



reCOVery-LV

2020

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF PUBLIC OPINION POLL

SEPTEMBER PHASE

ALDIS AUSTERS, JURIJS ŅIKIŠINS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A public opinion poll was conducted within the framework of the study project reCOVery-LV funded by the Latvian state research program. The aim of the survey was to measure the public attitude towards:

- 1) Personal situation during pandemics, including the impact on personal income, distance work and shopping patterns;
- 2) The state emergency assistance programs;
- 3) The quality of work of governmental institutions during the emergency;
- 4) The impact of pandemics on tax morale.

The survey was conducted by the public opinion research center SKDS during the period from 11 to 22 September 2020, surveying 1011 respondents aged 18 to 75 using the method of direct interview at the place of residence.

1. Personal aspects

The public opinion survey showed that the Covid-19 pandemic did not significantly change public satisfaction with life, compared to situation before pandemic. 26.1 percent of respondents indicated that they have experienced a decrease in income during the pandemic, while 17.3 percent - as well as a decrease in expenses.

23.4 percent of respondents did experience temporary and long-term financial difficulties. At the same time, only one fifth (22.7 percent) of respondents admitted that by losing their monthly income, they would be able to cover current expenses without borrowing for more than three months. The survey also revealed that the longer a respondent was able to survive without regular income, the more likely this respondent was among those who had decided to make savings for rainy days. The impact of the pandemic on people's income had considerable regional differences.

During the first wave of the pandemic, approximately equal number of Latvians experienced both decrease (12.7 percent) and increase (12.3 percent) in workload. Among those respondents who worked remotely, however, changes in workload in both directions were experienced more often. Correlation of respondents replies revealed that the increase in workload had been moderately positively correlated with the increase in household income during pandemics.

Almost half (49.9 percent) of the population did not change their shopping habits, and more than half (53.5 percent) of the population did not change their payment habits. Elderly people with limited IT skills required for internet shopping were forced either to continue shopping in stores as before, or to give up shopping altogether.

2. Emergency programs

The survey revealed that most people considered the emergency support programs to be adequate and associated them with fiscal prudence. Compared to other EU member states, in Latvia, the level of public satisfaction with the governmental assistance was above the EU average.

About a third (35 percent) of respondents admitted that they were proud of the work of public authorities during the pandemic. Moreover, half of the respondents (50.5 percent) agreed to the claim that the public institutions were able to perform their functions as well or even better during the emergency, and somewhat less than half (45.7 percent) of respondents agreed with the opinion that the telework created due to the emergency had made public administration more modern and easily accessible to individuals.

Data analysis revealed that pride in government work during a pandemic was felt mainly by supporters of the ruling and "right" wing parties, while supporters of the opposition and "left" wing parties, on the contrary, was not.

People advocating tighter tax discipline and more responsible fiscal policies tended to support more restrictive access to national emergency support programs, while those who supported weaker tax moral and fiscal discipline advocated more inclusive state support programs.

Close to two thirds (63.5 percent) of respondents in the event of a recurrence of the Covid-19 pandemic were willing to admit restrictions to human contact as strict as during the first wave or even stricter and even higher number of respondents (70.9 percent) that in crisis situations, the state should act more decisively, even if it would involve greater interference in the personal lives of individuals.

3. Institutional aspects

27.1 percent of respondents admitted that confidence in democracy had increased during the pandemic, and 18.5 percent – that their voice mattered in Latvia. Despite satisfaction in performance of public authorities, overall, the public trust in national public institutions has decreased. The pandemic had also eroded trust in the EU institutions – even to a greater extent than in national institutions. Yet, 51.9 percent of respondents agreed that without EU support Latvia would not have been able to successfully contain the pandemic, and 61.6 percent – that the fight against the pandemic would be more efficient at the EU level.

Although correlation analysis revealed a very close relationship between the experience of long-term financial difficulties and respondents' intention to emigrate, survey also showed that 83 percent of respondents had not thought about leaving Latvia.

4. Taxation issues

Two-thirds (68.4 percent) of respondents agreed with the statement that tax evasion is a reprehensible behavior, but only 18.6 percent agreed with the statement that people prefer to pay taxes as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The main reasons why people would not pay taxes were too low wages after taxes (54.3 percent) and too high tax rates (45.8 percent). Those who trusted public authorities were more likely to agree that tax evasion is reprehensible and that all non-taxpayers should be cracked down on. Likewise, the supporters of the ruling parties were more supportive of both for the current activities of the government and of fiscally prudence.

These data confirm the hypothesis raised by other studies¹ that in Latvia a considerable gap persists between formal (i.e., legislative requirements that embody public morality) institutions and informal institutions (i.e., unwritten norms of behavior that embody civic morality) in the field of taxation. Namely, the view

¹ Colin C. Williams & Ioana A. Horodnic (2015) Explaining and tackling the shadow economy in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania: a tax morale approach, *Baltic Journal of Economics*, 15:2, 81-98.

that tax evasion is reprehensible reflects the existing public morality, while the view on the positive effect of a pandemic on tax morality of people – the civic morality. Moreover, the gap between formal and informal institutions was also indirectly confirmed by the respondents' view of the reasons why people do not pay taxes, namely, that the respondents were not inclined to blame the state for inefficiency of tax administration, thus demonstrating relatively little interest in stricter actions by the state against tax transgressors.

-General information

A public opinion poll was conducted within the framework of the national research program project *reCOVery-LV*. The aim of the survey was to analyze the public's attitude towards:

- 1) the emergency support programs implemented by the government during the pandemic;
- 2) the degree of life satisfaction, the impact of teleworking and the workload during an emergency;
- 3) the impact of the pandemic on people's purchasing habits;
- 4) the impact of the pandemic on the financial situation of the population;
- 5) the work of government institutions during the state of emergency;
- 6) the impact of the emergency support programs on tax morale;
- 7) the emergency support programs in future and the economic recovery.

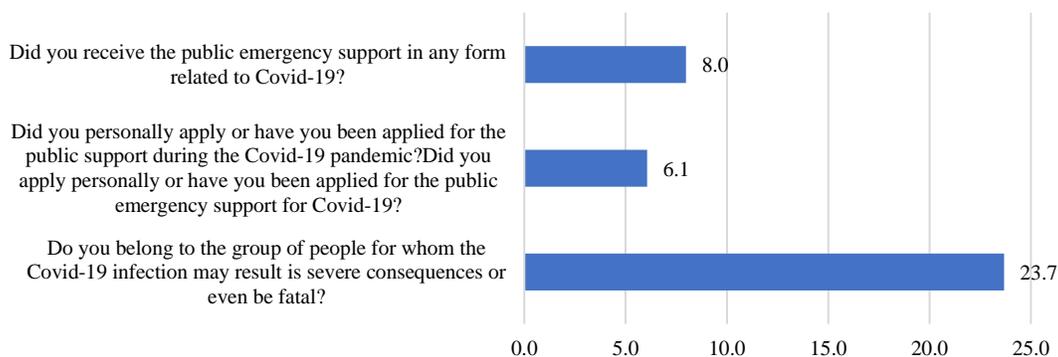
The survey was conducted by the public opinion research center SKDS from September 11 to 22, 2020, by interviewing 1,011 respondents aged 18 to 75 using the live interview method.

1. Treatment of government emergency assistance programs

23.7 percent of respondents indicated that they belong to the risk group of people for whom Covid-19 can cause serious health problems or even be fatal. The highest proportion of at-risk – according to the respondents' own assessment – is among the older respondents (over 60 percent) and the middle-income group of respondents (over 30 percent). The poll revealed that only 12.2 percent of those employed in the private sector admit to being at risk: among those working in the public sector, this proportion is almost twice as high (21.4 percent) – this phenomenon can be attributed to the age difference among people employed in public and private sector.

Of the surveyed respondents, 8 percent had received the public emergency support, most in the age group from 45 to 54 years – 13.5 percent. A relatively large proportion of recipients were among respondents with higher education (12.1 percent), those working in the private sector (10.7 percent), high wage earners (12.1 percent) and those living in Riga (12 percent).

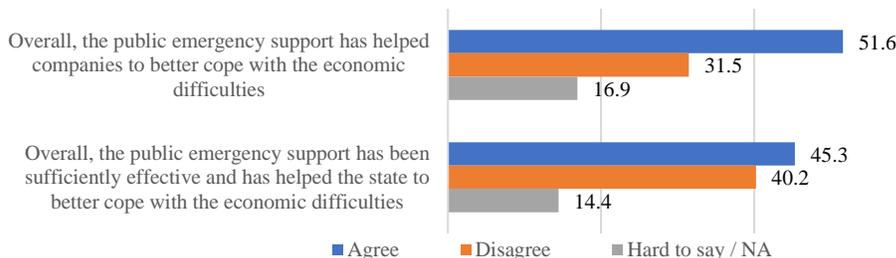
1.1. Figure. The status of respondents in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, percentage



Although the number of respondents who applied for the public emergency support is lower (6.1 percent) than those who received the support (8 percent), the survey shows that 87.6 percent of respondents who applied for the emergency support also received this support.²

When asked about the effectiveness of the emergency support, 51.6 percent agreed to the view that this support helped entrepreneurs to overcome the crisis, and 45.3 percent – that this support helped the state to overcome the crisis. In practically all groups of respondents the effectiveness of the emergency support for entrepreneurs was assessed higher than for the state. The effectiveness of the emergency support in relation to entrepreneurs was assessed most positively among pensioners (60.8 percent), Latvians (57.3 percent) and those working in the public sector (57 percent). Those living in rural areas (58.5 percent) and in Vidzeme (61.3 percent) were also more inclined to evaluate the impact of emergency programs on entrepreneurs positively. A similar picture was observed with regard to the impact of the emergency support on the state: among pensioners, Latvians, public sector employees, those living in rural areas and in Vidzeme there were relatively more positive assessments.

1.2. Public assessment of the public emergency programs, percentage



The survey also aimed to find out whether the respondents who received the public emergency support themselves had a more positive view on the effectiveness of these programs but did not get a convincing answer: although the respondents' answers showed that the frequency of positive assessment of the emergency programs in this group of respondents was higher, this difference was not statistically significant.

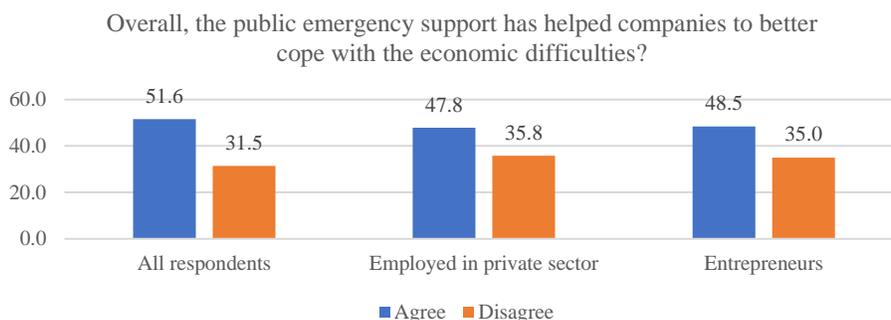
The opinion poll also showed that the incidence of negative views on the public emergency programs among the respondents employed in the private sector and entrepreneurs was more frequent than in the panel of respondents in general. The difference between the share of positive views among those who were employed in the private sector and the other groups of respondents was statistically significant,³ but in the case of entrepreneurs – was not.⁴

² The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two statements is 0.75 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a strong positive correlation, N = 935.

