



CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EU

Summary

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EU 2020

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CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EU

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I. Introduction

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg, is one of the two goals of cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors in different Member States. The overarching objective of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) is to **promote the harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole**. Interreg is built around three components of cooperation: cross-border (Interreg A), transnational (Interreg B) and interregional (Interreg C)¹.

This survey focuses on **Interreg A (cross-border cooperation), which supports cooperation between adjacent NUTS III border regions in at least two different EU Member States and/or some countries outside the EU**. It aims to **develop the untapped growth potential of border areas, as well as enhancing cooperation to support the harmonious development of the Union**.

The Communication proposes a set of actions to enhance the competitive and cohesive situation of border regions, notably by addressing some of the legal and administrative barriers currently hampering closer cooperation and interaction².

This survey follows on the first edition, which was launched in 2015. Its main aim is to improve understanding of the issues of trust and co-operation, and how they may impact these programmes.

It explores the same range of issues as the 2015 edition, which includes:

- Awareness of cross-border cooperation programmes running in the respondent's area,
- Mobility in general, and between partner countries in particular,
- General trust in others,
- Attitudes towards citizens of neighbouring countries in certain social categories or situations (work, family, neighbours),
- Obstacles to cross-border cooperation between border regions.

In line with the 2015 edition, this survey was conducted among citizens living in the border regions covered by the Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes. In total 54 Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes were considered.

Throughout this report, the programmes are referred to in the following way:

- Programmes are identified by a number, followed by the name of the countries concerned. For example, "CB001 Belgium-Germany-Netherlands" represents the Interreg cross-border cooperation programme between Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands³.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/fr/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/

² https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2017/boosting-growth-and-cohesion-in-eu-border-regions

³ In the case of the two cross-border cooperation programmes "CB006 Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)" and "CB024 Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Liechtenstein", the 2020 edition of the survey was also conducted among respondents in Andorra and

This survey was carried out by the *Gallup International* network in the border regions covered by the Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes of the 27 Member States of the European Union, Andorra, Lichtenstein, the United Kingdom, Norway and Switzerland between February and April 2020. It is important to note that this period was marked by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe and in the rest of the world. This extraordinary context led to extraordinary measures, such as the temporary reintroduction of border controls at some EU internal borders, as well as a temporary lockdown of the main economic activities.

While most of the fieldwork had finished before the implementation of lockdown measures in the countries concerned, we decided to issue appropriate interviewer training to ensure that answers to our survey remained neutral from the pandemic in the minds of respondents. It was important that hesitant respondents were given clarifications on the fact that their answers should reflect a “normal” situation.

Some 41,091 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed by telephone (landline and mobile phone) in their mother tongue on behalf of the European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy. A technical note on the manner in which interviews were conducted by the Institutes within the *Gallup International* network is appended to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence intervals⁴.

Note: In this report, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

ABBREVIATIONS			
BE	Belgium	LT	Lithuania
BG	Bulgaria	LU	Luxembourg
CZ	Czech Republic	HU	Hungary
DK	Denmark	MT	Malta
DE	Germany	NL	The Netherlands
EE	Estonia	AT	Austria
IE	Ireland	PL	Poland
EL	Greece	PT	Portugal
ES	Spain	RO	Romania
FR	France	SV	Slovenia
HR	Croatia	SK	Slovakia
IT	Italy	FI	Finland
CY	Republic of Cyprus	SE	Sweden
LV	Latvia		
UK	The United Kingdom	CH	Switzerland
NO	Norway	AD	Andorra
LI	Lichtenstein		

Liechtenstein, unlike the 2015 edition. The tables presented in the following pages thus include the 2020 results for the regions located in these countries, but not the evolution since 2015.

⁴ The total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondent could give several answers to the question.

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Table of the 54 Interreg programmes

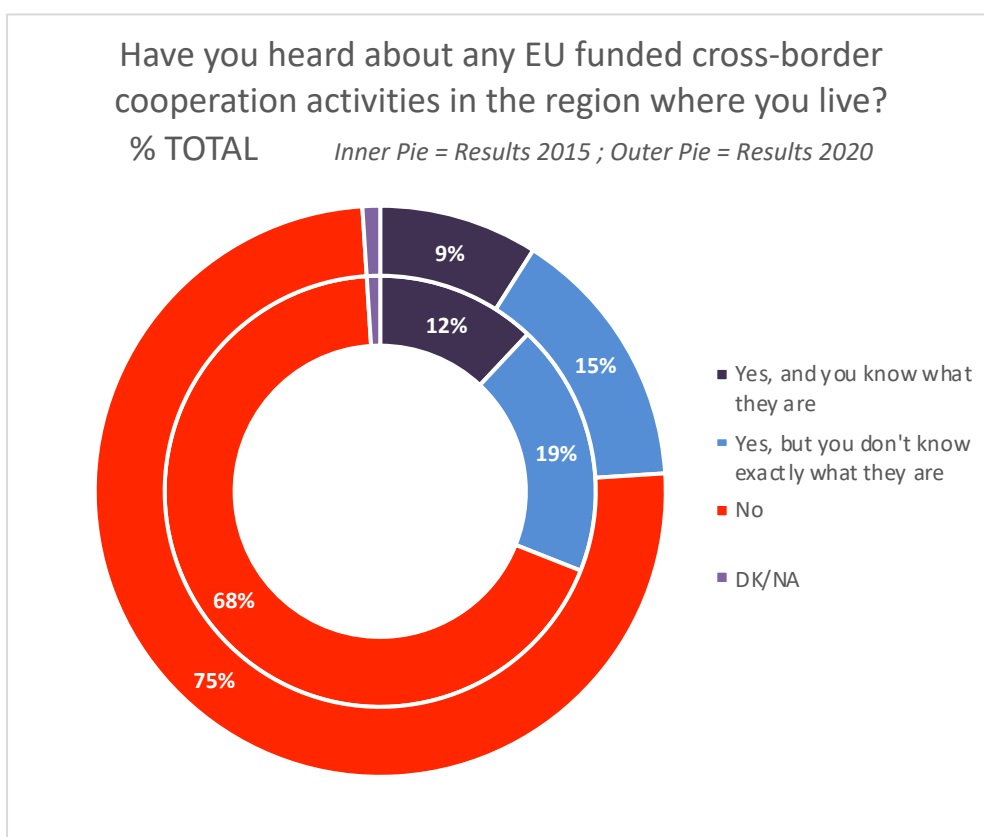
The 54 Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes referred to in this report are listed below:

CB001 Belgium-Germany-Netherlands	CB029 Slovenia-Croatia
CB002 Austria-Czech Republic	CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic
CB003 Slovakia-Austria	CB031 Lithuania-Poland
CB004 Austria-Germany/Bavaria	CB032 Sweden-Finland-Norway (Nord)
CB005 Spain-Portugal (POCTEP)	CB033 Italy-France (Maritime)
CB006 Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA)	CB034 France-Italy (ALCOTRA)
CB008 Hungary-Croatia	CB035 Italy-Switzerland
CB009 Germany/Bavaria-Czech Republic	CB036 Italy-Slovenia
CB010 Austria-Hungary	CB037 Italy-Malta
CB011 Germany/Brandenburg-Poland	CB038 France-Belgium-Netherlands-United Kingdom (Two seas)
CB012 Poland-Slovakia	CB039 France-Germany-Switzerland (Rhin supérieur-Oberrhein)
CB013 Poland-Denmark-Germany-Lithuania-Sweden (South Baltic)	CB040 France-United Kingdom (Manche - Channel)
CB014 Finland-Estonia-Latvia-Sweden (Central Baltic)	CB041 France-Switzerland
CB015 Slovakia-Hungary	CB042 Italy-Croatia
CB016 Sweden-Norway	CB044 Belgium-France (France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen)
CB017 Germany/Saxony-Czech Republic	CB045 France-Belgium-Germany-Luxembourg (Grande Région)
CB018 Poland-Germany/Saxony	CB046 Belgium-The Netherlands (Vlaanderen-Nederland)
CB019 Germany (Mecklenburg-West Pomerania/Brandenburg)-Poland	CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland (Ireland-North Ireland/Scotland)
CB020 Greece-Italy	CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (Ireland-Wales)
CB021 Romania-Bulgaria	CB049 Hungary-Romania
CB022 Greece-Bulgaria	CB050 Estonia-Latvia
CB023 Germany-The Netherlands	CB052 Italy-Austria
CB024 Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Liechtenstein	CB053 Slovenia-Hungary
CB025 Czech Republic-Poland	CB054 Slovenia-Austria
CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway (Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak)	CB055 Greece-Cyprus
CB027 Latvia-Lithuania	CB056 Germany-Denmark
CB028 Sweden-Finland-Norway (Botnia-Atlantica)	PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (PEACE)

II. Awareness of EU regional policy-funded cross-border cooperation activities

– About a quarter of people living in EU border regions are aware of EU-funded cross-border cooperation activities in their region –














At the beginning of the survey, respondents who reside in the border regions covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes were asked whether they had heard of any EU-funded cross-border cooperation activities in their area⁵. Overall, a quarter of all respondents (24%) have heard about such activities: 9% say they know what they are, while 15% are unsure about exactly what these activities consist of. Awareness has decreased by -7 percentage points (pp) since the last edition of the survey in 2015.



⁵ 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; Yes, but you do not know exactly what they are; No; Don't know.

