

THE PERCEPTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOVERNANCE ON THE WELFARE OF CITIZENS. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOUNDING STATES

Lecturer PhD **Petronela SCUTARIU**

“Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava, Faculty of Law and Administration Sciences, Suceava, Romania
petronela.scutariu@fdsa.usv.ro

Graduate **Anca-Gabriela ȘPAIUC**

“Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava, Faculty of Law and Administration Sciences, Suceava, Romania
ancaspaiuc@yahoo.com

Abstract:

In this article we aim to analyze the importance of the governance process on the level of development existing in a state to investigate the perception of the role that governance has on the welfare of citizens, with reference to the founding states of the European Union. The research developed has shown that respondents have considered to the greatest extent that governance is important and very important for ensuring the well-being of citizens; the respondents were of the opinion that the founding states are well governed to a great extent; in terms of level of development, for the founding states, the respondents argued that it was high and very high; most of the respondents said the government system in a state influences the level of development in that state to a rather large extent and to a very large extent.

Key words: questionnaire-based survey, opinion, respondents, importance, well-being, level of development, citizens, founding states, European Union

JEL classification: H11

1. INTRODUCTION

Through the scientific approach undertaken in the present paper we aim to emphasize the importance of the governance process on the level of development existing in a state. In order to collect the data needed for this study, we will use a questionnaire-based survey that will ensure the harvesting, interpretation and analysis of responses to investigate the perception of the role that governance has over citizens' welfare, with reference to the founding states of the European Union.

The survey will aim to investigate the perception of governance and its importance on citizens' well-being, the tool used (the questionnaire) will be applied to master's students of the Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, Studies program Management and European Administration, first and second years. We decide to address the questionnaires to the master's students because, during the years of study, they have acquired, assimilated the necessary information on European governance.

2. THE EXPLANATION OF THE GOVERNANCE PROCESS AND IMPORTANCE FOR THE WELFARE OF CITIZENS

In order to achieve study 80 questionnaires were distributed, being gathered a number of 52. After centralizing the identification data of those surveyed, we found that 29 respondents were female and 23 male respondents aged under 25 and over 50 years.

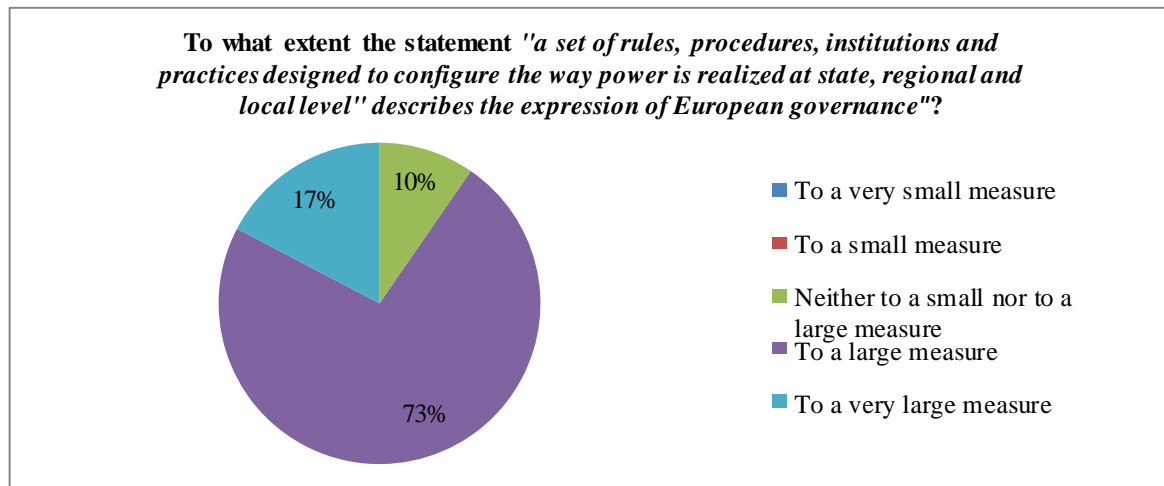


Figure no. 1. The expression of European governance

From the view of the previous figure, it result that 90% (73% + 17%) of the respondents say that the assertion "a set of rules, procedures, institutions and practices to configure the way power at state, regional and local level" describes *in a large and very large measure* the expression of European governance. Only 10% of master students said that the explanation for the expression of European governance does not correspond *neither to a small nor to a large measure* (see Figure no. 1).

