

Greener with Accession?

*Comparative Report on Public Perceptions of
the EU Accession Process and the Environment
in Hungary, FYR Macedonia and Romania*

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Szentendre, Hungary
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THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
for Central and Eastern Europe

About the REC

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The Center fulfils this mission by encouraging cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, by supporting the free exchange of information and by promoting public participation in environmental decision-making.

The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC is legally based on a charter signed by the governments of 25 countries and the European Commission, and on an International Agreement with the Government of Hungary. The REC has its headquarters in Szentendre, Hungary, and local offices in each of its 15 beneficiary CEE countries which are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia.

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Sergiu Dragos Serban
Project Manager

Executive Summary

Why was this report written?

This report on the opinion poll project is an attempt to provide an information source on awareness of environmental problems, environmental behaviour, assessment of national environmental policies, attitudes towards EU accession and perceived environmental consequences of EU accession. The report can serve as a base-line study of public opinion and awareness, for use by decision-makers and various organisations working in the field of environmental protection. Public relation strategies could be shaped accordingly, cooperation and information strategies could be assessed, organisations can design their programs and EU institutions will see what sort of atmosphere awaits them.

Financial means for this project were gained from DG Environment in Brussels. The countries of Hungary, Romania and FYR Macedonia were chosen for the polling, as they represent different stages in the EU accession procedure. The results of the project, which started in September 1999 and ended in May 2000, are three country reports and a fourth comparative report. The questionnaire and the polling procedure for Hungary, Romania and FYR Macedonia were designed by Stefanie Lang (consultant and Ph.D. candidate in social anthropology, Cologne, Germany) and interviewing was done under Lang's supervision by four-to-seven research assistants per country in November and December 1999.

Three polling locations were used in each country, to allow for comparisons between different areas: There was polling in Budapest, Bucharest and Skopje, the capitals of the countries; the industrialised cities of Miskolc in Hungary, Galati in Romania and Veles in FYR Macedonia; and in three rural areas, Turkeve, Hungary; villages around Brasov in Romania and Smovci, FYR Macedonia. Altogether, 878 people were interviewed using a consistent questionnaire. The interview group breaks down as roughly 100-150 in each capital, around 100 in the industrialised areas and 50-60 in the rural areas. A stratified sampling method, using family networks, was chosen to find partners for the approximately 45 minute-long interview. The results, and the report, are not representative but indicative. It gives a snap-shot

of parts of the Hungarian, Romanian and Macedonian population living in the three areas mentioned. This smaller sampling size has been chosen to get more in-depth data, to get more comprehensive results and to reach a combination of quantitative and qualitative data. Therefore, results make clear how respondents thought, felt and acted in the specific time period of the study.

What do people think about the environment, environmental policies and EU accession?

Air pollution, waste problems, drinking water pollution and soil pollution are perceived by those polled to be the main environmental problems. People from industrial areas and older people are more aware of environmental problems. The majority of respondents perceive the environmental situation as deteriorating and say that they talk sometimes about those environmental problems. If they could, a majority would like to buy chemical-free food. Regarding potential industrial accidents, it is assumed in Hungary that technologies are getting safer, in the other two countries respondents would like to see dangerous factories closed.

Among their personal pro-environmental activities, respondents listed avoiding chemicals in their gardens or fields, using deposit bottles, using a basket or bag for shopping and trying to save energy. Respondents said they would do more for the environment personally if they had more opportunities to do something, more environmental knowledge, more money and if more people would join in these efforts. Family education is the most important factor in determining willingness to engage in environmentally friendly behaviour. The willingness to act in an environmentally friendly manner is highest in Hungary. The majority of respondents said they would agree to an increase in waste taxes if this would help them store waste in a more environmentally friendly way. Most people put old paper in with normal household waste, or else burn it. The typical level of environmental knowledge according to the respondents themselves is average, and only inhabitants of rural areas work regularly in nature.

The majority of respondents interviewed were unsatisfied with the amount of money spent for environmental protection, with the efforts of the governmental sector and with information given by the ministry of environment. A third of the Romanian sample is convinced that local governments are the most effective structure for dealing with environmental problems, but half of the Macedonians and Hungarians interviewed said NGOs are most efficient at solving these problems.

Around three fourths of the respondents would like to see EU accession as soon as possible in Romania and FYR Macedonia, but 30 percent of Hungarians would like to wait 10 years. The most important information source for EU matters is TV, followed by newspapers, radio and discussions with others. Hopes that development will be spurred by EU accession are high and widely distributed, and expectations of industrial development are even higher than other expectations. Regarding industry and agriculture, Romanian respondents are more convinced that there will not be major changes. When asked about the environmental effects of accession, respondents were very optimistic: They expect more protection in general, stricter rules and better implementation. The exceptions are the areas of agriculture, soil pollution, air pollution and traffic and streets, where accession is not expected to have a very positive effect.

What could these results mean for policy-makers?

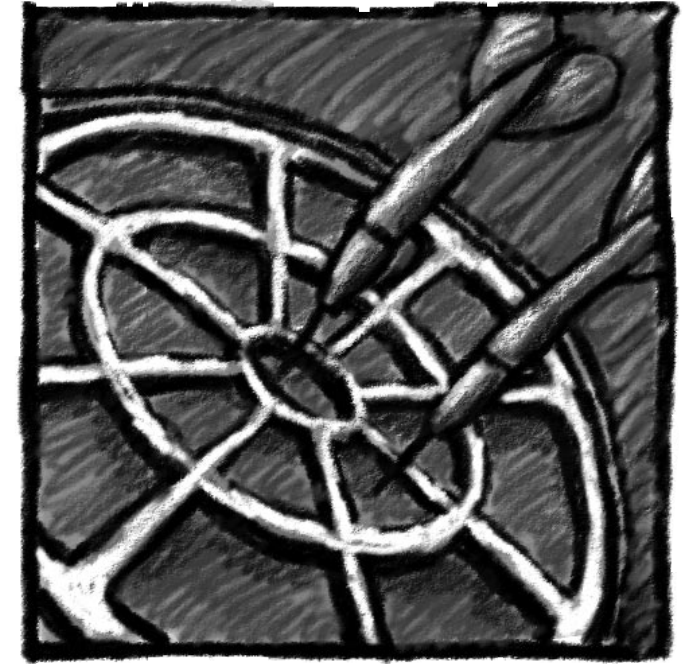
Recommendations are formulated cautiously as the results must be read as indicative. National authorities could invest in public relations and information campaigns. Information about the environmental situation and about what is done to increase protection could be channelled through TV spots and through newspaper leaflets, as these are the main information sources used. Concerning EU accession, the depth of information is remarkably low. Especially in the fields of agriculture and industry, respondents are biased towards very negative outlooks or unrealistic positive developments. These two sectors could serve as case studies for consequences of EU accession.

Local authorities could cooperate more with local groups or NGOs to further strengthen the trust they are given by the population. It could also be of help to create more possibilities for citizens to act in an environmentally friendly way, such as developing recycling facilities or the like. Enforcement of environmental regulation is perceived as weak. It might be useful to give realistic examples of how the enforcement of regulations will shape the lives of everyone so that the positive evaluation of strict enforcement is kept, even when it might become less comfortable for the general public.

NGOs could work more on increasing environmental knowledge of the general public, as these groups normally have closer contact with the public and an advantage in shaping educational campaigns and training materials for different target

groups. EU accession increases hopes for more, or stricter, environmental protection, and this could be a good time to lobby for tougher protection measures in the political sphere, as the support of the general public seems likely. For the purpose of such a lobbying effort — and especially when seeking solutions for urgent problems — it would be useful to establish professional cooperation with the governmental sector, because most respondents have a lot of trust in NGOs when environmental problems have to be solved.

EU institutions could think about their means of distributing information: official brochures are not among the main information sources concerning accession. It might be useful to launch a specific information or training campaign for TV or newspaper journalists, who will then be able to report about accession matters in their media. Training in public relations could be crucial for the public sector. EU institutions could enhance the exchange of experience among member and applicant countries concerning public relations in the field of environmental policy.



Chapter1: Why was this report written?

Chapter 1: Why was this report written?

This report on the opinion poll project is meant to serve as an information source for four main topics:

- awareness of environmental problems;
- environmentally conscious behaviour;
- environmental policies;
- attitudes and perceived environmental consequences of EU accession.

The report therefore establishes the basis for further actions and policy planning for the national government as well as for local governments, accession managers, educational institutions and the whole range of NGOs. Results from the opinion poll and its analysis present a clearer picture about peoples' ideas concerning all the areas above.

Although the report is merely indicative — because the portion of the Hungarian, Romanian and Macedonian populations interviewed should not be considered representative — the poll results still reflect prominent trends in society and give a clear and comprehensive picture of the opinions and assessments of the people interviewed. In any opinion poll project, it is necessary to decide whether to ask just a few questions to a big representative sample or to ask more questions to a smaller sample. In the present project, the second option was chosen because it offers the following benefits:

- more in-depth data;
- more comprehensive results;
- a combination of qualitative and quantitative data.

This report presents the situation in Hungary, Romania and FYR Macedonia in a straightforward and easy to understand manner. It therefore serves as a base-line study for political actors, decision-makers or organisations. As the analysis of all the data is policy oriented and operationalised for policy recom-

mentations, the above mentioned institutions and actors should be able to make use of the report to plan their specific actions and strategies.

National authorities can use this report to shape public relations strategies, to find out which channels of information to use, to see which population groups are most receptive to certain themes, to identify information gaps and needs, to serve as a “starting point” for awareness raising campaigns and various other purposes. The report is also a vital measure of how the respondents perceive the accession process. It can help point out information gaps and illustrate the fields where people need to have a clearer understanding in order to follow the realisation of policies in the future.

Local authorities can use this report when trying to co-operate with well-known local NGOs, when finding out which policy fields are accepted among the local population and when shaping their information strategies. The report helps local authorities to see how well the population knows the environmental situation and where people can be activated to behave in a more environmentally friendly manner. Local authorities might also get a clearer picture about arguments to use for the implementation and enforcement of political decisions and regulations.

NGOs can use this report to find out how well they are known, how much credit they receive for their work and how they can reach people. It will also help NGOs in shaping actions involving volunteer work and in designing information material to address issues that the public does not know about or clearly understand. Furthermore, the report is vital for assessing public support when lobbying for environmental policy changes.

EU institutions will be able to assess the atmosphere they can expect in Hungary, Romania and FYR Macedonia concerning EU accession, as well as the expectations of whether accession will have positive influences on the environmental situation. The study helps elucidate exactly what different national populations expect from accession and how they think this will influence the environmental situation. This knowledge might be helpful in shaping information campaigns and informational material.

To implement this project, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) received financing from DG Environment in Brussels. To make the results more comprehensive, EU and REC envisaged a comparison between three Central European states in different accession stages: Hungary was chosen as one of the first wave countries, Romania as a second wave country and FYR Macedonia as a non-accession coun-

try. The different accession status of the countries was expected to be reflected in different attitudes and levels of awareness concerning environmental problems. A comparison between all the countries therefore adds an interesting fourth report to the three national reports that present the current polling results. The Country Offices of the REC served as a logistic and organisational base in each of the countries.

The questionnaire was designed by Stefanie Lang (consultant and Ph.D. candidate in social anthropology at Cologne University, Germany) in cooperation with the REC headquarters' staff. The methodology and research design has already been applied successfully in Latvia and Estonia by Lang. The interviews were conducted, under Lang's supervision, by four to seven assistants in each country, in autumn 1999. The questionnaire consisted of four parts which could be handled in free order. The first part was questions to be answered by the respondents in written form. It was handed to the respondents for them to fill in alone. Parts I and II consisted of “ranking” questions, “ticking” questions and “normal” questions to be answered. The third part had statements that had to be evaluated by respondents. The fourth part consisted of purely statistical background information, such as age, gender and so on. This part could be filled by the respondents themselves, or be answered orally and filled in by the research assistants. For more details, see the annex.

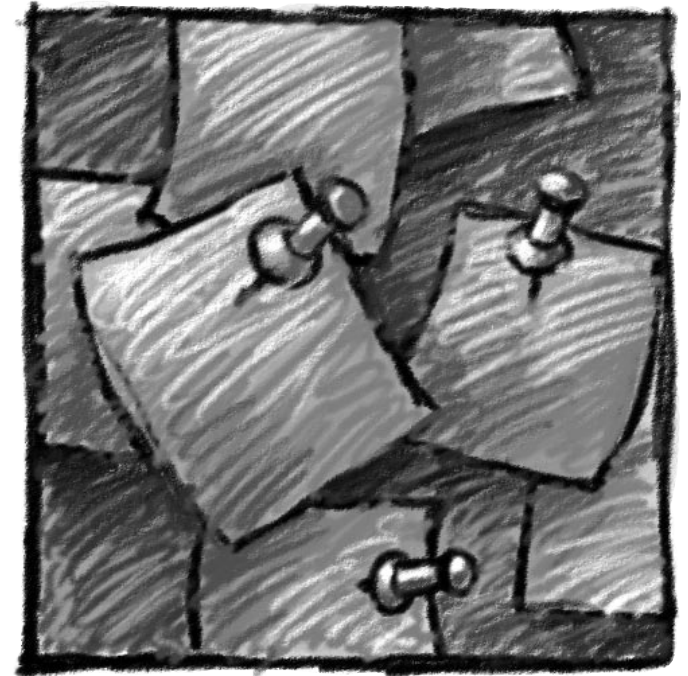
Three polling locations were chosen to allow for comparisons between different types of areas: the capitals of the countries, one industrial area and one agricultural area. In each of the countries, roughly 300 people have been interviewed in the following share: 100-150 people in the capital, 50-70 people in the agricultural area and 100-110 people in the industrial area. The locations in Hungary were: Budapest, Miskolc and Turkeve; the sampling areas in Romania were Bucharest, Galati and villages around Brasov; while in FYR Macedonia, interviews were made in Skopje, Veles and Srnovci. Regarding ethnic distribution of samples, roughly 40 Albanians have been included in the Skopje sample in FYR Macedonia. In all other cases, minority populations have not been included.

Sampling was made easier by taking couples, who were informed via contact persons, and then later following their family lines and interviewing members of their families. Starting points included sports clubs or other leisure clubs (music, art etc.) where people from different backgrounds meet. Assistants took care to find respondents of different age groups, educational backgrounds and gender, to ensure a stratified sample.

Note to readers:

This report is not representative, but indicative. It gives a snap-shot of parts of the Hungarian, Romanian and Macedonian population living in the three areas mentioned. The results presented represent all 300 respondents interviewed and can give an indication of the status of public opinion in Hungary, Romania and FYR Macedonia. Of course, as in all polling projects, there are several factors that could distort the answers: Respondents sometimes tend to answer in a normative way — which means that they can claim to do some things regularly, even though they might not do them in reality, but know that they should do them. Another problem is that interview assistants might influence answering behaviour — even unconsciously. A third problem is that respondents often try to appear more “correct,” even though they are assured that there is no right or wrong answer. These potential distortions are prevalent problems in every social study dealing with interviews. Nevertheless, results give a good clue as to how interviewed respondents thought, felt and acted at the specific time period of the study.

All results will be presented following the logic of the questionnaire: First come concepts of people interviewed concerning environmental problems; second are questions about what they personally do to help the environment; third are assessments of national policies in the governmental and non-governmental sectors; finally, there are opinions on EU accession. The answers given to the first three areas serve as important background for understanding why respondents answered as they did when asked how EU accession can influence environmental problems and solutions.



Chapter 2: Main findings

Chapter 2: Main findings

The findings presented in this chapter highlight important results from each of the subchapters in a summarised format. All of the findings are presented in more detail and depth in Chapter 3 and in the annex.

Do respondents see problems with the environment in Hungary, Romania and FYR Macedonia?

- Air pollution, waste problems, drinking water pollution, general water pollution and soil pollution are perceived as the main national environmental problems. Nuclear threats from other countries were also mentioned as causes for concern.
- Around half of the Hungarian and Romanian respondents said that they talk about environmental problems sometimes, but 40 percent of the Macedonian respondents said they talk about those problems often.
- The majority of respondents said that they personally see the condition of the environment deteriorating. Romanian respondents were the ones who said they most often suffer from illnesses due to environmental degradation.
- When going shopping, many respondents would like to buy chemical-free food (42 percent in Hungary, 59 percent in Romania and 47 percent in FYR Macedonia). Others do not think about chemicals, but about the price (40 percent in Hungary, around 20 percent in Romania and FYR Macedonia). FYR Macedonia has the highest number of respondents who produced their own food themselves or bought chemical-free food.
- Regarding the fear of industrial accidents with harmful effects on the environment, most Hungarian respondents think that technologies are getting safer, but they still fear accidents. Romanian and Macedonian respondents would like to see dangerous factories closed.
- Regarding awareness of environmental issues, an analysis of the data revealed that the older population is more aware. In general, awareness of environmental issues is highest among

respondents from the industrialised sample location. The segment of the population that is active in environmental organisations is also more aware.

- Respondents strongly favoured the idea of preserving the environment for their children, even if it means reducing the living standard today. And respondents also partly agreed to the idea of investing in industries, so that with more development, future generations will have the money to solve environmental problems.
- When evaluating the statement, “I would accept it if some people lose their jobs if it helps the environment,” respondents’ answers showed diverse patterns according to country. More Macedonian respondents strongly disagreed, more Romanians partly disagreed and more Hungarians totally agreed. In FYR Macedonia, more respondents gave the answer “I do not know,” than in other countries.

What are individuals doing for the environment?

- In the sample, 5 percent of all people interviewed in Hungary, 1.9 percent in Romania and 10 percent in FYR Macedonia are members of in an environmental organisation. So, the sample respondents in FYR Macedonia and Hungary reflect an exceptionally active population.
- In general, Hungarian respondents are the most active in environmental protection. As their personal pro-environmental activities, most people in the sample mention the use of shopping bags or baskets (to avoid using plastic bags), the use of deposit bottles and efforts to save energy. They also avoid mineral fertiliser and other chemicals in their gardens and fields. Environmental activists were involved in more of the nine personal pro-environmental activities listed in the poll.
- If there were more possibilities provided, respondents would also do more for the environment. Other factors that would influence people’s willingness to engage in environmentally friendly activities include having more money, having better knowledge about what to do and an assurance that more people would join in the activities.
- In the respondents’ point of view, the willingness to engage in environmentally friendly behaviour is mainly influenced by family education, personal value systems, the love of nature and the existence of appropriate rules and regulations. Here, Romanians and Macedonians give more importance to

the need for rules and regulations and Hungarians put more emphasis on the love of nature.

- Personal efforts to save the environment are most likely to be found in the industrial area and among activists in Hungary. In Romania, it is rural respondents and older people who reach higher environmentally friendly “behaviour index” values. In FYR Macedonia, it is religion which plays a role: Orthodox respondents have a higher behaviour index than Muslim respondents. The more aware people are concerning environmental problems, the more likely it is that their behaviour will be environmentally friendly.
- When disposing of paper waste in Hungary, 32 percent of the respondents put it into the normal household waste, 21 percent burn paper waste and 44 percent recycle it. In Romania, the majority of respondents put old paper in with household waste and in FYR Macedonia, most respondents burn it.
- When asked if they would be ready to pay more for proper waste management, most respondents in all three countries said yes. The majority of respondents who strongly agree with this idea are from Hungary and FYR Macedonia, and the majority of those who strongly disagree are Macedonians.
- Respondents from the capitals and industrial areas said they sometimes work in, or with, nature; people in rural areas do so regularly. Most respondents sometimes spend their leisure time in natural settings. Overall, rural respondents work and spend leisure time in nature most often.
- Most respondents give themselves an average score when ranking their own environmental knowledge.

How does the political situation appear to respondents?

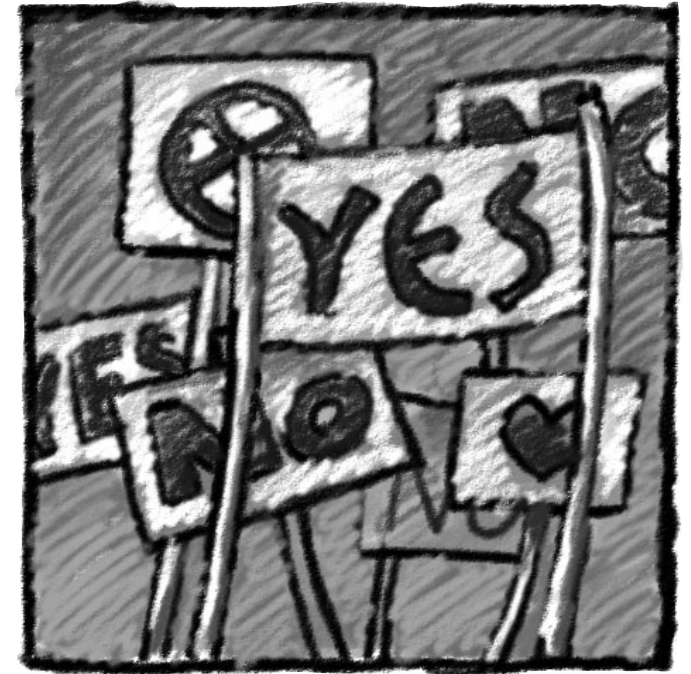
- Almost two thirds of the respondents in Hungary said that the government does a lot for the environment but not enough to make them feel safe. More than half of respondents in Romania and FYR Macedonia are of the opinion that the government does not care at all.
- Two thirds of all respondents in Romania and Hungary, but only 48 percent of Macedonians, mentioned the Ministry of Environment as the responsible authority dealing with environmental protection.
- The majority of respondents interviewed think that neither the national nor the local government spends enough money for environmental protection.

- The majority of respondents interviewed think that neither environmental legislation nor the enforcement of legislation are satisfactory. And a large majority think that the Ministry of Environment does not give enough information about environmental protection.
- Almost half of the Hungarian and the Macedonian sample are convinced that NGOs are the most efficient organisational structure for solving environmental problems. The majority of the Romanians asked said that local governments are the best organisational structure for tackling these problems.
- Most respondents also think that national and international cooperation is necessary when addressing environmental problems.
- When asked to name an environmental organisation (governmental or non-governmental), 44 percent of the Macedonians asked, 68 percent of the Romanians and 22 percent of the Hungarians could not think of any organisation at all. People with higher levels of education tend to know more organisations.

