Flash Eurobarometer 234
January February 2008
Citizens' perceptions of EU Regional Policy

Questionnaire

The GALLUP Organization

# FLASH EUROBAROMETER 234 ON REGIONAL POLICY

**A. GENERAL AWARENESS OF THE EU REGIONAL POLICY**

Q1A.  Europe supports its regions and cities through EU regional policy. Are you aware that your city or region receives support from the EU Regional Policy?

- yes, aware ............................................................................1
- no, not aware .........................................................................2
- [DK/NA].................................................................................9

## IF THE ANSWER IS "YES"

Q1B.  Do you feel that your city or region benefits from this support?

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

Q2.  What are the most important channels of information where you get information on EU-support for your region and city?

### [READ OUT – ROTATE]

- National newspapers ..............................................................1
- Regional newspapers .............................................................2
- TV ........................................................................................3
- Radio ...................................................................................4
- Internet.................................................................................5
- [Other]..................................................................................6
- [DK/NA].................................................................................9

First choice .....................................................................................1 2 3 4 5 6 9
Second choice.................................................................................1 2 3 4 5 6 9

**B. ACCEPTANCE OF EU REGIONAL POLICY**

Q4.  European regional policy is concentrated on the poorest regions in order to help them to catch up faster with the rest of the EU.  In your opinion, is this rather a good or rather a bad thing?

- rather a good thing.................................................................1
- rather a bad thing..................................................................2
- [DK/NA].................................................................................9

Q5.    In all the other regions, European regional policy intervenes to help them to foster innovation, to create jobs and to work together. In your opinion, should the EU support all regions or concentrate exclusively on the poorer ones?

- The EU should help all its regions ................................................1
- The EU should only support the poorer regions ..........................2
- [DK/NA]........................................................................................9

**C. THE PRIORITIES OF EU REGIONAL POLICY**

Q6.    EU regional policy can support different activities and areas in different regions. I will read a list of activities/areas to you.  Please tell me for each of them, if you consider them among the more important or less important ones for your city or your region?

- - among the more important ones ..............................................1
- - less important ..........................................................................2
- - [DK/NA]...................................................................................9

a) better transport facilities (rail, road, airports); .......................................................1 2 9

b) infrastructure in the field of energy supply including sustainable energy

supply;  1 2 9

c) research and innovation;  .......................................................................................1 2 9

d) information and communication technologies;  ........................................................1 2 9

e) environmental protection and risk prevention;  ......................................................1 2 9

f) support for small businesses, ................................................................................1 2 9

g) employment training; .............................................................................................1 2 9

h) education, health and social infrastructure;  ..........................................................1 2 9

**D. ON THE WAY IN WHICH THE EU REGIONAL POLICY OPERATES (MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE; PARTNERSHIP)**

Q7.    When it comes to selecting strategies and projects, EU regional policy gives the right to decide on them to the Member States and regions. Do you think this is a good thing or not?

ONLY ONE ANSWER IS POSSIBLE!

- yes, this is a good thing ...............................................................1
- no, this is not a good thing...........................................................2
- [DK/NA]........................................................................................9

Q8.    EU regional policy obliges Member States and regions to involve in the selection of projects local business associations, trade unions and organizations taking care of equal opportunities and the environment. In your opinion, is the involvement those organizations a good thing or not?

- yes, this is a good thing ...............................................................1
- no, this is not a good thing...........................................................2

- [DK/NA]......................................................................................9


**THE FUTURE OF EU REGIONAL POLICY**


Q9. Do you think that in the future EU regional policy should address issues such as globalisation, climate change and demographic change?

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

## IF Q9 = YES


Q10. Which of these would be most important in your view? And what would be the second most important?

- globalization..........................................................................1
- climate change.......................................................................2
- demographic change ..............................................................3
- [DK/NA]..................................................................................9

First answer......................................................................................1 2 3 9
Second answer..................................................................................1 2 3 9


## DEMOGRAPHICS


D1.    Gender

[DO NOT ASK - MARK APPROPRIATE]

- [1].................................................................................Male
- [2].............................................................................Female


D2.    How old are you?

