

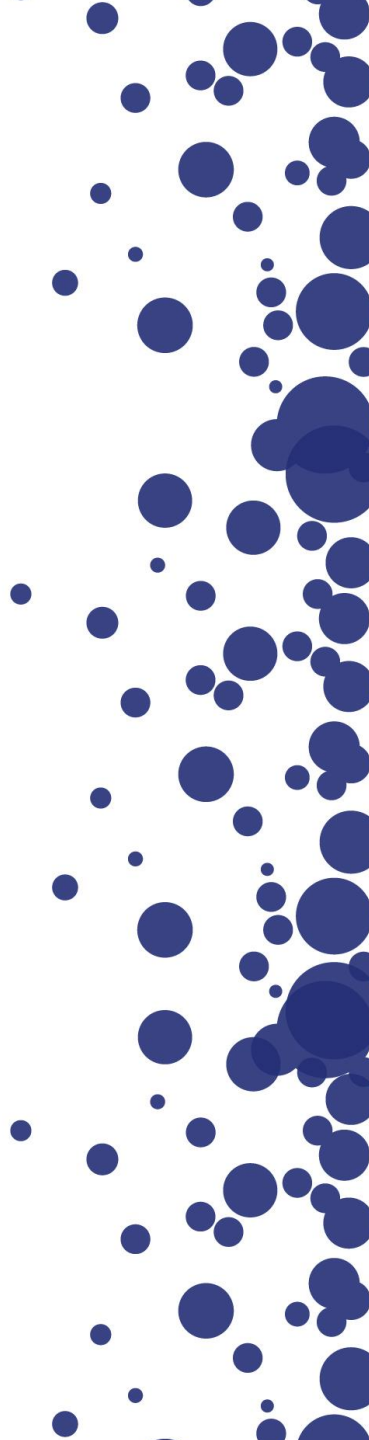


# PERCEIVE

Perception and Evaluation of Regional  
and Cohesion Policies by Europeans and  
Identification with the Values of Europe



