DIGITAL EDUCATION THROUGH ADULT LEARNERS EU-ENLARGEMENT STORIES (DeTALES)

PROJECT No 510674-LLP-1-2010-1-IT-GRUNDTVIG-GMP

WP 2: RESEARCH AND CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

REPORT PRODUCED BY DeTALES PARNTERSHIP

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1. Executive summary

The background research has been conducted seeking to meet DeTales project objectives and to implement tasks of WP 2.

The aim of the background research was to collect information on the perception of people from the countries represented in the project partnership on topics related to the European Union (EU) history and enlargement and to analyze the results from political and sociological point of view. Nevertheless we should keep in mind that these results are not at all representative – they serve as a stimulus for reflections, e.g. when comparing them with official research results (e.g. from Eurobarometer)

The method of background research was individual written questionnaires. 293 respondents replied to the questionnaires, as follows:

- Bulgaria - 23
- Germany - 28
- Hungary - 50
- Italy - 50
- Lithuania - 50
- Turkey - 50
- United Kingdom - 42

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2. Methodology

The methodology that was used for the background research was based on the elaboration of a questionnaire covering five main topics related to EU history and enlargement: *identity, enlargement, mobility, job market, citizen activities*. The questionnaire included specific questions seeking to find the perception or the general knowledge about EU of the main target groups of the project.

The questionnaires were distributed in all countries presented in the partnership: Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Lithuania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey. As the group consists of three old EU member states, three new member states and one accession country, they represented a sound basis to receive different points of view and to analyze the differences and similarities among them.

Each partner distributed the questionnaire at national level, summarized the results and presented analysis focusing on the main specifics of the national context. On the basis of the national reports the final report was produced.

The survey was conducted in the period from 1 February 2011 to 30 April 2011.

3. Identification of the target group

3.1. Information about the respondents of the questionnaire

For the background research were analyzed the results of 293 questionnaires, distributed in Italy (50), Germany (28), United Kingdom (42), Lithuania (50), Hungary (50), Bulgaria (23) and Turkey (50). The respondents of the questionnaires are 52% male and 48% female, representing all age groups from 15 to 65 and over years old. About 65 % of the respondents are 46 years or above. This age split of the respondents allows more thorough analysis of the opinions and the reactions of the target group of the project consisting of low-skilled adults, seniors and mature employees. Moreover is widely known that the adults are far more

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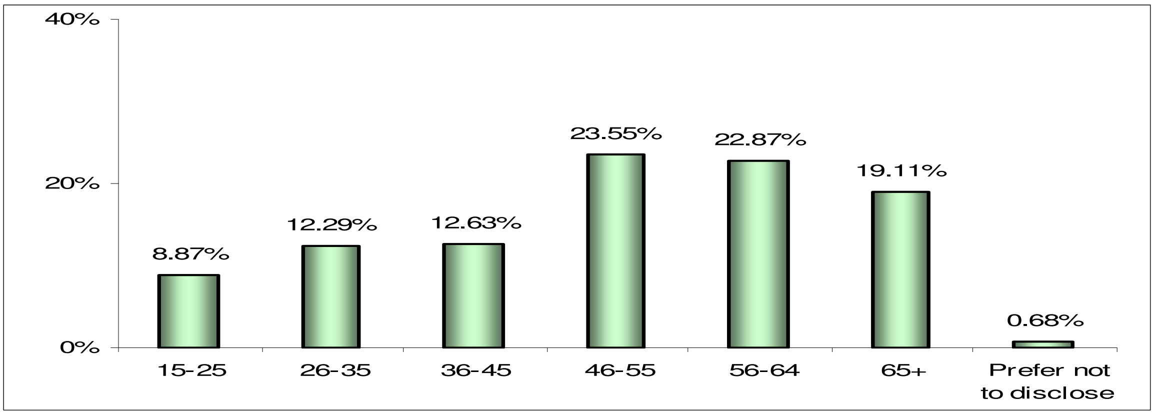
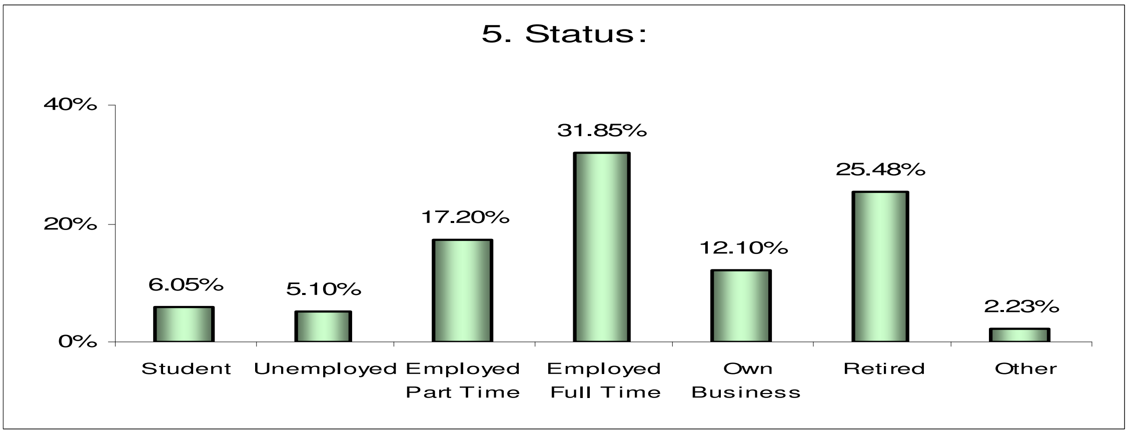
resistant to the changes in every aspect of their life, including the topics related to the European Union (EU) history and enlargement.

