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**Friedrich Ebert Foundation Kazakhstan**

# **YOUTH IN CENTRAL ASIA: KAZAKHSTAN**

**Based on a sociological survey**

**Almaty, 2016**



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This analytical work, produced by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Central Asia, looks at the world of young people in Kazakhstan, and is based on the findings of a sociological study conducted across the country in 2014. Our research methodology is based on that used in the Shell Youth Study, which is well-known in Europe, and adapted to the conditions and particularities of Kazakhstan. The survey centred on young people in Kazakhstan, and their main areas of interest, dreams and plans, values, opinions and conceptions, as well as on the issues and challenges they face in their socialisation. We hope that every reader will find something interesting and relevant in this report. This publication is intended for the general reader.

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Youth in Central Asia: Kazakhstan is a research project undertaken by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Central Asia which aims to shed light on young people in the Central Asian region today: their lifestyle, opinions and values; their self-identity and tolerance towards others; their attitudes and aspirations; and their views on politics and the ongoing integration with neighbouring countries. Similar youth studies have been carried out in other countries. For example, a similar study was carried out in a number of countries in southern Europe (Albania, Macedonia, Croatia and Kosovo) in 2013. The research methods and design are based on the well-known Shell Youth Study, which was first carried out in West Germany in 1953.

In Kazakhstan, the project is a joint undertaking by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Kazakh-

stan and Public Opinion, a research institute. The study focuses on young people aged from 14 to 29. The work covers many aspects of their lives, exploring topics such as religion, politics, democracy, fashion, the economic situation and the rights of various social groups, aiming to find out young people's views on these issues. Alexey Yusupov, Alima Tenizbay, Yevgenia Plakhina, Medet Suleyman, Botagoz Rakishcheva, Aynur Mazhitova, Yevgenia Rudneva, Gulden Ashkenova, Nurgul Khaydarova, Alua Zholdybalina, Kuralay Mukhambetova, Anastasia Shandryga and Ayzhan Nurgaliyeva all contributed to this project.

The youth of Kazakhstan and the other Central Asian countries today were born and raised at a pivotal moment in the history of each of these former Soviet republics. Their generation is a fruitful



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one for study because they were born and raised at a time of serious geopolitical transformations, brought about by political, social and economic change and rapid advances in technology. In this project, we aim to identify similar and related positions held by young people in neighbouring

countries in the region, as well as to study the significant differences in opinions and development trends in the societies we are studying. Ultimately, this will help to improve understanding of the specific aspects of development in the Central Asian countries.



# FOREWORD

In Soviet times, it was a popular tradition for young people to bury heart-warming messages for future children and young adults to read when they joined the Pioneer or Komsomol movements. They genuinely believed that the ideological values to which they adhered would be unchanged after 50 or 100 years. And so they wrote to their descendants about how fortunate they would, in all likelihood, be to witness communism.

What sort of message would today's young people leave for their grandchildren? They would probably not write about a world free from nuclear weapons, or about the construction of a bright future. Everything would probably depend on each person's social background. It is no secret that many of us live according to the principle of wanting it all, but without wishing to pay for it. Civic engagement among the middle class is still relatively low, although the situation is improving. Meanwhile, many among the poor feel out of place, like ghosts

at the feast of life. Things are much worse when there are more poor people and class division gradually turns into a soft form of social withdrawal for some. Here, one may recall Maslow's famous hierarchy of needs. People should always have not only the choice of what to read, whom to listen to, or where to go, but also the free time and money to spend on intellectual and cultural development, both for themselves and for their children.

At the same time, history shows that it is not a question of lost generations, but of lost and ineffective states, which, like the Titanic, bring down all their passengers, young and old, with them. Furthermore, any environment involving young people is by its very nature imbued with energy, both creative and destructive. We can surmise that much depends on the political, economic, cultural, educational 'genetic code' as well as the spiritual values which they inherit from society. If that 'code' is defective or broken from the start, it can lead

to a 'mutation' in social development as a whole, and often to social degradation. This is why any academic, theoretical and applied research on young people is of great significance, primarily for those shaping the government agenda in terms of youth policy. After all, what is at stake here is the self-preservation of the political system itself. Events in the Middle East and North Africa have shown very well what the 'new generation' of the post-colonial period is capable of, as they have been the driving force behind the collapse of long-standing political systems.

In Kazakhstan, people have only really started paying attention to youth issues in the last few years. This may be because the question of the quality of the country's 'human capital' – i.e., those who, sooner or later, will inherit the current political and economic system – has now arisen. In addition, there has been a disturbing rise in the number of young people convicted of extremism and acts of terrorism. Adding to this negative outlook, the financial and economic crisis has raised the spectre of higher unemployment among young people, which could coincide with

the increasing internal rural to urban migration, which is not always regulated. This, in turn, has raised the threat of an increase in support for fringe movements.

At the same time, there have not been many qualitative studies of today's young people, particularly in the post-Soviet space, although it is they who, in 10 or 20 years, could be in positions of authority in various areas of public life. Perhaps the adherent of cyclical theory Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr was correct in his hypothesis that the underlying sociological factor for the 30-year cycle of political development was the natural changeover of generations.

This brings to mind the interesting classification of different generations of young people into Generation X and Generation Y, with some even belonging to both. The main focus of this study is on those born and raised after the collapse of the Soviet Union, who themselves belong to two generations. On the one hand, it has been their fate to live through a difficult period of development of new political and economic systems, which has been accompanied by the destruction of



the pre-existing value system and the formation of numerous ideological vacuums, some of which have still to be filled. On the other hand, a small number of young people, including in Kazakhstan, have had much greater opportunities for self-fulfilment and professional development than people from older generations. Furthermore, some experts now talk of a Generation Z (or 'Post-Millennials'), on whose development the virtual reality of the Internet and social networking sites is having a marked effect.

For this reason, an important feature of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation's Youth in Central Asia project is an attempt to analyse the values of young people in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries, on which their self-identification, as complex and contradictory as it is, is based. Many different internal and external factors have an influence on this, from the level of development of institutes of socialisation and the makeup of the social pyramid, to the specific features of the information overload surrounding young people now.

A crisis of self-identity remains one of the key issues for the majority of countries in transition. In Kazakhstan, arguments are still ongoing over whether ethnicity, citizenship or religion should form the basis for this self-identity.

Some of the findings of the sociological survey carried out as part of the project also indicate a noticeably positive trend. For example, when discussing moral values and qualities to aspire to, almost 60.6% of the respondents said that a sense of self-worth was most important to them. Prosperity and social prestige came only second and third respectively in the ranking of priorities. On a more negative front, however, altruism and participation in citizens' initiatives only come halfway up the pyramid of values for young Kazakhs.

Furthermore, as the authors of the project show, the practice of volunteering is not yet widespread among young people, although it may be said that the philosophy of volunteering, at least in Kazakhstan, is steadily growing in popularity and scale. To a significant extent, this has

been helped by the development of the online community, which, in recent times, has provided a good example of mobilisation and cooperation to implement particular social or charitable projects, including in assisting disaster victims. In other words, this online volunteering movement may well become one of the building blocks of civil society in Kazakhstan. One might want to believe that this process, sooner or later, will actively draw many young people into its orbit, in a similar way to what happened in the 1990s, when youth NGOs and youth movements flourished here.

Returning to the important issue of how young people self-identify, the survey findings on young people's attitudes to religion are quite interesting. At present, this topic is high on the agenda for many Central Asian countries, where a religious renaissance among young people has often been accompanied by a low level of religious education. This, in turn, creates a favourable environment for, among other things, the spread of pseudo-religious extremist ideas. In this context, this project has found that the vast majority of respondents con-

sider themselves religious at least to some extent, although their religious beliefs are quite complicated. Despite the eclectic nature of their thoughts on the tenets of religion, young people generally agree that religion should play a greater role in public life. It would, though, be welcome if the standard of religious education in the country were to improve at the same time.

As for secular education, it is rather alarming that for many young people education as a source of knowledge is losing its appeal. The sheer obsession with qualifications is relegating professional growth through the acquisition and assimilation of new knowledge to the back seat. This is quite a dangerous development, bearing in mind that in the 21st century a country's competitiveness will depend primarily on the quality of its human capital, and the dominant model of development will be based on the 'knowledge economy'. Figuratively speaking, this means that brains will be valued more highly than raw materials. A good illustration of this is brand value. Several years ago, for example, Brand Finance, a British consulting firm, published its Nation Brands 100,



with experts valuing the 'Kazakhstan brand' at \$87 billion. Interestingly, Apple's brand value at around the same time was \$87.3 billion (it is now \$145.3 billion). In other words, the brand of an innovation-focused multinational corporation was worth more than that of a whole country, with all its assets and resources.

It is quite alarming when the cult of knowledge in society is replaced by a cult of connections, which neutralises any form of meritocracy, since in the eyes of many young people being too clever is not seen as 'cool'. Brains are not valued; a qualification and family connections are worth more. Of course, officials have now admitted that there is a large problem with the quality of labour resources, which is prolonging the shortage of professionals, particularly in industrial in-

novation. It turns out that building a new factory or research centre with expensive and modern equipment can sometimes be easier than building up the right kind of human capital. However, it is impossible to build an innovation-based economy in a society where so many quite genuinely believe that only 'nerds' go into science. There is no point in dwelling on the question of human capital in a country where there are so few left who are ready to teach and to learn, or in talking about improving the competitiveness of a country where there is a crisis in thinking around education. Perhaps there is a solution – a cultural and intellectual revolution across the country and in all areas, from science to the arts, with a cult of creative personalities, which would help young people in choosing the right and proper path to self-fulfilment.

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# ABSTRACT

## 1. Healthy living

Although the majority of young people are in favour of healthy living, regarded as abstinence from alcohol (56%) and smoking (61.5%), and recognise the importance of a good diet, their chosen patterns of behaviour are not particularly conducive to good health. For example, engaging in sport – an activity of great value, and one of the key aspects of ‘healthy living’ is not something most young Kazakhs engage in every day. Of the respondents, 59.2% visit fitness clubs only sometimes or rarely, and 14.1% do not go at all. Furthermore, respondents to the qualitative studies have repeatedly said that alcohol and tobacco are currently being replaced by low-alcohol cocktails and hookah.

## 2. Free time

The most popular free-time activities for young people in Kazakhstan relate to socialising and entertainment, whereas self-

education, creative pursuits and other activities geared towards personal development do not occupy as great a position in the lives of Kazakh youth as they might. There is a lack of conscious management of free time, and in particular a noticeable predominance of passive forms of recreation: young people prefer spending their leisure time socialising with friends (going to cafés and cinemas) including through social networking sites, listening to music and doing housework. They use the Internet to watch films, download music and socialise, but relatively rarely for educational purposes. The Internet is more likely to be used for obtaining information and reading the news by the upper end of the age group covered in the study (aged 25 to 29). In general, young people spend 2–3 hours a day online or watching television. Young Kazakhs do not see reading books as an inter-



esting way of spending their free time: the vast majority (78.6%) only sometimes, rarely or never read books.

### 3. Sexual culture and sexual relations

Sexual culture and attitudes to sex are still developing among young Kazakhstanis, and some of their responses were contradictory. For example, 36% use contraceptives regularly, and 30.6% occasionally, but a large majority oppose abortion and think it should be illegal. A considerable proportion regard premarital sex as normal, but chastity is thought of as a virtue for young women by 43.4%, and for both sexes by 26.4%. At the same time, young people have a negative attitude towards non-heterosexual orientations, with just 3.4% approving of them. While more than half the respondents have an active sex life, 25.3% of the female respondents and 19.4% of male have not had sexual intercourse, and sex and sexual relationships remain a taboo subject not to be discussed. As such, just under half the respondents feel uncomfortable talking about this issue.

### 4. Moral values and qualities to aspire to

Of ten qualities to choose from, the overwhelming majority of respondents chose 'a sense of self-worth' (60.6% as the most important quality, and 83.2% as one of the top three). Other popular choices were social prestige (the second most important quality for 22.1%, and one of the top three for 37.2%) and prosperity (11.5% and 35.8% correspondingly). There was also a significant vote for honesty (12.1% and 33.6% correspondingly). Loyalty came only seventh, with 18.5% of respondents placing it in the top three. At the same time, however, loyalty is important to young Kazakhs, as are taking on responsibility, being independent, obtaining a higher education, and getting married. Elsewhere, asked to say how important these and other attributes were to them, 87% of the respondents said that it was important to be loyal. Halfway up the pyramid of values for young people in Kazakhstan comes altruism (chosen by 23% as one of the top three qualities of the ten) and taking part in citizens' initiatives (regarded as important by 21.6%). On the other hand, the



survey clearly shows that volunteering is not popular in Kazakhstan: in the preceding 12 months, just 93 out of the 1,000 respondents had done any voluntary work, and just 127 had done any unpaid community work. Engagement in politics is also of lesser importance to young people (17.8% regard it as important).

## 5. Religion and religious values

Young people's attitudes to religion are quite complicated. On the one hand, they are not particularly keen on taking part in various religious rituals and ceremonies, saying that they do not observe them, but on the other hand they take a positive view of religion itself. In addition, a quarter cannot say for certain whether they adhere to various religious beliefs: 23.9% doubt that «heaven and hell exist»; 21% doubt that «God created the world»; and 25.4% doubt that «God is the source of moral precepts and obligations». Despite this inconsistency in their religious views, young people believe that religion should play a greater role in public life, rating its current role

as neither significant nor insignificant. Overall, a large majority is religious at least to some extent; just 19.3% say they are non-religious or atheist.

## 6. Family and marriage

The survey reveals a high level of trust in and respect for the institution of the family in Kazakhstan. Getting married was of great importance to 75.9% of respondents, while just 1.5% see themselves as without a partner or family in the future. Slightly more young people see getting married as a priority over obtaining a higher education (72.9%) or building a career (67.2%). Indeed, the majority (82.5%) sees themselves getting married in the future; they consider the main advantages of marriage to be that it increases partners' responsibility to each other (52.8%) and to their children (23.6%). Just 15.3% say that marriage is better than cohabitation because it is more socially acceptable. Where young people are more in favour of cohabitation, this is for couples without children. For those with children, most young people think that being married is of greater importance. The qual-



itative study showed that young people see no problem with getting married while still in education. The average age considered appropriate for getting married is 22 for women and 25 for men. On average, young Kazakhs would like to have three children, and the current or future parents would like to have children of both sexes. At the same time, a large proportion (37.1%) would like two children, with 28.1% saying they would like three, and 19% four. Less than 1% do not want any children.

## 7. The role of the older generation and the family

The vast majority of young people regard their relations with their family as positive – 94.6% in the case of parents, and 90% for relations with their siblings where applicable. The survey showed that young people trust members of their immediate family very highly (with an average score of 9.59/10). They are also relatively highly trusting of members of their extended family (with an average score of 8.9/10). Of their family members, young people's parents have the most influence on their decisions, with the fig-

ures for their fathers and mothers approximately equal: 37% and 31.3% respectively. At the same time, 86.7% say that they do not experience any significant pressure from their parents when it comes to decision-making (54.4% make decisions jointly with their parents, and 32.3% are free to make decisions independently). Just 10.6% say that their parents make all the decisions for them. Many respondents live with their parents for various reasons, with 21.1% doing so because of practical considerations, 12.8% for financial reasons, and 30.9% for no particular reason. One reason young people live with their parents could be the result of Kazakh tradition. As one of the participants in the study commented, "In the past, this is how it was for Kazakhs: the youngest son would get married, bring his bride home, and the children would come later. I think this is fine; I don't see any problem with it". The respondents taking part in the study also highlighted the problem of the cost of housing (both for buying and renting), particularly in large cities.

## 8. Education

Education as a means to gain knowledge is losing its appeal for young people today: most (72.3%) see getting a qualification, in most cases a degree, as a means to employment, while 30.5% give meeting their parents' expectations as a reason for obtaining a higher education. A mere 37.5% gave improving their intellectual capabilities as a reason. Such motives for getting an education and choosing a profession, as well as the prevalence in practical terms of other factors in finding work and attaining career growth in Kazakhstan, including, as the respondents themselves mentioned, "connections and friends", are discouraging young people from becoming specialists in various professions, and reducing demand for highly specialised knowledge. This may also be why young people spend an average of 1–2 hours a day studying outside the classroom, have a positive opinion of education in the country and believe that it does not need wide-ranging reform, even though 47.6% would study abroad if they had the chance, as opposed to just 17.7% who would study in Kazakhstan. The most popular study

destinations for young Kazakhs are Russia, the USA, the EU and South Korea.

## 9. Trust and identity

Asked to rate their level of trust in certain groups of people, the respondents gave the highest ratings to their immediate and extended family members, friends and neighbours, likely because their family often provide them with support and help them with various issues. They do not trust political and religious leaders, who constitute a more abstract category for them. They are noticeably intolerant of non-heterosexual relationships (57.8% would be unhappy to live next door to a homosexual couple). Most regard such relationships as deviant, as was shown repeatedly in the study. The young people also showed negative attitudes towards groups of people traditionally considered deviant: alcoholics (25.7%) and drug addicts (17.8%). They are highly trusting of other people they know besides those mentioned above, even if such people are of a different ethnicity or religion to them. At the same time, a certain proportion (ranging from 10.9% to



18.6%) would be unhappy having families from certain ethnic groups as neighbours.

They identify themselves primarily in terms of their membership of a group of friends (“someone who values friends and friendship”), then as an individual, and only then in terms of their family and citizenship. Other forms of self-identification (such as ethnic, corporate, religious, or clan-based) are less developed, or are not significant. Asked about the importance of jüzes in society and to them personally, young Kazakhs were split almost equally.

## 10. The role of women in society in Kazakhstan

Women have enough rights in Kazakhstan, according to 84.8% of the respondents, but their opinions on the role of women in the family differ: 36.5% think that men and women have equal rights, but 32.2% say that men take on the role of head of the family. According to 19% of respondents, women are independent and self-reliant, with 9.1% holding the belief that women are increasingly taking

on the role of head of the family. Most young people do not think that polygamy should be legalised, and this applies irrespective of their ethnicity, sex and place of residence. Regarding the practice of ‘bride kidnapping’, the respondents were split almost 50/50 between those opposed to it and those in favour or indifferent. Almost half (48.9%) are positive or indifferent towards it, on the grounds that it is part of the heritage of a number of Central Asian nations, including Kazakhs, or that it often takes place on mutual agreement, or that it saves the bride’s family money on the wedding. Almost as many (44.8%), however, take a negative view of it for one reason or another.

## 11. Human rights

Seventy-seven percent of the respondents were happy with the development of democracy in the country. The great majority believe that women, ethnic minorities and religious people have enough rights (84.8%, 71.5% and 69.3% respectively). A lesser, but still significant proportion, think that poor people and the disabled have enough rights

(55.6% and 59% respectively). Young people have rarely personally experienced discrimination as a result of belonging to a particular social group, and most have never done so. The most common reasons why young people are discriminated against are because of their financial status, level of education, place of origin (specific village or town) and age, followed by their ethnicity, religion, spoken language and sex. A third of the respondents reported having been affected by some form of class divide, most often in public places, in education or retail. The least common reasons why young people are discriminated against are their region of origin and sexual orientation (the total proportion of responses from the “often” to “rarely” categories for these being 17.4% and 12.1% respectively).

## 12. Assessing the country's development

The economic situation in Kazakhstan is rated “good” by 76.4% of the respondents, and “excellent” by 8%. Furthermore, 55.8% predict that it will improve, 36.4% that it will stay the

same, and just 3.1% that it will worsen. In young people’s eyes, the issues posing the most problems for Kazakhstan today are unemployment, increasing poverty and the environment. In their view, the most serious issues today are corruption, unemployment and poverty. They are less worried about violations of the law, the threat of the spread of HIV/AIDS, workplace health and safety issues, terrorist attacks, narcotics and street crime. The study found that 56.2% associate the country’s successes and achievements with the President, and 25.9% with the government. Almost all (95.8%) trust the President to a high level, and 64.6% fully.

## 13. Migration tendencies

Of the young people surveyed, 87.5% believe their future lies with Kazakhstan. Just 10.6% intend to emigrate, with their preferred destinations including Russia, the EU, the USA, Canada and China. A third of those say that they would return within ten years. Seventy-eight of the respondents (7.8%) intend to change their citizenship, with 60 among them intending to take



Russian citizenship, 4 American, 5 German, 2 French, and 1 each Italian and Australian.

#### 14. Geopolitical priorities

The main integration project in which Kazakhstan is involved – the Eurasian Economic Union – is approved of by 90.9% of young people. More than half of the respondents believe that the EAEU will have a positive effect on national values and identity, technological development, human rights, stability, domestic politics, foreign direct investment and economic development, and the majority believe that the gov-

ernment will be able to defend Kazakhstan's national interests within the Union. They believe that the country should build closer ties with Russia, the European Union, Kyrgyzstan, China and Uzbekistan, but distance itself from the USA, NATO, Iran and Afghanistan. In terms of its development, Kazakhstan, they say, should look primarily to Russia, the EU, China, the USA and Turkey. Their main sources of information about politics and world affairs are television (60.5%), the Internet (89.2%), family discussions (33.1%), conversations with relatives and friends (16%) and social networking sites (10%).

# CHAPTER 1: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The world in which the younger generation in Kazakhstan is forming, growing and developing is still somewhat 'off the radar' for older people. For young people themselves, however, this unseen reality – their daily routine – forms the basis of their lives. Therefore, while leisure practices are a more significant aspect in identity formation for young people, professional tendencies, even though they sometimes seem not to play any role at all, also influence the development of the individual. Accordingly, we try to consider all areas of young people's interests in this study so as to obtain the fullest possible picture of them.

Our research methodology is based on that used in the well-known Shell Youth Study, which is carried out every 3–4 years in Germany. This sociological survey was initiated by the energy company Shell in 1953. Today, its findings have made a serious contribution both to the develop-

ment of youth research in various academic disciplines in Germany and to practical work with young people by various governmental and non-governmental institutions.

In 2014, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Kazakhstan invited local research companies to apply to carry out the fieldwork in Kazakhstan. We chose Public Opinion, a research institute headed by Botagoz Rakisheva. The research adviser for the project is Professor Klaus Hurrelmann, who has advised the project team both on research methodology issues, on carrying out the questionnaire-based survey and holding focus groups. The questionnaire-based survey and the focus groups, including the in-depth interviews, were conducted by professional sociologists and those holding a Master's degree in sociology. The survey in Kazakhstan took place between 27 December, 2014 and 15 January, 2015.



## 1.1. Research questions

This study explores the world of young people in Kazakhstan in all its aspects, and the strategies they choose to meet their objectives and goals. The main questions we wanted to answer included “What issues and challenges is the younger generation coming up against?”, and “How are young people responding to them?”

Another group of questions relates to how young people perceive the social, economic, political, religious and other developments in the country. Accordingly, the study also explores questions such as “What values, stereotypes and mythologems are common among young people with regard to the world around them?”, “How do young people interpret the events taking place in their life?”, “What approaches do they adopt in finding their own identity with a vast social and political landscape?”, and “How do they assess events in their own life and in public life in general?”

A third set of questions sheds light on young people’s expecta-

tations: “What expectations do young people have?”, “How do they see their role, and what importance do they assign themselves in the development of both their society and their family?”, “What social roles would they like to perform in future?”, and “Do they link their own future with that of their country?”

## 1.2. Research methods

To achieve our research goal, we used both quantitative (a survey of young people through personal interviews) and qualitative (focus groups and in-depth interviews) research methods.

It should be noted in particular that the qualitative research methods were used in order to test out a questionnaire adapted from that used in the Shell Youth Study, as well as to identify new topics and new areas of focus for research and interests specific to young people in Kazakhstan.

### The quantitative survey

For our sociological survey, we used a sample of 1,000 respond-



ents aged from 14 to 29 in Kazakhstan's 14 regions and the cities of Astana and Almaty. The survey covered both urban and rural areas, and was carried out through interviews at the respondents' place of residence; the sample is representative of Kazakhstan's population in terms of sex, ages between 14 to 29, ethnicity, level of education, and place of residence. The respondents were selected by stratified

address-based sampling and quota-based selection.

The sample population is representative – in terms of the designated parameters, the proportional composition of the respondents is close to that of the general population according to current statistics from the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan Committee on Statistics at the time of the research.

**Table 1**

**Sample population for the quantitative survey  
1,000 respondents (14 regions, Astana and Almaty)**

№	Region	Sample population			General population		
		Sam- ple (out of 1,000 respon- dents)	Urban	Rural	*num- ber of resi- dents aged from 14 to 29	Urban	Rural
<b>South</b>							
1.	Almaty	114	25	89	529,942	116,938	413,004
2.	Jambyl	62	24	38	286,947	110,824	176,123
3.	Kyzylorda	44	18	26	204,666	84,440	120,226
4.	South Ka- zakhstan	166	64	102	773,425	300,143	473,282
<b>North</b>							
5.	Pavlodar	40	28	12	188,063	129,610	58,453
6.	Kostanay	49	25	24	229,540	118,171	111,369



7.	North Kazakhstan	29	13	16	133,937	57,945	75,992
<b>West</b>							
8.	West Kazakhstan	36	18	18	167,490	81,787	85,703
9.	Atyrau	34	16	18	157,638	74,234	83,404
10.	Mangystau	35	17	18	165,296	80,603	84,693
11.	Aktobe	51	32	19	237,954	149,122	88,832
<b>East</b>							
12.	East Kazakhstan	75	46	29	349,117	214,947	134,170
<b>Centre</b>							
13.	Akmola	40	19	21	184,506	85,535	98,971
14.	Karaganda	76	59	17	352,920	274,694	78,226
15.	Astana	52	52	0	243,495	243,495	-
16.	Almaty	97	97	0	451,530	451,530	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,000</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>4,656,466</b>	<b>2,574,018</b>	<b>2,082,448</b>

The questionnaire used was borrowed from that used in Friedrich Ebert Foundation youth studies in Eastern Europe, which in turn was adapted for the region from the well-known Shell Youth Study. It was slightly adapted for Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, to take account of cultural differences and gaps, and how certain concepts/terms are understood.

The questions for the survey are divided into eight thematic sections:

- leisure and lifestyle;
- trust and identity;
- family and friends;
- interests and aspirations;
- education and occupation;
- democracy and politics;
- governance and development;
- nation and the world.

There is also a section containing socio-demographic information on the respondents.

## The qualitative survey

### Focus groups

Total sample: four focus groups were held in Astana. The participants were aged from 14 to 29. Audio and visual recordings were made at the focus groups. The audio recordings were transcribed by data processing experts. In addition, full details of the participants and their occupations were collected.

### In-depth interviews

Total sample: five in-depth interviews were conducted in Astana. The participants were aged from 14 to 29. Audio recordings were made of a series of in-depth interviews. The audio recordings were transcribed by data processing experts. For the report on

the interview results, full details of the participants and their occupation were collected.

In addition, the focus groups and in-depth interviews were used to test out/check thematic areas, certain wordings and the use of terminology. The surveys were then corrected for language and substantially amended. At the same time, the young people's comments serve to illustrate the results of the quantitative study.

### The sample

The sociodemographic composition of the respondents mirrors that of young people in general: 49.9% of the participants were young men, and 50.1% young women.

**Table 2**

### Sex

Responses	Count	Percentage
Male	499	49.9
Female	501	50.1

63.7% of the respondents described themselves as Kazakh, 30.8% as Russian, and 5.5% in

total as a member of another ethnic group.



**Table 3**  
**ETHNICITY**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Kazakh	637	63.7
Russian	308	30.8
Tatar	20	2.0
Uzbek	9	0.9
Uyghur	6	0.6
German	3	0.3
Bashkir	3	0.3
Turk	2	0.2
Azeri	2	0.2
Belarusian	2	0.2
Armenian	2	0.2
Ukrainian	2	0.2
Korean	2	0.2
Kurd	1	0.1
Chechen	1	0.1
Total	1,000	100.0

The age distribution of the respondents was relatively even: each year was represented by at least 5% of the respondents. For certain purposes, we divid-

ed the respondents into three age groups, and the proportions were as follows: 35.4% were aged from 14–19, 31.6% from 20–24, and 33% from 25–29.

**Table 4**  
**AGE**

Responses	Count	Percentage
14	53	5.3
15	61	6.1
16	56	5.6
17	74	7.4
18	61	6.1
19	49	4.9

20	68	6.8
21	81	8.1
22	54	5.4
23	56	5.6
24	57	5.7
25	80	8.0
26	51	5.1
27	56	5.6
28	58	5.8
29	85	8.5
Total	1,000	100.0

### Analysis and interpretation of the results

Given a representative sample, a quantitative survey makes it possible to obtain statistically significant results reflecting the general opinion of the relevant population group, in this case young people in Kazakhstan. SPSS software was used to process the data.

The report also presents quotations on the topics under consideration from young people who took part in focus groups, as well as from young people's answers during in-depth interviews. These are presented in italic type. To ensure confidentiality, the names of the focus group and interview

participants have not been used. It should be remembered that such quotations do not necessarily reflect the overall opinion of the social group being studied – young people in Kazakhstan aged from 14 to 29.

The opinions of individual young people obtained as part of the qualitative elements of this study perform a supplementary role and are used to illustrate and back up the survey findings. At the same time, the interviews make it possible to reconstruct the everyday meanings assigned by people to everything that is important to them and that they consider valuable. Accordingly, it is very important to listen to young people's interpretations of vari-

ous social norms so as to understand the true motives for their behaviour.

### Social position index

To establish the social background of the respondents, we used an index. As with the German study, this takes account of both their financial position and their education. The former was defined both through self-assessment (“How would you describe your current financial situation?”), and by determining ownership of particular material goods. This, therefore, makes

it possible both to assess their immediate surroundings and to objectively assess their financial position. The significant differences between urban and rural areas with regard to property and possessions made it necessary to introduce specific adjustments, since possession of even a small amount of material assets is even now objectively regarded as a sign of reasonable wealth in economically deprived areas. Each element in the list of material wealth was given a point, then all the points were added up (see Table 5). The following groups were created for the index:

**Table 5**

Points	Index value
$22 - 16 = 6$	6
$18 - 12 = 4$	4
$12 - 6 = 2$	2
$0 - 6 = 0$	0

To analyse the level of education of the respondents, we used the level of education of their fathers. As not all respondents had a high school graduation certificate, we had to take their parents’ level of education into consideration. Education is given less significance

than in the German study. In the latter, education is valued more highly than financial status, but in our study the two have equal value. In Germany, the level of one’s parents’ education is an important indicator of social status, but in the post-Soviet states the so-

cial changes that are taken place have rendered the level of parental education much less significant. Many Soviet degrees saw their value fall after the collapse of the USSR, leading to a change in the country's social stratification. Accordingly, the level of their father's education is less important for young people in Kazakhstan than it is for young people in Germany. Even so, we assume that having a higher education does have a positive impact on people's social position.

Finally, another criterion we used was the number of times the respondents had been abroad, as

foreign holidays are a strong indicator of financial prosperity and young people see time spent outside the country as a great advantage that has a positive impact on their social position. The high level of prestige of travel abroad makes it a good indicator of social status.

An index has been compiled from additional questions laid out in the following tables, as well as from specific numerical indicators, together providing values ranging from 0 to 16.

**Table 6**

What is the highest level of education achieved by your parents?			
Father's education		%	Index value
1.	Primary/I don't have a father	3.7	0
2.	Secondary (did not graduate)/ Secondary	31.4	1
3.	Vocational secondary	36.9	2
4.	Higher (did not graduate)	4.6	3
5.	Higher	23.4	4

How would you describe your current financial situation?			
		%	Index value
1.	Very bad	2.8	0
2.	Bad	11.4	1
3.	Good	78.9	2



4.	Excellent	6.9	3
<b>How many times have you been abroad? (For tourism, study, work experience or visiting relatives.)</b>			
		%	Index value
1.	Never	74.5	0
2.	Once	11.4	3
3.	1–3 times	9.4	2
4.	More than three times	4.7	1

*The following division into social strata is based on this index.*

**Table 7**

	Social strata	Index value	%
1.	Poor	0–3	2.9%
2.	Lower middle class	4–6	31%
3.	Middle class	7–10	56.3%
4.	Upper middle class	11–13	8.6%
5.	Elite	14–16	1.2%

In conclusion, it should be noted once again that it is difficult to assess the social stratification of young people in transitional states because a lot of information (e.g. on income distribution or the importance of one’s level of education as a prerequisite for

social advancement) is not readily available or accessible, so this index is merely an interpretation of social strata. In this study, it is used simply to examine differences in behaviour between people in socially advantaged and socially disadvantaged positions.



# CHAPTER 2: LIFESTYLE AND WELL-BEING

Today's younger generation has grown up in an independent Kazakhstan, during a period of economic and political stability, but at the same time live in an era of change, or, as some experts have described it, "an age of transition from uncertainty to certainty and back". In this context, the question of how social, political and economic changes have affected their way of life or lifestyle is of particular interest.

Young people cannot live like their parents did, as the modern world offers greater opportunities for them to fulfil their potential, but the lack of established models for them to follow in their lives hampers their socialisation. Furthermore, as this study shows, young people have a number of systems for evaluating the world around them, including in terms of certain indicators of success in life, and these systems even sometimes contradict one another. For example, there is a notice-

able contradiction in their ideas of what constitutes success in life.

However, despite this combination of norms inherited from their parents and new ones resulting from the new socioeconomic order, which is having an impact on how young people form strategies for achieving particular goals, their life plans remain relatively flexible. According to the young people themselves, this can be explained by the need to be prepared for major changes; the future, therefore is simply a continuation of the present for them.

## 2.1. Healthy living

Healthy living is regarded as the ideal lifestyle both in terms of official discourse and by public opinion in Kazakhstan, and its value goes without saying. However, as often happens, the ideal is not always put into practice or reflect-

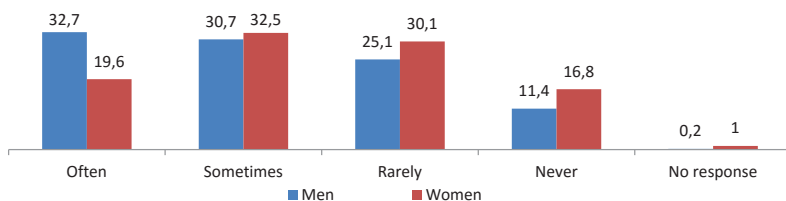
ed in reality. In this study, we look at the notion of healthy living through young people’s attitudes to four of its aspects: a good diet, engagement in sporting activities, consumption of alcohol and the use of tobacco products.

According to young people, leading a healthy lifestyle means engaging in some form of sport and abstaining from bad habits – smoking and drinking alcohol. This, however, is not reflected in their behaviour. In particular, the study revealed that 26% of young Kazakhs think that doing sport is important, 79% consider eating healthily important, 56.3% regard drinking alcohol as unacceptable, and 61.5% do not use tobacco products. However, the number who engage in sport regularly, going to sports and other fitness clubs (26%) is barely more than the number who use tobacco products (23.9%) and far less than the number who

drink alcohol (43.5%). Below, we look at all four of these aspects in a little more detail.

As noted above, the first of these aspects – playing sport – is not something young people are particularly interested in. Furthermore, interest from young men is significantly higher than interest from young women. As the chart below illustrates, more young men (32.7%) engage in sport often than young women (19.6%). On the other hand, age makes no significant difference, with the proportion of young people in different age brackets who do sport often ranging from 22% for those aged 25 and over through 25.2% for those aged 19 to 24 to 31.5% for those aged 14 to 18. In terms of ethnic groups, Kazakhs are more likely to engage in sport often (30.3%) than their peers from other ethnic groups, such as Russians (19.2%).

**Figure 1**  
**HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN SPORT? (by sex)**



In terms of regions, 73.5% of the respondents from Atyrau Region and 70% of those from Pavlodar Region do sport often, while 67.5% of those from Almaty Region and 44.8% of those from North Kazakhstan Region do sport rarely. The survey also revealed that a comparatively high proportion of young people from East Kazakhstan and Kostanay regions (34.7% and 28.6% respectively) do no sport at all. It must be said that explaining

these regional differences is not easy.

Forty-two percent of those who do sport often describe their financial situation as “excellent”, a higher proportion than for the other financial categories, for which 20.2% to 25.2% of respondents engage in sport often. This indicates that young people in Kazakhstan do not consider doing sport an important aspect of healthy living.

**Table 8**

**DO YOU USE ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS (CIGARETTES, NASWAR, ETC.)?  
ALCOHOL:**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes, regularly (every day)	12	1.2
Yes, several times a week	28	2.8
Only at weekends	77	7.7
Rarely	318	31.8
No, never	560	56.0
No response/Don't want to say	5	0.5
Total	1,000	100.0

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS:**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes, regularly (every day)	129	12.9
Occasionally	110	11.0
No (I don't smoke cigarettes)	615	61.5
No (I don't use naswar)	130	13.0
No response/Don't want to say	16	1.6
Total	1,000	100.0

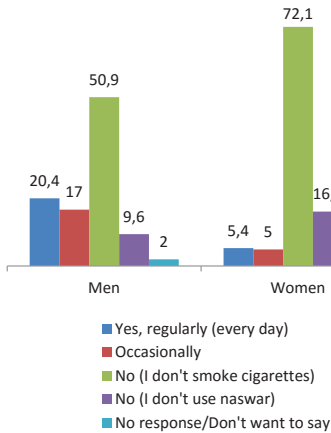


Two more aspects of healthy living are attitudes to alcohol and tobacco products. The study found that 56.3% of the respondents consider drinking alcohol unacceptable, and 56% do not drink alcohol; 61.5% of young Kazakhs do not use tobacco products. The respondents' financial position made no significant difference to their responses, with the majority across all groups supporting the opinions held at the countrywide level.

At the same time, the survey shows that young people's attitudes to the use of alcohol and tobacco products vary with their age. Of those aged from 14 to 18, 75.6% consider drinking alcohol unacceptable, but this figure falls to 53.8% for those aged from 19 to 24, and to 43.7% for the oldest respondents – those aged from 25 to 29. For tobacco products, the pattern is similar: 9.2% of those aged from 14 to 18 use them, 26% of those aged from 19 to 24, and 34.9% of those aged from 25 to 29.

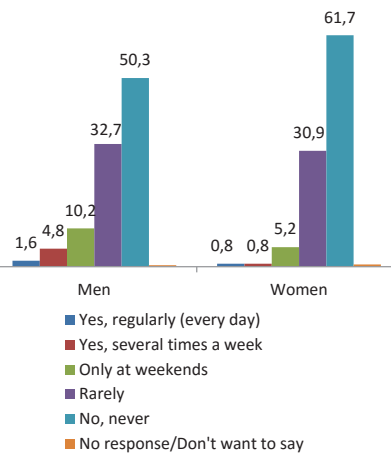
**Figure 2**

**DO YOU USE TOBACCO PRODUCTS (CIGARETTES, NASWAR, ETC.)?**



**Figure 3**

**DO YOU DRINK ALCOHOL?**



The proportion of young women who use tobacco products is significantly less than that of young men who do: 20.4% of the latter do so regularly, and 17% do so occasionally, compared to 5.4% and 5% respectively for women. For alcohol, the pattern is similar, although young women are more likely to drink alcohol than use tobacco products. In total, 49.7% of young men drink alcohol, compared to 38.3% of young women.

Judging by the comments from the focus group discussion participants, however, abstinence from tobacco products and alcohol is not necessarily evidence of a healthy lifestyle, as young people are finding replacements for them. In particular, they say that their peers are replacing tobacco products with hookah and spirits (vodka, brandy, etc.) or alcoholic cocktails.

*"My friends don't smoke, but hookah is becoming more fashionable – hookah is purified, it passes through milk, passes through water and, well, you get such great pleasure out of it"*  
(female, 19, student)

*"I gave up smoking and drinking about two months ago. I don't mind alcohol; I have a positive attitude to it. Not exactly extremely positive, but I don't consider it as big a sin as cigarettes, for example"*  
(male, 26, in work)

*"People say that smoking is not fashionable, but what this has led to is that smoking is fashionable. It is a healthy way of life – the fashionable ideal of the 90s"*  
(male, 26, in work)

Compared to their attitudes to other aspects of healthy living, young people's attitudes to diet are encouraging. For the vast majority of young people (79%), a healthy diet is very important. In terms of regions, the only exception is South Kazakhstan, where just 44.6% of the respondents consider healthy eating important. This, it may be assumed, is most likely because the region's warm and mild climate, as well as its proximity to Uzbekistan, from where it imports a variety of fruit and vegetables, mean that it has no shortage of the latter, so people there are less concerned



about the availability of healthy food than, for example, people from northern and other regions. As such, most young people in the south do not accord great importance to a healthy diet. Other categories, such as age and ethnicity, did not show such variation, with the overwhelming majority of young people in all groups considering healthy eating important.

The survey thus shows that most young people have an idea of what healthy living is, but do not always manage to put it into practice in their daily lives. For example, some drink alcohol and use tobacco products, or alternatives such as hookahs or alcoholic cocktails. Furthermore, while they recognise that doing sport is a way of looking after their health and getting fit, many do not actually engage in sport. From this point of view, while young people in Kazakhstan value healthy living and have an idea of what healthy living is, this is only partly reflected in how they actually live and does not always influence their behaviour.

Young people today are not particularly active in terms of maintaining or improving their health. Most likely, they take their youth itself as a guarantee of their

health, which they do not think is anything to worry about – for now, at least. As a result of this attitude, they are very happy with the state of their health: they see themselves as healthy and do not think that they need to worry about it on a daily basis.

## 2.2. Self-esteem and young people's attitudes towards themselves

It is entirely natural for young people to experience fragile self-esteem and attitudes towards themselves that are still evolving. Accordingly, their levels of self-esteem may vary, but in any case it influences the life strategies young people choose for their future development. Naturally, their level of self-esteem will fluctuate over the course of their lives, rising with their achievements and falling when they are less successful.

We look at young people's self-esteem through indicators such as self-presentation and how happy they are with their appearance, how they identify, and their experience of class division. The study found that 64.4% of the respondents are happy with their appearance, 19.7% are very happy, and 13.6% are partly happy.

Very few said they were unhappy with their appearance, or that they did not know how to answer – 1.8% and 0.5% respectively.

Furthermore, such trends can be seen among all the respondents, irrespective of sex, age or place of residence.

**Table 9**

**HOW HAPPY ARE YOU WITH YOUR APPEARANCE?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Very happy	197	19.7
Happy	644	64.4
Partly happy	136	13.6
Unhappy	18	1.8
Don't know/No response	5	0.5
Total	1,000	100.0

An important factor here is the issue of self-presentation, which is linked to the desire to make a good impression, to be liked. For young people, one of the criteria for successful self-presentation, and a factor in high self-esteem, is their appearance. As the survey shows, looking good is equally important to respondents of all ages, while wearing clothing from famous brands is slightly more important to those aged from 14 to 18 (34.6% compared to 28.1% and 28.8% for the other age groups). Looking good and wearing clothing from famous brands is more important to young women than to young men (at 81.8% and 81.2% compared to 70.3% and 76.8% respectively).

There are some minor regional differences. For young people in Almaty and Astana, brand and status goods are losing their status as effective social markers, but judging by the focus group and interview responses, as well as from other youth studies in Kazakhstan, 'prestige' skills (knowing foreign languages, being able to drive (and having a car)) are becoming increasingly important. As such, 66.2% of the respondents from Almaty, and 82.7% of those from Astana, say that wearing clothing from famous brands is not very important, figures that contrast with those for young people from some other regions. For example, 88%, 62.5%, 55% and 52% respectively of those from Atyrau, Pavlodar, Karaganda and East Kazakh-



stan regions believe that clothing from famous brands is a very important and significant attribute for young people. At the same time, the majority of respondents (76% of Russians and 59.7% of

Kazakhs) say that they are not affected by any class divide. That said, a significant proportion of Kazakhs are – 17% continually and 18.5% sometimes.

**Table 10**  
**ARE YOU AFFECTED BY ANY CLASS DIVIDE IN SOCIETY?**  
**(by ethnicity)**

Responses	Kazakhs	Russians
Yes, always and very sharply in all areas of my life	17.0	10.1
Sometimes	18.5	8.8
No, not at all	59.7	76.0
Don't know	4.9	5.2

However, most of those who have experienced such a divide did not

want to say in which area.

**Table 11**  
**IN WHICH AREA?**

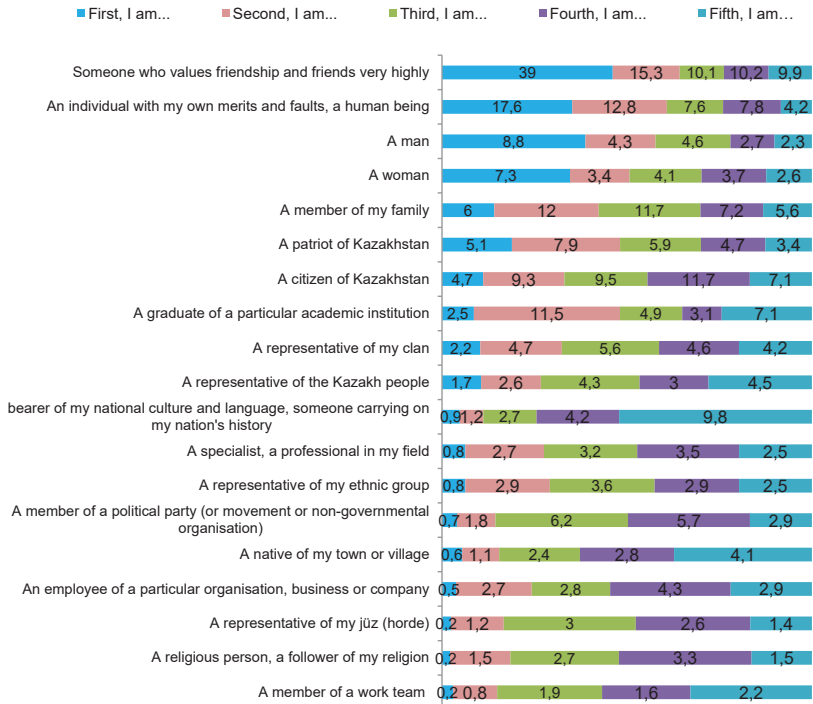
Responses	Overall	Male	Female
	In the public sphere	11.3	2.6
In education	6.0	3.9	4.1
In retail	4.0	1.3	2.7
At work	2.0	0.0	1.4
Among peers	0.7	7.9	14.9
In politics	0.7	1.3	0.0
In finance	0.7	0.0	1.4
Don't want to say	74.6	82.9	66.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



As the study shows, spending time with their peers is an important need for young Kazakhs, most likely because this gives them a frame of reference to assess themselves and their behaviour, views, abilities and achievements. As such, when asked to choose five descriptions most appropriate to them, most respondents selected “Someone who values friendship and friends very highly”. In second place came

“An individual with my own merits and faults”, which tended to be chosen more by respondents aged 25 or over. In third place came “A member of my family” for those aged from 14 to 18, “A graduate of a particular academic institution” for those aged from 19 to 24, and “A citizen of Kazakhstan” or “A patriot of Kazakhstan” for those aged 25 or over.

