

# Volunteering and Intergenerational Solidarity

## Report

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## **EUROBAROMETER 75.2**

### **VOLUNTEERING AND INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

Carried out by TNS Opinion & Social at the request of  
the  
European Parliament

Survey coordinated by the Directorate-General for  
Communication

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## INTRODUCTION

2011 has been declared the European Year of Volunteering. Its purpose is to celebrate the work of millions of volunteers across Europe, and to encourage those citizens who do not currently volunteer to get involved.

This event is also the opportunity to reaffirm the key role played by associations in the life of the European Union. In early June, during the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union, Pál Schmitt, President of the Republic of Hungary, drew attention to the fact that the Lisbon Treaty encourages governments to work in cooperation with NGOs.

In 2012, the focus will be on senior citizens and intergenerational relations as we celebrate the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. These themes have been chosen within the context of an ageing population in Europe and the anticipated decline in the working population: demographic projections by Eurostat predict a 6.8% decrease in the number of people of working age by 2030. This means that there will only be two people of working age to support the needs of one retired person, compared with the current ratio of four to one. Maintaining the vitality of older people, enhancing their involvement in society and removing barriers between generations will therefore be the main aims of 2012.

Against this background the Eurobarometer Special Survey was carried out between 13 April and 2 May 2011, at the request of the Directorate-General for Communication of the European Parliament ("Public Opinion Monitoring" unit).

For this survey, almost 27,000 people living in Europe and aged 15 years and over were interviewed in person by interviewers from the TNS Opinion & Social network (the questionnaire was administered by an interviewer in the respondent's home). The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer Surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication of the European Parliament ("Public Opinion Monitoring" unit). A technical note concerning the interviews conducted by the Institutes in the TNS Opinion & Social network is annexed to this report<sup>1</sup>. Also included are the interview methods and the confidence intervals.

The survey covers the 27 Member States of the European Union and is part of the Eurobarometer Wave 75.2.

In the first chapter, we analyse volunteering within the European Union: its extent, and the areas in which it is practised. We then focus on European public opinion regarding volunteering: the areas in which it is perceived to play an important role, and the principal perceived benefits. Finally, we look at the principal expectations of European citizens concerning volunteering.

In the second chapter, we analyse European opinion regarding the different measures aimed at promoting solidarity between generations.

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<sup>1</sup> The results tables are included in the annex. It should be noted that the total percentages in the tables may exceed 100% for questions with the option of multiple answers.

### Note

In this report, the countries are represented by their official abbreviations.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

EU27	European Union - 27 Member States
DK	Don't know
BE	Belgium
CZ	Czech Republic
BG	Bulgaria
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
CY	Republic of Cyprus
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	The Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom

*The Eurobarometer website can be consulted at the following address:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament/public/staticDisplay.do?&id=40>*

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the respondents across the European Union who gave their time to take part in this survey. Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.*

## SUMMARY

The main findings of this survey are as follows:

Close to a quarter of respondents are involved in a voluntary activity (either on a regular or occasional basis). However, this involvement varies noticeably between Member States.

The respondents who volunteer mostly do so in sports clubs and cultural associations.

Volunteering is perceived as playing an important role in a good number of areas, which logically include solidarity and humanitarian aid, but also social life, health, education and the environment.

There are multiple perceived benefits of volunteering: it is seen to benefit society as a whole (strengthening social cohesion, promoting the values of solidarity within the EU) as well as the individual (personal development and fulfilment of volunteer workers, professional development).

Respondents reacted very favourably to the idea of creating regional volunteer rescue teams to cope with natural disasters.

However, they were more divided on the question of defining an operating framework for the voluntary sector: though 47% would prefer the Member States and the EU to define this together in a European Charter for Volunteers, 45% would prefer a framework to be defined individually by each Member State. Opinions vary significantly between Member States.

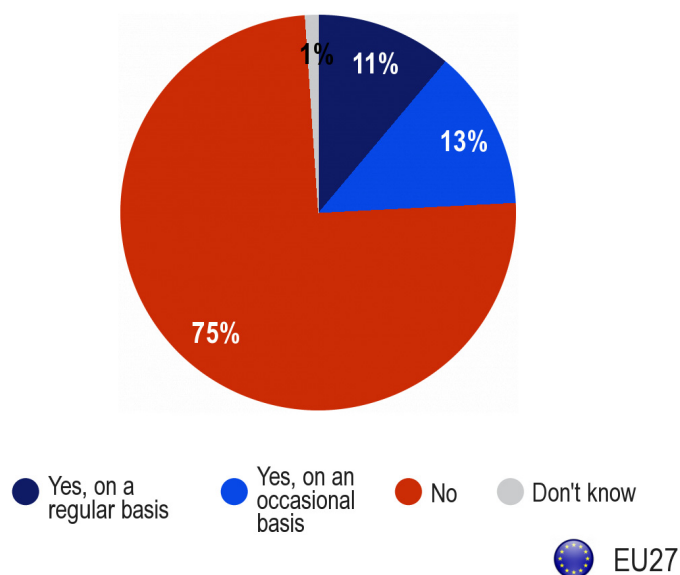
With regard to the measures envisaged for strengthening intergenerational solidarity, the majority of respondents are in favour of creating jobs for young people in the field of care for the elderly, and ensuring equal access to the labour market and training for people of all ages. However, there is much less consensus regarding the proposal to encourage people aged over 60 to remain in the labour market.

## 1. VOLUNTEERING

### 1.1 The voluntary activity of Europeans

One of the aims of the European Year of Volunteering is to celebrate the work of millions of Europeans who devote part of their free time to a voluntary activity. Close to a quarter of respondents currently undertake a voluntary activity (24%, against 75%). Of these respondents, 11% carry out this activity on a regular basis and 13% occasionally.

