



OFICIPUBLIC  
de la lenga **occitana**



# **Sociolinguistic Survey Dedicated to the Use and Representations of Occitan in the French Administrative Regions Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Occitanie, and in Val d'Aran, Spain: Methodology and Salient Results**



1. Context

2. Methodology

3. Results



1. Context

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what                      that  
Occitan : *qu'es aquò ?*  
                                    is



> Romance language

> Spoken in :

- South of France
- Occitan Valleys, Italy
- Val d'Aran, Catalonia, Spain (co-official)

> « Regional language »:

- No official status in France
- Language diversity fought against because considered a threat from the French Revolution to WW2

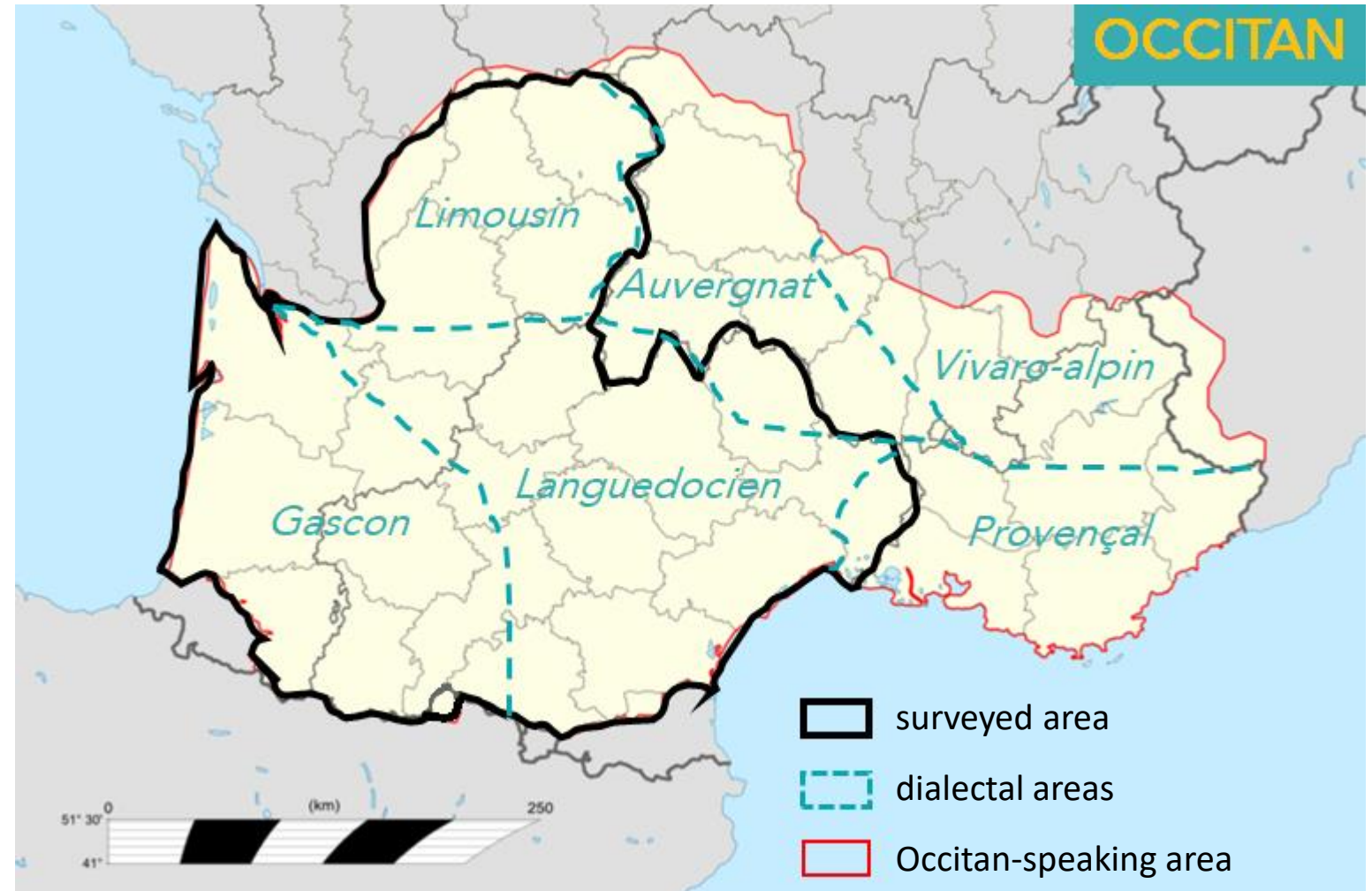


1. Context

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## Surveyed area



# 1. Context

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## 3. Results

# Office public de la langue occitane



- > Created in 2016
- > Public interest grouping formed by :
  - 2 administrative regions
  - The State
  - interregional linguistic policy
- > Covers 2/3 of French Occitan-speaking territory

# 1. Context

## 2. Methodology

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# A European project

# Interreg POCTEFA



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
UNION EUROPÉENNE

> Funded up to 65% by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):

- Interregional program Spain-France-Andorra (POCTEFA 2014-2020);
- To reinforce economic and social cohesion within Europe by diminishing inequalities between regions.





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## Overview

**8 000** questionnaires



*Inhabitants of 15 and above*



*By phone*



*Questionnaire developed by OPLO - Cohda*



*January 6 to February 28, 2020*



