

Interreg VI – A Italia - Österreich
Cooperation program

CONSULTATION POST 2027

Programme
Stakeholders,
Citizens,
CLLD areas

Interreg
Italia-Österreich



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Introduction

The European Commission has asked all Interreg programmes to consult stakeholder and citizens in their programme areas to gather feedback in the form of reflections, ideas, and suggestions on the topic of cross-border cooperation, thereby contributing to shaping the future of Interreg for the period 2028-2034.

This report presents the outcomes of this consultation process, which was carried out over the course of five months, from July to the end of November, and was implemented by the Interreg Italy-Austria programme with the support of an Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY). 162 stakeholders and 124 citizens shared their views through surveys, interviews and group discussions, with a focus on inclusivity and engaging young participants aged 14-29. This report synthesizes key feedback, identifies challenges, and presents actionable recommendations.

Key Findings

- **Opportunities and Challenges:** Most participants (64% of stakeholders and 62% of citizens) view cross-border living as an advantage, citing cultural exchange and professional growth. Some challenges include language barriers, differing administrative systems, and limited infrastructure.
- **Priorities Innovation,** especially in green energy, cultural tourism, and local economic development. CLLD is recognized as an important approach.
- **Need for Improvement:** Stakeholders emphasized further simplifying administrative processes, even though the SCO (Simplified Cost Options) have already eased the process, aligning financial rules across borders, and providing support for small organizations.
- **Dream Projects:** Participants envisioned initiatives in sustainable public transportation, cross-border healthcare, educational exchanges, local innovation hubs and governance harmonization.

The findings highlight the potential of cross-border cooperation to drive regional innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. By addressing identified challenges, the programme can foster an even more resilient and connected future for the Italy-Austria region.

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- A – Consultation of stakeholders
- B – Consultation of citizens
- C – Consultation of stakeholders-citizens in CLLD areas

1. Consultation of stakeholders

1.1. Main stakeholder consulted

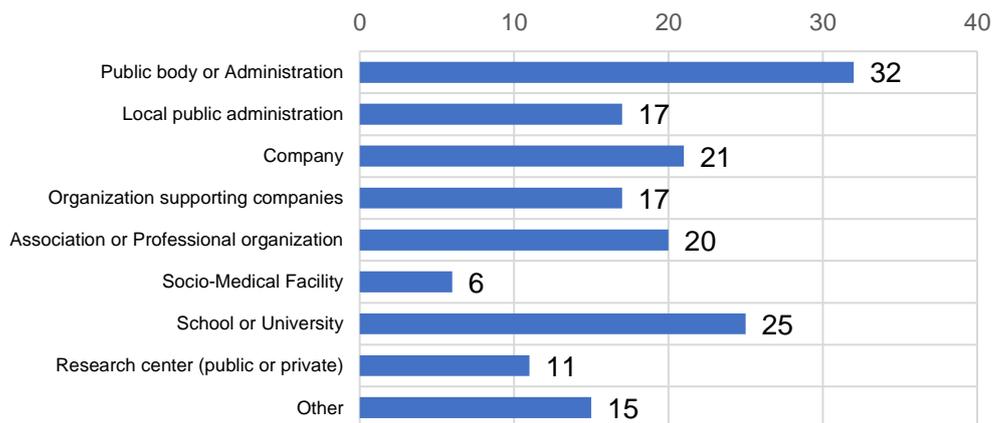
Our consultation reached **162 stakeholders** both through the surveys and interviews, covering many sectors, such as:

- tourism and culture;
- environment and nature protection;
- sustainability;
- climate change;
- construction;
- energy;
- health
- local governance and development;
- social innovation;
- sport and leisure;
- technology;
- transport and logistic.

Below you can find aggregated information on the type of stakeholders consulted, the regions in which they operate, and their involvement in the Interreg Italy-Austria programme.

Figure 1. Type of stakeholder consulted. Total responses.

Type of Stakeholder consulted



Stakeholders under the category "Other":

Local Action Group	6
Private foundation	4
Self-employed citizen	2
Religious congregation	1

The regional distribution (see Figure 2-A) of respondents to the survey and to the interviews shows a higher participation from stakeholders based in Regione del Veneto (36%) compared to other Interreg It-At regions: around 20 % are based in Provincia autonoma di Bolzano (Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen), followed by stakeholders based in Kärnten and Regione Autonoma Friuli-Venezia Giulia (15% and 12% respectively). The smallest proportion of respondents are from Salzburg (9%) and Tirol (6%). This roughly matches the distribution of stakeholders and projects.

A significant majority of the respondents to the survey and interviews were already familiar with Interreg, with 84% having previously participated in a Italian-Austrian project, compared to 16% who had not before.

Notably, all interviewed stakeholders were aware of Interreg and had engaged with the program over the past 10-20 years on average (Figure 3-A).

Respondents from Austrian regions: 50 (31 from the survey, 19 from the interviews).

Respondents from Italian regions: 112 (93 from the survey, 19 from the interviews).

To address the disparity in the number of survey participants from Austria (31) and Italy (93), the responses were weighted and presented as percentages relative to the total number of respondents. In certain instances, responses were also compared to the frequency of responses within each region. Consequently, respondents from Tirol, Salzburg, and Kärnten were grouped together, as were those from Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and Bolzano.

1.2. Methods of consultation

Two main methods were employed to gather stakeholders' experiences of working and cooperating across the Italian-Austrian border:

- An **online survey** available in the two languages of the regions involved. Italian and German, which was spread through the programme's homepage, news and newsletter, various social media posts, in a newspaper and through Regional Coordination Units efforts. The survey included single and multiple-choice questions, as well as open-ended questions where respondents could provide their own input, providing both quantitative and qualitative answers (see Appendix A).
- In-person **interviews** with stakeholders considered relevant by the Regional Coordination Units operating in each Interreg It-At region, providing further qualitative and more in-depth insight on some of the Toolkit questions.

Through the online survey we collected **124 responses**, which ran from July to the end of September. During the same period, **38 stakeholders** participated in the interviews. In total, 162 stakeholders were reached.

The survey outline follows the key questions of the Toolkit. Some of these questions were adapted to address the specific challenges of the local cross-border territories of the programme (mostly related to the geography of the region). Some questions have been grouped together to avoid repetitions.

The interview questions were open, closed questions were avoided, in order to allow the answers to emerge from the interviewee's own ideas and experiences. This outline focused more on the individual experience of the stakeholder's representatives.

An important point of the consultation process was its transparency. Both stakeholders and citizens were informed through the surveys and interviews about the impact and value of their input for the future of the programme.

1.3. Summary of the input on the key questions

The data displayed comes from **both the questions of the survey, which provide a quantitative overview, and the questions of the interviews, which provide additional and qualitative depth for some of the input questions**. This summary will present the answers aggregated primarily by the macro-regions of the stakeholders (Austrian regions, Italian regions), to compare the responses.

Question 1: Is living next to a border an opportunity or a disadvantage?

The answer to this question is positive (See Figure 4-A). **64% of stakeholders view living next to a border as an advantage**, reflecting a positive view of cross-border exchanges for personal and professional growth, as well as regional growth, which goes on to benefit the people living there. Cooperation is perceived as a strategic element that fosters growth and innovation, improving opportunities at both individual and collective levels.

There are **only three specific negative remarks**: one respondent from Bolzano expressed concerns about limited public transportation links, such as trains and flights, to other Italian and international cities; another

from Veneto indicated that their region is often overlooked due to its position between two autonomous regions (Bolzano and Friuli-Venezia Giulia) and another country (Austria); finally, a respondent from Friuli-Venezia Giulia mentioned that "Austrians have not fully accepted the region's national independence".

These responses highlight some of the more challenging aspects of cross-border cooperation, as identified by **34% of respondents**, and relate to:

- a. linguistic and cultural barriers;
- b. administrative and legal differences between regions (which are the main reasons which are mostly correlated to the word "obstacle");
- c. geographic features mostly for their mobility challenges;
- d. marginalization of isolated areas.

The regional distribution of stakeholders who view living near the border as a challenge mirrors that of the overall respondents and does not provide significant insights (See Table 1-A). However, qualitative answers show that these challenges are largely perceived as opportunities. Respondents view cross-border cooperation as a means to foster resilience, innovation, and creativity. The various political, economic, and social conditions across the regions offer a foundation for learning and transferring best practices to jointly address and resolve these issues through joint projects.

Question 2: In which areas do you see the greatest potential for territorial cooperation in your region?

This question was adapted to reflect the priorities of the programme. In the survey it was framed as a multiple-choice question aimed at assessing what areas of intervention among the current priorities of the programme the participants of the survey view as still relevant for the future period. Priorities: 1 "Innovation and enterprises", 2 "Climate Change and Biodiversity," 3 "Sustainable and Cultural Tourism," 4 "Community-Led Local Development" and 5 "Reduction of Cross-Border Barriers", with special emphasis on areas which could be important for the future.

The findings in Figure 4-A show a balanced interest for the totality of respondents across all priorities, with **priority D scoring the highest and priority E scoring the lowest. Priority A and C are also identified as relevant areas of cooperation (22% both), with priority B scoring a little lower (18%).**

Upon examining the survey results, segmented by the Austrian and Italian sides of the border (Figure 5-A), we notice variations in the priorities of stakeholders. Austrian stakeholders assign a higher relevance to Priority A (31%) and B (22%) compared to their Italian counterparts (19% and 17% respectively). Conversely, Priority C holds more importance for Italian stakeholders (23% versus 18%), similar to Priority D, which emerges as the most significant for Italian stakeholders (27%) compared to the Austrian participants (16%). This might indicate that, in these Italian regions, there is a stronger focus on community-based initiatives and local economies. Lastly, **Priority E appears relatively less important for both groups**, with Austrians attributing 13% and Italians 15% to it.

In addition, every priority has its own specific objectives. After choosing a priority as a relevant potential for territorial cooperation, respondents were asked to rate the specific objectives related to that priority on a scale from 1 to 5.

The findings shown in Table 3-A show that all specific objectives have a high score of relevance. For priority B, all the specific objectives indicate a high relevance. Additionally, objectives across priorities that deal with similar topics (climate change, sustainable practices and green infrastructures) are also highly relevant for innovating the enterprises or their deployment at a local level.

Questions 3 and 4: What aspects of this cooperation are effective and should be maintained or enhanced? What aspects are ineffective and need improvement?

Question 3 and 4 were merged into a single question to streamline the survey and prevent it from becoming too long. The question then asked respondents to evaluate what works well, what needs improvement or what

doesn't work well for a list of aspects of cooperation in the Interreg It-At programme (only one of these options was selectable).

The findings are divided also in this case per macro-regions (Italian regions and Austrian regions) to assess if there are significant differences. Respondents of the survey were asked to, a. **evaluate some general aspects of the Interreg programme**; b. **evaluate the capacity to create cross-border partnerships in the various priorities** (except for priority D, which has been the subject of an own survey, the outcomes of which will be in the third part of this report).

a. Aspects regarding the Interreg programme (Figure 6, 7, 8-A):

Assistance in the creation and monitoring of projects, and their subsequent valorization: there is higher satisfaction or better reception of this aspect in respondents from Austrian regions (42%) compared to the Italian counterparts (24%). Consequently, Italian stakeholders indicated the need for improvements (61% against 39% of Austrian respondents). Less than 20% in both regions feel this aspect is not going well.

Dialogue and trust between cross-border institutions: this aspect shows similar levels of satisfaction (above 30% for both groups) and a higher score from participants who believe there's a need for improvement. Similarly to the first aspect, the dissatisfaction levels are below 20%.

Involvement of civil society and citizens: this is the aspect of the Interreg It-At programme that shows lowest levels of satisfaction (19% of the Austrian participants and only 12% of the Italian participants say it's going well). The Italian group shows a higher level of trust in future improvements (58% against 42%) and it's not going well for almost 40% of the Austrian participants, against a 30% of Italian participants.

b. Aspects regarding the creation of cross-border partnerships per priority (Figure 9, 10, 11, 12-A):

While some differences exist, the overall picture highlights a **need for improvement for all these aspects across all priorities (A, B, C, and E)**. During interviews, several stakeholders – primarily from the Italian side of the border – reported challenges in establishing partnerships. These difficulties are also influenced by administrative obstacles faced by Austrian stakeholders, particularly regarding project financing (elaborated for the next question). **Especially for the creation of cross-border partnership in priority A, the difference in the need for improvement is most pronounced, with 65% of Austrian stakeholders highlighting this need compared to 47% of Italian stakeholders**). For other priorities, this disparity is smaller: 58% vs 52% for priority B, 61% vs 53% for priority C, 48% vs 47% for priority E, all values respectively regarding Austrian versus Italian stakeholders).

Overall, Italian stakeholders rate the creation of cross-border partnership more positively (“it's going well”) across all priorities compared to Austrian stakeholders. However, the differences are generally minor, except for priority A, where 26% of Italian stakeholders responding “it's going well” versus only 13% of the Austrian stakeholders.

Finally, approximately **30% of both regional groups rate this aspect related to priority A and B negatively**. The results **are the lowest for priority C** (16% Austrian stakeholders, 22% Italian stakeholders) and the **highest for priority E** (32% and 35% respectively).

Question 5 and 6: What are the major obstacles for a good cooperation in your area? Are there things you would like to do under Interreg but cannot?

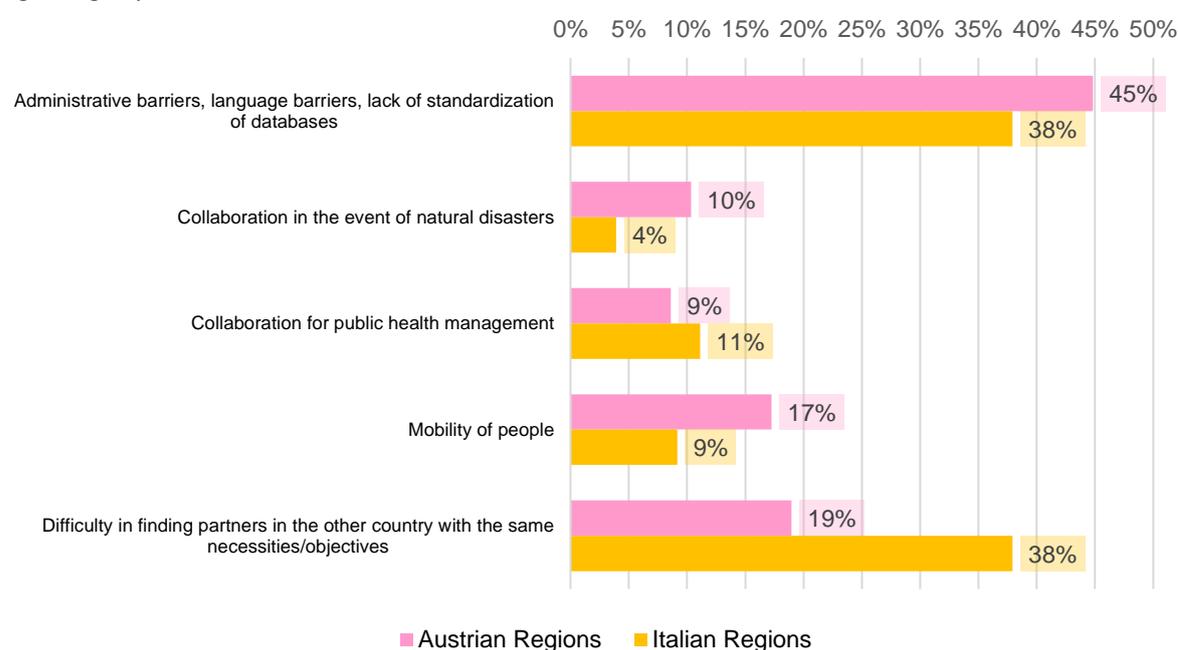
These questions were merged into a single question in the survey for two main reasons. First, these issues are logically interconnected: obstacles can impact what is feasible under Interreg and affect which stakeholders are more impacted by certain challenges. Second, this approach streamlines the questionnaire, reducing repetition in an already lengthy survey. Additionally, this decision was made considering the frequent survey requests directed at stakeholders, which can lead to disengagement and less thoughtful responses. The high volume of surveys may cause stakeholders to respond hastily and without due consideration, thereby diminishing the quality of the feedback received.

The question in the survey aimed at asking in what areas stakeholders find obstacles that prevent collaboration with partners across the borders. It was possible to choose multiple answers between those suggested and it was also possible to add additional information or specify other areas not included among the answers already present.

Based on the findings showed graphically below (Figure 13), both Austrian and Italian stakeholders identify **administrative and language barriers as significant obstacles**, with 45% of Austrian and 38% of Italian responses highlighting this issue. Collaboration in the event of natural disaster, for public health management and mobility of people seem like an issue mostly for Austrian respondents, but the overall frequency of this answer is not so significant. Overall, it is **mostly difficult for Italian stakeholders (38%) to find partners with the same necessities across the border, compared to Austrian stakeholders (19%)**.

The **interviews confirmed these findings**. The **main obstacles** for cooperation through Interreg projects are the **language, the high bureaucratic workload for project implementation and reporting of expenses** (it

Figure 13. What are the major obstacles for a good cooperation? Percentage frequency on total responses by regional group.



is a challenge especially **for small stakeholders** that don't have many resources), **and the differing legal frameworks and administrative systems of the respective national states**. While linguistic barriers are present, they are not the biggest obstacle to overcome for most of the stakeholders interviewed (especially for stakeholders involved in research and innovation projects, where English can be used to communicate). In particular, the **different financing regulations and inadequate hourly rate for personnel costs** in comparison to real costs at the national level, **reduce the attractiveness of Interreg projects for Austrian stakeholders**. This issue is **linked to the fact that Italian stakeholders struggle to find partnerships with Austrian stakeholders in the programme, being hindered mostly by these financial obstacles**.

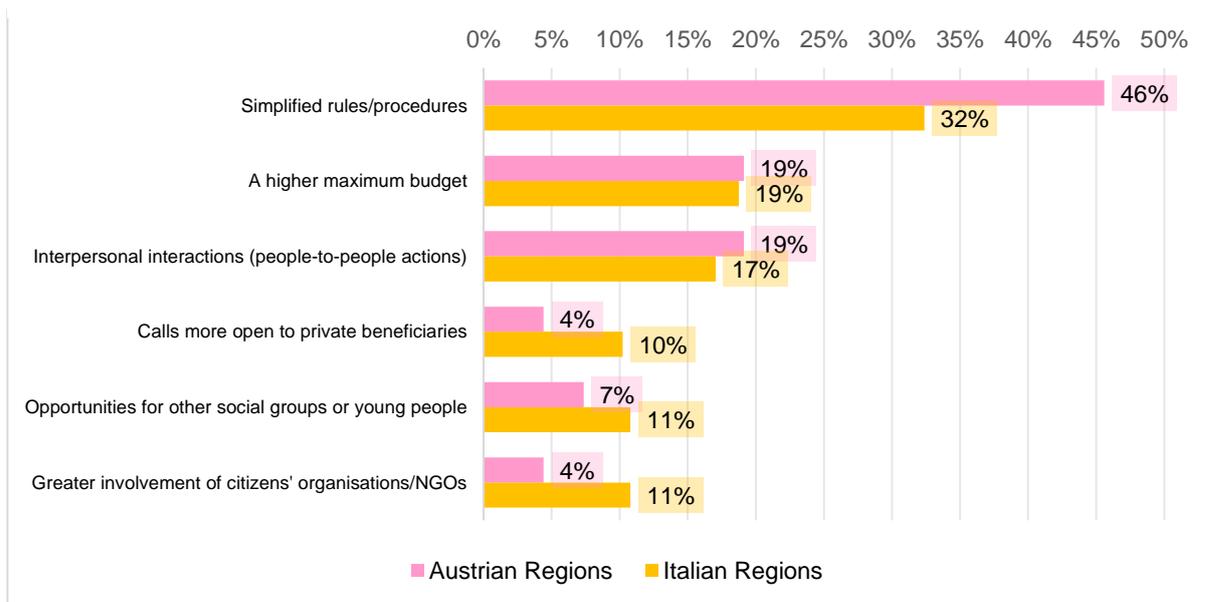
However, interviewed stakeholders underscored the fact that Interreg projects and cross-border cooperation offer the **possibility of learning and growing through dialogue and confrontation of different perspectives**, which bring people together for confrontation and dialogue. These are **aspects that are valued as extremely positive** by most of the stakeholders interviewed, and they are also a **“pull factor”** that make Interreg projects worth it **despite these obstacles**. In addition, Interreg serves as a necessary funding for the stakeholders who have limited budget to try out projects (e.g. small realities, but also institutional entities).

