Flash Eurobarometer 216
September 2007

Public attitudes and perceptions in the euro area

Basic questionnaire

The GALLUP Organization

Revised questionnaire for euro survey in euro area

Q1. **Generally speaking, do you think that your country's membership in the European Union is ...?**

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- a good thing... 1
- a bad thing.. 2
- neither good nor bad 3

- (DK/NA) 9

Q2. **Generally speaking, do you think that having the euro is a good or bad thing for your country?**

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- a good thing... 1
- a bad thing.. 2
- neither good nor bad 3

- (DK/NA)... 9

Q3. **Generally speaking, do you think that having the euro is a good or bad thing for Europe?**

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- a good thing... 1
- a bad thing.. 2
- neither good nor bad 3

- (DK/NA).. 9

Q4. **Does the euro make you personally feel more European than before or would you say that your feeling of being European has not changed?**

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Yes, more European 1
- Nothing has changed 2

- (DK/NA) 9

Q5. **When you pay cash, would you say that it is: very easy, rather easy, rather difficult or very difficult to distinguish and handle coins?**

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- very easy 1
- rather easy 2
- rather difficult.. 3
- very difficult 4

- (neither easy nor difficult, normal) 5
- (DK/NA)... 9

IF RATHER OR VERY DIFFICULT IN Q5 ASK Q5BIS

Q5bis. With which of the coins do you have particular difficulties?

[READ OUT – UP TO TWO ANSWERS]

- 1-cent euro coin.. 1
- 2-cent euro coin.. 2
- 5-cent euro coin.. 3
- 10-cent euro coin.. 4
- 20-cent euro coin.. 5
- 50-cent euro coin.. 6
- 1-euro coin 7
- 2-euro coin 8

- (DK/NA) 9

TO ALL

Q6. Do you consider that there are too many or, on the contrary, not enough coins with different values or do you consider that there are just the right number?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Too many 1
- Not enough... 2
- Just the right number.. 3

- (DK/NA) 9

IF "TOO MANY" TO Q6 ASK Q6bis

Q6bis. Please indicate whether any of the euro coin denominations should be removed. If yes, which one or which ones?

[DO NOT READ OUT – SEVERAL ANSWERS POSSIBLE]

- 1-cent euro coin.. 1
- 2-cent euro coin.. 2
- 5-cent euro coin.. 3
- 10-cent euro coin.. 4
- 20-cent euro coin.. 5
- 50-cent euro coin.. 6
- 1-euro coin 7
- 2-euro coin 8

- (DK/NA) 9

TO ALL

Q7. When you pay cash, would you say that it is: very easy, rather easy, rather difficult or very difficult to distinguish and handle bank notes?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- very easy 1
- rather easy 2
- rather difficult... 3
- very difficult 4

- (neither easy nor difficult, normal)... 5

Q8.   Today, when purchasing, do you count mentally: most often in euro, most often in [NATIONAL CURRENCY], or as often in euro as in [NATIONAL CURRENCY] when it concerns:

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY PER ITEM]

- most often in euro 1
- most often in [NATIONAL CURRENCY]............................. 2
- as often in euro as in [NATIONAL CURRENCY]................ 3
- (DK/NA)... 9

a) Exceptional purchases such as the purchase of a car or a house for example.......... 1 2 3 9
b) Common purchases such as day-to-day shopping.. 1 2 3 9

ONLY TO INTERVIEWEES OF COUNTRIES THAT INTRODUCED THE EURO IN THE LAST 3 YEARS (for 2007 only SI, for 2008: CY, MT and SI)

Q9a.   Would you say that it would be useful for you that shopkeepers continue with dual price displays?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Yes 1
- No 2

- (DK/NA) 9

Q9b.   When the euro coins and banknotes were physically introduced in (COUNTRY), do you personally think that prices increased during this changeover period?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Yes, prices in some categories increased... 1
- Yes, all prices increased. 2
- No, prices more or less stayed the same.. 3

- (DK/NA) 9

TO ALL

Q10.   If you compare with the situation in [COUNTRY] before the euro was introduced, do you think that inflation, i.e. average price increases from one year to the other is lower or higher than before or about the same?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Lower... 1
- Higher 2
- the same 3

- (DK/NA) 9

Q11.   Do you travel at least once a year outside your country?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Yes 1
- No 2

- (DK/NA) 9

Q12.   Do you think that the euro ...

