

Roma political participation and public opinion survey

NDI Slovakia 2005



Survey information

- Sample size: 650 Roma respondents
- Parameters which determined selection of the sample:
Gender, age, city/village, regional distribution, type of settlement, employment status and education
- Survey fielded in the period March-April 2005
- First truly representative sample in Slovakia, based on the data from the sociographic mapping of Roma communities, which offers reliable information on Roma population in Slovakia

Cont'd

- Survey was fielded in all districts of Slovakia according to percentage of the Roma population in the particular district
- Highest represented were regions: Presov, Kosice and Banska Bystrica
- Data were collected in all types of Roma settlements (integrated-segregated)

About NDI

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a nonprofit and non-partisan organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide.

Calling on a global network of volunteer experts, NDI provides practical assistance to civic and political leaders advancing democratic values, practices and institutions. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and to promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. NDI's Roma program, including this research, is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy.

Primary survey objectives

The primary purpose of the poll was to better understand the factors that affect the quality of political participation among Roma of voting age in Slovakia and measure and identify:

- The level of political awareness among Roma
- The nature (form & frequency) of political participation of Roma. i.e.: voting patterns, activism, past electoral behavior, factors influencing the choice, etc.
- The confidence of Roma in public institutions and political leaders
- The sources of political information

About the Roma Political Participation Program

Since April 2004, NDI has worked to build a skilled group of Roma activists in both Bulgaria and Slovakia who can add political expertise to parties, government, and civil society and use elected and appointed office to influence legislation and policies affecting Roma communities.

The overall goal of the Roma political participation program is to enable Roma to win elected office and to pursue their issues through political and legislative processes.

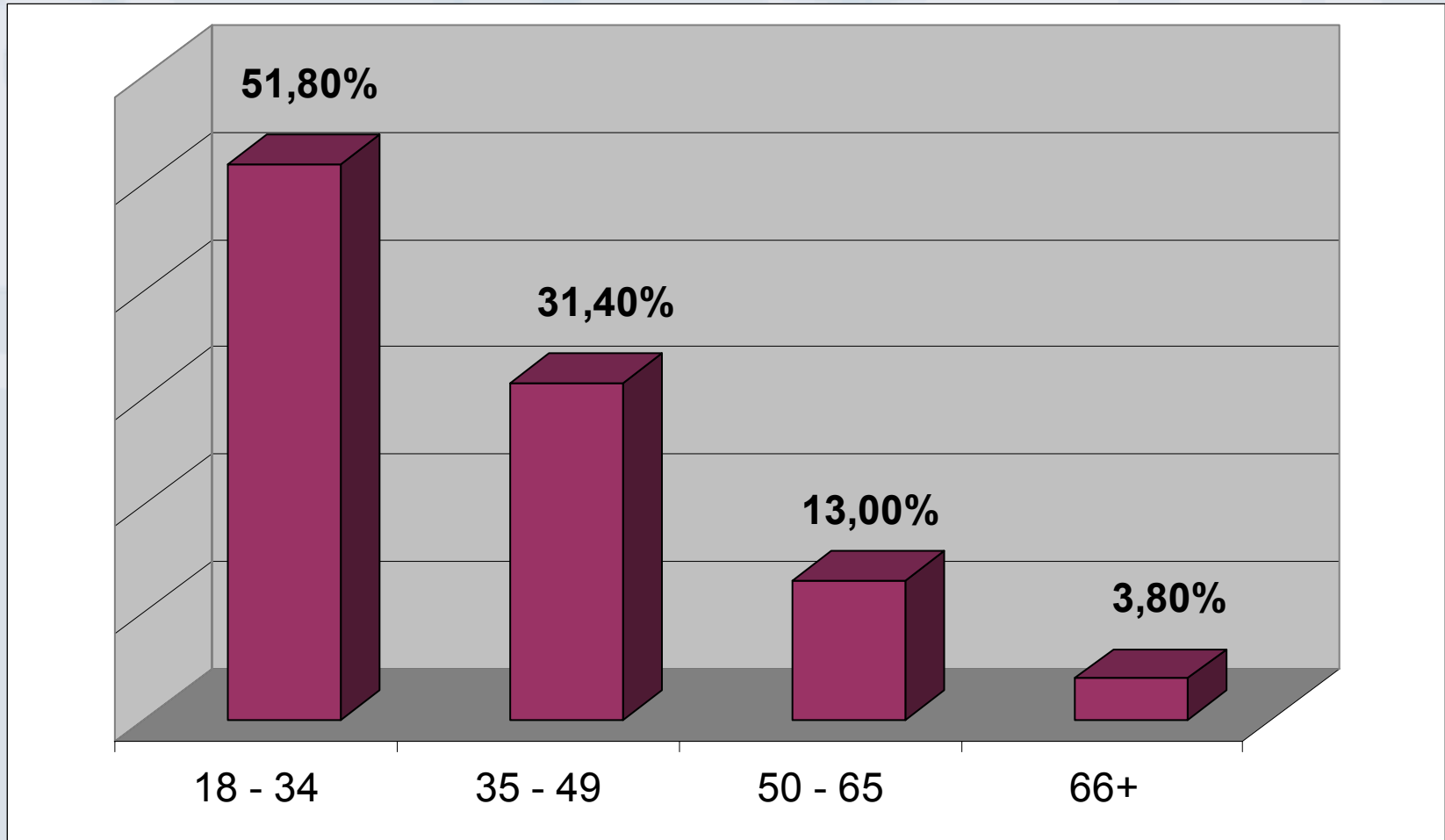
The specific program objectives are the following:

- To improve Roma candidate's ability to campaign effectively.
- To assist mainstream candidates running for office in Roma population centers in addressing Roma constituent concerns.
- To ensure that elected officials, both Roma and mainstream, have advanced skills to better engage Roma communities.
- To help build a regional network of trained Roma activists.

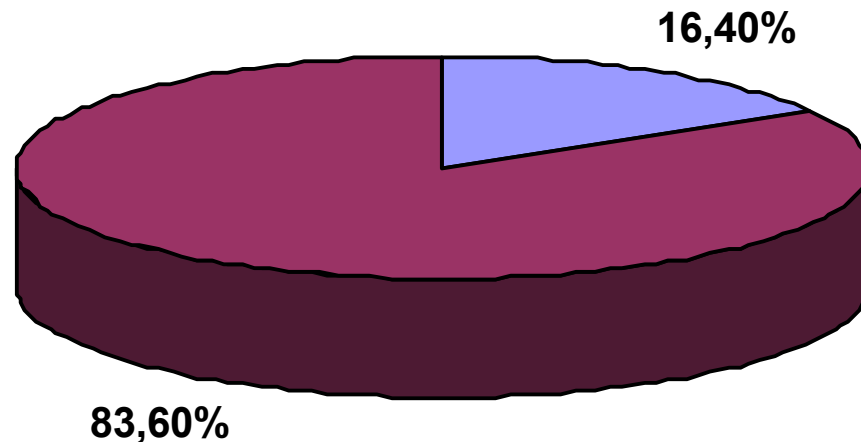
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Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics

Age distribution

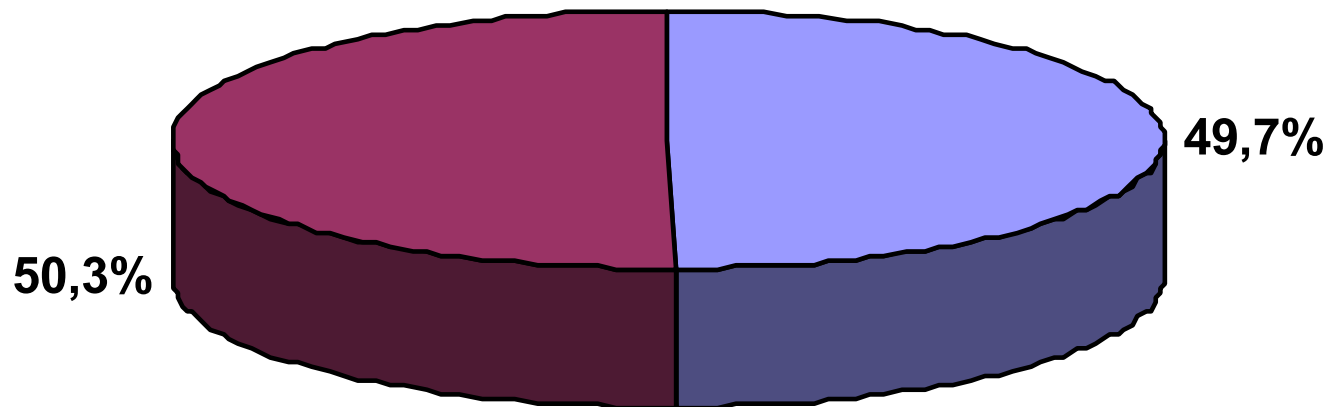


Type of municipality



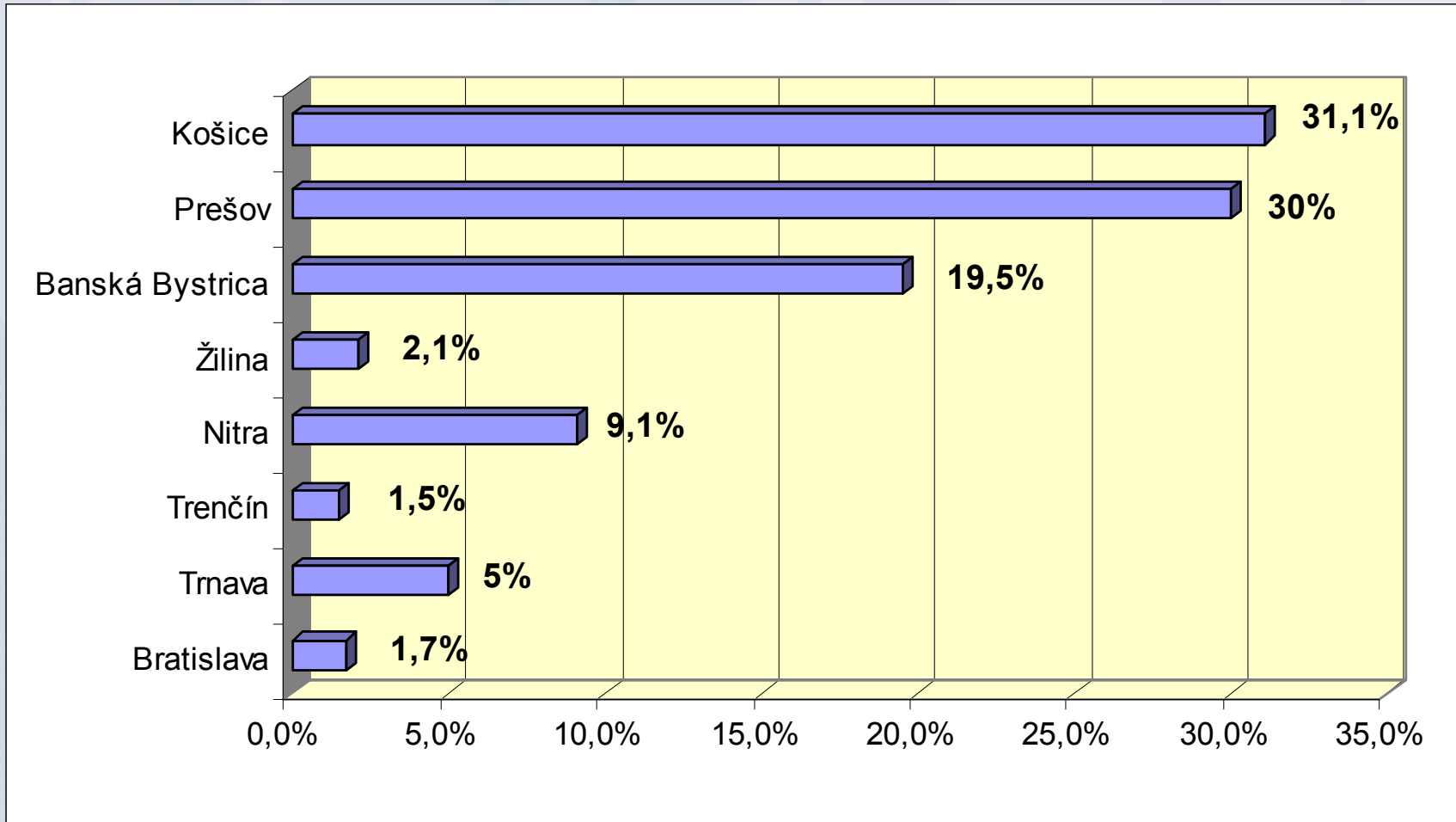
City Countryside

Gender distribution

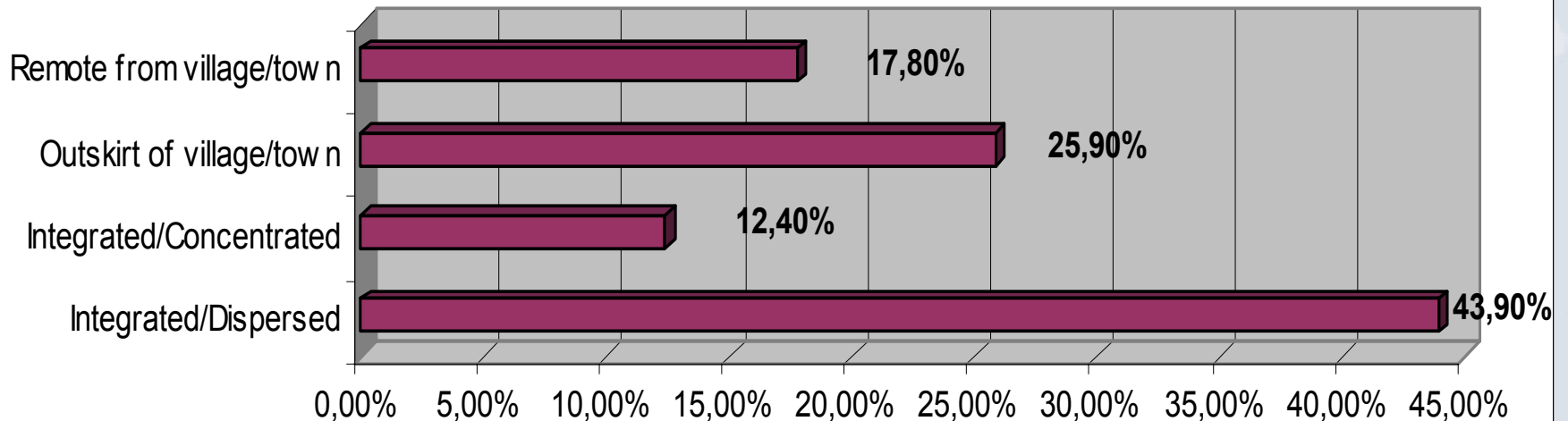


■ Male ■ Female

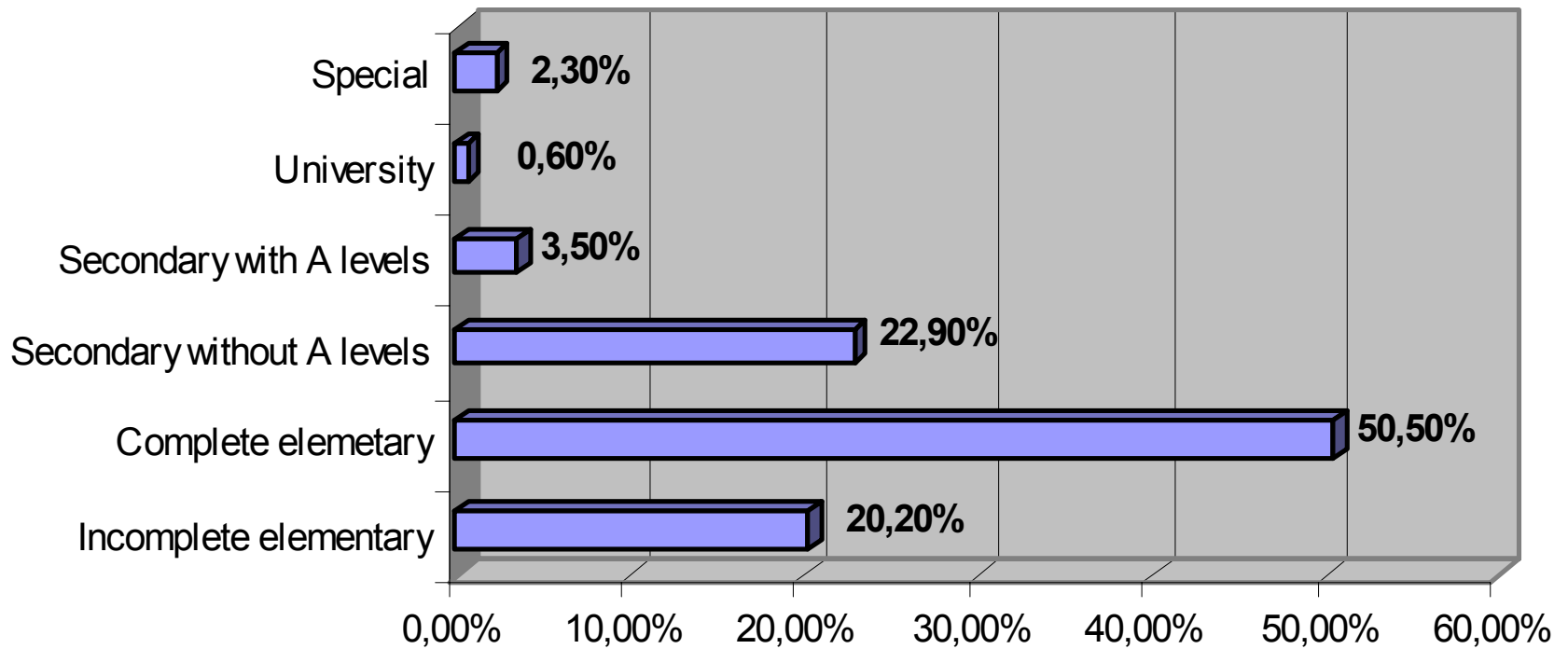
Regional distribution



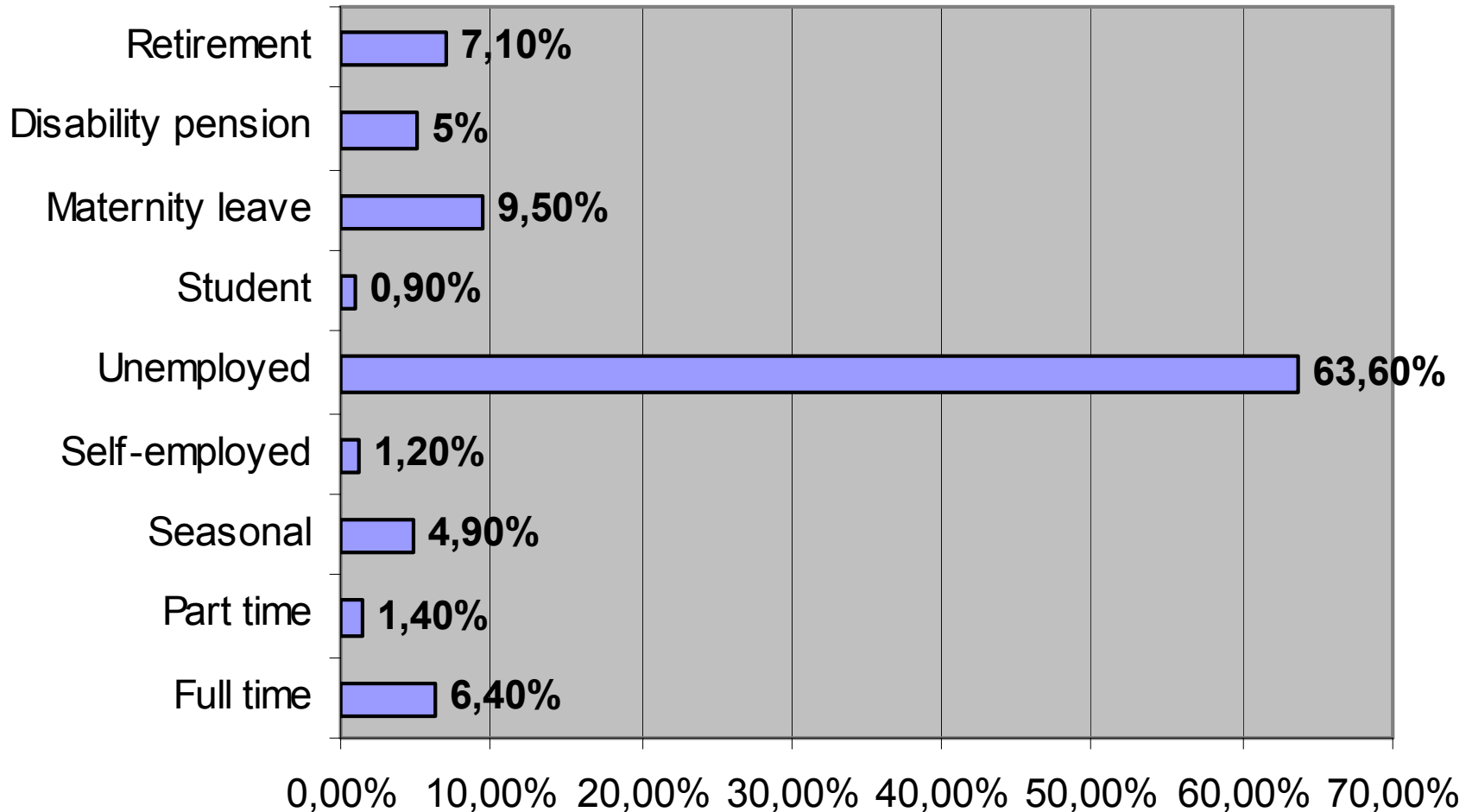
Type of settlement



Education level



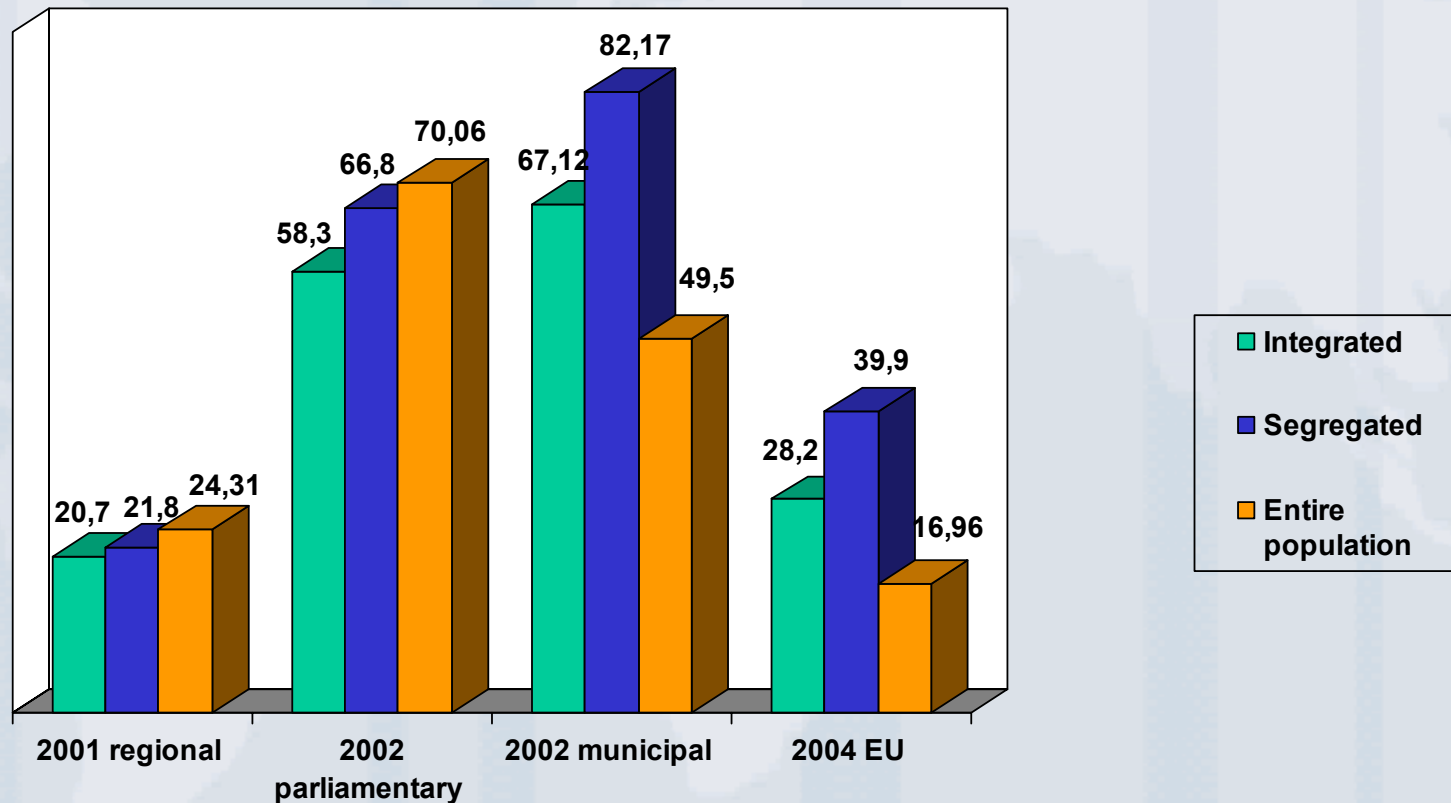
Employment status



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Political participation

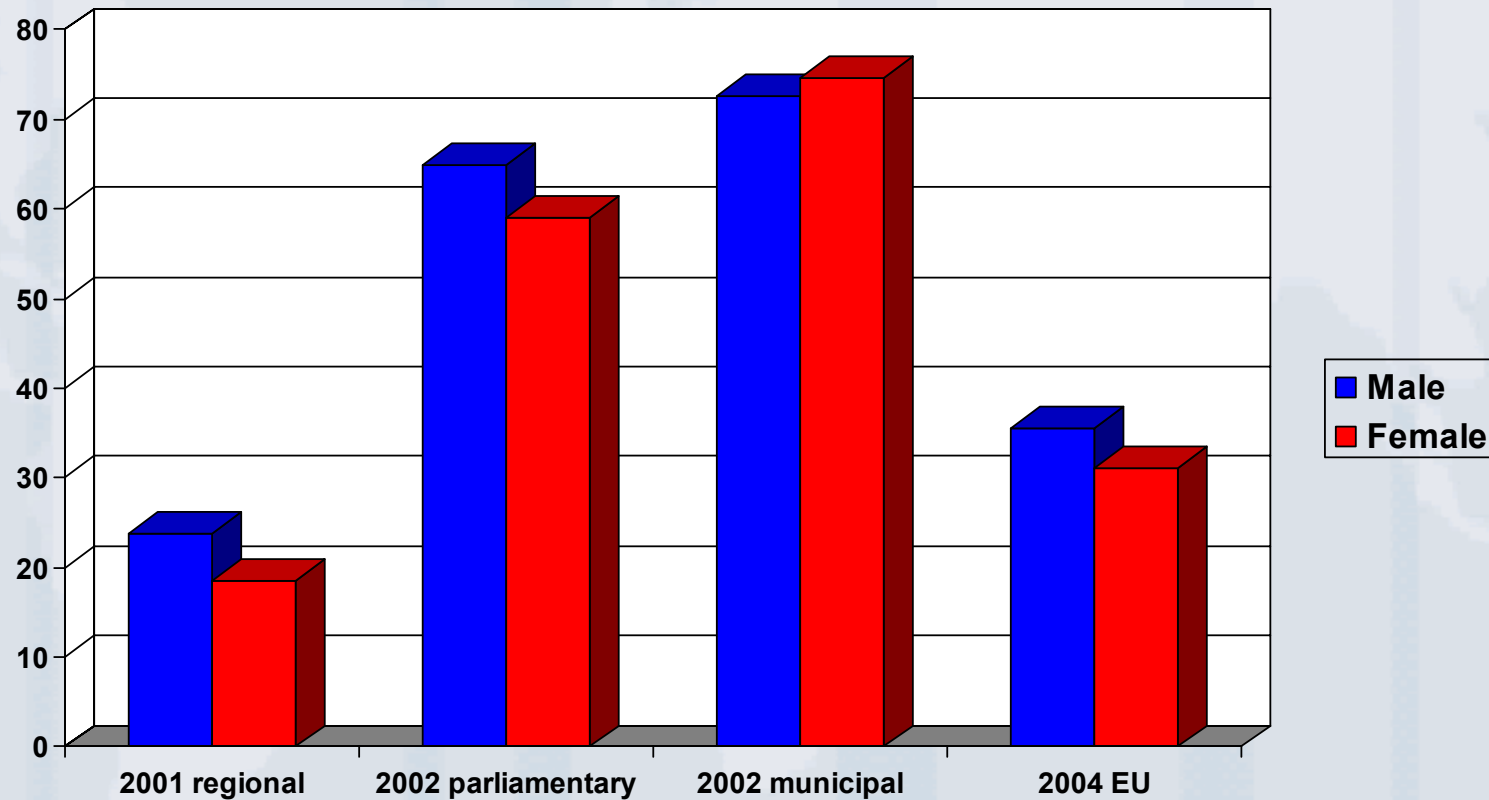
Voters turnout comparison – Roma & entire population



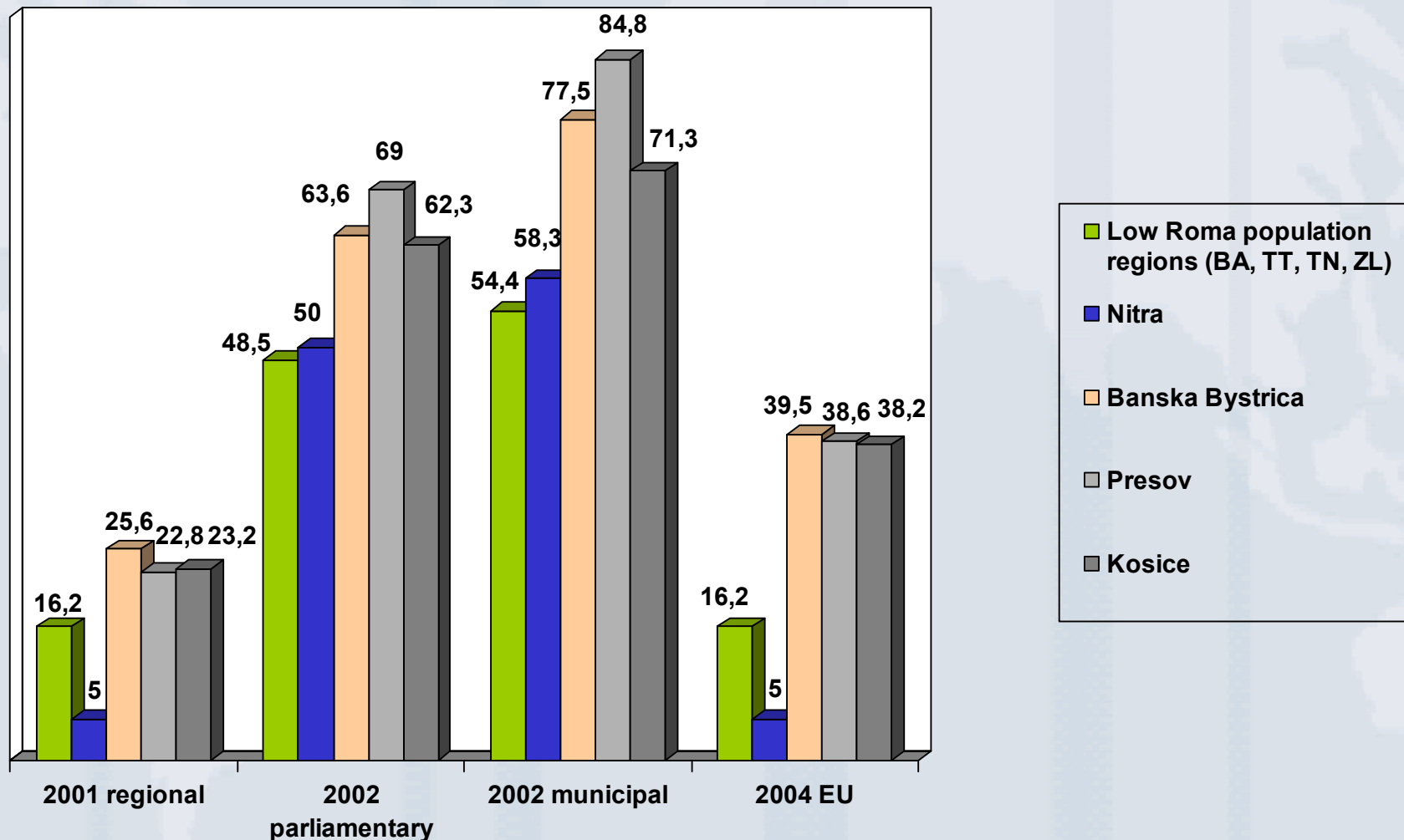
Voters turnout – 2002 municipal elections

	yes %	no %	do not remember %	was not of voting age %
Integrated	67,12	25,34	1,08	6,47
Segregated	82,17	10,14	1,40	6,29
Total	73,67	18,72	1,22	6,39

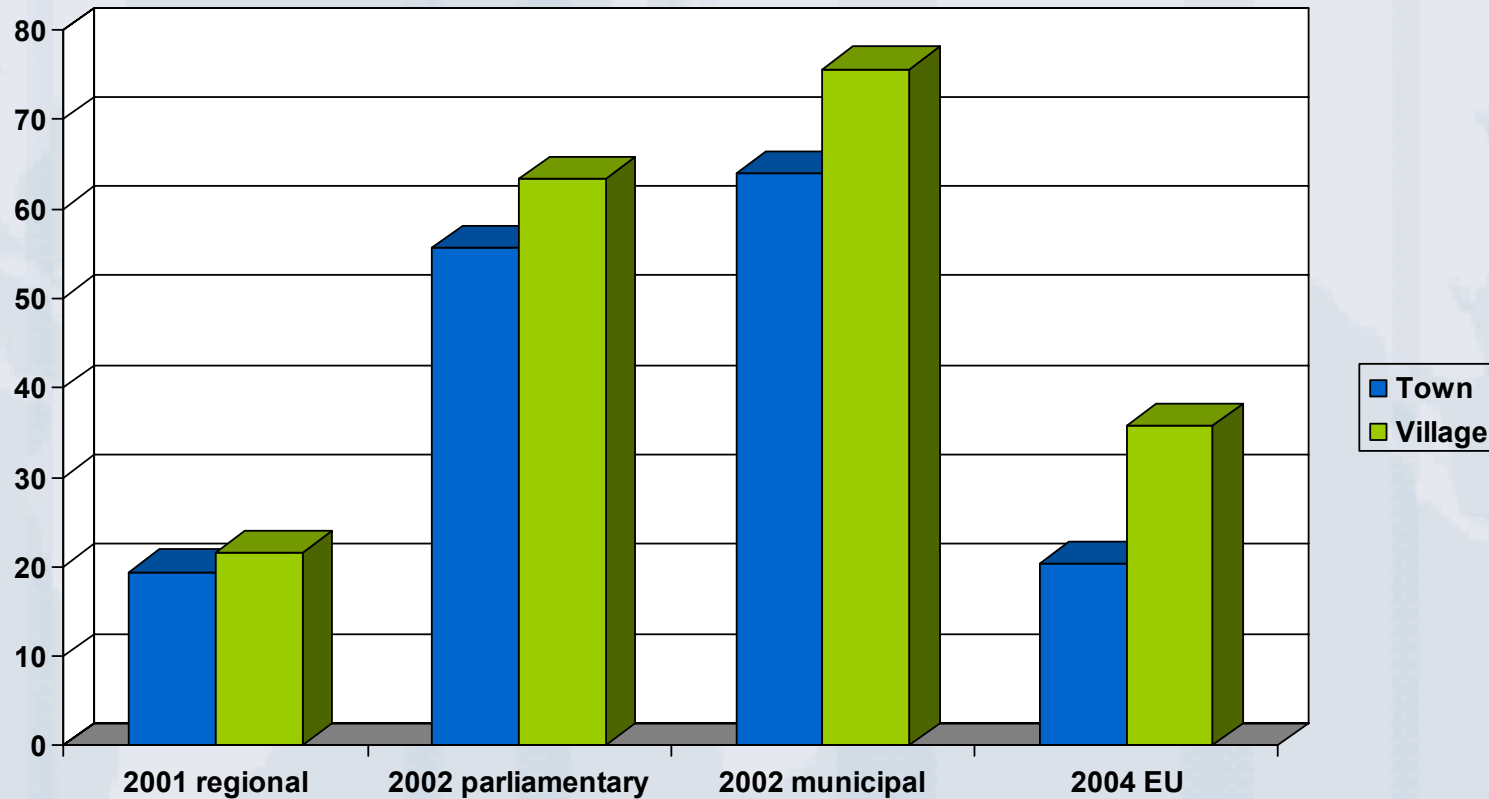
Voters turnout comparison – male and female