Hungary, Romania, FYR Macedonia and the European Union

- More than half of all Hungarians interviewed, two thirds of the Romanians and 80 percent of Macedonians would like to see EU accession as soon as possible. Around a third of all Hungarian respondents said they would prefer accession only after 10 years. Women tend to prefer the option of waiting 10 years in Romania, in Hungary the case was the opposite with more men favouring a waiting period.
- The most important source for information on EU matters is television, followed by newspapers, radio and discussions with other people. Official brochures rank in the last place.
- Forty-five percent of those asked see economic development in the West as a good model for their country, too. Using Western countries as a good role model in general appeals to 44 percent of the sample interviewed. And 11 percent say that their country should find its own pace and route for development.
- Expectations of the types of new developments brought on by the accession process are distributed almost equally: Only expectations of industrial development were slightly higher than expectations of other types of development. When asked to rank the expected developments, rural respondents gave higher rankings to environmental developments. But respondents from rural, industrial and capital regions all shared low expectation for development in the specific area of nature protection.
- When asked to assess the changes that accession will bring in the area of agriculture, Romanian respondents seem more convinced that there will be no changes while most Macedonian respondents either said they did not know or that they are optimistic the EU will support eco-friendly agriculture.
- When asked to assess the changes accession will bring to industry, the majority of Macedonian and Hungarian respondents said they were aware that there is a need for a lot of investment in the industrial sector. Romanian respondents either think that there will be no major changes, or that the EU will cover the expenses of modernisation.
- An overwhelming majority of respondents said that the EU and their own country should pay equal shares of the costs for accession investments.
- When asked what comes to mind when they hear the words “European Union,” almost all respondents automatically thought of accession for their own country. When asked to name concepts that they associate with the words “European Union,” the most frequent responses were: positive effects on development, positive effects on wealth of the country, positive effects on society — such as further democratisation — and free travel and trade. While the most common responses were positive, the fifth-most frequent one was negative: concerns about negative effects on society like “westernisation” or the loss of identity.
- Concerning the impact of EU membership on the environment, more than half of all respondents are optimistic, and expect accession to bring a better environmental situation and more protected areas.
- When asked to give specifics on expected environmental changes from EU accession, respondents mentioned better environmental regulations, more international cooperation and better environmental information. Respondents were less hopeful regarding the effects that EU accession could have on air pollution, traffic and streets, soil pollution and agriculture.
- When answering the open question about environmental changes that would occur as a result of the accession process, most of the replies related to hopes for more environmental protection in general and hopes for stricter rules. Slightly lower ranked came the hope for better implementation of these rules and a positive effect on peoples’ behaviour.

- On the subject of autonomy and accession, respondents from the Hungarian rural area had the most reservations about the integration process. In contrast, rural Macedonian respondents had the least reservations about accession. In general, the Macedonian respondents had the highest appreciation for accession.



Chapter 3: What do people think about
the environment, environmental
policies and EU accession?

Chapter 3: What do people think about the environment, environmental policies and EU accession?

3.1. Do respondents see problems with the environment in their countries?

3.1.1. What are the main problems perceived?

Many different questions in the questionnaire, including an open question, give an idea of the level of awareness among respondents about environmental problems. For example, respondents were asked what problems are considered most important in their countries. They were also asked to say how much they are affected personally by environmental problems, whether they fear environmental degradation and whether environmental problems are a common subject when they talk with their friends or family. Section 3.1.2. will present a more complex analysis with an a description of an index for environmental problem awareness.

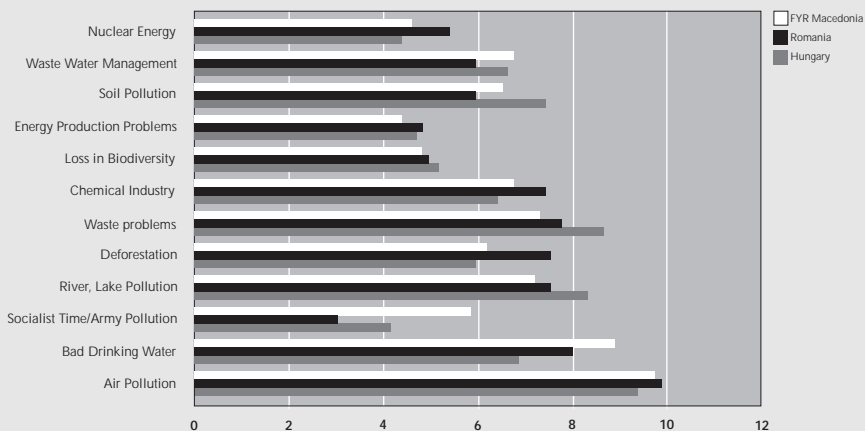
Respondents were asked to rank a list of 12 environmental problems, giving a rank of 1 for problems that are not perceived as important and a rank of 12 for the problem that they consider the most important. The mean rank of the responses was calculated to yield Figure 1, which shows how various environmental problems are categorised by respondents in all three countries. Air pollution gets highest rank in all three countries, but in assessing the importance of all other problems, respondents of different countries had different assessments. As the second most important problem, waste problems are mentioned in Hungary, while bad drinking water quality was considered second most important in Romania and FYR Macedonia. Waste problems were ranked as the third most important problem by respondents in Romania and FYR Macedonia, while the third-ranked problem in Hungary, is the pollution of rivers and lakes. Pollution left over from the socialist era, or from military activities is not considered to be a serious problem in Hungary and

Air pollution, waste problems, drinking water pollution, general water pollution and soil pollution are perceived as the main national environmental problems. Nuclear threats from other countries were also mentioned as causes for concern.



FIGURE 1

Most important environmental problems ranked



“I am worried about global climate change, air pollution, nuclear catastrophes and the increasing amount of waste. In agriculture, there are too many chemicals which are in everything. We do not know what we are eating any more.” (Budapest, male, 57 years)

“To my mind, the biggest problem is people’s behaviour. They do not feel their responsibility to protect their own environment.” (Turkeve, female, 47 years)

“The most important problem is waste management. The safety of waste management is not guaranteed and problems like burning or unsafe landfills are not solved. Nobody collects hazardous waste from the inhabitants and therefore it gets mixed into the household waste. This waste management endangers soil and water basins directly and destroys wild flora and fauna.” (Miskolc, female, 55 years)

“Flowers, plants and animals disappear. [I’m also concerned about] water, soil and air pollution.” (Bucharest, male, 19 years)

“[I’m most concerned about] air pollution, surface water and groundwater pollution, the loss of specific fauna as a result of deforestation, the change of local climate conditions as a consequence of the green-house effect, land slides, floods and nuclear accidents.” (Brasov, female, 57 years)

“I am afraid of industrial pollution and of intensive use of pesticides and other chemicals in agriculture.” (Galati, male 45 years)

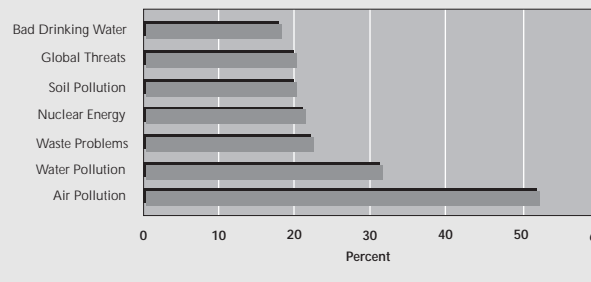
“[I’m concerned about] forest destruction, dumping of solid waste in inadequate locations, the emission of chemical waste effluents into the rivers and lakes and low drinking-water quality, which will effect people’s health.” (Srnovci, female, 24 years)

“I am most afraid of radiation, especially after the Kosovo war.” (Skopje, female, 36 years)

“I am afraid of soil erosion, forest cover destruction, air pollution, improper waste management, water pollution through industrial waste water and low ecological awareness of people who do not follow the law.” (Veles, female 23 years)

FIGURE 2

Seven most commonly mentioned environmental problems in Hungary



Romania, but in FYR Macedonia it received a relatively high rank. This has to be seen in the context of the Kosovo crisis and it’s affect on FYR Macedonia.

The open question about environmental problems serves as a cross-check for the ranking described above, because respondents were free to add other problems and to describe their fear of environmental problems and degradation in detail. In the analysis of the coded answers, the results correspond roughly to the results of the problem ranking questions. But it is important to remember that responses to the open question included concerns that were not limited to the national context, so that global threats

FIGURE 3

Seven most commonly mentioned environmental problems in Romania

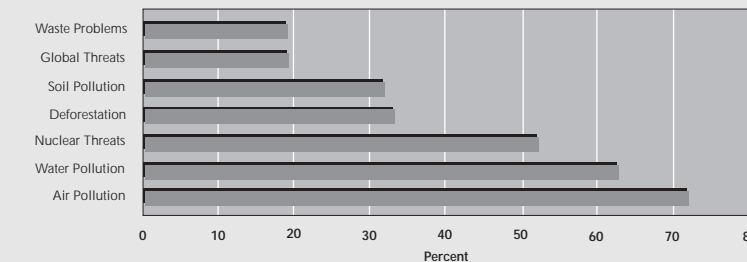
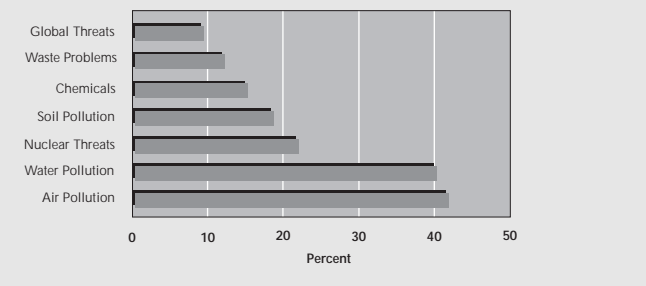


FIGURE 4

Seven most commonly mentioned environmental problems in FYR Macedonia



or international problems — such as nuclear radiation — were often mentioned. The following three charts (Figures 2, 3 and 4) present the seven most frequently responses to the open question about environmental concerns in each of the countries.

It is worth noting that Romanian respondents in general answered the open question in more detail and length, so the total percentages of the top seven categories mentioned by Romanians are higher than in Hungary and FYR Macedonia. Air and water pollution were always considered important problems, but nuclear threats — be it from nuclear power stations or from nuclear weapons — are also very often mentioned as causes for personal

concern. Global threats, like ozone layer depletion, the greenhouse-effect or climate change, were most often mentioned in Hungary, while deforestation was only classified among the seven most-mentioned problems in Romania. Despite these few differences, it was surprising to see how similarly all 880 respondents answered the open question about environmental problems.

Most of the respondents from three countries talk about environmental problems sometimes, or a lot, which is understandable, given the range of concerns they expressed (See Figure 5).

But how are respondents personally influenced or touched by environmental problems? Do they suffer from actual health problems caused by environmental degradation or do they simply perceive that the environment around them is deteriorating?

The majority of respondents said that they personally see the condition of the environment deteriorating. Romanian respondents were the ones who said they most often suffer from illnesses due to environmental degradation.

FIGURE 6

How respondents of all three countries are influenced by environmental problems

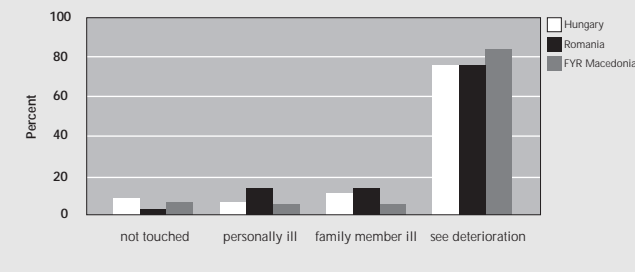


FIGURE 7

The influence of environmental problems by sampling area

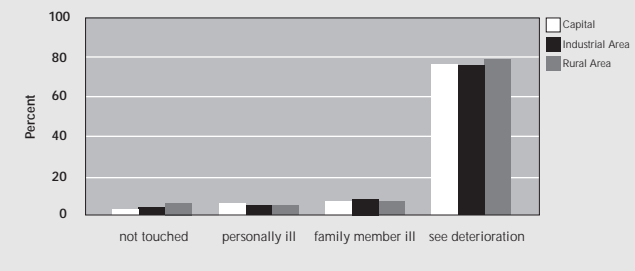


FIGURE 5

How often respondents talk about environmental problems

I talk about environmental problems with my friends or family

	Hungary	Romania	FYR Macedonia
often	28%	19%	40%
sometimes	48%	56%	48%
seldom	23%	20%	11%
never	1%	6%	2%

Around half of Hungarian and Romanian respondents said that they talk about environmental problems sometimes, but 40 percent of Macedonian respondents said they talk about those problems often.

When going shopping, many respondents would like to buy chemical-free food (42 percent in Hungary, 59 percent in Romania and 47 percent in FYR Macedonia). Others do not think about chemicals, but about the price (40 percent in Hungary, around 20 percent in Romania and FYR Macedonia). FYR Macedonia has the highest number of respondents who produced their own food themselves or bought chemical-free food.

FIGURE 8

Awareness of chemicals in food

When you get your food, do you worry about the chemicals that the food contains?

	Hungary	Romania	FYR Macedonia
No, as I think that food produced in my country does not have many chemicals in it.	3%	2%	7%
I would like to buy chemical-free food, but I do not know where to get it.	42%	59%	47%
I always buy chemical-free food or produce food myself.	10%	15%	27%
I think about price, not about chemical content.	40%	22%	17%
I think that chemicals in food are not such a big problem.	6%	3%	2%

When comparing Figures 6 and 7, it is interesting to note that respondents in the same type of area answered similarly, regardless of their country. So rural respondents of Brasov, Srnovci or Turkeve are more alike than, for example, Hungarian respon-

FIGURE 9

Awareness of chemicals in food in FYR Macedonia

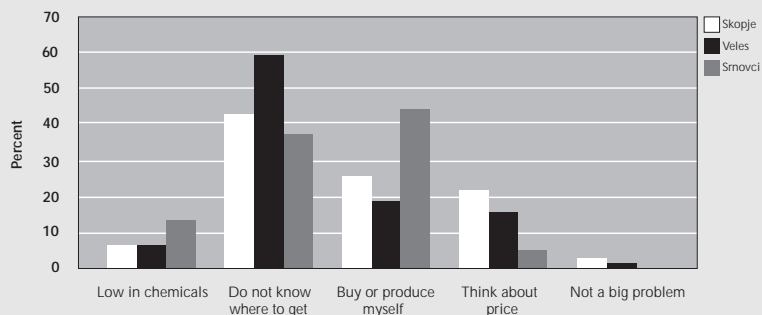


FIGURE 10

Awareness of chemicals in food in Romania

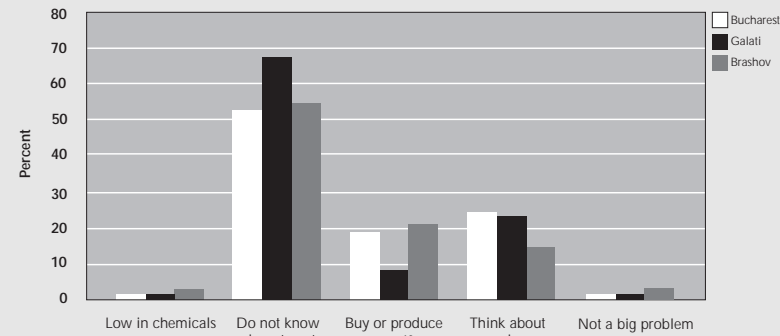
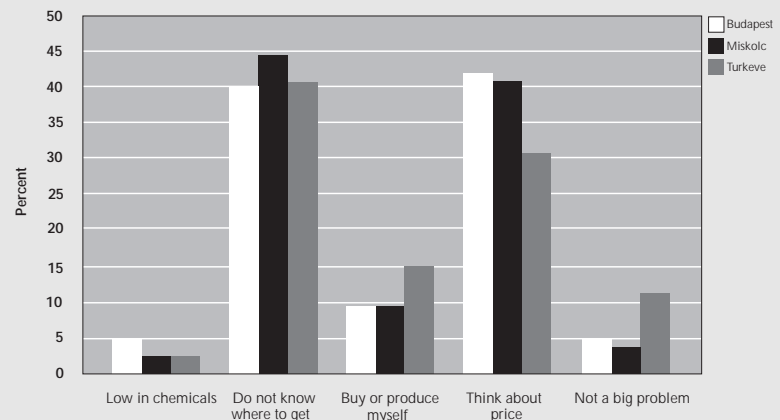


FIGURE 11

Awareness of chemicals in food in Hungary



dents in the capital, the rural area and the industrial area. Comparing countries, Romanian respondents suffer most from illnesses caused by environmental degradation. Macedonian respondents are more likely to perceive deterioration in the condition of the environment.

Regarding the fear of industrial accidents with harmful effects on the environment, most Hungarian respondents think that technologies are getting safer, but they still fear accidents. Romanian and Macedonian respondents would like to see dangerous factories closed.

FIGURE 12

Fear of environmental accidents in all three countries

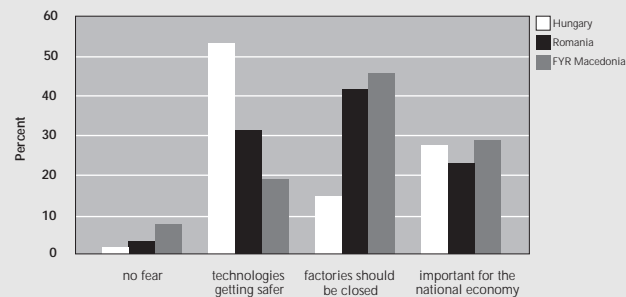
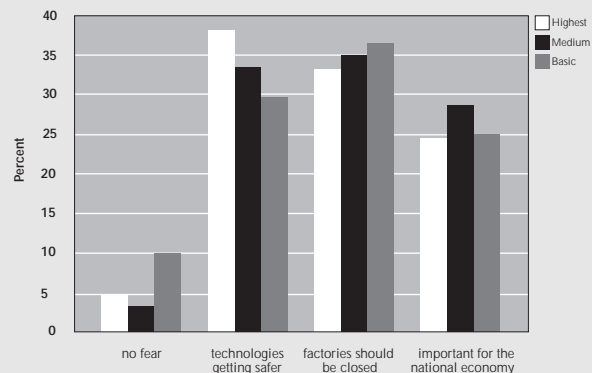


FIGURE 13

Fear of accidents according to education



One problem that many respondents mentioned in the open question about environmental concerns was the high degree of chemicals in the food. As other questions indicated, many respondents were very aware of chemicals in their food. (See Figure 8).

Macedonians are the most convinced that the food produced in their country has a limited chemical content, while Hungarians think more about the price than the others and Romanians have the strongest wish to buy chemical-free food. But the answers differ considerably when comparing the three

sampling areas in the countries. Figures 9, 10 and 11 present the results for each country, divided by sampling areas.

It is logical that those respondents living in rural areas are also the ones who produce food themselves more than respondents living in the capital and in the industrial area. What is surprising is that rural Hungarian respondents are more convinced that chemicals in their food is not such a big problem, while in the other two countries, the amount of rural people saying this is much lower. In all three countries, it is rural people who think less about the price. For rural residents, food is often less expensive, as they buy it locally or produce food themselves.

One last question that gives information about the awareness of environmental problems is about the fear of industrial or chemical accidents and ways in which respondents deal with this fear. (See Figure 12)

Hungarians are most positive about chemicals plants, as they are convinced that technologies are getting safer and that, therefore, factories should not be closed down completely. In FYR Macedonia, respondents seem to either feel no fear at all or they think that factories should be closed down completely.

If you group all three countries together, and analyse the answers by education, Figure 13 shows that most people who have no fear of environmental problems are those with a basic education level, and most people who are convinced that technologies are getting safer are those with the highest educational levels.

3.1.2. How aware are respondents about environmental problems?

Unlike education or age, a cognitive pattern like environmental awareness cannot simply be measured with one question or a single variable. A concept like awareness has many aspects and is multi-dimensional in nature. To adequately understand

FIGURE 14

Environmental awareness index

	HUNGARY			ROMANIA			FYR MACEDONIA		
	Budapest	Miskolc	Turkeve	Bucharest	Galati	Brasov	Skopje	Veles	Srnovci
Average awareness index	21.6	22.2	20.1	19.1	21.8	21.5	21.1	21.6	22.1

Regarding awareness of environmental issues, an analysis of the data revealed that the older population is more aware. In general, awareness of environmental issues is highest among respondents from the industrialised sample location. The segment of the population that is active in environmental organisations is also more aware.

Respondents strongly favoured the idea of preserving the environment for their children, even if it means reducing the living standard today. And respondents also partly agreed to the idea of investing in industries, so that with more development, future generations will have the money to solve environmental problems.

this phenomenon, it must be measured and analysed in this complexity. Therefore, the analysis shown in Figure 14 combines different statements from the third part of the questionnaire that indicate specific aspects of environmental awareness.¹ To measure the degree of awareness, statements 10, 13, 24, 28 and 34 were combined into one index measure. The higher the index, whose values range from 5 to 25, the stronger the awareness the respondents have of environmental issues.

In general, differences between the awareness indices are relatively minor. The highest index is among respondents from Miskolc while respondents from Bucharest have the lowest index. The higher results in Miskolc and Srnovci are most probably due to the high amount of members of environmental organisations which were interviewed in these two areas. Across all three countries, respondents in the industrial areas tend to have a higher index than in the other areas. This could be due to the fact that they suffer more from environmental problems in their daily life.

There are also other socio-economic variables which determine the level of environmental awareness, but the specific variables change for each country. Religion plays a role in the Macedonian case: Orthodox respondents have a higher awareness index (21.6) than Muslim respondents (19.8). It is gender that plays a role in the Hungarian sample: Females are more aware of environmental problems than males. In Romania, respondents who spent their childhood outside of Bucharest show a higher awareness than those who lived in Bucharest when they were children.

Income does not seem to play a determining role in Hungary and FYR Macedonia, but in Romania, respondents with lower incomes show more awareness than those with higher incomes. In all three countries, younger respondents rank as being less aware than older respondents.

3.1.3. Nature protection versus economic growth — conflict or partnership?

Is the relationship between nature protection and economic growth perceived as a dichotomy or as parallel concepts, and which has a stronger priority? To answer these questions, some of the statements can be analysed singly, rather than in combined form. The following charts present the evaluations given to various statements.

