

University of Verona

Pilot 3 – L'ARGENTIÈRE-LA-BESSÉE

socio-economic assessment report

**Relation with
Péchiney**

Quality of life

**Demographic
profile**

**Economic
context**

“IN MIDSTREAM”

**Projections
on the future**



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Data sources

Mixed method
Quanti-qualitative analysis

INSEE

Institut National de la
Statistique et des
Études Économiques

SURVEY

**IN-DEPTH
INTERVIEWS**

METHOD

The sample of survey

50,1%

female

151

respondents

49,9%

male

26,1%

18-39 years old

48,9%

40-64 years old

25%

>65 years old

96,4%

with French nationality

57,2%

employed



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250

estimated number
of people involved



In order to support people engagement, to foster collaboration and **to exploit the multidisciplinary scientific approach**, we implemented these activities:

- Dialogue and citizen involvement
- Preliminary meetings and coordination with municipalities
- Face To Face interviews in addition to CATI and CAWI
- Visual choice experiment
- Participant observation (ethnography/netnography)



METHOD



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WHAT ARE THE DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS OF THESE COMMUNITIES?

A trend towards a decreasing and ageing population

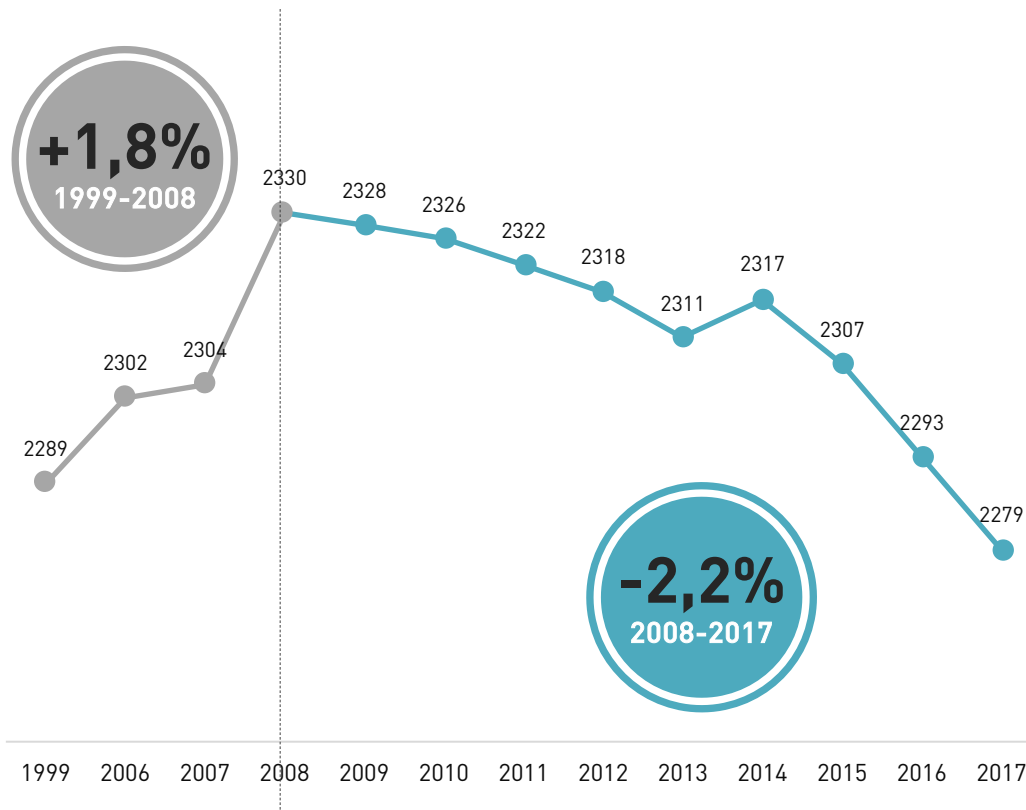


Population in L'Argentière-la-Bessée has slightly decrease



SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF
L'ARGENTIÈRE-LA-BESSÉE

Divided into two periods:



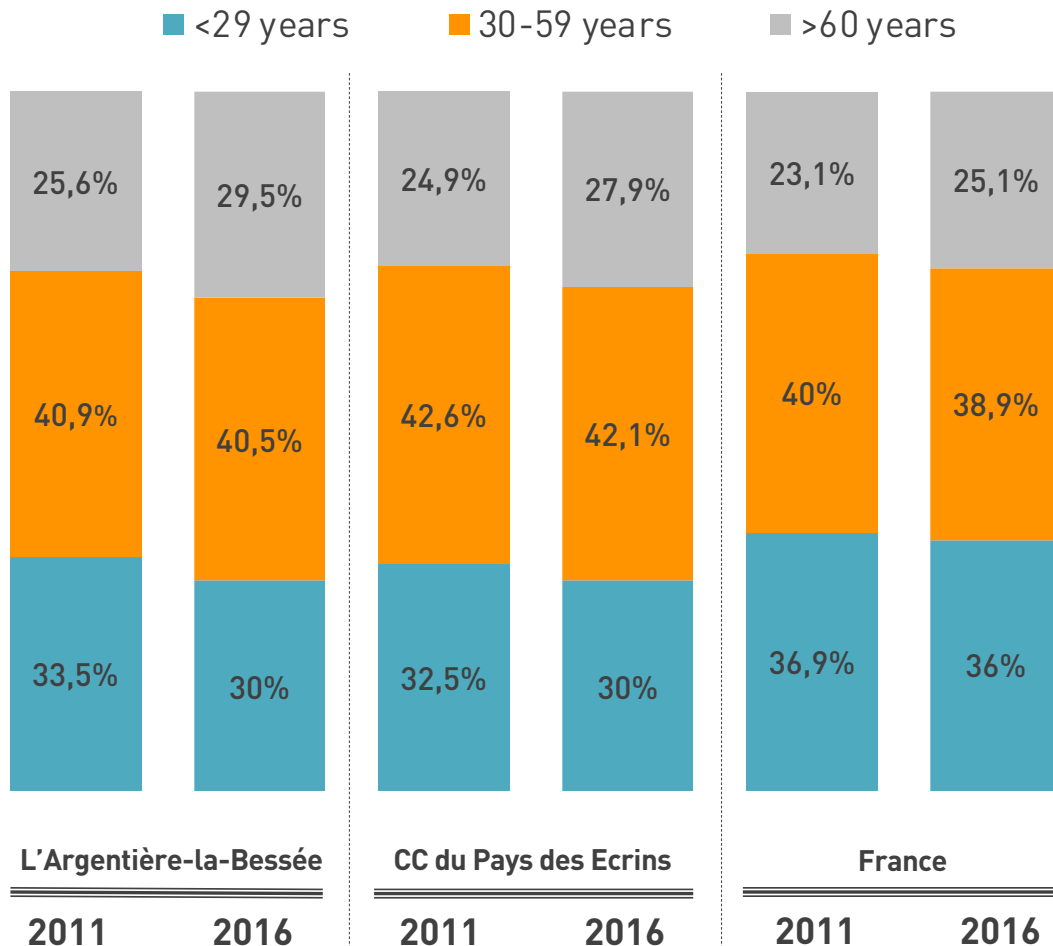
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The share of younger population (<29 years) in L'Argentière-la-Bessée and in the whole CC du Pays des Ecrins has decreased

