

What may Influence European Citizen's Willingness to Provide Foreign Aid

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Abstract

This work has been done using 27 surveys from Euro barometer related to humanitarian and international aid. This article aims at first to assess whether there are any changes in the people's opinion regarding humanitarian aid from the European Union, and then, to analysis which aspects may influence the willingness of European citizens to provide aid in developing countries. The article shows significant results that the gender, educational level, job occupation, country of residence, and political orientation impact the European citizen's willingness to provide aid.

Keywords: *Aid - International Cooperation - Development- European citizens - Generosity - EURAROMETER*

Introduction

This article aims to analyze the sensitiveness of the EU citizens on Development Aid and Humanitarian Aid through a EURBAROMETER data analysis.

Development Aid is the transfer of funds and not only by developed countries to the developing ones to support the latter to exit by poverty through investment in infrastructure, capacity building, education, health system, etc. Humanitarian Aid is the support given by developed countries to developing countries in case of calamities. Development Aid defined as Official Development Assistance (ODA) by OECD is part of the support received by the developing countries such as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Remittances.

Development Aid goes back to the colonial period and particularly at the 1929 Colonial Development Act by the British Empire. Following then the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940. After then Development Aid is mainly related to the US foreign policy based on Truman Doctrine which led to the Marshall Plan and the Bretton Woods system (the UN system, based on the foundation of World Bank, IMF and the future WTO).

In 1968, McNamara became the head of the World Bank. He promoted the idea of using funds to meet individuals' basic needs: health, education, water, and sanitation. With this ideology, the vision of a fairer economic growth based on the reduction of poverty rather than assuming that if there is growth, everyone will benefit from it. Another important step was the development and enlargement of the then European Community to the UK and Ireland which raised the issue how to allow the Member States to keep their special relationship with their former colonies. Therefore, the European Community sets up its own agency in order to promote Development within the former European colonies. The enlargement to Portugal and Spain in the eighties increased the need of a development aid policy and practices.

By 2000, the UN adopted the Millennium Development Goals which set eight objectives to achieve by 2015. Furthermore, in 2015, a follow-up has been launched as Sustainable Development Goals which should be achieved by 2030. The EU adopted both.

Regarding the EU; the first office paper to set objectives within the Union is the treaty of Lisbon in 2009 which aimed to reduce poverty around the world. Moreover, the Union created the European consensus on development that aims to promote sustainable development in Europe and abroad. The European aid to third and developing countries consists in a multiannual aid decided in accordance with the European aid and European External Action Services (EEAS)². Overall, the EU Member States should provide 0,7% of their GNI to foreign aid.

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²The EEAS is the European Union's diplomatic service. It helps the EU's foreign affairs chief – the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – carry out the Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy-
https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/82/node/82_en

In pursuing its foreign aid policy, the EU aims to promote human rights, gender equality, democracy, the rule of law, access to justice and civil society, the Rights of the Child and Indigenous Peoples, protection of the environment, and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Nowadays the EU is the largest donor in the world through EUROPEAID and member States ODA (see figure) but of course the amount of money invested is and should everyday monitored and evaluated by the European taxpayers. Therefore, in developed countries becomes crucial to raise awareness about Development Aid through Development Education.

In 1975 UN defined Development Education as “the objective of Development Education (DE) is to enable people to participate of their community, their nation and the world as a whole. Such participation implies a critical awareness of local, national and international situations based on an understanding of the social, economic and political processes. DE is concerned with issues of human rights, dignity, self-reliance and social justice in both developed and developing countries, it concerned with the causes of under-development and the promotion of an understanding of what is development, and of the reasons for and ways of achieving a new international economic and social order. The objectives of DE can be achieved through formal and non-formal education but, in the formal context in particular, they inevitably imply fundamental educational reforms.”

The EU defined DE, on its Maastricht declaration of 2002, as “Global Education is education that opens people’s eyes and minds to the realities of the world, and awakens them to bring about a world of greater justice, equity and human rights for all. Global Education is understood to encompass Development Education, Human Rights Education, Education for Sustainability, Education for Peace and Conflict Prevention and Intercultural Education, being the global dimensions of Education for Citizenship.”

The European Confederation of Development and Relief NGOs (Concord) defines DE as “DE is an active learning process, founded on values of solidarity, equality, inclusion and co-operation. It enables people to move from basic awareness of international development priorities and sustainable human development, through understanding of the causes and effects of global issues to personal involvement and informed actions. Development Education fosters the full participation of all citizens in world-wide poverty eradication, and the fight against exclusion. It seeks to influence more just and sustainable economic, social, environmental, human rights based on national and international policies.”

Finally, the new European consensus on Development (2017) sets the objectives of DE as “The EU and its Member States will deepen their partnership with CSOs in support of sustainable development. They will promote an operating space and enabling environments for CSOs, with full public participation, to allow them to play their roles as independent advocates, implementers and agents of change, in development education and awareness raising and in monitoring and holding authorities to account. They will support CSO commitments to effective, transparent, accountable and results-oriented development co-operation.”

In this article, the question is whether is there any virtual circle based on citizens’ will on investing on Development Aid and Humanitarian Aid, planning the investment, monitoring and evaluating the investment and communicate the results to the European citizens. Therefore, it’s crucial to verify the will of the European citizens to support Development Aid based by the fact they are informed and they know what does Development Aid means and what kind of results are achieved.

This article aims to assess the evolution of the European citizens’ support to foreign aid over more than 30 years and to assess which aspects may influence their generosity towards developing countries. The hypothesis is that both individual and country-related factors may influence individuals’ willing to support foreign aid. This is an original research and as well as useful given the reduced EU citizen public support to the achievement of both the EU and UN goals.

This study is based on 21 Eurobarometer surveys led during the 1983 -2019 period; it covers the European countries, taking into account the endowment of the Union over this period. It is an innovative work that aims to enrich the existing literature on the subject and to support decision-makers in their choices and policy orientations. There is no existing study assessing and evaluating seven different parameters on foreign aid and doing so by taking four decades into account.

The analysis shows evidence that five over seven parameters tested have a significant impact on the European citizens’ support to provide aid to developing and third world countries. This study’s outcomes can be really useful for policymakers in their decisions and policy on development aid since it indicates which groups of individuals tend to be frugal; therefore, they could focus their policies more efficiently.

This paper is organized in five different sections; first, we will take a look at the existing literature review on this issue. Then we will present the methodology of the research. Then we will get into the details of the data before going to the results and finally, we will conclude and make some policy recommendations.

Literature review

International aid has become a major issue over the past decades. In order to face and act properly to nowadays challenges in developing countries international and national organizations have been created. This increasing complexity creating a need for policy-makers to understand how and in which extent citizens from Developed countries support foreign aid. As a matter of fact, public view regarding governmental spending is essential considering that foreign aid is in conflict with the cost supported by the citizens (Fearon 1994; Reiter and Stam 2002; Schultz 2001; Slantchev 2006; Trager and Vavreck 2011).

Since 1985 Mosley showed that citizens can influence states' determination of foreign aid both in terms of quantity and quality. This is a virtuous circle, indeed citizens' support toward foreign aid is also influenced by the image and trust they can have in the government and in the international institutions - the UN and its agencies (World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, etc), international and National NGOs. According to Brewer et al. (2004) when citizens think that public money is spent wisely they will be more disposed to support international aid, but if they feel like the money is spent in an inefficient way they will be more reluctant.

The first parameter which may influence the individual's willingness to provide financial aid to developing countries is age. Generally, younger people are more willing to support International Aid.

On the other hand, a larger number of studies show evidence that women are more generous than men, despite that there is no consensus regarding gender generosity.

Men and women think and behave differently; they have a different vision on government spending including on the allocation of international support (Kaufman, 2006). Togeby (1994) shows evidence that women are more supportive of aid to the developing world. This has been explained by scholars by the fact that women tend to have a more altruistic nature which influences their preferences on several aspects. This difference can also be associated with the fact that women are facing gender discrimination which makes them more generous and more inclined to provide aid (Kelan Lu and Marijke Breuning, 2014).