- [_][_]...................................................................... years old
- [00]...................................................[REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]


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

[WRITE IN THE AGE WHEN EDUCATION WAS TERMINATED]

- [_][_]...................................................................... years old
- [00]...................................[STILL IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
- [01].......................[NEVER BEEN IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
- [99]...................................................[REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]

D4. As far as your current occupation is concerned, would you say you are self-employed, an employee, a manual worker or would you say that you are without a professional activity? Does it mean that you are a(n)...

[IF A RESPONSE TO THE MAIN CATEGORY IS GIVEN, READ OUT THE RESPECTIVE SUB-CATEGORIES - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

**- Self-employed**

→ i.e. : - farmer, forester, fisherman ........................................................ 11
  - owner of a shop, craftsman ................................................. 12
  - professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect,...) ... 13
  - manager of a company ........................................................ 14
  - other ............................................................................. 15

**- Employee**

→ i.e. : - professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect) ............ 21
  - general management, director or top management ............................ 22
  - middle management ........................................................... 23
  - Civil servant ................................................................. 24
  - office clerk ................................................................. 25
  - other employee (salesman, nurse, etc...) ............................. 26
  - other ............................................................................. 27

**- Manual worker**

→ i.e. : - supervisor / foreman (team manager, etc...) ...................................... 31
  - Manual worker ................................................................ 32
  - unskilled manual worker ................................................... 33
  - other ............................................................................. 34

**- Without a professional activity**

→ i.e. : - looking after the home ........................................................ 41
  - student (full time) ......................................................... 42
  - retired  ..................................................................... 43
  - seeking a job ................................................................ 44
  - other ............................................................................. 45

- [Refusal] ........................................................................... 99

D6. Would you say you live in a ...?

- metropolitan zone ........................................................ 1
- other town/urban centre ............................................... 2
- rural zone ................................................................. 3
- [Refusal] ................................................................. 9

# Survey Details

This survey on the General population survey on "EU Regional Policy" was conducted for the European Commission, Directorate General  Regional Policy DG, Information and Communication Unit

Telephone interviews were conducted in each country with the exception of the Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary Poland, Romania and Slovakia where both telephone and face-to-face interviews were conducted (70% WebCATI and 30% F2F interviews).

Telephone interviews were conducted in each country between the 1/30/2008 and the 2/04/2008 by these Institutes:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium | BE | Gallup Europe | (Interviews : 01/31/2008 -  02/04/2008 ) |
| Czech Republic | CZ | Focus Agency | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Denmark | DK | Hermelin | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Germany | DE | IFAK | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Estonia | EE | Saar Poll | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Greece | EL | Metroanalysis | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Spain | ES | Gallup Spain | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| France | FR | Efficience3 | (Interviews : 01/31/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Ireland | IE | Gallup UK | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Italy | IT | Demoskopea | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Cyprus | CY | CYMAR | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Latvia | LV | Latvian Facts | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Lithuania | LT | Baltic Survey | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Luxembourg | LU | Gallup Europe | (Interviews : 01/31/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Hungary | HU | Gallup Hungary | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Malta | MT | MISCO | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Netherlands | NL | Telder | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Austria | AT | Spectra | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Poland | PL | Gallup Poland | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Portugal | PT | Consulmark | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Slovenia | SI | Cati d.o.o | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Slovakia | SK | Focus Agency | (Interviews : 02/01/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Finland | FI | Hermelin | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Sweden | SE | Hermelin | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| United Kingdom | UK | Gallup UK | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Bulgaria | BG | Vitosha | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |
| Romania | RO | Gallup Romania | (Interviews : 01/30/2008 -  02/04/2008  ) |

**Representativeness of the results**

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

# Sizes of the sample

In most EU countries the target sample size was 1000 respondents.
The below table shows the achieved sample size by country

A weighting factor was applied to the national results in order to compute a marginal total where each country contributes to the European Union result in proportion to its population.