Figure 1. Age groups of respondents



More than 47 % of the respondents live in cities; about 22 % come from towns and about 26% - from villages. Regarding the employment status, the majority of the respondents are full-time employees (32%), followed by the groups of retired people (26%) and part-time employees (17%). The group of unemployed is about 5 %.

Figure 2. Employment status of the respondents



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More than 33 % of the respondents have a university degree. Other 35 % of the group are either college or vocational school education graduates. 23% of the respondents have finished their education at secondary school level. For about 12 % of the group primary school is the final education level achieved.

3.2. Information about the respondents of the questionnaire by country

- **Italy**

The respondent group from Italy is composed by 50 people, including low skills adults between 45 and 65 and over years old, coming mostly from rural areas nearby Rome. People are mostly agricultural entrepreneurs. These rural areas are populated by many immigrants cultivating the land in rural factories.

- **Germany**

In Germany two groups of adults were invited to answer the questionnaire. The first group consisted of active working people, who were attending a seminar on media issues (12 adults). They all use computers and Internet in their jobs. In total 15 men and 13 women responded to the questionnaire. The majority of the group members are 46 years and older (20 persons), as only 8 persons are 65 years or older. Apart from one person who has a Turkish nationality, all the other respondents are of German nationality.

- **United Kingdom**

In UK, 61% of the respondents are 36 years old or above. There is a 60:40 split of females to males, and over 80% of the group live in a town or village, with village inhabitancy reflecting over half the cohort, only 7% reported that they live in a city. Nearly 70% of the group is employed, with 7% retired and 20% without work. Only 1 in 5 received their highest qualifications from University, with 70% equally shared between college and high school education. Almost everybody in the group uses a computer on a daily basis.

- **Hungary**

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The survey in Hungary was concentrated on the population between the age of 34 and 55 years because of the target group defined in the proposal. 50 questionnaires were distributed in total (30 women and 20 men). All 50 of the respondents are Hungarians, 27 of whom come from Budapest (city), 15 - from other towns (mostly form Miskolc) and 8 - from villages (most of them from the agglomeration area of Budapest or Miskolc). The status rates are a bit different from the Hungarian average in this age category, in general: more people have own business and less has a part time job.

- **Lithuania**

In Lithuania the cluster of survey is 50 respondents, of whom 13 are men and 37 women. Age of respondents was: 46-55 year old - 19 respondents, 56-64 years old – 11 respondents and 65+ years old - 20 respondents. 48 respondents have Lithuanian nationality and two respondents did not indicate this. The majority of respondents (39) live in the city and are retired (25) or still working (20). 20 of the respondents have a university (20) degree, 15 have vocational education, and four respondents have completed primary and secondary schools.

