

# **SABIR*Maydan*: The Next Steps**

**A survey among the participants to  
Mediterranean Citizenship forum,  
*SABIRMaydan*  
(Messina, 28.09.14)**



## **Preliminary notes**

The questionnaire was submitted to 34 participants, among speakers and moderators, from different nationalities:

<i>South Mediterranean</i>	<i>North Mediterranean</i>
- Egypt (3)	- Canada/Italy (1)
- Eritrea (1)	- France (1)
- Israel (1)	- Greece (1)
- Morocco (2)	- Italy (17)
- Morocco/Italy (1)	- Spain (1)
- Palestine (1).	
- Syria (1)	
- Tunisia (2)	
- Turkey (1)	

The questionnaire's respondents have been 26, corresponding to the 76,5% of the submissions, of which 15 women and 11 men.

They are:

L. Ariemma, M. Bellingreri, L. Ben Mhenni, S. Borrillo, C. Triandaphyllou, S. De Fanti, E. Kidané, E. Kurma, E. Abdelfattah, J. Ferramola, A. Talbi, M. Hassan, H. Ibrahim, D. Irrera, K. Lahbib, A. Lodeserto, A. Mazzeo, M. Hammane, N. Galesne, C. Pastura, F. Piro, M.D. Rinaldi, R. Fulco, M. Tolba, G. Vaccaro, P. Dall'Oglio.

The following participant have not replied to the submitted questionnaire:

R. Espinar Merino, R. Ben Efrat\*, C. Fatihi, I. al-Shataly\*, P. Cioni\*, F. Laurenzi\*, G. Solera\*, G.Serra.

## **NOTES**

\*Roni Ben Efrat answered saying that she does not feel appropriately skilled to participate in the consultation.

\*Ibrahim al-Shataly have declined, because he had participated to the forum just through a Skype call.

\*Gianluca Solera, Fabio Laurenzi e Pamela Cioni have not deliberately participated in the consultation.

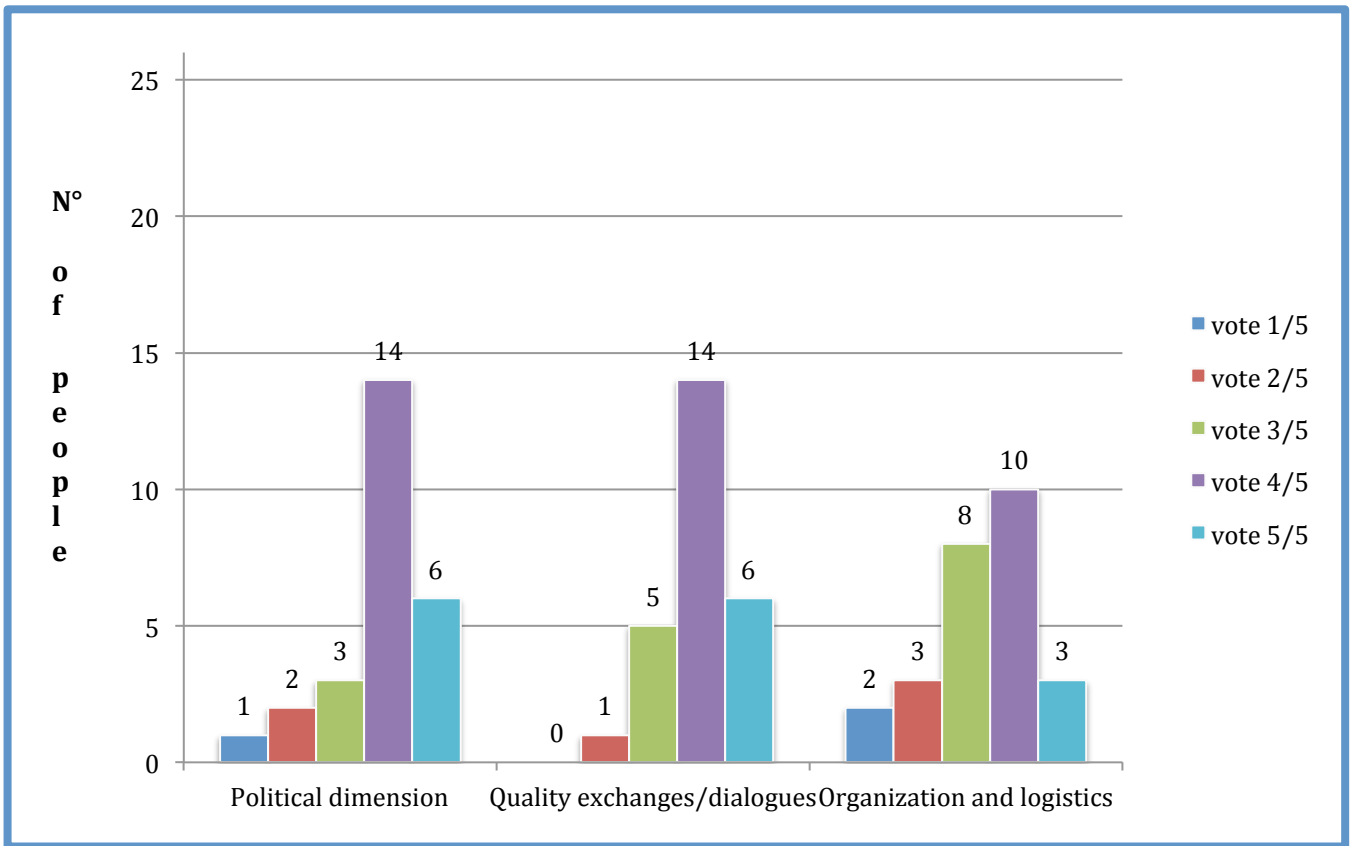
*The authors of the statistical review are Giacomo Porporato and Nina Picchi, the data analysis has been made by Gianluca Solera.*

