

## CZECH STUDENTS AND EU – KNOWLEDGE AND VIEWS

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### Abstract

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The paper deals with the results of a pilot study themed “Czech students and EU”, which adumbrated a prepared extensive research in graduation years of secondary schools of the region Vysočina on the occasion of the Czech chairmanship in the European Union in the first half-year of 2009. The pilot study included 362 students of the Polytechnic College in Jihlava. Its objective consisted particularly in the rectification of a questionnaire and exploratory research into relationships between the knowledge and opinion parts of questionnaires even within the both mentioned parts by means of factor analysis and methods of structural modelling. With respect to the considerable number of respondents and standard conditions, which were ensured at completing the questionnaires it is not possible to ignore even results concerning the knowledge and views of the group of respondents as a whole as well as particular specific segments. Our research was inspired by a “Eurobarometer”, but with respect to a fact that (unlike the Standard Eurobarometer) it refers to a specific target group, ie studying young people, it concerns only partly and only in some questions comparable examination. Therefore, the questionnaire (in contrast to Eurobarometer) involves also the knowledge part. This part includes eight fields. With respect to the study orientation of the respondents surprisingly worse results occur particularly in fields *Institution, politics and law of EU* (30% successfulness) and *Economy and finance of EU* (37% successfulness). On the contrary, the highest successfulness (of course, only relatively) was noted in fields *Culture, education and sport in EU* (63%). Generally, knowledge of students can be unambiguously evaluated as poor. The opinion part includes in total 20 items, which are divided into five fields. In particular respondents, sex, the size of the place of residence, political profile, social group of a household, ideas of a future carrier, knowledge of languages and interest in problems of EU were determined by means of identification questions. As for the opinion part, it is possible to state that opinions of students are not too marked (answers in the central part of an evaluation scale predominate but, at the same time, all values of the scale were used in all questions) and differences between segments of respondents are generally insignificant. The subject of the paper is particularly aimed at the analysis of results of the opinion part, in the concrete eight items from two fields (*Social dimension of EU* and *Me and EU*). For the first area, segments were compared according to sex and political orientation and for the second area, according to sex, language knowledge and interest in EU problems.

European Union, Eurobarometer, Czech Republic, questionnaire survey, university students, knowledge, views, expectation

Important part of the life of a modern democratic society consists in finding opinions of people on problems and questions concerning them. The *Eurobarometer*<sup>1</sup> is the body of European Commission established in 1973, which measures and analyses trends of public opinion in all member and can-

didate countries of EU. The knowledge of public opinion significantly helps to *European Commission* at the preparation of drafts of legal regulations, acceptance of decisions and evaluation of its work. *Eurobarometer* uses both surveys of public opinion and also of “*focus groups*”. The *Eurobarometer* continuously

1 [http://europa.eu/abc/eurojargon/index\\_cs.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/eurojargon/index_cs.htm)

gathers views on European matters in member and candidate countries of EU and publishes them in the form of national reports.

*National reports of the Eurobarometer*<sup>2</sup> describe the opinion climate in member and candidate countries of *European Union*. They offer the survey of views of citizens of a country on various aspects of EU as well as on their life comparing them with typical attitudes of the *European Union* citizens. The *Eurobarometer* also draws attention to the most important differences as compared with other countries. Views of the Czech public are most often compared with an average opinion in 27 member countries of *European Union* (EU 27). In some cases, they are also compared with an average value in “new” member countries and with an average value in “old” EU member countries (EU 15) and also with views in particular member and candidate countries.

Topical results are also compared with previous reports and in selected questions, time series are created on the basis of time comparison.

*Standard Eurobarometer* concentrates national reports. It was established in 1973. Every survey consists of about 1000 personal interviews in each of member countries. It is carried out twice to five times per year and results are published twice per year.

*Special Eurobarometer*, reports of which are based on thematic studies for various services of *European Commission* or other institutions of EU. It is carried out simultaneously with *Standard Eurobarometer*.

*Special Priority Eurobarometer* – thematic telephone surveys aimed at concrete themes carried out by request of *European Commission* or other institution of EU.

The *Special Priority Eurobarometer* makes possible to obtain results relatively quickly and target the specific groups (eg physicians, small and medium-size companies etc.).

*Eurobarometer on candidate countries*, the first wave of which came about in October 2001 in all countries asking for membership in EU. Methodology is nearly the same as in the *Standard Eurobarometer*. Annually, one report is published.

At the time of this paper origin, the last *Standard Eurobarometer* (69) came about in the CR from 2 to 17 April 2008, among 1014 respondents<sup>3</sup>.

## QUESTIONNAIRE AND THE COLLECTION OF DATA

Unlike standards surveys of *Eurobarometer*, our survey is aimed at a specific group, viz. studying young

people. In the young generation, it is possible to suppose that it is more aware of the importance of *European Union* in its future professional, civil and generally human life. With respect to a fact that it refers to students it is possible to suppose again that they have certain knowledge on problems of EU (partly obtained in connection with their study) and are able to formulate more responsibly their views as compared with the standard population average. The views would be logically dependent partly on the knowledge of a respondent and partly on its belonging to a certain segment defined objectively or subjectively (sex, language knowledge, political tendencies, ideas on a future profession etc.).