*13 minutes (18 min long version, 10 min short version)*



*In French/Spanish and/or Occitan*

# 1. Context

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## Steering committee

### > Composed of:

- A **scientific committee** composed of researchers in linguistics, sociolinguistics, geography and mathematics ;
- An **institutionnal committee** composed of local institutions (State, regions, etc) and associations.

## Representativeness and relevance of sample

### > 21 linguistic territories:

- 300 to 650 people per territory depending on demographics;
- 100 people in Val d'Aran.

### > Quotas in each territory:

- Gender ;
- Age (15-29, 30-44, 45-59, 60+) ;
- Socio-professional category;
- Municipality size (less than 2000 inhabitants, 2000-9999 inhabitants, 10000-29999 inhabitants, 300000+ inhabitants).

# 1. Context

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## Comparisons

### 2 previous similar studies :

- Sociolinguistic survey in former administrative region Aquitaine (territory now included in Nouvelle-Aquitaine): « Presence, use and perception of Occitan » - 2008 (6002 interviews);



- Sociolinguistic survey in former administrative region Midi-Pyrénées (territory now included in Occitanie): « Presence, use et perception of Occitan in Région Midi-Pyrénées » - 2010 (5000 interviews).



(2016: fusion of administrative regions)

## 1. Context

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# Terminology

### > Speaker (« locuteur »):

- People who **understand and speak** Occitan:
  - ❖ with no difficulty; OR
  - ❖ enough to have a simple conversation.

### > Immersed in Occitan (« occitano-imprégnés »):

- People who:
  - ❖ can't speak but **understand** Occitan; OR
  - ❖ only understand a few words/idioms.

### > Non speaker (« non locuteur »):

- People who declare **they neither speak nor understand** Occitan.