**Figure 4**  
**HOW YOUNG PEOPLE IN KAZAKHSTAN IDENTIFY THEMSELVES**  
**(in percentages)**





The respondents' answers when asked which of various aphorisms they agreed with also indicate a tendency to look towards others for help: 79.4% said that they either completely or mostly agreed with the statement "You should surround yourself with people you can rely on". Just over half (56.4%) believe that "People should trust in fate and accept everything life throws at them", and 57.7% think that "Faith and traditions should be adhered to". On the other hand, there were other options chosen by a large number of respondents. For example, 90% think that "To achieve anything in life, you have to know what you want", and 72.8% agree with the statement "Nothing ventured, nothing gained".

In general, young people in Kazakhstan have a high level of self-esteem; most are positive about themselves and their lives. On the other hand, that self-esteem is mainly based on appearance and fashion. They are notably optimistic about their own future. The survey shows that most young people's lifestyle is focused on other people and on socialising. As such, they believe that it is important to have a lot of friends

and to spend time with them.

### 2.3. Leisure

Sociocultural life in Kazakhstan is changing rapidly: cultural elements of people's everyday life are being transformed, with leisure time changing accordingly, particularly for young people. Whereas young people in the past grew up under an established ideology, which also prescribed various forms of leisure, young people today can decide themselves what to do in their free time. In this context, the project's researchers wanted to use the study to find out how young people organise their leisure time, and what behavioural stereotypes influence how they do so. Essentially, using leisure, directly or indirectly, to meet particular needs is a way of realising personal goals at a young age; young people's choices of leisure activities clearly reflect their level of personal development, their individual tendencies, and how mature their attitudes to life are, as it is through leisure that young people reveal themselves as free individuals.

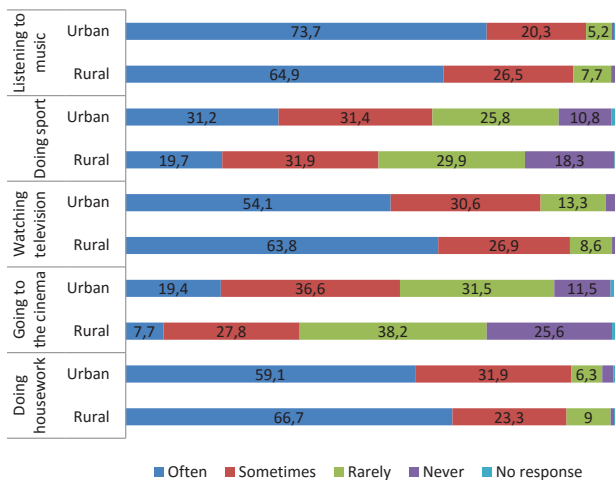
**Table 12****HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES?**

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	No re- sponse
Listening to music	69.8	23.0	6.3	0.7	0.2
Spending time with friends	55.2	32.6	11.6	0.4	0.2
Reading books/magazines	21.2	38.9	30.7	9.0	0.2
Doing sport	26.1	31.6	27.6	14.1	0.6
Watching television	58.4	29.0	11.2	1.4	-
Going to the cinema	14.2	32.7	34.5	17.7	0.9
Doing housework	62.5	28.1	7.5	1.6	0.3
Visiting extended family members	37.4	47.1	14.2	0.7	0.6
Visiting immediate family (if you live away from them)	29.6	20.8	4.4	0.9	44.3

The study shows an imbalance between young people's ideas of leisure as entertainment and leisure as an opportunity to fully develop their abilities, meet their various needs and focus on their interests, where they cannot do so through professional or other activities. For example, people spend relatively little time on self-development: 41.7% spend just 1–2 hours a day studying outside the classroom, and 34.3% spend 3–4 hours a day. They rarely read books and magazines (21.2% do so often, 38.9% sometimes, and 30.7% rarely) or go to the cinema (14.2% do so often, 32.7%

sometimes, and 34.5% rarely). They are more likely to spend their free time listening to music, doing housework, watching television or spending time with friends, which 69.8%, 62.5%, 58.4% and 55.2% respectively do often. The survey shows that they prefer entertainment-based leisure activities, predominantly passive ones.

**Figure 5**  
**POPULAR ACTIVITIES (BY URBAN OR RURAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE)**



Spending time with friends is popular with the respondents, with 67.9% of those aged from 14 to 18, 55.7% of those aged from 19 to 24, and 41.8% of those aged from 25 to 29 doing so often. Television is almost equally popular with young men and young women across all age categories: a slightly lower proportion of those aged from 19 to 24 (54.4%) watch television often compared to those aged from 14 to 18 (58.7%) and those aged from 25 to 29 (62%). Of those aged from 14 to 18, 46.3% do housework often, as opposed to 61.9% of those aged from 19 to 24, and 67.4% of those aged from 25 to 29. In general, activi-

ties such as going out and spending time with friends are popular.

The collapse of cultural and social infrastructure in rural areas has exacerbated the difference between young people from urban and rural areas in terms of leisure practices. The proportion of young people living in rural areas who rarely or never go to the cinema is higher than that of those in urban areas. The former are more likely to do housework, and slightly more likely to watch television. There are significant differences in their use of computers and the Internet. The focus group discussions back up the questionnaire findings.

"The main problem is that people don't do anything; generally speaking, they don't know what to do. If we're talking not about hobbies, but simply about ways of spending time, that's also a problem. For example, I don't even know where to go out here"  
(male, 26, in work, Astana)

"It is now the information age, the age of new technologies. It is true that many young people spend a lot of time on social networking sites. You can also watch serials, or play computer games; you can learn about all kinds of events through social networking sites – for example, you can go salsa dancing or do some kind of volunteering"  
(female, 19, student)

Thus, while young people now have a real opportunity to choose a form of recreation and leisure most conducive to self-fulfilment, it has become harder for them to recognise their non-material needs and to move beyond their individual preferences. The survey shows that young people take advantage of only a small proportion of the cultural and ed-

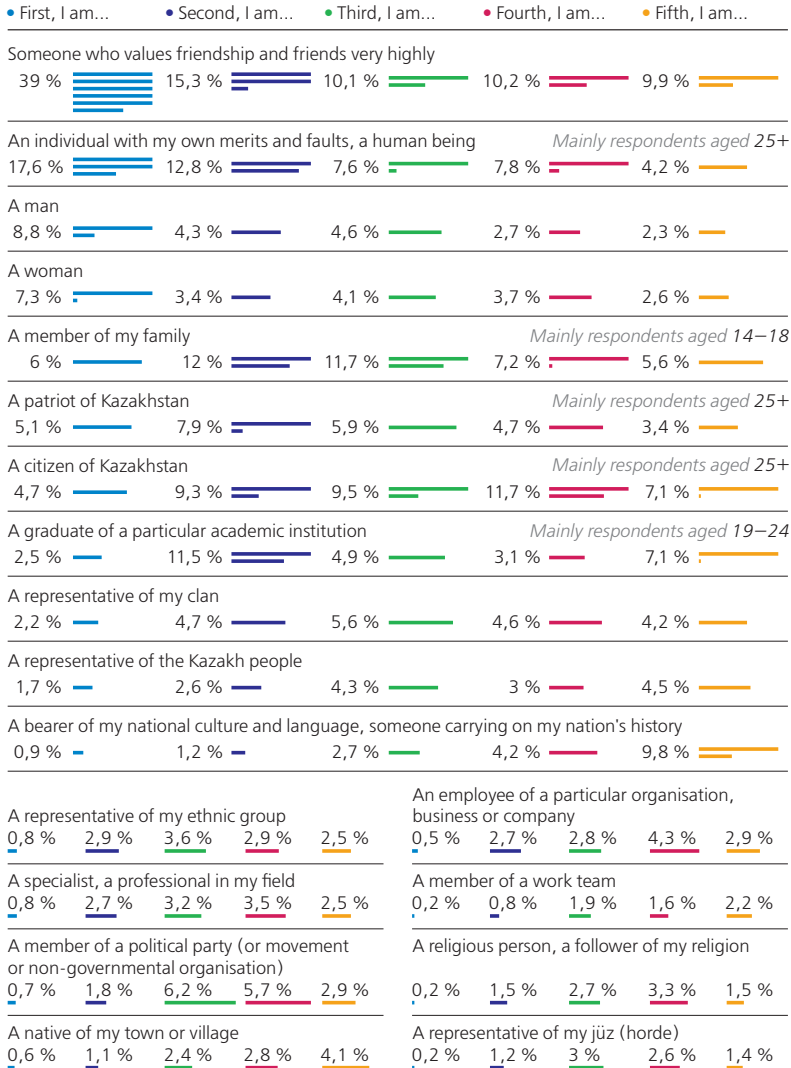
"It's now fashionable to be intelligent, creative, focused on tomorrow, to be up to date on everything going on, and to be able to hold a conversation. Humour is in fashion at the moment. It is fashionable to engage in self-development, but what isn't fashionable is to sit at home, not talking to anyone, without any goals, and simply doing nothing."  
(male, 29, in work)

ucational potential of their leisure environment. At the same time they show little interest in being creative or in self-development. Accordingly, they spend little time on self-education.

Young people mainly spend their leisure time at home or with friends. Their most popular leisure activities also involve spending time on the computer, such as visiting social networking sites, listening to music, and watching films. Young people like fashionable, prestigious and up-to-date possessions, which can also be recognised as markers of technical innovation. Owning and using everyday items (mobile phones, tablet computers, etc.) which display the latest achievements of science and technology is important to them.



## SELF-IDENTIFICATION



**LEISURE**

How often do you engage in the following activities?

👍👍 Often   
 👍 Sometimes   
 👎 Rarely   
 👎 Never   
 👎 No response



Listening to music

👍👍 69,8 %    👎 0,7 %  
👍 23 %    👎 0,2 %  
👎 6,3 %



Doing housework

👍👍 62,5 %    👎 1,6 %  
👍 28,1 %    👎 0,3 %  
👎 7,5 %



Watching television

👍👍 58,4 %    👎 1,4 %  
👍 29 %    👎 -  
👎 11,2 %



Spending time with friends

👍👍 55,2 %    👎 0,4 %  
👍 32,6 %    👎 0,2 %  
👎 11,6 %



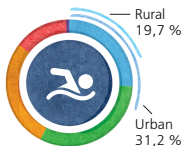
Visiting extended family members

👍👍 37,4 %    👎 0,7 %  
👍 47,1 %    👎 0,6 %  
👎 14,2 %



Visiting immediate family (if you live away from them)

👍👍 29,6 %    👎 0,9 %  
👍 20,8 %    👎 44,3 %  
👎 4,4 %



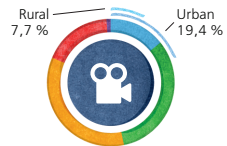
Doing sport

👍👍 26,1 %    👎 14,1 %  
👍 31,6 %    👎 0,6 %  
👎 27,6 %



Reading books/magazines

👍👍 21,2 %    👎 9 %  
👍 38,9 %    👎 0,2 %  
👎 30,7 %



Going to the cinema

👍👍 14,2 %    👎 17,7 %  
👍 32,7 %    👎 0,9 %  
👎 34,5 %



# CHAPTER 3:

## LIFE GOALS

In studying young people's life strategies, both short- and long-term plans for life were taken into account, as well as the availability of the resources to achieve them. Here, it should be remembered that young people prefer to "enjoy the moment", and do not always think seriously about the meaning of their lives. Accordingly, even where they do have a life strategy, this does not automatically mean that they can independently identify which goals are important for them. After all, many are too young to plan and manage their future.

### 3.1. Defining success

As noted above, the main plans young Kazakhs have for their lives include obtaining an education, getting married and building a career. It should of course be borne in mind that, for some, age makes it difficult to draw up effective long-term life strategies, so they focus on shorter-term plans and strategies for implementing them. For example, they might prefer to address issues faced by them at the moment, without considering how this could affect their future. Accordingly, the seemingly random nature and inconsistency of their survey responses regarding particular areas of life are entirely explicable.

**Table 13**  
**GOALS IN LIFE**

	Impor- tant	Not very impor- tant	Not at all im- portant	Don't know
Being loyal (to my partner, friends or employer)	87.0	8.9	3.7	0.4
Taking on responsibility	72.0	20.0	6.7	1.3



Being independent	76.5	18.4	3.7	1.4
Obtaining a higher education	72.9	20.3	5.5	1.3
Building a career	67.2	25.1	6.2	1.5
Engaging in politics	17.8	44.6	34.5	3.1
Taking part in events and citizens' initiatives	21.6	47.1	26.1	5.2
Getting married	75.9	16.3	5.7	2.1
Looking good	76.1	18.5	4.7	0.7
Wearing clothing from famous brands	30.4	44.9	22.9	1.8
Eating healthily	79.0	15.4	3.5	2.1

According to the survey, the top three goals for young people include possessing certain personal qualities, such as “being loyal” (87%) or “being independent” (76.5%). Next come short-term or medium-term characteristics and goals – things that are important in the present: “looking good” (76.1%), “getting married” (75.9%) and “obtaining a higher education” (72.9%). The third most important set of goals includes “taking on responsibility” (72%), “building a career” (67.2%) and “wearing clothing from famous brands” (30.4%).

The age-based classifications show that the most important goals for young men and wom-

en aged from 14 to 18 are “being loyal” (82.6%), “looking good” (74.4%), “eating healthily” and “obtaining a higher education” (74.1% each). For young people aged from 19 to 24, the top priorities are “being loyal” (88.2%), “getting married” (79.7%) and “eating healthily” (79.5%). The oldest respondents, aged 25 and over, chose “being loyal” (89.7%), “being independent” (83.6%) and “eating healthily” (83%).

The survey shows that young people want to possess certain personal qualities. In other words, they believe it is important to be a ‘good person’. On the other hand, goals in life such as

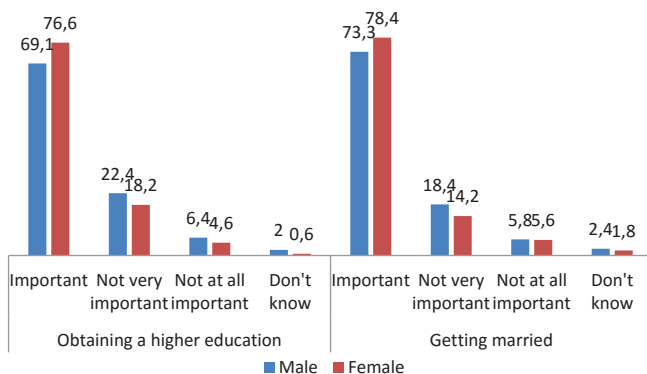
obtaining an education, getting married and building a career are less of a priority for them. For example, just 8.8% of young people agree with the statement that “people should focus on their career; everything else is secondary”.

Young women accord greater significance than young men to obtaining a higher education and getting married (at 76.6% and 78.4% compared to 69.1% and 73.3% respectively). For young people from rural areas, it is most important to be loyal (90.5%), to eat healthily (82.1%), and to marry and start a family (80.3%). Meanwhile, the top three goals chosen by their urban peers are

“being loyal” (84.2%), “being independent” (77.6%) and “looking good” (76.9%).

The majority of young people in Kazakhstan (71.3%) agree that to achieve anything in life you have to know what you want, 45.6% believe that a society cannot exist without moral values, and 43.3% that you should surround yourself with people you can rely on. Furthermore, 75.9% regard getting married as important, followed by 72.9% for obtaining an education, and 67.2% for building a career. This order of priority for these goals applies universally. For example, the respondents’ financial situation makes no difference.

**Figure 6**  
**THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MARRIAGE**  
**(by sex)**



Young people are interested least of all in a political career: just 17.8% would like to go into politics in the future, while only 21.6% are interested in taking part in events and citizens' initiatives. These figures mirror their responses regarding their agreement or disagreement with particular statements. For example, just 17.7% of the respondents agree that "an interest in social affairs is an important part of my life". In general, similar views are held across the various sample groupings. The majority of respondents believe that it is not very important to take part in events and citizens' initiatives and not at all important to engage in politics. The survey reveals them to be noticeably passive and indifferent to everything which does not directly concern them. For example, they are not very interested in taking part in social processes, volunteering or civic activism.

There is some regional variation on this issue. Interest in civic activism is higher in western regions: Atyrau (73.5%), Mangystau (62.9%) and Kyzylorda (43.2%). Engaging in politics was also a more popular choice in western regions: Atyrau

(79.4%), Mangystau (45.7%) and Kyzylorda (36.4%). In general, the younger generation is well suited for political leadership: they believe that they are more or less successfully adapting to the challenges of life, and rarely hold 'outsider' opinions. Despite the difficulties mentioned by the respondents in the focus group discussions, the younger generation is focused on success. Their level of satisfaction with their situation, plans and achievements to date is relatively high.

Going by this survey and other youth studies, obtaining an education and starting a family are important aspects of success in life for young people. For example, 83% of young people say they intend to go to a higher education institution, with their principal motives being to obtain a qualification so as to increase employment opportunities (72.3%), to improve their intellectual capabilities (37.5%), and to meet their parents' expectations (30.5%).

It is worth noting, however, that getting into a higher education institute and obtaining a qualification sometimes seems to be



an end in itself, rather than a means for achieving other goals in life. Judging by the young people's responses, simply getting into a higher education institute is to some extent a marker of success for them. For example, while 35.6% with a higher education believe that it will be easy for them to find work, there are 30.8% who still think they are unlikely to find work. This would seem to be why more young people chose connections and friends (54%) and professional skills (48.2%) than level of education (43.6%) as the most important factors in finding work.

Getting married and starting a family are important and necessary goals in the life of young people: 82.5% see themselves as married with a family in the future, with 52.8% believing that marriage increases partners' responsibility to each other, and 23.6% believing that it increases parents' responsibility to their children. Interestingly, just 5% see marriage as a source of greater economic security, despite the commonly held opinion that this is the only reason young people get married.

Career growth is less important to young people when it comes to choosing a job – only 35.7% put this as one of their top two factors. Interestingly, this figure is close to the percentage of people who would like to work in public administration (38.5%), and a little more than the percentage who would like to work in the private sector (30.9%). This may well be just a coincidence, but it is worth noting that it is these two areas that offer the greatest opportunity for career growth in Kazakhstan. In addition, the private sector offers scope for earning a solid income and salary, which 83.5% of the respondents put as one of their top two factors when it comes to choosing a job, compared to 22.8% who chose job satisfaction, and 20.2% who are motivated by the chance to work with people like them. This is probably why just 5.6% would like to work in a non-governmental organisation.

The survey shows that young people today associate success with starting a family, obtaining an education, and earning a decent income. They are focused more on external incentives (material prosperity) and less on career growth. The notion that "to achieve an-

anything in life, you have to know what you want" was accepted by 71.3%, and 43.3% agreed that "you should surround yourself with people you can rely on".

"...it's not fashionable at all to engage in self-development. It's a difficult question. Well, I think it's easy to sit at home. Not socialising with anyone, not looking to go anywhere, probably not doing anything. Something like that. It's a difficult question for me; I cannot say precisely"  
(female, 27, in work)

"Favourite job is a wonderful gift to you from fate. It's great. Many people work from day to day; they hate their jobs their entire life. Ultimately, they wonder what they lived such a life for. People here are learning how to relax: in the past, they just worked and worked, and they could die working. Now people here try to holiday abroad, or at least to go to [Lake] Burabay"  
(female, 27, in work)

"I'm employed now. The pay's average; naturally. It's not enough to buy what we need or to take advantage of the opportunities this country offers. So I'd like it to be higher. But making plans for the future within this organisation, no. Maybe that would be possible, but only by going somewhere else"  
(female, 24, in work)

Judging by the survey, young people do have plans for life – to finish school, go to a higher education institute, get a job, start a family – and to a large extent they look to help from their family and informal connections in fulfilling them. We suggest that this attitude may make young people more confident of achieving their goals, as they feel they can count on support from outside, primarily from their parents. Accordingly, the goals young men and women set for themselves may seem easily and quickly achievable to them.



"My goal: from childhood I had a big goal. I wanted 5 cars in a garage, a wife and a son. Later, my goals improved, I don't know, changed. I don't have any kind of direct goal specifically to work at KazMunayGas, or to earn a bonus worth a million, for example. My main goal is to help my parents, my family, to never be a burden to them. I'm not losing my head over a dream. I've heard some independent-minded people here today saying "I rely only on myself". But why shouldn't you rely on your family? I'm not saying they should come along and say "Here's a job for you, here's an apartment for you". I expect assistance, or just for them to ask "How are you doing?" Therefore, I rely on my family very much, because they will not forget me, whatever the situation. So I rely on my loved ones"

(male, 26, Astana)

"I rely on the Almighty, myself and my relatives. But mainly, of course, on the Almighty and myself"

(female, 22, Astana, unemployed)

"I'm the kind of person that has a plan for everything – this needs to be done, that needs to be done... I like ticking things off when I've done them. I wanted to graduate from university with an excellent grade, and I did. Now I'm doing a Master's degree – it's the next stage. That's how it is. Later, of course, a stable job and a family. Of course, a great deal will depend on me; I need to overcome my laziness, and then everything else will be possible"

(female, 22, Astana)

"My goal at the moment is to get into university; I will soon be taking exams. Later, of course, after university, I would like to work for the government, for a committee. Preferably the National Security Committee. I want to help my family, my friends, to become a big fish in the future, so people are proud of me. I am loyal to my family; you might say that at the moment I totally depend on my family; without my family I wouldn't be going anywhere. I haven't achieved anything myself yet, and I'm totally dependent on my family, so I'm loyal [to them]"

(male, 20, college graduate)

"I rely to some extent on myself and also count on my parents. After graduating from university, I will look only to myself. By then, I hope, I will be doing everything for myself"

(female, 17, student)

Thus, the research shows that young Kazakhs today are more concerned about what kind of people they are going to become and what kind of qualities they have than with specific goals such as obtaining an education, getting married and building a career, which are not so important to them. The goal of obtaining an education stands out a little, but it should be noted that this is not a priority for all age groups. Given that career growth is not considered a priority, it may be suggested that young people do not view higher education as a means to a career, but more as something necessary for earning a high income, and that having a higher education is in itself a criterion of success for certain age groups. Furthermore, the survey shows that young people do regard getting married as important. The vast majority see themselves as married with a family in

the future. Compared to the two other goals named here, building a career is less interesting to young people: only 35.7% of respondents are focused on career growth. As far as their professional activity is concerned, young people are more interested in a high salary.

### 3.2. Education and plans for personal growth and self-development

Going by the focus group discussions, when forming life plans young people focus first and foremost on achieving a higher status. In other words, they initially define the level of their ambitions and then analyse their capabilities. This brings up a number of questions, which we explore in this section. Firstly, what do young people think about obtaining an education? Are young Kazakhs motivated to obtain an education? Do they regard education as a means to getting a highly paid job and securing a high social status?

The study found that 30.8% of the survey respondents currently attend a secondary or vocational secondary school or college,



16.7% are in higher education, 0.8% are studying for a Master's degree or doctorate and 51.7% have completed their education, acquired a specialisation, or are in work. Of those at a secondary or vocational secondary school or college, 83% intend to go to a higher education institution, and 16.9% do not.

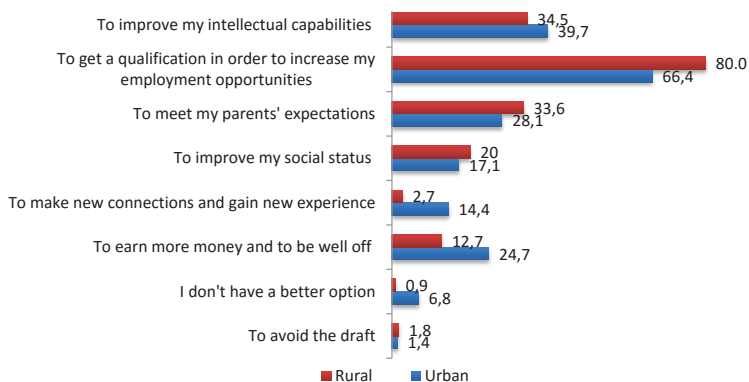
There are some interesting figures for young people from rural and urban areas with regard to the desire to obtain a higher education and continue studying: whereas 32% of school pupils from urban areas plan to continue their studies after graduating from school, compared to 17% of their rural peers, 84.9% of those from urban areas and

80.9% of those from rural areas would like to obtain a higher education. The great majority of those at a higher education institution (87.4%) are motivated to study: 35.4% describe themselves as highly motivated, and 52% as fairly motivated.

The main reasons given by the respondents for not getting a higher education are that they cannot afford it (42.3%), that they don't like studying (28.8%), and that they are not sure that it would give them a better future (26.9%). The reason most commonly given by those who do intend to get a higher education is that a qualification will increase their employment opportunities (72.3%).

Figure 7

### REASONS FOR GETTING A HIGHER EDUCATION





The survey shows that young Kazakhs are keen on obtaining a higher education qualification. For many, a higher education qualification has a universally accepted value, as something worthwhile in its own right. Having a qualification is becoming more important than knowing things, and is probably associated to a greater extent with a high income. The only thing seriously stopping young people from obtaining a higher education is not being to afford it.

"I'm actually disappointed in education. I don't regret getting a higher education. It's great. I can talk about things, I understand a lot. But there are so many times when I've been to an interview where no one cares what you studied or how well you did, what your grades were. At best, they're interested in a specific quality that you can bring to the job, what you can show or do right now"

(male, 26, in work)

"At the moment, higher education is important for me. If I've begun a Master's, well then I've started and I need to see it through to the end. I'm not planning to study any more after that. I just applied to the Master's course. I'm happy with it, and I'm studying, but for me the main thing is to have a higher education"

(female, 25,  
Master's student)

Although the main reason for obtaining a higher education for those wishing to do so was the hope and belief that it would help them to find work, the respondents fell into two contrasting camps when asked whether their present level of education was enough for them to find work. The survey shows that 35.6% said that it would be easy for them to find work, 30.8% that they would be unlikely to find work, and 15.1% that they needed more education to get a job. Furthermore, 3.4% said that they would never be able to find work.



More young people from rural areas (80%) than from urban locations (66.4%) see higher educa-

tion as a way to increase their employment opportunities.

**Table 14**  
**GIVEN YOUR PRESENT LEVEL OF EDUCATION, WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS DO YOU MOST AGREE WITH?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
It will be easy for me to find work	356	35.6
I'm unlikely to find work	308	30.8
I will never be able to find work	34	3.4
I need more education to get a job	151	15.1
Don't know	151	15.1

Despite this, a third of students in higher education said that their average grade in the last year was high, and more than half (nearly two thirds) that it was average. The average grade for school and

college pupils, according to their evaluations, is 4.4/5. A quarter of the respondents rate their average grade as "high" or better, and more than half as "average" or better.

**Table 15**  
**AVERAGE GRADE FOR THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR (%)**

Responses	School/ College	Undergraduate/ Master's student
Very high	3,2	8,6
High	27,9	37,1
Average	58,9	52,0
Satisfactory	9,7	1,7
Low	0,3	-
Very low	-	0,6

This is probably why a large proportion of those studying describe their typical day at their educational institution as easy and

stress-free. Just over a quarter of both school pupils and higher education institution and college students describe their day

as only quite busy. On average, schoolchildren in Kazakhstan spend two hours a day on homework: 41.9% spend 1–2 hours a day on individual study, and 36%

spend 3–4 hours a day. Among students, 41.7% spend 1–2 hours a day on individual study, and 34.3% spend 3–4 hours a day.

**Table 16**

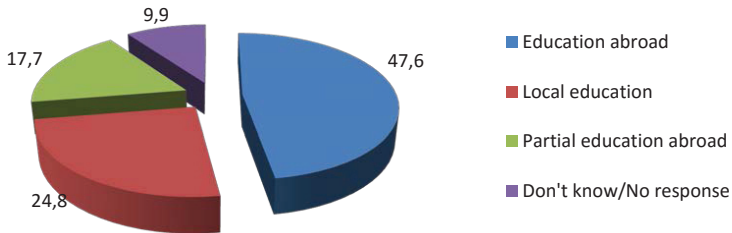
**HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN KAZAKHSTAN?**

	Excellent	Good	Bad	Very bad	Don't know/ No response
Primary education	20.7	71.6	5.6	0.9	1.2
Secondary education	16.0	72.6	7.8	1.6	2.0
Vocational secondary education	14.2	65.0	12.2	1.5	7.1
Higher education	15.4	61.0	12.8	1.3	9.5
Postgraduate education	14.1	57.0	10.1	1.7	17.1

On the whole, young people are happy with the quality of education: most rate it as good, with figures ranging from 57% to 72.6% depending on the level of education in question. At the same time, however, 57.3% agree that the education system in Kazakhstan needs some reform, and 26% that it needs wide-ranging reform. Just 8% think that the education system

does not need any reform. Accordingly, 47.6% would get educated abroad if they could, and 17.7% would choose partial education abroad ; 24.8% would choose local education, and 9.9% said that they did not know. Young people from rural areas were more likely to choose local education than their urban peers (the figures here were 30% and 20.6% respectively).

**Figure 8**  
**WHICH OF THESE WOULD YOU CHOOSE IF YOU HAD THE CHOICE?**



The most popular countries to study in are Russia, the USA, the EU and China. Interestingly, most young people of Russian ethnicity would choose Russia, while the

most popular choices for those of Kazakh ethnicity are western countries (the USA and EU) and China.

**Table 17**  
**IF YOU COULD STUDY (OR CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION) ABROAD, WHICH COUNTRY WOULD YOU CHOOSE?**

Responses	Total sample		By ethnicity	
	Count	Percentage	Kazakh	Russian
Russia	296	29.6	16.0	56.2
The USA	237	23.7	28.7	14.6
An EU country	163	16.3	19.5	10.4
China	146	14.6	17.0	8.4
A Central Asian country	52	5.2	7.1	1.3
South Korea	2	0.2	0.3	-
Turkey	2	0.2	0.3	-
Malaysia	1	0.1	0.2	-
Singapore	1	0.1	0.2	-
None	6	0.6	0.8	0.3
Don't know/No response	94	9.4	10.0	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The survey shows that what young people are unhappy with is not the quality of education, but its increasing cost. At the same time, their attitude to the problem of corruption is inconsistent: 30.9% of higher education students and 38.6% of those at school or college deny it

exists, while 32% of the former and 22.7% of the latter say that it does exist in some cases. Nevertheless, young people believe that corruption exists in secondary and vocational secondary education just as in undergraduate and postgraduate education, albeit to a lesser extent.

**Table 18**

**DO YOU AGREE THAT THERE ARE CASES WHERE GRADES AND EXAMS ARE 'BOUGHT'?**

Responses	School/college pupils (308 respondents)	Higher education students (175 respondents)
Yes, almost always	8.4	9.7
Yes, sometimes	22.7	32.0
Yes, rarely	20.5	20.6
No, never	38.6	30.9
Don't know/No response	9.8	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Summing up, it may be said that young people in Kazakhstan regard having a higher education as important and significant. Furthermore, the survey shows that they are highly motivated to obtain a higher education. However, it should be noted that for most, the fact of having a qualification is more important than the knowledge gained through their studies. Accordingly, they do not spend a lot of time studying out-

side the classroom, even though just over half (53.7%) said that their average grade for the last academic year was average or satisfactory, and 45.75% that it was high or very high. However, although young people rate the country's education system and the quality of the knowledge imparted highly, just over half the respondents would study abroad if they had the chance.



In general, experts in the country worry that the current situation in the education system may lead to an exacerbation of the shortage of highly qualified and highly specialised professionals in the future. They note that a significant proportion of students know before graduating from their higher education institute or vocational secondary education establishment that they are going to work in a different area from the one they are studying for, even in a different field entirely, so this reduces the demands and requirements both in terms of teaching and the level of knowledge to be expected from graduates. Furthermore, it is widely thought that it is becoming the norm for higher education graduates not to know if their future work will be connected with the profession they are qualified in.

Even so, the survey reveals that of the 43% of young Kazakhs already in work, 44.7% have a job connected with the profession they are qualified or in training for, 20.9% have a job that is partly connected with it, and 24.2% have a job that is not connected with it. The study found that 31.7% of the total number of respondents have done profession-

al training or work experience. However, young people do not think having an education is the most important factor in finding work. Nor do they regard foreign experience (education, work experience, practical experience) as important (just 17.5% see this factor as significant).

Although most young people believe that having a qualification makes it easier to find work, they regard informal channels – connections and friends – as more important than professional skills and foreign experience when it comes to getting a job. Accordingly, it may be suggested that they do not see having a higher education and professional skills as a means to finding employment or as basis for successfully fulfilling their plans for life.

### 3.3. Family and marriage

This section of the study focuses on young people's attitudes to the institution of the family, which is undergoing a transformation and moving towards a new model, with different types of marital relationships emerging. Older generations, of course, have lived with one model of the fam-

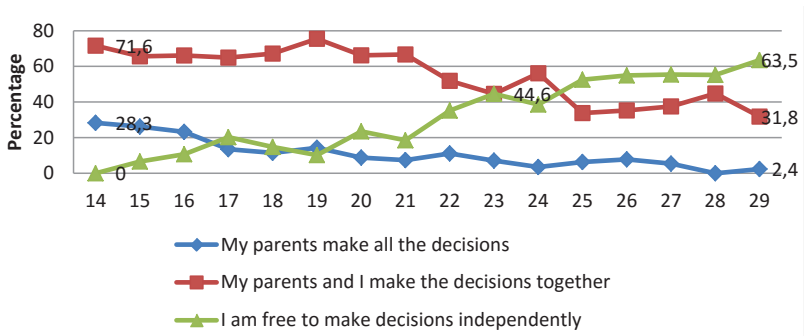
ily and are bearers of the traditional culture of the family, which is now giving way to a new model. As other studies have shown, however, the family retains its value and significance for young Kazakhs as well, despite the existence today of alternative forms of the family alongside the traditional one. For example, a man might have several families, or a woman might raise her children alone. Before seeing what young Kazakhs think about the institution of the family and marriage, we will look at how they see their relationships with their parents.

### Young people's relationships with their parents

The survey revealed that young people are close to their parents. 31% percent consult their mothers when making decisions, and 37.4% their fathers. Overall, 54.4% make decisions together with their parents, 10.6% live in families where their parents make all the decisions, and 32.3% make decisions independently. The focus group discussions confirmed the role played by young people's parents and their involvement in their lives.

**Figure 9**

#### HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES IN YOUR LIFE?



There is little conflict between young people and their parents: 48.8% of the respondents say they get on very well with their

parents, and 45.8% that they get on well with them despite occasional differences of opinion. Those rating their financial situa-



tion as “excellent” have the best relationships with their parents, with 65.2% saying they get on very well with them. Those less happy with their financial situation have a less positive relationship with their parents. For exam-

ple, just 24.6% of those rating their financial situation as “bad” say they get on very well with their parents, with 64.9% saying they get on with them but sometimes have differences of opinion.

**Table 19**  
**WHO DO YOU LIVE WITH? DO YOU LIVE ALONE, WITH PARENTS, A PARTNER, OR FRIENDS/OTHER RELATIVES?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
I live with members of my immediate family (parents, siblings)	640	64.0
I live alone	25	2.5
I live with my child/children and no one else	14	1.4
I live with my spouse	220	22.0
I live with my partner (and our child/children)	46	4.6
I live with my friends/other relatives	51	5.1
Don't know	4	0.4
Total	1,000	100.0

The proportion of young women who get on very well with their parents (51.5%) is greater than that of young men who do (46%), but the difference is not substantial. Similarly, the proportion of young people from rural areas who get on very well with their parents (51.4%) is a little higher than that of inhabitants of urban areas (46.8%). In terms of

ethnic groups, 50.6% of Russians get on very well with their parents, compared to 47.4% of Kazakhs; again, this difference cannot be read as particularly significant. Age makes no great difference either: a large proportion of young people across all age groups get on well with their parents.



This may be why it is common for three generations to live together in Kazakhstan: 64% of the respondents aged up to 25 live with their parents, a figure dropping to 33.9% for those aged over 25. Furthermore, 30.9% of those living with their parents have no particular reason for doing so, with 21% living with them because of practical considerations, and 12.8% for financial reasons. Good relationships with parents and a lack of serious conflicts or disagreements with them, along with a number of other reasons, encourage young people not to leave home. Naturally, one factor here is that their parents deal with the majority of everyday issues, leaving them with less duties.

As the study shows, relationships between the generations are warm and trusting, which is a factor in the respondents' positive assessments of their relationship with their parents. Their answers indicate that there are no conflicts or serious disagreements today between ideas about life held by their par-

ents, and the new ideas emerging among the younger generation: they co-exist peacefully.

### Attitudes to the family and marriage

This may be why, when asked to choose between descriptions of a "happy family", 46.3% of the respondents chose "a family where love, mutual understanding and support prevail", 24.1% chose "a family with strong ties between family members of different generations", 12.5% chose "a family with children", and 12.3% chose "a family that is comfortably off and confident about the future". Most young people associate the word 'family' with positive concepts, in particular love, mutual understanding and happiness.

Accordingly, 82.5% of young Kazakhs see themselves as married with a family in the future, and 9.4% as living with a partner (and a family). Just 1.5% see themselves as without a partner or family, and 0.9% as without a partner but with a child or children. Of the respondents,

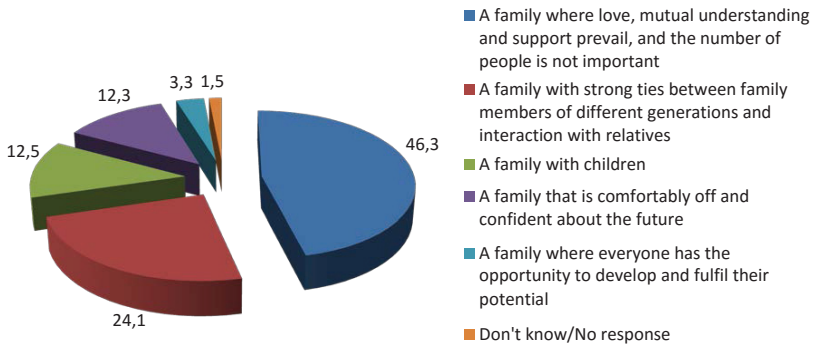


5.7% did not know what to say. Whether the respondents came from rural or urban areas made no drastic difference: 88.7% of those from rural areas see themselves as married with a family, compared to 77.6% (11.1%

fewer) of those from urban locations. At the same time, they have a traditional view of marriage and the family as involving the registration of the relationship by state authorities.

**Figure 10**

### WHAT, IN YOUR VIEW, IS A HAPPY FAMILY?



The respondents were also asked to say which of various options they associated with the term “happy family”. Having these two different types of questions – one based on concepts, one on associations – allowed us to compare the respondents’ answers. The ‘concept’ side is more associated with pragmatic considerations or with what friends, relatives and teachers around

them say, whereas the ‘association’ is more instinctive and individual. Nevertheless, young people most commonly associate the expression a “happy family” with trust and mutual understanding (41.6%), children (30.6%), love (26.7%), prosperity and well-being (19.7%), a husband or wife (9.6%), and having one’s own home (6%).

**Table 20****WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR THE EXPRESSION “A HAPPY FAMILY”?****(the respondents could choose up to three options)**

Responses (chosen by respondents)	Count	Percentage*
Trust and mutual understanding	416	41.6
Children	306	30.6
Love	267	26.7
Prosperity and well-being	197	19.7
A husband and wife	96	9.6
Owning a home	60	6.0
A united, harmonious family	51	5.1
Health	41	4.1
Respect for the elderly	8	0.8
The opportunity for everyone to fulfil their potential and develop	4	0.4
A peaceful life	3	0.3
My future	3	0.3
Each is happy in its own way	3	0.3
Care for others	2	0.2
A religious family	1	0.1
Don't know	146	14.6

*\*The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer*

More young people from urban locations (13.4%) than from rural areas (4.3%) would consider cohabitation. Of the respondents who see themselves as married

in the future, 52.8% consider the main advantage of marriage over cohabitation to be that it “increases partners’ responsibility to each other”, 23.6% that it “in-



creases parents' responsibility to their children", and 15.3% that it "is more socially acceptable". Just 5.1% think that marriage is bet-

ter than cohabitation because it "ensures greater economic security for both partners"

**Table 21**  
**HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN THE FUTURE?**

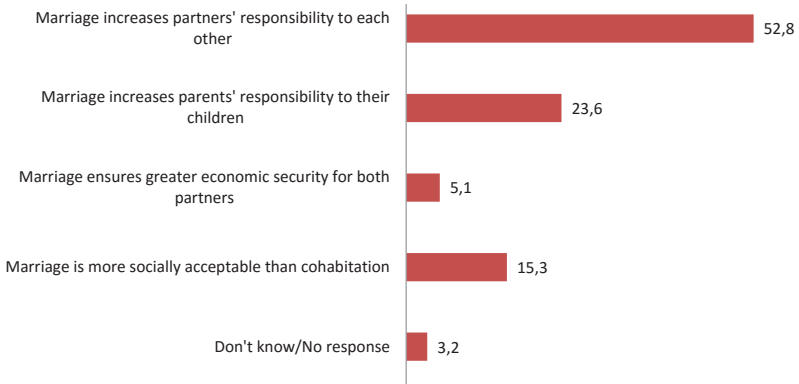
Responses	Percentage	Urban	Rural
Married with a family	82.5	77.6	88.7
Living with a partner (and with a family)	9.4	13.4	4.3
Without a partner and without a family	1.5	2.2	0.7
Without a partner, but with a child/children	0.9	0.7	1.1
Don't know/No response	5.7	6.1	5.2
Total	100.0		

Although it has become more common in recent years for young men and women to live together without officially registering their relationship, and the term 'common law marriage' is used more and more frequently to describe such situations, the survey nevertheless shows that by no means all young people see this as a plausible model for marriage. Even so, common law marriage (cohabitation) is becoming

increasingly acceptable, and the number of such couples among young people is increasing. Accordingly, it may be assumed that the clear boundaries separating premarital relationships between young people from marital ones will gradually disappear. However, a lack of statistics on this form of marriage means that it is too early to judge how common it is among young people in the country.

**Figure 11**

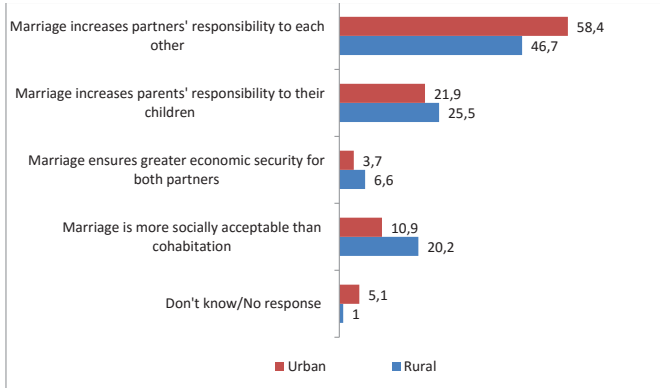
### THE ADVANTAGES OF MARRIAGE OVER COHABITATION ACCORDING TO RESPONDENTS WHO SEE THEMSELVES AS MARRIED IN THE FUTURE



There is some difference in what people from different ethnic groups think about this issue. Many young people (54.2% of Kazakhs and 49.8% of Russians) believe that the main advantage of marriage is that “increases partners’ responsibility to each other”. Meanwhile, more than a quarter of the Kazakhs surveyed (26.3%) said

that its main advantage was that it “increases parents’ responsibility to their children”. Among ethnic Russians, just 17% shared this opinion. At the same time, 23.5% of the Russians said that marriage was preferable to cohabitation because it was “more socially acceptable”. This option was chosen by just 11.6% of the Kazakhs.

