



Directorate General for Communication
Direction C - Relations with citizens
PUBLIC OPINION MONITORING UNIT

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EB71.3 - EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2009

Post-electoral survey

First results: Focus on the vote by age group

Population: EU 18+ (in Austria 16+)

Coverage: EU 27 (26.830 European citizens)¹

Respondents eligible to vote: 26.096

Fieldwork dates: 12th June - 6th July 2009

Four related notes on the post-elections survey, prepared by the European Parliament, can be found published on the EP website². This fifth analysis focuses on the distribution of the vote by age group, and notably on the 18-24 year old vote (+16 in Austria) compared to the EU27 average and the national average. This analysis has been prepared using the socio-demographic data provided by the post-elections Eurobarometer/European Parliament.

The previous study on the vote by gender³ shows that there are no major differences between the male and female vote: on average, women voted slightly less than men (42% against 44%), but voted more than men in 8 Member States. On the other hand, the attachment that women have with the EU is more distant than that of men: women perceive the EU as an entity too abstract from their everyday lives. They feel badly hit by the financial, economic and social crisis. Their interest in politics in general is weaker than that of men. When they are interested in politics, it is more on the local and regional levels rather than at the national level.

¹ To ensure the representativeness of the results of this post-electoral study the data has been weighted socio-demographically for each Member State and then internationally at the EU level.

² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament/public/staticDisplay.do?language=FR&id=40>

³ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/eurobarometre/10_11/EB71.3post-electoral_gender_fr.pdf

⇒ **How did young (women and men) aged 18-24 vote?**

Whilst average participation at the EU level stands at 43%, participation of 18-24 year olds is only 29% (-14 percentage points) while the participation of 55+ year olds stands at 50%. In 2004, the participation rate for the two age groups was 33% and 59% respectively.

This European average for the youngest group of 29% conceals notable national variations, these range from +2 to -28 points compared to the average national vote.

The same observation applies equally to the participation rate of 18-24 year olds. Outside Belgium and Luxembourg, where voting is obligatory, the national participation rates for this group range from 77% participation to 12%.

It is not surprising that young people, who have only voted for the first or second time, voted appreciably less than their elders. This trend is accentuated at national elections where the average participation within the EU stands at 72% while for 18-24 year olds it stands at 38% (-34 percentage points).

⇒ **What is the degree of political proximity?**

To no surprise, 18-24 year olds feel less close to any one of the political parties. While 43% of Europeans in general declare that they feel close to one of the political parties, this is only 30% (-13) for 18-24 year olds. 55+ year olds have a more established political identity (52%).

Once again there are large intergenerational variations, notably within each Member State: the differences in the feeling of being close to a political party between the young and the national average range from -1 to -31 percentage points.

⇒ **At what moment did young people decide to go and vote?**

As noted above, young people express a weaker level of political proximity to a party than their elders. Here we can ask ourselves if, among other reasons, this does not have repercussions in their desire to participate and the point at which they make their voting choice.

Only 30% of 18-24 year olds declared that they always vote in the same way, compared to 50% on average (-20).

They are, on the other hand, more numerous in deciding on their vote later in the campaign: 17% a few weeks before the election (+4) compared to 13% at EU27 level; or a few days before the election: 17% (+8) against 9%.

Thus, they reveal themselves as being an electoral population more sensitive to the arguments developed by the candidates during the electoral campaign. When asked why they went to vote, 7% of them (+2) cited that the information they

received during the campaign convinced them to vote compared to the EU average of 5%.

On top of that, we ask ourselves whether the weak mobilisation of 18-24 year olds in the European elections and the uncertainty of their electoral choice is not dependant on young people's lack of knowledge of the European Union compared to their elders. Perhaps here there is need for reflection, notably on the place of the European Union in secondary school curriculums across the 27 Member States.

One could consider that the more familiar young people are with the European Union at secondary school, the better it would be understood and therefore they would have the necessary knowledge at their disposal to establish a political identity and make their electoral choice.

⇒ **What are the reasons to go to vote?**

Like their elders, the reason cited most often by young people for going to the ballot box was to fulfil their duty as a citizen: 46% (-1) compared to the EU average of 47%⁴.

The generations are in a certain way divided in some of the "European" reasons for voting. Thus, 22% (+3) of young people think that their vote can change things in Europe, 18% (+6), 18% (+5) vote because they feel European citizens and 8% (+2) consider that the EU plays an important role in their everyday lives.

Finally, 16% (=) of 18-24 year olds voted because they are in favour of Europe. However, 3% (-2) voted because they are interested in European affairs.

⇒ **What issues motivated the vote?**

Of the 15 issues likely to motivate the electorate, which were presented to the survey respondents, young people aged 18-24 who voted (29%), cited the same main issues as their elders. Regarding the two most important issues, we see that 18-24 year olds are more concerned by the financial, economic and social crisis than the other age groups.

a) Economic growth is their foremost concern with 46% (+5) against 41% at the EU27 level. As with all the other themes the national differences are relatively important. The heterogeneity of responses should not surprise us if we examine the evolution in the GDP statistics. According to Eurostat, GDP per inhabitant expressed in purchasing power standards (PPS) in the Member States ranged in 2008 from 41% to 276% of the EU27 average.

b) For young people aged 18-24 the fear of unemployment ranks in second position with 41% (+4) against 37%. Again, there is nothing surprising at this seeing that according to Eurostat, in October 2009 unemployment stood at 9,3%

⁴ Maximum 3 responses possible, sum of answers given.

for the active population whereas for young people less than 25 years old this figure stood at 20,7%.

c) They are less concerned than the other age groups about the future of their pension. This issue was cited by only 11% of young people against 22% on average (-11).

⇒ **What are the reasons for not voting?**

Compared to the average on the EU27 level, young people aged 18-24 years old who did not go to vote (71%), more often declared that they are not interested in politics: 20% (+3) against 17%. Nevertheless, they are less unsatisfied with politics in general: 19% (-9) against 28%.

As their third main reason for not voting, young people declared that they were too busy, that they did not have the time or that they had to work. 16% (+6) of 18-24 year olds cited this reason, a greater proportion than the EU average of 10%.

Finally, young people are also relatively more numerous in citing that they had problems with their voting card or registering to vote as a reason for not going to the ballot box: 5% (+2) against 3%.

Faced with these two reasons for not going to vote, we could ask ourselves if some measures to facilitate the vote would not aid participation of 18-24 year olds in future European elections.

At the same time, relatively fewer young people aged 18-24 year old said that they are not really satisfied with the European Parliament as an institution: 5% (-3) against the EU average of 8%.

⇒ **Young people have more confidence in the EU?**

Considering the sample as a whole, we can observe from their responses that as a general rule, young people have more confidence in the EU than the other age groups.

In fact, 54% of young people aged 18-24, compared to the EU average of 50% (+4), have confidence in the institutions of the EU; 74% consider that the EU membership of their country is a good thing (+5); and 68% feel European citizens (+4).

Concerning the respective attachment that young people have to their country and to Europe, 86% (-5) feel attached to their country and 66% (+2) feel attached to Europe.

Finally, young people aged 18-24 are less interested by politics in general: 30% (-9) than their elders.

N.B. Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentage, that is to say if the whole population had been interviewed, varies within the following confidence limits:

Observed percentages	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
Confidence limits	+/- 1,9 points	+/- 2,5 points	+/- 2,7 points	+/- 3,0 points	+/- 3,1 points

EUROSTAT
Population of the Member States by age groups as of 1st January 2008

	EU27	%
TOTAL	497.444.638	100%
18-24	44.280.042	8,90%
25-39	106.239.424	21,36%
40-54	107.749.511	21,66%
55+	134.033.899	26,94%

N.B. Please note that this data does not correspond to the number of potential electors but to the population having reached voting age. In fact, the data concerning the electors is dependant on the national election procedures which vary from country to country.

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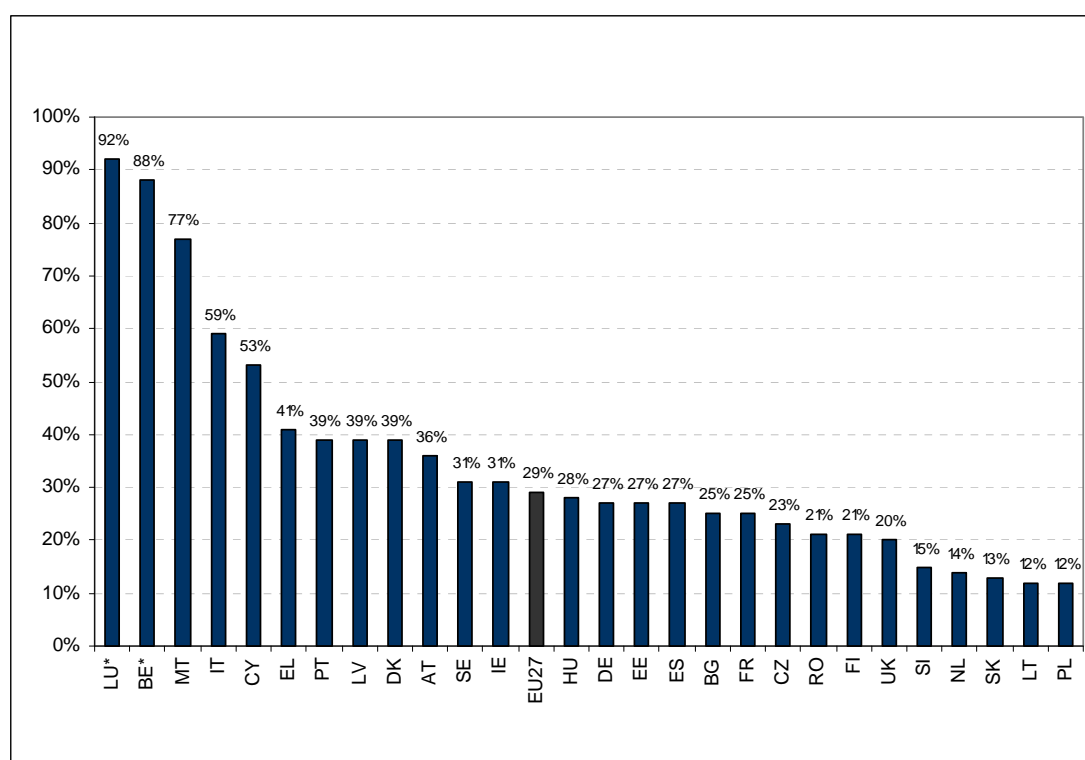
I. PARTICIPATION AND POLITICAL PROXIMITY

A. Participation in European elections 2009

Q1. Participation in the European Parliament elections 2009. Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
PARTICIPATION	43%	29%	-14	36%	44%	50%
ABSTENTION	57%	71%	+14	64%	56%	50%

Diagram 1: Participation in the EE 2009. Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.



