

Youth, Democracy, and Politics: Slovakia

Survey results
NDI Youth Research Project

March 2018

In cooperation with the Institute for Public Affairs

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



SAMPLE DESIGN

The sample is statistically representative of the Slovak population aged 16-29 in terms of gender, education level, and region.



TIME FRAME

December 1-10, 2017

As polling was conducted prior to the protests that engulfed Slovakia in early 2018, results are likely to have changed.



SAMPLE SIZE

- 508 respondents
- **Age: 16-29**
- Margin of error: $\pm 4\%$



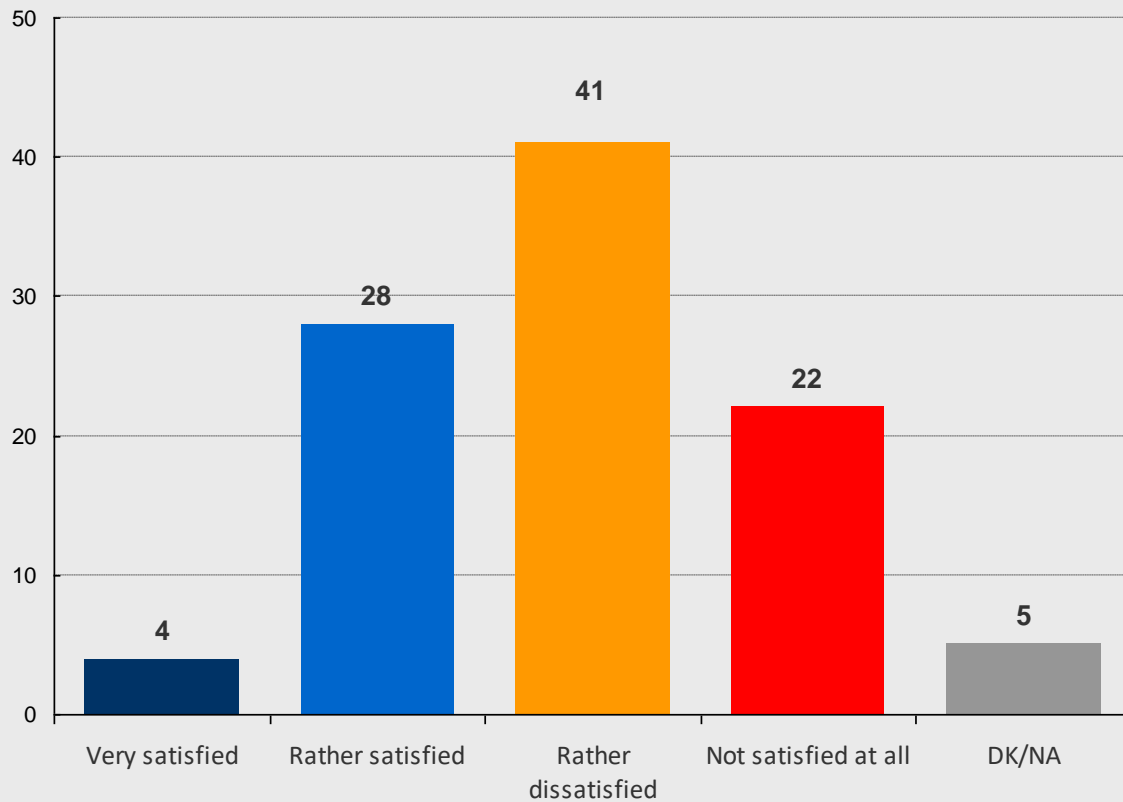
TYPE OF SURVEY

Face-to-face interview (CAPI)

ATTITUDES TOWARDS POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

6-in-10 are dissatisfied with the current political situation.

Are you satisfied with the current political situation in Slovakia?

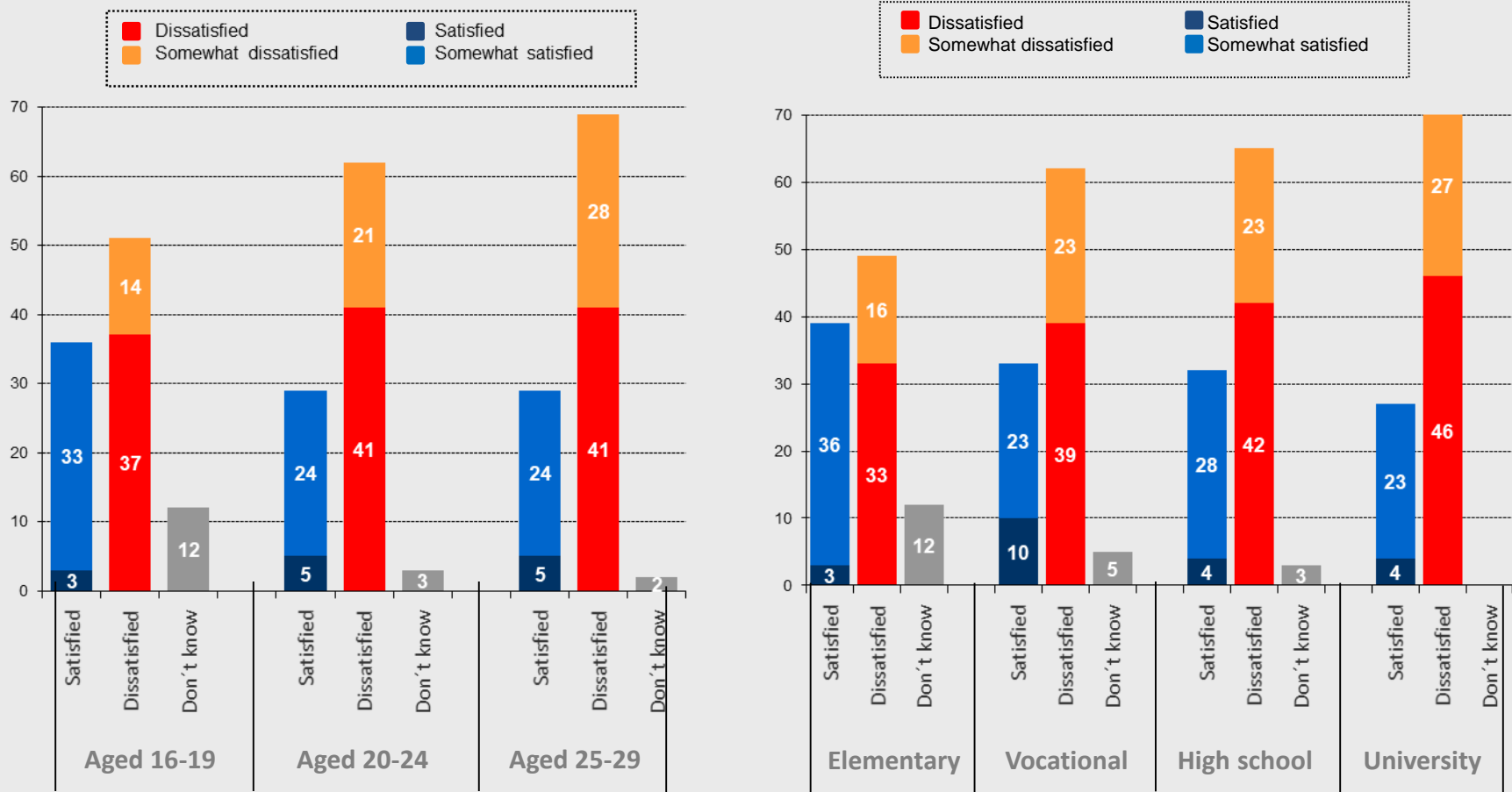


NOTE

- ✓ Older respondents with more education are most dissatisfied political life
- ✓ Only one third is satisfied

