Gilani's Gallopedia©

Gallopedia

From Gilani Research Foundation October 2011, issue # 194*

Compiled on a weekly basis since January 2007

Gilani's Gallopedia is a weekly Digest of Opinions in a globalized world - one window on global opinion polling compiled by Gilani Research Foundation

Who are we?

Gilani's Gallopedia is a weekly digest of opinions in a globalized world. It provides a one window access to Global Opinion Polls on a weekly basis. It is produced by a team of researchers led by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, and is a not for profit public service. It is co-edited by Mohammad Zubair and Rushna Shahid.

Gilani's Gallopedia is in a way the '*wikipedia*' for global polling. We plan to make it an interactive platform where you are both *reader* and *contributor*. ❖

Contact Details:
Rushna Shahid
Assistant Manager
Gilani Research Foundation
Email: rushna.shahid@gilanifoundation.com

Topic of the week: (Click for details)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THIS WEEK'S REPORT CONSISTS OF **30** NATIONAL & MULTI COUNTRY SURVEYS. **10** POLLING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED.

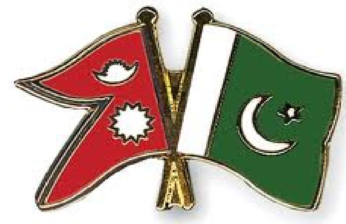
Countries represented in blue
Polling organizations represented in pink
For reference to source of each poll clicks to detail are provided in the text

*Archives: Gilani's Gallopedia has been compiled on a weekly basis since January 2007. Previous material is available upon request. Please contact rushna.shahid@gilanifoundation.com

Asia zone

▶MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA; WEST ASIA; SOUTH ASIA; NORTH ASIA; EAST ASIA

SOUTH ASIA



194-1 **Nepalese See Pakistan as South Asia's Greatest Security Threat** (Click for Details)

(Nepal) Nepalese are roughly twice as likely to identify Pakistan as the greatest threat to South Asian security than Afghanistan or India. (Gallup USA)
October 17, 2011
2.5 Foreign Affairs & Security » Regional Conflicts/ Issues

SOUTH EAST ASIA

194-2 **Net Satisfaction With National Administration Bounces To "Very Good" +56** (Click for Details)

(Philippines) Filipinos satisfaction with their national administration improved in the third quarter as recorded by SWS Third Quarter survey. Over half of Filipinos feels that performance of national administration is 'very good'. (SWS)
October 18, 2011
1.2 Domestic Politics » Performance Ratings
1.3 Domestic Politics » Governance

NORTH EAST ASIA

194-3 **Chinese Rate Their Job Market Better Than Americans** (Click for Details)

(China) Majorities of Chinese and Americans in 2011 agree now is a bad time to find a job in the city or area where they live -- but Americans are more negative. Seventy-two percent of Americans say it is a bad time to find a job, compared with 56% of Chinese. (Gallup USA)
October 21, 2011
3.3 Economy » Employment Issues

194-4 **Trends On Lifestyle, Spending, Digital & Media Consumption Of Elite Consumers** (Click for Details)

(Asia) Over the last fifteen years during which PAX has studied the affluent groups across Asia Pacific, the elites' access to the internet has more than doubled (from 30% in 1997 to 82% in 2011). Their indulgence in the finer things has also grown, for example, consumption of quality wine has tripled from 1997 to 2011 (8% in 1997 to 24% in 2011). "Consumption across multiple product categories such as laptop, mobile, and champagne have also increased significantly, showing that these elites are drivers of market growth," (Synovate)
October 18, 2011
3.12 Economy » IT & Telecom
4.6 Society » Media/ New Media

Euro Americas zone

▶ EAST EUROPE; WEST EUROPE; NORTH AMERICA; LATIN AMERICA & AUSTRALASIA

EUROPE

EAST EUROPE

194-5 **U.S. – Russia Relations: Two Years And A Half After "Reload** (Click for Details)

(Russia) Most of Russians assess the relations between the U.S. and Russia as normal. However, over the recent year the number of those who assess the relations as being chilly or even tense has increased. (Russian Center for Public Opinion Research)

September 13, 2011

2.6 Foreign Affairs & Security » US image

WEST EUROPE

194-6 **Europeans And The Crisis (*EB: Multi-country survey*)** (Click for Details)

(EU) A majority of Europeans are worried about the effects of the crisis on their personal situation. At the same time, the foresights are pessimistic: more and more Europeans consider that the crisis is going to last for many years. These fears can be translated in a different way depending on the Member State, but respondents are still mainly in favour of the measures coordinated at the European level. (TNS Opinion)