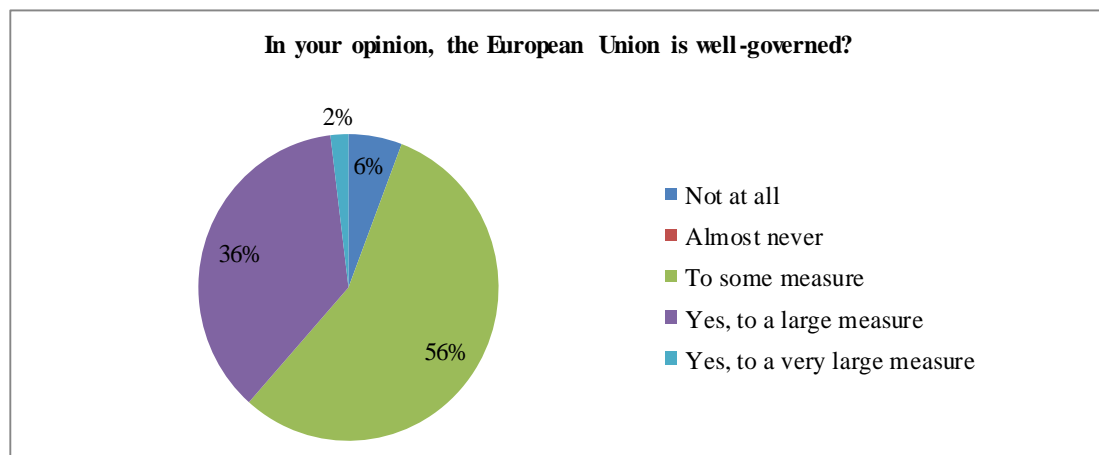


Figure no. 2. Governance in the European Union

From the data presented in the figure above, it can be seen that over half (56%) of the respondents believe that the European Union is well governed *to some measure*. However, more than a third (36%) of the master students said that the European Union is well governed *to a large measure*. A percentage of 6% declare that the European Union is *not at all* well-governed and only 2% of respondents consider that it is well-governed *to a very large measure* (see Figure no. 2).

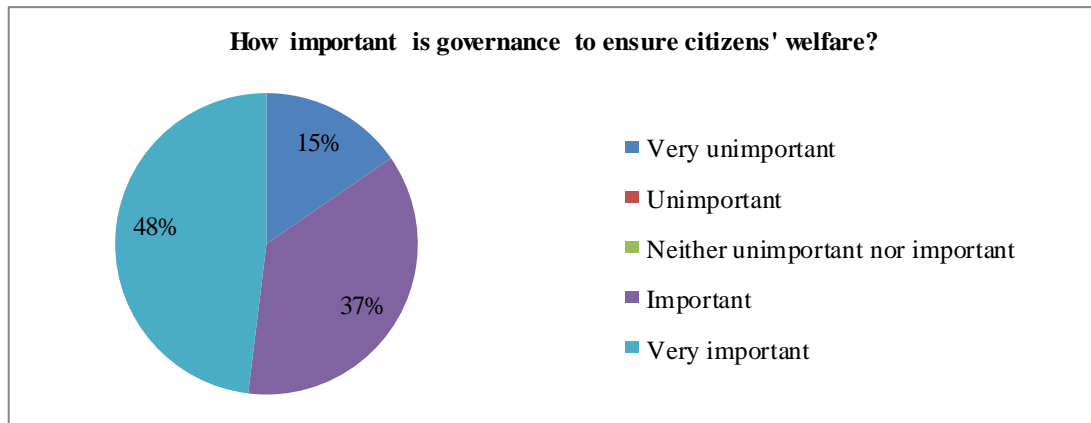


Figure no. 3. The importance of governance to ensure citizens' welfare

The data presented in the figure above shows that 85% (48% + 37%) of the respondents consider that governance is *important and very important* for ensuring citizens' well-being, while only 15% say that governance is *very unimportant* for welfare citizens.