30%
in 2016

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF
CC DU PAYS DES ECRINS



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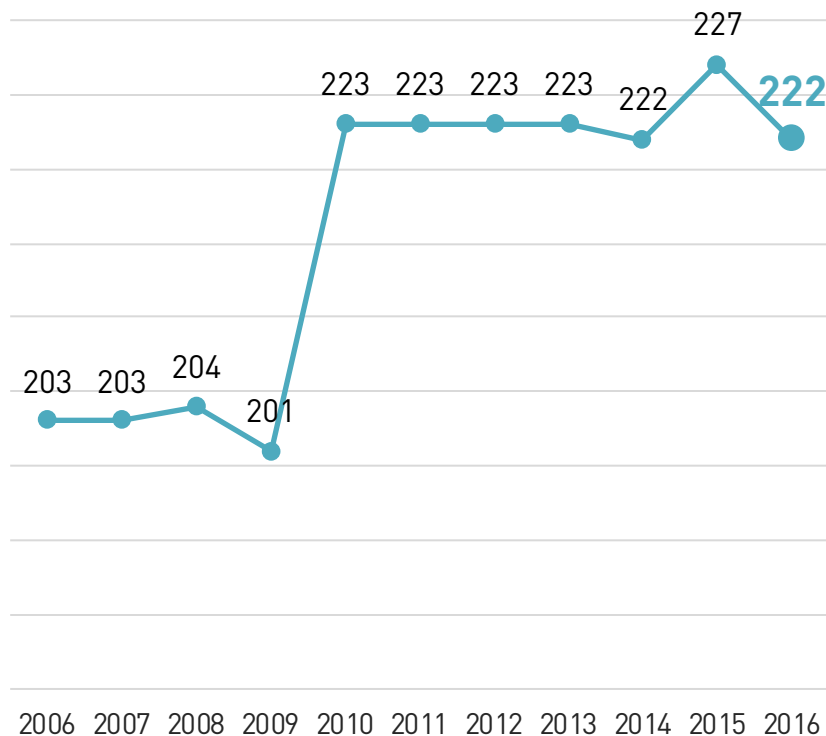
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Share of foreign population in 2016

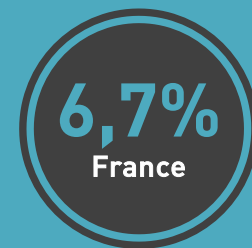


SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF
CC DU PAYS DES ECRINS

Foreign population in L'Argentière-la-Bessée (2006-2016)



In 2010 foreign population registered a quantitative increase while in the last years the trend has been constant.

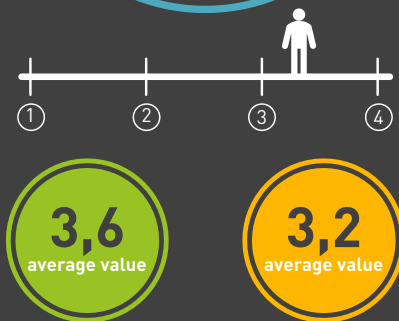


A COHESIVE COMMUNITY

High political and civic
participation



The residents of CC du Pays des Ecrins are satisfied with their life



QUALITY OF LIFE / SOCIAL COHESION

Shared values and norms

88,3%

11,7%

Trust in people of the same municipality

81,5%

18,5%

Trust in the local political institutions

50,4%

49,6%

Feeling of social exclusion

16%

84%

Trust in the national political institutions

26,2%

73,8%

Presence of social tensions

26,5%

73,5%

Feeling of safety when walking at night

88,2%

11,8%

■ Agree

■ Disagree



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The residents of CC du
Pays des Ecrins have
large personal support
networks

9,7
average value

6,2
average value

10,7
average value

On average can rely on 9,7
people in case of need
3,6 of these are neighbours

QUALITY OF LIFE / SOCIAL RELATIONS

Adults aged
40-64 years

11,4
people

older people
> 65 years

6,1
people

younger
people

9,5
people

The size of the personal support network
correlates with some indicators of social
cohesion:

the more people feel they share values and norms,
the bigger is the size of both the total and local
social network

the lower is the trust towards local political
institutions, the bigger is the social network as if
people refers more to their personal networks when
they do not believe that local political institution can
provide them support

12,5
average value

La Roche-
de-Rame

20,1
average value

Les Vigneaux

13
average value

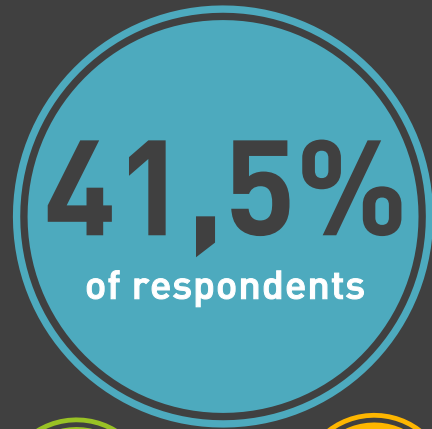
Freissinieres



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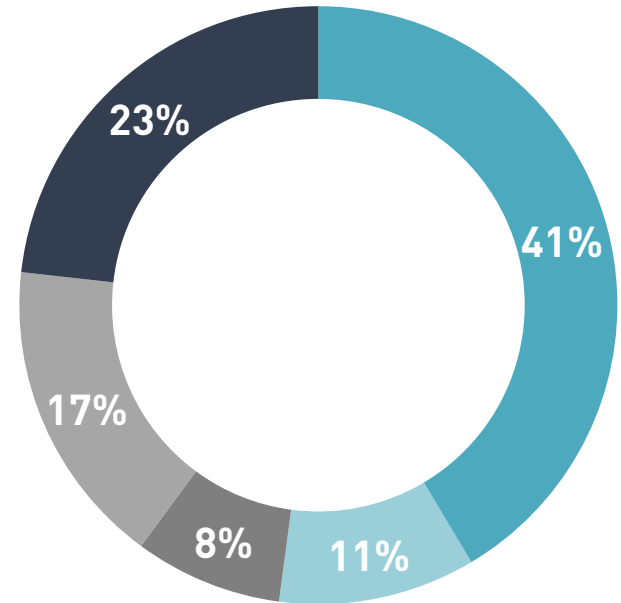
Sense of local belonging:
respondents perceive
themselves mainly
as citizens of their
municipality of residence



