

Standard Eurobarometer 89
Spring 2018

Report

Europeans and the EU budget

Fieldwork
March 2018

Survey requested and co-ordinated by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communication

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.
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Standard Eurobarometer 89 – Wave EB89.1

Kantar Public Brussels on behalf of TNS opinion & social

Standard Eurobarometer 89

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Survey carried out by Kantar Public on behalf of TNS opinion & social at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication

Survey coordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM "Media monitoring, media analysis and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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INTRODUCTION

The Standard Eurobarometer 89 survey was conducted between 13 and 28 March 2018[1] in 34 countries or territories: the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), five candidate countries (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania), and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

This edition of the Standard Eurobarometer report of spring 2018 (EB89) studies public opinion in the European Union on the European Union budget, a subject that was approached through the following questions:

- **Increasing the European Union budget**: according to Europeans, should the EU receive more funding in light of its political aims?
- **The areas covered by the EU budget:** in which areas do Europeans think the EU uses the main part of its budget? Which areas they would like the EU to use its budget in? Are there differences between their perceptions and their expectations concerning the use of the EU budget?

The full Standard Eurobarometer 89 survey report consists of several volumes. The first volume presents the state of general opinion in the European Union (EU), as well opinion on economic matters in the EU. Four other volumes present the views of Europeans on the following subjects: the European Union's priorities, European citizenship, the European Union budget, and Europeans and the future of Europe and. This volume is devoted to the European Union budget.

[1] Please consult the technical specifications for the exact interview dates in each country.

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General for Communication ("Media monitoring, media analysis and Eurobarometer" Unit) [2] . The same methodology was used in all countries and territories covered by the survey. A technical note describing how the institutes within the TNS opinion & social network conduct interviews is included in the report annexes. This note also specifies the confidence intervals[3], which enable us to assess the accuracy of a survey's results according to the size of the sample polled in relation to the total size of the population studied.

Note: in this report, the countries are designated by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report are the following:

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czech Republic	CZ	Hungaria	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	FR	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus	CY*	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV	United Kingdom	UK

European Union – weighted average for the 28 Member States	UE28
BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT	Euro area
BG, CZ, DK, HR, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK	Non-Euro area

We wish to thank all the people interviewed throughout the European Union who took the time to take part in this survey. Without their active participation, this survey would not have been possible.

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/

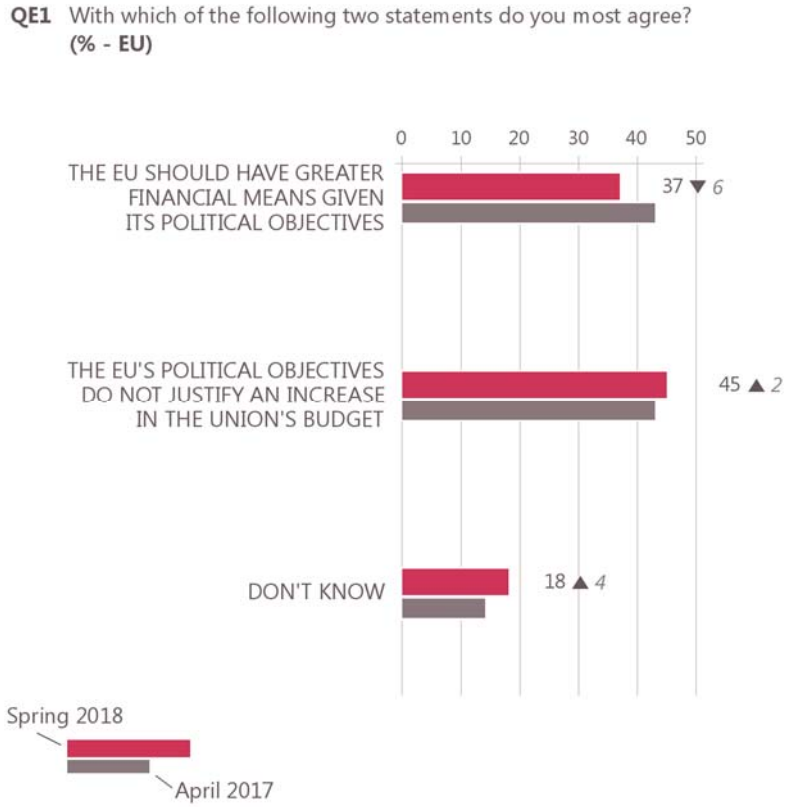
[3] The results tables are annexed. It should be noted that the total of the percentages indicated in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondents could choose several answers to the same question.

I. EUROPEANS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET

A majority of Europeans think that the European Union's political objectives do not warrant an increase in its budget

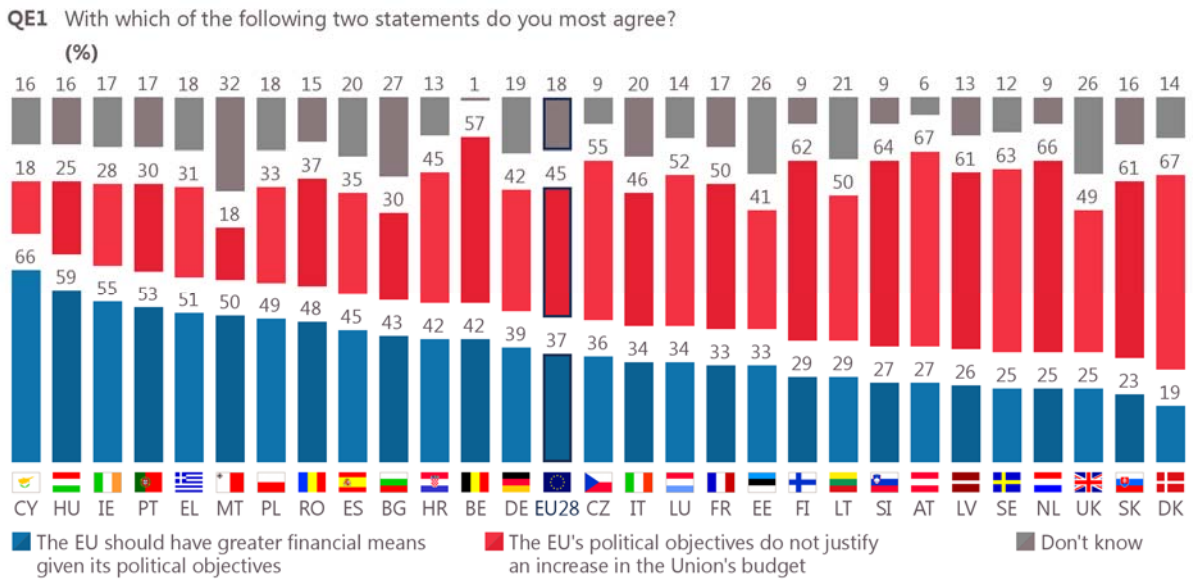
Respondents in the 28 European Union Member States were asked to choose which of two statements about the EU budget they most agreed with[4]. **45% think that "the EU's political objectives do not justify an increase in the Union's budget"** (+2 percentage points since April 2017[5]). Less than one in four feel that **"the EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives"** (37%, -6). However, nearly one in five respondents say they do not know (18%, +4).

The results in the European Union of 27 Member States[6] – without the United Kingdom – are quite similar. The majority of respondents are also opposed to an increase in the EU budget (44%, one percentage point below the EU28 average). The statement that "The EU should have greater financial means" has slightly more support (39%, two points above the EU28 average).



[4] QE1. With which of the following two statements do you most agree?
[5] Special Eurobarometer 461, *Designing Europe's future: Opinions about the EU budget*, April 2017: http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2173
[6] In this report, we will routinely describe the EU27 results. However, the graphs represent the EU28 results

In 18 EU Member States (compared with 14 in April 2017), most respondents tend to agree that **"the EU's political objectives do not justify an increase in the Union's budget"**. This proportion is the highest in Denmark and Austria (both 67%), and the Netherlands (66%). The opposite is true in the remaining ten countries: a majority think that **"the EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives"**, most obviously in Cyprus (66%), Hungary (59%) and Ireland (55%). It is worth noting, however, that the rate of "don't know" answers is particularly high in some countries, exceeding a quarter of respondents in Malta (32%), Bulgaria (27%), and Estonia and the United Kingdom (both 26%).



In terms of evolutions since April 2017, the proportion of respondents tending to agree that **"the EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives"** has decreased in 23 countries. It has fallen by at least ten percentage points in nine of them: Romania (48%, -18 percentage points), Croatia (42%, -15), Luxembourg (34%, -12), the Netherlands (25%, -12), Lithuania (29%, -11), Sweden (25%, -11), Malta (50%, -10), Finland (29%, -10) and Austria (27%, -10). It has only increased in three countries: Portugal (53%, +7), Ireland (55%, +3) and Spain (45%, +1). Lastly, it has not changed in Cyprus and Hungary.