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY PER ITEM]

- Yes... 1
- No 2
- (DK/NA)... 9

a) has made travelling easier and less costly...1 2 9
b) has made it easier for you to compare prices 1 2 9
c) has reduced cross-border banking charges 1 2 9

Q13.   From what you know, would you say that in 2006 [2006 in Slovenia], [COUNTRY] had a budgetary surplus meaning that the revenues of the State exceeded its expenditure, a budgetary deficit meaning that the state spent more than it received or had a budget on balance?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Surplus 1
- Deficit.. 2
- Balance... 3

- (DK/NA) 9

Q14.   Personally, have you ever heard of the "Stability and Growth Pact", which is often called the "Stability Pact"?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Yes, and I know what it's about.. 1
- Yes, but I do not know very well what it's about 2
- No, you have not heard about it 3

- (DK/NA) 9

Q15.   Governments in all euro area countries are implementing various structural changes, often called reforms. Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to such reforms?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY PER ITEM]

- Yes, I agree.. 1
- No, I do not agree. 2
- (DK/NA)... 3

a) There is a need for significant reforms to improve the performance of our economy. ..1 2 3
b) I think successful reforms on other euro area countries put pressure on our
    government to reform. 1 2 3
c) Governments need to save more today in order to prepare public finances for the
    ageing of populations. 1 2 3
d) The government should increase taxes to finance economic reforms...........................1 2 3
e) The government should reduce expenditures, e.g. social benefits to finance
    economic reforms...1 2 3
f) The EU should play an active role in the reform process in [COUNTRY]......................1 2 3

Q16. **A number of important reforms have been implemented in [COUNTRY] in the past years. Could you name a few sectors where you think the most important reforms took place?**

[DO NOT READ OUT – SEVERAL ANSWERS POSSIBLE]

- mentioned 1
- did not mention 2

a) Labour market 1 2
b) Health system... 1 2
c) Pension system 1 2
d) Social security system.. 1 2
e) Market reforms, as in telecom, gas/electricity (e.g. opening sectors for free competition,
   privatisation)... 1 2
f) Taxation... 1 2
g) Education systems 1 2
h) Reforms in general 1 2
i) Reforms in other specific areas 1 2
j) DK/NA.. 1 2

Q17a. **Please tell me about each of these reform areas you mentioned if they affected you personally in any way, and if yes, did they affect you rather positively or rather negatively on balance?**

[READ OUT ONLY IF MENTIONED IN Q16 – ONE ANSWER PER LINE]

- personally not affected.. 1
- affected rather positively.. 2
- affected rather negatively 3
- DK/NA 9

a) Labour market 1 2 3 9
b) Health system... 1 2 3 9
c) Pension system 1 2 3 9
d) Social support system 1 2 3 9
e) Market reforms, as in telecom, gas/electricity (e.g. opening sectors for free competition,
   privatisation)... 1 2 3 9
f) Taxation... 1 2 3 9
g) Education systems 1 2 3 9
h) Reforms in general 1 2 3 9
i) Reforms in other specific areas 1 2 3 9

Q17b. **Please also tell me about the reform areas you mentioned if you consider them to have any significant effect on the national economy in general, and if yes, did they affect it rather positively or rather negatively on balance?**

[READ OUT ONLY IF MENTIONED IN Q16 – ONE ANSWER PER LINE]