QA15. Do you currently have a voluntary activity on a regular or occasional basis?

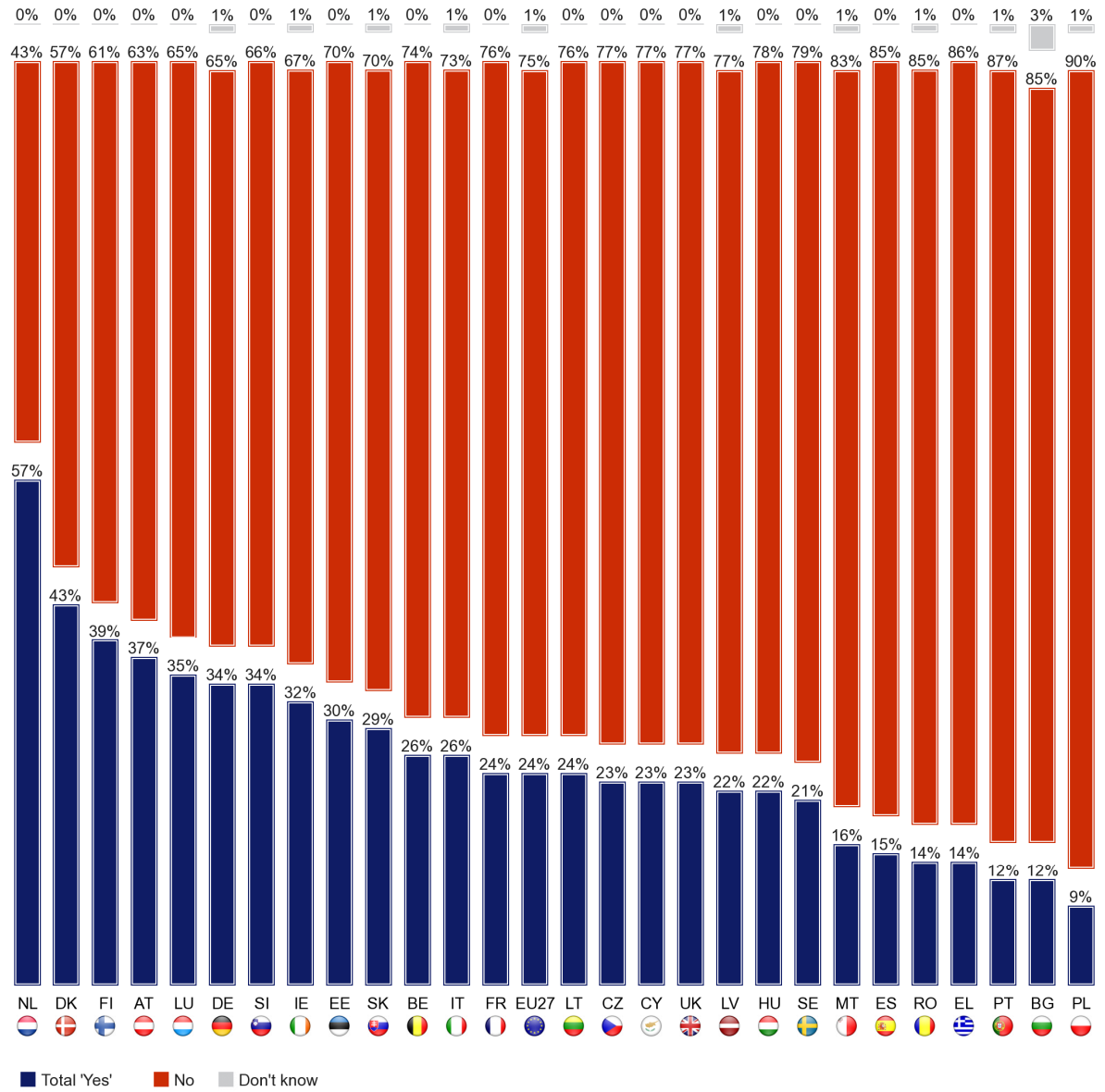


### Variations between Member States

Involvement in volunteering varies significantly from one Member State to another, with 48 points separating the countries where it is most and least developed.

- Involvement in volunteering is very widespread in the Netherlands, where more than half the respondents carry out a voluntary activity (57%), 31% on a regular basis. This is also the case in Denmark (43%, 21% on a regular basis). More than one-third of respondents are involved in a voluntary activity in Finland (39%), Austria (37%), Luxembourg (35%), Germany (34%) and Slovenia (34%).
- Conversely, Malta (16%), Spain (15%), Greece (14%), Romania (14%), Bulgaria (12%), Portugal (12%) and Poland (9%) are well below the EU average.

QA15. Do you currently have a voluntary activity on a regular or occasional basis?











### Socio-demographic analysis

An analysis of socio-demographic variables shows that involvement in voluntary work is not influenced by gender or age. However, involvement is slightly higher among more educated respondents (32% among respondents who continued their studies until at least the age of 20, but 16% of the group that left education before the age of 16), managers (34%, compared to 22% of manual workers) and people living in rural areas and small towns (25%, compared to 20% living in large conglomerations). The involvement of retired respondents is just below the average (22%), while that of unemployed respondents is somewhat lower (17%). Finally, the respondents' political leanings do not appear to be a significant factor: 27% of the respondents who do voluntary work say they are to the left, 25% are in the centre and 24% are to the right.

QA15 Do you currently have a voluntary activity on a regular or occasional basis?