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**PERCEIVE**

# **Citizens' vs. practitioners' perceptions on EU regional approach**

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# I. Working hypothesis

**As there are a greater discrepancy between:**

**-*the needs* for public intervention *perceived by citizens* –**  
(on one hand)

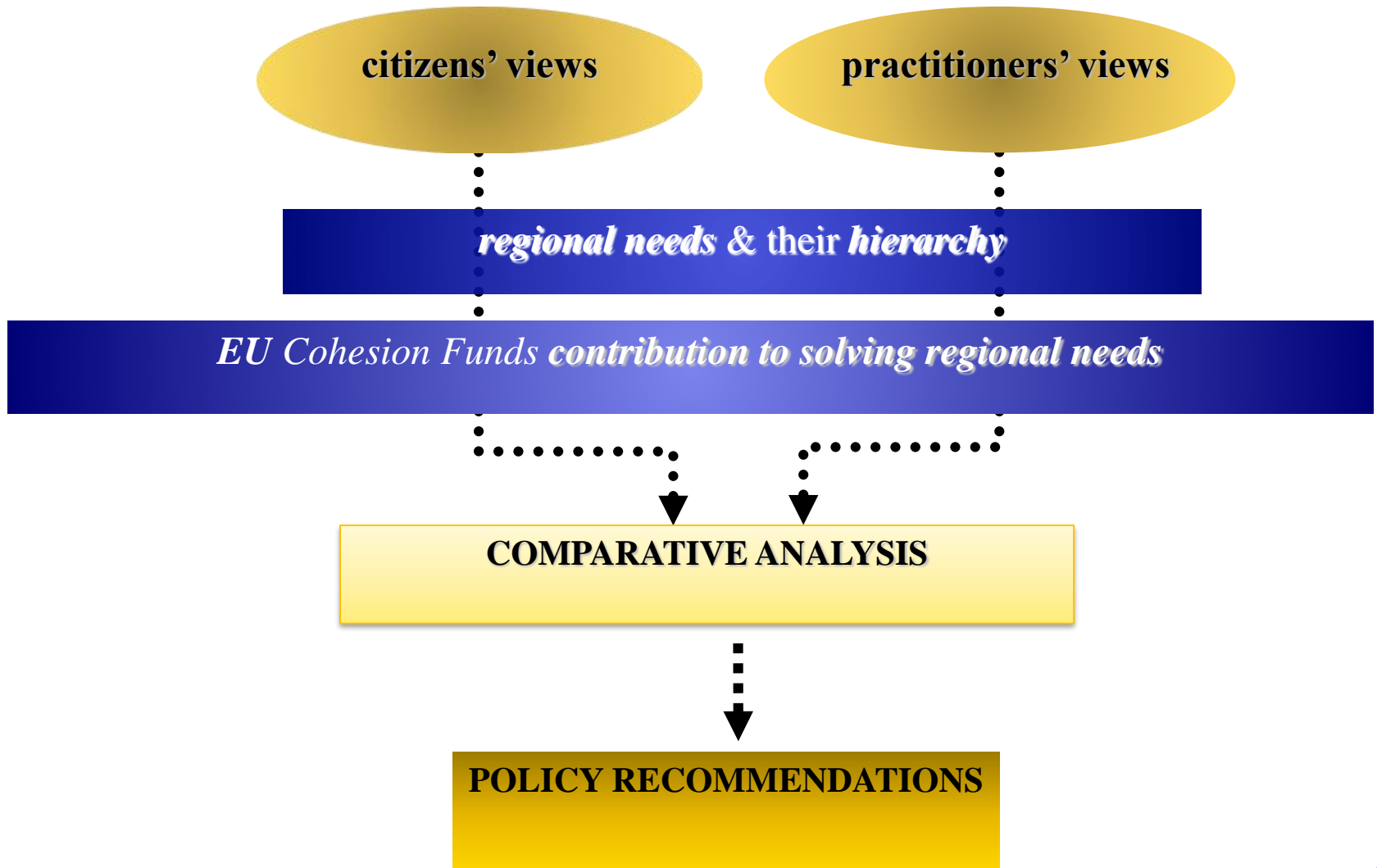
&

**-*the main directions of public interventions* through EU Cohesion Policy perceived / conceived *by practitioners*** (on the other)

**With that much EU citizens' perceptions of European Policy performance decreases**



## II. Methodological approach (1/3)



## II. Methodological approach - (2/3)

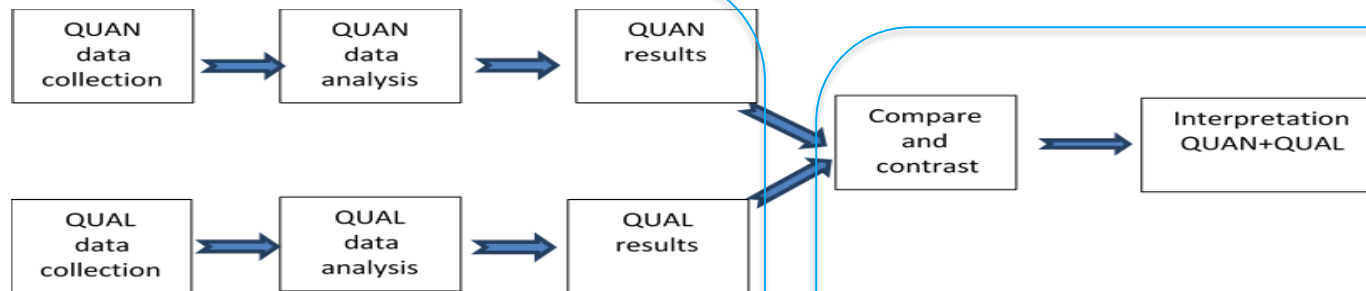
### ***Mixed research methods***

Advantages - ***combining qualitative and quantitative data on the same topic,***

- ***allows to assess the overlapping but distinct facets of the phenomenon under study*** (Greene et al., 1989).

***Triangulation Design*** - most well-known and used approach to mixed methods is the (Creswell, Plano Clark, et al., 2003).

***Convergence model*** (figure above) represents the most well-known model of mixed methods triangulation design (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2007).



