

Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment



Results for the Czech Republic

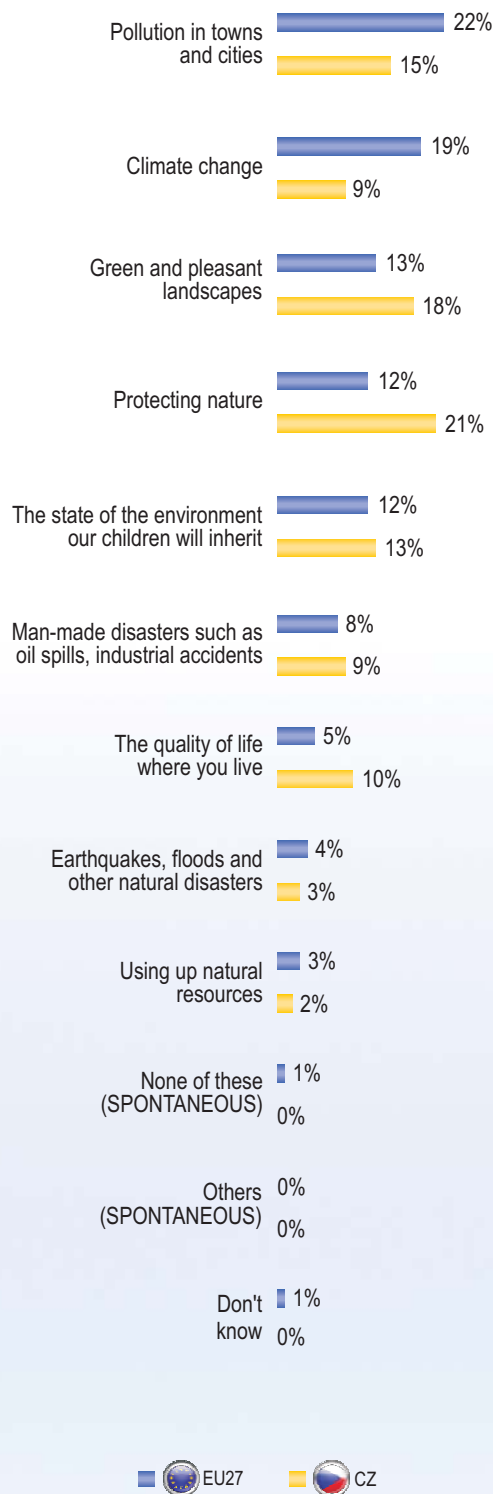
Fieldwork: 15th November - 7th December 2007

Publication: March 2008

This survey reveals that Europeans are increasingly concerned about the environment, but still reluctant to take individual action to protect it



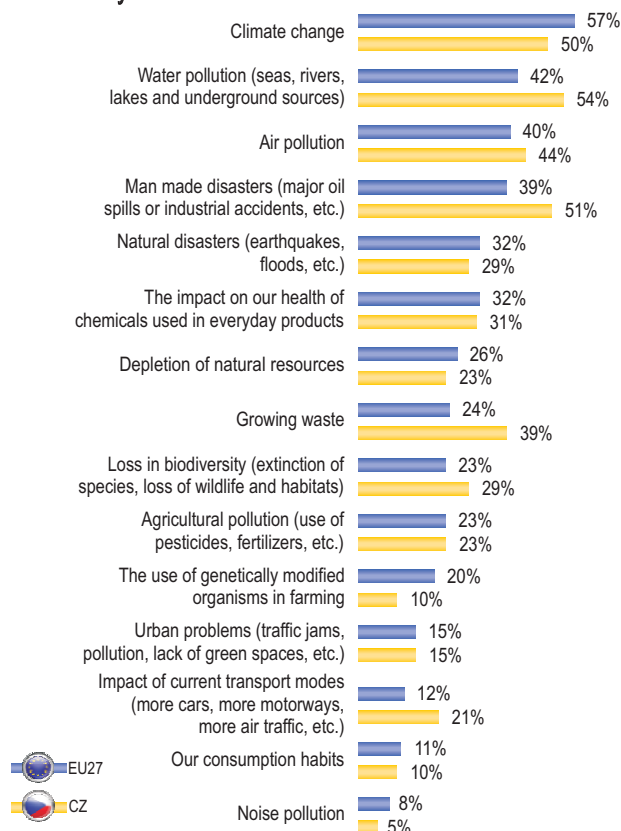
Q. When people talk about "the environment", which of the following do you think of first?