	Total 'Yes'	No	Don't know
EU27	24%	75%	1%
 <b>Gender</b>			
Male	24%	75%	1%
Female	24%	75%	1%
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	23%	76%	1%
25-39	23%	77%	0%
40-54	27%	73%	0%
55 +	23%	76%	1%
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	16%	83%	1%
16-19	23%	77%	0%
20+	32%	67%	1%
Still studying	26%	73%	1%
 <b>Subjective urbanisation</b>			
Rural village	25%	74%	1%
Small/ mid-size town	25%	74%	1%
Large town	20%	79%	1%
 <b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	29%	70%	1%
Managers	34%	66%	0%
Other white collars	24%	76%	0%
Manual workers	22%	78%	0%
House persons	21%	78%	1%
Unemployed	17%	83%	0%
Retired	22%	77%	1%
Students	26%	73%	1%
 <b>Left-Right scale</b>			
(1-4) Left	27%	73%	0%
(5-6) Centre	25%	75%	0%
(7-10) Right	24%	75%	1%

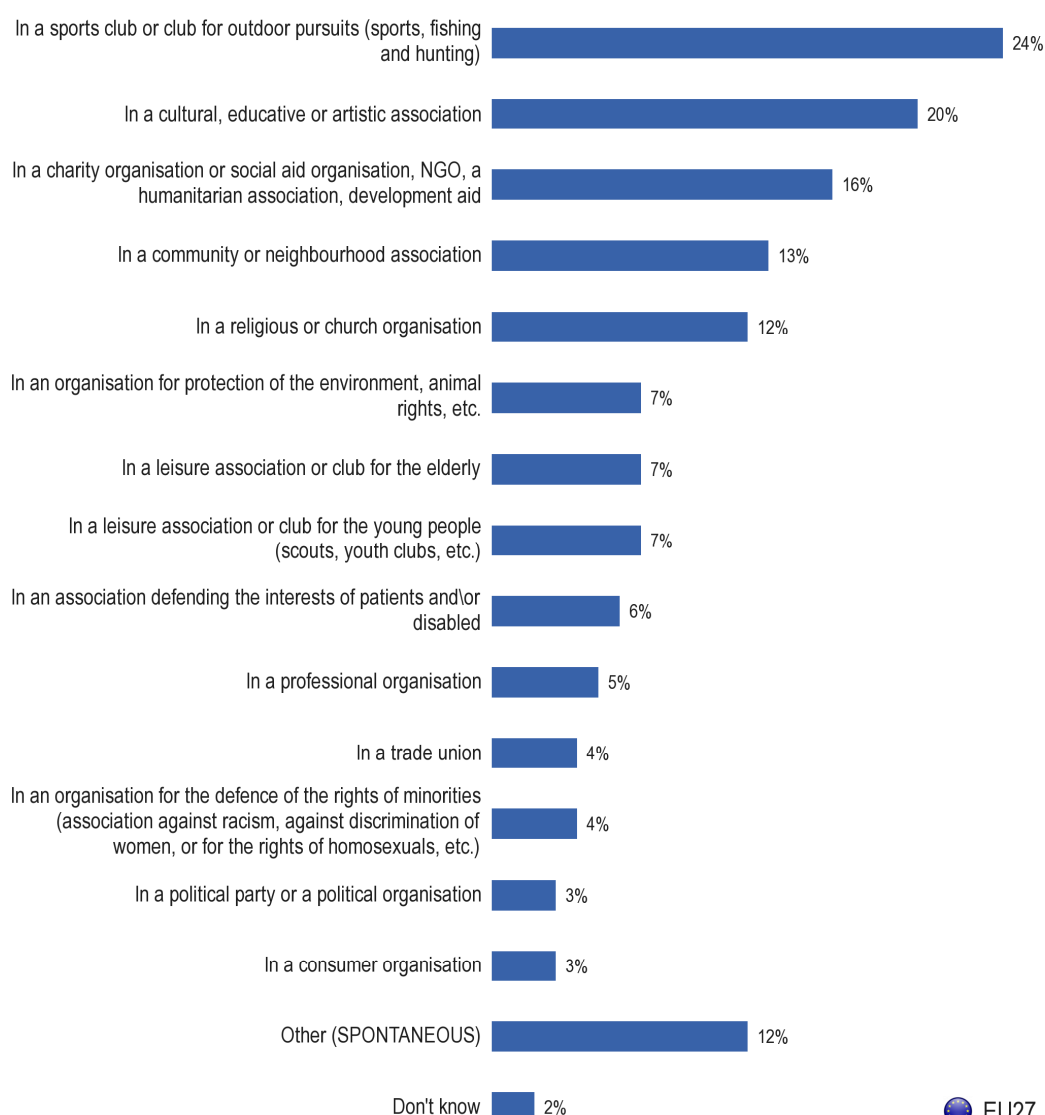
## 1.2 The type of voluntary activities undertaken

The majority of European volunteers (24%) are engaged in voluntary work in a sports club or a club for outdoor pursuits. This is followed by cultural or artistic associations (20%), charitable organisations or social aid organisations (16%), community or neighbourhood associations (13%), and religious organisations (12%).

Next come organisations for the protection of the environment, animal rights, etc. (7%), associations or clubs for the elderly (7%) and for young people (7%), and associations defending the interests of patients and/or disabled people (6%).

Professional organisations, trade unions and political parties are cited least (5% or less).

QA16. In which type(s) of organisation(s) or association(s) do you do your voluntary activity?



### Variations between Member States

There are significant differences between the Member States for this question. Our focus is on those organisations and associations which were mentioned by more than 10% of European volunteers:

- **Sports clubs** were mentioned most often in Ireland (37%), Denmark (35%) and Germany (34%).
- **Cultural associations** were mentioned the most in Italy (31%), Greece (29%), France (28%), Austria (27%) and Portugal (27%). With the exception of Austria, these countries are characterised by a level of voluntary activity close to the European Union average (Italy and France) or significantly below it (Greece and Portugal).
- **Charitable organisations** were mentioned by more than a quarter of the respondents who volunteer in Spain (34%), Luxembourg (28%) and Poland (28%).
- **Community or neighbourhood associations** received higher scores in Slovenia (26%), Bulgaria (25%), Denmark (22%) and Ireland (21%).
- **Religious organisations** were mentioned the most in Romania (27%), Malta (24%) and Slovakia (22%).