**I stage.**

***quantitative and qualitative data on the same phenomenon are separately collected and analyzed.***

**II stage.**

***different results are converged (by comparing and contrasting the different findings) during the interpretation phase.***



## II. Methodological approach - (3/3)

### ***Mixed method – “convergence model” applied in PERCEIVE project***

Stages →	Qualitative textual evidence					
	1 <i>Design</i>	2 <i>Collection</i>	3 <i>Conversion</i>	4 <i>Analysis</i>	5 <i>Interpretation</i>	6 <i>Integration</i>
	Open-ended Focus group questions	Recording Written Video Audio	Transcription Translation Thematic categories Thematic variables	Content analysis Association matrix Ranking	Analysis of story lines	
<b>Regional perceptions</b>					↑ Contextualization ↓	Integrative analysis Compare Drawing conclusions <b>Perceptive Similarities</b>
	Items Scales	Responses to Survey	Codes Scales	Descriptive analysis Ranking	Contingency analysis	
	Quantitative numeric evidence					

Source: based on Castro et al. (2010)

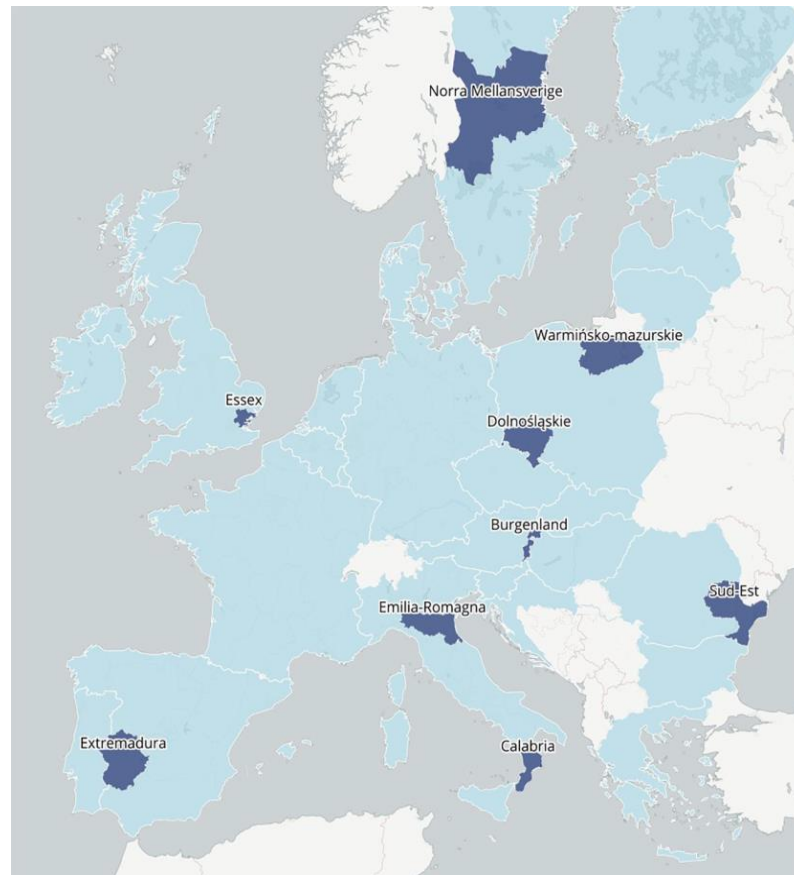


# III. Data used (1/2)

## 9 PERCEIVE case study regions

*represent the complex and heterogeneous reality of EU Cohesion Policy performance and its multidimensional determinants in terms of socio-economic, political, and demographic development*

<u>Case Study Region</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Cohesion policy objective</u>
Burgenland	AT	Convergence-phasing out
Extremadura	ES	Convergence
Emilia-Romagna	IT	Competitiveness
Calabria	IT	Convergence
Dolnośląskie	PL	Convergence
Warmińsko-mazurskie	PL	Convergence
Sud Est	RO	Convergence
Norra Mellansverige	SE	Competitiveness
Essex	UK	Competitiveness



**Data collection**  
- spring of 2017 -





# III. Data used - (2/2)

Quantitative evidence

**SURVEY**  
representative sample of  
**citizens** at regional level



Q4. In the past 5 years or so, which of the following do you think has been the biggest problem facing your region?

- poor education
- poor infrastructure & transportation
- corruption and poor governance
- unemployment
- environmental concerns
- poor wages/ poverty
- other



% in Q4 answers

Qualitative evidence

**FOCUS GROUPS / INTERVIEWS**  
regional **practitioners** involved in  
CP implementation



Question 18 of the Focus Group protocol  
*What were the issues/problems/needs that your region had to face during the programming period 2007 – 2013 implementation*

**Defining regional needs**

**Hierarchy of regional needs**

**Effectiveness of EU in answering to the regional needs**

*and in what order would you hierarchize them?*

*In your opinion, did the 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme(s) respond to such issues?*

Q5. How effective do you think the following institutions will be at dealing with the biggest problem in your region?

