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INTRODUCING THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES EUROBAROMETER

The European Commission has launched a new series of surveys in the 13 countries that are applying for European Union membership. The objective of the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer is to gather information from the future member states in a way that allows direct comparison with the Standard Eurobarometer carried out in the existing EU. Using this new tool, the Commission is able to provide decision makers and the European public with opinion data that helps them to understand similarities and differences between the EU and the Candidate Countries. The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer will continuously track support for EU membership, and changes in attitudes related to European issues in the Candidate Countries. In the course of the next few years, a series of Candidate Countries Eurobarometer reports are planned to be released; these are the first results in this series.

This summary report presents the highlights of the first wave of surveys conducted in October 2001 in the 13 Candidate Countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. In Cyprus, the survey only covers citizens living on the southern part of the island.

An identical set of questions was asked of representative samples of the population aged fifteen years and over in each Applicant Country. The regular sample in Candidate Countries Eurobarometer surveys is 1000 people per country except Malta and Cyprus (500).

In each of the 13 Candidate Countries, the survey is carried out by national institutes associated with and coordinated by The Gallup Organization, Hungary. This network of institutes was selected by tender. All institutes are members of the "European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research" (ESOMAR) and comply with its standards.

The figures shown in this report for each of the Candidate Countries are weighted by sex, age, region, size of locality, education level, and marital status. The figures given for the Candidate Countries as a whole (AC13) are weighted on the basis of the adult population in each country. Due to the rounding of figures in certain cases, the total percentage in a table does not always add up exactly to 100 %, but a number very close to it (e.g. 99 or 101). When questions allow for several responses, percentages often add up to more than 100%. Percentages shown in the graphics may display a difference of 1 percentage point compared to the tables because of the way previously rounded percentages are added.

The present survey was ordered and co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Press and Communication (Public Opinion Analysis).

Types of surveys in the Eurobarometer series

The European Commission (Directorate-General Press and Communication) organizes general public opinion, specific target group, as well as qualitative (group discussion, in-depth interview) surveys in all Member States and, occasionally, in third countries. There are four different types of polls available:

- Traditional standard Eurobarometer surveys with reports published twice a year
- Telephone Flash EB, also used for special target group surveys (e.g. Top Decision Makers)
- Qualitative research ("focus groups"; in-depth interviews)
- Candidate Countries Eurobarometer (replacing the Central and Eastern EB)

The face-to-face general public standard Eurobarometer surveys and the EB Candidate Countries surveys, the telephone Flash EB polls and qualitative research serve primarily to carry out surveys for the different Directorates General and comparable special services of the Commission on their behalf and on their account.

**The Eurobarometer Website address is:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion**

HIGHLIGHTS

Support for EU membership

- On average, nearly 6 people in 10 (59%) in the Candidate Countries feel that EU membership would be a 'good thing' for their country with support ranging from 33% in Estonia and Latvia to 80% in Romania. Support levels tend to be significantly higher in the Candidate Countries than they are in the EU where the average support level is 49%. There is an even clearer difference between the Candidate Countries and the EU in the proportion of people who view membership as a bad thing: three times as many EU citizens (29%) feel this way as in the Candidate Countries (10%).
- Two thirds (65%) of the respondents of voting age in the Candidate Countries declare that they would support their country's membership of the EU if a referendum were to be held on this issue. Further analyses show that at the time of the survey the majority of eligible respondents in all 13 countries would have voted in favour of joining the EU (79%)¹. The only country without a large majority in favour of accession is Malta, where only 53% of eligible respondents indicate that they would have voted in favour of EU membership.

Image of the European Union

- More than 5 in 10 citizens of the Candidate Countries have a positive image of the European Union (52%) with only 18% saying that it conjures up a negative image. This is somewhat better than Eurobarometer's findings among EU citizens, where on average 42% have a positive image and 18% have a negative image.
- At 70%, people in Bulgaria and Romania are most likely to have a positive image of the European Union. The Maltese are most likely to have a negative image (34%). Malta is the only country where more than 3 in 10 people have a negative image of the European Union.

Awareness of the EU and its institutions

- While the EU is the most widely known international institution in the Candidate Countries, with nearly all respondents having heard of its existence, its institutions remain much less known: the European Parliament is known by 72% and the European Commission by 60%. In the EU Member States, awareness of these two institutions is 89% and 77%, respectively.

¹ Eligible voters are those aged 18 and over. The analysis also excludes respondents who said they would not vote, who did not know how they would vote and who didn't answer the question.

Trust in the European Union and its institutions

- More than 6 in 10 citizens of the Candidate Countries trust the European Union (62%). This is higher than the level of trust found among EU citizens (41%). Trust is most widespread in Romania (74%) and Bulgaria (72%). People in Turkey (34%) and Malta (35%) are most likely to lack trust in the European Union.
- Trust in the Union's institutions is much less widespread, mainly because fewer people know about them. Forty one percent of Candidate Countries citizens trust the European Parliament, 35% trust the European Commission and 29% trust the Council of Ministers.

Information about Enlargement, Accession

- Nine out of ten people living in the Candidate Countries have heard of their country's bid to become a member of the European Union. Awareness levels range from 82% in Turkey to 98% in Cyprus and Malta.
- However, most people do not feel well informed either about their country's accession process or about EU enlargement as a whole. Only 28% say they are well informed about enlargement and only 29% feel well informed about their own country's accession process.
- The results for individual countries show that the proportion of people who feel informed about EU enlargement ranges from 17% in Estonia and Turkey to 54% in Slovenia. For the accession process, the proportion of people who felt they had information about the process ranged from 20% in Turkey to 57% in Slovenia.

Speed of Accession Process

- Large differences were found when respondents were asked to evaluate the current speed of their countries' application process. In Turkey 39% characterise the process as 'standing still', while 22% of Maltese feel that the accession process is 'running as fast as possible'.
- We find that residents of Estonia and of Malta think that the process is going faster than they would like it to go. Respondents in Turkey and Romania, on the other hand, perceive the process to be much slower than they would like it to be. (FIGURE 10 / TABLES 10A & 10B)

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Introduction

This first report of the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer (CC-EB) presents the very first results from the thirteen Candidate Countries that were ever systematically collected. The survey was fielded in all 13 Candidate Countries during October 2001. The primary aim of this report is to give readers an overview of how the people of the Candidate Countries feel about the European Union, its enlargement, and their own countries' accession. A number of other, related issues are also presented. In many instances, the reader will note that the results are compared with those from the 15 Member States of the European Union, to provide comparisons between the EU and the Candidate Countries.

The report begins with a general description of the life in the Candidate Countries. First we focus on ownership of certain **commodities** in the Candidate Countries, followed by an examination of **overall satisfaction levels among the citizens of the Candidate Countries** at the beginning of the 3rd Millennium; how people feel about their present personal situation compared to 5 years ago and how they think their situation will evolve over the next 5 years. In this Chapter we also examine the, **media use, trust and access to modern information technology** in the region. Chapter 1 also examines **trust in political and social institutions** in the Candidate Countries.

Chapter 2 examines levels of **identification with Europe** in the Candidate Countries as well as the issue of **national and European pride**.

Chapter 3 deals with contacts among the different cultures, including **knowledge of foreign languages**, and **travel** to EU and other Candidate Countries, including **work experience**.

Chapter 4 introduces the reader to the general sentiments, attitudes towards the EU in the Candidate Countries, looking at the different **meanings of the European Union**, the **meanings of being a citizen of the European Union**, the **image of the EU**, **people's feelings towards the European Union**: does it conjure up a positive image for those who live in the Candidate Countries? We examine the levels of **support for European Union membership** in the Candidate Countries here, and present the **perceived benefit from EU membership**. This Chapter also analyses people's **trust in the European Union and in nine of its institutions and bodies**. It reports on **support for joint EU decision-making**, and the **expected and desired role of the European Union** in these countries.

Chapter 5 investigates information issues related to the European Union. First, it examines respondents' **self-perceived levels of knowledge about the European Union** as well as their levels of **awareness of nine of the Union's institutions and bodies**. We report on the extent to which people pay **attention to news about the European Union** in comparison to news about other issues. Also in this Chapter, we present the **EU-related topics that are the most interesting** for people in the Candidate Countries. Finally, the Chapter looks at the **sources people are most likely to use when they look for information about the European Union** and which **sources of information they prefer**.

Finally, Chapter 6 presents an examination of the **attitudes and knowledge about the process of accession** and about **enlargement** in general. This Chapter includes information about the **desired and expected year of accession** in the Candidate Countries.



We wish to thank all respondents in the Candidate Countries who have taken part in the survey. Without their participation, this report could not have been written.

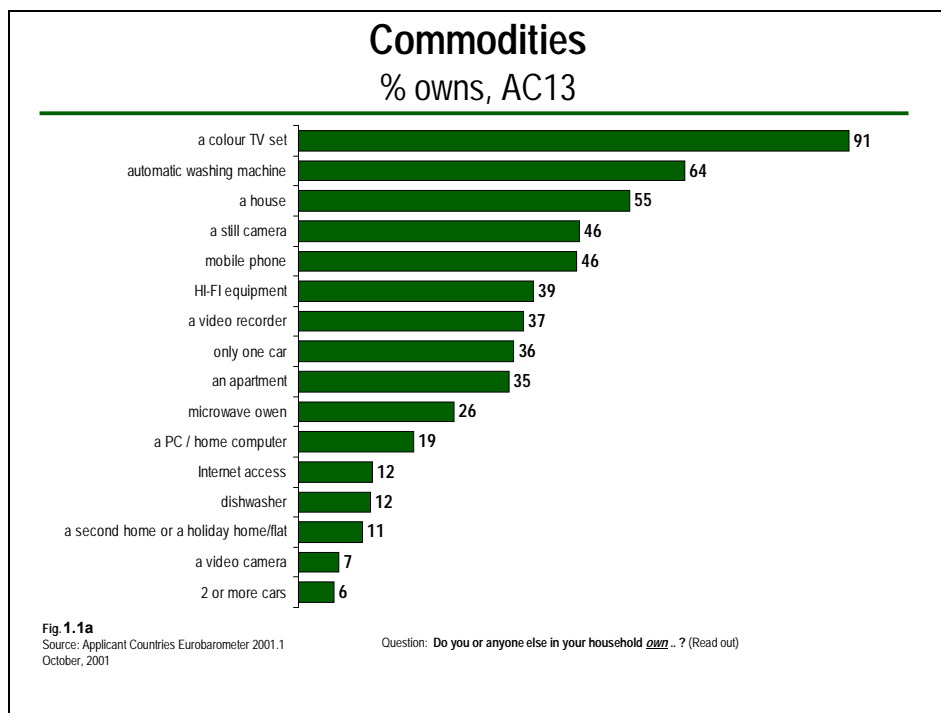
1. Life in the Candidate Countries

In this Chapter, we will take a closer look at particular aspects of life in the Candidate Countries. First we focus on ownership of certain commodities in the region, then we continue with an examination of overall satisfaction levels among the citizens; how people feel about their present personal situation compared to 5 years ago and how they think their situation will evolve over the next 5 years. Later in this Chapter we will examine trust in political and social institutions in the Candidate Countries, and finally we take a look at media use, trust in the media, and access to modern information technology in the region.

1.1 Commodities

Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found that the middle class basket of consumer goods in the region may be defined as a colour television, an automatic washing machine, a still camera, a mobile phone, hi-fi equipment, a car, and a video recorder. Fifty five percent of Candidate Countries citizens own their house, and 35% own their flat. (*Figure 1.2a*)

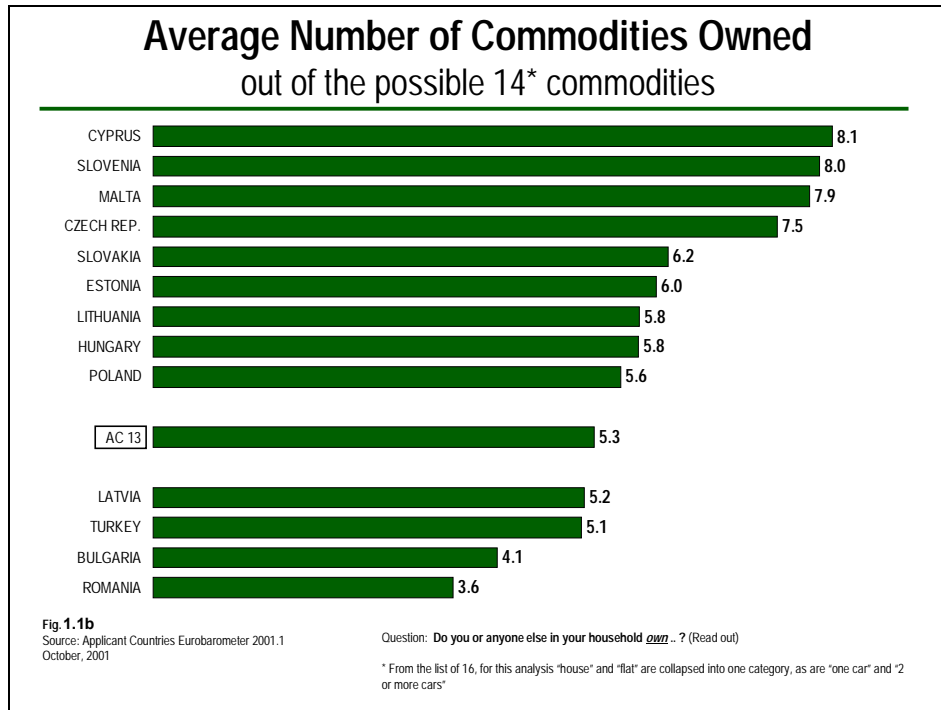
It is very rare that a household owns more than one car (in fact, 58% do not have a car at all). Almost one in five people have a PC in their household (19%), and 12% have Internet access at home.



Looking at *Figure 1.1b*, the size of the inventories seems to reflect the actual wealth of these societies (for detailed information about gross national income in Candidate Countries, see Chapter 1.2, Table 1.2a). On average, a citizen of the Candidate Countries possesses 5.3 of the 14 possible commodities². Four countries emerge as the wealthiest ones: Cyprus (8.1), Slovenia (8.0), Malta (7.9), and the Czech Republic (7.5). At the bottom end of this ranking we

² The original list has 16 items, but for this analysis we treat the two options for home (house and flat), and for car (one car, 2 or more cars) ownership as single items

find that Romanians have the least amount of the listed commodities (3.6). Bulgaria (4.1) is well below the Candidate Countries average, too.



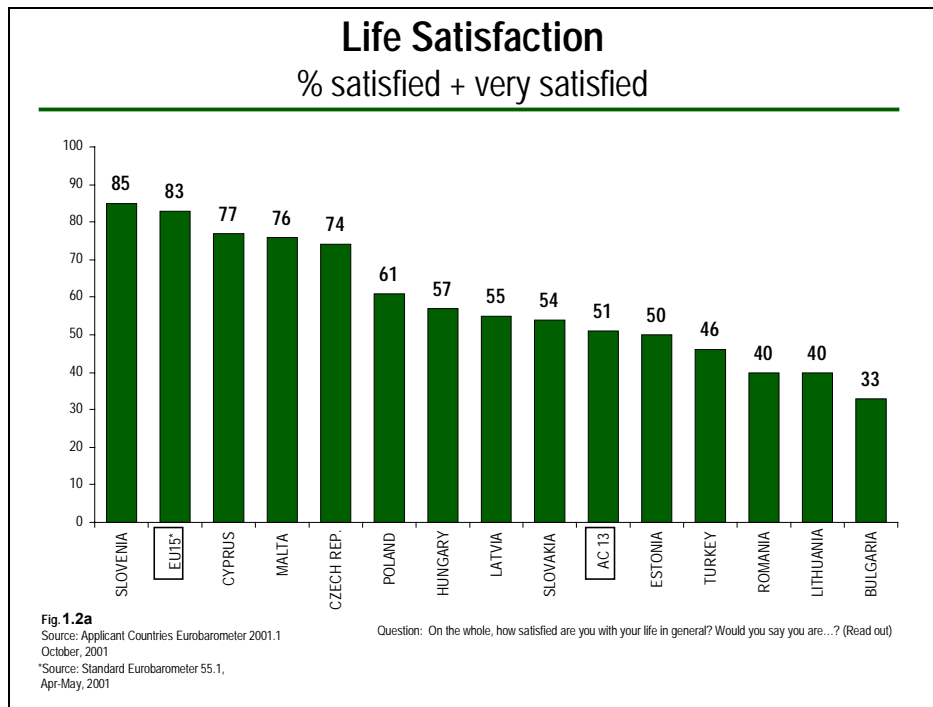
1.2 Life satisfaction

The life satisfaction question is a summary measure in the Eurobarometer series of how people feel about all things related to their lives, ranging from personal happiness, through health, family and economic situation to their views about society in general.

Current life satisfaction

In October 2001, the first survey found a huge gap between the life satisfaction levels in the Candidate Countries and the European Union³. This is probably the most significant difference we found among all the topics the survey covered. While only one in two people in the Candidate Countries (51%) say they are very or fairly satisfied with the life they lead, in the Member States life satisfaction currently peaks at 83%.

³ EB55, Spring 2001, Chapter 1.1



Eurobarometer found a direct link between life satisfaction in the Candidate Countries and the per capita Gross National Income – there is no doubt that those in richer countries are more likely to be satisfied than those living in a low-income country. (Table 1.2a)

Table 1.2a GNI per capita* vs. Life satisfaction

	GNI per capita*	% Satisfied + very satisfied
CYPRUS	<i>\$11,950</i>	77
SLOVENIA	<i>\$10,070</i>	85
MALTA	<i>\$9,410</i>	76
CZECH REPUBLIC	<i>\$4,920</i>	74
HUNGARY	<i>\$4,740</i>	57
POLAND	<i>\$4,200</i>	61
SLOVAKIA	<i>\$3,700</i>	54
ESTONIA	<i>\$3,410</i>	50
TURKEY	<i>\$3,090</i>	46
LITHUANIA	<i>\$2,900</i>	40
LATVIA	<i>\$2,860</i>	55
ROMANIA	<i>\$1,670</i>	40
BULGARIA	<i>\$1,510</i>	33

* Source: 2001 World Development Indicators database, World Bank, 7/16/01
Figures in italics are the most recent estimates from 1998 or 1999.

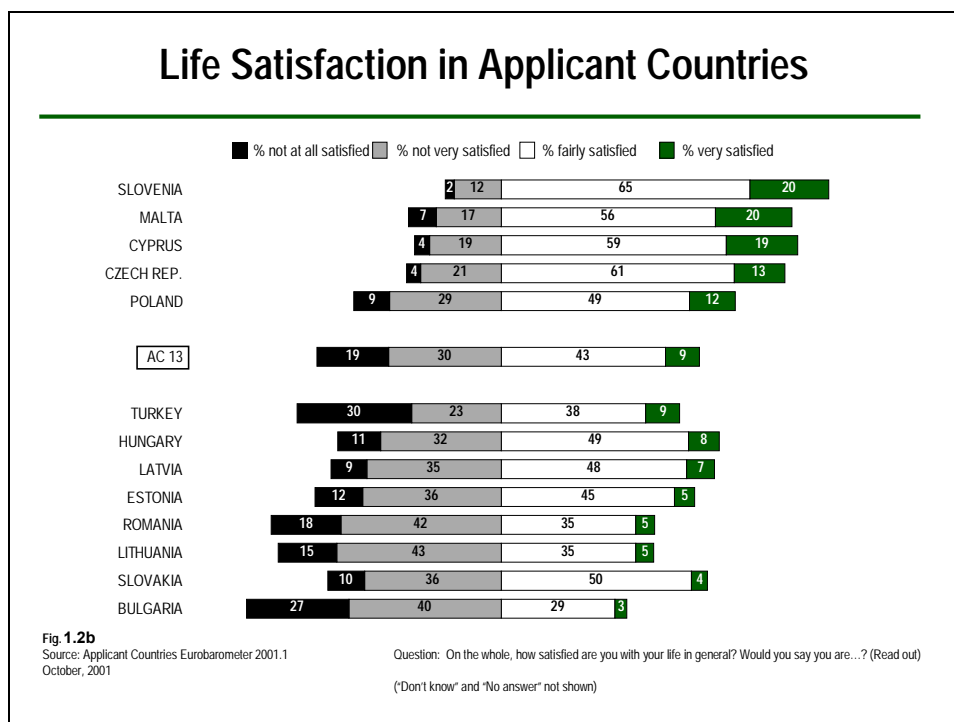
The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer revealed that only Slovenia has a higher life satisfaction than the EU15 average. If we compare EU15 and AC13 rankings, we find that the lowest life satisfaction measured within the Union (Greece with 57%) would rank 6th – 7th on the list of Candidate Countries.

In Turkey, Romania, and Lithuania, less than half of the 15 year old and older population were satisfied with their lives. At the bottom end, in Bulgaria, exactly one third of the people said they were satisfied with the life they led.

Accordingly, on average, almost half of the Candidate Countries citizens are to some extent unsatisfied with their lives (49%). An even more articulate difference is that while only 3% of the European Union citizens say they are “not at all satisfied” with their lives, this figure is more than six times higher in the Candidate Countries (19%). (Figure 1.1b)

In Turkey and Bulgaria the ratio of the not-at-all satisfied respondents reached almost one third of the population, even though almost no one in Slovenia, the Czech Republic, and Malta shared this opinion.

Demographic analyses show no significant differences between men and women. Among the four age groups (those aged 15 to 24, 25 to 39, 40 to 54, and 55 and over) we find that the proportion of very satisfied people is significantly higher for the youngest segment of the population (14%) than it is for the other age groups. Large variations are found among the various occupational groups in the population, with satisfaction levels ranging from 39% among unemployed people to 65% among managers. Education is also a good indicator of how satisfied people are with the life they lead. People who stayed in school until the age of 20 or older (61%) are significantly more likely to feel satisfied than people who left school aged 15 or younger (41%) or aged 16 to 19 (50%)⁴.



⁴ Appendix C.4 provides more details about demographic variables.

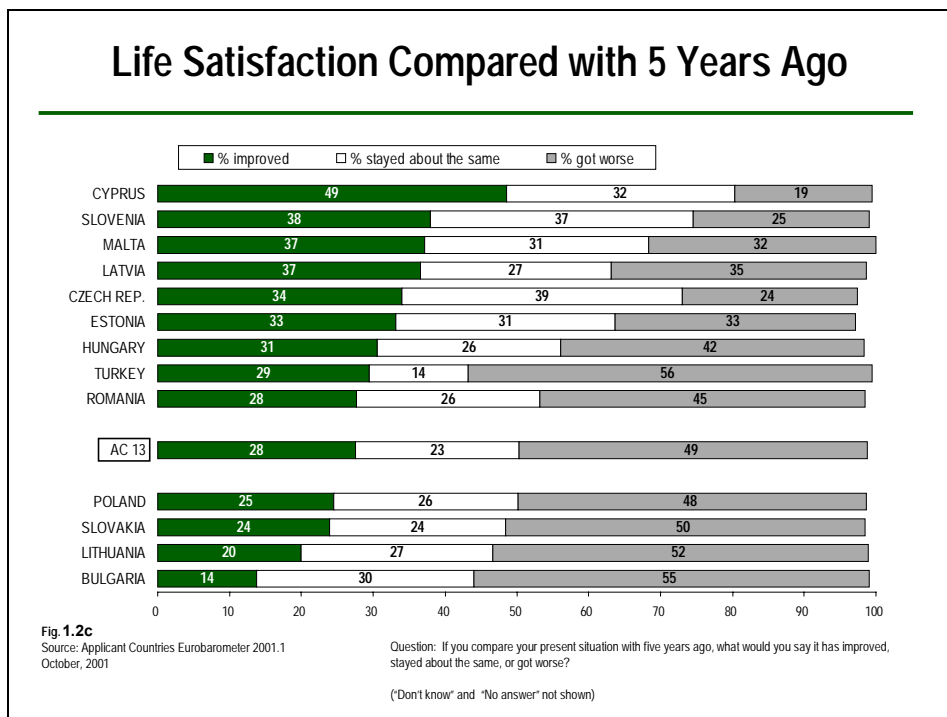
Life satisfaction compared with 5 years ago

Figure 1.2c shows that the self-perceived past dynamics of life satisfaction, or quality of life were not nearly as favourable as in the EU⁵. Twenty eight percent of Candidate Countries citizens feel that their present situation has improved as compared with 5 years ago; only 23% feel it has stayed about the same and the majority (49%) feel it has got worse. This last number compares to 16% measured within the Union.

The citizens of Candidate Countries feel that they have experienced many changes in their lives; a relatively small fraction of these societies thought that the quality of their lives had remained stable in the course of the past five years. In contrast, approximately twice as many European citizens feel that their own life is as satisfactory as it was 5 years ago (45%).

There are large differences in opinion among the populations from the 13 Candidate Countries. (*Figure 1.2c*) Cypriots are most likely, at 49%, to feel that their present situation has improved, with 38% of Slovenian and 37% of Maltese and Latvian respondents sharing this view. In the Czech Republic (34%) and in Estonia (34%) about one-third feel their situation has improved during the past 5 years. The countries that are well below average in this respect are Lithuania (20% said their situation improved) and Bulgaria with 14%.

The Czechs are the most likely to feel that their situation is the same as it was 5 years ago (39%), followed by Slovenian (37%) and Cypriot (50%) respondents. At 56%, people in Turkey are most likely to say that their situation got worse during the past five years, followed closely by people in Bulgaria (55%), Lithuania (52%) and Slovakia (50%). In all other Candidate Countries, less than half of the people feel their situation has got worse; the lowest level was in Cyprus, where only 19% share this view.



The next table shows a mixed association between life satisfaction and how people feel about their present situation compared to 5 years ago. We can clearly see that those who are currently not satisfied with their lives tend to think that their situation worsened in the course of the past 5 years.

⁵ EB55, Spring 2001, Chapter 1.2

Nevertheless, almost one third of those who are currently satisfied with their lives also claimed a decrease in their quality of life during the past five years. This group is much more likely to think that their situation did not change in the recent past than those who are currently not satisfied with their lives.

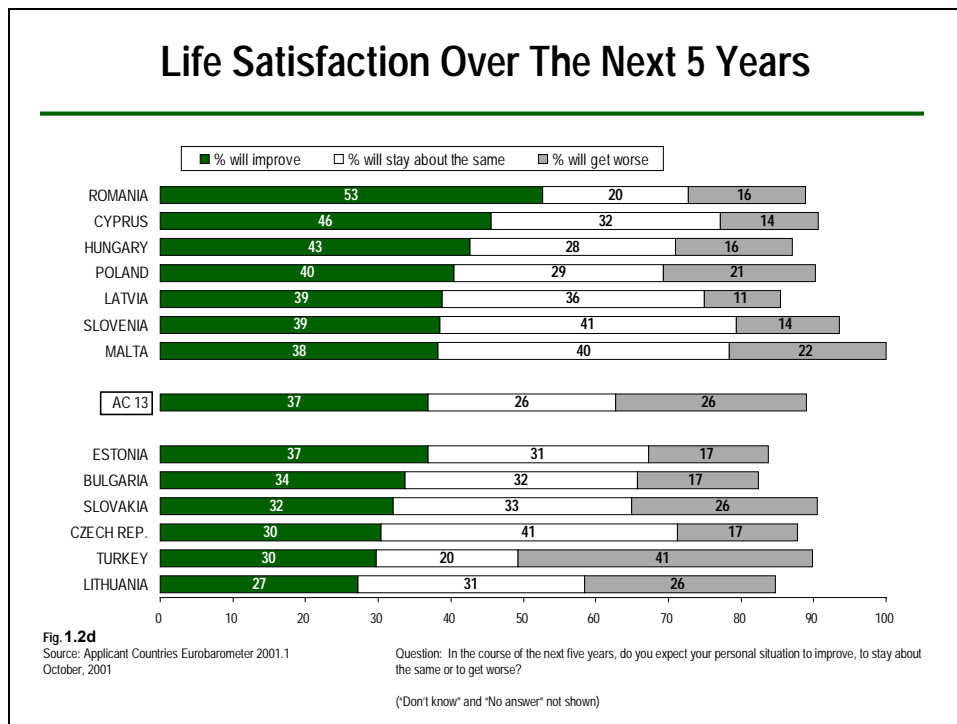
Table 1.2b Relationship between life satisfaction and views about one's present situation compared with 5 years ago		
	Views about life in general:	
	Satisfied %	not satisfied %
Improved	40	14
Stayed about the same	27	18
Got worse	31	67
(DK / no answer)	2	1
Total	100	100

The demographic break-downs show that managers (44%) and young people (48%) are most likely to feel that, compared with 5 years ago, their present situation has improved. These also indicate that retired people are most likely to feel that their present situation has got worse (59%).

Finally, attitudinal analyses show that people who see their country's membership of the EU as a good thing are significantly more likely to feel that their present situation, compared to 5 years ago, has improved (33%) than are those who regard their country's membership as a bad thing (16%). Among the latter group, 67% feel their present situation has got worse, compared to only 43% of people who view their country's membership of the EU as a good thing. (Table 1.2b)

Life satisfaction over the next 5 years

The people living in the Candidate Countries generally feel positive about the development of their personal situation over the course of the next 5 years. However they are less optimistic than EU citizens⁶ are. As shown on *Figure 1.2d*, 37% of our sample believe their personal situation will improve, while 26% believe it will get worse. Twenty six percent of respondents from the Candidate Countries feel that their personal situation will stay about the same, while 11% could not decide.



The 37% optimism level is not significantly lower than the 42% level measured within the European Union, but the 26% pessimism level about the future is more than twice as much as the percentage found in the Member States (10%).

Generally, in countries where the general satisfaction is relatively high, and the past dynamics have also been satisfactory, people are more likely to be optimistic about the future as well. Forty five percent of Cypriots and 39% of Slovenians expect their personal situation to improve in the course of the next five years. This Candidate Countries Eurobarometer, however, found the largest proportion of those who think their personal situation would improve over the next five years in Romania (53%). Romania is the only applicant country where the majority of the population is currently optimistic about their personal future. Hungary (43%), Poland (40%), Latvia (39%), and Malta (38%) also belong to the more optimistic countries. We find that Lithuanians are the least likely to feel their situation will improve (27%), and Czechs and Slovenians are most likely to feel that it will stay about the same (both 41%). People in Turkey are by far the most likely to feel that their situation will get worse (41%). In the other Accession Countries, the proportion of people that holds this view ranges from 11% in Latvia to 26% in Lithuania and Slovakia.

The demographic analyses show that while pessimism is primarily found among elderly people in the European Union, the picture is somewhat different in the Candidate Countries. The age group with the worst expectations for the next five years is the middle-aged group in

⁶ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 1.3

the Candidate Countries (40-54 years – 33% pessimistic), followed by the retired persons (pessimistic: 29%; optimistic: 20%). Similarly to the European Union, students and other young people (69% and 60%, respectively) are most likely to be optimistic.

Again we find that people who regard their country's future membership of the EU as a good thing are significantly more likely to feel that their situation will improve (49%) than people who regard their country's membership as a bad thing (19%). (Table 1.2c)

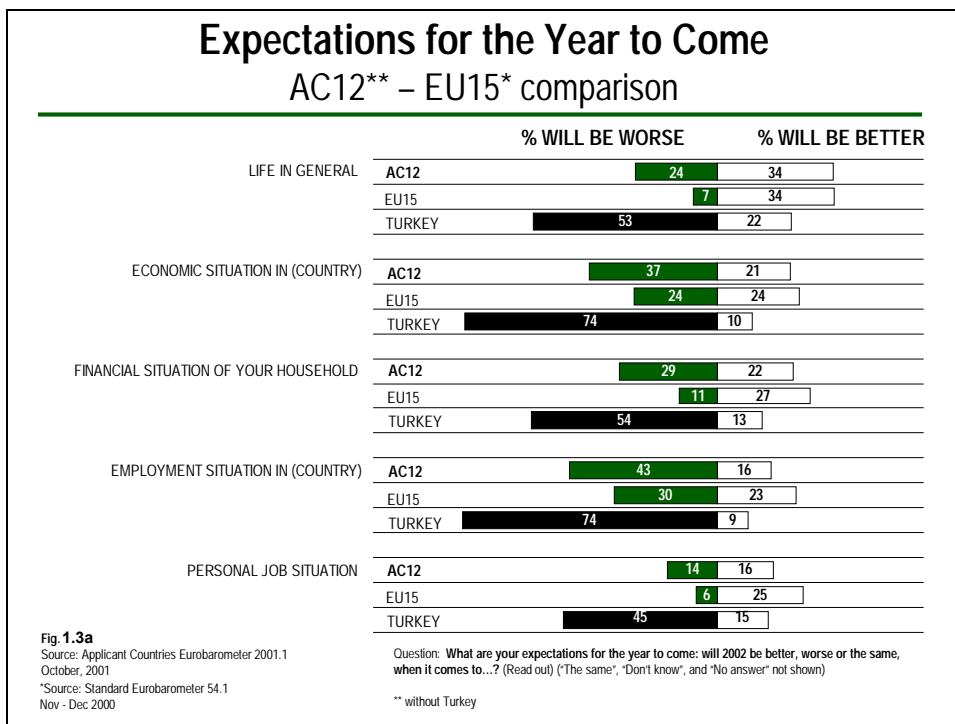
The following table shows that people who are satisfied with the life they lead are more likely to feel that their personal situation will improve than those who are not satisfied. In the Candidate Countries more people of the latter group think that their situation will get even worse than those who are optimistic about their mid-term future. In the Member States, Eurobarometer found the opposite: more people were optimistic than pessimistic in the unsatisfied group (37% vs. 23%).

