

Standard Eurobarometer 83 Spring 2015

THE EU BUDGET

REPORT

Fieldwork: May 2015

This survey has been requested and co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication.

http://ec.europa.eu/public opinion/index en.htm

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

Standard Eurobarometer 83 / Spring 2015 – TNS opinion & social

Eurobarometer

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Standard Eurobarometer 83 Spring 2015

The EU budget

Survey conducted by TNS opinion & social at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication

Survey coordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| ΙΝΤ | RODUCTION | 2 |
|-----|---|----|
| Ι. | EUROPEANS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET | 4 |
| н. | THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET: PERCEPTIONS | 10 |
| ш. | THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET: EXPECTATIONS | 16 |

ANNEXES

Technical specifications

INTRODUCTION

This Standard Eurobarometer 83 of spring 2015 aims to provide an overview of public perceptions of the European Union budget. It addresses the following points:

- Do Europeans think that the European Union's political objectives would justify an increase in the EU budget? How do they perceive the EU budget in terms of value for money today?
- What so they perceive to be the areas in which the European Union budget is primarily spent?
- What are the expectations of Europeans in terms of spending priorities for the EU budget?
- Are there significant differences between the perceptions that Europeans have of the European Union budget and their expectations?

The full Standard Eurobarometer 83 report consists of five volumes. The first volume presents the state of public opinion in the European Union. Four other volumes present the views of Europeans on other issues: the Europe 2020 strategy; European citizenship; the European Union budget; Europeans and economic statistics. This volume is devoted to the European Union budget.

This Standard Eurobarometer 83 survey (EB83) was conducted between 16 and 27 May 2015 in 34 countries and territories¹: the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), five candidate countries² (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. The questions on the EU budget were asked only in the 28 EU Member States.

The results of this survey are compared with those of the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2011 (EB75). At that time the European Union had 27 Member States (Croatia having joined the EU in June 2013). The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General for Communication ("Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)³. A technical note describing how the institutes within the TNS opinion & social network conduct interviews is included in the report's annexes.

¹ Please refer to the technical specifications for information on the exact dates of the interviews in each country. ² The survey was not conducted in Iceland. In March 2015, the Icelandic government requested that "Iceland

should not be regarded as a candidate country for EU membership". ³ <u>http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm</u>

area

This note also specifies the confidence intervals⁴, which enable us to assess the accuracy of a survey's results, according to the size of the sample polled in relation to the total size of the population studied.

| | ABBR | EVIATION | S |
|----------|--|--------------|------------------------------------|
| BE | Belgium | LV | Latvia |
| CZ | Czech Republic | LU | Luxembourg |
| BG | Bulgaria | HU | Hungary |
| DK | Denmark | MT | Malta |
| DE | Germany | NL | The Netherlands |
| EE | Estonia | AT | Austria |
| EL | Greece | PL | Poland |
| ES | Spain | PT | Portugal |
| FR | France | RO | Romania |
| HR | Croatia | SI | Slovenia |
| IE | Ireland | SK | Slovakia |
| IT | Italy | FI | Finland |
| CY | Republic of Cyprus* | SE | Sweden |
| LT | Lithuania | UK | United Kingdom |
| CY (tcc) | Turkish Cypriot Community | | |
| TR | Turkey | ME | Montenegro |
| МК | Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ** | RS | Serbia |
| AL | Albania | | |
| | | | |
| EU28 | European Union – weighted average for t | he 28 Memb | per States |
| Euro | BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, | Non- euro | BG, CZ, DK, HR, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK |

The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the "acquis communautaire" has been suspended in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY" category and in the EU28 average. The interviews carried out in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY(tcc)" [tcc: Turkish Cypriot Community] category.

area

** Provisional abbreviation which in no way prejudges the definitive name of this country, which will be agreed once the current negotiations at the United Nations have been completed

* * * * *

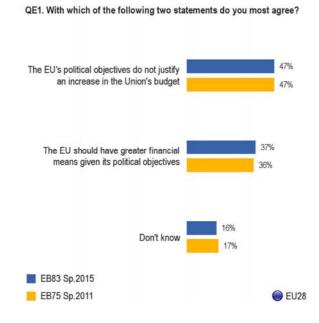
We wish to thank all the people interviewed throughout Europe who took the time to take part in this survey.

Without their active participation, this survey would not have been possible.

⁴ The results tables are annexed. It should be noted that the total of the percentages indicated in the tables in the tables in this report may exceed 100% when the respondents were able to choose several answers to a question.

I. EUROPEANS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET

Almost half of Europeans agree that "the EU's political objectives do not justify an increase in the Union's budget"⁵: 47%, unchanged since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2011 (EB75). More than a third of Europeans take the opposite view: 37% believe that "the EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives", a one percentage point increase since spring 2011, but still the minority view. Lastly, 16% express no opinion (-1 percentage point).

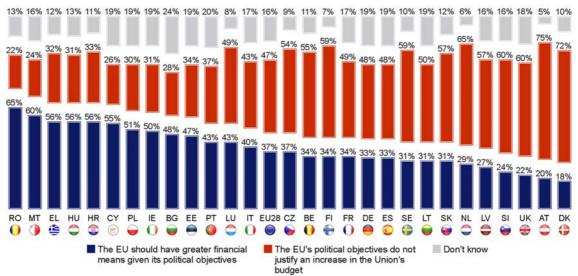


A majority of respondents in 17 Member States say that an increase in the European Union budget is not justified (versus 15 in spring 2011⁶), with the highest levels of opposition in Austria (75%), Denmark (72%) and the Netherlands (65%). However, the view that the EU should have greater financial means given its political objectives is supported by a majority of respondents in 11 countries, most notably in Romania (65%), Malta (60%), Greece (56%), Croatia (56%), Hungary (56%), Cyprus (55%) and Poland (51%).

The belief that the EU should have greater financial means in order to meet its political objectives has gained significant ground since spring 2011 in Romania (65%, +19 percentage points), Malta (60%, +16) and Ireland (50%, +14), while support for the opposite view has increased significantly in Austria (75%, +17) and Spain (48%, +13).

⁵ QE1. With which of the following two statements do you most agree?

⁶ In spring 2011, the European Union had 27 Member States. It has had 28 members since the entry of Croatia in June 2013.

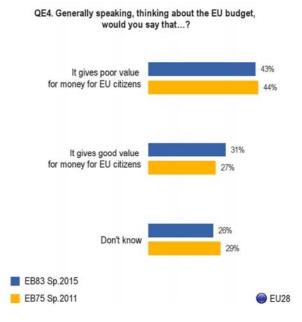


QE1. With which of the following two statements do you most agree?

| | The EU should have greater financial means given its politica objectives | | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | The EU's political objectives do not justify an increase in the Union's budget | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Don't know | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 |
|---------------|--|-----|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| \bigcirc | EU28 | 37% | +1 | 47% | = | 16% | -1 |
| \mathbf{O} | RO | 65% | +19 | 22% | +5 | 13% | -24 |
| | MT | 60% | +16 | 24% | +4 | 16% | -20 |
| 0 | IE | 50% | +14 | 31% | +4 | 19% | -18 |
| ۲ | HR | 56% | +9 | 33% | -2 | 11% | -7 |
| | CZ | 37% | +8 | 54% | -6 | 9% | -2 |
| | SE | 31% | +8 | 59% | -8 | 10% | = |
| | DE | 33% | +7 | 48% | -13 | 19% | +6 |
| | LU | 43% | +6 | 49% | +2 | 8% | -8 |
| | NL | 29% | +5 | 65% | -2 | 6% | -3 |
| | BG | 48% | +3 | 28% | +3 | 24% | -6 |
| | HU | 56% | +3 | 31% | -1 | 13% | -2 |
| | DK | 18% | +2 | 72% | -3 | 10% | +1 |
| | LT | 31% | +2 | 50% | +8 | 19% | -10 |
| 0 | PT | 43% | +2 | 37% | +1 | 20% | -3 |
| | LV | 27% | +1 | 57% | -2 | 16% | +1 |
| | SK | 31% | +1 | 57% | -6 | 12% | +5 |
| } | UK | 22% | = | 60% | -3 | 18% | +3 |
| 0 | FR | 34% | -1 | 49% | -1 | 17% | +2 |
| | FI | 34% | -1 | 59% | +2 | 7% | -1 |
| | EE | 47% | -2 | 34% | -1 | 19% | +3 |
| | EL | 56% | -2 | 32% | +1 | 12% | +1 |
| $\overline{}$ | PL | 51% | -2 | 30% | = | 19% | +2 |
| 0 | IT | 40% | -3 | 43% | +4 | 17% | -1 |
| ۲ | ES | 33% | -6 | 48% | +13 | 19% | -7 |
| 9 | SI | 24% | -6 | 60% | = | 16% | +6 |
| | CY | 55% | -8 | 26% | +7 | 19% | +1 |
| | BE | 34% | -11 | 55% | +4 | 11% | +7 |
| | AT | 20% | -11 | 75% | +17 | 5% | -6 |

