

Public consultation on the future Interreg Mediterranean Programme

May 19th – July 15th, 2020

Document uniquement disponible en anglais

Interreg
*M*editerranean



Programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
Programme cofinancé par le Fonds européen de développement régional

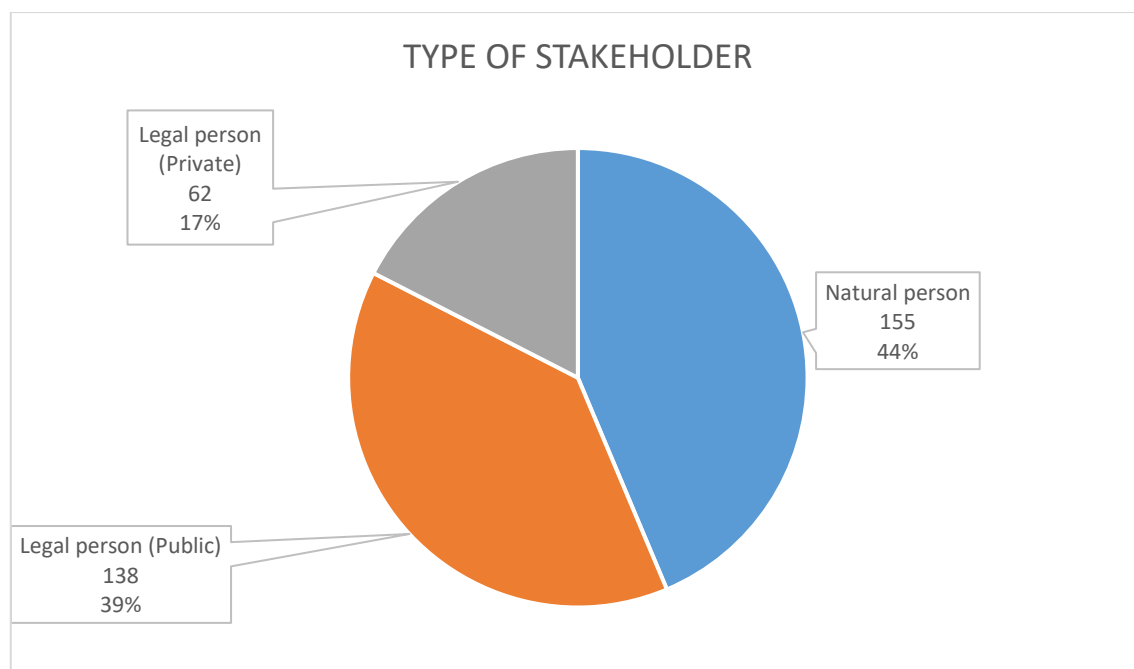
SUMMARY

CONTEXT	3
WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN?	8
HOW BEST TO RESPOND TO THESE CHALLENGES?	13
INCREASE INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES (INTER-PROGRAMME COORDINATION)	24

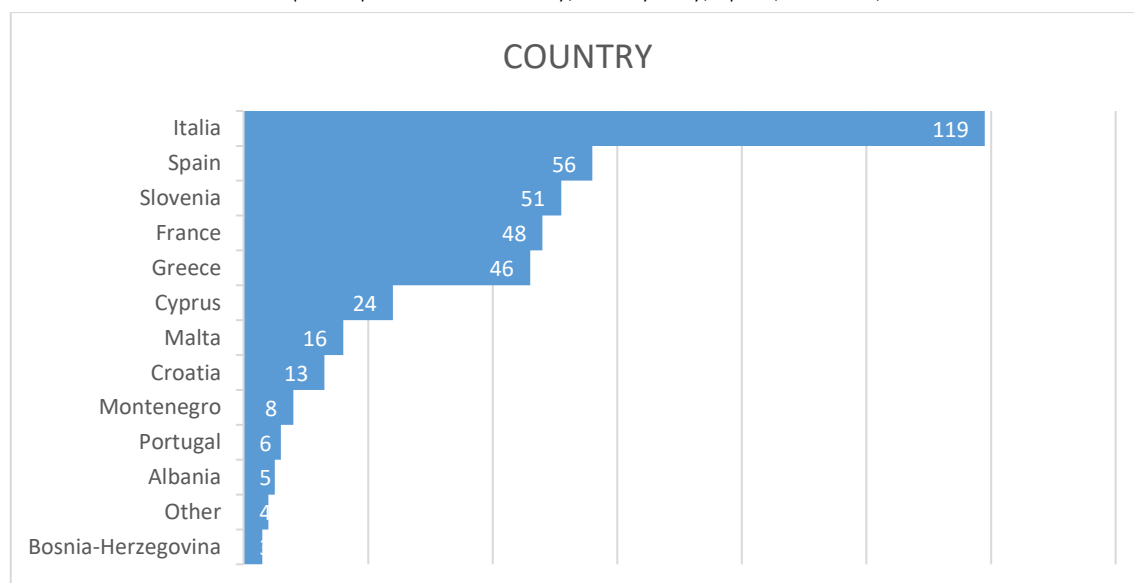
CONTEXT

This survey was online from 19th of May to the 15th of July 2020. A total of 399 responses were received, including 178 partners for the 2014-2020 programming period.

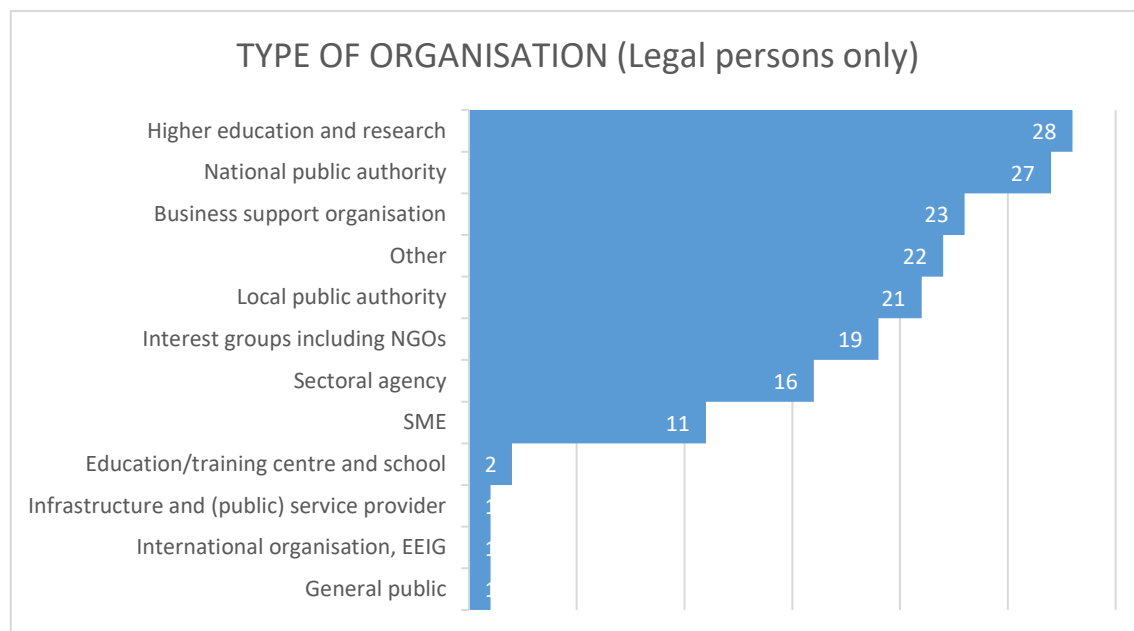
The majority of stakeholders are legal entities (56%), divided between the public (39%) and the private sector (17%). Natural persons represent 44% of the responses.



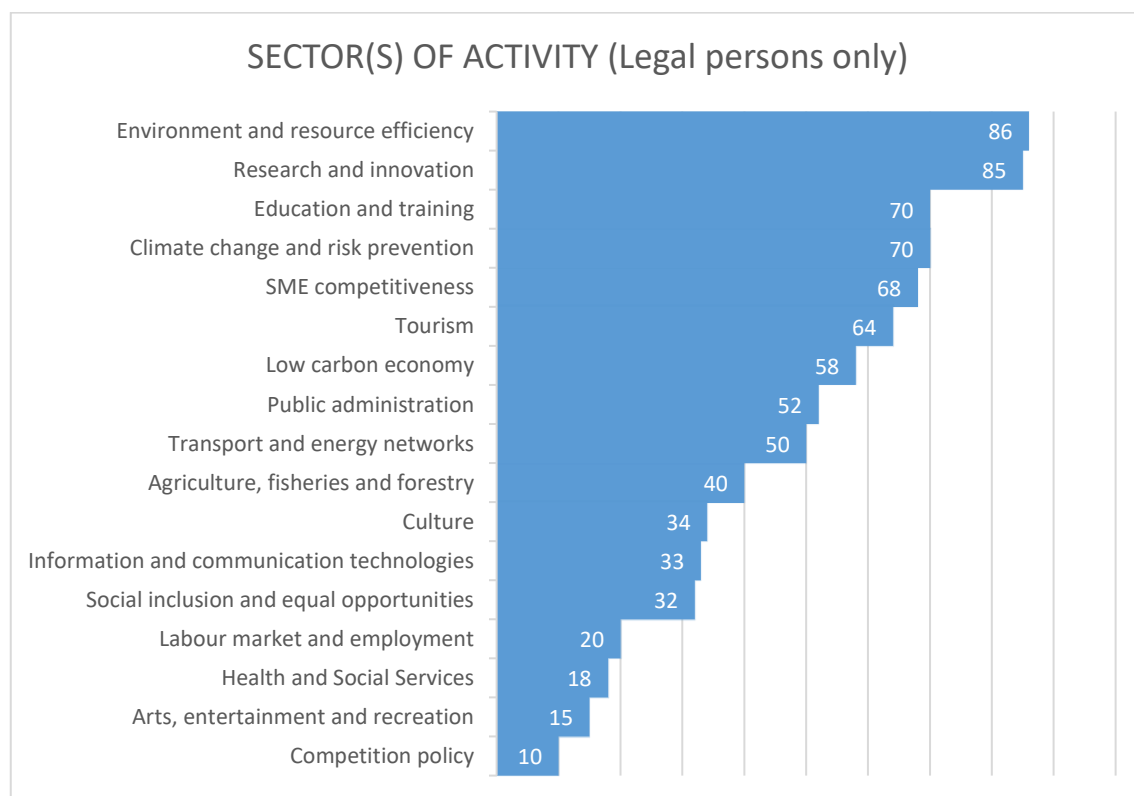
Fifteen countries participated in this survey, mainly Italy, Spain, Slovenia, France and Greece.



Among legal entities, the main types of organizations that responded were “higher education and research”, “national public authority” and “business support organization”.

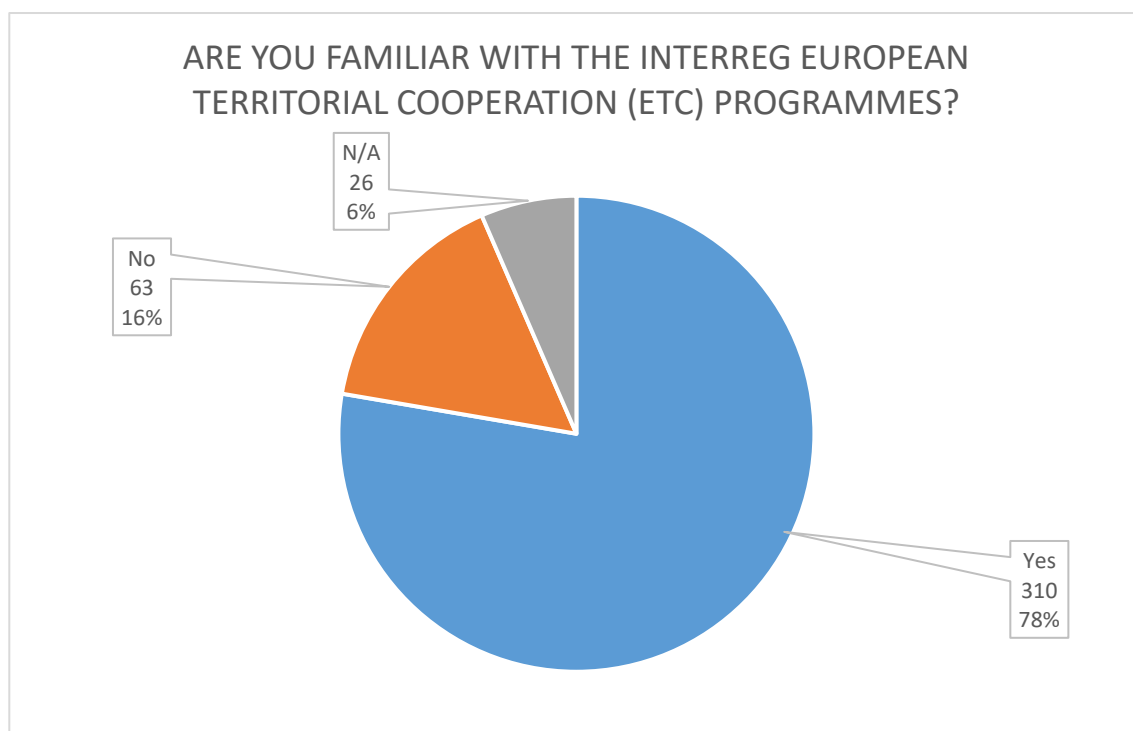


Still among the 200 responses from legal persons, the most represented sectors of activity are “Environment and resource efficiency”, “Research and innovation”, “Education and training”, “Climate change and risk prevention”, “SME competitiveness” and “Tourism” (several responses were allowed)

