PUBLIC OPINION AND PERSONAL SITUATION IN TIMES OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Background and Importance
Recent results show that a majority of European citizens want the EU to provide more financial means to overcome the impact of the pandemic. Public health tops the priority list followed by economic recovery. Findings reveal more than three quarters of Europeans on average have heard about the measures taken by the EU against COVID-19, and an increasing number of respondents in the majority state that they are satisfied with these measures. Simultaneously, a minority is nevertheless still not satisfied with the solidarity shown among EU Member States during the crisis. What is the opinion in a non-EU country?

Aim and Objectives
To explore and evaluate the national perception of a non-member state about the EU response to the COVID-19 pandemic, EU competences and budget, satisfaction with EU measures, solidarity among member and non-member states and personal circumstances and financial consequences of COVID-19. Conducted during August-September 2020, the survey encompassed 164 randomly selected participants, aged 18-64 years.

Materials and Methods
The questionnaire consisted of eight adapted questions from European Parliament specific survey “Public opinion in the EU in time of coronavirus crisis 2”. The interviews were conducted by phone.

Results

Q: Have you already heard, seen or read about measures or actions initiated by the EU to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic (%)?

- 63% of respondents have heard
- 57% Yes, but you don’t know what they are
- 6% Yes, and you know these measures or actions are

Q: How satisfied or not are you with the measures the EU has taken so far against Coronavirus pandemic (%)?

- 40% report satisfaction
- 75% Of respondents say reported experiencing personal financial difficulties.

Q: Have you experienced financial troubles, mostly loss of income, unemployment and using your savings, since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic in North Macedonia?

- 21% Satisfied
- 7% Don’t know
- 72% Not Satisfied

Q: Which of the following statement is closest to your opinion (%)?

- 79% The Country should have greater financial means to be able to overcome the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic
- 21% The Country’s financial means are sufficient to be able to overcome the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic

Q: What feelings best describe your current emotional status? Please select up to 3 answers (%-total)

- Macedonians feel mostly uncertainty 63%,
- but also hope 43%