The participation in the 2009 European elections increased with the age, ranging from 29% in the youngest group (18-24 year old) to 50% in the group of respondents aged 55 years or older. The difference between the total participation and the participation of the youngest group in the EU as a whole is -14 percentage points.

Q1. Participation in the European Parliament elections 2009: Breakdown by Member State and age.

	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
PT	37%	39%	+2	34%	35%	39%
LU#	91%	92%	+1	89%	92%	90%
MT	79%	77%	-2	82%	75%	80%
BE#	90%	88%	-2	92%	92%	90%
CZ	28%	23%	-5	29%	28%	29%
IT	65%	59%	-6	66%	65%	66%
CY	59%	53%	-6	41%	60%	71%
SK	20%	13%	-7	17%	20%	23%
RO	28%	21%	-7	18%	28%	35%
HU	36%	28%	-8	38%	37%	38%
LT	21%	12%	-9	15%	19%	29%
AT	46%	36%	-10	44%	47%	51%
EL	53%	41%	-12	43%	51%	62%
PL	25%	12%	-13	20%	26%	30%
SI	28%	15%	-13	16%	22%	41%
EU27	43%	29%	-14	36%	44%	50%
BG	39%	25%	-14	31%	39%	46%
SE	46%	31%	-15	41%	40%	53%
LV	54%	39%	-15	48%	54%	62%
UK	35%	20%	-15	17%	38%	52%
FR	41%	25%	-16	29%	40%	49%
DE	43%	27%	-16	46%	40%	49%
EE	44%	27%	-17	39%	44%	51%
ES	45%	27%	-18	34%	52%	49%
FI	40%	21%	-19	32%	36%	50%
DK	60%	39%	-21	50%	62%	66%
NL	37%	14%	-23	23%	40%	46%
IE	59%	31%	-28	56%	63%	68%

Member States where voting is compulsory.

Looking only at the youngest group in the individual Member States the differences are extremely variable.

- ⇒ In Portugal and Luxembourg the youngest voters actually voted in the above average share for their country (+2 points in Portugal and +1 in Luxembourg).
- ⇒ In the majority of states the trend is below average participation for the youngest respondents. The largest differences are found in Ireland (-28 percentage points), the Netherlands (-23) and Denmark (where the youngest group's participation is 21 points lower than the country average).

B. Participation in national elections

Q9. Participation in the last national elections. Breakdown by Member State and age.

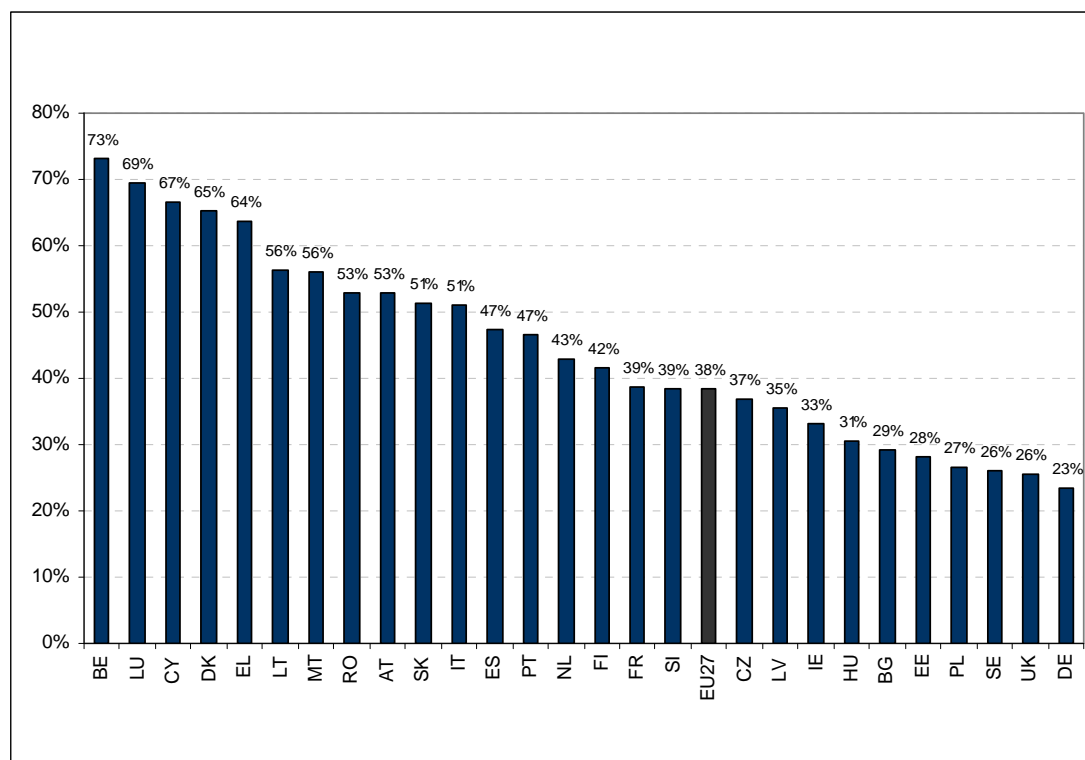
	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
PARTICIPATION	72%	38%	-34	64%	77%	82%
ABSTENTION*	28%	62%	+34	36%	23%	18%

NB.All respondents were asked this question

* Including respondents who answered "don't know": 2,8% in the EU (2,8% for 18-24, 3,6% for 25-39, 3% for 40-54 & 2,4% for 55+).

The participation in the last national election also increased with age. For every age group examined it is higher than the participation in the European elections 2009. The difference between the youngest group and the total average participation is 34 percentage points, which is more than the difference in the participation in the EE 2009 (but these respondents participated more often in the national than the European election).

Diagram 2: Participation in the last national election. Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.



Q9. Participation in the last national elections: Breakdown by Member State and age.

	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
RO	63%	53%	-10	59%	61%	69%
LU#	81%	69%	-11	76%	79%	87%
LT	68%	56%	-12	63%	66%	76%
SK	68%	51%	-17	70%	68%	74%
BE#	91%	73%	-18	91%	94%	94%
AT	72%	53%	-19	66%	72%	84%
CZ	56%	37%	-19	55%	56%	65%
CY	89%	67%	-22	88%	91%	96%
EL	87%	64%	-23	87%	93%	90%
DK	89%	65%	-24	88%	91%	94%
PT	71%	47%	-24	64%	73%	80%
PL	55%	27%	-29	51%	59%	64%
IT	81%	51%	-30	79%	88%	83%
ES	78%	47%	-31	69%	82%	88%
SI	70%	39%	-31	62%	66%	84%
EU27	72%	38%	-34	64%	77%	82%
MT	91%	56%	-35	96%	95%	97%
EE	63%	28%	-35	63%	68%	72%
UK	61%	26%	-35	44%	69%	81%
LV	72%	35%	-36	70%	73%	86%
NL	80%	43%	-37	82%	87%	83%
FR	76%	39%	-38	67%	80%	87%
FI	80%	42%	-38	76%	80%	90%
HU	70%	31%	-39	68%	74%	80%
BG	70%	29%	-41	60%	75%	81%
IE	76%	33%	-43	68%	82%	93%
DE	72%	23%	-49	67%	77%	84%
SE	84%	26%	-58	87%	91%	93%

Member States where voting is compulsory.

The percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number; this can vary the difference to +/-1 percentage point.

Analysis of the youngest groups of respondents across Member States demonstrates huge discrepancies; although in none of the countries did the youngest respondents vote in a higher share than the other age groups.

⇒ While the participation of the youngest group in Sweden was 58 percentage points lower than the overall participation in the last Swedish national elections, the difference is only 10 points in Romania.

C. Comparison of the participation in the European elections 2009 and the last national elections: the youngest age group

Q1 and Q9. Comparison of participation in EE 2009 and the last national elections. Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

	EE 2009	National election	Diff.
LU#	92%	69%	+23
MT	77%	56%	+21
BE#	88%	73%	+15
IT	59%	51%	+8
SE	31%	26%	+5
LV	39%	35%	+4
DE	27%	23%	+4
EE	27%	28%	-1
IE	31%	33%	-2
HU	28%	31%	-3
BG	25%	29%	-4
UK	20%	26%	-6
PT	39%	47%	-8
EU27	29%	38%	-9
CY	53%	67%	-14
FR	25%	39%	-14
CZ	23%	37%	-14
PL	12%	27%	-15
AT	36%	53%	-17
ES	27%	47%	-20
FI	21%	42%	-21
EL	41%	64%	-23
SI	15%	39%	-24
DK	39%	65%	-26
NL	14%	43%	-29
RO	21%	53%	-32
SK	13%	51%	-38
LT	12%	56%	-44

Member States where voting is compulsory.

