



Overcoming border obstacles

CB Review

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Cross-Border Review

- Launched by Commissioner Crețu in Sept. 2015
- Focus on **legal & administrative obstacles** in EU border regions
- Three pillars:
 1. Study on legal & administrative obstacles in EU border regions
 2. Stakeholder dialogue – workshops
 3. Public consultation

End of exploration process: **January 2017**

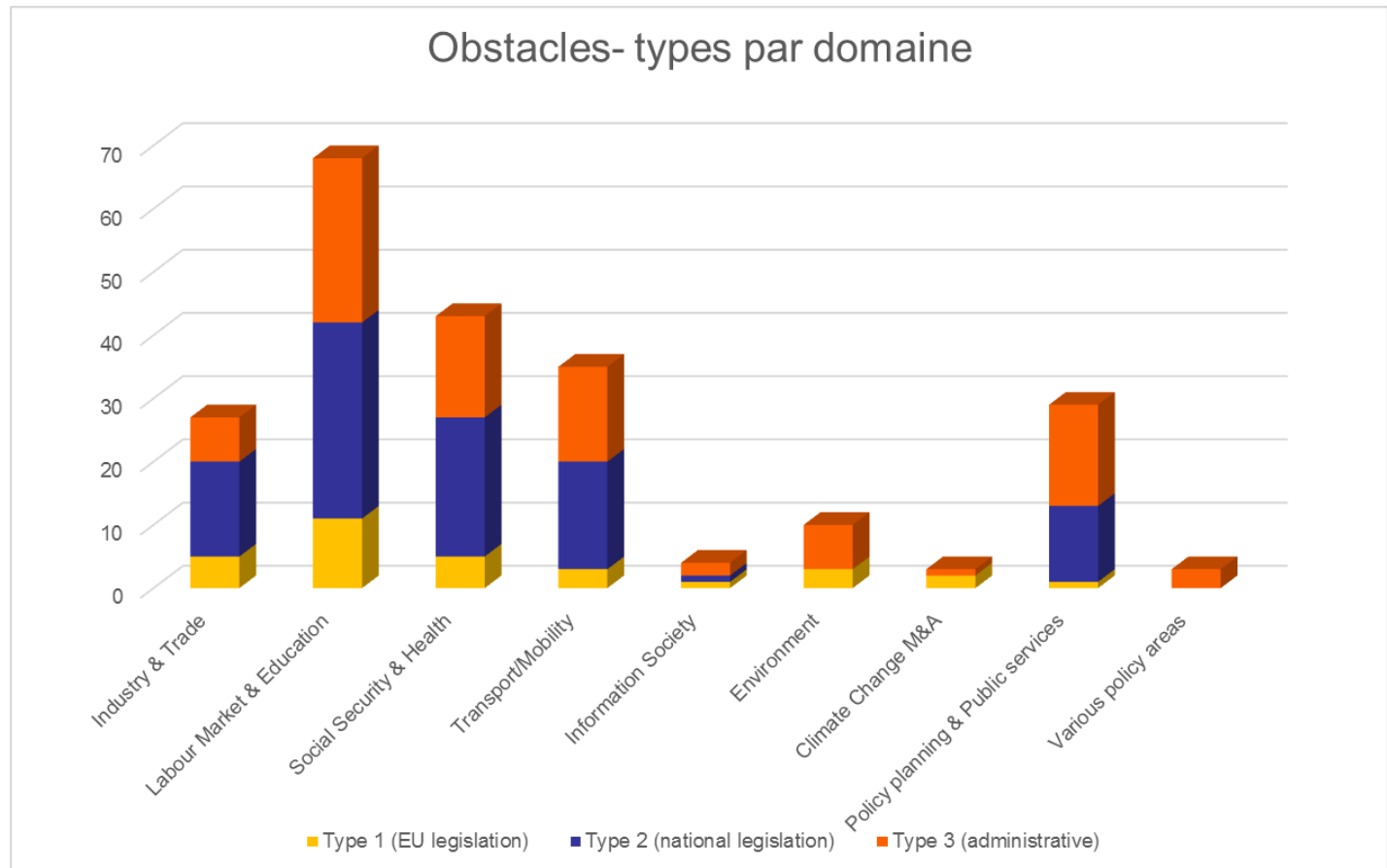
1. Study on legal & administrative obstacles

- Study covering EU internal land-borders, incl. AD, CH, LI, NO

- Main deliverables:
 - 240 obstacles
 - 5 key sectors most affected –
 - i. Labour market, education and training
 - ii. Social security and health
 - iii. Transport
 - iv. Business
 - v. Services of common interest – joint planning

Overwhelming administrative & legal obstacles

With the following concentration :



