



ATTITUDES TOWARDS EU MEMBERSHIP IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND AND SLOVAKIA: SUFFICIENT SUPPORT; QUESTIONABLE PARTICIPATION

Brussels, 7th April 2003

According to the latest poll on the accession to the EU, conducted by the Central European Opinion Research Group Foundation (CEORG) in March 2003, the support for the accession of their country to the EU among the Polish, Czech and Hungarian citizens should be sufficient for the upcoming referendum on EU membership to be successful. In all countries the overall support for EU accession is over 50%, namely 58.1% in Poland, 58.9% in the Czech Republic, and 59.9% in Hungary. In Slovakia only those that plan to come to referendum were asked about their support.

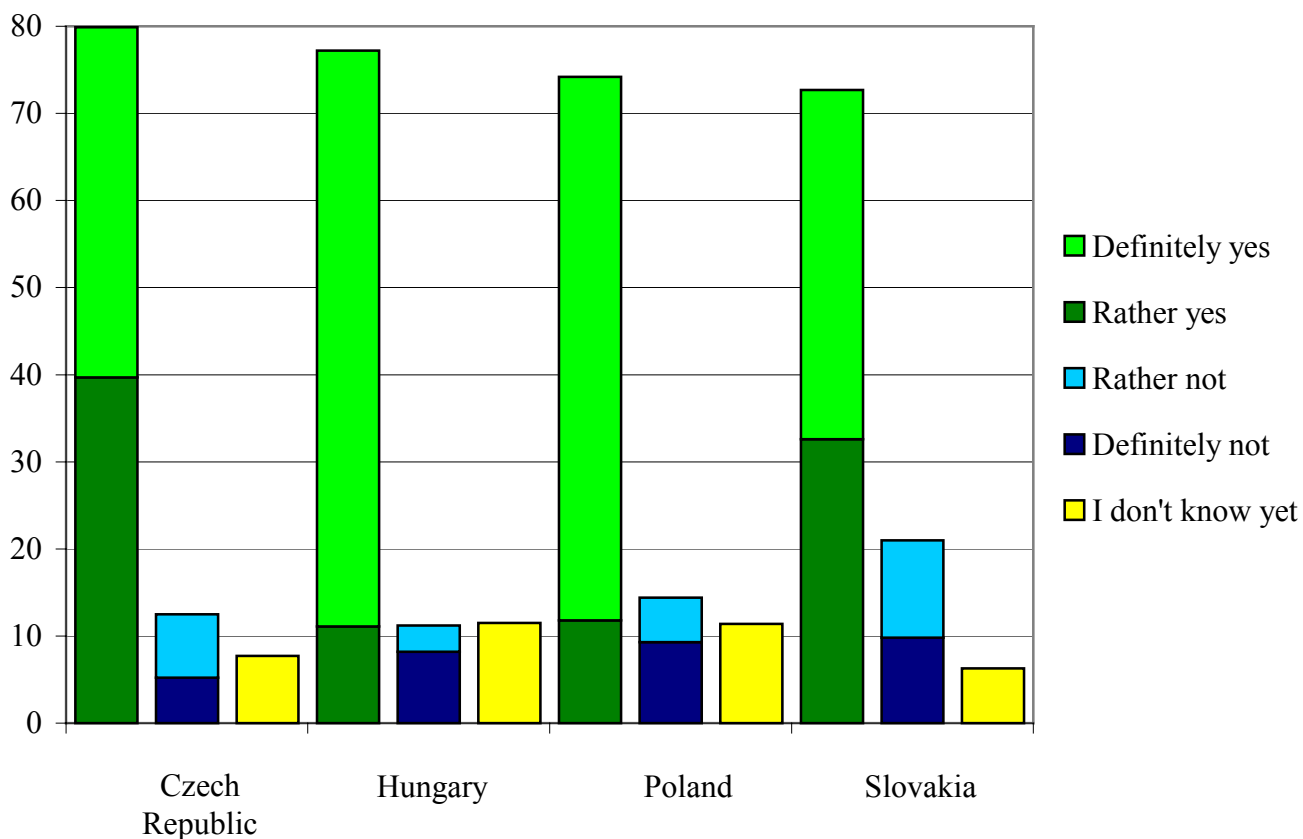
Among those who are definitely planning to participate or are rather inclined to participate in the referendum, the support to EU accession is even stronger; between 68.8% in Poland to 82.2% in Slovakia. It is interesting to note the narrowing of differences in EU support among the potential referendum participants between the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland since the CEORG research in November 2002. At that time, the Czech Republic had 20 percent points less EU supporters than Hungary and Poland, namely Czech Republic 51.1%, Poland 73.5% and Hungary 75.1%. Four months later, the difference between the three countries is as low as 1.8 percent point.