	Views about life in general:	
	satisfied	not satisfied
	%	%
Improve	47	27
Stay about the same	27	25
Get worse	16	37
(DK / no answer)	10	11
Total	100	100

1.3 People's expectations for the year 2002

Before we go into detail about expectations about the immediate future in the Candidate Countries, a short methodological comment is in order. As the reader will note, the expectations for the year 2002 in Turkey are significantly different from what Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found in the rest of the region. This may be related to the economic difficulties in Turkey at the time that the poll was carried out. To "filter out" this effect, Figure 1.3a shows averages for expectations about the immediate future that exclude opinion expressed by Turkish respondents. In the rest of the sub-chapter we will continue to use the averages for all thirteen countries. (see *Figure 1.3a*)

When looking at short-term expectations in the Candidate Countries, with 24% of the people expecting their life to get worse, the mood is less optimistic compared to that in the EU Member States last year⁷. Candidate Countries' citizens are highly concerned about their national economies: 37% think that their economy will perform worse in 2002, and 43% expect that there will be fewer employment opportunities in their countries. Citizens of Candidate Countries feel relatively secure at their present workplace – however, not nearly as secure as European citizens. Twenty two percent of the people in the Candidate Countries (other than Turkey) expect that the financial situation of their household will be better in 2002, while almost one-third thinks the opposite (will be worse: 29%).

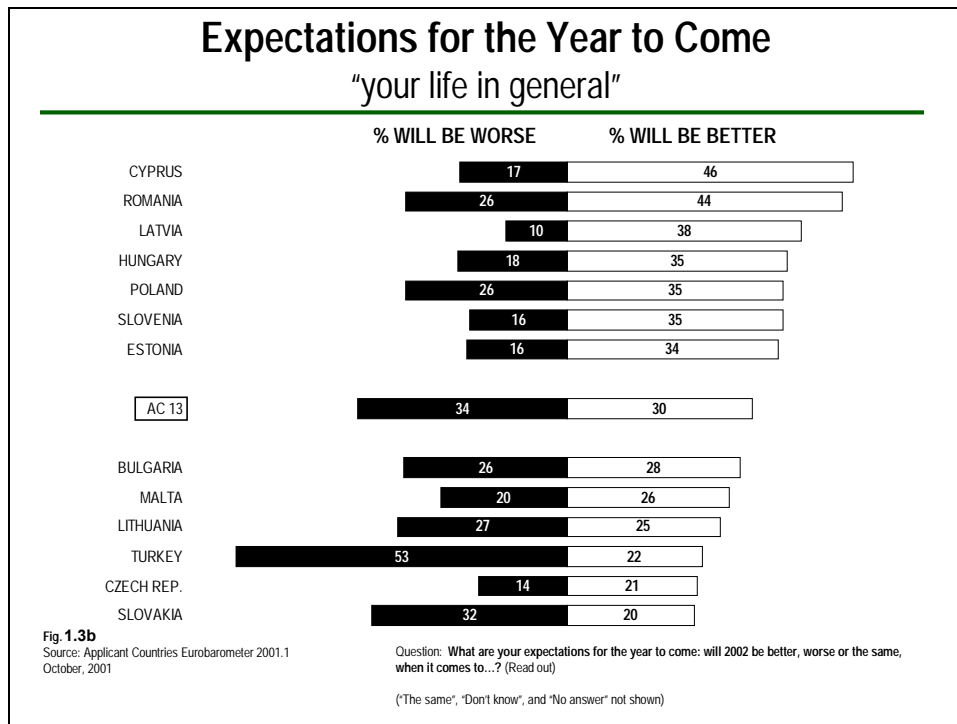


Personal situation

Individual country results reveal that people in Cyprus (46%) are most likely to believe that 2002 will be better, followed by people in Romania (44%), and Latvia (38%). Latvians (who, at 10%, are the least likely to be pessimistic) and Romanians expect a lot from year 2002, as will be shown later in this Section. In Turkey, more than one in five people believe that despite the present crisis, their life will be better in 2002, even though the majority of people (53%) tend

⁷ EB 54.1, Winter 2000, Chapter 1.2

to believe that their personal situation will be worse in the next year. Slovakia is the most pessimistic of the other twelve countries, having the least optimistic people (20%) and the second highest ratio of pessimists (32%), when it comes to personal expectations for 2002. We found a relatively low level of optimism in the Czech Republic as well (21%).

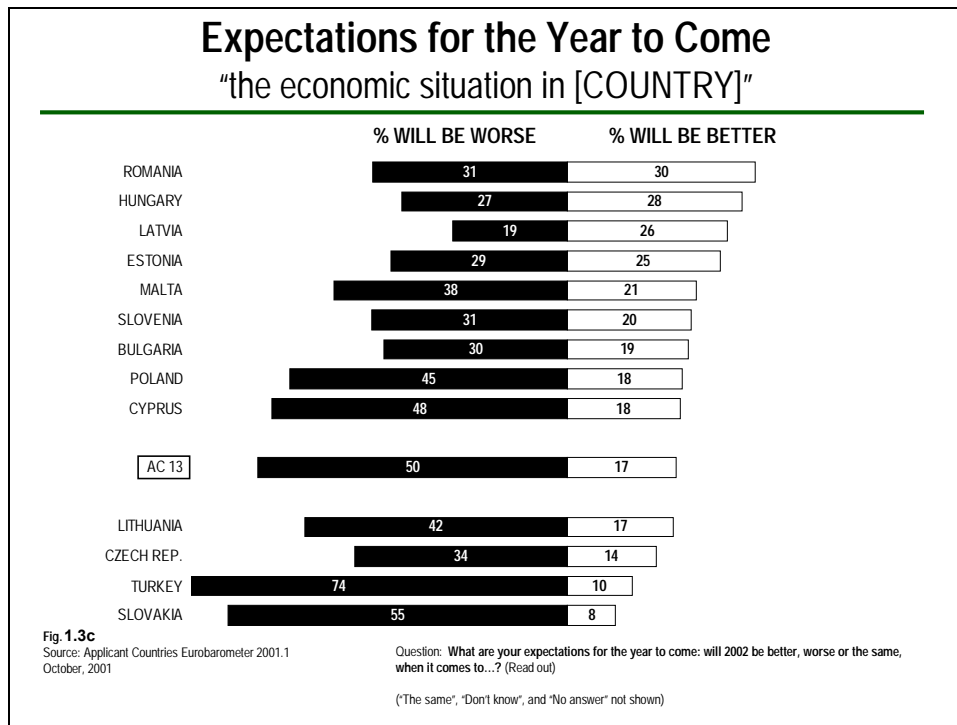


Economic situation in the country

The same end-of-the-year question was used to measure people's expectations for their country's economy in the year to come. The Candidate Countries' economic well-being at the turn of the Millennium is depicted in the graph below. In Autumn 2001, 14% of the region's citizens were optimistic and 50% were pessimistic. In Turkey the pessimism reaches 74%, and only one in ten respondents had positive expectations for year 2002. Without Turkey, the average picture is less gloomy; nevertheless, 34% of the citizens of the other twelve countries are pessimistic, and about one in four (24%) is optimistic about their expectations for their national economy in the year to come. Levels of pessimism are significantly higher than in the EU region, where only 24% of the population felt that the year to come would be worse.

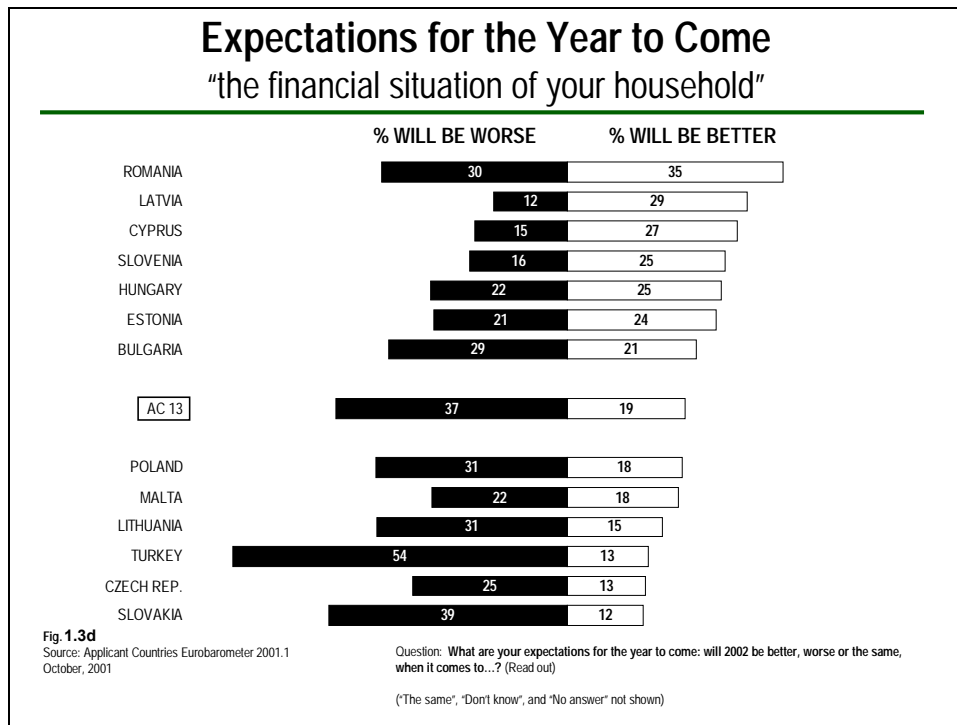
There are significant differences among the 13 Candidate Countries. While almost one third (31%) of Romanians are optimistic, only 8% of Slovaks share the same opinion. Among the most optimistic countries we find Hungary (28%), and also Latvia (26%), where Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found the lowest level of pessimism as well (19%).

We found very low popular confidence in Turkey in the country's economic performance for the year 2002. Slovakia is also in a very pessimistic mood, with 55% of respondents saying that 2002 will be worse for the country than 2001 was. Further, in Poland (45%) and in Cyprus (48%) close to half of the population is worried about the next year.



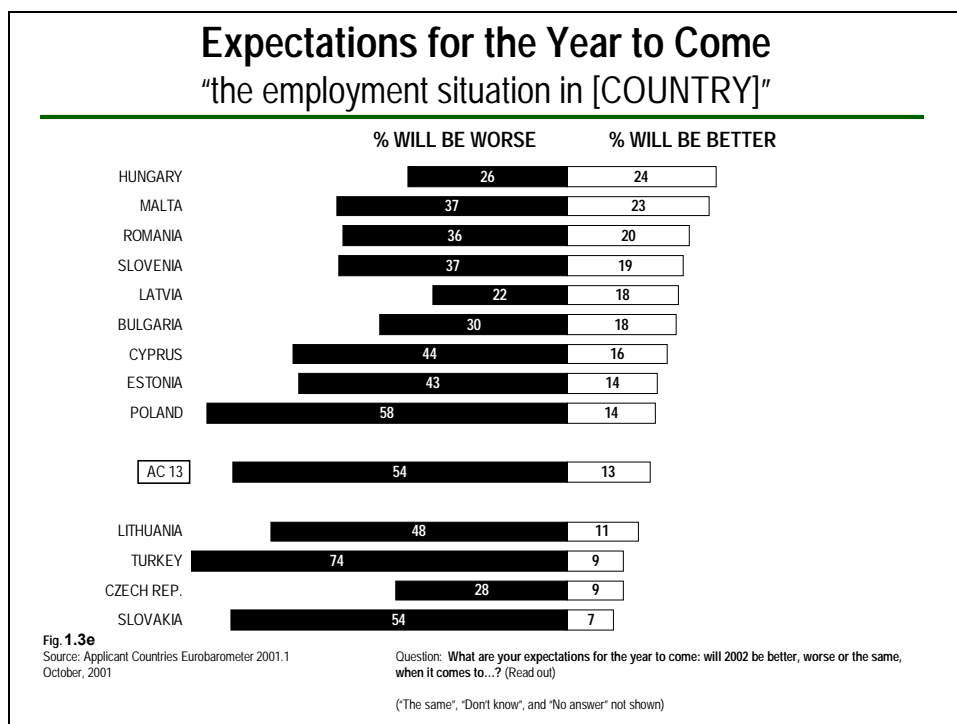
Financial situation of the household

The survey also measured what people expect to happen to their household financial situation in the year to come. Currently, Romania is very divided on this issue: Romanians are most likely to think that their household's financial situation will improve in 2002 (36%), and almost as many think that it will be worse (30%). We found relatively high levels of optimism in Latvia (29%) and Cyprus (27%). The lowest levels of optimism were found in Slovakia (12%), the Czech Republic, and Turkey (both 13%). But whilst most of the Czech respondents expect their financial situation to remain the same next year, we found that 54% of Turkish respondents think that it will deteriorate. Levels of pessimism were relatively high in Slovakia (39%), Poland, and Lithuania (both 31%), as well.



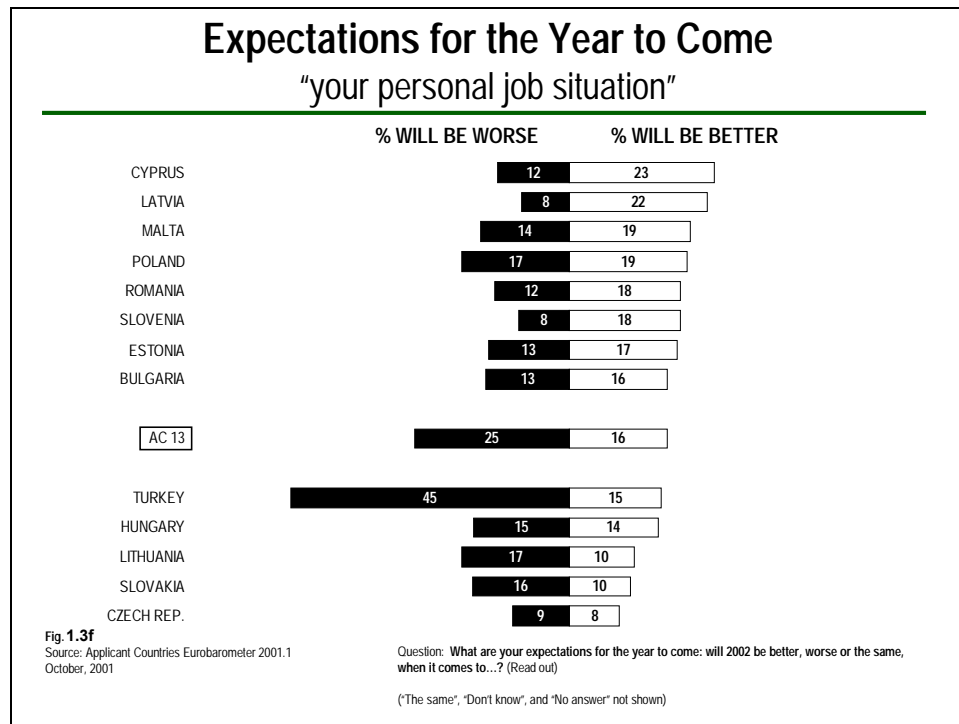
Employment situation in the country

People in Hungary (24%), Malta (23%) and Romania (20%) are relatively the most optimistic regarding the labour market for 2002, although Candidate Countries Eurobarometer did not detect explicit optimism in any of the countries in the region. Again, people in Turkey are by far the most pessimistic; almost three quarters of the public fears that the employment situation will be worse in 2002 (74%). Poland and Slovakia are also amongst the most pessimistic countries: 58% of the Polish and 54% of the Slovaks have low expectations of the year to come. (see Table 1.8 in the Appendix)



Personal job situation

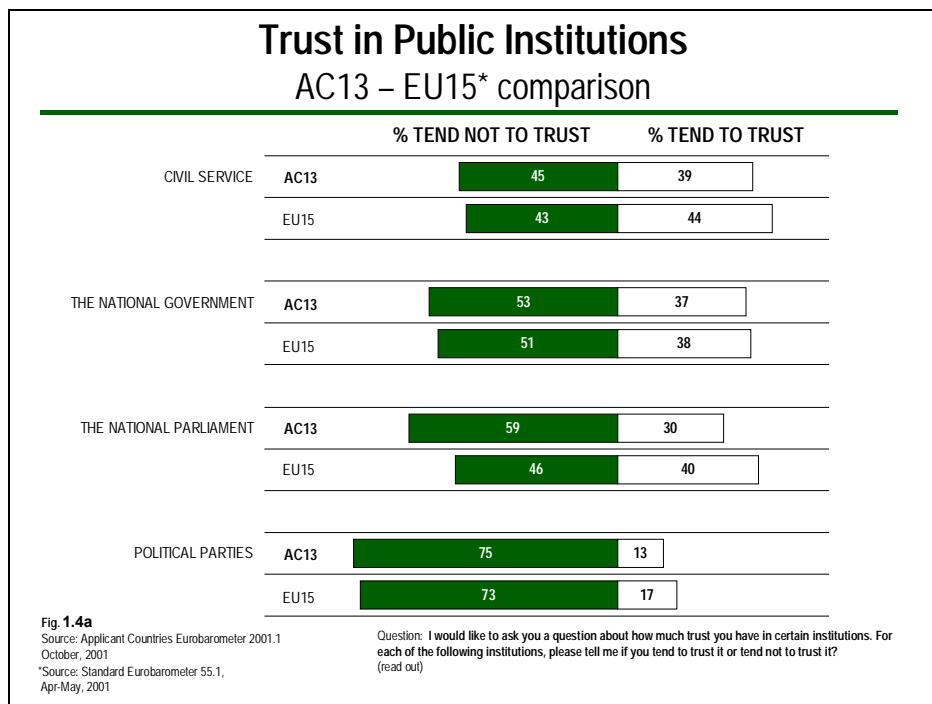
When asked about their expectations regarding their own job situation, most citizens of the Candidate Countries expect no significant change for 2002, and the general mood is more optimistic than pessimistic. Only in Turkey do we find a large proportion (45%) of those who expect a worsening outlook at their current workplace. In the other twelve countries, 14% are pessimistic in this respect. On the other hand, the mood is not particularly optimistic either, as only 16% expect any improvement in their current job. The most optimistic countries are Cyprus (23%), and Latvia (22%).



1.4 Trust in institutions

Trust in public institutions

Next we look at trust in four public institutions: the national governments, the national parliaments, the civil service and political parties. Like other surveys, Eurobarometer shows that confidence in these institutions is low in the Member States⁸, and is even lower in the Candidate Countries. Public institutions are trusted by an average of 30% in the Candidate Countries vs. 35% within the Union. The most trusted public institution in the Candidate Countries is the Civil Service (39%), closely followed by the national Government (37%). Political parties are trusted by only 13% of the region's population. While the citizens of the European Union trust in their legislative bodies, citizens in the Candidate Countries have most confidence in their executive bodies.

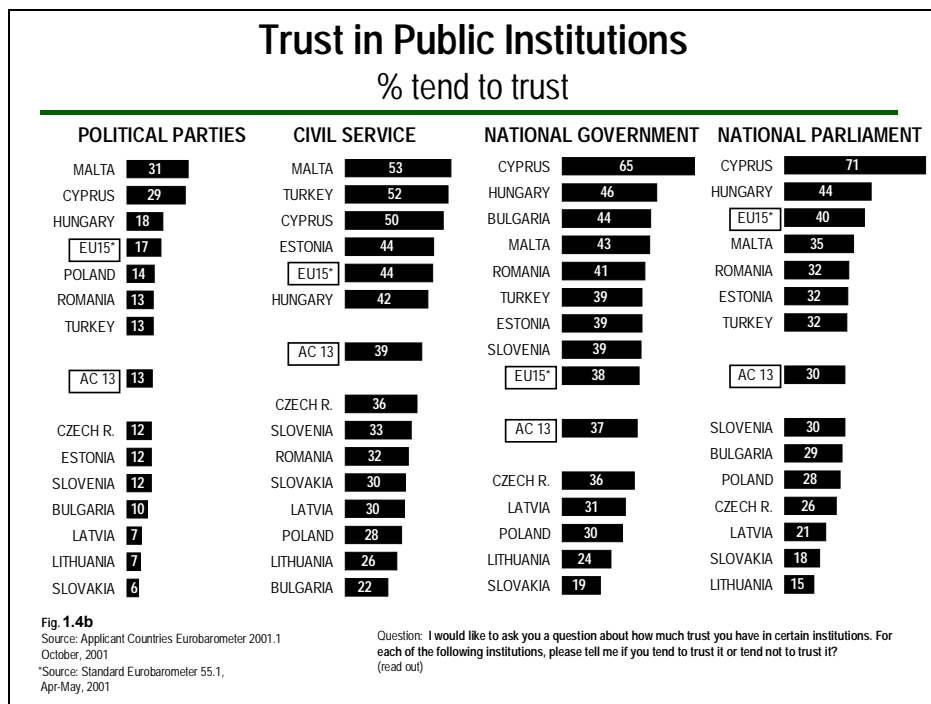


⁸ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 1.5

Table 1.4a Trust in public institutions (Average trust level of 4 institutions, in % by country)

Country	%	Country	%
CYPRUS	54	SLOVENIA	29
MALTA	40	CZECH REP.	28
HUNGARY	37	BULGARIA	26
<i>average for EU15*</i>	35	POLAND	25
TURKEY	34	LATVIA	22
ESTONIA	32	SLOVAKIA	18
ROMANIA	30	LITHUANIA	18
<i>average for AC 13</i>	30		

The average level of trust in public institutions ranges from 18% in Lithuania and Slovakia to 54% in Cyprus. Generally, Maltese and Cypriots tend to trust their political leaders more than Turkish people or people from a Central or East European Applicant Country. Among the latter group Hungary emerges as the nation that trusts its political leaders the most, while Estonians are most likely to trust their civil service. In Turkey, the administration is regarded much higher than the political leadership; in most of the Candidate Countries we can observe an opposite tendency. The most sceptical countries are Slovakia and Lithuania. Slovakia's government and political parties are only trusted by 19% and 6%, respectively, while in Lithuania the Seim is the least trusted national parliament among all (15%), closely followed by the National Council of Slovakia (18%). Bulgarians are the least likely to trust their civil service (22%).



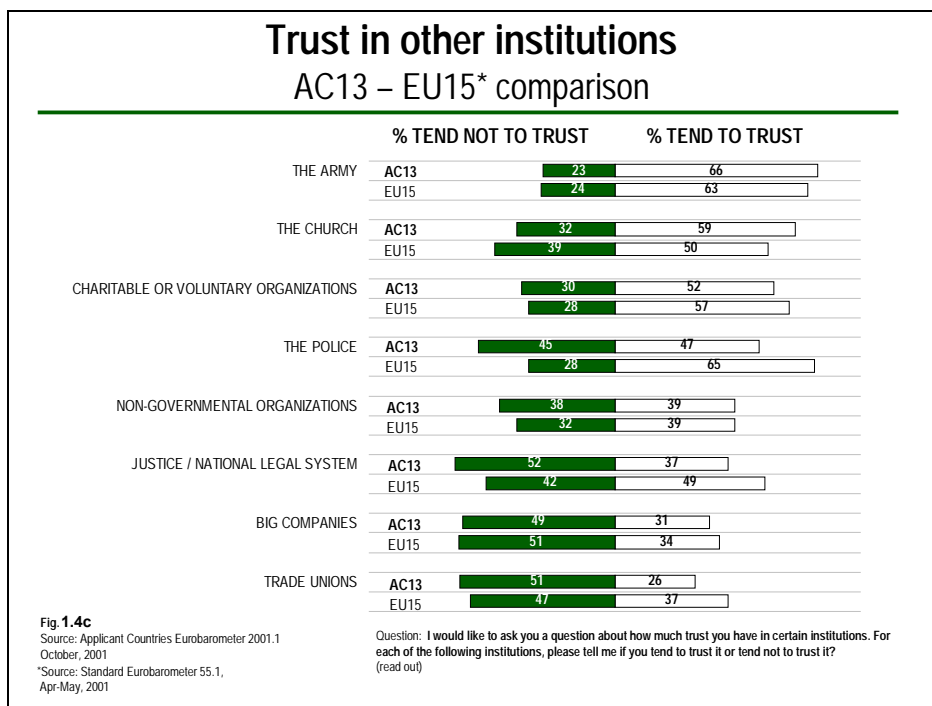
Trust in other social institutions

Next we look at trust in the following other institutions:

- Big companies
- Charitable or voluntary organizations
- Justice / national legal system
- Non-governmental Organizations
- The army
- The Church / Religious organizations
- The police
- Trade unions

The next graph shows that Candidate Countries citizens are most likely to trust the army (66%), followed by the church (59%). People living in the Candidate Countries have significantly less confidence in the police (47%) than do EU citizens, for whom it is the most trusted institution among those listed (65%)⁹. A similar gap can be observed with the legal system. Within the European Union almost half of the citizens say that they have confidence in justice in their countries, but only 37% have the same attitude in the Candidate Countries.

In the Candidate Countries less than half of the people tend to trust NGOs (39%), and big corporations (34%). The least trusted institutions in the thirteen countries are trade unions, which are trusted even less (26%) than big businesses (31%).



The next table shows which three of these other institutions are most widely trusted in each Applicant Country. The **Army** tops the list in 6 of the 13 Candidate Countries, comes in second place in 4 countries, and third place in a further 2 countries. Malta is the only country where the army is not included in the top three. The **Church** tops the list in 4 Candidate Countries, comes in second place in 4 countries, and third place in 2 countries. It is not included in the top three in Slovenia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. **Charities** top the list in Slovenia and Malta, come in second place in Turkey, Poland and Latvia, and third place in Slovakia, Lithuania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Estonia. The **Police** takes first place

⁹ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 1.6

in the Czech Republic, second in Slovenia and Hungary, and third in Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria. Malta is the only country where **NGOs** feature in the top three. At 63%, trust levels for NGOs are significantly higher in Malta than in other Candidate Countries. None of the other institutions makes the top three. (See also Table 1.10 in the Appendix)

Table 1.4b Top three most widely trusted institutions, (in %, by country)

	Bulgaria		Malta
The army	58	Charities	83
The Church	48	The Church	75
The police	37	Non-governmental organizations	63
	Cyprus		Poland
The army	86	The army	60
The Church	80	Charities	57
The police	66	The Church	54
	Czech Republic		Romania
The police	51	The Church	83
The army	48	The army	72
Charities	45	The police	35
	Estonia		Slovakia
The army	55	The Church	54
The Church	52	The army	53
Charities	48	Charities	50

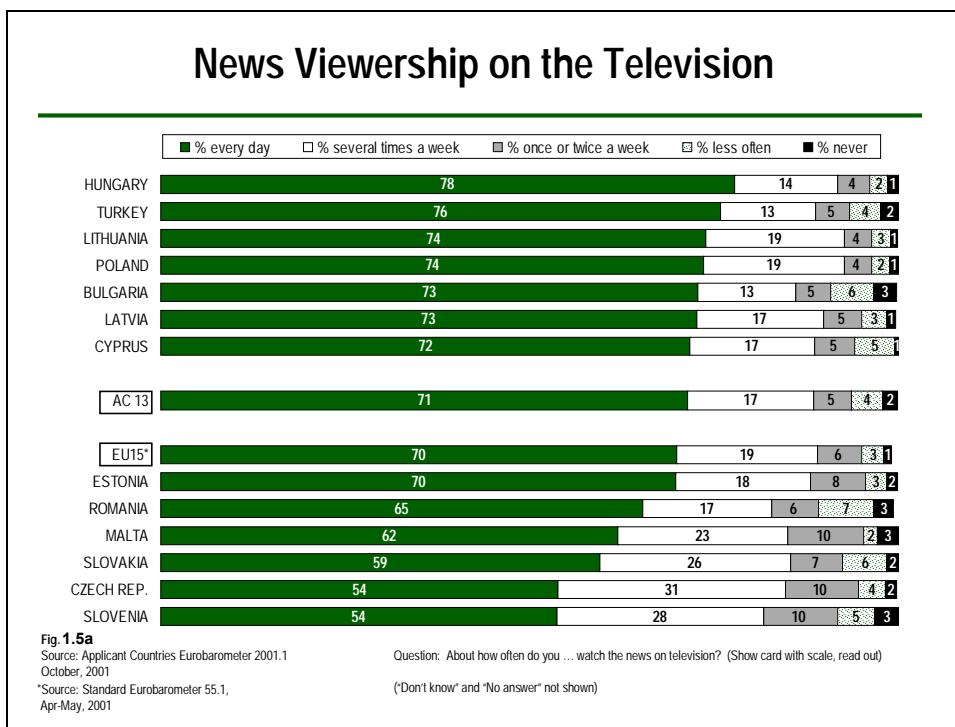
	Hungary		Slovenia
The army	52	Charities	62
The police	49	The police	49
Charities	48	The army	47
	Latvia		Turkey
The Church	61	The army	80
Charities	43	Charities	64
The army	37	The Church	63
	Lithuania		
The Church	56		
The army	41		
Charities	32		

1.5 Media use

This section of the Chapter reports on how frequently citizens of the Candidate Countries watch the news on television, read the news in daily newspapers and listen to the news on the radio. It also shows the extent to which citizens in Candidate Countries have access to information technology.

News viewership on television

As *Figure 1.5a* shows, 71% of respondents watch the news on television on a daily basis, with a further 19% watching it several times a week. These figures are very similar to those from the Member States¹⁰. Czechs and Slovenes are the least likely (54% each) and Hungarians are the most likely (78%) to watch the news on a daily basis.



News readership of daily newspapers

Unlike in the EU, where four in ten respondents read the news in daily newspapers every day (41%) or several times a week (19%), the people of the Candidate Countries like this source of information much less. In Candidate Countries, only 24% read the news daily, while an additional 17% use this source several times a week. This may be the result of the lower purchasing power of the region, but since Cyprus and Poland are at the lower end of the scale (followed only by Romania), there could be other reasons for this difference.

¹⁰ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 4.1

News Readership of Daily Papers

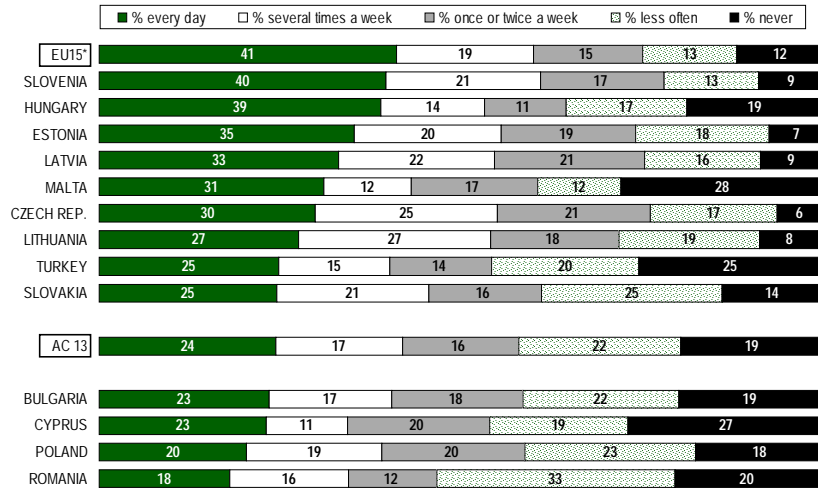


Fig. 1.5b
 Source: Applicant Countries Eurobarometer 2001.1 October, 2001
 *Source: Standard Eurobarometer 55.1, Apr-May, 2001
 Question: About how often do you ... read the news in daily papers? (Show card with scale, read out)
 (Don't know and 'No answer' not shown)

News listenership on the radio

Almost equal proportions of respondents in the Candidate Countries and in the EU listen to the radio news either every day (38% in the Candidate Countries and 41% in the Member States) or several times a week (15 and 19%, respectively). The radio plays an important role in providing news on daily basis for Hungarians and Estonians (62% both), while in Turkey only one in five people listens to radio news every day.