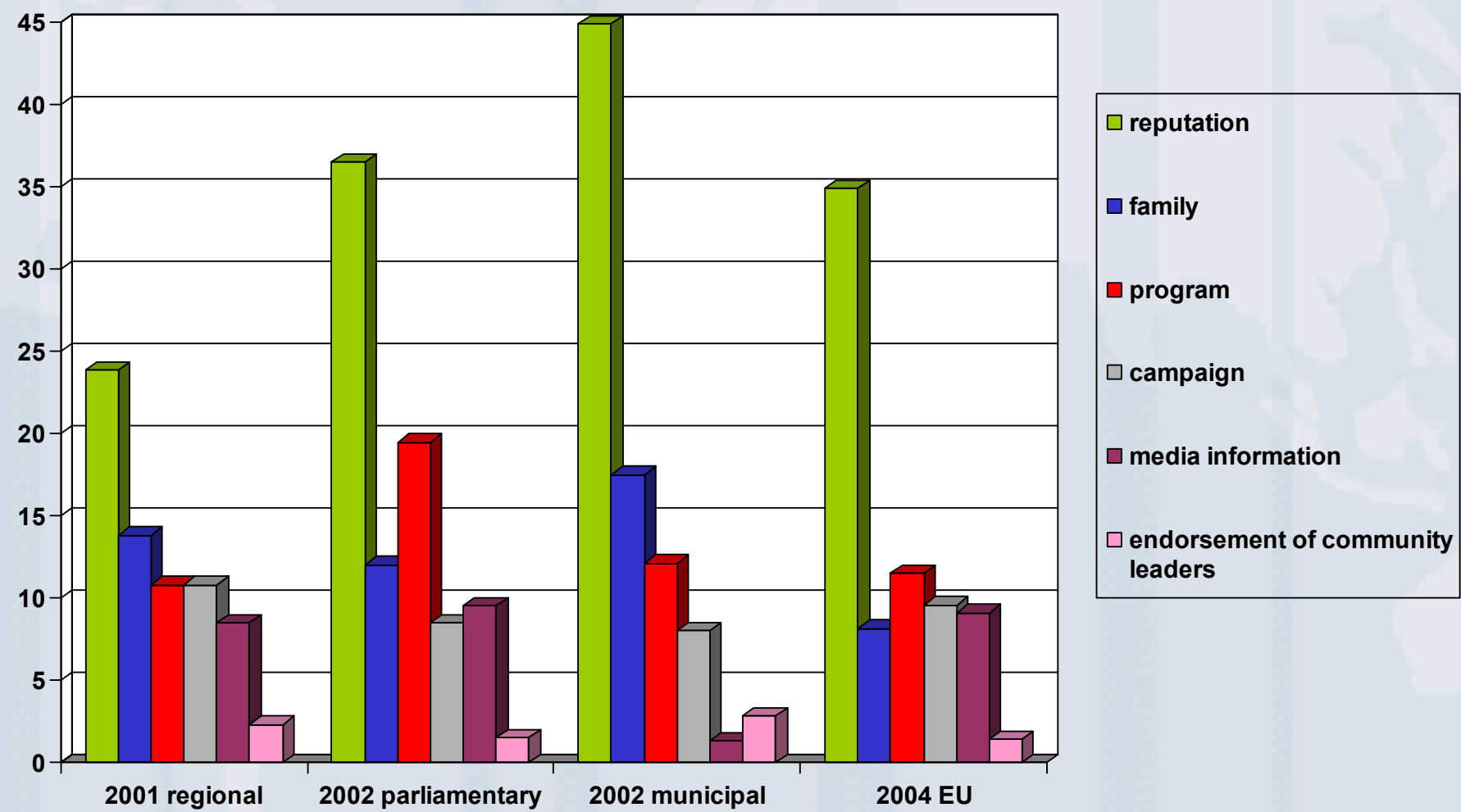
Roma election turnout - regions



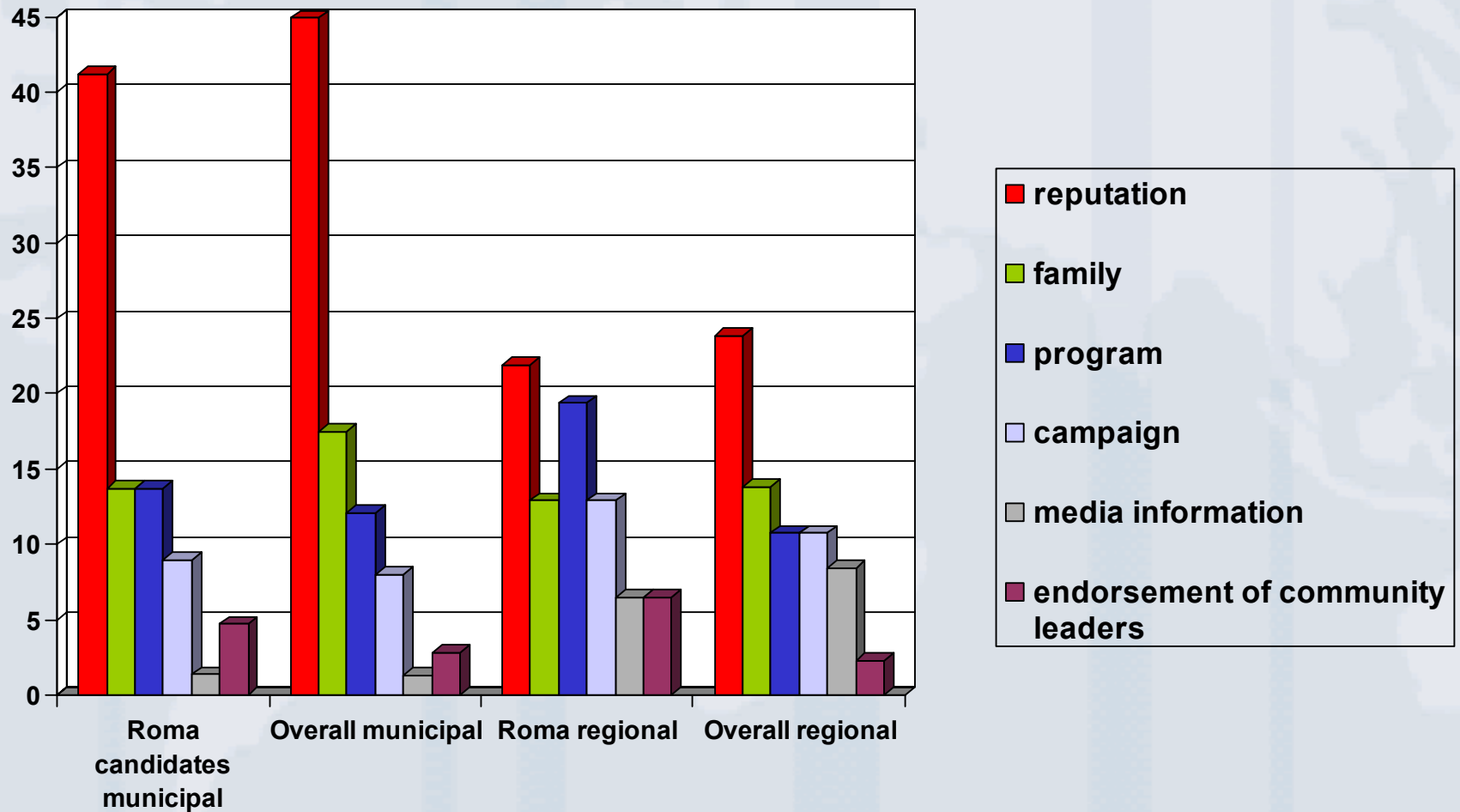
Roma election turnout – towns and villages



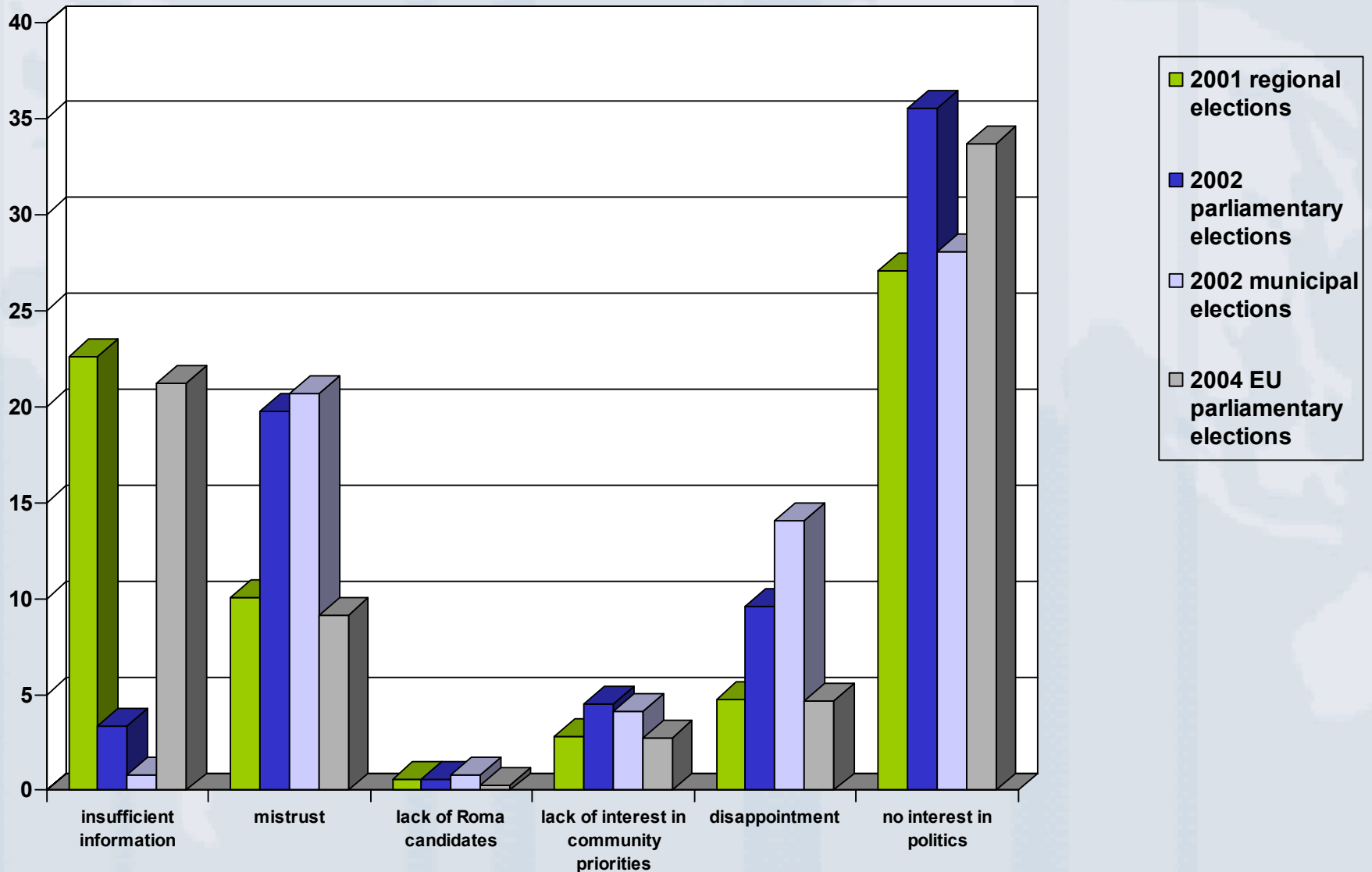
Factors influencing the choice of party or candidate



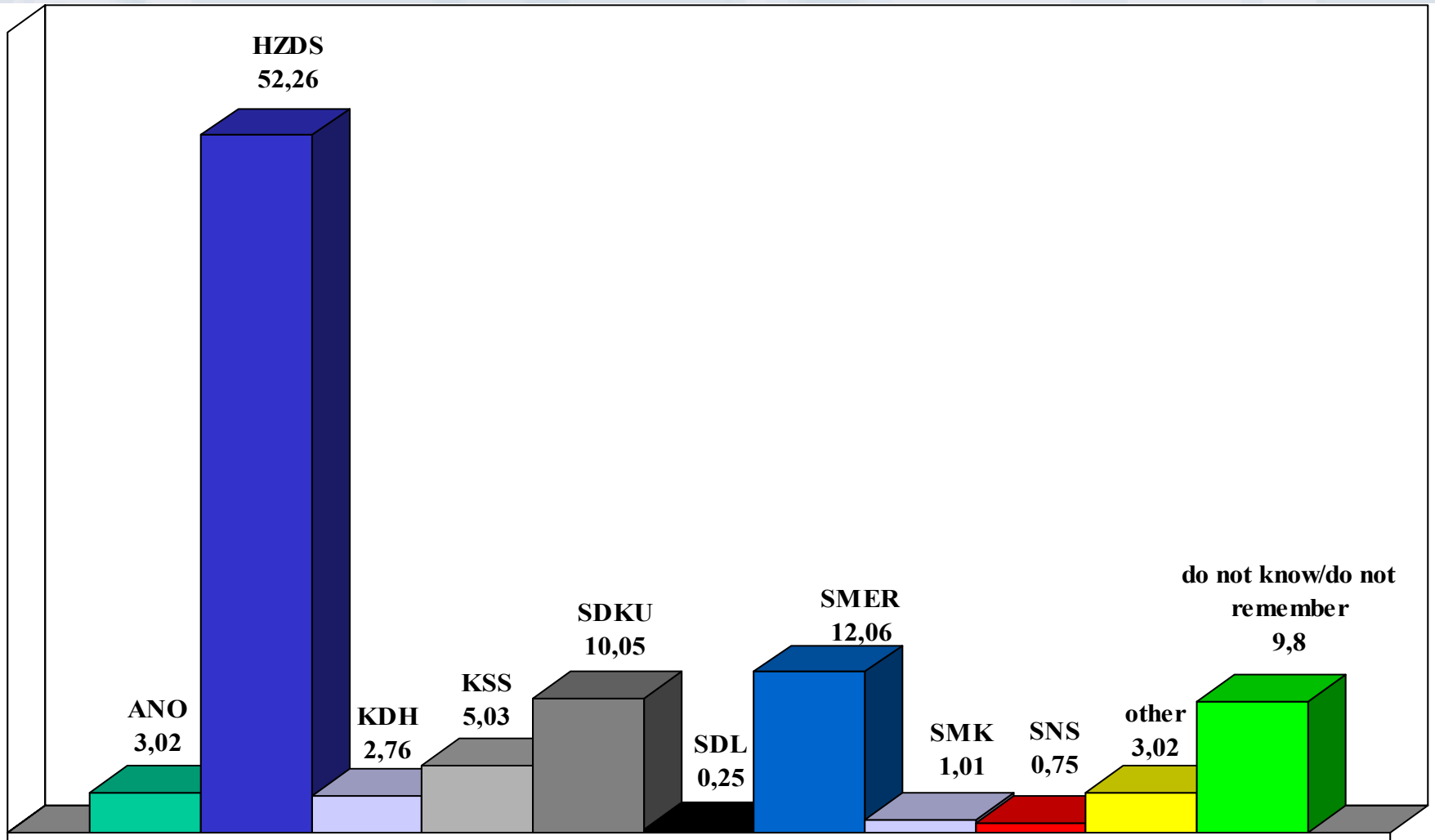
Factors influencing the choice of people who vote for Roma candidates in municipal and regional elections



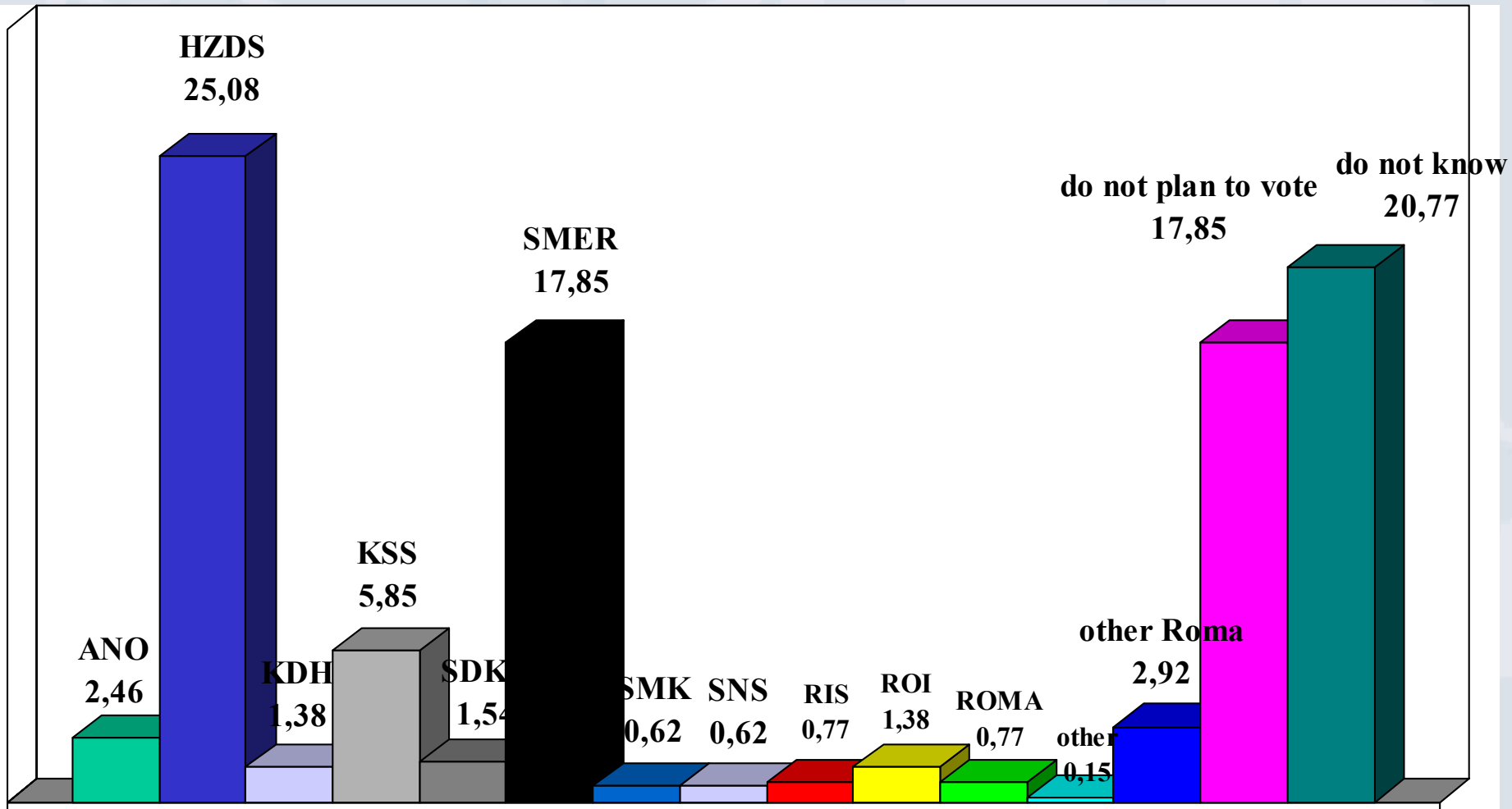
Factors influencing the decision to abstain



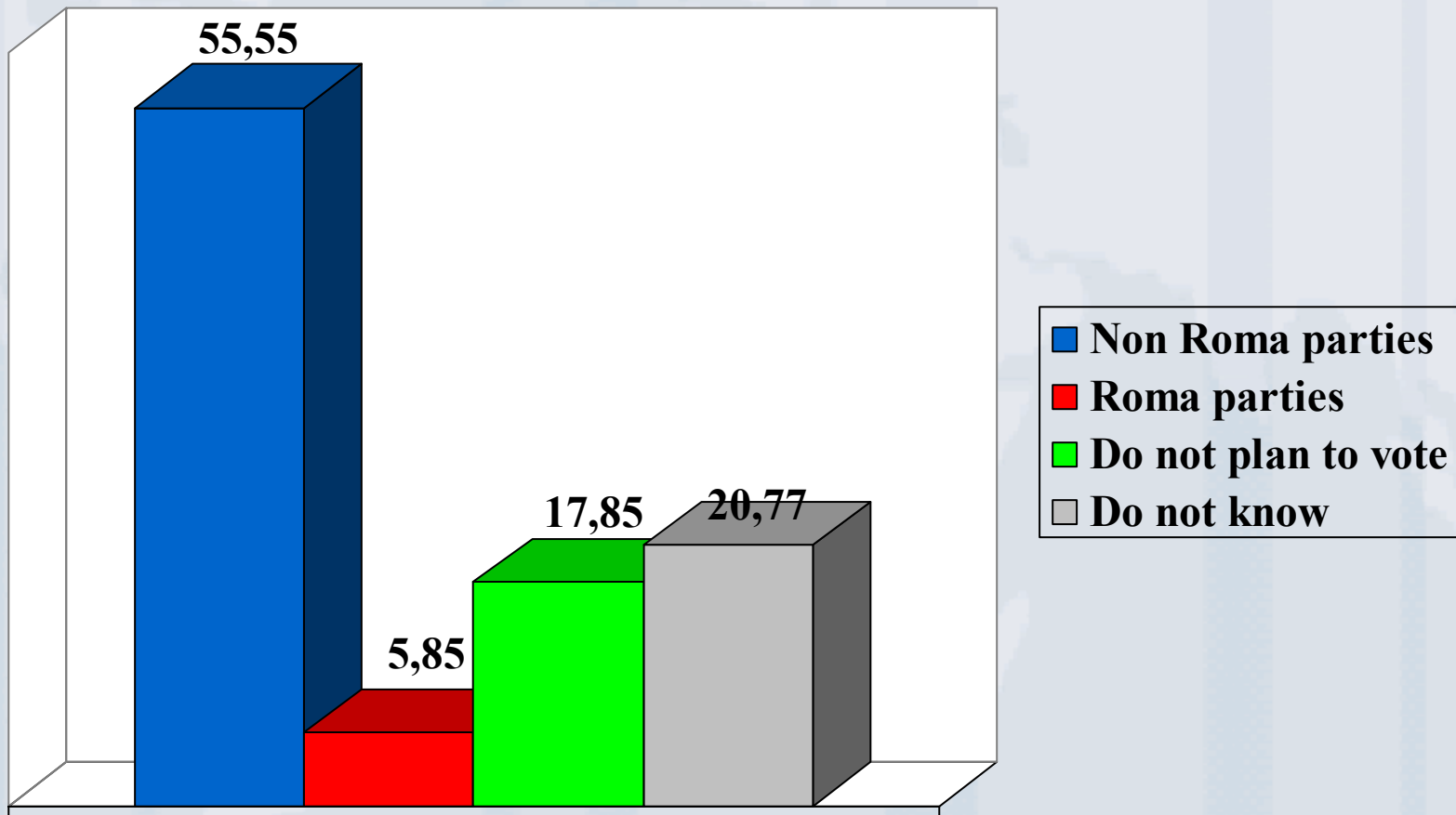
Which party did you vote for in the last parliamentary elections?



