

## 6. Public Opinion in Denmark on Biotechnology

The attitudes of the Danish population toward gene technology have been monitored through three representative interview surveys during 1987 to 1990. In each survey, attitudes differed systematically with age, sex, and level of education. Although about 60% of the respondents did not have a clear-cut opinion, young well-educated men seemed to accept gene technology to a higher degree than women, whereas poorly educated persons and older people tended to resist it. Also, attitudes were clearly dependent on respondents level of political interest and partisan choice. This observation was somewhat surprising since the subject had been ranked low on the political agenda.

Between 1987 and 1990, public opinion shifted markedly towards a more favourable view of gene technology. The Danish Government sponsored a biotechnology information campaign in 1990 which reached 20,000 persons, or 0.4% of the total population, who attended lectures and took active part in discussions and dialogues. Two-thirds of the attendants were women.