October 21, 2011

3.1 Economy » Perceptions on Performance/ Well-Being

194-7 **Social Climate (*EB: Multi-country survey*)** (Click for Details)

(EU) This Eurobarometer survey, conducted for DG Employment for the third time, gives us an overview of the social climate in the European Union. It measures the nature of the current situation regarding key social concerns of European Union citizens, their evaluations of how things have changed over the past five years, and their expectations for the coming twelve months. (TNS Opinion)

October 2011

3.3 Economy » Employment Issues
3.1 Economy » Perceptions on Performance/ Well-Being

AMERICAS

NORTH AMERICA

194-8 **Obama Job Approval Average Slides to New Low in 11th Quarter** (Click for Details)

(USA) President Barack Obama's 11th quarter in office was the worst of his administration, based on his quarterly average job approval ratings. His 41% approval average is down six percentage points from his 10th quarter in office, and is nearly four points below his previous low of 45% during his seventh quarter. (Gallup USA)

October 21, 2011

3.3 Economy » Employment Issues

194-9 **Investors Feel Affected by Social Security, Medicare Changes** (Click for Details)

Fifty-seven percent of U.S. investors say changes to Social Security and Medicare in order to reduce the federal budget deficit would have a major impact on their personal economic condition and future financial situation, according the Wells Fargo/Gallup Investor and Retirement Optimism Index poll. Social Security and Medicare changes tie gas prices as having the highest perceived personal impact among nine economic factors tested in the September poll. (Gallup USA)

October 20, 2011

4.11 Society » Health

194-10 **The Media Primary** (Click for Details)

Rick Perry received the most favorable coverage of any candidate for president during the first five months of the race, but now Herman Cain is enjoying that distinction, according to a new survey which combines traditional research methods and computer algorithmic technology to code the level and tone of news coverage. (Pew Research Center)

October 17, 2011

1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections
1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties
4.6 Society » Media/ New Media

194-11 **A Third in GOP Have Seen a Presidential Debate** (Click for Details)

(USA) About a quarter of the public (27%) says they have watched one or more of the Republican presidential debates so far this year. Most debate watchers say the televised sessions have been helpful in learning about the candidates (61%) and a third (34%) say the debates have led them to change their minds about which candidate they might support. (Pew Research Center)

October 17, 2011

1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections
1.2 Domestic Politics » Performance Ratings
1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties

194-12 **Growing Attention to Wall Street Protests** (Click for Details)

The public focused most closely last week on two interrelated news stories – the nation's struggling economy and the anti-Wall Street protests that have now spread far beyond their beginnings in New York City. (Pew Research Center)

October 19, 2011

3.9 Economy » Financial systems & Institutions

194-13 **Americans Plan to Spend Same on Christmas 2011 as in 2010** (Click for Details)

Americans forecast they will spend $712 on Christmas gifts this year, nearly identical to the $715 they estimated they would spend on Christmas at this time last year. (Gallup USA)

October 20, 2011

4.7 Society » Morality, Values & Customs / Lifestyle

194-14 **Americans Grow More Negative About Their Personal Finances** (Click for Details)
Nearly one in four U.S. adults (22%) now rate their personal financial situation as "poor." This is up slightly from the 16% to 19% range seen during and after the official U.S. recession, and is the highest percentage since Gallup began asking this question in 2001. (Gallup USA)
October 19, 2011
3.1 Economy » Perceptions on Performance/ Well-Being
3.8 Economy » Enterprise/ Investments

194-15 **Americans Blame Govt. More Than Wall Street for Economy** (Click for Details)
Americans are more than twice as likely to blame the federal government in Washington (64%) for the economic problems facing the United States as they are the financial institutions on Wall Street (30%). (Gallup USA)
October 19, 2011
1.3 Domestic Politics » Governance
3.9 Economy » Financial systems & Institutions

194-16 **Cain Maintains Positive Intensity as Recognition Grows** (Click for Details)
(USA) Republicans' intensely positive views of Herman Cain remained high over the past week, even as the percentage of Republicans familiar with him rose from 61% to 69%. (Gallup USA)
October 18, 2011
1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections
1.2 Domestic Politics » Performance Ratings
1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties

194-17 **Most Americans Uncertain About "Occupy Wall Street" Goals** (Click for Details)
Less than half of Americans express an opinion about either the Occupy Wall Street movement's goals or the way it has conducted its protests. Those with an opinion are more likely to approve than disapprove. (Gallup USA)
October 18, 2011
3.9 Economy » Financial systems & Institutions

