



EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 (GMT) 8th of MARCH 2018

WIN

End of the Year Europe Survey

“Opinion on national politics in Western Europe”

The results of a survey carried out by WIN European members within the 2017 GIA End of Year Survey reveals a tendency to not trust towards politics and politicians.

As part of the 2017 GIA End of Year Survey, WIN conducted a survey in seven Western European countries in order to better understand how politics and public actors are perceived by each population. Those questions were proposed by BVA, the French member of WIN.

The countries involved were France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and UK. One can note that even if results differ depending on which country is analyzed, Northern countries usually tend to be slightly more optimistic than Southern ones.

Methodology:

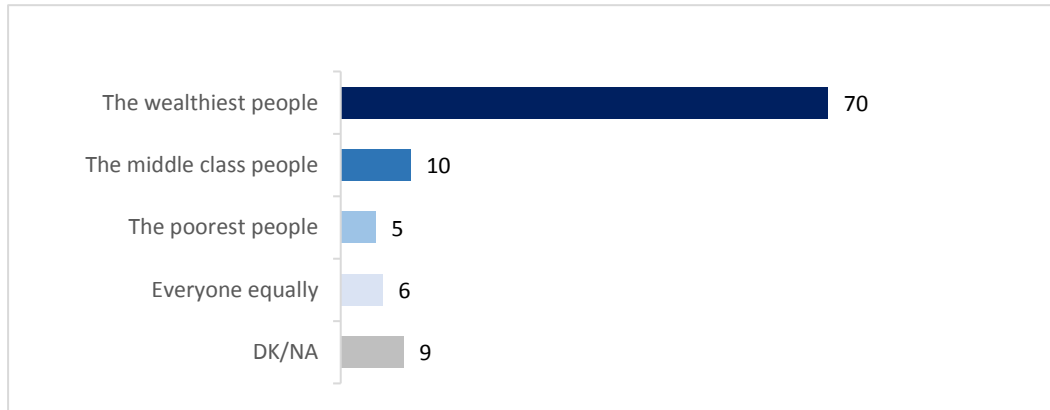
The survey was conducted in 7 European countries and the sample has been superior to 7,000 online interviews (around 1000 respondents per country, half men and half women; see details below and in the attached tables). The margin of error for the survey is between +3-5% at 95% confidence level. Fieldwork has been carried out by the members of WIN in their respective countries between October and December 2017.

Sample specification:

France	1,066 surveyed by BVA
Germany	1,000 surveyed by Produkt + Markt
Ireland	1,001 surveyed by Red C Research and Marketing
Italy	1,007 surveyed by DOXA
Netherlands	1,027 surveyed by Motivaction International
Spain	1,016 surveyed by Instituto DYM
United Kingdom	1,004 surveyed by Opinion Research Business (ORB)

DIFFERENCES ACCORDING TO SUBJECTIVE SOCIAL SCALES: Global results

“Personally, would you say that the political action conducted in your country first and foremost benefits?”



No matter which country they come from, a large majority of citizens from Western Europe believe that the political action conducted in their country first and foremost benefits the wealthiest people (70%). 10% consider that it benefits the middle class, and 5% the poorest people (6% think that it benefits everyone equally, while 9% did not answer this question).

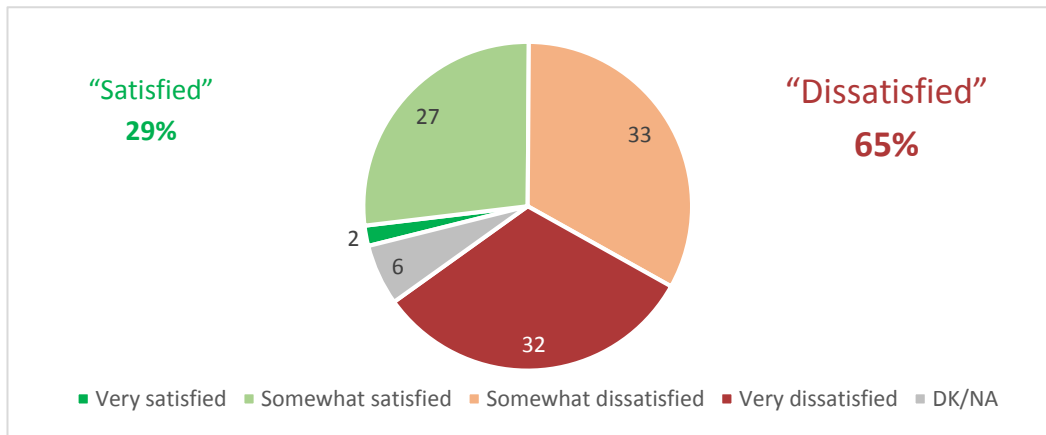
As previously stated, Southern countries are a bit more pessimistic than Northern territories. The political action first and foremost benefits the wealthiest people for 79% of Italians and 77% of Spaniards. A proportion that “drops” to 67% in the Netherlands, 65% in France and 64% in the United Kingdom. Even if slight differences do exist, it is important to note that on a larger scale there is no country in which politics would first and foremost benefit everyone equally (around one tenth of the global population thinks so – from 13% in France to 3% in Italy and 0% in Spain).