QUALITY OF LIFE / TERRITORIAL IDENTITY

Perceive themselves as citizens of

- Municipality of residence
- CC du Pays des Ecrins
- Region SUD PACA
- France
- Europe



on average respondents have been living
their municipality of residence

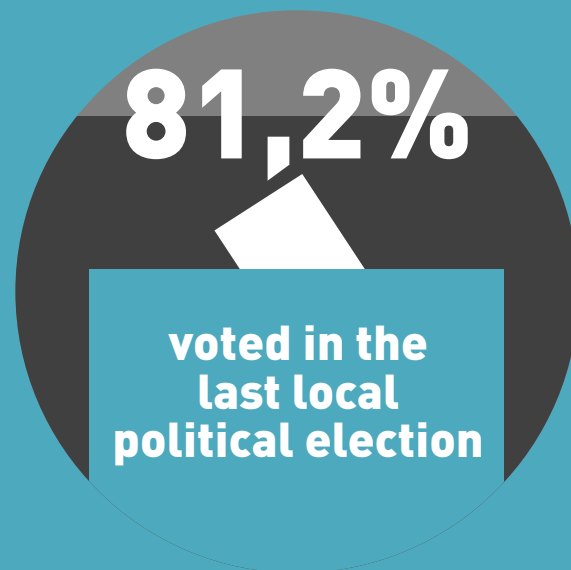
for 28 years



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High participation in the local elections and in the associational life, quite high participation in events on local problems/issues



QUALITY OF LIFE / PARTICIPATION



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How did and how does
the community relate
to **ex Pechiney/AFP?**





"Pechiney...It's paternalism!"

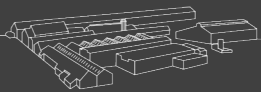


"It was the biggest industry there was. I think there were 850 people there. We couldn't talk about L'Argentière without talking about Pechiney..."

The people of Pechiney were privileged. You've got to admit it."



"They were provided with a wide range of services: kindergarten, sports, trips, and only those who worked in the factory benefited...the others didn't. A rift was created in the population as result..."



IN-DEPTH
INTERVIEWS



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IN-DEPTH
INTERVIEWS

“When they demolished the northern part of the factory, it was something **shocking for everyone...** It marked the rebirth of L'Argentièrè, but also marked the end of a prosperity period”

“It was a trauma...
It was definitely a trauma at first”

“...has been very **painful**. A lot of people didn't want to talk about it”

“In '89, it was the crucial year because **it's over the Pechiney visible history**. And from that moment on, for some there was a great trauma and for others, on the contrary, a **regeneration chance**”

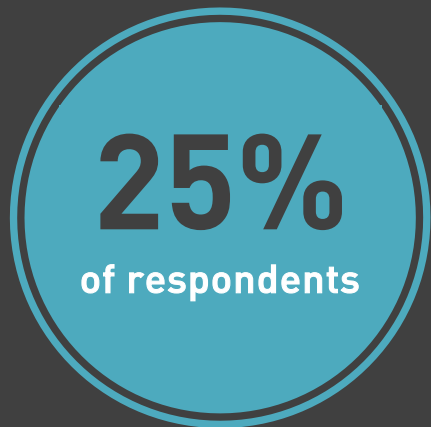
1988?



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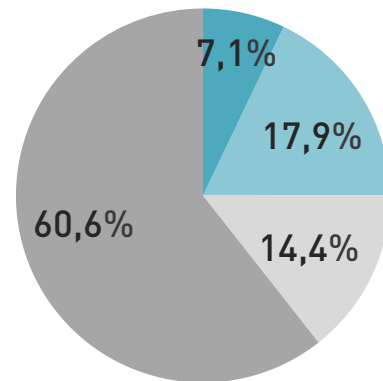
People who know
(a lot or quite a lot) about
the past and recent
vicissitudes of the
former Pechiney / AFP



PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE SITE

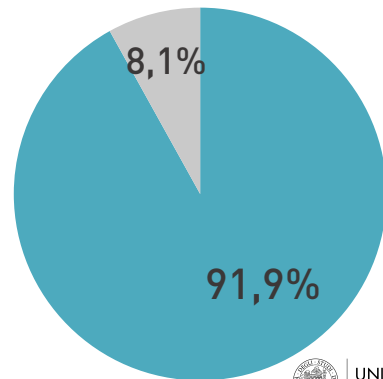
Knowledge about the ex Pechiney/AFP site (%)

- Very much
- Somewhat
- Not much
- Not at all



Citizens' participation to the site transformation process (%)

- Yes, citizens should be involved
- No, only experts and local decision-makers need to be involved



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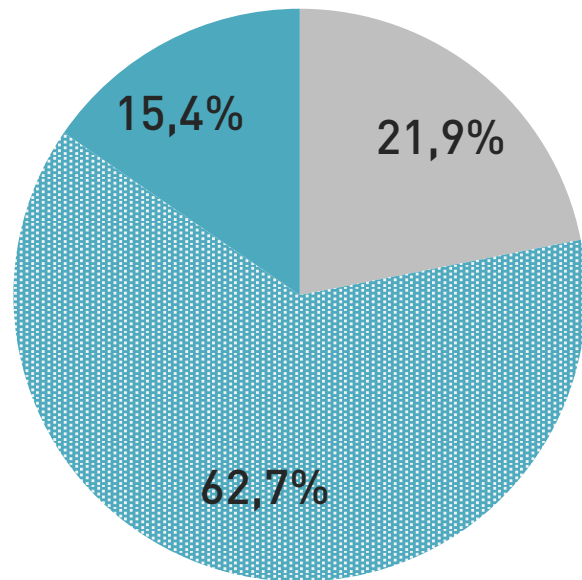
Requalification project is **an opportunity** for the local economy



THE FUTURE OF THE SITE

Favourite future scenarios

- A radical scenario
(involves a completely
new project)
- An intermediate
scenario (the current
site merges with a
project)
- A conservative scenario
(the industrial activities
continue)



Preference for the transformation of the site ex Péciney/AFP

VISUAL CHOICE EXPERIMENT



Intermediate scenario
(1. AIGLES, BOULONS ET BRIQUES)



Radical-green scenario
(2. LE COURANT)



Radical-tech/services scenario
(3. UNA TERRE REMISE EN FORME)

THE FUTURE OF THE SITE



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An aerial photograph of a city, likely Verona, showing a mix of industrial buildings with large roofs and residential areas with smaller houses. The image is in grayscale, serving as a background for the text.

