

Youth, Democracy, and Politics: Hungary

Survey results
NDI Youth Research Project

March 2018

In cooperation with Political Capital

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



SAMPLE DESIGN

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



FIELDWORK PERIOD

December 15-20, 2017



SAMPLE SIZE

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



TYPE OF SURVEY

Telephone interviews (CATI)

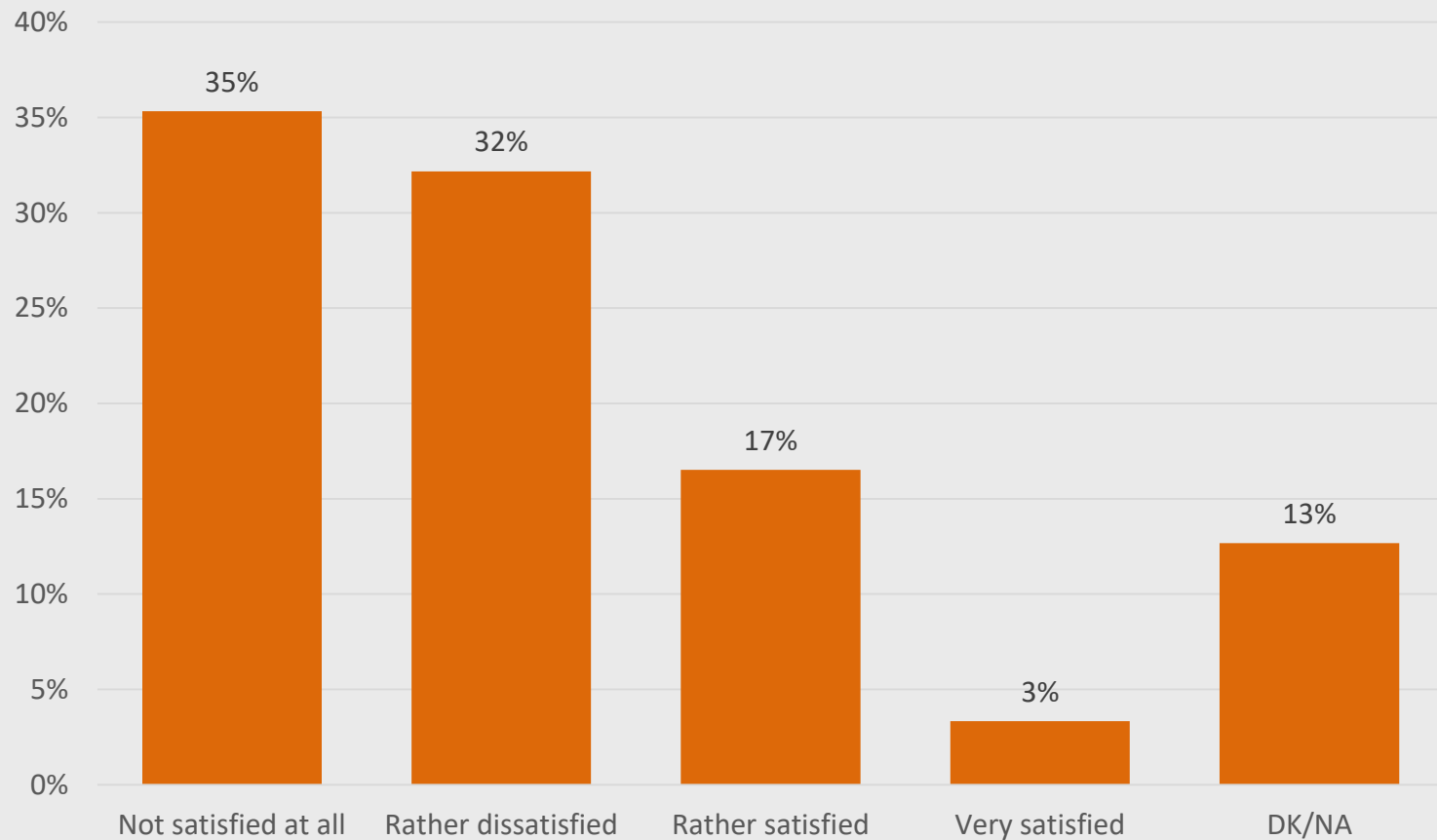
MAIN FINDINGS

- Low level of interest in and high level of dissatisfaction with politics
- Low engagement in public life – except for voting in elections
- Strong commitment to democracy in general
- Strong anti-immigrant sentiment, but less if compared to surveys of older Hungarians
- Alignment with most Western positions on European geopolitical issues
- Strong European identity – almost as strong as national identity
- Lack of interest in and understanding of Russia-related affairs

ATTITUDES TOWARDS POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

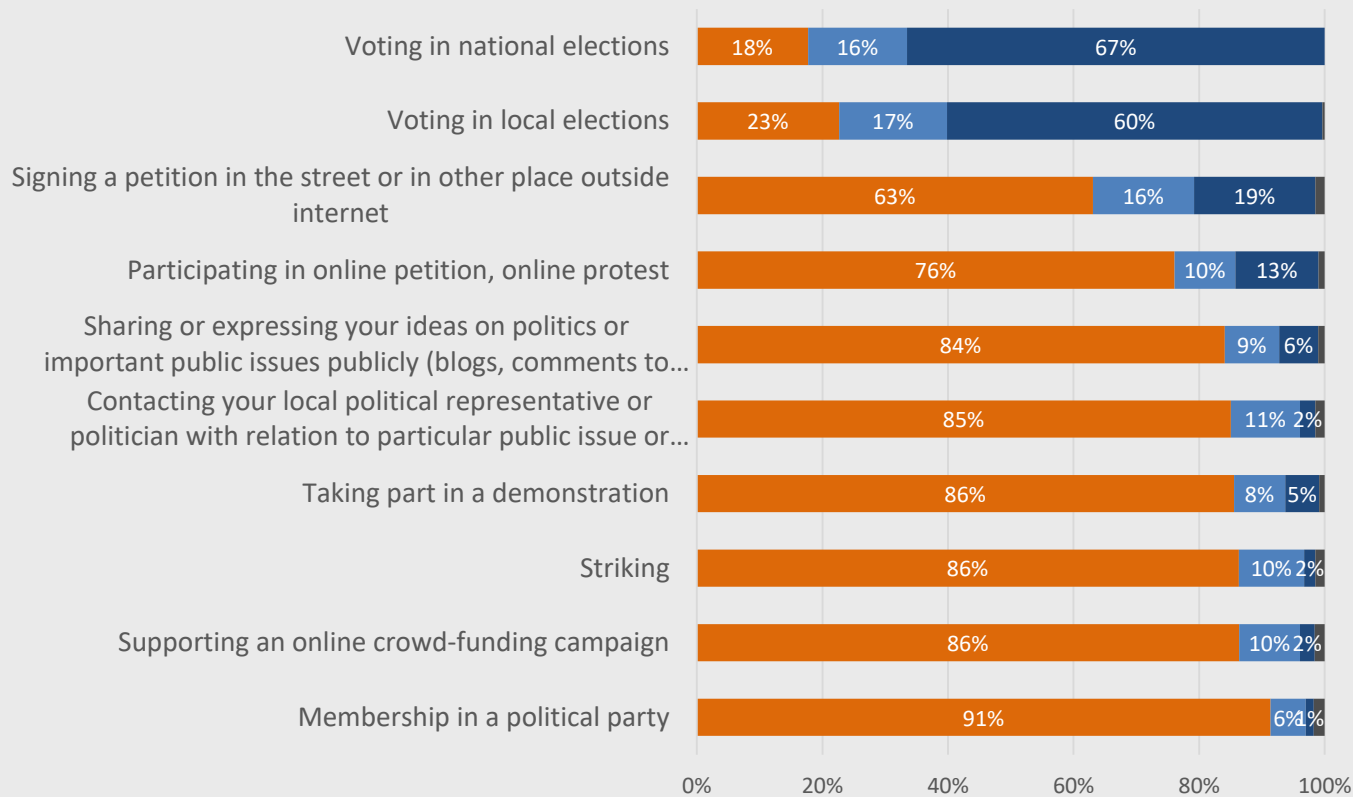
Nearly 7-in-10 are dissatisfied with the political situation.

Are you satisfied with the current political situation in Hungary?