The rate of agreement with the statement that **"the EU's political objectives do not justify an increase in the Union's budget"** has seen an opposite, but less marked evolution: it has risen in 18 EU Member States, especially in Romania (37%, +13 percentage points) and the Netherlands (66%, +11). It has fallen in nine countries, including Portugal (30%, -12), and is unchanged in Bulgaria.

QE1 With which of the following two statements do you most agree?
(%)

	The EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	The EU's political objectives do not justify an increase in the Union's budget	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Don't know
EU28	37	▼ 6	45	▲ 2	18
EURO AREA	37	▼ 6	46	▲ 1	17
NON-EURO AREA	37	▼ 8	43	▲ 4	20
PT	53	▲ 7	30	▼ 12	17
IE	55	▲ 3	28	▼ 3	17
ES	45	▲ 1	35	▼ 8	20
CY	66	=	18	▼ 7	16
HU	59	=	25	▼ 3	16
CZ	36	▼ 1	55	▼ 1	9
EL	51	▼ 4	31	▼ 6	18
PL	49	▼ 4	33	▲ 1	18
BE	42	▼ 4	57	▲ 5	1
DE	39	▼ 5	42	▼ 3	19
SI	27	▼ 6	64	▲ 2	9
DK	19	▼ 6	67	▲ 3	14
UK	25	▼ 7	49	▲ 6	26
BG	43	▼ 8	30	=	27
EE	33	▼ 8	41	▲ 3	26
LV	26	▼ 8	61	▲ 8	13
IT	34	▼ 9	46	▲ 1	20
FR	33	▼ 9	50	▲ 8	17
SK	23	▼ 9	61	▲ 3	16
MT	50	▼ 10	18	▼ 4	32
FI	29	▼ 10	62	▲ 8	9
AT	27	▼ 10	67	▲ 9	6
LT	29	▼ 11	50	▲ 1	21
SE	25	▼ 11	63	▲ 6	12
LU	34	▼ 12	52	▲ 7	14
NL	25	▼ 12	66	▲ 11	9
HR	42	▼ 15	45	▲ 6	13
RO	48	▼ 18	37	▲ 13	15

Sociodemographic data show that a majority of respondents agree that **"the EU's political objectives do not justify an increase in the Union's budget"** in almost all sociodemographic categories. However, the idea that **"the EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives":**

- is predominant among 15-24-year-olds (43%, versus 38% for the opposite idea), students (46% versus 38%) and, especially, those who see themselves as belonging to the upper class (58% versus 35%). Europeans aged between 25 and 39 years are divided on this question (42% for both options);
- is also predominant among those who tend to trust the EU (49% versus 37%), those who have a positive image of the EU (49% versus 36%) and those who think that things are going in the right direction in the EU (50% versus 38%);
- is the minority view among Europeans who tend not to trust the EU (30% versus 54%), those who have a negative image of the EU (22% versus 62%) and those who think that things are going in the wrong direction in the EU (33% versus 53%).

QE1 With which of the following two statements do you most agree?
(% - EU)

	The EU's political objectives do not justify an increase in the Union's budget	The EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives	Don't know
EU28	45	37	18
Gender			
Man	48	38	14
Woman	42	36	22
Age			
15-24	38	43	19
25-39	42	42	16
40-54	46	40	14
55 +	48	31	21
Education (End of)			
15-	43	29	28
16-19	46	37	17
20+	47	40	13
Still studying	38	46	16
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	50	38	12
Managers	46	42	12
Other white collars	46	42	12
Manual workers	45	38	17
House persons	39	35	26
Unemployed	43	34	23
Retired	46	31	23
Students	38	46	16
Trust in EU			
Tend to trust	37	49	14
Tend not to trust	54	30	16
Image of EU			
Positive	36	49	15
Neutral	46	34	20
Negative	62	22	16
Things in the EU are going in...			
Right direction	38	50	12
Wrong direction	53	33	14
Neither	47	31	22

II. THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET: PERCEPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

1 Perceptions of the EU budget

Nearly a third of Europeans think that the European Union spends most of its budget on administrative and personnel costs and buildings

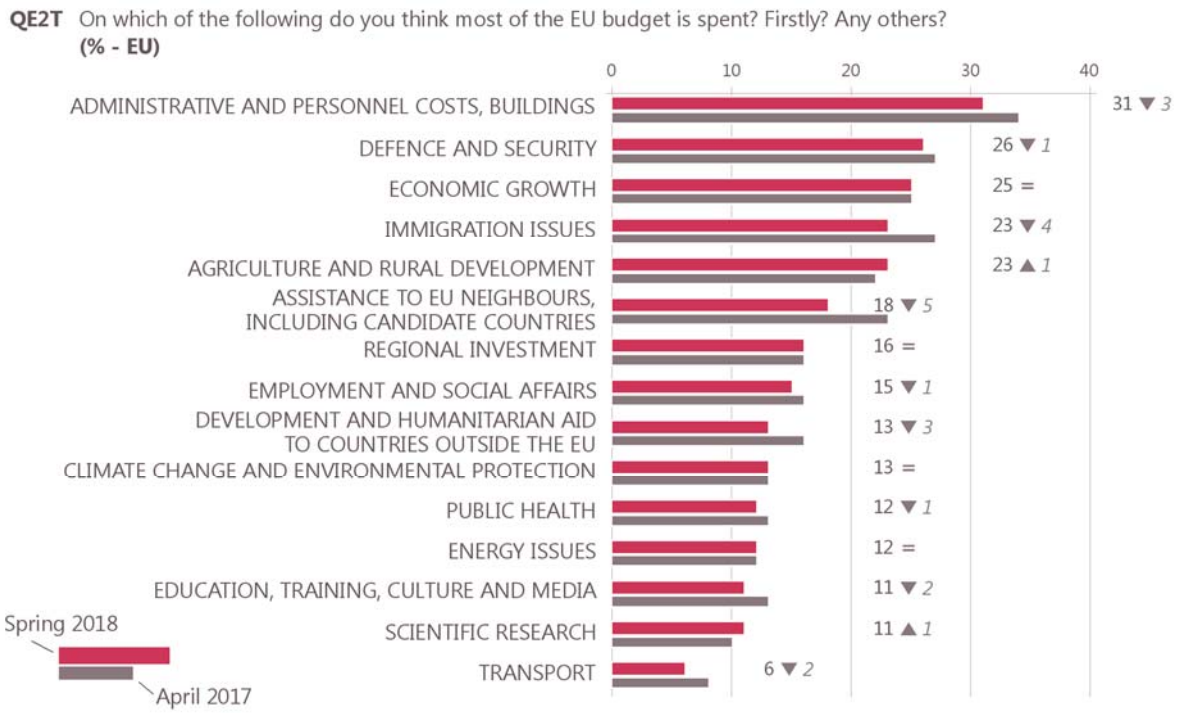
Respondents in the 28 Member States were given a list of 15 areas of expenditure and asked to say where they think the European Union spends most of its budget[7]. They were invited to give a maximum of four responses, and the hierarchy of the results is as follows:

- Over three in ten Europeans mention **"administrative and personnel costs, buildings"** (31%, -3 percentage points since April 2017);
- Next, the following four areas are mentioned by nearly a quarter of respondents: **"defence and security"** (26%, -1), **"economic growth"** (25%, no change), **"agriculture and rural development"** (23%, +1) and **"immigration issues"** (23%, -4);
- Slightly fewer than one in five think that the EU spends most of its budget on **"assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries"** (18%, -5), **"regional investment"** (16%, unchanged) or **"employment and social affairs"** (15%, -1);
- Over one in ten Europeans also mention **"climate change and environmental protection"** (13%, unchanged), **"development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU"** (13%, -3), **"energy issues"** (12%, =), **"public health"** (12%, -1), **"scientific research"** (11%, +1) or **"education, training, culture and media"** (11%, -2);
- Lastly, **"transport"** is mentioned by fewer than one in ten respondents (6%, -2).

The proportion of "don't know" answers is relatively high for this question (14%, +4 percentage points since April 2017).

In the European Union of 27 Member States – without the United Kingdom – the hierarchy of areas in which respondents believe the EU spends most of its budget is the same as the EU28 average. The only differences concern six areas that gain a percentage point when the United Kingdom results are excluded: "administrative and personnel costs, buildings" (32% versus 31% in the EU28), "economic growth" (26% versus 25%), "agriculture and rural development" (24% versus 23%), "immigration issues" (24% versus 23%), "assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries" (19% versus 18%) and "employment and social affairs" (16% versus 15%).

[7] QE2T. On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS)



In nine Member States (compared with 12 in April 2017), most respondents identify **"administrative and personnel costs, buildings"** as the EU's main item of expenditure. This area is mentioned particularly often in Sweden (46%), Austria (45%) and Germany (44%).

