



Directorate-General for Communication
Directorate for relations with citizens
'Monitoring Public Opinion' Unit.

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European Parliament Special Eurobarometer 75.2

Voluntary work

SUMMARY

Coverage:	EU27 (26 825 European citizens)
Population:	Europeans aged 15+
Methodology:	Face-to-face (CAPI)
Fieldwork:	13 April - 02 May 2011, conducted by TNS Opinion

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Introduction

On the initiative of the European Parliament, 2011 has been declared the ‘Year of Volunteering’, while 2012 will be the ‘Year of Intergenerational Solidarity’: two good reasons for the European Parliament to conduct a Eurobarometer survey in order to discover what Europeans think about these two concepts, and to understand better how they experience them or put them into practice.

Against a background of financial, economic and social crisis affecting all sections of European society, this Eurobarometer survey was conducted between 1 and 16 May 2011 by TNS opinion.

Before analysing the responses from Europeans, it is necessary to emphasise some important points which can be drawn from this survey.

- It is very difficult to reach general conclusions because of the different status of the voluntary sector in different Member States.
- In the absence of Eurostat or other general statistics, the number of Europeans undertaking voluntary work cannot be quantified with any certainty.
- The contribution of the voluntary sector to the GDP of the EU and its Member States is very difficult to estimate. No EU-wide statistics are available. National data are only available in a few countries.
- There is a broad consensus that volunteering plays an important role in society, based on the values of solidarity. It contributes to citizenship, especially through the fact that it is well-established at a local level, and is a factor for personal fulfilment and development.

As the Rapporteur Mrs Marian Harkin said: *“People do not volunteer for financial gain: it is unpaid. People become involved in voluntary work of their own volition. Voluntary work brings benefits outside of the circle of family and friends. Volunteering is open to everyone.”*

⇒ **22 to 25% of Europeans are involved in voluntary work**

In this survey, 6462 of the 26 825 Europeans aged over 15 who were interviewed said that they were either regularly or occasionally involved in voluntary work. This amounts to **24% of the respondents**.

The Commission’s Eurobarometer survey conducted in February 2007 states that *“we can reliably estimate that more than 100 million citizens engage in voluntary work”*.

The two surveys thus have similar results.

The European average for volunteering must be tempered by looking at the national results (see table page 8). 48 points separate the Netherlands (57%), where volunteering is most widespread, and Poland (9%), where it is least common.

Twelve countries are above the European average and fifteen below it. In seven of these, volunteering is below 20%.

⇒ **The socio-demographic profile of European volunteers**

Respondents aged 20 and above are most likely to volunteer (32%), followed by students (26%).

In terms of occupation, 34% of managers say that they are involved in voluntary work, compared with 17% of the unemployed.

⇒ **Sport and culture: the main areas for voluntary work**

The 24% of respondents who said that they were involved in volunteering were asked about the nature of their voluntary work.

- 24% answered that they volunteered in a sports club or a club for outdoor pursuits.
- 20% answered 'within a cultural, educational or artistic organisation'.
- 16% said that they volunteered 'in a charitable organisation or social aid organisation, an NGO, a humanitarian association, or in development aid'.

⇒ **Solidarity and humanitarian aid: the area in which the voluntary sector plays the most important role**

All respondents were asked about the areas in which they felt that the voluntary sector played an important role.

Three of the four areas first mentioned were directly concerned with solidarity and integration.

- 'Solidarity and humanitarian aid' were the two areas coming at the top of the responses, at 37%.

It is interesting to note the very clear difference between the general perception amongst all Europeans of the importance of a given field, and the voluntary work undertaken by the 24% of respondents who are actually engaged in this work.

Sport, for example, is the leading voluntary activity, though only 15% of respondents say that it plays an important role.

- The healthcare system is in second place, with 32%.
- This is followed by education and training and the environment, both on 22%.
- The fourth area in which Europeans believe that the voluntary sector plays an important role is ‘the social inclusion of disadvantaged citizens’, with 21%.

The same question was asked last year in a Eurobarometer survey conducted by the Commission. Between these two surveys, the first three areas have recorded an increase of between +2 and +8 percentage points.

The role of voluntary work in ‘the construction of European identity’ was mentioned last, with only 3%.

⇒ **Maintaining and strengthening social cohesion, the first benefit of volunteering in the EU**

This response demonstrates once again the extent to which solidarity lies at the heart of European views on volunteering.

- ‘Strengthening social cohesion’ was mentioned first by 34% of respondents, and ‘strengthening the fundamental values of solidarity’ by 25%.
- The two items mentioned next by respondents are directly linked to the benefits which volunteers themselves can enjoy. Thus, the contribution of voluntary work to the personal fulfilment and development of volunteers scored 25%, and its role in the acquisition of knowledge and integration into working life 22%.
- The economic value of the voluntary sector to the EU was only mentioned by 12% of respondents.

⇒ **Defining an operating framework for the voluntary sector at national or EU level: a divided response.**

As we have seen in the previous responses, according to the perceptions of Europeans, the role played by the voluntary sector or its economic importance at EU level is limited.

It is therefore no surprise to find that Europeans are divided on the framework within which the voluntary sector should operate. 47% believe that this should be defined in a “European Charter for Volunteers”, whereas 45% say that it is up to every Member State to establish a national framework.

It is important to note that the potential added value of a “European Charter for Volunteers” is not recognised in the countries where voluntary work is most common. The Netherlands, Denmark, Finland and Austria are thus the countries where respondents are least enthusiastic about the Charter.

Conversely, a European framework is considered most desirable in countries where volunteering is least common, led by Spain, Cyprus and Greece.

⇒ **Massive support for the creation of volunteer rescue teams in every region**

In response to the wave of natural disasters and accidents, the European Parliament would like EU Member States, and their local and regional authorities, to set up volunteer rescue teams in every region.

When asked if they thought that such teams would be useful, 88% of Europeans agreed that they would.

⇒ **Encouraging intergenerational solidarity**

2012 will be the Year of Intergenerational Solidarity. Respondents were offered three statements. Their answers established a very distinct hierarchy:

- job creation for young people in the field of giving help to the elderly and dependent people scored 45%.
- ensuring the same access to jobs and training for Europeans of all ages followed, with 38%.
- encouraging people aged over 60 to remain in the labour market in order to pass their experience down to the subsequent generation scored 23%.

N.B.