- **Bulgaria**

The survey was conducted among 23 persons with Bulgarian nationality, from which 27% are women and 13 % - men. All the respondents are aged 46 and over, due to the specific target group defined for Bulgaria within the project. About 87% of the group lives in a cities and about 13% comes from a villages. 68% of the groups are retired. Equal shares of 12 % of the respondents are full-time and part-time employees. Only 2 persons were unemployed at the moment of the survey. All participants possess higher education degrees, as 19 of them have achieved their higher education in university and 4 of them in a college.

- **Turkey**

In Turkey were interviewed 50 people from Turkish nationality, from which 70% (35) men and 30% (15) women. Age group of the respondents is as follows: 15-25 years old - 19 respondents, 26-35 years old - 8 respondents, 36-45 years old - 13 respondents, 46-55 years old - 8 respondents and 56-64 years old - 2 respondents. 47 of the respondents live in a city, 2 - in town and 1 - in village. 12 of the respondents are students, 3 are unemployed, 3 are employed part time, 19 are employed full time, 2 have their own business, 7 are retired and 3 defined the option "other". 12 of the respondents are primary school graduate, 12 are secondary school, 3 are vocational institution, 22 are university and 1 is other.

4. Identity

4.1. General Results

The highest percentage (more than 38%) of the respondents defined Europe as a political unit. For 32% of them Europe is a geographical unit. About 22% of the respondents consider Europe as a cultural unit. It could be concluded that the two big European organisations – the European Union and the Council of Europe have found their place deep in the consciousness of the European people forming the basis of the European identity.

Nearly 40 % of the respondents agreed that their country's cultural identity is influenced by its EU neighbours and a little more than 10 % strongly agreed with the statement. About 29% of the respondents neither agree nor disagree with the statement and about 20 % disagree with it. Considering the dispersion of those values in the different countries participated in the research they can be divided in two main groups. Group one consists of Bulgaria and Italy where the percentage of people who "strongly agree" or "agree" with the statement is lower (10% for Italy and 43% for Bulgaria). In all other countries participated in research those values exceed 50%. However considering the current tendencies for increasing the levels of migration and intercultural exchange we can assume that those numbers are going to significantly grow in the future. Simultaneously almost 44 % of the respondents believe that their country has preserved their unique identity. The results show that the economic integration of Europe in the frames of the EU actually created the basis for cultural exchange and influence between the people of its member states. However within the union the national identity was preserved together with the sense of tolerance towards each other.

The results of the survey also indicated that more than two thirds of the respondents consider their country as a part of a bigger European identity (about 65 % of the replies). About 16 % of the respondents disagree with this statement and another 20 % neither agree nor disagree

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with it. The European economic integration became a factor for the foundation of a European identity to which the European nations willingly affiliate.

4.2. Analysis of the results by country

- **Italy**

The results show that in Italy people recognize EU mainly as geographical union and then as political union. They feel part of "Europe" but they consider Italian citizenship as not influenced by other countries in Europe.

- **Germany**

Although the confidence of German citizens in Europe is generally decreasing, there is a strong sense of the mutual influences among the European states and cultures. 68 % of the respondents agree that the cultural identity of their country is influenced by the neighbouring countries and 79 % don't agree with the statement that their own country is unique and not influenced by Europe.

- **United Kingdom**

In UK half of the responding group view Europe as a political entity with the other half sharing a geographical/ cultural philosophy. More people believe that British identity is influenced by Europe by a 60-40 margin over those who don't. One in three people neither agree nor disagree that their country has a unique identity not influenced by EU. However 70% of the group believe that UK is part of a larger Europe.

- **Lithuania**

Almost half (23) of respondents perceive Europe as a geographical unit or/and political region (21) and 17 of the respondents see Europe as a cultural unit. Most respondents consider that their country's identity is influenced by neighbours and agree that the country is part of a bigger European identity but according to respondents, Lithuania still keeps its identity unique.

- **Hungary**

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According to 36 of the respondents Europe is geographical unit which approach fits well to the Hungarian general education and attitude. (They say they don't use Europe as a synonym for the EU like ex. in France or in the UK). The most of the people (28) agree with the question that Hungarian cultural identity is influenced by the neighbours. Significant is also the number of the people (33) who agree with the statement that is considered to be a part of a bigger European identity. Relevantly lower are the rates of the people who think that their national identity has not been influenced by the EU (only 10 people), which refers well to the today's political rhetoric in the country.