"Defence and security" is in first place in six countries (compared with four in April 2017): Lithuania (51%), Latvia (46%), Greece (36%), Estonia (32%), Romania (28%) and the United Kingdom (27%).

"Immigration issues", which only tie for fourth place at the European level, are also in first place in six Member States (as was the case in April 2017): the Czech Republic (42%), Hungary (41%), Slovakia and Bulgaria (both 37%), Cyprus (34%) and Italy (32%).

"Agriculture and rural development" is the area mentioned the most in five Member States (compared with two in April 2017): Sweden (55%), Denmark (47%), the Netherlands (45%), Ireland (30%) and Poland (27%).

In Malta, **"economic growth"** is mentioned in first place (27%). The highest scores for this item are recorded in Lithuania (39%), the Netherlands (38%) and Belgium (33%).

In terms of evolutions since April 2017, the proportion of respondents mentioning **"administrative and personnel costs, buildings"** as the area in which the EU spends most of its budget has decreased in 22 Member States, led by Cyprus (22%, -13 percentage points) and Slovenia (43%, -10). It has only risen in five countries, and is unchanged in Malta.

Mentions of **"economic growth"** have fallen in 13 countries and risen in 12 – especially in Latvia (28%, +11) – and are unchanged in Malta, Germany and Slovakia. In 20 Member States, "**immigration issues"** are mentioned less than in April 2017, especially in Italy (32%, -12) and the Czech Republic (42%, -10). They are mentioned more in the remaining eight countries.

The proportion of respondents mentioning **"agriculture and rural development"** has grown in 16 Member States – especially in Germany (35%, +10) –, decreased in seven countries and remained stable in five others.

Lastly, **"assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries"** has seen a decline in mentions in 24 Member States, including Germany (26%, -11). It is mentioned slightly more in Greece, Ireland and Latvia, and is unchanged in Hungary.

Respondents in Malta mention **"public health"** (22%, -16) and **"education, training, culture and the media"** (20%, -15) less than in April 2017. Evolutions in the other areas have been less marked, all below ten percentage points.

QE2T On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? Firstly? Any others?
(%)

	Administrative and personnel costs, buildings	Defence and security	Economic growth	Immigration issues	Agriculture and rural development	Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries	Regional investment	Employment and social affairs	Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU	Climate change and environmental protection	Public health	Energy issues	Education, training, culture and media	Scientific research	Transport
EU28	31	26	25	23	23	18	16	15	13	13	12	12	11	11	6
EURO AREA	35	27	26	23	23	20	14	15	13	12	11	12	10	11	6
NON-EURO AREA	24	25	24	23	23	15	19	14	14	14	15	11	13	10	8
BE	37	30	33	28	25	22	12	18	15	15	14	17	15	12	6
BG	25	24	22	37	18	16	14	14	14	9	9	13	11	8	6
CZ	25	30	24	42	19	22	28	14	22	11	11	15	10	14	13
DK	35	27	20	22	47	14	21	12	14	20	6	11	8	7	6
DE	44	22	24	24	35	26	20	16	15	15	8	10	8	7	3
EE	17	32	17	29	22	17	15	11	12	9	9	12	11	8	7
IE	28	23	27	21	30	16	20	20	15	18	22	17	18	12	11
EL	33	36	23	29	18	23	20	13	20	14	9	24	14	19	9
ES	41	31	25	13	11	10	8	18	8	9	11	11	10	11	3
FR	25	24	22	20	22	22	10	9	10	9	10	11	8	10	7
HR	30	22	30	27	21	18	17	18	14	15	9	20	16	15	4
IT	27	31	29	32	12	11	11	17	13	12	13	14	12	16	8
CY	22	23	29	34	21	13	9	10	13	13	22	21	17	15	6
LV	21	46	28	31	24	17	15	13	10	9	10	15	15	9	8
LT	14	51	39	19	29	15	12	14	13	16	13	17	14	12	3
LU	33	27	28	20	26	20	13	14	12	10	12	10	14	9	12
HU	15	24	30	41	22	15	13	19	21	13	13	17	13	10	5
MT	19	18	27	15	5	9	14	14	7	16	22	12	20	10	7
NL	37	24	38	21	45	35	26	16	16	20	7	9	10	9	6
AT	45	20	29	28	28	38	16	21	28	21	15	13	16	13	13
PL	23	23	24	21	27	13	21	16	13	17	18	13	13	11	9
PT	39	18	25	8	10	11	7	14	10	7	12	6	11	8	3
RO	15	28	24	19	22	16	16	22	16	12	23	10	19	11	12
SI	43	26	25	24	24	16	11	12	9	11	12	14	9	11	6
SK	25	31	18	37	17	16	15	17	15	13	10	12	12	10	9
FI	42	27	27	31	33	13	34	27	7	18	12	19	6	9	9
SE	46	22	26	24	55	24	40	13	15	17	4	15	6	9	7
UK	24	27	22	17	15	13	15	10	11	12	15	8	12	9	6

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

QE2T On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? Firstly? Any others?
(%)

	Administrative and personnel costs, buildings	Defence and security	Economic growth	Immigration issues	Agriculture and rural development	Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries	Regional investment	Employment and social affairs	Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU	Climate change and environmental protection	Public health	Energy issues	Education, training, culture and media	Scientific research	Transport
EU28	31	26	25	23	23	18	16	15	13	13	12	12	11	11	6
EURO AREA	35	27	26	23	23	20	14	15	13	12	11	12	10	11	6
NON-EURO AREA	24	25	24	23	23	15	19	14	14	14	15	11	13	10	8
BE	**37**	30	33	28	25	22	12	18	15	15	14	17	15	12	*6*
BG	25	24	22	**37**	18	16	14	14	14	9	9	13	11	8	*6*
CZ	25	30	24	**42**	19	22	28	14	22	11	11	15	*10*	14	13
DK	35	27	20	22	**47**	14	21	12	14	20	*6*	11	8	7	*6*
DE	**44**	22	24	24	35	26	20	16	15	15	8	10	8	7	*3*
EE	17	**32**	17	29	22	17	15	11	12	9	9	12	11	8	*7*
IE	28	23	27	21	**30**	16	20	20	15	18	22	17	18	12	*11*
EL	33	**36**	23	29	18	23	20	13	20	14	*9*	24	14	19	*9*
ES	**41**	31	25	13	11	10	8	18	8	9	11	11	10	11	*3*
FR	**25**	24	22	20	22	22	10	9	10	9	10	11	8	10	*7*
HR	**30**	22	**30**	27	21	18	17	18	14	15	9	20	16	15	*4*
IT	27	31	29	**32**	12	11	11	17	13	12	13	14	12	16	*8*
CY	22	23	29	**34**	21	13	9	10	13	13	22	21	17	15	*6*
LV	21	**46**	28	31	24	17	15	13	10	9	10	15	15	9	*8*
LT	14	**51**	39	19	29	15	12	14	13	16	13	17	14	12	*3*
LU	**33**	27	28	20	26	20	13	14	12	10	12	10	14	*9*	12
HU	15	24	30	**41**	22	15	13	19	21	13	13	17	13	10	*5*
MT	19	18	**27**	15	*5*	9	14	14	7	16	22	12	20	10	7
NL	37	24	38	21	**45**	35	26	16	16	20	7	9	10	9	*6*
AT	**45**	20	29	28	28	38	16	21	28	21	15	*13*	16	*13*	*13*
PL	23	23	24	21	**27**	13	21	16	13	17	18	13	13	11	*9*
PT	**39**	18	25	8	10	11	7	14	10	7	12	6	11	8	*3*
RO	15	**28**	24	19	22	16	16	22	16	12	23	*10*	19	11	12
SI	**43**	26	25	24	24	16	11	12	9	11	12	14	9	11	*6*
SK	25	31	18	**37**	17	16	15	17	15	13	10	12	12	10	*9*
FI	**42**	27	27	31	33	13	34	27	7	18	12	19	*6*	9	9
SE	46	22	26	24	**55**	24	40	13	15	17	*4*	15	6	9	7
UK	24	**27**	22	17	15	13	15	10	11	12	15	8	12	9	*6*

Highest percentage per country / *Lowest percentage per country*

Highest percentage per item / Lowest percentage per item

QE2T On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? Firstly? Any others?
(%)