QE1. With which of the following two statements do you most agree?

The impression that the European Union budget "gives good value for money for EU citizens" has gained ground since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2011 $(31\%, +4 \text{ percentage points})^7$. However, those who support this opinion are still outnumbered by those who believe that it "gives poor value for money" (43%, -1). More than a quarter of Europeans express no opinion on this subject (26%, -3).



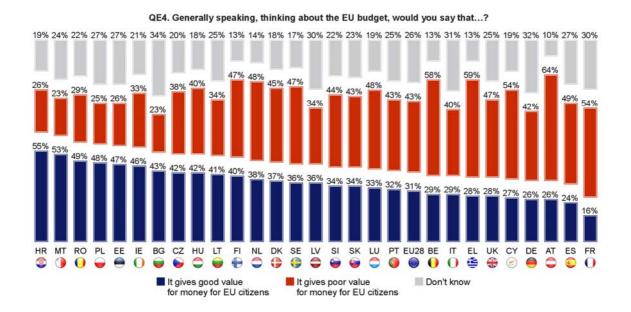
A majority of non-euro area respondents believe that the European Union budget gives good value for money for EU citizens (39% for "it gives good value for money for EU citizens", versus 37%), whereas only a minority of **euro area** respondents agree (26% versus 47%).

Positive opinions outweigh negative opinions in 11 Member States (compared with six in spring 2011), particularly in countries where a majority of respondents say that an increase in the Union's budget would be justified: Croatia (55%), Malta (53%) and Romania (49%).

A majority of respondents are critical of the cost-effectiveness of the European budget in 17 countries, most notably in Austria (64%), where there is strong opposition to an increase in the EU budget, but also in Greece (59%), Belgium (58%), France (54%) and Cyprus (54%). In Greece and Cyprus, a broad majority of respondents believe that the European Union budget should be increased given the Union's political objectives (56% and 55% respectively).

⁷ QE4. Generally speaking, thinking about the EU budget, would you say that...?

Respondents are significantly more likely than in spring 2011 to see the European Union budget as representing good value for money in Malta (53%, +28 percentage points), Romania (49%, +19), Ireland (46%, +17), Lithuania (41%, +14) and Bulgaria (43%, +11), while the opposite view has gained significant ground in Cyprus (54%, +20), Austria (64%, +11) and Spain (49%, +11).



| | | It gives good value for money for EU citizens | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | It gives poor value for money for EU citizens | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Don't know | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 |
|----------------|------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| \bigcirc | EU28 | 31% | +4 | 43% | -1 | 26% | -3 |
| | МТ | 53% | +28 | 23% | -8 | 24% | -20 |
| \mathbf{O} | RO | 49% | +19 | 29% | +6 | 22% | -25 |
| 0 | IE | 46% | +17 | 33% | = | 21% | -17 |
| | LT | 41% | +14 | 34% | -2 | 25% | -12 |
| | BG | 43% | +11 | 23% | +1 | 34% | -12 |
| | LV | 36% | +9 | 34% | -9 | 30% | = |
| | HU | 42% | +9 | 40% | -6 | 18% | -3 |
| | NL | 38% | +8 | 48% | +1 | 14% | -9 |
| | SE | 36% | +7 | 47% | -8 | 17% | +1 |
| \blacksquare | UK | 28% | +7 | 47% | -8 | 25% | +1 |
| | DE | 26% | +6 | 42% | -9 | 32% | +3 |
| 9 | SI | 34% | +6 | 44% | -9 | 22% | +3 |
| | CZ | 42% | +5 | 38% | -4 | 20% | -1 |
| | DK | 37% | +4 | 45% | -2 | 18% | -2 |
| 0 | IT | 29% | +4 | 40% | = | 31% | -4 |
| 0 | PT | 32% | +4 | 43% | +3 | 25% | -7 |
| | EE | 47% | +2 | 26% | -5 | 27% | +3 |
| | FI | 40% | +2 | 47% | -6 | 13% | +4 |
| 0 | FR | 16% | -1 | 54% | +3 | 30% | -2 |
| Θ | PL | 48% | -1 | 25% | +1 | 27% | = |
| ٢ | ES | 24% | -2 | 49% | +11 | 27% | -9 |
| | LU | 33% | -2 | 48% | +5 | 19% | -3 |
| | EL | 28% | -3 | 59% | +5 | 13% | -2 |
| | AT | 26% | -5 | 64% | +11 | 10% | -6 |
| 9 | SK | 34% | -8 | 43% | +4 | 23% | +4 |
| 0 | BE | 29% | -10 | 58% | +3 | 13% | +7 |
| ٢ | CY | 27% | -15 | 54% | +20 | 19% | -5 |
| ٢ | HR | 55% | NA* | 26% | NA* | 19% | NA* , |

QE4. Generally speaking, thinking about the EU budget, would you say that...?

*NA = Not Asked: this question was not asked in this country in the previous survey

II. THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET: PERCEPTIONS

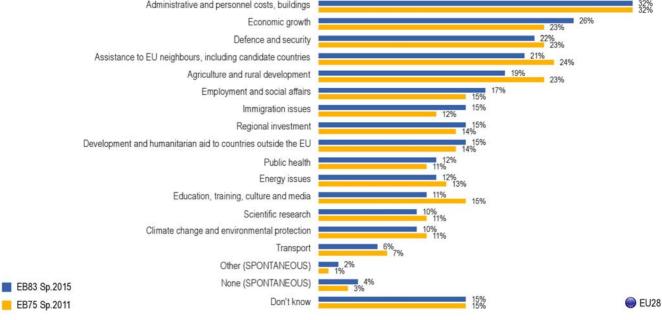
Respondents were first asked to identify the areas in which they believe most of the European Union budget is spent (firstly, and then any others, giving up to three additional answers)⁸.

"Administrative and personnel costs, buildings" continues to be perceived as the European Union's main item of expenditure, unchanged since spring 2011 at 32%. Following an increase of three percentage points, "economic growth" (26%) has moved from third to second place in the list of items on which Europeans believe most of the European Union budget is spent. "Defence and security" remains in third place (22%, -1), ahead of "assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries", which is mentioned less often than in spring 2011 (21%, -3).

Next, with scores of between 20% and 15% respondents mentioned: "agriculture and rural development" (19%, -4); "employment and social affairs" (17%, +2); "immigration issues" (15%, +3 since spring 2011 and +7 since autumn 2008); "regional investment" (15%, +1); and "development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU" (15%, +1).

The remaining six items were mentioned by less than 15% of respondents.

