



Flash Eurobarometer 422

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE EU

**Survey requested by Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)
and co-ordinated by Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit).
Flash Eurobarometer 422 / June 2015 – TNS Political & Social**

Methodology

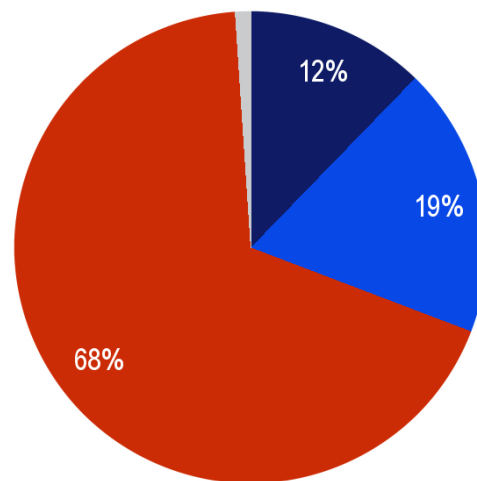
FLASH EUROBAROMETER 422

- ✓ Survey conducted by **telephone**;
- ✓ **Fieldwork**: 10th – 30th of June 2015;
- ✓ **Population**: representative sample of population 15+;
- ✓ **Coverage**: 28 Member States of the EU + Norway and Switzerland;
- ✓ **Number of interviews**: 40,619
- ✓ This survey was carried out for the European Commission, requested by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication - "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit

I. AWARENESS OF EU REGIONAL POLICY FUNDED CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

The majority of respondents (68%) are not aware of EU funded cross-border activities in their region

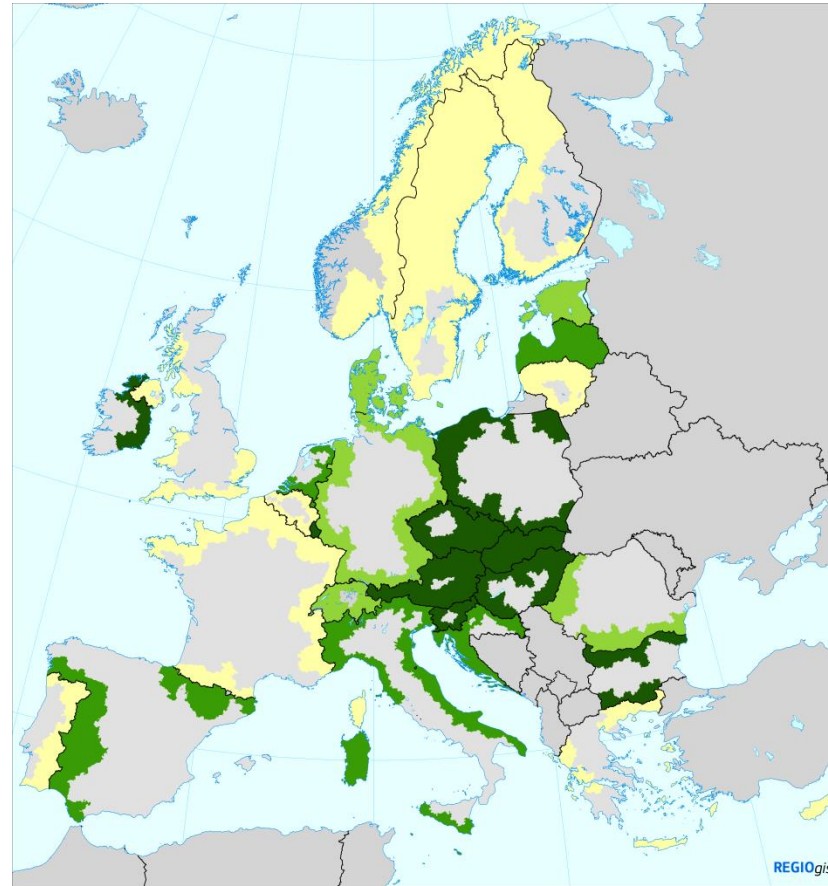
Q1. Have you heard about any EU funded cross-border cooperation activities in the region where you live?



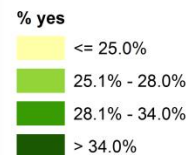
- Yes, and you know what they are
- Yes, but you do not know exactly what they are
- No
- Don't know

TOTAL

Awareness is generally highest among respondents living in the border regions covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes in Eastern European countries and in Ireland



Q1: Have you heard about any EU funded cross-border cooperation activities in the region where you live?

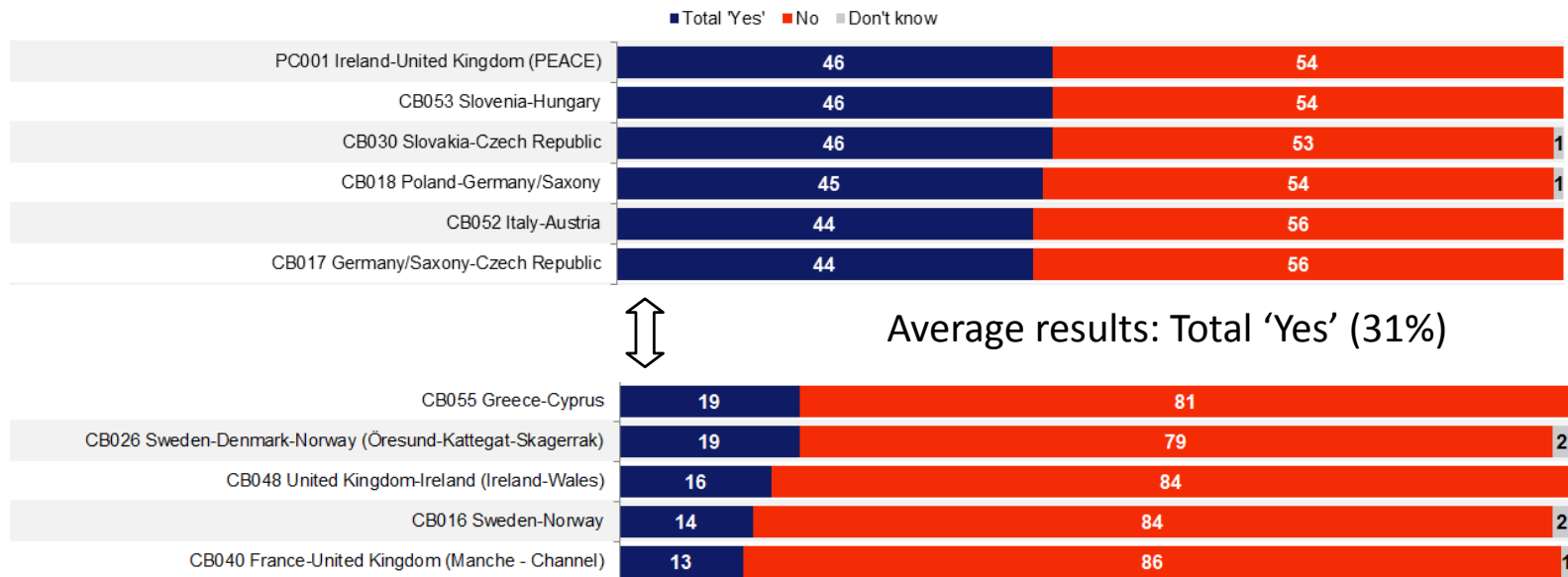


0 500 Km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

Awareness of EU funded cross-border cooperation activities: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q1. Have you heard about any EU funded cross-border cooperation activities in the region where you live?

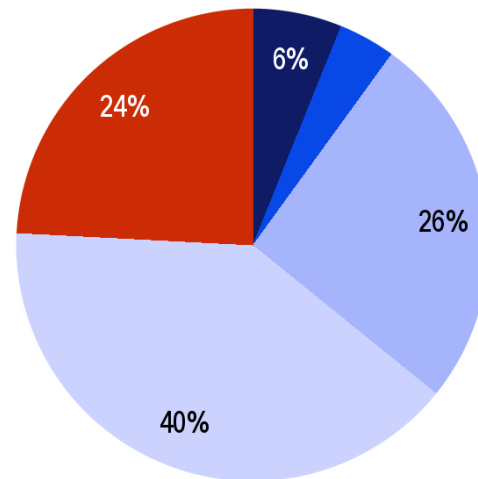


Highest and lowest results per programme

II. GOING ABROAD TO OTHER COUNTRIES

Just over three quarters of respondents (76%) have travelled to another country, 40% doing this 'once a year or less often'

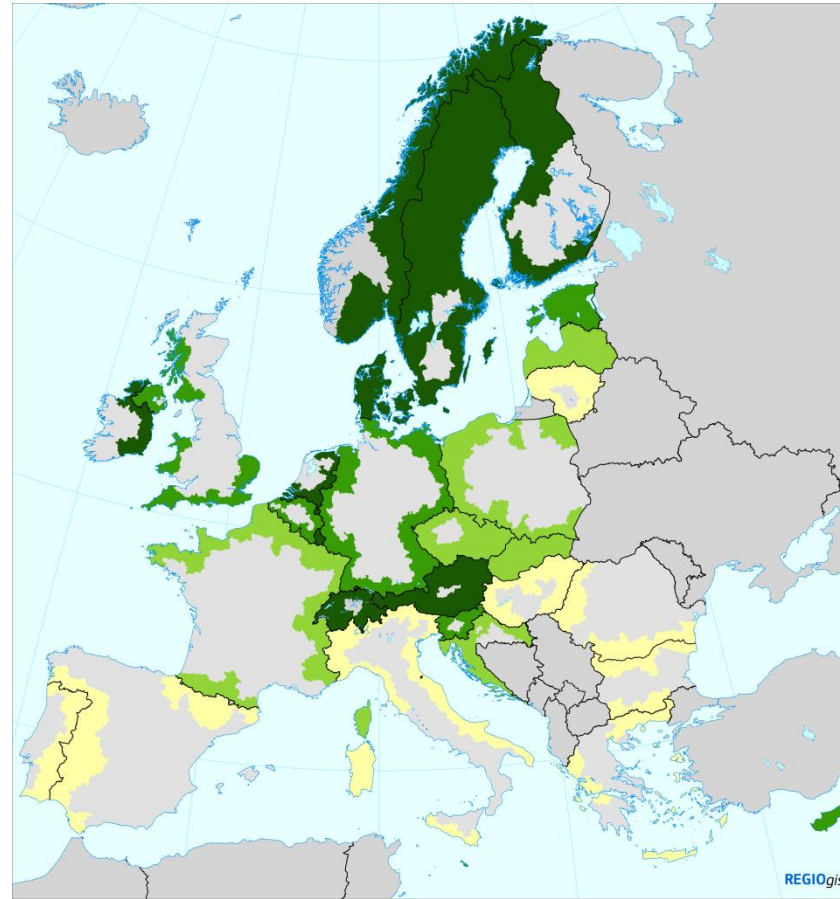
D7. How often do you go abroad to other countries?



- Several times a month
- Once a month
- Several times a year
- Once a year or less often
- Never
- Don't know

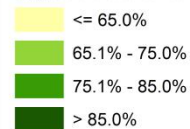
TOTAL

Respondents living in the border regions covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes in Scandinavian and Central European countries are generally more likely to travel abroad



D7: How often do you go abroad to other countries?

% goes abroad to other countries

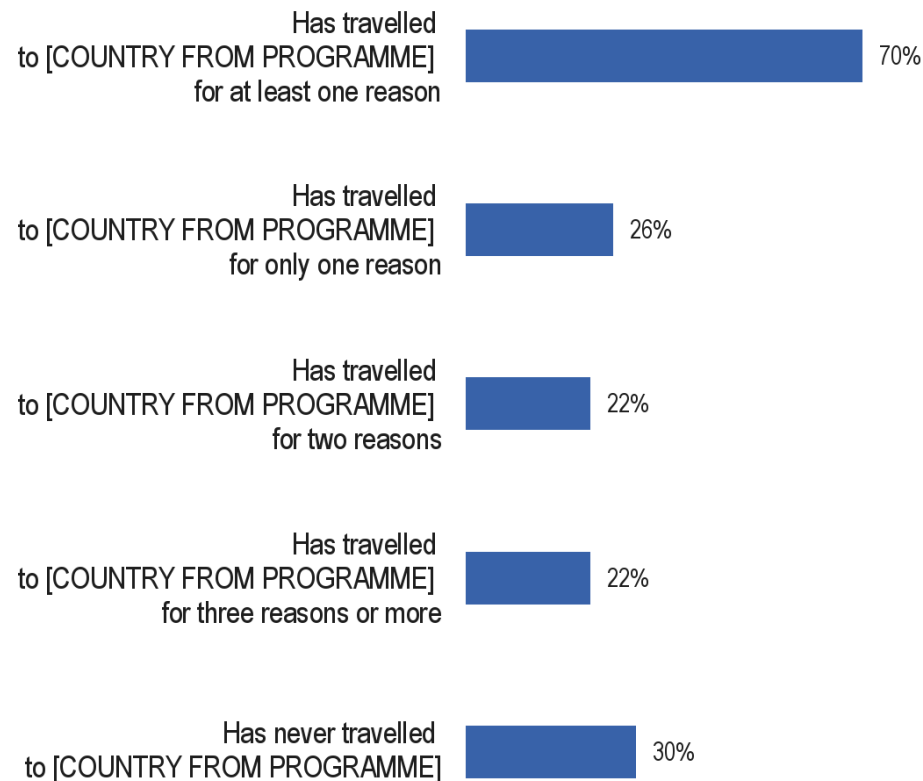


0 500 Km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

Among respondents going abroad, seven out of ten (70%) have travelled to a partner country covered by an Interreg cross-border cooperation programme running in their region