Thus, the questionnaire includes three parts:

### 1. Knowledge part

In eight sections – (a) geography, (b) history, (c) institutions, politics and law, (d) economics a finance, (e) culture, education and sport, (f) Czech Republic and EU, (g) “reverse side” of EU, (h) “most” in EU – always by five questions. In total, there are 40 knowledge questions. An answer consists in selection of the only correct variant from offered four variants. Each of questions is evaluated as well as each of sections. The percentage of correct answers serves as a criterion to a question/in a section (within the limits from zero to 100%).<sup>4</sup>

### 2. Opinion part

In five sections – (i) the present of EU (j) the future of EU, (k) Czech Republic and EU, (l) social dimension of EU, (m) me and EU – always by four statements, ie in total 20 statements. An answer consists in the selection of a value on a scale 1 (categorical disagreement) to 7 (unqualified assent). Each of statements is evaluated separately. The opinion part of the questionnaire is included in Tab. I.

### 3. Identification part

- makes possible to segment respondents according to
- sex (male, female),
- size of the permanent place of abode (city, town, village),
- political preferences (right wing, centre, left wing, without preferences),
- household social groups (employees, entrepreneurs/businessmen, farmers, pensioners, others),
- future preferred occupation (entrepreneurs, civil servants, employees in a private sector in a Czech company, employees in a private sector in a foreign company, others),

2 [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)

3 [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/eb/eb69/eb69\\_cz\\_nat.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb/eb69/eb69_cz_nat.pdf)

4 Successfulness in particular sections ranged between 30 (*Institutions, politics and law of EU*) to 63% (*Culture, education and sport in EU*). As for particular questions, the greatest successfulness was noted in a question aimed at *Erasmus* (95%) programme, 85% students were informed on terrorist attacks in London and Madrid. Also 85% students chose well the date of admission of the CR to EU. On the other hand, the smallest successfulness was noted in a question concerning the seat of the *European Court of Justice* (6%), a question referring to the total number of enlarging of EU since its establishment (9%) and eg, the selection of a trio of countries with the lowest fertility in EU managed 25% respondents, which is a value corresponding to the used method of “pure estimation” (random sampling of one possibility from four).

I: *Opinion part of the questionnaire*

| <b>Ordinal number</b>             | <b>Text</b>  | <b>Indication</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>The present of EU</b>          |  |                   |
| 1                                 | European Union is characterized by its marked economic growth, competitive social economics and improving quality of the environment.  | N1                |
| 2                                 | All member countries of EU use the same rights and duties and their citizens enjoy the same freedom.   | N2                |
| 3                                 | Institutional organization of EU can be characterized as a transparent, economic and rationally functioning apparatus.   | N3                |
| 4                                 | The last double enlargement of EU from 15 to 27 members was a logical and due step though not all countries were perfectly prepared for the accession.   | N4                |
| <b>The future of EU</b>           |  |                   |
| 5                                 | The further enlargement of EU should continue as fast as possible and should refer to the largest range of countries.  | N5                |
| 6                                 | EU urgently needs, for its further development, early acceptance of an agreement on the European Constitution.   | N6                |
| 7                                 | In the future, EU will be a decisive political, economic and research leader of the world.   | N7                |
| 8                                 | The target organization of the united Europe should be a common federative state (such as the USA).  | N8                |
| <b>The Czech Republic and EU</b>  |  |                   |
| 9                                 | The admission of the CR has not positively affected the quality of live of its citizens yet.   | N9                |
| 10                                | The CR is little successful in drawing financial sources from EU funds and thus, its membership is not too advantageous.   | N10               |
| 11                                | The quality of a tertiary sphere (eg education and health service) is at a lower level in the CR than in countries of the original E 15.   | N11               |
| 12                                | So far, Czech citizens did not take into account the admission of the CR to EU and in comparison with other EU countries (particularly countries of original E 15) they are rather indifferent and uninterested in problems of the EU integration. | N12               |
| <b>The social dimension of EU</b> |  |                   |
| 13                                | The quality of life in all member countries of EU should be balanced as fast as possible (richer countries should give over part of their wealth in favour of poorer people).  | N13               |
| 14                                | In EU, minimum wages and minimum pension should be determined to ensure dignified life of all inhabitants.   | N14               |
| 15                                | EU should coordinate care of families and finance pro-population measures stimulating the increase of the birth-rate in member countries of EU.  | N15               |
| 16                                | Medical care should be comparable in all countries and inhabitants of EU should have the right to draw it on equal terms wherever.   | N16               |
| <b>Me and EU</b>                  |  |                   |
| 17                                | In person, I am going to obtain part of my education in some EU country (outside the CR and Slovakia).   | N17               |
| 18                                | As for me, EU means particularly a possibility to live and work in any member country of EU in the future.   | N18               |
| 19                                | I would like to participate in elections to EU bodies, either as a voter or (later) as a candidate   | N19               |
| 20                                | I wish the CR to become a standard EU country in all respects as fast as possible (termination of all exceptions, accession to the Schengen area and introduction of Euro etc.) even with all prospective temporary problems, which can occur.     | N20               |

- language knowledge (very good, good, rather bad, very bad),
- interest in problems of EU (considerable interest, rather interest, rather lack of interest, total lack of interest).

