

MACEDONIA

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH

MARCH 2017

Content

General political situation

Government formation

Special Prosecution Office

Ethnic Albanian platform

Changes in support for political parties

International relations

Sources of information

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



SAMPLE DESIGN

National representative, multistage stratified sample of 807 respondents aged 18 +.

Households are distributed proportionally in 57% urban and 43% rural areas in all 8 regions of Macedonia, according to the ethnicity of the citizen's reflecting 76% ethnic Macedonians and others and 24% ethnic Albanians.

The method of *next birthday* was used for the selection of the respondents

Proportion of fixed/ mobile telephones in the sample: 70%/ 30%



SAMPLE SIZE

807 respondents
Margin of error: $\pm 3.46\%$



TIME FRAME

17TH till 21ST of March, 2017

- Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) filed a motion for extension of the constitutive session of the Assembly
- Zaev was summoned by the Public Prosecutor's Office for questioning in relation to illegal financing of the 2016 election campaign
- European Union Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn and the three Members of European Parliament visited Macedonia and held meetings with the political parties



INTERVIEWER NETWORK

18 telephone interviewers



AVERAGE DURATION

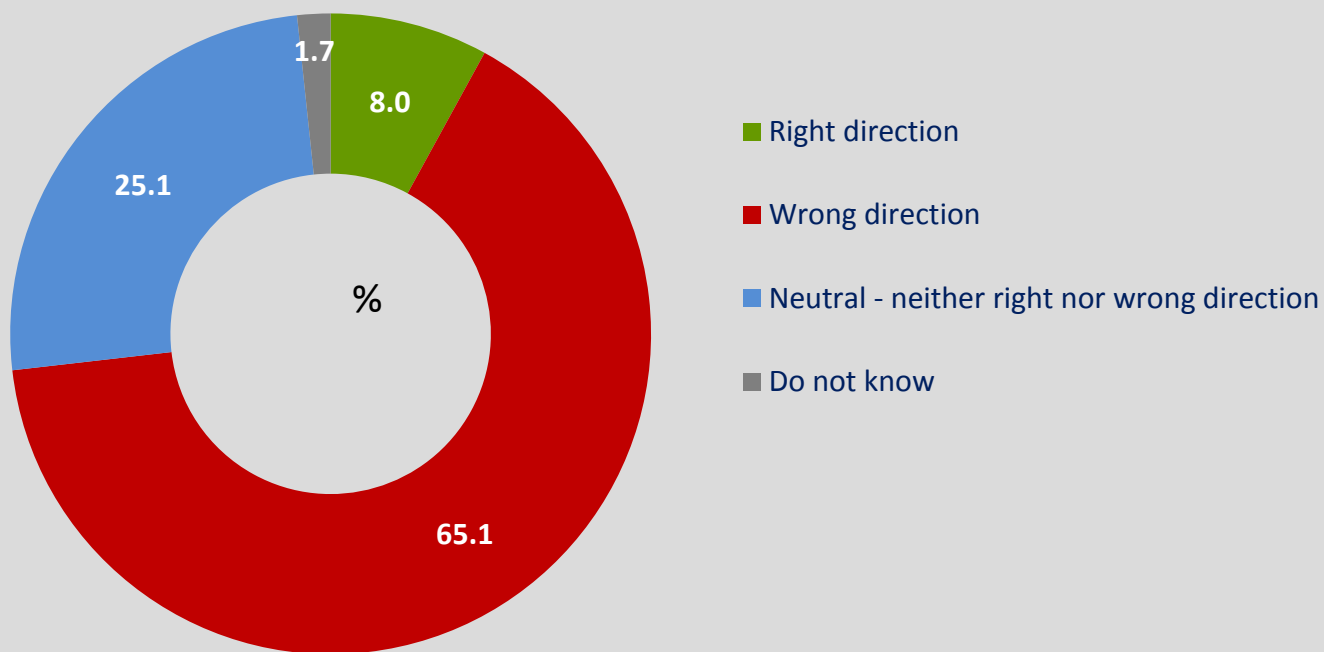
8 minutes
Response rate: 57%

GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION

DIRECTION IN WHICH MACEDONIA IS HEADED



Overall, is Macedonia moving in the right or wrong direction?



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

Macedonia is moving in the wrong direction

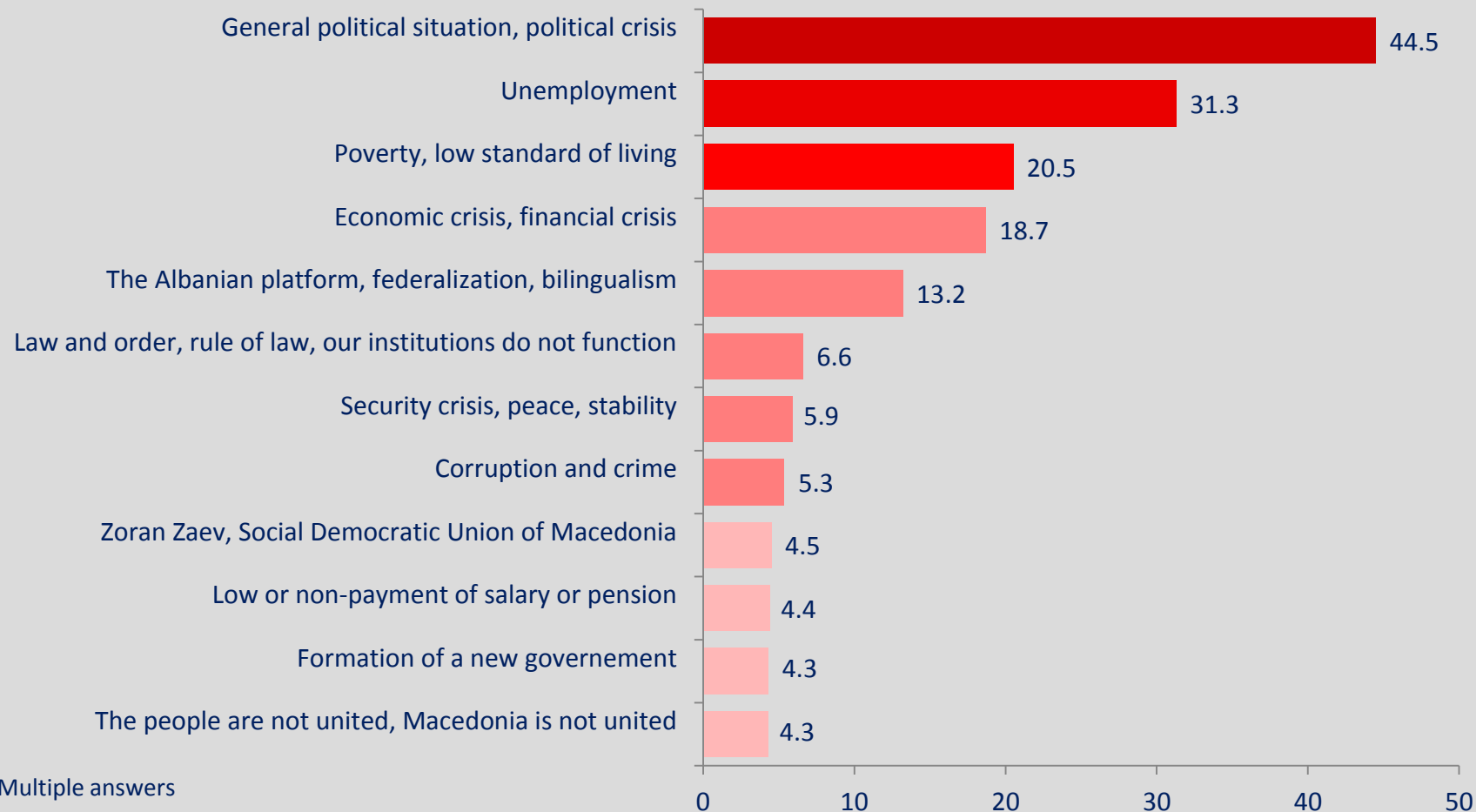
NOTE

- ✓ Almost two thirds of the respondents believe that Macedonia is moving in the wrong direction.
- ✓ One quarter of the respondents think that Macedonia is moving neither in the right nor in the wrong direction.
- ✓ 8% of the citizens of Macedonia think that the country is moving in the right direction.

PROBLEMS THAT MACEDONIA FACES



In your opinion what are the two most serious problems facing Macedonia today?



The general political situation is the most serious problem for citizens

NOTE

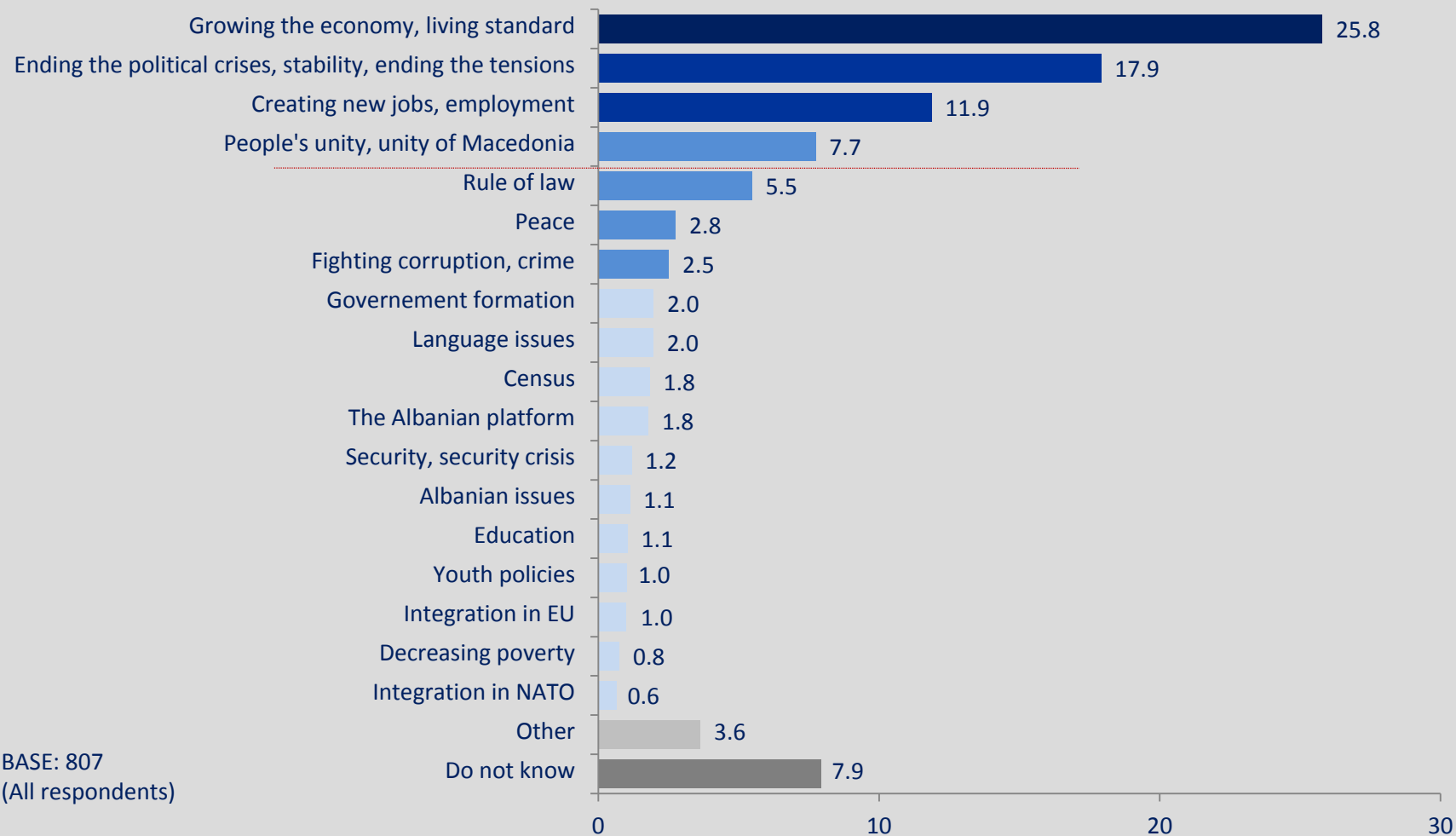
✓ TOP 5 most serious problems Macedonia is facing today, according to citizens:

- Political crisis
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Economic crisis
- Albanian platform

TOP PRIORITIES



What should be the top priority of the new government?



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

The economy and the living standard should be the top priority of the new government

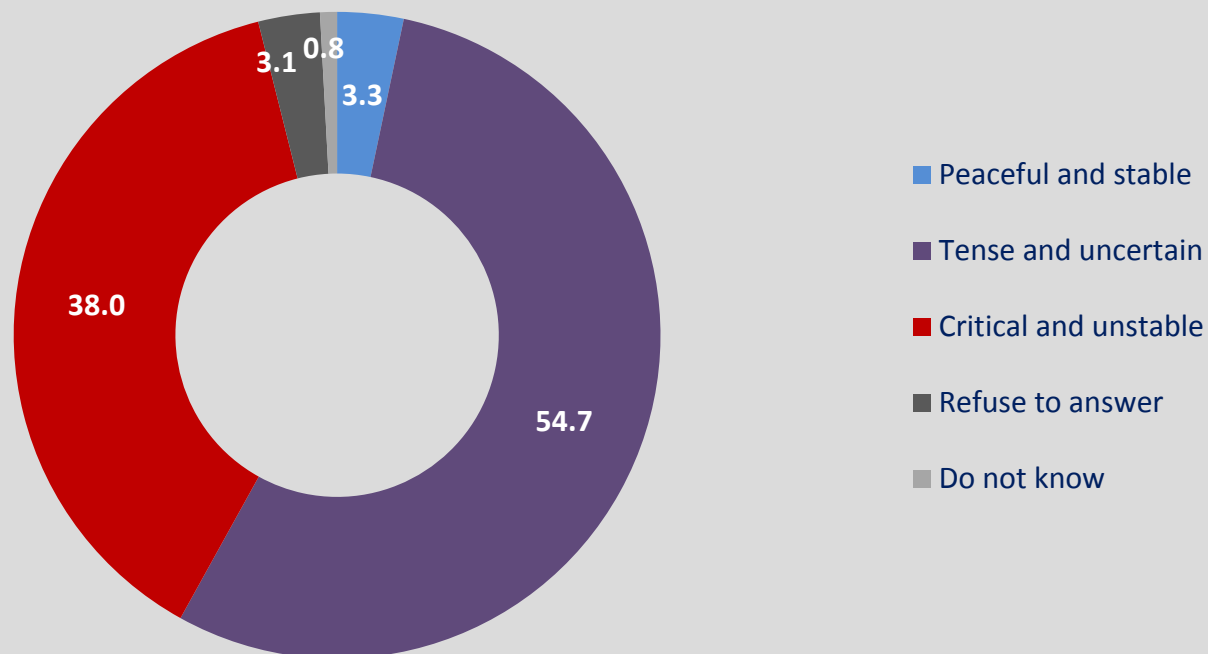
NOTE

- ✓ Growing the economy, ending the political crises, employment, bringing the country together, and the rule of law should be the government's top five priorities.

PERCEPTION OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION



How would you describe the current internal political situation?



The current political situation is most often described as tense and uncertain

NOTE

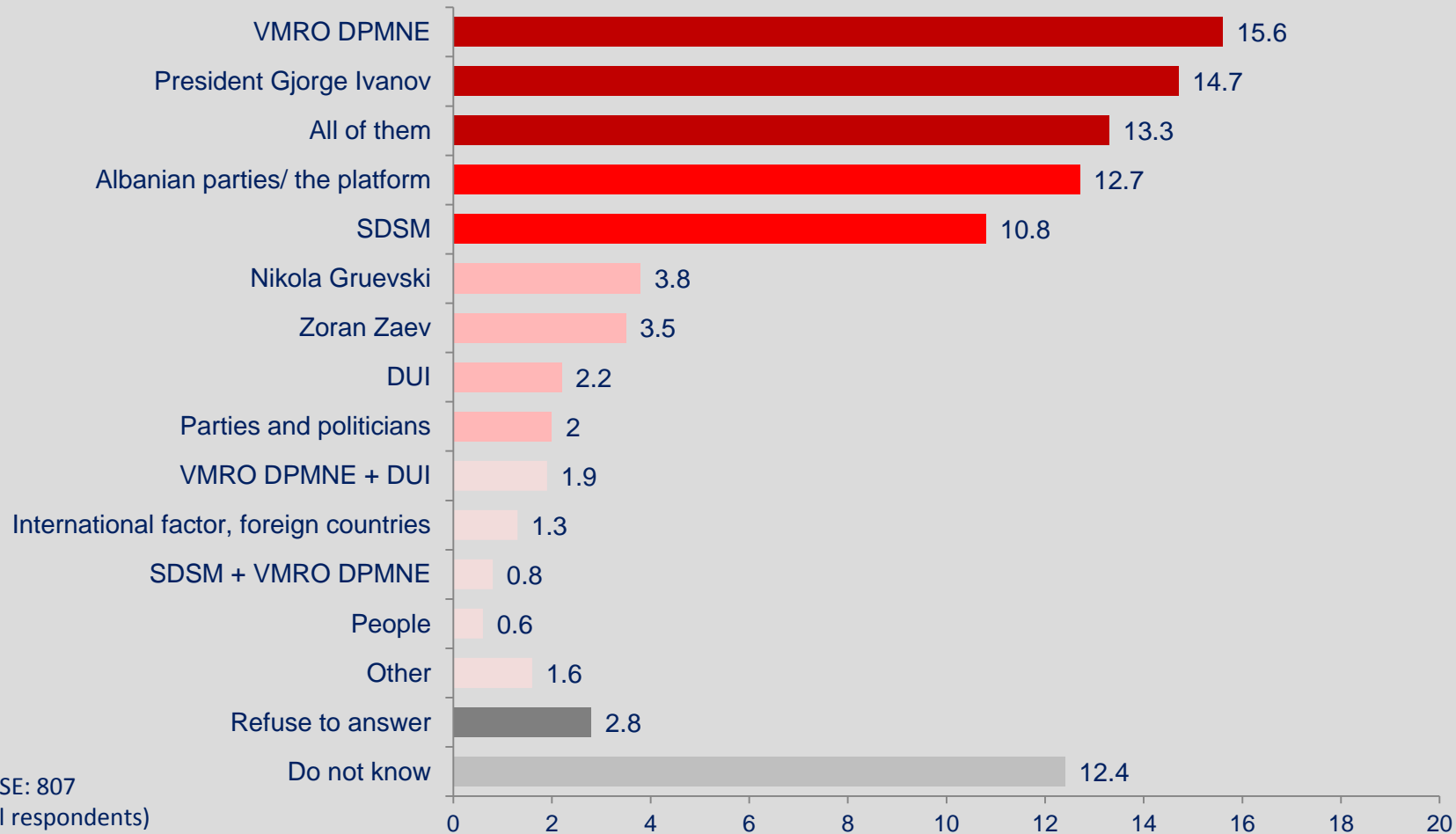
- ✓ More than half of the Macedonian citizens describe the current internal political situation as tense and uncertain.
- ✓ For 38% of the citizens see the political situation as critical and unstable.
- ✓ 3% of citizens describe the political situation as peaceful and stable.