The biggest question is the real participation at the referendum. 66.1% of Hungarian and 62.4% of Polish respondents claim to be ready to definitely participate in the referendum. In the Czech Republic, only 40.2% and in Slovakia 40.1% of respondents have this level of certainty. If those that will certainly participate and those that will rather participate are put together, in all four countries the participation would reach over 70%.

Note: The referendum on EU accession will take place on 12 April 2003 in Hungary, 16-17 May in Slovakia, 8 June in Poland and 15-16 June in the Czech Republic.

**IF A REFERENDUM ABOUT THE ACCESSION OF YOUR COUNTRY TO THE EU WERE HELD NEXT SUNDAY,
 WOULD YOU PARTICIPATE?**

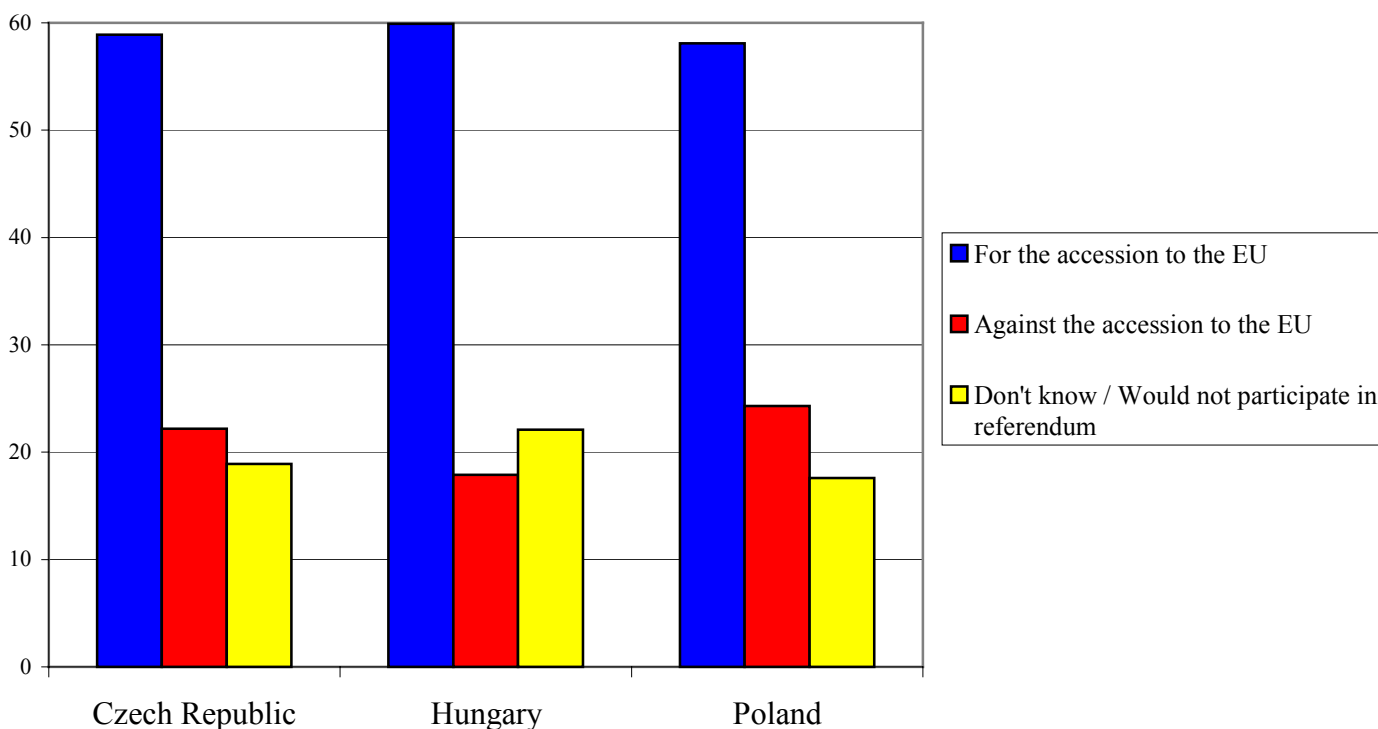
Answers in %	Czech Republic	Hungary	Poland	Slovakia
Definitely yes	40.2	66.1	62.4	40.1
Rather yes	39.7	11.1	11.8	32.6
I don't know yet	7.7	11.5	11.4	6.3
Rather not	7.3	3.0	5.1	11.2
Definitely not	5.2	8.2	9.3	9.8





WOULD YOU VOTE ...? (FOR THE WHOLE POPULATION)