A pilot study came about in the form of electronic questioning – a product *ReLa (Research Laboratory)* was used developed at the Faculty of Business and Economics, MUAf in Brno. The questioning happened at the end of 2007<sup>5</sup> and referred to students of *Finance and Management* and *Tourism* at the *Polytechnic College* in Jihlava. In total, 362 questionnaires completed under standard conditions were obtained. The authors already dealt with some aspects of the pilot study in a paper of MINAŘÍK et al. (2008). Also papers of TESAŘOVÁ (2008) and KOBLIHOVÁ (2008) are based on results of this study.

### THE QUESTIONNAIRE STRUCTURE, MANIFEST AND LATENT VARIABLES

At the preparation of the questionnaire, particularly papers of PRESSER et al. (2004) and SARIS and GALLHOFER (2007) were used. At the analysis of the questionnaire and relationships between manifest and latent variables, it refers particularly to the paper of JORESOKG et al. (2001).

With respect to a fact that some conclusions of the pilot study have been already published (see eg a conceptual diagram in a paper of the questionnaire in a paper of MINAŘÍK et al. (2008), we will deal with the opinion part of the questionnaire.

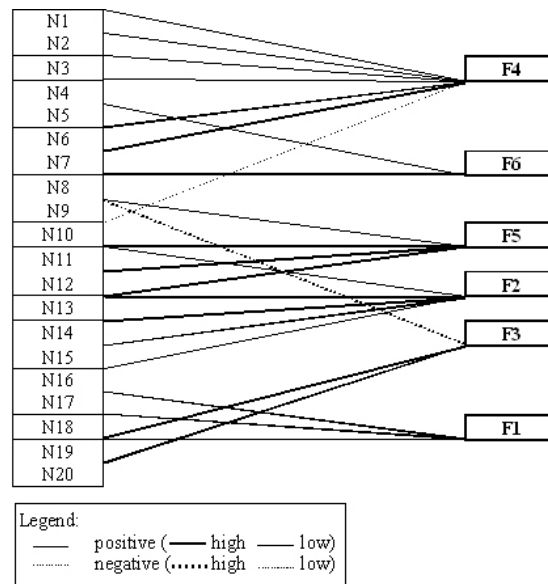
Against the background of 20 determined (manifest) variables of this part of the questionnaire, six latent variables were identified by means of factor analysis – common factors. Characteristic numbers of the reduced correlation matrix greater than one correspond to these six factors. Characteristic numbers smaller than one correspond to other potential factors.

However, it is not customary to extract such factors because their proportions in common variability are too low. The relatively low proportion of clarified variability in the task is a problem but it is related to generally low (but statistically significant) values of correlation coefficients of manifest variables.

The scheme of factor loads (Fig. 1) distinguishes lower (factor loads about 0.5) and higher (factor loads higher) saturation of common factors. In two cases, the higher value of a factor load is negative, which is logically related to the positivist or negativist formulation of relevant questions. Some variables occur in more factors, which indicate a possibility that the factors are not quite orthogonal. Nevertheless, the orthogonal method *varimax* was used for their rotation because determined dependences in data are too vague for the potential investigation of the common factors relationships.

The basic problem consists in the interpretation of common factors, ie their identification with certain more general properties of data, which are represented (externally) by manifest variables. In this stage of the task, there are as a rule more possibilities to interpret common factors. Our test attributes following interpretation to common factors:

- F1** – *frankness towards European problems*, particularly the active personal use of occasions offered by EU; it can be explained as a smaller connection with the country of origin;
- F2** – *social dimension* – an effort for an organization and order based on European rules, the uniformity of rules ensuring the same level of social securities;
- F3** – *interest in the development of EU*, dissent is, as a matter of fact, an approval that the CR should participate more in European matters – generally positive approach to European integration and active approach to positive development;
- F4** – *interest in the future of Europe* as for institutional aspects (strong relationships) in contrast to the present situation in European institutional questions (weak relationships) expressing again the rate of positive expectations;
- F5** – *attitudes towards the CR position* – in principle, the summary of negative aspects in possibilities of the CR and its citizens to use opportunities (funds) of EU;
- F6** – *interest in the future organization/arrangement of EU* at the state level – enlargement of EU and its development to a federal organization.



1: The diagram of results of the factor analysis of the questionnaire opinion part

<sup>5</sup> The questionnaire originated in the first half of 2007 being gradually up-dated on the basis of findings of the pilot study and because of current events in the development of EU or even changes in values of statistical quantities.

The analysis shows evidence that the original manifest variables can be summarized into the smaller number of latent variables within relationships of original variables although interdependencies of all variables within particular factors are statistically significant (high number of respondents) but in no way especially high.