Although, as mentioned above, in the EU as a whole the participation of the youngest group of respondents was higher in the last national than the European elections 2009, this is not the case in all Member States.

- ⇒ In seven countries the participation of respondents aged 18 to 24 years was higher in the European elections 2009 than in the last national elections (LU, MT, BE, IT, SE, LV, DE). In six of these countries the participation of this group in the EE 2009 was above the EU average (29% for the youngest age group). It was below the average only in Germany.⁵
- ⇒ In the remaining states, more of the youngest respondents mobilised to vote in their last national election than the EE 2009. At the extreme end of the scale we find Lithuania (44 point difference), Slovakia (38 points) and Romania (32 points).

⁵ It has to be noted that some of the respondents from this age group might not have been old enough to vote in the last national election but they reached the voting age at the time of the European election 2009. The differences being so large, they can still be considered as important.

D. Political affinity

Q10. Do you feel close to any one of the political parties? Breakdown by Member State and age.

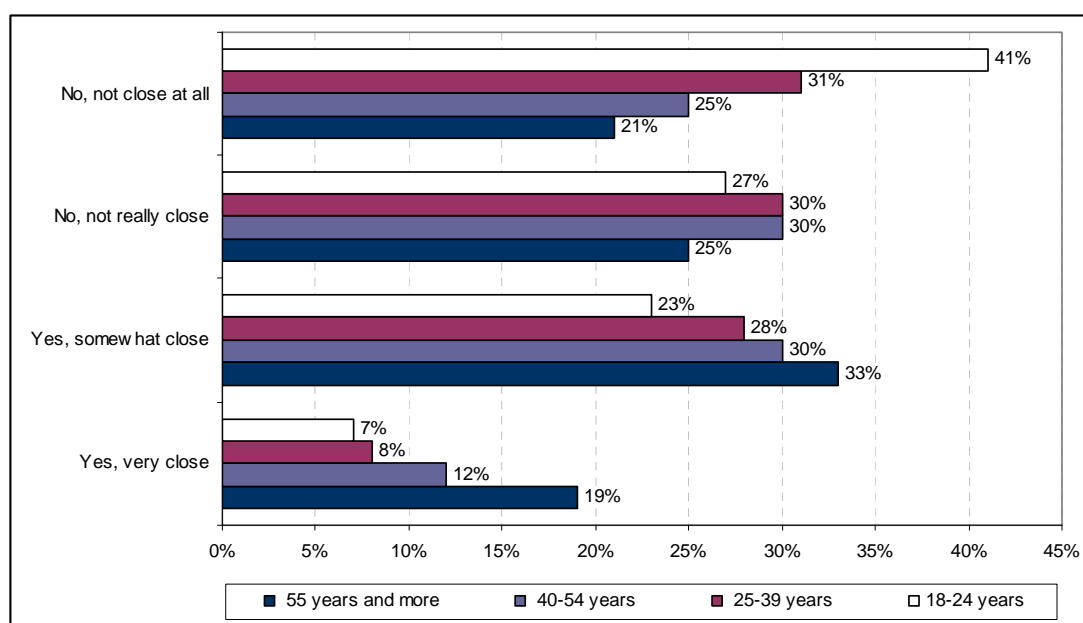
	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
Yes, very close	13%	7%	-6	8%	12%	19%
Yes, somewhat close	30%	23%	-7	28%	30%	33%
No, not really close	28%	27%	-1	30%	30%	25%
No, not close at all	26%	41%	+15	31%	25%	21%
DK	3%	2%	-1	3%	3%	2%
Yes*	43%	30%	-13	36%	42%	52%
No**	54%	68%	+14	61%	55%	46%

* Sum of "yes, very close" and "yes, somewhat close" answers

** Sum of "no, not really close" and "no, not close at all" answers.

NB. All respondents were asked this question.

Diagram 3: Political affinity. The EU averages for the age groups.



Affinity to one of the political parties increases with age; the youngest group of respondents declare least often that they feel any level of closeness. When the answers "yes, very" and "yes, somewhat" are added, the youngest group's score is 13 points lower than the EU average for all respondents. This difference, for example, increases to 22 points when they are compared with respondents aged 55 years or older.

Q10. Do you feel close to any one of the political parties? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
DK	37%	37%	=
IT	59%	58%	-1
EE	47%	44%	-3
LV	35%	31%	-4
PT	45%	41%	-4
MT	78%	73%	-5
FI	46%	40%	-6
BG	40%	34%	-6
CZ	34%	28%	-6
RO	26%	16%	-10
LT	40%	30%	-10
HU	42%	31%	-11
FR	38%	27%	-11
PL	31%	19%	-12
EU27	43%	30%	-13
IE	34%	21%	-13
SK	47%	33%	-14
UK	22%	8%	-14
SI	35%	20%	-15
CY	60%	44%	-16
NL	62%	45%	-17
BE	54%	37%	-17
ES	50%	32%	-18
DE	49%	28%	-21
LU	57%	34%	-23
AT	55%	32%	-23
EL	56%	29%	-27
SE	59%	28%	-31

NB. Sum of "yes, very" and "yes, somewhat" answers.

In none of the countries do the youngest respondents feel close to one of the political parties more often than the national average.

- ⇒ Only in Denmark is the share of respondents aged 18-24 years, who declare feeling close to one of the political parties, equal to the national average (37%).
- ⇒ In the rest of the Member States the difference is negative, meaning that the youngest respondents report feeling close to a particular party less often than the national average. This difference is most extreme in Sweden (-31 points), Greece (-27), Austria and Luxembourg (both -23).

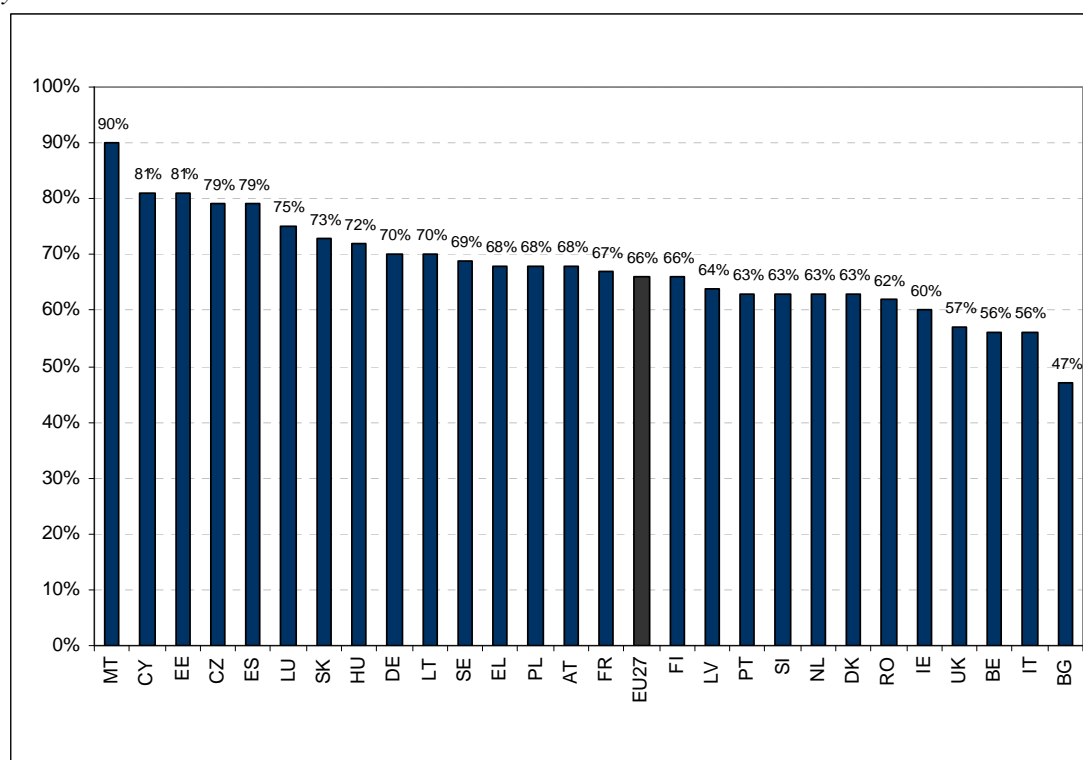
II. EXPOSURE TO THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN

Q8. Personally, do you remember having seen on TV, in the Internet or on posters, read in newspapers or heard on the radio a campaign encouraging people to go to vote on the European elections? Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
Yes	67%	66%	-1	64%	69%	67%
No	30%	31%	+1	32%	29%	30%
DK	3%	3%	=	4%	2%	3%

The exposure to the European elections campaign for the youngest age group does not differ significantly from the average exposure in the EU as a whole (66% compared to 67% on average).

Diagram 4: Exposure to the EE 2009 campaign. Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.



In the youngest group of respondents:

- ⇒ The exposure was the highest in Malta (90%), Cyprus and Greece (both 81%).
- ⇒ It was the lowest in Bulgaria (47%), Italy and Belgium (both 56%).