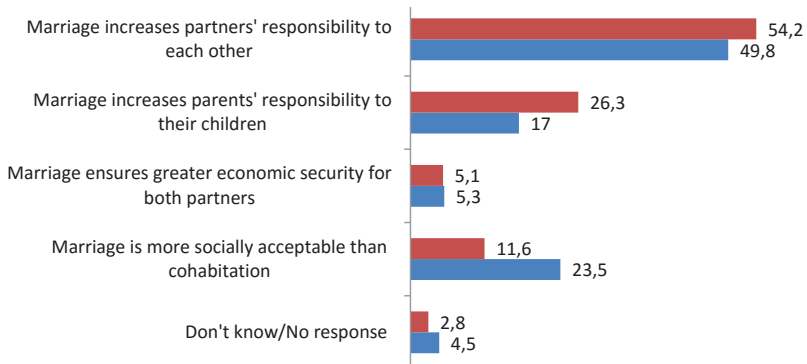
**Figure 12**  
**THE ADVANTAGES OF MARRIAGE OVER COHABITATION ACCORDING TO RESPONDENTS WHO SEE THEMSELVES AS MARRIED IN THE FUTURE (by ethnicity)**



Respondents from rural areas were more likely than their peers from urban locations to say that marriage was “more socially acceptable” (the proportions being

20.2% and 10.9% respectively). Elsewhere, the trends are similar and reflect the overall findings for the responses to the question.

**Figure 13**  
**THE ADVANTAGES OF MARRIAGE OVER COHABITATION ACCORDING TO RESPONDENTS WHO SEE THEMSELVES AS MARRIED IN THE FUTURE (by urban or rural place of residence)**



Naturally, people today try to be more or less accommodating to cohabitation and not to condemn it in public. However, it should be said that officially registered marriages are still valued more. Of the 94 (from a total of 1,000) respondents who see themselves as living with a partner with chil-

dren in the future, 48.9% consider the main advantage of cohabitation over an officially registered relationship to be that “partners can focus more on their career”, 24.5% that “partners are more independent of each other”, and 10.6% that “it is easier to leave your partner”.

**Table 22**

**WHAT, IN YOUR VIEW, IS THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF COHABITATION OVER MARRIAGE?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Partners are more independent of each other	24	25.5
Partners can focus more on their career	46	48.9
Partners argue less	6	6.4
It's easier to make up with your partner if you are cohabiting	4	4.3
It's easier to leave your partner if you are cohabiting	10	10.6
Don't know/No response	4	4.3
Total	94	100.0

“Yes, it’s very important to be in an official relationship, because it is important to know that someone is important to you in all areas of life”  
(male, 22, business owner, Astana, in-depth interview)

“Official marriage is important to me: it’s also more respectable with regard to children than the common law marriage, because when there is a common law marriage many people do not even know that [the man] is married”  
(female, Astana, focus group)



"I'm in favour of official marriage. I don't welcome common law marriages: I think everything should be registered officially. A particular responsibility arises, unlike in a common law marriage, where you know that you're not bound to the other person by anything and you can leave at any time"  
(female, 17, student, Astana, focus group)

"I'm not so conservative a person as to live with someone in an official relationship. If you want to live a bit for yourselves, a common law marriage is possible, but if you're sure you want children, then you should enter into an official relationship"  
(female, 18, student, Astana, in-depth interview)

Another method of starting a family for Kazakhs in Kazakhstan is bride kidnapping, which in the past was most common in rural areas and in the south of the

country. Since Kazakhstan became independent, the popularity of traditional weddings among Kazakhs, including rituals such as matchmaking and the 'bride's farewell' ceremony at the bride's home, has increased, and bride kidnapping has become much less common. There are two forms of bride kidnapping in Kazakhstan: 'by agreement', when the young man 'steals' his bride with her consent, the custom being used for financial reasons, and the other, by force, where he steals her without her consent and without taking into account her wishes. Recently however, probably as a result of the growing economic crisis on the one hand, and the increasing complication and cost of wedding rituals on the other, bride kidnapping by force has come back onto the agenda.

Many of the survey respondents (44.8%) oppose bride kidnapping, with 24.6% considering it outdated and barbaric. 7.5% regard it as necessary for economic reasons, and 33.5% of the respondents emphasised that it often takes place by mutual agree-



ment. In total, 14.3% take a positive view of bride kidnapping (7.9% consider it part of the national heritage, and 7.5% regard it as a way of saving money). For the ethnic Russians, the proportion who did not know what to say was greater than that of the Kazakhs (14.9% compared to

2.5%), and a negligible number of responses were positive. Of the Russians, 3.2% (compared to 10.5% of Kazakhs) justified the practice on grounds of tradition, and 1.9% (compared to 10.4% of the Kazakhs) did so on economic grounds.

**Table 23**

**WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TO THE PRACTICE OF BRIDE KIDNAPPING? (by ethnicity)**

Responses	Kazakh	Russian
Positive – it's a part of our heritage	10.5	3.2
Positive – it's a way of saving money on a wedding	10.4	1.9
Neither positive nor negative – it often takes place by mutual agreement	31.9	35.4
Negative – it's outdated and barbaric	25.1	24.4
Negative – it's insulting to women	19.6	20.8
Don't know	2.5	14.3

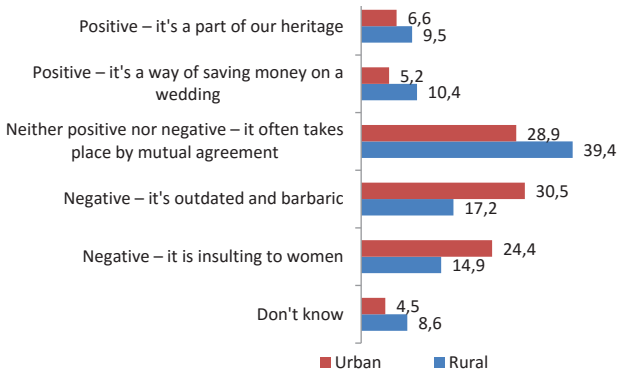
There are some differences between what young people in urban locations think about this issue and what those in rural areas do. The former are more likely to take a negative view of the practice than the latter: 30.5% consider it outdated and barbaric, and just under a quarter (24.4%)

believe that it is insulting to women – a total of 54.9%, compared to a total of 32.1% of the latter. Meanwhile, 10.4% of those in rural areas said that it was a way of saving money on a wedding, which is beneficial for the bride and her family.



**Figure 14**

**WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TO THE PRACTICE OF BRIDE KIDNAPING? (by urban or rural place of residence)**

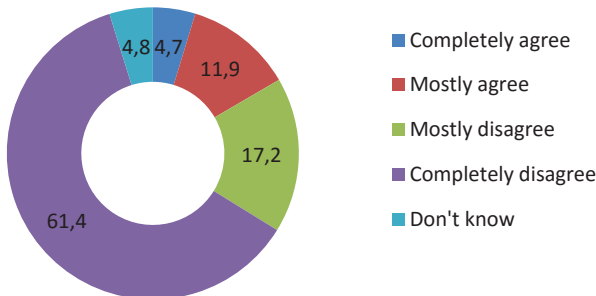


Another form of marriage regularly discussed in Kazakhstan is polygamy. An attempt to legalise this practice failed when the country's female population demanded that polyandry be legalised as well. Here, they cited an article of the Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for men and women. As a result, parliament

rejected such an amendment to family law. The survey revealed that young people view polygamy negatively, with 61.4% completely disagreeing with the notion that the practice should be legalised, and 17% mostly disagreeing. A total of 26.6% either completely or mostly agree.

**Figure 15**

**TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE THAT THE TRADITION OF POLYGAMY SHOULD BE LEGALISED IN OUR SOCIETY?**

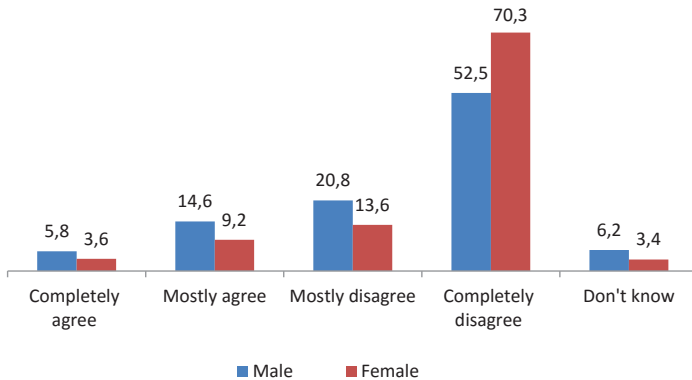


Whether the respondents came from an urban or rural area made little difference, but young women are noticeably more opposed to legalising polygamy. Of the female respondents, 83.9% dis-

agree with the idea (70.3% completely and 13.6% mostly), compared to 75.3% of the male (52.5% completely and 20.8% mostly).

**Figure 16**

**TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE THAT THE TRADITION OF POLYGAMY SHOULD BE LEGALISED IN OUR SOCIETY? (by sex)**

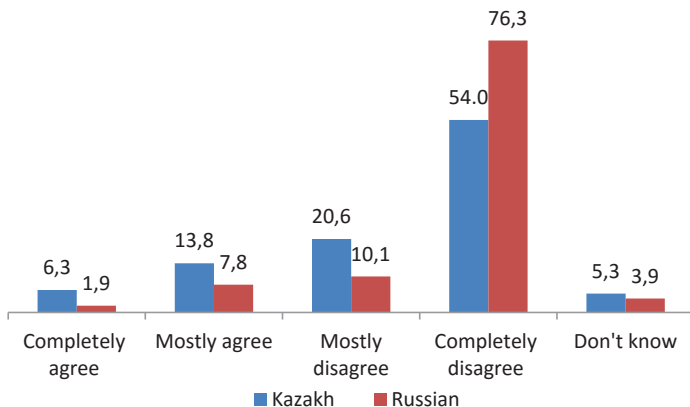


Of the Kazakhs surveyed, 20.1% either mostly or completely support the idea, significantly more than the proportion of Russians who do – 9.7%. Significantly more Russians than Ka-

zakhs completely disagree with it (76.3% compared to 54% – a difference of 12.3%); the same goes for those who mostly disagree (20.6% compared to 10.1% – a difference of 10.5%)

**Figure 17**

**TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE THAT THE TRADITION OF POLYGYAMY SHOULD BE LEGALISED IN OUR SOCIETY? (by ethnicity)**

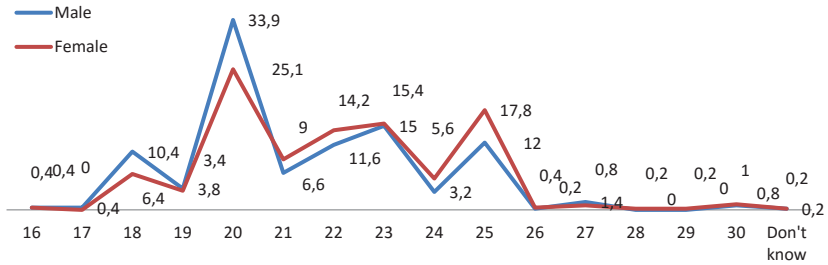


Summing up, of all the various forms of cohabitation, young people prefer official marriage, which entails the registration of the relationship between a man and woman by state authorities.

Meanwhile, the respondents said that the best age at which to marry is, on average, 22 for women and 25 for men. The minimum and maximum ages stated were 16 and 30 for women, and 16 and 40 for men. On the whole, the respondents' sex made little difference to their views here: the most-chosen ages, by both sexes, were 20 for women and

25 for men. At the same time, whereas a quarter of the female respondents (25.1%) saw 20 as the ideal age for women to marry, 33.9% of the males did. Meanwhile, 17.8% of females and 12% of males view 25 as the best age for women to tie the knot. The two sexes agree almost completely on the best age for men to marry. The most popular age was 25, chosen by 33.5% of the men and 32.7% of the women. The second most popular age was 23, chosen by 11.2% of men and 11% of women. In third place was 30, chosen by 8.4% of the men and 11.4% of the women.

**Figure 18**  
**AGE AT WHICH IT IS BEST FOR WOMEN TO MARRY (BY SEX)**



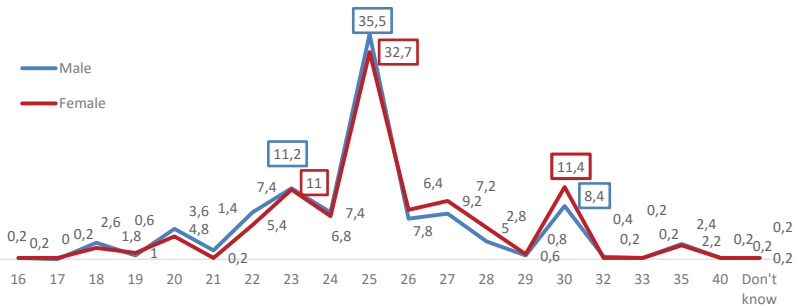
“I think the ideal age for young women is 24–25, and for young men it is up to 30”  
(female, 18, student, Astana, in-depth interview)

“For young women, I think 23, and for young men 27–28”  
(male, 22, business owner, Astana, focus group)

“For young women, I think, 21, maybe 22, and for young men up to 25, probably”  
(female, 17, student, Astana, focus group)

“25, I think, is the ideal age for getting married”  
(female, 21, student, Astana, in-depth interview)

**Figure 19**  
**AGE AT WHICH IT IS BEST FOR MEN TO MARRY (BY SEX)**





On average, young Kazakhs would like three children, and the current or future parents would like children of both sexes. At the same time, the largest proportion (37.1%) would like two children,

28.1% would like three, and 19% four. Less than 1% would not like any children. Overall, the desire to have children was less strongly voiced than the fulfilment of material desires.

**Table 24**  
**CHOW MANY CHILDREN WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
1	53	5.3
2	371	37.1
3	281	28.1
4	190	19.0
5	72	7.2
6	9	0.9
7	8	0.8
8	2	0.2
9	1	0.1
10	3	0.3
15	1	0.1
None	9	0.9
Total	1,000	100.0

*Number of daughters and sons*

Responses	Daughters	Sons
1	57.6	53.8
2	36.6	37.3
3	4.9	6.5
4	0.4	1.7
5	0.4	0.6
7	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	

Among Kazakhs, the proportions wanting two, three or four children were roughly equal (29.2%, 29.5% and 24.5% respectively), with 9.9% wanting five. By contrast, more than half (53.6%) of the Russians would like two, 24.7% three, and 8.4% four. More Russians than Kazakhs would like one child (10.1% compared to 2.8%).

Respondents from rural areas would like more children than their urban peers. Of the former, 22.4% would like four, 31% three, 33% two, and just 2%

would like one child. In comparison, 16.3% of the latter would like four, 25.8% three, 40.3% two, and 7.9% one. The respondents' ethnicity makes no difference to the preferred sex of the child: young people of all ethnic groups would like children of both sexes and of no particular preference for one over the other. This goes for both those coming from an eastern Muslim culture (the Kazakhs) and those with an Orthodox Christian background (the Russians). The respondents' sex makes no observable difference in this regard either.

**Table 25**

**PREFERRED NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
(by ethnicity and urban or rural place of residence)**

Number of children	Ethnicity		Type of place of residence	
	Kazakh	Russian	Urban	Rural
1	2.8	10.1	7.9	2.0
2	29.2	53.6	40.3	33.0
3	29.5	24.7	25.8	31.0
4	24.5	8.4	16.3	22.4
5	9.9	1.0	5.7	9.0
6	1.3	0.3	1.1	0.7
7	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.7
8	0.3	-	0.2	0.2
9	0.2	-	0.2	-
10	0.5	-	0.5	-
15	0.2	-	0.2	-
None	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9



"If we're talking about changes, our ancestors in the past had 10–15 children each; now, with a young family in the city, the wife has one or two children..."

(male, 23, Academy of Public Administration, Astana, focus group)

"I would prefer two. To be honest, I would just like to have twins"

(female, 18, student, Astana, in-depth interview)

"It's very important; I have to leave descendants after me. I would like five... As many as God gives me"

(male, 25, Astana, focus group)

The respondents were asked about the role of women in the family in Kazakhstan today. The study found that 19.3% believed "women are free and self-reliant, independent of men", 32.2% that "men take on the role of head of the family, and women comply with their decisions", and 36.5% that "men

and women share spheres of influence in the family and have equal rights". Furthermore, 9.1% take the view that radical changes are taking place to conventional family values today. They believe that "women are increasingly taking on the role of head of the family, and men are complying with their decisions".

The male and female respondents have slightly different views on this issue. About a quarter of young women (23.4%) say that "women are free and self-reliant, independent of men", compared to 14.6% of young men. At the same time, the highest proportion of young men (37.9%) believe that "men take on the role of head of the family, and women comply with their decisions", compared to 26.5% of young women. The opposite stance – that "women are increasingly taking on the role of head of the family" – is held by 7.8% of the male respondents, and 10.4% of the female.



**Table 26****HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY?**

Responses	Total sample		By sex	
	Count	Percentage	Male	Female
Women are free and self-reliant, independent of men	190	19.0	14.6	23.4
Men take on the role of the head of the family, and women comply with their decisions	322	32.2	37.9	26.5
Women are increasingly taking on role of head of the family, and men are complying with their decisions	91	9.1	7.8	10.4
Women are oppressed and have no rights	5	0.5	0.2	0.8
Men and women share spheres of influence in the family and have equal rights	365	36.5	36.7	36.3
Don't know	27	2.7	2.8	2.6
Total	1,000	100.0	100.0	100.0

Relatively few young people from rural areas (16.3%) consider women self-reliant and independent, and relatively many believe (40%) that men and women have equal rights. In urban areas, 21.1% of the respondents say that women are self-reliant and independent, and 33.7% that men and women have equal rights. The highest proportion of Kazakhs (40%) agree with the

statement typical of an eastern patriarchal system – “men take on the role of head of the family, and women comply with their decisions”. This option was chosen by 16.9% of the Russian respondents. At the same time, 30% of Kazakhs and 48% of Russians say that “men and women share spheres of influence in the family and have equal rights”.

**Table 27****THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY (by ethnicity)**

	Kazakh	Russian
Women are free and self-reliant, independent of men	17.0	24.0
Men take on the role of the head of the family, and women comply with their decisions	40.0	16.9
Women are increasingly taking on the role of head of the family, and men are complying with their decisions	9.6	7.8
Women are oppressed and have no rights	0.5	0.6
Men and women share spheres of influence in the family and have equal rights	30.1	48.1
Don't know	2.8	2.6

Interestingly, 33.7% of the respondents from urban locations, and 40% of those from rural areas, see family life as involving an equal division of labour, with parents jointly bringing up children, running the household and sharing their income. Young people may be said to prefer equality in the family. The respondents of both sexes (36.7% of males and 36.3% of females) support sharing of duties in the family, and a model based on recognition of equal rights and responsibilities of the spouses. At the same time, there is a noticeable trend of young people seeking new forms of living together, looking for new ways to create various forms of union between men and women. Marriage is becoming

freer of obligations and, despite support for official marriage, a certain contingent of young people views cohabitation positively.

*"It is very, very hard to buy or rent accommodation alone; it's very expensive in the capital"*  
(female, 25, graduate, Astana, focus group)

*"In the past, this is how it was for Kazakhs: the youngest son would get married, bring his bride home, and the children would come along later. I think this is fine; I don't see any problem with it"*  
(male, 25, Astana, in-depth interview)

The questionnaire findings show that institutions like the family and marriage are important to young people, who see them as an essential part of their future adult life. Young women aged from 17 to 23 are much more willing to get married and start a family now than young men of the same age. At the same time, traditional gender roles are changing to a degree, as increasing numbers of women are playing the role of breadwinner and building a career, and more and more men are looking after the household.

Overall, as the survey shows, although a certain proportion of

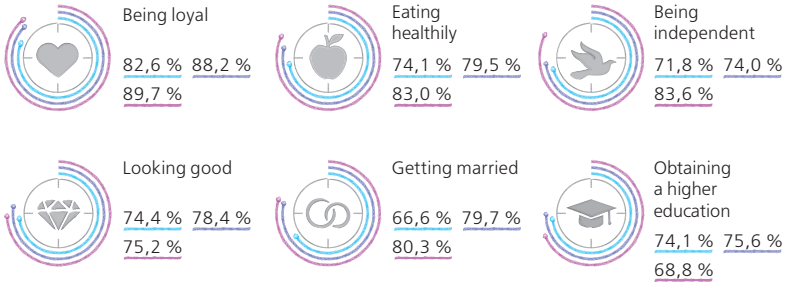
young people retain traditional opinions on the nature of the relationship between a man and woman, a significant number have more modern views on the division of gender roles in the family. For example, men and women perform different social roles, but have equal rights; women are free and self-reliant, independent of men. These views may have been influenced by the rise in the number of economically independent women in the country, but the fact that young people's opinions on the family are changing is clear.

**GOALS IN LIFE**

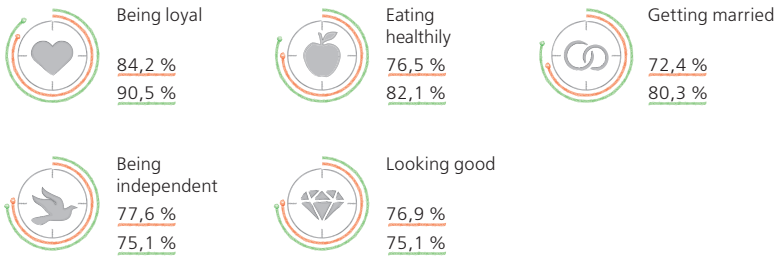
How important are each of the following to you?



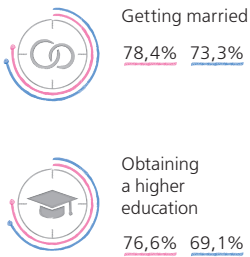
By age group 14-18 19-24 25+



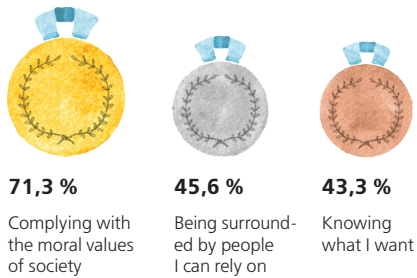
By urban or rural place of residence



By sex (female, male)



Criteria for success in life

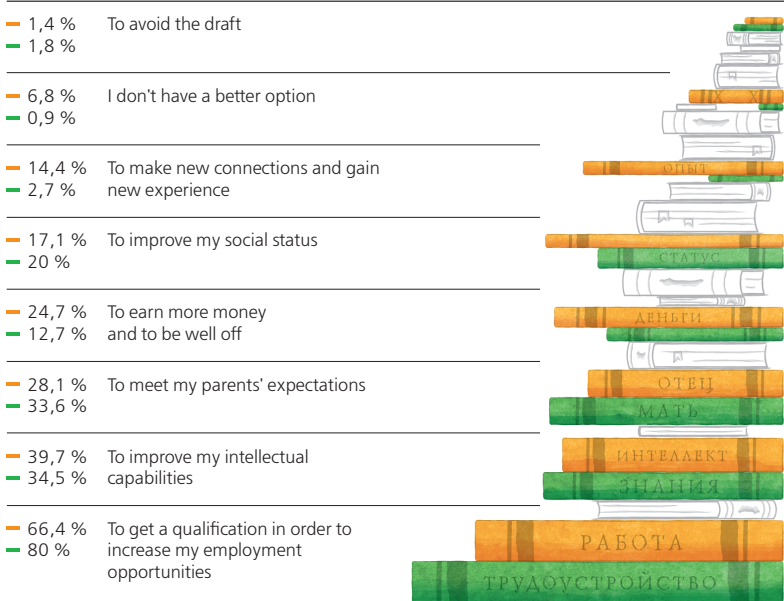




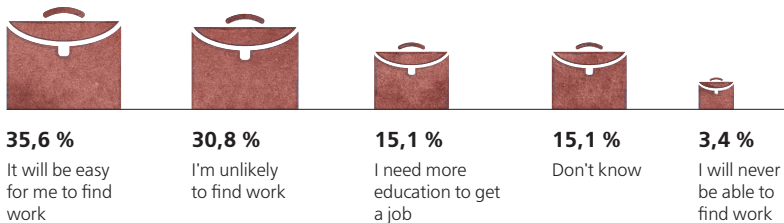
# EDUCATION

## Reasons for getting a higher education

Rural Urban



## Confidence of finding work with present level of education

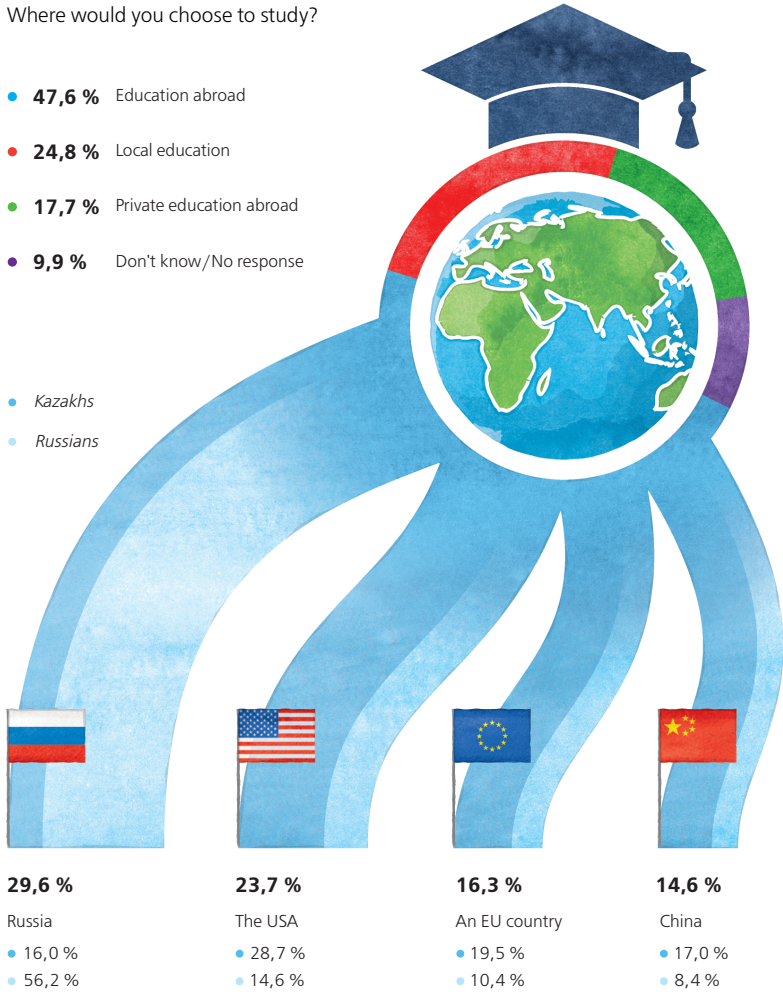


**EDUCATION ABROAD**

Where would you choose to study?

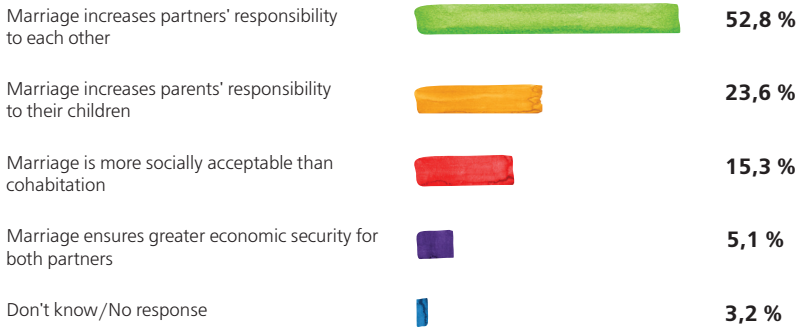
- **47,6 %** Education abroad
- **24,8 %** Local education
- **17,7 %** Private education abroad
- **9,9 %** Don't know/No response

- *Kazakhs*
- *Russians*

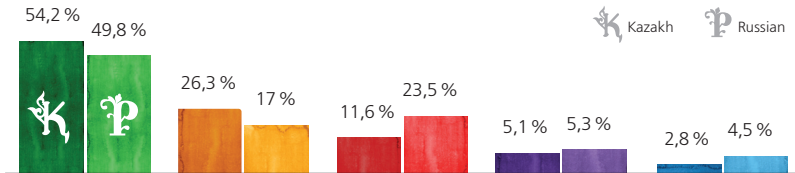


**MARRIAGE**

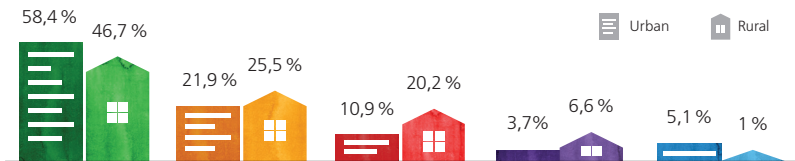
The advantages of marriage over cohabitation according to respondents who see themselves as married in the future



By ethnicity



By urban or rural place of residence





## COHABITATION

What, in your view, is the main advantage of cohabitation over marriage?



94 out of the 1000 respondents see themselves as living with a partner (but not married), with children

Partners can focus more on their career



Partners are more independent of each other

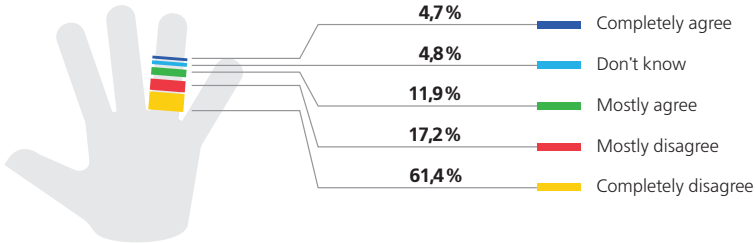


It's easier to leave your partner if you are cohabiting

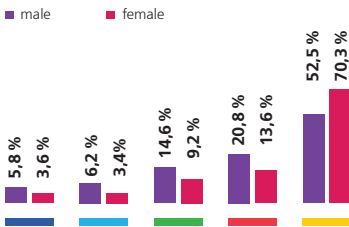


## POLYGAMY

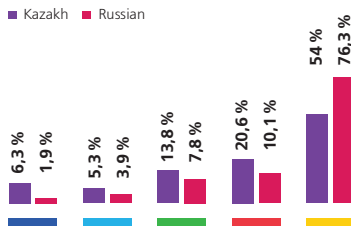
To what extent do you agree that tradition of polygamy should be legalised in our society?



By sex

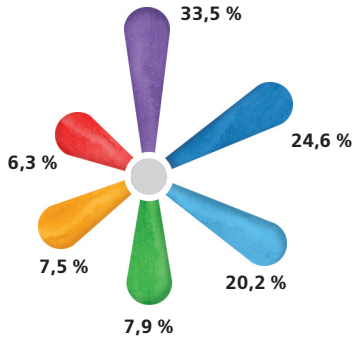


By ethnicity



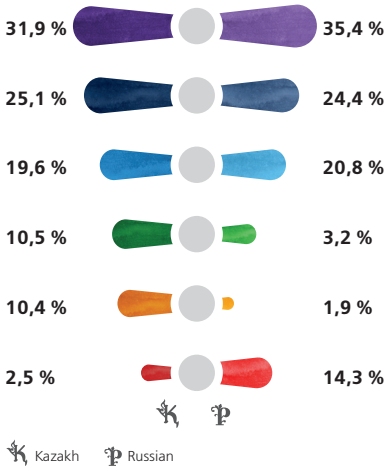
## BRIDE KIDNAPPING

What is your attitude to the practice of bride kidnapping?

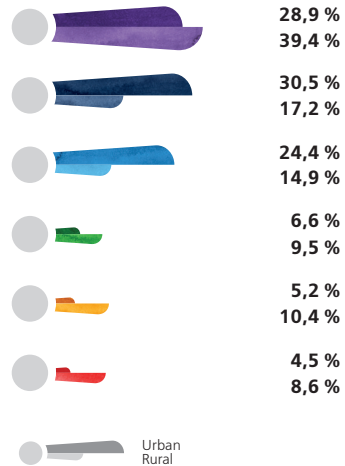


- ◆ Neither positive nor negative – it often takes place by mutual agreement
- ◆ Negative – it's outdated and barbaric
- ◆ Negative – it's insulting to women
- ◆ Positive – it's a part of our heritage
- ◆ Positive – it's a way of saving money on a wedding
- ◆ Don't know

By ethnicity

































By urban or rural place of residence



**THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY**

How would you define the position of women in the family in our society today?

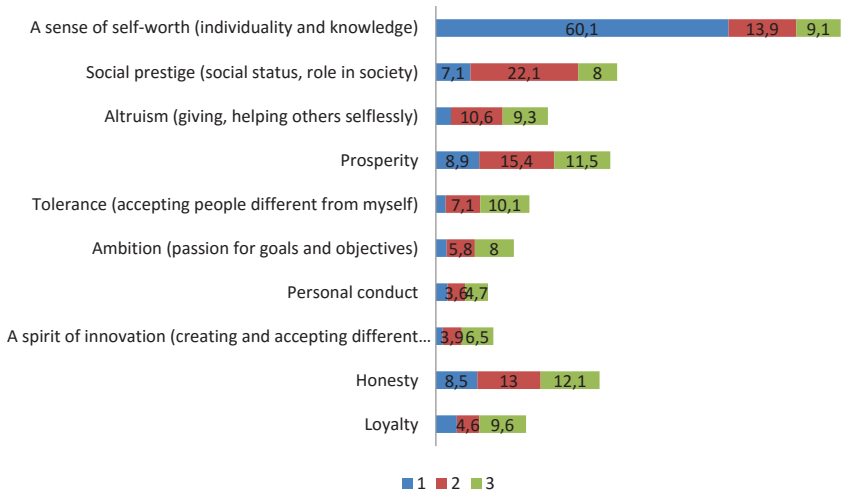
	Total sample	By sex		By ethnicity (Kazakh or Russian)	
Men and women share spheres of influence in the family and have equal rights	 <b>36,5 %</b>	36,7 % 	36,3 % 	30,1 % 	48,1 % 
Men take on the role of head of the family, and women comply with their decisions	 <b>32,2 %</b>	37,9 % 	26,5 % 	40 % 	16,9 % 
Women are free and self-reliant, independent of men	 <b>19 %</b>	14,6 % 	23,4 % 	17 % 	24 % 
Women are increasingly taking on the role of head of the family, and men are complying with their decisions	 <b>9,1 %</b>	7,8 % 	10,4 % 	9,6 % 	7,8 % 
Don't know	 <b>2,7 %</b>	2,8 % 	2,6 % 	2,8 % 	2,6 % 
Women are oppressed and have no rights	 <b>0,5 %</b>	0,2 % 	0,8 % 	0,5 % 	0,6 % 



# CHAPTER 4: VALUES AND IDENTITY

An important source of guidance in life for young people today is the value system that governs their behaviour and reflects their attitudes to the circumstances in which they find themselves. Naturally, the system of universal values formed in Soviet times is changing. Different social groups and different categories of the population (e.g. various age groups) are forming or shaping their own value hierarchies based on different fundamental principles. In this context, it is interesting to ask which values young people in the country find important and significant.

As the study shows, young people possess both material and spiritual values. Asked to name three qualities they valued most from a choice of ten, the majority of respondents (83%) chose “a sense of self-worth”. The next most popular choices were “social prestige” (37.2%), “prosperity” (35.8%) and “honesty” (33.6%). The least popular were “a spirit of innovation (creating and accepting different and new ideas)” (14.4%), “ambition (passion for goals and objectives)” (16%) and “personal conduct” (10.7%).

**Figure 20****THE QUALITIES MOST VALUED BY KAZAKHS**

A sense of self-worth is the quality valued most here, by both Russians (62.3%) and Kazakhs (59.2%). Russians and Kazakhs differ in what they place next in the list. While the Kazakhs put social prestige second (23.2%) and prosperity, altruism

and honesty approximately equal third (about 10% of respondents chose each of these answers), Russians put honesty (20.5%) and social prestige (19.2%) approximately equal second, followed by prosperity (15.6%) and tolerance (13%).

**Table 28****THE QUALITIES MOST VALUED BY KAZAKHS (by ethnicity)**

	1		2		3	
	Kazakh	Russian	Kazakh	Russian	Kazakh	Russian
A sense of self-worth	59.2	62.3	13.8	13.3	11.3	5.2
Social prestige	8.5	3.2	23.2	19.2	9.4	5.2
Altruism	3.9	1.0	12.9	6.8	10.0	8.8
Prosperity	8.5	9.7	16.6	12.7	9.7	15.6
Tolerance	1.6	3.2	5.3	10.7	8.5	13.0



Ambition	2.7	1.6	6.1	5.5	8.2	7.8
Personal conduct	2.0	2.9	3.8	3.6	5.2	3.9
A spirit of innovation	1.9	0.3	3.9	3.6	6.0	7.5
Honesty	8.0	10.1	9.4	20.5	10.2	14.3
Loyalty	3.8	5.5	4.9	4.2	8.8	10.7
Don't know	-	-	-	-	12.7	8.1

Young people from urban areas chose a sense of self-worth, social prestige and prosperity as their top three qualities, and their rural peers chose a sense of self-worth, prosperity and honesty. While social prestige comes second for the former (25.8%),

the latter value prosperity more (18.8%). These responses indicate that a family's social identification has greater significance in an urban environment, while belonging to a social group is less pressing a factor than material well-being in rural areas.

**Table 29**

**THE QUALITIES MOST VALUED BY KAZAKHS (by urban or rural place of residence)**

	1		2		3	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
A sense of self-worth	61.8	57.9	14.3	13.3	6.3	12.7
Social prestige	5.2	9.5	25.8	17.4	9.0	6.8
Altruism	3.8	2.3	11.3	9.7	9.5	9.0
Prosperity	7.9	10.2	12.7	18.8	12.4	10.4
Tolerance	1.4	2.7	6.1	8.4	10.2	10.0
Ambition	2.0	2.5	5.2	6.6	7.5	8.6
Personal conduct	3.0	1.6	4.1	2.9	6.3	2.7
A spirit of innovation	1.3	1.6	4.3	3.4	6.6	6.3
Honesty	9.0	7.9	11.8	14.5	11.3	13.1

Loyalty	4.7	3.8	4.3	5.0	8.1	11.5
Don't know	-	-	-	-	12.9	8.8

Young people's views here combine material and spiritual dependence, on the one hand, and a desire to take responsibility for their lives, on the other. As the survey shows, an important source of support for the young-

er generation, and not just in a financial sense, is their parents, whom they expect to consult in future when developing and putting into actions their own life plans.

**Table 30**

**HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?**

	Completely agree	Mostly agree	Partly agree	Mostly disagree	Completely disagree	Don't know
To achieve anything in life, you have to know what you want	71.3	19.7	6.2	1.9	0.4	0.5
Nothing ventured, nothing gained	34.4	38.4	19.6	5.7	1.0	0.9
If you are thoughtful of others, you will eventually be rewarded	30.6	35.4	23.8	6.3	1.1	2.8
There is no point in setting goals in life, because nothing is clear-cut at the present time	8.4	15.9	20.4	34.9	18.3	2.1
A society cannot exist without moral values	45.6	31.6	14.9	4.6	1.1	2.2



People cannot share their troubles these days	12.5	21.5	27.7	28.1	7.4	2.8
People should trust in fate and accept everything life throws at them	22.6	33.8	23.2	14.3	4.0	2.1
You should surround yourself with people you can rely on	43.3	36.1	14.0	3.7	1.3	1.6
It's enough to have a few friends and to do whatever you want	13.8	19.7	29.2	26.0	8.7	2.6
People should focus on their career, everything else is secondary	8.8	19.1	23.6	33.3	12.1	3.1
Life is complicated, so it's better to live in isolation	6.6	12.2	17.5	33.5	27.0	3.2
An interest in social affairs is an important part of my life	17.7	37.5	26.9	9.8	4.7	3.4
The most sensible course in life is simply to go with the flow	8.7	20.3	20.2	25.2	23.0	2.6
Faith and traditions should be adhered to	19.8	37.9	26.1	9.6	2.6	4.0

"For me, out of those listed, a sense of self-worth, honesty, and loyalty to one's family, clan and country are significant. Also, I think that tolerance is the main thing, one of the most important ideals and values of our country and of humanity in general"  
(female, 18, student, Astana, in-depth interview)

"I would pick out humanity as the most important thing: no one should forget about humanity. Next, there is individuality – everyone should be an individual. Then, there's prosperity and dignity. Dignity means respect for other people and respect for yourself"  
(male, 22, business owner, Astana, in-depth interview)



“For me, honesty and loyalty to your family are the most important values here”

(female, 17, college student, Astana, focus group)

“What’s important is family values, tolerance, and personal conduct. You mentioned ‘altruism’ – yes, I think that altruism is the basic principle of humanity, and humanity is a quality that not everyone has, but I would say I consider myself altruistic to some extent. I possess these qualities; also, a sense of self-worth is something which everyone should have. Loyalty to your family, too – family should be the most important priority in anyone’s life. There’s no debate about that...”

(female, 21, student, Astana, focus group)

Currently, material values are particularly important to young peo-

ple: two of the top three qualities selected by the respondents in the survey are materially grounded (prosperity and social prestige), symbols of success in life and the goals young people aim for. Social prestige in Kazakhstan is also still measured by material criteria, and spiritual values come a little below material ones in the hierarchy. At the same time, it is important to note that traditional values, including paternalistic ones, have not been jettisoned completely. As other studies show, in particular Molotov Cocktail: Anatomy of the Kazakh Youth (Almaty; 2014: pp. 98–100), carried out by a group of political scientists and sociologists from Kazakhstan, young people still very much expect the state to help them. Consequently, we believe, they underestimate their own strengths and potential.

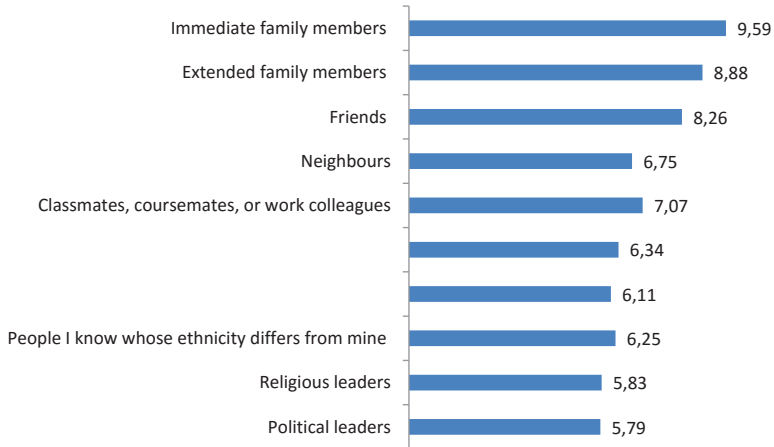
#### 4.1. Trust and tolerance

Two important indicators of how well the younger generation in Kazakhstan is adapting to today’s new realities are their level of trust both in those close to them (their



relatives and friends) and in people they do not know, and their overall level of tolerance. In this study, we look at the first primarily in terms of young people's trust in people they do not know (often referred to in academic literature as "generalised" trust). Researchers believe that the level of this type of trust reflects a society's overall culture of trust (Sztompka, 2012). Secondly, we look at how trusting young people are of those close to them (their family, relatives and friends), and thirdly we look at their level of trust in their work colleagues and neighbours – their social or local trust. We examine their level of tolerance through various groupings: across class divisions and social divides – tolerance towards various social groups such as sexual minorities and oralmans; and the division of society into jüzes, a historical feature of the Kazakh people.

In the questionnaire, the young people were asked to rate on a scale of one to ten their level of trust in certain groups of people (their parents, friends, people with the same or different views on social and religious issues, etc.), with one indicating the lowest level of trust, and ten representing the highest. The results show that the respondents are most trusting of members of their immediate family (average score: 9.59) and least of religious and political leaders (average score: 5.8). They are relatively trusting of members of their extended family and their friends (average scores: 8.9 and 8.3 respectively). For the remaining groups (their classmates, neighbours, and people of a different faith or ethnicity from them), their level of trust is above the middle score (with an average score ranging from 6.1 to 7.1). There is a high level of interpersonal trust here, with young people trusting the people they see most often the most.

**Figure 21****THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS' TRUST TOWARDS CERTAIN GROUPS**

Young people from rural areas were more trusting than their peers from urban locations towards all the groups mentioned, including religious and political leaders (with average scores of 6.49 and 6.5 respectively, compared to 5.31 and 5.23 for respondents from urban locations), people of a different ethnicity to them (6.99 compared to 5.64), and people whose religious beliefs differed from theirs (7.08 compared to 5.75). Across the other sample categories, young people show the same high levels of trust towards all the groups

listed. There is some variation in the responses from respondents from different regions. For example, young people from Atyrau Region are most trusting of people they know whose religious beliefs differ from theirs (76,5%), religious leaders (70,6%) and political leaders (70,6%). Those from Almaty Region are particularly trusting of political leaders (59,6%) and religious leaders (34,2%). In other regions, trust in these groups is also high, but scores range from 5 to 10, with 10 indicating complete trust.

**Table 31****THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS' TRUST IN CERTAIN GROUPS**

Responses	Urban	Rural
Immediate family members	9.50	9.71
Extended family members	8.63	9.18
Friends	7.90	8.72
Neighbours	6.11	7.56
Classmates, coursemates, or work colleagues	6.49	7.79
People I know whose religious beliefs differ from mine	5.75	7.08
People I know whose political convictions differ from mine	5.54	6.82
People I know whose ethnicity differs from mine	5.64	6.99
Religious leaders	5.31	6.49
Political leaders	5.23	6.50

A relatively high level of trust can also be observed in the young people's responses when asked what they would think of living next to people from various social groups. Their answers when asked how they would feel if people from certain social groups

moved next to them show that they are particularly intolerant of people who are not heterosexual. The study found that 57.8% would feel "unhappy" or "very unhappy" if a homosexual couple lived next door to them.

