in a survey are valid only between the limits of a statistical margin caused by the sampling process. This margin varies with three factors:

1. The sample size (or the size of the analysed part in the sample): the greater the number of respondents is, the smaller the statistical margin will be;
2. The result in itself: the closer the result approaches 50%, the wider the statistical margin will be;
3. The desired degree of confidence: the more "strict" we are, the wider the statistical margin will be.

As an example, examine this illustrative case:
1. One question has been answered by 500 people;
2. The analysed result is around 50%;
3. We choose a significance level of 95 % (it is the level most often used by the statisticians, and it is the one chosen for the Table hereafter);

In this illustrative case the statistical margin is: (+/- 4.4%) around the observed 50%. And as a conclusion: the result for the whole population lies between 45.6% and 54.4 %.
Hereafter, the statistical margins computed for various observed results are shown, on various sample sizes, at the 95% significance level.

STATISTICAL MARGINS DUE TO THE SAMPLING PROCESS (AT THE 95 % LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE)

Various sample sizes are in rows;
Various observed results are in columns:

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3

Evaluation of the samples

The attached tables (after the Technical Report tables) provide a detailed insight to the within country weighting of the study. (For cross-country weights please refer to the table on previous page) The weighting of the dataset is a three-fold exercise.

In the *first step* we will apply the basic **selection probability weights**, primarily to avoid the overcoverage of households with multiple telephone lines. In the same step, we calculate the weights that corrects the estimations based on the merged **dual frame** samples, i.e., weights that deal with phone owners;

In the *second step*, on a country-by-country basis, a **nonresponse population weighting** was carried out. As nonresponse rates vary by social segments, the sample characteristics reflect such differences as well (i.e., there are usually less males and especially less young people in the samples than in the universe.) In this step, we .compensated for the nonresponse bias that stems from the field execution process. The most advanced method for eliminating such deviations is the so-called *Raking Adjustment for Nonresponse* (raking). Gallup applied this method. This procedure performs iterative proportional fitting in contingency table analysis. This method is also used to deal with the problem of large variability of weights when weighting classes are formed based on full cross-classification of the auxiliary variables, the result is a large number of weighting classes with unstable response rates.

However, one drawback is that raking assumes that the variables used for adjustment are independent. Raking works in the following way:
1) sets initial weight factor values in each cross-classification term to 1;
2) adjusts the weight factors of the first cross-classification term so the weighted sample is representative for the variables involved;
3) adjusts the weight factors for the next cross-classification term so the weighted sample becomes representative with respect to the variables involved (this might disrupt the representativeness with respect to the variables involved);
4) repeats this adjustment for all cross-classification terms;
5) repeats all steps until the factors do not change.

A common approach to weighting is to determine the sample weights adjusting for unequal probabilities of selection, revise these weights to compensate for different sub-class response rates, and finally modify the weights again to conform the weighted sample distribution for certain variables (e.g., age, gender, education, activity etc.) to the known population distributions of the same variables.

The following variables will be used in all national raking procedures (with categories levels used):

Age X Sex
male, 15-29
male, 30-49
male, 50+
female, 15-29
female, 30-49
female, 50+

Activity
Active worker
retired
Other non-active worker

Regions (NUTS2)

Please note that levels might be collapsed to achieve convergence or universe information is not available in the necessary detail.