Question 7: What is the most important novelty that you would like to see in the future Interreg?

This question was outlined in the survey with a multiple-choice between some possible answers already available to the respondents. The findings on Figure 14 show that **stakeholders feel a marked need for further simplification of rules/procedures – and mostly Austrian stakeholders (46%) compared to the Italian counterparts – followed by a higher maximum budget and increased interpersonal interactions** (people-to-people actions). Less importance is given to calls that more open to private beneficiaries, opportunities for different social groups or young people, as well as involvement of citizen’s organizations and NGOs.

The findings of this question are also linked to the answers to question 9 of the Toolkit a few pages below. The most recurrent novelty that stakeholders of Interreg It-At programme would like to see is simplification and

Figure 14. What innovations would you like to see? Percentage frequency (%) on total responses by regional group.



standardization of rules, tools and procedures, and this includes also the information system “coheMON” that is seen as complex, not user-friendly, if confronted with other software (JEMS). Another novelty that stakeholders would like to see is additional resources that could facilitate access for smaller and informal groups, as well as institutions at the local level. In this matter, the CLLD approach is also seen as a great tool, but too bureaucratic in the expense reporting. Lastly, stakeholders would like the programme to create opportunities to know and match with other partners across the border, or to be informed and learn about other stakeholder’s projects and capitalize on that knowledge.

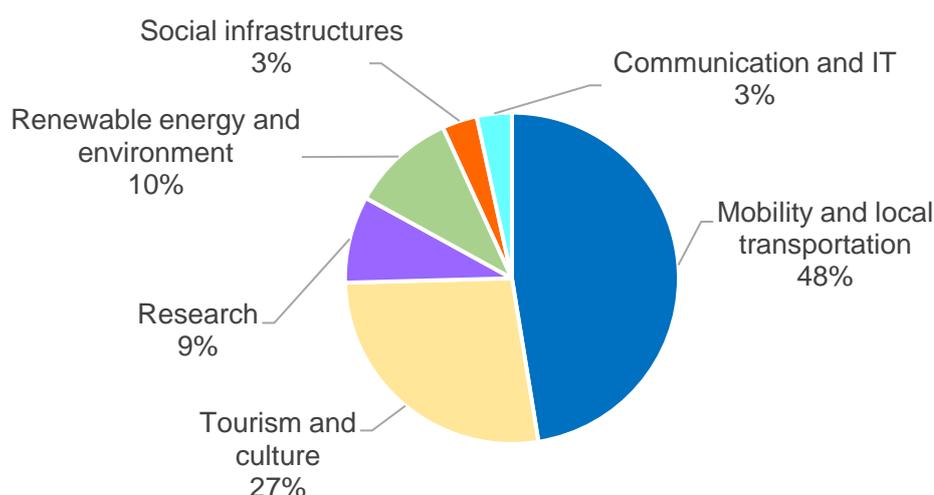
Question 8: Is there a need for some infrastructure projects?

This question was present in the survey as a single-choice question. More than 30% of stakeholders of both regions (35% and 34% respectively for Austrian and Italian respondents) don’t feel the need for new infrastructures. The infrastructures are present but need some improvement, and this is true for 46% of the Italian stakeholders, whereas only 20% of them said there is need for new infrastructure. The Austrian responses are balanced around 32% for each possible answer to this question (the need for improvements and the need for new infrastructures).

Question 9: What should be done to facilitate the work with your counterparts in another country?

This question was outlined in the interviews as a qualitative answer, and its findings are linked to the question 7 of the Toolkit. Stakeholders of Interreg It-At programme are asking for more **simplification in the procedure process and in the control phases**, or at least harmonization of rules and more clarity to ensure consistency of procedures across all the regions. Austrian stakeholders ask for an **alignment of the hourly costs to the national ones** and to address the **issue of national co-financing differing in Austria and in Italy**, otherwise collaboration through Interreg It-At projects can become more problematic in the future (and actually it already is for some of them). Another important aspect is the alignment of the macro-strategies (like for example Alpine Space, Central Europe) to micro-level funds (Interreg) to ensure better coordination and concrete implementation of objectives and priorities.

Figure 16. In which area are needed new infrastructures or improvements on existing ones? Percentage of frequency on total responses.



In addition to this single-choice question, the survey included an open field to specify the **areas in which new infrastructures or improvements are needed**. The graphic in Figure 16 shows that the highest answers are in areas such as **mobility and local transport solutions** (including cycle lanes), **tourism and cultural offer** (especially through valorization of environment) and **solutions for green and renewable energy**. Some answers highlight the need for **infrastructures that connect the products of research to the citizens and communities**, and some stakeholders mentioned the need to improve the **health services and schools** as important social infrastructures.

Question 10: What would be the cooperation project of your dreams?

This question was asked in the survey as an open-ended question. The answers collected show that Italian responses tend to emphasize **social sustainability projects**, active **participation and involvement of citizens and local communities** in cross-border governance, and **technological innovation for renewable energy, biomedicine and health services**. Dream projects are also mentioned in the area of **environmental sustainability, for reducing the environmental impact and preserving the natural resources**. Austrian stakeholders have also mentioned these areas for projects of cooperation. Another shared interest of cooperation for both Austrian and Italian is in the area of **sustainable and slow tourism**, in the form of **enhancing mobility offers** such as public transportation and cycling lanes or through the **valorization of local cultural offer** (museums, historical and natural heritage, interesting archeological sites, with Italian answers mentioning also the possibility of involving schools and local communities). **Education** is another sector in which cooperation projects are desired, **involving students and young people in general, to develop exchange programs, traineeships or joint doctorates to foster reciprocal knowledge, networking and learning of languages**.

1.4. Interesting quotes

On Financial Barriers and Opportunities:

“The different taxation systems for labor result in different costs for personnel, which is why Interreg is not attractive and is no longer used. However, we see Interreg projects as an investment and are happy to invest money in further development.” (Salzburg)¹

The citation underscores the need to address financial disparities that obstruct participation, emphasizing the value of Interreg as an investment tool.

On Improving Partnerships:

“There is little mutual knowledge of the needs and strategic objectives of the (local) territories. There are excellent dialogues and comparisons, but they could be improved and deepened. This also affects the search for partnerships, it would be interesting if there were a facilitating tool, be it platforms or other mechanisms.” (Veneto)^{2,4}

This statement reflects the importance of fostering mutual understanding and creating tools for partnership facilitation.

On Visibility and Replicability:

Replicability and visibility of projects is important, not only in IT-AT but in all programmes. such as Alpine space, etc. All cross-border programmes could make a sort of capitalisation or showcase event of projects, so that those working in cross-border areas can get an idea of what is being done in other territories even far from their own geographical context. (Veneto)³

A call for better knowledge-sharing across regions to inspire and connect stakeholders.

On Financial Dependence on Interreg:

“Public companies here in Austria have a small budget, and they need support to do extra projects, outside the daily routine [...] We as institutions have a limited budget, we could not have realised this project without the funds - financial support from Interreg is necessary.” (Tirol)⁴

A strong testament to Interreg's role in enabling projects beyond routine budgets.

On Thematic Gaps and Simplification:

“(1) If I may make a comment on contents [of projects], I understand that the Green Deal is the current trend, but there is a series of issues that are somewhat neglected... Let's say that those who work on more social issues of development, social innovation, have little space in these programmes.

(2) ... how to manage to involve smaller subjects in Interreg as well, since we have noticed these bureaucratic difficulties. In short, in my opinion, by creating an axis, a transversal priority, which is a public

¹ „Die unterschiedliche Besteuerungssysteme in die Arbeit, führt zu unterschiedlichen Kosten für Personal, deshalb ist Interreg nicht attraktiv und man benutzt es nicht mehr. Wir sehen aber Interreg-Projekte als Investition und investieren gerne Geld für die Weiterentwicklung.“

² C'è una scarsa reciproca conoscenza delle esigenze e degli obiettivi strategici dei territori (locali), sui quali poter convergere in una logica di progettualità comune. Ci sono ottimi dialoghi e confronti ma potrebbero essere migliorati e approfonditi. Ciò ricade anche sulla ricerca di partnership, sarebbe interessante che ci fosse uno strumento di facilitazione in questo senso, piattaforme od altri strumenti

³ È importante la replicabilità e visibilità dei progetti, non solo in IT-AT ma in tutti i programmi, come Alpine space, ecc. Tutti i programmi transfrontalieri potrebbero fare una sorta di capitalizzazione o evento vetrina di progetti, per cui chi lavora in ambito transfrontaliero possa avere un'idea di cosa si fa in altri territori anche lontani dal proprio contesto geografico.

⁴ Le aziende pubbliche qui in Austria hanno un budget ridotto, e hanno bisogno di un supporto per fare progetti extra, fuori dal quotidiano [...] Noi come istituzionali abbiamo un budget limitato, non avremmo potuto realizzare questo progetto senza i fondi – il supporto finanziario di Interreg è necessario.

participation type priority, in which there is no specific theme ... perhaps through lump sum projects instead of real cost reporting.” (Autonomous Province of Bolzano)⁵

This critique balances the need for thematic breadth with operational flexibility to engage smaller actors.

⁵ (1) Se posso fare un commento sui contenuti. Io capisco che il Green Deal è il trend di adesso, però c'è una serie di tematiche invece un po' neglette... Diciamo chi lavora su tematiche più sociali di sviluppo, social innovation, ha poco spazio in questi programmi.

(2) ... come riuscire a coinvolgere soggetti più piccoli anche in Interreg, dato che abbiamo notato queste difficoltà burocratiche. Insomma, secondo me, creando un'asse, una priorità trasversale, che è una priorità di tipo public participation, in cui non c'è un tema specifico... magari tramite progetti lump sum invece che con rendicontazione a costi reali.

2. Consultation of young citizens

2.1. Main citizens consulted

A total of **124 citizens** participated in the consultation through both the online survey and the in-person discussion. Additional information about the participants is provided below, categorized by age, country, and occupation.

Age group distribution (Figure 1-B): Of the citizens consulted, 40% are aged 20-29, the primary target group. The 30-39 and over 40 groups follow at 24% and 23%, respectively. The fewest respondents (14%) are aged 14-19.

The input presented in the next section (2.3) will be divided primarily by **aggregated age groups, with “14-29” categorized as the “younger age groups” and “30-40+” as the “older age groups”**.

Total respondents in the 14-29 age group: **66**

Total respondents in the 30-40+ age group: **58**

Regional distribution (Figure 2-B): 82% of the participants come from the Italian regions (102 respondents, of which 95 of the survey) and 22% come from the Austrian regions (22 respondents) of the programme. In this section, however, the answers will be primarily weighted to assess similarities and/or differences between “younger” age groups and “older” ones, except from Question 1, in which will be present a comparison of responses from citizens on both sides of the border.

Occupation (Figure 3-B): more than half of the respondents are **employed people (54%), while 42% of participants are students or recent graduates**.

Both the students and the employed respondents have specified various disciplines and sectors. For the students:

- Law studies and Economics and Politics: around 30% both
- Science and Technology: 20%
- Social studies and arts: 20% (including archaeology, arts and design, communication, youth work)
- Agricultural sector, 1 respondent

For the employees:

- Public sector and public administration: 25%
- Social and cultural fields (non-profit, social work, environment): 16%
- Construction: 13%
- Education: 10%
- Each of the followings around 5%: research and development, tourism and hospitality, agriculture, information technology and biomedical and pharmaceutical.

2.2. Methods of consultations

To gather young citizens' experiences of life and cooperation across the Italy-Austria border, an online survey was conducted in multiple languages. This survey was disseminated through the programme's website, institutional website, newsletters, regional newspapers, social media such as Facebook and Instagram and directly to relevant organizations such as universities and youth groups. Flyers with links were also distributed, the Regional Coordination Units promoted the survey. Additionally, through Europe Direct South Tyrol we collaborated with a youth organization on a joint video reel that reached many participants.

The survey included single and multiple-choice questions, as well as open-ended questions where respondents could provide their own input, which provided both quantitative and qualitative answers. In

addition to the survey, an **in-person group discussion** was organized in an informal setting at a youth center situated in the Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, providing a further qualitative insight to the input of the survey.

A total of **117 responses** were collected through the online survey, which ran from mid-July to mid-October. The initial deadline was extended to mid-October due to low response rates, increasing efforts to reach more young people through formal and informal channels. Additionally, 7 young people aged 17-18 participated in an in-person discussion at the end of October. In total, **124 citizens** provided input.

2.3. Summary of the input on the key questions

Question 1: Is living next to a border an opportunity or a disadvantage?

As can be seen from Figure 4-B, living next to a border it's an **advantage for 62%** of the respondents. These answers are **balanced between 14-29 age group (34 responses) and 30-40+ age group (39 responses)**. Both age groups highlight **benefits such as cultural and linguistic exchange, economic and social opportunities**, and these aspects are **important for personal growth, but also for the community at large**. The **older age groups add some nuance regarding the challenges** that arise from the differences across borders (**language barriers, transportation issues**) and the potential for economic competitiveness.

It is a **challenge for 33%** of the respondents. The respondents in the younger age group focus specifically on practical issues like transportation and the ease of studying abroad while staying close to home. The older age groups emphasize a broader perspective on the challenges, noting that long-term cooperation is essential for better utilizing the potential of this border region. Lastly, **only 5% of the respondents view it as a disadvantage**.

Moreover, Figure 5-B shows a comparison of answers to this question between Austrian and Italian citizens. Overall, there isn't much difference between the two regional groups. **Italians see living next to the border as more of an opportunity (65% vs 55%), while Austrian see it a little more as a disadvantage (9% vs 4%).**

Question 2: In the place where you live, what are the main topics where cooperation is needed?

This question was adapted in a similar way to that in the stakeholder's online survey. It was a multiple-choice question aimed at assessing what areas of intervention the citizens view as relevant, among the current priorities of the Interreg It-At programme.

Based on the findings aggregated in Table 1-B, for the overall respondents the **most frequently chosen answer (27%) is the priority D – Local development (CLLD)**. It then follows priority B – Climate change and Biodiversity with 22% of the answer's frequency, close to the priority C – Sustainable and cultural tourism and priority E – Reducing cross-border barriers (19% and 18% respectively). **The fewest score was obtained by Priority A – Innovation and enterprise (15%).**

If we see the frequency of answers for each age group (Figure 6-B), there is no substantial difference between answers. Only **priority A seems to be a little more important for the younger age group (14-29) with a percentage frequency of 17% against 13% for the older age group (30-40+)**. All the other priorities scored a similar value across age groups.

Question 3: Can you name an Interreg project that you find useful in the place where you live?

The pie chart in Figure 7-B shows the frequency of answers based on the total responses given. Participants could select more than one answer from a series of given general topics under which Interreg It-At projects are developed, in line with the priorities of the programme.

From the chart it is clear to see that most of the responses (31%) indicate unfamiliarity with Interreg projects in the Italy-Austria programme area.

Of the Interreg projects known or identified as relevant by respondents, the **most chosen are developed in the topic/priority of touristic (18%) or cultural offering (10%), for scientific research purposes (12%), and for promoting biodiversity and climate adaptation (9%).**

The **least known projects (below 5%)** are developed in the topics of **cross-border administration, risk prevention, networking and digital transition**, as well as CLLD projects, but these latter are developed in very small local areas. Three respondents specified **other types of projects** not listed in the available choices: two **mentioned mobility** projects (a cycle lane Alpe Adria, and a general project about cross-border sustainable mobility) and one mentioned “BBT?”, possibly referring to the EUREGIO Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino project “Brennerbasistunnel”. Additionally, all the **young citizens involved in the group discussion were unfamiliar with Interreg Italy-Austria**.

Additionally, Figure 8-B shows the assessment of these results in relation to the different age groups (14-29 vs 30-40+).

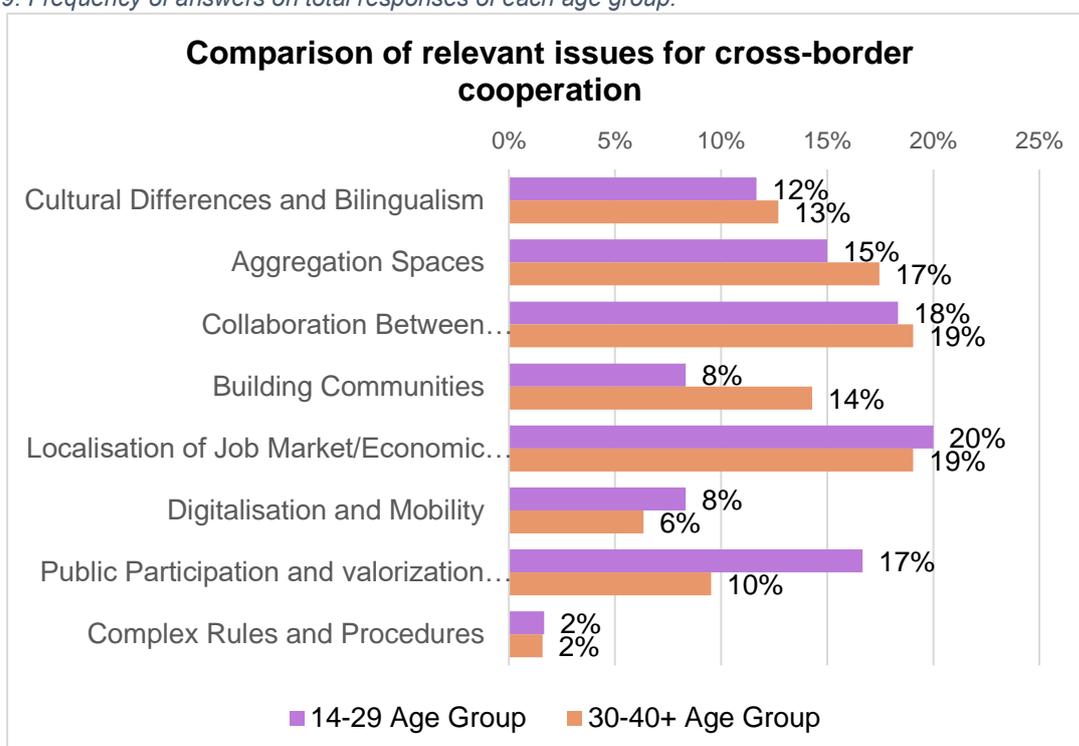
First, the findings show that **general awareness of Interreg projects is higher among older respondents than younger ones**. Specifically, the older age group, compared to the younger age group, know about projects or is aware of their usefulness in the topics of scientific research (68% against 32%), companies or start-ups (64% versus 36%), biodiversity (86% versus 14%), local development with a CLLD approach (71% versus 29%), touristic and cultural offering (57% versus 43%). **Younger respondents show higher awareness of usefulness of projects in areas such as risk prevention, networking (60% against 40% of the older age group) and digitalization (67% versus 33%)**.

Question 4: In your daily life, what are the biggest difficulties for cross-border cooperation?

In the survey this input was framed as a non-mandatory and open-ended question. Out of the 117 respondents to the survey, 70 provided an answer, representing about 60% of the total. The answers were analyzed and categorized into different issues that affect the citizens in their daily lives and that could facilitate cross-border cooperation. As with the other questions, the responses have been compared between the different age groups (14-29 vs. 30-40+) to assess similarities or differences.

Every issue mentioned by the respondents has been linked to a category, some of which are related to each other. The frequency of mentions has been assessed and is shown in Figure 9 below:

Figure 9. Frequency of answers on total responses of each age group.



Overall, **both age groups highlight a strong emphasis on collaboration between schools and universities**, so that students and teachers/professors can meet and know each other. Respondents feel that cross-border collaboration becomes easier if cultural differences are met with openness, and if the knowledge of the reciprocal languages is more promoted (Italian and German). Another relevant issue frequently

mentioned by both groups, is the **need to re-locate economic activities and job opportunities to local territories**, and this is **related to the need of building local and resilient communities**, which is more felt by the “older” age group (30-40+). This is something important to the respondents, first because great importance is given on climate change and environmental sustainability but also because they witness a marginalization and abandonment of some of their territories, and they think it’s important to **promote cross-border cooperation also outside the common centers like cities**. This reckoning is linked to a **strong feeling in the “younger” age group (14-29) about public participation** (17% against 10% of mentions). The younger citizens, like the older generation, are aware of the importance of individual practices and behaviors, and they think it is difficult to cross-cooperate also because there should be **more aggregation spaces** and more **efforts should be made in the field of digitalization and mobility** for both age groups, in order to facilitate encounters and communication. Lastly, public participation for a minority of respondents means also **access to public funding for project development**; in this sense, Interreg should find a way to **simplify requirements, rules, or allocate specific resources for young people**, who meet and develop joint activities at a more informal level.