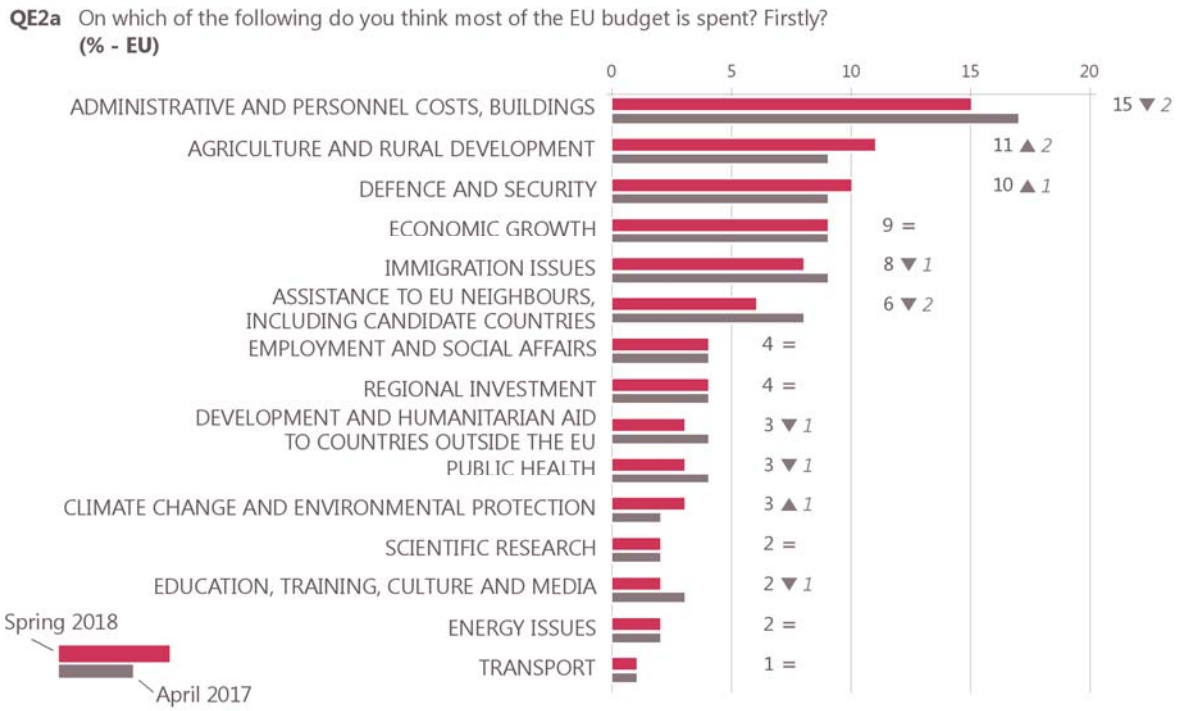
	Administrative and personnel costs, buildings	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Defence and security	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Economic growth	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Immigration issues	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Agriculture and rural development	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017
EU28	31	▼3	26	▼1	25	=	23	▼4	23	▲1	18	▼5
EURO AREA	35	▼3	27	=	26	▲1	23	▼4	23	▲2	20	▼5
NON-EURO AREA	24	▼2	25	▼2	24	▲1	23	▼2	23	▼2	15	▼4
BE	37	▲5	30	▼2	33	▼2	28	▼7	25	▲7	22	▼3
BG	25	▼1	24	▼7	22	▼2	37	▼2	18	=	16	▼5
CZ	25	▼2	30	=	24	▲4	42	▼10	19	▲3	22	▼1
DK	35	▼2	27	▼1	20	▼7	22	▼2	47	=	14	▼7
DE	44	▼5	22	▼2	24	=	24	▼5	35	▲10	26	▼11
EE	17	▼7	32	▼3	17	▼2	29	▼9	22	▲4	17	▼6
IE	28	▼3	23	=	27	▼1	21	▲1	30	▲3	16	▲1
EL	33	▼5	36	▲3	23	▲3	29	▼5	18	▲8	23	▲4
ES	41	▼2	31	▲2	25	▲6	13	▲1	11	=	10	▼3
FR	25	▼1	24	▼1	22	▼2	20	▼1	22	▼5	22	▼6
HR	30	▼9	22	▼4	30	▲5	27	▼5	21	▲4	18	▼2
IT	27	▼7	31	▼1	29	▲1	32	▼12	12	▲1	11	▼5
CY	22	▼13	23	▲2	29	▲2	34	▲4	21	▲4	13	▼1
LV	21	▼3	46	▲7	28	▲11	31	▲2	24	▲1	17	▲1
LT	14	▼7	51	▲1	39	▲8	19	▲4	29	=	15	▼1
LU	33	▲1	27	▲4	28	▼1	20	▼1	26	=	20	▼6
HU	15	▼1	24	▼1	30	▼1	41	▼3	22	▲1	15	=
MT	19	=	18	▲4	27	=	15	▼6	5	▼5	9	▼1
NL	37	▲2	24	▼2	38	▼8	21	▼1	45	▲1	35	▼1
AT	45	▼3	20	▼1	29	▼2	28	▼6	28	▲1	38	▼1
PL	23	▼9	23	▼2	24	▲3	21	▲1	27	▼1	13	▼2
PT	39	▼6	18	▲3	25	▲8	8	▼6	10	▲4	11	▼9
RO	15	▼4	28	▼2	24	▲3	19	▼3	22	▼1	16	▼3
SI	43	▼10	26	=	25	▲5	24	▼7	24	▲5	16	▼7
SK	25	▼2	31	▲1	18	=	37	▼7	17	▲4	16	▼5
FI	42	▼3	27	▼4	27	▼7	31	▲1	33	▼1	13	▼9
SE	46	▲6	22	▲1	26	▼6	24	▲1	55	▼6	24	▼2
UK	24	▲3	27	=	22	▼1	17	▼2	15	▼6	13	▼6

The six items that are mentioned the most

If we analyse the first item mentioned by respondents, rather than all of the areas mentioned, the order assigned to the areas in which the European Union spends most of its budget only changes very slightly.

"Administrative and personnel costs, buildings" occupies first place in both cases: they are mentioned "firstly" by 15% of respondents.

The largest difference concerns **"agriculture and rural development"**, which is in second place in the hierarchy of first-mentioned areas but is only in joint fourth place when all the answers are taken into account.



Sociodemographic data show that:

- **"Administrative and personnel costs, buildings"** is the most-mentioned area in the great majority of sociodemographic categories. It is mentioned the most by the self-employed (37%) and Europeans who see themselves as middle class (35%) or upper class (46%);
- **"Economic growth"** is in first place among Europeans aged 15 to 24 years (32%) and 25 to 39 years (29%), and students (35%);
- **"Agriculture and rural development"** is mentioned the most by managers (34%) and people who see themselves as upper middle class (36%);
- Europeans who sometimes have difficulties paying their bills put "administrative and personnel costs, buildings" and **"defence and security"** in equal first place (both 29%);
- A majority among those who are optimistic about the future of the EU (30%), who tend to trust it (31%) and have a positive image of it (31%) and who think that things are going in the right direction in the EU mention "economic growth";
- Most of the Europeans who are pessimistic about the future of the EU (37%), who tend not to trust it (36%), who have a negative image of it (38%) and who consider that things are going in the wrong direction in the EU (37%) mention "administrative and personnel costs, buildings".

QE2T On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? Firstly? Any others?

	Administrative and personnel costs, buildings	Defence and security	Economic growth	Immigration issues	Agriculture and rural development	Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries	Regional investment	Employment and social affairs
EU28	31	26	25	23	23	18	16	15
Gender								
Man	33	26	25	23	27	19	18	15
Woman	29	26	25	23	19	17	14	15
Age								
15-24	23	30	32	24	15	17	14	16
25-39	28	28	29	25	20	20	16	16
40-54	34	28	27	24	25	20	17	16
55 +	34	22	20	21	26	17	16	13
Education (End of)								
15-	30	24	18	21	17	14	9	13
16-19	31	26	23	25	21	19	13	15
20+	34	27	29	22	31	20	23	15
Still studying	24	31	35	22	18	18	17	18
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	37	29	29	24	28	20	20	13
Managers	33	27	31	20	34	22	23	18
Other white collars	30	29	29	27	23	18	18	18
Manual workers	29	28	25	26	18	19	13	15
House persons	27	22	21	23	16	17	14	14
Unemployed	30	27	23	24	15	17	10	14
Retired	33	22	19	20	26	16	14	12
Students	24	31	35	22	18	18	17	18
Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	34	27	22	26	13	20	11	11
From time to time	29	29	27	26	19	17	13	16
Almost never/ Never	32	25	25	21	26	18	18	15
Consider belonging to								
The working class	29	26	20	22	17	17	11	13
The lower middle class	33	27	26	26	22	17	15	15
The middle class	32	27	27	24	25	19	17	15
The upper middle class	35	25	32	20	36	24	26	20
The upper class	46	20	29	12	44	25	39	23
Future of the EU								
Optimistic	28	28	30	22	27	18	17	18
Pessimistic	37	25	20	26	19	20	15	11
Trust in EU								
Tend to trust	28	29	31	21	28	18	19	18
Tend not to trust	36	25	22	26	20	20	14	13
Image of EU								
Positive	27	27	31	20	28	18	20	17
Neutral	32	28	24	25	21	18	14	15
Negative	38	22	17	27	19	19	13	11
Things in the EU are going in...								
Right direction	25	29	32	21	27	18	19	19
Wrong direction	37	26	23	27	22	21	15	14
Neither	32	26	25	21	21	16	17	13