194-18 **Record-High 50% of Americans Favor Legalizing Marijuana Use** (Click for Details)
(USA) A record-high 50% of Americans now say the use of marijuana should be made legal, up from 46% last year. Forty-six percent say marijuana use should remain illegal. (Gallup USA)
October 17, 2011
4.11 Society » Health

194-19 **Republicans, Democrats Disagree on Govt. Role in Creating Jobs** (Click for Details)
Republicans and Democrats are sharply divided on the government's role in creating jobs in the United States. Republicans are more likely to say reduced government regulation and involvement will lead to more jobs, while Democrats focus more on government involvement such as funding infrastructure work. Similar percentages in both groups, however, say the best way to create more jobs is to stop sending work overseas. (Gallup USA)
October 21, 2011
1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties

194-20 **Americans Split on Whether Abortion Debate Should Be Reconsidered** (Click for Details)
Democrats and Independents tend to side with the status quo, while Republicans voice support for greater restrictions. Adults in the United States are divided on whether the country should undertake a new discussion on abortion, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found. (Angus-Reid)
October 17, 2011
4.2 Society » Family
4.11 Society » Health

194-21 **British Columbians Ponder Life Without the Harmonized Sales Tax** (Click for Details)
(USA) "Yes" voters are certain that their personal finances will be better off without the tax, while "No" voters foresee problems for the BC economy. Half of British Columbians believe the end of the harmonized sales tax (HST) will be beneficial for their financial status, but not as many are convinced that the domestic economy will thrive as a result, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found. (Angus-Reid)
October 20, 2011
3.9 Economy » Financial systems & Institutions

194-22 **Three-in-Five Canadians Satisfied with Country's Economic Conditions** (Click for Details)
One-in-five respondents expect the Canadian economy to decline, while a majority believe it will remain stable. Most Canadians appear satisfied with the way the national economy is performing, and specific personal financial concerns have subsided over the course of the past year, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found. (Angus-Reid)
October 19, 2011
3.1 Economy » Perceptions on Performance/ Well-Being

194-23 **U.S. Unemployment Down Sharply in Early October** (Click for Details)
Unemployment, as measured by Gallup without seasonal adjustment, is 8.3% in mid-October -- down sharply from 8.7% at the end of September and 9.2% at the end of August. A year ago, Gallup's U.S. unemployment rate stood at 10.0%. While seasonal hiring patterns may explain some of this improvement, the drop suggests the government could report an October unemployment rate of less than 9.0%. (Gallup USA)
October 17, 2011
3.3 Economy » Employment Issues

194-24 **Unhealthy U.S. Workers' Absenteeism Costs $153 Billion** (Click for Details)
(USA) Full-time workers in the U.S. who are overweight or obese and have other chronic health conditions miss an estimated 450 million additional days of work each year compared with healthy workers -- resulting in an estimated cost of more than $153 billion in lost productivity annually. (Gallup USA)
October 17, 2011
3.3 Economy » Employment Issues
4.11 Society » Health

194-25 **Public Favor Split for Occupy Wall St. Movement, 60% Say Demonstrators Lack Clear Goals** (Click for Details)

U.S. adults are split on whether they view the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations favorably, and 60% say the movement's goals are unclear. Opinion runs strongly against the targets of the demonstrators however, as 72% have an unfavorable opinion of Wall Street investors and big banks. (Zogby)

October 18, 2011

3.9 Economy » Financial systems & Institutions

194-26 **Cain Continues to Pull Away, Perry & Bachmann Fading** (Click for Details)

Herman Cain is now the runaway leader among Republican presidential primary voters with 45%, more than twice that of second-place Mitt Romney (21%). Rick Perry, who led with 41% in late August, has fallen to 7%, and Michele Bachmann, who led in June and July, now gets just 1%. (Zogby)

October 17, 2011

1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections
1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties

194-27 **Public Views Jobs as More Important Innovator Than Gates and on Par With Edison By a 2 to 1 Margin** (Click for Details)

(USA) By a 52%-26% margin, U.S. adults believe the late Steve Jobs of Apple will be remembered as a more important technological innovator than Microsoft's Bill Gates. Also, 64% agree that the innovations created by Jobs are as important to our times as those of Thomas Edison were to his era. (Zogby)

October 19, 2011

3.3 Economy » Employment Issues

194-28 **Gloom Persists, Though Not As Dark As Summer; Obama Not Inspiring Confidence** (Click for Details)