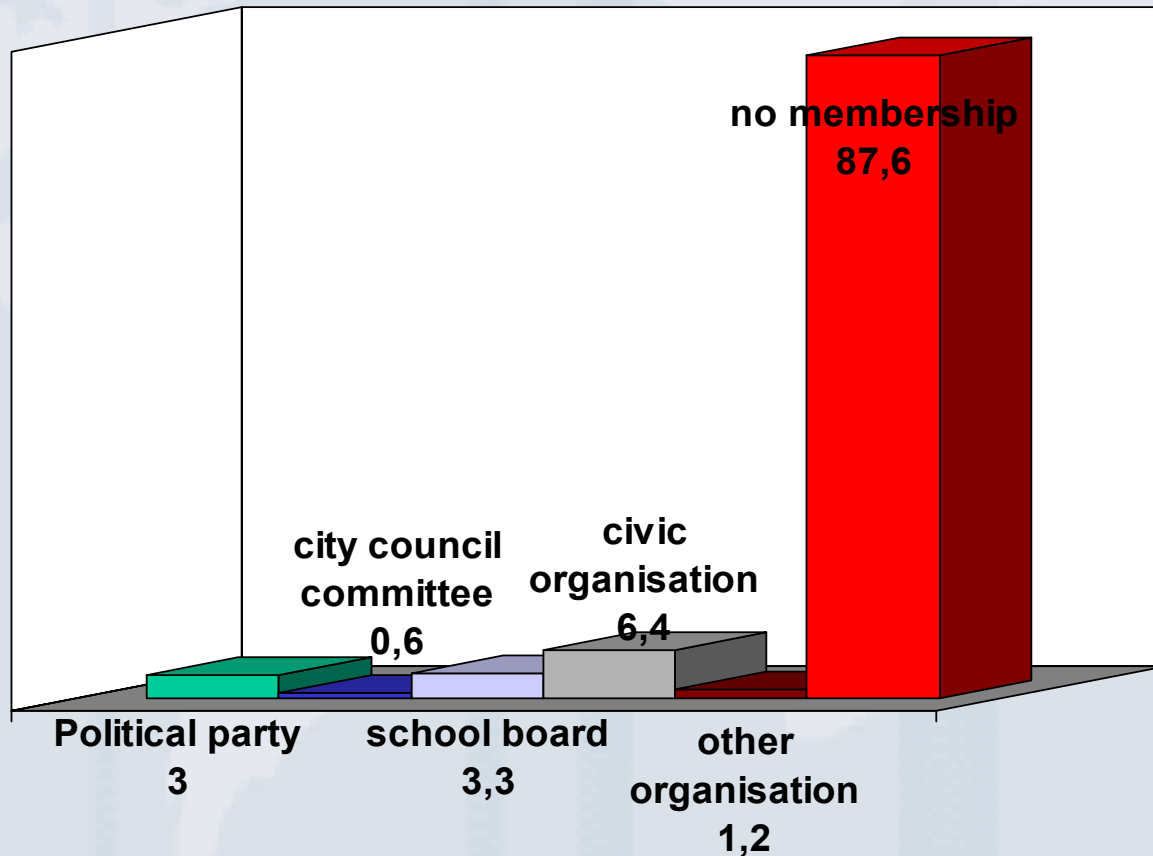
Political preferences



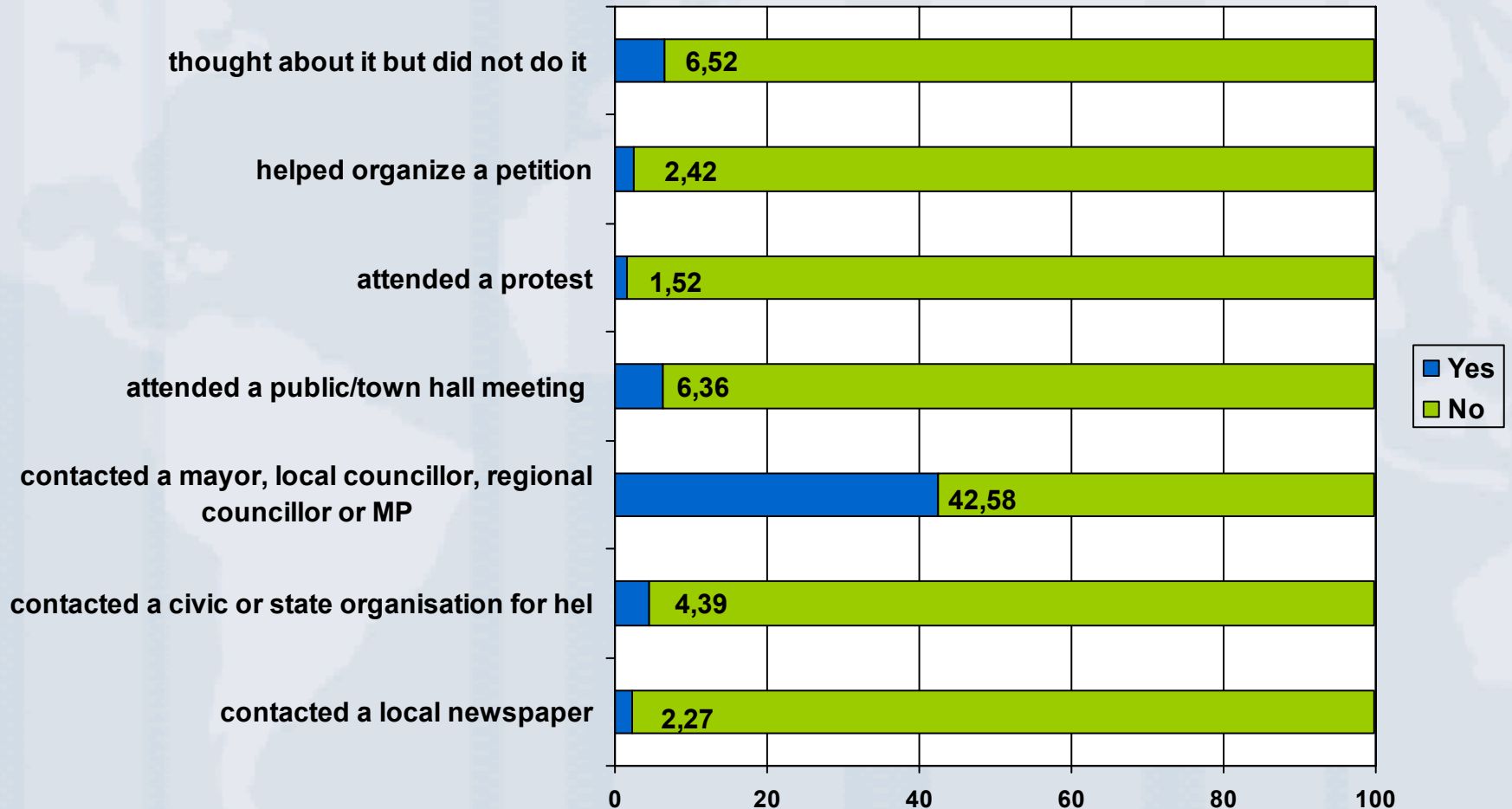
Political preferences



Membership of organisations



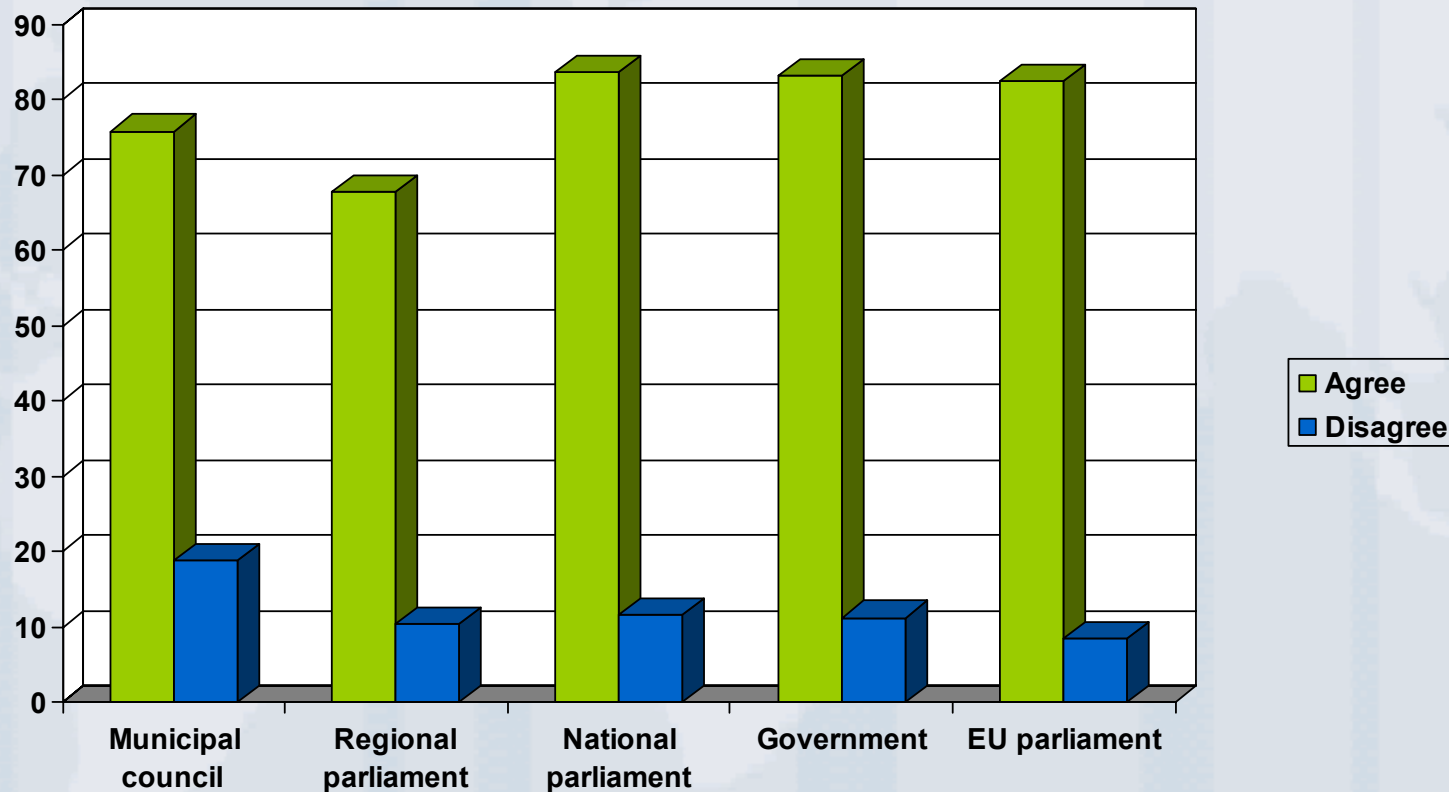
Have you taken any of the following actions in an attempt to solve a local problem?



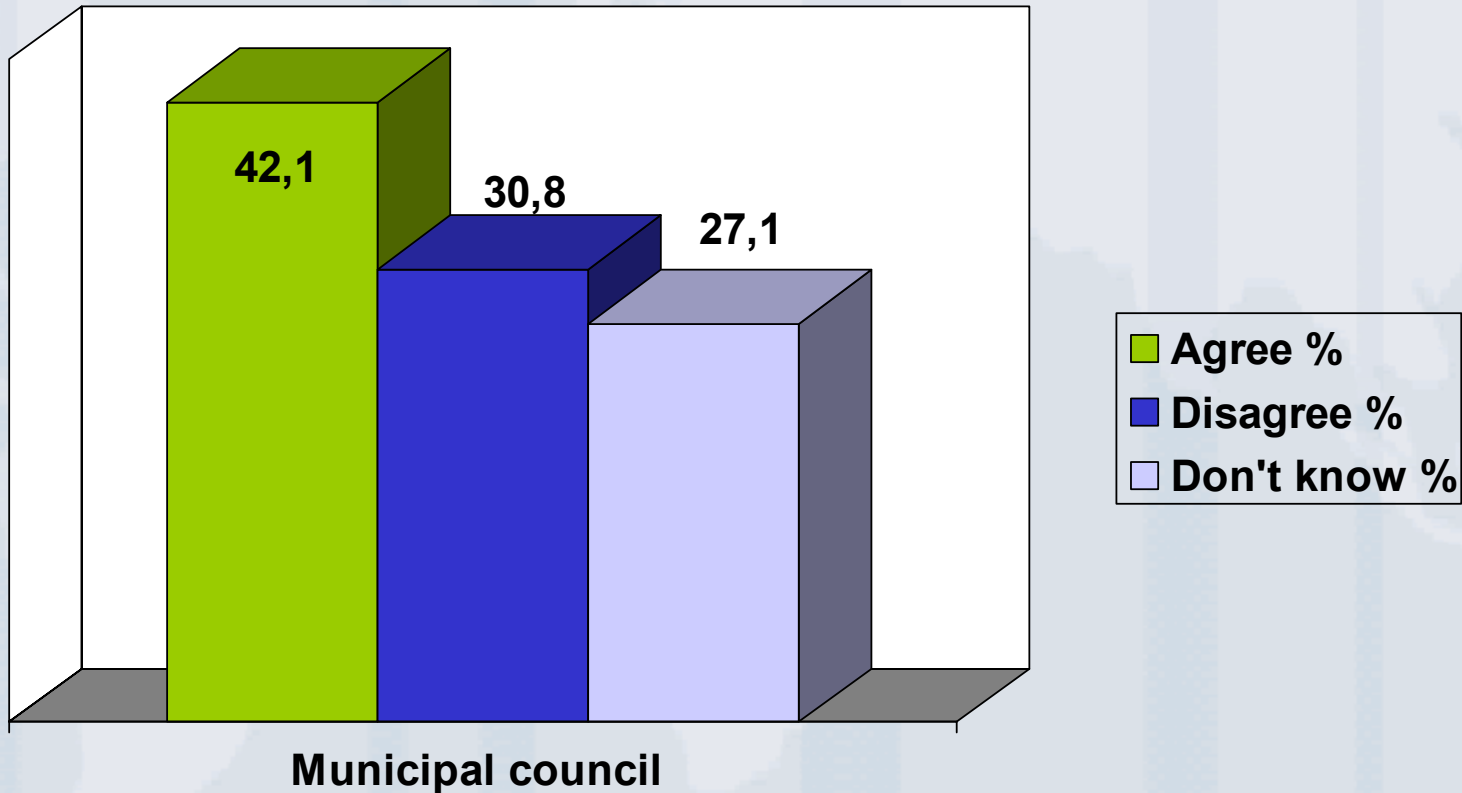
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**Opinions on Roma political
representation and participation**

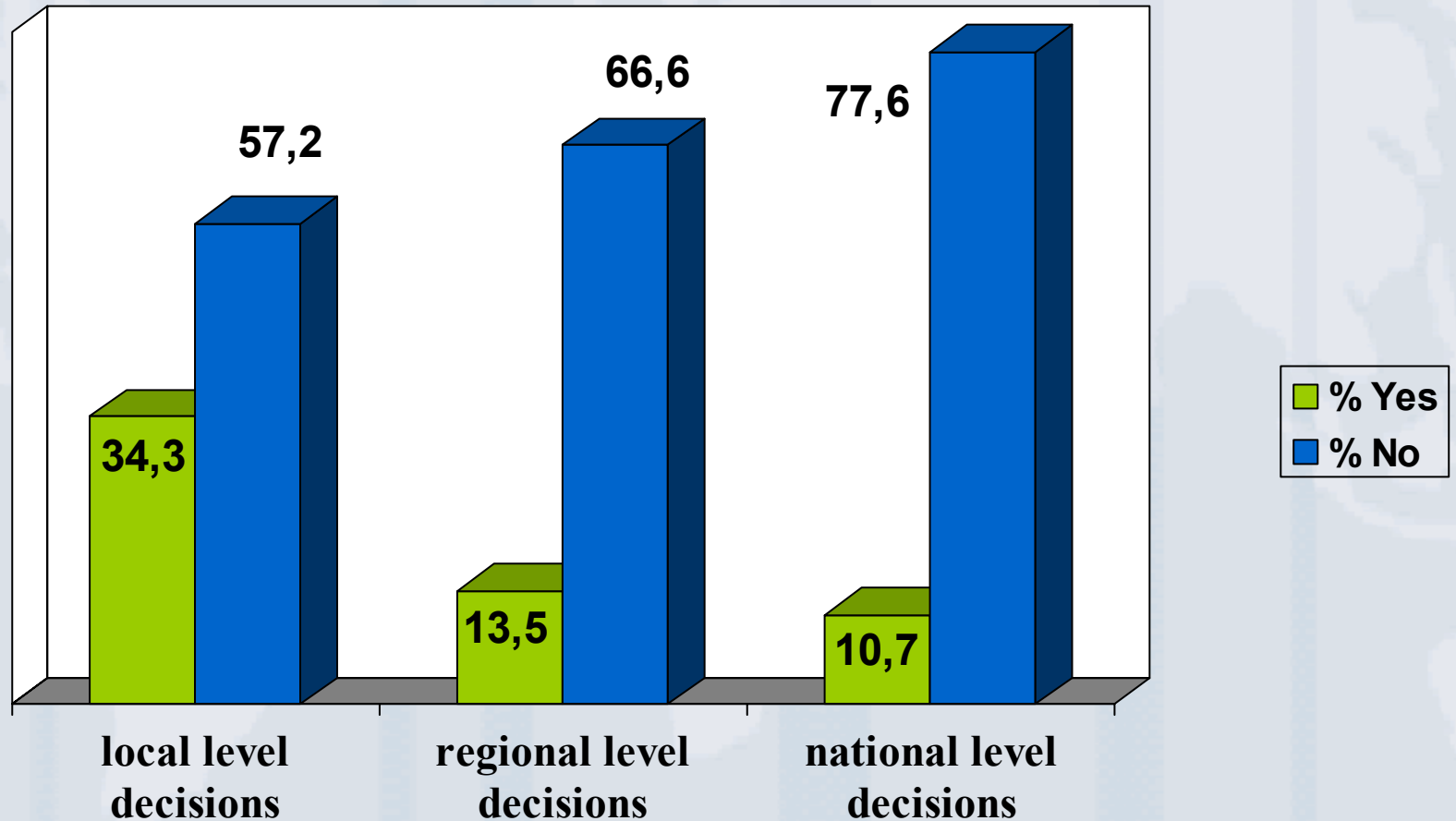
Roma should be more represented on the following levels



Roma representatives are effective on the municipal level



Do you feel that you can influence the decisions that affect you?