³ Pearson chi-square between the two groups of respondents 9.47 (at the level of statistical significance 0.009).

⁴ Pearson chi-square between the two groups of respondents 0.56 (at the level of statistical significance 0.756).

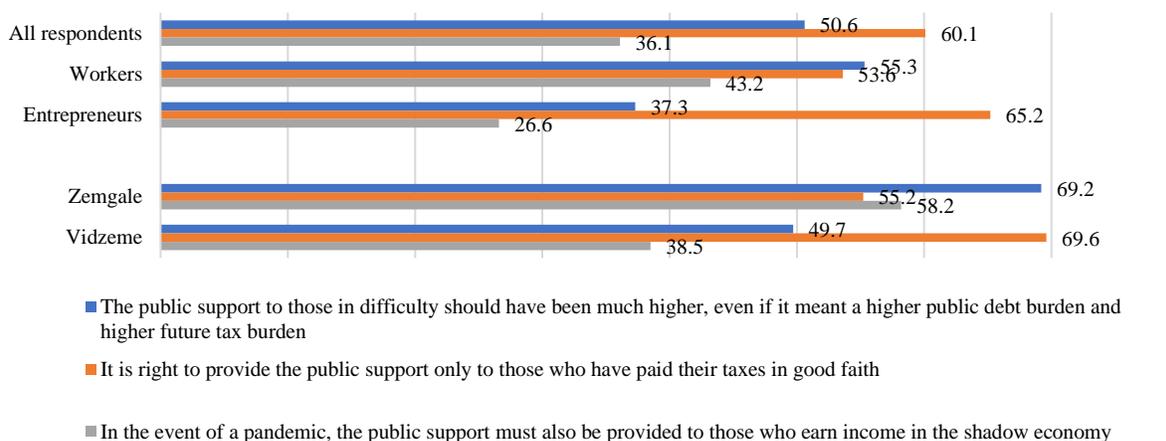
1.3. Figure. The views of private sector employees and entrepreneurs on the effectiveness of the public support for enterprises, percentage



Less than half (41.4 percent) of respondents agreed with the view that large companies should be supported even if such support increase their dependence on state support in the future. The largest share of supportive respondents was among the older generation of respondents (44.5 percent), among respondents with higher education (44.4 percent), among non-citizens (47.3 percent), and among those employed in the private sector (43.1 percent). Regionally, the more supportive of the necessity to support large companies were respondents in Zemgale (55.2 percent), while the least supportive (22.1 percent) were in Kurzeme.

The opinion poll demonstrated relatively sharp opinion differences among respondents living in different regions and belonging to different social classes regarding the nature of the public emergency programs. E.g., workers (55.3 percent) and those living in Zemgale (69.2 percent) were more inclined to agree that the emergency support should have been more extensive and inclusive. In the meantime, entrepreneurs (65.2 percent) and those living in Vidzeme (69.6 percent) were more inclined to agree to the view that the emergency support should be provided only to those who pay taxes in good faith.

1.3. Figure. Evaluation of state support programs in social and regional section, percentage



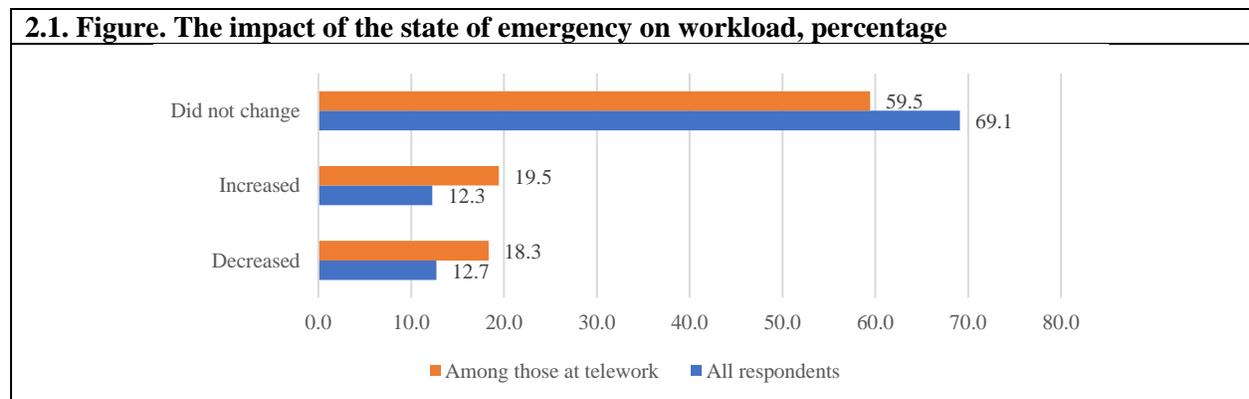
2. Life satisfaction, teleworking and workload during an emergency

The opinion poll showed that the Covid-19 pandemic did not significantly change public satisfaction with life. For example, compared to an identical opinion poll conducted in January 2019,⁵ it can be seen that both the arithmetic mean (6.8 in this opinion poll and 6.7 in the 2019 survey) and median values (7 and 7) were almost similar.

2.1. table. Public satisfaction with life, by income and the place of residence*								
Monthly Avg. enters. per 1 household member	September 2020				January 2019 **			
	Base	Mean	St.dev.	Median	Base	Mean	St.dev.	Median
Up to 249 Eur	165	5.89	1.84	6	183	5.97	1.99	6
250 Eur - 310 Eur	166	6.71	1.8	7	187	6.29	1.78	6
311 Eur - 430 Eur	173	6.62	1.6	7	180	6.68	1.83	7
431 Eur - 600 Eur	207	7.08	1.45	7	178	6.86	1.55	7
601 Eur and more	140	7.29	1.48	7	144	7.57	1.47	8
<i>Region</i>								
Riga	325	6.96	1.6	7	323	6.95	1.77	7
Pieriga	190	7.01	1.65	7	186	6.77	1.87	7
Vidzeme	101	6.3	1.72	6	99	6	1.71	6
Kurzeme	127	6.8	1.82	7	127	6.79	1.45	7
Zemgale	120	6.84	1.64	7	121	6.5	2.15	7
Latgale	143	6.62	1.65	7	139	6.63	1.79	7

* In both opinion polls, respondents were asked to rate their life satisfaction on a 10-point scale, where 1 meant complete dissatisfaction and 10 meant complete satisfaction.
 ** Kaprāns, M., Mieriņa, I. (2019) Ideological polarization in Baltic societies. Riga: Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia.

During the state of emergency, 17.2 percent of respondents worked remotely. Telework has been more common among women (19.1 percent), young people (24 percent in the 25-34 age group and 21.7 percent in the 35-44 age group), people with Latvian citizenship (19.3 percent) and residents of Riga (30.2 percent). The share of teleworkers was particularly high among respondents with higher education (42.4 percent), those working in the public sector (34.5 percent), and those with high incomes (40.1 percent).



⁵Kaprāns, M., Mieriņa, I. (2019) Ideological polarization in Baltic societies. Riga: Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, University of Latvia.

The opinion poll showed that during the first wave of the pandemic, an approximately equal number of Latvia's inhabitants had experienced both a reduction in workload (12.7 percent) and an increase (12.3 percent). By calculating the difference the cases of those who experienced an increase in workload and those who – a decrease, it can be concluded that in general the increase in workload was experienced by younger generation (25-34 years old, the difference among those with increase and those with decrease was 3.6 percentage points in this group), with higher education (the difference of 3.6 percentage points), public sector employees (the difference of 7.3 percentage points) and respondents with middle-income (the difference of 4.7 percentage points). In the meantime, the youngest respondents (18-24 years old, the difference minus 3.9 percentage points) and people without families (the difference minus 8.2 percentage points), on the contrary, experienced the decrease in workload.

Among those respondents who worked remotely, changes in workload were experienced much more often than in the whole panel of respondents (the difference of 9.4 percentage points), however, the incidences of both increase (19.5 percent) and decrease (18.3 interest) among the respondents of this group had also been equally often.

3. Impact on shopping habits

The opinion poll showed that almost half (49.9 percent) of the population had not changed their shopping habits as a result of the pandemic. Among those who indicated that their shopping habits had changed, 38.5 percent visited shops less often without using online shopping, and 9.3 percent preferred online shopping. More than half (53.5 percent) of the population had not changed their payment habits. Another 33.3 percent indicated that they were using a bank card or Internet banking for payments. Banking services had been used relatively more by the younger and middle-aged respondents, by those with higher education, the wealthiest and at the managerial or specialist level. Somewhat peculiarly, the non-citizens of Latvia had used banking services relatively little – the difference with citizens of 13 percentage points was considerable. 10.1 percent of respondents, in turn, had begun using more often cash. The largest share of cash users was among the population with basic education, low income and non-citizen status. The unemployed, pensioners and housewives also used more cash.

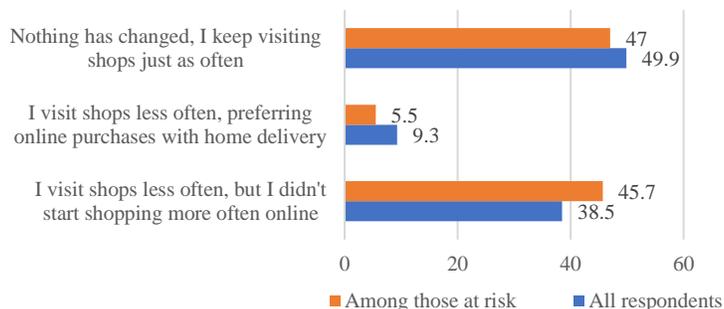
Comparing the data on the change of shopping and payment habits, it can be seen that the change of these habits is the least probable among the most socially vulnerable people. For example, among seniors (64-75 years old), the unemployed, and those living in rural areas, the proportion of respondents who had not changed their shopping habits and did not use banking services for settlements had been significantly higher than in the whole panel of respondents. At the same time, changes in shopping and payment habits had not been observed very often among pupils and students.

Among those respondents who indicated that they were at risk, the proportion of people who visited shops less often was 8.2 percentage points higher. At the same time, online shopping has been less popular in this group – only in 5.5 percent of cases.⁶ This trend could be explained by the fact that the risk group consists mainly of older people (55-75 years old), who have more limited access to the Internet and skills to shop

⁶ The results of the multinomial logistic regression analysis show that respondents in the Covid-19 risk group are 1.83 times less likely (at the statistical significance level of 0.059) than non-risk respondents to prefer to shop online rather than continue shopping in person.

online. As a result, these people are either forced to continue shopping in stores as before, or to give up shopping altogether.