**Table 32****OPENNESS TO LIVING NEXT TO VARIOUS SOCIAL GROUPS**

	Very happy	Happy	Indifferent	Unhappy	Very unhappy	Don't know
A student couple	21.0	37.3	39.8	1.1	0.3	0.5
An elderly couple	16.1	39.0	41.2	2.1	0.9	0.7
A homosexual couple	0.5	6.7	27.1	27.3	30.5	7.9

A family of oralmans (ethnic Kazakh return migrants)	2.1	16.3	60.9	14.0	4.6	2.1
An Uzbek family	2.1	18.1	65.8	9.3	2.1	2.6
An Uyghur family	2.4	18.1	65.9	8.8	2.1	2.7
A Kyrgyz family	2.3	18.4	64.8	9.9	2.1	2.5
A Chechen family	2.1	16.5	64.4	11.0	3.7	2.3
A Dungan family	2.0	17.2	66.4	8.6	3.1	2.7
A Chinese family	2.8	15.7	65.6	10.3	3.2	2.4

Neither Kazakhs nor ethnic Russians would like to live next to people from sexual minorities, specifically named by 14.9% and 16.6% respectively. On the other hand, young Kazakhs take a positive view of living next to a student couple or an elderly couple. In addition, the respondents were asked whom they would not like to live with, an open question with no list to choose from. A quarter (25.7%) said that they would not like their neighbours to be alcoholics, 17.8% named drug addicts, 15.6% homosexuals, and 9.7% noisy people.

To some extent, this negative attitude to social groups such as drug addicts and alcoholics may also be seen as a kind of defensive reaction from young people to actual and supposed threats on the part of these groups. Young people's opinions are split with regard to sexual minorities: 33.4% feel neutral towards them, and 36.6% completely disapprove. However, the vast majority of young people overall are more disapproving than approving of people of a different sexual orientation.

**Table 33**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK OF NON-HETEROSEXUAL ORIENTATIONS?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
I completely approve	20	2.0
I mostly approve	14	1.4



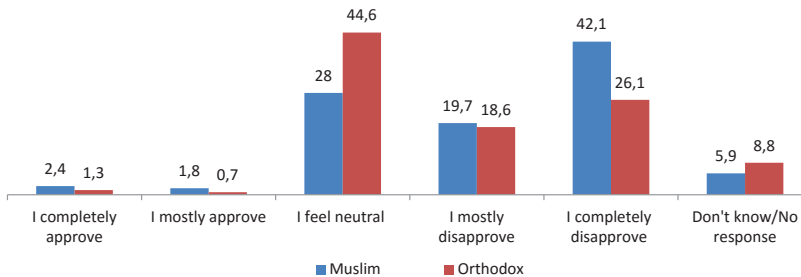
I feel neutral	334	33.4
I mostly disapprove	196	19.6
I completely disapprove	366	36.6
Don't know/No response	70	7.0
Total	1,000	100.0

The Orthodox Christian respondents were more likely to feel neutral towards non-heterosexual orientations than their Muslim peers. Whereas 44.6% of the former feel neutral towards

non-heterosexual orientations, 42.1% of the latter completely disapprove of them. Likewise, the proportion of Kazakhs surveyed who disapprove (60.4%) is higher than that of Russians (45%).

**Figure 22**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK OF NON-HETEROSEXUAL ORIENTATIONS?  
(by religion)**



Young people in almost all regions are predominantly disapproving of non-heterosexual orientations. A neutral feeling towards them was the most popular response in just two regions – Almaty (66.7%) and Jambyl (40.3%), as well as the city of Astana (44.2%).

The survey responses indicate that this attitude is in all likelihood the result not of specific situations involving interaction with non-heterosexual people, but more of certain sentiments entrenched in society. For example, non-heterosexual people are often regarded as untrust-

worthy members of society. After all, if interpersonal trust generally arises on the basis of active contact with people, trust in people we do not personally know is largely a result of what information is available about them in society. At the same time, at a focus group the young people taking part were more considerate to people from sexual minorities, admitting that it was a matter of personal choice.

*"My attitude to them is positive, as I believe that everyone is free to choose their partner, and it doesn't matter what sex they are. People choose for themselves who to live with and have relationships with"*

*(female, 21, student, Astana, in-depth interview)*

*"As a modern person, I think everyone has their choice of who they want to be. Well, if someone wants to become, putting it crudely, a lesbian, a gay, then let them... it's their choice"*

*(male, 22, business owner, Astana, in-depth interview)*

*"As for people with non-traditional orientations – gays and lesbians, I don't even know how to put it properly, it is, I believe, wrong. I don't know how nature was created, but it should stay like that. These are beliefs, let's say, acquired from the west and, well, something of that sort. I, for one, am against it, because I'm a very conservative person: I can't come to terms with it. But as for people with disabilities, they're people, just like us..."*  
*(female, 18, student, Astana, in-depth interview)*

Another criterion in studying levels of tolerance is the experience of class and social division. Here, 65.1% are not affected at all, but 14.8% are affected continually, and 15% sometimes. Class division is felt most acutely by the ethnic Ukrainian (100%), Chechen (100%) and Bashkir (66.6%) respondents, as well as by 35.5% of Kazakhs and 18.9% of Russians. There are three regions where young people are particularly likely to experience class division: Atyrau (94%), Pavlodar (62.5%), and Jambyl (54.8%). However, most would not say which area of life they were most affected in.

**Table 34****ARE YOU AFFECTED BY ANY CLASS DIVIDE IN SOCIETY?**

Responses	Percent- age	Kazakhs %	Russians %
Yes, constantly and very sharply in all areas of life	14.8	17.0	10.1
Sometimes, particularly in the area of...	15.0	18.5	8.8
No, not at all	65.1	59.7	76.0
Don't know	5.1	4.9	5.2
Total	100.0		

The areas where those asked most commonly feel a class divide are in the public sphere (11.3%), in education (6%), in retail (4%) and at work (2%). At the same time, however the great majori-

ty (74.6%) did not want to name any particular area. Young women are more likely to experience prejudice from their peers and in public places than young men.

**Table 35****IN WHICH AREA?**

**(only those respondents particularly affected by a class divide in a specific area were asked this question (150, or 15.0%))**

Responses	Total sample		By sex	
	Count	Percentage	Male	Female
In the public sphere	17	11.3	2.6	9.5
In education	9	6.0	3.9	4.1
In retail	6	4.0	1.3	2.7
At work	3	2.0	0.0	1.4
Among peers	1	0.7	7.9	14.9
In politics	1	0.7	1.3	0.0
In finance	1	0.7	0.0	1.4
Don't want to say	112	74.6	82.9	66.2
Total	150	100	100	100

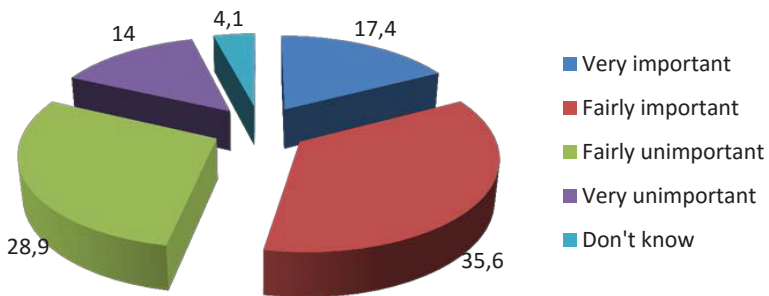


The Kazakh respondents were also asked how important they thought it was to belong to a jüz (horde) or clan in Kazakhstan, and for them personally. On the former question, their opinions were split: 53% of the Ka-

zakh respondents consider belonging to a jüz important in Kazakhstan. Meanwhile, a little under half (42.9%) think that jüzes and clans have no great significance in their country.

**Figure 23**

**HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK BELONGING TO A JÜZ (HORDE) OR CLAN IS IN KAZAKHSTAN? (of the 637 Kazakh respondents who were asked this question)**



The respondents were also split roughly equally on the importance of belonging to a jüz to them personally: 43.6% answered positively, and 51.5% negatively. Young Kazakhs experience discrimination relatively rarely, in most cases never. At the same time, in every category named there are some who experience discrimination either of-

ten or very often, with the proportions ranging from 3.1% to 5.7%. Young people in Kazakhstan are more likely to experience discrimination because of their financial status, level of education and spoken language than because of their religion or ethnicity, place of origin or age. They are least likely to experience discrimination because of their sexual orientation or region of ori-



gin. However, as the survey reveals, young people themselves

are rather hostile to people of a non-heterosexual orientation.

**Table 36**

**HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS?**

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Don't know
Sex (male or female)	1.8	2.2	8.7	8.7	77.0	1.6
Financial status (poor or rich)	0.8	4.9	12.0	16.1	64.9	1.3
Religion (Orthodox Christian, Muslim, Catholic, etc.)	0.6	3.9	6.9	10.7	76.0	1.9
Ethnicity	0.5	3.7	8.6	10.0	74.3	2.9
Level of education (primary, secondary, etc.)	1.1	4.5	8.5	13.2	70.8	1.9
Political convictions	1.3	2.4	6.8	8.1	78.3	3.1
Place of origin (e.g. specific village or town)	1.0	3.3	9.4	13.1	71.2	2.0
Age	1.0	3.4	10.5	12.4	70.5	2.2
Sexual orientation	1.1	2.8	4.8	3.4	84.1	3.8
Region of origin	0.6	2.5	7.7	6.6	80.4	2.2
Spoken language	1.3	4.1	9.5	10.4	72.9	1.8

Nevertheless, the survey shows that young people in general are relatively tolerant of people representing various ethnic, religious and social 'others'. Our findings are most likely evidence that the majority of young people are accommodating and open-minded to such people. Only an insignificant proportion of young people experience distrust in members

of particular social groups – drug addicts, alcoholics, oralmans, and those belonging to sexual minorities. At the same time, most young people in the country are not affected by any class divide or discrimination based on sex, age, religion or ethnicity. According to the small proportion of young Kazakhs who have experienced discrimination in its var-

ious forms, this has most often been in public places. In general, the level of tolerance and trust among young people is relatively high.

#### 4.2. Religion and religious values

Recent years have seen an increase in interest, particularly from young people, in religion, which is becoming a part of their culture and influencing their behaviour. At the same time, ideas from the past live on. In particular, many young people think of religious life as something intimate, and that faith lies deep in the heart of the believer and has a special place in people's inner lives. Furthermore, many believe that true piety is not meant to be displayed in public, and that such public displays are a sign of false faith. It is interesting to study the issue in this context, and to find out what lies at the basis of young people's attitudes to religion.

Our findings show that young people in Kazakhstan are as a whole indifferent towards religion, with the majority playing a passive role in religious life. Asked about their attitude to religion,

735 of the 1,000 respondents said that they consider themselves religious, but rarely took part in religious life, other than in festivals and certain significant ceremonies. Their ethnicity, sex and age, and whether they came from an urban or rural area, made little difference here.

In the majority of regions, the most selected response was "I'm religious, but I rarely take part in religious life...", and there are no great deviations from the national figure. Three regions buck the trend, with large proportions of young people there declaring themselves either non-religious or actively religious. In East Kazakhstan Region, 36% said that they were not religious and took no part in religious life, but respected the feelings of those who were. In Pavlodar Region (in the north), 60% said that they were not religious, but took part in certain religious practices. In contrast to these regions, Kyzylorda Region (in the southwest) had the highest proportion of respondents (36%) who consider themselves religious and regularly go to church or mosque.



**Table 37**  
**WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TO RELIGION?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
I'm religious; I'm part of my religious community and regularly go to church/mosque, observe religious practices, precepts and prohibitions, and promote my religion's values	65	6.5
I'm religious, but I rarely take part in religious life, other than festivals and certain important ceremonies	735	73.5
I'm not religious, but I take part in certain practices and festivals according to the traditions of my nationality and defend its religion	105	10.5
I'm not religious, and take no part in religious life, but I respect the religious feelings of those who are and do not impede them	50	5.0
I have my own individual belief in various values (e.g. a civil religion, personal respect for moral values, belief in a non-traditional god, etc.)	18	1.8
I'm not religious; I'm an atheist and opponent of religion, and I believe that religion has done more harm than good to mankind and that people should abandon it	20	2.0
Don't know	7	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The three regions mentioned above differ in their ethnic make-up: Russians dominate in East Kazakhstan and Pavlodar regions, while Kazakhs are the biggest ethnic group in Kyzylorda Region. At the same time, East Kazakhstan Region also has a significant Kazakh population in the former

Semipalatinsk Region. Therefore, the ethnic factor alone cannot explain the high proportion of young people who say that they are not religious. Most of both Russian (79.9%) and Kazakh respondents (70%) say that they are religious but rarely take part in religious life.

Just 65 of the 1,000 respondents regularly go to church/mosque, observe the precepts and prohibitions of their religion and promote its values. One hundred and five respondents, while not religious, defend the religion of their nationality as they support the traditions of their nation in general, taking part in national festivals and customs. Fifty said that they respected religious feelings and did not impede religious life. Overall, the vast majority of the respondents display feelings of loyalty towards religion, even if just 6.5% actually practise it. Just 2% oppose religion, and 0.7% did not know what to say. Mean-

while, 88.1% of the respondents believe in God.

Of those associating themselves with a particular religion, 63.8% believe that “heaven and hell exist”, and 66.5% believe that “God created the world”. The study found that 57.7% believe “God is the source of moral precepts and obligations”. Very few categorically deny the existence of God and associated phenomena. One percent do not believe in the existence of God, and 7.5% doubt it. Around one in twenty young Kazakhs don’t believe that God created the world (5.6%) or that heaven and hell exist (4.7%).

“We have a secular state: we are very, very tolerant of all confessions, of all religions, and this is wonderful! Personally, I am agnostic: I believe that something exists, that is to say that God exists, perhaps as some kind of higher intelligence or general idea, but something exists; I believe in higher powers. I’ve read the Quran and I’ve read the Bible, but I read them specifically as literature, in order to understand what they say. I even have very positive feelings towards them”

(male, 26, in work, Astana, focus group)



**Table 38**

**TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING? (only those respondents who associate themselves with a particular religion were asked this question (969, or 96.9%))**

	I believe	I doubt	I don't believe	Don't know
God exists	88.1	7.6	1.0	3.3
Heaven and hell exist	63.8	23.9	4.7	7.6
God created the world	66.5	21.1	5.6	6.8
God is the source of moral precepts and obligations	57.7	25.4	7.5	9.4

"I believe in God, but I don't particularly observe any rules, although I pray a few times, just for myself. It's a kind of support for me. It seems that, as always, people only turn to God in times of difficulty"

(female, 27, in work, Astana, focus group)

"I believe that there should be no intermediaries between myself and God. I believe that there is something above; sometimes I pray for things, but I'll never follow Muslim rites; I think there is something in my soul that I believe in, and that's enough for me"

(female, 22, unemployed, Astana, focus group)

"To be honest, I don't believe in God. I don't associate myself with any religion; by default, my parents are trying to bring me up as a Muslim. At the moment, I don't feel a need for it. Maybe in the future, I'll come around to it, but that's the future, and at the moment religion does not play a great role in my life"

(male, 26, in work, Astana, focus group)

"My religion is Islam. I believe in God. In terms of Islam, I know a lot about religion; I know the founders – the madhahib. I know about this because many of my friends go to Friday Prayer. Sometimes you go with them, you pray..."

(male, 20, student, Astana, focus group)

“As everyone has already said, our country is like that – we’re tolerant. On our streets, we have Orthodox and Catholic churches, then you get a synagogue – it means we’re tolerant. For me, religion means major festivals – I can’t say that I go to mosque, but I regard myself as Islamic, because my family is Islamic”  
(female, 19, student, Astana, focus group)

The majority of the young Kazakhs taking part in the survey believe that religion should play a certain role in public life. The most chosen scores here were between four and seven, with seven the highest. There was a slight urban/rural difference here: while five was the most commonly given score in urban locations (by 25.9% of respondents), it was given by just 18.8% of the respondents in rural areas.

**Table 39**

**HOW GREAT A ROLE SHOULD RELIGION PLAY IN PUBLIC LIFE?  
(only those respondents who associate themselves with a particular religion were asked this question (969, or 96.9%))**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Should play a lesser role	46	4.7
2	90	9.3
3	106	10.9
4	173	17.9
5	220	22.7
6	152	15.7
Should play a greater role	169	17.4
Don't know	13	1.3
Total	969	100.0
Weighted mean: 4.6		

As expected, most of the respondents (66%) belong to Islam, the traditional religion for Kazakhs. Furthermore, 30.7% belong to the Russian Ortho-

dox faith. In addition, a marginal number of the participants are Catholic (0.2%), and 2% atheist.



**Table 40**  
**WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Islam	660	66.0
Orthodox Christianity	307	30.7
Catholicism	2	0.2
I'm an atheist	20	2.0
No response	2	0.2
Don't know	9	0.9
Total	1,000	100.0

The overwhelming majority of young people adhere to the religion that is traditional to their ethnic group: 96.9% of Kazakhs regard themselves as Muslim, while 92.9% of Russians see themselves as Orthodox. At the same time, there were also

a few cases of Kazakhs considering themselves Orthodox and Russians seeing themselves as Muslim. It may also be noted that slightly more of the Russian respondents (3.2%) than the Kazakh (1.1%) are atheist.

**Table 41**  
**WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION? (by ethnicity)**

	Kazakh	Russian
Islam	96.9	2.3
Orthodox Christianity	1.1	92.9
Catholicism	-	0.6
I'm an atheist	1.1	3.2
No response	0.2	0.3
Don't know	0.8	0.6

Our study shows that young people's religious perceptions are rather vague. As the results demonstrate, there remains a close connection between religion and ethnicity. Young people are prepared to admit to believing in God and consider themselves re-

ligious, but are not ready to follow every religious precept or to perform every religious ritual in their daily lives. Furthermore, some religious festivals have been borrowed from the west, in particular St Valentine's Day.



Our study shows that young Kazakhs are not deeply religious. Their faith is probably largely not so much a belief in God than a 'fashion' for religion at time when interest in religion is booming. At the same time, however, they do have a need for faith, for an ideal; young people view religion positively, recognising its important role in society and identifying with its values, but most take the position of sympathetic observers. It may be suggested that young people today are adopting religious norms, and are prepared to follow some of them in their public conduct, but do not accept them internally. In other words, while young people do not truly understand the nature of religion, they are interested in it and recognise that it should be an integral part of their lives.

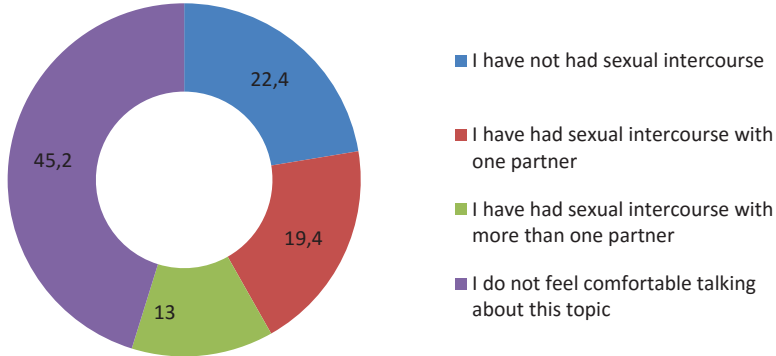
### 4.3. Sexual culture and sexual relations

Naturally, the changes taking place in socioeconomic and public/political life have also affected sexual behaviour and attitudes. In the public consciousness, all these new trends – open relationships, cohabiting, etc. – tend to be associated with the west

and its influence, although research clearly shows that such arrangements existed just as much in the Soviet Union, despite the prevailing moral and ideological values. Men and women had premarital relations and cohabited in Soviet times, too. Of course, there was a taboo on the topic of sex and sexual relationships, but this certainly did not mean that young people in the USSR did not have sexual contact before getting married.

In Kazakhstan today, sexual relationships are still subject to moral guidelines and judgements, but they have become more flexible and less strict. The gap between private and public morality is shrinking: with no official moral code, fewer and fewer types of sexual behaviour are subject to moral judgement. However, sex remains a taboo subject, with a lack of professional discourse in society impeding an understanding of the developments taking place, so that the current situation regarding this area of relations appears at first sight both surprising and potentially catastrophic.

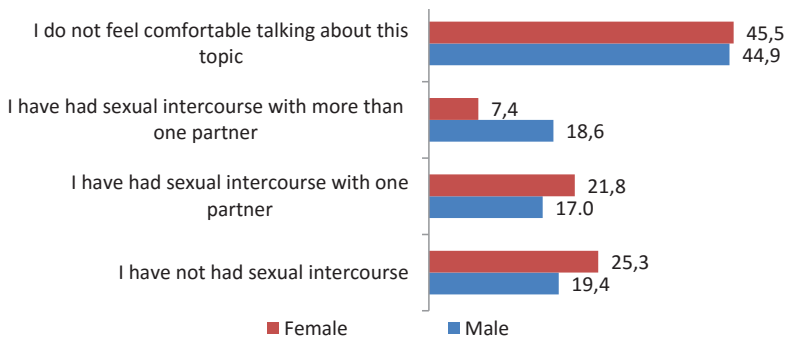
**Figure 24**  
**WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES YOUR SEXUAL HISTORY?**



The survey revealed that many young people are not ready to talk about their sex life. Almost half (45.2%) said that they did not feel comfortable talking

about the topic. The respondents' place of residence, sex, ethnicity and age made no particular difference here.

**Figure 25**  
**WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES YOUR SEXUAL HISTORY? (by sex)**



The study found that 22.4% of the respondents have not yet had sexual intercourse, 19.4% have had sex with one partner, and 13% have had sex with more than one partner. Significantly more male respondents (18.6%) than female (7.4%) have had sex with more than one partner.

Of the young women surveyed, 25.3% have not yet had sexual intercourse, compared to 19.4% of young men. As was to be expected, the older the respondents, the more they had engaged in sexual activity. In general, young people view premarital sex as entirely normal.

**Table 42****WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT CHASTITY TODAY?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
It's a virtue/important quality for both sexes	264	26.4
It's a virtue/important quality for young women	434	43.4
It's a psychological burden for young people	64	6.4
It's an outdated concept	153	15.3
Don't know/No response	85	8.5
Total	1,000	100.0

Our study shows that young people retain traditional attitudes regarding chastity: just under half the respondents (43.4%) regard to chastity to-

day is a virtue for young women, while a quarter (26.4%) see it as a virtue for both sexes, with 15.3% considering it to be an outdated concept.

**Table 43****DO YOU USE CONTRACEPTIVES?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes, I use them regularly	117	36.1
Yes, I use them sometimes	99	30.6
No, I never use them	50	15.4
I do not feel comfortable talking about this topic	37	11.4
I don't know what contraceptives are	21	6.5
Total	324	100.0



As yet, it cannot be said that young people have a positive attitude to using contraceptives: just 36.1% of young Kazakhs use them regularly and 30.6% sometimes, while 6.5% do not know what they are. Such attitudes most likely result from a lack of information – even the respondents who use contraceptives mainly see them only as a way of preventing pregnancy. At the same time, however, 64.8% think that abortion should be il-

legal – 33% in all circumstances, and 31.8% except on medical grounds. The study found that 23.5% think abortion should be legal, and 11.7% did not answer this question. The respondents' answers to these two questions – on the use of contraceptives and their attitude to abortion – indicate a lack of responsibility on the part of both young men and young women in their choice of sexual behaviour.

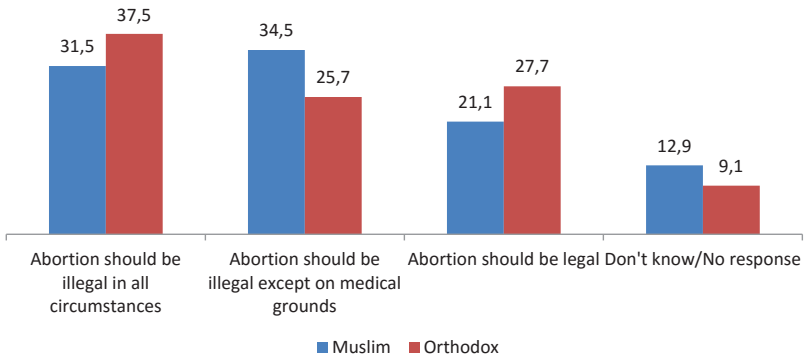
**Table 44**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ABORTION?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances	330	33.0
Abortion should be illegal except on medical grounds	318	31.8
Abortion should be legal	235	23.5
Don't know/No response	117	11.7
Total	1,000	100.0

In terms of religion, both Muslims and Orthodox Christians generally agree that abortion should be illegal. However, the proportion of the Orthodox respondents who oppose abortion under any circumstances (37.5%) is six percentage points greater than that of their Muslim peers

(31.5%). On the other hand, slightly more Orthodox (27.7%) than Muslims (21.1%) support legalising abortion. Meanwhile, more Muslims (34.5%) than Orthodox (25.7%) believe that abortion should be permitted only on medical grounds.

**Figure 26****WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ABORTION? (by religion)**

As a whole, the study indicates that sexual culture among young Kazakhs is developing sporadically. Sex life remains a rather sensitive topic, so young people find it hard to talk about it. In addition, there are no authoritative information sources for them to learn from. Nevertheless, younger people today are coming into contact with a variety of forms and types of sexual behaviour. Despite the existence of certain moral standards in so-

ciety on this issue, young people still adhere primarily to the values of their own generation and environment. As the survey shows, there is a broad permissiveness in age range regarding sexual activity among both young men and young women. Premarital relationships are increasingly becoming the norm for young people, but they take a more conservative approach to various issues connected with sexual behaviour, such as the use of contraceptives.



## ATTITUDE TO RELIGION

I'm religious, but I rarely take part in religious life

I'm not religious, but I take part in religious life

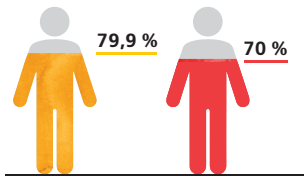
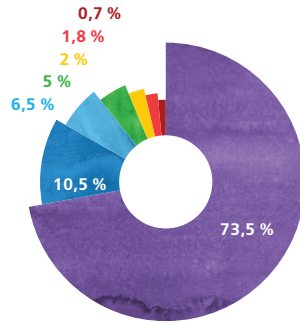
I'm religious, observe religious practices and promote my religion's values

I'm not religious, but I respect the religious feelings of those who are

I'm an atheist and opponent of religion

I have my own individual belief in various values

Don't know



The ethnic breakdown shows that the majority of both young Russians (79.9%) and young Kazakhs (70.0%) say that they are religious but rarely take part in religious life.

### Regional differences

In most regions, the majority say that they are religious, but rarely take part in religious life.

60% of young people in **Pavlodar Region** consider themselves not religious, but take part in certain religious practices.

36% of the respondents in **Kyzylorda Region** consider themselves religious and regularly go to church or mosque.

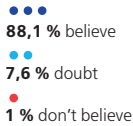
36% of those in **East Kazakhstan Region** say they are not religious, but respect the religious feelings of those who are.



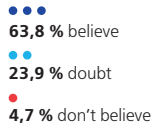
## BELIEF IN GOD



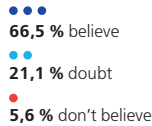
God exists



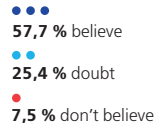
Heaven and hell exist



God created the world



God is the source of moral precepts



## RELIGION

What belief would you relate yourself to?

66 %



☪

Islam

30,7 %



✙

Orthodox Christianity

2 %



A

I'm an atheist

0,9 %



✝

Catholicism

0,2 %



-

No response

0,2 %



?

Don't know

By ethnicity

— Kazakh — Russian

96,9 % 2,3 %



☪

1,1 % 92,9 %



✙

1,1 % 3,2 %



A

- 0,6 %



✝

0,8 % 0,6 %



?

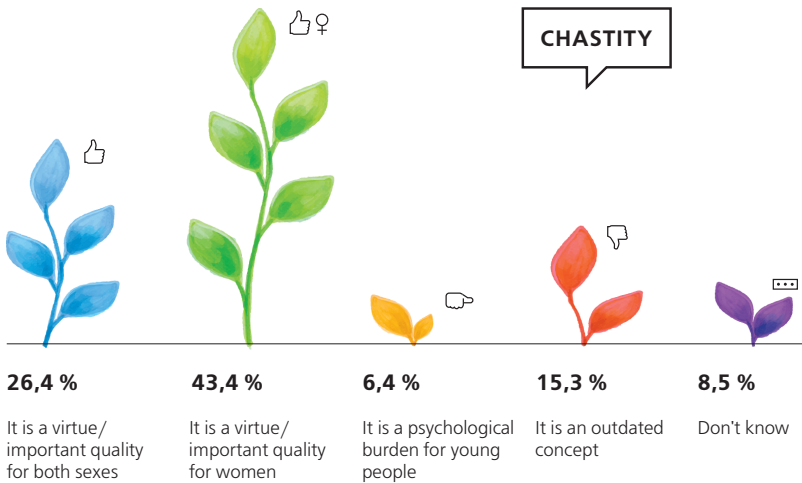
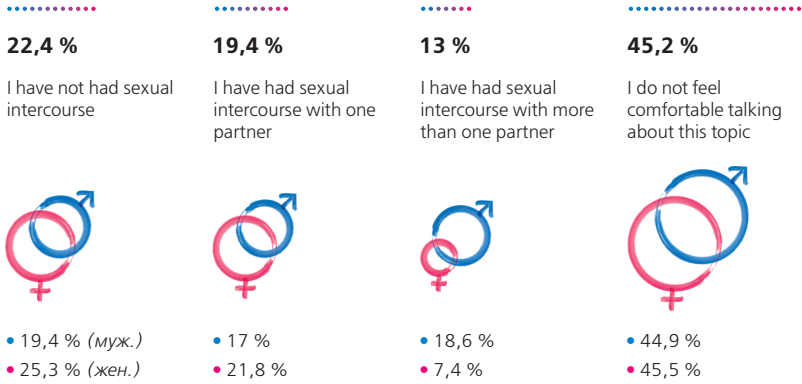
0,2 % 0,3 %



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## SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

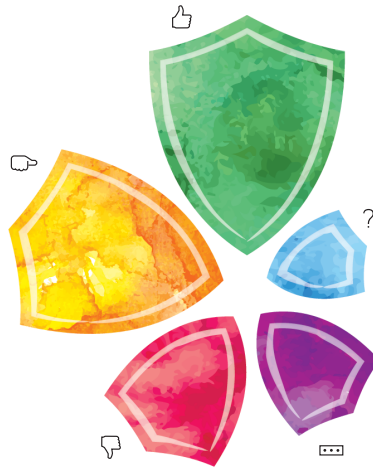
Which of the following statements best describes your sexual history?



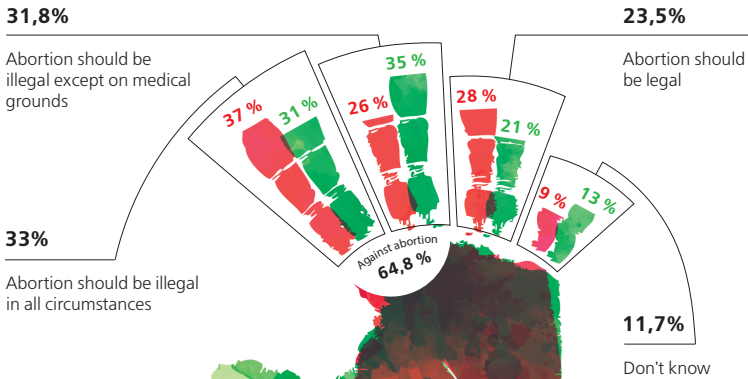


**CONTRACEPTIVES**

- **36,1 %** Yes, I use them regularly
- **30,6 %** Yes, I use them sometimes
- **15,4 %** No, I never use them
- **11,4 %** I do not feel comfortable talking about this topic
- **6,5 %** I don't know what contraceptives are



**ABORTION**



Religion: ■ P ■ C

**VALUES**

The qualities most valued by Kazakhs

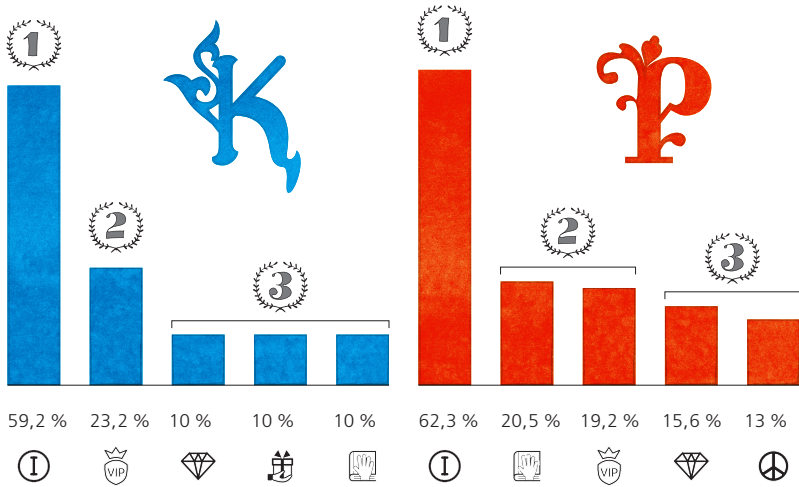
- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd



	<b>83,1 %</b>	A sense of self-worth		<b>19,2 %</b>	Tolerance
	<b>37,2 %</b>	Social prestige		<b>18,5 %</b>	Loyalty
	<b>35,8 %</b>	Prosperity		<b>16,0 %</b>	Ambition
	<b>33,6 %</b>	Honesty		<b>11,8 %</b>	A spirit of innovation
	<b>23,0 %</b>	Altruism		<b>10,7 %</b>	Personal conduct

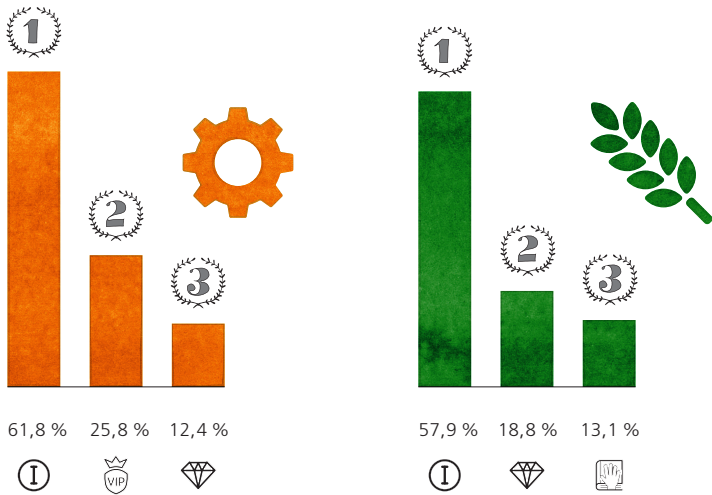
Values, by ethnicity

█ Kazakh █ Russian



Values, by urban or rural place of residence

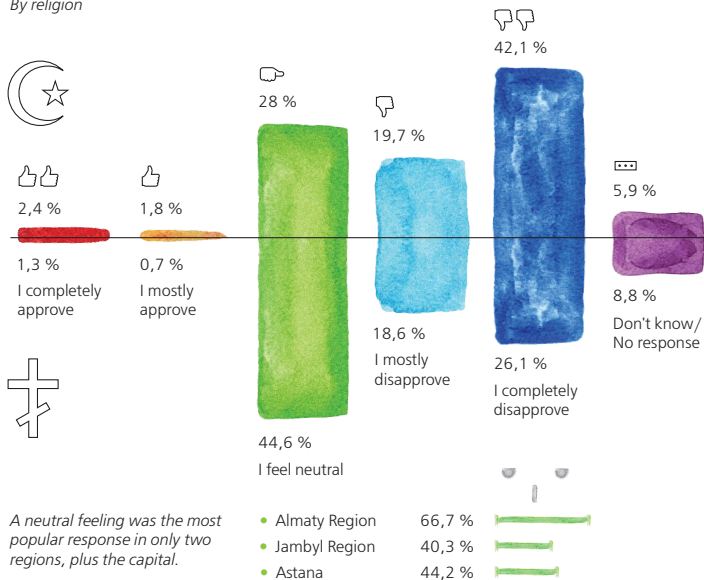
█ Urban █ Rural



## ATTITUDES TO SEXUAL MINORITIES

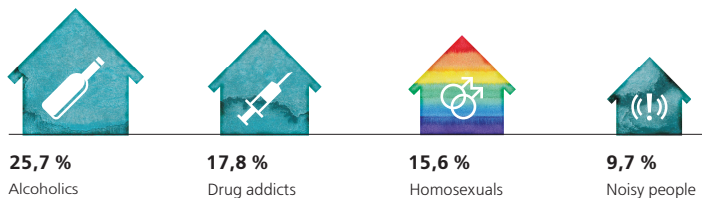
What do you think of non-heterosexual orientations?

By religion



Which groups of people would you not like to have as neighbours?

(An open-ended question with no list to choose from)



# CHAPTER 5: POLITICAL VIEWS

Young Kazakhs are commonly regarded as being uninterested in taking part in political life. Experts have attributed this to a wide variety of reasons, primarily a lack of political forces capable of engaging young people, and young people's belief that they are powerless to influence the political process. Accordingly, this chapter focuses on young people's political opinions, their interests in both domestic and foreign political events, and on their activity during election campaigns.

## 5.1. Political values, interests and activity

Various studies of popular political engagement have identified a correlation between the level of people's involvement in the political process and their level of interest in politics. Those who are more interested in politics are also more likely to engage in it. At the same time, however, these

studies emphasise that different forms of participation correlate in different ways with people's level of interest in politics.

For example, people interested in politics tend to take part in other political activities than election campaigns, such as writing letters or petitions to government authorities, or taking part in demonstrations, social movements or organisations. They have a motive for doing so, whereas people who are less interested in politics are more likely to take part in election campaigns than in other political activities, but here their participation is more symbolic. These conclusions are based on extensive comparative studies in various countries, but it should be noted that for young people such correlations are significantly weaker than for older people.

Accordingly, as well as studying young people's level of interest



in the country’s political life, we were interested in investigating a number of potential correlations. For instance, is there a relationship between the level of interest in politics and level of political engagement of young people in Kazakhstan? Is there a connection between the interest shown by young people in politics and the level of “popularity” of different forms of political engagement among them? In other words, we study the correlation between these forms of political engagement among young people, symbolic and substantive. First of all, however, we examine particular aspects of young people’s attitudes to politics and their political values.

### Political values

An important objective of our study was to identify the political

values and convictions held by young people which influence their interpretations of political events and their impressions of the country’s possible future political development. As such, we explore three important aspects in this part of the work. First, we look at young people’s assessments of the level of development of democracy in Kazakhstan and of the rights of various social groups in the country. Secondly, we aim to study the relationship between levels of individualism and collectivism among the younger generation. The third and no less important aspect we investigate is the political opinions of young people in Kazakhstan in terms of where they fit into the political spectrum of left to right. These three factors make it possible to study the level of change in the political views of the younger generation.

**Table 45**  
**ON THE WHOLE, HOW HAPPY ARE YOU WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN KAZAKHSTAN?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Completely happy	98	9.8
Happy	423	42.3
Somewhat happy	256	25.6
Unhappy	48	4.8

Completely unhappy	4	0.4
Don't know/No response	171	17.1
Total	1,000	100.0

The survey shows that young people are satisfied with the level of development of democracy in Kazakhstan: 77.7% said that they were happy to at least some extent, 17.1% did not know what to say, and just 5.2% were not happy. Those who rated their financial situation as “excellent” were more likely to be happy with the level of democracy, making up 26% of those with this opinion, but of those who did not know how to answer, the proportion who rated their financial situation as “excellent” was also high, at 33.3%, compared to 16% who rated it as “good” and 12.3% who rated it as “bad”. Of those who described their financial situation as “good”, only 9.5% rated the level of development of democracy positively, and just 0.9% of those who described their situation as “bad” did so.

The social position index shows that respondents from both lower and higher social groups are satisfied with the level of de-

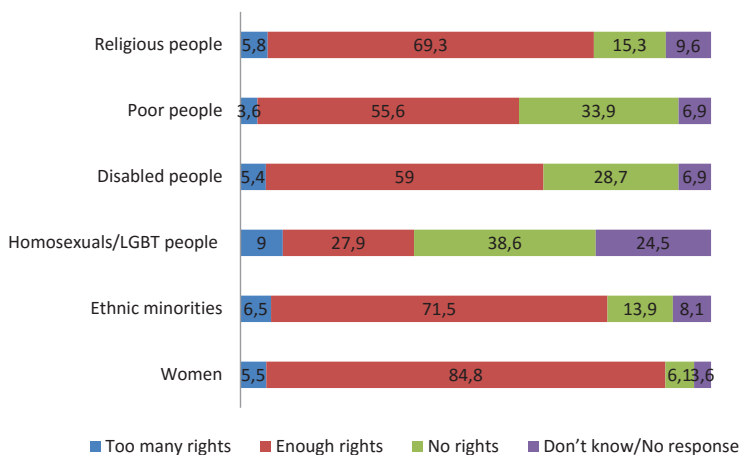
velopment of democracy in the country. Those proportions range from 44.8% (for lower social groups) to 55.8% (for higher social groups). A similar pattern can be seen when one compares the respondents’ views on the development of democracy with their satisfaction levels regarding their living conditions. Of those rating them as “very good”, 24.5% are completely happy with the level of development of democracy, compared to 11.2%, 3.3% and 0% respectively of those rating them as “good”, “average” and “bad”. Thus, the survey suggests a correlation between the level of satisfaction with the development of democracy and indicators of material wealth. The lower young people rate the material conditions of their life, the less happy they are with the level of development of democracy.

At the same time, the respondents believe that in Kazakhstan women, ethnic minorities and religious people have enough rights (with figures of 84.8%,

71.5% and 69.3% respectively). They are less sure about the rights of the poor and the disabled: 55.6% and 59% respectively think that they have enough rights, but 33.9% and 28.7% think that they have no rights. The lowest proportion of positive responses was for homosexuals and other sexual minorities:

27.9% believed that they have enough rights, 9% that they have too many rights, and 38.6% that they have no rights. A relatively large proportion (24.5%) did not know how to answer for this category. There were no significant variations from the overall figures across the different social groupings used in the study.

**Figure 27**  
**PLEASE SAY WHETHER THE FOLLOWING GROUPS HAVE TOO MANY, ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH RIGHTS:**



It is worth looking at the breakdown of the respondents' answers regarding whether they agree with particular statements on important social principles and beliefs. We will look at their

responses to this question in terms of two criteria: political leanings (right/left/centre) and individualism/collectivism.



**Table 46<sup>1</sup>**

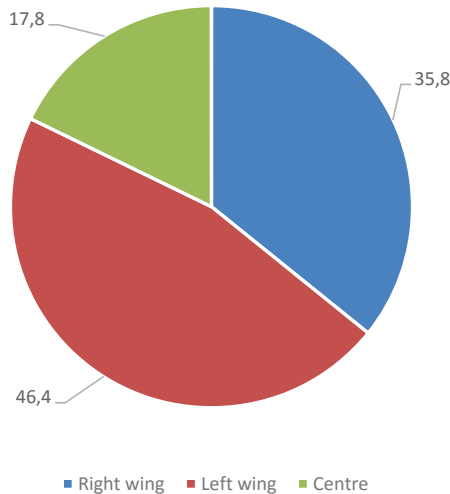
	Completely agree	Mostly agree	Mostly disagree	Completely disagree	Don't know
Fairness is achieved when people have a similar standard of living	28.7	37.4	27.5	3.0	3.4
The difference in people's standard of living reflects their abilities and is therefore fair	17.6	46.4	26.5	5.2	4.3
The state should guarantee the poor a reasonable standard of living; the rich should share part of their wealth for the benefit of those less well off	36.2	37.8	19.1	3.2	3.7
The state should not interfere in the distribution of wealth; people are responsible for their own material well-being	15.6	34.5	39.7	6.5	3.7
The interests of society are more important than the interests of the individual	24.1	32.0	34.0	5.6	4.3
Individual rights are worth more than the collective interests of society	10.0	33.5	41.5	8.3	6.7
Society should live according to rules determined by the state	25.1	38.2	26.8	4.1	5.8
Society should be self-organised, and the state should merely provide the conditions for this	29.5	39.3	18.8	6.7	5.7
Freedom is more important than security	14.9	32.6	39.2	8.3	5.0
Security is more important than freedom	20,4	40,9	28,2	4,8	5,7

Looking at the first criterion, then, the responses to this question indicate a correlation between young peoples' political opinions and where they fit on the political spectrum. The young people on the right look more to their own strengths and their family than to support from the state, and support liberal ideas and values. Those on the left, on the other hand, see support from the state as a prerequisite

for achieving their goals and objectives, tend to be collectivist in their thinking, and support Soviet values and ideas.

As the pie chart below illustrates, 35.8% of the respondents possess right-wing views, and 46.4% can be described as left-wing; the 17.8% in the middle do share some right-wing opinions, but at the same time have not fully rejected Soviet values.

Figure 28



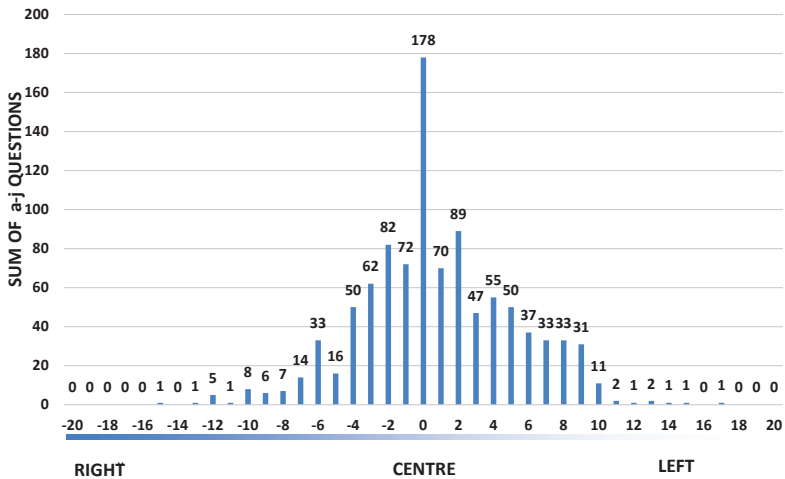
Our survey indicates that slightly more young people are supportive of left-wing views than the values traditionally associated with the right wing. This domination of left-wing opinions is prob-

ably connected to the increase in social stratification and social inequality, which young people point to as evidence of a lack of social justice. The survey thus establishes that left-wing val-

ues are appealing for the country's younger generation. At the same time, it may be noted that although the younger generation in Kazakhstan is still developing its ideological position, and de-

spite the fact that a certain proportion of them support right-wing opinions and values, young people overall, even if only slightly, lean to the left.