The extreme funk that settled over the country during the summer has eased slightly, but Americans remain gloomy about the economy and more than half say President Barack Obama does not inspire confidence about a recovery. (GFK-AP)

October 20, 2011

1.1 Domestic Politics » Elections
1.2 Domestic Politics » Performance Ratings
1.4 Domestic Politics » Political Parties

AUSTRAL ASIA

194-29 **L-NP Increases Lead Over ALP After Carbon Tax Passed In Parliament** (Click for Details)

(Australia) The latest face-to-face Morgan Poll Morgan Poll shows a small rise in support for the L-NP 53.5% (up 1%) compared to the ALP 46.5% (down 1%) on a Two-Party preferred basis. The L-NP primary vote is 44% (up 0.5%), still well ahead of the ALP 36.5% (down 2%). (Roy Morgan)

October 20, 2011

1.2 Domestic Politics » Performance Ratings

MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEYS

194-30 **Public Respect for Banks Lower than Ever: New Poll** (Click for Details)
(USA) As the Occupy Wall Street protests continue, public respect for the banking sector has reached a new low in the US and UK, according to new polling research released by GlobeScan today. (Globescan)
October 14, 2011
3.9 Economy » Financial systems & Institutions

Topic of the week:

EUROPEAN WORRIES

This page is devoted to opinions of countries whose polling activity is generally not known very widely or where a recent topical issue requires special attention.

Europeans And The Crisis

European Parliament Eurobarometer (EB Parlemeter 76.1)

<u>*Summary*</u>
Coverage: EU 27 (26 856 European citizens)
Population: Europeans aged 15 years or over
Methodology: Face-to-face (CAPI)
Fieldwork: 03 September - 18 September 2011, carried out by TNS opinion
21 October 2011

This Eurobarometer survey on "**Europeans and the crisis**" is the fourth such survey conducted by the European Parliament. The first one was carried out in January-February 2009, six months before the European elections, the second survey in September 2010, whereas the third one was conducted in April-May 2011. The fieldwork for the survey was carried out by TNS opinion (face to face interviews) in the period 3rd -18th of September, 2011 and was based on face-toface interviews with 26.856 European citizens aged 15 or over.

Five months separate both inquiries, during which the national, European and international economic and financial contexts have been marked by several major events. In the context of the sovereign debt crisis, three countries were downgraded by credit rating agencies.

Moreover, regarding the political developments, general elections have taken place in 4 EU Member States and two other elections will be held by the 20th of November, 2011. In addition to that, presidential, regional and local elections were held in 6 other countries.

Within the last survey, the Europeans were asked questions regarding the **Tax on Financial Transactions (TFT)**. Most respondents were in favour of it (61%). This time, besides the questions regarding the European Parliament's position and the questions which had already been asked in the previous surveys, the respondents were questioned for the first time on credit rating agencies (CRA) and on eurobonds.

Before beginning the analysis, it should be noted that the European average is balanced and that the six most populous Member States account for approximately 70% of the EU average.

What major trends can be drawn from this survey?

- In five months, one can notice that the **European averages are relatively stable**.
- On the other hand, it is essential to mention that variations within different Member States might be highly relevant.
- The trend of an increasing polarisation of the public opinion, already observed in the last surveys, is also confirmed in this one. Could it be one of the effects of the ongoing debate within the EU on how to deal with the global crisis and its effects within the EU, in particular in the euro zone?
- A majority of Europeans are worried about the effects of the crisis on their personal situation.
- At the same time, the foresights are pessimistic: more and more Europeans consider that the crisis is going to last for many years.
- These fears can be translated in a different way depending on the Member State, but respondents are still mainly in favour of the measures coordinated at the European level.
- The number of Europeans who consider that overall the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the current crisis remains stable, whereas the number of those who disagree is slightly decreasing. Regarding this issue, the evolution of different Member States is highly significant.
- The wide media coverage of the debate on credit rating agencies (CRA) within the political, economic and financial world can explain why **a majority** of Europeans have already heard of CRA. Among these, a **majority** is in favour of the creation of a European credit rating agency.
- In the EU, the debate on eurobonds is more recent. However, two Europeans in five at EU level and 46% within the euro zone have already heard of them. Among them, a relative majority of respondents who have already heard of eurobonds are in favour.

Credit Rating Agencies "CRA"

It is probably after the downgrading of certain Member States by credit rating agencies that the citizens became more acquainted with the subject..

From then on, 50% of Europeans answered that they had already heard of credit rating agencies (27% *know what they are*, 23% *don't really know what they are*), whereas 49% have never heard of them.