Readers are reminded that the results of a survey are estimates, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, depends on the sample size and the observed percentage. For samples of about 1,000 interviews (the sample size usually used in a Member State), the real percentage, that is to say the result which would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed, varies within the following confidence limits:

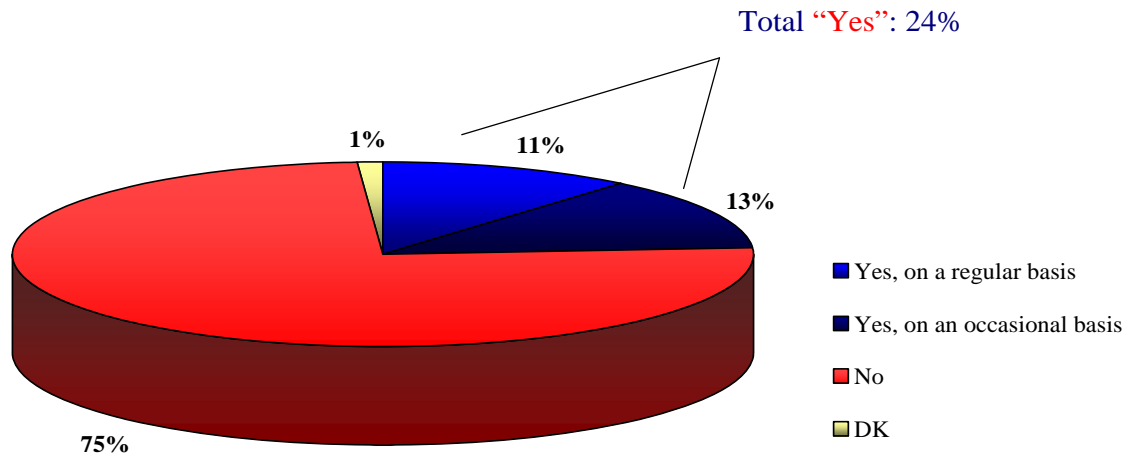
Observed percentage	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50 %
Margin of error	+/- 1.9 points	+/- 2.5 points	+/- 2.7 points	+/- 3.0 points	+/- 3.1 points

I. THE EXPERIENCE OF VOLUNTARY WORK

1. Do Europeans undertake voluntary work?

Q15 Do you currently have a voluntary activity on a regular or occasional basis?

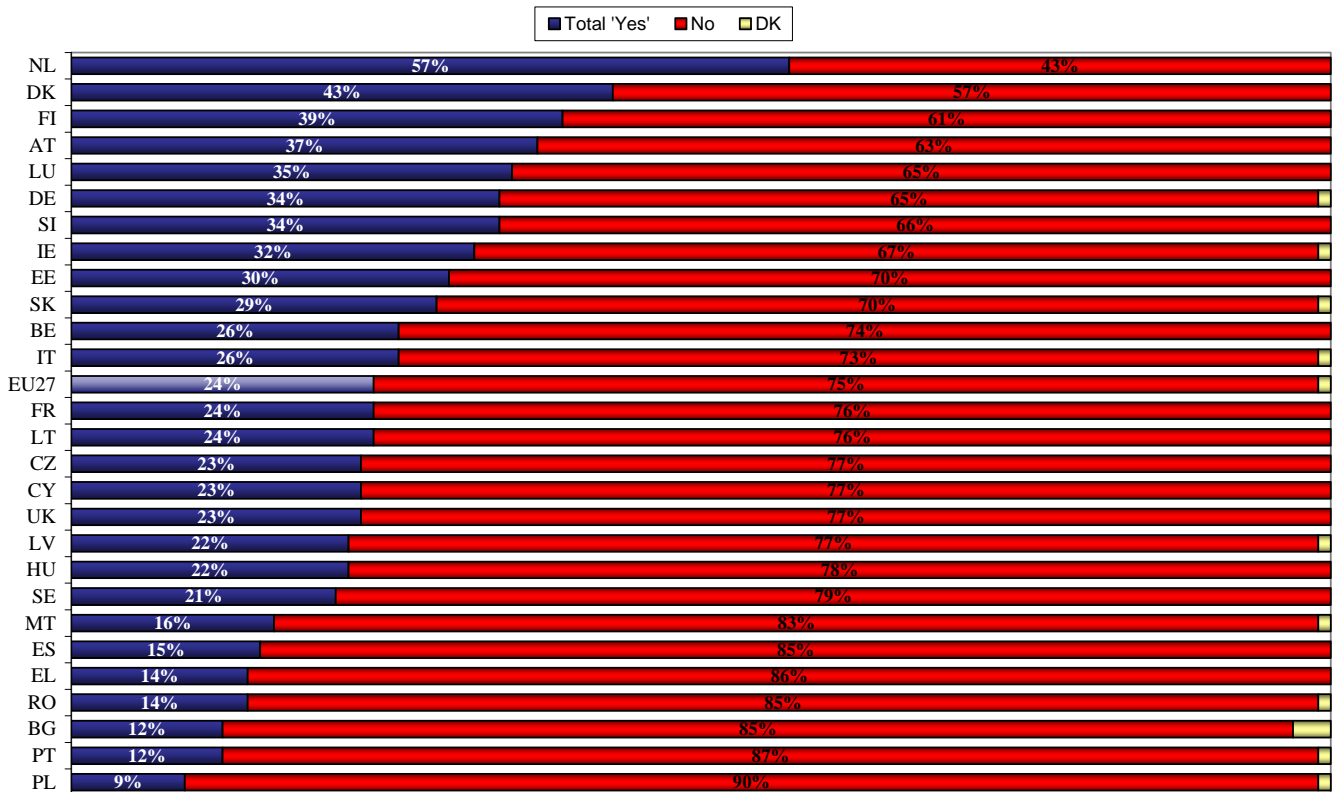
1) European average



Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

- **24% of Europeans** currently undertake some voluntary activity on a regular or occasional basis, with strictly identical proportions of men and women.

2) National variations



Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

- Involvement in volunteering varies very significantly from one Member State to another; **48 percentage points** separate the Netherlands (57%) and Poland (9%).
- Countries with the highest numbers of volunteers tend to be in the **northern half of the European Union** (The Netherlands 57%, Denmark 43% and Finland 39%).