(1 very effective, 2 somewhat effective, 3 not so effective)

**a. The European Union**





## IV. Results

*4.1. regional needs' perception*

*4.2. EU effectiveness in dealing  
with regional needs*

# 4.1. regional needs' perception (1/4)

## Hierarchy of regional needs - citizens' vs. practitioners' perceptions -

Hierarchy of regional needs	Emilia-Romagna (IT)	
	citizens	practitioners
Primary order	Unemployment (50.4%)	Unemployment Innovation system Post-earthquake recovery
Secondary order	Environmental concerns (17.4%)	Youth unemployment
	Corruption and poor governance (10.8%)	
Tertiary order	Poor infrastructure & transportation (8.4%)	Regional disparities
	Poor wages / poverty (6.4%)	Social exclusion
	Poor education (5.0%)	
	"other" (1.5%)	

Hierarchy of regional needs	Burgenland (AT)	
	citizens	practitioners
Primary order	Unemployment (38.7%)	North-south disparities: infrastructure Research (R&D)
Secondary order	Poor infrastructure & transportation (14.5%)	Education/qualification
	Poor wages / poverty (12.0%)	Tourism
	"other" (11.4%)	
Tertiary order	Corruption and poor governance (10.1%)	Wage/social dumping
	Poor education (7.0%)	
	Environmental concerns (6.4)	Renewable energy

Hierarchy of regional needs	Sud Est (RO)	
	citizens	practitioners
Primary order	Corruption and poor governance (39.5%)	Social infrastructure (healthcare, education)
	Poor wages / poverty (29.7%)	Technical and transport infrastructure (road, urban, tourism, piscicultural)
Secondary order	Poor infrastructure & transportation (17%)	Business sector development Social problems (poverty, roma integration, unemployment, poor neighborhood)
	Unemployment (5.5%)	Bureaucracy
Poor education (5.1%)		
Environmental concerns (3.2)		



# 4.1. regional needs' perception (2/4)

## Hierarchy of regional needs

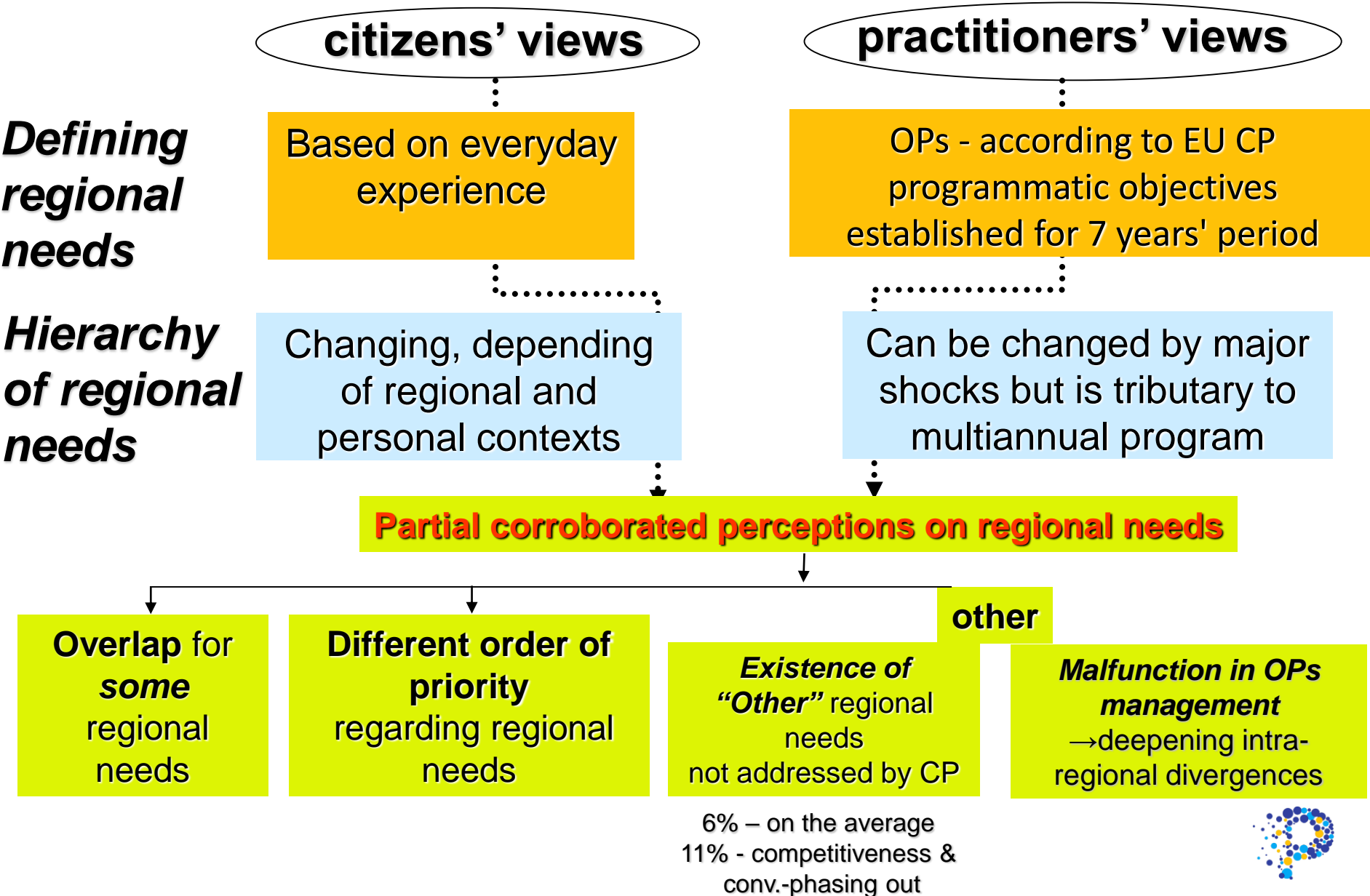
- citizens' vs. practitioners' perceptions (*Polish regions*)-