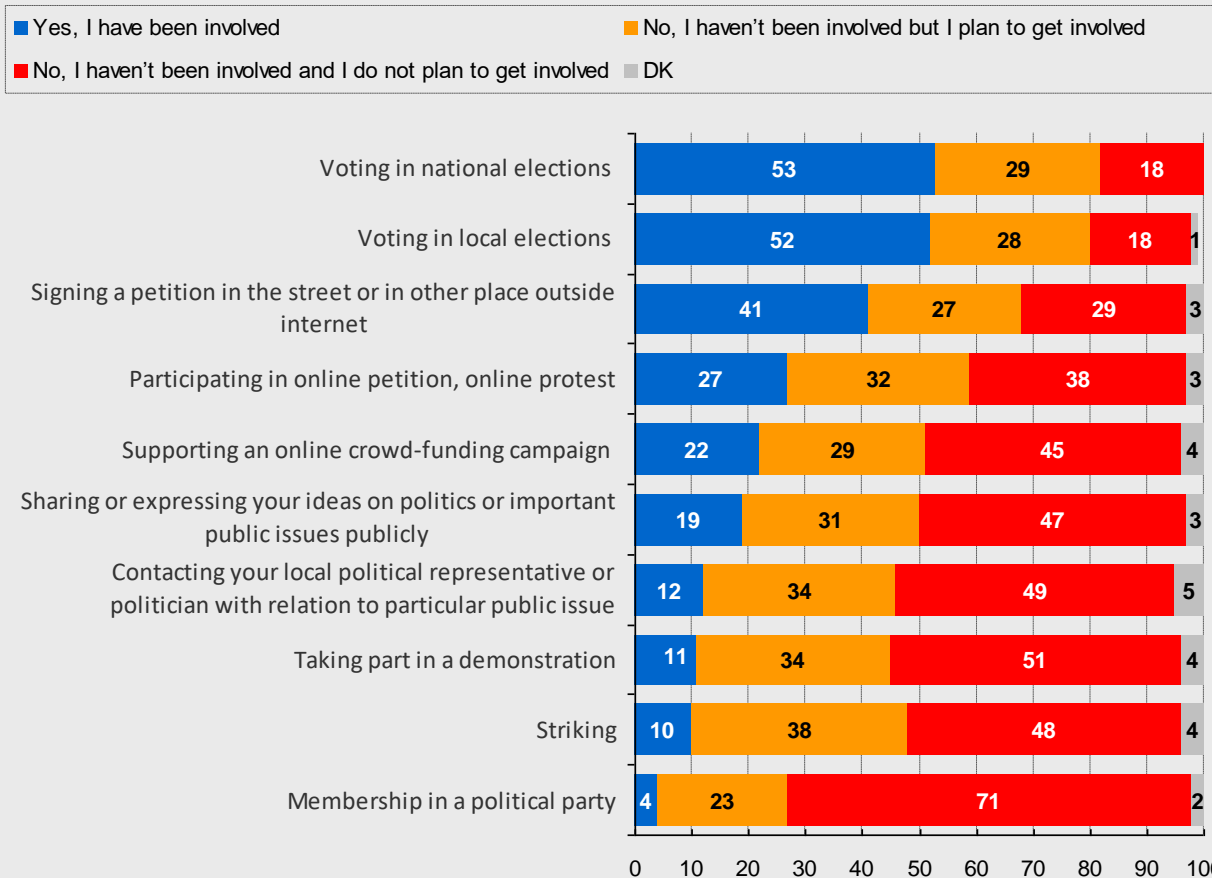
25-29 year olds and those with university education are the most dissatisfied.

Are you satisfied with the current political situation in Slovakia?



Most common forms of political engagement are voting and signing a petition offline.

Have you been involved in the following ways in which citizens can engage in public life? If not, are you willing to get involved?



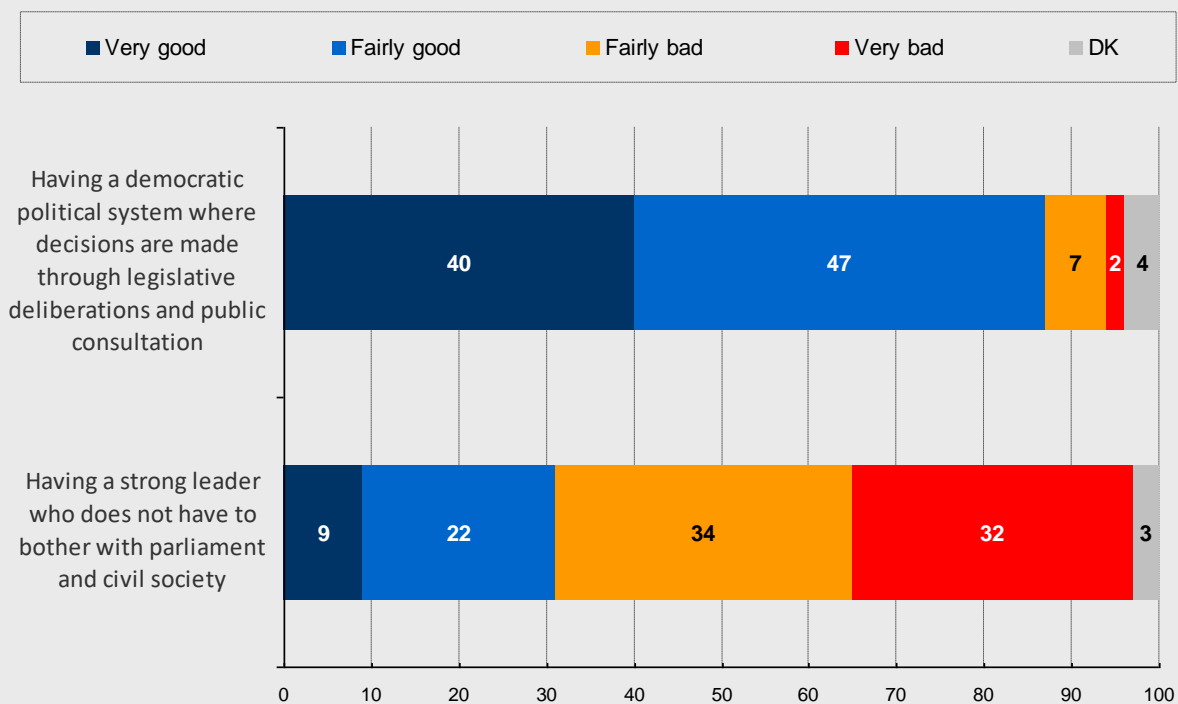
NOTE

✓ Political party membership is least common form of engagement.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL VALUES

Nearly 9-in-10 prefer a democratic governing system. One third would be open to undemocratic forms of government.

I am going to describe two types of political systems and ask what you think about each as a way of governing Slovakia. Would you say each is...?

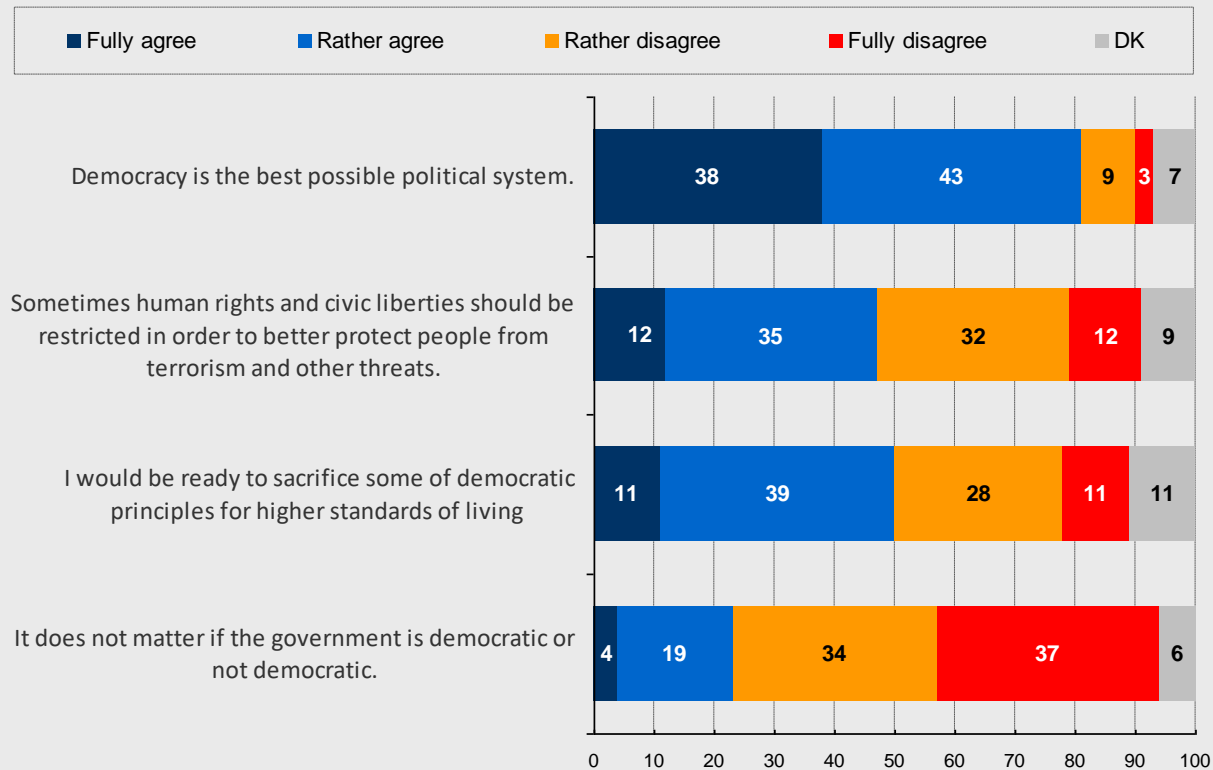


NOTE

✓ Those who support L'SNS are more likely to be in favor of a strong leader (49% of L'SNS supporters, as opposed to one third of all youth surveyed).