Czechs are most likely to associate "the environment" with protecting nature and considerably more likely to do so than the average European. Green and pleasant landscapes also figure prominently in Czech conceptions of the environment – again at levels above the EU average. They are twice as likely as the average EU citizen to think of the quality of life where they live. Czechs are less likely than the average EU citizen to link the environment to urban pollution and climate change.

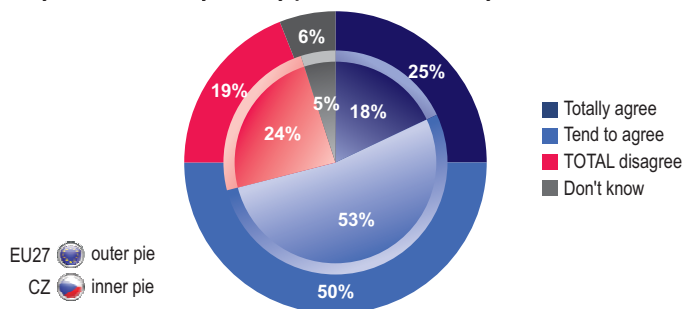
1. Environment in citizens' lives

Q. From the following list, please pick the five main environmental issues that you are worried about?



Czechs are significantly more worried about water pollution than the average European citizen. The same is also true of man made disasters, increasing waste and the impact of current transport modes. Though they are less likely than the average EU citizen to be worried about about climate change, this is still an issue that causes concern for half of all Czechs. It can also be seen that the share of Czechs who worry about the use of GMOs in farming is two times smaller than that for the EU.

Q. Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with the following statement: You are ready to buy environmentally friendly products even if they cost a little bit more?



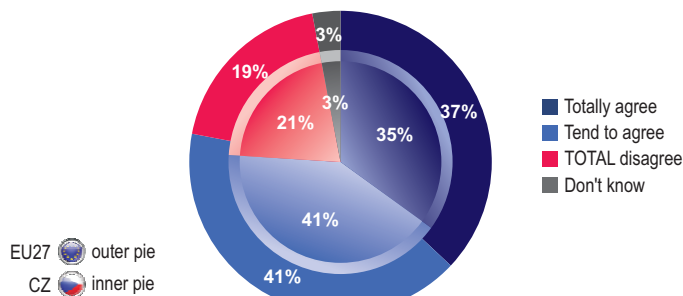
Total Agree

| | Education (End of) | | | |
|------|--------------------|-------|-----|----------------|
| | 15- | 16-19 | 20+ | Still Studying |
| EU27 | 65% | 76% | 84% | 79% |
| CZ | 53% | 69% | 85% | 72% |

Over 7 in 10 Czechs agree that they would be ready to buy environmentally friendly products even if they cost a little bit more. The Czech figure is slightly lower than the EU average. The level of education, which also tends to reflect the standard of living of respondents, has a significant influence here: those who spent the longest time in full-time education are significantly more likely to be "green consumers" than those who studied for shorter periods. The same pattern is evident in EU results.

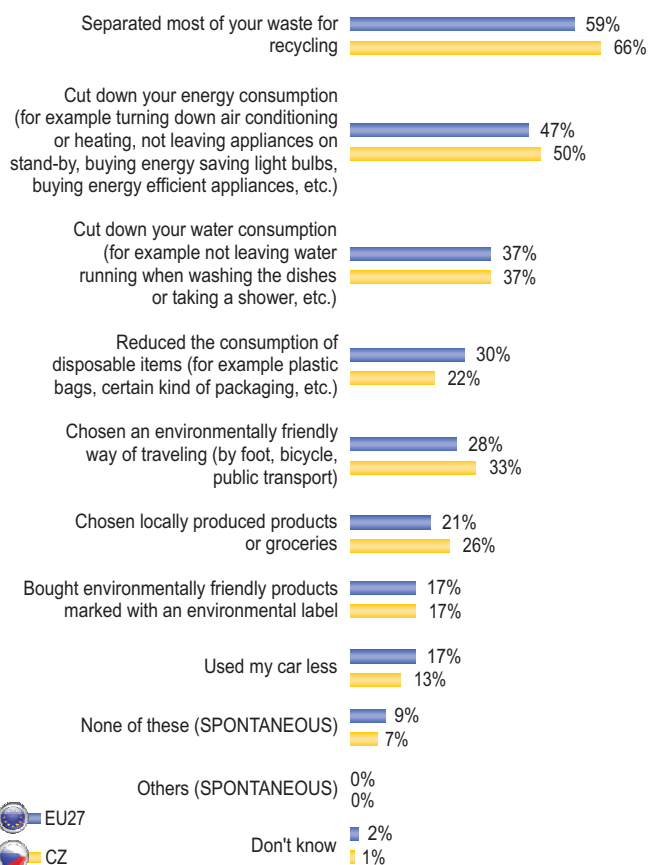
Q. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree...?

