

3rd Quarterly Survey on the conditions for North-South and East-West cooperation after Brexit

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Introduction



July-September 2021



3RD QUARTERLY SURVEY RESULTS
ON THE CONDITIONS
FOR NORTH-SOUTH
AND EAST-WEST
COOPERATION

Friday, 22 October 2021
10am, online

Following the fantastic response from civic society organisations and local authorities in Ireland and Northern Ireland to the 3rd Quarterly Survey on the Conditions for North-South and East-West Cooperation, the Centre will hold a webinar to present and discuss the results.

Register Online at
<https://bit.ly/3Fmt6IX>
#CCBSQSurvey

- ▶ This quarterly survey is a vital means to give us an understanding of the extent to which **the necessary conditions for North-South cooperation are being maintained**, and **how relations between civic society organisations and local authorities on the island of Ireland and Great Britain are being safeguarded** following the end of the Brexit transition period and the implementation of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.



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Introduction



- ▶ This survey is aimed specifically at civic society organisations and local authorities in light of the fact that the mapping exercise of North-South cooperation undertaken in 2017 by the UK and EU may have overlooked some of the cooperation they are involved in:
- ▶ *“Further areas of informal, local and community-level cooperation may not have been captured by this exercise”* (para 16 of Department for Exiting the European Union’s December 2018 “Technical Explanatory Note: North-South Cooperation Mapping Exercise”).



Thanks and please!



- ▶ We are enormously grateful to all those who've responded to our survey – especially those who have responded in previous quarters.
- ▶ We need your ongoing help in responding to future surveys so that we can raise the issues that are important to you.
- ▶ This is a marathon, not a sprint.

How your responses are used

- ▶ The information this survey provides is used by the Centre for Cross Border Studies as we work with other organisations to protect North-South and East-West relations and cooperation, not least through the Ad-Hoc Group for North-South and East-West Cooperation, which the Centre convenes.





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Overview

- Understanding the data
- Respondents
- North-South dimension
- East-West dimension



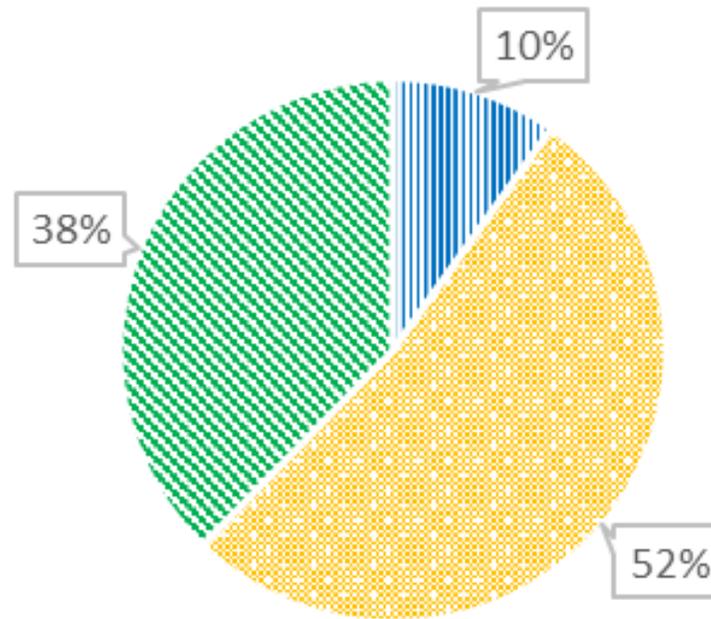


Understanding the data

- The composition of the panel means that we cannot draw direct comparisons between this and previous rounds of the survey. However, the high number of respondents who have participated in at least one of the previous survey rounds means we can begin to infer the shape of some trends over the course of the year in a practical sense
- The quantitative data is given much more context and nuance thanks to the qualitative contributions made by respondents
- The respondents to all rounds of the survey conducted thus far each have a wealth of insight, experience, and expertise of cross-border cooperation and collaboration, and the results should be considered with these valuable insights in mind