3.1. Figure. Impact on the change of shopping habits of the population, percentage

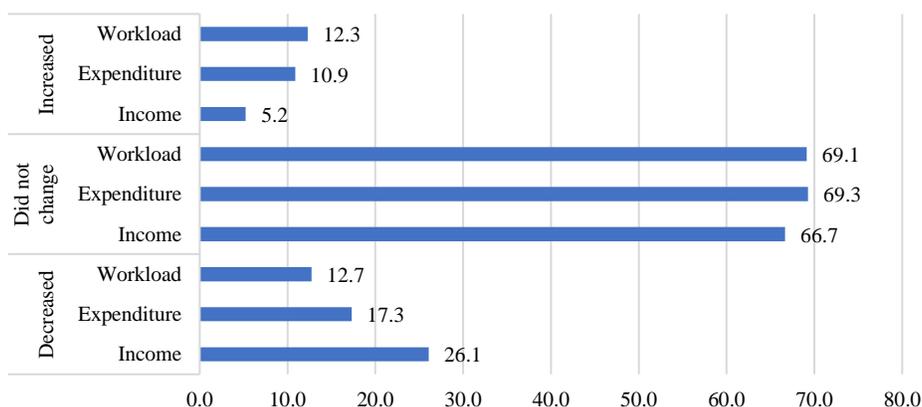


4. Impact on the financial situation of households

26.1 percent of respondents indicated that they had experienced a decrease in income during the pandemic, while 17.3 percent – as well as a decrease in expenditure. In terms of socio-demographic groups, the middle-aged population (33.3 percent of 35-54 years old), large families and families with children (between 27 and 34 percent), those working in the private sector (32 percent), workers (32.8 percent) and the unemployed (37.3 percent) experienced the decrease in income more often.

Compared to data on changes in workload, the opinion poll shows that about two thirds of the society had not experienced significant changes. On the other hand, the one-third affected by the change has seen a larger reduction in income than a reduction in workload and expenditure. The quantitative analysis of respondents' responses showed that the increase in workload had been moderately positively correlated with the increase in household income, which confirms that the principle “the higher the workload, the higher the income” held during the pandemic.⁷

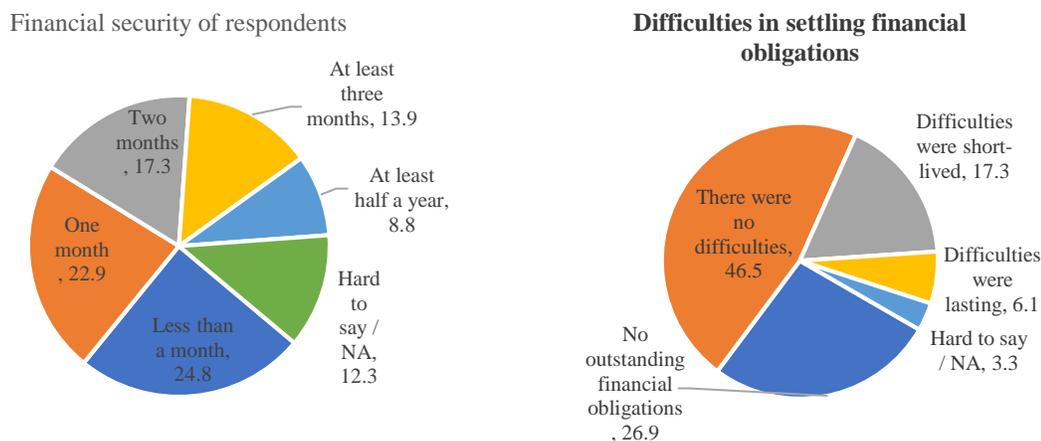
4.1. Figure. Impact on income, expenditure and workload of the population, percentage



⁷ The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two expressions is 0.25 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderately positive correlation, N = 935.

When asked about the impact of the pandemic on the ability to settle the financial commitments, 26.9 percent of respondents declared that they did not have financial obligations and a further 46.5 percent – that they did not experience financial difficulties during the pandemic. Only 23.4 percent of respondents had experienced temporary and lasting financial stress. More often the difficulties were encountered by large families (33.1 percent of cases), non-citizens of Latvia (35.6 percent), housewives (34.1 percent) and the unemployed (33.9 percent). Those employed in the private sector had experienced financial difficulties more often (26.6 percent of cases) than those in the public sector (18.8 percent). The opinion poll also aimed at highlighting the impact of public emergency support programs on the financial situation of beneficiaries. Although the answers of the respondents showed that among those who received the public emergency support, there were by 6.2 percentage points more of those who experienced financial difficulties (30.7 percent), this correlation was not statistically significant.

4.2. Figure. Population financial security, percentage



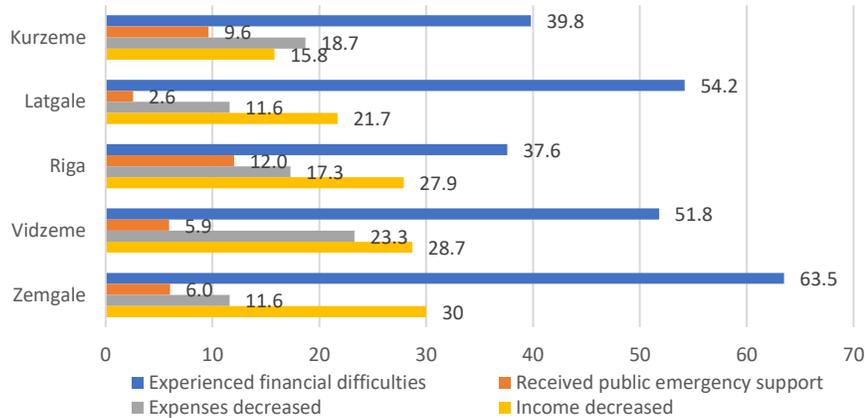
Only 22.7 percent of respondents indicated that by losing their monthly income, they would be able to cover their current expenses without borrowing for more than three months. Almost half (47.7 percent) indicated that they would only be able to do so for a month or less. The most financially disadvantaged were single people (from 53 to 62 percent), those with primary education (61.4 percent), housewives (63.6 percent), the unemployed (60 percent) and those on low incomes (75.8 percent).

Thinking about black and white days in the future, 35.7 percent of respondents had admitted the idea of saving money in the future and 16.5 percent – that they have already decided to do so. The opinion poll also confirmed that the longer a respondent was able to survive without income, the more likely he or she was among those who have decided to make savings for rainy days.⁸ The analysis of multinomial logistic regression also revealed a very close relationship between the view on the lasting financial difficulties and the respondents' intention to emigrate. For example, the probability that a respondent who has decided to leave Latvia had experienced lasting financial difficulties was 7.5 times higher (at statistical significance level 0.000, N = 960) than in the case of those respondents who had not thought about leaving Latvia.

⁸ The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two groups of respondents is 0.31 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderately strong correlation, N = 845.

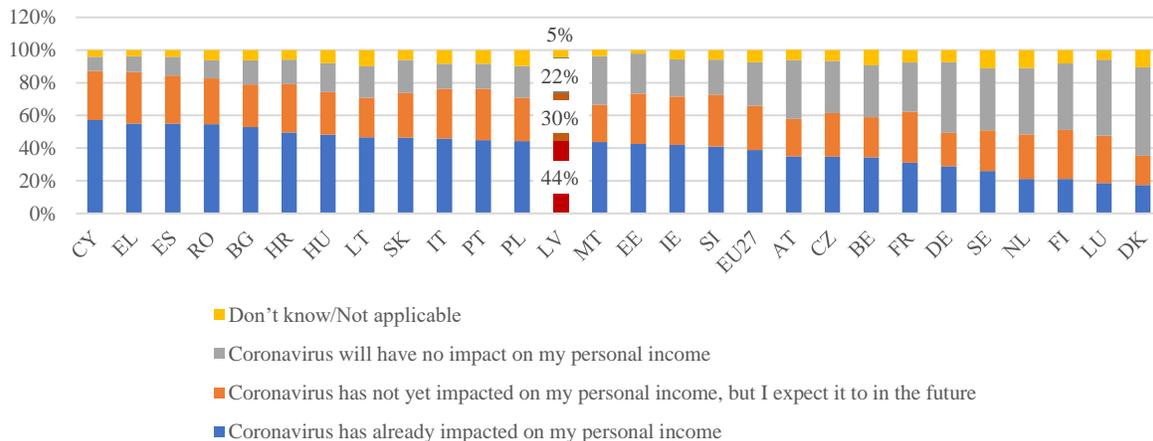
The opinion poll also confirmed that the impact of the pandemic had considerable regional differences. In Riga, a relatively large part of respondents (27.9 percent) experienced a decrease in income, however, compared to other regions the share of those who encountered financial difficulties (37.6 percent) was the lowest. The worst situation was in Zemgale – there the share of the population that experienced a decrease in income was the largest (30 percent) and the share of those who experienced difficulties in settling their liabilities (63.5 percent) – the highest. There were also relatively few people in Zemgale who received the public emergency support - only 6 percent.

4.3. Figure. Financial situation of the population by regional breakdown, percentage



By comparison, a public opinion poll by the European Parliament conducted in September and October revealed that the pandemic has had impact on income of 44% of people in Latvia and that another 29% admitted that they expected this impact still be felt. These data are also not directly comparable with the *reCOVery-LV* opinion poll, nevertheless they allow to position the situation in Latvia in relation to the peer member states of the EU – Latvia had been the 13th worst hit.

4.4. Figure. Impact of the pandemic on people’s income in EU Member States, percentage



Source: “Uncertainty / EU / Hope, Public opinion in times of Covid-19,” Third Round Public opinion survey commissioned by the European Parliament

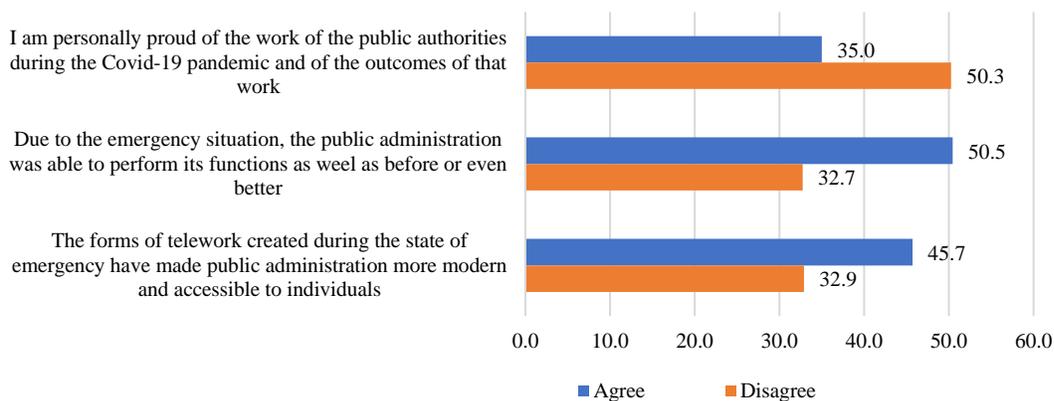
5. Assessment of the work of public authorities during a pandemic

Half of the respondents (50.5 percent) agreed with the view that due to the state of emergency, the public authorities were able to perform their functions as well or even better. The greatest support for this view was among young people and seniors (between 53 and 57 percent), among respondents with higher education (57.4 percent), in families without children (53.7 percent), and in middle-income groups (between 53 and 58 percent).

In turn, 45.7 percent of respondents agreed with the opinion that the forms of telework created due to the emergency situation have made public administration more modern and more accessible to individuals. Entrepreneurs (56.5 percent), respondents with large families (between 48 and 50 percent), middle-aged respondents (48.5 percent) and those working in the private sector (48.3 percent) were more inclined to agree with this view.