- no significant effect 1
- rather positive effect 2
- rather negative effect 3
- DK/NA 9

a) Labour market 1 2 3 9
b) Health system... 1 2 3 9
c) Pension system 1 2 3 9
d) Social security system.. 1 2 3 9
e) Market reforms, as in telecom, gas/electricity (e.g. opening sectors for free competition,
   privatisation)... 1 2 3 9
f) Taxation... 1 2 3 9
g) Education systems 1 2 3 9
h) Reforms in general 1 2 3 9

i) Reforms in other specific areas 1 2 3 9

Q18a. What do you think: How high was the inflation rate, i.e. the average increase in consumer prices in [COUNTRY] last year?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Below 1.5% 1
- between 1.5 and 2.5% 2
- between 2.5 and 4% 3
- between 4 and 10% 4
- above 10% 5
- (DK/NA) 9

Q18b. What is your expectation about the inflation rate this year. Compared to last year, will it be

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Higher 1
- Lower 2
- Equal 3
- (DK/NA) 9

Q19a. How has your household income changed since last year? Did it

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- increase 1
- decrease, or 2
- stay the same 3
- (DK/NA) 9

Q19b. When looking into the future, how do you expect your household income change this year? Will it

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- increase 1
- decrease, or 2
- stay the same 3
- (DK/NA) 9

D1. Gender [DO NOT ASK - MARK APPROPRIATE]

[1]   Male
[2]   Female

D2. How old are you?

[_][_]   years old
[0 0]   [REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]

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

[Write in THE AGE WHEN EDUCATION WAS TERMINATED]

       [_][_]   years old
       [**0 0**]   [STILL IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
       [0 1]   [NEVER BEEN IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
       [9 9]   [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

Flash EB Series #216

Public attitudes
and perceptions
in the euro area

conducted by
The Gallup Organization, Hungary upon the
request of Directorate-General for Economy
and Finance (R-4, External Communication)
and coordinated by Directorate-General
Communication

EUROBAROMETER

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

Survey details

This survey on the "Euro after 6 years , Wave 6" was conducted for the European Commission, Directorate-General Economic and Financial Affairs.

Telephone interviews were conducted in each country between the 24/09/2007 and the 28/09/2007 by these institutes:

Belgium	BE	Gallup Europe	(Interviews : 26/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Germany	DE	IFAK	(Interviews : 24/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Greece	EL	Metroanalysis	(Interviews : 24/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Spain	ES	Gallup Spain	(Interviews : 26/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
France	FR	Efficience3	(Interviews : 25/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Ireland	IE	Gallup UK	(Interviews : 24/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Italy	IT	Demoskopea	(Interviews : 25/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Luxembourg	CZ	Gallup Europe	(Interviews : 25/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Netherlands	NL	Telder	(Interviews : 24/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Austria	AT	Spectra	(Interviews : 24/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Portugal	PT	Consulmark	(Interviews : 24/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Slovenia	SI	CATI d.o.o	(Interviews : 24/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)
Finland	FI	Hermelin	(Interviews : 24/09/2007 - 28/09/2007)

Representativeness of the results

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

Sizes of the sample

The sample sizes amount to approximately 1000 respondents in each 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 13 Member States:
(1) the number of interviews actually carried out in each country
(2) the population-weighted total number of interviews for each Member State

TOTAL INTERVIEWS

	Total Interviews			
	Conducted	**% of Total**	**Weighted**	**% on Total (weighted)**
Total	**13031**	**100**	**13031**	**100**
1 Belgium	1004	7.70	431	3.31
4 Germany	1006	7.72	3562	27.34
6 Greece	1004	7.70	466	3.58
7 Spain	1002	7.69	1751	13.44
8 France	1000	7.67	2411	18.50
9 Ireland	1000	7.67	160	1.23
10 Italy	1001	7.68	2492	19.13
14 Luxembourg	1000	7.67	18	0.14
17 Netherlands	1002	7.69	665	5.11
18 Austria	1005	7.71	335	2.57
20 Portugal	1002	7.69	436	3.35
21 Slovenia	1000	7.67	86	0.66
23 Finland	1005	7.71	217	1.66

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) .

In the *first 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.