EUROBAROMETER RESULTS

PROGRAMME SOUTH BALTIC
1/ Awareness of EU-funded cross-border cooperation

In the regions of the South Baltic programme, 28% of respondents have heard about EU-funded CBC activities. This level of awareness is slightly lower than the EU average of 31%. Awareness is significantly higher on the Polish side (36%) than on the Danish (28%), German (26%) and Lithuanian (25%) sides of the border.

The influence of the age factor varies in the four countries of the programme.

In Germany and Poland, people under 25 are significantly less likely to have heard of EU-funded CBC activities than other age groups. Their levels of awareness are respectively of 18% (DE) and 21% (PL).

On the contrary, in Denmark, Lithuania and Sweden, people under 25 are more aware of EU-funded CBC than all other age groups. Their levels of awareness are respectively of 35% (DK), 38% (LT) and 45% (SE).

2/ Mobility

32% of respondents in the South Baltic programme have traveled to the other side of the border (lower than the EU average of 53%). Strong discrepancies exist, as the chart below illustrates. For instance, on the Swedish side, 83% of respondents have crossed the border to go to Denmark and 72% have traveled to Germany, but only 7% have traveled to Lithuania.
The most frequent reasons for crossing the border **leisure and tourism** (25% of all respondents have already crossed the border for this reason) and **buying goods and services** (15%). Other reasons for crossing the border apply to less than 10% of respondents each.

In the South Baltic programme, the **level of trust** between people is slightly lower than the EU average of border regions: **79% of respondents would feel comfortable with having a citizen from a partner country as a work colleague, family member, neighbour or manager.** The EU average is 82%.
The maximum level of trust is from the Danish respondents to their Swedish neighbours (95%). On the contrary, 63% of the Polish respondents trust their Lithuanian neighbours.

4/ Obstacles

The border is seen by only 29% of respondents as an opportunity (one of the lowest levels for this response in the EU), and for 57% it is considered to have no impact. 4% of people responded that living near the border is an obstacle for them.

87% of respondents identified at least one problem making CBC difficult in their region.
Respondents could select several obstacles. **Listed in descending order of frequency, the obstacles are:**

- **language** (cited by 73% of respondents, higher than EU average 57%)
- **social and economic differences** (51%, higher than EU average 46%)
- **legal and administrative obstacles** (44%, similar to EU average 45%)
- **cultural differences** (41%, higher than EU average 32%)
- **accessibility** (39%, higher than EU average 30%)