**Figure 29**



The survey also reveals that young people tend to support collectivist as opposed to individualist values, albeit not by much. For example, the principle of collectivism can clearly be seen in the following two statements: “the state should guarantee the poor a reasonable standard of living; the rich should share part of their wealth for the benefit of those less well off” (74%), as opposed to “the state

should not interfere in the distribution of wealth; people are responsible for their own material well-being” (50.1%); “security is more important than freedom” (61.3%), as opposed to “freedom is more important than security” (47.5%). Elsewhere, the proportions of respondents supporting collectivist values and of those who agree with individualist statements are almost equal,



with the difference in favour of collectivism insignificant.

For example, almost as many (64%) agree that “the difference in people’s standard of living reflects their abilities and is therefore fair” as that “fairness is achieved when people have a similar standard of living” (66%). And while 56% think that “the interests of society are more important than the inter-

ests of the individual”, 43.5% are of the opinion that “individual rights are worth more than the collective interests of society”. The difference between the proportion who believe that “society should live according to rules determined by the state” (63.3%) and those who think that “society should be self-organised, and the state should merely provide the conditions for this” (68.8%) is also negligible.

**Table 47**

**DO YOUR POLITICAL CONVICTIONS MATCH THOSE OF YOUR PARENTS?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Very much	119	11.9
To some extent	428	42.8
A little	214	21.4
Not at all	71	7.1
Don't know/No response	168	16.8
Total	1,000	100.0

This correlates with the respondents’ answers on whether their political convictions match those of their parents. Thus, just 11.9% of the respondents answered “very much” to this question; a little under half (42.8%) said their views sometimes fall in line with those of their parents, 21.4% said “a little”, and 7.1%

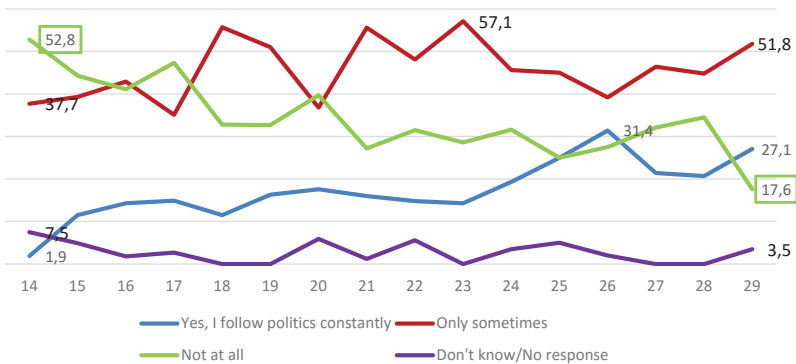
“not at all”. Furthermore, 16.8% did not know what to say. Hence, there is a notable difference between the opinions of the younger and older generations, which could increase.

## Political interests and activity

The survey reveals that most young people are interested in politics only sometimes (45.9%) or not at all (33.6%). On the other hand, young people do be-

come more interested in politics as they get older: a high proportion of those aged from 14 to 16, ranging from 52.8% to 47.3%, are not at all interested in politics, but this figure falls to 17.6% for those aged 29.

**Figure 30**  
**INTEREST IN POLITICS (BY AGE)**



Going by the survey, young people think that their parents are more interested in politics than they are themselves: 30.5% say that their parents follow politics constantly, 48.4% that they are sometimes interested in politics, and 16.7% that they are not in-

terested in politics at all. A higher share of young men (19%) than of young women (16.4%) follow politics constantly, but a higher proportion of the latter (13%) share their parents' political convictions than the former (10.8%).

**Table 48****ARE YOUR PARENTS INTERESTED IN POLITICS?**

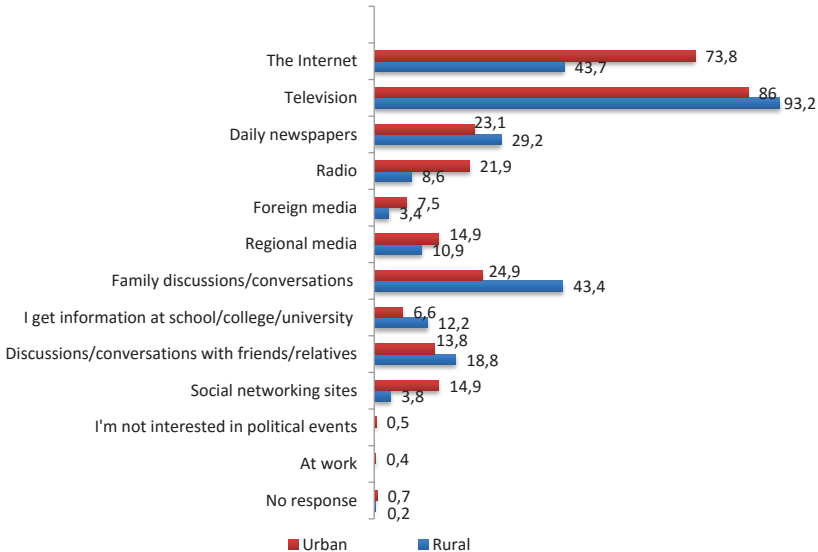
Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes, they follow politics constantly	305	30.5
Only sometimes	484	48.4
Not at all	167	16.7
Don't know/No response	44	4.4
Total	1,000	100.0

The main sources of information about politics and world events for young people are television (89.2%), the Internet (60.5%), family discussions (33.1%) and conversations with relatives and friends (16%). Only a small proportion (10%) use social networking sites as a source of political information. The most popular sources of political information for young people in urban locations are the Internet, radio and social networking sites,

while for those in rural areas television and daily newspapers are more widely used. The low level of Internet use in rural areas may be down to a lack of Internet coverage, or of such services being expensive in remoter locations. In contrast to their peers in urban areas, young people in rural areas are more likely to use information sources such as family discussions and debates and conversations with friends.

Figure 31

## WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICAL EVENTS?

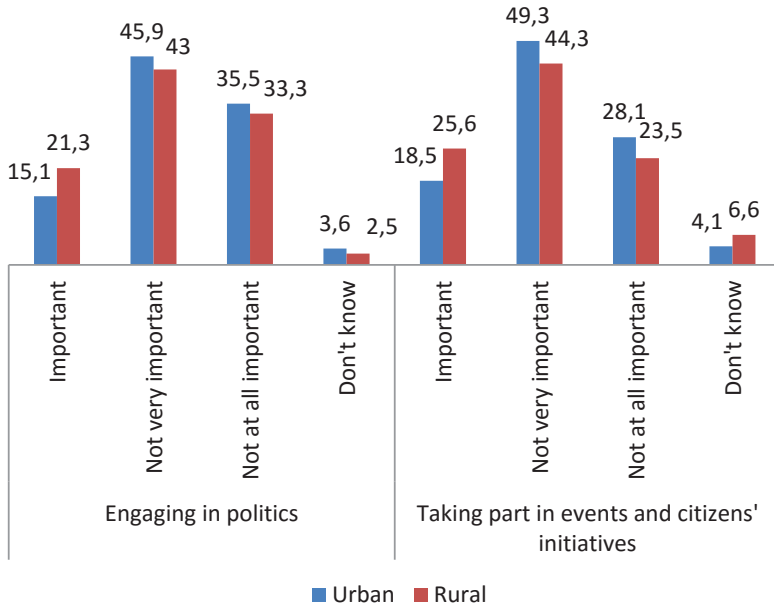


The figures for young people's views on the importance of participating in politics and citizens' initiatives and for their level of interest in political information are near identical in percentage terms. 45.9% regard engaging in politics and taking part in citizens' initiatives as "not very important" and 35.5% "not at all

important", compared to 45.9% who are sometimes interested in political events and 33.6% who are not interested at all. Fascinatingly, respondents from rural areas are more interested here than their urban peers. The respondents' sex made no great difference.



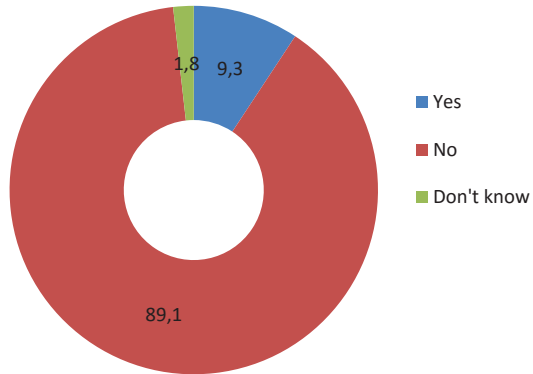
Figure 32

**HOW IMPORTANT FOR YOU IS IT TO ENGAGE IN POLITICS AND CITIZENS' INITIATIVES? (by urban or rural place of residence)**

There is some difference between how important it is for young people to take part in politics and citizens' initiatives, and the extent to which they actually do take part in such activities. Engaging in politics and participating in citizens' initiatives is important to 15% and 18.5% respectively of young people from urban locations, and to 21.3% and 25.6% of those from rural areas. This compares to 9.3% overall (10.8% of those from urban locations and 7.5% of those

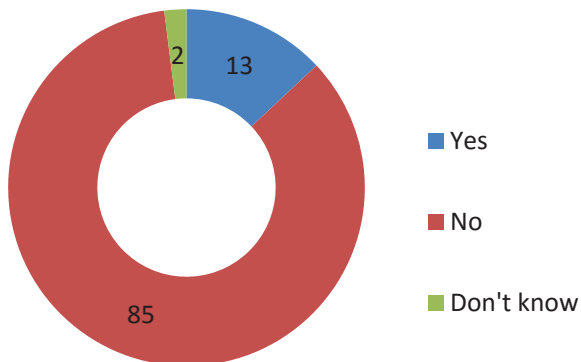
from rural areas) who had actually done voluntary work in the past 12 months. Of those, 46.2% cleaned up public spaces, 38.7% assisted and supported various groups, and 33.3% were involved in creating and looking after green spaces.



**Figure 33****HAVE YOU DONE ANY UNPAID VOLUNTARY WORK IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?**

A slightly larger proportion of respondents (12.7%) have done unpaid community work than have done voluntary work. The urban and rural figures here are

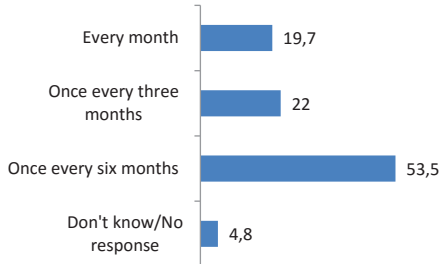
11% and 14.7% respectively. A fifth of the total do such work every month, and a fifth do so every three months; just over half do so once every six months.

**Figure 34****PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY WORK (%)**



**Figure 35**

**HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO UNPAID COMMUNITY WORK?  
(127 RESPONDENTS, %)**

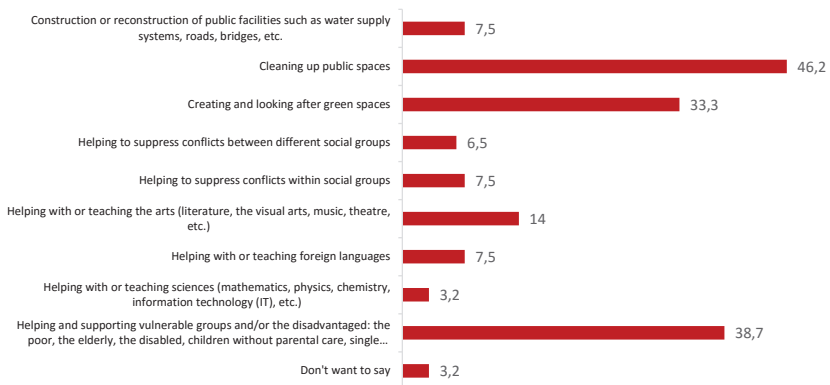


The main reason young people have for doing voluntary work, cited by more than half of the respondents who do such work (52.7%), is a desire to feel ac-

tive and engaged in society. The next most popular reason, given by 11.8%, is a feeling of duty to others.

**Figure 36**

**WHAT VOLUNTARY WORK HAVE YOU DONE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?**



Interestingly, 8.6% of the respondents gave their main rea-

son as family tradition, which would seem to be a fairly large

proportion given that there is virtually no tradition of volunteering in Kazakhstan. Other reasons selected by the volunteers included religious convictions, a desire to make new friends, and a desire

to work with professional knowledge. The survey shows that although young people recognise the importance of volunteering, they are not yet sufficiently motivated to do so.

**Table 49**

**WHAT IS YOUR MAIN REASON FOR DOING VOLUNTARY WORK? (only those respondents who had done voluntary work in the past 12 months were asked this question (93, or 9.3%))**

Responses	Count	Percentage
A desire to feel active/engaged in society	49	52.7
A feeling of duty to others	11	11.8
Family tradition	8	8.6
Religious convictions	7	7.5
A desire to make new friends	5	5.4
A desire to put my professional knowledge into practice	4	4.3
A desire to get to know/make a good impression on private employers who might hire me later	-	-
A desire to get to know/make a good impression on public employers who might hire me later	1	1.1
A desire to get to know/meet leaders of international institutions who might hire me later	-	-
Don't know/No response	8	8.6
Total	93	100.0

Interestingly, and unusually, men and women gave different answers here. The principal reason young men have for engaging in voluntary activity, chosen by more than half of them (58%) is a desire to feel active and engaged in

society. In second place comes religious convictions, which 14% of the male respondents say influenced their desire to take part in voluntary activity; 9.3% of them did not know what to say.



These answers indicate that young men see volunteering not in terms of bringing benefit to society and making their own contribution to the country's development, but more as a kind of duty, the purpose of which is to demonstrate obedience to the 'supreme authority' – "It is pleasing to Allah or God". For young women, the top three reasons look rather different: first is "a desire to feel active/engaged in society" (48%), followed by "a feeling of duty to others" (18%), and "family tradition" (10%) in third place. The answers from the male and female respondents also indicate that religion today probably has a greater influence on young men than on young women.

Another way for young people to participate in political and public areas of life is to be part of government institutions, non-governmental organisations and political parties. The respondents rate the level of participation of their age group in these organisations overall as relatively low. In particular, only a small proportion, from 5.6% for NGOs to 8.2% for government bodies say that young people are "very well" represented in such entities. A third (roughly 34%) believe that young people are represented "to some extent", almost as many (roughly 32%) that they are "poorly" represented, and just 10% that they are not represented at all.

**Table 50**

**HOW WELL DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTED IN POLITICS? (YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLITICAL PARTIES, YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER NGOS)**

	Very well	To some extent	A little	Not at all	Don't know/No response
Government entities	8.2	34.7	31.9	11.5	13.7
Political parties	7.2	33.4	32.0	11.7	15.7
NGOs	5.6	33.3	30.3	10.1	20.7

Going by the study, the area of politics in which young people are most active is elections: 48.5% have voted, compared to 29.7% who have never voted, either for their own reasons or ow-

ing to other circumstances, and 17.2% who have not voted owing to being too young. More young women (11.8%) than young men (8%) have voted in every possible election.

**Table 51**

**IF YOU CAN REMEMBER, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU VOTED SINCE GAINING THE RIGHT TO VOTE?**

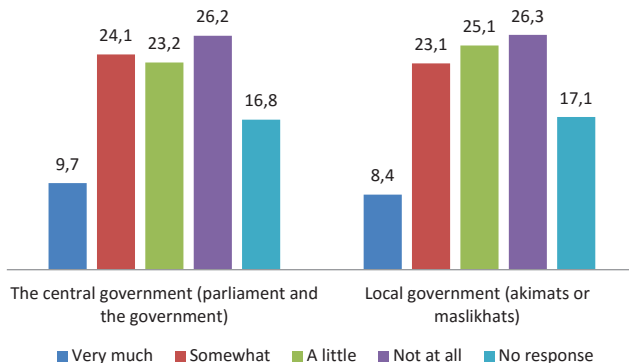
Responses	Count	Percentage
In every possible election	99	9.9
In the majority of elections	101	10.1
In some elections	285	28.5
Never	297	29.7
I'm not old enough to vote	172	17.2
Don't know/No response	46	4.6
Total	1,000	100.0

It may be assumed that there is a connection between young people's level of participation in elections and how much they think their vote influences the work of central and local government institutions. As such, 33.8% believe that their vote influences the work of parliament and the government (9.7% very much and 24.1% somewhat), and a quarter (23.2%) that it influences

their work a little; 26.2% do not think their vote has any influence on these entities. The figures for influence on local government (akimats and maslikhats) are similar. Roughly a third (31.5%) believe that their vote influences the work of local government entities very much or somewhat, a quarter (25.1%) that it influences their work a little, and 26.3% that it has no influence.

**Figure 37**

**TO WHAT EXTENT, IN YOUR VIEW, DOES YOUR VOTE INFLUENCE THE WORK OF THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES?**



Summing up this section, we can highlight a number of aspects. Our survey suggests that young people’s views on democracy are immature, possibly because their views on politics and democracy are not connected or only loosely connected to their sense of belonging to a particular social stratum.

Our study has also found that a significant share of young people are not interested in politics, and that only a small proportion take part in socially significant processes. This lack of interest in politics from young people may indeed be a result of their age, and the fact that they have many other areas and interests to engage in.

This passivity on the part of young people is also shown in their electoral behaviour, with only a minority of those old enough to vote taking part in elections. On the other hand, the share of young people who think that their vote influences the work of various political entities, primarily government institutions, is quite high.

At the same time, although many researchers attribute the desire of most young people to stay away from politics to a dominance of individualistic values, our study does not find a convincing link or interdependence between these two factors. For example, young Kazakhs are not particularly individualistic, even though their lack of in-

terest in social initiatives and political activities is clear. Furthermore, despite politics not being one of their biggest interests, they are not indifferent to specific political events.

## 5.2. Public administration and national development

In this section, we look at the relationship between young people and government institutions, and how happy young people are

with government policy and how it is manifested in the country's development. Our survey shows that young people are happy with the economic situation in Kazakhstan, and are relatively positive about prospects for the country's development. According to the study, 76.4% rated the economic situation as "good", 8.0% as "excellent", and 12.2% as "bad". In addition, 55.8% expect the economy to improve, while 36.4% think that the economic situation will stay the same.

**Table 52**

### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN KAZAKHSTAN?

Responses	Count	Percentage
Excellent	80	8.0
Good	764	76.4
Bad	122	12.2
Very bad	1	0.1
Don't know/No response	33	3.3
Total	1,000	100.0

The happier young people are with their own financial situation, the more optimistic they are about the economy. Of those rating their financial situation as "excellent", 81.2% think that the economic situation will improve, and only 14.5% that it will stay the same. In contrast, of those rating their financial situation as

"very bad", just 33% think that the economic situation will improve, while 66.7% say that "it will stay the same". The influence of the respondents' views of their own financial situation can also be seen in their opinions of who is responsible for the economic situation in the country. Of those rating their financial situation as

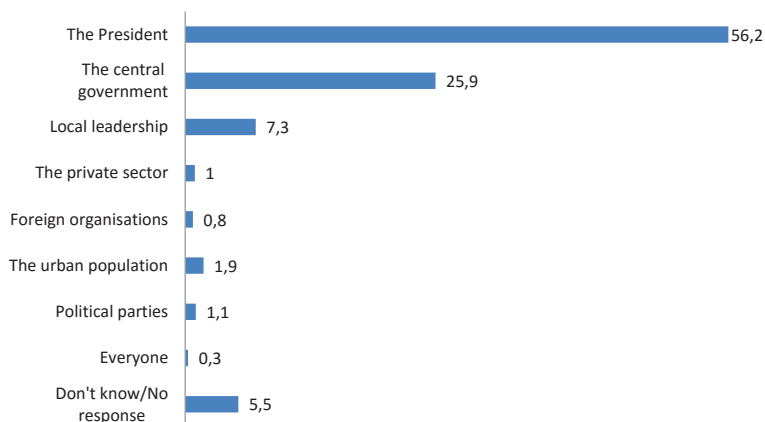
“excellent”, 75.4% said the President was responsible, while the majority of those rating their financial situation as “very bad” (66.7%) said the government.

The social position index shows that more young people in socially advantaged groups are optimistic about the country’s economy (66.7%, compared to 34.5% of those from socially disadvantaged groups). Among middle-class young people, optimism ranges from 51% for the lower middle class to 59.3% for the upper middle class.

Nevertheless, this does not mean that young people associate pos-

itive aspects of the country’s economic development with the President and negative ones with the government. It can be explained by the fact that by measure of other indicators relating to young people’s material circumstances (owning a business, owning property, etc.), there is no major difference in the respondents’ answers. Across all groups, a majority views the economic situation positively and see the President as responsible. Overall, 56.2% of respondents consider the President responsible for the economic situation in Kazakhstan, and 25.9% the central government. Just 7.3% said local leadership was responsible.

**Figure 38**  
**WHO DO YOU THINK IS MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY?**





At the same time, young people are ready to take on responsibility for the country's development. Asked if they would participate in Kazakhstan's development personally if they had the opportunity, 60% said that they definitely

would, 14.8% said that they would if it benefitted them personally, and 10% said that they wouldn't do so under any circumstances. Furthermore, 15.1% did not know what to say.

**Table 53**

**IF YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY, WOULD YOU PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN KAZAKHSTAN'S DEVELOPMENT?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Definitely	600	60.0
Only if it benefitted me personally	148	14.8
Never	100	10.0
Don't want to say	1	0.1
Don't know/No response	151	15.1
Total	1,000	100.0

There was a small difference here in the responses from respondents across different ethnic groups. Ethnic Kazakhs are slightly more likely to want to participate in the country's development than ethnic Russians: 65.8% of Kazakhs and 49.7% of Russians definitely would, while 16% of Kazakhs and 11.7% of Russians would if it benefitted them personally. Furthermore, 7.7% of Kazakhs and 13% of Russians would never do so.

A slightly larger share of those rating their financial situation

highly (71%) than of those rating it as "bad" (62.3%) gave a positive response here. The respondents' positions in terms of other material criteria (business ownership, living conditions, property ownership, etc.) made a slight difference. The social position index shows that a greater share of young people from higher social strata (ranging from 64% to 75%) than from lower social strata (44.8% to 53.5%) would take part in the country's development. At the same time, our findings show that a high proportion of young people would

participate in the country's development, with an improved financial situation increasing their likelihood of doing so.

These trends – satisfaction on the part of the younger generation with the country's level of development and current economic situation, and their confidence that

the situation will improve in the future – correlate to a certain extent with the respondents' answers on whether they would like to change their citizenship. When asked if they would like to change their citizenship, the vast majority of the respondents answered negatively – 90.3% (12.9% said "probably not", and 77.4% said "no").

**Table 54**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE YOUR CITIZENSHIP?**

Responses	Percentage	Kazakh	Russian
Yes	3.4	0.8	9.1
Probably	4.4	1.4	10.7
Probably not	12.9	8.2	22.4
No	77.4	88.4	54.5
Don't know	1.9	1.3	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There is a significant difference between the responses of ethnic Russians and ethnic Kazakhs here: 9.1% of the former would like to change their citizenship, compared to just 0.8% of the latter. For the respondents wishing to change their citizenship, the most popular countries to become citizens of are Russia (76.9%), Germany (6.4%) and the USA (5.1%).

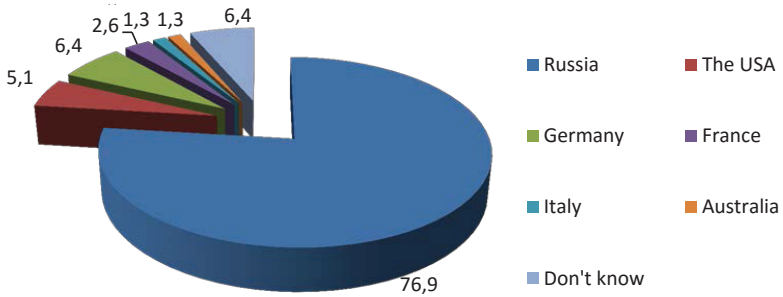
Russia's dominant status as the most popular country to move to may partly be explained by the responses to the questions: "How many times have you been abroad?" and "Which countries have you been to?" The survey revealed that 25.5% of young people have been abroad, 11.4% once, 9.4% 1–3 times, and 4.7% more than three times. 49.4% of those have been to

Russia, 32.2% to Turkey, and 17.6% to Kyrgyzstan. With regard to countries outside the re-

gion, 8.3% have been to Europe, 9% to China, and 1.2% to the USA.

**Figure 39**

**WHICH COUNTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A CITIZEN OF? (only those respondents who would change their citizenship were asked this question (78, or 7.8%))**



Overall, young people see the following as particularly pressing issues for Kazakhstan during its current stage of development: unemployment (very much a problem for 45.7%; to some extent a problem for 32.7%); in-

creasing poverty (very much a problem for 34.2%; to some extent a problem for 41.1%); and environmental problems (very much a problem for 35.5%; to some extent a problem for 38.8%).

**Table 55**

**TO WHAT EXTENT, IN YOUR VIEW, DO THE FOLLOWING ISSUES POSE PROBLEMS FOR KAZAKHSTAN?**

	Very much	To some extent	A little	Not at all	Don't know/No response
Increasing poverty	34.2	41.1	12.2	9.3	3.2
Unemployment	45.7	32.7	10.1	8.8	2.7
Environmental problems	35.5	38.8	15.7	7.1	2.9



Threats of terrorist attacks	14.0	33.3	27.1	22.0	3.6
The threat of the spread of HIV/AIDS	19.8	43.0	23.3	9.8	4.1
Workplace health and safety issues	12.1	38.1	32.4	12.4	5.0
Violations of the law	20.7	43.0	21.8	10.2	4.3
Freedom of movement	8.5	29.6	23.5	33.1	5.3
The threat of street crime	16.7	43.1	21.7	13.6	4.9
Narcotics	27.8	41.0	16.1	11.3	3.8
Kazakhstan splitting up (separatism)	7.2	28.8	24.9	31.2	7.9
Shortages of electricity, gas or water	13.0	31.1	23.1	27.1	5.7

**Next on the list come the following:**

- violations of the law (very much a problem for 20.7%; to some extent a problem for 43%);
- the threat of the spread of HIV/AIDS (very much a problem for 19.8%; to some extent a problem for 43%);
- workplace health and safety issues (very much a problem for 12.1%; to some extent a problem for 38.1%);
- threats of terrorist attacks (very much a problem for 14%; to some extent a problem for 33.3%);
- narcotics (very much a problem for 27.8%; to some extent a problem for 41%);
- the threat of street crime (very much a problem for 16.7%;

to some extent a problem for 43.1%).

**Young people are least worried about these issues:**

- shortages of electricity, gas or water (very much a problem for 13%; to some extent a problem for 31.1%);
- Kazakhstan splitting up (very much a problem for 7.2%; to some extent a problem for 28.8%);
- freedom of movement (very much a problem for 8.5%; to some extent a problem for 29.6%).

A larger share of young people from urban locations (52.2%) than of those from rural areas (41.2%) see corruption as a serious problem, while unemployment (job creation) and poverty

worry a larger share of the latter (28.5% (+4.3%) and 10.2% respectively) than of the former (20.8% (+1.8%) and 6.3% respectively). The respondents' nationality made little difference, although Russians are more concerned by economic problems such as employment (cited by 28.9% of Russians compared to 22.1% of Kazakhs), and less by corruption (cited by 36.7% of

the former and 52% of the latter). In addition, crime and interethnic tension worry a larger share of Russians (5.8% and 3.2% respectively) than Kazakhs (2.2% and 0.9% respectively). It should be added that material factors made little difference here, with the order of seriousness of the problems remaining the same across all groups.

**Table 56**

**WHAT DIRECTION, IN YOUR VIEW, IS KAZAKHSTAN HEADING IN?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
The right direction	299	29.9
Mostly the right direction	626	62.6
Mostly the wrong direction	35	3.5
The wrong direction	8	0.8
Don't know	4	0.4
Don't want to say	28	2.8
Total	1,000	100.0

Despite the problems highlighted, however, the overwhelming majority of respondents believe that Kazakhstan is heading in "the right direction" (29.9%) or "mostly the right direction" (62.6%). Other factors made no significant difference either, except that the better the respondents' financial status, the more optimistic they are – 65.2% of those who rated their financial status as "excellent" think that

the country is heading in the right direction, compared to 28.6% of those who rated it as "good" and 19.3% of those who rated it as "bad". The social position index shows only slight differences in the responses: a larger share of young people from higher social groups (41.7%) than from lower social groups (34.5%) believe that the country is heading in the right direction. In any case, the majority of young people, what-



ever their social group, consider that Kazakhstan has chosen the right development path.

This may be why they have a high level of trust in government institutions. Our survey showed that young people are most trusting of the President (trusted fully by 64.6% and to some extent by 21.0%), the government (45.8% and 35.6% respectively), and parliament (43.6% and 36.5% respectively). The respondents gave higher than average trust scores for government authorities, international organisations and public institutions.

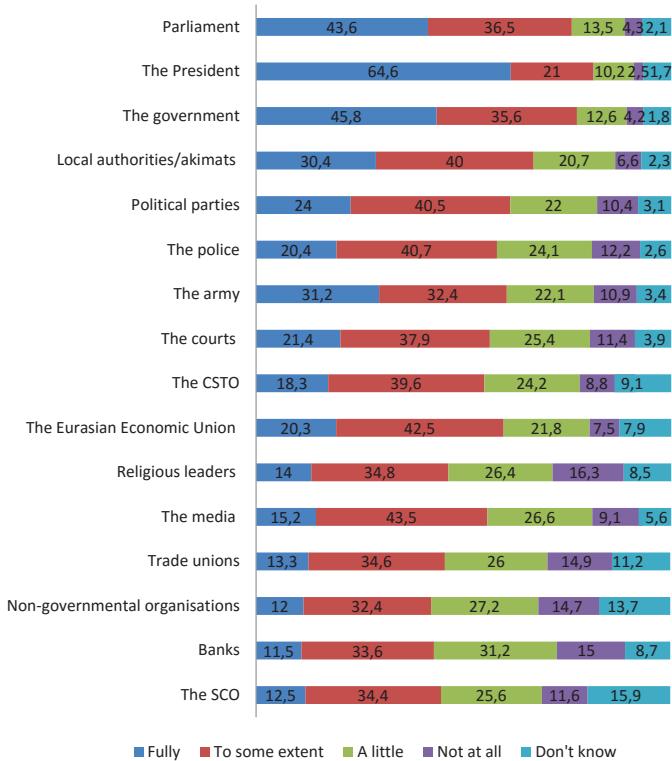
*“For the moment, I trust only the President”  
(male, 20, Astana, focus group)*

*“I trust only the President – the head of our state”  
(female, 21, student, Astana, in-depth interview)*

*“I don’t know half of this, but I trust in our President”*

*(female, 17, student, Astana, focus group)*

Local authorities are fully trusted by 30.4% of young people, and the army by 31.2%. Forty percent and 32.4% respectively trust them to some extent. A relatively high proportion – a fifth – of young people trust political parties, the police and the courts fully, with the CSTO and EAEU the next most trusted entities. Approximately 40% of respondents trust all of these to some extent. They are least trusting of banks, NGOs, trade unions, the media and religious leaders, as well the SCO. In fact, our study shows that many young people trust only central government institutions (the President, parliament and the government), as opposed to other political entities, such as law enforcement agencies and civil society institutions.

**Figure 40****HOW FAR DO YOU TRUST THE ENTITIES LISTED BELOW – FULLY, TO SOME EXTENT, A LITTLE, OR NOT AT ALL?**

The fact that young people have a relatively low level of trust in political parties, despite regularly taking part in their mass-participation activities, indicates that the parties themselves often use young people in politics only at public or one-off events. The nature of the relationship between political parties and young peo-

ple means that the former cannot rely on the latter for support. At the same time, it should be stressed that the parties have lost support from most of the population, not just young people.

The respondents' place of residence (urban/rural), ethnicity



and region make no significant difference to their level of trust in government institutions. However, the lower their assessment of their financial situation, the less likely they are to trust various government and political institutions, with the exception of the President. Only the President is fully trusted both by those rating their financial situation as “excellent” and those rating it as “bad” alike.

Summing up this section, we can say that young people are overall optimistic about the economic situation in the country, believe that the country is heading in the right direction, would participate in its development, and link all its achievements with the head of state. This is likely why they have a high level of trust in government institutions, but not so much in political institutions, the civil sector and law enforcement agencies. They are also less trusting of international organisations than of government institutions. Moreover, they are most trusting of the highest authorities – the President, the government and parliament – and less so of local government institutions.

The above may be a result of the fact that civil society, political institutions and law enforcement agencies tend to ignore young people, and have no special programmes for working alongside them. This probably also applies to international organisations. Judging by the young respondents’ answers, there is no ‘spirit of protest’ in the shape of disagreement with the country’s development programme among them. Overall, they regard the current system of public administration positively and rate it relatively highly.

“We have at the moment a slight deficit, a budget deficit, as I understand it. It is usual to keep quiet about these things, to conceal things a little. Recently, there has been a devaluation, a sharp lurch, but generally things are stable. The fact that we have oil is the most important thing, in my view...”  
(male, Astana, focus group)



“Of course, every country has its problems, its neutral aspects, its nuances, but I’m glad that I live in Kazakhstan, because it’s peaceful and calm here; it is pleasing to see where we are heading – we are developing economically. If you think about it, we live better than [people in] Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, much better. Kazakhstan is an extremely wealthy country, [we have] such vast resources – it’s good that we’re making use of them, as they belong to our country”

(female, 24, social services worker, Astana, focus group)

“Oil, of course, is infinite. But talking about the country in general, I know for a fact that Kazakhstan has gone up three places in the World Bank’s [Doing Business Index], because the investment environment here is good. We have a good investment climate in Kazakhstan; investors are all interested in our country, there are opportunities for development, the market here is in fact not that extensive, and remains untapped and uncrowded, even in terms of our government’s involvement”

(male, 29, lawyer, Astana, focus group)

On the whole, young people believe that Kazakhstan is heading in either the right direction (29.9%) or mostly the right direction (62.6%). On the other hand, 4.3% believe that the country is heading in either the wrong direction or mostly the wrong direction.

“I look at things with optimism. I’ve always thought that things would get worse, but they’ve always gotten better”

(male, 28, healthcare worker, Astana, focus group)

### 5.3. Foreign policy

Young people’s views on foreign policy are interesting to study given that the younger generation, having grown up after Kazakhstan gained independence, do not feel politically or emotionally bound to Russia and the other post-Soviet republics, as does, for example, the country’s older generation. Accordingly, this section focuses on young people’s ideas on which foreign policy priorities are best for Kazakhstan and its future development. What do young people think of the various integration projects involving Kazakhstan? Do they



see a promising future for these economic unions? Would young people themselves like to participate in the taking of decisions on foreign policy?

The study found that 55.2% of the respondents described themselves as “interested” in international events, and 19.7% as “very interested” – a total of 74.9%. The figures for events in Russia are also high: 54.7% are “interested”, and 17.3% “very interested” – a total of 72%. Furthermore, 64.8% are either interested or very interested in events in Central Asia, 59.6% in events in Europe, and 52.7% in events in China.

Of course, it should be said here that the news industry in Kazakhstan is dominated by the Russian media, and the dominant language of broadcasting is Russian. Accordingly, the survey revealed that 49.7% of the respondents use Russian in their everyday life, 33.9% Kazakh, and 15.9% both languages. The study also found that 6.1% speak, read and write English fluently. It is likely that the young respondents are more interested in events in Russia than in events further abroad, because they understand the language of broadcasting and the information is accessible to them.

**Table 57**  
**HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN POLITICAL EVENTS?**

	Very interested	Interested	Somewhat interested	Not particularly interested	Not at all interested	Don't know
Internationally	19.7	55.2	22.5	2.0	0.3	0.3
In Russia	17.3	54.7	24.7	2.4	0.3	0.6
In Central Asia	13.2	51.6	28.8	5.0	0.8	0.6
In China	8.0	44.7	36.3	8.6	1.3	1.1
In Europe	10.1	49.5	32.9	5.8	0.6	1.1

As such, the respondents' answers when asked what kind of relations Kazakhstan should seek with various entities (closer, more distant, or the same as now) are not surprising. The respondents would most like Kazakhstan to develop closer relationships with Russia, the EU, Kyrgyzstan, China and Uzbekistan, chosen by 72%, 37.6%, 35%, 30.7% and 29.8% respectively.

They would most like the country to distance itself from the USA, NATO and Iran, chosen by 40%, 34.1% and 29.8% respectively. They would most like it to preserve the status quo in its relations with India, South Korea and Afghanistan, chosen by 54.4%, 52.4% and 51.2% respectively. Furthermore, 35.4% believe that Kazakhstan's relationship with the USA should remain as it is.

Sorting the responses by different groupings had no significant effect, except for some minor differences in the responses depending on the respondents' financial situation: 36.2% of those rating their financial situation as "excellent" would like Kazakhstan to seek closer ties with the USA, compared to 17% of those

rating it as "good" and 16.7% of those rating it as "bad". Forty-three percent of those rating their financial situation as "bad" think that Kazakhstan should seek closer ties with the European Union, compared to 36.2% of those rating it as "excellent" and 37.3% of those rating it as "good". As such, depending on how the respondents view their financial situation, their preferred countries for Kazakhstan to seek ties with are as follows: those rating their financial situation as "excellent" would most like Kazakhstan to seek closer ties with Russia (71%), the Eurasian Customs Union (43.5%) and China (40.6%); for those rating their financial situation as "bad", the most attractive partners for Kazakhstan are Russia (74.6%), the Eurasian Customs Union (50%) and the European Union (43%).

The social position index also reveals another interesting trend: young people from higher social classes have a preference for western entities – the European Union (66.7%) and the USA (25%), while those from lower social classes believe that Kazakhstan would benefit from working with Iran (17%) and Uzbekistan (27.6%). The only



entity on which young people across all class backgrounds held the same views here was Russia, with 65.5% of those with lower

index scores and 66.7% of those with higher scores believing that Kazakhstan should seek closer ties with its northern neighbour.

**Table 58**

**WHAT SORT OF A RELATIONSHIP SHOULD KAZAKHSTAN SEEK TO HAVE WITH THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES OR ORGANISATIONS – CLOSER RELATIONS, MORE DISTANT RELATIONS, OR THE SAME AS NOW?**

	Closer relations	More distant relations	The same as now	Don't know	Don't want
Russia	72.0	4.5	20.5	0.5	2.5
The USA	18.3	40.0	35.4	0.9	5.4
Iran	15.0	29.8	47.9	1.4	5.9
The EU	37.6	17.7	38.9	1.0	4.8
Uzbekistan	29.8	17.3	46.6	1.1	5.2
NATO	15.0	34.1	41.8	2.7	6.4
India	19.8	18.8	54.4	1.3	5.7
The Eurasian Customs Union	48.9	11.3	33.5	1.5	4.8
Kyrgyzstan	35.0	14.2	44.1	1.3	5.4
China	30.7	15.4	48.5	1.0	4.4
Afghanistan	10.6	28.8	51.2	1.5	7.9
South Korea	20.8	19.6	52.4	1.3	5.9
Tajikistan	23.5	19.1	49.4	1.2	6.8

Meanwhile, 46.7% see Russia as the best example of successful development for Kazakhstan, 19.2% the EU, 9.5% China, 7.9% the USA, and 5.5% Turkey. The first three did particularly well across the country, with the exception for Astana. In the capital,

38.5% of young people see the USA as the best example of successful development for Kazakhstan, and 28.8% the EU. Furthermore, 15.4% did not know what to say, and only 11.5% chose Russia.

**Table 59****WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SHOULD KAZAKHSTAN LOOK TO IN ITS DEVELOPMENT?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Russia	467	46.7
The USA	79	7.9
Europe	192	19.2
China	95	9.5
Turkey	55	5.5
No one	22	2.2
Japan	5	0.5
The UAE	1	0.1
Singapore	1	0.1
Everyone	2	0.2
Don't know/No response	81	8.1
Total	1,000	100.0

Our study shows that Russia remains popular among the younger generation, both as a country for Kazakhstan to seek closer ties with and as an example for Kazakhstan to follow in its development. The next most popular entities are the EU and China, with which the respondents also think Kazakhstan should seek closer relations. The USA, on the other hand, is not popular: the number of respondents who believe that Kazakhstan should seek to distance itself from it is higher than that for any other entity.

The next set of questions in this section concerns young people's

attitudes to the integration projects in which Kazakhstan is taking part, as well as some in which it is not but might in the future. Of the respondents, 48.9% believe that Kazakhstan should seek closer ties with the Eurasian Customs Union, 37.6% with the European Union, and just 15% with NATO. In this context, it is interesting to look at young people's attitudes to the Eurasian Economic Union, of which Kazakhstan is a member, along with Russia, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan (all post-Soviet countries), as well as to integration between the Central Asian countries.

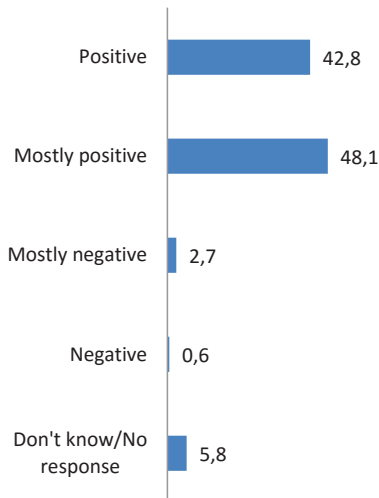


## The Eurasian Economic Union

The recently established Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) integration project has been the subject of much debate, but the overwhelming majority of young people support it: 90.9% see its creation as positive or mostly positive.

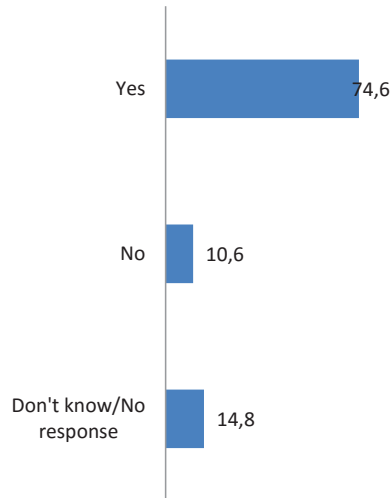
Just 3.3% see its creation in a negative light, with 0.6% completely opposed and 2.7% taking a mostly negative stance. The study found 74.6% agree that it was necessary for Kazakhstan to join the EAEU, compared to 10.6% who take the opposite view (14.8% did not know what to say).

**Figure 41**  
**ATTITUDES TO KAZAKHSTAN'S INTEGRATION INTO THE EAEU**



Young people from higher social classes are more in favour of Kazakhstan's membership in the EAEU than those from lower so-

**Figure 42**  
**WAS IT NECESSARY FOR KAZAKHSTAN TO JOIN THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION?**



cial classes: 37.9% and 36.8% of the two lower social classes regard the integration project as positive respectively, compared to 51.2%

of the middle class respondents, and 83.3% of those from the upper social tier. A similar pattern can be seen in the respondents' views on whether it was necessary for Kazakhstan to join the EAEU, where 91.7% of the upper class respondents said "yes", compared to 48.3% of those from the lower social classes.

Fifty-five percent believe that joining the Eurasian Economic Union will lead to economic and political progress in Kazakhstan, 24% believe that it will lead to economic growth alone, and 4.9% that such integration will encourage Kazakhstan's political development only. Furthermore, 5.5% do not think that it will change anything.

Young people are relatively optimistic regarding the development prospects provided by the EAEU, and mainly see it as having a positive impact on Kazakhstan's development. Only a small number is pessimistic.

Optimism is highest among those from the upper class (58.3%), while in the other social groups it varies from 41.4% for the lower class to 55.8% for the middle class. Our survey thus shows a correlation between young people's expectations from Kazakhstan's joining the EAEU and their social class: the higher their social class, the more optimistic they are regarding the EAEU's potential influence on Kazakhstan's development.

**Table 60**

**WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK JOINING THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION WILL HAVE ON KAZAKHSTAN?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
It will lead to economic and political progress	550	55.0
It will lead to economic progress	240	24.0
It will lead to political progress	49	4.9
It won't change anything	55	5.5
It will lead to economic problems	9	0.9
It will lead to political problems	6	0.6
It will lead to economic and political problems	10	1.0
Don't know/No response	81	8.1
Total	1,000	100.0

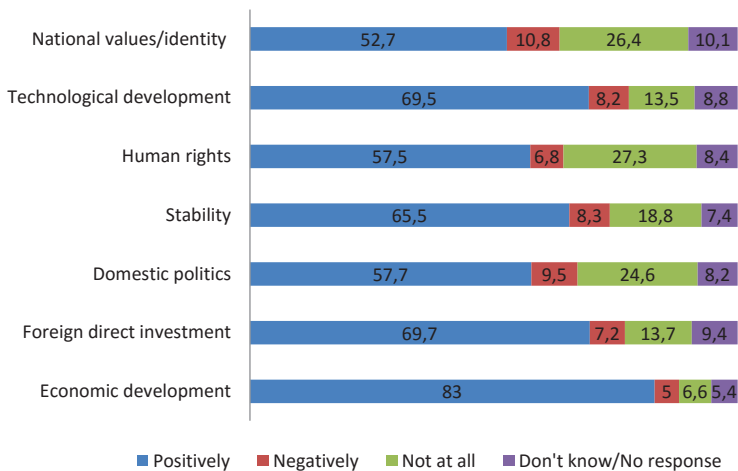


More than half of the respondents believe that the EAEU will have a positive effect on national values and identity, technological development, human rights, stability, domestic politics, foreign direct investment and economic development in Kazakhstan.