3) Socio-demographic variations

		Total 'Yes'	No	DK
EU27		24%	75%	1%
Age at end of education	15-	16%	83%	1%
	16-19.	23%	77%	-
	20+	32%	67%	1%
	Still studying	26%	73%	1%
Occupation	Self-employed	29%	70%	1%
	Managers	34%	66%	-
	Other white collars	24%	76%	-
	Manual workers	22%	78%	-
	House persons	21%	78%	1%
	Unemployed	17%	83%	-
	Retired	22%	77%	1%
Students	26%	73%	1%	

Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

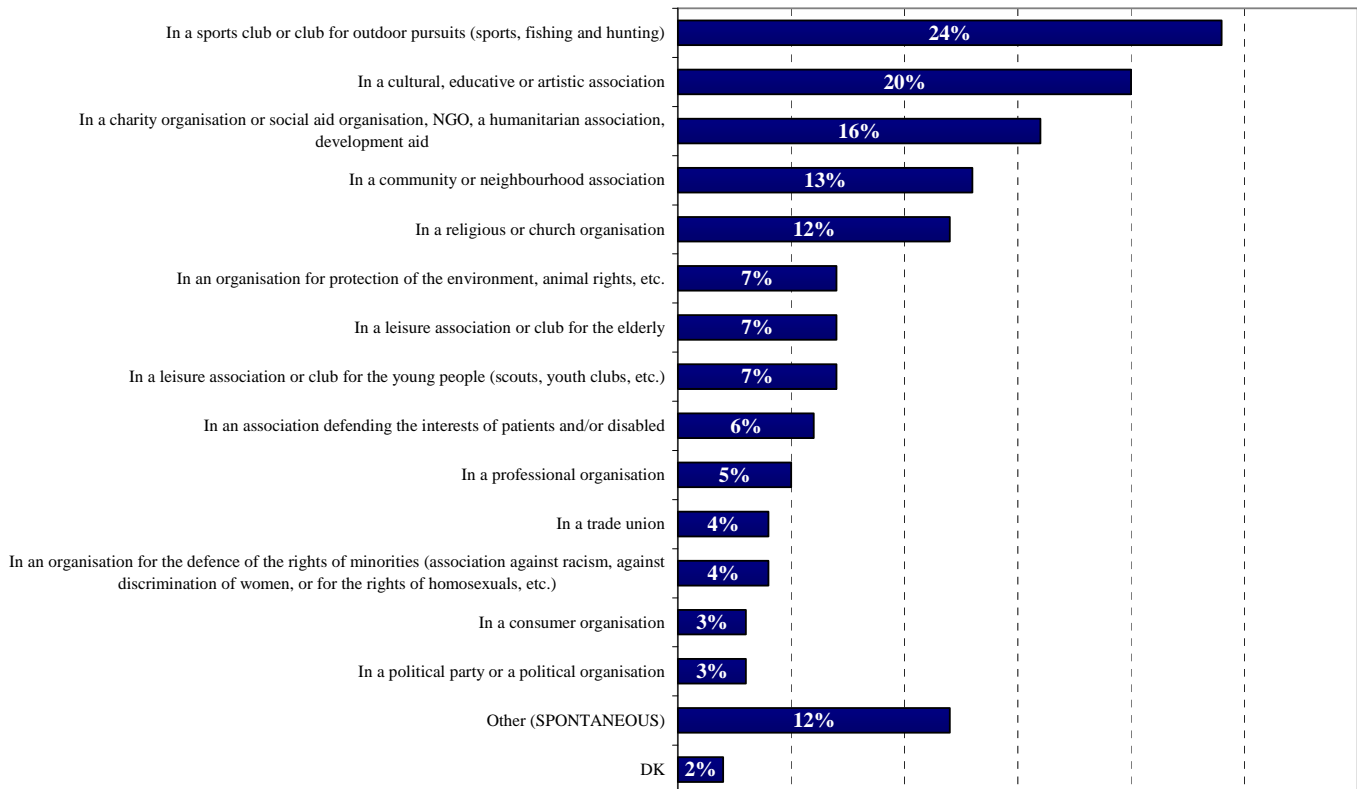
- An analysis of the socio-demographic variables demonstrated that **the most educated Europeans** are most likely to say that they are involved in voluntary work (32% of those who studied until at least the age of 20).
- Furthermore, **managers** are the category with the most volunteers (34%), while the **unemployed** form the category with the fewest (17%).

2. In which areas do Europeans undertake voluntary work?

Question asked of the 24% of respondents who said that they currently undertake some voluntary activity on a regular or occasional basis.

Q16 In which type of organisations or associations do you do your voluntary activity?

1) European average



Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

- A **majority of European volunteers** undertake their voluntary work in a **sports club** or an association for **outdoor pursuits (24%)**.
- One volunteer in five undertakes voluntary work in a **cultural, educational or artistic association (20%)**, and 16% in a **charitable** or social aid organisation, an NGO, a humanitarian association, or in development aid.

2) National variations

- Ireland, Denmark and Germany are the three countries in which respondents are most likely to be engaged in voluntary work involving sport or outdoor activities.
- Italy and France are the countries where respondents are most active in cultural, educational or artistic associations.