Items mentioned by at least 15% of the respondents

2 Expectations of the European Union budget

For Europeans, public health and employment and social affairs are the main areas in which the European Union should spend its budget

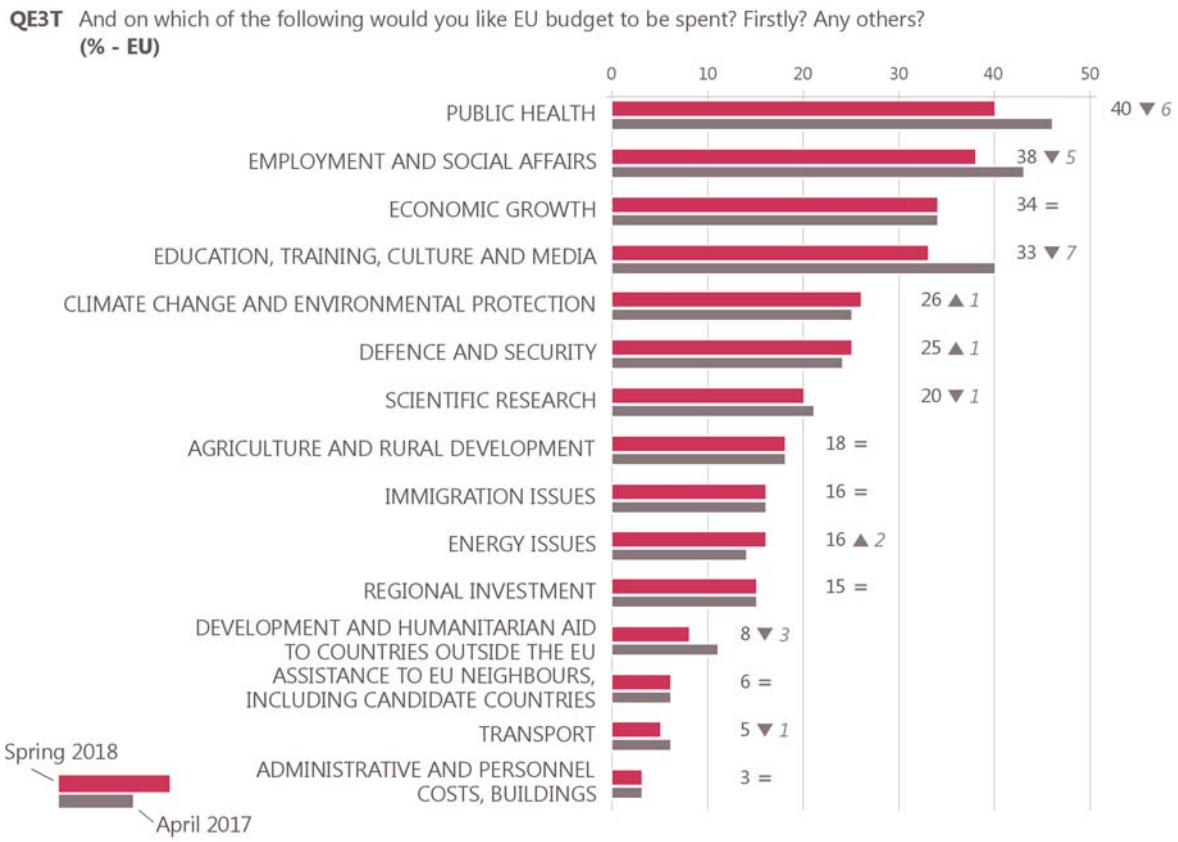
Using the same list of 15 areas of expenditure as in the previous question, Europeans were asked to identify those in which they would like the European Union to spend its budget[8]. The answers can be ordered as follows:

- Four in ten respondents think that **"public health"** is a priority (40%, -6 percentage points since April 2017), just above **"employment and social affairs"** (38%, -5);
- About a third of Europeans mention **"economic growth"** (34%, no change) and **"education, training, culture and the media"** (33%, -7);
- Two areas are mentioned by around a quarter of respondents: **"climate change and environmental protection"** (26%, +1) and **"defence and security"** (25%, +1);
- **"Scientific research"** (20%, -1) and **"agriculture and rural development"** (18%, =) are the areas in which the EU should spend its budget according to about one in five Europeans;
- Three further areas are also mentioned by over one in ten respondents: **"immigration issues"** (16%, =), **"energy issues"** (16%, +2) and **"regional investment"** (15%, =);
- The four remaining areas are mentioned by less than one in ten Europeans: **"development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU"** (8%, -3), **"assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries"** (6%, =), **"transport"** (5%, -1) and **"administrative and personnel costs, buildings"** (3%, =).

Despite an increase since April 2017, the "don't know" rate remains fairly low (6%, +3 percentage points), and certainly lower than that measured for the previous question about the areas in which the European spends most of its budget (14%, +4).

In the European Union of 27 Member States – without the United Kingdom –, respondents prioritise the areas in which they would like the EU to spend its budget in an almost identical way to the EU28 average. The only notable difference lies in the fact that "public health" and "employment and social affairs" are in joint first place (40% for both areas). Six other areas gain a percentage point compared with the EU average: "economic growth" (35% in the EU27, versus 34% in EU28), "climate change and environmental protection" (27% versus 26%), "agriculture and rural development" (19% versus 18%), "immigration issues" (17% versus 16%), "regional investment" (16% versus 15%) and "administrative and personnel costs, buildings" (4% versus 3%).

[8] QE3T. And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS)



In ten Member States (compared with 11 in April 2017), **"public health"** is seen as the first area in which the EU should use its budget, with its highest scores in Cyprus (77%), Greece (58%), and Ireland and Portugal (both 57%). In Slovenia, it occupies first place alongside "economic growth" (both 47%).

"Employment and social affairs" take first place in six countries (compared with eight in April 2017): Spain (64%), Portugal (62%), Croatia (60%), Finland (50%), Belgium (43%) and Slovakia (38%).

"Economic growth" has the top spot in four Member States (compared with three in April 2017): Greece (71%), Lithuania (59%), Bulgaria (52%) and Italy (51%).

"Climate change and environmental protection" is the area that is mentioned the most in four Member States (compared with three in April 2017): Sweden (59%), the Netherlands (56%), Denmark (54%) and Germany (42%).

In two countries, **"defence and security"** are the most-mentioned areas: the Czech Republic (42%) and Hungary (40%). This item was not in first place in any country in April 2017.

As was the case in April 2017, respondents in Luxembourg mention **"education, training, culture and media"** first (48%). This item receives its largest proportion of mentions in Spain (51%).

Since April 2017, the proportion of respondents mentioning **"public health"** as an area in which they would like the EU to spend its budget has decreased in 22 EU Member States, led by Malta (41%, -22 percentage points), Romania (41%, -18), Spain (49%, -17), Portugal (57%, -16), Hungary (38%, -15), Lithuania (44%, -12), Latvia (49%, -11), Estonia (45%, -11) and the United Kingdom (41%, -10). It has only grown in five countries and is unchanged in Bulgaria.

The item **"employment and social affairs"** has lost ground in 25 countries, most strikingly in Malta (18%, -15), Portugal (62%, -13), Luxembourg (32%, -13), Austria (38%, -11), Romania (27%, -11) and Slovakia (38%, -10). It has gained a little ground in Cyprus and the Netherlands and remains unchanged in Greece.

"Economic growth" has lost ground in 15 Member States, gained ground in ten countries – including Spain (41%, +11) – and is unchanged in France, Luxembourg and Malta.

In 22 Member States, **"education, training, culture and the media"** is mentioned less than in April 2017, very markedly in Malta (28%, -24), Cyprus (36%, -16), Spain (51%, -12), the United Kingdom (32%, -12), Portugal (47%, -11) and Romania (31%, -10). It is mentioned slightly more only in Greece, Italy and the Czech Republic, and remains unchanged in Luxembourg, Slovenia and Slovakia.

"Defence and security" has gained ground in 17 Member States, especially in Latvia (38%, +15) and Cyprus (28%, +10). It has lost ground in seven countries and remains stable in four others.

Lastly, **"development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU"** is now mentioned less in 17 Member States, including Germany (10%, -10). It has increased its score in seven countries and is unchanged in four others.

The national evolutions observed for the other areas are below ten percentage points.