In addition to expected relationships in the original classification of variables (attitudes to EU – F1, F3, F4 and F6, social dimension of EU – F2 and „Me and EU“ – F5) also linkages occur across this structure of questions and thus, it is possible to see unexpected relationships in responses of respondents. However, also these relationships show their logic or it is possible to look for and to try to find their explanation.

For example, factor F3 interconnects the European orientation with negative responses related to a fact that in the CR, fundamental changes have not occurred after admission to EU yet. This, questions mentioned above hide generally very positive attitude towards the introduction of common currency, active participation in elections to EU and, at the same time, it expresses for respondents a disapproving attitude to the minimum of changes in the CR – thus, the common factor brings about a feeling of the high rate of involvement of the given group of respondents or disengagement in the opposite group of respondents. Another factor is factor 1, when respondents express positive/negative attitudes to their study and work in another member country of EU, reveal through their answers even a hidden although weak logical relationship, participation in elections to EU – generally elections for citizens living abroad in the long term and feeling about rather as *Euro-citizens* than members of their original nation would be partly more comfortable and partly these citizens could express better their will than through elected representatives of their own country political events of which can be less interesting for them.

Explanation of other relationships would be, of course, also possible, however, it is necessary to mention again that these relationships are often rather weak. Moreover, with respect to the structure of the respondent sample and often hardly explainable responses to particular manifest variables in previous chapters searching other explanations could result in general misrepresentation or excessive overestimation of the results obtained as well as their importance.

### BRIEF EVALUATION OF THE OPINION PART

Evaluating the opinion part two characteristic features are visible at the first glance:

- in all 20 items, respondents used the whole spectrum of evaluation (considerable variety of attitudes and opinions),
- in the majority of items the great part of answers was placed approximately in the centre of the evaluation spectrum (ie a certain caution at conclusions – respondents avoid a clear assent or dissent).

Only several items represent an exception

- Respondents expressed a distinct and relatively unambiguous *consent* with items throughout all segments:
  - *Czech citizens have not acknowledged the admission of the CR into EU yet and as compared with other countries of EU (particularly original E 15 countries). They are rather reserved and are little interested in problems of the European integration* (12),
  - *medical care should be comparable in all countries of EU and citizens should have the right to use it on equal terms wherever* (16),
- respondents expressed a distinct and relatively unambiguous *dissent* with items throughout all segments.
  - *Further enlarging EU should continue as fast as possible and should be related to the relatively largest group of countries* (5),
  - *The target organization of united Europe should consist in a common federative state (such as the USA)* (8).

### MORE DETAILED RESULTS OF SELECTED SECTIONS OF THE OPINION PART

According to Tab. I, the opinion part includes in total 20 items classified into five sections. With respect to the extent of this paper attention was paid only to sections *Social dimension of EU* and *Me and EU*.

Basic problems at defining segments were as follows:

- The predominance (77%) of women (given by the structure of students in given branches at the Polytechnic College in Jihlava).
- The deficit of persons with specifically left-wing orientation (therefore, segments of the left-wing and centre persons were merged creating mere 22% of all respondents).
- The high proportion (5%) of women without marked political orientation (these persons, viz. men and women, were excluded from processing the results); in total, 51% respondents were not able to express their political orientation.

At the same time, the zero contingency of segmentation criteria was tested by means of  $\chi^2$  criteria. A hypothesis on separateness was not rejected for any pair of identification characters.

In the section *Social dimension of EU*, answers were processed for following segments:

- A** – all respondents ( $n = 362$ ),
- G** – women of left-wing and centric political orientation ( $n = 57$ ),
- H** – women of right-wing political orientation ( $n = 67$ ),
- I** – men of left-wing and centric political orientation ( $n = 23$ ),
- J** – men of right-wing political orientation ( $n = 37$ ).

Other segments were not included either for the small frequency of occurrence or that effects of the relevant identification character were not supposed.

Opinions of students on questions in this section are included in box diagrams in Fig. 2 (a–d).

In the section *Me and EU*, answers were processed for these segments:

- A** – all respondents ( $n = 362$ ),
- B** – women with the good knowledge of languages and small interest in EU problems ( $n = 127$ ),
- C** – women with the good knowledge of languages and great interest in EU problems ( $n = 101$ ),
- D** – women with the bad knowledge of languages and small interest in EU problems ( $n = 37$ ),
- E** – men with the good knowledge of languages and small interest in EU problems ( $n = 31$ ),
- F** – men with the good knowledge of languages and great interest in EU problems ( $n = 40$ ).

Other segments were not included either for the small frequency of occurrence or that effects of the relevant identification character were not supposed. Opinions of students on questions in this section are included in box diagrams in Fig. 3 (a–d).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In section *Social dimension of EU*, different responses of men and women were supposed and also different responses for left-wing and right-wing oriented respondents. Views in this section are formulated as left-wing or even provocative (minimum wages and old-age pension, pro-population measures etc.). The highest consent, namely through all segments (see Fig. 2), was noted at a statement on the necessity of comparability and availability of medical care in all EU countries (exact formulation see Tab. I).