Hierarchy of regional needs	Dolnośląskie (PL)	
	citizens	practitioners
Primary order	<b>Poor wages / poverty (26.1%)</b>	Unemployment
		low quality of infrastructure, including tourism infrastructure
		outflow of qualified workers – competition from neighboring countries
		low business innovativeness
		pollution of the environment, especially air pollution
Secondary order	<b>Poor infrastructure &amp; transportation (18.1%)</b>	low living standards of population
		Corruption and poor governance (17.6%)
		Unemployment (15%)
		Environmental concerns (11.7%)
Tertiary order	<b>"other" (7.4%)</b>	Poor education (4.0%)

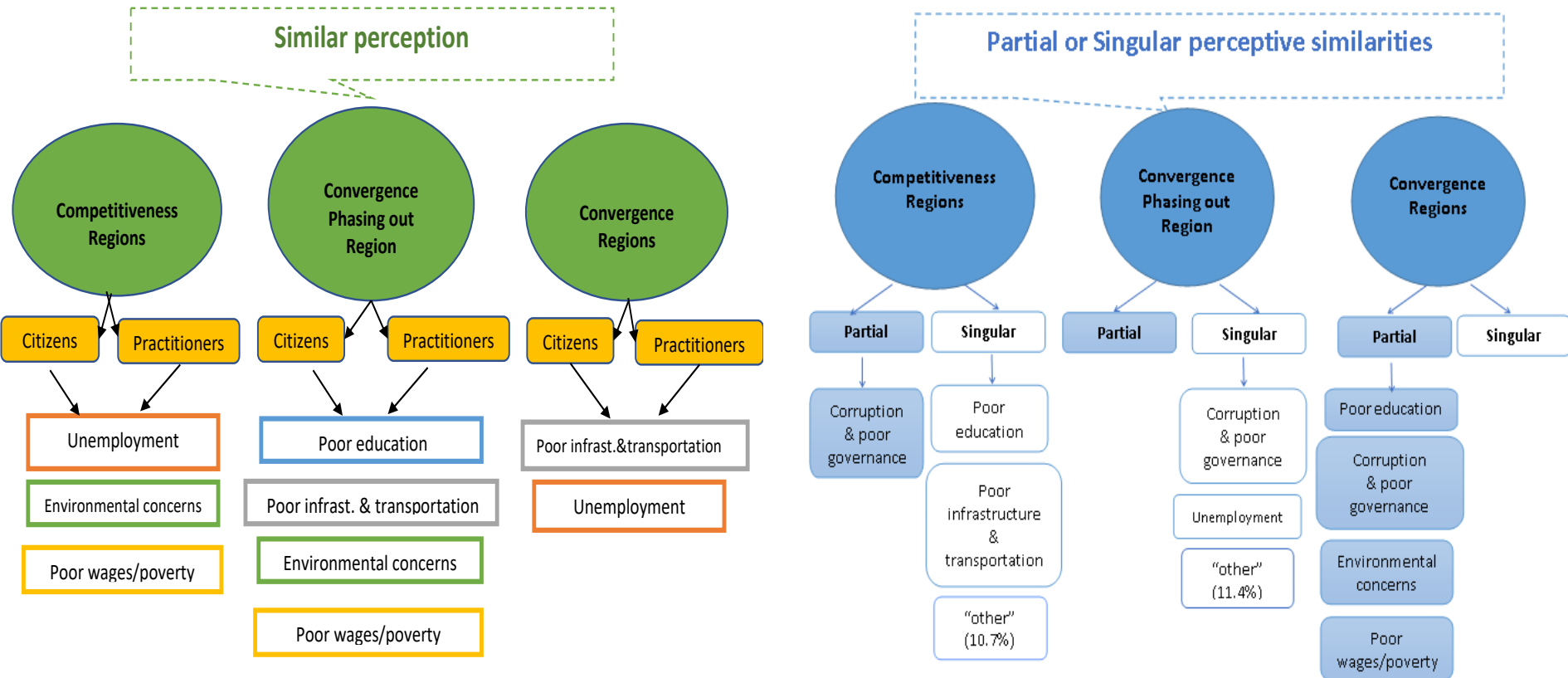
Hierarchy of regional needs	Warmińsko-Mazurskie(PL)	
	citizens	practitioners
Primary order	<b>Unemployment (37.0%)</b>	low attractiveness for large business
	<b>Poor wages / poverty (33.3%)</b>	weak transport and tourism infrastructure
Secondary order	<b>Poor infrastructure &amp; transportation (13.8%)</b>	low entrepreneurship of population
		weak social infrastructure – not adjusted to the structures of regional society
		the need of revitalization of urban areas
Tertiary order	<b>Corruption and poor governance (9.3%)</b>	insufficient environmental protection
		Poor education (3.2%)
		Environmental concerns (2.4)
		<b>"other" (1.1%)</b>



