

**SOURCES OF INSECURITIES
IN WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY:**

**HUMAN SECURITY
BAROMETAR**

2016



Claim!

CITIZEN'S NETWORK
FOR PEACE,
RECONCILIATION AND
HUMAN SECURITY



SOURCES OF INSECURITIES IN WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY:
HUMAN SECURITY BAROMETAR 2016

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SOURCES OF INSECURITIES IN WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY: HUMAN SECURITY BAROMETER 2016

Belgrade 2017

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WHAT IS HS BAROMETER?

The Human security barometer (HSB) is part of a comprehensive and continuous effort of the Citizens' Network for Human Security (CN4HS) to monitor human security treats and challenges in the Balkans and Turkey. The evidence from monitoring is used to take action, to advocate and promote various aspects of human security.

CN4HS holds that human security is essential in building stable and peaceful societies and it approaches human security with focus on life experiences of people, their perception of threats and their capabilities to cope with these threats. In this approach, the subjective perception of threats is crucial, as it drives peoples' coping strategies, their individual actions, as well as their participation in the society and interaction with others.

In order to see what people in the countries of the Region perceive as main threats to their everyday life, their individual or family positions, as well as their societies, we used data from the Eurobarometer public opinion survey (mainly from Autumn 2016) on the main concerns of citizens as proxy indicators of the perception of human security threats. An overview of citizen's concerns is presented for partner countries: Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, and for two countries in the Region which have joined the CN4HS – Macedonia and Greece. Unfortunately, data from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo were available for only a few aspects, and it was taken from national or regional surveys other than Eurobarometer. The situation in Balkans and Turkey was compared with EU-28 and individual Member States in order to provide an understanding of the specific situation in our Region.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CONCERNS CITIZENS HAVE REGARDING THEIR OWN LIFE AND THE LIFE OF THEIR FAMILY?

Citizens across the region share some of the same concerns for their lives; they are all threatened by unemployment, financial scarcity in their households and rising costs of living. There are some differences between countries. Western Balkan countries (Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia) have the same pattern in their predominant concerns regarding economic security. In Turkey, citizens are most often concerned for their security being threatened by the terrorist attacks. Bulgarian citizens share concerns with other citizens in the Region about economic aspects, but have concerns similar to EU citizens related to pensions. Citizens in Greece are, unlike citizens of other countries, mostly concerned with taxation.

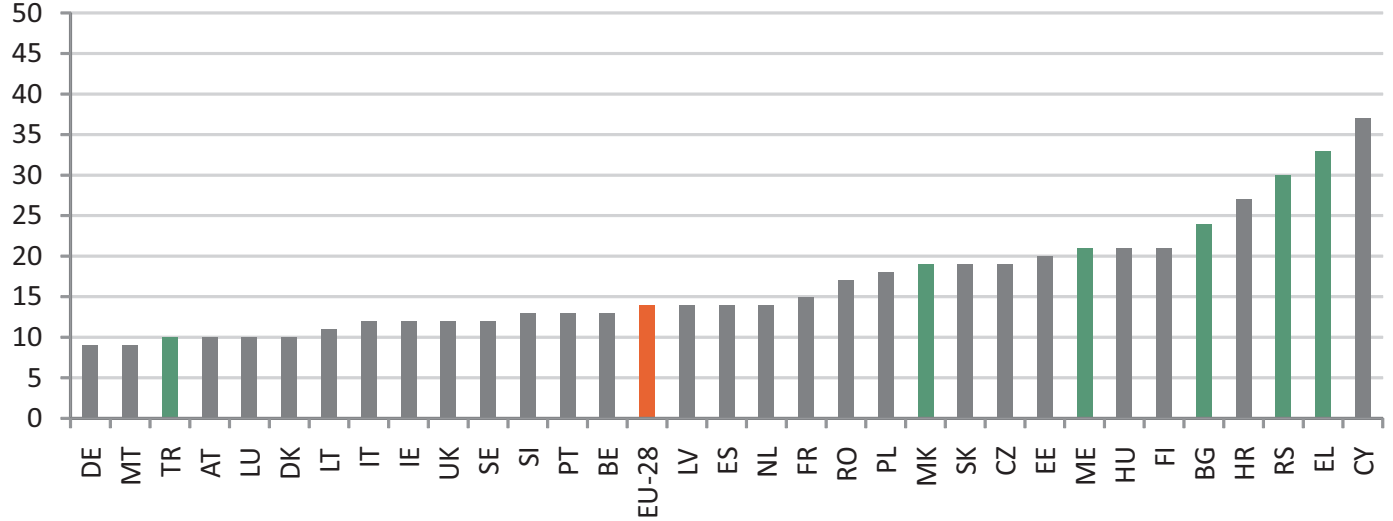
Three biggest issues they are facing personally