About a third (35 percent) of respondents admitted they were proud of the work of these public authorities during the pandemic. Pride was more pronounced among pensioners (45.3 percent), public sector employees (40.8 percent), respondents with higher education, and Latvians (39.5 and 39.5 percent correspondingly). The analysis of the data showed that among those respondents at risk, pride in the work of public authorities has been slightly more pronounced.⁹

5.1. Figure. Respondents' attitude towards the work of state institutions during the pandemics, percentage

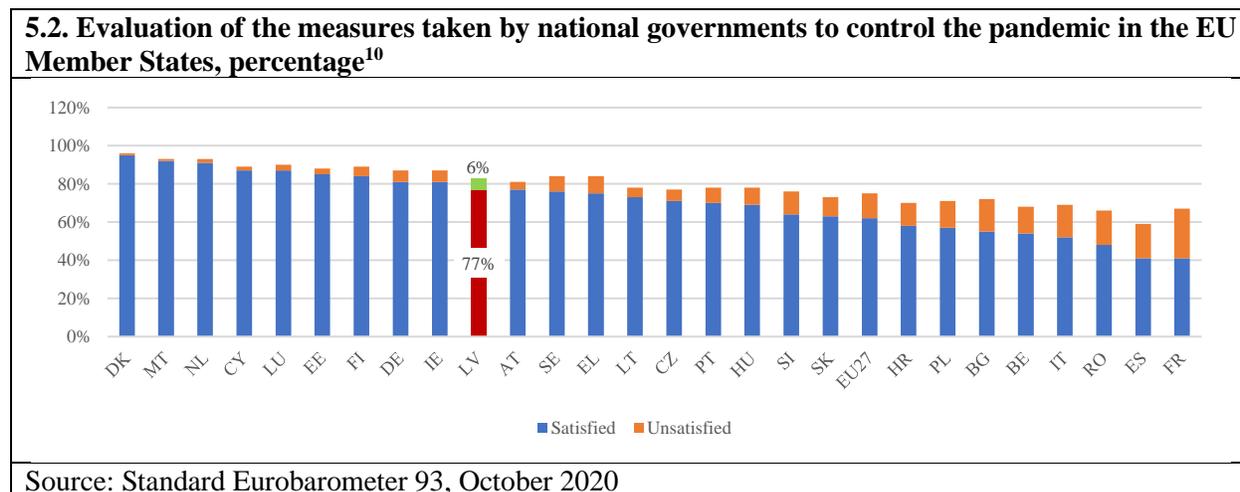


Significant opinion differences were observed among the regions of Latvia. The greatest support for the work of state institutions had been in Vidzeme and among the rural population. For example, 62.9 percent of respondents and 54.9 percent of the rural population agreed that public institutions performed as well or even better. In turn, 61.6 percent in Vidzeme and 51 percent in rural areas agreed with the opinion that remote forms of work have made state institutions more modern. The feeling of pride in the work of state institutions in Vidzeme and in the countryside had also been much more common – 57.1 percent of Vidzeme residents and 41.5 percent of rural people agreed with this opinion. At the same time, the lowest support of

⁹ The Spearman correlation coefficient between being at risk and pride in the work of public authorities is 0.11 (at the level of statistical significance 0.016), which indicates a weak but positive correlation, N = 807.

state institutions was observed in Kurzeme: there only 38.9 percent agreed that institutions were able to function just as well and 26.4 percent – that they had become more modern.

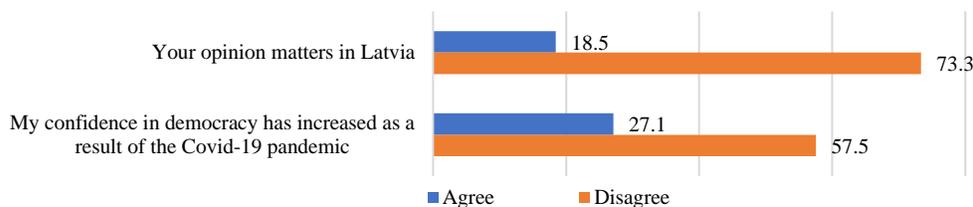
By comparison, a public opinion poll by Eurobarometer conducted in July and August showed that 77% in Latvia were satisfied with the government's work during the pandemic. Although these data are not directly comparable with the opinion poll of the *reCOVery-LV*, the Eurobarometer poll allows to assess the degree of satisfaction with the government's work in relation to other EU member states – accordingly, Latvia had the 10th best rating.



Assessing the impact of the state of emergency on the attitude towards democracy, the relevance of citizens' voice for the state and trust in the institutions, the following picture emerged from the respondents' answers:

- 27.1 percent of respondents agreed to the view that confidence in democracy had increased during the pandemic. Relatively high support for such a position was among the elderly respondents (in over 30 percent cases) and those living in Vidzeme (44.8 percent), while the lowest – among housewives (8.7%), the unemployed (16.2%) and those living in Kurzeme (17.4 percent);
- The ranks of respondents who thought that their opinion mattered in Latvia was much lower – only in 18.5 percent of cases. Respondents with higher education (25.1 percent), the middle-aged generation (24 percent) and those working in the public sector (22.6 percent) answered in the affirmative more often, while the unemployed (4.7 percent), the low-income population (10 percent) and non-citizens of Latvia (10.5 percent) – affirmative in the least number of cases. In terms of regions, the highest level of self-confidence was observed in Latgale (24.2 percent) and the lowest – in Kurzeme (9.1 percent);

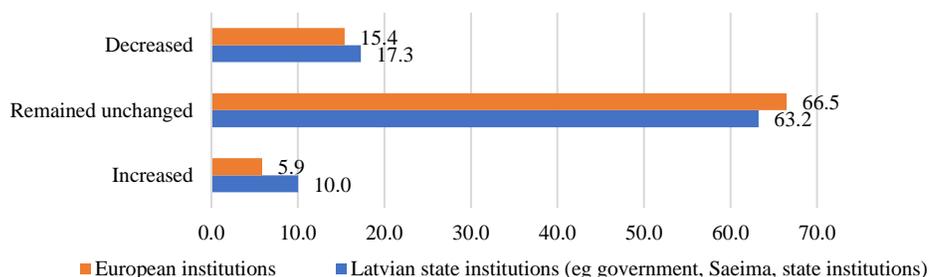
5.2. Figure. Respondents' view on the relevance citizens' voice and democracy, percentage



¹⁰ Eurobarometer data are not directly comparable with the *reCOVery-LV* opinion poll data, as the selection criteria for the panel of respondents differ.

- Trust in state institutions had increased in 10 percent of cases and decreased in 17.3 percent of cases during the pandemic, which points to declining support for state institutions in total. Trust most often was lost among those with primary education (the difference between the cases of increase and decrease of trust was -18.8 percent), those on low incomes (-15.1 percent), the unemployed and housewives (-14 percent in both cases), among those working in the private sector (-10.2 percent) and in families with children (-10.1 percent). The most widespread drop in confidence (-33 percent) was observed in Zemgale. It should be noted that there was a moderately positive correlation between the view that the public emergency support was effective enough to help the country cope better with economic difficulties and the view that trust has increased in public institutions.¹¹ People at risk also tended to trust public authorities slightly more frequently;¹²
- The pandemic had also eroded trust in the EU institutions – even to a greater extent than in national institutions. In the case of the EU institutions, the difference between respondents who trusted and those who did not was minus 9.5 percentage points. Trust in EU institutions was particularly low among the unemployed (-20 percent) and those living in Zemgale (-16.9 percent). In the case of the EU institutions, the lack of trust was more prevalent among respondents without a family – these people were more likely to trust the national public institutions.

5.2. Figure. Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on trust in public institutions, percentage

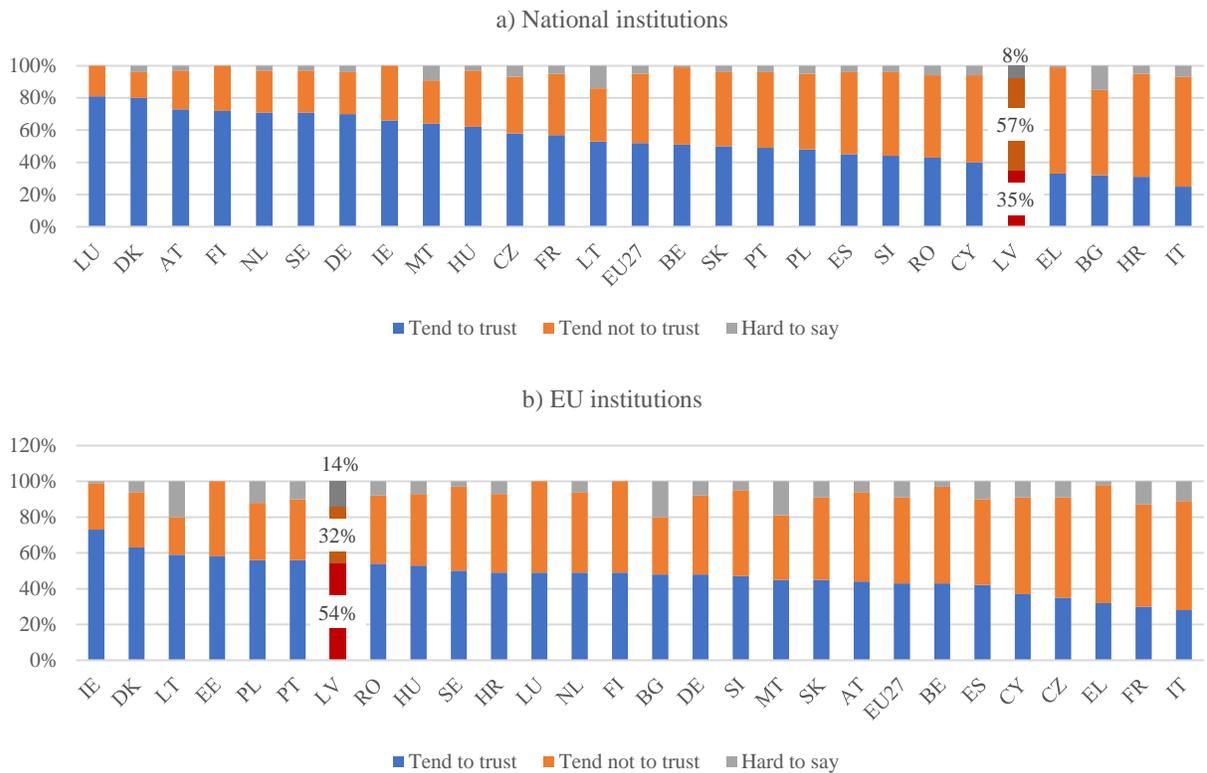


The change in citizens' trust in institutions due to the pandemic must be assessed in the context of the overall level of trust in these institutions. The data of the Eurobarometer show that in Latvia in October 2020 the public trust in the EU institutions was much higher than in the national state institutions. Consequently, although trust in the EU institutions had had the largest drop due to the pandemic, the majority of Latvian people (54 percent) still trusted the EU institutions, the rate which is much higher than for the national institutions (35 percent).

¹¹ The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two groups of respondents is 0.38 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderate correlation, N = 801.

¹² The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two groups of respondents is 0.12 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a weak correlation, N = 858.