The perception of the site as important both for the local community and young' future increases the probability to opt for an **intermediate scenario**.

The probability to chose a **radical scenario** increases for respondents recognizing citizens as the leading actor in the transformation process.

It seems that this choice reflects the degree of risk aversion of survey respondents.



Almost all respondents
believe it will have
a positive effect
on local economy

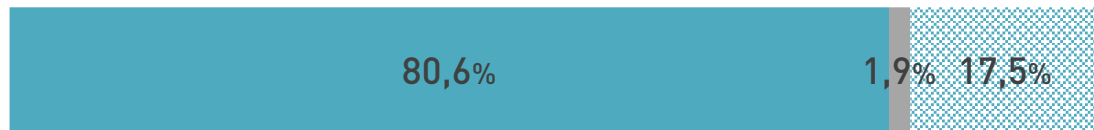
92,2%
of respondents

91%
of respondents

PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE SITE

■ Positive effect ■ Negative effect ■ No effect

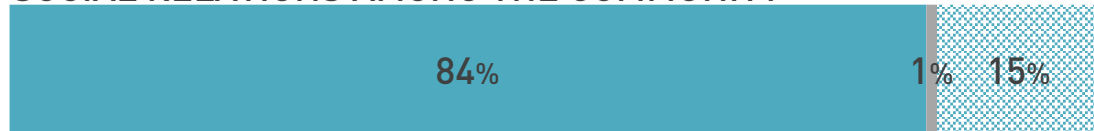
TOURISM



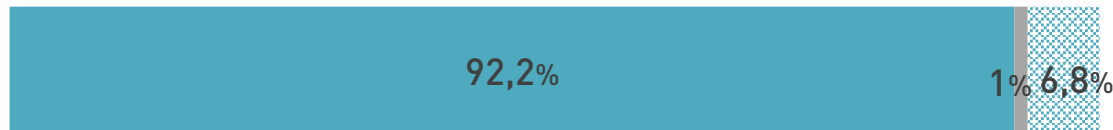
ENVIRONMENT QUALITY



SOCIAL RELATIONS AMONG THE COMMUNITY



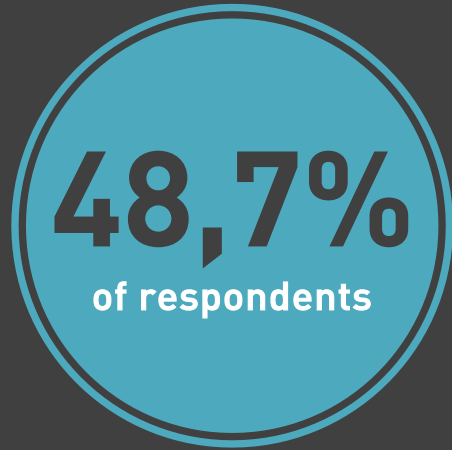
LOCAL ECONOMY



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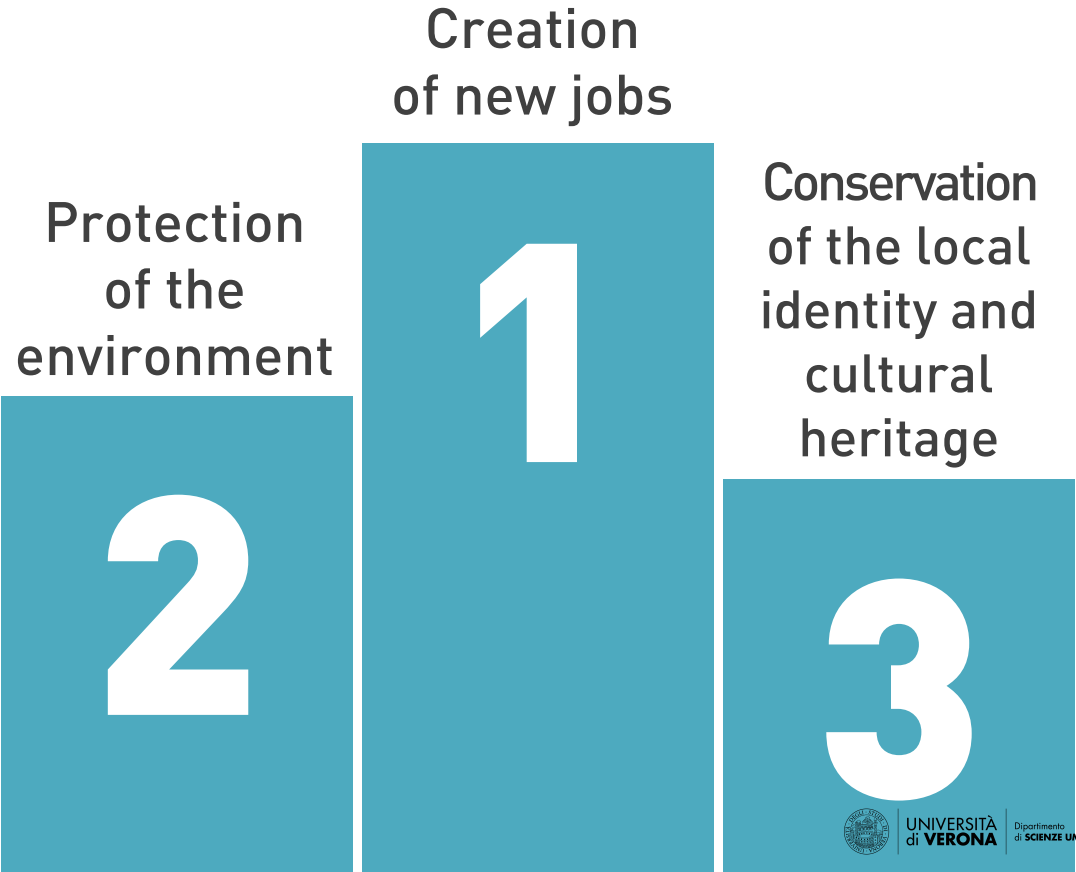
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Considers that the site transformation project **should prioritize** the creation of new jobs