BASE: 807
(All respondents)

WHO IS MOST RESPONSIBLE?



Who bears the most responsibility for the current political situation?



VMRO-DPMNE and President Ivanov are the most responsible for the current political situation

NOTE

- ✓ Research data shows similar distribution of citizens in terms of their perception on who is the most responsible for the current internal political situation.

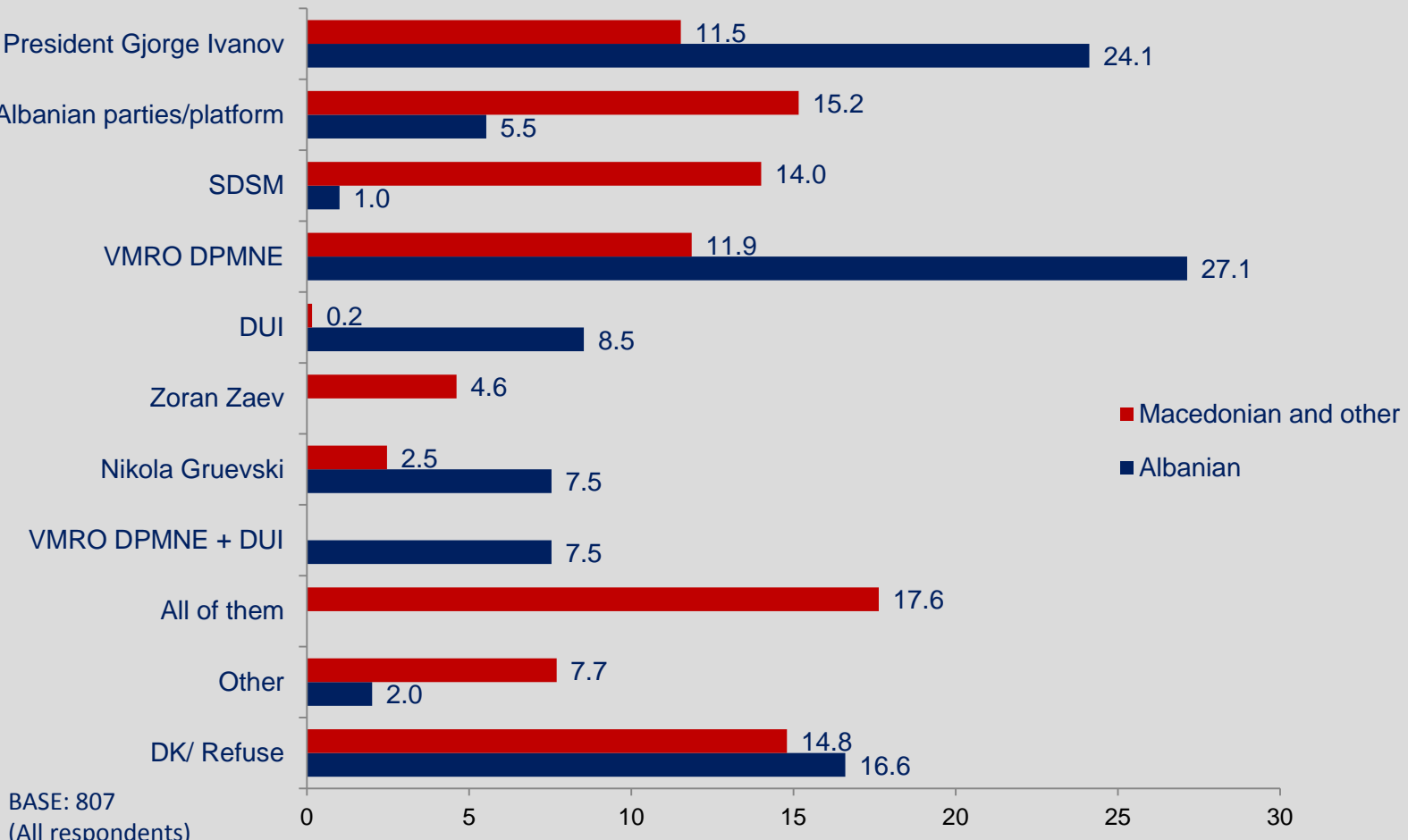
BASE: 807
(All respondents)

WHO IS MOST RESPONSIBLE?



Ethnic Macedonians and ethnic Albanians have different perceptions of who is responsible for the political situation

Who bears the most responsibility for the current political situation?



NOTE

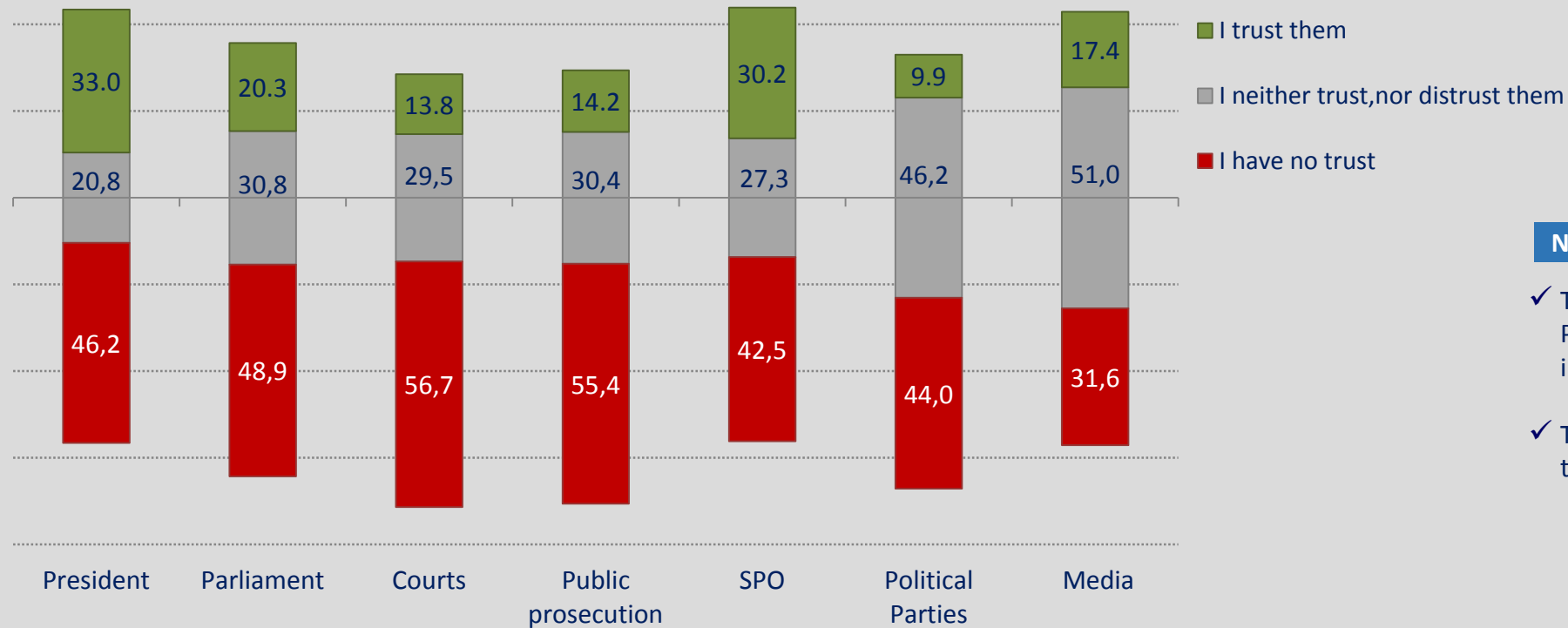
- ✓ Ethnic Macedonians and other ethnic groups in higher percentage believe that the Albanian parties and SDSM are responsible for the current internal political situation.
- ✓ Ethnic Albanians in higher percentage mention President Ivanov, VMRO-DPMNE, DUI and VMRO-DPMNE+DUI as responsible for the current political situation.

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS



To what degree do you trust or not trust the following institutions?

(All respondents who answered the questions)



The courts are the least trusted institutions

NOTE

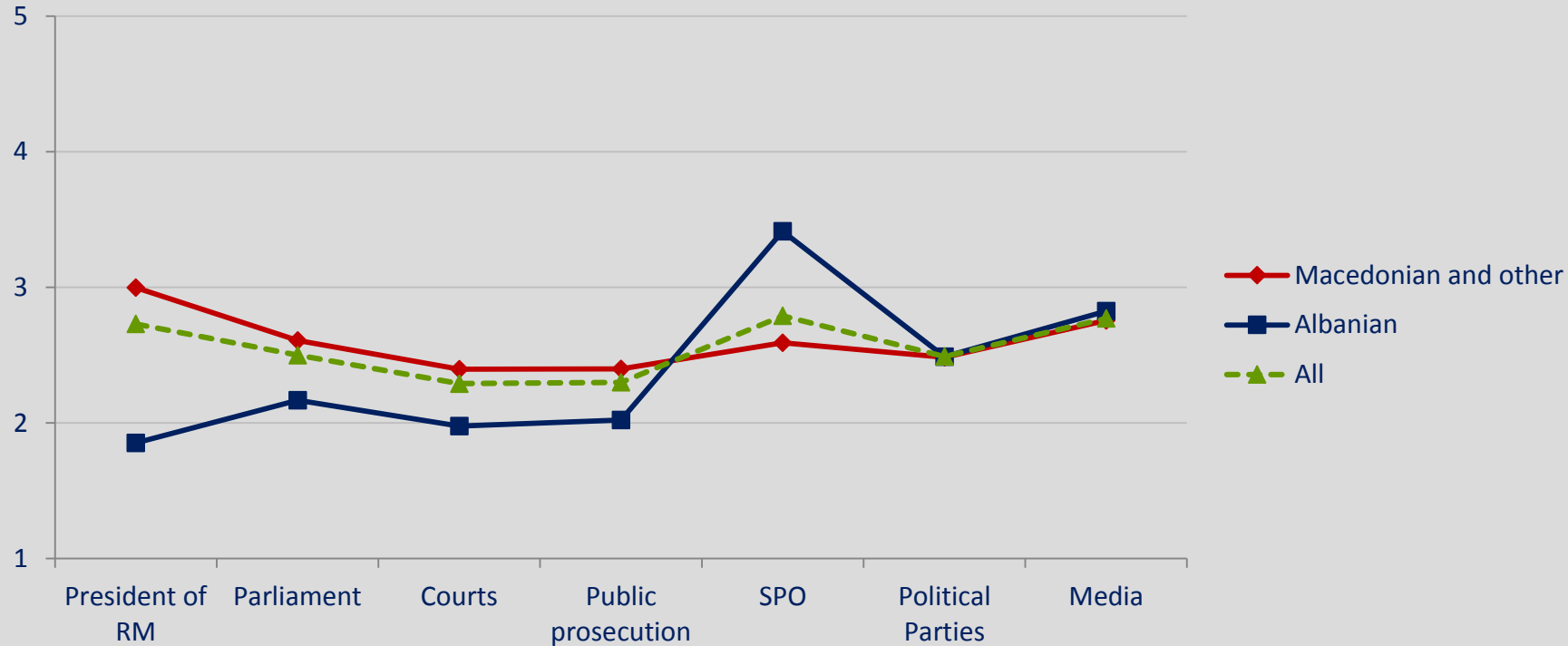
- ✓ The President of Macedonia and the Special Prosecution Office are the most trusted institutions.
- ✓ The Courts and the Public Prosecution are the least trusted institutions.

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS



To what degree do you trust or not trust the following institutions?

BASE: (All respondents who gave grades. 5 being highest)



Ethnic Macedonians trust the President; ethnic Albanians trust the Special Prosecution Office the most

NOTE

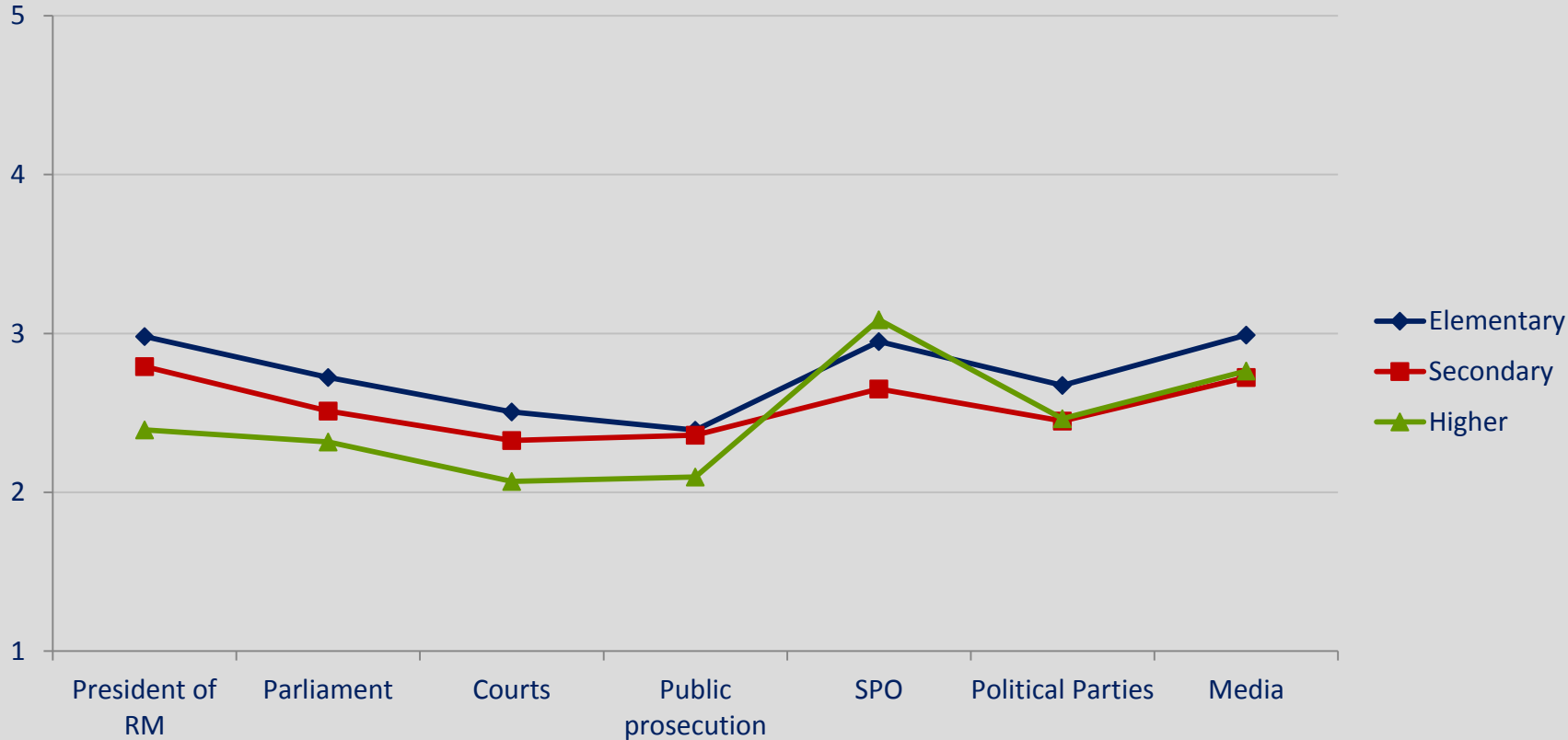
- ✓ Compared to ethnic Albanians, ethnic Macedonians and others have more trust in the President, the Parliament, the Courts and the Public Prosecution.
- ✓ Ethnic Albanians trust the Special Prosecution Office more compared to ethnic Macedonians and other ethnic groups.
- ✓ Ethnic Macedonians and ethnic Albanians trust the political parties and the media equally.

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS



To what degree do you trust or not trust the following institutions?

