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 (83 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 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 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

Women are as competent as men to be business executives
It is important to me that my daughter achieves a university education
Men make better political leaders than women
A woman should do household chores even if her husband is not working