Rank	Turkey	Serbia	Montenegro	Macedonia	EU-28	Bulgaria	Greece
1.	terrorism	financial situation of the household	unemployment	unemployment	rising prices/inflation/cost of living	rising prices/inflation/cost of living	taxation
2.	unemployment	rising prices/inflation/cost of living	rising prices/inflation/cost of living	living conditions	health and social security	financial situation of the household	financial situation of the household
3.	rising prices/inflation/cost of living	unemployment	financial situation of the household	rising prices/inflation/cost of living	pensions	pensions	rising prices/inflation/cost of living

Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

When compared to EU-28 and Member States, with the exception of Turkey, citizens of all other countries are more concerned about the financial situation of their household. Around a third of the citizens of Serbia and Greece raised this concern.

Financial Situation of the Household

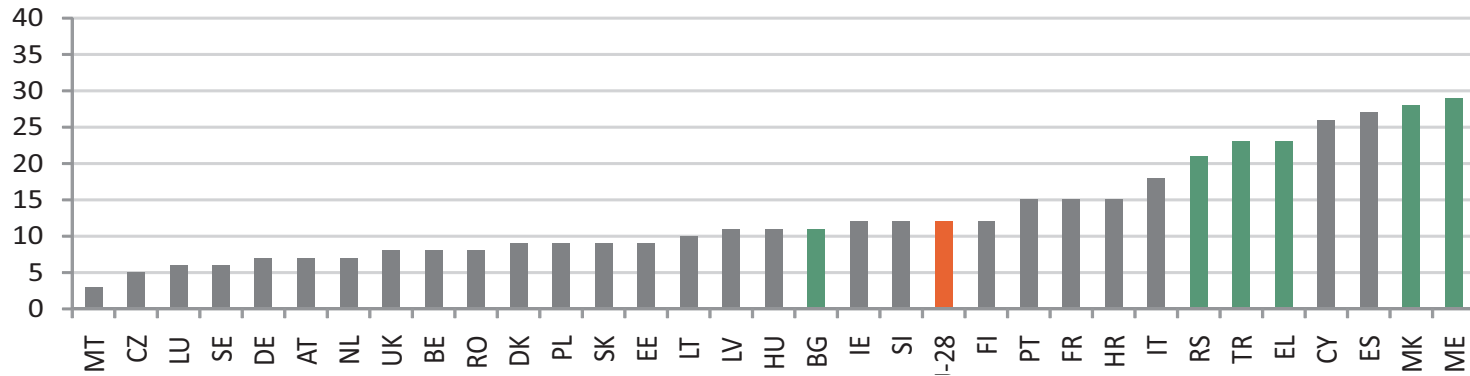


Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016



Unemployment is clearly a more worrying issue for citizens in the Region (except in Bulgaria), than it is in EU-28, on average. Almost a quarter of citizens in Serbia, Turkey and Greece, and almost a third of citizens in Macedonia and Montenegro highly rated the issue of their unemployment.

