

LADDER - Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education and Raising awareness

**Narrative results analysis of the long-version surveys collected during
The LADDER EU level trainings
(2015)**

Summary: This document was produced on the basis of the 117 surveys filled in by the participants of the three EU level trainings organized in 2015 and it aims to provide clear statistics and percentages of the DEAR situation in the countries of the LADDER consortium but also to reflect the knowledge and opinion of LADDER participants on DEAR issues.

The detailed results will be presented following the survey's structure, divided in five main parts. This summary attempts to present the main tendencies that came out from the surveys' analysis.

First, it must be underlined that the majority of participants are aware of the fundamental concepts related to Development (MDGs, EYD or SDGs). However, the engagement and the commitment of European CSOs and LAs' representatives in favour of DEAR activities is unequal, and vary from "strongly involved" to "absence of engagement". Besides, there is a general view in favour of the eradication of poverty: a large majority of respondents consider that CSOs and LAs can contribute to this objective with their action and that SDGs and MDGs are necessary to achieve poverty eradication.

According to 66% of participants surveyed, DEAR policies are neither easily identifiable nor visible on their national scene. Besides, most of them think that the media coverage on development issues is almost non-existent. Although at local, regional and national level people feel aware of development, they consider that development education is not promoted strongly at national level. They also consider themselves as active players at local level.

As a general comment, participants think that education and extreme poverty are the main concerns that should be addressed by DEAR policies with Youth and LAs as target groups. With one of the strongest support of participants' in this survey (73%), the cooperation between LAs and CSOs is considered crucial to enhance DEAR.

Considering the role of the EU in terms of Development Aid, the EU is considered by the participants as a main actor. Moreover, participants underlined tackling poverty as priority for both the EU and Member states and recognize them as international actors strongly concerned about this issue. Finally, participants see themselves as a global actor that can influence the world stage, showing a strong motivation and determination to carry it out.

PART I - The Development Agenda & the European Year for Development 2015

In the three questions addressing the awareness on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs – Q1), the European Year of Development (EYD – Q6) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs – Q9) almost half of the participants answered that they know them and they know what they are, respectively 49% (MDGs), 43% (EYD) and 44% (SDGs). Concerning the EYD and the SDGs, 31% and 38% of the participants respectively answered that they heard about them but they do not know exactly what they are.

On the other hand, the questions regarding the degree of involvement of the participants' organisations in the implementation of the MDGs or EYD 2015 (**Q3 – Q4 – Q7**) resulted in a balanced average of 20% for each of the 5 options provided (equally “not at all”, “not very much”, “slightly”, “yes, absolutely” or “don't know”), which shows the disparity of engagement on behalf of CSOs and LAs' representatives across the enlarged Europe.

On the three questions related to the role of SDGs and MDGs with regard to the eradication of poverty, a great majority of positive answers were recorded (**Q5** 67% – **Q9** 46% - **Q11** 56%). The former shows how the participants think their own organizations or entities could improve their actions to approach more effectively different global issues. Although the majority of responses were very diverse, the action considered as the most effective to approach global issues was awareness raising (with 8,9 % of the people who replied to this open question). Furthermore, the collaboration or cooperation between actors, the importance of education and the organization of capacity building events and other public events were mentioned by other participants as main actions to approach global issues. The rate of responses to this open question was 66,6 %.

Furthermore, the others two questions (**Q9** and **Q11**) registered a positive attitude towards the SDGs and MDGs. Participants seem indeed to consider the SDGs and MDGs to be necessary (**Q11**) in order to achieve the final aim of eradicating poverty (**Q9**).

Concerning the open questions within this first part, there are two of them that have not been mentioned yet due to the fact that their characteristics should be explained separately, in order to understand the content properly:

That is the case of **Q2**, in which participants indicated what the main objective of the MDGs is, according to them. Among the participants who replied, 54,9% of them think that the main objective of the MDGs should be to eradicate poverty and 45,1%, emphasized different main objectives such as education, sustainable development, equal development, solution of social problems, or the scope of a better world, among others. The rate of responses to this question was 60,6%.

Secondly, in **Q10**, respondents were asked where they learn about the SDGs. On this topic, 26,1% of answers considered Internet as the main source of information to learn about the SDGs, followed by professional environment (9,5 % of the replies given), the LADDER project (5,9%), mass media (5,9%), documentation (4,7%) or university (4,7%). The rate of responses obtained was 71,7%.

PART II: Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) in your country

The second part of the survey reveals how DEAR is involved in participants' daily lives, taking into account the national contexts. Firstly (**Q12**), in most of the countries the most mentioned stakeholder as leader in the field of DEAR was Civil Society (37,6%), followed by International Organisations (19,5%), Local Authorities (19%) and National/Regional Government (16,7%).

Some results showed how national media deal with DEAR (**Q13 – Q14 – Q15**). Firstly, it is important to mention that half of the participants referred to media of their countries, expressing that they are not really covering topics linked to development issues (51% - **Q13**). The other half of the participants answered differently expressing that media are partially (26%) or totally (22%) covering this topic (**Q13**). The sources of information on DEAR (**Q14**) mentioned were online media (46,3%), television (25,1%) and written press (18,2%). Finally, the issues mentioned as mostly covered by media (**Q15**)

are Environment and Climate change (19,9%), extreme poverty issue (17,6%), Human Rights (16,3%) and Sustainable Development (13%).

The responses received in the previous questions (**Q13 – Q14 – Q15**) show that media can still play a bigger role in promoting DEAR issues. This observation also derives from the answers (66%) on the existence of identifiable and visible policies with a DEAR dimension (**Q16**). In this light, development education seems not to be vigorously pursued in the countries of the participants, who, to a direct question concerning this topic, answered quite negatively (not very much 39% - slightly 39% - **Q18**).

In **Q17**, participants (cited an example of a national or local policy related to Development Education.) The specificity of the question makes impossible to identify a common answer. Among the answers provided, here is snapshot: the creation of a CSO, representing different communities in town, the creation of an academic curriculum on DE, a national policy on education, a mid-term strategy (2014-18) focusing on Development cooperation, public compulsory education, an Action Plan for Jobs, the establishment of Public Participation Network, a platform presenting best practices on education in rural areas, regional union providing education and trainings to members of the municipality, workshops, festivals and thematic days at a local and national level, policies for formal/informal education, schools, youth centres, boy scouts, citizens meetings, recycling, a local forum of international cooperation, etc. The rate of responses obtained was 61,5%.

