

PUBLIC OPINION POLL

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY 2003

In October and November 2003 the Defence Research Centre at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana carried out a public opinion poll on “National and International Security 2003”.

The poll was carried out on a representative sample of adult citizens of the Republic of Slovenia, with 1,065 respondents completing questionnaires.

The main objective of this survey is to underline the interdependency between the changing international security circumstances and the socio-economic, political, security and value changes in Slovenia on the one hand, and the need to adapt the national security system of this country to the requirements deriving from the European integration processes on the other hand, since Slovenia’s cooperation in the process of European economic, political and security integration is a complex phenomenon which must be founded on an appropriate scientific and research basis.

The empirical part of the “National and International Security 2003” poll identified the opinions, views, convictions and values of Slovenian citizens that facilitate an awareness of:

- the perception of threat to Slovenia,
- the level of security culture in Slovenia,
- the attitude to the national security system and in particular to the Slovenian armed forces,
- the attitude to the process of political, economic and security integration in Europe, and the role of Slovenia in this process,
- the participation of Slovenia in peace operations.

The poll was conducted during an intensive time of the “war against terrorism” (including Iraq and Afghanistan) and following major security policy and systemic changes in Slovenia, such as the imminent membership of Slovenia in Nato and the European Union, the increasingly intensive participation of the country in international peace and humanitarian operations, and changes to the method of manning the Slovenian armed forces, involving abolition of compulsory military service and transition to a completely professional army, and the introduction of a voluntary reserve and voluntary (paid) military service.

In this survey, researchers adhered to the standards of the AAPOR (American Association for Public Opinion Research) and incorporated experiences gained during the active cooperation in international researcher associations and projects of ERGOMAS (European Research Group on Military and Society), the ISA (International Sociological Association) Research Committee 01: Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution and the European Commission’s COST (Co-operation in Science and Technology).

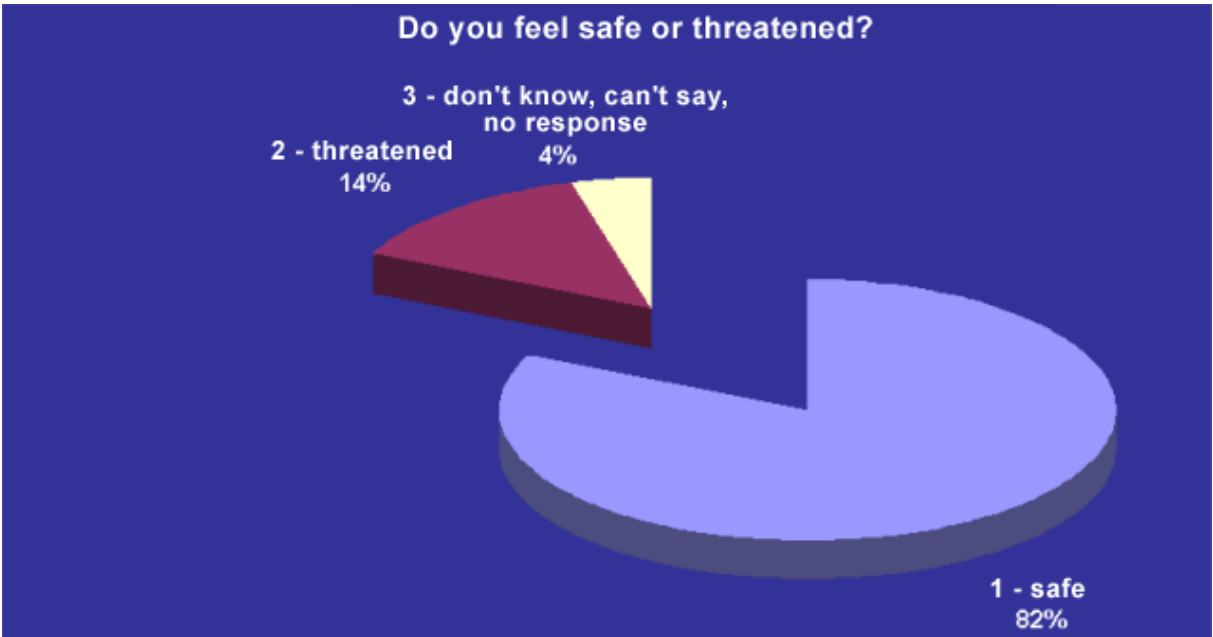
RESULTS OF POLL (summary)