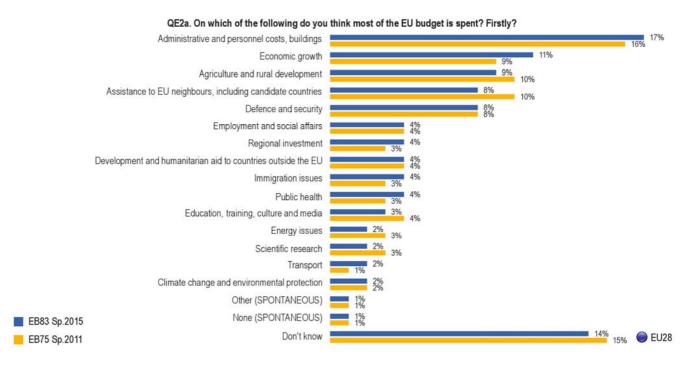




Maximum four answers

⁸ QE2T. On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent? Firstly? And then?

When we limit our analysis to the first answer given, the first two items are unchanged: "administrative and personnel costs, buildings" remains in first place (17%, +1 percentage point since spring 2011), ahead of "economic growth" (11%, +2). The ranking is then slightly different: "agriculture and rural development" is in third place (9%, -1), ahead of "assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries" (8%, -2) and "defence and security" (8%, unchanged).



First answer given

Euro area respondents are more likely than **non-euro area** respondents to believe that most of the EU budget is spent on **administrative and personnel costs**, **buildings** (36% versus 23% outside the euro area) and **assistance to EU neighbours**, **including candidate countries** (23% versus 16%). Conversely, non-euro area respondents (16%) are more likely than euro area respondents (10%) to mention **public health** as a priority spending area for the EU budget.

"Administrative and personnel costs, buildings" is perceived as the main area in which the EU allocates its budget in 12 Member States (versus 10 in spring 2011). This item is also ranked in joint first place in the United Kingdom, with "economic growth" (both 23%). Very high proportions of respondents in Austria (56%), Slovenia (52%) and Finland (52%) mentioned administrative costs.

"Economic growth" tops the list of areas to which respondents think that the European Union allocates its budget in six Member States (versus 10 in spring 2011). This item is also ranked in joint first place in Malta, with "public health" (both 32%), and in Bulgaria, with "defence and security" (both 26%). "Economic growth" obtained its highest score in the Netherlands (43%).

Defence and security is the most frequently mentioned item in four Member States (compared with only two, Greece and Latvia, in spring 2011): Lithuania (46%), Latvia (35%), Romania (33%) and Estonia (31%).

"Agriculture and rural development" is the most frequently mentioned item in Sweden (52%) and Denmark (45%), whereas this was also the case in Poland in spring 2011.

"**Regional investment**" is seen as the EU's largest budget item in the Czech Republic (31%).

| | | Adminis- trative and personnel costs, buildings | Economic growth | Defence and security | Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries | Agriculture and rural deve- lopment | Employment and social affairs | Immigration issues | Regional investment | Deve- lopment and humani- tarian aid to countries outside the EU | Public health | Energy issues | Education, training, culture and media | Scientific research | Climate change and environ- mental protection | Transport |
|-------------------------|------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|---|------------------------|---|-----------|
| \bigcirc | EU28 | 32% | 26% | 22% | 21% | 19% | 17% | 15% | 15% | 15% | 12% | 12% | 11% | 10% | 10% | 6% |
| | BE | 33% | 32% | 27% | 26% | 19% | 22% | 21% | 15% | 15% | 18% | 15% | 15% | 14% | 10% | 6% |
| | BG | 23% | 26% | 26% | 16% | 16% | 19% | 18% | 14% | 18% | 11% | 17% | 11% | 11% | 8% | 7% |
| | CZ | 25% | 24% | 24% | 28% | 18% | 19% | 18% | 31% | 21% | 12% | 13% | 13% | 20% | 8% | 14% |
| | DK | 33% | 29% | 21% | 17% | 45% | 16% | 16% | 22% | 18% | 6% | 17% | 12% | 9% | 24% | 6% |
| | DE | 47% | 27% | 17% | 32% | 25% | 17% | 18% | 21% | 17% | 6% | 10% | 6% | 10% | 14% | 3% |
| | EE | 20% | 25% | 31% | 26% | 24% | 14% | 16% | 12% | 20% | 11% | 13% | 15% | 7% | 8% | 9% |
| 0 | IE | 30% | 33% | 19% | 16% | 22% | 24% | 15% | 18% | 14% | 25% | 14% | 18% | 11% | 10% | 13% |
| | EL | 33% | 26% | 28% | 16% | 15% | 13% | 13% | 17% | 16% | 10% | 25% | 12% | 22% | 10% | 11% |
| $\overline{\mathbf{e}}$ | ES | 41% | 20% | 27% | 13% | 8% | 14% | 9% | 9% | 10% | 11% | 8% | 9% | 8% | 4% | 5% |
| 0 | FR | 30% | 22% | 23% | 25% | 21% | 11% | 11% | 10% | 15% | 12% | 10% | 11% | 9% | 9% | 6% |
| | HR | 34% | 32% | 18% | 21% | 18% | 28% | 11% | 15% | 20% | 15% | 14% | 17% | 13% | 8% | 5% |
| 0 | п | 25% | 29% | 23% | 14% | 10% | 19% | 27% | 14% | 18% | 12% | 15% | 10% | 12% | 7% | 7% |
| $\overline{\mathbf{s}}$ | СҮ | 29% | 33% | 24% | 8% | 17% | 11% | 7% | 7% | 10% | 20% | 20% | 14% | 23% | 9% | 3% |
| | LV | 22% | 27% | 35% | 19% | 22% | 16% | 12% | 14% | 15% | 10% | 18% | 13% | 9% | 5% | 9% |
| | LT | 15% | 41% | 46% | 20% | 31% | 18% | 7% | 14% | 13% | 13% | 24% | 15% | 12% | 8% | 3% |
| | LU | 41% | 34% | 21% | 28% | 22% | 20% | 11% | 16% | 14% | 16% | 10% | 15% | 13% | 7% | 11% |
| | HU | 16% | 36% | 23% | 18% | 23% | 22% | 22% | 17% | 20% | 14% | 23% | 15% | 14% | 13% | 4% |
| | MT | 23% | 32% | 15% | 11% | 12% | 17% | 15% | 11% | 9% | 32% | 16% | 28% | 10% | 12% | 7% |
| | NL | 39% | 43% | 23% | 32% | 42% | 24% | 15% | 20% | 18% | 9% | 10% | 14% | 9% | 12% | 7% |
| | AT | 56% | 30% | 23% | 35% | 25% | 18% | 23% | 14% | 24% | 11% | 11% | 14% | 12% | 13% | 14% |
| | PL | 20% | 21% | 19% | 10% | 20% | 14% | 6% | 13% | 8% | 14% | 9% | 8% | 8% | 8% | 7% |
| 0 | PT | 30% | 27% | 18% | 15% | 7% | 20% | 7% | 4% | 15% | 15% | 7% | 19% | 8% | 4% | 4% |
| 0 | RO | 18% | 26% | 33% | 18% | 21% | 21% | 10% | 18% | 16% | 22% | 11% | 21% | 11% | 9% | 10% |
| 9 | SI | 52% | 21% | 28% | 26% | 23% | 17% | 11% | 9% | 10% | 11% | 13% | 5% | 6% | 7% | 6% |
| 9 | SK | 29% | 24% | 20% | 27% | 16% | 20% | 17% | 21% | 18% | 13% | 16% | 13% | 13% | 11% | 13% |
| | FI | 52% | 34% | 23% | 24% | 33% | 32% | 15% | 29% | 13% | 8% | 22% | 5% | 6% | 18% | 7% |
| | SE | 43% | 37% | 17% | 23% | 52% | 21% | 13% | 38% | 16% | 6% | 14% | 10% | 8% | 15% | 6% |
| 1 | UK | 23% | 23% | 21% | 14% | 14% | 15% | 16% | 11% | 11% | 19% | 11% | 14% | 5% | 9% | 8% |

