

PUBLIC OPINION AND PERSONAL SITUATION IN TIMES OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Background and Importance

Recent results show that a majority of European citizens want the EU to provide more financial means to overcome the impact of the pandemic. Public health tops the priority list followed by economic recovery. Findings reveal more than three quarters of Europeans on average have heard about the measures taken by the EU against COVID-19 and a rising number of respondents is now satisfied with these measures. Simultaneously, a majority is nevertheless still not satisfied with the solidarity shown among EU Member States during the crisis. What is the opinion in a non-EU country?

Aim and Objectives

To explore and evaluate the national perception of a non-member state about the EU response to the COVID-19 pandemic, EU competences and budget, satisfaction with EU measures, solidarity among member and non-member states and personal circumstances and financial consequences of COVID-19. Conducted during August-September 2020, the survey encompassed 164 randomly selected participants, aged 18-64 years.

Materials and Methods

The questionnaire consisted of eight adapted questions from European Parliament specific survey "Public opinion in the EU in time of coronavirus crisis 2". The interviews were conducted by phone.

Results

Q Have you already heard, seen or read about measures or actions initiated by the EU to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic? (%)

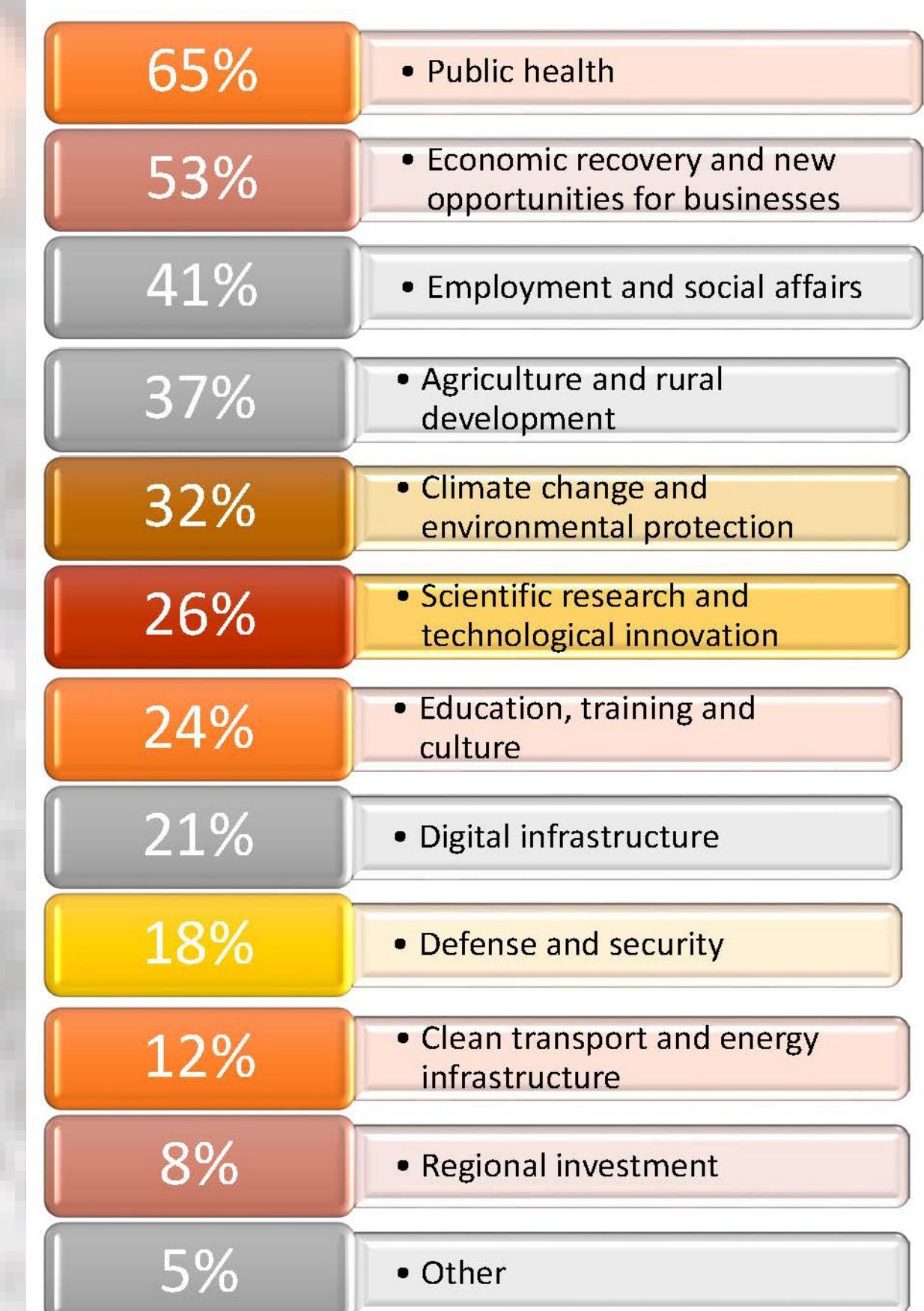
63% of respondents have heard

57%
Yes, but you don't know what they are

6%
Yes, and you know what these measures or actions are

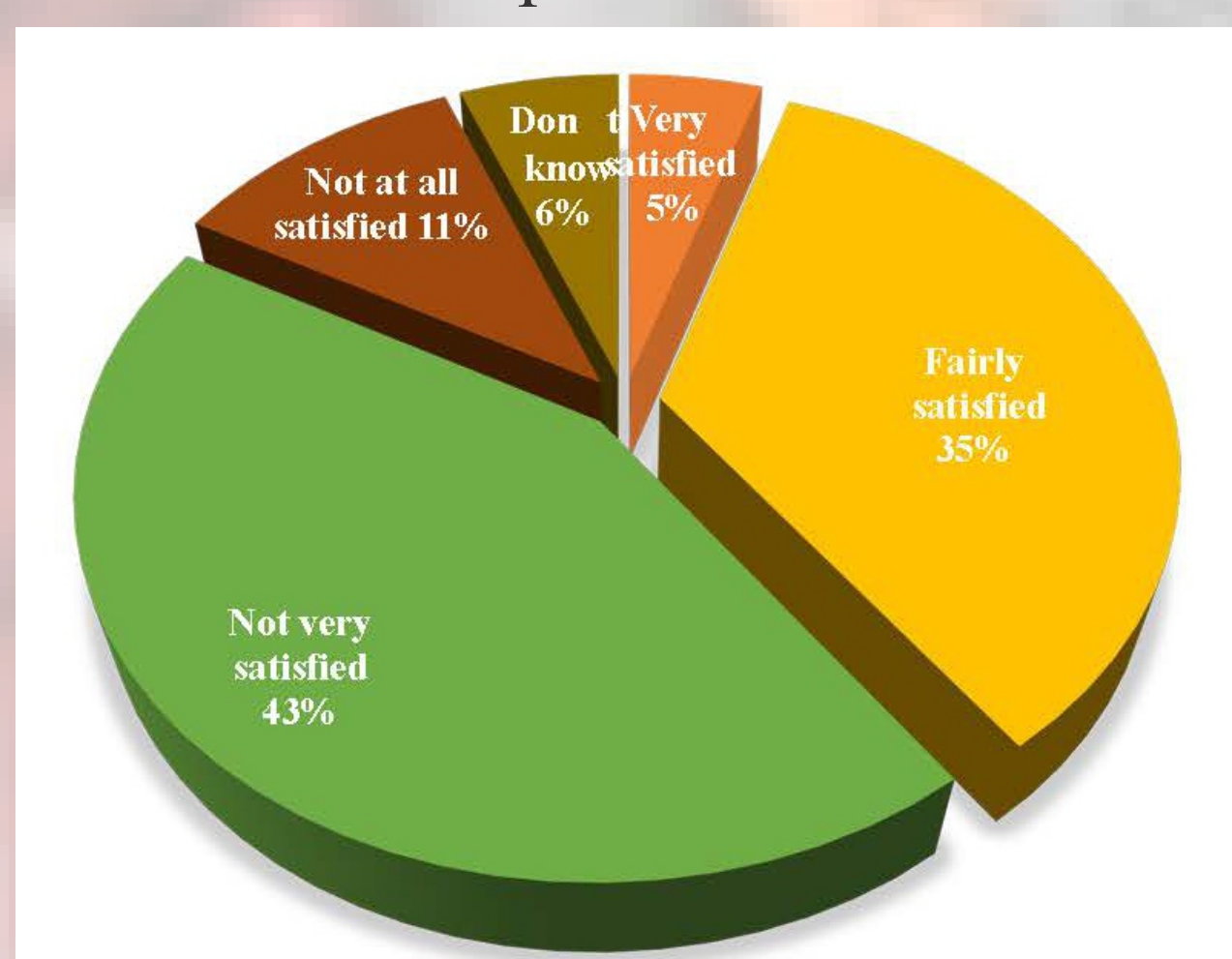