*Florence, 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2014.*

## **Data Analysis**

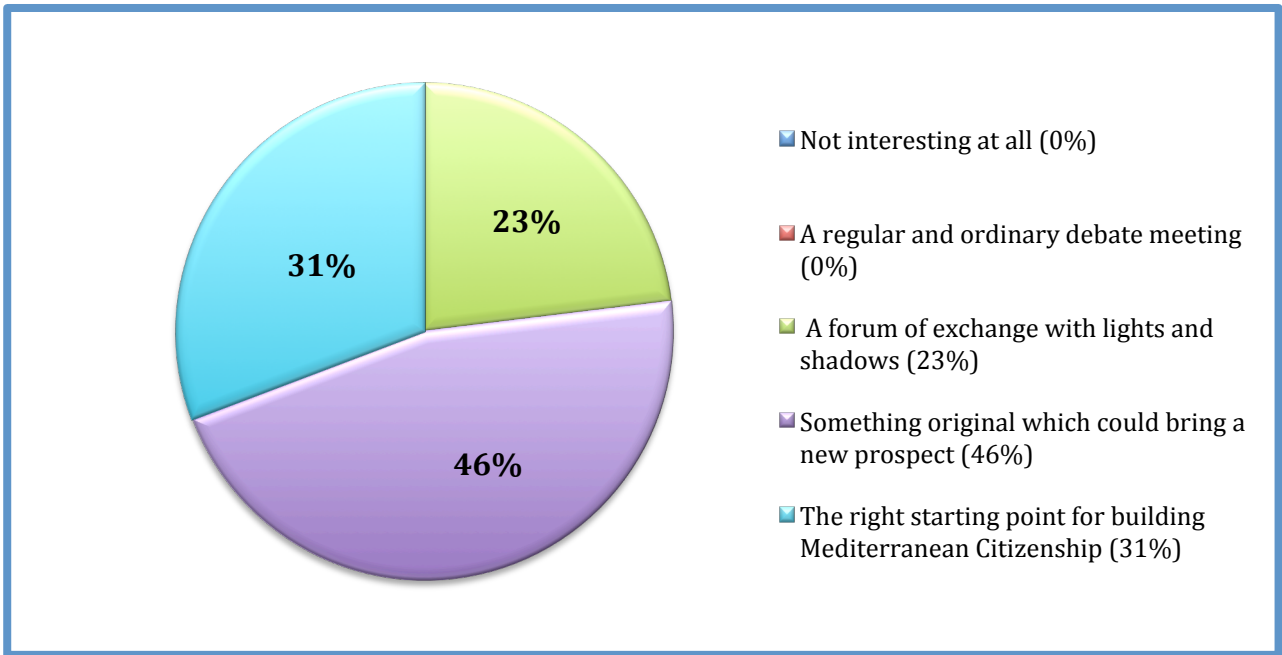
### **1) What is your general appreciation of SABIRMaydan?**

**(give from 0 to 5 points, where 0 is the minimum appreciation and 5 the maximum one)**



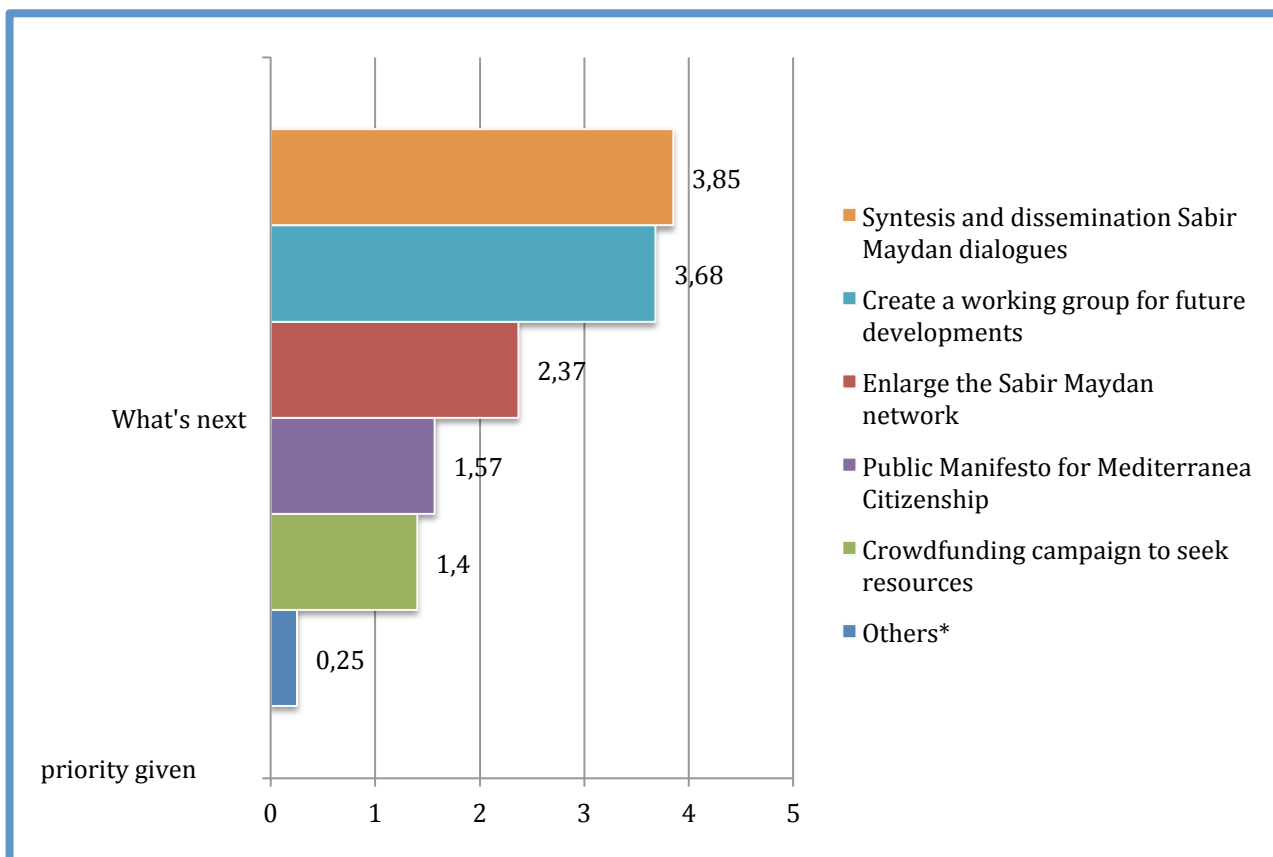
Analysis: 77% of the participants is satisfied or very satisfied with the political dimension of the forum and the quality of exchanges and dialogues, while the degree of clear satisfaction about organization and logistics reaches the 50%, with a 30% which is only partially satisfied.

## 2) How would you qualify SABIRMaydan?



Analysis: 77% of the participants considers SABIRMaydan a promising positive news, 23% that the forum has been partially successful. Nobody gives an essentially negative appreciation to the forum.