5.4. Figure. Public trust in public administrations in EU Member States in 2020, percentage¹³

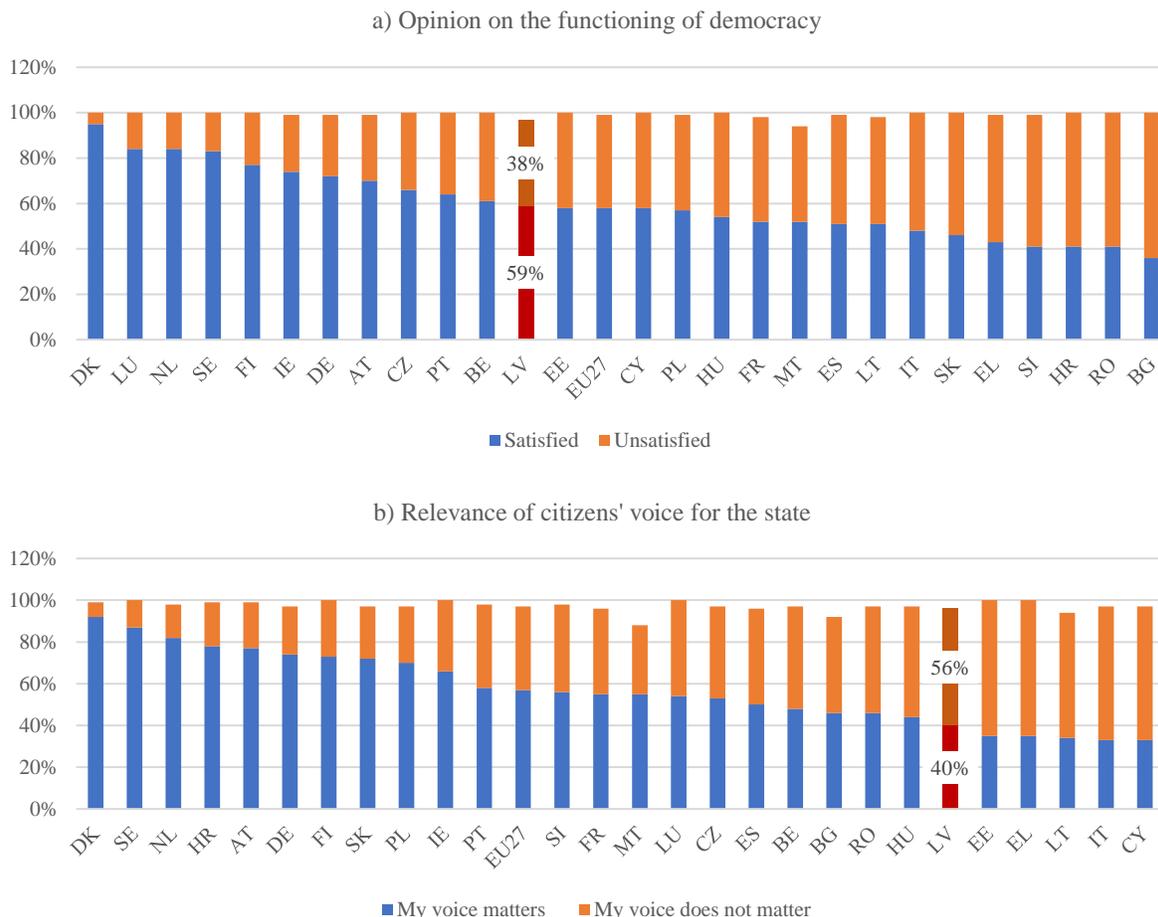


Source: Standard Eurobarometer 93, October 2020

Compared to other EU member states, in October 2020, public satisfaction with democracy in Latvia was relatively high (59 percent), but public self-confidence, which is reflected in the assessment of the relevance of citizens' voice for the state, was one of the lowest (40 percent).

¹³ Eurobarometer data are not directly comparable with the reCOVerry-LV survey data, as the selection criteria for the set of respondents differ.

5.5. Figure. Public opinion on the functioning of democracy and the influence of citizens in the EU Member States in 2020, percentage¹⁴

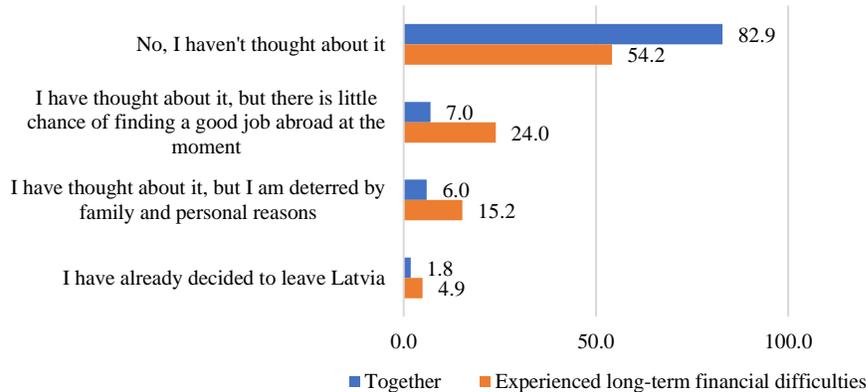


Source: Standard Eurobarometer 93, October 2020

The respondents' attitude towards emigration was also clarified during the opinion poll. The main conclusion was that the pandemic did not encourage the population to leave Latvia: 82.9 percent of respondents admitted that they did not think about leaving Latvia. The idea of leaving Latvia most often (in 47.8 percent of cases) was perpetrated by those who experienced long-term financial difficulties, but actually only 4.9 percent had decided to leave Latvia: family, personal reasons and the fact that there are few opportunities to find abroad a good job deterred from emigration.

¹⁴ Eurobarometer data are not directly comparable with the *reCOVery-LV* survey data, as the selection criteria for the set of respondents differ.

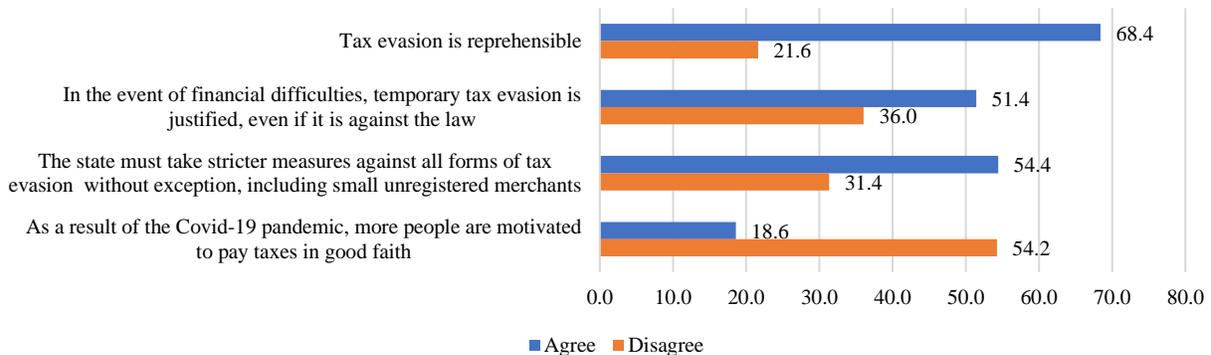
5.5. Figure. Respondents' intentions regarding emigration, percentage



6. Assessment of the impact on tax discipline

Two-thirds (68.4 percent) of respondents agreed with the view that tax evasion is a reprehensible behavior, but only 18.6 percent agreed with the view that people prefer to pay taxes as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Additional data analysis, however, revealed that there was a weak correlation between these two views, namely, those who condemned tax evasion showed a tendency to agree with the statement that people are more willing to pay taxes as a result of a pandemic.¹⁵

6.1. Figure. Respondents' attitude towards tax discipline, percentage



Condemnation of tax evasion was more pronounced among pensioners (in 81.2 percent of cases), housewives (79.2 percent), entrepreneurs (78.8 percent) and high-income groups (76.4 percent). Lonely people (between 14.4 and 16.4 percent of cases), those with higher education (14.8 percent), Russian-speakers (14.3 percent) and those on high incomes (9.7 percent) were the least convinced of the pandemic's positive impact on tax morale. In terms of regions, the most pessimistic about the positive impact of the pandemic on tax morale were Kurzeme residents (6.7 percent), but the most optimistic – Zemgale residents (35.4 percent).

¹⁵ The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two views is 0.09 (at the level of statistical significance 0.023), which indicates a weakly positive correlation, N = 689.

A relatively large majority of respondents also agreed to the view that in case of financial difficulties, temporary tax evasion can be tolerated (51.4 percent) and the view that the state should take stronger action against tax evaders without exception, including small businesses (54.4 percent). Correlation analysis showed that there was a moderately close, negative correlation between these two views.¹⁶ This was logical: the more people agree that all tax evaders without exception should be treated more severely, the less they will agree that exceptional / temporary exceptions to this principle should be allowed.

Crossing respondents' responses also revealed that those who were positive about the effectiveness of the emergency support provided to businesses and the state also agreed that, on average, it was appropriate to provide state support only to those who had paid their taxes in good faith.¹⁷ Those who were positive about the public emergency support programs also tended to agree that tax evasion should be tackled more vigorously¹⁸ and that people were more likely to pay taxes as a result of a pandemic.¹⁹

On the other hand, among those respondents who agreed to the view that temporary tax evasion is permissible in case of financial difficulties, there was a much higher proportion of those who also considered that in the event of a pandemic state support should also be provided to those who earn income in the shadow economy.²⁰ In the meantime, there was a weak negative but statistically significant correlation between the view that the state should take stronger action against tax evaders and the view that public support for those in difficulty should have been much higher, even if it meant more public debt and higher future tax burden.²¹

The main reasons why people do not pay taxes, according to the respondents, were too low wages after tax (54.3 percent) and too high tax rates (45.8 percent). On the one hand, this shows that the reasons for low tax discipline are primarily of a socio-economic nature and that poor quality work by public tax authorities (excessive bureaucracy and impunity) are by no means the most important factors. On the other hand, this distribution of respondents' answers also shows that the public actually does not expect more radical action from the state in combating tax evaders, an attitude which is at odds with the fact that Latvia has one of the highest shadow economies in the EU.²²

¹⁶ Spearman correlation coefficient between both opinions -0.32 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderately negative correlation, N = 808.

¹⁷ The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two views was 0.37 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderately positive correlation, N = 796.

¹⁸ The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two views was 0.35 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderately positive correlation, N = 755.

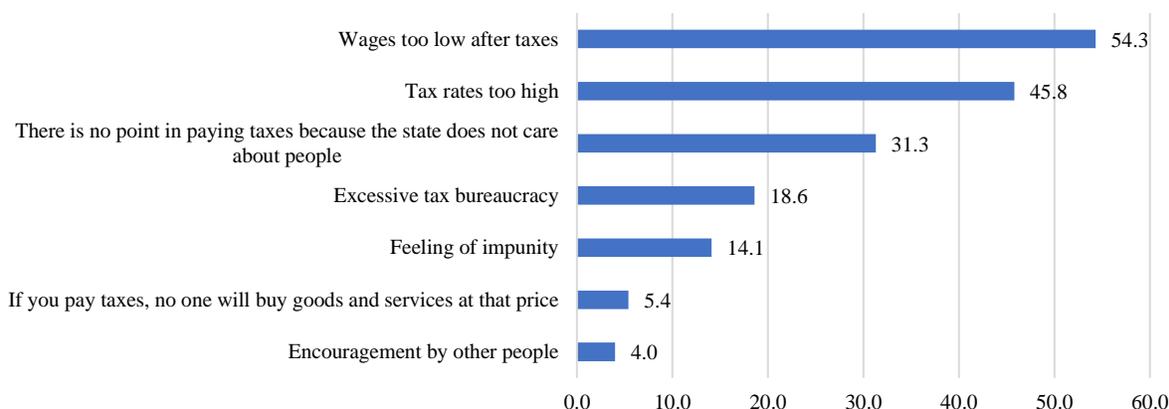
¹⁹ The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two views is 0.27 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderately positive correlation, N = 670.

