CITIZENS’ AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF EU REGIONAL POLICY

Flash Eurobarometer 423

INFORM network meeting
Bucharest, 10-11 December 2015

Peter Fischer, Communication Officer, DG REGIO
Methodology

- Survey conducted by telephone (fixed-line and mobile phone)
- Fieldwork: 24th to 26th of June 2015
- Population: General public 15+
- Coverage: 28 Member States of the EU
- Number of interviews: 28,048 (n=1000 respondents in all Member States)
EU average unchanged at 34% - awareness of EU co-financed projects from 9% among those surveyed in the UK to 76% of those polled in Poland.
Perception of Regional policy remains high: 75% positive

Q1C. Taking into consideration all the projects you have heard about, would you say that this support has had a positive or negative impact on the development of your city or region?

- Positive
- Negative
- No impact (SPONTANEOUS)
- Don't know
TV remained the main source of information about EU co-financed projects, with local and regional newspapers also important (Internet and radio increased, too)

Q1BT. Where did you hear about it? First? And then? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- Total 'TV': 54% FL423 June 2015, 51% FL384 Sept. 2013
- Total 'Newspapers': 45% FL423 June 2015, 52% FL384 Sept. 2013
- Total 'Internet': 31% FL423 June 2015, 25% FL384 Sept. 2013
- Total 'Radio': 23% FL423 June 2015, 18% FL384 Sept. 2013
- Billboard: 20% FL423 June 2015, 21% FL384 Sept. 2013
- Workplace: 13% FL423 June 2015, 13% FL384 Sept. 2013
- Personal knowledge: 20% FL423 June 2015, 21% FL384 Sept. 2013
- Other (SPONTANEOUS): 11% FL423 June 2015, 13% FL384 Sept. 2013
- Don't know: 1% FL423 June 2015, 1% FL384 Sept. 2013
Survey results for cross border cooperation

Q7. Are you aware of cooperation between different regions because of EU regional funding? - % EU28

- FL423 June 2015
- FL384 Sept. 2013
- FL298 June 2010

Yes: 21% (21%), 21% (21%), 19% (19%)
No: 77% (77%), 76% (76%), 79% (79%)
Don't know: 2% (2%), 3% (3%), 2% (2%)
Awareness about Cross-border cooperation (at national level) constantly lower than general awareness of EU Regional policy (21% vs. 34%)
Flash Eurobarometer 422 survey in border regions: "Cross-border cooperation in the EU"
68% do not know about it vs. 77% at national level
Q1: Have you heard about any EU funded cross-border cooperation activities in the region where you live?

% yes
- \(\leq 25.0\%\)
- 25.1\% - 28.0\%
- 28.1\% - 34.0\%
- > 34.0\%
To learn more about the cross-border cooperation survey, come to Workshop F or consult the report online:

http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/PublicOpinion/index.cfm/Survey/index#p=1&instruments=FLASH
Results of the EU Cross-Border Co-operation survey

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Flash Eurobarometer 422 survey in *border regions*: "Cross-border cooperation in the EU" 68% do not know about it vs. 77% at national level

Q1. Have you heard about any EU funded cross-border cooperation activities in the region where you live?

- Yes, and you know what they are: 68%
- Yes, but you do not know exactly what they are: 19%
- No: 12%
- Don’t know: 2%
Awareness of EU funded cross-border cooperation activities: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q1. Have you heard about any EU funded cross-border cooperation activities in the region where you live?

- Total 'Yes':
  - PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (PEACE): 46
  - CB053 Slovenia-Hungary: 46
  - CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic: 46
  - CB018 Poland-Germany/Saxony: 45
  - CB052 Italy-Austria: 44
  - CB017 Germany/Saxony-Czech Republic: 44

- No:
  - CB055 Greece-Cyprus: 81
  - CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway (Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak): 79
  - CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (Ireland-Wales): 84
  - CB016 Sweden-Norway: 84
  - CB040 France-United Kingdom (Manche - Channel): 86

- Don't know:
  - CB055 Greece-Cyprus: 2
  - CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway (Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak): 1
  - CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (Ireland-Wales): 1
  - CB016 Sweden-Norway: 2
  - CB040 France-United Kingdom (Manche - Channel): 1

Highest and lowest results per programme
Borders not really an obstacle for most

Q5. Would you say that living near the border with [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] represents ...