3. GOOD GOVERNANCE AT THE LEVEL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING STATES

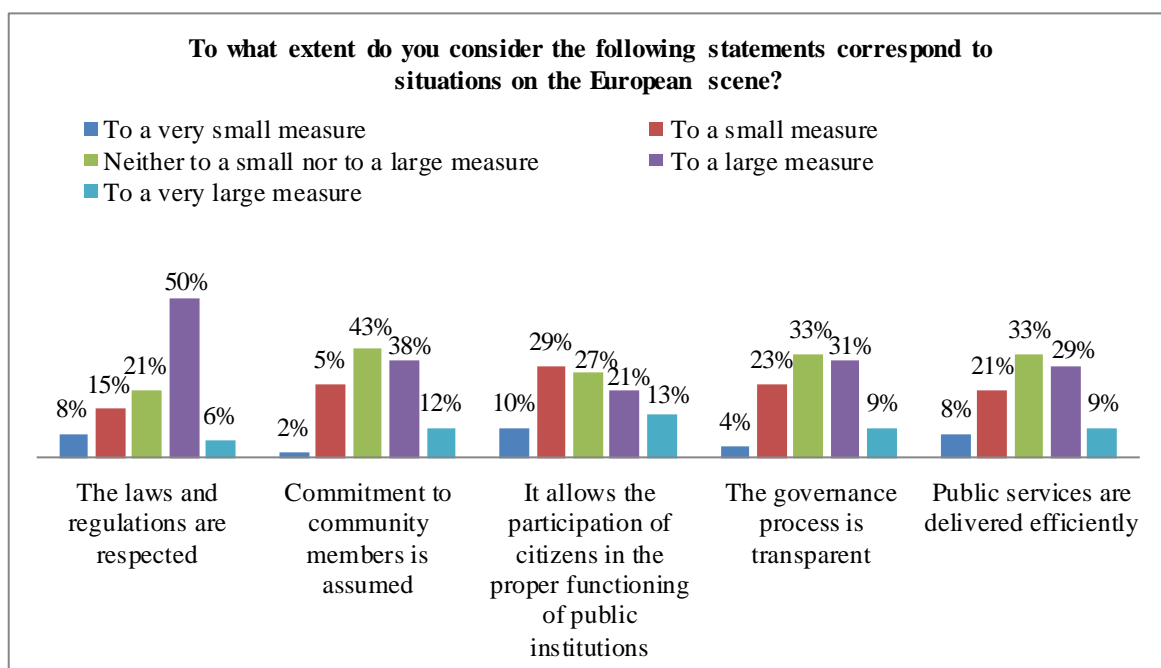


Figure no. 4. Situations on the European scene

The view of the data recorded in the previous figure shows that, at European level, more than half of 56% (50% + 6%) of the surveyed respondents consider that laws and regulations are in *a large and very large measure* respected. On the opposite side, only 23% (15% + 8%) of the master students said that laws and regulations are being respected to *a small and very small measure*.

For a good governance, it is essential to be assumed the commitment for community members, in which 50% (38% + 12%) of the respondents stated that, on the European scene, the responsibility for community members is assumed in *a large and very large measure*. However,

43% mentioned that responsibility towards community members is assumed to be *neither to a small nor to a large measure*.

For the good functioning of public institutions it is necessary to consider the participation of the citizens, but the data recorded show that 39% (10% + 29%) of the respondents said they are taking into account into *a small and very small measure*. An almost identical percentage of 34% (21% + 13%) of the master students said the opposite, ie the participation of citizens in the functioning of public institutions is *to a large and very large measure* allowed.

Regarding the transparency of the governance process, 40% (31% + 9%) of the respondents said that governance on the European scene is transparent in *a large and very large measure*. However, one-third (33%) of the master students claim that the governance process is transparent to *neither a small nor a large one*.