²⁰ The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two views was 0.31 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderately strong correlation, N = 766.

²¹ Spearman correlation coefficient between both opinions -0.10 (at the level of statistical significance 0.006), which indicates a moderately strong correlation, N = 734.

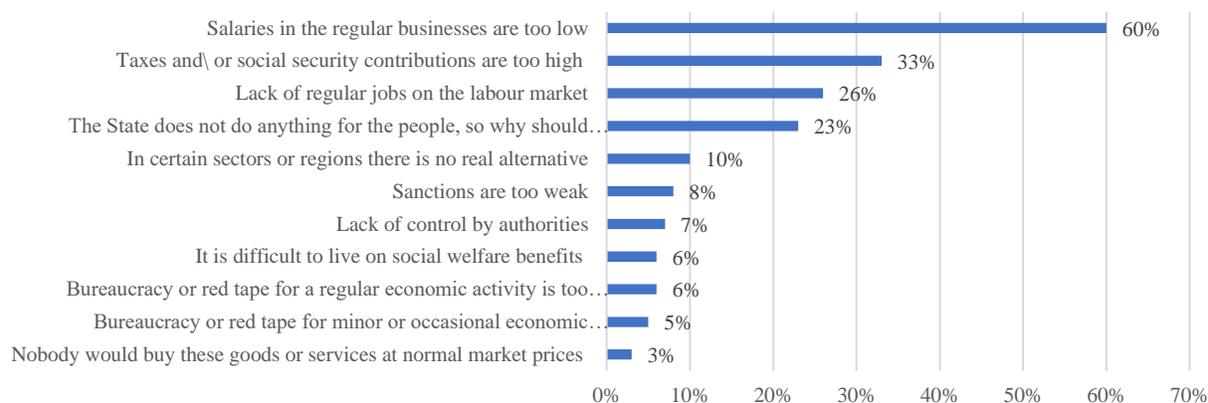
²² Ben Kelmanson et al. (2019), *Explaining the Shadow Economy in Europe: Size, Causes and Policy Options*, IMF Working paper WP/19/278.

6.3. Figure. Respondents' opinion on the reasons why people do not pay taxes, percentage



Comparing these data with the results of a similar Eurobarometer survey on undeclared work in 2013,²³ it can be seen that the public view had not changed much since then by putting socio-economic reasons for tax evasion in the first place.

6.4. Figure. Eurobarometer survey on the reasons why people choose undeclared work (first and second choice combined), 2013, percentage



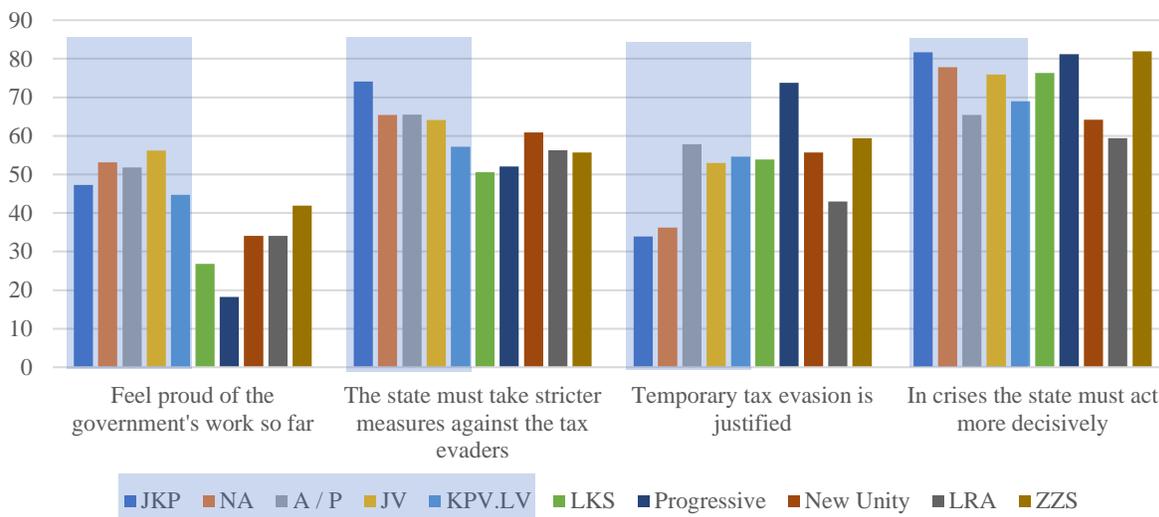
the respondents who trusted public authorities were more likely to agree that tax evasion was reprehensible, and that tax evasion should be tackled more vigorously.²⁴ Crossing the respondents' answers to the questions of tax discipline with the respondents' political sympathies, it was possible to detect that among the supporters of the coalition of the ruling parties there was more support for both the actions of the current government and for more fiscally responsible state policy. Likewise, the data also show that pride in the government's work during the pandemic was felt mainly by supporters of the ruling parties and the

²³ Eurobarometer 79.2, Terrain / Fieldwork: 26/04 - 14/05/2013, Undeclared work in the European Union, Special Eurobarometer 402.

²⁴ Spearman correlation coefficient between the two opinions is 0.26 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderately strong correlation, N = 813.

"right-ring" parties, while supporters of the opposition and "left-wing" parties did not share this enthusiasm.²⁵

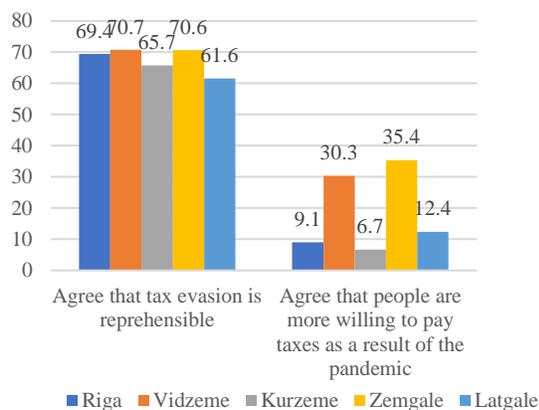
6.5. Figure. Attitudes of respondents in terms of party sympathies, percentage



Overall, the opinion poll confirmed that the majority of the public considered the emergency programs implemented by the state to be adequate and associated them with fiscal prudence. However, a clear cleavage could be detected between, on the one hand, those respondents advocating both tighter tax discipline and more responsible fiscal policies – these people tended to support a more restrictive approach to national emergency support programs, and, on the other hand, those who advocated both weaker tax and fiscal discipline – these people advocated for more inclusive public support programs.

The opinion poll also confirmed the hypothesis by other studies about the significant gap between formal (i.e., legislative requirements that embody public morality) and informal institutions (i.e., unwritten norms

6.2. Figure. Estimates of public and private tax morale by regions, percent



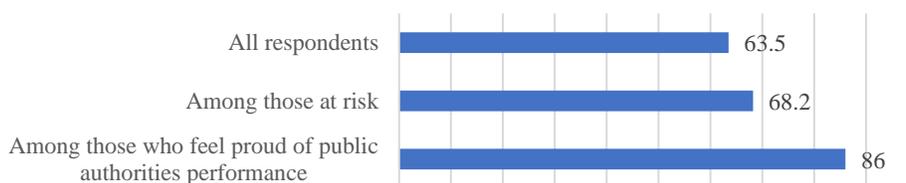
²⁵ Pearson chi-square between the two groups of respondents was 52.8 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), N = 864.

of behavior that embody civic morality) in the field of taxation in Latvia.²⁶ Agreeing with the view that tax evasion is reprehensible reflects existing public morality, while the view of the pandemic's positive impact on tax payment reflects civic morality. The public opinion poll demonstrated that this gap was particularly wide in Kurzeme, Riga and Latgale. The conclusion about the existing gap between formal and informal institutions was also indirectly confirmed by the respondents' view on the reasons why people do not pay taxes, namely, that people were relatively unlikely to blame the state for inefficiency in tax administration, which implied that people did not expect more decisive tax action from the government.

7. Looking to the future

The majority – 63.5 percent – of respondents believed that in the event of a recurrence of the Covid-19 pandemic, the same or even stricter restrictions on human contact should be introduced. Among those respondents at risk, support for stricter restrictive measures was even higher at 68.2 percent,²⁷ and among those who were proud of the work of public authorities so far, as many as 86 percent.²⁸

7.1. Figure. Support for stronger restrictive measures in the event of a recurrent pandemic wave, percentage



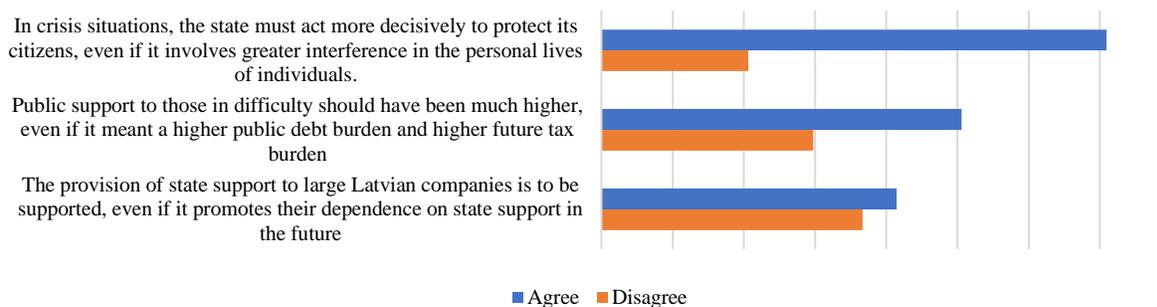
At the same time, 70.9 percent of the respondents agreed with the view that in crisis situations, the state should act more decisively, even if it would involve greater interference in the personal lives of individuals. The majority of respondents (50.6 percent) were also in favor of a more flexible fiscal policy, meaning that state support for those in difficulty should have been much higher, even if it meant a higher public debt and tax burden in the future. In addition, 41.4 percent considered that the provision of state support to large Latvian companies should be supported, even if it promoted their dependence on state support in the future.

²⁶ Colin C. Williams & Ioana A. Horodnic (2015) Explaining and tackling the shadow economy in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania: a tax morale approach, *Baltic Journal of Economics*, 15: 2, 81-98, DOI: 10.1080 / 1406099X.2015.1114714 , 82.

²⁷ Spearman correlation coefficient between the last two groups of respondents 0.09 (at the level of statistical significance 0.010), which indicates a positive weak correlation, N = 835.

²⁸ The Spearman correlation coefficient between the two views was 0.32 (at the level of statistical significance 0.000), which indicates a moderately positive correlation, N = 802.