The results of the poll show that the great majority of Slovenian citizens feel secure. In the terms of the poll, there is a continued perception of non-military sources of security threat, while the perception of military threat continues to fall.

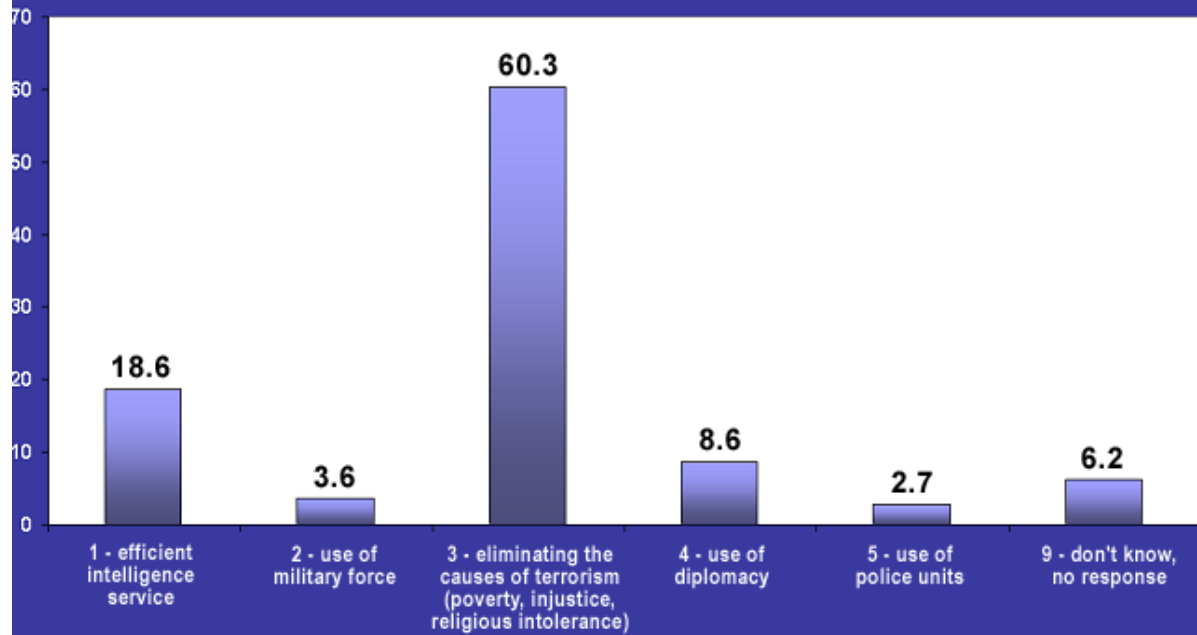
The Slovenian public is sensitive to human rights and protection of their living environment, and people are committed to the spreading of a culture of peace and non-violence (there is still present what is termed the “peace syndrome”, a characteristic of the end of the eighties and beginning of the nineties), which will not permit the armed forces to interfere in politics and matters of the civil society, and the public also nurtures a relatively low confidence in the repressive apparatus of the state, even where this involves preserving the country’s independence and sovereignty.

Another characteristic feature is the so-called “economic determinism” of the public, which brings to the fore sources of threat, values and goals that have a distinctly economic twist.

