

Flash Eurobarometer 257
January 2009

Views on European Union Enlargement

Basic questionnaire

The GALLUP Organization

FLASH 257 - ENLARGEMENT

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?

- Agree1
 - Disagree2
 - [DK/NA]9
- a) These changes have brought more freedom to everyone.....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 generation1 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 Europe1 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?

- Agree1
 - Disagree2
 - [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?

- Agree1
- Disagree2
- [DK/NA]9

a) It has helped to preserve security and stability in Europe as a whole1 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 country1 2 9

e) It has increased the European Union's weight in world politics1 2 9

f) It has lowered social standards in Europe as a whole1 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 whole1 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 manage1 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 values1
- 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 issues6
- 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 values1
- 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 issues6
- 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 values1
- 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 issues6
- 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 education1
- Secondary education2
- Higher education3
- [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

Flash EB Series #257

Views on European Union Enlargement

Conducted by
The Gallup Organization, Hungary
upon the request of the DG Enlargement A.2
"Information, Communication



Coordinated by Directorate-General
Communication

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 general population survey “Views on EU Enlargement” (N° 257) was conducted for the European Commission, DG for Enlargement A.2 “Information, Communication.”

Telephone interviews were conducted in each country, with the exception of the Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia where 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 26/01/2009 and the 1/02/2009 by the following institutes:

Belgium	BE	Gallup Europe	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Czech Republic	CZ	Focus Agency	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Denmark	DK	Hermelin	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Germany	DE	IFAK	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Estonia	EE	Saar Poll	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Greece	EL	Metroanalysis	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Spain	ES	Gallup Spain	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
France	FR	Effience3	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Ireland	IE	Gallup UK	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Italy	IT	Demoskopoea	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Cyprus	CY	CYMAR	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Latvia	LV	Latvian Facts	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Lithuania	LT	Baltic Survey	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Luxembourg	LU	Gallup Europe	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Hungary	HU	Gallup Hungary	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Malta	MT	MISCO	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Netherlands	NL	MSR	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Austria	AT	Spectra	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Poland	PL	Gallup Poland	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 01/02/2009)
Portugal	PT	Consulmark	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Slovenia	SI	Cati d.o.o	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Slovakia	SK	Focus Agency	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Finland	FI	Norstat Finland Oy	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Sweden	SE	Hermelin	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
United Kingdom	UK	Gallup UK	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Bulgaria	BG	Vitoshia	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)
Romania	RO	Gallup Romania	(Interviews: 26/01/2009 - 31/01/2009)

Representativeness of the Results

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

Sample Sizes

In most EU countries the target sample size was 1,000 respondents; the following table below shows the achieved sample size by country. A weighting factor was applied to the national results to compute a marginal total in which each country contributes to the European Union result in proportion to its population.

For each of the countries, the table shows:

- (1) the number of interviews actually carried out
- (2) the population-weighted total number of interviews

	Total Interviews			
	Conducted	% of Total	EU27 weighted	% of Total (weighted)
Total	27,122	100	27,122	100
BE	1,000	3.69	572	2.11
BG	1,003	3.70	432	1.59
CZ	1,009	3.72	573	2.11
DK	1,001	3.69	288	1.06
DE	1,018	3.75	4611	17.00
EE	1,014	3.74	74	0.27
EL	1,001	3.69	623	2.30
ES	1,005	3.71	2473	9.12
FR	1,005	3.71	3359	12.38
IE	1,000	3.69	224	0.82
IT	1,000	3.69	3305	12.19
CY	1,000	3.69	42	0.15
LV	1,007	3.71	128	0.47
LT	1,002	3.69	185	0.68
LU	1,005	3.71	25	0.09
HU	1,008	3.72	555	2.05
MT	1,005	3.71	22	0.08
NL	1,006	3.71	872	3.21
AT	1,001	3.69	456	1.68
PL	1,009	3.72	2088	7.70
PT	1,006	3.71	583	2.15
RO	1,013	3.73	1187	4.38
SI	1,002	3.69	112	0.41
SK	1,002	3.69	294	1.08
FI	1,000	3.69	285	1.05
SE	1,000	3.69	492	1.81
UK	1,000	3.69	3262	12.03

Questionnaires

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

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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 to the true population quantity of interest for many reasons. One of these reasons is that data in a survey are collected from only a sample of members of the population, making data collection less expensive 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% confidence interval of the format: *survey estimate* \pm *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% confidence interval for support for a single European currency would be *(45%-10%) to (45%+10%)*, suggesting that in the European Union the support for a single European currency could range from 35% to 55%. Because of the small sample size of 100 EU citizens, there is considerable uncertainty about whether the citizens of the European Union 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 size 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	1,000	2,000	4,000
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, 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.

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