**3) What is for you the most important thing to do next?  
(in order of importance from 0 to 5, where 0 indicates low significance and 5 the maximum one)**



Analysis: Participants ask first to spread the dialogues and to get to work together, participating in the preparation of the next steps. The third priority is instead for the enlargement of the support and membership network for SABIRMaydan. Drafting of a Manifesto and crowdfunding are, according to the participants, following steps.

\* In the category “Others”, the respondents have suggested the following:

Political priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “It is important to define the priorities around the concept of Mediterranean citizenship (for example , migration issues, providing balanced information regarding what is happening on the sea’s northern and southern shores)”.(L. Ariemma);</li> <li>- “Establishing the main priorities that emerged in the debates to define those on which we should exchange and work. The aspects of mobility and freedom of movement in Mediterranean area, together with the topic of equality between citizens and genders, seem to me particularly interesting to start discussing about citizenship”. (S. Borrillo);</li> </ul>
Operational tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Drafting a strategy (and action plan) towards a Mediterranean citizenship forum”. (E. Kurma);</li> <li>- “Taking into account the proposals made by the participants, for example the creation of a Mediterranean assembly that could draft a public manifesto, and generate an online platform giving continuity to the discussions on the topics” (C. Triandaphyllou);</li> </ul>

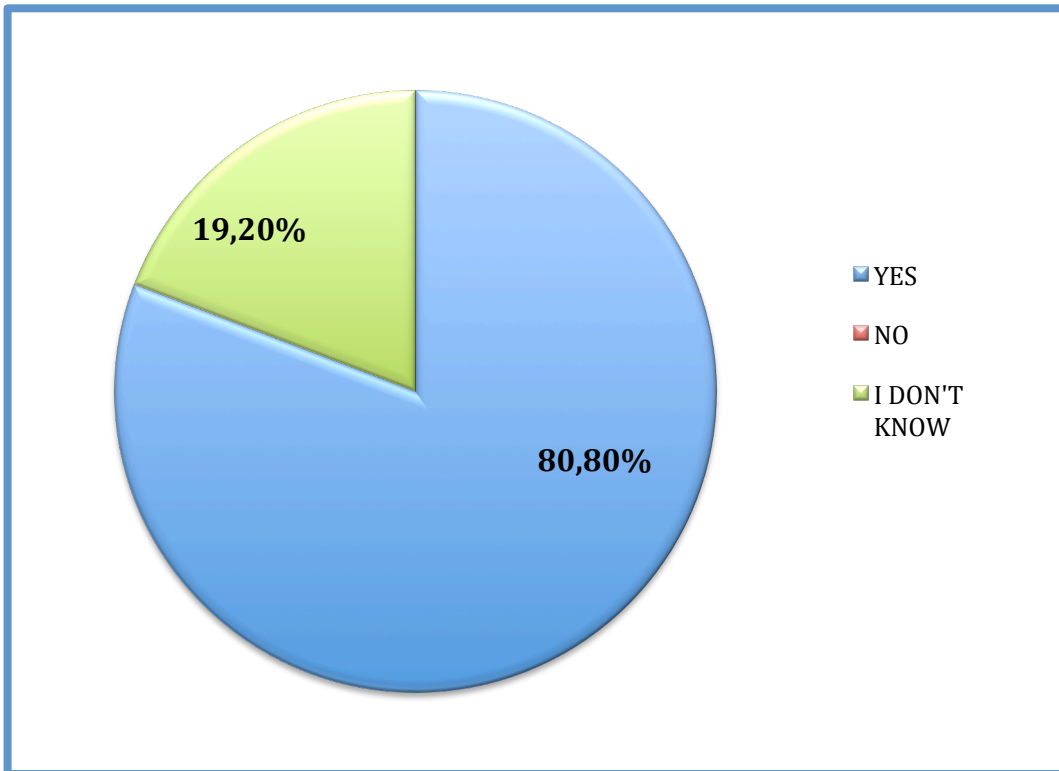
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Creating a specific webpage / online platform with the support of participants (if available and interested in contributing), where all previous points can find a participatory space / being integrated (i.e. discussion group / public manifesto / parallel events / crowdfunding campaign / dialogues dissemination / membership call)”. (A. Lodeserto);</li> <li>- “We should not proceed as of now with manifestos, etc. This must be the final step of a collective and shared work”. (F. Piro).</li> </ul>
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#### 4) How would you define the concept of Mediterranean Citizenship?

Political aspects	Cultural aspects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achieving equal rights to mobility and opportunities between the two shores of the Mediterranean;</li> <li>- A process of political, cultural and economical decolonisation.</li> <li>- Creating a political and social space where different actors can solve problems together, overcoming the borders of State-nations;</li> <li>- Strengthening the values of social justice, respect, promotion of human rights and freedom of expression;</li> <li>- Let us not make the citizenship before the city: we should define a new “Mediterranean Model”.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working together to transform this sea in a space of peace and sharing;</li> <li>- Going beyond the common roots and capitalising on the diversity;</li> <li>- Different identities which recognise a sense of belonging to a region, built on a political dimension;</li> <li>- The necessity of an intercultural and inter-religious dialogue;</li> <li>- A supranational and supra-European citizenship, which is hospitable and anti - fundamentalist.</li> </ul>

Analysis: the concept of Mediterranean Citizenship is defined using both political categories (such as freedoms and rights, or transnational cooperation) and cultural categories (such as diversity and dialogue, or regional sense of belonging). What emerges is a complex concept in which policy and culture seem to be closely related.

