

Youth, Democracy, and Politics: Poland

Survey results
NDI Youth Research Project

March 2018

In cooperation with the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



SAMPLE DESIGN

The sample is statistically representative of the Polish population aged 16-29 in terms of gender, age, and region.



FIELDWORK PERIOD

December 7-20, 2017



SAMPLE SIZE

- 500 respondents
- **Age: 16-29**
- Margin of error: $\pm 4.5\%$



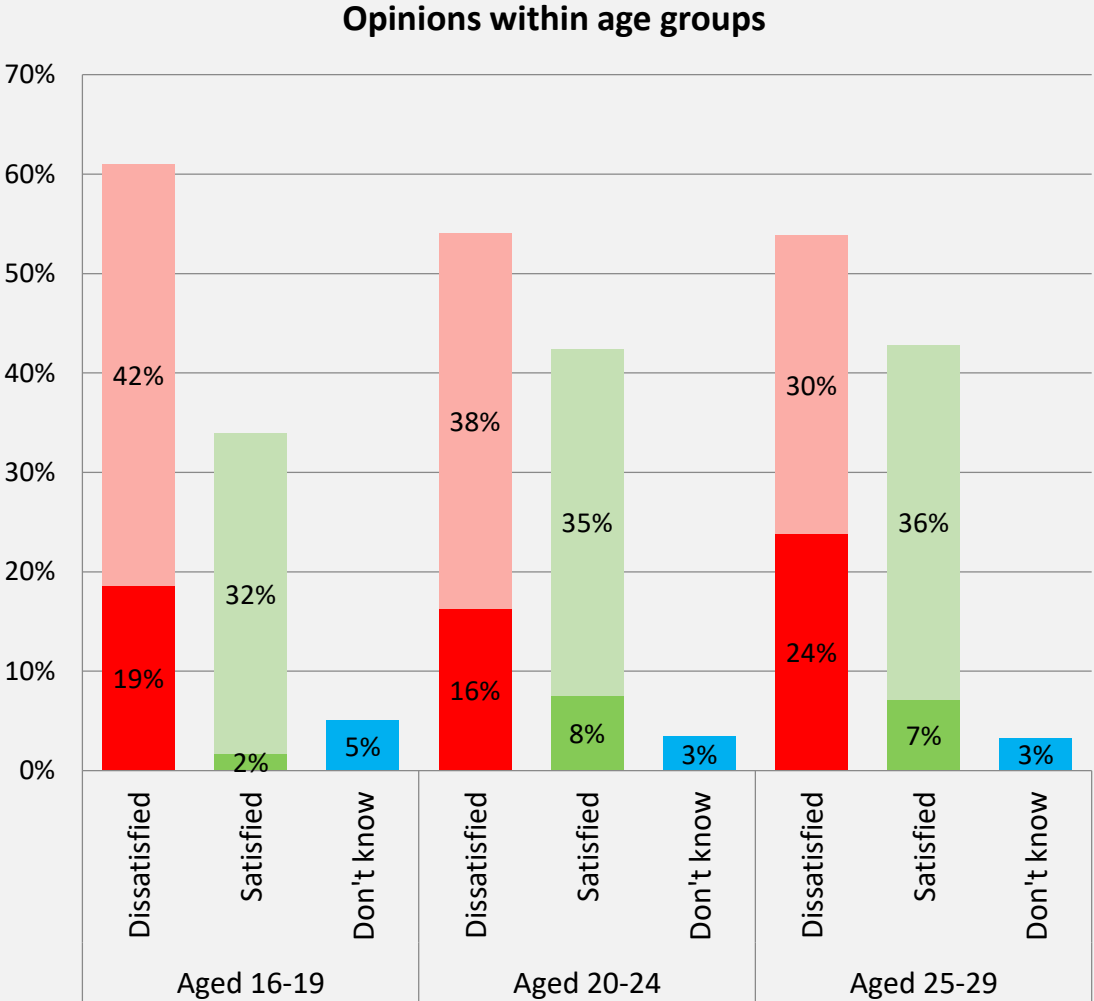
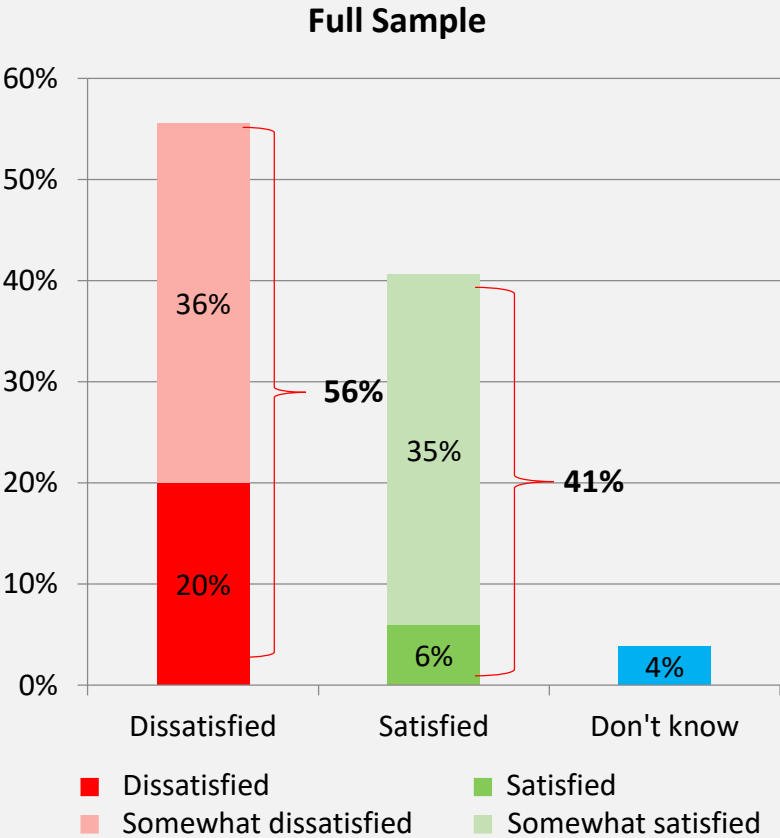
TYPE OF SURVEY

