

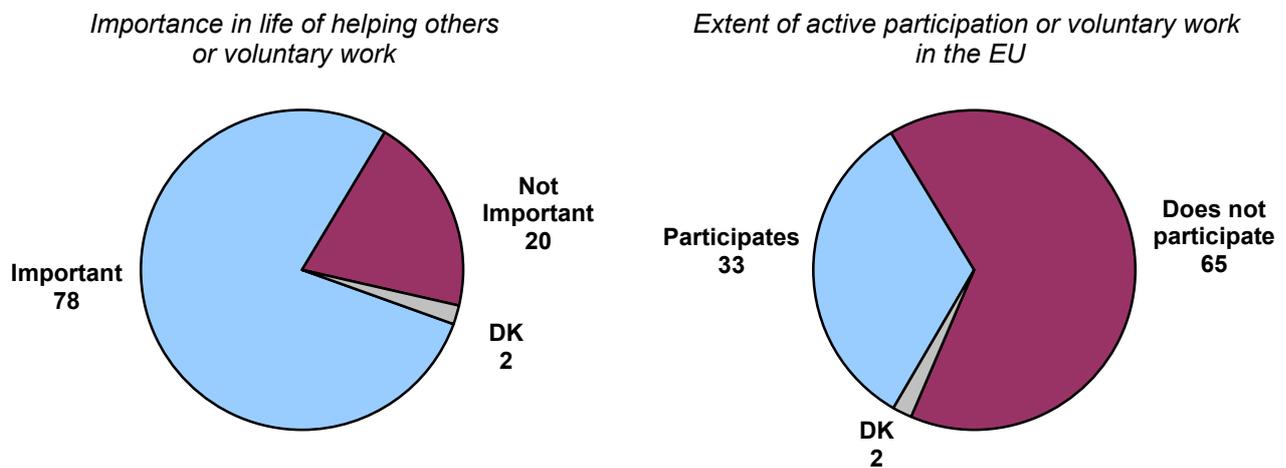


TNS POLLING & SOCIAL FACTS AND FIGURES – EUROBAROMETER

THREE EUROPEANS IN TEN DO VOLUNTARY WORK

London (UK), March 30th, 2007 – Close to 8 out of 10 EU citizens consider helping others or voluntary work an important aspect of their life, whilst 3 out of 10 actively practice it, according to the findings of the Special Eurobarometer survey conducted by TNS Opinion for the European Commission.

Europeans and voluntary work EU27 - percentage



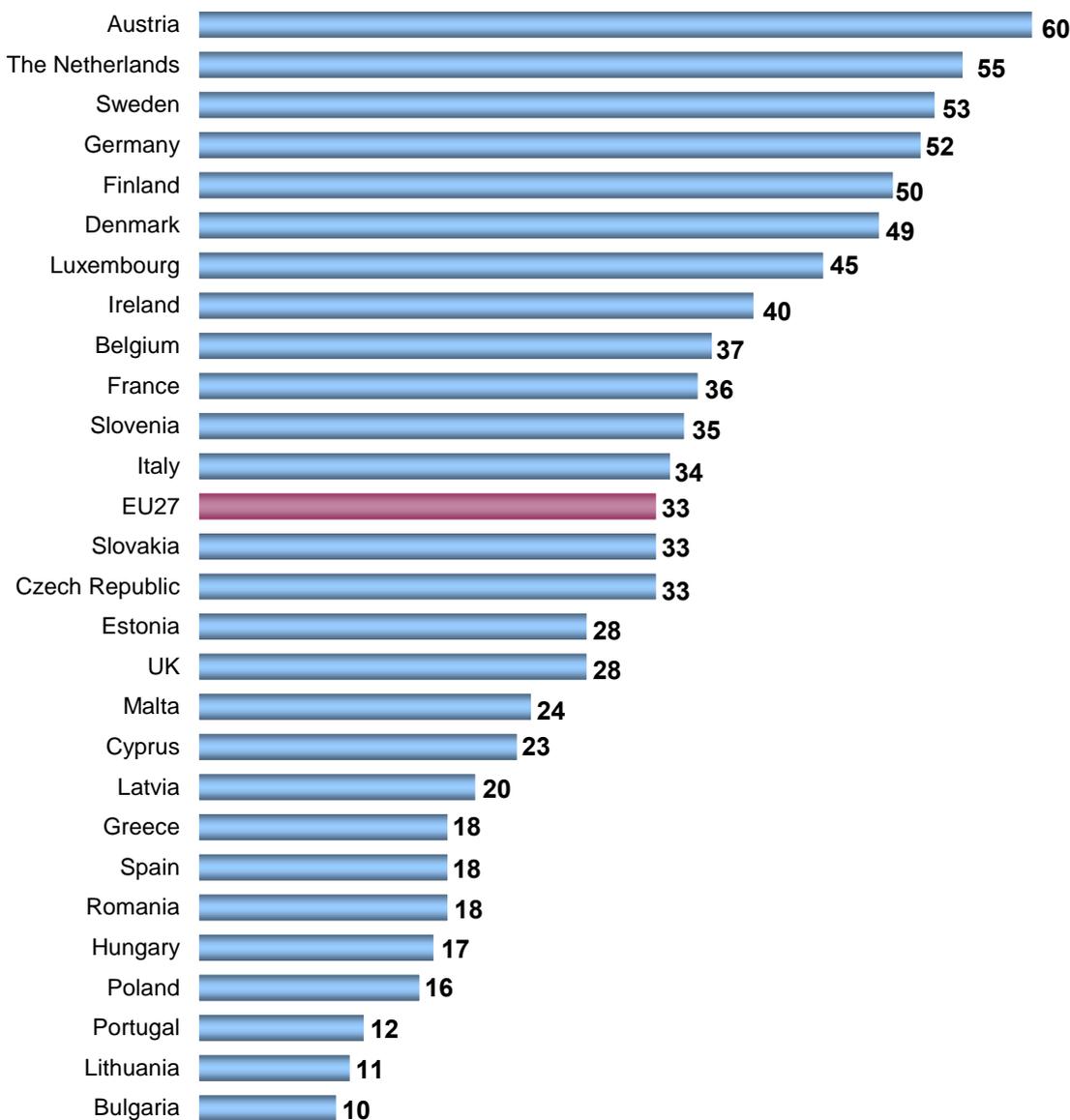
Source: TNS Opinion for the European Commission – Eurobarometer 66.3