The 50% of Europeans who have already heard of CRA have also been asked about three specific points:

- 65% of them consider that CRA "*have played a significant role in the development of the financial crisis*", whereas 18% disagree with this statement.
- 65% are in favour of "*the creation of an independent European credit rating agency that would counterbalance the power of the existing agencies*".

- 64% of the respondents agree that "*the information provided by credit rating agencies is useful to economic actors*" as support for their financial decision-making, while 21% are opposed to it.

The role of the Euro

Even though the debate on the future of the euro is particularly intense, noting that there is certain stability within the EU27, the perception of its role is strongly contrasted within the different Member States:

"*Overall the euro has mitigated the negative effects of the crisis*":

- **the number of respondents that did NOT agree with this statement is 54% (-3).**

It is decreasing in 14 countries, with strong changes in the United-Kingdom (-21), Bulgaria (-11), Spain (-10) and Romania (-9).

Conversely, this negative perception is increasing in 13 countries, notably in Sweden (+14), Finland (+12), the Netherlands (+11), Austria (+10) and Slovakia (+7).

- **the number of respondents that are in favour of this statement is stable at EU27 level.**

It is increasing in 7 countries. At present, 43% of British respondents (+17) declare themselves in favour. Can this phenomenon be explained by the intensification of the debate on financial and economic crisis in this country? UK is followed by Spain 32% (+5), Greece 40% (+4), and Cyprus 30% (+4).

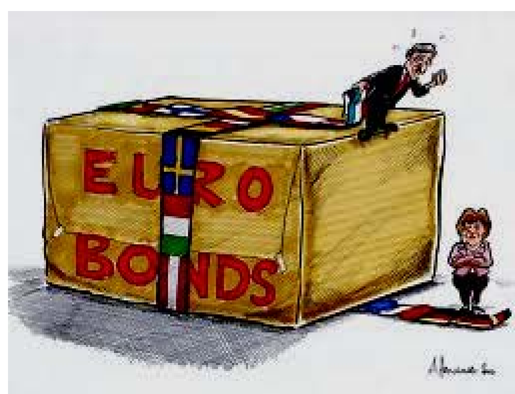
Sharing together a part of the public debt of the EU Member States

o Regarding the question of setting aside a share of the public debt of all Member States to be held jointly, 61% of Europeans answered "*would be necessary in the name of solidarity"*, 57% mentioned it "*would improve the financial stability of the Member States"* and 50% thought it "*could help reduce the cost of the crisis"*.

o Which Member States would benefit and which would be penalised by the share of the public debt?

66% of respondents answered that it would mainly benefit those Member States which are struggling the most and 62% mentioned that it would mainly penalise those Member States which are not in difficulty.

The eurobonds



During the last months we have seen the rising of the debate on the **eurobonds** in the Euro zone.

Despite this topic is new, more than 2 in 5 Europeans in the EU27 know about the existence of the eurobonds and nearly 1 in 2 citizens of the euro zone:

o Knowledge of the eurobonds: As this concept has appeared very recently to the public, it was asked to all the respondents if they "*had already heard of eurobonds*": 57% answered "no", 42% "yes". These EU27 results must also be furthermore complemented with the results of the euro zone where 46% of the respondents said that they have heard of the eurobonds and 53% did not. On the contrary, outside the euro zone only 35% of the respondents know about the eurobonds.

o Opinion on the eurobonds: It was then asked to 46% of Europeans of the euro zone who "*had heard of eurobonds*", which was their position on the subject: 38 % are in favour, 33 % are against.

Budgetary policies convergence

Among the measures considered for ensuring better economic governance, the topic of budgetary policies convergence is amid the first on the list of priorities.

- When asked about whether including or not "*preliminary consultation between European institutions and national political institutions*" in the drafting process of national budgets, 67% are in favour, whereas 18% are opposed to it.
- If "*the jointly defined rules on public debt and deficit*" are not respected by certain Member States, 68% of Europeans are in favour of the "*automatic application of gradually increasing financial penalties*".
- The differences between the euro zone and non-euro zone are relevant:
  1. Concerning the first question, there is a difference of 14 percentage points between the respondents of the euro zone (72%) and those of the non-euro zone (58%) who are in favour.
  2. Regarding the second question, there are 11 points of difference between the euro zone (72%) and the non-euro zone (61%).