Regarding the efficiency with which public services are delivered at European level, 38% (29% + 9%) of those surveyed agree to this situation to *a large and very large measure*. Noteworthy is that 33% of respondents said that public services are delivered efficiently to *neither a small nor a high level* (see Figure no. 4).

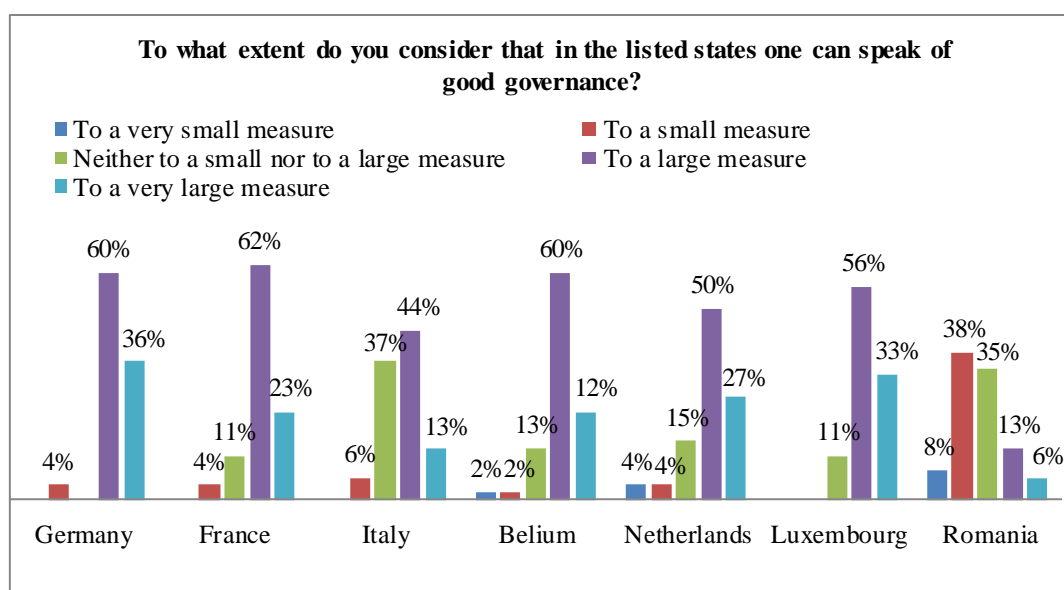


Figure no. 5. Good governance in founding states

From the data presented in the previous figure, we can see that the respondents consider the founding states to be good governed in *a large and very large measure*, the highest value being recorded for Germany (60% + 36% = 96%), followed by Luxembourg, for which are retained a percent of 89% (56% + 33%). By comparison, only 18% (13% + 6%) of the respondents say that there is *a large and a very large measure* of good governance in Romania. As far as our country is concerned, almost half of the masters (8% + 38% = 46%) state that it is well governed to *a small and very small measure* (see Figure no. 5).