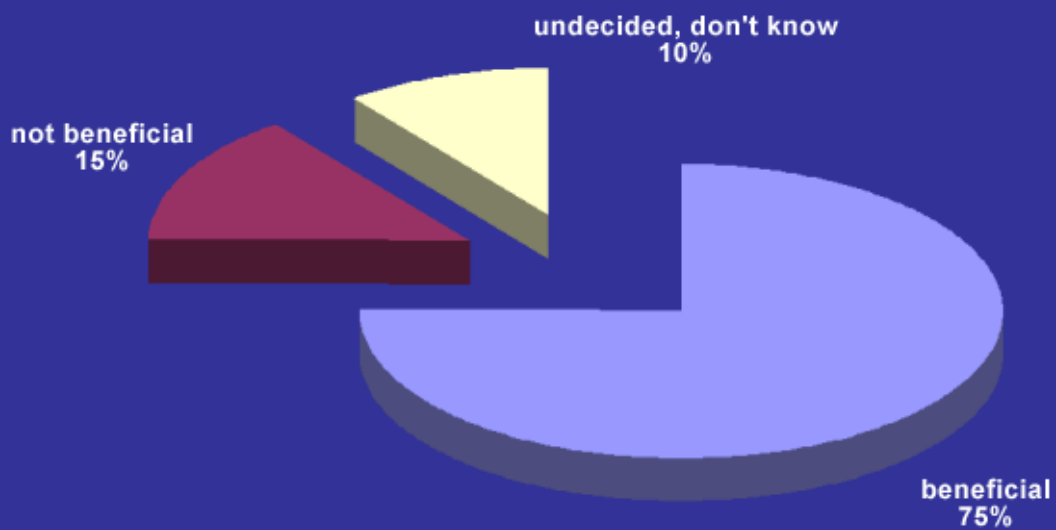
PRESENTATION OF SELECTED DATA FROM THE POLL



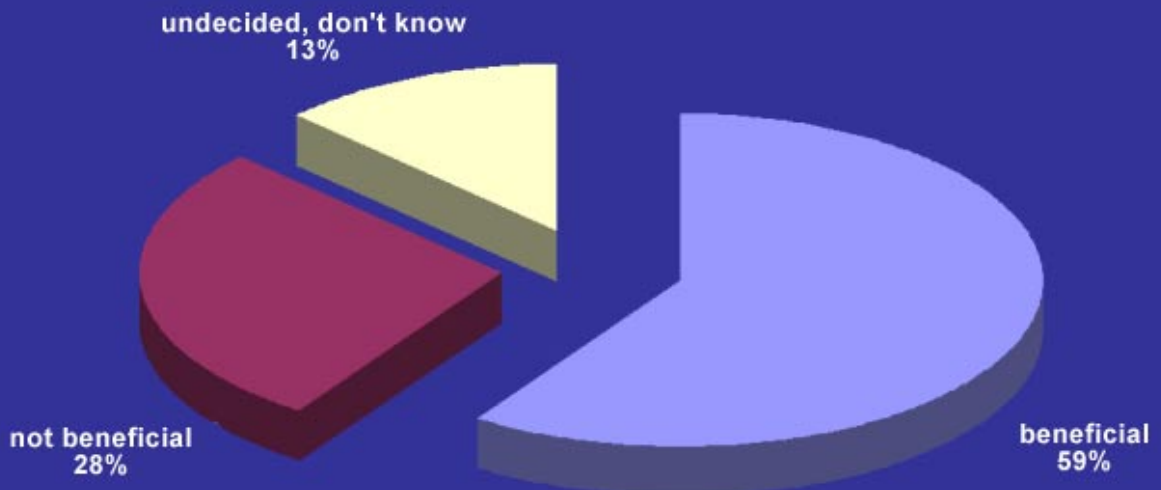
What is most important for effectively resisting international terrorism?