Low political engagement (apart from voting)

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



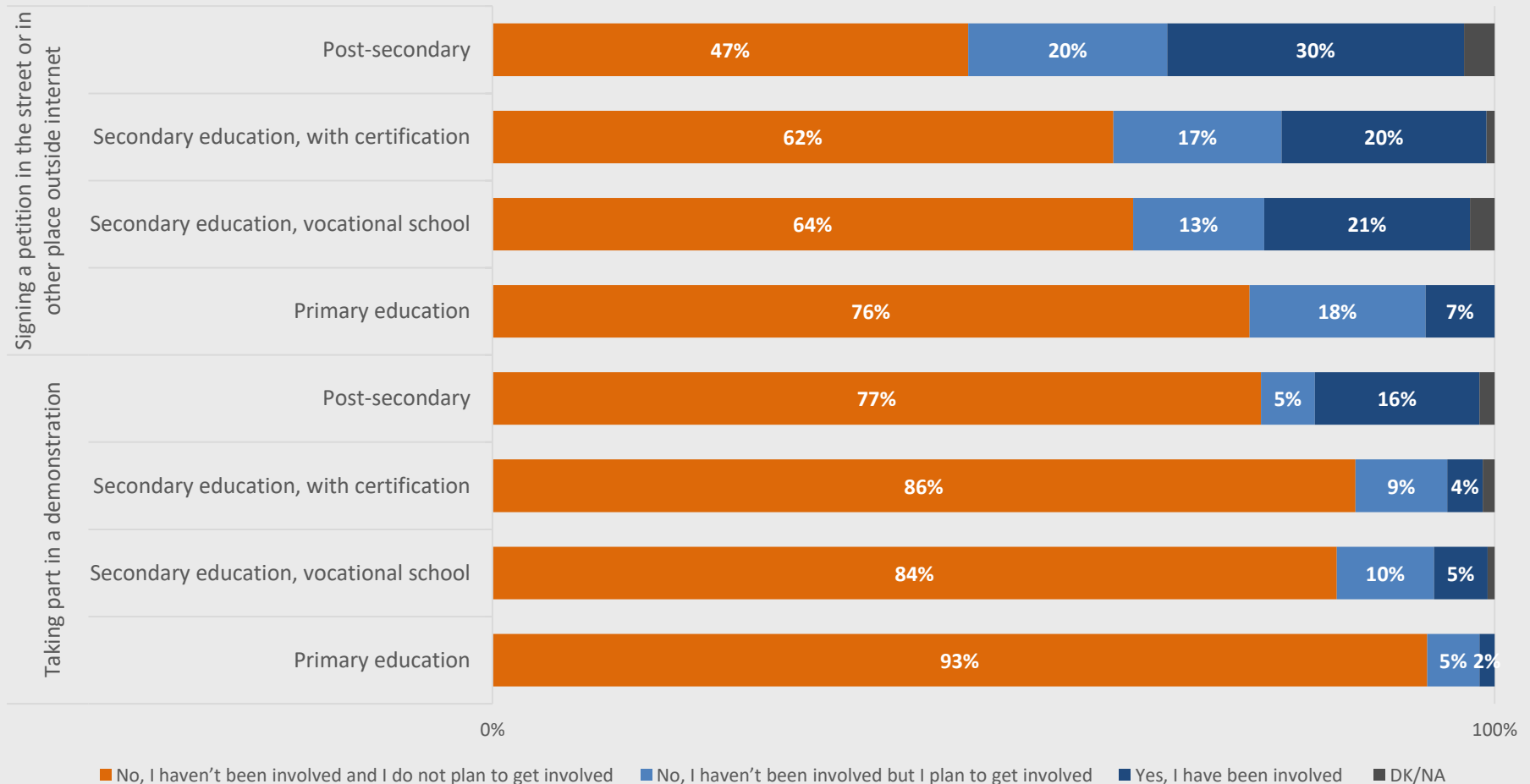
NOTE

✓ Signing a petition offline is the most popular option for non-voting engagement.

■ No, I haven't been involved and I do not plan to get involved
 ■ No, I haven't been involved but I plan to get involved
 ■ Yes, I have been involved
 ■ DK/NA

Involvement in signing a petition or taking part in a demonstration increases with education.

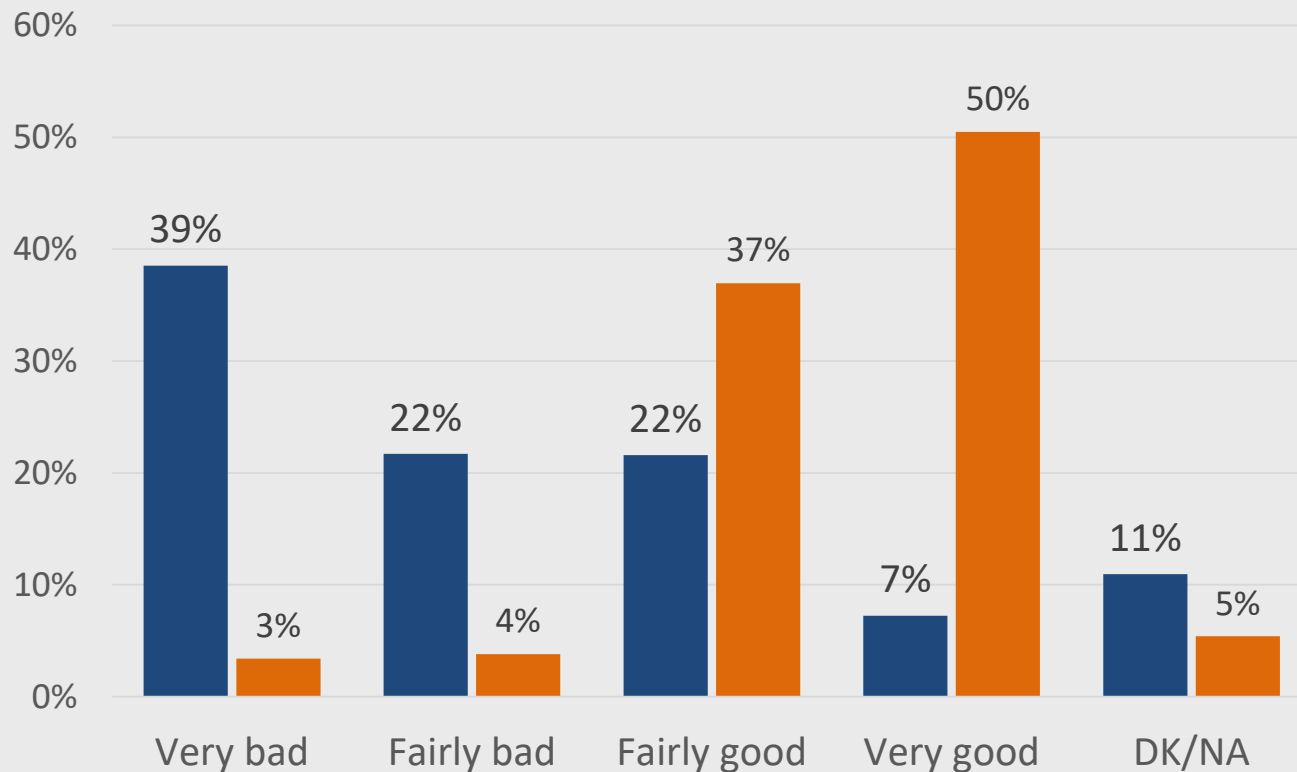
Have you been involved in the following ways in which citizens can engage in public life? If not, are you willing to get involved?



SOCIAL AND POLITICAL VALUES

Nearly 9-in-10 prefer a democratic way of governance. 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 Hungary. Would you say each is...?



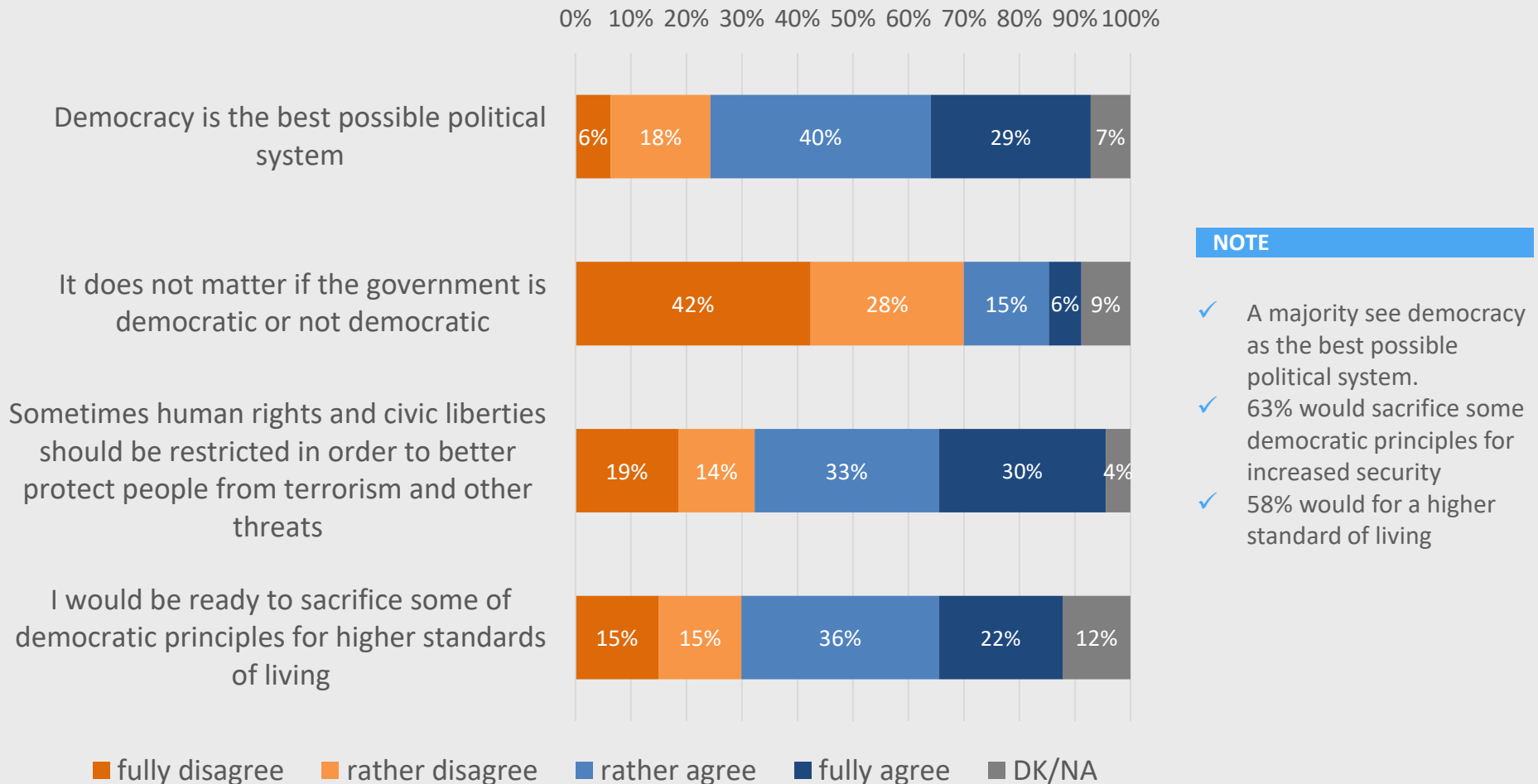
NOTE

✓ Lower education and preference of Fidesz correspond to support for the strong leader option.