Within *Eurobarometer*, as many as 40% respondents specify health service together with increasing costs of goods and services as the greatest present problems in the Czech Republic. Therefore, this question noted eminent interest also in our examination. Their effort for a certain solution “from without” corresponds with consistent responses on the comparable level of medical care in all countries of EU.

It is also necessary to remark that the field of health service is, according to *Eurobarometer*, a typically Czech problem and as proved also by respondents in our survey, without greater differences among various groups in population. Already for more than two years, its frequency fluctuates about the limit of 40% in the CR. Thus, it is possible to state that it is certainly affected by long-term and intensive political as well as public discussion and also by expected changes in funding the health system and changes in property and ownership conditions.

In remaining three problems of this section, we have to state a somewhat surprising finding that in women, declared political orientation had no effect on their views and even in the question of introducing unified minimum wages, women declaring their right-wing orientation showed the higher degree of consent. On the other hand, in the group of men, their political views totally corresponded with the degree of consent.

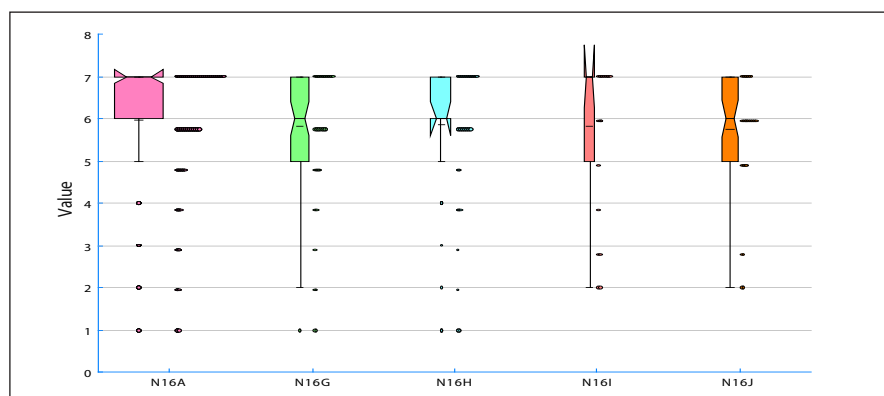
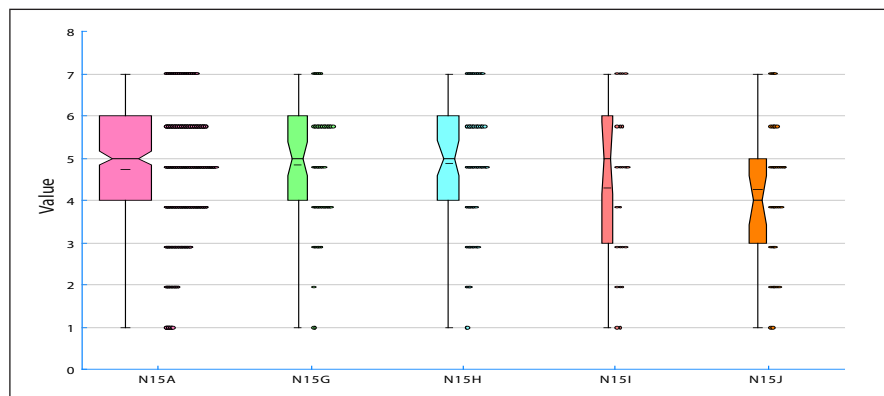
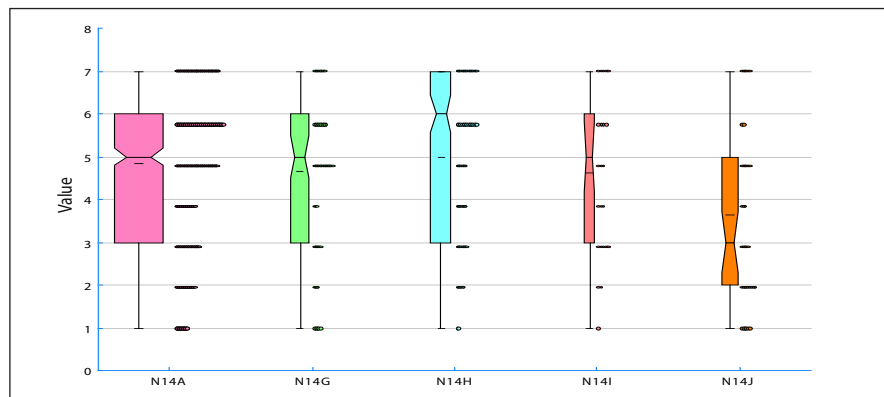
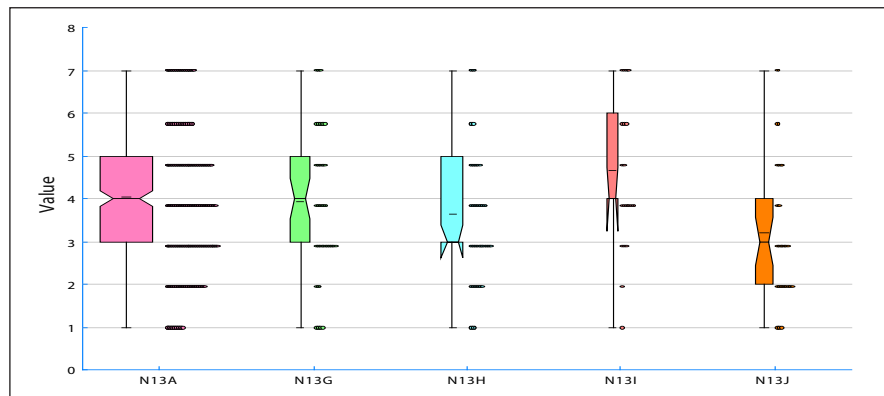
Considerable number of investigations dealing with wages has been carried out. The survey shows that just young people who completed their qualification and searched for their first employment were a special group evaluating problems of minimum wages. According to their opinion poorly set system of support can take away motivation to search for occupation. Thus, a wrong (erroneous) model can be created. According to this model, it does not pay off to work and life “on the basis of social allowances” is an acceptable and useful alternative. A solution consists in the creation of such a system of allowances in unemployment and social allowances where in any case it does not pay off not to work.

