

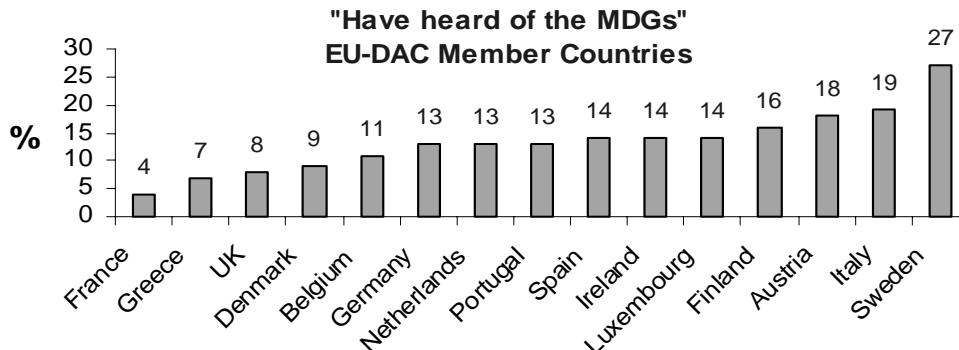
Europeans and the MDGs

Highlights from the Eurobarometer 62.2 survey (Nov-Dec 2004)

On February 25, 2005, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid published the results of the Eurobarometer special study on "Attitudes towards development aid" conducted in November and December 2004 in the European Union.¹ It is the first time that this two-yearly opinion poll on development policy has covered the 25 EU Member States. The polling of Europeans on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is also a first, and results from collaboration between the EC's DG Development and the OECD Development Centre, on behalf of the informal network of DAC Heads of Information. This document highlights some of the results from the answers to questions on the MDGs.

1. Awareness of the MDGs is limited

On average, 12 per cent of Europeans have heard of the MDGs, with national averages ranging from a high of 27 per cent to a low of 4 per cent. A positive correlation seems to exist between greater levels of awareness and active communication efforts by government or NGOs to inform the public. Sweden and Italy are a good illustration.



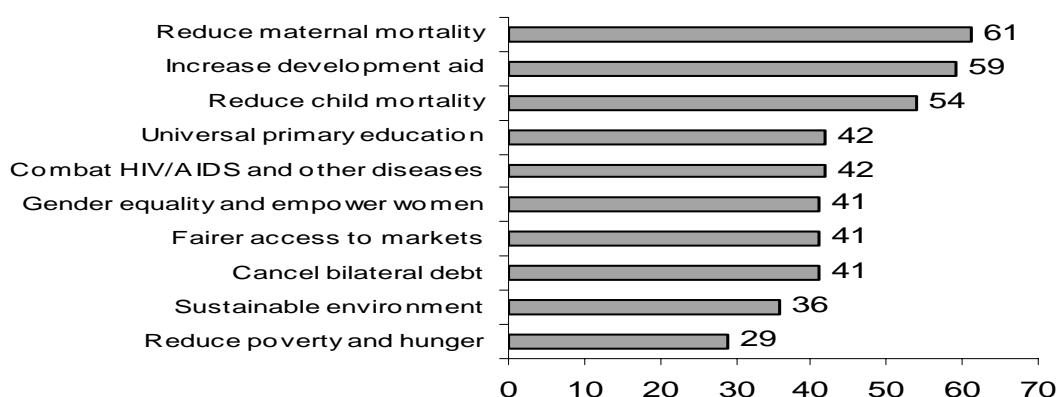
Source: Eurobarometer 62.2

2. Diversity of opinions about which Goals will be achieved and when

Overall, Europeans are more optimistic about certain goals (e.g. reduction in maternal mortality reduction) than others (e.g. reduction in poverty and hunger). There are significant variations across countries, with new member States showing more optimism on average that MDGs will be achieved than older European DAC member countries. Young people (15-24 year old) also display above average optimism. Finally, those people who are more likely to believe that their governments' aid has a positive impact on the lives of people in developing countries are also more inclined to believe that the Goals will be achieved by 2015.

¹ http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_fr.htm

Combined: will be achieved & will probably be achieved in EU 25 members

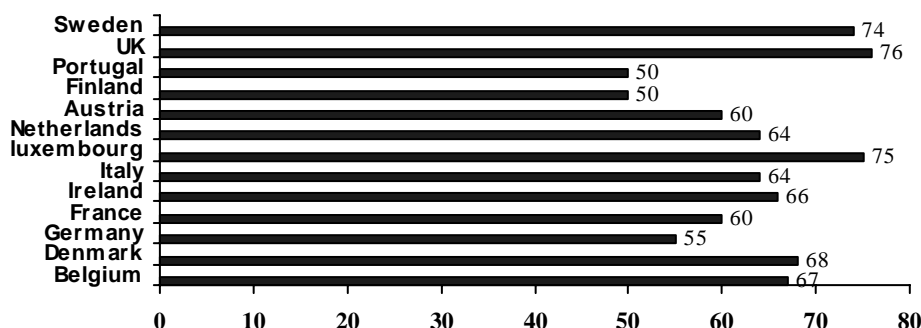


Source : Eurobarometer 62.2

3. Development aid levels

In European DAC member countries, 50 per cent or more of the population believe that the Goal 8 target of increasing development aid to countries committed to reducing poverty aid will be achieved by 2015.

**Will be achieved by 2015:
Increase development aid to countries committed to reducing poverty**



Source : Eurobarometer 62.2

4. Priorities for Government actions

When asked about their top three priorities amongst a list of possible actions that their Government could undertake to help developing countries achieve the MDGs, these four stand out

1. Reduce the possibility of armed conflict and war (65%)
2. Provide training & technical expertise (49%)
3. Increase development aid to countries committed to poverty reduction (41%)
4. Make sure that developing countries get fairer access for their products (37%)
5. Cancel developing countries' debts to (OUR) country (32%)
6. Promote more private investment in developing countries (31%)
7. Implement international environment agreements (20%)
8. None of these (4%)
9. Don't Know (4%)