Q8. Personally, do you remember having seen on TV, in the Internet or on posters, read in newspapers or heard on the radio a campaign encouraging people to go to vote on the European elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
CZ	75%	79%	+4
CY	78%	81%	+3
ES	76%	79%	+3
BE	53%	56%	+3
UK	54%	57%	+3
EL	66%	68%	+2
PL	66%	68%	+2
BG	45%	47%	+2
MT	89%	90%	+1
EE	80%	81%	+1
LU	74%	75%	+1
DE	69%	70%	+1
FR	66%	67%	+1
RO	62%	62%	=
EU27	67%	66%	-1
LT	72%	70%	-2
LV	66%	64%	-2
AT	72%	68%	-4
IT	60%	56%	-4
PT	67%	63%	-4
FI	71%	66%	-5
HU	79%	72%	-7
SK	82%	73%	-9
SI	75%	63%	-12
IE	72%	60%	-12
NL	78%	63%	-15
DK	79%	63%	-16
SE	86%	69%	-17

NB. Sum of "yes" answers.
All respondents were asked this question

Compared to the lack of the difference in the EU on average, the recall of the campaign does change when analysing the results of the age group 18-24 years by Member State.

- ⇒ In 13 Member States the youngest respondents recall the campaign in an above average share but the differences are small, ranging from 4 percentage points (Czech Republic) to only 1 point (Malta, Estonia, Luxembourg, Germany and France).
- ⇒ On the other hand in 13 countries the age group 18-24 years recalls the campaign in a below average share compared to their national results. The difference is largest in Sweden (17 points), Denmark (16 points) and the Netherlands (15).

III. THE VOTERS - PROFILE AND REASONING

NB. The following questions (Q3a, Q4d and Q5) were only posed to the respondents who declare to have voted in European elections 2009 (43% in the EU as a whole).

A. Timing of the decision of who to vote for

Q3a. When did you decide to vote for the political party or candidate you voted for in the recent European Parliament elections? Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
You have always voted like this	50%	30%	-20	41%	47%	58%
You decided a few months ago	21%	28%	+7	26%	22%	17%
You decided a few weeks ago	13%	17%	+4	14%	13%	12%
You decided a few days before the	9%	17%	+8	9%	9%	8%
You decided on the day of the	6%	8%	+2	8%	8%	4%
DK	1%	-	*	2%	1%	1%

NB. Respondents who declared they had voted in the European elections were asked this question.

*Cases absent and therefore the difference cannot be calculated.

As a result of the specificity of the youngest group of respondents (due to their young age they have not formed their voting habits yet and therefore they rarely answer "I always vote like this") the comparison of results for this item by age is not appropriate.

B. Reasons for voting

Q4d. What are the main reasons why you decided to go to vote in the recent EP elections? Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
This is your duty as citizen	47%	46%	-1	42%	48%	49%
You always vote	40%	28%	-12	39%	39%	43%
To support the political party you feel close to	24%	23%	-1	24%	24%	25%
You can make things change in voting on the European	19%	22%	+3	20%	21%	17%
You are in favour of the EU	16%	16%	=	16%	18%	16%
You feel European/ citizen of the EU	13%	18%	+5	15%	13%	12%
To express your disagreement	11%	12%	+1	12%	12%	9%
To support your Government	9%	9%	=	9%	8%	9%
The EU plays an important role in your everyday life	6%	8%	+2	8%	7%	5%
To impose sanctions to your Government	5%	6%	+1	5%	7%	5%
You are very interested in European affairs	5%	3%	-2	8%	5%	5%
The information you received during the campaign	5%	7%	+2	5%	4%	4%
To impose sanctions to the EU	2%	2%	=	2%	3%	2%
(ONLY INTO COUNTRIES WHERE VOTING IS COMPULSORY) Because voting is compulsory	2%	3%	+1	2%	2%	2%
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1%	2%	+1	1%	1%	1%
DK	1%	0%	-1	1%	1%	1%

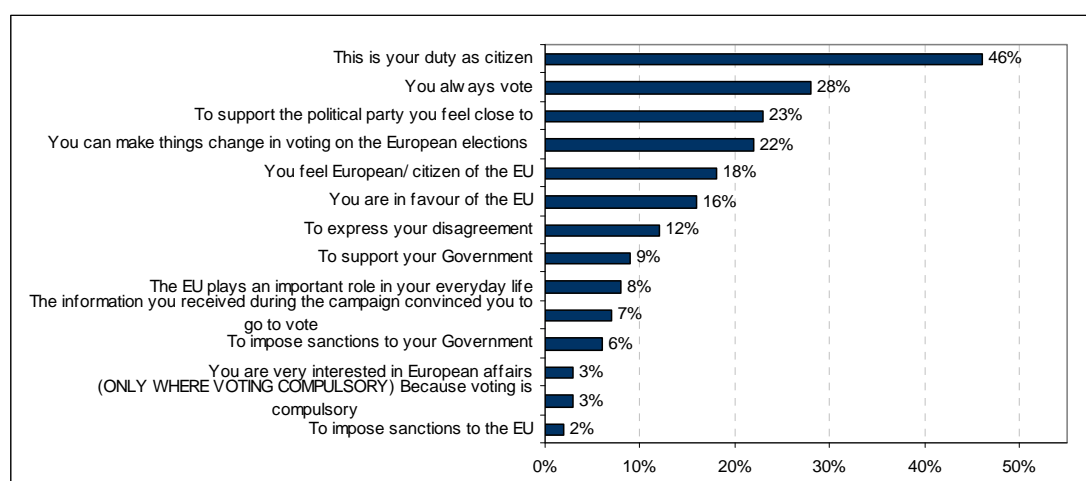
NB. Respondents who declared they had voted in the European elections were asked this question.

Maximum three answers possible. Sum of answers is shown.

In **BOLD** the top three answers for this age group.

There are no major differences between the EU average hierarchy of reasons to vote and the youngest group of respondents. The differences exist when looking at the share of choices the individual items received. Again, as a result of the specificity of the youngest group of respondents (owing to their young age they have not formed their voting habits yet and therefore they rarely answer "I always vote") the comparison for this item is not appropriate.

Diagram 5: Reasons for voting. EU averages for age group 18-24 years.



Voting due to a sense of duty is by far the most important reason for voting given by the youngest group of respondents in the last European elections (46%). It is followed by voting out of habit (28% but as mentioned this item must be interpreted with caution), and voting because they feel close to a political party they want to support (23% of citations)

Q4d. What are the main reasons why you decided to go to vote in the recent EP elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

THIS IS MY DUTY AS A CITIZEN			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
BE#	37%	49%	+12
SE	71%	83%	+12
PL	44%	55%	+11
CZ	29%	39%	+10
LU#	60%	70%	+10
RO	73%	79%	+6
AT	35%	39%	+4
IT	35%	36%	+1
NL	43%	44%	+1
BG	63%	63%	=
EU27	47%	46%	-1
HU	30%	29%	-1
PT	43%	42%	-1
UK	41%	39%	-2
DE	40%	38%	-2
IE	68%	66%	-2
EE	55%	52%	-3
CY	78%	75%	-3
FR	65%	57%	-8
MT	74%	65%	-9
FI	54%	45%	-9
DK	64%	54%	-10
EL	60%	50%	-10
LV	61%	51%	-10
LT	62%	51%	-11
ES	57%	43%	-14
SK	63%	47%	-16
SI	63%	44%	-19

NB. Respondents who declared they had voted in the European elections were asked this question.

Countries where voting is compulsory.

- ⇒ Voting due to a sense of duty is a more important motive for respondents aged 18 to 24 years than their national average in 9 Member States, most significantly so in Belgium (where voting is compulsory, 12 percentage points difference), Sweden (also 12 points) and Poland (11 points).
- ⇒ On the other end of the scale, this is a much less important motive for the youngest voters than the national average in Slovenia (-19 points difference), Slovakia (-16) and Spain (-14). There are 17 countries where this trend applies.

Q4d. What are the main reasons why you decided to go to vote in the recent EP elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

TO SUPPORT A PARTY I FEEL CLOSE TO.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
AT	31%	48%	+17
IE	19%	33%	+14
NL	31%	44%	+13
FI	20%	28%	+8
UK	21%	28%	+7
SK	41%	45%	+4
FR	18%	22%	+4
BG	45%	49%	+4
DE	34%	38%	+4
LU	17%	19%	+2
CY	42%	43%	+1
LT	23%	24%	+1
LV	20%	21%	+1
HU	30%	30%	=
DK	21%	20%	-1
EU27	24%	23%	-1
PL	14%	13%	-1
PT	10%	9%	-1
IT	22%	19%	-3
EE	18%	13%	-5
BE	24%	18%	-6
RO	31%	25%	-6
CZ	23%	16%	-7
ES	17%	9%	-8
SI	26%	13%	-13
SE	29%	15%	-14
MT	36%	20%	-16
EL	31%	12%	-19

NB. Respondents who declared they had voted in the European elections were asked this question.

When analysing voting in order to support a party one feels close to in the youngest group, again large differences between Member States occur.

- ⇒ From the three possible reasons which respondents could choose, this response was chosen by the youngest respondents much more often than in the national average in Austria (17 percentage point difference with 48% of young Austrians quoting it), Ireland (the share of the youngest respondents giving this as one of their reasons is 14 points higher than the national average) and the Netherlands (+13 points).
- ⇒ On the other end of the scale, this is a much less important motive for the youngest voters than their national average in Greece (-19 points difference), Malta (-16) and Sweden (-14).

Q4d. What are the main reasons why you decided to go to vote in the recent EP elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

I FEEL EUROPEAN/ A CITIZEN OF THE EU			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
SK	13%	32%	+19
CZ	15%	33%	+18
EE	15%	32%	+17
ES	6%	15%	+9
FR	23%	32%	+9
IT	10%	18%	+8
LT	10%	18%	+8
RO	7%	15%	+8
AT	16%	23%	+7
PL	13%	20%	+7
EL	8%	15%	+7
MT	11%	18%	+7
HU	9%	15%	+6
EU27	13%	18%	+5
BG	10%	14%	+4
DE	23%	27%	+4
LV	8%	12%	+4
BE	13%	15%	+2
SI	11%	12%	+1
DK	17%	17%	=
CY	5%	4%	-1
FI	16%	15%	-1
IE	5%	3%	-2
PT	6%	3%	-3
LU	24%	15%	-9
NL	18%	9%	-9
SE	14%	4%	-10
UK	4%	-	*

NB. Respondents who declared they had voted in the European elections were asked this question.

