

Flash Eurobarometer 266  
February 2009

Women and European Parliamentary Elections

Basic bilingual questionnaire

The GALLUP Organization

# FLASH 266

## WOMEN AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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### Demographics

**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]*

**- 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
<b>- Without a professional activity</b>	
→ 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

**I. GENERAL PART (to be asked to everyone)**

**AWARENESS**

**Q1.**

*AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK:*

**Did you vote in the last European Parliament Elections in 2004?**

*BG, RO:*

**Did you vote in the last European Parliament Elections in 2007?**

- Yes .....	1
- No .....	2
- Did not have the right to vote .....	3
- [DK/NA] .....	9

**Q2. Do you intend to vote in the European elections this June 2009?**

- Definitely yes .....	1
- Most probably yes .....	2
- Most probably not .....	3
- Definitely not .....	4
- [I was not aware of the elections] .....	5
- [DK/NA] .....	9

## MOTIVATION / CANDIDATES

**Q3. In general when you participate in elections, how do you decide whom to vote for?**

*(CHOOSE ONE)*

- I always vote for the same party .....1
- On the basis of the personality of the candidates  
presented .....2
- I decide on the basis of the campaign issues .....3
- I never vote.....4
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q4. When do you usually make up your mind on who to vote for?**

- More than 2 months ahead.....1
- Approximately 1-2 months in advance.....2
- Approximately 1 month before the elections .....3
- in the last two weeks.....4
- in the last week .....5
- at the last moment .....6
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q5. When you vote for the European elections, which of the following aspects relating to the candidates is the most important?**

*(ROTATE)*

- Visibility/familiarity .....1
- Age .....2
- Regional origin .....3
- Gender .....4
- Belonging to civil society .....5
- Experience on European issues .....6
- Political orientation .....7
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q5b. And then?**

*(ROTATE)*

- Visibility/familiarity .....1
- Age .....2
- Regional origin .....3
- Gender .....4

- Belonging to civil society .....5
- Experience on European issues .....6
- Political orientation .....7
- [DK/NA] .....9

**WOMEN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Q6. In the domain of gender equality in family life, which of the following areas should be prioritized by the next European Parliament?**

*(CHOOSE ONE - ROTATE)*

- Securing a minimum length of parental leave.....1
- Provision of sufficient day care facilities for children.....2
- Including years of child minding as pensionable years .....3
- Securing shared custody of children in divorce cases .....4
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q7. In the domain of gender equality in society, in general, which of the following areas should be prioritized by the next European Parliament?**

*(CHOOSE ONE - ROTATE)*

- Equal pay for men and women .....1
- Enforcing laws against sexual harassment .....2
- Equal employment opportunities .....3
- Better representation of women in high level  
decision-making positions .....4
- The fight against violence and women trafficking.....5
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q8. Would you say that the equal payment for men and women would be more effectively achieved by...**

*(CHOOSE ONE)*

- New legislation .....1
- Reinforcing the existing laws .....2
- More information on the existing rights .....3
- [DK/NA] .....9

**IF Q8=9, GO TO Q10**

**Q9. And at what level should this (ANSWER IN Q8) be done?**

- At the level of our country .....1

- At the EU level .....2
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q10. Some people believe that politics is dominated by men. Do you agree with this statement?**

- Totally agree .....1
- Somewhat agree.....2
- Somewhat disagree .....3
- Totally disagree .....4
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q11. Some people believe that women in politics add a viewpoint which could lead to different decision making in general. Do you agree with this statement?**

- Totally agree .....1
- Somewhat agree.....2
- Somewhat disagree .....3
- Totally disagree .....4
- [DK/NA] .....9

**FEMALE QUOTA**

**Q12. In your opinion, what proportion of elected members to the European Parliament should be women?**

*(OPEN QUESTION - SPONTANEOUS - PRECODED)*

- Less than 25%.....1
- 25%-39%.....2
- 40%-49% .....3
- 50% or above .....4
- DK/NA.....9

**In fact at present, in the European Parliament, 30% of the members are women and In [our country] Parliament the proportion of women members is [.....%]**

**Q13. If we should increase the proportion of women MEPs what would be the most effective way?**

*(CHOOSE ONE)*

- By mandatory quotas .....1
- By the voluntary commitment of political parties.....2
- By encouraging women to participate in politics .....3
- It will happen gradually without special measures .....4

- Nothing has to be done, I do not agree to increase  
the proportion.....5
- [DK/NA] .....9

**II. SPECIFIC PART (to be asked to WOMEN)**

**Q14. Do you feel that as a woman, your interests are well represented by the European Union?**

- Very well represented .....1
- Fairly well represented.....2
- Not really well represented.....3
- Not at all well represented.....4
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q15. To what extent do you think that the activities of European Parliament have had an impact on the following areas of your life?**

- High impact .....1
- Moderate impact.....2
- Little impact.....3
- None .....4
- DK/NA.....9

- A., Family life ..... 1 2 3 4 9
- B., Working life ..... 1 2 3 4 9
- C., Your rights as a woman ..... 1 2 3 4 9
- D., Health..... 1 2 3 4 9
- E., Education..... 1 2 3 4 9
- F., Welfare ..... 1 2 3 4 9

***FILTER: EMPLOYEMENT STATUS***

***EMPLOYED WOMEN (ASK IF D4=11,12,13,14,15,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,31,32,33,34):***

**Q16. Which of the following statements applies most to you?**

- My personal life is hindered by the demands of my  
working life .....1
- My working life is hindered by the demands of my  
personal life.....2
- I manage to balance both without problems .....3
- DK/NA.....9

