

Only every second Lithuanian washes hands to avoid flu

The **outcome of vaccination programme 2009-2010** was one of the topics of Eurobarometer public opinion surveys in the European Union (EU) . A random-digit-dialling telephone survey, in which more than 28 thousand respondents over 15 years of age from 27 EU countries plus Norway, Switzerland and Iceland were interviewed, was conducted on 26-30 November 2009 .

Eurobarometer was concerned with following:

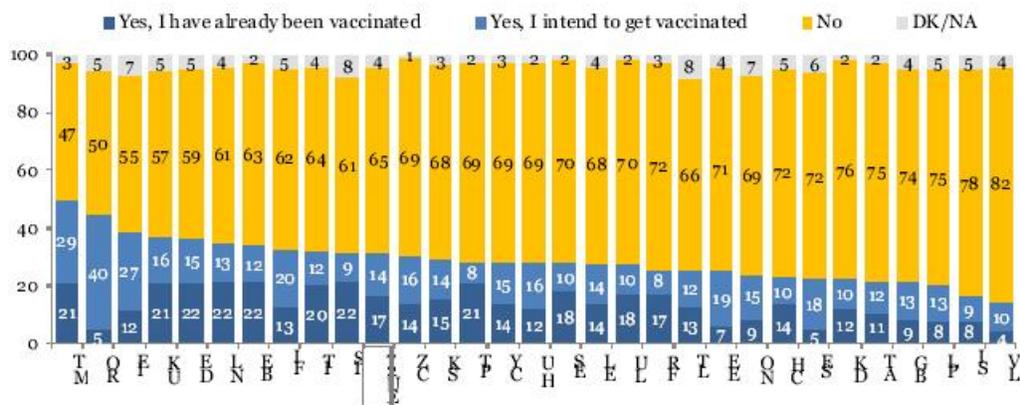
1. Do the respondents intend to get vaccinated against seasonal influenza in 2009-2010?
2. What do they know about pandemic H1N1 (swine) influenza?
3. Are they worried about the pandemic flu and what do they know about it?
4. How do they assess their knowledge on pandemic influenza?
5. What sources of information do they trust?
6. Pandemic influenza H1N1 in the media.
7. What safety measures have they taken?
8. What do they think of vaccines against H1N1 influenza?

25% of the surveyed citizens of Lithuania (31% of all respondents in Europe) have endorsed the vaccine against the seasonal influenza:

- 13% of Lithuanian respondents reported having “been vaccinated” compared to 17% of respondents across Europe (hereafter indicated in brackets);
- 12% of Lithuanian citizens (14%) “intended to get vaccinated “ against seasonal influenza this year.

But the majority - **almost two-thirds (66%) of Lithuanian respondents (65%)** reported not going to get vaccinated against seasonal influenza.

Intent to get vaccinated against seasonal influenza this year

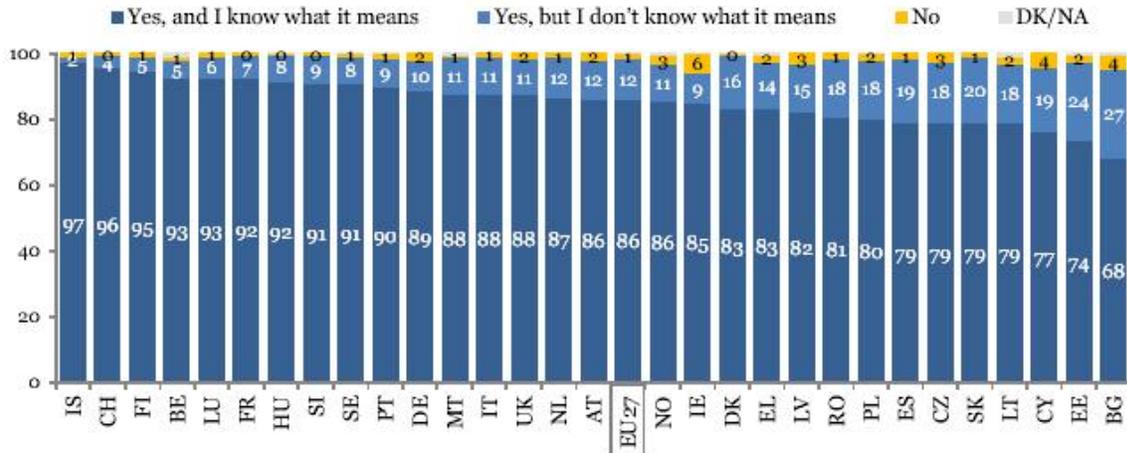


Q1. Do you intend to get vaccinated against seasonal influenza this year?
Base: all respondents, % by country

Most of the respondents (98%) reported having heard of H1N1 pandemic 2009. Moreover, the vast majority of those who were familiar with the term “H1N1 flu” had knowledge about it:

- **79% of Lithuanian respondents (86%) reported having been familiar with the term swine flu, and knew what it is.**
- 18% of Lithuanian citizens (one in 10 EU citizens - 12%) reported having been familiar with the term “pandemic flu”, but did not know what it means.