Moreover, the second part of **Q18** asked: *“If development education is promoted in your country, please specify which actors are promoting it and by what means (campaigning, education projects, etc.)?”* Participants who replied considered that development education in their country is promoted mainly through CSOs and NGOs (40,2% of them), followed by schools and universities (13,4%) national governments and Ministries (13,4%) and LAs (13,4%). In relation to the means through which development education is promoted, almost 50% of the participants who answered believe in educational and cooperation projects, while 17,3% of them mentioned campaigns, medias, social networks and academic programs. People surveyed mentioned as well capacity building, DEAR, projects and trainings. To the question asking which actors should promote development education, the rate of responses reached almost 80%. The question concerning means reached a rate of responses of 44,4%.

It was then asked to the participants how much they feel aware - from a scale from 1 to 10 - of development/global issues in their city (**Q19**), region (**Q20**) and country (**Q21**). The three questions had a similar result: most of the participants replies ranged from 5 to 7 (**Q19 51,2% - Q20 47,8% - Q21 50,4%**). Finally, when it was asked how much participants feel active at the local level (**Q22**), most of the participants replied between 4 and 9 (69,2%), with a pick of 17,9 % answering 8.

Finally, in **Q23**, participants noted concrete local actions taken by citizens/NGOs/CSOs to get engaged for global issues. They mentioned very diverse examples. Among the answers provided, the following were mentioned: activities within schools, social inclusion workshops, educational activities, documentary film festivals, projects on climate change, projects with local authorities, volunteering, collaboration between migrants and local citizens, advocacy and campaigning, fair trade, human rights groups and aid agencies. The rate of responses obtained was 82,9%.

PART III: Your opinion on the implementation of DEAR strategies

This third part was dedicated to participants' opinion on the implementation of DEAR strategies. In particular it was asked which development issues should DEAR policies address as a priority (**Q24**) and which target group these policies should address in the first place (**Q25**).

The reply to the former question had several suggestions, however the majority expressed education (25,9%) as a priority, followed by extreme poverty (23,1%), environment (17,2%), health (13,1%), gender equality (8,1%), child mortality (7,2%), migration (1,6%) etc. The results of the second question (**Q25**) reveal indeed that DEAR policies should address the youth in priority (20,6%) and the local elected representatives (20,2%), followed by civil society organisations (17,5%) and citizens in general (15%).

A positive feedback (73% "Yes, absolutely") was provided to the question on whether the cooperation between LAs and CSOs is a good strategy to increase the impact of DEAR policies and to help changing attitudes and opinions of citizens towards further action for development, poverty, human rights, etc. (**Q26**).

Besides, in the second part of **Q26**, respondents explained their choice about the following question: *"Do you think cooperation between Local Authorities (LAs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is a good strategy to increase the impact of DEAR policies and to help change attitudes & opinions of citizens towards further action for development, poverty, human rights etc.?"* Among the replies, two explanations were given on a repeated basis: firstly, 12,6% of the replies showed that LAs and CSOs should collaborate to create a space for active citizenship; secondly, almost 1 out of 10 answers (9,1%) expressed that cooperation between LAs and CSOs is crucial, without giving further details. The need to cooperate at all levels, the use of good practices and policies, or the implementation of the cascade effect were other reasons given with regard to this open question. The rate of responses was 74,3%.

In question **Q27** *"How cooperation between LAs & CSOs could be promoted?"*, the most given answer was "the implementation of projects" (20,6% of responses), followed by "cooperation" (14,9%). A third group of ideas could be subsumed under the heading "DEAR & Dialogue" with 9,1 % of the people who answered. This heading includes people who consider dialogue, communication, advocacy or DEAR as action to promote cooperation between LAs & CSOs. The rate of responses was 74,3%.

PART IV: The EU and Development Aid

This fourth part of the questionnaire aims at finding out what the participants think about the role of EU and development aid. The first thing that stands out is that most of the participants (44%) are slightly aware of the EU strategies and policies in terms of development aid, a minor part (27%) states that they are absolutely aware and others confessed that they are not very much aware (22%) (**Q28**).

In a second question (**Q29**), a strong consensus between the participants was found regarding the capacity of the EU of positively contributing to the global debate on development: 79% of the participants answered "Yes, absolutely" to this question and 16% of answering "slightly". In the second part of this **Q29**, participants were asked: *"If yes, how do you think the EU can positively contribute to the global debate on development?"* Among those who answered, three replies were repeated with different percentages: funding, supporting, implementing and promoting projects

(including the DEAR programme) reached 21,7%; citizenship education and awareness on global responsibility and development issues through a critical attitude received 18,8%. Finally, 11,5% of the respondents expressed that the EU is an important player that could contribute to the global debate on development. These percentages were followed by a 7,2% of the participants who considered EU financial aid the right action to contribute to the global debate on development. Also, participants came up with the following ideas to contribute to the global debate on development: policymaking, good practices or creating a partnership between countries. The rate of responses was 58,9%.

In **Q30** people were asked about the awareness of the share of aid provided between the EU and the Member States. Participants had to choose between different percentage rates: between 0 – 15 % (2,9 % chose this answer), between 15-30 % (also 2,9 %), between 30- 45% (2,9 %), between 45-60 % (27,5%), between 60-75% (12,7%), between 75-90% (6,9%) and between 90-100% (1%). These very weak percentages are due to the fact that 43,1% of participants replied “I don’t know” to this question, showing their lack of knowledge on the subject. The rate of responses was 57%.

At this stage of the questionnaire, it was also asked to the participants if they think that tackling poverty in developing country should be a priority for their country (**Q31**) and for the EU (**Q32**). In both cases a positive answer (Yes, absolutely) had the majority; however the percentage was higher for the question regarding the EU (78%) than the home countries of the participants (54%). A similar result came out from two others similar questions with the same structure: a comparison between the EU and countries of the participants was proposed (**Q33 – Q34**). These questions focused on how tackling poverty, fighting inequality & injustice and promoting human rights at global level is in the interest of the EU and their country. The majority provided a very positive feedback (Yes, absolutely) as follows: 59% (Yes absolutely, in the interest of their country) and 84% (Yes absolutely, in the interest of the EU). It came out of these 4 questions that, for the participants, Development Aid comes within the competency of the UE more than the one of Member states, and is also more a question of a larger regional interest than national interests.