CATI (interviews carried out by telephone)
Pollster: 4P-Mix

ATTITUDES TOWARDS POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

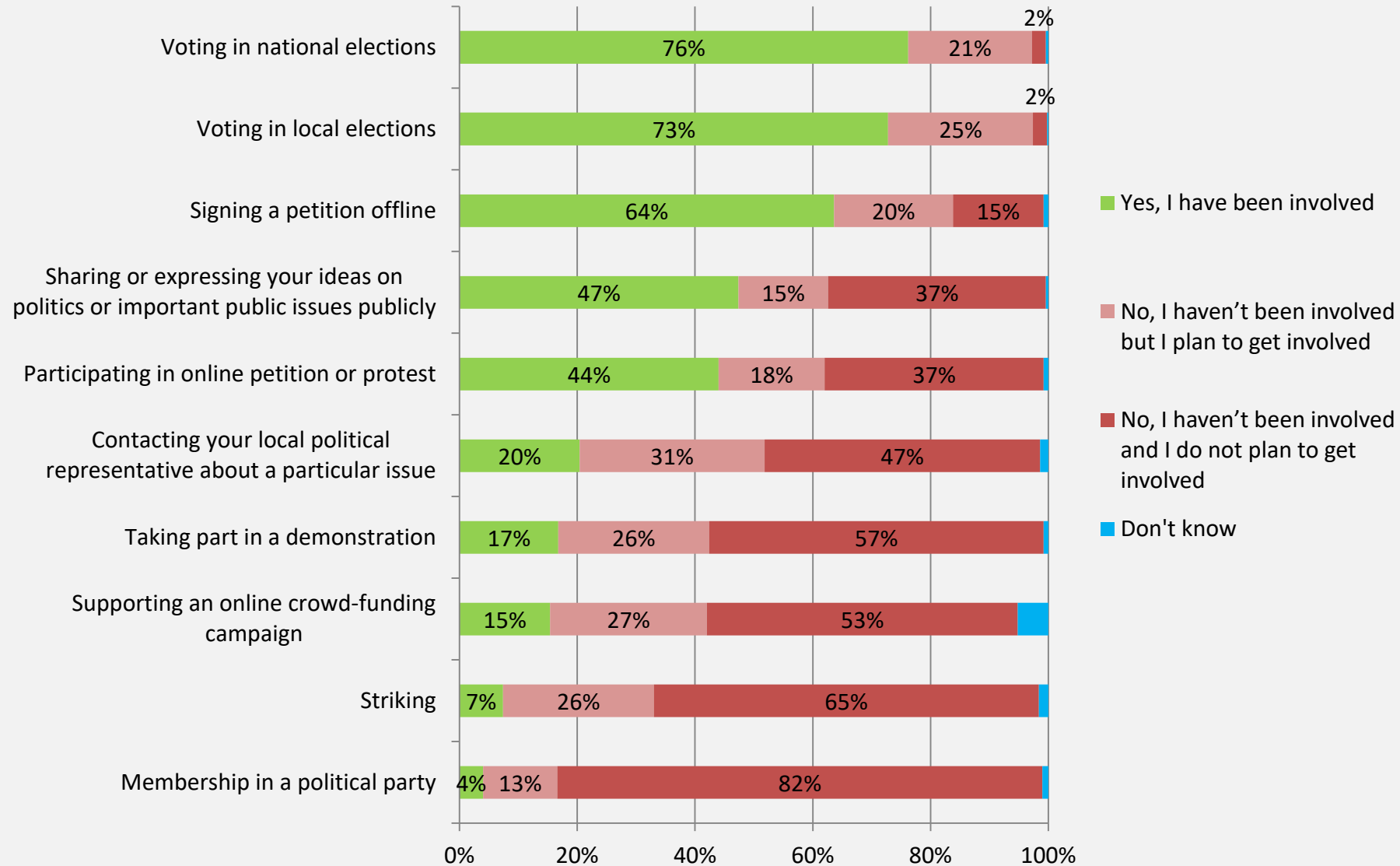
6-in-10 are dissatisfied with the political situation. 16-19 year olds are most dissatisfied.