II. THE IMAGE OF VOLUNTARY WORK

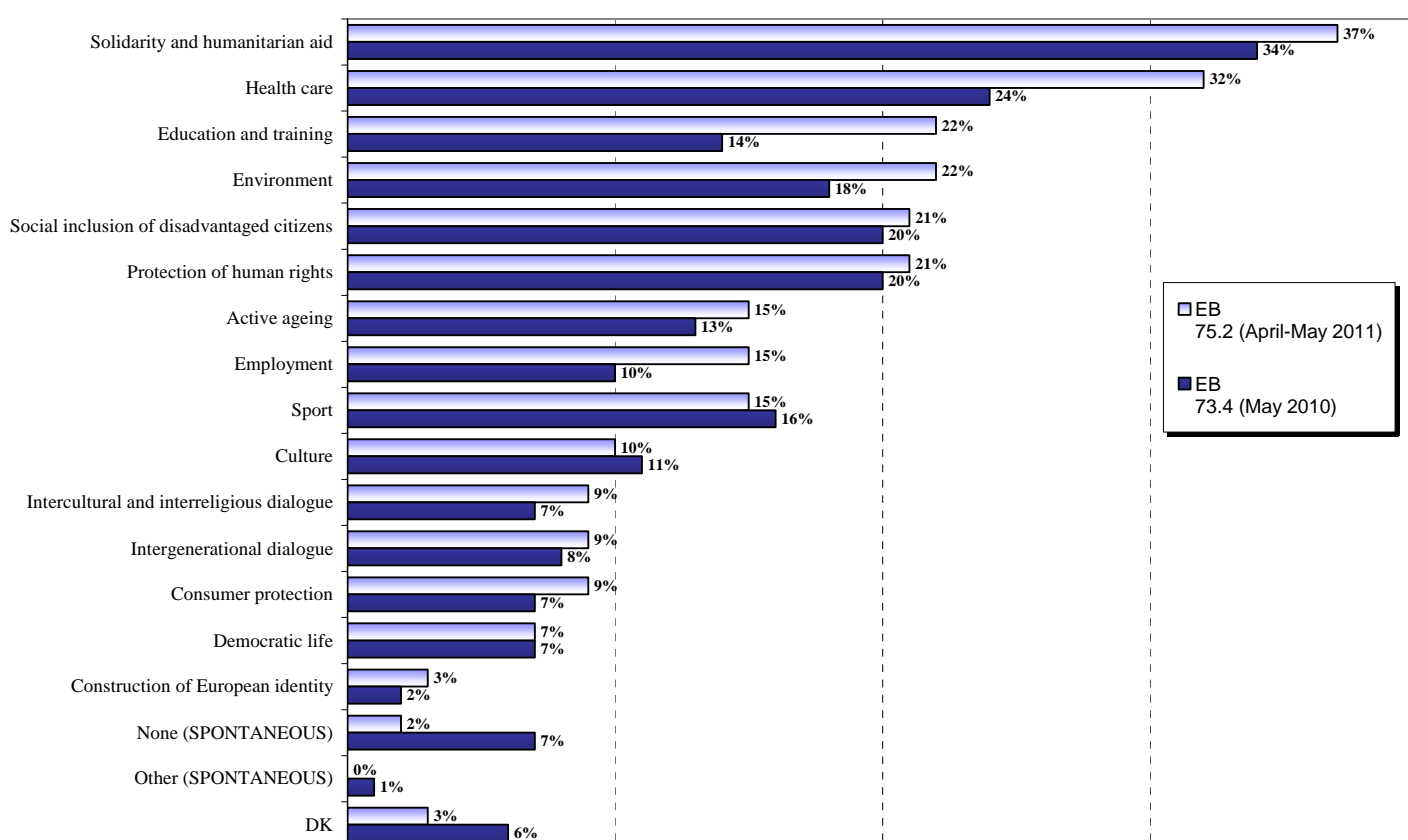
1. In which areas does voluntary work play an important role?

The following questions were put to all respondents, whether or not they were engaged in volunteering.

Q11 In which of the following fields do you consider volunteering to play an important role?

1) European average

The fields in which volunteering is considered important by all Europeans do not directly correspond to the activities of the 24% of Europeans who are engaged in voluntary work.



Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2; Eurobarometer/European Commission 73.4

- **In comparison with May 2010**, though solidarity and humanitarian aid remains the leading field in which the voluntary sector is seen to play an important role (+3 points), there has been an **important increase** in the proportions ascribing an important role to volunteering in the fields of **health care** (+8) and **education** (+8). A little less than a year earlier, education and training was not among the top three areas identified.

2) *National variations and trends*

	Solidarity and humanitarian aid			Health care			Education and training			Environment			Social inclusion of disadvantaged citizens			Protection of human rights			Active ageing			Employment			Sport			Culture		
	EB* 73.4	EB* 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4	EB 73.4	EB 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4	EB 73.4	EB 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4	EB 73.4	EB 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4	EB 73.4	EB 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4	EB 73.4	EB 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4	EB 73.4	EB 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4	EB 73.4	EB 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4	EB 73.4	EB 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4	EB 73.4	EB 75.2	Diff. EB 75.2 - EB 73.4
EU 27	34%	37%	+3	24%	32%	+8	14%	2%	+8	18%	2%	+4	20%	21%	+1	20%	21%	+1	13%	15%	+2	10%	15%	+5	16%	15%	-1	11%	10%	-1
BE	33%	42%	+9	24%	35%	+11	19%	24%	+5	18%	22%	+4	19%	18%	-1	16%	23%	+7	23%	20%	-3	13%	13%	=	18%	21%	3	15%	13%	-2
BG	32%	42%	+10	12%	24%	+12	8%	13%	+5	16%	24%	+8	26%	33%	+7	23%	22%	-1	13%	19%	+6	14%	24%	+10	6%	3%	-3	4%	3%	-1
CZ	44%	53%	+9	24%	31%	+7	9%	10%	+1	24%	30%	+6	24%	23%	-1	24%	21%	-3	16%	19%	+3	13%	16%	+3	15%	10%	-5	9%	7%	-2
DK	34%	38%	+4	13%	12%	-1	6%	11%	+5	18%	19%	+1	32%	32%	=	16%	19%	+3	25%	23%	-2	5%	7%	+2	49%	47%	-2	19%	17%	-2
DE	34%	36%	+2	27%	33%	+6	15%	21%	+6	24%	32%	+8	26%	22%	-4	18%	19%	+1	14%	13%	-1	7%	10%	+3	32%	32%	=	16%	16%	=
EE	26%	28%	+2	17%	25%	+8	19%	31%	+12	29%	36%	+7	20%	23%	+3	13%	18%	+5	9%	10%	+1	10%	12%	+2	11%	9%	-2	17%	17%	=
IE	11%	14%	+3	15%	24%	+9	16%	30%	+14	8%	10%	+2	12%	17%	+5	12%	17%	+5	19%	25%	+6	12%	17%	+5	24%	26%	+2	9%	9%	=
EL	37%	43%	+6	22%	36%	+14	8%	12%	+4	46%	50%	+4	13%	12%	-1	27%	27%	=	1%	2%	+1	11%	9%	-2	25%	26%	+1	26%	24%	-2
ES	54%	48%	-6	18%	24%	+6	11%	19%	+8	16%	22%	+6	28%	25%	-3	29%	24%	-5	7%	13%	+6	11%	15%	+4	4%	3%	-1	8%	7%	-1
FR	47%	57%	+10	14%	22%	+8	18%	26%	+8	17%	19%	+2	16%	21%	+5	19%	18%	-1	20%	21%	+1	12%	18%	+6	24%	24%	=	14%	13%	-1
IT	37%	40%	+3	30%	32%	+2	9%	13%	+4	13%	17%	+4	23%	26%	+3	28%	27%	-1	11%	12%	+1	8%	11%	+3	2%	3%	+1	6%	7%	+1
CY	68%	68%	=	15%	20%	+5	15%	16%	+1	21%	21%	=	18%	22%	+4	40%	40%	=	22%	15%	-7	10%	13%	+3	9%	12%	+3	11%	11%	=
LV	20%	24%	+4	27%	40%	+13	17%	28%	+11	19%	24%	+5	12%	17%	+5	12%	16%	+4	4%	5%	+1	12%	18%	+6	10%	9%	-1	13%	14%	+1
LT	22%	26%	+4	31%	43%	+12	9%	17%	+8	16%	19%	+3	12%	16%	+4	18%	23%	+5	7%	10%	+3	12%	17%	+5	6%	7%	+1	13%	10%	-3
LU	44%	49%	+5	15%	24%	+9	19%	24%	+5	16%	19%	+3	25%	22%	-3	18%	20%	+2	19%	20%	+1	10%	20%	+10	18%	16%	-2	15%	12%	-3
HU	32%	35%	+3	26%	37%	+11	10%	18%	+8	25%	28%	+3	24%	27%	+3	22%	21%	-1	4%	9%	+5	10%	18%	+8	9%	11%	+2	10%	10%	=
MT	35%	38%	+3	27%	35%	+8	19%	22%	+3	20%	20%	=	24%	21%	-3	16%	19%	+3	30%	32%	+2	9%	13%	+4	14%	9%	-5	9%	10%	+1
NL	28%	32%	+4	44%	47%	+3	18%	23%	+5	11%	15%	+4	24%	23%	-1	15%	19%	+4	24%	21%	-3	4%	8%	+4	35%	34%	-1	17%	21%	+4
AT	26%	38%	+12	25%	46%	+21	18%	17%	-1	20%	25%	+5	23%	23%	=	24%	22%	-2	16%	21%	+5	13%	13%	=	16%	17%	+1	10%	10%	=
PL	25%	29%	+4	36%	55%	+19	14%	19%	+5	13%	13%	=	9%	14%	+5	18%	18%	=	17%	23%	+6	6%	11%	+5	6%	4%	-2	8%	9%	+1
PT	45%	48%	+3	29%	47%	+18	8%	11%	+3	5%	7%	+2	22%	24%	+2	17%	18%	+1	17%	28%	+11	7%	9%	+2	3%	2%	-1	4%	3%	-1
RO	34%	40%	+6	22%	31%	+9	13%	19%	+6	16%	29%	+13	11%	17%	+6	14%	22%	+8	5%	8%	+3	15%	22%	+7	3%	4%	+1	4%	3%	-1
SI	56%	54%	-2	10%	18%	+8	9%	15%	+6	21%	29%	+8	21%	23%	+2	15%	18%	+3	12%	21%	+9	11%	12%	+1	18%	15%	-3	18%	11%	-7
SK	39%	50%	+11	22%	30%	+8	7%	10%	+3	27%	34%	+7	17%	19%	+2	24%	23%	-1	9%	13%	+4	14%	15%	+1	16%	14%	-2	15%	12%	-3
FI	27%	33%	+6	24%	37%	+13	9%	15%	+6	21%	23%	+2	31%	32%	+1	27%	31%	+4	13%	16%	+3	14%	19%	+5	24%	24%	=	12%	13%	+1
SE	54%	58%	+4	23%	29%	+6	10%	23%	+13	25%	17%	-8	24%	19%	-5	34%	38%	+4	9%	8%	-1	7%	10%	+3	22%	15%	-7	15%	11%	-4
UK	8%	9%	+1	21%	28%	+7	23%	39%	+16	19%	20%	+1	15%	17%	+2	12%	15%	+3	11%	8%	-3	10%	22%	+12	18%	13%	-5	6%	7%	+1

Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

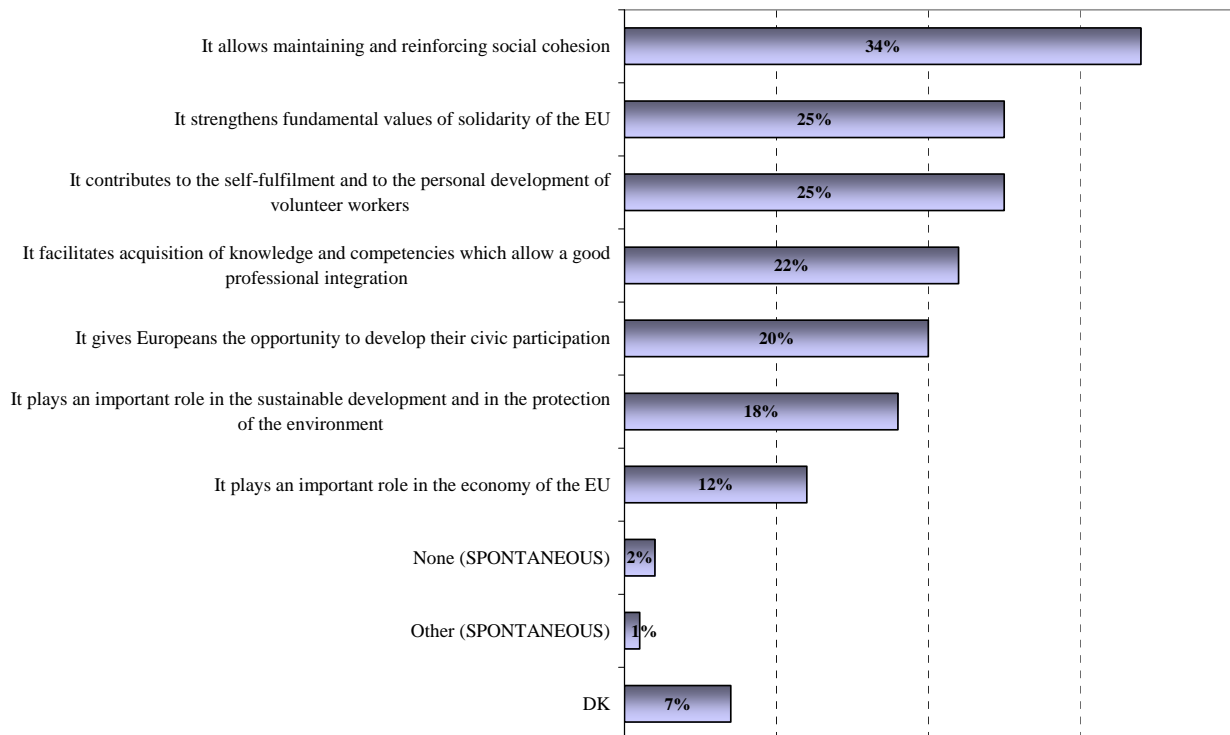
* EB75.2: fieldwork: 13 April - 02 May 2011. EB73.4: May 2010.