In the 2nd part of **Q33** (*“To what extent do you think that tackling poverty, fighting inequality & injustice and promoting human rights at global level is in your country’s interest?”*), three responses obtained the same percentage of responses: 14,2%. Thus, 14,2% consider that these issues are followed by their country strongly; another 14,2% showed a weak interest as well as another 14,2% answered that these issues should be everybody’s interest. In addition, 11% of the replies just showed moderate interest. The rate of responses obtained was 53,8%.

PART V: Engagement for development

In this part, the role of individuals in development issues was addressed. All the feedbacks were positive with a majority of “Yes, absolutely” answers in most of the cases - in particular: 66% participants answered “Yes, absolutely” when asked if individuals can play a role in tackling poverty (**Q35**), 60% think individuals can take action that has an impact at global level (**Q36**), 65% feel that they are part of a global world and that they are global citizens (**Q38**), 72% agreed in stating that, at an individual level, they are willing to take action for global challenges such as poverty eradication, fight against inequalities, promotion of human rights and tolerance (**Q39**). 50% think their action can have a spin off effect at the local level, encouraging other individuals to follow their engagement (**Q41**). However, the last question (**Q42**), which asked the opinion of the participants on how much the citizens are willing to engage in development issues, had not the same positive feedback of the previous one. 51% of the sample answered “slightly”, 20% “Yes, absolutely” and 19% “Not very much”.

It is also important to mention the following open questions:

In **Q37** (how individuals can take action in a way that impacts globally), Active citizenship & “Engagement for development” (including active citizenship, commitment at personal level, volunteering, donating, joining an organization, awareness activities or local actions as main actions that individuals could adopt) unites 63,4% of the answers given. The rate of responses was 70%.

In the 2nd part of **Q39** (*“Why, at an individual level, are you willing to take action for global challenges such as poverty eradication, fight against inequalities, promotion of human rights & tolerance?”*), more than 1 out of 3 (36,9%) of the participants who answered considered that they would take action encouraged by their personal beliefs and values already mentioned in the question above. Also, 1 out of 5 (19,1%) expressed that citizenship is global and its action has a direct effect, making possible to address global challenges. Other answers mentioned the creation of a better world or the importance of this will for the upcoming future. The rate of responses was 62,3%.

In **Q40**, participants were asked to say in what ways they are taking or willing to take action. 26% of the participants who replied are willing to take action through volunteering, awareness or active citizenship. Furthermore, there is a group of answers representing 23,2% mentioning daily actions and choices as a citizen, through which everyone could put in practice his/her knowledge. There is another 23,2 % under the heading “education and other methods” where the following ideas were proposed: education, teaching, organising, communication and pedagogy, promotion, information and participation. Other ideas mentioned as proper actions were project implementation and policies (9,5 %). The rate of responses was 62,3%.

Finally, in the last question of this survey, **Q42** (Why are citizens willing or not to engage in development issues?) 29% of responses answered: the lack of knowledge or awareness, the lack of education, the lack of time, the lack of volunteering spirit, of democracy or of inspiration. Also, 12,7% of answers that citizens are more concerned about daily issues rather than global ones. Moreover, 11,6% answered that citizenship is active and full of solidarity. On the contrary, 9,3% underlined that citizens are not willing to engage in development because of their non-active mentality and selfishness. The rate of responses was 73,5%.

EU Level Trainings – Final Results

The pie charts which follow show graphically the results obtained in the survey. It should be noted that some of the open questions due to their specific characteristics, could not reflect their results in the form of a pie chart. That is the reason why some open questions do not appear in the following pie charts.

PART I

The Development Agenda & the European Year for Development 2015

Q1: 2015 is the year when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were supposed to be reached. Have you ever read or heard about MDGs?



Q2: Could you indicate what is the main objective of the MDGs?



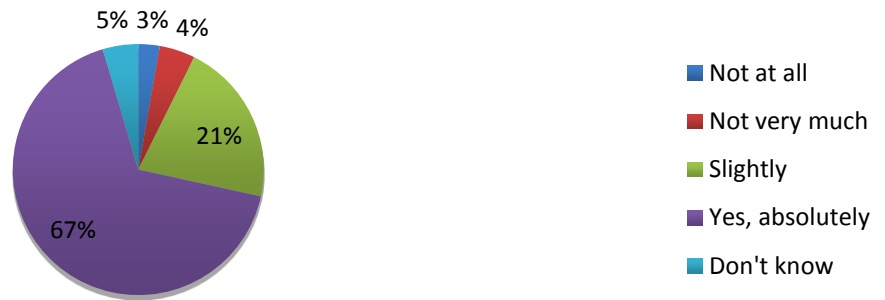
Q3: Are you and/or your organisation involved in the implementation/achievement of the MDGs?



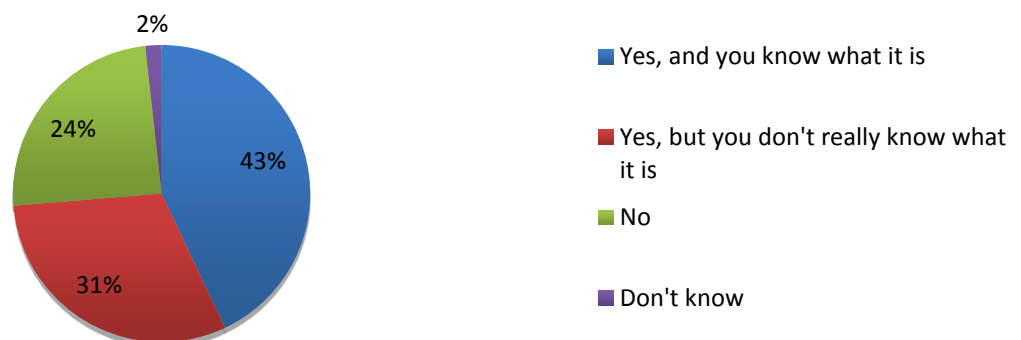
Q4: To which extent does your organisation refer to the MDGs when implementing activities at the local and national level?



Q5: Could your organisation/entity improve its actions to approach more effectively different global issues?