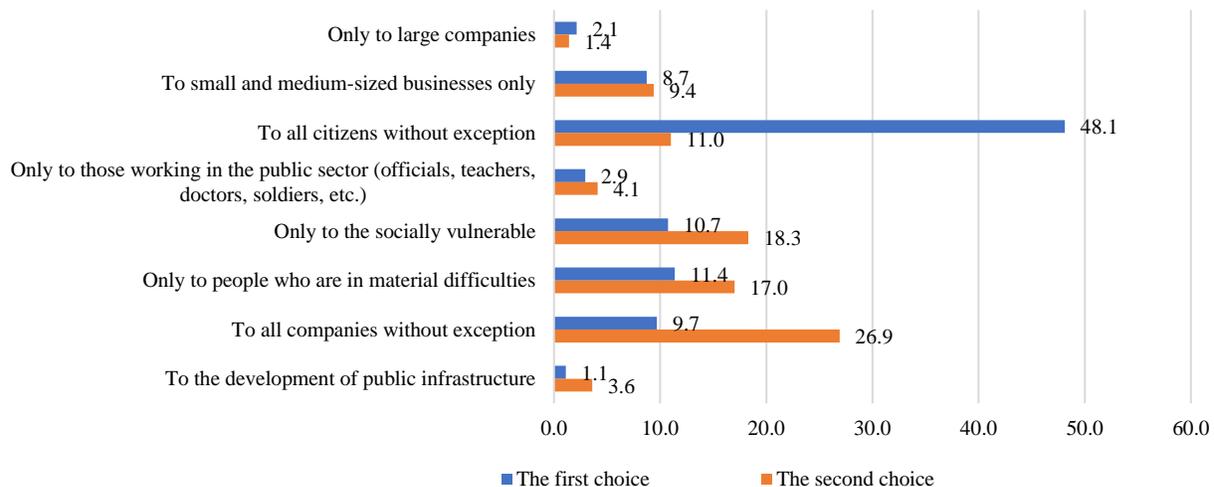
7.2. Figure. Respondents' view of values, percentage



51.9 percent of respondents agreed that without EU support Latvia would not have been able to successfully contain the pandemic, while 61.6 percent – that the fight against the pandemic would be better implemented at the EU level.

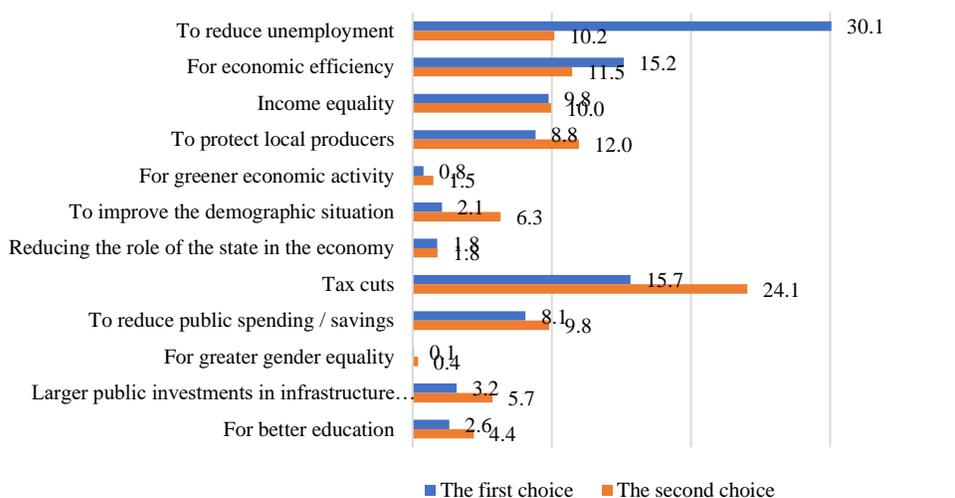
When asked what should be the focus of public support in the event of a recurrent wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in Latvia, almost half (48.1 percent) as the first choice indicated that support should be provided to all citizens without exception, and 26.9 percent as a second choice – that support should be provided to all companies without exception.

7.4. Figure. Preferred directions of state support in case of repeated pandemic wave, percentage



On the other hand, the answers to the question of what the government should focus on when thinking about future economic development indicated that the first priority should be to reduce unemployment (30.1 percent) and the second priority – to reduce taxes (24.1 percent).

7.5. Figure. Respondents' view of future economic development priorities, percentage



8. Regional differences

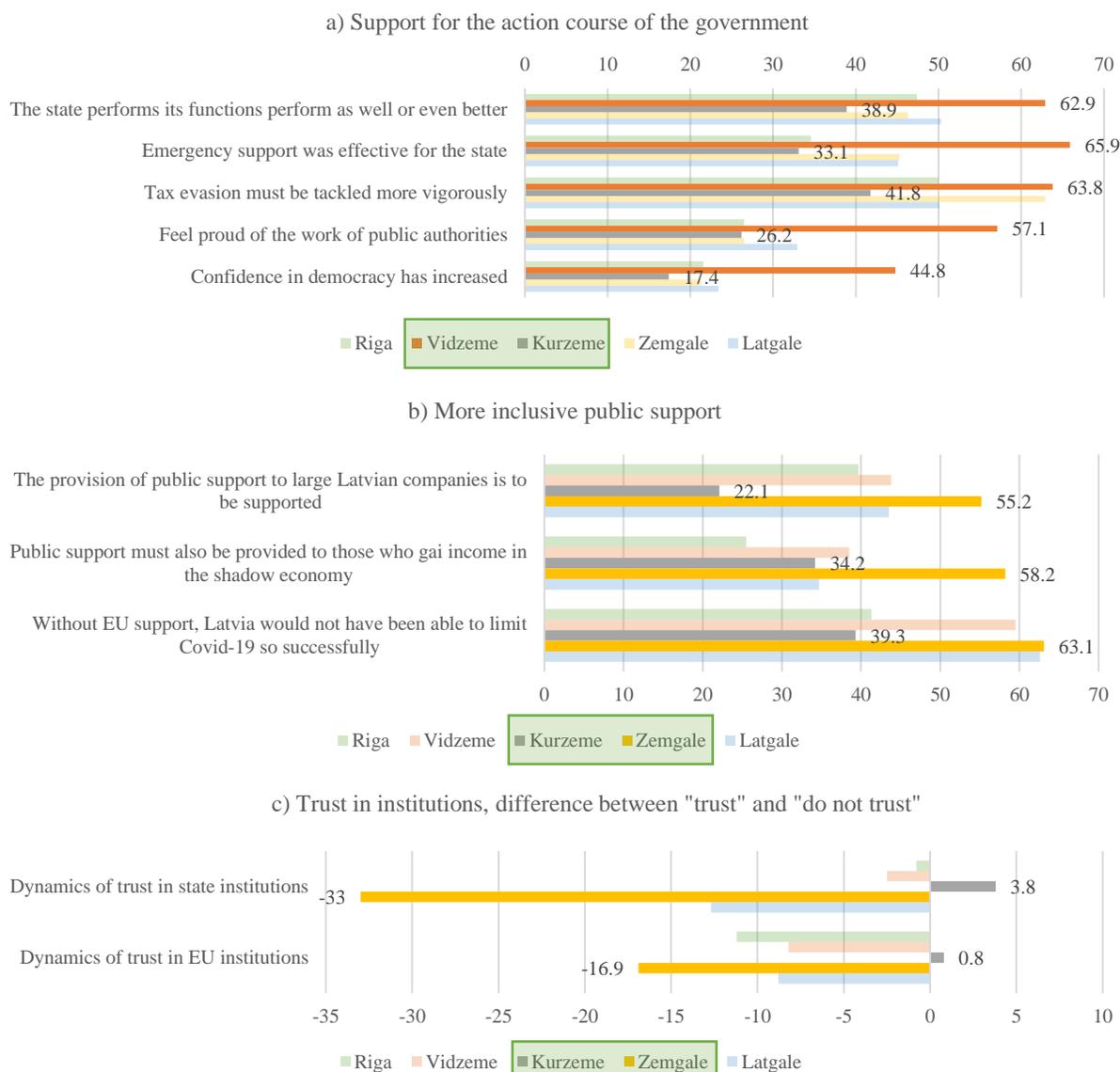
The public opinion revealed significant differences between regions.

The most support for the political course implemented by the government was felt in Vidzeme. Here, the state's work during the pandemic and the emergency support programs were rated positively most often. Vidzeme also had the greatest support for a more conservative approach to the implementation of state support programs and greater tax discipline. In the meantime, people in Vidzeme were more supportive of democracy.

In Kurzeme, in contrast to Vidzeme, there was a pronounced "anti-establishment" mood: low support for government support programs, low faith in democracy and people's voice on the state, and also the lowest regard of pandemics positive impact on tax morale. Respondents in Kurzeme also had the lowest desire to admit greater intervention of state institutions (national and European Union) in economic processes. This positioning of Kurzeme residents took place despite the fact that Kurzeme had the second highest level of recipients of state emergency support (after Riga) and the lowest proportion of respondents who admitted that they had experienced financial difficulties.

In Zemgale, in contrast to Vidzeme and Kurzeme, people were expecting more ambitious and inclusive state support programs. In Zemgale people also had higher aspirations for the EU's role in dealing with the pandemic. The dominance of such opinion in Zemgale, however, was not surprising, because in Zemgale the share of those who experienced financial difficulties was the largest. Presumably these unfulfilled expectations in Zemgale had transformed into the most noticeable decline in trust in state (both national and EU) institutions in this region.

Figure 8.1. Differences of opinion by region, percentage*



(*) Comparison method: analysis of variance or ANOVA; based on a comparison of average values. All differences shown are statistically significant (at the level of statistical significance 0.000)

9. Conclusions

Overall, the opinion poll highlighted a number of important opinion trends:

1. Majority of people considered the state emergency programs implemented to be adequate and associated them with fiscal prudence. However, there was a clear cleavage between, on the one hand, those advocating tighter tax discipline and more responsible fiscal policy – these people tend to support more restrictive access to national emergency support programs –, and, on the other hand, those who advocate weaker tax and fiscal discipline – these people advocate for more inclusive state support programs.

2. Entrepreneurs' assessment of the effectiveness of national emergency programs for companies was slightly more pessimistic than for society as a whole, but these differences were not statistically significant. At the same time, entrepreneurs had a much better impression of the remote work of public authorities during a pandemic than society as a whole.
3. The public supports a greater role of the state in dealing with crises caused by pandemics, such as Covid-19. More to that, in anticipation of a greater role for the state, society would be prepared to accept the limitations on such fundamental values of a liberal state as individual freedom and the inviolability of personal life.
4. There was a high level of compassion and solidarity towards the most vulnerable members of society: people were in favor of more state support in times of crisis – even when recognizing that this would lead to a higher tax burden in the future.
5. Society strived for greater social equality, as evidenced by the desire for public support to be as inclusive and non-discriminatory as possible.
6. The gap between formal and informal tax institutions in Latvia had persisted, pointing to weak tax morale. This gap was particularly wide in Kurzeme, Riga and Latgale.

The questionnaire of the opinion poll was based on several research hypotheses. The outcomes are summarized in Table 8.1.