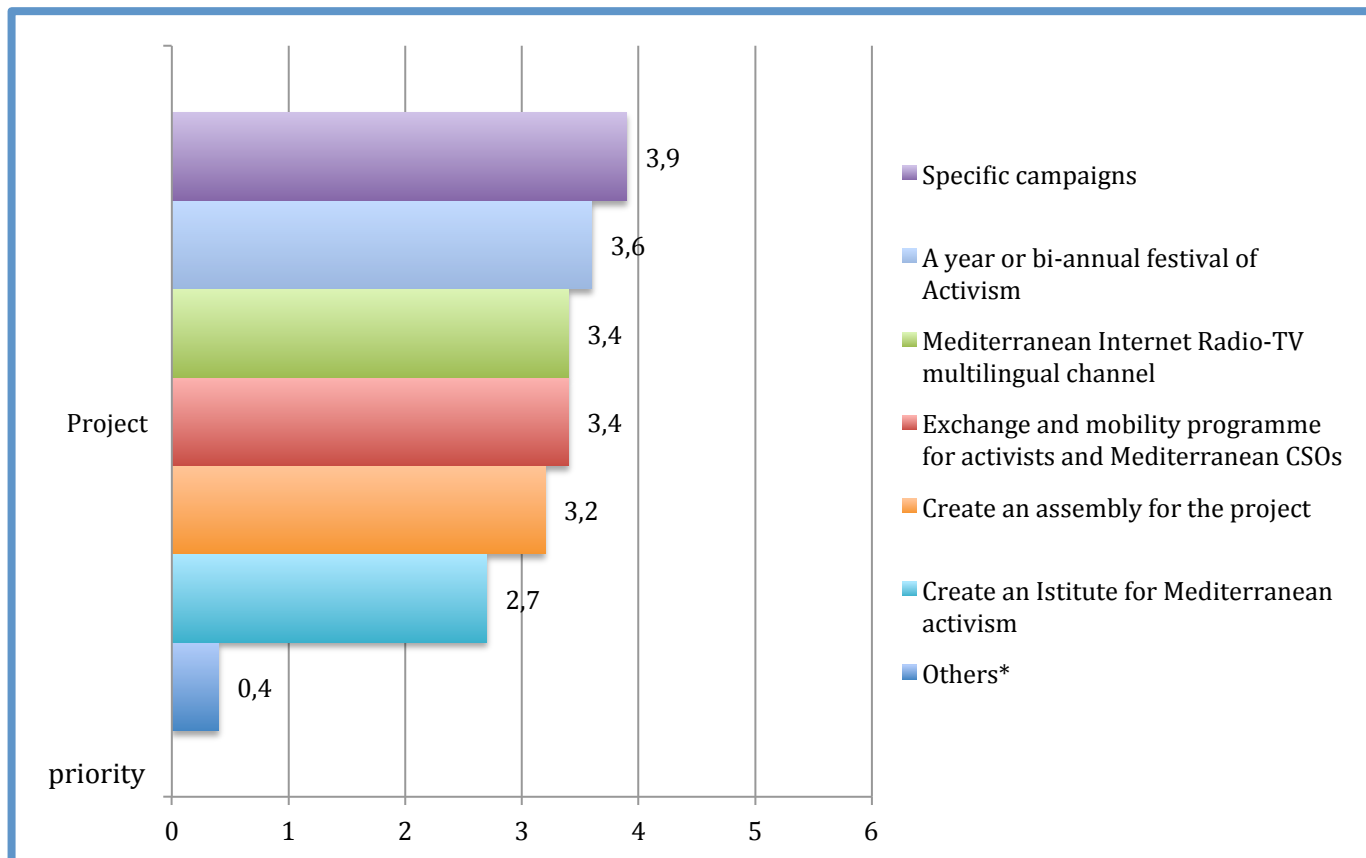
5) If we create a core group of activists/associations/networks to develop the Project for a Mediterranean Citizenship, would you be interested to join?



Analysis: 80% of the participants wish to continue being an active part in the project, while the remaining 20% maintains a more prudent position. Nobody has expressed himself explicitly against the participation in the project.

**6) Which one of the following initiatives/projects already shared among us at the SABIRMaydan do you consider the most urgent to develop for the Project for a Mediterranean Citizenship?**

**(in order of importance from 0 to 6, where 0 indicates low significance and 5 the maximum one)**

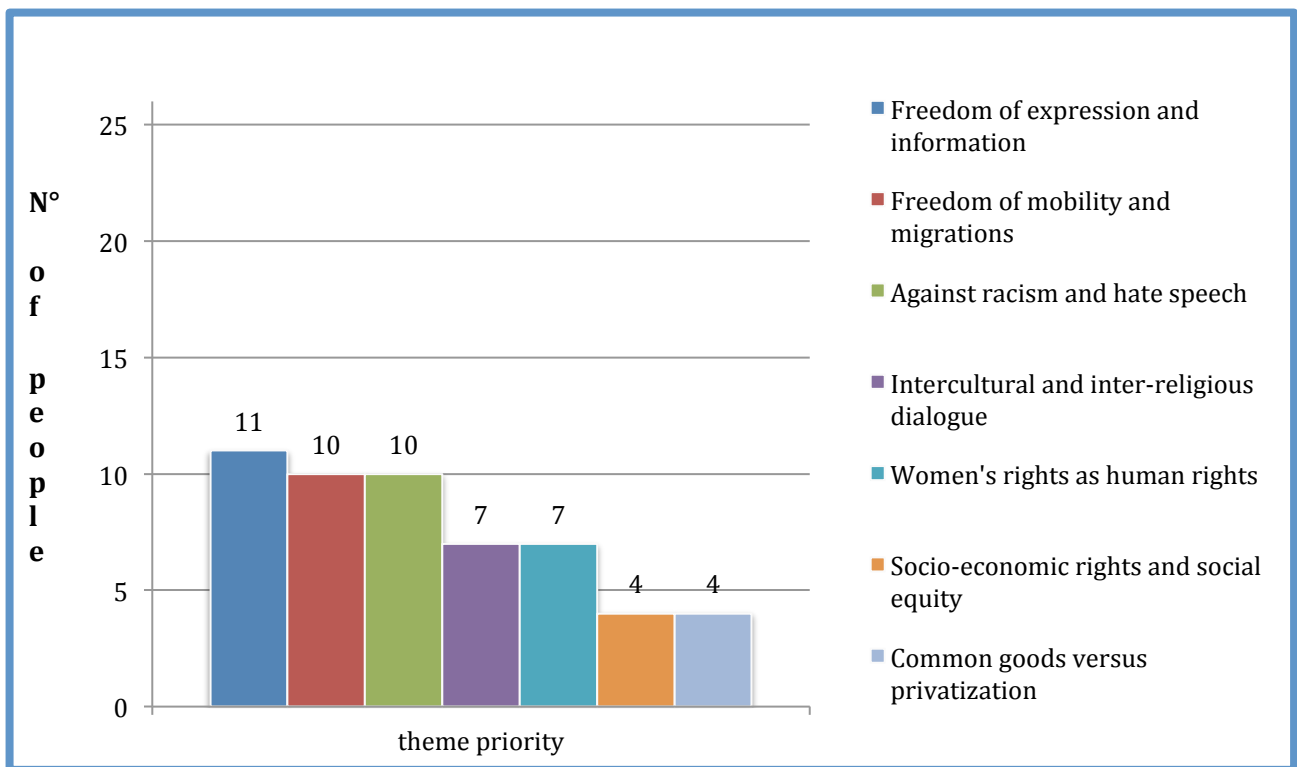


Analysis: At the first ranks of preference we find the promotion of specific trans-Mediterranean campaigns, involving citizens and groups from the two shores on subjects of common interests, and the festival on Mediterranean Citizenship/Activism. The promotion of a trans-Mediterranean Radio-TV citizens' channel through new technologies and an exchange programme for activists and local civil society organizations have obtained the same preferences. The creation of permanent specific structures, such as an association or an assembly for the Mediterranean Citizenship, or a training, strategizing and project-making institute for activism in the region, are classified at a second stage.