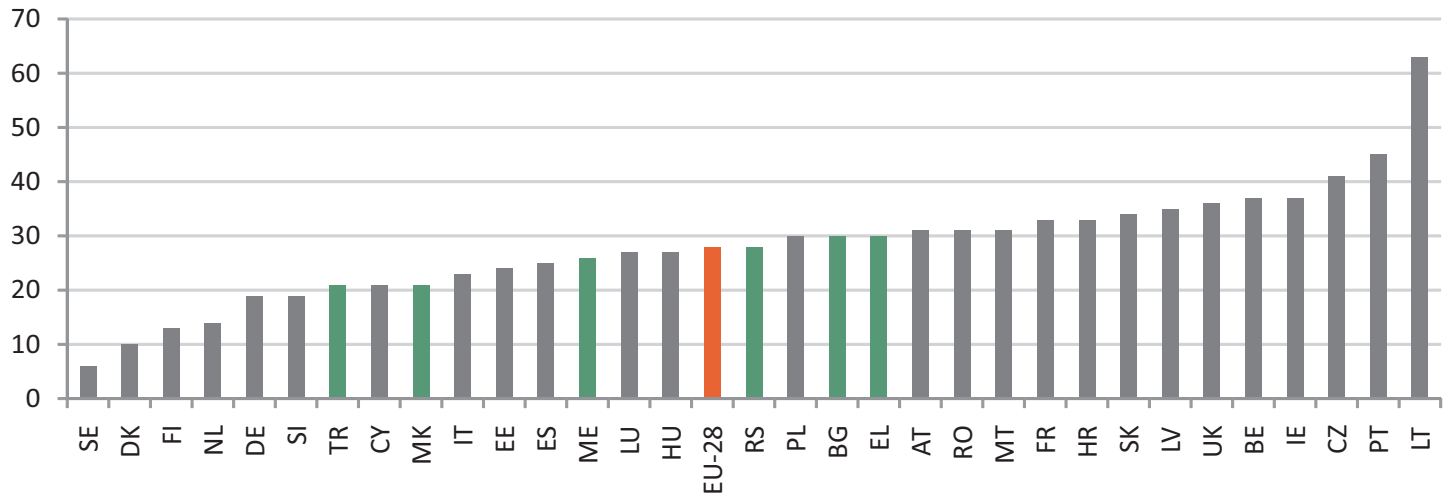
Unemployment



Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

With regard to the issue of increasing costs of living, countries were divided into two groups. In Turkey, Macedonia and Montenegro, citizens raised their concerns about increased costs of living less frequently than the EU average, while in Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece, they raised these concerns more frequently than the EU average. However, it is important to note that the issue of increased costs of living was raised more by citizens of EU MS.