Are you satisfied with the current political situation in Poland?



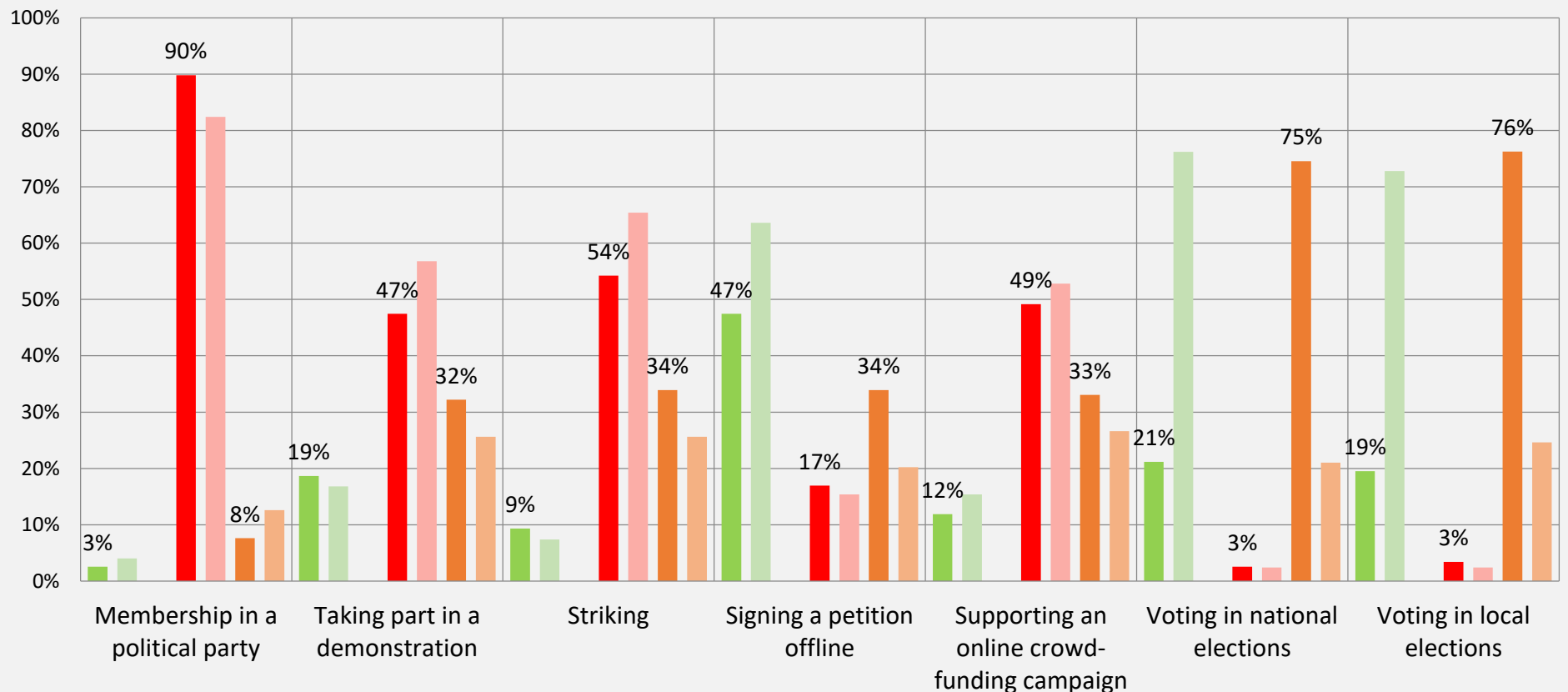
Three quarters vote in elections. 8-in-10 are not and do not plan to seek membership in a political party.