BASE: (All respondents who gave grades, 5 being highest)



Citizens with higher education trust the Special Prosecution Office more than all the rest of the institutions

NOTE

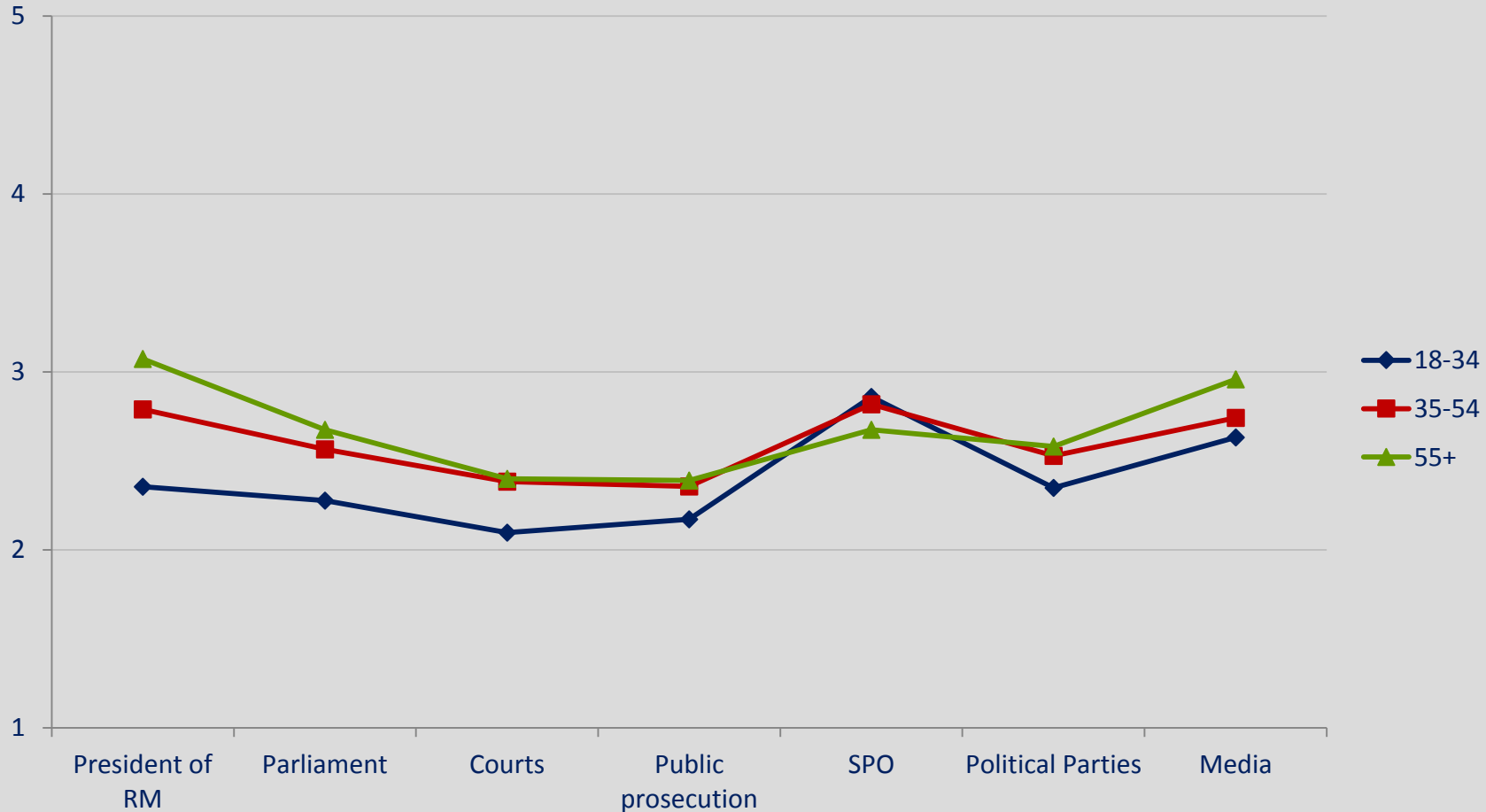
- ✓ Citizens with higher education have less trust in the President, Parliament, Courts, Public prosecution, Political Parties and Media.
- ✓ Citizens with higher education trust the Special Prosecution Office more, compared to the citizens with secondary and elementary education.

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS



To what degree do you trust or not trust the following institutions?

BASE: (All respondents who gave grades, 5 being highest)



Older citizens trust the President, younger citizens trust the Special Prosecution Office

NOTE

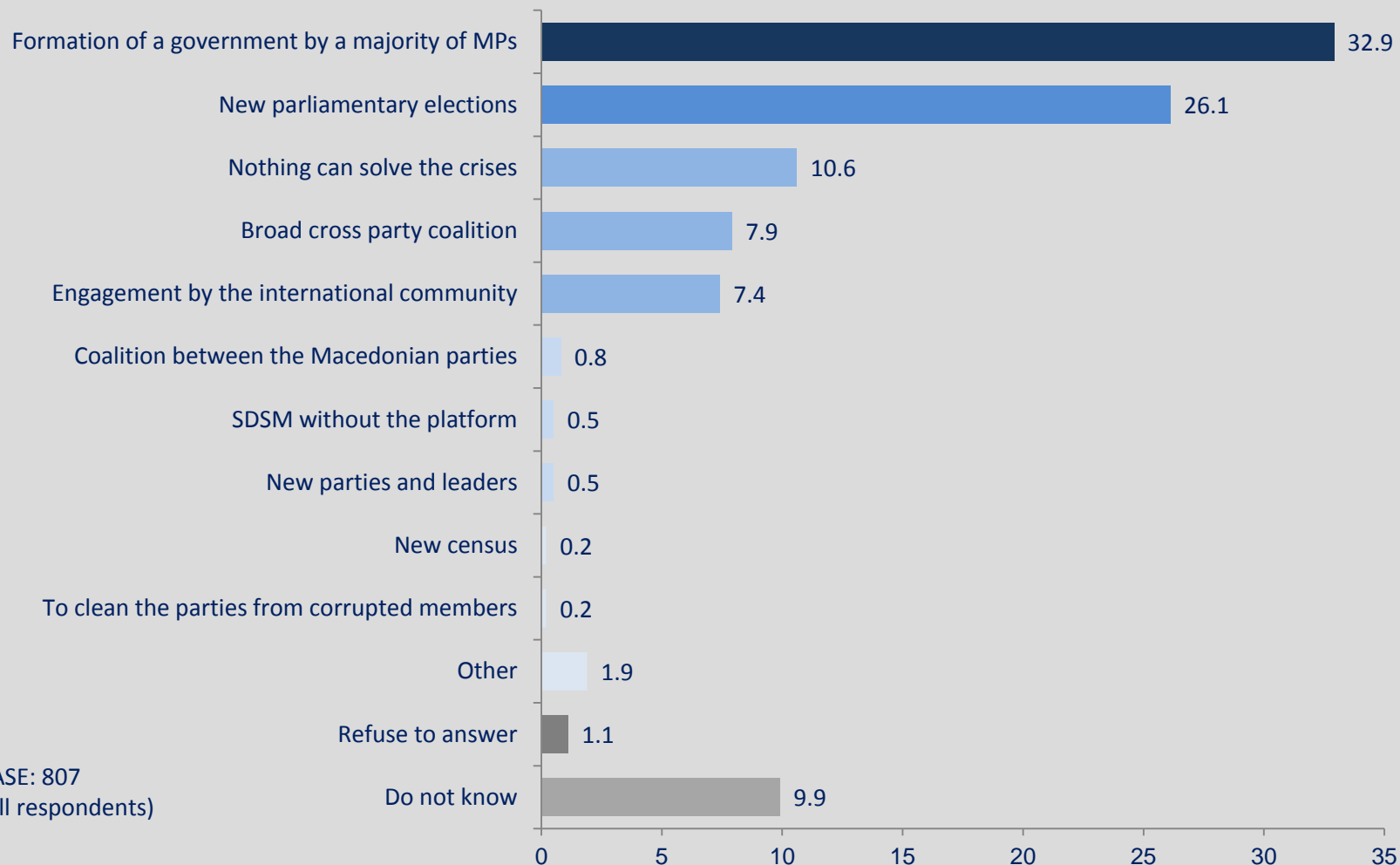
✓ Citizens aged 18 to 34 trust all state institutions less, compared with the Special Prosecution Office, which they trust the most compared to other age groups.

GOVERNMENT FORMATION

SOLVING THE POLITICAL CRISIS



What is the way out of the current political crisis?



Formation of a government by a majority of MPs is the way out of the political crisis for one-third of citizens

NOTE

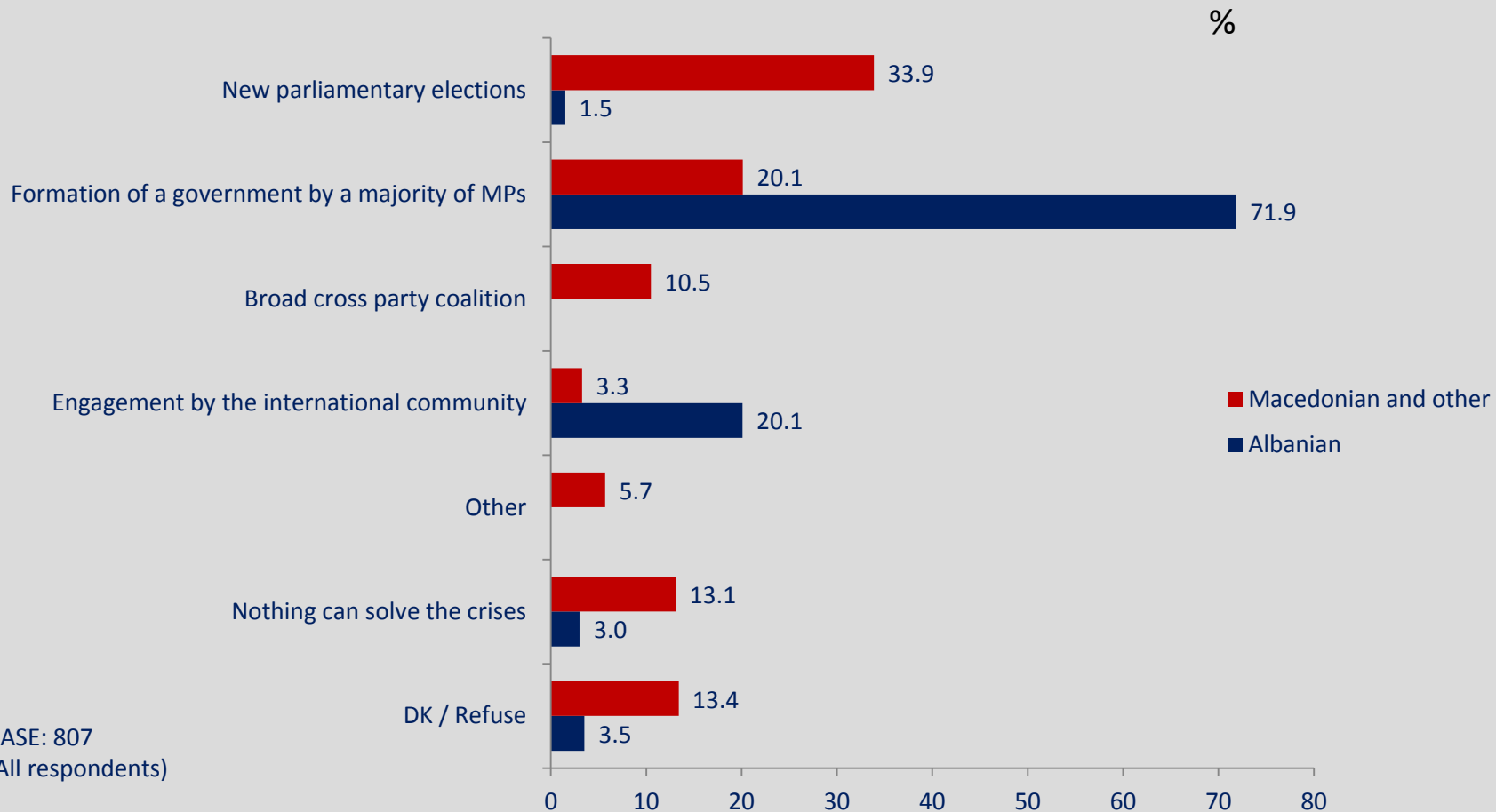
- ✓ Every third citizen in the country believes that the formation of a government by a majority of MPs is the way out of the current political crisis.
- ✓ Around one-quarter of the Macedonian citizens think that the way out of the political crisis are new parliamentary elections.
- ✓ One out of 10 citizens in the country thinks that nothing can solve the political crisis.

BASE: 807
(All respondents)

SOLVING THE POLITICAL CRISIS



What is the way out of the current political crisis?



Ways out of the political crisis are different for ethnic Macedonians and ethnic Albanians

NOTE

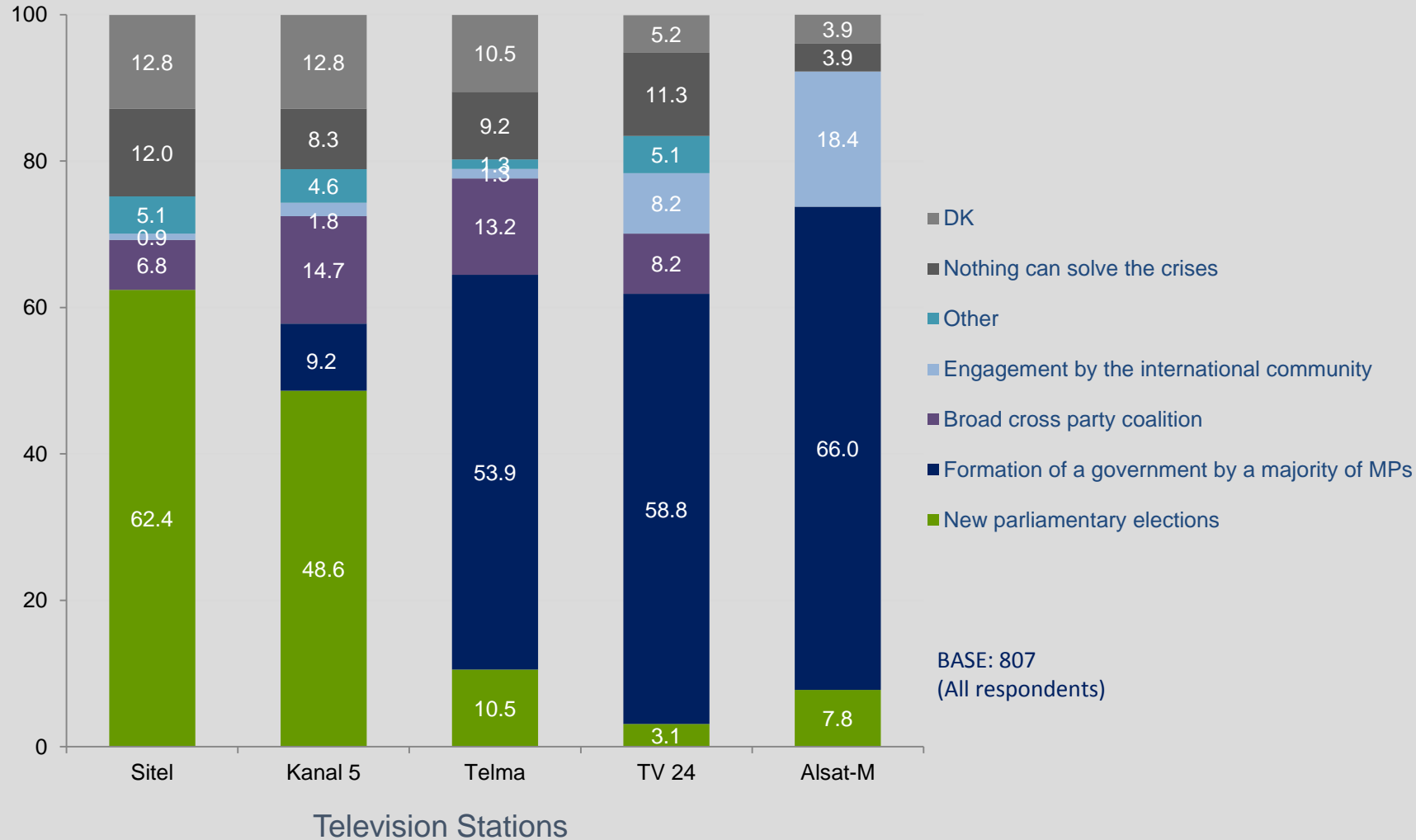
- ✓ Seven out of 10 ethnic Albanians believe that the formation of a government by a majority of MPs is the way out of the current political crisis, while two out of ten Albanians believe that the way out of the crisis is the engagement by the international community.
- ✓ One-third of the ethnic Macedonians and other ethnic groups believe that new parliamentary elections are the way out of the crisis, while one-fifth thinks that the formation of a government by a majority of MPs is the way out of the crisis.

BASE: 807
(All respondents)

SOLVING THE POLITICAL CRISIS



What is the way out of the current political crisis?