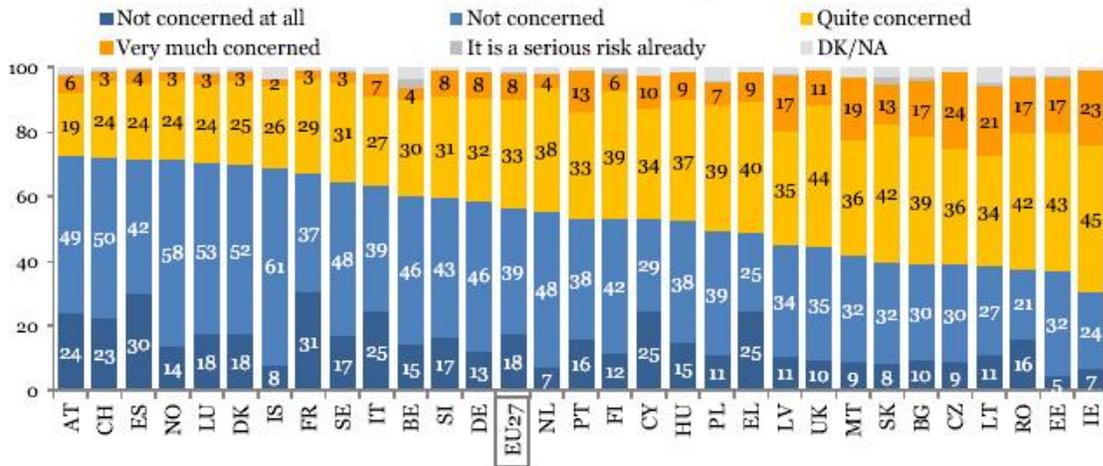
Awareness of pandemic H1N1 2009, also referred to as swine flu



Q2. Have you heard about the pandemic H1N1 flu, also referred to as swine flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

38% - Lithuanian respondents (more than half of all respondents - 57%) were not worried that the pandemic flu could pose a serious threat to the country and more than a half (56%) of Lithuanian respondents (two-fifths across Europe - 41%) were concerned that H1N1 flu could develop in a serious risk.

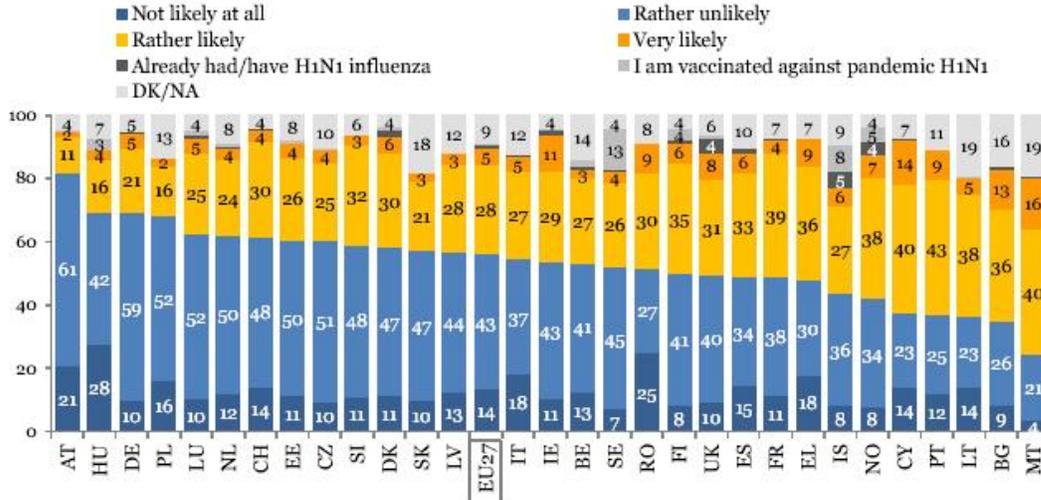
Concern that the pandemic H1N1 2009 may develop into a serious risk



Q3. How concerned are you that the pandemic/swine (H1N1) flu may develop into a serious risk in [OUR COUNTRY]?
Base: all respondents, % by country

Less than half (37%) of Lithuanian respondents (the majority of all the respondents - 57%) thought there was little likelihood of personally catching influenza H1N1.

Likelihood of personally catching influenza H1N1

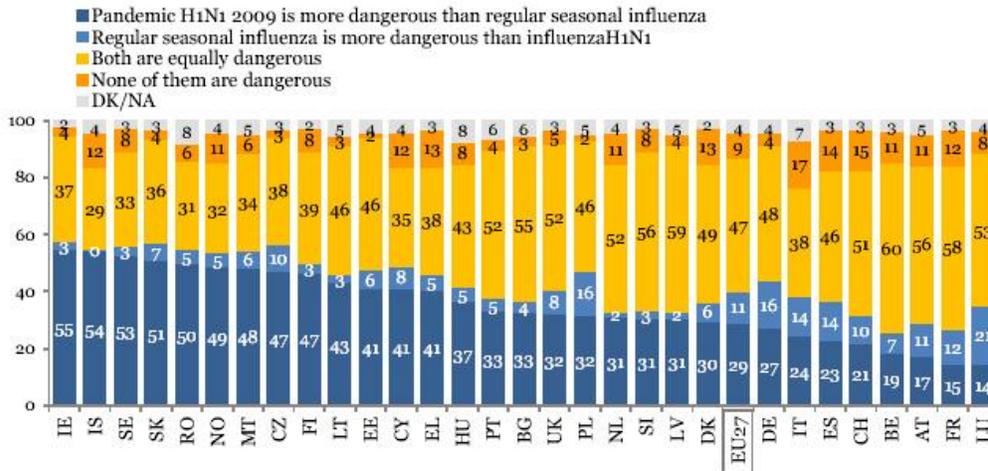


Q4. How likely do you think it is that you, personally, will catch pandemic (H1N1) flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

