



# **Eurobarometer on Social climate**

## **Assessment of the private vs public**

Bartek Lessaer (DG EMPL)



# motivated by the crisis

Each June since 2009

The 2014 survey is currently on the field

Sample:

Over 27.000

aged 15 and over

face to face

earlier EU27 now EU28





# The Social Climate Index

*Life satisfaction*

*Average of  
assessment of  
14 areas*





## Arbitrary values attributed to scores

*Very = 10*

*Not at all = -10*













*Fairly = 3.33*

*Not very = -3.33*

...then average



# The social climate index

OVERALL SOCIAL CLIMATE INDEX (Evaluation of the current situation)						
		EB 72.1 (2009)	EB 73.5 (2010)	EB 75.4 (2011)	EB 77.4 (2012)	EB 79.4 (2013)
	EU27	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9
<b>Top 5 Member States</b>						
	DK	2.8	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.8
	LU	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.6
	SE	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.3
	AT	1.6	2.3	2.7	2.5	2.1
	NL	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.8	1.9
<b>Bottom 5 Member States</b>						
	BG	-3.6	-3.1	-3	-2.9	-3.3
	CY	-0.7	-0.8	-1.7	-2.9	-3.4
	PT	-2.3	-2.8	-2.7	-3.2	-3.4
	RO	-2.4	-4.5	-4.4	-3.8	-4
	EL	-3.8	-4.3	-4.6	-5.8	-5.4
	HR	-	-	-	-	-3.5



## Areas surveyed by type

### **Personal:**

- life satisfaction
- job situation
- household finances
- area (?)

### **Public/economic**

- national economy
- unemployment situation
- unemployment benefits
- public administration
- tackling poverty, inequality

### **Ambiguous**

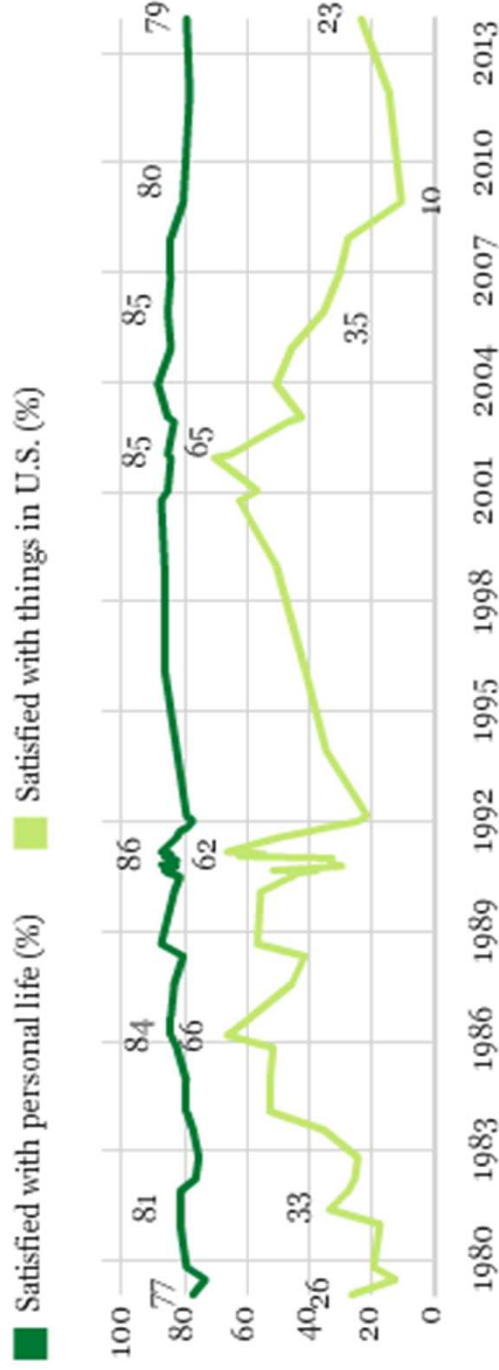
- health care
- pensions
- cost of living
- diversity tensions
- affordable energy
- affordable housing



European  
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### Personal Satisfaction vs. National Satisfaction


In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States/in your personal life at this time?