- Having a strong leader who does not have to bother with parliament and civil society
- Having a democratic political system where decisions are made through legislative deliberations and public consultation

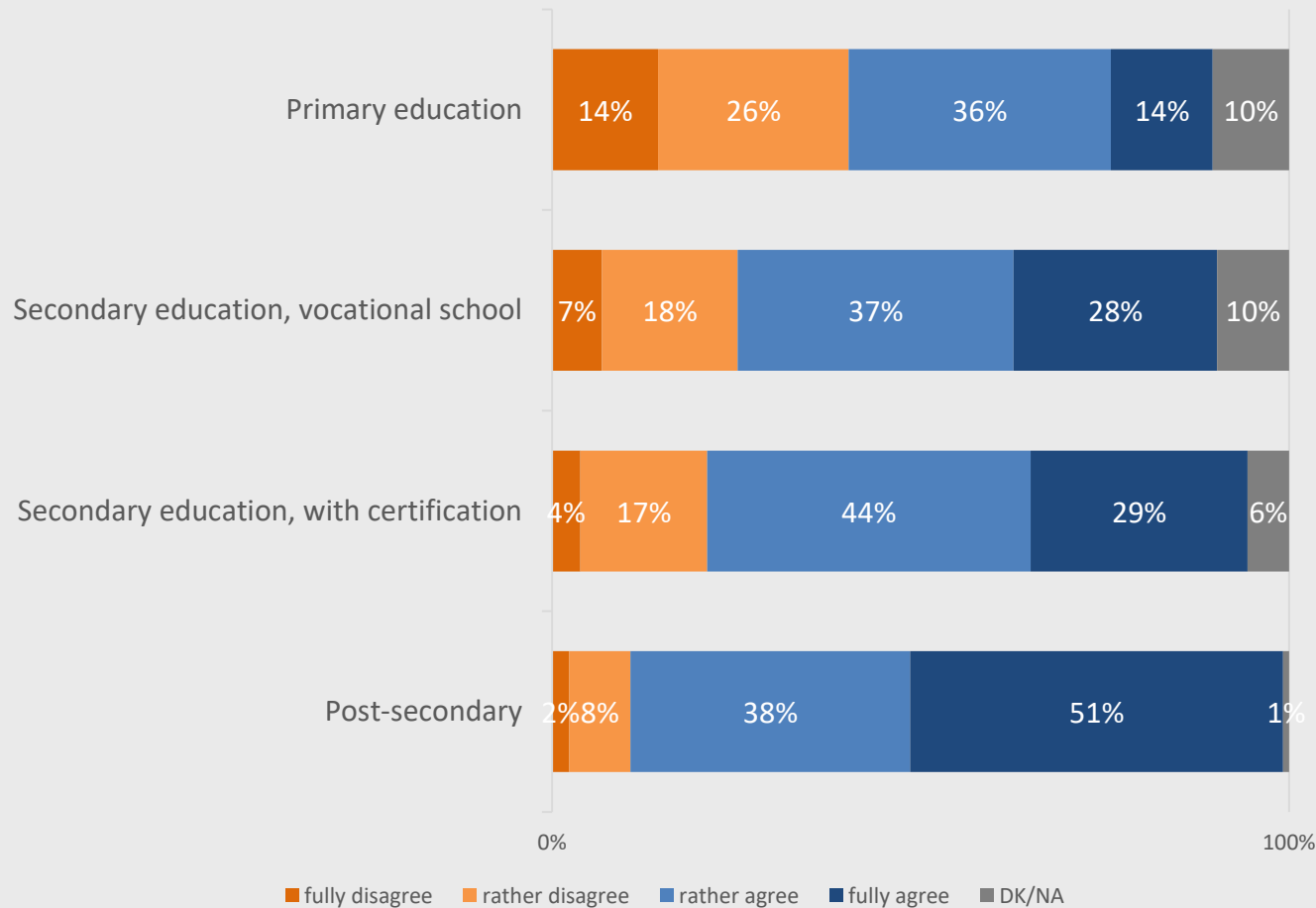
Two-thirds of the voters think it matters whether the government is democratic or not.

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



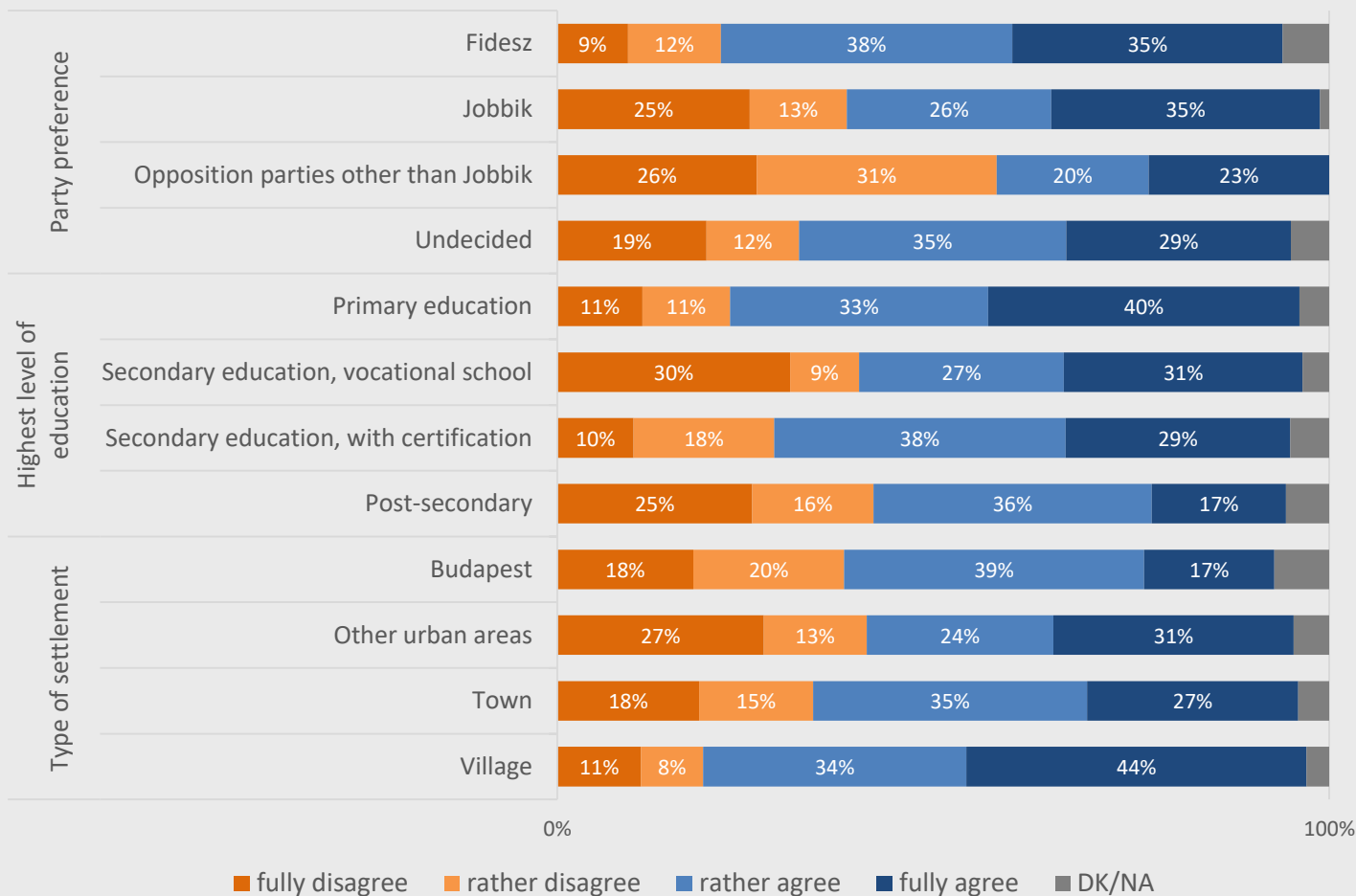
Support for democracy increases with education

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



The strongest advocates of human rights are supporters of center-left opposition parties, those with a university degree, those and living in large cities.

Please consider the following statements about democracy and political regimes in general: Sometimes human rights and civic liberties should be restricted in order to better protect people from terrorism and other threats?