Figure 15 makes it clear that, when asked about putting environment above living standard, disagreement is higher in Romania

FIGURE 15

We have to preserve the environment for our children even if this means reducing the living standard today — by country

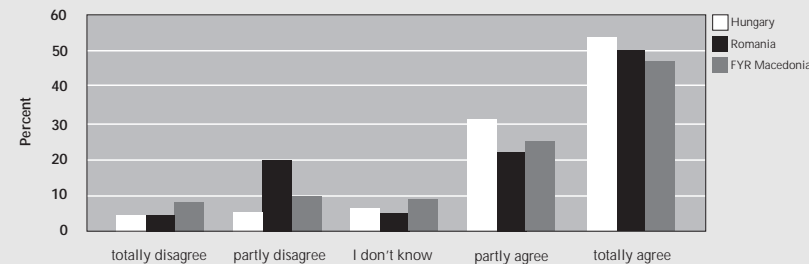
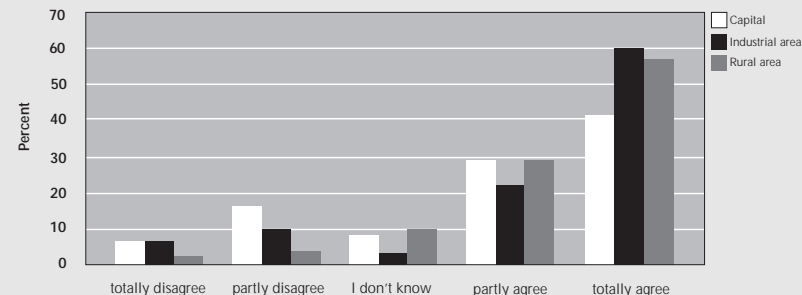


FIGURE 16

We have to preserve the environment for our children even if this means reducing the living standard today — by area



and FYR Macedonia, while agreement is higher in Hungary. In general, most of the respondents agreed with this statement.

When looking at the division by sampling areas in Figure 16, it becomes clear that respondents living in the capital disagree more, while those in the rural and industrial areas agree more. But the statement is rather abstract, and agreeing to it is easy because it does not imply many consequences for those who agree. The following statement is more controversial:

“I would accept if some people lose their jobs if this helped the environment.”

FIGURE 17

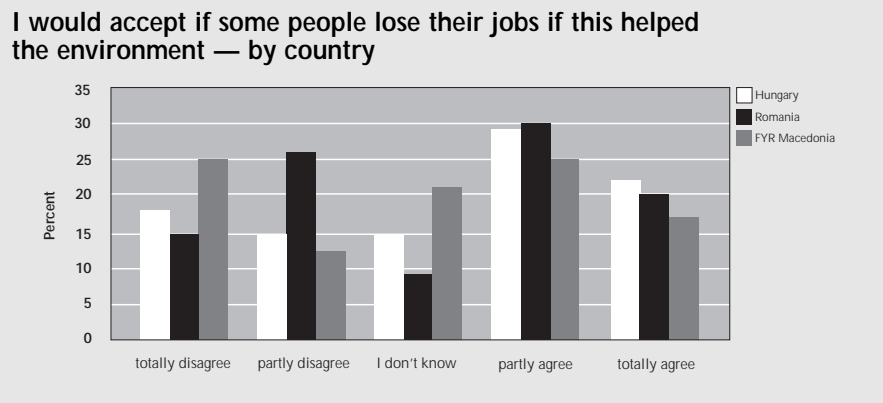
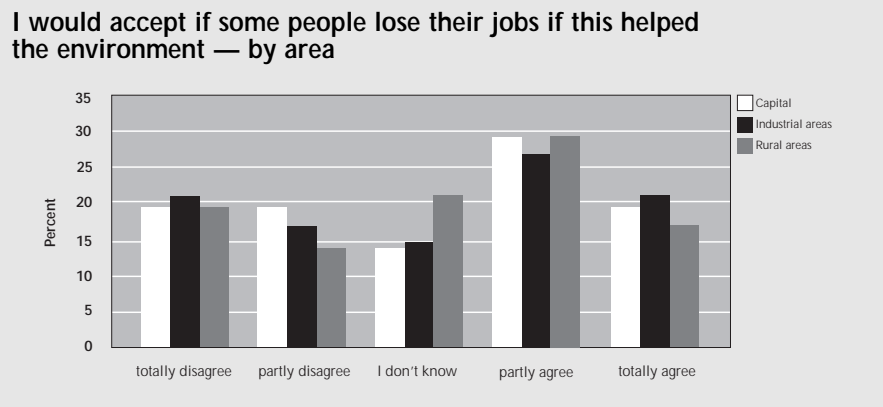


FIGURE 18



With this statement, agreement is highest in Hungary, while most Macedonian respondents either disagree totally, do not know or agree only partly, as Figure 17 shows. Romanian respondents disagree partly or agree partly, but they are the least likely to say that they do not know. In sum, disagreement is higher in Romania and FYR Macedonia than in Hungary.

When looking at the different sampling areas in Figure 18, the differences are not so big. Of those who answered “I don’t

FIGURE 19

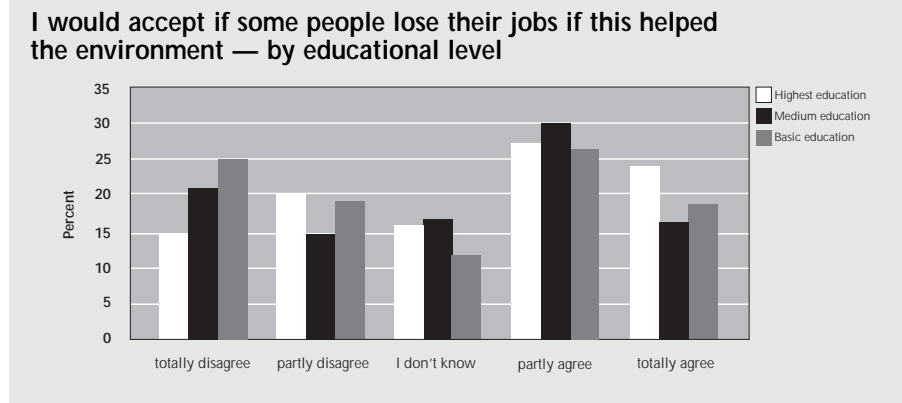
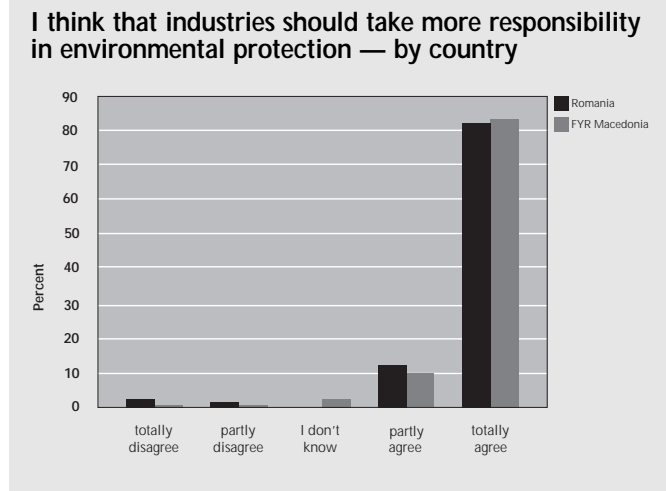


FIGURE 20



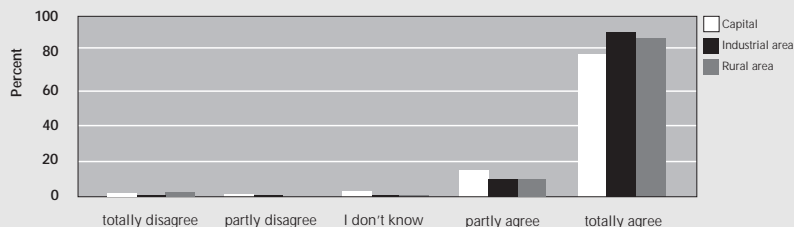
know,” rural respondents make up the majority. Respondents from the industrial area are in the majority of those in total agreement and total disagreement.

Educational level is an interesting dividing variable. Total agreement is highest among respondents with highest educational levels

When evaluating the statement, “I would accept it if some people lose their jobs if it helps the environment,” respondents’ answers showed diverse patterns according to country. More Macedonian respondents strongly disagreed, more Romanians partly disagreed and more Hungarians totally agreed. In Macedonia, more respondents gave the answer “I do not know,” than in other countries.

FIGURE 21

I think that industries should take more responsibility in environmental protection — by sampling area



as Figure 19 shows. And the lower the educational level, the more likely respondents are to totally disagree with the above statement.

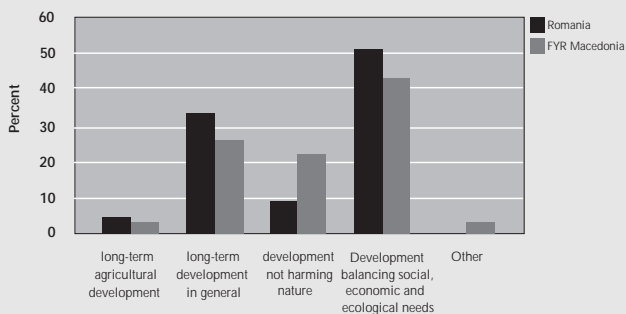
The following two analysis can only be made for Romania and FYR Macedonia, as those questions were not included in the Hungarian questionnaire.

Figure 20 shows that agreement is very high in both countries, but still a little bit higher in FYR Macedonia. When looking at sampling areas, another chart shows the differences.

Respondents from the industrial area agree most with this statement and those from the capital are more sceptical, as is seen in Figure 21. But the general trend of high agreement is not

FIGURE 22

Definition of the term 'sustainable development'



changed by dividing responses along sampling areas.

One last question to be analysed here is the definition chosen for the term “sustainable development.” As shown in Figure 22, it seems that Romanians prefer “long-term development” and the “balance” definition, while Macedonians are more in favour of the definition that includes “development not harming nature.”

3.2. What are individuals doing for the environment?

3.2.1. What is done in favour of environmental protection?

Before starting to analyse various questions concerning the behaviour of respondents, it is important to note that the samples include a considerable number of environmental activists or members of environmental organisations. This means that the survey, especially in the case of FYR Macedonia, is measuring an exceptionally active population. It also means that the results for FYR Macedonia are not always representative. The large number of activists in the sample most probably occurred because the research assistants in Hungary and FYR Macedonia were NGO personnel, who were biased in their choice of respondents.

Respondents were asked to list what sort of environmentally friendly activities they perform. They were given a list of activities and asked to choose those which they engage in regularly. Figure 24 presents the results by country.

One can see that, in general, Hungarians are the most active respondents. But there are some exceptions: Romanian respondents are more active when it comes to saving energy, and they use less chemicals in agriculture. Macedonian respondents are the

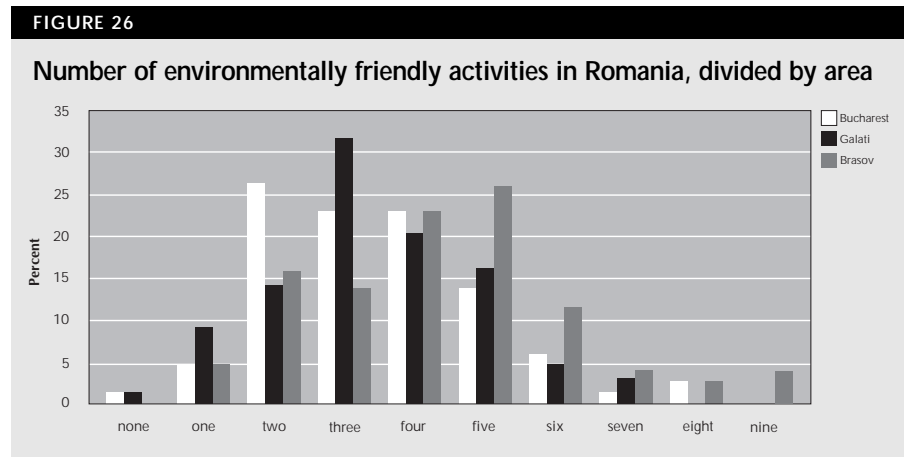
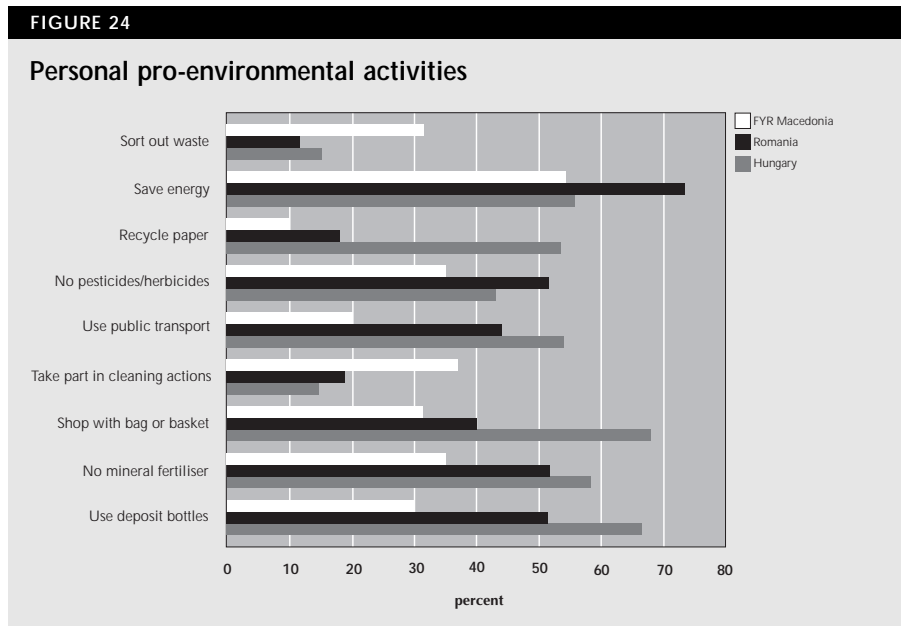
In the sample, 5 percent of all people interviewed in Hungary, 1.9 percent of those in Romania and 10 percent in FYR Macedonia are members of an environmental organisation. So, the sample respondents in Hungary, and even more so in FYR Macedonia, are an exceptionally active population.

In general, Hungarian respondents are the most active in environmental protection. As their personal pro-environmental activities, most people in the sample mention the use of shopping bags or baskets (to avoid using plastic bags), purchasing returnable bottles and trying to save energy. They also avoid mineral fertilisers and other chemicals in their gardens and fields. Those active in environmental organisations mention performing more out of nine possible types of environmentally friendly behaviour.

FIGURE 23

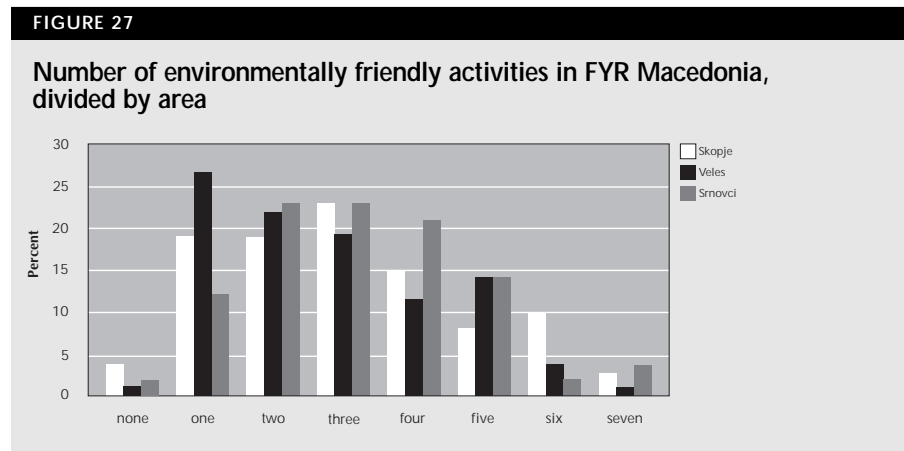
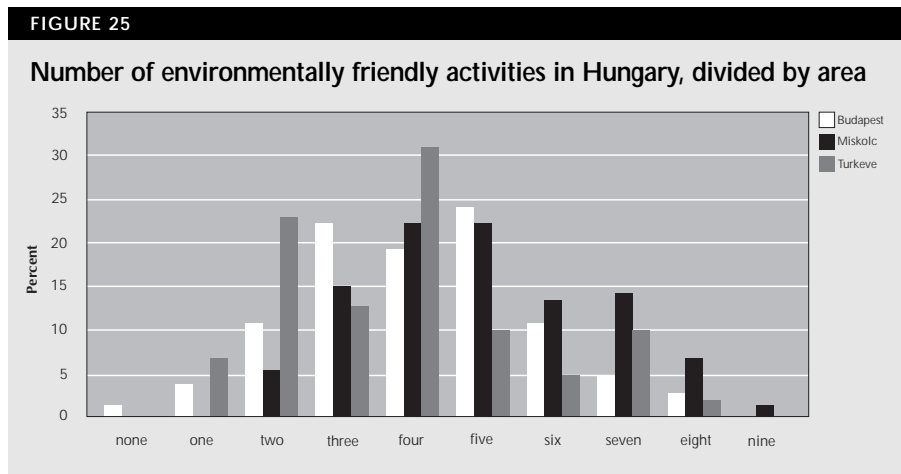
Respondents who are members or activists in environmental organisations

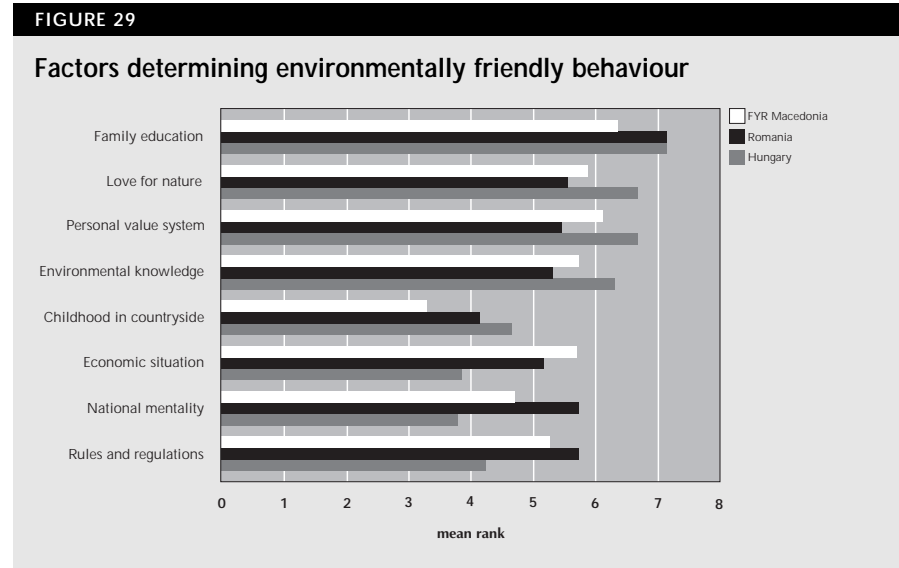
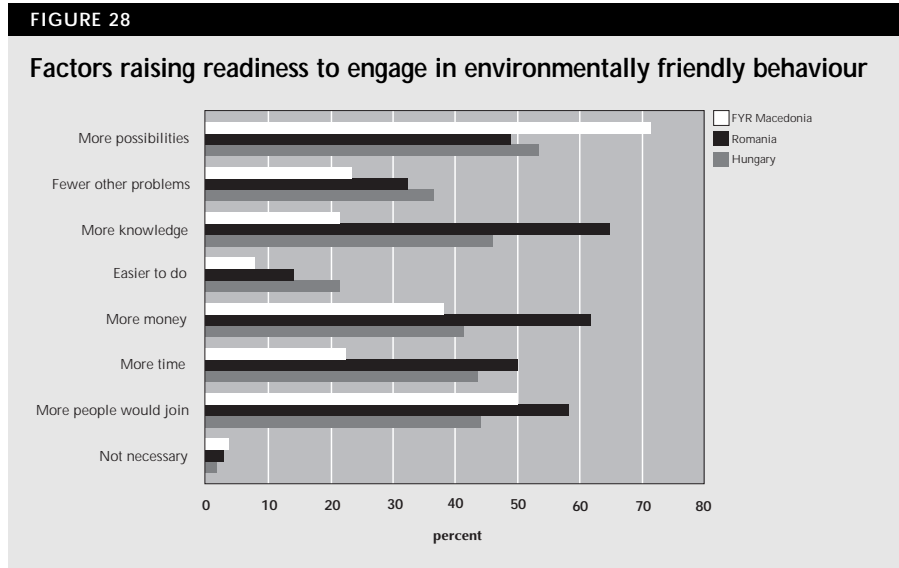
	Hungary	Romania	FYR Macedonia
member of an environmental organisation	5.0%	1.9%	10.1%
activist in an organisation	2.3%	0.4%	3.8%



most active when it comes to sorting out waste and taking part in cleaning actions. The area where a person lives had a big impact on the responses received for this question. Figures 25-27 show the responses for each country, broken down into area of residence.

It becomes obvious that, within Hungary and FYR Macedonia, the localities that included the largest sample of activists (Miskolc in Hungary and Srnovci in FYR Macedonia) are also the areas where respondents reported the highest number of environmentally friendly activities. In Romania, the people who per-





If there were more possibilities provided, respondents would also do more for the environment. Other factors that would influence respondents' willingness to engage in pro-environmental behaviour include more money, more knowledge about what to do and an assurance that many other people would join in the activities.

formed the most environmentally friendly activities were most often those who lived in the rural area. But even if respondents take some actions to save the environment, they could do more if certain factors and circumstances were prevalent. When asked under what circumstances respondents would do more, the answer pattern shown in Figure 28 emerged. Respondents in the three countries differ in their evaluation of what factors would help them to act in a more environmentally friendly manner. Macedonian respondents say they need more opportunities to engage in environmentally friendly behaviour, and this response was also ranked highly among respondents in the two other countries. But Romanians somehow stand out as wishing that more people would join in the activism and needing more money, time and knowledge to increase their environmentally friendly behaviour. Hungarian respondents make up the majority of those who said they would like environmentally friendly activities to be more convenient and that they have too many other problems to worry about. But what about individual differences? What determines whether someone will care more for the environment? Respondents were asked to help answer these questions by ranking nine different factors that might make a person act in a more environmentally friendly way (see Figure 29). The minimum rank is one, maximum rank

is nine, and a higher rank means that particular factor is more important in encouraging environmentally friendly behaviour. It is interesting that mean ranks in Romania do not differ so much as they do in FYR Macedonia and Hungary; the difference between highest and lowest rank are largest among the Hungarian sample. Family education receives the highest rank among respondents of all three countries, but the other factors are seen as being very different in their importance. The economic situation plays a more important role in FYR Macedonia, while Romanians give higher ranks to national mentality and to rules and regulations. Hungarians and Macedonians agree that personal value system and environmental knowledge are important determinants for environmental behaviour. But only Hungarians consider childhood in the countryside as being important for the development of environmental behaviour. 3.2.2. How ready are respondents to do something? In measuring individual behaviour, an additive index can be constructed that sums up different statements from Part III of the questionnaire. Much as we did when measuring environmental awareness, we use this procedure to help capture the multi-dimensionality of the phenomenon under study. Figures 30-35

In the respondents' point of view, the willingness to engage in environmentally friendly behaviour is mainly influenced by family education, personal value systems, the love of nature and appropriate rules and regulations. Here, Romanians and Macedonians give more importance to the need for rules and regulations and Hungarians put more emphasis on the love of nature.