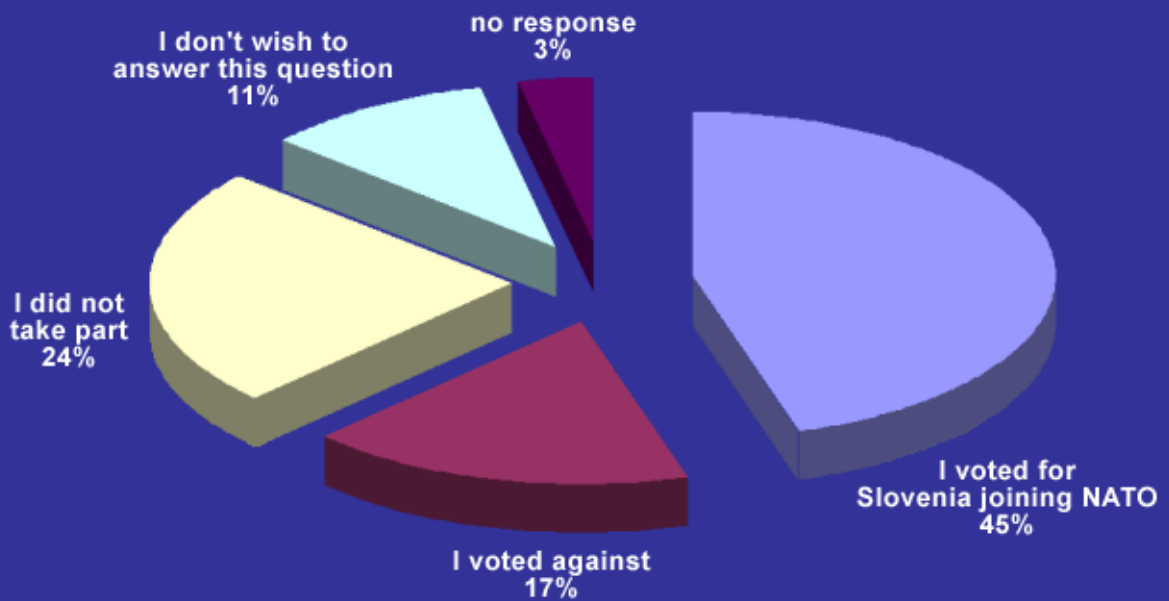
Benefit of decision in referendum on the EU



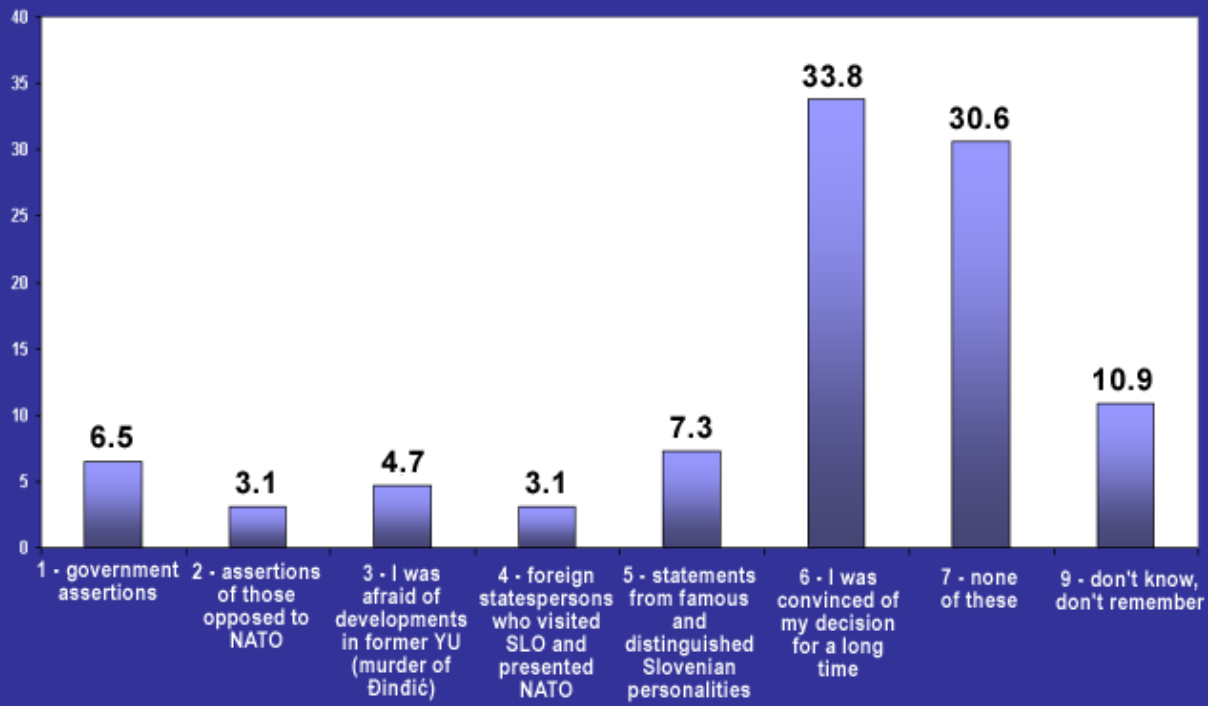
Benefit of decision in referendum on NATO