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Q1 Have you heard about any EU funded cross-border cooperation activities in the region where you live?
- % Total 'Yes'

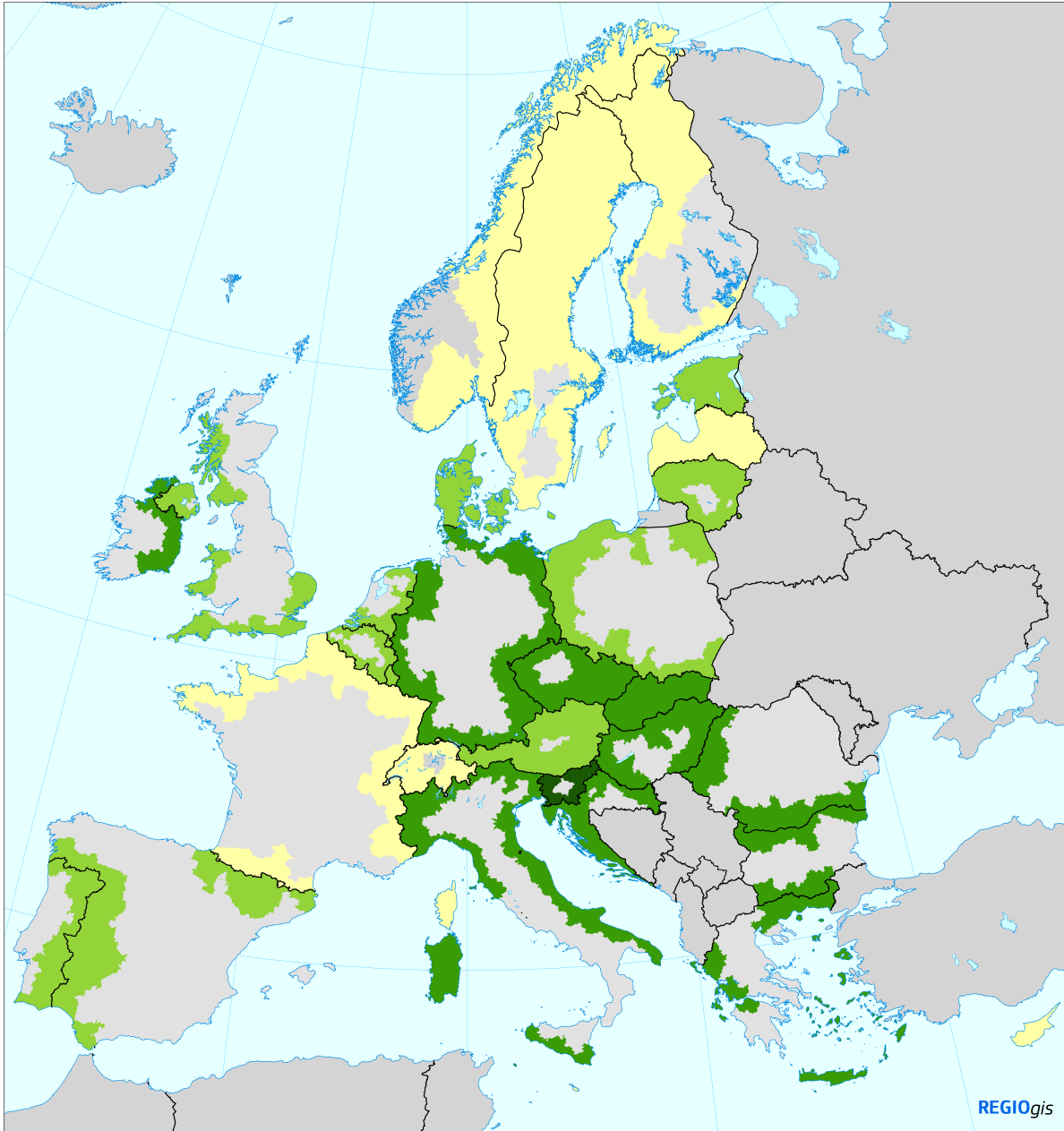
	2020	2015	
 TOTAL	24%	31%	▼ -7
 SI	49%	41%	▲ +8
 HU	35%	48%	▼ -13
 BG	34%	43%	▼ -9
 HR	33%	34%	▼ -1
 SK	33%	40%	▼ -7
 EL	32%	24%	▲ +8
 FI	16%	22%	▼ -6
 SE	16%	25%	▼ -9
 FR	14%	25%	▼ -11
 AD	12%		
 CY	9%	13%	▼ -4
 NO	9%	10%	▼ -1

The average of all 54 programmes covered by the survey actually hides large disparities at the **national level**, as shown in the following table. While close to half of all respondents residing in the border regions of Slovenia (49%) covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation have heard of EU-funded cross-border cooperation activities in their region, this proportion drops to only 9% among residents of border regions in Norway.

Awareness is comparatively higher among residents in border regions in Eastern European countries: 49% in Slovenia, 35% in Hungary, 34% in Bulgaria and 33% in Croatia and Slovakia. At the other end of the spectrum, less than one in six respondents have heard of such activities in the Nordic countries (Finland 16%, Sweden 16%, Norway 9%), or in France (14%) and Cyprus (9%).

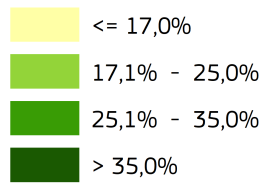
Strong variations can be observed at national level compared with the previous wave in 2015: awareness has increased among respondents residing in the border regions covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation in Slovenia (49%, +8pp), Greece (32%, +8pp), the UK (18%, +4pp) and Germany (29%, +1pp). However, this proportion has decreased in all other regions, with the strongest decreases observed among border region residents in Poland (20%, -20pp), the Czech Republic (31%, -19pp) and Ireland (26%, -17pp).

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

% Yes



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At programme level, An analysis of the highest and lowest levels of awareness at the overall programme level reveals that at least one-third and up to half of respondents living in the regions covered by the eight following programmes have heard about cross-border cooperation activities: *CB053 Slovenia-Hungary (51%), PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom [PEACE] (43%), CB036 Italy-Slovenia (42%), CB029 Slovenia-Croatia (39%), CB008 Hungary-Croatia, CB052 Italy-Austria and CB054 Slovenia-Austria (all 36%), and CB015 Slovakia-Hungary (33%).*

The following programmes ranked at the other end : *CB016 Sweden-Norway (both 15%), CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway, CB038 France-Belgium-Netherlands-United Kingdom [Two seas] and CB044 Belgium-France [France-Wallonie-Vlaanderen] (all 14%), CB040 France-United Kingdom [Manche - Channel] (12%) and CB031 Lithuania-Poland (11%).*

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A comparison with the results of the previous wave of the survey (conducted in 2015) shows that awareness of cross-border cooperation activities has increased in the regions covered by the eight following programmes: *CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland [Ireland-Wales] (+7pp)*, *CB053 Slovenia-Hungary*, *CB029 Slovenia-Croatia* and *CB055 Greece-Cyprus (all +5pp)*, *CB056 Germany-Denmark (+2pp)*, and *CB023 Germany-The Netherlands*, *CB020 Greece-Italy* and *CB016 Sweden-Norway (all +1pp)*.

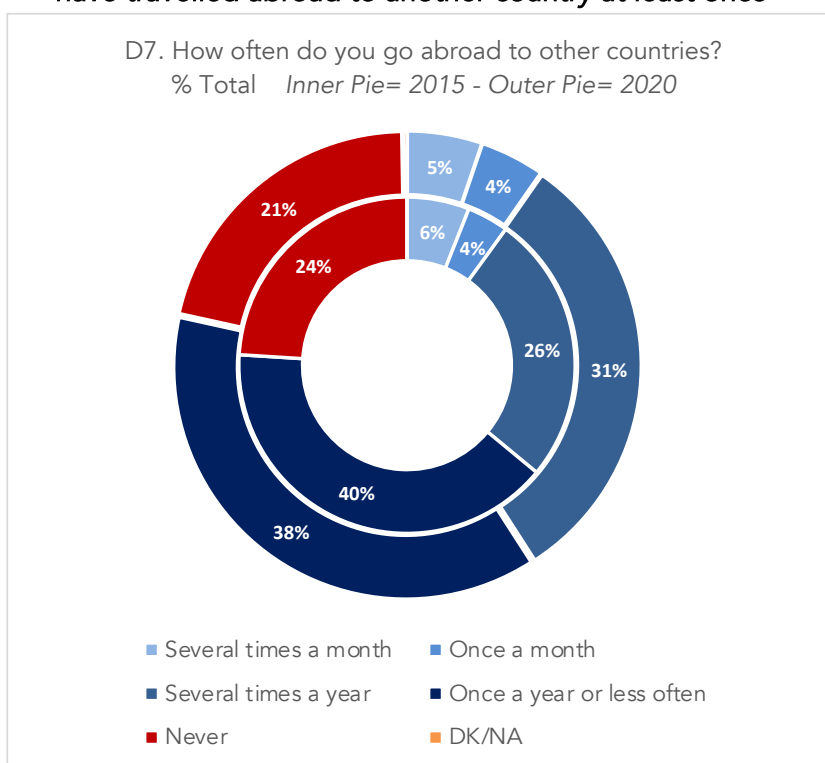
In contrast, the highest decreases in awareness can be observed in the regions covered by the following programmes: *CB031 Lithuania-Poland* and *CB018 Poland-Germany/Saxony (both -23pp)*, *CB011 Germany/Brandenburg-Poland (-20pp)*, *CB025 Czech Republic-Poland (-16pp)*, and *CB019 Germany (Mecklenburg-West Pomerania/Brandenburg)-Poland*, *CB010 Austria-Hungary* and *CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic (all -15pp)*.

III. CROSS BORDER MOBILITY BETWEEN COUNTRIES COVERED BY AN INTERREG CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

This second section analyses how often respondents travel abroad in general, as well as the main reasons for travelling to another country or countries covered by an Interreg cross-border cooperation programme running in their region.