Financial solidarity in times of crisis

- The question has been asked for the first time in September 2010 following the establishment of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF, May 2010). At that time, 49% of Europeans esteemed "*desirable"* for their countries "*to give financial help to another EU Member States facing severe economic and financial difficulties"*, whereas 39% disagreed.
- The current survey has been conducted at the same time as the debates on the ratification of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF). The number of favourable responses varies a little at the EU level: 50% (+1).

In contrast, 44% (+5) of respondents declare themselves against such solidarity, with significant variations across countries.

Reactions to the crisis

- To cope with the current crisis, the Europeans are still in favour of a coordinated action with the other Member States Amongst them, a majority (55%) consider that they "*would be better protected in the face of the current crisis"* if their countries adopted measures in a coordinated way with the other EU countries, whereas 35% would feel "*better protected"* if their countries "*adopted measures individually"*.
- Concerning the perception of respondents on the actions taken by the EU Member States, we observe a sharp increase in the number of those who consider that the Member States have tended to act "*in a coordinated way with the other EU countries*" 48% (+10).

Source: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament/public/staticDisplay.do?language=EN&id=40

Social Climate

Fieldwork: June 2011
Publication: October 2011

Introduction And Methodology

Europe is still in a state of flux. The impact of the 2008 financial and economic crisis is still being felt, with bouts of speculation in relation to various EU Member States – and predictions of further economic problems making the headlines for every piece of good news about recovery.

In addition to this, there has been a renewed focus on environmental problems, resource use and the associated impact upon utility costs and people's individual financial situations. Property prices continue to fluctuate, the employment situation remains unsteady and societal unrest continues.

However, compared to the situation of one year ago, the economic context of the EU has evolved: although the rate of growth fluctuates, on a regular basis and from Member State to Member State, EU27 Gross Domestic Product increased by 0.8 percentage points during the first quarter of 2011 and is up by as much as +2.5 points[1] on a year-on-year basis. Furthermore, unemployment fell from 9.7% in April 2010 to 9.4% in April 2011[2]. While a return to the situation prior to the crisis of autumn 2008 has not yet occurred, some improvement has been observed.

However, instability continues to predominate, and the impact of the crisis is still felt in the European Union. Individual Member States, of course, are experiencing varying degrees of change themselves – both positive and negative.

This special Eurobarometer survey on the social climate gives answers to the following questions: how does this state of change affect the European public? How are European citizens responding to this changing economic situation? What is the impact on their daily lives?

This survey is the third of its kind to be conducted in the EU, following on from those conducted in 2009 and 2010. The Eurobarometer survey at hand intends to uncover these opinions and see whether or not there have been any changes since the last wave of analysis, in 2010. Around 1,000 people have been interviewed in each country[3]. This survey not only measures how Europeans perceive the current recession and its social impact, but also reveals interesting differences between countries which seem to reflect the strengths and weaknesses of national policies and institutions.

The European Commission, through the **EU2020** strategy and various other initiatives, is taking steps towards improving the quality of life for citizens in its Member States – steps which have an immediate effect, as well as working towards long-term goals. Has this effort filtered through to the European population?

Furthermore, this survey focuses on the local as well as the trans-national. Respondents have been asked to judge their own feelings of quality of life relating to the area in which they live, as well as commenting on the general situation.

Healthcare, employment, housing, general social concerns and the economic situation have all been considered.

Levels of optimism and the perception of change are assessed, alongside the evolution of opinion from the last waves of research. The survey consists of groups of questions, which break down as follows:

1. The first group concerns the **personal situation of the respondents** including their satisfaction with life in general, with the area where they live, with their personal job situation and with the financial situation of their households.

2. The second set covers the **general situation of the country** and includes the cost of living, the affordability of energy and of housing, the quality of public administration, and the general employment and economic situation.

3. The third set focuses on **social protection and social inclusion in the country** and contains questions on health care provision, pensions, unemployment benefits, the way inequalities and poverty are addressed and relations between people from different cultural or religious backgrounds.

Some of the 15 items tested in this survey correspond to long-term trend questions of the Eurobarometer at personal level (life in general, financial situation of the household and personal job situation) and at country level (economic situation and employment situation). Only "current satisfaction with life in general" has been asked since 1973 in the context of Eurobarometer surveys (scale satisfied/not satisfied). The other items have been asked only since 1995 as expectations trends using another scale (better/worse).

First and foremost, in this report, we analyse a mean index score, measured from +10 to -10, compared to the analysis of mean index scores and percentage scores seen in last year's report. This index score indicates the balance of opinion in each country, where +10 corresponds to the highest possible degree of satisfaction and -10 corresponds to the lowest. Scored in this manner, QB1 and QB2 represent the respondents' level of satisfaction with the current situation.