News Listenership on the Radio

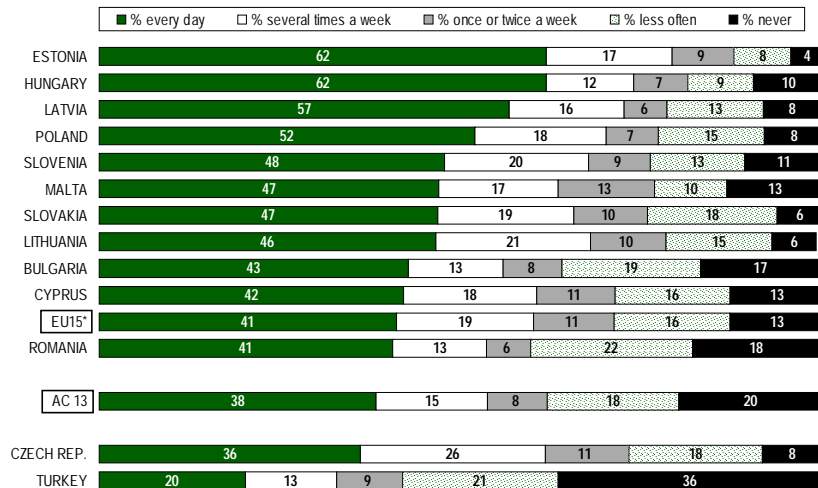
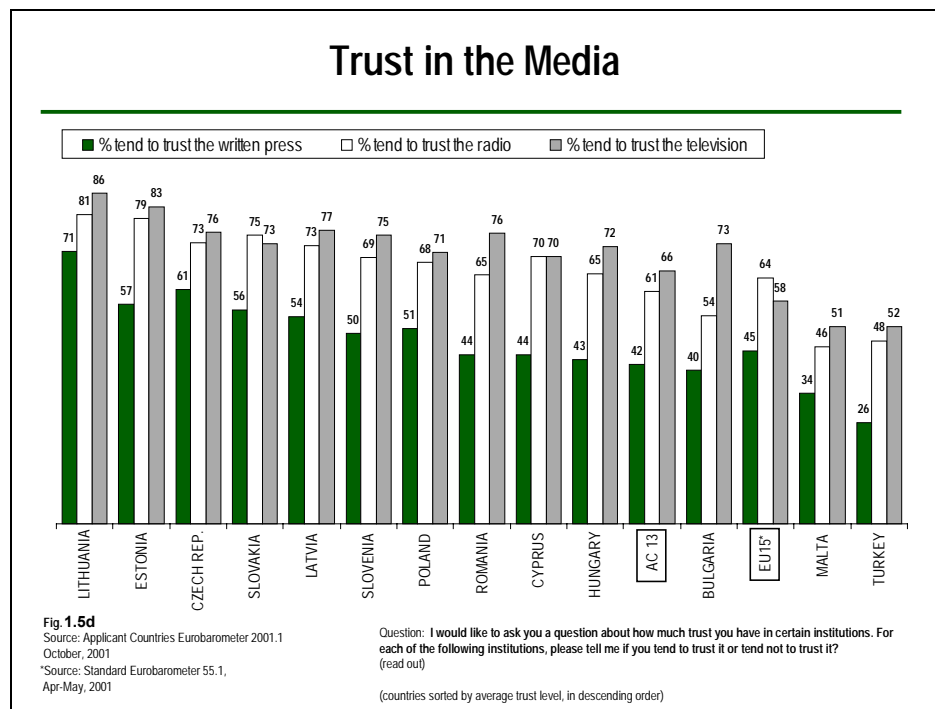


Fig. 1.5c
 Source: Applicant Countries Eurobarometer 2001.1 October, 2001
 *Source: Standard Eurobarometer 55.1, Apr-May, 2001
 Question: About how often do you ... listen to the news on the radio? (Show card with scale, read out)
 (Don't know and 'No answer' not shown)

Trust in the media

Eurobarometer also measured the level of trust in the printed press and in the electronic media. In the Candidate Countries, the Press is trusted even less than within the European Union¹¹. Television remains the most trusted source of information: in the Candidate Countries, 66% of respondents say that they tend to trust television (EU15: 58%); 61% say they tend to trust the radio (EU15: 64%), and 42% say they tend to trust the press (EU15: 45%).



The country-by-country findings show that people generally follow the same pattern everywhere, whereas actual levels of trust vary on a wide range. Confidence in **radio** is highest in Lithuania (81%), Estonia (79%), and Slovakia (75%), and lowest in Malta (46%), Turkey (48%) and Bulgaria (54%).

Trust levels for **television** are highest in the three Baltic States: Lithuania (86%), Estonia (83%), and Latvia (77%), and lowest in Malta (51%) and Turkey (52%).

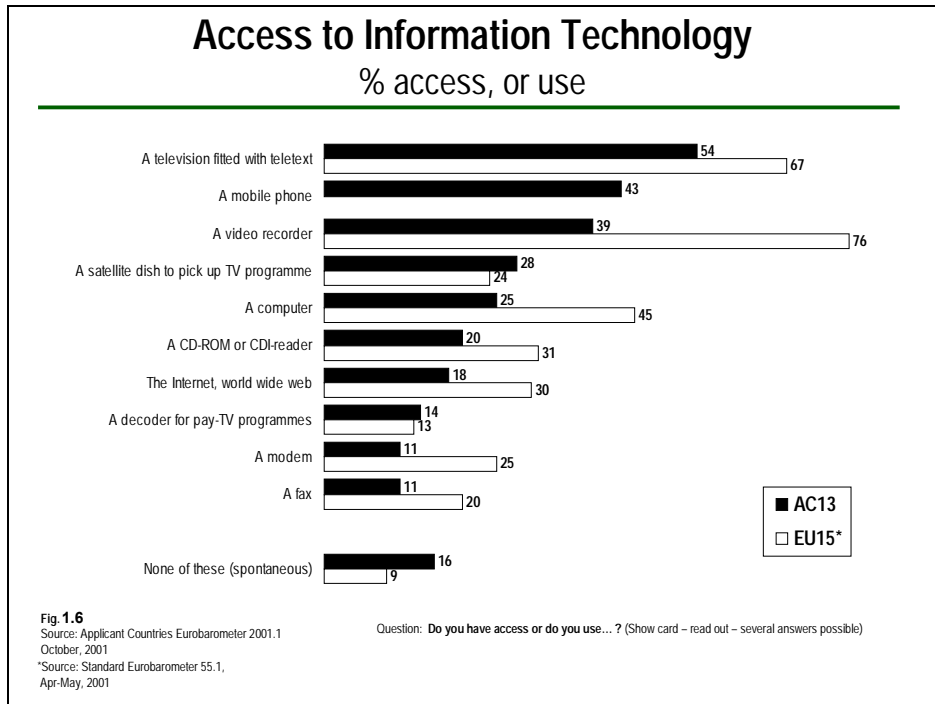
Trust levels for the **press** are highest in Lithuania (71%), the Czech Republic (61%), and Estonia (57%), and lowest in Turkey (26%), where there is very low confidence in all three media. (Table 1.10)

¹¹ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 1.3

1.6 Access to modern information technology

The survey also measures the extent to which people have access to information technology. In this respect the Candidate Countries lags significantly behind the European Union¹². Access is most widespread for traditional means such as a television fitted with teletext (54%), and a video recorder (38%), but mobile phones that are increasingly used for information services are accessible for a good proportion (43%) of the citizens, as well¹³.

The proportion of people who do not have access to any of the means of information listed in the survey (16%) is almost twice as high as in the European Union (9%).

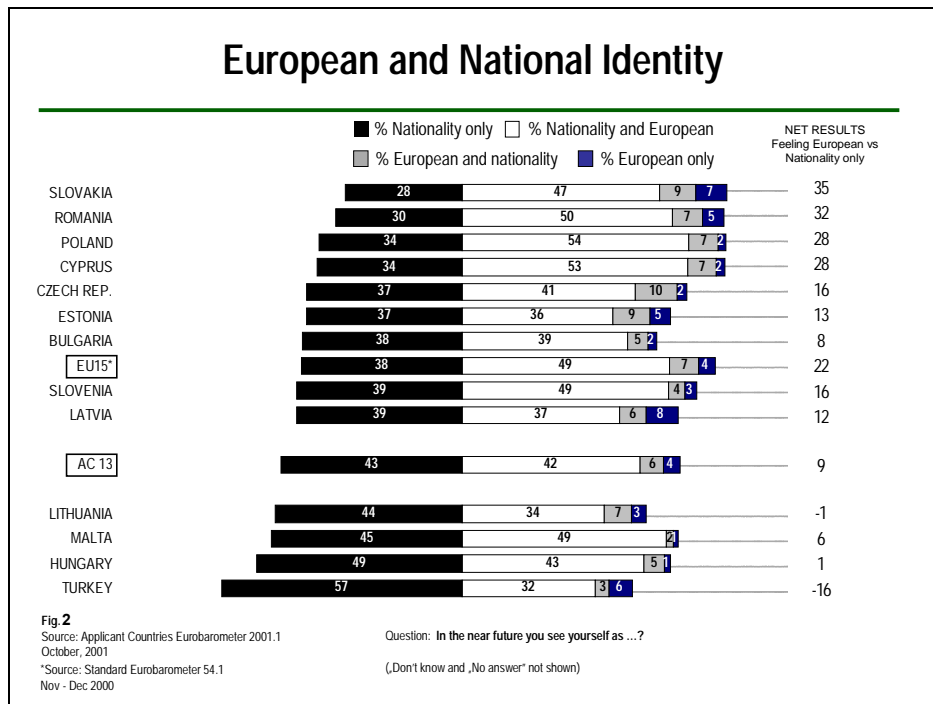


¹² EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 4.1

¹³ Mobile phone access was not measured in Standard Eurobarometer 55.1.

2. Attachment to nationality and identification with Europe

When asked how they see themselves in the near future, people who say that they feel European are in the majority in 9 of the 15 Member States¹⁴. Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found only two countries in the Candidate Countries where national identity remains the primary source of self-definition of the majority of respondents, as opposed to the idea of belonging to Europe. In the other eleven countries, those who see themselves as European to some extent in the near future outnumber those who expect to continue to identify themselves with their nationality only, though – just as in the Member States – most respondents do not regard themselves as exclusively European. But we should not assume that this results from very high levels of attachment to Europe in the Candidate Countries: in fact, while on average 60% of EU citizens associate their identity with Europe, we find only 52% sharing this feeling in the Candidate Countries. Rather, the main difference between the regions is the small number of the countries where a sense of national identity is as strong as in some of the Member States. In the EU, we find five Member States where national attachment determines the identity of the absolute majority of the people. In the Candidate Countries, Turkey was the only country where more than 50% told us they would see themselves 'Turkish only' in the near future.



We find that people in Latvia are most likely to feel European only (8%), followed by people in Slovakia (7%). In all other countries, 5% or less of the population shares this feeling. When we include people who feel somewhat European, again Slovakia tops the list at 63%, followed by Poland and Cyprus (both 62%). The four other countries where people who feel (to some extent) European are in the majority are Slovenia (55%), the Czech Republic (53%), Latvia and Malta (both 51%). As mentioned before, in Turkey (57%), national identity is clearly the prevailing sentiment.

The demographic analyses show that managers (74%), people who are still studying (69%) and those who left full-time education aged 20 or older (69%) are most likely to feel European to some extent. Fifty eight percent of men, but only 47% of women share this feeling.

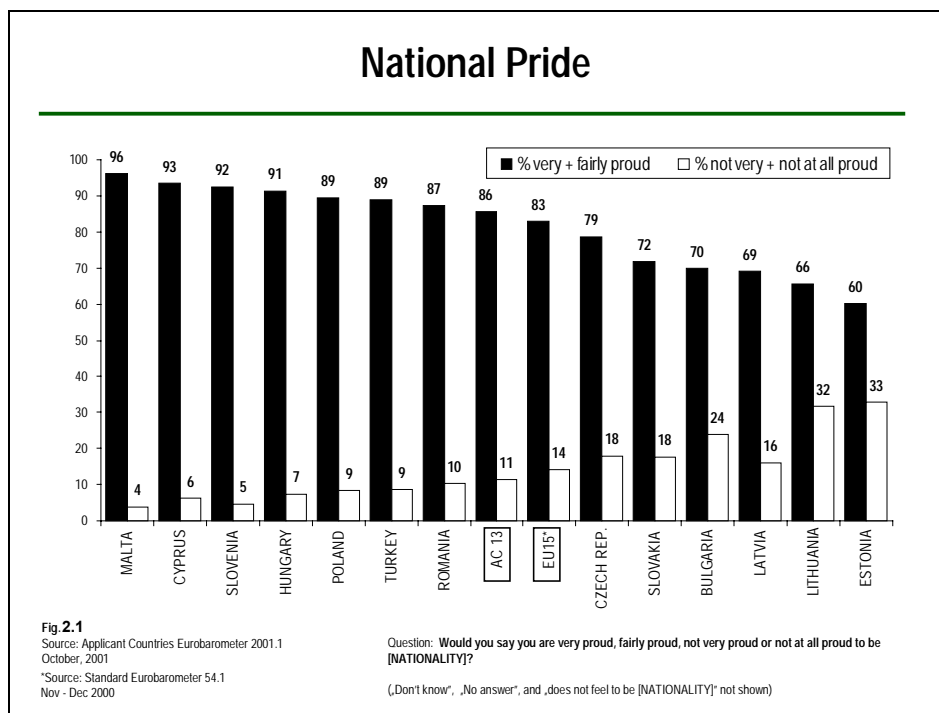
¹⁴ EB54.1, Winter 2000, Chapter 2.2

Housepersons (62%) and people who left school before the age of 15 (57%) are most likely to identify with their own nationality.

The attitudinal analyses shows that 65% of people who regard their country's membership to the European Union as a good thing feel European to some extent. At the other extreme we find that 73% of people who regard their country's membership as a bad thing identify with their own nationality.

2.1 National pride

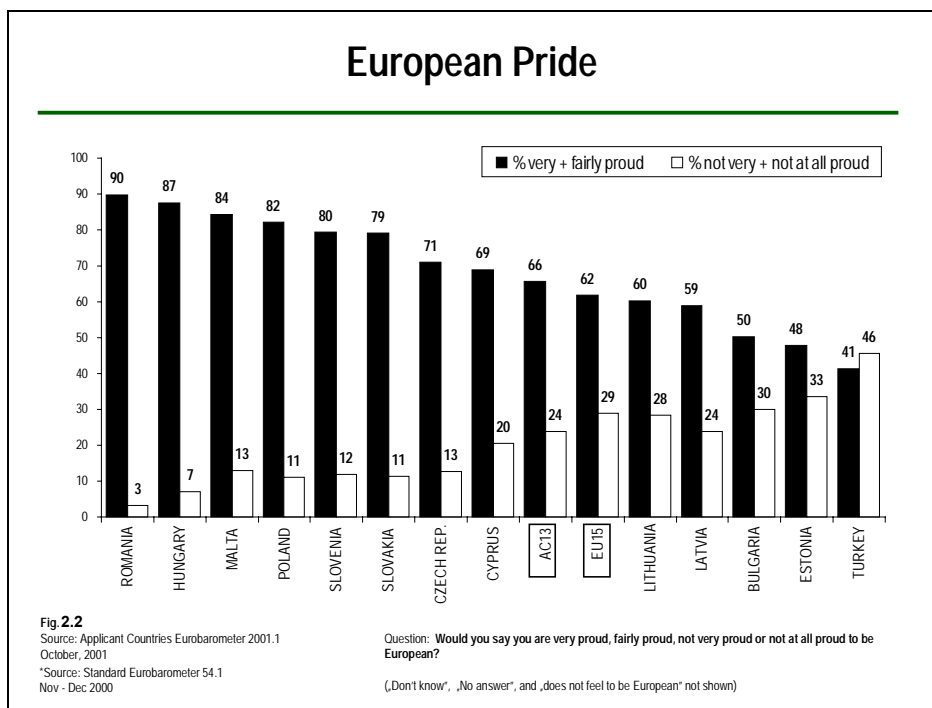
The following graph shows that the extent to which people are proud of their nationality varies greatly from country to country. On average, the levels of national pride in the Member States (83%) and in the Candidate Countries (86%) are very similar. People in Malta are most likely to feel proud (97%) and levels of national pride are also high in Cyprus (93%), in Slovenia (92%), and in Hungary (91%), whilst people in the Baltic region are least likely to share this view. (See also Table 2.2a in Appendix)



2.2 European pride

When respondents are asked about how proud they are to be European, levels of pride vary considerably across the Candidate Countries (66%), but are, on average, slightly higher than in the Member States (62%). Those who are proud to be European are most likely to be found in Romania (90%, with almost two thirds of Romanians said they are very proud to be Europeans), Hungary (87%), Malta (84%), Poland (82%), Slovenia (80%) and Slovakia (79%). Levels of pride are lowest in Turkey (41%) in Estonia (48%) and Bulgaria (50%). In all countries except Turkey, people who feel proud to be European outnumber those who do not feel proud. (Table 2.3a)

Demographic analyses show no significant differences between men and women. Education is an important determinant of people's pride in being European. Seventy seven% of people who are still studying feel proud to be European, followed by 73% of people who stayed in full-time education until the age of 20 or older. Even those who were in education until 16 to 19 years of age score high in this respect (75%). Those who left school before they reached the age of 15 are at 53% the educational group who are least likely to feel proud to be European. Among the various occupational groups we find that managers are most likely to feel proud (75%). Self-employed people (54%) and housepersons (53%) are least likely to feel proud. However, there is no demographic group with pride levels below 50%.



One might think that high levels of national pride would 'prevent' high levels of European pride, as these sentiments are mutually exclusive. In fact, the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found a weak but positive, statistically significant correlation between the two feelings. In other words, a high level of national pride makes an individual slightly more likely to be proud of being European as well¹⁵.

¹⁵ Pearson correlation: 0.178, significant at 0.01 level

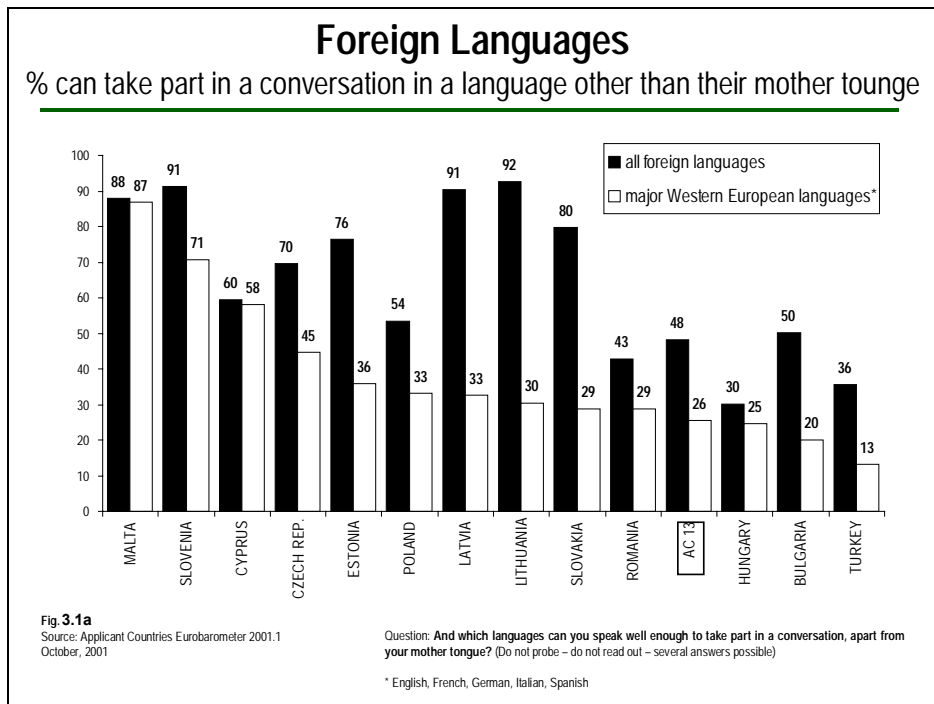
3. Contact with other countries and cultures

3.1 Languages

Knowledge of foreign languages

Almost half of the population in Candidate Countries can take part in a conversation in a language other than their mother tongue (48%), a figure which is higher than that which Eurobarometer found in the Member States¹⁶ (47%). However, there is a significant difference in the composition of the known foreign languages in the Candidate Countries.

Two factors explain this high level of bi- or multilingualism. On the one hand, several nations in this region speak a Slavic language and these people can converse to some extent with other Slavic speaking people with little difficulty (Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria). On the other hand, there are large ethnic minorities in some of these countries, who speak the official language of their countries as a "second language".



The foreign-language ranking is topped by those countries where, until recently, the official language was different from the present one. The exception is Malta where English has been the official language, along with Maltese, for quite a while. At the very top of the ranking we find Lithuania, a post-Soviet country with a large Russian minority, followed by Latvia and Slovenia, which seceded from Yugoslavia about ten years ago. And at the bottom of the list we find those countries whose native languages have no linguistic relatives in the region: Turkish speaking Turkey, Romania, with her Latin language, and Finno-Ugric Hungary.

It may be more interesting to see the extent to which people living in the Candidate Countries are familiar with the most widely spoken Western European languages. Overall, 26% of the

¹⁶ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 5.2

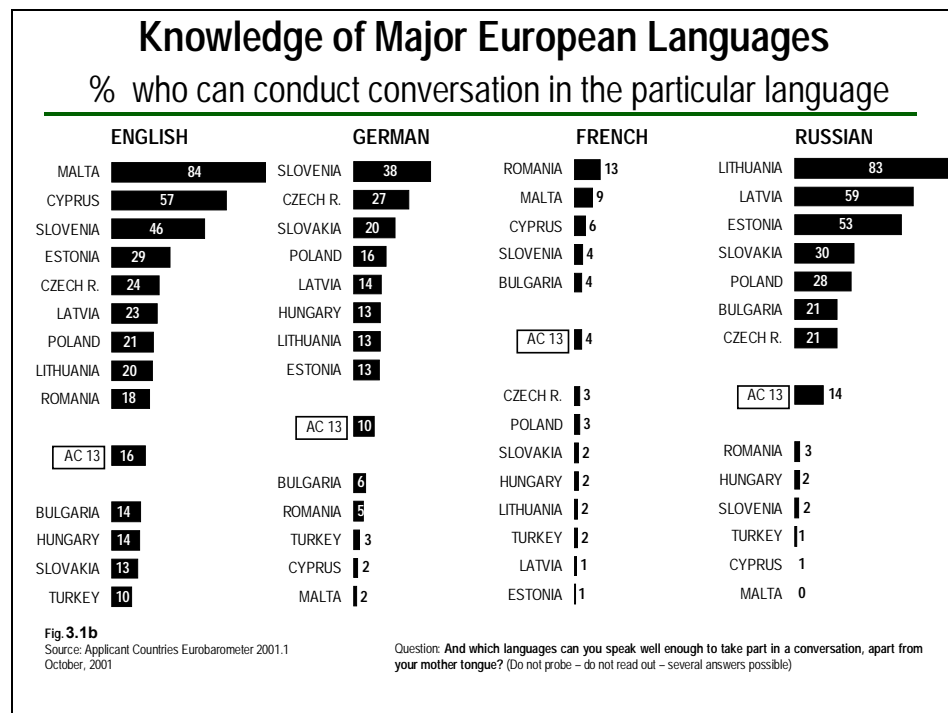
citizens of the Candidate Countries are able to converse in English, German, French, Italian, or Spanish. After Malta, Slovenia is the country where most people speak a Western European language: 71% of the adults and teenagers report that they can take part in a conversation in at least one of the five major Western European languages, followed by Cyprus (58%) and the Czech Republic (45%). On the other hand, the Turkish are the least likely to speak one of the major Western European languages (13%), followed by Bulgarians (20%), and by Hungarians, of whom only one in four people speaks English, German, French, Spanish or Italian.

On average, among the citizens of the Candidate Countries, 18% can take part in a conversation in English; one in ten speaks German, 4% speak French, and 14% speak Russian. In terms of **English** knowledge, Malta is in first place with 84% English proficiency, followed by Cyprus (57%), and Slovenia (46%). Relatively few people speak English in Turkey (10%), Slovakia (13%), Bulgaria, and Hungary (both 14%).

German knowledge is the most widespread in Slovenia, with 38% of Slovenians speaking German well enough to take part in a conversation. The Czech Republic comes second (27%), and Slovakia third (20%). On the other hand, it is very difficult to use German in Cyprus, Malta or Turkey, where less than 3% of the people speak this language.

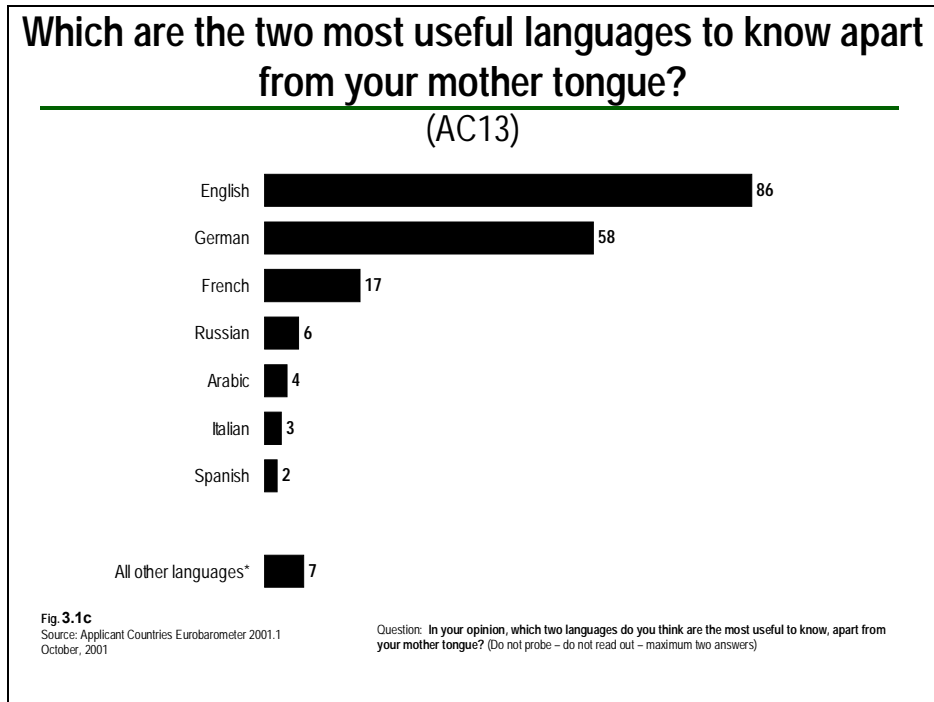
French is the least popular among these languages in the Candidate Countries. The Romanians are the most likely to understand French, with 13% of the population speaking the language. Nine percent and 6% speak at least basic French in Malta and Cyprus, respectively. In Estonia and Latvia only one percent of our respondents said they were able to conduct a basic conversation in this language.

However, **Russian** speakers have a much better chance of being understood in the majority of the Candidate Countries. Although the average standard of Russian proficiency is not very high, because two of the largest countries have practically no Russian speakers (Turkey 1%, and Romania 3%) in seven of the thirteen countries surveyed we found that at least one in five people spoke Russian. In the Baltic States, in particular, there is a very high level of Russian proficiency with Lithuania being the first on the list (83%).



Which foreign languages are the most useful to know?

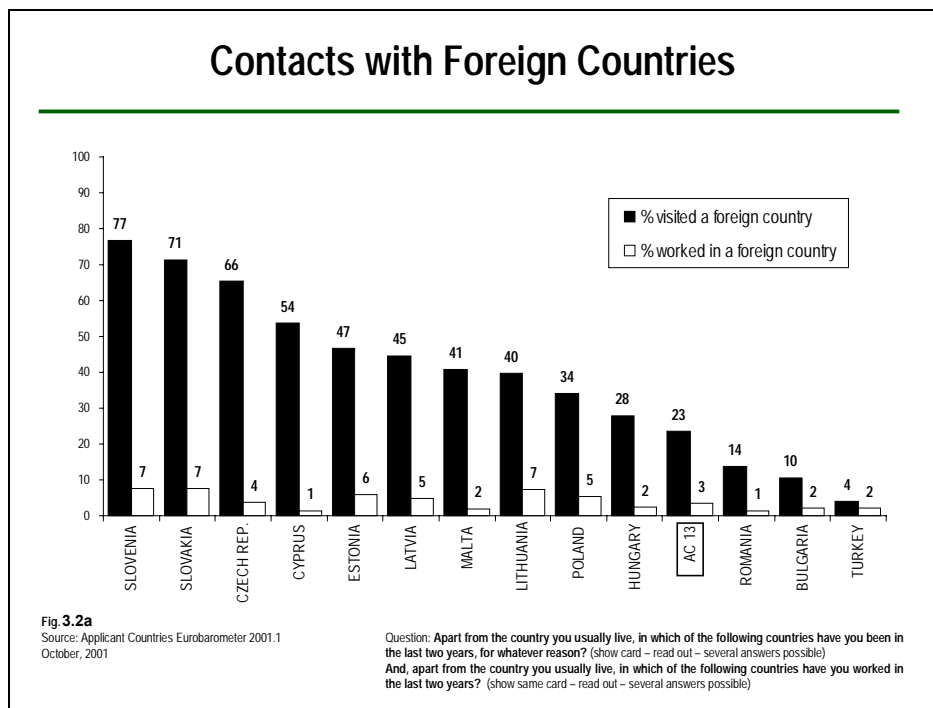
Having already noted that English is the most widely known foreign language, it is not surprising to find that it is also most widely considered as the language that is most useful to know in addition to the mother tongue. Eighty seven percent of respondents chose English as one of the two most useful languages. Russian, however, which is almost as widespread as English, was only mentioned by 6% as one of the most important foreign languages. Fifty eight percent selected German, while 17% favoured French. Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found 4% of respondents who said that Arabic is one of the two most useful languages to know, ahead of Italian (3%) and Spanish (2%).



3.2 Contacts with foreign countries

While one in four citizens living in an Applicant Country has visited at least one foreign country in the past two years (24%), the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found very few respondents who had worked in another country (3%). When we examine visits to other countries, we find large variations among the countries investigated. On the other hand, there is much less variation in patterns of past work-experience in foreign countries: the ratio of those who have been recently working abroad ranges from 1% to 7%. The highest proportions were found in Slovenia, Slovakia and Lithuania (7% each). On the other hand, only 1% of Romanians and Cypriots told us that they had worked abroad. In each of Malta, Bulgaria, and Turkey, the figure was 2%.

Looking at visits in other countries, the ratios range from 4% in Turkey to 77% in Slovenia. After Slovenians, Slovaks (71%) and Czechs (66%) are the most likely to have visited a foreign country in the past two years. Bulgarians (10%) and Romanians (14%) are, though to a lesser extent than the Turkish, not very likely to travel abroad.