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

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM 2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM 3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM 4th MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Maximum four answers

| | | | quezt, on which of the following to you think most of the Eo Budget is spent. This are the outers. | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|---|--|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Adminis- trative and personnel costs, buildings | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Economic growth | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Defence and security | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Agriculture and rural deve- lopment | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Employment and social affairs | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 |
| \bigcirc | EU28 | 32% | = | 26% | +3 | 22% | -1 | 21% | -3 | 19% | -4 | 17% | +2 |
| | BE | 33% | = | 32% | -3 | 27% | +1 | 26% | = | 19% | -9 | 22% | +4 |
| | BG | 23% | -5 | 26% | -8 | 26% | +5 | 16% | -2 | 16% | -7 | 19% | +2 |
| | CZ | 25% | -6 | 24% | +3 | 24% | -1 | 28% | +1 | 18% | = | 19% | +4 |
| | DK | 33% | -17 | 29% | +12 | 21% | -4 | 17% | -8 | 45% | -10 | 16% | +7 |
| | DE | 47% | -4 | 27% | +6 | 17% | -8 | 32% | -7 | 25% | -6 | 17% | = |
| | EE | 20% | +7 | 25% | -3 | 31% | +8 | 26% | +7 | 24% | +5 | 14% | -1 |
| Ō | IE | 30% | -1 | 33% | -3 | 19% | -1 | 16% | -5 | 22% | -8 | 24% | -4 |
| | EL | 33% | +8 | 26% | -8 | 28% | -11 | 16% | +2 | 15% | -9 | 13% | -2 |
| ٤ | ES | 41% | +8 | 20% | +3 | 27% | +1 | 13% | -6 | 8% | = | 14% | +1 |
| 0 | FR | 30% | -1 | 22% | = | 23% | -1 | 25% | -4 | 21% | -7 | 11% | -1 |
| | HR | 34% | NA* | 32% | NA* | 18% | NA* | 21% | NA* | 18% | NA* | 28% | NA* |
| 0 | IT | 25% | +1 | 29% | +5 | 23% | +2 | 14% | = | 10% | = | 19% | +2 |
| $\overline{\mathbf{s}}$ | CY | 29% | -8 | 33% | -8 | 24% | = | 8% | -17 | 17% | -21 | 11% | -1 |
| | LV | 22% | -3 | 27% | +3 | 35% | +9 | 19% | +4 | 22% | -2 | 16% | -4 |
| | LT | 15% | +4 | 41% | +4 | 46% | +23 | 20% | +10 | 31% | -4 | 18% | +5 |
| | LU | 41% | +14 | 34% | +4 | 21% | +8 | 28% | -4 | 22% | -4 | 20% | +7 |
| | HU | 16% | -6 | 36% | +1 | 23% | +2 | 18% | +3 | 23% | -1 | 22% | +2 |
| | MT | 23% | -2 | 32% | +5 | 15% | +2 | 11% | +4 | 12% | +1 | 17% | +1 |
| | NL | 39% | -3 | 43% | +15 | 23% | +3 | 32% | -6 | 42% | +1 | 24% | +9 |
| | AT | 56% | +5 | 30% | +2 | 23% | +2 | 35% | -6 | 25% | -8 | 18% | -3 |
| Θ | PL | 20% | -1 | 21% | -1 | 19% | +4 | 10% | +1 | 20% | -10 | 14% | -4 |
| 0 | PT | 30% | +7 | 27% | +3 | 18% | +4 | 15% | +3 | 7% | -4 | 20% | +1 |
| \mathbf{O} | RO | 18% | +9 | 26% | -5 | 33% | +6 | 18% | -1 | 21% | -4 | 21% | +7 |
| 9 | SI | 52% | -1 | 21% | -1 | 28% | -11 | 26% | -23 | 23% | -5 | 17% | +4 |
| | SK | 29% | = | 24% | = | 20% | -6 | 27% | -4 | 16% | -2 | 20% | -5 |
| | FI | 52% | +5 | 34% | +14 | 23% | +2 | 24% | -3 | 33% | -6 | 32% | +10 |
| | SE | 43% | +6 | 37% | +10 | 17% | -4 | 23% | -4 | 52% | -5 | 21% | +10 |
| | UK | 23% | -3 | 23% | +6 | 21% | -4 | 14% | -8 | 14% | = | 15% | +2 |

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

Six most frequently mentioned items

* NA = Not Asked: this question was not asked in this country in the previous survey

| | Administrative and personnel costs, buildings | Economic growth | Defence and security | Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries | Agriculture and rural development | Employment and social affairs | Immigration issues | Regional investment | Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU | Public health | Energy issues | Education, training, culture and media | Scientific research | Climate change and environmental protection | Transport |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|--|------------------------|--|-----------|
| EU28 | 32% | 26% | 22% | 21% | 19% | 17% | 15% | 15% | 15% | 12% | 12% | 11% | 10% | 10% | 6% |
| Sender Gender | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Man | 33% | 28% | 23% | 21% | 23% | 18% | 15% | 17% | 14% | 13% | 13% | 11% | 10% | 10% | 7% |
| Woman | 31% | 25% | 22% | 20% | 16% | 16% | 16% | 13% | 16% | 12% | 11% | 11% | 9% | 9% | 6% |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 25% | 31% | 26% | 21% | 12% | 18% | 17% | 13% | 15% | 16% | 13% | 17% | 11% | 9% | 9% |
| 25-39 | 29% | 31% | 23% | 22% | 17% | 18% | 15% | 14% | 15% | 13% | 13% | 12% | 11% | 10% | 7% |
| 40-54 | 35% | 26% | 24% | 22% | 22% | 19% | 18% | 17% | 16% | 11% | 12% | 10% | 9% | 11% | 6% |
| 55 + | 34% | 22% | 19% | 18% | 21% | 14% | 14% | 15% | 14% | 11% | 10% | 9% | 8% | 9% | 5% |
| Education (End of) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 31% | 19% | 18% | 18% | 13% | 14% | 15% | 9% | 15% | 12% | 9% | 9% | 8% | 8% | 5% |
| 16-19 | 33% | 24% | 24% | 21% | 18% | 17% | 17% | 14% | 16% | 13% | 12% | 10% | 10% | 10% | 6% |
| 20+ | 34% | 29% | 22% | 22% | 28% | 18% | 13% | 20% | 14% | 11% | 13% | 12% | 10% | 10% | 7% |
| Still studying | 28% | 36% | 26% | 21% | 14% | 19% | 17% | 14% | 15% | 15% | 12% | 18% | 12% | 8% | 8% |
| Socio-professional categ | lory | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Self-employed | 34% | 29% | 24% | 19% | 24% | 18% | 15% | 23% | 13% | 11% | 12% | 11% | 10% | 9% | 9% |
| Managers | 35% | 29% | 23% | 25% | 29% | 19% | 12% | 21% | 15% | 10% | 13% | 10% | 10% | 11% | 7% |
| Other white collars | 31% | 28% | 24% | 23% | 20% | 21% | 16% | 17% | 18% | 12% | 14% | 12% | 10% | 13% | 7% |
| Manual workers | -31% | 27% | 24% | 22% | 17% | 17% | 19% | 13% | 15% | 14% | 13% | 11% | 9% | 11% | 6% |
| House persons | 28% | 20% | 21% | 18% | 13% | 16% | 17% | 10% | 13% | 14% | 9% | 10% | 11% | 9% | 6% |
| Unemployed | 34% | 24% | 23% | 18% | 11% | 16% | 14% | 11% | 15% | 11% | 11% | 12% | 10% | 7% | 7% |
| Retired | 33% | 21% | 19% | 18% | 22% | 14% | 13% | 14% | 14% | 12% | 10% | 9% | 9% | 8% | 5% |
| Students | 28% | 36% | 26% | 21% | 14% | 19% | 17% | 14% | 15% | 15% | 12% | 18% | 12% | 8% | 8% |
| Consider belonging to | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The working class | 29% | 22% | 22% | 19% | 13% | 15% | 16% | 10% | 14% | 14% | 10% | 11% | 7% | 8% | 6% |
| The lower middle class | 33% | 26% | 22% | 20% | 19% | 18% | 15% | 17% | 15% | 13% | 11% | 12% | 10% | 10% | 7% |
| The middle class | 34% | 29% | 24% | 23% | 22% | 17% | 16% | 17% | 15% | 11% | 13% | 11% | 11% | 11% | 7% |
| The upper middle class | 36% | 35% | 23% | 22% | 33% | 22% | 13% | 25% | 13% | 11% | 15% | 15% | 11% | 10% | 8% |
| The upper class | 29% | 28% | 27% | 16% | 25% | 15% | 14% | 26% | 17% | 10% | 9% | 11% | 11% | 15% | 10% |