8.1. Table. Summary of survey research hypotheses		
No. pk	Hypothesis	The result
1.	The low-income groups and those earning income in the shadow economy have been hit hardest by the Covid-19 crisis.	Confirmed for low-income earners, while indirectly for the shadow economy (under the assumption that non-citizens and Russian-speakers are more engaged in informal activity)
2.	The public support provided to the population was effective enough to alleviate the tense material situation of people.	Not confirmed
3.	The public support provided to entrepreneurs was effective enough to help entrepreneurs overcome the crisis.	Confirmed
4.	While traditionally trust in state institutions has been the lowest in among low-educated and low-income groups, due to the public support during the pandemic trust in public institutions has grown among the low-income group, while decreased among the low-educated population.	Confirmed in part because confidence has fallen also in the low-income group
5.	As a result of the Covid-19 crisis, public confidence in national institutions has increased and in international organizations such as the European Union has fallen.	Confirmed in part. Confidence has also fallen for national institutions, but to a lesser extent
6.	The Covid-19 crisis has led to an increase in public support for authoritarianism and a decline in democracy.	Not explicitly confirmed, although implicitly increased support for a greater role for the state at the

		expense of personal freedoms, points in this direction
7.	As a result of the Covid-19 crisis, public support for conservative values has increased while for liberal values – has increased.	Not explicitly confirmed, although the popularity of the view on the greater discipline, for example, in tax matters, implicitly point in this direction
8.	As a result of the Covid-19 crisis, public support for protectionism and state support for large companies has increased.	Confirmed for large companies, but in respect to protectionism shortage of data
9.	Low tax discipline is more prevalent among men, young people, people with low income and low level of education, people with low trust in the state and fellow citizens, unmarried individuals, and ethnic minority communities.	Confirmed
10.	Tax discipline is less affected by the bureaucratic procedures and perceptions of the low efficiency of public spending than by low incomes compared to high tax rates.	Confirmed
11.	Public support during the Covid-19 crisis has increased the voluntary payment of taxes by the population.	Not confirmed
12.	Support to the ruling coalition parties is positively correlated with the perception of the government's successful work during the Covid-19 crisis and the results achieved.	Confirmed

QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE OPINION POLL

Questions to clarify the economic, political and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

U1. First of all, we would like to ask you to answer a number of personal questions.

		Yes	no	Hard to say / NA
1	Do you belong to the group of people for whom the Covid-19 infection may result in severe consequences or even be fatal?	1	2	8
2	Did you personally apply, or have you been applied for the public support during the Covid-19 pandemic?	1	2	8
3	Did you receive the public emergency support in any form related to Covid-19?	1	2	8
4	Did you work remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic?	1	2	8

U2. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you currently with your current life? Please rate your attitude on a 10-point scale, where '1' means - 'you are completely dissatisfied', '10' - 'you are completely satisfied'!

1- Completely dissatisfied	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - Completely satisfied	Hard to say / NA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	98

U3. If the Saeima elections took place tomorrow, what political force would you vote for?

U4. Compared to the situation before the Covid-19 pandemic, your household income has...?

One answer

Significantly decreased	1
Slightly reduced	2
Not changed	3
Slightly grown up	4
Significantly grown	5
Hard to say / NA	8

U5. Compared to the situation before the Covid-19 pandemic, how has your household expenditure changed? Have they...

One answer

Significantly decreased	1
Slightly reduced	2
Not changed	3
Slightly grown up	4
Significantly grown	5
Hard to say / NA	8

U6. During the Covid-19 pandemic, did you / your household experience difficulty in settling the earlier assumed financial obligations (e.g., credit, leasing, bills)?

One answer

The household has no outstanding financial obligations	1
No, there were no difficulties	2
Yes, there were difficulties, but they were short-lived	3
Yes, there were lasting difficulties	4
Hard to say / NA	8

U7. Losing your monthly income, how long would you be able to cover your current expenses without borrowing?

One answer

Less than 1 month	1
1 month	2
2 months	3
At least 3 months	4
At least half a year	5
Hard to say / NA	8

U8. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, have you decided to save money for more rainy days in the future?

One answer

No, I haven't thought about it so far	1
I consider the idea of leaving	2
Yes, I have decided to do so	3
Hard to say / NA	8

U9. During the Covid-19 pandemic, people were urged to limit the frequency of going to stores and instead make more purchases online. Compared to the situation before the Covid-19 pandemic, how have your shopping habits changed?

One answer

I visit stores less often, but I didn't start shopping more often online	1
I visit stores less often, preferring online purchases with home delivery	2
Nothing has changed, I keep visiting stores just as often	3
Hard to say / NA	8

U10. Compared to the situation before the Covid-19 pandemic, how have your habits when paying for purchases changed?

One answer

I use a bank card or Internet banking more for payments	1
I use cash more for payments	2
I use one of the virtual currencies for payments (for example, BitCoin)	3
I use purchases on credit or paying in installments more often	4
Nothing has changed	5
Hard to say / NA	8

U11. Compared to the situation before the Covid-19 pandemic, how has your overall workload changed?

One answer - this question is about the workload in general, not just what is in your remunerated work!

Significantly decreased	1
Decreased	2
Increased	3
Significantly increased	4
Has not changed	5
Hard to say / NA	8

U12. During the Covid-19 crisis, have you considered leaving Latvia?

One answer

No, I haven't thought about it	1
I have thought about it, but there is little chance of finding a good job abroad at the moment	2
I have thought about it, but I am deterred by family and personal reasons	3
I have already decided to leave Latvia	4
Hard to say / NA	8

U13. With the rapid increase in the number of people infected with Covid-19 infection, the Latvian government introduced a series of measures in March 2020 to curb the spread of the infection and prevent a sharp drop in demand, mass corporate bankruptcies and livelihoods. Please tell me if you strongly agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements.

	Question / statement	Totally agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Totally disagree	Hard to say / NA
1	Overall, the public emergency support has helped companies to better cope with the economic difficulties	1	2	3	4	8
2	Overall, the public emergency support has been sufficiently effective and has helped the state to better cope with the economic difficulties	1	2	3	4	8
3	It is right to provide the public support only to those who have paid their taxes in good faith	1	2	3	4	8
4	In the event of a pandemic, the public support must also be provided to those who earn income in the shadow economy	1	2	3	4	8
5	The public support to those in difficulty should have been much higher, even if it meant a higher public debt burden and higher future tax burden	1	2	3	4	8
6	I am personally proud of the work of the public authorities during the Covid-19 pandemic and of the results of that work	1	2	3	4	8
7	My confidence in democracy has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic	1	2	3	4	8

8	Without the support of the European Union, Latvia would not have been able to limit Covid-19 so successfully	1	2	3	4	8
9	The fight against pandemics such as Covid-19 and their consequences are best implemented at European Union level rather than at national level	1	2	3	4	8
10	In the event of a recurrence of the Covid-19 pandemic, the restrictions on human contacting introduced should be as stringent or even stricter	1	2	3	4	8

CARD U14

U14. In the event that Latvia is affected by a repeated wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, what should state support be focused on in the first place?

Please mark the 2 most important groups in order of priority

	U14.1 <i>The first choice</i>	U14.2 <i>The second choice</i>
Only to large companies	1	1
To small and medium-sized businesses only	2	2
To all citizens without exception	3	3
Only to those working in the public sector (officials, teachers, doctors, soldiers, etc.)	4	4
Only to the socially vulnerable	5	5
Only to people who are in material difficulties	6	6
To all companies without exception	7	7
To the development of public infrastructure	8	8
The state does not have to help anyone	9	
None of the listed / NA	10	10

CARD U15

U15. Different views have been expressed on what to focus on when thinking about the future economic development. Which do you think should be the priority of these things?

Please mark the 2 most important things in order of priority

	U15.1 <i>The first choice</i>	U15.1 <i>The second choice</i>
Reduction of unemployment	1	1
Economic efficiency	2	2
Income equality	3	3
Protection of local producers	4	4
Greener economic activity	5	5
Improvement of the demographic situation	6	6
Reduction of the role of the state in the economy	7	7

Tax cuts	8	8
Reduction of public spending	9	9
Greater gender equality	10	10
Larger public investments in infrastructure development (roads, ports, railways, electricity networks, telecommunications, etc.)	11	11
Better education	12	12
None of the listed / NA	13	13

U16. To what extent, if at all, has the Covid-19 crisis affected your confidence in these institutions? Did your confidence in them increase, stay the same or decrease?

		Increased	Remained unchanged	Decreased	Hard to give NA
1	Latvian state institutions (e.g., government, Saeima, state institutions)	1	2	3	8
2	European institutions	1	2	3	8

U17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with such statements?

		Totally agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Totally disagree	Hard to say / NA
1	Your opinion matters in Latvia	1	2	3	4	8
2	In crisis situations, the state must act more decisively to protect its citizens, even if it involves greater interference in the personal lives of individuals	1	2	3	4	8
3	Tax evasion is reprehensible	1	2	3	4	8
4	In the event of financial difficulties, temporary tax evasion is justified, even if it is against the law	1	2	3	4	8
5	The state must take stricter measures against all forms of tax evasion without exception, including small, unregistered merchants	1	2	3	4	8
6	The Covid-19 pandemic has motivated more people to pay taxes in good faith	1	2	3	4	8
7	The provision of state support to large Latvian companies is to be supported, even if it promotes their dependence on state support in the future	1	2	3	4	8
9	Due to the state of emergency, the public administration was able to perform its functions as before or even better	1	2	3	4	8
10	The forms of telework created by the emergency have made public	1	2	3	4	8

administration more modern and accessible to individuals						
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CARD U18

U18. Which, in your opinion, are the two main reasons why people in Latvia tend not to pay taxes?

There can be up to two answers

Excessive tax bureaucracy	1
Feeling of impunity	2
Encouragement by other people	3
There is no point in paying taxes because the state does not care about people	4
Wages are too low after taxes	5
If you pay taxes, no one will buy goods and services at that price	6
Tax rates are too high	7
Another reason	8
Hard to say / NA	98

TECHNICAL PARAMETERS OF THE OPINION POLL

GENERAL SET	Latvian residents aged 18 to 75 years
PLANNED SAMPLE SIZE	1000 respondents (sample representative of the general population)
SAMPLE ACHIEVED	1011 respondents
SAMPLING METHOD	Stratified random sample
STRATIFICATION FEATURES	Administrative territorial
SURVEY METHOD	Direct interviews at respondents' places of residence
GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE	All regions in Latvia (123 sample points)
TIME OF THE SURVEY	From 11.09.2020. until 22.09.2020.

CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SAMPLE ACHIEVED

	General population (thsd persons)	Number of respondents in the sample (%) before weighing	Number of respondents in the sample (%) after weighing	LR IeM OCMA Res. reg. data as of 27.01.20.
TOGETHER	1527	100	100	100
REGION				
Riga	511	32.3	33.5	33.5
<i>Pieriga</i>	291	18.8	19.1	19.1
<i>Vidzeme</i>	146	10	9.5	9.5
Kurzeme	189	12.9	12.4	12.4
Zemgale	179	11.9	11.8	11.8
Latgale	211	14.1	13.8	13.8
GENDER				
Men	737	46.3	48.3	48.3
Women	790	53.7	51.7	51.7
NATIONALITY				
Latvians	898	60.2	58.8	58.8
The others	629	39.8	41.2	41.2
AGE				
18 - 24 years old	130	9.9	8.5	8.5
25 - 34 years old	296	18.3	19.4	19.4
35 - 44 years old	295	20.6	19.4	19.4
45 - 54 years old	290	20.1	19.0	19.0
55 - 63 years	266	14.5	17.4	17.4
64 - 75 years	250	16.6	16.4	16.4
STATUS				
Workers		68	68.4	
Not working		32	31.6	
EDUCATION				

Basic education		11.2	10.8	
Secondary, professional secondary		62.9	63.1	
Higher		25.9	26.1	
CITIZENSHIP				
Citizens of the Republic of Latvia		87.8	87.2	
Respondents without citizenship of the Republic of Latvia		12.2	12.8	

Data were weighted by characteristics: region, gender, nationality, age.