



51,000

households were surveyed
as part of LiTS III.



Country assessments

These country assessments showcase the main results from the 2016 survey for 31 countries and contrast these with the LiTS II (2010) findings. The main outcome variables are also broken down by age and income groups. Comparisons with simple cross-country averages for the whole transition region and for the two western European comparator countries (Germany and Italy) are also drawn.



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

27 and 30 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in Albania was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey, above the averages for south-eastern Europe (SEE), both at 17 per cent, as well as the corresponding figures for the transition region (24 and 28 per cent, respectively). Furthermore, 35 per cent of Albanian respondents think that corruption levels improved during the four years preceding the survey.

About one-third of Albanians believe that their household was better off in 2016 as compared to the four years prior to the survey, and almost half are satisfied with their personal financial situation.

Life satisfaction overall increased by 9 percentage points compared to 2010. Respondents aged 60 or above displayed the largest increase in life satisfaction (19 percentage points). With regards to the self-assessed income bracket, those Albanians who identify themselves as belonging to the lower or middle income group saw a larger increase in life satisfaction (13 percentage points in both groups, compared to only 3 percentage points in the upper income group). On average, 48 per cent of Albanian respondents were satisfied with their life as of 2016, a percentage that is considerably higher than the SEE and the transition region averages (39 and 43 per cent, respectively).

Among Albanian respondents, 77 per cent think that children born now will have a better life than the current generations, a 7 percentage point increase relative to 2010 levels and one of the highest figures in LiTS III. This level of optimism is also well above the transition region average of 50 per cent.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

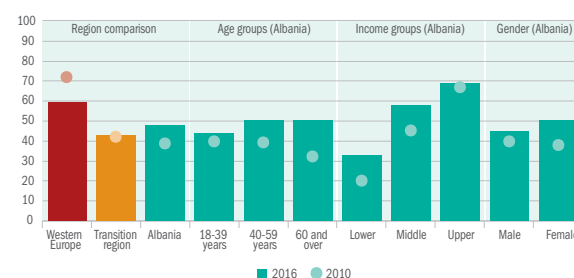
Following a mild decline in both categories compared to 2010, 51 and 50 per cent of Albanian respondents now prefer democracy or a market economy, respectively, over any other form of political or economic system. Still, around 31 per cent report that an authoritarian system or a planned economy may be better solutions under some particular circumstances. Compared to Germany, Albanians appear less supportive of both democracy and the market economy. Compared to the transition region as a whole, support for the market economy is stronger in Albania while the support for democracy is in line with the average.

Only a minority of Albanians believe that some democratic institutions are in place in the country. For instance, only 44 per cent of the population believes that freedom of speech is respected, while 42 and 41 per cent of those surveyed think that peace and stability and gender equality are guaranteed. These percentages are all well below the transition region averages, as well as the averages for Germany and Italy.

Priorities for government spending

Among Albanian respondents, 35 per cent would prefer extra government funding to be spent on health care, a figure comparable to the average for the transition region (34 per cent). Other priorities, such as helping the poor, improving pensions and investing in education, are mentioned by 19, 17 and 16 per cent of the respondents, respectively. Other options for extra government spending, such as public infrastructure or environment, attract little support. Additional results from LiTS III show that about 56 and 25 per cent of Albanian respondents would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of the public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Albanian respondents are the television and the radio (74 per cent), followed by discussions with family, friends or colleagues (58 per cent) and the internet and social media (38 per cent). As of 2016, an urban-rural divide exists in the use of the internet as the main source of information, with 44 of respondents from urban areas reporting daily usage, in contrast to only 30 per cent among those residing in rural areas. Newspapers are read on a daily basis by 34 per cent of Albanian respondents, a figure far higher than the averages for SEE and the transition region (14 and 9 per cent, respectively) as well as both western European comparator countries (31 per cent in Germany and 22 per cent in Italy).

Self-assessed health

69 per cent of Albanian respondents report a positive health self-assessment, which is slightly above the averages for SEE and Germany (65 and 68 per cent, respectively) and far higher than the values for the transition region as a whole and Italy (both at 54 per cent). However, the percentage of Albanians who define their health status as “good” or “very good” has declined by 7 percentage points on average since 2010. Only the respondents in the upper income bracket and those aged 60 and above seem to have experienced an improvement in their health.

Quality of public services

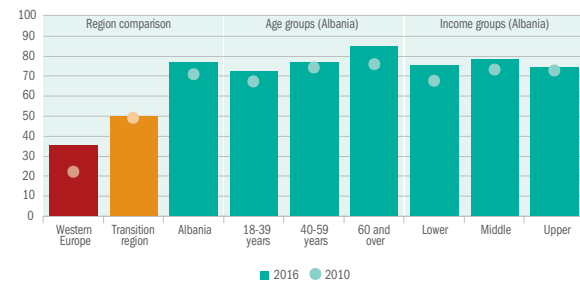
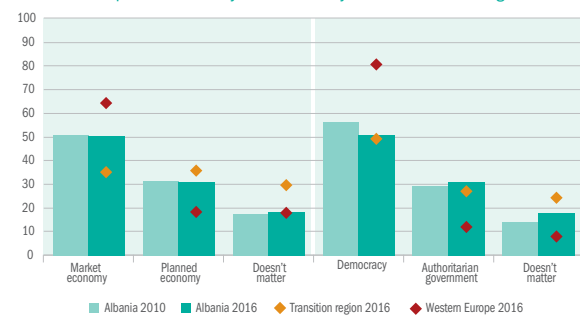
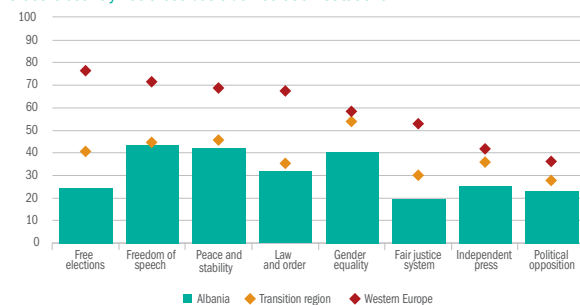
The majority of Albanians are satisfied with the quality of the public services in their country, with the only exception being the local roads network, which causes dissatisfaction for 52 per cent of the respondents. Even so, the satisfaction rates of most of the services are lower than the corresponding ones for the transition region as a whole and Germany.

Social and economic mobility

When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 43 per cent of Albanians chose “political connections”, the third highest percentage for this response in the whole transition region. By contrast, 34 per cent opted for “effort and hard work” while about 18 per cent answered “intelligence and skills”. The latter percentage is substantially lower than the averages for the transition region (31 per cent), Germany (36 per cent) and Italy (27 per cent).

Attitudes towards women

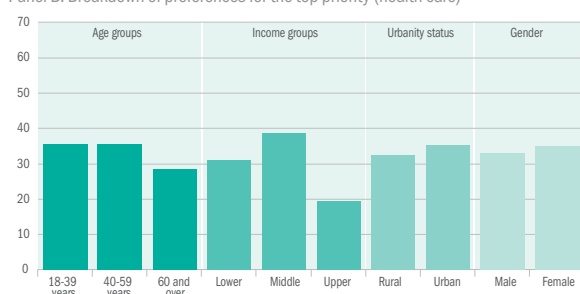
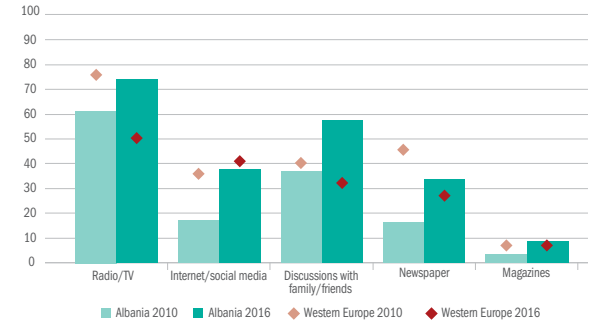
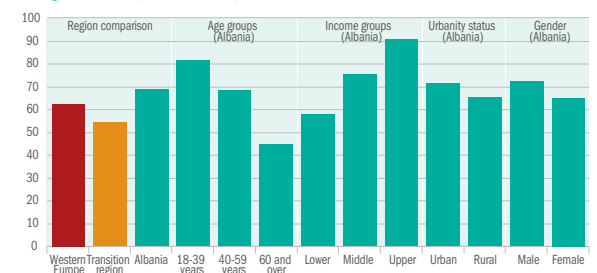
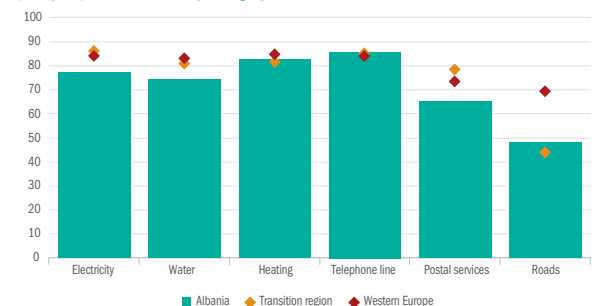
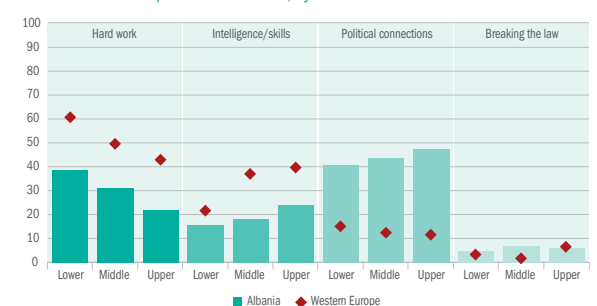
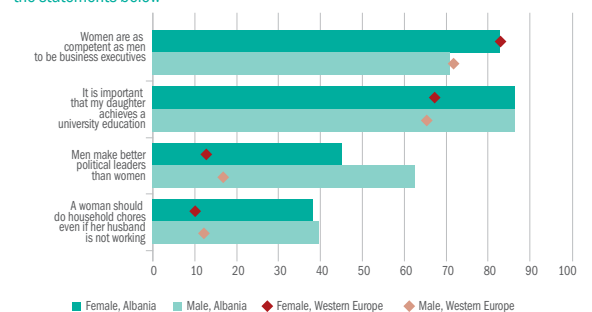
83 and 71 per cent of female and male Albanian respondents, respectively, think that women are as competent as men as business executives, and overall 87 per cent of them believe that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education. However, a considerably higher proportion of men believe that men make better political leaders than women (63 per cent of men as opposed to 45 per cent of women). Furthermore, around 39 per cent of both men and women believe that the woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working. Lastly, about half of those surveyed favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the family.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation**CHART 3. Market economy and democracy:** percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government**CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions:** percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions**CHART 5. Priorities for government spending**

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

LITS II data revealed in 2010 that the 2008-09 crisis affected 62 per cent of the Armenian population, the highest figure in the eastern Europe and the Caucasus (EEC) region. In 2016, the consequences of that crisis are still widely felt. Only 13 and 11 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in Armenia was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. Upper-income households seem to be more confident, possibly because they have been less vulnerable to adverse economic and political conditions. Moreover, only 15 per cent of those surveyed think that there was less corruption in 2016 than in the four years before the survey, a figure in line with the averages for EEC and Germany, but below the one reported for the transition region as a whole (16, 16 and 23 per cent, respectively).

Only one in five Armenian respondents believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did in the four years before the survey. In addition, a mere 18 per cent of respondents report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a number significantly below the transition region average of 31 per cent but almost on a par with the regional average of 17 per cent for EEC.

Life satisfaction in Armenia is the fourth lowest in the transition region. While there is no difference in the percentage of satisfied male and female respondents, there is substantial variation across income groups: more than three times as many people in the upper income group are satisfied with their lives compared to those in the lower income group. In addition, respondents aged 18-39 are twice as likely to be satisfied with their life than older cohorts.

Lastly, there is little optimism about the prospects for future generations: the percentage of people who think that children born now will have a better life than the current generations has slightly decreased since the last survey, from 34 per cent in 2010 to 31 per cent in 2016, and is now well below the transition region average (50 per cent). This pessimism is particularly marked among older people and those on lower incomes.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

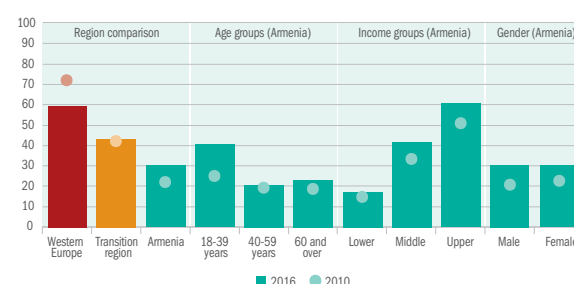
Support for democracy and the market economy have weakened since the last survey, from 76 and 50 per cent in 2010 to 66 and 36 per cent in 2016, respectively. About 27 per cent of Armenian respondents express indifference as to the type of political system that should prevail in the country but only 7 per cent of those surveyed would favour, under some circumstances, an authoritarian system, the second lowest figure in the transition region. However, 41 per cent of those interviewed do not have a clear preference for which specific type of economic system should prevail in the country, one of the highest figures in the transition region, and one in four respondents would prefer a planned economy under some circumstances.

Only a minority of Armenians believe that democratic institutions exist in the country. For instance, only 40 per cent of respondents indicated that the country has peace and stability, while 38, 35 and 28 per cent of those surveyed believe that gender equality, freedom of speech and an independent press are in place. Lastly, less than 20 per cent of Armenians think that their country has free elections, law and order, a fair justice system or a strong political opposition.

Priorities for government spending

Of Armenian respondents, 39 per cent believe that health care should be the main priority for additional government spending. This preference is particularly strong among respondents in the upper income group. According to 24 per cent

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



of respondents, assisting the poor also deserves further government funding. Additional investments in public education and higher pensions are supported by around 16 and 11 per cent of the population, respectively. Further results show that around 77 and 72 per cent of those surveyed would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of the public health system and public education, respectively.

Sources of information

The predominant sources of information for Armenians are the television and the radio, used each day by 80 per cent of the respondents, the third highest value in the transition region. Armenians are the least likely among all countries surveyed to read newspapers to learn about national and international news: only 3 per cent of them do so on a daily basis. Lastly, daily usage of the internet and social media has increased significantly since the last survey, from 17 per cent in 2010 to 50 per cent in 2016.

Self-assessed health

Only 34 per cent of Armenians consider their health to be either “good” or “very good”, the second lowest value in the transition region, and a score that is virtually unchanged since 2010. This result is mostly driven by middle-aged or older respondents and those on lower incomes. While there are no significant differences in health status between respondents living in urban and rural areas, a higher percentage of men (40 per cent) than women (28 per cent) consider their health to be “good” or “very good”.

Quality of public services

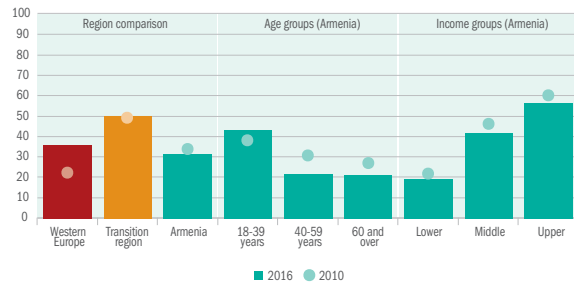
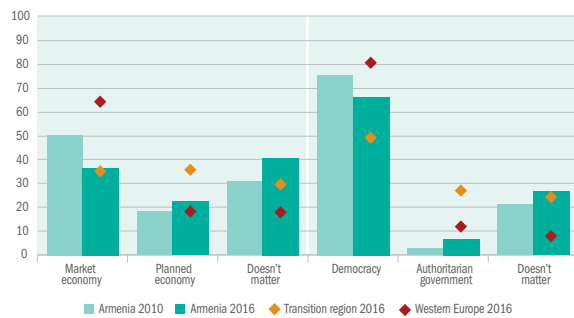
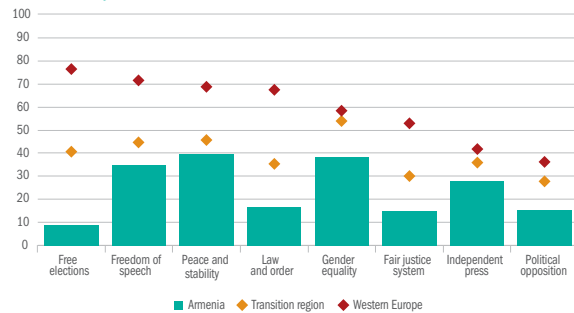
The majority of Armenians are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country, with the only exceptions being local roads, whose quality is considered adequate by only 28 per cent of those surveyed, one of the lowest figures in the transition region. The remaining figures range from an 84 per cent satisfaction rate with the quality of telephone lines to a 61 per cent satisfaction rate for the provision of pipeline gas, the lowest percentage in the transition region.

Social and economic mobility

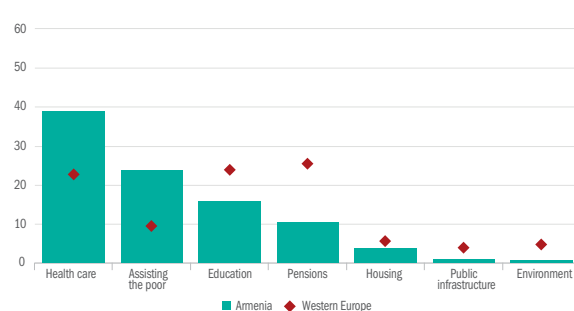
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 36 per cent of Armenians chose “effort and hard work”, 33 per cent opted for “intelligence and skills”, while 24 per cent answered “political connections”, a value higher than the corresponding figure for Germany (3 per cent) but slightly lower than the one for Italy (27 per cent).

Attitudes towards women

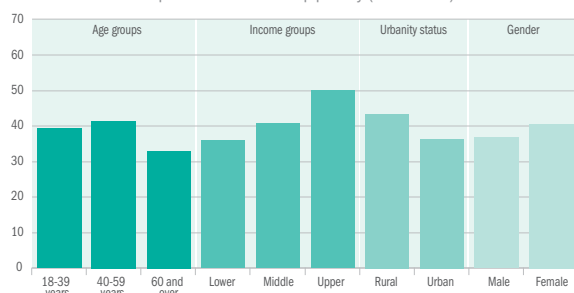
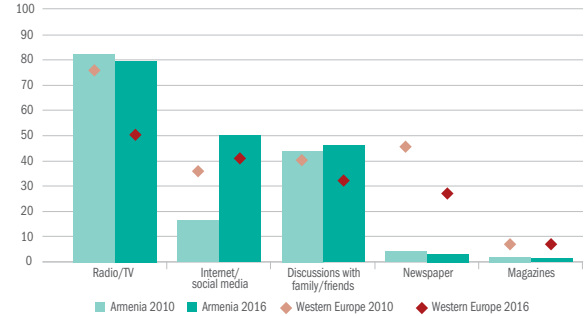
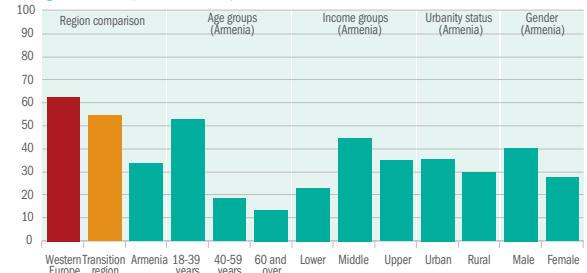
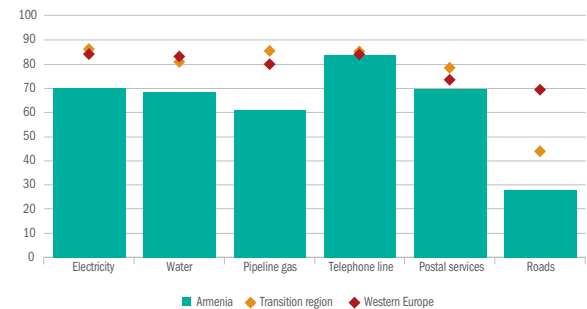
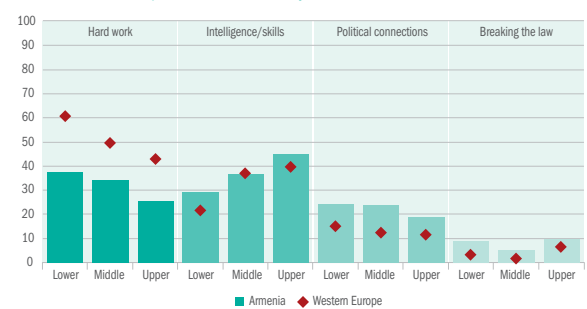
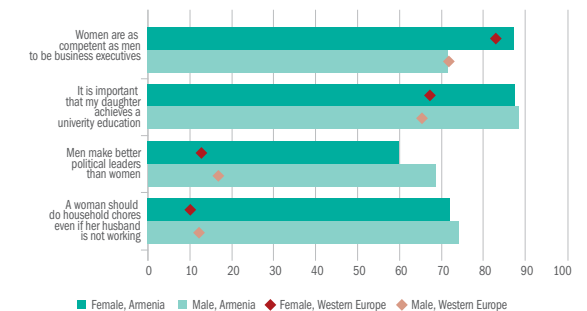
Of Armenian respondents, 88 per cent think it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, while 87 and 72 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men to be business executives. However, 60 per cent of surveyed women and 69 per cent of surveyed men think that men make better political leaders than women. In addition, about 73 per cent of respondents of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, and around 82 per cent favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children, the third highest figure in the transition region.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

49 and 58 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in Azerbaijan was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey, two of the highest figures for their respective categories in the transition region. Moreover, 59 per cent of those surveyed think that there was less corruption in 2016 than in the four years before the survey, the second highest percentage in the transition region.

Just over half of the Azerbaijani respondents believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did four years prior to the survey. In addition, 42 per cent report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a value significantly above the transition region average of 31 per cent.

Life satisfaction in Azerbaijan has improved since the last survey, from 42 per cent in 2010 to 53 per cent in 2016, a figure that is now well above the corresponding ones for the transition region and Italy (43 and 42 per cent, respectively) but still below the German figure (72 per cent). Life satisfaction has increased almost uniformly across all age and income groups, except in the upper income group where life satisfaction has decreased from 54 per cent in 2010 to 43 per cent in 2016.

Lastly, optimism about the future remains higher than in the transition region as a whole, and in Germany and Italy, with 62 per cent of Azerbaijani respondents believing that children born now will have a better life than the current generations.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

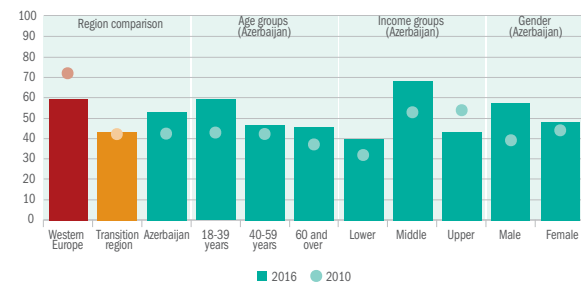
Support for democracy and the market economy have weakened drastically since the last survey, from 60 and 56 per cent in 2010 to 28 and 16 per cent in 2016, the two lowest values for their respective categories in the transition region. About 61 per cent of respondents express indifference as to the type of political system that should prevail in the country, the highest value in the transition region, while 11 per cent of those surveyed would favour, under some circumstances, an authoritarian system. In addition, 66 per cent of respondents do not have a marked preference for a specific type of economic system that should be in place in the country, again the highest value in the transition region, while 18 per cent of those surveyed would support, under some circumstances, a planned economy.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Azerbaijan, 54 per cent of respondents indicated that gender equality is in place in the country. However, only a minority of those surveyed believe that other democratic institutions are guaranteed: for example, 49 per cent think that the country has peace and stability, 48 per cent say that law and order are in place, while 43 per cent believe that free elections and freedom of speech are respected.

Priorities for government spending

Of Azerbaijani respondents, 38 per cent think government spending on health care should be the first priority. In addition, 25 per cent of the population believe that the government should prioritise additional investments in education, while 20 per cent see extra expenditure on assisting the poor as the top priority. Additional results show that around 66 and 73 per cent of those surveyed would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of the public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Azerbaijani respondents are television and radio, used each day by 84 per cent of the population, and discussions with family, friends or colleagues, mentioned by 74 per cent of respondents. Both of these figures are the highest for their respective categories in the transition region. The use of the internet and social media has increased almost six-fold since the last survey, from 6 per cent in 2010 to 34 per cent in 2016, and is now above the transition region average but still below the corresponding values for the western European comparators. Newspapers and magazines are read on a daily basis by approximately 3 per cent of the interviewed respondents, the lowest figure in the transition region.

Self-assessed health

46 per cent of Azerbaijani respondents consider their current health status to be either "good" or "very good", a value which is lower than the corresponding figures for Germany (68 per cent) and Italy (54 per cent). Additional statistical analysis of the LiTS III data shows that, compared with 2010, respondents in the upper-income group and male respondents have reported a decline in their health by 8 and 7 percentage points, respectively.

Quality of public services

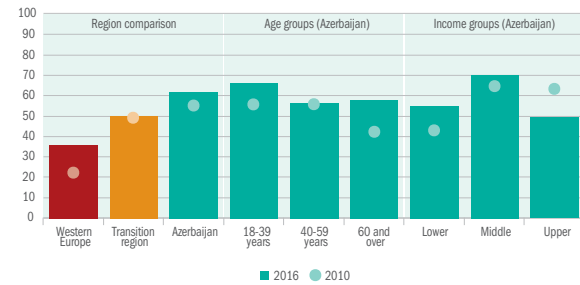
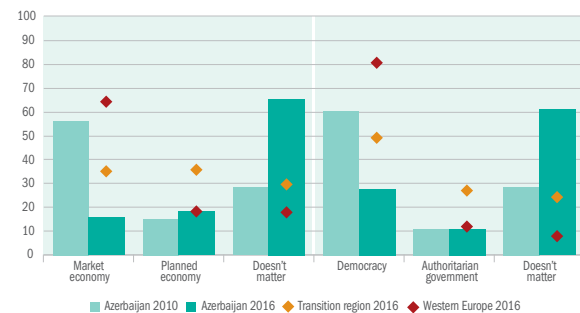
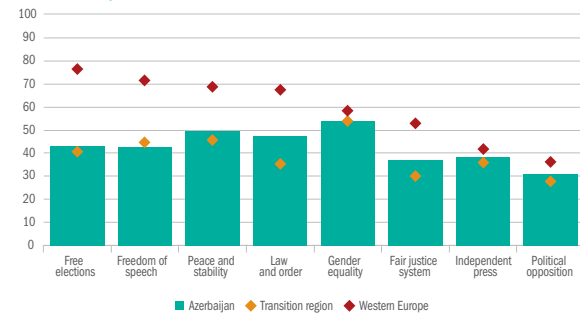
The majority of the respondents are generally satisfied with the quality of public services in their country, with the only exceptions being local roads, which cause dissatisfaction to 51 per cent of those surveyed. The remaining figures range from an 82 per cent satisfaction rate for the quality of telephone lines and the provision of heating, to a 70 per cent satisfaction rate for the quality of postal services.

Social and economic mobility

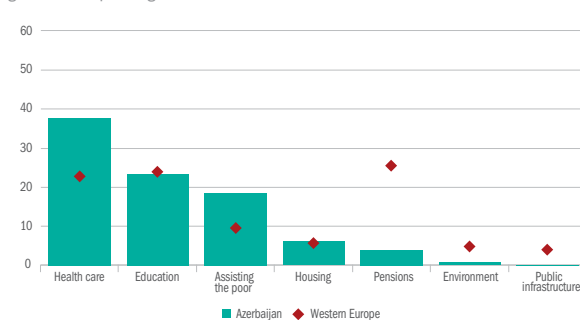
When Azerbaijani respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, about 54 per cent chose "intelligence and skills", the second highest figure in the transition region. The belief that "effort and hard work" aids social and economic mobility has fallen considerably since the last survey, from 40 per cent in 2010 to 30 per cent in 2016. Lastly, 12 per cent of respondents believe "political connections" are the most important factor for success in their country.

Attitudes towards women

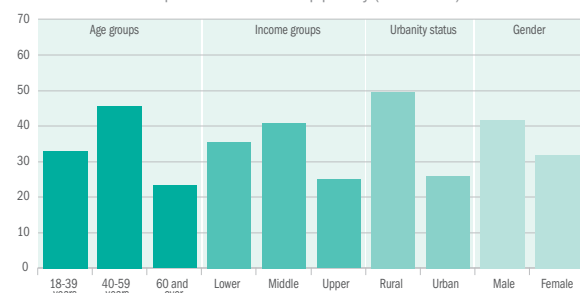
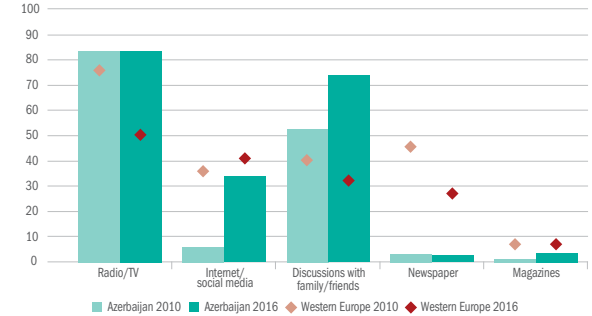
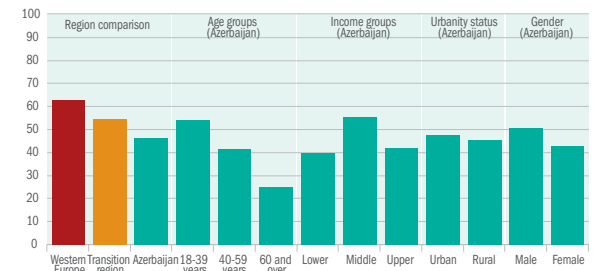
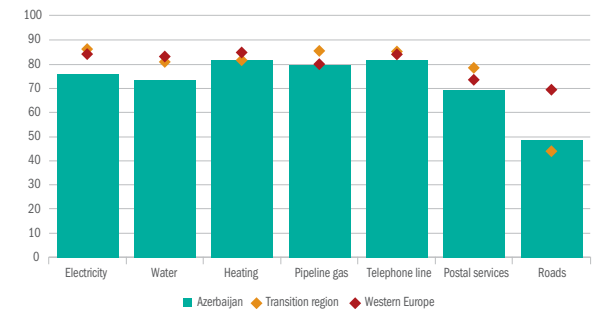
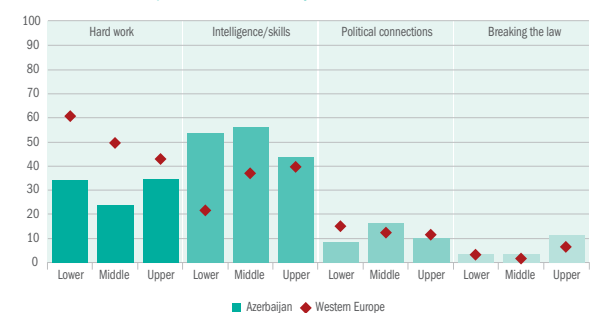
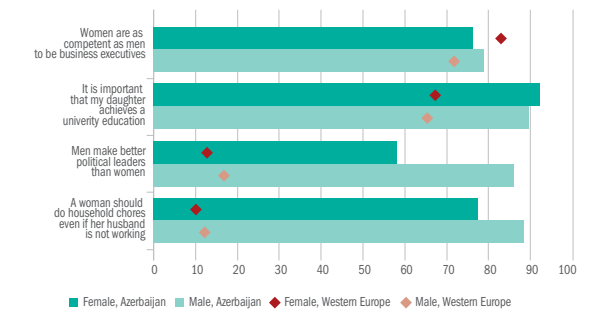
Of Azerbaijani respondents, 91 per cent think it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, while 76 and 79 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men to be business executives. However, 58 per cent of surveyed women and 86 per cent of surveyed men think that men make better political leaders than women. In addition, 77 per cent of surveyed women and 88 per cent of men think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, and around 91 per cent of respondents of either gender favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children, the highest figure in the transition region.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Only 9 and 20 per cent of respondents, respectively, believe that the economic and political situation in Belarus was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These figures are lower than the corresponding averages for the transition region, but above the Italian ones. Moreover, 19 per cent of those surveyed think that there was less corruption in 2016 than in the four years before the survey.

Only one in five respondents believe that their households live better in 2016 than they did four years prior to the survey. In addition, a mere 17 per cent of respondents report being satisfied with their current personal financial situation, one of the lowest figures in the transition region and a value significantly below the transition region average of 31 per cent.

Life satisfaction has dropped by 10 percentage points since the last survey, from 51 per cent in 2010 to 41 per cent in 2016, and is now 2 percentage points below the transition region average. The decline in life satisfaction was registered across all demographic groups. As in many other countries, there is a positive correlation between income and life satisfaction.

There has been a significant drop in optimism about the future. About 62 per cent of Belarusian respondents in 2010 believed that future generations would have a better life than themselves; this has now fallen to 54 per cent, a figure that is nevertheless still above the transition region average and the corresponding values for Germany and Italy (50, 46 and 22 per cent, respectively).

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

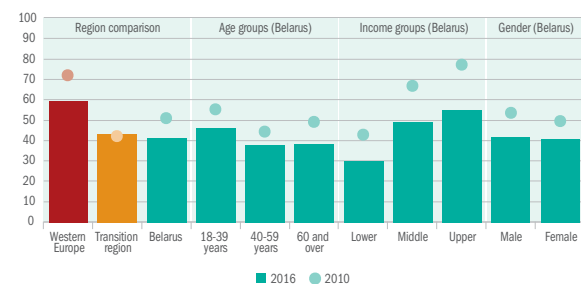
Support for democracy and the market economy have weakened since the last survey, from 59 and 53 per cent in 2010 to 36 and 35 per cent in 2016, respectively. 35 per cent of respondents express indifference as to the type of economic or political system that should prevail in the country, while almost one in three respondents would favour, under some circumstances, an authoritarian system or a planned economy.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Belarus, 61 per cent of respondents mentioned gender equality and peace and stability, followed by law and order at 50 per cent. Only a minority of Belarusians believe that other democratic institutions are in place. For instance, 34 and 33 per cent of those surveyed think that free elections and a fair court system exist in Belarus, respectively, while less than one in four respondents believe that Belarus has freedom of speech, an independent press and a strong political opposition.

Priorities for government spending

Of Belarusian respondents, 26 per cent think health care should be the first priority for government spending. In addition, 21 per cent of the population believe that the government should prioritise additional investments in education, while 17 per cent see extra expenditure on housing as the top priority. Additional results show that around 44 and 33 per cent of those surveyed would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of the public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Belarusians are discussions with family, friends or colleagues, mentioned by 53 per cent of respondents; internet and the social media, used by 33 per cent those surveyed; and television and radio, used each day by 32 per cent of the population, the lowest value in the transition region. Additional statistical analysis of the LiTS III data shows that younger generations are three times more likely than older cohorts to utilise internet and social media as their primary source of information on a daily basis. Newspapers and magazines are read on a daily basis by approximately 5 per cent of respondents, below the corresponding figures for the transition region, Germany and Italy, but in line with the EEC average.

Self-assessed health

Only 38 per cent of Belarusian respondents consider their health to be “good” or “very good”, which is the third lowest figure in LiTS III and in contrast to an average of 54 per cent across the transition region. Health is positively correlated with income levels and strongly negatively associated with age: only 6 per cent of respondents aged 60 or over report a positive health self-assessment. There are relatively small differences when it comes to gender and urban/rural status.

Quality of public services

The majority of Belarusians are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country, with the only exceptions being local roads, which cause dissatisfaction to 62 per cent of those surveyed. The remaining figures range from an 88 per cent satisfaction rate for the quality of electricity and the provision of pipeline gas, to a 66 per cent satisfaction rate for the quality of postal services.

Social and economic mobility

When respondents were asked from a list of options what were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 45 per cent chose “effort and hard work”, 36 per cent opted for “intelligence and skills” and 15 per cent answered “political contacts”.

Attitudes towards women

68 per cent of Belarusian respondents think it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, while 80 and 57 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men to be business executives. In addition, 57 of surveyed women and 72 per cent of surveyed men think that men make better political leaders than women. Around 85 per cent of respondents of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, one of the highest figures in transition region, and around 68 per cent favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation

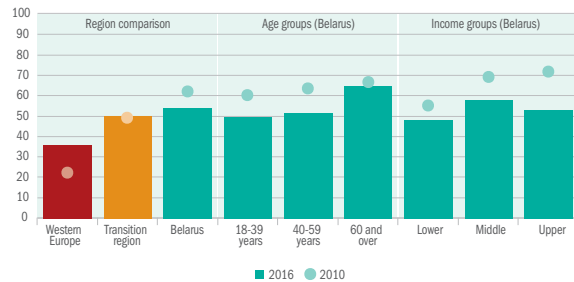


CHART 3. Market economy and democracy: percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government

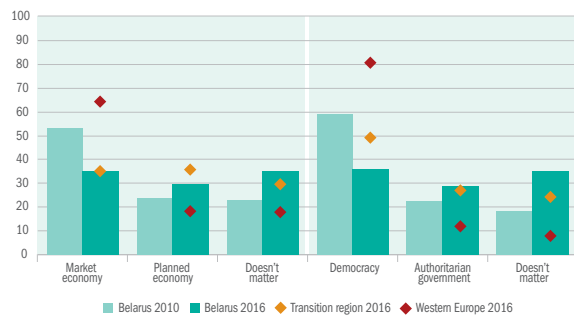


CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions: percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions

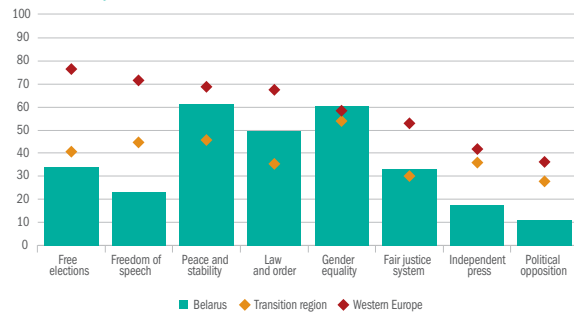
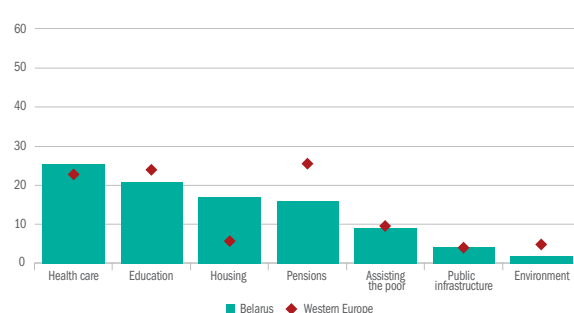


CHART 5. Priorities for government spending

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)



CHART 6. Sources of information: percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information

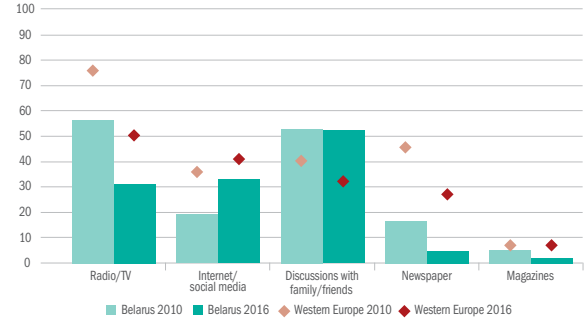


CHART 7. Health assessment: percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)

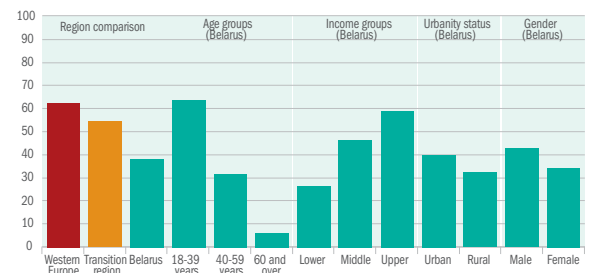


CHART 8. Quality of services: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category

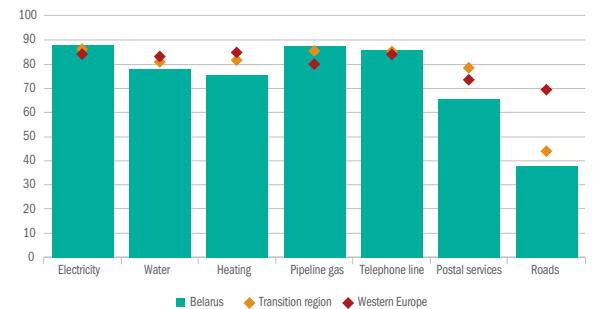


CHART 9. Factors for success: percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level

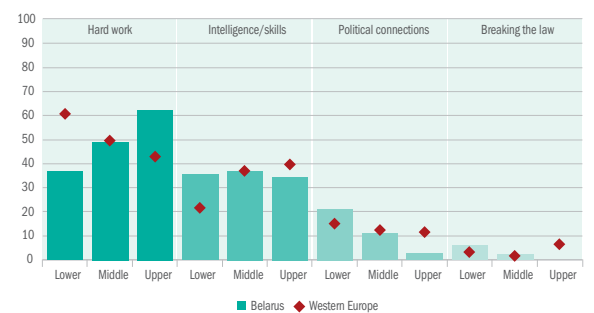
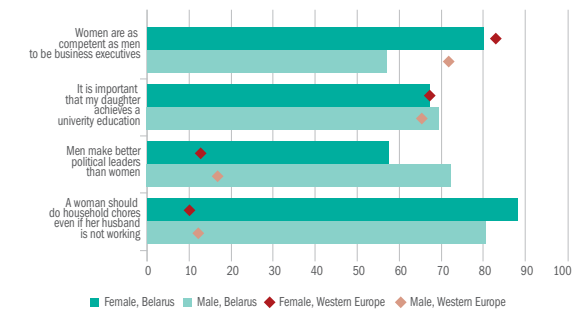


CHART 10. Attitudes towards women: percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below





Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Only 9 and 8 per cent of Bosnian respondents believe that the economic and political conditions in their country were better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey in their country. These percentages are much lower than the averages for south-eastern Europe (SEE), both at 17 per cent, as well as the corresponding figures for the transition region (24 and 28 per cent, respectively). About 1 in 10 respondents think that corruption levels improved in the four years preceding the survey which, again, is well below both the SEE average (18 per cent) and the transition region average (23 per cent).