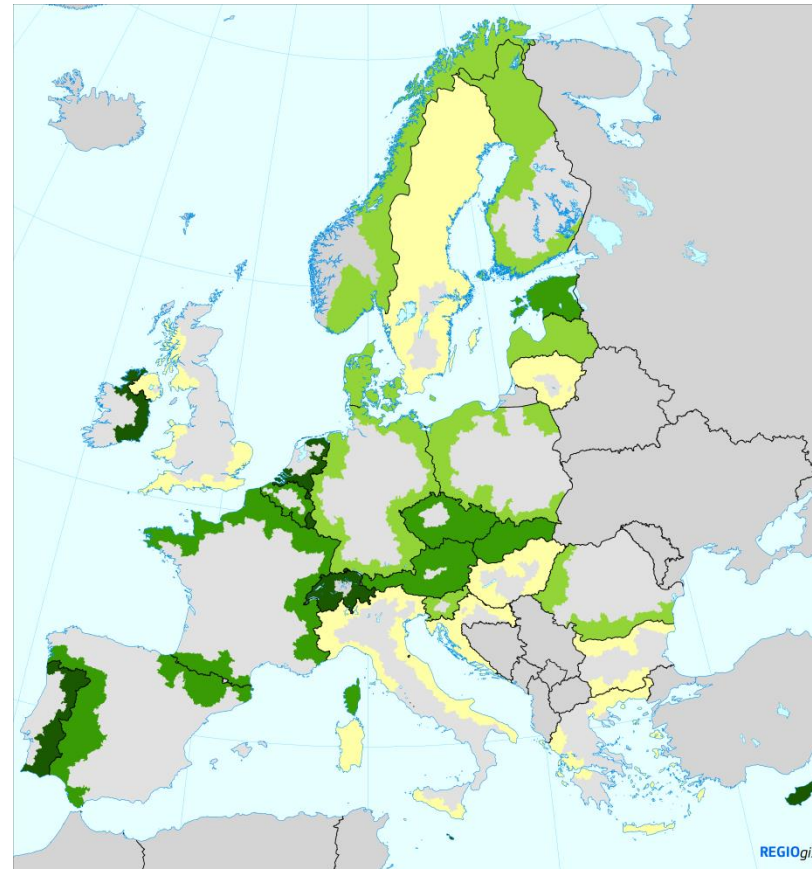
Q2T3. Going abroad to neighbouring countries



TOTAL

Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

Respondents going abroad living in the border regions in Ireland, Luxembourg and Cyprus are the most likely to have travelled to a partner country for at least one reason



Q2T3: Going abroad to neighbouring countries

% has travelled to a neighbouring country for at least one reason

<= 63.0%

63.1% - 71.0%

71.1% - 78.0%

> 78.0%

0 500 Km

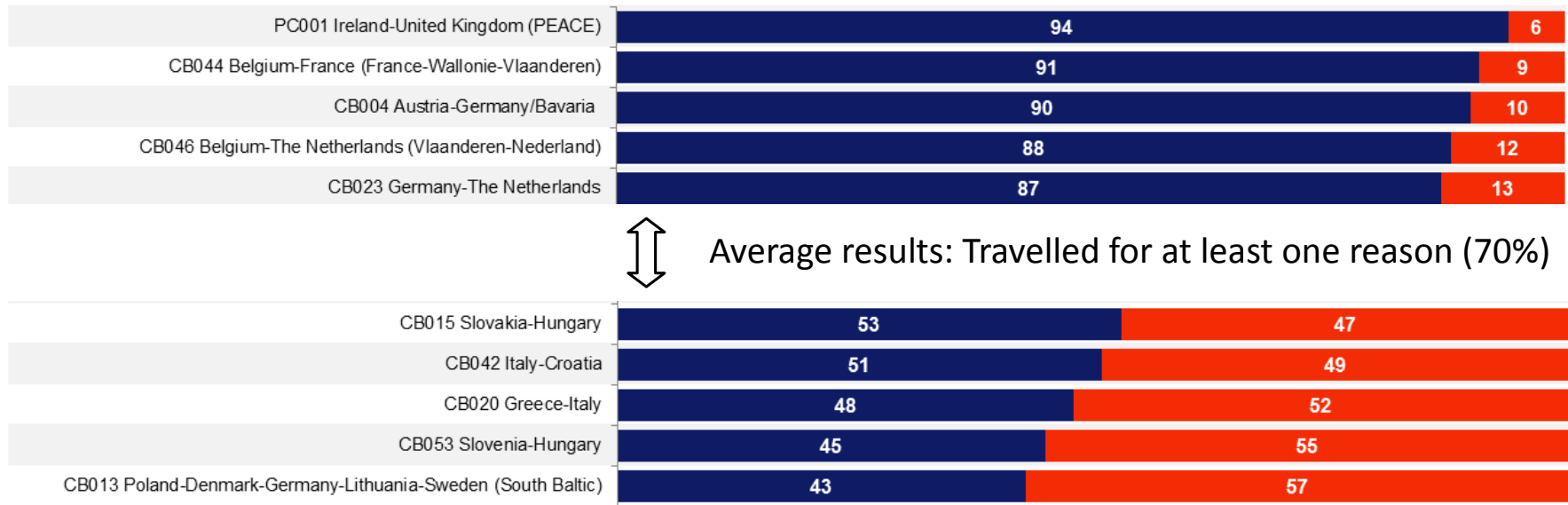
© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

Travelling to a partner country for at least one reason among those going abroad: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q2T3. Going abroad to neighbouring countries

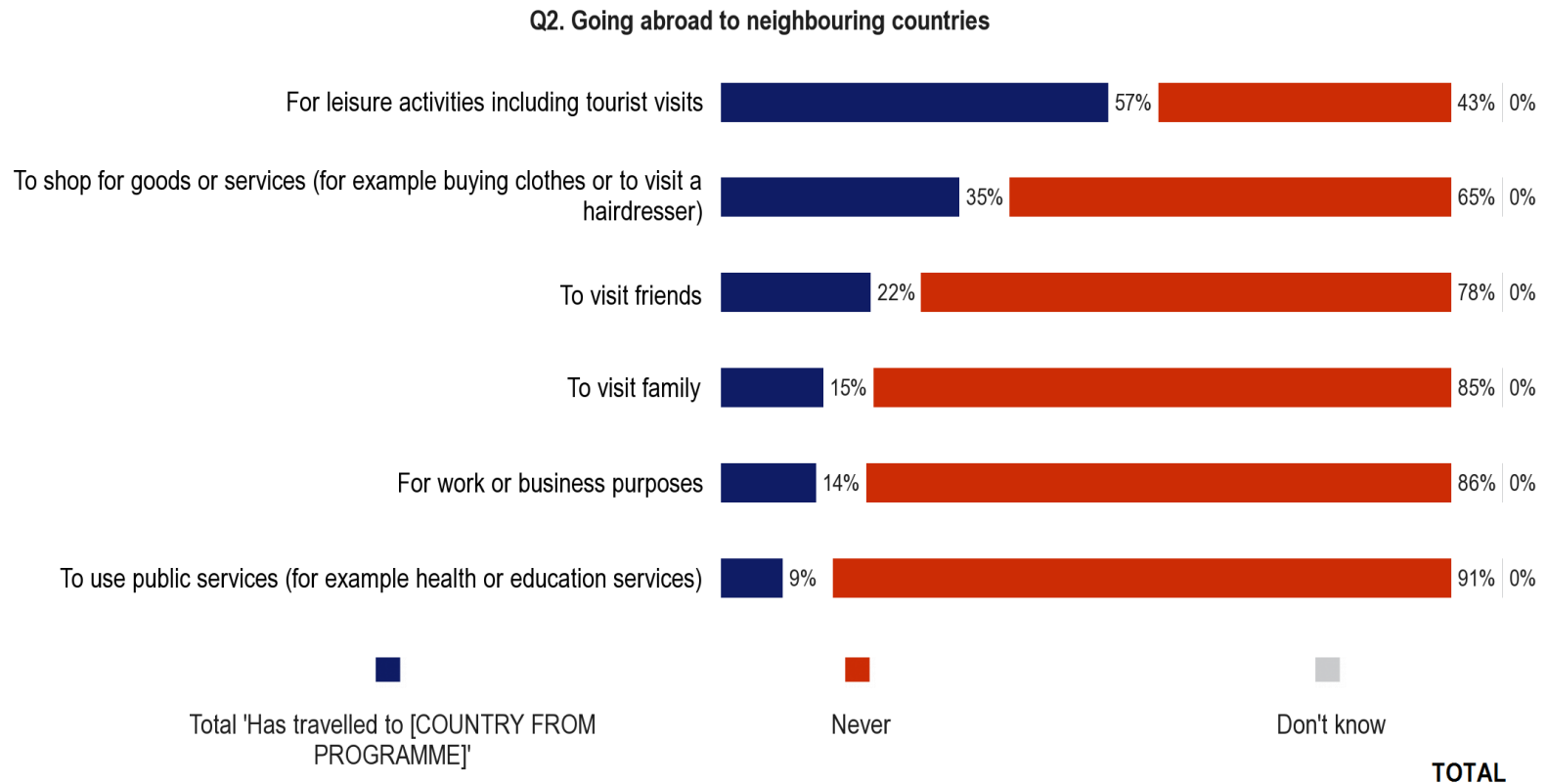
■ Has travelled to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] for at least one reason ■ Has never travelled to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME]



Highest and lowest results per programme

Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

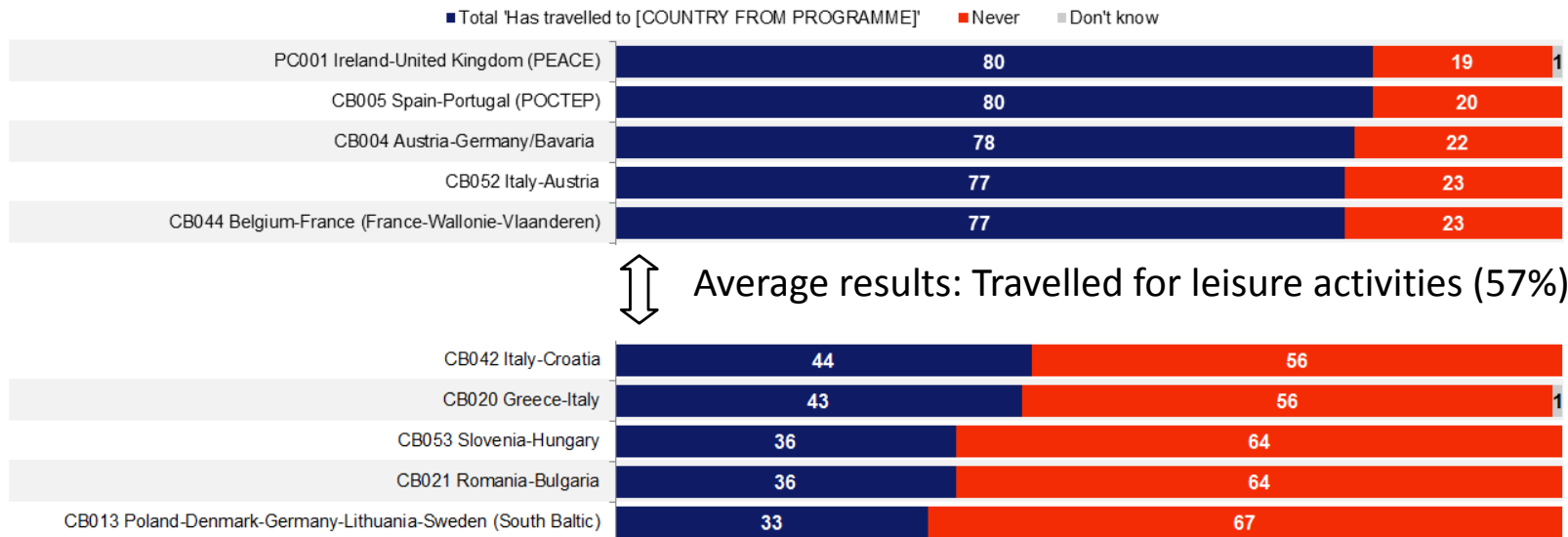
Respondents that have travelled to a partner country are most likely to have done so for leisure activities (57%), while 35% have done so to shop for goods or services



Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

Travelling to a partner country for leisure activities among those who have travelled: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q2.6. How often do you go to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] for each of the following reasons?
For leisure activities including tourist visits



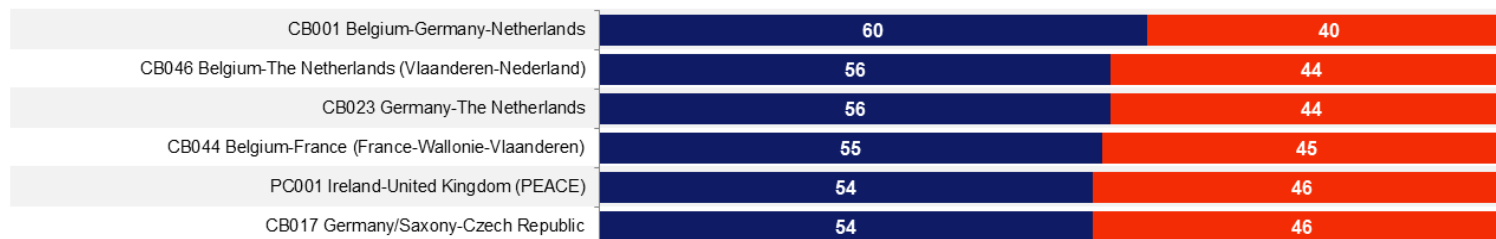
Highest and lowest results per programme

Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

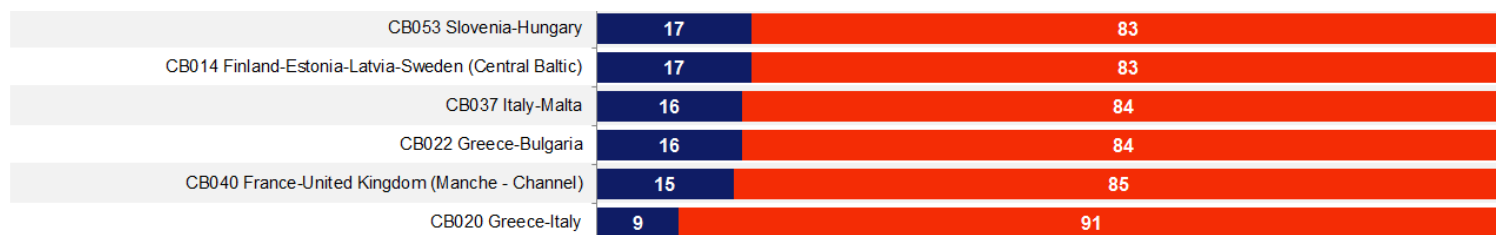
Travelling to a partner country to shop for goods or services among those who have travelled: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q2.4. How often do you go to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] for each of the following reasons?
To shop for goods or services (for example buying clothes or to visit a hairdresser)

■ Total 'Has travelled to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME]' ■ Never ■ Don't know



Average results: Travelled to shop (35%)

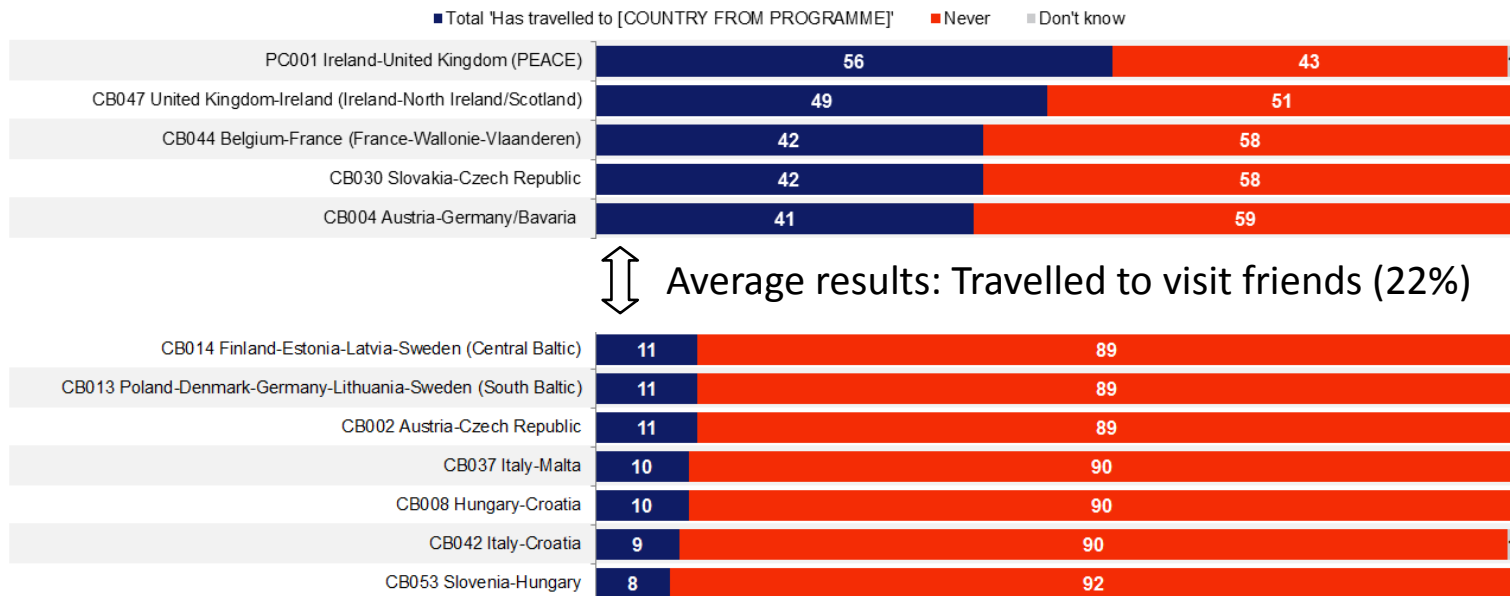


Highest and lowest results per programme

Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

Travelling to a partner country to visit friends among those who have travelled: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q2.2. How often do you go to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] for each of the following reasons?
To visit friends

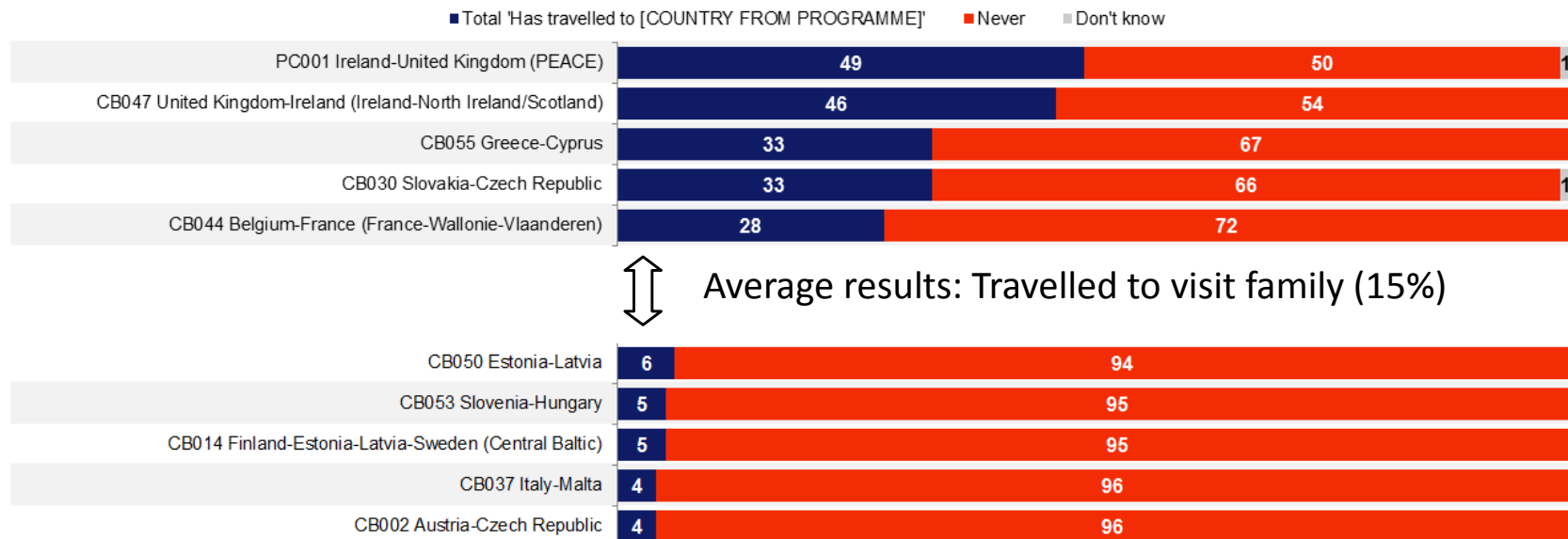


Highest and lowest results per programme

Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

Travelling to a partner country to visit family among those who have travelled: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q2.1. How often do you go to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] for each of the following reasons?
To visit family



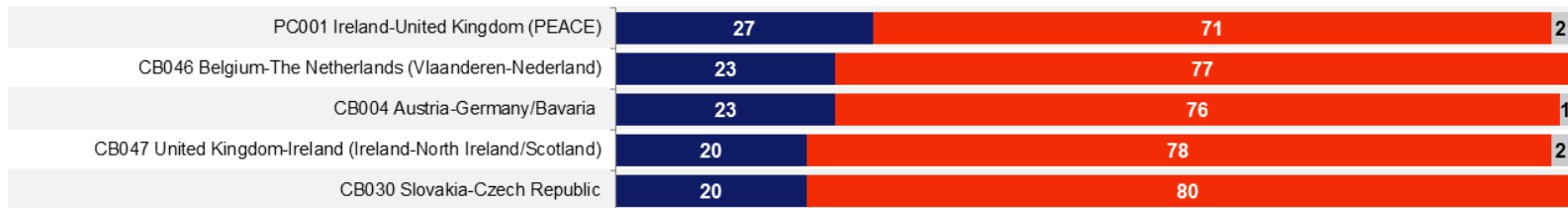
Highest and lowest results per programme

Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

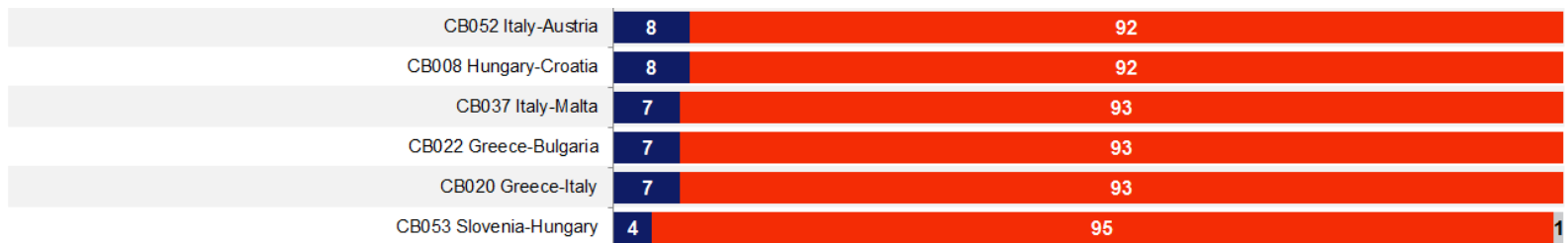
Travelling to a partner country for work or business purposes among those who have travelled: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q2.5. How often do you go to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] for each of the following reasons?
For work or business purposes

■ Total 'Has travelled to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME]' ■ Never ■ Don't know



Average results: Travelled for work or business (14%)

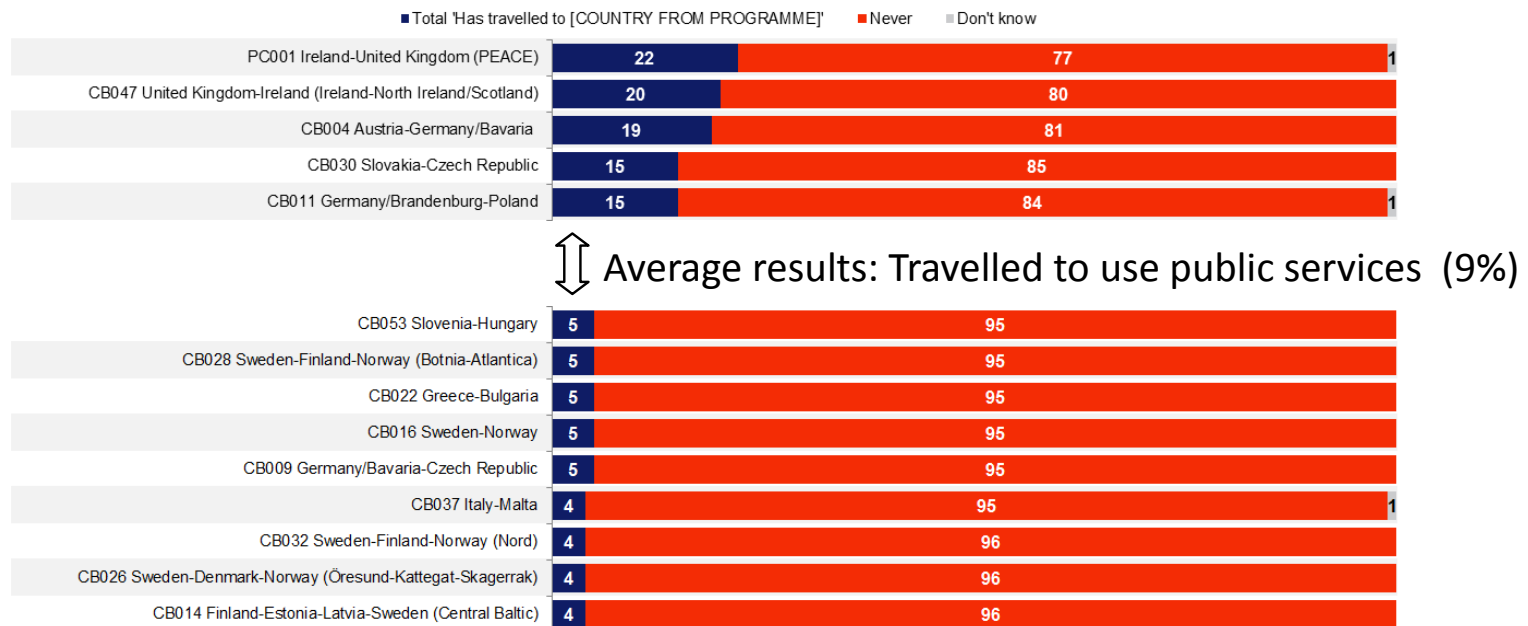


Highest and lowest results per programme

Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

Travelling to a partner country to use public services among those who have travelled: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q2.3. How often do you go to [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] for each of the following reasons?
To use public services (for example health or education services)



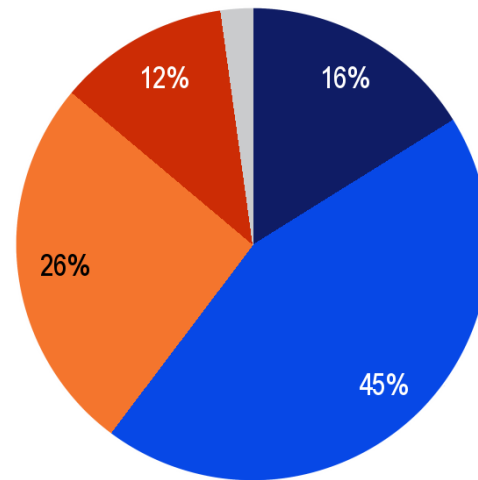
Highest and lowest results per programme

Base: Respondents who go abroad to other countries (n= 30,786)