3.1 GOING ABROAD TO OTHER COUNTRIES

– Close to four out of five respondents living in EU border regions have travelled abroad to another country at least once –



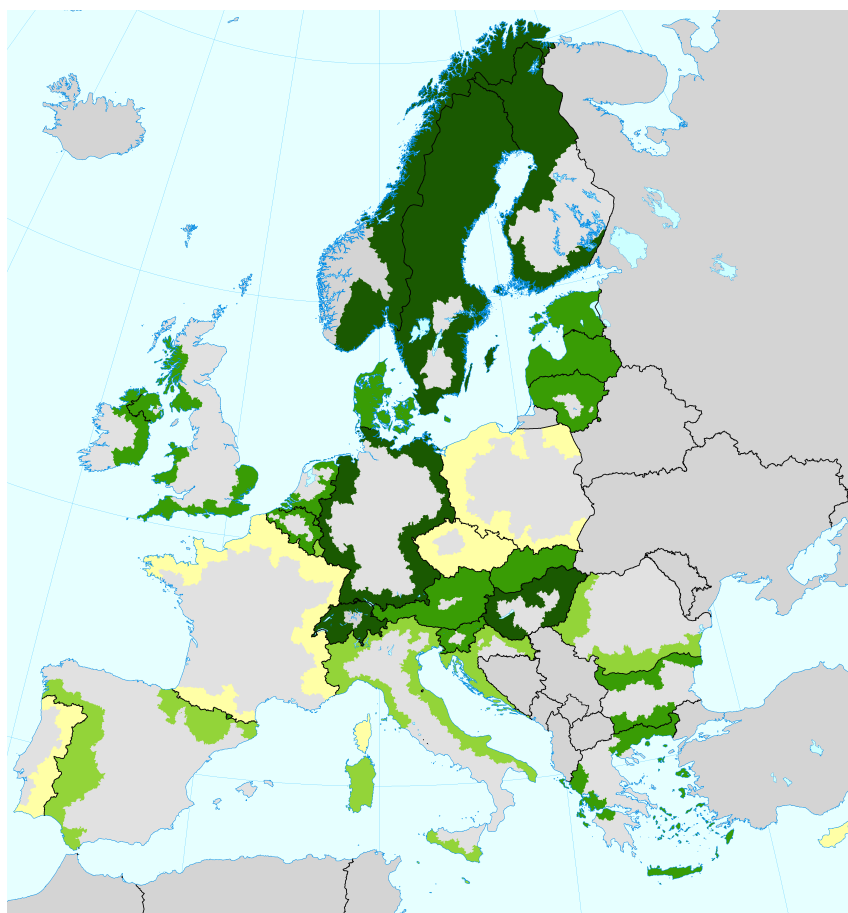
Asked how often they travel abroad⁶, 5% of respondents answered ‘several times a month’ (-1pp since 2015), with another 4% travelling once a month (stable between 2015 and 2020).

More than two-thirds of respondents travel ‘several times a year’ (31% in 2020, a +5pp increase since 2015) or ‘once a year or less often’ (38%, -2pp since the previous edition). Just over one in five respondents never travel abroad (21%, -3pp).

The following show strong geographical disparities in the proportion of respondents living in border regions covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes who have travelled abroad.

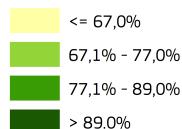
⁶ D7. How often do you go abroad to other countries? *Several times a month; Once a month; Several times a year; Once a year or less often; Never, Don't know*

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How often do you go abroad to other countries?

% goes abroad to other countries



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More than nine in ten respondents have travelled to other countries at least once in Lichtenstein (97%), Hungary (96%), and Switzerland and Germany (both 94%), followed by respondents living in Finland and Norway (both 92%), and in Sweden (91%). In contrast, only 62% of respondents in Cyprus and 63% in France and the Czech Republic have travelled abroad.

Very strong evolutions can be observed in many countries, especially in Eastern and Southern Europe, with increases of +41pp in Greece (89%, vs. 48% in 2015), +34pp in Hungary (96%, vs. 62%) and +29pp in Bulgaria (85% vs. 56%). Conversely, the proportion of respondents living in border regions covered by Interreg programmes who have travelled abroad has decreased drastically in Luxembourg (-20pp, 75% vs. 95%) and Cyprus

(-19pp, 62% vs. 81%).

At the overall programme level, at least nine in ten respondents living in regions covered by the following programmes have travelled abroad: *CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway [Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak]* (95%), *CB016 Sweden-Norway* (92%), *CB024 Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Liechtenstein*, *CB014 Finland-Estonia-Latvia-Sweden [Central Baltic]* and *CB032 Sweden-Finland-Norway [Nord]* (all 90%).

At the other end of the spectrum, less than two-thirds of residents of regions covered by the following programmes have travelled abroad: *CB020 Greece-Italy* (56%), *CB037 Italy-Malta* and *CB033 Italy-France [Maritime]* (both 58%), *CB005 Spain -Portugal [POCTEP]* (62%), *CB021 Romania-Bulgaria* and *CB042 Italy-Croatia* (both 63%), and *CB031 Lithuania-Poland* (65%).

In terms of evolutions in these results over time, it appears that the proportions of residents who have travelled abroad have increased the most (by 10pp or more) in regions covered by the following programmes: *CB049 Hungary-Romania (+23pp)*, *CB021 Romania-Bulgaria*, *CB022 Greece-Bulgaria* and *CB020 Greece-Italy (all +16pp)*, *CB027 Latvia-Lithuania (+15pp)*, *CB053 Slovenia-Hungary*, *CB015 Slovakia-Hungary* and *CB055 Greece-Cyprus (all +12pp)*, and *CB040 France-United Kingdom [Manche – Channel]* and *CB050 Estonia-Latvia (both +10pp)*.

In contrast, residents from regions covered by the 11 following programmes have travelled abroad comparatively less than in 2015: *CB033 Italy-France [Maritime] (-6pp)*, *CB019 Germany [Mecklenburg-West Pomerania/ Brandenburg]-Poland (-5pp)*, *CB004 Austria-Germany/Bavaria (-4pp)*, *CB039 France-Germany-Switzerland [Rhin supérieur - Oberrhein]* and *CB024 Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Liechtenstein (both -3pp)*, *CB006 Spain-France-Andorra [POCTEFA] (-2pp)*, and *CB023 Germany-The Netherlands*, *CB018 Poland-Germany/Saxony*, *CB037 Italy-Malta*, *CB056 Germany-Denmark* and *CB028 Sweden-Finland-Norway [Botnia-Atlantica] (all -1pp)*.

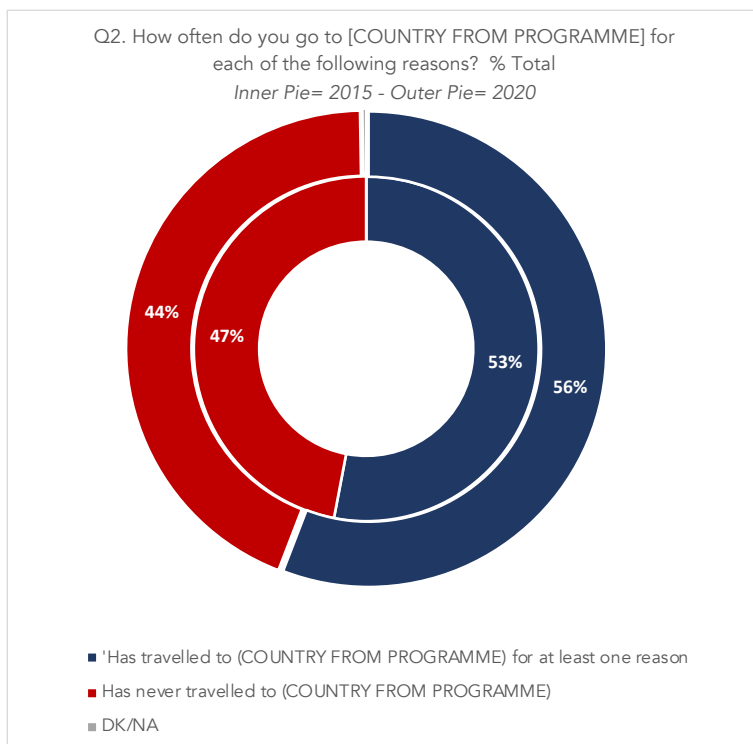
3.2 MOBILITY OF CITIZENS WITHIN AN INTERREG CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Respondents were then asked if they had travelled, for a range of reasons, to another country or countries covered by an Interreg cross-border cooperation programme running in their region. These reasons included visiting family or friends, work, shopping, leisure, or using public services⁷. The current section presents the summarised results from all of these questions; the detailed results for each reason to travel will be discussed in more detail in subsequent sections.

Close to six in ten respondents (56%) have travelled to a neighbouring country covered by an Interreg cross-border cooperation programme running in their region.