Q6: Have you ever read/heard about the European Year of Development 2015 ("EYD")?



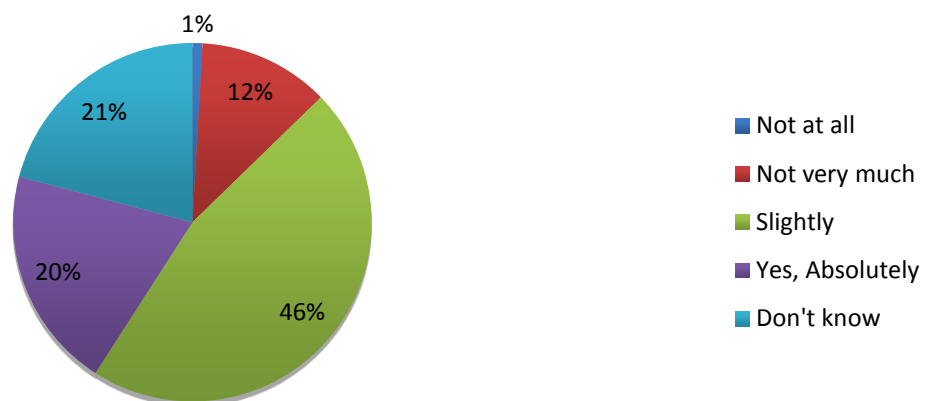
Q7: Is your organisation/entity involved in EYD-related activities?



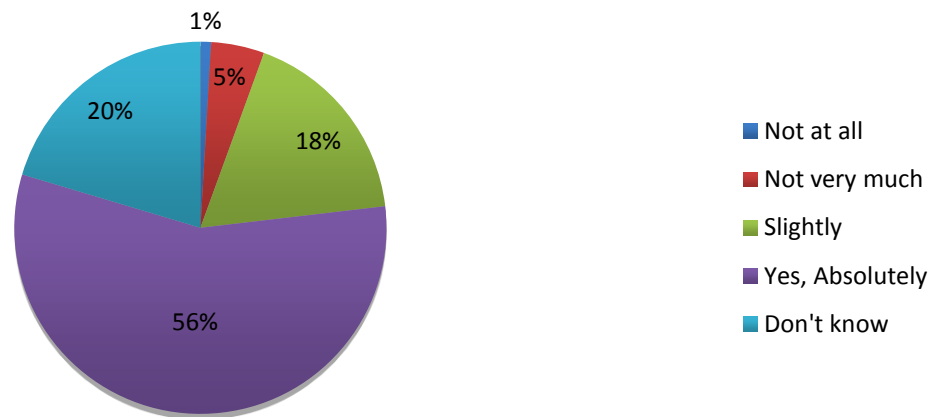
Q8: Have you ever read/heard about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?



Q9: What do you think about the SDGs? Will they achieve their objective of eradicating poverty (or at least, reducing it consequently)?



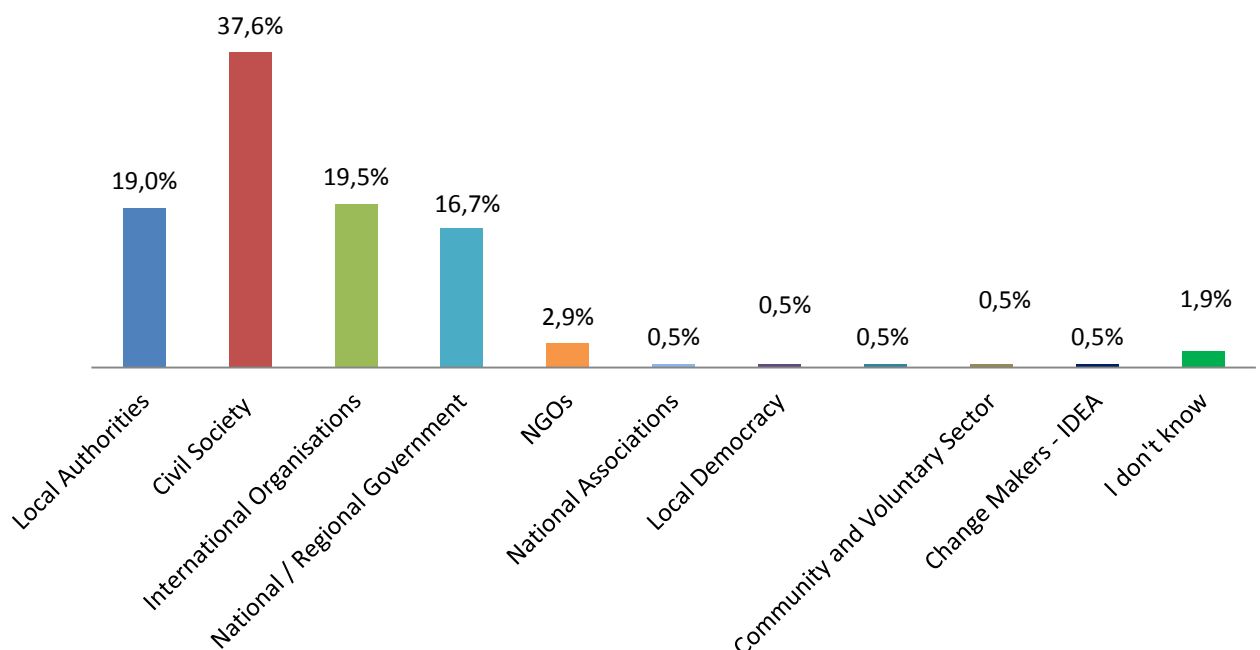
Q11: Do you think the EYD, and more generally speaking the MDGs/post-2015/SDGs, are necessary for the eradication of poverty?