Respondents

Where is your organisation based?
(n=61)



|| Both * Northern Ireland ◆ Republic of Ireland

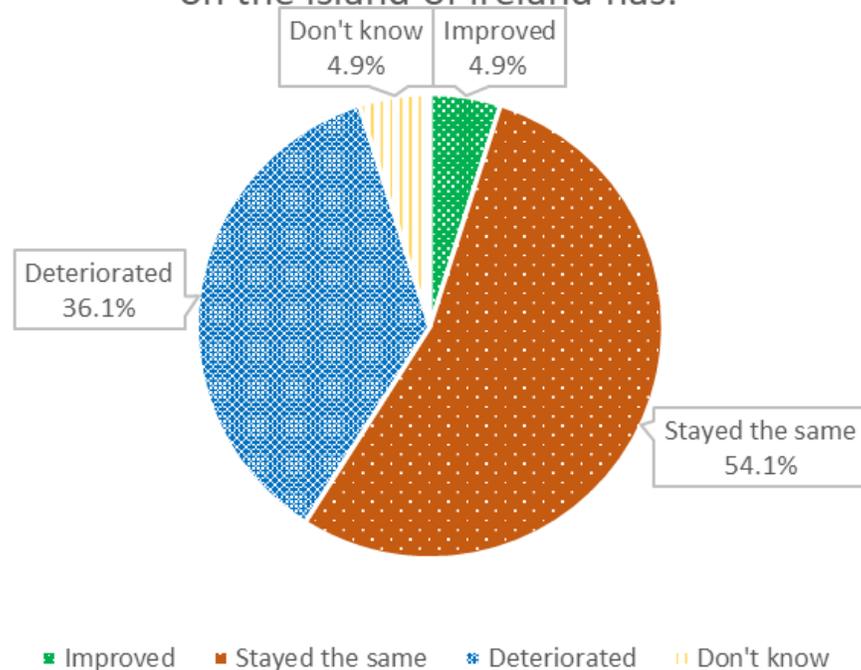


North-South contact and collaboration

- This quarter 74% of respondents have had meetings with organisations in the other jurisdiction. For 46% of respondents their level of contact this quarter has been at the same level as the last, and has increased for 30% of respondents
- 76% of respondents reported that meetings with organisations in the other jurisdiction discussed challenges to cross-border cooperation to some degree.
- 80% of respondents are currently involved in North-South cross-border collaboration and 26 respondents are actively considering new collaborative projects.
- 47% of respondents currently engaged in collaboration reported that they were in receipt of funding for cross-border collaborative projects

North-South political context

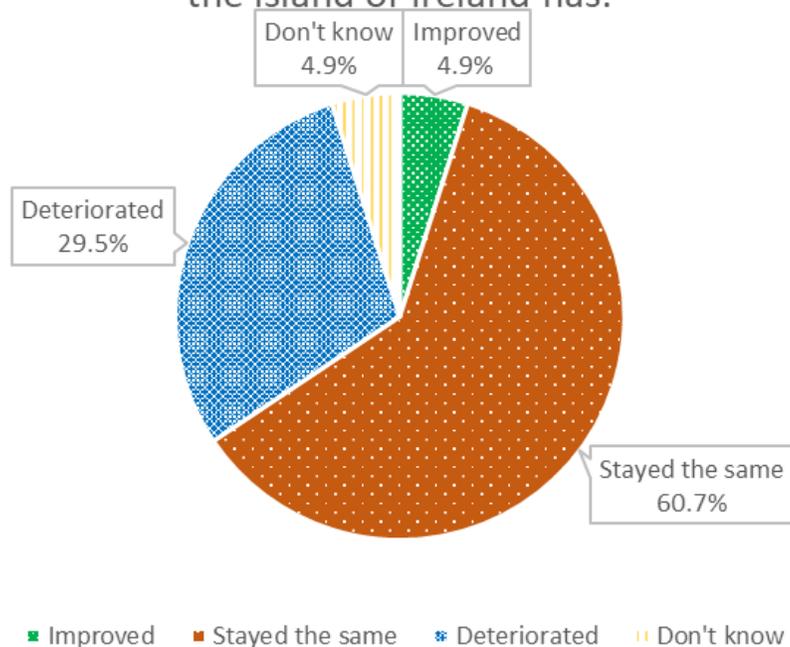
In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Political** context for collaboration with the other jurisdiction on the island of Ireland has:



- ▶ “It is a frustrating game play for party political gain for the most part ”
- ▶ “The politicisation of Brexit and the implementation of the NI protocol and UK/EU TCA have exacerbated community tensions and are undermining UK/NI/ROI relations. This is creating, in some ways, a more difficult environment for co-operation”
- ▶ “The majority of political parties seem open to collaboration, however that doesn't often reach media headlines which often skews public perception”

