

## *Young Europeans*

### *A survey among young people aged between 15-30 in the European Union*

## Analytical Report

Fieldwork: January/February 2007

Report: February 2007

This survey was requested and coordinated by Directorate-General Communication

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.  
The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

## 6. Achieving financial independence

*A majority of young Europeans cite material reasons to explain why young adults live at their parents' home longer than they used to; they either cannot afford to move out or there is a lack of affordable housing.*

*Respondents in the NMS12 are somewhat more likely to mention these two material reasons in order to explain why young adults remain at their parents' homes. In the EU15 respondents agree more often with the statement that they want all the comforts without having to bear all the responsibilities.*

*In total more than four out of 10 young adults say that their primary source of income is a regular job or that, surprisingly, most of their income is provided by their relatives or partner (31%).*

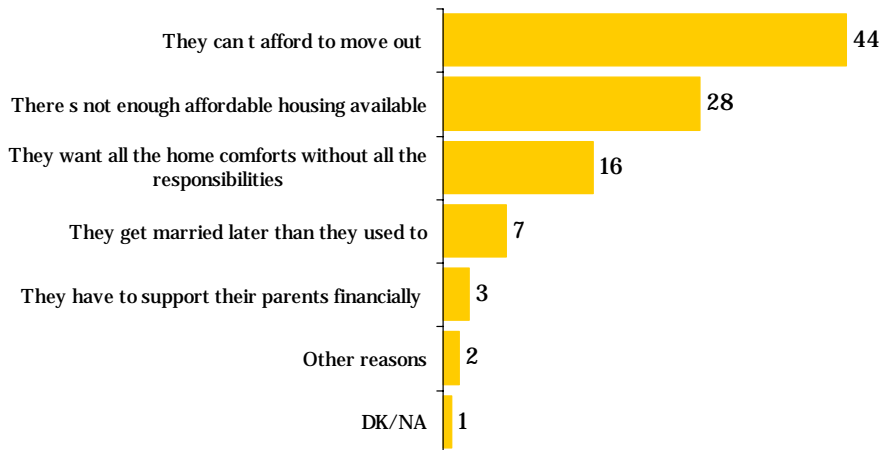
*In Denmark, Finland and Sweden, more respondents mention a training allowance or educational grant as their second most important source of income. In the Netherlands the second most significant source of income is casual work.*

### 6.1 Staying within the family

It is often said that young people today tend to live at their parents' home longer than they used to. When asked why, a majority of young Europeans give material reasons; 44% believe that young adults cannot afford to move out, and 28% think that there is a lack of affordable housing. In addition, 16% of respondents tend to blame selfishness, agreeing with the statement that young people today want all the comforts of home without having to bear all of the responsibilities.

Smaller percentages of respondents think that young people live with their parents longer because they are getting married later (7%), or because they have to support their parents financially (3%).

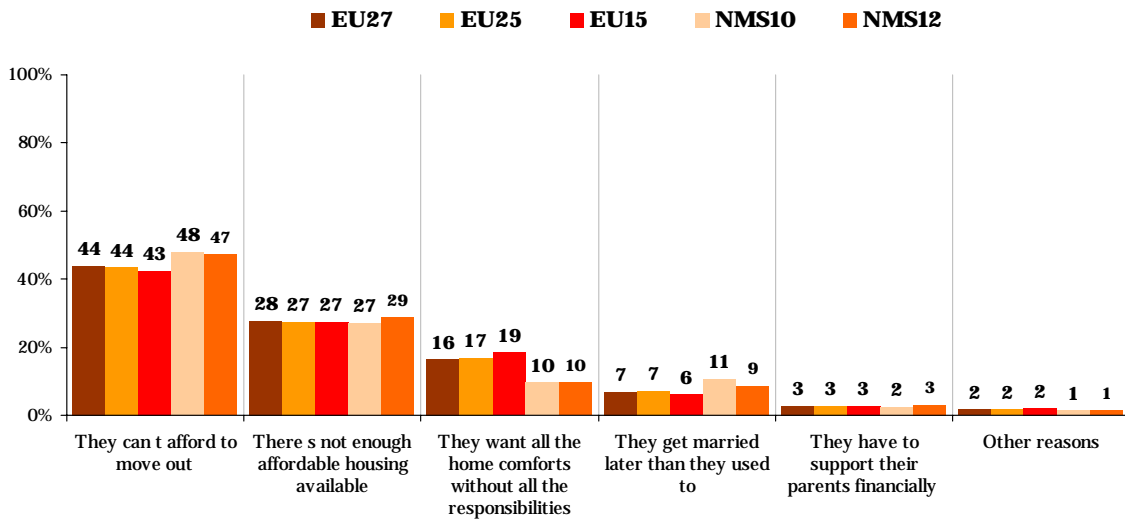
### The MAIN reason for young adults live in their parents' homes longer than they used to



Q14. What do you think is the MAIN reason that young adults live in their parents' homes longer than they used to? Again, please select one from the list I am going to read.  
%, Base: all respondents

Respondents in the EU15 are less likely than respondents in the NMS12 to mention that they cannot afford to move out (43% compared to 47%), however, they are more likely to say that they want all the comforts of a home without the responsibilities of living alone (19% compared to 10%).