\* In the category "Others", the respondents have suggested the following, which reflects the need to promote all those projects as part of a coherent plan, responding to a shared strategy among participants:

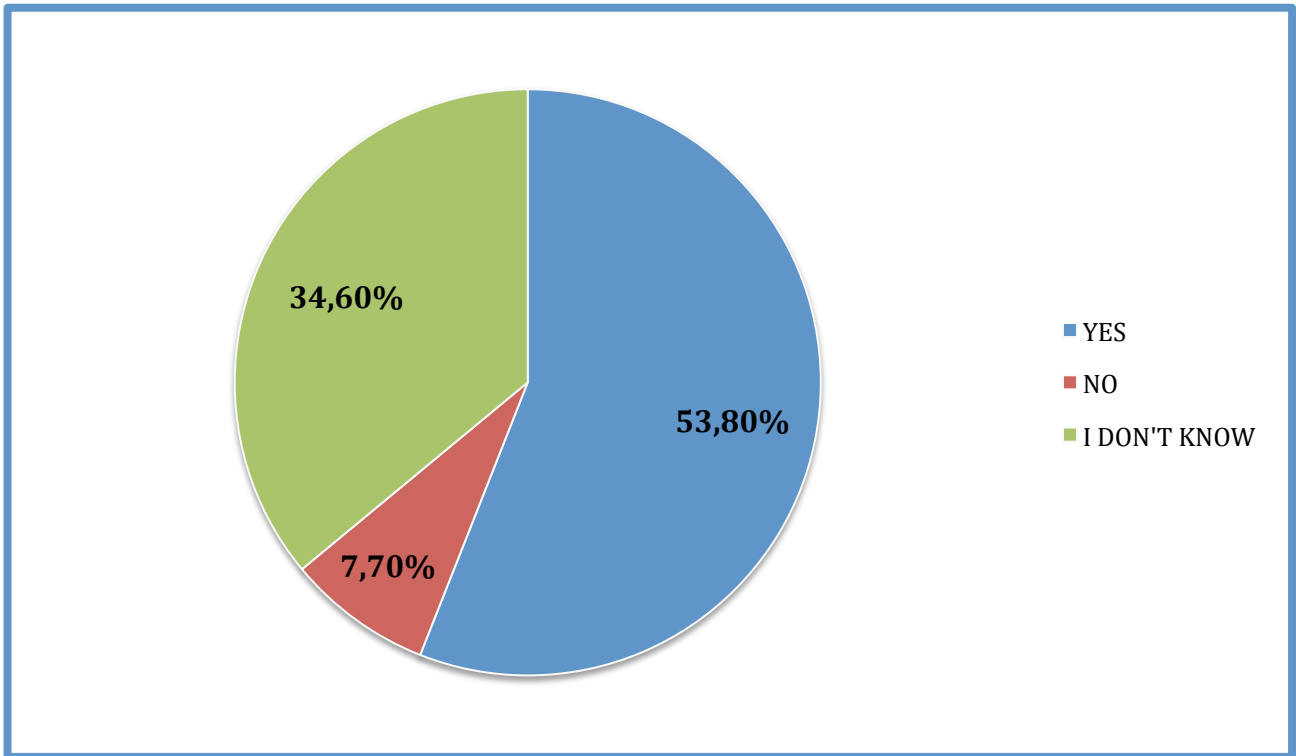
- "An assembly for the project of Mediterranean Citizenship and discussing among us through the web. It's the assembly that will try to define the form of the desired continuity." (C. Triandaphyllou);
- "First of all the mobility and the constructive meeting between different realities; then a concrete work among groups on specific themes within a general assembly which bring everyone together; then periodical events such as the festival, etc...The Institute for Mediterranean Activism (as a researcher this is of special interest to me) represents a good reflection node, however it should be accompanied with concrete activities of exchange, campaigns, etc.." (S. Borrillo).

**7) If we were building a Mediterranean campaign, which topic among those already shared at the SABIRMaydan would you consider the most appropriate?  
(maximum 2 answers per respondent)**



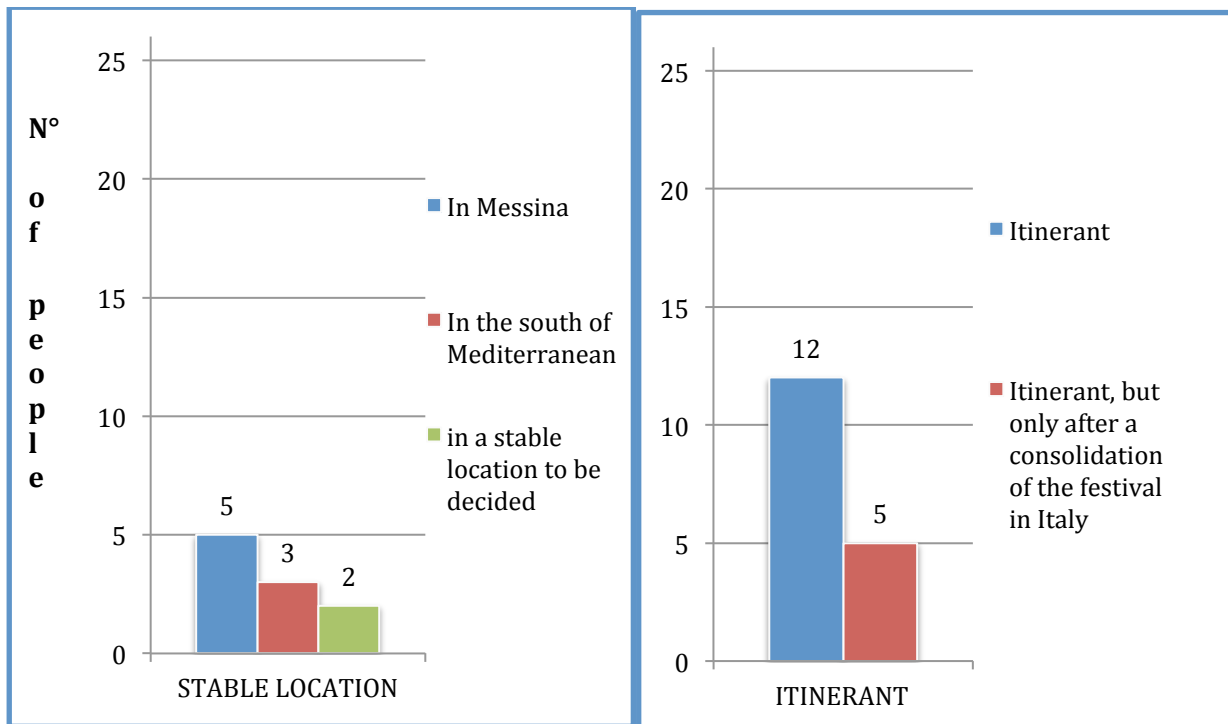
Analysis: As the focus of a trans-Mediterranean campaign, respondents indicate at the first place the issue of freedom of expression, followed by the right to mobility and the struggle against racism and hate speech. The issues of Intercultural dialogue, human rights and gender equality are positioned in a second level, while matters related to socio-economic rights and commons receive less priority attention.