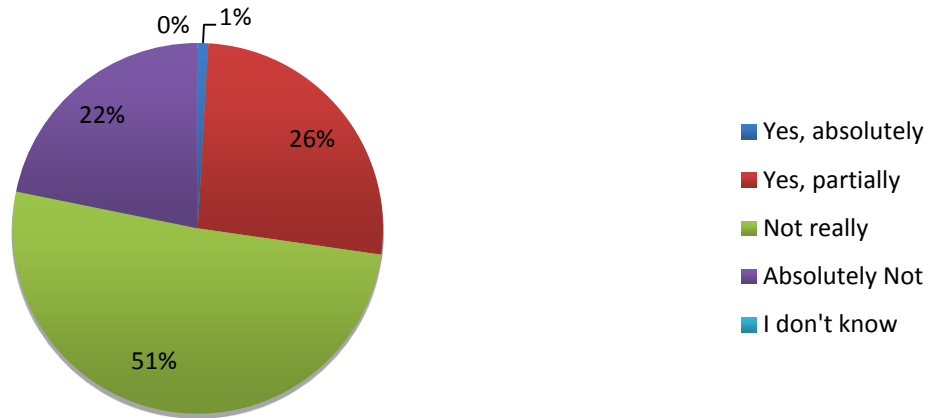
PART II

Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) in your country

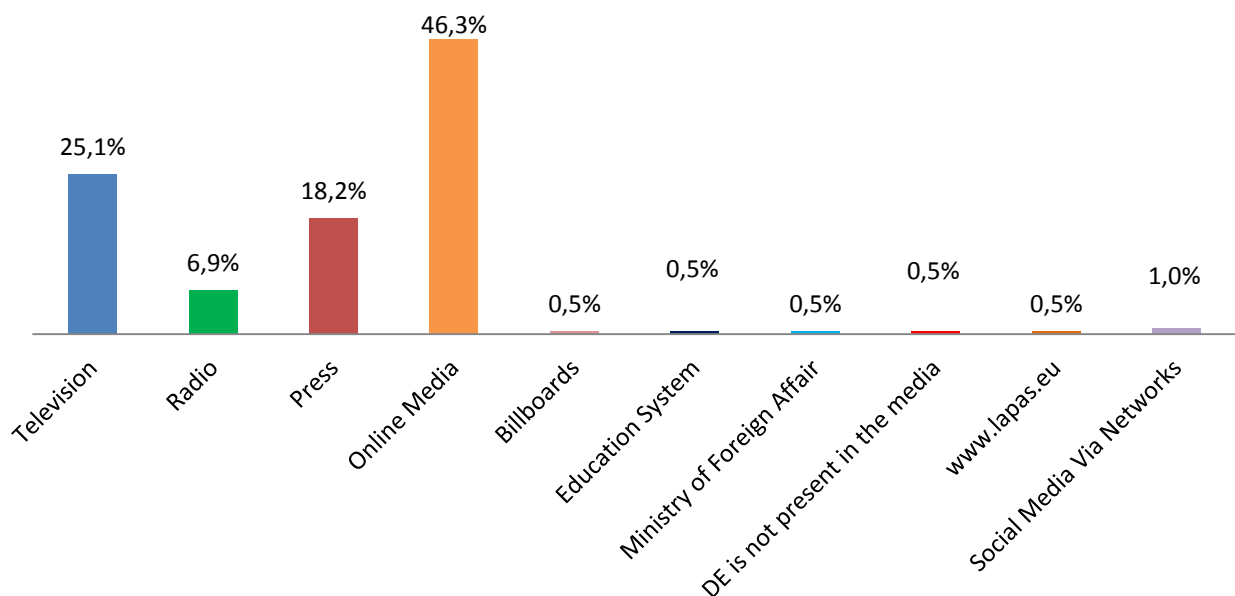
Q12: In your country, which stakeholder(s) would you say is/are leader in the field of Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)?



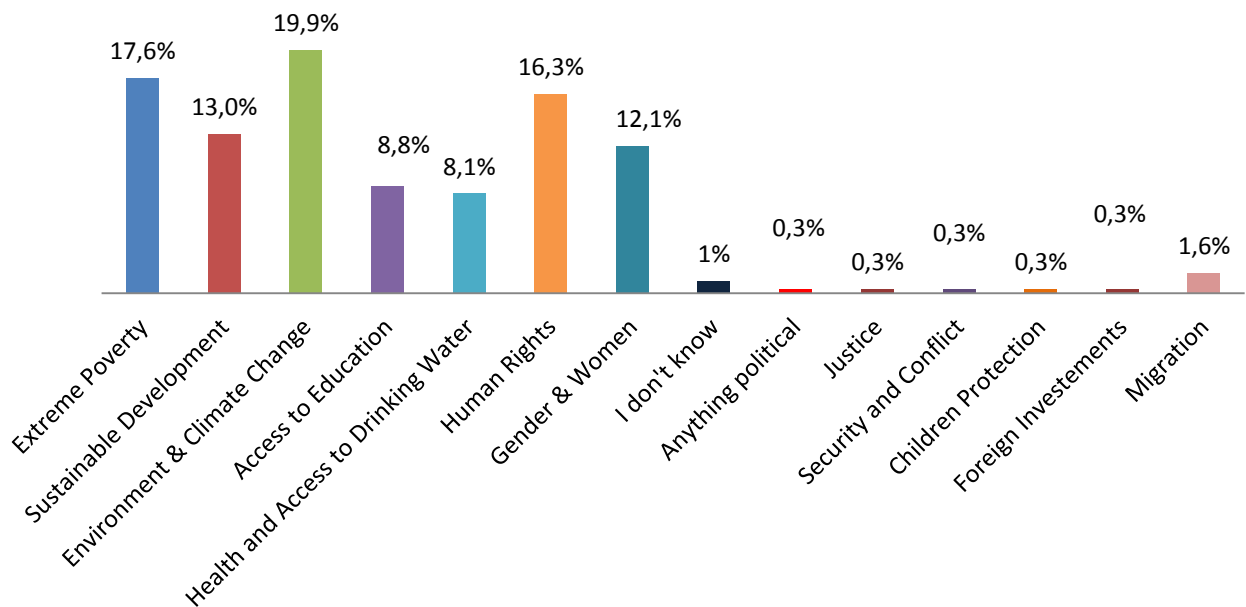
Q13: In your opinion, is the media coverage on development issues enough in your country?



Q14: Which types of media deal most effectively with development issues and development education in your country?