But 43% of Lithuanians (one in three across Europe - 33%) thought they might catch the pandemic influenza. In addition, one percent of EU citizens reported to have suffered or suffering from influenza H1N1 at the time and a similar proportion (1%) reported having been vaccinated against pandemic influenza. Almost one fifth (19%) of Lithuanian respondents (one in 10 respondents across Europe - 9%) did not know what was the likelihood of personally catching H1N1infection.

When asked to assess which influenza, in their view, was more dangerous - the H1N1 pandemic or regular seasonal flu - the relative majority of the EU citizens said that the two types of influenza were equally dangerous (47% across Europe and 46% in Lithuania). **But more than four in ten respondents (43%) in Lithuania** (nearly 3 of 10 respondents or 29% across Europe) **believed that pandemic influenza was more dangerous than a season flu**, and 3 of 100 (3%) respondents in Lithuania (one of 10 (11%) across Europe), in contrast, considered seasonal flu to be more dangerous than H1N1. 3% of Lithuanian respondents (9% across Europe) believed that neither of them pose a particular risk.

Pandemic H1N1 2009 compared to regular seasonal influenza

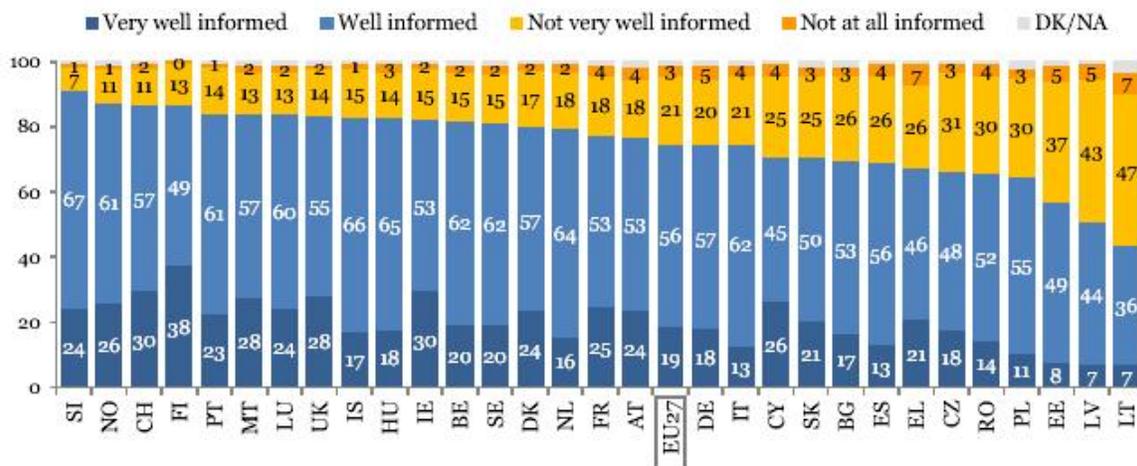


Q5. Which of the following statements is the closest to your opinion on H1N1 flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

Merely 43% of Lithuanians believed having been informed about H1N1 influenza (the lowest rate in Europe), compared to three-quarters (75%) of respondents across Europe. A little more than a third (36%) of Lithuanians (more than a half - 56% compared to average across Europe) thought to be well-informed and 7% of Lithuanians and one-fifth (19%) of respondents in Europe believed to be very well informed. Almost a half (47%) of Lithuanian citizens (one-fifth (21%) of all Europeans) felt being not very well informed about the swine flu, and 7% of Lithuanian respondents and 3% across Europe, reported having no knowledge about the H1N1 pandemic influenza at all.

More than half of the respondents from different countries believed being well or very well informed about the H1N1 flu (except Lithuania, where the majority of respondents (54%) felt being insufficiently informed about the subject).