A quarter of those surveyed believe that their household was better off in 2016 as compared with four years prior to the survey, and one in three are satisfied with their current personal financial situation. These percentages are both above the respective SEE averages.

Life satisfaction has increased across all age and income groups since the last survey, particularly among those in the upper income bracket, from 32 per cent in 2010 to 40 per cent in 2016. However, this is still lower than the averages in the transition region, Germany and Italy (43, 72 and 42 per cent, respectively).

The percentage of Bosnian respondents who think that children born now will have a better life than the current generations is virtually unchanged since the last survey: 36 per cent of respondents were optimistic in 2010, as opposed to 37 per cent in 2016. The level of optimism about the future in Bosnia and Herzegovina is, therefore, lower than that in SEE (39 per cent), the transition region (50 per cent) and Germany (46 per cent), but above Italian levels (22 per cent).

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

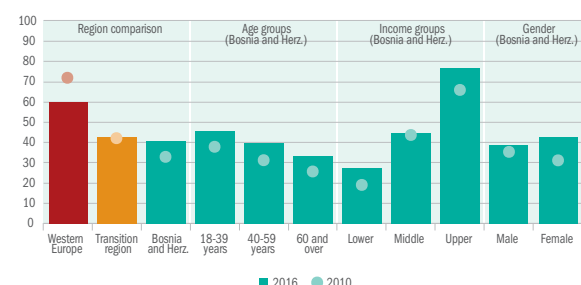
46 and 36 per cent of Bosnian respondents support democracy and the market economy, respectively, two figures that are lower than the respective averages for SEE, the transition region and Germany. In addition, 27 and 30 per cent of respondents believe that, under some circumstances, an authoritarian system or a planned economy might be preferable, while 27 and 34 per cent are indifferent about the different types of political or economic systems, respectively.

Only a minority of those surveyed believe that some basic democratic institutions exist in the country. For instance, 39 per cent of respondents think that peace and stability and freedom of speech are guaranteed, while 36 per cent indicate that gender equality is respected. Only one in four respondents believe that the country has an independent press and a fair court system, while one in five think that a strong political opposition exists.

Priorities for government spending

Of Bosnian respondents, 28 and 26 per cent think education and health care should be the top priorities for extra government spending, respectively, while one in six think that assisting the poor and pensions deserve additional funding. Further analysis of the LiTS III data shows that 79 and 76 per cent of respondents would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of their public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Bosnians are the television and the radio (59 per cent), followed by discussions with family, friends or colleagues (51 per cent) and the internet and social media (35 per cent). The 2016 data show there remains an urban-rural divide in the use of the internet as a main source of information, with 40 per cent of respondents from urban areas reporting daily usage while as little as 28 per cent of rural residents do so. Newspaper readership is quite high at 21 per cent, a value higher than the corresponding figures for SEE and the transition region as a whole, and in line with newspaper readership in Italy.

Self-assessed health

71 per cent of Bosnian respondents consider their health to be “good” or “very good”, one of the highest figures in the transition region, and also above the German and Italian figures (68 and 54 per cent, respectively). Additional analysis shows that, compared with 2010, all demographic groups reported an improvement in their health. Interestingly, the largest improvement took place among respondents aged 60 and over.

Quality of public services

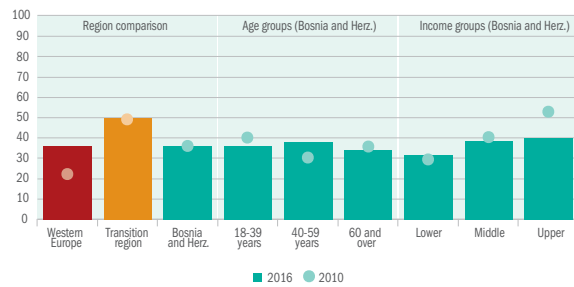
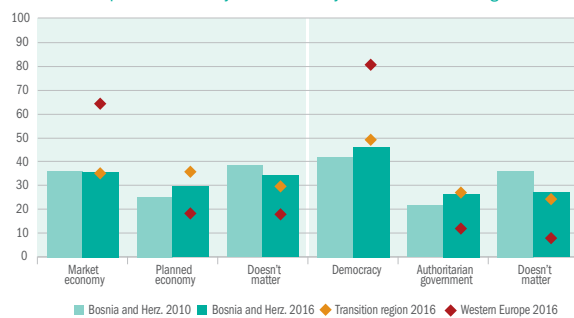
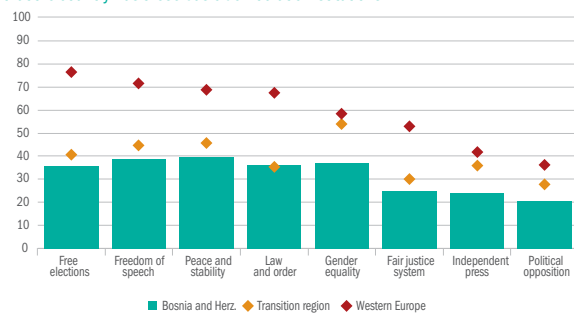
The majority of Bosnians believe that their country provides access to high quality public services, with the sole exception of local roads, whose quality is deemed satisfactory by only 36 per cent of the respondents. Satisfaction with the quality of public services is lower in Bosnia and Herzegovina than in the transition region as a whole (with the exception of the postal services). 82 per cent of those surveyed are satisfied with the provision of electricity, 79 per cent are happy with postal services and 75 per cent are pleased with the quality of their telephone lines.

Social and economic mobility

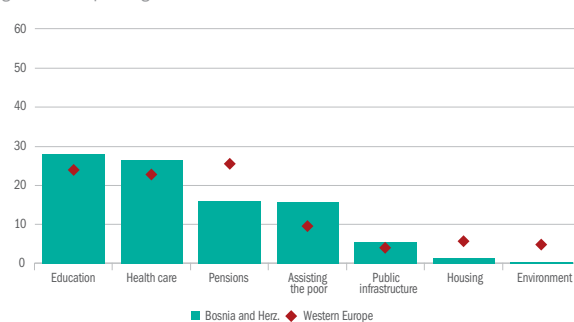
When asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 45 per cent of Bosnian respondents chose “political connections”, up from 33 per cent in 2010, and the second highest result for this response across the transition region. By contrast, 35 per cent of respondents answered “effort and hard work” and 16 per cent opted for “intelligence and skills”.

Attitudes towards women

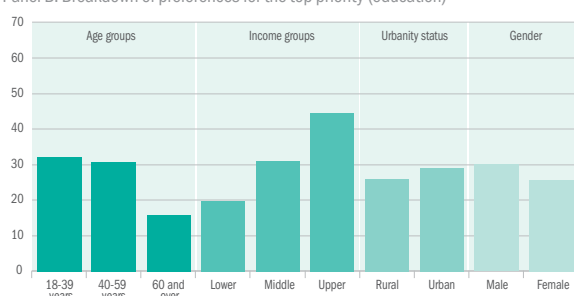
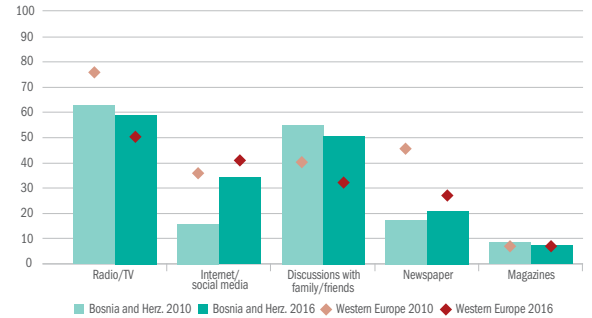
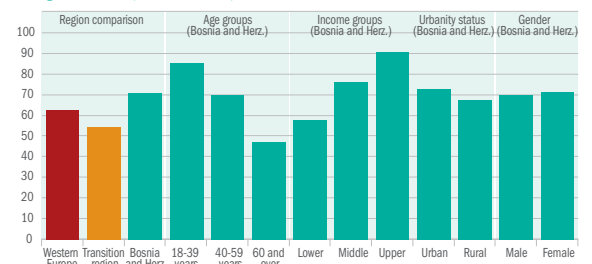
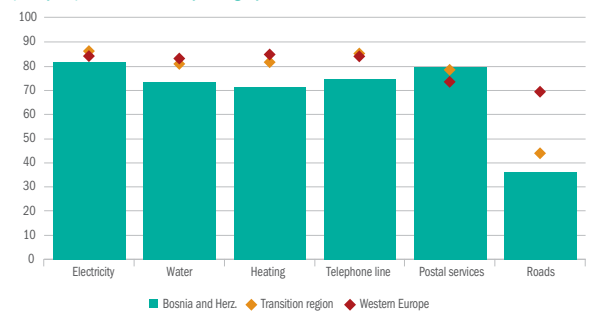
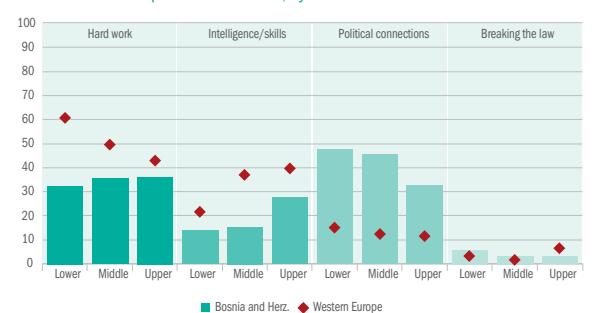
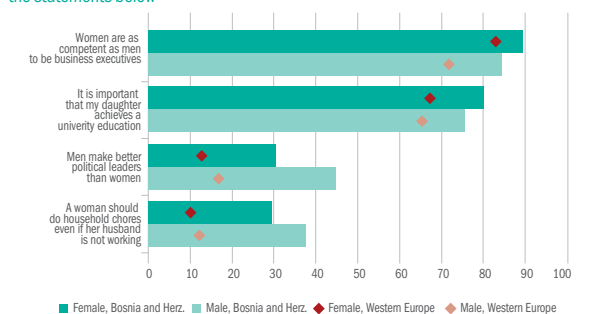
89 and 84 per cent of female and male Bosnian respondents, respectively, think that women are as competent as men to be business executives, and 76 per cent of those surveyed (of either gender) believe that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education. 46 per cent of men and only 31 per cent of women also think that men make better political leaders than women. Lastly, about half of Bosnian respondents favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the family, while 34 per cent think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation**CHART 3. Market economy and democracy:** percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government**CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions:** percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions**CHART 5. Priorities for government spending**

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (education)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

15 and 14 per cent of Bulgarian respondents believe that the economic and political situation in their country was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey, in line with the averages for south-eastern Europe (SEE), both at 17 per cent, but below the corresponding figures for the transition region (24 and 28 per cent, respectively). Only 1 in 5 Bulgarians believe that their household was better off in 2016 compared with four years prior to the survey and only 1 in 4 is satisfied with their personal financial situation.

As little as 9 per cent of interviewed individuals think that corruption levels improved over the four years preceding the survey. Additional statistical analysis of the LiTS III data shows that about 10 per cent of Bulgarian respondents report that either they or another member of their household made unofficial payments or gifts when accessing public services in the 12 months before the survey.

Life satisfaction slightly increased by 4 percentage points compared with 2010, particularly for the middle income group. Still, only 37 per cent of Bulgarian respondents were satisfied with their life in 2016, a percentage which is considerably lower than the SEE and the transition region averages (39 and 43 per cent, respectively). 42 per cent of Bulgarian respondents think that children born now will have a better life than the current generation, a 10 percentage point decline relative to 2010 levels and a figure below the transition region average of 50 per cent.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

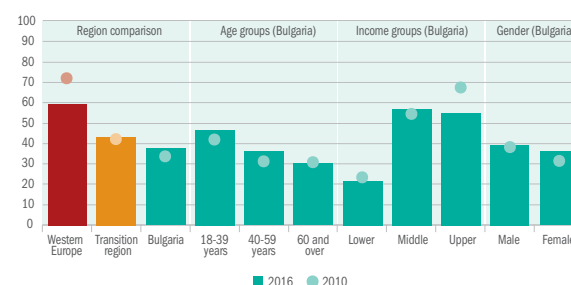
Some 49 and 40 per cent of Bulgarian respondents prefer democracy and a market economy over any other form of political or economic system respectively, while around 21 and 24 per cent report that an authoritarian system and a planned economy may be better solutions under some circumstances. Compared with the rest of the SEE region and with Germany, Bulgarians appear slightly less supportive of democracy and the market economy. However, when contrasting these values with the transition region as a whole and with Italy, Bulgarian respondents seem to favour the market economy more than their counterparts.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in the country, a substantial 65 per cent of respondents reported that gender equality is in place in Bulgaria. This figure is higher than the corresponding averages for the SEE and the transition regions (53 and 56 per cent, respectively), as well as the one for Italy (42 per cent). 49 per cent of the interviewed population believes that peace and stability exist in the country while 44 per cent thinks that freedom of speech is guaranteed. However, the values for the remaining institutions (free elections, law and order, an independent press, a strong political opposition and a fair judicial system) are among the lowest in the transition region.

Priorities for government spending

Among Bulgarian respondents, 44 per cent would prefer extra government funding to be spent on health care, a figure above the average for the transition countries (34 per cent). This is followed by pensions, helping the poor and investments in education, at 17, 15 and 14 per cent, respectively. Other options for extra spending, such as public infrastructure or environment, attract little support. Additional results from LiTS III show that over 50 per cent of Bulgarian respondents would be willing to contribute more to improve the quality of the public health system, and 43 per cent would be willing to contribute to improvements to public education.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Bulgarian respondents are the television and the radio (67 per cent), followed by discussions with family, friends or colleagues (39 per cent) and the internet and social media (29 per cent). As of 2016, there remains an urban and rural divide in utilisation of the internet as the main source of information, with 34 per cent of respondents from urban areas reporting daily internet usage, in contrast to a much lower 14 per cent among those in rural areas. Newspapers are read on a daily basis by 11 per cent of Bulgarian respondents, a figure slightly above the average for the transition region (9 per cent) but lower than those of SEE, Germany and Italy (14, 31 and 21 per cent, respectively).

Self-assessed health

63 per cent of Bulgarian respondents report a positive health self-assessment, which is in line with the averages for SEE and Germany (65 and 68 per cent, respectively) and higher than the values for the transition region and Italy (both at 54 per cent). Additional analysis shows that, compared with 2010, all demographic groups report better health conditions except for the upper income group, which reports a significant decrease of 28 percentage points. Surprisingly, health is not positively correlated with income levels in Bulgaria and the upper income group has a lower reported positive health status than both the middle- and lower-income brackets.

Quality of public services

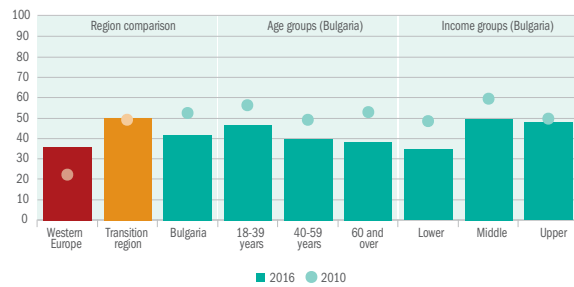
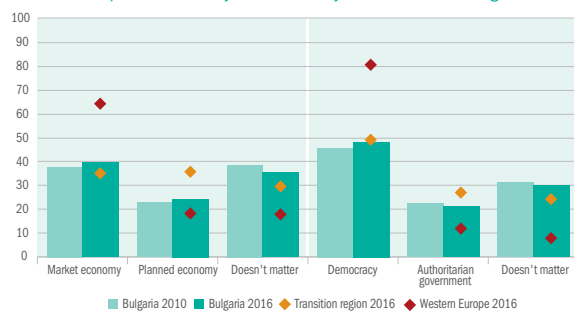
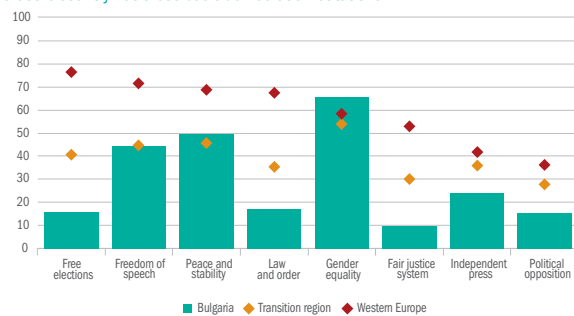
The majority of Bulgarians believe that, overall, their country provides high quality public services, with the sole exception of local roads, whose quality is assessed as satisfactory by only 29 per cent of respondents. The remaining satisfaction rates are broadly in line with the averages for the transition region as well as for Germany and Italy.

Social and economic mobility

When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, about 32 per cent of Bulgarians chose "effort and hard work" and another 32 per cent opted for "political connections". A quarter of Bulgarians believe that "intelligence and skills" are key to success while 12 per cent chose the response option "breaking the law", a figure substantially higher than in Germany (1 per cent) and Italy (4 per cent) and the third highest in the transition region.

Attitudes towards women

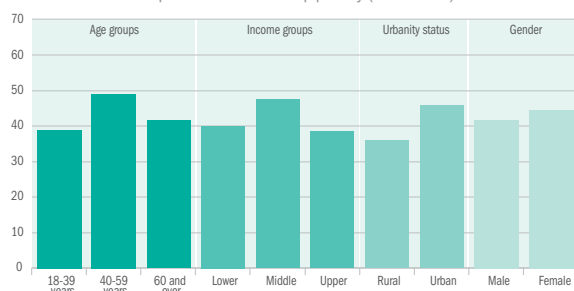
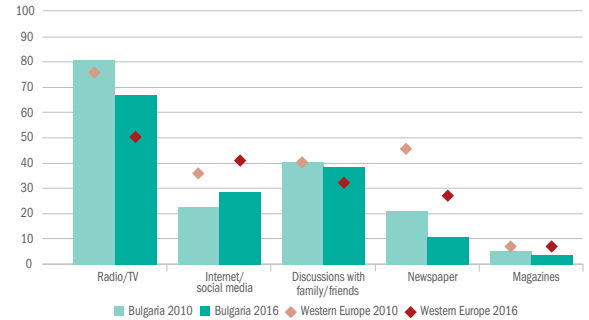
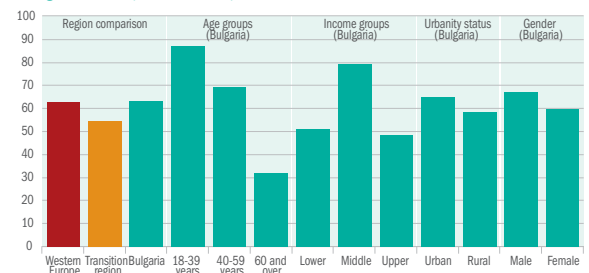
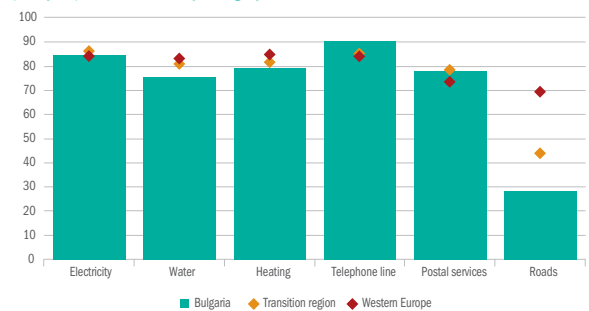
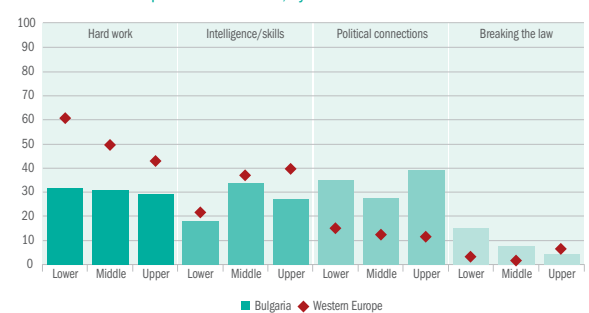
90 and 80 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, think that women are as competent as men to be business executives and an overall 75 per cent believe that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education. However, a considerably higher proportion of men believe that men make better political leaders than women (58 per cent of men as opposed to 34 per cent of women) and that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working (44 per cent of men compared with 31 per cent of women). Lastly, 62 per cent of respondents favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Only 24 and 18 per cent of Croatian respondents believe that the economic and political situations in their country were better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. While these figures are lower than the averages for central Europe and the Baltic States (CEB) and the transition region as a whole, they nonetheless represent an improvement relative to 2010 when only 3 and 5 per cent of Croatians were positive about the economic and political situation in the country. Moreover, 1 in 5 respondents believe that some progress has been made with respect to corruption levels, as opposed to only 1 in 10 in 2010.

Some 28 per cent of Croatians think that their household was better off in 2016 than four years before the survey and 40 per cent are satisfied with their personal financial situation, a figure mainly driven by middle-aged respondents and by those in the upper income brackets.

Levels of life satisfaction are higher among Croatian respondents (56 per cent) than in the transition region as a whole (43 per cent). Despite high youth unemployment, which is strongly and negatively correlated with life satisfaction, the percentage of respondents who report being satisfied with their life is the highest among those aged 18 to 39 (and among the respondents in the middle income bracket). Furthermore, about 45 per cent of respondents believe that they have fared better in life than their parents.

The percentage of Croatians who believe in a better future for the younger generation has increased by 12 percentage points since the last survey, from 31 per cent in 2010 to 43 per cent in 2016, but this number is still below the transition region average of 50 per cent. The respondents in the lower and middle income brackets appear to be the most optimistic in the sample.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

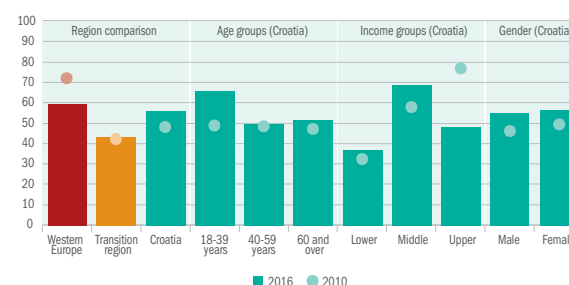
Croatian support for a market economy is among the lowest in the transition region, with only 31 per cent of respondents unequivocally supporting the system as opposed to any other alternative. Attitudes towards democracy are more positive, with 49 per cent preferring it to any other type of political system. Overall, more than one-third and around a quarter of respondents express indifference to what type of economic or political system exists in Croatia, respectively.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Croatia, 70 per cent of respondents indicate that peace and stability were guaranteed in the country, followed by free elections (52 per cent) and freedom of speech (51 per cent). The extent to which Croatians agree that other democratic institutions are in place is consistently lower than 50 per cent.

Priorities for government spending

About a quarter of Croatian respondents believe that health care should be the main priority for government spending. Additional analysis of the LITS III data shows that over 65 per cent of respondents would be willing to pay more taxes if these were used to improve the public health system. In addition, spending on helping the poor, education and pensions are also favoured by a considerable percentage of the population (about 21, 20 and 18 per cent respectively). Lastly, over 55 per cent of Croatian respondents would be willing to contribute more to improve the quality of public schools.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Croatian respondents are television and radio (at 64 per cent), followed by internet and social media (35 per cent) and discussions with family, friends or colleagues (34 per cent). Newspapers are read on a daily basis by approximately 15 per cent of the interviewed respondents, a figure higher than the averages for CEB (12 per cent) and the transition region (9 per cent) but lower than those of Germany and Italy (31 and 21 per cent, respectively).

Self-assessed health

60 per cent of Croatian respondents consider their health to be "good" or "very good", which is in line with the average for the CEB countries (at 60 per cent) and higher than the transition region average (54 per cent). This also represents a substantial improvement in relation to the 2010 survey, when 53 per cent of respondents believed themselves to be in good health. Unsurprisingly, the present figure is mostly driven by those aged 18-39 and by the respondents in the middle and upper income groups.

Quality of public services

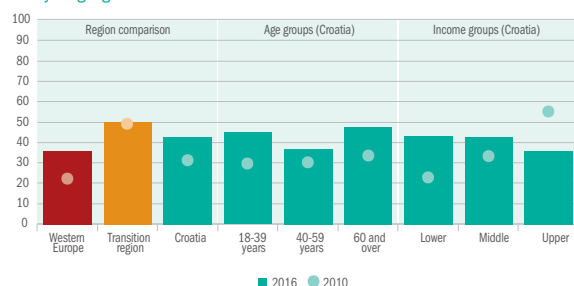
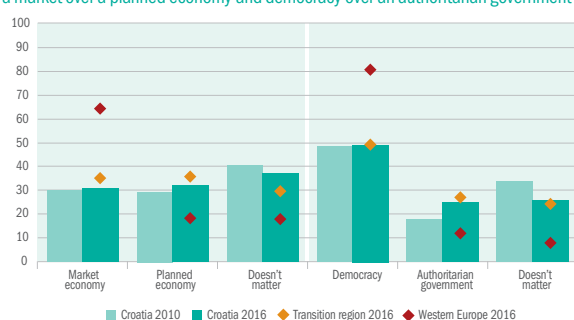
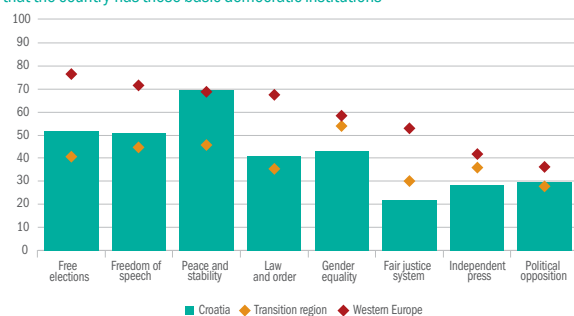
The majority of Croatian respondents report that they are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country: the figures range from 56 per cent of satisfied users of local roads to a 90 per cent satisfaction rate with electricity services. These values are among the highest in the transition region and are in line with the corresponding figures reported in Germany.

Social and economic mobility

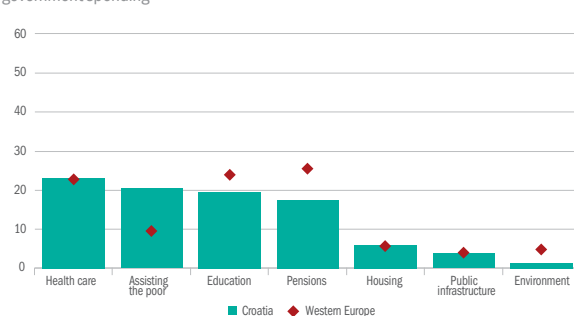
When respondents were asked from a list of options what were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 41 per cent of Croatian respondents chose "political connections", one of the highest response rates for that specific option in the transition region. 36 per cent of respondents believe that "effort and hard work" is the most important success factor while only 15 per cent of Croatians mention "intelligence and skills", the lowest value for that specific option in the transition region.

Attitudes towards women

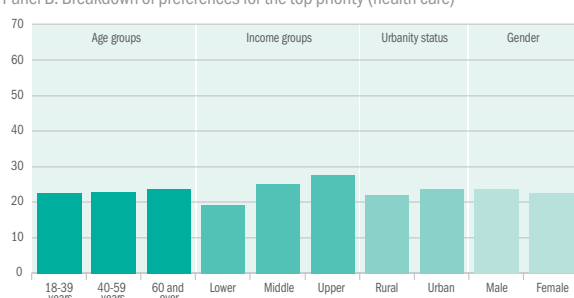
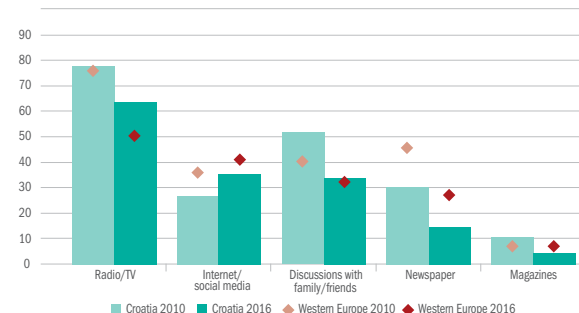
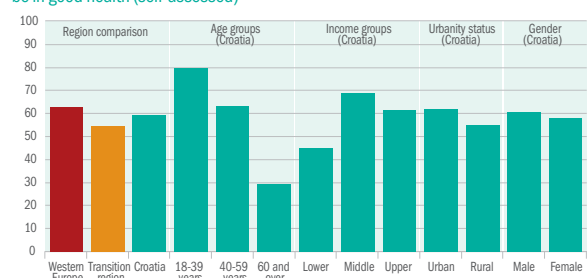
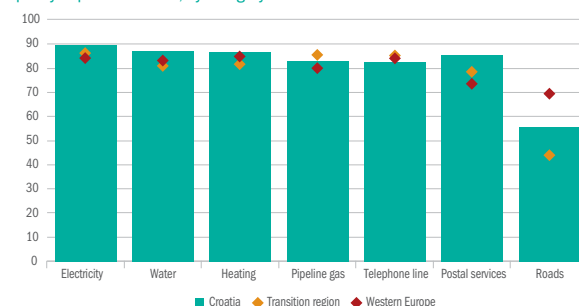
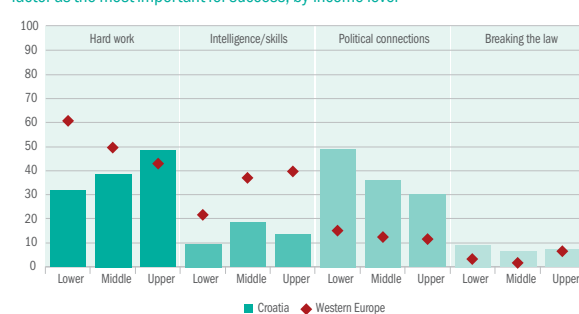
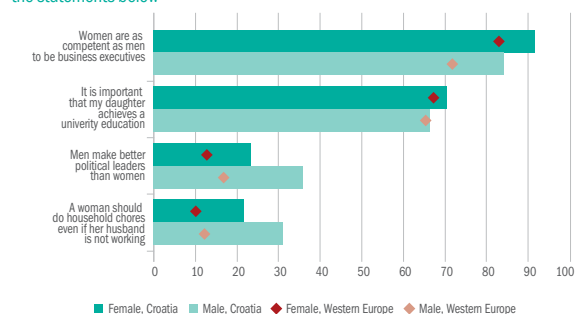
91 and 84 per cent of female and male respondents in Croatia consider female business executives to be as competent as male business executives, and an overall 68 per cent of respondents of either gender believe it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education. Nevertheless, a considerably higher proportion of male respondents believe that men make better political leaders than women (36 per cent of men as opposed to 23 per cent of women) and that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working (31 per cent of men compared to 22 per cent of women). Lastly, 41 per cent of interviewed respondents favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children, one of the lowest values in the transition region.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation**CHART 3. Market economy and democracy:** percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government**CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions:** percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions**CHART 5. Priorities for government spending**

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Only 8 and 15 per cent of respondents, respectively, believe that the economic and political situation in Cyprus was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These figures are substantially lower than the corresponding averages for the south-eastern Europe (SEE) region, the transition region as a whole and Germany. Only Greece and Italy fare worse than Cyprus in terms of appreciation for the present economic situation. In addition, 13 per cent of interviewed Cypriots think that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey.

Nearly 90 per cent of households surveyed in Cyprus believe that there has been no improvement in their living standards in the four years preceding the survey, the second lowest value in the sample after Greece. As of 2016, only 25 per cent of respondents are satisfied with their financial situation, as opposed to 29 and 31 per cent of those in SEE and the transition region.

Yet despite the recent financial crisis, the level of life satisfaction for Cypriot respondents in 2016 is slightly above the transition region average: 48 per cent of respondents on the island report being satisfied with life, compared with 43 per cent in the transition region. Older cohorts, men and respondents in the middle and upper income groups appear more satisfied than their counterparts.

Confidence in a better future for the younger generation is well below the transition region average. Only 25 per cent of respondents believe that children born today will have a better future than the current generation, one of the lowest figures in the survey, in contrast to 39 and 50 per cent of the respondents in SEE and the transition region, respectively. Such a low level of optimism is reported consistently across different age and income groups.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

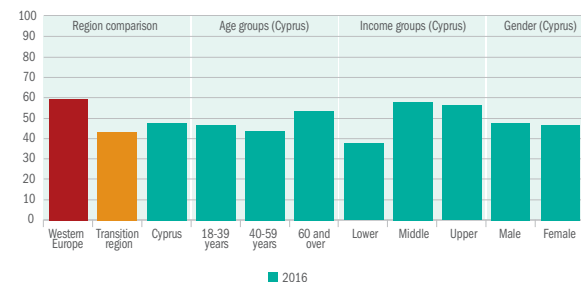
The Cypriots' support for democracy is the highest in the transition region, with 85 per cent of respondents who would unequivocally choose said political system over any other alternative, a value higher than the corresponding figure for Italy (63 per cent) and slightly below that of Germany (93 per cent). In addition, 47 per cent of respondents prefer a market economy to any other economic system, a percentage higher than the averages for SEE, the transition region and Italy (at 43, 37 and 35 per cent, respectively), but lower when compared with Germany, where 85 per cent of respondents favour the market economy. The remaining 53 per cent of interviewed Cypriots are roughly split between a belief that, under some circumstances, a planned economy might be preferable (26 per cent) and a belief that "for people like me, it does not matter" which economic system is in place (27 per cent).

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Cyprus, 62 per cent of respondents indicated that freedom of speech is guaranteed in the country, followed by free elections and gender equality, at 52 and 48 per cent, respectively. The extent to which Cypriots agree that the remaining institutions are in place varies and is lower than 50 per cent. Compared with Germany, Cyprus fares worse on all accounts, while relative to the Italians, Cypriots are as convinced about the existence of freedom of speech and more convinced about the existence of an independent press, a strong political opposition and gender equality.

Priorities for government spending

Over 42 per cent of Cypriot respondents would prefer extra government spending on health care. In addition, a significant portion of respondents would like to see extra government funding channelled to assist the poor (29 per cent) and for education-related purposes (19 per cent). Additional results from LiTS III show that around 60 and 55 per cent of Cypriot respondents would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of the public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Cypriot respondents are the television and radio, and discussions with family, friends or colleagues, at 61 and 42 per cent, respectively. While the television and radio are the predominant sources among people aged 40 and over, internet and social media are the preferred sources of news for the younger cohort: 59 per cent of respondents aged 18 to 39 report using the web at least once a day. As of 2016, an urban and rural divide in the utilisation of internet seems to persist, with 44 per cent of respondents from urban areas reporting daily usage, in contrast to a lower 29 per cent among those residing in rural areas. Newspapers are read on a daily basis by approximately 12 per cent of the interviewed respondents, a figure higher than the average for the transition region (9 per cent), but still lower than those of the SEE region, Germany and Italy (14, 31 and 21 per cent, respectively).

Self-assessed health

More than 71 per cent of Cypriot respondents report a positive self-assessment of their health, which is higher than the SEE average of 65 per cent, the transition region average of 54 per cent, and the values for Germany and Italy (68 and 54 per cent). The highest variation is registered across age groups, where the difference in the health self-assessment between the youngest and oldest respondents is 51 percentage points: that is to say, 91 per cent of respondents aged 18-39 report a positive health status compared with only 40 per cent of those aged over 60.

Quality of public services

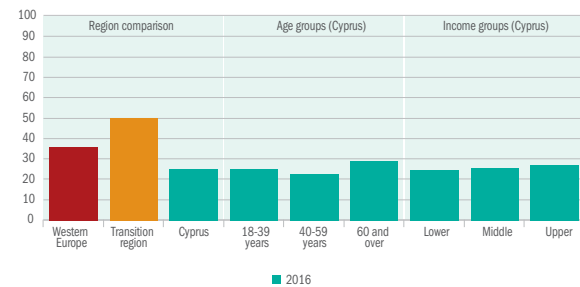
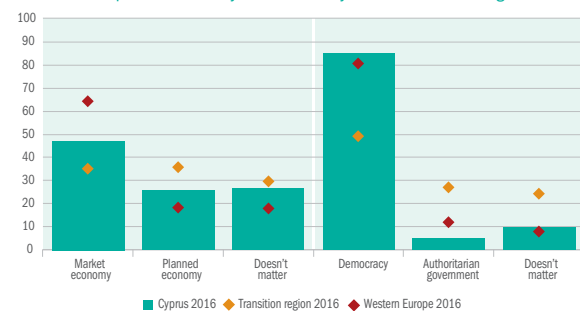
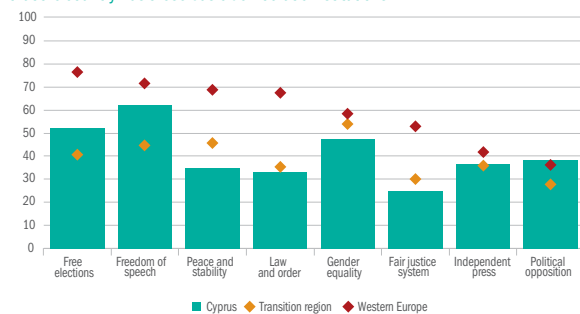
The majority of Cypriot respondents report that they are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country: the figures range from 56 per cent of satisfied users of local roads to a 94 per cent satisfaction rate with the utilisation of telephone line services. These values are among the highest in the transition region, and are in line with the corresponding figures reported in Germany, with the only exception being local roads, whose quality is deemed satisfactory by 86 per cent of German respondents.

