EUROOPTIMISM AND EUROSOPTICISM

a Central Eastern European Perspective

Csaba Toth
In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (June 2012)
Methodological framework

- Eurobarometer 78.1 (November 2012) – countries and factors influencing euroscepticism
- Eurobarometer 79 (May 2013) – general findings
- The grouping used for the analysis was prepared with 7 questions.
1. Is your **general view about the EU** very positive, rather positive, neutral, rather negative or very negative?
2. Regarding the **future** of the EU are you very optimistic, sufficiently optimistic, rather pessimistic or very pessimistic?
3. I would like to ask you at what extent do you **trust** the following institutions? Please tell in case of each listed institution whether you trust them or not:
   - European Union
4. What is your opinion in connection with the following statements? Please tell which statements are you **supporting** and in which case are you against?
   a. The European Economic Community and the Monetary Union with one **common currency**, the Euro
   b. The joint **foreign politics** of the 27 member states of the European Union
   c. **Common defence** and security policy of the European Union’s members states
   d. The **European parties** present their candidates for the President position of the European Commission at the next European Parliament elections
Attitudes towards Europe in 2013

- Federalist: 30%
- Eurosceptic: 28%
- Eurooptimist: 43%
Euroskepticism in Europe
Federalist and Eurosceptic views: a comparison
Euroscepticism in the region

**Percentage of Euroscepticism**

- CZ - Czech Republic: 44%
- HU - Hungary: 31%
- PL - Poland: 22%
- SK - Slovakia: 23%
- RO - Romania: 19%
Influences on Euroscepticism – education: significant impact

Czech Republic - Time spent in education

- Federalist: 6% (15-) 22% (20+)
- Soft euro-optimist: 19% (15-) 46% (20+)
- Eurosceptic: 33% (15-) 74% (20+)
Influences on Euroscepticism – income – little influence

**Czech Republic - Difficulties paying bills**

- **Federalist**
  - Almost never/never: 17%
  - Most of the time: 10%

- **Soft eurooptimist**
  - Almost never/never: 28%
  - Most of the time: 42%

- **Eurosceptic**
  - Almost never/never: 42%
  - Most of the time: 62%
Distribution of eurosceptics and federalists among those living in bad financial conditions
Poland: widespread support for EU
Slovakia: Federalist country – rising Euroscepticism among young people

Slovakia - Age

Federalist
Soft eurooptimist
Eurosceptic
Slovakia – rural federalism???

Slovakia – Place of living

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Living</th>
<th>Eurosceptic</th>
<th>Soft eurooptimist</th>
<th>Federalist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural area or village</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small or middle-sized town</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large town</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argument</td>
<td>What Free Market Euroskeptics Mean</td>
<td>What Populist Euroskeptics Mean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Power and legitimacy</td>
<td>Brussels has too much power; national Parliaments should decide</td>
<td>Pluralistic decisions in national Parliaments</td>
<td>Majority rule and single party decisions in national Parliaments</td>
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<td>National vs. European solutions</td>
<td>Brussels should not interfere in how nations conduct foreign policy</td>
<td>Open, trade-based, free and peaceful relations between nations; endorsement of globalisation</td>
<td>Nationalistic sentiments, closed nations and opposition to globalisation</td>
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<td>Consitutional issues</td>
<td>Brussels should not force Franco-German constitutionalism and treaties on nations</td>
<td>Protection of traditional liberties, common law (British case)</td>
<td>Infringement on liberties; archaic and discriminatory constitution</td>
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<td>Economy</td>
<td>Brussels trying to interfere in tax policy, competition and „national economic policy”</td>
<td>Low taxes, private property, focus on competition and innovation</td>
<td>Sectoral and high taxes, public or government-friendy „national companies” supported, focus on redistribution and government autonomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution to EU budget</td>
<td>„Our nation should not pay for others”</td>
<td>Net contributors</td>
<td>Net beneficiaries</td>
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THANKYOU!

Csaba Toth, PhD

http://eupoll.tumblr.com/
www.republikon.hu

toth.csaba@republikon.hu