

## **Eurobarometer**

**The entity that has organized the survey and is responsible for data collection - as well as key data on the entity's membership, governance arrangements, source of funding etc.**

The Eurobarometer is organized by the European Commission. The Surveys and Public Opinion Research Unit under the Directorate General Press and Communication is responsible for the data collection.

Data and documentation are archived in the Consortium for European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA). However, GESIS (Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences) and the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan, are also involved in the practical documentation work.

[According to GESIS](#), the project is funded by the European Commission, the Directorate-General X, the Public Opinion Surveys and Research Unit (until 1999), the DG Education and Culture, the Citizens' center – Analysis of Public Opinion (2000), and the DG Communication – Public Opinion Analysis Sector.

### **A historical sketch of the initiation and origin of the survey**

The EU Commission wanted to collect information about public awareness, knowledge and attitudes in the EEC, and as such they initiated a survey in 1970 in five of the six EEC countries (Luxembourg was not included). In 1971 they followed up with another survey, this time with a special focus on agriculture. In 1973 the EEC was extended to nine members, and an expanded survey was completed. These studies were named «The European Communities Study 1970, 1971 and 1973».

From 1974 the studies have been conducted systematically twice a year, under the name «Eurobarometer» and with a substantially wider focus (see the next section for details). In fact, each Eurobarometer is now so comprehensive that it may be split up in 3-4 separate surveys to keep the interview time reasonable.

From 1990-98 there were conducted special Central and East European Eurobarometers for the newly independent, ex-Soviet states. Since 1990, several of the Eurobarometers have included Norway. The Commission has also begun a project named Candidate Countries Eurobarometer, which, obviously, is conducted in countries which are applying for membership. It was conducted in

2001 in all 13 countries which at the time were applying.

In addition to these standard, Eastern European and Candidate Countries Eurobarometers, so-called Flash Eurobarometers are conducted. Some issues may need to be investigated quickly, and as such they cannot wait for the next fixed time point of the standard Eurobarometer. The first Flash barometer was conducted in 1984, and since that time more than 300 of them have been carried out (NSD).

### **Internet links to the website of the responsible organization**

[The official website for the Public Opinion Analysis sector of the European Commission](#)

### **The frequency or repetitions of the survey. Possible explanation of this.**

The standard Eurobarometer survey has been repeated twice a year since 1974.

### **A description of the survey's content, i.e. both focused rotational and / or core modules of the survey**

Originally, the questions regarded public awareness, knowledge and attitudes towards the ECC. Since the 1974 survey, questions on subjective assessments of economic conditions and quality of life were included. According to Kittilson (2007: 882), «the core questions concentrate on attitudes towards European integration, the institutions of the EU, and respondents' perceived quality of life.» However, there is also a rotational module that changes its topic each round. As there have been two rounds each year since 1974, please refer to the [reports for each wave](#) to see the topics.

### **An outline of the type of sample and the main data collection methods used**

The sample size is 1,000 per country, with certain exceptions: In Luxembourg, it was 300, but is now 5-600. Northern Ireland has approximately 300 respondents, whereas in Malta and Cyprus it is 500. The Eurobarometer uses a multistage random route probability sampling procedure, however with country specific variations up to 1989 (Harkness et. al. 2003: 129-131).

The Eurobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews through commercial polling firms.

### **An account of availability of the data to researchers, restrictions on access, etc.**

The data are freely available provided that the source is acknowledged. This does not hold for commercial purposes. All data may be downloaded in SAS, SPSS, STATA or R-format at [ICPSR](#).

### **Questionnaires, English version**

Codebooks including the questionnaires may be found at [ICPSR](#). Due to the sheer number of files (174 just for the standard Eurobarometer) it is not feasible to link to each questionnaire.

### **The countries included in the different rounds**

The NSD offers a [tabular overview of participation](#) for every single round since the first European Communities Study in 1970. The number of countries included has increased from five in 1970 to 29 in 2010.

### **Cumulative file**

For cumulative trend files, please refer to the [Mannheim Eurobarometer Trend File 1970-2002](#). The Mannheim Eurobarometer Trend File 1970-2002 (henceforth the trend file) is the product of a cooperation between Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (MZES) and GESIS (former Zentrum für Umfragen, Methoden und Analysen and former Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung). The project was realized under the responsibility of Hermann Schmitt from MZES. The file combines the most important trend questions of the standard Eurobarometer surveys conducted in the time period 1970-2002. In total, the file contains 105 trend questions which have been asked at least five times. The trend variables have been harmonized when it comes to variable names, variable and value labels, coding over time and recalculated weighting factors.

You may also find the trend file with the codebook and a brief description at [ICPSR](#).

### **Publications based on data**

The Eurobarometer does not have a list of publications based on their data. Kittilson (2007: 881) writes that «the Eurobarometer series has provided the evidence for numerous standard and special topic reports and at least 22 books, 20 book sections, and 228 journal articles. Three of the major reference volumes include those by Reif and Inglehart (1991), Niedermayer and Sinnott (1995), and Saris and Kaase (1997).»

## Analytical summary...

### Sources

Unless otherwise noted, all information is extracted from the website of the Public Opinion Analysis sector of the European Commission.

Harkness, Janet A., Fons J.R., Van de Vijver & Peter Ph. Mohler (red.) (2003): *Cross-Cultural Survey Methods*. Hoboken, N.Y.: John Wiley & Sons.

Inglehart, R., & K. Reif (1991). Analyzing trends in West European opinion: the role of the Eurobarometer surveys. *Eurobarometer: The Dynamics of European Public Opinion*, 1-26.

Kittilson, Maki Caul (2007): "Research Resources in Comparative Political Behaviour", ch. 47 in Russel J. Dalton & Hans-Dieter Klingemann (ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behaviour*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Niedermayer, O., and R. Sinnott (eds) (1995). *Public Opinion and Internationalized Governance: Beliefs in Government, vol. ii*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

NSD. *Eurobarometer*. Available at [http://www.nsd.uib.no/data/ny\\_individ/intStudy/euroInfo\\_eng.cfm](http://www.nsd.uib.no/data/ny_individ/intStudy/euroInfo_eng.cfm) [05.08.13].

Saris, W., and M. Kaase, (eds.) (1997). *Eurobarometer: Measurement Instruments for Opinions in Europe*. ZUMA Nachrichten Spezial. Vol. ii. Mannheim.