



## **Flash Eurobarometer 423**

# **CITIZENS' AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF EU REGIONAL POLICY**

## **SUMMARY**

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This survey has been requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and co-ordinated by Directorate-General for Communication.

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.  
The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

**Flash Eurobarometer 423 - TNS Political & Social**

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**Citizens' awareness and perceptions of EU  
Regional Policy**

Conducted by TNS Political & Social at the request of  
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

Survey co-ordinated by the European Commission,  
Directorate-General for Communication  
(DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and  
Eurobarometer" Unit)

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## INTRODUCTION

EU Regional Policy invests in all EU regions to reduce the differences in wealth which exist both between Member States, and between regions within Member States. The guiding principle of this policy has been to identify countries and regions whose GDP falls short of the EU average, and use development funds for projects to promote economic, social and territorial convergence.

Regional policy is the EU's main instrument of investment: at €351.8 billion it accounts for approximately a third of the EU budget for the 2014-2020 period<sup>1</sup>. Through several funds – most prominently the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund – the EU co-finances a variety of projects which make it possible for less developed regions and countries to fulfil their economic potential. Prominent among these projects are investment in transport and communications infrastructure, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, and the modernisation of education systems. EU Regional Policy is also a major instrument for the realisation of the EU's 'Europe 2020' growth goals, which aim to create growth and jobs via innovation, deal with the problems of climate change and energy dependence, and reduce poverty and social exclusion.

The majority of funding available under the regional policy is directed towards 'less developed regions', whose GDP is lower than 75% of the EU average, and 'transition regions', whose GDP is between 75% and 90% of the EU average. While individual Member States and their regions are the main recipients of co-financing for development projects, the EU has also sought to promote cross-border cooperation in macro-regions such as the Baltic Sea region, in an effort to promote a shared approach to drive growth in these regions.

This report is part of a series of studies that examines Europeans' awareness of and attitudes towards EU Regional Policy. It is based on two previous surveys, the FL298 study of June 2010<sup>2</sup> and the FL384<sup>3</sup> study of September 2013, to which it adds new questions. It begins by asking whether respondents have heard about any EU co-financed projects and, if so, whether they believe those projects have had a positive or negative impact. Respondents are then asked about their familiarity with two of the EU's key regional funds, and whether they have benefited personally from an EU-funded project. It also provides information on the sources of information used by respondents in finding out about EU Regional Policy.

The survey then looks at priorities for EU Regional Policy from the citizen perspective, asking respondents which geographical regions and areas of investment the EU should target, and who should take decisions about regional investments. It then examines patterns of interaction between neighbouring Member States, asking respondents how often and for what reason they visit EU countries that border their own. It concludes by

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<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/flipbook/en/regional\\_policy\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/flipbook/en/regional_policy_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/flash/fl\\_298\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_298_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/flash/fl\\_384\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_384_en.pdf)

looking at public awareness of cross-border cooperation, including three EU macro-regional strategies in the Baltic Sea, Danube River, and Adriatic and Ionian Sea regions.

This survey was carried out by TNS Political & Social network in the 28 Member States of the European Union between 24 and 26 June 2015. Some 28.048 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed via telephone (landline and mobile phone) in their mother tongue on behalf of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional Policy. The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)<sup>4</sup>. A technical note on the manner in which interviews were conducted by the Institutes within the TNS Political & Social network is appended as an annex to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence intervals<sup>5</sup>.

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
EL	Greece	PL	Poland
ES	Spain	PT	Portugal
FR	France	RO	Romania
HR	Croatia	SI	Slovenia
IE	Ireland	SK	Slovakia
IT	Italy	FI	Finland
CY	Republic of Cyprus***	SE	Sweden
LV	Latvia	UK	The United Kingdom
		EU28	European Union – 28 Member States
		EU15	BE, IT, FR, DE, LU, NL, DK, UK, IE, PT, ES, EL, AT, SE, FI*
		EU13	BG, CZ, EE, HR, CY, LT, LV, MT, HU, PL, RO, SI, SK**
		EURO AREA	BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT
		NON-EURO AREA	BG, CZ, DK, HU, PL, RO, SE, UK, HR

\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the 'acquis communautaire' has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the 'CY' category and in the EU28 average.

\*\* EU15 refers to the 15 countries forming the European Union before the enlargements of 2004 and 2007

\*\*\* The NMS13 are the 13 'new Member States' which joined the European Union during the 2004, 2007 and 2013 enlargements

\* \* \* \* \*

*We wish to thank the people throughout the European Union who have given their time to take part in this survey. Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.*

<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)

## I. AWARENESS OF EU REGIONAL SUPPORT AND PERCEIVED BENEFITS

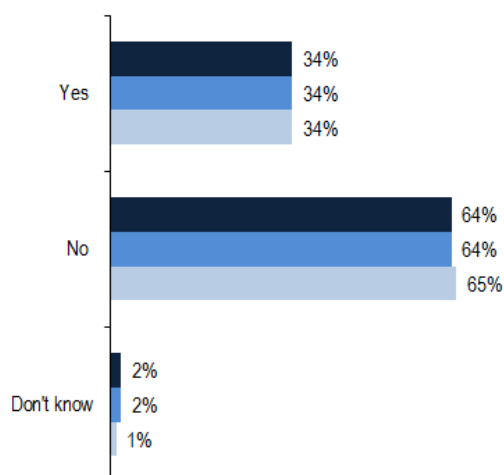
### 1. AWARENESS AND PERCEIVED IMPACT OF THE EU REGIONAL SUPPORT

#### - Just over a third of EU respondents have heard about EU co-financed projects–

Just over a third (34%) of respondents said that they had heard of EU co-financed projects in their local area<sup>6</sup>. This figure remained unchanged from the June 2010 and September 2013 waves of this study. Almost two thirds (64%) said that they had not heard about any such project.

**Q1A. Europe provides financial support to regions and cities.**  
Have you heard about any EU co-financed projects to improve the area where you live? - % EU28