Social and economic mobility

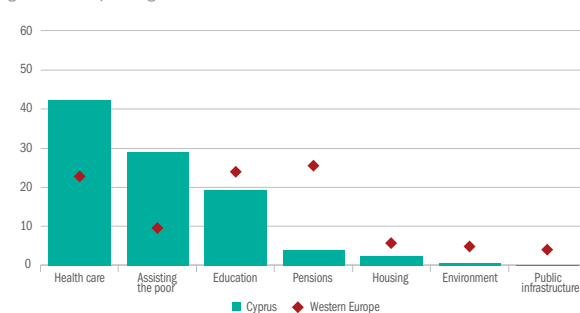
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, about 41 per cent of them chose "political connections" and another 31 per cent opted for "effort and hard work". In addition, 15 per cent of Cypriot respondents chose "intelligence and skills", a value that is significantly lower than the corresponding figures for both western European comparator countries and the lowest in the transition region. Nearly 13 per cent of interviewed respondents view "breaking the law" as the most important success factor in Cyprus, which is the second highest result for that response option in the transition region overall.

Attitudes towards women

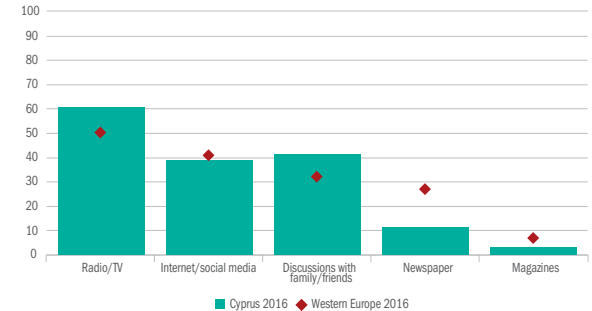
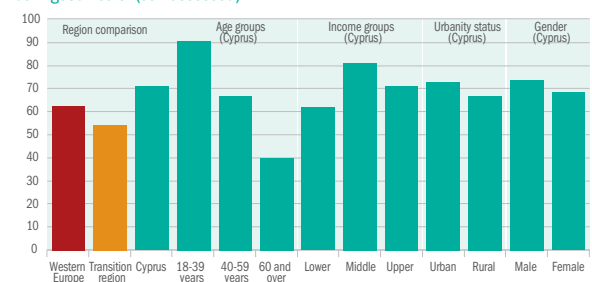
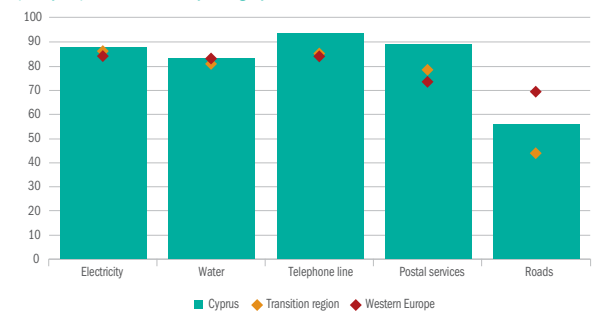
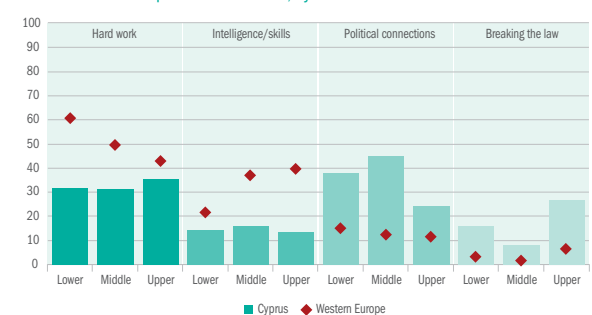
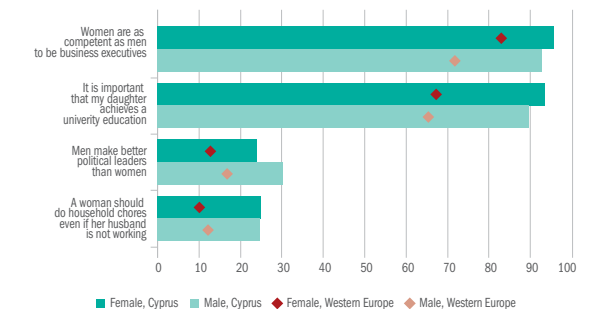
94 per cent of Cypriot respondents believe that women are as competent as men to be business executives and 92 per cent of them think it important for their daughter to achieve a university education. However, around a third of the male respondents believe that men make better political leaders than women, as opposed to one in four women, whereas about 25 per cent of respondents (both male and female) believe that a woman should do household chores, even if her husband is not working. Lastly, 48 per cent of interviewed respondents favour a traditional family arrangement, where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

About 33 and 13 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and the political situation in Estonia were better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. Both figures are above the corresponding averages for the transition region and in line with those for Germany. Only one in five Estonian respondents believe that corruption was reduced in the four years preceding the survey, a number below the average for central Europe and the Baltic states (CEB) and the transition region average of 23 per cent.

44 per cent of respondents report that they are satisfied with their current financial situation and 41 per cent believe that households in their country live better than they did four years prior to the survey. Both figures show a steep increase in satisfaction levels relative to 2010, when only 38 per cent of respondents were satisfied with their financial situation and only one in four Estonians thought that households had a better life at that time than before.

Life satisfaction levels substantially increased from 54 per cent in 2010 to 71 per cent in 2016, and they are now higher than the CEB average (54 per cent), the transition region average (43 per cent) and the corresponding figure for Italy (42 per cent). This value is the fourth highest in the transition region, and is just one percentage point below the average for Germany, where as many as three in four respondents report being satisfied with their life. Levels of satisfaction are highest among young people and lower in the lower income bracket.

Optimism about future generations has dropped slightly since the last survey, with 52 per cent of respondents believing that future generations will have a better life than the present generations. However, this value is still higher than the average for Germany and Italy, the CEB region and the entire transition region. There is also little variation in optimism across different age and income groups.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

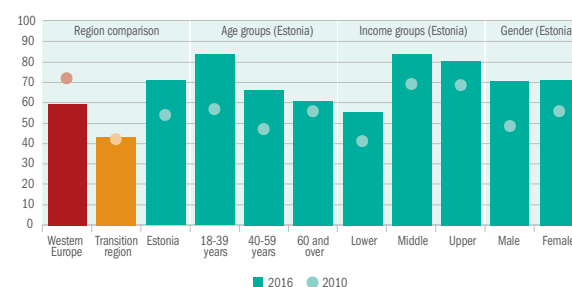
Support for democracy and a market economy has remained stable since 2010. About 38 per cent of respondents favour a market economy over any other economic system and 55 per cent prefer democracy over any other alternative. These figures are in line with the averages for CEB, just above the corresponding numbers for the transition region, but still well below the averages for Germany.

Estonia has some of the highest percentages of respondents who believe that the following institutions are in place in the country: free elections, law and order, freedom of speech, an independent press, a strong political opposition and a fair court system. When asked which democratic institutions exist in the country, 72 per cent of respondents mentioned freedom of speech, followed by peace and stability, law and order and gender equality at 69, 63 and 63 per cent, respectively. While these figures are above the averages for the transition region and in line with the corresponding numbers for Italy, Estonia still fares worse than Germany on most accounts, with the only exceptions being the existence of an independent press and of a strong political opposition.

Priorities for government spending

About 36 per cent of respondents think that additional expenditure on health care should be the first spending priority for the government, a number that is higher than the averages for Germany and Italy (22 and 23 per cent, respectively). This is followed by investment in education (27 per cent), helping the poor (15 per cent) and improving pensions (14 per cent). Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that 54 and 42 per cent of Estonians would be willing to pay more taxes in order to have better public health care and an improved education system, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Estonians are the television and the radio; internet and social media; and discussions with family, friends or colleagues, mentioned by 76, 65 and 61 per cent of respondents, respectively. 37 per cent of Estonians read newspapers daily, as compared with 31 per cent of Germans, 22 per cent of Italians and only 9 per cent of the respondents residing in the transition region.

Self-assessed health

Only 43 per cent of Estonians consider their health to be “good” or “very good”, a 3 percentage point decline relative to 2010 levels, and a rather low figure in comparison to an overall average of 54 per cent for the transition region. Estonia does not fare well either when compared with the CEB region, Germany and Italy, where 60, 68 and 54 per cent of the respondents report being in good health, respectively. Further analysis shows that the only groups that compare well with their counterparts in the comparator countries are the younger generation and respondents in the middle- and upper-income brackets.

Quality of public services

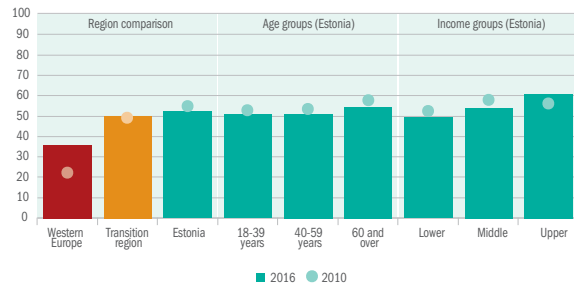
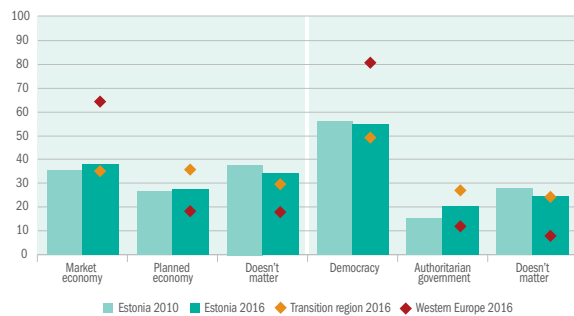
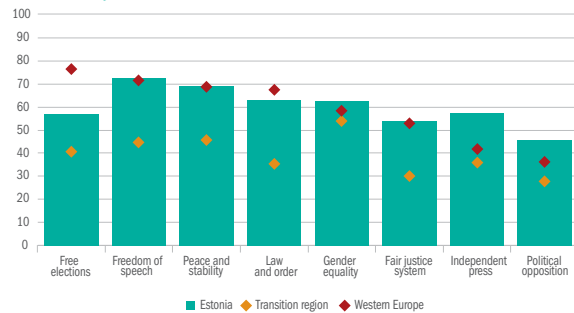
The majority of Estonian respondents report that they are satisfied with the general quality of all public services in their country. Satisfaction rates for all services but heating are among the highest in the transition region, and they range from 58 per cent for local roads to 97 per cent for the provision of pipeline gas. All these figures, except for the one related to local roads, are above the averages for Germany.

Social and economic mobility

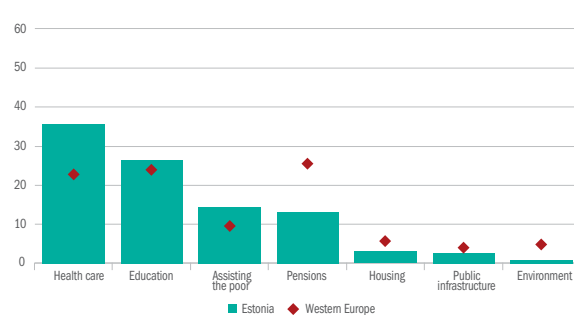
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 56 per cent of them chose “intelligence and skills”, the highest result for that specific response option in the transition region and also well above the percentages for Germany and Italy. On the other hand, only 22 per cent of respondents identified “effort and hard work” as the main factor to succeed in life, the lowest value in the transition region overall.

Attitudes towards women

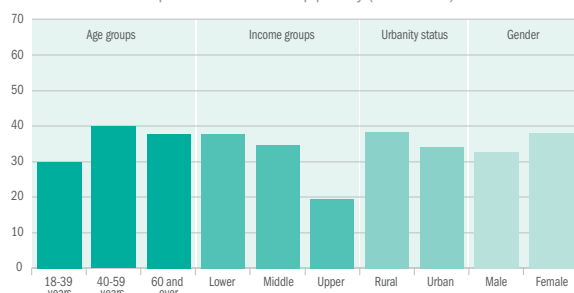
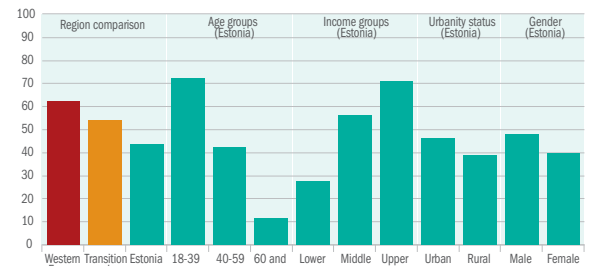
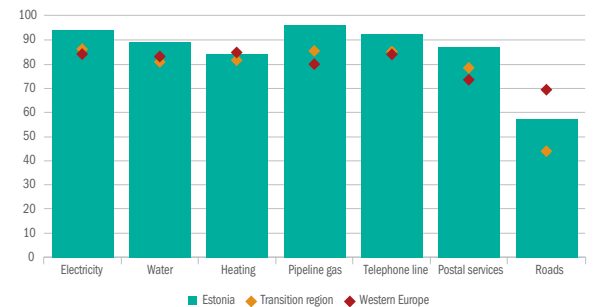
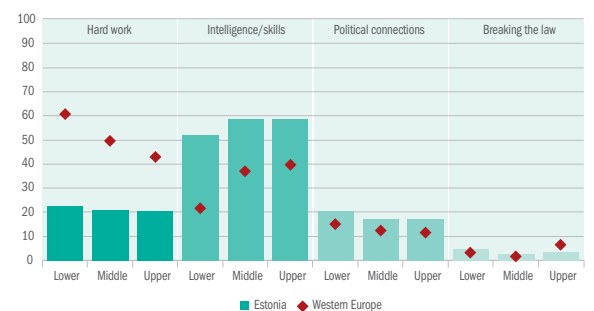
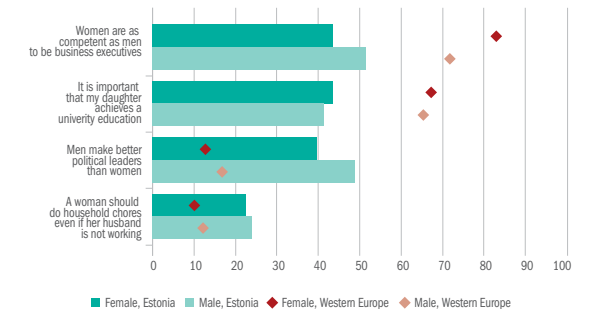
Only 51 per cent of Estonian men consider female business executives to be as competent as male business executives and 49 per cent of male respondents also believe that men make better politicians than women. The corresponding figures for female respondents are lower, at 43 and 40 per cent, respectively. Moreover, only around 42 per cent of respondents think that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education, a value that is among the lowest in the transition region and that is significantly below the averages for the western European comparators (63 per cent in Germany and 71 per cent in Italy). On the bright side, only 23 per cent of respondents believe that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, and 41 per cent of respondents favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children, two of the lowest percentages in the transition region.

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Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

19 and 14 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in FYR Macedonia was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey, in line with the averages for south-eastern Europe (SEE), both at 17 per cent, but below the corresponding figures for the transition region (24 and 28 per cent, respectively). About 20 per cent of those interviewed think that corruption levels improved in the four years preceding the survey.

About 27 per cent of Macedonians state that their household was better off in 2016 as compared to the four years prior to the survey, and 30 per cent are satisfied with their personal financial situation. Both figures compare well with the respective averages for SEE and the transition region as a whole, but they are both below the German ones.

Life satisfaction has increased by 2 percentage points since the last survey, from 33 per cent in 2010 to 35 per cent in 2016. However, it is still lower than the SEE average of 39 per cent and the transition average of 43 per cent, and well below the corresponding figures for Germany and Italy (72 and 42 per cent, respectively).

The percentage of the population that is optimistic about the future has decreased by 9 percentage points since the last survey in 2010. This decline occurred across all age and income groups, except for respondents aged 60 and over. As of 2016, 38 per cent of Macedonian respondents think that children born now will have a better life than the current generations, a figure below the transition region average of 50 per cent, but comparable to the SEE average of 39 per cent.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

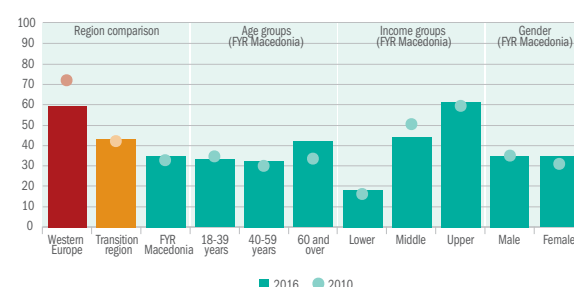
72 and 51 per cent of Macedonian respondents believe that democracy and a market economy are preferable to any other political or economic system. About 13 per cent of those surveyed might prefer an authoritarian regime under some circumstances, while 28 per cent believe that a planned economy might be preferable to a market one. Support for democracy and a market economy have both increased in Macedonia since 2010 and are now stronger than in SEE, the transition region and Italy (but still weaker than in Germany).

Notwithstanding this, many Macedonians believe that their country lacks at least some basic democratic institutions. The percentage of Macedonians who believe that certain democratic institutions exist in their country is lower than in SEE, the transition region, Italy and Germany for almost all of the options covered in the survey. For instance, only 38 per cent of those interviewed believe that peace and stability are guaranteed in the country while only 35 per cent think the country has free elections. This compares with 46 and 41 per cent of respondents, respectively, in the transition region as a whole.

Priorities for government spending

Among Macedonian respondents, 27 per cent of respondents would prefer extra government funding to be spent on helping the poor, a figure more than double the average for the transition countries (13 per cent). This is one of the highest figures in the transition region and also well above the corresponding ones for Germany (5 per cent) and Italy (16 per cent). The second most mentioned priority for extra government spending is health care (26 per cent) while education is third (18 per cent).

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Macedonian respondents are the television and the radio (56 per cent), followed by discussions with family, friends or colleagues (38 per cent) and the internet and social media (32 per cent). The only sources of information that have not lost popularity since 2010 are the internet and social media, which registered a slight increase in usage rates by one percentage point. This improvement is, however, not uniform across demographic groups: it is stronger for the younger respondents (those aged 18 to 50) and for those in the lower income group.

Self-assessed health

65 per cent of Macedonians report a positive health self-assessment, a value that exceeds the averages for the transition region and Italy (both 54 per cent) and is comparable to average levels of self-assessed health observed in the rest of SEE as well as in Germany (65 and 68 per cent, respectively).

Quality of public services

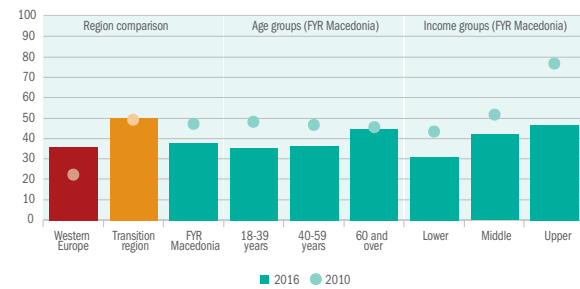
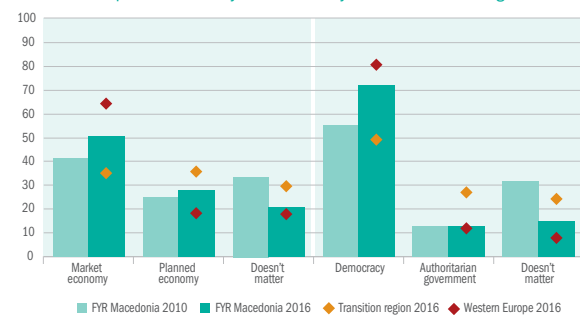
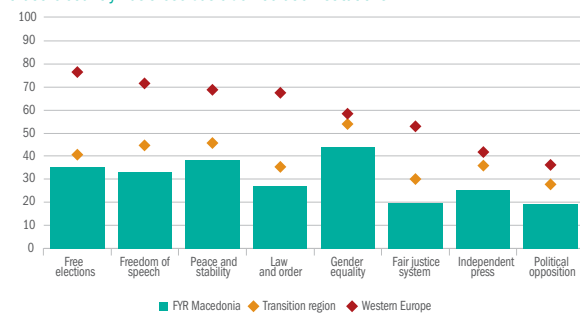
Respondents in FYR Macedonia tend to be less satisfied with the quality of public services compared to the average respondent in the transition region, Germany and Italy. Overall, however, most Macedonians are satisfied with the quality of their telephone lines (83 per cent), and their electricity service and heating provision (74 and 71 per cent, respectively). The sole exception is the quality of the local road network, which is considered to be satisfactory by only 40 per cent of those surveyed.

Social and economic mobility

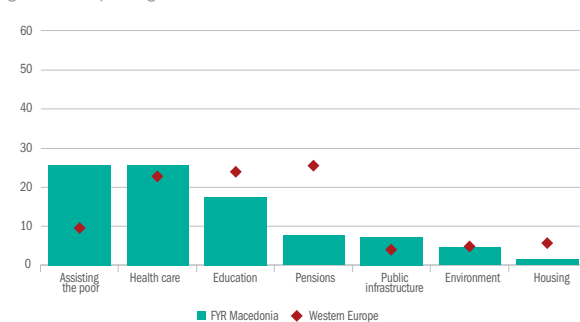
When Macedonian respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, about 46 per cent of them chose "political connections". Although this striking figure has slightly decreased since 2010, it remains the highest across the whole of the transition region. About 34 per cent of Macedonians believe that "effort and hard work" are important factors for success in life, while "intelligence and skills" are mentioned by only 15 per cent of those surveyed.

Attitudes towards women

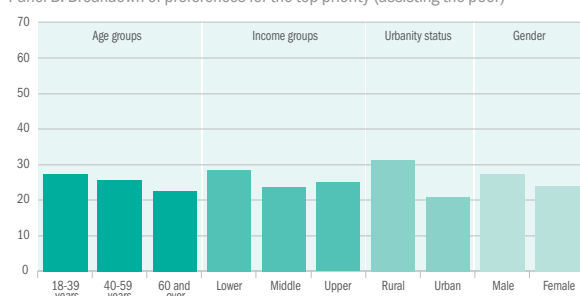
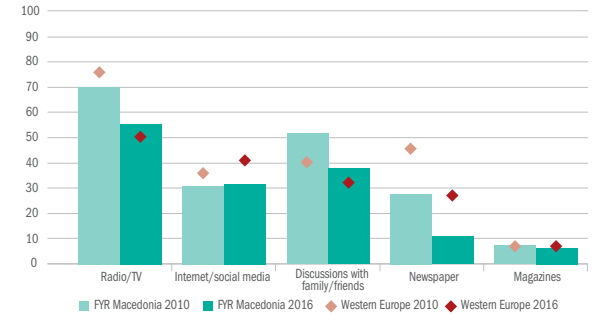
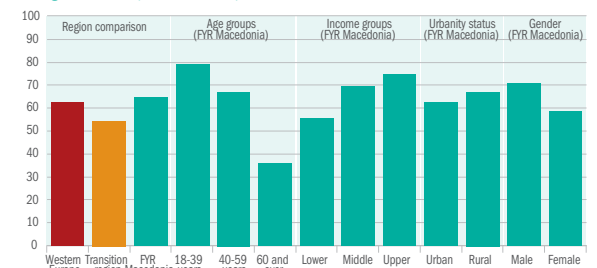
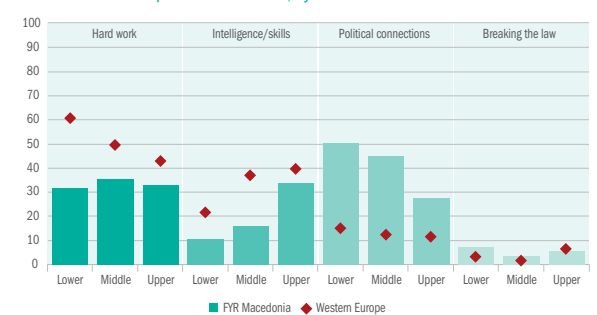
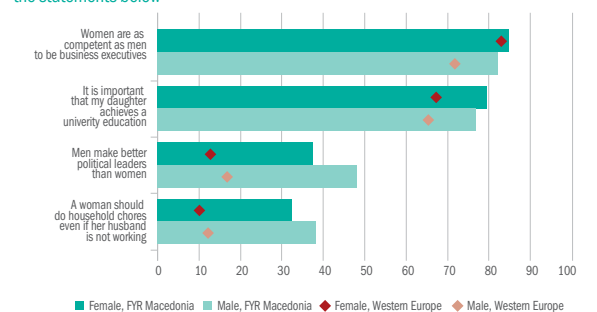
85 and 82 per cent of female and male respondents in FYR Macedonia, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men as business executives, and around 78 per cent of those surveyed believe that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education. However, 48 per cent of men and 37 per cent of women think that men make better politicians than women and 38 per cent of men and 33 per cent of women believe that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working. About 56 per cent of respondents of either gender favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the family.

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Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (assisting the poor)

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

About 16 and 21 per cent of respondents, respectively, believe that the economic and political situation in Georgia was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These figures are substantially higher than the corresponding averages for the region known as eastern Europe and the Caucasus (EEC), albeit still lower than the overall averages for the transition region. In addition, 29 per cent of interviewed Georgians think that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey, a figure higher than the averages for EEC, the transition region, Germany and Italy (at 16, 23, 16 and 10 per cent, respectively), but lower by 49 percentage points relative to 2010.

A quarter of interviewed respondents believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did four years before the survey. In addition, 19 per cent of respondents report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a number significantly below the transition region average of 31 per cent but in line with the regional average of 17 per cent for EEC.

Following an increase by 17 percentage points relative to 2010 levels, the percentage of Georgians who are satisfied with their life (42 per cent) is now in line with the transition region average and the corresponding figure for Italy (43 and 42 per cent, respectively). Life satisfaction is nevertheless still below Germany's level.

While the level of optimism about future generations has fallen by 12 percentage points since the last survey, from 66 per cent in 2010 to 54 per cent in 2016, it is still well above the average for the transition region, Germany and Italy (50, 46 and 22 per cent, respectively).

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

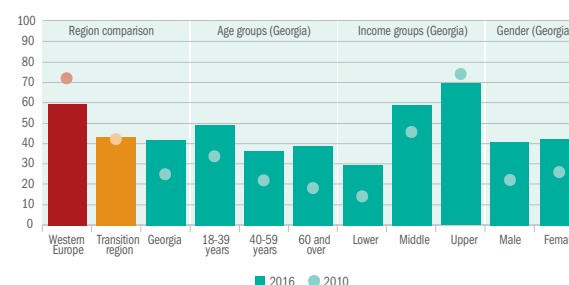
53 per cent of Georgian respondents in 2016 said that democracy is "preferable to any other form of political system", while 35 per cent of the interviewed population favoured and supported the market economy. While these figures are in line with the transition region average, they are well below the corresponding values for Germany. They also represent a steep decline relative to 2010 data, which show that 71 and 42 per cent of respondents supported democracy and a market economy at that time, respectively. In addition, 2016 data show that a substantial proportion of respondents think that "for people like me, it does not matter" which political (34 per cent) or economic (45 per cent) system is in place.

When asked which democratic institutions existed in Georgia, only 43 per cent of respondents indicated that freedom of speech and gender equality are in place in the country, followed by peace and stability and an independent press, at 40 and 35 per cent, respectively. The extent to which Georgians agree that other democratic institutions exist in their country is rather low, with only about a quarter of respondents reporting that they believe free elections, law and order and a fair justice system are guaranteed in Georgia.

Priorities for government spending

A third of Georgian respondents think that additional government spending on health care should be the main funding priority, which is 10 percentage points higher than the averages for both western European comparators. This preference is stronger among the lower income groups, male respondents and those who live in rural areas. About 23 and 20 per cent of respondents would also like to see extra government expenditure on education and helping the poor, respectively. Additional results show that around 77 and 74 per cent of Georgian respondents would be willing to contribute more to improve the quality of the public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Georgians are the television and the radio, followed each day by 76 per cent of the population, and discussions with family, friends or colleagues, mentioned by 55 per cent of respondents. Internet and social media usage has increased significantly since 2010, from 7 to 36 per cent, but still shows an urban and rural divide, with 47 per cent of respondents from urban areas reporting daily usage, in contrast to only 26 per cent of those residing in rural areas. While the television and the radio are the predominant news sources among people aged 40 and over, internet and social media are the preferred source of news for the younger cohort: over 50 per cent of respondents aged 18 to 39 report using the web at least once a day. Newspapers and magazines are read on a daily basis by approximately 4 per cent of the interviewed respondents, well below the corresponding figures for the EEC, the transition region, Germany and Italy.

Self-assessed health

Only 32 per cent of Georgian respondents report a positive self-assessment of their health, the lowest figure in the entire transition region, 22 percentage points below the average for the region and 36 and 22 percentage points lower than the corresponding values for Germany and Italy, respectively. In addition, this figure is virtually unchanged relative to 2010. The greatest degree of variation is registered across age groups, while respondents aged 60 and over and those aged between 40 and 59 have the lowest rates of positive health self-assessments, at only 12 and 21 per cent, respectively.

Quality of public services

The majority of Georgian respondents report that they are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country, with the only exceptions being the postal service and local roads. The figures range from 87 per cent of satisfied users of pipeline gas to a 64 per cent satisfaction rate with the utilisation of water services. In addition, more than 80 per cent of interviewed respondents are satisfied with the quality of electricity and the telephone lines. Even though these values are just slightly below the corresponding figures for the transition region as a whole and for Germany, the satisfaction rates for water services and the telephone lines (as well as the postal service) are among the lowest in the transition region.

Social and economic mobility

When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 63 per cent of Georgians chose "effort and hard work", the fourth highest result for that response option in the transition region. Around 20 per cent chose "intelligence and skills", while another 15 per cent opted for "political connections".

Attitudes towards women

86 per cent of interviewed respondents think it important for their daughter to achieve a university education. Nevertheless, only 76 and 64 per cent of female and male respondents believe that women are as competent as men to be business executives, respectively, two of the lowest values in the transition region, and 37 and 49 per cent of women and men, respectively, think that men make better political leaders than women. In addition, around 45 per cent of respondents of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, and around 63 per cent of them favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation

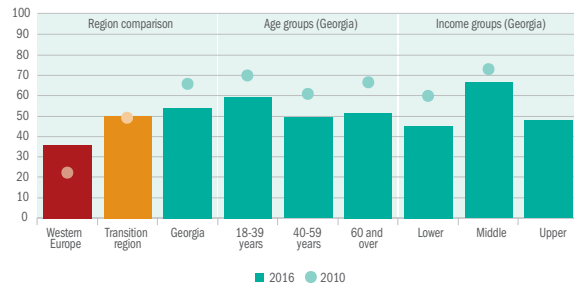


CHART 3. Market economy and democracy: percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government

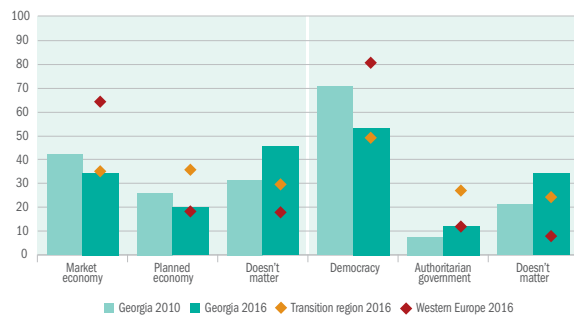


CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions: percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions

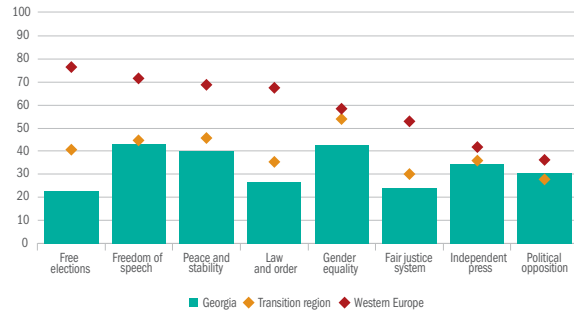
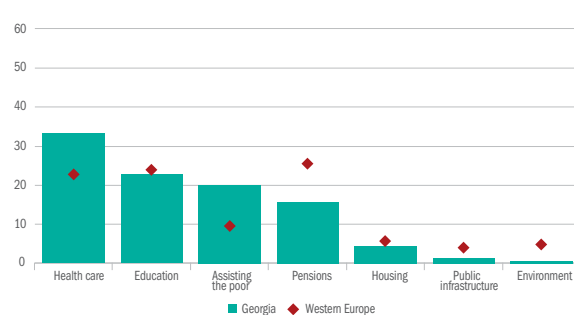


CHART 5. Priorities for government spending

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)



CHART 6. Sources of information: percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information

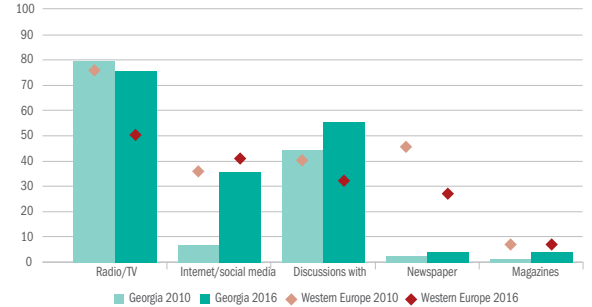


CHART 7. Health assessment: percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)

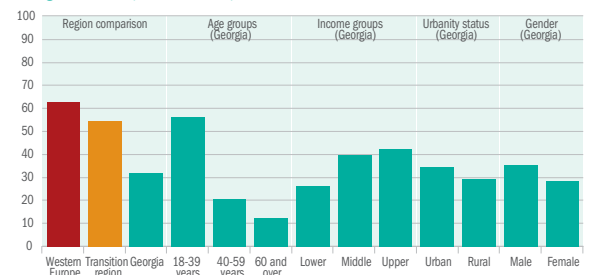


CHART 8. Quality of services: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category

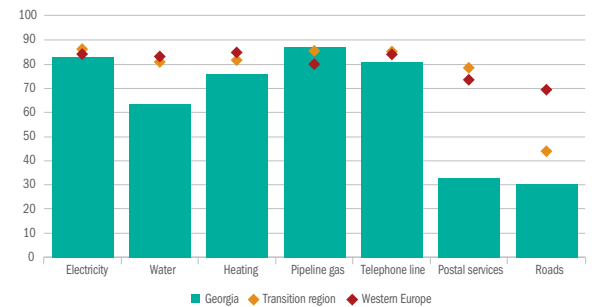


CHART 9. Factors for success: percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level

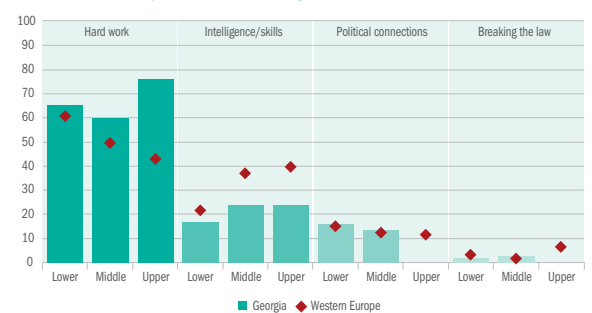
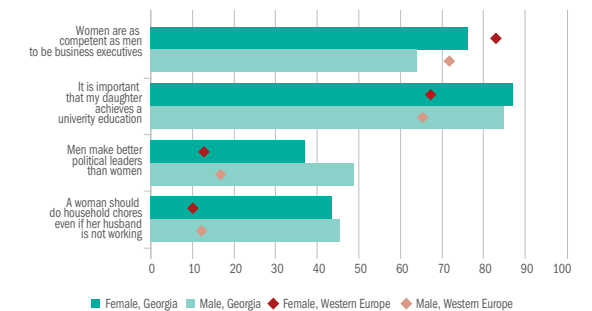


CHART 10. Attitudes towards women: percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below





Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

92 per cent of Greek households report having been affected by the economic crisis between 2010 and 2016. It is probably as a result of this dramatic situation that Greece reports among the lowest levels of life satisfaction across the entire transition region. Only 1 and 6 per cent of respondents, respectively, believe that the economic and political situation in Greece was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These figures are substantially lower than the corresponding averages for the south-eastern Europe (SEE) region, the transition region as a whole and Germany. Only Italy reports similar values, with respectively 7 and 9 per cent of its respondents satisfied with the economic and political situation in their country. In addition, 12 per cent of interviewed Greeks think that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey.

Only 2 per cent of surveyed households believe that some improvement in their living standards occurred during the four years preceding the survey, the lowest value in the LiTS III survey. As of 2016, only 10 per cent of respondents were satisfied with their financial situation, as opposed to 29 and 31 per cent of those in SEE and the transition region, and 33 per cent of those in Italy.

Life satisfaction among Greek respondents is the lowest of all the countries in the survey, together with Georgia: only 24 per cent of respondents in these two countries declared being satisfied with their life. There is little variation in reported life satisfaction across age groups and gender although there is a positive correlation with reported income levels.

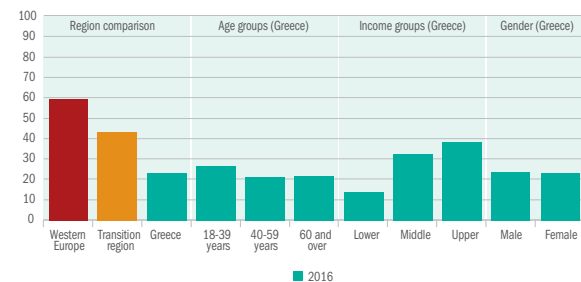
Optimism for future generations is limited. Only 24 per cent of respondents think that the next generation of Greeks will have a better life than themselves, one of the lowest results in the country sample and less than half of the transition region average of 50 per cent. The proportions do not differ much across age groups but there is some variation by income level, with those at the upper end of the income scale being the least optimistic.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

Notwithstanding the deep economic crisis, Greek support for democracy and the market economy are among the highest in the transition region, with 79 and 52 per cent of respondents unequivocally choosing these political and economic systems over any other alternative. While these values are no higher than the corresponding figures for Germany (93 and 85 per cent, respectively), they are nonetheless well above the averages for SEE, the transition region and Italy. The proportion of people who say they would support, under some circumstances, either a planned economy or an authoritarian regime is 26 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Greece, 79 per cent of respondents indicated that freedom of speech is guaranteed in the country, followed by free elections and peace and stability, at 72 and 68 per cent, respectively. The extent to which Greeks agree that other basic democratic institutions are in place varies. For instance, only 20 per cent of respondents believe that the country has a strong political opposition and 27 per cent believe that the press is independent. Compared with Germany, Greece fares worse on all accounts, while relative to the Italians, Greeks are more positive about the existence of law and order, a fair judicial system and gender equality in their country.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Priorities for government spending

31, 28 and 18 per cent of Greek respondents report health care, helping the poor and improving pensions as the biggest priorities for government spending, respectively, most likely reflecting concerns over recent cuts in these areas. Additional analysis of the LiTS III data reveals that about 75 per cent of respondents believe that the high unemployment rate and, relatedly, the current dismal economic situation are two of the most important problems that the Greek government should address. Moreover, the LiTS III data show that 43 and 42 per cent of respondents are prepared to pay extra taxes in order to improve the public health care and the public education systems, respectively.

Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Greek respondents are the television and the radio; discussions with family, friends or colleagues; and the internet and social media, at 56, 32 and 28 per cent, respectively. While television and radio are the predominant sources of information among people aged 40 and over, the majority of those aged 18 to 39 resort instead at least once a day to the internet and to social media in order to get informed. Newspapers are read on a daily basis by approximately 7 per cent of the interviewed respondents, a figure lower than the averages for the SEE region, the transition region as a whole, Germany and Italy (at 14, 9, 31 and 21 per cent, respectively).