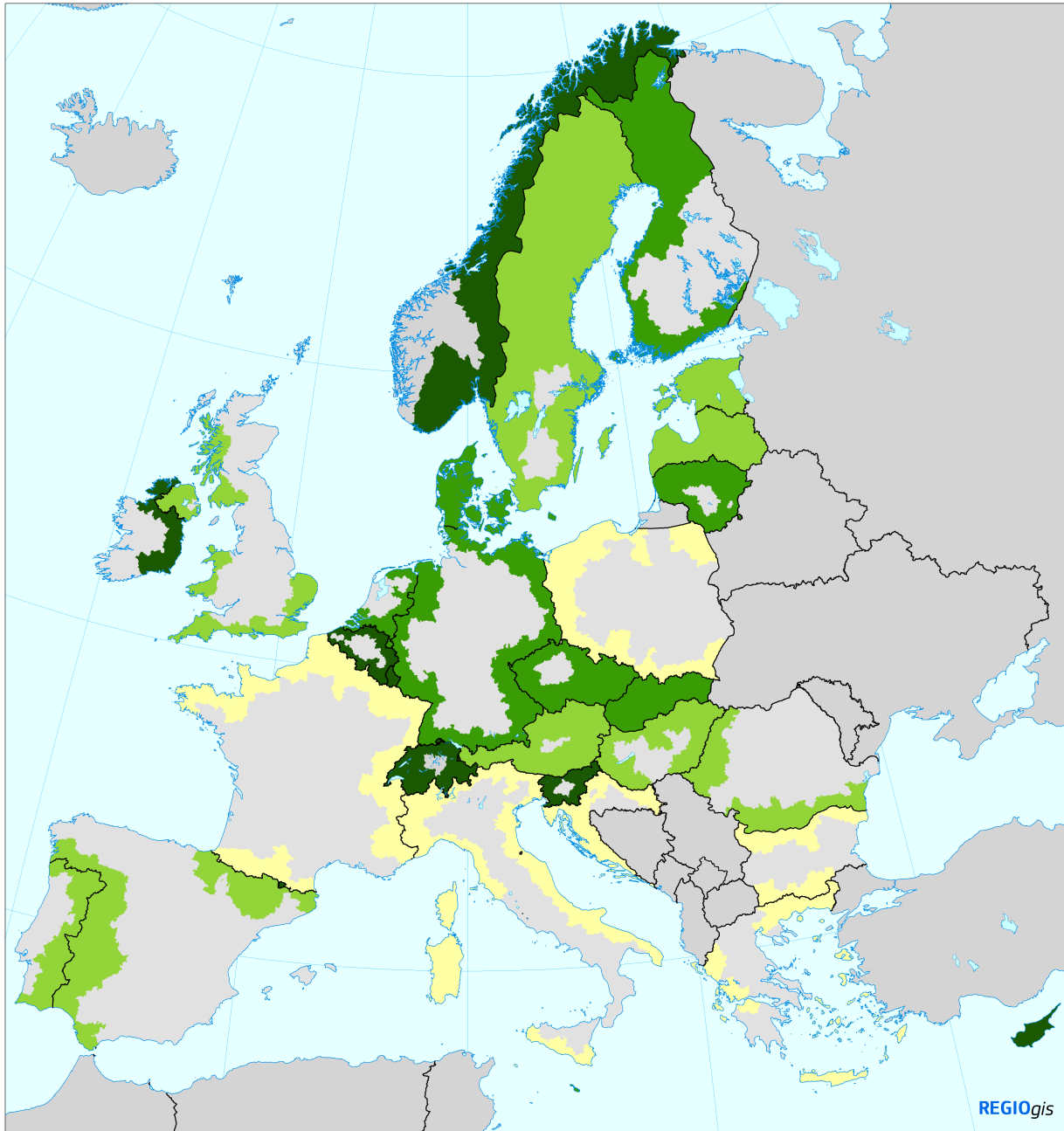
This proportion has increased by 3pp since 2015 (53%).

Unsurprisingly, the proportion of respondents who travelled, for a range of reasons, to another country covered by an Interreg cross-border cooperation programme running in their region, is comparatively higher in smaller-sized countries such as Liechtenstein (85%), Luxembourg (84%), Switzerland (78%) and Cyprus (77%). Conversely, this proportion is lowest amongst respondents located in border regions in Southern and Eastern Europe, such as Italy (36%), Greece (38%), Poland (43%) and Croatia (45%).



Very strong evolutions can be observed since the previous edition of the survey in 2015: the proportion of respondents who have travelled to another country covered by an Interreg cross-border cooperation programme running in their region has increased by +28pp in Latvia, by +22pp in Romania and by +20pp in Hungary. At the other end of the scale, this proportion has decreased by -17pp in Austria since 2015.

⁷ Q2. How often do you go to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] for each of the following reasons? To visit family; To visit friends; To use public services (for example health or education services); To shop for goods or services (for example buying clothes or to visit a hairdresser); For work or business purposes; For leisure activities including tourist visits.



How often do you go to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] for each of the following reasons?

%"Has travelled to neighbouring country for at least one reason"

- <= 47,0%
- 47,1% - 57,0%
- 57,1% - 69,0%
- > 85,0%

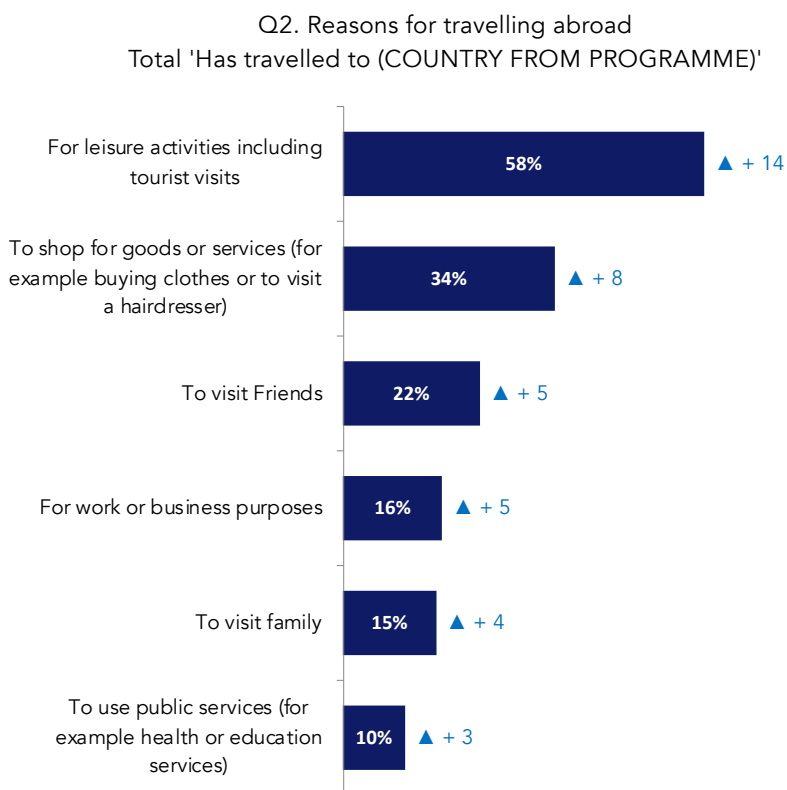
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3.3 THE REASONS FOR CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY

This section deals with the reasons for respondents to travel abroad to countries covered by an Interreg cross-border cooperation programme running in their region. Overall, of the six different reasons evaluated, the reason most often mentioned by respondents is travel for leisure activities including tourist visits (58%), followed by travel to shop for goods or services (34%). One in five (22%) have travelled to a neighbouring country to visit friends, while 16% have done so for work or business purposes and 15% to visit family. Respondents are least likely to have travelled to a partner country to use public services (10%).

It should be noted that the proportion of respondents who have travelled abroad to countries covered by an Interreg cross-border cooperation programme running in their region has increased since 2015, whatever the reason.



a) Travel for leisure activities including tourism

Strong differences between the different programmes have been measured in our survey: respondents are the most likely to have travelled to a partner country for leisure purposes in the regions covered by the following programmes: *PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (87%), CB005 Spain-Portugal (79%), CB044 Belgium-France (78%), CB041 France-Switzerland (77%), and CB034 France-Italy and CB046 Belgium-Netherlands (both 75%)*.

At the other end of the spectrum, less than two in five respondents living in the regions covered by programme *CB042 Italy-Croatia (33%), CB010 Austria-Hungary and CB013 Poland – Denmark – Germany – Lithuania -Sweden (both 37%), and CB020 Greece-Italy (38%)* have travelled to a neighbouring country in the same programme for leisure activities including tourist visits.

When looking at the evolutions since the previous wave of the survey, strong disparities appear between the different programmes. The highest increases (more than +30pp) can be observed in the five following programmes: *CB049 Hungary-Romania (+37pp), CB005 Spain-Portugal*

(+34pp), *CB021 Romania-Bulgaria (+33pp)*, and *CB034 France-Italy and CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (both +31pp)*.

b) Travel to shop for goods or services (for example buying clothes or to visit a hairdresser)

At least half of respondents living in regions covered by the following programmes have crossed the border for this reason: *CB001 Belgium-Germany-Netherlands (66%)*, *CB023 Germany-Netherlands (63%)*, *CB044 Belgium-France (59%)*, *CB005 Spain-Portugal (55%)*, *PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom and CB046 Belgium-Netherlands (both 54%)* and *CB017 Germany-Czech Republic (51%)*.

Conversely, less than one in five respondents have travelled abroad to shop for goods and services in the following programmes: *CB020 Greece-Italy (9%)*, *CB042 Italy-Croatia (10%)*, *CB033 Italy-France (13%)*, *CB040 France-United Kingdom (14%)*, *CB037 Italy-Malta (15%)*, *CB013 Poland-Denmark-Germany-Lithuania-Sweden (17%)*, *CB034 France-Italy (18%)*, and *CB038 France-Belgium-Netherlands-United Kingdom (19%)*.

Since the previous edition of the survey, the strongest increases can be observed in the following programmes: *CB005 Spain-Portugal (+30pp)*, *CB044 Belgium-France (+21pp)*, *CB027 Latvia-Lithuania (+20pp)*, *CB049 Hungary-Romania (+18pp)*, *CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (+17pp)*, and *CB001 Belgium-Germany-Netherlands and CB023 Germany-Netherlands (both +15pp)*.

c) Travel to visit friends

The following table details the proportion (and its evolution since 2015) of respondents who have travelled to a partner country to visit friends in each of the 54 Interreg programmes.

The results vary greatly from one programme to another: more than one-third of respondents mentioned this reason in the following programmes: *PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (56%)*, *CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland (49%)*, *CB041 France-Switzerland (44%)*, *CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic and CB004 Austria-Germany (both 39%)*, and *CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (36%)* and *CB024 Germany-Austria-Switzerland-LI (35%)*.

However, only one in ten respondents mentioned travelling abroad to visit friends in the programmes *CB008 Hungary-Croatia and CB021 Romania-Bulgaria (both 9%)*, and *CB042 Italy-Croatia (10%)*.