■ FL423 June 2015 ■ FL384 Sept. 2013 ■ FL298 June 2010

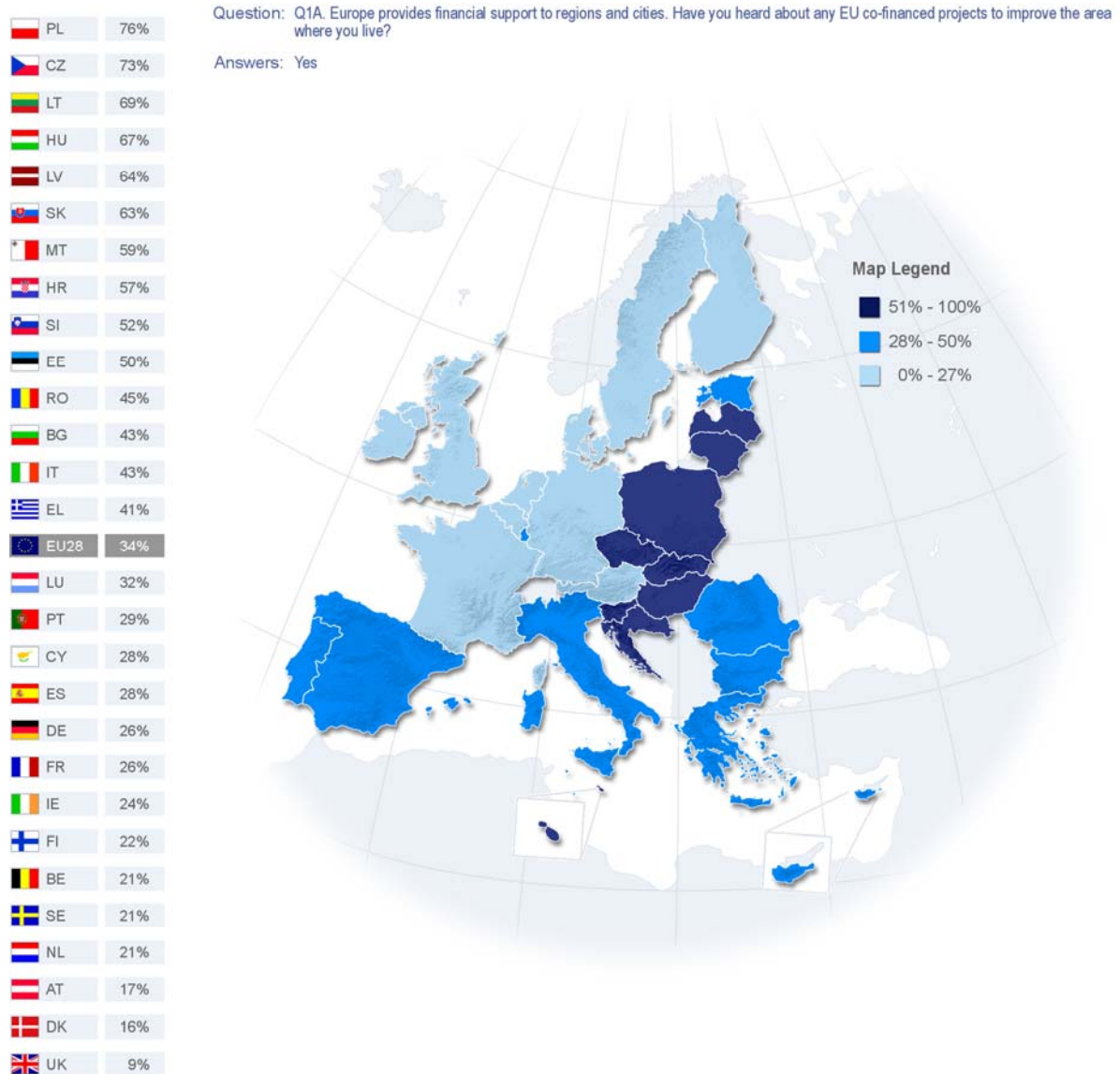


Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

<sup>5</sup> The results tables are included in the annex. It should be noted that the total of the percentages in the tables of this report may exceed 100% when the respondent has the possibility of giving several answers to the question.

<sup>6</sup> Q1A. Europe provides financial support to regions and cities. Have you heard about any EU co-financed projects to improve the area you live in? ONE ANSWER ONLY Yes; No; Don't know/Not applicable.

Respondents' awareness of EU co-financed projects ranged from less than one tenth (9%) of those surveyed in the United Kingdom to just over three quarters (76%) of those interviewed in Poland. As in the previous survey wave, there was a clear difference between EU15 and NMS13 countries, reflecting the different levels of funding overall available to the countries of each of these two groups.

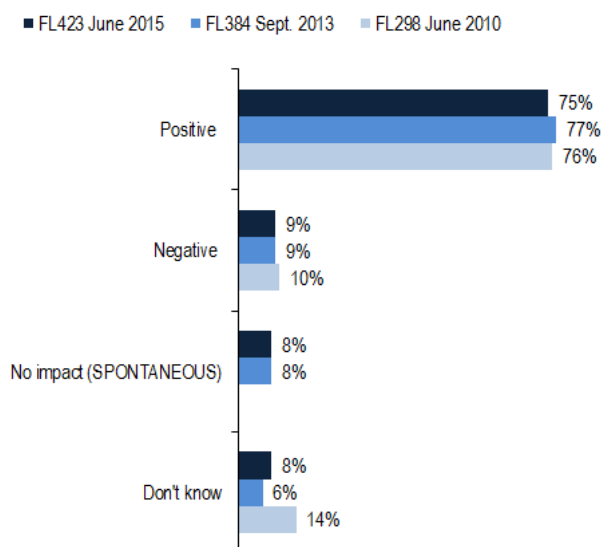


Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

**- Three quarters of EU respondents thought that the EU co-financed projects have had a positive impact on the development of their city or region -**

Three quarters (75%) of the respondents who answered that they had heard about EU co-financed projects said that the impact had been a positive one, a figure very similar to that observed in the previous two waves of this survey. Just under one tenth (9%) of respondents said that the projects had a negative impact, while a similar proportion (8%) gave the unprompted response that these projects have had no impact<sup>7</sup>.

**Q1C. Taking into consideration all the projects you have heard about, would you say that this support has had a positive or negative impact on the development of your city or region? - % EU28**



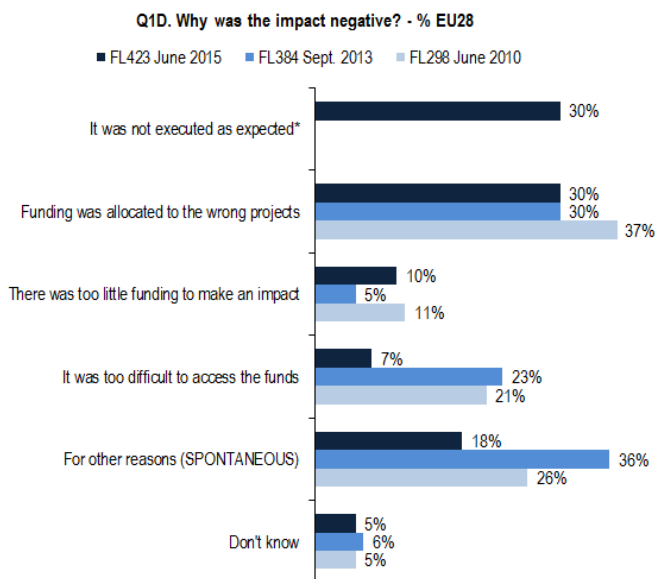
Base: respondents who have heard about EU co-financed projects (N=9,568)

<sup>7</sup> Q1C. Taking into consideration all the projects you have heard about, would you say that this support has had a positive or negative impact on the development of your city or region? ONE ANSWER ONLY Positive; Negative; No impact (DO NOT READ OUT); Don't know/Not applicable.



**- Three out of ten of those who thought the impact of the EU funded project was negative thought that funding was allocated to the wrong project, or that projects were not implemented as expected -**

As in September 2013, just under a third (30%) of respondents who said that the impact of EU co-financed projects had been negative, said that funding was allocated to the wrong projects. The same proportion of respondents said that projects had not been executed as expected, an answering option which was not available in the previous wave.<sup>8</sup>



\* New item

Base: respondents who consider that EU co-financed projects have had a negative impact (N=909)

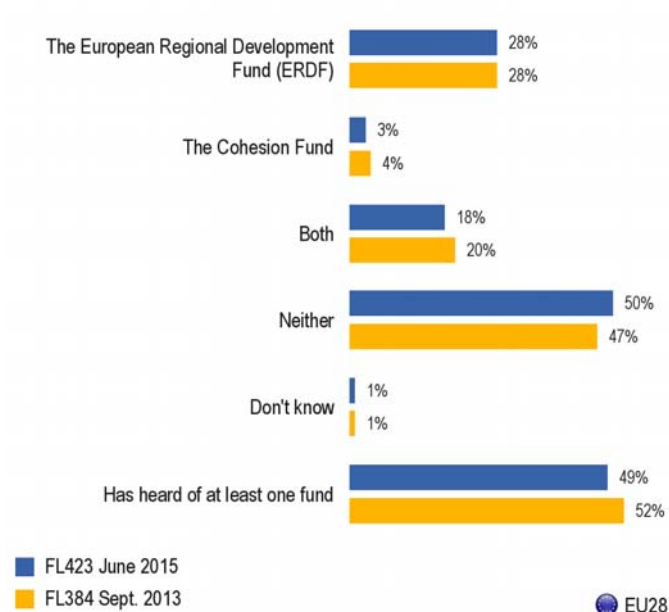
<sup>8</sup> Q1D. Why was the impact negative? ONE ANSWER ONLY There was too little funding to make an impact; Funding was allocated to the wrong projects; It was too difficult to access the funds; It was not executed as expected; For other reasons; Don't know/Not applicable.