Personal efforts to save the environment are most likely to be found in the industrial area and among activists in Hungary. In Romania, it is rural respondents and older people who reach higher environmentally friendly “behaviour index” values. In FYR Macedonia, it is religion which plays a role: Orthodox respondents have a higher behaviour index than Muslim respondents. The more aware people are concerning environmental problems, the more likely it is that their behaviour will be environmentally friendly.

FIGURE 30

Behaviour index for the Hungarian sample

	Budapest	Miskolc	Turkeve
average behaviour index	4.1	4.9	3.7

FIGURE 31

Behaviour index for Hungarian activists and non-activists

	active in environmental organisation	not active
average behaviour index	5.8	4.2

FIGURE 32

Behaviour index for the Romanian sample

	Bucharest	Galati	Brasov
average behaviour index	3.4	3.4	4.1

FIGURE 33

Behaviour index according to religion for the Macedonian sample

	number	average behaviour index
no religion	2	3.0
Catholic	5	4.8
Orthodox	246	2.9
Muslim	34	2.7

FIGURE 34

Behaviour index according to family status for the Macedonian sample

	number	average behaviour index
single	87	2.7
civil partnership	30	3.1
married	175	3.0
divorced	4	4.8
widowed	13	3.5

FIGURE 35

Correlation between environmental awareness and environmentally friendly behaviour

	awareness Hungary	awareness Romania	awareness FYR Macedonia
behaviour index	0.26**	0.20**	0.164**

show an analysis of the “behaviour index” for each country, along with important socio-economic variables.

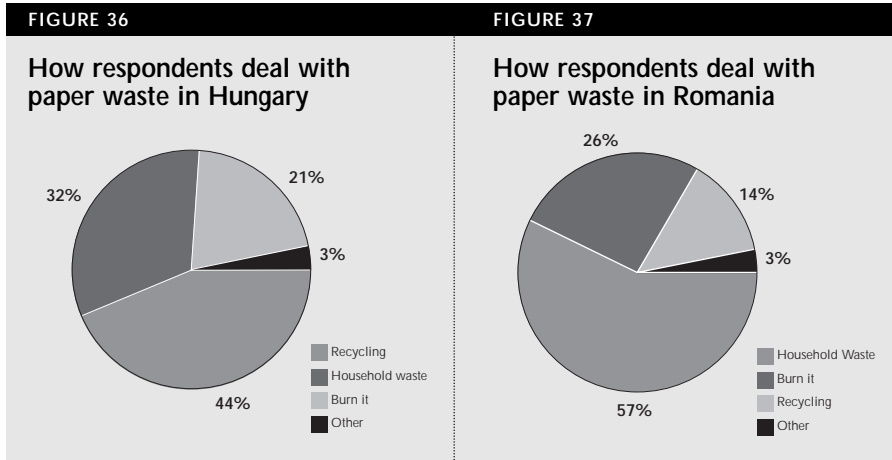
In Hungary, it is respondents of the industrial area and people who are active in an environmental organisations, who have a higher index.

For the Romanian sample, the sampling area again is important in determining behaviour index. But it is the rural respondents who reach higher scores here.

When analysing the Macedonian case, it is interesting that the sampling area does not have an effect on the indices. What makes the difference here is family status and religion — but differences are very small for both variables.

All remaining variables have no influence on the environmental behaviour index for the three cases. What remains to be analysed is the relationship between the awareness index and the behaviour index in all three countries.

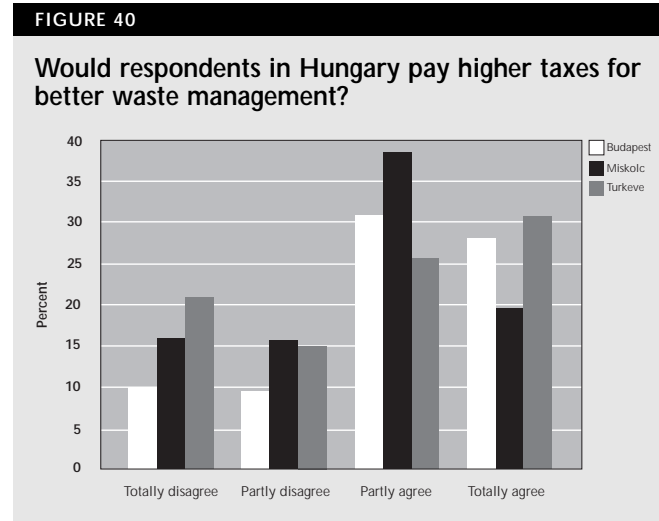
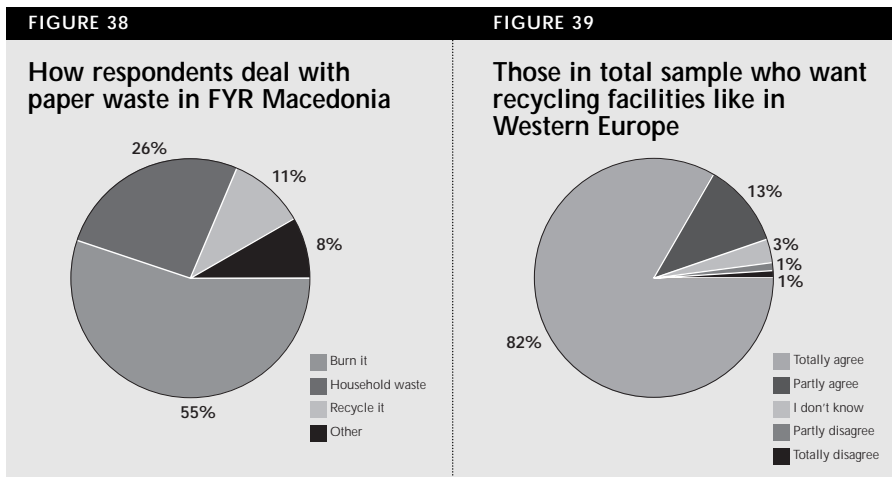
The results show that in each country, there is a positive relationship that is statistically significant (**). That means the higher the awareness in Hungary, Romania and FYR Macedonia, the



more likely the respondents are to behave in an environmental-friendly way. This relationship is strongest in Hungary and weakest in FYR Macedonia.

3.2.3. What do they do with waste?

One question and two statements can give an idea of how respondents deal with paper waste and how ready they are to



When disposing of paper waste in Hungary, 32 percent of the respondents put it into the normal household waste, 21 percent burn paper waste and 44 percent recycle it. In Romania, the majority of respondents put old paper in with household waste and in FYR Macedonia, most respondents burn it.

accept recycling and to pay more for proper waste management. (See Figures 36-39).

Respondents deal with paper waste in different ways: The majority of Macedonians burn it, the majority of Romanians put it in with

When asked if they would be ready to pay more for proper waste management, most respondents in all three countries said yes. The majority of respondents who strongly agree with this idea are from Hungary and FYR Macedonia, and the majority of those who strongly disagree are also Macedonians.

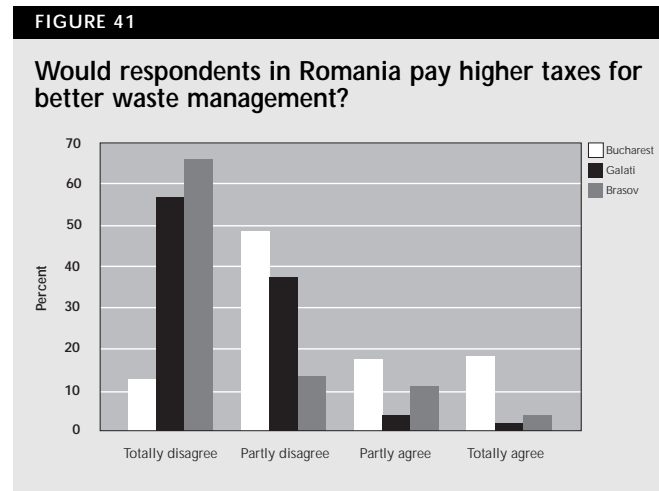
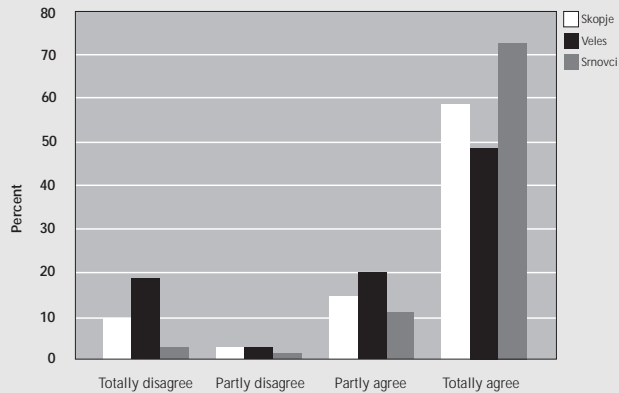


FIGURE 42

Would respondents in FYR Macedonia pay higher taxes for better waste management?



their household waste and Hungarians either dispose of paper with recycling facilities or by dumping it in with household waste.

But would respondents like to have more recycling facilities, like in Western European countries? The results indicate that most would.

The overwhelming majority of all respondents in the three countries would like to see their country have recycling facilities that are equal to Western European standards.

One last question was whether respondents would be ready to pay more money for waste management if they knew that this would help to store the waste in an environmentally friendly way. Figures 40-42 show the results, divided by country and sampling area.

It is the Romanian respondents who generally agree more to this statement — but rural respondents of FYR Macedonia and people from Miskolc in Hungary also strongly agree.

FIGURE 43

Those among the total sample who work in, or with, nature

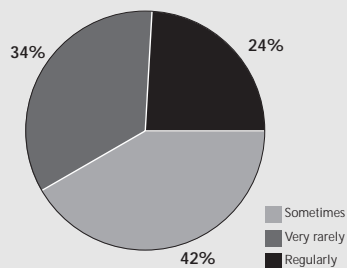
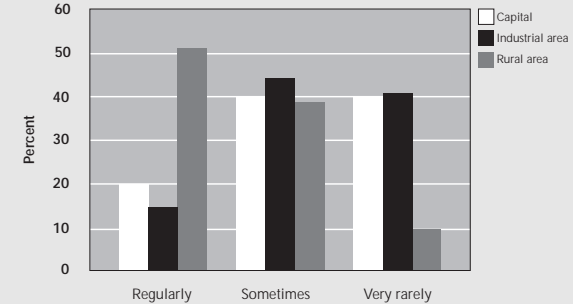


FIGURE 44

Those who work in nature, divided according to type of sampling area



Respondents from the capitals and industrial areas said they sometimes work in, or with, nature; people in rural areas do so regularly. Most respondents sometimes spend their leisure time in natural settings. Overall, rural respondents work and spend leisure time in nature most often.

3.2.4. How connected are people to nature?

Three questions (shown in Figures 43-45) can shed some light on the question of how well people are connected to nature: How much do people work in nature? How often do they spend their leisure time in nature? And, how well do they think they know the processes that occur in nature and the environment? The answers can, of course, only give a rough idea of a person's relationship to nature. Furthermore, these questions only measure a pragmatic connection to nature — not an idealistic one, which might be present even if a person does not spend much time in nature.

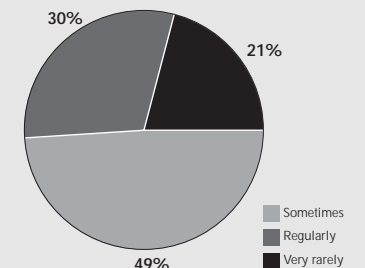
The majority of all respondents sometimes work in or with nature, but — logically — rural respondents answered that they work regularly in or with nature more often than people in the other two areas.

The majority of all respondents also sometimes spend leisure time in nature. When divided by sampling areas, it is again the rural respondents who have most contact with nature, not just in work but also in their free time.

It can be said that almost two thirds of all respondents have a certain degree of contact with nature and the environment, either through work or through their hob-

FIGURE 45

Those among the total sample who spend leisure time in nature



Most respondents give themselves an average score when ranking their own environmental knowledge.

FIGURE 46

Those who spend leisure time in nature, divided by sampling areas

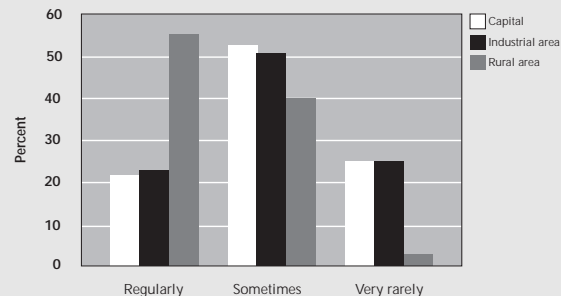
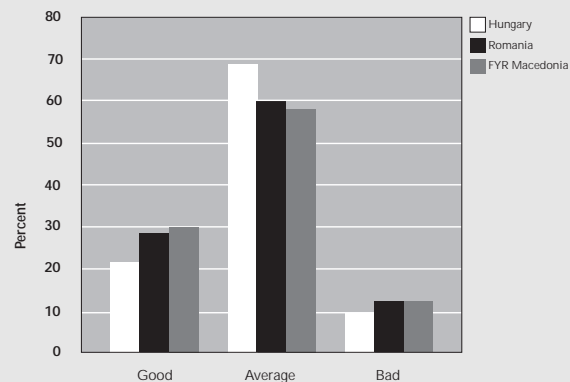


FIGURE 47

Level of environmental knowledge divided by country



bies during leisure time. It is still interesting to know how informed people feel about the processes that take place in nature.

In this analysis, sampling area does not play a significant role, but there are slight differences when dividing respondents by country.

3.3. How does the political situation appear to respondents?

3.3.1. What do respondents think about national environmental policies?

This chapter reflects the opinions that people have about national environmental policies. We attempt to analyse whether respondents think that national policies protect them enough from environmental degradation, how respondents evaluate national and regional spending on environmental protection, whether respondents are happy with their government's information policy and what respondents think is the most efficient administrative structure.

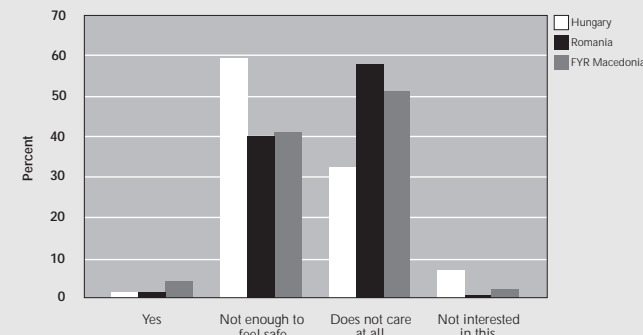
The percentage of respondents who are convinced that the government does all it can do is very small in all three cases — but at least 5 percent of all Macedonian respondents are satisfied with the government in this respect. The majority of Hungarians complain that the government does something, but not enough to make them feel safe. The majority of Romanians and Macedonians think that the government does not care at all.

But do people really know who they are blaming when they complain about government inactivity? When asked to name the authority responsible for environmental protection, 66 percent of all Hungarian respondents answered “the Ministry of Environmental Protection,” while only 48 percent of all



FIGURE 48

The level of government concern about the environment, divided by country



Almost two thirds of the respondents in Hungary said that the government does alot for the environment, but not enough to make them feel safe. More than half of respondents in Romania and FYR Macedonia are of the opinion that the government does not care at all.

Two thirds of all respondents in Romania and Hungary, but only 48 percent of Macedonians, mentioned the ministry of environment as the responsible authority dealing with environmental protection.

Macedonians interviewed could name the correct authority and 64 percent of the Romanian sample were able to name the correct ministry. This means that most Romanians and Hungarians are aware of which authority they blame for not caring enough. As for FYR Macedonia, it is interesting to note that 18 percent of the respondents from that country said that the citizens themselves are responsible for environmental protection.

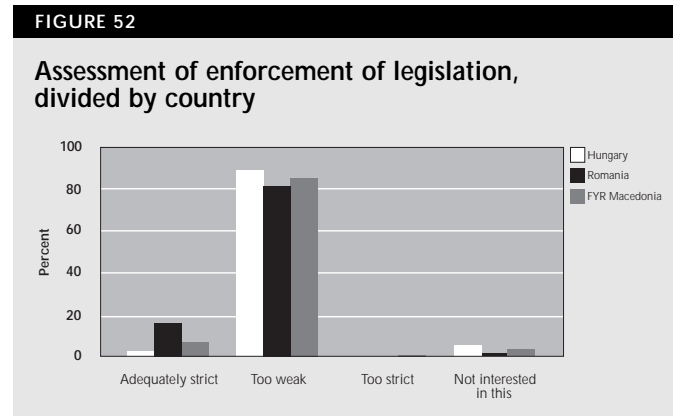
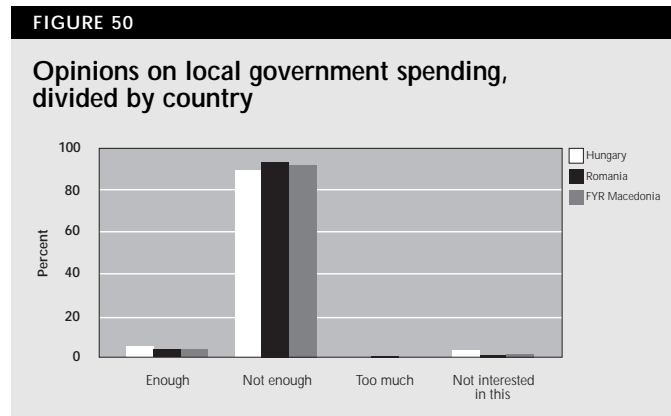
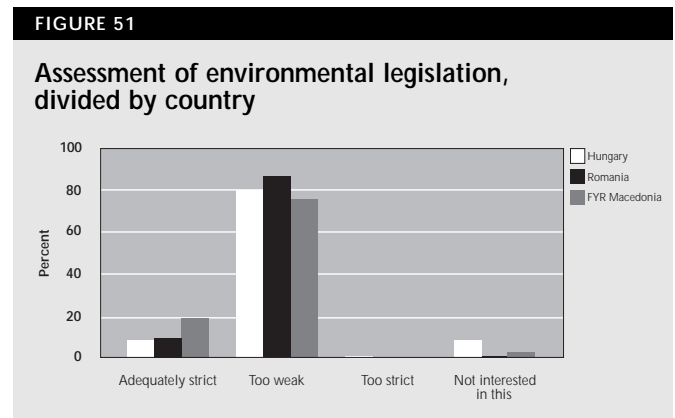
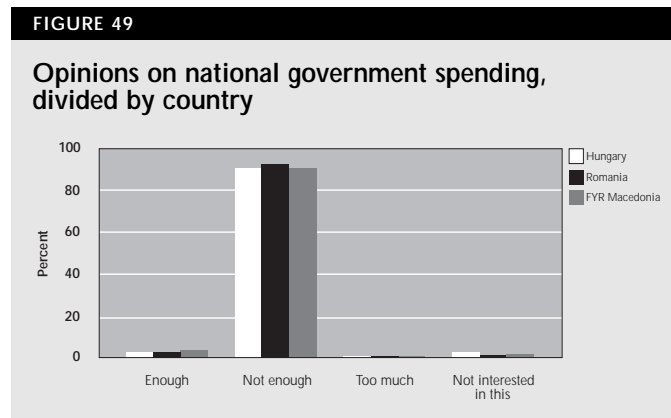
Given the high degree of dissatisfaction with national authorities, it is worth asking other questions that can assist in an analysis of this issue. One obvious question is: What is it that people complain about? Figures 49-50 give some more detailed informa-

tion about specific aspects of national environmental policies.

One can see here that respondents are unsatisfied with national and local government spending on environmental protection. The dissatisfaction with local governments is just slightly less than dissatisfaction with national governments. But almost nobody thinks that governments spend too much. Concern about this question seems very high, with only a few Hungarians, and even fewer respondents from the other countries, saying they are not interested in this topic.

The majority of respondents interviewed think that neither the national nor the local government spends enough money for environmental protection.

Figures 51-52 look at the legislation and implementation questions.



The majority of respondents interviewed think that neither environmental legislation nor the enforcement of legislation are satisfactory. And a large majority think that the Ministry of Environment does not give enough information about environmental protection.

The charts in Figures 51-52 show that people would like to see better or stricter laws and regulations and that they are critical of the implementation and enforcement of the existing regulations. Again, a small percentage of respondents was not interested in this matter and Romanians are the ones who seem the most interested — especially more than Hungarians. Macedonians are the ones who are most satisfied with their regulations. And Hungarians tend to think that regulations are enforced too weakly while Romanians are more happy with enforcement in their country.

But do people have enough information to assess and evaluate things like spending and legislation in the field of environmental protection? When looking at the chart in Figure 53, it seems that most of the complaints stem from a perceived lack of information from the government. Perhaps respondents feel badly informed, which makes them judge their government's performance harshly. Again, a considerable percentage of Hungarian respondents said they are not interested.²

Again the Macedonians have the most satisfaction with the information policy of their government, but the vast majority of respondents in all three countries said that the information they receive is inadequate.

If respondents do not think their national or local governments do an adequate job of environmental protection, it is worth asking: Who can do the job best? As the answers in different countries are quite different, the results will be presented for each country in separate charts (Figures 54-56).

Figure 54 shows a wide range of responses. Almost half of all respondents think that non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

are the most efficient mechanism for protecting the environment. But the other half of the sample includes a large group who does not know enough about the topic and three relatively equally sized groups who think that either the "local government," the "national government" or no organisation at all is best equipped to handle environmental protection.

Almost a third of all Romanian respondents think that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are the most efficient type of organisation for handling environmental protection. Nonetheless, the organisational structure respondents here have most trust in is the local government. Only a few respondents think that they do not have enough knowledge about this topic, and some are also convinced that no organisation at all is efficient in solving these problems. Only 18 percent think that the national government is best in solving environmental problems.