**8) Would you / your organization be ready to raise funds for the follow-up of SABIRMaydan?**



Analysis: 54% of the participants is ready to engage in fundraising activities for SABIRMaydan, while the 35% of them is open about the point. Only 8% is not available.

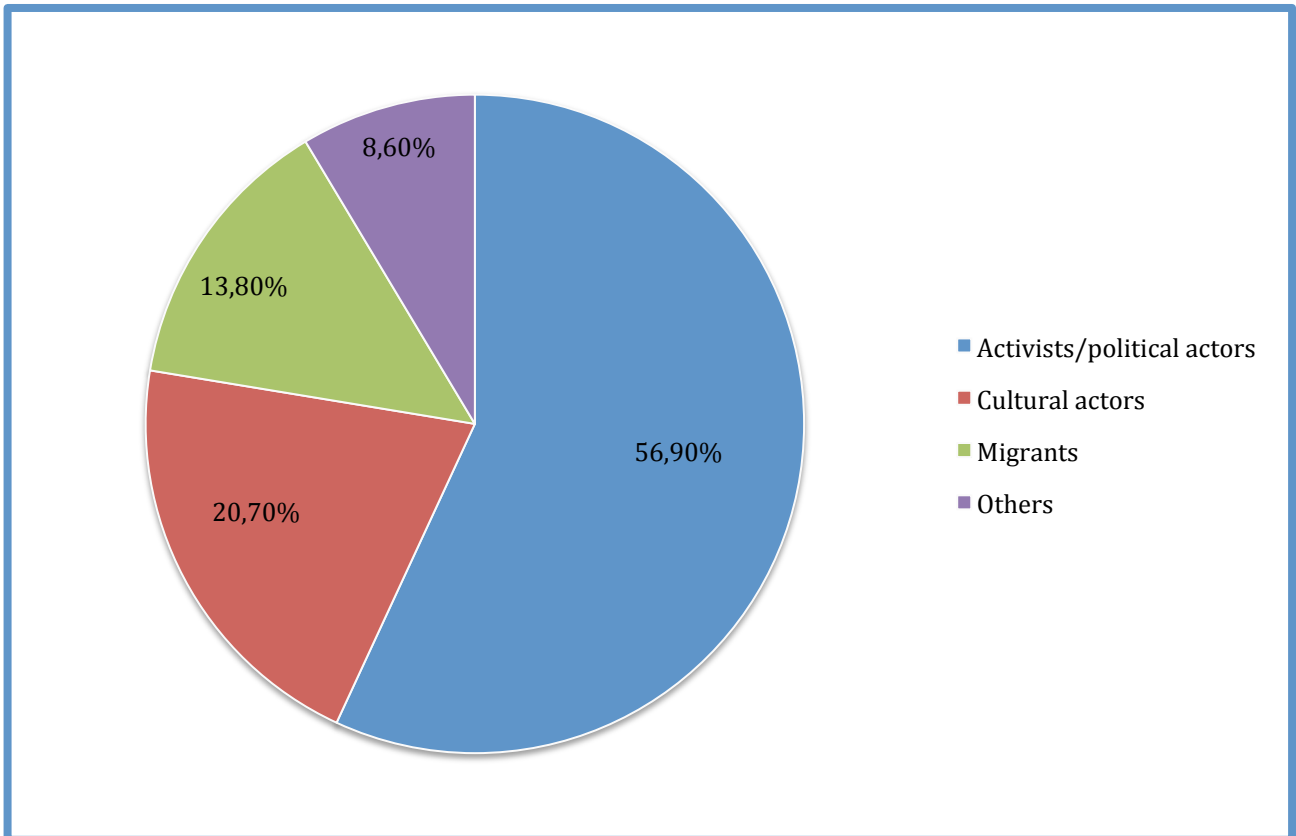
9) If a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *SABIRMaydan* were to be organised, would you opt for a stable location, a town hosting it on a regular basis, or for an itinerating format involving different towns?



Analysis: 65% of the participants proposes that *SABIRMaydan* continues in a itinerant way in the Mediterranean region; a sub-group, equal to the 19%, suggests that the next few editions iterate across Italy. 35% proposes that *SABIRMaydan* takes its roots in a stable location; a sub-group, equal to the 19%, thinks that it should remain in Messina.

**10) SABIRMaydan has been characterised by the encounter of persons of different sensibilities and backgrounds, thus reflecting the social and cultural diversity of the region. In order to strengthen Sabir Maydan’s capacity of inclusiveness :**