## 2. THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE COHESION FUND

**- Just under half of Europeans have heard of at least one of the funds, and nearly a fifth have heard of both -**

When asked whether they had heard of two specific EU funds, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund<sup>9</sup>, nearly half (49%) of respondents said they had heard of at least one of them, a decrease of three percentage points from the previous wave. As in the previous wave, just over a quarter (28%) of those interviewed said that they had only heard of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), but very few (3%) had only heard of the Cohesion Fund. Nearly a fifth (18%) of respondents said that they had heard of both funds, while half (50%) said that they had heard of neither.

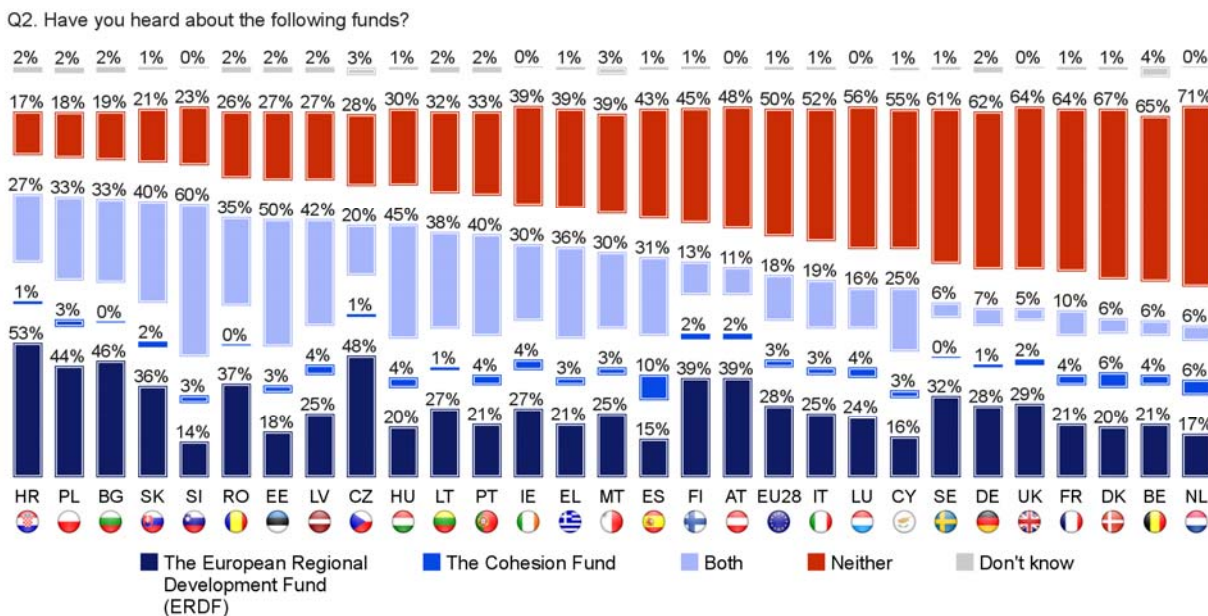
Q2. Have you heard about the following funds?



Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

<sup>9</sup> Q2. Have you heard about the following funds? The European Regional Development Fund; The Cohesion Fund; Both; Neither; Don't know/Not applicable.

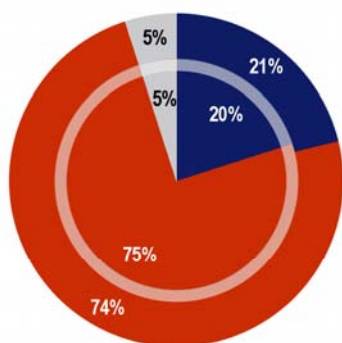
Public awareness of the two funds varied considerably between countries. In 11 of the NMS13 countries, less than a third (32%) of respondents said they had not heard of either of the funds, while in nine of the EU15 countries, at least half (50%) gave this response.



Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

**- Just over a fifth of those who had heard about the EU regional development funds said that they had benefited personally from an EU-funded project –**

Q3. Have you benefited in your daily life from a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) or the Cohesion Fund?



● Yes  
● No  
● Don't know

Inner pie : FL384 Sept. 2013  
Outer pie : FL423 June 2015

● EU28

Just over a fifth (21%) of respondents said that they had benefited from a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) or the Cohesion Fund<sup>10</sup>, while nearly three quarters (74%) said that they had not.

Base: respondents who have heard about at least one of the two funds (N= 13,802)

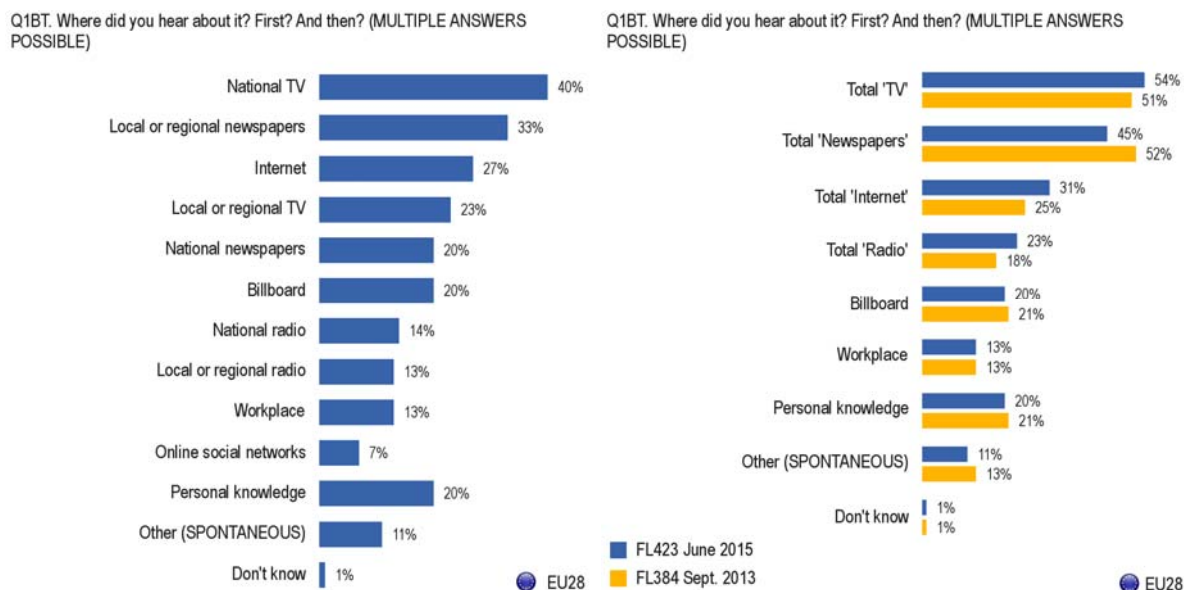
<sup>10</sup> Q3. Have you benefited in your daily life from a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) or the Cohesion Fund? ONE ANSWER ONLY Yes; No; Don't know/Not applicable.

### 3. INFORMATION SOURCES ABOUT EU REGIONAL POLICY

#### - TV remained the main source of information about EU co-financed projects, with local and regional newspapers also important –

People who said they had heard about an EU co-financed project were asked where they had heard about it<sup>11</sup>. Respondents were most likely to select national TV as their source of information, while nearly a quarter (23%) of respondents mentioned local or regional TV. The second most popular source was local or regional newspapers, mentioned by a third (33%) of those interviewed, and a fifth (20%) of respondents cited national newspapers. The Internet was selected by just over a quarter (27%) of respondents.