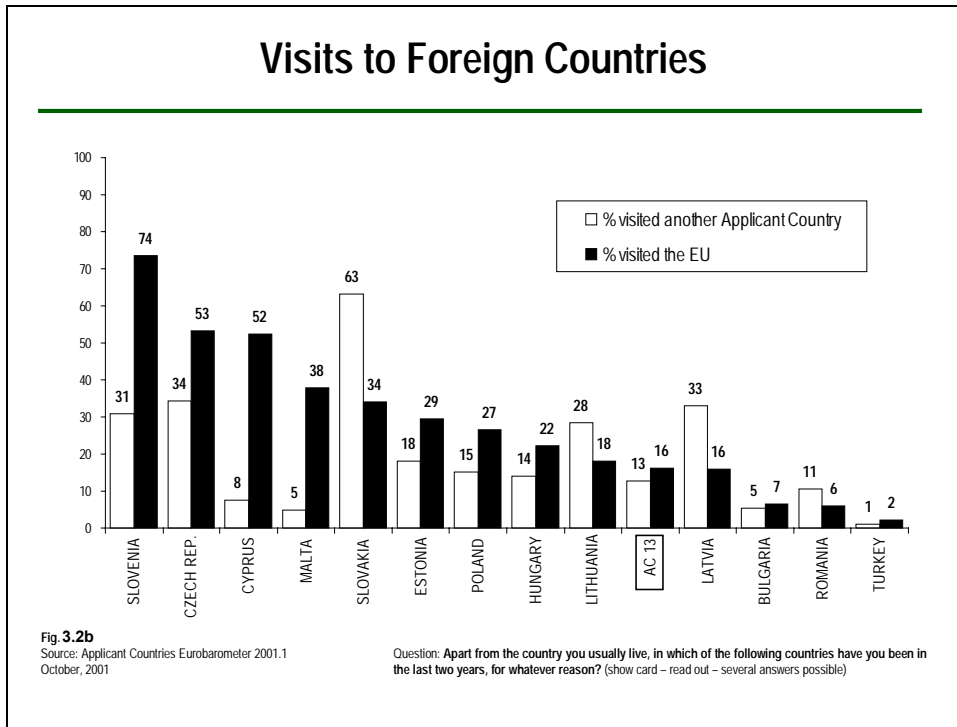


It is more likely that those who have been working abroad have been working in the European Union than in another Applicant Country. Five percent of Poles, Slovenians, and Lithuanians had worked in one of the Member States of the European Union in the past two years.

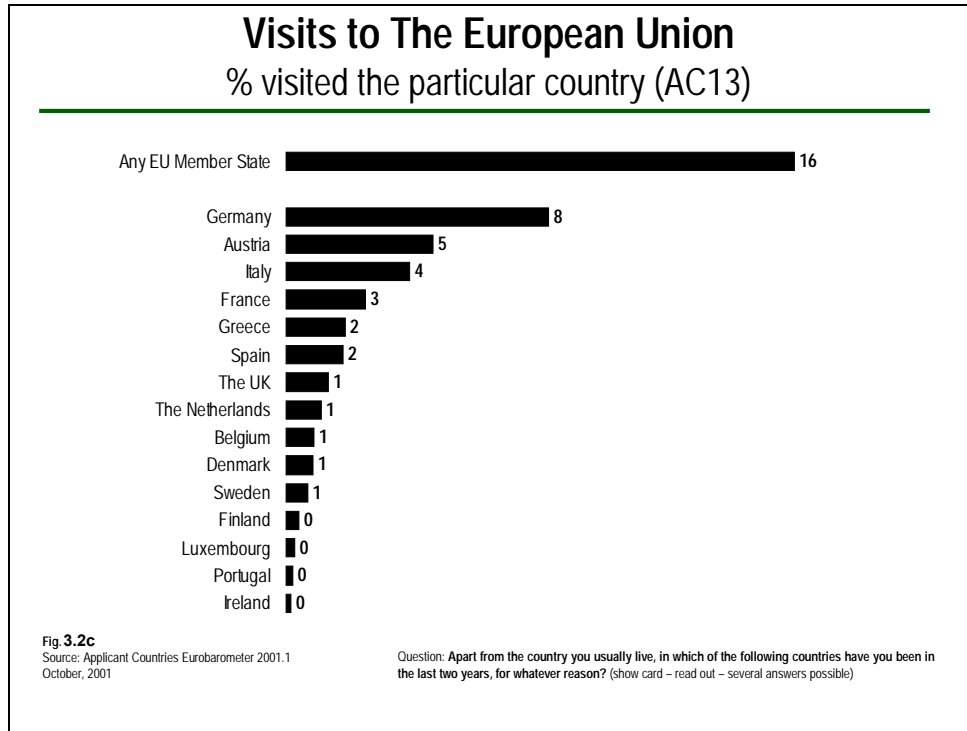
Table 3.2 Work experience abroad

	% worked in another Applicant Country	% worked in the EU		% worked in another Applicant Country	% worked in the EU
SLOVENIA	2	5	AC 13	1	2
POLAND	0	5	MALTA	0	2
LITHUANIA	1	5	HUNGARY	1	2
SLOVAKIA	4	4	BULGARIA	0	2
ESTONIA	1	4	CYPRUS	0	1
CZECH REP.	1	3	TURKEY	0	1
LATVIA	2	3	ROMANIA	1	0

If we investigate foreign visits in the same breakdown, we find that some countries are significantly more likely to send visitors to the Member States than to other countries. Slovenia tops the list of EU visits as well: 74 % of the Slovenian teenager and adult population have visited the European Union in the past two years. The Czechs (53%) and the Cypriots (52%) are also rather likely to have travelled in the EU lately. On the other hand the well-travelled Slovaks are more likely to have visited another Applicant Country than the European Union. Similarly, in two of the Baltic States, travellers were more likely to have visited countries in the Candidate Countries than in the EU (Lithuania: 33% AC vs 18% EU; Latvia: 33% vs 16%). Maltese and Cypriots – relatively frequent travellers to the EU – rarely visit another Applicant Country.



Among those who visited an EU country in the past two years, Germany was the most likely destination: 8%, half of those who visited an EU country in the past two years, visited Germany (as well). It is followed by Austria (5%) and Italy (4%). Ireland, Portugal, Luxemburg and Finland are the least popular destinations: each of these countries was visited by less than 1% of respondents in the past two years.



4. General attitudes towards the European Union

This Chapter introduces the reader to general sentiments and attitudes towards the EU in the Candidate Countries. It looks at the different meanings of the European Union and the meanings of being a *citizen* of the European Union. Later in this Chapter, we will look at the standard indicators of support for the European Union in the Candidate Countries. These are the main trend-indicators of support for the Union, and are surveyed for the first time in the Candidate Countries: the image of the EU, people's feelings towards the European Union i.e. does it conjure up a positive image for those who live in the Candidate Countries. Levels of support for European Union membership are discussed here along with the perceived benefit from EU membership. The Chapter also analyses people's trust in the European Union and in nine of its institutions and bodies. Finally, it reports on support for joint EU decision-making, and the expected and desired future role of the European Union in these countries.

4.1 Spontaneous image and meaning of the EU

In this section of the chapter, we examine the context under which the European Union is interpreted in the Candidate Countries, i.e. what does membership of the European Union mean for the people of the Candidate Countries.

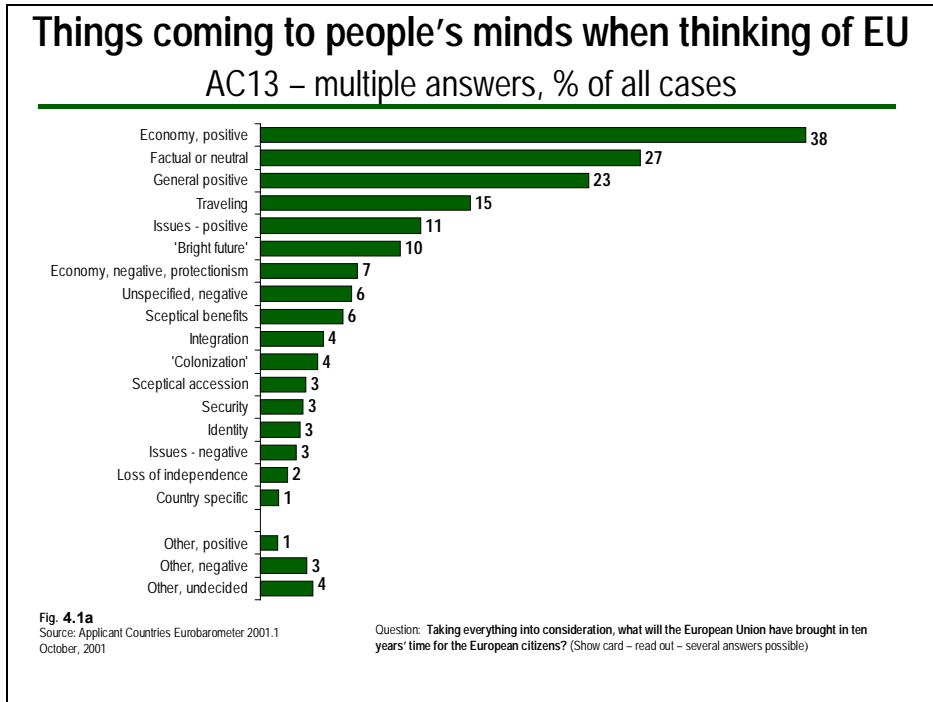
First we will look at the unaided responses: what comes to people's minds if they think of the European Union. Then we look at how these thoughts add up: do people have a positive or a negative image of the European Union as a whole. We will also investigate how people see certain aspects of the European Union.

What comes to mind when people think of the European Union

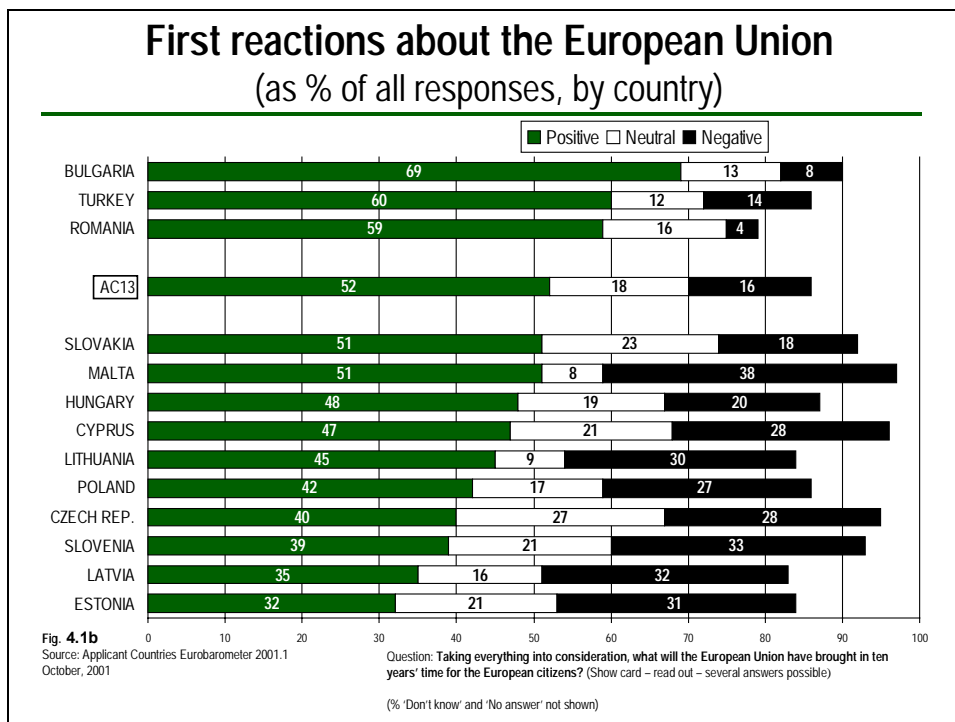
The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer asked the respondents to tell us what their first thoughts were when they had to say something about the European Union. We left this question open-ended the better to explore the underlying structure of opinions about the EU. We collected almost 20,000 verbatim statements from the thirteen countries and grouped these into 17 substantive answer categories, as follows:

Table 4.1a Categories applied in the analysis of open ended questions

Positive categories	Negative categories	Neutral categories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integration helps ▪ Economically positive ▪ Unspecified positive statements based on emotions or general image perception ("General positive") ▪ Bright future ▪ Enhanced (military) security ▪ Travelling, visa, movement of labour ▪ Issues, policies – positive ▪ Other, positive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economically negative, protectionism Unspecified, negative emotions, hostile statements ▪ Loss of political independence ▪ Colonization ▪ Issues, policies - negative ▪ Identity issues; nationalistic or xenophobic attitudes ▪ Sceptical about accession ▪ Sceptical about benefits ▪ Other, negative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Factual or neutral statements ▪ Country-specific issues ▪ Other, undecided (statements, which can hold both positive or negative meanings)



The majority of people in the Candidate Countries have a positive image of the Union, mainly for economic reasons. The Union is seen as the source of prosperity and the guarantee of richness. The six most frequent answer categories are positive or neutral. The most frequent negative answer category ("Economy negative, protectionism") was mentioned only by 7% of the respondents. Thirty eight percent of all respondents, when asked for their first thoughts about the European Union, came up with a statement expressing **positive expectations regarding the economy of their own country**, 27% of the respondents gave us at least one **neutral, factual response** (e.g. the flag, enlargement), and 23% responded with **general positive statements** (saying, for instance, that the EU is a "good thing").



Half of all collected responses (52%) were positive on average in all thirteen countries covered by the survey. Sixteen percent were negative statements. If we look at respondents instead of responses, we find that 85% of people living in an Applicant Country had a positive concept of the European Union when asked for an off-the-cuff response, and only one in four gave us a statement with a negative connotation.

The Bulgarians are the most likely to react positively when asked to think about the EU (69% of all responses are positive), followed by the Turkish (60%) and the Romanians (59%). We find the highest ratio of negative responses in Malta (38%), in Slovenia (33%) and in Lithuania (30%).

The next table shows the three categories that Candidate Countries Eurobarometer used to classify the verbatim responses, which were mentioned the most in each Applicant Country. The **Economy, positive** category tops the list in 9 of the 13 Candidate Countries and takes second place in a further two countries. However, in Estonia and in the Czech Republic it doesn't make the top three. The **Factual, neutral** category tops the list in three Candidate Countries and comes in second or third place in eight countries. It does not make the top three in Malta and Turkey. **Economy negative, protectionism** tops the list in Malta, and ranks second or third in Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia and Slovenia. The **General positive** category does not have top ranking anywhere, but reaches the top three in six of the 13 countries. We find "**Travelling**" among the top three in four countries. Malta is the only country where "**Bright future**" ranks in the top three.

**Table 4.1b Three most frequent top-of-head thoughts about the European Union
(in % of all responses, by country)**

Bulgaria		Malta	
Economy, positive	67	Economy, negative, protectionism	31
General positive	26	Economy, positive	28
Factual or neutral	23	"Bright future"	15
Cyprus		Poland	
Economy, positive	27	Economy, positive	34
Economy, negative, protectionism	24	Factual or neutral	34
Factual or neutral	21	General positive	22
Czech Republic		Romania	
Factual or neutral	54	Economy, positive	41
Travelling	28	General positive	32
General positive	23	Factual or neutral	26
Estonia		Slovakia	
Factual or neutral	27	Economy, positive	37
Economy, negative, protectionism	16	Factual or neutral	35
Travelling	14	Travelling	29
Hungary		Slovenia	
Economy, positive	29	Factual or neutral	34
Factual or neutral	28	Economy, positive	24
General positive	21	Economy, negative, protectionism	17

Latvia

Economy, positive
22

Factual or neutral
21

Economy, negative, protectionism
10

Turkey

Economy, positive
45

Issues - positive
24

General positive
23

Lithuania

Economy, positive
26

Travelling
21

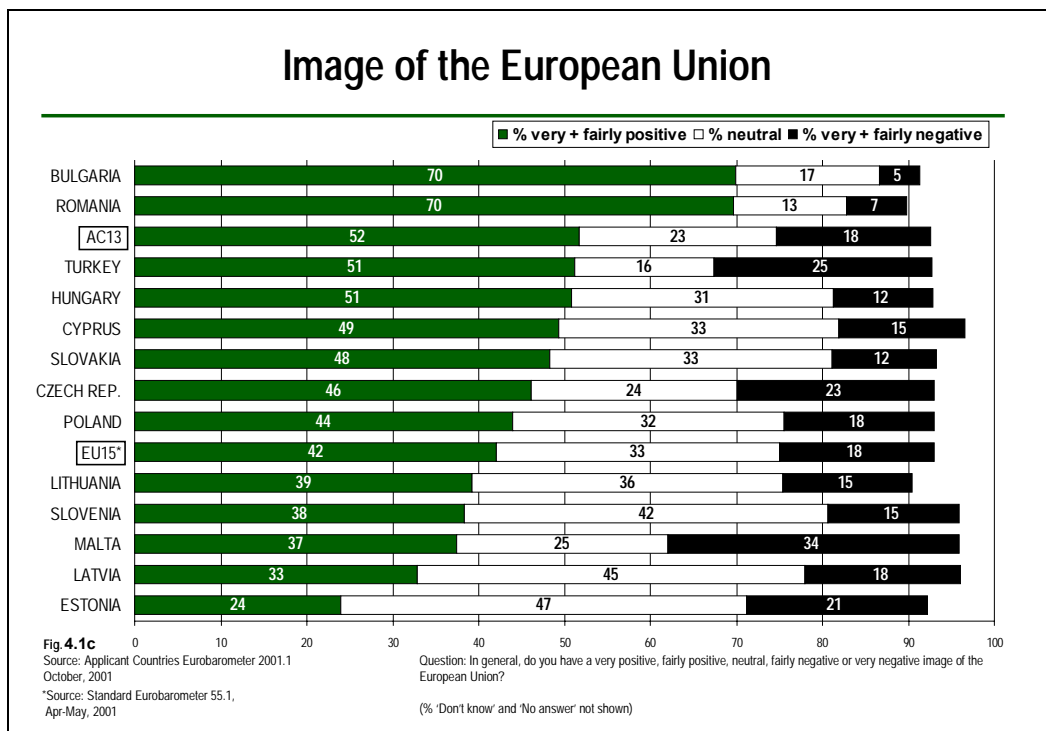
Factual or neutral
14

Image of the European Union

The answer to the following question provides an indication of people's emotional stance towards the European Union:

In general, does the European Union conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

On average, 52% of Candidate Countries citizens have a positive image of the European Union (of which 16% view it 'very positively'). This is 10 percentage points higher than the level Eurobarometer found within the European Union¹⁷ (42%). Twenty three percent view the EU in a neutral way. Only 18% say that the EU conjures up a negative image, of which 6% feel very negative.



As the graph above shows, more than half of the people in Bulgaria (70%), Romania (70%), Turkey (51%), and Hungary (51%) have a positive image of the EU. The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer did not find any countries where the majority view of the EU is negative. The worst image was found in Malta, where the population is split with 37% feeling positive, a quarter (25%) feeling neutral and a third (34%) feeling negative. Estonia is also split, but has many fewer respondents on the positive or negative side: Estonia is the country where the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found the highest proportion of those for whom the EU conjures up a neutral image (47%), followed by Latvia (45%) and Slovenia (42%). Accordingly, these countries do not score high on the positive side, although the number of those who view the EU positively outscore those who view it negatively.

An analysis of the various demographic groups in the population shows that 62% of those who are still studying say that the EU conjures up a positive image. Sixty two percent of managers and the youngest age group share this feeling. At 43%, the people aged over 55 years are the least likely to share this view. Besides the oldest age group, less than 50% of

¹⁷ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 2.3

the following groups have a positive view of the EU: retired persons (44%), self-employed (45%), the women (48%), those between 40 and 54 years of age and housepersons (both 49%).

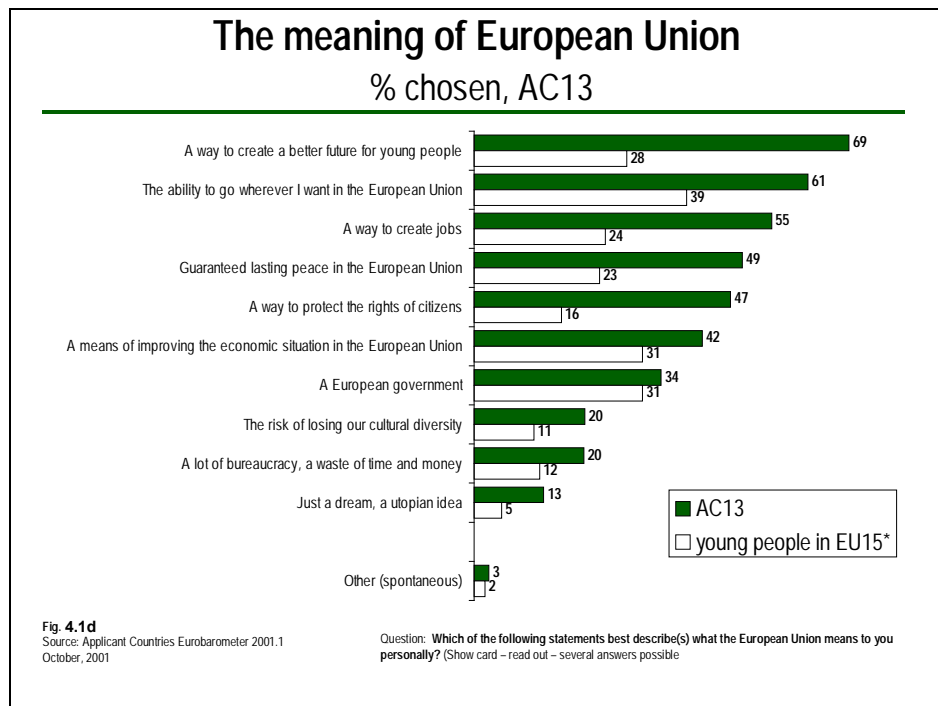
Furthermore, as one would expect, most people who support their country's EU membership have a positive image (78%) of the EU. Conversely, 77% of people who regard their country's membership as a bad thing have a negative image. (Appendix, Table 4.1b)

Meaning of the European Union

The last wave of the Standard Eurobarometer¹⁸ asked the young people of the European Union about the meaning that the EU held for them. The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer repeated these questions.

The citizens of Candidate Countries were shown a card with ten different statements about the European Union and were asked which one of these statements best described what the Union meant to them personally. Sixty nine percent said that the EU is a 'way to create a better future for young people' – only 28% of the young people living in the Member States shared this opinion. Freedom of movement was the second most important meaning of the EU, with 61% of our respondents choosing this statement as the one that best describes what the EU means for them personally. These two statements were among the top three mentions in all of the thirteen Candidate Countries.

More than half of the respondents living in the Candidate Countries (55%) agreed that the EU is a way to create jobs, and 49% told us that they see the EU as the guarantee of lasting peace in Europe. Relatively few, one in five, respondents said that the EU is a risk to the preservation of cultural diversity in Europe, or that the EU is just a big bureaucratic organization. Finally, just over one in ten respondents agreed that the EU is just a utopian idea (13%). While young people in the European Union see the EU mainly through its 'physical presence', the EU means 'European government' only for 34% of the applicant citizens.



¹⁸ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 6.1

Meaning of being a citizen of the European Union

Another question that was posed both of young European citizens and people in the Candidate Countries examined their awareness of the rights that accompany to EU citizenship. Generally, residents of the Candidate Countries are more likely to be aware of the rights conferred by European citizenship than are European citizens themselves. In both groups, freedom of movement is the most widely known liberty available to the European citizen (with 71% mentioning it in the Candidate Countries).

Sixty seven percent of people living in the Candidate Countries named the ability to study anywhere in the EU – those, however, who have direct experience of this are much less likely to agree that this is among the rights of a European citizen. In the Candidate Countries more than half of the people surveyed agreed that freedoms enjoyed by the European citizen are the right to move permanently to another Member State (64%), and the right of access to healthcare and social care in any of the Member States (57%). Relatively few are aware that EU citizens can vote in elections (local, national, or European) wherever they permanently reside.

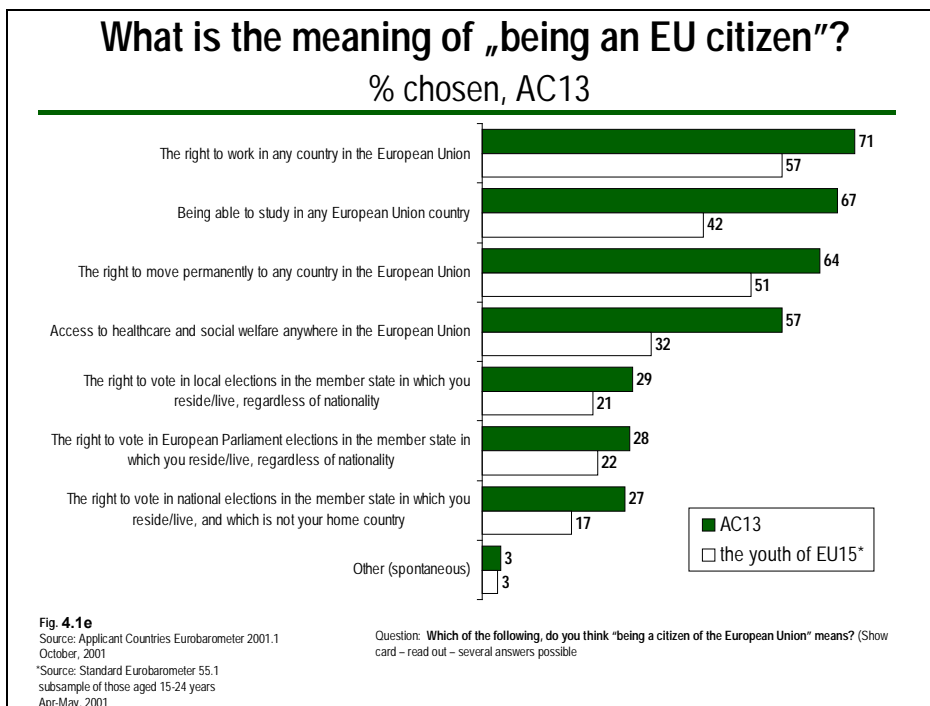


Table 4.1c on the next page shows the three most frequently mentioned rights of European citizens in each country. **The right to work** tops the list in six of the 13 Candidate Countries, comes in second place in five countries, and comes third in a further two states. This means that it ranks within the top three responses in each country. **The right to study anywhere within the Union** category tops the list in three Candidate Countries, comes in second or third place in eight countries. It does not reach the top three in Malta or Turkey. **The right to move permanently** tops the list in Malta and Turkey and comes second in all of the other countries, except for Slovenia, Bulgaria and Slovakia. In these countries **access to welfare** is given a ranking within the top three. (See also Table 4.3 in Appendix)

Table 4.1c Three most frequently mentioned rights of the European citizen (% , by country)

Bulgaria		Malta	
The right to work in any country in the European Union	70.3	The right to move permanently to any country in the European Union	62.9
Being able to study in any European Union country	63.4	The right to work in any country in the European Union	61.6
Access to healthcare and social welfare anywhere in the European Union	56.3	Being able to study in any European Union country	55.5
Cyprus		Poland	
Being able to study in any European Union country	80.3	The right to work in any country in the European Union	76.2
The right to move permanently to any country in the European Union	78.8	Being able to study in any European Union country	75.2
The right to work in any country in the European Union	75.7	The right to move permanently to any country in the European Union	67.9
Czech Republic		Romania	
The right to work in any country in the European Union	74.5	The right to work in any country in the European Union	74.3
Being able to study in any European Union country	71.7	Being able to study in any European Union country	65.0
The right to move permanently to any country in the European Union	61.5	The right to move permanently to any country in the European Union	63.5
Estonia		Slovakia	
Being able to study in any European Union country	78.2	The right to work in any country in the European Union	72.4
The right to work in any country in the European Union	76.8	Being able to study in any European Union country	70.7
The right to move permanently to any country in the European Union	67.6	Access to healthcare and social welfare anywhere in the European Union	54.4
Hungary		Slovenia	
The right to work in any country in the European Union	75.7	Being able to study in any European Union country	68.2
Being able to study in any European Union country	74.7	Access to healthcare and social welfare anywhere in the European Union	62.7
The right to move permanently to any country in the European Union	68.8	The right to work in any country in the European Union	61.4

Latvia

Being able to study in any European Union country
79.5

The right to work in any country in the European Union
74.9

The right to move permanently to any country in the
European Union
66.6

Turkey

The right to move permanently to any country in the
European Union
65.8

The right to work in any country in the European Union
64.0

Being able to study in any European Union country
60.0

Lithuania

Being able to study in any European Union country
75.2

The right to work in any country in the European Union
68.1

The right to move permanently to any country in the
European Union
57.6

4.2 Trust in the European Union and its institutions

If we look at the raw results, the European Union – together with the United Nations – is the most trusted international or supra-governmental organization in the Candidate Countries. One in six citizens in the Candidate Countries trusts the European Union and the United Nations (both 59%). Only NATO and the European Court of Human Rights have comparable trust levels in the Candidate Countries (56% each).



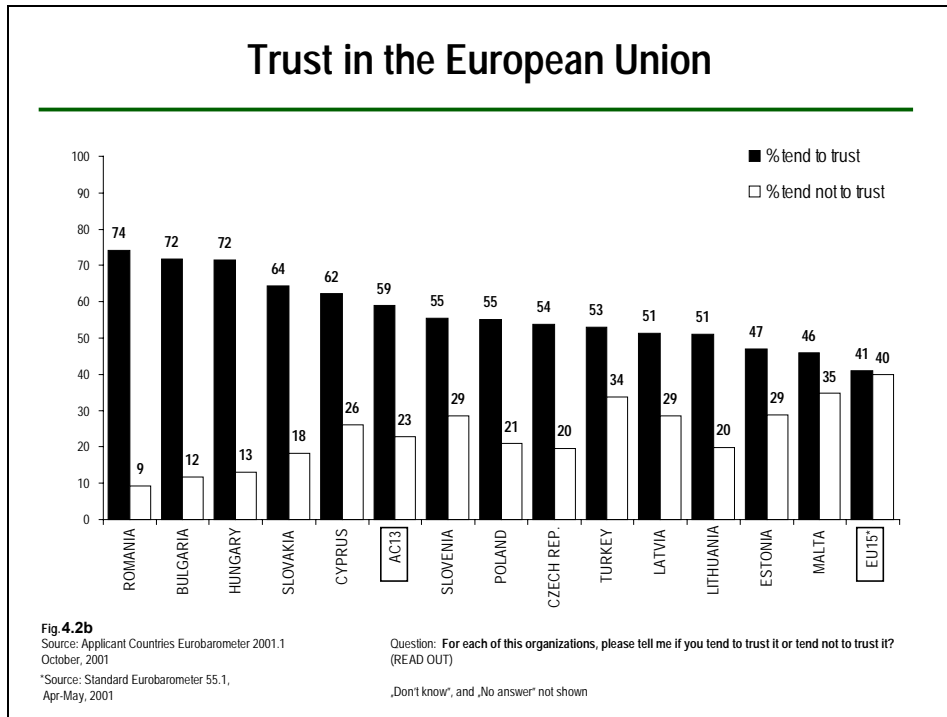
However, many respondents are not aware of many of these institutions, and accordingly, are likely to say that they do not know if they trust them or not. (About awareness of EU, international organizations, and European institutions and bodies see Chapter 5.1) Filtering out this effect¹⁹, we find that with 75% net percentage difference the European Court of Human Rights is the most trusted institution in the Candidate Countries, followed closely by the International Court of Justice (74% net percentage difference). The United Nations (66%), OSCE (63%), the European Union and the Council of Europe (both 61%), are ahead of NATO (58%) among the listed institutions.

¹⁹ To do so, we will analyze the net difference as the percentage of meaningful answers. For example, if an institutions is trusted by 20% and not trusted by 10% (the rest have no opinion) then the net percentage difference is $((20-10)/(20+10))*100=33$. If trust is 50% and mistrust is 30% (so the net difference is higher than in the previous case) the formula will produce a relatively smaller net percentage difference $((50-30)/(50+30))*100=25$

If trust is 30% and mistrust is 50% (i.e. higher levels of mistrust than of trust) then the net percentage difference will be negative $((30-50)/(30+50))*100= -25$.