When looking at the evolutions since the previous wave of the survey, strong disparities appear between the different programmes. The highest increases (more than +10pp) can be observed in the seven following programmes: *CB027 Latvia-Lithuania (+23pp)*, *CB041 France-Switzerland and CB049 Hungary-Romania (both +19pp)*, *CB040 France-United Kingdom (+18pp)*, *CB022 Greece-Bulgaria and CB029 Slovenia-Croatia (both +12pp)*, and *CB031 Lithuania-Poland (+11pp)*.

d) Travel for work or business purposes

Overall, cross-border mobility for business purposes is mentioned by one in six respondents (16%). From a programme perspective, a quarter or more of respondents living in regions covered by the following programmes have travelled abroad for this reason: *PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (33%), CB027 Latvia-Lithuania (32%), CB011 Germany-Poland (30%), CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (26%), and CB046 Belgium-Netherlands and CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic (both 25%).*

Conversely, one in ten respondents or less have travelled abroad for this reason in the five following programmes, located in Southern Europe: *CB037 Italy-Malta (6%), CB020 Greece-Italy (8%), CB008 Hungary-Croatia and CB042 Italy-Croatia (both 9%), and CB033 Italy-France (10%).*

Since the previous edition of the survey in 2015, the strongest increases (more than +10pp) can be observed in the following programmes: *CB027 Latvia-Lithuania (+24pp), CB011 Germany-Poland (+18pp), CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (+14pp), CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (+13pp), CB035 Italy-Switzerland and CB049 Hungary-Romania (both +12pp), and CB053 Slovenia-Hungary (+11pp).*

e) Travel to visit family

At least a third of respondents mentioned travelling abroad to visit family in the following programmes: *PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (46%), CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland (45%), CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (41%) and CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic (34%).*

However, less than one in ten respondents mentioned travelling abroad to visit family in the following programmes: *CB042 Italy-Croatia (5%), CB002 Austria-Czech Republic, CB050 Estonia-Latvia, CB021 Romania-Bulgaria and CB053 Slovenia-Hungary (all 6%), CB054 Slovenia-Austria, CB009 Germany-Czech Republic, CB020 Greece-Italy and CB037 Italy-Malta (all 7%), CB014 Finland-Estonia-Latvia-Sweden and CB052 Italy-Austria (both 8%), and CB010 Austria-Hungary and CB008 Hungary-Croatia (both 9%).*

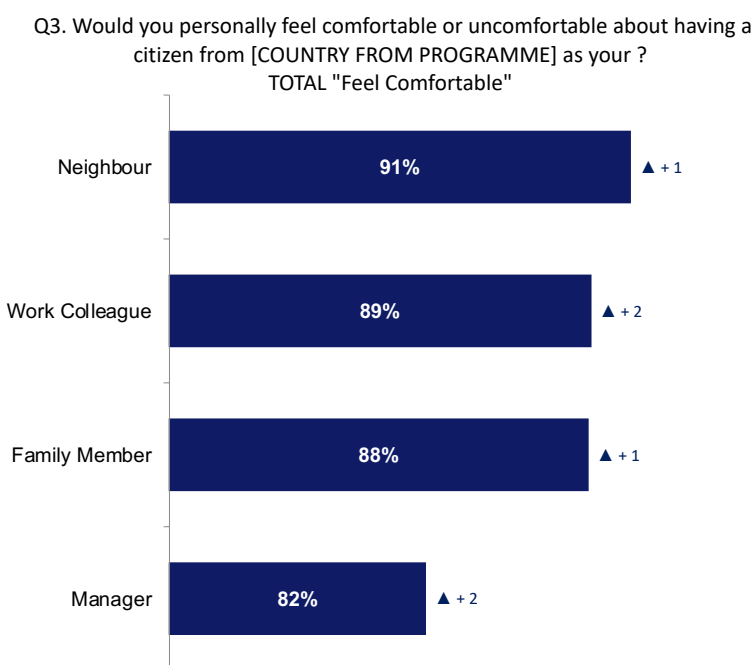
When looking at the evolutions since 2015, strong disparities can be observed between the different programmes. The highest increases (+10pp or more) can be observed in: *CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (+20pp), CB027 Latvia-Lithuania (+18pp), CB049 Hungary-Romania (+17pp), and CB013 Poland- Denmark-Germany-Lithuania-Sweden and CB040 France-United Kingdom (both +10pp).*

IV. CROSS BORDER EXPERIENCE: ATTITUDES TOWARDS SPECIFIC SOCIAL CATEGORIES FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

This third section explores social trust and comfort: first, by evaluating how comfortable respondents would feel with people from programme partner countries if they were their managers, co-workers, neighbours or family members; and secondly, by measuring the general level of trust in other people.

4.1 COMFORT WITH HAVING CERTAIN SOCIAL RELATIONS WITH PEOPLE FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

– A large majority of people living in EU border regions would feel comfortable about having a citizen from another country covered by an Interreg cross-border cooperation programme as a manager, work colleague, neighbour or family member –



More specifically, around nine in ten respondents (91%) say they would feel totally comfortable (62%) or somewhat comfortable (29%) having a citizen of a partner country as a **neighbour**. The proportion is quite similar when it comes to **work colleagues** (89% would feel totally (61%) or somewhat (28%) comfortable) and **family members** (88%, 61% and 27% respectively). Slightly more than eight in ten respondents (82%) would feel totally (54%) or somewhat (28%) comfortable about having a citizen from a partner country as their **manager**.

These perceptions have remained fairly stable since the previous 2015 edition, with a slight increase of 1 percentage point for 'work colleagues' and 'neighbours' and +2pp for 'managers' and 'family members'.

a) Neighbours

The highest proportions (more than 95% of respondents) can be observed in the nine following programmes: *CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland (99%), PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (98%), CB028 Sweden-Finland-Norway (97%), and CB044 Belgium-France, CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway, CB056 Germany-Denmark, CB016 Sweden-Norway, CB032 Sweden-Finland-Norway and CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (all 96%).*

At the other end of the spectrum, less than 85% of respondents living in the regions covered by the following programmes say they would feel comfortable having a citizen from a partner country as a **neighbour**: *CB019 Germany-Poland and CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (both 79%), CB018 Poland-Germany (82%), CB017 Germany-Czech Republic and CB005 Spain-Portugal (both 83%), and CB009 Germany-Czech Republic (84%).*

This feeling of comfort with having a citizen from a partner country as a **neighbour** has remained relatively stable since 2015. However, the highest increases (+5pp and above) can be observed in relation to the following programmes: *CB010 Austria-Hungary (+9pp), CB009 Germany-Czech Republic and CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic (both +6pp), and CB011 Germany-Poland, CB049 Hungary-Romania, CB001 Belgium-Germany-Netherlands, CB025 Czech Republic-Poland and CB003 Slovakia-Austria (all +5pp).*

b) Work colleague

The highest proportions (more than 95% of respondents) can be observed in the seven following programmes: *CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland (98%), PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (97%), and CB028 Sweden-Finland-Norway, CB044 Belgium-France, CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland, CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway and CB016 Sweden-Norway (all 96%).*

At the other end of the ranking, 80% of respondents or less say they would feel comfortable having a citizen from a partner country as a **work colleague** in the following programmes: *CB019 Germany-Poland and CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (both 77%), CB018 Poland-Germany (79%), and CB017 Germany-Czech Republic and CB009 Germany-Czech Republic (both 80%).*

This feeling of comfort with having a citizen from a partner country as a **work colleague** has remained relatively stable since 2015. However, the highest increases (+5pp and above) can be observed in the eight following programmes: *CB010 Austria-Hungary (+11pp), CB015 Slovakia-Hungary (+8pp), CB049 Hungary-Romania and CB008 Hungary-Croatia (both +7pp), and CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland, CB056 Germany-Denmark, CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic and CB003 Slovakia-Austria (all +5pp).*

c) Family member

In line with the previous edition, 88% of respondents say they would feel comfortable having a citizen from a partner country as a **family member**, and more than two-thirds of respondents in each programme agree. The highest proportions (at least 95% of respondents) can be observed in the four following programmes: *CB044 Belgium-France (98%), CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (97%), PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (96%), and CB056 Germany-Denmark (95%)*.

The lowest proportions of respondents feeling comfortable having a citizen from a partner country as a **family member** are found in the following programmes: *CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (69%), CB017 Germany-Czech Republic (73%), CB009 Germany-Czech Republic (74%), CB019 Germany-Poland (75%), and CB021 Romania-Bulgaria and CB018 Poland-Germany (both 78%)*.

This feeling of comfort with having a citizen from a partner country as a **family member** has also remained fairly stable since 2015 (+2pp overall). However, strong increases (more than +5pp) can be observed in the following programmes: *CB010 Austria-Hungary (+9pp), CB003 Slovakia-Austria and CB049 Hungary-Romania (both +8pp), CB014 Finland-Estonia-Latvia-Sweden, CB004 Austria-Germany, CB020 Greece-Italy and CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (all +7pp), and CB056 Germany-Denmark, CB050 Estonia-Latvia and CB021 Romania-Bulgaria (all +6pp)*.

d) Manager

Finally, 82% of respondents say they would feel comfortable having a citizen from a partner country as **their manager**, and more than six in ten respondents in each programme agree. The highest proportions (more than 90% of respondents) can be observed in the nine following programmes: *CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland (96%), CB028 Sweden-Finland-Norway (95%), CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland and PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (both 94%), CB016 Sweden-Norway, CB044 Belgium-France, CB032 Sweden-Finland-Norway and CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway (all 93%), and CB056 Germany-Denmark (92%)*.

At the opposite end of the scale, the proportions of respondents feeling comfortable having a citizen from a partner country as **their manager** stands at less than 70% in the following programmes: *CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (60%), CB019 Germany-Poland (63%), CB009 Germany-Czech Republic (65%), CB012 Poland-Slovakia and CB017 Germany-Czech Republic (both 68%), and CB025 Czech Republic-Poland (69%)*.