*Cases absent and therefore the difference cannot be calculated.

A sense of feeling European/ a citizen of the EU is the motive for voting where the results between the EU average and the average of the age group 18-24 years is the largest (5 points). With 18% of choices it is the fifth most often quoted reason for the youngest group (the sixth with 13% in the total EU sample). But breakdown by country within the youngest group shows that the trends are not the same everywhere.

- ⇒ The difference between the youngest group and the national average is the largest in Slovakia where 19 percentage points more of the youngest respondents say they voted in the European elections because they feel European/ citizens of the EU than the national share. The difference is large also in the Czech Republic (+18 points) and in Estonia (+17 points).
- ⇒ It is the reverse in Sweden where 10 percentage points less of young respondents quote this as one of the main reasons that they came to the polls in EE 2009. The same is true in the Netherlands and Luxembourg (-9 points in both).

C. Issues that motivated the vote

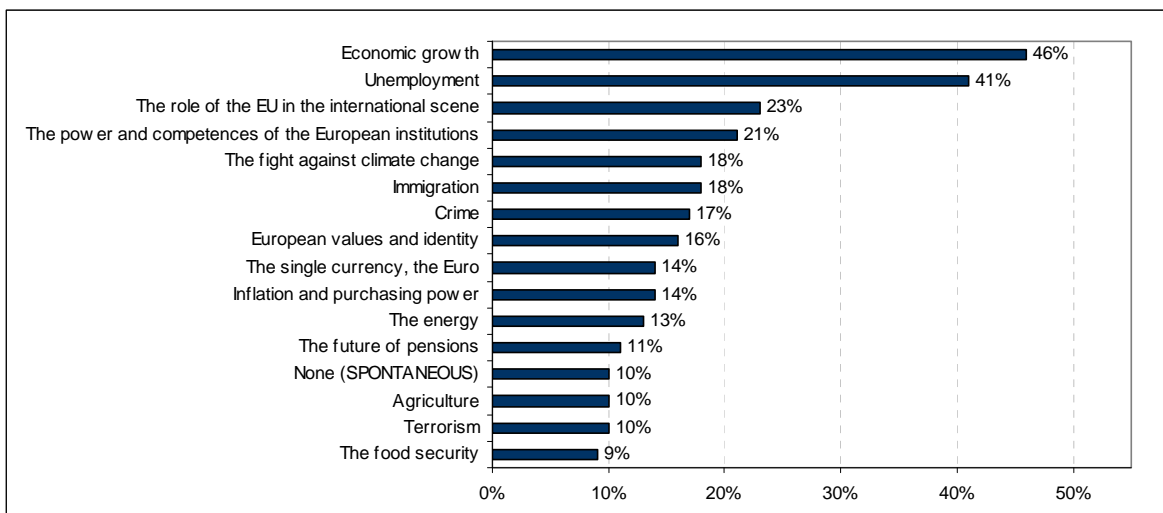
Q5. What are the issues which make you vote to the European elections? Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
Economic growth	41%	46%	+5	46%	45%	36%
Unemployment	37%	41%	+4	43%	40%	32%
The future of pensions	22%	11%	-11	14%	21%	26%
The role of the EU in the international scene	22%	23%	+1	25%	24%	21%
The power and competences of the European institutions	19%	21%	+2	19%	21%	18%
Crime	18%	17%	-1	17%	19%	19%
Inflation and purchasing power	18%	14%	-4	17%	19%	18%
Immigration	16%	18%	+2	17%	16%	15%
The fight against climate change	16%	18%	+2	17%	18%	15%
European values and identity	16%	16%	=	17%	16%	15%
The energy	13%	13%	=	14%	12%	13%
The single currency, the Euro	12%	14%	+2	13%	13%	11%
Terrorism	11%	10%	-1	10%	12%	12%
Agriculture	11%	10%	-1	8%	11%	11%
The food security	9%	9%	=	9%	10%	8%
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	4%	3%	-1	3%	4%	4%
None (SPONTANEOUS)	12%	10%	-2	11%	11%	13%
DK	3%	3%	=	2%	3%	4%

NB. Respondents who declared they had voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible. Sum of answers shown. In **BOLD** the top three answers for this age group.

The top three issues that motivated the vote in the European elections 2009 are the same for all age groups. Economic growth and unemployment are number one and number two choices respectively, in all age groups. Understandingly the third, the future of the pensions, becomes more important the older the respondents are.

Diagram 6: Issues that motivated the vote. EU averages for age group 18-24 years.



For the youngest group the two issues relating to the EU; its' role in the international scene; and the powers and competences of its' institutions, come in third and fourth place with 23% and 21% of citations respectively.

Q5. What are the issues which make you vote to the European elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

ECONOMIC GROWTH			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
CZ	43%	69%	+26
UK	23%	40%	+17
MT	42%	57%	+15
ES	49%	62%	+13
BE	39%	50%	+11
SK	56%	67%	+11
AT	43%	53%	+10
CY	51%	56%	+5
HU	59%	64%	+5
EU27	41%	46%	+5
NL	31%	36%	+5
FR	29%	33%	+4
EL	56%	60%	+4
FI	31%	34%	+3
IT	41%	43%	+2
LU	37%	38%	+1
DE	46%	46%	=
EE	42%	42%	=
LV	57%	57%	=
IE	62%	61%	-1
PL	48%	45%	-3
PT	43%	40%	-3
DK	32%	29%	-3
RO	55%	52%	-3
LT	54%	49%	-5
SI	38%	32%	-6
BG	63%	57%	-6
SE	34%	24%	-10

NB. Respondents who declared they had voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible.

The share of respondents aged 18 to 24 years who quote economic growth as one of the main issues that motivated them to vote in EE 2009 is 5 percentage points higher than the EU average for all age groups together (this being the largest difference for any of the possible issues).

- ⇒ Economic growth is much more important for the youngest voters than for all respondents on average in the Czech Republic (+26 points) where this issue is also the most important for the youngest respondents compared to any other Member State (69% of citations). The difference is next largest in the UK (17 percentage points more of the youngest voters quote it than the national average) followed by Malta (+15).
- ⇒ In Sweden the trend is reversed: economic growth is a less important motivating issue for the youngest group than in the country on average (a 10 point lesser share of citations). The same is true in Bulgaria and Slovenia (-6 points).

Q5. What are the issues which make you vote to the European elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

UNEMPLOYMENT			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
EE	32%	55%	+23
SI	35%	57%	+22
LV	42%	58%	+16
RO	39%	52%	+13
ES	65%	77%	+12
FI	22%	33%	+11
MT	37%	48%	+11
SK	39%	50%	+11
LU	36%	46%	+10
PL	33%	43%	+10
IT	36%	44%	+8
BE	33%	41%	+8
CY	39%	46%	+7
UK	25%	32%	+7
IE	64%	71%	+7
PT	48%	53%	+5
NL	11%	15%	+4
SE	31%	35%	+4
EU27	37%	41%	+4
BG	46%	49%	+3
AT	44%	47%	+3
EL	60%	62%	+2
DK	25%	26%	+1
FR	38%	36%	-2
HU	51%	48%	-3
DE	30%	20%	-10
LT	35%	20%	-15
CZ	29%	13%	-16

NB. Respondents who declared they had voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible.

Unemployment is also an issue that was more important as a vote motivator for respondents aged 18 to 24 years than in the EU as whole on average (41% vs. 37%). Looking only at the youngest group of respondents, it was the most important in Spain (77%), Ireland (71%) and Greece (62%). Within this group the differences amongst the Member States are even more widespread than for the importance of economic growth.

- ⇒ The three Member States where this issue was chosen by the youngest group much more often than the national average are: Estonia (55% of citations and +23 compared to the country average), Slovenia (57% and +22 point difference) and Latvia (58% of citations and +16 points).
- ⇒ But compared to the national average, unemployment was much less important for the youngest Czechs (-16 point difference), Lithuanians (-15) and Germans (-10).

Q5. What are the issues which make you vote to the European elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

THE ROLE OF THE EU IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
LT	16%	44%	+28
BG	23%	43%	+20
CZ	19%	36%	+17
SK	26%	40%	+14
EE	18%	31%	+13
DE	33%	45%	+12
IE	11%	21%	+10
LV	10%	18%	+8
AT	29%	35%	+6
IT	26%	30%	+4
RO	20%	23%	+3
EU27	22%	23%	+1
HU	15%	14%	-1
PT	15%	14%	-1
SI	18%	16%	-2
SE	23%	20%	-3
MT	21%	16%	-5
UK	11%	6%	-5
DK	27%	21%	-6
ES	10%	3%	-7
BE	17%	9%	-8
LU	26%	18%	-8
PL	15%	6%	-9
EL	26%	16%	-10
FR	26%	16%	-10
NL	27%	17%	-10
CY	26%	14%	-12
FI	26%	-	*

NB. Respondents who declared they had voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible.

*Cases absent and therefore the difference cannot be calculated.

Judging by the share of choices, the role of the EU in the international scene has more or less of the same importance for the youngest group as it for the citizens of the EU on average, but this is not the case in all countries.

- ⇒ The difference in importance of this issue when voting is the largest in Lithuania (44% of answers amongst the age group 18-24 years compared to 16% in Lithuania on average, 28 point difference), Bulgaria (+20 point difference) and the Czech Republic (+17 points).
- ⇒ But compared to the national average, it was less important for the youngest voters in Cyprus (-12 points), the Netherlands, France and Greece (-10 points in all three).