**III. LEVEL OF SOCIAL TRUST OF THE
EU POPULATION LIVING IN THE
BORDER REGIONS COVERED BY THE
INTERREG CROSS-BORDER
COOPERATION PROGRAMMES**

More than six out of ten respondents (61%) agree that most people can be trusted while 38% disagree with this statement

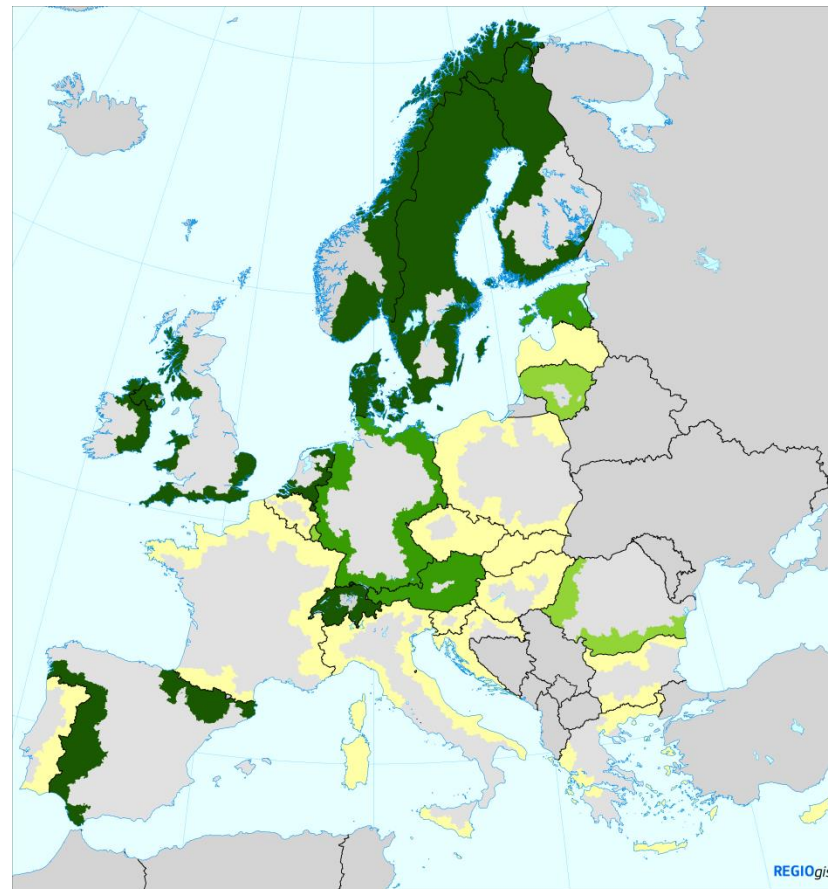
Q4. Generally speaking, would you agree or disagree that most people can be trusted?



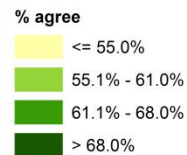
- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

TOTAL

Respondents living in the border regions covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes in Northern countries are generally more likely to agree that most people can be trusted



Q4: Generally speaking, would you agree or disagree that most people can be trusted?

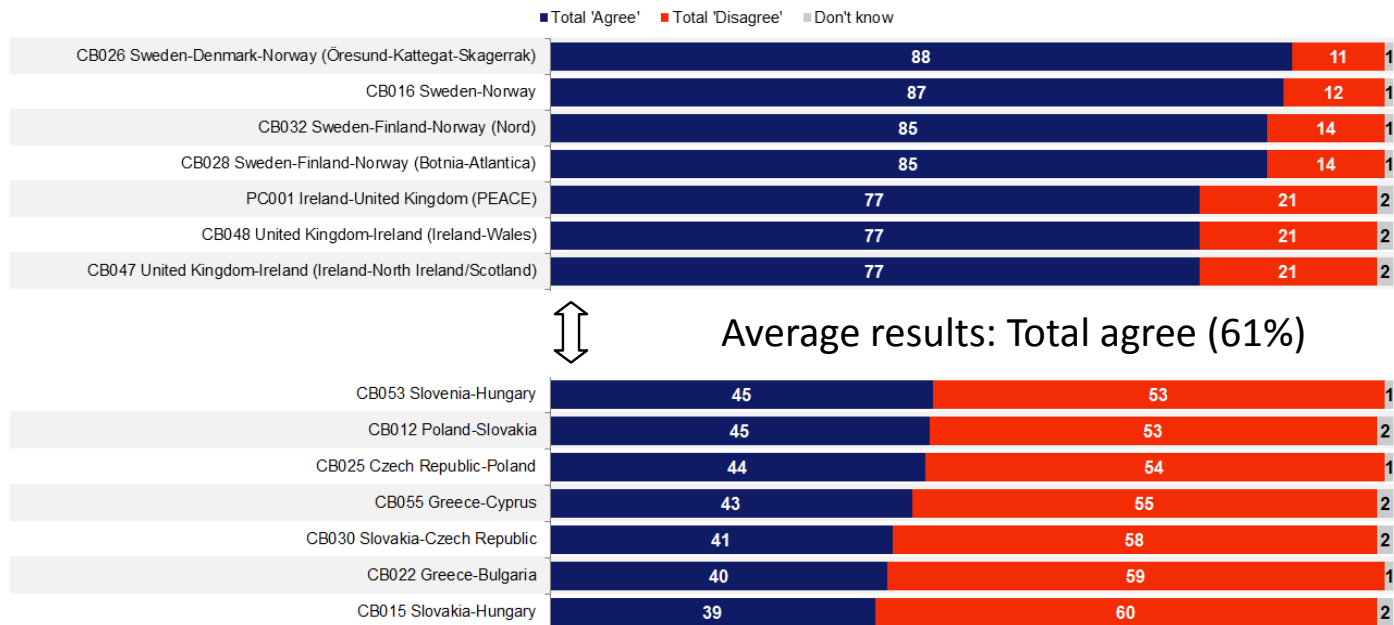


0 500 Km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

Most people can be trusted: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

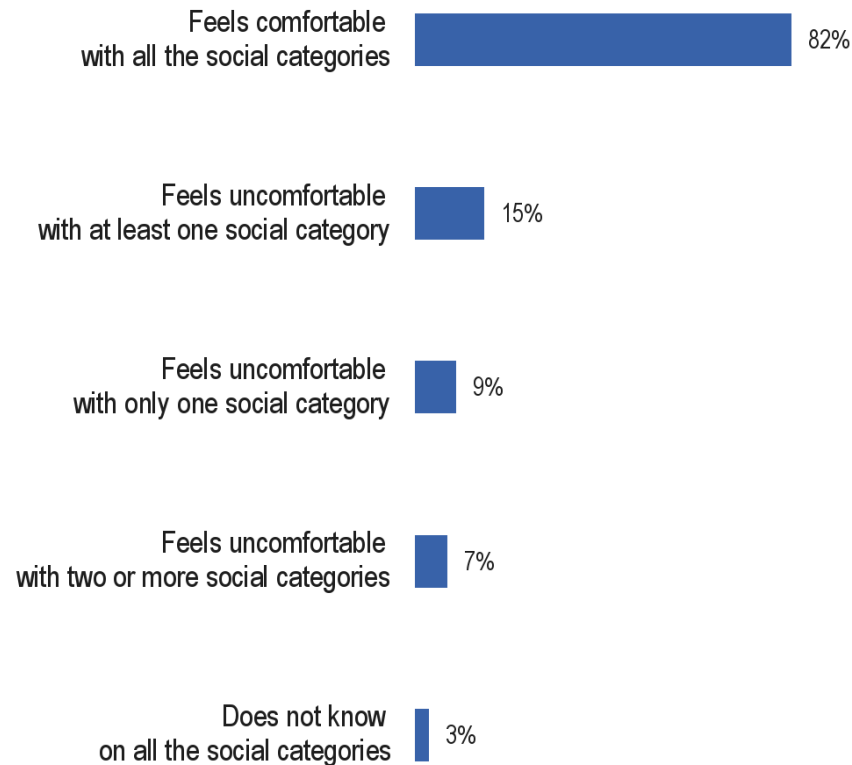
Q4. Generally speaking, would you agree or disagree that most people can be trusted?



Highest and lowest results per programme

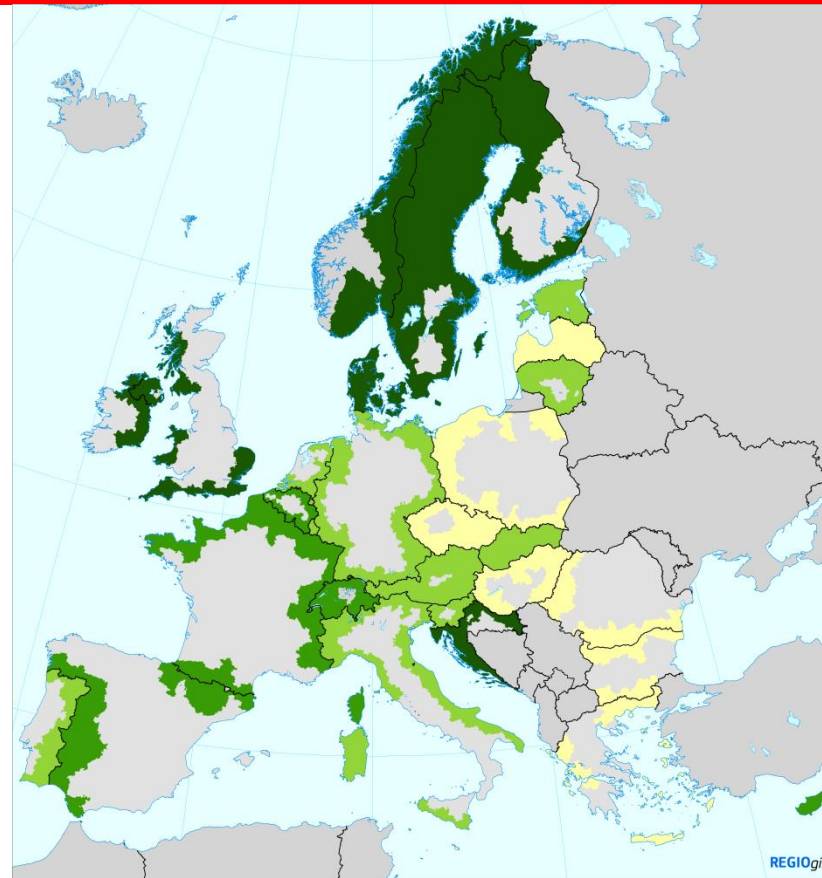
Mutual social trust - overall results: A large majority (82%) say they feel comfortable with all the social categories submitted to them during the survey

Q3T1. Mutual social trust among people living in border regions



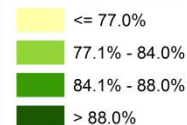
TOTAL

Respondents living in the border regions covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes in Northern and Western areas are more likely to feel comfortable with all the social categories



Q3T1: Would you personally feel comfortable or uncomfortable about having a citizen from a neighbouring country as your neighbour / work colleague / family member / manager?