- I believe that people like me can influence government if we get more organized

60.3%

- I don't believe people like me will ever have a say in what the government does

39.7%

- Politics can get so complicated that sometimes I don't understand what is going on

80.5%

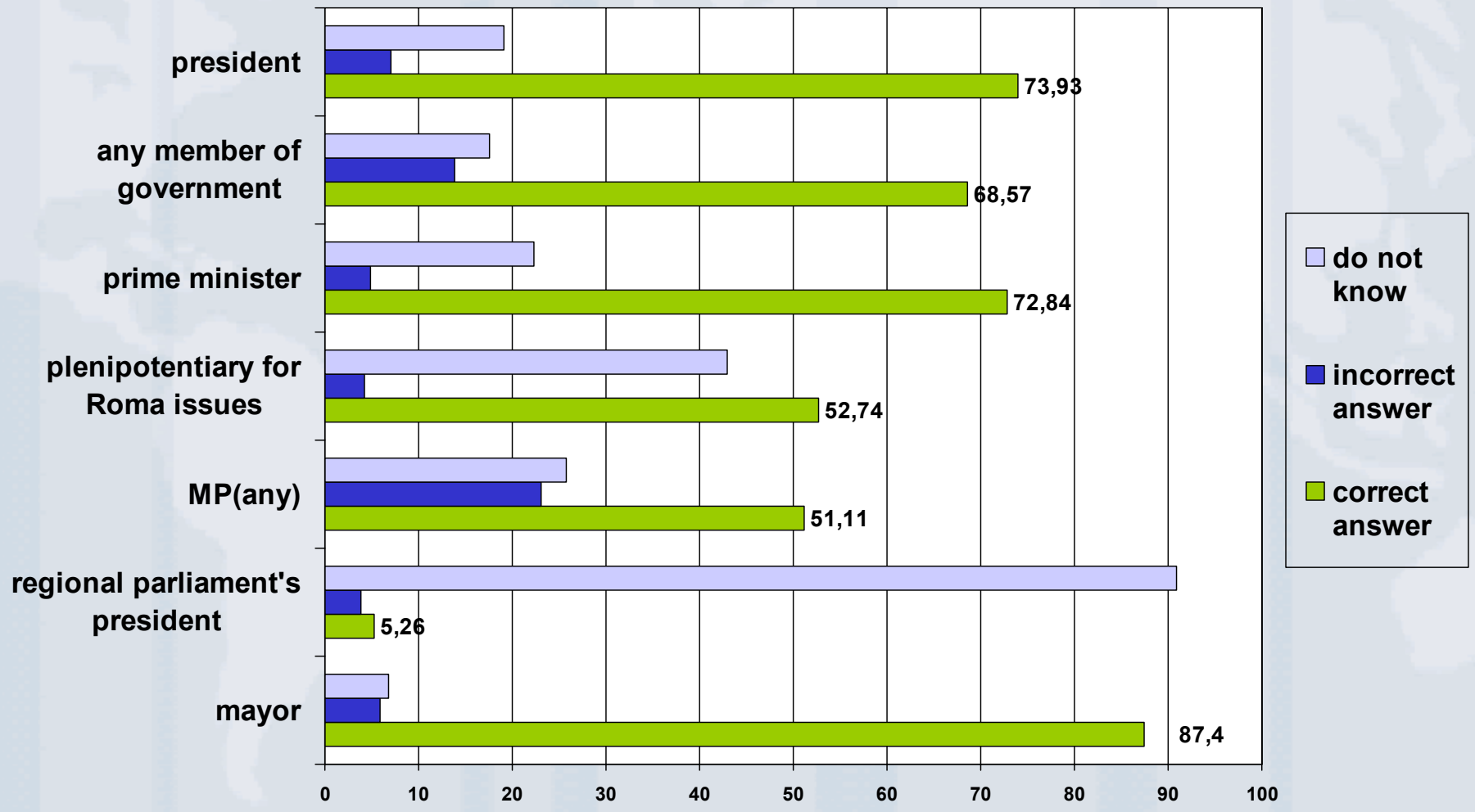
- Politicians have done a good job explaining their actions and decisions

19.5%



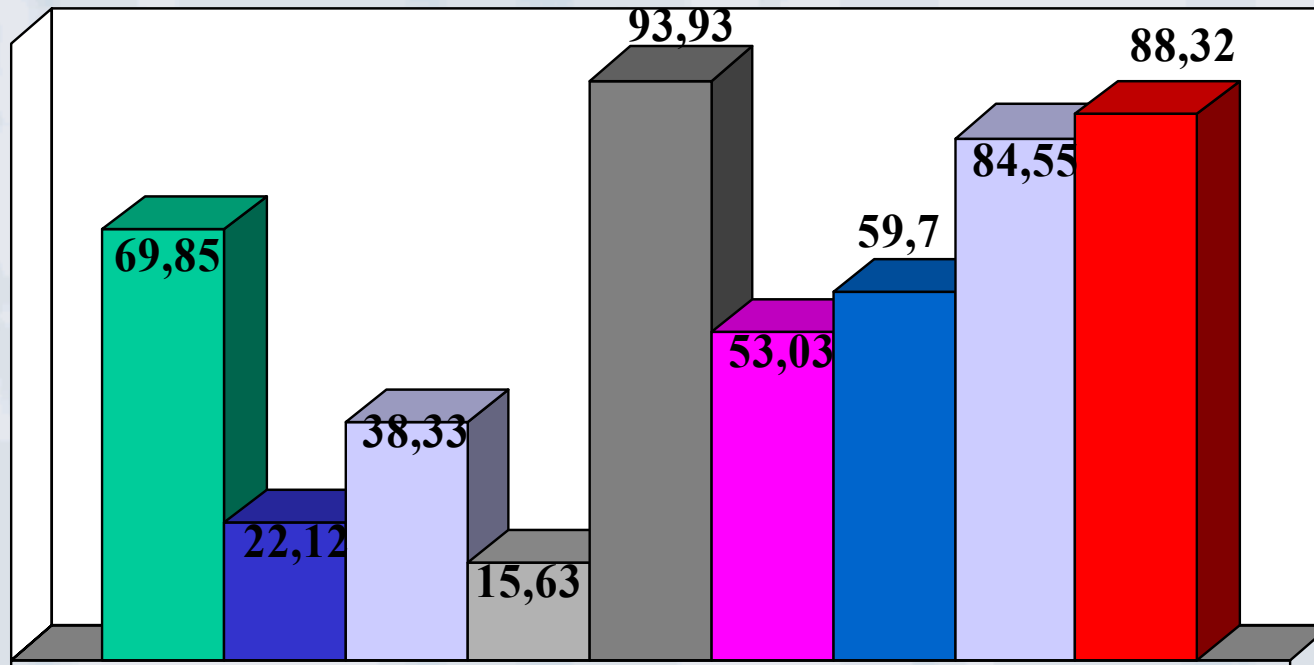
**Confidence in public institutions
and political leaders**

Knowledge of elected officials and government officials I.



Knowledge of government officials

II.



■ Pál Csáky, Deputy Prime Minister

□ Martin Fronc, Min. of Education

■ Ľudovít Kaník, Min. of Social Affairs

■ Vladimír Palko, Min. of Interior

■ Rudolf Zajac, Min. of Health Care

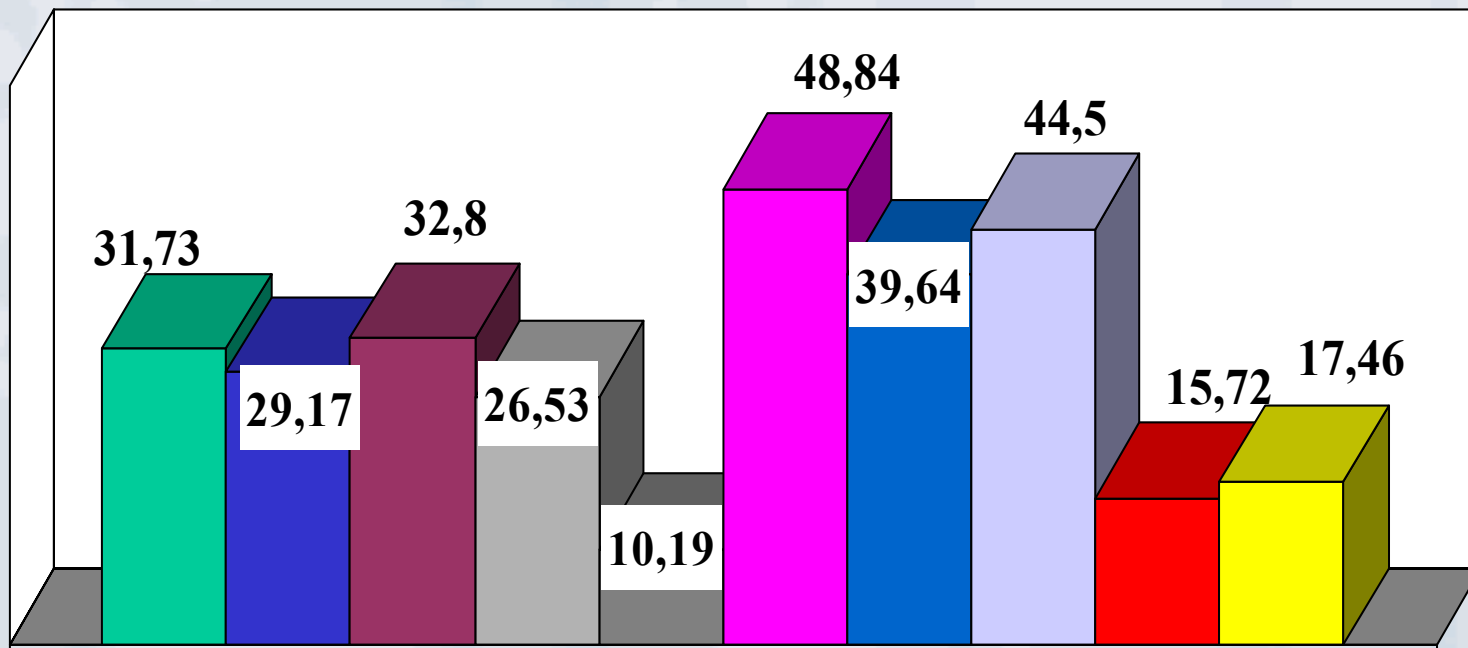
■ Rudolf Chmel, Min. of Culture

■ László Gyurovsky, Min. of Regional Development

■ Daniel Lipšic, Min. of Justice

□ Pavol Rusko, Min. of Economy

Approvement of the work government officials



■ Pál Csáky, Deputy Prime Minister

■ Martin Fronc, Min. of Education

■ Ludovít Kaník, Min. of Social Affairs

■ Vladimír Palko, Min. of Interior

■ Rudolf Zajac, Min. of Health Care

■ Rudolf Chmel, Min. of Culture

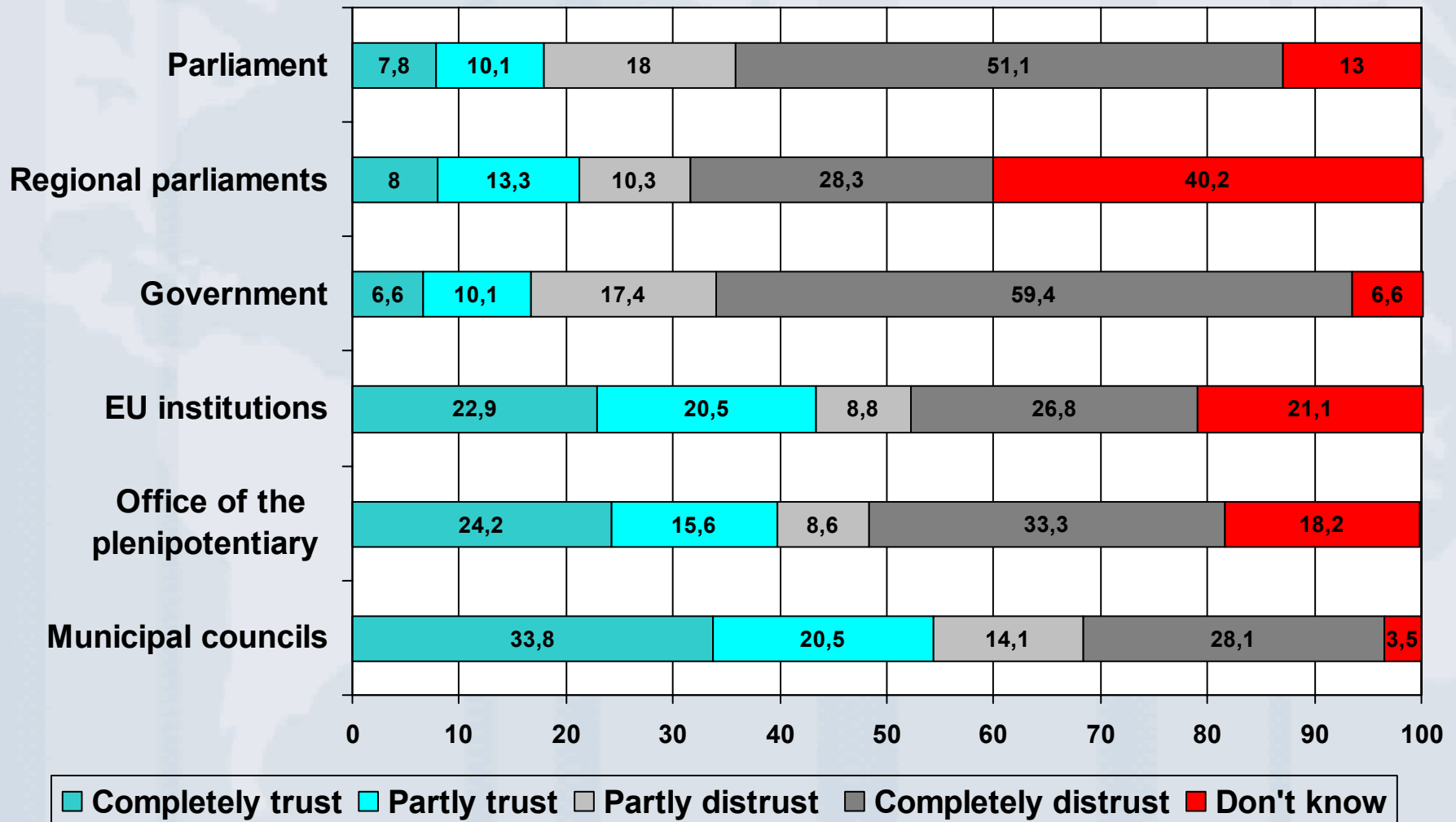
■ László Gyurovsky, Min. of Regional Development