4. THE DEVELOPMENT LEVEL IN THE FUNDING STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

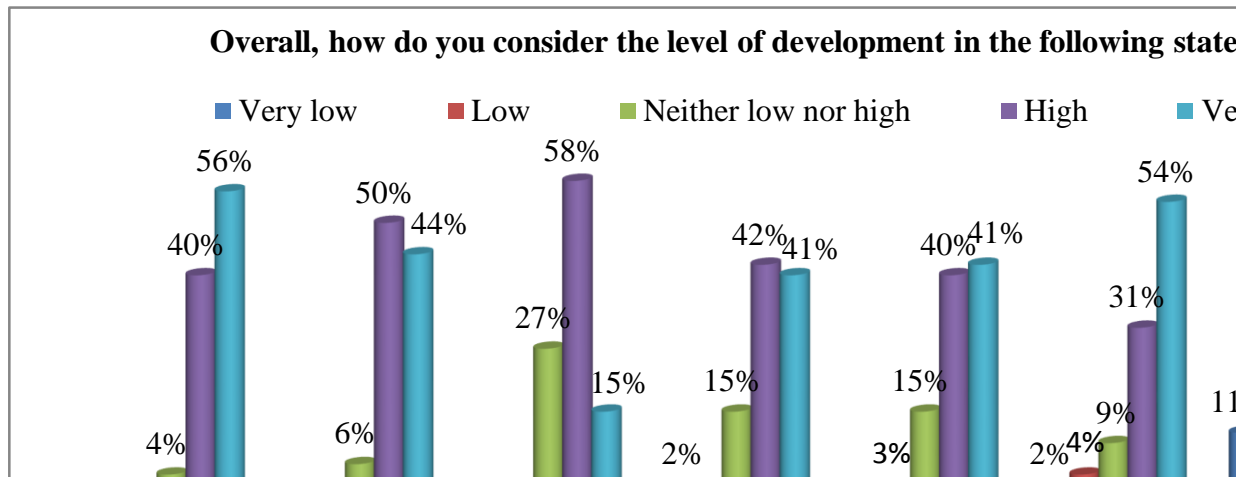


Figure no. 6. The development level in founding states

Regarding the level of development, the view of the data in the previous figure shows that for all founding states the respondents believe that it is *high and very high*, the first position being held by Germany (40% + 56% = 96%), followed immediately by France (50% + 44% = 94%). On the opposite side, only 12% of the respondents consider that in Romania the level of development is high and very high. A percentage of 42% (11% + 31%) of the respondents say that the level of development of our country is *low and very low* (see Figure no. 6).

5. THE EUROPEAN UNION'S AFFILIATION AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

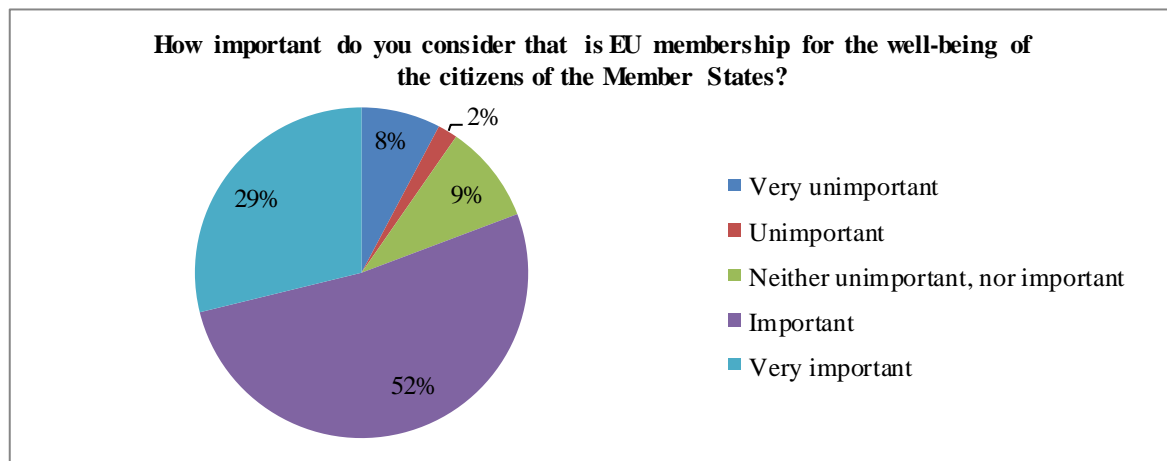


Figure no. 7. Affiliation to the EU for the well-being of citizens

From the data presented in the figure above, result that 81% (52% + 29%) of the respondents consider that EU membership is *important and very important* to the welfare of the citizens and only 10% (2% + 8%) of the master's students declare affiliation to the EU as *unimportant and very unimportant* (see Figure no. 7).