QE3T And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?
(%)

	Public health	Employment and social affairs	Economic growth	Education, training, culture and media	Climate change and environmental protection	Defence and security	Scientific research	Agriculture and rural development	Immigration issues	Energy issues	Regional investment	Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU	Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries	Transport	Administrative and personnel costs, buildings
EU28	40	38	34	33	26	25	20	18	16	16	15	8	6	5	3
EURO AREA	40	42	35	35	28	24	21	18	18	16	14	8	5	4	3
NON-EURO AREA	40	31	31	29	23	25	16	18	14	16	16	9	6	7	4
BE	41	43	32	35	30	24	21	15	22	22	13	9	5	5	4
BG	41	43	52	26	13	34	10	27	12	11	20	5	6	5	4
CZ	36	36	38	31	20	42	22	25	14	13	23	5	5	12	3
DK	28	31	29	28	54	22	22	13	24	26	7	17	6	3	1
DE	35	40	24	34	42	19	23	20	15	14	19	10	6	3	3
EE	45	34	34	38	17	27	20	27	9	14	12	3	3	4	2
IE	57	37	38	40	20	13	13	17	16	18	19	9	8	10	5
EL	58	59	71	42	16	25	21	26	11	14	10	6	6	2	1
ES	49	64	41	51	20	11	22	12	10	9	6	7	5	2	2
FR	39	34	26	31	26	30	18	20	14	17	9	7	4	5	3
HR	27	60	52	28	13	13	13	28	8	16	22	8	11	3	5
IT	32	29	51	23	16	30	27	17	36	21	17	6	5	7	5
CY	77	44	45	36	23	28	16	21	10	13	6	7	3	2	2
LV	49	35	43	40	13	38	19	34	6	15	13	4	4	5	2
LT	44	42	59	38	16	26	22	21	11	14	15	4	6	2	1
LU	39	32	24	48	32	30	14	12	16	17	12	11	5	6	3
HU	38	34	39	25	21	40	14	24	23	19	14	9	14	4	5
MT	41	18	18	28	24	20	15	10	13	16	13	7	3	16	3
NL	40	45	31	45	56	36	20	10	14	18	12	15	8	4	1
AT	43	38	27	40	35	25	19	25	12	21	33	11	8	8	6
PL	46	33	33	27	16	26	14	21	10	13	24	7	5	7	6
PT	57	62	39	47	18	31	13	16	5	9	15	5	4	3	2
RO	41	27	34	31	16	24	13	30	12	11	17	13	10	11	6
SI	47	45	47	29	26	13	14	28	3	17	12	5	5	5	2
SK	37	38	29	27	16	23	16	31	12	12	25	6	8	14	6
FI	35	50	27	24	46	31	21	19	16	22	23	9	4	9	2
SE	29	40	24	21	59	25	29	17	30	27	14	13	4	5	1
UK	41	24	22	32	23	21	16	8	13	17	10	8	5	6	2

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

QE3T And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?
(%)

	Public health	Employment and social affairs	Economic growth	Education, training, culture and media	Climate change and environmental protection	Defence and security	Scientific research	Agriculture and rural development	Immigration issues	Energy issues	Regional investment	Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU	Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries	Transport	Administrative and personnel costs, buildings
EU28	40	38	34	33	26	25	20	18	16	16	15	8	6	5	3
EURO AREA	40	42	35	35	28	24	21	18	18	16	14	8	5	4	3
NON-EURO AREA	40	31	31	29	23	25	16	18	14	16	16	9	6	7	4
BE	41	**43**	32	35	30	24	21	15	22	22	13	9	5	5	*4*
BG	41	43	**52**	26	13	34	10	27	12	11	20	5	6	5	*4*
CZ	36	36	38	31	20	**42**	22	25	14	13	23	5	5	12	*3*
DK	28	31	29	28	**54**	22	22	13	24	26	7	17	6	3	*1*
DE	35	40	24	34	**42**	19	23	20	15	14	19	10	6	*3*	*3*
EE	**45**	34	34	38	17	27	20	27	9	14	12	3	3	4	*2*
IE	**57**	37	38	40	20	13	13	17	16	18	19	9	8	10	*5*
EL	58	59	**71**	42	16	25	21	26	11	14	10	6	6	2	*1*
ES	49	**64**	41	51	20	11	22	12	10	9	6	7	5	*2*	*2*
FR	**39**	34	26	31	26	30	18	20	14	17	9	7	4	5	*3*
HR	27	**60**	52	28	13	13	13	28	8	16	22	8	11	*3*	5
IT	32	29	**51**	23	16	30	27	17	36	21	17	6	*5*	7	*5*
CY	**77**	44	45	36	23	28	16	21	10	13	6	7	3	*2*	*2*
LV	**49**	35	43	40	13	38	19	34	6	15	13	4	4	5	*2*
LT	44	42	**59**	38	16	26	22	21	11	14	15	4	6	2	*1*
LU	39	32	24	**48**	32	30	14	12	16	17	12	11	5	6	*3*
HU	38	34	39	25	21	**40**	14	24	23	19	14	9	14	*4*	5
MT	**41**	18	18	28	24	20	15	10	13	16	13	7	*3*	16	*3*
NL	40	45	31	45	**56**	36	20	10	14	18	12	15	8	4	*1*
AT	**43**	38	27	40	35	25	19	25	12	21	33	11	8	8	*6*
PL	**46**	33	33	27	16	26	14	21	10	13	24	7	*5*	7	*6*
PT	57	**62**	39	47	18	31	13	16	5	9	15	5	4	3	*2*
RO	**41**	27	34	31	16	24	13	30	12	11	17	13	10	11	*6*
SI	**47**	45	**47**	29	26	13	14	28	3	17	12	5	5	5	*2*
SK	37	**38**	29	27	16	23	16	31	12	12	25	*6*	8	14	*6*
FI	35	**50**	27	24	46	31	21	19	16	22	23	9	4	9	*2*
SE	29	40	24	21	**59**	25	29	17	30	27	14	13	4	5	*1*
UK	**41**	24	22	32	23	21	16	8	13	17	10	8	5	6	*2*

Highest percentage per country — *Lowest percentage per country*

Highest percentage per item — Lowest percentage per item

QE3T And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?
(%)

	Public health	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Employment and social affairs	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Economic growth	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Education, training, culture and media	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Climate change and environmental protection	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017	Defence and security	Sp.2018 - Apr. 2017
EU28	40	▼6	38	▼5	34	=	33	▼7	26	▲1	25	▲1
EURO AREA	40	▼5	42	▼5	35	=	35	▼6	28	▲1	24	=
NON-EURO AREA	40	▼9	31	▼5	31	▼2	29	▼8	23	▲1	25	▲1
BE	41	▼6	43	▼6	32	▲1	35	▼5	30	▲3	24	▲1
BG	41	=	43	▼5	52	▼5	26	▼5	13	=	34	▼3
CZ	36	▼7	36	▼7	38	▲6	31	▲1	20	▲3	42	▲1
DK	28	▼1	31	▼4	29	▼4	28	▼5	54	▼2	22	▲1
DE	35	▼1	40	▼3	24	▼1	34	▼7	42	▲2	19	▼1
EE	45	▼11	34	▼9	34	▲1	38	▼5	17	▲6	27	▼1
IE	57	▼3	37	▼9	38	▲6	40	▼7	20	=	13	=
EL	58	▼9	59	=	71	▲3	42	▲2	16	▲6	25	▲7
ES	49	▼17	64	▼2	41	▲11	51	▼12	20	▲2	11	▲5
FR	39	▼3	34	▼7	26	=	31	▼8	26	=	30	=
HR	27	▼8	60	▼4	52	▲1	28	▼6	13	▼2	13	▼5
IT	32	▼2	29	▼6	51	▼1	23	▲2	16	=	30	▼6
CY	77	▲2	44	▲4	45	▼2	36	▼16	23	▲7	28	▲10
LV	49	▼11	35	▼5	43	▲5	40	▼6	13	▲4	38	▲15
LT	44	▼12	42	▼7	59	▲4	38	▼9	16	▲5	26	▲1
LU	39	▼5	32	▼13	24	=	48	=	32	▲2	30	▲1
HU	38	▼15	34	▼7	39	▼5	25	▼9	21	▼1	40	▲7
MT	41	▼22	18	▼15	18	=	28	▼24	24	▼8	20	▲1
NL	40	▲1	45	▲1	31	▼4	45	▼6	56	=	36	=
AT	43	▲5	38	▼11	27	▼7	40	▼3	35	▼1	25	▲2
PL	46	▼5	33	▼4	33	▼6	27	▼6	16	▲1	26	▲2
PT	57	▼16	62	▼13	39	▼1	47	▼11	18	▲8	31	▲2
RO	41	▼18	27	▼11	34	▲1	31	▼10	16	▲1	24	▲2
SI	47	▲2	45	▼7	47	▼2	29	=	26	▲4	13	=
SK	37	▼6	38	▼10	29	▼2	27	=	16	▼3	23	▼4
FI	35	▼5	50	▼9	27	▼2	24	▼5	46	▼1	31	▼1
SE	29	▲3	40	▼4	24	▼1	21	▼5	59	▼7	25	▲2
UK	41	▼10	24	▼3	22	▼2	32	▼12	23	=	21	▲1

Six items that are mentioned the most

The hierarchy of the areas in which respondents would like the European Union to spend its budget is almost identical whether we analyse the first answer they give or all their answers. The only significant difference concerns the first item: **"employment and social affairs"** (15%, no change since April 2017) heads the list of first items mentioned, just ahead of **"public health"** (14%, -3 percentage points), but this order is reversed when all the answers are taken into account.