% feels comfortable

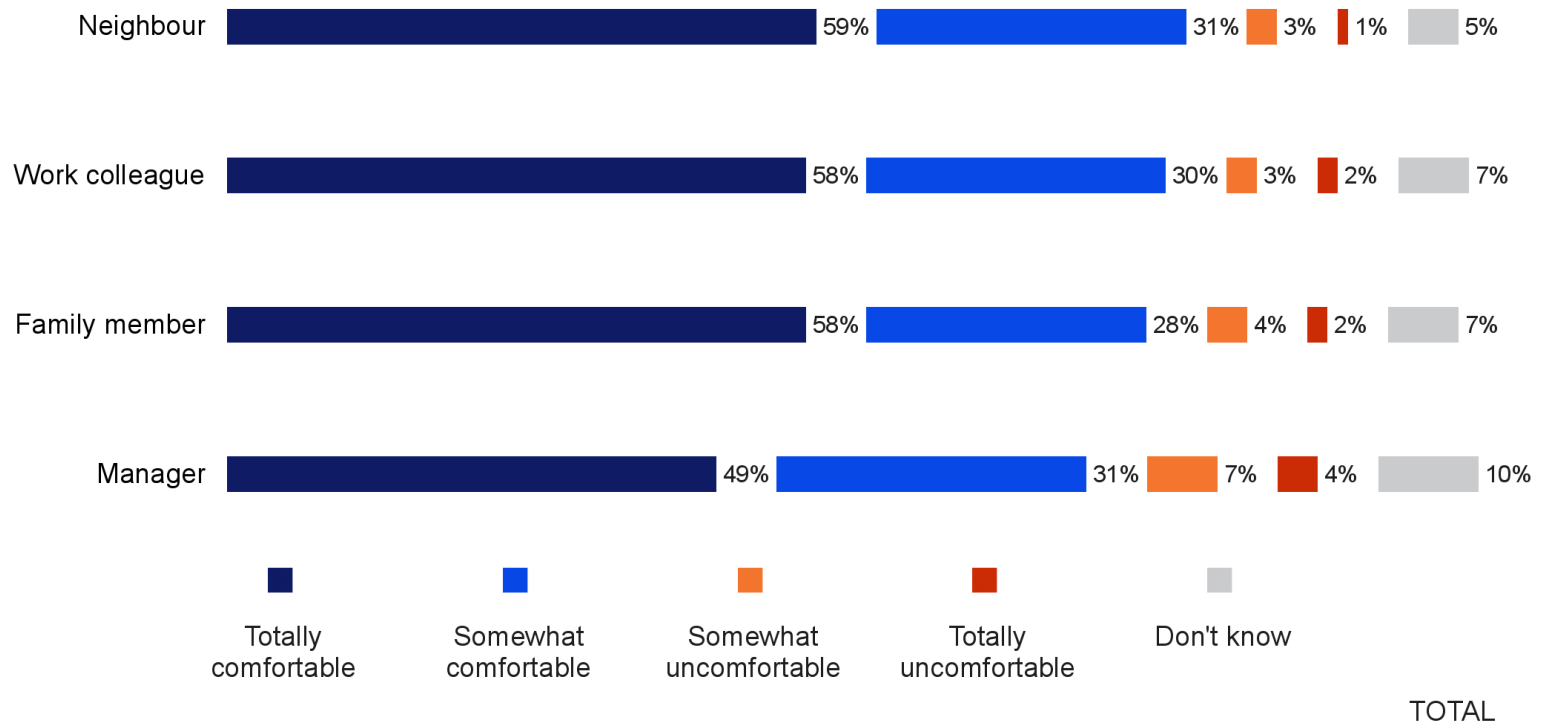


0 500 km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

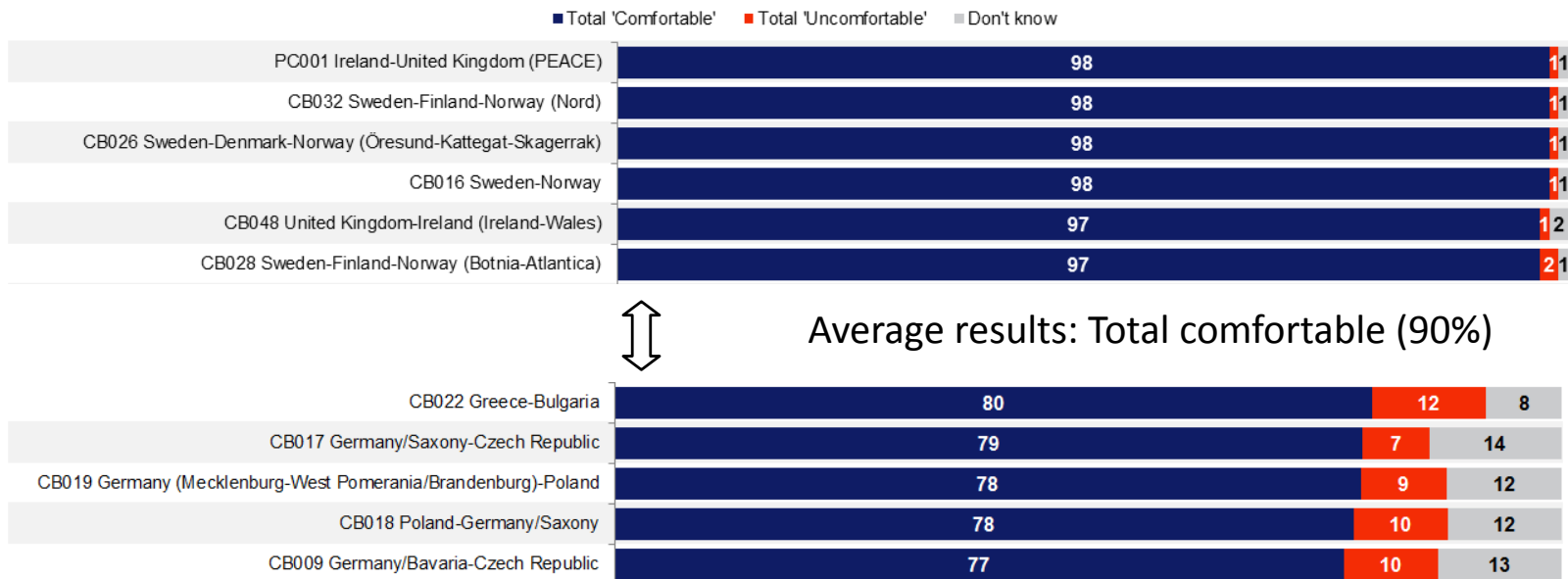
Mutual social trust – detailed results: At least eight out of ten respondents are comfortable about having a citizen of a partner country either as neighbour, work colleague, family member or manager

Q3. Would you personally feel comfortable or uncomfortable about having a citizen from [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] as your ... ?



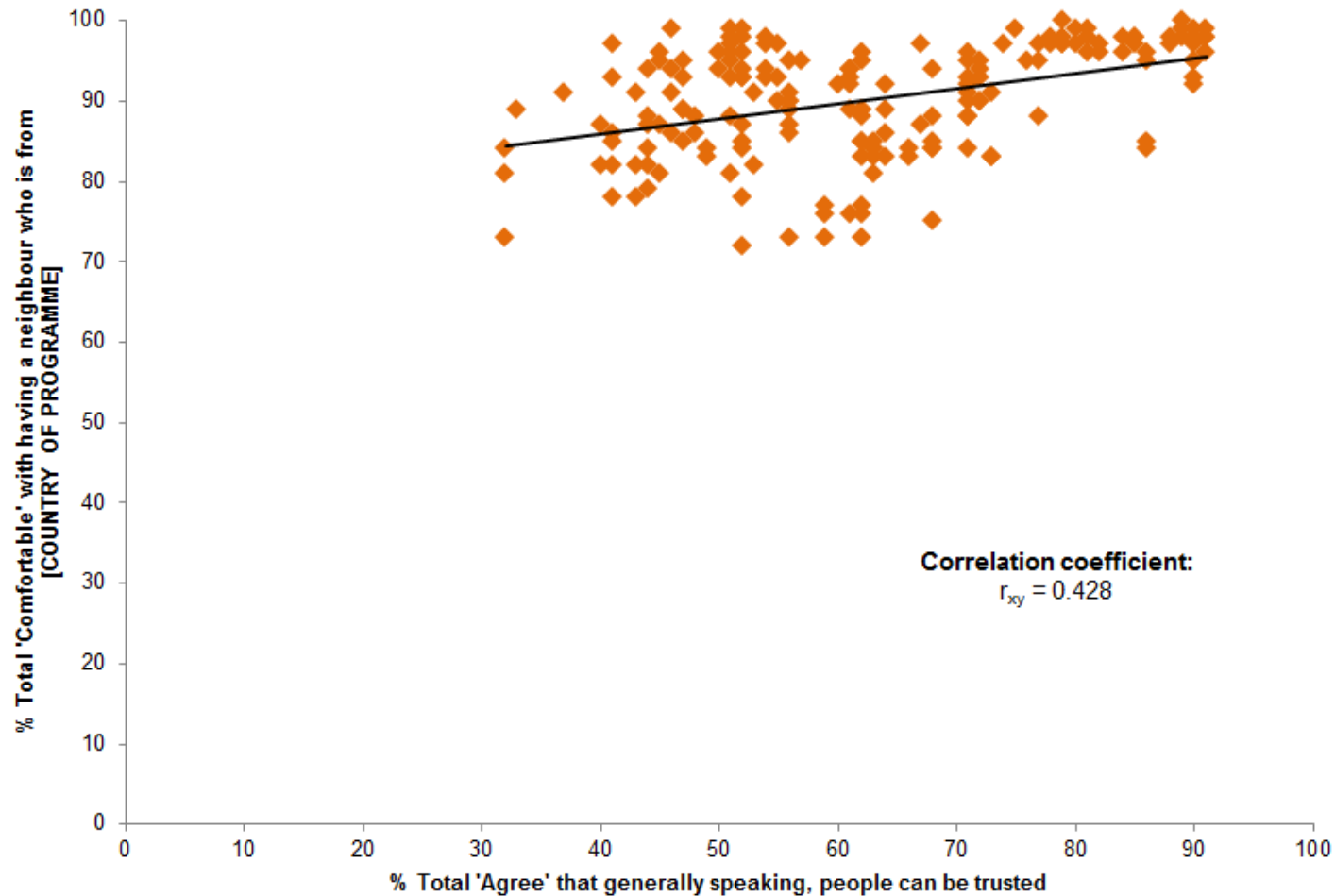
Feeling comfortable having a neighbour from a partner country: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q3.3. Would you personally feel comfortable or uncomfortable about having a citizen from [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] as your ...?
Neighbour



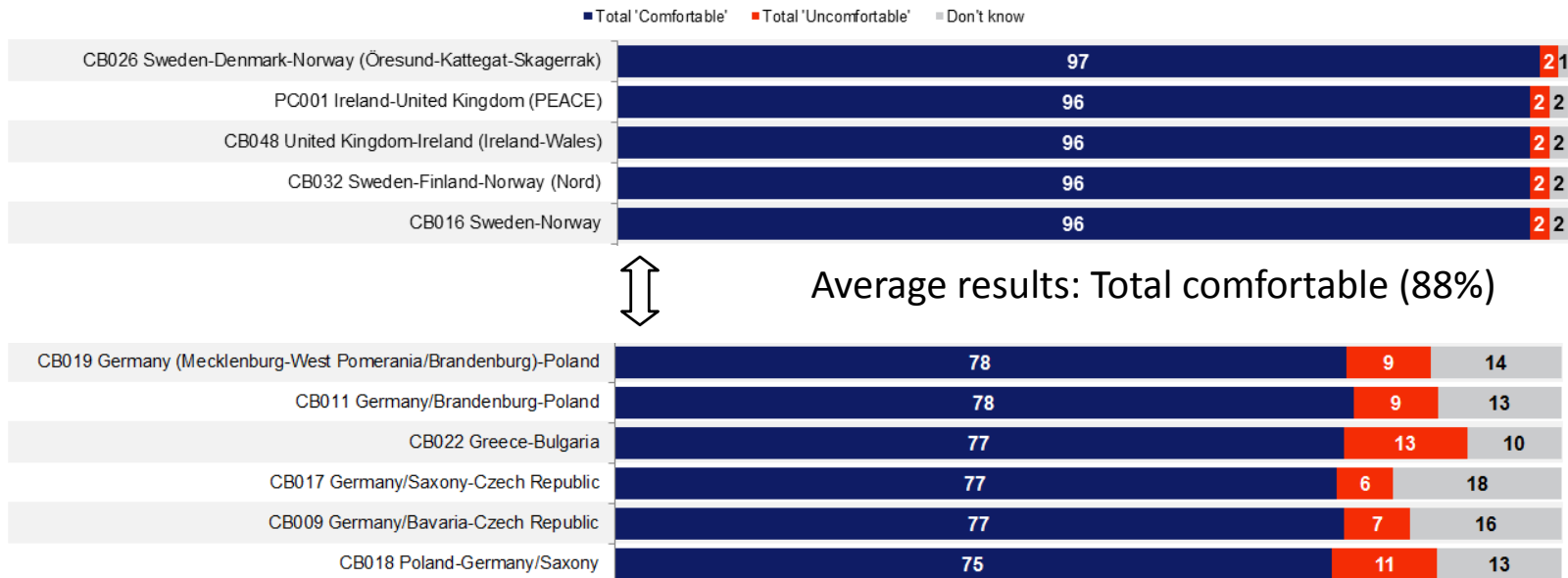
Highest and lowest results per programme

There is a moderate positive correlation between respondents who agree that in general people can be trusted, and those who are comfortable having a neighbour from a partner country



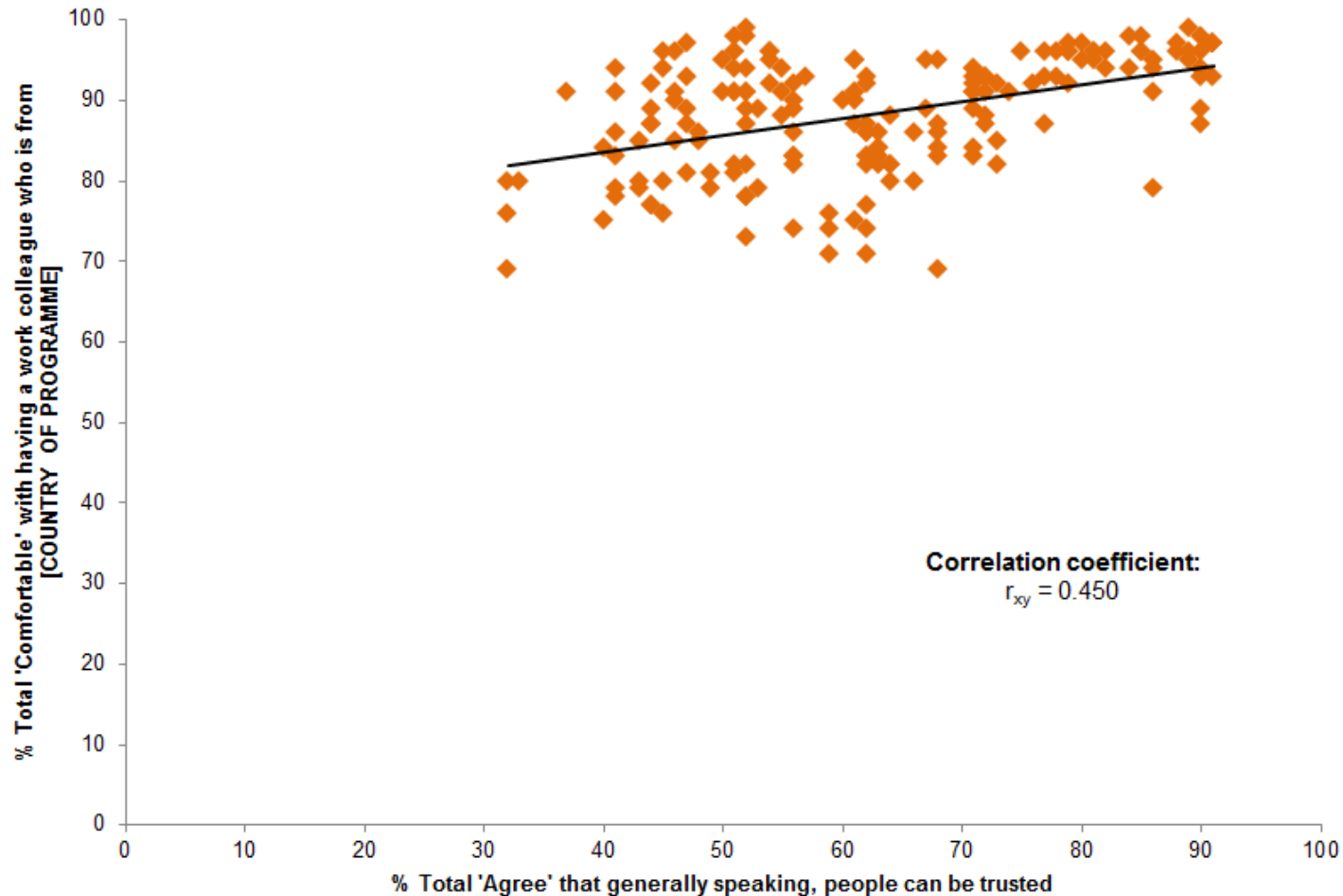
Feeling comfortable having a work colleague from a partner country: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q3.2. Would you personally feel comfortable or uncomfortable about having a citizen from [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] as your ...?
Work colleague