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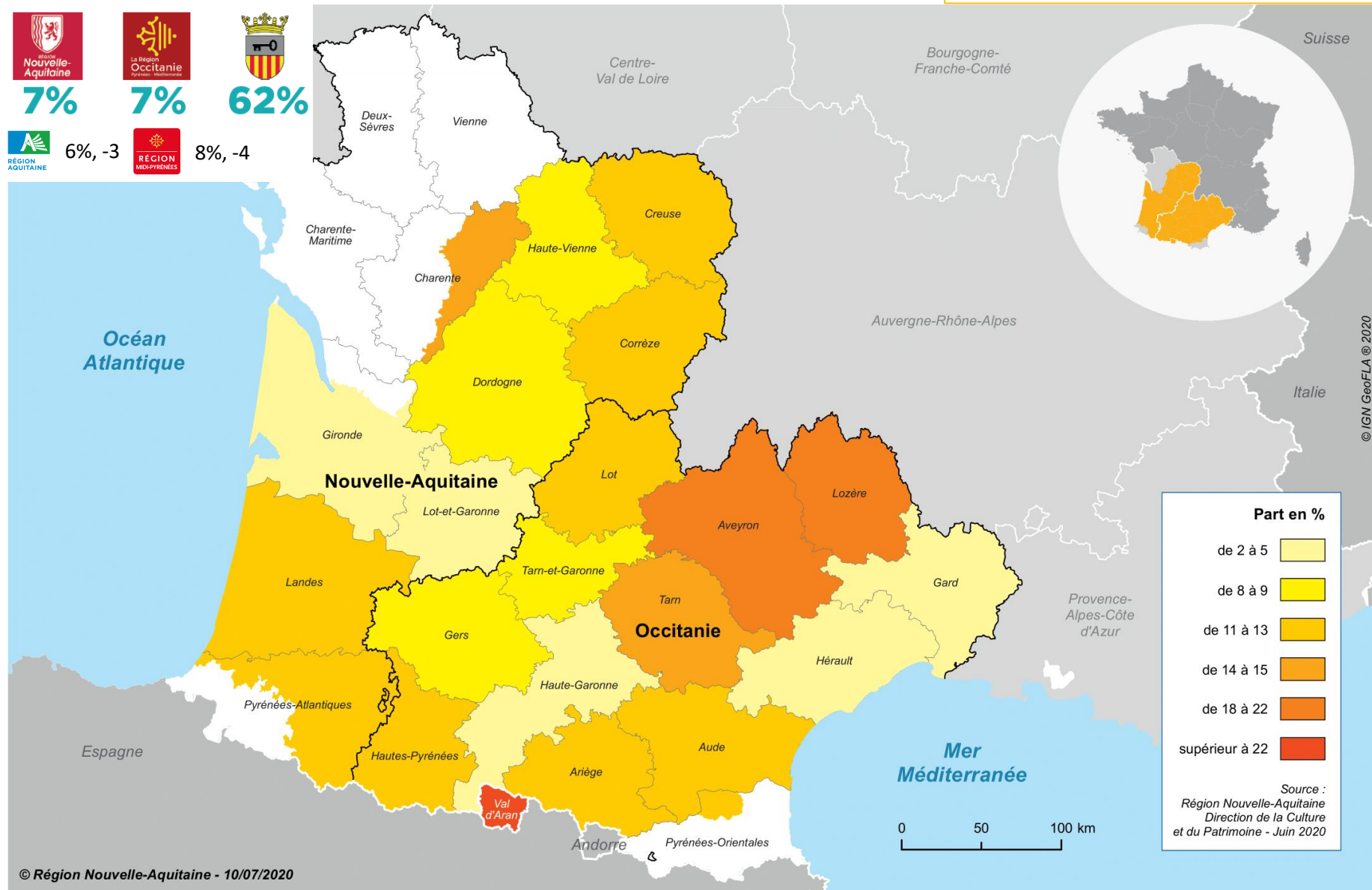
# 1. Context

# 2. Methodology

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## Speakers rate

7% of speakers



## 1. Context

## 2. Methodology

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# Who are the speakers?