North-South social context

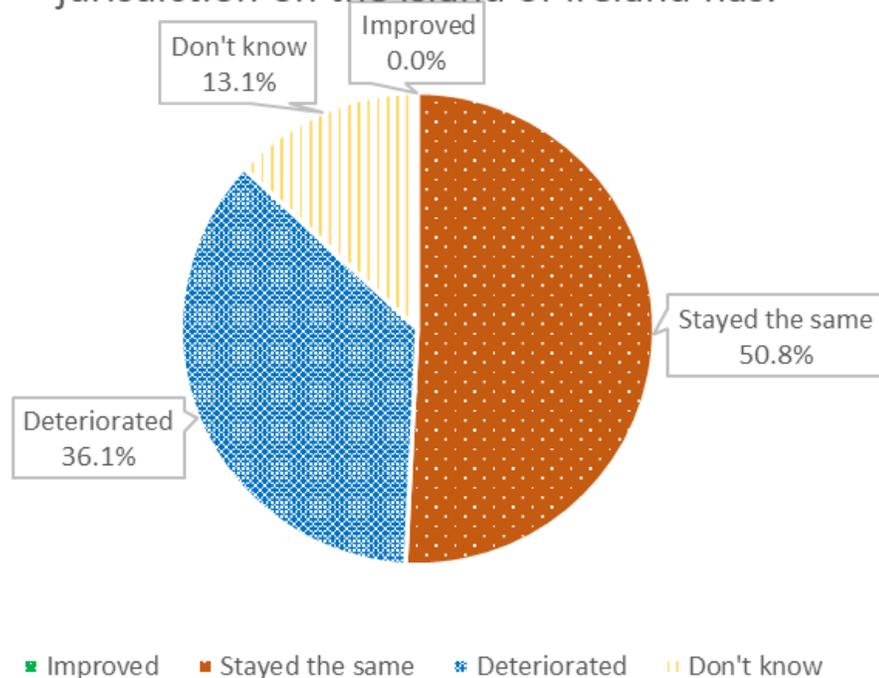
In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Social** context for collaboration with the other jurisdiction on the island of Ireland has:



- ▶ “Social context remains fragile, requiring support from grass roots organisations which should then have the opportunity to feed into the development of appropriate policies for our communities”
- ▶ “Perceptions about the actors in other jurisdictions have (fairly or unfairly) deteriorated in some communities we work in”

North-South regulatory context

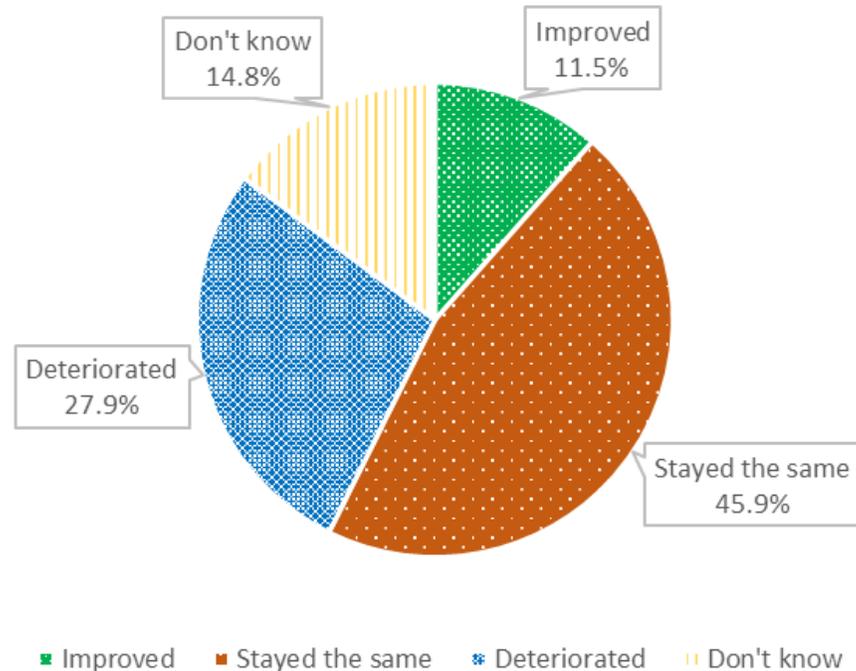
In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Regulatory** context for collaboration with the other jurisdiction on the island of Ireland has:



- ▶ “New UK immigration rules affecting capacity to accept interns from EU (other than Ireland)”
- ▶ “Concerns about delivering meals on wheels to vulnerable older service-users in NI from RoI”
- ▶ “The uncertainty of the regulatory context -- it has not deteriorated, nor has it remained the same, but the context has become much more uncertain”