Western Europe % to the wealthiest people	Italy	Spain	Germany	Ireland	The Netherlands	France	United Kingdom
70%	79%	77%	71%	69%	67%	65%	64%

What’s all the more interesting is the fact that **this idea of politics benefitting the richest people does not disappear among interviewees with high incomes**, even if it is somewhat less significant: 63% share this point of view.








POLITICS IN THE COUNTRY: Global results

“Thinking about the way in which politics is run in your country, overall would you say that you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?”



In total, less than a third of Western European citizens are satisfied with the way politics is run in their country (29%) meaning that about two-thirds (65%) are dissatisfied. Note that 32% even consider that they are very dissatisfied.

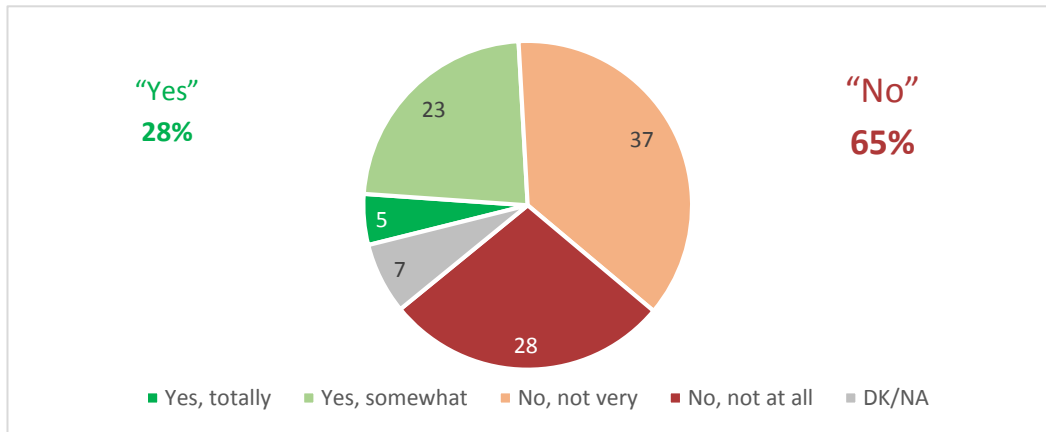
Once again, Northern countries are slightly more pleased than Southern ones. For instance, about 4 people out of 10 are satisfied with the way politics is run in Germany (39%), the Netherlands (38%) and Ireland (37%). On the contrary, citizens of Spain (19%) and Italy (9%) are far less satisfied with politics in their countries. About two-thirds of Italians (63%) and half of Spaniards (51%) are even very dissatisfied.

Western Europe % satisfied	 Germany	 The Netherlands	 Ireland	 France	 United Kingdom	 Spain	 Italy
29%	39%	38%	37%	33%	31%	19%	9%

Levels of satisfaction also differ when age or education level are considered. 29% of 25 to 34 year-old-people agree with the way politics is run, versus 38% of seniors (65+). In terms of education, 20% of citizens with no education are pleased, versus 39% of those with the highest level of education. This large range of satisfaction can also be observed whether you have a low income (21%) or a high one (47%), as it was previously noted that politics first and foremost benefit the wealthiest people.

POLITICAL LEADERS AS A REFLECTION OF SOCIETY: Global results

“In your country, would you say that political leaders - men and women - are a good reflection of the national population?”



According to most of the Western population (65%), political leaders are not a good reflection of the national population. On the contrary, only 28% believe that they *indeed* reflect each population.