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



16-19 year olds are more interested in demonstrating and striking as compared to the entire sample. They are least interested in joining a political party.

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

- ✓ Three quarters of those aged 16-19 plan to vote in national and local elections.
- ✓ Those of eligible age to vote in 2014 and 2015 report that they voted at higher levels than official records show.

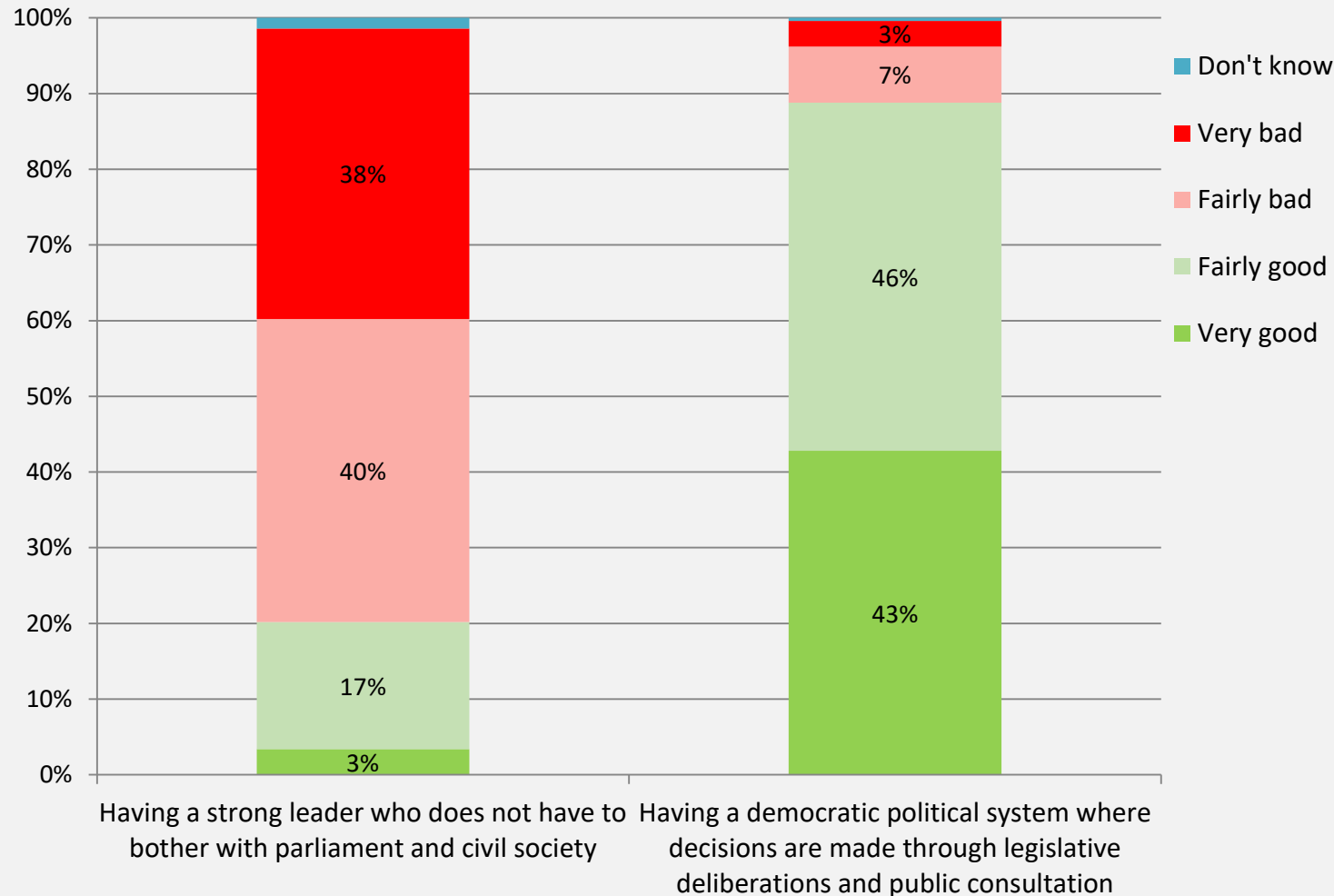
■ YES (16-19)
 ■ YES (total pop.)
 ■ NO & I don't plan to (16-19)
 ■ NO & I don't plan to (total pop.)
 ■ NO, but I plan to (16-19)
 ■ NO, but I plan to (total pop.)