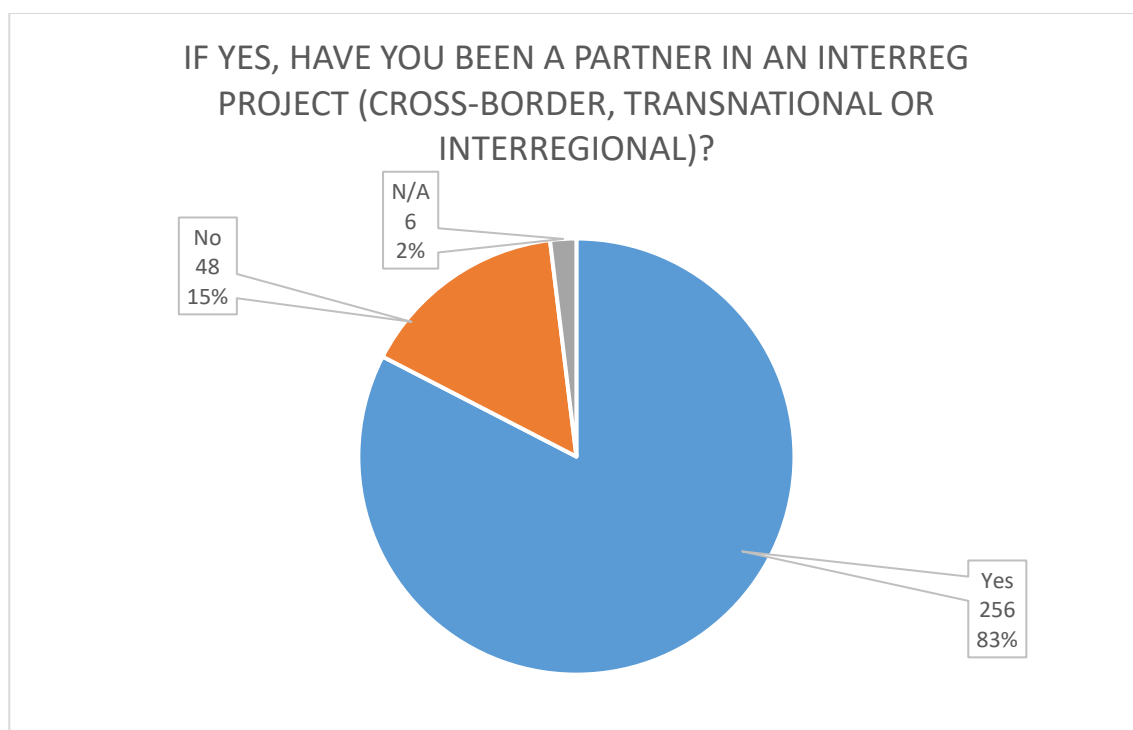


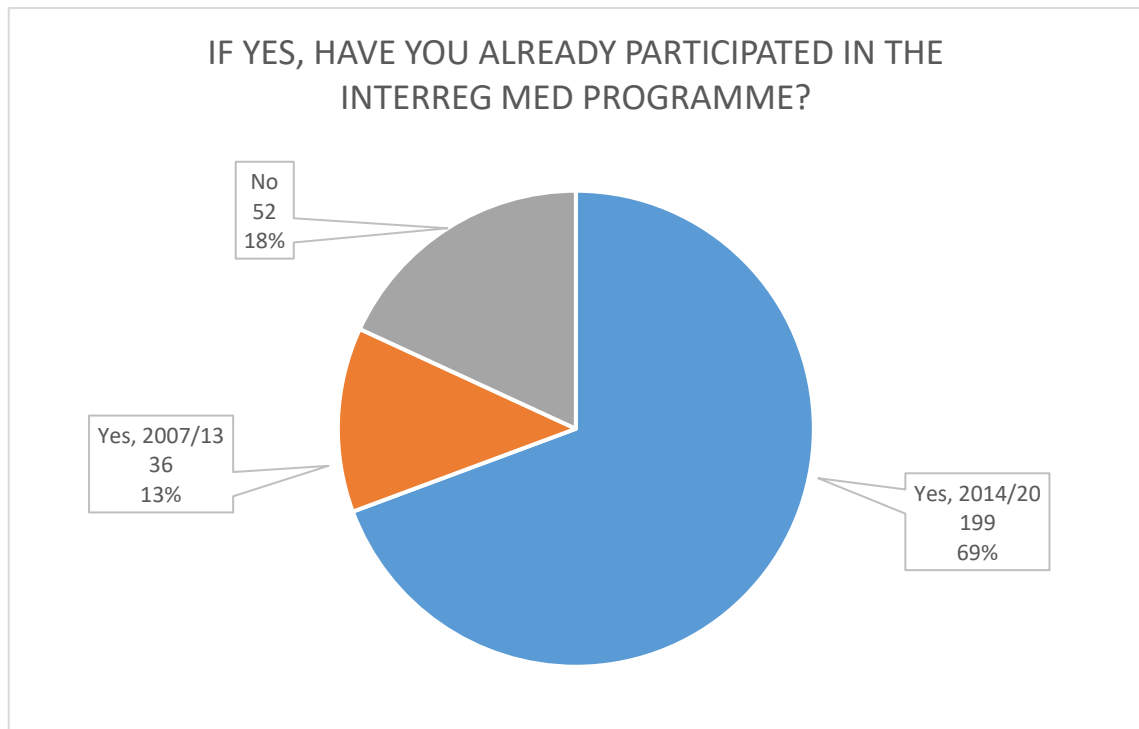
Legal entities were asked to qualify their institution/organization using keywords. The more the keyword was used, the higher its size in the keyword cloud presented below





A large majority of participants (78%) have a good knowledge of Interreg European Territorial Cooperation programs and among this population, more than 80% have already participated in an Interreg project.





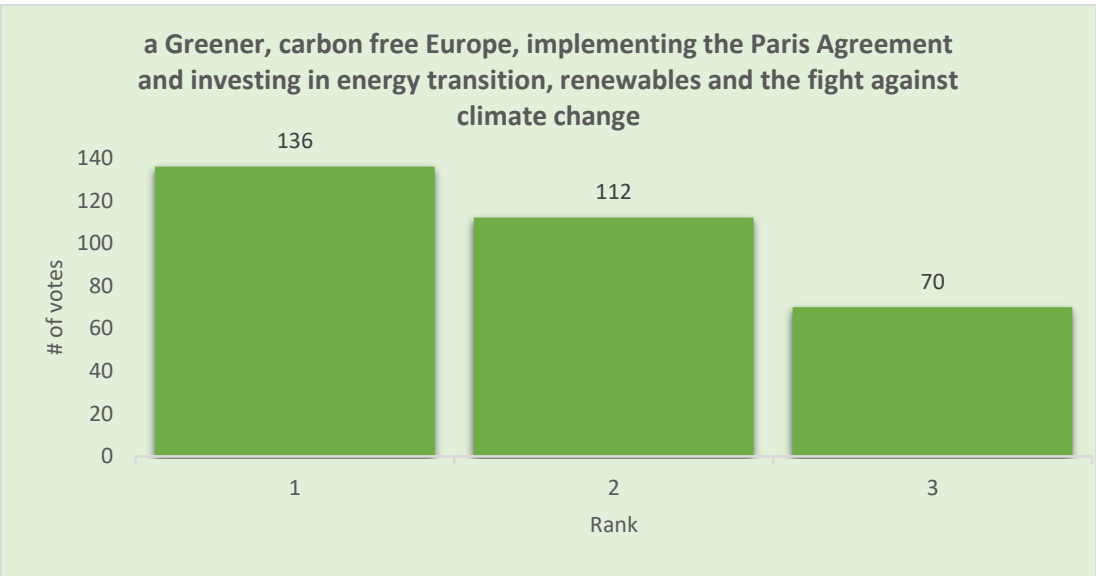
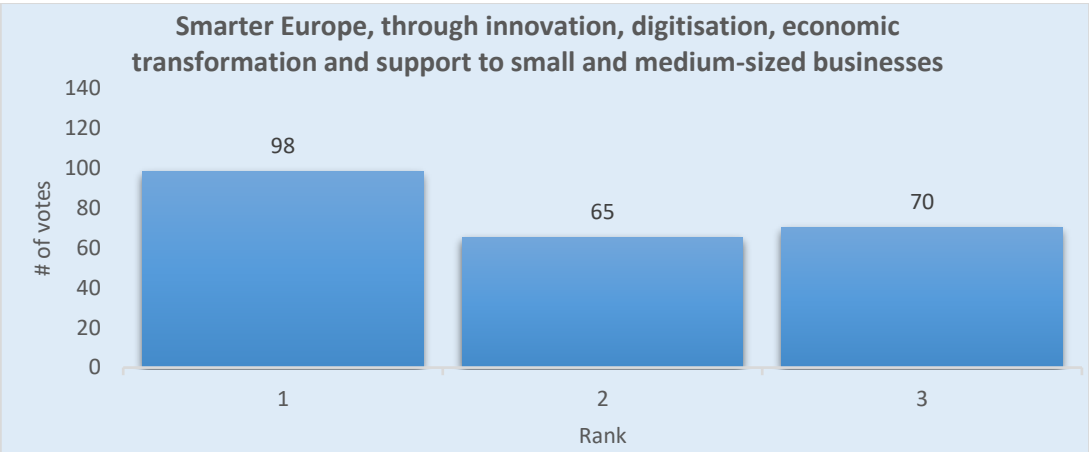
Among the partners, 69% have participated in a MED 2014-2020 project against 13% in a MED 2007-2013 project and 18% have never participated in a MED project.

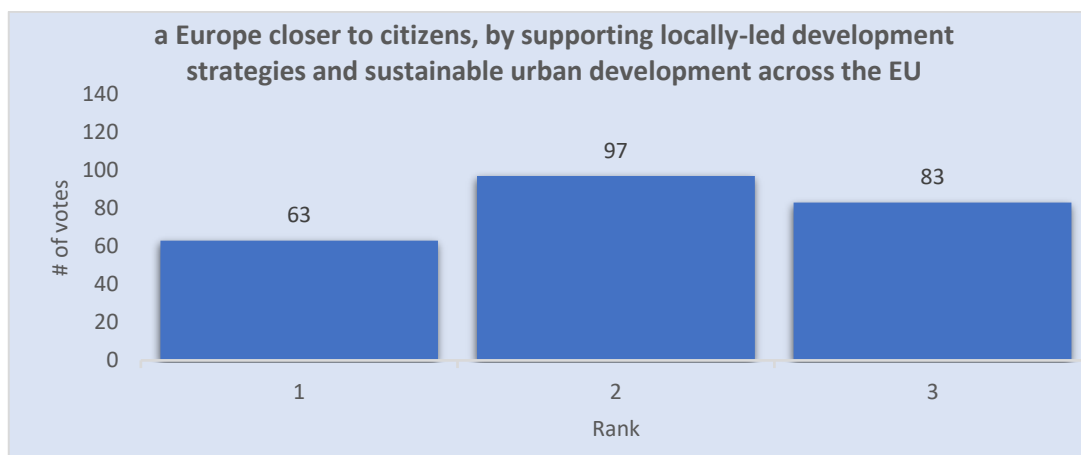
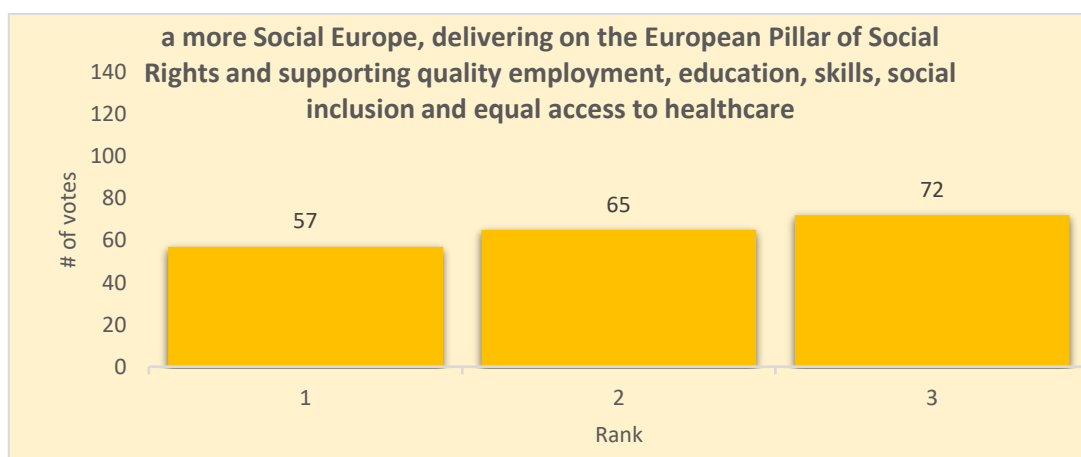
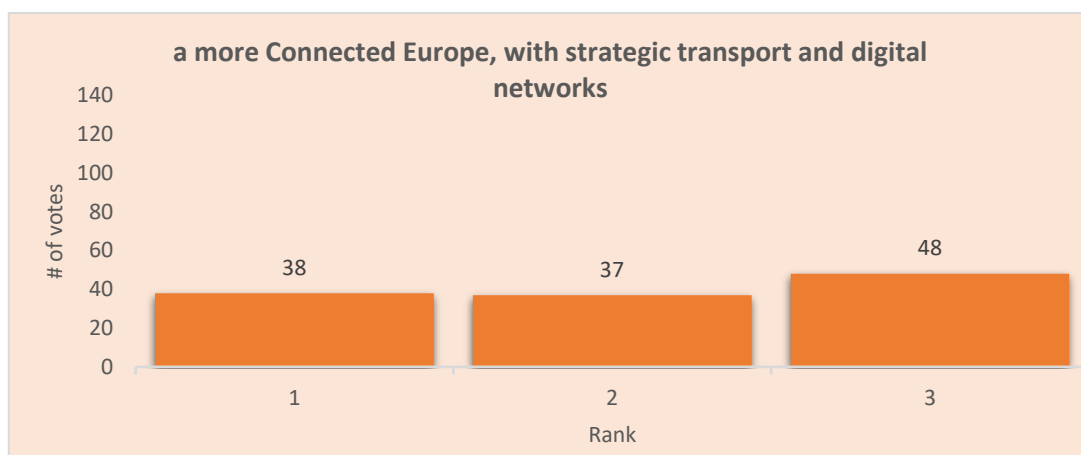
The current partners (2014-2020) therefore represent almost 50% of the total population of participants in the survey.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN?

Survey participants ranked the topics they consider most important among the policy objectives and those to which they wish to contribute, in the framework of transnational cooperation.