A decisive majority believes that democracy is the best possible political system, but a lesser majority would forsake democratic principles for security.

Please consider the following statements about democracy and political regimes in general. For each, do you...?

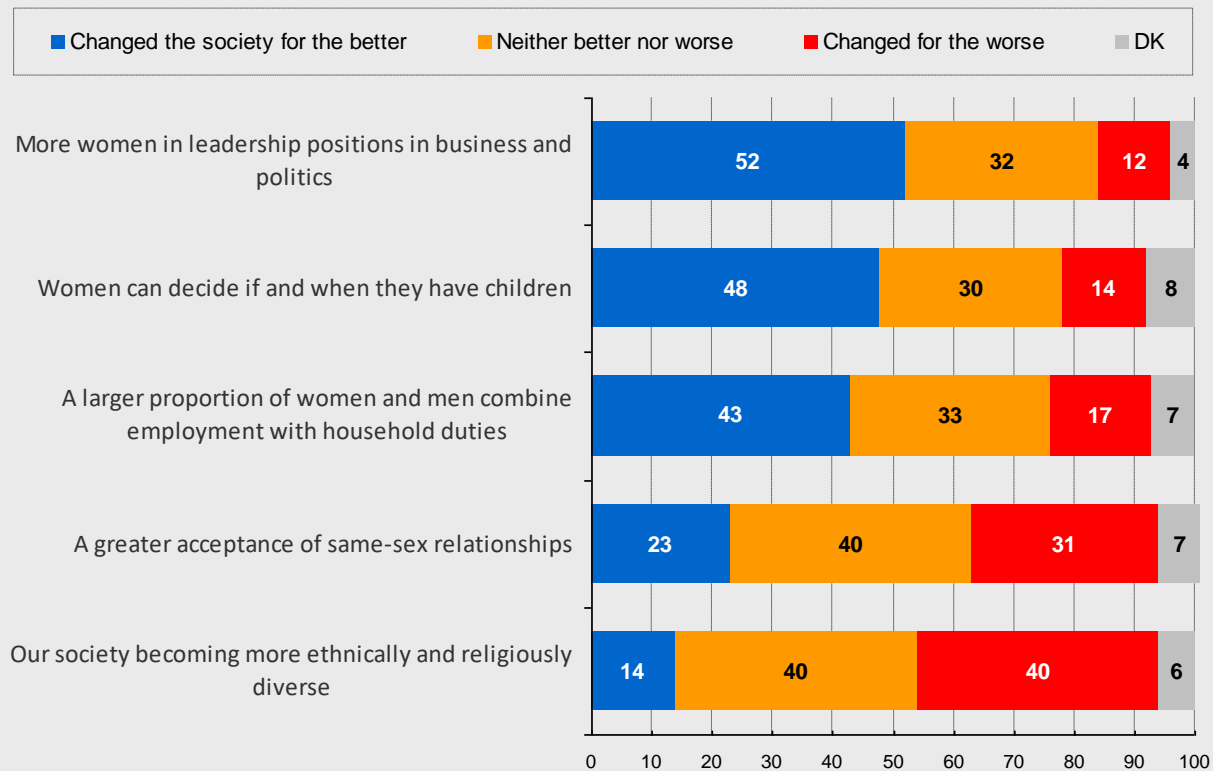


NOTE

- ✓ 50% would sacrifice some democratic principles for a higher standard of living
- ✓ 47% would for increased security

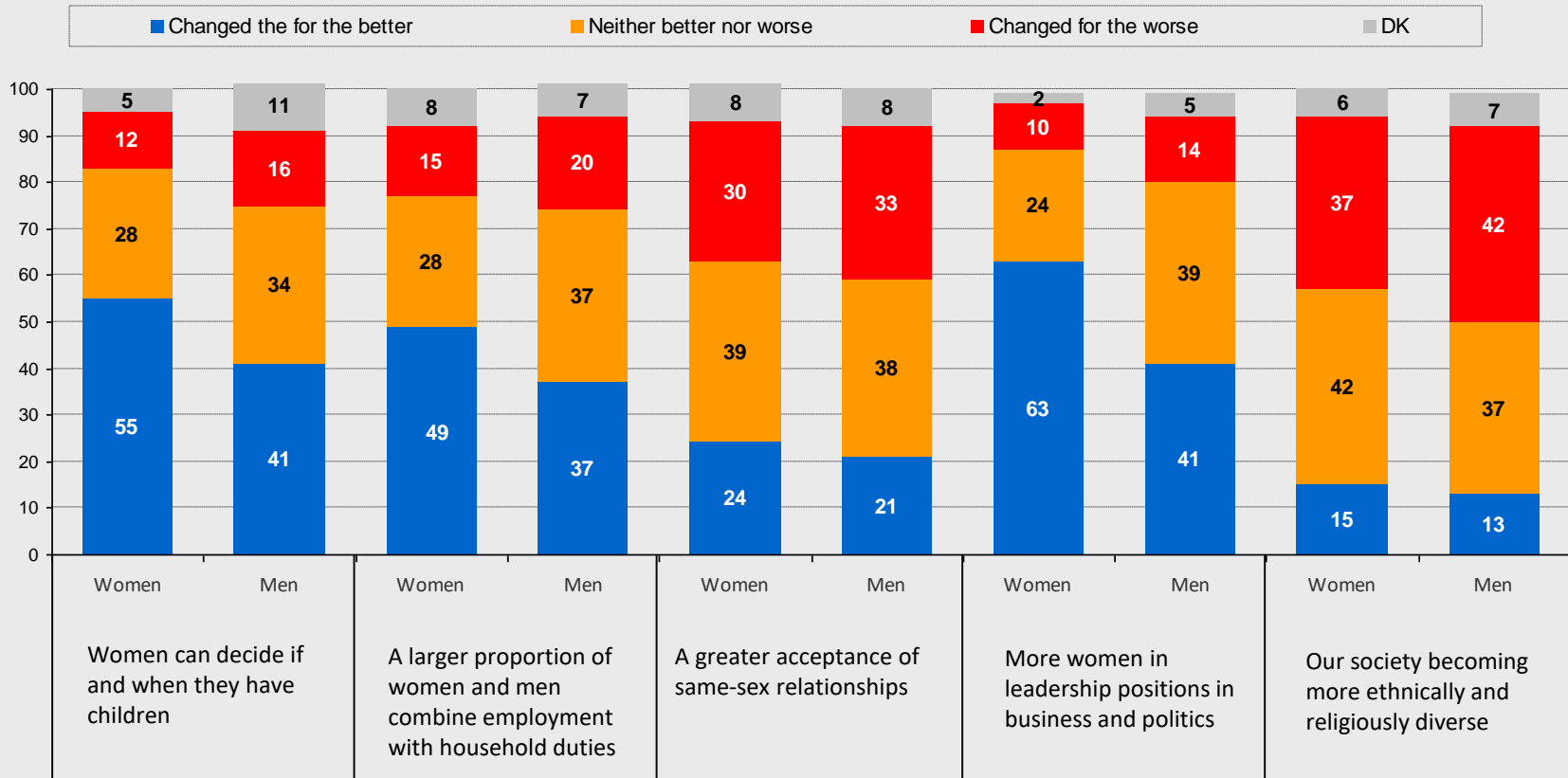
Increasing ethnic and religious diversity perceived as the most negative changes in European societies. Issues related to gender equality are the most positive changes.

Below are some ways that many Europeans societies have changed over recent decades. In each case, please say whether you think this has changed society for the better, or for the worse?