Some of these findings correlate also to what emerged during the group discussion among young citizens aged 17-18. They self-defined themselves as “marginal” in respect to a city like Bolzano, and their main concern was to address what they defined as “a generational clash” in the older generations between Italian-speaking individuals and German-speaking individuals. They explained that their generation experiences this differently, feeling more openness and desire for contact. However, this needs a **facilitating environment, for example more opportunities at a local level for aggregation between young people** to overcome “cultural differences” between Italian-speaking and German-speaking individual which are linked to perceived (and historically produced) stereotypes. They believe cooperation should **involve schools and students in exchange programmes to learn the language and to get to know each other**. The young people involved in the group discussion are Italian-speaking and they are aware that knowing German leads to increased opportunities, especially in the job market.

Question 5: What would be the cooperation project of your dreams?

Like the previous question, this was framed in the survey as a non-mandatory and open-ended question. Out of the total 117 respondents, 45% provided an answer. The findings show that **the “younger” age group (14-29) would like to see more projects creating opportunities for aggregating spaces, facilitating networking in the educational sector, but also between citizens** who are already in the job market, in order to deal with shared challenges, like climate change and mobility. Besides, they emphasize cultural and educational exchanges for students, and the development of **sustainable and public transportation**. The dream projects of this age group are complementary to the “older” age group (30-40+). **Respondents of this category focus more on infrastructure improvements, which are linked to local transportation opportunities also across border**. They also highlight the importance of involving schools in cooperation and exchange projects and are concerned with bureaucratic simplification for bringing about a long-term sustainability of projects and more **effective systemic changes**. This last point can find a correlation to the need of the younger generation to be more recognized and active in the public space.

3. Consultation of stakeholder-citizens (CLLD approach)

The purpose of this section is to present the outcomes of consultations with individuals involved in cross-border cooperation within the framework of the CLLD (Community-Led Local Development) approach. The Interreg It-At programme pioneered this approach during the 2014-2020 period, leading to the establishment of four geographical areas comprising peripheral communities living right next to the border (Terra Raetica, Wipptal, Dolomiti Live, HEurOpen), which continue into the current 2021-2027 period.

This bottom-up, participatory approach actively involves the communities in decision-making processes and the management of activities. As a result, the distinction between the roles of “citizen” and “stakeholder” becomes blurred, leading us to use the hybrid term stakeholder-citizen to reflect this dual role and to adapt the key questions in the survey in order to receive feedback on the “citizen” experience as well as the “stakeholder” experience.

3.1. Main stakeholder-citizens consulted

The input presented in this section of the report stems mainly from the **online survey**, which reached a **total of 38 respondents**.

The 38 participants involved in the consultation represent **diverse age groups** (Figure 1-C). The majority (32%) are aged between 31–40 years, reflecting a strong representation of individuals in their early to mid-career stages. While younger participants (18–30 years) made up only 5%, older participants (51–60 years and 60+) collectively accounted for nearly 40% of the group. This indicates a balanced but slightly older demographic among the stakeholders-citizens consulted. As for **gender** (Figure 2-C), two-thirds (66%) identified as male, while the remaining one-third (34%) as female.

Concerning the **geographical origin** of the respondents (Table 1-C and Figure 3-C), the majority (50%) live in the *Dolomiti Live* area, followed by 13% in *HEurOpen* and 8% in *Wipptal*. Smaller proportions live in *Terra Raetica* (3%), while another 3% are not living in an Interreg It-At area with a CLLD-approach (and they specified coming from: Salzburg, Innsbruck, Udine).

Table 2-C along with its graphic in Figure 4-C show that the majority of participants (33 respondents, which is **87%**) **are occupied as employees**, while the **remaining 13% as self-employed**. Furthermore, as shown in Table 3-C, about a half of the 33 employees provided additional details about their jobs, revealing diverse professional backgrounds. The majority of them are in managerial roles, followed by roles in administration and the public sector. Furthermore, three participants mentioned sectors such as tourism, transportation, and sustainability. Additionally, the mention of roles falling into the “Other” category (public veterinary health, eyewear production, and trade association) reflects the diverse range of sectors that contribute and benefit from cross-border cooperation initiatives in the CLLD-areas of the respondents.

Lastly, we tried to assess the **involvement of survey’s participants in their community** through questions such as “Are you part of an association or organisation in your territory?” and “Were you involved in the development of a (Interreg) project?”. In this way, we aimed to highlight the overlap between the roles of “citizen” and “stakeholder” in the framework of the CLLD approach. The findings show (Table 4-C) that **71% of respondents are active members of associations or organisation** (some of them mentioning the field of activity: sports, culture, touristic promotion, social cooperatives and local public institutions or foundations) and **76% of respondents have been involved in the development of projects**. Additionally, as shown in Figure 5-C, the majority of these latter respondents (72%) also took part in projects as Partners or Lead Partners, while the remaining (28%) did not, but were nevertheless involved in the management of projects, in the administration duties or as informed citizens during events.

3.2. Methods of consultations

The main method employed to gather the input of stakeholder-citizens cooperating in the CLLD-areas was an **online survey**, available in the two languages of the regions involved (Italian and German), which was spread

through the programme’s website (blog post in the “news” section) and with the help of the four CLLD-area managements, who spread the survey among its citizens.

The survey ran from late July to the end of September. Following the Toolkit template of the key questions to citizens, the survey included single and multiple-choice questions, as well as open-ended questions where respondents could provide their own input. This provided both quantitative and qualitative answers that could also offer insight about the respondents’ experiences as “stakeholders”.

3.3. Summary of the input on the key questions

Question 1: Is living next to a border an opportunity or a disadvantage?

The responses (Figure 6-B) indicate a predominantly positive perception, with over the half of respondents saying **living near the border is a clear advantage (53%)**. This answer was then justified in the following open-ended question with “cultural, social and personal enrichment” deriving from exposure to diverse cultures, languages, histories. This fosters multilingualism, a broader understanding of different realities, the enhancement of personal interaction, and exchange of expertises in collaboration. In addition, this can foster a “positive perception of borderlessness” emphasizing the creation of shared spaces that enhance community cohesion. Another significant advantage is “economic and professional opportunities” from different contexts across the border.

For 37% of respondents living next to a border can be also a challenge. While acknowledging the already mentioned advantages, they highlight practical difficulties derived from differences in bureaucratic systems, regulations and legislation, underdeveloped cross-border infrastructure in their marginal border regions, and socio-economic disparities between political boundaries. At last, **10% of respondents view living next to a border as a disadvantage**, but most of these answers come from the respondents who are not involved in CLLD-areas (answering “I don’t know” to the question “In what CLLD-area do you live?”) and only indicate mobility challenges as the main disadvantage.

Question 2: In the place where you live, what are the main topics where cooperation is needed? *The answers provided to this question are assimilated to the stakeholder’s question “where is the biggest potential for territorial cooperation in your area?”.*

The survey, similar to the one for stakeholders and citizens, identifies the options for topics where cooperation is needed with the current priorities of the Interreg It-At programme. Respondents could select multiple choices between priorities to decide which one(s) are the most relevant for them. Overall findings (Figure 7-C) show that **the most relevant topics for cooperation lie in the priority D – Local development with a CLLD approach (30% of responses)**. It follows with about 20% of responses each, priority B – Climate change and biodiversity, E – Reducing cross-border governance barriers (both 22% of responses) and C – Sustainable and cultural tourism (highlighted by 20% of responses). The least chosen topic with 6% of responses is A – Enterprise and Innovation.

If we look at the findings aggregated for responses from each CLLD-area, as shown in Table 5-C and Figure 8-C, we see that:

- **Dolomiti Live**: Priority D has the highest support (33%), followed by Priority B at 21%. Priorities C and E are equally relevant (19%), while Priority A is the least selected (7%).
- **HEurOpen**: Priority D (45%) emerges as the most relevant, with Priority C (27%) and Priority E (18%) following. Priority A has a marginal presence (9%), while Priority B has received no responses.
- **Terra Raetica**: Priority C is the most selected (38%), with equal importance given to Priorities B and D (25%). Priority E is less relevant (13%), and no respondents have selected Priority A.
- **Wipptal**: Priority E leads with 35%, followed by Priority B (29%). Priority C (18%) and D (18%) are equally rated, while Priority A has not been selected.

Overall, priority D – Local development is the most selected across areas, particularly in HEurOpen and Dolomiti Live. In contrast, priority A – Enterprise and Innovation has limited relevance.

Question 3: Can you name an Interreg project that you find useful in the place where you live?

Following the findings presented in Figure 9-C, **CLLD projects are the most frequent mentioned**, accounting for 24% of responses and highlighting a strong support for locally-led development initiatives. Touristic projects are coming second with 19% of responses given. Projects with topic of enhancing cultural offerings (15%) and projects about Biodiversity and climate adaptation (12%) are also found useful. Additional information has been provided by some respondents from Dolomiti Live area, with projects that merge culture with the promotion of the local biodiversity and HEurOpen, with a project promoting the local cultural music. Cross-border administrative projects and Scientific research projects (8% and 5% respectively) are not very known or found useful, together with other project topics like Risk prevention and Networking/Digitalisation projects (less than 5% of responses).

A small number of answers (5%) indicate unfamiliarity with Interreg projects.

Question 4: In your daily life, what are the biggest difficulties for cross-border cooperation? *Since this question in the survey was framed as an open-ended inquiry about the experience of respondents in the involvement of projects (the majority of them as partners in projects, like citizen-stakeholders), the answers can provide insight also into other stakeholders' questions about obstacles to overcome, or novelty, infrastructure, facilitations needed.*

While the answers of respondents report mainly positive experiences with cross-border projects, emphasizing the value of collaboration, networking and long-term relationships fostered through the projects, some obstacles are also highlighted. The most mentioned obstacle is related to bureaucracy: “[the experience was] good – only the bureaucratic effort is negative” or “positive with the limitation of excessive bureaucracy in procedures” (all the quotes are translated from Italian and/or German). More explicitly, respondents find that the “too long and complicated submission and reporting phases” act as a barrier to participation in projects.

The financial and bureaucratic requirements for project participation are perceived as too demanding for small and local organizations. Moreover, the conditions of participation in projects are viewed by respondents as unfavourable for Austrian stakeholders, who show “resistance” and for this reason they “tend to avoid participating”. In this sense, the facilitations needed are directed toward a simplification of administrative process, harmonization of procedures across borders, and a revision of funding conditions taking into account the different socio-economic contexts of the two countries, and their respective regions, involved in Interreg It-At. In addition, to facilitate the access of small stakeholders, respondents ask for better support mechanisms or ad-hoc tools that could lower financial and bureaucratic barriers and encourage more local-level actors to join these cooperation projects.

Question 5: What would be the cooperation project of your dreams?

The results to this question, which in the survey was framed as open-ended, reveal an interest to cross-border cooperation across multiple domains.

One theme is **cross-border healthcare services**, with a focus on accessibility and efficiency for citizens living in border regions.

Another theme is **mobility and infrastructure**. Respondents emphasize the importance of addressing cross-border transit challenges in a sustainable way, of integrating ski resorts (Sillian and Sexten), and of expanding public transportation networks (specifically mentioning the enhancement of rail connections) also to address issues such as traffic congestion.

Culture, heritage and tourism are another significant issue: specifically respondents have mentioned cultural projects like exploring and promoting the shared historical heritage of a region like Grafschaft Görz, and developing a cross-border platform for events like concerts and exhibitions, ensuring low-barrier accessibility.

Other ideas shared by respondents demonstrate a commitment to **environmentally and socially conscious projects**, that can help the cross-border region to become a model for tangible SDGs implementation. They propose to create opportunities to exchange bottom-up circular economy approaches and to create best-practice examples like reclaiming unused paved areas in public and private spaces. Another idea shared by a

respondent is to establish what they called “Innovative Quarters” in two different cities, one focusing on social innovation, and the other focusing on environmental innovation; the idea would be to confront on the different experiences and learn from each other. Moreover, a participant to the survey suggests to strengthen a local “Welcome Culture”, drawing from another Interreg project (Central Europe).

Finally, in **Governance and Policy**, respondents envisioned projects that address governance harmonization across Alpine regions. Ideas included exploring differences and similarities in governance models and facilitating cross-border public procurement processes, particularly for North and East Tyrol in relation to South Tyrolean firms.

3.4. Interesting quotes

On Bureaucracy as a Barrier and Opportunity

“The obstacles are the different administrative rules and procedures, or the language element. But Interreg is also an opportunity to learn, grow, and structure governance capacity perhaps by carrying out pilot initiatives. Interreg can bring additional resources to local and rural areas.” (functional area of CLLD Dolomiti Live)⁶

While administrative barriers persist, Interreg remains a valuable learning platform.

On the importance of Thematic Variety

“[CLLD is an important] 360° approach in order to be able to react to future developments and not to commit to certain topics. This allows us to act freely in relation to upcoming topics that are important for the regions.” (functional area of CLLD Terra Raetica)⁷

Although CLLD areas have their strategies, they can react flexibly to the needs of the area. This is considered crucial for the success of the approach.

⁶ Gli ostacoli sono le regole amministrative e le procedure differenti, o l'elemento linguistico. Ma Interreg è anche un'opportunità per imparare, accrescere e strutturare la capacità di governance, magari portando avanti iniziative a carattere pilota. Interreg può portare risorse aggiuntive ai territori locali e rurali.

⁷ [CLLD ist ein wichtiger] 360° Ansatz um auf den kommenden Entwicklungen darauf reagieren zu können, und nicht für gewisse Themenbereiche festzulegen. Somit können wir frei agieren in Bezug auf anstehende Themen, die für die Regionen wichtig sind.

4. Notable elements and conclusion

The report highlights a strong collective understanding that cross-border cooperation provides tangible benefits, including cultural exchange, professional growth, and regional development. However, these benefits are tempered by enduring obstacles, such as linguistic barriers, administrative complexities, and limited infrastructure, which stakeholders consistently flagged as critical areas requiring attention.

The report underscores the program’s dedication to inclusivity, ad example in its engagement of young citizens, whose perspectives on mobility, education, and sustainable development were key themes. A recurrent call for simplifying administrative processes and aligning financial rules across the border reflects a clear demand for operational efficiency. Austrian stakeholders highlighted regulatory challenges, while Italian respondents called for improved collaboration.

Dream projects such as sustainable public transportation systems, cross-border healthcare initiatives, and youth-focused cultural exchanges reflect a forward-thinking approach of participants to fostering a resilient and interconnected region. While stakeholders expressed some frustrations with bureaucracy and financial hurdles, they also highlighted the transformative potential of Interreg as a platform for innovation, collaboration, and mutual learning. Generally speaking, climate change and biodiversity rank highest, with stakeholders emphasizing sustainable practices, green infrastructure, and administrative harmonization to reduce cross-border barriers. Sustainable and cultural tourism is highly valued for citizens, especially for promoting local economies and heritage preservation. Climate change action and education-focused projects resonate most, with an emphasis on sustainability, youth exchanges, and public transportation improvements.

Local development (CLLD) is a top priority, reflecting the grassroots approach to empowering communities and addressing regional disparities. Sometimes, bureaucratic hurdles and limited resources restrict the full potential of locally led initiatives. It is expected that the innovations in the current programming period help reduce these issues significantly.

Reducing cross-border barriers seems to be universally critical, with a focus on mobility, governance harmonization, and practical solutions to improve cooperation.

Notable differences: Italian participants often emphasize practical local development and transport solutions, while Austrians focus on governance harmonization and administrative efficiency. Stakeholders prioritize systemic issues like legal alignment and financing, while citizens focus on tangible improvements such as mobility and environmental sustainability. Younger participants lean toward forward-looking themes like climate action and education, while older groups focus on immediate, practical challenges like governance and infrastructure.

In conclusion, the consultation shows the transformative potential of cross-border cooperation. By prioritizing simplification, fostering innovation, and enhancing communication, the Interreg Italy-Austria program can continue to serve as a beacon of cooperation, driving progress that resonates locally and contributes to the broader goals of European unity and development.

Fazit

Der Bericht hebt das gemeinsame Verständnis hervor, dass grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit spürbare Vorteile wie kulturellen Austausch, berufliche Weiterentwicklung und regionale Entwicklung bringt. Diese werden jedoch durch anhaltende Herausforderungen wie Sprachbarrieren, administrative Komplexität und eine teils fehlende Infrastruktur eingeschränkt, die von den Beteiligten wiederholt als kritische Themen benannt wurden.

Der Bericht zeigt den Einsatz des Kooperationsprogramms zur Einbindung junger Bürger, deren Ansichten zu Mobilität, Bildung und nachhaltiger Entwicklung auch im Programm wichtig waren. Der Wunsch nach einer Vereinfachung administrativer Abläufe und einer Angleichung finanzieller Regelungen über Grenzen hinweg unterstreicht das klare Bedürfnis nach noch größerer Effizienz. Österreichische Interessengruppen betonen regulatorische Herausforderungen, während italienische Befragte mehr Zusammenarbeit fordern.

Innovative Projektideen wie nachhaltige öffentliche Verkehrssysteme, grenzüberschreitende Gesundheitsinitiativen und kulturelle Jugendprogramme zeigen eine zukunftsorientierte Herangehensweise der Befragten an die Förderung einer widerstandsfähigen und vernetzten Region. Trotz gelegentlicher Frustrationen über Bürokratie und finanzielle Hürden erkennen die Beteiligten das transformative Potenzial von Interreg als Plattform für Innovation, Zusammenarbeit und gegenseitiges Lernen. Themen wie Klimawandel und Biodiversität nehmen dabei einen zentralen Platz ein. Die Beteiligten betonen die Wichtigkeit nachhaltiger Ansätze, grüner Infrastruktur und einer besseren administrativen Harmonisierung, um grenzüberschreitende Hindernisse zu verringern. Nachhaltiger und kultureller Tourismus wird von Bürgern besonders geschätzt, da er lokale Wirtschaft stärkt und das kulturelle Erbe bewahrt. Projekte mit Schwerpunkt auf Klimaschutz, Jugendaustausch und der Verbesserung des öffentlichen Verkehrs finden breite Unterstützung und decken sich mit den Zielsetzungen des Programms.

Die lokale Entwicklung (CLLD) bleibt eine zentrale Priorität und spiegelt den Ansatz wider, Gemeinden von unten „Bottom up“ zu stärken und regionale Unterschiede zu überwinden. Bürokratische Hürden und begrenzte Ressourcen schränken das volle Potenzial dieser Initiativen manchmal ein. Es wird erwartet, dass die bereits umgesetzten Innovationen im aktuellen Programmzeitraum helfen, diese Hindernisse erheblich zu reduzieren. Der Abbau grenzüberschreitender Hindernisse bleibt insgesamt ein zentraler Aspekt - Mobilität, die Harmonisierung von Governance und praktische Lösungen zur Verbesserung der Zusammenarbeit stehen dabei im Fokus.

Bemerkenswerte Unterschiede: italienische Teilnehmer legen oft Wert auf praktische Lösungen für lokale Entwicklung und Verkehr, während österreichische Beteiligte die Harmonisierung der Verwaltung und die Steigerung der Effizienz priorisieren. Die Stakeholder empfinden systemische Themen wie rechtliche Angleichung und Finanzierung als zentral, während Bürger sich auf alltägliche Themen wie Mobilität und Umweltschutz konzentrieren. Jüngere Teilnehmer stellen zukunftsorientierte Themen wie Klimaschutz und Bildung an die erste Stelle, während ältere Gruppen eher unmittelbare, praktische Herausforderungen wie Governance und Infrastruktur in den Vordergrund stellen.

Die Konsultation verdeutlicht das enorme Potenzial der grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit. Durch die Priorisierung von Vereinfachungen, die Förderung von Innovationen und Kommunikation kann das Interreg-Programm Italien-Österreich weiterhin ein Vorbild für Kooperation sein und Fortschritte vorantreiben, die sowohl lokal spürbar sind als auch zu den übergeordneten Zielen der europäischen Einheit und nachhaltigen Entwicklung beitragen.