### Socio-demographic analysis

An analysis of the socio-demographic variables does not reveal any significant differences. However, the more educated respondents, who, as we have seen, are more involved in voluntary work, are more likely to mention cultural associations (24%, compared to 20% on average), while respondents who left school before the age of 16 mention associations for the elderly more (13%, compared to 7% on average).

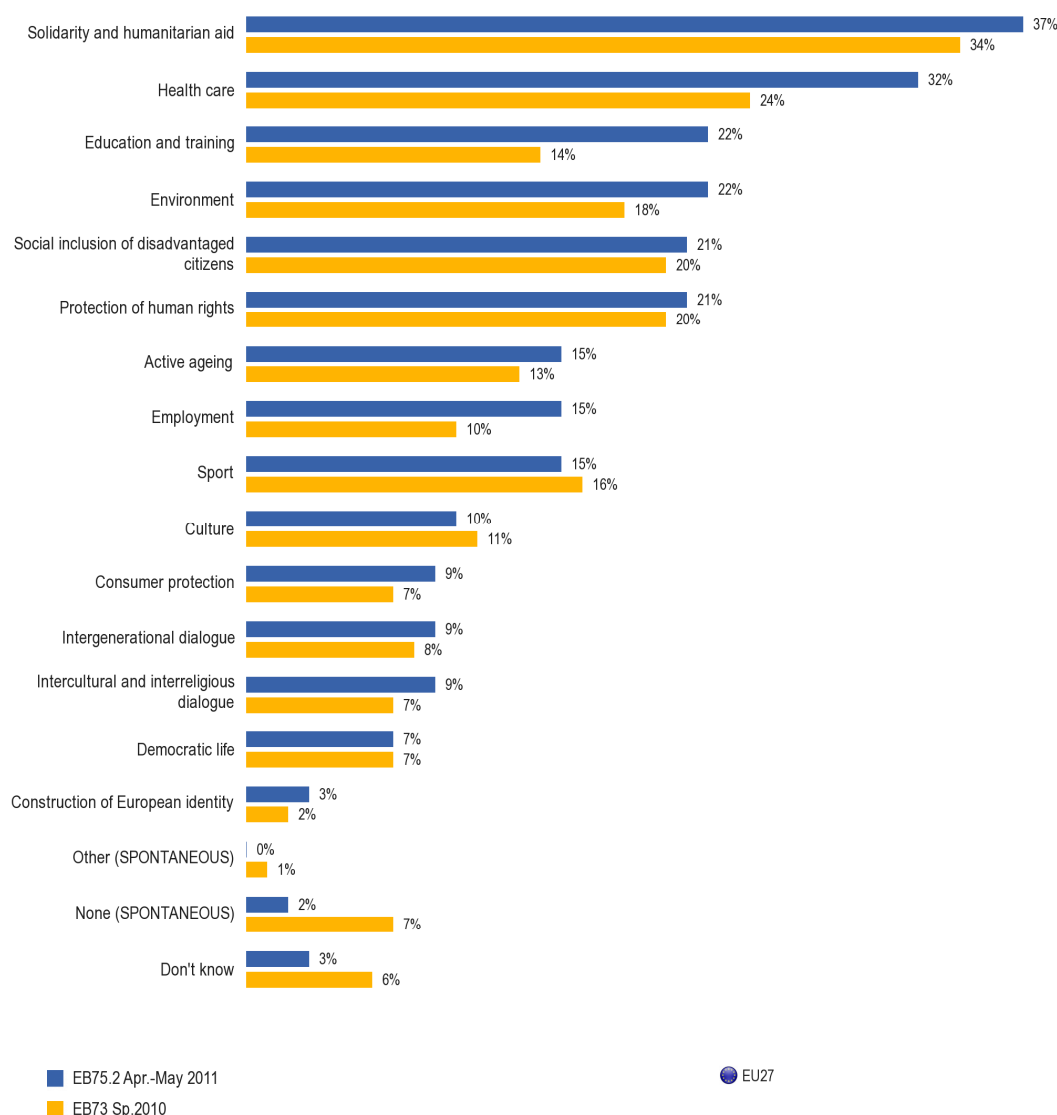
### 1.3 The areas in which volunteering plays an important role

When asked in which areas they believe volunteering plays an important role, respondents put solidarity and humanitarian aid in first place (37%), followed by health care (32%), education and training (22%), the environment (22%), the protection of human rights (21%), the social inclusion of disadvantaged citizens (21%), and active ageing, employment and sport (15% each).

Culture (10%), intercultural and interreligious dialogue (9%), intergenerational dialogue (9%) and consumer protection (9%) are also identified as areas in which volunteering can play an important role.

Lower down the list are democratic life (7%) and the construction of a European identity (3%).

QA11. In which of the following fields do you consider volunteering to play an important role?



There have been significant changes in perceptions of the contribution of volunteering since the last Standard Eurobarometer (EB73, spring 2010). More respondents now believe that health care is an area in which volunteering plays an important role (+8 points). This is also the case for education (+8), employment (+5) and the environment (+4); these two subjects have now overtaken the protection of human rights and the social inclusion of disadvantaged citizens, which have remained at a stable level since EN73.

### Variations between Member States

The areas in which volunteering is perceived to play an important role vary significantly across Member States:

- The importance of volunteering for **solidarity and humanitarian aid** is particularly stressed in Cyprus (68%), Sweden (58%), and France (57%). Conversely, this area was much less mentioned in Ireland (14%) and the United Kingdom (9%).
- The importance of volunteering to **health care** is mentioned very frequently in Poland (55%), the Netherlands (47%), Portugal (47%) and Austria (46%).
- **Education** is mentioned most often in the United Kingdom (39%), Estonia (31%) and Ireland (30%). In fact, this is the first field cited in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Respondents in Greece (50%), Estonia (36%) and Slovakia (34%) believe volunteering plays a particularly important role for the **environment**.

