

Getting European citizens on board

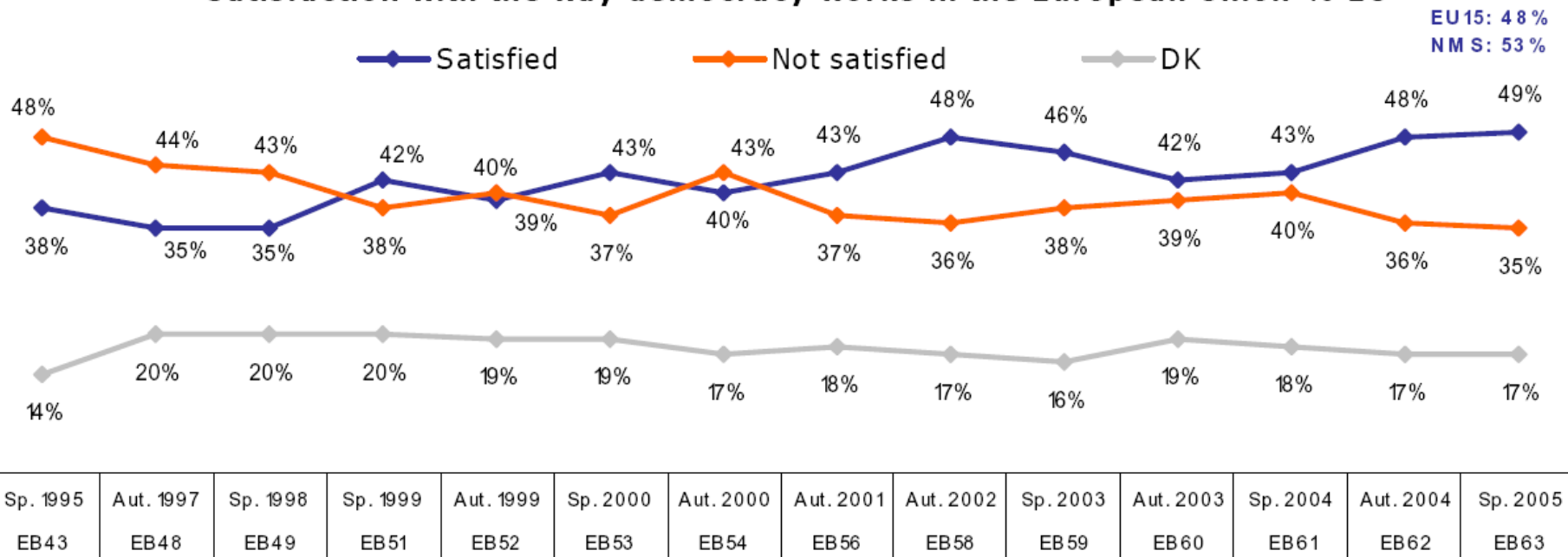
A Multi-level Democracy Perspective

Lennart Nilsson

The SOM-Institute (Society Opinion Media)

