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101091100 — BEYOND (Rural Communities pushing BEYOND COVID-19)

## Summary of Participant Feedback and Responses – Kick-off event for Project „BEYOND“

After the kick-off event was held in Cestica, Croatia from 29.03.2023 to 31.03.2023, a questionnaire was sent to the participants in order to gain their feedback about the event and collect inputs in order to plan the future events. The form was distributed via email to all of the 99 participants that took part in the event. In total, Cestica received 50 responses (anonymous).

The following describes the demographics of the participants and the general feedback. The majority of participants were Croatian (30.6%), followed by Slovenian (28.6%), Italian (22.4%), Hungarian (10.2%) and lastly German participants (8.2%). Concerning gender, 44.9% of respondents identified as male and 55.1% as female. Concerning age, the majority of respondents were identified as being 36-65 years of age (59.2%). Lastly, regarding the participants sector of work, the figures show that a variety of persons from different sectors came to the event. The main sector represented was non-profit/civil society at 32.7% of responses.

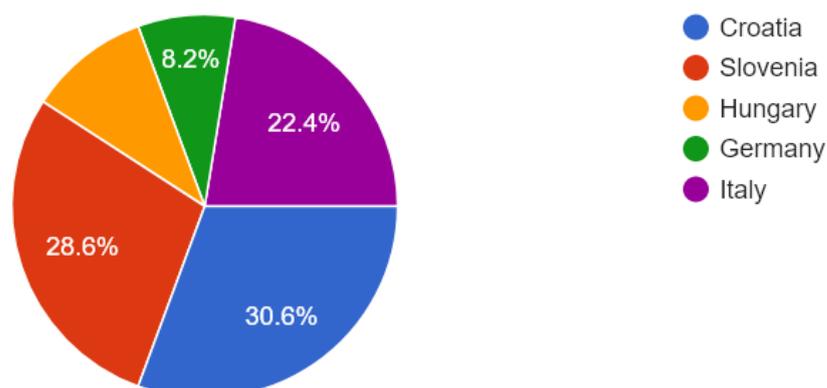


Table 1. Country of origin of participants

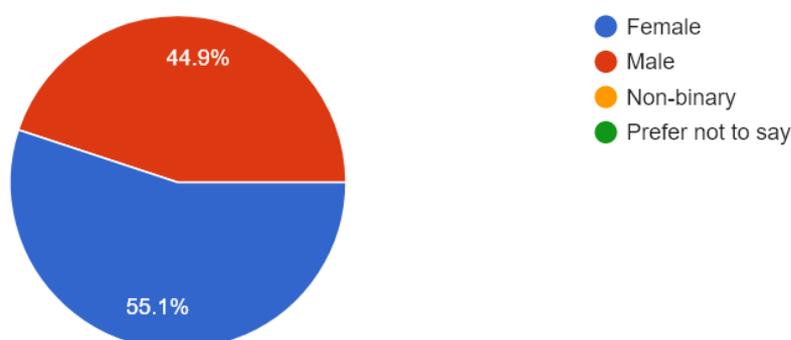


Table 2. Participants' identified gender



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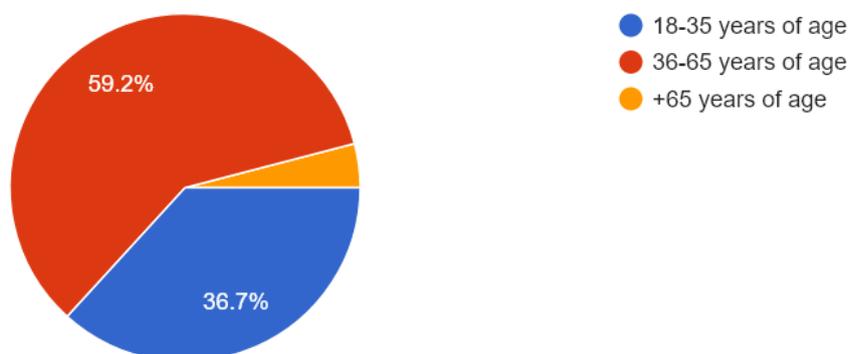


