



REPORT BY THE EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON SECURITY DRAWN UP BY DEMOS&PI AND THE UNIPOLIS FOUNDATION ISSUED

- Fears and uncertainties of Italians
 - Concerns regarding Covid-19 take up a large portion of the space previously occupied by other fears (political corruption, immigration and crime)
 - Even though economic uncertainty is falling, it is still the main concern of Italians, especially with regard to work
 - Italians say that there is at least one person in their families who:
 - has lost their job in the past 12 months (17%)
 - has experienced a deterioration in their job situation (30%)
 - has not been able to pursue their working activities (21%)
- The public and scientific technological developments
 - 90% of Italians said that they trust science, considering statements by public sector doctors or scientists to be more trustworthy
 - Most people think that scientists should be consulted, but that decisions should be made by the politicians

Bologna, 23 June 2021

Compared to early 2020, concerns regarding Covid-19 take up a large portion of the space previously occupied by other fears, which are falling in general.

After economic issues, the **Coronavirus** is the main concern both for European citizens (Germany, France, the Netherlands and the UK) and for 26% of Italians. 86% of our fellow citizens say that they

are very or quite concerned, even though the recent progress of the vaccine programme shows a fall in the surveys in recent months.

In Italy, **economic issues** are of primary concern, especially with regard to work issues. As a whole, three people out of ten in our country indicate economic type issues as the priority issue. More specifically, only 26% of Italians say that they are happy with economic trends (compared to 71% in the Netherlands and 56% in Germany) while over 50% are happy with the economic framework of their household.

On the other hand, the issue of **“inefficiency and political corruption”** has tended to take a back seat, with a drop from 28% to 10% of people who put this issue at the top of their list of priorities. The issues of **immigration** and **crime** have also been considerably downsized.

This is what emerged from the thirteenth edition of the **Report by the European Observatory on Security** drawn up by **Demos&Pi and the Unipolis Foundation**, which carried out two opinion polls in this edition to explore the development of the sense of uncertainty by the public and - for the first time - the issue of scientific and technological innovation.

The results of the report were presented at an event held today, attended by **Pierluigi Stefanini**, chairperson of the Unipol Group and Unipolis Foundation, **Marisa Parmigiani**, Director of the Unipolis Foundation, **Ilvo Diamanti**, **Fabio Bordignon** and **Martina di Pierdomenico** of Demos&Pi and lecturers at the Carlo Bo University of Urbino, **Vilberto Stocchi**, President of the San Raffaele Telematic University in Rome, and **Stefania Aloia** - Deputy Editor of La Repubblica newspaper.

The measures of uncertainty in Italy

Over the past year, there was a significant downsizing in the three main issues being reported on: uncertainty linked to crime, economic uncertainty and global uncertainty. In the year of Covid, all other sources of concern tended to fade into the background, with numbers actually falling compared to the pre-pandemic picture.

The index regarding global uncertainty actually fell to 70% (compared to 81% in March 2020), economic uncertainty fell back to 53% (from a peak of 69% during the first wave of the pandemic) and crime concerns fell from 32% to 30%.

With regard to **crime**, the chance of being a victim of certain types of crime fell markedly during the pandemic year, confirming the general reduction of uncertainty linked to this issue. Even though statistics indicate the risk of a rise in domestic violence, only 9% of survey-takers feared this type of violence, in line with figures from the previous year. The main fear, for approximately a third of the survey-takers, is still that linked to organised crime, which increased for women especially, and housewives of between 55 and 64 in particular.

Not only did **economic concerns** decrease compared to March 2020, but they fell to a level lower than the pre-pandemic period (January 2020). The fear of losing a pension or becoming unemployed fell from 32% to 29% in 2021, as with the fear of “not having enough money to live on” which fell from 39% in March 2020 to 29%. Economic uncertainty was mainly felt by the 35-44-year-old working population.

Despite an overall reduction in economic uncertainty between 2020 and 2021, there was still a framework of ongoing difficulties: those who stated that at least one person in their families had lost their jobs in the 12-month period prior to the survey amounted to around 17% and the percentage of those who, themselves or through close relatives, experienced a deterioration in their job situations rose to 30% (redundancy schemes or reduction in working hours). Finally, 21% said that there was a person in their family who “could not pursue their working activities even though they had not been dismissed or put onto redundancy schemes”.

With regard to **global uncertainties**, environmental uncertainty took first place (57%), while there was a significant increase in fears related to epidemics (46%), especially in people of between 55 and 64, while concerns linked to the destruction of the environment and nature was particularly strong among very young people.

The relationship between the public and scientific-technological developments

The survey also investigated the **relationship between the public and scientific-technological progress**, which indicated that there was substantial trust in science (90% in Italy), even if this involved “unconditional” trust in only 11% of cases. Much lower levels of trust than Italy was recorded in the other countries: Germany 78%, France 74%, United Kingdom and the Netherlands 70%.

More specifically, there was more trust in statements made by public sector doctors or scientists (76%) while this percentage fell to 61% for those who work in private companies.

Even though there was trust in the scientific community, 54% of the survey-takers thought that scientists should be consulted, but that politicians should be the ones to make the decisions in the end.

In general, most of the survey-takers considered the effects of scientific and technological developments to be very or quite positive; however, more than one person in four (with a preponderance of women) declared that they were “frequently” concerned that science and technology could have negative effects on the environment or could lead to the loss of contact with nature.

The full version of the report may be requested at the following email address: segreteria@fondazioneunipolis.org.

Unipol Gruppo S.p.A.

Unipol is one of the biggest insurance groups in Europe and the leading company in Italy in the non-life insurance sector, (especially in the MV and health businesses), with total premiums of approximately €12.2bn, of which €7.9bn in non-Life and €4.3bn in life (2020 figures). Unipol adopts an integrated offer strategy and covers the entire range of insurance and financial products, operating primarily through the subsidiary UnipolSai Assicurazioni S.p.A. The Group is also active in direct MV insurance (Linear Assicurazioni), transport and aviation insurance (Siat), health insurance (UniSalute), supplementary pensions and also covers the bancassurance channel (Arca Vita, Arca Assicurazioni and Incontra). It also manages significant diversified assets in the debt collection (UnipolReC), real estate, hotel (Gruppo UNA), medical-healthcare and agricultural (Tenute del Cerro) sectors. Unipol Gruppo S.p.A. is listed on the Italian Stock Exchange.

Unipolis Foundation

The Unipolis Foundation is the Unipol Group corporate foundation that plays a significant role in the development of social responsibility projects in the context of the overall sustainability strategy. In accordance with this long-term choice, the Foundation pursues - on a non-profit basis - goals involving the cultural, social and civil growth of people and the community, focusing primarily on the development of awareness and training.

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European Observatory on Security

The European Observatory on Security is an initiative of the Unipolis Foundation and Demos&Pi which has established an ongoing survey project on the perception of security in Italy and in the main European countries according to the public. Security is explored on a broad scale, including both the issue of personal safety and the perception of present and future risks and the consequent protection requirements.

Demos & Pi

Ilvo Diamanti established **Demos&Pi** to carry out research on political and social matters through local, national and international surveys. Demos&Pi also draws up important analyses on a regular basis, published as reports, in order to monitor and update developments in the areas of interest. The continuity of the surveys is assured thanks to its strategic partnerships with leading companies.

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