**10a) Which social/ political /cultural groups or stakeholders you would as well target for the next activities?**

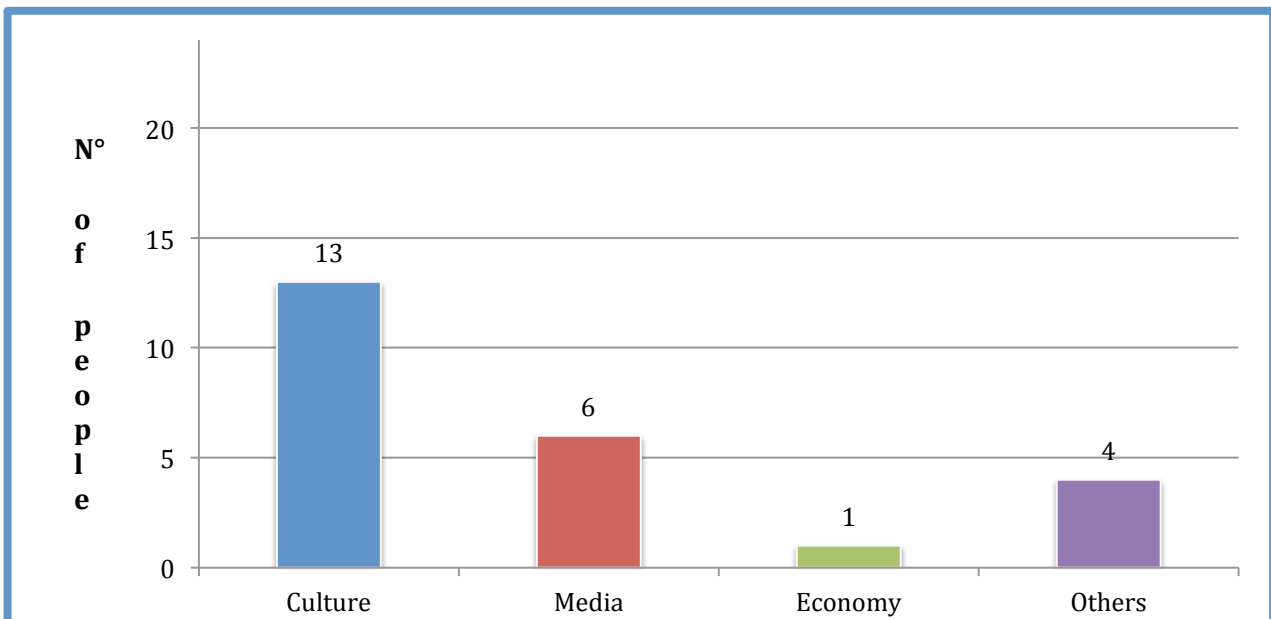


Analysis: In order to strengthen the inclusive capacity of SABIRMaydan, and to reflect the social and cultural diversity of the region, the participants propose to approach different target-groups. First of all we find the community of activists/political actors (57%). This is followed by cultural actors (21%), and at the third place a group defined migrants/minorities (14%). Some of the participants have also proposed names of persons and organizations.

Please find below a more detailed analysis of the target-groups. For methodological simplification, participants’ answers (having them expressed a maximum of 6 preferences each), have been grouped in four target-groups (“Activists/Political Actors”, “Cultural Actors”, “Migrants/Minorities” and “Others”). Each target-group has been subdivided in standardised answers according to number of preferences. Two of the respondents have not expressed any preference, without arguing the reason for that.

Activists/Political Actors	Cultural Actors	Migrants/Minorities	Others
1. Pacifist, non-violent and ecologist groups + groups such as trade-unions, labour chambers, farmers,... (7 preferences) 2. New generations and students (6 preferences); 3. Young political activists (5 preferences) 4. Feminist groups and activists for women rights (5 preferences) 5. Representatives of local and national governments (5 preferences) 6. Human rights NGO (3 preferences)	1. Universities and Centres of higher education (4 preferences) 2. Cultural and intercultural centres (3 preferences) 3. Alternative Medias (social networks, local and independent journalists) (3 preferences) 4. Artists, informal cultural groups (2 preferences)	1. Citizens from the region who live in another country other than the the one of origins (4 preferences) 2. Anti-racist and pro-migrant movements (3 preferences) 3. Minorities (1 preference)	1. Fatima Elifriqi (one the most important Arab voice who defends freedom of expression) 2. José Carlos Cabrera Medina; 3. Fortress Europe; 4. Troupe & protagonists of "Io sto con la sposa" 5. Circolo Arci "Thomas Sankara"

**10b) Do you suggest any specific initiative/project to attract people who are not normally interested in Mediterranean affairs?**

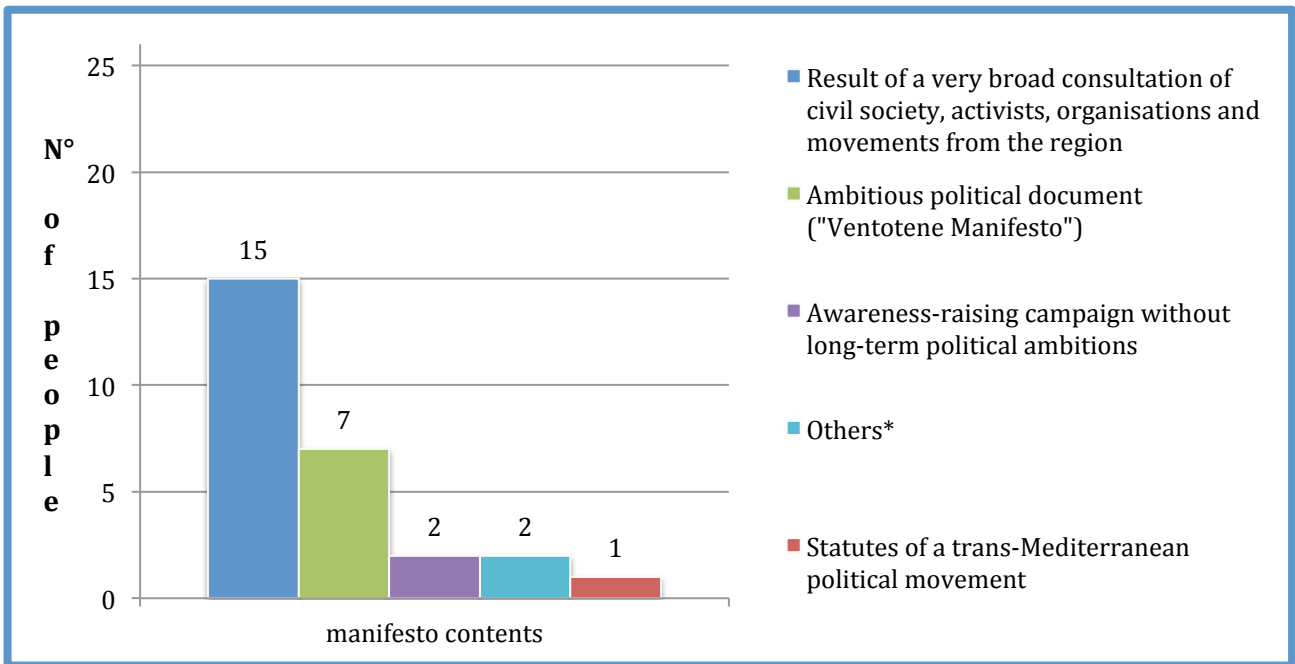


Analysis: To attract those who usually are not interested in Mediterranean issues, 50% of the participants propose to resort to culture, 23% to initiatives linked to communication.