As we have seen, the hierarchy of fields in which volunteering is perceived to play an important role has changed since the EB73 of spring 2010. These evolutions are extremely pronounced in some Member State:

- **The health care system** is mentioned much more often, particularly in Austria (+21 points), Poland (+19), Portugal (+18) and Greece (+14).
- **Education** has gained significant ground, especially in the United Kingdom (+16), Ireland (+14) and Sweden (+13).

### Socio-demographic analysis

A socio-demographic analysis of the answers reveals some significant trends. Young Europeans tend to attribute an important role to volunteering in the fields of education (26% of 15-24 year olds, compared to 18% of respondents aged 55 and over) and the environment (27%, compared to 19%). Respondents aged 55 and over highlight the importance of volunteering for health care (36%, compared to 30% of the 15-24 year olds).

Further, the more educated respondents, who, as we have seen, have a higher level of voluntary activity, are more likely than average to attribute an important role to volunteering in the area of solidarity and humanitarian aid (41%), while respondents who left education before the age of 16 are more like to mention health care (35%).

QA11 In which of the following fields do you consider volunteering to play an important role?

	Solidarity and humanitarian aid	Health care	Education and training	Environment	Social inclusion of disadvantaged citizens	Protection of human rights
EU27	37%	32%	22%	22%	21%	21%
<b>Age</b>						
15-24	36%	30%	26%	27%	21%	22%
25-39	40%	30%	23%	23%	23%	22%
40-54	39%	30%	22%	23%	23%	20%
55 +	36%	36%	18%	19%	19%	20%
<b>Education (End of)</b>						
15-	36%	35%	16%	20%	19%	20%
16-19	37%	34%	23%	22%	21%	21%
20+	41%	27%	23%	23%	23%	21%
Still studying	38%	27%	26%	26%	23%	24%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>						
Self-employed	36%	31%	20%	24%	23%	22%
Managers	38%	27%	27%	24%	24%	18%
Other white collars	40%	30%	22%	22%	22%	23%
Manual workers	40%	32%	22%	25%	21%	21%
House persons	36%	35%	23%	20%	21%	22%
Unemployed	39%	30%	19%	21%	23%	18%
Retired	34%	37%	19%	19%	18%	19%
Students	38%	27%	26%	26%	23%	24%
<b>Has a voluntary activity</b>						
Total 'yes'	36%	27%	23%	23%	22%	19%
Yes, on a regular basis	35%	27%	23%	23%	23%	20%
Yes, on an occasional basis	37%	28%	22%	23%	22%	19%
No	38%	34%	21%	22%	21%	21%

\* Only those items that were mentioned by more than 20% of the population are included in this table

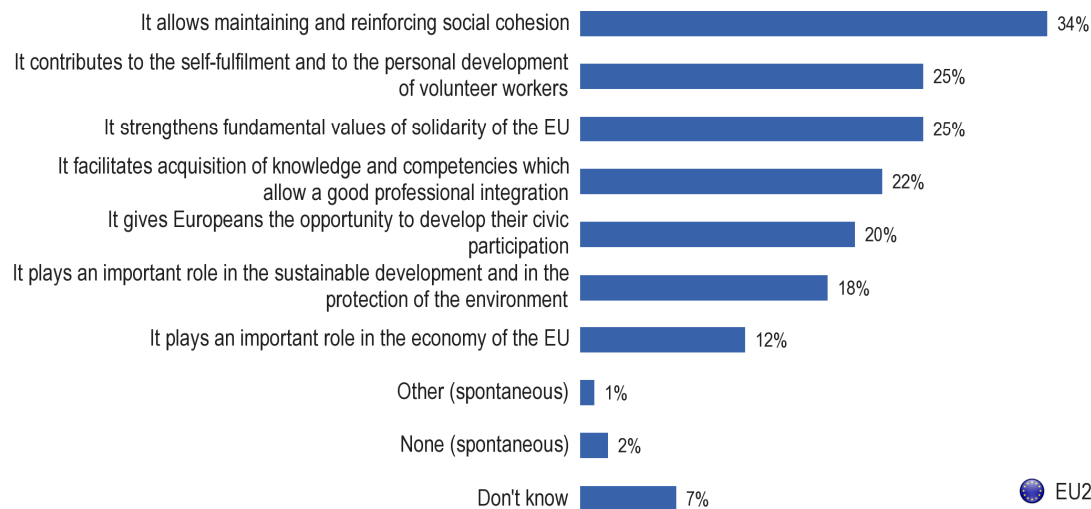
## 1.4 The perceived benefits of volunteering

When asked about the two main benefits of volunteering within the European Union, respondents primarily mentioned maintaining and reinforcing social cohesion (34%) and strengthening the EU's fundamental values of solidarity (25%).

However, the benefits for the volunteers themselves are also important: for the interviewees, volunteering contributes to the self-fulfilment and personal development of volunteers (25%), and facilitates the acquisition of knowledge and skills which promote professional inclusion (22%). The fact that it also gives Europeans the opportunity to develop their civic participation is also highlighted (20%).

The impact of volunteering on sustainable development and the protection of the environment is slightly less recognised (18%), as is its role in the economy of the European Union (12%).

QA13. Which of the following do you think are the two main benefits from volunteering in the EU?