The proportions who think that the EAEU will have a negative effect on these areas range from 5% to 10.8%. The factor on which the highest proportion of respondents believe that the EAEU will have a negative effect

is national values and identity (incidentally, the figures for the Kazakh and the Russian respondents – both positive and negative – were practically the same here). The factor on which the lowest proportion believe that the EAEU will have a negative effect is economic development. The area that the highest percentage of respondents (27.3%) believe that the EAEU will not affect is human rights. Almost as many believe that the EAEU will have no effect on national values and identity (26.4%) and domestic politics (24.6%).

**Figure 43**  
**HOW WILL KAZAKHSTAN JOINING THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION AFFECT THE FOLLOWING?**





Despite the high number of respondents who believe that the Eurasian Economic Union will have a positive effect on the country's development, rather few were prepared to vote in favour of Kazakhstan joining. Twenty-five percent of the respondents had not decided, and 13.3% did not know what to say, even though just 3.3% of the respondents take a negative view

of the EAEU. This is probably because the EAEU has only just been established, and its successes are not yet obvious: there are no specific achievements with which to convince people of its benefit. Accordingly, young people, while generally approving of the integration project, are not yet prepared to vote in favour of Kazakhstan joining the EAEU.

**Table 61**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOTE IN A REFERENDUM ON KAZAKHSTAN'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes	496	49.6
No	121	12.1
I haven't decided	250	25.0
Don't know/No response	133	13.3
Total	1,000	100.0

Our survey reveals that over twice the proportion of young people from higher social classes (66.7%) as of those from lower ones (31%) would vote in such a referendum. This may be connected to their views on Kazakhstan's economic development prospects after joining EAEU, about which the latter are not optimistic.

"If one was held, I would definitely take part. Again, though, I come back to the fact that we have lots of educated people around us who would take this document and read it, and then go to vote with clear intentions"  
(male, 26, engineer at national company, focus group)



Overall, young people trust the state in terms of its work within the Union, and believe that the government is prepared to defend Kazakhstan’s national interests. The study found that 78.6% think the government is completely or mostly prepared, compared to 11.4% who think that it is completely or mostly unprepared. Similarly, as with other questions, Kazakhs were slightly more pessimistic than Russians: 7.5% of the former reckon that

the government is unprepared to defend the country’s national interests, compared to 2.6% of the latter.

The social position index shows that a higher proportion of young people from higher social classes (25%) than of those from lower social classes (6.9%) think that the government is completely prepared to defend Kazakhstan’s national interests in the EAEU.

**Table 62**

**HOW PREPARED, IN YOUR VIEW, IS KAZAKHSTAN’S GOVERNMENT TO DEFEND ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS WITHIN THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Completely prepared	242	24.2
Mostly prepared	544	54.4
Mostly unprepared	57	5.7
Completely unprepared	57	5.7
Don't know/No response	100	10.0
Total	1,000	100.0

The respondents’ attitudes towards the Eurasian Economic Union correlate with their other responses, in particular their level of trust in government institutions and their positive view of Russia, both as an example for Kazakhstan to look to in its devel-

opment and as a country for Kazakhstan to build closer ties with. These views, however, may not be fully formed, given that only a minority (49.6%) would vote in a referendum on Kazakhstan’s membership in the EAEU.

## Cooperation between the Central Asian countries

Our survey shows that young Kazakhs take a positive view of potential integration between Kazakhstan and the other Central

Asian countries. For example, when asked whether a Central Asian Union of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan was needed, 62.6% said “yes”, 26.5% said “no”, and 10.9% did not know what to say.

**Table 63**

### DO YOU THINK A CENTRAL ASIAN UNION INCLUDING KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN AND TURKMENISTAN NEEDS TO BE CREATED?

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes	626	62.6
No	265	26.5
Don't know/No response	109	10.9
Total	1,000	100.0

At the same time, 29.8% of the respondents think that Kazakhstan should build ties with Uzbekistan, 35% that it should do so with Kyrgyzstan, and 23.5% that it should do so with Tajikistan. Nevertheless, the most common opinion from young people regarding Kazakhstan's relationships with the other Central Asian countries is that they should stay as they are. As such, 46.6% are happy with Kazakhstan's current relationship with Uzbekistan, 44% with its relationship with Kyrgyzstan, and 49% with its relationship with Tajikistan. Young

Kazakhs have mostly been to Kyrgyzstan (17,6%) compared to other Central Asian countries: 7.1% have been to Uzbekistan, and 0.4% to Turkmenistan. On the whole, the survey shows that their favourite Central Asian country is Kyrgyzstan, followed by Uzbekistan, with Tajikistan and Turkmenistan trailing behind.

As such, an analysis of the foreign policy preferences of young Kazakhs reveals that they favour relationships with major partners, in particular Russia, China and



the European Union. Russia continues to play a dominant role as an important strategic partner for Kazakhstan, with, according to the respondents, the EU the second most important partner and China, with which Kazakhstan has been building its relationship since becoming independent, third.

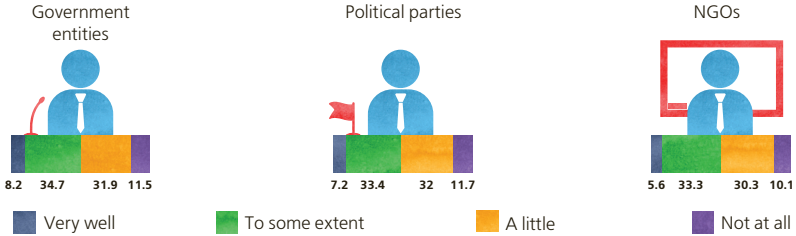
It is therefore not surprising that young people view the Eurasian Economic Union and its impact on the country's development positively, even if a slight majority are not yet ready to vote in a referendum on Kazakhstan's membership in the EAEU. On the other hand, young people rate the government's ability to defend the country's interests as part of integration projects, and in particular within the EAEU, highly.

Our survey shows that although young people think positive-

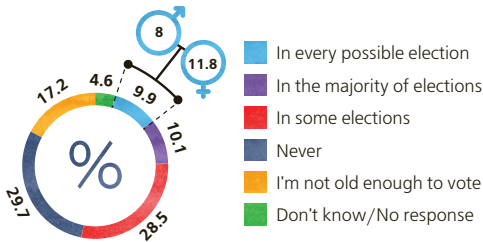
ly of integration in Central Asia, they do not have particularly high opinions of the other Central Asian countries, and do not see them as examples of development for Kazakhstan to follow. They believe that Kazakhstan should preserve its existing relationships with the other countries in the region and maintain the status quo in its dealings with them. The Central Asian country viewed most highly is Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan's closest neighbour. This is probably because more of the respondents have been there than have been to the other Central Asian countries. The next most significant Central Asian country for them is Uzbekistan. They are not particularly interested in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Summing up, young people on the whole are happy with and support the foreign policy pursued by the President and the government.

## INFLUENCE ON POLITICS

How well do you think young people are represented in politics?



## PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS



To what extent does your vote influence the work of the following entities?

Local government (akimats or maslikhats)

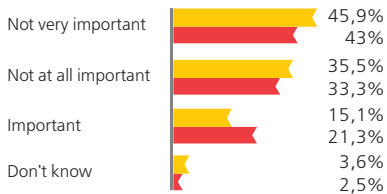
The central government (parliament and the government)



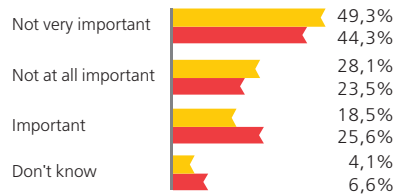
## POLITICS AND CITIZENS' INITIATIVES

How important for you is it to engage in politics and citizens' initiatives?  
(By urban or rural place of residence)

Engaging in politics

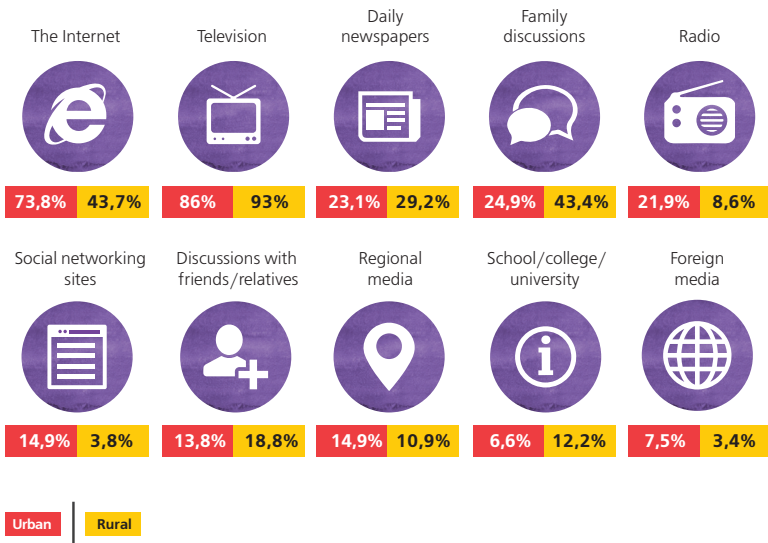


Taking part in events and citizens' initiatives



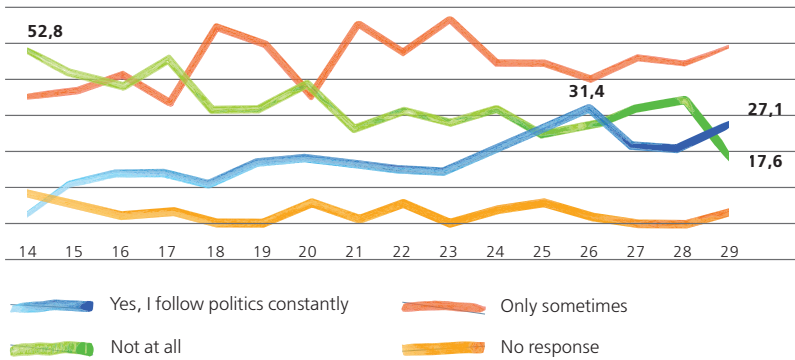
Urban Rural

What are your main sources of information about political events?



## INTEREST IN POLITICS

Are you interested in political events? (By age)



19%

16,4%

Young men are more interested in politics than young women.

Do your political convictions match those of your parents?

**11,9%**  
Very much

**42,8%**  
To some extent

**21,4%**  
A little

**7,1%**  
Not at all

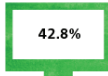
**16,8%**  
Don't know

### FOREIGN POLICY

Interest in international events



In Russia



In Central Asia

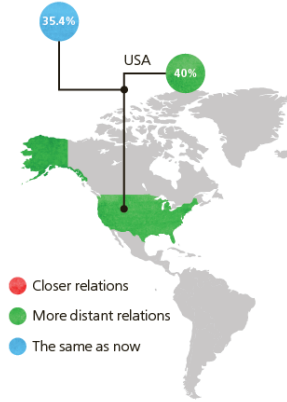


In Europe



In China

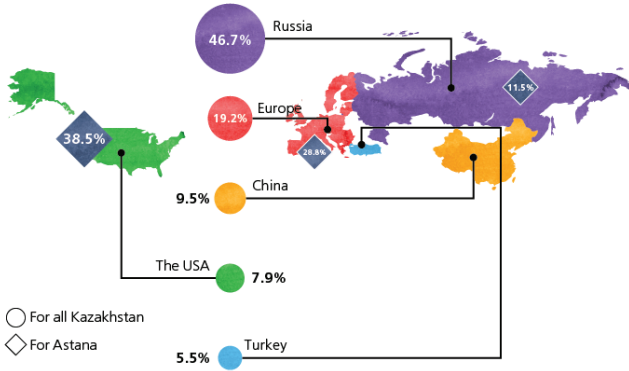
Relations with other countries



- Closer relations
- More distant relations
- The same as now

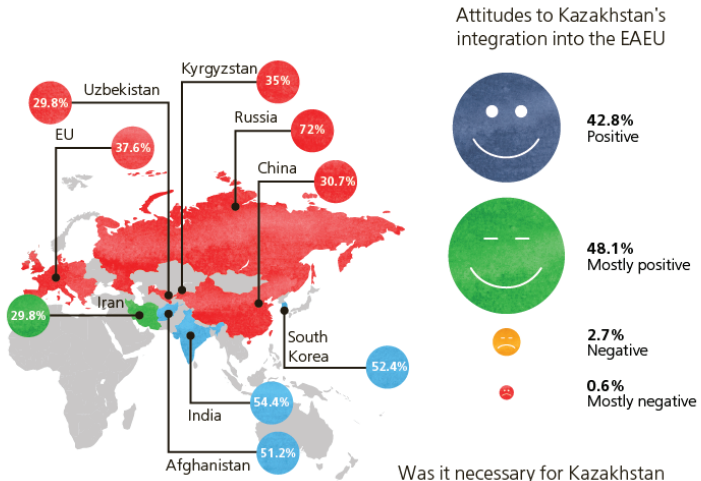
### DEVELOPMENT MODELS

Which countries should Kazakhstan look to in terms of its development?



- For all Kazakhstan
- ◇ For Astana



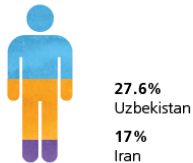


Was it necessary for Kazakhstan to join the EAEU?

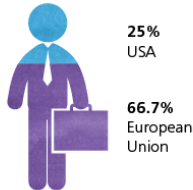


By social class

Working/lower

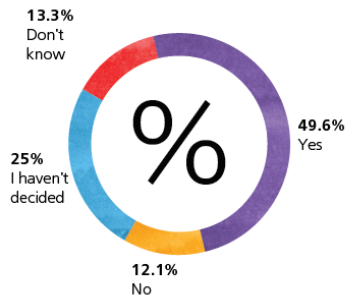


Upper/middle



**65.5%** Russia

Would you like to vote in a referendum on Kazakhstan's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union?





# CONCLUSIONS

The younger generation of Kazakhs have been brought up since the country became independent, and their views regarding their own lives and various aspects of public life are of great interest to researchers and experts. The main reason for this is that these young people have had entirely new experiences of growing up. On the one hand, there are those aged 25 or over who have lived with their parents through the economic crisis and havoc following the collapse of the Soviet Union, but on the other there are those aged from 14 to 18, who have grown up during a period of economic growth and stable development for the country. There is no doubt that their different experiences of socialisation have had an effect on their opinions and behaviour. In this study, we have sought to explore the world of young people in Kazakhstan using a methodology developed in Germany. The survey findings have been used not only to study young people's

ideas and goals, but also to compare young people in Kazakhstan with their peers in other countries, where similar studies have taken place.

Summing up, we can identify the following characteristics typical of young Kazakhs: optimism; a focus on high income; differences of opinion across the group; and high levels of trust and tolerance.

First of all, our research shows that young people in the country tend to be optimistic: they think positively about themselves and various aspects of their lives, and are highly optimistic about their future. This optimism can also be seen in their assessment of the economic situation in the country – young people think that the country is heading in the right direction, are prepared to participate personally in the country's development, and generally link all the country's economic successes to the head of state. The younger generation also have a

high opinion of government institutions, although they are less trusting of institutions at a lower level. There is no 'spirit of protest' among them, not only with regard to the current system of government but also with regard to the norms and values of the older generation. However, as our study shows, young people are developing new values, new ideals and new ideas, which for the moment are coexisting peacefully with the values of their parents' generation. Furthermore, they believe that their opinions match those of their parents.

Secondly, young people today believe that it is most important to possess what they consider ideal personal qualities, as well as to obtain an education and start a family. They do not see career growth as important, and are more interested in receiving a high income. They regard higher education, or, to be precise, acquiring a higher education qualification by a certain age, most often 25, as a means to achieving prosperity, social prestige and material well-being. However, they place little importance on

gaining knowledge in their studies or on improving their intellectual capabilities, despite being highly motivated to obtain a higher education. Accordingly, in their professional activities young people are more interested in receiving a high income than in professional development.

Thirdly, our survey revealed high levels of tolerance and trust among young people. Our study found no clear evidence of intolerance towards other ethnic, religious or social 'others' from young people. This is probably because most young people are accommodating and open-minded to such people. Only an insignificant proportion of young people experience distrust in members of particular social groups – drug addicts, alcoholics, oral-mans, and those belonging to sexual minorities. It is also worth noting that most young people in the country have not experienced class-based division or discrimination based on their sex, age or religion.

Our fourth key finding was that young people's opinions on cer-



tain issues are inconsistent. For example, our survey shows that their ideas about religion are rather vague. Despite the fact that young people consider themselves religious, but also acknowledge that they are not ready to follow every religious precept or to perform every religious ritual, they have a high need for faith, sympathise with religious values, and believe that religion should be an integral part of their lives in the future. There is a similar inconsistency in their views on sexual behaviour. This is a rather sensitive topic for young people, but despite the broad age pyramid of sexual activity among young people, and the fact that they see premarital relationships as normal, chastity is still high-

ly valued by them. At the same time, young people prefer official marriage to common law marriage or other forms of cohabitation, and the institution of the family is rather important to them.

Finally, looking at the respondents' ideas on foreign policy, Russia retains its dominant position as important strategic partner in the eyes of the younger generation. The second most important partner for Kazakhstan, in their view, is the European Union, with China third. The USA, on the other hand, is seen as a more remote partner, one with which Kazakhstan needs to have a relationship, but one which is not a priority.

## Appendix 1

## Questionnaire

## 1. How often do you engage in the following activities?

	<i>Often</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>No response</i>
Listening to music	1	2	3	4	9
Spending time with friends	1	2	3	4	9
Reading books/magazines	1	2	3	4	9
Doing sport	1	2	3	4	9
Watching television	1	2	3	4	9
Going to the cinema	1	2	3	4	9
Doing housework	1	2	3	4	9
Visiting extended family members	1	2	3	4	9
Visiting immediate family (if you live away from them)	1	2	3	4	9
Other (please state) _____	1	2	3	4	9

## 2. On average, how many hours of television do you watch on a typical day?

\_\_\_\_\_ (hours)

## 3. Do you use the Internet?

- Yes
- No

## 4. How often do you go online?

- Every day
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Less than once a month
- Don't know
- Don't want to say

## 5. On average, how many hours do you spend on the Internet each day?

\_\_\_\_\_ (hours)

6. What are the main reasons you use the Internet? (You may choose more than one answer)

- Working
- Reading the news/receiving information
- Studying
- Looking specific things up (about school/work/areas of interest, etc.)
- Communicating with friends/relatives
- Sending emails
- Watching videos or listening to music
- Downloading films or books
- Playing games



- Buying things or making online payments/bookings
- Using social networking sites such as Facebook, Myspace, hi5 or Google+
- Checking online banking
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**7. How important are each of the following to you? (Choose one answer for each row)**

	<i>Important</i>	<i>Not very important</i>	<i>Not at all important</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Being loyal (to my partner, friends or employer)	1	2	3	9
Taking on responsibility	1	2	3	9
Being independent	1	2	3	9
Obtaining a higher education	1	2	3	9
Building a career	1	2	3	9
Engaging in politics	1	2	3	9
Taking part in events and citizens' initiatives	1	2	3	9
Getting married	1	2	3	9
Looking good	1	2	3	9
Wearing clothing from famous brands	1	2	3	9
Eating healthily	1	2	3	9

**8. Do you use tobacco products (cigarettes, naswar, etc.)?**

- 
- Yes, regularly (every day)
  - Occasionally
  - No (I don't smoke cigarettes)
  - No (I don't use naswar)
  - No response/Don't want to say

**9. Do you drink alcohol?**

- 
- Yes, regularly (every day)
  - Yes, several times a week
  - Only at weekends
  - Rarely
  - No, never
  - No response/Don't want to say

**10. What do you think about drinking alcohol?**

- 
- It's acceptable
  - It's acceptable for social reasons
  - It's unacceptable
  - Don't know/No response

**11. How happy are you with your appearance?**

- 
- Very happy
  - Happy
  - Partly happy
  - Unhappy
  - Don't know/No response

## TRUST AND IDENTITY

12. How would you feel if any of the following families moved into a building next door to your family? (Choose one answer for each row)

	<i>Very happy</i>	<i>Happy</i>	<i>Indifferent</i>	<i>Unhappy</i>	<i>Very unhappy</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
A student couple	1	2	3	4	5	9
An elderly couple	1	2	3	4	5	9
A homosexual couple	1	2	3	4	5	9
A family of oralmans (ethnic Kazakh return migrants)	1	2	3	4	5	9
An Uzbek family	1	2	3	4	5	9
An Uyghur family	1	2	3	4	5	9
A Kyrgyz family	1	2	3	4	5	9
A Chechen family	1	2	3	4	5	9
A Dungan family	1	2	3	4	5	9
A Chinese family	1	2	3	4	5	9

13. Which groups of people would you not like to have as neighbours?

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14. To what degree do you trust the following people? Imagine a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means no trust at all, and 10 means complete trust. (Choose one answer for each row)

	<i>Not at all</i>									<i>Fully</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Immediate family members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
Extended family members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
Friends	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
Neighbours	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
Classmates, coursemates, or work colleagues	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
People I know whose religious beliefs differ from mine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
People I know whose political convictions differ from mine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
People I know whose ethnicity differs from mine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
Religious leaders	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9
Political leaders	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9



15. Have you ever experienced discrimination for any of the following reasons? (Choose one answer for each row)

	<i>Very often</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Sex (male or female)	1	2	3	4	5	9
Financial status (poor or rich)	1	2	3	4	5	9
Religion (Orthodox Christian, Muslim, Catholic, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	9
Ethnicity	1	2	3	4	5	9
Level of education (primary, secondary, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	9
Political convictions	1	2	3	4	5	9
Place of origin (e.g. specific village or town)	1	2	3	4	5	9
Age	1	2	3	4	5	9
Sexual orientation	1	2	3	4	5	9
Region of origin	1	2	3	4	5	9
Spoken language	1	2	3	4	5	9

16. Which three of the following qualities do you value most? (Indicate the quality most important to you in Column 1, the second most important in Column 2, and the third most important in Column 3)

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
A sense of self-worth (individuality and knowledge)	1	1	1
Social prestige (social status, role in society)	2	2	2
Altruism (giving, helping others selflessly)	3	3	3
Prosperity	4	4	4
Tolerance (accepting people different from myself)	5	5	5
Ambition (passion for goals and objectives)	6	6	6
Personal conduct	7	7	7
A spirit of innovation (creating and accepting different and new ideas)	8	8	8
Honesty	9	9	9
Loyalty	10	10	10
Don't know/No response	99	99	99

17. Have you done any unpaid voluntary work in the past 12 months?

- Yes → GO TO QUESTION 18
- No → GO TO QUESTION 20
- Don't know/No response → GO TO QUESTION 20



**18. Which of these types of voluntary work have you done in the past 12 months?** (You may choose more than one answer)

- 
- Construction or reconstruction of public facilities such as water supply systems, roads, bridges, etc.
  - Cleaning up public spaces
  - Creating and looking after green spaces
  - Helping to suppress conflicts between different social groups
  - Helping to suppress conflicts within social groups
  - Helping with or teaching the arts (literature, the visual arts, music, theatre, etc.)
  - Helping with or teaching foreign languages
  - Helping with or teaching sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry, information technology (IT), etc.)
  - Helping and supporting vulnerable groups and/or the disadvantaged: the poor, the elderly, the disabled, children without parental care, single parents, etc.
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**19. What is your main reason for doing voluntary work?** (Choose only one answer)

- 
- A desire to feel active/engaged in society
  - A feeling of duty to others
  - Family tradition
  - Religious convictions
  - A desire to make new friends
  - A desire to put my professional knowledge into practice
  - A desire to get to know/make a good impression on private employers who might hire me later
  - A desire to get to know/make a good impression on public employers who might hire me later
  - A desire to get to know/meet leaders of international institutions who might hire me later
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Don't know/No response

**20. Have you done any unpaid work/community work in the past 12 months?**

- 
- 1. Yes → *GO TO QUESTION 21*
  - 2. No → *GO TO QUESTION 22*
  - Don't know → *GO TO QUESTION 22*

**21. How often do you do unpaid community work?**

- 
- Every month
  - Once every three months
  - Once every six months
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Don't know/No response

**22. What is your attitude to religion?** (Choose only one answer)

- 
- I'm religious; I'm part of my religious community and regularly go to church/mosque, observe religious practices, precepts and prohibitions, and promote my religion's values
  - I'm religious, but I rarely take part in religious life, other than festivals and certain important ceremonies
  - I'm not religious, but I take part in certain practices and festivals according to the traditions of my nationality and defend its religion

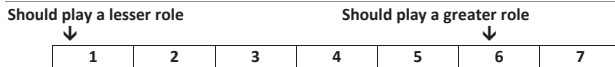


- I'm not religious, and take no part in religious life, but I respect the religious feelings of those who are and do not impede them
- I have my own individual belief in various values (e.g. a civil religion, personal respect for moral values, belief in a non-traditional god, etc.)
- I'm not religious; I'm an atheist and opponent of religion, and I believe that religion has done more harm than good to mankind and that people should abandon it
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**23. What is your religion?**

- Islam
- Orthodox Christianity
- Catholicism
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm an atheist → GO TO QUESTION 26
- Don't know → GO TO QUESTION 26
- No response → GO TO QUESTION 26

**24. On a scale of 1 to 7, how great a role should religion play in public life?**



- Don't know/No response

**25. To what extent do you believe the following?**

	I believe	I doubt	I don't believe	Don't know
God exists	1	2	3	(99)
Heaven and hell exist	1	2	3	(99)
God created the world	1	2	3	(99)
God is the source of moral precepts and obligations	1	2	3	(99)

**26. Look at this list. Choose in order the five answers that best reflect how you see yourself, from the answer most relevant to you to the next most relevant answer, etc.). (You may only choose each answer once)**

	First, I am...	Second, I am...	Third, I am...	Fourth, I am...	Fifth, I am...
Someone who values friendship and friends very highly	1	1	1	1	1
A graduate of a particular academic institution	2	2	2	2	2
A patriot of Kazakhstan	3	3	3	3	3
A member of a political party (or movement or non-governmental organisation)	4	4	4	4	4
A representative of my clan	5	5	5	5	5
An employee of a particular organisation, business or company	6	6	6	6	6
A representative of my <i>jüz</i> (horde)	7	7	7	7	7
A representative of the Kazakh people	8	8	8	8	8
A religious person, a follower of my religion	9	9	9	9	9

A specialist, a professional in my field	10	10	10	10	10
An individual with my own merits and faults, a human being	11	11	11	11	11
A member of my family	12	12	12	12	12
A representative of my ethnic group	13	13	13	13	13
A man	14	14	14	14	14
A woman	15	15	15	15	15
A citizen of Kazakhstan	16	16	16	16	16
A member of a work team	17	17	17	17	17
A native of my town or village	18	18	18	18	18
A bearer of my national culture and language, someone carrying on my nation's history	19	19	19	19	19
Other (please state) _____	20	20	20	20	20
Don't know	(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)	(99)

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

#### 27. Who do you live with? Do you live alone, with parents, a partner, or friends/other relatives?

- I live with members of my immediate family (parents, siblings) → GO TO QUESTION 28
- I live alone → GO TO QUESTION 29
- I live with my child/children and no one else → GO TO QUESTION 29
- I live with my spouse → GO TO QUESTION 29
- I live with my partner (and our child/children) → GO TO QUESTION 29
- I live with friends/other relatives → GO TO QUESTION 29
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_ → GO TO QUESTION 29
- Don't know/No response → GO TO QUESTION 29

#### 28. Which of these statements best describes your situation?

- I live with my parents mainly because of practical considerations
- I live with my parents mainly for financial reasons
- I live with my parents mainly because they don't want me to live away from them (won't allow me to live independently)
- There is no particular reason why I live with my parents
- I live with my parents because I'm a minor
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/No response

#### 29. Which of these statements best describes your relationship with your parents?

- We get on very well
- We get on well, but sometimes we have differences of opinion
- Generally we don't get on, and we often disagree
- We're always arguing
- My parents are deceased
- Don't know/No response

#### 30. Which of these statements best describes your relationship with your brothers and sisters?



- We get on very well
- We get on well, but sometimes we have differences of opinion
- Generally we don't get on, and we often disagree
- We're always arguing
- I don't have any brothers or sisters
- Don't know/No response

**31. Which of your family members has the most influence on the important decisions you make? (Choose only one answer)**

- Father
- Mother
- Brother
- Sister
- Grandparent
- Spouse/partner
- No one
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/No response

**32. How are decisions made on important issues in your life?**

- My parents make all the decisions
- My parents and I make the decisions together
- I am free to make decisions independently
- Someone else makes all the decisions (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/No response

**33. How do you see yourself in the future?**

- Married with a family → *GO TO QUESTION 34*
- Living with a partner (and with a family) → *GO TO QUESTION 35*
- Without a partner and without a family → *GO TO QUESTION 36*
- Without a partner, but with a child/children → *GO TO QUESTION 36*
- Don't know/No response → *GO TO QUESTION 36*

**34. What, in your view, is the main advantage of marriage over cohabitation?**

- Marriage increases partners' responsibility to each other
- Marriage increases parents' responsibility to their children
- Marriage ensures greater economic security for both partners
- Marriage is more socially acceptable than cohabitation
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/No response

**35. What, in your view, is the main advantage of cohabitation over marriage?**

- Partners are more independent of each other
- Partners can focus more on their career
- Partners argue less
- It's easier to make up with your partner if you are cohabiting

- It's easier to leave your partner if you are cohabiting
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/No response

**36. At what age, in your view, is it best for women to marry?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (years)

**37. At what age, in your view, is it best for men to marry?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (years)

**38. How many children would you like to have? How many of them would you like to be girls, and how many boys?**

**38.1 Total number of children:** \_\_\_\_\_

**38.2 Number of daughters:** \_\_\_\_\_

**38.3 Number of sons:** \_\_\_\_\_

**39. What is your attitude to the practice of bride kidnapping?**

- Positive – it's a part of our heritage
- Positive – it's a way of saving money on a wedding
- Neither positive nor negative – it often takes place by mutual agreement
- Negative – it's outdated and barbaric
- Negative – it's insulting to women
- Don't know

**40. How would you define the position of women in the family in our society today?**

- Women are free and self-reliant, independent of men
- Men take on the role of head of the family, and women comply with their decisions
- Women are increasingly taking on the role of head of the family, and men are complying with their decisions
- Women are oppressed and have no rights
- Men and women share spheres of influence in the family and have equal rights
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know

**41. To what extent do you agree that the tradition of polygamy should be legalised in our society?**

- Completely agree
- Mostly agree
- Mostly disagree
- Completely disagree
- Don't know



42. What do you think of when you hear the expression "a happy family"? (Describe)

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- Don't know

43. What, in your view, is a happy family? (Choose only one answer)

- A family where love, mutual understanding and support prevail, and the number of people is not important
- A family with strong ties between family members of different generations and interaction with relatives
- A family with children
- A family that is comfortably off and confident about the future
- A family where everyone has the opportunity to develop and fulfil their potential
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know

44. Do you have a circle of friends or acquaintances, where everyone knows one another and whom you often spend time with?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/No response

45. How happy are you with your friends?

- Completely happy
- Happy
- Neither happy nor unhappy
- Unhappy
- Completely unhappy
- Don't know/No response

46. Have you been involved in any of the kinds of physical conflict listed below in the past 12 months?

	Yes	No	Don't want to say
With other young people in my neighbourhood	1	2	98
With young people in a nightclub or café	1	2	98
In a gym, football stadium, etc.	1	2	98
At school, university, or work	1	2	98
With young people of different political views	1	2	98
With the police (e.g. at a demonstration)	1	2	98
Within my family	1	2	98
With people of different religious views	1	2	98
With people from other ethnic groups	1	2	98

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**INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS**

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**47. Would you like to move to another town or village in Kazakhstan?**

- 
- Yes → *GO TO QUESTION 48*
  - No → *GO TO QUESTION 49*
  - Don't know/No response → *GO TO QUESTION 49*

**48. What are the main reasons you would like to move? (You may choose more than one answer)**

- 
- A desire for a higher standard of living
  - A desire for greater cultural diversity
  - A desire for a higher quality of education
  - Better and more varied employment opportunities
  - Better opportunities to start a business
  - A desire to be closer to relatives
  - A desire to avoid conflicts in the village/town I live in now
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Don't know/No response

**49. Are you thinking of emigrating from Kazakhstan?**

- 
- Yes, I intend to move as soon as possible → *GO TO QUESTION 50*
  - Not at the moment, but I will probably move in the future → *GO TO QUESTION 50*
  - I haven't thought about it yet, but everything will depend on my circumstances: I might move, or I might not → *GO TO QUESTION 53*
  - No, I do not intend to move under any circumstances → *GO TO QUESTION 53*
  - Don't know → *GO TO QUESTION 53*

**50. Where are you thinking of moving to?**

- 
- Russia
  - China
  - The USA
  - Canada
  - Europe
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Don't know/No response

**51. Why are you thinking of emigrating?**

- 
- Financial reasons
  - Security
  - Quality of life
  - Personal reasons
  - Education
  - Career
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Don't know/No response



**52. How long would you stay abroad for?**

- 
- Up to a year
  - Up to five years
  - 5–10 years
  - More than 10 years
  - Permanently
  - Don't know/No response

**Interviewer, please remember: DO NOT COUNT ANSWER OPTION (99), "DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE" FOR ANY OF THE SURVEY QUESTIONS.**

**53. How many times have you been abroad? (For tourism, study, work experience or visiting relatives)**

- 
- Once
  - 1–3 times
  - More than three times
  - Never → *GO TO QUESTION 55*
  - Don't know/No response

**54. Which countries have you been to? (List no more than five countries)**

---

\_\_\_\_\_!

\_\_\_\_\_!

\_\_\_\_\_!

\_\_\_\_\_!

\_\_\_\_\_!

**55. Would you like to change your citizenship?**

- 
- Yes → *GO TO QUESTION 56*
  - Probably → *GO TO QUESTION 56*
  - Probably not → *GO TO QUESTION 57*
  - No → *GO TO QUESTION 57*
  - Don't know → *GO TO QUESTION 57*

**56. Which country would you like to become a citizen of?**

(Please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**57. How would you describe your current financial situation?**

- 
- Excellent
  - Good
  - Bad
  - Very bad
  - Don't know/No response



**58. How would you describe your living conditions?**

- Very good
- Good
- Average
- Bad
- Very bad
- Don't know/No response

**59. How do you see your living conditions in the future?**

- Much better than now
- Slightly better than now
- The same as now
- Slightly worse than now
- Much worse than now
- Don't know/No response

**60. How far do you agree with the following statements? If you can, please say whether you completely agree, mostly agree, partly agree, mostly disagree or completely disagree. (Choose one answer for each row)**

	<i>Completely agree</i>	<i>Mostly agree</i>	<i>Partly agree</i>	<i>Mostly disagree</i>	<i>Completely disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
To achieve anything in life, you have to know what you want	1	2	3	4	5	99
Nothing ventured, nothing gained	1	2	3	4	5	99
If you are thoughtful of others, you will eventually be rewarded	1	2	3	4	5	99
There is no point in setting goals in life, because nothing is clear-cut at the present time	1	2	3	4	5	99
A society cannot exist without moral values	1	2	3	4	5	99
People cannot share their troubles these days	1	2	3	4	5	99
People should trust in fate and accept everything life throws at them	1	2	3	4	5	99
You should surround yourself with people you can rely on	1	2	3	4	5	99
It's enough to have a few friends and to do whatever you want	1	2	3	4	5	99
People should focus on their career, everything else is secondary	1	2	3	4	5	99
Life is complicated, so it's better to live in isolation	1	2	3	4	5	99
An interest in social affairs is an important part of my life	1	2	3	4	5	99
The most sensible course in life is	1	2	3	4	5	99



simply to go with the flow						
Faith and traditions should be adhered to	1	2	3	4	5	99

**EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION**

**61. How good are your Kazakh, Russian, English and other language skills?** (Choose one answer for each row)

Language level	Non-existent	Very poor, but I understand a few phrases	I understand it, but can't speak it	I understand it and speak it	I speak and read it fluently, but can't write in it	I speak, read and write in it fluently	I'm fluent, including in the use of professional jargon (information-intensive scientific and technical jargon, literary and humanities texts, and discourse in my specialist field)	Don't know
Kazakh	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	99
Russian	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	99
English	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	99
French	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	99
German	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	99
Chinese	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	99

**62. What language do you use in your everyday life?**

- Kazakh
- Russian
- Kazakh and Russian equally
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**63. Are you currently studying at an educational institution/continuing your education?**

- Yes, I am in the middle of my secondary/vocational secondary education (at school or college) → GO TO QUESTION 64
- Yes, I am in the middle of my higher education → GO TO QUESTION 72
- Yes, I am studying for a Master's degree or doctorate → GO TO QUESTION 72
- No → GO TO QUESTION 77

**THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS FOR SCHOOL PUPILS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY!!!**

**64. How motivated are you to study at school/college? Would you say you are highly motivated, fairly motivated, fairly unmotivated or not at all motivated to go to school/college?**

- Highly motivated
- Fairly motivated
- Fairly unmotivated
- Not at all motivated
- Don't know/No response

**65. How would you describe your typical day at school/college?**

- Very busy and stressful
- Busy and stressful
- Quite busy and stressful

- 
- Easy and stress-free
  - Very easy and stress-free
  - Don't know/No response

**66. How high was your average grade for the last academic year?**

- 
- Very high
  - High
  - Average
  - Satisfactory
  - Low
  - Very low

**67. Do you agree that there are cases where grades and exams are 'bought'?**

- 
- Yes, almost always
  - Yes, sometimes
  - Yes, rarely
  - No, never
  - Don't know/No response

**68. On average, how much time do you spend studying outside the classroom (doing homework, going to the library, etc.)?**

- 
- Up to an hour a day
  - 1–2 hours a day
  - 3–4 hours a day
  - 5–6 hours a day
  - More than six hours a day
  - Don't know/No response

**69. Do you intend to go to a higher education institution?**

- 
- Yes → GO TO QUESTION 70
  - No → GO TO QUESTION 71

**70. What are the reasons you intend to get a higher education?**

- 
- To improve my intellectual capabilities
  - To get a qualification in order to increase my employment opportunities
  - To meet my parents' expectations
  - To earn more money and be well off
  - To improve my social status
  - To make new connections and gain new experience
  - I don't have a better option
  - To avoid the draft
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**71. Why have you decided not to get a higher education? (You may choose more than one answer.)**



- 
- I don't like studying
  - I'm not sure that it would give me a better future
  - My parents haven't supported my choice/don't want me to get a higher education
  - None of my friends has a higher education
  - I can't afford it
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOW GO TO QUESTION 80.**

**THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS FOR UNDERGRADUATES AND POSTGRADUATES ONLY!!!**

**72. How motivated are you to study at your higher education institution? Would you say you are highly motivated, very motivated, fairly unmotivated or not at all motivated to go to your institution or university?**

- 
- Highly motivated
  - Fairly motivated
  - Fairly unmotivated
  - Not at all motivated
  - Don't know/No response

**73. How would you describe your typical day at university?**

- 
- Very busy and stressful
  - Busy and stressful
  - Quite busy and stressful
  - Easy and stress-free
  - Very easy and stress-free
  - Don't know/No response

**74. How high was your average grade for the last academic year?**

- 
- Very high
  - High
  - Average
  - Satisfactory
  - Low
  - Very low

**75. Do you agree that there are cases where grades and exams are "bought"? [Interviewer: read: "where teachers are bribed for better grades and exam passes"]**

- 
- Yes, almost always
  - Yes, sometimes
  - Yes, rarely
  - No, never
  - Don't know/No response

**76. On average, how much time do you spend studying outside the classroom (doing homework, going to the library, etc.)?**

- Up to an hour a day
- 1–2 hours a day
- 3–4 hours a day
- 5–6 hours a day
- More than six hours a day
- Don't know/No response

**77. Would you like to, or do you intend to, continue your education?**

- Yes → GO TO QUESTION 78
- No → GO TO QUESTION 79

**78. Why do you want/intend to continue your education?**

(You may choose more than one answer)

- To improve my intellectual capabilities
- To get a qualification in order to increase my employment opportunities
- To meet my parents' expectations
- To earn more money and be well off
- To improve my social status
- To make new connections and gain new experience
- I don't/didn't have a better option
- To avoid the draft
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**79. Why have you decided not to continue your education?** (You may choose more than one answer)

- I don't like studying
- I'm not sure that it would give me a better future
- My parents haven't supported my choice/don't want me to get a higher education
- None of my friends has a higher education
- I can't afford it
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR EVERYONE!**

**80. How would you rate the quality of education in Kazakhstan?** (Choose one answer for each row)

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Bad</i>	<i>Very bad</i>	<i>Don't know/No response</i>
Primary education	1	2	3	4	5
Secondary education	1	2	3	4	5
Vocational secondary education	1	2	3	4	5
Higher education	1	2	3	4	5
Postgraduate education	1	2	3	4	5

**81. Which of these would you choose if you had the choice?**



- Education abroad
- Local education
- Private education abroad
- Don't know/No response

**82. If you could study (or continue your education) abroad, which country would you choose?**

- 
- Russia
  - China
  - The USA
  - An EU country
  - A Central Asian country
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Don't know/No response

**83. Have you done any professional training or work experience?**

- 
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know/No response

**84. Given your present level of education, which of these statements do you most agree with?**

- 
- It will be easy for me to find work
  - I'm unlikely to find work
  - I will never be able to find work
  - I need more education to get a job
  - Don't know/No response

**85. Which of these statements do you agree with?**

- 
- The education system in Kazakhstan needs wide-ranging reform
  - The education system in Kazakhstan needs some reform
  - The education system in Kazakhstan does not need any reform
  - Don't know/No response

**86. Are you currently in work?**

- 
- Yes → *GO TO QUESTION 87*
  - No → *GO TO QUESTION 89*

**87. On average, how many hours per week do you work?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (hours)

**88. Is your work connected to a profession in which you are qualified or in training for?**

- 
- I am not qualified or in training for a profession
  - Yes
  - Partly – my work is connected to my qualifications to a degree
  - No

- Don't know/No response

**89. Which of these sectors would you like to work in? (Choose only one answer)**

- Public administration
- The private sector
- A non-governmental organisation
- International organisations (the World Bank, OSCE, etc.)
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- I don't want to work
- Don't know/No response

**90. Here are seven factors which people consider important when it comes to finding work in Kazakhstan today.** Please number them from 1 to 7 in order of importance to finding work in your opinion, where 1 is the most important factor, 2 is the second most important, etc.

Factor	Importance
Connections/friends	
Professional skills	
Level of education	
Political connections (party membership)	
Luck	
Where you come from (your region)	
Foreign experience (education, work experience, practical experience)	
Other (please state) _____	

**91. Here are another five factors which people consider important when it comes to choosing a particular job.** Again, please number them in order of importance to choosing a job, where 1 is the most important factor in your opinion, 2 is the second most important, etc.

