

# Briefing: The socio-economic position of Londoners in Europe: An analysis of the 2011 European Quality of Life Survey

## Introduction

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) commissioned GfK EU3C to carry out the third wave of the European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) in Autumn/Winter 2011. The survey is carried out every four years.

The survey was carried in the 27 European Member States (EU27), and the survey was also implemented in seven non-EU countries: Croatia (HR), Iceland (IS), Kosovo (KO), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK), Montenegro (ME), Serbia (RS) and Turkey (TR). The survey covers residents aged 18 and over.

This unique survey examines both the objective circumstances of European citizens' lives, and how they feel about those circumstances, and their lives in general. It looks at a range of issues, such as employment, income, education, housing, family, health and work-life balance. It also looks at subjective topics, such as people's levels of happiness, how satisfied they are with their lives, and how they perceive the quality of their societies.

The results were released in the UK on 11 July 2013. A selection of key findings from the data are presented here. For the purposes of the rankings in this report, London is treated as a 35<sup>th</sup> European country. The sample size for London was 177, and for the rest of the UK was 2,075. Every European country had a sample of at least 1,000.

The themes covered in the analysis below are: volunteering, community relations, trust in society, public services ratings, well-being, health, wealth and poverty, housing, and skills and employment. The tables following the analysis on page 4 show figures and rankings for:

- London,
- rest of the UK,
- Europe average,
- the highest ranked country, and
- the lowest ranked country.

## **Analysis**

### **Volunteering**

13.8% of Londoners said they volunteered frequently. This was less than the rest of the UK (15.3%), but more than the European average (10.0%). London ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 35. Sweden had the highest figure and Bulgaria the lowest.

30.6% of Londoners said they want to spend more time volunteering. This was the sixth highest proportion in Europe.

### **Community Relations**

88.1% of Londoners feel there is at least some tension between rich and poor, slightly higher than the UK average (86.7%), and European average (85.4%). However, the feeling of both ethnic and religious tension are lower in London than the rest of the UK, though still higher than the European average. Sweden has the highest ethnic and religious tensions in Europe.

Londoners' attitude towards immigration is more relaxed than the rest of the UK with a score of 2.38 out of 4, which is close to the European average (2.32). Greece has the strongest feeling against immigration in Europe (2.89).

Over a quarter of Londoners do not feel close to the people they live around. This is ranked the highest in Europe, with the rest of the UK ranked third. This is the only measure in this report where London is ranked either highest or lowest. Slovenians are the most likely to feel close to other people in the community.

### **Trust in Society**

Londoners generally trust parts of society slightly more than the European average but slightly less than the rest of the UK. The Police are the most trusted part of society both in London (6.1 out of 10) and Europe generally (5.8). Londoners tend to trust the legal system (5.3) and their local authority (5.2), but trust of the press is far lower (3.3) – only Greece has a lower trust of the press (3.0) than London and the rest of the UK. And Londoners are around average when it comes to trusting other people generally (5.1), with Cypriots being the least trusting in Europe (1.9).

### **Services**

London's transport system receives the highest score of any public service (6.8 out of 10), ranking it fifth in Europe. However, this is the only service to rank higher in London than the rest of the UK. The lowest ranking service for London is Childcare (24 out of 35), significantly below the rest of the UK (16<sup>th</sup>). Both health and education are rated slightly above the European average, whereas long term care, social housing and state pension are rated slightly below average.

### **Well Being**

7.7% of Londoners feel life is not worthwhile, and 13.6% feel left out of society. Both these figures are above the rest of UK and European averages. Life satisfaction and happiness are around average in London. Mental well-being is slightly below average, though slightly better than the rest of the UK. The Danes have the highest life satisfaction in Europe and the best score on the mental well-being index.

## **Health**

8.7% of Londoners say they are in bad or very bad health. This is below both rest of the UK and European averages. Furthermore, Londoners are more likely to take part in sports or physical exercise at least once a month (57.7%) compared with these averages. However, Finland leads the way with 81.0%.

## **Wealth and Poverty**

Londoners suffer less from material deprivation than the European average – that is they are more likely to be able to afford items such as a holiday, clothes, heating etc. (see footnote for list of all six items<sup>1</sup>) And 9 in 10 households can afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish every second day if wanted it, which again is above the average. Londoners' average household income is the fourth highest in Europe. Despite this, London households are more at risk of being in poverty (23.6%), than average (18.1%), ranking it third highest in Europe. London also ranks fifth on the social exclusion index.