Highest and lowest results per programme

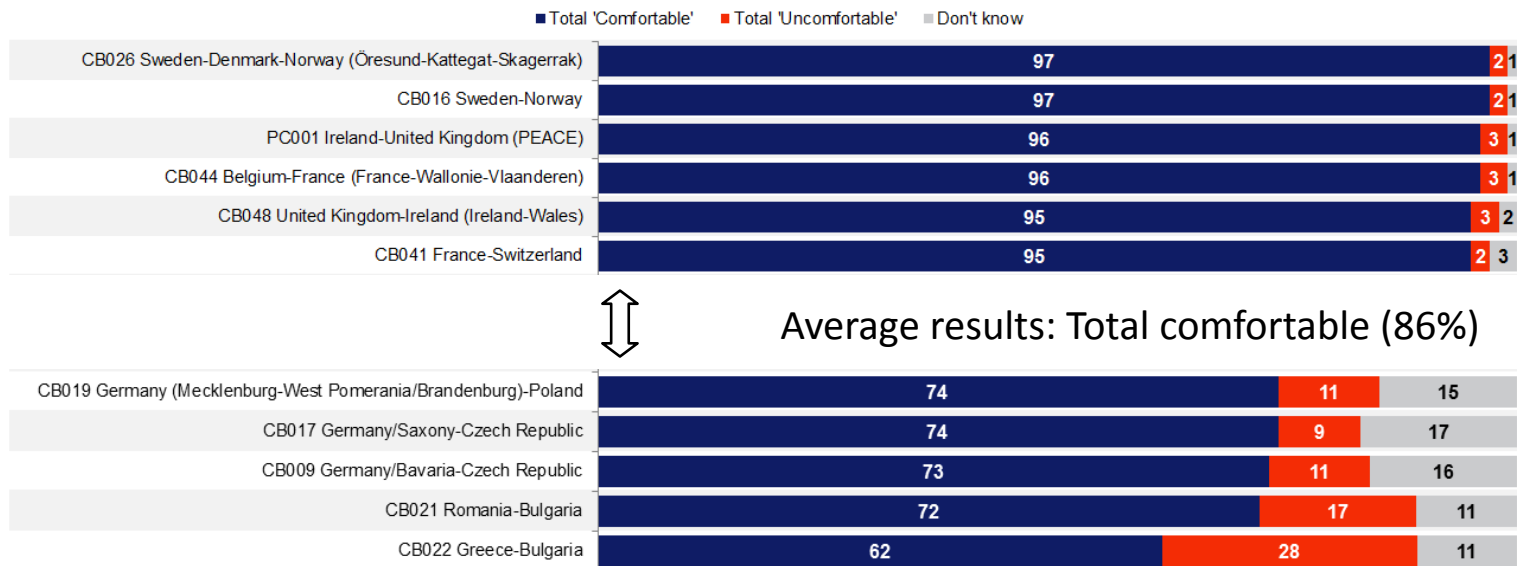
There is a moderate positive correlation between respondents who agree that in general people can be trusted, and those who are comfortable having a work colleague from a partner country



Feeling comfortable having a citizen from a partner country as a family member:

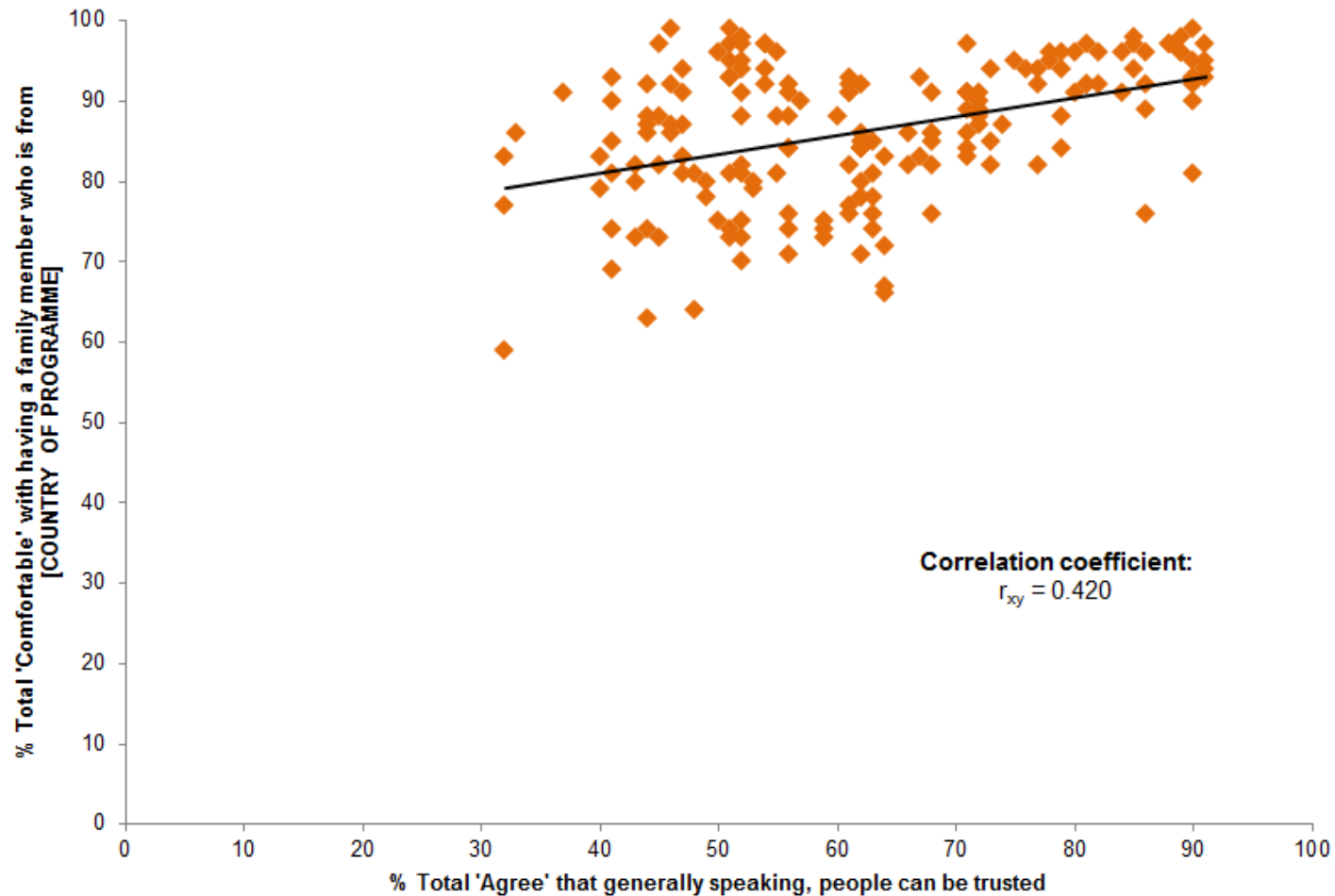
Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q3.4. Would you personally feel comfortable or uncomfortable about having a citizen from [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] as your ...?
Family member



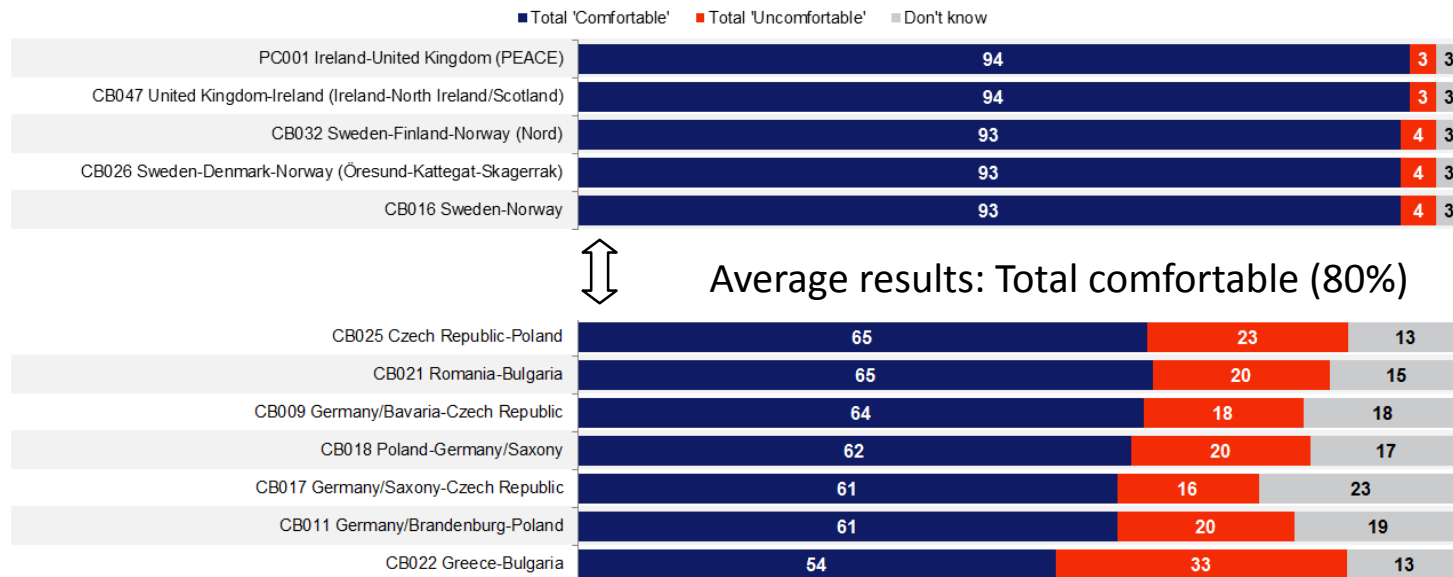
Highest and lowest results per programme

The positive correlation between respondents who agree that in general people can be trusted and those who are comfortable having a family member from a partner country, is the weakest of all the social categories asked about



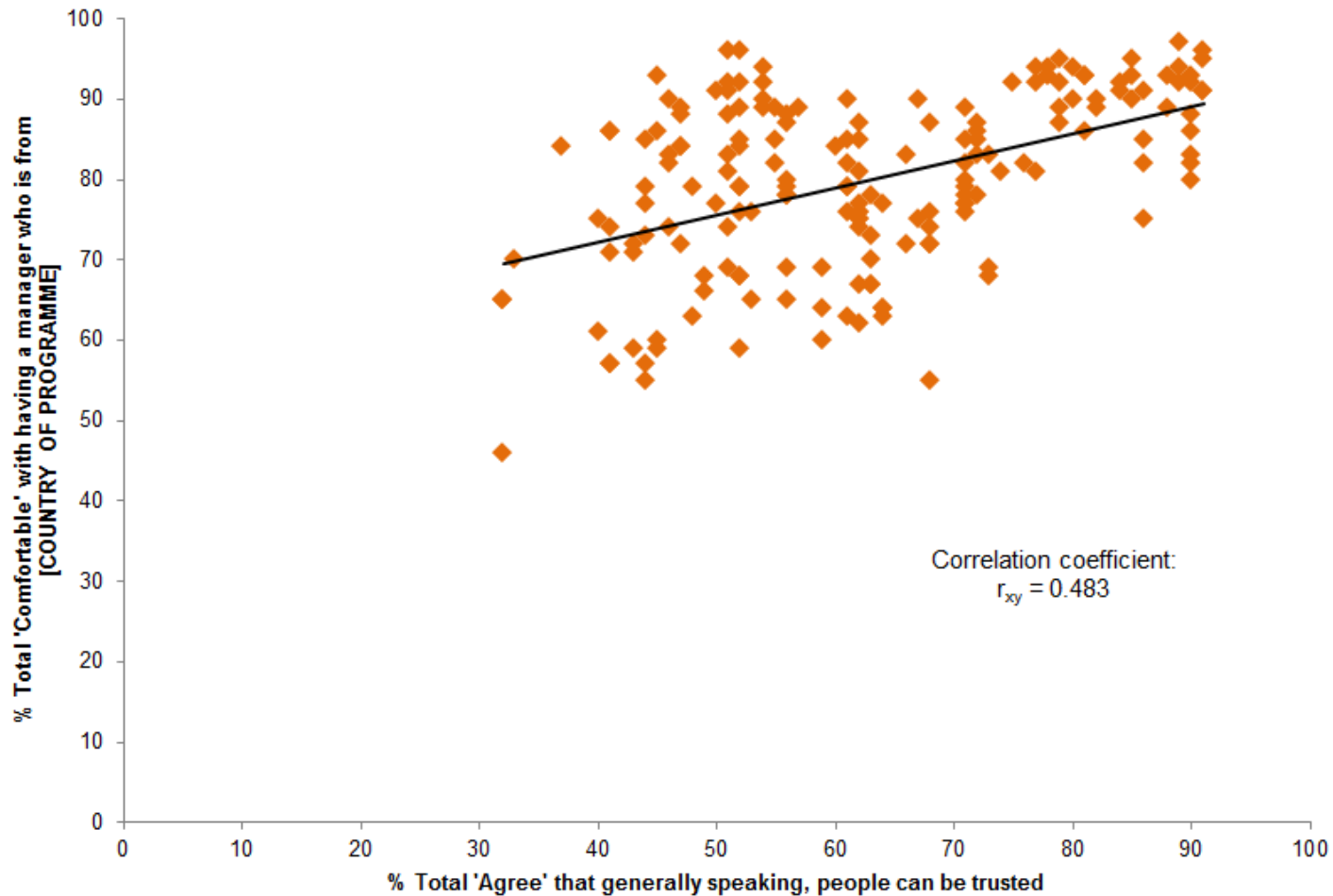
Feeling comfortable having a manager from a partner country: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q3.1. Would you personally feel comfortable or uncomfortable about having a citizen from [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] as your ...?
Manager