Factor	Importance
Income/salary	
Confidence/guarantee of being hired	
The opportunity to work with like-minded people	
Job satisfaction	
Career growth	
Other (please state) _____	

**92. How prepared would you be to start your own business if you could obtain secure financial support?**

- Completely prepared
- Mostly prepared
- Partly prepared
- Mostly unprepared
- Not prepared at all
- Don't know/No response

**93. What, in your view, is the most important motive for starting one's own business?**



- Greater independence
- Higher personal income
- The chance to simply earn a stable income
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know/No response

**94. If you decided to start your own business, what would be the main reason? (Choose only one answer)**

- To take advantage of a business opportunity
- Lack of a better option for work
- Freedom to make decisions and control the business independently
- To find innovative business solutions
- To make better use of my skills
- Don't know/No response

**DEMOCRACY AND POLITICS**

**95. Are you interested in political events?**

- Yes, I follow politics constantly
- Only sometimes
- Not at all → *GO TO QUESTION 97*
- Don't know/No response

**96. How interested are you in political events? (Choose one answer for each row)**

	<i>Very interested</i>	<i>Interested</i>	<i>Somewhat interested</i>	<i>Not particularly interested</i>	<i>Not at all interested</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Internationally	1	2	3	4	5	(99)
In Russia	1	2	3	4	5	(99)
In Central Asia	1	2	3	4	5	(99)
In China	1	2	3	4	5	(99)
In Europe	1	2	3	4	5	(99)

**97. Are your parents interested in politics?**

- Yes, they follow politics constantly
- Only sometimes
- Not at all
- Don't know/No response

**98. Do your political convictions match those of your parents?**

- Very much
- To some extent
- A little
- Not at all
- Don't know/No response



**99. If you can remember, how many times have you voted since gaining the right to vote?** (If necessary, remind the respondents of Kazakhstan's early parliamentary elections in 2007, early presidential elections in 2011, and early parliamentary elections in 2012)

- 
- In every possible election
  - In the majority of elections
  - In some elections
  - Never
  - I'm not old enough to vote
  - Don't know/No response

**100. To what extent, in your view, does your vote influence the work of the following entities?** (Choose one answer for each row)

	<i>Very much</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>No response</i>
The central government (parliament and the government)	1	2	3	4	9
Local government (akimats or maslikhats)	1	2	3	4	9

**101. What are your main sources of information about political events?** (You may choose more than one answer)

- 
- The Internet
  - Television
  - Daily newspapers
  - Radio
  - Foreign media
  - Regional media
  - Family discussions/conversations
  - I get information at school/college/university
  - Discussions/conversations with friends/relatives
  - Social networking sites
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_



102. To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (Choose one answer for each row)

	Completely agree	Mostly agree	Mostly disagree	Completely disagree	Don't know
Fairness is achieved when people have a similar standard of living	1	2	3	4	9
The difference in people's standard of living reflects their abilities and is therefore fair	1	2	3	4	9
The state should guarantee the poor a reasonable standard of living; the rich should share part of their wealth for the benefit of those less well off	1	2	3	4	9
The state should not interfere in the distribution of wealth; people are responsible for their own material well-being	1	2	3	4	9
The interests of society are more important than the interests of the individual	1	2	3	4	9
Individual rights are worth more than the collective interests of society	1	2	3	4	9
Society should live according to rules determined by the state	1	2	3	4	9
Society should be self-organised, and the state should merely provide the conditions for this	1	2	3	4	9
Freedom is more important than security	1	2	3	4	9
Security is more important than freedom	1	2	3	4	9

103. How well do you think young people are represented in politics? (Young people in political parties, youth organisations and other NGOs) (Choose one answer for each row)

	Very well	To some extent	Poorly	Not at all	Don't know/No response
Government entities	1	2	3	4	9
Political parties	1	2	3	4	9
NGOs	1	2	3	4	9

104. On the whole, how far do you trust the entities listed below – fully, to some extent, a little, or not at all? (Choose one answer for each row)

	Fully	To some extent	A little	Not at all	Don't know
Parliament	1	2	3	4	9
The President	1	2	3	4	9
The government	1	2	3	4	9
Local authorities/akimats	1	2	3	4	9
Political parties	1	2	3	4	9
The police	1	2	3	4	9
The army	1	2	3	4	9
The courts	1	2	3	4	9
The CSTO	1	2	3	4	9
The Eurasian Economic Union	1	2	3	4	9
Religious leaders	1	2	3	4	9

The media	1	2	3	4	9
Trade unions	1	2	3	4	9
Non-governmental organisations	1	2	3	4	9
Banks	1	2	3	4	9
The SCO	1	2	3	4	9

**105. On the whole, how happy are you with the development of democracy in Kazakhstan?**

- Completely happy
- Happy
- Somewhat happy
- Unhappy
- Completely unhappy
- Don't know/No response

**106. Please say whether, in your view, the following groups have too many, enough or no rights.**

	<i>Too many rights</i>	<i>Enough rights</i>	<i>No rights</i>	<i>Don't know/No response</i>
Women	1	2	3	9
Ethnic minorities	1	2	3	9
Homosexuals/LGBT people	1	2	3	9
Disabled people	1	2	3	9
Poor people	1	2	3	9
Religious people	1	2	3	9

**GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**107. To what extent, in your view, do the following issues pose problems for Kazakhstan? (Choose one answer for each row)**

	<i>Very much</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know/No response</i>
Increasing poverty	1	2	3	4	9
Unemployment	1	2	3	4	9
Environmental problems	1	2	3	4	9
Threats of terrorist attacks	1	2	3	4	9
The threat of the spread of HIV/AIDS	1	2	3	4	9
Workplace health and safety issues	1	2	3	4	9
Violations of the law	1	2	3	4	9
Freedom of movement	1	2	3	4	9
The threat of street crime	1	2	3	4	9
Narcotics	1	2	3	4	9
Kazakhstan splitting up (separatism)	1	2	3	4	9
Shortages of electricity, gas or water	1	2	3	4	9



**108. What is the most serious issue facing Kazakhstan today?** (Choose only one answer)

- 
- Corruption
  - Unemployment
  - Poverty
  - Security issues
  - Ethnic and religious tension
  - Crime
  - Social security
  - Education
  - Job creation
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Don't know/No response

**109. How would you describe the current economic situation in Kazakhstan?**

- 
- Excellent
  - Good
  - Bad
  - Very bad
  - Don't know/No response

**110. What are your expectations for the economic situation in the next few years?**

- 
- It will improve
  - It will stay the same
  - It will worsen
  - Don't know/No response

**111. Who do you think is mainly responsible for the economic situation in the country?** (Choose only one answer)

- 
- The President
  - The central government
  - Local leadership
  - The private sector
  - Foreign organisations
  - The urban population
  - Political parties
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Don't know/No response

**112. What direction, in your view, is Kazakhstan heading in?**

- 
- The right direction
  - Mostly the right direction
  - Mostly the wrong direction
  - The wrong direction
  - Don't know
  - Don't want to say

**113. If you had the opportunity, would you participate personally in Kazakhstan's development?**

- 
- Definitely
  - Only if it benefitted me personally
  - Never
  - Don't know/No response

**NATION AND THE WORLD**

**Interviewer, please remember: DO NOT COUNT ANSWER OPTION (99), "DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE" FOR ANY OF THE SURVEY QUESTIONS.**

**114. What is your attitude to the integration processes involving Kazakhstan (the creation of the Eurasian Customs Union and the Eurasian Economic Union)?**

- 
- Positive
  - Mostly positive
  - Mostly negative
  - Negative
  - Don't know/No response

**115. Do you think a Central Asian union including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan needs to be created?**

- 
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know/No response

**116. Do you think it was necessary for Kazakhstan to join the Eurasian Economic Union?**

- 
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know/No response

**117. What effect do you think joining the Eurasian Economic Union will have on Kazakhstan? (Choose only one answer)**

- 
- It will lead to economic and political progress
  - It will lead to economic progress
  - It will lead to political progress
  - It won't change anything
  - It will lead to economic problems
  - It will lead to political problems
  - It will lead to economic and political problems
  - Don't know/No response

**118. With which of the following do you associate integration into the Eurasian Economic Union? (Choose only one answer)**

- 
- Freedom of movement and the removal of registration requirements



- Fewer taxes on retail sales (abolition of customs duties)
- Ease of obtaining residency/movement within EAEU member states
- Benefitting from various subsidies, etc.
- All of the above
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know

**119. How will Kazakhstan joining the Eurasian Economic Union affect the following?** (Choose one answer for each row)

	<i>Positively</i>	<i>Negatively</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know/No response</i>
Economic development	1	2	3	9
Foreign direct investment	1	2	3	9
Domestic politics	1	2	3	9
Stability	1	2	3	9
Human rights	1	2	3	9
Technological development	1	2	3	9
National values/identity	1	2	3	9

**120. Would you like to vote in a referendum on Kazakhstan's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union?**

- Yes
- No
- Haven't decided
- Don't know/No response

**121. How prepared, in your view, is Kazakhstan's government to defend its national interests within the Eurasian Economic Union?**

- Completely prepared
- Mostly prepared
- Mostly unprepared
- Completely unprepared
- Don't know/No response

**122. What sort of a relationship should Kazakhstan seek to have with the following countries or organisations – closer relations, more distant relations, or the same as now?** (Choose one answer for each row)

	<i>Closer relations</i>	<i>More distant relations</i>	<i>The same as now</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Don't want to say</i>
Russia	1	2	3	99	97
The USA	1	2	3	99	97
Iran	1	2	3	99	97
The EU	1	2	3	99	97
Uzbekistan	1	2	3	99	97
NATO	1	2	3	99	97
India	1	2	3	99	97
The Eurasian Customs Union	1	2	3	99	97
Kyrgyzstan	1	2	3	99	97
China	1	2	3	99	97

Afghanistan	1	2	3	99	97
South Korea	1	2	3	99	97
Tajikistan	1	2	3	99	97

**123. Which of the following should Kazakhstan look to in terms of its development?**

- 
- Russia
  - The USA
  - Europe
  - China
  - Turkey
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Don't know/No response

**124. Are you affected by any class divide in society?**

- 
- Yes, constantly and very sharply in all areas of life
  - Sometimes, particularly in the area of... (Please state the area or how it is manifested) \_\_\_\_\_
  - No, not at all
  - Don't know

**125. How important do you think belonging to a *jüz* (horde) or clan is in Kazakhstan?**

- 
- Very important
  - Fairly important
  - Fairly unimportant
  - Very unimportant
  - Don't know

**126. How important is belonging to a clan, *jüz* or kinship system to you personally?**

- 
- Important
  - Unimportant
  - Don't know

**127. If you don't mind my asking, which of the following statements best describes your sexual history? (The respondent may give only the number assigned to the relevant response)**

- 
- I have not had sexual intercourse → **GO TO QUESTION 129**
  - I have had sexual intercourse with one partner → **GO TO QUESTION 128**
  - I have had sexual intercourse with more than one partner → **GO TO QUESTION 128**
  - I do not feel comfortable talking about this topic → **GO TO QUESTION 129**



**128. Do you use contraceptives?** (The respondent may give only the number assigned to the relevant response)

- 
- Yes, I use them regularly
  - Yes, I use them sometimes
  - No, I never use them
  - I do not feel comfortable talking about this topic
  - I don't know what contraceptives are

**129. What do you think about chastity today?** (The respondent may give only the number assigned to the relevant response)

- 
- It's a virtue/important quality for both sexes
  - It's a virtue/important quality for young women
  - It's a psychological burden for young people
  - It's an outdated concept
  - Don't know/No response

**130. What do you think of non-heterosexual orientations?** (The respondent may give only the number assigned to the relevant response)

- 
- I completely approve
  - I mostly approve
  - I feel neutral
  - I mostly disapprove
  - I completely disapprove
  - Don't know/No response

**131. What you think of abortion?** (The respondent may give only the number assigned to the relevant response)

- 
- Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances
  - Abortion should be illegal except on medical grounds
  - Abortion should be legal
  - Don't know/No response

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**D1. Sex:**

- 
- Male
  - Female

**D2. Age:**

- 
- (years) \_\_\_\_\_

**D3. Ethnicity:**

- 
- Kazakh
  - Russian
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_



**D4. Education:**

- 
- Primary
  - Secondary (did not graduate)
  - Secondary
  - Vocational secondary
  - Higher (did not graduate)
  - Higher
  - Higher and postgraduate (PhD, Doctorate, etc.)

**D5. What is the highest level of education achieved by your parents?****Father**

- Primary
- Secondary (did not graduate)
- Secondary
- Vocational secondary
- Higher (did not graduate)
- Higher
- Higher and postgraduate
- Not applicable/I don't have a father

**Mother**

- Primary
- Secondary (did not graduate)
- Secondary
- Vocational secondary
- Higher (did not graduate)
- Higher
- Higher and postgraduate
- Not applicable/I don't have a mother

**D6. Have any members of your immediate family owned a small business?**

- 
- Yes
  - No
  - Don't know/No response

**D7. What is your occupational status?**

- 
- Full-time employee
  - Part-time employee
  - Freelancer
  - Unemployed
  - Homemaker
  - Unfit to work
  - Student or school pupil
  - Farmer
  - Business owner
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_



**D8. Which of the following applies to your home?**

- 
- My family owns it
  - We rent it
  - It's owned by one of my relatives/a third party
  - Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**D9. How many rooms are there in your flat/house?**

- 
- Number of rooms: \_\_\_\_\_

**D10. How many people are there in your family, including you?**

- 
- Number of family members: \_\_\_\_\_

**D11. What is your marital status?**

- 
- Married
  - Divorced
  - Widow/widower
  - Cohabiting
  - Single

**D12. How many children do you have (if any)?**

- Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_
- None

**D13. Which of these do you or your family have? (Mark all the relevant answers)**

- 
- A second home
  - A bank account
  - A credit or debit card
  - A mobile phone
  - A personal computer or laptop
  - An Internet connection at home
  - A bicycle
  - A motorbike
  - Pay TV (cable or satellite)
  - Books
  - Jewellery
  - A colour television
  - An LCD/plasma (flat screen) television
  - A video or DVD player
  - A digital camera or camcorder
  - An air conditioner
  - A dishwasher
  - A refrigerator
  - A washing machine
  - A car
  - The option of holidaying abroad
  - Livestock/animals for breeding

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**FOR THE INTERVIEWER:**

**BE SURE** to thank the respondent, by reading out the following:

Thank you for participating in our survey. Do you have any questions? My supervisor may contact you in the next few days to assess the quality of my work and answer your questions relating to the survey (if you have any).

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SUPERVISOR****C1. Has this survey been checked?**

---

- Yes
- No

**C2. Assessment method:**

---

- Face-to-face: supervisor–respondent
- By telephone: supervisor–respondent
- No assessment has been carried out



**LINEAR DISTRIBUTIONS**

*For the Youth in Central Asia: Kazakhstan project*

**Geographical coverage:** 14 regions; cities of Astana and Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Fieldwork carried out:** 27 December, 2014–15 January, 2015

**Sample size:** 1,000 respondents (aged 14–29)

**Sampling method:** Stratified address-based, quota-based

**LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE**

**1. HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES?**

Count	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	No response
Listening to music	698	230	63	7	2
Spending time with friends	552	326	116	4	2
Reading books/magazines	212	389	307	90	2
Doing sport	261	316	276	141	6
Watching television	584	290	112	14	-
Going to the cinema	142	327	345	177	9
Doing housework	625	281	75	16	3
Visiting extended family members	374	471	142	7	6
Visiting immediate family (if you live away from them)	296	208	44	9	443

**1. HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES?**

Percentage	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	No response
Listening to music	69.8	23.0	6.3	0.7	0.2
Spending time with friends	55.2	32.6	11.6	0.4	0.2
Reading books/magazines	21.2	38.9	30.7	9.0	0.2
Doing sport	26.1	31.6	27.6	14.1	0.6
Watching television	58.4	29.0	11.2	1.4	-
Going to the cinema	14.2	32.7	34.5	17.7	0.9
Doing housework	62.5	28.1	7.5	1.6	0.3
Visiting extended family members	37.4	47.1	14.2	0.7	0.6
Visiting immediate family (if you live away from them)	29.6	20.8	4.4	0.9	44.3

## 2. ON AVERAGE, HOW MANY HOURS OF TELEVISION DO YOU WATCH ON A TYPICAL DAY?

On average, the respondents watched **2.86** hours of television on a typical day

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1 hour	170	17.0
2 hours	291	29.1
3 hours	274	27.4
4 hours	111	11.1
5 hours	71	7.1
6 hours	17	1.7
7 hours	5	0.5
8 hours	11	1.1
9 hours	3	0.3
10 hours	5	0.5
11 hours	1	0.1
12 hours	5	0.5
15 hours	1	0.1
I don't watch television	9	0.9
No response	6	0.6
Don't know	20	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 3. DO YOU USE THE INTERNET?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	880	88.0
No	120	12.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 4. HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO ONLINE?

Only those respondents who use the Internet were asked this question (880, or 88.0%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Every day	745	84.7
At least once a week	123	14.0
At least once a month	6	0.7
Less than once a month	3	0.3
Don't know	3	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**5. ON AVERAGE, HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU SPEND ON THE INTERNET EACH DAY?**

Only those respondents who use the Internet were asked this question (880, or 88.0%)

On average, the respondents spent **3.93** hours on the Internet each day

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1 hour	136	15.5
2 hours	186	21.1
3 hours	171	19.4
4 hours	111	12.6
5 hours	87	9.9
6 hours	50	5.7
7 hours	32	3.6
8 hours	21	2.4
9 hours	3	0.3
10 hours	39	4.4
11 hours	1	0.1
12 hours	4	0.5
13 hours	2	0.2
14 hours	3	0.3
15 hours	5	0.6
16 hours	3	0.3
20 hours	1	0.1
24 hours	4	0.5
No response	18	2.0
Don't know	3	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**6. WHAT ARE THE MAIN REASONS YOU USE THE INTERNET?**

Only those respondents who use the Internet were asked this question (880, or 88.0%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
Working	241	27.4
Reading the news/receiving information	386	43.9
Studying	339	38.5
Looking specific things up	417	47.4
Communicating with friends/relatives	664	75.5
Sending emails	300	34.1
Watching videos or listening to music	499	56.7
Downloading films or books	359	40.8
Playing games	320	36.4
Buying things or making online payments/bookings	71	8.1
Using social networking sites	212	24.1
Checking online banking	28	3.2

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

## 7. HOW IMPORTANT ARE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TO YOU?

Count	Important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Being loyal (to my partner, friends or employer)	870	89	37	4
Taking on responsibility	720	200	67	13
Being independent	765	184	37	14
Obtaining a higher education	729	203	55	13
Building a career	672	251	62	15
Engaging in politics	178	446	345	31
Taking part in events and citizens' initiatives	216	471	261	52
Getting married	759	163	57	21
Looking good	761	185	47	7
Wearing clothing from famous brands	304	449	229	18
Eating healthily	790	154	35	21

## 7. HOW IMPORTANT ARE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TO YOU?

Percentage	Important	Not very important	Not at all important	Don't know
Being loyal (to my partner, friends or employer)	87.0	8.9	3.7	0.4
Taking on responsibility	72.0	20.0	6.7	1.3
Being independent	76.5	18.4	3.7	1.4
Obtaining a higher education	72.9	20.3	5.5	1.3
Building a career	67.2	25.1	6.2	1.5
Engaging in politics	17.8	44.6	34.5	3.1
Taking part in events and citizens' initiatives	21.6	47.1	26.1	5.2
Getting married	75.9	16.3	5.7	2.1
Looking good	76.1	18.5	4.7	0.7
Wearing clothing from famous brands	30.4	44.9	22.9	1.8
Eating healthily	79.0	15.4	3.5	2.1

## 8. DO YOU USE TOBACCO PRODUCTS (CIGARETTES, NASWAR, ETC.)?

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes, regularly (every day)	129	12.9
Occasionally	110	11.0
No (I don't smoke cigarettes)	615	61.5
No (I don't use naswar)	130	13.0
No response/Don't want to say	16	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**9. DO YOU DRINK ALCOHOL?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes, regularly (every day)	12	1.2
Yes, several times a week	28	2.8
Only at weekends	77	7.7
Rarely	318	31.8
No, never	560	56.0
No response/Don't want to say	5	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**10. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT DRINKING ALCOHOL?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
It's acceptable	113	11.3
It's acceptable for social reasons	270	27.0
It's unacceptable	563	56.3
Don't know/No response	54	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**11. HOW HAPPY ARE YOU WITH YOUR APPEARANCE?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Very happy	197	19.7
Happy	644	64.4
Partly happy	136	13.6
Unhappy	18	1.8
Don't know/No response	5	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TRUST AND IDENTITY**

**12. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES MOVED INTO A BUILDING NEXT DOOR TO YOUR FAMILY?**

<i>Count</i>	<i>Very happy</i>	<i>Happy</i>	<i>Indifferent</i>	<i>Unhappy</i>	<i>Very unhappy</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
A student couple	210	373	398	11	3	5
An elderly couple	161	390	412	21	9	7
A homosexual couple	5	67	271	273	305	79
A family of oralmans (ethnic Kazakh return migrants)	21	163	609	140	46	21
An Uzbek family	21	181	658	93	21	26
An Uyghur family	24	181	659	88	21	27
A Kyrgyz family	23	184	648	99	21	25
A Chechen family	21	165	644	110	37	23
A Dungan family	20	172	664	86	31	27
A Chinese family	28	157	656	103	32	24



**12. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES MOVED INTO A BUILDING NEXT DOOR TO YOUR FAMILY?**

Percentage	<i>Very happy</i>	<i>Happy</i>	<i>Indifferent</i>	<i>Unhappy</i>	<i>Very unhappy</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
A student couple	21.0	37.3	39.8	1.1	0.3	0.5
An elderly couple	16.1	39.0	41.2	2.1	0.9	0.7
A homosexual couple	0.5	6.7	27.1	27.3	30.5	7.9
A family of oralmans (ethnic Kazakh return migrants)	2.1	16.3	60.9	14.0	4.6	2.1
An Uzbek family	2.1	18.1	65.8	9.3	2.1	2.6
An Uyghur family	2.4	18.1	65.9	8.8	2.1	2.7
A Kyrgyz family	2.3	18.4	64.8	9.9	2.1	2.5
A Chechen family	2.1	16.5	64.4	11.0	3.7	2.3
A Dungan family	2.0	17.2	66.4	8.6	3.1	2.7
A Chinese family	2.8	15.7	65.6	10.3	3.2	2.4

**13. WHICH GROUPS OF PEOPLE WOULD YOU NOT LIKE TO HAVE AS NEIGHBOURS?**

<i>Responses (chosen by respondents)</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
Alcoholics	257	25.7
Drug addicts	178	17.8
I don't mind anyone	176	17.6
Homosexuals	156	15.6
Noisy people	97	9.7
Young people	48	4.8
Criminals	40	4.0
Oralmans	36	3.6
Nationalists	26	2.6
Scroungers	24	2.4
People of a different ethnicity	23	2.3
Pensioners	21	2.1
Cult members	19	1.9
Poor people	14	1.4
Romani people	12	1.2
Chechens	11	1.1
Families with a large number of children	8	0.8
Violent people	7	0.7
Prostitutes	7	0.7
Kazakhs	6	0.6
Turks	6	0.6
Tenants	5	0.5
Rich people	5	0.5
Russians	5	0.5
Dull or boring people	5	0.5
People with mental illness	4	0.4
Chinese people	3	0.3



Families with pets	3	0.3
Married couples	3	0.3
Dungans	2	0.2
Uzbeks	2	0.2
Musicians	2	0.2
Kurds	1	0.1
Politicians	1	0.1
Law enforcement employees	1	0.1
Don't want to say	134	13.4
Don't know	54	5.4

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

**14. TO WHAT DEGREE DO YOU TRUST THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE? IMAGINE A SCALE OF 1 TO 10, WHERE 1 MEANS NO TRUST AT ALL, AND 10 MEANS COMPLETE TRUST.**

Count	Not at all	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Fully	Don't know
Immediate family members	-	3	4	2	11	6	9	60	114	786	5
Extended family members	5	2	14	6	34	33	92	90	157	555	12
Friends	10	4	15	20	74	81	87	135	137	422	15
Neighbours	65	29	43	43	142	102	94	104	142	199	37
Classmates, coursemates, or work colleagues	36	27	31	44	147	95	94	126	173	197	30
People I know whose religious beliefs differ from mine	79	20	38	60	176	102	96	103	143	119	64
People I know whose political convictions differ from mine	82	22	48	69	172	105	110	100	121	94	77
People I know whose ethnicity differs from mine	70	23	51	73	166	105	123	99	116	118	56
Religious leaders	128	41	49	68	152	86	111	76	92	135	62
Political leaders	126	35	67	81	144	96	94	65	89	148	55

**14. TO WHAT DEGREE DO YOU TRUST THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE? IMAGINE A SCALE OF 1 TO 10, WHERE 1 MEANS NO TRUST AT ALL, AND 10 MEANS COMPLETE TRUST.**

Percentage	Not at all	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Fully	Don't know
Immediate family members	-	0.3	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.9	6.0	11.4	78.6	0.5
Extended family members	0.5	0.2	1.4	0.6	3.4	3.3	9.2	9.0	15.7	55.5	1.2
Friends	1.0	0.4	1.5	2.0	7.4	8.1	8.7	13.5	13.7	42.2	1.5
Neighbours	6.5	2.9	4.3	4.3	14.2	10.2	9.4	10.4	14.2	19.9	3.7

Classmates, coursemates, or work colleagues	3.6	2.7	3.1	4.4	14.7	9.5	9.4	12.6	17.3	19.7	3.0
People I know whose religious beliefs differ from mine	7.9	2.0	3.8	6.0	17.6	10.2	9.6	10.3	14.3	11.9	6.4
People I know whose political convictions differ from mine	8.2	2.2	4.8	6.9	17.2	10.5	11.0	10.0	12.1	9.4	7.7
People I know whose ethnicity differs from mine	7.0	2.3	5.1	7.3	16.6	10.5	12.3	9.9	11.6	11.8	5.6
Religious leaders	12.8	4.1	4.9	6.8	15.2	8.6	11.1	7.6	9.2	13.5	6.2
Political leaders	12.6	3.5	6.7	8.1	14.4	9.6	9.4	6.5	8.9	14.8	5.5

## AVERAGE TRUST RATING

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Immediate family members	9.59
Extended family members	8.88
Friends	8.26
Neighbours	6.75
Classmates, coursemates, or work colleagues	7.07
People I know whose religious beliefs differ from mine	6.34
People I know whose political convictions differ from mine	6.11
People I know whose ethnicity differs from mine	6.25
Religious leaders	5.83
Political leaders	5.79

## 15. HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS?

<i>Count</i>	<i>Very often</i>	<i>Often</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Sex (male or female)	18	22	87	87	770	16
Financial status (poor or rich)	8	49	120	161	649	13
Religion (Orthodox Christian, Muslim, Catholic, etc.)	6	39	69	107	760	19
Ethnicity	5	37	86	100	743	29
Level of education (primary, secondary, etc.)	11	45	85	132	708	19
Political convictions	13	24	68	81	783	31
Place of origin (e.g. specific village or town)	10	33	94	131	712	20
Age	10	34	105	124	705	22
Sexual orientation	11	28	48	34	841	38
Region of origin	6	25	77	66	804	22
Spoken language	13	41	95	104	729	18



15. HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS?

Percentage	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Don't know
Sex (male or female)	1.8	2.2	8.7	8.7	77.0	1.6
Financial status (poor or rich)	0.8	4.9	12.0	16.1	64.9	1.3
Religion (Orthodox Christian, Muslim, Catholic, etc.)	0.6	3.9	6.9	10.7	76.0	1.9
Ethnicity	0.5	3.7	8.6	10.0	74.3	2.9
Level of education (primary, secondary, etc.)	1.1	4.5	8.5	13.2	70.8	1.9
Political convictions	1.3	2.4	6.8	8.1	78.3	3.1
Place of origin (e.g. specific village or town)	1.0	3.3	9.4	13.1	71.2	2.0
Age	1.0	3.4	10.5	12.4	70.5	2.2
Sexual orientation	1.1	2.8	4.8	3.4	84.1	3.8
Region of origin	0.6	2.5	7.7	6.6	80.4	2.2
Spoken language	1.3	4.1	9.5	10.4	72.9	1.8

16. WHICH THREE OF THE FOLLOWING QUALITIES DO YOU VALUE MOST?

Count	1	2	3
A sense of self-worth (individuality and knowledge)	601	139	91
Social prestige (social status, role in society)	71	221	80
Altruism (giving, helping others selflessly)	31	106	93
Prosperity	89	154	115
Tolerance (accepting people different from myself)	20	71	101
Ambition (passion for goals and objectives)	22	58	80
Personal conduct	24	36	47
A spirit of innovation (creating and accepting different and new ideas)	14	39	65
Honesty	85	130	121
Loyalty	43	46	96
Don't know/No response	-	-	111
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>

16. WHICH THREE OF THE FOLLOWING QUALITIES DO YOU VALUE MOST?

Percentage	1	2	3
A sense of self-worth (individuality and knowledge)	60.1	13.9	9.1
Social prestige (social status, role in society)	7.1	22.1	8.0
Altruism (giving, helping others selflessly)	3.1	10.6	9.3
Prosperity	8.9	15.4	11.5
Tolerance (accepting people different from myself)	2.0	7.1	10.1
Ambition (passion for goals and objectives)	2.2	5.8	8.0
Personal conduct	2.4	3.6	4.7
A spirit of innovation (creating and accepting different and new ideas)	1.4	3.9	6.5
Honesty	8.5	13.0	12.1
Loyalty	4.3	4.6	9.6

Don't know/No response	-	-	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 17. HAVE YOU DONE ANY UNPAID VOLUNTARY WORK IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	93	9.3
No	891	89.1
Don't know	16	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 18. WHICH OF THESE TYPES OF VOLUNTARY WORK HAVE YOU DONE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

Only those respondents who had done voluntary work in the past 12 months were asked this question (93, or 9.3%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
Construction or reconstruction of public facilities such as water supply systems, roads, bridges, etc.	7	7.5
Cleaning up public spaces	43	46.2
Creating and looking after green spaces	31	33.3
Helping to suppress conflicts between different social groups	6	6.5
Helping to suppress conflicts within social groups	7	7.5
Helping with or teaching the arts (literature, the visual arts, music, theatre, etc.)	13	14.0
Helping with or teaching foreign languages	7	7.5
Helping with or teaching sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry, information technology (IT), etc.)	3	3.2
Helping and supporting vulnerable groups and/or the disadvantaged: the poor, the elderly, the disabled, children without parental care, single parents, etc.	36	38.7
Don't want to say	3	3.2

\*The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

#### 19. WHAT IS YOUR MAIN REASON FOR DOING VOLUNTARY WORK?

Only those respondents who had done voluntary work in the past 12 months were asked this question (93, or 9.3%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A desire to feel active/engaged in society	49	52.7
A feeling of duty to others	11	11.8
Family tradition	8	8.6
Religious convictions	7	7.5
A desire to make new friends	5	5.4
A desire to put my professional knowledge into practice	4	4.3
A desire to get to know/make a good impression on private employers who might hire me later	-	-



A desire to get to know/make a good impression on public employers who might hire me later	1	1.1
A desire to get to know/meet leaders of international institutions who might hire me later	-	-
Don't know/No response	8	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**20. HAVE YOU DONE ANY UNPAID WORK/COMMUNITY WORK IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	127	12.7
No	854	85.4
Don't know	19	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**21. HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO UNPAID COMMUNITY WORK?**

Only those respondents who had done unpaid work/community work in the past 12 months were asked this question (127, or 12.7%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Every month	25	19.7
Once every 3 months	28	22.0
Once every 6 months	68	53.5
Don't know/No response	6	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**22. WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TO RELIGION?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
I'm religious; I'm part of my religious community and regularly go to church/mosque, observe religious practices, precepts and prohibitions, and promote my religion's values	65	6.5
I'm religious, but I rarely take part in religious life, other than festivals and certain important ceremonies	735	73.5
I'm not religious, but I take part in certain practices and festivals according to the traditions of my nationality and defend its religion	105	10.5
I'm not religious, and take no part in religious life, but I respect the religious feelings of those who are and do not impede them	50	5.0
I have my own individual belief in various values (e.g. a civil religion, personal respect for moral values, belief in a non-traditional god, etc.)	18	1.8
I'm not religious; I'm an atheist and opponent of religion, and I believe that religion has done more harm than good to mankind and that people should abandon it	20	2.0
Don't know	7	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**23. WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Islam	660	66.0
Orthodox Christianity	307	30.7
Catholicism	2	0.2
I'm an atheist	20	2.0
No response	2	0.2
Don't know	9	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**24. ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 7, HOW GREAT A ROLE SHOULD RELIGION PLAY IN PUBLIC LIFE?**

Only those respondents who associated themselves with a particular religion were asked this question (969, or 96.9%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Should play a lesser role	46	4.7
2	90	9.3
3	106	10.9
4	173	17.9
5	220	22.7
6	152	15.7
Should play a greater role	169	17.4
Don't know	13	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**25. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING?**

Only those respondents who associate themselves with a particular religion were asked this question (969, or 96.9%)

<i>Count</i>	<i>I believe</i>	<i>I doubt</i>	<i>I don't believe</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
God exists	854	74	10	31
Heaven and hell exist	618	232	46	73
God created the world	644	204	54	67
God is the source of moral precepts and obligations	559	246	73	91

**25. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING?**

Only those respondents who associate themselves with a particular religion were asked this question (969, or 96.9%)

<i>Percentage</i>	<i>I believe</i>	<i>I doubt</i>	<i>I don't believe</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
God exists	88.1	7.6	1.0	3.3
Heaven and hell exist	63.8	23.9	4.7	7.6



God created the world	66.5	21.1	5.6	6.8
God is the source of moral precepts and obligations	57.7	25.4	7.5	9.4

**26. CHOOSE IN ORDER THE FIVE ANSWERS THAT BEST REFLECT HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF, FROM THE ANSWER MOST RELEVANT TO YOU TO THE NEXT MOST RELEVANT ANSWER, ETC.).**

Count	<i>First, I am...</i>	<i>Second, I am...</i>	<i>Third, I am...</i>	<i>Fourth, I am...</i>	<i>Fifth, I am...</i>
Someone who values friendship and friends very highly	390	153	101	102	99
A graduate of a particular academic institution	25	115	49	31	71
A patriot of Kazakhstan	51	79	59	47	34
A member of a political party (or movement or non-governmental organisation)	7	18	62	57	29
A representative of my clan	22	47	56	46	42
An employee of a particular organisation, business or company	5	27	28	43	29
A representative of my <i>jüz</i> (horde)	2	12	30	26	14
A representative of the Kazakh people	17	26	43	30	45
A religious person, a follower of my religion	2	15	27	33	15
A specialist, a professional in my field	8	27	32	35	25
An individual with my own merits and faults, a human being	176	128	76	78	42
A member of my family	60	120	117	72	56
A representative of my ethnic group	8	29	36	29	25
A man	88	43	46	27	23
A woman	73	34	41	37	26
A citizen of Kazakhstan	47	93	95	117	71
A member of a work team	2	8	19	16	22
A native of my town or village	6	11	24	28	41
A bearer of my national culture and language, someone carrying on my nation's history	9	12	27	42	98
Don't know	2	3	32	104	193



Percentage	First, I am...	Second, I am...	Third, I am...	Fourth, I am...	Fifth, I am...
Someone who values friendship and friends very highly	39.0	15.3	10.1	10.2	9.9
A graduate of a particular academic institution	2.5	11.5	4.9	3.1	7.1
A patriot of Kazakhstan	5.1	7.9	5.9	4.7	3.4
A member of a political party (or movement or non-governmental organisation)	0.7	1.8	6.2	5.7	2.9
A representative of my clan	2.2	4.7	5.6	4.6	4.2
An employee of a particular organisation, business or company	0.5	2.7	2.8	4.3	2.9
A representative of my <i>jüz</i> (horde)	0.2	1.2	3.0	2.6	1.4
A representative of the Kazakh people	1.7	2.6	4.3	3.0	4.5
A religious person, a follower of my religion	0.2	1.5	2.7	3.3	1.5
A specialist, a professional in my field	0.8	2.7	3.2	3.5	2.5
An individual with my own merits and faults, a human being	17.6	12.8	7.6	7.8	4.2
A member of my family	6.0	12.0	11.7	7.2	5.6
A representative of my ethnic group	0.8	2.9	3.6	2.9	2.5
A man	8.8	4.3	4.6	2.7	2.3
A woman	7.3	3.4	4.1	3.7	2.6
A citizen of Kazakhstan	4.7	9.3	9.5	11.7	7.1
A member of a work team	0.2	0.8	1.9	1.6	2.2
A native of my town or village	0.6	1.1	2.4	2.8	4.1
A bearer of my national culture and language, someone carrying on my nation's history	0.9	1.2	2.7	4.2	9.8
Don't know	0.2	0.3	3.2	10.4	19.3

#### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

#### 27. WHO DO YOU LIVE WITH? DO YOU LIVE ALONE, WITH PARENTS, A PARTNER, OR FRIENDS/OTHER RELATIVES?

Responses	Count	Percentage
I live with members of my immediate family (parents, siblings)	640	64.0
I live alone	25	2.5
I live with my child/children and no one else	14	1.4
I live with my spouse	220	22.0
I live with my partner (and our child/children)	46	4.6
I live with my friends/other relatives	51	5.1
Don't know	4	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**28. WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES YOUR SITUATION?**

Only those respondents who lived with members of their immediate family (their parents, brothers or sisters) were asked this question (640, or 64.0%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
I live with my parents mainly because of practical considerations	135	21.1
I live with my parents mainly for financial reasons	82	12.8
I live my parents mainly because they don't want me to live away from them (won't allow me to live independently)	34	5.3
There is no particular reason why I live with my parents	198	30.9
I live with my parents because I'm a minor	154	24.1
I look after my parents	1	0.2
Don't know/No response	36	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**29. WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PARENTS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
We get on very well	488	48.8
We get on well, but sometimes we have differences of opinion	458	45.8
Generally we don't get on, and we often disagree	26	2.6
We're always arguing	11	1.1
My parents are deceased	10	1.0
Don't know/No response	7	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**30. WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
We get on very well	426	42.6
We get on well, but sometimes we have differences of opinion	474	47.4
Generally we don't get on, and we often disagree	31	3.1
We're always arguing	7	0.7
I don't have any brothers or sisters	50	5.0
Don't know/No response	12	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**31. WHICH OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS HAS THE MOST INFLUENCE ON THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS YOU MAKE?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Father	370	37.0
Mother	313	31.3
Brother	8	0.8
Sister	15	1.5
Grandparent	32	3.2
Spouse/partner	117	11.7

No one	123	12.3
Everyone	4	0.4
Parents	1	0.1
Don't know/No response	17	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 32. HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES IN YOUR LIFE?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
My parents make all the decisions	106	10.6
My parents and I make the decisions together	544	54.4
I am free to make decisions independently	323	32.3
My spouse decides	8	0.8
My spouse and I decide	6	0.6
Don't know/No response	13	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 33. HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN THE FUTURE?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Married with a family	825	82.5
Living with a partner (and with a family)	94	9.4
Without a partner and without a family	15	1.5
Without a partner, but with a child/children	9	0.9
Don't know/No response	57	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 34. WHAT, IN YOUR VIEW, IS THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF MARRIAGE OVER COHABITATION?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Marriage increases partners' responsibility to each other	436	52.8
Marriage increases parents' responsibility to their children	195	23.6
Marriage ensures greater economic security for both partners	42	5.1
Marriage is more socially acceptable than cohabitation	126	15.3
Don't know/No response	26	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 35. WHAT, IN YOUR VIEW, IS THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF COHABITATION OVER MARRIAGE?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Partners are more independent of each other	24	25.5
Partners can focus more on their career	46	48.9
Partners argue less	6	6.4
It's easier to make up with your partner if you are cohabiting	4	4.3
It's easier to leave your partner if you are cohabiting	10	10.6
Don't know/No response	4	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## 36. AT WHAT AGE, IN YOUR VIEW, IS IT BEST FOR WOMEN TO MARRY?

Mean age: 22

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
16	4	0.4
17	2	0.2
18	84	8.4
19	36	3.6
20	295	29.5
21	78	7.8
22	129	12.9
23	152	15.2
24	44	4.4
25	149	14.9
26	3	0.3
27	11	1.1
28	1	0.1
29	1	0.1
30	9	0.9
Don't know	2	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 37. AT WHAT AGE, IN YOUR VIEW, IS IT BEST FOR MEN TO MARRY?

Mean age: 25

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
16	2	0.2
17	1	0.1
18	22	2.2
19	8	0.8
20	42	4.2
21	8	0.8
22	64	6.4
23	111	11.1
24	71	7.1
25	341	34.1
26	71	7.1
27	82	8.2
28	39	3.9
29	7	0.7
30	99	9.9
32	3	0.3
33	2	0.2
35	23	2.3
40	2	0.2
Don't know	2	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**38. HOW MANY CHILDREN WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE? HOW MANY OF THEM WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE GIRLS, AND HOW MANY BOYS?**

Total number of children

**Mean number of children: 3**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1	53	5.3
2	371	37.1
3	281	28.1
4	190	19.0
5	72	7.2
6	9	0.9
7	8	0.8
8	2	0.2
9	1	0.1
10	3	0.3
15	1	0.1
None	9	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Number of daughters

**Mean number of daughters: 2**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1	542	57.6
2	344	36.6
3	46	4.9
4	4	0.4
5	4	0.4
7	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Number of sons

**Mean number of sons: 2**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1	518	53.8
2	359	37.3
3	63	6.5
4	16	1.7
5	6	0.6
8	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**39. WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TO THE PRACTICE OF BRIDE KIDNAPPING?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Positive – it's a part of our heritage	79	7.9
Positive – it's a way of saving money on a wedding	75	7.5
Neither positive nor negative – it often takes place by mutual agreement	335	33.5
Negative – it's outdated and barbaric	246	24.6
Negative – it's insulting to women	202	20.2
Don't know	63	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**40. HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Women are free and self-reliant, independent of men	190	19.0
Men take on the role of head of the family, and women comply with their decisions	322	32.2
Women are increasingly taking on the role of head of the family, and men are complying with their decisions	91	9.1
Women are oppressed and have no rights	5	0.5
Men and women share spheres of influence in the family and have equal rights	365	36.5
Don't know	27	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**41. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE THAT THE TRADITION OF POLYGAMY SHOULD BE LEGALISED IN OUR SOCIETY?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Completely agree	47	4.7
Mostly agree	119	11.9
Mostly disagree	172	17.2
Completely disagree	614	61.4
Don't know	48	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**42. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR THE EXPRESSION "A HAPPY FAMILY"?**

<i>Answers (chosen by respondents)</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
Trust and mutual understanding	416	41.6
Children	306	30.6
Love	267	26.7
Prosperity and well-being	197	19.7
A husband and wife	96	9.6
Owning a home	60	6.0
A united, harmonious family	51	5.1
Health	41	4.1
Respect for the elderly	8	0.8
The opportunity for everyone to fulfil their potential and develop	4	0.4
A peaceful life	3	0.3
My future	3	0.3

Everyone happy in their own way	3	0.3
Care for others	2	0.2
A religious family	1	0.1
Don't know	146	14.6

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

#### 43. WHAT, IN YOUR VIEW, IS A HAPPY FAMILY?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A family where love, mutual understanding and support prevail, and the number of people is not important	463	46.3
A family with strong ties between family members of different generations and interaction with relatives	241	24.1
A family with children	125	12.5
A family that is comfortably off and confident about the future	123	12.3
A family where everyone has the opportunity to develop and fulfil their potential	33	3.3
Don't know	15	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 44. DO YOU HAVE A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS OR ACQUAINTANCES, WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS ONE ANOTHER AND WHO YOU OFTEN SPEND TIME WITH?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	865	86.5
No	116	11.6
Don't know	19	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 45. HOW HAPPY ARE YOU WITH YOUR FRIENDS?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Completely happy	258	25.8
Happy	640	64.0
Neither happy nor unhappy	91	9.1
Unhappy	4	0.4
Completely unhappy	1	0.1
Don't know	6	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 46. HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY OF THE KINDS OF PHYSICAL CONFLICT LISTED BELOW IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

<i>Count</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Don't want to say</i>
With other young people in my neighbourhood	107	873	20
With young people in a nightclub or café	52	930	18
In a gym, football stadium, etc.	63	911	26
At school, university, or work	112	861	27
With young people of different political views	13	963	24



With the police (e.g. at a demonstration)	33	940	27
Within my family	63	917	20
With people of different religious views	18	956	26
With people from other ethnic groups	29	943	28

**HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY OF THE KINDS OF PHYSICAL CONFLICT LISTED BELOW IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?**

Percentage	Yes	No	Don't want to say
With other young people in my neighbourhood	10.7	87.3	2.0
With young people in a nightclub or café	5.2	93.0	1.8
In a gym, football stadium, etc.	6.3	91.1	2.6
At school, university, or work	11.2	86.1	2.7
With young people of different political views	1.3	96.3	2.4
With the police (e.g. at a demonstration)	3.3	94.0	2.7
Within my family	6.3	91.7	2.0
With people of different religious views	1.8	95.6	2.6
With people from other ethnic groups	2.9	94.3	2.8

**INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS**

**47. WOULD YOU LIKE TO MOVE TO ANOTHER TOWN OR VILLAGE IN KAZAKHSTAN?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes	173	17.3
No	813	81.3
Don't know/No response	14	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**48. WHAT ARE THE MAIN REASONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MOVE?**

Only those respondents who expressed a desire to move to another town or village in Kazakhstan were asked this question (173, or 17.3%)

Responses	Count	Percentage*
A desire for a higher standard of living	72	41.6
A desire for greater cultural diversity	46	26.6
A desire for a higher quality of education	41	23.7
Better and more varied employment opportunities	67	38.7
Better opportunities to start a business	14	8.1
A desire to be closer to relatives	16	9.2
A desire to avoid conflicts in the village/town I live in now	2	1.2
Poor environmental conditions	3	1.7
Don't know/No response	3	1.7

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer



**49. ARE YOU THINKING OF EMIGRATING FROM KAZAKHSTAN?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes, I intend to move as soon as possible	27	2.7
Not at the moment, but I will probably move in the future	79	7.9
I haven't thought about it yet, but everything will depend on my circumstances: I might move, or I might not	206	20.6
No, I do not intend to move under any circumstances	669	66.9
Don't know	19	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**50. WHERE ARE YOU THINKING OF MOVING TO?**

Only those respondents who are thinking of emigrating from Kazakhstan were asked this question (106, or 10.6%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Russia	58	54.7
China	4	3.8
The USA	10	9.4
Canada	4	3.8
Europe	13	12.3
Turkey	3	2.8
South Korea	2	1.9
Australia	1	0.9
Singapore	1	0.9
Don't know/No response	10	9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**51. WHY ARE YOU THINKING OF EMIGRATING?**

Only those respondents who are thinking of emigrating from Kazakhstan were asked this question (106, or 10.6%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
Financial reasons	11	10.4
Security	4	3.8
Quality of life	31	29.2
Personal reasons	34	32.1
Education	15	14.2
Career	21	19.8
Poor environmental conditions	1	0.9
Ethnic conflict	2	1.9
Don't know/No response	3	2.8

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

**52. HOW LONG WOULD YOU STAY ABROAD FOR?**

Only those respondents who are thinking of emigrating from Kazakhstan were asked this question (106, or 10.6%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Up to a year	8	7.5
Up to five years	10	9.4
5–10 years	15	14.2
More than 10 years	8	7.5
Permanently	46	43.4
Don't know/No response	19	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**53. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN ABROAD? (FOR TOURISM, STUDY, WORK EXPERIENCE OR VISITING RELATIVES).**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Once	114	11.4
1–3 times	94	9.4
More than three times	47	4.7
Never	738	73.8
Don't know/No response	7	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**54. WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE YOU BEEN TO?**

Only those respondents who had been abroad were asked this question (255, or 25.5%)

<i>Answers (chosen by respondents)</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
Russia	126	49.4
Turkey	82	32.2
Kyrgyzstan	45	17.6
China	23	9.0
Uzbekistan	18	7.1
Germany	12	4.7
Thailand	10	3.9
The UAE	9	3.5
Egypt	7	2.7
Ukraine	5	2.0
Greece	5	2.0
Belarus	3	1.2
South Korea	3	1.2
The USA	3	1.2
Italy	3	1.2
Azerbaijan	2	0.8
England	2	0.8
Latvia	2	0.8
Poland	2	0.8

France	2	0.8
Georgia	2	0.8
Japan	1	0.4
The Czech Republic	1	0.4
Armenia	1	0.4
Mongolia	1	0.4
Spain	1	0.4
Lithuania	1	0.4
Estonia	1	0.4
India	1	0.4
Turkmenistan	1	0.4
Don't want to say	6	2.4

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

#### 55. WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE YOUR CITIZENSHIP?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	34	3.4
Probably	44	4.4
Probably not	129	12.9
No	774	77.4
Don't know	19	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 56. WHICH COUNTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A CITIZEN OF?