- **Bulgaria**

The majority of the respondents (68 %) define Europe as a geographical unit. About the same percentage of the group also considers Bulgaria to be a part of a bigger European identity. On the question if the country's cultural identity is influenced by its EU neighbours, the opinion of the group is almost equally split, as 48 % disagree with the statement and 44 % agree with it. However when asked if the country has unique identity which is not influenced by EU more than 76 % agree with it.

- **Turkey**

The majority of the respondents (40%) define Europe as a political unit. 13 of the respondents (26%) define it as other, 7 of them (14%) - as geographical unit, 6 of them (12%) - as cultural unit and 3 of them (6%) are not sure. The majority of the respondents (62%) with the statement that the cultural identity of the country is influenced by its EU neighbours. The opposite statement is supported by 28 % of the respondents, as only 4 of them (8 %) are neutral.

5. EU Enlargement

5.1. General Results

The correct answer about the number of the current EU member states was indicated by 64 % of the respondents. However less than half of the responding group feels sure about the countries negotiating to join the EU, while the rest of the people indicate either that they don't

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know (27%) or are not sure (30%) about them. These results could be explained with the negotiating procedure to EU which usually takes a long time as well as with the increasing number of countries expressing their interest to join the union. On the other hand the EU policy influences the national policies of the all the member –states as well the everyday life of their citizens which can explain why these people are well aware of the member-states of the union.

More than half of the respondents (56%) share the opinion that European expansion gives more power to the EU and its member countries. When asked if the EU is already too large and cannot solve its existing problems the biggest part of the group (42 %) cannot give clear answer. However the majority of the respondents (over 86%) believe that EU should be open to all European cultures, ideas and spirits. The results show that generally people don't understand the organisational difficulties that EU faces in relation with the large enlargement of the union in the recent years, but they are open new countries to join the union.

5.2. Analysis of the results by country

- **Italy**

People don't know too much about the EU enlargement process (number of countries and countries negotiating to enter)
They are open to raise their awareness of other cultures, they define the feeling of belonging to EU as important because they are not alone as a country, but at the same time they are not sure if EU is able to solve its existing problems.

- **Germany**

In the past it was observed a general Europe-friendly attitude in the German population. Recent financial crises have increased scepticism towards a further enlargement and the capability to establish a sustainable European economic system. 43 % of the respondents do not agree with the statement that "European expansion gives more power to the EU and its member states" (4a).

- **United Kingdom**

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Over half of the Welsh group was of the belief that Europe has 27 member states. They were divided on whether a larger Europe gives more power to member states, despite over half agreeing with the statement, 38% didn't know whether to agree or disagree. Similarly, 70% couldn't decide whether Europe is already too large to solve its problems. Welsh candidates agree that Europe should embrace all cultures, ideas and spirits, with 80% agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement. The group generally wasn't sure which countries are currently negotiating to join the EU.

- **Lithuania**

Most of the respondents (40) know well that the EU has 27 member states and support the idea that the European expansion gives more power to the EU and its member countries. Also most respondents agree that The EU should be open to all European cultures, ideas and spirits. It should be noted that respondents' opinions on the EU size is different because 17 respondents agree and 7 was strongly agree that EU is already too large and can't solve its existing problems, while 14 respondents disagree.

17 of respondents are not sure about countries that are negotiating joining the EU, 13 respondents don't know and 20 say that they know negotiating parties. Among the countries which negotiate for joining EU the most respondents outline Turkey (17) Croatia (10) and Iceland (9).

- **Hungary**

The most of respondents mark the correct answer that the EU has 27 member states, as ten of them market the incorrect answers pointing 15, 25 (as it was when Hungary entered into the EU, in 2004) and 30 member - states.
Although the Hungarians can be defined as strongly euro-sceptics, only small part of the respondents considered the EU enlargement as a wrong way. Only one person says that the EU shouldn't be open to all of the European cultures; ideas and spirits. Most of the respondents (30) think that EU has already a lot of problems to solve, as only 11 say that the EU is ready for enlargement.