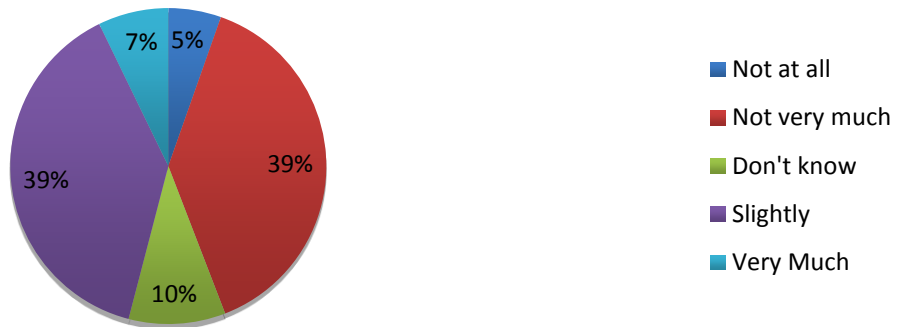
Q15: According to you, what are the main development issues covered by your national media?



Q16: In your opinion, are the DEAR policies in your country easily identifiable and visible?



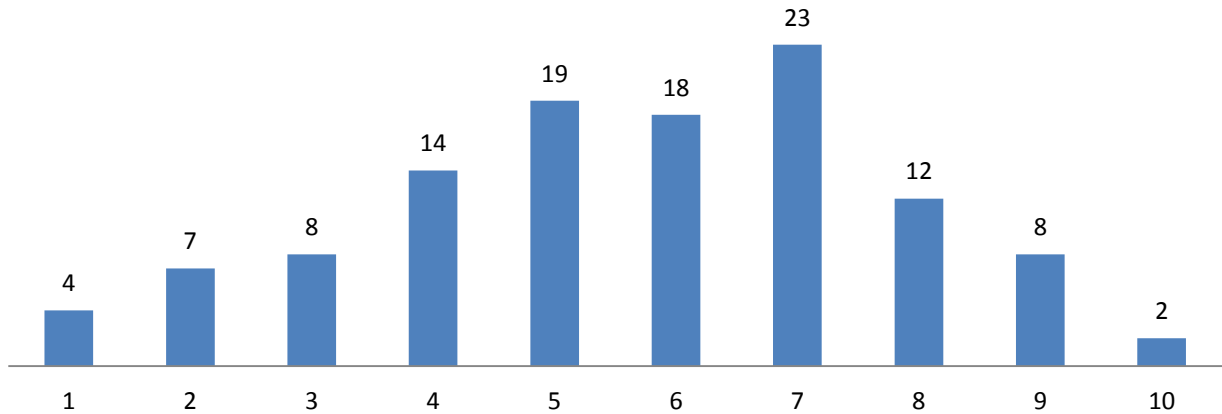
Q18: How much is development education promoted in your country?



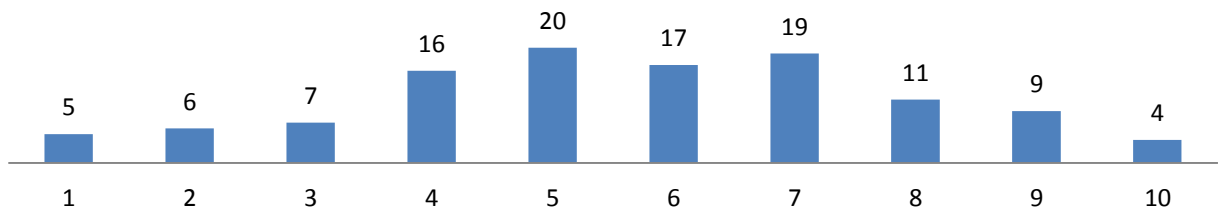
Q18 2nd part: If promoted, please specify which actors are promoting.



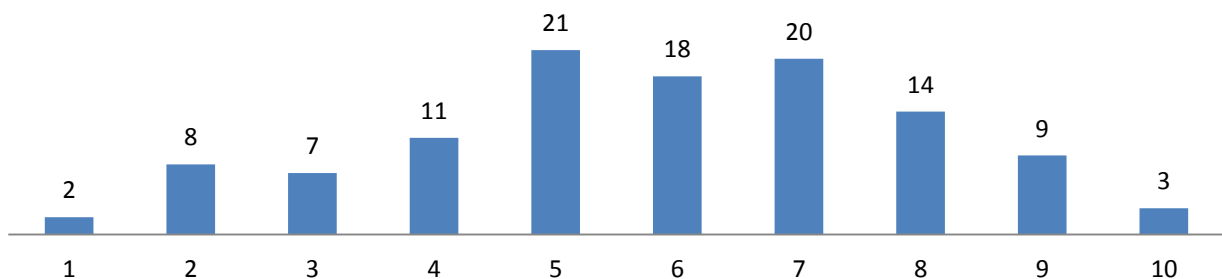
Q19: From 1 to 10, to which extent do you feel aware of development/global issues in your community/city?



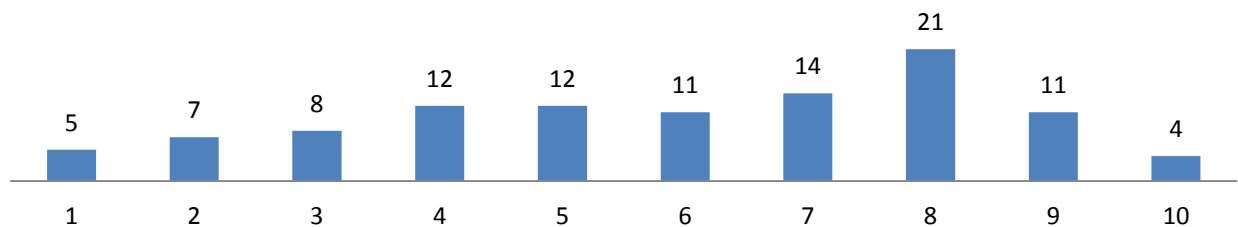
Q20: From 1 to 10, to which extent do you feel aware of development/global issues in your region?



Q21: From 1 to 10, to which extent do you feel aware of development/global issues in your country?