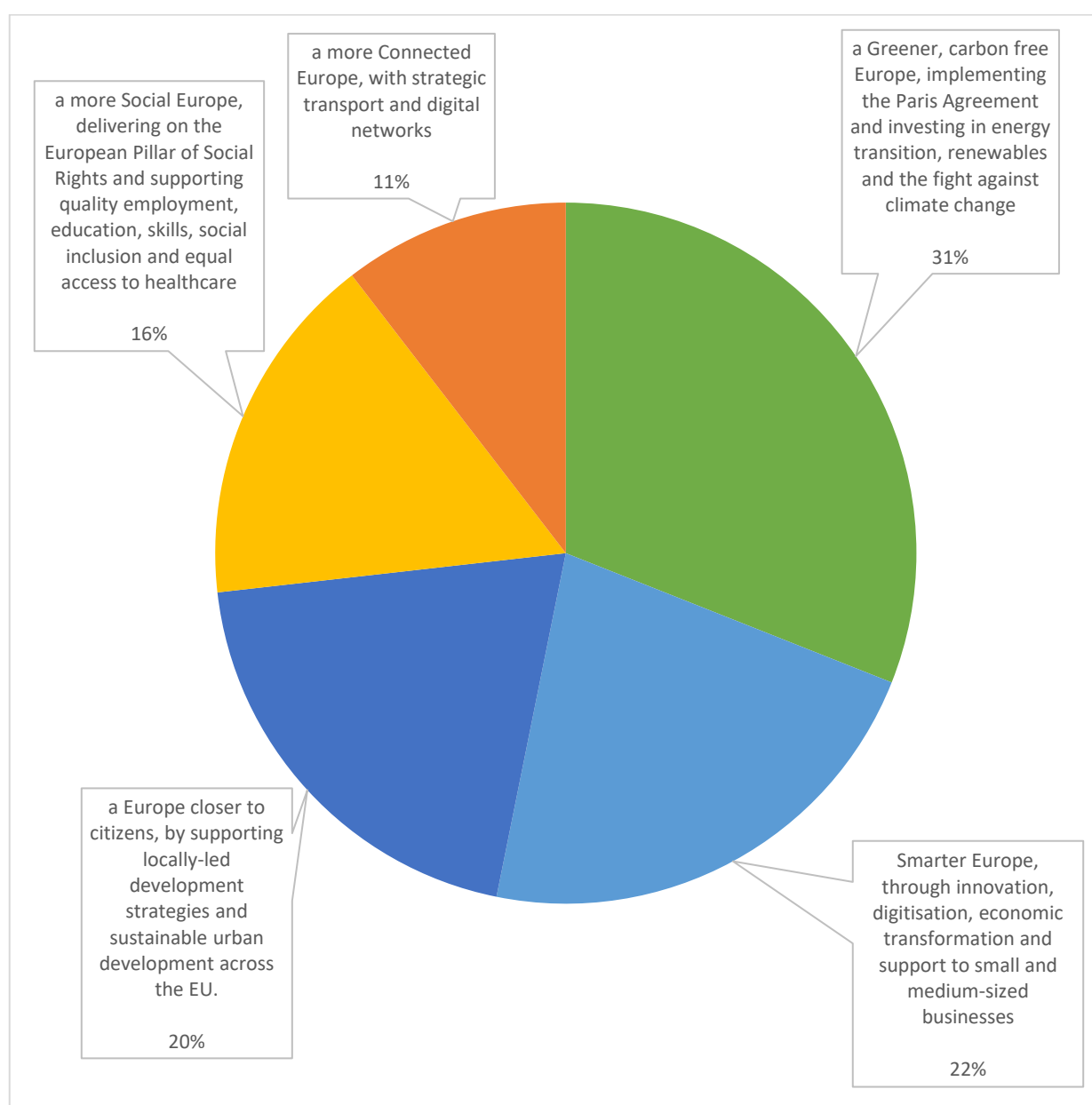
You can find below the detailed answers, by rank and number of votes, for each topic.





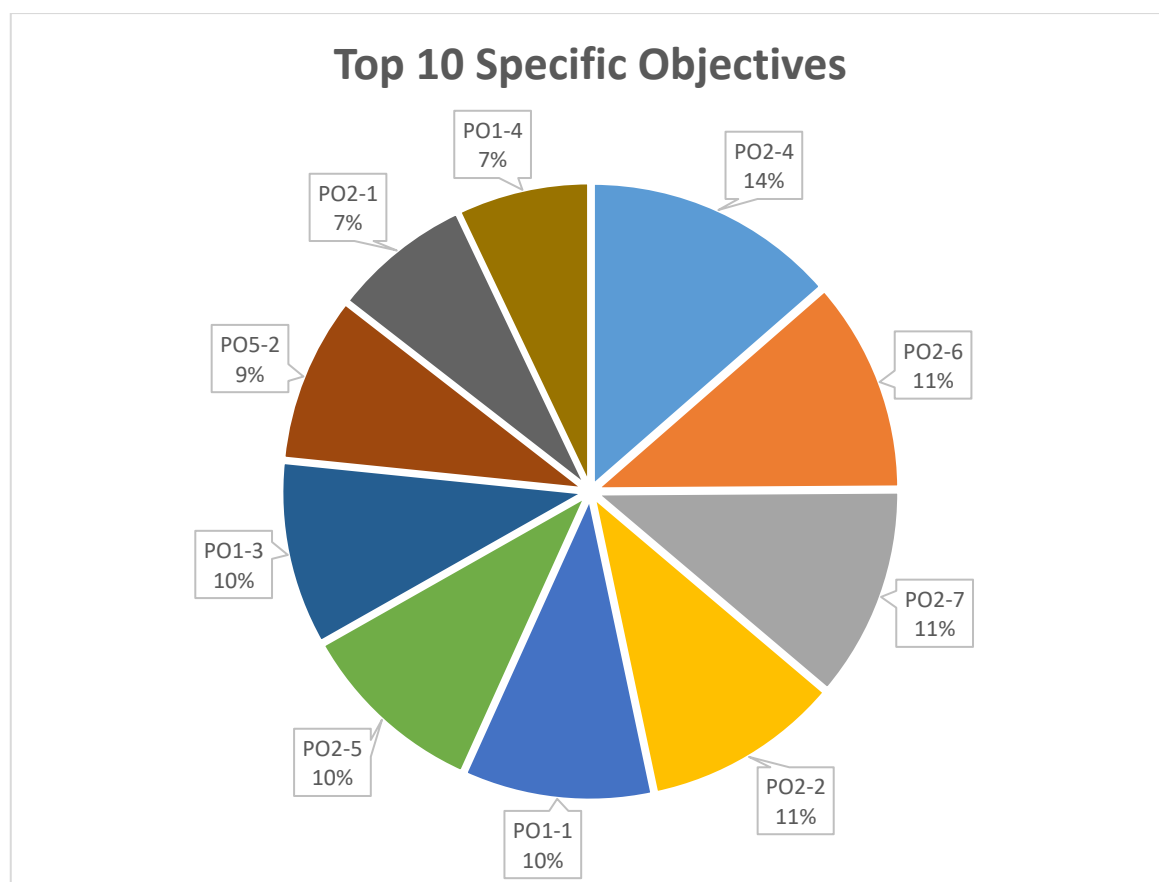
By weighting the answers according to their rank, we have come up with this ranking of policy objectives :

1. a Greener, carbon free Europe, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change
2. Smarter Europe, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses
3. A Europe closer to citizens, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.
4. A more Social Europe, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare
5. A more Connected Europe, with strategic transport and digital networks

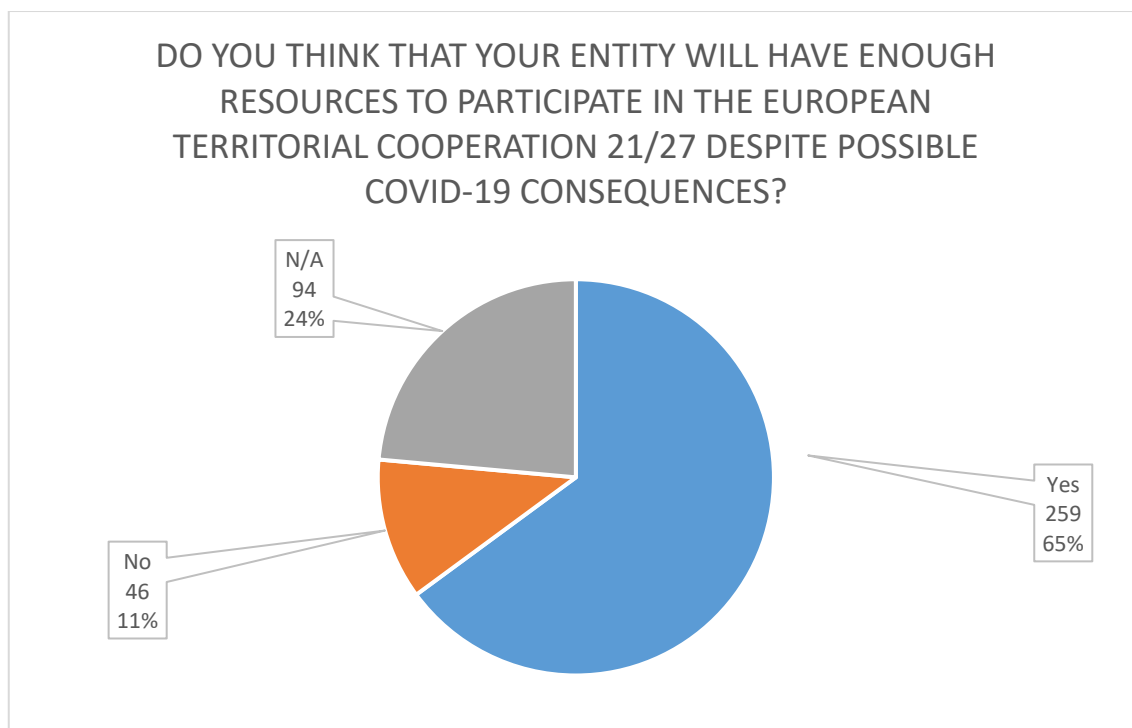
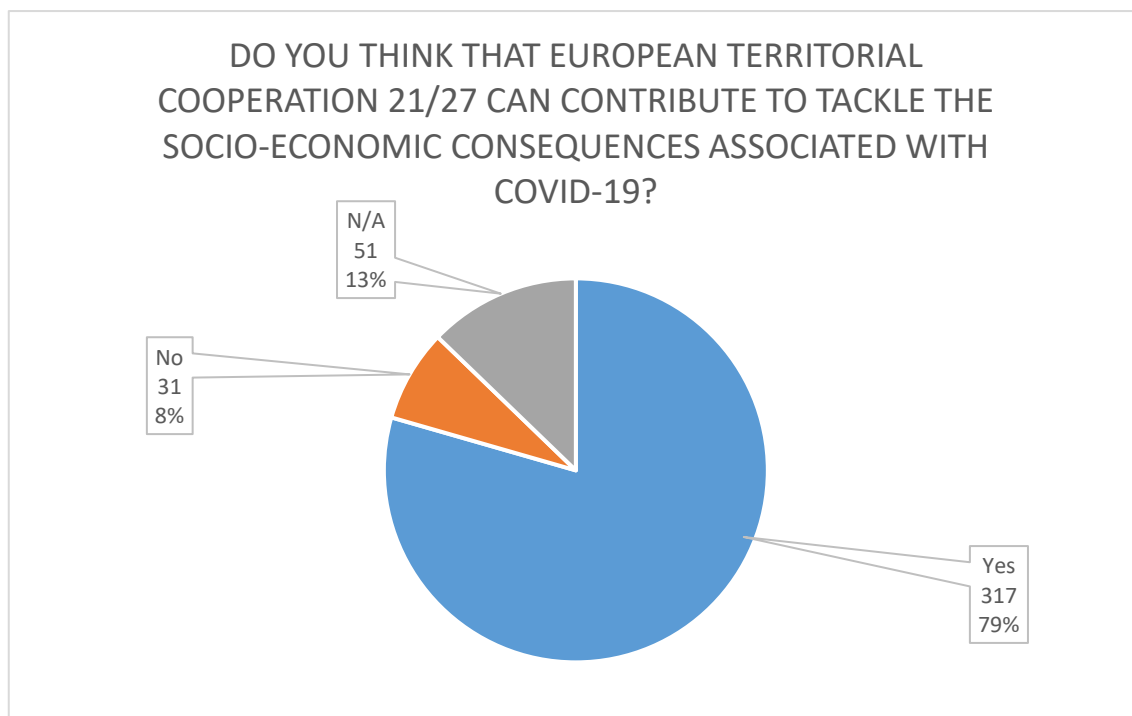


Participants were asked to indicate what the priorities for North Mediterranean area were, and to do so, to rank a list of the specific objectives (this list was proposed by the European Commission in May 2018 and still under discussion). After weighting the answers concerning the 21 specific objectives, a top ten of the most chosen objectives has been realized:

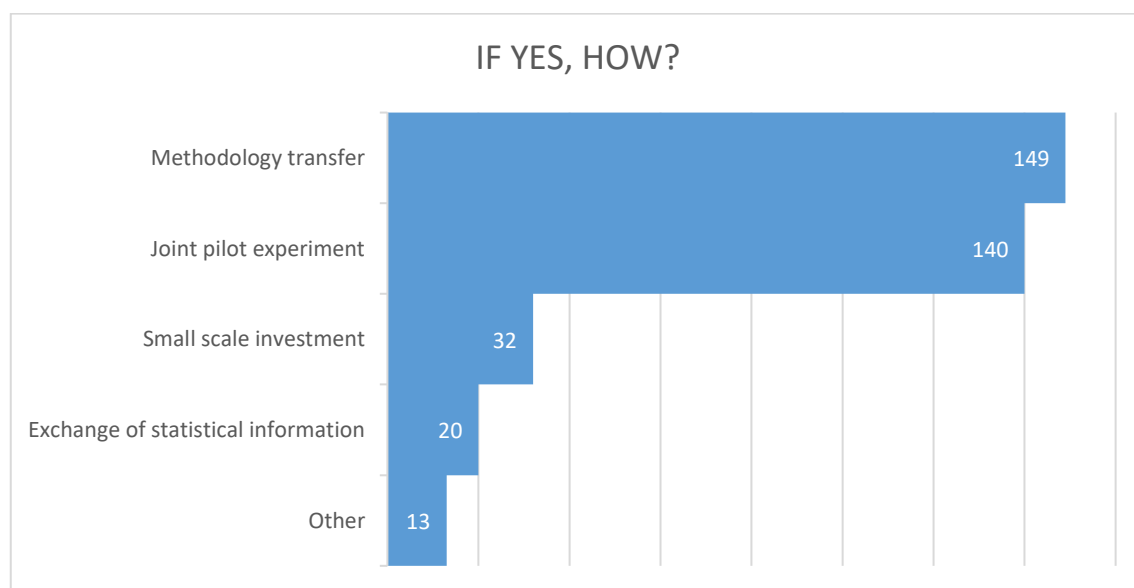
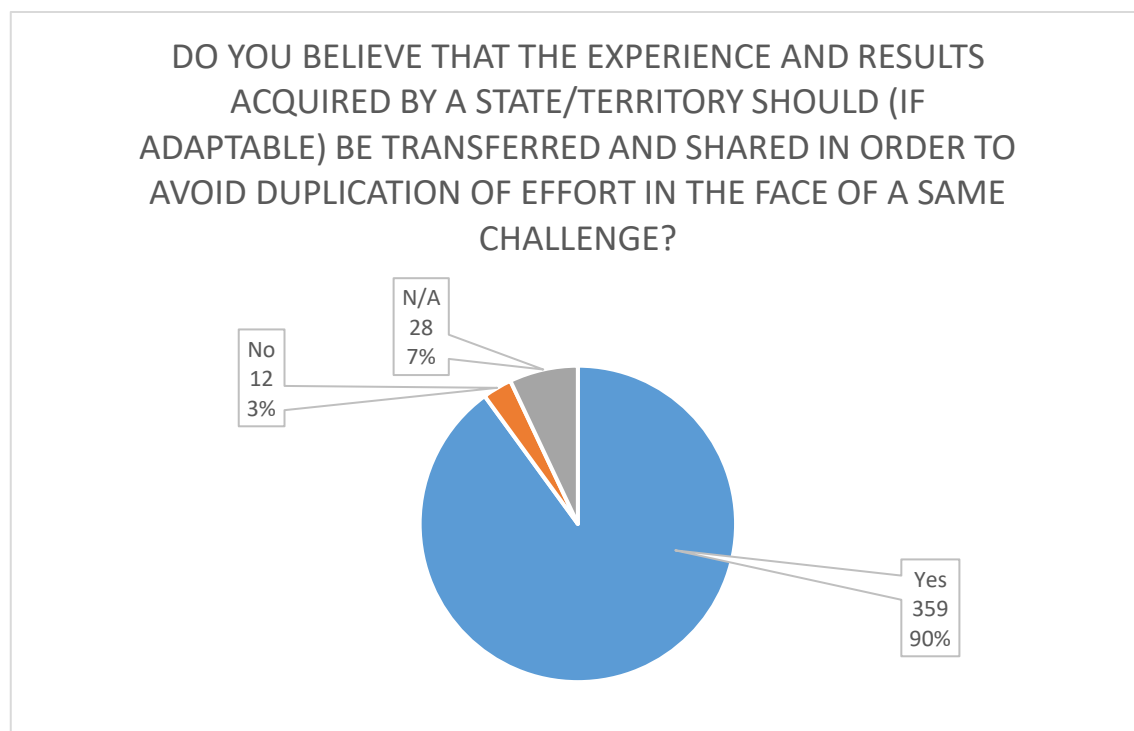
1. **PO2-4** (Greener Europe): promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience
2. **PO2-6** (Greener Europe): promoting the transition to a circular economy
3. **PO2-7** (Greener Europe): enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution
4. **PO2-2** (Greener Europe): promoting renewable energy
5. **PO1-1** (Smarter Europe): enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
6. **PO2-5** (Greener Europe): promoting sustainable water management
7. **PO1-3** (Smarter Europe): enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs
8. **PO5-2** (Europe closer to citizens): fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas also through community-led local development.
9. **PO2-1** (Greener Europe): promoting energy efficiency measures
10. **PO1-4** (Smarter Europe): developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship



The two following questions concern more particularly the health crisis of Covid-19 and its consequences.



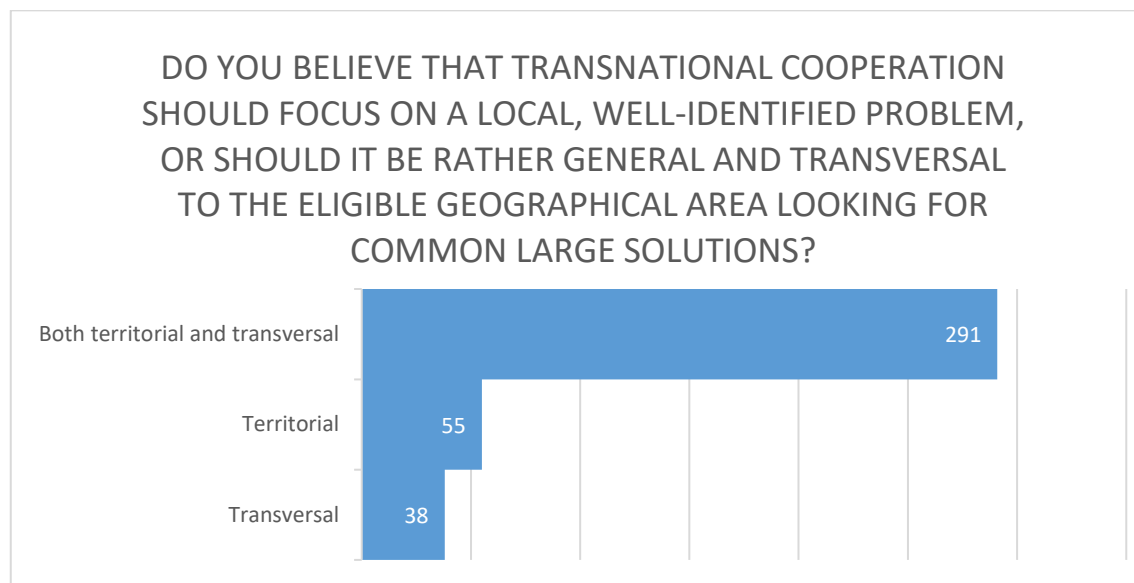
HOW BEST TO RESPOND TO THESE CHALLENGES?



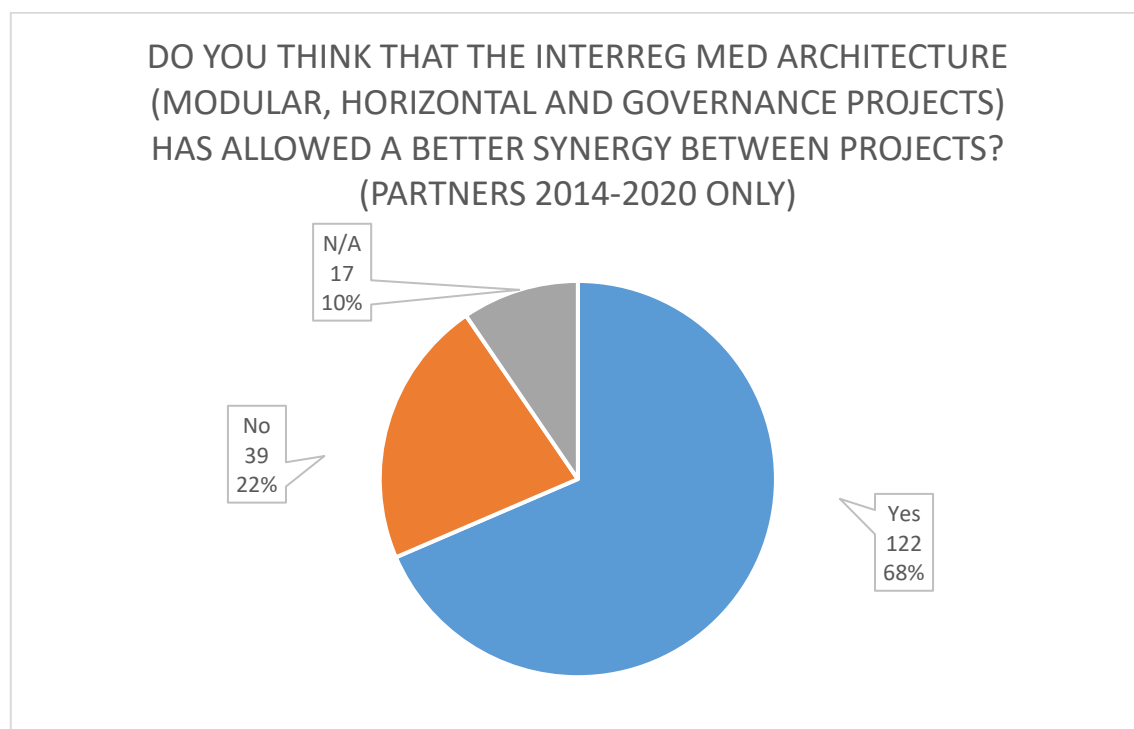
The transfer and sharing of experience is approved by a large majority of participants (90%).

The transfer methodology and the joint pilot experiment are the most popular ways, ahead of the small scale investment and the exchange of statistical information.

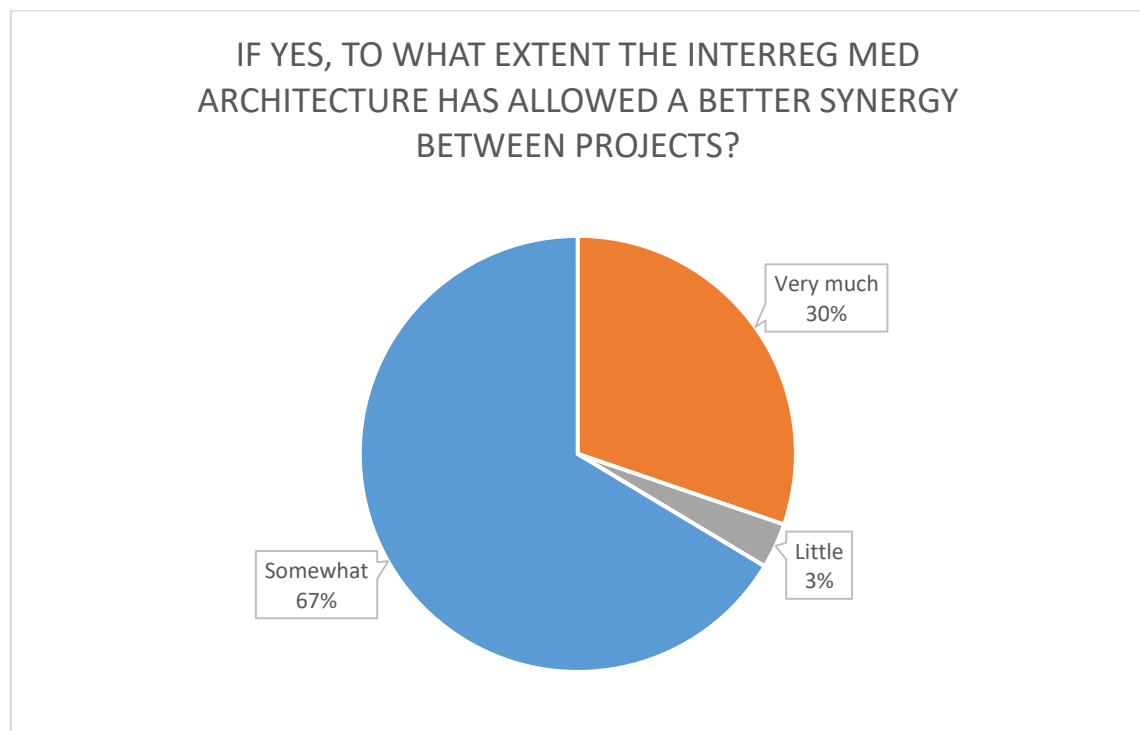
Other possibilities such as coordination platforms, digital libraries, networking and common projects were also proposed.



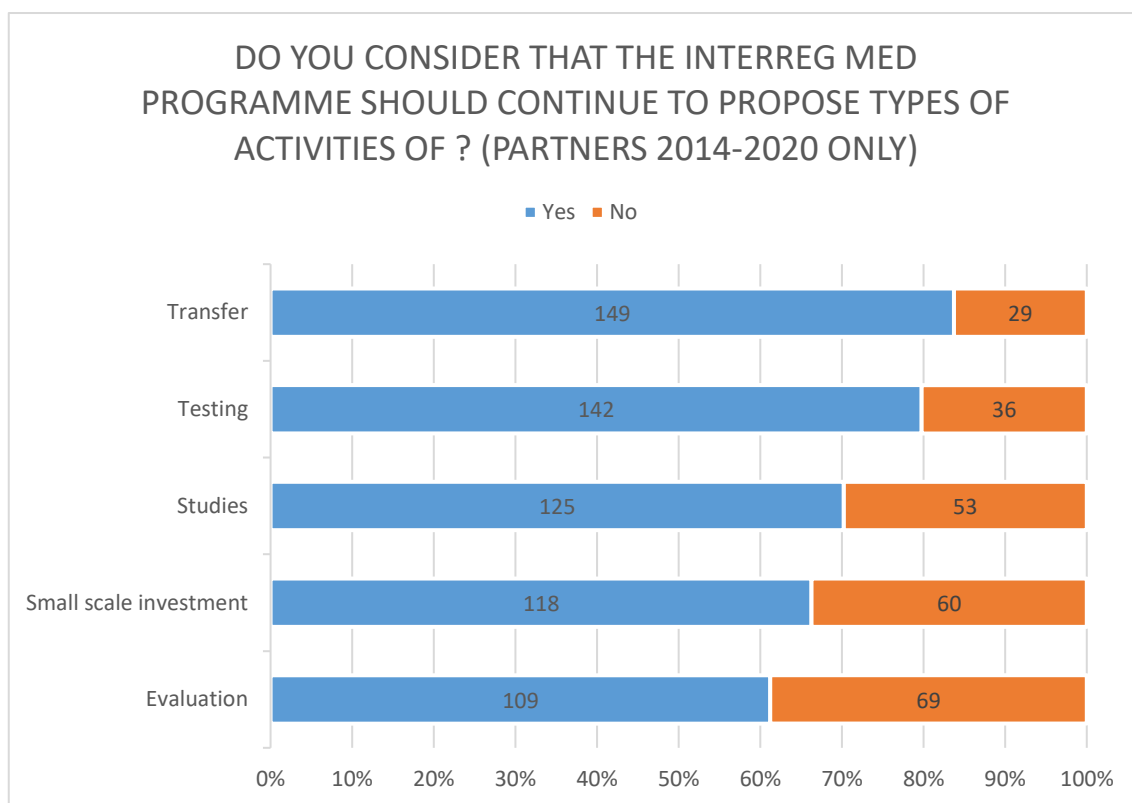
For most participants, transnational cooperation should focus on both territorial and transversal problematics.