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22 of the respondents claim that they are aware of the negotiation process, but when asked which are the negotiating countries some of them give wrong answers. 15 say that they are not sure but a few of them marked some countries. Most of the people are sure about the existence of a negotiation process with Croatia, as it is an actual question nowadays, because this is one of the main Hungarian EU presidency objectives in the foreign affairs. As a result of a relatively common European topic, 18 people mark Turkey and nobody marks Suede and Switzerland.

- **Bulgaria**

The majority of the group (90%) indicates correctly the number of the EU member states. More than 65% of the group also states that they know which countries are currently negotiating to join the EU.

More than 60% of the respondents share the opinion that European expansion gives more power to the EU and its member-states, but also more than half of the group expresses concerns that EU is already too large to solve its existing problems. Unanimously all respondents indicate that EU should be open to all European countries, ideas and spirits.

- **Turkey**

Almost half of the respondents (44%) give the correct answer considering the number of the present EU member – states and among the most commonly marked wrong answers is 25 member–states (given by 13 respondents). The majority of the respondents (76%) consider that European expansion gives more power to the EU and its member states, but almost half of the respondents (60%) say the EU is already too large and can't solve its existing problems. The majority of the respondents (92%) consider that the EU should be open to all European cultures, ideas and spirits.

6. Mobility

6.1. General Results

A little more than half of the group (53%) reports that they have travelled in another EU country in the last two years, 57% of which travelled abroad for tourism purposes. The higher

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rates under that topic are observed mainly in Germany and Hungary relevantly 86% and 80% and the lower – in Lithuania, Bulgaria and Turkey (relevantly 30%, 22% and 16%). Those values can be explained with the influence of the economic crisis over the European economy, as well as with the higher percentage (in the terms of Bulgarian context) of the people above 55 years old participated in the research. The selection of that target group was determined by the aims and objectives of the projects and can be considered as representative for the group only in the terms of the current research. In the other countries participated in the research the values are around the average. About 20% of the responding group visited another EU country in order to see a family member or a friend and about 17% travelled for business.

47% of the respondents indicate as main problematic issue during travelling in another EU country the language gaps. The other reasons as cultural or traditional differences, climate, missing family and friends, the possibility to get lost or the difficulty for meet or get to know people share almost equal proportion with about 5% each. Despite all difficulties for about 27% of the group travelling abroad is as a pleasant experience.

More than 70% of the group know somebody who was born abroad and settled down in their country, and 35% even know more than 7 people like this. Only 19% of the respondents do not know anybody who were born abroad and settled down in their country. Those values could be explained with the increasing mobility in labour market. Although the financial crisis has decreased the growth rates of that index in the recent years the immigrant flow to the old EU member-states still exist. Representative in that field are the answers received by the Italian partners where nearly 70% of the respondents know more than 7 people who were born abroad and have settled down in their own country.

6.2. Analysis of the results by country

- **Italy**

Quite half of the respondents admit that they didn't travel in the last 2 years but the other half admits that the have been abroad visiting a family member, studying or working. The biggest

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problems faced by the respondents while travelling are the language gaps and the fact that they are missing family and friends.

The majority of the people interviewed in Italy (around 70%) admit that they know lots of people coming from other countries who have settled down in their own country. One of the reasons for that is that the rural areas the respondents are coming from are very populated by immigrants working the land in rural factories. Famous is also the fact that Italy is one of the EU countries characterized with higher migration levels.

- **Germany**

86 % of the asked adults have travelled in another European Country mainly for tourism. Mainly the neighbouring countries have been chosen as holiday destinations. The German tourism market is very large and ranks among the top of the world ("Reiseweltmeister" – travel champion).

- **United Kingdom**

Only half of the Welsh group has travelled in Europe in the last two years, with 20% visiting families and over 70% travelling as tourists. Business travel figures in this group are low, at less than 10%. Group members' main issue with European travel is the language barrier, but only a quarter of them consider this an issue. 46% believe that European travel would represent an opportunity, rather than a threat. Less than 10% of the cohort knew no settlers from within Europe, with 70% knowing more than three settlers and nearly half the group knowing seven or more people living here after being born abroad.

- **Lithuania**

The data shows that one of every three respondents travelled in EU country in last two years. Two of three respondents did not travel during this period. Respondents who indicated that they travelled, have been in France (3 persons), Poland (3), Latvia (2 people), Germany (2) and other.