Option: Environmental problems have a direct effect on your daily life



Most Czechs say that they experience the direct effects of environmental problems in their daily lives. The Czech figure is very close to the EU average here. Around 1 in 5 Czechs give the reverse opinion, with this figure again being similar to the EU average.

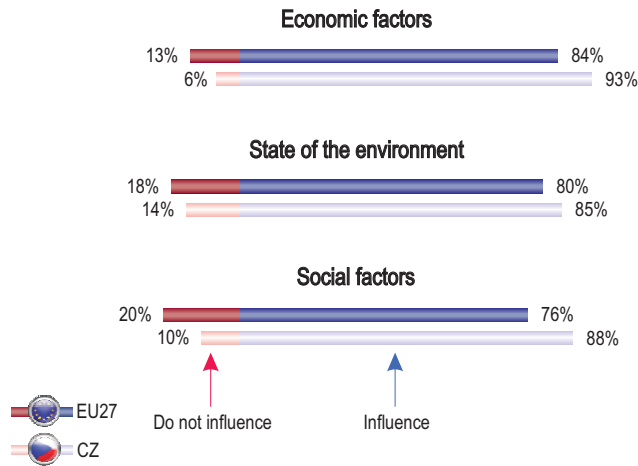
Q. Have you done any of the following during the past month for environmental reasons?



As in the EU altogether, the vast majority of Czechs have taken concrete steps with the environment in mind: very few say they did not take any environmentally friendly action in the month leading up to the survey. Exactly two-thirds separate most of their waste for recycling and half cut down on their energy consumption. Both these figures are higher than the respective EU averages. Czechs are also more likely than average to buy locally produced products or groceries and choose an environmentally friendly mode of transport. Czechs are less likely than the average EU citizen to reduce consumption of disposable items or use their car less.

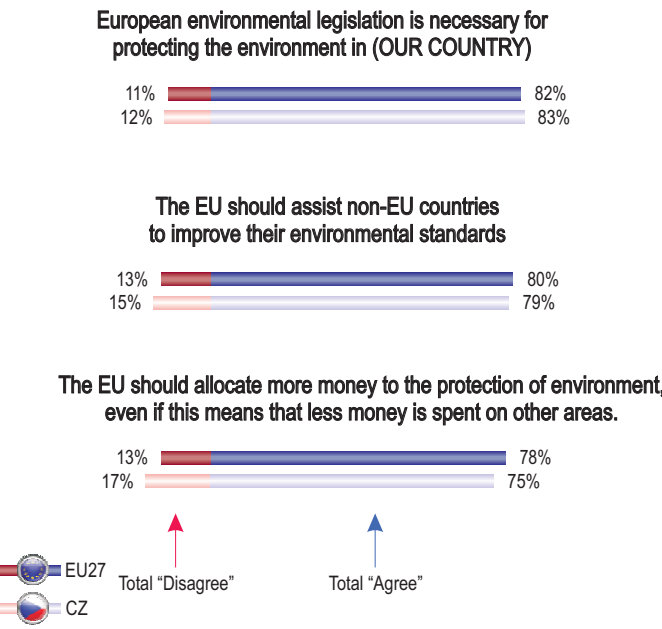
2. Environment in public life and decision making

Q. In your opinion, to what extent do the following factors influence your "quality of life"?



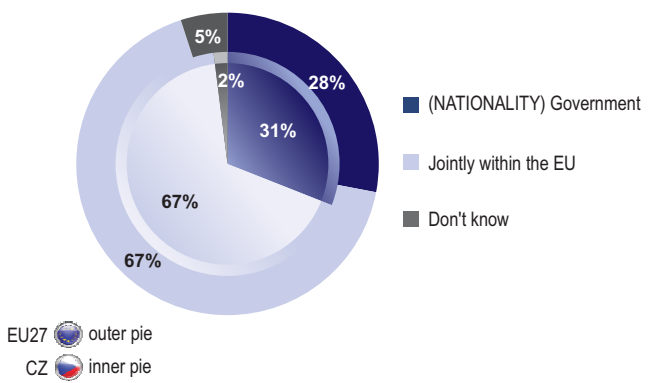
An overwhelming majority of Czechs - like their European counterparts - believe that economic and social factors, as well as the state of the environment, affect their quality of life. For each of these factors, the average Czech is more likely than the average European to see it as influential.