Like in Hungary, almost half of the respondents in FYR Macedonia think that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are the most efficient organisational structure for dealing with

FIGURE 54

Most efficient type of organisation for protecting the environment, according to Hungarians

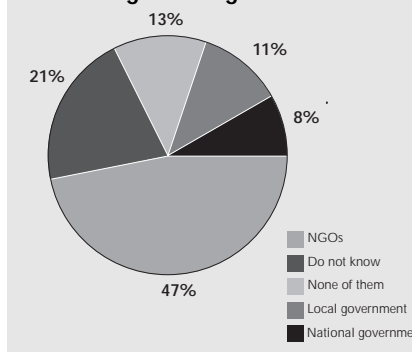


FIGURE 53

Assessment of information given by the national government, divided by country

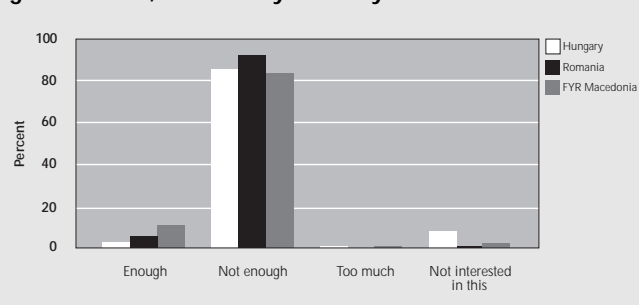


FIGURE 55

Most efficient type of organisation for protecting the environment, according to Romanians

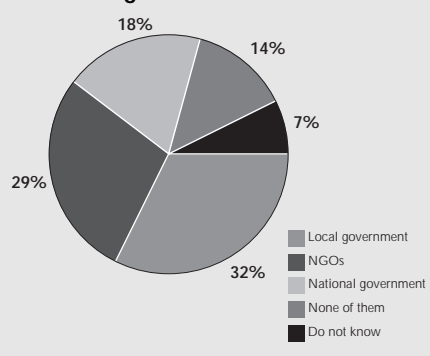
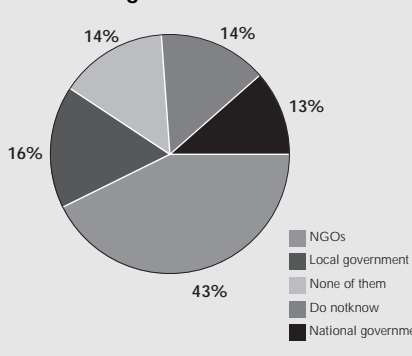


FIGURE 56

Most efficient type of organisation for protecting the environment, according to Macedonians



Almost half of the Hungarian and the Macedonian sample are convinced that NGOs are the most efficient organisational structure for solving environmental problems. The majority of the Romanians asked said that local governments are the best organisational structure for tackling these problems.

the environment. The structure that ranked second in confidence of the respondents is the local government. Only a few respondents think that they don't know enough about this topic to comment, and the same percentage say that they think no organisation at all is efficient in solving environmental problems. The national government was rated last: Only 13 percent of the Macedonian respondents said that the national government is best in solving environmental problems.

It is interesting to look at the question of which organisational structure is best suited to address environmental problems from a variety of socio-economic variables.

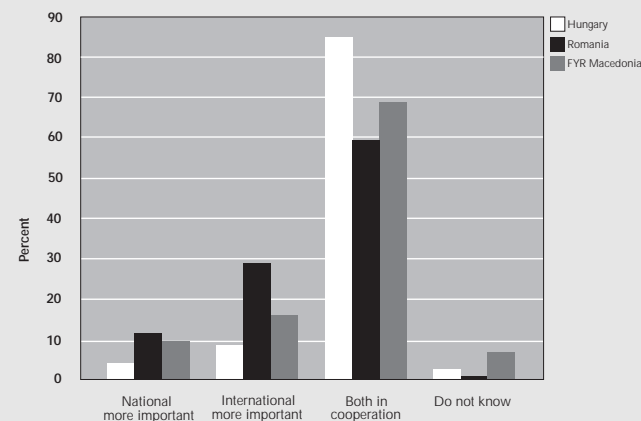
In FYR Macedonia, rural respondents from Srnovci have a much higher evaluation of NGOs than in the other areas. This is probably due to the fact that a very well-known and active NGO is based in Srnovci and that research assistants were also NGO members. Respondents in Veles, the industrial town, put more trust in national and local governments than in the other areas. People with basic educational levels are often more pessimistic and think that no organisational structure at all is efficient.

In Romania, gender does not play a critical role: Males and females answer more or less alike. But education seems to be a crucial factor in determining responses. People with higher education put much more hope and positive evaluation into the local government, and gave the second highest rating to NGOs. Romanian respondents with more education were also more optimistic, and only 12 percent said that no organisational structure does an adequate job of protecting the environment. Respondents with medium educational levels were more balanced in their answers, and showed no strong preference for a particular organisational structure, but they gave a slight preference to local governments. NGOs are regarded as more efficient among respondents with basic educational levels and among younger respondents in Romania. The older people get, the more trust they seem to give to the government sector, but older Romanian respondents also appear more pessimistic, as many of them think that nobody can solve environmental problems well. Respondents in Galati have a much higher evaluation of NGOs as an efficient organisation than in the other areas. Rural Romanian respondents trust the government sector more than those in urban areas. And an alarming 25 percent of all respondents in Bucharest are totally pessimistic and think, that no organisation can solve environmental problems efficiently.

In Hungary, people with higher education put much more hope in NGOs as the best structure for solving environmental problems, while respondents with a basic educational level mostly answered that they do not know. People with basic education level also put less faith in NGOs. In Hungary, NGOs are

FIGURE 57

National versus international efforts to protect the environment, divided by country



Most respondents also think that national and international cooperation is necessary when addressing environmental problems.

regarded as more efficient among younger respondents, among people with the highest education and in the capital. Older people have less trust in NGOs, and they often think that no organisational structure can solve environmental problems. It is also interesting to note that respondents in Turkeve have a much higher evaluation of the local government as an efficient organisation than respondents in the other areas.

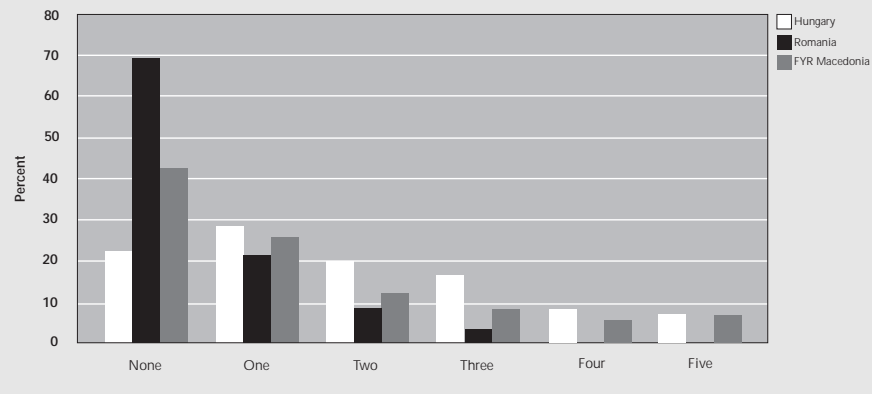
One last question touched on the performance of national policies: Is work on the national or international level more important for environmental protection? The answers to this question seem to show a preference for more international cooperation in the fight for a healthy environment. Romanian respondents have the most faith in purely international efforts, while in the other two countries, respondents favour international work in cooperation with national efforts.

3.3.2. Is the NGO sector well known in the field of environmental protection?

Respondents were asked to name up to five environmental organisations and institutions — either non-governmental or governmental ones. The chart in Figure 58 indicates how many

FIGURE 58

Number of organisations respondents could name, divided by country



When asked to name an environmental organisation (governmental or non-governmental), 44 percent of the Macedonians asked, 68 percent of the Romanians and 22 percent of the Hungarians could not think of any organisation at all. People with higher levels of education tend to know more organisations than others.

organisations were mentioned. And the tables in Figures 59-61 will look at which organisations were mentioned.

It is worth noting that Romanian respondents are only able to mention a few organisations, if any. This could be due to the fact that in Romania, no NGO staff was involved in the research, as was the case in Hungary and FYR Macedonia. When the research assistants introduced themselves, they probably also mentioned the NGO they are active in — therefore, more respondents could mention at least one NGO.

But what organisations are mentioned? The names given will be presented here without much explanation about the group or organisation.³ The first table shows the organisations mentioned by Hungarian respondents.

Figure 60 shows the names of organisations mentioned in Romania and the percentage of times that they were named by respondents listing five environmental organisations.

Figure 61 shows the organisations mentioned in FYR Macedonia

When analysing the effect of socio-economic variables on the number of organisations respondents could name, it is worth noting that more organisations were mentioned in areas where NGOs are active — like Srnovci and Miskolc — and in places where there are serious problems — like Veles. Respondents with a higher education level and young to middle-aged respondents were also more able to name organisations.

FIGURE 59

Environmental organisations mentioned in Hungary

Organisation	percent
Green Point	2%
Eco Circle of Miskolc	2%
Alliance of animal and nature conservationists Hungary	2%
Waste management group	2%
Animal protection association	2%
Greenpeace Hungary	2%
Hungarian ornithological society	3%
Nimfea association	3%
Alba association	4%
Environmental ministry	4%
Green action association	5%
Ecological Institute	7%
Holocen association	8%
Clean air working group	9%
Green party	9%
H. Otto nature conservation circle	10%
Duna circle	16%

FIGURE 60

Environmental organisations mentioned in Romania

Organisation	percent
Forest protection association	2%
Ecological movement in Romania	2%
Salvamont	2%
Save the nature	2%
Animal protection association	2%
Regional Environmental Center	4%
Ministry of waters, forests and environmental protection	5%
Greenpeace	5%
Ecologists Party	10%

FIGURE 61

Environmental organisations mentioned in FYR Macedonia

Organisation	percent
'Ozon'	2%
'Mollka'	2%
GEA-Veles	2%
'Rosa'	2%
'Kitka'	3%
Scout group in Veles	3%
'Lipa' in Kumanovo	3%
'Zdrav Zivot' in Kocani	5%
'Izgrej' in Sveti Nikole	6%
The Regional Environmental Center	9%
The Ministry of Environment	10%
'Srna' for animal protection	12%
Ecologists' Movement of FYR Macedonia	15%
Ecological Association 'Javor' in Sirovci	20%
'Opstanok' in Skopje	27%
'Vila Zora' in Veles	34%

More than half of all Hungarians interviewed, two thirds of the Romanians and 80 percent of Macedonians would like to see EU accession as soon as possible. Around a third of all Hungarian respondents said they would prefer accession only after 10 years. Women tend to prefer the option of waiting 10 years in Romania, in Hungary the case was the opposite.



3.4. Hungary, Romania, FYR Macedonia and the European Union

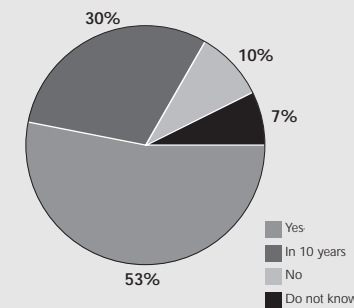
3.4.1. Do respondents want to enter now, later or never?

In this subchapter, we will attempt to analyse what people generally think about EU accession and how Hungarians, Romanians and Macedonians perceive the West and the Western influence resulting from the accession process. We also look at where the sample population gets its information about accession matters.

The very basic question of whether a country should enter the EU as soon as possible was the first one about EU matters in the questionnaire. The charts shown in Figures 62-64 show the answers to this question.

FIGURE 62

Hungarians respond to the question: Should your country join the EU as soon as possible?



It is noteworthy that almost a third of all respondents agree to accession, but would rather wait for 10 more years. Only 10 percent say no to accession and more than half agree to immediate accession.

In Romania, only 3 percent say no to immediate accession and 19 percent would like to wait before joining. But three fourths of all respondents agree to immediate accession.

EU accession acceptance is highest in FYR Macedonia — only 2 percent say no and 13 percent want to wait another 10 years.

It is worth determining whether sampling areas play a role in the types of responses. It is also interesting to identify more specifically the 30 percent of Hungarians who would like to wait for accession.

Gender plays a role in Hungary: It is more males who would prefer to wait 10 years than females. But the area where respondents live seems to have no impact on the answers given by Hungarian respondents. For Romania, a similar pattern can be observed, except that it is Romanian females who tend to say it would be better to wait 10 years before joining than males. Like in Hungary, the area where Romanian respondents live does not

FIGURE 63

Romanians respond to the question: Should your country join the EU as soon as possible?

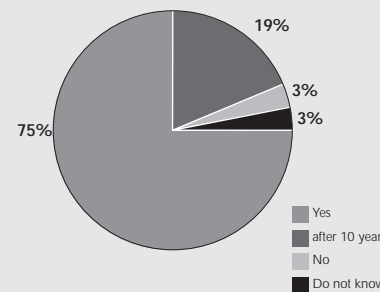


FIGURE 64

Macedonians respond to the question: Should your country join the EU as soon as possible?

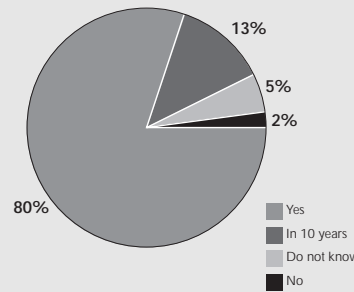
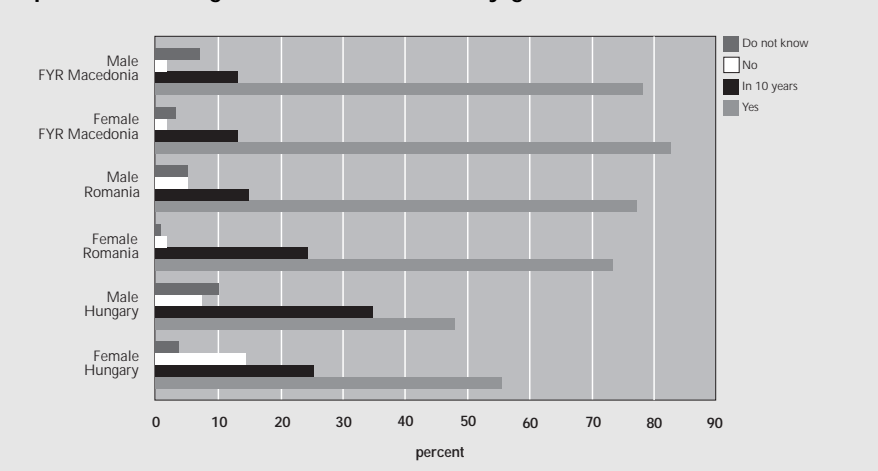
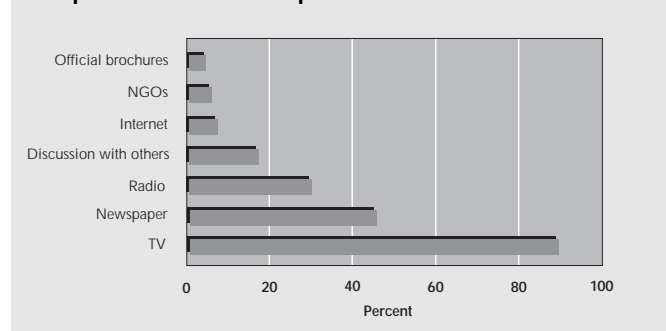


FIGURE 65
Opinions on integration in EU, divided by gender



seem to have a strong impact on their answers. It is noteworthy, however, that only respondents from Galati responded with an absolute “no” to accession. In FYR Macedonia, only respondents in Skopje gave an absolute “no” to accession, and the most answers in favour of immediate accession came from Srnovci.

FIGURE 66
Information sources on EU matters: Responses of total sample



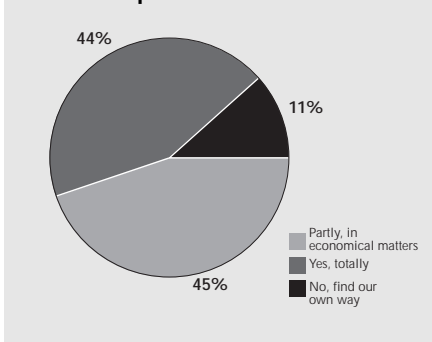
The most important source for information on EU matters is television, followed by newspapers, radio and discussions with other people. Official brochures rank last.

Figure 65 presents the results according to gender.

Males in Hungary and FYR Macedonia also say they do not know more often than females. And there are many more males among the group in Hungary who say “no” to accession. When looking at age groups, income and education of respondents in Hungary who said they wanted to put off accession for 10 years, some patterns emerge. It is mostly the age group of 21-40 who preferred a delay in accession. More relevant is educational level: 46 percent of all respondents with only a basic education said they would prefer to wait 10 years before joining the EU. So, statistically, it is most probable that a Hungarian who says they would want to wait 10 years before joining the EU is male, between 21-40 years old and has a basic educational level.

Another question worth investigating is why some respondents apparently feel less informed than others. For this, and other reasons, it would also help to know the main information sources for people in the sample. In the section of the questionnaire dealing with information sources, respondents were allowed to list several sources, so that the total percentages exceed 100 percent. Figure

FIGURE 67
Can the West be a good role model for our country? Total sample



Forty-five percent of those asked see economic development in the West as a good model for their country, too. Using Western countries as a good role model in general appeals to 44 percent of the sample interviewed. And 11 percent say that their country should find its own pace and route for development.

FIGURE 68
Hungarian opinions on the West as a role model

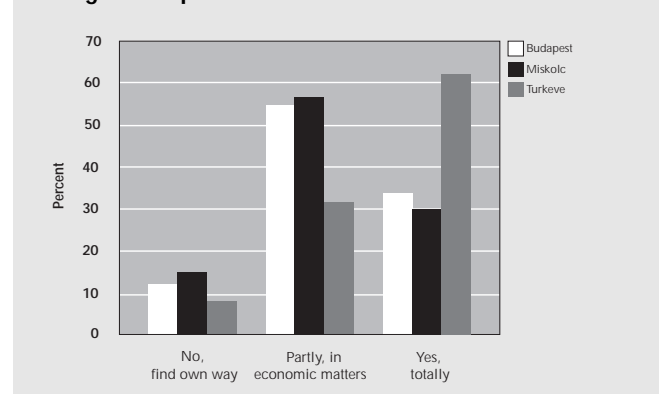


FIGURE 69

Romanian opinions on the West as a role model

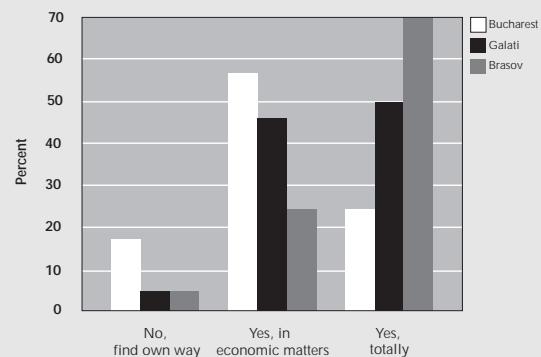
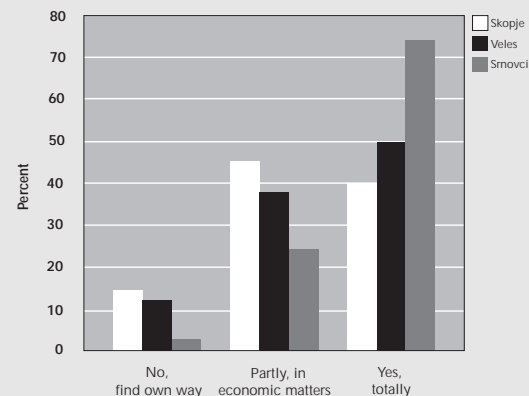


FIGURE 70

Macedonian opinions on the West as a role model



66 presents results for the total sample.

One can see that television is by far the most important information source for respondents.⁴ Next, but considerably lower ranked, are newspaper and radio. It is interesting that discussions with others are ranked fourth. (Actually, in Hungary, dis-

cussions with others rank as the third most-common information source, but in Romania and FYR Macedonia, discussions only rank fourth.) Official brochures rank lowest in importance as an information source.

As all the most important information sources are equally accessible for all respondents, it is not clear why some feel better informed than others. Probably feeling informed is a subjective and emotional concept, which cannot be explained by the kind of information sources alone.

A last question deserves a brief look in this chapter: Do sample respondents perceive the West as a role model for development in their country? The results show considerable differences according to sampling areas — four charts (Figures 67-70) are presented accordingly.

It is worth noting that the rural areas are always the most positive to the West as a good role model in all respects. Respondents in the capitals are most critical of the idea of the West as a role model, and the strongest criticism can be found in Bucharest.

3.4.2. People's hopes and fears concerning accession

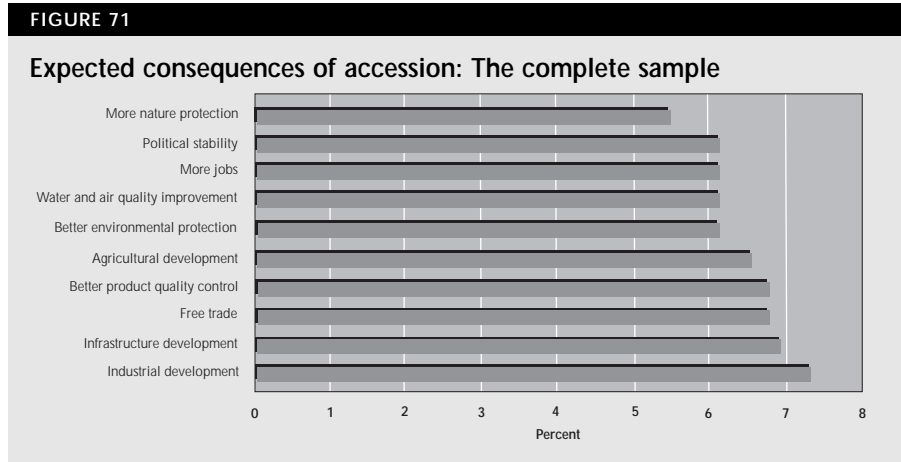
It became clear in the previous section, that a majority of respondents want fast integration into the European Union. But there are other, related questions of importance: What are the hopes and fears connected with the accession process? What are the benefits people want or expect from accession?

One way to help answer these questions is to analyse the answers respondents gave when asked to rank several developments expected from accession. Figure 71 shows all mean ranks given to these items for the complete sample of 878 respondents.

It is noteworthy that the differences between the importance of items are very small. Only industrial development stands out as being considered a little more important than the other potential changes expected from accession. It seems that all the proposed developments or consequences of accession are almost equally important to the people interviewed. As this ranking analysis does not vary strongly when divided by country, we will compare responses from different areas, using the total sample. The table in Figure 72 uses the total sample and gives the highest and lowest ranked expectations for each type of residential area.

The spread between lowest and highest ranks is greatest in the capitals while differences are less pronounced in the rural areas. Respondents in the capitals also have fewer environmental concerns among their hopes, while rural respondents give the highest rank to better environmental protection. In general, nature

Expectations of the types of new developments brought on by the accession process are distributed almost equally: Only expectations of industrial development were slightly higher than expectations of other types of development. When asked to rank the expected developments, rural respondents gave higher rankings to environmental developments. But respondents from rural, industrial and capital regions all shared low expectations for development in the specific area of nature protection.