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The survey also shows that respondents travelled mainly for purpose of tourism (13 people), business (4), seeing a family member or friend (5). 3 people travelled in EU countries for other purposes.

The biggest problem of travelling abroad - the language barrier - is identified by 26 people. 10 of the respondents miss family and friends, 6 persons identified cultural and traditional differences as a difficulty, 6 respondents have a fear of getting lost. Other problems (like climate) were rarely mentioned.15 people indicated that like these kinds of challenges and going abroad.

Respondents were asked if they know people who were born abroad but living in Lithuania: 25 respondents do not know, 13 people know 1-2, 7 know 3-6 people; and five people say that they know more than seven people who were born abroad but live in Lithuania.

- **Hungary**

Much more higher as the Hungarian average, almost the 80% of the respondents, say that they travelled into another EU country in the last 2 years. From the Miskolc area Slovakia is a popular destination which is only 40 kilometres from the town (80 from Budapest). Only one person marks shopping as a purpose but most of the people going to Slovakia go there to buy general goods, food and fuel. Another reason for travelling to Slovakia and/or to Romania is to see the “national memorial places” (as the Transylvanian part of Romania, and most part of Slovakia was the part of the “historical” Hungary – the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the Hungarian Kingdom before 1920. One respondent wrote Uplands instead of Slovakia, two wrote Transylvania instead of Romania as a kind of nationalistic nostalgic view). Austria is also a popular destination for the shopping tourism and recreation (skiing). The general purpose for travelling is tourism (“national memory tourism”, shopping, skiing, recreation), 9 people wrote business trip (mostly to Germany or Austria), 5 persons said to see family members (which is a relatively small amount of number compared to the answers for the question 11). Under the point “other”, there were only 3 answers: football, studying, shopping.

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About the possible difficulties, most of the people outline the language gaps which refer well to the low level of the language teaching and knowledge in Hungary. A few respondents mark one or more difficulties and also put an "x" next to the last row: "I really like these kinds of challenges and going abroad".

When delivered in Hungary the question No 10 was a bit modified at: "How many do you know who were born abroad - but not Hungarian origin - and settled down in Hungary?" The aim of the organizers was to separate the originally non-Hungarian speakers from the Hungarian minorities aboard. But they're not sure that all the answers referred for the non-Hungarian origins, probably respondents mixed up a bit this question, because of the surprisingly high the number (38) of the people who know someone (and mostly 1-6 people) born aboard.

- **Bulgaria**

The majority of the respondents (78%) have not travelled abroad in the last two years and those who travelled, did it as tourists (60%) or for business reasons (40%). For more than 90% of the group the main issue that could create difficulties for them during a visit in another EU country is the lack of knowledge of foreign language like English, French or German. Other reasons that were indicated as potential difficulties are cultural and tradition differences (4%) as well as missing family and friends (4%).

More than 70% of the group know people who were born abroad and settle down in Bulgaria.

Most probably the results are related to the target group of respondents, the majority of which are people elder than 46, and as a result they generally lack knowledge of foreign languages like English, French or German, as well as they do have very strong family and friends connection in home.

- **Turkey**

The majority of the respondents (84%) haven't travelled in any European country in last 2 years while only 6 (12%) of them have travelled in any European country in last 2 years. They

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defined only two problems which are language gaps identified by 3 respondents and cultural and traditional differences – identified by 2 respondents.

7. Job Market

7.1. General Results

More than half of the respondents (54%) indicated that neither they nor anyone else in their family had worked or lived in another European country. 38% of the group have one or more family members who have worked abroad and only 8% have worked abroad personally.

Less than half of the group (48%) would not move to another place if there is a better job opportunity, while another 26% will move only within their own country. Only 14% of the respondents will move for work reasons anywhere in the world and for another 10 % it will be acceptable to move only inside Europe.

More than one third of the respondents (40%) will be definitely interested to receive more information about EU programs or grants. For another 43% of the group this information will be also potentially interesting. More than 35% of the respondents are definitely interested to receive information about travelling, moving or working in EU and for another 40% such information will be potentially interesting. However more that 80% of the respondents have not heard about EURES network. Only less then 4% of the group indicated that they know about the EURES network and have checked it.