This feeling of comfort with having a citizen from a partner country as **their manager** has also remained relatively stable since 2015 (+2pp). The highest increases (+10pp and above) are observed in the eight following programmes: *CB010 Austria-Hungary (+18pp), CB015 Slovakia-Hungary and CB003 Slovakia-Austria (both +12pp), and CB011 Germany-Poland, CB023 Germany-Netherlands and CB056 Germany-Denmark (all +10pp)*.

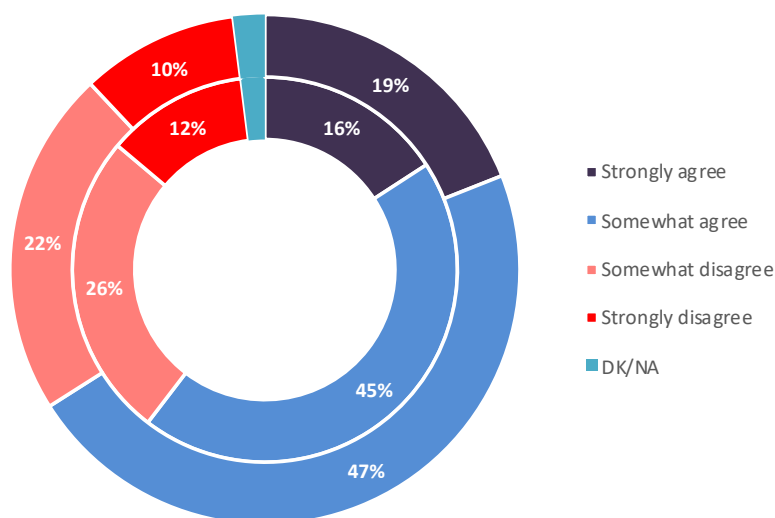
4.2 GENERAL LEVEL OF SOCIAL TRUST IN OTHER PEOPLE

Respondents were subsequently asked if, in general, they thought most people could be trusted⁸. Overall, two-thirds of respondents (66%) agree with this statement, with 19% strongly agreeing and 47% somewhat agreeing. Just under a quarter somewhat disagree (22%), while one in ten (10%) strongly disagree.

This represents a slight increase (+5pp) in the total level of trust in other people since the previous edition: 66% agree in 2020, compared with 61% in 2015.

Generally speaking, would you agree or disagree that most people can be trusted? % TOTAL

Inner Pie = Results 2015 ; Outer Pie = Results 2020



In line with the 2015 results, it appears that respondents in the Nordic countries, and in Lichtenstein and Ireland, are the most likely to agree that most people can be trusted: Denmark (88%), Sweden (87%), Norway (85%), Liechtenstein (84%), Ireland (82%) and Finland (81%).

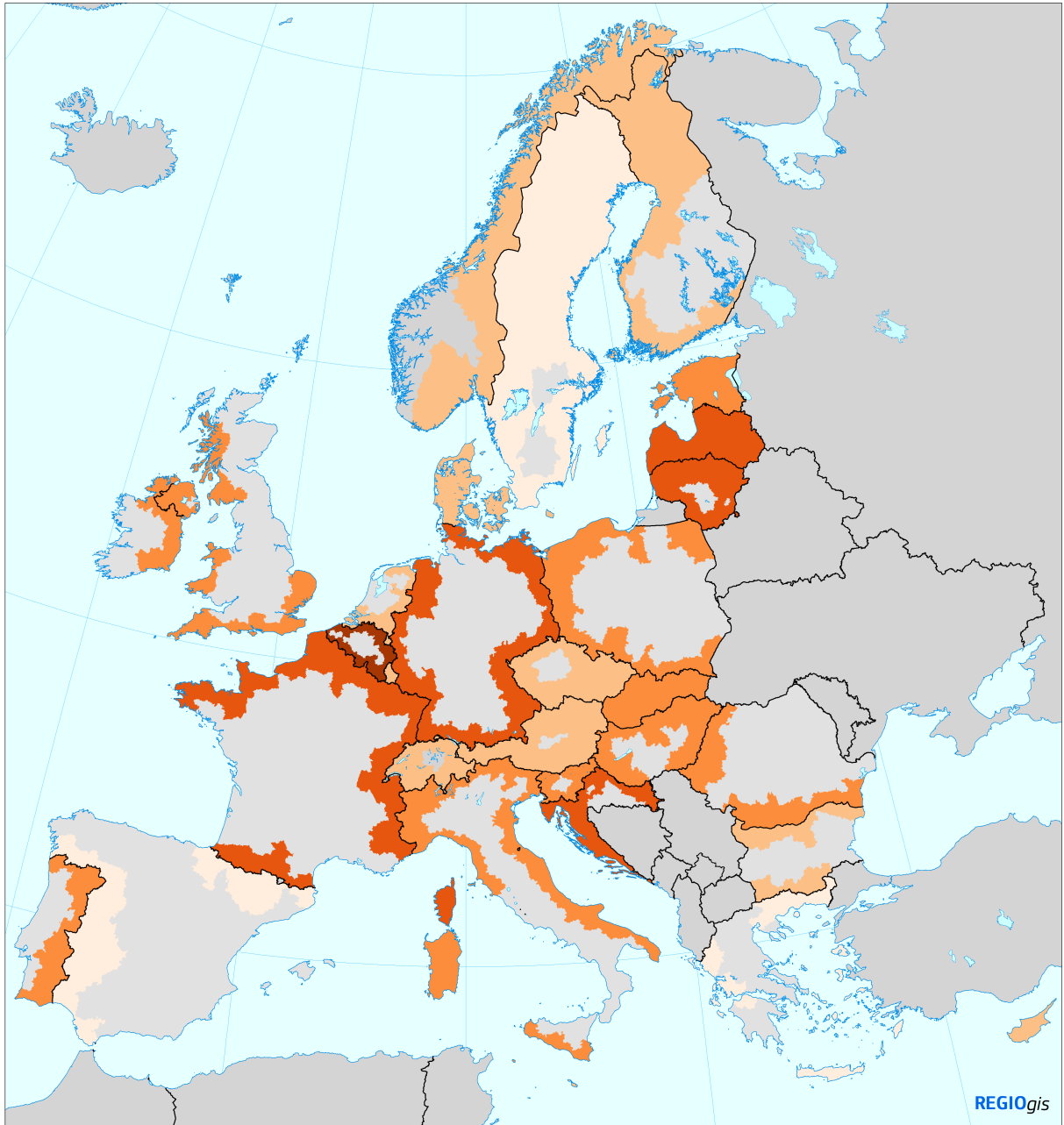
Conversely, this proportion is lowest amongst respondents located in border regions in Southern and Eastern Europe, such as Bulgaria (38%), Hungary, Malta and Cyprus (all 43%), the Czech Republic (44%), and Slovakia (45%).

Although the average level of trust (for all respondents) has remained relatively stable since 2015 (+5pp), some strong increases can be observed in certain countries: the proportion of respondents who agree that most people can be trusted has increased by +20pp in Belgium, by +13pp in Latvia and by +12pp in Germany and France.

⁸ Q4 Generally speaking, would you agree or disagree that most people can be trusted? Strongly agree; Somewhat agree; Somewhat disagree; Strongly disagree.

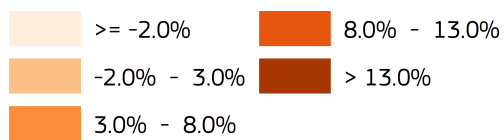
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EU 2020

The following map illustrates the distribution of changes in the level of trust since 2015.



**Generally speaking, would you agree or disagree that most people can be trusted?
Compared with survey results 2015**

Percentage point change "agree"



0 500 Km

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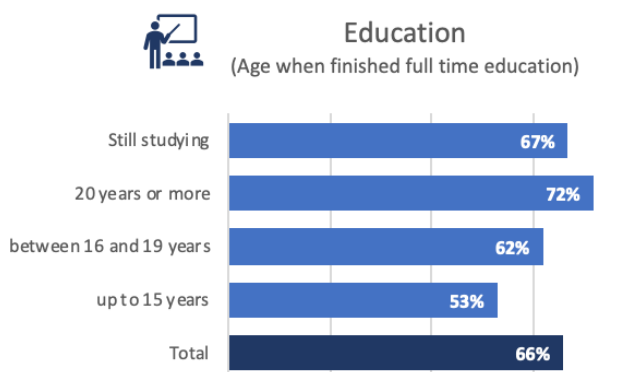
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EU 2020

These disparities between countries can also be found when looking at the results at the programme level: at the higher end of the spectrum, more than four out of five respondents agree that “most people can be trusted” in the six following programmes: *CB016 Sweden-Norway (89%), CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway (87%), CB028 Sweden-Finland-Norway (86%), CB032 Sweden-Finland-Norway (84%), PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (83%), and CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (81%).*

Conversely, less than half of respondents agree in the following programmes: *CB055 Greece-Republic of Cyprus, CB015 Slovakia-Hungary and CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic (all 44%), CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (45%) and CB053 Slovenia-Hungary (48%).*

The socio-demographic analysis, at the overall level, highlights the following differences:

Respondents who finished education aged 15 or earlier (53%) are significantly less likely to agree that in general most people can be trusted compared with those who remained longer in education (72% for those who finished education at the age of 20 or later; 66% for those still studying).



