



Analysis of the results of the Questionnaires

In October 2018, partners gathered in Brussels to work on an online questionnaire aiming to obtain more information on the European knowledge of the targeted public. The idea was to collect data that would help identify topics and issues that matters to them to be discussed with the MEPs during the national seminars. In this newsletter, we will let you know about the results of the questionnaires.

Each partner has managed to pass the number of 100 answers to their questionnaires, gathering in total 581 participations. Our Spanish partner leads the way with 141 participations.

In four out of five countries, there was a higher rate of female respondents, Spain was the only country where it was the opposite (53% of male respondents). For the most part, the age group of the participants was between 18 and 25 years old (in France the group 26-30 years old was bigger by 1%). In every country, the participants live in urban areas and have the nationality of the country; in Poland and Romania the rate goes past 90% (98% in PL and 94% in RO), the difference is smaller in Spain (47% foreigners).

Regarding the first axis and the knowledge of the European Parliament, most of the participants know what it is and where it is. We noticed however that a not so small amount of people in Poland and Romania answered that they didn't know anything about the European Parliament.

The second axis was about the vote intention. Again a large part of the participants from most countries declare their intention to vote. But we have to mention the fact that in Poland, 25% of the people answered that they do not know if they will vote and in Spain 43% stated that they won't. The reason to vote in Belgium is mostly because it is mandatory in this country. For the other countries, it is the sense of duty and the occasion to make their voices heard. The reasons not to vote are either because people don't feel concerned or do not feel any interest in this matter or either because they do not trust politicians.

In the third axis regarding the visibility of the European Parliament, answers were more nuanced. In Poland, Spain and France 40 to 50% of the respondents stated that it is not visible at all. In Belgium, Poland and France, 20 to 35% answered that the EP is visible but they don't know what it does. In Romania and France, 40% of the people answered that it is visible and they understand its work. 42% of French respondents stated that they do not see the effects of the EP. 20% of Belgian and 15% of French people only see the negative effects of the European Parliament and 35% of French, 17% of Belgian and 18% of Romanian do not feel represented as national citizens.



But all countries agreed on the best channels to get information on the European Institutions which were Facebook, Television and Newspapers.

The 4th axis regarding the impact of their vote was a challenge to analyse. Even though there were topics considered positive in all the countries, we could still see a difference in each country for some topics.

For example, the top answers when asked for the positive impact their vote has are: travels, peace between EU countries in most countries. But in Poland and Romania, it was the influence the EU could have on other countries like the United States, China and Russia in order to uphold the European interests in crucial matters that gathered the most percentage (88% in PL and 62% in RO). This topic was highly rated in the 'I don't know' category in Belgium.

Regarding the negative impact, answers are very diverse. In Belgium and Spain it is the cost of life and expenses for which the impact is considered the most negative. In Poland it is the peace between EU countries. For the Romanian people, it is the fact that a deputy from their country is going to represent them and finally the French voters think that their vote has a negative impact on the fact that a common currency helps the economic life of the EU.

We can see that the non-existent impact for most voters is regarding "internal" matters such as employment, studies and everyday life.

Another thing we notice from this question is that most voters have a positive point of view on the impact of their votes, as a matter of fact, the highest percentages of answers were found in the 'positive' category. Only in Belgium was the category 'I don't know' the most selected 5 times out of 11 topics).

In the fifth axis, participants were asked rather the European Parliament was doing good things for its citizens or not. The majority of the answers were "Yes it does". The participants had to choose 3 examples of actions that the European Parliament has developed for its citizens. The top 3 answers were: travel, study and live in another EU country; products and services can circulate freely; there are no more border controls between EU Member States.

We asked the participants to choose in a list 3 priorities to debate with candidates in the framework of the European Elections. 4 topics stand out:

- Fight against terrorism
- Combatting youth unemployment
- Immigration
- Combating climate change and protecting the environment.



You can find a summary of the answers by country on our website

<http://vote4europe.org/en/documents/questionnaires/>

Open questions

At the end of this questionnaire, we asked participants to write one question to MEP.

We noticed that a few topics were recurring throughout the questions.

Unemployment/youth unemployment: this is an obvious topic for almost all the participants. Whether it is regarding young people who just graduate, the desire to work, the social benefits which have a deterrent effect and constitute a brake to resume working or just concerns about unemployment in general.

The following topic is complementary to the one mentioned above; it is **the unemployment benefits and insurance** (European).

It is the topic of social protection in general but also of access to housing (cost of rent), poor workers, and single-parent families. This topic also aims at the access to health care whose trend is the privatisation or the reduction in quality of public health care.

European Wage policy/ European minimum wage

Behind this topic there is not only an interrogation about the purchasing power, the cost of life, minimum wages and how to increase them (link between productivity and salary or how they are established). But it is also about the relation between the salary of the MEP's, the European officials and those who are asked to vote for them!

Adhesion to the European project and respect of European legislation by the Member States

Whether about how Europe insures our security or how the EU makes the Member States follow its regulations in matters of ecology, global warming... The participants asked for a better Europe but at the same time want to know how their country has benefit from the European project, how a country can have a positive influence on European decision and how can the EU make a country evolve.

There also were a lot of questions about "other" Brexit and on the contrary if the UK could come back in the EU, the place and weight of smaller countries, does the EU have "favourite" countries, corruption in certain countries?

Public services and infrastructures



It is expected from the EU to have a real impact on the infrastructures including driving and travel ones, transportations (in Romania many questions about rural areas spiked) but also the ones in regard of education and training policies.

Educational systems (adapted to rural and urban areas) and better education policies

European economic/industrial policy

Respondents are asking for an industrial policy that takes into account the resources of the Member States and for the valorisation of natural resources for the benefit of the country. Another question asked is why export resources included human resources when the country needs it itself (downside of the free circulation in the EU...).

Environment and climate change

This is a topic that was highly represented amongst the questions we received.

Respondents want concrete actions and answers.

What are the effects of climate change on the country and its economy, what proposition besides nuclear energy, the question of sustainable and healthy consumption was brought a lot.

Human rights and democracy

This is asked in an intra and extra EU context.

Participants are asking for more coherence in the external political relationships with countries that do not respect human rights.

Romanian respondents ask about the fight against corruption and the protection of minorities.

Non-discrimination

Towards women and types of marriages and households.

More Europe or more national sovereignty?

Why not invest more in national politics and let go of the European project?

Maybe it would be nice to give more respect to the governments chosen by the people?

An international policy firmer and more interventional is sometimes mentioned as a good thing.

Migration but at what price?



Although some respondents ask for concrete actions to help migrants across Europe, some questions regarding this topic make it look as if it was some unsolvable issue.

Maybe it's because of the fear factor or maybe it is a question of human dignity and integration. We can see both approaches in the questions.