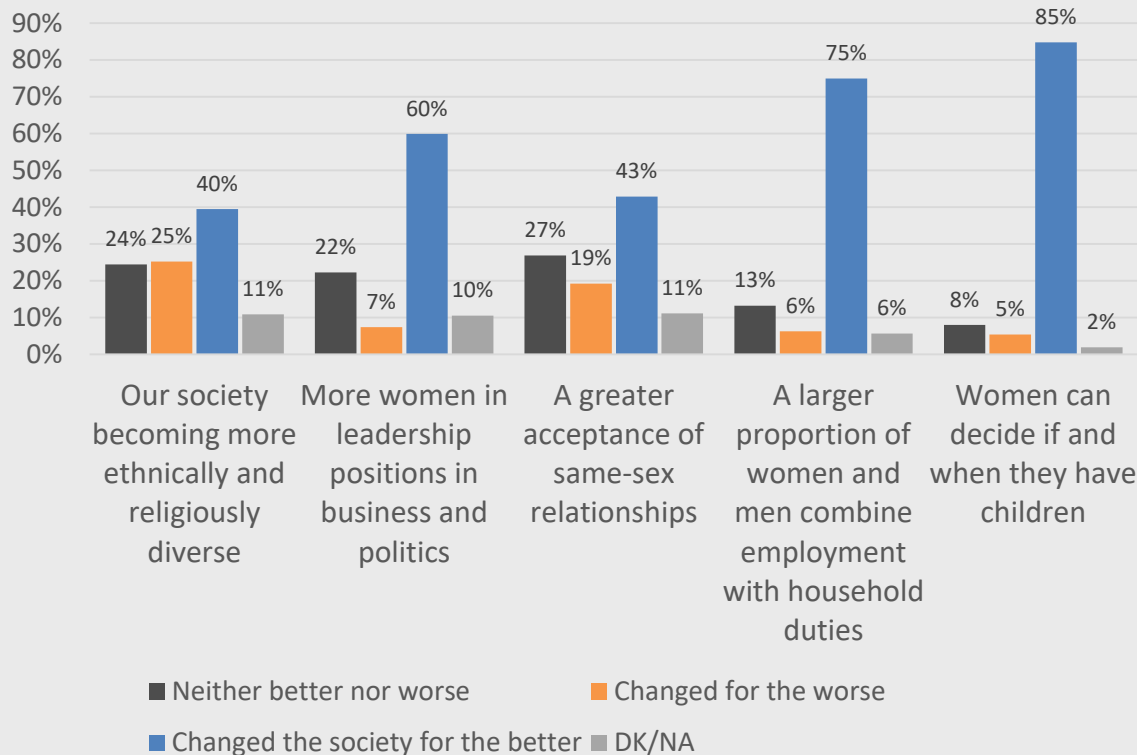


NOTE

✓ Fidesz's supporters, those with primary or secondary education, and those living in villages are more supportive to restrictions of human rights

Majority is supportive of mainstream trends of modernization within the European Union political values.

Below are some ways that many European 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?

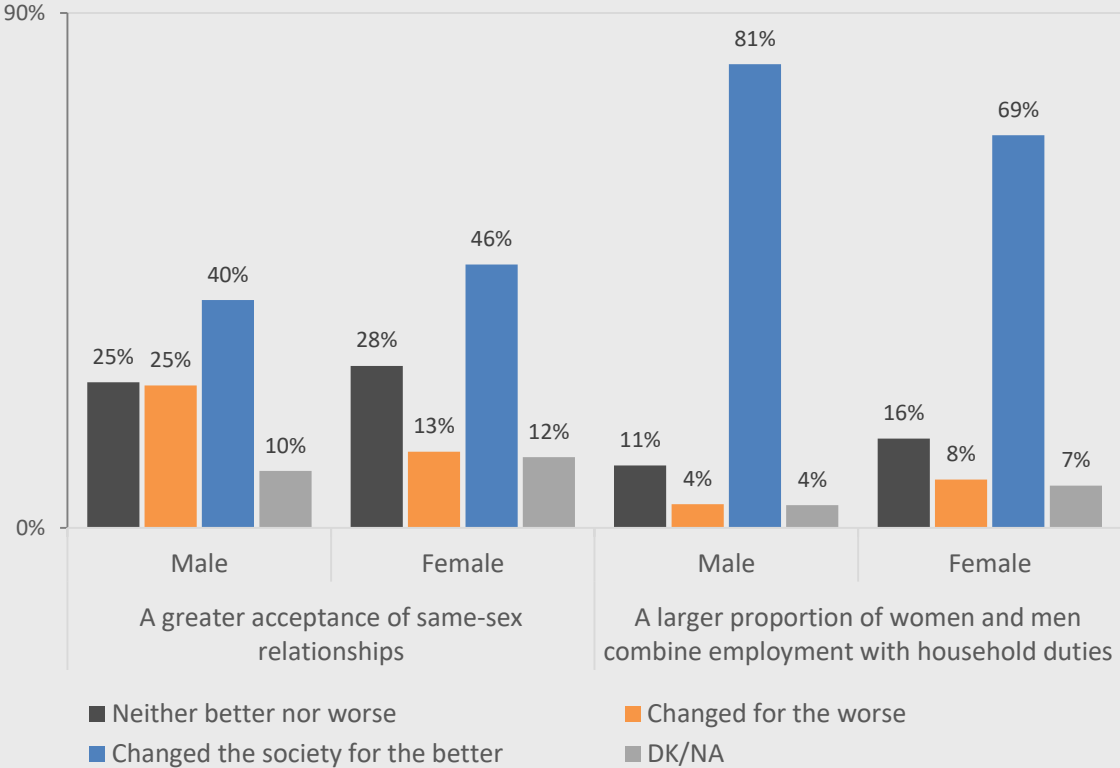


NOTE

- ✓ Decisive support for gender equality issues.
- ✓ Same-sex relations and ethnic diversity receive a notable relative majority of support.

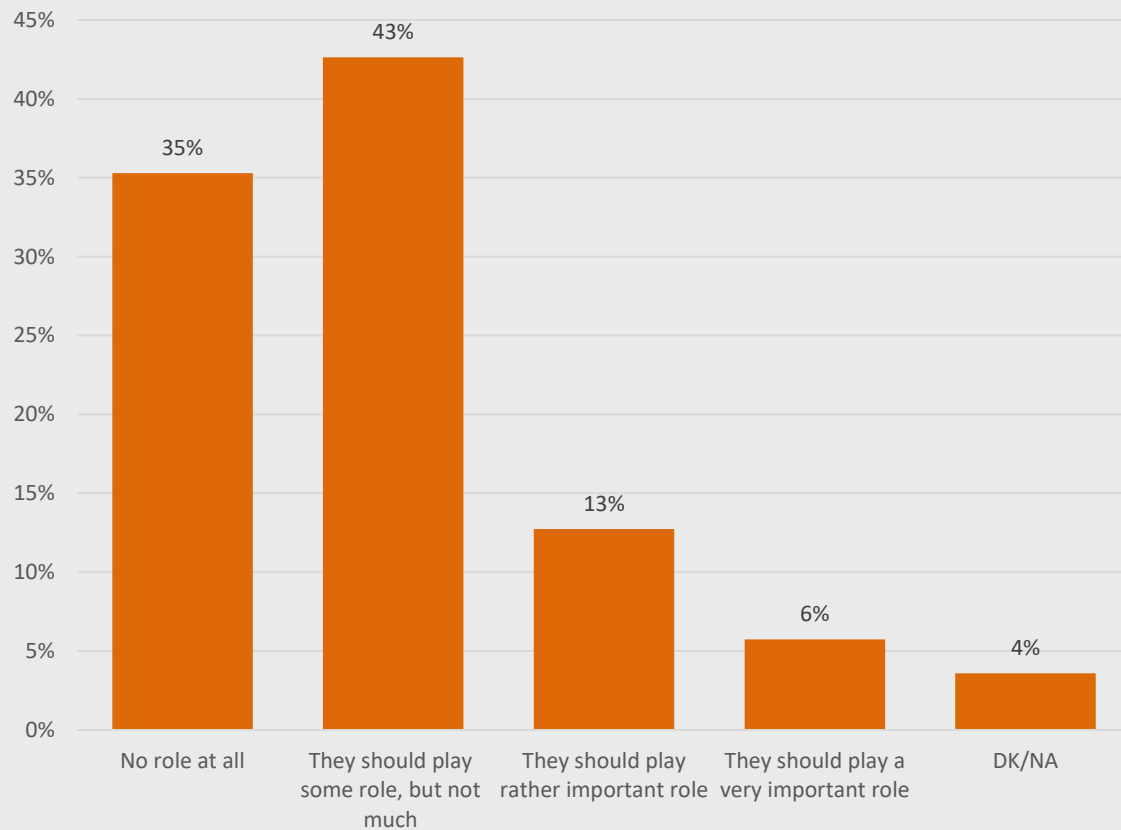
These changes are evaluated differently by men and women.

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?



Relative majority 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?