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

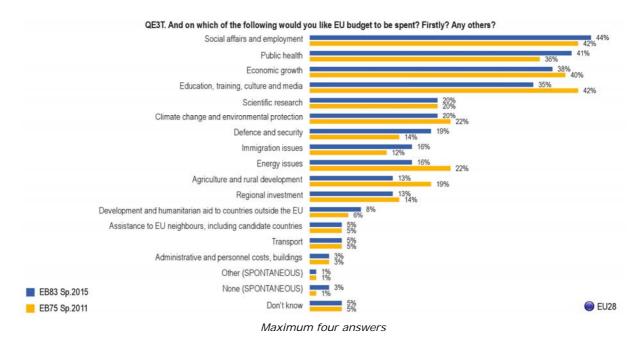
III. THE EUROPEAN UNION BUDGET: EXPECTATIONS

- Social issues have gained ground among the expected spending priorities for the European Union budget -

Respondents were then asked to choose the areas in which they would like the EU budget to be spent (firstly, and then any others, giving up to three additional answers)⁹.

"Employment and social affairs" continues to top the list of expectations (44% of total mentions), up two percentage points since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2011 (EB75) and eight points since autumn 2008. It also tops the list when only the first answer given is taken into consideration (19%, +2 percentage points). **"Public health"** is now ranked in second place following a five-point rise (41%), ahead of **"economic growth"** (38%, -2). **"Education, training, culture and media"** has fallen from first¹⁰ to fourth place in the order of expectations for European Union budget spending (35%, -7).

Next, respondents mentioned "scientific research" (20%, unchanged since spring 2011), "climate change and environmental protection", (20%, -2 percentage points), "defence and security" (19%, +5), "immigration issues" (16%, +4) and "energy issues" (16%, -6).

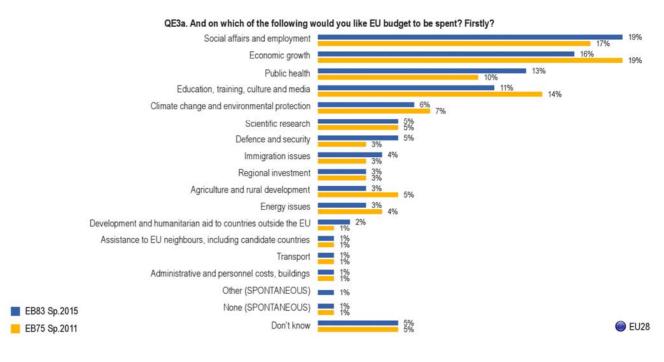


The other six items were mentioned by less than 15% of respondents.

¹⁰ This item is the result of the combination of two items from the spring 2011 survey: "Education and training" and "Culture and media".

⁹ QE3T. And on which of the following would you like the EU budget to be spent? Firstly? And then?

When we limit our analysis to **the first answer given**, the four most frequently mentioned items are the same, but "economic growth" (in second place) and "public health" (in third place) have changed places.



First answer given

Employment and social affairs, public health and **economic growth** are the top three areas in which Europeans want the European Union to prioritise its spending, both within and outside **the euro area**, but with a different ranking in the two groups of countries:

- In the euro area countries, employment and social affairs are ranked in first place (48%), ahead of public health (40%) and economic growth (40%). Euro area respondents are also more likely to mention education, training, culture and media (38% compared with 30% in the non-euro area countries) as well as scientific research (23% versus 14%) and climate change and environmental protection (22% versus 15%);
- In the **non-euro area** countries, public health tops the list of priorities (41%), ahead of employment and social affairs (36%) and economic growth (34%).

"Employment and social affairs" tops the list of priority areas for EU budget spending in 11 Member States. This item is also ranked in joint first place in Austria, with "education, training, culture and media" (46%), and in Poland, with "public health" (36%). More than six in ten respondents put "employment and social affairs" at the top of their list of European Union budget priorities in Spain (69%) and Portugal (62%).

"**Public health**" is seen as the priority in six Member States, led by Cyprus (72%), and also by more than half the respondents in Ireland (57%) and Malta (51%). Though not the top priority, it was also frequently mentioned in Spain (64%), Greece (61%) and Portugal (51%).

"Economic growth" is the most frequently mentioned area in which respondents want the EU to prioritise its budget spending in six Member States, led by Greece (66%), Slovenia (57%), Lithuania (57%) and Bulgaria (54%). Although not the top priority, "economic growth" was also frequently mentioned in Cyprus (60%)

"Education, training, culture and media" is the leading item in the Netherlands (52%), and "**climate change and environmental protection"** was the most frequently mentioned area in Sweden (54%) and Denmark (44%).