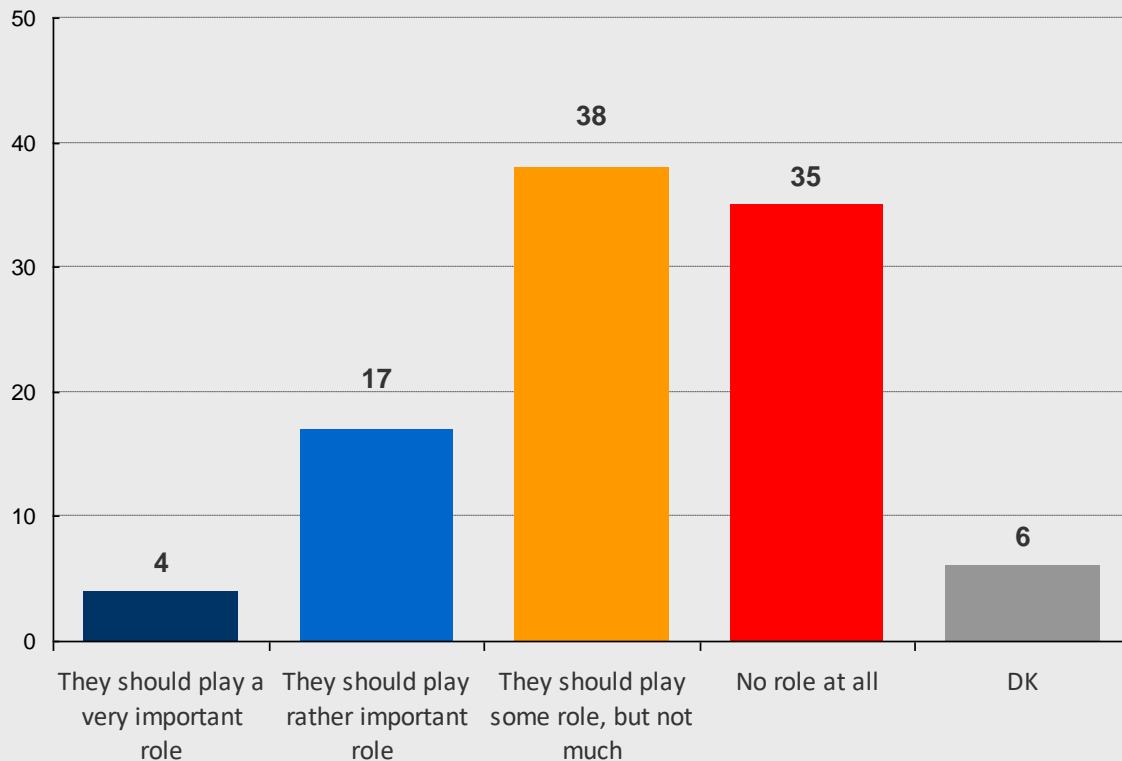
Young men are more ambivalent about societal changes related to gender equality as compared to young women.

Below are some ways that many Europeans societies have changed over recent decades. In each case, please say whether you think this has changed society for the better, or for the worse?



A plurality believes religious values should play a limited role in politics.

In your opinion, how much of a role should religious values, as expressed by churches, play in politics and public affairs?

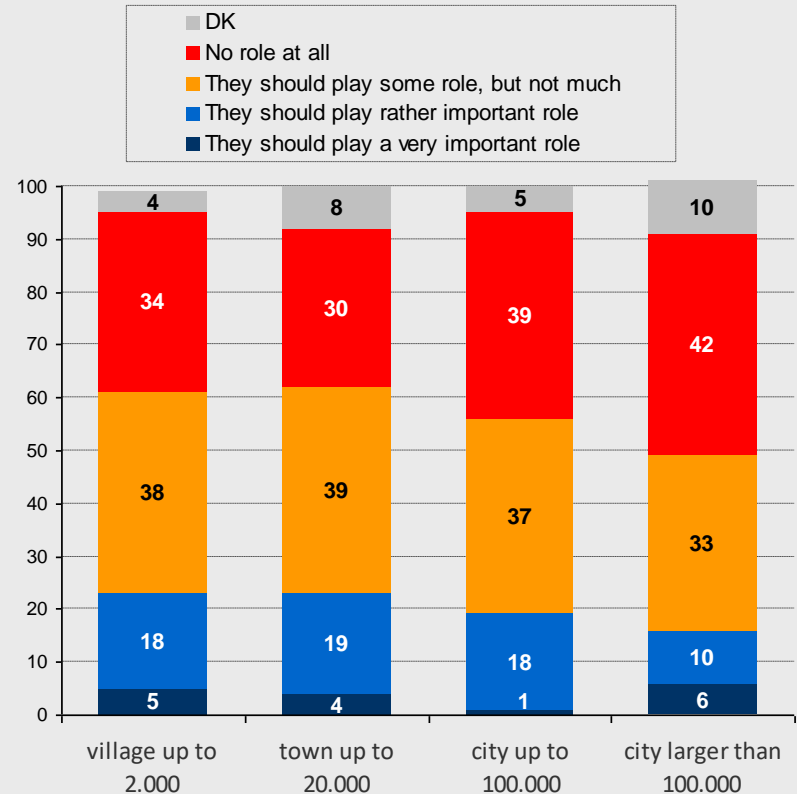
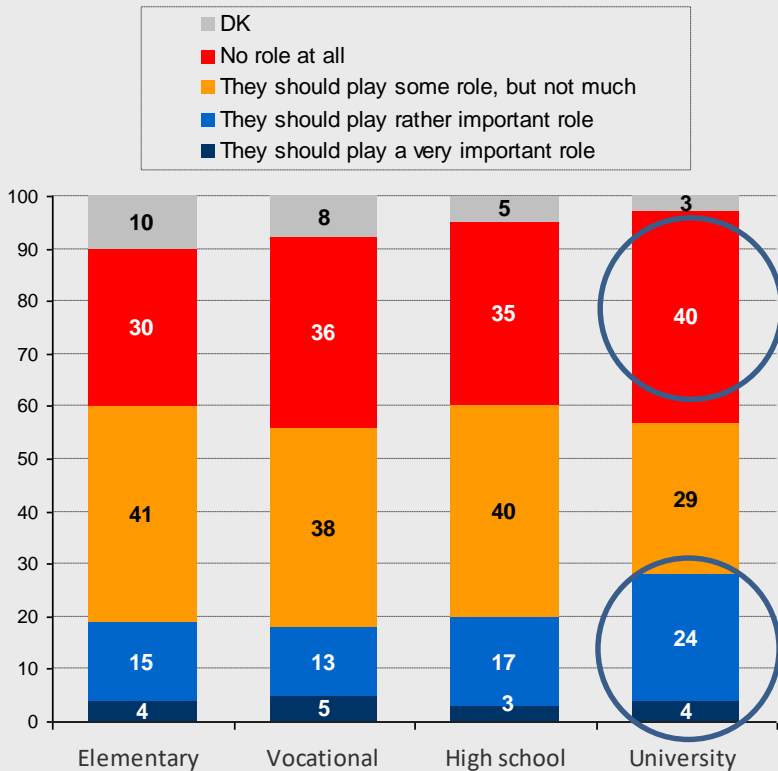


NOTE

- ✓ More than one third said religious values should play no role in politics and public affairs

Those with university education are most pronounced in their opinions about the role of religion in public life. Urban-rural divides are not wide.

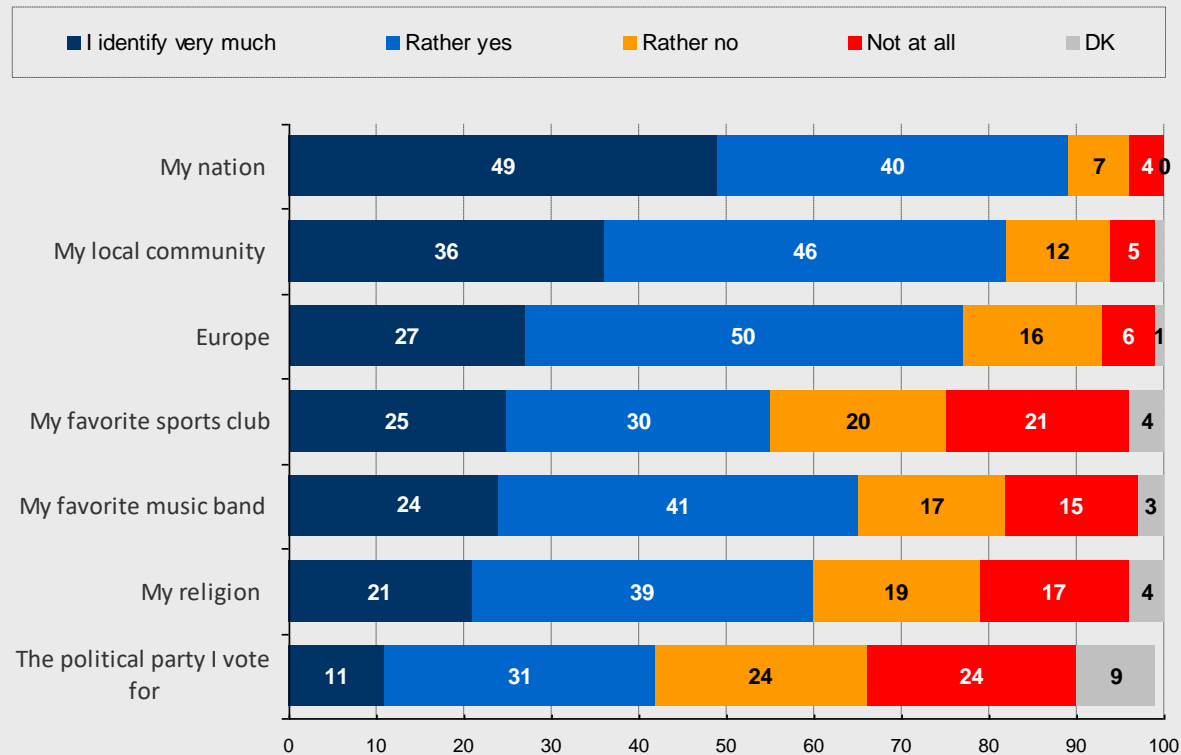
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IDENTITY