On the basis of *Eurobarometer* surveys, more than 60% right-wing respondents assume that unemployment compensation should be oriented to the repeated finding a suitable occupation. It should be also oriented against the tendency of long-term unemployment. According to the examination mentioned above minimum wages can show a negative role in the system. If it would be determined too near social allowances it can take away work motivation

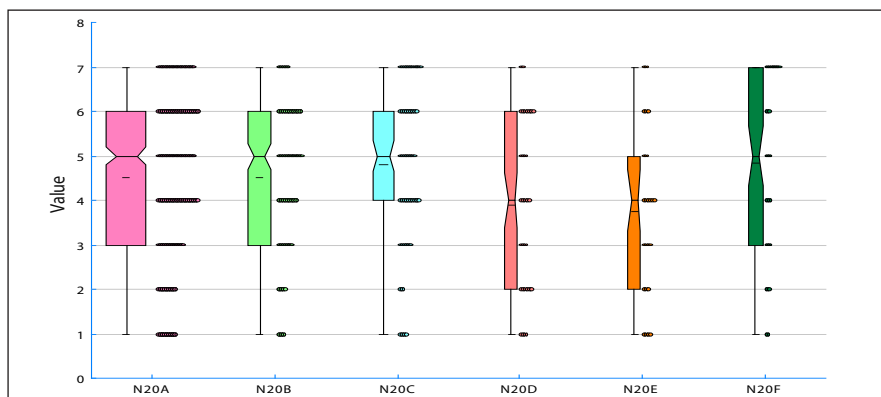
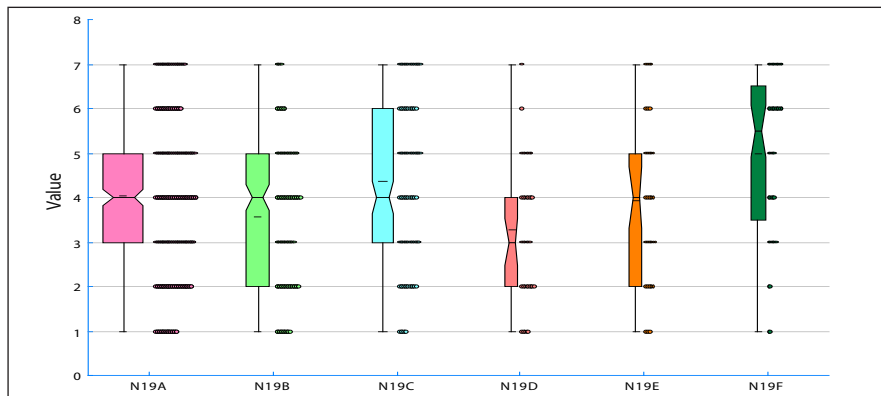
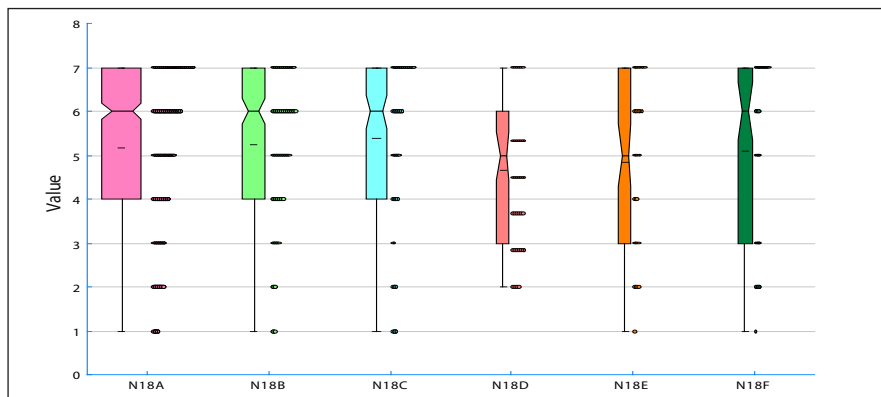
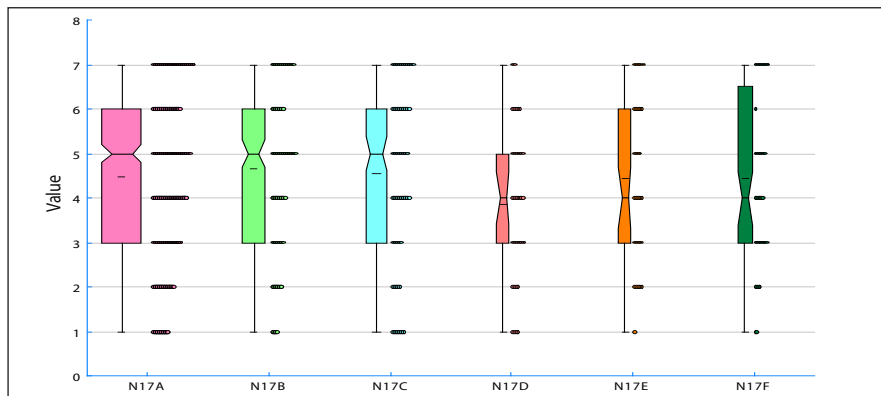
On the other hand, high minimum wage hampers to employ persons with the lowest qualification thus increasing their unemployment. Right-wing respondents also mostly agree with a claim that a community which wants to support the origin of quality and steady jobs has to create equal conditions also for entrepreneurs.