### Variations between Member States

There are several differences between the Member States with regard to the perceived principal benefits of volunteering:

- The role of volunteering in the **reinforcement of social cohesion** is particularly highlighted by respondents in Germany (50%), Austria (48%) and Finland (47%).
- **The personal fulfilment of volunteers** is of great importance in Denmark (52%) and the Netherlands (41%), which are the two countries where voluntary activity is the most developed, and also in Belgium (38%), Estonia (35%) and Ireland (35%).
- More than one-third of respondents in Cyprus (46%), Slovenia (38%), Malta (35%) and Italy (34%) mentioned **strengthening the EU's fundamental values of solidarity**.
- A greater than average proportion of respondents in Sweden (33%) and the United Kingdom (32%) highlighted the contribution of volunteering to the **training and professional integration** of volunteers.
- An above-average proportion of respondents in the United Kingdom and Ireland recognise the important role played by volunteering in the **economy of the EU** (20% in both countries).



### Socio-demographic analysis

There are very few variations between the socio-demographic categories for this question: it should be noted that the vision of the benefits of volunteering does not differ greatly between the respondents who are engaged in a voluntary activity and those who are not. However, those respondents who have experience of voluntary work are more likely to recognise its role in reinforcing social cohesion (39%, and 42% for those who do voluntary work on a regular basis). The socio-demographic analysis also shows that managers, who as we have seen are more involved in voluntary work, are more likely than average to mention the reinforcement of social cohesion (41%).

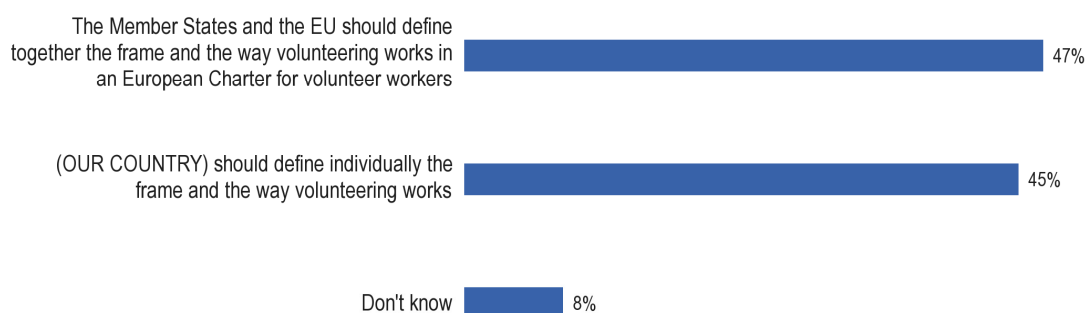
**QA13 Which of the following do you think are the two main benefits from volunteering in the EU?**

	<b>It allows maintaining and reinforcing social cohesion</b>
EU27	34%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>	
Self-employed	35%
Managers	41%
Other white collars	32%
Manual workers	35%
House persons	28%
Unemployed	31%
Retired	32%
Students	33%
<b>Has a voluntary activity</b>	
Total 'yes'	39%
Yes, on a regular basis	42%
Yes, on an occasional basis	36%
No	32%

## 1.5 Preferences with regard to an operating framework for the voluntary sector

Voluntary practises currently vary from one Member State to another. This is also sometimes the case for the framework of the voluntary sector and the way in which it works. The respondents are divided over the creation of an operating framework for the voluntary sector: 47% would prefer the Member States and the EU to jointly draw up a European Charter for Volunteers, while 45% would rather their own country drew up an individual framework.

QA12. To define the frame and the way volunteering works, which of the following two statements would you prefer?



EU27

### Variations between Member States

The majority of Member States (16 in total) support the idea of European collaboration. However, opinions vary greatly on this question, and there is a difference of 62 points between the highest and lowest levels of support for a European charter.

- The countries that most strongly support the **creation of a national operating framework for the voluntary sector** are Denmark (84%) and Austria (65%) which are, along with the Netherlands, among the countries where volunteering is the most developed. The majority of respondents in the Netherlands also support this option (59%). However, this is also the case in Latvia (60%) and the United Kingdom (60%), where less than a quarter of respondents are involved in voluntary work.
- The countries that support a European charter for volunteers **jointly defined by the Member States and the European Union** are Spain (68%), Cyprus (65%), Belgium (60%), Greece (58%), Italy (57%) and Portugal (56%). With the exception of Belgium and Italy, these are countries where voluntary activity is not very widespread (between 12 and 15%).

### Socio-demographic analysis

A socio-demographic analysis reveals some interesting variations between categories: respondents aged 15-24 support the creation of a European operating framework for the voluntary sector (55%, compared to 38% for the national level), while those aged 55 and over have a slight preference for nationally-defined operating frameworks (46%, compared to 44% for a European-defined framework).

The answers also differ slightly with the respondent's occupation: managers support nationally-defined operating frameworks (50%, compared to 43%), while other white collar and manual workers are more evenly divided (46/48 and 47/47 respectively).

Finally, respondents who say that they carry out a voluntary activity are more likely to prefer a nationally-defined operating framework for the voluntary sector, but only narrowly (49%, compared to 45% opting for a European framework). The difference is more marked among respondents who volunteer on a regular basis (53%, compared to 41%).

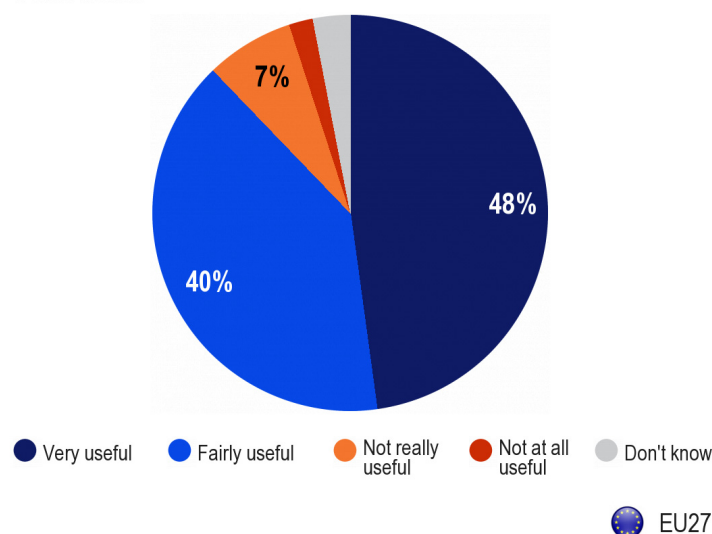
QA12 To define the frame and the way volunteering works, which of the following two statements would you prefer?