Pratto et al. (1997) postulate that men and women differ in how much they favor group hierarchy versus group equality therefore they tend to support policies that prone equality such as international aid. Erin Olsen-Telles (2013) shows evidence that women's preferences for aid are independent of their political orientation. The study shows that proportionally, women are always more willing to support foreign aid than military aid no matter their political orientations, while men will tend to support forceful policy without caring about popular opinion. Caprioli (2000, 2003, 2004) and Hudson et al. (2009/10) show evidence that women tend to bring more peace to foreign policy. Therefrom it might be beneficial to support the gender balance among policy-makers (Kelan Lu and Marijke Breuning, 2014).

Furthermore, women care more about the issues affecting other women and children. This has been explained by the fact that women's and men's roles in society have always been distinct and lead to different approaches regarding what is important or not. Based on Pratto et al., theory (1997) women are more likely to support policies that aim to help others rather than policies that may hurt other – i.e. military aid.

On the other hand, a few frameworks such as G.E. Bolton, E. Katok (1995), shown that males can be more generous than women. In this work, gender generosity has been evaluated in a laboratory tank to "dictator game". They found evidence that males are relatively more generous than women.

Individuals' appetite to generosity is complex; it starts alongside the process of socialization which is around 3 or 4 years old. During this period, children start to understand and to realize their particularities and privileges when they are confronted with other people. They understand that they grow in an economic model and specific culture which differ from others; they discover that in other cultures some things can be different.

From a sociological point of view, we can distinguish three different behaviors: generous, materialists, and frugal individuals. Frugal individuals are characterized by a willingness to restrain their purchases, where the generous individuals will tend to share their money and properties with others who might need it most. Finally, materialist people will try to grow their money and increase their proprieties as *status*. Furthermore, generosity is connected to altruism and prosocial behavior, which is far further than just the economical aspect. Then there is materialism; this mindset consists of individuals who want to become wealthy and increase their proprieties; Kasser (2002). The prominence of those attitudes evolves over time and cultures, but it isn't really impacted by age. P. Brañas-Garza, Juan C. Cárdenas et al. (2009) studied the determinants of individuals' generosity.

They found no significant results regarding the age variable which shows that age is not important in the determination of individual proportion to be generous. A good awareness of foreign and international issues, as well as developing countries, lead to higher support for foreign aid. This is explained by the fact that good knowledge helps individuals to shape their own opinion and then translate it in a consistent and meaningful political involvement. Therefore, when individuals get a deeper knowledge about other countries' difficulties and needs, they are likelier to support international aid. Taking this into consideration we should try to know what determines the audience's knowledge about the international situation.

Rich and educated individuals tend to have a better knowledge of politics and international news. This can be explained by considering political participation as a positional good accessible only to highly educated individuals. The existing "knowledge gap" between social groups may negatively impact individuals willing to provide aid.

If we pay attention to the way people get information, we can see that the information environment³ is related to the social group of the individual and varies with social groups. Tichenor, Donohue, and Olien (1970) show evidence that educated individuals are generally informed through newspapers while less-educated individuals are informed by media like television. There is also evidence that an increasing amount of information in society increases everyone's knowledge. Thus the information environment has the power to reduce the gap in knowledge within society - rich/poor and educated/uneducated. As a result of this, a higher level of information spread in the information environment may help the initially 'disadvantaged groups' to express their voices in a better way.

According to P. Brañas-Garza, Juan C. Cárdenas et al. (2009) better educated people are more generous. They also find out a positive relationship between the level of education and pro-social behavior which explains why more educated individuals tend to be more willing to support foreign aid.

Since international aid depends on political decisions, it is interesting to get a closer look at the influence of political preferences on the citizen's support for international aid. Studies have shown that political party affiliation can determine individuals' willingness to support International Aid. The first thing to point out is that a large share of the population believes that foreign aid is an international public good rather than a national public good. This perception shows that people don't feel really concerned about this issue, they tend to think that development aid isn't up to them.

Furthermore, a large number of individuals tend to brush this aside, they are more supportive of international aid when everything is alright in their own countries. This is explained by the fact that countries' macroeconomic situation influences people's willingness to provide aid - e.i. European citizens may be less willing to provide aid during and after the 2008 crisis, or right after the war, etc.

The research found some evidences that social redistribution is closely connected to political parties' affiliations. There is a popular idea that left-wing people care more about others than right-wing people. As a matter of fact, right-wing governments tend to provide lower financial support than left-wing governments. This is due to the fact that left ideology prone the redistribution because of limited trust in the market, while the right ideology is more supportive of aid for commercial and political self-interest. Left-wing parties are also likelier to provide funds for social programs with individuals who share their political ideas. This point is crucial since we are investigating parameters influencing individuals' support social towards financial aid to developing countries.

According to Christopher T. Dawes, Magnus Johannesson, et al (2012) we can divide individuals supporting social programs into two categories: the first one is the so-called "demand-side" supporting social programs because they are likely to benefit from it and then there is the "supply-side" which corresponds to the individuals supporting a high level of taxation because they want to help people in need. The first category corresponds to individuals interested in social programs, while the second category corresponds to what we can classify as generous individuals. The study highlight that political values affiliation is not only connected to self-interest but also to the individuals' generosity. Indeed, some people where individuals are ready to give up a part of their consumptions -disposable income- to be consistent with their political ideas.

Finally, a polarization of the living area according to individuals' political ideas has been observed. Individuals tend to be influenced by their neighbors and by the people they interact with. Furthermore, people like to live with people having the same political orientation as they do.

³Area or support where individuals access to news

The willingness to provide aid and more specifically to support international aid is closely connected to individuals' incomes; some researchers suggest that individuals' attitudes are determined by their status. This correlation has been investigated by Hamill, Lodge, and Blake (1985). They find that high-income people have a higher propensity to take risks encouraging trusting and altruistic behaviors. Chong and Gradstein (2006) study also show evidence that supports foreign aid increases with income and low incomes individuals tend to be less generous. P. Brañas-Garza, Juan C. Cárdenas et al. (2009). Their study display that rich individuals are more generous than individuals who need money-results are more significant for men.

Additionally, individuals' job occupations are likely to influence their support for foreign aid. It seems that more qualified jobs tend to bring higher income individuals, therefore, higher qualified persons might be more willing to provide aid to foreign countries.

One of the parameters determining incomes is the area of living; a larger share of the poor income population lives in rural areas. Income-gap between rural and urban areas can lead to differences in individuals' views regarding government expenses. For those who are in need or lacking money, it is likelier that they would not support foreign aid because they would prefer being supported by the government. On the other hand, if individuals are wealthy, they tend to be more generous and supportive of foreign aid.

There are not many existing studies on the income differences between urban and rural areas in Europe, Johan F.M. Swinnen (2007) provides some insights about urban-rural income differences as well as the evolution of the incomes over a certain period of time. The study evaluates poverty in urban and rural areas with the number of rural households with income levels below the international poverty line as an indicator. They find out that rural income poverty is significantly higher than urban income poverty. They also observed that poverty has been decreasing in both rural and urban areas since 1998, but rural poverty does not catch-up with the urban area.

Moreover, poor income individuals have difficulties to afford educational experiences and thus there is a significant impact on their level of education. The environment has a major impact on students' achievements. Therefore; in addition to facing an income gap compared with individuals living in urban areas, those living in rural areas tend to experience disparities to access education and information. Because of this, they tend to provide less generosity toward aid to developing countries than individuals living in urban areas - William L. Bainbridge and Thomas J. Lasley II (2016).

Finally; Mark Shucksmith, Stuart Cameron, Tanya Merridew, and Florian Pichler (2007), show evidence that the urban-rural gap is lower in richer European countries than in European countries with lower incomes (Easter-south countries).