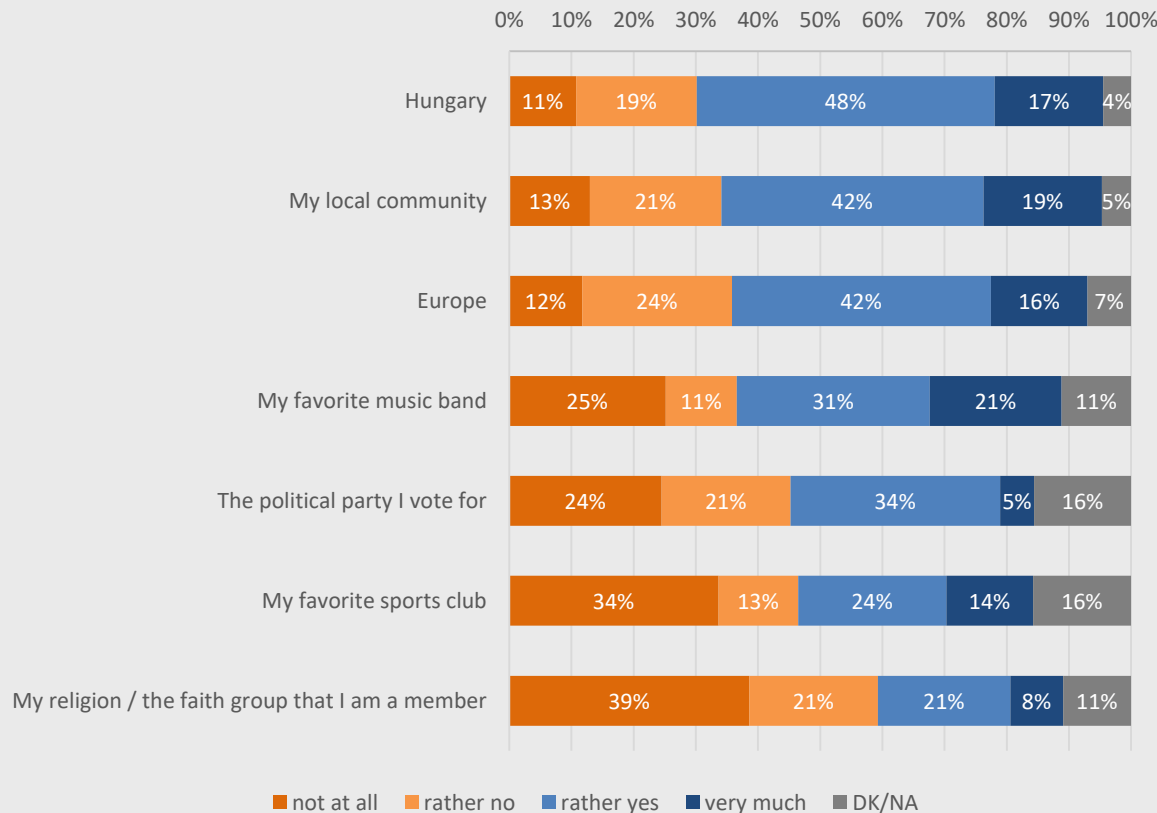
NOTE

- ✓ Younger respondents with less education tend to opt for a more important role.

IDENTITY

Young Hungarians identify most strongly with their nation, their local community, and Europe.

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

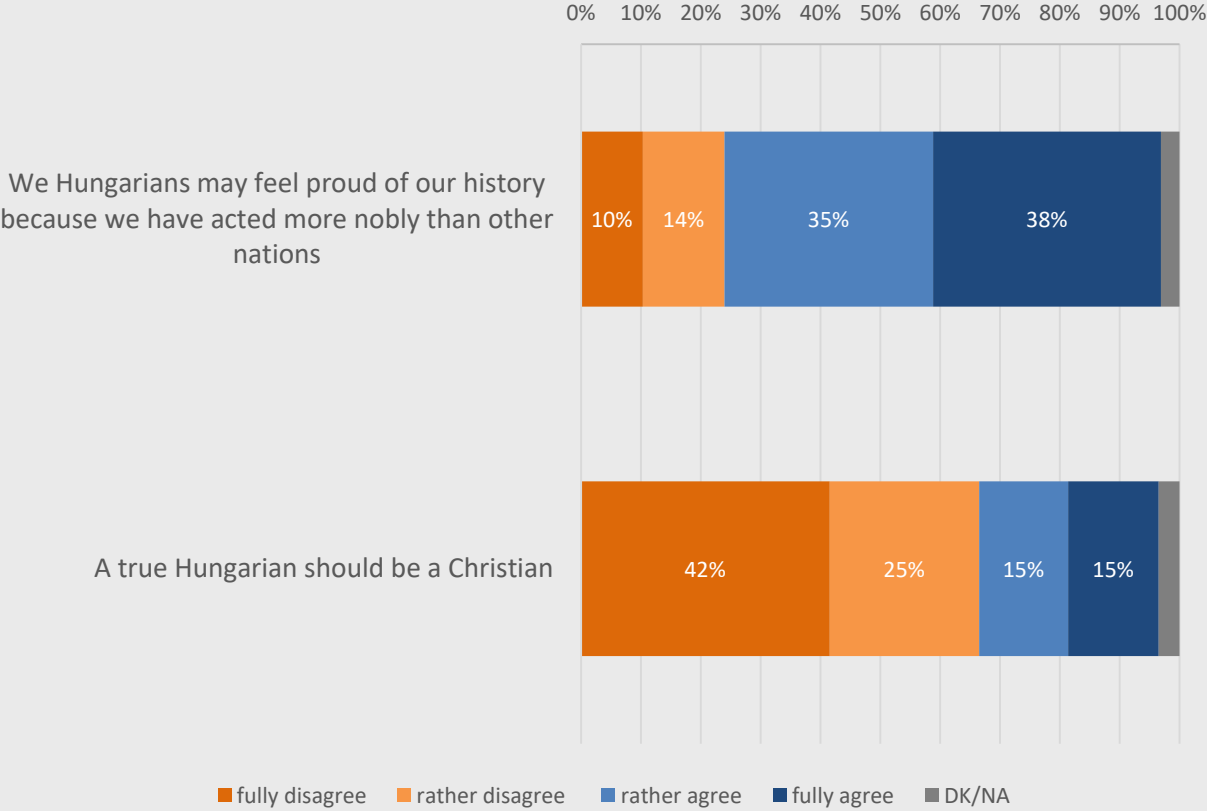


NOTE

- ✓ Two-thirds identifies with Hungary. Those who do not are more likely to be supporters of opposition parties other than Jobbik and live in rural areas.
- ✓ Women and those with more education are more likely to identify with Europe.

Young people are proud of Hungarian history but do not see a connection between nationality and being Christian.

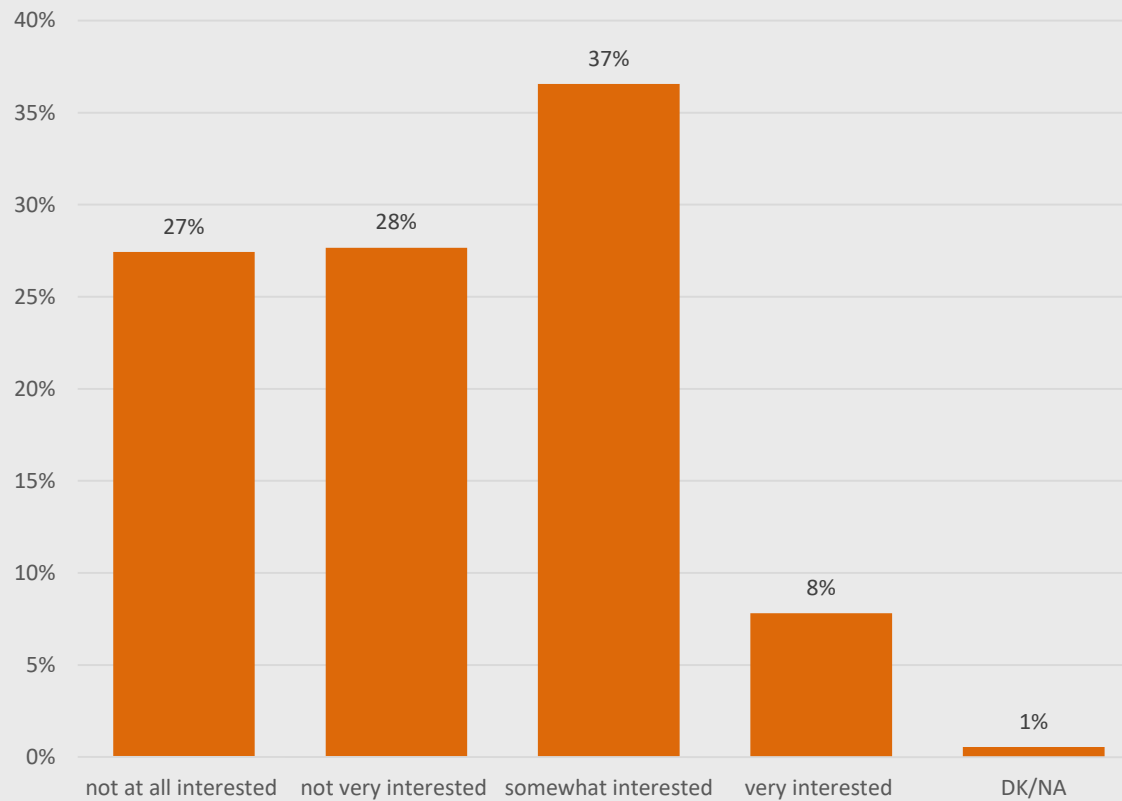
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?