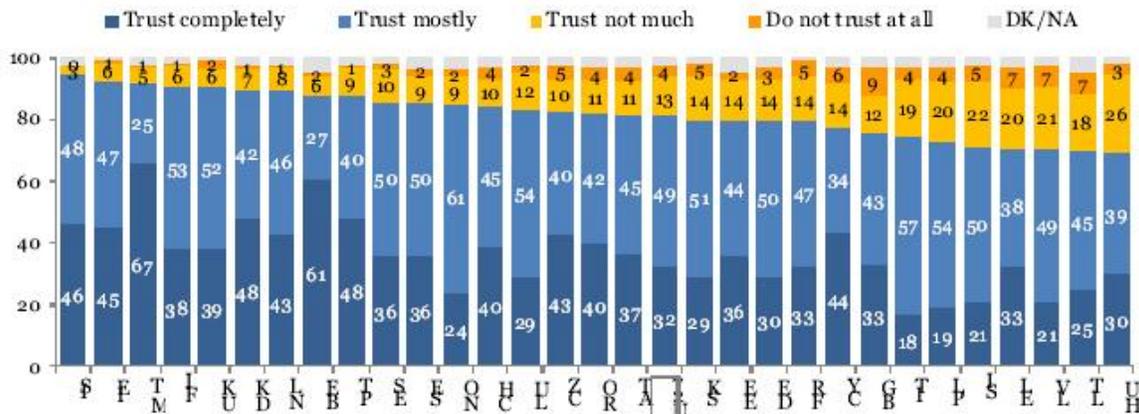
Informed about the pandemic influenza H1N1



Q6. How well informed do you feel about the pandemic H1N1 flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

EU citizens highly trusted health professionals (doctors and pharmacists) as the source of information about swine influenza. One third of EU citizens (32%) reported having full trust in the information about H1N1 influenza provided by health professionals compared to a quarter of Lithuanian respondents (25%); 45% of Lithuanian respondents (49% across Europe) mostly trusted health professionals in terms of information provided.

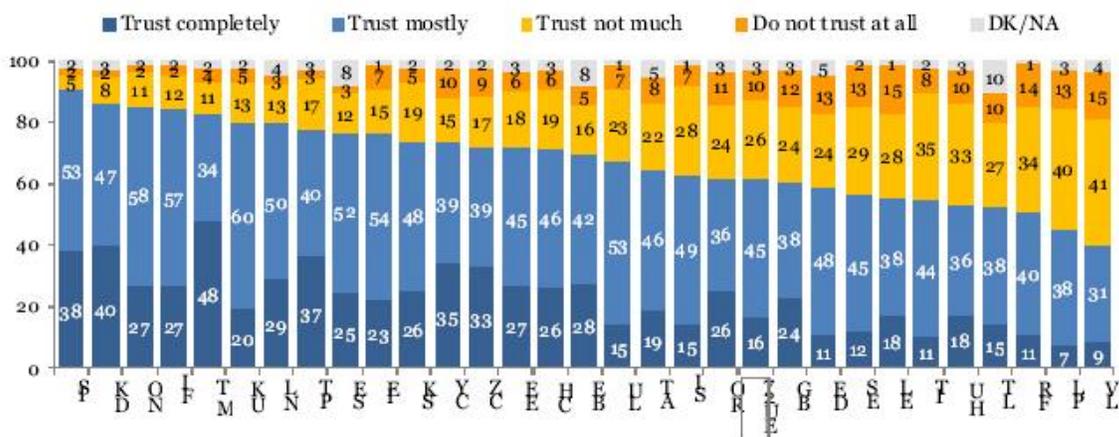
Trusted source: **Health professionals like doctors, pharmacists**



Q10. How much do you trust each of the following sources to inform you about the pandemic (H1N1) flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

National health authorities (e.g. Ministry, etc.) and **European authorities** took the second and third positions on the list of the most trusted swine flu information sources available. 53% of Lithuanians (61%) trusted the information provided by national authorities completely or mostly, 52% (52%) – would rather trust the information provided by European authorities.

Trusted source: **National health authorities (Ministry, etc.)**

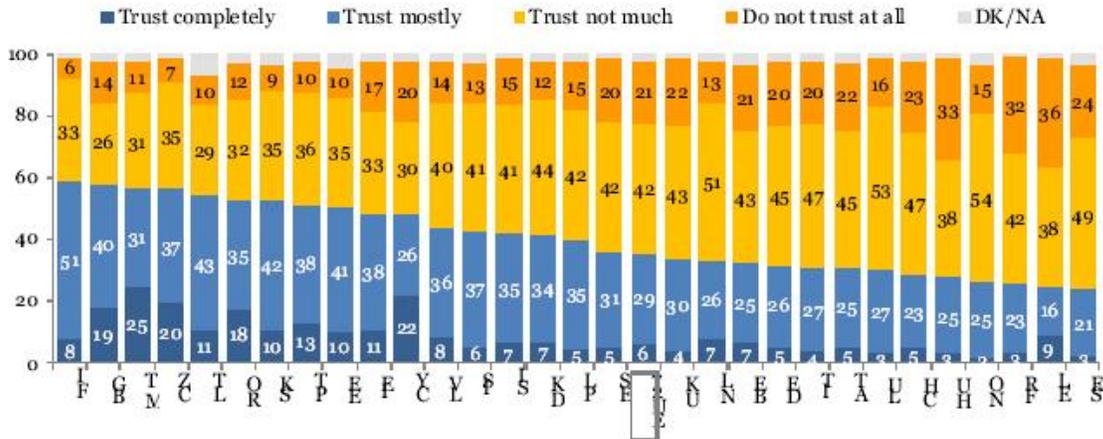


Q10. How much do you trust each of the following sources to inform you about the pandemic (H1N1) flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

As much as 54% Lithuanians put a lot of trust in the media (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.), compared to a little more than a third (35%) of respondents in Europe). There was a significant difference in opinion of Lithuanian and European respondents regarding the Internet

information on the swine flu: 42% Lithuanians compared to 29% of all Europeans reported having trust in it.