THE FUTURE OF THE SITE

Aspects that the transformation process should prioritize



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THE FUTURE OF THE SITE

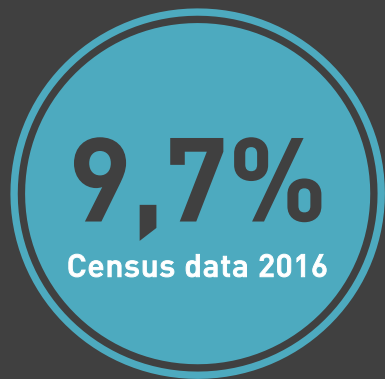


An aerial photograph of a town, likely Verona, Italy, showing a dense cluster of buildings and a prominent church spire. The image is in black and white, with a blue circular overlay in the center. The text 'Economic context' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font within the circle.

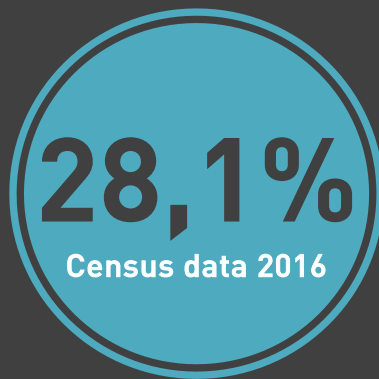
Economic context



Unemployment rate young in L'Argentière-la-Bessée

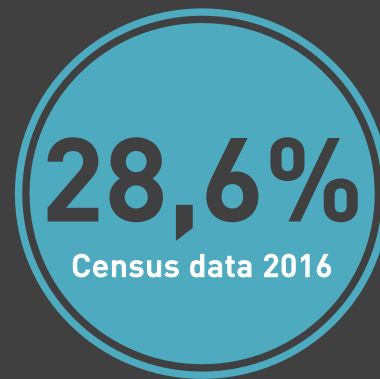


men

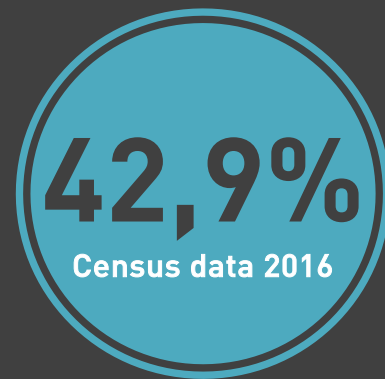


women

Unemployment rate young in La Roche-de-Rame

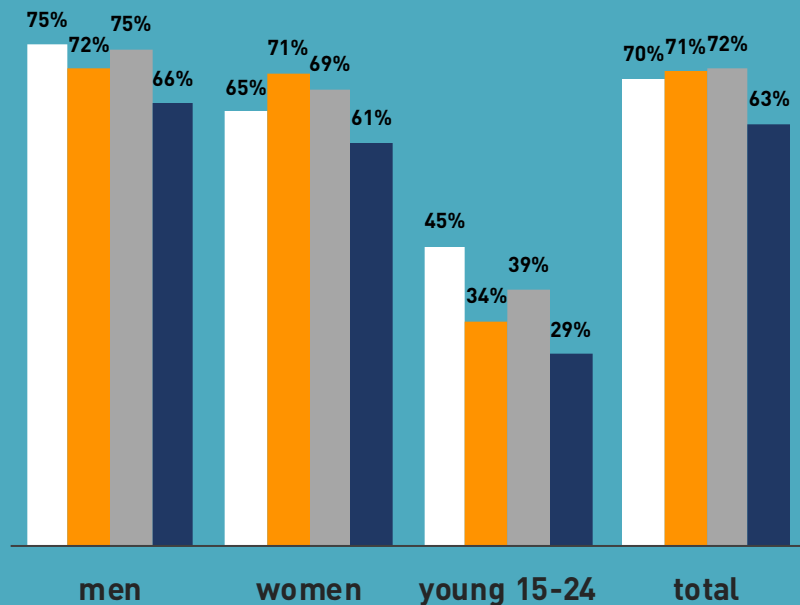


men



women

Employment rate by gender and age, 2016



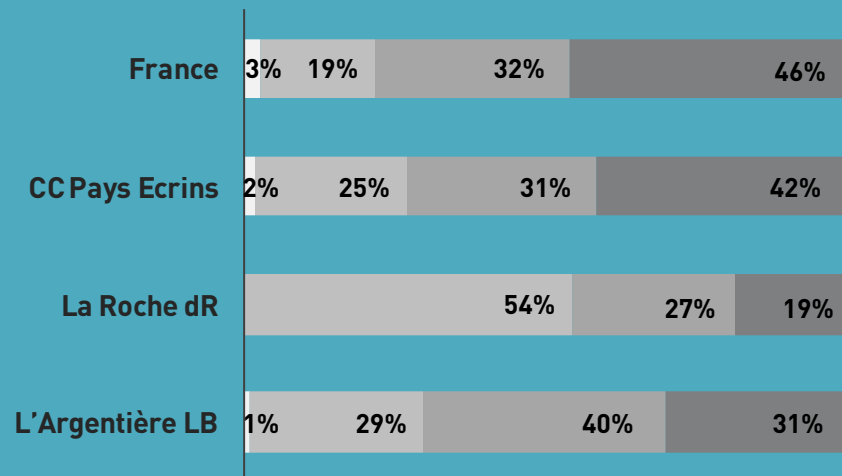
■ L'Argentière LB

■ La Roche dR

■ CC Pays Ecrins

■ France

Employment rate by sector, 2016



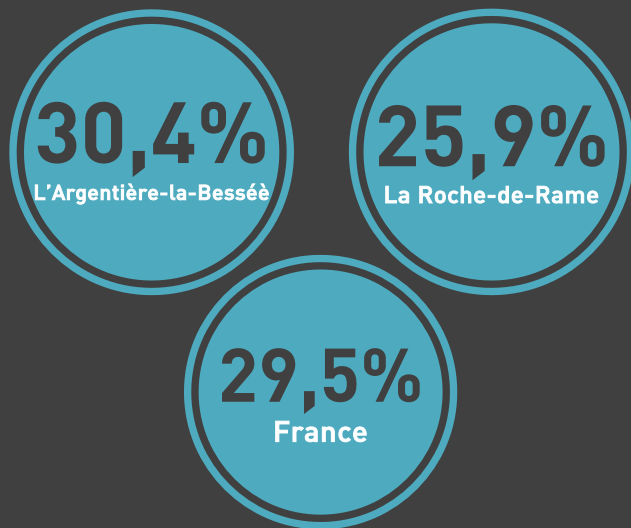
■ Sector I

■ Sector II

■ Sector III (public sector)