Trust levels in the European Union

In the Candidate Countries only 12% of all respondents could not decide if they trusted the European Union or not; in the Member States, Eurobarometer²⁰ found that every fifth citizen did not have an opinion in this question. Within the EU, the level of trust towards the EU is lower (41% tend to trust and 40% tend not to trust it)



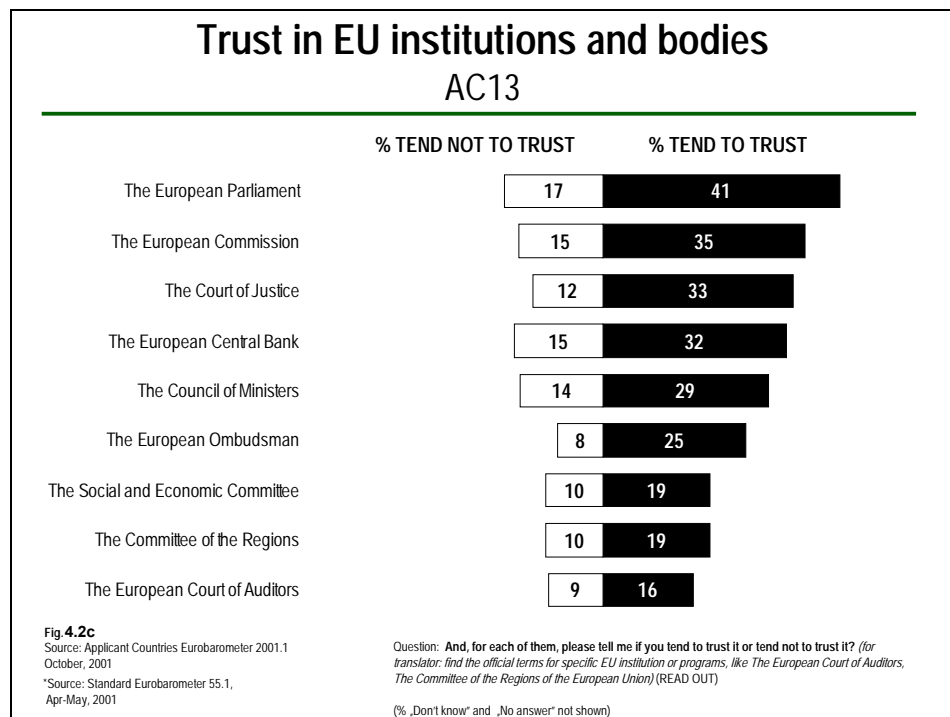
Country by country analyses show that there are large variations between the Candidate Countries. People in Romania are most likely to trust the European Union (74%) with more than seven in ten of the citizens of Bulgaria and Hungary (both 72%) sharing this view. Another nine countries have more than half of their public trusting the European Union. People in Malta (35%) and Turkey (34%) are most likely to lack trust, followed by people in Estonia, Latvia and Slovenia (29% each).

Demographic analyses show that men are more likely than women to both trust and to lack trust in the EU, with women more likely to lack an opinion. The two youngest age groups are significantly more likely (63% and 62% respectively) to trust the European Union than older people are. Among the various educational groups we find that people with the longest education are most likely to trust the EU (67%) while only 52% of people who left school before the age of 16 say that they trust it. At 69%, managers represent the occupational group that is most likely to trust the EU, while self-employed people and retired people are most likely to lack trust (54%) in the European Union.

Furthermore, the analyses show that 81% of people who regard their country's membership as a good thing trust the European Union, while 75% of those who regard it as a bad thing say they tend not to trust it. (Table 4.4b)

²⁰ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 2.4

Trust levels in the institutions and bodies of the European Union



The survey has measured the trust levels of the public in nine of the European Union's institutions and bodies²¹. The public is most likely to trust the European Parliament (41%), followed by the European Commission (35%) and the European Court of Justice (33%). People are least likely to trust the European Court of Auditors (16%), the Committee of the Regions and the Social and Economic Committee (both 19%). The rank order of the extent to which people trust these institutions and bodies reflects their awareness of these institutions. Since many people are not aware of most of these – as discussed in Chapter 5.1 – the probability of being unable to decide is very high, at the expense of both trust and distrust.

We apply again the calculation we used to examine trust in international institutions a few paragraphs above. The rank order by net percentage difference between the proportions of those who tend to trust and tend not to trust these institutions shows the European Ombudsman at the top (with 69 points net percentage difference). This is followed by the Court of Justice (64 points net percentage difference), the European Commission (59 points net percentage difference) and the European Parliament (58 points net percentage difference). The net percentage difference for the European Central Bank is 52 points, for the Council of Ministers is 50 points, for the Social and Economic Committee and the Committee of Regions is 47 points for both. Finally the European Court of Auditors has a net percentage difference of 40 points.

The following table ranks the thirteen Candidate Countries according to the extent to which they trust the nine listed institutions on average. In this respect Hungary leads the Candidate Countries: on average the nine institutions have 40% trust among Hungarians. This score is relatively high in Cyprus (34%), Slovenia and Romania (33%) as well. On the other hand the Turkish, Czech, Estonians, and Lithuanians have the lowest average trust in EU institutions with 22% each. In the Candidate Countries these institutions have a 27% average trust level.

²¹ The question asks about the extent to which people trust these institutions. Chapter 5.1 reports on whether respondents have ever heard of the institution in question..

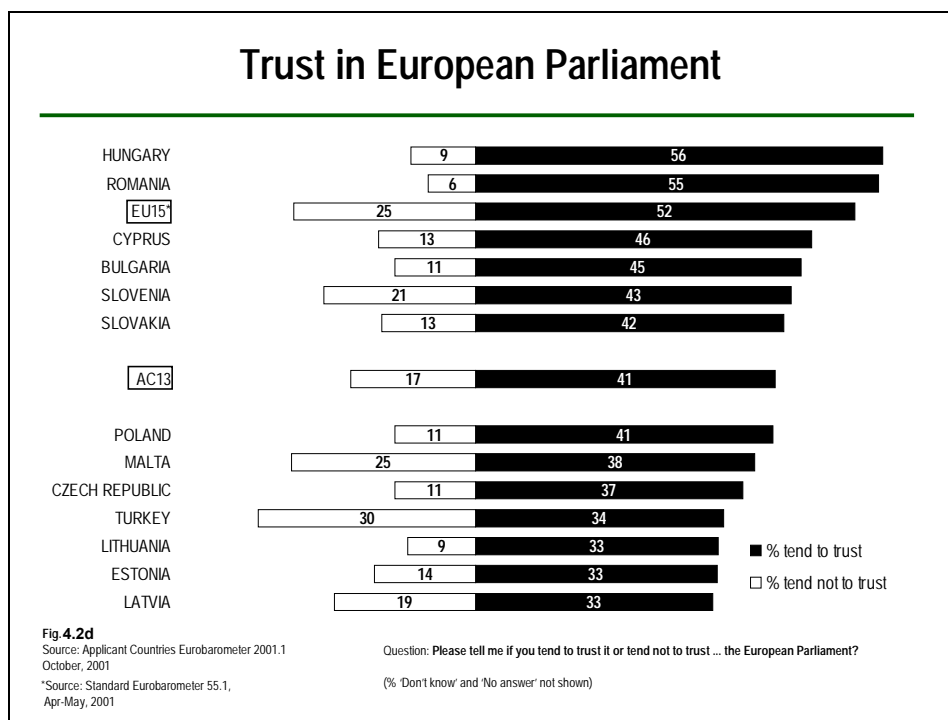
**Table 4.2 Trust in the institutions and bodies of the European Union
(Average trust level of 9 institutions & bodies, in % by country)**

Country	%	Country	%
HUNGARY	40	Average for AC13	27
CYPRUS	34	MALTA	26
SLOVENIA	33	LATVIA	24
ROMANIA	33	LITHUANIA	22
BULGARIA	30	CZECH REP.	22
SLOVAKIA	29	ESTONIA	22
POLAND	29	TURKEY	22

Looking at trust levels in the two most widely known institution of the European Union, we find similar rankings for the countries.

Trust in European Parliament

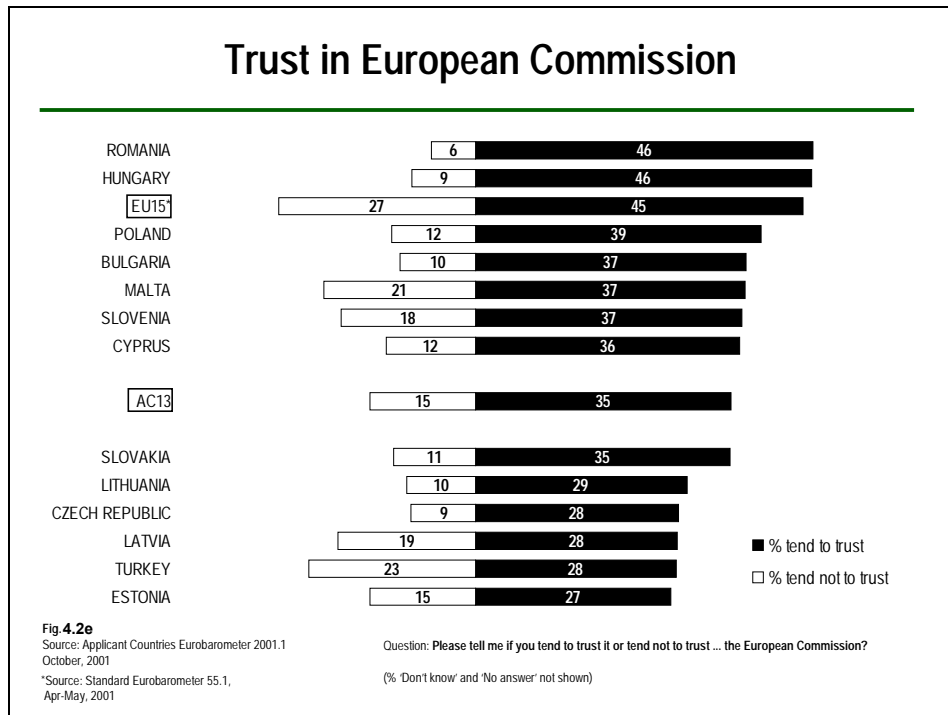
We now look in more detail at the country results for the European Parliament (EP). These show that people in Hungary (56%) and Romania (55%) are somewhat more likely to trust the EP than are citizens of the European Union²². However in all the other Candidate Countries trust levels are lower than the EU15 average, due to the significantly higher percentage of those who do not know this institution. People in Turkey (30%), Malta (25%) and Latvia are most likely to lack trust in the European Parliament.



²² EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 2.4

Trust in European Commission

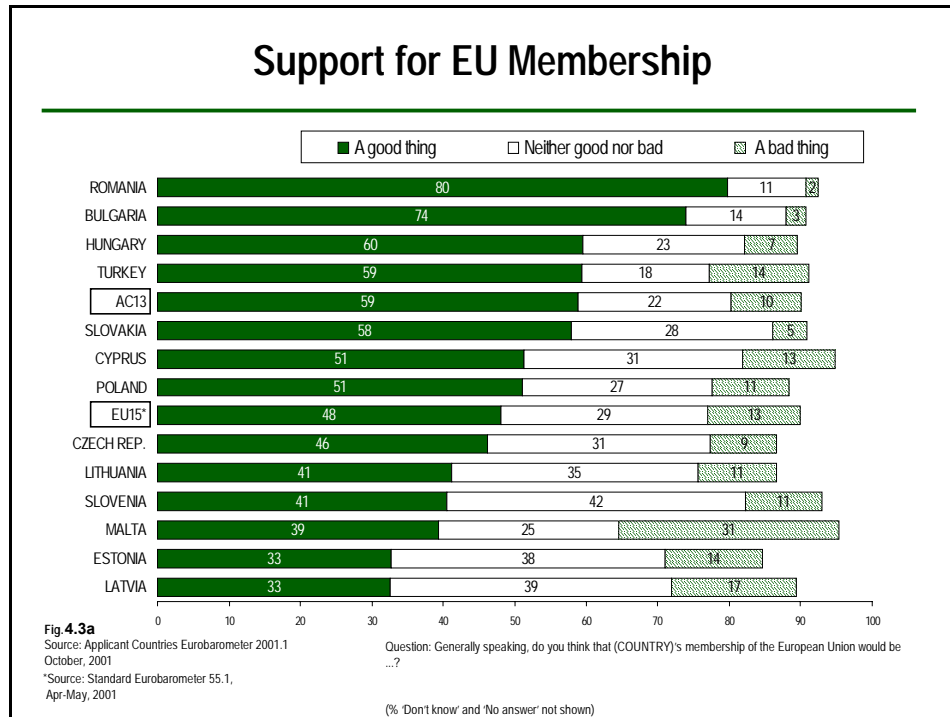
Looking at the country by country results for trust in the European Commission shows almost the same results. Hungarians and Romanians (46% both) top the list, and again, we find that they are more likely to trust the Commission than the European Union average. However, in the case of the European Commission we did not find any country where levels of mistrust reached the levels found in the Member States.



4.3 Support for European Union membership

Membership good thing or bad thing

In October 2001, 59% of people in the Candidate Countries regarded their country's future membership to the European Union as a good thing. The proportion of people who regarded their country's membership as a bad thing was only 10% on average in the region. A further 22% viewed their country's future membership in a neutral manner. The support for future membership in the region was higher than the support measured among present EU members (48%)²³.



The graph above shows that more than 8 in 10 people in Romania, and three in four respondents in Bulgaria support their country's membership of the European Union. Generally, the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found that levels of support for the EU were significantly higher in the countries that were not among the ten countries named as being most prepared to enter the Union in 2004. In Hungary (60%), Turkey (59%) and Slovakia (58%) about 6 in 10 people support their country's membership. In Cyprus and Poland (both 51%) support for EU membership is obtained from just over half of the population.

Opposition to EU membership ranges from 2% in Romania to 31% in Malta, but there is no country where those against EU membership outnumber those in favour.

It appears that men and women have different affinities for the idea of unified Europe. As with the Standard Eurobarometer, the demographic analysis shows that men are more likely than women to regard their country's future membership as a good thing (63% vs. 55%) and that women are significantly more likely than men to lack an opinion (13% vs. 6%). The importance of education as a powerful explanatory variable of attitudes to the European Union continues to show up in the analyses. Levels of support for the European Union vary with education with only 52% of people who left school aged 15 or younger seeing their country's membership as a good thing, compared to 67% of people who left full-time education aged 20 or older. Levels of support decrease by age, with those aged 15 to 24 significantly more likely (66%) than those aged 55 and over (50%) to support their country's

²³ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 2.1

membership. Analyses of the economic activity scale show a gap of 19 percentage points in support levels between managers (70%) on the one hand and retired people (51%) on the other hand.

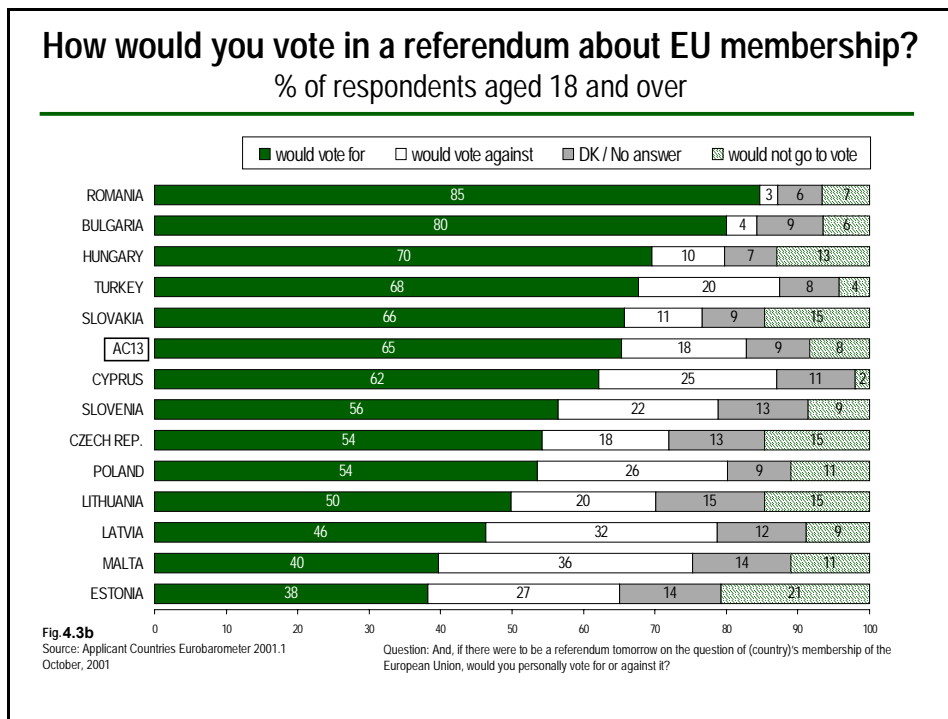
Those who say they know a great deal about the European Union are much more likely to regard their country's membership as a good thing (77%) than are those who have a medium level of knowledge (68%), or who said that they know little or nothing about the EU (46%). (Table 4.6b)

Referendum about membership

Respondents were also asked about a slightly different measure of support:

If there were to be a referendum tomorrow on the question of (country)'s membership of the European Union, would you personally vote for or against it?

This question is not a real predictor of the outcome of a referendum that would be held, because such a referendum is far from being on the agenda yet. It is used here more as a behavioural rather than an attitudinal measure of support²⁴. Also, we are asking about "tomorrow", thereby adding a time-dimension to the measure of popular support for EU membership.



As a result, we find in each Applicant Country that more people say they would vote for membership than people who say that membership would be a good thing.

Clearly, support and voting intention are very closely interrelated within the groups that have a clear positive or negative opinion on EU membership. Ninety four percent of those who said membership would be a good thing would also vote for membership, but only 5% of those who said that membership would be a bad thing would do the same. What is more important is that those who see European Union Membership as "neither good nor bad" are still more

²⁴ The survey did not include appropriate screening to determine eligibility or likelihood to vote. Once again, the reader is advised not to consider these results as accurate predictions of outcomes of a possible referendum. These numbers should be treated instead as indications of the possible orders of magnitude of such results across the thirteen countries, as of October 2001

likely to vote for (40%) than against membership (28%). The rest of these people would not vote or are undecided. (Table 4.7b)

On average, as of October 2001, a convincing majority of respondents in the Candidate Countries, comprising two thirds (65%) of the respondents of voting age in the Candidate Countries, declare that they would support their country's membership of the EU if a referendum were to be held on this issue. Eighteen percent would cast a vote against membership, 9% spontaneously told us that they would not vote, and a further 8% could not decide how they would vote.

Further analyses – see table below – show that at the time of the survey the majority of eligible respondents in all 13 countries would have voted in favour of joining the EU (79%)²⁵. The only country without a large majority in favour of accession is Malta, where only 53% of eligible respondents indicate that they would have voted in favour of EU membership.

	% for	% against		% for	% against
ROMANIA	97	3	SLOVENIA	72	28
BULGARIA	95	5	CYPRUS	72	28
HUNGARY	87	13	LITHUANIA	71	29
SLOVAKIA	86	14	POLAND	67	33
AC13	79	21	LATVIA	59	41
TURKEY	77	23	ESTONIA	59	41
CZECH REP.	75	25	MALTA	53	47

Nearly every eligible respondent would vote for membership in Romania (97%) and in Bulgaria (95%). Hungarian (87%) and Slovak voters (86%) are also extraordinarily supportive of membership in this question. More than 7 in 10 voters would approve of membership in Turkey (77%), the Czech Republic (75%), Slovenia (72%), Cyprus (72%) and Lithuania (71%). The Maltese voters are the most likely to vote against (47%), followed by Latvians and Estonians (41% both).

4.4 Perceived benefits of European Union membership

In this section we will examine not only the projected advantages of EU membership for the Candidate Countries, but also the expected personal benefits. We will also analyse who people think will be the winners as a result of accession, and who they suspect will be the losers from European integration.

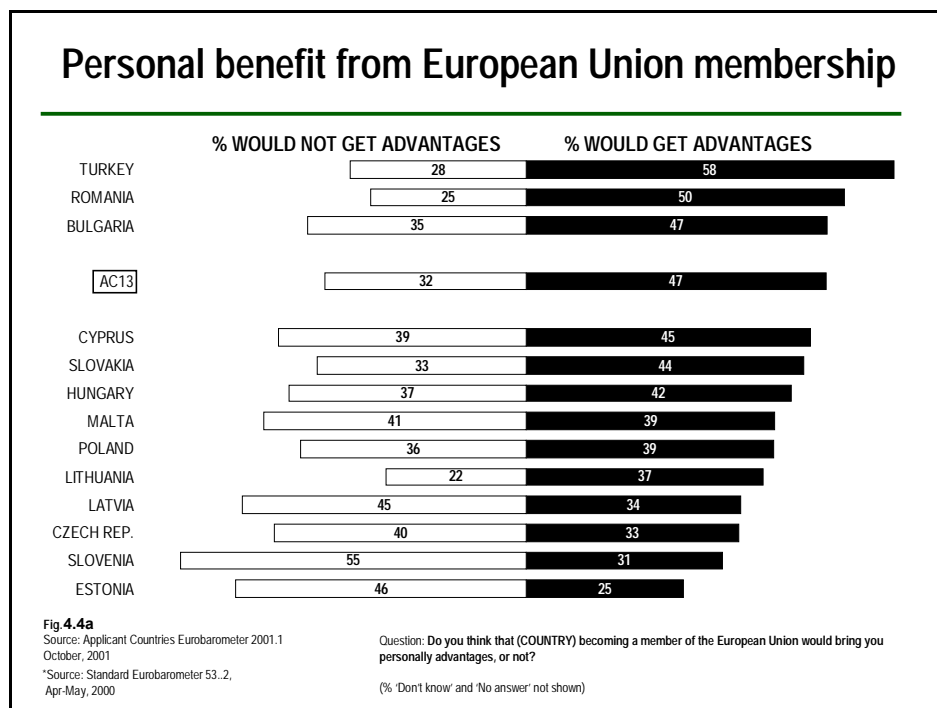
Personal benefits

When Candidate Countries Eurobarometer asked about personal benefits expected from one's country's membership of the European Union, respondents were divided in their opinions. Forty seven percent think that they would personally benefit from EU accession, 32% think that they would not benefit, and 21% are not sure how membership would affect

²⁵ Eligible voters are those aged 18 and over. The analysis also excludes respondents who said they would not vote, who did not know how they would vote and who didn't answer the question. The analysis includes the non-citizen permanent residents of Estonia and Latvia (the results, if we exclude these people from the analysis, does not change significantly).

their personal life. In Turkey we found solid optimism about the personal benefits of possible EU membership (58%). Romania was the only other country where at least half of the citizens expect advantages from their country's future membership to the European Union.

In Estonia we registered extremely low optimism regarding expected personal advantages from future EU membership. Only one in four respondents Estonians think that they would personally benefit from accession, making Estonians the least optimistic among the thirteen Candidate Countries. But not the most pessimistic; while 46% of Estonians are pessimistic about their personal future after accession, in Slovenia more than half of all citizens expect that they would not benefit from their country's EU membership. At 41%, Lithuania we find the highest proportion of those who lack an opinion about the benefits they may receive from the country's EU membership. Twenty eight percent of Estonians, and one in four Polish (26%) and Czech citizens (25%) are also unable to decide if their lives would be positively affected by the accession, or not.



We used another measure as well to determine the balance of expected advantages and disadvantages. The following question links in with the discussion about whether people would regard their country's future membership as beneficial, too:

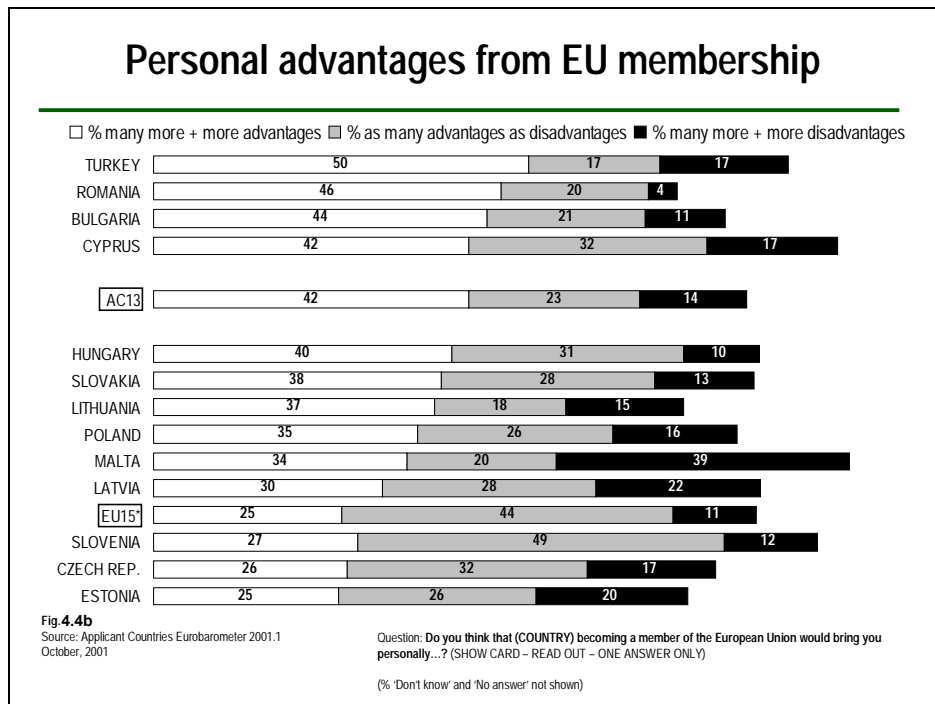
Do you think that (COUNTRY) becoming a member of the European Union would bring you personally...?

At the AC13 level the breakdown of responses is as follows (in parenthesis we present the results Eurobarometer found in the Member States²⁶ in year 2000):

▪ Many more advantages	12%	(5%)
▪ More advantages	30%	(24%)
▪ As many advantages as disadvantages	23%	(41%)
▪ More disadvantages	10%	(13%)
▪ Many more disadvantages	4%	(3%)
▪ (Don't know / No opinion)	21%	(14%)

Clearly, the future members of the European Union feel more optimistic compared to present EU citizens. Significantly fewer people in the Candidate Countries think that the advantages and disadvantages they personally experience will be balanced once their country have joined the European Union, although they are much more likely to believe that the advantages will outweigh the disadvantages.

The country-by-country analyses show that Turkey is the only country where at least the half of the population (50%) feel that EU membership would give them more advantages. Though less than half feel this way in the other countries it is still the most popular view in all but four countries: Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Estonia, where most think their personal advantages and disadvantages will be balanced, and in Malta, where the majority believes that the accession will bring more disadvantages for them personally. Malta is the only country among the Applicants where the proportion of people who feel membership will bring more disadvantages outnumber the proportion of people who feel membership will have more advantages. The proportion of respondents who weren't able or who didn't want to give an opinion is generally high, it ranges from 17% in Turkey to 49% in Slovenia.



²⁶ EB53.1, Spring 2000, Chapter 2.3

Table 4.4a Expected personal benefits from future EU membership, net results
differences between % more + many more advantages and % more + many more disadvantages are shown, by demographics

Group	Net benefit	Group	Net benefit
Students	44	Men	20
Still studying	44	Media Use Index ++	15
Aged 15-24 years	43	Self-employed	14
Knowledge Scale +	42	Opinion Leadership Index --	14
Other white collars	34	Small or middle sized town	14
Knowledge Scale +/-	31	Educated 16-19 years	12
Managers	29	Women	11
Aged 25-39 years	27	Media Use Index --	10
Large town	27	Aged 40-54 years	8
Educated 20+ years	25	Educated up to 15 years	8
Media Use Index +++	24	Rural area or village	7
Opinion Leadership Index ++	24	Paid by state	4
Unemployed	22	Opinion Leadership Index ---	3
Not paid by state	22	Media Use Index ---	1
Manual workers	22	Knowledge Scale -	-4
Opinion Leadership Index +++	21	Aged 55+ years	-13
House Persons	20	Retired	-15
		<i>AC13 average</i>	<i>15</i>

As shown in the table above, different social groups vary to a significant degree in evaluating the balance of their personal benefits from European integration. Students, the young and those who think they know a lot about the EU see the most favourable personal balance of costs and benefits, while the retired, older respondents, those who know little about the EU, those who score low on media use and opinion leadership indices, and those who are paid by the state envision their balance as being much less favourable. However, only the oldest age cohorts, and those who know a very little about the European Union have negative balances of expected advantages and disadvantages.

We did not find any other traditional demographic stratum in these societies which expected to find a negative net personal balance from the enlargement of the European Union. (Table 4.13b)

Benefits for the country

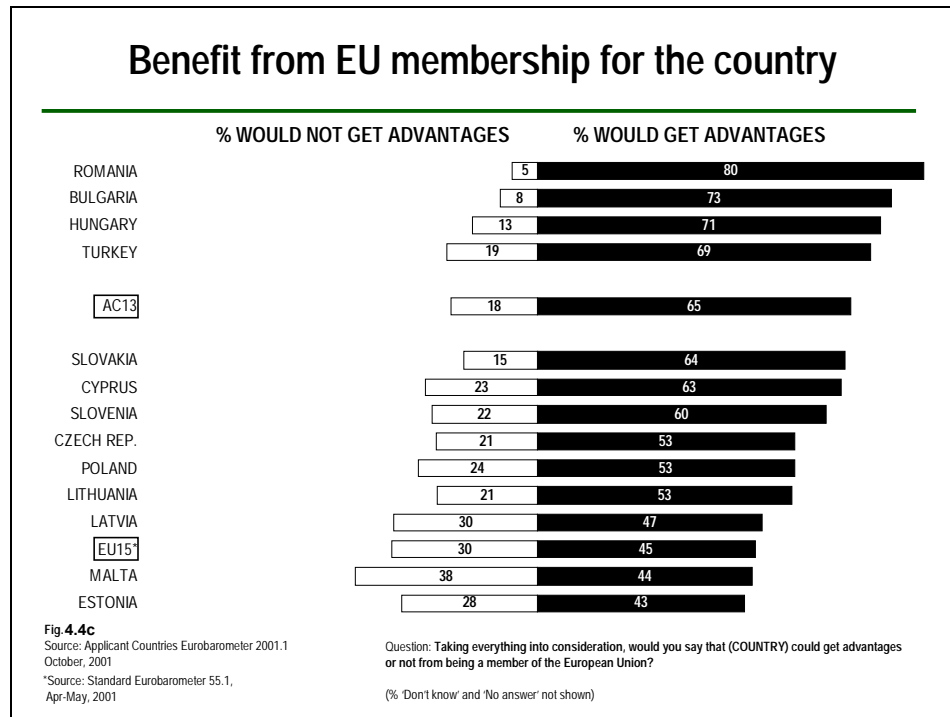
If we examine the perceived costs and benefits to one's country as a result of its accession to the EU, we do not find as high a variation of views as we met when studying the same issue at the personal level. Predominantly, the citizens of Candidate Countries anticipate a more positive balance of advantages and disadvantages on a national scale. The only exception is Malta, where the present survey found almost identical figures for expected country- and personal benefits.

Within the Member States we do not find this noteworthy gap between the evaluation of personal advantages and the perceived benefits to the country. In general, people do not think that membership can be better for the country than it is for themselves personally²⁷. At the same time, there seems to be an almost unanimously shared view in the Candidate

²⁷ Assessment of country benefits within the Member States was last covered in EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 2.2

Countries that the present generations have to sacrifice their interests to some extent to ensure a brighter future for their countries and for the younger generations²⁸.

Looking at the figures, two thirds (65 %) of the people living in the Candidate Countries expect that their country would benefit from membership of the European Union (compared to 47% who expect to benefit personally). Only 18% do not share this expectation and 17% are not able to formulate an opinion in this question.



In every Applicant Country, most people think that the accession would bring advantages for their country. Eighty percent share this opinion in Romania, 73% in Bulgaria, and 71% in Hungary. Even in Malta we registered more optimism than pessimism regarding expected advantages from future EU membership for the country. However, fewer than half of the Estonians, Maltese, and Latvians agree that their country would benefit from European Union membership. The proportion of people that lack an opinion ranges from 13% in Turkey to 28% in Estonia.