Media habits highly correlate with perceptions of the way out of the political crisis

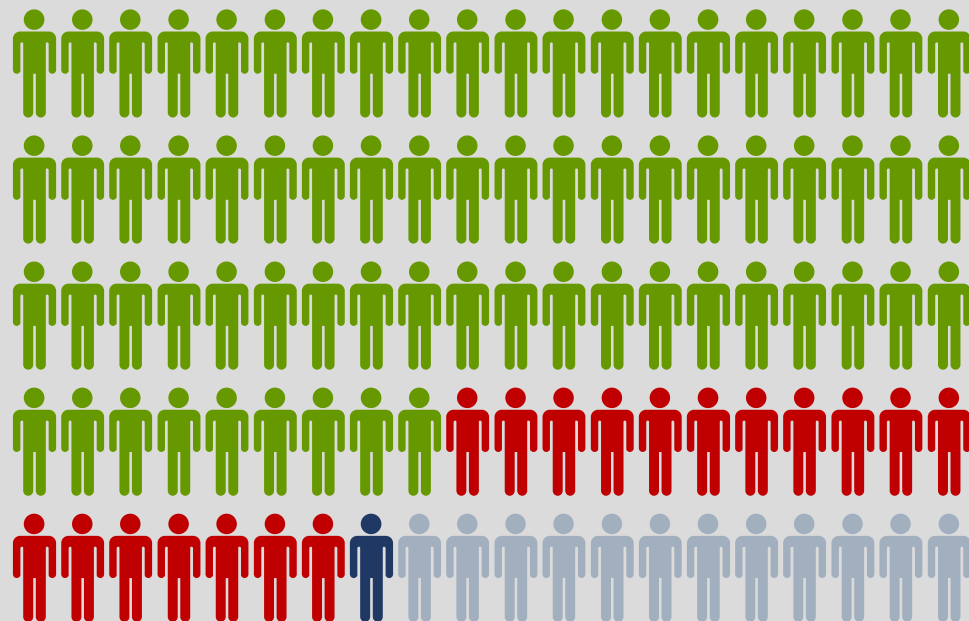
NOTE

- ✓ A higher percentage of Sitel and Kanal 5 viewers believe that the way out of the current political crisis in the country is through new parliamentary elections.
- ✓ A higher percentage of Telma, TV 24 and Alsat-M viewers believe that the way out of the crisis is a formation of a government by a majority of members of parliament.

NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION



Can a majority of MPs form a government?



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

- Yes
- No
- Other
- DK / Refuse

69 / 100

For almost two-thirds of citizens, a majority of MPs can form a government

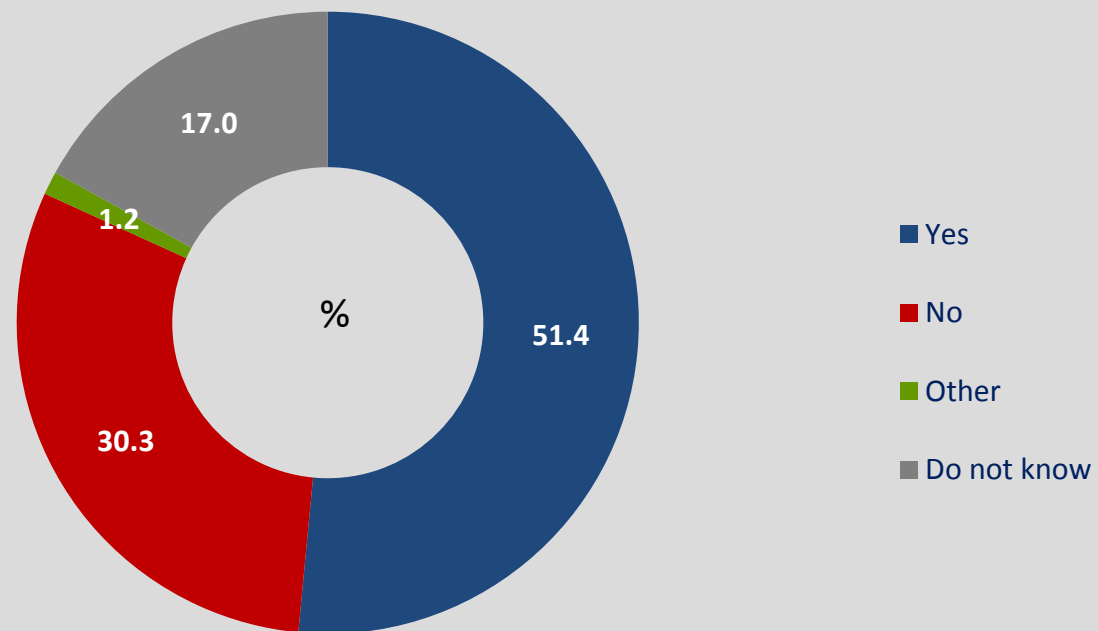
NOTE

- ✓ 69 out of 100 people believe that a majority of MPs can form a government.
- ✓ 18 out of 100 people do not think that majority of MPs can form a government.
- ✓ 12 out of 100 citizens cannot determine whether a majority of MPs can form a government.

NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION



Do SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government?



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

One-half of citizens thinks that SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government

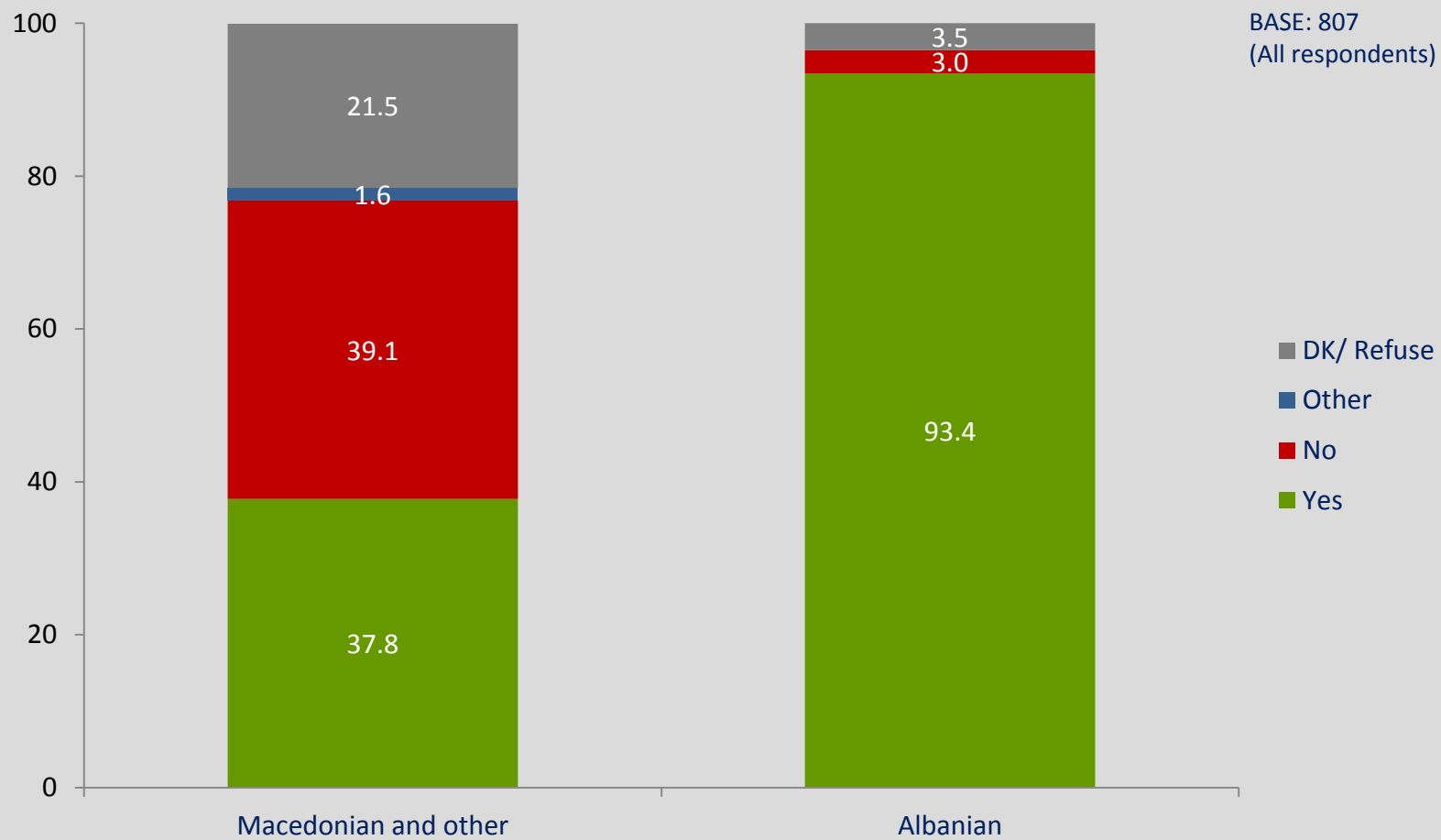
NOTE

- ✓ One-half of the citizens think that SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government
- ✓ 3 out of 10 citizens believe that SDSM and its coalition partners do not have the authority to lead the government
- ✓ 17% of the interviewed citizens do not know if SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government

NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION



Do SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government?



Almost all ethnic Albanians believe that SDSM has the authority to lead the government

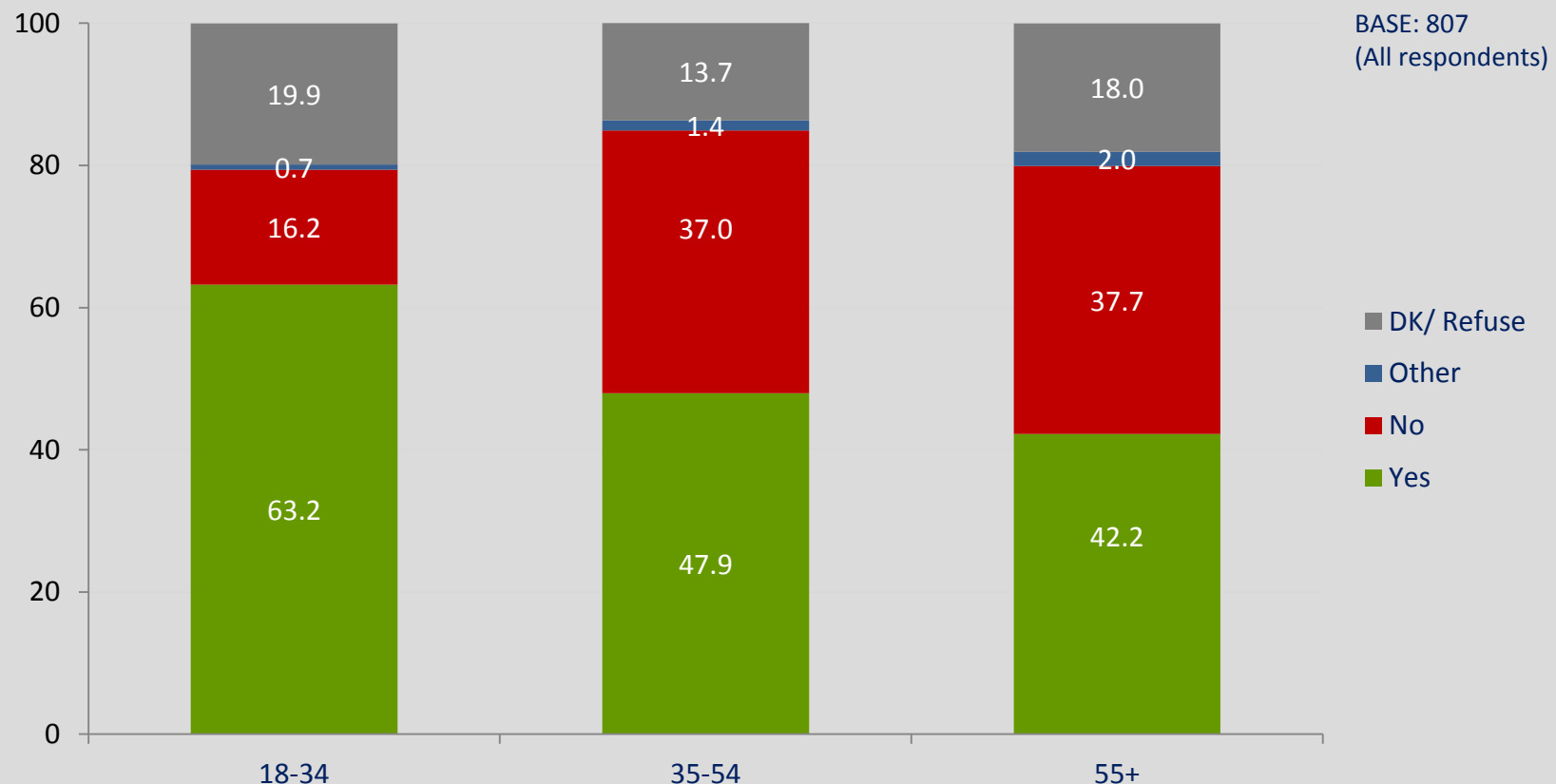
NOTE

- ✓ There is a significant difference between ethnic Albanians and ethnic Macedonians and other ethnic groups in relation to the question whether SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government.
- ✓ 93% of ethnic Albanians believe that SDSM and its coalition partner have the authority to lead the government.
- ✓ 38% of ethnic Macedonians and other ethnic groups share this opinion.

NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION



Do SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government?



Younger citizens believe that SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government

NOTE

- ✓ 63% of the citizens aged 18-34 believe that SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government.
- ✓ 48% of citizens aged 35-54 and 42% of citizens older than 55 share this opinion.

NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION



Do SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government?



3%

- Yes
- No
- Other
- DK / Refuse



23%



80%



82%



95%

Television Stations

TV Sitel viewers do not believe SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government

NOTE

- ✓ There is a significant difference between the citizens who watch different TV stations for political news and their opinion on the issue.
- ✓ 95% of the citizens who watch Alsat-M believe that SDSM and its coalition partners have the authority to lead the government.
- ✓ 3% of the citizens who watch TV Sitel for political news share this opinion.

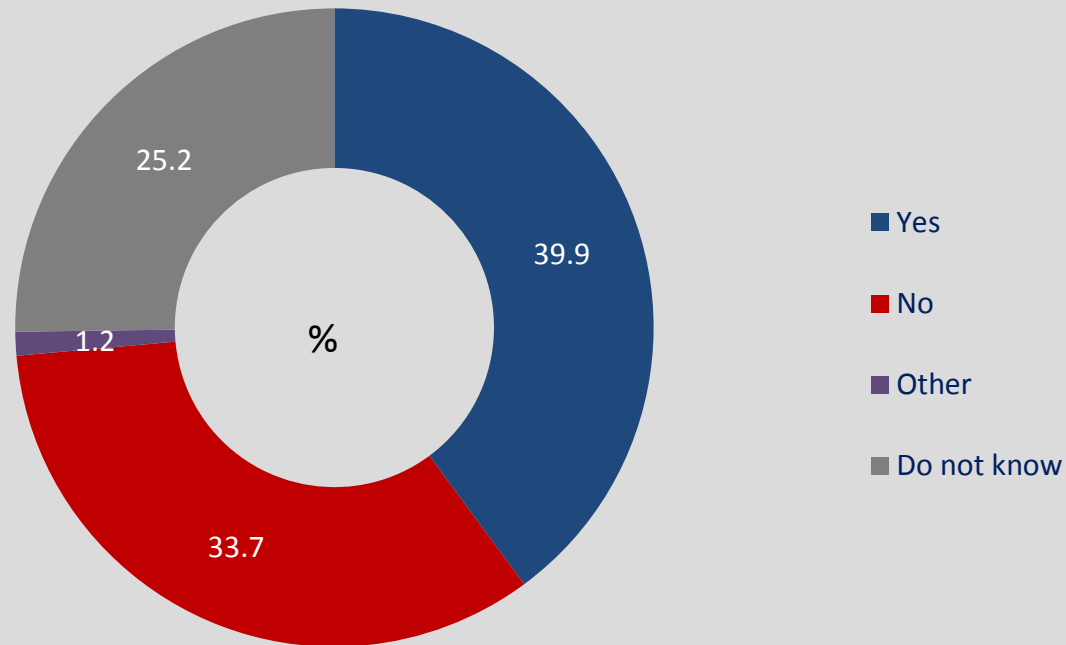
BASE: 807
(All respondents)

NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION



Is formation of a government by a majority of MPs legitimate if the president does not confer a mandate?