### The MAIN reason for young adults live in their parents' homes longer than they used to



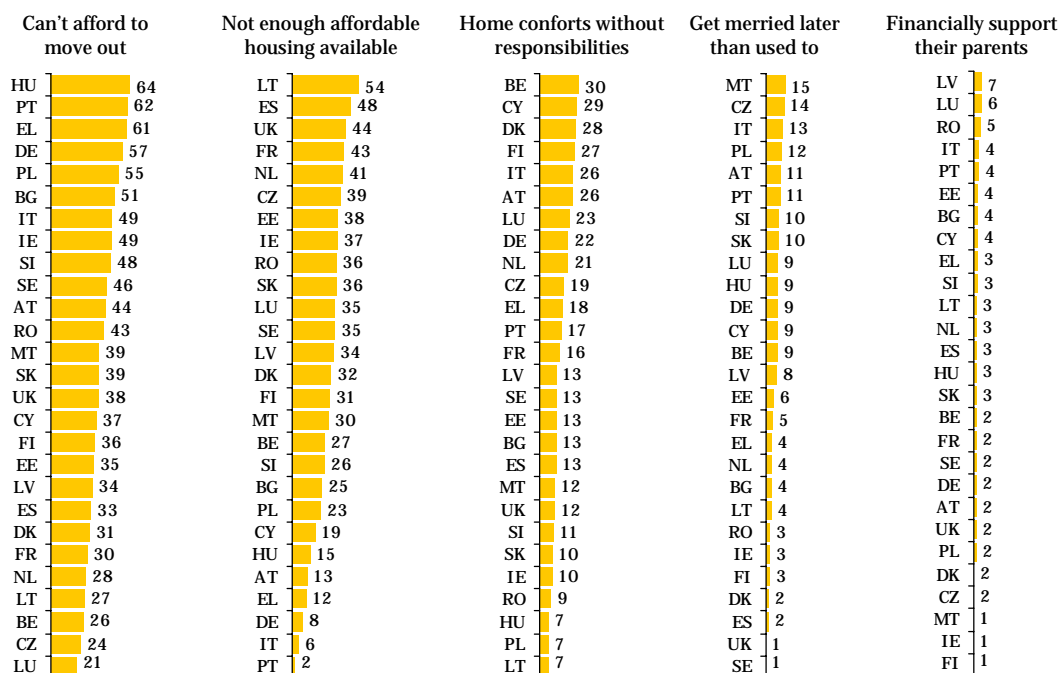
Q14. What do you think is the MAIN reason that young adults live in their parents' homes longer than they used to? Again, please select one from the list I am going to read.  
Base: all respondents  
% by country

A lack of financial resources is given as the primary explanation as to why young adults continue to live with their parents in 16 out of 27 countries. It also appears that young Greeks, Hungarians and Portuguese tend to put forward this assumption even more frequently than others (respectively, 61%, 64% and 62%).

In 10 other countries, the shortage of affordable housing is selected as the most significant reason. This is particularly notable in Lithuania, where more than one in two young adults (54%) supports this statement.

In Belgium, on the other hand, the assumption seems to be that young people stay longer with their parents because they want all the comforts of home without the responsibilities; 30% of respondents in Belgium agree with this idea.

### The MAIN reason for young adults live in their parents' homes longer than they used to



Q14. What do you think is the MAIN reason that young adults live in their parents' homes longer than they used to? Again, please select one from the list I am going to read.




Base: all respondents  
% by country

Respondents who are still at school and those who have completed their full-time education after the age of 16 are more likely to say that there is a lack of affordable housing (27%, 28% and 31%, respectively) than respondents who did not study after reaching the age of 16 (22%). Respondents in this lowest educational category are also more likely to state that young adults want the comforts of home without the responsibilities, or that they have to support their parents financially. For example, while only 1% of respondents in the highest educational category state that young adults live longer with their parents because they have to support them financially, 9% of respondents in the lowest educational group agree with this statement.

Young citizens in rural communities are less likely than citizens of a metropolitan or urban area to support the statement that there is insufficient affordable housing (25% compared to 31% and 28%). However, they are slightly more inclined than respondents from metropolitan and urban areas to think that a delayed departure from home is due to later marriage (9% compared to 5% and 6%).

Finally, in comparisons between occupational groups, employees are the most likely to state that there is a lack of affordable housing (32%), self-employed respondents are the most likely to say that young adults want the comforts of home without the responsibilities (19%) and manual workers are the most likely to say that young adults have to support their parents financially (6%).

**Reasons for living longer at their parents' homes** (Base: all respondents)

	% They can't afford to move out	% There's not enough affordable housing available	% They want all the home comforts without all the responsibilities	% They get married later than they used to	% They have to support their parents financially
<b>EU27</b>	44	28	16	7	3
 <b>EDUCATION (end of)</b>					
Until 15 years of age	43	22	19	5	9
16 - 20	44	28	16	6	3
20 +	43	31	15	8	1
Still in education	44	27	17	8	3
 <b>URBANISATION</b>					
Metropolitan	43	31	16	5	3
Urban	45	28	15	6	3
Rural	43	25	18	9	3
 <b>OCCUPATION</b>					
Self-employed	42	26	19	7	3
Employee	42	32	16	6	2
Manual worker	43	29	15	6	6
Not working	45	26	16	7	3

**QUESTION: Q14. What do you think is the MAIN reason that young adults live in their parents' homes longer than they used to? Again, please select one from the list I am going to read.**