Case studies

Nr.	Topic	Border/Case
1	Exportation of goods and cross-border provision of commercial services	IE-UK
2	Border-regional business activities and cross-border development of entrepreneurship (business incubators, start-ups, centres, venture capital)	BG-EL
3	Mobility of cross-border workers (commuter flows)	DK-SE
4	Mobility of trainees, students and teachers	DE-NL
5+6	Recognition of diploma or professional qualification certificates	ES-PT BE-DE-FR-LU
7	Access to social insurance system (e.g. pensions, disability insurance)	BE-DE-FR-LU
8	Access to health care services (i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary care)	EE-LV
9	Compatibility of health systems (e-health)	SE-FI
10	Scope and quality of regional/local and cross-border transport infrastructures and of related maintenance services (e.g. snow removal on roads and rail tracks etc.)	DE-PL
11+12	Public transport by bus, rail, light rail or metro (e.g. quality, service, permits)	DE-FR, AT-SI
13	Spatial planning (national, regional, local) and cross-border territorial planning	BE-FR
14	Emergency and rescue services	SK-HU
15	Public security and crime prevention (police cooperation)	DE-CZ

2. Stakeholder dialogue - workshops

- Feedback from stakeholders and border associations (e.g. AEBR, MOT, NCM, eurodistricts, eurometropole, euroregions)

- Progress so far:
 - Workshop 1 (Sept. 2015): Methodological aspects of the inventory (strengths/weaknesses of the approach)
 - Workshop 2 (Jan. 2016): Policy areas particularly affected by border obstacles, examples from regions

- Steps ahead:
 - Workshops 3 on 27 September 2016 + Workshop 4 in December 2016

3. Public consultation on overcoming obstacles in border regions

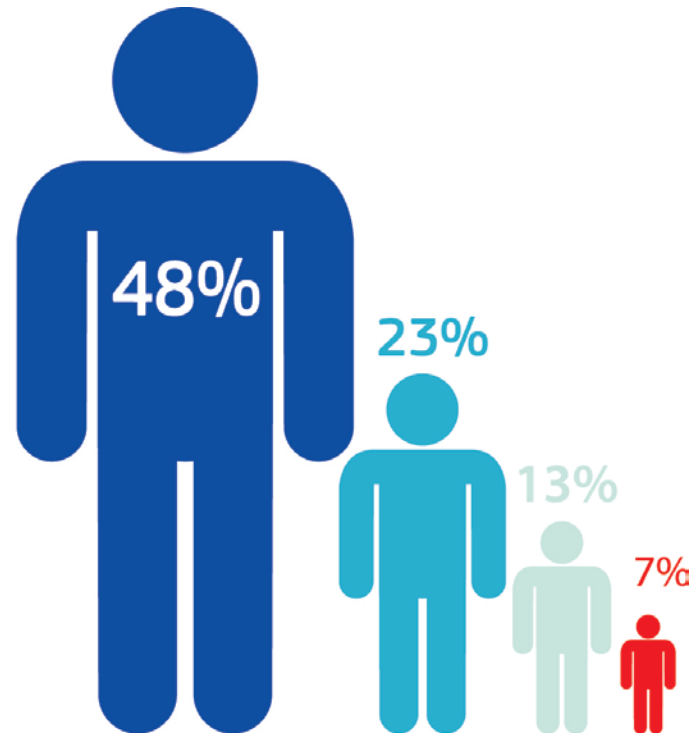
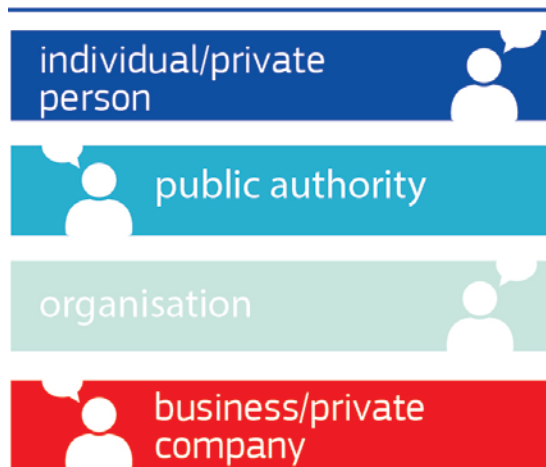
- Open 21 Sept-21 Dec 2015
- All official languages covering EU internal borders + AD, CH, LI, NO
- Online survey covering border obstacles and border solutions
- 623 replies received

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/consultations/overcoming-obstacles-border-regions/