Round and Odedokun (2004) analyzed the correlation existing between country size and their support for foreign aid. The study displays that large countries could be able to realize economies of scale - regarding the administrative costs of aid- therefore they are likelier to provide aid to foreign countries. On the other hand, Bertoli et al. (2008) found evidence large and heterogeneous countries tend to have a smaller social cohesion. As a result, they are less generous and thus less disposed to redistribute income and foreign aid. Moreover, the literature on aid showed that the allocation of funds is connected to the colonies. Therefore, countries with former colonies are likely to provide aid to those colonies (such as Alesina and Dollar 2000 or Alberto Alesina, David Dollar 1998). Indeed, countries such as Germany, France, and Great-Britain started to provide financial aid to their former colonies in Africa, Latin America, and Asia by the 1920'-30'. Alberto Alesina, David Dollar (1998) also provides the support that Nordic European countries usually provide aid on "rational" ground such as the level on the income of the potential recipient countries while the USA will orient their aid in accordance to potential Middle East interest and France will provide aid to its former colonies. According to Noël and Thérien (1995), areas where social spending and redistribution at home are significant, are more likely to be strongly involved in international development cooperation.

Other studies display that colonial countries natives have a good awareness of the development/international issues, they tend to be more informed than non-colonial countries about the event in the world and the difficulties and inequalities they are facing-colonized/not colonized world. This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that they feel a great responsibility towards those countries.

To conduct this study, we used Eurobarometer data; initiated by Jacques-René Rabier in the EU. Eurobarometer survey are of two types, the standard one which gather data on main EU issues (EU, monetary union, environment, energies, cancer, health, poverty, racism, etc) and run two times per year and special ones such as Development Aid and Humanitarian Aid. The first Eurobarometer survey occurred in 1974. Reports are used by policy makers, decision makers and opinion makers. Data are mainly used by researchers.

The methodology of the research

This work aims to evaluate individuals' support for developing and third world countries. To do so, we analysed data at an individual level and over 36 years -from 1983 to 2019. It is based on 21 Eurobarometer surveys, respectively number n°20, 28, 36, 44.1, 46, 50.1, 58.2, 62.2, 71.2, 73.5, 77.4, 79.4, 82.1, 84.4, 86.3, and 89.3 for the surveys on international aid and the number 65.4, 73.2, 77.1, 83.2 and 91.5 for the surveys that were more focused on humanitarian aid -see figure n°1.

In our model, the dependent variable corresponds to a question common to all the surveys which is: 'Is it important to help the people in poor countries in Africa, South America, Asia, etc. so that they can develop?'. The interviewed individuals had to choose among four possible answers, respectively 'very important', 'important', 'not very important' or 'not important at all'. To work more easily with this variable, we have chosen to specify it as a dummy variable taking the value of 1 when individuals are willing to help developing countries and 0 for the individuals who answered 'not very important' and 'not important at all'.

This work aims to explain which parameter determines the European citizen's support of humanitarian and international aid. According to the literature review, some parameters can explain EU citizens' generosity and therefore their willingness to aid developing countries. Those parameters are: the individuals' gender, age, education level, their political orientation, as well as their job occupation, area of living, and finally its country of origin. Therefore, we decided to run this logistic regression:

$$Y(x) = \beta_{gender}(i) + \beta_{age}(i) + \beta_{education\ attainment}(i) + \beta_{political\ orientation}(i) + \beta_{job\ occupation}(i) + \beta_{area}(i) + \beta_{country}(i) + \varepsilon(i)$$

II.1 Hypothesis

Once the explanatory variable of the model as well as the dependent variables were defined, we made seven hypotheses about it. Those hypotheses are based on the literature review and will be assessed later with the regression model.

H1: Females are more willing to provide aid than males

H2: Younger people are more likely to provide aid

H3: More educated people are the more willing to provide aid

H4: People matching left ideas are more likely to be sensitive to International Aid

H5: Individuals performing qualified work are more open to International Aid

H6: Individuals living in cities are more likely to support International Aid than the others

H7: European citizens from the South MSs should be more willing to provide aid than others

II.2 Description of the Hypothesis

The first hypothesis is related to individuals' **gender**. We assume that women should be relatively more inclined than men to provide aid to third and developing countries. Despite the absence of consensus among the scientific community regarding gender generosity, we have chosen to set this hypothesis taking into account that there are more studies providing evidence that women are more generous than men.

We specified this variable as a dummy one, therefore if the logistic regression coefficient is higher than 1 it would mean that men are more supportive of foreign aid than women. In that case, we would reject our hypothesis that women tend to be more generous than men. If on the contrary, the coefficient is lower than 1, it would mean that our hypothesis is correct and that women are more altruistic than men (see annex n°5).

Regarding the **age** variable, we assume that the older the European citizens are, the less they would be inclined to provide aid. Indeed, we assume that younger people tend to be more world-oriented and altruistic than older one. To that extent, if we observe that age-2 and age-3 categories have a high odd ratio while the other age categories have a lower odd ratio, our hypothesis would be verified (see annex n°5).

Considering the **educational attainment** aspect, we assume that highly educated individuals will be more inclined to provide aid to third-country. Indeed, the support of individuals towards international aid is closely related to their knowledge about those countries -which is correlated to the educational level.

Following our hypothesis, less educated individuals should have a low odd ratio. Moreover, we expect to observe an increase in the odds ratio for better-educated individuals. If this phenomenon is observed, our hypothesis regarding the impact of the education level on the support for international aid will be accepted. On the contrary, if we observe the opposite phenomenon, the hypothesis will be rejected (see annex n°5).

Regarding the **political orientation**, left-oriented individuals are known to support social policies, which increases their likelihood to encourage international aid. Our hypothesis sets that individuals who identify themselves as right-oriented should be less supportive of international aid. We expect to see different trends according to the political parties. The left-oriented individuals should have the highest odds ratio, the centre-oriented odd ratios around 1 and finally, right-oriented individuals should have odds ratios below 1. If this is observed, it will mean that our hypothesis is verified. If the opposite results are observed it means that our hypothesis is wrong. Therefore, we would have to reject it (see annex n°5).

Jb occupation variable is highly correlated to the educational variable and income one. Therefore, it's crucial to avoid autocorrelation effect within these three variables. Indeed, the analysis of the effect of educational attainment, income and job occupation on the willing to support International are taken into account separately. Thus, the hypothesis is that less qualified workers are less supportive of international aid than highly-qualified workers. If the coefficient for the highly qualified job is higher than 1 and smaller for less qualified jobs and unemployed individuals; it would mean that our hypothesis regarding job occupation is verified. If the opposite results are observed it would mean that our hypothesis on job occupation is wrong, thus individuals working in less qualified jobs are less likely to support developing countries than individuals working in more qualified jobs (see annex n°5).

Place of living take into account if people living in rural areas should be less supportive of aid than people living in cities and metropolitan areas. In accordance to the literature, living in cities tend to have higher incomes and thus better access to knowledge which increases the probability that they are supportive of foreign aid policies. If the results show that the rural-area category has a low coefficient and urban-area one has a higher odd ratio, it would mean the results match the hypothesis. Therefore, setting that individuals who live in small-towns are less supportive of financial aid for developing countries than individuals living in bigger cities. If the results differ from this, it would mean that the hypothesis regarding the area of living is not correct and that individuals living in small cities are more likely to provide aid than individuals living in bigger cities (see annex n°5).

Finally, the country variable analysis whether, according to the literature, EU citizens from the South and East of the EU should be more willing to provide aid than other EU-citizens. indeed, Northern-countries should be more frugal since they have a homogeneous population that didn't have any colonies. On the other hand, France and Southern countries share a history with colonies. Thus they are used to provide funds to their former colonies -which correspond to the currently developing countries. Furthermore, the existing literature review displays that citizens from colonial countries feel indebted towards their former colonies. If we observe that indeed the coefficient of Southern and Eastern countries is high and positive and that the coefficient of other countries is below 1 it means that our hypothesis is verified. Therefore, we would accept the hypothesis regarding the countries variable. If on the contrary, the results are different from this, it would mean that our hypothesis is not correct and we cannot accept it -see annex n°5.

The data has been analysed using a logistical model.

Description of the data

Taking into account the analysis and the results, we decided to present the results in a manner that it allows to be more comprehensive by qualitative experts as well as -see Figure 2.

The first explanatory variable is gender. In all the questionnaires, individual were asked if they are male or female. In order to use this variable in the regression and for easier analysis, we will treat it as a dummy variable which takes 0 if it is a female and 1 if it is a male. As you can see in annex 1, the gender repartition in the surveys is quite homogenous. There is always a little bit more females than males because the surveys aim to introduce a representative sample of the Union. Indeed, there are more women than men in the European Union.