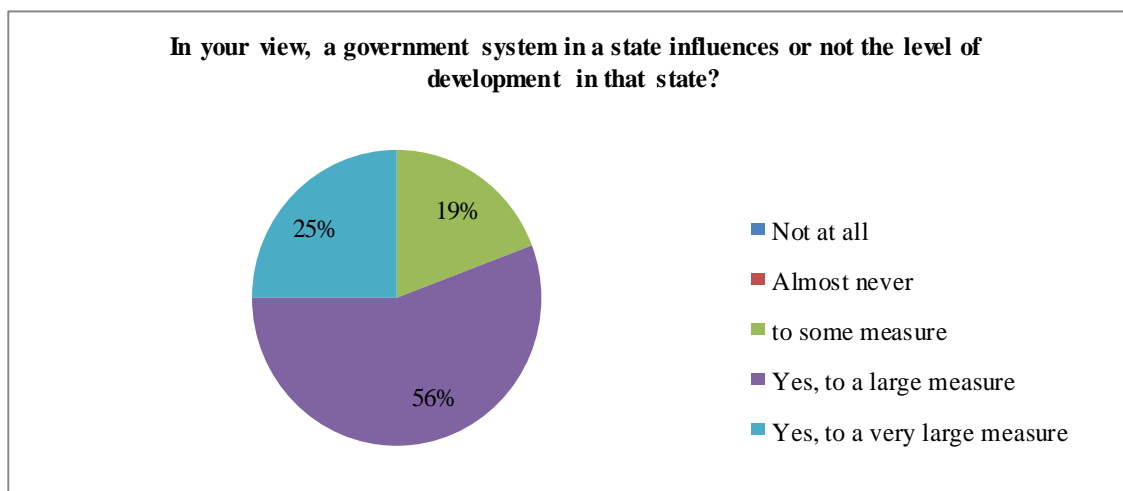


Figure no. 8. The government system in a state

The data recorded in the previous figure shows that 81% (56% + 25%) of the respondents believe that the government system in a state influences the level of development in that state to a *large and a very large measure*. A percentage of 19% of masters said that the governance system is influencing to *a some measure* the level of development in a state (see Figure no. 8).

6. CONCLUSIONS

- On the background of these pages, we can conclude that the realization of the questionnaire survey has made it possible to collect essential information on the importance of governance on the welfare of citizens, with reference to the experience of the founding states of the European Union. From the analysis of respondents' perception, the following concluding ideas can be retained:
- the expression of European governance is familiar to the master students, almost all agreeing with the explanation given
- over half of respondents believe that the European Union is some measure well governed
- the respondents consider in the highest proportion that governance is important and very important for ensuring the well-being of citizens
- at European level, over half of respondents considered that laws and regulations are large and very large respected
- half of the respondents said that, on the European scene, the responsibility towards the members of the community is assumed to a large and to a very large measure
- for the good functioning of public institutions, it is necessary to consider the participation of the citizens, but the data recorded show that 39% of the respondents said that in a small and very small measure it is taken into account
- with regard to the transparency of the governance process, 40% of the respondents said that governance on the European scene is transparent to a large and very large measure
- with reference to the efficiency with which public services are delivered at European level, 38% of those surveyed agree to this situation to a large and to a very measure
- those questioned consider that the founding states are to a large and a very large good governed, the highest value being recorded for Germany (96%); by comparison, only 18% of the respondents say that in Romania there is a good governance to a large and very large measure

- in terms of level of development, for all founding states, the respondents believe that it is high and very high, the first position being held by Germany (96%); on the opposite side, only 12% of the respondents consider that in Romania the level of development is high and very high
- the majority of respondents consider that EU membership is important and very important for the welfare of citizens
- most respondents believe that the government system in a state influences the level of development in that state to a large and to a very measure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Popa M., Statistică pentru psihologie - teorie și aplicații SPSS, ediția a II-a revăzută și adăugită, Publishing House Polirom, Iași, 2008
2. Popa M., Statistică pentru psihologie. Teorie și aplicații SPSS, Publishing House Polirom, Iași, 2008
3. Harja E., Țimira L.C., Metode statistice utilizate în cercetarea de marketing, Publishing House Alma Mater, Bacău, 2009
4. Jaba E., Grama A., Analiza statistică cu SPSS sub Windows, Publishing House Polirom, Iași, 2004
5. <https://ctrl-d.ro/tips-and-tricks/cum-sa-creezi-un-chestionar-eficient-pentru-o-cercetare-calitativa/> [accessed on 10.11.2018]