Conclusione

Il rapporto evidenzia una comprensione condivisa dei benefici tangibili derivanti dalla cooperazione transfrontaliera, come lo scambio culturale, la crescita professionale e lo sviluppo regionale. Tuttavia, questi vantaggi sono mitigati da sfide persistenti, come le barriere linguistiche, le complessità amministrative e le infrastrutture limitate, che i soggetti coinvolti hanno costantemente identificato come aree critiche da affrontare.

Il rapporto sottolinea l'impegno del programma verso l'inclusività, ad esempio attraverso il coinvolgimento dei giovani cittadini, le cui opinioni su mobilità, istruzione e sviluppo sostenibile sono state temi centrali. La richiesta ricorrente di semplificare i processi amministrativi e armonizzare le regole finanziarie a livello transfrontaliero riflette una chiara esigenza di maggiore efficienza operativa. I partecipanti austriaci hanno messo in evidenza sfide normative, mentre quelli italiani hanno sottolineato la necessità di una collaborazione più efficace.

Idee Progetto innovativi come sistemi di trasporto pubblico sostenibili, iniziative sanitarie transfrontaliere e scambi culturali rivolti ai giovani illustrano un approccio lungimirante dei partecipanti per promuovere una regione resiliente e interconnessa. Sebbene i soggetti abbiano espresso frustrazioni per la burocrazia e gli ostacoli finanziari, hanno anche evidenziato il potenziale trasformativo di Interreg come piattaforma per innovazione, collaborazione e apprendimento reciproco. Argomenti come il cambiamento climatico e la biodiversità occupano un posto centrale, con un'enfasi su pratiche sostenibili, infrastrutture verdi e armonizzazione amministrativa per superare le barriere transfrontaliere. Il turismo sostenibile e culturale è altamente valorizzato dai cittadini, soprattutto per il suo ruolo nella promozione delle economie locali e nella conservazione del patrimonio. I progetti orientati al cambiamento climatico, agli scambi giovanili e al miglioramento del trasporto pubblico risuonano maggiormente, riflettendo un allineamento con gli obiettivi del programma.

Lo sviluppo locale (CLLD) rappresenta una priorità fondamentale, incarnando un approccio dal basso verso l'alto per rafforzare le comunità e affrontare le disparità regionali. Tuttavia, ostacoli burocratici e risorse limitate a volte ne riducono il potenziale. Si prevede che le innovazioni introdotte nell'attuale periodo di programmazione contribuiscano in modo significativo a superare queste difficoltà. La riduzione delle barriere transfrontaliere è considerata una questione universale, con particolare attenzione a mobilità, armonizzazione della governance e soluzioni pratiche per migliorare la cooperazione.

Differenze significative: i partecipanti italiani tendono a enfatizzare soluzioni pratiche per lo sviluppo locale e il trasporto, mentre gli austriaci si concentrano sull'armonizzazione della governance e sull'efficienza amministrativa. Gli stakeholder privilegiano temi sistemici come l'allineamento giuridico e il finanziamento, mentre i cittadini si concentrano su miglioramenti concreti come la mobilità e la sostenibilità ambientale. I giovani partecipanti mostrano maggiore interesse per temi innovativi come il cambiamento climatico e l'istruzione, mentre i gruppi più anziani si focalizzano su sfide immediate e pratiche come la governance e le infrastrutture.

In conclusione, la consultazione conferma il potenziale trasformativo della cooperazione transfrontaliera. Prioritizzando la semplificazione, promuovendo l'innovazione e migliorando la comunicazione, il programma Interreg Italia-Austria può continuare a essere un modello di collaborazione, stimolando progressi significativi a livello locale e contribuendo agli obiettivi più ampi di unità e sviluppo europei.

APPENDIX A - Consultation of stakeholders

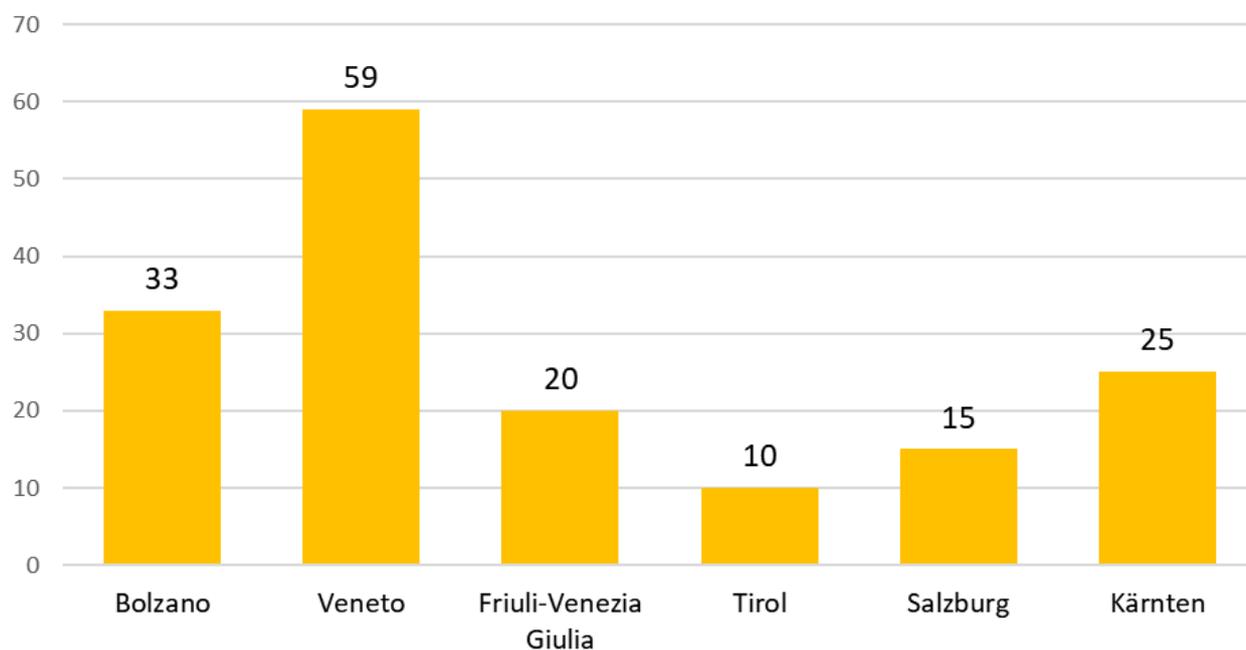
Part 1 – Tables and figures

Part 2 – Interview questions

Part 3 – Survey questions

Part 1 – Tables and figures

Figure 2. Regional distribution. Total responses per region of participant.



Region	% distribution on total (162)
Bolzano	20 %
Veneto	36%
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	12%
Tirol	6%
Salzburg	9%
Kärnten	15%

Figure 3. Did you already take part in an Interreg It-At programme? Percentages on total responses.

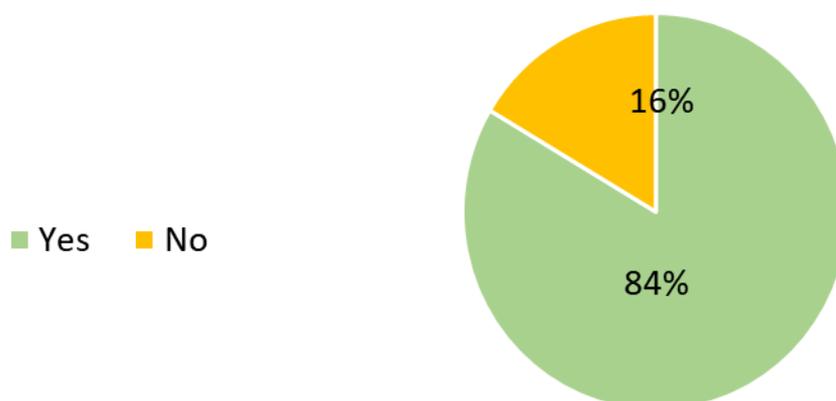


Figure 4. Is living on a border an opportunity or a disadvantage? Percentages on total responses.

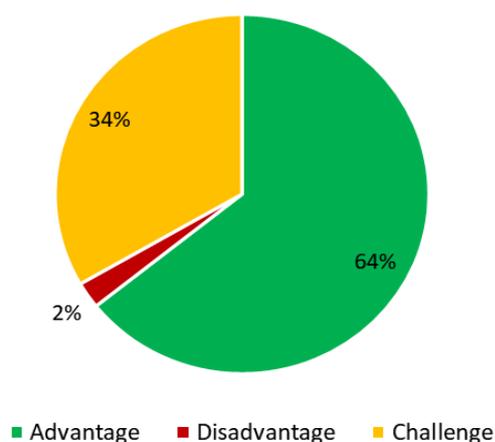


Table 1. From what regions stakeholder think living on a border is a challenge? Total responses and percentages.

It is a challenge for stakeholders in...		
Regione Autonoma Veneto	22	52 %
Provincia di Bolzano	7	17 %
Regione Autonoma Friuli-Venezia Giulia	6	14 %
Kärnten	4	10 %
Salzburg	2	5 %
Tirol	1	2 %
Total answers	42	100 %

Table 2. Relevance of Interreg It-At priorities. Absolute frequency on total answers given.

Priority	Absolute frequency
A - Innovation and Enterprise	63
B - Climate change and Biodiversity	53
C - Sustainable and cultural tourism	62
D - Local development (CLLD)	69
E - Reducing cross-border barriers (governance)	40
Total answers given	287

Figure 4. Relevance of Interreg It-At priorities. Percentage frequency on total answers given.

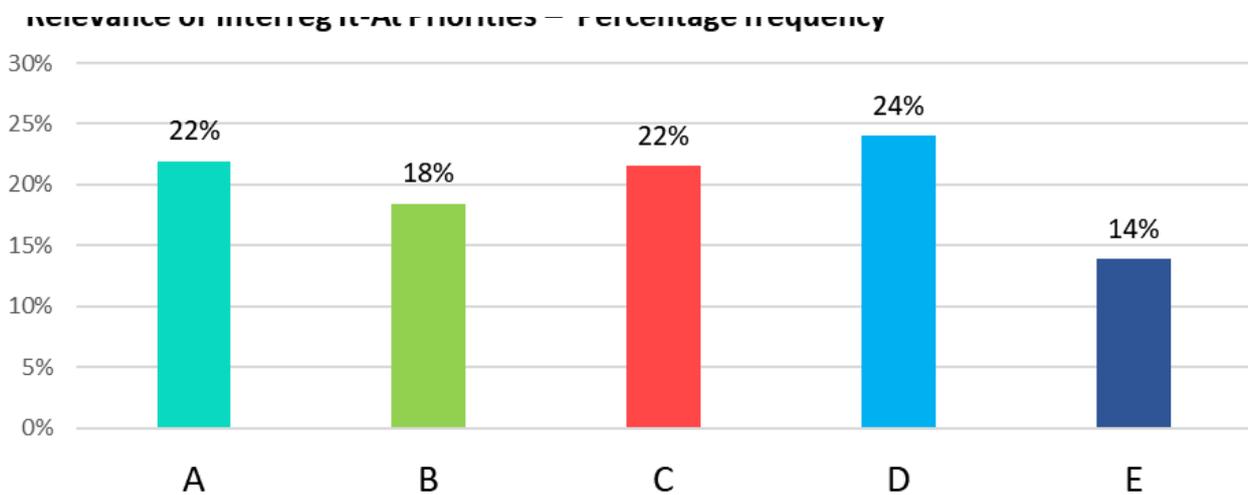


Figure 5. Percentage frequency on total responses by region group.

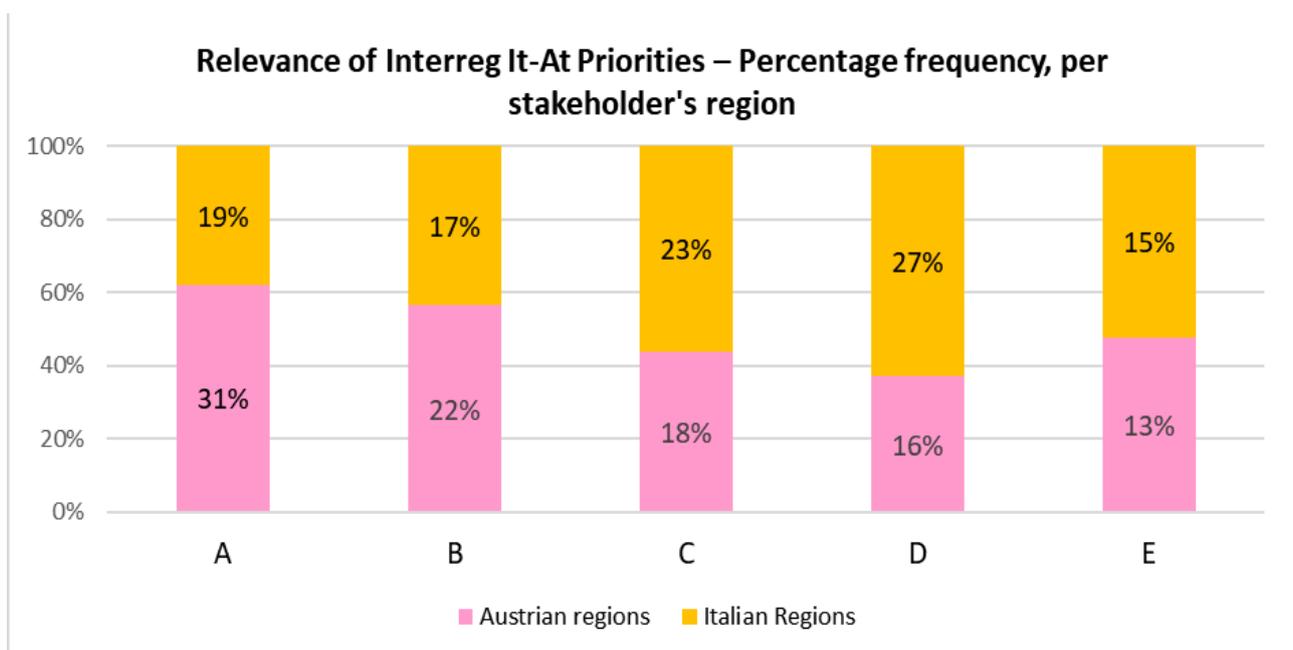
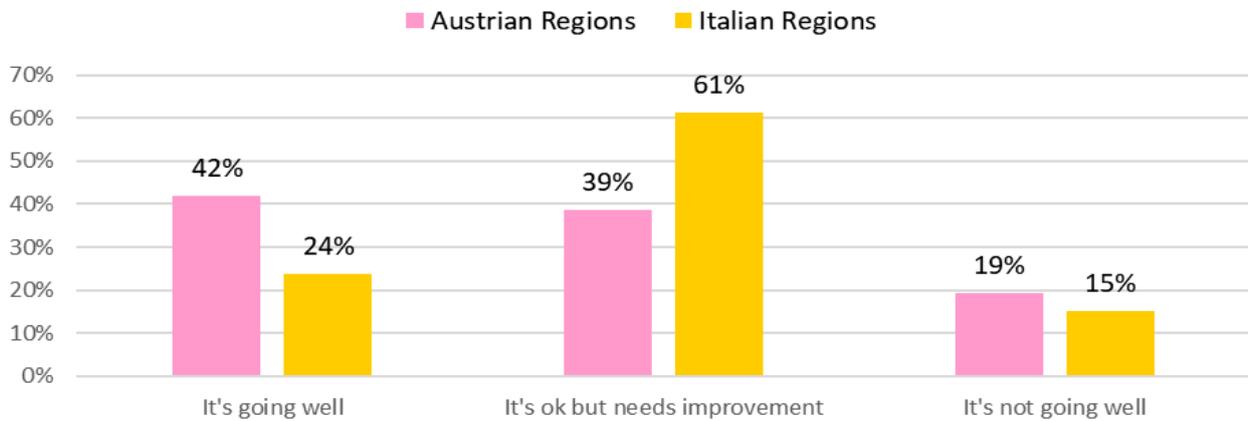


Table 3. Average rating of specific objectives for each priority.

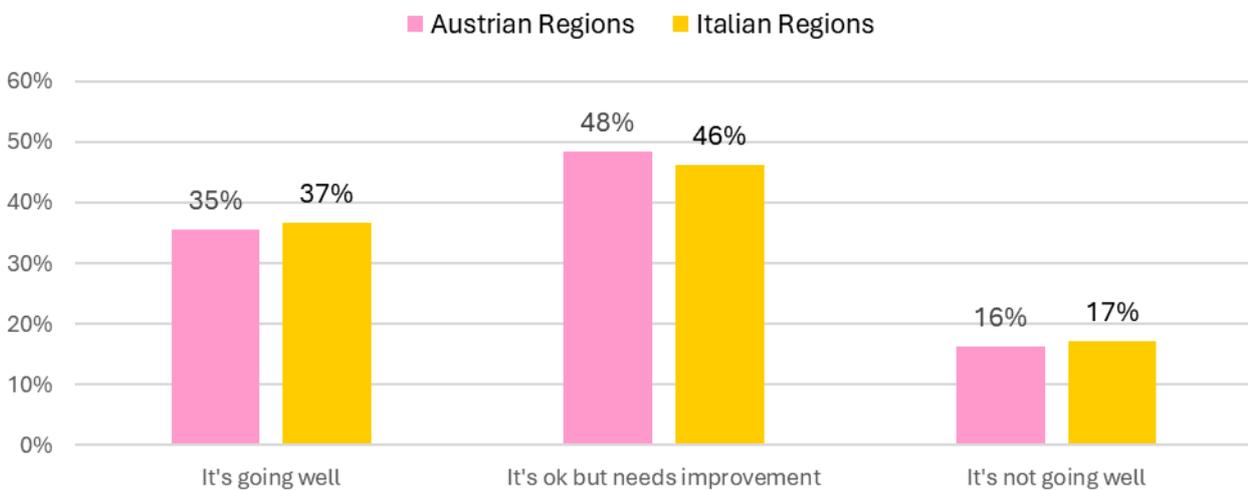
PRIORITY A – specific objectives	Average rating on a scale from 1 to 5	
Raising awareness/informing on energy transition and circular economy		4,02
Transfer of best practices and technologies (innovative software, bio-based products)		3,94
Material and infrastructure investment to support supply chain transition (energetically/digitally)		3,67
PRIORITY B – specific objectives		
Raising awareness, information and training on risk prevention/management and climate change		4,02
Cross-border policy formulation and/or implementation across areas facing similar risks		3,96
Development, adoption and transfer of technologies, know-how and best practices in this field		3,91
Development of green infrastructures for strengthening nature conservation or reducing pollution		4,32
PRIORITY C – specific objectives		
Raising awareness, information and training on the issues of environmentally sustainable tourism		4,06
Cross-border policy formulation and/or implementation for enhancing sustainable tourism		3,85
Development, adoption and transfer of technologies, know-how and best practices in this field		4,03
Material and infrastructure investments to enhance sustainable tourism projects/products		3,92
PRIORITY D – specific objectives		
Involving citizens in the development and implementation of CLLD strategies		3,99
Promoting and supporting tourism and local cultural development		3,83
Local interventions for environmental and biodiversity preservation		4,14
Development of “smart villages”		3,48
Actions to promote social inclusion and integration of disadvantaged groups		3,65
Supporting projects to diversify the local economy		3,90
PRIORITY E – specific objectives		
Raising awareness, information and training for institutions		4,00
Cross-border policy formulation and/or implementation to improve services for citizens		3,73
Development, adoption and transfer of technologies, know-how and best practices for governance		3,63

Figure 6, 7, 8. Evaluation of aspects regarding the programme. Frequency percentage of responses by regional group.