Q. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree...?



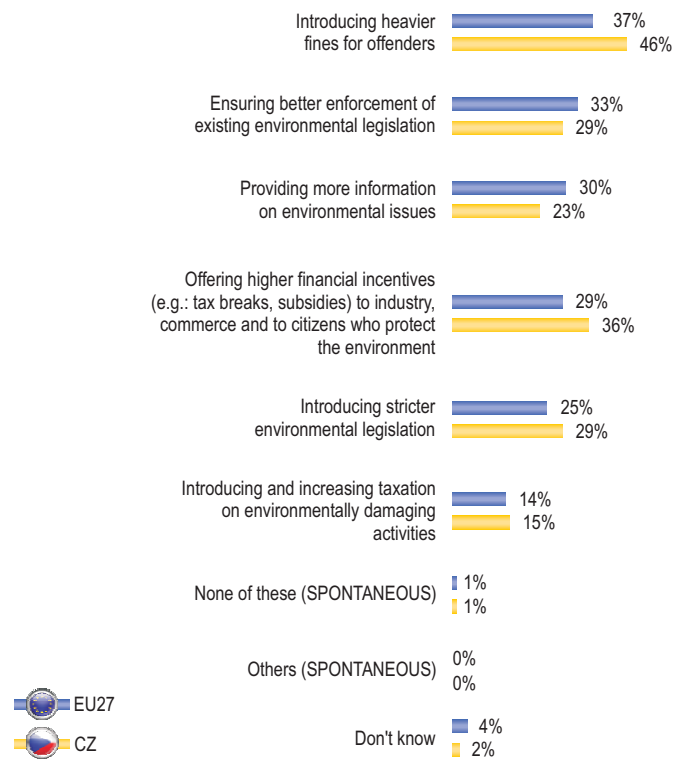
There is strong support in the Czech Republic for European environmental policies whether that be in terms of common European legislation, the EU's help for non-EU countries and higher budget shares for environmental protection in the EU. Here the figures for the Czech Republic are very close to those seen for the EU as a whole.

Q. When it comes to protecting the environment, do you think that decisions should be made by the (NATIONALITY) Government, or made jointly within the European Union?



As in the EU, a clear majority of Czechs believe that when it comes to protecting the environment decisions should be made jointly within the EU.

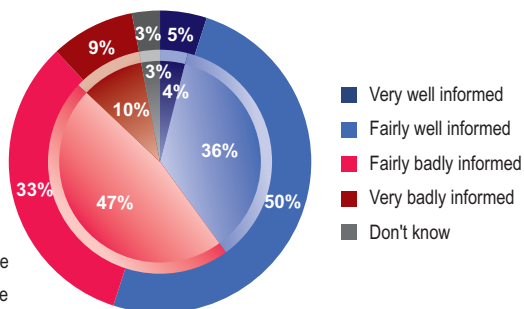
Q. In your opinion, which of the following would be the most effective way(s) of tackling environmental problems?



Czechs are significantly more likely than the average European to support introducing heavier fines for offenders and the offering of financial incentives as means of tackling environmental problems. They are also more likely to support stricter new environmental legislation. In the Czech Republic, there is less demand for better enforcement of existing legislation as well as for providing more information on financial issues than in the EU on average.

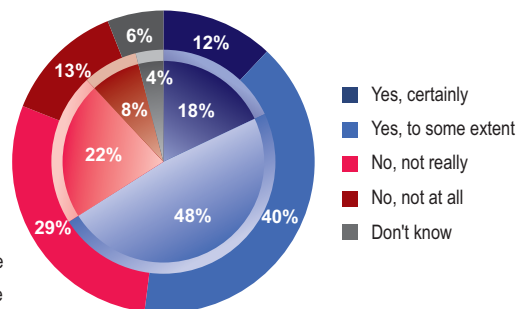
3. Information about the environment

Q. In general, how informed do you feel about environmental issues?



EU27 outer pie
CZ inner pie

Q. Do you think that current labels on products allow you to identify those products that are genuinely environmentally friendly?