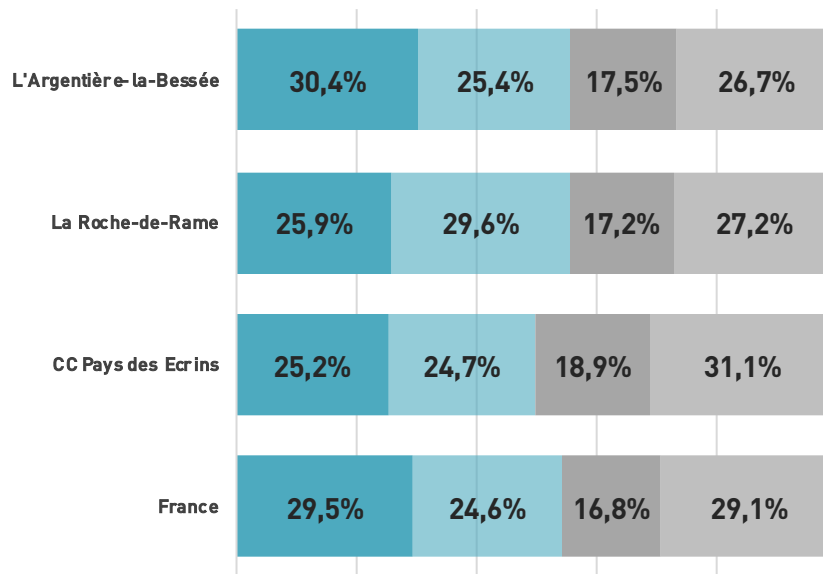
■ Sector III (commerce)

There is a high incidence of **low-educated adults** in L'Argentière-la-Bessée compared with La Roche de Rame and France.



HOUSEDOLF MATERIAL CONDITIONS /
EDUCATION

Education by levels, census year 2016



- Lower secondary education (BEPC or DNB) or less
- CAP or BEP (two yrs of higher secondary education)
- Higher secondary education (BAC)
- University degree

Share of
adults with
BAC or more,
2016

L'Argentière-la-Bessée

49%
women

39%
men

La Roche-de-Rame

51%
women

38%
men

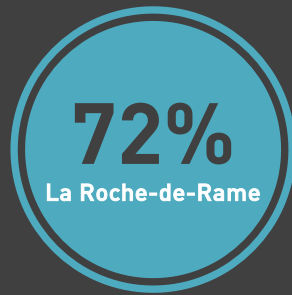


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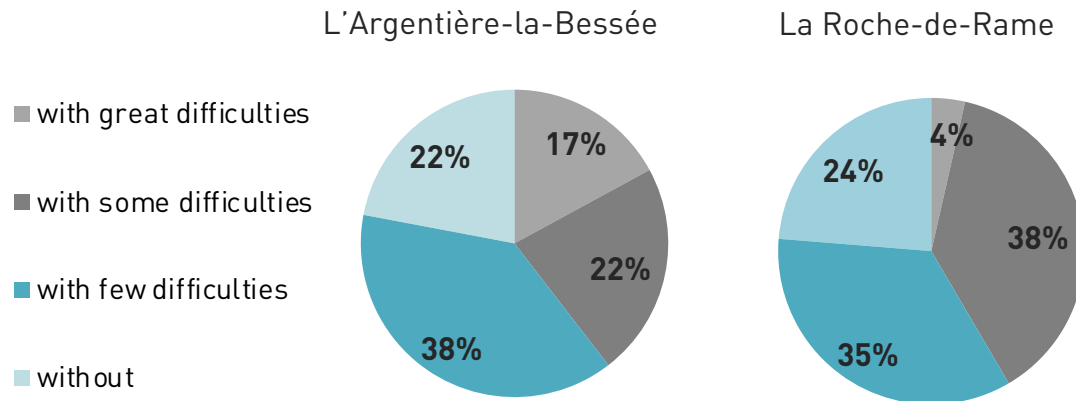
The yearly household net income distribution in L'Argentière-la-Bessée is more polarized than in La Roche-de-Rame.

The share of middle class (yearly income 12,000-36,000 euros)

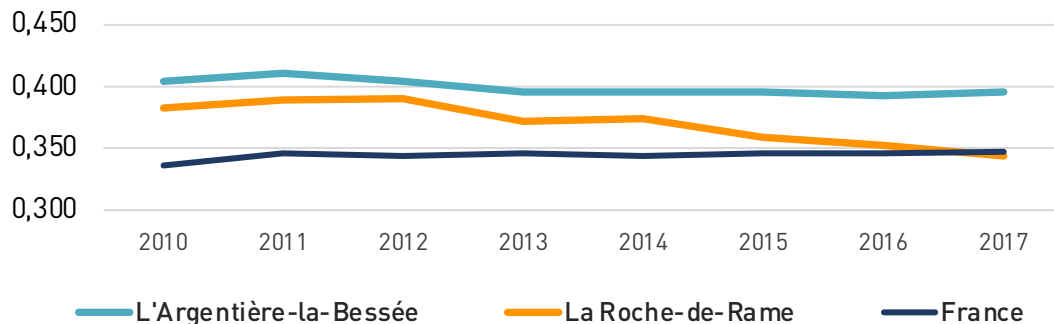


HOUSEHOLD MATERIAL CONDITIONS /
INCOME

Share of household making ends meet with difficulty (survey 2019)



Share of persons receiving a pension, since 2010



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Relatively large availability of houses