Surveys of *Eurobarometer* pay considerable attention to the quality of life and its comparison with other EU countries (opinion 13 in Tab. I). According to surveys, the majority of Czech citizens supposes that general situation in the CR is worse than in other EU countries. These views, however, express also citizens of other states on their country and thus, we can consider this expression to be rather misleading.

According to the *Eurobarometer* survey, the problem of living costs ranks among the most burning matters relating to the satisfaction of respondents. Only 12% interviewees consider them to be lower than in other EU countries. More than 50% interviewed persons suppose that achieving the comparable standard of living in all member countries of EU is the most important problem. Thus, as mentioned above, it is possible to state that this question was emphasized most in new member countries. Almost three quarters of interviewed persons expressed for the convergence of the living standard. In other fields, comparing the situation in own country with the situation in other member countries is on average somewhat more favourable and also more various. There are considerable differences in the evaluation of the situation in national economy, employment rate and quality of life. *Eurobarometer* mentions that national economics are defined by about one third of Czechs as better than in other EU countries (31%) and roughly by two-thirds as worse (63%). It represents a significant difference, which is important in the increase of positive evaluations (in 2007, the ratio of answers being 20%:72%) of the CR and its approximation to the European



2: Box diagrams for the section Social dimension of EU



3: Box diagrams for the section Me and EU



average (35%: 56%). Results correspond with findings on the more optimistic expectation of citizens being the response of the successful development of the CR. Nevertheless, the surveys were preceded by the first symptoms of the world financial crisis. Present attitudes of citizens can be again quite different.

In the section *Me and EU*, authors supposed that the degree of consent was particularly affected, in addition to sex, by the knowledge of languages as well as by the interest of respondents in problems of EU.

According to *Eurobarometer*, the possibility of education (together with the higher freedom of travelling and work abroad) belongs to the most often mentioned advantages of the admission of the CR into EU (58%). According to *Eurobarometer*, citizens of the CR connect European Union most often in the majority of cases (58%) with work and study anywhere in EU (together with the freedom of travelling). However, throughout the EU, only less than half citizens of EU mentioned this answer (49%).

Compared to CVVM<sup>6</sup>, (of course, without offered answers, only through the collection of spontaneous reactions of respondents), only 9% respondents mentioned an occasion to work in EU countries while opening the state boundaries already 32% respondents. At present, there are about one third (33%) of citizens of the CR older 15 years, which is interested in work in other EU country. Some 6% of interviewed persons express a definitive decision to search for job actively within other EU countries and other 9% declare such procedure as probable. Some 18% respondents mentioned an interest in case of the concrete offer of job in EU although they do not intend to search for actively a job out of the CR. On the other hand, two fifth of interviewed persons do not consider to start to work in another EU country while half of them (21% of the total) excluded such event categorically even in case of a concrete offer. Some 3% of interviewed persons are not anyway decided and 23% respondents answered that they were not concerned with this matter.

Over time, general interest in job in other EU countries also increases. In recent two years, of course, it refers only to citizens who are only willing to consider a prospective job offer while the proportion of active interested persons stagnates after the previous interest in job in EU countries at the beginning of the CR membership in EU. The more detailed analysis of data according to CVVM showed that graduates of universities, people aged less than 30 years, unwedded persons and students interested in job in other member countries of EU more frequently, which proved again results of our studies.

Thus, results of our research are consistent with *Eurobarometer*. ||The higher degree of agreement is evident in men than in women as well as in respondents with the good knowledge of languages and interest in in problems of EU. Rather hardly explainable is immoderately high agreement with a possibility to

study, live and work in some EU country in a group of women with the bad knowledge of languages (the analogical group of men could not be processed because of their small extent).

