



GALLUP INTERNATIONAL - END OF YEAR POLL 2000 Kosovo - the most optimistic place in the world

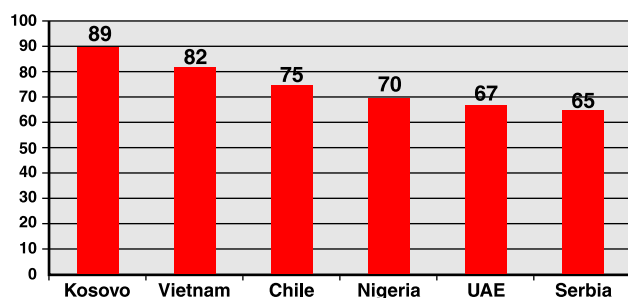
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The End of Year Poll 2000 conducted by Gallup International in 70 countries all over the world shows that the "geography" of optimism is not the and differs from one country and region to another. The survey was conducted during November and December 2000, and this was the largest ever Gallup International End of Year Poll. The survey in Kosova was conducted by Index Kosova, joint venture with BBSS Gallup International, during November 2000, with 1000 adult Albanians, aged 18 years plus.

"Will 2001 be better, the same or worse than 2000?" was the question posed to citizens of 70 countries in the world. Their answers reveal that the majority of citizens think that 2001 will be better than 2000. Compared to other countries in the world, the level of optimism is the highest in Kosova, since 89% of respondents in Kosova say that 2001 will be better than 2000. The second place for optimism in the world belongs to Vietnam (82%), then Chile (75%), Nigeria (70%), United Arab Emirates (67%) and Serbia (65%) in the sixth place.

In Eastern and Central European Countries, there is a polarisation of opinions, but mainly optimism is more dominant. In Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia pessimism is more present than optimism.

Most optimistic places in the world



In EU countries, the Netherlands (13%) and Austria (15%) are the least optimistic countries, while Sweden (49%) and France (47%) are the most optimistic countries. Greece and Portugal have a more polarised opinion and in both countries the level of pessimism is higher than the level of optimism. In Greece, 32% of citizens are optimistic, and 39% are pessimistic, when speaking of the opinion for the New Year.

In the Americas, after Chile, the most optimistic country is Mexico (62%), while in United States and Dominican Republic exactly 50% of citizens are optimistic for the year 2001. In general, compared to the previous year, the level of pessimism is higher in countries of this region.

Results from Africa reveal some kind of a balance between optimism and pessimism, but Nigeria and Zimbabwe are in diametrical positions. Nigeria is the most optimistic country, while Zimbabwe is the most pessimistic (73%), not only in Africa, but also in the whole world.

In the Middle East, after the United Arab Emirates, the most optimistic country is Kuwait (56%), and the most pessimistic is Turkey (37%).

In the Pacific, after Vietnam - included in the survey for the first time, New Zealand (62%) is the most optimistic country, while the most pessimistic is Korea.

With the exception of Sweden (43%), which is very optimistic and as far as economic development is concerned, other EU countries think that economic situation in 2001 either will remain

the same or will get worse. There is a greater tendency towards optimism in Central and Eastern Europe, and even in this aspect Kosova (72%) is the most optimistic not only in the region, but also in the world. More than half of respondents in Kosova think that unemployment will decrease in 2001. In the region, Kosova has the highest rate of unemployment, which is revealed by the results of this survey - every fourth respondent is employed, but every second does not have a safe job.

In EU countries, the opinion that unemployment will remain the same in 2001 is more dominant, but in France 50% of citizens think that unemployment will fall slightly.

Out of Middle East countries, Turkey is the country where most of the people think that unemployment will increase a lot in 2001, while this opinion is shared from these Pacific countries: the Philippines, Korea and Pakistan.

In most of the countries all over the world, respondents estimate their job is safe, but when asked whether it will be easy for them to find a new job, there are great differences in answers. In EU countries, the opinion that a new job can be found quickly is more dominant in Denmark, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Belgium, and the least dominant in Greece, Austria and Portugal. In Central and Eastern European countries this opinion is less frequent, while the opposite opinion "to find a new job can take longer" is more dominant.

Opinions differ a lot all around the world regarding the question "Will 2001 be a year of strikes and conflicts?" also. Out of European countries the opinion that number of strikes will increase is more dominant in Ireland (51%), then in Poland (48%), France (47%), Kosova and Lithuania (18%), and Northern Ireland (12%). In the Americas, Paraguay (68%), Columbia (60%), Bolivia (58%) and Argentina (54%) are the countries where most of the people think that number of strikes will increase. In US (55%) most of the people think that number of strikes will remain the same, while in Mexico most of them think that number of strikes will decrease.

Same as previous years, 2000 did not pass without conflicts. In EU countries, but also in other countries of Western Europe, the number of those who think that 2001 will be without conflicts is very low. The dominant opinion in these countries is that this year will also be the same as the previous as far as wars and conflicts are concerned. In Central and Eastern Europe the number of those who think that 2001 will be a year without conflicts is higher than in Western European countries. Kosovar opinion is an exception here again (55% think that this will be a peaceful year) - taking the first place in the region, and the third in the world, after Vietnam and Nigeria. In Serbia, Russia and Macedonia, number of those who think this will be a year of conflicts is twice higher.

In Middle East countries, with the exception of Kuwait, people usually think that 2001 will be a troubled year. The Americas have different opinions, but the most different country, where people think that this will be a peaceful year is Mexico (37%). Almost half of citizens in US (49%) think that this year will be the same as the previous, while El Salvador (70%) is the country, where people mostly think that this will be a troubled year. In Pacific countries, with the exception of Vietnam, where 61% of citizens think that this will be a peaceful year, other countries mainly think that this year will be the same as the previous one. In Korea and in Philippines the opinion that this will be a troubled year is more dominant.