■ Daniel Lipšic, Min. of Justice

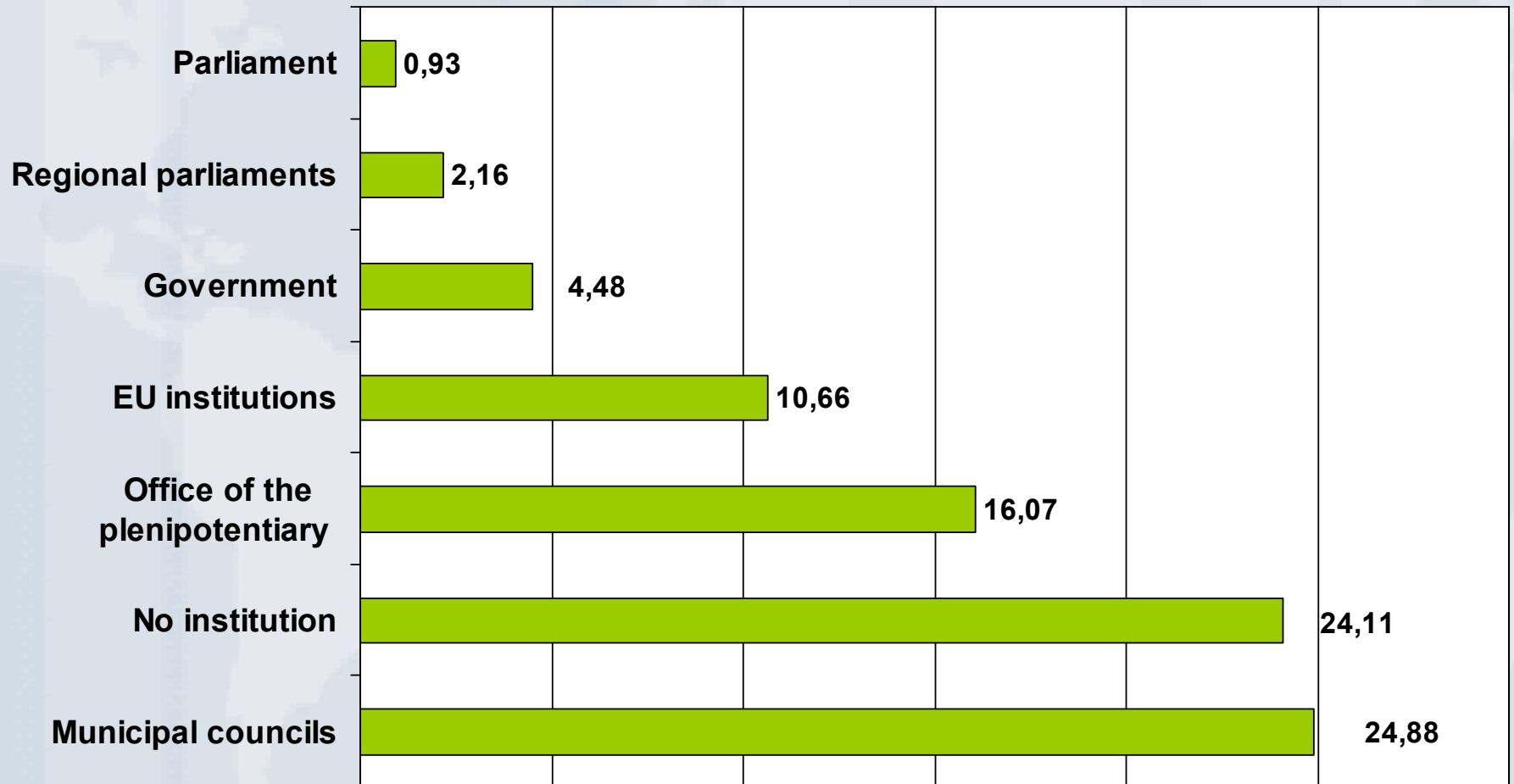
■ Pavol Rusko, Min. of Economy

■ Mikuláš Dzurinda, Prime Minister

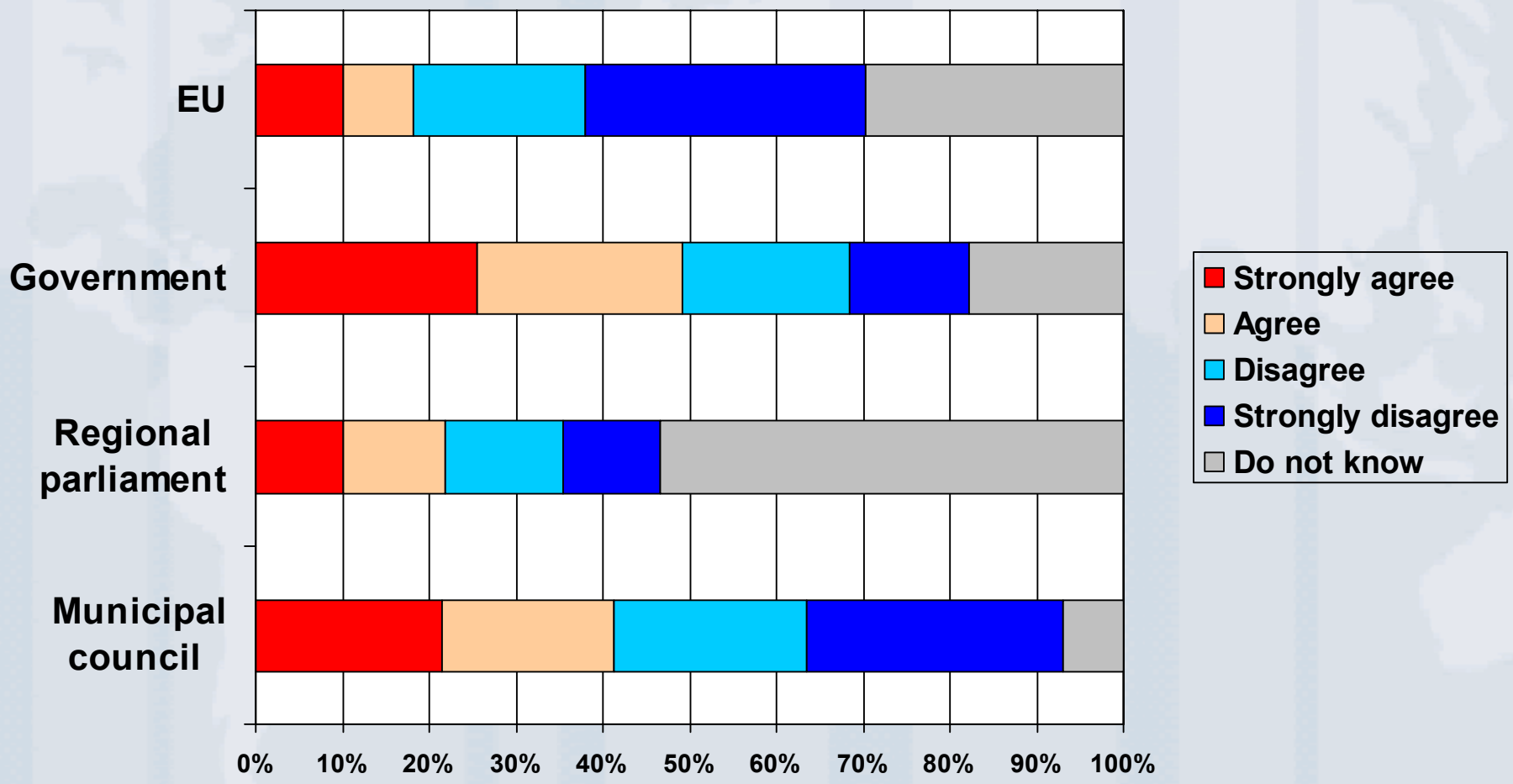
Trust in institutions



Institutions which are the most effective in representing Roma interests

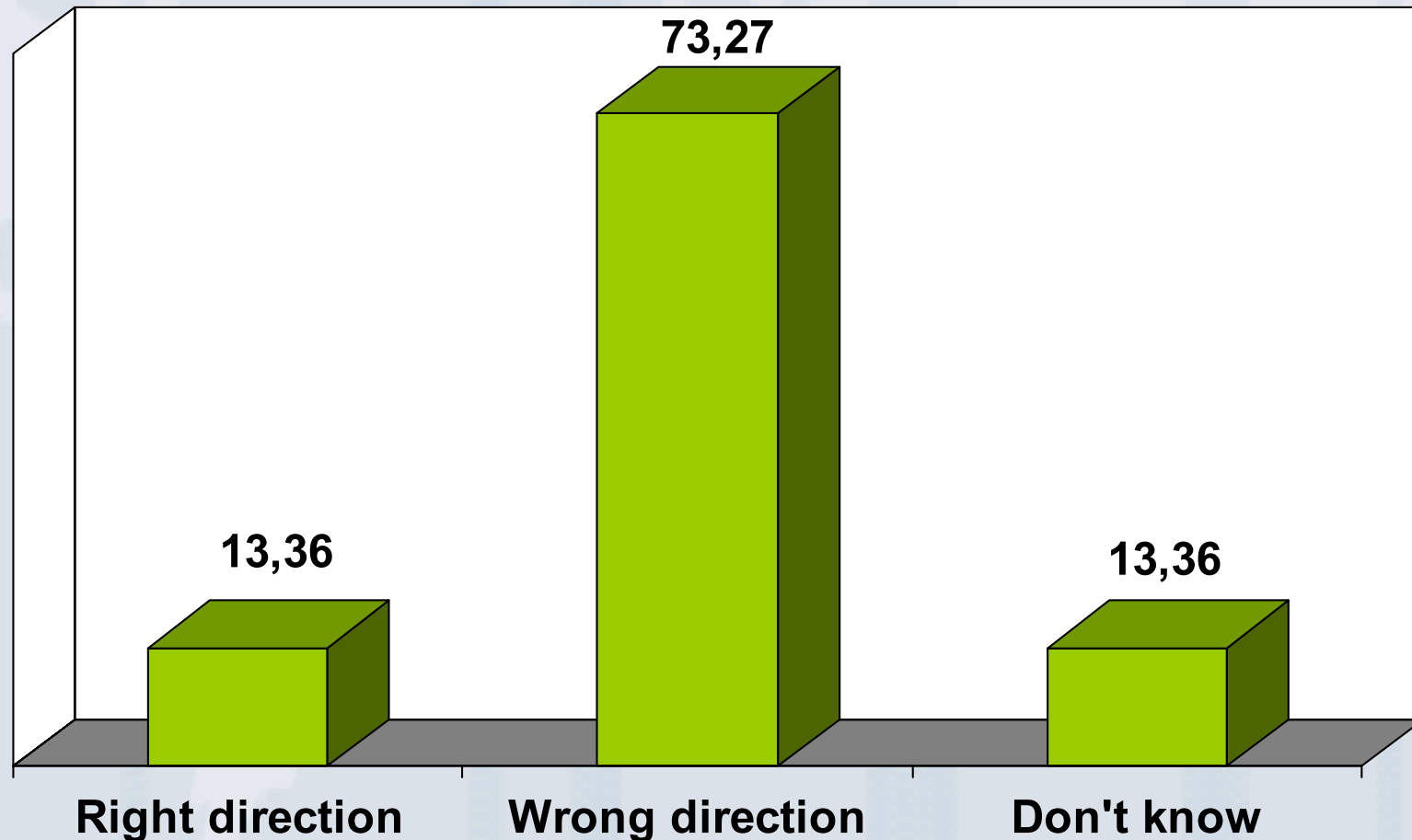


Following institutions are biased against Roma

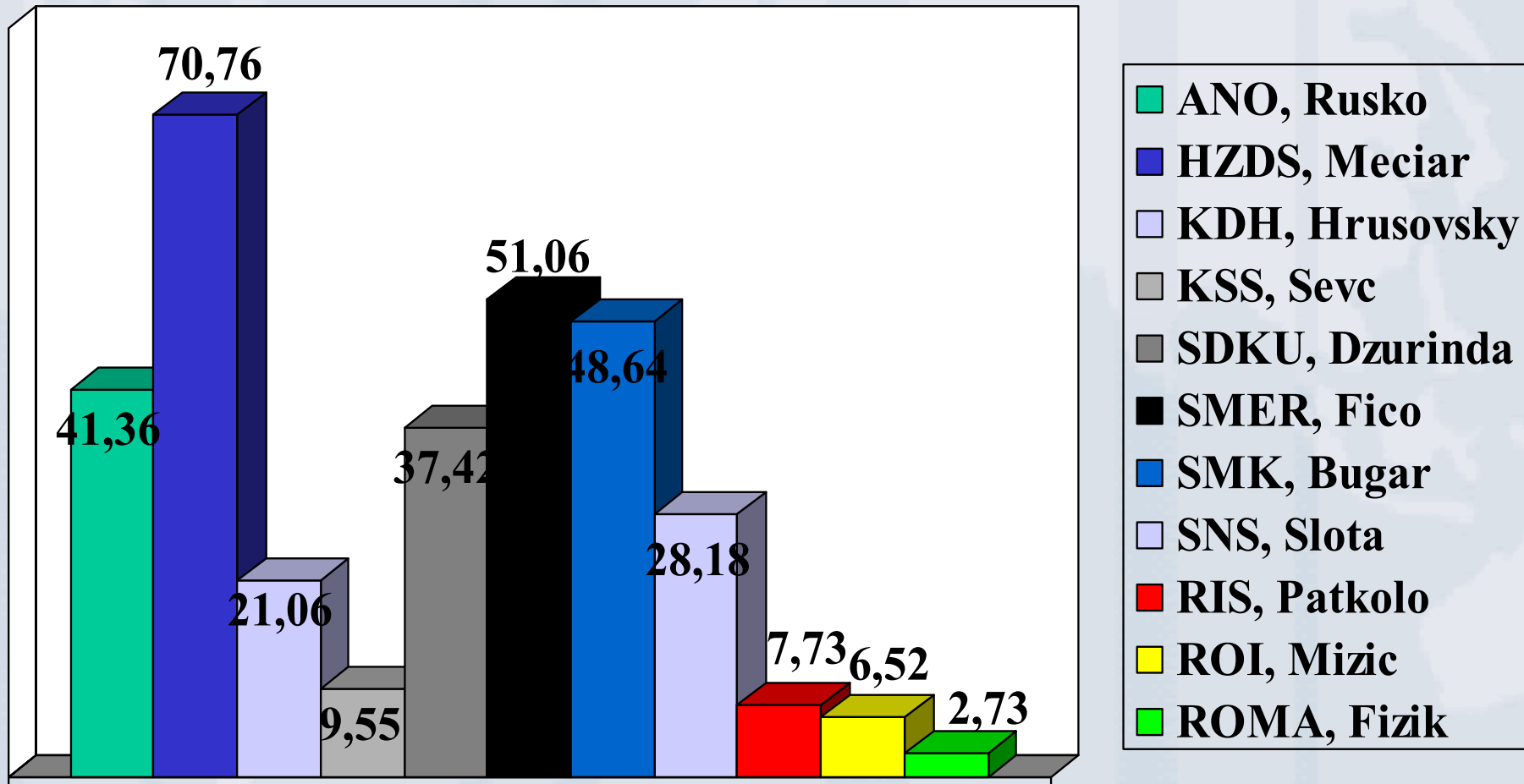


Evaluation of the work of the government

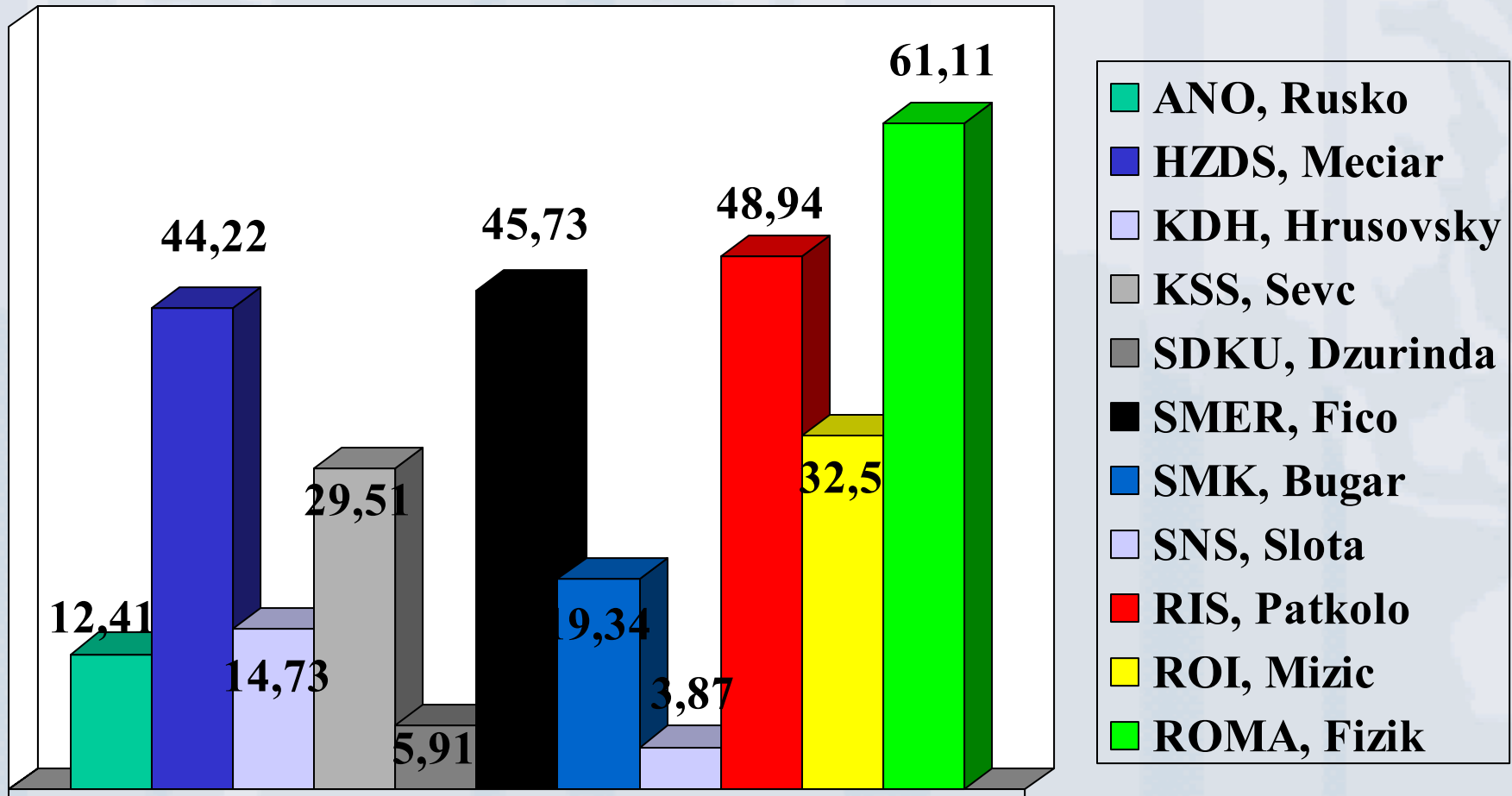
The government is leading Slovakia in a ...