L'Argentière-
la-Bessée

La Roche-
de-Rame

12,5%

Census data 2016

14,9%

Census data 2016

15,2%

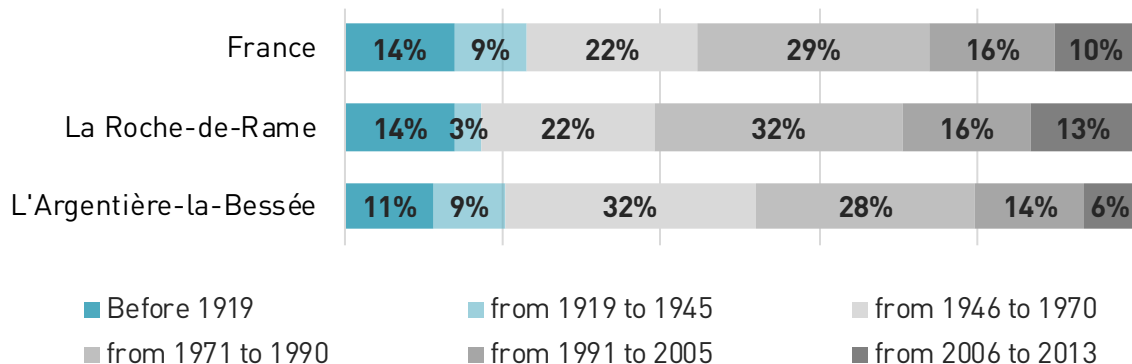
Census data 2011
BORGO SD

70,5%

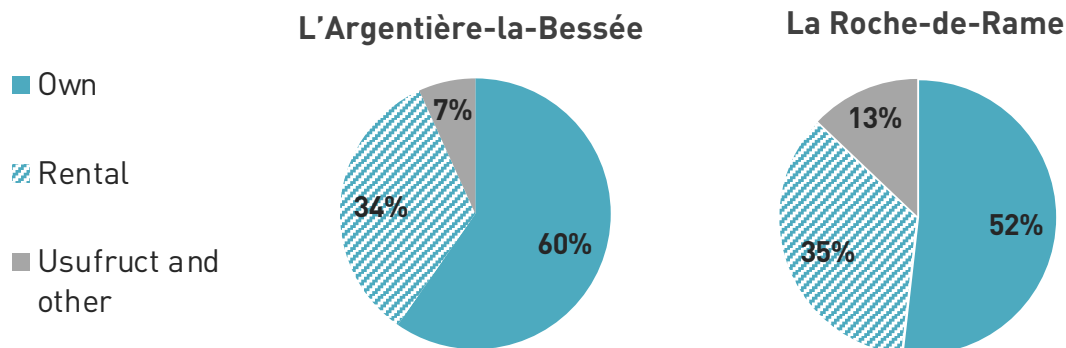
Census data 2011
VALDIERI

HOUSEHOLD MATERIAL CONDITIONS /
HOUSING

Building Phase



Housing tenure status (survey 2019)



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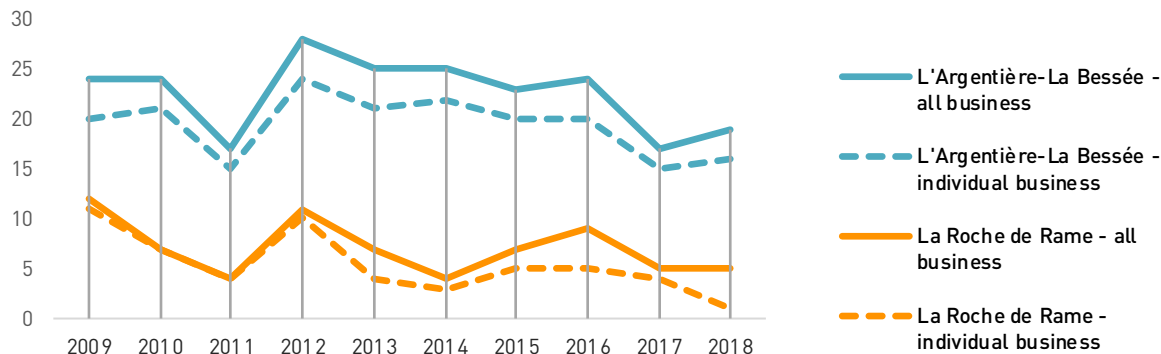
Share of new businesses that belong to the service sector (in 2018)



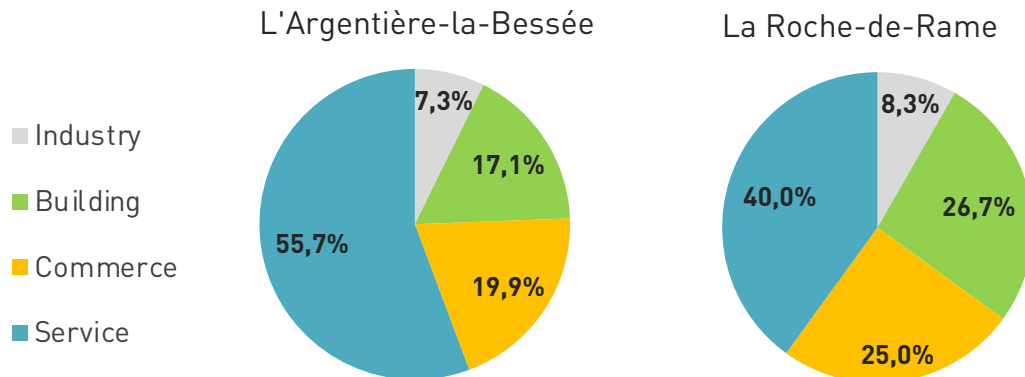
There have been **no significant changes** in the dynamic of creating new business over the last 10 years.

MATERIAL CONDITION / ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Trend in the new business creation since 2009



Business by sector (2017)



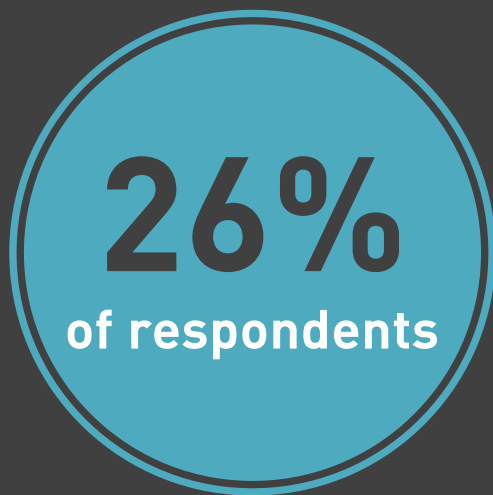
Data: Insee, Répertoire des entreprise et des établissements (REE)