The survey, which interviewed nearly 26,800 people across the 27 Member States, also shows that although most Europeans do not actively participate or do voluntary work, at least not in or for any of the organisations listed in the questionnaire (65%), the European average conceals large differences between the Member States and, in some countries, the percentage of citizens who declare to actively participate in or do voluntary work for an organisation is quite high. In fact, in Austria (60%), the Netherlands (55%) Sweden (53%) and Germany (52%) over half of the respondents claim to be active participants in the organisations listed. Conversely, participation levels are the lowest in Bulgaria (10%), Lithuania (11%) and Portugal (12%).

Two socio-demographic factors influencing people's propensity to 'be active' are occupation and education. Nearly half of people classified as managers actively participate in or do voluntary work for the organisations listed (49%), compared to only 20% of unemployed people. With regards to

education, the data shows that the longer people stayed in full-time education the more likely it is that they actively participate in or do voluntary work for the organisations listed.

Extent of active participation or voluntary work in the EU percentage per country



Source: TNS Opinion for the European Commission – Eurobarometer 66.3

It is interesting to note that the degree to which people participate actively in organisations or do voluntary work does not depend on whether workers have jobs that allow them to balance their professional, family and private life or on whether they find their job stressful and demanding.

Marita Carballo, Global Head of TNS Polling & Social, comments: “Volunteer work constitutes a genuine and positive form of social participation and an act of altruism. It is good to learn that a significant proportion of Europeans devote some of their time for the benefit of others”.

--- Ends ---

Note to Editors

About TNS Polling & Social Facts and Figures:

The Eurobarometer report was posted at the following website on February 2007:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

The European Commission has made data from this report available to relevant media since it was first published. To the best of our knowledge, the findings in the attached press release have not been released.

These findings are based on TNS Opinion research conducted between November and December 2006. All data discussed in the above announcement is based on the opinions of those surveyed. TNS will only support data which is published, in the context we have presented it and our own interpretation of these findings. We cannot be held responsible for any other interpretation.

As a leading information provider, TNS wants to cast new light on currently debated topics presenting data collected on a European or International basis. TNS Polling & Social Facts & Figures will be published twice a month.

Methodological background:

Fieldwork: 17th of November to the 19th of December 2006

Number of interviews conducted: 26,755 persons interviewed face-to-face in the 27 Member States of the EU.

About TNS

TNS is a market information group:

- The world's largest provider of custom research and analysis
- A leader in political and social polling
- A major supplier of consumer panel, media intelligence and TV and radio audience measurement services.

TNS operates across a global network in over 70 countries, allowing us to provide internationally consistent, up-to-the-minute and high quality information and analysis.

The group's employees deliver innovative thinking and excellent service to local and multi-national clients worldwide. In the custom business, they combine in-depth sector knowledge with expertise in the areas of new product development, positioning and segmentation research, brand and advertising research and stakeholder management.

TNS' strategic goal is to be recognised as the global leader in delivering value added information and insights that help our clients to make more effective decisions.

TNS is the sixth sense of business.

www.tns-global.com

For more information and detailed results on a country-by-country basis, please contact:

Marita Carballo, Global Head of TNS Polling & Social

Tel: +44 (0) 7739 856 902 or email: marita.carballo@tns-global.com

Leendert de Voogd, Managing Director, TNS Opinion

Tel: +32 (0) 2 66 118 66 or email: leendert.devoogd@tns-opinion.com

Katie Zurita, International PR Manager, TNS

Tel: +44 (0) 208 967 4787 or email: katie.zurita@tns-global.com

Liz Kearney / Emily Luscombe, Camargue

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7636 7366 or email: ekearney@camarguepr.com