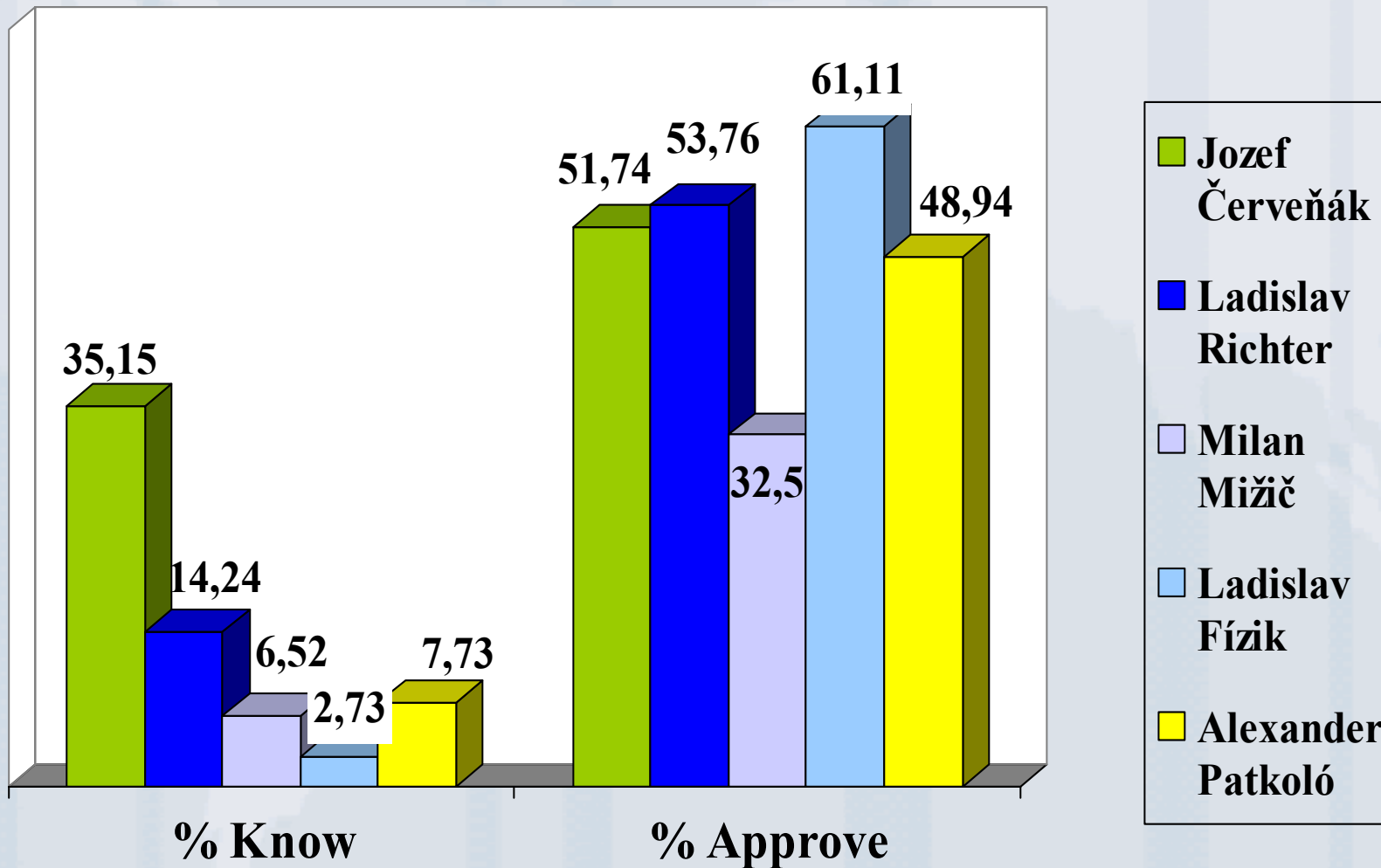
Knowledge of political party leaders



Approvement of the work of political party leaders



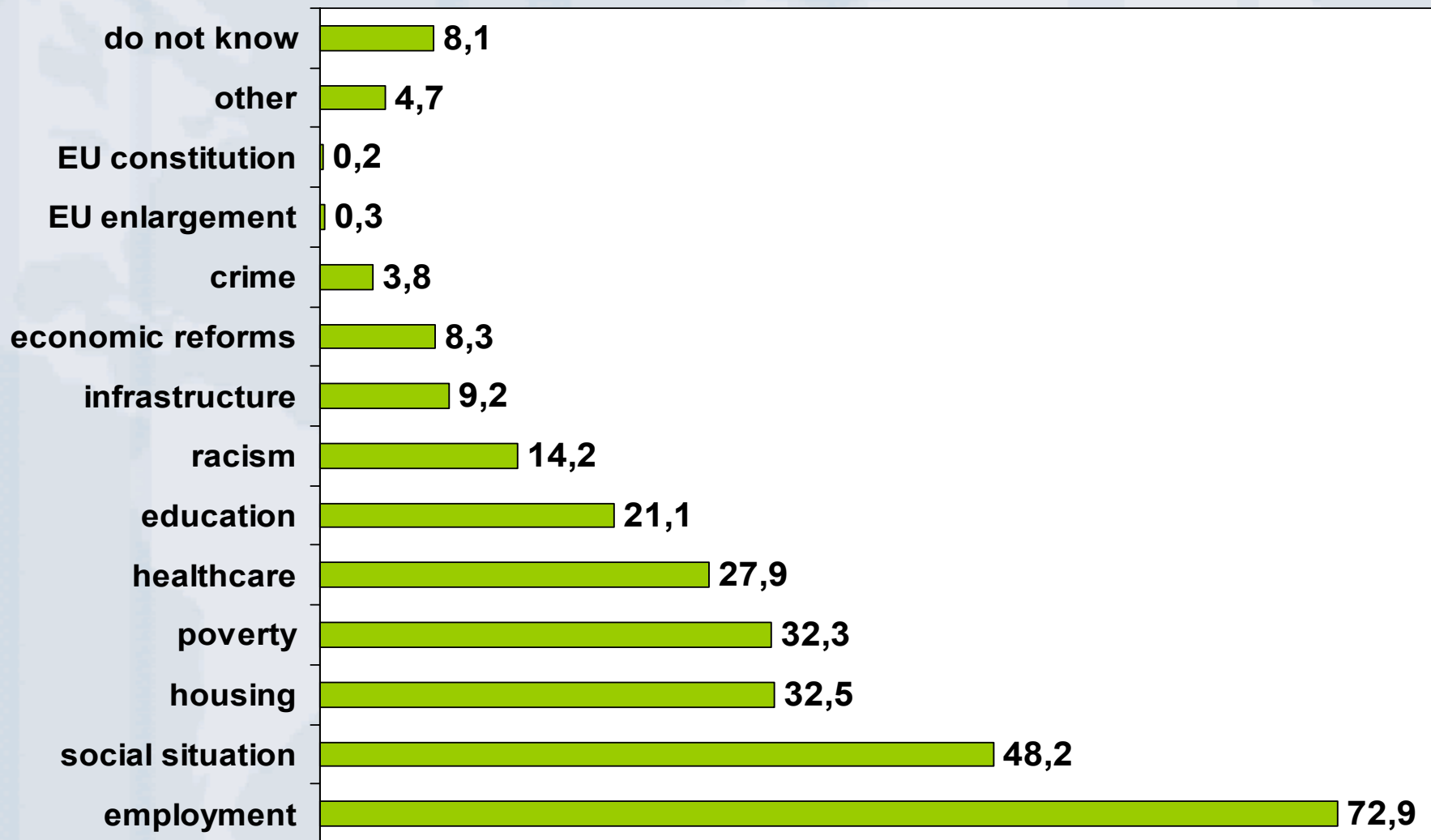
Roma leaders



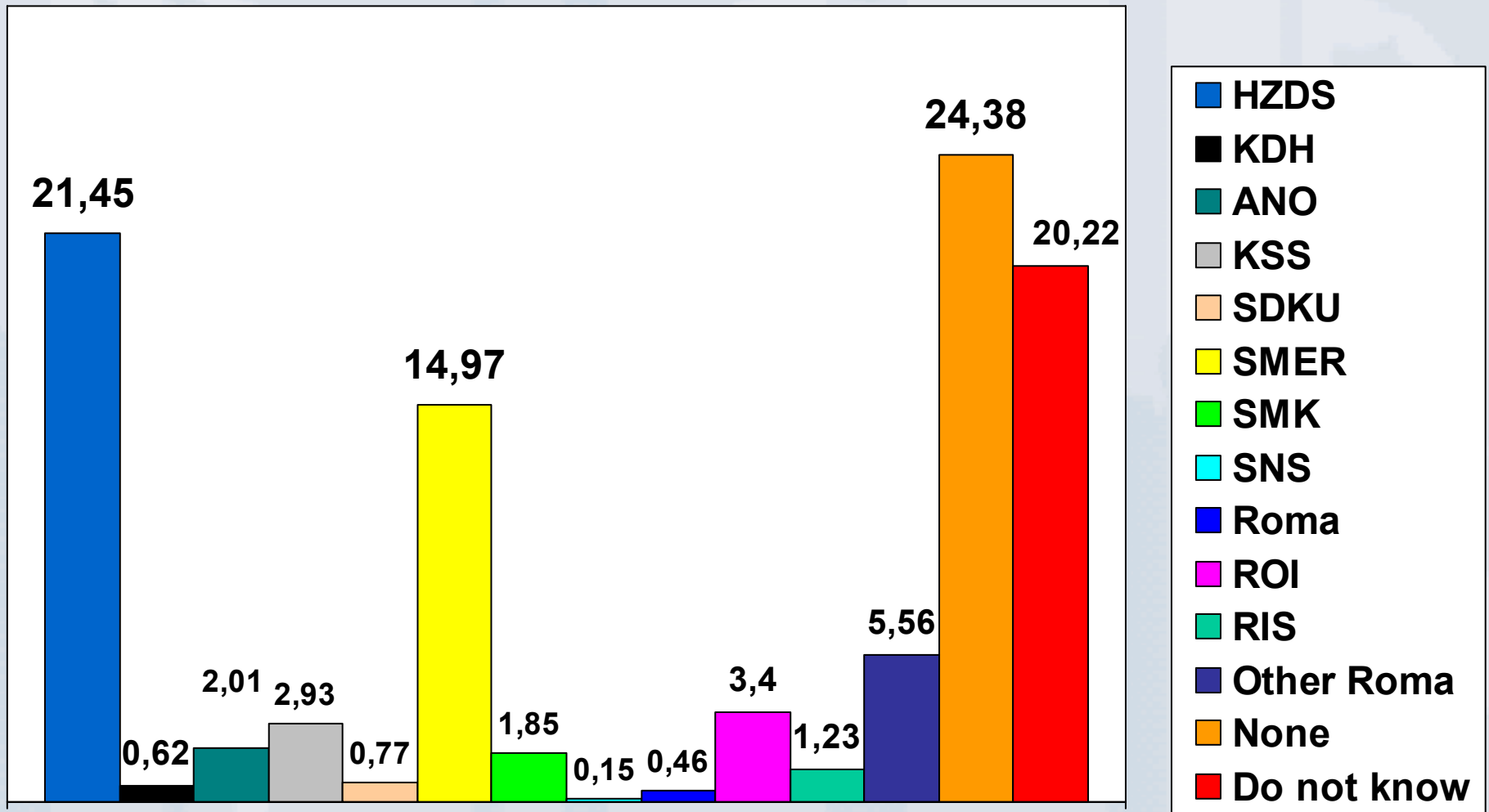


Public policy priorities

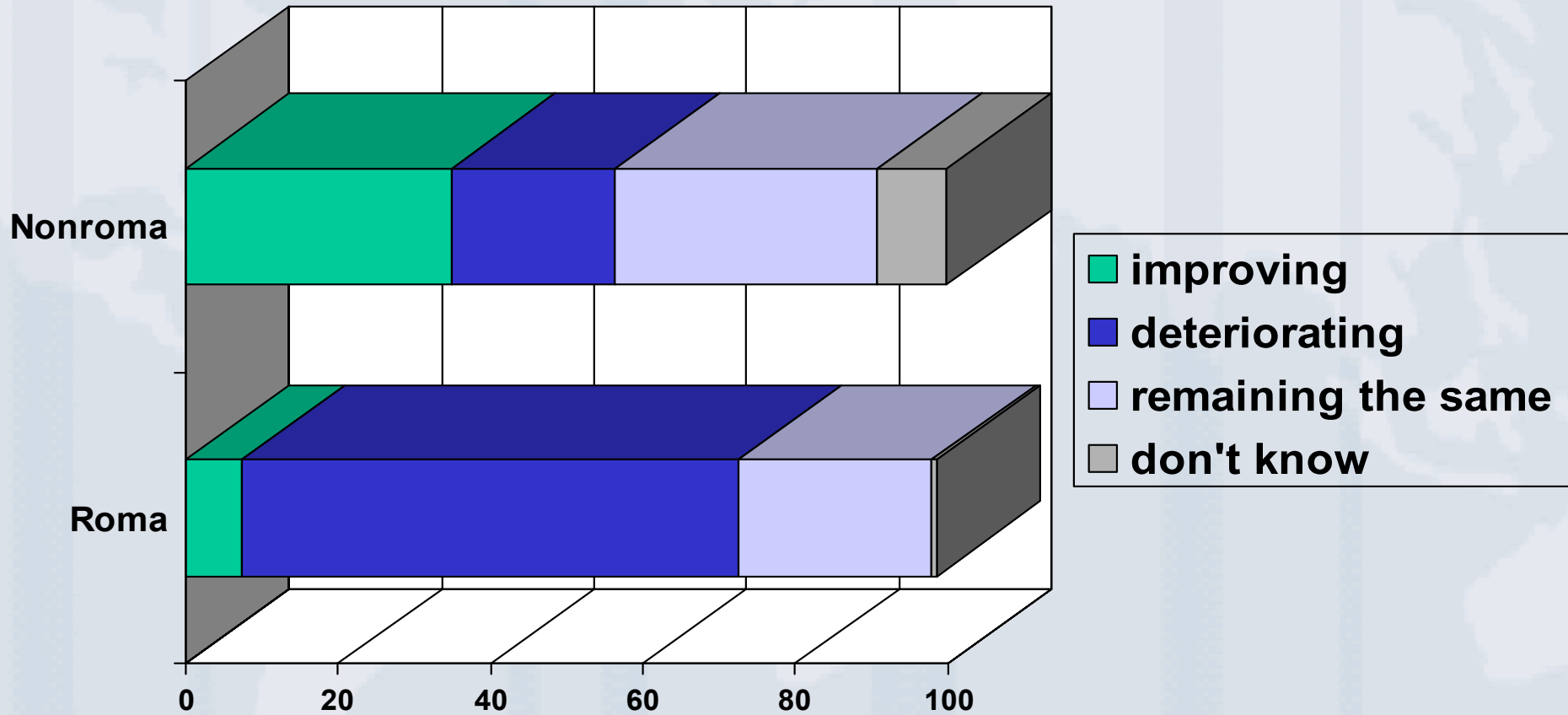
Which three policy areas matter to Roma voters?



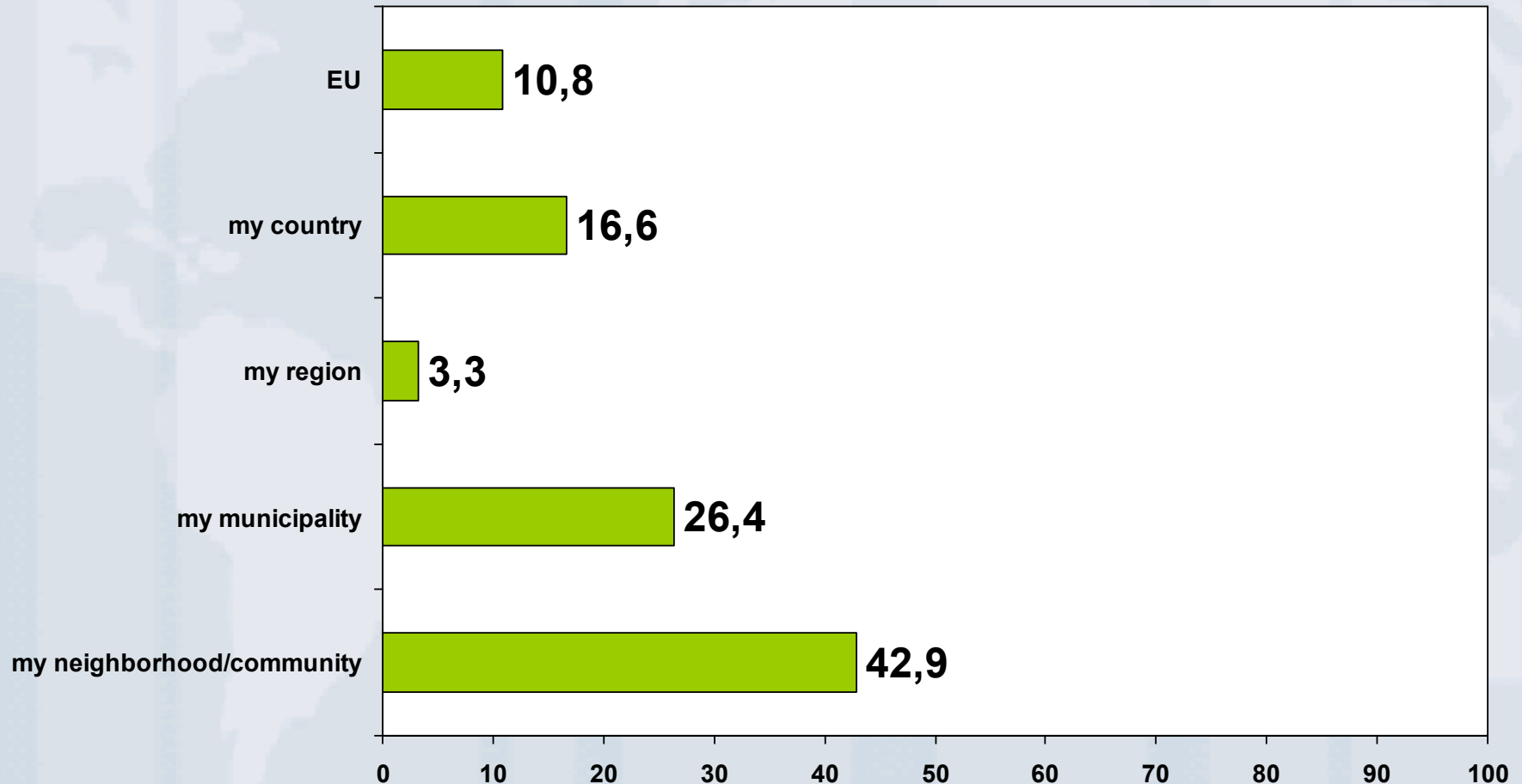
Which party best represents Roma interests?



Evaluation of the quality of life

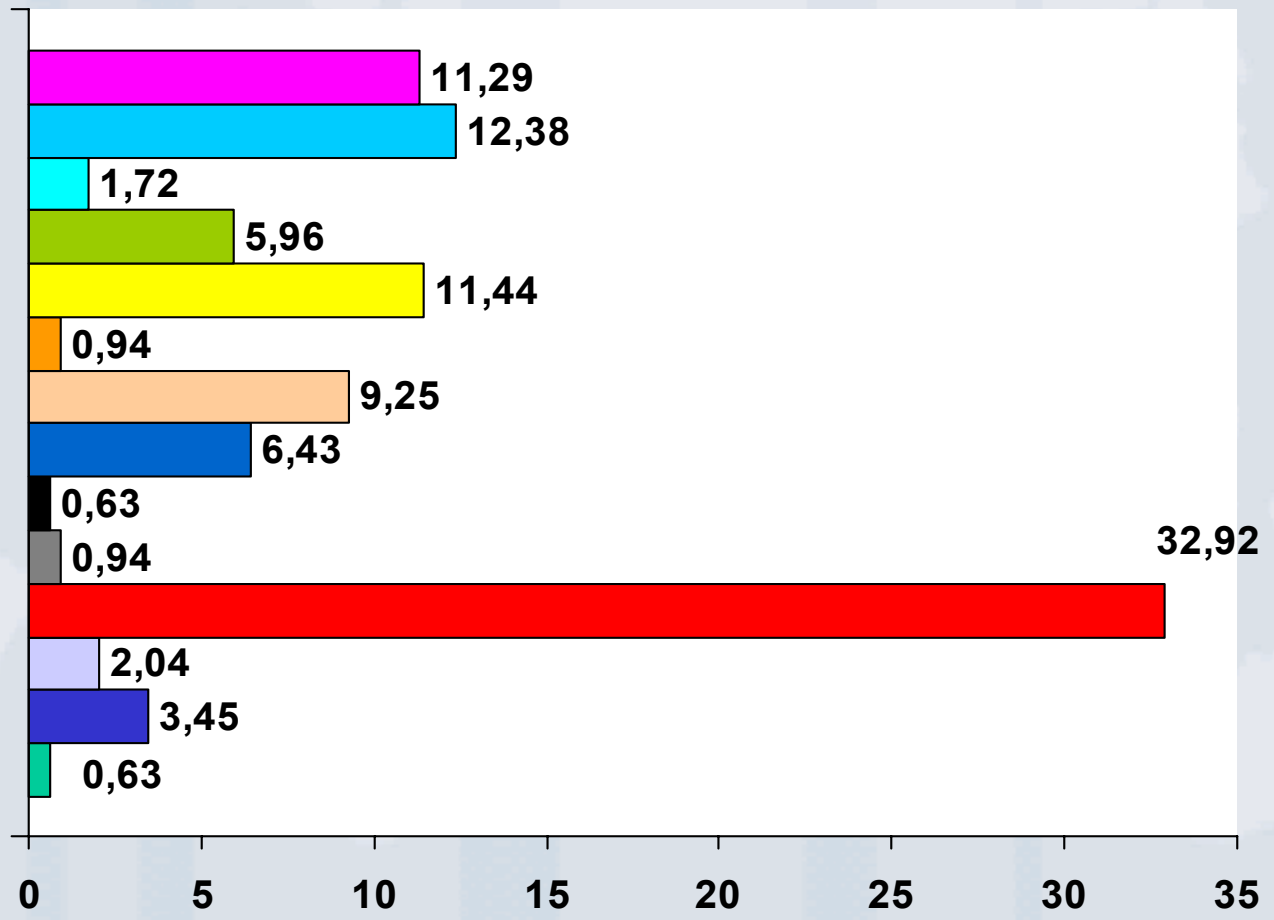


I feel strongest attachment to..%



I want more information on government's policies regarding...

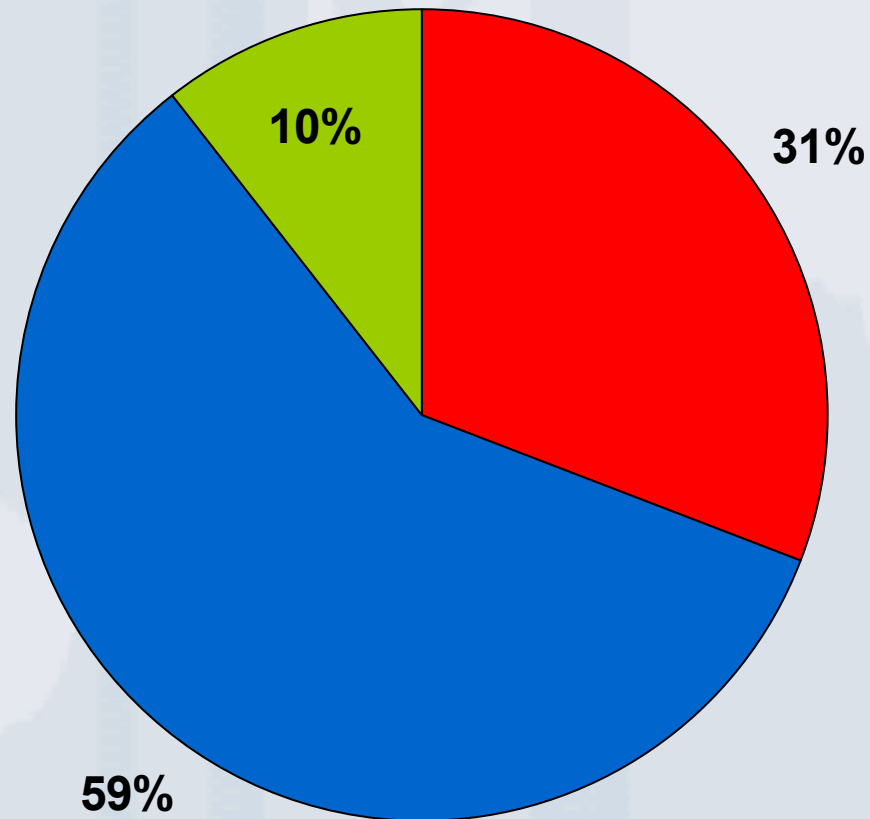
- do not know
- other
- racism
- poverty
- social system reform
- infrastructure
- housing
- healthcare
- EU expansion
- EU constitution
- employment
- education
- economic reforms
- crime/security