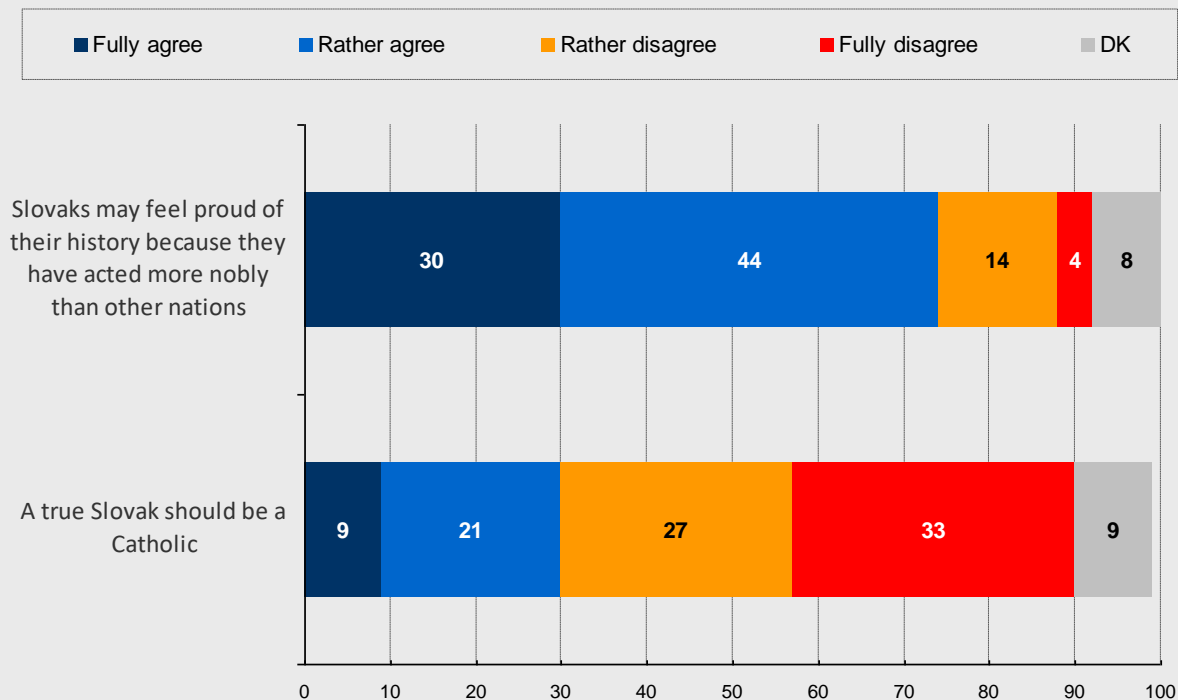
Nearly 9-in-10 young Slovaks identify with their nation. Around 8-in-10 identify with their local community, and slightly fewer identify with Europe.

To what extent do you identify yourself with the following entities?



Young people are proud of Slovak history. They do not see a connection between nationality and being Catholic.

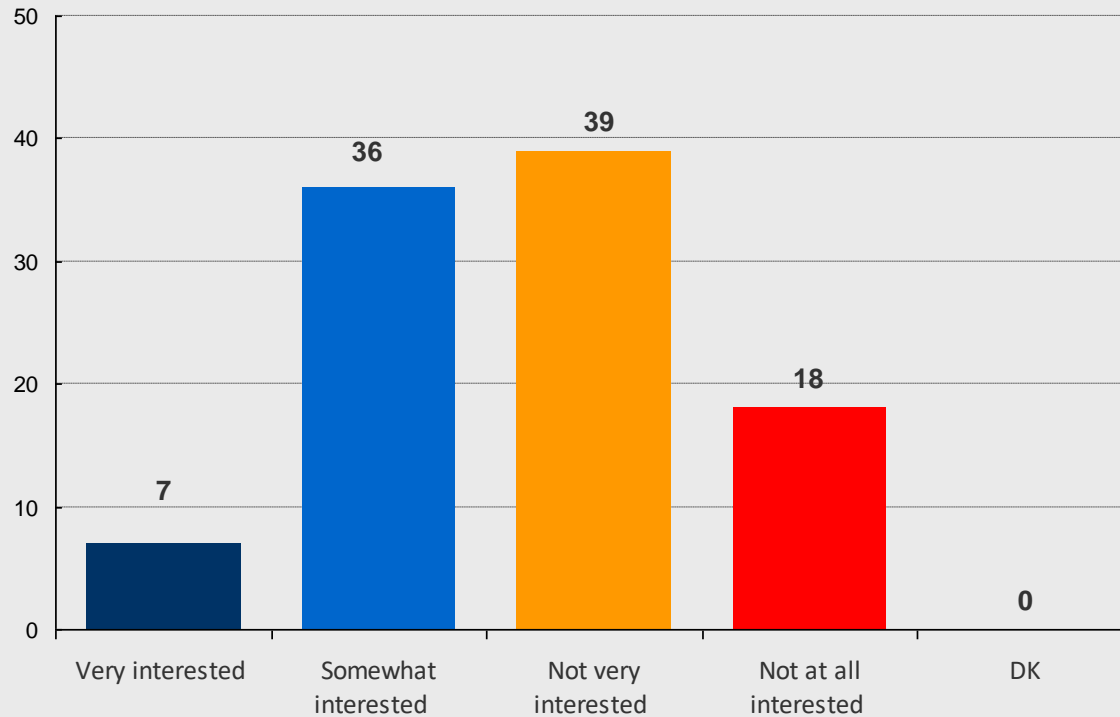
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?



MEDIA CONSUMPTION AND TOP CONCERNS

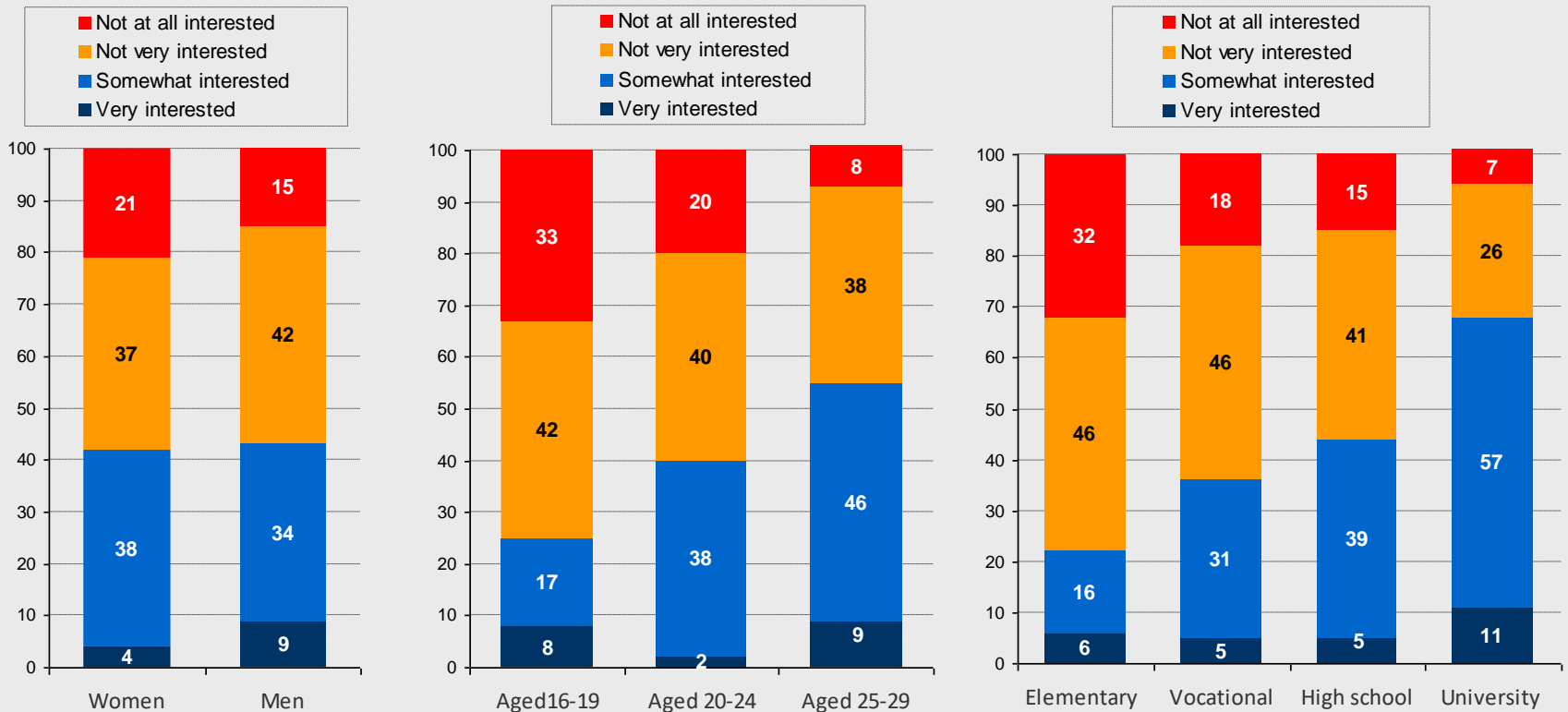
A majority are not interested in politics.