Table 3. age of participants

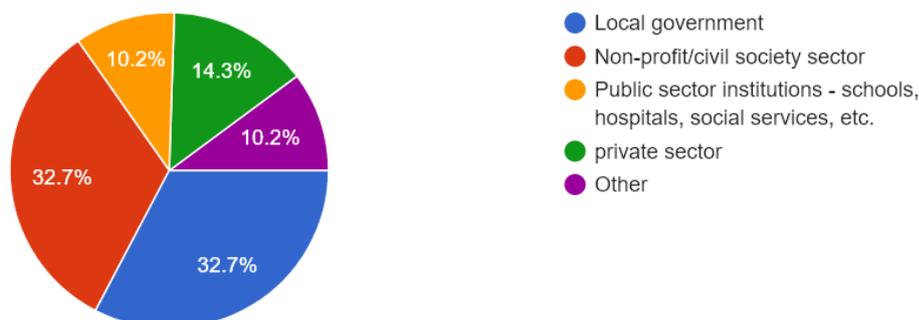


Table 4. sector of work

In the next part of the questionnaire, the participants were asked about their satisfaction with the facilities of the event. The majority of participants found the schedule to be suitable (71.4% of responses, 35 respondents), and the catering to be excellent (42/50 responses). Due to the format of the question regarding transportation and hotels, the answers were ranking them as horrible or excellent. It was found that the questions wording was confusing, and this has been noted as a lesson-learned for future events. In the comments section, it has been suggested to refrain from translations as they take up more time, which has been noted for the organization of the next event. Apart from this, the comments were positive and showed that the event was clearly organized well.

In the final part of the questionnaire, the partnership examined aimed to identify issues that matter most to citizens in rural communities. In the first question regarding social inclusion, it was found that all of the issues covered (gender equality, addressing the needs of person with disabilities, ending age discrimination, addressing the needs of the LGBTQ community, ending racism) are considered important to respondents; but the issue that stood out the most mainly due to age demographics was ending age discrimination (34% of responses).



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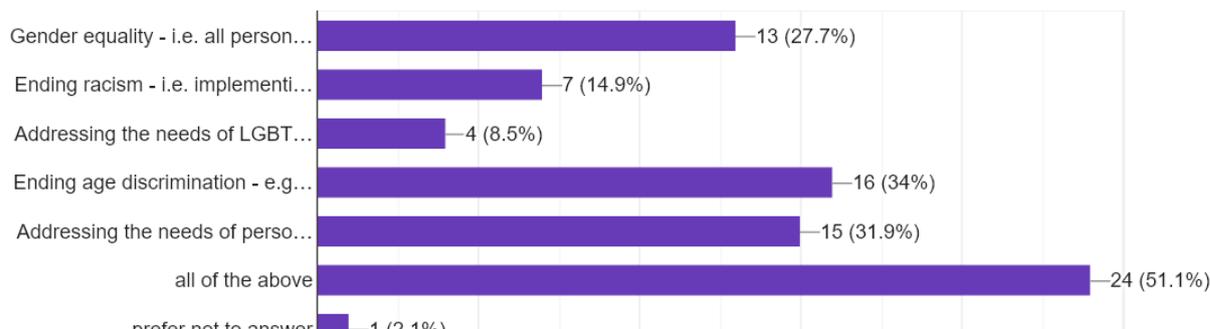
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Concerning **social inclusion** I consider the following issues to very important:



47 responses

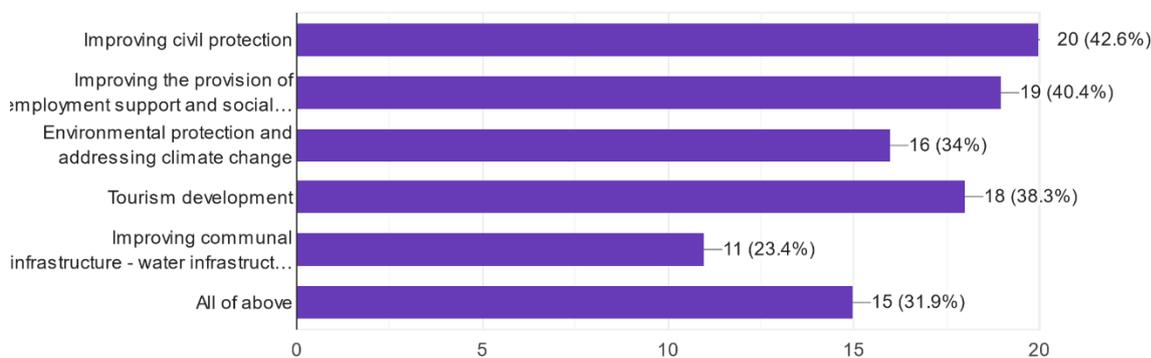


**Table 5. Social inclusion issues**

The participants were also asked about development topics of importance to them. The main issues that stood out were “improving civil protection” (42.6%) and “improving the provision of employment support and social services” (40.9%). Considering that these areas have undergone a pandemic, various economic and social hardships and recent disaster events, these responses are considered accurate and important to consider in planning future events.

The following development topics are important to my community:

47 responses



**Table 6. Important development topics.**

In the comments section, the participants added additional topics that they consider important in the post-pandemic period. The rights of women and younger generations in the EU were mentioned. Energy transition in the community was described as essential environmental protection. Others mentioned that they would like to learn more about humanitarian work. Overall, the comments were constructive. They have provided the partnership with a basis for future events, and have helped the partners to plan the events better.



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