Self-assessed health

79 per cent of Greek respondents report a positive self-assessment of their health, the highest percentage in the entire sample (and even higher than the German and Italian numbers). The only demographic category in which fewer than 70 per cent of respondents positively assess their health is those aged 60 and over.

Quality of public services

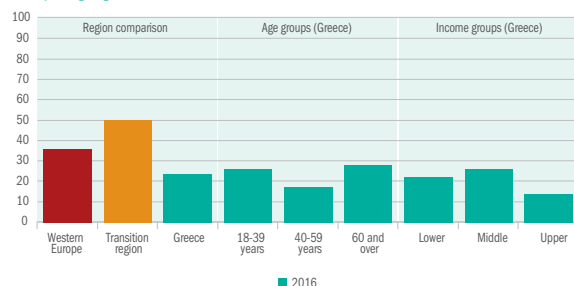
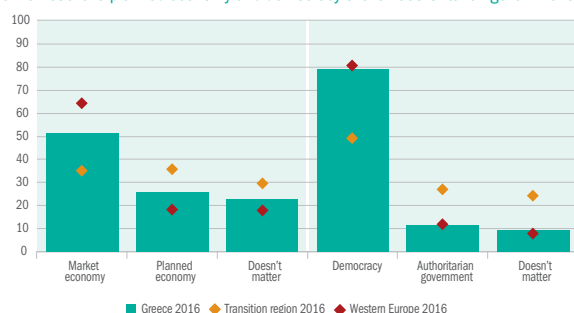
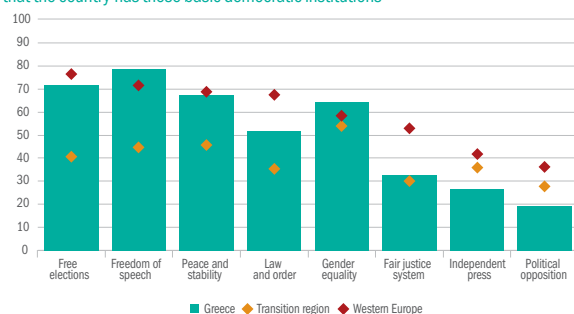
The majority of Greek respondents are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country: the figures range from 53 per cent of satisfied users of local roads to a 89 per cent satisfaction rate with the utilisation of telephone line services. These values are slightly lower than the averages for the SEE and the transition region, and are also below the corresponding figures reported in Germany, particularly when considering local roads, whose quality is deemed satisfactory by 86 per cent of German respondents.

Social and economic mobility

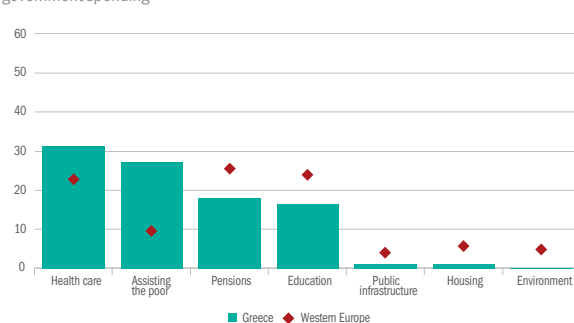
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 37 per cent of Greeks opted for "effort and hard work, 33 per cent chose "political connections" and 24 per cent mentioned "intelligence and skills".

Attitudes towards women

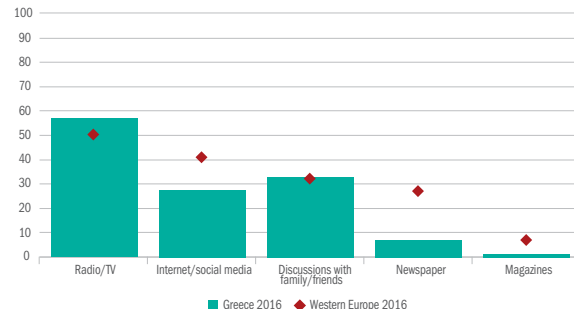
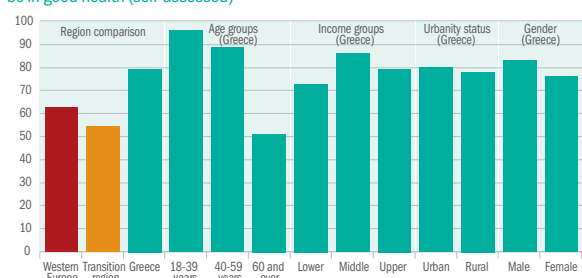
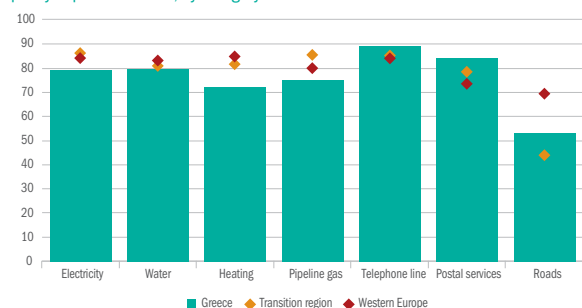
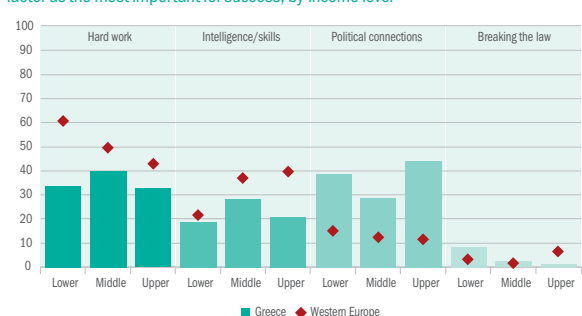
About 97 and 88 per cent of female and male Greeks, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men to be business executives and overall more than 85 per cent of interviewed individuals think that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education. However, around 48 per cent of men and 32 per cent of women consider men to make better political leaders than women, while 43 per cent of men think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, as opposed to 33 per cent of women. Lastly, 59 per cent of respondents favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

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Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

About 29 and 27 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in Hungary was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. The first figure is broadly in line with the corresponding average for Central Europe and the Baltic states (CEB), and higher than the figures for the transition region and Italy. Appreciation for the present political situation is in line with the transition region average, but higher than in the CEB region, Germany and Italy. Still, only 15 per cent of Hungarians believe that improvements in the level of corruption were made in the four years preceding the survey, a number substantially below the transition region average of 23 per cent.

One in four households surveyed in Hungary believe that some improvement in their living standards occurred over the four years preceding the survey, while 27 per cent of respondents report being satisfied with their financial situation, as opposed to 39 and 31 per cent of those in CEB and the transition region.

The level of life satisfaction for Hungarian respondents in 2016 was below the transition region average: 33 per cent of respondents in the country report being satisfied with life, compared to 54 per cent in CEB and 43 per cent in the transition region. The younger and older cohorts, and the respondents in the middle- and upper-income groups appear more satisfied with their life than their counterparts.

Hungarians' confidence in a better future for the younger generation increased from 27 per cent in 2010 to 39 per cent in 2016, but confidence levels are still well below the transition region average of 50 per cent. The level of optimism does not vary across different age groups of the population but there is a strong positive correlation with income: 56 per cent of respondents in the upper income group declare they are optimistic about the future of the younger generation, as opposed to only 31 per cent among Hungarians in the lower income bracket.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

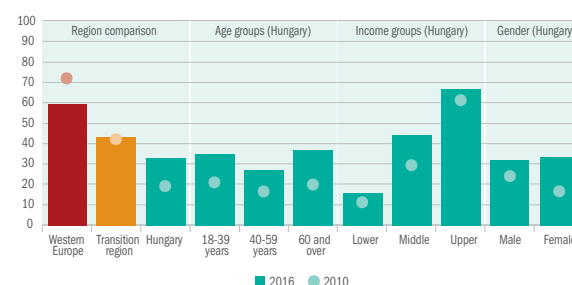
Support for democracy and the market economy increased moderately from 53 and 30 per cent in 2010 to 59 and 38 per cent in 2016, respectively, and are now above the corresponding averages for the transition region. Still, one-quarter of the respondents do not have a marked preference for a specific political system, while one-third of interviewed Hungarians believe that "for people like me, it does not matter" which economic system is in place. When respondents were asked a hypothetical question about whether they would rather live in a country with full political liberties but weak economic growth (country B) or in one with limited freedoms and stronger growth (country A), about 70 per cent of them reported that they would rather live in country A.

Among respondents there is a moderate belief in the presence of basic democratic institutions in their country. When asked which democratic institutions existed in Hungary, 63 per cent of respondents mentioned that peace and stability are guaranteed in the country, followed by freedom of speech, free elections and gender equality, at 55, 54 and 51 per cent, respectively. The extent to which Hungarians agree that other basic democratic institutions are in place varies but it is consistently lower than 50 per cent. Compared to Germany, Hungary fares worse on all accounts, while relative to Italians, the Hungarians are more optimistic about the existence of law and order, an independent press, a strong political opposition and a fair court system.

Priorities for government spending

Among respondents in Hungary, 45 per cent state that they would prefer their government to prioritise health care, which is the second highest percentage for this specific response option across all countries surveyed. However, additional

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



results show that only 36 per cent of Hungarian respondents would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the public healthcare system. About 22 per cent of respondents would also like to see extra government expenditure channelled to help the poor and 11 per cent of respondents would like extra government funding to improve pensions.

Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Hungarians are television and radio, which are used on a daily basis by 61 per cent of the population, and internet and social media, mentioned by 33 per cent of respondents. Internet and social media usage has increased significantly since 2010, from 17 to 33 per cent, and is especially popular among the younger generation. Newspaper readership decreased by 11 percentage points compared to 2010 levels, but it is still rather high: 17 per cent of respondents read newspapers on a daily basis, as opposed to 12 per cent of the population in the CEB region and only 9 per cent of the respondents in the transition region as a whole. Nonetheless, this is well below the corresponding figures for Germany and Italy.

Self-assessed health

Among Hungarian respondents, 58 per cent report a positive health self-assessment in 2016, a 20 percentage point increase relative to 2010, which puts Hungary ahead of the transition region average as well as Italy, both at 54 per cent, but still below Germany, where as many as 68 per cent of respondents report to be in good health. Disaggregated results confirm that the percentage of healthy respondents decreases with age and increases with income.

Quality of public services

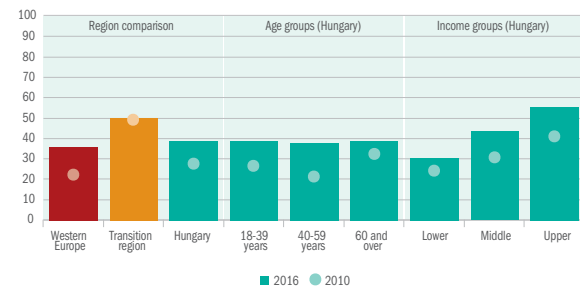
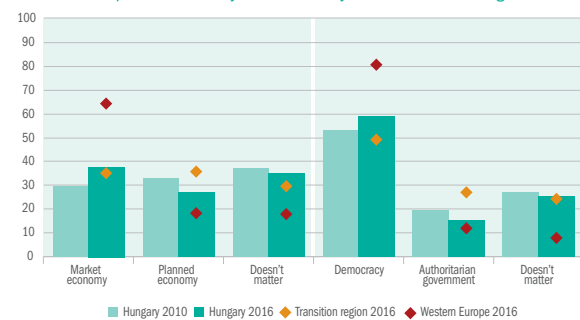
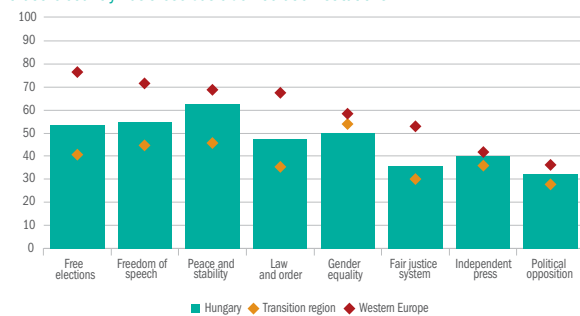
The majority of Hungarian respondents report that they are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country, the only exception being the local road network, which causes dissatisfaction among the rural population in particular. Overall, 91 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the electricity provided to their dwellings, while 88, 87, 86 and 85 per cent of respondents indicate that the quality of their telephone line, the postal service, heating and water are of satisfactory quality, respectively. All these figures, except for the one related to local roads, compare well with the averages for the transition region as a whole, as well as with the German and Italian levels of satisfaction with public services.

Social and economic mobility

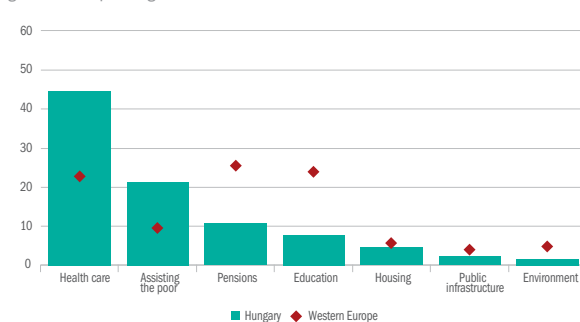
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought are the most important factors for success in life in their country, 35 per cent of Hungarians chose "political connections" and an additional 35 per cent opted for "effort and hard work".

Attitudes towards women

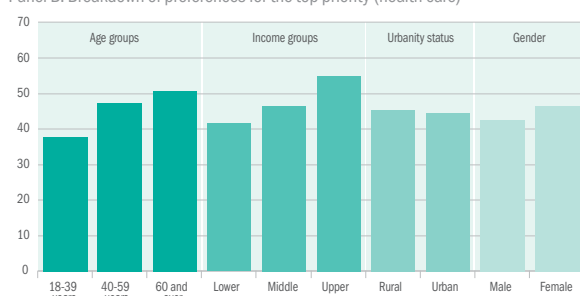
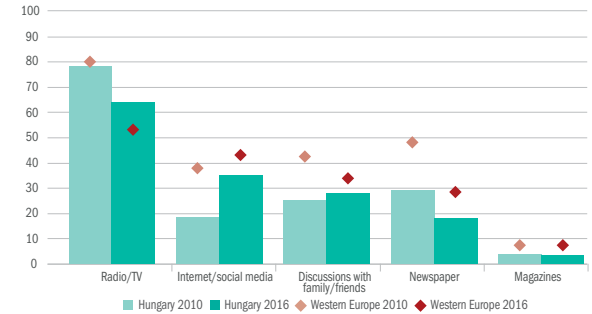
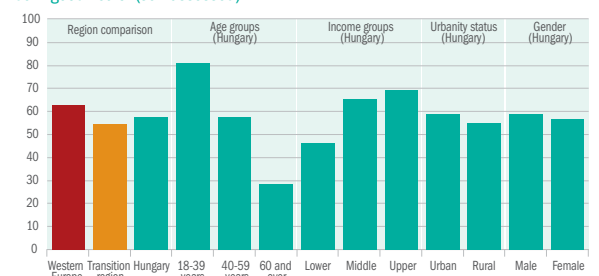
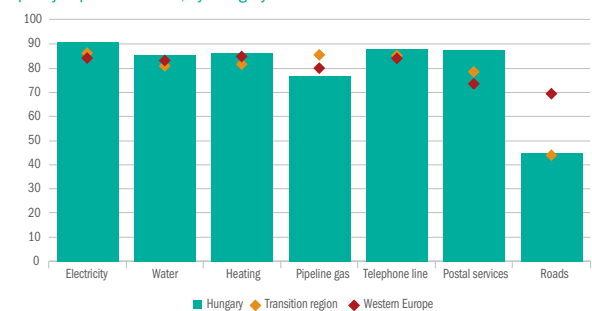
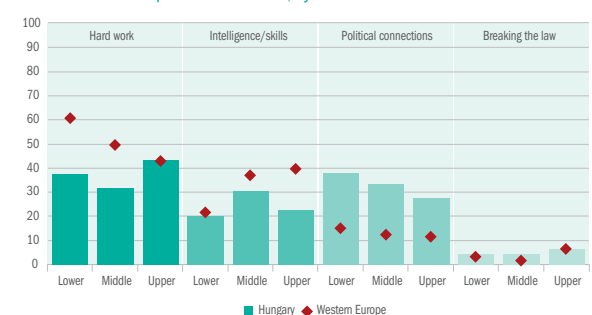
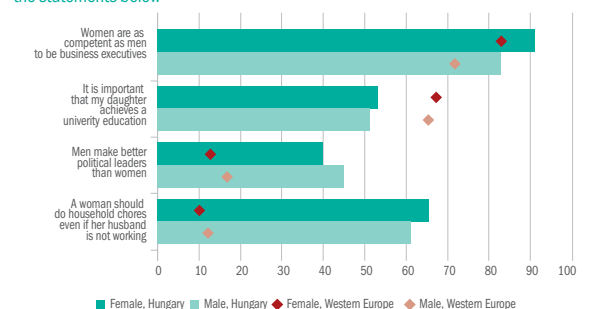
91 and 82 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men to be business executives, while 40 and 46 per cent of women and men think that men make better political leaders than women. Only about half of the respondents consider it important that their daughter completes a university education. In addition, 64 per cent of Hungarians believe that a woman should do household chores, even if her husband is not working, and another 64 per cent favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Nearly half of the survey respondents in Kazakhstan believe that the economic and political situation was better in 2016 compared to four years prior to the survey, two of the highest satisfaction rates across the transition region. In addition, 41 per cent of interviewed Kazakhs also think that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey.

Among Kazakh respondents, 51 per cent believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did four years before the survey, while 46 per cent report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a percentage significantly above the transition region average of 31 per cent but below the regional average of 65 per cent for Central Asia.

The level of life satisfaction in Kazakhstan has risen considerably since the last survey across all age and income groups and is now above the transition region average as well as the corresponding figure for Italy, but still below life satisfaction in Germany. As of 2016, two in three Kazakhs were satisfied with their life, while about 60 per cent believed that they had done better in life than their parents.

Lastly, 72 per cent of Kazakh respondents believe that children born today will have a better future than themselves, making Kazakhstan one of the most optimistic countries in the LiTS III. All subgroups of the surveyed population have become more optimistic since the last survey, and the overall indicator has improved by 7 percentage points relative to 2010.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

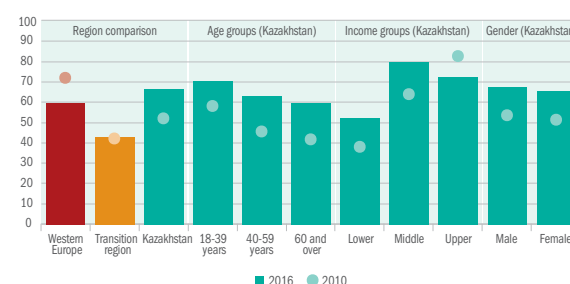
Support for democracy and the market economy has weakened since the last survey, from 59 and 41 per cent in 2010 to 49 and 37 per cent in 2016, respectively. About 30 per cent of respondents express indifference as to the type of economic system that should prevail in the country, while one in four respondents do not have a marked preference for a specific type of political system. Lastly, around 30 per cent of interviewed Kazakhs would favour, under some circumstances, authoritarianism or a planned economy.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Kazakhstan, 84 per cent of respondents indicated that peace and stability are guaranteed in the country, followed by gender equality and law and order, at 72 and 58 per cent, respectively. These percentages represent some of the highest figures in the entire transition region. According to 52 per cent of Kazakhs, free elections are conducted in the country and, for another 51 per cent, freedom of speech is respected.

Priorities for government spending

Among Kazakh respondents, 34 per cent think that the main priority for additional government spending should be health care, followed by education (22 per cent) and housing (15 per cent). Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that around 53 and 47 per cent of Kazakh respondents would be willing to contribute more to improve the quality of their public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Kazakhs are television and radio and conversations with family, friends and colleagues, mentioned by 57 and 54 of the respondents, respectively. The percentage of respondents who use the internet and social media on a daily basis as sources of information increased almost five-fold since the last survey, from only 10 per cent in 2010 to 47 per cent in 2016. This makes the use of internet and social media in Kazakhstan more common than in the average transition country, as well as in Germany and Italy. Lastly, newspapers are read at least once a day by approximately 6 per cent of the interviewed respondents, a number below the averages for Central Asia, the transition region, and both Western European comparator countries.

Self-assessed health

Among Kazakh respondents, 55 per cent of report a positive health self-assessment, which is slightly higher than the transition region average of 54 per cent but still lower than the corresponding figure for Germany (68 per cent). Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that all Kazakh demographic groups report a better health status relative to 2010, with an average increase of about 14 percentage points. Unsurprisingly, the data show that health is negatively correlated with age and positively with income levels.

Quality of public services

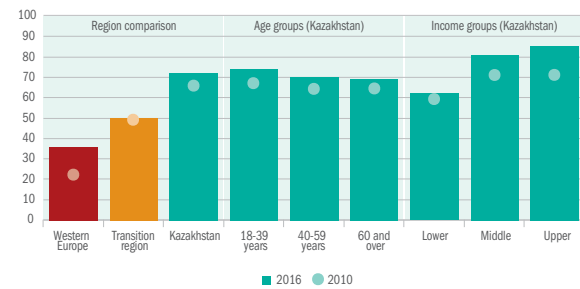
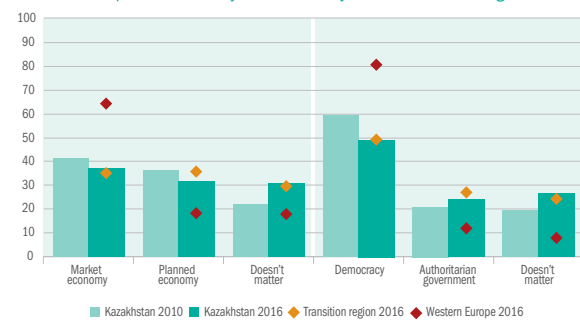
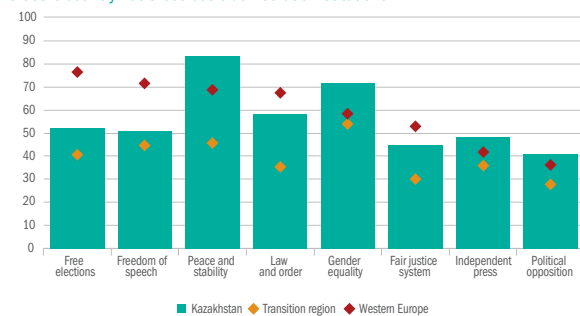
The majority of Kazakh respondents report being satisfied with the quality of public services in their country, with the exception of local roads, which cause dissatisfaction for around 66 per cent of the population. The remaining figures range from a 96 per cent satisfaction rate for the quality of telephone lines to an 81 per cent satisfaction rate for postal services.

Social and economic mobility

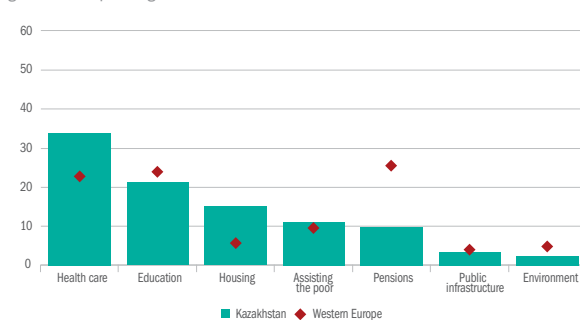
When respondents were asked from a list of options what the most important factors for success in life in their country were, 50 per cent of Kazakhs chose “effort and hard work”, 35 per cent opted for “intelligence and skills”, and about 14 per cent answered “political connections”.

Attitudes towards women

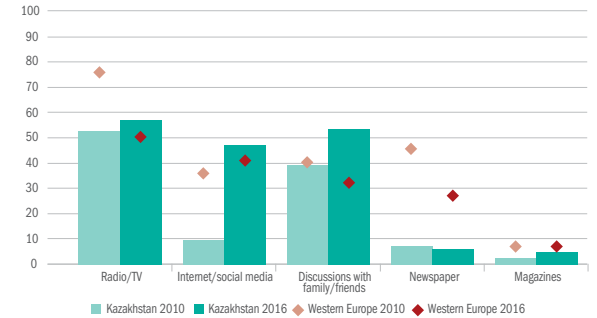
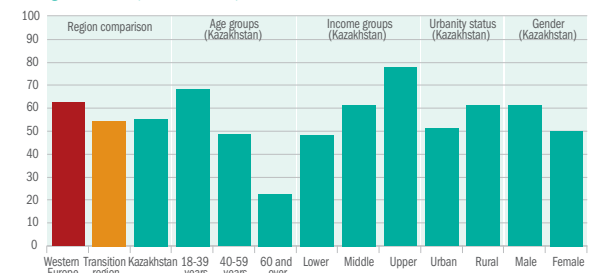
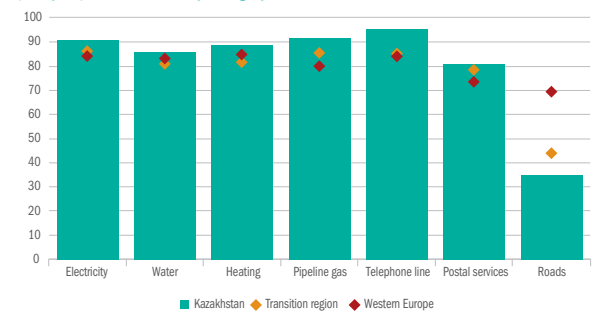
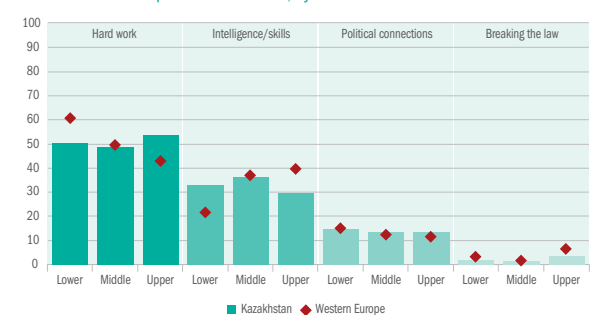
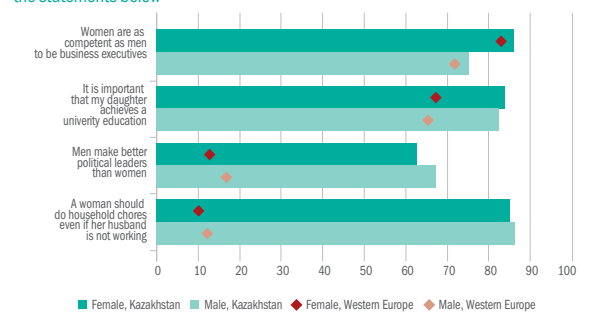
Among respondents, 83 per cent believe it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education and 81 per cent think that female business executives are as competent as male business executives. Nevertheless, two thirds of respondents also believe that men are better political leaders than women, and as many as 86 per cent of respondents think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working. Finally, 68 per cent of Kazakhs appear to favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation**CHART 3. Market economy and democracy:** percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government**CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions:** percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions**CHART 5. Priorities for government spending**

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

About 20 and only 8 per cent of respondents, respectively, believe that the economic and political situation in Kosovo was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These figures are substantially lower than the corresponding averages for the transition region as a whole and Germany. Furthermore, 12 per cent of those surveyed think that there was less corruption in 2016 than in the four years before the survey.

33 per cent of households surveyed in Kosovo believe that some improvement in their living standards occurred over the four years preceding the survey, the second highest value in south-eastern Europe (SEE) after Romania. As of 2016, 32 per cent of respondents were satisfied with their financial situation, compared to 29 and 31 per cent of those in SEE and the transition region.

Similarly to financial satisfaction, the level of life satisfaction for Kosovan respondents in 2016 was comparable to the transition region average, as 43 per cent of respondents report being satisfied with life. Younger cohorts and respondents in the upper income group turn out to be more satisfied than their older and poorer counterparts in the country.

Optimism levels are well above the transition region average: about 70 per cent of respondents believe that children born today will have a better future than the current generations, the sixth highest value in LiTS III. This high level of optimism stands in contrast to 39 and 50 per cent of the respondents in SEE and the transition region, respectively. High optimism is reported consistently across different age and income groups in Kosovo.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

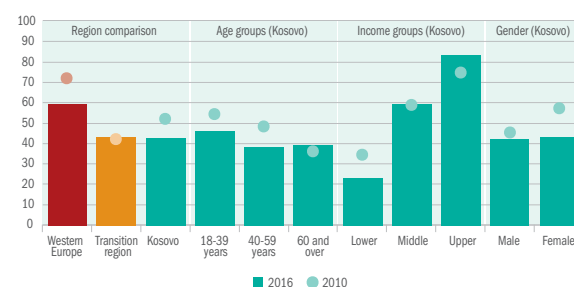
Support for the market economy in Kosovo is the second highest in the transition region, with 62 per cent of respondents preferring it to any other economic system. Support for democracy is also high in Kosovo, with 67 per cent of respondents favouring it over any other alternative, the seventh highest figure in the transition region. Both values are also above the averages for SEE, the transition region and Italy but still far below those for Germany. Among Kosovan respondents, 23 and 18 per cent would prefer a planned economy or an authoritarian system over the respective alternatives, at least under some specific circumstances. Furthermore, around 15 per cent of Kosovans believe that “for people like me, it does not matter” which economic or political system is in place in the country.

Only a minority of Kosovans believe that there are basic democratic institutions in their country. For instance, only 30 per cent of respondents believe that freedom of speech and peace and stability are guaranteed in Kosovo. Both figures are about 15 percentage points below the transition region averages and around 26 percentage points below the SEE averages. Moreover, only 26 and 25 per cent of those surveyed believe that gender equality and a strong political opposition are present in their country, respectively. Lastly, just 20 per cent or less believe that the country has free elections, law and order, an independent press or a fair justice system.

Priorities for government spending

Opinions about what the main priority for extra government spending in Kosovo should be are almost equally divided between assisting the poor (30 per cent), health care (29 per cent) and education (25 per cent). Kosovan support for helping the poor is the highest of all countries covered by the LiTS III survey and far above support in Germany (5 per cent) and Italy (16 per cent).

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Kosovan respondents are the television and the radio (61 per cent), and discussions with family, friends or colleagues (54 per cent). While the television and the radio are the predominant information sources among people aged 40 and over, the internet and social media are the preferred source of news for the younger cohort: 66 per cent of respondents aged 18 to 39 report using the internet at least once a day. As in many other countries, an urban-rural divide in the utilisation of internet is present, with 53 per cent of respondents from urban areas reporting daily usage, in contrast to 43 per cent among those in rural areas. Newspapers are read on a daily basis by approximately 10 per cent of those surveyed, a figure that is marginally higher than the average for the transition region (9 per cent) but still lower than average newspaper readership across SEE, Germany and Italy (14, 31 and 21 per cent, respectively).

Self-assessed health

69 per cent of Kosovan respondents report a positive self-assessment of their health, a figure higher than the SEE average of 65 per cent, the transition region average of 54 per cent, and the values for Germany and Italy (68 and 54 per cent, respectively). Substantial variation in self-perceived health exists across age groups: 87 per cent of respondents aged 18-39 report a positive health status, but only 27 per cent of those aged over 60 do.

Quality of public services

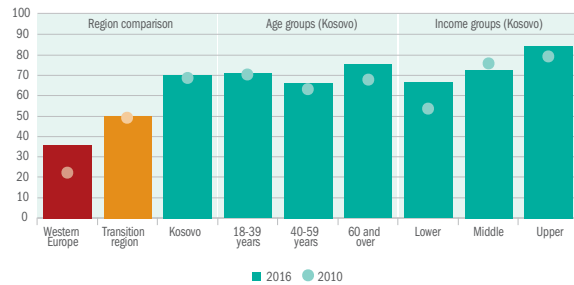
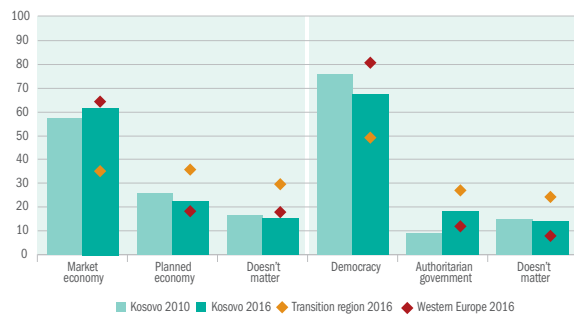
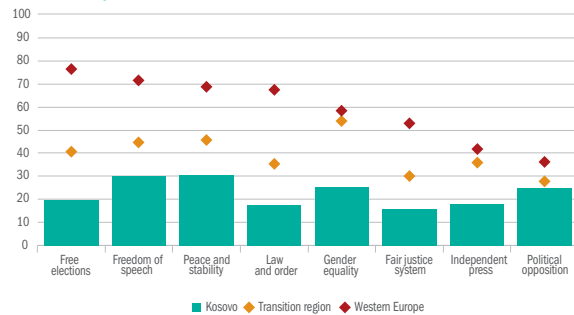
Satisfaction with the quality of public services in Kosovo is mixed. On the one hand, only about 50 per cent of Kosovans are satisfied with their electricity provision, the second lowest value in the transition region. Furthermore, only 58 per cent of Kosovans are satisfied with the quality of their water supply, the lowest value in the transition region. On the other hand, 65 per cent of those surveyed are satisfied with their local roads, the third highest value in the transition region. The satisfaction rates for the remaining services (telephone line, heating and postal services) compare well with the transition region averages and even sit above those for Italy.

Social and economic mobility

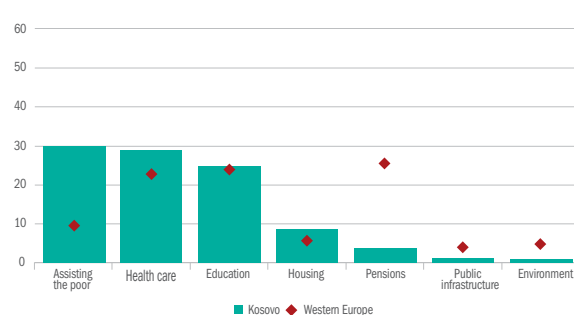
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, about 40 per cent of Kosovans chose “effort and hard work”, a value comparable to the percentages for SEE (41 per cent), Italy (42 per cent) and the transition region (42 per cent) but far below the figure in Germany (61 per cent). However, 34 per cent of Kosovans opted for “political connections”, a value well above the averages for Germany (3 per cent), Italy (27 per cent), SEE (28 per cent) and the transition region (21 per cent). Lastly, 19 per cent of those surveyed answered “intelligence and skills”.

Attitudes towards women

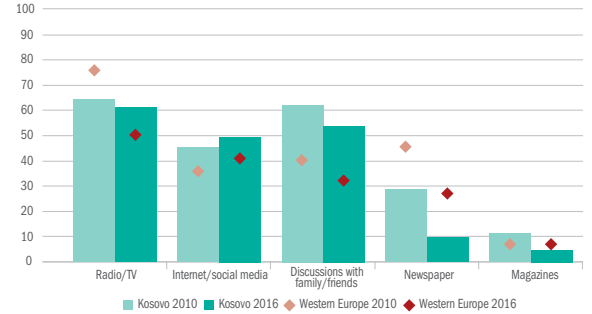
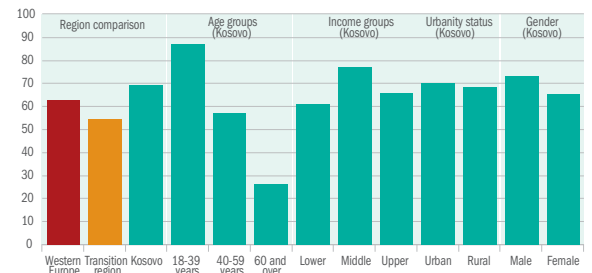
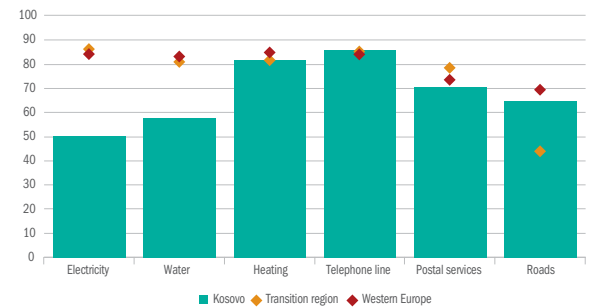
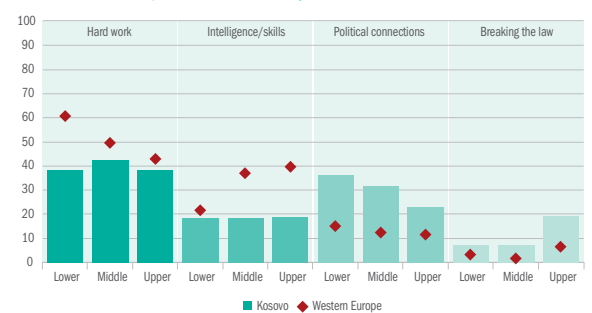
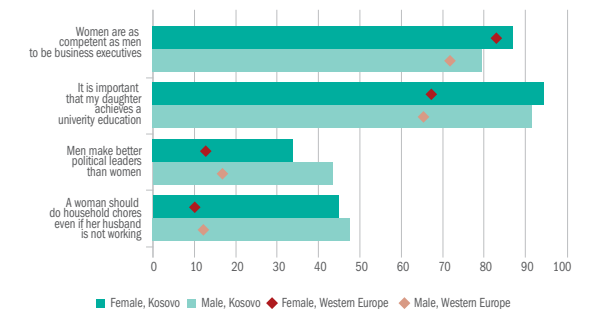
87 per cent of female Kosovan respondents and 80 per cent of male Kosovan respondents, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men as business executives, and 93 per cent of those surveyed overall think it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education. However, 43 per cent of the male respondents (but only 34 per cent of female respondents) believe that men make better political leaders than women. In addition, about 46 per cent of respondents (both male and female) believe that a woman should do household chores, even if her husband is not working. Lastly, 56 per cent of interviewed respondents favour a traditional family arrangement, where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

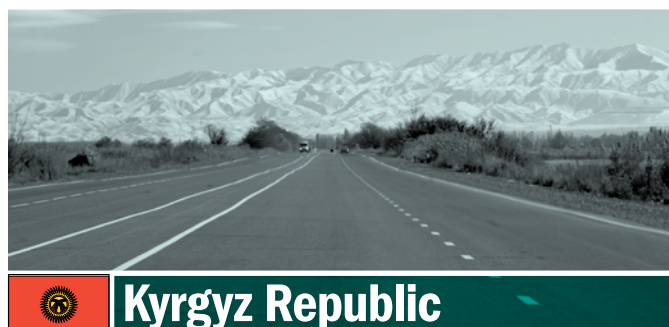
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Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (assisting the poor)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Among respondents in the Kyrgyz Republic, 53 and 51 per cent believe that the economic and political situation were better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey, two of the highest satisfaction rates in the transition region. These figures are more than double the corresponding averages for the transition region, Germany and Italy. One-third of interviewed Kyrgyz respondents also think that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey. Additional analysis of the LiTS III data nevertheless shows that 25 per cent of respondents report that they, or a member of their household, made unofficial payments or gifts when accessing public services in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Among respondents, 68 per cent believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did four years before the survey, while two in three Kyrgyz individuals report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a value significantly above the transition region average of 31 per cent and in line with the average for Central Asia at 65 per cent.

Life satisfaction among Kyrgyz respondents has risen considerably across all age and income groups, and is the second highest in the transition region. Among respondents, 75 per cent declare themselves satisfied with life, as opposed to 50 per cent in the previous survey in 2010. The level of life satisfaction rises sharply according to income level, with 96 per cent of respondents from the upper income group stating that they are satisfied with their life.