Highest and lowest results per programme

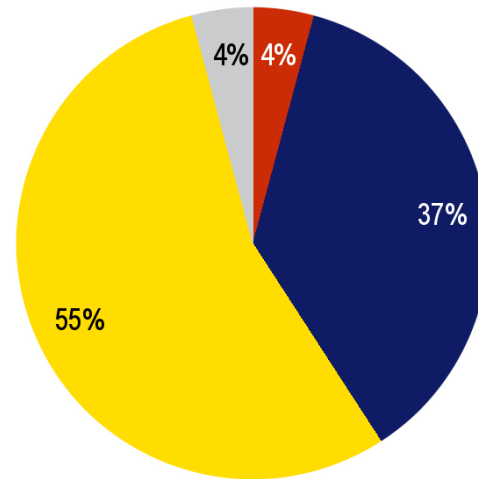
The positive correlation between respondents who agree that in general people can be trusted, and those who are comfortable having a manager from a partner country, is the strongest of all the social categories asked about



IV. LIVING IN A BORDER REGION: AN OBSTACLE OR AN OPPORTUNITY?

Respondents are more likely to think living in a border region is an opportunity, rather than an obstacle (37% vs. 4%)

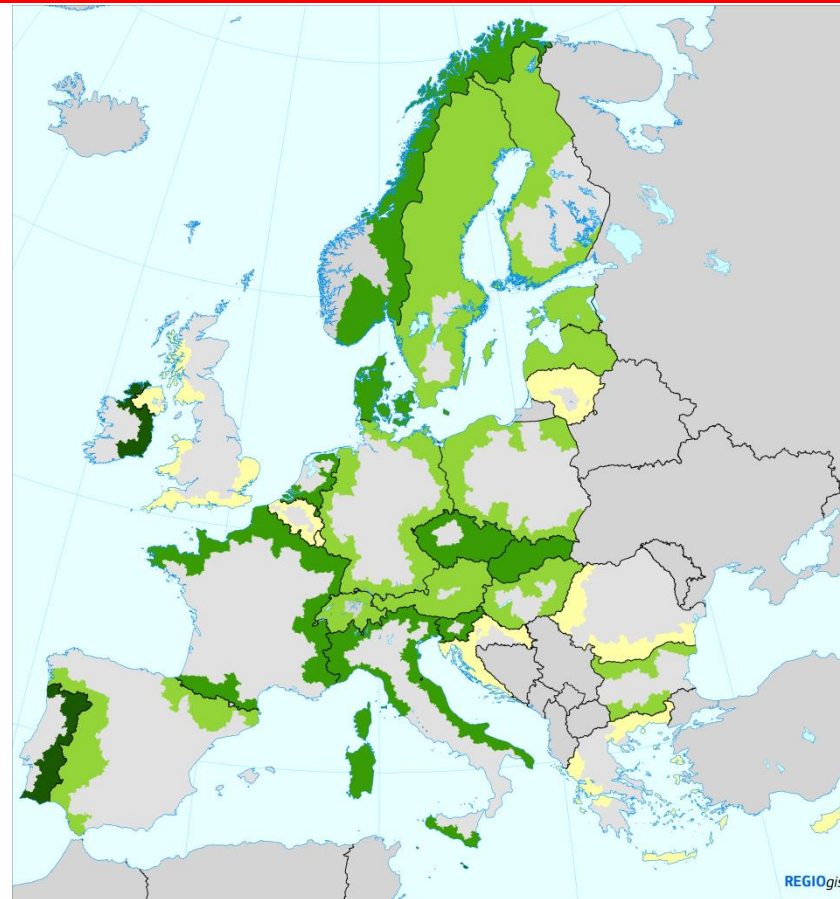
Q5. Would you say that living near the border with [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME] represents ...



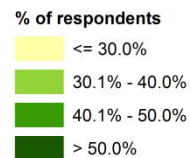
- More of an obstacle
- More of an opportunity
- It has no impact
- Don't know

TOTAL

Living in a border region – an opportunity or an obstacle? – detailed results



Q5b: Living near the border represents more of an opportunity



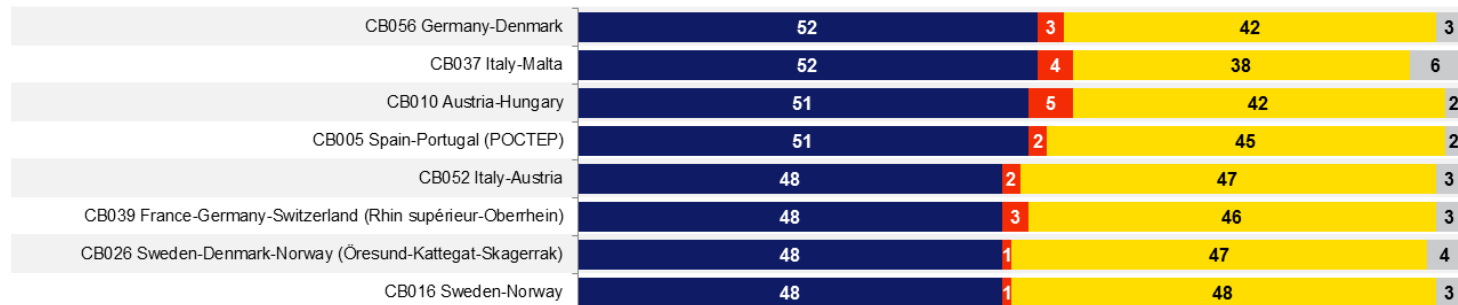
0 500 Km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

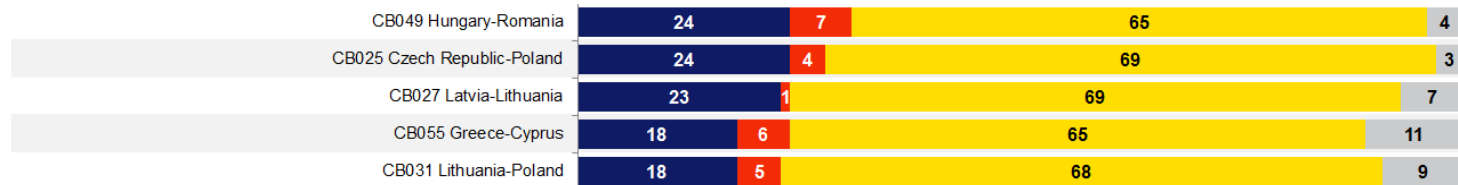
Living in a border region – an opportunity or an obstacle? Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

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

■ More of an opportunity ■ More of an obstacle ■ It has no impact ■ Don't know



Average results: More of an opportunity (37%)

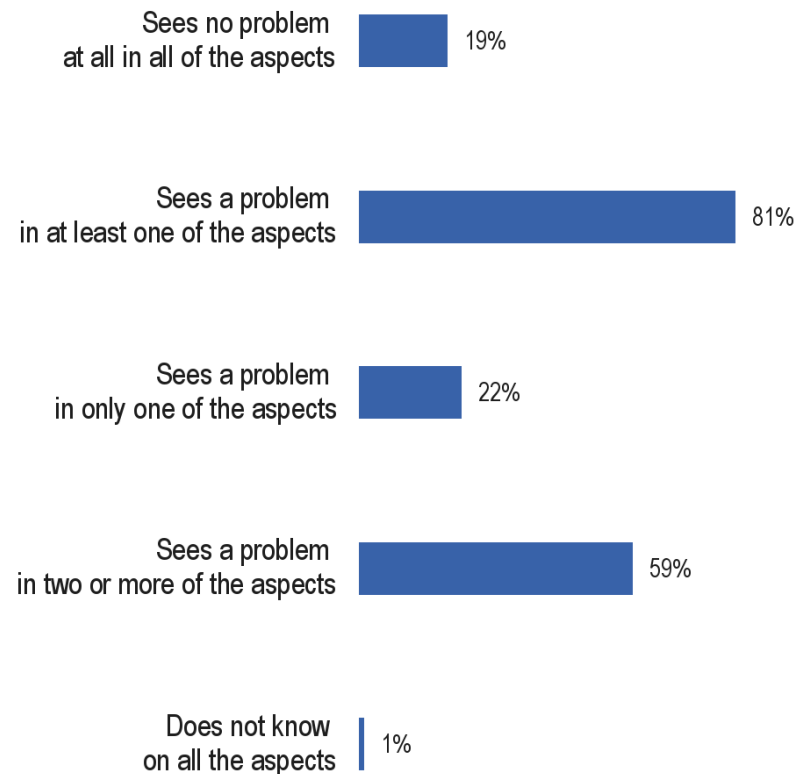


Highest and lowest results per programme

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

Respondents are more likely to be pessimistic with 81% seeing a problem in at least one of the aspects related to cross-border cooperation between border regions

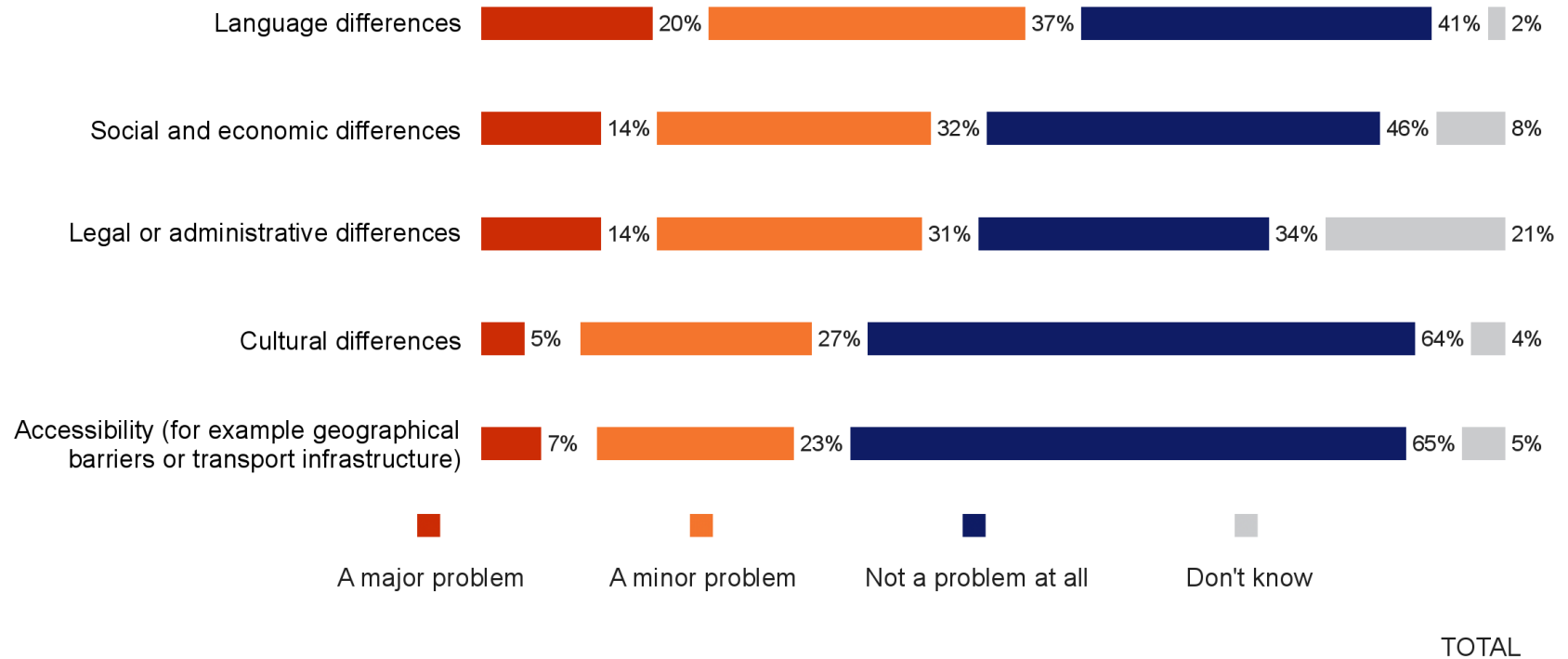
Q6T1. Obstacles to cross-border cooperation between border regions



TOTAL

Language difference is the only issue identified as a problem for cross-border cooperation by at least half the respondents (57%)

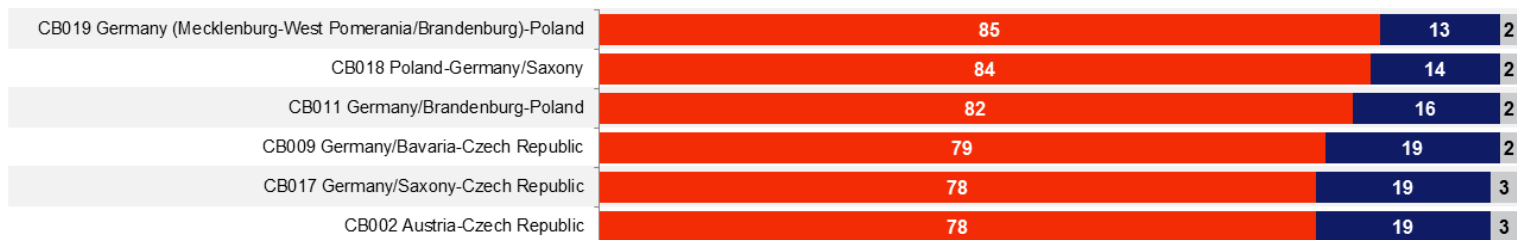
Q6. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem ... ?