The second explanatory variable we decided to look at in order to explain what may influence the willingness of individuals to provide aid to developing countries is the age of the individual. We defined the individuals' ages in six categories, one category corresponding to a decade -see figure below. Then, we decided to add the educational attainment as the explanatory variable. This variable has been specified in four different categories describing the level of education of European citizens. The first category is "Primary education" which corresponds to the individuals who got an education from 6 to 11 years old. The second classification is called "Secondary education", this corresponds to the individuals who stopped going to school between 12 and 16 years

old. Then we have “High school”, which corresponds to the individuals who got an education up to high school this corresponds to the individuals who went the high school until they were 17 to 19 years old. Finally, we have the last category which is called “Higher education”; this corresponds to the individuals who went to university and obtained a college degree.

As you can see in the annex 2, it is interesting to observe the evolution of the educational level of European citizens over the years. Notice that that the proportion of individuals who obtained a college degree is more consistent in 2019 $-16,040/26,731= 60\%$ - than in 1976 $-2,036/8,353= 24\%$. This significant increase of individuals with a college degree should be taken into consideration for the analysis in order to find out if European citizens increase their willingness to provide aid.

The political orientation variable was classified from 1 to 10- see annex n°3- with 1 corresponding to a left-oriented individual and 10 right. We decided to specify this variable, this way, people who answered 1 and 2 are categorized as “Left”, those who said 3 and 4 correspond to “Middle left”; those who answered 5 and 6 corresponds to the “Centre”; 7 and 8 are “Middle right” and finally 9 and 10 corresponds to “Right” oriented individuals. The repartition of individuals according to their political orientation is quite constant over time -annex n° 4.

Regarding job occupation; we have chosen to add the job occupation variable with the C-14 classification. But since this classification didn't exist until 1991 we have decided to use the available data for those surveys. In this [C-14 job classification](#)⁴, we have the “Self-employed” category which corresponds to the farmer, fishermen, professional -lower, etc.-, owner of shops, and business professionals. The second category is the “Managers”; it includes employed professionals, general management, and middle management. The “Other white collars” include employed positions, office workers, and employed position at traveling. Another category is the “House person” which corresponds to people who don't have a job occupation and who are in charge of the house, grocery, cleaning, etc. Then there is the “Unemployed” category, for people who don't have an occupation but who are looking for one. Also, the “Retired” amount of old individuals who don't work anymore. And finally, there is the “Students” category which corresponds to all the individuals who are still studying.

The area of living has been divided into 3 categories; rural area/ villages; small and middle town, and finally large towns. Information are based on the questionnaire provided by the Eurobarometer and the definition of villages, small town as well as large town is left to the interviewed individual. Due to this, there might be some wrong answers; furthermore, it is possible that the definition of a big city differs both within a nation and across Europe. To this extent, we must be careful when analysing this variable and keep in mind the subjectivity of the answer.

Finally, we added as explanatory variable the country of residence of the interviewed. It is important to point out that this study is covering a large period over which the Union has enlarged; therefore, the number of countries in the analysis has evolved. We have included seven categories of countries. The first one is “France”. We have chosen to treat this country individually because it is a particular one, between continental and southern countries. The second one is the “British EU” which is composed of Ireland and the UK. Then we have “Scandinavians countries”; which includes Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland -in only one survey. Another category is “South countries”. This category includes Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Croatia, and Malta. Then we have “Continental countries” which include the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Austria. The sixth category is “Eastern countries”, with Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Romania. Finally, the last category is “South-East countries”, which corresponds to Turkey, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Serbia, and Cyprus TCC -present in only one survey.

Main findings

First, the results confirm the appropriateness of the model; in fact, performing a chi2 test, the theoretical framework is confirmed. Indeed most of our results are significant with a 5% or 1% confidence which means that the model has been correctly specified. After we have run all the regressions and tested for the significance of the result we collected the odds ratio data in order to have readable and understandable results translated into a chart - see below/annex. The first parameter we tested for is the one for gender -figure n°4- which has been specified as a dummy variable taking the value of 1 for men and 0 for women. According to our results, women tend to be more generous than men when it comes to providing financial support to developing countries. indeed, if men were more generous than women, the odds would be greater than one, if men and women were as generous, the odds would be equal to 1. But the results provided odds below 1 during the analyzed period meaning that women are more generous than men.

⁴<https://ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/occupation?resetLanguage=true&newLanguage=en>

Additionally, we observe that the gender gap generosity toward international aid is getting bigger over time. In 1983, odds equal 0.89 while in 2019 they decreased to 0.80. This result shows that over this period of time, men became 0.10 times less likely to provide international support compared to women. Another interesting aspect to point out is that during macroeconomic shocks; both men and women get even less inclined to support international aid. This is visible with the consequent drops in 1993, 2008, 2015 which were three major macroeconomic shocks. However, this aspect should be further analyzed with an appropriate model in which will be crucial to add some macroeconomic variables.

Our results are in accordance with the majority of the studies that have been done regarding men's and women's generosity. Finally, considering our results for this variable we can accept our first hypothesis that women tend to be more generous than men regarding international support.

The second parameter we tested is the **age** variable, with six different categories -see figure n° 5. According to our hypothesis, we expected to observe young citizens being more supportive of international aid compared to older European citizens, but this is not what we observed. As you can see in the figure 5; there is no real trend in the age categories. We can see that macroeconomic issues impact all individuals' support for international aid no matter which age category they belong to. However, we notice that in 1996 the age 6 category was the less generous one, with 0.5 times less likely to provide aid compared to the benchmark, while in 2009 this age category was almost 1.6 times more likely to provide aid compared to the age1 category. This phenomenon is observed in all the categories, therefore our results indicate that the age variable is not really determinant in EU citizen's support for foreign aid. Therefore, we have to reject our hypothesis regarding the age variable that youth EU citizens are more willing to provide aid to developing and third countries.

The third variable analyzed is the **educational attainment**; our results are in line with the work done by P. Brañas-Garza, Juan C. Cárdenas et al. (2009) stating that more educated individuals tend to be more generous. Notice that over the analyzed period, the highly educated individuals are always likelier than primary educated individuals to provide aid -green line/ figure n°6. The high school category is also more willing to provide support to developing countries on average between 1 to 2.5 times likely to support international aid than "primary educated" individuals. Finally, individuals with secondary level are more or less as likely to provide aid as primary educated individuals.

Furthermore; an interesting aspect to notice is that the different trends seem to converge around 1-1.5 for all the categories: secondary, high-school, higher education. This means that education has an impact, but this tends to be harmonized over time; this can be due to the fact that over the past decades news have become more and more accessible with the television for instance. Therefore, it is easier to access national and international news in 2019 compared to the 1980s. Since the support for international aid depends on individuals' knowledge about the situation in foreign countries; those results may illustrate a decrease in the "knowledge gap" among educational categories.

Finally, we observe that overall, the willingness to support international aid tends to decrease over time. Indeed, the likelihood to provide aid decreased significantly for all the categories; from 2.4 in 1983 for the high school to 1.8 in 2019; 1.6 for high-school to 1.2 in 2019 and from 1.5 in 1994 for secondary to 1 in 2019. Despite further research are needed on those results however they can be evaluated in two different ways. The first one is that individuals tend to be less and less altruistic over time. The other possible explanation consists in assessing that the rise in the amount of money provided to developing countries led to a decrease of interest by the European citizens to support them, they could consider that the Union has already done enough.

According to the results, it seems that the educational level has a great impact on individuals' support to international aid. Indeed, higher educated individuals are likelier to support international aid than less educated individuals, therefore the hypothesis that higher educated individuals are more inclined to support foreign aid is verified; despite the fact that the results tend to converge in the last years.

Another variable we tested is the **political orientation** of the interviewed and its impact on individuals' generosity. This parameter is crucial considering that the international aid provided to developing countries is a political decisions. Our results are in line with the existing literature review that right parties tend to be more frugal than left-wing parties -Christopher T. Dawes, Magnus Johannesson, et al (2012). indeed, the results provide evidence that left-wing individuals tend to be more generous than right-wing individuals.

As you can see in figure n°7, there is a clear trend in accordance with the political parties. Particularly, the "middle left" category is more willing to provide support compared to the "right parties" individuals. Indeed, in 2002 the right-wing individuals were about 0.4 times likely to support international aid compared to the left-wing individuals.

Notice that right-wing individuals tend to be more sensitive to macroeconomic hit; particularly, we can observe that after the 2008 crisis they were as supportive as left-wing parties to international aid. We can also notice a small increase in their support with the migrant crisis in 2015. We observe that centrist individuals seem to be quite sensitive to macroeconomic events, indeed with the 2008 financial crisis they became as supportive of foreign aid as the left-wing individuals and this is also clear with the migrant crisis, where their likelihood to support international comes from 0.8 in 2014 to a little bit more than 1 in 2016.

Finally, we didn't notice any significant changes in the EU citizen's support for international aid over time. Indeed we can see that individuals -according to their political orientation - were as supportive of international aid in 2019 as there were in 1983. Overall, we observe that individuals belonging to the right and middle-right category are less supportive of the international aid compared to the left and middle-left

Regarding the **area of living**, we observe that from 1983 to 1994 individuals living in small-town tend to be likelier to provide international support. We can observe in the figure n°8 the blue line is over the red one; then from 1994 to 2002, we can observe the opposite trend; where individuals living in an urban area tend to be more willing to provide support compared to individuals living in a rural area - 1.3 times likelier in 1994. Then from 2002 according to our results individuals living in smaller areas became more supportive of international aid, with the highest probability in 2016 with an odds ratio equal to 1.2. There is no clear trend within the different categories in this variable. Furthermore, the results are very close to 1 which means that there are no significant differences in the willingness to support international aid between urban and rural areas. Moreover, the variable did not provide significant results which means that the impact of this variable in individuals' generosity is not determinant. For all of those reasons, is not possible to accept the hypothesis formulated that individuals living in big cities are likelier to provide funds than individuals living in a small area.

Regarding the **job occupations**, we set the hypothesis that individuals in high-skilled job occupations are likelier to provide aid than individuals who are in lower positions. According to our results, there are three distinctive trends; on the one hand we have the managers and the students who are likelier to support international aid and on the other hand we have the professionals, white-collars, house persons, business professionals. Finally, the last category is composed of manual workers, retired and unemployed- see figure n°10.

We observe that the first category is highly supportive of international aid, they are on average 1.5 times likelier to support this kind of policy compared to the self-employed; while the second job category is as supportive of international aid as the self-employed -add ratio around 1. Finally, the last job category is the less supportive. This is confirmed by the results, in fact, most of the time the odds ratios are below one for those job occupations.

According to those results, it seems that the job occupation has a significant impact on the individual's willingness to support international aid which is in line with Hamill, Lodge, and Blake's (1985) work. Indeed, our findings show three different trends according to individuals working position where the more supportive individuals correspond to the more qualified/high-skilled jobs and the category less supportive correspond to the individuals with low-skilled occupations.

We can point out that students' willingness to support international aid reaches the maximum with the migrant crisis. Considering that students who are educated have a good knowledge of the international news this increasing their willingness to provide support can be easily connected to their knowledge of other countries' needs. On the other hand, we notice that professionals and white collars will to support International aid tended to be impacted in a greater extent by the 2008 crisis. In fact; before the crisis, they were as generous as self-employed individuals; with the crisis, we can observe a tendency where they become less supportive of international aid, on average 0.5 times less than the benchmark. This result is in line with Chong and Gradstein's (2006) work, stating that the willingness to support international aid evolved with respect to individuals' conditions.

Finally, regarding the **country category**, we observe that British-EU and southern EU countries are the most willing to support aid, while France, continental countries, and Scandinavian countries are less willing to provide aid.

In Figure n° 11 there are two distinct trends, the first one includes South countries, British-EU and Scandinavian countries. The other one includes France, Continental countries, Eastern-countries. It clearly appears that the first category of countries is more supportive of international aid. 2004, Southern countries were 6 times more willing to provide financial support than the other countries, while the same year continental countries were twice less supportive of international aid. However, another country category; continental countries is showing more reticence to support developing and third countries.

We can also analyze the results over time; indeed, those findings seem to be confirmed until the 2008 financial crisis when all the countries seem to converge. From 2009 we do not observe differentiated trends in the countries willing to support international aid within all the countries odd ratios converging in between 1 and 2.

Considering these results, we will accept our hypothesis that EU citizens coming from southern countries are more supportive of international aid than other countries.

In conclusion, the results provide a deeper understanding of the determinant of European citizen's support for international aid. The model provided significant results and five out seven hypotheses have been confirmed by the data. The study provides evidence that the gender, education, political orientation, job occupation and country of residence are determinant in EU citizens willingness to support international aid.

Furthermore, the results reveals a correlation between the amount-quality of information individuals get regarding the global news and particularly third and developing countries and their support for international aid. Therefore, individuals need more and reliable information. Indeed, the study reveals that more educated individuals and students, as well as highly-qualified individuals, tend to be more willing to provide financial support for international aid and this without any link with the political party they belong to, nor the area they live in. This category of individuals also corresponds to the individuals who are the most informed about international news.

We've also given evidence that age does not influence individuals' decisions to support or not international aid; this is really important for the policymaker. Indeed, when they will inform the individuals about the situation in developing and third countries, they will have to do it in a uniform way among all the ages categories. However, age such as some other aspects of the analysis need further improvement of the model. Particularly, it might be needed a pooled analysis to analyze in-depth the between and within impacts of the analysis and/or there might needed more robust test analysis.

Conclusion

This study aims try to shed some lights on the determinants of EU citizens' support for international aid. To do this, we worked on 21 Eurobarometer surveys. We assessed the European citizens' generosity over 36 years and according to seven parameters: gender, age, education level, political orientation, job occupation, area of living, and the country of origin.

This study provides good and significant results. In fact, among the seven hypothesis we formulated initially five of them have been accepted. We observe that the results do not vary significantly with the variables: for instance, highly educated individuals were more inclined to provide international aid 36 years ago and they still are the most supportive of it in 2019. These same trends can be observed over the years and, this in all the variables that were analysed. This is an important issue, which will be discussed later on in the recommendation part.

Some useful recommendations for further researches to get a better picture of the context, it would be worth taking into account some external determinants such as GDP, income per capita, and migration flows in the EU. Another interesting aspect that may be taken into consideration for future research is the birth rate in the European countries. In fact, some existing work displays that having children may positively impact individuals' generosity Pratto et al., theory (1997). Finally, it would be recommendable to go towards a pooled analysis in order to obtain more accurate results.

According to the literature review in the additional information provided in this study, some useful recommendations may be given to policy makers, decision makers and opinion makers on Development Education.

The first thing that became obvious with this study is that the more the individuals are informed about the situation in developing and third-world countries, the likelier they are to provide international aid. Andreas Fuchs, Axel Dreher, and Peter Nunnenkamp (2012) show that the countries willing to support foreign aid depend on their perception of the needs of the receiving country. To that extent, there might be a need for more transparency from the organization and policy-makers regarding the use of taxpayer money for the developing countries' needs and how the European funds are allocated to those countries. Therefore, EU citizens might be more willing to provide aid. Indeed, we highlighted that better educated and individuals with higher incomes - who have better access to knowledge - tend to be more inclined to provide international aid than less educated and low-income individuals. Additionally, it has been shown that, in general, citizens appreciate knowing what is done with the public money. When they have a better idea of the government and institutions' actions, they are more truthful. To that extent, we propose that the competent organisation increases the flow of information to targeted groups of individuals. For instance, about International Aid, might be: why? what? how? how much? To

which countries, which target groups and at which aim. More transparency would increase EU citizens' trust in international and European organizations. Additionally, with more information about the situation in developing and third world countries, they should be more supportive of international and humanitarian aid.

Then the question is how should we increase the awareness of international and European actions in the world? Based on the existing literature, it seems that less-educated individuals get informed through the TV thus increasing information campaigns-advocacy on TV should help reaching the targeted individuals.