Mostly older men living in the countryside



**66%** are **men** (vs 48% of men in the sample)



**56%** live in **the countryside** (vs 34%)



**66** **years old** in average (vs 50 ans)



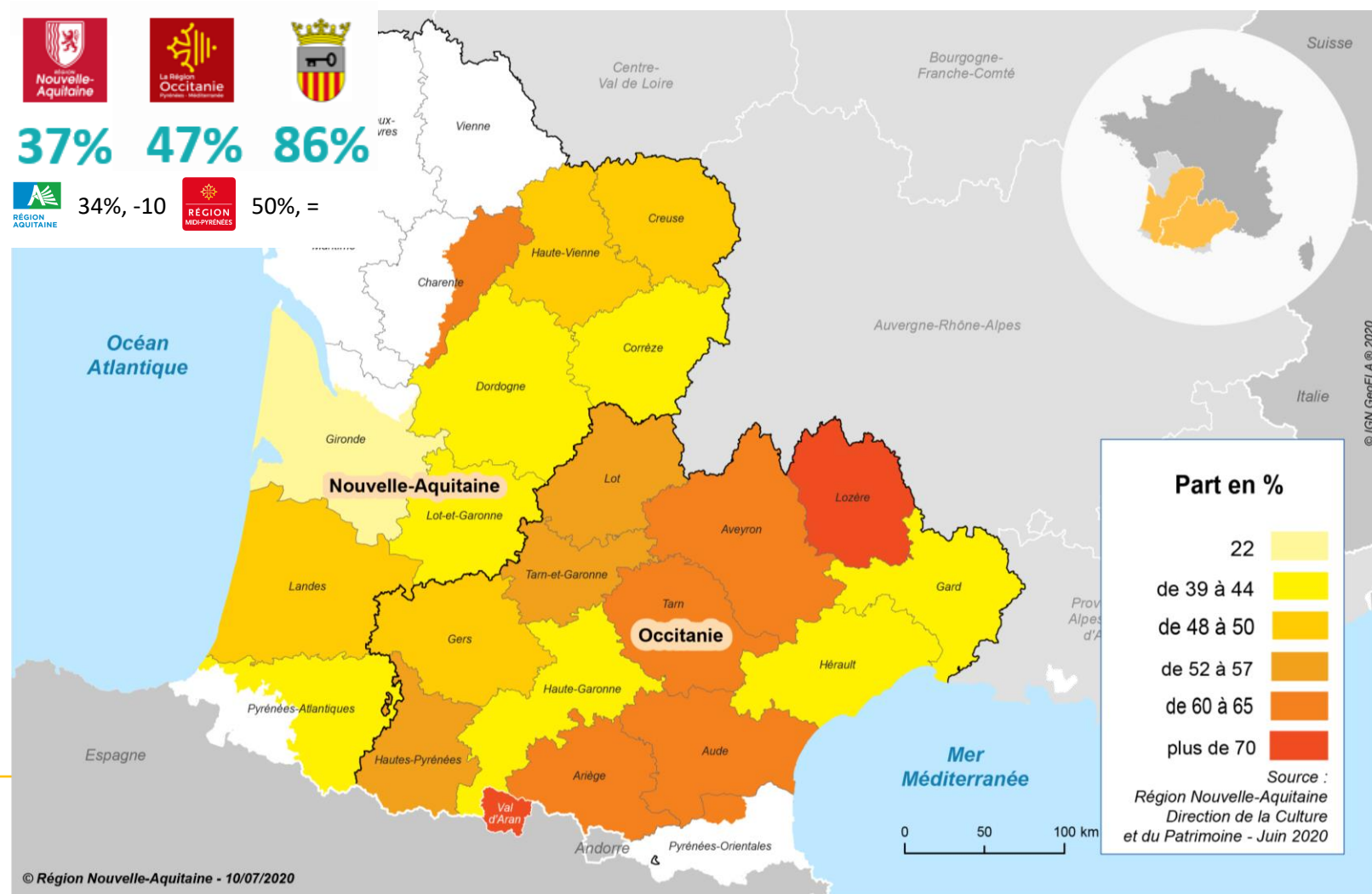
**58%** with no diploma or under baccalaureate (vs 40%)

# 1. Context

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## « Immersed in Occitan » rate



Despite the low speakers rate, **43%** understand at least a few words.