Assistance in the creation and monitoring of projects, and their subsequent valorization



Dialogue and trust between cross-border institutions



Involvement of civil society and citizens

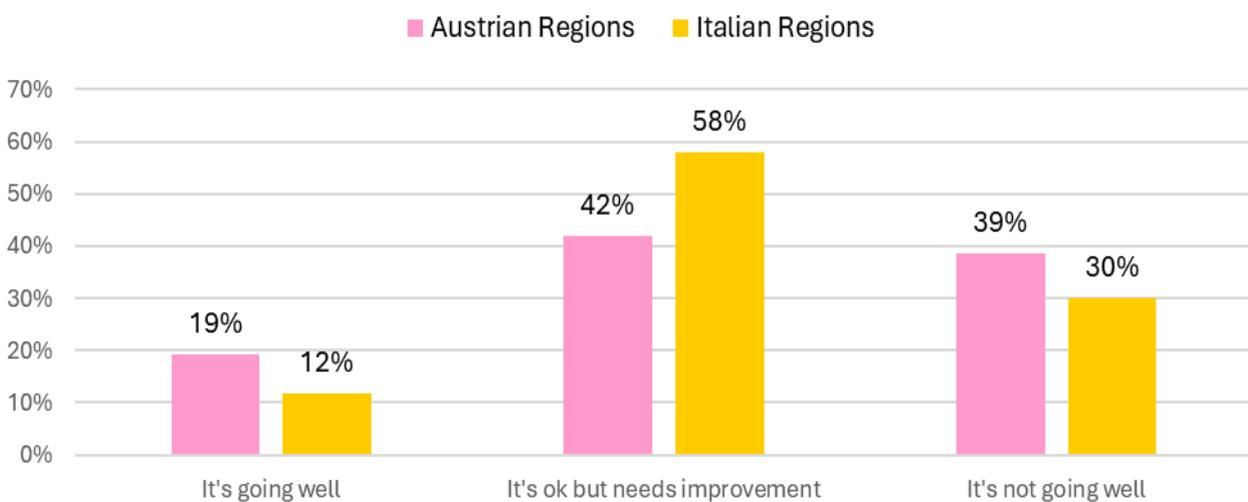
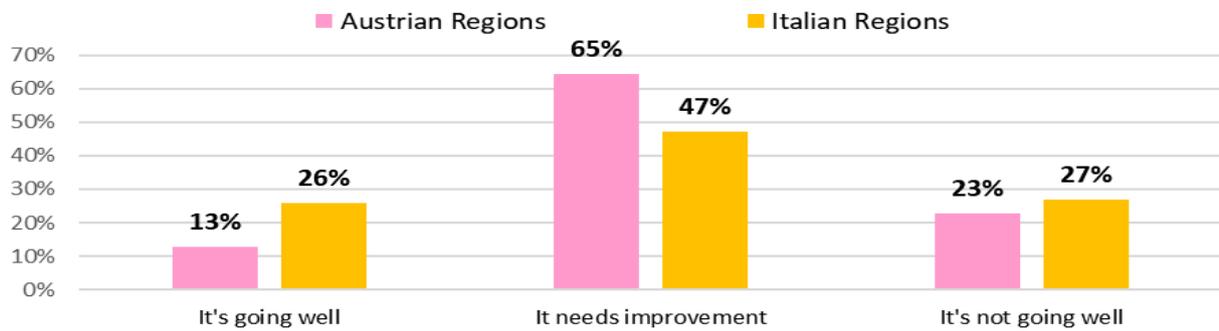
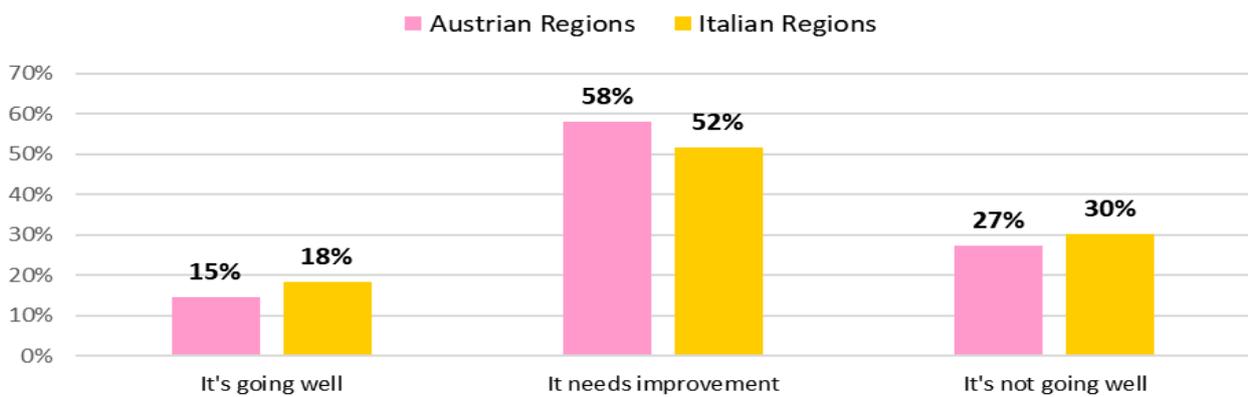


Figure 9, 10, 11, 12. Evaluation of aspects regarding the creation of cross-border partnerships. Percentage of response count by regional groups.

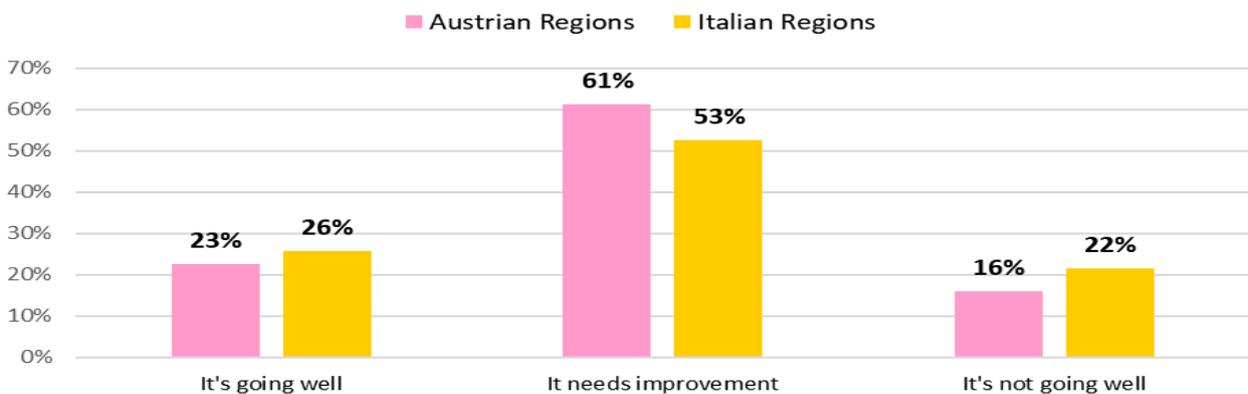
Creation of cross-border partnerships for priority A



Creation of cross-border partnerships for priority B



Creation of cross-border partnerships for priority C



Creation of cross-border partnerships for priority E

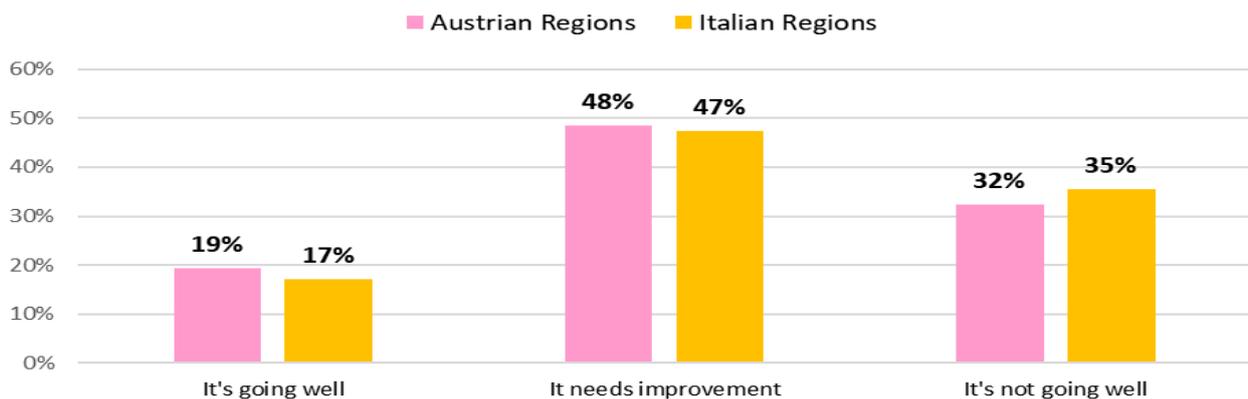
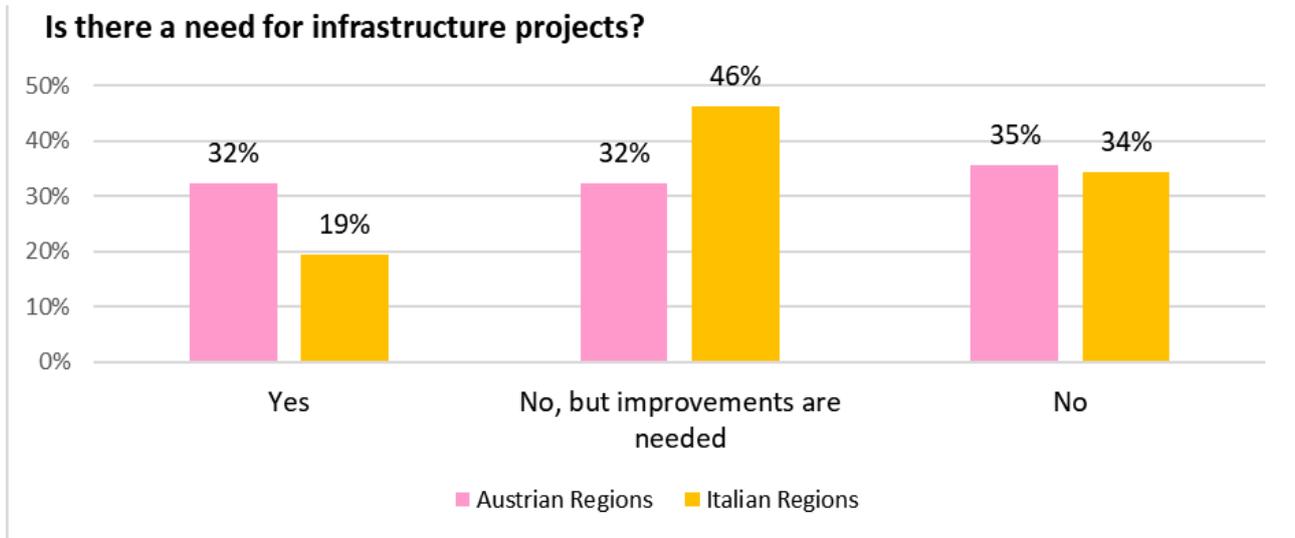


Figure 15. Is there a need for infrastructure project? Percentage frequency on total responses by regional group.



Part 2 – Interview questions

Italian	German
<p>Il programma Interreg Italia-Austria sta attualmente conducendo due sondaggi per raccogliere opinioni, riflessioni e suggerimenti da parte dei giovani e degli stakeholder della regione transfrontaliera tra Italia e Austria. Le vostre risposte ci aiuteranno a preparare una relazione dettagliata per la Commissione europea, che darà un contributo significativo al futuro del programma.</p>	<p>Das Programm Interreg Italien Österreich führt derzeit zwei Umfragen durch, um Meinungen, Überlegungen und Vorschläge von jungen Menschen und Interessengruppen in der grenzüberschreitenden Region zwischen Italien und Österreich zu sammeln. Ihre Antworten werden uns helfen, einen detaillierten Bericht für die Europäische Kommission zu erstellen, der einen wichtigen Beitrag zur Zukunft des Programms bilden wird.</p>
<p>1) Dove/in che zona siete operativi?</p>	<p>1) In welchem Gebiet sind Sie tätig?</p>
<p>2) Ruolo dell'organizzazione</p>	<p>2) Welche Rolle spielt Ihre Organisation allgemein?</p>
<p>3) Com'è vivere in una zona di confine?</p>	<p>3) Wie ist es, in einem Grenzgebiet zu leben/zu arbeiten?</p>
<p>4) Se non vengono fuori temi positivi/negativi, fare domande più specifiche dopo</p> <p>4a) vantaggi o svantaggi?</p> <p>4b) ostacoli (es di tipo amministrativo, finanziario, controlli di vario livello...): sono stati risolti, se no avete proposte su come risolverli?</p>	<p>4) Wenn keine positive/negative Themen auftauchen, spezifische Frage stellen</p> <p>4a) Vorteile und Nachteile</p> <p>4b) Hindernisse (z.B. im Gebiet Verwaltung, Finanzen, Kontrollen auf verschiedenen Ebenen...): wurden Sie gelöst, haben sie Vorschläge, diese zu lösen?</p>
<p>5) Cosa dovrebbe essere fatto per facilitare il lavoro con i vostri omologhi/colleghi (italiani/austriaci) nel Paese confinante?</p>	<p>5) Was sollte man machen, um die Zusammenarbeit mit Ihren (italienischen/österreichischen) Kollegen im Nachbarland zu erleichtern?</p>
<p>6) Quando e come siete venuti a conoscenza del programma Interreg?</p> <p>6a) avete partecipato/sviluppato un progetto?</p> <p>6b) Se in più programmazioni, differenze che vi ricordate rispetto a quella attuale?</p> <p>6c) Le innovazioni finanziarie del programma 21-27 hanno comportato problemi o hanno semplificato la gestione dei progetti?</p>	<p>6) Wann und wie haben Sie von dem Interreg-Programm erfahren?</p> <p>6a) Haben Sie teilgenommen/ein Projekt entwickelt?</p> <p>6b) Wenn Sie an mehr als einem Programm teilgenommen haben, erinnern Sie sich an irgendwelche Unterschiede zu dem aktuellen Programm?</p> <p>c. Haben die finanziellen Neuerungen des Programms 21-27 zu Problemen geführt oder haben sie die Verwaltung vereinfacht?</p>
<p>7) Ritenete che il programma vi abbia supportato nella gestione del/dei progetto/i?</p>	<p>7) Sind Sie der Meinung, dass das Programm bei der Verwaltung und Führung des Projekts/der Projekte Sie unterstützt hat?</p>
<p>8) Se coinvolti in aree CLLD, in quali ambiti</p>	<p>8) Wenn Sie in CLLD-Gebieten tätig sind, in welchen Bereichen denken Sie, dass die Zusammenarbeit wirklich effektiv sein kann?</p>

ritenete che la cooperazione possa essere veramente efficace in relazione a questo approccio?	
9) Secondo voi è utile riproporre la cooperazione transfrontaliera anche dopo il 2027?	9) Ist es Ihrer Meinung nach sinnvoll, die grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit nach 2027 fortzusetzen?
10) Per voi cosa rappresenta la cooperazione transfrontaliera?	10) Was bedeutet die grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit für Sie?
11) Se ci sono altre cose di cui non abbiamo parlato...	11) Falls es andere Dinge gibt, über die wir nicht gesprochen haben...

Part 3 – Survey Online (DE)

TEIL 1 – IDENTIFIKATION DER TEILNEHMER

1. Sie sind oder Sie vertreten:

Eine öffentliche Verwaltung auf provinzieller, regionaler oder nationaler Ebene

Eine lokale öffentliche Einrichtung bzw. Verwaltung

Ein Unternehmen

Eine Organisation zur Unterstützung von Unternehmen

Ein Verband (einschließlich NGOs) oder eine Berufsorganisation

Eine Sozial- und Gesundheitseinrichtung

Eine Schule, Universität oder Ausbildungsstätte

Andere (bitte erläutern):

2. Sie befinden sich geografisch in einem des folgenden Gebiets:

Autonom Provinz Bozen

Region Veneto

Autonom Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia

Land Tirol

Land Salzburg

Land Kärnten

Andere (bitte erläutern):

3. Haben Sie bereits an Projekten im Rahmen von Interreg Italien-Österreich mitgewirkt?

➔ Wenn ja, in welchem Programmplanungszeitraum wurde Ihr Projekt vorgeschlagen und/oder finanziert?

- 2021-2027

- 2014-2020

- 2007-2013

- früher

Wenn Sie weitere Informationen über das Programm wünschen, können Sie uns Ihre Persönliche Daten hinterlassen. Selbstverständlich werden wir Ihre persönlichen Daten vertraulich behandeln.

Name:
Nachname:
E-mail:
Name der Organisation:

.....
TEIL 2 – DIE ERFAHRUNG IN DER GRENZREGION

4. Ist es für Sie ein Vorteil oder ein Nachteil, in der Nähe einer Grenze zu leben und zu arbeiten?

Ein Vorteil

Ein Nachteil

Eine Herausforderung

- (obligatorisch) Warum? (z. B. es ist ein Vorteil, weil Ressourcen und Praktiken ausgetauscht werden oder weil es mehr Beschäftigungsmöglichkeiten gibt; es ist ein Nachteil, weil es kompliziert ist, öffentliche Verkehrsmittel zu organisieren oder ein Unternehmen grenzüberschreitend zu gründen)
5. Wo liegt das Hauptpotenzial für die territoriale Zusammenarbeit an der österreichisch-italienischen Grenze?
- A. *Ausbau der grenzübergreifenden Forschungs- und Innovationsprozesse und Einführung fortschrittlicher Technologien für Unternehmen*
- **[Felder mit Bewertungen: Bitte geben Sie für den Bereich A an, welche Punkte Ihnen am wichtigsten sind, und ordnen Sie diese nach einer Priorität von 1 (am wenigsten wichtig) bis 5 (am wichtigsten) ein]**
- Sensibilisierungs-, Informations- und Schulungsmaßnahmen zwischen grenzüberschreitenden Forschungszentren in den Bereichen Energiewende, Unternehmertum, Kreislaufwirtschaft und Life Sciences (Integration von Biologie, Biotechnologie und Digitaltechnik zum Wohle der Lebewesen)
 - Entwicklung, Übernahme und Transfer von Technologien, Knowhow und bewährten Verfahren, wie z.B. innovative Lösungen für Energieeffizienz, neue biobasierte Materialien, Modelle für maschinelles Lernen und digitale Produkte
 - Vorbereitung und Einleitung von Material- und Infrastrukturinvestitionen, wie z.B. Unterstützung bei der Umstellung von Produktionsketten oder Initiativen zur Verbesserung der IKT-Konnektivität
- B. *Förderung der Anpassung an den Klimawandel, der Risikoprävention und Katastrophenresilienz, sowie der Verbesserung der biologischen Vielfalt*
- **Bitte geben Sie für den Bereich B an, welche Punkte Ihnen am wichtigsten sind, und ordnen Sie diese nach einer Priorität von 1 (am wenigsten wichtig) bis 5 (am wichtigsten) ein**
- Sensibilisierungs-, Informations- und Schulungsmaßnahmen zur Entwicklung einer Präventionskultur (Widerstandsfähigkeit des Gebiets und Risikoprävention durch unterstützende Ökosystemdienstleistungen, vorausschauende Analysen zu hydrogeologischen Instabilitätsszenarien, usw)
 - Formulierung und/oder Umsetzung einer grenzüberschreitenden Politik (z.B. Zusammenarbeit zwischen Gebieten in verschiedenen Regionen, die mit ähnlichen Risiken konfrontiert sind, und Zusammenlegung von Ressourcen)
 - Entwicklung, Übernahme und Transfer von Technologien, Know-how und bewährten Verfahren (z.B. Ermittlung von Frühwarnsystemen, Entwicklung „intelligenter Dörfer“, Entwicklung von Katastrophenmanagementsystemen)
 - Verbesserung der Erhaltung der Natur und der grünen Infrastruktur auch in städtischen Gebieten sowie Verringerung aller Formen von Umweltverschmutzung
- C. *Stärkung der Rolle, die Kultur und nachhaltiger Tourismus für die Wirtschaftsentwicklung, die soziale Inklusion und Innovation spielen*
- **Bitte geben Sie für den Bereich C an, welche Punkte Ihnen am wichtigsten sind, und ordnen Sie diese nach einer Priorität von 1 (am wenigsten wichtig) bis 5 (am wichtigsten) ein**
- Sensibilisierungs-, Informations- und Schulungsmaßnahmen (z.B. durch die Förderung eines umweltverträglichen Tourismus, Ausbildungskurse und Pilotmaßnahmen, Unterstützung des Museumsangebots usw.)
 - Formulierung und/oder Umsetzung einer grenzüberschreitenden Politik (z.B. Verbesserung des grenzüberschreitenden Tourismusangebots, Projekte zum Schutz und zur Aufwertung der Landschaft, Schaffung territorialer Strategien für die Entwicklung des sanften Tourismus usw.)