The results actually present the impact of one of the founding principles of the EU: the free moment of goods, capitals, services and workers. Today the European people travel and communicate much more often than before. Many policies encourage the establishment of networks and easy job establishment for foreigners from EU member countries.

7.2. Analysis of the results by country

- **Italy**

Adult people are not interested to go to work abroad; they already have their life and business in their own country.
But their sons or nephews are more interested to go abroad (not those who are engaged in their own agricultural enterprises)

- **Germany**

There is a positive attitude towards mobility and further interest in employment possibilities in Europe but the conditions might vary to a large extend. 43 % would not move somewhere else for a better job (Question 12). Due to the fact that 46 % are in the age group 56+ this result corresponds to the structure of the age group.

- **United Kingdom**

Less than 20% of the Welsh group have worked in another European country and 25% wouldn't wish to work abroad, if a better job comes along. However, 25% would work elsewhere in Europe and 35% would work anywhere in the world. 80% of the group would be interested in information on European grants and information about moving around Europe and nearly 85% would be interested in learning about other European cultures. Almost nobody had heard of the EURES network and 20% of the group had no interest in finding out about it. Interested 75% were.

- **Lithuania**

Most of respondents (22) say that neither they nor their family members live or work abroad, while 13 respondents say that their family members live in Germany, UK, Latvia, Norway, USA, Switzerland and France. A large part of the participants in the survey say that they would not move to live and work elsewhere (20) or they would move just to another location in their country (16 respondents). We can suggest that respondents are not ready for significant changes in the residence.

The results showed that the majority of respondents are interested in other cultures or would like to know more about them. Also respondents are interested in the EU programs or grants, travelling, employment opportunities in the EU. The data shows that several respondents have

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already heard about the EURES Network. The biggest is the part of the respondents who have not heard of it but would like to know more (20), followed by those who do not think it is interesting (15 respondents).

- **Hungary**

The Hungarians in general consider it hard to make a decision to leave their home, a lot of people tried, try and hope to have a better life aboard. It was always and still is a kind of myth if someone in the family works aboard, traditionally in Germany, Austria or all around the world. 12 people answered that he/she worked or lived (mostly studied) aboard, a few spent some time in more than one country. This is the same for the family members as well; the same are and the destinations. Germany and Austria were the most popular destination before 1989 and partly it's still the same. UK and Ireland after opening their job markets for the new EU members have become the new popular destinations. Among the other countries as a target destination can be found also France, the Netherlands and Sweden.
Almost half of the responders (23) say that they wouldn't move even if they can find a better job which corresponds well to the general attitude. 13 person say they would move anywhere in the world, 3 - anywhere just Europe and just five would move only inside Hungary. 5 of the respondents mention specific destinations: the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Norway, Austria, the UK, and Far-East.

In general the respondents were open to obtain new information about the available job and mobility opportunities, EU programs and grants and other cultures. Considering the question exploring the awareness of the Hungarians about the EURES network, only 16 people admit that they have heard of it but just 4 tried it. The rest of the respondents who admit that they haven't heard of it would be interested in learning more about the network and the opportunities it gives to the EU citizens.

- **Bulgaria**

The majority of the respondents (77%) would not move from their own place if they could find better job, and even if they move they prefer to do this within their own country (14%).

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The majority of the respondents (91%) would be interested if they have the opportunity to know more about other European cultures. For 70% of the group it will be interesting to know more about EU programs and grants. A little less than half of the respondents (48%) would definitely like to have more information about travelling, moving or working in EU, and another 26 % are potentially interested in such type of information. However less that 20% have heard about EURES network and only 9% have already checked it.

- **Turkey**

Some of the respondents (32%) prefer to move only in their own country, as almost the same percentages (30%) declare that they wouldn't move anywhere else. The majority of the respondents (38%) declare an interest in learning more about the other European cultures. The majority of the respondents (60%) declare that they are interested in obtaining more information about the European programs and grants. The majority of the respondents (39%) are also interested in obtaining more information about travelling, moving or working in the EU.

8. Citizen activities

8.1. General Results

More than 62% of the respondents indicated that they have voted in the European Parliament Elections. As a reason not to vote 26% mentioned that they are not interested in politics in general or they could not choose a party (26%). 15% of the respondents who have not voted in the European Parliament Elections stated that they don't believe in European politics.