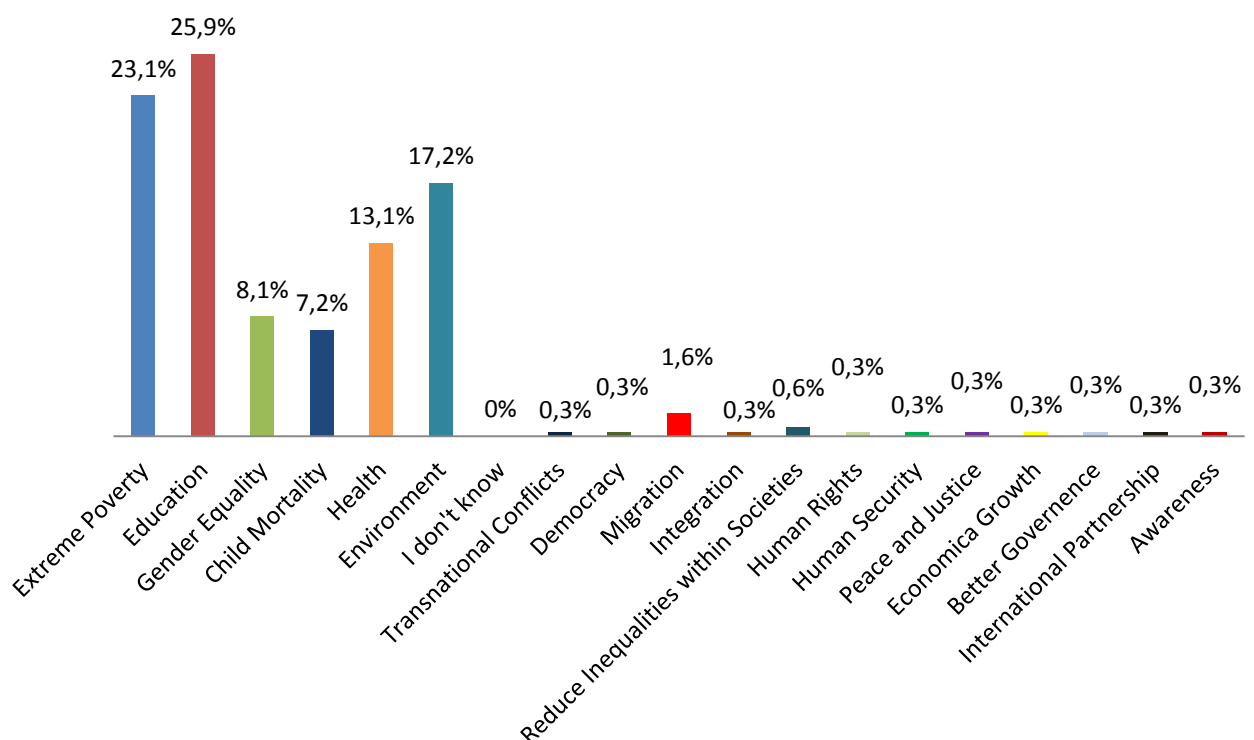
Q22: From 1 to 10, to which extent are you active at the local level, especially with regards to development issues?



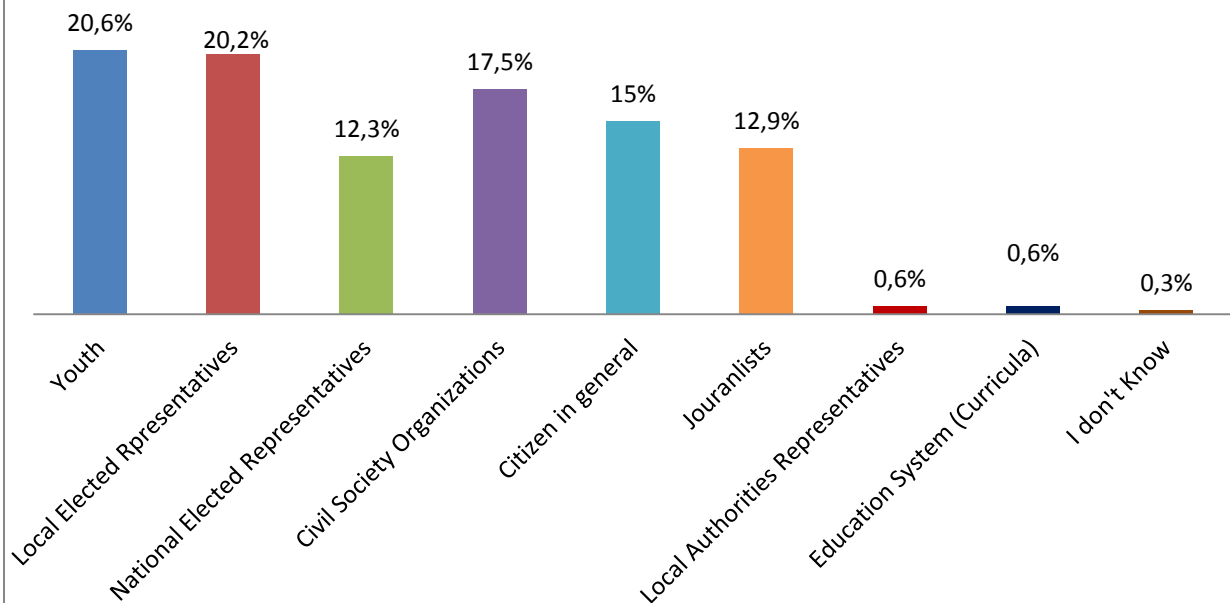
PART III

Your opinion on the implementation of DEAR Strategies

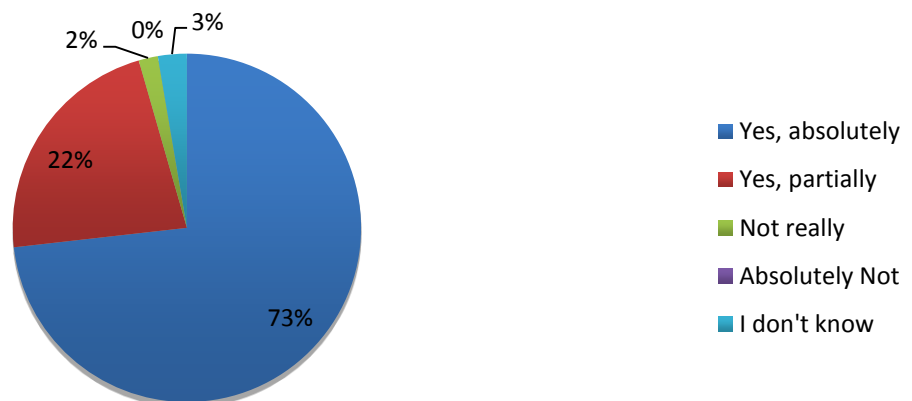
Q24: In your opinion, which development issues should DEAR policies address as a priority?