INTEREST IN POLITICS, SOURCES OF INFORMATION & POLITICAL ISSUES

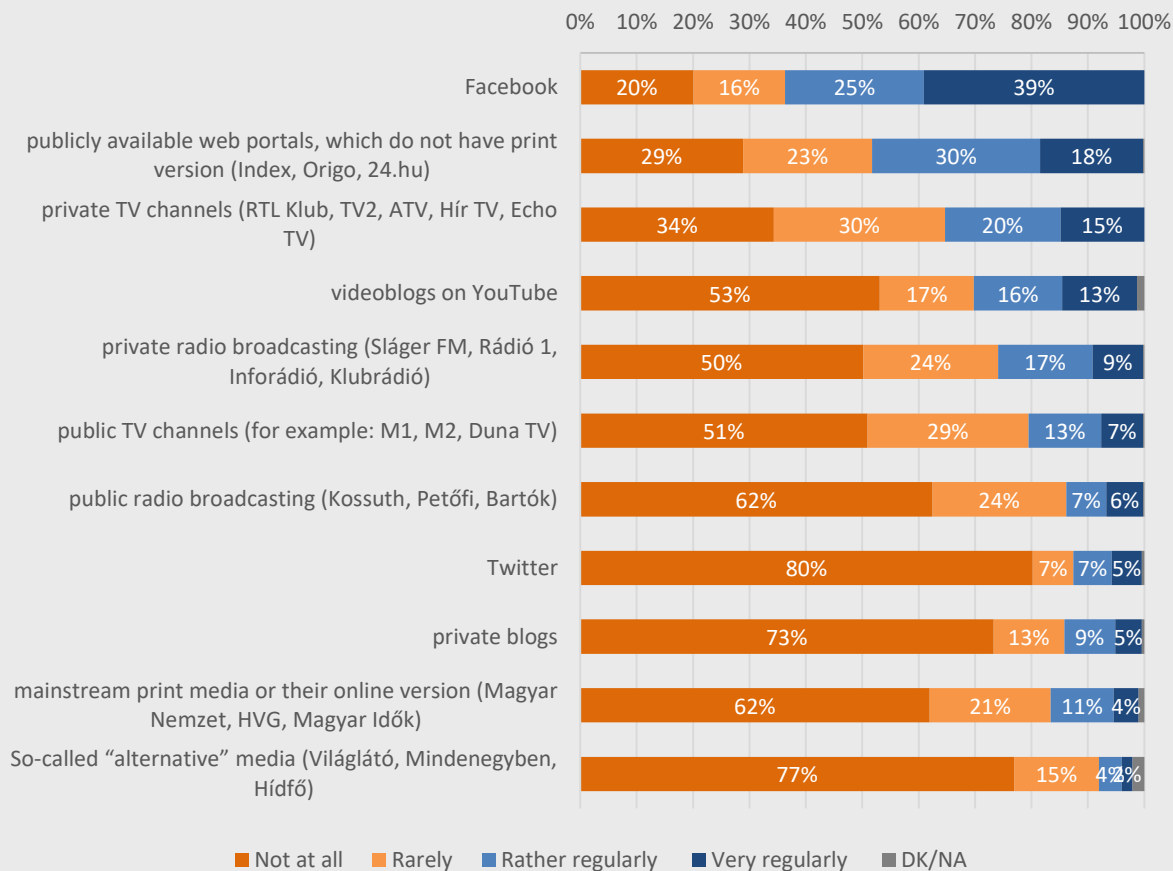
A majority has no or only minimal interest in politics.

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



Facebook and online news outlets are the most popular sources of information.

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

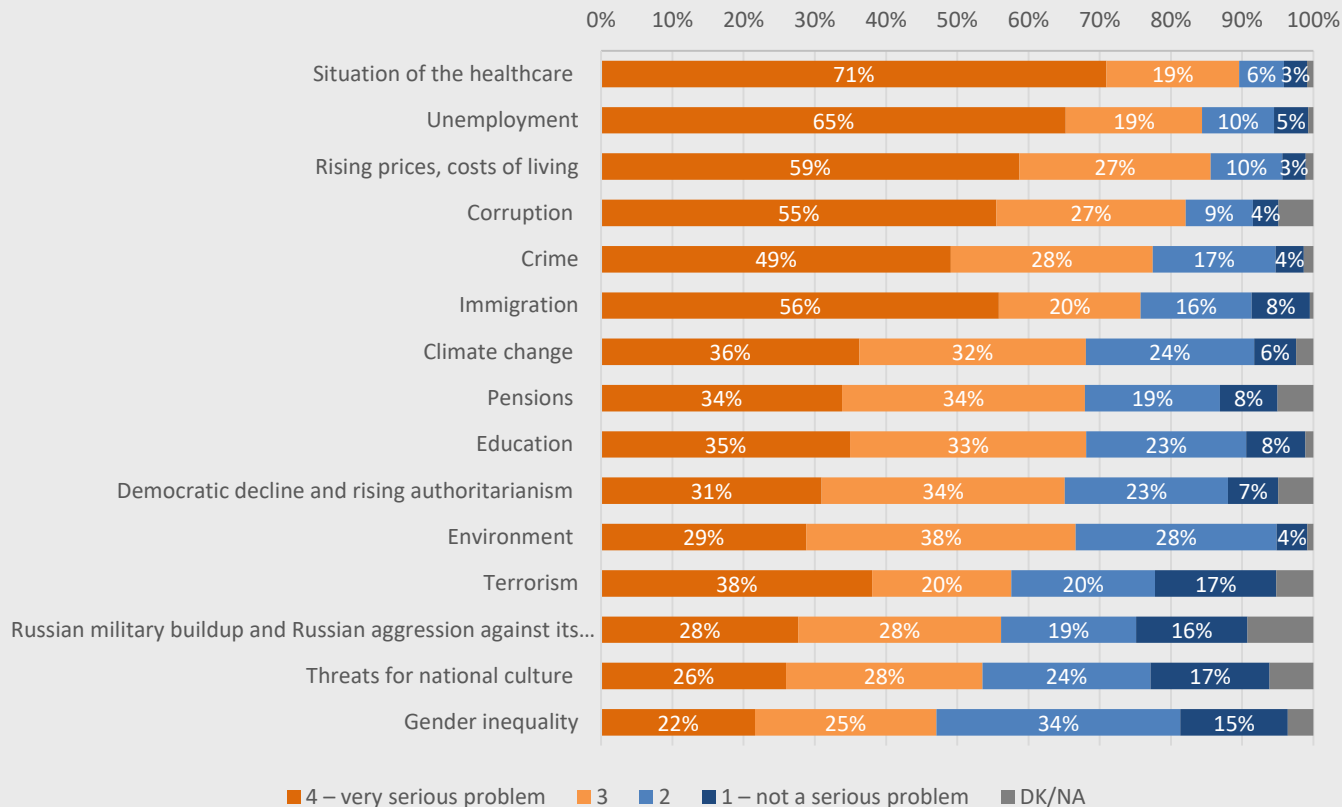


NOTE

- ✓ 64% use Facebook regularly, leading the runner-up by 16 points.
- ✓ Other than private TV channels, YouTube, and private radio, nearly no other media source is used.

Healthcare, unemployment, rising prices, and corruption are the most pressing problems.

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

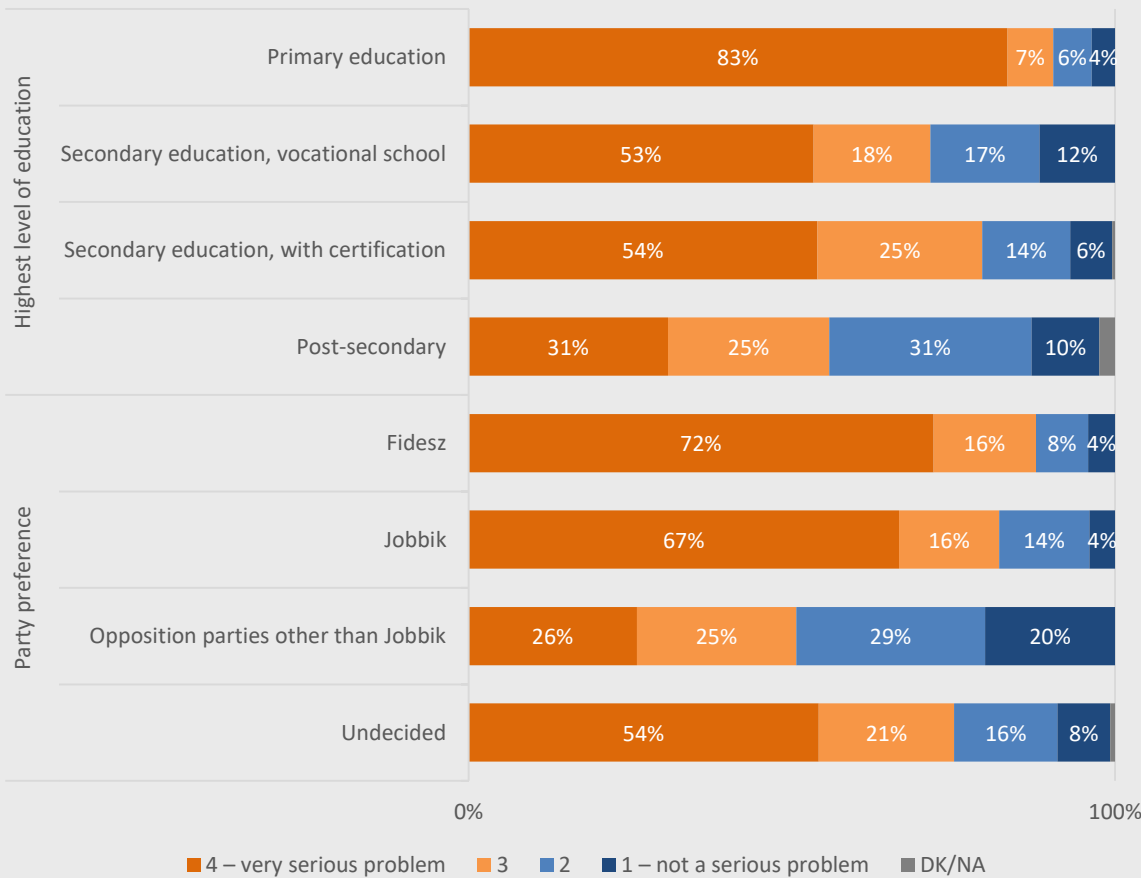


NOTE

- ✓ Perceived seriousness of unemployment and rising prices does not follow actual macroeconomic trends.
- ✓ Unemployment rate dropped to 3.8% by the end of 2017. Prices increased by 2.4% in 2017. (According to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office)

Fidesz and Jobbik supporters, along with those with less education, are more likely to see immigration as a serious problem in Hungary.

