

Policy Research Alert

FROM FLASH-IT, A DISSEMINATION PROJECT RELATING EUROPEAN POLICY PRIORITIES TO EU-FUNDED RESEARCH IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

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Living Diversity: How Cosmopolitan Are Europeans?

Cross-border practices associated with EU citizenship are strengthening cosmopolitan values, even in countries wary of the European project. EUCROSS¹ offers insights into the relationship between cross-border activities and identifications among EU residents.

Interviews with over 6,000 residents in six EU Member States (Denmark, Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom) show a large portion of respondents actively utilizing the basic benefits of EU integration (i.e. enhanced mobility and the free flow of goods and services). Altogether, cross-border behaviours reported by EU residents suggest they have become more “Europeanised” than many are inclined to acknowledge.

The EUCROSS survey of EU residents found that:

- **one in six has spent at least three months in another EU country in their lifetime**
- **51% have visited an EU Member State other than their own in the past two years**
- **a quarter have bought goods in another EU Member State in the past two years**

While demonstrating robust cross-border activity among residents in the six sample countries, the survey also revealed strong regional differences. For example, Danes and Germans proved nearly twice as likely to have visited another EU country during the previous two years as their Spanish, Italian or Romanian counterparts.

EUCROSS’s assessment of cross-border engagement looks beyond the EU as well, yielding a more complete picture of European transnationalism. Results from this strain of the research show that “cross-border practices under the EU citizenship regime have helped the spread of cosmopolitan values, including to countries that claim to be sceptical or outside the European project².” In light of this Europeanising effect, “it would be better for policy makers to focus on the EU’s promotion of wider, global and multicultural values, than on European identity per se”, the consortium concludes.

Further recommendations germane to European cohesion efforts are outlined in [EUCROSS’s first policy brief](#).

¹ The Europeanisation of Everyday Life: Cross-Border Practices and Transnational Identities among EU and Third-Country Citizens (EUCROSS) <http://www.eucross.eu>

² EUCROSS Policy Brief 1
http://www.eucross.eu/cms/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=74&Itemid=157