EU27 outer pie
CZ inner pie

Total Informed

| | Gender | |
|------|--------|--------|
| | Male | Female |
| EU27 | 57% | 53% |
| CZ | 43% | 38% |

| | Age | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| | 15-24 | 25-39 | 40-54 | 55+ |
| EU27 | 54% | 57% | 57% | 54% |
| CZ | 38% | 43% | 40% | 39% |

| | Education (End of) | | | |
|------|--------------------|-------|-----|----------------|
| | 15- | 16-19 | 20+ | Still Studying |
| EU27 | 44% | 54% | 68% | 61% |
| CZ | 27% | 39% | 48% | 43% |

In the Czech Republic the majority of respondents feel that they are not informed about environmental issues. This is a reversal of the situation in the EU as a whole. As in the EU as a whole, Czech men are more likely than women to say they feel informed. In terms of age, those Czechs aged 25-39 feel the most informed. The largest differences are seen for education, with the most educated Czechs (and indeed Europeans) feeling significantly better informed than the least.

Total Yes

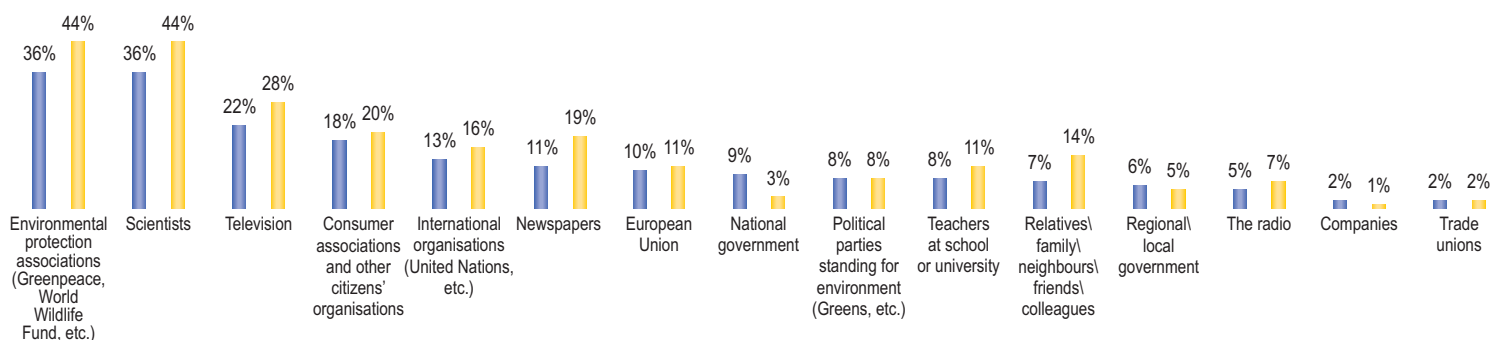
| | Gender | |
|------|--------|--------|
| | Male | Female |
| EU27 | 50% | 52% |
| CZ | 65% | 67% |

| | Age | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| | 15-24 | 25-39 | 40-54 | 55+ |
| EU27 | 56% | 56% | 51% | 46% |
| CZ | 67% | 72% | 70% | 55% |

| | Education (End of) | | | |
|------|--------------------|-------|-----|----------------|
| | 15- | 16-19 | 20+ | Still Studying |
| EU27 | 46% | 53% | 54% | 56% |
| CZ | 44% | 66% | 68% | 69% |

Over half of all Czechs think that current product labelling enables them to identify environmentally friendly products. This figure is considerably higher than the corresponding EU figure. The most educated are more likely to say that labelling serves this function than the least educated: this reflects the fact that this group feels relatively more informed about environmental issues. The oldest Czechs have more difficulty with labelling compared to other age groups, with the same effect seen to a lesser extent in the EU.

Q. From the following list, who do you trust most when it comes to environmental issues?



EU27 CZ

A large number of Czechs – both in absolute terms and relative to the EU figures – trust environmental associations and scientists to inform them about environmental issues. Compared to the EU averages, we also see that a relatively higher share of Czechs trust the media in the form of newspapers and television. Very few Czechs trust their national government, this figure being lower than the EU equivalent.