- Entwicklung, Übernahme und Transfer von Technologien, Knowhow und bewährten Verfahren (z.B. Entwicklung intelligenter Methoden zur Optimierung des Verkehrs, Entwicklung nachhaltiger Tourismusprodukte, Entwicklung von Routen im Zusammenhang mit dem historischen und kulturellen Erbe)
 - Vorbereitung und Start von materiellen und infrastrukturellen Investitionen (z.B. grenzüberschreitend-ökotouristische Maßnahmen zum Schutz und zur Aufwertung des Naturraums durch Projekte zur Aufwertung von Einrichtungen)
- D. *Regionalentwicklung auf lokaler Ebene zur Förderung der integrierten und inklusiven sozialen, wirtschaftlichen und ökologischen Entwicklung, der Kultur, des Naturerbes, des nachhaltigen Tourismus und der Sicherheit (CLLD)*
- **Bitte geben Sie für den Bereich D an, welche Punkte Ihnen am wichtigsten sind, und ordnen Sie diese nach einer Priorität von 1 (am wenigsten wichtig) bis 5 (am wichtigsten) ein**
- Einbeziehung der Bürgerinnen und der Bürger in die Entwicklung und Umsetzung von den CLLD-Strategien
 - Unterstützung des Tourismus und der lokalen kulturellen Entwicklung
 - Maßnahmen für den Umweltschutz und die Erhaltung der Artenvielfalt
 - Maßnahmen für die Entwicklung sog. „smart villages“ für eine erhöhte Widerstandsfähigkeit und Effizienz der Gebiete
 - Förderung der sozialen Inklusion und Integration von benachteiligten Bevölkerungsgruppen
 - Unterstützung von Projekten zur Diversifizierung der lokalen Wirtschaft in Grenzregionen
- E. *Verbesserung der Effizienz der öffentlichen Verwaltungsstellen mit dem Ziel der Beseitigung rechtlicher und sonstiger Hindernisse für die Zusammenarbeit zwischen Bürgern, Zivilgesellschaft und den Institutionen in Grenzregionen*
- **Bitte geben Sie für den Bereich E an, welche Punkte Ihnen am wichtigsten sind, und ordnen Sie diese nach einer Priorität von 1 (am wenigsten wichtig) bis 5 (am wichtigsten) ein**
- Sensibilisierungs-, Informations- und Schulungsmaßnahmen (z.B. Integration und Harmonisierung von Geodaten in lokalen Informationssystemen, Initiativen zur sozialen Innovation im Gesundheitswesen und zur Digitalisierung der Gesundheitsdienste, Förderung von Ressourceneffizienz und CO₂-Reduzierung usw.)
 - Formulierung und/oder Umsetzung einer grenzüberschreitenden Politik (z.B. Zusammenarbeit im Bereich der Telemedizin, Entwicklung von Strategien zur Förderung einer nachhaltigen E-Mobilität usw.)
 - Entwicklung, Übernahme und Transfer von Technologie, Know-how und bewährten Verfahren (z.B. Digitalisierung von Gemeindearchiven, Ausbau fehlender Verbindungen in Berg- und Randgebieten usw.)
6. Was läuft in der Zusammenarbeit zwischen Italien und Österreich gut und sollte verstärkt werden, und was läuft schlecht und sollte verbessert werden?
[Matrix mit 3-spaltiger Auswahl (In Ordnung – Gut, aber es wäre zu verstärken – Nicht gut, es ist noch zu verbessern)]

Begleitung bei der Erstellung und Überwachung von Projekten und deren nachfolgender Valorisierung
Kommunikation und Vertrauen zwischen grenzüberschreitenden Institutionen

Einbindung der Bürger bzw. der Zivilgesellschaft

Grenzüberschreitende Partnerschaften für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung und technologische und digitale Unternehmensinnovationen

Grenzüberschreitende Partnerschaften zur Erhaltung der Natur und/oder zur Verringerung der Umweltverschmutzung

Grenzüberschreitende Partnerschaften zur Vermeidung und Prävention von Risiken in Zusammenhang mit dem Klimawandel

Gemeinsame Projekte zur Aufwertung der lokalen Natur und Kultur durch ökologisch nachhaltigen Tourismus

Partnerschaften zur Entwicklung von grenzüberschreitenden öffentlichen und administrativen Dienstleistungen

7. In welchen Bereichen gibt es konkreten Hindernisse für die Zusammenarbeit mit Partnern jenseits der Grenze?

Grenzüberschreitende Vernetzung aufgrund von Verwaltungs- und Sprachbarrieren, oder mangelnder Standardisierung von Datenbanken zur Unterstützung statistischer Analysen

Zusammenarbeit bei Naturkatastrophen

Zusammenarbeit im Bereich der öffentlichen Gesundheit

Mobilität von Menschen

Schwierigkeit, Partner aus dem anderen Land zu finden, die ähnliche Bedürfnisse oder Ziele haben

(fakultativ) Bitte geben Sie an, ob Sie in anderen Bereichen mit Hindernissen konfrontiert waren:

8. Wie sollte sich Interreg in Zukunft verändern, um die grenzüberschreiten- Zusammenarbeit effektiver zu gestalten? Welche Neuerungen würden Sie sich wünschen?

Vereinfachte Regeln oder Verfahren

ein höheres maximales Budget

Verstärkte zwischenmenschliche Interaktionen (people-to-people)

Weitere Öffnung der Ausschreibungen für private Begünstigte

Möglichkeiten für junge Menschen oder andere Bevölkerungsgruppe

Stärkere Einbeziehung von Bürgervereinigungen und NGOs

9. Gibt es einen Bedarf an Infrastrukturprojekten?

Nein, Infrastrukturen sind bereits vorhanden

Nein, aber die bestehende Infrastruktur sollte verbessert werden (→ In welchem Bereich?)

Ja, neue Infrastrukturen sind erforderlich (→ In welchem Bereich?)

10. (obligatorisch) Was wäre das italienisch-österreichische Kooperationsprojekt Ihrer Träume?

APPENDIX B – Consultations of young citizens

Part 1 – Tables and figures

Part 2 – Input information from group discussion

Part 3 – Survey questions

Part 1 – Tables and figures

Figure 1. Age group distribution. Response count.

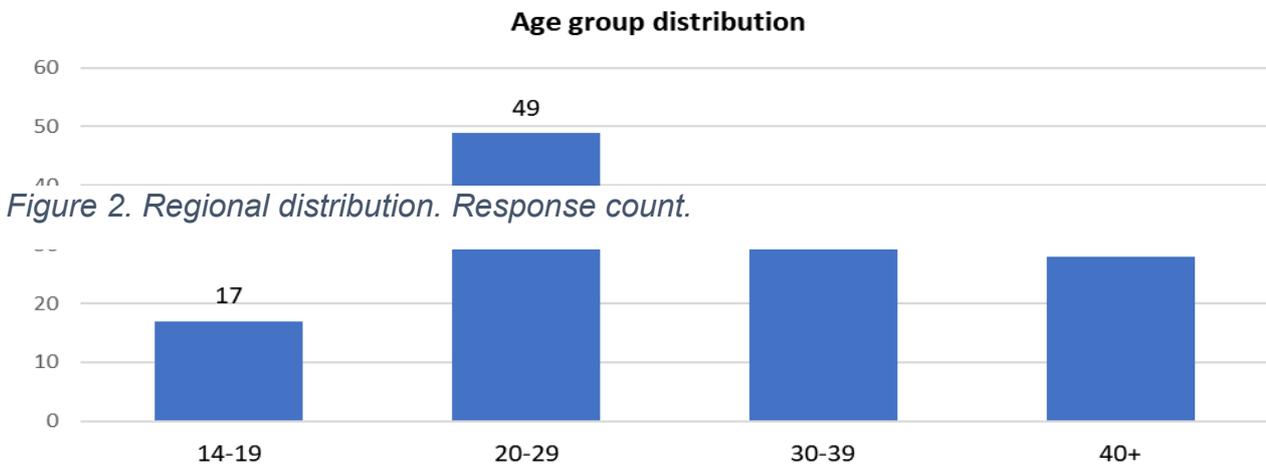
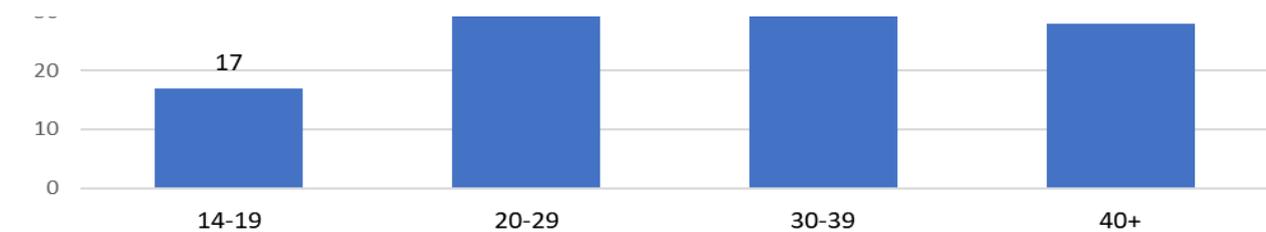
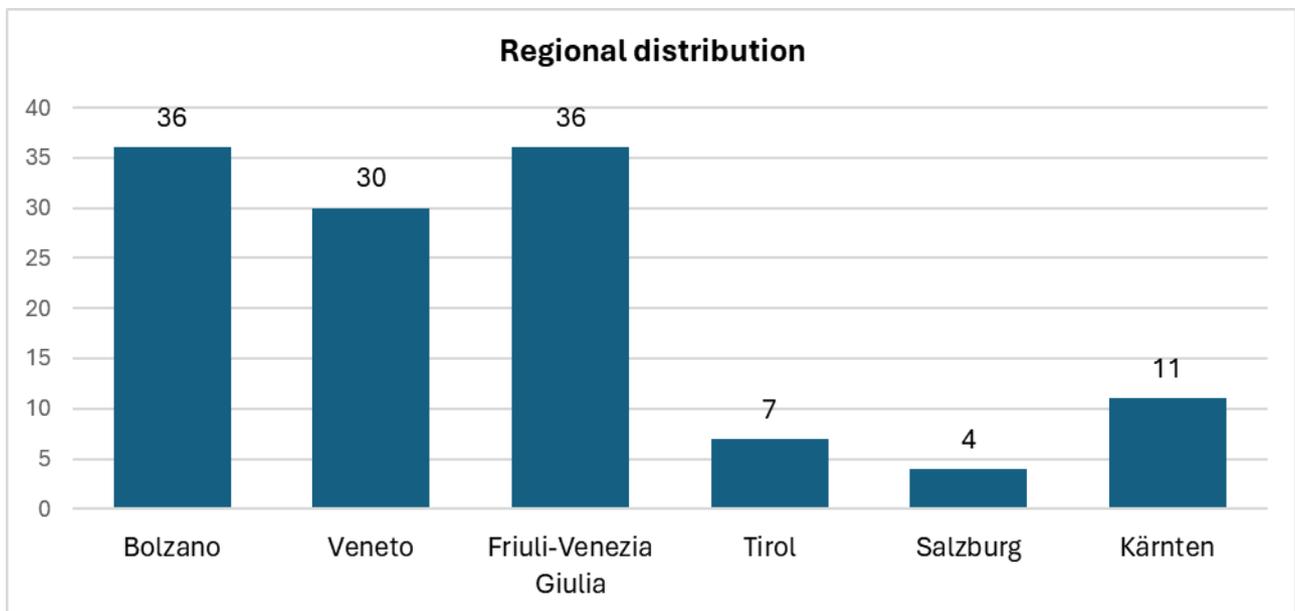


Figure 2. Regional distribution. Response count.

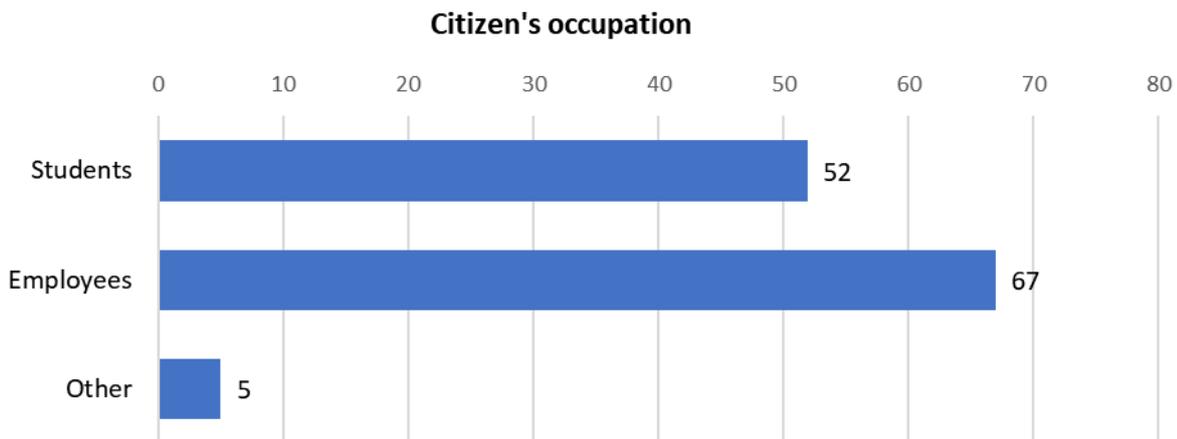


Age group	% distribution on total (124)
14-19	14%
20-29	40%
30-39	24%
40+	23%



Region	% distribution on total (124)
Bolzano	29%
Veneto	24%
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	29%
Tirol	6%
Salzburg	3%

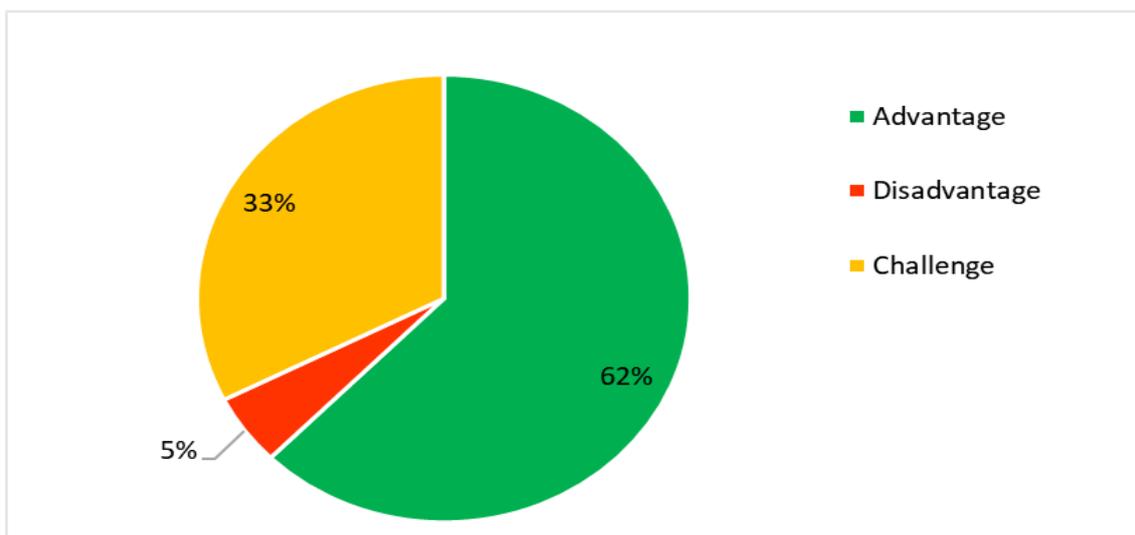
Kärnten	9%
---------	----



<i>Citizens who fit under the category "Other":</i>	
Student and worker	1
Freelancer	1
Housewife	1
Retired person	2
Occupation	% distribution on total (124)
Student and/or graduate	42%
Employee	54%
Other	4%

Figure 3. Occupation of survey's participants. Response count.

Figure 4. Is living next to a border an opportunity or a disadvantage? Percentages on total responses.



An advantage	73	62%
A disadvantage	6	5%
A challenge	38	32%
Total answers (survey)	117	100%

Figure 5. Living next to a border. Percentages on total responses by regional groups.

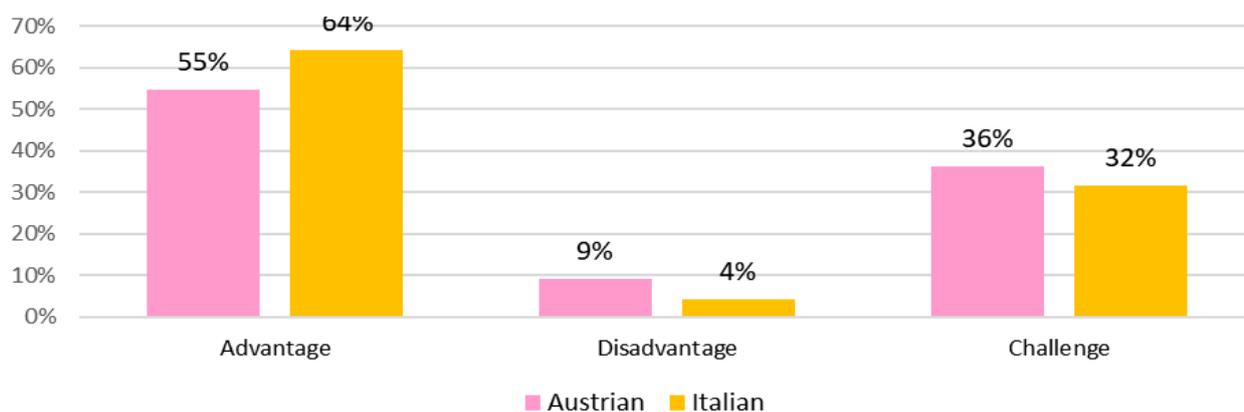
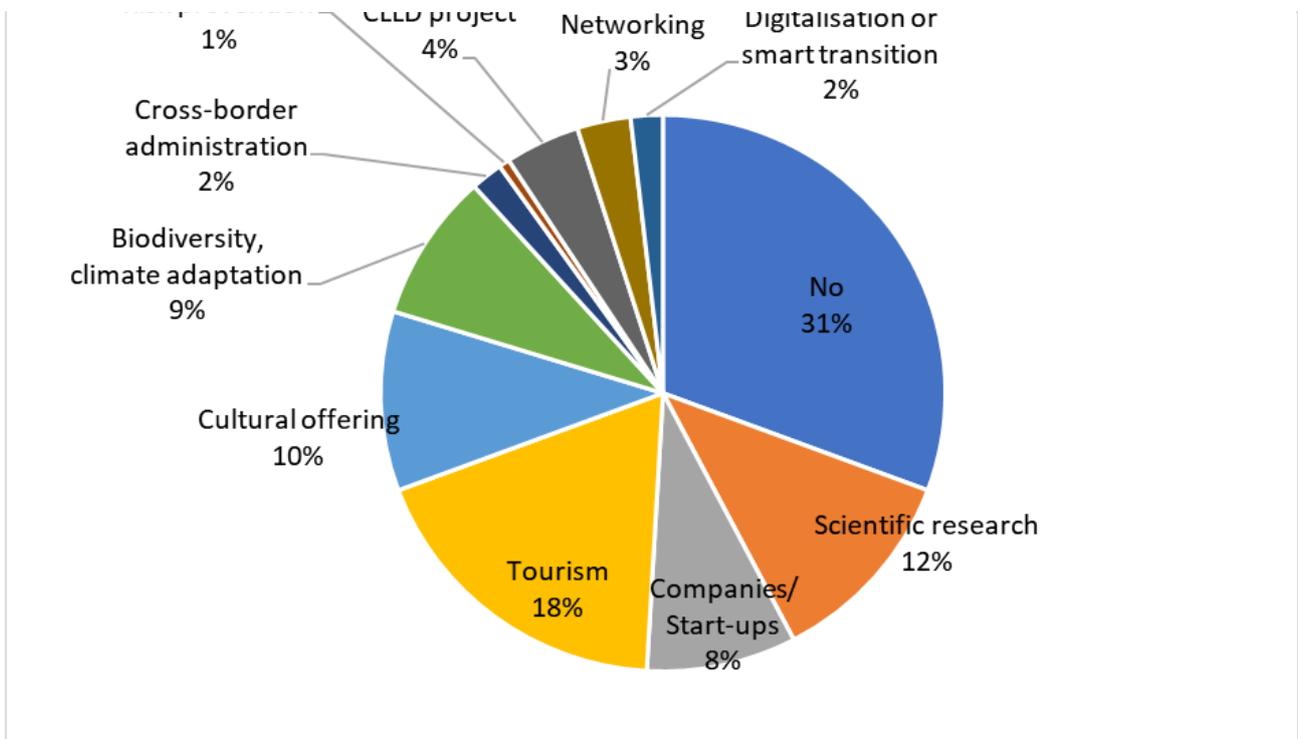


Table 3. Relevance of priorities. Absolute and percentage frequency on total responses.