This paints a picture of a polarised society in London. However, even those in poverty are generally able to afford more material items than the European average.

## **Housing**

London households are relatively likely to have problems with the quality of their housing compared with the European average, ranking it sixth. This is significantly higher than the rest of the UK, which is below the average and ranks 22<sup>nd</sup>. Londoners are also quite likely to have a problem with affording their current home with 8.7% of households likely to move in the next 6 months because they can no longer afford it – above the European average of 6.1%. This ranks London sixth, again very different from the rest of the UK, which is ranked 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Skills and Employment**

Londoners are significantly more likely than average and people in the rest of the UK to use the internet at least once a month, other than at work (80.1%), ranking London fifth, with Icelanders being most likely to use (90.2%). Over a third of Londoners have completed Tertiary education (e.g. a degree), which is above the European average (23.8%), however are generally less satisfied with their level of education, which ranks London 29<sup>th</sup>. Londoners are also less satisfied than average with their job (7.1 out of 10), which is some way below the UK average (7.6) – ranking 27<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> The six measures of material deprivation are: Keeping your home adequately warm; Paying for a weeks annual holiday away from home; Replacing any worn-out furniture; A meal with meat, chicken, fish every second day if you wanted it; Buying new, rather than second-hand, clothes; Having friends or family for a drink or meal at least once a month

## VOLUNTEERING

### % volunteered in last 12 months in:

	Community and social services		Education, cultural, sports or professional associations		Social movements or charities		Political parties, trade unions		Other voluntary organisations		% want to spend more time volunteering		% volunteers frequently	
		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35
London	18.5	7	20.3	13	12.0	15	4.0	24	11.3	12	30.6	6	13.8	11
Rest of UK	15.7	12	15.0	21	13.9	10	3.3	28	10.5	16	30.2	7	15.3	9
Europe	15.1	-	18.4	-	11.7	-	6.6	-	10.4	-	21.6	-	10.0	-
Highest	46.6	Kosovo	47.1	Kosovo	38.5	Kosovo	33.3	Kosovo	32.3	Kosovo	44.0	Ireland	21.0	Sweden
Lowest	4.6	Montenegro	5.4	Montenegro	2.8	Bulgaria	2.4	Hungary	2.2	Montenegro	4.5	of Macedonia	2.0	Bulgaria

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### % think there is at least some tension between

	Rich and poor		Ethnic/racial groups		Religious groups		Attitude to Immigration, Average score / 4		Immigrants are a strain on our system, Average score / 10		% don't feel close to people where live	
		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35
London	88.1	14	86.1	15	82.5	9	2.38	17	4.94	12	25.9	1
Rest of UK	86.7	20	89.2	10	83.9	4	2.72	4	4.22	26	21.4	3
Europe	85.4	-	83.3	-	71.9	-	2.32	-	4.68	-	12.7	-
Highest	95.6	Hungary	96.7	Sweden	87.8	Sweden	2.89	Greece	6.27	Sweden	25.9	London
Lowest	47.7	Denmark	54.5	Kosovo	43.0	Latvia	1.80	Sweden	2.62	Cyprus	6.2	Slovenia

\* 4=Want to prohibit people coming here to work

\*10 = Immigrants contribute to our welfare system more than they take out

## TRUST IN SOCIETY

### How much do you trust...Average score / 10

	Parliament		The Legal System		The Press		The Police		The government		Local Authority		Average score of how much people can be trusted	
		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35
London	4.1	17	5.3	11	3.3	33	6.1	14	4.2	15	5.2	16	5.1	14
Rest of UK	4.3	13	5.5	10	3.2	34	6.6	9	4.4	12	5.4	14	5.5	7
Europe	4.1	-	4.7	-	4.4	-	5.8	-	4.1	-	5.1	-	5.0	-
Highest	6.3	Sweden	8.0	Denmark	5.4	Finland	8.1	Finland	6.5	Luxembourg	6.7	Luxembourg	7.2	Finland
Lowest	2.3	Greece	2.8	Bulgaria	3.0	Greece	4.2	Bulgaria	2.1	Greece	3.3	Serbia	1.9	Cyprus