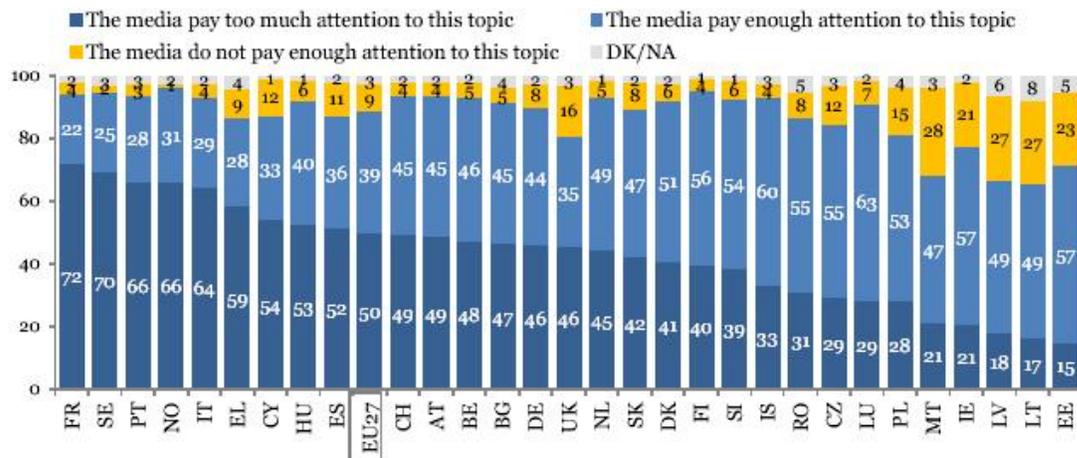
Trusted source: **Media (TV, radio, newspapers, etc.)**



Q10. How much do you trust each of the following sources to inform you about the pandemic (H1N1) flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

Almost half (42%) of Lithuanian respondents felt that the media paid too much attention (29%) to swine influenza, yet a third (27%) of Lithuanians and a significantly lower percentage across Europe (9%) thought otherwise, i.e. that the media coverage about influenza was insufficient. 49% of Lithuanians (39%) felt that their national media paid enough attention to influenza.

Pandemic H1N1 2009 in the media

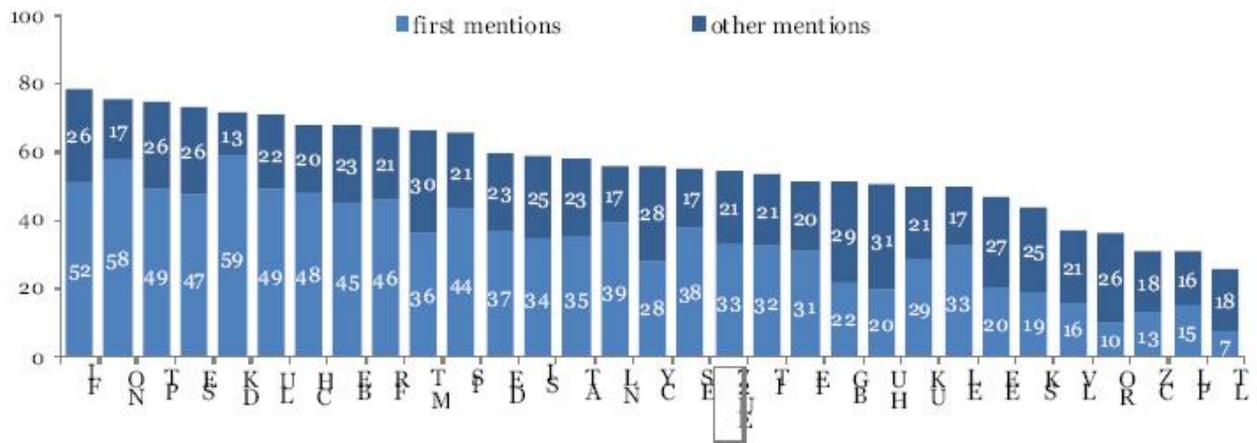


Q11. In your opinion, do the media in [OUR COUNTRY] pay too much, enough, or not enough attention to the pandemic (H1N1) flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

- When asked to respond spontaneously how to protect oneself from H1N1 influenza pandemic:
 - A third of EU respondents first mentioned "washing your hands regularly" (33%), compared to 7% of Lithuanians.