Only those respondents who would like to change their citizenship were asked this question (78, or 7.8%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Russia	60	76.9
The USA	4	5.1
Germany	5	6.4
France	2	2.6
Italy	1	1.3
Australia	1	1.3
Don't know	5	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 57. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Excellent	69	6.9
Good	789	78.9
Bad	114	11.4
Very bad	3	0.3
Don't know/No response	25	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**58. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR LIVING CONDITIONS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Very good	98	9.8
Good	572	57.2
Average	302	30.2
Bad	19	1.9
Very bad	2	0.2
Don't know/No response	7	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**59. HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE FUTURE?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Much better than now	316	31.6
Slightly better than now	505	50.5
The same as now	163	16.3
Slightly worse than now	3	0.3
Much worse than now	-	-
Don't know/No response	13	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**60. HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS? IF YOU CAN, PLEASE SAY WHETHER YOU COMPLETELY AGREE, MOSTLY AGREE, PARTLY AGREE, MOSTLY DISAGREE OR COMPLETELY DISAGREE.**

<i>Count</i>	<i>Completel y agree</i>	<i>Mostly agree</i>	<i>Partly agree</i>	<i>Mostly disagree</i>	<i>Completel y disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
To achieve anything in life, you have to know what you want	713	197	62	19	4	5
Nothing ventured, nothing gained	344	384	196	57	10	9
If you are thoughtful of others, you will eventually be rewarded	306	354	238	63	11	28
There is no point in setting goals in life, because nothing is clear-cut at the present time	84	159	204	349	183	21
A society cannot exist without moral values	456	316	149	46	11	22
People cannot share their troubles these days	125	215	277	281	74	28
People should trust in fate and accept everything life throws at them	226	338	232	143	40	21
You should surround yourself with people you can rely on	433	361	140	37	13	16
It's enough to have a few friends and to do whatever you want	138	197	292	260	87	26
People should focus on their career, everything else is secondary	88	191	236	333	121	31
Life is complicated, so it's better to live in isolation	66	122	175	335	270	32
An interest in social affairs is an important part of my life	177	375	269	98	47	34
The most sensible course in life is	87	203	202	252	230	26

simply to go with the flow							
Faith and traditions should be adhered to	198	379	261	96	26	40	

**60. HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS? IF YOU CAN, PLEASE SAY WHETHER YOU COMPLETELY AGREE, MOSTLY AGREE, PARTLY AGREE, MOSTLY DISAGREE OR COMPLETELY DISAGREE.**

Percentage	<i>Completely agree</i>	<i>Mostly agree</i>	<i>Partly agree</i>	<i>Mostly disagree</i>	<i>Completely disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
To achieve anything in life, you have to know what you want	71.3	19.7	6.2	1.9	0.4	0.5
Nothing ventured, nothing gained	34.4	38.4	19.6	5.7	1.0	0.9
If you are thoughtful of others, you will eventually be rewarded	30.6	35.4	23.8	6.3	1.1	2.8
There is no point in setting goals in life, because nothing is clear-cut at the present time	8.4	15.9	20.4	34.9	18.3	2.1
A society cannot exist without moral values	45.6	31.6	14.9	4.6	1.1	2.2
People cannot share their troubles these days	12.5	21.5	27.7	28.1	7.4	2.8
People should trust in fate and accept everything life throws at them	22.6	33.8	23.2	14.3	4.0	2.1
You should surround yourself with people you can rely on	43.3	36.1	14.0	3.7	1.3	1.6
It's enough to have a few friends and to do whatever you want	13.8	19.7	29.2	26.0	8.7	2.6
People should focus on their career, everything else is secondary	8.8	19.1	23.6	33.3	12.1	3.1
Life is complicated, so it's better to live in isolation	6.6	12.2	17.5	33.5	27.0	3.2
An interest in social affairs is an important part of my life	17.7	37.5	26.9	9.8	4.7	3.4
The most sensible course in life is simply to go with the flow	8.7	20.3	20.2	25.2	23.0	2.6
Faith and traditions should be adhered to	19.8	37.9	26.1	9.6	2.6	4.0

**EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION**

**61. HOW GOOD ARE YOUR KAZAKH, RUSSIAN, ENGLISH AND OTHER LANGUAGE SKILLS?**

Count	<i>Non-existent</i>	<i>Very poor, but I understand a few phrases</i>	<i>I understand it, but can't speak it</i>	<i>I understand it and speak it</i>	<i>I speak and read it fluently, but can't write in it</i>	<i>I speak, read and write in it fluently</i>	<i>I'm fluent, including in the use of professional jargon</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Kazakh	63	101	83	128	48	423	149	5
Russian	6	5	13	54	63	674	175	10
English	271	328	155	123	46	61	9	7
French	936	34	7	3	-	2	-	18



German	908	55	10	7	-	2	-	18
Chinese	959	19	1	1	-	2	-	18

**61. HOW GOOD ARE YOUR KAZAKH, RUSSIAN, ENGLISH AND OTHER LANGUAGE SKILLS?**

Percentage	Non-existent	Very poor, but I understand a few phrases	I understand it, but can't speak it	I understand it and speak it	I speak and read it fluently, but can't write in it	I speak, read and write in it fluently	I'm fluent, including in the use of professional jargon	Don't know
Kazakh	6.3	10.1	8.3	12.8	4.8	42.3	14.9	0.5
Russian	0.6	0.5	1.3	5.4	6.3	67.4	17.5	1.0
English	27.1	32.8	15.5	12.3	4.6	6.1	0.9	0.7
French	93.6	3.4	0.7	0.3	-	0.2	-	1.8
German	90.8	5.5	1.0	0.7	-	0.2	-	1.8
Chinese	95.9	1.9	0.1	0.1	-	0.2	-	1.8

**62. WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU USE IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Kazakh	339	33.9
Russian	497	49.7
Kazakh and Russian equally	159	15.9
Uzbek	2	0.2
Turkish	1	0.1
Kurdish	1	0.1
Uyghur	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**63. ARE YOU CURRENTLY STUDYING AT AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION/CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes, I am in the middle of my secondary/vocational secondary education (at school or college)	308	30.8
Yes, I am in the middle of my higher education	167	16.7
Yes, I am studying for a Master's degree or doctorate	8	0.8
No	517	51.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**ONLY SCHOOL PUPILS AND/OR COLLEGE STUDENTS WERE ASKED THIS SET OF QUESTIONS (308 RESPONDENTS, OR 30.8%)**

**64. HOW MOTIVATED ARE YOU TO STUDY AT SCHOOL/COLLEGE? WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE HIGHLY MOTIVATED, FAIRLY MOTIVATED, FAIRLY UNMOTIVATED OR NOT AT ALL MOTIVATED TO GO TO SCHOOL/COLLEGE?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Highly motivated	79	25.6
Fairly motivated	168	54.5
Fairly unmotivated	26	8.4
Not at all motivated	6	1.9

Don't know	29	9.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 65. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY AT SCHOOL/COLLEGE?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Very busy and stressful	14	4.5
Busy and stressful	28	9.1
Quite busy and stressful	79	25.6
Easy and stress-free	146	47.4
Very easy and stress-free	28	9.1
Don't know/No response	13	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 66. HOW HIGH WAS YOUR AVERAGE GRADE FOR THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Very high	10	3.2
High	86	27.9
Average	181	58.9
Satisfactory	30	9.7
Low	1	0.3
Very low	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 67. DO YOU AGREE THAT THERE ARE CASES WHERE GRADES AND EXAMS ARE 'BOUGHT'?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes, almost always	26	8.4
Yes, sometimes	70	22.7
Yes, rarely	63	20.5
No, never	119	38.6
Don't know/No response	30	9.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 68. ON AVERAGE, HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND STUDYING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM (DOING HOMEWORK, GOING TO THE LIBRARY, ETC.)?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Up to an hour a day	45	14.6
1–2 hours a day	129	41.9
3–4 hours a day	111	36.0
5–6 hours a day	16	5.2
More than six hours a day	2	0.6
Don't know/No response	5	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**69. DO YOU INTEND TO GO TO A HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes	256	83.1
No	52	16.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**70. WHY DO YOU INTEND TO GET A HIGHER EDUCATION?**

Only those respondents at school/college who intend to go to a higher education institution were asked this question (256, or 83.1%)

Responses	Count	Percentage*
To improve my intellectual capabilities	96	37.5
To get a qualification in order to increase my employment opportunities	185	72.3
To meet my parents' expectations	78	30.5
To earn more money and to be well off	50	19.5
To improve my social status	47	18.4
To make new connections and gain new experience	24	9.4
I don't have a better option	11	4.3
To avoid the draft	4	1.6

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

**71. WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED NOT TO GET A HIGHER EDUCATION?**

Only those respondents who do not intend to go to a higher education institution were asked this question (52, or 16.9%)

Responses	Count	Percentage
I don't like studying	15	28.8
I'm not sure that it would give me a better future	14	26.9
My parents haven't supported my choice/don't want me to get a higher education	1	1.9
None of my friends has a higher education	-	-
I can't afford it	22	42.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**ONLY UNDERGRADUATES AND POSTGRADUATES WERE ASKED THIS SET OF QUESTIONS (175 RESPONDENTS, OR 17.5%)**

**72. HOW MOTIVATED ARE YOU TO STUDY AT YOUR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION? WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE HIGHLY MOTIVATED, VERY MOTIVATED, FAIRLY UNMOTIVATED OR NOT AT ALL MOTIVATED TO GO TO YOUR INSTITUTION OR UNIVERSITY?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Highly motivated	62	35.4
Fairly motivated	91	52.0
Fairly unmotivated	11	6.3
Not at all motivated	-	-
Don't know/No response	11	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**73. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY AT UNIVERSITY?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Very busy and stressful	9	5.1
Busy and stressful	10	5.7
Quite busy and stressful	46	26.3
Easy and stress-free	93	53.1
Very easy and stress-free	7	4.0
Don't know/No response	10	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**74. HOW HIGH WAS YOUR AVERAGE GRADE FOR THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Very high	15	8.6
High	65	37.1
Average	91	52.0
Satisfactory	3	1.7
Low	-	-
Very low	1	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**75. DO YOU AGREE THAT THERE ARE CASES WHERE GRADES AND EXAMS ARE 'BOUGHT'?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes, almost always	17	9.7
Yes, sometimes	56	32.0
Yes, rarely	36	20.6
No, never	54	30.9
Don't know/No response	12	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**76. ON AVERAGE, HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND STUDYING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM (DOING HOMEWORK, GOING TO THE LIBRARY, ETC.)?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Up to an hour a day	13	7.4
1–2 hours a day	73	41.7
3–4 hours a day	60	34.3
5–6 hours a day	12	6.9
More than six hours a day	4	2.3
Don't know/No response	13	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**77. WOULD YOU LIKE TO, OR DO YOU INTEND TO, CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION?**

Only those respondents who are not studying at school or college were asked this question (692, or 69.2%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	176	25.4
No	516	74.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**78. WHY DO YOU WANT/INTEND TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION?**

Only those respondents who want/intend to continue their education were asked this question (176, or 25.4%)

Responses	Count	Percentage*
To improve my intellectual capabilities	93	52.8
To get a qualification in order to increase my employment opportunities	97	55.1
To meet my parents' expectations	38	21.6
To earn more money and to be well off	47	26.7
To improve my social status	41	23.3
To make new connections and gain new experience	18	10.2
I don't/didn't have a better option	4	2.3
To avoid the draft	-	-
Don't want to say	4	2.3

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

**79. WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED NOT TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION?**

Only those respondents who do not want or do not intend to continue their education were asked this question (515, or 74.6%)

Responses	Count	Percentage*
I don't like studying	87	16.9
I'm not sure that it would give me a better future	149	28.9
My parents haven't supported my choice/don't want me to get a higher education	4	0.8
None of my friends has a higher education	7	1.4
I can't afford it	195	37.8
I've already got a degree	48	9.3
Don't want to say	34	6.6
Don't know	12	2.3

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

**QUESTIONS FOR EVERYONE**

**80. HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN KAZAKHSTAN?**

Count	Excellent	Good	Bad	Very bad	No response/ Don't know
Primary education	207	716	56	9	12
Secondary education	160	726	78	16	20
Vocational secondary education	142	650	122	15	71
Higher education	154	610	128	13	95
Postgraduate education	141	570	101	17	171

**80. HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN KAZAKHSTAN?**

Percentage	Excellent	Good	Bad	Very bad	No response/ Don't know
Primary education	20.7	71.6	5.6	0.9	1.2
Secondary education	16.0	72.6	7.8	1.6	2.0

Vocational secondary education	14.2	65.0	12.2	1.5	7.1
Higher education	15.4	61.0	12.8	1.3	9.5
Postgraduate education	14.1	57.0	10.1	1.7	17.1

#### 81. WHICH OF THESE WOULD YOU CHOOSE IF YOU HAD THE CHOICE?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Education abroad	476	47.6
Local education	248	24.8
Private education abroad	177	17.7
Don't know/No response	99	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 82. IF YOU COULD STUDY (OR CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION) ABROAD, WHICH COUNTRY WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Russia	296	29.6
The USA	237	23.7
An EU country	163	16.3
China	146	14.6
A Central Asian country	52	5.2
South Korea	2	0.2
Turkey	2	0.2
Malaysia	1	0.1
Singapore	1	0.1
None	6	0.6
Don't know/No response	94	9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 83. HAVE YOU DONE ANY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OR WORK EXPERIENCE?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	317	31.7
No	648	64.8
Don't know	35	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 84. GIVEN YOUR PRESENT LEVEL OF EDUCATION, WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS DO YOU MOST AGREE WITH?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
It will be easy for me to find work	356	35.6
I'm unlikely to find work	308	30.8
I will never be able to find work	34	3.4
I need more education to get a job	151	15.1
Don't know	151	15.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**85. WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS DO YOU AGREE WITH?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
The education system in Kazakhstan needs wide-ranging reform	260	26.0
The education system in Kazakhstan needs some reform	573	57.3
The education system in Kazakhstan does not need any reform	80	8.0
Don't know/No response	87	8.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**86. ARE YOU CURRENTLY IN WORK?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes	430	43.0
No	570	57.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**87. ON AVERAGE, HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK DO YOU WORK?**

Only those respondents who are currently working were asked this question (430, or 43.0%)

**Mean: 41.4 hours per week**

Responses	Count	Percentage
10 hours	8	1.9
12 hours	2	0.5
15 hours	1	0.2
18 hours	6	1.4
20 hours	4	0.9
22 hours	1	0.2
24 hours	6	1.4
25 hours	3	0.7
26 hours	1	0.2
30 hours	12	2.8
35 hours	10	2.3
36 hours	6	1.4
37 hours	1	0.2
38 hours	2	0.5
40 hours	166	38.6
41 hours	1	0.2
42 hours	9	2.1
44 hours	2	0.5
45 hours	14	3.3
46 hours	11	2.6
47 hours	2	0.5
48 hours	105	24.4
49 hours	1	0.2
50 hours	11	2.6
52 hours	1	0.2
54 hours	1	0.2

55 hours	1	0.2
56 hours	6	1.4
60 hours	10	2.3
Don't know	26	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 88. IS YOUR WORK CONNECTED TO A PROFESSION IN WHICH YOU ARE QUALIFIED OR IN TRAINING FOR?

Only those respondents who are currently working were asked this question (430, or 43.0%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
I am not qualified or in training for a profession	35	8.1
Yes	192	44.7
Partly – my work is connected to my qualifications to a degree	90	20.9
No	104	24.2
Don't know/No response	9	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 89. WHICH OF THESE SECTORS WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK IN?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Public administration	385	38.5
The private sector	309	30.9
A non-governmental organisation	56	5.6
International organisations (the World Bank, OSCE, etc.)	135	13.5
I don't want to work	13	1.3
Don't know/No response	102	10.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

90. HERE ARE SEVEN FACTORS WHICH PEOPLE CONSIDER IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING WORK IN KAZAKHSTAN TODAY. PLEASE NUMBER THEM FROM 1 TO 7 IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE TO FINDING WORK IN YOUR OPINION, WHERE 1 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR, 2 IS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT, ETC.

<i>Count Factor</i>	<i>Most important factor</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Least important factor</i>
Connections/friends	396	145	160	111	72	53	63
Professional skills	177	305	193	143	90	75	17
Level of education	210	226	230	166	88	45	35
Political connections (party membership)	45	82	68	134	233	231	207
Luck	70	110	143	178	227	173	99
Where you come from (your region)	22	38	71	120	156	296	297
Foreign experience (education, work experience, practical experience)	81	94	134	148	135	127	281



HERE ARE SEVEN FACTORS WHICH PEOPLE CONSIDER IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING WORK IN KAZAKHSTAN TODAY. PLEASE NUMBER THEM FROM 1 TO 7 IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE TO FINDING WORK IN YOUR OPINION, WHERE 1 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR, 2 IS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT, ETC.

Percentage Factor	Most important factor	2	3	4	5	6	Least important factor
Connections/friends	39.6	14.5	16.0	11.1	7.2	5.3	6.3
Professional skills	17.7	30.5	19.3	14.3	9.0	7.5	1.7
Level of education	21.0	22.6	23.0	16.6	8.8	4.5	3.5
Political connections (party membership)	4.5	8.2	6.8	13.4	23.3	23.1	20.7
Luck	7.0	11.0	14.3	17.8	22.7	17.3	9.9
Where you come from (your region)	2.2	3.8	7.1	12.0	15.6	29.6	29.7
Foreign experience (education, work experience, practical experience)	8.1	9.4	13.4	14.8	13.5	12.7	28.1

91. HERE ARE ANOTHER FIVE FACTORS WHICH PEOPLE CONSIDER IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING A PARTICULAR JOB. AGAIN, PLEASE NUMBER THEM IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE TO CHOOSING A JOB, WHERE 1 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN YOUR OPINION, 2 IS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT, ETC.

Count Factor	Most important factor	2	3	4	Least important factor
Income/salary	630	205	76	33	56
Confidence/guarantee of being hired	97	280	267	213	143
The opportunity to work with like-minded people	72	130	257	281	260
Job satisfaction	94	134	197	335	240
Career growth	107	251	203	138	301

HERE ARE ANOTHER FIVE FACTORS WHICH PEOPLE CONSIDER IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING A PARTICULAR JOB. AGAIN, PLEASE NUMBER THEM IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE TO CHOOSING A JOB, WHERE 1 IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN YOUR OPINION, 2 IS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT, ETC.

Percentage Factor	Most important factor	2	3	4	Least important factor
Income/salary	63.0	20.5	7.6	3.3	5.6
Confidence/guarantee of being hired	9.7	28.0	26.7	21.3	14.3
The opportunity to work with like-minded people	7.2	13.0	25.7	28.1	26.0
Job satisfaction	9.4	13.4	19.7	33.5	24.0
Career growth	10.7	25.1	20.3	13.8	30.1

92. HOW PREPARED WOULD YOU BE TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS IF YOU COULD OBTAIN SECURE FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

Responses	Count	Percentage
Completely prepared	231	23.1
Mostly prepared	290	29.0
Partly prepared	159	15.9
Mostly unprepared	163	16.3
Not prepared at all	102	10.2
Don't know/No response	55	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**93. WHAT, IN YOUR VIEW, IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MOTIVE FOR STARTING ONE'S OWN BUSINESS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Greater independence	257	25.7
Higher personal income	496	49.6
The chance to simply earn a stable income	160	16.0
Don't know/No response	87	8.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**94. IF YOU DECIDED TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS, WHAT WOULD BE THE MAIN REASON?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
To take advantage of a business opportunity	245	24.5
Lack of a better option for work	222	22.2
Freedom to make decisions and control the business independently	335	33.5
To find innovative business solutions	55	5.5
To make better use of my skills	44	4.4
Don't know/No response	99	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**DEMOCRACY AND POLITICS****95. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN POLITICAL EVENTS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes, I follow politics constantly	177	17.7
Only sometimes	459	45.9
Not at all	336	33.6
Don't know/No response	28	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**96. HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN POLITICAL EVENTS?**

Only those respondents who are interested in political events were asked this question (636, or 63.6%)

<i>Count</i>	<i>Very interested</i>	<i>Interested</i>	<i>Somewhat interested</i>	<i>Not particularly interested</i>	<i>Not at all interested</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Internationally	125	351	143	13	2	2
In Russia	110	348	157	15	2	4
In Central Asia	84	328	183	32	5	4
In China	51	284	231	55	8	7
In Europe	64	315	209	37	4	7

**96. HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN POLITICAL EVENTS?**

<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Very interested</i>	<i>Interested</i>	<i>Somewhat interested</i>	<i>Not particularly interested</i>	<i>Not at all interested</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Internationally	19.7	55.2	22.5	2.0	0.3	0.3



In Russia	17.3	54.7	24.7	2.4	0.3	0.6
In Central Asia	13.2	51.6	28.8	5.0	0.8	0.6
In China	8.0	44.7	36.3	8.6	1.3	1.1
In Europe	10.1	49.5	32.9	5.8	0.6	1.1

**97. ARE YOUR PARENTS INTERESTED IN POLITICS?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes, they follow politics constantly	305	30.5
Only sometimes	484	48.4
Not at all	167	16.7
Don't know/No response	44	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**98. DO YOUR POLITICAL CONVICTIONS MATCH THOSE OF YOUR PARENTS?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Very much	119	11.9
To some extent	428	42.8
A little	214	21.4
Not at all	71	7.1
Don't know/No response	168	16.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**99. IF YOU CAN REMEMBER, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU VOTED SINCE GAINING THE RIGHT TO VOTE?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
In every possible election	99	9.9
In the majority of elections	101	10.1
In some elections	285	28.5
Never	297	29.7
I'm not old enough to vote	172	17.2
Don't know/No response	46	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**100. TO WHAT EXTENT, IN YOUR VIEW, DOES YOUR VOTE INFLUENCE THE WORK OF THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES?**

Count	Very much	To some extent	A little	Not at all	No response
The central government (parliament and the government)	97	241	232	262	168
Local government (akimats or maslikhats)	84	231	251	263	171

**TO WHAT EXTENT, IN YOUR VIEW, DOES YOUR VOTE INFLUENCE THE WORK OF THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES?**

Percentage	Very much	To some extent	A little	Not at all	No response
The central government (parliament and the government)	9.7	24.1	23.2	26.2	16.8
Local government (akimats or maslikhats)	8.4	23.1	25.1	26.3	17.1



**101. WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICAL EVENTS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
The Internet	605	60.5
Television	892	89.2
Daily newspapers	258	25.8
Radio	160	16.0
Foreign media	57	5.7
Regional media	131	13.1
Family discussions/conversations	331	33.1
I get information at school/college/university	91	9.1
Discussions/conversations with friends/relatives	160	16.0
Social networking sites	100	10.0
I'm not interested in political events	3	0.3
At work	2	0.2
No response	5	0.5

\* The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer

**102. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?**

<i>Count</i>	<i>Completely agree</i>	<i>Mostly agree</i>	<i>Mostly disagree</i>	<i>Completely disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Fairness is achieved when people have a similar standard of living	287	374	275	30	34
The difference in people's standard of living reflects their abilities and is therefore fair	176	464	265	52	43
The state should guarantee the poor a reasonable standard of living; the rich should share part of their wealth for the benefit of those less well off	362	378	191	32	37
The state should not interfere in the distribution of wealth; people are responsible for their own material well-being	156	345	397	65	37
The interests of society are more important than the interests of the individual	241	320	340	56	43
Individual rights are worth more than the collective interests of society	100	335	415	83	67
Society should live according to rules determined by the state	251	382	268	41	58
Society should be self-organised, and the state should merely provide the conditions for this	295	393	188	67	57
Freedom is more important than security	149	326	392	83	50
Security is more important than freedom	204	409	282	48	57



**TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?**

Percentage	Completely agree	Mostly agree	Mostly disagree	Completely disagree	Don't know
Fairness is achieved when people have a similar standard of living	28.7	37.4	27.5	3.0	3.4
The difference in people's standard of living reflects their abilities and is therefore fair	17.6	46.4	26.5	5.2	4.3
The state should guarantee the poor a reasonable standard of living; the rich should share part of their wealth for the benefit of those less well off	36.2	37.8	19.1	3.2	3.7
The state should not interfere in the distribution of wealth; people are responsible for their own material well-being	15.6	34.5	39.7	6.5	3.7
The interests of society are more important than the interests of the individual	24.1	32.0	34.0	5.6	4.3
Individual rights are worth more than the collective interests of society	10.0	33.5	41.5	8.3	6.7
Society should live according to rules determined by the state	25.1	38.2	26.8	4.1	5.8
Society should be self-organised, and the state should merely provide the conditions for this	29.5	39.3	18.8	6.7	5.7
Freedom is more important than security	14.9	32.6	39.2	8.3	5.0
Security is more important than freedom	20.4	40.9	28.2	4.8	5.7

**103. HOW WELL DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTED IN POLITICS? (YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLITICAL PARTIES, YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER NGOS)**

Count	Very well	To some extent	Poorly	Not at all	Don't know/ No response
Government entities	82	347	319	115	137
Political parties	72	334	320	117	157
NGOs	56	333	303	101	207

**HOW WELL DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTED IN POLITICS? (YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLITICAL PARTIES, YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER NGOS)**

Percentage	Very well	To some extent	Poorly	Not at all	Don't know/ No response
Government entities	8.2	34.7	31.9	11.5	13.7
Political parties	7.2	33.4	32.0	11.7	15.7
NGOs	5.6	33.3	30.3	10.1	20.7

**104. ON THE WHOLE, HOW FAR DO YOU TRUST THE ENTITIES LISTED BELOW – FULLY, TO SOME EXTENT, A LITTLE, OR NOT AT ALL?**

Count	Fully	To some extent	A little	Not at all	Don't know
Parliament	436	365	135	43	21
The President	646	210	102	25	17

The government	458	356	126	42	18
Local authorities/akimats	304	400	207	66	23
Political parties	240	405	220	104	31
The police	204	407	241	122	26
The army	312	324	221	109	34
The courts	214	379	254	114	39
The CSTO	183	396	242	88	91
The Eurasian Economic Union	203	425	218	75	79
Religious leaders	140	348	264	163	85
The media	152	435	266	91	56
Trade unions	133	346	260	149	112
Non-governmental organisations	120	324	272	147	137
Banks	115	336	312	150	87
The SCO	125	344	256	116	159

**ON THE WHOLE, HOW FAR DO YOU TRUST THE ENTITIES LISTED BELOW – FULLY, TO SOME EXTENT, A LITTLE, OR NOT AT ALL?**

Percentage	Fully	To some extent	A little	Not at all	Don't know
Parliament	43.6	36.5	13.5	4.3	2.1
The President	64.6	21.0	10.2	2.5	1.7
The government	45.8	35.6	12.6	4.2	1.8
Local authorities/akimats	30.4	40.0	20.7	6.6	2.3
Political parties	24.0	40.5	22.0	10.4	3.1
The police	20.4	40.7	24.1	12.2	2.6
The army	31.2	32.4	22.1	10.9	3.4
The courts	21.4	37.9	25.4	11.4	3.9
The CSTO	18.3	39.6	24.2	8.8	9.1
The Eurasian Economic Union	20.3	42.5	21.8	7.5	7.9
Religious leaders	14.0	34.8	26.4	16.3	8.5
The media	15.2	43.5	26.6	9.1	5.6
Trade unions	13.3	34.6	26.0	14.9	11.2
Non-governmental organisations	12.0	32.4	27.2	14.7	13.7
Banks	11.5	33.6	31.2	15.0	8.7
The SCO	12.5	34.4	25.6	11.6	15.9

**105. ON THE WHOLE, HOW HAPPY ARE YOU WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN KAZAKHSTAN?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Completely happy	98	9.8
Happy	423	42.3
Somewhat happy	256	25.6
Unhappy	48	4.8
Completely unhappy	4	0.4
Don't know/No response	171	17.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**106. PLEASE SAY WHETHER, IN YOUR VIEW, THE FOLLOWING GROUPS HAVE TOO MANY, ENOUGH OR NO RIGHTS.**

Count	<i>Too many rights</i>	<i>Enough rights</i>	<i>No rights</i>	<i>Don't know/No response</i>
Women	55	848	61	36
Ethnic minorities	65	715	139	81
Homosexuals/LGBT people	90	279	386	245
Disabled people	54	590	287	69
Poor people	36	556	339	69
Religious people	58	693	153	96

**PLEASE SAY WHETHER, IN YOUR VIEW, THE FOLLOWING GROUPS HAVE TOO MANY, ENOUGH OR NO RIGHTS.**

Percentage	<i>Too many rights</i>	<i>Enough rights</i>	<i>No rights</i>	<i>Don't know/No response</i>
Women	5.5	84.8	6.1	3.6
Ethnic minorities	6.5	71.5	13.9	8.1
Homosexuals/LGBT people	9.0	27.9	38.6	24.5
Disabled people	5.4	59.0	28.7	6.9
Poor people	3.6	55.6	33.9	6.9
Religious people	5.8	69.3	15.3	9.6

**GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**107. TO WHAT EXTENT, IN YOUR VIEW, DO THE FOLLOWING ISSUES POSE PROBLEMS FOR KAZAKHSTAN?**

Count	<i>Very much</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know/No response</i>
Increasing poverty	342	411	122	93	32
Unemployment	457	327	101	88	27
Environmental problems	355	388	157	71	29
Threats of terrorist attacks	140	333	271	220	36
The threat of the spread of HIV/AIDS	198	430	233	98	41
Workplace health and safety issues	121	381	324	124	50
Violations of the law	207	430	218	102	43
Freedom of movement	85	296	235	331	53
The threat of street crime	167	431	217	136	49
Narcotics	278	410	161	113	38
Kazakhstan splitting up (separatism)	72	288	249	312	79
Shortages of electricity, gas or water	130	311	231	271	57

**TO WHAT EXTENT, IN YOUR VIEW, DO THE FOLLOWING ISSUES POSE PROBLEMS FOR KAZAKHSTAN?**

Percentage	<i>Very much</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know/No response</i>
Increasing poverty	34.2	41.1	12.2	9.3	3.2
Unemployment	45.7	32.7	10.1	8.8	2.7

Environmental problems	35.5	38.8	15.7	7.1	2.9
Threats of terrorist attacks	14.0	33.3	27.1	22.0	3.6
The threat of the spread of HIV/AIDS	19.8	43.0	23.3	9.8	4.1
Workplace health and safety issues	12.1	38.1	32.4	12.4	5.0
Violations of the law	20.7	43.0	21.8	10.2	4.3
Freedom of movement	8.5	29.6	23.5	33.1	5.3
The threat of street crime	16.7	43.1	21.7	13.6	4.9
Narcotics	27.8	41.0	16.1	11.3	3.8
Kazakhstan splitting up (separatism)	7.2	28.8	24.9	31.2	7.9
Shortages of electricity, gas or water	13.0	31.1	23.1	27.1	5.7

#### 108. WHAT IS THE MOST SERIOUS ISSUE FACING KAZAKHSTAN TODAY?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Corruption	473	47.3
Unemployment	242	24.2
Poverty	80	8.0
Security issues	10	1.0
Ethnic and religious tension	18	1.8
Crime	32	3.2
Social security	55	5.5
Education	23	2.3
Job creation	29	2.9
Economic instability	1	0.1
We don't have any problems	1	0.1
Don't know/No response	36	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 109. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN KAZAKHSTAN?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Excellent	80	8.0
Good	764	76.4
Bad	122	12.2
Very bad	1	0.1
Don't know/No response	33	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 110. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
It will improve	558	55.8
It will stay the same	364	36.4
It will worsen	31	3.1
Don't know/No response	47	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**111. WHO DO YOU THINK IS MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
The President	562	56.2
The central government	259	25.9
Local leadership	73	7.3
The private sector	10	1.0
Foreign organisations	8	0.8
The urban population	19	1.9
Political parties	11	1.1
Everyone	3	0.3
Don't know/No response	55	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**112. WHAT DIRECTION, IN YOUR VIEW, IS KAZAKHSTAN HEADING IN?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
The right direction	299	29.9
Mostly the right direction	626	62.6
Mostly the wrong direction	35	3.5
The wrong direction	8	0.8
Don't know	4	0.4
Don't want to say	28	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**113. IF YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY, WOULD YOU PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN KAZAKHSTAN'S DEVELOPMENT?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Definitely	600	60.0
Only if it benefitted me personally	148	14.8
Never	100	10.0
Don't want to say	1	0.1
Don't know/No response	151	15.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## NATION AND THE WORLD

## 114. WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TO THE INTEGRATION PROCESSES INVOLVING KAZAKHSTAN (THE CREATION OF THE EURASIAN CUSTOMS UNION AND THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION)?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Positive	428	42.8
Mostly positive	481	48.1
Mostly negative	27	2.7
Negative	6	0.6
Don't know/No response	58	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 115. DO YOU THINK A CENTRAL ASIAN UNION INCLUDING KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN AND TURKMENISTAN NEEDS TO BE CREATED?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	626	62.6
No	265	26.5
Don't know/No response	109	10.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 116. DO YOU THINK IT WAS NECESSARY FOR KAZAKHSTAN TO JOIN THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	746	74.6
No	106	10.6
Don't know/No response	148	14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 117. WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK JOINING THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION WILL HAVE ON KAZAKHSTAN?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
It will lead to economic and political progress	550	55.0
It will lead to economic progress	240	24.0
It will lead to political progress	49	4.9
It won't change anything	55	5.5
It will lead to economic problems	9	0.9
It will lead to political problems	6	0.6
It will lead to economic and political problems	10	1.0
Don't know/No response	81	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 118. WITH WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU ASSOCIATE INTEGRATION INTO THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION?

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Freedom of movement and the removal of registration requirements	229	22.9
Fewer taxes on retail sales (abolition of customs duties)	211	21.1
Ease of obtaining residency/movement within EAEU member states	111	11.1
Benefitting from various subsidies, etc.	35	3.5



All of the above	309	30.9
Don't know	105	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**119. HOW WILL KAZAKHSTAN JOINING THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION AFFECT THE FOLLOWING?**

Count	Positively	Negatively	Not at all	Don't know/No response
Economic development	830	50	66	54
Foreign direct investment	697	72	137	94
Domestic politics	577	95	246	82
Stability	655	83	188	74
Human rights	575	68	273	84
Technological development	695	82	135	88
National values/identity	527	108	264	101

**HOW WILL KAZAKHSTAN JOINING THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION AFFECT THE FOLLOWING?**

Percentage	Positively	Negatively	Not at all	Don't know/No response
Economic development	83.0	5.0	6.6	5.4
Foreign direct investment	69.7	7.2	13.7	9.4
Domestic politics	57.7	9.5	24.6	8.2
Stability	65.5	8.3	18.8	7.4
Human rights	57.5	6.8	27.3	8.4
Technological development	69.5	8.2	13.5	8.8
National values/identity	52.7	10.8	26.4	10.1

**120. WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOTE IN A REFERENDUM ON KAZAKHSTAN'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Yes	496	49.6
No	121	12.1
Haven't decided	250	25.0
Don't know/No response	133	13.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**121. HOW PREPARED, IN YOUR VIEW, IS KAZAKHSTAN'S GOVERNMENT TO DEFEND ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS WITHIN THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION?**

Responses	Count	Percentage
Completely prepared	242	24.2
Mostly prepared	544	54.4
Mostly unprepared	57	5.7
Completely unprepared	57	5.7
Don't know/No response	100	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**122. WHAT SORT OF A RELATIONSHIP SHOULD KAZAKHSTAN SEEK TO HAVE WITH THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES OR ORGANISATIONS – CLOSER RELATIONS, MORE DISTANT RELATIONS, OR THE SAME AS NOW?**

Count	<i>Closer relations</i>	<i>More distant relations</i>	<i>The same as now</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Don't want to say</i>
Russia	720	45	205	5	25
The USA	183	400	354	9	54
Iran	150	298	479	14	59
The EU	376	177	389	10	48
Uzbekistan	298	173	466	11	52
NATO	150	341	418	27	64
India	198	188	544	13	57
The Eurasian Customs Union	489	113	335	15	48
Kyrgyzstan	350	142	441	13	54
China	307	154	485	10	44
Afghanistan	106	288	512	15	79
South Korea	208	196	524	13	59
Tajikistan	235	191	494	12	68

**WHAT SORT OF A RELATIONSHIP SHOULD KAZAKHSTAN SEEK TO HAVE WITH THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES OR ORGANISATIONS – CLOSER RELATIONS, MORE DISTANT RELATIONS, OR THE SAME AS NOW?**

Percentage	<i>Closer relations</i>	<i>More distant relations</i>	<i>The same as now</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Don't want to say</i>
Russia	72.0	4.5	20.5	0.5	2.5
The USA	18.3	40.0	35.4	0.9	5.4
Iran	15.0	29.8	47.9	1.4	5.9
The EU	37.6	17.7	38.9	1.0	4.8
Uzbekistan	29.8	17.3	46.6	1.1	5.2
NATO	15.0	34.1	41.8	2.7	6.4
India	19.8	18.8	54.4	1.3	5.7
The Eurasian Customs Union	48.9	11.3	33.5	1.5	4.8
Kyrgyzstan	35.0	14.2	44.1	1.3	5.4
China	30.7	15.4	48.5	1.0	4.4
Afghanistan	10.6	28.8	51.2	1.5	7.9
South Korea	20.8	19.6	52.4	1.3	5.9
Tajikistan	23.5	19.1	49.4	1.2	6.8

**123. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SHOULD KAZAKHSTAN LOOK TO IN TERMS OF ITS DEVELOPMENT?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Russia	467	46.7
The USA	79	7.9
Europe	192	19.2
China	95	9.5
Turkey	55	5.5
No one	22	2.2
Japan	5	0.5
The UAE	1	0.1



Singapore	1	0.1
Everyone	2	0.2
Don't know/No response	81	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**124. ARE YOU AFFECTED BY ANY CLASS DIVIDE IN SOCIETY?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes, constantly and very sharply in all areas of life	148	14.8
Sometimes, particularly in the area of...	150	15.0
No, not at all	651	65.1
Don't know	51	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**124.2 IN WHICH AREA?**

Only those respondents particularly affected by a class divide in a specific area were asked this question (150, or 15.0%)

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
In the public sphere	17	11.3
In education	9	6.0
In retail	6	4.0
At work	3	2.0
Among peers	1	0.7
In politics	1	0.7
In finance	1	0.7
Don't want to say	112	74.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**125. HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK BELONGING TO A JŪZ (HORDE) OR CLAN IS IN KAZAKHSTAN?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Very important	134	13.4
Fairly important	326	32.6
Fairly unimportant	270	27.0
Very unimportant	175	17.5
Don't know	95	9.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**126. HOW IMPORTANT IS BELONGING TO A CLAN, JŪZ OR KINSHIP SYSTEM TO YOU PERSONALLY?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Important	328	32.8
Unimportant	608	60.8
Don't know	64	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**127. IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES YOUR SEXUAL HISTORY?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
I have not had sexual intercourse	224	22.4
I have had sexual intercourse with one partner	194	19.4
I have had sexual intercourse with more than one partner	130	13.0
I do not feel comfortable talking about this topic	452	45.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**128. DO YOU USE CONTRACEPTIVES?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes, I use them regularly	117	36.1
Yes, I use them sometimes	99	30.6
No, I never use them	50	15.4
I do not feel comfortable talking about this topic	37	11.4
I don't know what contraceptives are	21	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**129. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT CHASTITY TODAY?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
It's a virtue/important quality for both sexes	264	26.4
It's a virtue/important quality for young women	434	43.4
It's a psychological burden for young people	64	6.4
It's an outdated concept	153	15.3
Don't know/No response	85	8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**130. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF NON-HETEROSEXUAL ORIENTATIONS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
I completely approve	20	2.0
I mostly approve	14	1.4
I feel neutral	334	33.4
I mostly disapprove	196	19.6
I completely disapprove	366	36.6
Don't know/No response	70	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**131. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ABORTION?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Abortion should be illegal in all circumstances	330	33.0
Abortion should be illegal except on medical grounds	318	31.8
Abortion should be legal	235	23.5
Don't know/No response	117	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## DEMOGRAPHICS

## D1. SEX

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Male	499	49.9
Female	501	50.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## D2. AGE

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	53	5.3
15	61	6.1
16	56	5.6
17	74	7.4
18	61	6.1
19	49	4.9
20	68	6.8
21	81	8.1
22	54	5.4
23	56	5.6
24	57	5.7
25	80	8.0
26	51	5.1
27	56	5.6
28	58	5.8
29	85	8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## D3. ETHNICITY

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Kazakh	637	63.7
Russian	308	30.8
Tatar	20	2.0
Uzbek	9	0.9
Uyghur	6	0.6
German	3	0.3
Bashkir	3	0.3
Turk	2	0.2
Azeri	2	0.2
Belarusian	2	0.2
Armenian	2	0.2
Ukrainian	2	0.2
Korean	2	0.2
Kurd	1	0.1
Chechen	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D4. EDUCATION**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Primary	27	2.7
Secondary (did not graduate)	167	16.7
Secondary	187	18.7
Vocational secondary	257	25.7
Higher (did not graduate)	148	14.8
Higher	210	21.0
Higher and postgraduate (PhD, Doctorate, etc.)	4	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D5. WHAT IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ACHIEVED BY YOUR PARENTS?****FATHER**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Primary	4	0.4
Secondary (did not graduate)	6	0.6
Secondary	308	30.8
Vocational secondary	369	36.9
Higher (did not graduate)	46	4.6
Higher	234	23.4
Higher and postgraduate	-	-
Not applicable/I don't have a father	33	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**MOTHER**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Primary	6	0.6
Secondary (did not graduate)	19	1.9
Secondary	301	30.1
Vocational secondary	330	33.0
Higher (did not graduate)	44	4.4
Higher	287	28.7
Higher and postgraduate	5	0.5
Not applicable/I don't have a mother	8	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D6. HAVE ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY OWNED A SMALL BUSINESS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	161	16.1
No	808	80.8
Don't know	31	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D7. WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATIONAL STATUS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Full-time employee	350	35.0
Part-time employee	65	6.5
Freelancer	4	0.4
Unemployed	68	6.8
Homemaker	72	7.2
Unfit to work	3	0.3
Student or school pupil	427	42.7
Farmer	3	0.3
Business owner	8	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D8. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO YOUR HOME?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
My family owns it	843	84.3
We rent it	98	9.8
It's owned by one of my relatives/a third party	45	4.5
It's a hall of residence	6	0.6
It's provided by my employer	2	0.2
Don't want to say	6	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D9. HOW MANY ROOMS ARE THERE IN YOUR FLAT/HOUSE?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1	60	6.0
2	223	22.3
3	288	28.8
4	204	20.4
5	128	12.8
6	46	4.6
7	32	3.2
8	7	0.7
Don't want to say	12	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D10. HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN YOUR FAMILY, INCLUDING YOU?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1	25	2.5
2	86	8.6
3	198	19.8
4	315	31.5
5	212	21.2
6	68	6.8
7	41	4.1
8	12	1.2
9	5	0.5
10	1	0.1
12	1	0.1
Don't want to say	36	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D11. WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Married	327	32.7
Divorced	29	2.9
Widow/widower	2	0.2
Cohabiting	15	1.5
Single	627	62.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D12: HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE (IF ANY)?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1	121	12.1
2	113	11.3
3	25	2.5
4	13	1.3
None	728	72.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**D13. WHICH OF THESE DO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY HAVE?**

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
A second home	75	7.5
A bank account	151	15.1
A credit or debit card	314	31.4
A mobile phone	931	93.1
A personal computer or laptop	760	76.0
An Internet connection at home	585	58.5
A bicycle	266	26.6
A motorbike	49	4.9



Pay TV (cable or satellite)	478	47.8
Books	682	68.2
Jewellery	549	54.9
A colour television	635	63.5
An LCD/plasma (flat screen) television	485	48.5
A video or DVD player	373	37.3
A digital camera or camcorder	352	35.2
An air conditioner	148	14.8
A dishwasher	104	10.4
A refrigerator	941	94.1
A washing machine	876	87.6
A car	420	42.0
The option of holidaying abroad	78	7.8
Livestock/animals for breeding	136	13.6

\*The total is not 100% as the respondents could choose more than one answer