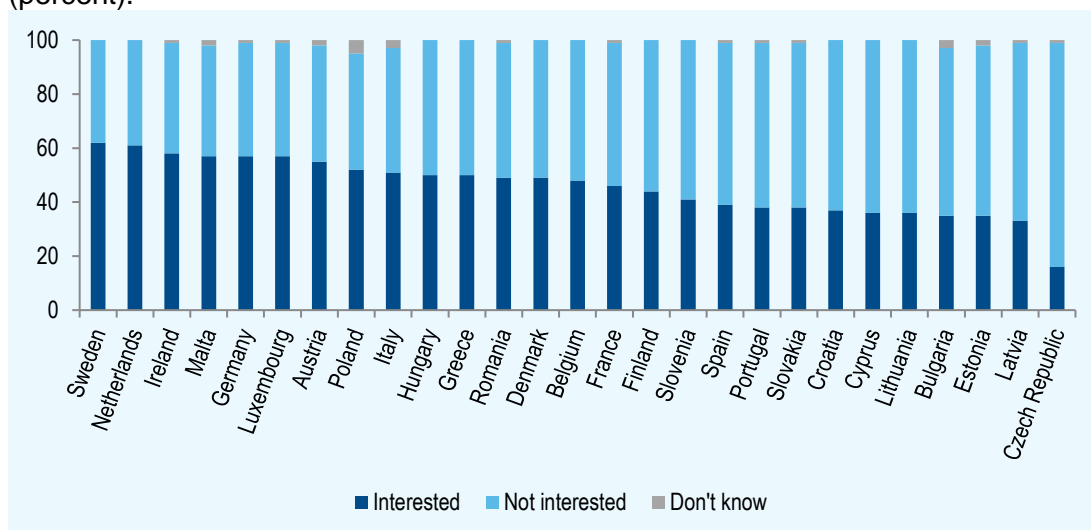


Greatest interest in the EU election in Sweden

The EU election is approaching and it is now less than two weeks left to the Election Day. When the EU citizens are asked whether or not they are interested in the election, we can see great variations among the EU Member States. We can see, among other things that Sweden is actually the country with the largest share of respondents interested in the election, followed by the Netherlands and Ireland. The Czech Republic, Latvia and Estonia, on the other hand, are the countries with the largest share of respondents who respond the opposite, i.e. that they are not interested in the election. There are many reasons for the various degrees of interest in the EU elections among the EU Member States. Among these are the attitudes towards the EU, how the election campaign looks, how close the EU election is compared with national elections, the level of knowledge the citizens have on the EU and how much trust the citizens have in both their own country's institutions and the EU institutions (Clark 2013).

Figure 1. The interest for the European Parliament election among EU member states (percent).



Source: European Parliament (2019) "CLOSER TO THE CITIZENS, CLOSER TO THE BALLOT. COMPLETE SURVEY RESULTS. SPRING EUROBAROMETER 2019. Eurobarometer Survey 91.1 of the European Parliament. A Public Opinion Monitoring Study". Retrieved 2019-05-14. Available: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/files/be-heard/eurobarometer/2019/parlemeter-2019/results-annex/en-parlemeter-2019-results-annex.pdf>

Comment: The figure shows how the respondents answered the question "The next EU parliamentary election will be held in May 2019. How interested or uninterested are you from these elections?" with the answer options "Very interested" and "Fairly interested" (coded as "Interested"), "Not particularly interested" and "Not at all interested" (coded as "Not interested") and "Don't know".

References

Clark, N. (2013) "Explaining Low Turnout in European Elections: The Role of Issue Salience and Institutional Perceptions in Elections to the European Parliament." *Journal of European Integration* 36.4: 1-18. Web.