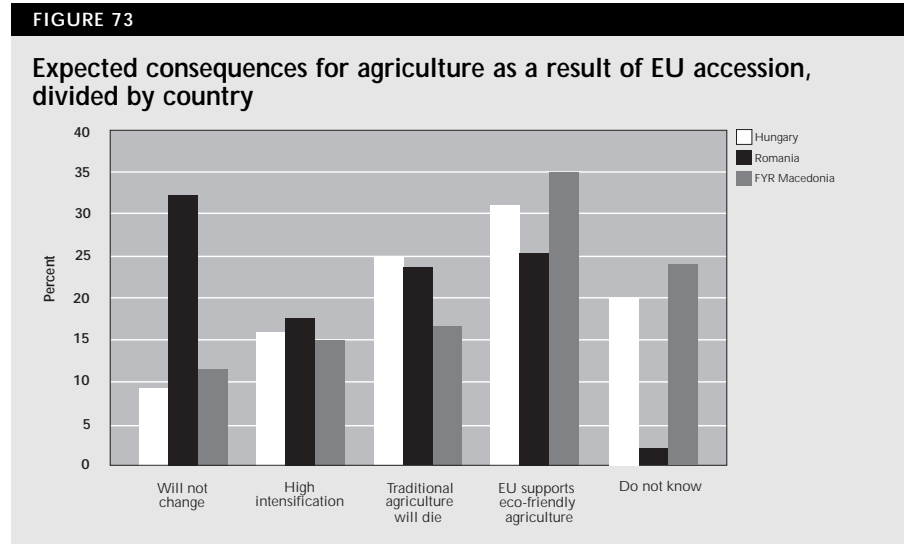


protection is considered the least important potential development that may occur as a result of EU accession.

Related questions seek more detail about what respondents expect to happen to the industrial and agricultural sectors of the three countries.

FIGURE 72
Highest and lowest ranked expectations of EU accession, divided by sampling area

	Capital	Industrial area	Rural area
highest rank (+++)	industrial development (7.5)	industrial development (7.5)	better environmental protection (6.7)
higher rank (++)	free trade (7.2)	infrastructure development (6.8)	water & air quality improvement (6.6)
high rank (+)	infrastructure development (7.1)	better product quality control (6.7)	industrial development (6.6)
low rank (-)	water & air quality improvement (5.9)	water & air quality improvement (6.1)	free trade (6.0)
lower rank (—)	better environmental protection (5.8)	political stability (5.8)	more jobs (5.9)
lowest rank (—)	more nature protection (5.1)	more nature protection (5.5)	more nature protection (5.7)



There are a few differences between countries shown in Figure 73: Romanian respondents are much more convinced that there will be no changes while Macedonian respondents either say that they do not know or they are optimistic that EU will support eco-friendly agriculture.

When looking at developments in industry (Figure 74), it is again the Romanian sample, where most of the respondents do not expect any changes. The majority of Hungarian and Macedonian respondents, though, are convinced that high investment will be needed with accession. Macedonians are the most optimistic that new industries will be established and Romanian respondents are most optimistic that the EU will cover expenses of modernisation.

Respondents were also asked who they felt should pay for all the investments and adjustments needed to adapt to the regulations necessitated by EU accession. The question was whether the joining countries should pay themselves, whether expenses should be shared equally or whether the EU should pay the expenses — because it is the EU that is setting the new standards.

Macedonian respondents are most convinced that the EU should cover all the costs associated with accession. Romanian respondents are most convinced that their own country should pay alone. But in all three countries, the absolute majority thinks that costs should be shared.

When asked to assess the changes that accession will bring in the area of agriculture, Romanian respondents seem more convinced that there will be no changes while most Macedonian respondents either said they did not know or that they are optimistic the EU will support eco-friendly agriculture.

FIGURE 74

Expected consequences for industry as a result of EU accession, divided by country

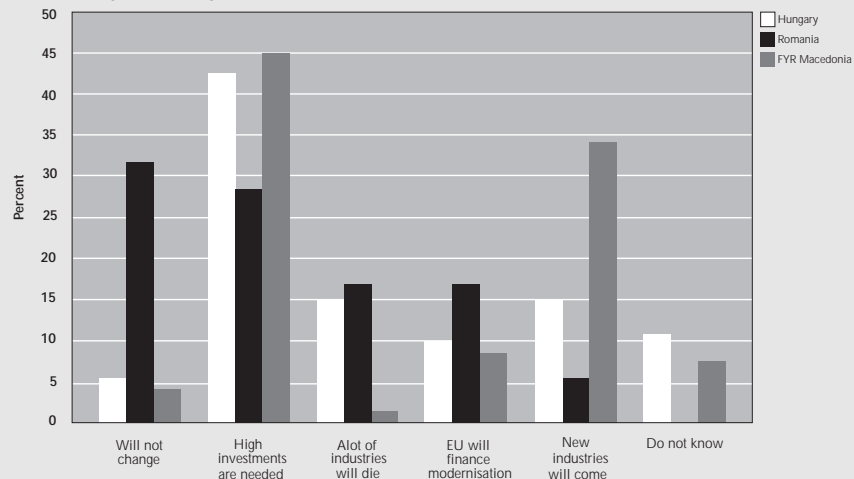
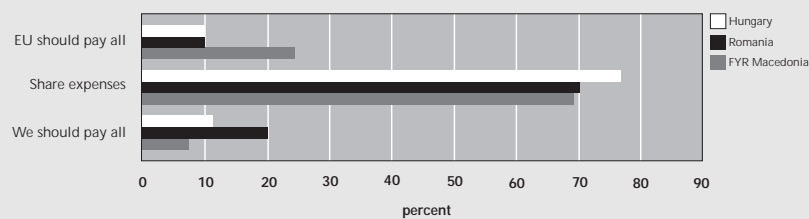


FIGURE 75

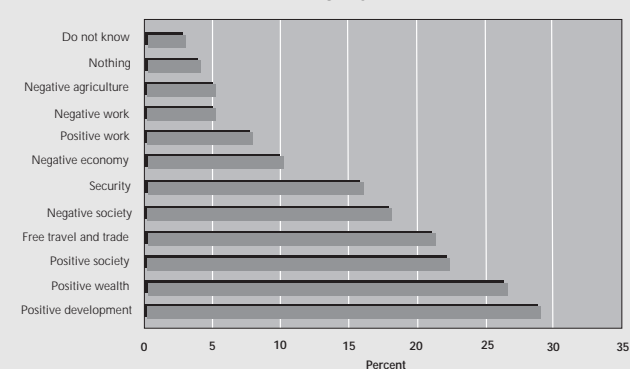
Who respondents think should cover the cost of accession, divided by country



A last question can give more information about hopes and fears regarding potential integration into the EU. In an open question, respondents were asked to name the concepts they associate with the term European Union. Although this question was formulated openly and with no link to accession, most respondents nevertheless gave answers that were apparently

FIGURE 76

Associations respondents make with the words "European Union" in Hungary



THE EU MEANS:

"Our culture and language are at risk — an Americanisation of Hungary." (capital, female, 67 years old)

"People will become more tolerant and can live in peace." (rural, female, 47 years old)

"An economically developed, democratic community of states, where there is free movement of labour and capital between the states. People are responsible for their own future." (capital, male, 35 years old)

"I usually think of: industrial development, a lower unemployment rate, better working conditions, more possibilities of working, free trade, an end to inflation and more emphasis on the protection of environment. In all, I have positive thoughts." (rural, male, 17 years old)

"I think that a small country like Hungary does not need to join the European Union, because we cannot follow those rules which Hungary has been ordered to follow. And what are Hungarian salaries compared to Western ones? So I do not support the idea of joining." (capital, male, 31 years old)

"A Western European organisation who wants more and more members and wants to force them to apply their norms and regulations. During this process, it makes them believe that it would be mutually useful and help the development and generate welfare." (capital, female, 21 years old)

"We can travel without passport and we do not have to pay customs. Hungarian agriculture will be in a worse position than it is now. Capital will cross borders without difficulties." (industrial area, male, 25 years old)

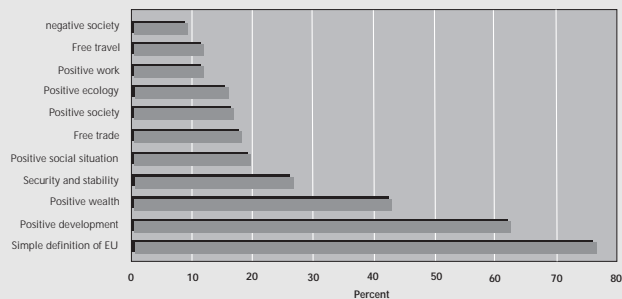
When asked to assess the changes accession will bring to industry, the majority of Macedonian and Hungarian respondents said they were aware that there is a need for a lot of investment in the industrial sector. Romanian respondents either think that there will be no major changes, or that the EU will cover the expenses of modernisation.

An overwhelming majority of respondents said that the EU and their own country should pay equal shares of the costs for accession investments.

When asked what comes to mind when they hear the words “European Union,” almost all respondents automatically thought of accession for their own country. When asked to name concepts that they associate with the words “European Union,” the most frequent responses were: positive effects on development, positive effects on wealth of the country, positive effects on society — such as further democratisation — and free travel and trade. While the most common responses were positive, the fifth-most frequent one was negative: concerns about negative effects on society like “westernisation” or the loss of identity.

FIGURE 77

Associations respondents make with the words “European Union” in Romania



THE EU MEANS:

“Economic and social development, the development of infrastructure, free access to the member states, economic stability, reform in the judicial, police and military sectors and political stability.”
(rural, female, 23 years old)

“I think of an organisation that imposes on each member state to comply with the obligations and standards assumed at the moment of accession. I associate the EU with an umbrella.”
(rural, male, 55 years old)

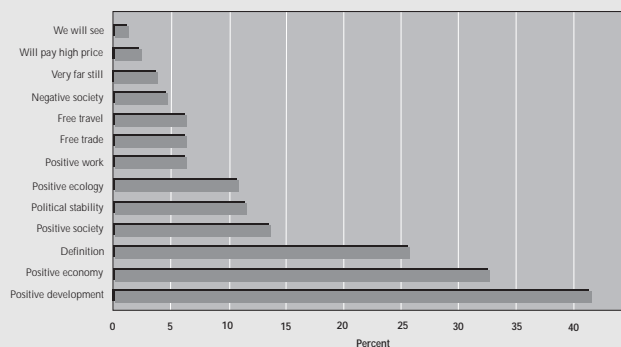
“The EU is an international cooperation for the development of its member states and the states which will accede. It works something like, ‘I help you — you help me.’”
(industrial area, male, 48 years old)

“When I think of the EU, I think of an organisation with strong financial capital, high political power and higher standards, which can profit from any small or poor state by imposing all these idiotic conditions and then later taking advantage of these small states. I am referring only to those smaller states without financial power, who badly want to integrate into the EU.”
(industrial area, male 49 years old)

“I associate the term EU with an old Romanian story, where the landlords advised the peasants to fight for the union — when, in the hardest times, the peasants were forced to work for the landlords.”
(industrial area, female, 55 years old)

FIGURE 78

Associations respondents make with the words “European Union” in FYR Macedonia



THE EU MEANS:

“European standard way of life, equality for all ethnic groups, free trade, Europe with no borders, a clean environment.”
(capital, male, 17 years old)

“Brainwash.”
(capital, male, 18 years old)

“A political influence that we already feel. And it would be better if all the travel visas were not needed anymore. This would be similar to the conditions before 1991.”
(capital, female, 55 years old)

“The wish of FYR Macedonia to become a member of the EU at any cost, without thinking about the obligations and the price that will have to be paid.”
(capital, female, 24 years old)

“I associate [the EU with] an international society based on strict regulations and standards that are compulsory for every new potential member state. The association cares about each of its members.”
(industrial area, male, 24 years old)

“Economically, politically and socially stable countries. Non-member countries should not be underestimated by the Union. A Union led by experts and fit for everything in practice. A Union that is not willing to stop the countries that want to enter — but it is not bad for them anyway.”
(industrial area, female 23 years old)

“A self-loving organisation that looks down on other countries and will always want to be richer than others.”
(industrial area, male, 55 years old)

influenced by their country's potential EU membership. General coded answers will be presented for each individual country, and full quotations of the responses will be used to illustrate the diversity of the answers.

In Hungary, negative associations were in the minority. The main negative aspect that respondents mentioned was the potential for bad effects on society, such as “Westernisation” of Hungarian society, or the “swallowing” of Hungarian society by the EU. The words European Union were also associated with positive social effects, mostly the further democratisation of society and the development of a political culture similar to that of Western countries.

In this question, several answers were possible, which is why the total of the percentages in the chart showing answers from Romania (Figure 77) exceeds 100. Many Romanian respondents mentioned a relatively technical definition of EU as an “organisation for the mutual benefit of all members” or as a union of several European countries. It is noteworthy that the second most prevalent association Romanians had with the words “European Union” was positive effects on development, or just development in a positive sense. In general most associations mentioned were positive in content: development, wealth, stability and security in an economical and political sense, a positive or better social situation for the Romanians, free trade and a positive effect on society in general. The only negative association mentioned was negative effects on society, like the “Westernisation” of Romanian culture or the “swallowing” of a poorer Romanian state as a means to provide business opportunities for the West.

Many of the people interviewed in FYR Macedonia mentioned a relatively technical definition of the EU as an “organisation for the mutual benefit of all members” or as a union of several European countries. It is noteworthy that the most prevalent association was positive effects on development or just development in a positive sense. In general, most of the associations mentioned were positive in content: development, wealth, stability and security in an economical and political sense, a positive or better social situation for Macedonians, free trade and a positive effect on society in general.

3.4.3. What do people think accession means for the environmental situation?

In this section we look at the perceived consequences of EU accession for the environmental situation in Hungary, Romania and FYR Macedonia. Respondents were asked whether integration into the EU will be better or worse for environment and

FIGURE 79

Total sample's perceptions of the state of environmental protection after accession

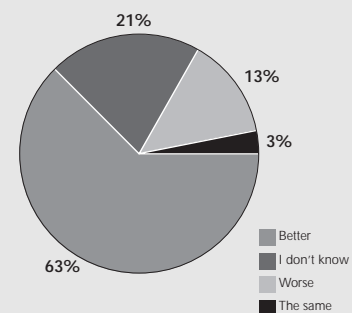
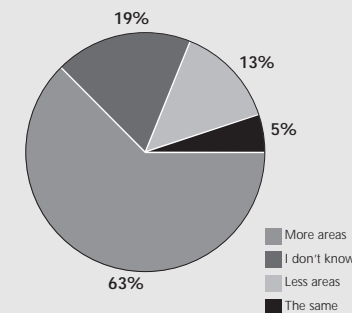


FIGURE 80

Total sample's perceptions of the state of protected areas after accession

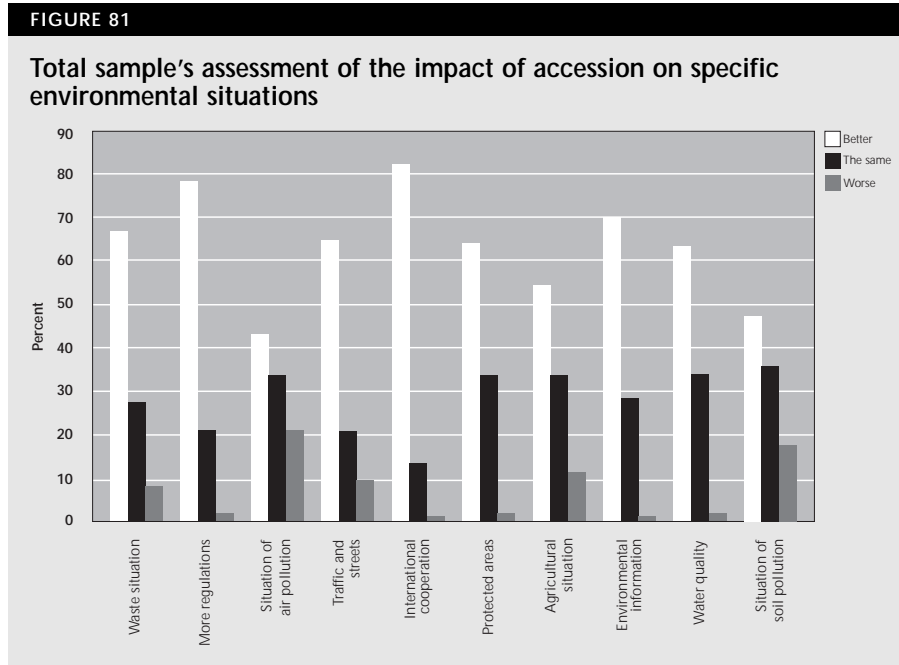


nature in their countries. The charts in Figures 79-80, which incorporate the answers of all 878 sample respondents from the three countries, give an assessment of the perceived environmental consequences of accession.

As the percentages of answers in the three countries are more or less alike, results will not be presented for each country separately. The two charts in Figures 79-80 show a positive and optimistic trend: Respondents obviously believe that EU accession will improve the situation of environmental protection and natural protected areas. Only a small minority expects negative results. This information is especially interesting in the light of the results from the previous chapter, which show that some respondents have mixed feelings about EU accession in general. It seems that negative attitudes are not connected to the environmental consequences as much as they are to social consequences. Less than a fifth of all respondents think that accession has no consequences on these two aspects and that things will remain the same as they are now. Apparently Hungarian, Romanian and Macedonian respondents have very high hopes for the environmental impact of EU integration. In the following analysis, we look at a breakdown of reasons why these expectations are so high.

In the question illustrated in Figure 81, the mostly optimistic trend remains, but it also becomes much clearer where respondents expect improvements — and where they have some doubts about things getting better. People expect better international coopera-

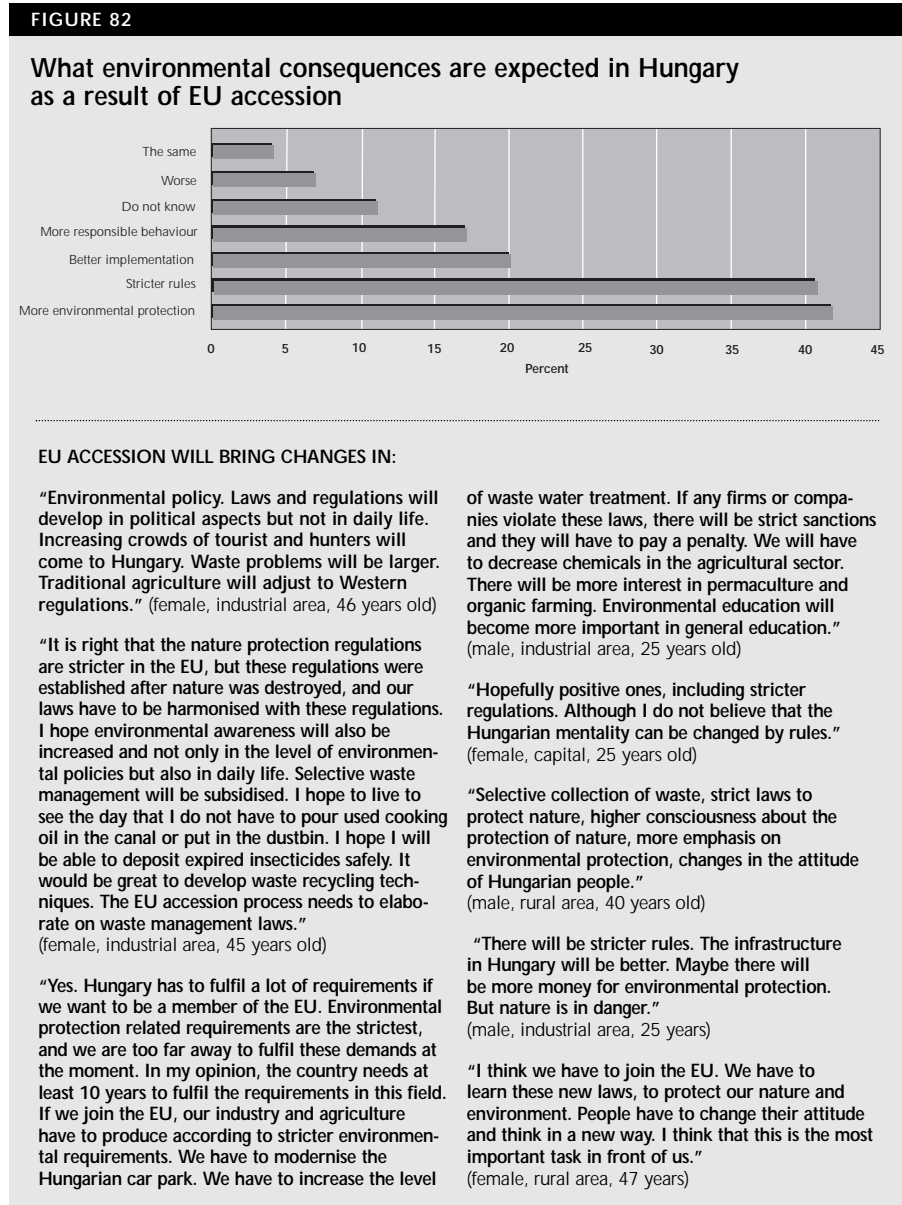
Concerning the impact of EU membership on the environment, more than half of all respondents are optimistic and expect accession to bring a better environmental situation and more protected areas.



When asked to give specifics on expected environmental changes from EU accession, respondents mentioned better environmental regulations, more international cooperation and better environmental information. Respondents were less hopeful regarding the effects that EU accession could have on air pollution, traffic and streets, soil pollution and agriculture.

tion, better regulations and more/better information. But there are also four environmental areas where the percentage of respondents who expect negative consequences is relatively high, and it cannot be said that respondents have strong positive opinions about these areas. A significant percentage of respondents expect the situation to get worse concerning air pollution (22 percent), soil pollution (17 percent), agriculture (12 percent) and traffic and streets (10 percent). As these four aspects are logically connected — more traffic and streets also cause more air pollution and intensification in agriculture causes more soil pollution — it is not surprising that they are all mentioned. Aside from these four aspects, a noteworthy number of respondents (7 percent) also fear that increased waste problems will be a negative effect of accession.

One last indicator of the hopes and fears of the environmental consequences of accession is the open question: “Do you think that EU accession will have consequences for the environmental situation and for nature in your country? What consequences do you expect?” Results will be presented for each country separately in the charts in Figures 82-84.



When answering the open question about environmental changes that would occur as a result of the accession process, most of the replies related to hopes for more environmental protection in general and hopes for stricter rules. Slightly lower ranked came the hope for better implementation of these rules and a positive effect on peoples' behaviour.

Again, the positive picture is confirmed — only a minority of answers given show negative expectations or expectations that nothing will change with accession.

Three of the issues mentioned will be looked at in more detail: the establishment of stricter rules, better implementation of those rules and an increase in environmentally responsible behaviour (responsible behaviour includes the behaviour of individuals as well as decision-makers). It is interesting to analyse how respondents from the different types of residential areas felt about these issues.