How interested would you say you are interested in politics and public affairs?



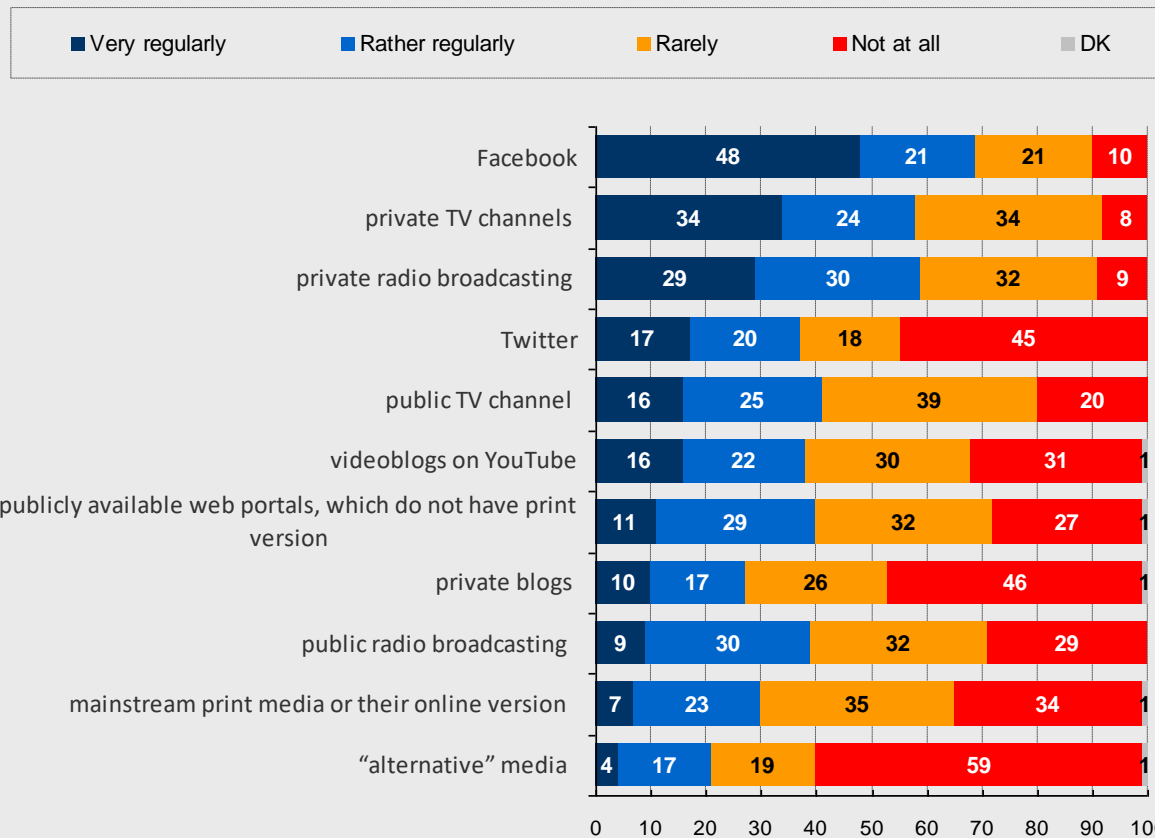
Interest in politics increases with age and education, but the gender divide is minimal.

How interested would you say you are interested in politics and public affairs?



Facebook is the dominant information source, followed by private television and radio broadcasting.

Which of the following sources of information about society and politics do you use (and how often)?

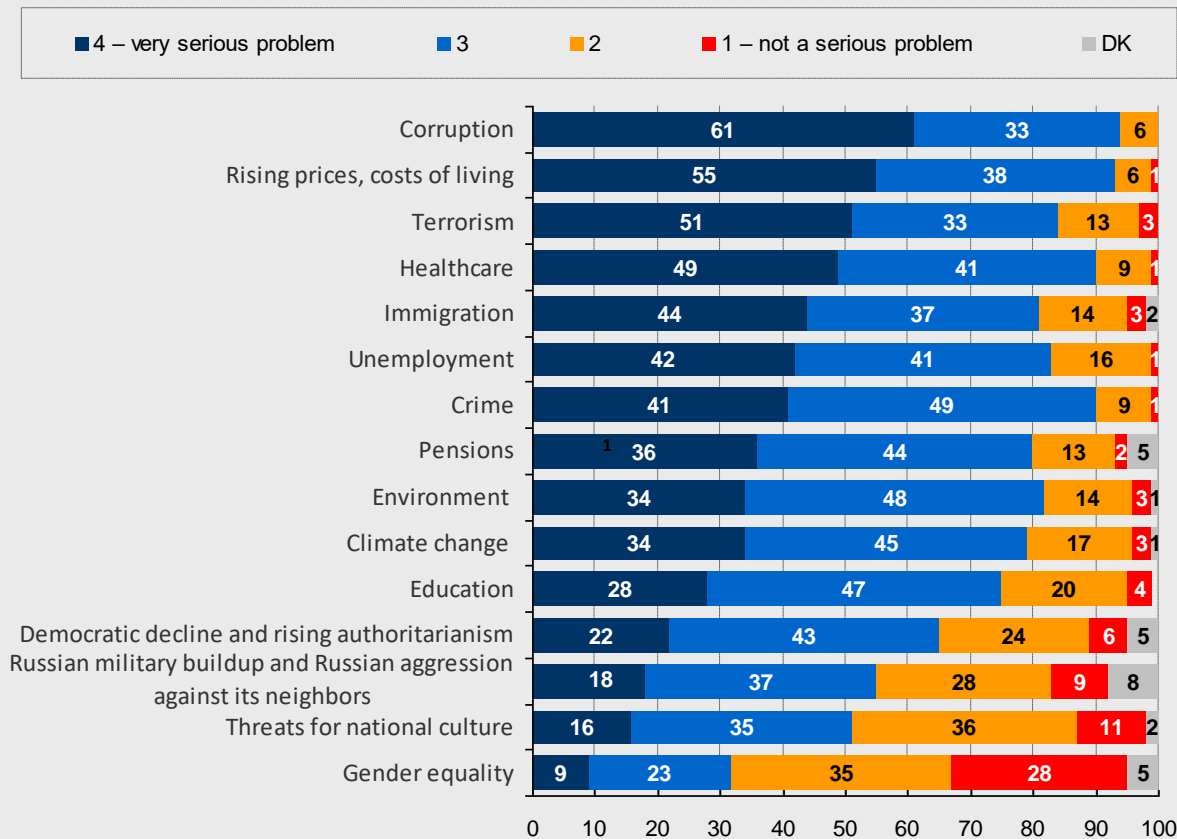


NOTE

- ✓ Private television and radio coverage is limited
- ✓ Other than Facebook, online sources are not very commonly used.

Corruption is the top concern: a prelude to protests in spring 2018.

To what extent is each of the following issues a serious problem in Slovakia?