The Kyrgyz Republic has also registered a significant increase in the percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future. The proportion of people who think that children born in the country now will fare better than the current generation increased from 50 per cent in 2010 to 77 per cent in 2016, the third highest figure in the transition region. Further analysis shows that optimism displays little variation across age groups but is positively correlated with income level.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

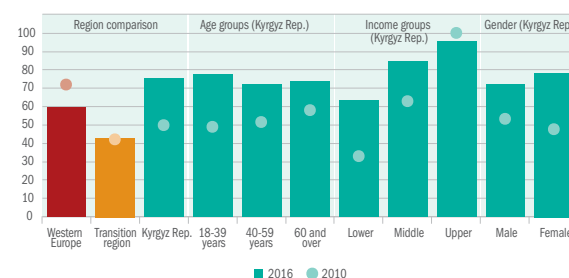
Support for the market economy has slightly weakened since the last survey, from 47 per cent in 2010 to 45 per cent in 2016. Moreover, around one-third of those surveyed believe that a planned economy might be preferable over a market economy under some circumstances. While the majority of respondents (53 per cent) prefer democracy to any other form of government, about a quarter say they might prefer, under some circumstances, an authoritarian system. When respondents were asked a hypothetical question about whether they would rather live in a country with full political liberties but weak economic growth (country B), or in one with fewer political liberties but strong economic growth (country A), about 75 per cent of them opted for country A.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in the Kyrgyz Republic, 59 per cent of respondents indicated that freedom of speech and gender equality are present in the country, while 56 per cent mentioned peace and stability. The extent to which Kyrgyz respondents agree that other basic democratic institutions exist in their country is rather low, with only one-third of the surveyed individuals reporting that they believe free elections, law and order and a fair justice system are guaranteed in the country.

Priorities for government spending

Among Kyrgyz respondents, 36 per cent think that additional government spending on education should be the main priority. This preference is particularly strong for the middle-income group and among those in rural areas. This contrasts with the majority of the other countries in the LiTS III survey, where health care

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



is usually seen as the first priority for additional government spending. In the Kyrgyz Republic, only one in four respondents believe that more funding should be committed to improve health care, while another 15 per cent think that funding should be targeted to help and assist the poor. Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that around 63 and 60 per cent of Kyrgyz respondents would be willing to contribute more to improve the quality of their public health system and public education, respectively.

Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for the Kyrgyz population are television and radio and conversations with family, friends and colleagues, mentioned by 65 and 44 of the respondents, respectively. The percentage of respondents who use the internet and social media on a daily basis as sources of information has increased significantly since the last survey, from only 6 per cent in 2010 to 25 per cent in 2016. This usage rate is nevertheless still one of the lowest in the transition region. Importantly, the data show a large urban-rural divide, with 36 of respondents from urban areas reporting daily usage of the internet, in contrast to only 19 per cent of those residing in rural areas. Newspapers are read at least once a day by approximately 9 per cent of the interviewed respondents, a number in line with the transition region average but still well below the corresponding figures for Germany and Italy.

Self-assessed health

Among Kyrgyz respondents, 62 per cent reported a positive health self-assessment, an average that is higher than the ones for the transition region and Italy (54 per cent in both cases) but lower than the corresponding figure for Germany (68 per cent).

Quality of public services

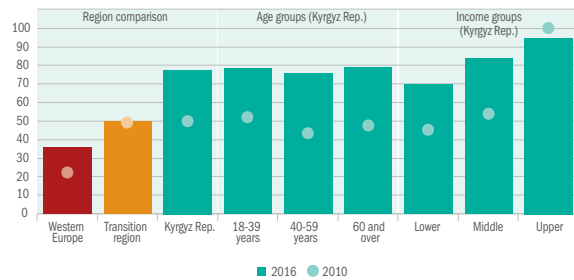
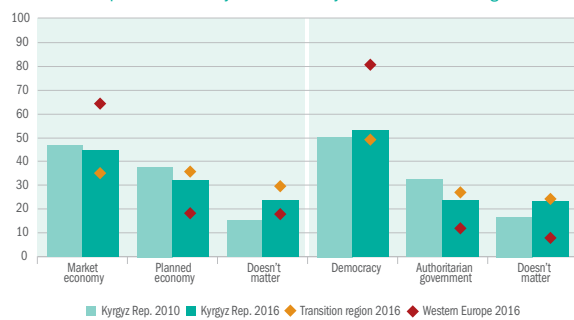
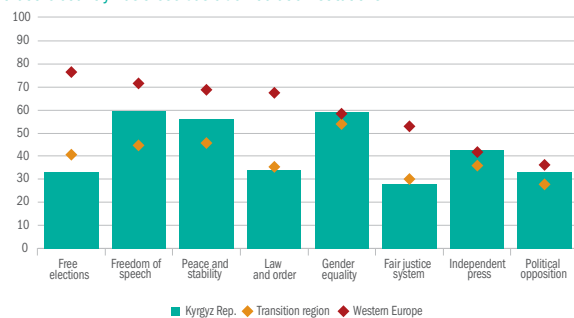
The majority of Kyrgyz respondents report being satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country, with the exception of local roads, which cause dissatisfaction for about 63 per cent of the population. The remaining figures range from an 88 per cent satisfaction rate for the provision of pipeline gas to 59 per cent for postal services.

Social and economic mobility

When Kyrgyz respondents were asked from a list of options what were the most important factors for success in life in their country, the most popular answers were "effort and hard work" (59 per cent) and "intelligence and skills" (31 per cent), both of which are broadly in line with averages for Germany, and well above the corresponding figures for Italy. There is also little, if any, belief among respondents that exploiting political connections or breaking the law gets people ahead in life.

Attitudes towards women

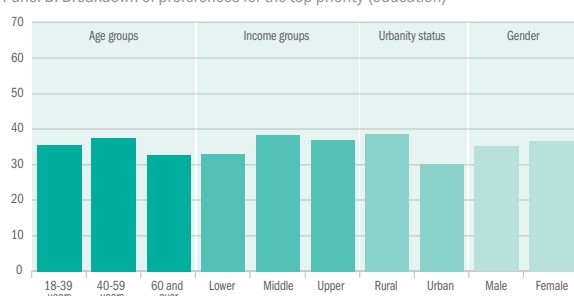
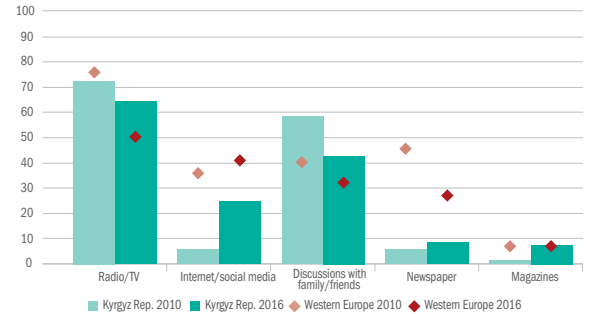
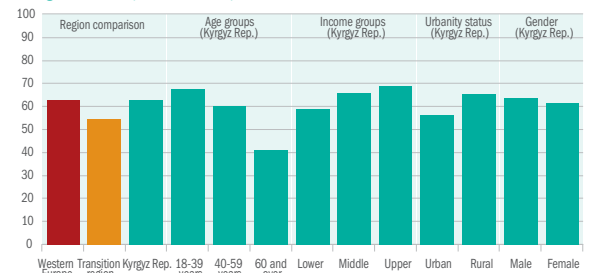
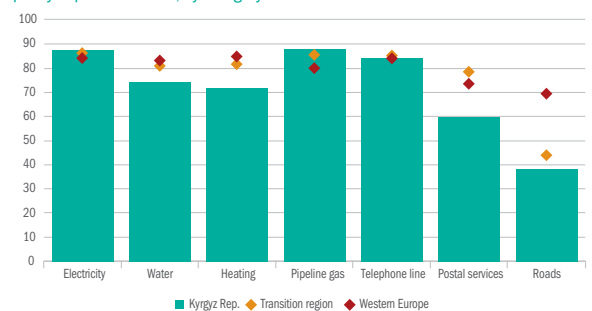
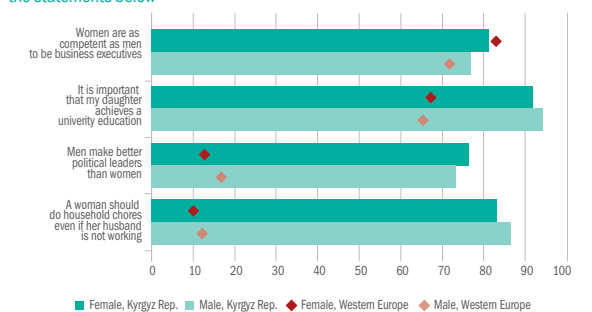
Among Kyrgyz respondents, 92 per cent believe it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education. Nevertheless, 75 and 73 per cent of female and male respondents believe that men are better political leaders than women, respectively, while 87 per cent of the sample favours a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children, one of the highest figures in the transition region. In addition, around 84 per cent of respondents of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working. Four in five women and three in four men think that female business executives are as competent as male business executives.

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Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (education)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

About 28 and 11 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and the political situation in Latvia was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. Both figures are just below the corresponding averages for central Europe and the Baltic states (CEB), at 30 and 24 per cent, respectively, and below the percentages for Germany. Only 14 per cent of Latvian respondents believe that improvements in corruption levels occurred during the four years preceding the survey, a number substantially below both the CEB and transition region averages of 23 per cent.

Among Latvian respondents, 35 per cent report that they are satisfied with their current financial situation and 39 per cent believe that households in their country live better than they did four years prior to the survey. Both figures indicate a steep increase in satisfaction relative to 2010, just after the global financial crisis, when only 17 per cent of respondents were satisfied with their financial situation and only 1 in 10 Latvians thought that households had a better life at that time than before.

Life satisfaction levels substantially increased as well, from 38 per cent in 2010 to 64 per cent in 2016, and they are now higher than the CEB average (54 per cent), the transition region average (43 per cent) and the corresponding figure for Italy (42 per cent). However, Latvia still fares worse relative to Germany, where as many as three in four respondents are satisfied with their life. Relative to 2010, life satisfaction has increased for all demographic groups in Latvia and is now particularly strong in the middle-income group and amongst those between 18-39 years of age.

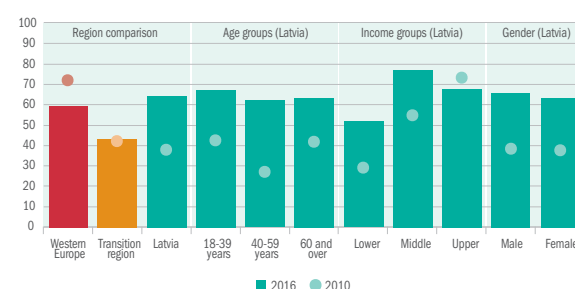
The belief that future generations will have a better life has remained almost unchanged since the last survey, at 53 per cent, and optimism is still higher than the transition region average as well as the corresponding figures for Germany and Italy. While optimism declined by about 10 percentage points among the younger cohorts (those aged 18-39), it also increased by 10 percentage points among the middle-aged.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

Support for democracy increased slightly from 38 per cent in 2010 to 41 per cent in 2016, but it is still below the corresponding average for the transition region. Support for the market economy is rather weak, at 24 per cent, the second lowest value in the transition region and well below the average for CEB. Around one-third of the respondents do not have a marked preference for a specific economic or political system, while the remaining ones state that they would favour, under some circumstances, a planned economy (34 per cent) or an authoritarian regime (31 per cent).

When asked which democratic institutions exist in the country, 66 per cent of respondents mentioned gender equality, followed by peace and stability, and freedom of speech at 60 and 59 per cent, respectively. The extent to which Latvians agree that other basic democratic institutions are in place varies and is lower than 50 per cent. Latvia fares worse than Germany on all accounts. The comparison with Italy, however, yields mixed results: Latvians are more likely to answer that there is peace and stability in their country, an independent press, a strong political opposition and gender equality, while they are less likely to indicate that other institutions, such as free elections, law and order, freedom of speech and a fair court system, are present.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Priorities for government spending

Fifty-three per cent of Latvian respondents think the main priority for extra government spending should be health care, the highest percentage in the transition region, followed by education (19 per cent) and pensions (14 per cent). Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that 50 and 35 per cent of Latvians would be willing to pay more tax, in order to have better public health care and to improve the education system, respectively.

Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Latvians are television and radio, discussions with family and friends, and internet and social media, utilised each day by 76, 68 and 63 per cent of the respondents. The usage rate of the internet and social media is the highest in the transition region and is even above the levels of both western comparator countries. As expected, this high utilisation rate is predominantly driven by the younger generations.

Self-assessed health

Only 40 per cent of Latvian consider their health to be “good” or “very good”, one of the lowest figures in the sample and well below the overall average of 54 per cent for the transition region. However, compared to 2010 levels the country has experienced a 6 percentage point improvement in the indicator.

Quality of public services

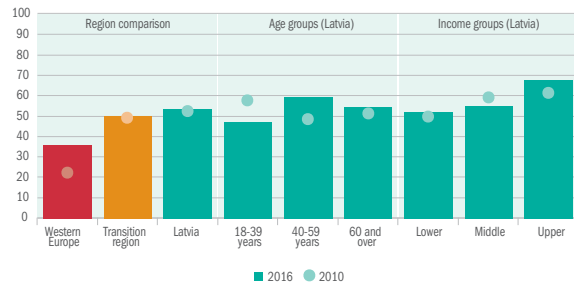
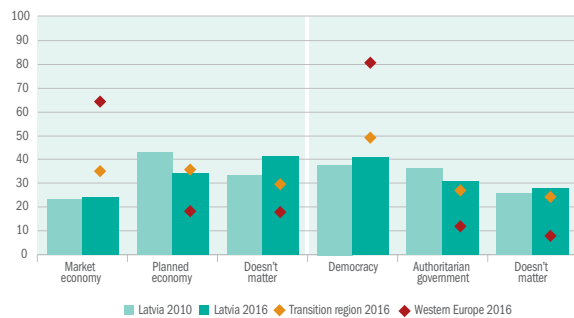
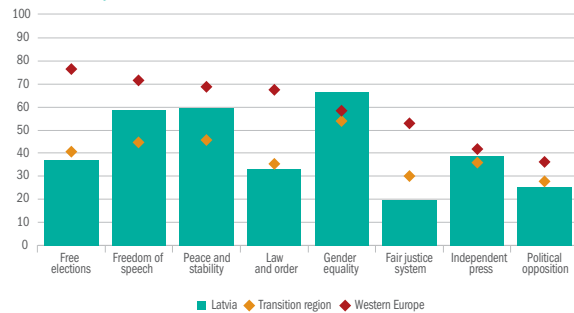
The majority of Latvian respondents are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country, the only exception being the local road network, which causes dissatisfaction for about 59 per cent of the population. Overall, 95 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the quality of the provision of pipeline gas, 91 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the electricity, and 87 per cent deem the quality of their telephone line satisfying. All these figures are in line with the averages for the transition region, while the satisfaction rate for the provision of pipeline gas is among the highest in the sample.

Social and economic mobility

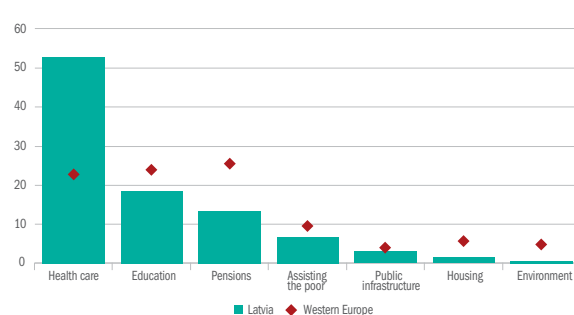
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 51 per cent of Latvian respondents chose “intelligence and skills” and nearly 25 per cent opted for “effort and hard work”, respectively – one of the highest and one of the lowest percentages in the transition region. Only 6 per cent viewed “breaking the law” as a way to succeed in life, which is a small minority but still higher than the corresponding figures for Germany and Italy (1 and 4 per cent, respectively).

Attitudes towards women

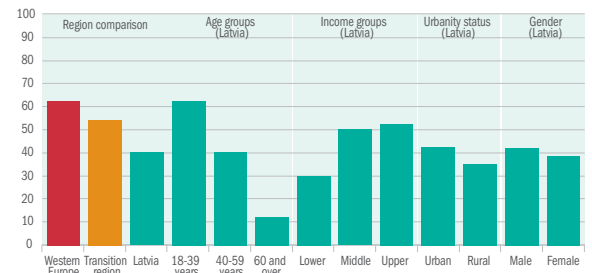
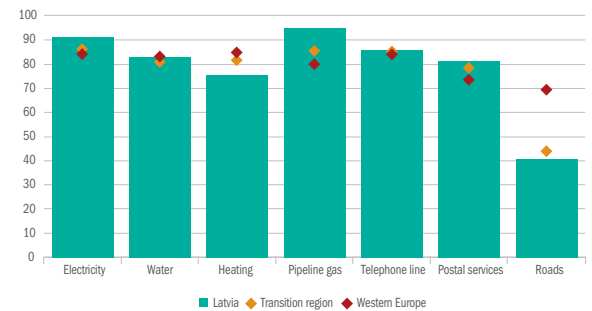
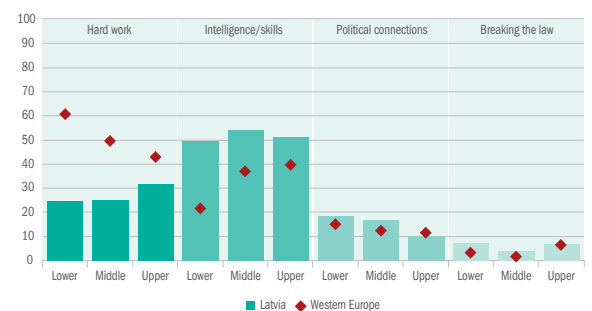
Over 88 per cent of Latvian men and almost 92 per cent of Latvian women consider female business executives to be as competent as male business executives, and around 88 per cent of respondents think that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education. However, 43 per cent of male respondents also believe that men make better politicians than women, 32 per cent of respondents believe that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, and 55 per cent favour a traditional family arrangement, where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation**CHART 3. Market economy and democracy:** percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government**CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions:** percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions**CHART 5. Priorities for government spending**

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

About 31 and 18 per cent of respondents, respectively, believe that the economic and the political situation in Lithuania was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. Both figures are above the corresponding averages for the transition region and broadly in line with those for Germany. Less than one in five Lithuanian respondents believe that corruption declined in the four years preceding the survey, a number below the average for central Europe and the Baltic states (CEB) and the transition region average of 23 per cent.

30 per cent of respondents report that they are satisfied with their current financial situation and 31 per cent believe that households in their country live better than they did four years prior to the survey. Both figures indicate a substantial increase in satisfaction relative to 2010, when only 18 per cent of Lithuanians were satisfied with their financial situation and 24 per cent of the population thought that households had a better life at the time than before.

Life satisfaction levels increased substantially from 34 per cent in 2010 to 56 per cent in 2016, and they are now higher than the CEB average (54 per cent), the transition region average (43 per cent) and the corresponding figure for Italy (42 per cent), but they are still lower than the average for Germany (72 per cent). Satisfaction with life has risen considerably across all age and income groups but still shows a high degree of variation by income group: while only 42 per cent of those in the lower income group are satisfied with their lives, 87 per cent of those in the upper income group report that they happy.

While the belief in a better future for the younger generation increased only slightly from 57 per cent in 2010 to 61 per cent in 2016, optimism levels are well above the average for the transition region (50 per cent). Optimism has increased almost uniformly across all groups of the population, but most notably among middle-aged people and those in the upper income brackets.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

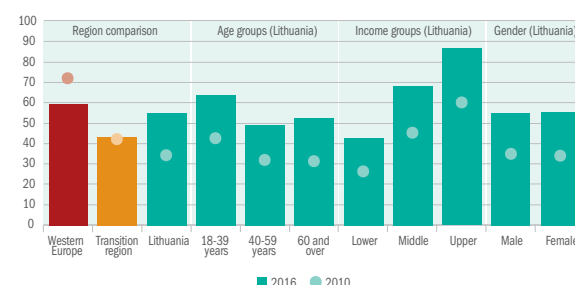
Support for democracy and a market economy has improved considerably since 2010. The proportion of Lithuanian respondents who choose the response option "democracy is preferable to any other form of political system" has risen by 19 percentage points since 2010. 45 per cent of respondents favour the market economy over any other alternative, a figure that is higher than the averages for CEB, the transition region and Italy. However, when asked a hypothetical question about whether they would rather live in a country with full political liberties but weak economic growth (country B), or in one with limited freedoms and stronger growth (country A), more than 70 per cent of Lithuanian respondents report that they would prefer country A.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in the country, 67 per cent of respondents mentioned peace and stability, followed by gender equality and freedom of speech at 61 and 59 per cent, respectively. The extent to which Lithuanians agree that other basic democratic institutions are in place varies and is typically lower than 50 per cent. For instance, only 28 per cent of respondents believe that Lithuania has a strong political opposition, while 19 per cent think the court system treats all citizens fairly and equally. Overall, Lithuania fares worse than Germany with regard to all these indicators.

Priorities for government spending

29 per cent of Lithuanian respondents think the main priority for extra government spending should be health care, followed by education (23 per cent), pensions (19 per cent) and improving the lives of the poor (16 per

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



cent). Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that 48 and 40 per cent of Lithuanians would be prepared to pay more taxes in order to have better public health care and an improved education system, respectively.

Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Lithuanians are television and radio, used each day by 78 per cent of the population, and internet and social media, mentioned by 53 per cent of respondents. These usage rates of both types of media are among the highest in the transition region. Internet and social media usage, in particular, have doubled since the last survey, from 26 per cent in 2010 to 53 per cent in 2016. At the same time, newspaper readership has decreased by 4 percentage points, from 20 per cent in 2010 to 16 per cent in 2016, a value that still compares well with the averages for CEB and the transition region (12 and 9 per cent, respectively).

Self-assessed health

Only 43 per cent of Lithuanian respondents report a positive health self-assessment, which is considerably lower than the averages for the transition region, Germany and Italy. Health appears to be positively correlated with income levels and to have a strongly negative correlation with age. Only 12 per cent of respondents aged 60 or over think they are in good health.

Quality of public services

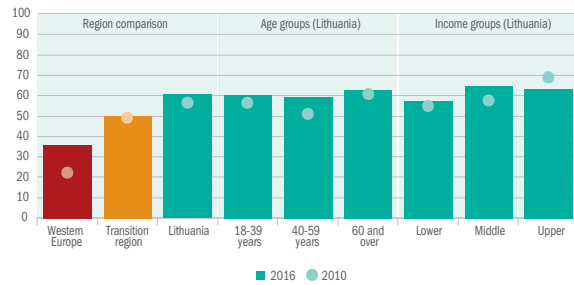
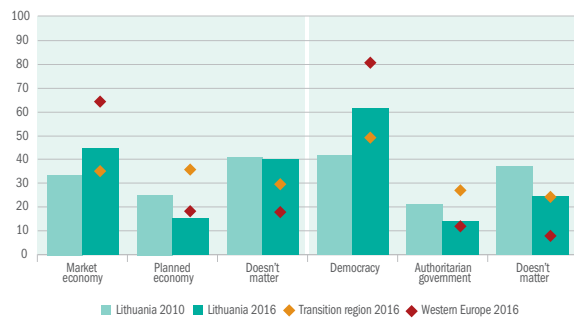
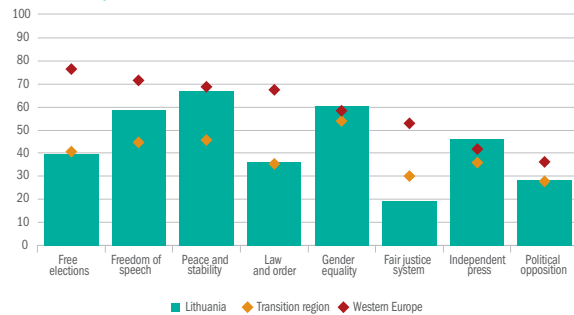
The majority of Lithuanian respondents report that they are satisfied with the quality of public services in their country, the only exception being the local road network, which causes dissatisfaction to around 52 per cent of the respondents. Overall, 96 and 93 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the quality of the provision of pipeline gas and electricity provided to their dwellings, respectively, two of the highest percentages in the transition region. On the other hand, only 64 per cent of respondents are happy with the quality of heating services, one of the lowest satisfaction rates among the transition countries.

Social and economic mobility

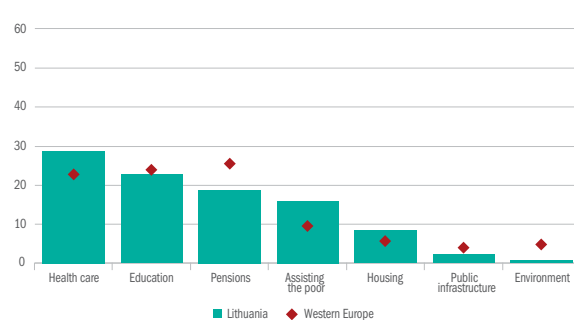
When respondents were asked, from a list of options, what were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 49 per cent of Lithuanian respondents chose "effort and hard work", while 27 per cent opted for "intelligence and skills".

Attitudes towards women

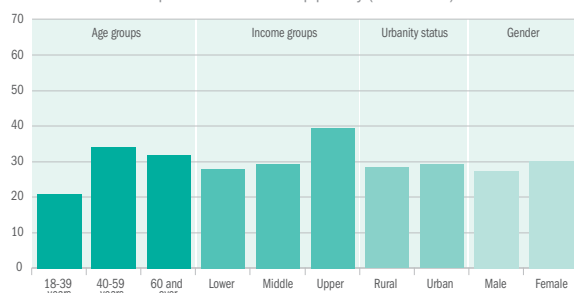
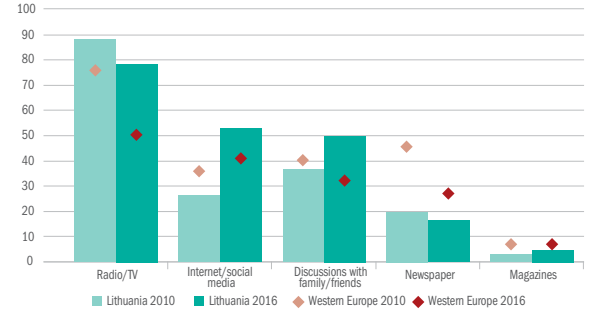
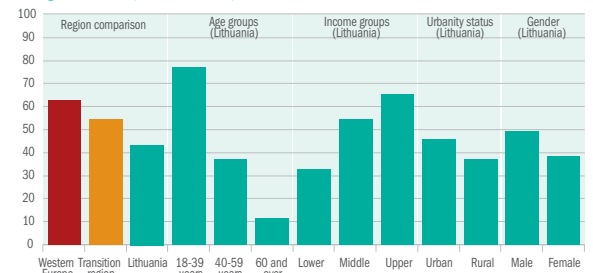
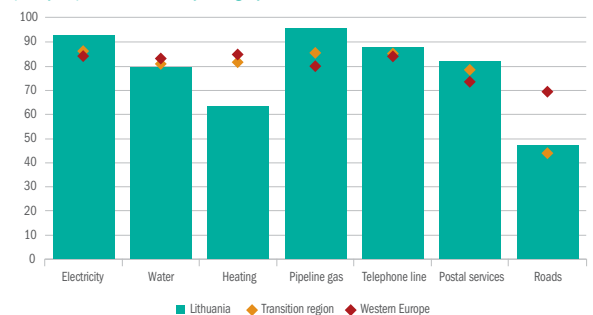
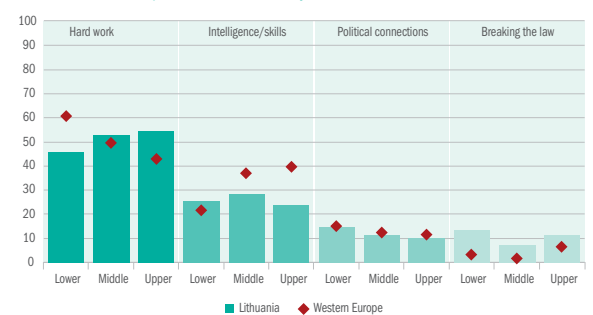
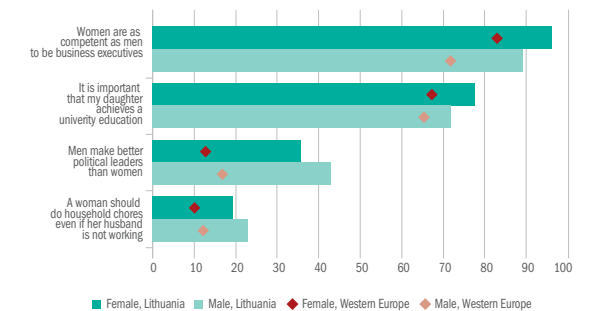
Of male and female respondents, 96 and 89 per cent, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men as business executives, while more than 75 per cent of respondents of either gender think that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education. However, 36 and 43 per cent of women and men think that men make better political leaders than women, 21 per cent think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, and 49 per cent prefer a traditional family arrangement, where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and the family.

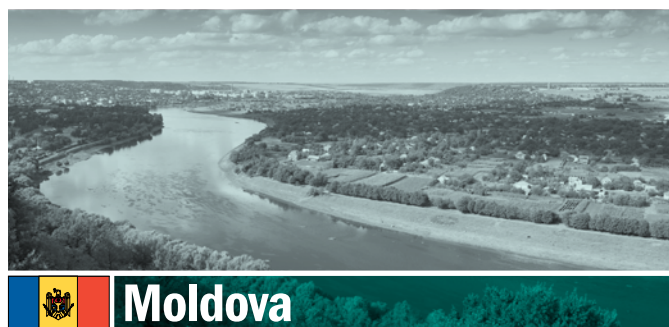
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Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Only 8 and 4 per cent of respondents, respectively, believe that the economic and political situation in Moldova was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These figures are some of the lowest in the transition region, below the corresponding averages for eastern Europe and the Caucasus (EEC) and the overall averages for the transition countries. Moreover, only 10 per cent of those surveyed think that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey, a figure in line with Italy but lower than the numbers reported for EEC, the transition region and Germany (at 16, 23 and 16 per cent, respectively).

Only one in five respondents believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did in the four years before the survey. In addition, a mere 17 per cent of respondents report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a number significantly below the transition region average of 31 per cent but on a par with the regional average of 17 per cent for EEC.

Life satisfaction in Moldova is the second lowest in the transition region. It has dropped by 6 percentage points since the last survey round, from 30 per cent in 2010 to 24 per cent in 2016, and it is now 19 percentage points below the transition region average. The decline in life satisfaction was especially pronounced among respondents aged 18 to 39. Data also show that there is a positive correlation between reported life satisfaction and one's income bracket: 47 per cent of those in the upper income group report being satisfied with their life as opposed to only 18 per cent of the poorest respondents.

Optimism in a better future for the younger generation has dropped by 8 percentage points since 2010 and remains below the average for the transition region (50 per cent) at 34 per cent.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

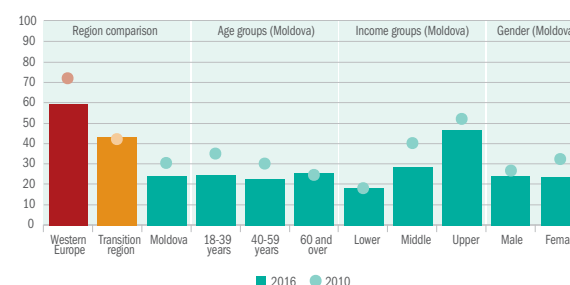
Support for democracy has weakened since the last survey, from 53 per cent in 2010 to 43 per cent in 2016. About 30 per cent of respondents express indifference as to the type of political system that should prevail in Moldova, while one in three respondents would favour, under some circumstances, authoritarianism. In addition, 45 per cent of those surveyed support a market economy and another 29 per cent do not have a clear preference for the type of economic system that should prevail in the country. Lastly, when asked a hypothetical question about whether they would rather live in a country with full political liberties but weak economic growth (country B) or in one with limited freedoms and stronger growth (country A), over 90 per cent of Moldovans reported that they would prefer country A.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Moldova, only 29 per cent of respondents indicated that gender equality is in place in the country, followed by freedom of speech, peace and stability, a strong political opposition and free elections, at 16, 15, 12 and 11 per cent, respectively. These are among the lowest figures reported in the entire transition region.

Priorities for government spending

Government spending on health care should be the first funding priority according to 44 per cent of Moldovan respondents, the sixth highest value in the transition region. In addition, 25 per cent of the population believe that the government should prioritise additional investments in education, while 12 per cent of those surveyed see extra expenditure on pensions as the top priority. Additional results show that around 70 and 67 per cent of those surveyed would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of the public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Moldovans are television and radio, used each day by 59 per cent of the population, and discussions with family, friends or colleagues, mentioned by 51 per cent of respondents. Internet and social media usage has doubled since the last survey, from 20 per cent in 2010 to 40 per cent in 2016, and is now above the transition region average and in line with the corresponding values for the Western comparators. Newspapers and magazines are read on a daily basis by approximately 7 per cent of the interviewed respondents, below the corresponding figures for the transition region, Germany and Italy, but above the EEC average.

Self-assessed health

Moldova reports one of the lowest levels of positive health self-assessments in the transition region, with only 43 per cent of respondents considering their health to be "good" or "very good". Self-assessed health is negatively correlated with age and positively with one's income. Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that, compared to 2010, there has been an increase of 7 points in the percentage of Moldovans who believe themselves to be in good health.

Quality of public services

The majority of Moldovans are satisfied with the quality of public services in their country, with the only exceptions being local roads, which cause dissatisfaction to 81 per cent of those surveyed. The remaining figures range from an 84 per cent satisfaction rate for the quality of telephone lines to a 68 per cent satisfaction rate for the quality of heating services.

Social and economic mobility

When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 65 per cent of Moldovans chose "effort and hard work", the third highest percentage for that specific response option in the transition region, while 17 per cent of those surveyed opted for "intelligence and skills". An additional 11 per cent of Moldovan respondents answered "political contacts".

Attitudes towards women

85 per cent of interviewed respondents think it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, while 85 and 83 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men as business executives. However, 42 and 57 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, think that men make better political leaders than women. In addition, about 44 per cent of respondents of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, and around 65 per cent favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation

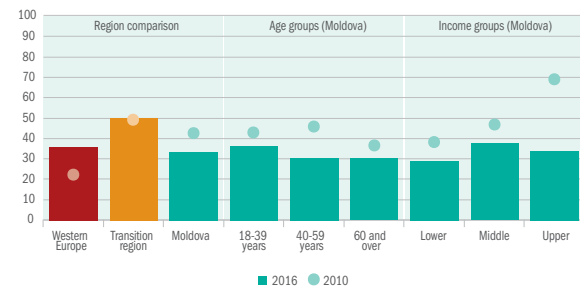


CHART 3. Market economy and democracy: percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government

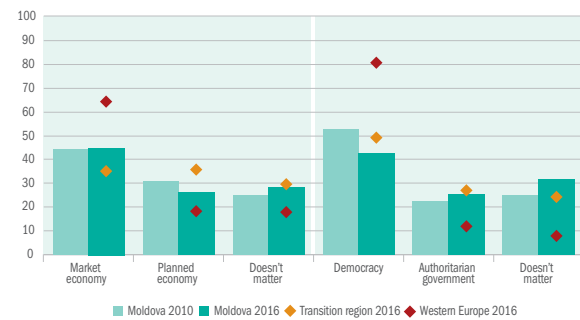


CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions: percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions

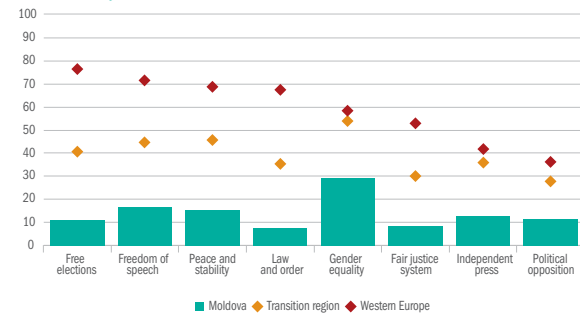
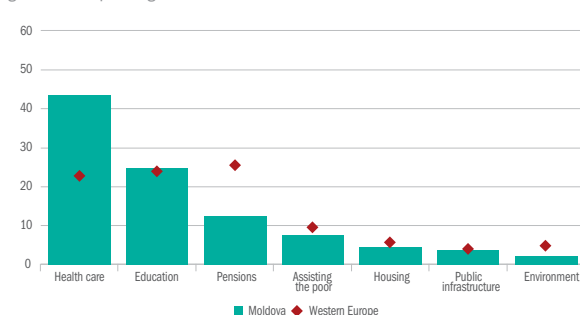


CHART 5. Priorities for government spending

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)



CHART 6. Sources of information: percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information



CHART 7. Health assessment: percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)

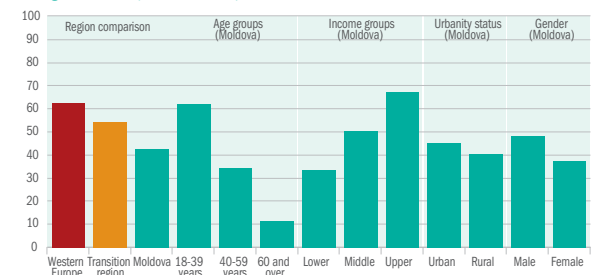


CHART 8. Quality of services: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category

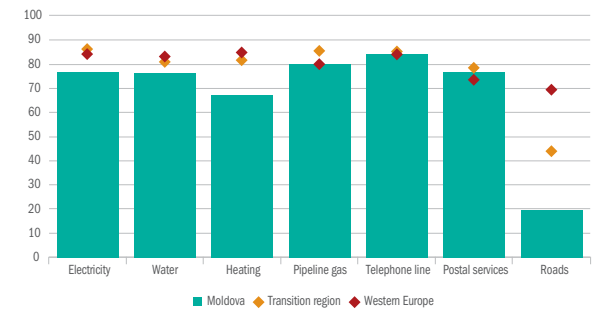


CHART 9. Factors for success: percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level

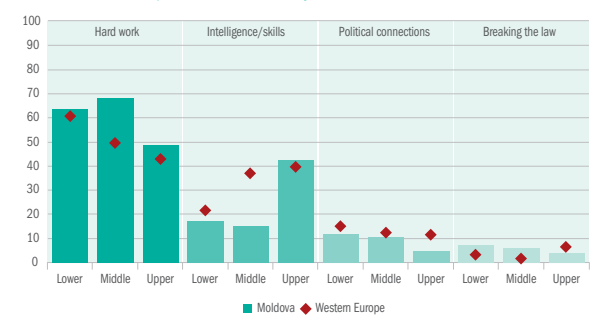
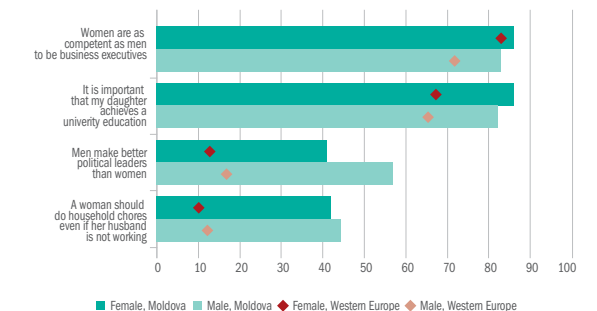
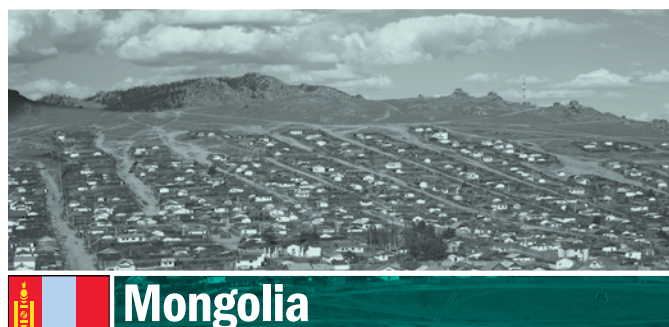


CHART 10. Attitudes towards women: percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below





Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Only 13 and 9 per cent of respondents, respectively, think that the economic and political situation in Mongolia was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey, down from 42 and 29 per cent, respectively, in 2010. While these figures are substantially lower than the corresponding averages for Central Asia (71 and 72 per cent, respectively), they are also approximately equivalent to one-half and one-third of the averages for the transition region (24 and 28 per cent, respectively). Moreover, 17 per cent of Mongolians believe that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey.