***WOMEN WHO ARE NOT EMPLOYED (ASK IF D4 = 41,42,43,44,45):***

**Q16b. What is the reason that you are currently not employed?**

- It was my personal choice .....1
- I have to stay at home because of my family responsibilities.....2
- I am looking for employment .....3
- Other .....4
- SPECIFY:.....
- [DK/NA] .....9

**Q17. Have you ever felt unfairly treated because you are a woman?**

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

**IF YES (Q17 = 1)**

**Q18. Where?**

*[SEVERAL ANSWER IS POSSIBLE]*

- At work .....1
- At home .....2
- In society on general .....3



Flash EB Series #266

# Women and European Parliamentary Elections

Conducted by  
The Gallup Organisation, Hungary  
upon the request of Directorate General  
Communication of the Commission and the  
European Parliament



Survey co-ordinated by  
Directorate General Communication of the  
Commission and the European Parliament

This document does not represent the point of  
view of the European Commission or the  
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The interpretations and opinions contained in it  
are solely those of the authors.

THE GALLUP ORGANISATION

## Survey details

This general population survey “*Survey on the European Parliament and women* (N° 266) was conducted for the European Commission, DG Communication, Unit A3 - Research and political analysis.

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 2/09/2009 and the 2/13/2009 by the following institutes:

Belgium	BE	Gallup Europe	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Czech Republic	CZ	Focus Agency	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Denmark	DK	Hermelin	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Germany	DE	IFAK	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Estonia	EE	Saar Poll	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Greece	EL	Metroanalysis	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Spain	ES	Gallup Spain	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
France	FR	Efficiencie3	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Ireland	IE	Gallup UK	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Italy	IT	Demoskopoea	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Cyprus	CY	CYMAR	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Latvia	LV	Latvian Facts	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Lithuania	LT	Baltic Survey	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Luxembourg	LU	Gallup Europe	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Hungary	HU	Gallup Hungary	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Malta	MT	MISCO	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Netherlands	NL	MSR	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Austria	AT	Spectra	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Poland	PL	Gallup Poland	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Portugal	PT	Consulmark	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Slovenia	SI	Cati d.o.o	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Slovakia	SK	Focus Agency	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Finland	FI	Norstat Finland Oy	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Sweden	SE	Hermelin	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
United Kingdom	UK	Gallup UK	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Bulgaria	BG	Vitoshia	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)
Romania	RO	Gallup Romania	(Interviews: 02/09/2009 - 02/13/2009)

### Representativeness of the results

Each national sample is representative of the population aged 18 years and above.

### Sample sizes

In most EU countries the target sample size was 500 respondents on a general population sample and then new target was 1000 women respondents, the table below 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
- (2) the population-weighted total number of interviews

### TOTAL INTERVIEWS

	Conducted interviews among women	% of Total women	EU27 women weighted	% of Total women (weighted)	Conducted interviews among men	% of Total men	EU27 men weighted	% of Total men (weighted)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35109</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35109</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5638</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5638</b>	<b>100</b>
BE	1318	3,75	736	2,10	184	3,26	119	2,11
BG	1288	3,67	564	1,61	213	3,78	89	1,58
CZ	1279	3,64	740	2,11	226	4,01	119	2,11
DK	1266	3,61	367	1,04	236	4,19	61	1,08
DE	1282	3,65	5961	16,98	218	3,87	967	17,15
EE	1348	3,84	102	0,29	190	3,37	14	0,25
EL	1309	3,73	798	2,27	200	3,55	133	2,35
ES	1287	3,67	3185	9,07	227	4,03	526	9,32
FR	1337	3,81	4359	12,42	187	3,32	690	12,24
IE	1264	3,60	280	0,80	236	4,19	47	0,84
IT	1316	3,75	4335	12,35	189	3,35	690	12,23
CY	1289	3,67	53	0,15	215	3,81	9	0,15
LV	1344	3,83	174	0,50	177	3,14	25	0,43
LT	1315	3,75	250	0,71	191	3,39	36	0,63
LU	1298	3,70	32	0,09	212	3,76	5	0,09
HU	1341	3,82	741	2,11	190	3,37	111	1,98
MT	1325	3,77	28	0,08	187	3,32	5	0,08
NL	1282	3,65	1109	3,16	229	4,06	184	3,26
AT	1293	3,68	592	1,69	210	3,72	94	1,67
PL	1306	3,72	2713	7,73	203	3,60	425	7,54
PT	1311	3,73	765	2,18	195	3,46	121	2,14
RO	1285	3,66	1530	4,36	222	3,94	245	4,34
SI	1333	3,80	145	0,41	183	3,25	24	0,42
SK	1319	3,76	380	1,08	187	3,32	60	1,07
FI	1246	3,55	366	1,04	254	4,51	59	1,05
SE	1244	3,54	620	1,77	261	4,63	103	1,84
UK	1284	3,66	4185	11,92	216	3,83	678	12,02

### Questionnaires

1. The questionnaire prepared for this survey is reproduced at the end of this results volume, in English.
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.

## 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:

The files were weighted for age and regions separately for genders:

### **FEMALE**

18-29 yrs  
30-49 yrs  
50 -64 yrs  
65+ yrs

### **Regions ( NUTS)**

### **MALE**

18-29 yrs  
30-49 yrs  
50 -64 yrs  
65+ yrs

### **Regions ( NUTS)**

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

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