Note: Selected trend when Gallup asked both questions in the same poll


GALLUP®

## Future outlook, flat and hard to interpret as it's relative

Personal situation (Expectations for the next 12 months)	Better		Worse		Same	
	Special EB 391 (2012)	Special EB 408 (2013)	Special EB 391 (2012)	Special EB 408 (2013)	Special EB 391 (2012)	Special EB 408 (2013)
 EU27						
General life situation	22%	23%	17%	16%	58%	58%
Residential area	13%	14%	11%	12%	73%	73%
Personal job situation	16%	17%	14%	13%	59%	60%
Household financial situation	17%	17%	20%	21%	59%	59%



# A remarkable stability when looking at the past

Personal situation (Changes in the last 5 years)	Improved		Got worse		Stayed about the same	
	Special EB 391 (2012)	Special EB 408 (2013)	Special EB 391 (2012)	Special EB 408 (2013)	Special EB 391 (2012)	Special EB 408 (2013)
 EU27						
General life situation	22%	23%	37%	37%	40%	39%
Residential area	16%	17%	24%	23%	58%	58%
Personal job situation	15%	15%	28%	29%	47%	47%
Household financial situation	15%	16%	40%	41%	43%	42%



EB on social climate is part of the EU debate on crisis, together with

- *ECFIN business and consumer surveys:*
- *Eurofound's EQLS*
- *SILC module on Well-being*
- *Recent qualitative surveys launched by EMPL: "Coping with the Crisis"*



# **Conclusion: private optimism vs public gloom?**

Persistent gap aggravated by the crisis



<b>OVERALL SOCIAL CLIMATE INDEX</b>	<b>Special EB 315 (2009)</b>	<b>Special EB 349 (2010)</b>	<b>Special EB 370 (2011)</b>	<b>Special EB 391 (2012)</b>	<b>Special EB 408 (2013)</b>
EU27	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8
Female	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-1	-1
<b>Age</b>					
15-24	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.7	-0.4
25-39	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-1	-1
40-54	-0.9	-0.8	-0.7	-0.8	-1
55 +	-0.5	-0.6	-0.5	-0.7	-0.9
<b>Education (End of)</b>					
15-	-1.5	-1.5	-1.4	-1.8	-2.3
16-19	-1	-1	-0.9	-1.1	-1.1
20+	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.1
Still studying	0.6	0.3	0.4	0	0.2
<b>Respondent occupation scale</b>					
Self-employed	-0.6	-0.5	-0.8	-0.7	-1.1
Managers	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.8
Other white collars	-0.5	-0.5	-0.1	-0.7	-0.5
Manual workers	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-1.1
House persons	-0.9	-1.6	-1.8	-2	-1.9
Unemployed	-2.9	-2.4	-2.9	-3.1	-3.1
Retired	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.7	-0.9
Students	0.6	0.3	0.4	0	0.2
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>					
Most of the time	-3	-3.6	-3.3	-3.8	-4.2
From time to time	-1.6	-1.7	-1.7	-2	-2
Almost never	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3



# Judgement of the current situation in the national economy (by difficulty in paying bills)

*most of the time:*

*59% very bad*

almost never:

25% very bad



# The Coping Strategy project (DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, PT, RO)



*How individuals hit by the crisis cope with the economic shock*

- *Job loss, loss of income and job security*
- *Young people, lone parents, single earner households from lower social positions (employee, workers), etc.*



## Coping strategies in the Crisis

- *Communicate more accurately on the impact of the Crisis*
  - Complementing usual statistical tools
- *Understanding: Investigate how households are coping with economic shocks*
  - behavioural response to a loss of income
  - impact on the household welfare.
- *Reflect on role of policies and institutions*