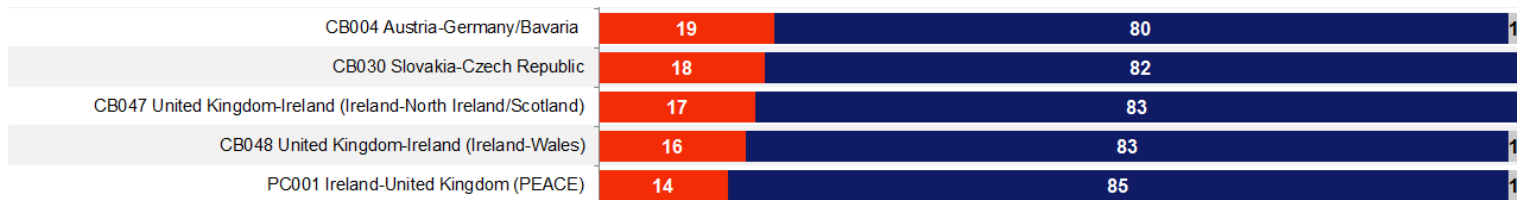
Language differences as a problem for cross-border cooperation: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q6.3. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem ...?
Language differences

■ Total 'A problem' ■ Not a problem at all ■ Don't know



Average results: Total 'A problem' (57%)

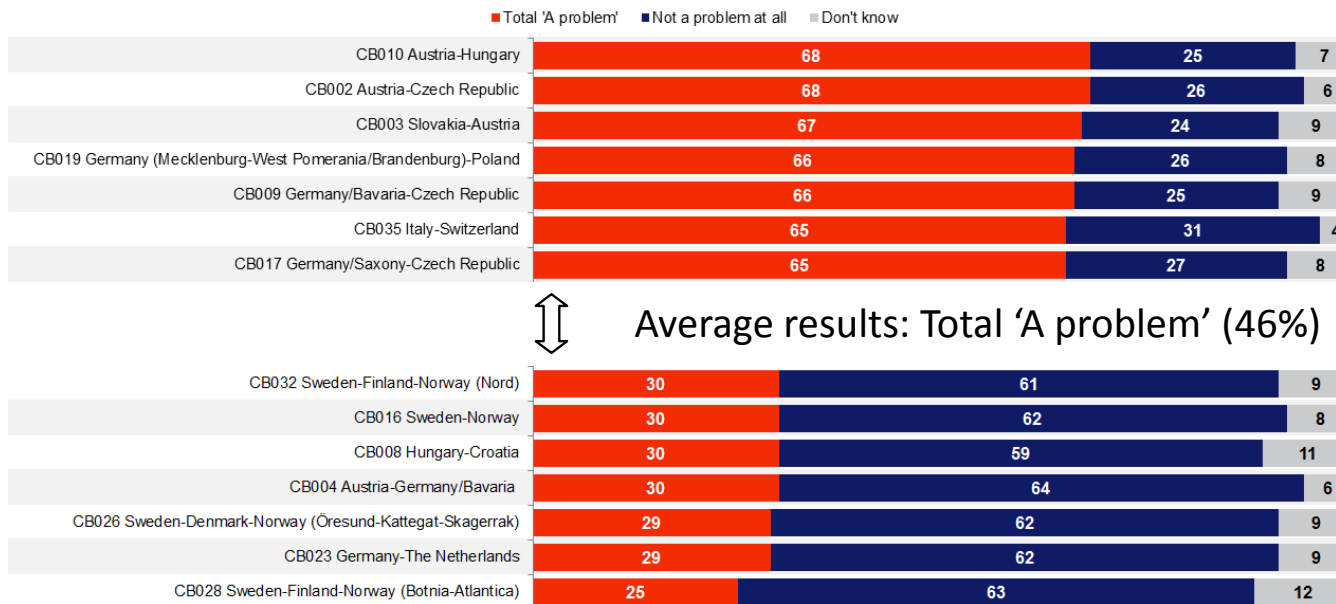


Highest and lowest results per programme

Socio-economic differences as a problem for cross-border cooperation:

Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q6.4. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem ...?
Social and economic differences

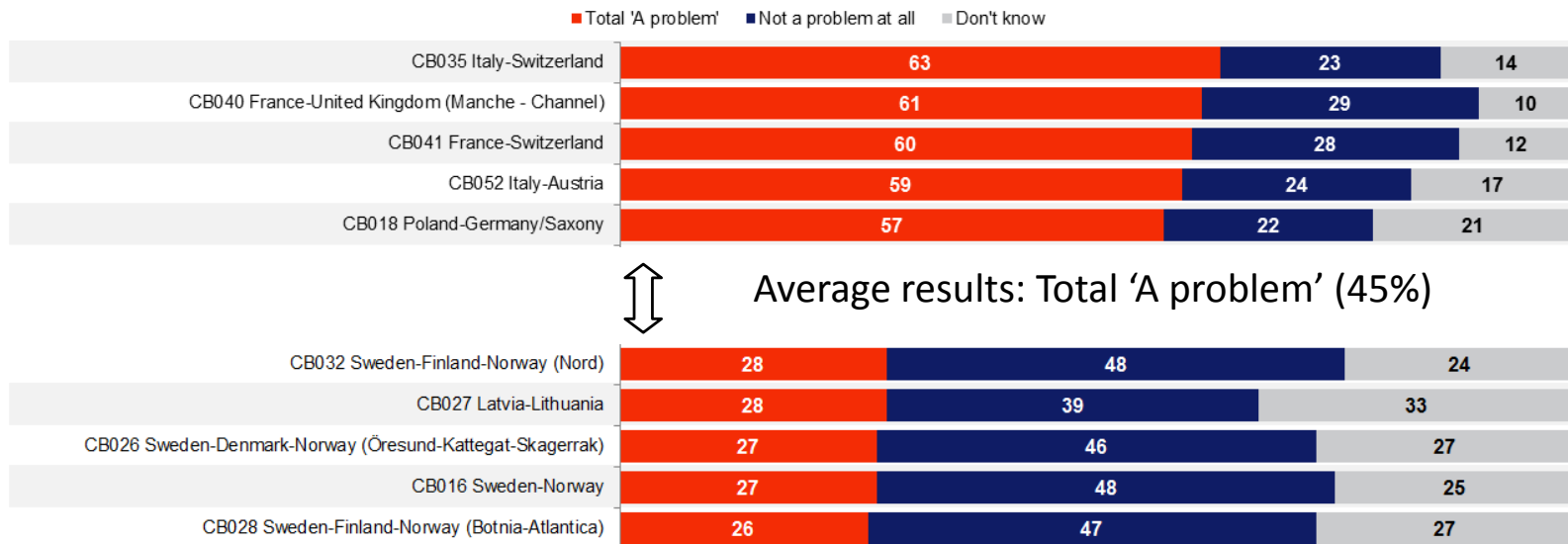


Highest and lowest results per programme

Legal or administrative differences as a problem for cross-border cooperation:

Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q6.1. 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

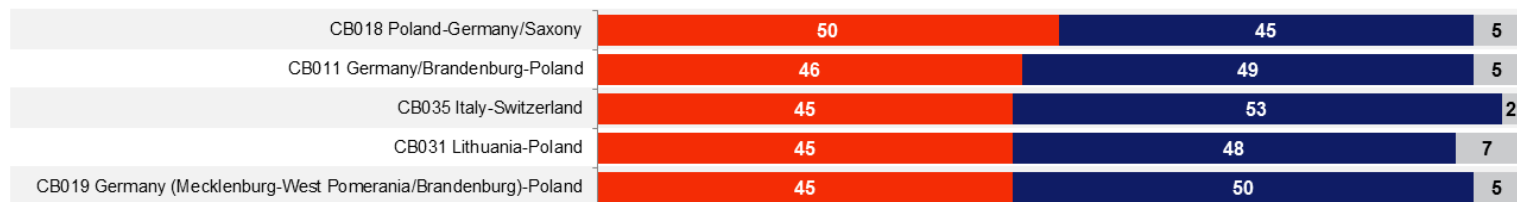


Highest and lowest results per programme

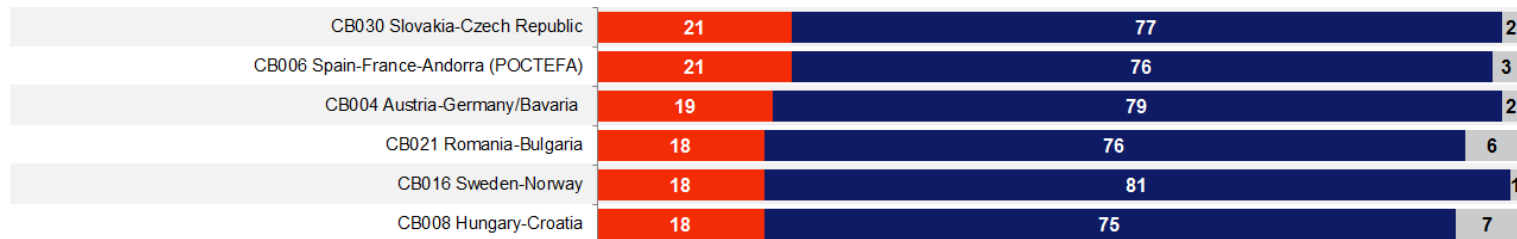
Cultural differences as a problem for cross-border cooperation: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q6.5. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem ...?
Cultural differences

■ Total 'A problem' ■ Not a problem at all ■ Don't know



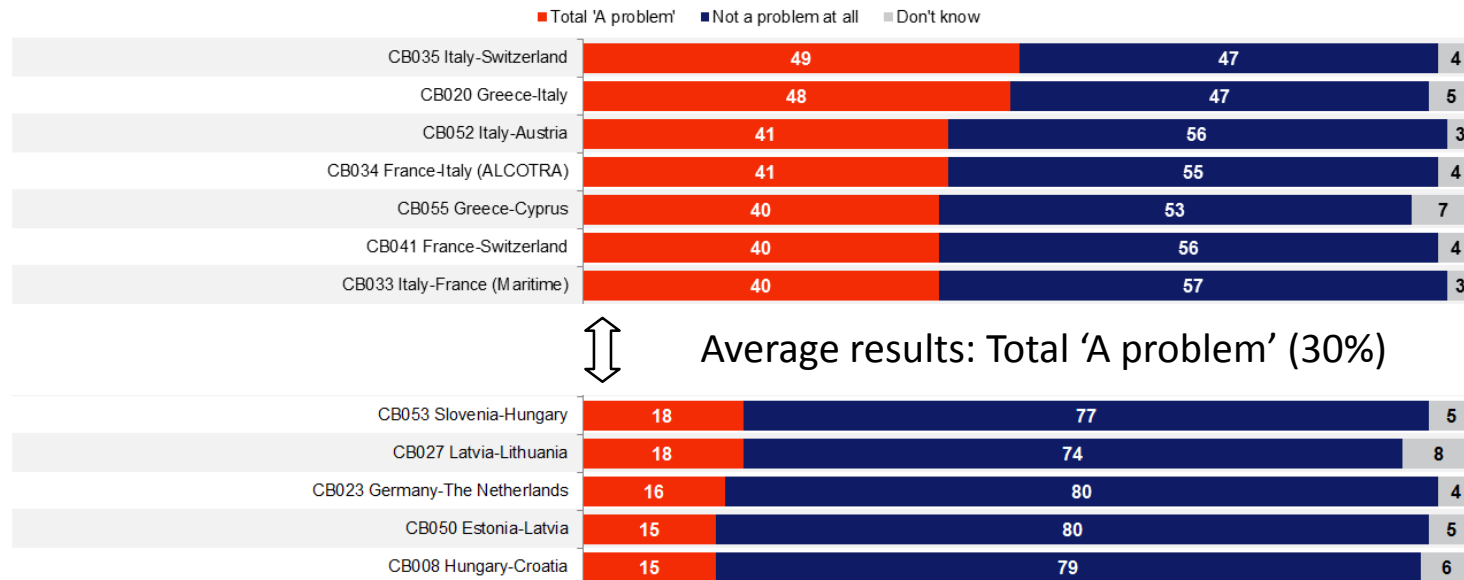
Average results: Total 'A problem' (32%)



Highest and lowest results per programme

Accessibility as a problem for cross-border cooperation: Highest and lowest results at an overall programme level

Q6.2. Thinking about the cooperation between [OUR COUNTRY] and [COUNTRY FROM PROGRAMME], to what extent are any of the following a problem ...?
Accessibility (for example geographical barriers or transport infrastructure)



Highest and lowest results per programme

MAIN TAKE AWAYS

1

Almost one third (31%) of respondents living in border regions covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes have heard about EU funded cross-border cooperation activities. The level of awareness is generally the highest among respondents living in the border regions in Eastern European countries and in Ireland

2

Around three quarters (76%) of respondents go abroad to other countries and among these, seven out of ten (70%) have travelled to a partner country covered by the same Interreg cross-border cooperation programme

3

Respondents going abroad are most likely to travel to a partner country for leisure activities including tourist visits (57%), followed by 35% who does this to shop for goods or services

MAIN TAKE AWAYS

4

61% of respondents resident in border regions covered by Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes agree that most people can be trusted. There is little difference between levels of comfort with having a citizen from a partner country as a neighbour (59% feeling totally comfortable with this statement), work colleague or a family member (both 58%). Respondents are slightly less likely to be totally comfortable with having a citizen of a partner country as a manager (49%)

5

81% of respondents sees a problem in at least one aspect related to cross-border cooperation between border regions. Respondents are most likely to say language differences (57%) and socio-economic differences (46%) are a problem for cooperation between their country and a partner country and least likely to mention accessibility (e.g. geographical barriers or transport infrastructure)(30%)