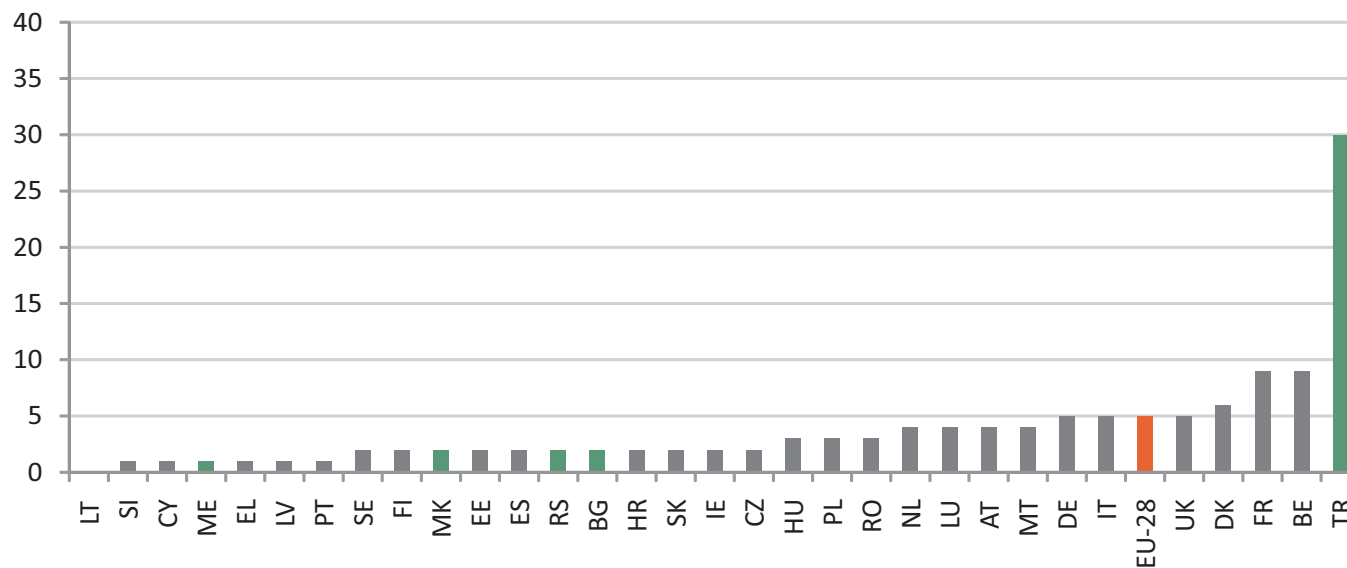
Rising Prices/Inflation/Cost of Living



Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

Concerns related to their security being at risk from the terrorism are highest in Turkey, as expected, and they are not perceived as a threat to personal security in other countries in the Region.

Terrorism



Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

WHAT DO CITIZENS PERCEIVE AS MAJOR ISSUES IN THEIR SOCIETIES?

Basically, threats citizens perceive as major for their societies are the same threats they perceive as major for their personal lives. For this aspect, data for Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina were available, but from different sources. An overview again shows countries grouped in clusters. In Turkey, terrorism is again perceived as a major threat, while citizens of Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia most frequently indicate economic threats as major challenges for their countries. In Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in addition to economic threats, crime and corruption are perceived as most important issues.¹ Citizens of Bulgaria share their concerns with other countries in the region and the EU with regard to economic threats, and with the EU in relation to immigration. Government debt is an issue that appeared as a major problem only among citizens in Greece.

¹ It should be kept in mind that disparities can be the result of differences in methodology.

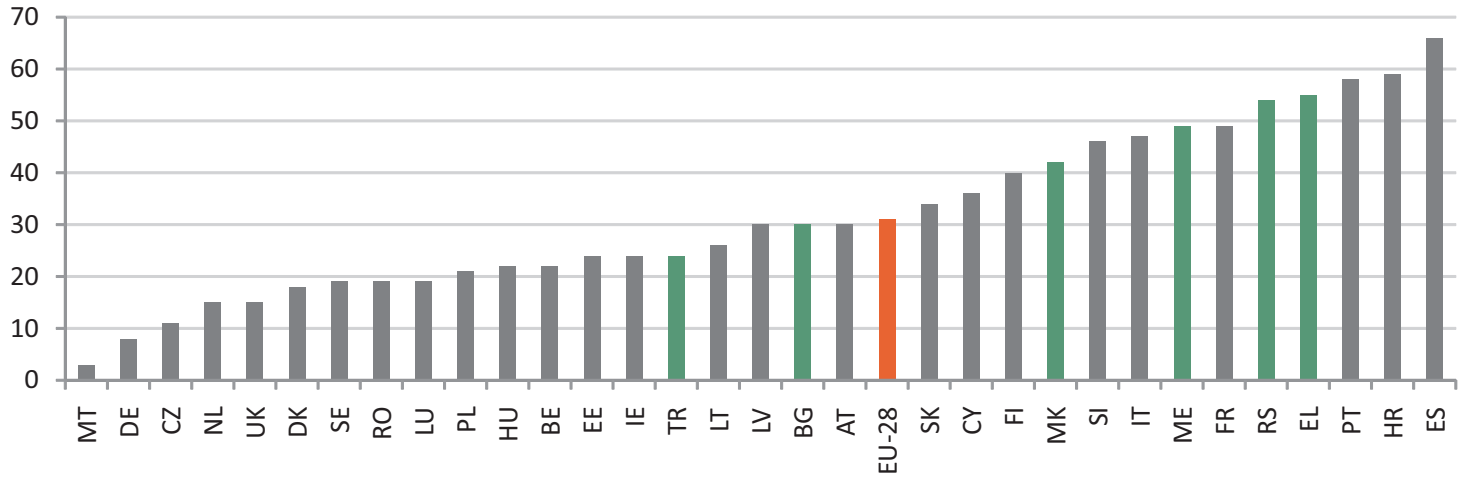
Three biggest issues currently facing their country