	The Member States and the EU should define together the frame and the way volunteering works in an European Charter for volunteer workers	(OUR COUNTRY) should define individually the frame and the way volunteering works	Don't know
EU27	47%	45%	8%
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	55%	38%	7%
25-39	47%	46%	7%
40-54	46%	47%	7%
55 +	44%	46%	10%
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>			
Self-employed	48%	44%	8%
Managers	43%	50%	7%
Other white collars	48%	46%	6%
Manual workers	47%	47%	6%
House persons	46%	42%	12%
Unemployed	49%	42%	9%
Retired	44%	46%	10%
Students	55%	38%	7%
<b>Has a voluntary activity</b>			
Total 'yes'	45%	49%	6%
Yes, on a regular basis	41%	53%	6%
Yes, on an occasional basis	48%	46%	6%
No	48%	44%	8%

## 1.6 Support for the creation of regional volunteer rescue teams

The European Parliament would like EU Member States and their local and regional authorities to set up volunteer rescue teams in every region to cope with natural disasters and accidents. Respondents reacted very favourably to this proposal: 88% considered that it would be useful (compared to 9% "not useful"), with almost half saying that it would be "very useful" (48%).

QA14. The European Parliament would like each Member State of the EU and the local and regional authorities to create, in each region, rescue teams of volunteer workers to face natural disasters and accidents. Do you think that such a measure would be...?



### Variations between Member States

The majority of respondents in Cyprus (79%), Malta (70%), Hungary (65%), Greece (62%) and Slovenia (62%) believe the measure would be "very useful". However, support is lower in Finland (37%), Portugal and the Netherlands (40%).

There was no real opposition to this idea in any of the countries: the Netherlands has the lowest score, but even here 78% of respondents said that the proposal was "useful".

### Socio-demographic analysis

The variations between socio-demographic categories are marginal for this question: all of the categories are largely in favour of the creation of volunteer rescue teams in every region to cope with natural disasters and accidents.

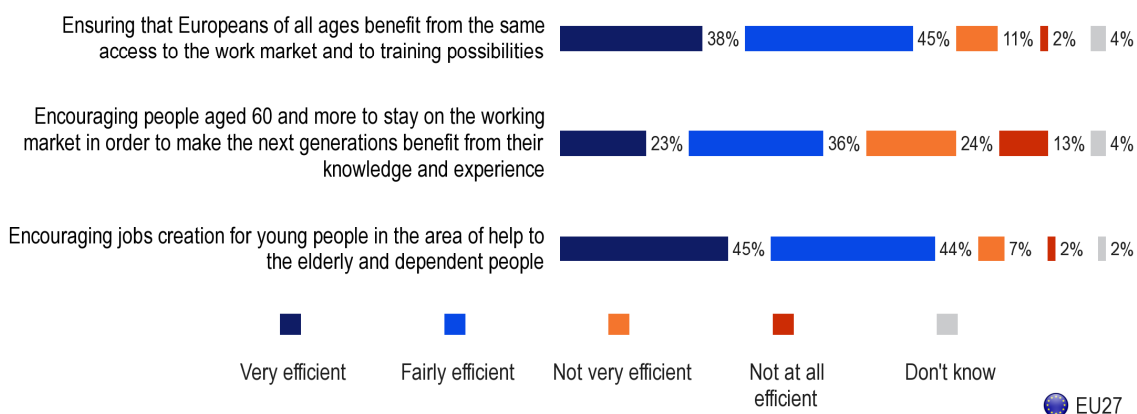
## 2. INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

As 2012 will be the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, respondents were asked to rate the efficiency of three measures aimed at reinforcing solidarity between generations (and especially between young and older people). The majority of respondents support the measure to encourage job creation for young people in the area of help to elderly and dependent people: 89% rate this measure as efficient, including 45% who consider it would be “very efficient”.

Ensuring that Europeans of all ages benefit from the same access to the labour market and training opportunities was also rated very favourably: 83% of respondents consider it would be an efficient measure, including 38% who say it would be “very efficient”.

There was less consensus concerning the final proposal, that of encouraging people aged 60 and over to remain in the labour market to pass on their knowledge and experience to younger generations. Although the majority of respondents approved this measure (59% rate it as efficient, including 23% who consider it would be “very efficient”), it was rejected by more than one-third (37% think that it would not be efficient, including 13% who rate it as “not at all efficient”).

QA17. For each of the following measures aimed at reinforcing the solidarity between generations (and especially between young and elderly people), please tell me if you think it would be an efficient measure or not.



### Variations between Member States

Before we analyse the variations between Member States, it should be noted that there was more support in the pre-2004 countries (63%) than in the post-2004/2007 countries (51%) for the third measure. There were no noticeable differences for the first two proposals.

- The proposal to encourage job creation for young people in the area of caring for elderly and dependent people was very well received in all the Member States, with support ranging from 76% to 95%. In eight countries, more than half the respondents rate the measure as very efficient: Slovenia (63%), Spain (60%), Bulgaria (58%), Cyprus (58%), Malta (55%), Romania (55%), Germany (53%), and Luxembourg (52%).