- The role of voluntary work in **solidarity and humanitarian aid** has gained ground in the large majority of Member States, and in particular in Austria (+12), Slovakia (+11), France and Bulgaria (+10). It has declined in only two of the 27 Member States, Slovenia (-2) and Spain (-6).
- Perceptions of the importance of volunteering in **health care** have strengthened everywhere except in Denmark (-1). There are especially sharp increases in Austria (+21), Poland (+19) and Portugal (+18).
- Perceptions of the importance of the role of voluntary work in **education and training** have declined only in Austria (-1), and have gained very significant ground in the United Kingdom (+16), Ireland (+14) and Sweden (+13).

2. What are the main benefits of voluntary work?

Q13 Which of the following do you think are the two main benefits from volunteering in the EU? (max. two answers)

1) European average



Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

- In line with the areas in which the voluntary sector is seen to have an important role in the view of Europeans, the main benefits of volunteering are identified as **maintaining and strengthening social cohesion (34%)**, **strengthening the fundamental values of solidarity and personal fulfilment and development (both 25%)**.

2) National variations

	It maintains and strengthens social cohesion	It strengthens the fundamental values of solidarity in the EU	It contributes to the personal fulfilment and development of volunteers	It facilitates the acquisition of knowledge and skills which encourage integration in working life	It gives Europeans the opportunity to develop their participation in civic life	It plays an important role in sustainable development and the protection of the environment	It plays an important role in the EU economy	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	DK
EU27	34%	25%	25%	22%	20%	18%	12%	2%	1%	7%
BE	35%	33%	38%	19%	20%	19%	15%	1%	1%	1%
BG	40%	15%	23%	24%	26%	20%	15%	1%	0%	8%
CZ	32%	30%	28%	13%	25%	24%	12%	2%	0%	3%
DK	42%	20%	52%	18%	21%	20%	8%	1%	0%	2%
DE	50%	26%	27%	19%	20%	17%	11%	2%	1%	4%
EE	25%	14%	35%	24%	22%	20%	14%	3%	0%	8%
IE	23%	24%	35%	16%	22%	13%	20%	1%	1%	13%
EL	38%	32%	22%	21%	24%	27%	10%	2%	1%	2%
ES	28%	29%	24%	16%	17%	16%	10%	3%	1%	9%
FR	41%	26%	31%	17%	21%	18%	10%	2%	1%	6%
IT	25%	34%	14%	25%	24%	22%	13%	2%	1%	5%
CY	24%	46%	29%	23%	39%	16%	15%	1%	-	1%
LV	29%	11%	29%	20%	24%	16%	12%	4%	0%	8%
LT	20%	15%	22%	24%	24%	14%	18%	3%	1%	15%
LU	31%	29%	24%	25%	20%	24%	16%	2%	-	3%
HU	40%	19%	21%	29%	16%	27%	16%	2%	0%	3%
MT	16%	35%	19%	15%	28%	18%	14%	1%	-	16%
NL	36%	26%	41%	22%	22%	11%	12%	4%	1%	3%
AT	48%	23%	28%	23%	20%	21%	16%	3%	2%	1%
PL	27%	17%	26%	24%	19%	14%	11%	2%	0%	12%
PT	32%	33%	21%	14%	19%	9%	13%	2%	1%	7%
RO	23%	16%	18%	27%	26%	21%	14%	1%	1%	17%
SI	32%	38%	28%	17%	21%	19%	12%	2%	2%	1%
SK	37%	30%	24%	17%	25%	24%	12%	1%	1%	4%
FI	47%	30%	27%	18%	20%	30%	8%	1%	0%	2%
SE	36%	30%	29%	33%	29%	21%	4%	1%	0%	2%
UK	23%	14%	24%	32%	14%	15%	20%	5%	1%	11%

Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

- The main benefits of voluntary work are perceived somewhat differently from one country to another. The following were the answers most frequently mentioned in the following countries:
 - Voluntary work maintains and strengthens social cohesion was the most frequent answer in Germany (50%), Austria (48%) and Finland (47%).
 - It strengthens the fundamental values of solidarity in the EU: Cyprus (46%), Slovenia (38%) and Malta (35%).
 - It contributes to the personal fulfilment and development of volunteers: Denmark (52%), the Netherlands (41%) and Belgium (38%).
 - It facilitates the acquisition of knowledge and skills which encourage integration in working life: Sweden (33%), the United Kingdom (32%) and Hungary (29%).
 - It gives Europeans the opportunity to develop their participation in civic life: Cyprus (39%), Sweden (29%) and Malta (28%).
 - It plays an important role in sustainable development and the protection of the environment: Finland (30%), Greece and Hungary (both 27%), the Czech Republic, Luxembourg and Slovakia (all 24%).
 - It plays an important role in the EU economy: Ireland and the United Kingdom (both 20%), Lithuania (18%), Luxembourg, Hungary and Austria (16%).

It may be thought that these answers go some way towards illustrating the concerns of European citizens, and the areas in which they have some expectation of action.

3) Socio-demographic variations

- The respondents who spent **longest in education** are the most likely to say that voluntary work **maintains and strengthens social cohesion** (40% of respondents who continued their studies to age 20 and beyond, compared with 28% of those who left school at age 15 or earlier).
- However, this same group (the most 'educated'), is the **least likely** to believe that **the voluntary sector contributes significantly to the EU economy** (11% compared with 13% for those whose education ended by the age of 19 and 14% for those who are still studying).

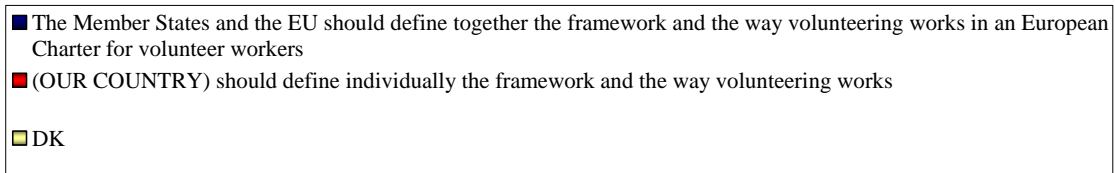
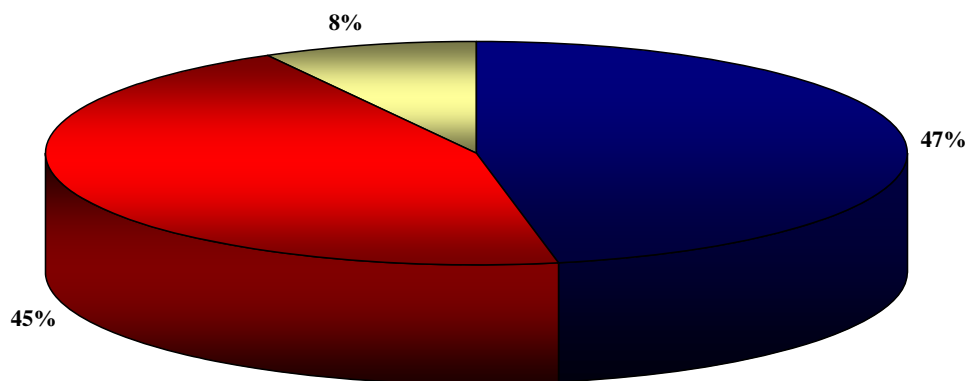
III. EXPECTATIONS