Q On which of the following would you like the budget should be spent? (max.4 answers) (%)



Q How satisfied or not are you with the measures the EU has taken so far against Coronavirus pandemic? (%)

40% report satisfaction



Q Have you experienced financial troubles, mostly loss of income, unemployment and using your savings, since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic in North Macedonia?

75% Of respondents say reported experiencing personal financial difficulties.



Q How satisfied or not are you with the solidarity among EU and non-EU Member States in fighting the Coronavirus pandemic? (%)

21%
Satisfied

7%
Don't know

72%
Not Satisfied



Q Which of the following statement is closed to your opinion? (%)

79%

The Country should have greater financial means to be able to overcome the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic



21%

The Country's financial means are sufficient to be able to overcome the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic

Q What feelings best describe your current emotional status? Please select up to 3 answers (%-total)

Macedonians feel mostly

uncertainty **63%**,

but also hope **43%**



Conclusion and Relevance

The public opinion in times of COVID-19 does not differ significantly from the opinion of European citizens. However, the majority of respondents are not satisfied with the solidarity among EU and non-EU Member States. Personal financial difficulties remain significant.

Disclosure of interest: None Declared

References

1. European Parliament, 2020, UNCERTAINTY | EU | HOPE PUBLIC OPINION IN TIMES OF COVID 19, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/public-opinion-in-the-eu-in-time-of-coronavirus-crisis-2>