IV. NON-VOTERS - PROFILE AND REASONING

NB. The following questions, Q3b and Q4b, were only posed to the respondents who declared NOT to have voted in European elections 2009 (57% in the EU).

A. Timing of the decision not to vote

Q3b. When did you decide NOT to vote in the recent European Parliament elections? Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
You never vote	22%	33%	+11	28%	18%	16%
You decided a few months ago	18%	11%	-7	14%	20%	23%
You decided a few weeks ago	15%	8%	-7	12%	18%	18%
You decided a few days before the elections	16%	17%	+1	14%	16%	18%
You decided on the day of the election	16%	14%	-2	18%	18%	13%
DK	13%	17%	+4	14%	10%	12%

NB. Respondents who declared they had not voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible. Sum of answers is shown.

As a result of the specificity of the youngest group of respondents (due to their young age they more often answer "I never vote" as this was perhaps their first chance to use their right to vote) this comparison of results by age is not appropriate.

B. Reasons for not voting

Q4b. What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent EP elections? Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
Lack of trust in/ dissatisfaction with politics generally	28%	19%	-9	26%	32%	31%
Not interested in politics as such	17%	20%	+3	17%	15%	15%
Vote has no consequences/ vote does not change anything	17%	12%	-5	17%	17%	18%
On holiday/ away from home	10%	11%	+1	11%	10%	9%
Too busy/ no time/ work	10%	16%	+6	14%	11%	5%
Do not know much about the EU/ EP or the EP elections	10%	9%	-1	12%	8%	12%
Rarely or never vote	10%	14%	+4	12%	9%	6%
Not interested in European matters	9%	7%	-2	7%	10%	9%
Not really satisfied with the European Parliament as an institution	8%	5%	-3	7%	9%	10%
Sick/ health problem at the time	7%	2%	-5	4%	5%	14%
Lack of public debate/ lack of electoral campaign	6%	5%	-1	5%	6%	6%
Involved in a family/ leisure activity	5%	5%	=	7%	5%	5%
Opposed to the EU	4%	2%	-2	2%	6%	5%
Registration or voting card problems	3%	5%	+2	4%	3%	2%
Did not know there were elections	2%	3%	+1	2%	1%	1%
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	6%	9%	+3	5%	6%	6%
DK	3%	5%	+2	3%	2%	3%

NB. Respondents who declared they had not voted in the European elections were asked this question.

In **BOLD** the top three answers for the four age groups.

The youngest respondents who did not vote in the European elections 2009 gave as the main reason a lack of interest in politics which is also more often quoted by them than in the EU as a whole on average (20% vs. 17%).

The second most often given reason is a lack of trust/dissatisfaction with politics generally but with a much smaller share of quotes than on average (19% vs. 28%).

The third reason, interestingly, is being too busy which is cited by 6 percentage point larger share of the youngest abstentionists than on average (16% vs. 10%).

Q4b. What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent EP elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

LACK OF TRUST IN/ DISSATISFACTION WITH POLITICS GENERALLY			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
LU#	11%	31%	+20
EL	51%	52%	+1
MT	31%	30%	-1
PL	29%	27%	-2
IE	20%	18%	-2
DK	8%	5%	-3
FI	18%	15%	-3
PT	28%	24%	-4
CZ	39%	33%	-6
LT	24%	17%	-7
DE	32%	25%	-7
IT	37%	30%	-7
EE	24%	16%	-8
SK	37%	29%	-8
ES	24%	15%	-9
FR	21%	12%	-9
AT	25%	16%	-9
LV	28%	19%	-9
RO	44%	35%	-9
EU27	28%	19%	-9
BG	45%	34%	-11
UK	20%	6%	-14
BE#	18%	3%	-15
SE	21%	4%	-17
HU	36%	16%	-20
NL	21%	1%	-20
CY	44%	22%	-22
SI	30%	6%	-24

NB. Respondents who declared they had not voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible. Sum of answers is shown.

Member States where voting is compulsory.

As mentioned above, in general the youngest respondents who did not vote in the European elections 2009 say much less often that the reason is their lack of trust in politics or dissatisfaction with it (the EU average for this group is 19% of citations compared to 28% for the total sample).

- ⇒ Only in Luxembourg (where voting is obligatory) is the share of the youngest abstentionists, who quote this as a reason for not voting, significantly larger than the national average (+20 points). In Greece it is one percentage point larger.
- ⇒ In the remaining Member States this reason is given less often by the age group 18-24 years, the difference being the largest in Slovenia (-24 points), Cyprus (-22), the Netherlands and Hungary (both -20).

Q4b. What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent EP elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS AS SUCH			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
MT	29%	65%	+36
LU#	19%	33%	+14
HU	29%	42%	+13
BG	24%	34%	+10
IE	15%	25%	+10
SE	8%	18%	+10
CZ	22%	31%	+9
DE	15%	23%	+8
ES	26%	33%	+7
LV	13%	20%	+7
EL	17%	24%	+7
SI	17%	24%	+7
IT	12%	17%	+5
AT	19%	24%	+5
FR	10%	14%	+4
UK	14%	17%	+3
EU27	17%	20%	+3
PT	23%	25%	+2
RO	16%	17%	+1
FI	17%	18%	+1
DK	11%	11%	=
LT	13%	13%	=
CY	25%	23%	-2
PL	22%	20%	-2
BE#	11%	8%	-3
NL	6%	1%	-5
EE	18%	12%	-6
SK	22%	15%	-7

NB. Respondents who declared they had not voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible. Sum of answers is shown.

Member States where voting is compulsory.

At the level of the EU as a whole, not being interested in politics was the main reason for the youngest respondents not to come to the polls in the European elections 2009 (20% citations compared to the 17% for all age groups together).

- ⇒ It is more important for the youngest group than the national average in 19 Member States. The difference is by far the largest in Malta (+36 points). It is large also in Luxembourg (+14) and Hungary (+13).
- ⇒ In six countries it is the opposite: lack of interest in politics is not as an important reason for not voting as in the country on average. The difference is largest in Slovakia (-7 points), Estonia (-6) and the Netherlands (-5).

Q4b. What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent EP elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

MY VOTE HAS NO CONSEQUENCES/ DOES NOT CHANGE ANYTHING.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
IT	18%	25%	+7
BG	31%	34%	+3
FR	10%	13%	+3
LU#	5%	6%	+1
MT	11%	12%	+1
ES	10%	10%	=
LV	38%	38%	=
HU	22%	21%	-1
NL	10%	7%	-3
UK	9%	6%	-3
IE	7%	4%	-3
EL	24%	20%	-4
PT	11%	7%	-4
SE	13%	8%	-5
EU27	17%	12%	-5
CZ	22%	16%	-6
CY	21%	15%	-6
AT	35%	29%	-6
SI	23%	17%	-6
FI	21%	14%	-7
RO	17%	10%	-7
DE	30%	21%	-9
LT	21%	12%	-9
SK	19%	10%	-9
PL	13%	2%	-11
EE	17%	5%	-12
BE#	11%	-	*
DK	7%	-	*

NB. Respondents who declared they had not voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible. Sum of answers is shown.

Member States where voting is compulsory.

*Cases absent and therefore the difference cannot be calculated.

The belief that their vote has no consequences is much less present amongst the youngest respondents as a reason for abstention (12% vs. 17% in the EU on average).

- ⇒ This is true for 18 Member States, mostly so in Estonia (-12 points), Poland (-11), Slovakia, Lithuania and Germany (-9 in all three).
- ⇒ But in five states the youngest group cite it more often than the national average, especially in Italy (+7 points), Bulgaria and France (both +3).

Q4b. What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent EP elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

I DO NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE EU/ EP OR THE EP ELECTIONS.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
MT	4%	19%	+15
FI	10%	23%	+13
LU#	5%	14%	+9
EE	4%	12%	+8
NL	15%	22%	+7
CY	13%	19%	+6
PT	7%	12%	+5
DK	11%	14%	+3
IT	11%	14%	+3
SI	5%	7%	+2
HU	6%	7%	+1
IE	5%	6%	+1
AT	17%	17%	=
RO	4%	4%	=
DE	14%	13%	-1
EU27	10%	9%	-1
FR	16%	14%	-2
CZ	8%	6%	-2
UK	11%	9%	-2
BE#	6%	3%	-3
ES	8%	5%	-3
LV	6%	3%	-3
BG	5%	2%	-3
LT	6%	2%	-4
SK	8%	4%	-4
PL	6%	1%	-5
SE	20%	10%	-10
EL	2%	-	*

NB. Respondents who declared they had not voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible. Sum of answers is shown.

Member States where voting is compulsory.

*Cases absent and therefore the difference cannot be calculated.

- ⇒ When asked about the main reasons behind their abstention, the share of youngest respondents who quote lack of knowledge about the EU, EP or EP elections is higher than the national average in 12 states. The difference is largest in Malta (+15 percentage points), Finland (+13) and Luxembourg (+9).
- ⇒ On the contrary in 12 countries the share of this answer is lower amongst the age group 18-24 years than in the country on average but the differences are smaller than on the other side of the scale. The largest differences are in Sweden (-10 points), Poland (-5), Slovakia and Lithuania (-4).