This Eurobarometer survey, conducted for DG Employment for the third time, gives us an overview of the social climate in the European Union. It measures the nature of the **current situation** regarding key social concerns of European Union citizens, their evaluations of how things have changed over the **past five years**, and their expectations for the **coming twelve months**. In addition to analysing the levels of the various indicators, it is particularly interesting to compare the results of this year's survey with those of the previous two years24: analysing these evolutions is an effective indicator of the changing European public mood at a time of considerable change. If the findings of this report were to be condensed into one key point, it would be that opinion across the European Union varies greatly depending on the topic analysed and that the general feelings of pessimism, optimism, satisfaction or dissatisfaction at EU level often mask a number of strong differences between the opinion within an individual country or socio-demographic category.

Three aspects of the social climate are explored in this report: **Europeans' perceptions on different social aspects of their personal lives**, their opinions of **the general situation in their country**, and, finally, their view of **the state of social protection and inclusion**.

Respondents' levels of satisfaction with their **personal situation** are relatively high across the European Union. As we have seen in the previous two waves, citizens in many Member States seem to be reasonably content with their personal situation, especially those from the Nordic countries, Benelux, Austria, Germany and the UK, in some cases.

The Member States which recorded low scores for the current situation this year are the same as those from the last two years: Eastern countries, (and especially Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary) two of the three Baltic states (Latvia and Lithuania), along with Greece and Portugal. **Generally speaking, this geographical pattern appears often throughout the whole survey.**

Analysing the evolutions from the previous survey reveals an important finding: 11 of the 12 indexes analysed in this first section have improved since the previous wave, revealing a real positive change in Europeans' perceptions of their personal situation. **Europeans seem to perceive the impact of an improvement of the situation on their lives since May 2010.**

Europeans perceptions about the **general situation** in their countries are, on the whole, much more pessimistic than about their personal situation. The same situation was seen in the analysis from the previous two reports.

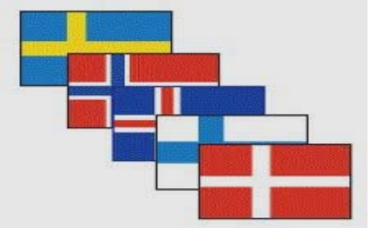
Looking at the evolutions since May 2010, the six dimensions analysed in this section can be divided into three categories: in a first group, the economic and employment situations are seen in a less negative light than in May 2010, with positive evolutions for all indexes – regarding the current, past five years, and next twelve months situation –. Cost of living and the affordability of energy and of housing constitute a second group with important negative evolutions from May 2010. Finally, the way public administration is run is distinct from the others: this dimension has stayed quite stable since the previous survey, conducted last year.

Even if they are still negative when evaluating the general situation of their country, Europeans seem to feel that the economy is recovering, but that daily life is more expensive than it was last year.

The geographical patterns described for the personal situation are generally kept here, but with specificities, especially when it comes to the affordability of energy and housing: Estonia's scores, for example, are particularly high for these dimensions; Finland, Belgium and UK are below the EU average for the affordability of energy. This is also the case for the UK and Luxembourg in relation to the affordability of housing.

In terms of evolution since last year, the current situation is generally evaluated more negatively than in May 2010: only one topic, out of five analysed in this section, had a positive evolution this year (unemployment benefits).

The evaluation that Europeans make of the situation compared to that of five years ago has also declined – for four dimensions – or stayed stable – for the remaining one – since May 2010. However, optimism that things will improve in the next twelve months has progressed since the previous survey, with positive evolutions in the scores: even if the evolutions since last year's survey are moderate, the general trend is clearly towards one of an improvement regarding the situation of social protection and inclusion in the near future.



When clustering the countries at the top of the ranking for the current situation, in this chapter, the country groups differ slightly from those from the personal and general situation: The **Nordic countries** are surpassed by the

Benelux countries and Austria, and are sometimes at the middle of the country scale, especially in regard to relations between people from different cultural and religious backgrounds or nationalities. The situation is more comparable to the other sections at the bottom of the scale, with Eastern countries (Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary), Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Greece, almost always at the bottom of the scale.

In relation to socio-demographic data, a number of striking patterns are found. Men are generally more satisfied with the current situation of all the topics analysed than women. However, variations are more pronounced according to financial situation and level of education, which almost invariably have an impact on citizens' outlook regarding the current situation, the situation compared to that of five years ago and expectations for the coming twelve months: the fewer difficulties they have paying their bills and the more educated respondents are, the better are their scores.