www.som.gu.se

Satisfaction with the way democracy works in the European Union % EU



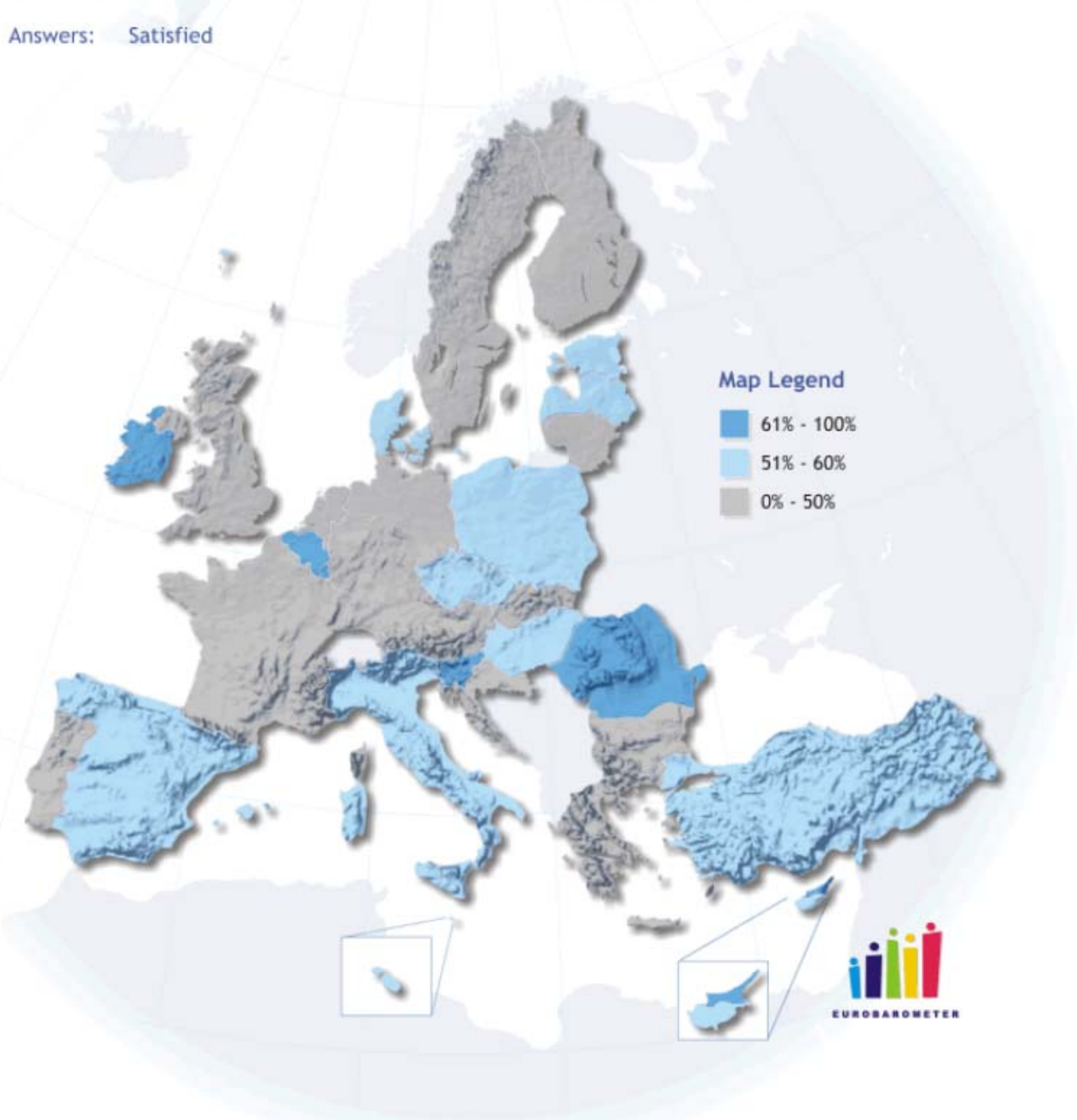
Source: Eurobarometer 63

QA34b. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied about the way democracy works in the European Union ?

Question: 34b. And how about the way democracy works in the European Union?

Answers: Satisfied

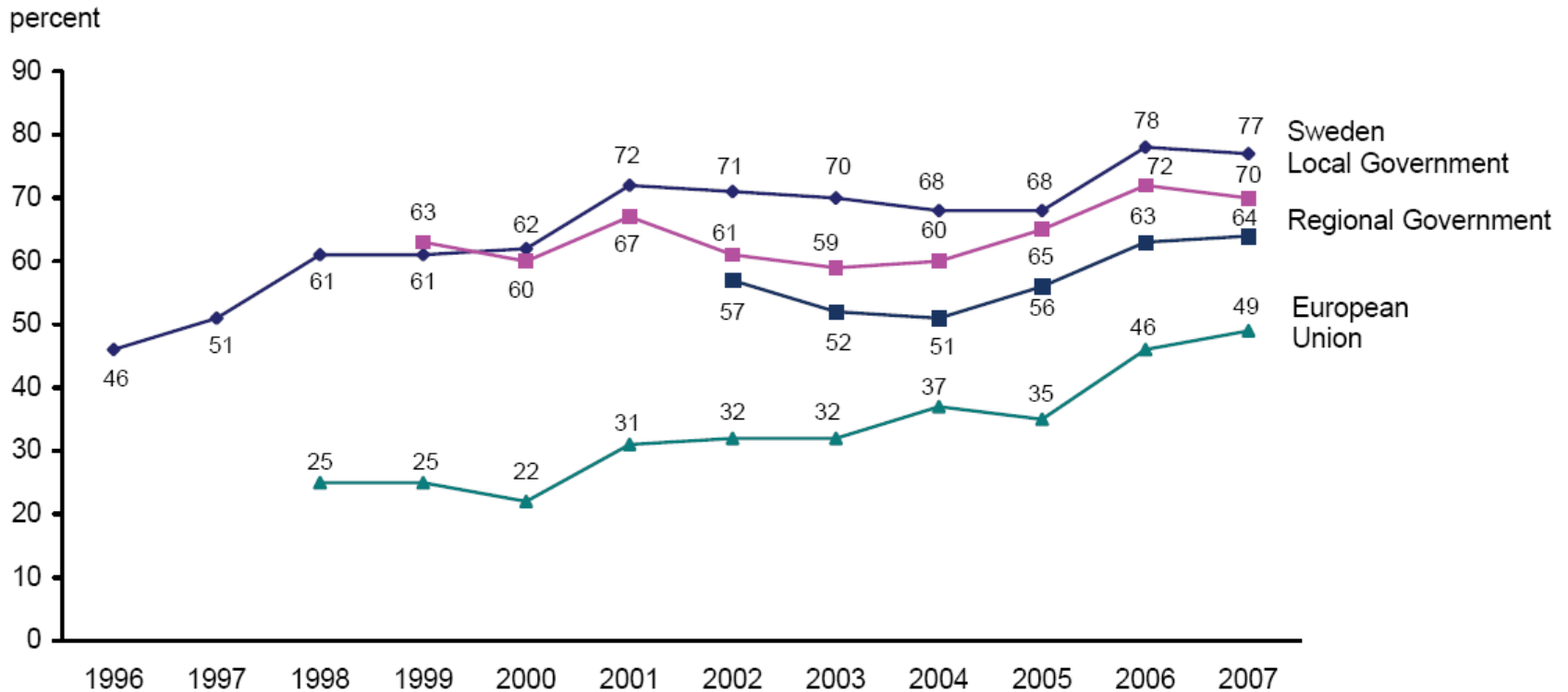
Country Results		
	Luxembourg	66%
	Belgium	65%
	Slovenia	65%
	Ireland	61%
	Denmark	60%
	Spain	59%
	Czech Republic	58%
	Cyprus*	57%
	Italy	53%
	Estonia	53%
	Malta	53%
	Hungary	52%
	Latvia	52%
	Poland	52%
	European Union (25)	49%
	Greece	49%
	Portugal	49%
	Slovakia	49%
	Lithuania	48%
	Finland	47%
	Germany	46%
	Austria	45%
	France	42%
	Sweden	42%
	The Netherlands	41%
	United Kingdom	41%
*Northern Part of Cyprus (66%)		
Other Countries		
	Romania	64%
	Turkey	59%
	Bulgaria	46%
	Croatia	43%