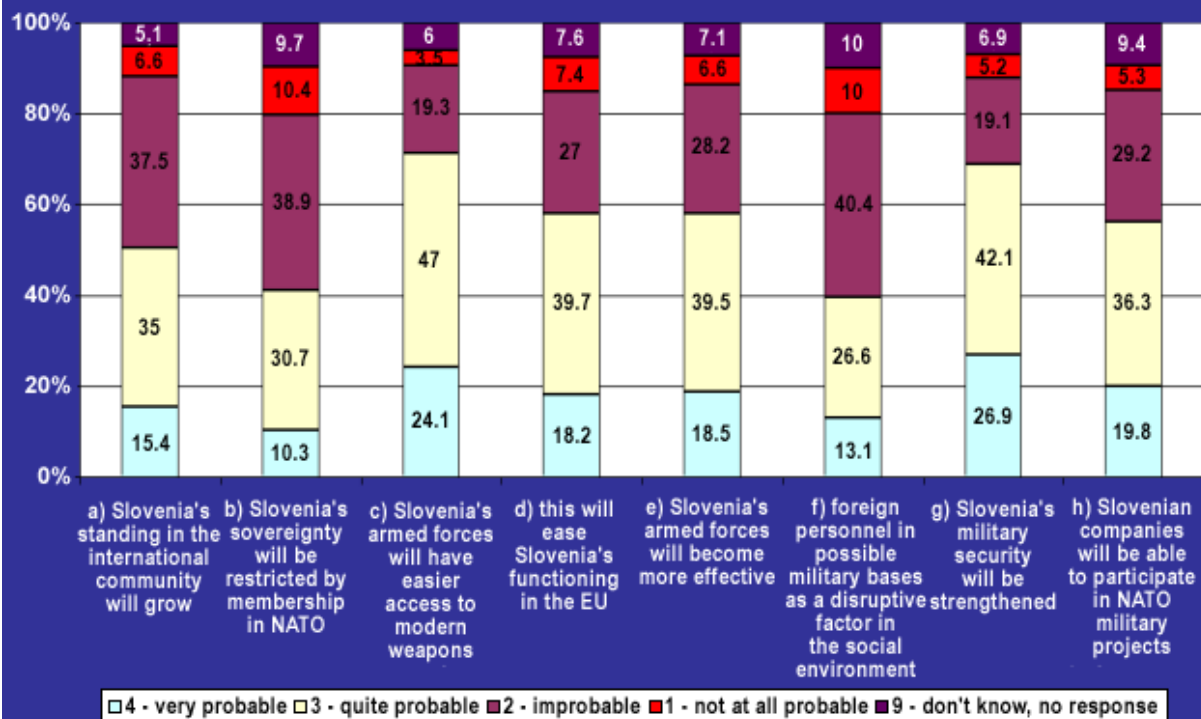
How you voted in the referendum on NATO



Which of the following most convinced you in the decision on joining NATO



How probable will the following be in consequence of Slovenia joining NATO



Do you support Slovenia's participation in international peace operations or not?