# 4.1. regional needs' perception (3/4)



# 4.1. regional needs' perception (4/4)

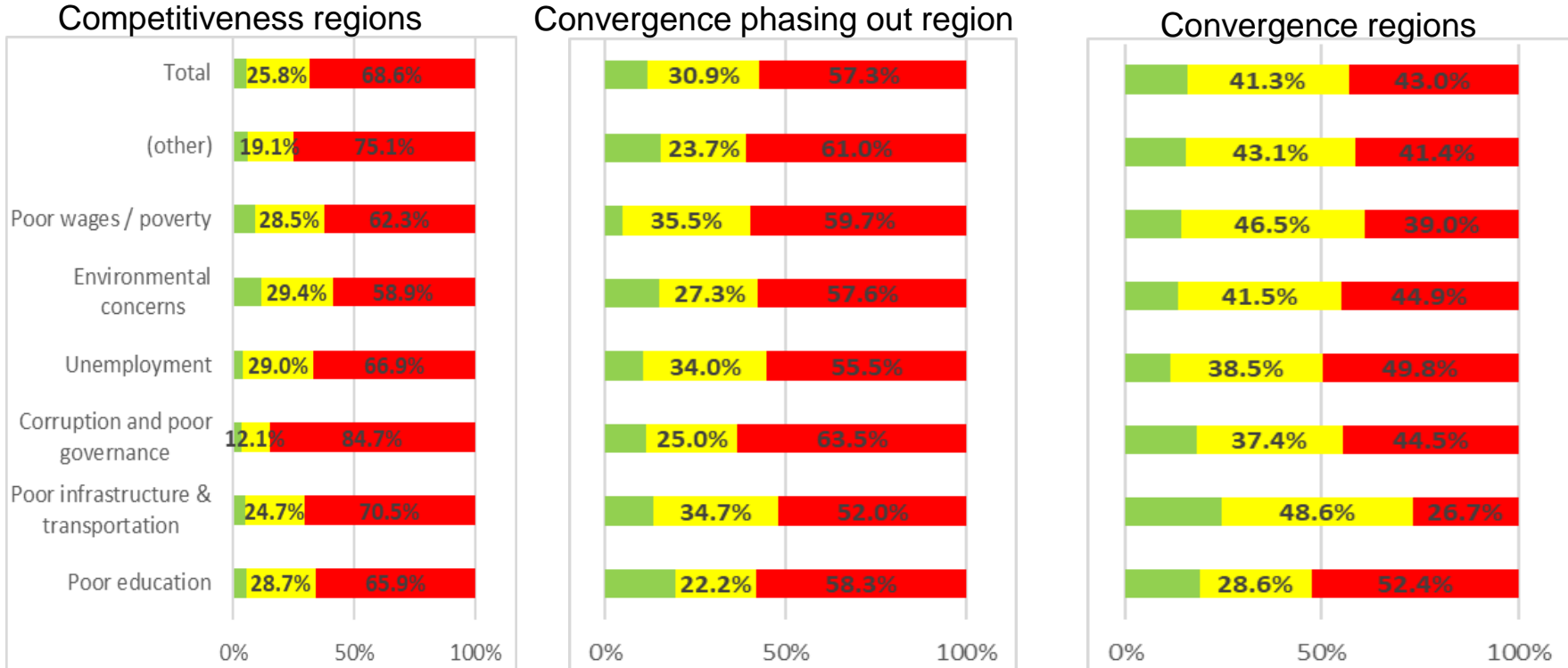


**Convergent mid or low-level assessment of the effectiveness of EU interventions through CP**



# 4.2. EU effectiveness in dealing with regional needs

Citizens' perception of EU institutions' effectiveness in dealing with the biggest problem that they consider affecting their region



Very effective

Somewhat effective

Not so effective

Source: PERCEIVE survey data



# 4.2. EU effectiveness in dealing with regional needs

## Effectiveness of EU in answering to the regional needs - citizens' vs. practitioners' perceptions -

Problems Regions	Emilia Romagna (IT)		Burgenland (AT)		Sud Est (RO)		Dolnoslaskie (PL)		Warminsko-Mazurskie (PL)		
	citizens	practitioners	citizens	practitioners	citizens	practitioners	citizens	practitioners	citizens	practitioner	
Poor education			Low	Low			Low	Low			
Poor infrastructure & transportation			Low	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	High
								Medium			Medium
Corruption and poor governance					Medium	Medium	High	Low	High	Medium	
Unemployment	Low	High					Medium	High			
		Medium									
Environmental concerns			Low	Medium			Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	
Poor wages/ poverty	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium			







- **V. Policy suggestions**

*5.1. for more focused regional programmes on citizens' needs*

*5.2. for a better communication of CP*

# 5.1. for more focused regional programmes on *citizens' needs*

- implementing a **MORE FOCUSED BOTTOM-UP APPROACH** in *defining the priorities of EU Cohesion Policy at regional level, starting from the regional needs of citizens*, with a strong focus on **identifying those "other"** specific regional issues that have not yet been targeted by regional policy and programmes, but seem to be important for a significant percentage of citizens,