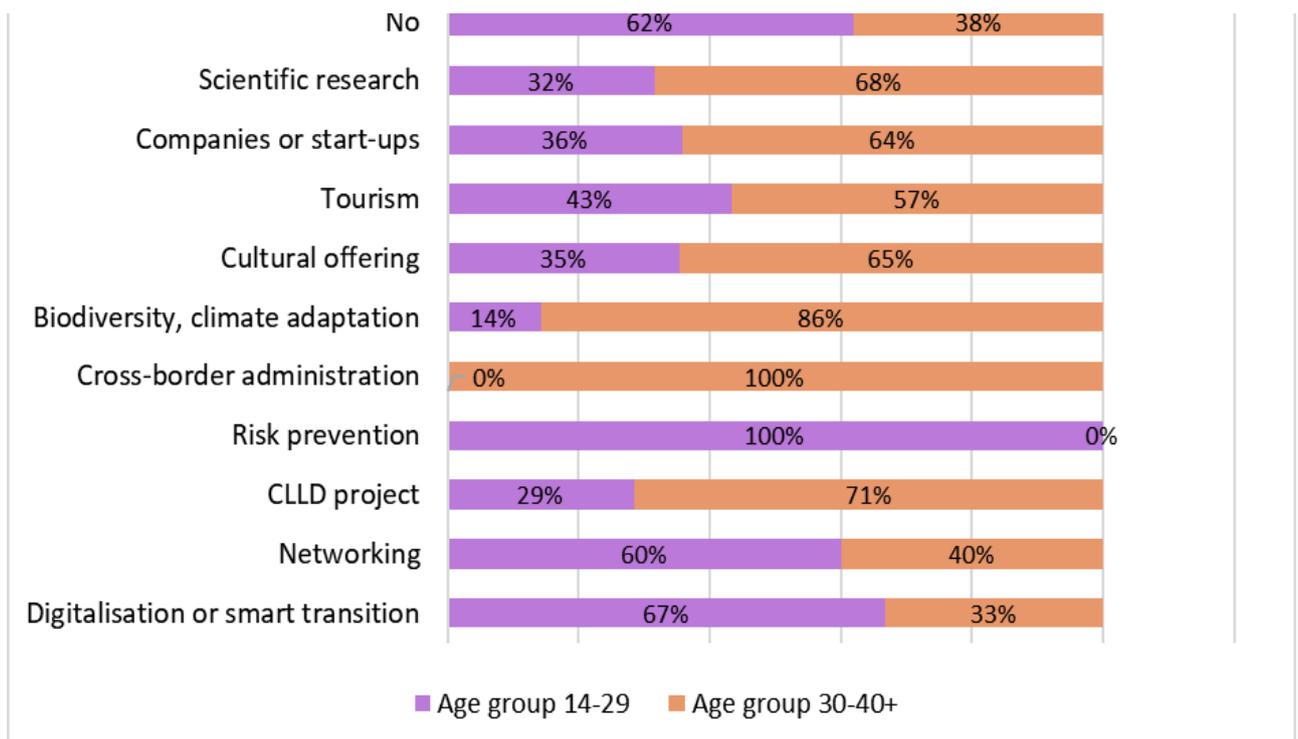
Priority	Absolute frequency	%
A - Innovation and Enterprise	42	15%
B - Climate change and Biodiversity	60	22%
C - Sustainable and cultural tourism	51	19%
D - Local development (CLLD)	73	27%
E - Reducing cross-border barriers (governance)	48	18%

Figure 7. Topics of Interreg projects known or identified as useful by respondents. Percentage frequency on total responses.



Part 2 – Input for group discussion

Figure 8. Topics of Interreg projects known or identified as useful by age groups. Percentage distribution across groups based on the total responses received for each topic.



The input for starting the group discussion, which took place on the 6/11/2024, was essentially made up of three questions/information themes:

- Who am I? What am I doing here? (What is Policy Cohesion, What does it allow Interreg programmes to do, What specifically is Interreg doing across the Italian and Austrian border)
- Who are you? What are you doing here? (Information about the people who decided to be actively involved in the group discussion)
- What does it mean to you to live next to a border? Where do you feel a cooperation across border is needed? (Questions for the consultations).

The discussion with the young citizens lasted for about 2 hours, and the main themes that emerged were: the need to overcome linguistic differences and to promote multilingualism, in order to have better opportunities; stereotypes across the border about “what Italians are” and “what Austrians/German are” which still influence relations between young people. In this regard, the young people who took part in the discussion felt that it was important to take concrete actions to break down the barriers that still exist for them, especially in the school system, which in the Provincia autonoma di Bolzano gives place to schools divided along linguistic lines (Italian schools where German-speaking individuals are the minority and don’t mix with the other students, and vice versa). For the participants in the discussion, it is also important to create opportunities for young people to meet and confront each other. They feel that they are seen as the beneficiaries of political decisions, but they would like to be a more active part of society; the only problem they see in this sense is that there are few spaces and opportunities to really meet with with German-speaking peers, to get to know each other and start building something together.

Part 3 – Survey questions (DE)

TEIL 1 - ÜBER DICH

Frage 1: Wie alt bist du?

- 14-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- älter

Frage 2: In welcher Region wohnst du?

- Autonome Provinz Bozen
- Region Veneto
- Autonome Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia
- Tirol
- Salzburg
- Kärnten

Frage 3: Welcher der folgenden Personengruppen gehörst du an?

- Student (falls gewählt, in welchem Bereich?)
- frisch diplomiert (falls gewählt, in welchem Bereich?)
- Berufstätige (falls gewählt, in welchem Bereich?)
- andere (bitte erläutern)

TEIL 2 – DEINE ERFAHRUNG IN DER GRENZREGION

Frage 1: Wie ist es, in der Nähe einer Grenze zu leben?

- Ein Vorteil
- Ein Nachteil
- Weder noch
- Sowohl ein Vorteil als auch ein Nachteil, abhängig von den Umständen
- Wenn du möchtest, kannst du deine Antwort kurz begründen (offenes Feld für kurze Antworten)

Frage 2: In welchen Bereichen ist in deinem Lebensraum eine Zusammenarbeit sinnvoll? (Multiple-Choice-Frage mit anschließendem offenem Feld zur Bewertung)

- A. Ausbau der Forschungs- und Innovationskapazitäten und der Einführung fortschrittlicher Technologien

2.1. [→ Felder mit Bewertungen von 1 bis 5: Bitte geben Sie für jeden ausgewählten Bereich an, welche Punkte Ihnen am wichtigsten sind, und ordnen Sie diese nach einer Priorität von 1 (am wenigsten wichtig) bis 5 (am wichtigsten) ein]

Sensibilisierungs-, Informations- und Schulungsmaßnahmen in den Bereichen Energiewende und Kreislaufwirtschaft

Entwicklung, Übernahme und Transfer von Technologien und bewährten Verfahren (z.B. Entwicklung innovativer Lösungen für Energieeffizienz, Untersuchung und Herstellung neuer biobasierter Materialien, Entwicklung von Modellen für maschinelles Lernen und digitale Produkte)

Vorbereitung und Einleitung von Material- und Infrastrukturinvestitionen (z.B. Entwicklung innovativer Software, Unterstützung bei der Umstellung von Produktionsketten, Initiativen zur Verbesserung der IKT-Konnektivität usw.)

B. Förderung der Anpassung an den Klimawandel und der Katastrophenprävention, und Verbesserung des Schutzes und der Erhaltung der Natur und der biologischen Vielfalt

[Bewertungsfeld für Antwort B]

Sensibilisierungs-, Informations- und Schulungsmaßnahmen für die Risikoprävention (z.B. Risikoprävention durch unterstützende Ökosystemdienstleistungen, vorausschauende Analysen zu hydrogeologischen Instabilitätsszenarien, Schulungs- und Sensibilisierungsmaßnahmen zur Präventionskultur)

Sensibilisierungs-, Informations- und Schulungsmaßnahmen für die Verbesserung der biologischen Vielfalt (z.B. effizienten und nachhaltigen Nutzung der natürlichen Ressourcen, Verringerung der Umweltverschmutzung, grüne Gebiete auch in die Städte)

Formulierung und/oder Umsetzung einer grenzüberschreitenden Politik (z.B. Zusammenarbeit zwischen Gebieten in verschiedenen Regionen, die mit ähnlichen Risiken konfrontiert sind, und Zusammenlegung von Ressourcen)

Entwicklung, Übernahme und Transfer von Technologien und bewährten Verfahren (z.B. Ermittlung von Frühwarnsystemen, Entstehung von „Smart Villages“, Entwicklung von Katastrophenmanagementsystemen)

C. Stärkung der Rolle, die Kultur und nachhaltiger Tourismus für die Wirtschaftsentwicklung, die soziale Inklusion und die soziale Innovation spielen

[Bewertungsfeld für Antwort C]

Sensibilisierungs-, Informations- und Schulungsmaßnahmen (z.B. durch die Förderung eines umweltverträglichen Tourismus, Ausbildungskurse und Pilotmaßnahmen, Unterstützung des Museumsangebots usw.)

Formulierung und/oder Umsetzung einer grenzüberschreitenden Politik (z.B. Verbesserung des grenzüberschreitenden Tourismusangebots, Projekte zum Schutz und zur Aufwertung der Landschaft, Schaffung territorialer Strategien für die Entwicklung des sanften Tourismus usw.)

Entwicklung, Übernahme und Transfer von Technologien und bewährten Verfahren (z.B. Entwicklung intelligenter Methoden zur Optimierung des Verkehrs, Entwicklung nachhaltiger Tourismusprodukte, Entwicklung von Routen im Zusammenhang mit dem historischen und kulturellen Erbe)

Vorbereitung und Start von materiellen und infrastrukturellen Investitionen (z.B. grenzüberschreitende ökotouristische Maßnahmen zum Schutz und zur Aufwertung des Naturraums durch Projekte zur Aufwertung von Einrichtungen).

D. Förderung der integrierten und inklusiven sozialen, wirtschaftlichen und ökologischen Entwicklung auf lokaler Ebene, der Kultur, des Naturerbes, des nachhaltigen Tourismus und der Sicherheit außerhalb städtischer Gebiete.

[Bewertungsfeld für Antwort D]

Verbesserung der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und Stärkung der lokalen Unternehmen

Unterstützung des Tourismus und der lokalen kulturellen Entwicklung

Förderung der Mehrsprachigkeit

Maßnahmen für den Umweltschutz

Förderung der sozialen Integration

-Entwicklung sog. „smart villages“ für eine erhöhte Widerstandsfähigkeit und Effizienz der Gebiete (Versorgung mit Breitband, lokale Erzeugung und Distribution alternativer Energien, Verbesserung der lokalen Lebensmittelproduktionsketten usw.)

E. Verbesserung der Effizienz der öffentlichen Verwaltungen durch Förderung ihrer Zusammenarbeit mit dem Ziel der Beseitigung rechtlicher und sonstiger Hindernisse in Grenzregionen

[Bewertungsfeld für Antwort E]

sensibilisierungs-, Informations- und Schulungsmaßnahmen (z.B. Integration und Harmonisierung von Geodaten in lokalen Informationssystemen, Initiativen zur sozialen Innovation im Gesundheitswesen und zur Digitalisierung der Gesundheitsdienste, Förderung von Ressourceneffizienz und CO2-Reduzierung usw.)

Formulierung und/oder Umsetzung einer grenzüberschreitenden Politik (z.B. Zusammenarbeit im Bereich der Telemedizin, Entwicklung von Strategien zur Förderung einer nachhaltigen E-Mobilität usw.)

Entwicklung, Übernahme und Transfer von Technologie und bewährten Verfahren (z.B. Digitalisierung von Gemeindearchiven, Ausbau fehlender Verbindungen in Bergund Randgebieten usw.)

Frage 3: Kannst du ein Interreg-Projekt nennen, das in deinem Lebensumfeld sinnvoll gefunden hast? (Mehrfachauswahl, max. 3)

Nein, ich weiß von keinem Projekt

Ja, ein Forschungsprojekt bzw. wissenschaftliches Projekt

Ja, ein Projekt zur Unterstützung von Unternehmen oder Start-ups

Ja, ein Tourismusprojekt, z. B. ein Wanderweg

Ja, ein Projekt zur Verbesserung des Kulturangebots

Ja, ein Projekt zur Förderung der biologischen Vielfalt oder Anpassung an den Klimawandel

Ja, ein Projekt zur Verbesserung der grenzüberschreitenden Verwaltungstätigkeit

Ja, ein Projekt zur Risikoprävention

Ja, ein CLLD-Projekt (regionale Entwicklung auf lokaler Ebene)

Ja, ein Networking-Projekt

Ja, ein Projekt zur Digitalisierung oder zur „Smart Transition“

Sonstiges (bitte angeben)

Frage 4: Was ist deiner Meinung nach ein wichtiges Thema für die Zusammenarbeit zwischen jungen Menschen? (z. B. Co-Working-Spaces, Mehrsprachigkeit, Arbeitsmarkt, digitale Infrastruktur, Klimawandel, Zusammenarbeit im Bildungsbereich usw.)

- Offene Antwort

Frage 5: Was wäre dein Traumprojekt für eine grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit zwischen Italien und Österreich?

- Offene Antwort

APPENDIX C – Consultation of stakeholders and citizens (CLLD areas)

Part 1 – Tables and figures

Part 2 – Survey questions

Part 1 – Tables and figures

Figure 1. Age distribution (%) of respondents.

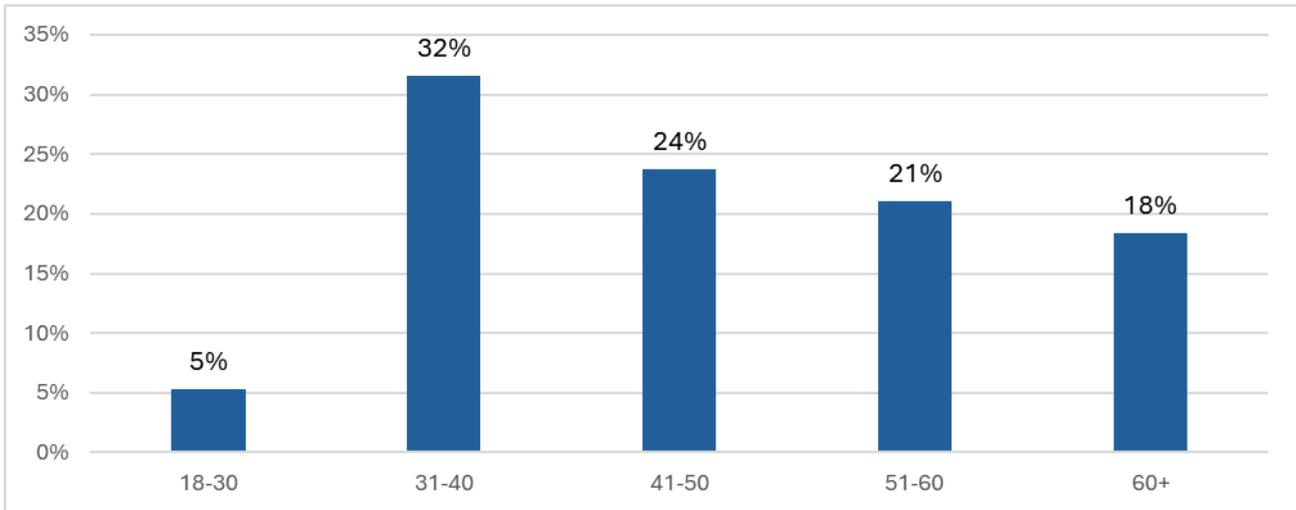


Figure 2. Gender distribution (%) of respondents.

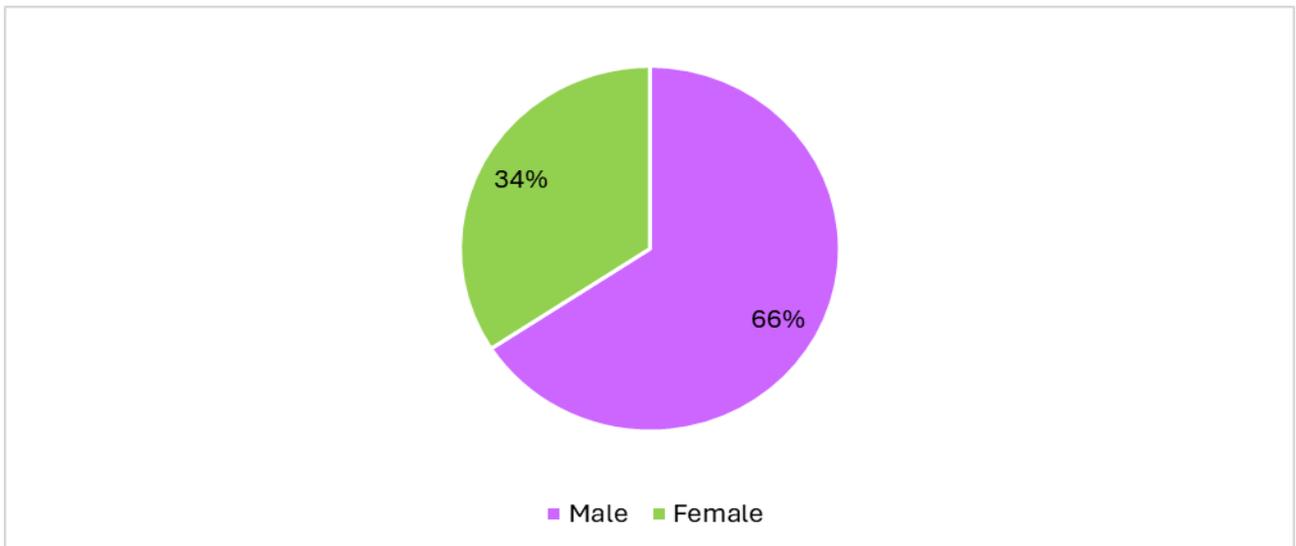


Figure 3. CLLD-area distribution (%) of respondents.

Table 1. CLLD-area of respondents.

Dolomiti Live	19
HEurOpen	5
Terra Raetica	3
Wipptal	8
I don't know	3
Total	38

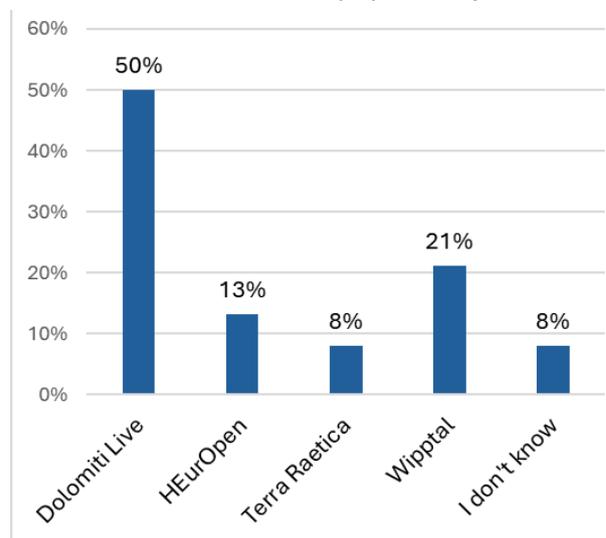


Table 2. Occupation of respondents.

Employee	33
Self-employed	5
Total	38

Table 3. Further details on Employee occupation roles.

Managerial Roles	7
Administration and Public sector	4
Territorial development	3
Other Roles	3
Total	17

Figure 4. Occupation (%) of respondents.

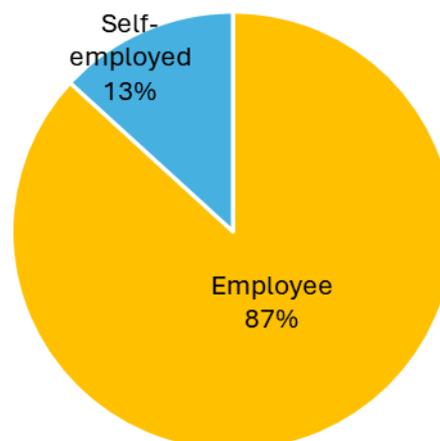


Table 4. Local involvement of respondents in their communities.