## 1. Context

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## Language name

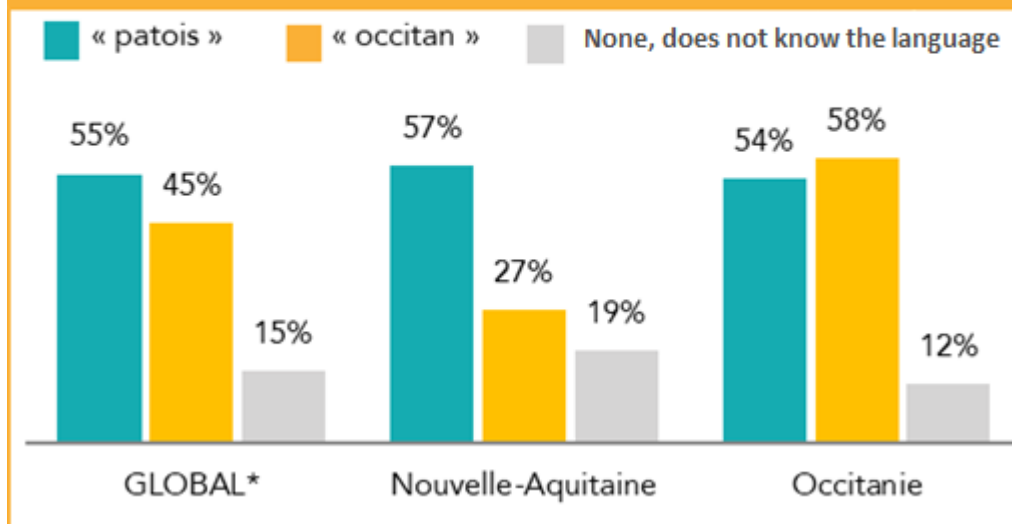
« patois » and « occitan » are the most quoted alongside other more localised appellations

### Territorial differences:

- « patois » quoted as much in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Occitanie;
- « occitan » quoted twice more in Occitanie;
- « aranese » unanimously used in Val d'Aran.

### How do you call this language?

open question - several possible answers



1. Context

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## Use of the language

Those who know the language  
*do use it*

7% of speakers

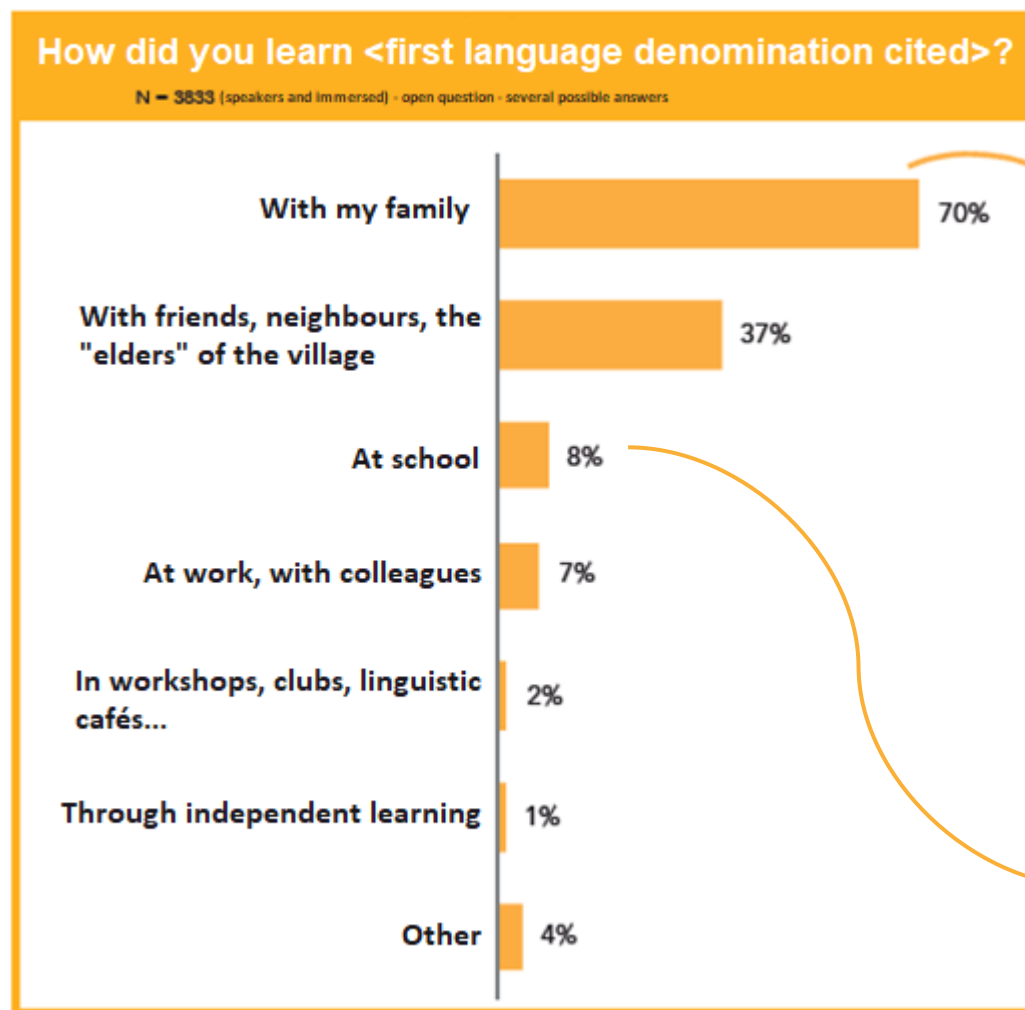
**85% of the speakers do speak the language,**  
46% of whom do it at least once a week