## SERVICES

	Rate Health services / 10		Rate Education system / 10		Rate Transport system / 10		Rate childcare services / 10		Rate long-term care services / 10		Rate social housing / 10		Rate state pension system / 10	
		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35
London	6.5	15	6.6	13	6.8	5	6.1	24	5.7	17	5.3	20	4.7	18
Rest of UK	7.0	10	6.9	9	6.6	11	6.4	16	5.8	16	5.6	15	5.1	15
Europe	6.1	-	6.3	-	6.2	-	6.3	-	5.8	-	5.4	-	4.8	-
Highest	8.0	Austria	8.2	Finland	7.5	Luxembourg	7.7	Finland	7.6	Luxembourg	7.2	Austria	7.5	Luxembourg
Lowest	4.5	Bulgaria	4.6	Greece	4.0	Malta	4.9	Greece	3.8	Bulgaria	3.3	Bulgaria	2.9	Bulgaria

## WELL BEING

	% feel life is not worthwhile		% feel left out of society		Life Satisfaction, Average score / 10		Happiness, Average score / 10		WHO-5 mental wellbeing index		Satisfied with family life Score / 10	
		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35
London	7.7	10	13.6	13	7.0	17	7.4	14	60.5	23	7.9	18
Rest of UK	6.8	12	11.7	16	7.3	11	7.6	10	58.4	28	8.2	11
Europe	6.9	-	11.2	-	7.0	-	7.3	-	62.0	-	7.9	-
Highest	20.9	Greece	20.7	Cyprus	8.4	Denmark	8.3	Iceland	70.1	Denmark	8.9	Cyprus
Lowest	0.4	Iceland	3.7	Netherlands	5.6	Bulgaria	6.3	Bulgaria	53.7	Serbia	6.7	Bulgaria

## HEALTH

	% In bad/very bad health		% take part in sports or physical exercise at least once a month		% with chronic (long-standing) physical or mental health problem, illness or disability	
		RANK / 35		RANK / 35		RANK / 35
London	8.7	20	57.7	10	32.5	11
Rest of UK	11.3	12	55.0	13	36.8	5
Europe	9.8	-	45.4	-	27.3	-
Highest	20.7	Lithuania	81.0	Finland	45.1	Finland
Lowest	3.2	Malta	15.9	Bulgaria	11.0	Kosovo

## WEALTH AND POVERTY

	Can afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish every second day if wanted it	RANK / 35	Average Deprivation index: Number of items household cannot afford	RANK / 35	% Households at risk of poverty	RANK / 35	OECD equivalised income in PPP Euros	RANK / 35	Social Exclusion Index	RANK / 35
London	89.3	18	1.3	20	23.6	3	1,798.2	4	2.5	5
Rest of UK	91.5	13	1.1	23	25.1	2	1,775.7	6	2.3	19
Europe	85.7	-	1.5	-	18.1	-	1,164.1	-	2.2	-
Highest	98.5	Luxembourg	2.9	Bulgaria	27.6	Montenegro	2,454.1	Luxembourg	3.0	Cyprus
Lowest	56.4	Turkey	0.3	Luxembourg	10.1	Czech Republic	262.1	Kosovo	1.6	Denmark

\* Score out of 6 material items

## HOUSING

	Average number of problems with accommodation (quality)	RANK / 35	Satisfied with home score / 10	RANK / 35	% quite or very likely to leave home within the next 6mths because can no longer afford it	RANK / 35
London	0.9	6	7.4	26	8.7	6
Rest of UK	0.5	22	8.0	10	5.2	20
Europe	0.6	-	7.6	-	6.1	-
Highest	1.4	Latvia	8.6	Cyprus	14.0	Kosovo
Lowest	0.4	Denmark	6.4	Kosovo	2.1	Netherlands

## SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

	% use internet at least once a month other than work	RANK / 35	% completed Tertiary education	RANK / 35	Satisfaction with education score / 10	RANK / 35	Satisfaction with present job score / 10	RANK / 35
London	80.1	5	33.1	8	6.7	29	7.1	27
Rest of UK	71.9	10	30.5	11	7.2	16	7.6	13
Europe	60.9	-	23.8	-	7.1	-	7.4	-
Highest	90.2	Iceland	43.2	Lithuania	8.2	Romania	8.4	Denmark
Lowest	35.3	Turkey	11.4	Turkey	5.6	Turkey	6.5	Kosovo