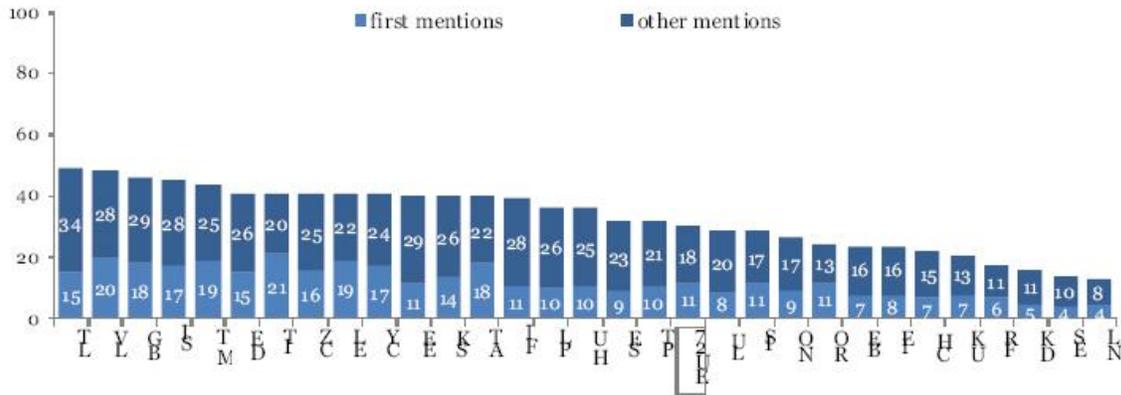
- **31% of Lithuanian respondents** and about 1 in 10 (13%) of the respondents across Europe first mentioned: **“getting vaccinated against pandemic influenza H1N1.”**
- 15% of Lithuanian respondents indicated: **“avoiding places where large numbers of people are gathering** (e.g., buses, trains, cinemas, bars, restaurants, schools, etc.)”.
- 4% Lithuanian respondents compared to 11% of the respondents across Europe mentioned: **“maintaining good respiratory hygiene”** (e.g., sneeze into a tissue, dispose of used tissues).
- The immediate answer of 17% (8%) of respondents was: **“avoiding contact with individuals infected with pandemic influenza H1N1.”**
- Several respondents (3%) felt worth mentioning **“wearing a face mask”**.
- The **vaccination against seasonal influenza** was indicated by 2% of Lithuanian respondents (9%) and the **use of anti-viral drugs** (e.g. Tamiflu, Relenza) by 3% and 1% respectively).
- In addition, the first response of 1 in 20 Europeans (5%) was that there are no protection measures against pandemic influenza H1N1.

Prevention: **Wash your hands regularly**



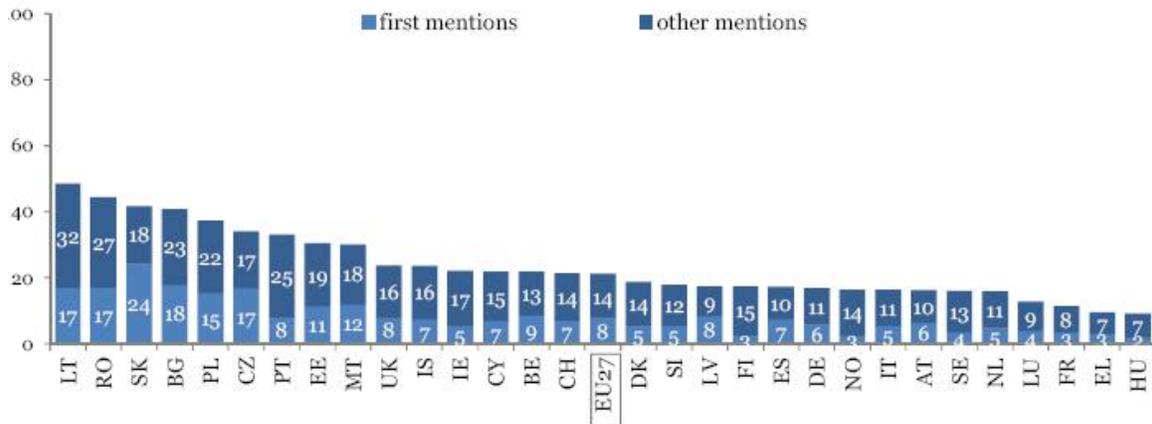
Q7. In general, what can people do to protect themselves against the pandemic H1N1 flu?
 Base: all respondents, % by country

Prevention: **Avoid places where large numbers of people are gathered (e.g. buses, trains, cinemas, bars, restaurants, schools etc)**



Q7. In general, what can people do to protect themselves against the pandemic H1N1 flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

Prevention: **Avoid contact with people who are infected with pandemic influenza H1N1**



Q7. In general, what can people do to protect themselves against the pandemic H1N1 flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country

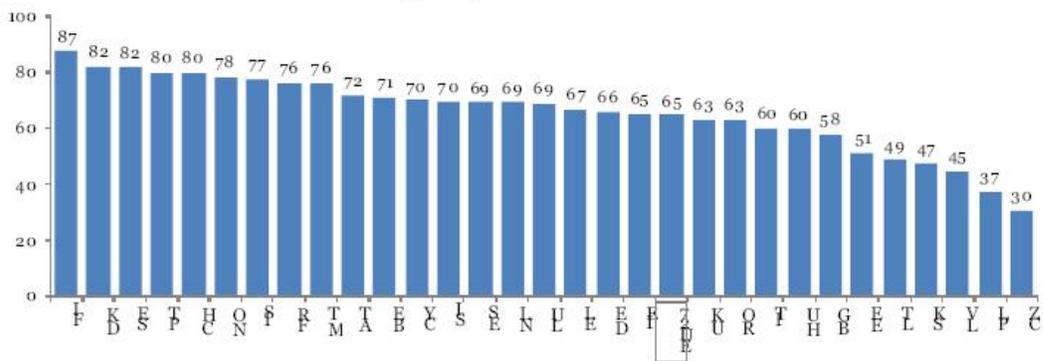
- When asked about behavioural changes to protect themselves against swine influenza about 1 in 4 respondents (22% and 24%) reported having changed their behaviour. **Three-quarters of respondents did not change their behaviour** (74% Lithuanians and 75% across Europe).