QE3a And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly?
(% - EU)



Sociodemographic data show that:

- Men place three items in equal first place as the areas in which the European Union should spend its budget: "public health", "employment and social affairs" and "economic growth" (all 37%), whereas a majority of women mention "public health" (43%);
- "Public health" is the most widely mentioned area in most sociodemographic categories, led by Europeans who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (45%), those who have difficulties in paying their bills most of the time (48%) and those who see themselves as working class (45%);
- "Employment and social affairs" is in first place among those who continued their studies until age 20 or later (39%), house persons, (44%), unemployed people (48%), and Europeans who have difficulties in paying their bills most of the time (49%);
- "Economic growth" is in first place among self-employed people (38%);
- "Education, training, culture and the media" is the area mentioned most by 15-24-year-olds (42%), managers (37%), students (47%) and Europeans who see themselves as upper class (46%);
- A majority of respondents who see themselves as upper middle class mention "climate change and environmental protection" (42%);
- Among Europeans aged between 25-39 years and 40-54 years, "public health" and "employment and social affairs" are tied in first place (39% and 41% respectively for the two areas).

QE3T And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?
(% - EU)

	Public health	Employment and social affairs	Economic growth	Education, training, culture and media	Climate change and environmental protection	Defence and security	Scientific research	Agriculture and rural development	Immigration issues	Energy issues	Regional investment
EU28	40	38	34	33	26	25	20	18	16	16	15
Gender											
Man	37	37	37	32	26	25	21	18	16	18	17
Woman	43	39	31	34	27	24	19	18	16	14	13
Age											
15-24	40	36	32	42	29	23	24	13	16	14	11
25-39	39	39	35	36	27	24	20	18	16	16	14
40-54	41	41	36	34	28	25	19	17	16	17	16
55 +	41	37	33	27	24	25	19	20	17	16	16
Education (End of)											
15-	45	38	33	27	18	23	14	19	18	13	12
16-19	41	39	34	30	23	27	18	20	16	15	15
20+	37	39	34	37	35	23	24	15	15	19	17
Still studying	38	36	32	47	32	23	28	13	18	16	12
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	33	37	38	33	28	25	20	20	17	19	18
Managers	36	36	33	37	35	22	25	15	16	19	18
Other white collars	39	38	38	33	30	29	22	16	20	17	15
Manual workers	43	39	33	32	24	25	17	19	16	15	15
House persons	41	44	34	32	24	20	17	21	17	12	10
Unemployed	42	48	34	34	20	22	16	16	13	12	12
Retired	42	36	32	28	24	26	18	20	16	15	15
Students	38	36	32	47	32	23	28	13	18	16	12
Difficulties paying bills											
Most of the time	48	49	37	32	18	25	13	21	17	13	13
From time to time	41	39	38	32	22	26	19	19	19	15	15
Almost never/ Never	39	37	32	34	29	24	21	17	15	17	15
Consider belonging to											
The working class	45	43	33	31	19	23	14	19	14	12	13
The lower middle class	43	40	37	31	25	26	18	18	17	15	15
The middle class	38	36	34	34	29	26	23	18	17	18	15
The upper middle class	30	35	32	38	42	25	28	11	21	23	19
The upper class	33	36	41	46	35	18	18	28	15	20	24

Items mentioned by at least 15% of the respondents

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

QE3T And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?
(% - PUBLIC HEALTH)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	40	35	49	39	32	46	41	58	57	57	77
Gender											
Man	37	33	47	38	30	42	38	55	55	53	76
Woman	43	38	51	40	34	50	43	60	60	60	78
Age											
15-24	40	39	57	39	31	36	41	49	49	54	64
25-39	39	31	48	38	26	42	45	56	62	58	79
40-54	41	41	46	39	31	47	43	55	55	56	77
55 +	41	33	50	40	35	52	36	63	59	56	82
Education (End of)											
15-	45	35	51	44	44	54	41	68	51	55	82
16-19	41	37	47	41	27	51	40	59	55	58	74
20+	37	32	45	35	31	43	43	50	59	59	84
Still studying	38	37	59	38	28	34	42	48	42	51	65
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	33	23	39	36	27	41	37	46	66	58	75
Managers	36	33	55	34	26	40	42	51	57	56	78
Other white collars	39	32	45	51	25	40	43	56	63	60	86
Manual workers	43	42	47	43	31	47	47	57	56	53	78
House persons	41	36	51	25	31	43	47	63	55	61	75
Unemployed	42	40	44	37	35	60	34	62	58	62	69
Retired	42	34	53	37	42	54	37	66	58	57	82
Students	38	37	59	38	28	34	42	48	42	51	65

QE3T And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?
(% - EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	38	40	64	34	29	33	24	59	62	37	44
Gender											
Man	37	41	63	30	30	32	23	57	63	38	41
Woman	39	40	65	37	28	34	24	61	60	36	47
Age											
15-24	36	30	54	30	41	33	27	56	64	28	40
25-39	39	40	62	36	33	33	26	61	69	41	40
40-54	41	45	65	37	29	35	25	60	62	39	55
55 +	37	41	67	32	24	32	20	58	57	34	42
Education (End of)											
15-	38	34	67	23	29	29	19	57	62	39	49
16-19	39	43	65	39	29	36	22	60	63	41	46
20+	39	43	64	33	27	30	29	60	58	34	40
Still studying	36	33	44	25	38	41	29	57	62	31	40
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	37	43	61	36	25	24	29	55	62	38	56
Managers	36	43	50	40	18	26	25	52	53	33	44
Other white collars	38	44	58	40	21	31	34	63	65	42	47
Manual workers	39	38	62	36	34	37	20	60	67	40	36
House persons	44	42	70	36	37	29	18	58	78	35	41
Unemployed	48	53	76	37	55	35	19	66	65	43	55
Retired	36	40	67	29	23	33	21	57	55	35	40
Students	36	33	44	25	38	41	29	57	62	31	40

QE3T And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? Any others?
(% - ECONOMIC GROWTH)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
TOTAL	34	24	41	26	51	33	22	71	39	38	45
Gender											
Man	37	27	43	31	53	37	27	72	41	40	40
Woman	31	21	40	22	49	30	17	70	38	36	50
Age											
15-24	32	18	39	21	59	32	23	74	36	37	43
25-39	35	22	42	28	56	33	21	74	44	42	42
40-54	36	26	41	29	51	33	26	72	47	40	56
55 +	33	25	42	24	46	34	20	67	33	34	41
Education (End of)											
15-	33	23	42	21	45	18	15	72	36	36	50
16-19	34	25	44	24	55	37	19	77	45	39	48
20+	34	25	42	30	55	32	29	64	43	37	44
Still studying	32	17	33	24	55	34	31	73	38	42	35
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	38	24	42	32	45	44	29	68	35	40	34
Managers	33	30	23	29	51	27	30	57	41	37	53
Other white collars	38	25	52	23	56	38	21	70	40	37	41
Manual workers	33	20	45	29	53	34	17	74	47	38	54
House persons	34	24	40	21	43	28	22	75	24	34	42
Unemployed	34	28	37	18	61	34	17	86	42	50	48
Retired	32	25	43	26	48	33	19	65	33	34	44
Students	32	17	33	24	55	34	31	73	38	42	35

3 The European Union budget: perceptions versus expectations

Europeans' expectations of the European Union's budget are very different from their perceptions of its current use

As the list of 15 items used for the two previous questions is identical, the answers to these questions can be compared. It is apparent that the hierarchy of areas in which Europeans would like the European Union to spend its budget is fundamentally different from the order in which they think the largest part is actually spent. In other words, **there is a large gap between perceptions and expectations concerning the use of the EU budget.**

Five areas occur more frequently in Europeans' perceptions than in their expectations:

- **"Administrative and personnel costs, buildings":** 31%, in first place among the areas in which the EU spends most of its budget, and 3%, in fifteenth and last place, among the areas in which it ought to do so, representing a difference of 28 percentage points;
- **"Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries":** 18%, sixth place, and 6%, thirteenth place, 12 points apart;
- **"Immigration issues":** 23% and 16%, a difference of 7 points;
- **"Agriculture and rural development":** 23% and 18%, a 5-point difference;
- **"Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU"**: 13% and 8%, also a 5-point difference.