Students are frequently reported as the most satisfied and optimistic – or the least dissatisfied and pessimistic – of all of the groups analysed. It is also encouraging to see a trend for optimism relating to important matters of social protection, like unemployment benefits, from those in more difficult financial situations and the unemployed.

In summary, citizens sense a general improvement in their own situation, although they are rarely as confident about the shape of the national situation. On this latter point, though, it is important to note that all scores related to the economic and employment situation of their country have progressed since May 2010, reflecting the feeling that the EU is emerging slowly from the crisis.

However, Europeans perceive their daily life to be more expensive than last year, with negative indexes related to cost of living and affordability of energy and housing which have decreased since May 2010.

Perceptions regarding social protection and inclusion are quite contrasted: almost always negatives, the indexes of the current situation and of the comparison with five years ago have decreased since the previous survey, whereas optimism that things will improve in the next twelve months have progressed. Europeans are still struggling with important difficulties, but their expectations for the near future are improving.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_370_en.pdf

Gilani's Gallopedia (2007-2011)

A Quantitative Analysis

A quantitative analysis of global polls monitored during the 4 year period January 2007 –August 2011

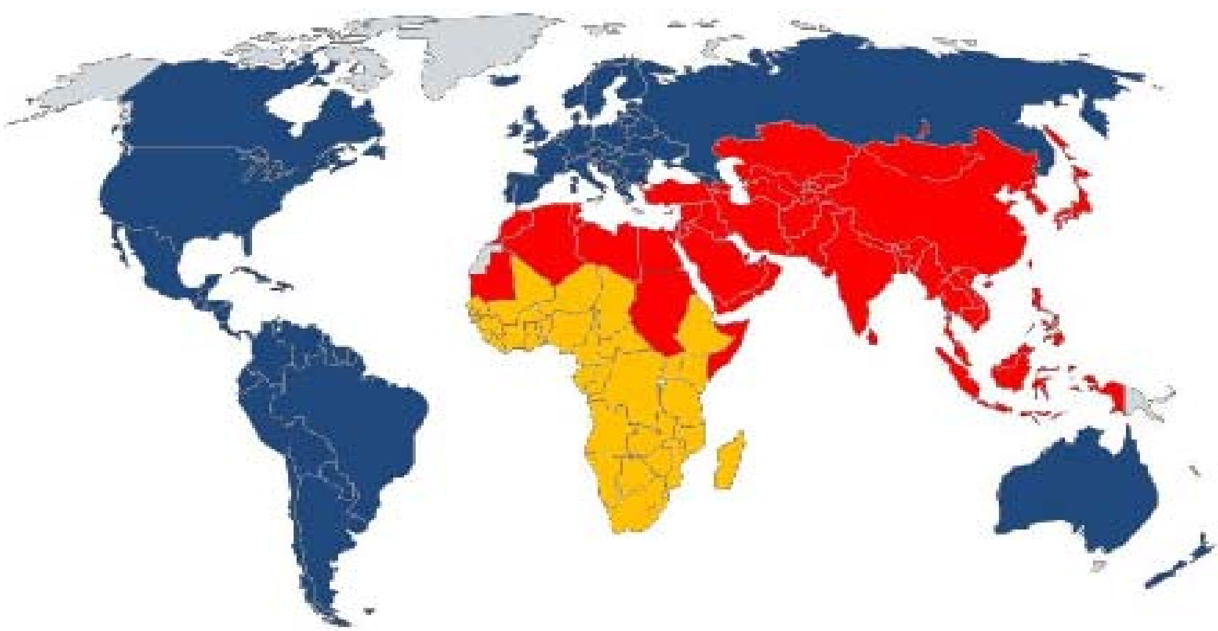
KEY STATISTICS

1- Number of Surveys *(a selection on key political and social issues):* ~ 3,861 polls during the period 2007-2011

2- Subjects of Interest *(we have made a list of 125 subjects, further grouped into 9 broad categories, namely:* ***Governance, Globalization*** *(inclusive of global economic issues)* **Global Conflicts** *(conflict zones),* **Global leaders** *(USA and Emerging powers),* **Global Environment, Family, Religion,** and other miscellaneous

3- Number of countries covered by one or more surveys: ~ 178 during the period 2007-2011

4- Number polling organizations whose polls have been citied: ~ 160 during the period 2007-2011



*Archives: Gilani's Gallopedia has been compiled on a weekly basis since January 2007. Previous material is available upon request. Please contact rushna.shahid@gilanifoundation.com