EUROBAROMETER RESULTS

PROGRAMME BOTNIA ATLANTICA
1/ Awareness of EU-funded cross-border cooperation

In programme Botnia Atlantica, 21% of respondents have heard about EU-funded CBC activities. This level of awareness is one of the lowest among EU border regions, and is significantly lower than the EU average of 31%. Awareness of CBC is higher on the Swedish side (30%) than on the Finnish (22%) and Norwegian (11%) sides of the border.

In the programme, younger people tend to be less aware of EU-funded CBC.
2/ Mobility

51% of respondents in programme Botnia Atlantica have traveled to the other side of the border. This is slightly lower than the EU average of 53%.

The highest rates are from NO respondents traveling to Sweden (85% of them have done so) and FI respondents traveling to Sweden as well (74%). On the contrary, mobility between Finland and Norway is limited: 34% of FI respondents have been to the Norwegian side of the border, and 30% of NO respondents have been to the Finnish side.

The most frequent reason mentioned for crossing the border is leisure and tourism: 42% of all respondents have crossed the border for this reason. The next most frequent reasons for traveling to the other side of the border are buying goods and services and visiting friends. These reasons were mentioned by respectively 21% and 14% of respondents.
3/ Trust

In programme Botnia Atlantica, **93% of respondents would feel comfortable with having a citizen from the partner country as a work colleague, family member, neighbour or manager.**

This is one of the highest levels of trust there is among all EU border regions, and it is significantly higher than the EU average of 82%.

This high "social trust" is mutual, particularly as there is no great discrepancy between different sides of the border: all trust rates are between 91% and 94%.

4/ Obstacles

For a majority of respondents (58%), living near the border has no impact at all and for 34%, it is more of an **opportunity.** Only 2% responded that it is more of an obstacle.
78% of respondents identified at least one problem making CBC difficult in their region.

Respondents could select several obstacles. Here are the obstacles in this region, listed in descending order of frequency:

- **language** (mentioned by 62% of respondents, higher than the EU average of 57%)
- **accessibility** (34%, higher than EU average 30%)
- **legal and administrative obstacles** (26%, much lower than the EU average 45%)
- **social and economic differences** (25%, lower than EU average 46%)
- **cultural differences** (22%, lower than EU average 32%)