1. Should the framework within which the voluntary sector operates be defined at: the national or EU level?

Q12 To define the framework and the way in which voluntary work operates, which of the following options would you prefer? (Only one answer)

1) European average

A narrow majority of respondents preferred a European framework for the voluntary sector, though Europeans remain evenly divided on this question.

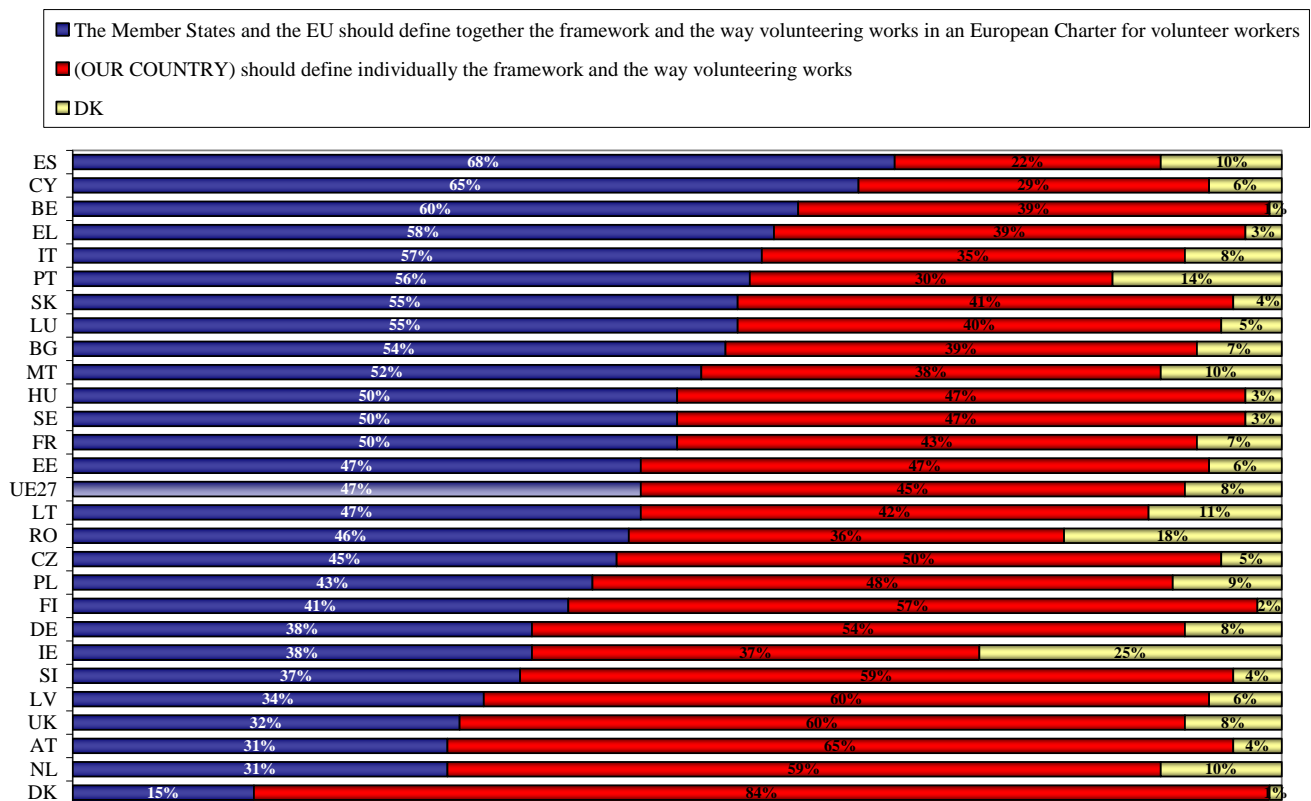


Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

- **47% of respondents support the creation of a European Charter for Volunteers,** while 45% think that each Member State should establish its own individual framework and way of volunteering for the voluntary sector in its country.

- The study conducted by the European Commission - DG EAC, 2010. *Voluntary Services in the European Union*¹, which coincides with the European Year of Volunteering, emphasises the diverse nature of the voluntary sector in the EU and the **absence of a harmonised legal framework**. Voluntary work is governed at different levels in the Member States, as follows:
 - 1) Member States with a legal framework specific to the voluntary sector: BE, CY, CZ, HU, IT, LV, LU, MT, PL, PT, RO, ES
 - 2) Member States with no specific legal framework, where the voluntary sector is governed by or through other existing general laws: AT, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, GR, IE, LT, NL, SE, UK
 - 3) Member States where a legal framework is currently being studied: BG, SK and SI

2) National variations



Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

- The **European Charter for Volunteers** receives most support in Spain (68%), Cyprus (65%) and Belgium (60%). The countries in which it receives least support are Denmark (15%), the Netherlands and Austria (both 31%).

¹ European Commission - DG EAC, 2010. *Voluntary Services in the European Union*. Final report. London: GHK (p. 110).