The respondents who reported behavioural change in order to protect themselves against pandemic influenza H1N1, were asked what preventive measures they had taken:

- Nearly half of Lithuanians (49%) and two-thirds (65%) of all respondents spontaneously mentioned **“a regular hand wash”**.
- 50% of Lithuanian respondents and a quarter (27%) respondents across Europe among those who reported having changed their behaviour mentioned **“avoiding places where large numbers of people are gathering** (such as buses, trains, cinemas, bars, restaurants, schools, etc.).”

- 19% Lithuanian and 23% of Europeans surveyed mentioned **"maintaining good respiratory hygiene** (e.g., sneezing into a tissue, disposing of used tissues) .
- To protect themselves against pandemic influenza, Lithuanians particularly **"avoided contact with persons infected with pandemic influenza H1N1,"** (45% (15%)).
- Fewer respondents among those who reported behaviour change to avoid influenza H1N1, reported "having got vaccinated against pandemic influenza H1N1" (14% of Lithuanians and 4% of all Europeans), **"wearing a facial mask** (7% and 3% respectively), **"got vaccinated against seasonal influenza** (7% of Lithuanian respondents and 2% of all respondents) or **"taking antiviral medication** (e.g., Tamiflu, Relenza) (5% of Lithuanians and 2% of all respondents).

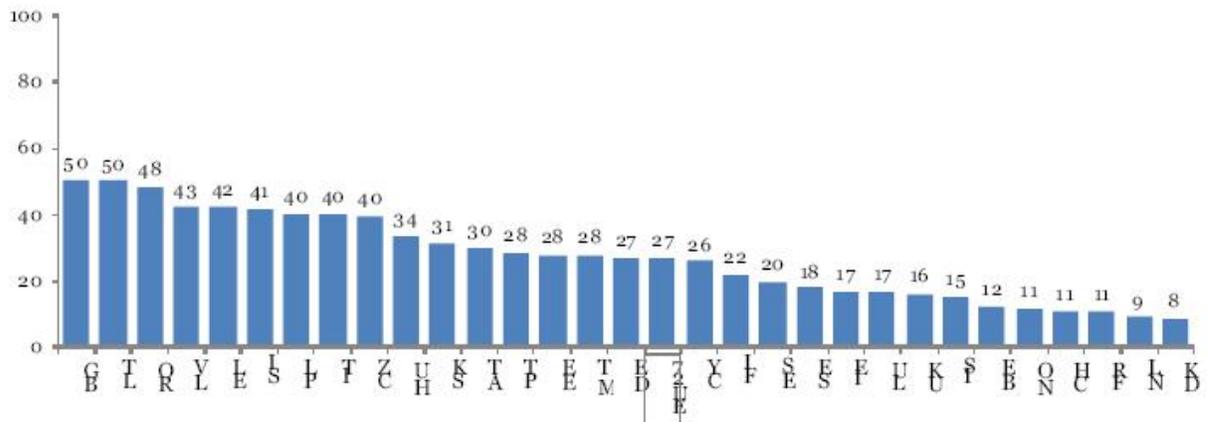
Prevention taken: **Wash hands regularly**



Q9. In what ways?

Base: those who changed their behaviour to protect themselves against pandemic H1N1 flu, % by country

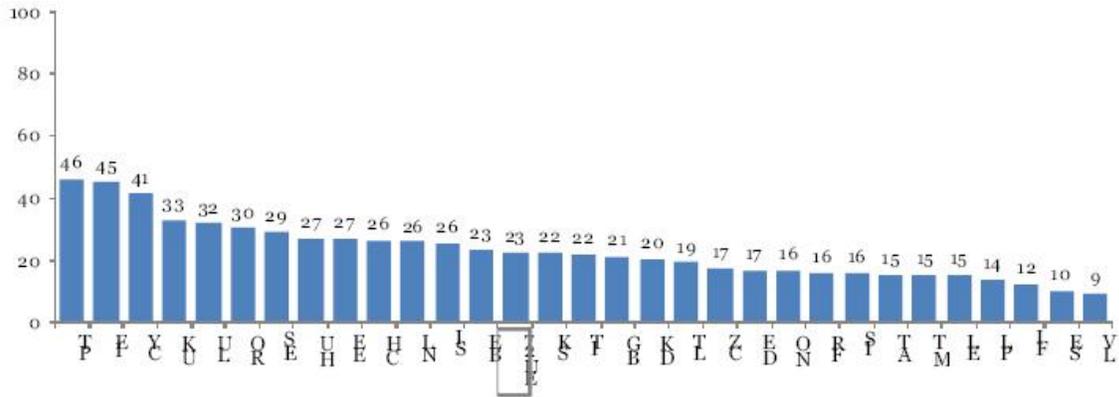
Prevention taken: **Avoid places where large numbers of people are gathered (e.g. buses, trains, bars, restaurants, schools etc)**



Q9. In what ways?