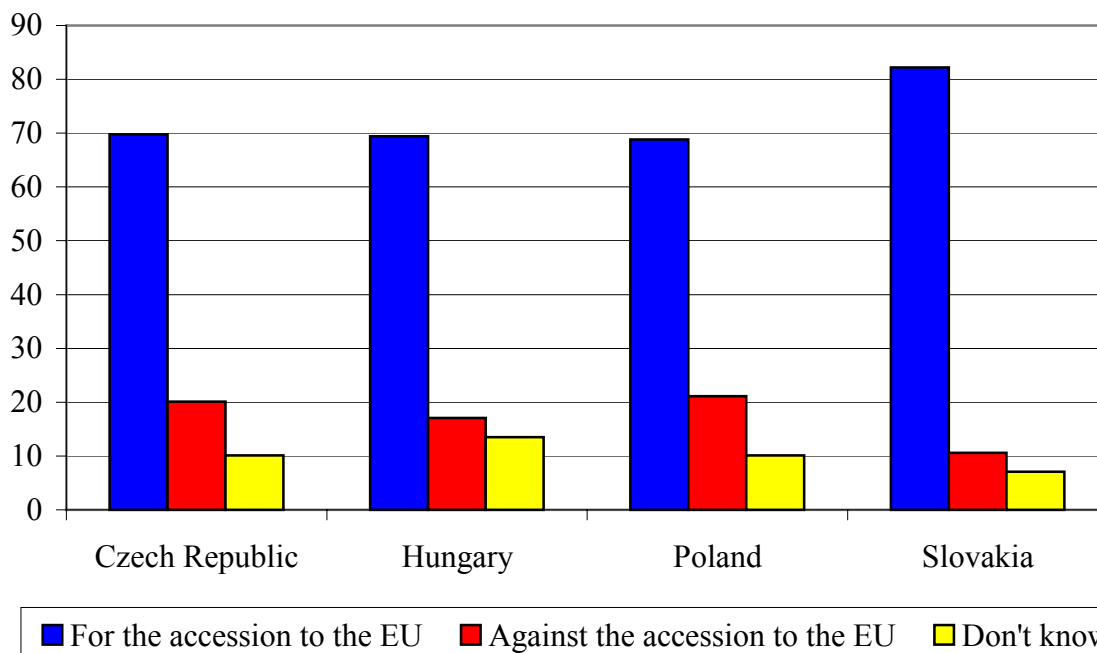
Answers in %	Czech Republic	Hungary	Poland
For accession to the EU	58.9	59.9	58.1
Against accession to the EU	22.2	17.9	24.3
Don't know / Would not participate in referendum	18.9	22.1	17.6





WOULD YOU VOTE...? (FOR THOSE THAT WOULD DEFINITELY PARTICIPATE OR RATHER PARTICIPATE IN THE REFERENDUM):

Answers in %	Czech Republic	Hungary	Poland	Slovakia
For accession to the EU	69.8	69.4	68.8	82.2
Against accession to the EU	20.1	17.1	21.1	10.6
Don't know	10.1	13.5	10.1	7.1





Methodology

Country	Institute	Fieldwork	Sample
Czech Republic	CVVM-Sociological Institute	03-10.03.2003	1110
Hungary	TARKI	01-12.03.2003	1021
Poland	CBOS	01-04.03.2003	975
Slovakia	FOCUS	05-11.03.2003	1060

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When referring to the results, please quote CEORG as the source

The CEORG Foundation, based in Brussels, combines the long-term economic, social and political research experience of the Czech institute CVVM (former IVVM), the Hungarian institute TARKI and the Polish institute CBOS.

The aim of CEORG is to act as a clearing house for comparative surveys conducted by its member organisations and to unify public opinion research methodology and reporting standards in the three countries so that it can provide systematic, credible and comparative data concerning public opinion on important local as well as European social and political issues. Thanks to its broad network of interviewers (all three institutes are among the largest in their countries), several years of regularly repeated questions, and its members' past experience, CEORG offers the capacity to generate a truly consistent, regular and reliable fundament for the analysis of changing political views, attitudes and consumer patterns in some of the most prominent Candidate Member States.

On the basis of its regular monthly omnibuses as well as special surveys, panels, elite polls and in co-operation with ranking researchers, analysts and opinion leaders in Central European countries, CEORG aspires to become a 'home grown' barometer on Central European public opinion. Its Omnibuses will be a key instrument to help guide institutional, industrial and marketing strategies in the three countries covered by CEORG.

The CEORG Foundation has partners in Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine and Russia and works with them on a regular basis.

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We would be grateful if you could inform us in the case you use our results.