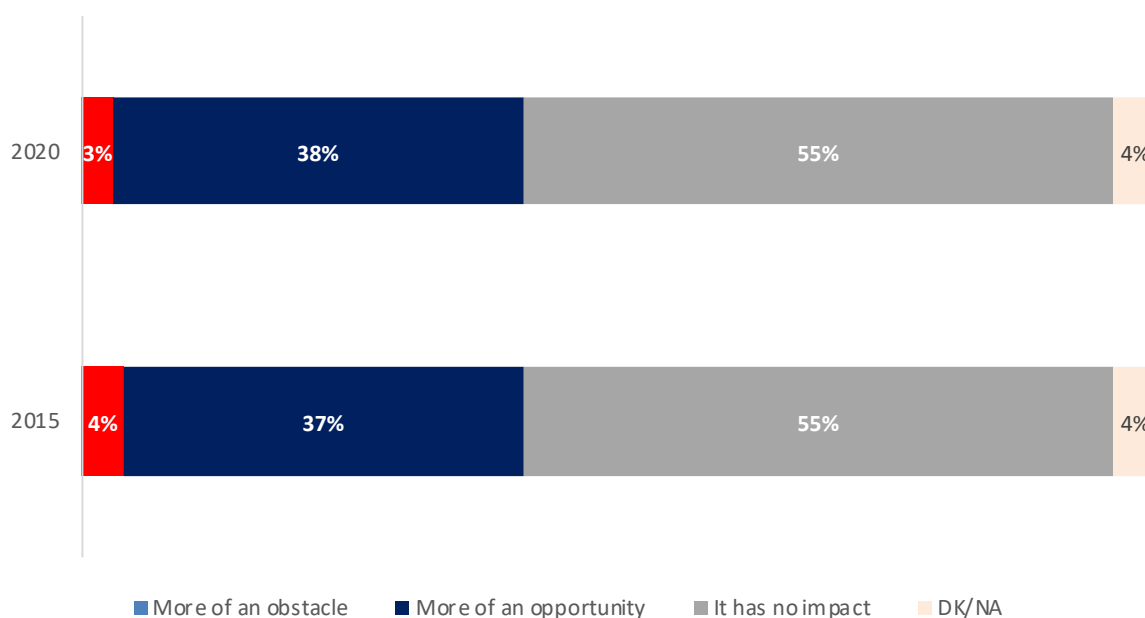
V. OBSTACLES TO CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN BORDER REGIONS COVERED BY AN INTERREG CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

5.1 LIVING IN A BORDER REGION AS AN OPPORTUNITY OR AN OBSTACLE

- In line with the previous edition, respondents are likely to consider living in a border region more as an opportunity than an obstacle -

The majority of respondents (55%, no change) say it has no impact, while 38% (+1pp) consider it more of an opportunity, and just 3% (-1pp) say it is more of an obstacle.

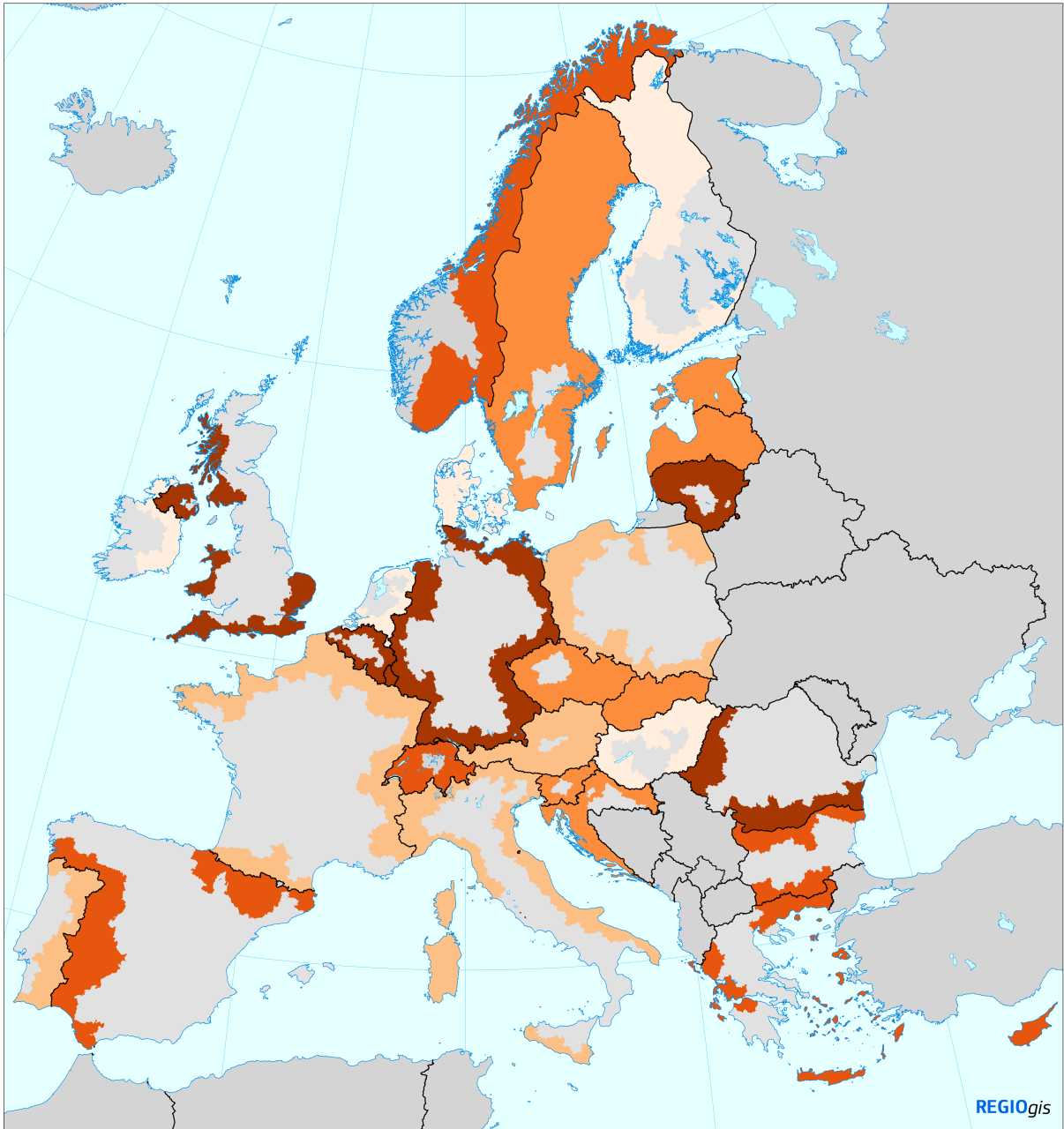
Q5. Would you say that living near the border with [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] represents % Total



Strong disparities can be observed between the different countries. Around half of respondents share this perception in the border regions of Portugal (58%), Malta (49%), Lichtenstein (48%), Belgium and Norway (both 46%).

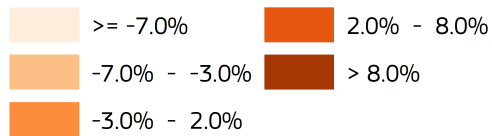
In contrast, less than one-third of respondents consider that living near the border represents more of an opportunity in Poland and Cyprus (both 25%), in Ireland, Hungary and Austria (all 28%), in Greece (29%) and in Croatia and Finland (both 31%).

The following map illustrates the distribution of changes since 2015 in the proportions of respondents who see living near a border as more of an opportunity.



Would you say that living near the border with [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] represents
 Compared with survey results 2015

Percentage point change "More of an opportunity"



0 500 Km

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CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EU 2020

Looking at these results at the programme level, it appears that half of respondents or more consider living near the border with a partner country as an opportunity in the regions covered by the following programmes: *CB035 Italy-Switzerland (60%), CB036 Italy-Slovenia (56%), CB039 France-Germany-Switzerland (52%), CB044 Belgium-France (51%) and CB056 Germany-Denmark (50%)*.

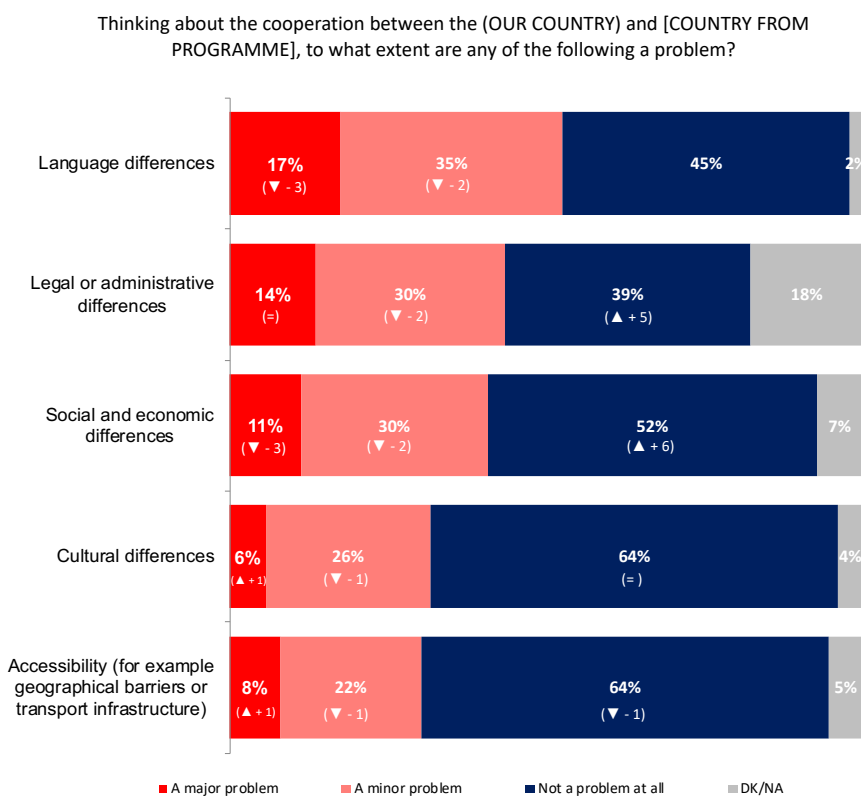
Conversely, only a quarter or less share this perception in the regions covered by the following programmes: *CB031 Lithuania-Poland (17%), CB008 Hungary-Croatia, CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland and CB012 Poland-Slovakia (24%), and CB053 Slovenia-Hungary (25%)*.