Since the last survey, TV has become slightly more popular overall. When considering both national and local or regional TV together, 54% of respondents mentioned this source of information, an increase of three percentage points since the last survey. On the other hand, the popularity of newspapers declined overall: in September 2013, just over half (52%) of respondents mentioned either local, regional or national newspapers, but this figure fell to less than half (45%) in the current survey.



Base: respondents who have heard about EU co-financed projects (N=9,568)

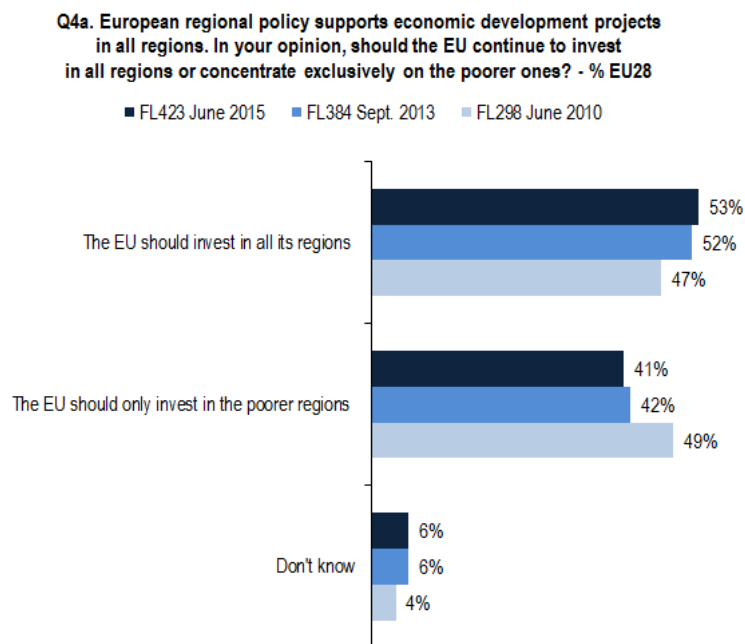
<sup>11</sup> Question Q1BT combines the results of Q1B1 (their primary source of information on EU co-financed projects) and those of Q1B2 (their other sources on information on EU co-financed projects) Q1BT Where did you hear about it? Firstly? And then? National newspapers; Local or regional newspapers; National TV; Local or regional TV; National radio; Local or regional radio; Internet; Online social networks; Billboard; Workplace; Personal knowledge; Other (DO NOT READ OUT); Don't know/Not applicable

## II. PRIORITIES FOR EU REGIONAL POLICY

### 1. PRIORITISED REGIONS FOR EU REGIONAL INVESTMENT

**- A majority of people thought the EU should invest in all its regions as opposed to investing only in poorer regions –**

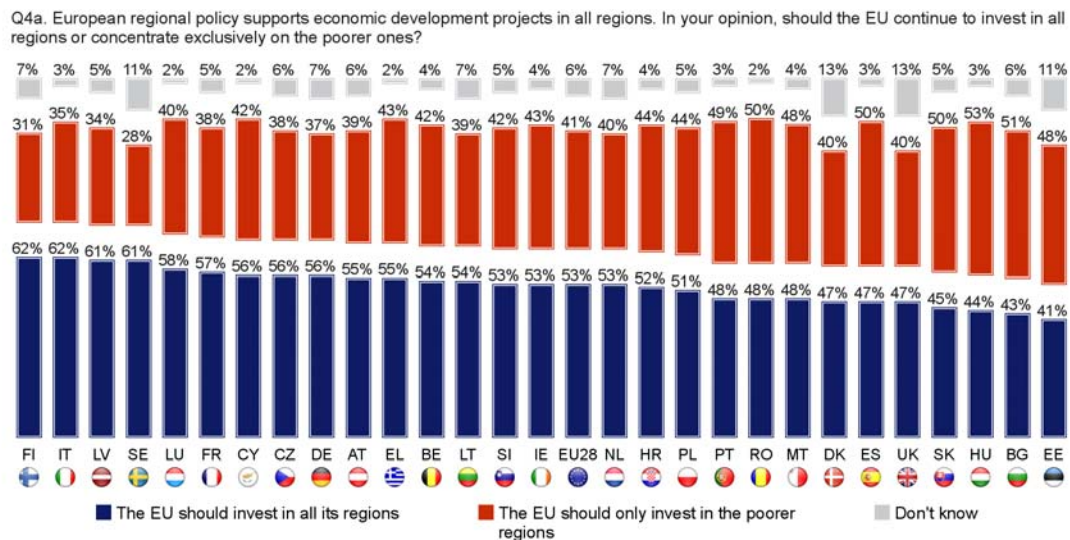
A majority (53%) of respondents agreed that the EU should continue to invest in all its regions, while just over four in ten (41%) thought that the EU should only invest in poorer regions<sup>12</sup>. These figures are almost exactly the same as those recorded in September 2013. In June 2010 there was more support for investing only in poorer regions, with nearly half (49%) of respondents giving this answer.



Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

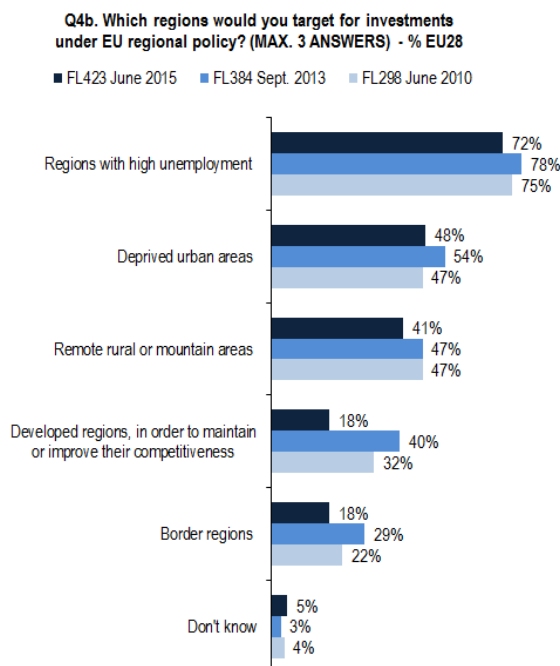
<sup>12</sup> Q4A. European regional policy supports economic development projects in all regions. In your opinion, should the EU continue to invest in all regions or concentrate exclusively on the poorer ones? ONE ANSWER ONLY The EU should invest in all its regions; The EU should only invest in the poorer regions; Don't know/Not applicable.

Country-level differences on this question were present, but not particularly large. Over six in ten respondents in Finland (62%), Italy (62%), Latvia (61%) and Sweden (61%) agreed that the EU should invest in all its regions, while in Estonia (41%), Bulgaria (43%) and Hungary (44%) just over four in ten respondents agreed with this statement. There was no clear relationship between the level of EU regional funding available for a given country and the propensity of respondents in that country to agree that the EU should invest in all its regions.



Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

**- Over seven out of ten respondents believe that regions with high unemployment should be targeted for investments under EU regional policy -**



When asked to identify the types of regions they would target for investment<sup>13</sup>, respondents gave the highest priority to regions with high unemployment, with nearly three quarters (72%) identifying this as an important area of investment. This figure is lower than in September 2013, when over three quarters (78%) of those interviewed gave this response. Deprived urban areas was the second most often cited answer by nearly half (48%) of respondents.

Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

<sup>13</sup> Q4B. Which regions would you target for investments under EU regional policy? MAX. 3 ANSWERS Regions with high unemployment; Deprived urban areas; Remote rural or mountain areas; Developed regions, in order to improve their competitiveness; Border regions; Don't know/Not applicable.

## 2. MOST IMPORTANT AREAS FOR EU REGIONAL POLICY INVESTMENTS

**-Education, health and social infrastructure have been regarded as an important domain for investment by around nine in ten respondents since 2008–**

When asked to identify specific domains that should be targeted for investment<sup>14</sup>, an overwhelming majority of respondents (91%) mentioned education, health and social infrastructure as an important domain. The proportion of respondents regarding the environment as important was also particularly high, with nearly nine in ten (86%) of those interviewed mentioning this policy area, an increase of 3 percentage points since the last wave of the survey. More than eight in ten of respondents also mentioned investment in small and medium-sized businesses (84%) vocational and employment training (81%), and renewable and clean energy (81%).

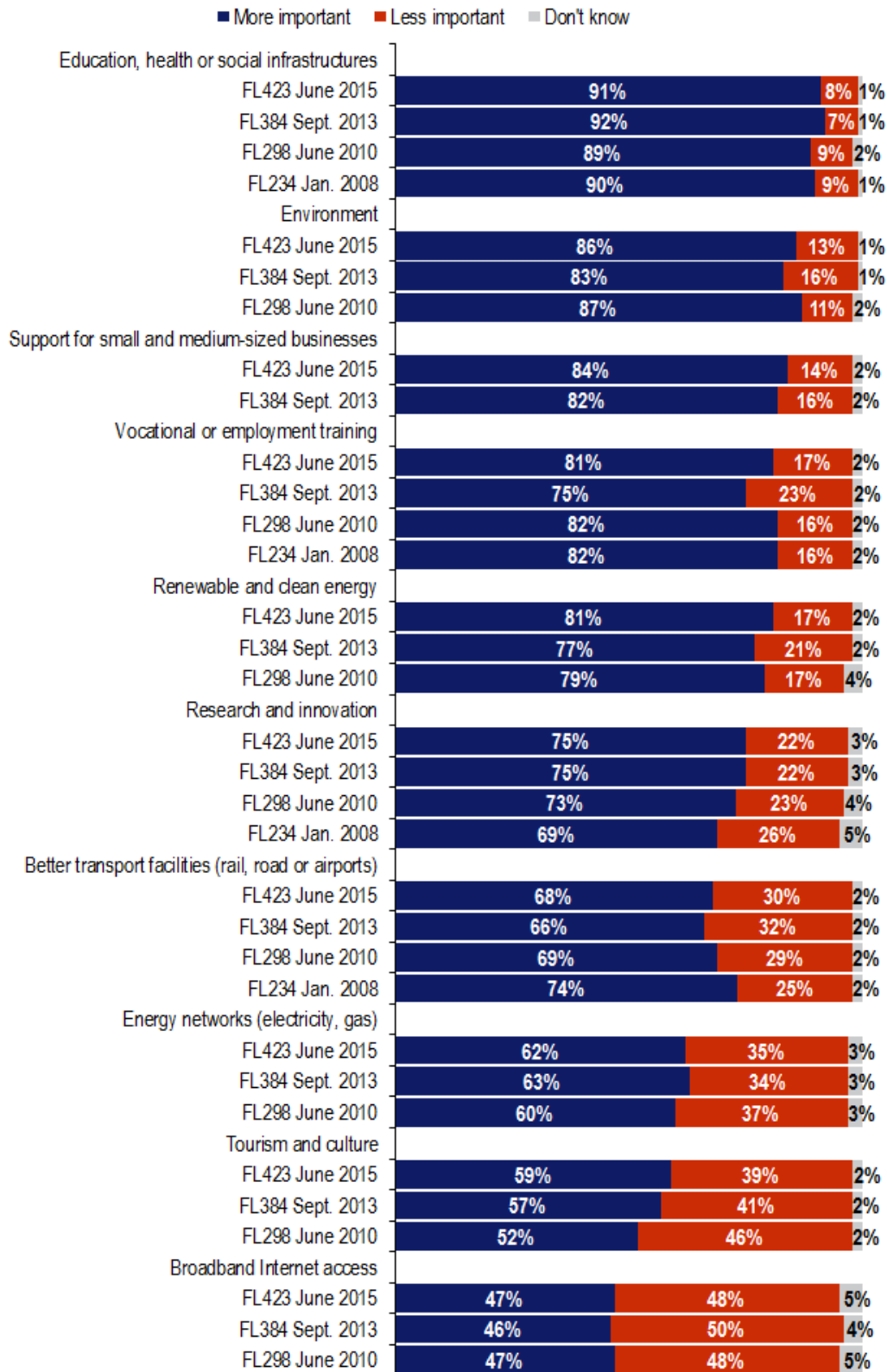
In all but one domain, a majority of respondents regarded investment in the domain as important. As in previous waves, the exception was broadband and Internet access, which less than half (47%) of respondents thought should be prioritised for investment from regional policy funds.

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<sup>14</sup>Q5. EU regional policy can invest in many different domains. Which of the following examples do you consider more important or less important for your city or region? Research and innovation; Support for small and medium-sized businesses; Renewable and clean energy; Energy networks; Broadband internet access; Environment; Better transport facilities (rail, road or airports); Vocational or employment training; Education, health or social infrastructures; Tourism and culture. ONE ANSWER PER LINE More important; Less important; Don't know/Not applicable.



**Q5. EU regional policy can invest in many different domains.  
From of the following examples do you consider more important  
or less important for your city or region? - % EU**



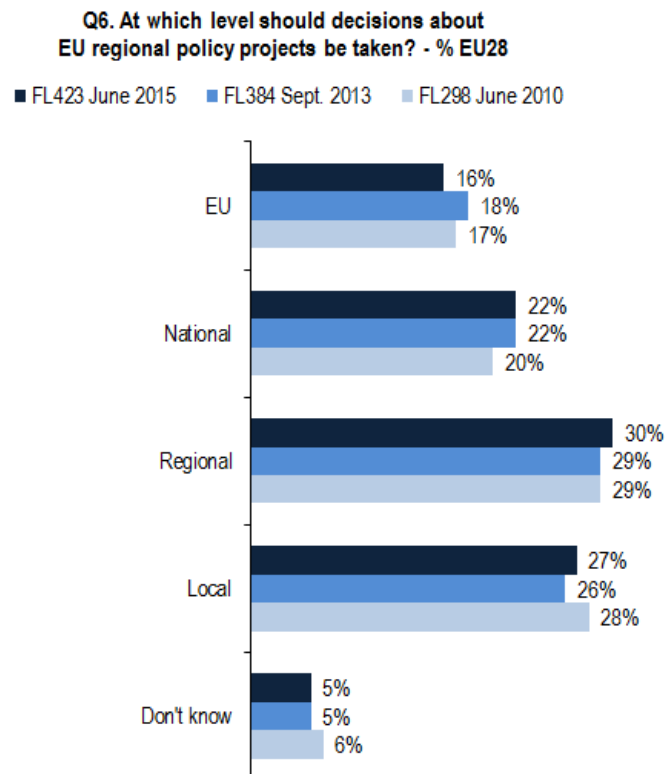
Base: all respondents (N=28,048)



### III. MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE

#### - Over half of respondents thought that decisions about EU-funded projects should be taken at sub-national level –

As in the previous wave, when asked to identify which at level – EU, national, regional or local –decisions about projects within the scope of EU regional policy should be made<sup>15</sup>, a majority of respondents (57%) thought that decisions should be taken at sub-national levels. Nearly a third of those interviewed (30%) opted for the regional level and just over a quarter (27%) favoured the local level. These figures are very close to the equivalent figures from September 2013. Less than four in ten (38%) of respondents thought that decisions should be taken at the national level or above, with just over a fifth (22%) of respondents opting for the national level, and only 16% suggesting that the EU should take decisions on projects funded by its own regional policy.



Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

<sup>15</sup> Q6 At which level should decisions about EU regional policy projects be taken? ONE ANSWER ONLY Local; Regional; National; EU; Don't know/Not applicable.

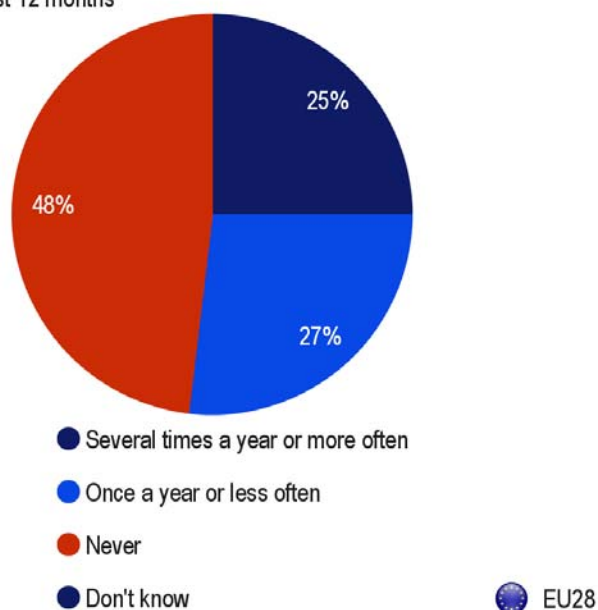
## IV. CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

### 1. TRAVELLING TO OTHER NEIGHBOURING EU MEMBER STATES IN THE LAST YEAR

#### - A majority of people across the EU travelled to neighbouring Member States during the previous 12 months –

Nearly half (48%) of those interviewed said that they had not travelled to neighbouring EU Member States during the course of the previous 12 months<sup>16</sup>. A quarter (25%) said that they had travelled to these countries at least several times, while just over a quarter (27%) said that they had travelled to neighbouring countries only once, or less frequently.

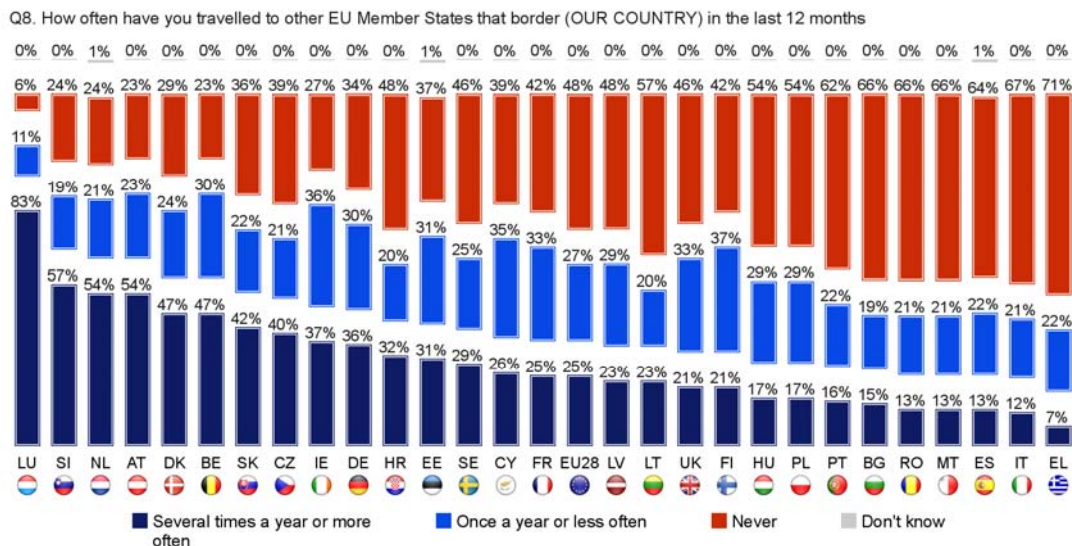
Q8. How often have you travelled to other EU Member States that border (OUR COUNTRY) in the last 12 months



Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

<sup>16</sup> Q8. How often have you travelled to other EU Member States that border (OUR COUNTRY) in the last 12 months? ONE ANSWER ONLY Once a month or more often; Several times a year; Once a year; Less often; Never; Don't know/Not applicable. The question for Cyprus, Malta, Ireland and the UK was modified as following: How often have you travelled to other EU Member States bordering or neighbouring (OUR COUNTRY) in the last 12 months? ONE ANSWER ONLY Once a month or more often; Several times a year; Once a year; Less often; Never; Don't know/Not applicable.

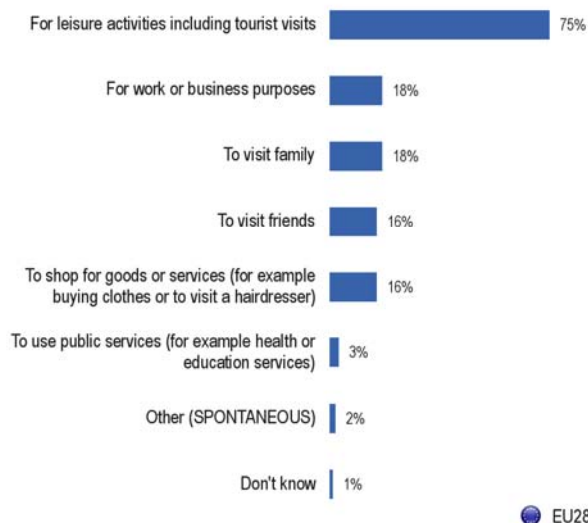
As might be expected, countries that were geographically less peripheral and closer to major transport nexuses tended to have higher proportions of respondents who reported travelling to a neighbouring EU Member State. Luxembourg was an outlier, with over eight in ten (83%) of respondents in this country saying that they travelled to neighbouring Member States. In the remaining Member States, the proportion varied between over half of those interviewed in Slovenia (57%), the Netherlands (54%) and Austria (54%), and less than one tenth of respondents in Greece (7%).



Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

**- Three quarters of the respondents who have travelled to bordering EU Member States in the last 12 months did so for leisure activities including tourist visits -**

Q9. What was the purpose of your travel to other EU Member States that border (OUR COUNTRY) in the last 12 months? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



Having been asked about the purpose of their visits to bordering Member States, respondents (75%) were most likely to cite leisure activities, including tourism<sup>17</sup> as a reason for their travel.

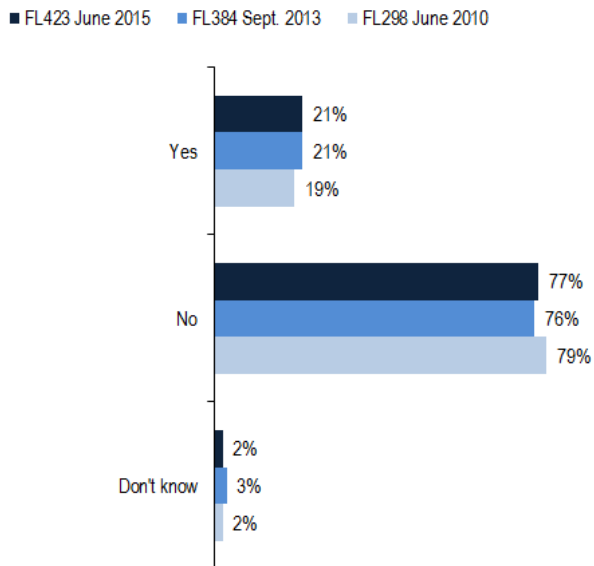
Base: respondents who have travelled to other Member States that border their country in the last 12 months (N=14,348)

<sup>17</sup> Q9. What was the purpose of your travel to other EU Member States that border (OUR COUNTRY) in the last 12 months? MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE To visit family; To visit friends; To use public services (for example health or education services); To shop for goods and services (for example buying clothes or to visit a hairdresser); For work or business purposes; For leisure activities including tourist visits; Other (DO NOT READ OUT); Don't know/Not applicable.