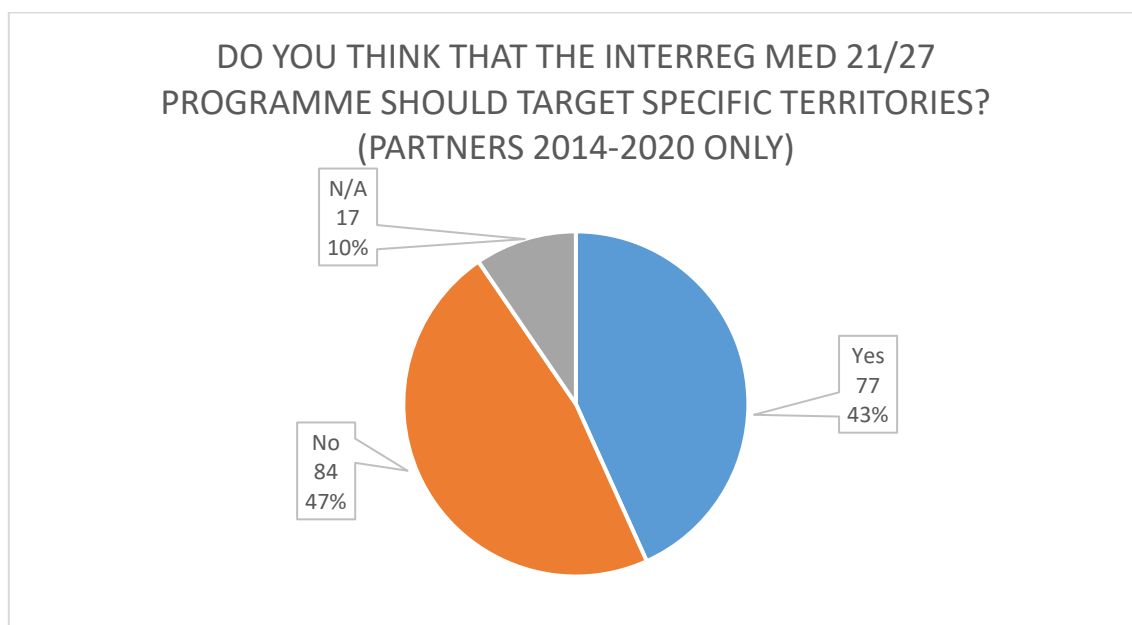
The majority of participants (68%) consider that the Interreg MED programme has allowed a better synergy between projects in particular thanks to the horizontal projects through thematic communities which have played an important role to transfer and capitalise the results of modular project by the exchange of experiences. However, the architecture also appears as administratively heavy and complex and where the role of Governance projects is not always clear (22% of answers).



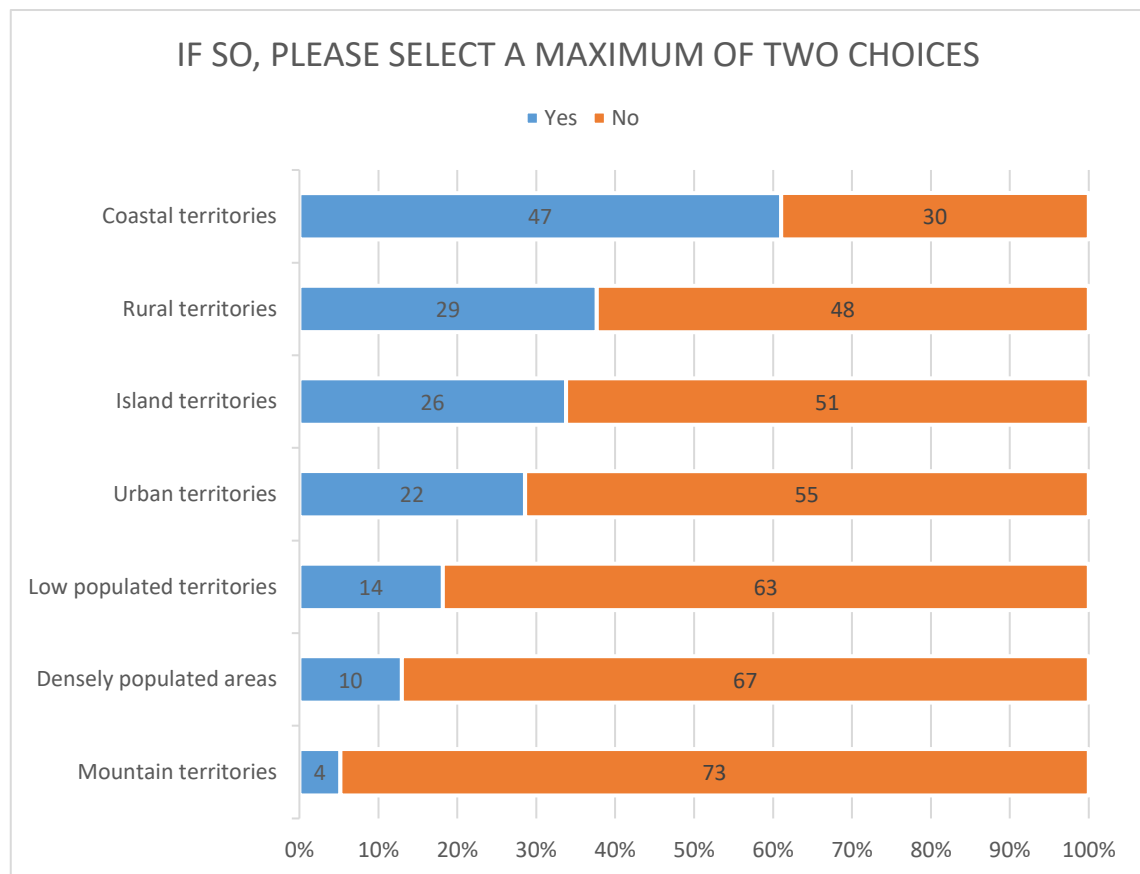
For most participants, synergy between project has been successful through the exchanges of experiences, best practices and tools as well as networking within the thematic communities (HP).



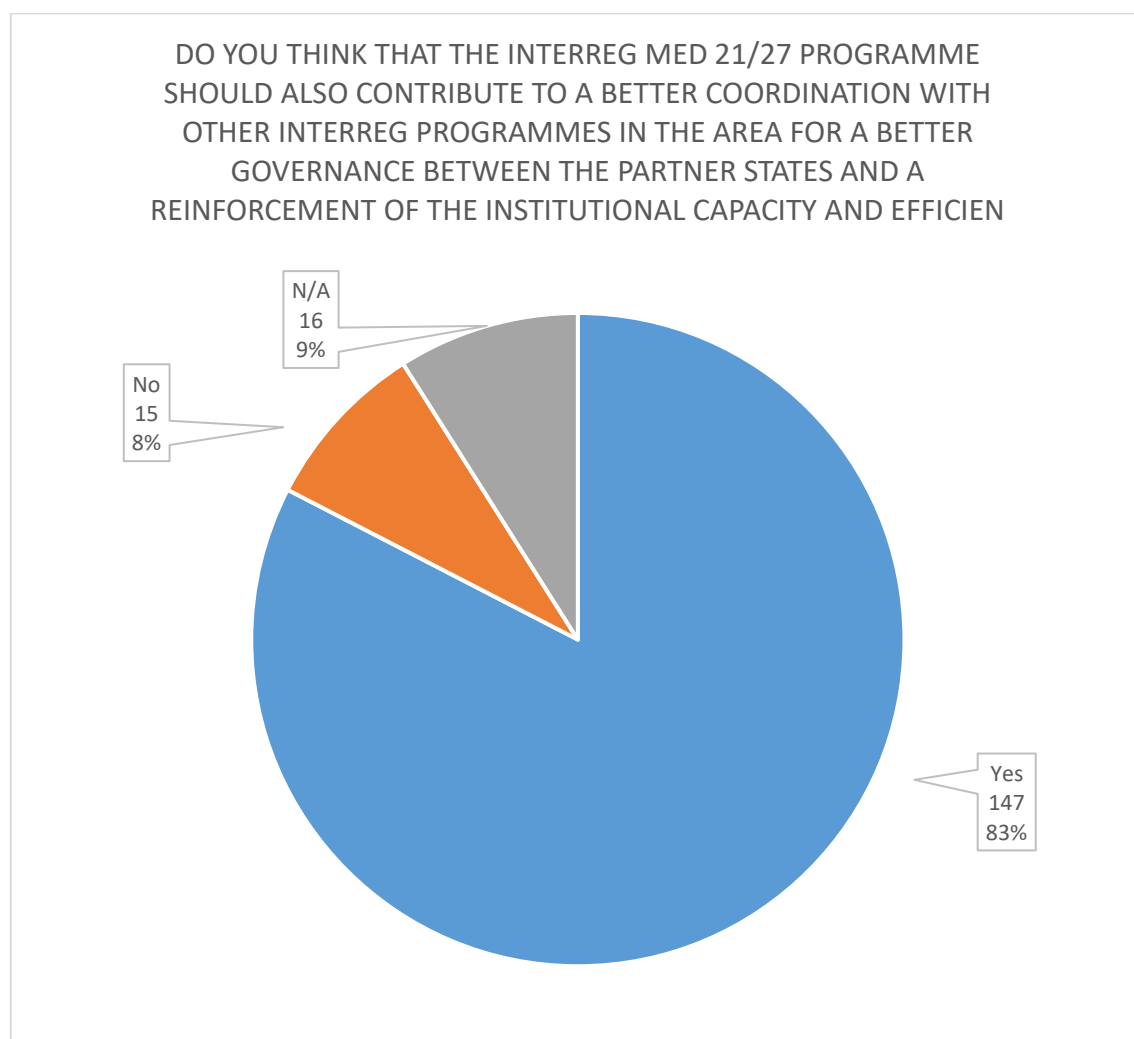
All listed types of activity are mainly agreed by participants to be proposed by Interreg MED Programme, with a preference to Transfer and testing activities. Some other types of activities such as capitalization, governance, output packet chains or skilling have been cited by the participants.



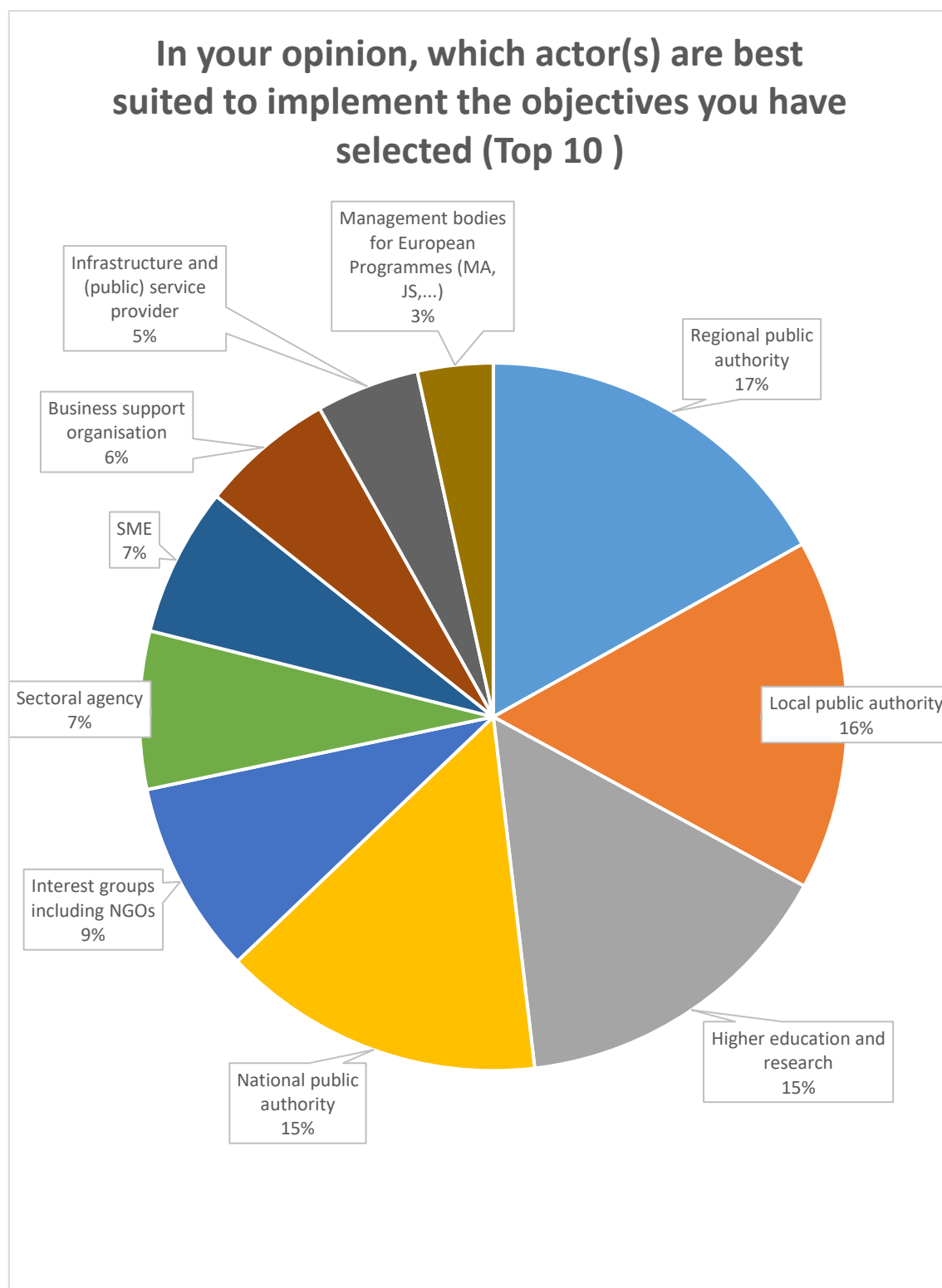
The results are fairly close, but the no vote wins with 4% more votes on the question of targeting specific territories for the next programming period.