Q25: In your opinion, to whom should DEAR strategies and activities be addressed in the first place?



Q26: Do you think cooperation between LAs and CSOs is a good strategy to increase the impact of DEAR policies and to help change attitudes & opinions of citizens towards further action for development, poverty, human rights etc.?



PART IV

The EU and Development Aid

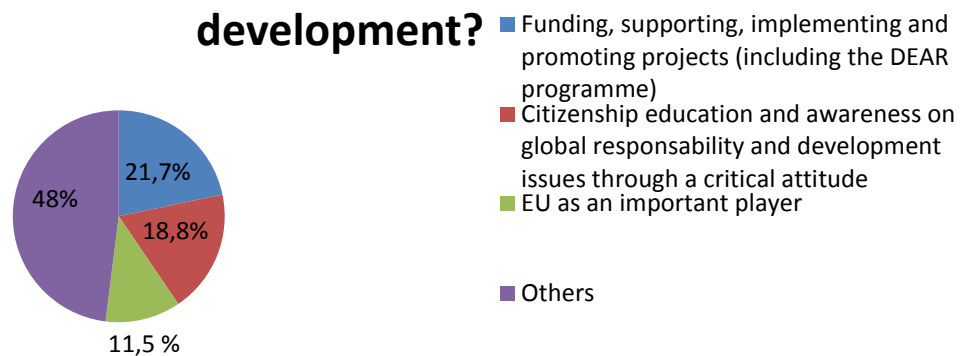
Q28: Are you aware of the EU strategies and policies in terms of development aid?



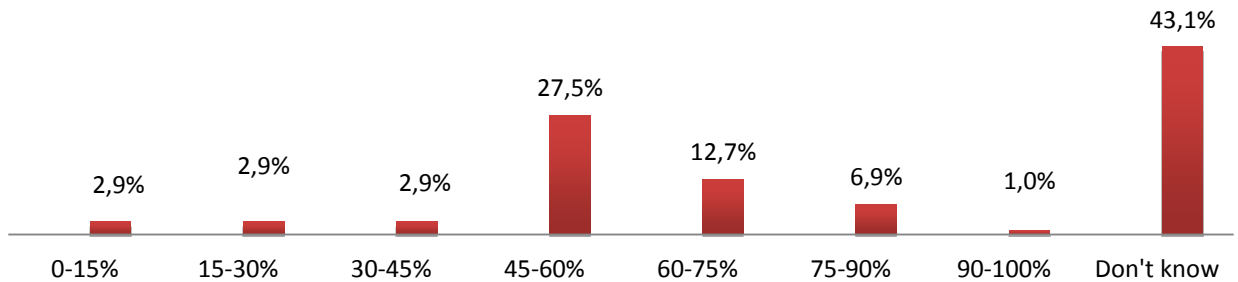
Q29: Do you think the EU can positively contribute to the global debate on development?



29 2nd part: How do you think the EU can positively contribute to the global debate on development?



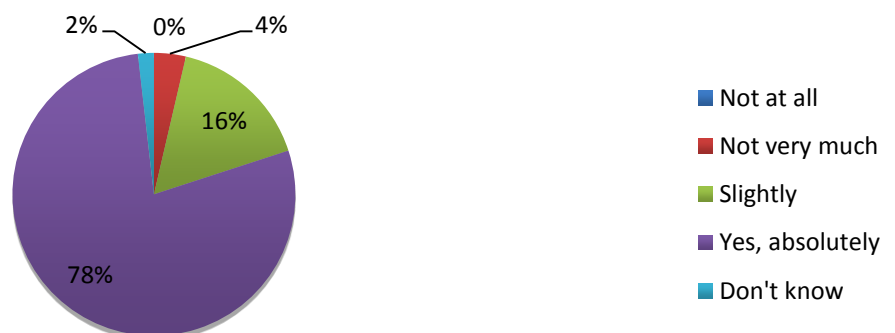
Q30: Out of the total official development aid at international level, are you aware of the share of aid provided by the EU and the Member States?



Q31: Do you think that tackling poverty in developing countries should be a priority of your country?



Q32: Do you think that tackling poverty in developing countries should be a priority of the EU?



Q33: To what extent do you think that tackling poverty, fighting inequality & injustice and promoting human rights at global level is in your country's interest?



Q34: To what extent do you think that tackling poverty, fighting inequality & injustice, promoting human rights at global level is in the EU's interest?



PART V

Engagement for development

Q35: Can individuals play a role in tackling poverty?



Q36: DO you think that individuals can take action that has an impact at global level?



Q37: Please comment on how can individuals take action in that way?



Q38: To what extent do you feel you are part of a global world & that you are a global citizen?



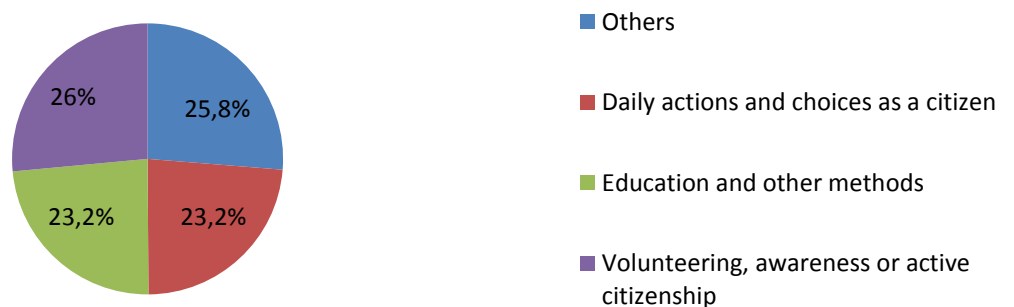
Q39: At an individual level, are you willing to take action for global challenges such as poverty eradication, fight against inequalities, promotion of human rights & tolerance?



Q39 2nd part: Why, at an individual level, are you willing to take action for global challenges?



Q40: In what ways are you taking or willing to take action?



Q41: To what extent do you think your individual action can have a spin-off effect at the local level, encouraging other individuals to follow your engagement?



Q42: To what extent do you think that citizens are willing to engage in development issues?



Q42 2nd part: Why are citizens willing or not to engage in development issues?