5.2 PERCEIVED OBSTACLES TO CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

In the final part of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to what extent they considered a range of factors to be problems affecting cooperation between their country and partner countries⁹.

More than half (52%) of respondents consider that **language differences** represent a major (17%) or minor (35%) problem for cooperation between their country and its partner country or countries. However, this proportion has decreased by -5pp since the previous edition (57% in total).

The second aspect most often mentioned as being a problem for cross-border cooperation is the **legal or administrative differences** between partner countries: overall, more than four respondents in ten (44%) consider legal or administrative differences to be a major (14%) or minor (30%) problem for



⁹ Q6 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; Accessibility (for example geographical barriers or transport infrastructure); Language differences; Social and economic differences; Cultural differences / ANSWERS: A major problem; a minor problem; not a problem at all; Don't know/No answer)

cooperation between their country and its partner country or countries. This proportion has decreased slightly by -2pp since the previous edition (42% in total in 2015).

Thirdly, about four respondents in ten (41%) consider that **social and economic differences** represent a major (11%) or minor (30%) problem for cooperation between their country and its partner country or countries. This proportion has also decreased by -5pp since the previous edition (46% in total in 2015).

The fourth reason, mentioned by about one-third of respondents (32%), is **cultural differences**, considered as a major (6%) or minor (26%) problem for cooperation between their country and its partner country or countries. This proportion has remained stable since the 2015 edition.

Finally, less than three respondents in ten (30%) consider that **accessibility** (for example geographical barriers or transport infrastructure) represents a major (8%) or minor (22%) problem for cooperation between their country and its partner country or countries. This proportion has remained stable since the previous edition.

a) Language differences

In line with the previous edition of this survey, respondents in programmes involving Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland are the most likely to mention language differences as a problem for cross border cooperation: *CB009 Germany-Czech Republic and CB011 Germany-Poland (both 80%), CB002 Austria-Czech Republic and CB019 Germany-Poland (both 77%), and CB017 Germany-Czech Republic (76%).*

Conversely, respondents are less likely to mention language differences as a problem in the following programmes: *CB004 Austria-Germany (10%), CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (13%), CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic (14%), CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland (16%), and PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (19%).*

The proportion of respondents who consider language differences as a problem for cross-border cooperation has decreased by -5pp since 2015. At programme level, the highest increases can be observed in the five following programmes: *CB042 Italy-Croatia (+10pp), PC001 Ireland-United Kingdom (+5pp), and CB049 Hungary-Romania, CB035 Italy-Switzerland and CB029 Slovenia-Croatia (all +4pp).*

b) Legal or administrative differences

The highest proportion of citizens considering legal or administrative differences as problematic can be found in the following programmes: *CB035 Italy-Switzerland (65%), CB042 Italy-Croatia and CB041 France-Switzerland (both 60%), and CB020 Greece-Italy, CB033 Italy-France and CB009 Germany-Czech Republic (all 58%),*

At the other end of the scale, respondents are less likely to mention legal or administrative differences as a problem in the following programmes: *CB021 Romania-Bulgaria (23%), CB032 Sweden-Finland-Norway (25%), CB028 Sweden-Finland-Norway and CB026 Sweden-Denmark-Norway (both 26%), CB023 Germany-Netherlands (27%), and CB005 Spain-Portugal, CB016 Sweden-Norway and CB004 Austria-Germany (all 28%).*

The proportion of respondents who consider legal or administrative differences as a problem for cross-border cooperation has decreased slightly by -2pp since the previous edition. However, the highest increases can be observed in the four following programmes: *CB042 Italy-Croatia (+16pp), CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (+10pp), and CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland and CB027 Latvia-Lithuania (both +9pp).*

c) Social and economic differences

More than six in ten respondents mention social and economic differences as a problem for cross border cooperation in the following programmes: *CB009 Germany-Czech Republic (67%), CB002 Austria-Czech Republic (63%), CB022 Greece-Bulgaria (62%), and CB035 Italy-Switzerland (61%).*

Whereas, a quarter of respondents or less mention social and economic differences as a problem in the four following programmes: *CB004 Austria-Germany (21%), CB023 Germany-Netherlands (22%), CB028 Sweden-Finland-Norway (24%), and CB032 Sweden-Finland-Norway (25%).*

Overall, the proportion of respondents who consider social and economic differences as a problem for cross-border cooperation has decreased by -5pp since 2015. At the programme level, the highest increases can be observed in the following programmes: *CB050 Estonia-Latvia (+6pp), and CB022 Greece-Bulgaria, and CB042 Italy-Croatia (both +5pp).*

d) Cultural differences

The highest proportions of respondents considering Cultural differences as a problem can be observed in the following programmes: *CB011 Germany-Poland (51%), CB009 Germany-Czech Republic and CB033 Italy-France (both 49%), and CB019 Germany-Poland and CB035 Italy-Switzerland (both 48%).*

At the other end of the scale, less than one in five respondents mention cultural differences as a problem in the following programmes: *CB016 Sweden-Norway (15%), CB021 Romania-Bulgaria and CB044 Belgium-France (both 16%), CB004 Austria-Germany (17%), CB030 Slovakia-Czech Republic (18%), and CB008 Hungary-Croatia (19%).*

The relative stability of the proportion of respondents who consider cultural differences as a problem for cross-border cooperation hides a wide range of evolutions within the 54 programmes: the highest increases can be observed in the five following programmes: *CB033 Italy-France (+13pp), CB042 Italy-Croatia and CB009 Germany-Czech Republic (both +11pp), and CB022 Greece-Bulgaria and CB048 United Kingdom-Ireland (both +10pp).*

e) Accessibility

More than 45% of respondents in the following programmes mention accessibility as a problem for cross border cooperation: *CB033 Italy-France (54%), CB020 Greece-Italy (51%), CB035 Italy-Switzerland (49%), and CB034 France-Italy (46%).*

At the other end of the scale, respondents are less likely to mention accessibility as a problem in the following programmes: *CB023 Germany-Netherlands (13%), CB004 Austria-Germany (15%), CB008 Hungary-Croatia and CB001 Belgium-Germany-Netherlands (both 16%), CB053 Slovenia-Hungary and CB044 Belgium-France (both 18%), and CB046 Belgium-Netherlands and CB010 Austria-Hungary (both 19%).*

The proportion of respondents who consider accessibility as a problem for cross-border cooperation has remained stable since the previous edition. However, increases of more than 10pp can be observed in the three following programmes: *CB047 United Kingdom-Ireland and CB033 Italy-France (both +14pp), and CB037 Italy-Malta (+11pp).*

ANNEXES



“Cross-border cooperation in the EU”

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS


































Gallup International carried out the survey on Cross-border cooperation in the European Union between 5 February and 10 April 2020. This survey targeted the population aged 15 years and above living in the border regions covered by the Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes of the 27 Member States of the European Union, the United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland, Andorra and Lichtenstein

In all 32 countries included in this survey, interviews were conducted by telephone (combination of landlines and mobile). The sampling adopted a multi-stage random probability design. At the first stage, a regional stratification was established to ensure that all NUTS III level regions that were part of the 54 Interreg programmes were covered in each programme sample proportionally to their population size within this programme. Households were selected using Random Digit Dialling Approach and within each household respondents were selected using the last birthday rule.

A weighting procedure was applied based on the latest universe figures (as published by Eurostat 2018) in terms of NUTS III regions, gender and age (interlocked) and working status. For each Interreg programme a comparison between the sample (weighted and unweighted) and the universe was carried out in order to assess weighting efficiency.

The total sample size in each country are listed here below.

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EU 2020

		Sample size
	TOTAL	41091
	LI	300
	HU	1500
	CH	1305
	DE	4300
	FI	1200
	NO	1500
	SE	2300
	EL	902
	NL	1423
	SI	1200
	AD	302
	LV	1000
	AT	2105
	BE	1800
	UK	1610
	BG	612
	EE	700
	SK	1209
	DK	1100
	IE	918
	LT	1001
	MT	300
	LU	401
	RO	600
	IT	2425
	ES	704
	HR	900
	PL	2200
	PT	300
	CZ	1508
	FR	3165
	CY	301

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EU 2020

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimates that are unlikely to exactly equal the true population values for a variety of reasons. The difference between the two is referred to as the “error” of the survey estimate. The “margin of error” depends on the sample size and upon the observed percentage. The more interviews are conducted (sample size), the smaller the margin of error would be. Larger samples are more likely to give results closer to the true population quantity and thus have smaller margins of error.

The above table provide a calculation of the margin of error (at 95% confidence level) for a given survey estimate and sample size.

Survey estimates	SAMPLE SIZE									
	10	50	100	150	200	400	800	1000	2000	4000
5%	13,5	6	4,3	3,5	3	2,1	1,5	1,4	1	0,7
10%	18,6	8,3	5,9	4,8	4,2	2,9	2,1	1,9	1,3	0,9
25%	26,8	12	8,5	6,9	6	4,2	3	2,7	1,9	1,3
50%	31	13,9	9,8	8	6,9	4,9	3,5	3,1	2,2	1,5
75%	26,8	12	8,5	6,9	6	4,2	3	2,7	1,9	1,3
90%	18,6	8,3	5,9	4,8	4,2	2,9	2,1	1,9	1,3	0,9
95%	13,5	6	4,3	3,5	3	2,1	1,5	1,4	1	0,7

It is important to note that the period in which this survey took place was marked by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe and in the rest of the world. While most of the fieldwork had finished before the implementation of lockdown measures in the countries covered, we decided to issue appropriate interviewer training to ensure that answers to our survey remained neutral from the pandemic in the minds of respondents. It was important that hesitant respondents were given clarifications on the fact that their answers should reflect a “normal” situation.