We used the five-point scale measure again to determine the balance of expected advantages and disadvantages at the country level. For the 13 Candidate Countries, the breakdown of responses for the following question is shown below (the results from the Standard Eurobarometer are shown in parentheses²⁹):

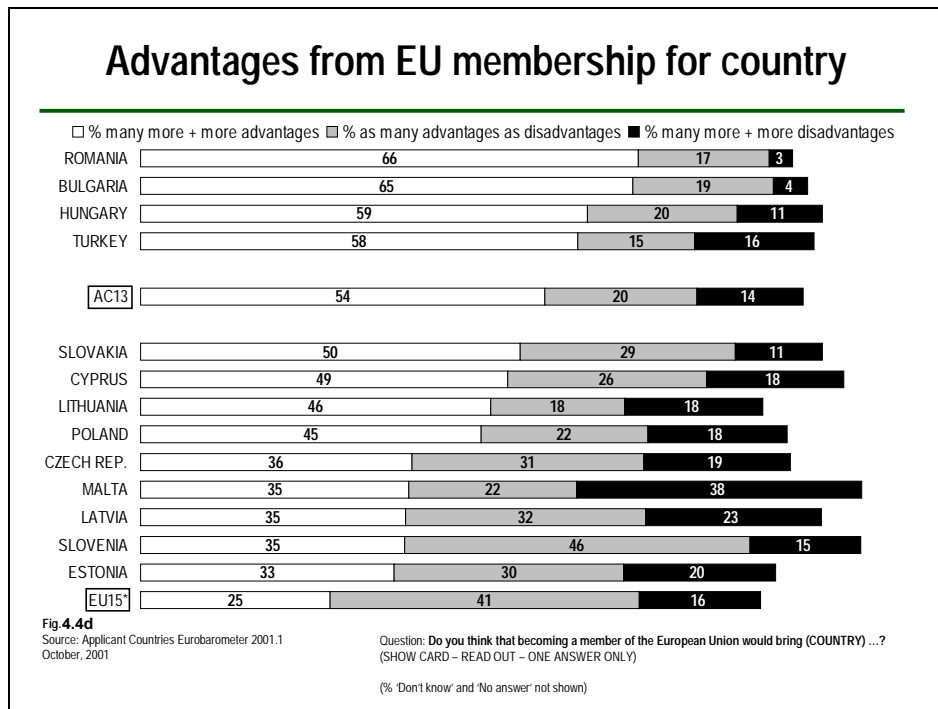
Do you think that becoming a member of the European Union would bring (COUNTRY) ...?

▪ Many more advantages	18%	(4%)
▪ More advantages	36%	(22%)
▪ As many advantages as disadvantages	20%	(41%)
▪ More disadvantages	10%	(12%)
▪ Many more disadvantages	4%	(4%)
▪ (Don't know / No opinion)	12%	(18%)

²⁸ If we use regression to statistically determine whether expected personal benefits or expected country benefits drive the support for the European Union, we find that expected country benefits is almost twice as strong a predictor (beta= 0.406) of EU support as expected personal benefit (beta=0.223)

²⁹ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 2.2

Again, the future members of the European Union feel more optimistic than present EU citizens. Half as many people in the Candidate Countries as in the EU think that the advantages and disadvantages their country will experience will be balanced once they have joined the European Union. Over twice as many in the Candidate Countries as in the EU believe that advantages from joining will outweigh disadvantages.



Looking at individual country results we find very apparent differences. Sixty six percent of Romanians, 65% of Bulgarians and 59% of Hungarians currently share the opinion that on balance their country gain more advantages than disadvantages from becoming a member of the European Union. Using this five-point scale measure, Malta – as the only country of this kind – shows a net negative expectation from its accession: 38% expecting more disadvantages, and only 36% anticipating more advantages. The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer did not find any other country where the ratio of pessimists exceeded a quarter of the population.

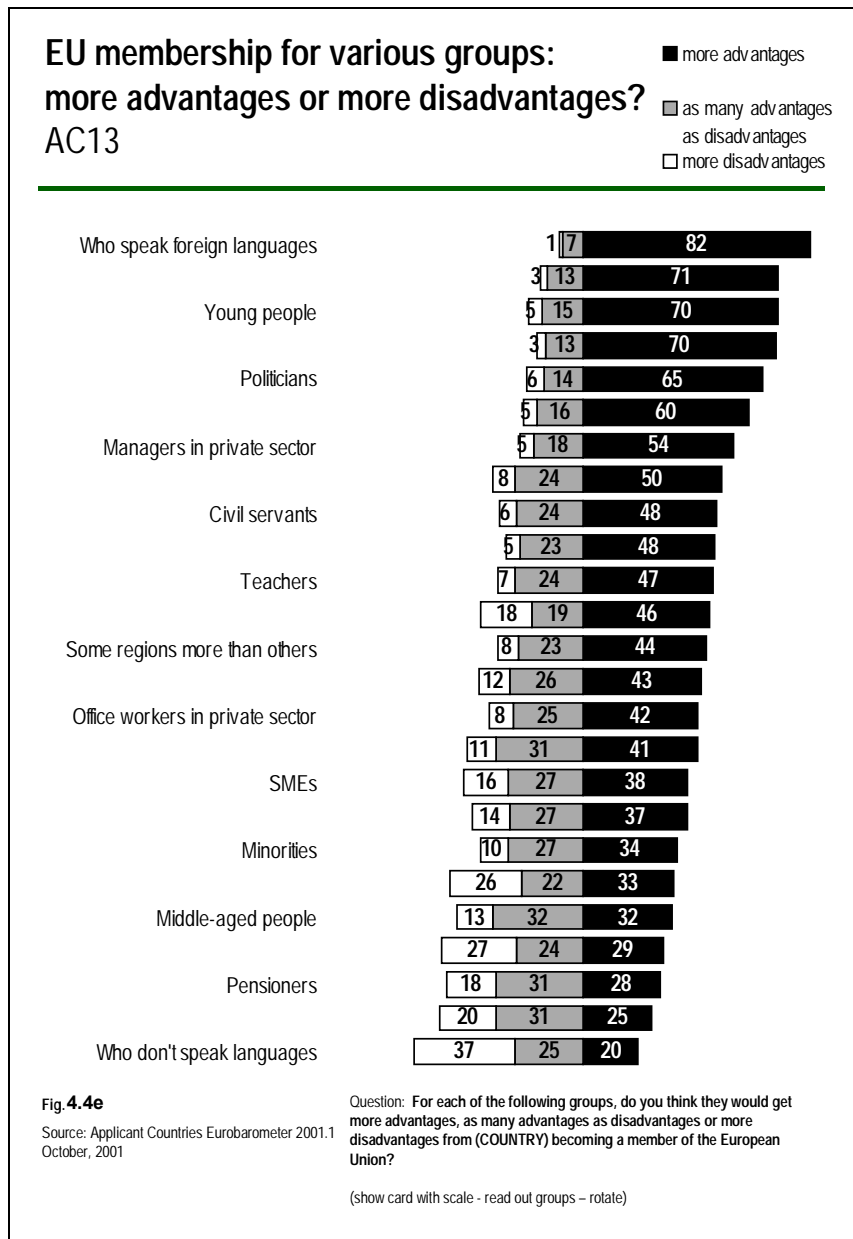
The demographic analyses of net expected benefits³⁰ show that men are more likely than women are to expect a positive balance of their country's future membership (44% v. 36%). The likelihood of expecting a favourable balance decreases with age: the youngest age group has better net expectations (54 percentage points) than the others. The net expectation of people who stayed in full-time education until age 20 or older is 48 percentage points, compared to 34 percentage points for those who left full-time education before the age of 16. Analyses of the respondent occupation scale show that managers are most likely to expect a positive balance from accession (54 percentage points) compared to 27 percentage points of retired people.

Attitudinal analyses show that the people who say that the membership of the European Union would be neither good or bad have currently a net expectation of benefits which is precisely zero. In other words, there are exactly as many among them who think that their country will benefit as who think their country would lose out. Obviously supporters of membership expect more advantages (79 percentage points), while those who think that membership would be a bad thing expect a very negative balance as a result of accession (-71 percentage points). (Table 4.11b)

³⁰ i.e. the difference between the ratio of those who think the country will get more or many more advantages and those who think the opposite

Expected benefits for various social groups

The survey also asked respondents to judge whether a wide variety of different groups, ranging from politicians to the elderly will receive more advantages or more disadvantages from EU membership.



As the graph shows, people are most likely to pick those who speak foreign languages from the list included in the questionnaire, as the group that is the most likely to receive more advantages than disadvantages (82% -- for more information on foreign language proficiency in the region refer to Chapter 1.8). The next most advantaged groups are seen to be professionals (71%) and young people (70%). Large businesses were also frequently mentioned as beneficiaries of accession (70%).

At the other end of the spectrum, we find that people are most likely to think that the elderly (25%, pensioners 28%), the rural population (29%, farmers 33%), and the middle-aged (32%) are not among those who would be advantaged by their country's EU membership. At the very bottom of the list we find those who do not speak foreign languages (20%). Table 4.4b shows the country by country results for each of the groups included in the questionnaire.

Table 4.4b Social groups attributed with the most advantages, and with the most disadvantages (in %, by country)

Bulgaria	%		Malta	%
Who speak foreign languages	83	<i>Advantages</i>	Professionals	80
Young people	74	<i>Advantages</i>	Large businesses	79
Who don't speak languages	39	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Who don't speak languages	59
Elderly people	26	<i>Disadvantages</i>	SMEs	56
Cyprus			Poland	
Who speak foreign languages	81	<i>Advantages</i>	Who speak foreign languages	84
Large businesses	77	<i>Advantages</i>	Large businesses	71
Who don't speak languages	62	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Who don't speak languages	45
SMEs	57	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Farmers	43
Czech Republic			Romania	
Who speak foreign languages	87	<i>Advantages</i>	Who speak foreign languages	78
Professionals	77	<i>Advantages</i>	Young people	72
Who don't speak languages	59	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Who don't speak languages	32
Farmers	43	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Elderly people	14
Estonia			Slovakia	
Politicians	82	<i>Advantages</i>	Who speak foreign languages	86
Who speak foreign languages	81	<i>Advantages</i>	Professionals	75
Who don't speak languages	61	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Who don't speak languages	51
Rural population	43	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Rural population	29
Hungary			Slovenia	
Who speak foreign languages	86	<i>Advantages</i>	Who speak foreign languages	83
Professionals	83	<i>Advantages</i>	Professionals	74
Who don't speak languages	48	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Farmers	60
Rural population	30	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Who don't speak languages	58
Latvia			Turkey	
Who speak foreign languages	84	<i>Advantages</i>	Who speak foreign languages	82
Large businesses	71	<i>Advantages</i>	Large businesses	74
Who don't speak languages	60	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Who don't speak languages	22
Rural population	51	<i>Disadvantages</i>	Rural population	18
Lithuania				
Who speak foreign languages	71	<i>Advantages</i>		
Politicians	67	<i>Advantages</i>		
Who don't speak languages	40	<i>Disadvantages</i>		
Farmers	34	<i>Disadvantages</i>		

As the table shows, there is not much variation between countries in their perceptions of winners and losers from accession³¹. In most countries the main beneficiaries are seen to be those who speak foreign languages, large businesses and politicians. In Estonia we find that people think that politicians will be the most likely to benefit from accession, while in Malta, the first place goes to professionals.

We find similar patterns if we examine the groups that, in other people's perception, will suffer the most disadvantages. The main rule is that, as with the AC13 average, in most cases the

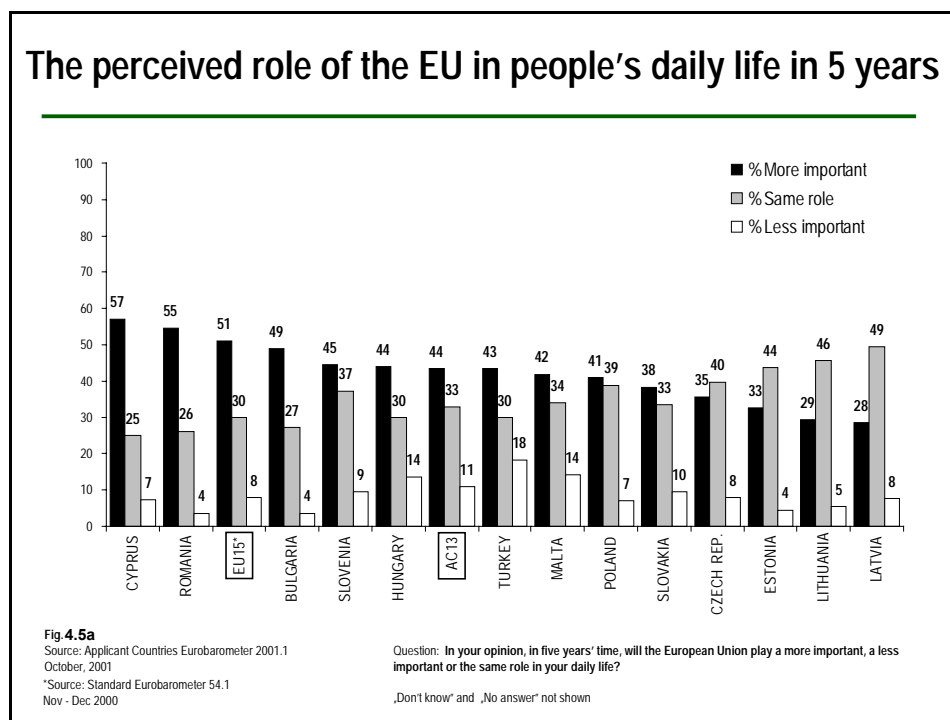
³¹ For detailed net advantage scores for different social segments in the Candidate Countries see Table 4.14 in the Appendix

rural population and those who do not speak foreign languages are considered to be the chief losers from accession. In Bulgaria and Romania elderly people were named as being among the most likely losers from enlargement, while in Malta and Cyprus, the people feel that small and medium enterprises will suffer from accession to the European Union.

4.5 The EU in the coming years

The expected and desired role of the EU in five years' time

Forty-four percent of people living in the Candidate Countries believe that in five years' time the European Union *will* play a more important role in their daily life, 33% believe it will play the same role and only 11% believe it will play a less important role. As of October 2001, fewer people tend to think that the EU will play a greater role in their personal lives than in the Member States one year ago³².



As seen on the figure above, people in the Candidate Countries either did not believe that their countries could really join the European Union within five years (as numbers in Chapter 6.3 suggest), or are not likely to expect that change from the accession would strongly affect their personal lives, or else feel that the effect can not be much stronger than it is now. This last hypothesis is supported by the fact that in those countries that are currently the least prepared for the accession, people expect the influence of European Union to grow in the following five years.

On the other hand, even in countries like the Czech Republic or Estonia – countries that were always thought to be among the countries most prepared for membership of the EU – the

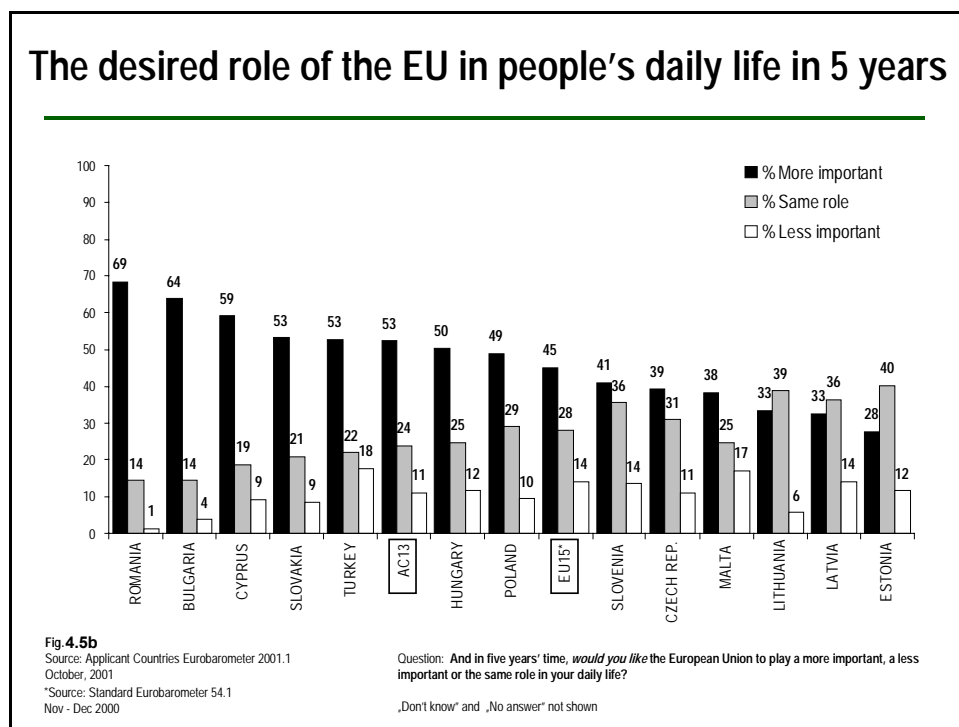
³² EB54.1, Winter 2000, Chapter 4.6

majority of people expect that the European Union will play the same role as it plays now. Nevertheless, Cypriots are very likely to expect the EU to play a greater role in their daily life over the next five years (57%), followed by Romanians (53%) and Bulgarians (49%). In the other countries, public opinion is somewhat more divided. As mentioned above, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia are the countries where the proportion of people that feels the EU will play the same role outnumbers the proportion of people that believe the EU will play a more important role. The view that the EU will play a less important role is low throughout the Candidate Countries and ranges from 4% in Estonia, Slovenia and Romania to 18% in Turkey.

An analysis of the demographic variables shows that people with less education are less likely to expect the EU to play a greater role in their daily lives (36%), as are the people belonging to the oldest age group (31%) and women (38%). At the same time, 51% of managers, white-collar workers, youngest age group, and those who spent the most time in education think that the European Union will be more important in their lives as it is currently.

There is more diversity of opinion concerning attitudes to the EU. Thirty percent of those who view their country's membership of the EU as a bad thing say that, in 5 years' time, the EU will play a less important role in their daily life. The corresponding figure for those who regard EU membership as a good thing is only 7%. (Table 4.16b)

When we look at the role that people of the Candidate Countries *would like* the European Union to play in their daily life in 5 years' time, we see that 52% (compared to 45% in the Member States) desire a more important role, 24% desire the same role (24% in the Member States), while only 11% desire a less important role for the European Union in their daily lives.



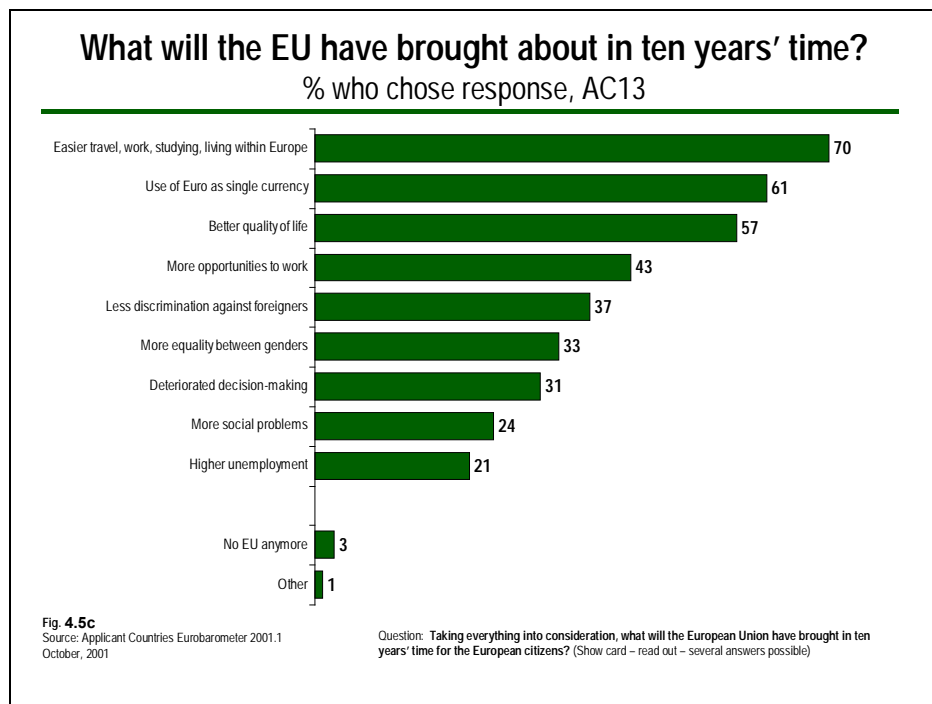
People in Romania (69%) and Bulgaria (64%) are by far the most likely to want the EU to play a more important role in their daily life with close to 6 in 10 people in Cyprus (59%) sharing this view. In only two of the other countries do more than half of the population want the EU to play a more important role. This is nonetheless the majority opinion in Slovakia, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Malta. In Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia the most frequently expressed desire is for the EU to continue to play the same role. There is

no country among Candidate Countries where those who want the EU to play a less important role outnumber those who desire the same role or a more important role.

Benefits of European Union in ten years time

When asked about the future benefits of being an EU citizen, the people in the Candidate Countries agree that it will be much easier to move around the member states for any purpose (71%). A large majority think that the Euro will be used as the single currency in the whole territory of the Union. Also, the majority agree that the European Union will bring about a better quality of life for its citizens (57%).

Between one in five and one in three citizens of the Candidate Countries agrees that within the next ten years there will be more problems within the Union: higher unemployment (21%), more social problems (24%), or deterioration in decision making because of the additional new countries (31%). The majority of respondents in the Candidate Countries also feel pessimistic about progress in human rights areas (only 33% and 37% respectively believe that there will be more gender-equality, or less discrimination against foreigners), nor do they expect more job opportunities for European citizens in ten years time (43%).



4.6 Support for joint EU decision-making

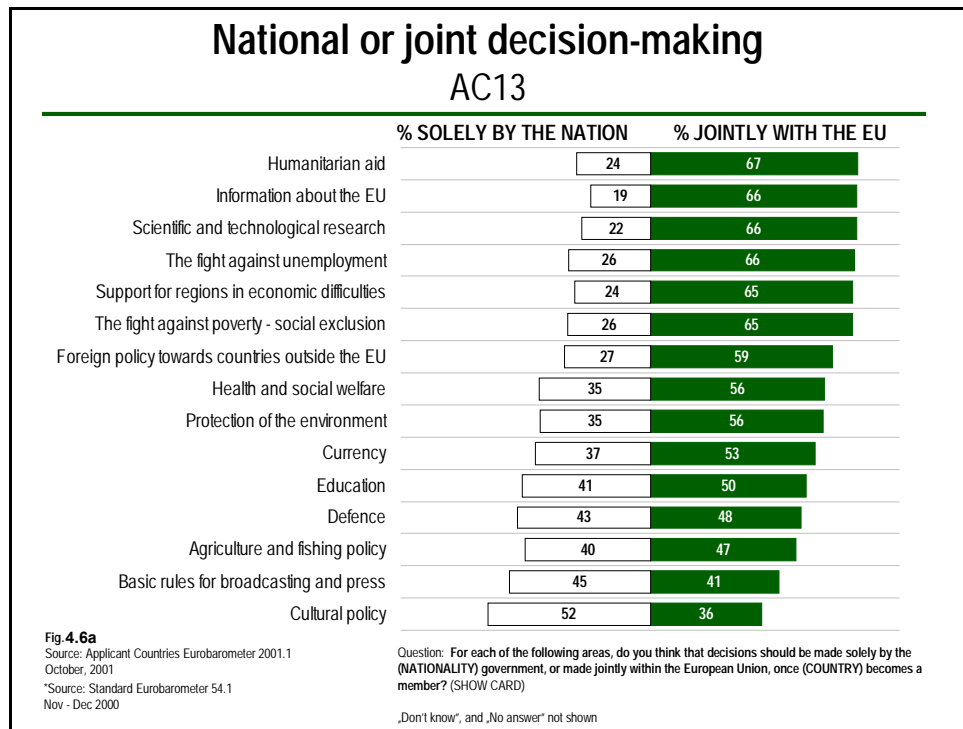
We continue by looking at the results of a question that asks whether decisions after the accession of the Candidate Countries should be taken at national or at EU level. It lists 25 policy areas over which the Union has, to varying degrees, decision-making powers. On average, 55% of the public support joint EU decision-making in these areas. They favour it (the EU) over national decision-making in 21 of the 25 areas, on average. This shows higher average support for delegating decisions to the European Union level than in the existing Member States (52%, 15 of the 25 areas to be delegated³³)

Country	Average level of support for joint EU decision-making (for 25 areas, in %)	Number of areas where joint EU decision-making is more popular than national decision-making (25 areas maximum)
CYPRUS	68%	22
ROMANIA	66%	25
SLOVENIA	65%	25
LATVIA	64%	22
POLAND	62%	23
SLOVAKIA	62%	22
CZECH REPUBLIC	62%	22
HUNGARY	59%	18
ESTONIA	57%	18
Average for AC13	55%	21
LITHUANIA	55%	19
BULGARIA	52%	16
MALTA	47%	12
TURKEY	44%	11

Support for joint EU decision-making is the highest in Romania and Slovenia where it is favoured over national decision-making in all 25 policy areas. However the highest average score in support of EU decision-making was recorded in Cyprus. There are seven countries where EU decision-making is favoured over national decision-making in more than 80% of the policy areas. Malta and Turkey would prefer decisions on the majority of the policy areas to be made nationally: accordingly, they have the lowest average support for joint decision-making. Interestingly, Bulgarians – and to a lesser extent, Hungarians –, who are solid supporters of their country's membership, are relatively unwilling to give up sovereign decisions in the policy areas where the European Union also has powers at the present time.

³³ EB54.1, Autumn 2000

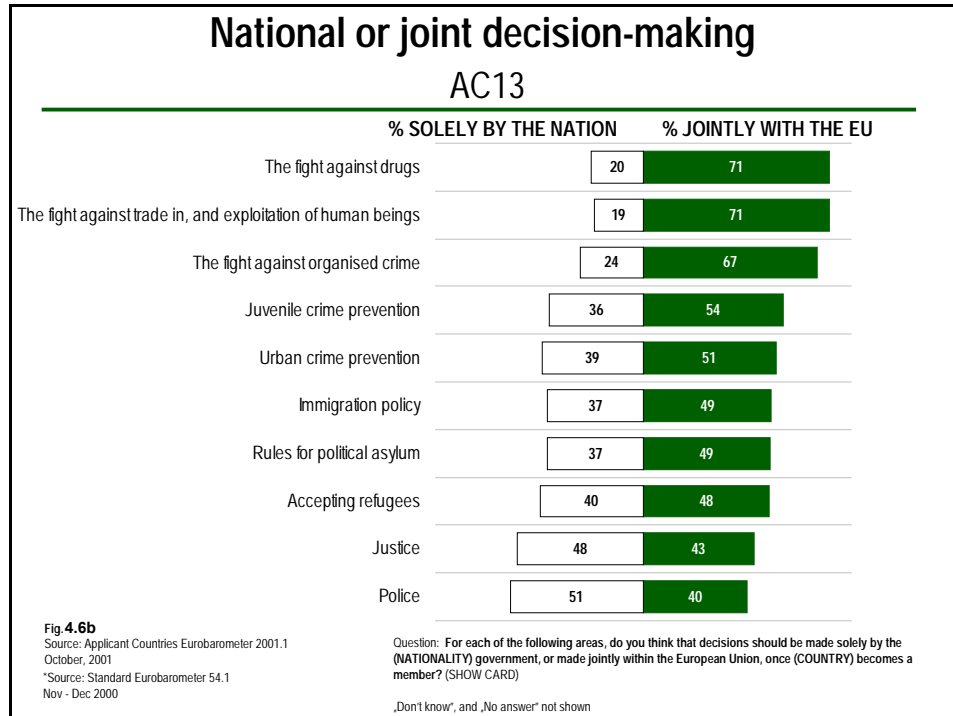
In the survey the question is divided into policy areas covered by the three pillars of the Maastricht Treaty and the new policy areas covered by the Amsterdam Treaty. We first look at people's views concerning the Maastricht Treaty policy areas.



About a third (67% and 66% respectively) of the respondents would delegate decisions on humanitarian aid issues and on “information about the European Union” to the EU. Welfare and closely related economic issues are also likely to be delegated to the European Union (65% of respondents support joint decision making in fighting against poverty, 66% in supporting underdeveloped regions, 66% in the fighting against unemployment, 55% in health and social welfare, and 53% would delegate decision making even in currency issues). The remaining policy areas where joint decision is supported by more than half of the respondents are scientific and technological research (66%) foreign policy (59%), and protection of environment (56%).

The most sensitive issues seem to be related to national culture. Support for joint decision-making in cultural policy is as low as 36%. Decisions concerning basic rules for the press (41%), or education (50%) should preferably remain within the individual countries. The same applies to defence (48%), and to agricultural policy (47%).

With regard to the Amsterdam Treaty policy areas, we find that support for EU joint decision-making is most widespread for the fight against drugs and against human trade and exploitation (both 71%) while people are most likely to support national decision-making in the areas of policing and justice (51% and 48%, respectively).



5. Information about the European Union

We start by looking at respondents' self-perceived levels of knowledge about the European Union as well as their levels of awareness of nine of the Union's institutions and bodies. We report in this Chapter on the extent to which people pay attention to news about the European Union in comparison to news about other issues. Also in this Chapter, we present the EU-related topics that are the most interesting for people in the Candidate Countries. Finally, we examine the sources people are most likely to use when they look for information about the European Union and which sources of information they prefer.

5.1 Knowledge and awareness

Self-perceived knowledge about the European Union

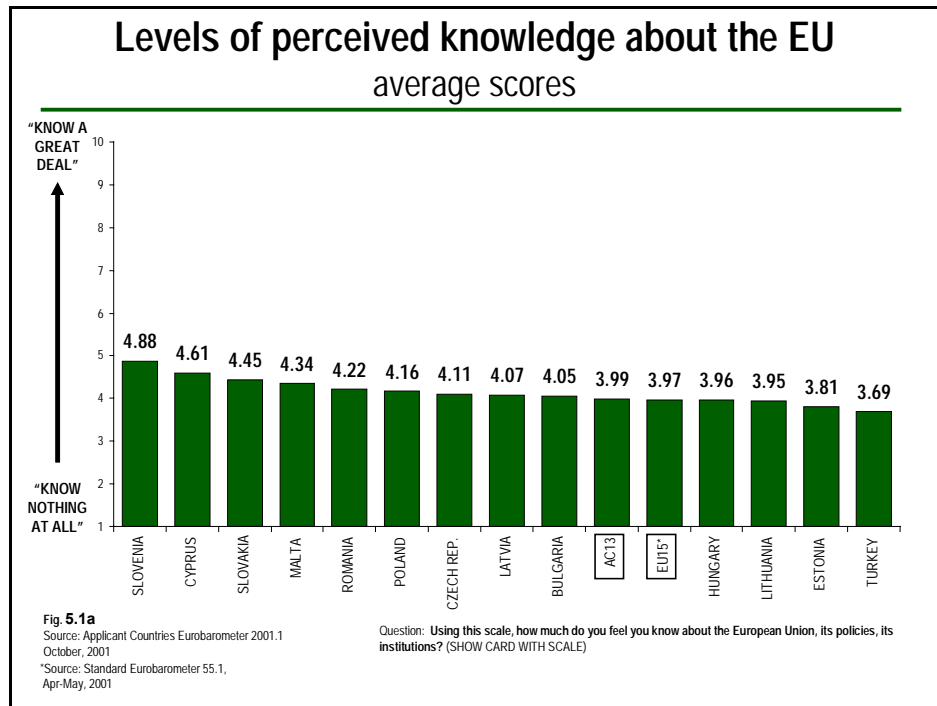
A standard feature of the Eurobarometer is to ask respondents how much they feel they know about the European Union³⁴. The EU15 results presented in the table on the next page show that 22% of Candidate Countries citizens feel they know "quite a lot" to "a great deal" about the European Union (i.e. those choosing the numbers 6 through 10 on the scale). This shows the same level of perceived knowledge compared to the results measured in the Member states in the Standard Eurobarometer (21%)³⁵.

Scale	AC13	EU15
	Oct. 2001	Apr-May. 2001
	%	%
1 (knows nothing at all)	14	12
2	14	14
3	16	18
4	14	16
5	20	18
6	9	9
7	6	6
8	4	4
9	1	1
10 (knows a great deal)	2	1
Don' know / No answer	2	3
Average	3.99	3.97

³⁴ The question is: "how much do you feel you know about the European Union, its policies and its institutions". Respondents were asked to select from a card a number - on a scale from 1 to 10 - which best represents their perceived knowledge about the European Union. The higher the number they select, the more they feel they know about the EU.

³⁵ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 4.4

The following graph depicts the average scores³⁶ for each of the 13 Candidate Countries. It shows that self-perceived knowledge levels vary significantly from one country to the next.