The last item referred to the introduction of Euro (€) in the CR, which was most supported by a group of men with the good knowledge of languages and high interest in problems of EU. According to *Eurobarometer*, support for the introduction of Euro in the CR as a whole at a separately posed question amounts to 53% while in EU as a whole it is 60%. Also 6% more citizens of new EU member countries than Czechs agree with the introduction of Euro. A common currency was placed as the second (28%) at determining the order of associations of advantages of the accession of the CR to EU. It is remarkable that within European countries, some 42% respondents evaluate the accession to common currency positively, viz. in countries where it has been already introduced as against 22% in other countries. Although Czech citizens are mostly for Euro, in the order of European countries they rank among rather indifferent supporters. According to the same survey, greater support of Euro occurs also in self-employers, managers and other professions termed as “white-collar workers”. Here again, we can suppose the future involvement of our respondents into this group of persons and thus, to confirm repeatedly their positive response. It is obvious that in this young generation, “Eurooptimism” becomes evident, which is also characteristic of supporters of right-wing respondents.

*Eurobarometer* also shows that in the CR, mainly young people at the age of 15 – 24 years are for the European currency union. They agree to it in three quarters of cases. In a group of 25–39 years, the support is still above-average (60%). However, education is also the most intense effect. People with basic education support Euro in 29%, people with secondary school education in 50% and graduates in 61%. As for students, the support of Euro is highest at all, namely 80%. This comparison confirmed again results carried out in our survey. Thus, we can state that the younger group of respondents in our sample ranks undoubtedly among the pioneers of common currency seeing particularly advantages for the future in its introduction.

On the other hand, according to the CVVM (Centre for the Public Opinion Research) survey carried out in April 2008, the Czech public is divided into two rather balanced groups. Unlike the *Eurobarometer* survey, research according to the CVVM showed slightly different results. Nevertheless, also these results proved consistent attitudes. Some 45% respondents expressed a consistent attitude to accession to common currency while 46% supported an opposite attitude. Followers of the common currency rank among the members of a young generation being mostly right-wing-oriented (voters of ODS/Civic Democratic

Party/, nevertheless, the CR government under command of ODS is of another attitude). Generally, ac-

ording to the results of CVVM, men declare more for the common currency acceptance than women.

## SOUHRN

### Čeští studenti a EU – znalosti a názory

Příspěvek se zabývá výsledky pilotní studie na téma čeští studenti a EU, která předznamenala připravovaný rozsáhlý průzkum v maturitních ročnících středních škol kraje Vysočina u příležitosti českého předsednictví Evropské unii v prvním pololetí roku 2009. Pilotní studia zahrnuje 362 posluchačů Vysoké školy polytechnické v Jihlavě a jejím cílem byla především rektifikace dotazníku a exploratorní výzkum vztahů mezi znalostí a názorovou částí dotazníků i uvnitř obou zmíněných částí, pomocí faktorové analýzy a metod strukturálního modelování. Vzhledem ke značnému počtu respondentů i standardním podmínkám, které byly zajištěny při vyplňování dotazníků, nelze pominout ani vlastní získané výsledky, týkající se znalostí a názorů souboru respondentů jako celku i jednotlivých cíleně vytvořených segmentů. Náš výzkum byl inspirován Eurobarometrem, ale vzhledem k tomu, že (na rozdíl od standardního Eurobarometru) se týká specifické cílové skupiny – studující mládeže, jde jen o částečně a jen v některých otázkách srovnatelné šetření. Proto např. dotazník (na rozdíl od Eurobarometru) obsahuje i znalostní část. Tato část zahrnuje osm oblastí. Vzhledem ke studijnímu zaměření respondentů jsou překvapivě horší výsledky zejména za oblasti *Instituce, politika a právo EU* (30% úspěšnost) a *Hospodářství a finance EU* (37%). Největší úspěšnost (ovšem jen relativně) byla naopak zaznamenána v oblasti *Kultura, vzdělávání a sport v EU* (63%). Globálně lze znalosti studentů jednoznačně hodnotit jako slabé. Názorová část zahrnuje celkem 20 položek, které jsou rozděleny do pěti oblastí. U respondentů bylo pomocí identifikačních otázek zjišťováno pohlaví, velikost sídla místa bydliště, politická profilace, sociální skupina domácnosti, představa o budoucí kariéře, jazyková vybavenost a zájem o problematiku EU. K názorové části lze ve stručnosti konstatovat, že až na výjimky nejsou názory studentů příliš vyhraněné (převažují odpovědi ve střední části hodnotící škály, ale současně byly u všech otázek využity všechny hodnoty škály) a rozdíly mezi segmenty respondentů jsou vesměs nepatrné. Předmětem tohoto příspěvku je především analýza výsledků názorové části, konkrétně osmi položek ze dvou oblastí (*Sociální dimenze EU a Já a EU*), přičemž pro první oblast byly srovnávány segmenty podle pohlaví a udávané politické orientace a pro druhou oblast podle pohlaví, jazykové vybavenosti a zájmu o problematiku EU.

Evropská unie, Eurobarometr, Česká republika, dotazníkové šetření, vysokoškolští studenti, znalosti, názory, očekávání

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