| | | Social affairs and employment | Public health | Economic growth | Education, training, culture and media | Scientific research | Climate change and environment al protection | Defence and security | Immigration issues | Energy issues | Agriculture and rural deve- lopment | Regional investment | Deve- lopment and humani- tarian aid to countries outside the EU | Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries | Transport | Adminis- trative and personnel costs, buildings |
|-------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|------------------------|--|---|-----------|---|
| \bigcirc | EU28 | 44% | 41% | 38% | 35% | 20% | 20% | 19% | 16% | 16% | 13% | 13% | 8% | 5% | 5% | 3% |
| | BE | 48% | 35% | 42% | 40% | 23% | 22% | 20% | 25% | 22% | 9% | 11% | 7% | 5% | 6% | 3% |
| | BG | 52% | 43% | 54% | 32% | 13% | 9% | 27% | 8% | 13% | 30% | 17% | 4% | 6% | 4% | 2% |
| | CZ | 47% | 43% | 41% | 30% | 26% | 14% | 27% | 8% | 11% | 24% | 24% | 5% | 4% | 13% | 2% |
| | DK | 39% | 28% | 42% | 30% | 25% | 44% | 16% | 25% | 28% | 14% | 7% | 15% | 5% | 3% | 1% |
| | DE | 42% | 31% | 28% | 38% | 24% | 39% | 14% | 17% | 17% | 12% | 17% | 13% | 5% | 1% | 2% |
| | EE | 42% | 47% | 39% | 37% | 17% | 8% | 30% | 10% | 16% | 31% | 10% | 3% | 3% | 5% | 2% |
| 0 | IE | 37% | 57% | 45% | 40% | 16% | 11% | 8% | 12% | 18% | 15% | 17% | 8% | 5% | 9% | 4% |
| | EL | 59% | 61% | 66% | 36% | 20% | 12% | 14% | 16% | 16% | 26% | 9% | 7% | 14% | 3% | 1% |
| $\overline{\mathbf{e}}$ | ES | 69% | 64% | 41% | 55% | 29% | 10% | 7% | 7% | 8% | 9% | 5% | 6% | 7% | 1% | 2% |
| 0 | FR | 45% | 36% | 37% | 34% | 23% | 20% | 26% | 15% | 17% | 13% | 10% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 2% |
| | HR | 53% | 30% | 51% | 31% | 13% | 11% | 12% | 7% | 14% | 29% | 18% | 14% | 10% | 4% | 3% |
| 0 | IT | 37% | 34% | 51% | 24% | 25% | 10% | 24% | 33% | 17% | 11% | 15% | 4% | 5% | 6% | 5% |
| ۲ | CY | 44% | 72% | 60% | 48% | 16% | 11% | 20% | 8% | 10% | 16% | 8% | 8% | 6% | 2% | 2% |
| | LV | 42% | 40% | 40% | 40% | 15% | 7% | 32% | 7% | 15% | 32% | 10% | 3% | 3% | 7% | 1% |
| | LT | 40% | 45% | 57% | 37% | 18% | 11% | 33% | 7% | 20% | 22% | 9% | 5% | 6% | 4% | 1% |
| | LU | 50% | 41% | 28% | 45% | 20% | 20% | 21% | 18% | 19% | 10% | 12% | 12% | 8% | 6% | 4% |
| | HU | 41% | 41% | 50% | 30% | 16% | 18% | 22% | 17% | 24% | 27% | 15% | 9% | 10% | 3% | 4% |
| | MT | 33% | 51% | 35% | 38% | 15% | 21% | 17% | 21% | 18% | 8% | 10% | 6% | 3% | 7% | 3% |
| | NL | 49% | 42% | 41% | 52% | 24% | 33% | 27% | 17% | 17% | 9% | 13% | 12% | 7% | 4% | 1% |
| | AT | 46% | 37% | 42% | 46% | 23% | 33% | 18% | 11% | 19% | 18% | 23% | 8% | 7% | 9% | 5% |
| | PL | 36% | 36% | 26% | 16% | 8% | 6% | 17% | 4% | 7% | 12% | 14% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 3% |
| ٥ | PT | 62% | 51% | 52% | 43% | 10% | 5% | 15% | 5% | 11% | 15% | 8% | 8% | 6% | 2% | 3% |
| | RO | 47% | 49% | 35% | 40% | 13% | 10% | 20% | 5% | 9% | 29% | 15% | 11% | 10% | 7% | 6% |
| - 🥥 | SI | 51% | 43% | 57% | 23% | 14% | 16% | 6% | 4% | 16% | 26% | 11% | 6% | 9% | 2% | 1% |
| 9 | SK | 54% | 39% | 33% | 25% | 16% | 15% | 17% | 10% | 16% | 28% | 28% | 6% | 7% | 12% | 1% |
| | FI | 60% | 37% | 38% | 20% | 19% | 35% | 28% | 9% | 25% | 17% | 24% | 14% | 4% | 9% | 2% |
| | SE | 52% | 26% | 34% | 24% | 29% | 54% | 14% | 31% | 32% | 15% | 14% | 16% | 5% | 3% | 1% |
| 1 | UK | 23% | 45% | 30% | 36% | 12% | 15% | 17% | 21% | 19% | 5% | 10% | 6% | 3% | 9% | 1% |
| | | 1 et MOS | T EREQUENT | TLY MENTION | EDITEM | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM 2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM 3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM 4th MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Maximum four answers

| | | Social affairs and employment | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Public health | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Economic growth | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Education, training, culture and media | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Scientific research | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 | Climate change and environ- mental protection | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 |
|-------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| \bigcirc | EU28 | 44% | +2 | 41% | +5 | 38% | -2 | 35% | -7 | 20% | = | 20% | -2 |
| \mathbf{O} | BE | 48% | +2 | 35% | -2 | 42% | = | 40% | -6 | 23% | +1 | 22% | -5 |
| | BG | 52% | -7 | 43% | -1 | 54% | -5 | 32% | +1 | 13% | +2 | 9% | -8 |
| | CZ | 47% | -8 | 43% | +2 | 41% | -2 | 30% | +5 | 26% | +11 | 14% | -3 |
| | DK | 39% | +3 | 28% | -2 | 42% | -2 | 30% | -17 | 25% | -4 | 44% | +4 |
| | DE | 42% | +1 | 31% | -2 | 28% | -9 | 38% | -16 | 24% | -6 | 39% | -4 |
| | EE | 42% | +4 | 47% | +12 | 39% | -2 | 37% | -2 | 17% | +4 | 8% | -1 |
| 0 | IE | 37% | -15 | 57% | +16 | 45% | -10 | 40% | -21 | 16% | +1 | 11% | -4 |
| | EL | 59% | +8 | 61% | +17 | 66% | +1 | 36% | -12 | 20% | +4 | 12% | -8 |
| ۲ | ES | 69% | +6 | 64% | +28 | 41% | -4 | 55% | +6 | 29% | +14 | 10% | -2 |
| 0 | FR | 45% | -2 | 36% | -1 | 37% | +5 | 34% | -11 | 23% | -1 | 20% | +1 |
| ۲ | HR | 53% | NA* | 30% | NA* | 51% | NA* | 31% | NA* | 13% | NA* | 11% | NA* |
| 0 | IT | 37% | +5 | 34% | +8 | 51% | +7 | 24% | -8 | 25% | -8 | 10% | -8 |
| $\overline{\mathbf{s}}$ | CY | 44% | +5 | 72% | +8 | 60% | +4 | 48% | -10 | 16% | +1 | 11% | -23 |
| | LV | 42% | -4 | 40% | +6 | 40% | -9 | 40% | -1 | 15% | -2 | 7% | = |
| | LT | 40% | +1 | 45% | +10 | 57% | = | 37% | +6 | 18% | +4 | 11% | -1 |
| \bigcirc | LU | 50% | +14 | 41% | +14 | 28% | -1 | 45% | -4 | 20% | +4 | 20% | -13 |
| \bigcirc | HU | 41% | -6 | 41% | +7 | 50% | -11 | 30% | +2 | 16% | +4 | 18% | -5 |
| | MT | 33% | -4 | 51% | +10 | 35% | +4 | 38% | -6 | 15% | +7 | 21% | = |
| \bigcirc | NL | 49% | +4 | 42% | +1 | 41% | -5 | 52% | -8 | 24% | +5 | 33% | -2 |
| | AT | 46% | +4 | 37% | -5 | 42% | +8 | 46% | +2 | 23% | +6 | 33% | -8 |
| $\overline{}$ | PL | 36% | -1 | 36% | -3 | 26% | -9 | 16% | -14 | 8% | -3 | 6% | -3 |
| 0 | PT | 62% | +7 | 51% | +12 | 52% | +6 | 43% | -1 | 10% | -4 | 5% | -2 |
| \mathbf{O} | RO | 47% | +7 | 49% | +13 | 35% | -9 | 40% | +7 | 13% | -2 | 10% | -2 |
| 9 | SI | 51% | -9 | 43% | +7 | 57% | = | 23% | -10 | 14% | -1 | 16% | -12 |
| 0 | SK | 54% | -5 | 39% | -4 | 33% | -6 | 25% | +2 | 16% | +1 | 15% | -5 |
| \bigcirc | FI | 60% | = | 37% | +1 | 38% | +12 | 20% | +1 | 19% | +9 | 35% | +7 |
| | SE | 52% | +2 | 26% | -8 | 34% | -2 | 24% | -14 | 29% | +9 | 54% | +1 |
| | UK | 23% | +1 | 45% | +5 | 30% | -3 | 36% | -4 | 12% | = | 15% | -1 |