For the positive answers to the question of specific territories, the coastal territories are the specific territories to target the most.



A large majority of participants (83%) consider that the next Interreg MED programme 21/27 should have a better coordination with other programmes of the MED area with possibly adaptations to the specific territories. Ideally, programmes would implement common implementation rules to optimize resources and projects results which would support the capitalization process.

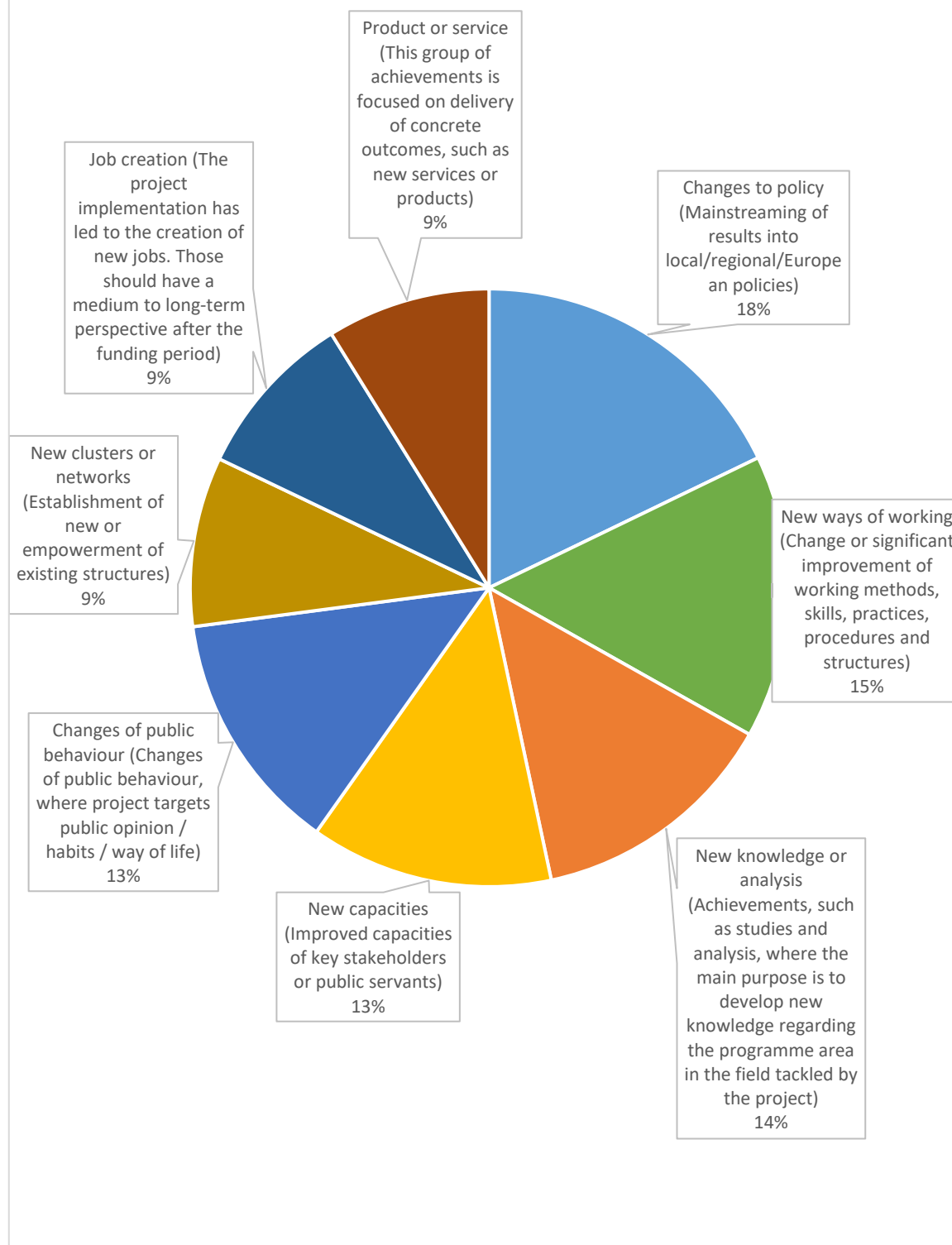


Survey participants ranked the actors they consider most suited to implement their objectives. After weighting the answers concerning the 16 actors, a ranking of the most chosen actors has been realized:

1. Regional public authority
2. Local public authority
3. Higher education and research
4. National public authority
5. Interest groups including NGOs
6. Sectoral agency
7. SME
8. Business support organisation
9. Infrastructure and (public) service provider
10. Management bodies for European Programmes (MA, JS,...)
11. Education/training centre and school
12. International organisation, EEIG
13. General public
14. Enterprise, except SME
15. Other
16. EGTC

Some other answers have been submitted by the participants such as associations, clusters, networks, NGOs, ...

What results would reflect the success of such Interreg MED Programme objectives?



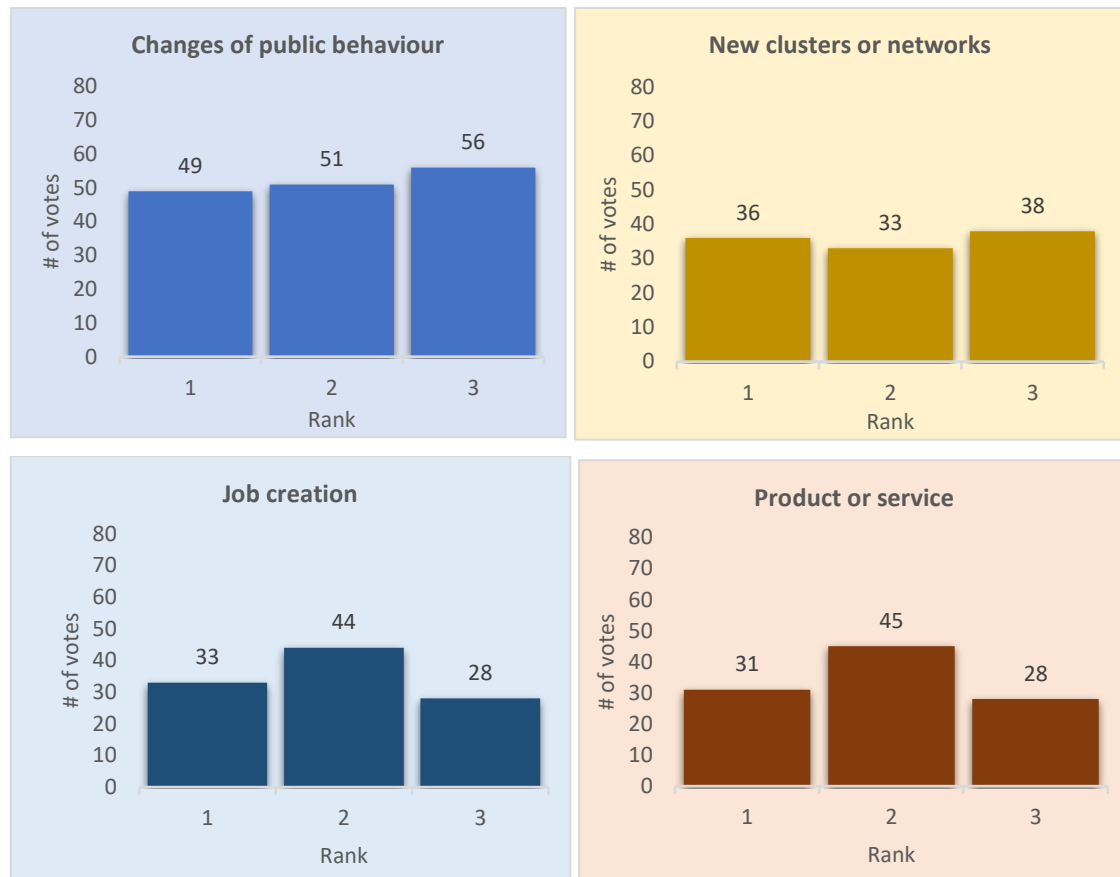
Survey participants ranked the results they consider most representative of the success of Interreg MED Programme objectives.

By weighting the answers according to their rank, we have come up with this ranking of results:

1. Changes to policy (Mainstreaming of results into local/regional/European policies)
2. New ways of working (Change or significant improvement of working methods, skills, practices, procedures and structures)
3. New knowledge or analysis (Achievements, such as studies and analysis, where the main purpose is to develop new knowledge regarding the programme area in the field tackled by the project)
4. New capacities (Improved capacities of key stakeholders or public servants)
5. Changes of public behaviour (Changes of public behaviour, where project targets public opinion / habits / way of life)
6. New clusters or networks (Establishment of new or empowerment of existing structures)
7. Job creation (The project implementation has led to the creation of new jobs. Those should have a medium to long-term perspective after the funding period)
8. Product or service (This group of achievements is focused on delivery of concrete outcomes, such as new services or products)

You can find below the detailed answers, by rank and number of votes, for each type of result.



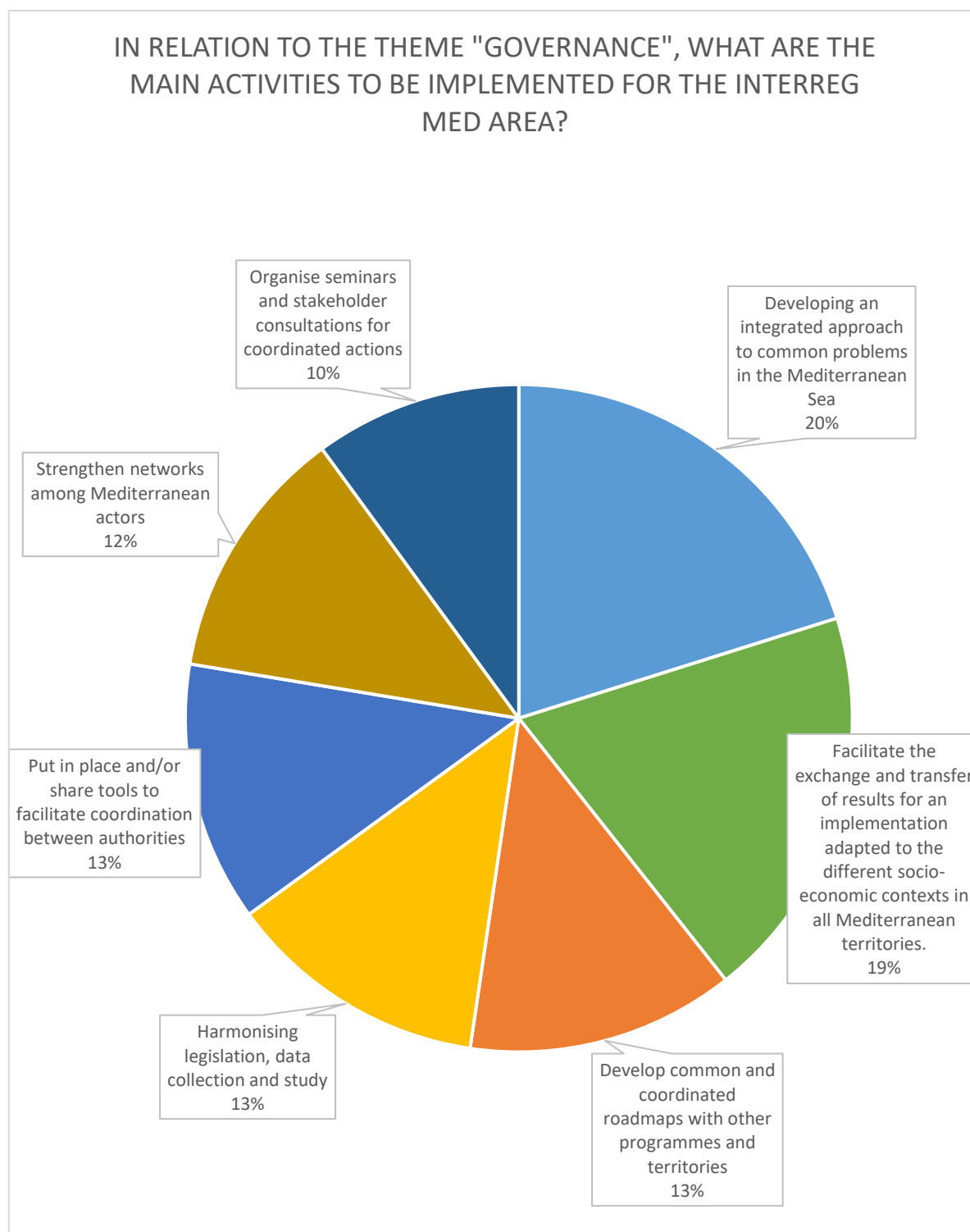


Other :

- A policy about credit access for the SMEs in Mediterranean Area is necessary
- Improved situation of Biodiversity and climate change, in relation to actual conservation and prevention, through actual implementation of enhanced and effective policies and Public awareness
- Investissement dans les infrastructures et les technologies innovantes : aider le marché
- Meilleure intégration de l'espace méditerranéen/Solutions transversales communes à des défis communs
- strong networks
- The migration situation prompts a think tank that would include the best brains in the region.
- To strengthen the lower level of administration in order to achieve a bottom - up development which would reflect the citizens' needs the most and reflect the subsidiarity principle

INCREASE INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES (INTER-PROGRAMME COORDINATION)

This group of questions is presented only to those who answered “**Yes**” to the question “*Do you think that the Interreg MED 21/27 Programme should also contribute to a better coordination with other Interreg programmes in the area for a better governance between the partner States and a reinforcement of the institutional capacity and efficiency of administrations and public services?*”

