EUROBAROMETER RESULTS

PROGRAMME BELGIUM-NETHERLANDS
1/ Awareness of EU-funded cross-border cooperation

In programme Belgium-Netherlands, **29% of respondents have heard about EU-funded CBC activities**. This level of awareness is slightly lower than the EU average of 31%. Awareness is almost the same on both sides (29% and 30%).

Overall, in this border region, younger people tend to be less aware of EU-funded CBC activities, as illustrated in the graph below. People between 40 and 54 years of age are most likely to know about these activities.

![Graph showing awareness of EU-funded CBC by age group](image)

2/ Mobility

**73% of respondents in programme Belgium-France have traveled to the other side of the border.** This is one of the highest levels of mobility among EU border regions, and it is significantly higher than the EU average of 53%.

This mobility is almost exactly the same in both ways (from BE to NL and from NL to BE).

The most frequent reason mentioned for crossing the border is **leisure and tourism**: 63% of all respondents have crossed the border for this reason.
The next most frequent reason is **buying goods and services**, relevant for 46% of respondents.
**Visiting friends** (22%), **visiting family** (15%) and work or **business purposes** (18%) are also rather frequent reasons for crossing the border, especially when compared to other EU border regions.
Finally, Belgium-Netherlands is one of the few border regions where more than 10% of respondents have already traveled to use public services on the other side of the border.

3/ Trust

In programme Bleigum-Netherlands, 85% of respondents would feel comfortable with having a citizen from the partner country as a work colleague, family member, neighbour or manager.

This is higher than the EU average of 82%.

The level of trust is almost the same on both sides of the border (86% from BE respondents regarding NL and 84% for NL citizens regarding BE).

4/ Obstacles

For a majority of respondents (60%), living near the border has no impact. For 37% it is considered as 'more of an opportunity', and only 2% of people responded that it is more of an obstacle.
72% of respondents identified at least one problem making CBC difficult in their region.

Respondents could select several obstacles. The most frequent obstacle is legal and administrative differences (mentioned by 48% of people, whereas EU average is 45%). The next most frequent obstacles are:

- **social and economic differences** (37%, lower than EU average 46%)
- **language** (36%, lower than EU average 57%)
- **cultural differences** (33%, similar to EU average 32%)

The least applicable obstacle is **accessibility** (25%, lower than EU average 30%).