Rank	Turkey	Serbia	Montenegro	Macedonia	Kosovo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EU-28	Bulgaria	Greece
1.	terrorism	unemployment	unemployment	unemployment	unemployment	unemployment	unemployment	unemployment	unemployment
2.	unemployment	economic situation	crime	economic situation	poverty	economic situation	immigration	economic situation	economic situation
3.	rising prices/inflation/cost of living	rising prices /inflation /cost of living	economic situation	rising prices /inflation /cost of living	corruption	Crime	economic situation	immigration	government debt

Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016; Public Pulse, UNDP Kosovo, October 2015; Balkan Barometer, Regional Cooperation Council, 2015

The problem of unemployment in the country is most frequently cited by citizens of Greece and Serbia while it is indicated less frequently than in EU-28 only in Turkey and Bulgaria.

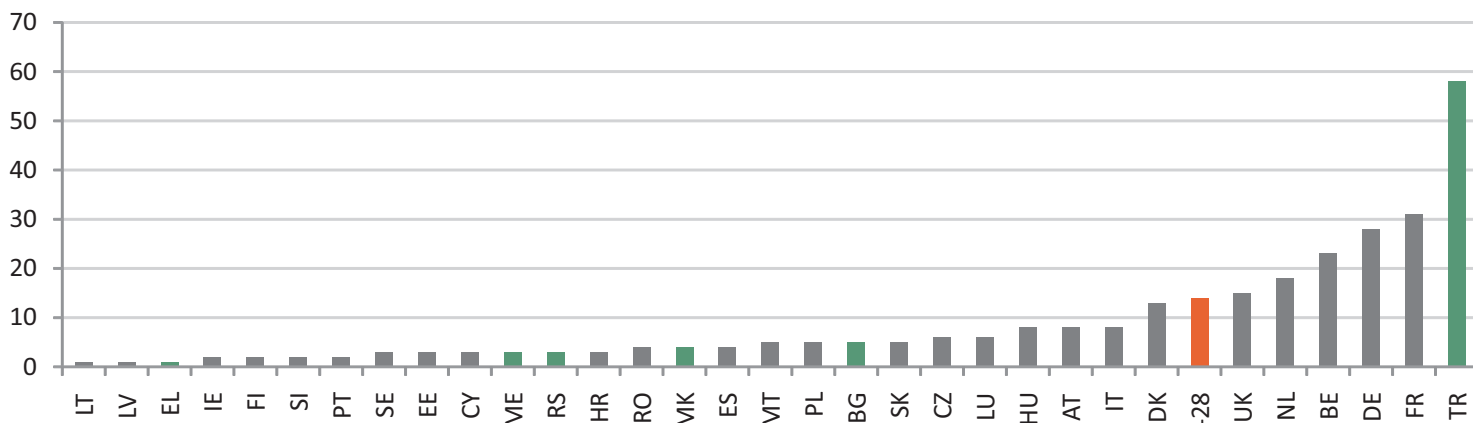
Unemployment



Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

Terrorism is perceived as threat to the country in Turkey, while citizens of other countries in the Region, but also in the majority of EU Member States do not place this threat highly on the list of concerns for their countries (with the exception of France, Germany and Belgium).