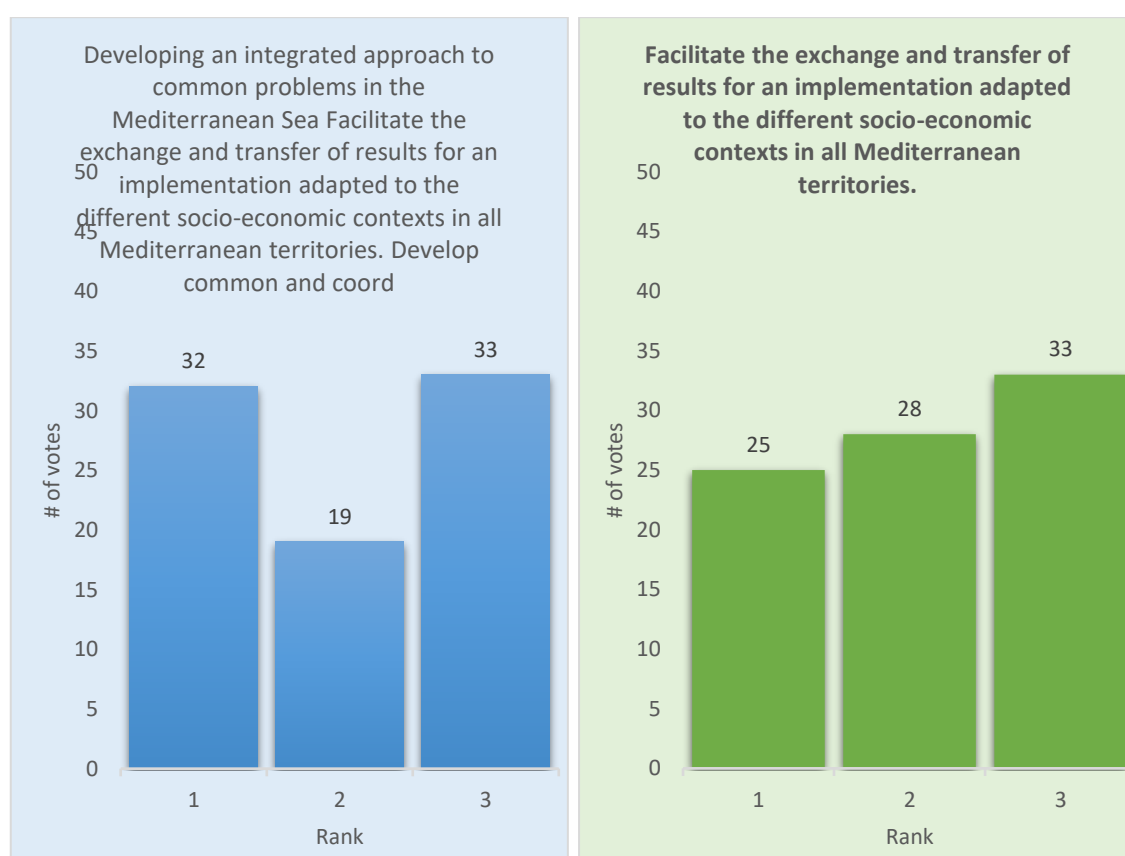


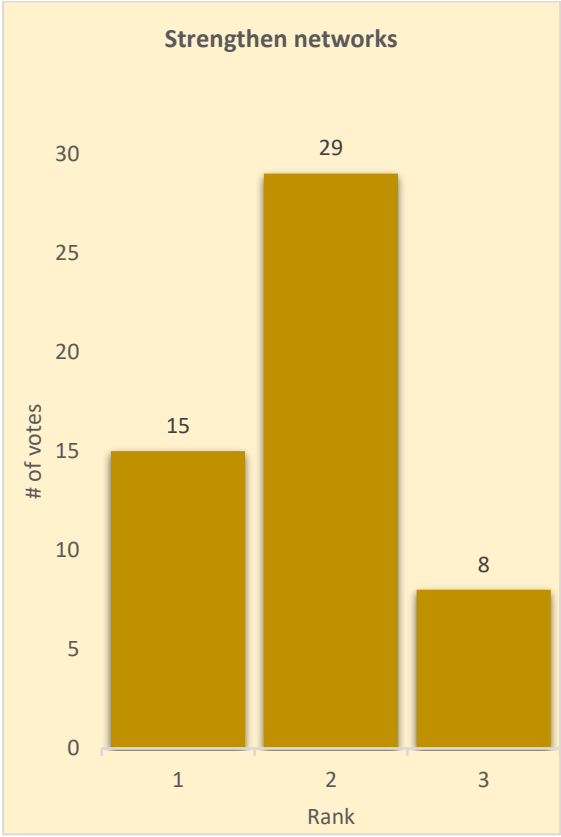
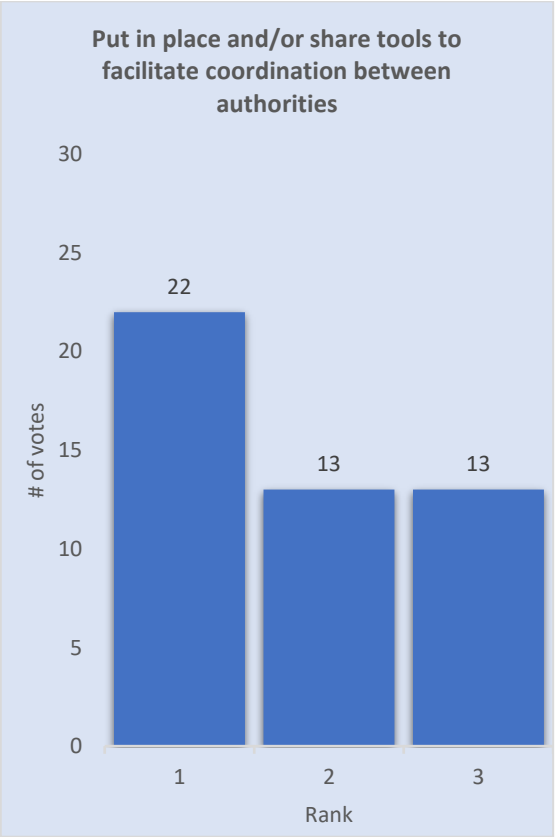
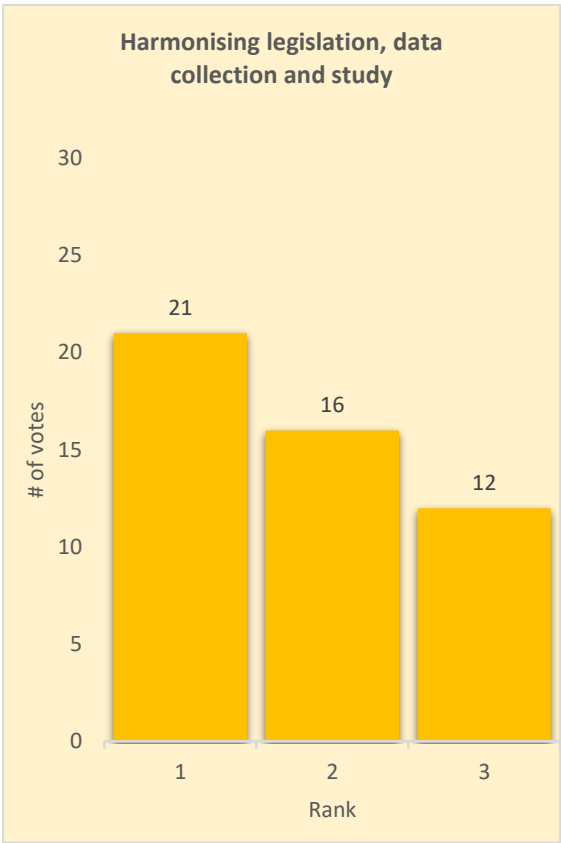
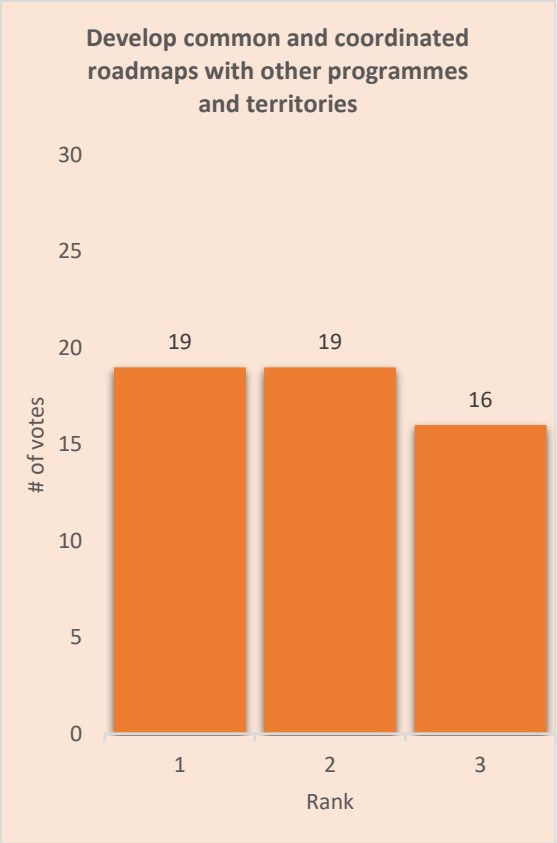
Survey participants ranked the activities they want to be implemented for the Interreg MED area, in relation to the theme "Governance".

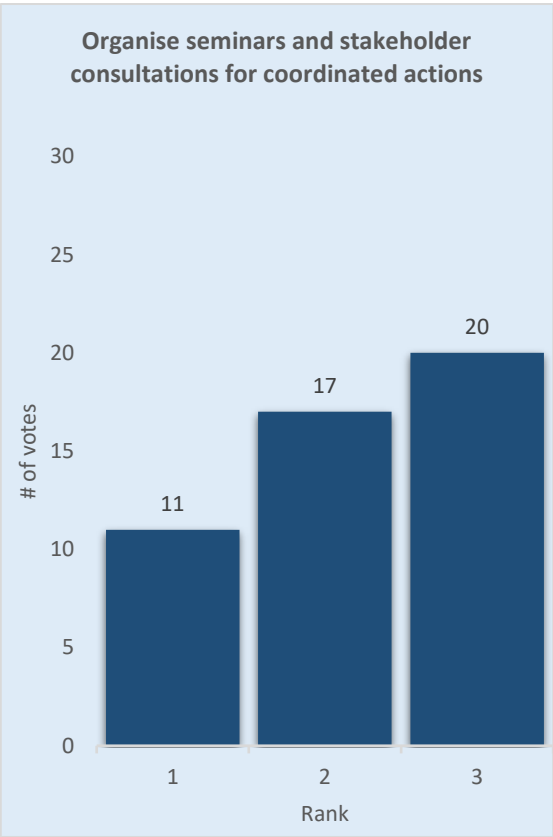
By weighting the answers according to their rank, we have come up with this ranking of results:

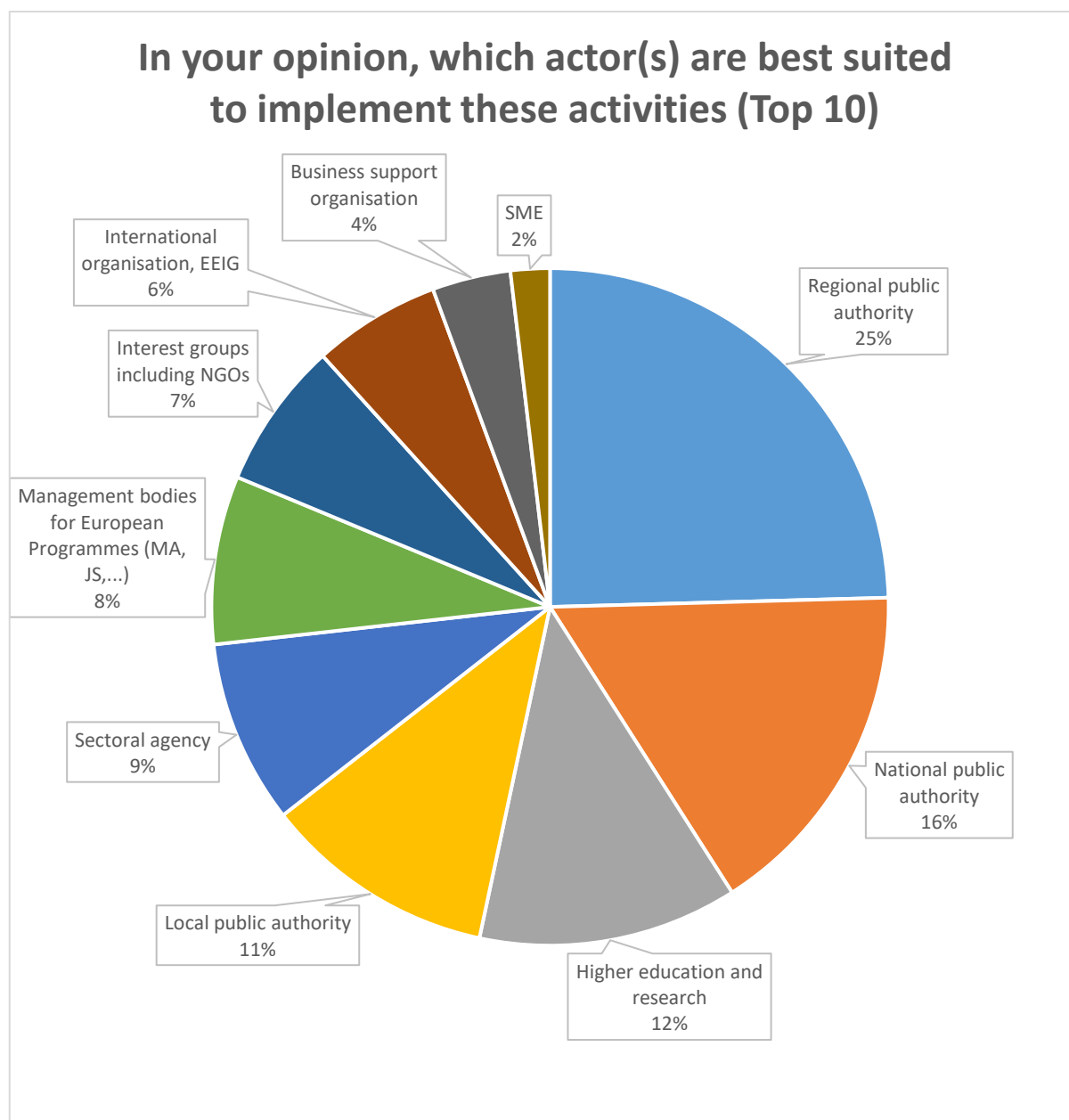
1. Developing an integrated approach to common problems in the Mediterranean Sea
2. Facilitate the exchange and transfer of results for an implementation adapted to the different socio-economic contexts in all Mediterranean territories.
3. Develop common and coordinated roadmaps with other programmes and territories
4. Harmonising legislation, data collection and study
5. Put in place and/or share tools to facilitate coordination between authorities
6. Strengthen networks among Mediterranean actors
7. Organise seminars and stakeholder consultations for coordinated actions

You can find below the detailed answers, by rank and number of votes, for each type of activity.