2. What support is there for the creation of volunteer rescue teams in every region?

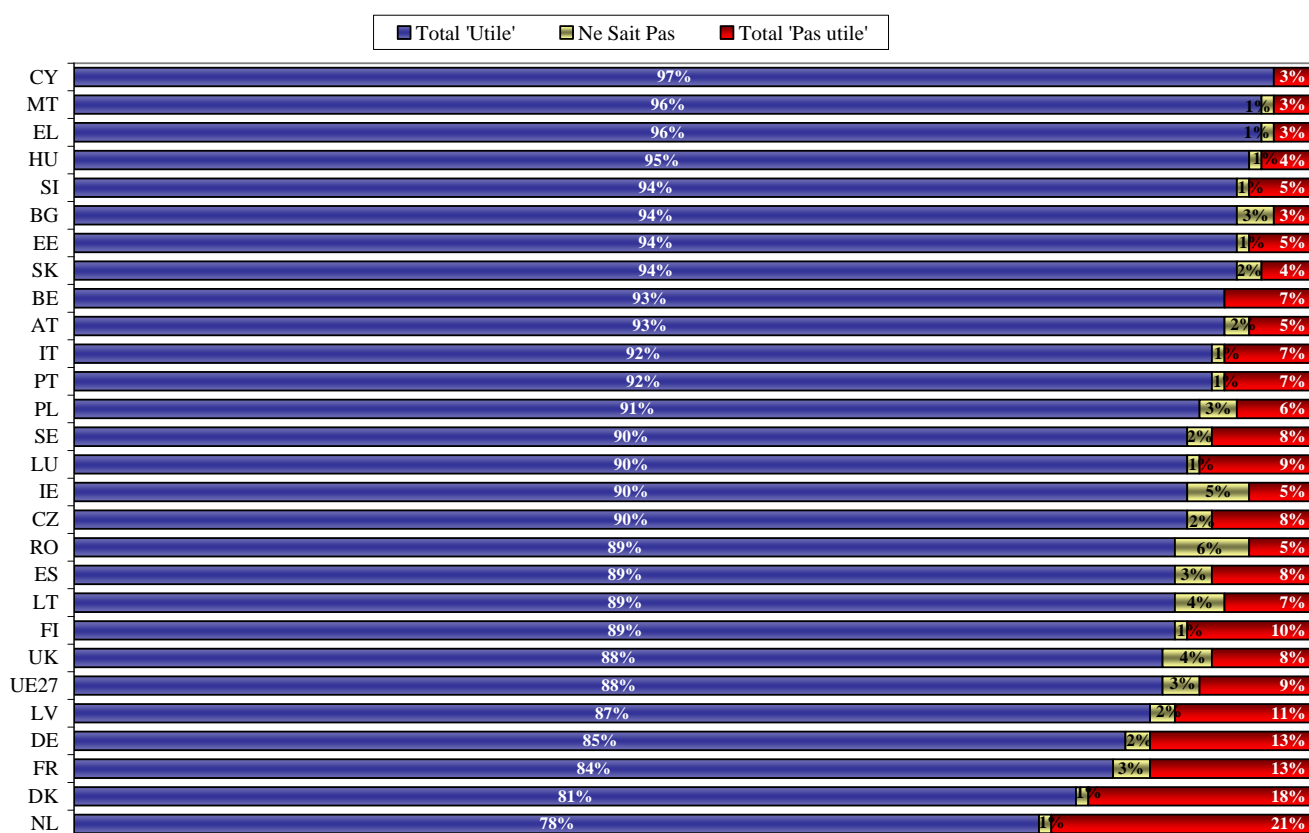
Q14 The European Parliament would like EU Member States and their local and regional authorities to set up volunteer rescue teams in every region to cope with natural disasters and accidents. Do you think that such a measure would be useful or not?

1) European average

- 88% of Europeans believe that volunteer rescue teams should be set up to cope with natural disasters and accidents.

2) National variations

- The survey found no direct correspondence with the countries which have recently been affected by natural disasters.



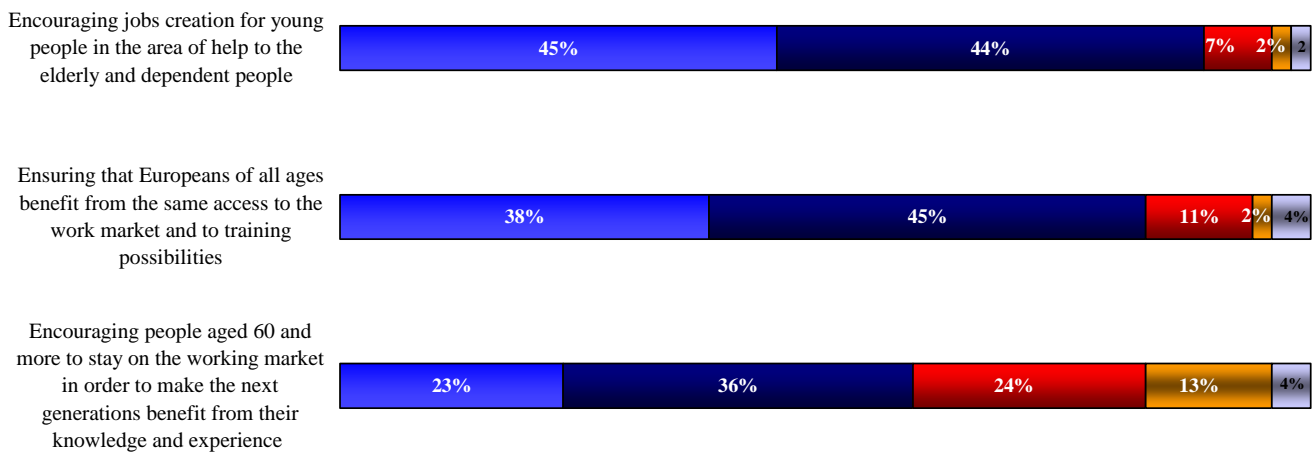
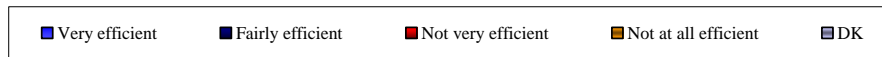
Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

IV. EUROPEANS AND INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

1. What links can be established between the elderly and young people?

Q17 For each of the following measures aimed at reinforcing the solidarity between generations (and especially between young and elderly people), please tell me if you think it would be an efficient measure or not.

1) European average



Source: Eurobarometer/European Parliament 75.2

- 89% of respondents support job creation for young people in the area of help for the elderly and dependent people (45% said this would be ‘very efficient’ and 44% ‘fairly efficient’).
- 83% of Europeans think that citizens of all ages should have the same access to the labour market and to opportunities for training (38% ‘very efficient’ and 45% ‘fairly efficient’).
- 59% of respondents think it would be efficient to encourage the elderly (60+) to stay in the labour market in order to pass on their experience to young people (23% ‘very efficient’ and 36% ‘fairly efficient’).

2) Socio-demographic variations

- The socio-demographic variations, particularly in terms of age, are marginal for these three proposals.

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