To what extent is immigration a serious problem in Hungary?

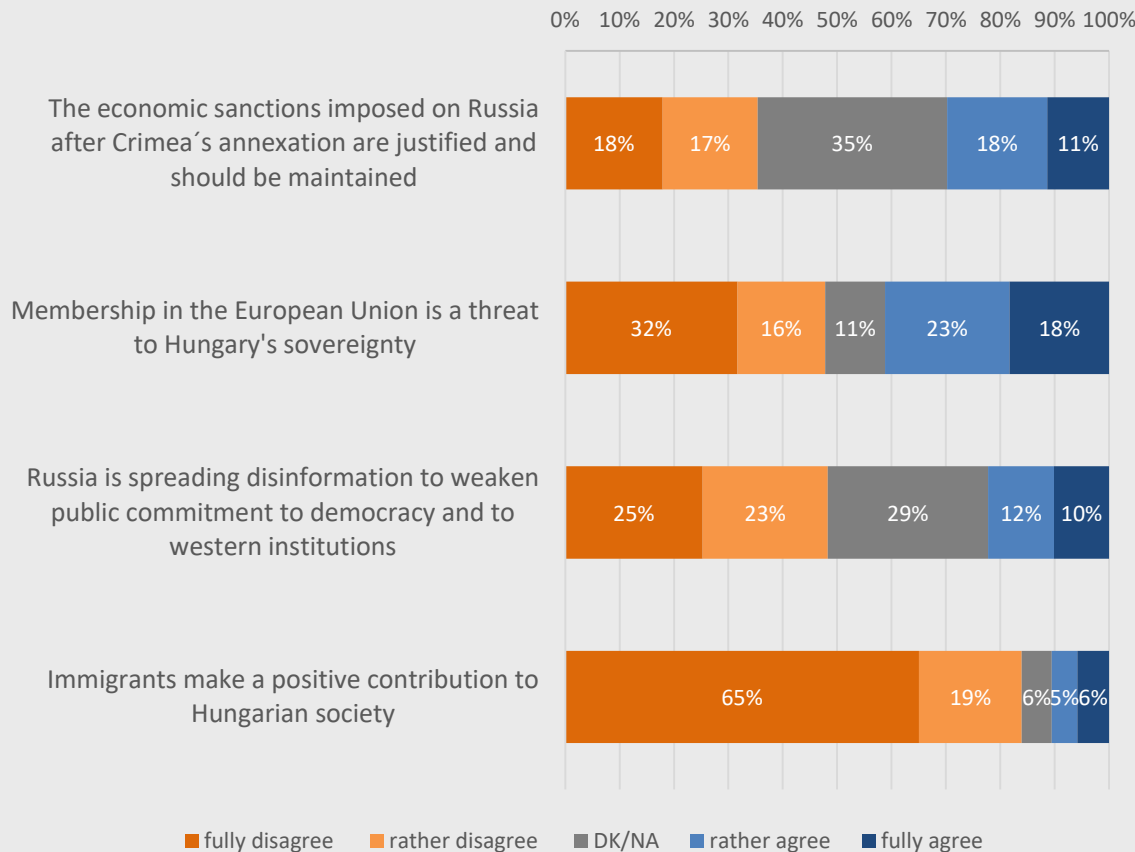


NOTE

- ✓ A majority of those who report undecided party support also perceive immigration as a serious problem.
- ✓ Those having university degree and supporting a centre-left opposition party are the least likely to see immigration as a serious problem.

Young Hungarians generally align with Western positions on European geopolitical issues, except as concerns immigration.

Do you agree or disagree with following statements?



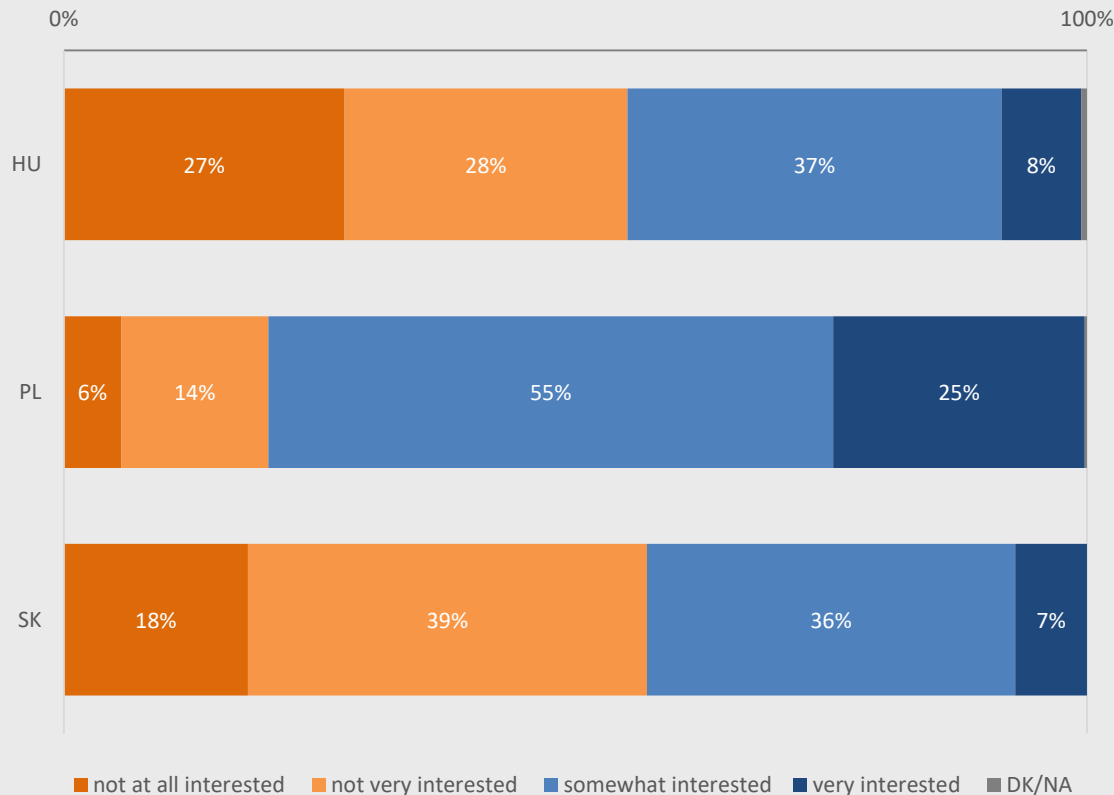
NOTE

- ✓ Anti-immigrant sentiment is dominant.
- ✓ 41 percent believe that EU membership is a threat to Hungarian sovereignty.
- ✓ Around one-third are uncertain about Russian disinformation and sanctions against Russia.

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?