The Political Landscape of the City of Göteborg 2006

- **The European Union**
The European Parliament
Election turnout 2004 (40%)
- **Sweden**
Parliament (Riksdag)
Election turnout 2006 (80%)
- **The Region of Västra Götaland**
Council
Election turnout 2006 (75%)
- **Greater Göteborg**
Assembly of Councillors of the Association of Local Authorities
(indirectly elected)
- **The City of Göteborg**
City Council
Election turnout 2006 (76%)
- **The Districts**
21 District councils
(indirectly elected)

Satisfaction with the Working of Democracy



Question: "On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works... (in your country, in your region, in your local government, in the European Union)."

Comment: The results show percentages responding "very" or "fairly satisfied" among people answering the questions.

Principal investigators: Sören Holmberg, phone: +46 31 786 12 27, e-mail: soren.holmberg@pol.gu.se, Lennart Nilsson, phone: +46 31 786 12 15, e-mail: lennart.nilsson@cefos.gu.se, Lennart Weibull, phone: +46 31 786 12 18, e-mail: lennart.weibull@jmg.gu.se.

Opinion about the consequences of the Swedish membership of the European Union (balance of opinion)

Areas	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Possibilities to influence the EU	6	9	4	4	9	-	-	-	-	19
Higher education/research	23	21	22	19	16	-	-	17	18	16
Employment	-15	-2	7	-3	-4	-6	-	-21	-8	14
Military security	7	0	6	6	11	6	-	-	-	14
Environment	-11	-10	-8	-6	-5	2	-	1	3	14
Business conditions	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	6	12	-
Food prices	16	15	12	1	-8	-2	-	25	21	6
Gender equality	-8	-3	-5	-7	-6	-	-	-	-	5
Swedish economy	-19	-8	-4	-15	-16	-9	-	-14	-3	4
Prevention of crime	-22	-23	-20	-14	-5	-13	-	-8	-2	-
Agriculture	-26	-32	-29	-19	-8	-4	-	-17	-10	-
Social security	-19	-16	-19	-15	-15	-	-	-	-	-9
Alcohol policy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-16	-10	-11
Immigrants/refugees	-	-9	-12	-18	-22	-	-	-22	-18	-16
National autonomy	-48	-46	-49	-44	-41	-	-	-	-	-37

Question: "What is your opinion of the the consequences so far of the Swedish membership of the European Union in the following areas?"

Comment: All the respondents answering the questions (1 550–1 700 each year) are included in the percentage base. The opinion balance is the percent answering big or some improvement minus the percent answering some or big change to the worse because of the membership of the European Union.

Data: The national SOM-survey 1998–2007. **Source:** Holmberg, S: SOM-rapport 2008:8.