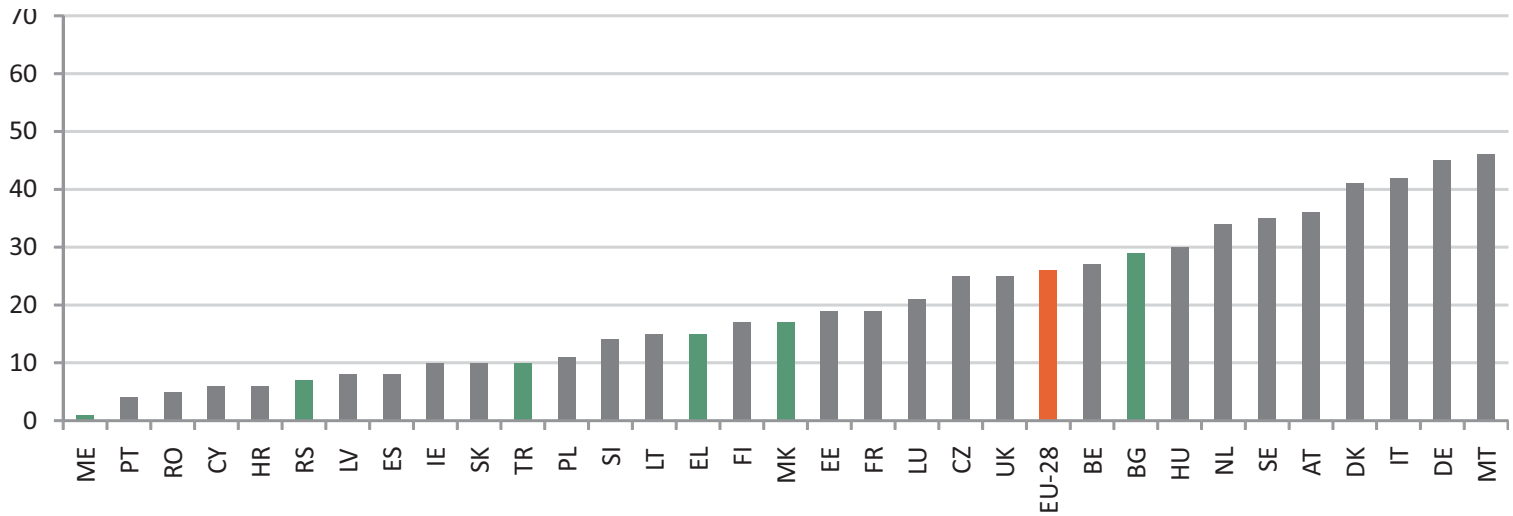
Terrorism



Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

It is interesting to note that in countries which are under more pressure for hosting refugees and other immigrants, such as Turkey and Greece, citizens do not place the issue of immigration among the three most frequently indicated problems.

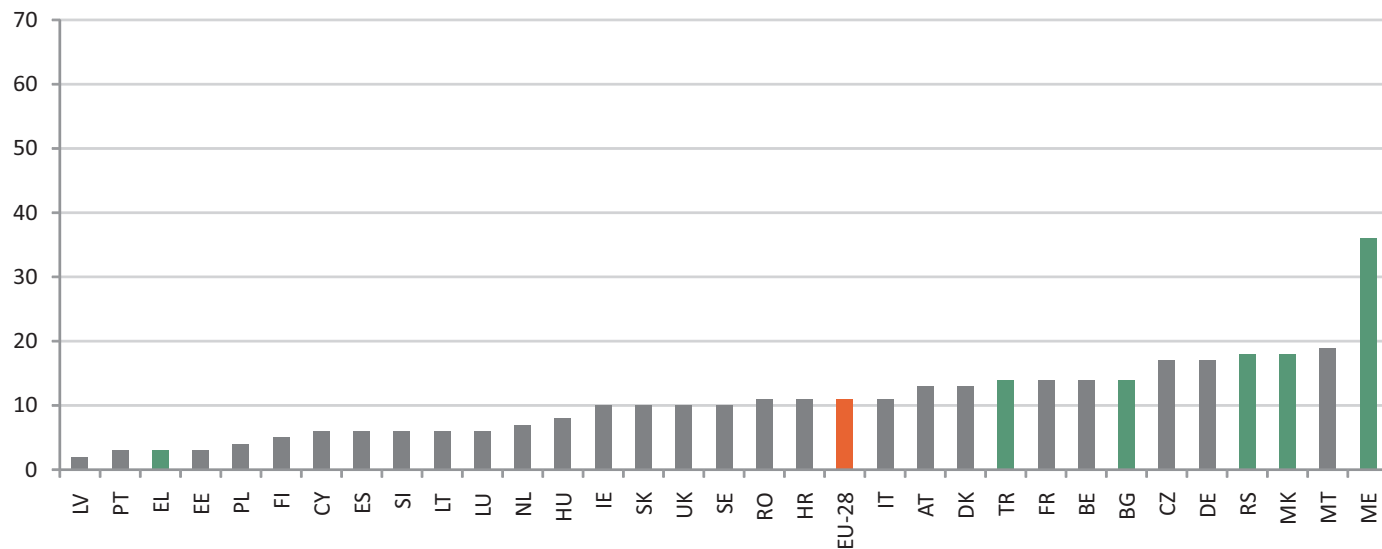
Immigration



Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

Crime is the key issue in Macedonia. The concern with crime in the country is higher in other countries in the Region and higher than average in EU-28, excluding Greece.