For 53% of the respondents it is positive for EU to have a unified and common currency, while 24% does not share this opinion. 23% of the respondents are either indifferent or doesn't know anything about this issue.

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8.2. Analysis of the results by country

- **Italy**

Target people are not interested in politics.

We think that the reason is that political elections are difficult to understand and it's very hard to make someone believe in a candidate. There is a common sense of distrust.

- **Germany**

Background information: From 1997 to 2009 the participation of Germans in the European parliament elections has decreased from 66 % to 43 %. In this survey 71 % of the Germans said that they have voted in the European Parliament (question 15). The interest in EU politics differs from the average figures.

- **United Kingdom**

Less than half the cohort had voted in the European parliament election and the dominant reason for this in the Welsh group is not deciding which party to vote for, at nearly 30%. Relatively few people feel that there shouldn't be a single European currency, but there was a relatively high number of 'don't knows' at 35%, with the 'yes' vote being dominant at 45%.

- **Lithuania**

The data shows that the most of the respondents express their civic position voting on the European Parliament elections - 32 of the respondents admit that they have voted on the previous elections. The people who didn't vote indicated is a reason that they can not choose a party (5 respondents) or that they believe that country isn't well represented in the EP (4 respondents).

The necessity of unified EU currency is supported by the majority of respondents (23). 14 respondents said that they do not know anything about this, while nine persons opposed the idea of a common currency.

- **Hungary**

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Although in the 2009 only the 36% of the Hungarians voted on the EP Elections (and it was communicated as a pre-election for the 2010 general election), which is absolutely lower then the European average, among the 50 respondents 35 admit that they went to vote and only 15 didn't, which is a much higher rate as the national (70%). When asked about the reasons one of the non-voters said he/she would have gone but she hadn't the right to vote at that time. One other said: "I hate the politicians".

Considering the question about the common European currency and probably because of the fact that Hungary is still really far from the date (according the last communication: not before as 2020) of introducing the common currency, the people still haven't built a general opinion about it. Before, when the introduction date was closer (in 2-4 years) they haven't really understood the function of the Euro, now, hearing about the Euro-zone crisis, more and more people are becoming sceptic about that question. This assumption is confirmed by the results from the survey. 26 of the respondents think positive about the adoption of common currency while the other 18 were openly against it.

- **Bulgaria**

The majority of the respondents (87%) indicated that they have voted in European Parliament Elections. The main reasons for not voting are lack of interest in politics in general, distrust in European politics and unsatisfactory representation of the country in the European Parliament.

More than 60% of the group consider as positive for the EU to have a unified and common currency.

- **Turkey**

The questions are not relevant at the moment.

9. Conclusions

The results from the research held in all seven countries of the partnership showed a significant coherence between the perceptions of the European citizens considering the questions of common interest. Although the group of the respondents can be defined as extremely diverse, the majority of the answers on the most relevant topics are outlining very similar tendencies. As absolutely positive in the European context and for the achievement of the aims of the project can be defined the similarity of the answers exploring the way the respondents perceive their own identity in terms of the EU. They define Europe as a combination of cultures that exist independently and simultaneously influence each other creating a unit based on common cultural values and tolerance. This fact is strongly supported by the belief of the majority of the respondents that the EU should be open to all EU cultures, ideas and spirits, as well as by the willingness of the majority of the respondents to learn more about other European countries and cultures. The openness of the respondents to other cultures and values can also be seen by the increased levels of mobility especially from the side of the respondents coming from the old member-states. Lower are only the mobility levels on the labour market, as the most of the interviewees explain that wouldn't move even if they find a better job somewhere else. That fact could easily be explained with the characteristics of the target group - low-skilled adults, seniors and mature employees – which are generally less likely to take risks and feel unconfident to move to another country.

Not to be underestimated are the worries of the interviewees connected with the ability of the EU to solve its existing problems. Although its citizens are still open to other countries to join the union, the current economic crisis raised a lot of questions and increased the uncertainty of the people. Despite of that fact the research shows relatively higher levels of EU citizens' activity among the respondents, almost all of the interviewees are positive and or interested) in European values and cultures, which is also supported by the belief that the European expansion gives more power to the EU and its member-states.

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