38 per cent of respondents believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did in the four years before the survey, a figure that increases to 43 per cent among respondents aged between 18 and 39 and to an impressive 70 per cent for the respondents in the upper income bracket. Approximately one in three Mongolians report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a value slightly above the transition region average of 31 per cent but significantly lower than the average for Central Asia (65 per cent).

Life satisfaction has improved overall by 1 percentage point since the last survey, from 54 per cent in 2010 to 55 per cent in 2016, and more so for respondents in the upper-income bracket.

Optimism about the future has declined by 6 percentage points compared to 2010. In 2016, 63 per cent of respondents believe that future generations will have a better life than the current generations, as opposed to about 50 per cent of the population in the transition region as a whole. Optimism is less pronounced among those in the upper-income group and for respondents aged 60 and over.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

Among Mongolian respondents, 60 per cent support a market economy (the third highest figure in the transition region), while around one-third of those surveyed believe that a planned economy might be preferable over a market economy under some circumstances. While the majority of respondents (54 per cent) prefer democracy to any other form of government, about 29 per cent say they might prefer, under some circumstances, an authoritarian system.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Mongolia, the majority of the population mentioned peace and stability and freedom of speech, at 64 and 53 per cent, respectively. The extent to which respondents agree that other basic democratic institutions exist in their country is rather low and below 50 per cent: for instance, only one in five Mongolians believe that free elections are conducted in the country, one of the lowest figures in the transition region.

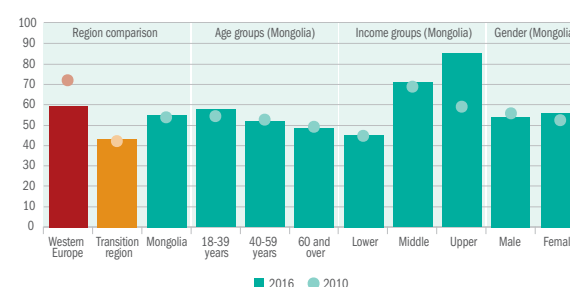
Priorities for government spending

36 per cent of Mongolians believe that the public health system should be prioritised for additional government spending. Other funding priorities identified by the survey respondents are education (at 24 per cent) and helping the poor (17 per cent). Additional results show that around 69 and 65 per cent of those surveyed would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of the public health system and public education, respectively.

Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Mongolians are the television and the radio, used by 82 per cent of the respondents (the second highest figure in the transition region), and conversations with family, friends and colleagues, mentioned by 42 per cent of those surveyed. In addition, a quarter of respondents use the internet and social media on a daily basis.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Self-assessed health

53 per cent of Mongolians say they are in good health, a figure that is in line with the averages for the transition region and Italy (54 per cent in both cases) but lower than the corresponding figure for Germany (68 per cent). Data show that, relative to 2010, there has been a substantial increase in positive health assessments among the upper income group (44 percentage points) while the opposite holds for respondents aged 60 and over (a decrease by 21 percentage points).

Quality of public services

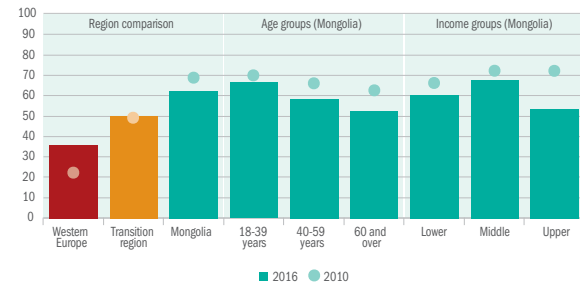
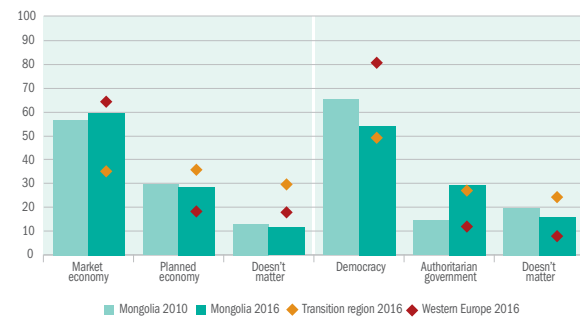
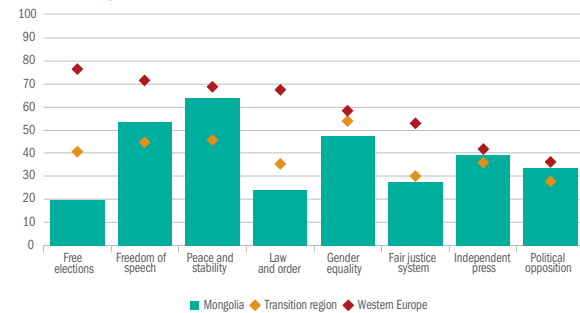
The majority of those surveyed report being satisfied with the quality of public services in their country, with the exception of local roads and postal services, which cause dissatisfaction to around 56 and 68 per cent of the population, respectively. The remaining figures range from a 70 per cent satisfaction rate for the provision of electricity to a satisfaction rate of 63 per cent for water services. Compared to the western European comparators, Mongolian respondents are less satisfied with the quality of the public services and utilities.

Social and economic mobility

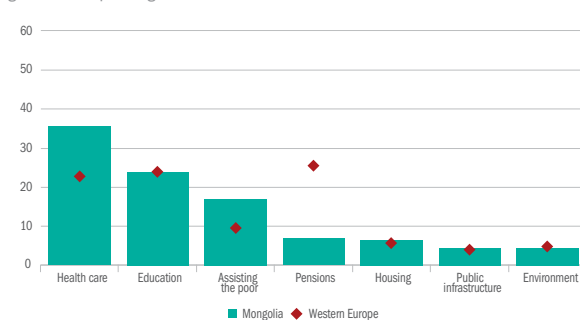
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 69 per cent of Mongolians chose "effort and hard work", the second highest result in the transition region, and a 10 percentage points increase relative to 2010 levels. About 20 per cent of respondents opted for "intelligence and skills", which is below the averages for both Germany and Italy.

Attitudes towards women

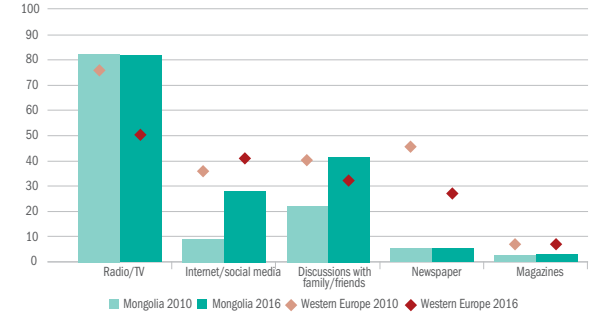
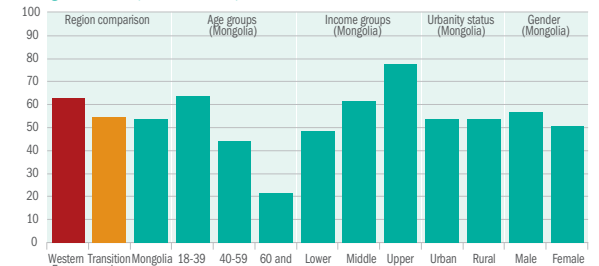
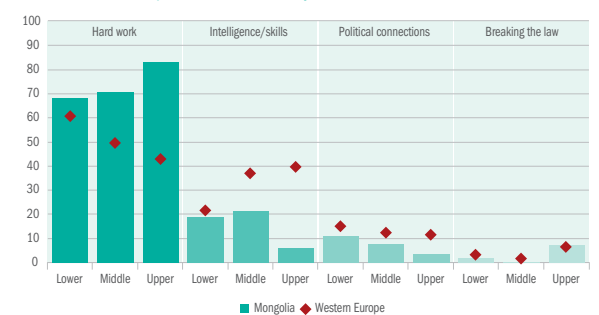
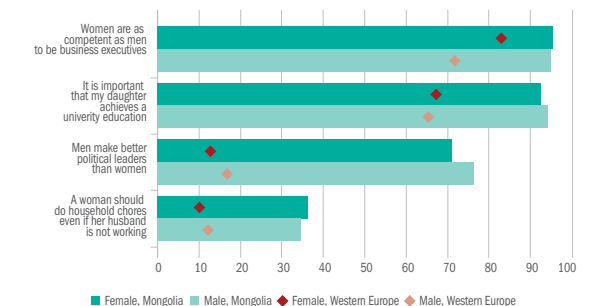
93 per cent of respondents believe it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, while 95 per cent think that women are as competent as men as business executives, the highest figure in the transition region. Nevertheless, 70 per cent of female and male respondents believe that men are better political leaders than women. In addition, 45 per cent of the sample favours a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children, and 35 per cent of respondents of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

24 and 21 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in Montenegro was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey, values higher than the averages for south-eastern Europe (SEE), both at 17 per cent. Furthermore, 20 per cent of interviewed individuals think that corruption levels improved over the four years preceding the survey, 2 percentage points more than in the SEE region as a whole but 3 percentage points below the transition region average.

Among Montenegrin respondents, 28 per cent believe that their household was better off in 2016 as compared to four years prior to the survey, while 32 per cent are satisfied with their personal financial situation. Both values are comparable to the respective transition region averages and higher than the averages for SEE as a whole.

Life satisfaction slightly increased by 4 percentage points compared to 2010, particularly for those in the lower and middle income groups and among respondents aged 40 and above. As of 2016, 46 per cent of Montenegrin respondents were satisfied with their life, a percentage higher than the averages for Italy, SEE and the transition region (42, 39 and 43 per cent, respectively).

40 per cent of Montenegrin respondents think that children born now will have a better life than the current generations, a 10 percentage point decline relative to 2010 levels, and a level of optimism that is well below the transition region average of 50 per cent.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

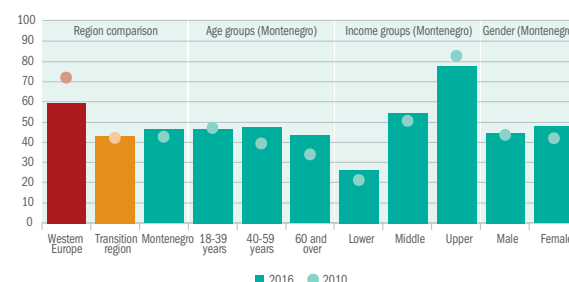
Among Montenegrin respondents, 58 and 44 per cent prefer democracy and a market economy over any other form of political or economic system, respectively. Both these percentages are higher than the corresponding transition region averages (51 and 37 per cent, respectively). Around 17 and 25 per cent of Montenegrins believe that an authoritarian system and a planned economy may be better under some circumstances, while 25 and 31 per cent state that “for people like me, it does not matter” which political and economic system prevails, respectively.

Despite the relatively strong support for democracy, Montenegrins are sceptical about the existence of democratic institutions in the country. Only 26 per cent of respondents believe that elections in their country are free, compared to an average of 39 per cent for SEE and 41 per cent for the transition region. Similarly, only a quarter of Montenegrins believe that the press is independent, while 37 per cent think that there is gender equality in their country. Both these figures are substantially lower than the averages for SEE and the transition region. Montenegrin respondents’ trust in law and order, freedom of speech, a strong political opposition and a fair court system are comparable to those in SEE and the transition region.

Priorities for government spending

Among Montenegrin respondents, 32 per cent would prefer extra government funding to be spent on health care, a figure comparable to the average for the transition region as a whole (34 per cent). This is followed by helping the poor (24 per cent), investments in education (19 per cent) and pensions (14 per cent). Housing, the environment and infrastructure are mentioned by less than 3 per cent of all respondents as priorities for government spending. Consistently, additional results from LITS III show that about 61 and 48 per cent of Montenegrin respondents would be willing to pay more taxes in order to improve the quality of the public health system and to assist the poor, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Montenegrins are the television and the radio (66 per cent), followed by discussions with family, friends or colleagues (63 per cent) and the internet and social media (51 per cent). Newspapers are read on a daily basis by 37 per cent of the population, the highest average in the transition region, on a par with Estonia.

Self-assessed health

73 per cent of Montenegrin respondents report a positive health self-assessment, the third highest percentage in the sample and one higher than the averages for Italy (54 per cent), Germany (68 per cent), SEE (65 per cent) and the transition region (54 per cent). Additional analysis, however, shows that compared to 2010 there has been a 4 percentage point decline in perceived health quality across almost all demographic groups. Only those aged 60 and older exhibited an improvement in reported health (of 15 percentage points).

Quality of public services

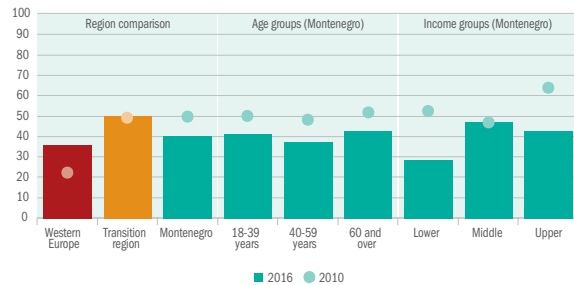
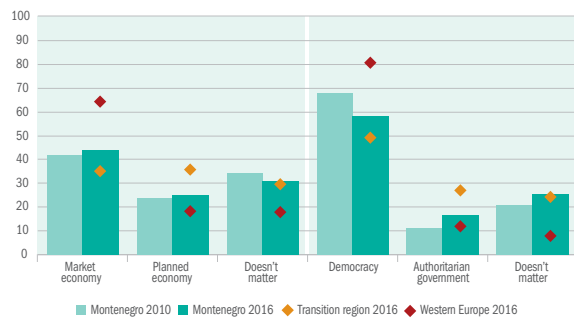
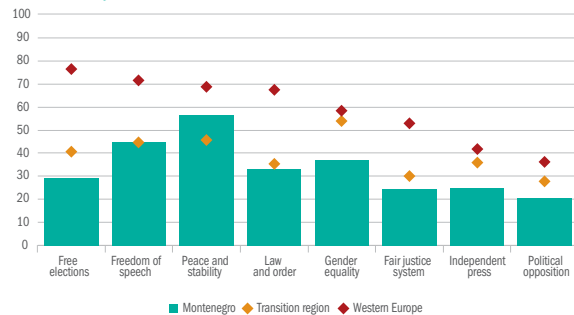
Slightly more than 70 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the quality of the supply of water, electricity, and telephone line services. However, all three percentages are below the respective averages for SEE and the transition region. Satisfaction with the quality of local roads (42 per cent), postal services (78 per cent), and heating (83 per cent) is comparable to the averages for both SEE and the transition region.

Social and economic mobility

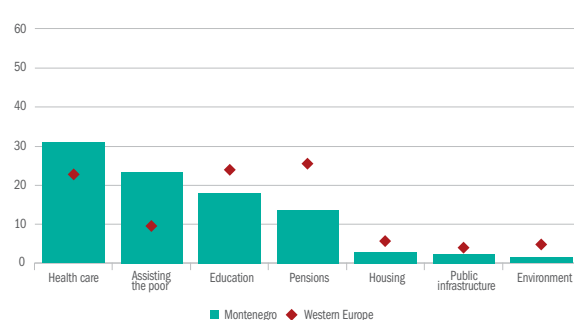
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 49 per cent of Montenegrins chose “effort and hard work”, while the second most popular answer was “political connections” (29 per cent).

Attitudes towards women

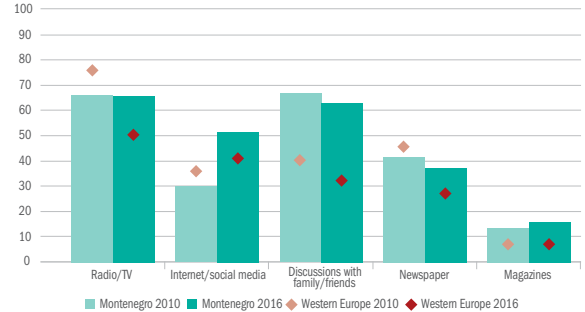
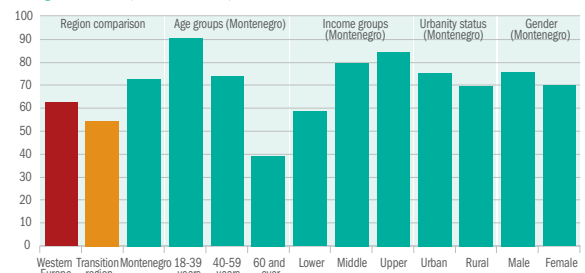
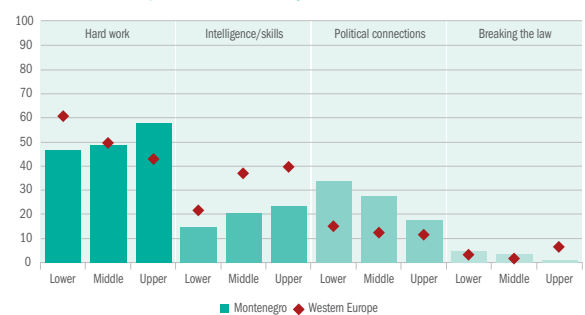
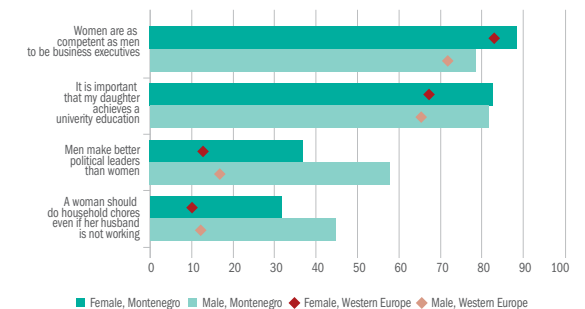
88 and 78 per cent of female and male Montenegrin respondents, respectively, think that women are as competent as men as business executives. Moreover, 82 per cent of all Montenegrins believe that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education. However, a considerably higher proportion of men believe that men make better political leaders than women (58 per cent of men as opposed to 37 per cent of women) and that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working (45 per cent of men compared to 32 per cent of women). Lastly, 56 per cent of interviewed respondents favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the family.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation**CHART 3. Market economy and democracy:** percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government**CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions:** percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions**CHART 5. Priorities for government spending**

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

About 32 and 27 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and the political situation in Poland was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. The first figure is above the corresponding average for central Europe and the Baltic states (CEB), the average for the transition region as a whole and the average for Italy, while it is 1 percentage point below the average for Germany. Appreciation of the present political situation is, instead, higher than in the CEB region, Italy and also Germany. Moreover, one in three Polish respondents believe that corruption declined in the four years preceding the survey, a number substantially above the CEB and transition region averages of 23 per cent.

Among Polish respondents, 44 per cent report that they are satisfied with their current financial situation and 40 per cent believe that households in their country live better than they did four years prior to the survey.

Life satisfaction increased from 56 per cent in 2010 to 58 per cent in 2016, and is now higher than the transition region average (43 per cent) and the corresponding figure for Italy (42 per cent). However, Poland still fares worse relative to Germany, where as many as three in four respondents report being satisfied with their life. Relative to 2010 levels, the lowest-income bracket of the population saw a drop in life satisfaction of 10 percentage points, while the middle and upper income groups experienced modest increases (6 percentage points and 3 percentage points, respectively).

Confidence in a better future for the younger generation slightly decreased from 56 per cent in 2010 to 55 per cent in 2016, but it is still well above the transition region average of 50 per cent and the corresponding values for Germany and Italy (46 and 22 per cent, respectively). There is almost no variation in the level of optimism across different age groups of the surveyed population, but middle and upper income groups do seem more optimistic than their peers in the lower income bracket.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

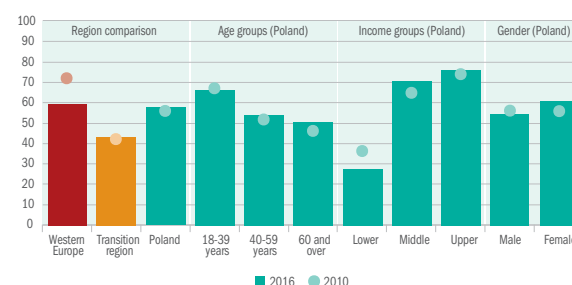
Support for democracy and the market economy increased significantly from 46 and 30 per cent in 2010 to 57 and 41 per cent in 2016, respectively, and are now well above the corresponding averages for the transition region. Still, a quarter of the respondents do not have a marked preference for a specific political system, while one-third of interviewed Polish individuals believe that “for people like me, it does not matter” which economic system is in place.

Perceptions of the existence of basic democratic institutions in Poland vary. When asked which democratic institutions existed in the country, 82 per cent of respondents mentioned free elections, followed by gender equality, peace and stability, freedom of speech, law and order and an independent press, at 76, 62, 61, 55 and 55 per cent, respectively.

Priorities for government spending

About 48 per cent of Polish respondents cite health care as what they think should be the main priority for additional government spending, followed by pensions (17 per cent), assisting the poor (11 per cent) and housing (10 per cent). Only 8 per cent think that education deserves priority attention, which is well below the corresponding values for comparator countries (31 per cent for Germany and 13 per cent for Italy). Additional analysis of the LITS III data shows that 41 and 26 per cent of Polish respondents would be willing to pay more taxes, in order to have better public health care and an improved education system, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Polish respondents are television and the radio, used each day by 53 per cent of the population, and internet and social media, mentioned by 38 per cent of respondents. Newspaper readership decreased by 4 percentage points, from 12 per cent in 2010 to 8 per cent in 2016, a number that is now lower than the averages for CEB and the transition region (12 and 9 per cent, respectively), and especially below the corresponding figures for Germany and Italy.

Self-assessed health

Among Polish respondents, 63 per cent report a positive health status, a percentage that is higher than the transition region average of 54 per cent and similar to the values reported in Western comparators. On average, compared to 2010, there has been a modest increase (4 percentage points) in self-reported good health. Not surprisingly, health is negatively correlated with age. While there are no significant differences between male and female respondents, people who live in rural areas are more likely to define their health as “good” or “very good”.

Quality of public services

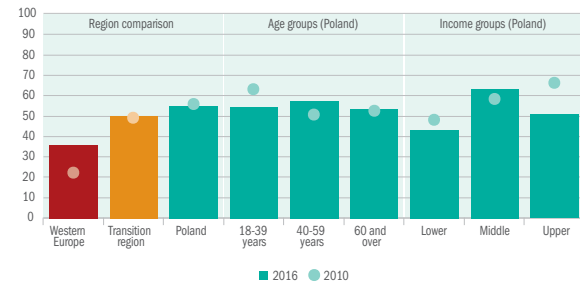
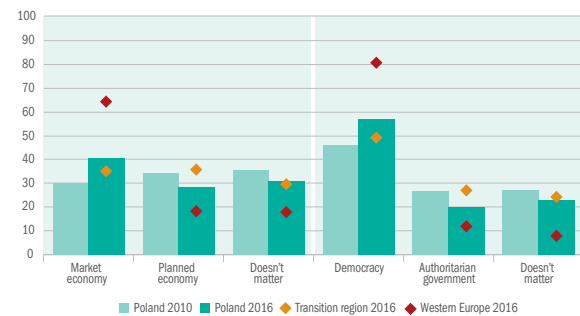
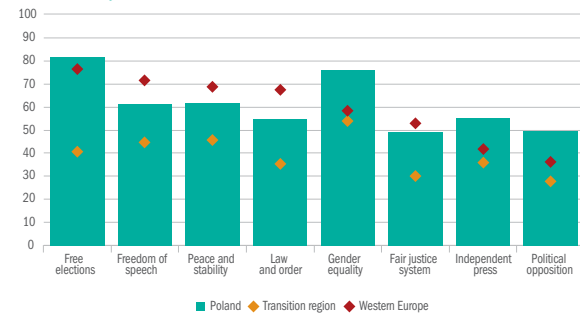
The majority of Poles report that they are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country. Overall, 93 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the provision of water and pipeline gas, and 92 per cent are happy with the electricity provided to their dwellings. All these figures compare well with the averages for the transition region and Germany, and are higher than the ones reported in Italy.

Social and economic mobility

When Polish respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 38 per cent chose “effort and hard work” and 39 per cent opted for “intelligence and skills”.

Attitudes towards women

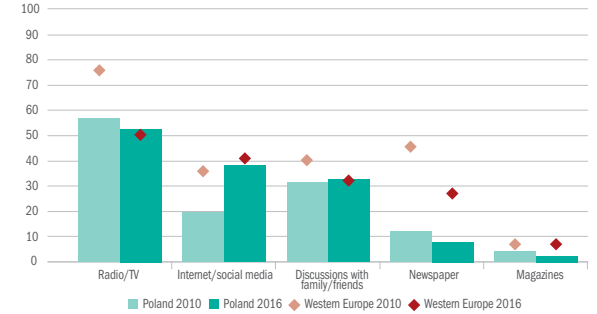
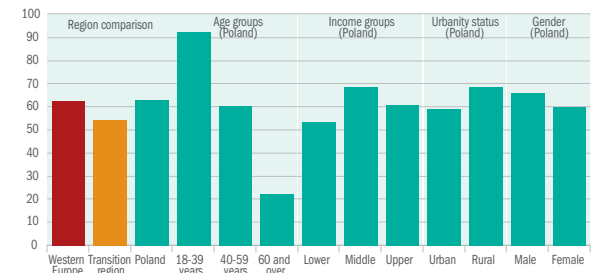
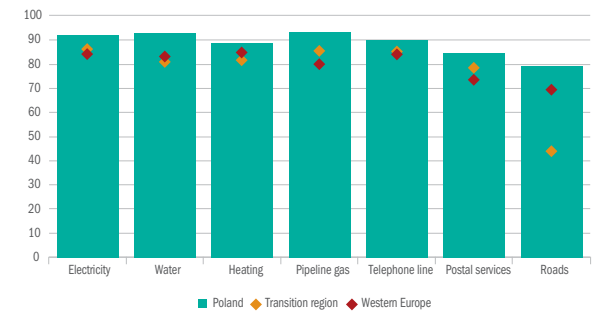
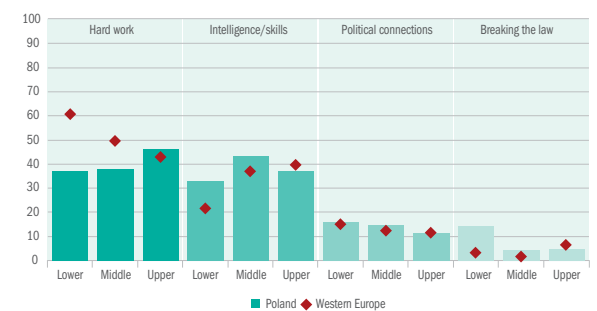
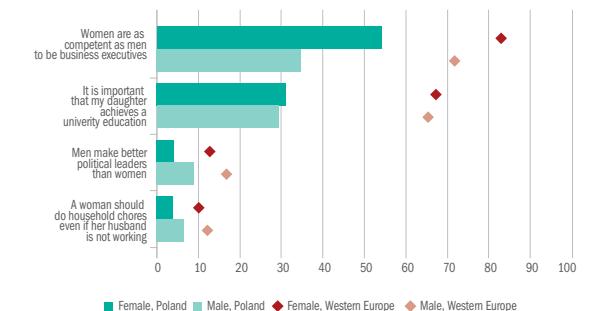
Only 54 per cent of female Polish respondents and 35 per cent of male Polish respondents think that women are as competent as men as business executives and only 30 per cent of respondents believe it important for their daughter to achieve a university education. These figures are substantially lower than the averages for the western European comparators and contrast with the earlier observation that 76 per cent of Polish respondents feel there is gender equality in the country. Other results show that only 6 per cent of respondents believe that men make better politicians than women, and only 5 per cent of Poles believe that a woman should do household chores, even if her husband is not working.

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Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Of Romanian respondents, 23 and 20 per cent, respectively, believe that the economic and political situation was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These percentages are higher than the averages for south-eastern Europe (SEE), both at 17 per cent, but below the corresponding figures for the transition region as a whole (24 and 28 per cent, respectively). About one in five Romanians think that corruption levels improved during the four years preceding the survey which, again, is slightly above the SEE average (18 per cent) but slightly below the transition region average (23 per cent).

About 35 per cent of Romanians believe that their household was better off in 2016 compared with four years prior to the survey, and 36 per cent are satisfied with their personal financial situation. These percentages are above the respective SEE and transition region averages.

Life satisfaction has increased substantially across all age and income groups since the last survey, from only 18 per cent in 2010 to 45 per cent in 2016. On average, Romanians are now happier than the average respondent in SEE and the transition region.

The percentage of Romanian respondents who think that children born now will have a better life than the current generation has also experienced a significant increase since the last survey: 21 per cent of respondents were optimistic in 2010, as opposed to 38 per cent in 2016. The level of optimism in Romania is now comparable to that in SEE as a whole (39 per cent) but it is still below the corresponding average for the transition region (50 per cent).

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

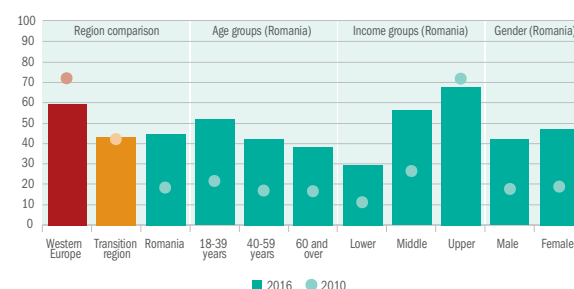
53 and 43 per cent of Romanians support democracy and the market economy, two figures that are higher than the respective averages for the transition region and Italy, but below those for Germany. In addition, 22 and 26 per cent of respondents believe that under some circumstances an authoritarian system or a planned economy could be preferable, while 25 and 31 per cent are indifferent to the different types of political or economic systems, respectively.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in the country, 61 per cent of respondents indicated that peace and stability are guaranteed, followed by 56 and 52 per cent of those surveyed saying, respectively, that freedom of speech and gender equality are respected. Only a minority of Romanians believe that other basic democratic institutions are in place. For instance, only 30 per cent of those surveyed think that elections are free, while only one in four Romanians believe that law and order and a strong political opposition exist in the country.

Priorities for government spending

41 per cent of respondents would prefer extra government funding to be spent on health care, a figure above the averages for the transition countries (34 per cent) and SEE (35 per cent). This is followed by investments in education (25 per cent), pensions (13 per cent) and helping the poor (8 per cent). Other options for extra spending, such as public infrastructure or the environment, attract little support. Consistently, 41 per cent of Romanians indicate that they would be willing to pay more taxes themselves to improve the health system.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Romanian respondents are the television and the radio (73 per cent), followed by discussions with family, friends or colleagues (40 per cent) and the internet and social media (29 per cent). As of 2016, an urban-rural divide persists in the use of the internet as the main source of information, with 40 per cent of respondents from urban areas reporting daily usage while the usage rate is still as low as 16 per cent among rural Romanians. Newspapers are read on a daily basis by 10 per cent of the Romanian respondents, a figure slightly higher than the average for the transition region (9 per cent), but lower than newspaper readership in SEE, Germany and Italy (14, 31 and 21 per cent, respectively).

Self-assessed health

56 per cent of Romanian respondents report a positive self-assessment of their health, which is slightly above the averages for the transition region and Italy (both at 54 per cent) but below the values for SEE and Germany (65 and 68 per cent, respectively). Additional analysis shows that, compared with 2010, all demographic groups report better health conditions.

Quality of public services

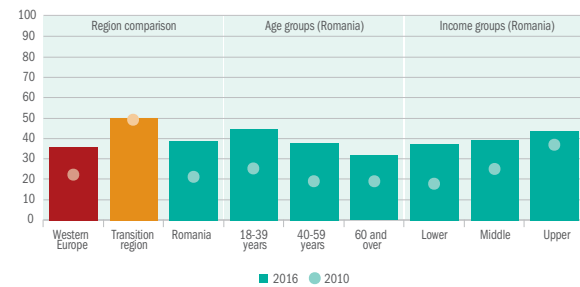
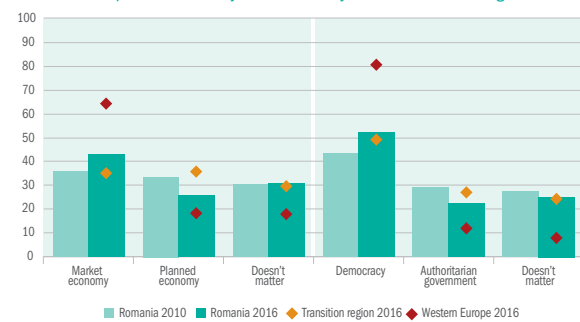
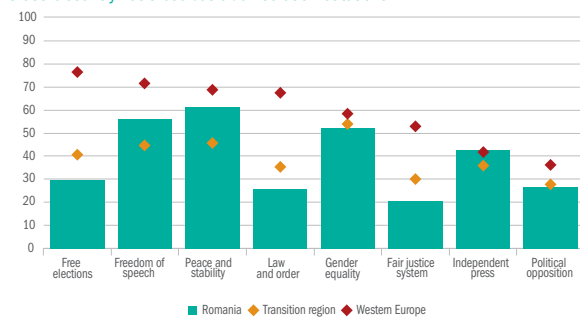
More than 80 per cent of Romanians believe that, overall, their country provides access to high-quality public services, with the sole exception of local roads, whose quality is deemed satisfactory by only 46 per cent of the respondents. Still, compared with the transition region averages, satisfaction with the quality of public services is higher in Romania across all the indicators (including the one related to local roads). The satisfaction rates for all the categories (except for local roads) are also comparable with or higher than the averages for Germany and Italy.

Social and economic mobility

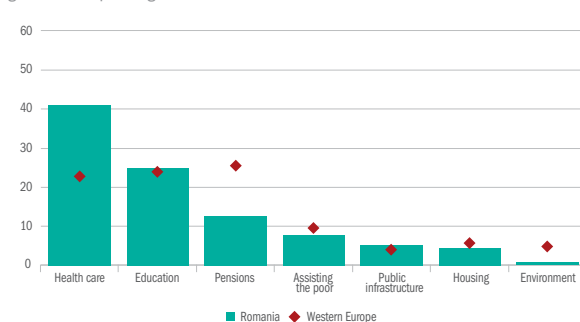
When Romanian respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, about 52 per cent of them chose "effort and hard work" and 23 per cent answered "intelligence and skills". 13 per cent opted for "breaking the law", one of the highest figures for that response option in the transition region.

Attitudes towards women

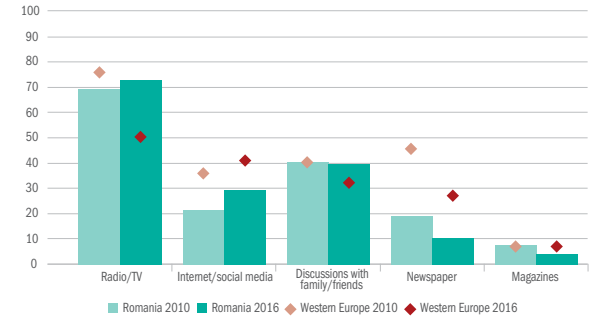
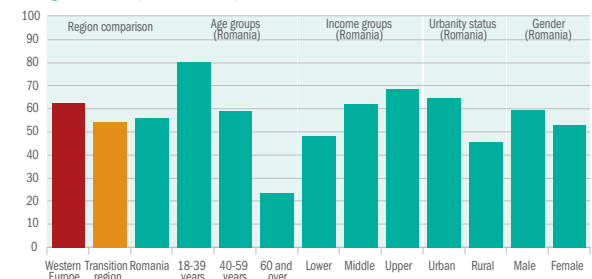
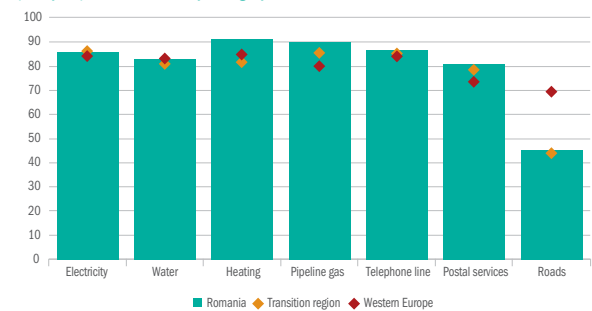
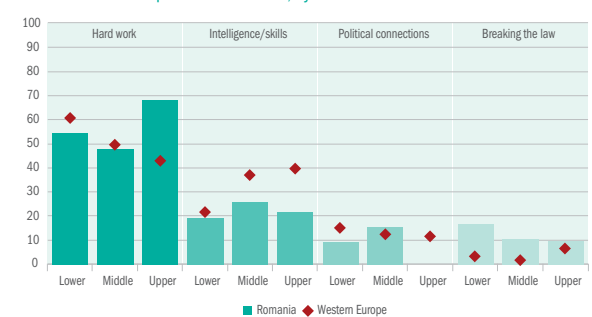
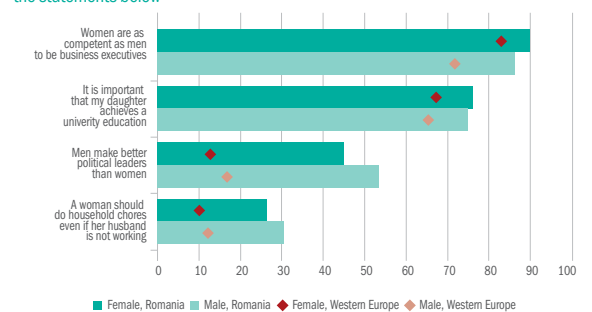
90 and 86 per cent, respectively, of female and male Romanian respondents think that women are as competent as men to be business executives, and 75 per cent believe that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education. However, 53 per cent of men and 45 per cent of women also think that men make better political leaders than women. Lastly, about half of Romanian respondents favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the family, while 28 per cent think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Only 9 per cent of the Russian population believes that the economic situation was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey, down from 27 per cent in 2010, a figure far below the averages for the transition region and Germany. The number of respondents who are pessimistic about the state of the economy is particularly high among those in the lower income group and those aged 60 and above. Only 22 per cent of those surveyed think that the political situation was better in 2016 than four years before, a figure again below the transition region average (28 per cent). In addition, as little as 13 per cent of respondents believe that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey.

Only 15 per cent of Russians believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did four years before the survey (one of the lowest figures in the transition region), as opposed to 30 per cent of the Russians who took part in the 2010 survey. Moreover, only one in five respondents also report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a value significantly below the transition region average of 31 per cent and the averages for both Germany and Italy (55 and 33 per cent, respectively).

Life satisfaction has fallen from 43 per cent in 2010 to 32 per cent in 2016, particularly among those in the upper income group. As a result, Russians are now much less satisfied with their life than their counterparts in Germany and Italy, where 72 and 42 per cent of the population report being satisfied, respectively.