Citizens are divided over government formation without a presidential mandate



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

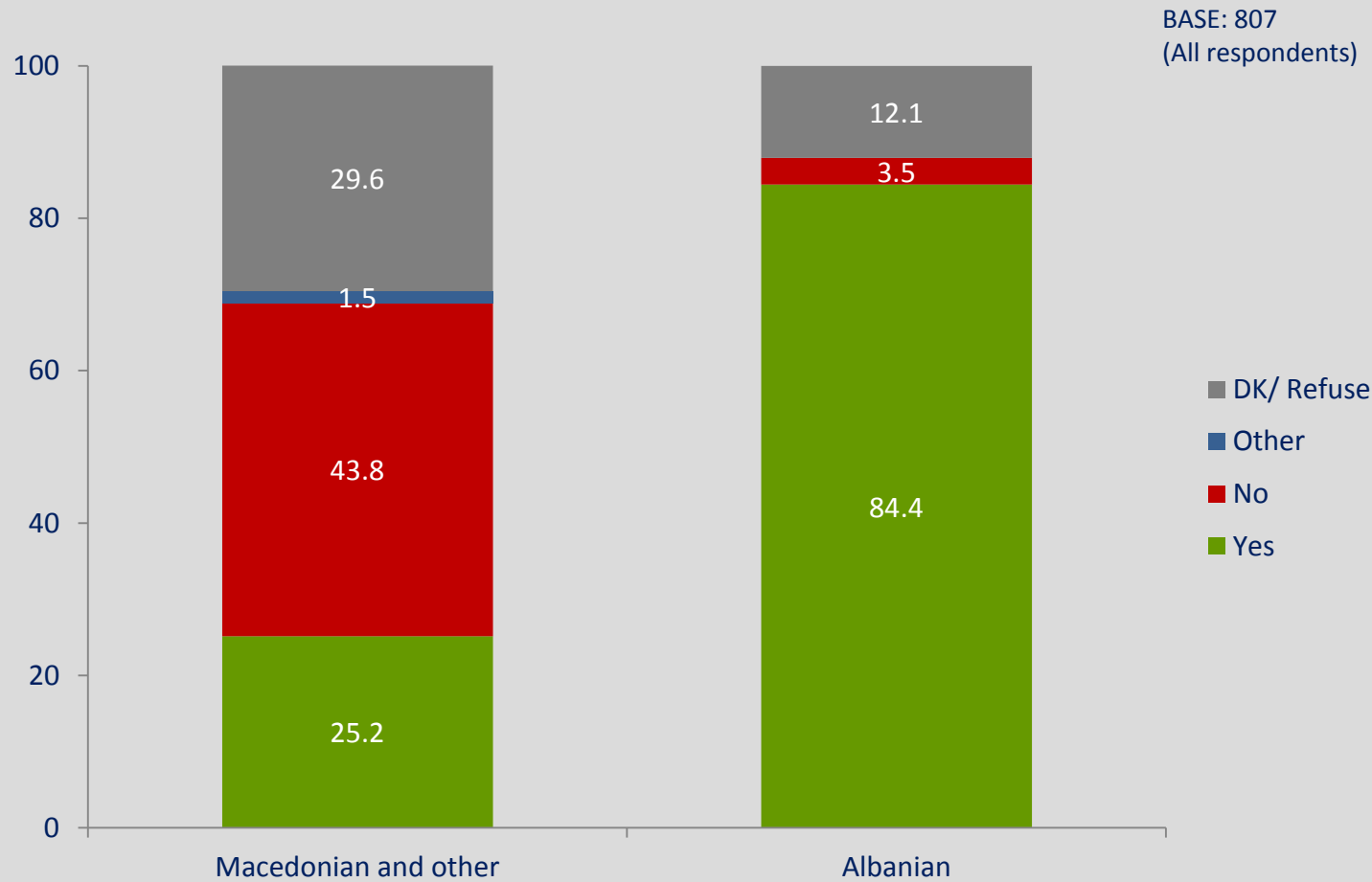
NOTE

- ✓ 40% of the citizens of Macedonia believe that formation of a government by a majority of MPs is legitimate without the President granting the mandate.
- ✓ 34% of the citizens do not share their opinion.
- ✓ Every fourth citizen in the country doesn't know if a government can be formed without the President granting the mandate.

NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION



Is formation of a government by a majority of MPs legitimate if the president does not confer a mandate?



Ethnic Macedonians and Albanians differ on government formation without a presidential mandate

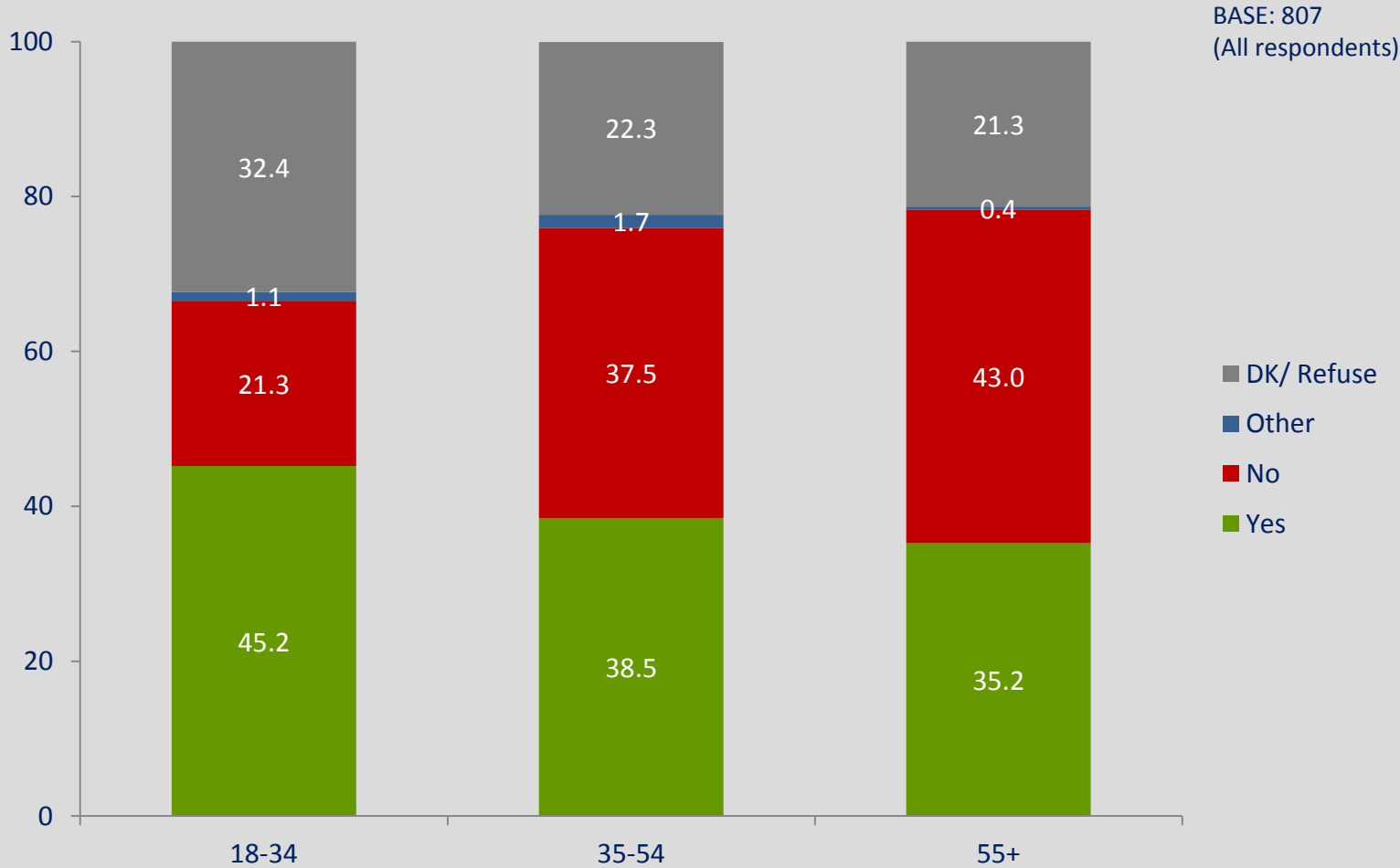
NOTE

- ✓ 84% of ethnic Albanians believe that a formation of a government by a majority of MPs is legitimate without the President of Macedonia granting the mandate.
- ✓ One-quarter of ethnic Macedonians and other ethnic groups share this opinion.

NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATION



Is formation of a government by a majority of MPs legitimate if the president does not confer a mandate?



Older citizens at higher percentages do not believe it is legitimate to form a government without the President granting the mandate

NOTE

- ✓ 45% of interviewed citizens aged 18-34 believe it is legitimate to form a government by a majority of MPs without the President granting the mandate.
- ✓ 38% of the citizens aged 35-54 and 35% of the citizens older than 55 years share this opinion.

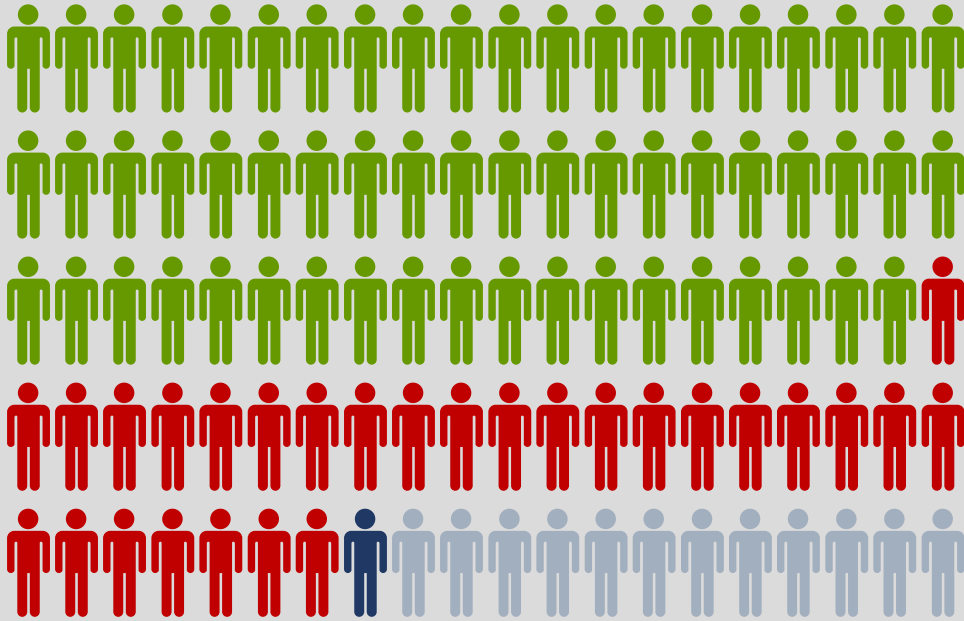
SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICE



Should the mandate of the SPO to prosecute alleged wrongdoings be extended?

BASE: 807
(All respondents)

- Yes
- No
- Other
- DK / Refuse



59 / 100

Citizens believe
the mandate of
the SPO should be
extended

NOTE

- ✓ Almost 60% of the citizens think that the mandate of the SPO to prosecute any wrongdoings stemming from the wiretapped conversations should be extended.
- ✓ Every fourth citizen thinks that the mandate of the SPO should not be extended.
- ✓ Almost 12% of the citizens do not know whether the mandate of the SPO should be extended.

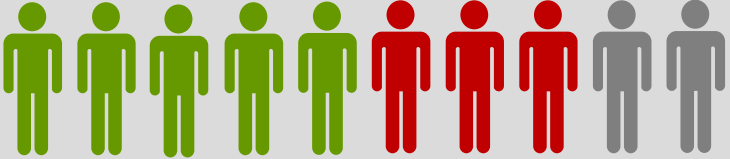
SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICE



Should the mandate of the SPO to prosecute alleged wrongdoings be extended?

Ethnic Macedonians and ethnic Albanians differ on extending the SPO mandate.

MACEDONIANS AND OTHER



47%

ALBANIANS



96%

- Yes
- No
- Other
- DK / Refuse

BASE: 807
(All respondents)

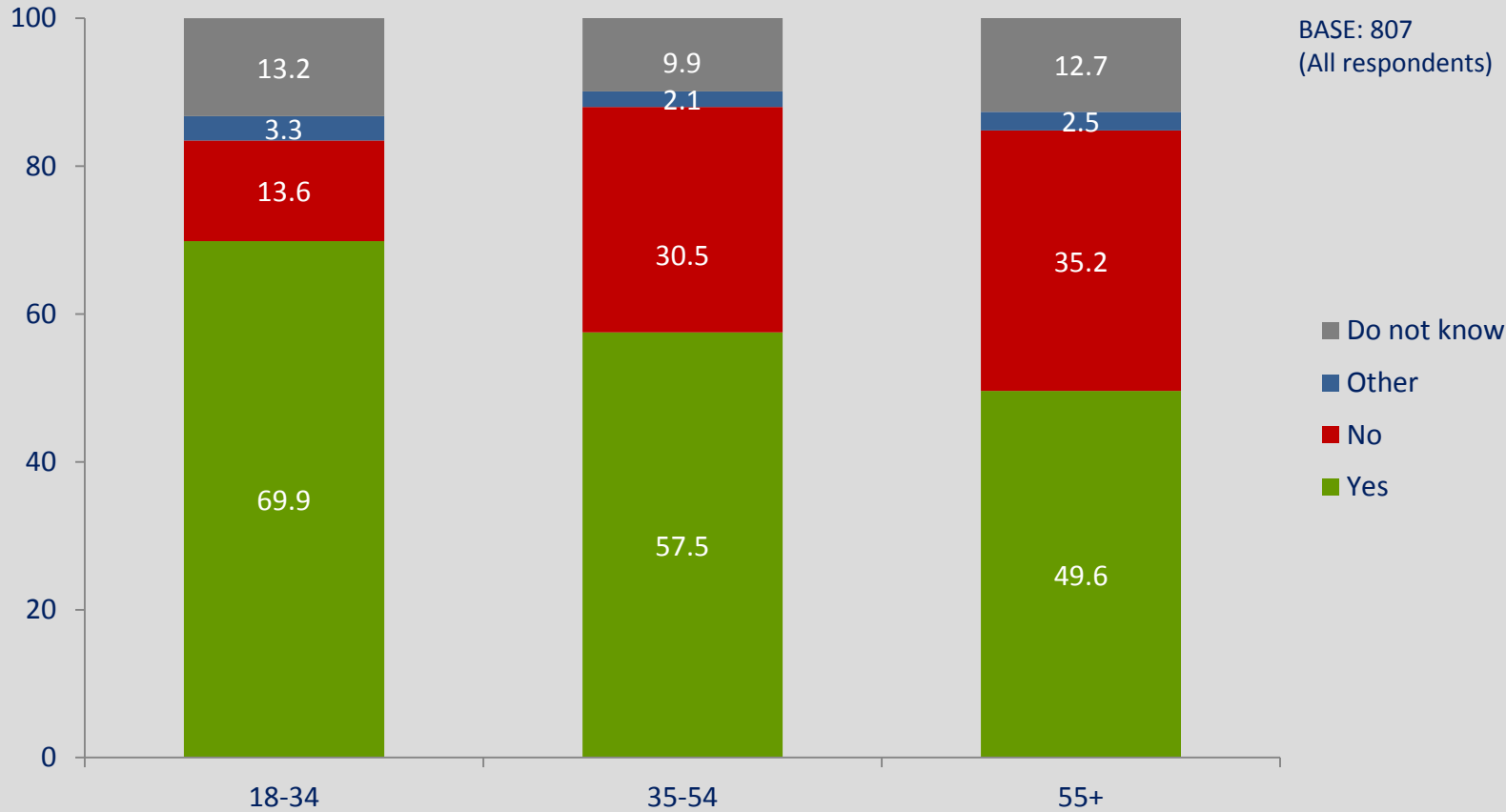
NOTE

- ✓ 96.5% of ethnic Albanians believe that the mandate of the SPO should be extended.
- ✓ 47% of ethnic Macedonians and other ethnic groups share this opinion.

SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICE



Should the mandate of the SPO to prosecute alleged wrongdoings be extended?



Younger citizens at higher percentages believe the mandate of the SPO should be extended

NOTE

- ✓ 70% of the citizens aged 18-34 believe that the mandate of the SPO should be extended.
- ✓ 58% of the citizens aged 35-54 and 50% of the citizens older than 55 share this opinion.

SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICE



Should the mandate of the SPO to prosecute alleged wrongdoings be extended?



- Yes
- No
- Other
- DK / Refuse



Television Stations

Citizens who watch TV Sitel believe the mandate of the SPO should not be extended

NOTE

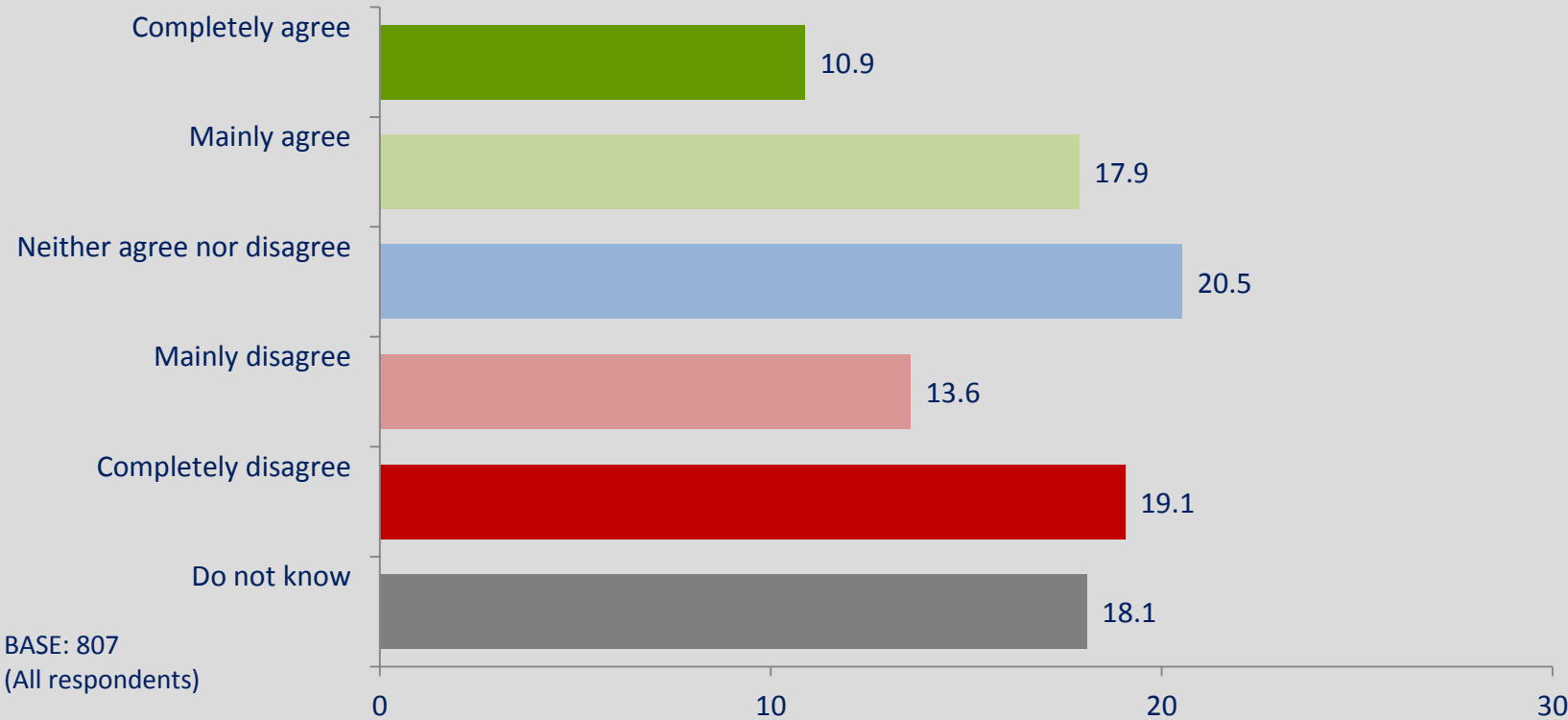
- ✓ More than 90% of the citizens who mostly watch Alsat-M and TV 24 for political news believe that the mandate of the SPO should be extended.
- ✓ 33% of the citizens who watch Kanal 5 and 10% of the citizens who watch TV Sitel for political news share this opinion.