Also in this case, for methodological simplification, answers have been grouped in four different macro-categories - “cultural initiatives”, “media initiatives”, “economical initiatives”, “others”. Each one of these has been subdivided in standardised answers according to number of preferences. Two of the respondents have not answered to this question.

Cultural initiatives	Media initiatives	Economical initiatives	Others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exhibitions and artistic events: film club, theatre, exhibitions, concerts, radio initiatives, social and artistic festivals(10 preferences)</li> <li>- Projects and initiatives in schools, universities, to manage to bring interested people to the Festival and involve them (3 preferences)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An “advertising” campaign on the Mediterranean (as space of civilization, common history, mobility) (3 preferences)</li> <li>- Create an information platform to reach the big public, through medias (2 preferences)</li> <li>- Permanent training and information programmes (1 preference)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mini economic projects to exchange experiences among farmers, artists and handcrafts (1 preference)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First of all we have to involve who is interested, and once we have determined the priorities we can start thinking to involve less interested people (3 preferences)</li> <li>- To create an assembly (1 preference)</li> </ul>

**11) If we go for a political manifesto for Mediterranean Integration and Citizenship, how would you see it?**

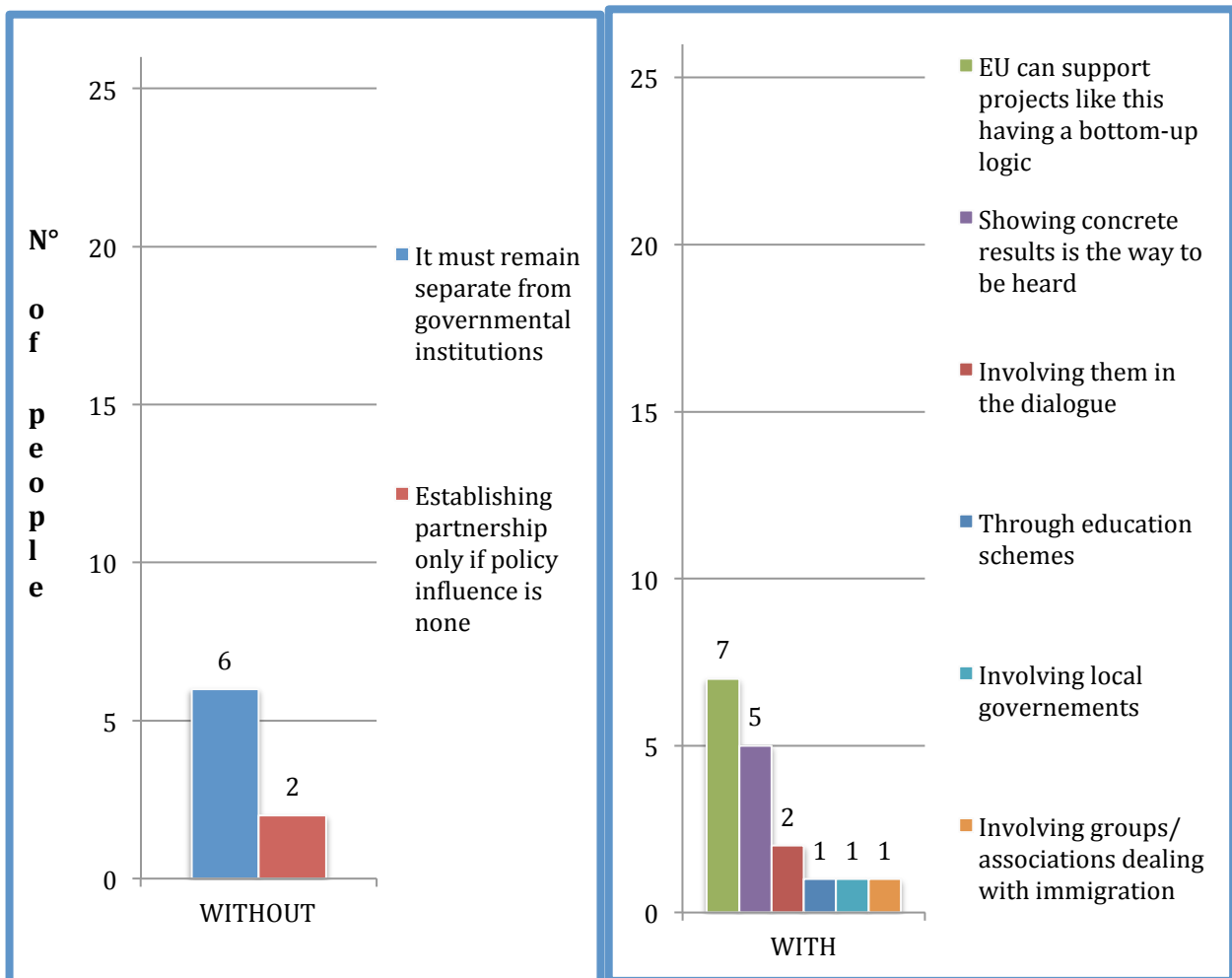


Analysis: In the drafting of the manifesto for Mediterranean Citizenship and regional integration, the participants give a lot of importance to the participatory methodology (about the 58%), while 27% think that the manifesto should represent and ambitious political Charter, like the “Ventotene Manifesto” for the European integration.

\* In the category “Others”, the respondents have suggested:

- “I’m opposed to talk about these issues right now. They should be the task of an executive committee. Themes and nuances are lots. Is not for this questionnaire at this stage”. (F.Piro)

**12) How the Project for a Mediterranean Citizenship, should it remain a civil society initiative, could relate with Governmental institutions or benefit from their contribution?**



Analysis: 32% of the participants wish to focus on the fact that the project for a Mediterranean Citizenship need to remain independent from the governmental sphere. Those who articulate ways for a more organic involvement are mainly divided between who aims at EU support (28%) and who believes that showing concrete results is the first step to be heard by the institutions (20%). Therefore, it prevails an attitude of preservation of the autonomy of citizens' initiatives, whereby partnerships with institutions about concrete things are possible.

\* Note: M. Dall'Oglio' reply was not counted in this last question because not readable.