As of October 2001, knowledge levels are highest in Slovenia, where the average score is 4.88, and lowest in Turkey and Estonia, where the average scores are 3.69 and 3.81, respectively. Inspection of the distribution of responses shows that 32% of people in Cyprus and Slovenia feel they know “quite a lot” to “a great deal” (i.e. score 6 or higher on the scale) about the European Union. At 30%, people in Malta come in third place followed by people in Slovakia (28%), Romania (28%), Bulgaria (22%), the Czech Republic (21%) and Poland (20%). Fewer than 2 in 10 people in Turkey, in Hungary (both 19%), in Lithuania, in Latvia (both 18%) and in Estonia (15%) feel this way. (Table 5.1a, Appendix)

The attitudinal analysis indicates that those who support their country’s membership of the EU are more likely to feel they know “quite a lot” to “a great deal” about the EU (26%), compared to 20% for people who regard their country’s membership as a bad thing. The least informed group is the undecided (15%), those who said that membership to the European Union is “neither good or bad”. (See also table 5.1b in Appendix)

³⁶ The average scores represent the sum of the responses for each of the ten points on the scale times the value of each point divided by the total number of responses.

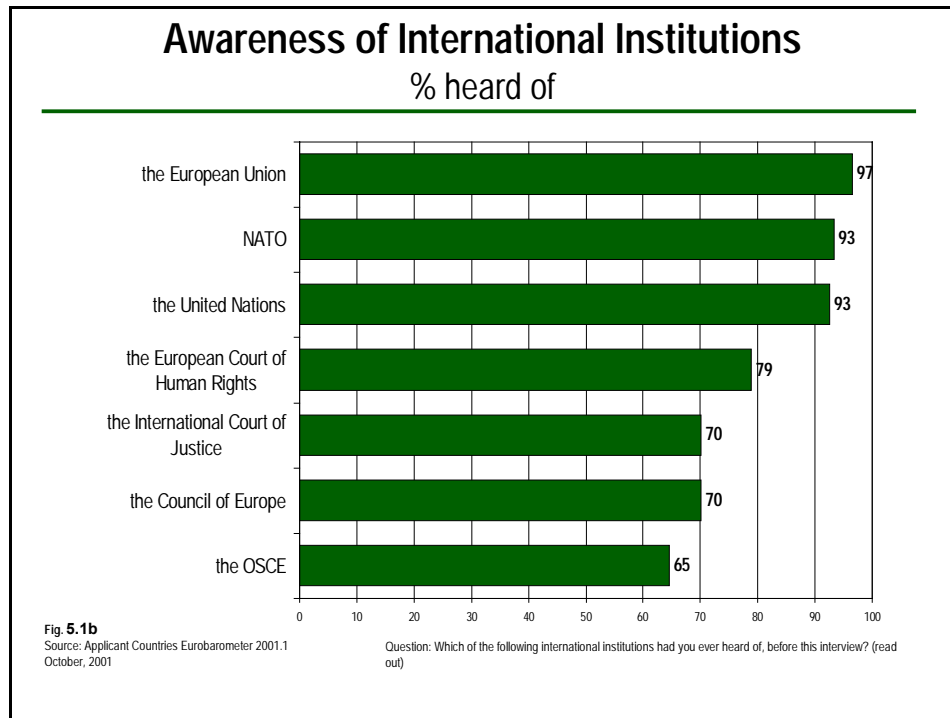
The following table shows the average scores for various socio-demographic groups in the Candidate Countries. It shows that managers, people who stayed in full-time education the longest, people who score high on the Opinion Leadership Index³⁷ and the most frequent users of the media are the groups that give themselves the highest score on the self-perceived knowledge scale. At the bottom of the table we find people who score lowest on the Media Use Index. Men considered themselves more informed than women. The picture is very similar – almost identical – to that seen in the Member States.

Group	Score
Managers	5.40
Educated for 20+ years	5.11
Opinion Leadership Index +++	5.07
Media Use Index +++	4.75
Men	4.48
Opinion Leadership Index ++	4.36
Other white collars	4.32
Educated 16-19 years	4.29
Still studying	4.22
Aged 25-39 years	4.21
Manual workers	4.19
Student	4.19
Media Use Index ++	4.18
Self-employed	4.16
Aged 40-54 years	4.15
Unemployed	4.02
Aged 15-24 years	4.02
AC13 average	3.99
Opinion Leadership Index --	3.83
Retired	3.65
Aged 55+ years	3.57
Women	3.55
Media Use Index --	3.35
Educated up to 15 years	3.27
House Persons	3.26
Opinion Leadership Index ---	2.97
Media Use Index ---	2.78

³⁷ See Appendix C.4 for a definition of the indices shown in the table.

Awareness of the European Union, its institutions, bodies

The European Union is the most widely known international or supra-governmental organization in the Candidate Countries. Virtually every citizen in the Candidate Countries is aware of the European Union (97%). Only NATO and the United Nations have a comparable profile in the Candidate Countries (93% each).

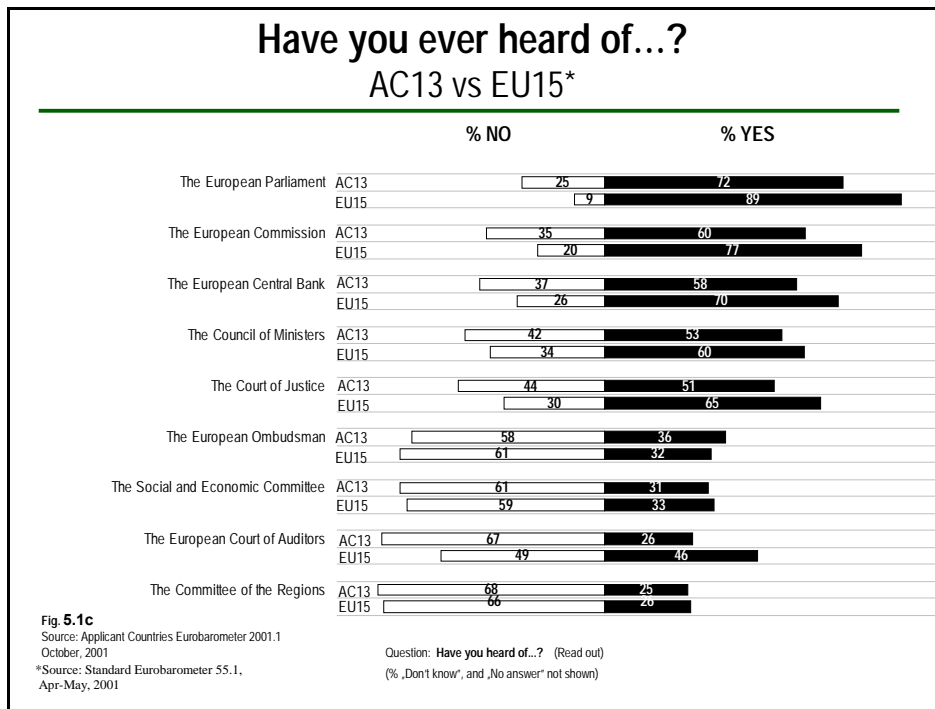


While the EU is the most widely known international or supra-governmental institution in the Candidate Countries, with nearly all respondents having heard of its existence, its institutions remain much less known: The European Parliament is known by 72% and the European Commission by 60%. In the EU Member States³⁸, awareness of these two institutions is 89% and 77%, respectively.

When looking at public awareness of different EU institutions and bodies, we find that results vary significantly across the region. This is not true for the **European Union** as a whole. Even in Turkey and Romania, where we measured the lowest awareness figures for the EU, 95% of the respondents told us that they had heard of the Union. In Malta, the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found only one person who had never heard of the European Union.

We did not find any demographic group in which the awareness of EU was less than 94%. The awareness of the European Union is so widespread that no significant differences are detected if we break down the results by age, education level, occupation and gender.

³⁸ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 4.5

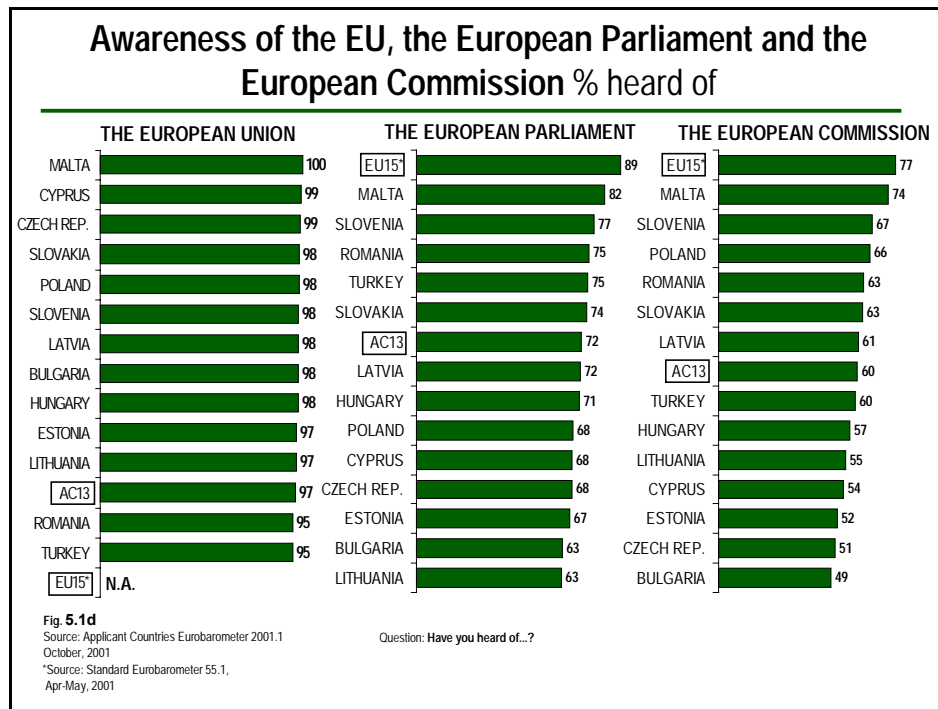


The survey measured public awareness of nine of the European Union's institutions and bodies³⁹. The public is most likely to have heard of the European Parliament (72%), followed by the European Commission (60%) and the European Central Bank (58%). People are least likely to have heard of the Committee of the Regions (25%) and the European Court of Auditors (26%), and the Economic and Social Committee (31%). The rank order of the institutions and bodies is very similar to what Eurobarometer found within the Member States. Only the Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors had a relatively higher profile among citizens of the European Union.

Investigating awareness about the two best-known EU institutions, we find that there are significant differences among the thirteen Candidate Countries. Awareness of the **European Parliament** ranges from 82% in Malta to 63% in Bulgaria and Lithuania. Slovenians (77%), Romanians and Turkish (75% each) are also more likely to know the European Parliament, whilst relatively few people are aware of it in Estonia (67%), the Czech Republic or Cyprus (both 68%).

There is an even wider gap between countries in the case of the **European Commission**: the awareness of this institution ranges from 77% in Malta to 49% in Bulgaria. Countries that are more likely to know about the Commission include Slovenia (67%), Poland (66%) and Romania (63%). At the same time Czechs (51%), Estonians (52%) and Cypriots (54%) are not very much aware of it.

³⁹ The question asks respondents whether they have ever heard of the institution in question. Chapter 4.2 reports on the extent to which people trust these institutions.



The following table ranks the thirteen Candidate Countries according to the average awareness of the nine listed institutions. Slovenia headed the Candidate Countries: on average the nine institutions have 54% awareness among Slovenians. This score is relatively high in Slovakia (50%) and Malta (49%) as well. On the other hand Bulgarians are not likely to know of these institutions (39%), nor are Estonians and Czechs (40%). In the Candidate Countries these institutions have a 45% average awareness.

**Table 5.1c Awareness of the institutions and bodies of the European Union
(Average awareness of 9 institutions & bodies, in % by country)**

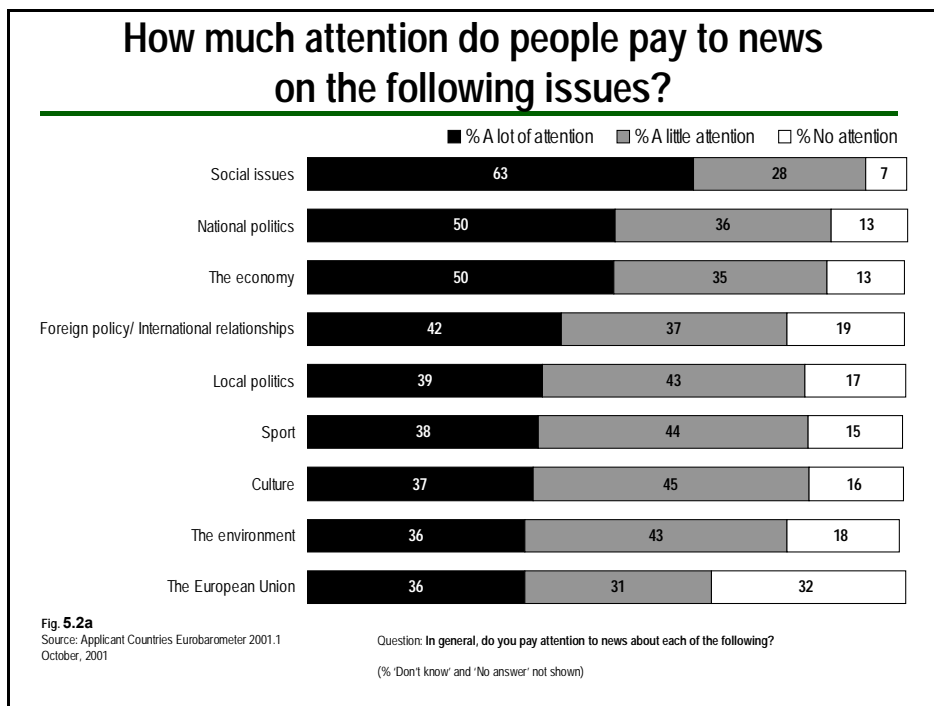
Country	%	Country	%
SLOVENIA	54	HUNGARY	46
SLOVAKIA	50	Average for AC13	45
MALTA	49	ROMANIA	44
LATVIA	47	LITHUANIA	42
POLAND	47	CZECH REP.	40
CYPRUS	46	ESTONIA	40
TURKEY	46	BULGARIA	39

5.2 Interest in European Union news

Next we look at the results of a question that provides information about how interested people are in news about the European Union in comparison to other news topics. The question asks respondents whether they pay a lot of attention, a little attention or no attention at all to news in 8 areas, one of them being the European Union.

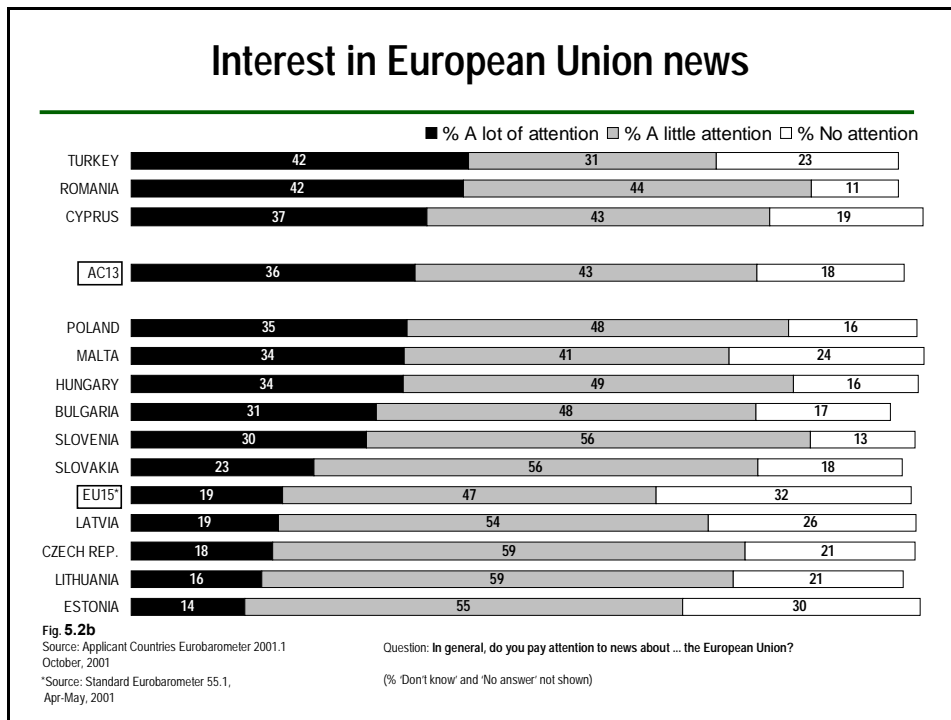
As the next graph shows two-thirds of the people surveyed in the Candidate Countries say they pay at least some attention to news about the European Union. These results are similar to those from the Member States⁴⁰. The European Union is the least preferred from among the listed news topics both in the Member States and in the Candidate Countries. There is a difference however: only 19% of EU citizens told Eurobarometer that they pay a lot of attention to news about the European Union; in the Candidate Countries the same figure goes up to 36%.

Interest in news is most widespread in the Candidate Countries when it comes to social issues, with 63% paying a lot of attention and a further 28% paying a little attention. There is also widespread interest in news about national politics and economics, with 50% paying a lot of attention to both and 36% and 35% paying a little attention to each, respectively. Generally, the citizens of Candidate Countries seem to be more receptive to news about the EU than their fellows in the Member States. (more details on Table 5.5)



Looking at the extent to which interest in news about the European Union varies from country to country, we see that at least 8 in 10 people in Romania (68%), Slovenia (85%), Hungary, Poland (both 83%) and Cyprus pay attention to such news, while Romanians and the Turkish by far the most likely to pay a lot of attention (42% both). People in the Estonia (30%) and Latvia (26%) are most likely to pay no attention at all. The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer did not find any countries where the people are less likely to pay attention to EU-related news material than the average of the Member States.

⁴⁰ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 4.2

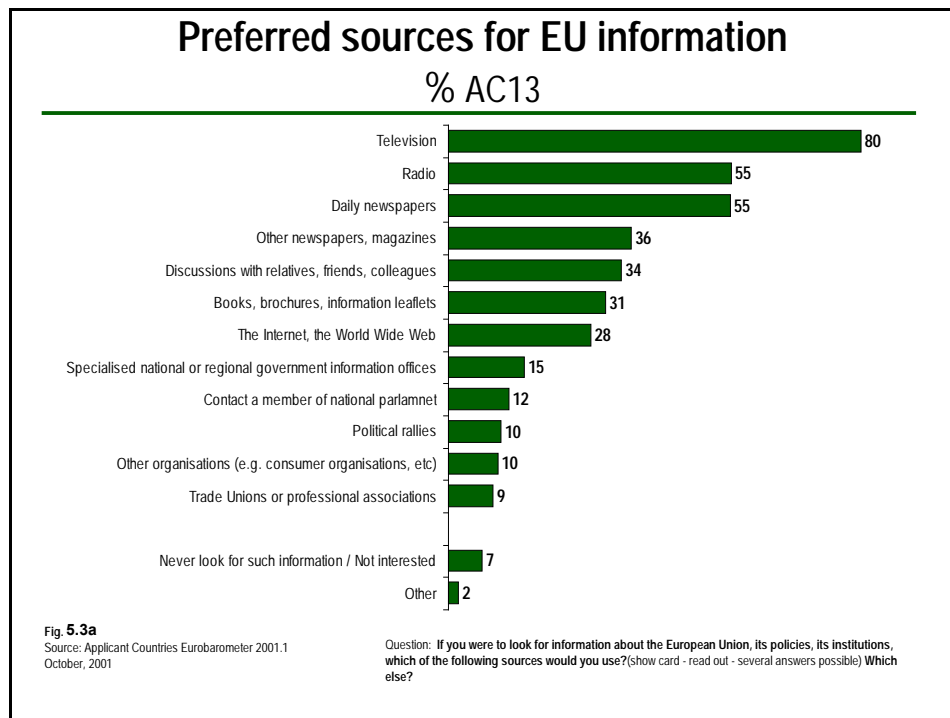


The demographic analyses show that men are more likely than women are to pay attention to news about the European Union (83% v. 75%). The youngest age group is less likely to pay attention (to any news) than are people aged 25 and over. Ninety percent of people who stayed in full-time education until age 20 or older pay attention, compared to 71% of those who left full-time education before age 16. Analyses of the respondent occupation scale show that managers are most likely to pay attention to news about the European Union (90%) compared to only 70% of people who stay at home. (Table 5.4b)

5.3 Source of information about the European Union

As a regular feature, Eurobarometer questions EU citizens about the sources they use when they look for information about the European Union. We repeated this question in the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer as well.

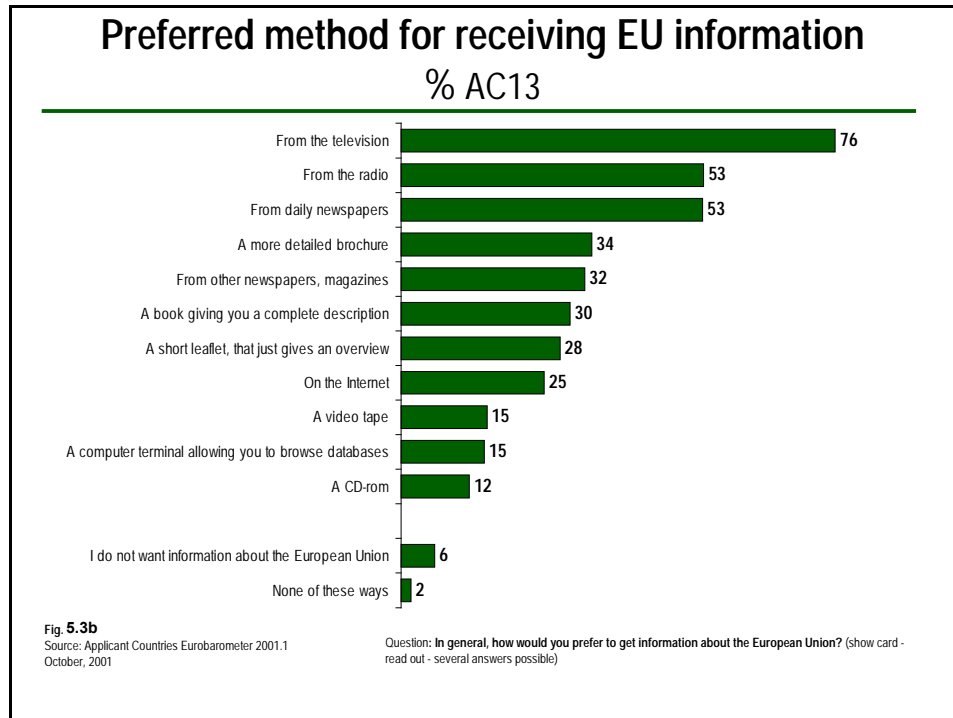
As usual within the Member States⁴¹, the results indicate that the public is most likely to use the media. Eighty percent of respondents say they turn on the television when they look for information. Further, 55% of respondents read the daily newspapers and listen to the radio⁴². Around two thirds of the respondents turn to other newspapers and magazines or hold discussions with relatives, friends and colleagues when they look for information. Around one in three read books, brochures or information leaflets or surf the World Wide Web to obtain information. The other six sources listed in the questionnaire are selected by less than 20% of the respondents. Seven percent of respondents never look for information about the European Union, and 2% mention another source. (For detailed country results please refer to Table 5.6 in the Appendix)



⁴¹ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 4.3

⁴² Respondents were shown a card listing 14 sources or type of sources and were asked to name all those they would use when they were to look for information about the European Union. They could also mention other sources, say that they never look for information about the EU (not interested) or say they don't know.

The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer asked respondents to indicate their preferred method(s) of receiving information about the European Union from a list of 11 pre-defined sources. Not surprisingly, people's preference goes to the three media sources they are most likely to use. Seventy six percent of respondents say they prefer the television, and 36% say they prefer daily newspapers or list the radio as a preferred source. The Internet is selected by 25% of respondents, which is twice as much compared to the European Union audience (12%). Other non-printed information tools, such as videotapes (15%), CD-ROMs (12%) and computer databases (15%) are also less popular than printed sources.



5.4 EU topics people would like to know more about

When asked about what they would like to know more about, the citizens of the Candidate Countries chose Youth policy (62%), the Institutions of the European Union (60%), and Education policy (57%) as their first preferences. More than half feel the lack of information about the Euro, EU economy in general (both 55%), Regional policy (54%), European citizenship, Social policy (both 53%), and the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union (51%). Almost half (49%) of the people living in the Candidate Countries would like to know more about the Enlargement process. People feel that they know enough, or are simply not interested in the European Union's R&D policies (38% interested), the Pre-accession funds (42%), and the History of the EU (44%). In general, the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found relatively widespread interest in most of the topics it investigated.

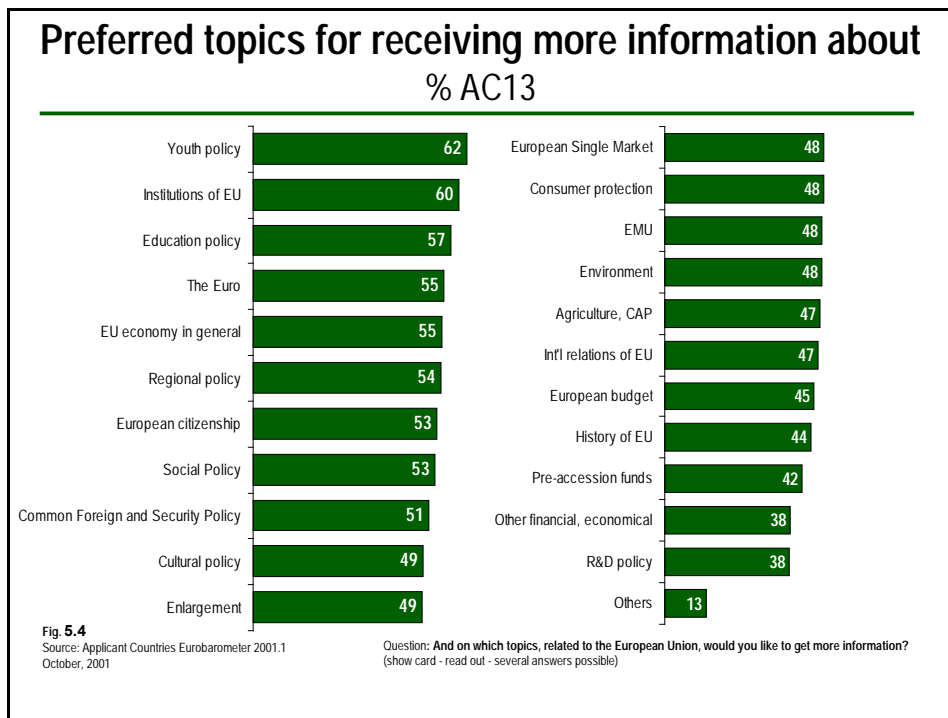


Table 5.4 on the next page shows the four most frequently mentioned topics about which people in each country want more information. It shows a very diverse picture with very few common characteristics. One of these is, however, that information about **Youth policy** ranked in the top four in nine of the 13 Candidate Countries. Another frequent entry among the most popular contents is **information about the Euro**, which was among the top four in nine countries, too. Maltese are more likely to have interest in post-modern issues, like Environment, Consumer protection, Education, whilst the Slovenes remain strictly material in their choice of content: they wish to know more about Pre-accession funds, EU economy in general, and the European Monetary Union. Citizens of seven countries told us that they would like to have more information on the **Institutions of the European Union**. The topic of **Enlargement** reaches the top four in Slovakia only. (Table 5.8, Appendix)

Table 5.4 Four most frequently mentioned topics the Candidate Countries citizens want to know more about (% , by country)

Bulgaria	Malta
Youth Policy 55	Environment 57
Social Policy 52	Consumer protection 56
The Euro 47	Education 55
Regional policy 47	Youth Policy 55
Cyprus	Poland
Education 65	Youth Policy 55
Youth Policy 63	Institutions of EU 51
Institutions of EU 60	EU economy in general 49
EU economy in general 53	Regional Policy 48
Czech Republic	Romania
The Euro 66	The Euro 59
Institutions of EU 63	Youth Policy 54
Youth Policy 62	Pre-accession funds 49
Pre-accession funds 60	EU economy in general 48
Estonia	Slovakia
The Euro 57	Institutions of EU 55
Regional Policy 51	The Euro 54
Youth Policy 50	Social Policy 54
Social Policy 50	Enlargement 50

Hungary

Youth Policy
51

The Euro
49

Education
47

Institutions of EU
45

Latvia

Institutions of EU
54

The Euro
54

Education
54

Foreign and Security Policy
52

Lithuania

The Euro
52

Pre-accession funds
48

Institutions of EU
45

EU economy in general
44

Slovenia

The Euro
56

Pre-accession funds
56

EU economy in general
53

EMU
51

Turkey

Institutions of EU
68

Education
68

Youth Policy
67

Culture
63

6. Attitudes and knowledge about enlargement and the accession process

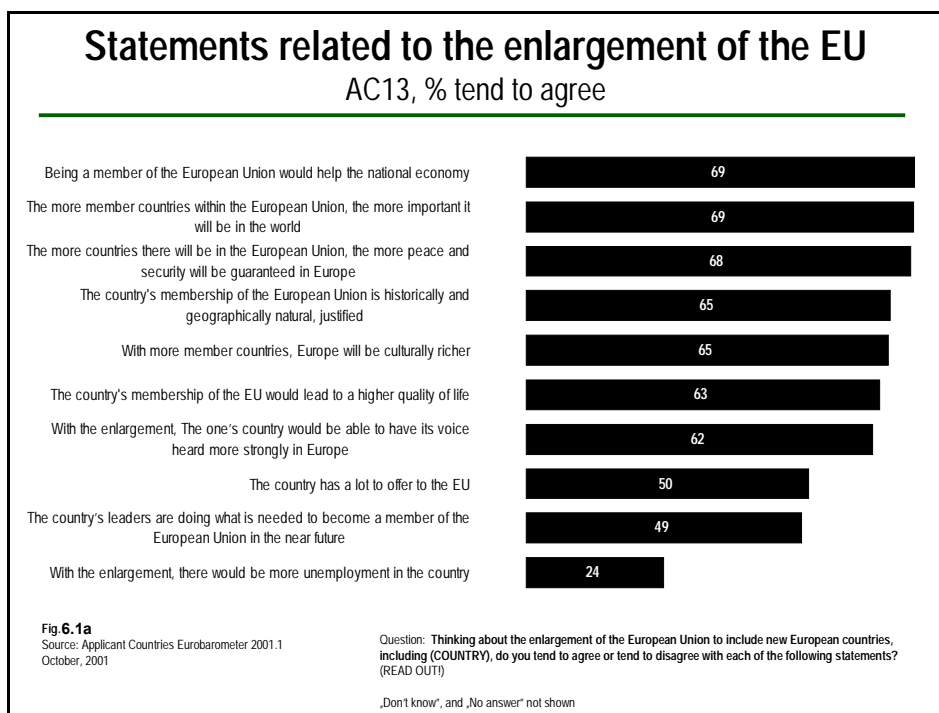
At the beginning of this last chapter we will examine the feelings, attitudes and fears related to enlargement that are prevalent in the population of the Candidate Countries. We continue by examining when people would expect or would like their country to join the EU, as well as their responses about the perceived and desired speed of their country's accession process. Finally, we will look at the amount of information that the residents of the Candidate Countries feel that they have received about the enlargement of the European Union and the accession of their country to the EU.

6.1 Attitudes towards enlargement

Two thirds of the public in the Candidate Countries believe that the membership of their country in the European Union is 'natural' i.e. historically and geographically justified (65%). The majority of Candidate Countries citizens feel that membership would help their national economy, and that the Union will be more important in the world if it includes more countries (69%). Sixty five percent of EU citizens regard a Union that consists of more member countries as a cultural enrichment and 68% believe that a larger Union will guarantee more peace and security in Europe.

Every second respondent in the Candidate Countries believes their country has a lot to offer to the European Union, and 62% believe that their nation's voice will be heard more in Europe once they have joined the EU. Less than half (49%) believe, though, that their leaders are doing what is needed to become a member of the European Union.

Every fourth citizen in the Candidate Countries thinks that there will be more unemployment after their country joins the European Union.



In the following paragraphs we look at each statement in more detail.

A lot to offer

We asked our respondents if they agree or disagree with the following statement: “(COUNTRY) has a lot to offer to the European Union”. The region as a whole is not very confident in this regard. The average of the Candidate Countries for the answer “I tend to agree” is 50%. Poland (57%), Romania (56%) and Turkey (52%) are the countries where the most people think that they will bring something valuable into the partnership with the present Member States. Only 18% of Estonians think that their country “has a lot to offer” the European Union, Lithuania is also rather pessimistic in this respect (21%).