BASE: 807
(All respondents)

SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICE



How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The work of the SPO is politicized.



Citizens are almost equally divided on the question whether the work of SPO is politicized

NOTE

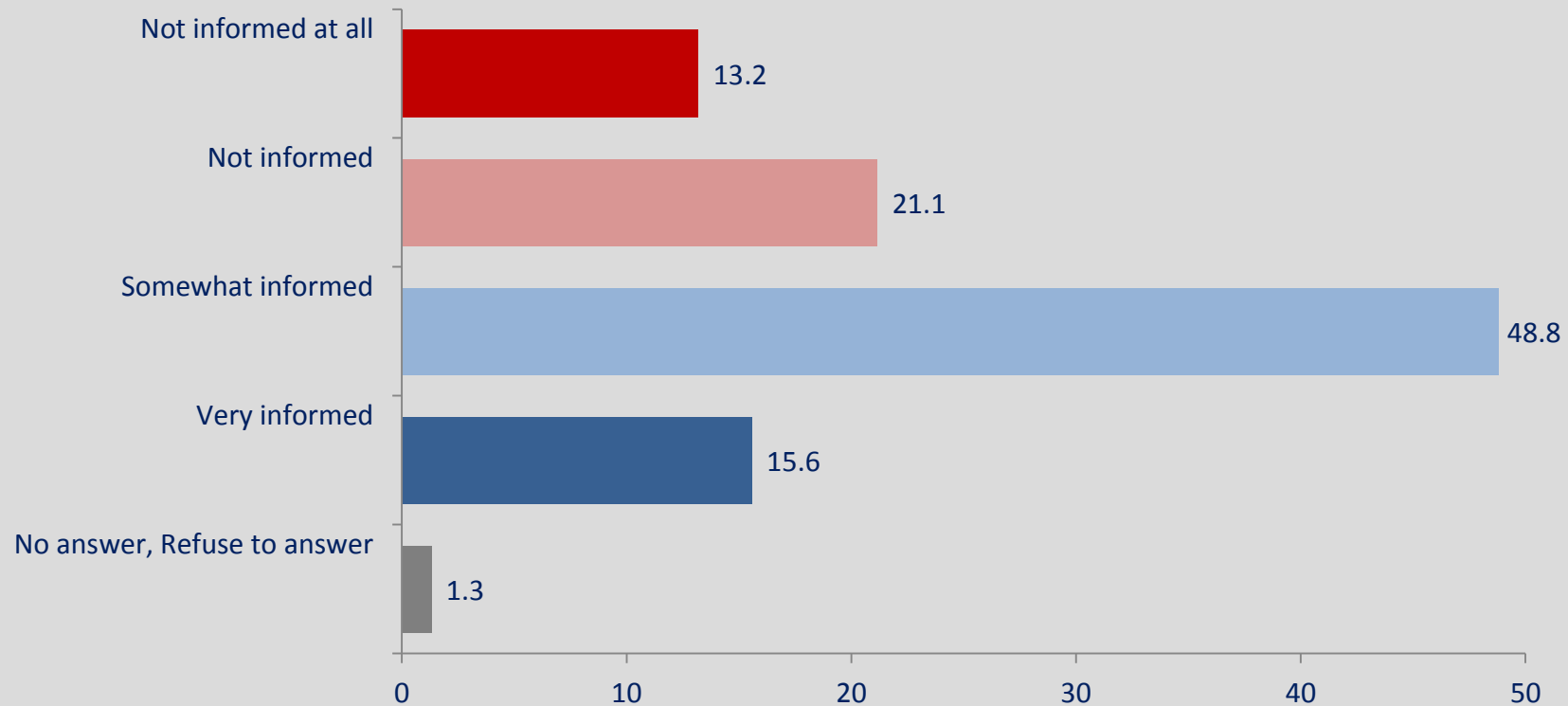
- ✓ Around 29% of the citizens of Macedonia believe that the work of SPO is politicized.
- ✓ One-fifth of citizens neither agree nor disagree that the work of the SPO is politicized.
- ✓ Almost one-third of citizens do not believe that the work of SPO is politicized.
- ✓ Around 18% of respondents were unable to answer the question concerning the work of SPO.

ETHNIC ALBANIAN PLATFORM

PLATFORM SIGNED BY ETHNIC ALBANIAN PARTIES



How informed are you about the platform signed by ethnic Albanian parties?



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

Two-thirds of citizens say they are informed about the Albanian platform

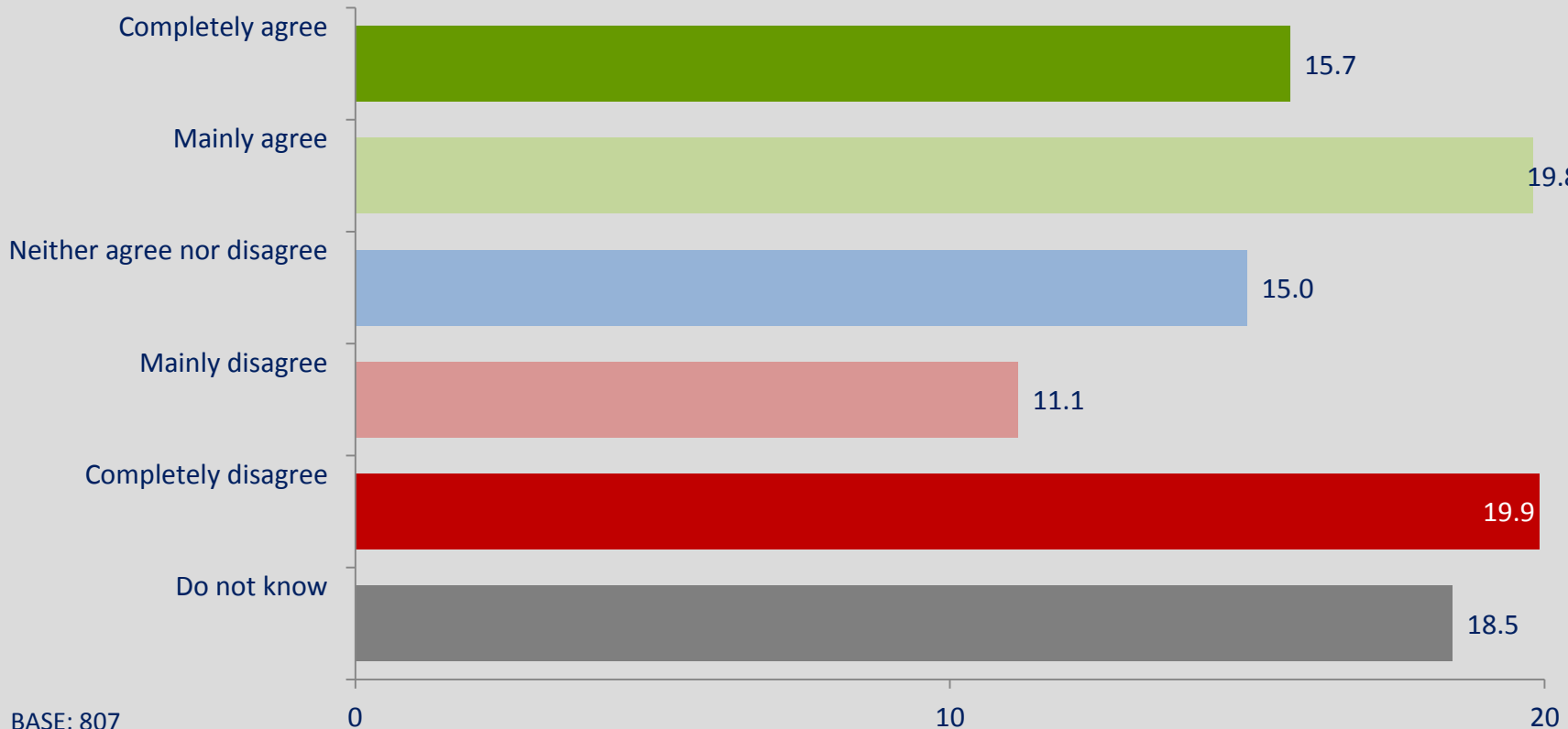
NOTE

- ✓ Almost 50% state they are somewhat informed about the platform signed by ethnic Albanian parties.
- ✓ Around 34% of the citizens state they are not informed or not informed at all about the platform signed by ethnic Albanian parties.
- ✓ 43% of ethnic Macedonians and 9% of ethnic Albanians are uninformed about the platform.

PLATFORM SIGNED BY ETHNIC ALBANIAN PARTIES



The platform signed by the leaders of ethnic Albanian parties is foreign Interference in the domestic affairs of the country and jeopardizes the sovereignty of Macedonia.



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

Citizens are split whether the platform is foreign interference in domestic affairs and risks sovereignty.

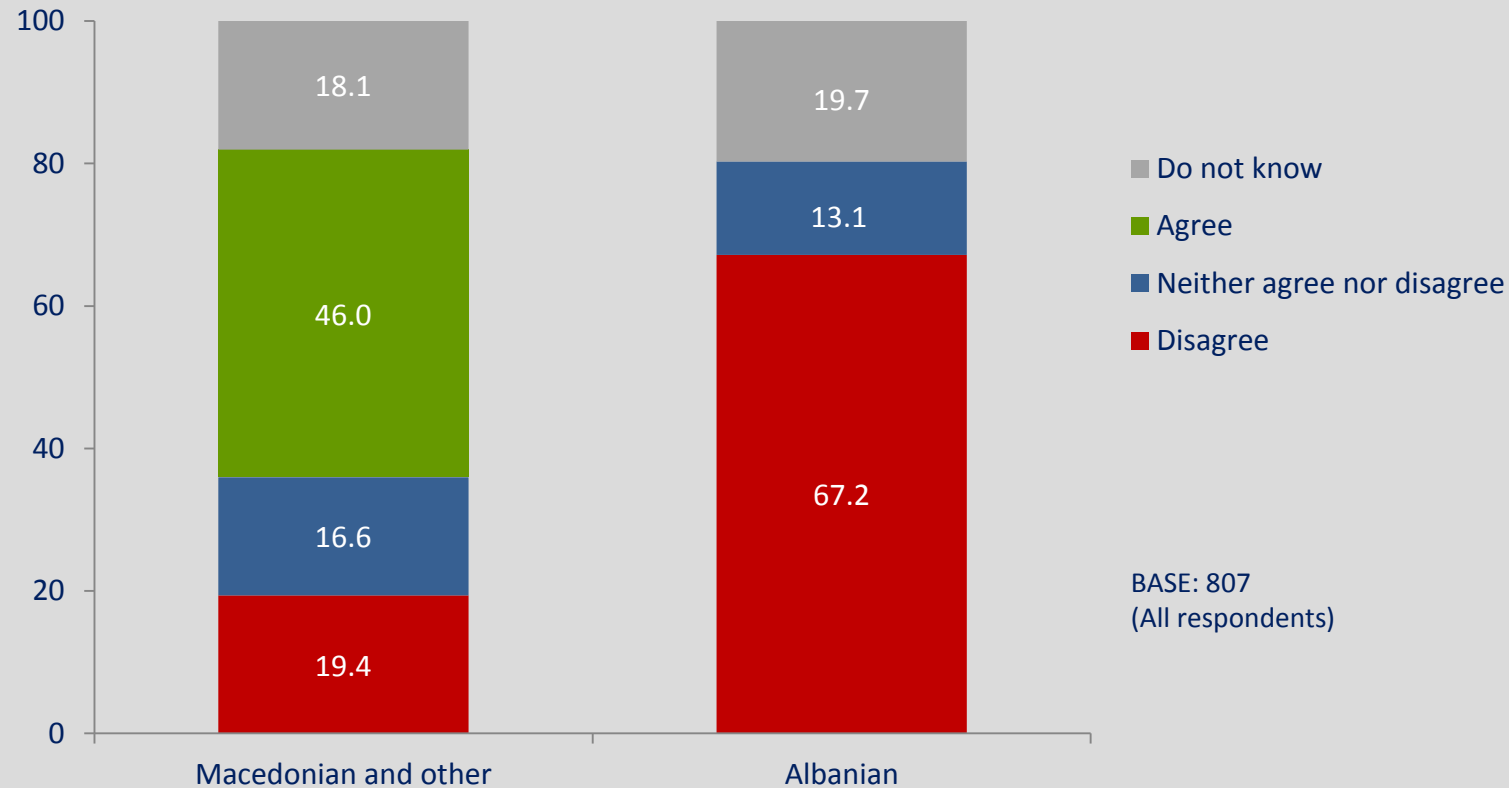
NOTE

- ✓ While 35.5% of respondents believe that the platform signed by the Albanian parties is foreign interference in domestic affairs and jeopardizes the sovereignty of the country, 31% of the citizens do not share their opinion.
- ✓ 15% of citizens neither agree nor disagree with the statement, while 18.5% do not know whether the platform signed by the Albanian parties is foreign interference in domestic affairs and jeopardizes the sovereignty of the country.

PLATFORM SIGNED BY ETHNIC ALBANIAN PARTIES



The platform signed by the leaders of ethnic Albanian parties is foreign Interference in the domestic affairs of the country and jeopardizes the sovereignty of Macedonia.



Ethnic Albanians do not see the platform as foreign interference in domestic affairs or jeopardizing sovereignty

NOTE

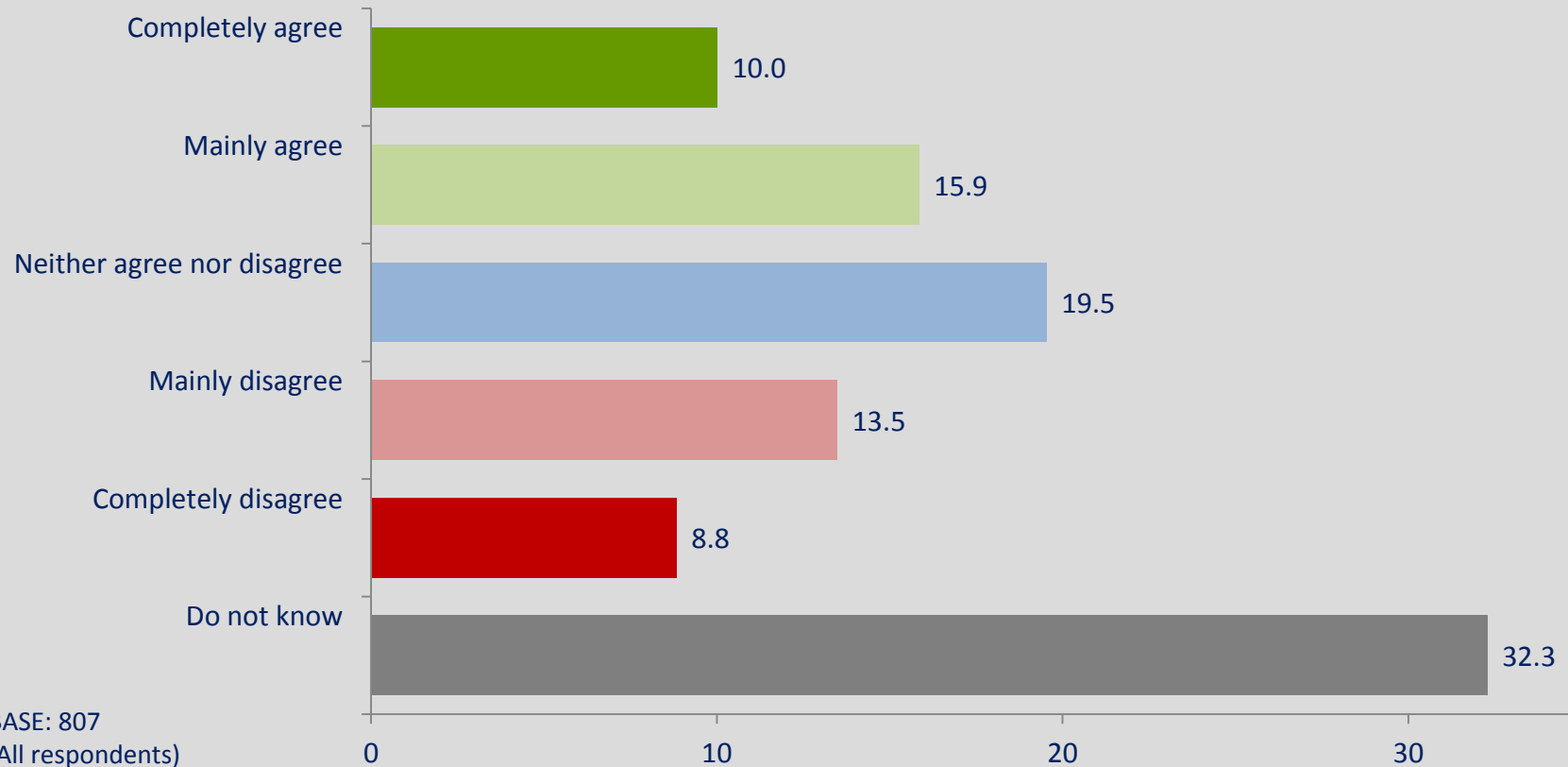
- ✓ 46% of ethnic Macedonian respondents believe that the platform signed by the Albanian parties is foreign interference in domestic affairs and jeopardizes the sovereignty of the country.
- ✓ No ethnic Albanian shares this opinion.