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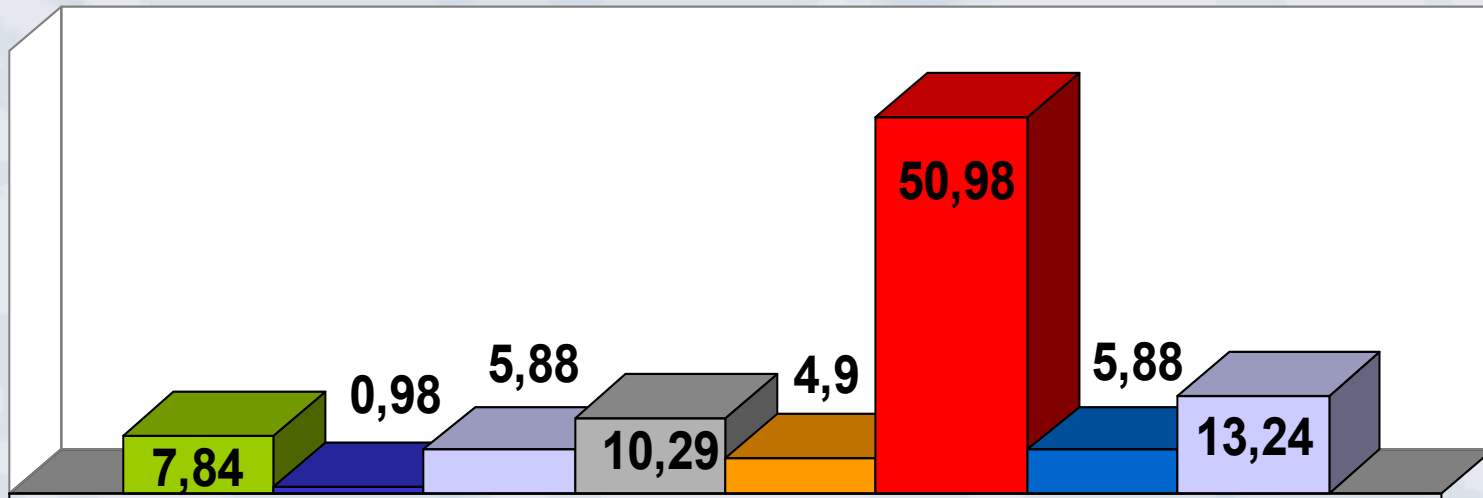
Sources and quality of political information

Community visited by a politician



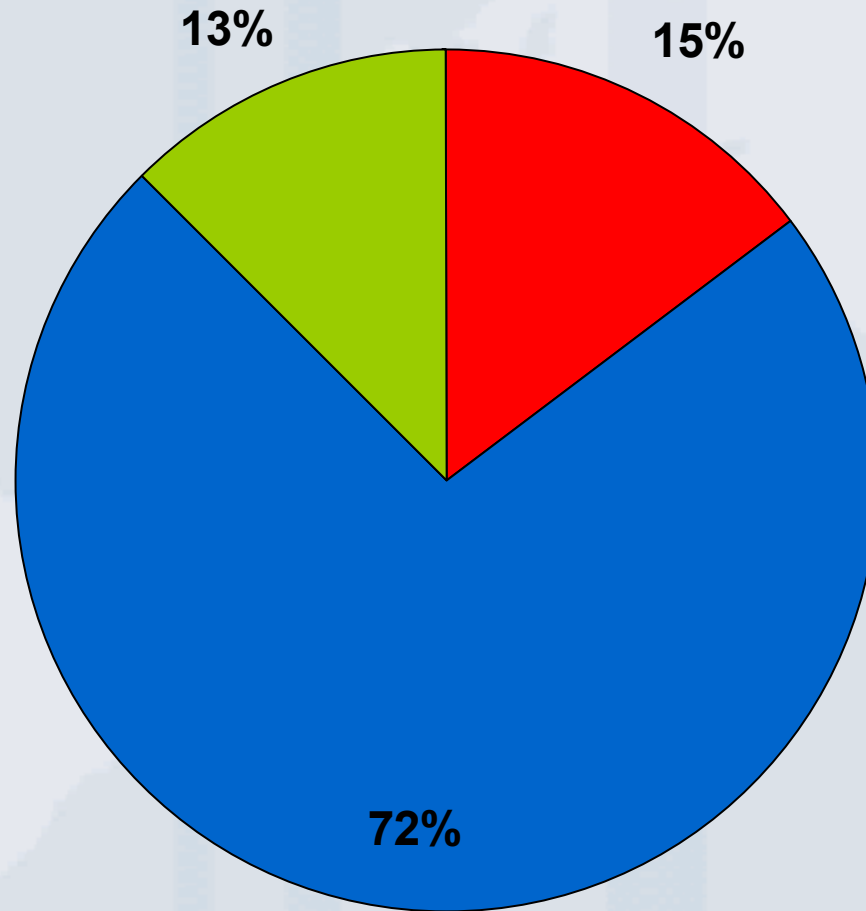
■ yes ■ no ■ don't know

Purpose of visit - politicians



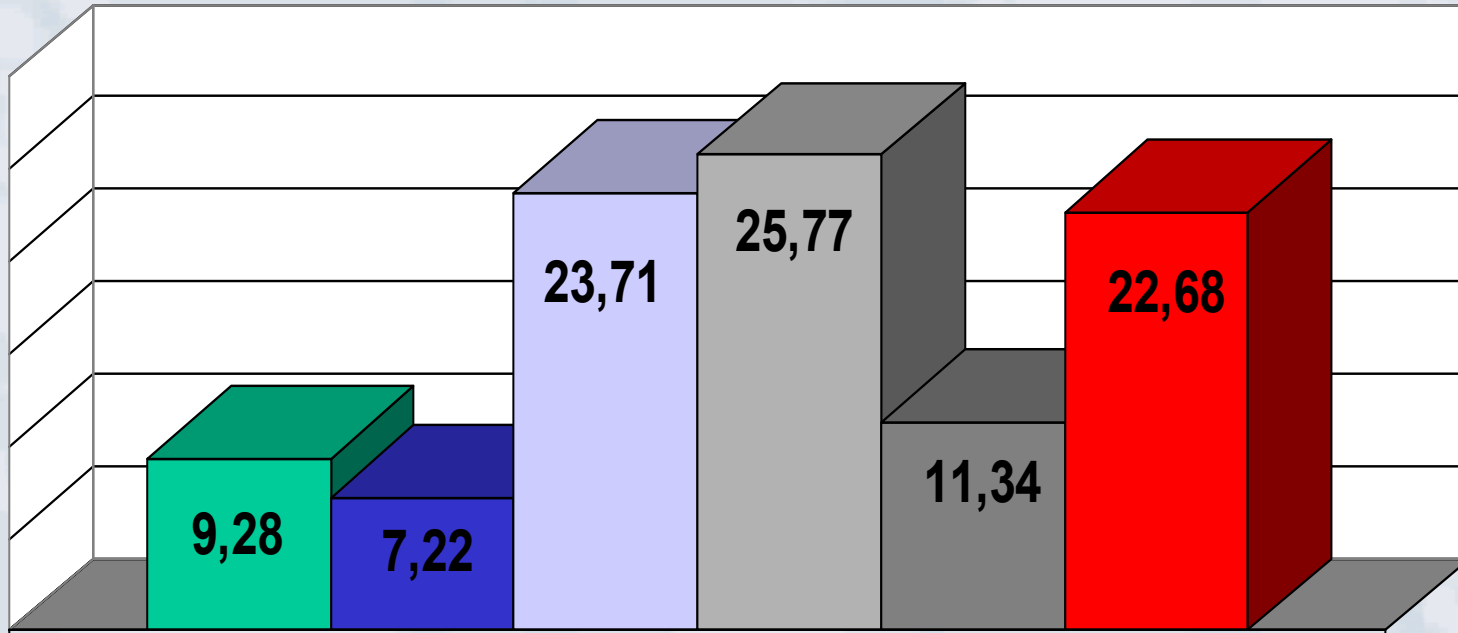
- provide information about party
- provide information about government
- provide information about Roma programmes
- consult the problems and needs of community
- offer assistance
- campaign
- other
- do not know

Community visited by Plenipotentiary or her representatives



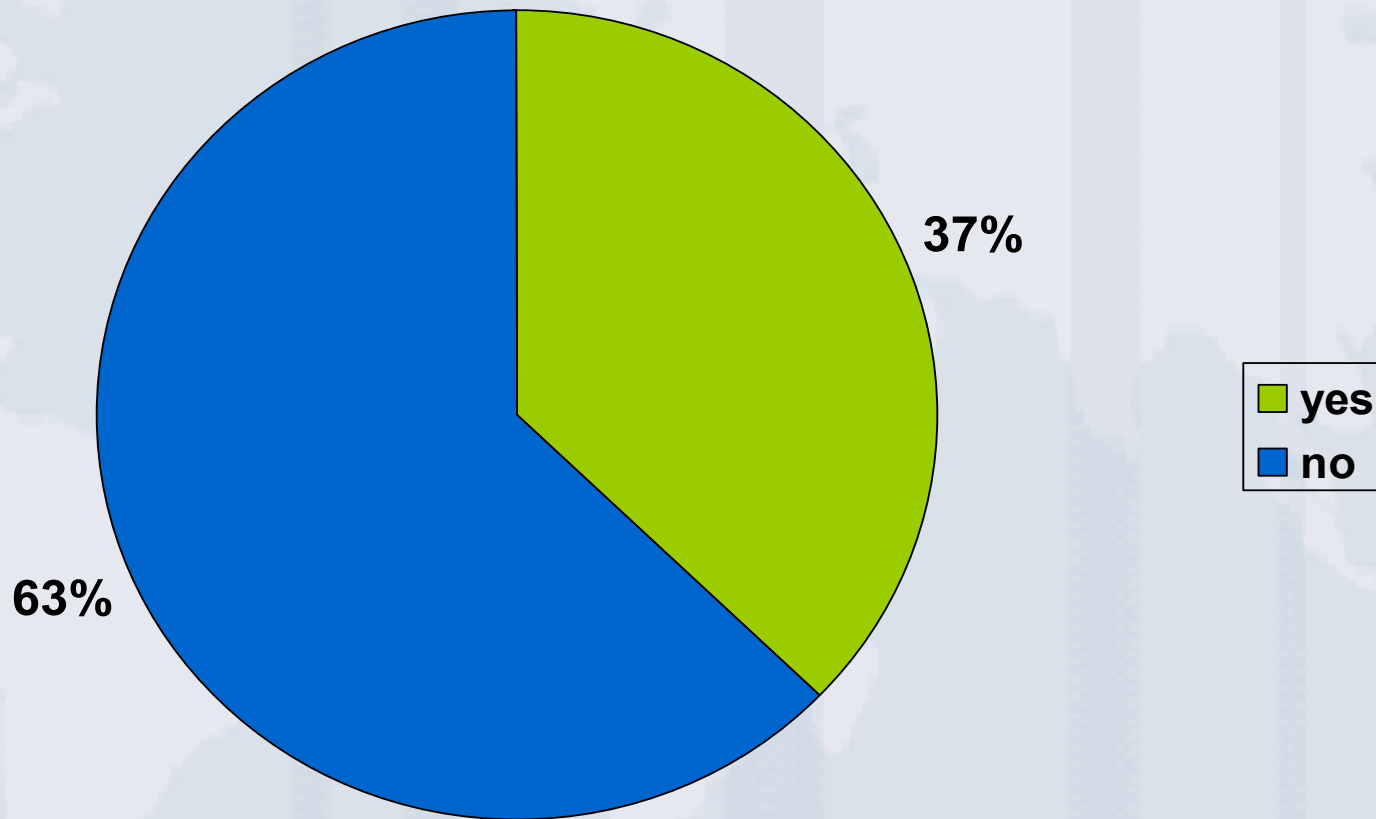
■ yes ■ no ■ do not know/do not remember

Purpose of visit - plenipotentiary

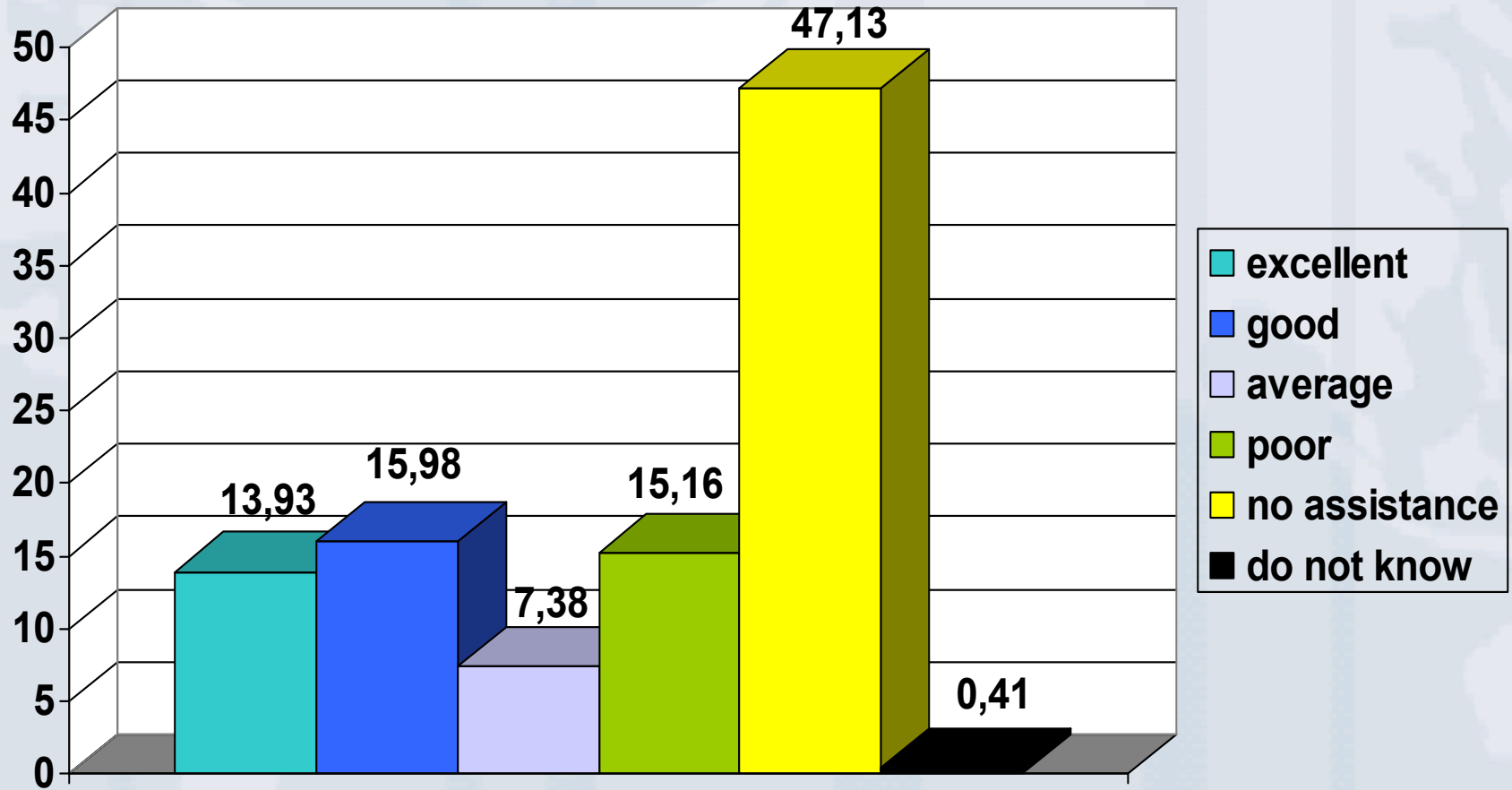


- provide information on Roma programs
- inform about activities of the government
- consult the communities needs and priorities
- offer help to the community
- other
- do not know/do not remember

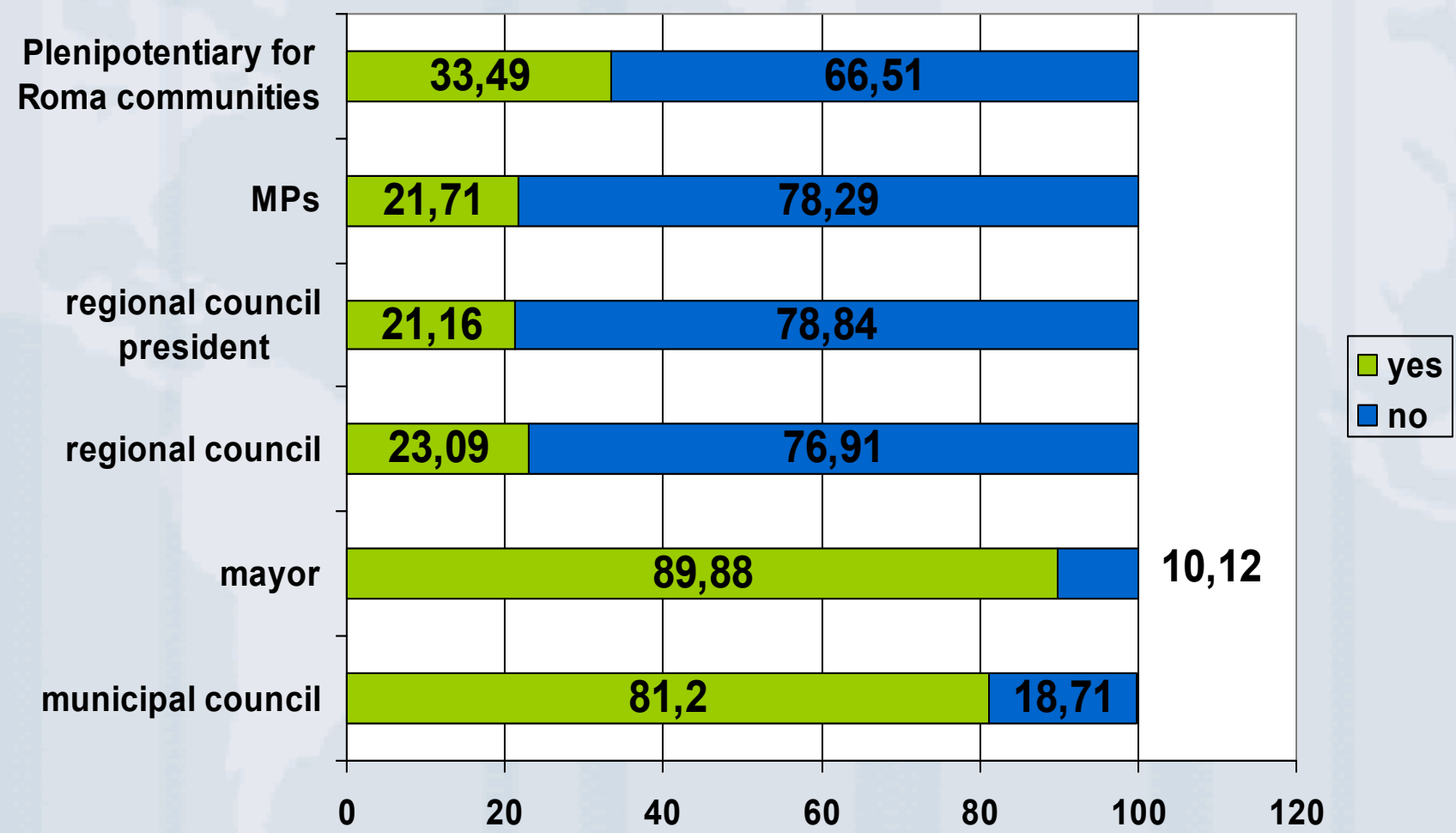
Contacted politicians for assistance



Quality of assistance



Do you know how to contact following institutions for assistance?



Most important source of information

Most important source of information	%
print media	3,98
television	83,94
radio	2,60
internet	0,61
community center	0,61
civic association	0,31
selfgovernment/politicians	0,76
informal community leaders	0,15
Roma media	0,76
word of mouth	3,98
other	0,15
have no information	0,46
have no interest in politics	1,68

Most trusted source of information

Source of information	%
print media	6,10
television	64,63
radio	2,19
internet	0,63
community center	0,78
civic association	0,31
selfgovernment/politicians	0,94
informal community leaders	1,56
Roma media	0,78
word of mouth	5,95
other	0,94
none	15,18