More peace and security

All Candidate Countries share the view that enlargement will bring more security and peace to Europe. Overall, 68% of respondents agreed with this statement. In the current Member States Eurobarometer found significantly lower levels of agreement (50%)⁴³ for: “*The more countries there will be in the European Union, the more peace and security will be guaranteed in Europe*”. In the Candidate Countries Cypriots are the most likely to agree with this sentence (77%), followed by Hungarians (75%) and Romanians (74%), whilst in Malta relatively few people (48%) believe that the integrating force of the European Union will bring lasting peace to the continent.

Membership would help the country's economy

On average 69% of our respondents agreed that “*being a member of the European Union would help the (NATIONAL) economy*”. Countries are divided on this question, the levels of affirmation ranges from 75% and 74% in Romania and Bulgaria to 44% in Malta and 48% in Latvia.

Membership makes the country more important in Europe

Sixty-three percent of the citizens of Candidate Countries expect their countries to have increased European importance after having joined the European Union. Cypriot respondents are the most likely to expect higher appreciation for their country (79%), followed by the Turkish (67%) and Romanians (66%), whilst Czechs anticipate such a change the least with 45% affirmative responses.

Leaders are doing what is needed

Compared to the previous statements respondents were considerably less convinced that “(COUNTRY)’s leaders are doing what is needed to become a member of the European Union in the near future”. On average 49% think that their leaders spare no effort to promote the accession process. The public in Cyprus (78%), Estonia (74%), Hungary and Malta (both 72%) is the most likely to share this view. In Turkey (37%), in Romania (45%) and in Slovakia (49%) people are less likely to think that their politicians do what is needed in order to become EU members.

With enlargement the EU will become more important

The people living in the Candidate Countries envision a stronger Europe after the enlargement with new Member States. They are confident that “*The more member countries within the European Union, the more important it will be in the world*”: On average 69% of respondents agree with this statement (almost as many, 63% affirm this within the Member States). The highest numbers of positive responses were recorded in Cyprus (81%), but Hungary (78%) and Slovenia (77%) also ranked high on this scale. Malta is at the bottom end with 55% affirmative answers.

⁴³ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 3.6

Membership is justified

Sixty-five percent of Candidate Countries citizens are positive that their country belongs historically and geographically to the European realm, and that consequently, their membership in the Union is natural and justified. However, results are strongly polarized. People of Bulgaria are the most likely to think (70%) that their membership of the EU is well justified by historic and geographic reasons, followed by Romania, Slovenia and Turkey (68% each). The least confident nations in this respect are the Maltese (41%), the Lithuanians and the Estonians (both 48%).

Cultural enrichment

Sixty-five percent of the people living in the Candidate Countries think that their countries can add to the cultural richness of the European Union. Sixty one percent of the citizens in the current Member States also agree with the following statement: *“With more member countries, Europe will be culturally richer”*. Respondents from Slovenia, Hungary, and Turkey agree the most with this statement, with 71%, 69% and 67% respectively. Lithuanians (47 %), Maltese (50%) and Estonians (54%) are the most sceptical in this regard.

Higher quality of life

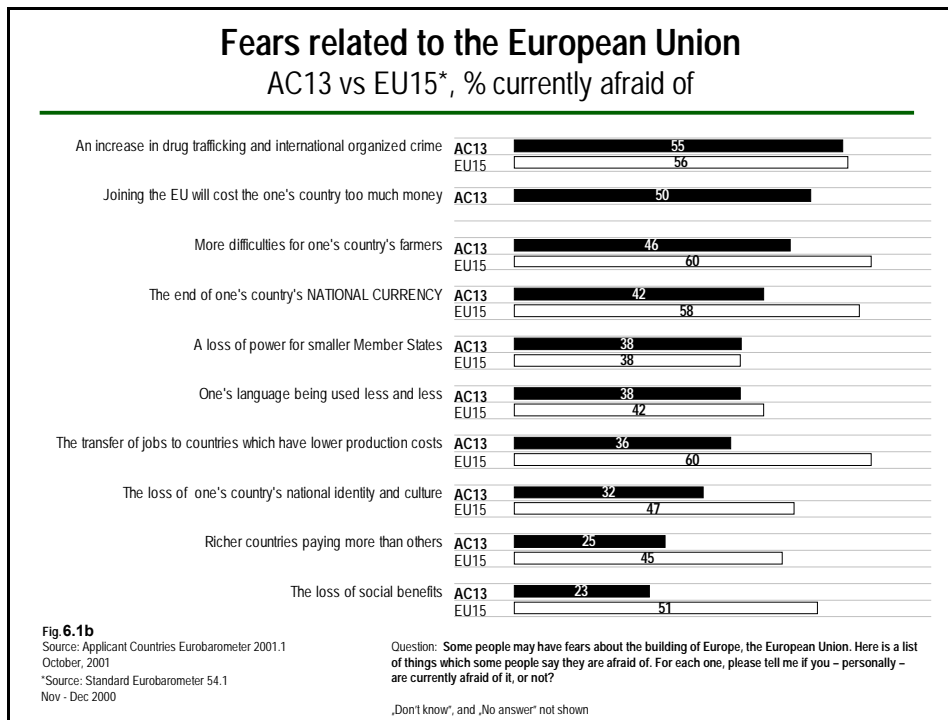
Sixty three percent of the respondents expect a better life from their EU citizenship. When we ask if they tend to agree or not with the statement *“(COUNTRY)’s membership of the EU would lead to a higher quality of life”*, the Romanians (72%), the Bulgarians (71%), and the Turkish people (66%) were the most optimistic. We found low levels of optimism in the Baltic States: Estonia (41%), Latvia (42%) and Lithuania (46%).

More Unemployment

Being the only negative statement among those tested, this one received the least confirmation from the public of the Candidate Countries: 24% of interviewed individuals agreed that *“With the enlargement, there would be more unemployment in (COUNTRY)”*. Fifty four percent of Cypriots fear that their membership will have a negative effect on their employment possibilities. Maltese and Estonians are also more likely to fear for their labour market as a result of membership with 41% saying that membership would raise unemployment in the country. On the other hand only 14% of Bulgarians have similar fears, followed by Romanians (18%) and Slovaks (20%).

In another set of questions the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer tested the prevalence of several common fears related to the European Union, or the enlargement process itself. In order to measure the extent to which the public is concerned about the ongoing process of European integration, respondents were asked the following question:

Some people may have fears about the building of Europe, the European Union. Here is a list of things which some people say they are afraid of. For each one, please tell me if you - personally - are currently afraid of it, or not?



People in the Candidate Countries are most likely to fear that the building of Europe will lead to increase in drug trafficking and international organised crime. Generally fewer, but still at least about one in four citizens in the Candidate Countries fear economic losses, compared to the current Member States⁴⁴. Every second respondent is currently afraid that the accession will cost too much money to their country and 45% are afraid that with increased integration their farmers will face more difficulties. The following table shows the three most widespread fears in each country.

⁴⁴ EB54.1, Winter 2000, Chapter 4.5

**Table 6.1a Three most widespread fears connected to the building of Europe
(in %, by country)**

Bulgaria		Malta	
Increase in organized crime	45	Loss of power	52
Accession expensive	41	Accession expensive	50
Abandoning language	30	Problems for farmers	50
Cyprus		Poland	
Increase in organized crime	79	Problems for farmers	64
Abandoning language	60	Increase in organized crime	62
Loss of identity, culture	59	Accession expensive	61
Czech Republic		Romania	
Accession expensive	65	Increase in organized crime	50
Increase in organized crime	60	Accession expensive	36
Problems for farmers	55	End of natl. currency	25
Estonia		Slovakia	
Increase in organized crime	66	Increase in organized crime	68
Accession expensive	60	Accession expensive	59
Problems for farmers	57	Problems for farmers	52
Hungary		Slovenia	
Accession expensive	64	Problems for farmers	68
Increase in organized crime	52	Increase in organized crime	57
End of natl. currency	50	Accession expensive	55

Latvia	Turkey
Problems for farmers 66	End of national currency 54
Increase in organized crime 65	Increase in organized crime 52
Accession expensive 58	Abandoning language 52
Lithuania	
Increase in organized crime 60	
Accession expensive 59	
Problems for farmers 54	

The increase in drug trafficking and international organised crime is the most widespread fear in six Candidate Countries and the second most widespread fear in a further six countries. It is not included in the top three only in Malta. The fear that **farmers will have more difficulties** is the most widespread fear in Poland, Slovenia and Latvia. It is the third most widespread fear in a further four countries: in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Malta and Slovakia. It does not make the top three in the remaining six countries. **High cost of accession** is the most widespread fear in Hungary and the Czech Republic, coming second in six countries and third in three countries, though it does not make the top three in Cyprus or Turkey. The **end of national currency** appears as the top fear in Turkey, ranks third in Hungary and Romania. In Cyprus among the most widespread fears we find **abandoning the national language** and **loss of identity**, the former appearing among the top three fears of the Turkish people as well.

Finally, we look at the average fear level in each Applicant Country. Each of them show lower levels of fear compared to current Member States (51%). As the following table shows, the average percentage of respondents saying they are currently afraid is highest in Estonia (49%) and by far the lowest in Bulgaria (28%) and Romania (23%).

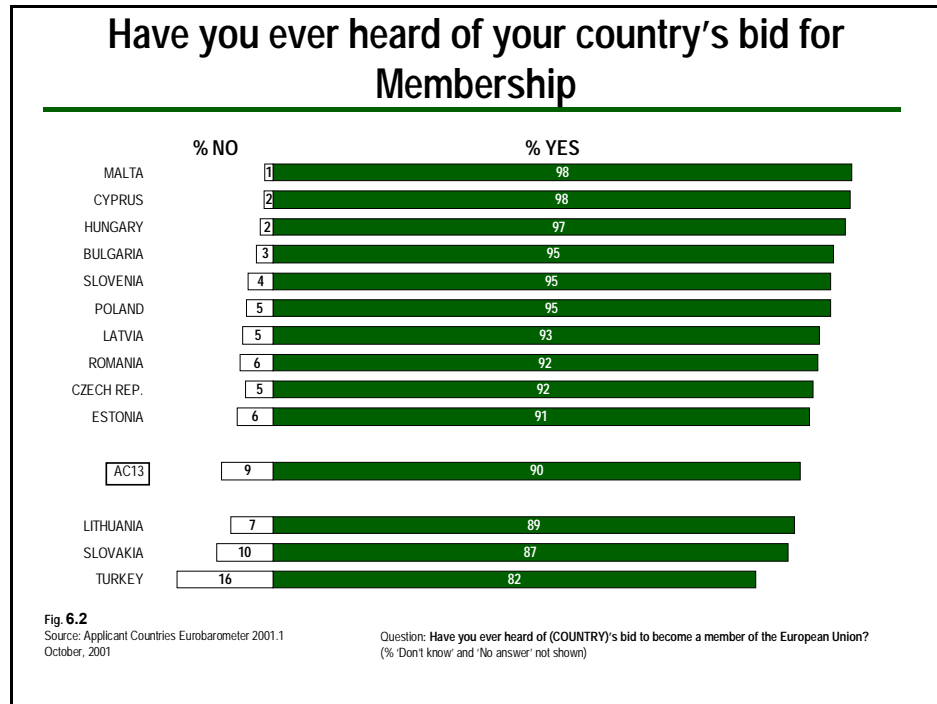
Table 6.1b Fear in the building of Europe (Average score for ‘% currently afraid’ responses for 11 items, by country)

country	% average
ESTONIA	49
SLOVENIA	47
LATVIA	46
CYPRUS	46
CZECH REP.	45
MALTA	44
SLOVAKIA	43
TURKEY	43

LITHUANIA	42
POLAND	40
HUNGARY	39
AC13	39
BULGARIA	28
ROMANIA	23

6.2 Awareness of country's bid for EU Membership

As of October 2001, nine in ten people living in an Applicant Country are aware that their government has applied for European Union membership and begun negotiations about accession. The smallest proportion of people who knew this fact were found in Turkey (82%); the largest proportion were found in Malta and in Cyprus (both 98%). Generally, there is no significant variation among the remaining countries; however, Slovaks (87%) and Lithuanians (89%) are also a little less informed compared to the average, while Hungarians (97), Slovenians, Polish and Bulgarians (95% each) tend to be more informed than the average.



Demographic analysis shows approximately similar levels of variation in the awareness of different groups. The highly educated, managers (97% both), other white collar workers, and those with medium levels of education (95% both) are more likely to be informed about the country's bid for EU membership, while the least educated (83%), women (86%) and the oldest age group (88%) are less aware of it.

6.3 Date of accession

Perceived and desired speed of accession process

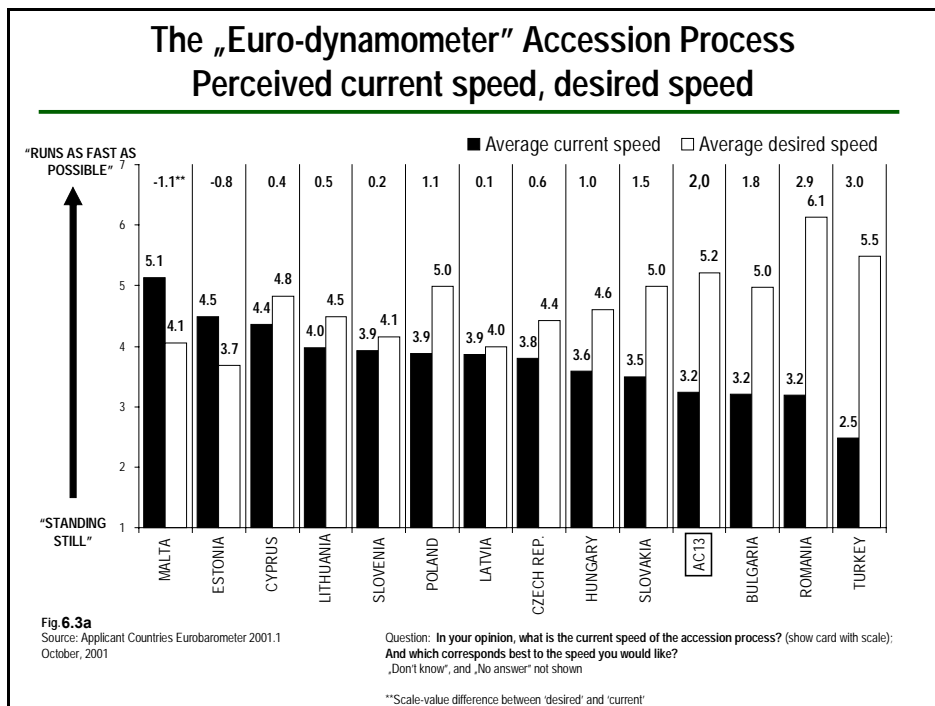
The survey has measured public opinion about the perceived and desired speed of their country's accession process with the following question:

a. In your opinion, what is the current speed of the accession process? Please look at these figures (SHOW CARD WITH SCALE), No 1 is standing still, No 7 is running as fast as possible. Choose the one which best corresponds with your opinion of the current speed of the accession process.



b. And which corresponds best to the speed you would like? (Show same card)

On a scale of 1 to 7, the average speed at which people believe their country's accession process is proceeding is 3.2. But people would like the accession process to progress at a faster speed (5.2). As the figure below shows, the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer shows a very high net score difference of 2.0. It must be pointed out, however, that the survey was done just before the Laeken Summit of the European Union, where strong commitments were made towards faster accession of some of the countries that had previously had different expectations.



The perceived speed of the accession process varies considerably from country to country. It is highest in Malta (5.1) and lowest in Turkey (2.5). High speed of the accession process is perceived in Estonia (4.5) and Cyprus (4.4) as well. Countries still above the neutral cut-off point of this seven-point scale are Lithuania (4.0), Slovenia, Poland, Latvia (all 3.9), the Czech Republic (3.8) and Hungary (3.6). Slovakia is exactly at the middle of the scale (3.5), meaning that it attributes a medium speed to the process. Only Bulgarians, Romanians (both 3.2) and Turkish perceive the speed of the accession process as being rather slow. (Table 6.7)

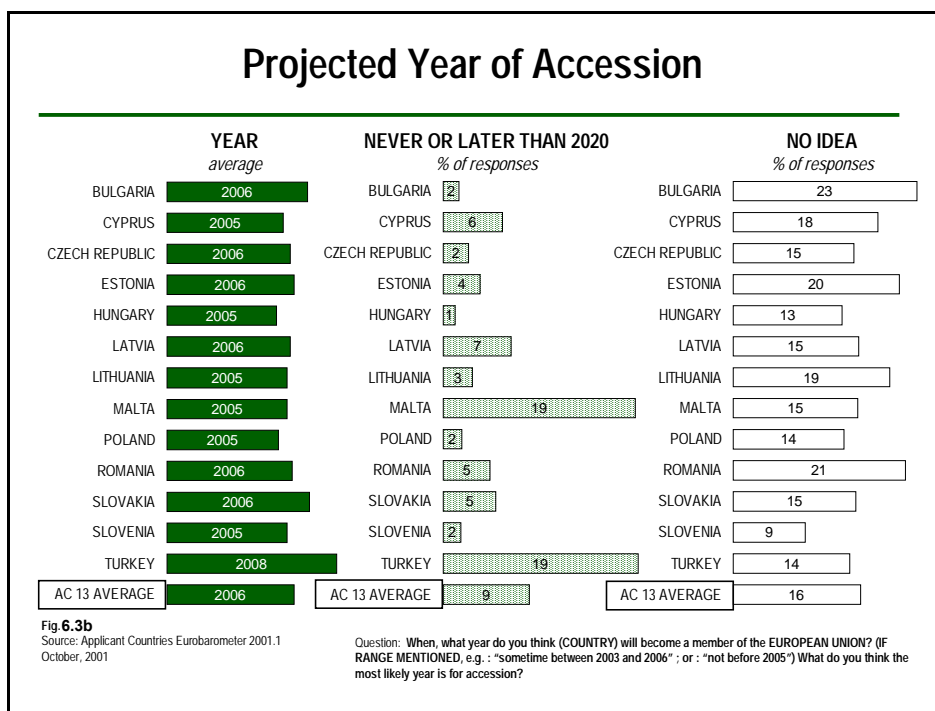
With regard to wishes expressed about the speed of accession, people in Romania would like the fastest accession process for their country (6.1), followed by people in Turkey (5.5), Bulgaria and Poland (both 5.0). The desired speed is lowest in Estonia (3.7) and Latvia (4.0), but these values are still on the fast side of the scale. (Table 6.8)

As the graph above shows, the gap between the speed at which the accession process is perceived to be progressing and the speed at which people desire it to progress varies significantly from country to country. In most countries people would like to see their country's accession process to be faster than the perceived speed, with the largest positive net difference found in Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria and the Slovak Republic. Malta and Estonia are the only countries with a small negative net difference between the perceived and the desired speeds. Latvia and Slovenia are the countries where the perceived speed almost matches the desired speed.

Projected and desired date of accession

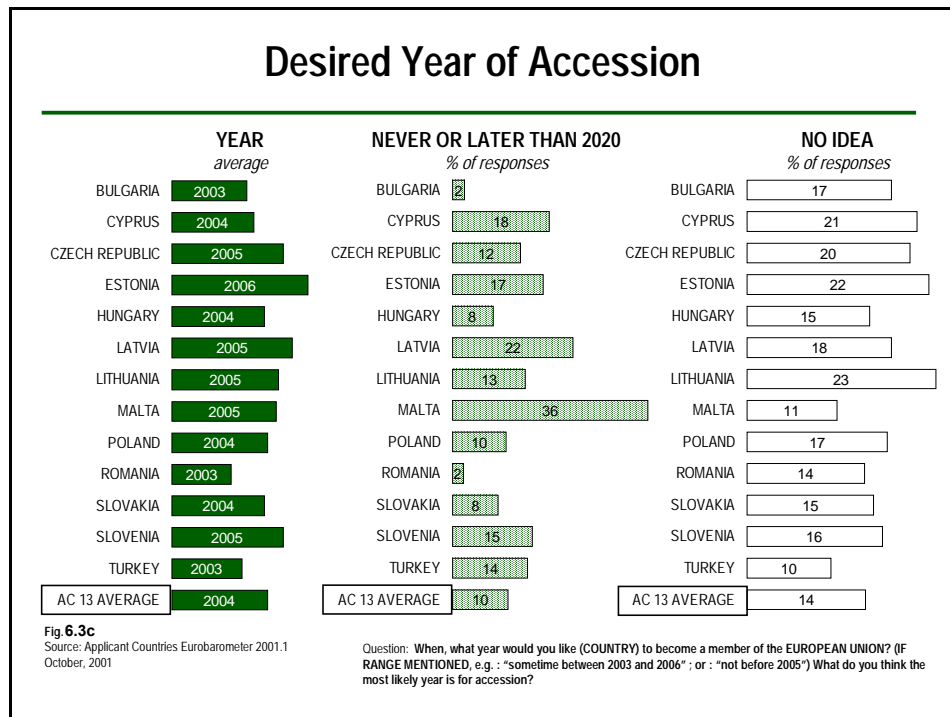
If asked about actual dates, the people in the Candidate Countries – with little variation – expect their country's accession to happen in 2006⁴⁵. Nine percent say that their country will never join the Union, or that accession will be beyond 2020. Sixteen percent have no clear idea when the accession would take place. Six countries project their membership to 2005, and another six countries to 2006. Turkey is more pessimistic (at least compared to the other countries): the average projected year of accession among the Turkish public is currently 2008.

In Turkey and Malta the Candidate Countries Eurobarometer found significantly higher proportions of respondents who believe that accession will never take place or will be postponed to after 2020 (19% in both countries). Among Romanians and Bulgarians the uncertainty is higher than in other countries: respectively 21 and 23% could not tell what year they expect their country to join the European Union.



⁴⁵ average year, category "never", "later than 2020" and "No opinion" is excluded from the analysis. Category "2011-2015" has been recoded to 2013, and category "2016-2020" has been recoded to 2018

We see considerably earlier dates if we examine the desired date of accession, i.e. when the citizens of Candidate Countries would like their country to join the European Union. On average, the public of the Candidate Countries would like to be citizens of the European Union by the year 2004.



The Turkish, Romanians and Bulgarians seem to share the common view that the sooner their country joins the European Union, the better. In these three countries the public would like to be members of the European Union as early as 2003. Cypriots, Hungarians, Polish and Slovaks think that the ideal year would be 2004. The Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovenia prefer the year 2005 for joining the EU. Estonians would like to postpone the accession beyond 2005.

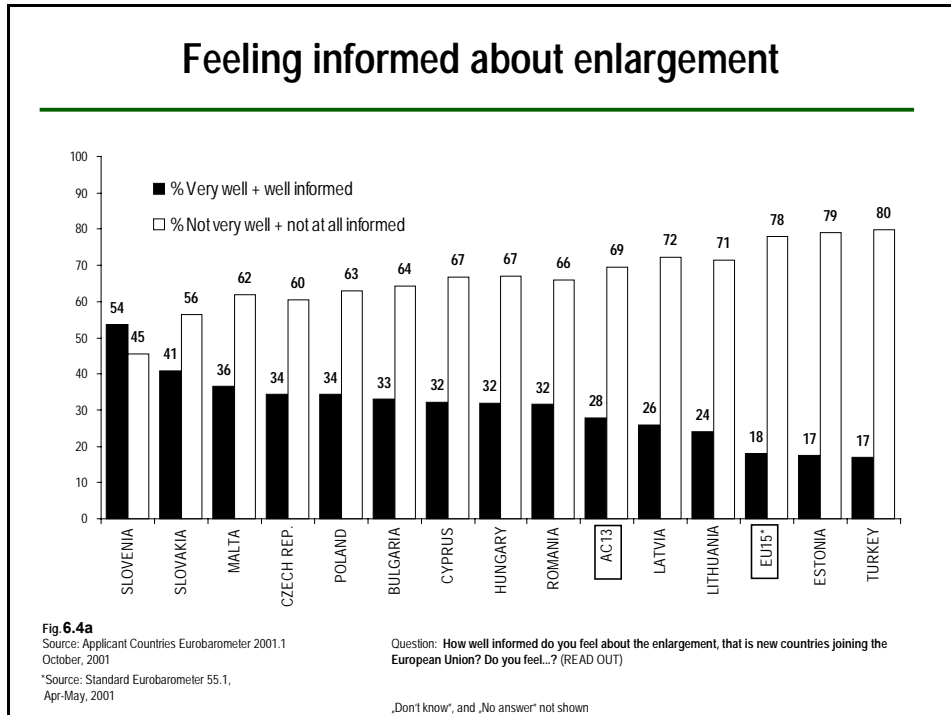
Malta is however, very much divided on this issue. We found that more than one third of the public (whose answers were not taken into account for the previous analysis) would like to postpone the membership beyond 2020, or do not want their country to be a member at all (36%). This view was shared by 22% of Estonians, and 18% of Cypriots.

It is interesting – and presumably connects to the relatively low level of information about the accession process, discussed later in this chapter – that many citizens in the Candidate Countries can not decide what the ideal year of accession would be. On average, 14% of people in the region have no definite opinion about the most desirable year of joining the European Union, ranging from 10% in Turkey to 23% in Lithuania.

6.4 Feeling informed about enlargement and the accession process

Enlargement

Eurobarometer finds that people in the Candidate Countries – and even more in the Member States⁴⁶ – feel poorly informed about the enlargement process. The results show that 28% of Applicant Countries' citizens and only 18% of EU citizens feel very well or well informed about enlargement, with 69% and 78% feeling not very well or not at all well informed.



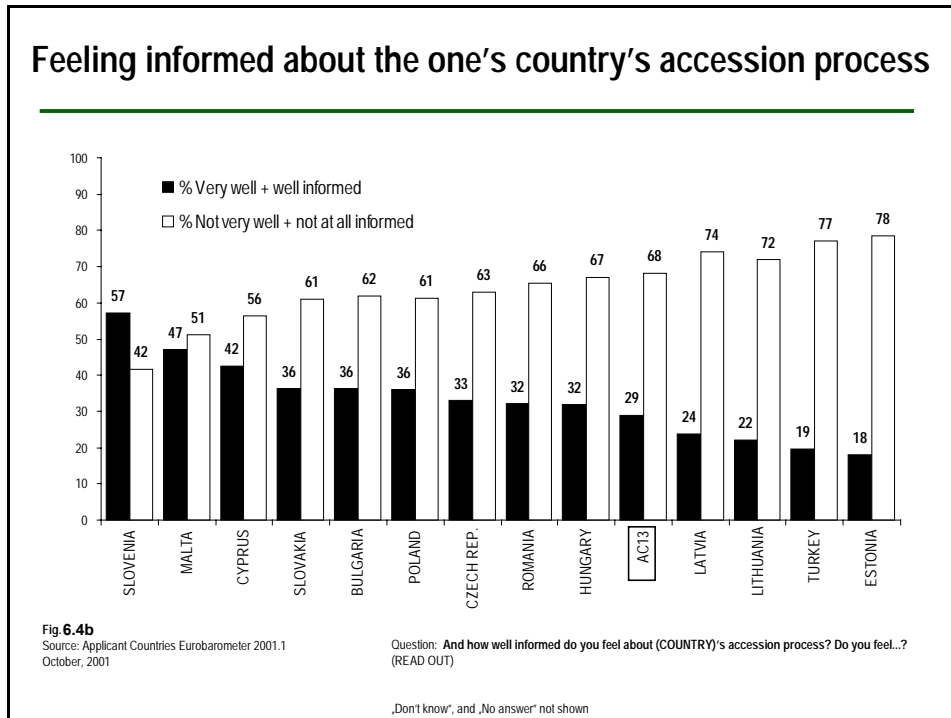
The country results indicate that Slovenia is the only country where more than half of the population feels well informed about enlargement (54%), followed by Slovakia (41%) and Malta (36%). In most of the other countries, about one third of the respondents feel well informed, with the exception of the Baltic States and – on the low extreme – Turkey, where only 17% feel informed about the enlargement process. (Table 6.9a)

The demographic analyses show that the proportion of people that feels well informed about enlargement ranges from 14% among people who look after the home to 49% among managers. One third of men are confident enough to say they are well informed as opposed to only one fifth of women. Levels of feeling informed increase dramatically with education; those who left school before the age of fifteen are much less likely to feel informed (16%) than those who left school after 20 years of age (46%). (Table 6.9b)

⁴⁶ EB55.1, Spring 2001, Chapter 3.9

Accession

It would be expected that people feel more informed on the subject of their own country's accession. The Candidate Countries Eurobarometer is unable to confirm this hypothesis: only 29% of the people living in the Candidate Countries feel well or very well informed about their country's accession process, which is only one percentage point higher than the similar result about the enlargement process. Sixty eight percent feel that they are not very well, or even not at all informed (the proportion of the latter group is 24%).

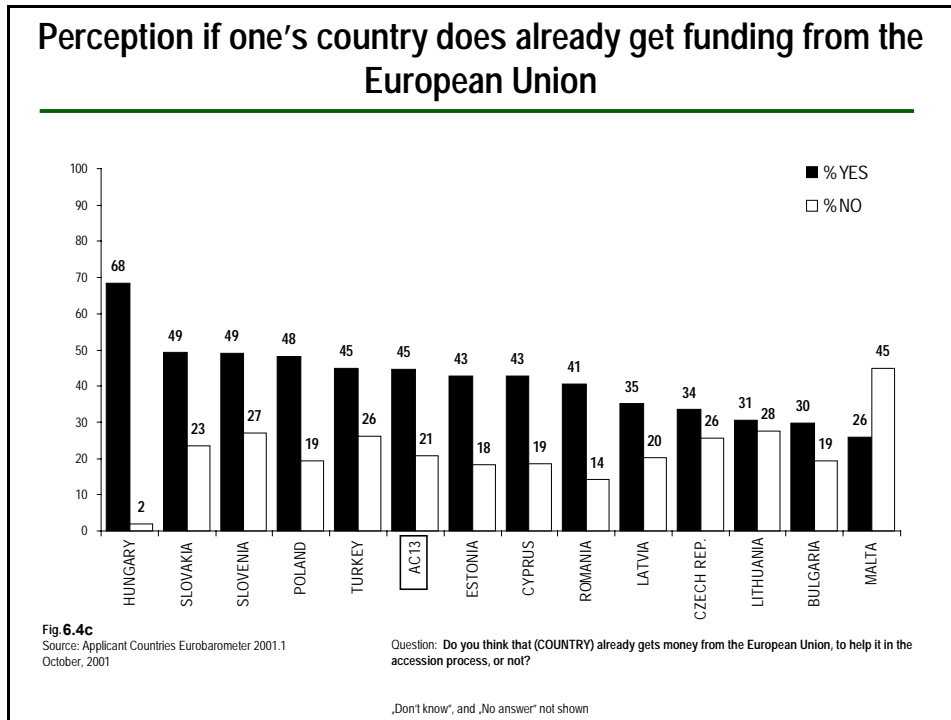


The country by country analyses don't add much to this: we have found the almost the same ranking of the countries as in the question about enlargement. Again, Slovenia is the only country where more than half of the population feels well informed about the country's accession (57%), this time followed by Malta (47%) and by Cyprus (42%). The latter two are the countries where levels of information about the accession of the country considerably exceed those about the enlargement of the EU. At the bottom we find the Baltic States and Turkey again, with Estonians being the least informed about the country's accession process. (Table 6.10a)

It comes as no surprise that the demographic analyses show exactly what we saw before: the proportion of people who feel well informed about accession ranges from 16% among people who look after the home to 51% among managers. (Table 6.10b)

Pre-accession funds

Although most of the current Candidate Countries and their citizens have had access to various European Union funds for almost a decade now, the fact that the EU supports the Candidate Countries financially remains relatively unknown in the majority of the Candidate Countries. More than one third (35%) have no idea whether the EU has funded their country or not, 45% think their country is already receiving funding from the European Union, while 21% say the opposite.



There is only one Applicant Country, where awareness of European funding is relatively high, and that is Hungary (68%). In each of the remaining twelve countries the awareness of the influx of EU money remains below 50%, ranging from 26% in Malta to 49% in Slovakia and Slovenia. (Table 6.11a)