PLATFORM SIGNED BY ETHNIC ALBANIAN PARTIES



The platform signed by the leaders of ethnic Albanian parties in Macedonia is in the spirit of the Ohrid Framework Agreement calling for equal opportunities for ethnic Albanians.

Every fourth citizen believes that the platform is in the spirit of the Ohrid Framework Agreement



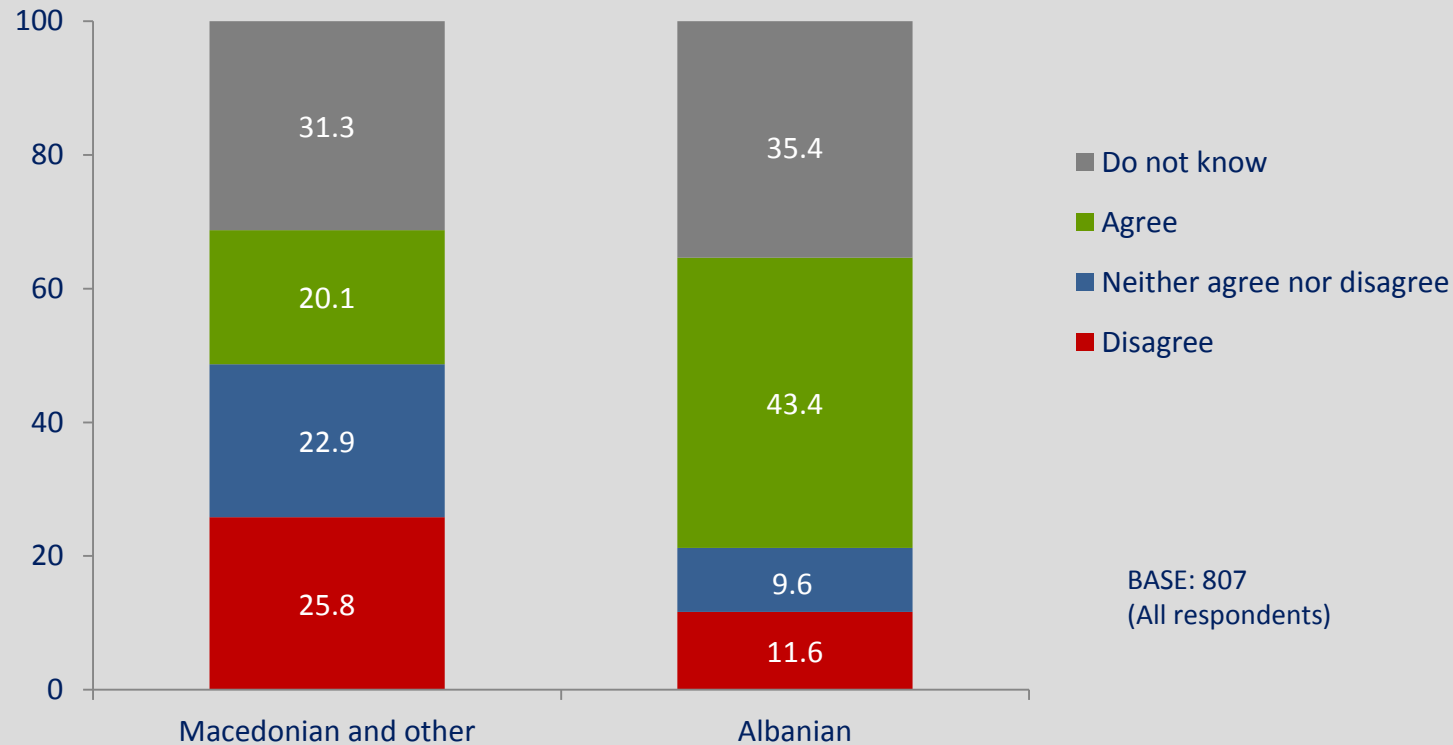
NOTE

- ✓ While one-quarter of citizens believe that the platform is in the spirit of the Ohrid Framework agreement calling for equal opportunities for ethnic Albanians, 22.3% of the citizens do not share this opinion.
- ✓ Every fifth citizen in the country neither agrees nor disagrees with the statement, while every third citizen in Macedonia does not know whether the platform is in the spirit of the Ohrid Framework agreement calling for equal opportunities for ethnic Albanians.

PLATFORM SIGNED BY ETHNIC ALBANIAN PARTIES



The platform signed by the leaders of ethnic Albanian parties from Macedonia is in the spirit of the Ohrid Framework Agreement calling for equal opportunities for ethnic Albanians?



Mixed views between and within ethnic groups on conformity of the platform to the Ohrid Framework Agreement

NOTE

- ✓ While 43% of the ethnic Albanian believe that the platform is in the spirit of the Ohrid Framework agreement calling for equal opportunities for ethnic Albanians, 20% of the ethnic Macedonians share this opinion.

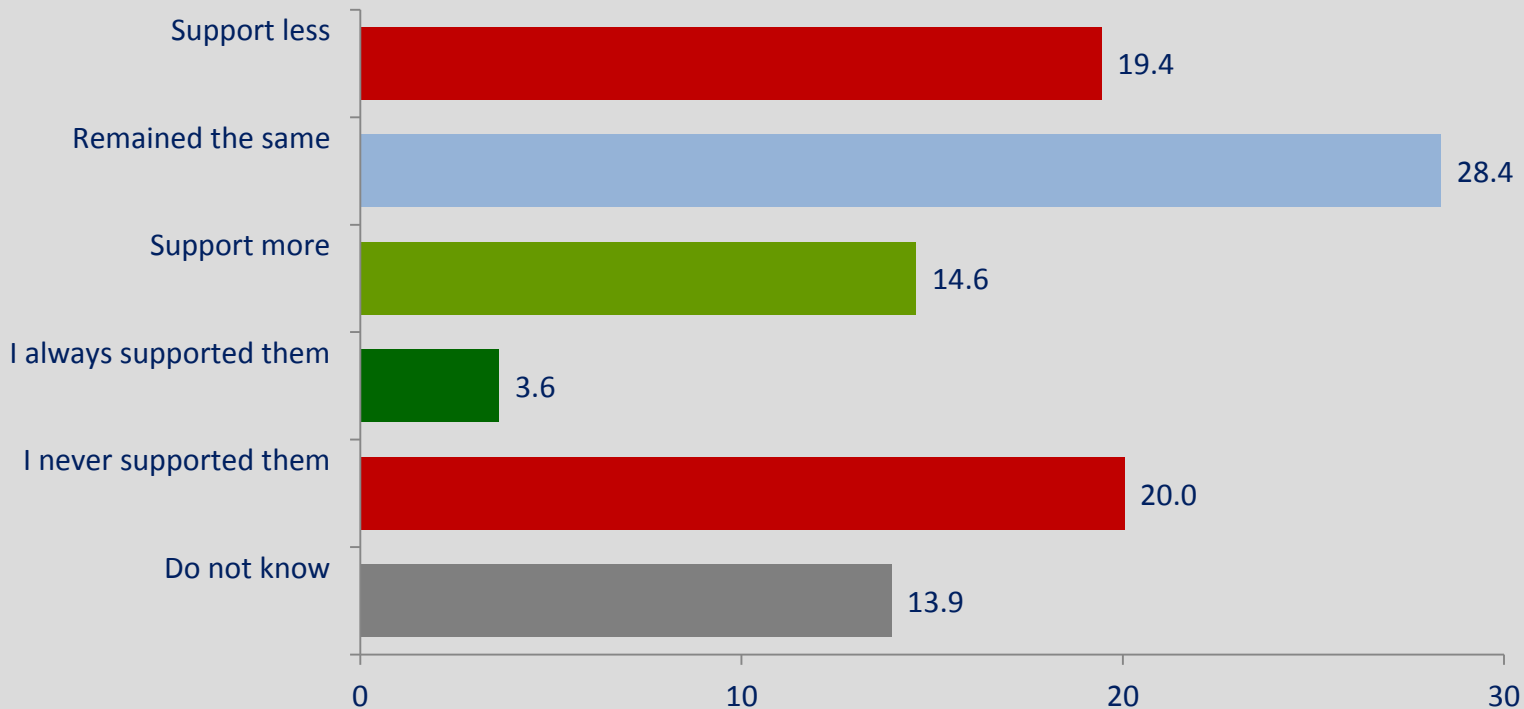
CHANGES IN SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

CHANGES IN SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES



For 28% of respondents, the level of support for VMRO-DPMNE remained the same.

Did post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders change your support for: VMRO-DPMNE?



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

NOTE

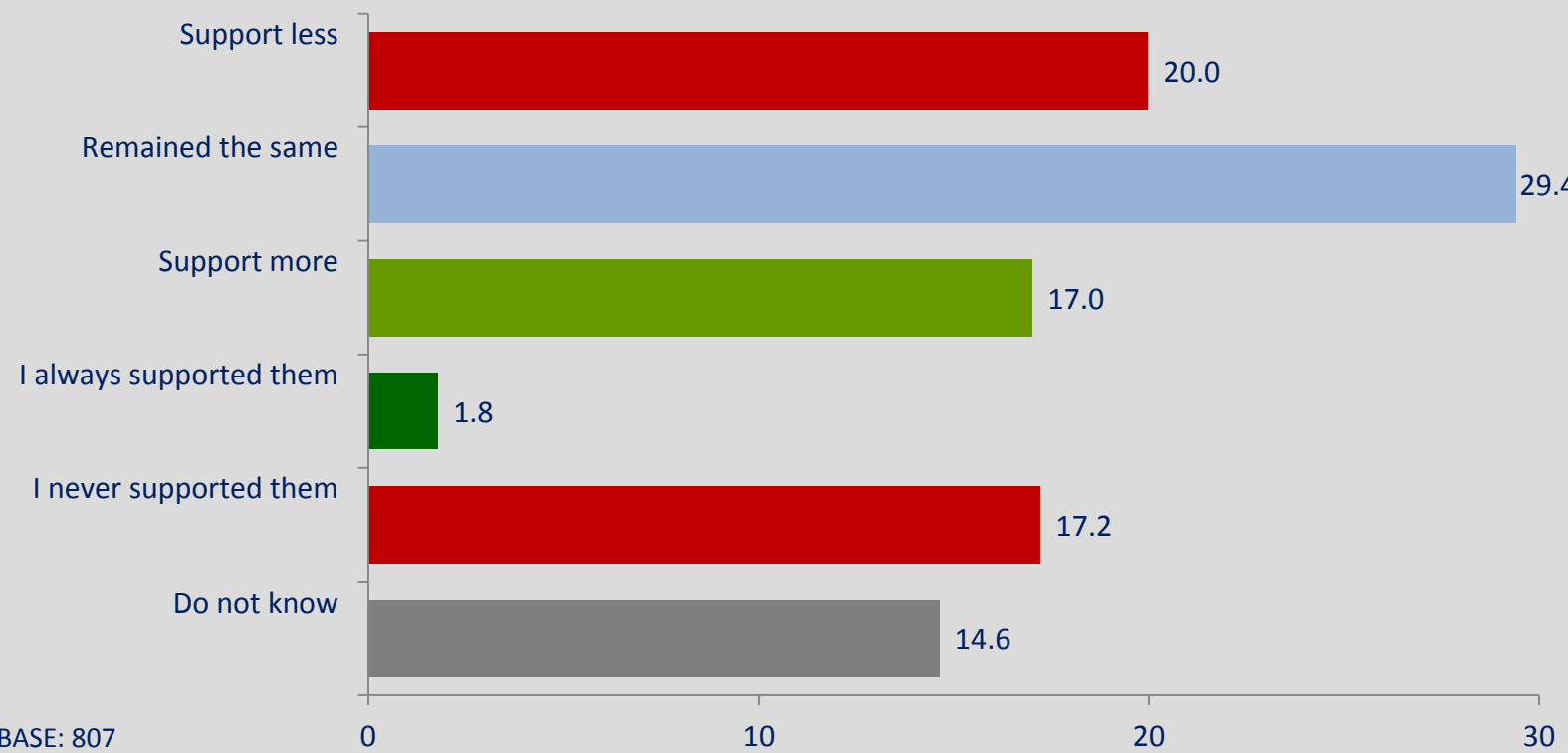
- ✓ 19.4% of the citizens of Macedonia support VMRO-DPMNE less after the post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders, while 14.6% support VMRO-DPMNE more.
- ✓ More than one third of ethnic Albanians decreased their support for VMRO-DPMNE after the elections, while 15% of the ethnic Macedonian did the same.
- ✓ 19% of ethnic Macedonians increased their support for VMRO-DPMNE after the post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders

CHANGES IN SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES



One-fifth of citizens support SDSM less after the post election developments

Did post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders change your support for SDSM?



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

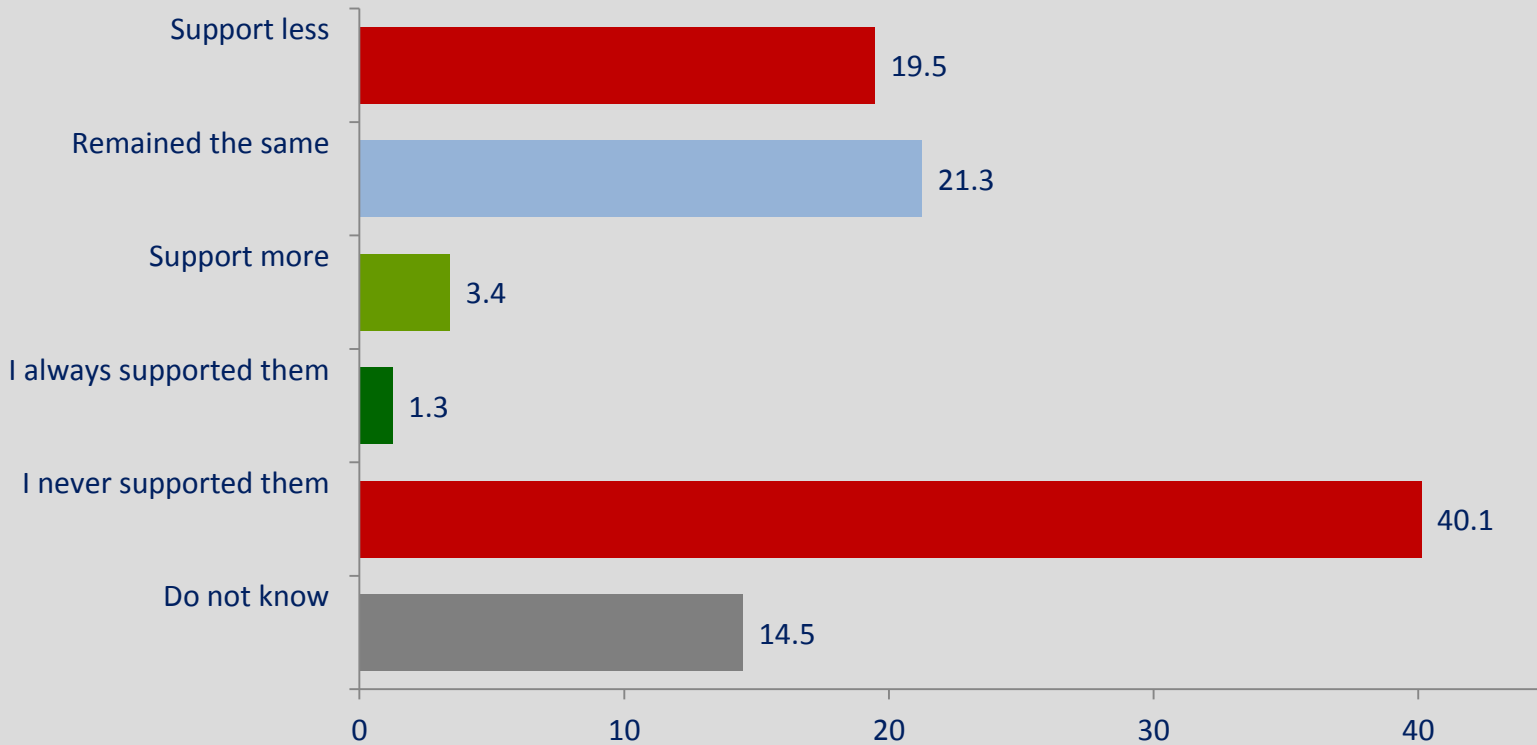
NOTE

- ✓ Support for SDSM remained the same for 29% of the citizens, while 17% support SDSM more after the post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders.
- ✓ While 37% of ethnic Albanians support SDSM more after the post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders, 10% of ethnic Macedonians and others increased their support for SDSM.
- ✓ Every fourth ethnic Macedonian supports SDSM less after the post election developments.