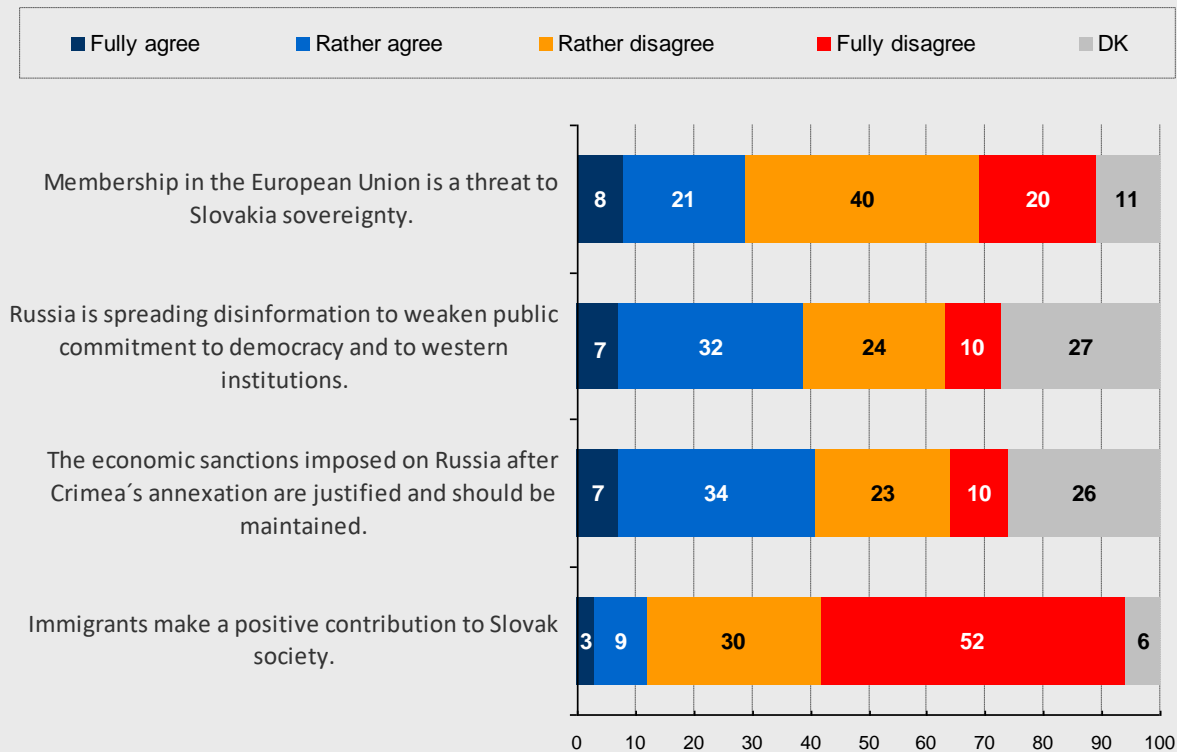


NOTE

- ✓ Those with vocational training were most concerned about rising prices and cost of living as compared.
- ✓ Perception of immigration does not differ based on education, age, or gender.

Young Slovaks offer a mixed response to Western positions on European geopolitical issues, except as concerns immigration.

Do you agree or disagree with following statements?



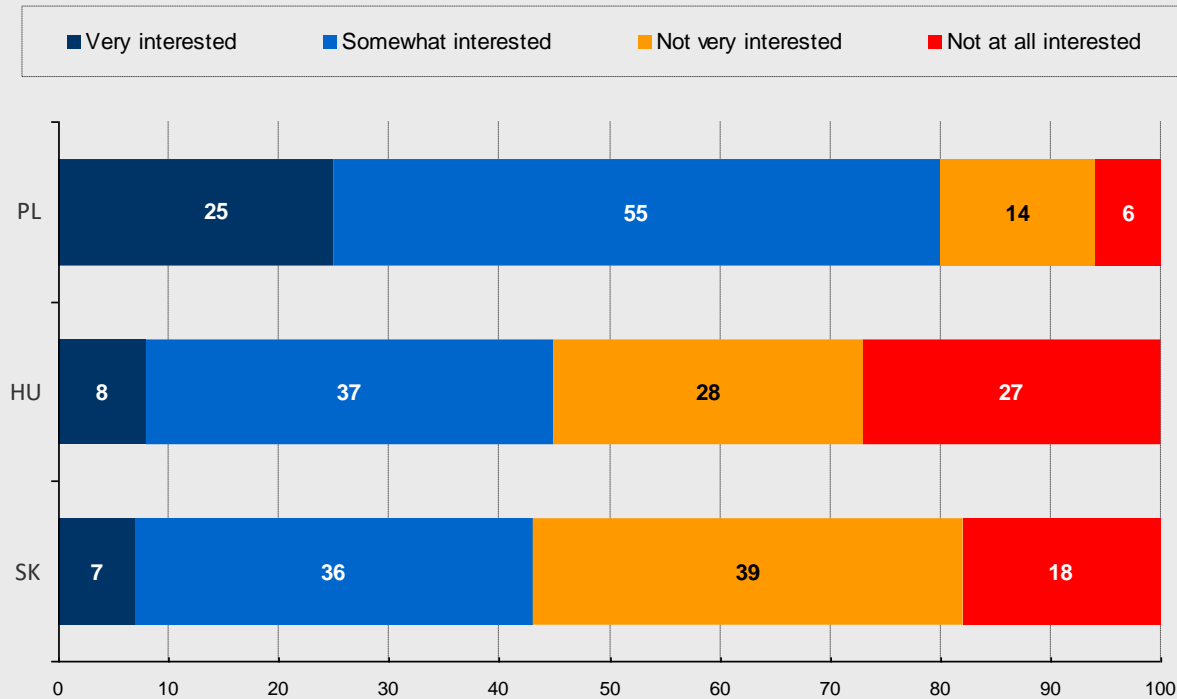
NOTE

- ✓ A majority does not see EU membership as a threat to national sovereignty.
- ✓ A quarter do not have opinions on Russian disinformation or sanctions against Russia.
- ✓ Narrow majorities believe Russia is spreading disinformation and that sanctions against Russia are justified.

HUNGARY, POLAND, AND SLOVAKIA: COMPARISON

Young Poles are by far the most interested in politics.

How interested would you say you are in politics and public affairs?

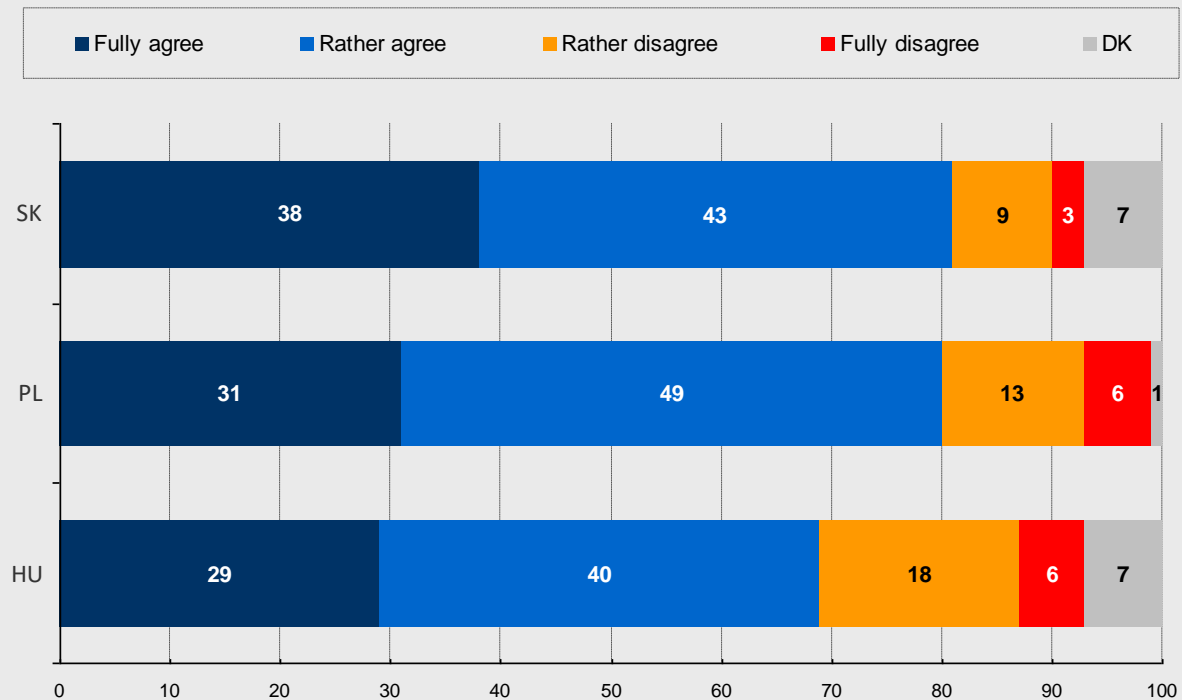


NOTE

- ✓ The relative majority of Slovak and Hungarian respondents are not very or not at all interested in politics.

