EUROBAROMETER RESULTS

PROGRAMME ITALY-SWITZERLAND
1/ Awareness of EU-funded cross-border cooperation

In programme Italy-Switzerland, **38% of respondents have heard about EU-funded CBC activities.** This level of awareness is higher than the EU average of 31%. Awareness of CBC is higher on the Swiss side (42%) than on the Italian side of the border (33%).

Overall, in the Italy-Switzerland border region, **younger people are relatively less aware of EU-funded CBC activities.**
2/ Mobility

61% of respondents in this cross-border region have traveled to the other side of the border. This is higher than the EU average of 53%.

There is a very large difference in mobility between both partner countries: 84% of CH respondents have been to the Italian side of the border. The opposite is true for 38% of IT respondents.

The most frequent reason mentioned for crossing the border is leisure and tourism: 53% of all respondents have crossed the border for this reason. The next most frequent reason for traveling to the other side of the border is buying goods and services, mentioned by 32% of respondents. Visiting friends and visiting family are also relatively frequent reasons for crossing the border (respectively 22% and 13%).
3/ Trust

In this cross-border region, **88% 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 (between 88% and 89%) on both sides of the border, therefore this high level of trust is really mutual.

4/ Obstacles

**Living near the border is seen by 47% of respondents as an opportunity** (one of the highest rates among EU border regions), and for 40% it is considered to have no impact. 10% of people responded that living near the border is an obstacle.

However, cross-border cooperation in the Italy-Switzerland border region meets many obstacles. **89% of respondents identified at least one problem making CBC difficult in their region.**

Respondents could select several obstacles. With a similar frequency, **the 2 most cited obstacles are:**

- **social and economic differences** (mentioned by 65% of respondents, which is one of the highest rates in EU border regions – average is 46%)
- **legal and administrative differences** (63%, the highest rate among EU border regions, EU average 45%)
Next come, again with similar percentages:
- **language** (mentioned by 50%, lower than EU average 57%)
- **accessibility** (49%, higher than EU average 30%, and the highest rate in all EU border regions)
- **cultural differences** (45%, 3rd highest rate, while EU average is 32%).