- **REGIONAL OBSERVATORY OF CITIZENS' EMERGING ISSUES** *aims for regularly public consultations on regional emerging issues*
- **MORE FLEXIBILITY DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION** *of the regional multiannual programmes* to allow the adaptation of actions to changes in regional circumstances,
- **REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE** *that periodically, revised and reorient regional priorities* (during the programming periods implementation) based on findings from Regional observatory of citizens' emerging issues,
- identifying and building an **INTERREGIONAL DIALOGUE MECHANISM** *to facilitate the exchange of good practices* in the implementation of the Cohesion Policy *and mutual learning between LMAs.*



## 5.2. for a better communication of CP

- **translate**, in a more common language, the priorities and objectives of EU (**Cohesion Policy**) and adapt the communication channels and tools to the characteristics of **each region's target audience**,
- increase de **visibility of the public consultations process for defining the regional issues addressed** through EU **Cohesion Policy**
- targeted and regionally tailored communication **explaining**, in a simple language, **how the actions funded through operational programs contribute to addressing citizens' perceived issues** as being pressing for their region,
- public communication should be targeted to **increase awareness**, both **at the level of citizens and of experts**, **of the existing connection between issues** like: *education – professional training – employment and poverty alleviation; environment – quality of life etc.*, so that all the regional actors can understand these connections and through this, understand the meaning of public interventions through the Cohesion Policy





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