Q4b. What are the main reasons why you did NOT vote in the recent EP elections? Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

I AM NOT INTERESTED IN EUROPEAN MATTERS.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
MT	10%	22%	+12
EL	6%	17%	+11
NL	6%	12%	+6
PT	5%	9%	+4
DK	8%	11%	+3
IE	11%	13%	+2
CY	7%	9%	+2
FI	10%	12%	+2
LV	8%	8%	=
HU	11%	11%	=
SI	7%	7%	=
SK	4%	4%	=
SE	5%	5%	=
UK	9%	9%	=
FR	11%	10%	-1
IT	6%	5%	-1
ES	13%	12%	-1
EU27	9%	7%	-2
PL	6%	4%	-2
BG	10%	8%	-2
RO	5%	3%	-2
EE	7%	4%	-3
LT	6%	2%	-4
DE	9%	4%	-5
CZ	7%	2%	-5
AT	17%	8%	-9
BE#	1%	-	*
LU#	6%	-	*

NB. Respondents who declared they had not voted in the European elections were asked this question. Maximum three answers possible. Sum of answers is shown.

Member States where voting is compulsory.

*Cases absent and therefore the difference cannot be calculated.

- ⇒ The share of the youngest respondents who did not vote in EE 2009 because they are not interested in European matters is comparatively largest in Malta (+12 point difference with national average), Greece (+11) and the Netherlands (+6).
- ⇒ The share is smaller than the national average in 11 Member States, mostly so in Austria (-9 points), the Czech Republic and Germany (-5 in both).

V. OPINION AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

A. The European Parliament

Q7. For each of the following propositions, please tell me if it rather corresponds or rather does not correspond to your attitude or your opinion. Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
You had all the necessary information in order to choose for whom you were going to vote in the recent European elections	53%	44%	-9	49%	57%	55%
The European Parliament takes into consideration the concerns of European citizens	46%	48%	+2	47%	46%	44%

NB. All respondents were asked this question, sum of "yes, somewhat" answers is shown.

A 9 percentage point smaller share of respondents aged 18-24 years than the total EU average agrees that they had all the necessary information in order to choose for whom to vote in the EE 2009 (44% vs.53%).

Q7. For each of the following propositions, please tell me if it rather corresponds or rather does not correspond to your attitude or your opinion. Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

YOU HAD ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION IN ORDER TO CHOOSE FOR WHOM YOU WERE GOING TO VOTE IN THE RECENT EUROPEAN ELECTIONS.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
CZ	49%	52%	+3
IT	60%	59%	-1
UK	42%	41%	-1
MT	90%	88%	-2
BE	69%	66%	-3
LV	66%	63%	-3
SK	63%	59%	-4
NL	53%	47%	-6
AT	62%	55%	-7
HU	59%	52%	-7
RO	49%	42%	-7
PT	44%	37%	-7
EL	68%	61%	-7
EE	71%	62%	-9
EU27	53%	44%	-9
LT	57%	47%	-10
BG	49%	39%	-10
DE	56%	45%	-11
LU	75%	62%	-13
PL	42%	29%	-13
ES	54%	40%	-14
SE	58%	43%	-15
DK	60%	42%	-18
FR	49%	31%	-18
CY	79%	61%	-18
FI	70%	47%	-23
IE	67%	41%	-26
SI	60%	31%	-29

NB. All respondents were asked this question, sum of "yes, somewhat" answers is shown.

- ⇒ Only in the Czech Republic are there more respondents aged 18 to 24 years than the national average share who say they had all the necessary information to be able to vote in the European elections 2009 (+3 percentage points).
- ⇒ In the remaining Member States the share for the youngest respondents is smaller compared to the national average. The difference is especially great in Slovenia (-29 points), Ireland (-26) and Finland (-23).

B. The European Union

Q7. For each of the following propositions, please tell me if it rather corresponds or rather does not correspond to your attitude or your opinion. Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
You trust the institutions of the EU	50%	54%	+4	49%	51%	50%
The membership of (OUR COUNTRY) in the EU is a good thing	69%	74%	+5	69%	69%	66%
You feel you are a citizen of the EU	64%	68%	+4	65%	65%	61%
You feel attached to (OUR COUNTRY)	91%	86%	-5	88%	92%	94%
You feel attached to Europe	64%	66%	+2	64%	65%	62%
You are very interested in politics	39%	30%	-9	36%	41%	43%

NB. All respondents were asked this question, sum of "yes, somewhat" answers is shown.

Comparing the age group 18-24 years to the EU average for all respondents:

- ⇒ The youngest respondents more often trust the institutions of the EU (+4 points).
- ⇒ They more often evaluate EU membership of their country as positive (+5 points).
- ⇒ More often they feel citizens of the EU (+4),
- ⇒ However they say less often that they feel attached to their country (-5).
- ⇒ Their attachment to Europe is slightly higher (+2).
- ⇒ But the biggest difference is found in their interest in politics which is 9 percentage points lower than the average.

a. Interest in politics

Q7. For each of the following propositions, please tell me if it rather corresponds or rather does not correspond to your attitude or your opinion. Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

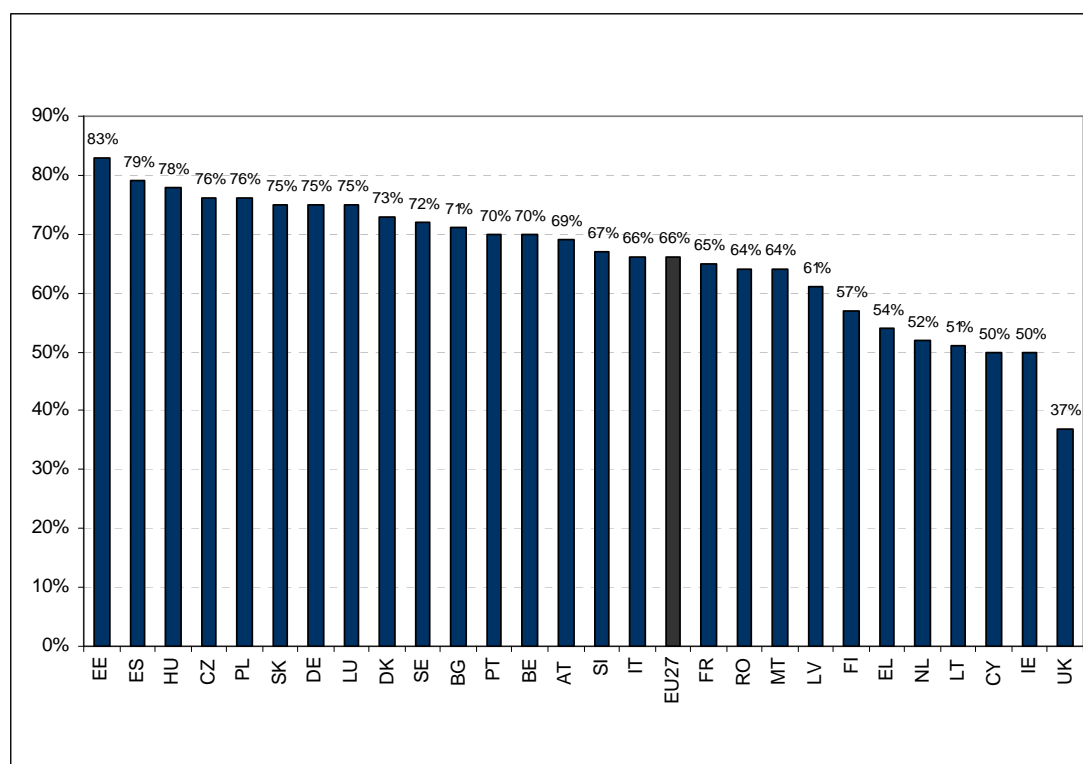
YOU ARE VERY INTERESTED IN POLITICS.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
PT	29%	30%	+1
SK	23%	23%	=
MT	36%	33%	-3
IT	33%	30%	-3
FI	47%	43%	-4
EE	39%	34%	-5
RO	20%	15%	-5
LV	66%	61%	-5
BE	40%	35%	-5
ES	30%	24%	-6
DK	52%	45%	-7
SE	40%	33%	-7
HU	25%	17%	-8
CZ	24%	15%	-9
EU27	39%	30%	-9
IE	37%	27%	-10
FR	37%	27%	-10
EL	47%	36%	-11
SI	24%	13%	-11
PL	28%	17%	-11
DE	62%	50%	-12
AT	55%	43%	-12
UK	38%	25%	-13
BG	22%	9%	-13
CY	49%	35%	-14
LT	36%	21%	-15
LU	48%	29%	-19
NL	53%	32%	-21

NB. All respondents were asked this question, sum of "yes, somewhat" answers is shown.

- ⇒ Only in Portugal do more than the national average share of respondents aged 18 to 24 years say they are very interested in politics but the difference is only one percentage point.
- ⇒ In the majority of countries it is the opposite. Interest of the youngest respondents in politics is comparatively smallest in the Netherlands (-21 points), Luxembourg (-19) and Lithuania (-15).

b. Attachment to Europe or own country, feeling of being a citizen of the EU

Diagram 7: Attachment to Europe. Breakdown by Member State for age group 18-24 years.



Examining the attachment to Europe for the youngest group only, the share of answers "yes, somewhat" ranges from 37% to 83%, the EU average being 66%.

⇒ Top three countries: Estonia (83%), Spain (79%) and Hungary (78%).

⇒ Bottom three countries: the UK (37%), Ireland and Cyprus (both 50%).

Q7. For each of the following propositions, please tell me if it rather corresponds or rather does not correspond to your attitude or your opinion. Breakdown by Member State for age group 18-24 years.

YOU FEEL ATTACHED TO EUROPE.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
BG	56%	71%	+15
EE	71%	83%	+12
CZ	69%	76%	+7
PL	69%	76%	+7
IT	59%	66%	+7
AT	62%	69%	+7
RO	58%	64%	+6
SK	71%	75%	+4
FR	62%	65%	+3
LV	58%	61%	+3
LT	48%	51%	+3
UK	34%	37%	+3
DE	73%	75%	+2
EU27	64%	66%	+2
PT	68%	70%	+2
EL	53%	54%	+1
ES	79%	79%	=
MT	64%	64%	=
HU	81%	78%	-3
SE	76%	72%	-4
BE	74%	70%	-4
CY	56%	50%	-6
IE	57%	50%	-7
DK	80%	73%	-7
FI	64%	57%	-7
SI	75%	67%	-8
LU	84%	75%	-9
NL	70%	52%	-18

NB. All respondents were asked this question, sum of "yes, somewhat" answers is shown.