Three areas have comparable rates of mentions in the two questions, though they nevertheless occupy fairly different places in the resulting hierarchy:

- **"Defence and security":** 26% and 25%, in second and sixth place respectively;
- **"Regional investment":** 16% and 15%, in seventh and eleventh place;
- **"Transport"**: 6% and 5%, in fifteenth and fourteenth place.

Lastly, respondents mention seven areas more often among their expectations than among their perceptions. The differences exceed twenty percentage points for three of them:

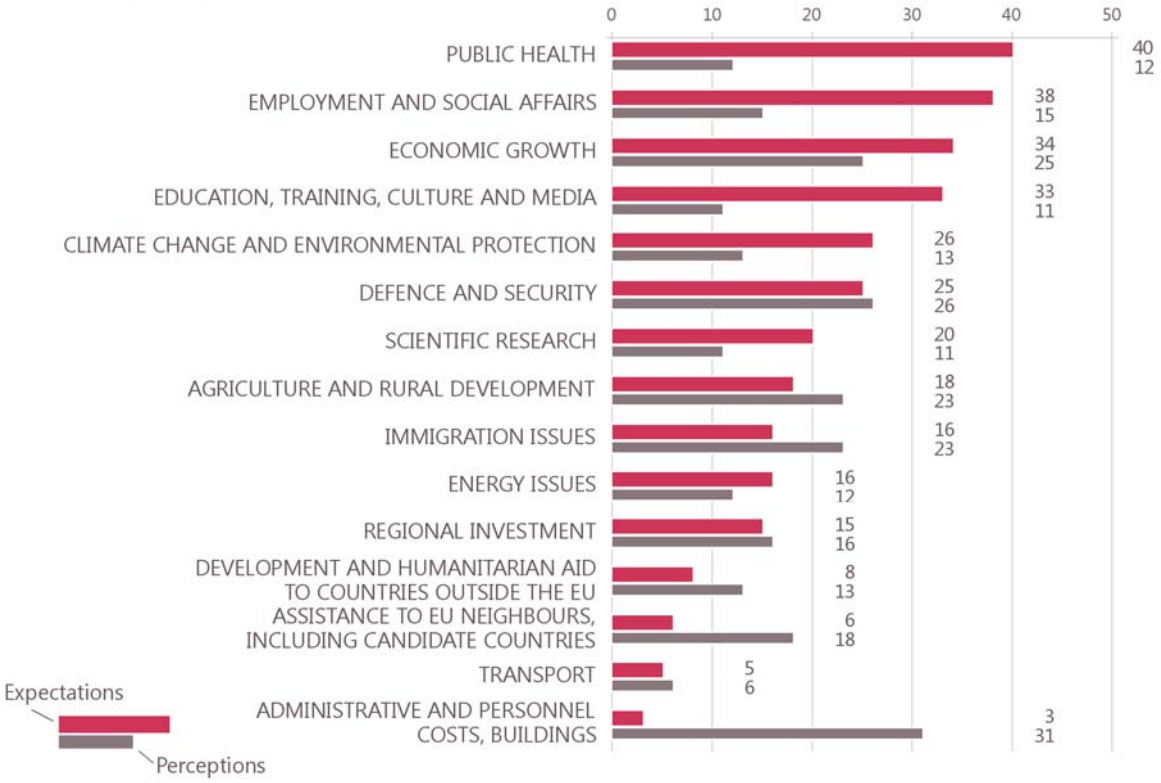
- **"Public health":** 40%, in first place among areas in which the EU should spend its budget, and 12%, eleventh, among the areas in which respondents think most of the budget is spent, representing a difference of 28 percentage points;
- **"Employment and social affairs":** 38% and 15%, a 23-point difference, in second and eighth place respectively;
- **"Education, training, culture and the media":** 33% and 11%, a 22-point gap, in fourth and thirteenth place).

The differences observed are around ten points for three other areas:

- **"Climate change and environmental protection":** 26% and 13%, a 13-point difference, in fifth and seventh place;
- **"Economic growth":** 34% and 25%, 9 points apart, in third place in both cases;
- **"Scientific research":** 20% and 11%, also a 9-point gap, in seventh and ninth place.

Lastly, the gap is less significant for **"energy issues":** 16% and 12%, 4 points, in ninth and eight place.

QE2TQE3T Comparison of expectations and perceptions with regard to the European Union budget
(% - EU)



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 13th and the 28th March 2018, TNS opinion & social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and Kantar Belgium, and represented by the Kantar Belgium S.A. coordination centre, carried out the wave 89.1 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring, media analysis and Eurobarometer" Unit.

The wave 89.1 is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 89 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 28 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 89 survey has also been conducted in five candidate countries (Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries and in the Turkish Cypriot Community, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and territories and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire.

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	DATES FIELDWORK		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28
BE	Belgium	Kantar Belgium (Kantar TNS)	1,028	14/03/2018	27/03/2018	9,693,779	2.25%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,032	14/03/2018	26/03/2018	6,537,535	1.52%
CZ	Czech Rep.	Kantar CV	1,047	15/03/2018	25/03/2018	9,238,431	2.14%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1,015	13/03/2018	27/03/2018	4,838,729	1.12%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1,509	14/03/2018	27/03/2018	70,160,634	16.26%
EE	Estonia	AS Emor, Kantar Emor	1,021	14/03/2018	26/03/2018	1,160,064	0.27%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1,007	14/03/2018	26/03/2018	3,592,162	0.83%
EL	Greece	Taylor Nelson Sofres Market Research	1,012	14/03/2018	26/03/2018	9,937,810	2.30%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1,019	16/03/2018	26/03/2018	39,445,245	9.14%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1,020	14/03/2018	26/03/2018	54,097,255	12.54%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,056	14/03/2018	25/03/2018	3,796,476	0.88%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1,023	13/03/2018	24/03/2018	52,334,536	12.13%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	503	13/03/2018	26/03/2018	741,308	0.17%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,006	14/03/2018	25/03/2018	1,707,082	0.40%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1,003	13/03/2018	26/03/2018	2,513,384	0.58%
LU	Luxembourg	ILReS	512	13/03/2018	26/03/2018	457,127	0.11%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,048	15/03/2018	27/03/2018	8,781,161	2.04%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	501	13/03/2018	26/03/2018	364,171	0.08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO (trading under Kantar Public)	1,060	13/03/2018	26/03/2018	13,979,215	3.24%
AT	Austria	Info Research Austria Institut für Markt- und Meinungsforschung	1,039	13/03/2018	25/03/2018	7,554,711	1.75%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1,013	16/03/2018	26/03/2018	33,444,171	7.75%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1,087	14/03/2018	26/03/2018	8,480,126	1.97%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1,030	14/03/2018	27/03/2018	16,852,701	3.91%
SI	Slovenia	Institute for market and media research, Mediana	1,027	13/03/2018	25/03/2018	1,760,032	0.41%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Slovakia	1,019	13/03/2018	27/03/2018	4,586,024	1.06%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1,009	13/03/2018	28/03/2018	4,747,810	1.10%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1,005	13/03/2018	28/03/2018	7,998,763	1.85%
UK	United Kingdom	The Kantar Group UK	1,337	14/03/2018	28/03/2018	52,651,777	12.20%
		TOTAL EU28	27,988	13/03/2018	28/03/2018	431,452,219	100%*

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding

CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	Lipa Consultancy	500	14/03/2018	26/03/2018	143,226
TR	Turkey	TNS Piar	1,003	15/03/2018	28/03/2018	56,770,205
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TNS BRIMA	1,050	13/03/2018	23/03/2018	1,721,528
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	522	14/03/2018	27/03/2018	501,030
RS	Serbia	TNS Medium Gallup	1,019	13/03/2018	26/03/2018	6,161,584
AL	Albania	TNS BBSS	1,048	15/03/2018	22/03/2018	2,221,572
		TOTAL	5,142	13/03/2018	28/03/2018	498,971,364

The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview)* was used in those countries where this technique was available.

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS opinion & social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed here.

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 percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

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%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6.0	8.3	9.9	11.1	12.0	12.7	13.2	13.6	13.8	13.9	N=50
N=500	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	N=500
N=1000	**1.4**	**1.9**	**2.2**	**2.5**	**2.7**	**2.8**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.1**	**3.1**	**N=1000**
N=1500	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	N=1500
N=2000	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	N=2000
N=3000	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	N=3000
N=4000	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	N=4000
N=5000	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	N=5000
N=6000	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	N=6000
N=7000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	N=7000
N=7500	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=7500
N=8000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=8000
N=9000	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=9000
N=10000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=10000
N=11000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=11000
N=12000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=12000
N=13000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	N=13000
N=14000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=14000
N=15000	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	