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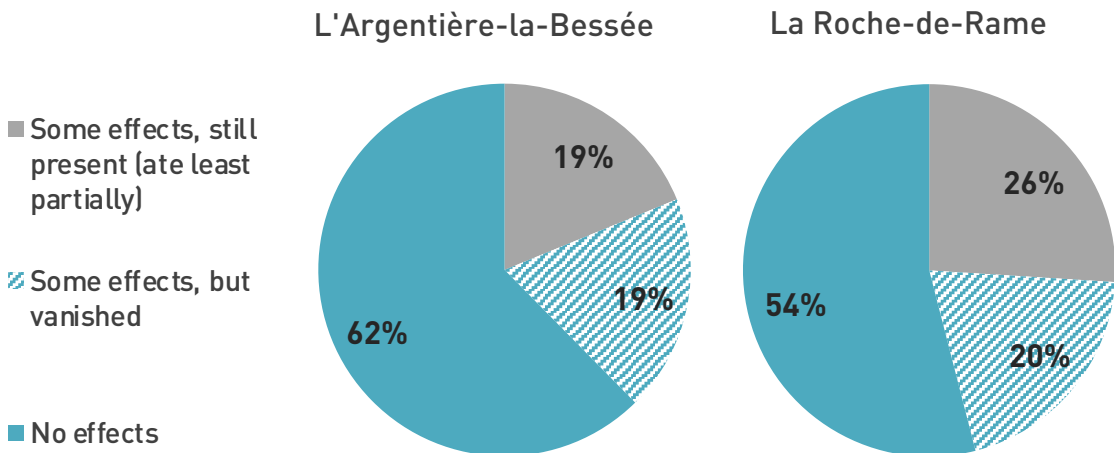
The highest incidence
of negative effects,
still present is in
La Roche-de-Rame



PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE SITE

Overall most of respondents **do not report any negative economic effect at personal level** from the past transformation of the site ex Péchiney/AFP

Negative economic impact at personal level of past transformation of the site ex Péchiney/AFP and persistence over time (survey 2019)



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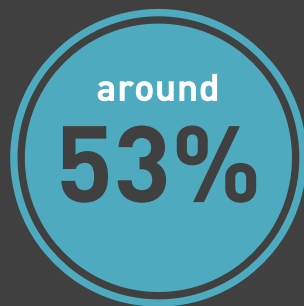
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IS THE INDUSTRIAL/ARTISANAL
RELAUNCH OF THE SITE EX
PÉCHINEY/AFP **PERCEIVED AS**
IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY?



The industrial/artisanal
relaunch of the site
ex Péciney/AFP is
perceived as important
opportunity for the local
community by



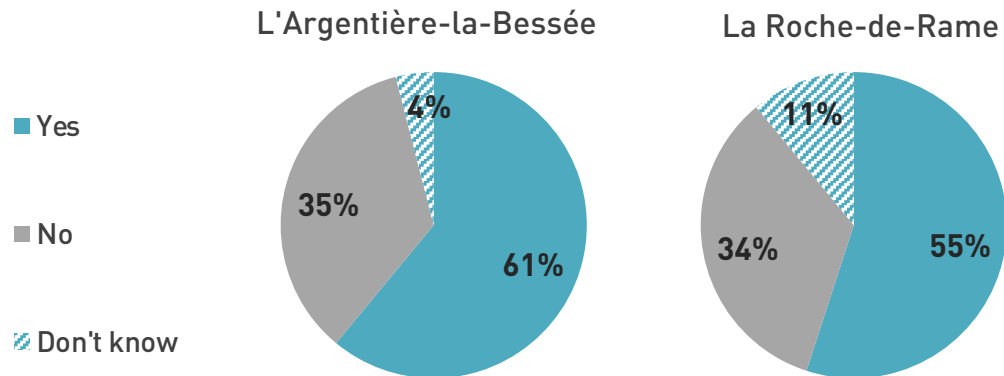
of respondents
living in
L'Argentière-
la-Bessée



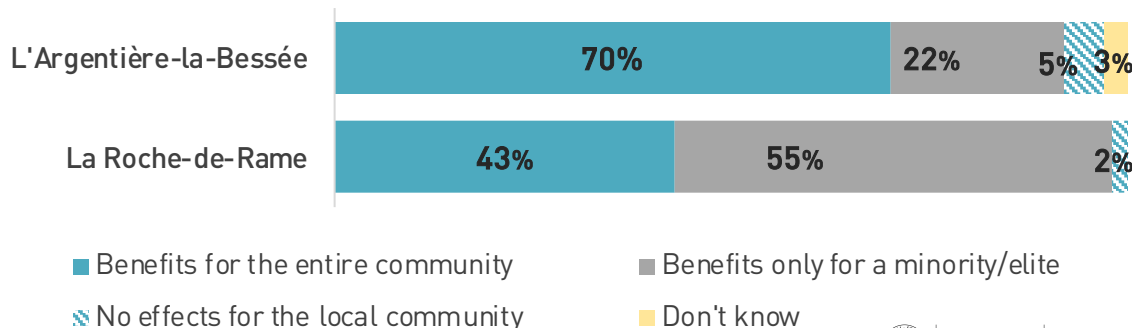
of respondents
living in
La Roche-de-
Rame

THE FUTURE OF THE SITE

Do young people associate their professional future to the
recovery of the plant?



Expected benefits of the site transformation and their
distribution



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The leading actor for the development process of the entire local area should be citizens for

around
37%

of respondents living in
L'Argentièrè-la-Bessée

around
52%

of respondents living in
La Roche-de-Rame

THE FUTURE OF THE SITE

Strategy for a sustainable development of the entire local area

L'Argentièrè-la-Bessée

36%

10%

50%

4%

La Roche-de-Rame

36%

41%

16%

7%

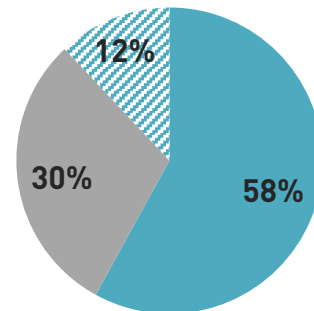
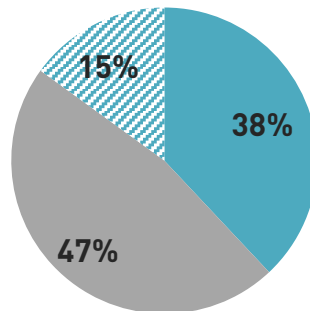
- Green entrepreneurial activities
- Industrial/commercial activities with local workforce
- Handicraft activity based on local know-how and identity
- Don't know

The transformation process of the site ex Péchiney/AFP should prioritize

L'Argentièrè-la-Bessée

La Roche-de-Rame

- Creation of new jobs
- Environment protection
- Preservation of local identity



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