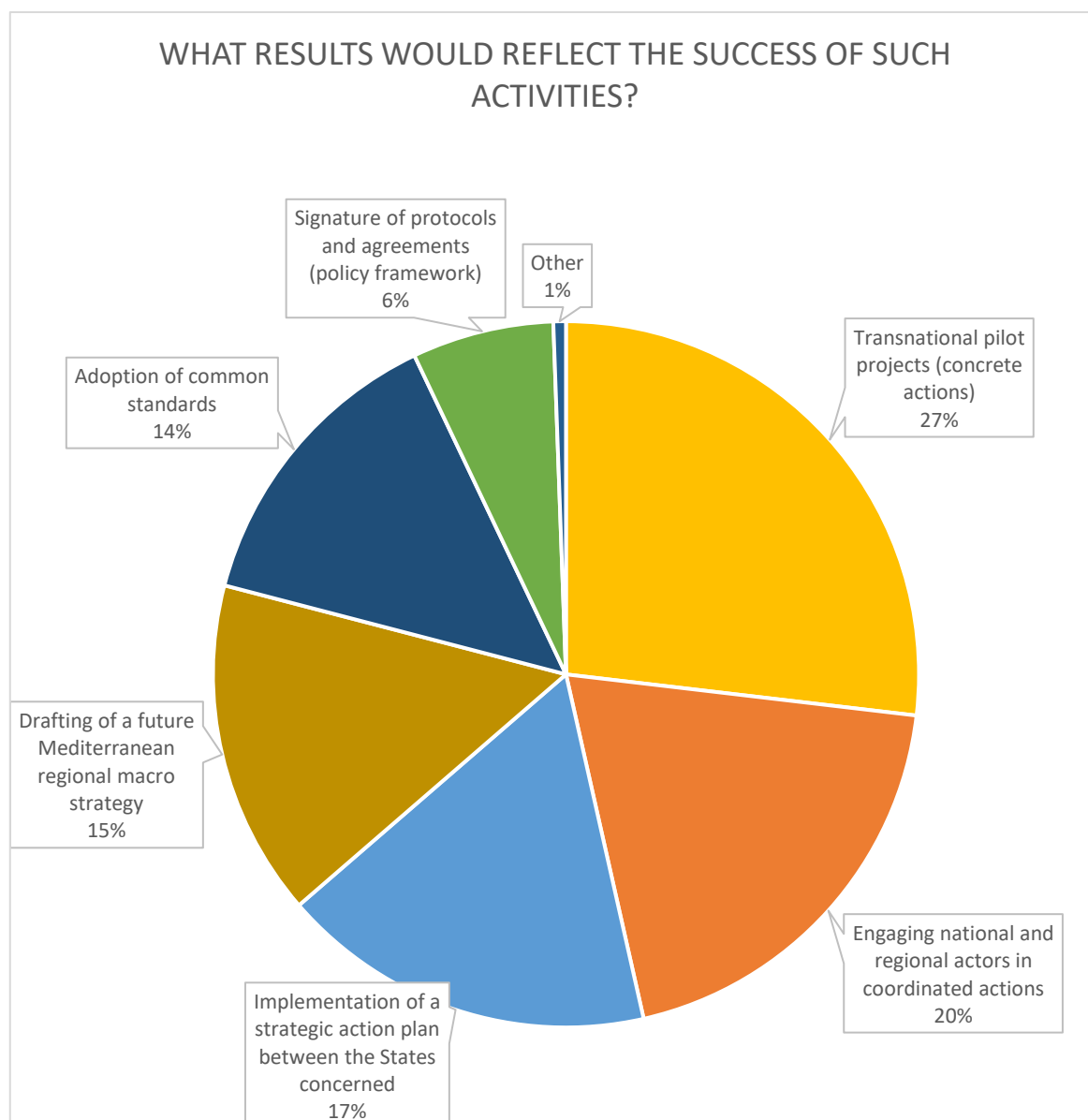


Survey participants ranked the actors they consider most suited to implement their objectives. After weighting the answers concerning the 16 actors, a ranking of the most chosen actors has been realized :

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9. Business support organisation
10. SME
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Some other answers have been submitted by the participants such as associations, development agencies, networks, ...

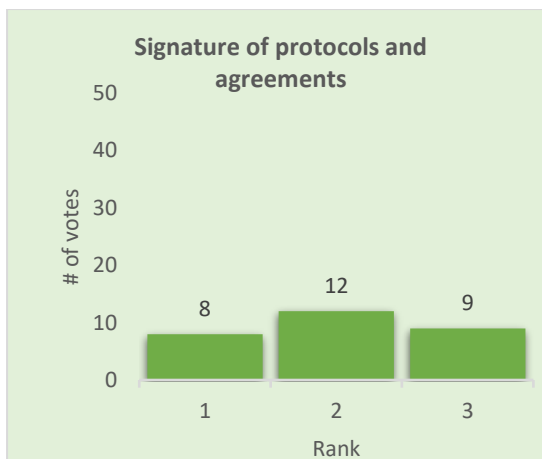
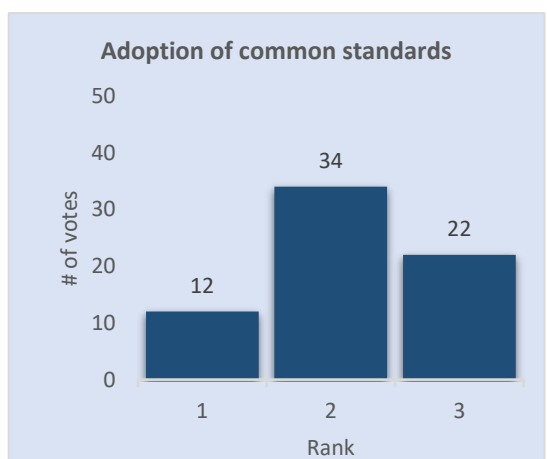
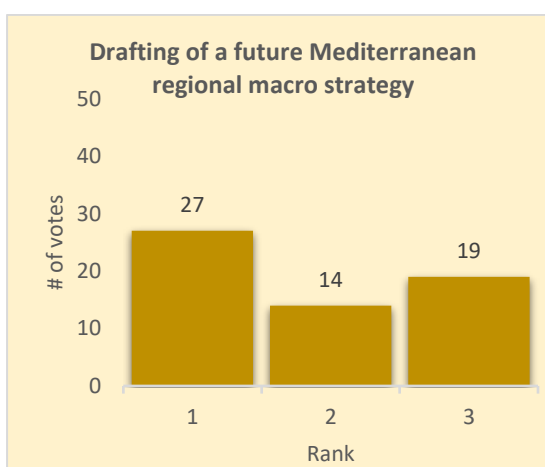
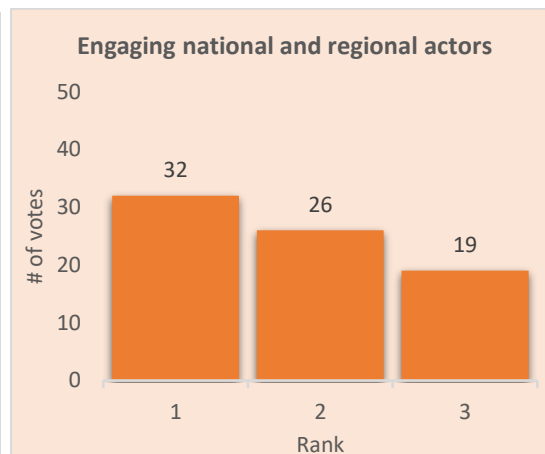
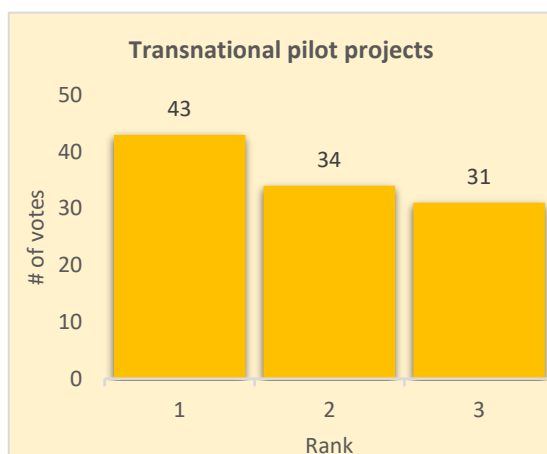


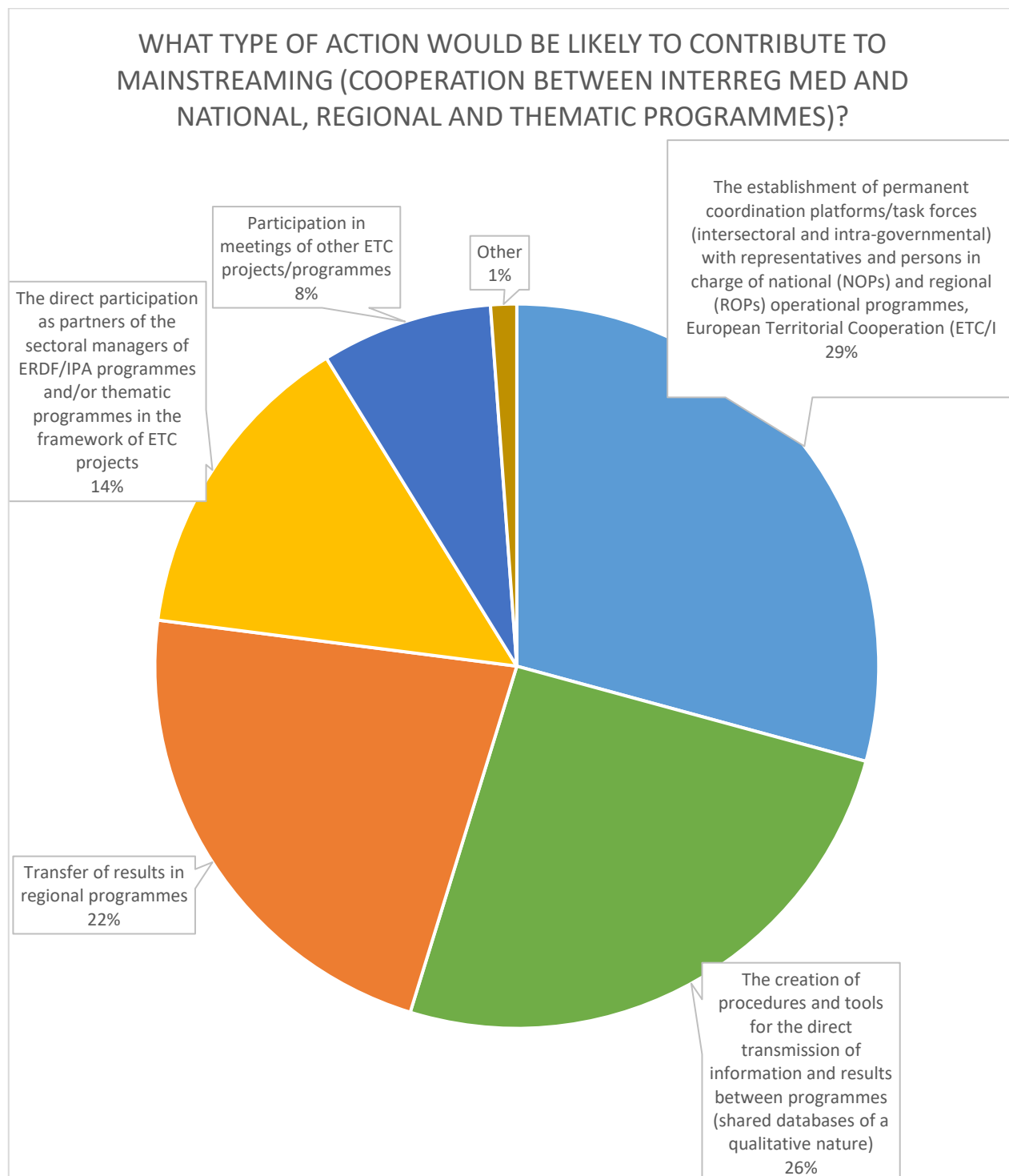
Participants ranked the results that they thought were representative of the success of these activities.

By weighting the answers according to their rank, we have come up with this ranking of results:

1. Transnational pilot projects (concrete actions)
2. Engaging national and regional actors in coordinated actions
3. Implementation of a strategic action plan between the States concerned
4. Drafting of a future Mediterranean regional macro strategy
5. Adoption of common standards
6. Signature of protocols and agreements (policy framework)
7. Other

You can find below the detailed answers, by rank and number of votes, for each type of result.





Participants ranked the types of action that would contribute most to mainstreaming (cooperation between Interreg MED and national, regional and thematic programmes).

After weighting the answers according to their rank and the number of votes, a ranking of the most chosen type of actions has been realized:

1. The establishment of permanent coordination platforms/task forces (intersectoral and intra-governmental) with representatives and persons in charge of national (NOPs) and regional (ROPs) operational programmes, European Territorial Cooperation (ETC/I
2. The creation of procedures and tools for the direct transmission of information and results between programmes (shared databases of a qualitative nature)
3. Transfer of results in regional programmes
4. The direct participation as partners of the sectoral managers of ERDF/IPA programmes and/or thematic programmes in the framework of ETC projects
5. Participation in meetings of other ETC projects/programmes
6. Other

You can find below the detailed answers, by rank and number of votes, for each type of action:

