

## 5 Mediation – Answer Key

Text: What we want from Europe, from: David Beal, *Britain in Europe*, Viewfinder Topics New Edition plus (München: Langenscheidt, 2010), pp. 58f.

### B TASK: MEDIATION GERMAN – ENGLISH

#### Money makes people happy

Family, health, and money: that's the magic formula for being happy.

Now it's out: money does make people happy. That's at least what Eurofond's 2008 "European Quality of Life Survey" found out. Roughly 30,000 questionnaires were filled in by private households in 30 European states and the result was obvious: the happiest Europeans live in Scandinavia.

Whereas people in Denmark, Sweden, and Finland are really content with their lives, the inhabitants of Macedonia, Hungary, and Bulgaria can be found at the bottom of the happiness scale only. The Germans, however, together with the Czechs and Slovaks, are European average.

According to the survey, happiness is associated with income: people with higher incomes are, unsurprisingly, happier than people with low incomes. However, if a certain level of household income has been reached, money doesn't play an important role any more.

Something that does play a role is culture: people from different cultural backgrounds have different conceptions of what it means to be content or dissatisfied.

Next to money, the people interviewed said that “health” was substantial if you want to be satisfied with life. Yet not many Europeans think that their state of health is good, many said that they feel ill. But for the EU researchers it is their mental health that shows how good people’s lives are. Again, a Scandinavian country stands out here: 70% of all Norwegians feel “mentally healthy”. The Turks have the worst data with only 47% feeling good mentally. Moreover, a huge number of the respondents complained about air pollution, noise, ethnic tensions or crime rates.

Despite all their problems, most Europeans look into the future optimistically, with the Germans even being a bit more confident than the average European.

*(Daniela Pröls)*