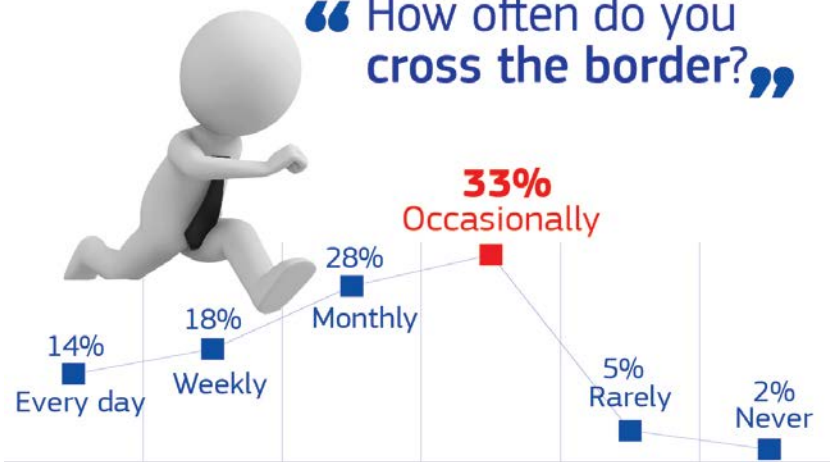
Type of respondent

PROFILE OF RESPONDENT



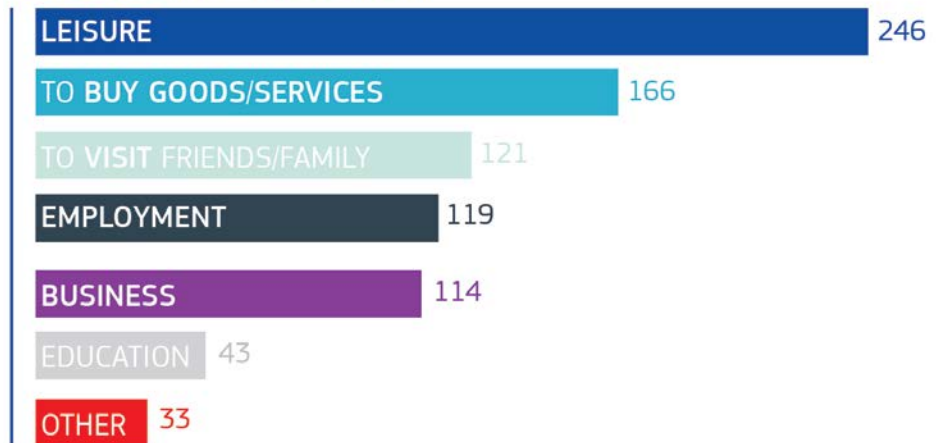
Frequency & reason(s) for crossing the border

“ How often do you cross the border? ”



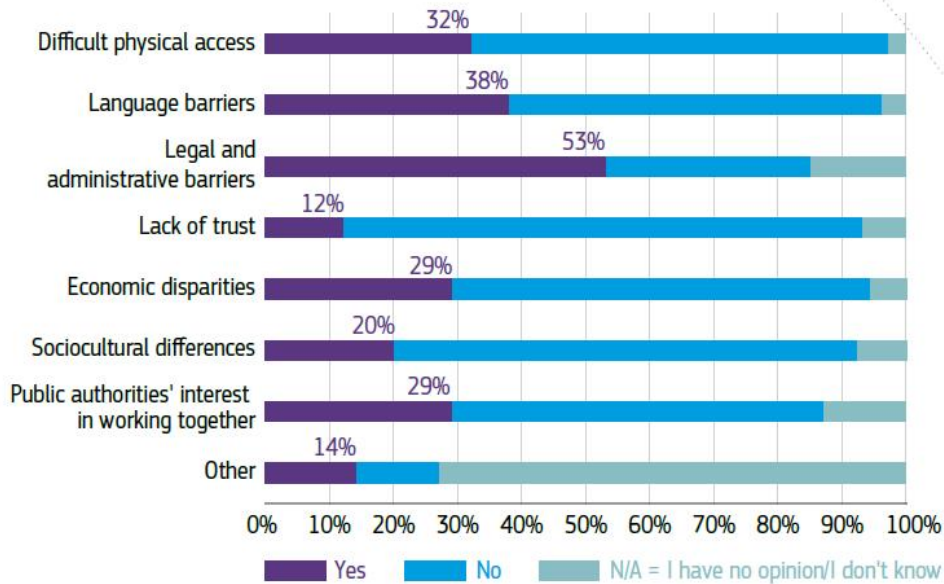
PURPOSE

FOR CROSSING THE BORDER



Main obstacles & general trends

Figure 5: Relevance and frequency of obstacles



1st place : Legal and administrative barriers, esp. labour market

2nd place: language

3rd place : access



Observations

- Preliminary results from **all three pillars** point at significant impact of legal and admin. obstacles in several policy areas.
- **Labour mobility** by far the top issue. All aspects affected: training (apprentices), skills recognition, vacancies publication, tax, pensions, benefits, social security
- **Language difficulties**: not enough bi-lingualism, inflexible language rules in the administrations
- **Public transport** connections and associated issues (single ticketing, lack of info, uncoordinated timetables, difficult joint infrastructure development)

Observations

- The more interaction, the more obstacles get visible
- General lack of reliable information to citizens
- All levels of government have a role to play – but most obstacles stem from the national context.
- Hinting at solutions
 - i. More alignment – more flexibility
 - ii. Better info provision
 - iii. Multi-lingual education
 - iv. Promotion of good practices: Benelux, Nordic Council, EGTCs, etc

IT ALL DEPENDS ON GOOD WILL AND PEOPLE INVOLVED

Next steps

- Finalise inventory and case studies – end January 2017
- Complete stakeholders' workshops (Dec. 2016)

- Final conclusions and recommendations (Q1 2017)
- Communication of the Commission ? Including Governance recommendations (all levels)? – ***to be decided soon....***



Follow the progress via:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/cross-border/review