Another aspect that might be exploited is to show to far-right-oriented individuals that the EU may benefit from supporting those countries from the social and economic point of view. Furthermore, it seems that the decision to support development aid by the EU-Nordic member States citizens is a rational decision -based on country indicators- Alberto Alesina, David Dollar (1998). Therefore, a campaign of information or advocacy should differ across the union according to the cultural differences.

Overall, this study displays the need to increase the altruistic vision across the EU, eventually, this aspect could become part of the European Identity.

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Annex:

	Year	Number of observation	Number of country
International aid			
20	1983	8,353	11
28	1987	10,8837	13
36	1991	10,837	14
44,1	1995	19,716	13
46	1996	9,233	16
50,1	1998	13,264	16
58,2	2002	12,465	16
62,2	2004	19,759	28
71,1	2008	22,995	31
73,5	2010	26,132	28
76,1	2011	21,019	27
77,4	2012	20,705	28
79,4	2013	27,239	29
82,1	2014	20,407	29
84,4	2015	20,952	29
86,3	2016	86,18	29
89,3	2018	10,254	28
Humanitarian aid			
65,4	2006	26,132	28
73,2	2010	26,361	29
77,1	2012	21,961	28
91,5	2019	26,731	33

Figure n° 1: Presentation of the surveys

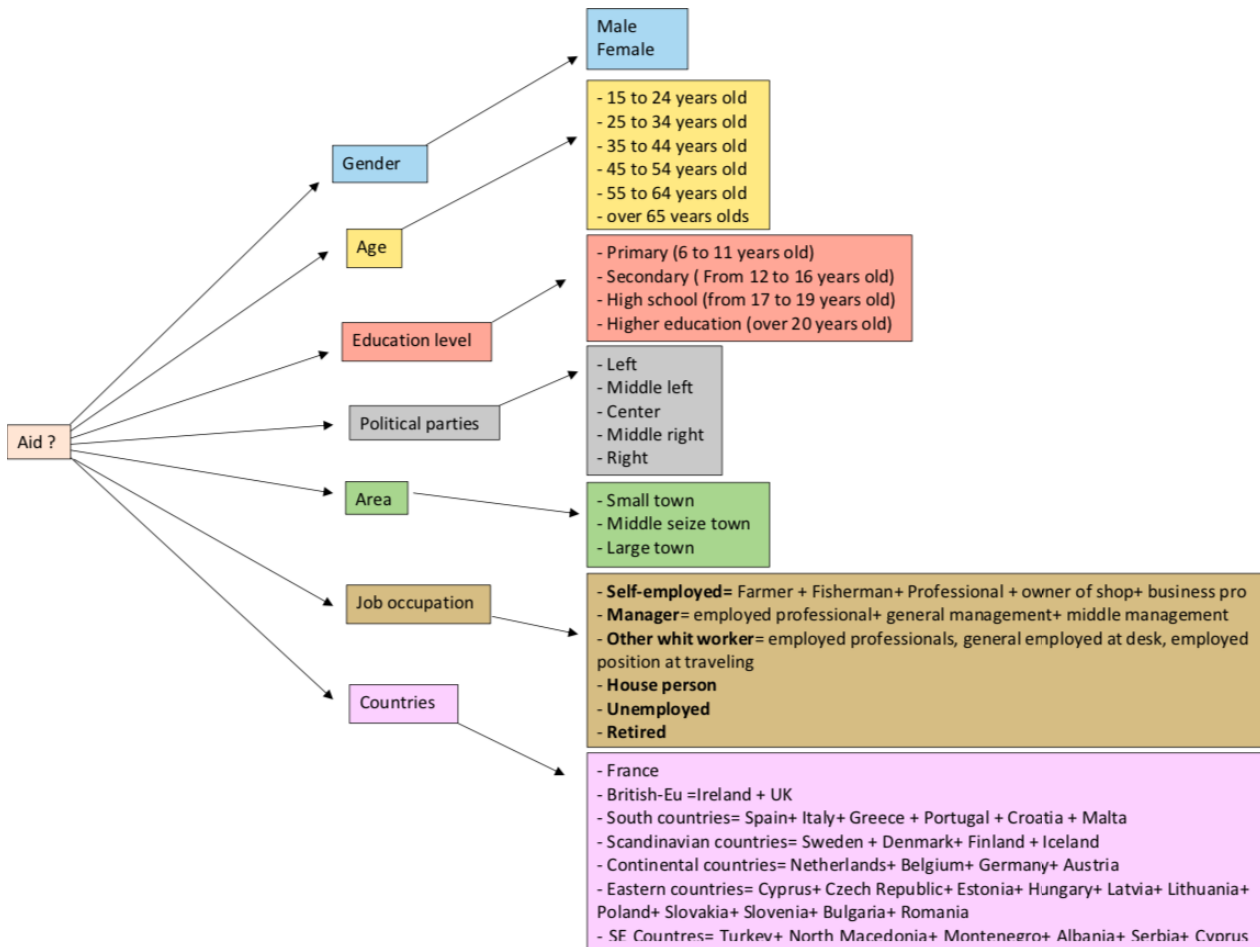


Figure n°2: Illustration of the variables specifications

Name	Category	Frequency
Age1=Benchmark	15-24 years old	13,35 %
Age2	25 to 34 years old	16,29 %
Age3	35 to 44 years old	17,13 %
Age4	45 to 54 years old	16,41 %
Age5	55 to 64 years old	15,58 %
Age6	Over 65 years old	20,8 %

Figure n° 3: Table of the age category for the regression

Data on the dependent variable percentage
 Data on age, qualification and countries are needed.

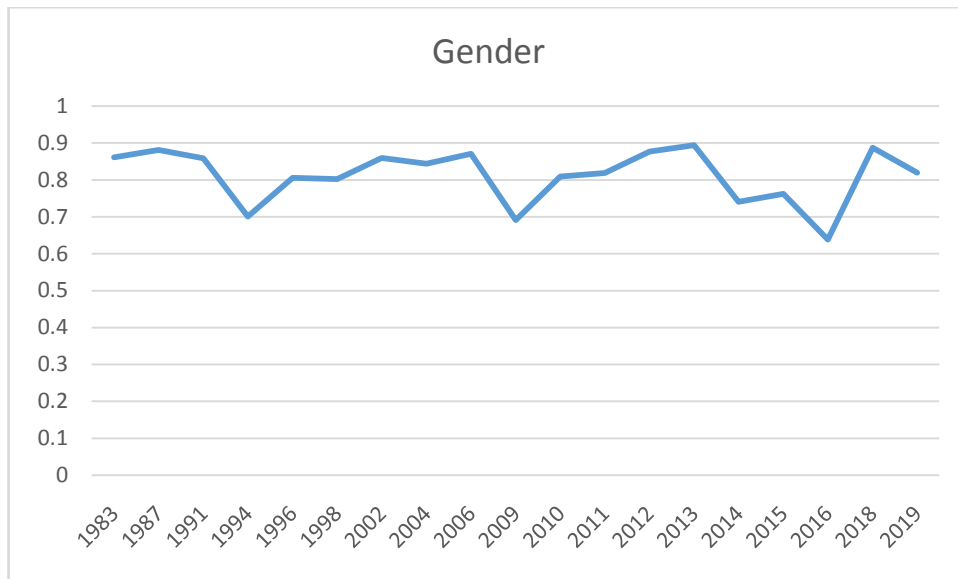


Figure n°4: of the willingness to provide international support according to the gender.