The table below presents, for each of the countries:
(1) the number of interviews actually carried out in each country
(2) the population-weighted total number of interviews for each country

## TOTAL INTERVIEWS

|  | Total Interviews | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Conducted | % of Total | EU27 Weighted | % on Total (weighted) |
| Total | 27147 | 100 | 27147 | 100 |
| BE | 1001 | 3.7 | 576 | 2.1 |
| BG | 1006 | 3.7 | 448 | 1.7 |
| CZ | 1006 | 3.7 | 582 | 2.1 |
| DK | 1007 | 3.7 | 292 | 1.1 |
| DE | 1010 | 3.7 | 4759 | 17.5 |
| EE | 1005 | 3.7 | 76 | 0.3 |
| EL | 1009 | 3.7 | 623 | 2.3 |
| ES | 1006 | 3.7 | 2339 | 8.6 |
| FR | 1009 | 3.7 | 3221 | 11.9 |
| IE | 1000 | 3.7 | 214 | 0.8 |
| IT | 1008 | 3.7 | 3330 | 12.3 |
| CY | 1006 | 3.7 | 41 | 0.1 |
| LV | 1015 | 3.7 | 131 | 0.5 |
| LT | 1001 | 3.7 | 190 | 0.7 |
| LU | 1000 | 3.7 | 24 | 0.1 |
| HU | 1006 | 3.7 | 561 | 2.1 |
| MT | 1000 | 3.7 | 22 | 0.1 |
| NL | 1002 | 3.7 | 889 | 3.3 |
| AT | 1006 | 3.7 | 448 | 1.6 |
| PL | 1001 | 3.7 | 2130 | 7.8 |
| PT | 1001 | 3.7 | 583 | 2.1 |
| RO | 1013 | 3.7 | 1197 | 4.4 |
| SI | 1003 | 3.7 | 115 | 0.4 |
| SK | 1017 | 3.7 | 299 | 1.1 |
| FI | 1008 | 3.7 | 290 | 1.1 |
| SE | 1001 | 3.7 | 498 | 1.8 |
| UK | 1000 | 3.7 | 3270 | 12.0 |

**Questionnaires**

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

**Sampling error**

The results in a survey are valid only between the limits of a statistical margin caused by the sampling process. This margin varies with three factors:

1. The sample size (or the size of the analysed part in the sample): the greater the number of respondents is, the smaller the statistical margin will be;
2. The result in itself: the closer the result approaches 50%, the wider the statistical margin will be;
3. The desired degree of confidence: the more "strict" we are, the wider the statistical margin will be.

As an example, examine this illustrative case:
1. One question has been answered by 500 people;
2. The analysed result is around 50%;
3. We choose a significance level of 95 % (it is the level most often used by the statisticians, and it is the one chosen for the Table hereafter);

In this illustrative case the statistical margin is: (+/- 4.4%) around the observed 50%. And as a conclusion: the result for the whole population lies between 45.6% and 54.4 %.
Hereafter, the statistical margins computed for various observed results are shown, on various sample sizes, at the 95% significance level.

STATISTICAL MARGINS DUE TO THE SAMPLING PROCESS (AT THE 95 % LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE)

Various sample sizes are in rows;
Various observed results are in columns:

|          | 5%  | 10% | 15% | 20%  | 25%  | 30%  | 35%  | 40%  | 45%  | 50%  |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| N=50     | 6,0 | 8,3 | 9,9 | 11,1 | 12,0 | 12,7 | 13,2 | 13,6 | 13,8 | 13,9 |
| N=500    | 1,9 | 2,6 | 3,1 | 3,5  | 3,8  | 4,0  | 4,2  | 4,3  | 4,4  | 4,4  |
| N=1000   | 1,4 | 1,9 | 2,2 | 2,5  | 2,7  | 2,8  | 3,0  | 3,0  | 3,1  | 3,1  |
| N=1500   | 1,1 | 1,5 | 1,8 | 2,0  | 2,2  | 2,3  | 2,4  | 2,5  | 2,5  | 2,5  |
| N=2000   | 1,0 | 1,3 | 1,6 | 1,8  | 1,9  | 2,0  | 2,1  | 2,1  | 2,2  | 2,2  |
| N=3000   | 0,8 | 1,1 | 1,3 | 1,4  | 1,5  | 1,6  | 1,7  | 1,8  | 1,8  | 1,8  |
| N=4000   | 0,7 | 0,9 | 1,1 | 1,2  | 1,3  | 1,4  | 1,5  | 1,5  | 1,5  | 1,5  |
| N=5000   | 0,6 | 0,8 | 1,0 | 1,1  | 1,2  | 1,3  | 1,3  | 1,4  | 1,4  | 1,4  |
| N=6000   | 0,6 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 1,0  | 1,1  | 1,2  | 1,2  | 1,2  | 1,3  | 1,3  |

# Evaluation of the samples

The attached tables (after the Technical Report tables) provide a detailed insight to the within country weighting of the study. (For cross-country weights please refer to the table on previous page) The weighting of the dataset is a three-fold exercise.

In the *first step* we will apply the basic **selection probability weights**, primarily to avoid the overcoverage of households with multiple telephone lines. In the same step, we calculate the weights that corrects the estimations based on the merged **dual frame** samples, i.e., weights that deal with phone owners;

In the *second step*, on a country-by-country basis, a **nonresponse population weighting** was carried out. As nonresponse rates vary by social segments, the sample characteristics reflect such differences as well (i.e., there are usually less males and especially less young people in the samples than in the universe.) In this step, we .compensated for the nonresponse bias that stems from the field execution process. The most advanced method for eliminating such deviations is the so-called *Raking Adjustment for Nonresponse* (raking). Gallup applied this method. This procedure performs iterative proportional fitting in contingency table analysis. This method is also used to deal with the problem of large variability of weights when weighting classes are formed based on full cross-classification of the auxiliary variables, the result is a large number of weighting classes with unstable response rates.

However, one drawback is that raking assumes that the variables used for adjustment are independent. Raking works in the following way:
1) sets initial weight factor values in each cross-classification term to 1;
2) adjusts the weight factors of the first cross-classification term so the weighted sample is representative for the variables involved;
3) adjusts the weight factors for the next cross-classification term so the weighted sample becomes representative with respect to the variables involved (this might disrupt the representativeness with respect to the variables involved);
4) repeats this adjustment for all cross-classification terms;
5) repeats all steps until the factors do not change.

A common approach to weighting is to determine the sample weights adjusting for unequal probabilities of selection, revise these weights to compensate for different sub-class response rates, and finally modify the weights again to conform the weighted sample distribution for certain variables (e.g., age, gender, education, activity etc.) to the known population distributions of the same variables.

The following variables will be used in all national raking procedures (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.

**ZA Study 4739**
**Flash Eurobarometer 234**
**„Citizens' perceptions of the EU Regional Policy"**

## Archive information and errata

- CASEID: The original case identification number is not continuously unique, even if separating by country and interview mode (27 non unique case id-s for Denmark, no duplicate cases). A unique serial id number was produced by the archive.
- REGION: NUTS categories in this variable are specified according to official NUTS classification (levels 1 to 3) or former Flash EB surveys by the archive. Regions for Bulgaria and Romania are not documented (mapping to NUTS is not clear).
- NUTS: Variable collapses NUTS 2 regions (variable REGION) for Belgium and the Netherlands to the NUTS 1 level.
- NUTS2: Variable is not documented. Only data for Germany, Spain, France, Italy and Poland differ from data in REGION or NUTS.
- D98A, D98B, D99A, D99B: These variables are only available for face-to-face interviews (see MODE). D98 variables include Polish cases, D99 other countries where face-to-face interviews were conducted.
- OCCU: Construction of this variable is not documented.
- W3: Separate application of this weight variable is not indicated. The factor for DUAL FRAME countries is supposed to be included in W4 (POST-STRATIFICATION WEIGHT).