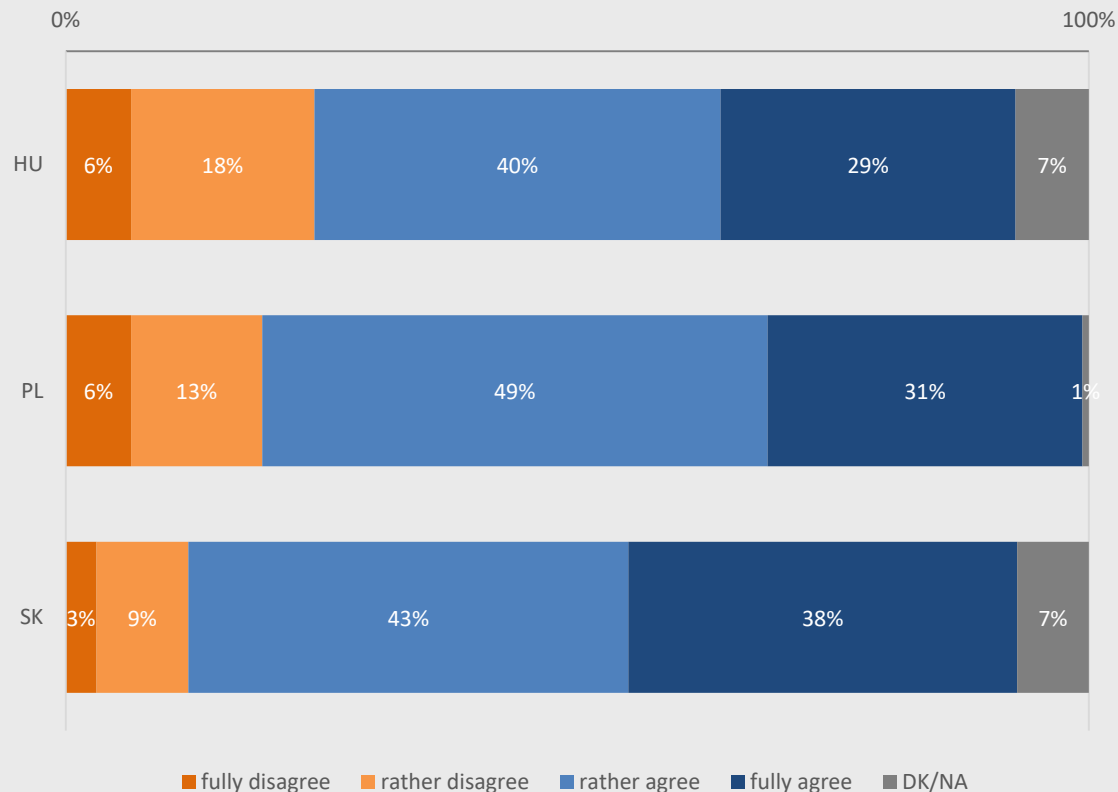


NOTE

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

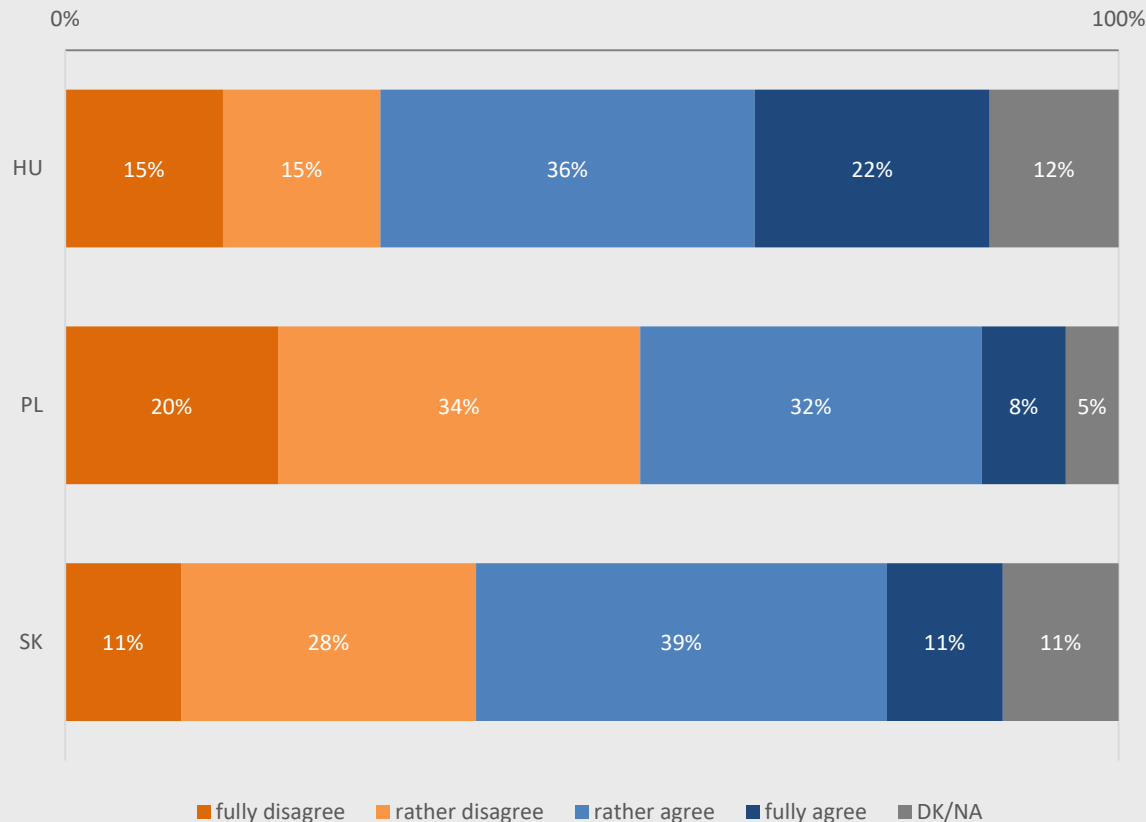
All believe democracy is the best possible political system. This belief is weakest in Hungary.

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

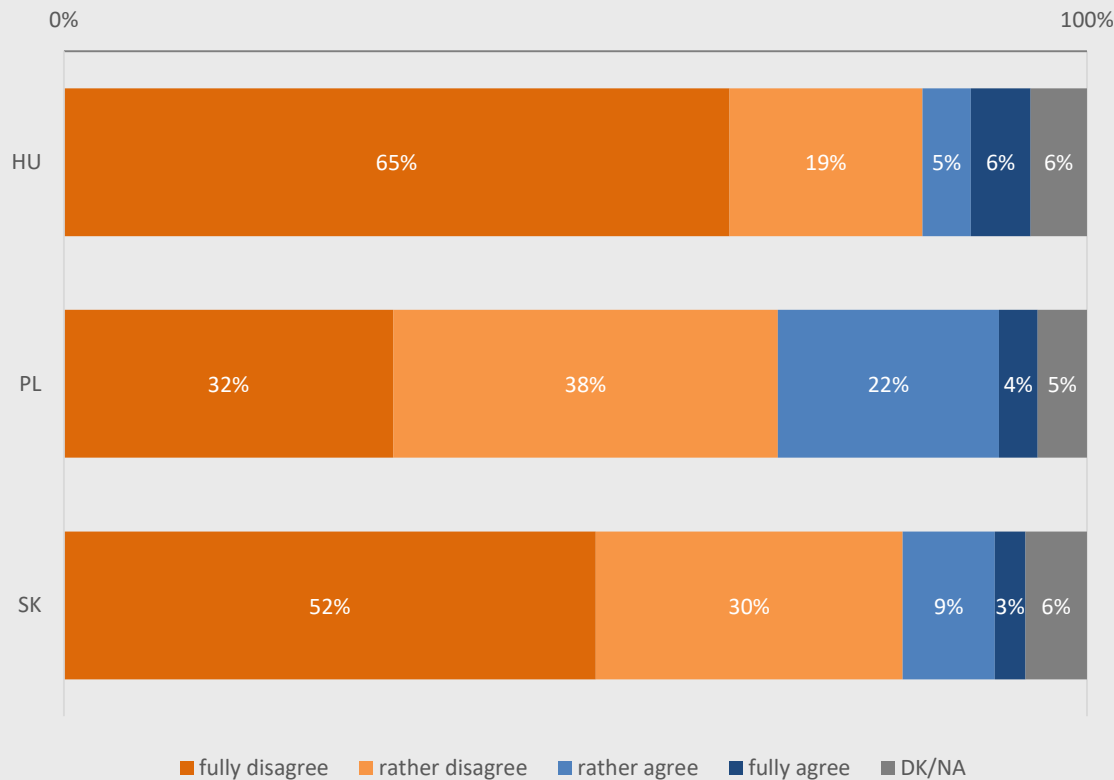


NOTE

- ✓ 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

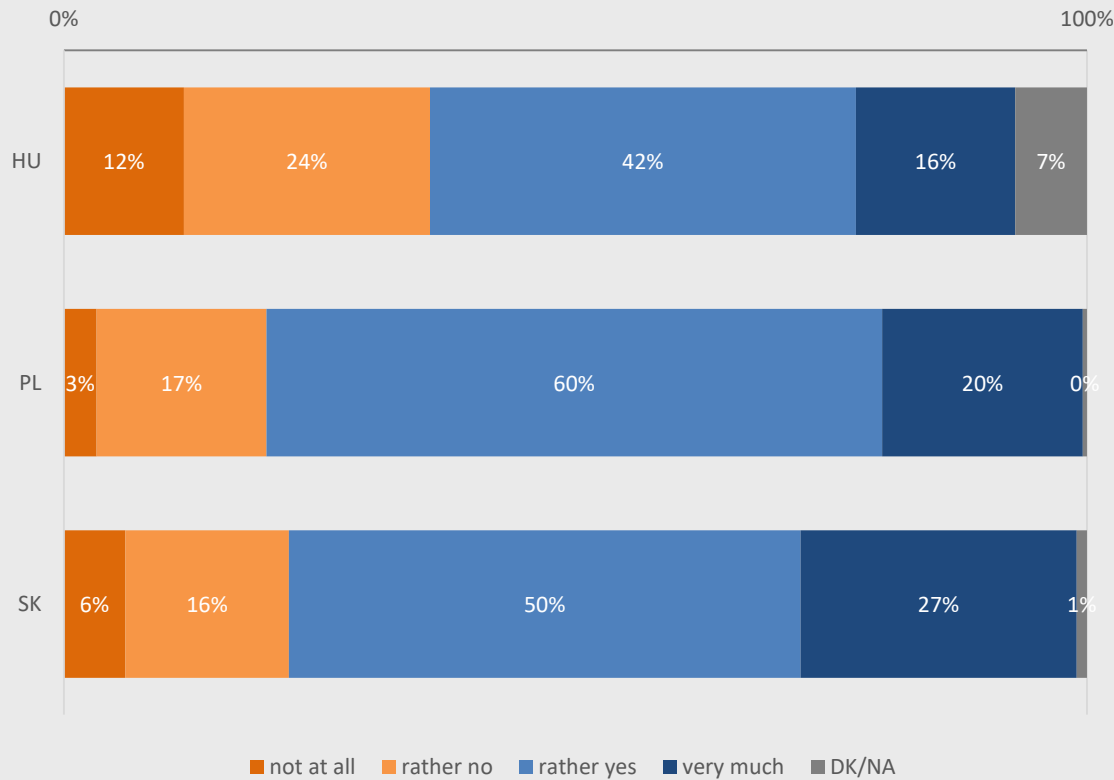


NOTE

- ✓ 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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