## 2. AWARENESS OF AND SUPPORT FOR EU REGIONAL FUNDING FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

**- Just over a fifth of respondents were aware that EU regional funding gave rise to cross-border cooperation –**

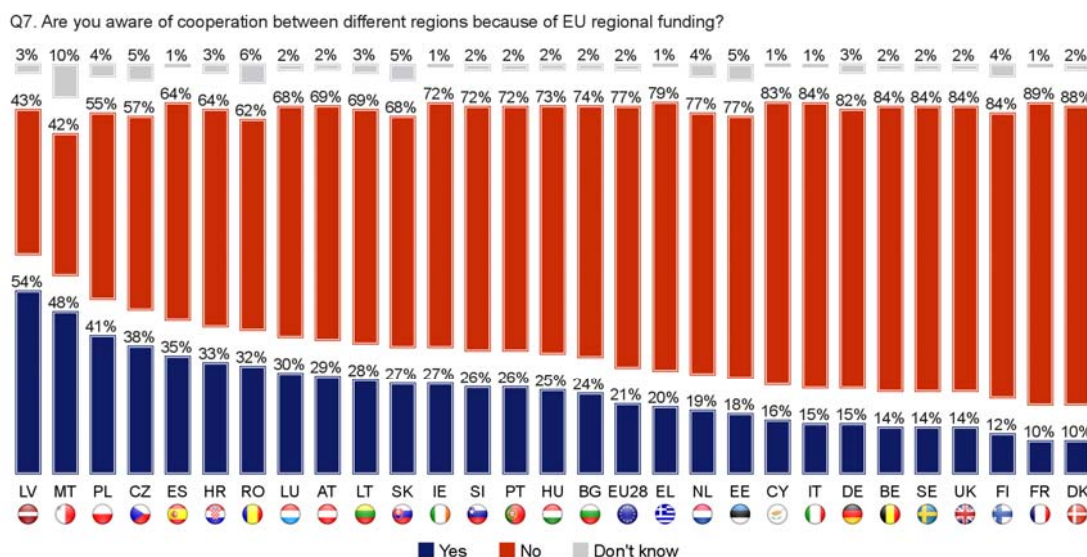
Q7. Are you aware of cooperation between different regions because of EU regional funding? - % EU28



Just over a fifth of respondents (21%) said that they had heard of cooperation between different regions of EU Member States because of EU regional funding<sup>18</sup>. These figures were very similar to those observed in September 2013.

Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

In Latvia, more than half (54%) said that they were aware of this cooperation, as did nearly half (48%) of respondents in Malta. In other countries, the proportion of respondents who gave this answer ranged from just over four in ten (41%) of respondents in Poland to one tenth (10%) of those surveyed in France and Denmark.



Base: all respondents (N=28,048)

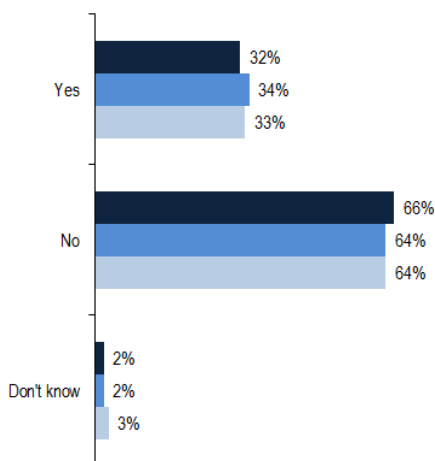
<sup>18</sup> Q7. Are you aware of cooperation between different regions because of EU regional funding? ONE ANSWER ONLY Yes; No; Don't know/Not applicable.

**- Nearly a third of respondents in the Baltic Sea region were aware of an initiative to promote cross-border cooperation there –**

Nearly a third (32%) of respondents living in countries eligible for funding under the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy<sup>19</sup>, were aware of this cooperation, a figure which slightly decreased since September 2013.

Q10. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Baltic Sea? - % TOTAL

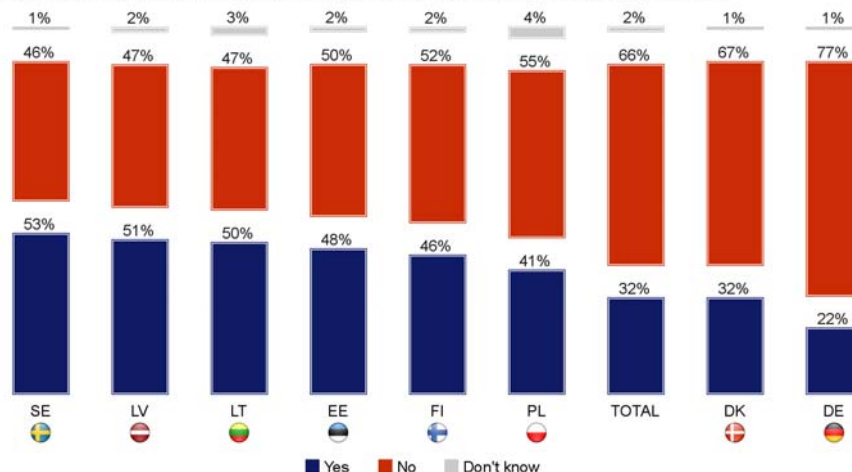
■ FL423 June 2015 ■ FL384 Sept. 2013 ■ FL298 June 2010



Base: respondents living in Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Sweden (N=8,021)

In Sweden (53%), Latvia (51%) and Lithuania (50%) at least half of those interviewed said that they had heard of the Baltic Sea Region Strategy. However, public awareness in Germany was much lower (22%).

Q10. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Baltic Sea?

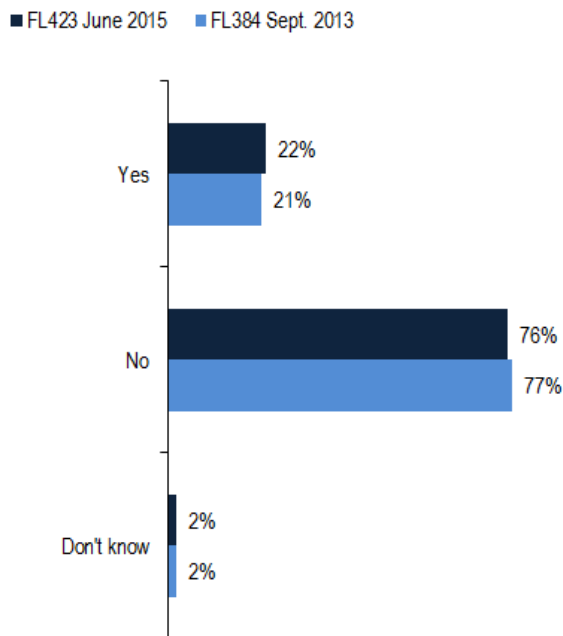


Base: respondents living in Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Sweden (N=8,021)

<sup>19</sup> Q10. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Baltic Sea? ONE ANSWER ONLY Yes; No; Don't know/Not applicable.