Providing equal access to the labour market and training for Europeans of all ages was also welcomed in all the Member States, with support ranging from 73% to 93%. The greatest support came in Spain (93%), Bulgaria (89%) and Malta (89%), where more than half of respondents rate the measure as "very efficient" (54%, 55% and 51% respectively), and in Slovakia (91%). Belgium, Estonia and France also rated the measure very favourably (87% positive ratings).

- The final measure, aimed at encouraging people aged 60 and over to remain in the labour market in order to pass on their knowledge and experience to younger generations, was more divisive. There is a 43-point difference between the most supportive and the most reluctant country. The Netherlands (76%), Denmark (75%), Estonia (70%) and Sweden (70%) are particularly in favour of this measure.

Conversely, support barely exceeds one-third of the respondents in three Member States: Slovenia (37%), Hungary (34%) and Cyprus (33%). In these countries, around a quarter of respondents say that this proposal would be "not at all efficient".

### Socio-demographic analysis

An analysis of the socio-demographic variables reveals very few differences for the first two, broadly consensual, measures. For the final proposal, encouraging Europeans to work beyond the age of 60, respondents aged 55 and over were more in favour (64%) than young people (58% for the 15-24 year olds), and managers were more in favour (66%) than manual workers (54%).

## CONCLUSION

This Eurobarometer Special Survey, carried out between 13 April and 2 May 2011, allows us to take stock of the involvement and expectations of EU citizens with regard to two issues at the heart of European current affairs: volunteering on the occasion of the European Year of Volunteering in 2011, and intergenerational solidarity on the occasion of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations in 2012.

The main findings of this survey are as follows:

- Close to a quarter of EU citizens are engaged in a voluntary activity, either on a regular or an occasional basis.
- Sports clubs, cultural and artistic associations and charitable organisations remain the structures in which most EU citizens volunteer. Depending on the country, there is also greater voluntary activity in neighbourhood associations and religious organisations.
- Volunteering is perceived by EU citizens to play an important role in many fields, with solidarity and humanitarian aid remaining in first place (37%). Health care (32%, +8), education (22%, +8) and the environment (22%, +6) have gained significant ground since 2010, an indication that voluntary workers are concerned about the issues that affect the daily lives of the majority of EU citizens.
- EU citizens are divided over the definition of an operating framework for the voluntary sector: 47% support a European Charter for Volunteers jointly drawn up by the Member States and the European Union, while 45% would prefer a national framework established by their own country. Opinions vary greatly between the Member States, although these variations do not appear to be linked to the level of voluntary experience or activity.
- Of the three measures envisaged to promote intergenerational solidarity, two are considered to be efficient by a very large majority of EU citizens: encouraging the creation of jobs for young people in the area of caring for the elderly and dependent people (89%) and ensuring that Europeans of all ages benefit from equal access to the labour market and training (83%).

- However, EU citizens are slightly less enthusiastic about the efficiency of the final measure that aims to keep people aged over 60 in the labour market so that they can pass on their experience and knowledge to younger generations (59%). The reaction to this measure varies greatly between the Member States, with more support in the pre-2004 countries (63%) than in the post-2004/2007 countries (51%).



## **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

## **SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER**

### Volunteering and Intergenerational Solidarity

### **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION**

Between the 13th of April and the 02nd of May 2011, TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between TNS plc and TNS opinion, carried out wave 75.2 of the EUROBAROMETER at the request of the EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, Directorate-General for Communication, "Public Opinion Monitoring" unit.

The SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER "Volunteering and Intergenerational Solidarity" is part of wave 75.2 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 basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn up 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 N<sup>th</sup> 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 is available.



EUROBAROMETER



ABBREVIATIONS	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.058	15/04/2011	03/05/2011	8.939.546
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.003	15/04/2011	26/04/2011	6.537.510
CZ	Czech Republic	TNS Aisa	1.000	16/04/2011	29/04/2011	9.012.443
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.027	15/04/2011	03/05/2011	4.561.264
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.588	15/04/2011	01/05/2011	64.409.146
EE	Estonia	Emor	1.001	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	945.733
IE	Ireland	Ipsos MRBI	1.016	14/04/2011	28/04/2011	3.522.000
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.000	14/04/2011	01/05/2011	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia	1.006	15/04/2011	03/05/2011	39.035.867
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.033	15/04/2011	02/05/2011	47.756.439
IT	Italy	TNS Infratest	1.034	18/04/2011	02/05/2011	51.862.391
CY	Republic of Cyprus	Synovate	502	13/04/2011	02/05/2011	660.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.007	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	1.447.866
LT	Lithuania	TNS Gallup Lithuania	1.029	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	2.829.740
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	503	14/04/2011	30/04/2011	404.907
HU	Hungary	TNS Hungary	1.022	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	15/04/2011	29/04/2011	335.476
NL	The Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.034	15/04/2011	02/05/2011	13.371.980
AT	Austria	Österreichisches Gallup-Institut	1.008	15/04/2011	01/05/2011	7.009.827
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1.000	14/04/2011	04/05/2011	32.413.735
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1.026	16/04/2011	03/05/2011	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.052	15/04/2011	27/04/2011	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.017	15/04/2011	01/05/2011	1.759.701
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.047	14/04/2011	01/05/2011	4.549.955
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	990	13/04/2011	08/05/2011	4.440.004
SE	Sweden	TNS GALLUP	1.005	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	7.791.240
UK	The United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.317	16/04/2011	01/05/2011	51.848.010
<b>TOTAL EU27</b>			<b>26.825</b>	<b>13/04/2011</b>	<b>08/05/2011</b>	<b>408.787.006</b>

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 the 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 figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistics offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed above.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, 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:

<b>Percentages observed</b>	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
<b>Confidence limits</b>	± 1.9 points	± 2.5 points	± 2.7 points	± 3.0 points	± 3.1 points