Member of an Association		Involvement in development of projects	
Yes	No	Yes	No
27 (71%)	11 (29%)	29 (76%)	9 (24%)

Figure 5. Respondents involved in development of projects, who also took part as Partner in projects, absolute values and percentages on total responses.

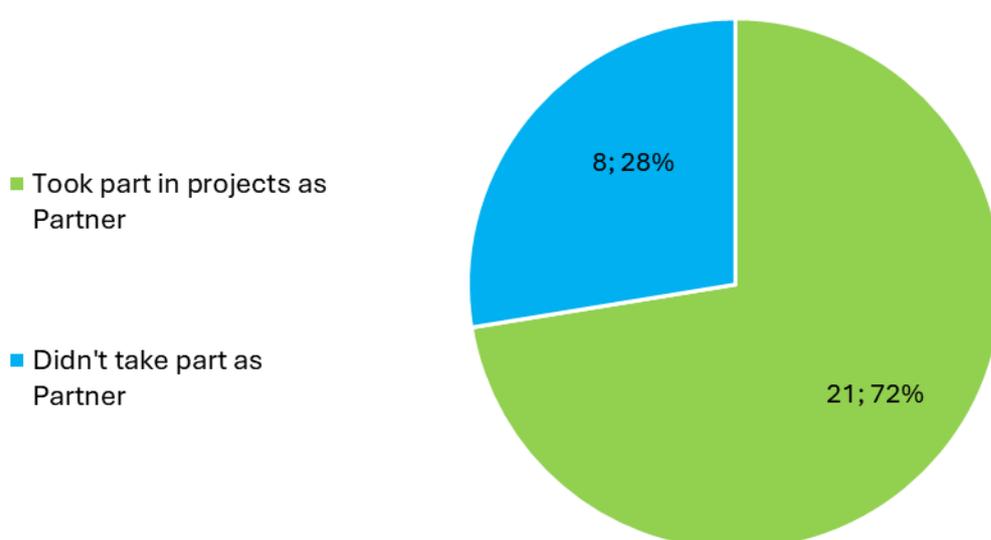


Figure 6. Experience of living next to a border, percentages on total responses.

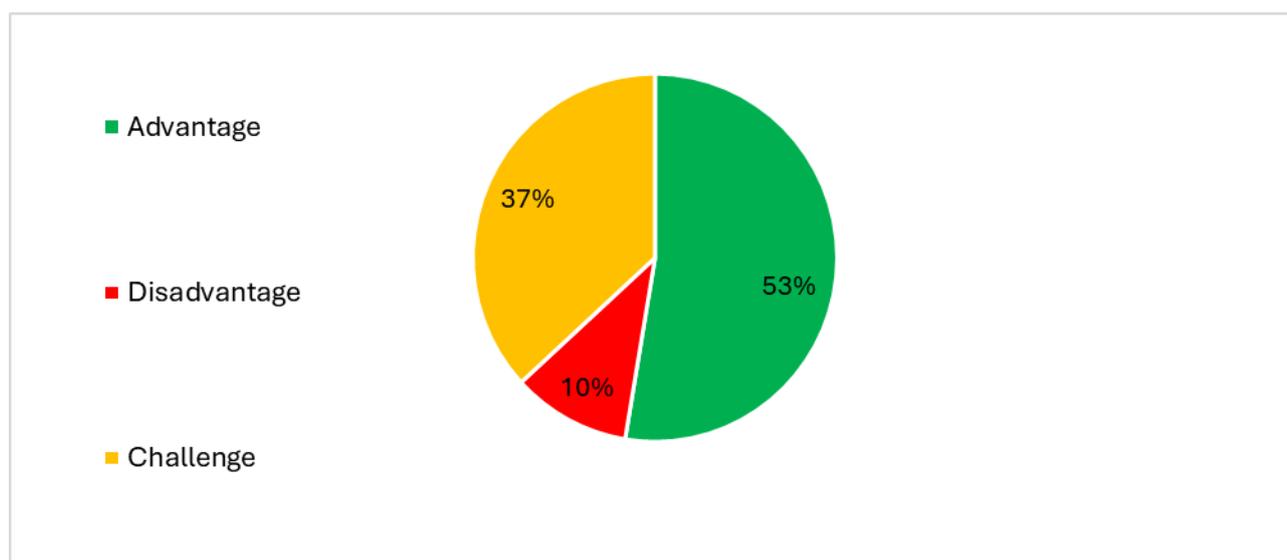


Figure 7. Relevance of priorities (%) on total responses given.

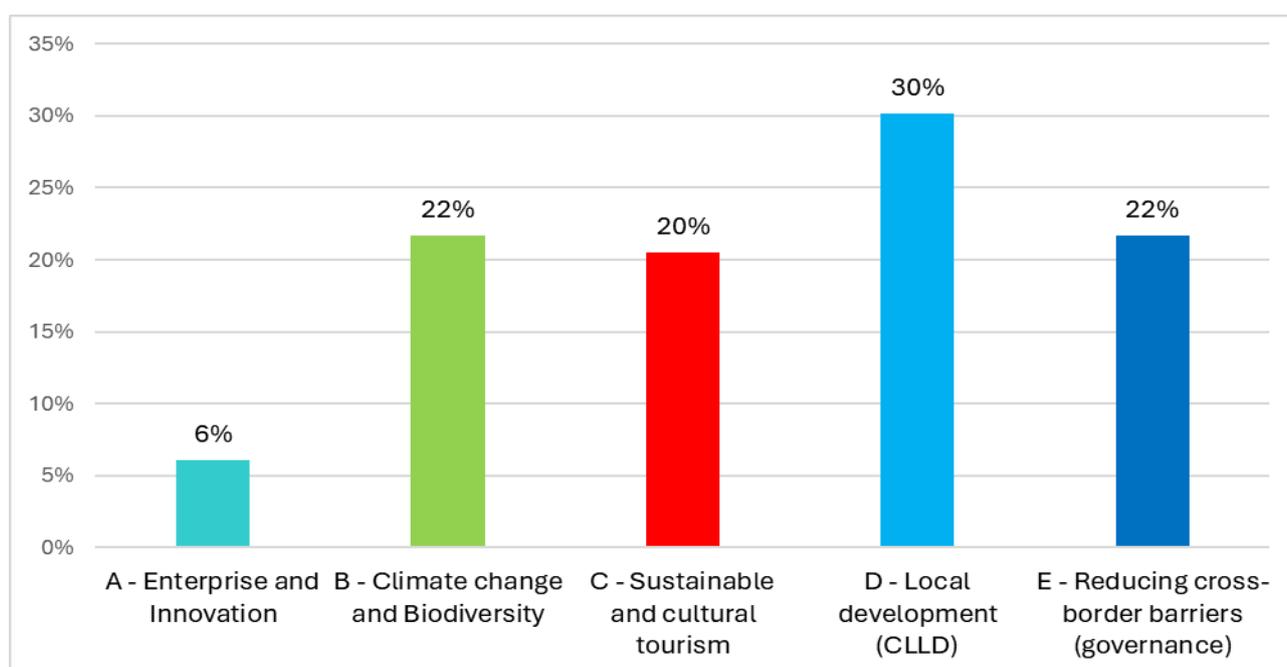


Table 5. Relevance of priorities by CLLD-area, percentages based on total responses of each area.

	Dolomiti Live	Heuropen	Terra Raetica	Wipptal
Priority A	7%	9%	-	-
Priority B	21%	-	25%	29%
Priority C	19%	27%	38%	18%
Priority D	33%	45%	25%	18%
Priority E	19%	18%	13%	35%
Total responses for each area (absolute)	42	11	8	17

Figure 8. Relevance of priorities by CLLD-areas (%), on total responses of each area.

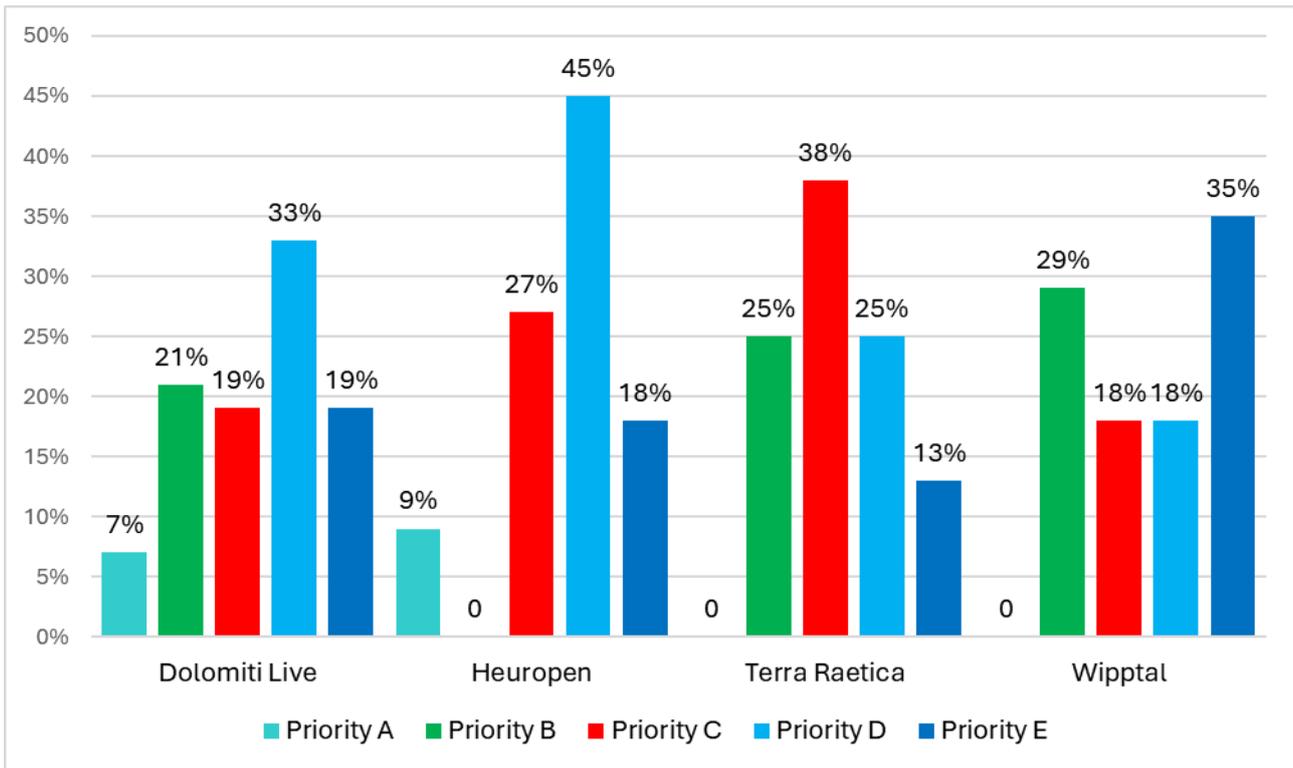
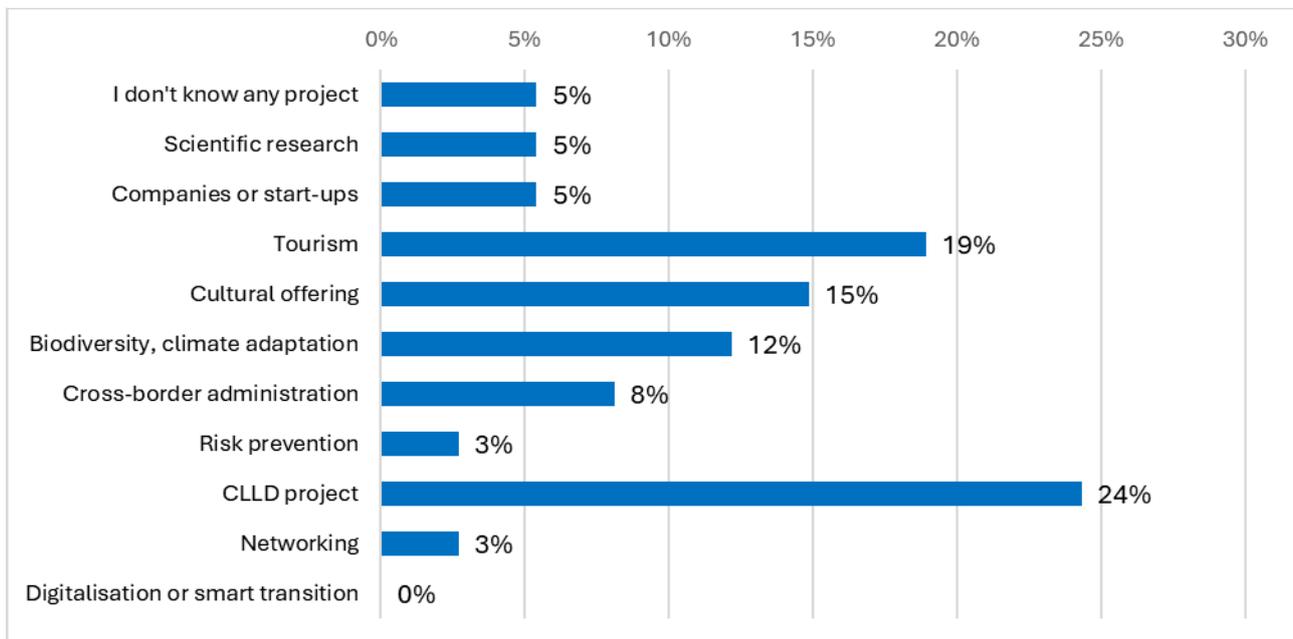


Figure 9. What kind of Interreg projects do you find useful in your area? Frquency (%) on total responses.



Part 2 – Survey questions (DE+IT)

1. Parlaci di te
Über dich
 - a. età (14-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; più di 60)
Alter
 - b. genere? (Maschile / Femminile / Altro / Preferisco non dirlo)
Geschlecht (Männlich/Weiblich/Divers/keine Angabe)
 - c. occupazione (studente o studentessa / neolaureato o neolaureata / lavoratore o lavoratrice
→in che ambito? / altro, specificare)
welche ist deine Tätigkeit? (Student / frisch diplomiert / Berufstätige → in welcher Bereich? / andere, bitte angeben)
 - d. area CLLD di appartenenza, se lo sai (Terra Raetica / Dolomiti Live / Wipptael / Heuropen)
Se non lo sai, specifica il tuo comune:
CLLD-Gebiet, zu dem du gehörst
Wenn du es nicht weißt, gibst du bitte deine Gemeinde an:
 - e. Fai parte di un'organizzazione, ente o altro tipo di associazione nell'area di confine? Sì/No
(→specificare)
Bist du Mitglied einer Organisation, eines Vereins oder sonstiges in deinem Gebiet? Ja /
Nein (→ bitte angeben)
2. esperienze nell'area transfrontaliera CLLD
 - a. in generale, per te com'è vivere vicino a un confine? (Un'opportunità / Uno svantaggio /
Nessuna delle due / Sia un'opportunità che uno svantaggio, dipende dalle circostanze)
→Perché?*
 - Wie ist es, in der Nähe einer Grenze zu leben? (Ein Vorteil / Ein Nachteil / Weder noch /
Sowohl ein Vorteil als auch ein Nachteil, abhängig von den Umständen)
→ Warum?*
 - b. secondo te, in quali ambiti è più utile un progetto di cooperazione transfrontaliera? (matrix
con valutazioni... uguale a citizenDE)
In welchen Bereichen ist in deinem Lebensraum eine Zusammenarbeit sinnvoll? (Multiple-
Choice-Frage mit anschließendem offenem Feld zur Bewertung)

Sviluppare e rafforzare le capacità di ricerca e di innovazione e l'introduzione di tecnologie avanzate per le imprese

(valutazioni da 1 a 5)

Azioni per sostenere la transizione energetica delle filiere produttive

Azioni per promuovere pratiche di economia circolare

Trasferimento di buone pratiche e tecnologie come software innovativi, modelli di machine-learning, materiali di origine biologica

Investimenti per migliorare la connettività e la digitalizzazione

Rendere il territorio meno vulnerabile al rischio di catastrofi connesse al cambiamento climatico

Sensibilizzare sul cambiamento climatico

Informare e formare sulla prevenzione e sulla gestione dei rischi

Preservare e valorizzare la biodiversità del territorio anche nelle aree urbane

Ridurre le forme di inquinamento

Azioni a tutela dell'utilizzo efficiente e sostenibile delle risorse naturali

Valorizzare l'offerta culturale del territorio

Informare e formare sui temi del turismo ecosostenibile e locale

Formulare e/o attuare policy a livello transfrontaliero come progetti di tutela e valorizzazione del paesaggio

Sviluppo e adozione di buone pratiche per ottimizzare i trasporti, i prodotti di turismo sostenibile, gli itinerari legati al patrimonio storico-culturale, ecc

Investimenti materiali e infrastrutturali, ad esempio progetti di valorizzazione e recupero di strutture, spazi naturali, ecc

Promuovere lo sviluppo locale (sociale, economico, ambientale) dei territori attraverso un approccio "dal basso" e con partecipazione attiva della cittadinanza

Migliorare la competitività e rafforzare le imprese locali

Promuovere e sostenere il turismo e lo sviluppo culturale locale

Valorizzare il multilinguismo

Interventi per l'ambiente

Promuovere l'inclusione sociale

Sviluppo dei "villaggi intelligenti" per la resilienza e l'efficienza (dotazione di banda larga, produzione e distribuzione locale di energia alternativa, valorizzazione filiere produttive locali del cibo, ecc)

Adozione di soluzioni di governance a livello amministrativo e giuridico per superare gli ostacoli che limitano la cooperazione nell'area di confine

Iniziative di informazione e formazione su temi come l'integrazione dei dati territoriali nei sistemi informativi degli enti, la promozione dell'uso efficiente delle risorse e riduzione della CO2, ecc

Formulazione e/o attuazione di policy a livello transfrontaliero per potenziare la mobilità sostenibile elettrica, o favorire la cooperazione nell'ambito della telemedicina, ecc

Sviluppo e adozione di buone pratiche come la digitalizzazione degli archivi comunali e lo sviluppo di connessioni nelle aree periferiche

- c. è a conoscenza di uno o più progetti nel tuo territorio? (massimo 3 scelte... traduzione uguale a citizenDE)
Kannst du ein Interreg-Projekt nennen, das in deinem Lebensumfeld sinnvoll gefunden hast? (Mehrfachauswahl, max. 3)

No, non conosco nessun progetto

Si, un progetto di ricerca

Si, un progetto per sostenere le imprese o start-up

Si, un progetto turistico, come un itinerario

Si, un progetto di valorizzazione dell'offerta culturale

Si, un progetto per la biodiversità e il cambiamento climatico

Si, un progetto di miglioramento dell'amministrazione transfrontaliera

Si, un progetto di prevenzione o riduzione dei rischi ambientali

Si, un progetto CLLD (Sviluppo regionale a livello locale)

Si, un progetto di networking

Si, un progetto riguardante la digitalizzazione o la transizione smart

Altro (specificare)

- d. hai partecipato allo svolgimento di un progetto transfrontaliero? ad esempio sei stato coinvolto nella presentazione o nella definizione di progetti, hai partecipato a delle riunioni, ecc

Si / No

Wurdest du an der Entwicklung eines grenzüberschreitenden Projekts beteiligt? z.B. warst du an der Präsentation oder Definition von Projekten beteiligt, haben an Sitzungen teilgenommen, usw?

Ja / Nein

- e. se la risposta precedente era affermativa:
 - Descrivi in che modo eri coinvolto (facoltativo)
 - Ritieni l'esperienza positiva o c'è qualcosa da migliorare (facoltativo)Wenn ja:
 - beschreibst du, wie du beteiligt warst (optional)
 - Bist du der Meinung: dass sie die Erfahrung positiv war oder gibt es etwas zu verbessern? (optional)
- f. Ti hanno chiesto di essere partner di un progetto? (Sì / No)
Wurdest du gefragt, als Partner in einem Projekt teilzunehmen? (Ja / Nein)
- g. Se sì, hai partecipato. Sì / No → Perché?*
- Wenn Ja, hast du teilgenommen? Ja / Nein → Warum?*

3. Quale sarebbe il progetto di cooperazione transfrontaliera Italia-Austria dei tuoi sogni?
Was wäre dein Traumprojekt für eine grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit zwischen Italien und Österreich?