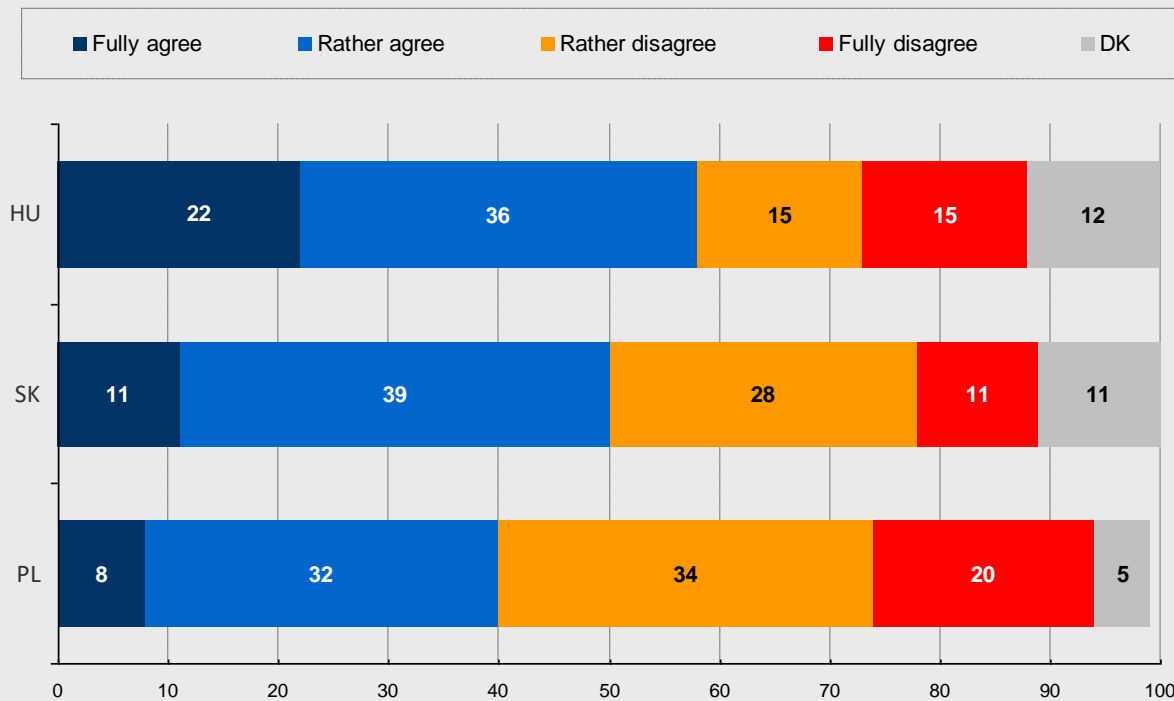
All believe democracy is the best possible political system. This belief is weakest in Hungary.

Please consider the following statements about democracy and political regimes in general: Democracy is the best possible political system



A significant group would sacrifice some democratic principles for a higher standard of living.

Please consider the following statements about democracy and political regimes in general: Sometimes human rights and civic liberties should be restricted for a higher standard of living

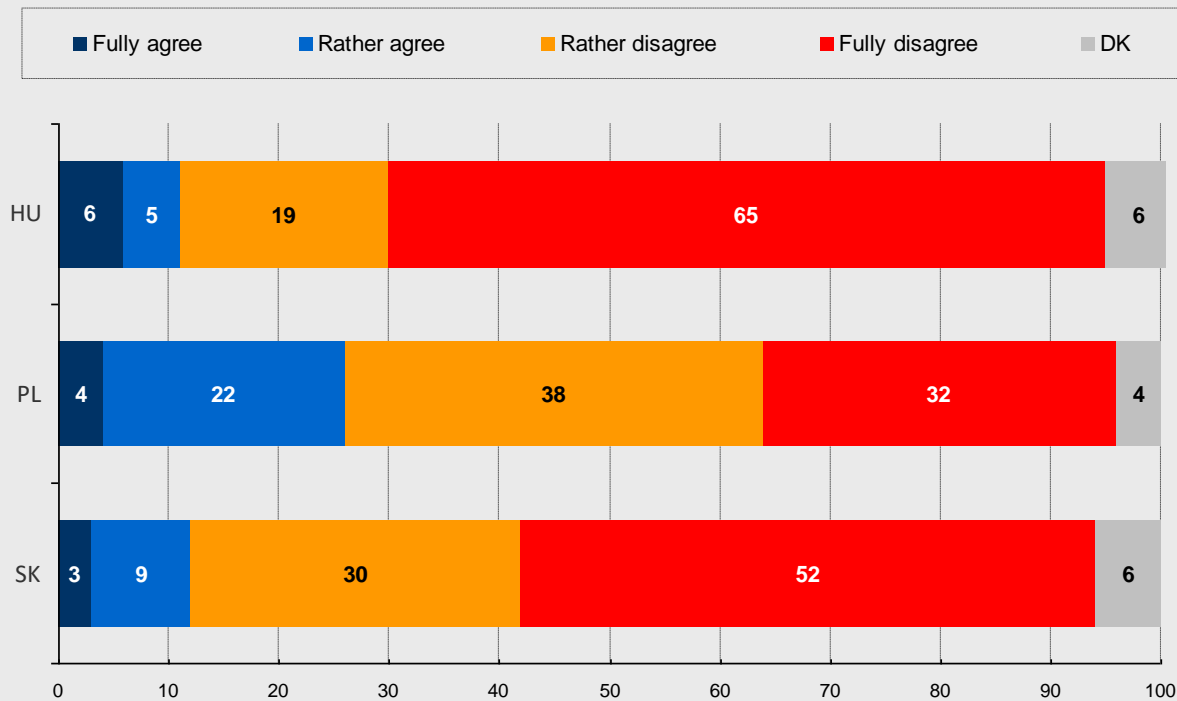


NOTE

- ✓ The proportion is highest in Hungary and lowest in Poland.

Young Hungarians have the most negative perception of immigrants.

Do you agree or disagree with following statement? Immigrants make a positive contribution to our society

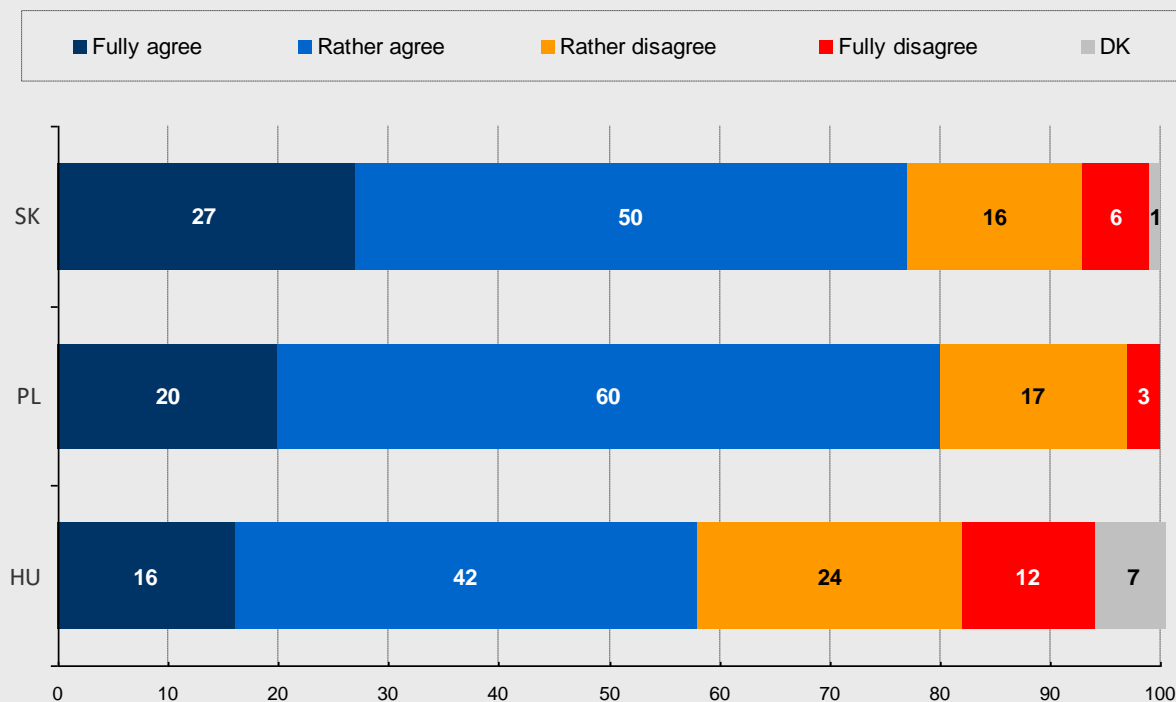


NOTE

- ✓ In all three countries at least 70 percent do not believe that immigrants make a positive contribution to their society.

Poles and Slovaks most strongly identify with Europe.

To what extent do you identify yourself with Europe?



NOTE

- ✓ Though the relative majority thinks similarly in Hungary, the opinions are more balanced

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