CHANGES IN SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES



*Did post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders change your support for:
DUI?*



BASE: 807
(All respondents)

Almost one-fifth
of citizens support
DUI less
after the post
election
developments

NOTE

- ✓ The support for DUI remained the same for 21% of the citizens, while 3,4% support DUI more after the post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders.
- ✓ While 13% of ethnic Albanians support DUI more after the post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders, no ethnic Macedonian increased their support for DUI
- ✓ Nevertheless, 29% of ethnic Albanians decreased their support for DUI after the post election developments

CHANGES IN SUPPORT FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES

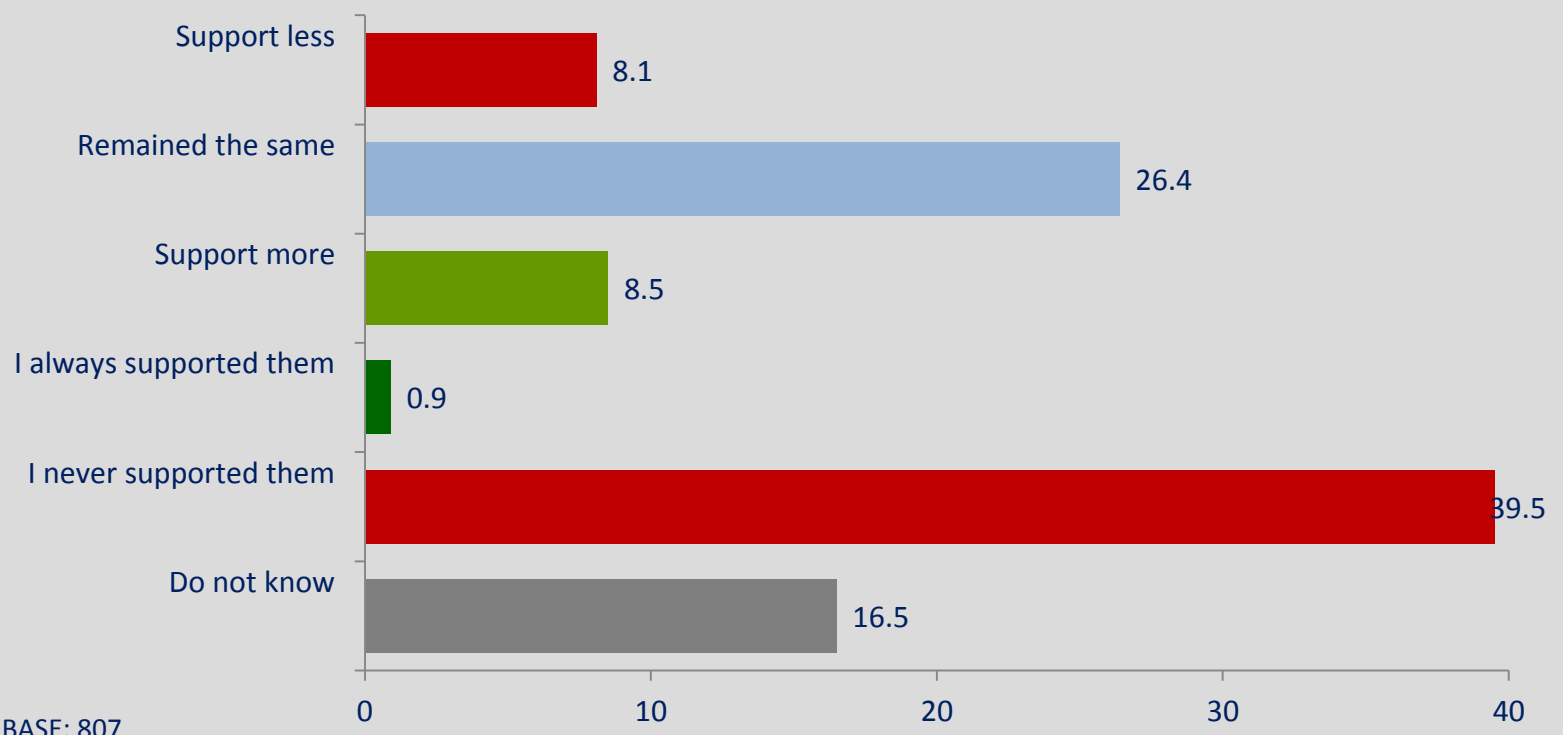


8% of citizens support BESA more after the post election developments

NOTE

- ✓ 8% of the citizens of Macedonia support BESA less after the post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders.
- ✓ The support for BESA remained the same for 26% of the citizens, while 8% support BESA more after the post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders.

Did post election developments and the messages sent by the political leaders change your support for: BESA?



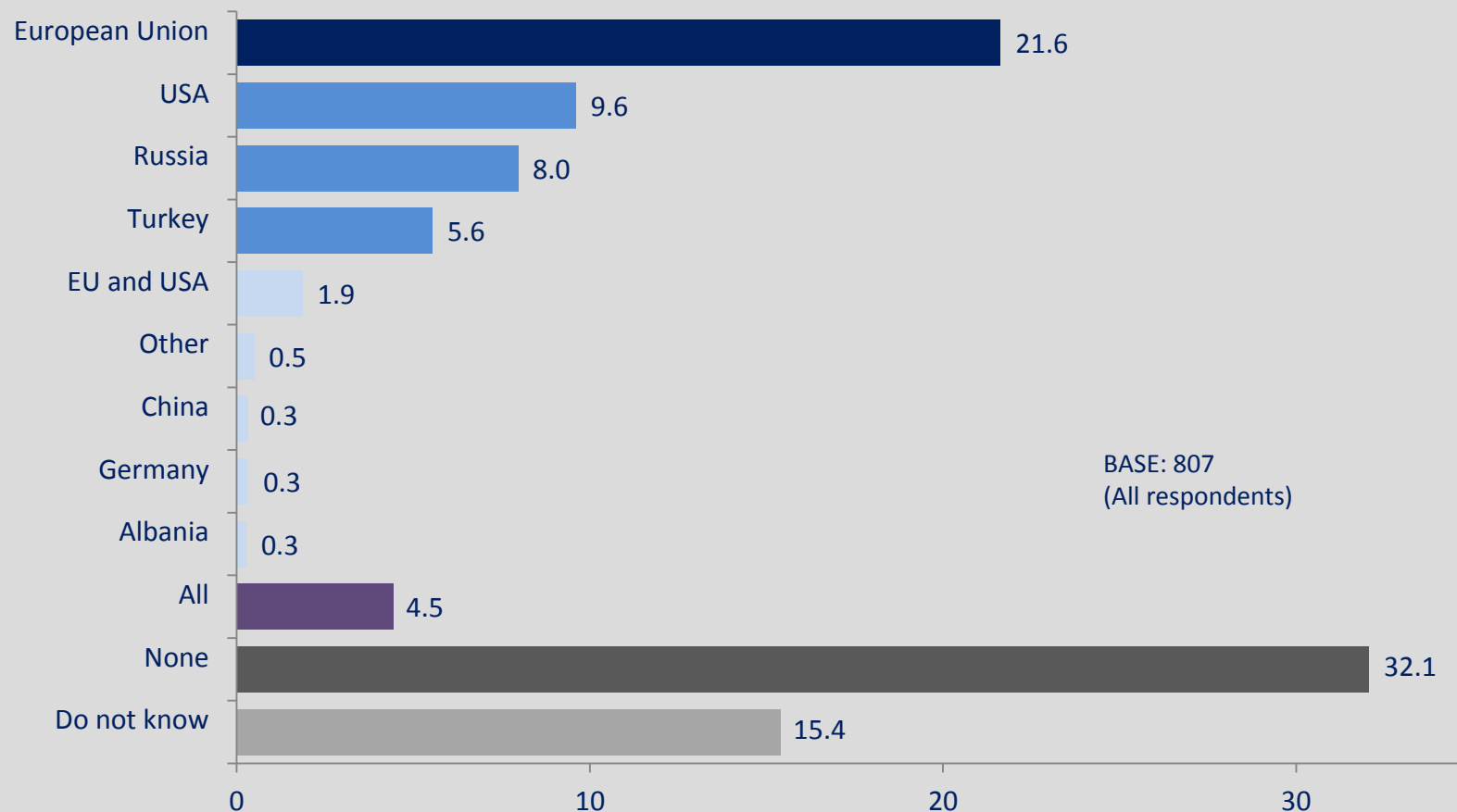
BASE: 807
(All respondents)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



According to you, which one of the following helps Macedonia's national interests the most?



EU helps Macedonia's national interest the most

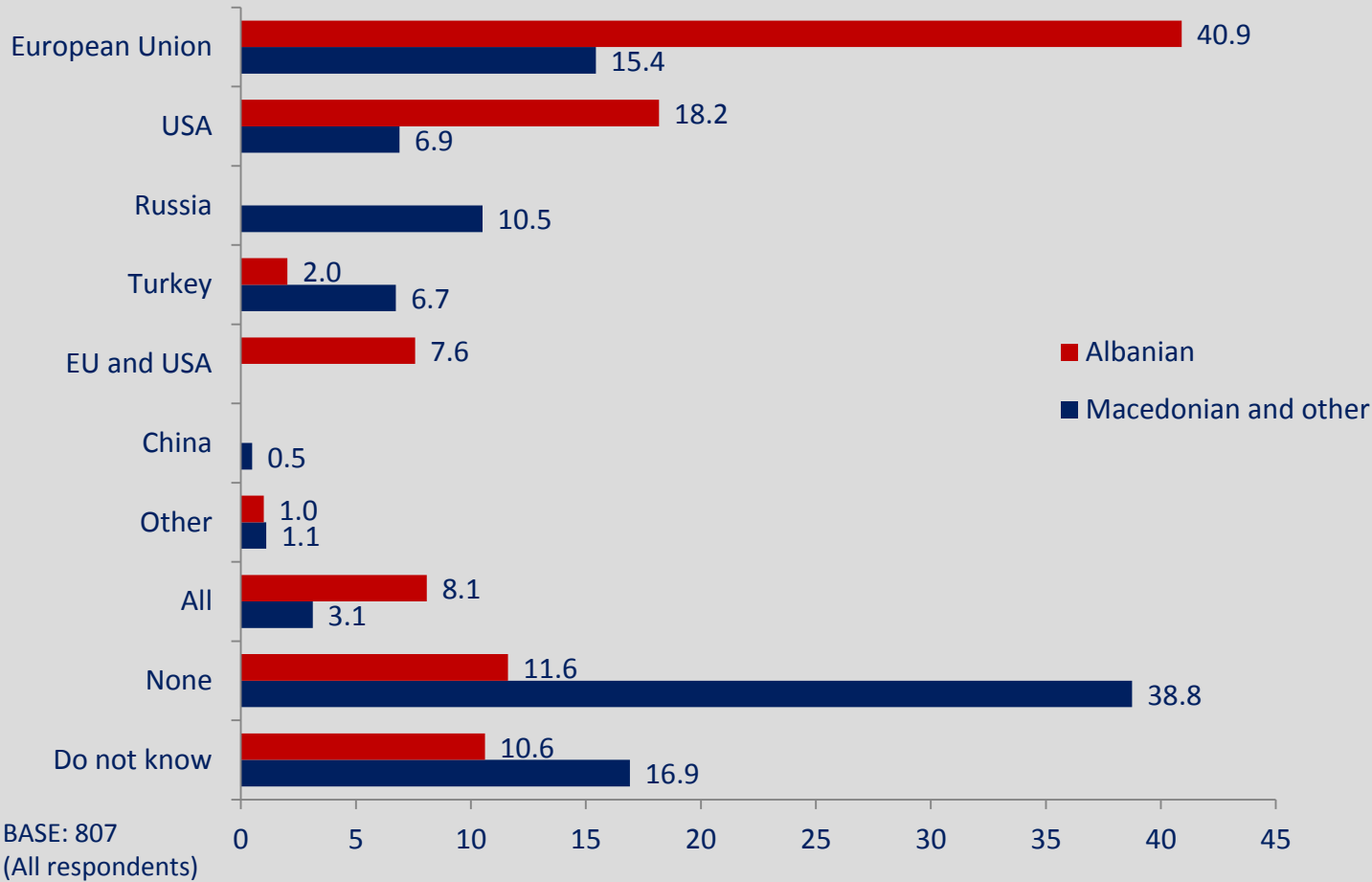
NOTE

- ✓ Around one-fifth of interviewed citizens believe that the European Union helps Macedonia's national interests the most.
- ✓ Every tenth citizen in the country believes that USA helps Macedonia's national interests the most.
- ✓ 32.1% of the citizens think that no one is helping Macedonia's national interests.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



According to you, which one of the following helps Macedonia's national interests the most?



Almost 40% of ethnic Macedonians think that no one helps Macedonia's national interests

NOTE

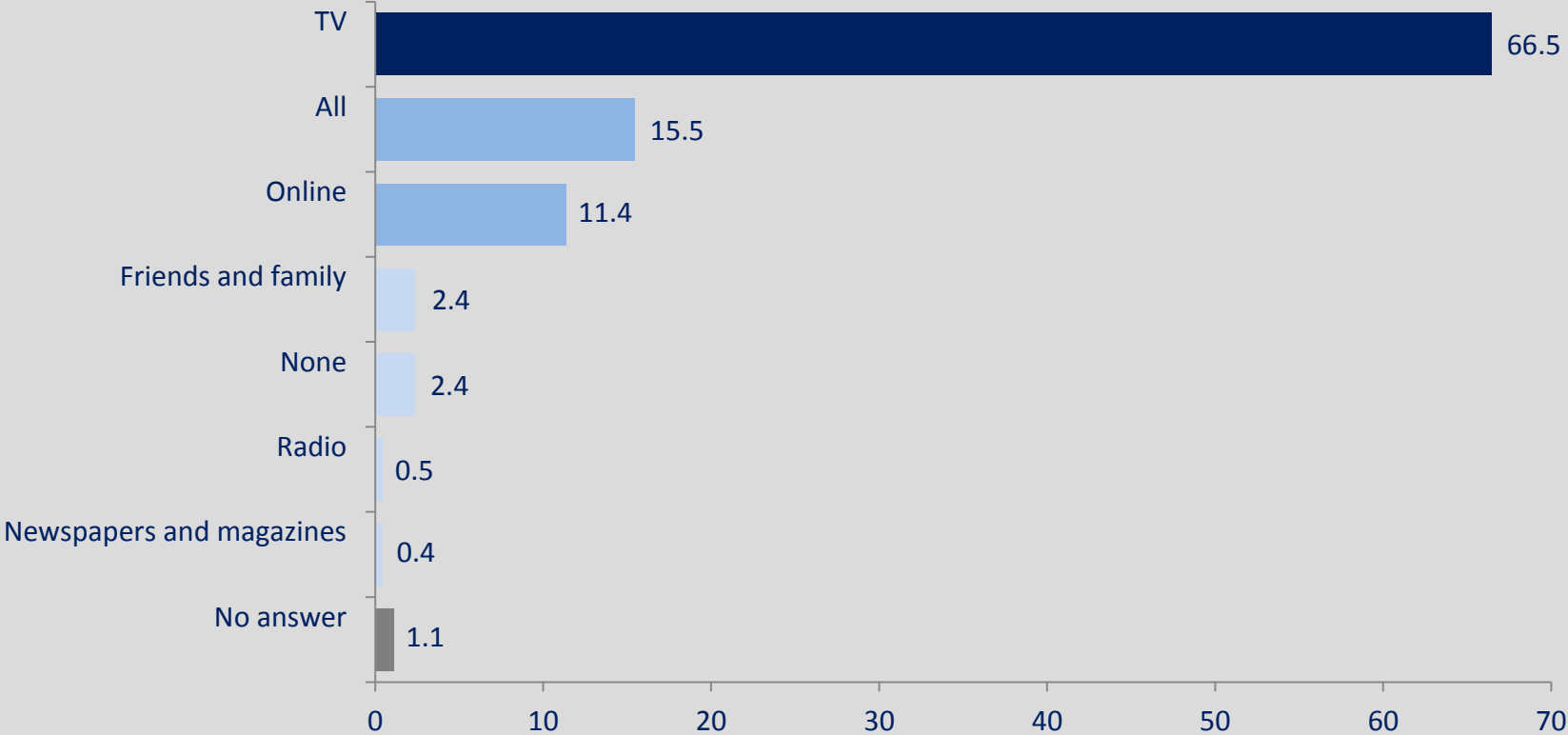
- ✓ 41% of ethnic Albanians believe that EU helps Macedonia's national interests, while 15.4% of the ethnic Macedonians and other ethnic groups share their opinion
- ✓ 38.8% of ethnic Macedonians and other ethnic groups believe that no one is helping Macedonia's national interests, while 11.6% of ethnic Albanians share their opinion.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

SOURCES OF INFORMATION



What is your source for political news?



TV is the main source for political news

NOTE

- ✓ TV is the main source for political news
- ✓ 15.5% of the citizens use all media as sources for political news

BASE: 807
(All respondents)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION



Please indicate which specific TV/radio/newspaper/web page you get your news from?

	%
Sitel	14.4
Kanal 5	13.7
Alsat-M	12.8
TV 24	11.9
Facebook/ social media	11.9
Telma	9.4
All TV channels	8.7
TV 21	4.9
None, not interested	3.2
MTV	2.5
www.time.mk	1.4
Nova TV	1.2
Alfa	0.6

Sitel is the most watched TV station for political news

NOTE

- ✓ Sitel, Kanal 5 and Alsat-M are the three most frequently mentioned TV channels for political news.

BASE: 807
(All respondents)