Lastly, 49 per cent of Russians believe that children born today will have a better future than the current generations, in line with the transition region average of 50 per cent and above the levels of optimism in the comparator countries.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

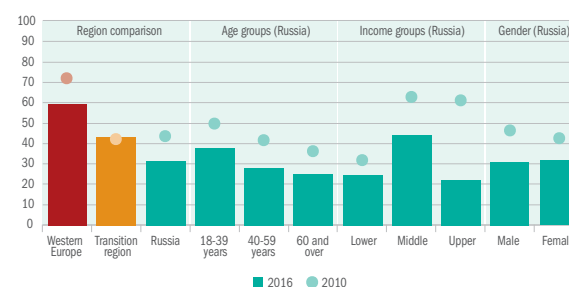
Support for democracy and the market economy has weakened slightly since the last survey, from 38 and 28 per cent in 2010 to 36 and 25 per cent in 2016, respectively, and is now considerably weaker than in the comparator countries Germany and Italy. Around 30 per cent of those surveyed do not have a clear preference for a specific political or economic system, while 36 and 46 per cent of Russians think that an authoritarian system or a planned economy, respectively, could be preferable under some circumstances, two of the highest figures in the transition region. When respondents were asked, hypothetically, whether they would rather live in a country with full political liberties but weak economic growth (country B), or in one with fewer political liberties but strong economic growth (country A), 83 per cent of Russian opted for country A, as opposed to 15 per cent of Germans and 69 per cent of Italians.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Russia, 58 per cent of the respondents mentioned gender equality, a value that is slightly above the transition region average and well above the Italian average but still below the German one, while 45 and 38 per cent indicated that freedom of speech and an independent press are also respected in the country. Only a minority of the surveyed population agree that democratic institutions such as free elections or a strong political opposition are in place. Moreover, all these percentages are below the respective transition averages. Lastly, only 34 per cent of respondents think that the country provides peace and stability, one of the lowest figures in the transition region.

Priorities for government spending

30 per cent of those surveyed believe that health care should be the main priority for extra government spending. Moreover, 19 per cent think that the government should utilise additional funding for pensions, while only 15 per cent say that

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



education deserves more attention. Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that 33 and 23 per cent of Russian respondents would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of their public health system and public education, respectively.

Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Russian respondents are the television and the radio and discussions with family, friends or colleagues, mentioned by 48 and 38 per cent of those surveyed, respectively. Moreover, one in four respondents use the internet and social media on a daily basis. Newspapers are read at least once a day by only 4 per cent of the population, one of the lowest percentages in the entire transition region. The percentage of those who watch the television or listen to the radio every day is higher among the older generations and rural residents. Urban residents, young people and respondents in the middle and upper income groups report higher internet and social media usage, instead.

Self-assessed health

Only about 42 per cent of Russian respondents consider their health to be “good” or “very good”, which is below the averages for the transition region, Germany and Italy (54, 68 and 54 per cent, respectively). However, compared with 2010, self-reported health improved across all demographic groups, except for those aged 60 and above and, surprisingly, for the respondents in the upper income group.

Quality of public services

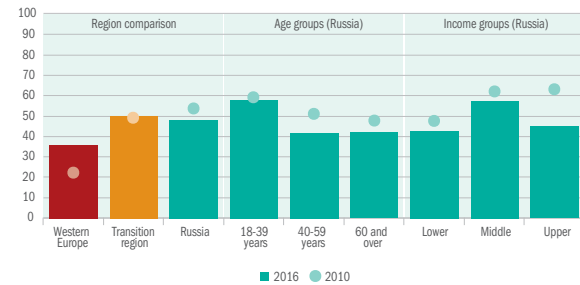
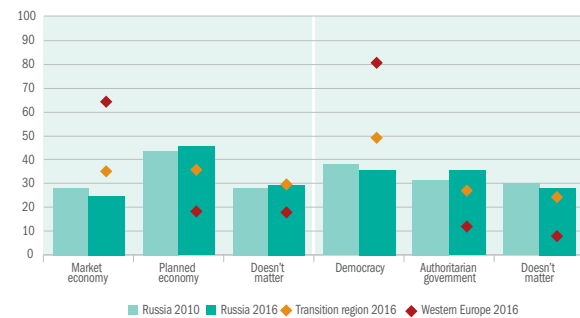
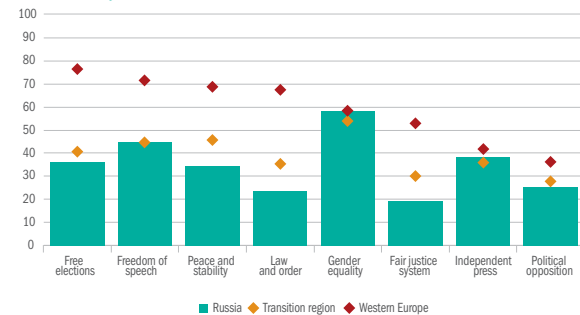
The majority of Russians are satisfied with the quality of public services in their country, with the exception of local roads, which cause dissatisfaction to about 69 per cent of the population. The satisfaction rates for the other services (water, electricity, heating, telephone lines, pipeline gas and postal services) are higher than the corresponding transition region averages and broadly in line with the German ones.

Social and economic mobility

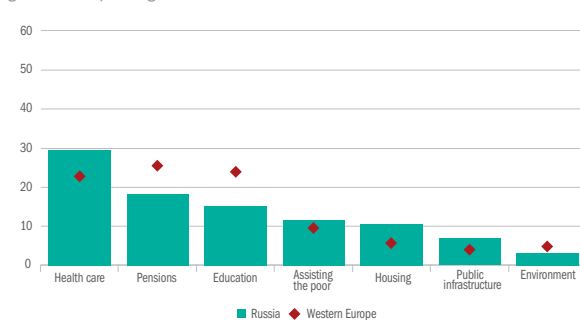
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 38 per cent of Russian respondents chose “effort and hard work”, while another 35 per cent opted for “intelligence and skills”, with little variation across income groups. About 19 per cent of the respondents answered “political connections”, a figure above the German average of 3 per cent, but lower than the transition region average of 21 per cent and the Italian average of 27 per cent.

Attitudes towards women

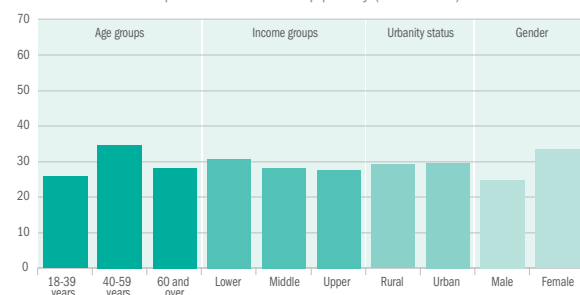
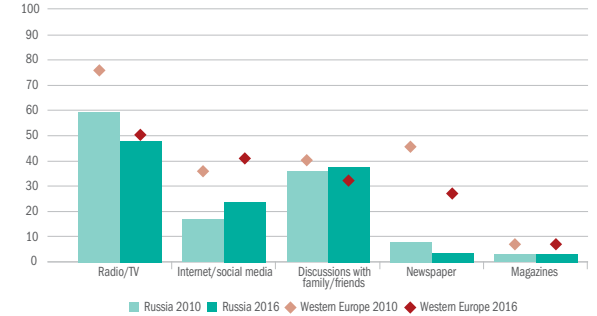
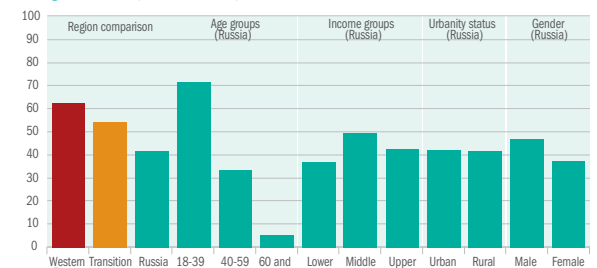
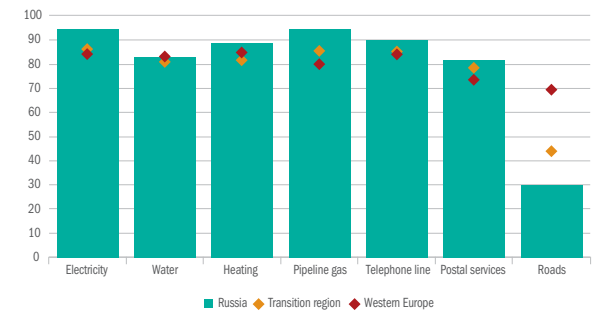
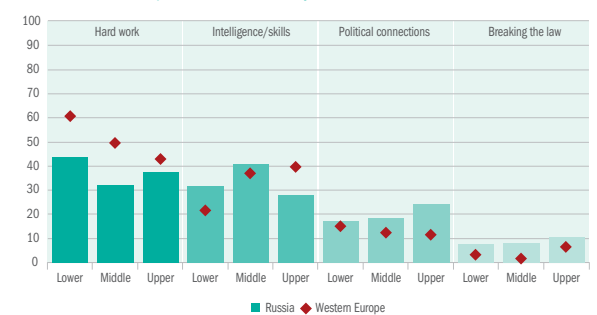
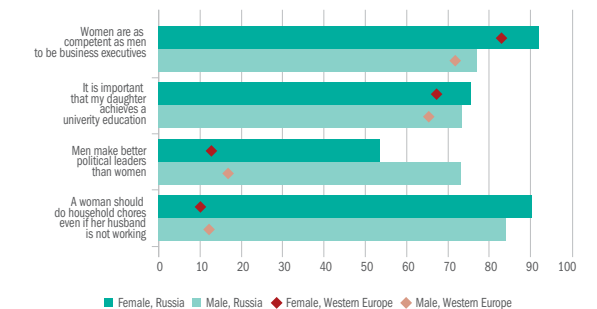
75 per cent of respondents believe it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, while 92 per cent of female respondents and 77 per cent of male respondents think that female business executives are as competent as male business executives. Nevertheless, 53 and 72 per cent of female and male respondents also believe that men make better political leaders than women, respectively, while three-quarters of the population favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children. Lastly, 88 per cent of respondents of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, the second highest figure in the transition region.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation**CHART 3. Market economy and democracy:** percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government**CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions:** percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions**CHART 5. Priorities for government spending**

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

28 and 32 per cent of Serbian respondents believe that the economic and political conditions in their country were better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. Both these percentages are higher than the averages for south-eastern Europe (SEE), both at 17 per cent, and the transition region, at 24 and 28 per cent, respectively. About 29 per cent of those surveyed think that corruption levels improved during the four years preceding the survey.

Only 29 per cent of Serbians believe that their household was better off in 2016 as compared with four years prior to the survey, and 31 per cent are satisfied with their personal financial situation. Life satisfaction has nevertheless increased across all demographic groups compared with 2010, with a country-wide increase of 16 percentage points. As of 2016, 46 per cent of Serbians are satisfied with their life, a figure that is higher than both the SEE and the transition region averages (39 and 43 per cent, respectively).

39 per cent of Serbian respondents think that children born now will have a better life than the current generations, an 8 percentage point increase relative to 2010 levels. Still, the Serbian optimism figure is below the transition region average of 50 per cent.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

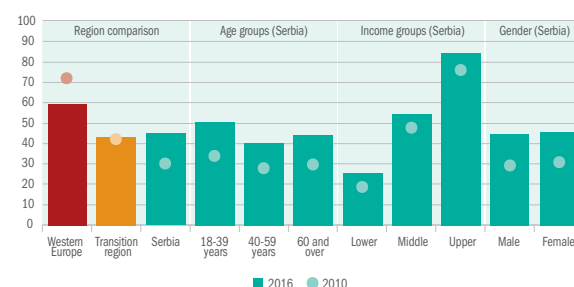
38 and 30 per cent of Serbian respondents prefer democracy and a market economy over any other form of political or economic system, respectively, while around 23 and 25 per cent, respectively, report that an authoritarian system and a planned economy may be better solutions under some circumstances. This implies that support for both democracy and the market economy is lower in Serbia than in the SEE region as a whole, in the transition region, in Italy and in Germany. An additional 39 and 45 per cent of Serbians believe that “for people like me, it does not matter” which political and economic system prevails.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in the country, 62 per cent of Serbians mention peace and stability, followed by freedom of speech (55 per cent), free and fair elections (50 per cent) and gender equality (49 per cent). Serbians are more sceptical about the existence of an independent press (34 per cent), a fair justice system (34 per cent) and a strong political opposition (26 per cent). These percentages are, however, still above the SEE averages and also compare well with the transition region averages.

Priorities for government spending

28 per cent of respondents would prefer extra government funding to be spent on assisting the poor, the third highest figure in the sample and more than double the average for the transition countries as a whole (13 per cent). The next most popular spending options are health care (20 per cent), investments in education (17 per cent) and pensions (16 per cent). Consistent with this, 59 per cent of Serbian respondents would be willing to pay more taxes to assist the poor. About 47 and 46 per cent would also be willing to pay more taxes to have a better health care and a better educational system, respectively. Alternative spending categories, such as public infrastructure or the environment, attract little support.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Serbian respondents are the television and the radio (48 per cent), followed by discussions with family, friends or colleagues (29 per cent). Newspapers, the internet and social media are, instead, utilised on a daily basis by a quarter of the population.

Self-assessed health

Around 62 per cent of Serbian respondents report a positive health self-assessment, which is slightly below the averages for SEE and Germany (65 and 68 per cent, respectively), but higher than the corresponding values for the transition region and Italy (both at 54 per cent). Compared with 2010, self-assessed health has improved across all demographic groups in Serbia.

Quality of public services

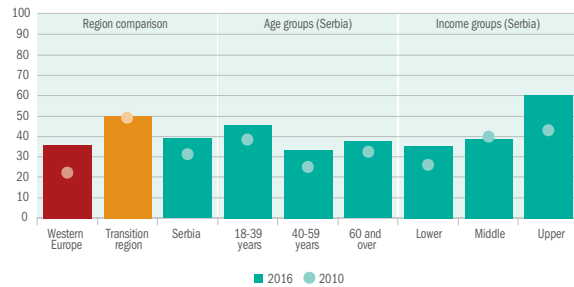
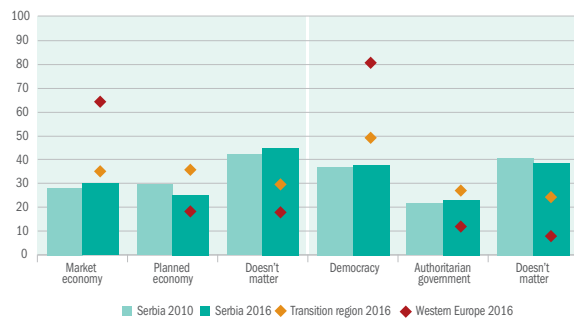
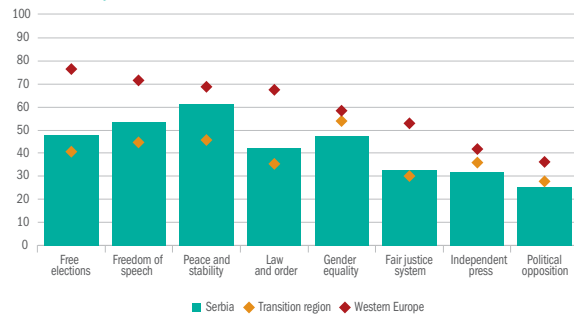
The majority of Serbians are satisfied with the quality of most public services in the country: satisfaction rates range from 68 per cent, for the provision of pipeline gas, to 88 per cent, for heating and telephone line services. Local roads is the only service that is appreciated by less than half of the population (48 per cent).

Social and economic mobility

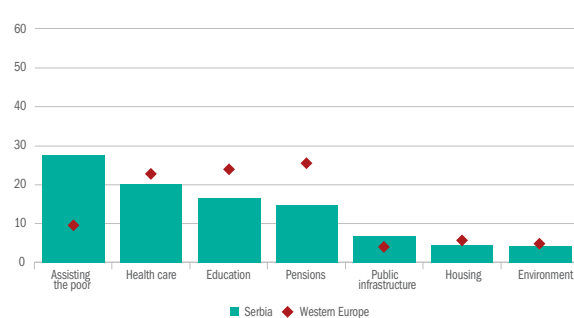
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, about 42 per cent chose “political connections”, the fourth highest result for this answer in the LITS III country sample. In addition, about 32 per cent of those surveyed opted for “effort and hard work”, while 17 per cent answered “intelligence and skills”.

Attitudes towards women

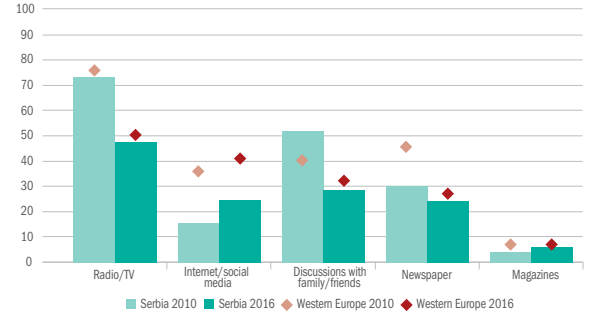
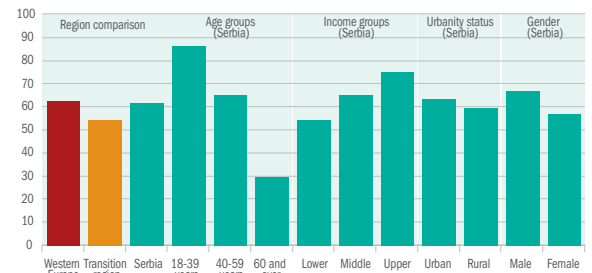
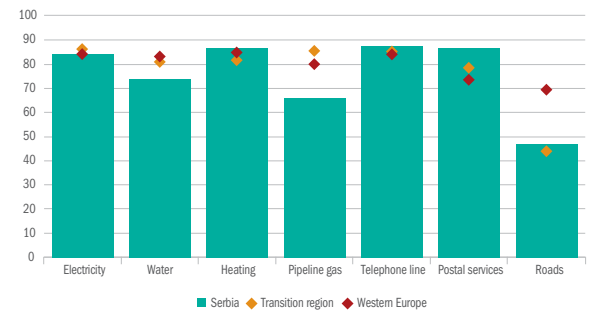
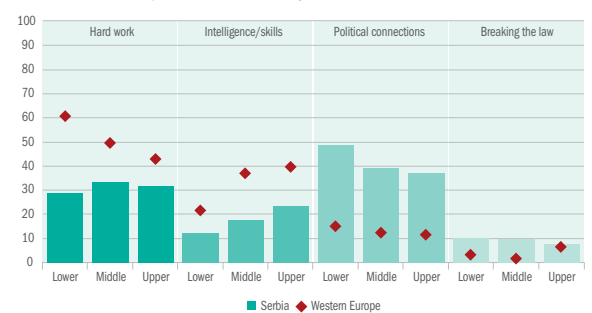
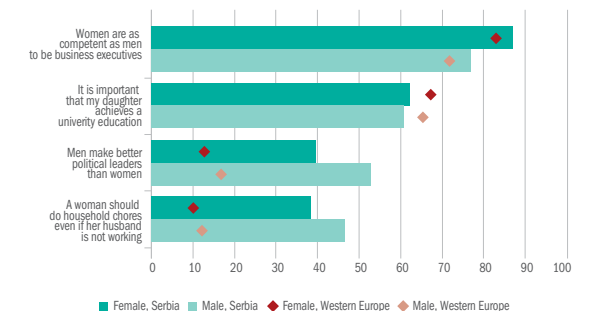
87 per cent of Serbian men and 76 per cent of Serbian women believe that women are as competent as men to be business executives. Around 60 per cent of Serbians report that it is important that their daughter achieves a university education, a value that does not vary much according to the gender of the respondent. Furthermore, 53 per cent of men and 41 per cent of women think that men make better political leaders than women, while 46 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women believe that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working. Lastly, 57 per cent of Serbians favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the family.

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Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (assisting the poor)

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

About 25 and 19 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and the political situation in the Slovak Republic was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. The first percentage is above the corresponding figure for Italy (7 per cent) and comparable to the average for the transition region (24 per cent) but below the averages for Germany and for central Europe and the Baltic states (CEB), which were 33 and 30 per cent, respectively. Appreciation for the present political situation is higher than in Italy and Germany but lower than in CEB and the transition region as a whole. Moreover, only 9 per cent of Slovak respondents believe that corruption declined in the four years preceding the survey, a number substantially below the CEB and transition region averages of 23 per cent.

Among Slovak respondents, 28 per cent report that they are satisfied with their current financial situation and 29 per cent believe that households in their country live better in 2016 than they did in the four years prior to the survey.

Life satisfaction decreased from 52 per cent in 2010 to 50 per cent in 2016, but remains above the transition region average (43 per cent) and the corresponding figure for Italy (42 per cent). While all demographic groups experienced a slight decline in life satisfaction, happiness has decreased the most among those in the upper income group. Respondents in the upper income bracket are nevertheless still happier than their poorer counterparts in the Slovak Republic.

Optimism about a better future for the younger generation decreased from 41 per cent in 2010 to 30 per cent in 2016 and is now well below the transition region average of 50 per cent, the average for CEB as a whole (49 per cent) and the corresponding value for Germany (46 per cent). The level of optimism has declined across all age and income groups, but particularly so among those aged 18-39 and those in the upper income group.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

Support for democracy and the market economy decreased significantly from 47 and 35 per cent, respectively, in 2010 to 39 and 29 per cent in 2016. These percentages are now well below the corresponding averages for the transition region and for CEB. Support for democracy in the Slovak Republic is the fifth lowest in the 2016 sample while support for the market economy is the fourth lowest. Furthermore, 27 per cent of respondents feel that an authoritarian system might be preferable to democracy under some circumstances, while 35 per cent of those surveyed believe that a planned economy might be preferable to a market-based one. Lastly, 34 per cent of respondents do not report a clear preference for a specific political system and 36 per cent of interviewed Slovak individuals believe that "for people like me, it does not matter" which economic system is in place.

Despite the apparently quite weak support for democracy, perceptions of the existence of basic democratic institutions in the Slovak Republic vary. When asked which democratic institutions exist in the country, 76 per cent of respondents mentioned peace and stability, followed by free elections, freedom of speech, gender equality, an independent press and law and order at 70, 57, 44, 40 and 39 per cent, respectively.

Priorities for government spending

About 46 per cent of Slovak respondents cite health care as what they think should be the main priority for additional government spending, followed by education (16 per cent), pensions (14 per cent) and assisting the poor (10 per cent). Slovak support for additional spending on health care is the third largest in the sample. However, additional analysis of the LITS III data shows that only

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



21 per cent of Slovak respondents would actually be willing to pay more taxes in order to have better public health care while only 28 per cent would be willing to pay more to assist the poor.

Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Slovak respondents are the television and the radio, used each day by 57 per cent of the population, and internet and the social media, mentioned by 41 per cent of respondents. Newspapers readership has decreased by 9 percentage points since the last survey, from 22 per cent in 2010 to 13 per cent in 2016, a number that is now lower than the figures in Germany and Italy (31 and 21 per cent, respectively) but still above the averages for CEB and the transition region (12 and 9 per cent, respectively).

Self-assessed health

60 per cent of Slovak respondents report to be in good health, a percentage that is higher than the averages for the transition region and Italy and comparable to the 60 per cent reported for CEB as a whole. On average, compared to 2010, there has been a significant decrease (11 percentage points) in self-reported good health, mainly due to the 20 percentage point decrease among those in the lower income group. Not surprisingly, health is negatively correlated with age. While there are no significant differences between respondents living in urban and rural areas, male respondents are 9 percentage points more likely to report that their health status is "good" or "very good".

Quality of public services

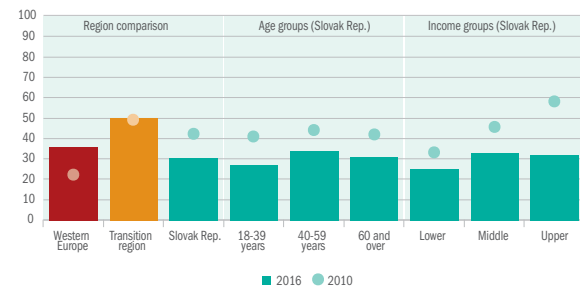
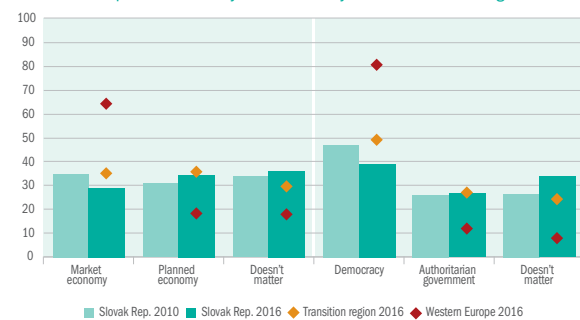
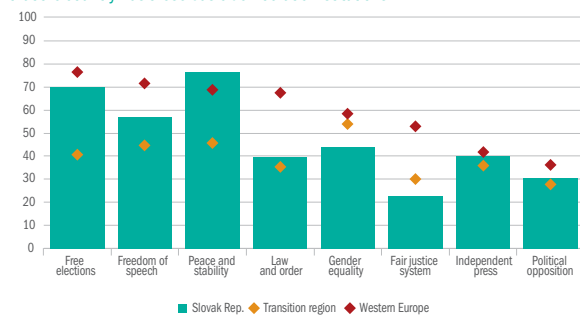
The majority of Slovaks report being satisfied with the quality of public services in their country. Overall, 97 per cent of respondents are satisfied with the provision of electricity, heating and pipeline gas, while 93 per cent are happy with the water supply to their dwellings. In addition, 90 per cent of those surveyed are satisfied with their telephone line service and 87 per cent are satisfied with postal services. All these figures are higher than the corresponding averages for CEB, the transition region as a whole, and Germany and Italy. The sole exception is satisfaction with local roads, which sits at 52 per cent: while still higher than the transition region average (45 per cent) and the corresponding level of satisfaction with roads in Italy (47 per cent), the Slovak figure is below the German average (86 per cent).

Social and economic mobility

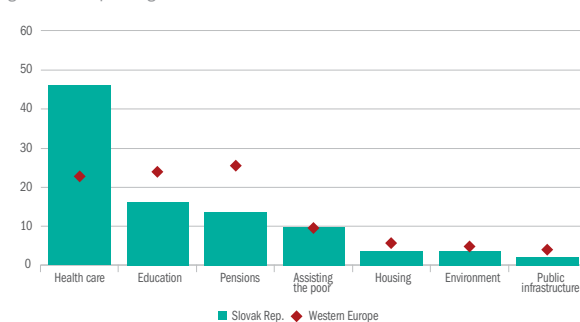
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 37 per cent of Slovaks chose "effort and hard work" and 27 per cent opted for "intelligence and skills". Another 27 per cent deemed "political connections" the most important factor.

Attitudes towards women

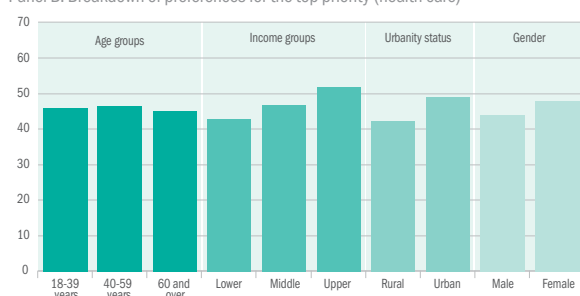
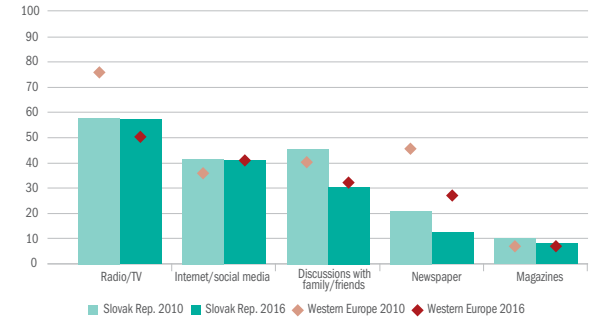
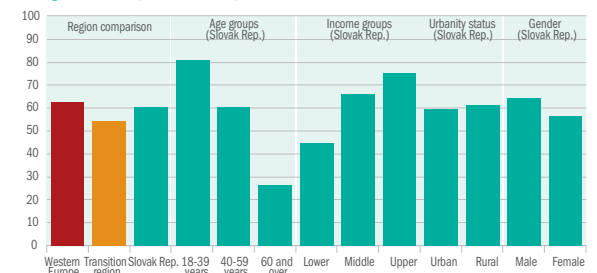
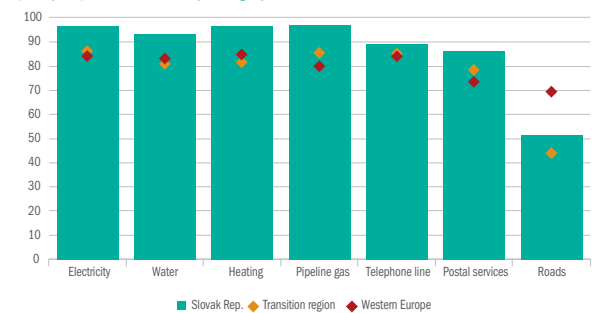
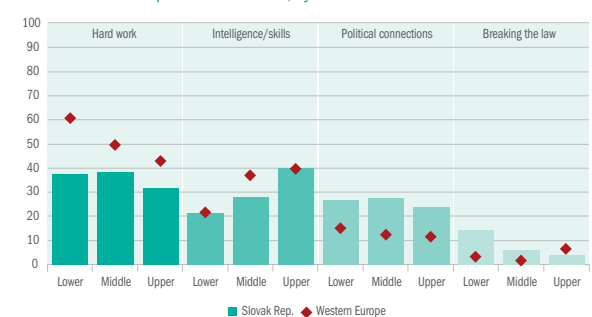
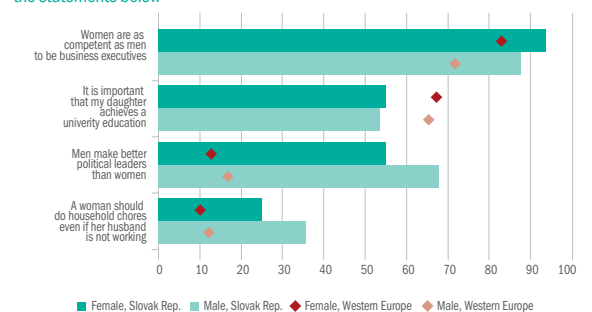
Around 94 per cent of female Slovak respondents and 87 per cent of male Slovak respondents think that women are as competent as men as business executives. Moreover, 30 per cent of Slovak respondents (both male and female) think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working. However, only about 54 per cent of respondents believe it important for their daughter to achieve a university education. Other results show that 61 per cent of Slovak respondents believe that men make better politicians than women, while 60 per cent of those surveyed seem to prefer a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the family.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Only 13 and 6 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in Slovenia was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. Both figures are below the corresponding averages for central Europe and the Baltic states (CEB), the transition region, and Germany. Moreover, only 8 per cent of Slovenian respondents believe that corruption declined in the four years preceding the survey, the lowest figure in the transition region.

Of those surveyed, 19 per cent believe that households in their country lived better in 2016 than they did four years prior to the survey. Moreover, 36 per cent of Slovenian respondents report that they are satisfied with their current financial situation, a figure in line with the average for the CEB region (39 per cent) and above the averages for the transition region (31 per cent) and Italy (33 per cent).

Slovenia is the second-happiest country in CEB, with 69 per cent of its respondents reporting that they are satisfied with their life as of 2016, up from 60 per cent in 2010. Life satisfaction is also higher than in Italy (42 per cent) and the transition region as a whole (43 per cent) and is comparable to that of Germany (72 per cent). Life satisfaction levels are higher among the middle and upper income groups while there exists little variation across age categories.

Optimism and confidence in a better future for the younger generations has declined by 7 percentage points, from 20 per cent in 2010 to 13 per cent in 2016. This is the lowest figure in the transition region and also lower than the corresponding German and Italian levels of optimism. There is almost no variation in the level of optimism reported by respondents of different age or income groups: pessimism in Slovenia turns out to be widespread across the board.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

Support for democracy and the market economy have increased slightly since 2010. The proportion of Slovenian respondents who choose the response option "democracy is preferable to any other form of political system" has risen by 2 percentage points since the last survey, from 54 per cent in 2010 to 56 per cent in 2016. In addition, 45 per cent of respondents favour the market economy over any other alternative, a figure that is higher than the averages for CEB, the transition region and Italy (38, 37 and 35 per cent, respectively). However, when asked a hypothetical question about whether they would rather live in a country with full political liberties but weak economic growth (country B), or in a country with limited freedoms and stronger growth (country A), about 82 per cent of Slovenian respondents report that they would prefer to live in country A.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in the country, 70 per cent of respondents mentioned peace and stability, followed by freedom of speech, free elections and gender equality at 62, 55 and 53 per cent, respectively. The extent to which Slovenians agree that other basic democratic institutions are in place varies but it is typically lower. For instance, only 36 per cent of respondents believe that Slovenia has a strong political opposition, while as little as 14 per cent think the court system treats all citizens fairly and equally. Overall, Slovenia fares worse than Germany according to all indicators.

Priorities for government

35 per cent of Slovenian respondents think the main priority for extra government spending should be health care, followed by assisting the poor (23 per cent), pensions (13 per cent) and education (10 per cent). Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that 44 and 63 per cent of Slovenians would be prepared to pay more taxes in order to have better public health care and assist the poor, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Slovenians are the television and the radio, used each day by 70 per cent of the population, and discussions with family, friends or colleagues, mentioned by 63 per cent of respondents. Internet and social media are the information sources that experienced the largest increase in daily usage since 2010, rising from 48 to 51 per cent of all respondents. Newspaper readership decreased from 37 per cent in 2010 to 26 per cent in 2016, a figure that is nevertheless still considerably higher than the averages for CEB and the transition region (12 and 9 per cent, respectively).

Self-assessed health

About 61 per cent of Slovenian respondents report a positive health self-assessment, a percentage that is higher than the averages for the transition region and Italy (both 54 per cent) but slightly below the German figure (68 per cent). Unsurprisingly, self-assessed health is positively correlated with income and negatively associated with age: only 37 per cent of respondents aged 60 or over report to be in good health, as opposed to 82 per cent of those aged 18 to 39.

Quality of public services

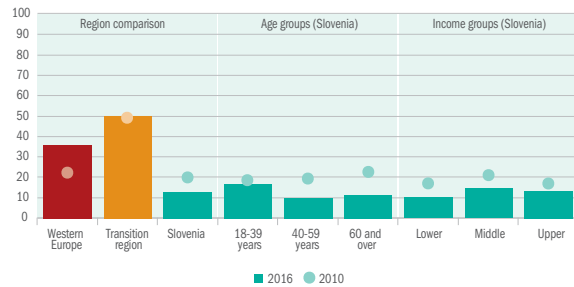
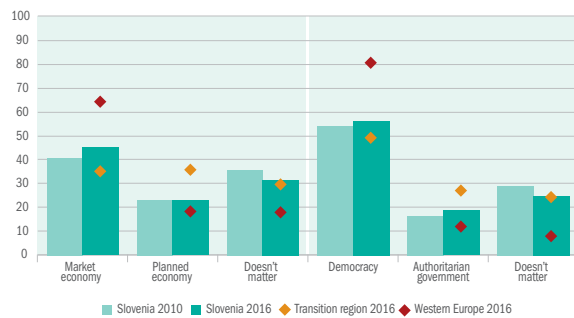
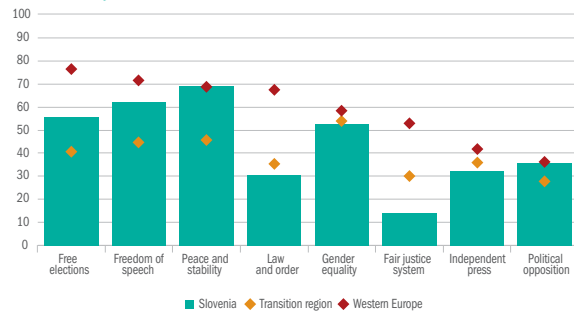
Around 90 per cent of Slovenian respondents report being satisfied with the quality of public services in their country, the only exception being the local road network, which is deemed to be of sufficient quality by only 47 per cent of those surveyed. Satisfaction with local roads in Slovenia is still slightly higher than in the transition region as a whole (45 per cent) and comparable to the number for Italy (47 per cent), but below the CEB average (67 per cent) and the German one (86 per cent).

Social and economic mobility

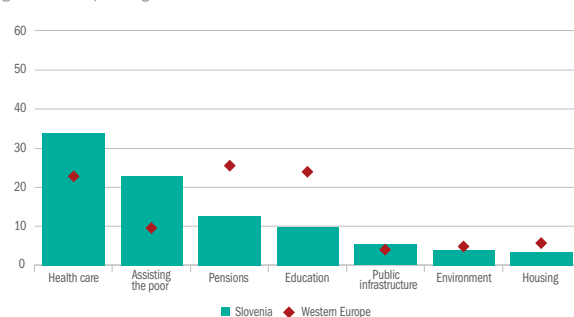
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 38 per cent of Slovenians chose "effort and hard work", while 27 per cent opted for "political connections". Lastly, 18 and 16 per cent chose "breaking the law" and "intelligence and skills", respectively, as the most important factors for success.

Attitudes towards women

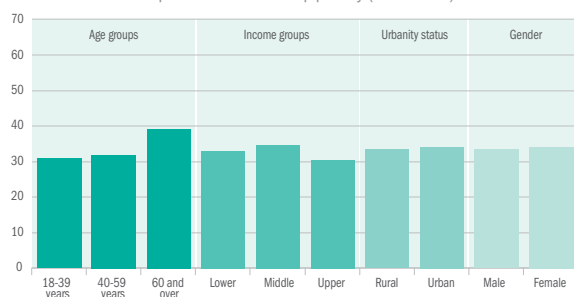
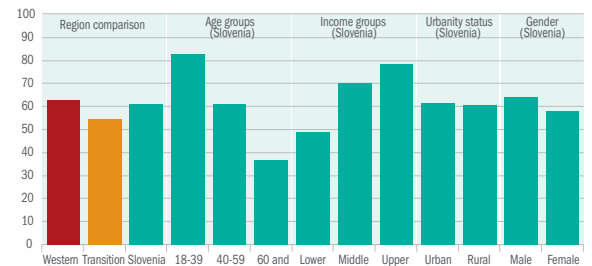
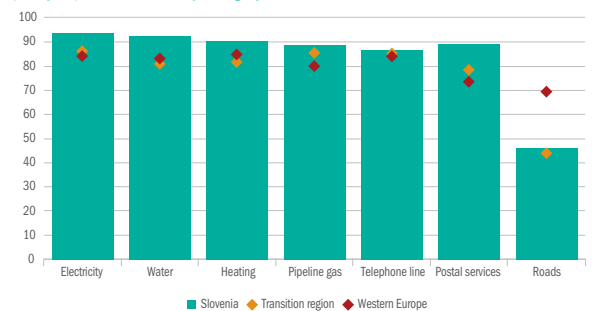
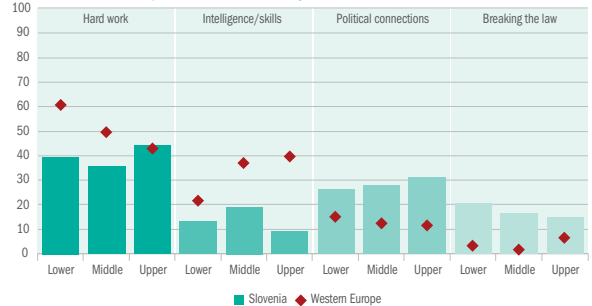
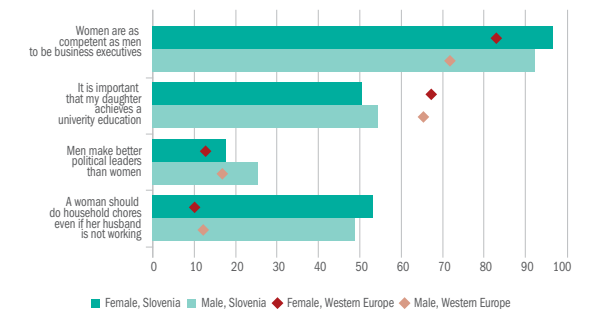
In Slovenia, 97 and 92 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, believe that women are as competent as men to be business executives, two of the highest figures in the transition region. Furthermore, only 22 per cent of Slovenians think that men make better political leaders than women, a number comparable to the CEB average and below the Italian (29 per cent) and transition region (50 per cent) averages. Only 29 per cent of the population seem to prefer a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the family, the third-lowest figure in the transition region. However, 51 per cent of respondents (both male and female) think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working. Lastly, 52 per cent believe it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, the third-lowest figure in the transition region, and a relatively low percentage when compared with the transition region average of 70 per cent.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

75 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in Tajikistan was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These figures are among the highest in LITS III, well above the averages for the transition region as a whole, and those of Germany and Italy. In addition, 57 per cent of Tajiks think that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey, in line with the average for Central Asia and up 21 percentage points relative to 2010 levels.