Base: those who changed their behaviour to protect themselves against pandemic H1N1 flu, % by country

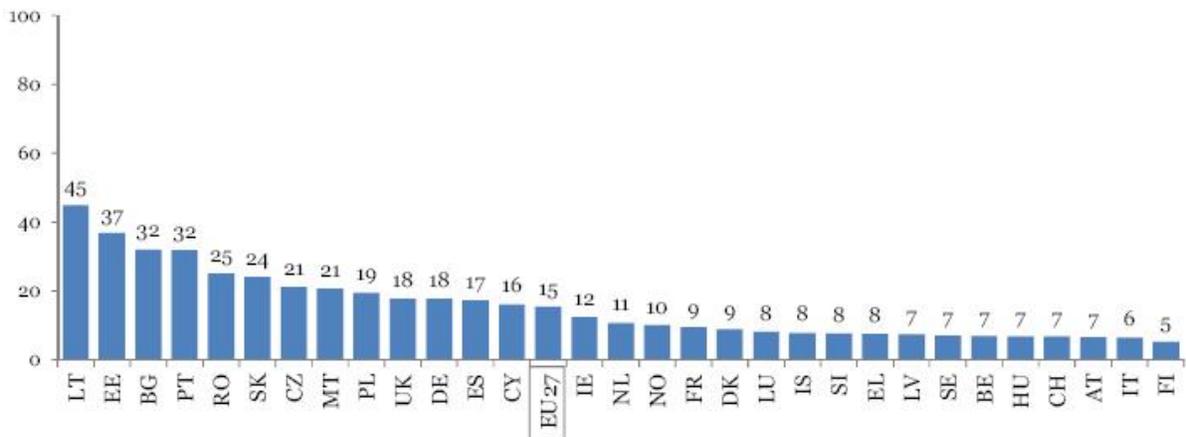
Prevention taken: **Good respiratory hygiene (e.g. Sneezing into a tissue, disposal of used tissues)**



Q9. In what ways?

Base: those who changed their behaviour to protect themselves against pandemic H1N1 flu, % by country

Prevention taken: **Avoid contact with people who are infected with pandemic influenza H1N1**



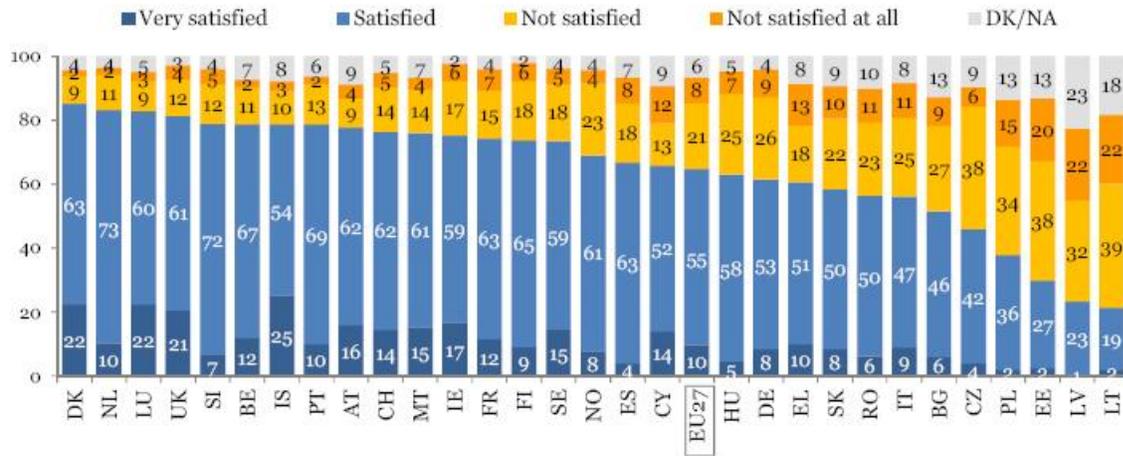
Q9. In what ways?

Base: those who changed their behaviour to protect themselves against pandemic H1N1 flu, % by country

About two-thirds of all respondents (65%) were satisfied with the preventive measures against swine flu adopted by their national authorities compared to only one-fifth (21%) of Lithuanian respondents (2% of Lithuanian respondents (10%) were very satisfied and 19% of Lithuanian respondents (55%) were satisfied.)

39% of Lithuanian and one-fifth (21%) of all respondents were not satisfied with preventive measures adopted by their national authorities, and another fifth (22%) of our fellow citizens (8% across Europe), were not satisfied with these measures at all.

Satisfaction with taken preventive measures against pandemic H1N1 2009



Q12. Based on what you know, how satisfied are you with the preventive measures that authorities in [OUR COUNTRY] have taken so far against pandemic (H1N1) flu?
Base: all respondents, % by country