# 1. Context

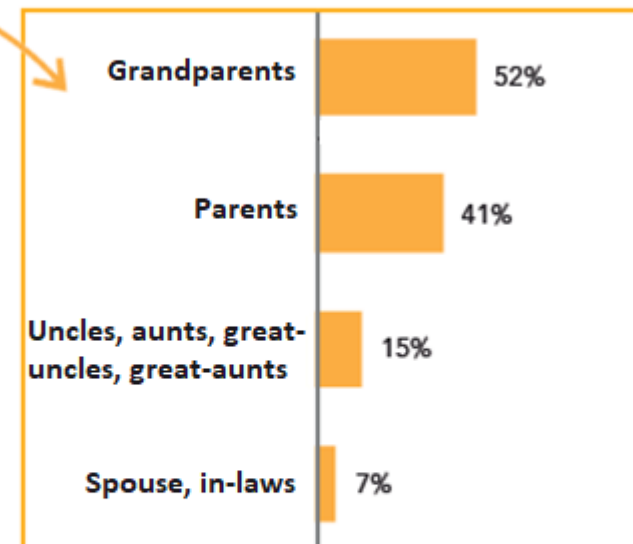
# 2. Methodology

# 3. Results

## Language transmission: mostly a family matter



Parents/children transmission increased in both former regions



More than half of those who learnt Occitan at school say it was primarily because a class was proposed in their school.