More than two in three Tajiks believe that their household lived better in 2016 than they did in the four years before the survey. Moreover, 63 per cent of respondents report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a percentage that is more than double the transition region average of 31 per cent and that is well above the 55 per cent reported for Germany.

Life satisfaction increased from 73 per cent in 2010 to 75 per cent in 2016, making Tajikistan the second happiest country in the transition region. High levels of life satisfaction are reported across all age and income groups, despite the fact that the country is one of the poorest of the region in terms of GDP per capita.

Tajik respondents also display one of the highest levels of optimism in the entire transition region: 82 per cent of surveyed individuals believe that children born now will have a better future than the current generations. Optimism levels in 2016 were also higher than those recorded in 2010 by 9 percentage points.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

Support for democracy has weakened since the last survey, from 76 per cent in 2010 to 69 per cent in 2016, while support for the market economy has increased from 55 per cent in 2010 to 59 per cent in 2016. However, 19 and 25 per cent of those surveyed do not have a preference for a specific political or economic system over another. Respondents were also asked a hypothetical question about whether they would rather live in a country with full political liberties but weak economic growth (country B), or in one with fewer political liberties but strong economic growth (country A). Despite their strong preference for democracy, more than 70 per cent of Tajik respondents chose country A.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Tajikistan, 95 per cent of respondents mentioned peace and stability, while 90 and 89 per cent indicated that free elections and gender equality are respected in the country. The majority of the surveyed population also agree that other democratic institutions are in place.

Priorities for government spending

35 per cent of Tajik respondents think that additional government spending on education should be the main funding priority. This preference contrasts with the majority of the other countries included in the survey where health care is usually seen as the first priority for additional government spending. In Tajikistan, however, only one in five respondents believe that more funding should be committed to improve health care, and another 20 per cent think that assisting the poor should be a priority. Additional analysis of the LITS III data shows that as many as 81 and 80 per cent of Tajik respondents would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of their public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Tajik respondents are discussions with family, friends or colleagues and the television and the radio, mentioned by 57 and 56 of the respondents, respectively. The percentage of respondents who use the internet and social media on a daily basis is the lowest in the entire transition region, at only 6 per cent. Newspapers are read at least once a day by only 3 per cent of the interviewed individuals, again the lowest percentage in the entire transition region, on a par with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Self-assessed health

59 per cent of Tajik respondents reported a positive health self-assessment, a percentage higher than the transition region and Italy (54 per cent in both cases) but lower than the corresponding figure for Germany (68 per cent). Unsurprisingly, this is mostly driven by respondents aged 18-39 and by those in the upper-income group.

Quality of public services

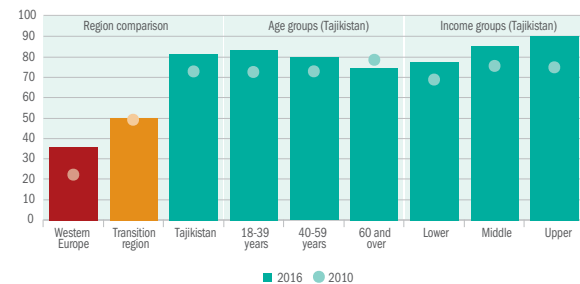
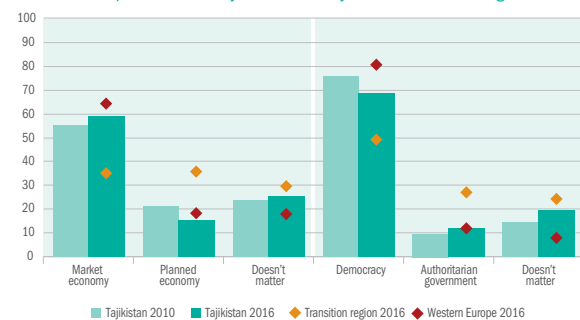
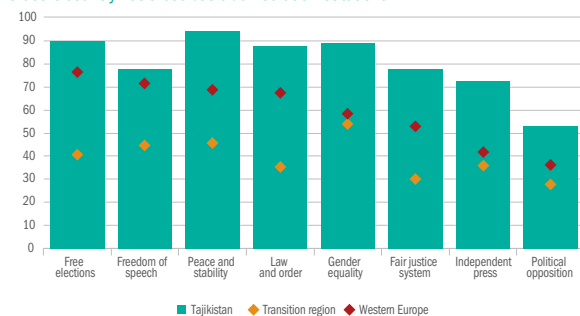
59 per cent of Tajik respondents report being satisfied with the provision of water in their country, whereas the quality of the remaining public services and utilities is deemed unsatisfactory by the majority of the population.

Social and economic mobility

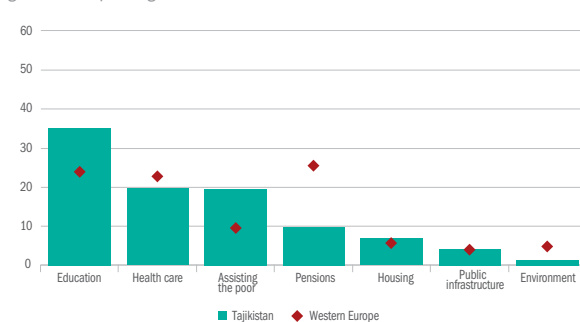
When respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 56 per cent of Tajiks chose "effort and hard work" and 37 per cent answered "intelligence and skills". Less than 1 per cent of Tajiks chose "breaking the law", the lowest result for that specific response option in the transition region. Using one's political connections to succeed in life also attracts little support among Tajik respondents.

Attitudes towards women

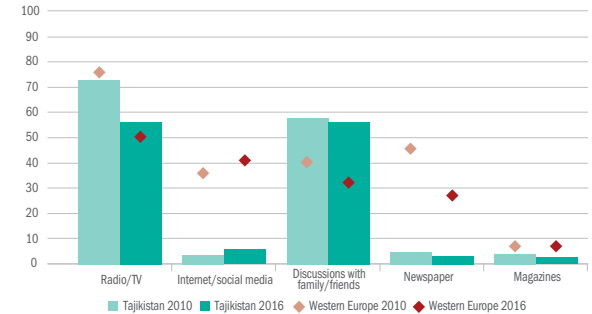
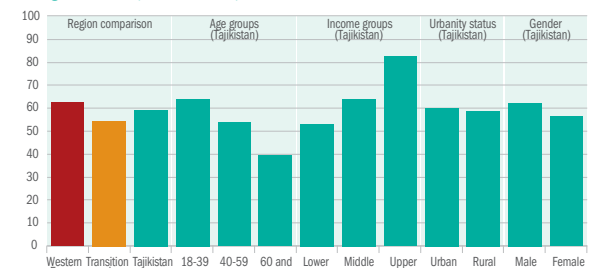
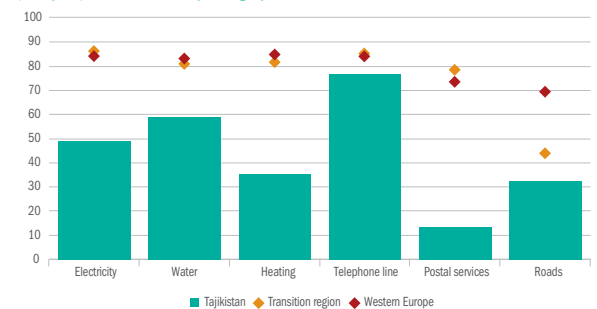
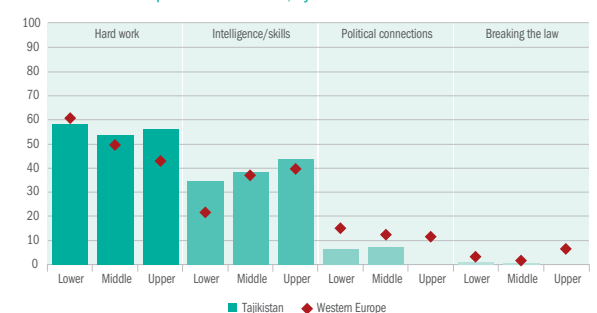
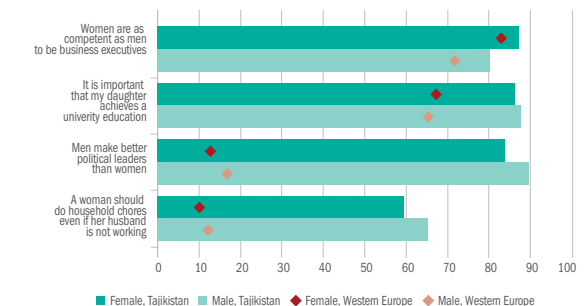
87 per cent of respondents believe it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, and 87 per cent of female respondents and 80 per cent of male ones think that female business executives are as competent as male business executives. Nevertheless, 84 and 89 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, believe that men make better political leaders than women, while 78 per cent of the population favours a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children, one of the highest figures in the transition region. In addition, around two in three respondents of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working.

CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation**CHART 3. Market economy and democracy:** percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government**CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions:** percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions**CHART 5. Priorities for government spending**

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (education)

**CHART 6. Sources of information:** percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information**CHART 7. Health assessment:** percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)**CHART 8. Quality of services:** percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category**CHART 9. Factors for success:** percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level**CHART 10. Attitudes towards women:** percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below



Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Of Turkish respondents, 32 and 30 per cent, respectively, think that the economic and political climate in their country has improved over the four years prior to the survey. These figures are 19 and 17 percentage points below the levels registered in the 2010 round of the LiTS survey but still higher than the averages for the transition region as a whole and for Italy. In addition, almost one in three Turks believe that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey, a figure higher than the averages for the transition region, Germany and Italy.

35 per cent of those surveyed say that their household lived better in 2016 than it did four years before the survey. Moreover, 41 per cent of respondents in Turkey report that they are satisfied with their personal financial situation. This figure is higher than the averages for the transition region (31 per cent) and Italy (33 per cent) but below the German level (55 per cent).

Turkey is at the lower end of the life satisfaction rankings, with only 42 per cent of Turkish respondents saying they are satisfied with their life, down from 50 per cent in 2010. This means that Turkey's life satisfaction is now below the transition region average of 43 per cent. Only 29 per cent of those in the lower income bracket report being satisfied with their life.

Optimism about future generations is also relatively limited. 40 per cent of respondents think that children born now will have a better life than the current generations, a figure that is below the transition region average of 50 per cent. Optimism has fallen almost uniformly across age and income brackets since the last survey, but more so among those aged 60 or above and among those in the middle-income bracket.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

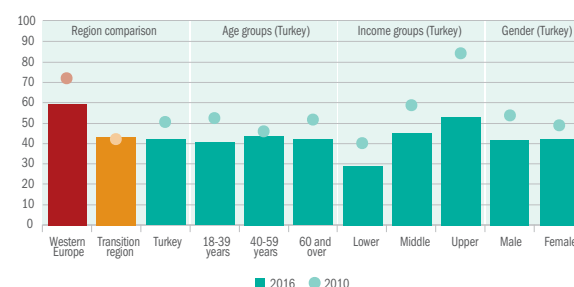
Support for democracy and the market economy have increased slightly since the last survey, from 66 and 41 per cent, respectively, in 2010 to 69 and 42 per cent in 2016. Only 12 and 22 per cent of those surveyed do not prefer a specific political or economic system over another, while 19 and 36 per cent believe that an authoritarian system or a planned economy could be preferable under some circumstances. Respondents were also asked a hypothetical question about whether they would rather live in a country with full political liberties but weak economic growth (country B), or in one with fewer political liberties but strong economic growth (country A). As in most of the transition region, the majority (about 58 per cent) of Turkish respondents selected country A.

Only about a third of the Turkish respondents believe that basic democratic institutions exist in Turkey. For instance, 39 per cent of Turks believe that elections are free in the country, while 38 and 35 per cent, respectively, think that gender equality and freedom of speech are protected. In addition, another 35 per cent of Turks believe that the court system is fair while only 33 per cent think that a strong political opposition is in place in the country. All these figures are lower than the corresponding ones for Germany and Italy and, except for the ones related to a strong political opposition and a fair court system, are also lower than the transition region averages.

Priorities for government spending

About 43 per cent of Turkish respondents think that education should be the main priority for additional government spending, the highest figure in the transition region, while 31 per cent would rather spend extra government funding on health care. Additional analysis of the LiTS III data shows that 57 and 59 per cent of Turkish people, respectively, would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of their public health system and public education.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information are the television and the radio, used by 50 per cent of those surveyed, and internet and the social media, used by 38 per cent of the Turkish respondents. The use of the internet and social media has increased substantially since the last survey in 2010, when only 18 per cent of the respondents stated that they used the internet on a daily basis. Discussions with family, friends or colleagues are mentioned by only one third of the respondents as an important daily source of information. Lastly, newspapers are read at least once a day by 20 per cent of those interviewed, a number that is about twice the transition region average.

Self-assessed health

78 per cent of Turkish respondents consider their health to be "good" or "very good". This is the second-highest figure in the transition region after Greece and a level of self-assessed health that is also significantly higher than the figures for Germany and Italy (68 and 54 per cent, respectively). Not surprisingly, health assessments are negatively correlated with age and positively with income in Turkey.

Quality of public services

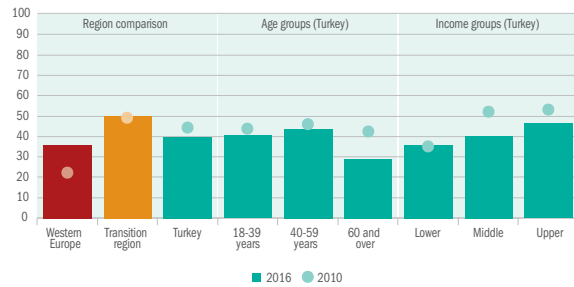
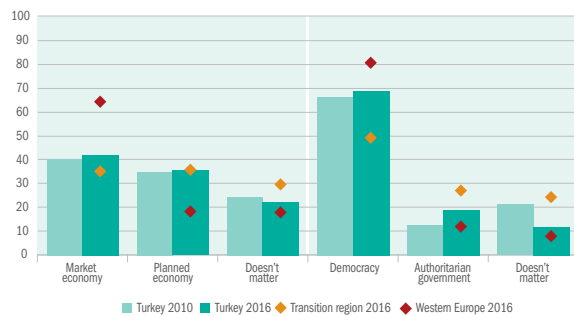
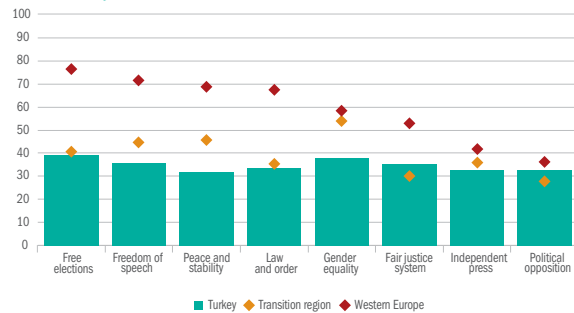
Most Turkish people are satisfied with the quality of the public services provided in their country. However, the level of satisfaction for each service that respondents were asked about is lower than the corresponding numbers in the transition region, Germany and Italy. The only exceptions are the satisfaction with postal services and with the condition of local roads: 73 and 69 per cent of Turks, respectively, are satisfied with their postal services and their local road network, which is relatively high.

Social and economic mobility

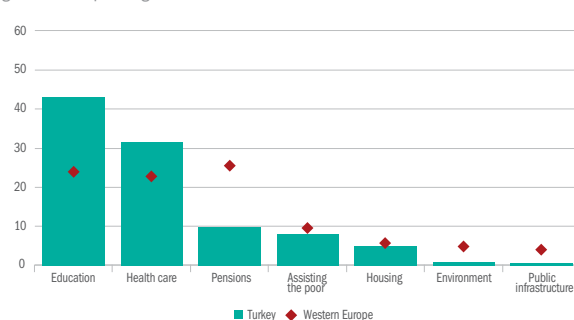
When asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 31 per cent of Turkish respondents chose "political connections". This percentage decreases with the self-assessed income tercile. The percentages of people who opted for "effort and hard work" and "intelligence and skills" (37 and 28 per cent, respectively) are below the transition region averages and show little variation across income groups.

Attitudes towards women

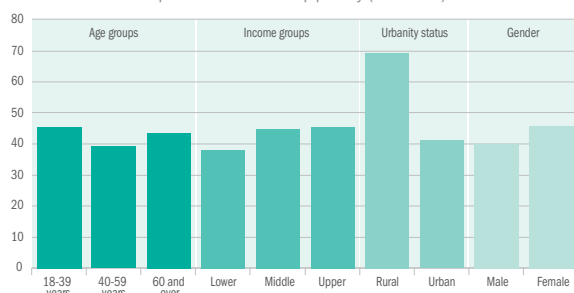
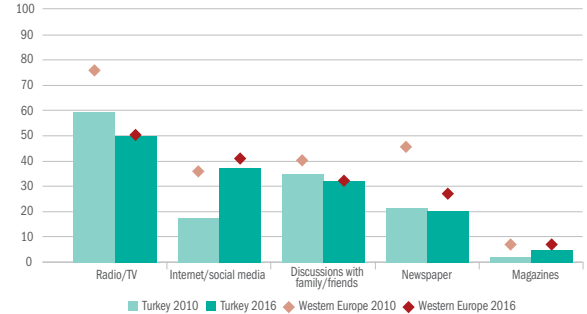
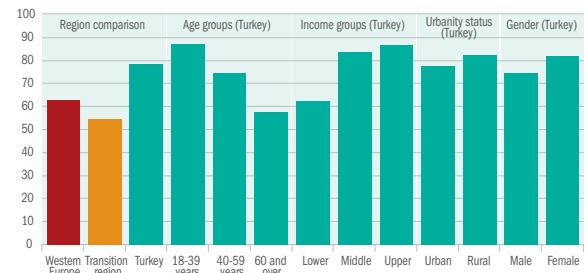
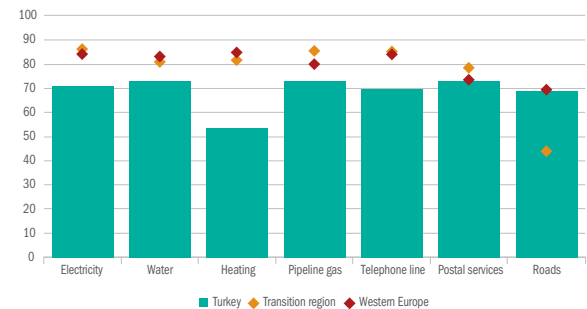
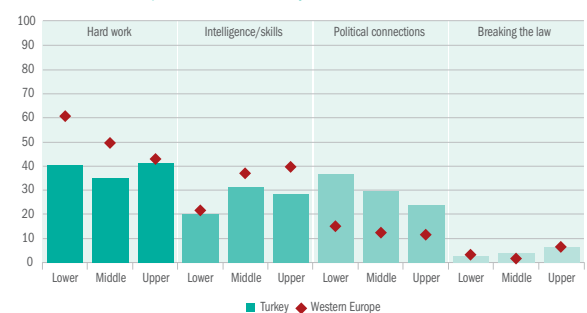
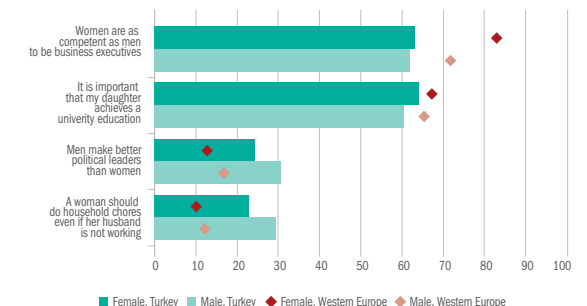
Only about 62 per cent of Turkish respondents of either gender think that women are as competent as men as business executives, one of the lowest figures in LiTS III. This number is below the transition region average (78 per cent) as well as the Italian and German scores (89 and 69 per cent). However, only 24 and 30 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, believe that men make better political leaders than women, two of the lowest percentages in the transition region. In addition, only 27 per cent of the population favours a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children, and 26 per cent of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, again two of the lowest figures in the transition region.

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Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (education)

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Not surprisingly, given the deep economic crisis and political turbulence that the country has been undergoing in recent years, only 9 and 11 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in Ukraine was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These figures are some of the lowest reported in the survey, lower than the corresponding averages for eastern Europe and the Caucasus (EEC), as well as the overall averages for the transition region. In addition, only 10 per cent of those surveyed think that there was less corruption in 2016 than four years before the survey, a figure in line with the Italian average but still below the corresponding values for EEC, the transition region and Germany (at 16, 23 and 16 per cent, respectively).

13 per cent of respondents believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did four years before the survey. In addition, only 12 per cent of those surveyed report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, a value significantly below the EEC average of 17 per cent and the transition region average of 31 per cent. Again, these figures are some of the lowest reported in the entire transition region.

Just over 25 per cent of Ukrainian respondents are satisfied with life, the third-lowest result in the transition region. Life satisfaction has dropped by 4 percentage points since 2010, and it is now 17 percentage points lower than the transition region average. Life satisfaction has declined across almost all demographic groups, except for those aged between 40 and 59 years.

Optimism in a better future for the next generation has also decreased since 2010 and now lies 7 percentage points below the transition region average of 50 per cent. The level of optimism has fallen almost uniformly; the data show little variation across age and income brackets.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

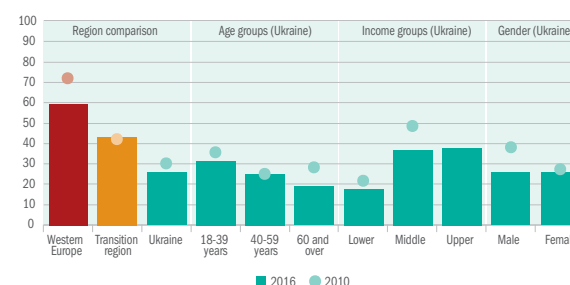
Of Ukrainian respondents, 42 per cent said that democracy is “preferable to any other form of political system”, while 37 per cent of the interviewed population favoured and supported the market economy. While these figures are in line with the EEC averages, they are well below the corresponding values for Germany. In addition, data show that a substantial proportion of respondents think that “for people like me, it does not matter” which political (21 per cent) or economic (27 per cent) system is in place in the country, while roughly a third of those surveyed would prefer, under some circumstances, an authoritarian regime or a planned economy.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Ukraine, only 39 per cent of respondents indicated that gender equality is in place in the country, followed by freedom of speech, an independent press and free elections, at 20, 13 and 11 per cent, respectively. Ukraine fares worse than most of the other countries in the transition region according to all perceived institutional indicators, with gender equality the only exception.

Priorities for government spending

A third of Ukrainians think that additional government spending on health care should be the main funding priority, whereas 18 and 15 per cent of respondents would channel the additional funding to improve the educational system and to help the poor, respectively. Additional results show that around 53 and 45 per cent of those surveyed would be willing to pay more taxes to improve the quality of the public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Ukrainians are television and radio, used each day by 46 per cent of the population, and discussions with family, friends or colleagues, mentioned by 41 per cent of respondents. Internet and social media usage have increased significantly since the last survey round, from 16 per cent in 2010 to 33 per cent in 2016, and more so among the younger generations, who report a usage rate of around 50 per cent. Newspapers and magazines are read on a daily basis by approximately 6 per cent of respondents, just above the corresponding figure for the EEC, but well below those for the transition region, Germany and Italy.

Self-assessed health

Only 44 per cent of Ukrainian respondents consider their health to be “good” or “very good”, as opposed to 54 per cent of those surveyed in the transition region as a whole. Respondents aged over 60 and, unexpectedly, those in the highest income tercile, are more pessimistic about their health than their counterparts. In addition, men and respondents who reside in urban areas are more likely to report a positive health status.

Quality of public services

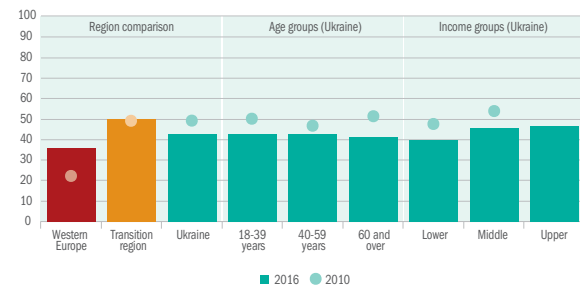
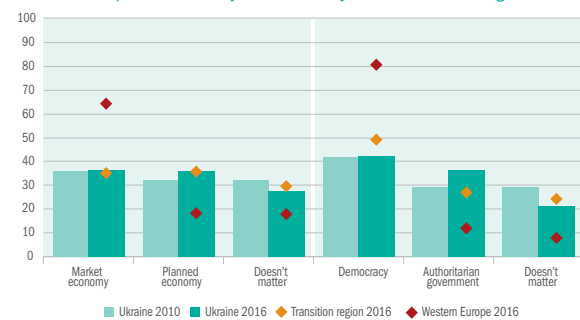
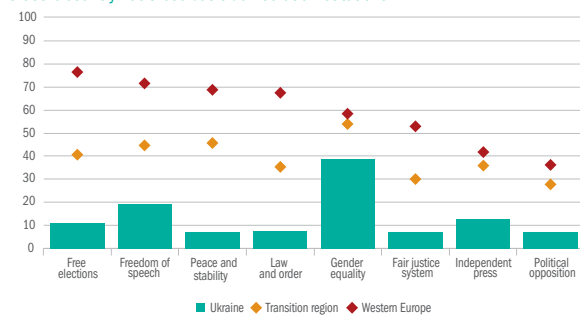
The majority of Ukrainian respondents report that they are satisfied with the general quality of public services in their country, with the only exception being the local road network, which causes dissatisfaction to almost 80 per cent of the population. The remaining figures range from an 82 per cent satisfaction rate for the provision of electricity to a 58 per cent satisfaction rate with the quality of heating.

Social and economic mobility

When respondents were asked from a list of options what were the most important factors for success in life in their country, 36 per cent of Ukrainian respondents chose “effort and hard work”, a figure that lies below the transition region average of 42 per cent, while another 30 per cent opted for “intelligence and skills”. Interestingly, 41 per cent of respondents in the upper-income group believe that “political connections” are one of the most important factors for success, while only 22 per cent of them think that “intelligence and skills” matter.

Attitudes towards women

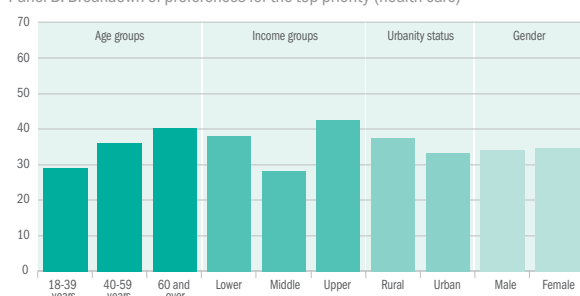
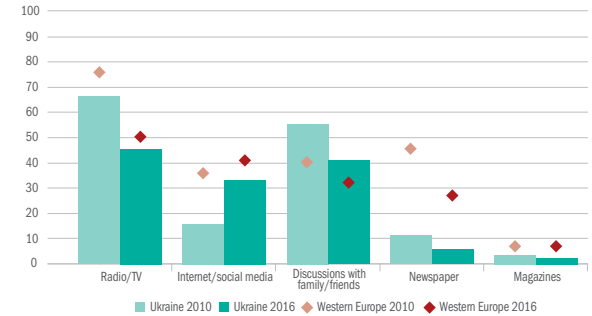
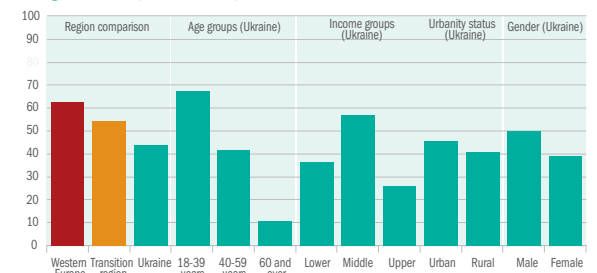
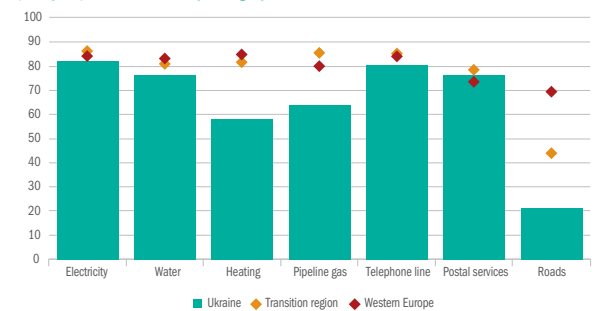
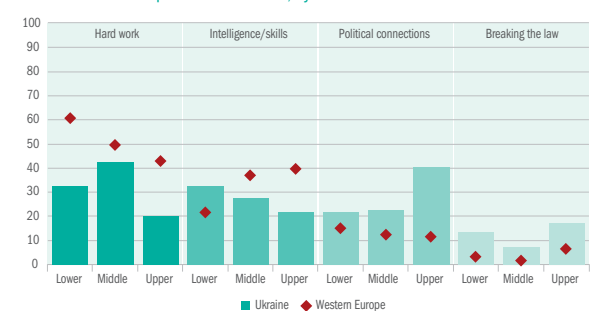
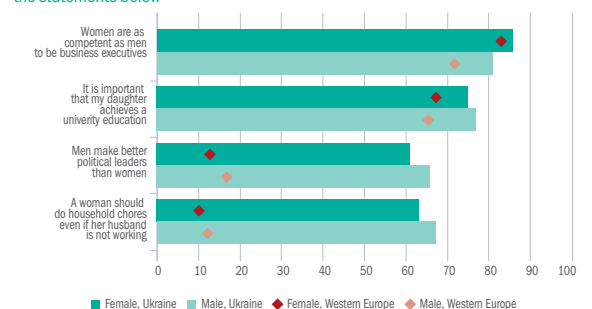
Of the interviewed respondents, 75 per cent think it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, while 86 and 81 per cent of female and male respondents believe that women are as competent as men as business executives, respectively. However, two-thirds of those surveyed think that men make better political leaders than women. In addition, around 65 per cent of respondents of either gender think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working, and around 73 per cent favour a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children.

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Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

Nearly all of the survey respondents in Uzbekistan believe that the economic and political situation was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey. These are the two highest satisfaction rates in the transition region, and they are both well above the corresponding averages for Germany and Italy. Among Uzbek respondents, 78 per cent also think that there was less corruption in 2016 than in the four years before the survey, up from 59 per cent in 2010.

86 per cent of Uzbek respondents believe that their households lived better in 2016 than they did in the four years before the survey, while 80 per cent report that they are satisfied with their current personal financial situation, again the two highest percentages in the transition region and both significantly higher than in Germany and Italy.

Life satisfaction increased from 66 per cent in 2010 to 93 per cent in 2016, and is now the highest in the transition region. There is widespread reported life satisfaction across all age and income groups, despite the fact that the country remains among the poorest in the region in terms of GDP per capita.

Uzbek respondents also show a very high level of optimism. According to 97 per cent of respondents, children born now will have a better future than the current generations. These optimism levels are higher than those recorded in the previous survey in 2010 (78 per cent).

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

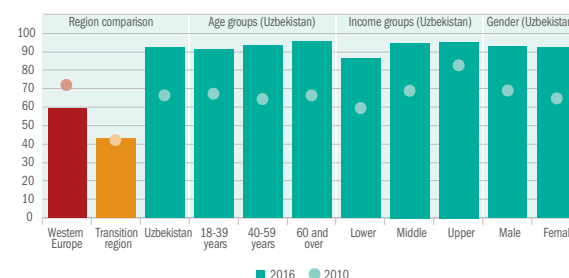
Among Uzbek respondents, 81 per cent prefer democracy to any other political system and 69 per cent support the market economy, two of the highest figures in the entire survey. The percentages of respondents who say they might, under some circumstances, prefer a planned economy or an authoritarian government are 17 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively. The remaining respondents believe that “for people like me, it does not matter” what type of economic and political system prevails in the country.

When asked which democratic institutions exist in Uzbekistan, 99 per cent of respondents indicate that peace and stability are guaranteed in the country, followed by gender equality and law and order, both at 95 per cent, and a fair court system, at 94 per cent. These results are more than 20 percentage points higher than the averages for the western European comparators.

Priorities for government spending

32 per cent of Uzbek respondents think that the main priority for additional government spending should be health care, followed by education (25 per cent) and assisting the poor (18 per cent). Additional analysis of the LITS III data shows that as many as 85 and 83 per cent of Uzbeks would be willing to contribute more taxes to improve the quality of their public health system and public education, respectively.

CHART 1. Life satisfaction: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with life, all things considered



Sources of information

The main daily sources of information for Uzbek people are television and radio, used by 77 per cent of the population, and discussions with family, friends or colleagues, mentioned by 51 per cent of the respondents. In sharp contrast, the percentage of respondents who use the internet and social media on a daily basis is the second lowest in the entire transition region, at only 12 per cent. Newspapers are read at least once a day by one-tenth of the population, in line with the transition region average but below the figures reported for the western European comparator countries.

Self-assessed health

58 per cent of Uzbek respondents consider their health to be “good” or “very good”, a figure slightly higher than the transition region average but below the corresponding average for Germany and, most importantly, a 10-percentage point decline relative to 2010 levels. Unsurprisingly, data show that the healthiest respondents are the ones aged 18-39 and those in the upper-income bracket.

Quality of public services

The majority of Uzbek respondents report being satisfied with the general quality of public services and utilities provided in their country. Satisfaction rates range from 95 per cent for telephone services (one of the highest in the transition region) to 58 per cent for local roads (still one of the highest scores across the transition region).

Social and economic mobility

When Uzbek respondents were asked from a list of options what they thought were the most important factors for success in life in their country, three-quarters of them chose “effort and hard work”, one of the highest results for that response option in the transition region, while one-fifth answered “intelligence and skills”. Less than 3 and 1 per cent of respondents chose “political connections” and “breaking the law”, respectively.

Attitudes towards women

91 per cent of Uzbek respondents believe it is important for their daughter to achieve a university education, and 85 per cent of female respondents and 76 per cent of male ones think that female business executives are as competent as male business executives. Nevertheless, 82 and 80 per cent of female and male respondents, respectively, believe that men make better political leaders than women, while 80 per cent of the population favours a traditional family arrangement where the man works and the woman takes care of the house and children, one of the highest figures in the transition region. Lastly, 93 per cent of Uzbek respondents think that a woman should do the household chores, even if her husband is not working.

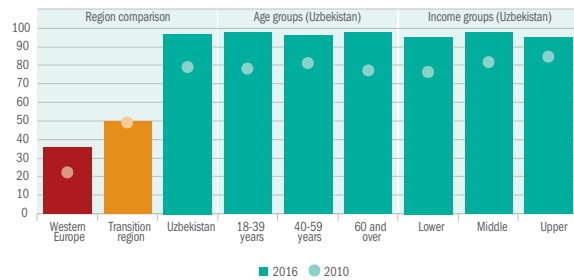
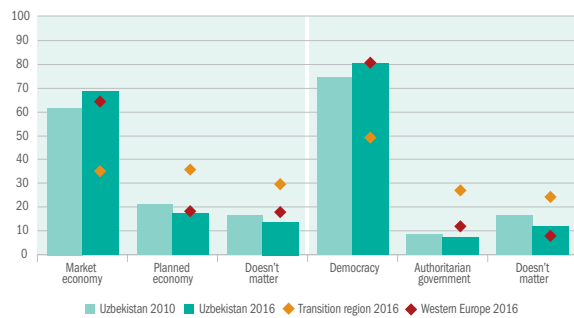
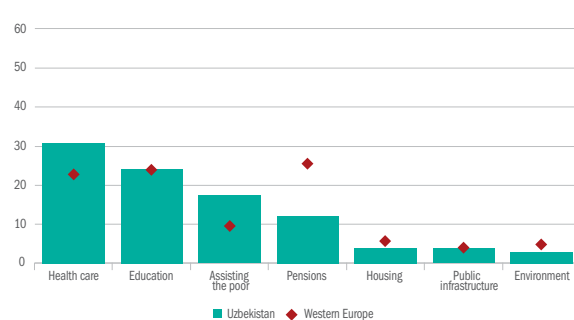
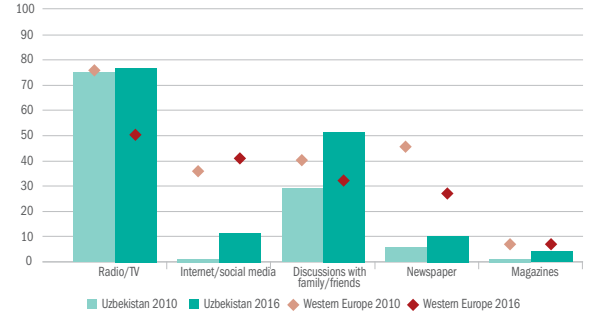
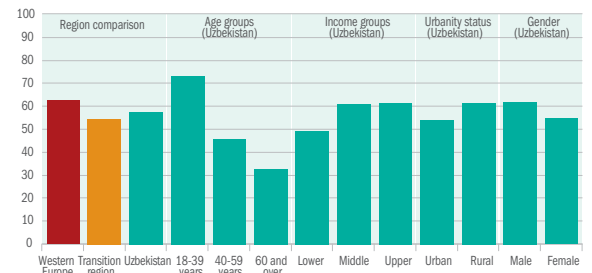
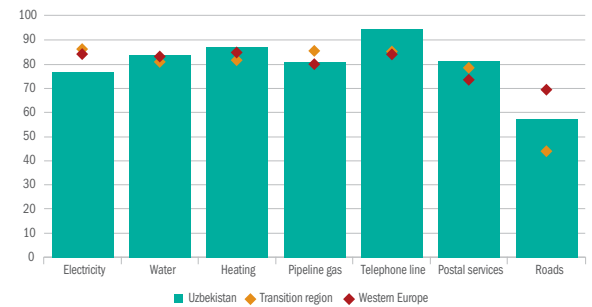
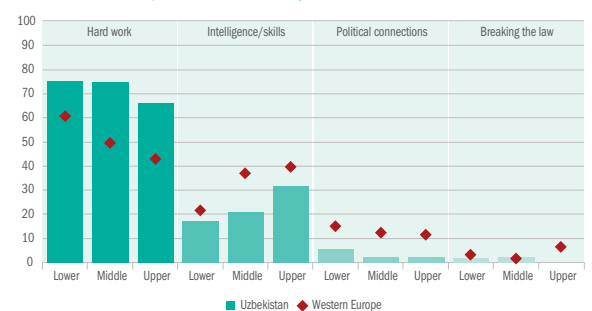
CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation

CHART 3. Market economy and democracy: percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government

CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions: percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions

CHART 5. Priorities for government spending

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending



Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)


CHART 6. Sources of information: percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information

CHART 7. Health assessment: percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)

CHART 8. Quality of services: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category

CHART 9. Factors for success: percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level

CHART 10. Attitudes towards women: percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below