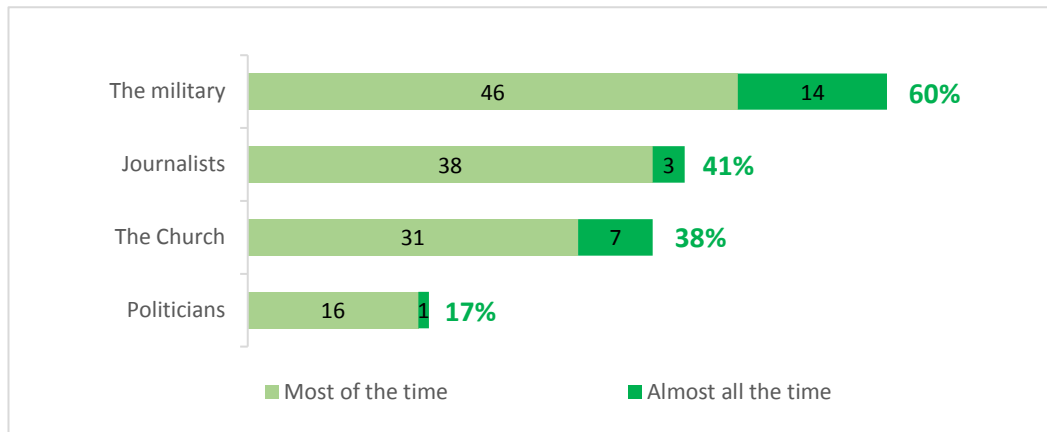
Even if the French Legislative elections have taken place in June 2017 – resulting in a whole new political configuration, barely a fifth of French citizens (20%) considers that political leaders are a good reflection of the society. A result that is similar to what has been declared in Spain (20%) and close to Italians’ answers (12%). As for Ireland, it ranks first with 58% of its inhabitants believing that political leaders are a good reflection of the national population.

Region	Ireland	Germany	The Netherlands	United Kingdom	Spain	France	Italy
Western Europe % yes	58%	33%	29%	27%	20%	20%	12%

What is particularly striking about this question is that **no subpopulation (apart from people with the highest level of education, 34%)** is really assuming that political leaders are a good reflection of the national population... and not even 65-years-old seniors (31% think so, versus 28% in total).

OPINION ON PUBLIC ACTORS: Global results

“In general, how sincere would you say each of the following are? Do you think they are sincere almost all the time, most of the time, rarely or never?”



Politicians are far less popular than the military: only 17% of the Western Europe population consider that they are sincere at least most of the time, whereas 60% share this point of view about the military (41% about journalists, and 38% about the Church).

More precisely, about politicians, it can be noted that one more time the North/South dichotomy comes into effect: while the Dutch population tends to be more optimistic than the average about its politicians (36% believe they are sincere at least most of the time), Spaniards (8%) and Italians (4%) are far less positive. France, at the center of Europe, also stands out because of a particularly low score: only 9% of its inhabitants think their politicians are sincere.

When taking a closer look at the Western Europe population as a whole, only 65-year-old-seniors (25%) and people with high income (26%) seem a little bit more hopeful than the rest of the population towards politics.

Trust in the Church does not seem to depend on whether or not State and Church are separated or on the type of religions that are practiced. When considering the United Kingdom in which Queen Elizabeth II is the head of the Anglican Church, 54% believe that the Church is sincere most of the time. In France, even if the State is separated from the Church since 1905, 44% of French people still believe that the Church is sincere most of the time. **As for Spain, a very catholic country in which the Church and the State have been separated since 1978, only 27% of its citizens consider that the Church is sincere.** In



Western Europe as a whole, seniors (49%) and respondents with high income (42%) are more confident than the average.

As for journalists, 41% of the Western Europe population consider they are sincere most of the time. While about 3 people out of 10 share this opinion in countries such as France (36%), Italy (32%) and the United Kingdom (28%), citizens from Germanic backgrounds are more confident. 53% of the Dutch population and 52% of Germans believe that journalists are sincere most of the time.

No real difference can be observed within specific segments of respondents, even if people with the highest level of education and seniors are slightly more confident than the average (44% each).

Eventually, the military benefits from a very good image all around Europe (60% think it is sincere) ... except for Germany where “only” 43% of its inhabitants think it is sincere most of the time. The United Kingdom and France are the most hopeful countries as 71% and 68% of its people believe it is sincere. In a context filled with fears of terrorist attacks, those results are rather encouraging and underline the key position of the Army.

It should be noted that seniors are more numerous to agree that the military is sincere (66%, vs. 55% of the 25-34 age group).

Results in each country:

	Politicians	Journalists	The military	The Church
Western Europe	17%	41%	60%	38%
The United Kingdom	21%	28%	71%	54%
France	9%	36%	68%	44%
The Netherlands	36%	53%	66%	38%
Ireland	20%	42%	61%	36%
Italy	4%	32%	60%	34%
Spain	8%	40%	52%	27%
Germany	21%	52%	43%	29%