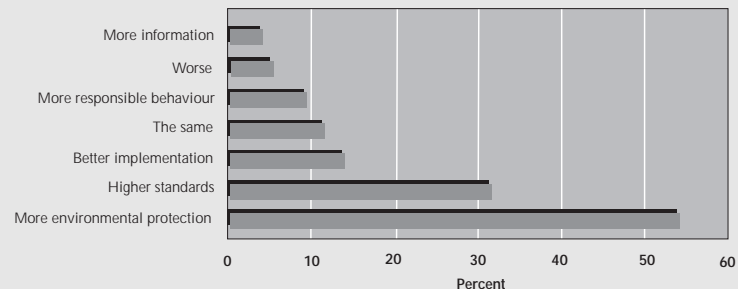
Respondents from all of the areas had similar expectations that better implementation of environmental rules and regulations would be one consequence of EU accession. But expectations that there will be stricter rules were higher in the industrial areas. Respondents living near industrial plants and factories are probably more aware of rules and regulations for industrial production than people living in other areas. Analysing along sampling areas reveals another interesting trend: Respondents in Budapest have much lower expectations of changes in behaviour patterns than respondents in the other two areas. It seems that the Budapest respondents are either less optimistic about an increase in environmentally friendly behaviour or they generally think that there is not such a close connection between responsible behaviour and positive effects on the environment. The questionnaire gives no final answer as to why Budapest respondents thought as they did on this issue, and more research in this area could be interesting.

In Romania the positive picture, illustrated by Figure 83, is confirmed — only a minority of answers given touch on negative expectations or on the opinion that there will not be any changes as a result of accession.

Three of the issues mentioned by Romanians will be looked at in more detail: higher environmental standards, better implementation of rules and an increase in environmentally responsible behaviour (responsible behaviour includes the behaviour of individuals as well as decision-makers). It is interesting to analyse how respondents from the different types of residential areas felt about these issues. As almost all respondents said they expect better protection in general, this item will not be analysed in detail. The expectation of better implementation of rules and regulations is mentioned more by the respondents of the rural area around Brasov. But the expectation of stricter rules is mostly mentioned in the industrial area. Respondents living near industrial plants and factories are probably much more aware that there might be stricter rules and regulations for industrial production than people living farther away from an industrial centre. A third interesting fact is shown by the

FIGURE 83

What environmental consequences are expected in Romania as a result of EU accession



EU accession "will surely have positive and negative consequences. The penetration of EU products will change the situation of Romanian industrial and agricultural production. Some large enterprises will stop their activity and higher unemployment will be the consequence. But the increase of agricultural production through better mechanisation is also possible. The potential for efficient production of natural and biological agricultural products might be followed by an urban migration." (rural, female, 57 years old)

"There will be many advantages to Romania joining the EU. Small- and medium-sized factories will be checked to see if they are working properly from an environmental point of view. The same goes for the nuclear power plant at Navodari and chemical plants." (rural, male, 22 years old)

EU accession will bring changes in Romania. "I hope it will help to improve the drinking water quality and I hope we will receive money so that it is not necessary any more to cut down the forests." (capital, female, 62 years old)

"I hope EU accession will awake the interest of Romanians to environmental issues and problems — maybe through an intensive media campaign." (capital, female, 42 years old)

EU accession will only bring some changes in Romania. "On the one hand there will be stricter laws and clearer application, on the other hand, the Romanian people will remain the same — poor. Without economic help, the laws and regulations will exist only on paper." (industrial area, male, 16 years old)

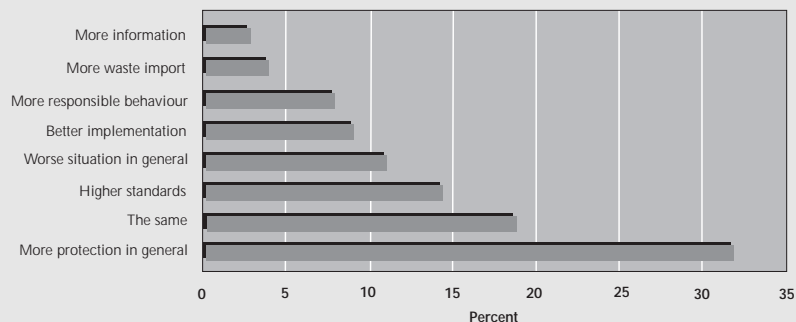
EU accession will mean "a lot of pesticides and herbicides will be used in agriculture for higher production levels." (industrial area, male, 64 years old)

EU accession will bring changes in Romania. "I expect the improvement of our environmental legislation — but will the new law, like the present law, be respected? Will the people's attitude be changed?" (industrial area, female, 72 years old)

EU accession will bring changes in Romania. "Environmental problems will be tackled and protection will be stronger. I expect the result is that I will be able to breathe fresh air." (industrial area, male, 45 years old)

FIGURE 84

What environmental consequences are expected in FYR Macedonia as a result of EU accession



"I expect FYR Macedonia to become a trash dump for dirty technology. Old and dirty technology will enter as the developed countries of the EU would like to improve their technology and sell us the old stuff. So the consequences are known."
(rural, female, 44 years old)

EU accession "will have positive consequences, for instance when all the vehicles in the EU are subject to control of exhaust gases and old cars are not so widely used. In addition, there will be filters on factory chimneys and so on."
(rural, male, 24 years)

I expect "positive changes for the environment and for nature in FYR Macedonia. There will be strengthening of laws and regulations, and their implementation, with stricter punishments. There will be better environmental protection of water, air and soil."
(capital, female, 36 years old)

"It will be better because the population will be able to not only think about how to survive, but also about other global problems."
(capital, male, 22 years old)

"The EU standards will be accepted, which will lead to better nature and environment conditions, more care and higher awareness for a healthy environment."
(industrial area, female, 23 years old)

"The EU history is to destroy nature and then later look for solutions. We have to go through the same in our developing period."
(industrial area, male, 35 years old)

"There will be definitely positive consequences [of accession]: New, safer technologies will guarantee environmental protection. New and efficient laws and regulations and the transfer of experience between EU countries will help to solve environmental problems."
(industrial area, female, 36 years old)

"I suppose that EU accession will mean that we will no longer be the waste dump for others — especially in the case of nuclear waste."
(industrial area, male, 63 years)

detailed analysis along sampling areas. Respondents in Bucharest mention expected changes in behaviour more than respondents in the other two areas. It seems that the Bucharest respondents are more optimistic about positive changes in the peoples' behaviour, or that they generally think less of the national policies and therefore hope that changes in behaviour brought on by EU accession will have positive effects on the environment.

In FYR Macedonia the positive trend, illustrated in Figure 84, is confirmed — but negative expectations or the point of view that there would not be any changes as a result of accession is stronger here.

Three of the issues mentioned in FYR Macedonia will be looked at in more detail: higher environmental standards, a worsening of the situation in general and better implementation of rules. It is interesting to analyse how respondents from the different types of residential areas felt about these issues. As almost all respondents expect better protection in general, this item will not be analysed in detail.

Respondents from Skopje are more sceptical and pessimistic than others. People from Veles are the ones with the biggest hopes for better environmental standards and better implementation of those standards. Here, the differences are considerable. Respondents from Srnovci are the ones who are most optimistic about changes for the betterment of the environment.

3.4.4. What is preferred: Membership or non-membership?

The third complex index to be analysed is the attitude Hungarians, Romanians and Macedonians share towards EU accession. Looking at this attitude from the other side of the coin, it can be said that respondents feel more or less strongly that their country needs independent national development before entering a body like the EU. To measure how strongly respondents favour independent development, statements 3, 15, 19 and 22 from the third part of the questionnaire were combined. The resulting "autonomy index" has scores varying between 4 and 20, with 20 indicating the strongest reservations about EU integration. Low values indicate a sympathy for fast accession. The results are shown in Figure 85.

Differences between areas are largest in Hungary, where respondents in rural Turkeve have by far the strongest reservations about EU accession. Rural respondents of Srnovci in FYR Macedonia have the least desire for independent development and therefore accept EU accession most strongly. In general, respon-

FIGURE 85

“Autonomy index,” divided by country

	HUNGARY			ROMANIA			FYR MACEDONIA		
	Budapest	Miskolc	Turkeve	Bucharest	Galati	Brasov	Skopje	Veles	Srnovci
Average autonomy index	12.3	12.5	14.3	11.5	13.0	12.6	11.6	11.5	10.5

On the subject of autonomy and accession, respondents from the Hungarian rural area had the most reservations about the integration process. In contrast, rural Macedonian respondents had the least reservations about accession. In general, the Macedonian respondents had the highest appreciation for accession.

dents from FYR Macedonia have the highest appreciation for accession, followed by Romania. Hungarian respondents have the most appreciation for independent development. It is also interesting that in Hungary and Romania, inhabitants in the capital are more positive towards integration than their counterparts elsewhere in the country — but this is not the case in FYR Macedonia.

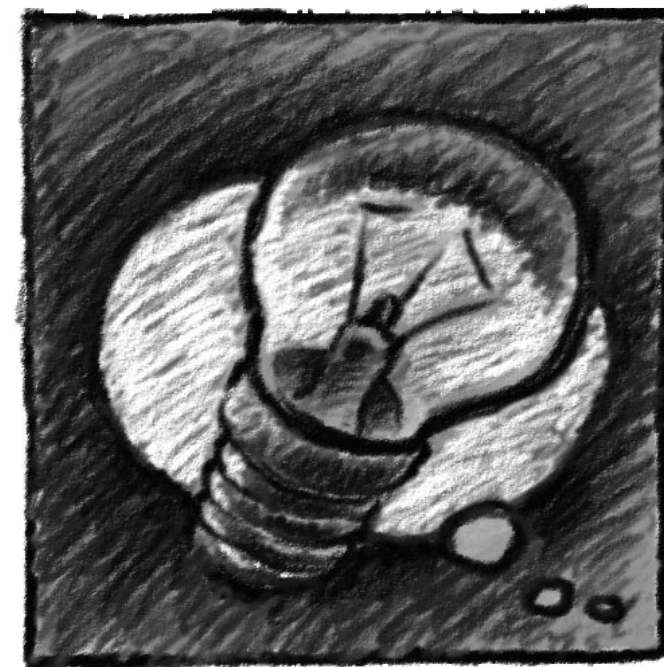
When dividing the sample by other socio-economic variables, we see that, in FYR Macedonia, females and less wealthy respondents have less reservations against fast accession. In Romania it is education level that makes a difference: the higher the education, the less reservations respondents have against integration of Romania into the EU. The analysis also shows that it is those Romanian respondents who have spent their childhood in Bucharest and still live there who are most positive towards accession. In the case of Hungary, it is again the respondents with higher education who are more positive towards integration. The higher incomes people have, the less likely they are to wish for an autonomous development of Hungary. And younger Hungarians are most positive about fast accession of their country. All remaining variables were tested, but have no effect on the index of respondents.

1 The analysis of this index as well as the other indices in chapter 3.2. and 3.4. has been supported by Julia Pauli, University of Cologne.

2 One reason why mostly Hungarians say that they are not interested might be the fact that there were reports about scandals in the environmental ministry in the Hungarian press during the course of interviewing in Hungary. Some respondents might have reacted negatively to express their protest against the national authorities.

3 The original name will be given without explanation if the name is correct or if the organisation exists at all.

4 This fact corresponds to surveys in Western European member states, where TV is also mentioned as most important information source. See also Eurobarometer 51, 1999.



Chapter 4: What could these results mean for policy-makers?

Chapter 4: What could these results mean for policy-makers?

Readers are again reminded: The results presented in the preceding pages are based on stratified samples. They therefore do not necessarily represent society as a whole, but have to be read as indicative results. Recommendations are consequently formulated with caution.

National authorities:

The results of the poll indicate that national authorities could invest more in public relations and information dissemination. It seems that what they have achieved in the field of environmental protection is not recognised by large segments of the population. Authorities' efforts and achievements should be communicated in a form that is easy for the general public to understand. This could be channelled through TV spots or through newspaper leaflets, as these are the main information sources listed by respondents.

The present report suggests that respondents perceive a deterioration in the environmental situation. In reality, there are also quite a few improvements, and those could be communicated to the public. It seems that visible environmental problems, like waste dumps in forests or along roads are giving the impression that not much gets done in environmental protection. But protection from less visible threats requires some detailed explanation, and it could be useful to offer more information about those problems.

EU accession is a common theme, which everybody seems to talk about. But the depth of information on the subject is remarkably low: Few respondents seemed to know what the real consequences will be. Emotional discussions prevail, as hard facts are not available. It could be helpful to collect information and give some concrete examples of the effects of accession. Either too much optimism or too much pessimism are not helpful in the long run, and these can also complicate the implementation of the accession process. An objective discussion based on facts, and illustrated with examples, could help

increase the public's acceptance of the accession process. In the fields of agricultural and industrial development especially, respondents appear to have either very negative expectations or unrealistic hopes of positive developments. If more information is provided about these two sectors, it could serve as examples or case studies for consequences of EU accession.

Local authorities:

In the poll, respondents indicated that they trust local authorities a little more than national authorities when it comes to the implementation of environmental protection. Local authorities could strengthen this trust and establish closer cooperation with the general public by working with NGOs. The population interviewed sees NGOs as efficient structures for fighting environmental pollution. It therefore follows that cooperation between local authorities and locally active NGOs could enhance public acceptance and improve the public's evaluation of local authorities.

The report also revealed that people interviewed felt they did not have enough opportunities to act in an environmentally friendly manner. If possible, local authorities could provide more recycling facilities, waste collection or separation centres, special containers for used batteries and other such facilities. This would give inhabitants more means of engaging in environmentally friendly behaviour and it would also strengthen respect for the public sector. Collective clean-up activities could also find support among the general population. The mere provision of possibilities for people to act in a more environmentally friendly manner should engender a positive reaction among inhabitants.

Enforcement of environmental regulations is perceived as weak. Local authorities might need to engage in some public relations work to explain their efforts toward enforcement. Again, concrete examples or case studies could help to raise the general public's understanding of the situation. People are quick to demand enforcement when it concerns the activities of others, but everyone can be affected by environmental regulation. It might be useful to give more information about how environmental regulations, before and after accession, will shape the lives of everybody — and how enforcement is needed to ensure the quality of the environmental situation. This preventive measure could help maintain the positive evaluation of strict enforcement, even when the rules might become less comfortable for the general public.

NGOs:

Information and education are two benefits that can easily be provided by NGOs. The respondents interviewed in this project mentioned a lack of knowledge as a hindrance for more environmentally friendly behaviour. But this knowledge can systematically be built up with education, training and other information dissemination activities. NGOs normally have closer contact with the general public and should have an advantage in shaping educational campaigns or training materials for different target groups. Activities to increase knowledge about how everyone can engage in environmentally friendly behaviour can include summer schools, eco-camps, school visits, information materials, group discussions with different interest groups in society, etc.

EU-accession increases hopes for more environmental protection. The people interviewed in this project expressed positive expectations on this issue. It seems that the general public is ready to accept the stricter laws or stricter implementation of environmental regulations that accession is expected to bring. This could be a good time to lobby for more protection and more implementation of legislation in the political sphere. Because the public may be receptive to lobbying efforts, NGOs might also consider establishing partnerships with NGOs in member states to exchange experience about political lobbying for environmental protection in the EU.

The results of this opinion poll suggest that general public puts a considerable amount of trust in NGO work for a better environment. Building on this trust, NGOs could establish a fruitful cooperation with the public sector. NGOs could consult and correct the governmental institutions in environmental matters and serve as a watchdog for the public sector. Some NGOs might need to obtain more technical experience and know-how to become suitable and serious partners for the public sector.

EU institutions:

Hungarians, Romanians and Macedonians are apparently not receiving the desirable level of information about accession, and official brochures are apparently not the most effective way to reach people. TV and the newspapers are much more important sources of information about accession, according to the poll. It might be useful to launch specific information or training campaigns for TV or newspaper journalists, who can report about EU accession in their media. Or else, information brochures

could be included as inserts to daily newspapers. It would seem that the information should include concrete examples or case studies to make it less abstract. Maybe giving examples of other states that have joined the EU rather recently would help to make accession information more realistic and tangible.

Training in public relations could be very useful for the public sector. Those working in government need to be able to communicate problems and solutions in environmental protection or nature conservation. This report suggests that the general public perceives a lack of information about the environment and does not positively evaluate the efforts of the government. EU institutions could help change this situation by encouraging member countries to offer applicant countries their experience in handling public relations for environmental policy.

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Annex

The opinion poll

Polling locations and sampling

The following is a short introduction to the three polling locations that were chose in each country.

Hungary

Budapest, the capital of Hungary, is a very densely populated area, with roughly 2 million inhabitants, or one fifth the country's population. A considerable percentage (31 percent) of the city's population is under 25 years old, although that population is ageing. Most workers in the capital are employed in the service sector and they tend to earn more than the national average. Residents of Budapest also tend to have higher education levels than those in the rest of Hungary. The capital is the economic centre of the country and all economic branches, aside from agriculture, have high significance there. But Budapest also suffers from severe pollution and environmental problems: The intense concentration of traffic creates high degrees of air pollution, noise and smog. Another major problem is the need to upgrade sewage water facilities and waste management.

Miskolc, in the north-eastern county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, is one of highly industrialised cities of Hungary and a centre for mining, machine industry and iron and steel works. Miskolc is the county capital and the region's economic, communications and transportation centre. In 1990, 45 percent of the population of Miskolc was employed in the industrial sector, but that figure has declined due to restructuring. In 1995, 20 percent of the county's population was unemployed, and unemployment was 13.4 percent in Miskolc. The county is a less wealthier one, with high

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Hungary is a land-locked country with borders on Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Yugoslavia, Croatia and Slovenia. The total area is 93,000 square kilometres. Most of Hungary's terrain is lowlands and it is drained by two main rivers, the Danube and the Tisza. Lake Balaton, in the western half of the country, is a shallow freshwater lake with the largest surface area of any in Europe. In January 1999, Hungary had a population of 10,092,000, of which 48 percent were males and 52 percent females. Around 65 percent of the population lives in urban areas. Fifty two percent of the population is economically active, and the forestry and agricultural sector made up 7 percent of total GDP in 1996. Agricultural production today is far below the level of the pre-transition era, before 1989. The average monthly income in Hungary is HUF 67,700.

.....

unemployment causing other social problems. The most important environmental concern is the disposal and treatment of industrial and municipal waste. Improperly managed waste is contaminating water and soil resources particularly in the Sajo Valley.

Turkeve in the Jasz-Nagykun-Szolnok county is a town of around 10,000 people east of Szolnok, the county capital. This county has a low population density and around 12 percent of the inhabitants currently make their living from agriculture. This number has declined since 1990, due to the restructuring of large agricultural cooperatives. The population is ageing, and a lot of younger people are leaving the area. Net monthly wages are 10 percent below the national average. Unemployment in the area is among the worst in Hungary. The level of education is lower than the national average. The county still remains responsible for a considerable amount of the total national agricultural production, including 10 percent of the wheat and 7 percent of the pork and beef. The county is one of the least polluted areas in Hungary and includes natural reserves and some protected flora and fauna species.¹

Romania

Bucharest, the capital of Romania, has a population of around 2.3 million and the highest population density in the country. It is the centre of cultural and economic activity, and home to many industries, services and educational institutions. Obtaining access to information is easier in the capital, with international organisations, national agencies and a number of non-governmental organisations based in Bucharest. But the city also suffers from environmental problems. Bucharest is severely polluted by thermo-electric plants, road traffic and industrial units. The waste water is cleaned by a mechanical-biological water treatment facility.

The industrial city of Galati, with a population of 324,000 is also

Romania has a territory of 236,400 square kilometres, 28 percent of which is covered with forests and 60 percent of which is used for agriculture. The population is around 22.5 million, of which almost 90 percent are ethnic Romanians. The country's population growth is negative. In 1995, an estimated 56 percent of the population lived in urban areas but the urbanisation of the population is constantly continuing, especially in cities other than Bucharest. Romania is bounded in the north by Ukraine, in the east by Moldova, Ukraine and the Black Sea, in the south by Bulgaria, in the south-west by Yugoslavia and in the north-west by Hungary.

the capital of the county of Galati, which has a population of around 642,000. The area around Galati is heavily industrialised with steel and iron industries, machine industry, thermo-electric power-stations and chemical industries. Therefore, the city is prone to serious environmental problems like air pollution from various substances, acid rain, insufficient water treatment facilities, high nitrate content in the ground water, a high level of soil pollution, use as an industrial waste storage location for mining waste, etc. Inhabitants of Galati are often employed in industry, and agri-

cultural activities are not predominant. Galati is also one of the main inland Danube harbours, and sees heavy commercial traffic along the river.

Brasov county with the capital city Brasov (north of Bucharest in the Carpathian mountains) has a population of around 643,000, more than half of it living in the city itself. The polling location here was not the city, but smaller villages or towns around 20 kilometres away from Brasov: Moeciu, Vulcan, Halchuiu, Pojana Marului and Feldioara. Although these areas are predominantly agricultural, the environmental problems of nearby Brasov are obvious, and the problems have an impact, if limited, on these rural areas. The main environmental concerns for the Brasov area include water pollution problems, high nitrate content in the ground water and forest damage through pollution. But the closure of cement factories has helped the environmental situation in the area. Brasov lies in an area of forests, and the city has a mechanical-biological water treatment facility.

FYR Macedonia

Skopje, the capital of FYR Macedonia, has roughly 600,000 inhabitants. The city is the economic, infrastructure and services centre of the country, has the only airport in FYR Macedonia and is also a centre for production and trade. Inhabitants of Skopje are employed in industry, in the service sector and in the public sector. Recently, the war in neighbouring Kosovo has brought an influx of international aid organisations into Skopje, and the capital has become a regional hub for support to Kosovo. Different ethnic groups live in Skopje, mainly Macedonians, followed by Albanians, Slavs, Turks and others. Environmental problems in Skopje have a variety of origins: There is a high degree of air pollution due to the heavy traffic in the city. Another source of pollution is the cement plant and steel industries in Skopje. The water supply is good and the quality of the River Varda has increased, due to decreases in industrial production since the transition period. But waste water still poses a difficult problem.

Veles probably has the most severe environmental problems of any Macedonian city. A lead and zinc smelter in the middle of the city is responsible for very high air pollution and is posing a serious threat to the health of the Veles population. Lead con-

The country is divided into 41 counties, of which the capital, Bucharest, is one. In December 1991, a new constitution was approved by a referendum that established Romania as a republic and introduced a market economy. Services contribute around 47 percent of GDP, industry around 36 percent, agriculture around 20 percent. Agricultural production is mainly comprised of maize, wheat, sugar beet, oilseeds, potatoes and, to a smaller extent, livestock, tobacco and wine. Privatisation and redistribution of land has led to an average farm size of less than 2 hectares arable land. Industrial production is mainly steel, iron, chemical fertilisers, sulphuric acid, cement, paper, sugar and soda. The unemployment rate was 9 percent in the end of 1996.