## A three part project



Qualitative  
interviews based  
on a sociological  
approach

- Team of academics in sociology



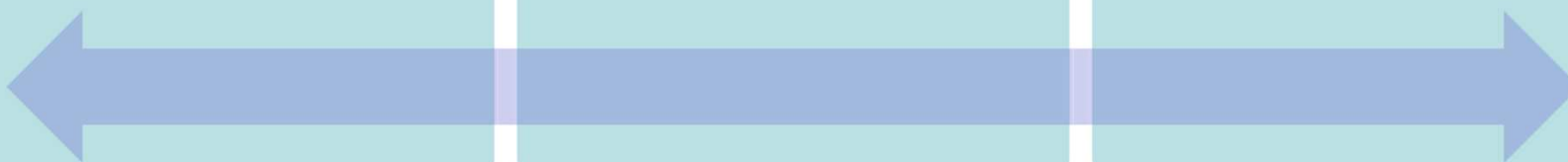
Focus group  
interviews

- TNS contract with the Commission



Statistical study

- CEPS Instead
- Which expenditures are curtailed first?





# Objectives

## *General objectives*

- Raise awareness on situation
- Better understanding of mechanisms at stake
- Inform policy making

## *Specific objectives*

- Communication (brochure gathering quantitative and qualitative results)
- Knowledge sharing – comparative dimension
- Inform national policy makers (SPC)
- SILC module on coping strategies
- Extend and deepen the project



# Synthesis of the results

## **Family ties**

- Mobilizing family ties

## **Social ties**

- Mobilizing social networks: friends and close relationships

## **Organic ties**

- Finding a job
- Participating to training programs
- Participating to informal economy

## **Citizenship**

- Mobilizing help from institutions
- Using rights



# INCOME STRATEGIES – VERBATIM COMMENTS

Commission

## Key themes:

- Substantial loss in income
- Support from State & family/friends
- Various income strategies
- Lessons: savings, moderation, limit debt, get help

*“Friends also help, I have a friend who is a mechanic, he fixes my car, I have my open account there and I pay whenever I can. I have friends who have a backyard with a garden and give me things to make soup, if my child gets sick, and there’s no money to buy medication I always have a friend who will give me the medication.” (PT, Group 1)*

*“My income has been halved.” (FR, Group 2)*

*“I used to go to my mother's house to have lunch one day a week, now I go three times a week.” (ES, Group 2)*

*“I don't declare that I'm working so as not to lose my benefits.” (FR, Group 3)*

*“I get orphan's benefit, my mom's child benefit, and earn €300 extra. And I moved in with my mother again to save rent, but it's temporary.” (DE, Group 4)*

*“I wish someone had said that there wasn't always going to be this money, and we would have put some away”. (IE, Group 2)*

# IMPACT- VERBATIM COMMENTS

Commission

## Key themes:

- Material and emotional impact
- Feeling stuck
- Being worse off
- Focus on today
- More careful with money

*"I realised that I have lived my life and I don't want to live anymore. I cannot stand it anymore, I cannot stand myself, as I struggle with everyday obstacles, I cannot stand myself as I struggle and I cannot take it anymore. I cannot find a job, I am desperate..." (RO, Group 1)*

*"I manage everything down to the last cent...electricity, if it's cold then we put on a blanket." (ES, Group 4)*

*"We want to have a job, we don't, and we can't. We want to finish the degree and we can't. We are always here fighting for nothing." (PT, Group 4)*

*"Simple thing like lunches, they [the children] will come back and say, 'such and such had crisps and a chocolate bar and whatever else and how come we are only getting water?' Number one water is healthier. It is simple things like what is in their lunch box [that] is being commented on at school." (IE, Group 1)*



## Social climate as a research trigger

- *helps select countries for further analysis and quali research*
- *helps formulate research questions*
- *helps identify target group*



## Social climate role in the Commission

- *stimulate internal discussion*
- *help with policy formulation*
  - fight segmentation of labour markets in strong performing countries
  - feed into the country specific recommendations for the crisis countries



**THANK YOU!**  
**[Bartek.Lessaer@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Bartek.Lessaer@ec.europa.eu)**