Crime



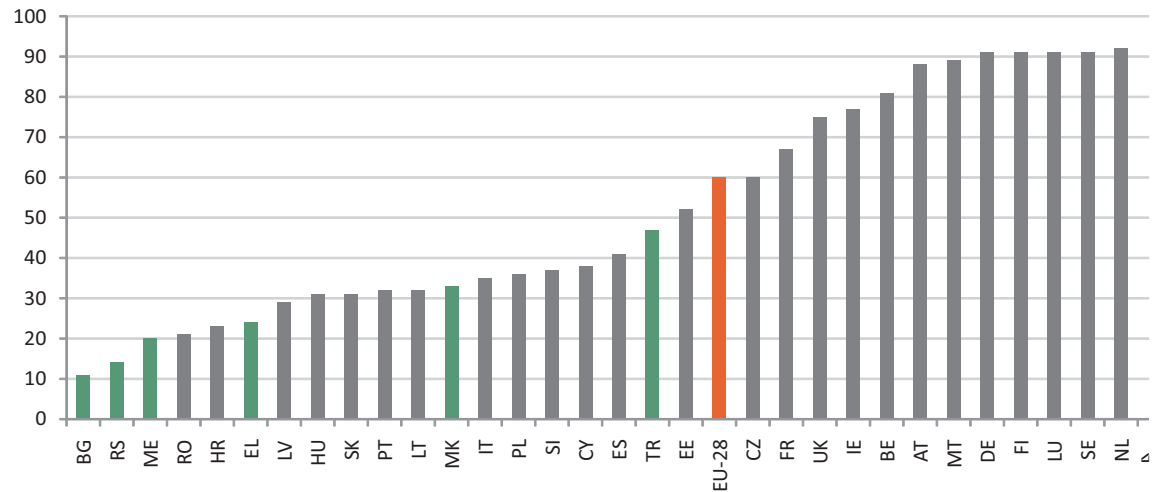
Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

HOW SATISFIED ARE CITIZENS WITH THEIR LIVES?

Citizens of countries in the Region evaluated their quality of life as good considerably less often than citizens of EU-28 on average. The discrepancy is huge when compared to more developed EU Member States. The lowest proportion of citizens who said their quality of life was good live in Bulgaria and Serbia, followed by Montenegro. It should be kept in mind that data for this aspect were available only from the Eurobarometer conducted in Spring 2015, and changes might have occurred in the meanwhile, particularly in countries that experienced changes or new turbulences, such as Turkey.