FYR Macedonia is a landlocked country of 25,713 square kilometres with borders on Greece, Albania,

Bulgaria and Yugoslavia — including Serbia and Kosovo. FYR Macedonia has a population of roughly 2 million people, with an ethnic make-up that is 67 percent Macedonian, 23 percent Albanian, 4 percent Turkish and 6 percent others. After the break-up of Yugoslavia, FYR Macedonia went through a period of extreme economic crisis, with unemployment reaching up to 34.5 percent in the end of 1998. The war in Kosovo in March 1999 had a further destabilising effect on FYR Macedonia's transition efforts. Around 60 percent of all inhabitants live in urban centres (25 percent in Skopje alone). The age distribution is 25 percent under 14 years old; 66 percent between 15 and 64; and 9 percent over 65. Around one fifth of the population is employed in the agricultural sector, around one third is employed in industry and 47 percent in the service sector. FYR Macedonia has a multi-party system and the present government was formed after the 1999 elections.

centrations were unnaturally high in the hair and blood of people living in the direct path of the harmful emissions. High levels of heavy metals are also found in vegetables grown around Veles, because the soil is heavily polluted.

Snovci lies in a agricultural area, where 32 of the land is arable land and 57 percent is forest cover. The town has around 3,000 inhabitants, most of them (98 percent) are of Macedonian ethnicity and orthodox Christians. The largest portion of all arable land is covered by rice fields, although this crop pattern is changing due to the bad market price for rice. Vegetables and cereals are also grown. Around half of all the wage-earning population is working in agriculture. The town has a hydrological power station located at the River Snovci. Environmental problems or pressures are not very common in the area, although local municipal and agricultural waste management and municipal waste water

treatment are not prevalent.

Notes on methodology

The plan for conducting the survey was to interview roughly 250 to 300 persons in each country, divided by the three areas as described above.

The questionnaires were translated into the national languages and the answers to the open questions were later translated back into English by the research assistants. Interviews took 45-60 minutes and were conducted with each respondent individually. Most of the time, the interview assistants only handed the questionnaires to the respondents, who then filled in the papers themselves. When requested, assistants gave help with the answering procedures and explained the question form.

The questionnaire

The Romanian questionnaire will be given here as an example for all three countries. It should be noted that statement number 37 and the question designated "Ex" were added after the Hungarian polling procedure. So these questions can only be found in the Romanian and Macedonian questionnaire.

I Questions:

A) Do you speak about environmental problems in your family or with friends? (Mark one only)

- 1) often 2) sometimes
 3) seldom 4) never

B) Please rank the environmental problems in Romania by their importance. (give a 12 to the most important and a 1 to the least important and give each number from 1-12 only once)

- 1) air pollution
 2) bad drinking water quality
 3) Soviet era/military pollution
 4) pollution of lakes, rivers or the sea
 5) intensive logging of forest
 6) waste dumps/hazardous waste
 7) chemical industry
 8) less wildlife and less plants
 9) pollution from energy production
 10) soil pollution
 11) waste water management
 12) nuclear energy

C) What do you personally do to save the environment?

(mark all you normally do)

- 1) I work in an environmental organisation
 2) I buy drinks in deposit bottles
 3) I do not use mineral fertiliser
 4) I go shopping with a basket/bag
 5) I help to clean forests or plains
 6) I deliberately use public transport/bicycle
 7) I do not use pesticides or herbicides
 8) I recycle paper
 9) I try to save water and energy
 10) I sort waste
 11) other _____

D) How do you try to save electric energy?

(mark all that fit your behaviour)

- 1) It is not so important. Therefore, I do not try to save energy.
 2) I use energy-saving electric bulbs.
 3) I turn off the light whenever I leave the room.
 4) I changed the heating system so that I can regulate it myself.
 5) other _____

E) What do you normally do with your paper waste?

(mark one only)

- 1) This is normal waste and I put it in the household garbage.
 2) I keep old paper and use it in fireplaces or just burn it.
 3) I keep old paper and bring it to the recycling facilities.
 4) Other possibilities _____

F) When you get your food, do you think about the chemicals in the foodstuff? (mark one only)

- 1) No, because I think that the foodstuff produced in Romania has no chemicals in it.
 2) I would like to buy chemical-free foodstuff, but I do not know, where to get it.
 3) I always buy/get chemical-free foodstuff, or produce food myself.
 4) When buying foodstuff, I do not think about the chemicals in it, but about the price.
 5) I do not think that chemicals in food are a big problem.

G) Name up to five environmental organisations who are active in Romania.

- 1) _____
 2) _____
 3) _____
 4) _____
 5) _____

H) How could you do even more to save the environment?

(mark all that fit you)

- 1) It does not seem necessary to do more.
 2) If more people would join me, and we could have an impact, I would do more.
 3) If I had more time I would do more.
 4) If I had more money I would do more.
 5) If it was more comfortable I would do more.
 6) If I had more knowledge about what to do I would.
 7) If I had fewer other problems I would do more.
 8) If the state would provide more opportunities to do something I would.
 9) Other _____

I) On which of the following factors does caring for the environment depend? (Give a 9 to the most important factor and a 1 to the least important and give each a number from 1-9, using each number only once.)

- 1) family education
 2) childhood in the countryside
 3) economic situation
 4) environmental knowledge
 5) inner culture/personal value system
 6) Romanian mentality
 7) love for nature
 8) strict rules and regulations
 9) other _____

J) Do you feel personally influenced by environmental problems? In what way? (mark one)

- 1) Environmental problems do not affect me.
 2) I contracted an illness that is caused by environmental problems.
 3) In my family there are cases of illness caused by environmental problems.
 4) I see that the environment around me is getting worse.
 5) Other _____

K) Do you think that the national government cares enough to protect you from environmental degradation and environmental problems? (mark one)

- 1) Yes, the national government does all it can do.
 2) I think they do a lot already, but not enough to make me feel safe.
 3) I think that they do not care for us at all.
 4) I am not really interested in this issue.

K1) Who is the authority in Romania responsible for dealing with environmental protection?

L) Do you work in or with nature? (mark one)

- 1) I work regularly in or with nature (garden, field, hunting, forest etc.).
 2) I sometimes work in or with nature.
 3) I very rarely work in or with nature.

M) Do you do spend your free time outside and in contact with nature? (mark one)

- 1) I regularly spend my free time in nature.
 2) I sometimes spend my free time in nature.
 3) I very rarely spend my free time in nature.

N) How well do you know the processes in nature and in the environment? (mark one)

- 1) good 2) average 3) bad

O) Do you fear that environmental catastrophes, like for example Chernobyl or a major accident in a chemical plant, could happen again? (mark one)

- 1) I have no fear.
 2) I think that technologies are getting safer, but I still fear accidents.
 3) I think that all dangerous plants should be closed down, accidents can always happen.
 4) I fear industrial accidents, but we need all these factories or plants for our national economy.

P) When you look at Western countries, do you take them as a role model for Romania in the future? (mark one)

- 1) No, I think that Romania has its own way of life and should stay as it is.
 2) Partly, because I think that Romania should have economic development like in the West.
 3) Yes, I would like to see a situation similar to that of western countries here in Romania.

Q) Which do you think is more important in the fight for a healthy environment, work on the national or international level? (mark one)

- 1) I think that national work is more important.
 2) I think that international cooperation is more important.
 3) I think that both need to be equally strong and need to go hand in hand.
 4) I do not know about this.

R) Do you think that the national government spends enough money for environmental protection? (mark one)

- 1) yes 2) not enough
 3) too much 4) I am not interested in this.

S) Do you think that the local governments spend enough money for environmental protection? (mark one)

- 1) yes 2) not enough
 3) too much 4) I am not interested in this.

T 1) Do you think that Romania has good environmental legislation, regulations and laws? (mark one)

- 1) yes 2) too weak
 3) too strong 4) I am not interested in this

T 2) Do you think that Romania has good enforcement of environmental legislation? (mark one)

- 1) yes 2) too weak
 3) too strong 4) I am not interested in this.

T 3) Do you think that the Ministry of Environment in Romania gives enough information to the people? (mark one)

- 1) yes 2) not enough
 3) too much 4) I do not know.

U) Which organisational structure is most efficient in solving environmental problems in Romania? (mark one)

- 1) national government
 2) local government
 3) non-governmental organisations
 4) none of them
 5) I do not know
 6) other ideas _____

V) Do you think that your country should enter the European Union as soon as possible? (mark one)

- 1) yes
 2) better in 10 years
 3) no
 4) I am not interested in this.

W) If your country joins the EU, will this be better or worse for the environment? (mark one)

- 1) better
 2) worse
 3) the same
 4) I do not know.

X) Do you think that nature protection and protected areas will develop if your country joins the EU? (mark one)

- 1) nature will be better protected
 2) nature will be under a great threat
 3) no impact
 4) I do not know

Y) What will be the most important new developments brought on by accession?

(Give ranks from 1 to 11 and use each number only once)

- 1) industrial development
- 2) agricultural development
- 3) infrastructure development
- 4) better product quality control
- 5) water and air quality control
- 6) better environmental protection
- 7) more jobs
- 8) free trade
- 9) political stability
- 10) more nature protection
- 11) other _____

Z) What impacts and consequences on the environment do you expect from EU accession?

(mark the expected impact for each factor)

better / the same / worse

- 1) waste management
- 2) environmental regulations
- 3) air pollution from industrial and transport sources
- 4) traffic and street infrastructure
- 5) international cooperation in environmental protection
- 6) nature protection and biodiversity
- 7) agriculture
- 8) environmental information
- 9) water quality standards
- 10) soil pollution

Ax) What will happen to Romanian agriculture upon entry into the EU? (mark one)

- 1) It will not change.
- 2) High intensification and more pressure on nature.
- 3) Traditional agriculture will die out.
- 4) The EU will give money to farmers to work in an environmentally friendly way and to preserve nature.
- 5) I do not know.

Bx) What will happen to Romanian industry upon entry into the EU? (mark one)

- 1) They will not change.
- 2) High investments will be needed to maintain EU standards.
- 3) A lot of industries will die.
- 4) The EU will cover expenses to modernise the industries.

- 5) New and more industry will be established in Romania.
- 6) I do not know.

Cx) To adopt the EU standards a lot of investments will have to be made in areas like infrastructure. Who should pay the costs of this modernisation? (mark one)

- 1) Romania should pay 100 percent, because they also profit from it.
- 2) The EU and Romania should divide the costs for the investments equally.
- 3) The EU should pay 100 percent of the costs, because they ask for all these changes.

Dx) Where do you get most of your information about EU accession? (mark one)

- 1) Newspaper
- 2) Radio
- 3) TV
- 4) Discussion with other people
- 5) Internet
- 6) From official leaflets and brochures
- 7) from NGOs
- 8) other _____

Ex) How do you understand the term "sustainable development?"

- 1) Long-term agricultural development.
- 2) Long-term development in general.
- 3) Development which does not harm nature and the environment.
- 4) Development which finds a balance for economic, social and environmental needs.

II Open questions:

1) What comes to your mind when you hear the words "European Union," and with what do you associate this term?

2) Do you think that EU accession will have consequences for the environmental situation and nature in Romania? What consequences do you expect? Why do you expect them?

3) What kind of environmental degradation or environmental problems are you personally afraid of? Why?

III Fixed-form Statements

Please evaluate the statements below, using the following scale:

5) *I strongly agree.* 4) *I partly agree.* 3) *I do not know.* 2) *I partly disagree.* 1) *I strongly disagree.*

5 4 3 2 1

No. Statement

- 1 I wish for a society where people can participate in political decisions.
- 2 I would like to see recycling facilities (for paper, glass, batteries) in Romania like the ones in Western Europe.
- 3 Our farmers will suffer a lot from EU accession.
- 4 The environment itself has a lot of strength to recover, it does not need our help.
- 5 Because of global climate change, we could become extinct like dinosaurs.
- 6 We have to invest in industries to develop the economy. Then our children will have the money to solve the environmental problems that we have today.
- 7 We should not make the same mistakes in destroying nature as they do in the West.
- 8 I would accept it if some people lose their jobs if this helps the environment.
- 9 EU-membership will help us to clean our water and to invest in water-treatment.
- 10 We have to keep the environment for our children, even if this means that we have to reduce the standard of living today.
- 11 There are too many environmental regulations arising as a result of EU accession.
- 12 If they cut all the forests down, we would soon run out of oxygen to breathe.
- 13 In nature everything is connected. Any human disturbance will cause a lot of effects that we do not know beforehand.
- 14 The government cares about environmental problems only when people are concerned and make a lot of noise about it.
- 15 I think that we should develop our own state first and only then enter the EU
- 16 Even here in Romania you can notice the effects of climate change.
- 17 I feel that I could do more for the environment if I gave more attention to it.
- 18 Humans always create waste. We should therefore find some place in the woods where it does not disturb anybody and dump it.
- 19 I am afraid that our small nation will get lost in a big community like the EU.
- 20 The earth is like a spaceship with limited room and limited resources.
- 21 We should return to more traditional values and a less materialistic way of living to help the environment.
- 22 We should deal with environmental protection ourselves and not listen to what EU wants.
- 23 I would correct people if I saw them dumping garbage in nature.
- 24 I am happy if I see that an environmental organisation is successful in its actions.
- 25 In my flat, I repair the water system quickly if it is broken and leaks.
- 26 Raising people's awareness of environmental problems is more important than getting regulations from the government.
- 27 With EU accession we will finally get the money and the know-how to solve our environmental problems.
- 28 I get angry when people drive their cars only for the convenience, when they could use public transportation instead.
- 29 I think that there will be as many advantages of EU accession as disadvantages when it comes to environmental protection.
- 30 I worry about water and think we should use less harmful chemical cleaning products.
- 31 I regularly watch nature programs on TV.

- 32 I get angry when I see batteries in the household garbage.
- 33 I would pay more waste payments/taxes if I knew that this helped the environment.
- 34 I always want to be informed about the environmental situation in Romania.
- 35 Our beautiful nature will be threatened by EU investments in industry and agriculture.
- 36 Environmental problems in Romania are not so critical as those in Western countries.
- 37 I think that industry should take more responsibility for environmental protection.

IV Statistical information

Sex:

- male female Age: _____

Education:

- 1) highest (university)
- 2) medium (prof. school and school)
- 3) basic (school)

How many years of schooling/education did you have?: _____

What is your job group?:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) state official | <input type="checkbox"/> 2) clerk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) worker | <input type="checkbox"/> 4) self-employed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5) farmer | <input type="checkbox"/> 6) housework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7) student/pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> 8) jobless |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9) pensioner | <input type="checkbox"/> 10) teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11) envir. Specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> 12) business sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13) medical sector | <input type="checkbox"/> 14) engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15) artist | |

Family status:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) bachelor | <input type="checkbox"/> 2) civil partnership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) married | <input type="checkbox"/> 4) divorced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5) widowed | |

How many children do you have?: _____

Income of the household altogether:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) up to 500000 LEI | <input type="checkbox"/> 2) up to 1000000 LEI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) up to 1500000 LEI | <input type="checkbox"/> 4) up to 2000000 LEI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5) up to 4000000 LEI | <input type="checkbox"/> 6) up to 6000000 LEI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7) up to 10000000 LEI | <input type="checkbox"/> 8) up to 15000000 LEI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9) up to 20000000 LEI | <input type="checkbox"/> 10) more than 20000000 LEI |

How many people belong to your household?: _____

What is your religion? (optional): _____

In which type of house do you live now?:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) apartment block | <input type="checkbox"/> 2) multi-family dwelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) one-family house | <input type="checkbox"/> 4) farm house |

Where did you live during your childhood?:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) countryside | <input type="checkbox"/> 2) town |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) city | <input type="checkbox"/> 4) capital |

Are you a member of an environmental organisation?:

- 1) no
- 2) I am a member
- 3) I actively work in a organisation

How many cars do you have in the household?: _____

Do you own land in the household?

How much (in hectares)?: _____

Do you own forest in the household?

How much (in hectares)?: _____

Do you own any animals? Which?:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) no | <input type="checkbox"/> 2) only pets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) only farm animals | <input type="checkbox"/> 4) pets and farm animals |

Thank you for your cooperation
and for filling in the questionnaire.

The Respondents

In total, 878 persons were interviewed in the three countries: 303 in Hungary, 258 in Romania and 317 in FYR Macedonia. The three sample locations — capital city, industrial area and countryside — will serve as main units for this description and comparison for each country.

Figure 86 shows the three sample locations and gender (in percent)

More males were interviewed in the rural area in Hungary, while in other areas gender distribution is almost equal.

Looking at age groups, the distribution among the three countries is relatively similar. The youngest respondents were 16, the oldest respondent was over 85.

Figure 87 shows age group distribution among total sample

It is noteworthy that the group between 21 and 40 years old has stronger representation in Hungary than in the other two countries. Consequently, the groups between 41 and 60, and those over 60, are smaller in Hungary.

Education is also an important variable to describe the sample in all three countries.

Figure 88 shows the level of education among the total sample.

While the level of education is almost equally distributed in Romania, there is a trend towards more respondents with medium educational level in FYR Macedonia and a strong trend towards higher and medium educational levels in Hungary. But in general, educational levels tend to be higher in the capital in all three countries. The average household in which the respondents live contains three (Hungary and Romania) to four (FYR Macedonia) people. This average does not differ for the three sample locations. Across all three locations, a typical household

FIGURE 86

The three sample locations and gender (in percent)

in percent	HUNGARY		ROMANIA		FYR MACEDONIA	
	male	female	male	female	male	female
capital	47%	53%	53%	47%	51%	49%
industrial area	44%	56%	46%	54%	55%	45%
rural area	67%	33%	43%	57%	50%	50%
total	50%	50%	48%	52%	52%	48%

FIGURE 87

Age group distribution among total sample

		capital	industrial area	rural area	total
Hungary	up to 20	18%	32%	23%	23%
	21-40	58%	48%	41%	41%
	41-60	19%	18%	26%	20%
	over 60	6%	2%	10%	6%
Romania	up to 20	17%	26%	25%	22%
	21-40	33%	37%	33%	34%
	41-60	34%	26%	36%	31%
	over 60	17%	11%	7%	13%
FYR Macedonia	up to 20	31%	23%	9%	24%
	21-40	26%	31%	64%	37%
	41-60	31%	33%	22%	30%
	over 60	12%	5%	5%	8%

FIGURE 88

Autonomy index, divided by country

	HUNGARY			ROMANIA			FYR MACEDONIA		
	highest	medium	basic	highest	medium	basic	highest	medium	basic
capital	56%	38%	6%	38%	31%	30%	37%	37%	26%
industrial	47%	40%	14%	36%	32%	32%	28%	51%	20%
rural area	17%	77%	7%	32%	36%	32%	24%	50%	26%
total	45%	46%	8%	36%	33%	31%	32%	44%	24%

consists of the adult interviewed, his or her marriage partner and one or two children. Younger respondents live either alone or with their parents. Household structure, in composition and size, does not vary much across the compared sample locations (rural area, industrial area, capital).

Income groups can be divided into for basic groups. There is a lower income category with a monthly pay of HUF 30,000 to

FIGURE 89

Household income groups among the total sample

		capital	industrial area	rural area	total
Hungary	lowest category	20%	25%	47%	28%
	lower medium	43%	48%	39%	44%
	higher medium	25%	21%	10%	21%
	highest category	12%	4%	-	7%
Romania	lowest category	9%	12%	20%	13%
	lower medium	40%	37%	32%	37%
	higher medium	37%	46%	38%	41%
	highest category	15%	4%	9%	9%
FYR Macedonia	lowest category	24%	33%	72%	36%
	lower medium	40%	42%	26%	38%
	higher medium	19%	16%	-	14%
	highest category	16%	9%	2%	11%

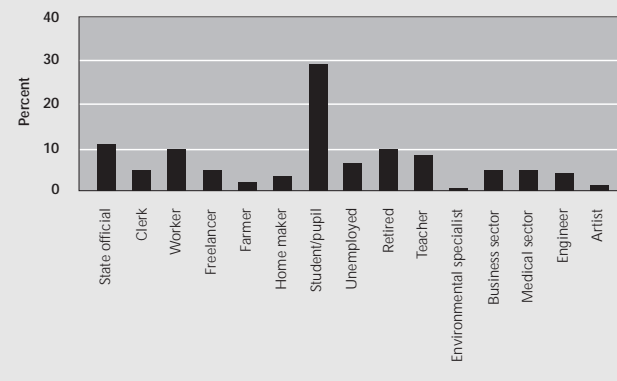
50,000 in Hungary, Lei 500,000 to 1,000,000 in Romania, and Den 5,000 to Den 10,000 in FYR Macedonia. Then come two medium income categories: The lower medium is HUF 50,000 to HUF 100,000 or Lei 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 or Den 10,000 to 20,000; the higher medium category is HUF 100,000 to HUF 200,000 or Lei 2,000,000 to Lei 6,000,000 or Den 20,000 to Den 30,000. The last category is a high income of more than HUF 200,000 or more than Lei 6,000,000 or more than Den 30,000 monthly for the household. This is an income to which the whole household contributes and which is net income for the household. The following table gives the distribution among sampling areas and for all three countries.

Table 89 shows household income groups among the total sample.

If income is taken as a measure of social stratification one finds a larger degree of inequality in the capital and the industrial area compared to the countryside. In rural areas people have less monetary income and the difference between the respondents is relatively low. This distribution looks different for the industrial areas, where one can already observe a tendency towards larger differences in income. Not surprisingly, the gap between the wealthy and the poor is widest in the capital.

FIGURE 90

Occupations of total sample



Looking at differences between the three countries, it appears as if the Romanian income categories were set a little too low and are therefore not strictly comparable to Hungary and FYR Macedonia. But it is noteworthy that in Hungary and FYR Macedonia, rural respondents have lower incomes than urban ones. In Romania, this does not seem to be the case. It seems that those rural respondents which were interviewed in Romania have a medium range in income. As a relatively high number of state officials and extension agents have been interviewed among the Romanian sample, this higher income is not astonishing.

Regarding occupations, the total three country sample will be presented in the chart in Figure 90.

Obviously, students and pupils make up almost a third of the total sample, as younger people were interviewed and they are mostly students or pupils. Retired respondents also have a sizeable share, which makes sense when considering the age structure of the sample. State officials, workers, teachers and jobless people are the four most mentioned groups among all three countries. Farmers make up only a small minority as a lot of people who work part-time on subsistence farms have other jobs which secure their survival. They are listed under those job categories instead of being listed as farmers.

1 See again the Portrait of the Regions, 1997.