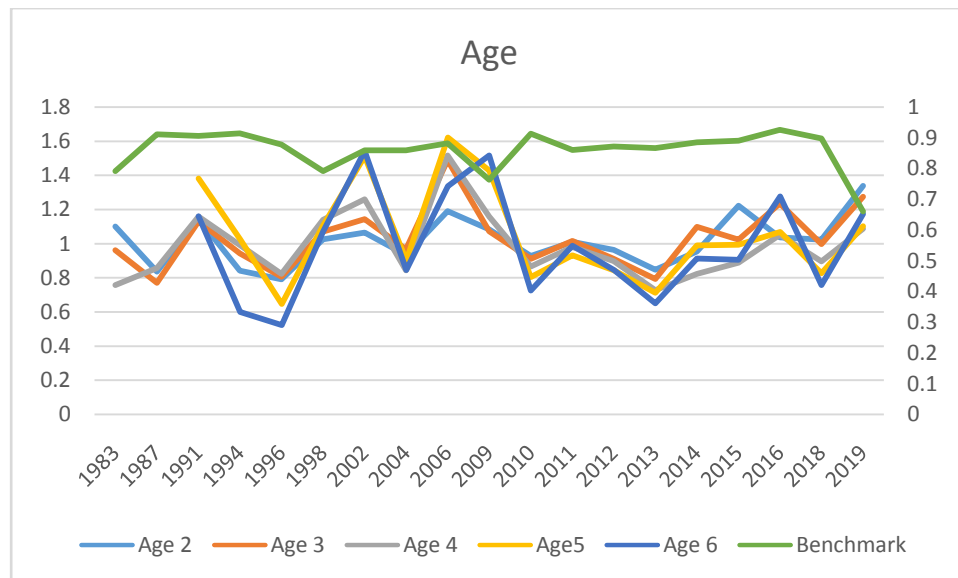


Figure n° 5: Evaluation of the generosity according to the age variable

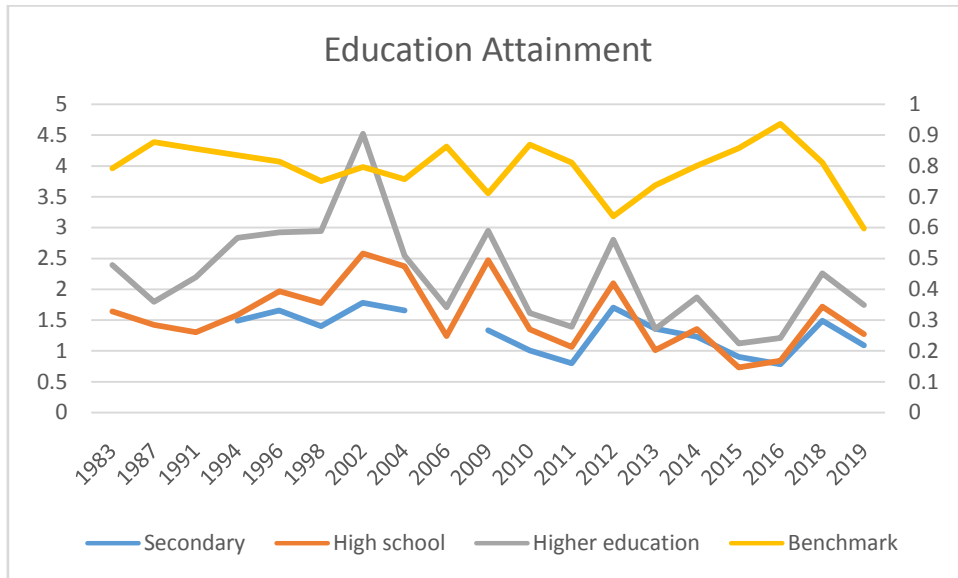


Figure n°6: results of the education level

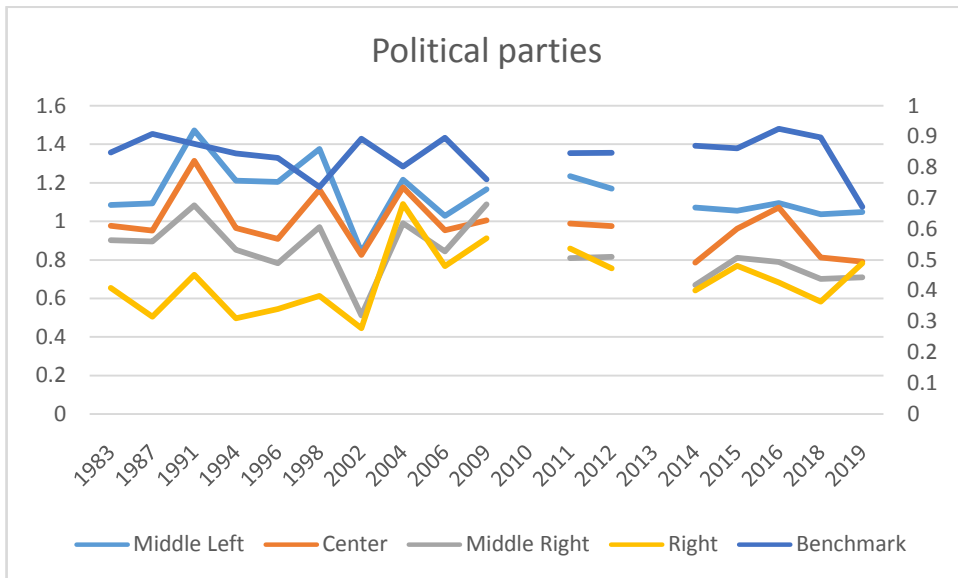


Figure n°7: political parties influence on individuals support to international aid

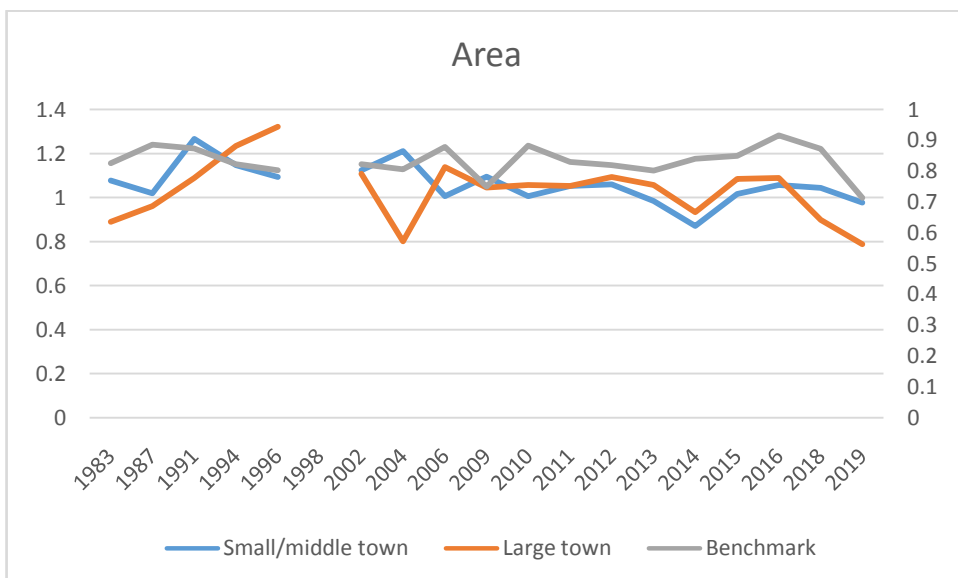


Figure n°8 : Results of the model regarding the area variable

Job qualification	Category	Skill level
Manager, Students	1	High
Professional, White collar, House persons, Business	2	Medium
Manual worker, Retired, Unemployed	3	Low

Figure n° 9 : job categories per skill level.