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

Six most frequently mentioned items

* NA = Not Asked: this question was not asked in this country in the previous survey

| | Social affairs and employment | Public health | Economic growth | Education, training, culture and media | Scientific research | Climate change and environmental protection | Defence and security | Immigration issues | Energy issues | Agriculture and rural development | Regional investment | Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU | Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries | Transport | Administrative and personnel costs, buildings |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--|------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---|--|-----------|---|
| EU28 | 44% | 41% | 38% | 35% | 20% | 20% | 19% | 16% | 16% | 13% | 13% | 8% | 5% | 5% | 3% |
| 🤽 Gender | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Man | 42% | 37% | 41% | 33% | 22% | 19% | 19% | 16% | 18% | 14% | 16% | 7% | 6% | 6% | 3% |
| Woman | 45% | 44% | 35% | 37% | 18% | 20% | 18% | 16% | 14% | 13% | 11% | 8% | 5% | 4% | 2% |
| 🛗 Age | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 42% | 39% | 34% | 47% | 22% | 20% | 18% | 17% | 15% | 10% | 10% | 9% | 5% | 7% | 3% |
| 25-39 | 45% | 40% | 40% | 38% | 21% | 19% | 17% | 15% | 16% | 12% | 14% | 7% | 5% | 6% | 3% |
| 40-54 | 46% | 40% | 40% | 35% | 20% | 21% | 19% | 17% | 17% | 14% | 14% | 8% | 6% | 5% | 3% |
| 55 + | 42% | 42% | 37% | 29% | 19% | 19% | 19% | 16% | 15% | 15% | 13% | 7% | 5% | 4% | 2% |
| Education (End of) | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 15- | 47% | 47% | 38% | 29% | 15% | 13% | 18% | 16% | 11% | 17% | 10% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 2% |
| 16-19 | 44% | 41% | 38% | 32% | 18% | 18% | 21% | 17% | 15% | 14% | 14% | 7% | 5% | 5% | 3% |
| 20+ | 42% | 37% | 40% | 38% | 25% | 26% | 18% | 15% | 19% | 12% | 15% | 9% | 6% | 5% | 2% |
| Still studying | 42% | 38% | 34% | 50% | 26% | 23% | 15% | 18% | 16% | 9% | 10% | 12% | 6% | 6% | 3% |
| Socio-professional categ | and a | | | | | 1 Demonster | | | | | | | | | |
| Self-employed | 42% | 37% | 40% | 31% | 24% | 20% | 21% | 18% | 16% | 15% | 18% | 8% | 6% | 7% | 2% |
| Managers | 39% | 36% | 38% | 39% | 24% | 28% | 15% | 16% | 19% | 11% | 15% | 10% | 7% | 4% | 4% |
| Other white collars | 44% | 36% | 42% | 35% | 22% | 23% | 19% | 19% | 18% | 12% | 14% | 7% | 5% | 6% | 3% |
| Manual workers | 45% | 42% | 39% | 34% | 16% | 18% | 21% | 14% | 16% | 13% | 14% | 6% | 5% | 5% | 2% |
| House persons | 49% | 50% | 34% | 38% | 22% | 13% | 17% | 16% | 10% | 13% | 12% | 7% | 6% | 6% | 2% |
| Unemployed | 54% | 45% | 40% | 38% | 16% | 14% | 16% | 13% | 16% | 13% | 11% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 3% |
| Retired | 41% | 41% | 37% | 28% | 18% | 18% | 19% | 16% | 15% | 16% | 13% | 7% | 5% | 4% | 2% |
| Students | 42% | 38% | 34% | 50% | 26% | 23% | 15% | 18% | 16% | 9% | 10% | 12% | 6% | 6% | 3% |
| Consider belonging to | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The working class | 47% | 48% | 39% | 33% | 15% | 14% | 18% | 14% | 13% | 15% | 11% | 6% | 4% | 5% | 2% |
| The lower middle class | 42% | 42% | 38% | 36% | 18% | 19% | 18% | 17% | 16% | 12% | 13% | 7% | 5% | 6% | 2% |
| The middle class | 44% | 37% | 38% | 36% | 24% | 23% | 19% | 17% | 17% | 13% | 14% | 9% | 6% | 4% | 3% |
| The upper middle class | 42% | 29% | 39% | 37% | 28% | 31% | 20% | 21% | 21% | 10% | 17% | 11% | 8% | 5% | 3% |
| The upper class | 39% | 35% | 34% | 24% | 13% | 21% | 26% | 19% | 8% | 11% | 25% | 9% | 9% | 9% | 3% |

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

A comparison between the perceptions and expectations of Europeans with regard to the European Union budget reveals that:

- There is a significant gap between how much of the EU budget Europeans would like (expectations)¹¹ to see spent on social affairs and employment, health and education and what they believe (perceptions)¹² is currently spent in these areas. Perceptions fall more than 20 percentage points short of expectations for each item of expenditure;
- These social, employment, health and education issues are perceived as underresourced in comparison with the assistance granted to EU neighbours or the humanitarian aid granted to countries outside the EU¹³. For the last two items, expectations are below perceptions. Five percent of respondents *would like* (expectations) the EU to allocate most of its budget to assistance to EU neighbours, compared with 21% who *think* (perceptions) that this is how the budget is spent (a 16-point difference). In the case of humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU these proportions are 8% (expectations) and 15% (perceptions), a seven-point difference;
- There is also a significant gap for economic growth, but in this instance expectations outrun perceptions: 38% of respondents would like this to be a priority area for the EU budget, compared with 26% who think that it already is. This item of expenditure is nevertheless among the top three of both expectations and perceptions;
- Expectations are more in line with perceptions in the case of defence and security (19% of expectations, versus 22% of perceptions), immigration issues (16% versus 15%) and energy issues (16% versus 12%);
- Administrative and personnel costs, buildings continues to give rise to the biggest gap between perceptions and expectations: while it is perceived as an area where the EU has prioritised spending (32%), it comes last in terms of expectations (3%)¹⁴.

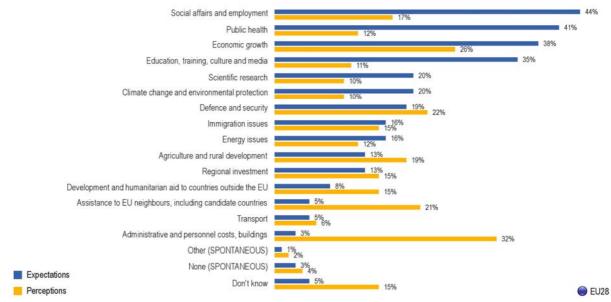
¹¹ And on which of the following would you like the EU budget to be spent?

¹² On which of the following do you think most of the EU budget is spent?

¹³ With the exception of **employment and social affairs** (17%), mentioned slightly more frequently than **humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU** (15%).

¹⁴ For information, administrative costs represent less than 6% of the total EU budget (2015 budget).

Comparison of expectations and perceptions with regard to the European Union budget



| | EB70 Aut.2008 | EB75 Sp.2011 | EB83 Sp.2015 | Diff. Sp.2015- Sp.2011 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Public health | 24 | 25 | 29 | +4 |
| Agriculture and rural development | 10 | 4 | 6 | +2 |
| Regional investment | 2 | = | 2 | +2 |
| Scientific research | 6 | 9 | 10 | +1 |
| Immigration issues | 4 | = | 1 | +1 |
| Administrative and personnel costs, buildings | 23 | 29 | 29 | = |
| Employment and social affairs | 24 | 27 | 27 | = |
| Climate change and environmental protection | 11 | 11 | 10 | -1 |
| Development and humanitarian aid to countries outside the EU | 5 | 8 | 7 | -1 |
| Transport | 1 | 2 | 1 | -1 |
| Education, training, culture and media | 20 | 27 | 24 | -3 |
| Assistance to EU neighbours, including candidate countries | 11 | 19 | 16 | -3 |
| Economic growth | 14 | 17 | 12 | -5 |
| Energy issues | 9 | 9 | 4 | -5 |
| Defence and security | 3 | 9 | 3 | -6 |

Absolute value difference between perceptions and expectations

In terms of evolutions since spring 2011, the gap between perceptions and expectations has increased the most for **public health** (29 percentage points separate expectations, 41%, from perceptions, 12%, compared with 25 points in spring 2011, a 4-point rise). In contrast, the gap has decreased for a total of eight items, most significantly for **defence and security** (3 percentage points between expectations, 19%, and perceptions, 22%, compared with 9 points in spring 2011, a 6-point fall), **energy issues** (-5) and **economic growth** (-5).

STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 83

The EU budget TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 16th and the 27th of May 2015, TNS opinion & social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 83.3 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" unit.

The wave 83.3 is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 83 survey and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 83 survey has also been conducted in five candidate countries (Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire.

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

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas. In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

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

Readers are reminded that survey results are <u>estimations</u>, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

| Statistical Margins due to the sampling process |
|---|
| (at the 95% level of confidence) |

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

| | 5% | 10% | 15% | 20% | 25% | 30% | 35% | 40% | 45% | 50% | |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| | 95% | 90% | 85% | 80% | 75% | 70% | 65% | 60% | 55% | 50% | _ |
| N=50 | 6,0 | 8,3 | 9,9 | 11,1 | 12,0 | 12,7 | 13,2 | 13,6 | 13,8 | 13,9 | N=50 |
| N=500 | 1,9 | 2,6 | 3,1 | 3,5 | 3,8 | 4,0 | 4,2 | 4,3 | 4,4 | 4,4 | N=500 |
| N=1000 | 1,4 | 1,9 | 2,2 | 2,5 | 2,7 | 2,8 | 3,0 | 3,0 | 3,1 | 3,1 | N=1000 |
| N=1500 | 1,1 | 1,5 | 1,8 | 2,0 | 2,2 | 2,3 | 2,4 | 2,5 | 2,5 | 2,5 | N=1500 |
| N=2000 | 1,0 | 1,3 | 1,6 | 1,8 | 1,9 | 2,0 | 2,1 | 2,1 | 2,2 | 2,2 | N=2000 |
| N=3000 | 0,8 | 1,1 | 1,3 | 1,4 | 1,5 | 1,6 | 1,7 | 1,8 | 1,8 | 1,8 | N=3000 |
| N=4000 | 0,7 | 0,9 | 1,1 | 1,2 | 1,3 | 1,4 | 1,5 | 1,5 | 1,5 | 1,5 | N=4000 |
| N=5000 | 0,6 | 0,8 | 1,0 | 1,1 | 1,2 | 1,3 | 1,3 | 1,4 | 1,4 | 1,4 | N=5000 |
| N=6000 | 0,6 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 1,0 | 1,1 | 1,2 | 1,2 | 1,2 | 1,3 | 1,3 | N=6000 |
| N=7000 | 0,5 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 1,0 | 1,1 | 1,1 | 1,1 | 1,2 | 1,2 | N=7000 |
| N=7500 | 0,5 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 1,0 | 1,0 | 1,1 | 1,1 | 1,1 | 1,1 | N=7500 |
| N=8000 | 0,5 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 0,9 | 1,0 | 1,0 | 1,1 | 1,1 | 1,1 | N=8000 |
| N=9000 | 0,5 | 0,6 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 0,9 | 1,0 | 1,0 | 1,0 | 1,0 | N=9000 |
| N=10000 | 0,4 | 0,6 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 0,9 | 1,0 | 1,0 | 1,0 | N=10000 |
| N=11000 | 0,4 | 0,6 | 0,7 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 0,9 | 0,9 | 0,9 | 0,9 | N=11000 |
| N=12000 | 0,4 | 0,5 | 0,6 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 0,9 | 0,9 | 0,9 | N=12000 |
| N=13000 | 0,4 | 0,5 | 0,6 | 0,7 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,9 | 0,9 | N=13000 |
| N=14000 | 0,4 | 0,5 | 0,6 | 0,7 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,8 | N=14000 |
| N=15000 | 0,3 | 0,5 | 0,6 | 0,6 | 0,7 | 0,7 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,8 | N=15000 |
| | 5% | 10% | 15% | 20% | 25% | 30% | 35% | 40% | 45% | 50% | |
| | 95% | 90% | 85% | 80% | 75% | 70% | 65% | 60% | 55% | 50% | |

| 4.000 | | | N° | DA | TES | POPULATION | PROPORTION | |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--|
| ABBR. | COUNTRIES | INSTITUTES | INTERVIEWS | FIELDWORK | | 15+ | EU28 | |
| BE | Belgium | TNS Dimarso | 1,014 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 9,263,570 | 2.18% | |
| BG | Bulgaria | TNS BBSS | 1,063 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 6,294,563 | 1.48% | |
| CZ | Czech Rep. | TNS Aisa | 1,021 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 8,955,829 | 2.11% | |
| DK | Denmark | TNS Gallup DK | 1,020 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 4,625,032 | 1.09% | |
| DE | Germany | TNS Infratest | 1,554 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 71,283,580 | 16.79% | |
| EE | Estonia | TNS Emor | 1,001 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 1,113,355 | 0.26% | |
| IE | Ireland | Behaviour & Attitudes | 1,018 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 3,586,829 | 0.84% | |
| EL | Greece | TNS ICAP | 999 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 8,791,499 | 2.07% | |
| ES | Spain | TNS Spain | 1,002 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 39,506,853 | 9.31% | |
| FR | France | TNS Sofres | 997 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 51,668,700 | 12.17% | |
| HR | Croatia | HENDAL | 1,008 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 3,625,601 | 0.85% | |
| IT | Italy | TNS Italia | 1,028 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 51,336,889 | 12.09% | |
| СҮ | Rep. Of Cyprus | CYMAR | 500 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 724,084 | 0.17% | |
| LV | Latvia | TNS Latvia | 1,005 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 1,731,509 | 0.41% | |
| LT | Lithuania | TNS LT | 1,003 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 2,535,329 | 0.60% | |
| LU | Luxembourg | TNS ILReS | 504 | 16/05/15 | 27/05/15 | 445,806 | 0.11% | |
| HU | Hungary | TNS Hoffmann | 1,055 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 8,477,933 | 2.00% | |
| МТ | Malta | MISCO | 504 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 360,045 | 0.08% | |
| NL | Netherlands | TNS NIPO | 1,010 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 13,901,653 | 3.27% | |
| АТ | Austria | ipr Umfrageforschung | 1,032 | 16/05/15 | 27/05/15 | 7,232,497 | 1.70% | |
| PL | Poland | TNS Polska | 998 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 32,736,685 | 7.71% | |
| РТ | Portugal | TNS Portugal | 1,000 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 8,512,269 | 2.01% | |
| RO | Romania | TNS CSOP | 1,007 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 16,880,465 | 3.98% | |
| SI | Slovenia | RM PLUS | 1,008 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 1,760,726 | 0.41% | |
| SK | Slovakia | TNS Slovakia | 1,051 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 4,580,260 | 1.08% | |
| FI | Finland | TNS Gallup Oy | 1,013 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 4,511,446 | 1.06% | |
| SE | Sweden | TNS Sifo | 1,037 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 7,944,034 | 1.87% | |
| UK | United Kingdom | TNS UK | 1,306 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 52,104,731 | 12.27% | |
| TOTAL E | U28 | | 27,758 | 16/05/15 | 27/05/15 | 424,491,772 | 100%* | |
| | * It sh | ould be noted that the total pe | rcentage shown in t | his table may ex | ceed 100% due | e to rounding | | |
| CY(tcc) | Turkish Cypriot Community | KADEM | 500 | 16/05/15 | 25/05/15 | 143,226 | | |
| TR | Turkey | TNS Piar | 1,010 | 16/05/15 | 27/05/15 | 54,844,406 | | |
| мк | Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia | TNS BRIMA | 1,055 | 16/05/15 | 23/05/15 | 1,678,404 | | |
| ME | Montenegro | TNS Medium Gallup | 530 | 16/05/15 | 24/05/15 | 492,265 | | |
| RS | Serbia | TNS Medium Gallup | 1,015 | 16/05/15 | 26/05/15 | 6,409,693 | | |
| AL | Albania | TNS BBSS | 1,000 | 16/05/15 | 25/05/15 | 2,221,572 | | |
| TOTAL | | | 31,868 | 16/05/15 | 27/05/15 | 490,281,338 | | |