**- Just over a fifth of respondents in the Danube Region were aware of an EU strategy to promote cross-border cooperation there –**

**Q11. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Danube river? - % TOTAL**

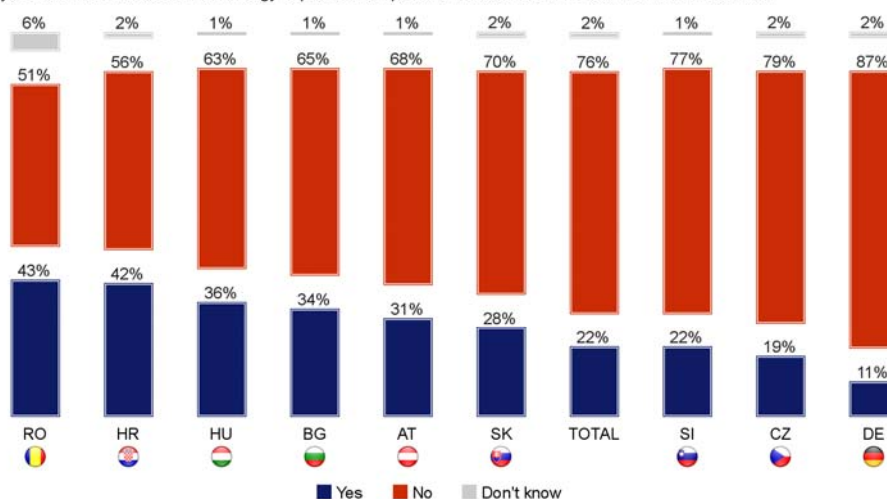


Only just over a fifth (22%) of respondents in countries located on the Danube river or within its drainage basin (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia) were aware of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, a figure almost identical to the 21% who gave this answer in the previous survey<sup>20</sup>.

Base: respondents living in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (N=9,013)

From the countries eligible for funding under this programme, public awareness was highest in Romania (43%) and Croatia (42%), where over four in ten of those surveyed said that they had heard of the initiative.

Q11. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Danube river?



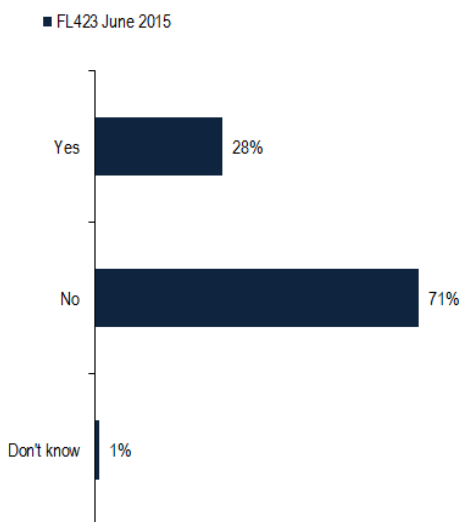
Base: respondents living in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (N=9,013)

<sup>20</sup> Q11. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Danube river? ONE ANSWER ONLY Yes; No; Don't know/Not applicable.

**- Just over a quarter of respondents in the Adriatic and Ionian Sea region were aware of an EU strategy to promote cross-border cooperation there –**

Public awareness of this initiative was slightly smaller than in the case of the Baltic Sea Region Strategy but still greater than the Danube Region Strategy, with over a quarter (28%) saying that they had heard of it, and less than three quarters (71%) saying that they had not<sup>21</sup>.

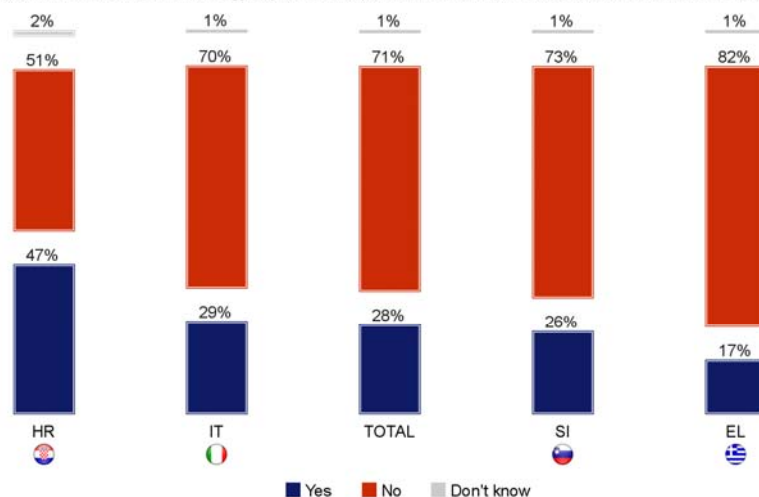
Q12. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Adriatic and Ionian Sea? - % TOTAL



Base: respondents living in Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia (N=4,002)

Croatia stands out for a relatively high proportion of respondents who were aware of this strategy, with nearly half (47%) of those interviewed saying that they had heard of it.

Q12. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Adriatic and Ionian Sea?



Base: respondents living in Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia (N=4,002)

<sup>21</sup> Q12. Are you aware that there is an EU strategy to promote cooperation between countries around the Adriatic and Ionian Sea? ONE ANSWER ONLY Yes; No; Don't know/Not applicable.

## **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**



**FLASH EUROBAROMETER 423**  
"Citizens' awareness and perceptions of EU Regional Policy"  
**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Between the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2015, TNS Political & Social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the survey FLASH EUROBAROMETER 423 about "Citizens' awareness and perceptions of EU Regional Policy".

This survey has been requested by the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy. It is a general public survey co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit). The FLASH EUROBAROMETER 423 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 28 Member States and aged 15 years and over. The survey covers the national population of citizens as well as the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire. All interviews were carried using the TNS e-Call center (our centralized CATI system). In every country respondents were called both on fixed lines and mobile phones. The basic sample design applied in all states is multi-stage random (probability). In each household, the respondent was drawn at random following the "last birthday rule".

TNS has developed its own RDD sample generation capabilities based on using contact telephone numbers from responders to random probability or random location face to face surveys, such as Eurobarometer, as seed numbers. The approach works because the seed number identifies a working block of telephone numbers and reduces the volume of numbers generated that will be ineffective. The seed numbers are stratified by NUTS2 region and urbanisation to approximate a geographically representative sample. From each seed number the required sample of numbers are generated by randomly replacing the last two digits. The sample is then screened against business databases in order to exclude as many of these numbers as possible before going into field. This approach is consistent across all countries.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process (at the 95% level of confidence)											
<i>various sample sizes are in rows</i>						<i>various observed results are in columns</i>					
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1	N=1000
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

ABBR.	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1011	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	8.939.546
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1003	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	6.537.510
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa s.r.o	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	9.012.443
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup A/S	1016	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	4.561.264
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	64.336.389
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	945.733
IE	Ireland	IMS Millward Brown	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	3.522.000
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	8.693.566
ES	Spain	TNS Demoscopia S.A	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	39.127.930
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1004	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	47.756.439
HR	Croatia	HENDAL	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	3.749.400
IT	Italy	TNS ITALIA	1001	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	51.862.391
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	CYMAR	1002	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	660.400
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1001	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	1.447.866
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	2.829.740
LU	Luxembourg	TNS Dimarso	989	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	434.878
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann Kft	1004	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	8.320.614
MT	Malta	MISCO International Ltd	1003	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	335.476
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1003	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	13.371.980
AT	Austria	TNS Austria	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	7.009.827
PL	Poland	TNS OBOP	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	32.413.735
PT	Portugal	TNS EUROTESTE	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	8.080.915
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1001	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	18.246.731
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1001	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	1.759.701
SK	Slovakia	TNS AISA Slovakia	1004	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	4.549.956
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1004	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	4.440.004
SE	Sweden	TNS SIFO	1000	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	7.791.240
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1001	24/06/2015	26/06/2015	51.848.010
<b>TOTAL EU28</b>			<b>28.048</b>	<b>24/06/2015</b>	<b>26/06/2015</b>	<b>412.585.684</b>