- 55%: It has no impact
- 37%: More of an opportunity
- 4%: More of an obstacle
- 4%: Don't know
but...

- 81% of respondents see a problem in at least one aspect related to cross-border cooperation between border regions.

- Respondents are most likely to say language differences (57%) and socio-economic differences (46%) are a problem for cooperation between their country and a partner country and least likely to mention accessibility (e.g. geographical barriers or transport infrastructure) (30%)
Q5b: Living near the border represents more of an opportunity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of respondents</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;= 30.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.1% - 40.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.1% - 50.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 50.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries
Q5b: Living near the border represents more of an opportunity

% of respondents
- <= 30.0%
- 30.1% - 40.0%
- 40.1% - 50.0%
- > 50.0%
Living in a border region – an opportunity or an obstacle?
Top five and bottom five results at an overall programme level

Top/Bottom 5 results per programme
Language differences biggest problem

Q6. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem ...?

- **Language differences**: 20% major, 37% minor, 41% not a problem, 2% don't know
- **Social and economic differences**: 14% major, 32% minor, 46% not a problem, 8% don't know
- **Legal or administrative differences**: 14% major, 31% minor, 34% not a problem, 21% don't know
- **Cultural differences**: 5% major, 27% minor, 64% not a problem, 4% don't know
- **Accessibility (for example geographical barriers or transport infrastructure)**: 7% major, 23% minor, 65% not a problem, 5% don't know
### Social and economic differences

Q6.4. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem…?

**Social and economic differences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total 'A problem'</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. AT-HU</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. AT-CZ</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. SK-AU</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. DE-PL (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania/Brandenburg)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. DE-CZ (Bavaria)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. IT-CH</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. DE-CZ (Saxony)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. SE-FI-NO (Nord)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. SE-NO</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. HU-HR</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. AT-DE</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. SE-DK-NO</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. DE-NL</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. SE-FI-NO (Botnia Atlantica)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top/Bottom 5 results per programme**
Legal or administrative differences

Q6.1. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem …?

Legal or administrative differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total 'A problem'</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35. IT-CH</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>40. FR-UK</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>41. FR-CH</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. IT-AT</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. PL-DE</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. SE-FI-NO (Nord)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. LV-LT</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. SE-DK-NO</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. SE</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. SE-FI-NO (Botnia-Atlantica)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top/Bottom 5 results per programme
Cultural differences

Q6.5. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem …?

Cultural differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Combination</th>
<th>Total 'A problem'</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18. PL-DE</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. DE-PL (Brandenburg)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. IT-CH</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. LT-PL</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. DE-PL (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania/Brandenburg)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top/Bottom 5 results per programme

Cohesion policy
Accessibility

Q6.2. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem ...?

Accessibility (for example geographical barriers or transport infrastructure)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Pair</th>
<th>Total 'A problem'</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36. IT-CH</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. EL-IT</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. IT-AT</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. FR-IT</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55. EL-CY</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. FR-CH</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>53. SI-HU</td>
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<td>27. LV-LT</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>50. EE-LV</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. HU-HR</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top/Bottom 5 results per programme
Awareness of macro-regional strategies

Q10. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Baltic Sea? - % TOTAL
- FL423 June 2015
- FL384 Sept. 2013
- FL298 June 2010
- Yes: 32% 34% 33%
- No: 66% 64% 64%
- Don’t know: 2% 2% 3%

Q11. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Danube river? - % TOTAL
- FL423 June 2015
- FL384 Sept. 2013
- Yes: 22% 21%
- No: 78% 77%

Q12. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Adriatic and Ionian Sea? - % TOTAL
- FL423 June 2015
- Yes: 28%
- No: 71%
- Don’t know: 1%