- ⇒ As mentioned above, attachment to Europe is more often reported by the youngest respondents than on average. The difference between them and the national average is the largest in Bulgaria (+15), Estonia (+12), Czech Republic, Poland, Italy and Austria (+7).
- ⇒ On the contrary, in 10 Member States the youngest group of respondents is less attached to Europe than their national average. At the extreme end of the list of differences we find the Netherlands (-18).
- ⇒ The difference is high also in Luxembourg (-9) and Slovenia (-8).

Q7. For each of the following propositions, please tell me if it rather corresponds or rather does not correspond to your attitude or your opinion. Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

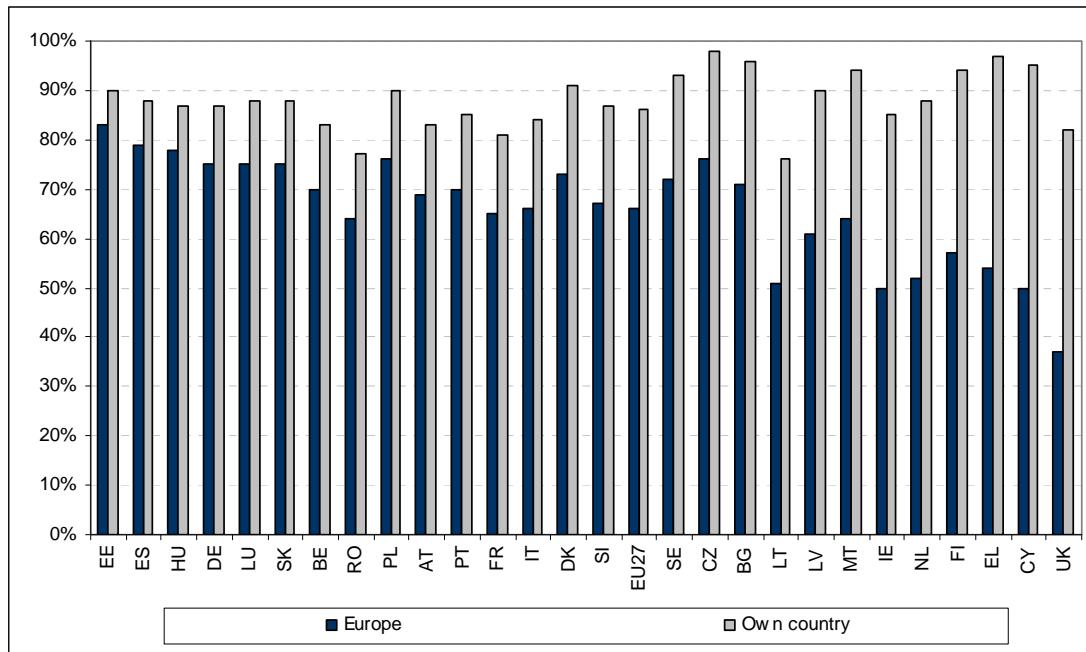
YOU FEEL ATTACHED TO YOUR COUNTRY.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
CZ	95%	98%	+3
BG	93%	96%	+3
EL	97%	97%	=
SK	90%	88%	-2
IT	86%	84%	-2
CY	98%	95%	-3
EE	93%	90%	-3
LV	93%	90%	-3
SE	97%	93%	-4
MT	98%	94%	-4
UK	86%	82%	-4
PL	95%	90%	-5
RO	82%	77%	-5
FI	99%	94%	-5
LU	93%	88%	-5
EU27	91%	86%	-5
DK	97%	91%	-6
ES	94%	88%	-6
DE	93%	87%	-6
IE	91%	85%	-6
PT	91%	85%	-6
HU	94%	87%	-7
SI	94%	87%	-7
BE	90%	83%	-7
AT	90%	83%	-7
NL	96%	88%	-8
FR	93%	81%	-12
LT	89%	76%	-13

NB. All respondents were asked this question, sum of "yes, somewhat" answers is shown.

On average the respondents aged 18 to 24 years feel less attached to their country than all respondents on general (at the level of the EU the difference is -5 points). This is true in all but two Member States:

- ⇒ In the Czech Republic and Bulgaria the share of respondents aged 18 to 24 years is 3 percentage points higher than their national average.
- ⇒ This share is the smallest (compared to the national average) in Lithuania (-13 percentage points), France (-12) and the Netherlands (-8).

Diagram 8: Comparison of attachment to Europe and own country. Breakdown by Member State for age group 18-24 years.



In all Member States the youngest group of respondents is more attached to their own country than to Europe. The average difference is 20 percentage points but this differs a lot between the countries. Comparing the share of those who say they are attached to Europe and those who say they are attached to their own country we can see that:

- ⇒ The difference is the largest in the UK (45 points: only 37% say they are attached to Europe compared to 82% who are attached to the UK) and Cyprus (also 45 points but the share of the youngest respondents attached to Europe is 50% and attached to Cyprus 95%), as well as in Greece (43 points).
- ⇒ The difference is the smallest in Member States with much higher attachment to Europe: in Estonia (7 points: 83% of respondents attached to Europe compared to 90% attached to Estonia), Spain and Hungary (both 9 points).

Q7. For each of the following propositions, please tell me if it rather corresponds or rather does not correspond to your attitude or your opinion. Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

YOU FEEL A CITIZEN OF THE EU.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
EE	71%	85%	+14
CZ	60%	74%	+14
BG	47%	61%	+14
LT	63%	76%	+13
HU	63%	73%	+10
DE	71%	79%	+8
AT	56%	64%	+8
RO	54%	62%	+8
LV	51%	59%	+8
PT	70%	77%	+7
EL	63%	70%	+7
UK	37%	43%	+6
PL	70%	75%	+5
BE	76%	80%	+4
EU27	64%	68%	+4
FR	64%	68%	+4
SK	78%	82%	+4
DK	76%	78%	+2
MT	67%	69%	+2
IT	61%	62%	+1
FI	74%	73%	-1
CY	71%	70%	-1
LU	86%	81%	-5
SE	73%	68%	-5
ES	82%	76%	-6
SI	77%	71%	-6
IE	69%	58%	-11
NL	66%	50%	-16

NB. All respondents were asked this question, sum of "yes, somewhat" answers is shown.

The sense of being a citizen of the EU is more present amongst the youngest respondents than in the total sample on average (+4 points).

- ⇒ This difference is the largest in Estonia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria (+14 points in all three).
- ⇒ Only in 8 Member States do the youngest group declare feeling citizens of the EU less often than the national average. The difference is biggest in the Netherlands (-16 points), Ireland (-11), Slovenia and Spain (both -6 points).

c. Perception of the European Parliament taking into consideration citizens' concerns

Q7. For each of the following propositions, please tell me if it rather corresponds or rather does not correspond to your attitude or your opinion. Breakdown by Member State for the age group 18-24 years.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE CONCERNS OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS.			
	TOTAL	18-24	Diff.
CZ	42%	60%	+18
SK	57%	71%	+14
EE	61%	74%	+13
LT	48%	60%	+12
BG	35%	45%	+10
FR	31%	39%	+8
RO	39%	46%	+7
PT	48%	54%	+6
AT	40%	46%	+6
PL	55%	61%	+6
HU	51%	56%	+5
UK	40%	45%	+5
LV	37%	42%	+5
NL	65%	67%	+2
EU27	46%	48%	+2
IT	48%	48%	=
DE	43%	43%	=
CY	60%	59%	-1
FI	50%	49%	-1
MT	58%	55%	-3
LU	57%	54%	-3
BE	61%	58%	-3
DK	60%	56%	-4
ES	53%	46%	-7
EL	40%	33%	-7
SI	57%	48%	-9
IE	56%	44%	-12
SE	72%	53%	-19

NB. All respondents were asked this question, sum of "yes, somewhat" answers is shown.

The share of respondents aged 18 to 24 years who think that the European Parliament takes into consideration the concerns of citizens is 2 percentage points higher than the average.

- ⇒ It is higher than average in 14 countries, most so in Czech Republic (+18 points), Slovakia (+13) and Estonia (+13).
- ⇒ But it is smaller than the average in 11 states, especially in Sweden (-19 points), Ireland (-12) and Slovenia (-9).

VI. IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS

Q7. For each of the following propositions, please tell me if it rather corresponds or rather does not correspond to your attitude or your opinion. Averages for the EU and age groups.

	EU27	18-24	Diff.	25-39	40-54	55+
It is very important for you which particular candidates have been elected as MEPs in the European Parliament elections in (OUR COUNTRY)	49%	42%	-7	44%	49%	52%
It is very important for you to know which particular political party has had the more MEPs in the European Parliament elections in (OUR COUNTRY)	50%	43%	-7	46%	51%	54%

NB. All respondents were asked this question, sum of "yes, somewhat" answers is shown.

For the youngest respondents it is much less important to know either which candidates or which party won the European elections in their country (-7 in both items). As we can see from the table above, this importance increases with age.

Public Opinion Monitoring Unit

For more information:
 Jacques Nancy (+32 2 284 24 85)
 Nives Žun (+32 2 284 43 99)
 Jonas Trifot (+32 2 284 11 23)
 Andrew Clarke (+32 2 284 06 45)
 Nathalie Lefèvre (+32 2 284 12 26)