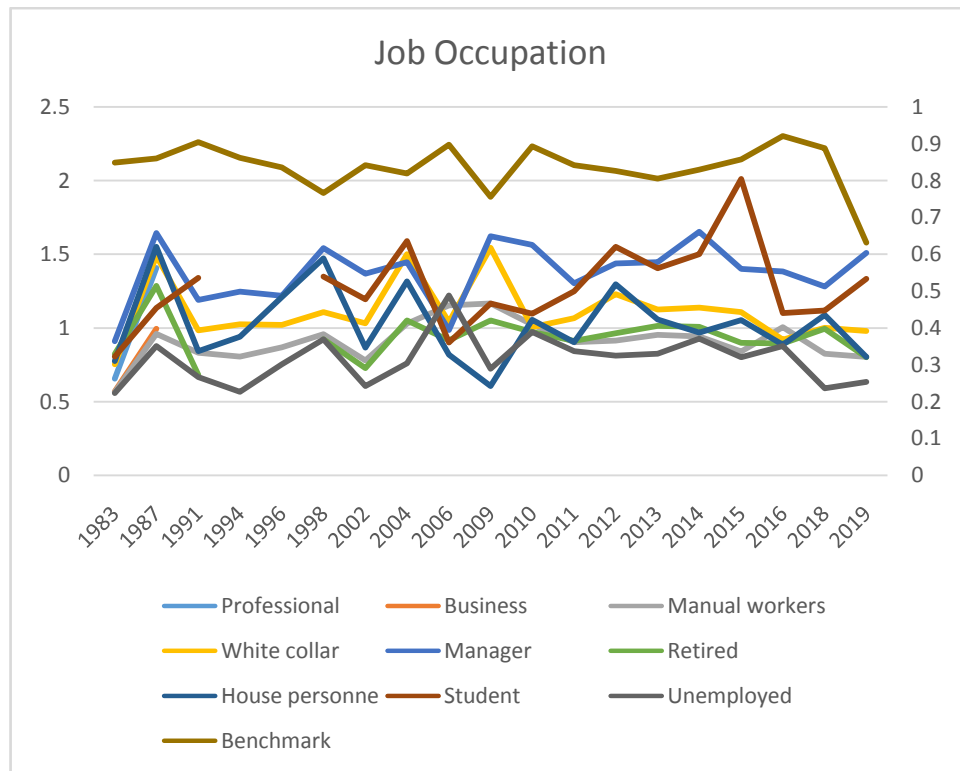


Figure n° 10: Results of the model regarding the job occupation variable.

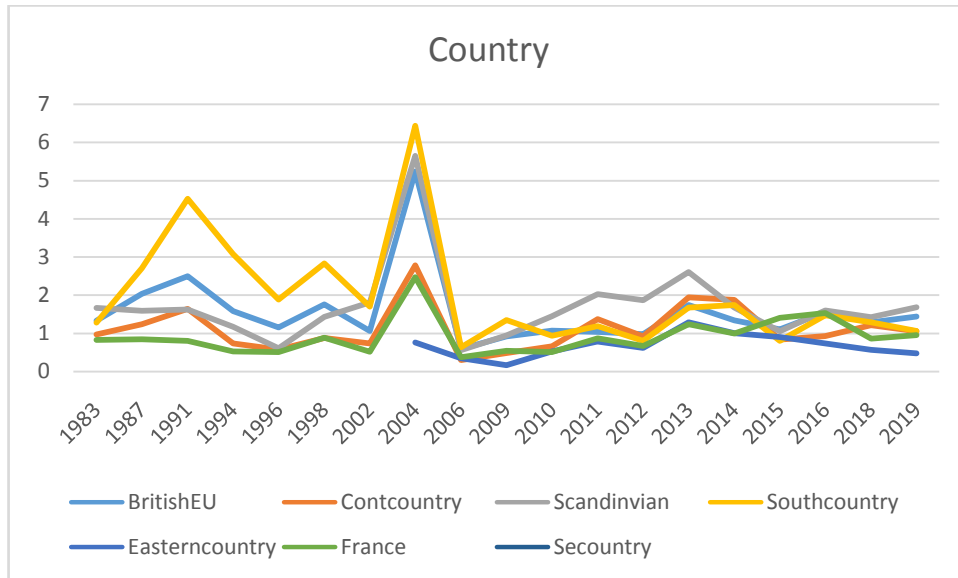


Figure n°11: Results of the regression regarding the countries variable

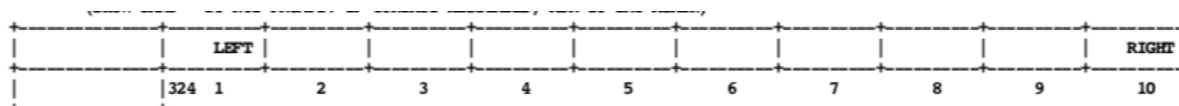
Annex n°1: Gender repartition, we need as well as the percentage values

	Women	Men
International aid		
20	5,073	4,945
28	6,06	5,523
36	7,09	6,916
44,1	8,75	8,514
46	8,185	7,644
50,1	8,398	7,81
58,2	8,721	7,49
62,2	14,958	12,03
71,1	16,52	13,248
73,5	14,374	12,285
76,1	14,51	12,32
77,4	14,377	12,209
79,4	14,983	12,659
82,1	15,767	12,205
84,4	15,192	12,421
86,3	11,361	9,819
89,3	12,155	10,649
Humanitarian aid		
65,4	15,331	11,468
73,2	14,772	12,519
77,1	14,451	12,272
91,5	15,806	13,775

Annex n°2: Repartition according to the education level

	Primary	Secondary	High school	Higher education
International aid				
20	5,516		2,166	2,036
28	6,164		2,509	2,91
36	5,764		3,279	4,813
44,1	774	6,224	4,261	5,99
46	687	5,661	4,073	5,408
50,1	767	5,541	4,24	5,629
58,2	702	5,552	4,281	5,676
62,2	704	7,566	8,646	9,606
71,1	447	5,664	9,759	13,318
73,5	342	44,577	8,919	12,331
76,1	559	4,404	8,807	12,674
77,4	11	1,021	3,687	21,49
79,4	19	951	3,647	22,639
82,1	281	8,013	9,577	9,792
84,4	253	2,286	5,322	19,311
86,3	251	2,601	6,83	11,468
89,3	290	2,709	7,208	12,597
Humanitarian aid				
65,4	7,871		8,888	9,624
73,2	332	3,064	5,862	17,481
77,1	38	1,308	7,437	17,607
91,5	474	3,606	9,461	16,04

Annex n°3: Question regarding the political orientation



Annex n°4: Frequency of political orientation in the different surveys

	Left	Middle left	Center	Middle right	Right
International aid					
20	673	1,873	3,572	1,823	586
28	747	2,179	4,006	2,2	697
36	1,037	2,651	4,816	2,384	785
44,1	1,094	3,465	6,078	2,891	791
46	1,214	3,275	5,703	2,546	329
50,1	1,205	3,016	5,771	2,569	733
58,2	989	2,914	5,59	2,32	652
62,2	1,887	4,341	8,512	3,838	1,584
71,1	2,409	4,46	9,569	4,658	2,395
73,5	Not variable				
76,1	2,064	4,66	8,775	4,185	1,642
77,4	2,398	4,445	8,557	3,862	1,726
79,4	Not variable				
82,1	2,058	4,296	8,969	3,559	1,698
84,4	2,11	4,351	9,237	3,708	1,801
86,3	2,106	4,498	9,296	3,673	1,607
89,3	2,246	4,377	9,528	3,882	1,722
Humanitarian aid					
65,4	1,861	4,11	8,638	3,836	1,887
73,2	Not variable				
77,1	Not variable				
91,5	3,229	5,606	10,435	4,699	2,765

Annex n°5: Summary of the expected results

Hypotheses	Accepted	Rejected
<i>Females are more willing to provide aid than males</i>	Coefficient <1	Coefficient > 1
<i>Younger people are more likely to provide aid</i>	Age 2 & Age-3 category age ration < Age-5 & age 5 category	Age 2 & Age-3 category age ration > Age-5 & age 5 category
<i>More educated people are the more willing to provide aid</i>	Odds ratio increase with the level of education	Odds ratio decrease with the level of education
<i>People matching left ideas are more likely to be sensitive to International Aid</i>	Left oriented have higher odds ratio/ Right oriented individuals have the lowest odds ratio	Right oriented have higher odds ratio/ Left oriented individuals have the lowest odds ratio
<i>Individuals performing qualified work are more open to International Aid</i>	High coefficient for high qualified jobs occupation/ Low coefficient for low qualified occupations	Low coefficient for high qualified jobs occupation/ Low coefficient for high qualified occupations
<i>Individuals living in cities are more likely to support International Aid than the others</i>	Rural area with low coefficient/ Urban-area with high coefficients	Rural area with high coefficient/ Urban-area with low coefficients
<i>European citizens from the South MSs should be more willing to provide aid than others</i>	Eastern and South countries with a higher coefficient the one of the other countries categories	Eastern and South countries with a smaller coefficient the one of the other countries categories