North-South material context

In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Material** context for collaboration with the other jurisdiction on the island of Ireland has:



- ▶ “Transport form-filing has improved with experience and knowledge. Business is finding new sources of goods”
- ▶ “Shops have more access to produce in ROI but I am not sure how that is working out for everyone”
- ▶ “Slower, more costly and without reciprocal end to end buy-in to ensure receiving goods is seemly for the NI based receiver of goods”



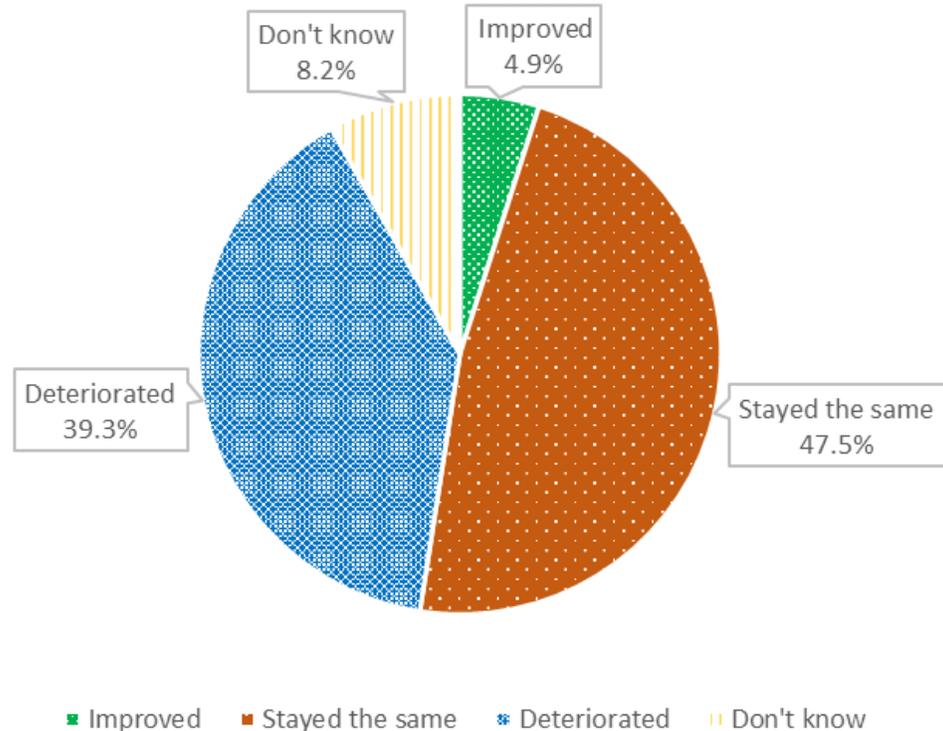
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East-West contact and collaboration

- This quarter almost half of respondents reported having meetings with organisations in GB (49%). 72% of respondents say that this is the same level of contact as the last quarter, and 16% reported that their level of contact had decreased on the previous quarter
- 60% of respondents reported that meetings with partners in Great Britain discussed challenges to cooperation either on occasion (43%) or to a significant extent (17%)
- This quarter 61% of respondents say they are currently involved in collaboration with a GB-based organisation and 44% of respondents are actively considering new collaborative projects.
- 35% of respondents currently engaged in collaboration reported that they were in receipt of funding for cross-border collaborative projects.

East-West political context

In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Political** context for collaboration with Great Britain has:



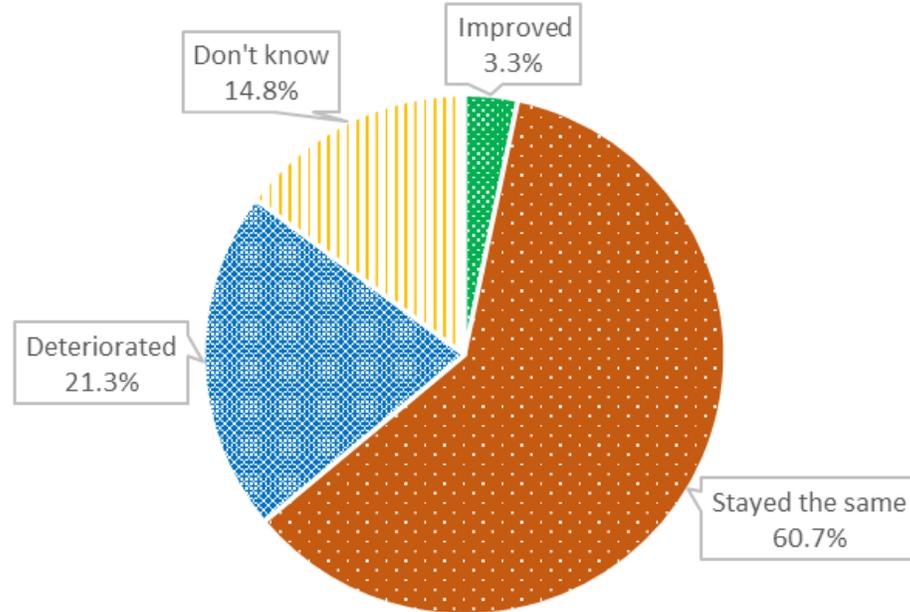
- ▶ “The challenges of Brexit and the Protocol remain and the political rhetoric continues to be stoked up”
- ▶ “GB does not seem to have answers for mitigating for Brexit in N.I. Good Friday agreement at risk if Stormont is pulled down”



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East-West social context

In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Social** context for collaboration with Great Britain has:



■ Improved ■ Stayed the same ■ Deteriorated ■ Don't know

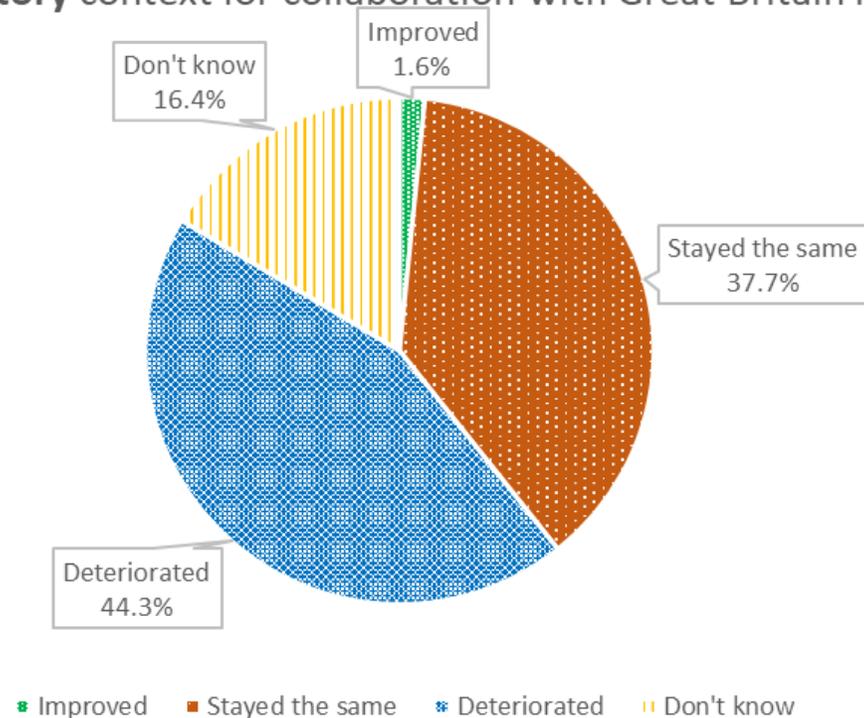
- ▶ “Some protests against N.I protocol still happening, although seems with small numbers. Good Friday agreement at risk if Stormont is pulled down”



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East-West regulatory context

In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Regulatory** context for collaboration with Great Britain has:



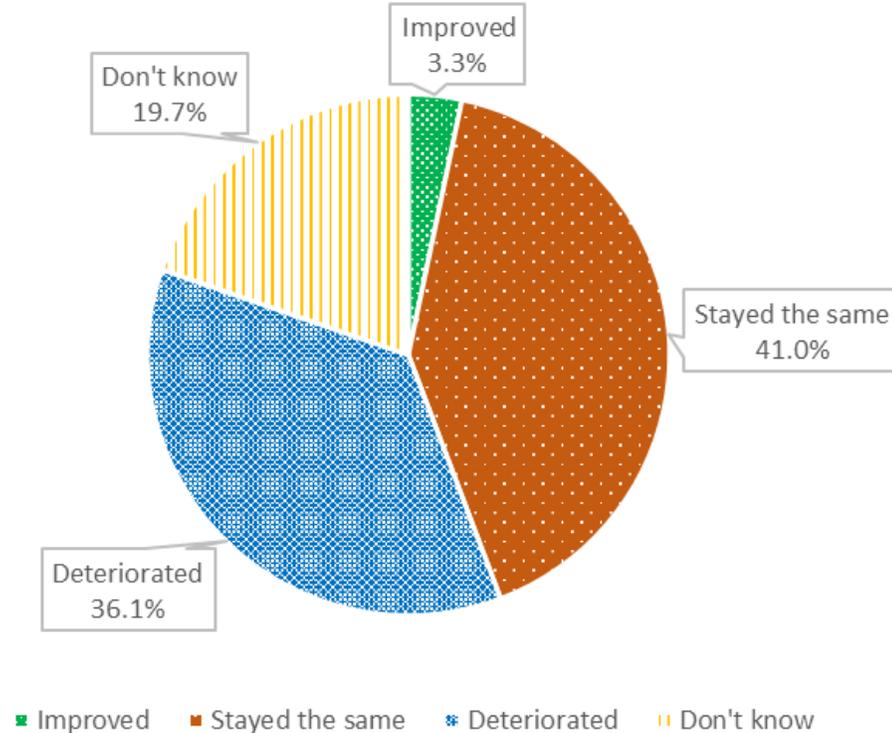
- ▶ “Inaccurate claims about implementation of the Protocol is stifling normal trade relationships”
- ▶ “Unilateral actions around the NI protocol on the part of the UK government are undermining confidence & trust”
- ▶ “I think it is becoming more difficult as the political will from Westminster is not there. As the impact of Brexit is being felt more now this may change”



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East-West material context

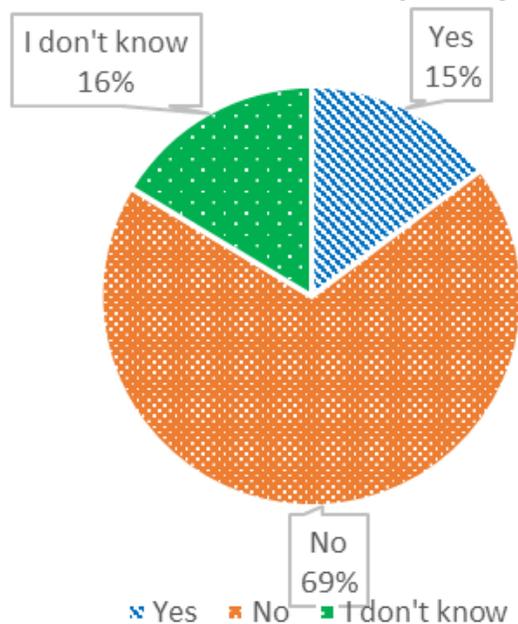
In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Material** context for collaboration with Great Britain has:



- ▶ “Due to VAT implications we are less inclined to purchase supplies from GB”
- ▶ “Especially among Great Britain stores there seems to be less products in these stores with some stores cutting these lines from their Irish stores. Also shopping online, the charge to return products to some stores (depending on delivery service used)”

Protocol

Do you think there is enough relevant information on the Protocol available to those involved in cross-border (North-South and/or East-West) cooperation activities



- ▶ 69% of respondents reported that they do not feel there is enough information on the protocol available compared to 15% who do
- ▶ 16% of respondents feel very informed about the protocol and 61% feel somewhat informed, with the press and social media being one of the primary sources of information, with the Irish government in second place.



Comments from respondents

- “The upper level lead must be more visionary rather than the small, though necessary, developers locally”
- “Unless we challenge the deliberately negative narrative from UK and DUP, we will end up not resolving the solvable issues on trade and creating a worse situation on trade and everything else”
- “The ordinary people in the street would get on well together if they were not stirred up by mindless and bigoted politicians on both sides of the political divide”



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Conclusion

- The overall context of the conditions for cooperation between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and between Northern Ireland and Great Britain in this quarter are, broadly, perceived as being the same or worse than the last quarter, “stayed the same” was the predominant response for almost all contexts. A trend is emerging that indicates a normalisation of the conditions as stakeholders begin to operate within the new contexts
- A majority of respondents report engaging in meetings and collaborations with partners in the North-South dimension, though these figures were slightly less than half in terms of the East-West dimension
- A common challenge raised through this survey has been the increased obstacles to labour mobility and recruitment following Brexit
- Certainty is required, this means the UK and EU need to come to an agreement regarding how the protocol is going to work in the long term so that organisations engaging in cooperation and collaboration, both North-South and East-West can proceed with confidence in their broader socio-political and regulatory contexts