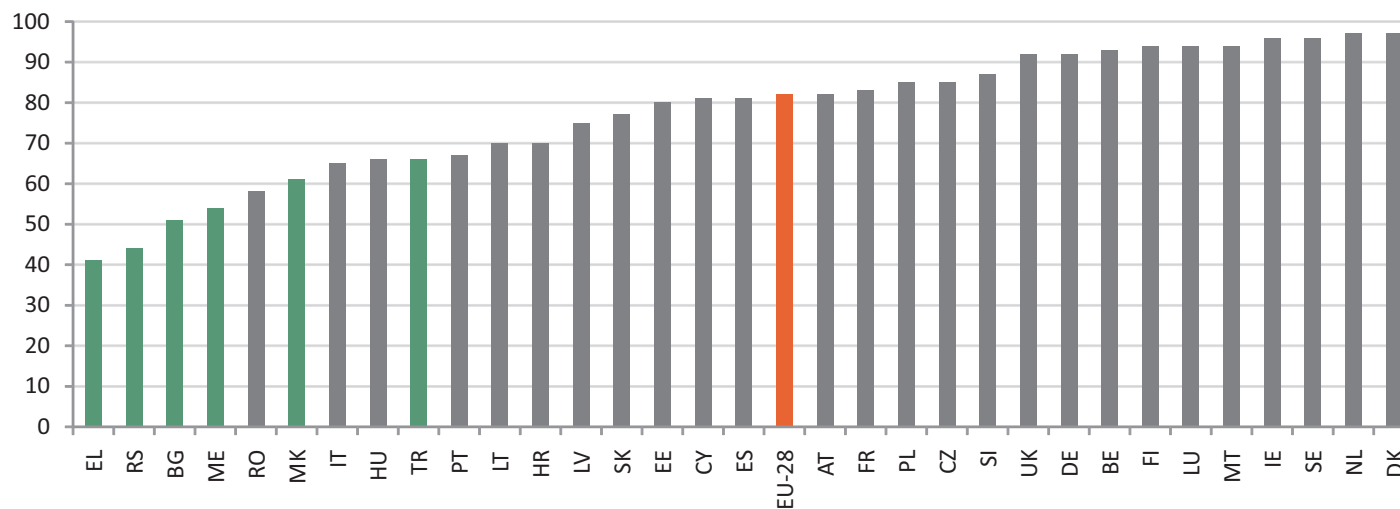
Percentage of citizens who evaluated their quality of life as good

Source: Standard Eurobarometer 83, European Commission, Spring 2015



Citizens in the Region are also much less frequently satisfied with their overall lives than citizens of the EU. The lowest percentage of citizens who are satisfied with their lives are found in Greece and Serbia, followed by Bulgaria, Montenegro and Macedonia.

Percentage of citizens who are satisfied with their overall life



Source: Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

EXPERIENCE OF THREATS IN THE BALKANS AND TURKEY

Citizens of Balkan countries share some major concerns, and these concerns are mostly related to the economic threats, such as unemployment, increasing costs of living, financial scarcity in their households.

The Western Balkans cluster – Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia, is a cluster with a clear dominance of economic threats. Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in addition to economic threats, perceive crime and corruption as main threats in the country more often.

Turkey is the country in which terrorism is perceived as the main threat; following that, economic concerns are similar to the rest of region.

Immigration is not perceived as a threat in countries which are under more pressure for hosting refugees and other groups of migrants, such as Turkey and Greece, while Bulgaria is, in this respect, more similar to other EU countries.

Quality of life and life satisfaction are much lower in the Region than in the EU.

References

Balkan Barometer, Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat, 2015

Public Pulse, UNDP Kosovo, October 2015

Standard Eurobarometer 83, European Commission, Spring 2015

Standard Eurobarometer 86, European Commission, Autumn 2016

CROSS-BORDER CITIZENS' NETWORK FOR PEACE, INTER-COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION AND HUMAN SECURITY



The Cross-Border Citizens' Network for Peace, Inter-Communal Reconciliation and Human Security is a joint initiative –with partner organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hCa and ORC), Bulgaria (IRIS), Kosovo (CDRP), Montenegro (ZID), Serbia (SeConS) and Turkey (hCa in Turkey) – whose establishment was supported by the European Commission. Within the Network, each member approaches the issue on human security from different perspectives, therefore focusing on a particular aspect (local, civic, regional) and field of activities (advocacy, broader social mobilization, research). Their common denominator, however, is their aim to create security-oriented political culture and build structures within their communities.

The transnational nature of the threats to human security, in everyday life, have been identified through organized crime, poverty, social exclusion, extremism and the “gray” economy. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen regional and international connections of all stakeholders, research and advocacy communities and decision makers who strive to uphold the values of peace, reconciliation and human security.

Networking aims to strengthen sustainable transnational civic networks as an actor for the preservation of peace, inter-communal reconciliation and human security –at the local, national and regional level– in order to encourage, and improve, the socio-political and legal transformations in the process of European integration of the Balkans and Turkey. Specific objectives of the Network are building social capital, making recommendations for political reforms, as well as networking on the local, regional and EU level.



SeConS
development initiative group