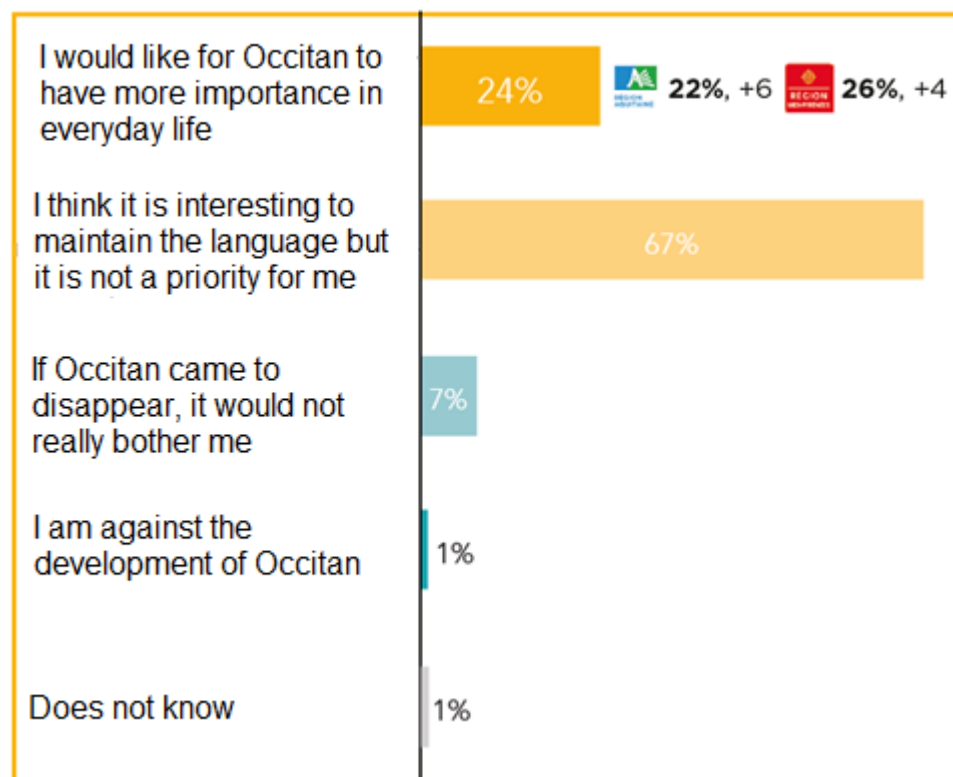
# 1. Context

# 2. Methodology

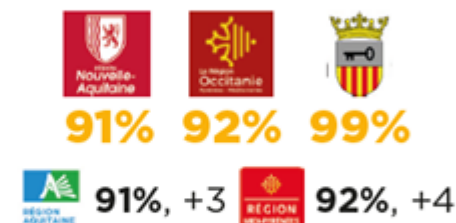
# 3. Results

## Positives attitudes

**92%** in favour of upholding  
or developing Occitan



Positive attitudes **increased** in both former regions:



> 13% declare they would like to get better at or learn Occitan





## 1. Context

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## Overall...

- > Number of speakers is decreasing; BUT
- > Transmission rate and desire to learn are increasing.
- > Language used mostly in the private sphere; BUT
- > Positive attitudes towards development of the language:
  - At school;
  - In public spaces and the media.
- > Results extracted for each linguistic territory:
  - To compare and see what type of language policies work or don't and expand policies with positive outcomes to other territories;
  - To work with local partners (institutions, associations, etc) and adapt language policies to the specificities of each territory (usage rate, general attitudes, etc);



Next step:

Qualitative studies



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Qualitative studies

## Territorial focus



UNIVERSITÉ  
LAVAL



Université du Québec  
à Trois-Rivières

### > International collaboration:

- International cooperation fund Nouvelle-Aquitaine / Québec;

### > 3 territories targeted:

- Bordeaux Métropole (low level of language conscientisation);
- Limousin-Périgord (medium level);
- Béarn (high level).

### > Semi structured interviews:

- 60 people;
- 3 age groups (15-25; 35-50; 65-85).

# Social representations and class enrolment

**Bilingual teaching of Occitan:** an analysis of social représentations and elaboration of a scientific argumentation

- > Which positive/negative representations inform class enrolment?
  - Step 1: quantitative-qualitative questionnaires
  - Step 2: semi-structured interviews / focus groups?
- > Compare with other languages:
  - Basque/Catalan?
    - neighbouring territories, regional languages (common history), co-official status in Spain, **BUT** much smaller territory and more means;
    - hypothesis of influence of linguistic proximity:

French / Occitan	French / Catalan	French / Basque
<b>Romance</b>	<b>languages</b>	<b>Isolate</b>

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Next step:  
Qualitative studies



**Mercés per la vòsta atencion !**

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Find all the detailed results on our website:

<https://www.ofici-occitan.eu/fr/restitution-des-resultats-de-lenquete-sociolinguistique/>



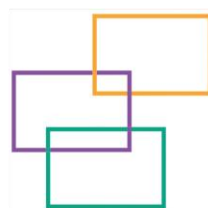
Gropament d'Interès Public entre :



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