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL VALUES

9-in-10 prefer a democratic governing system. 2-in-10 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 Poland. Would you say each is...?

Results in total population



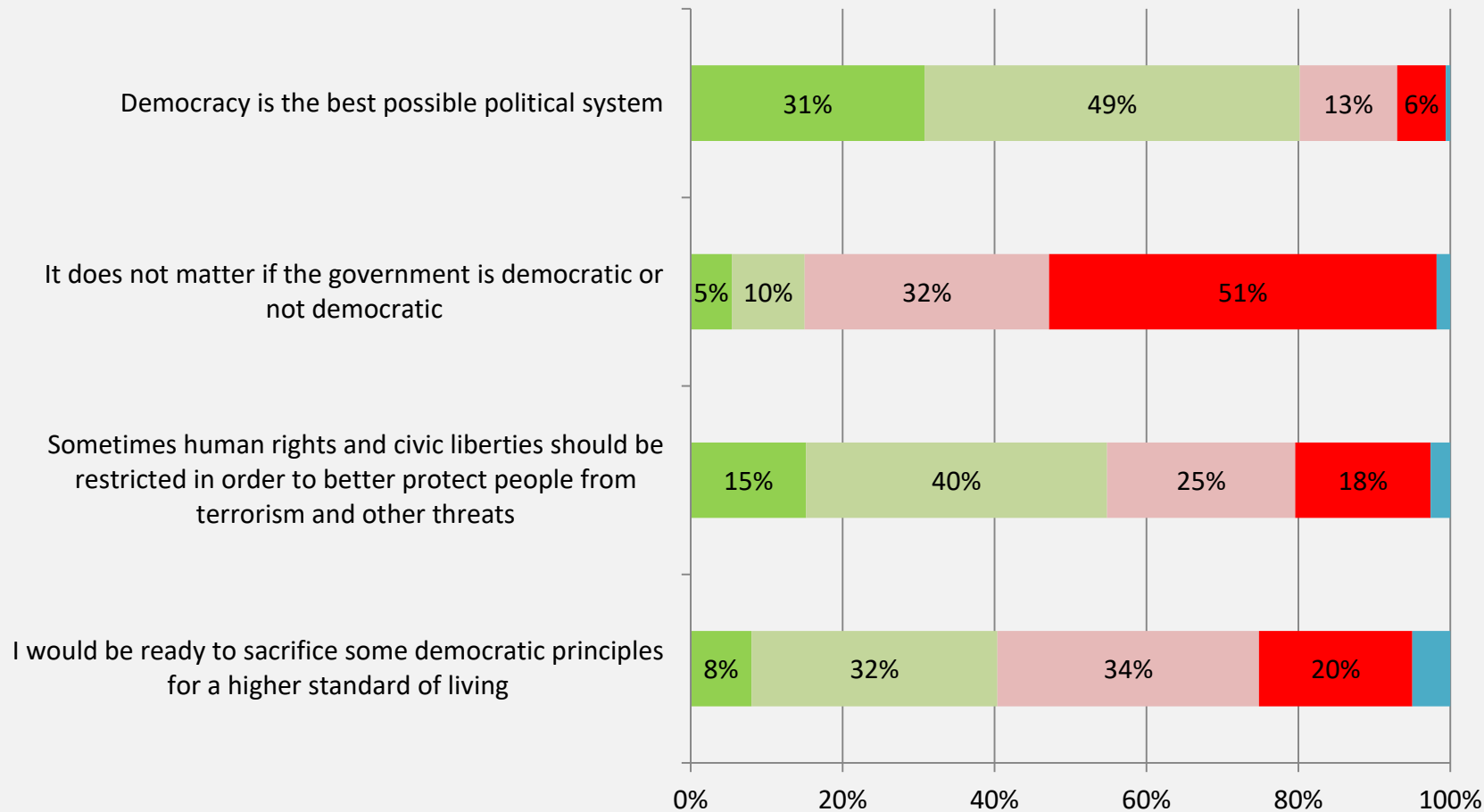
NOTE

✓ As compared to young men, young women are more likely to oppose a strong leader and support a democratic system.

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

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

Fully agree Rather agree Rather disagree Fully disagree Don't know

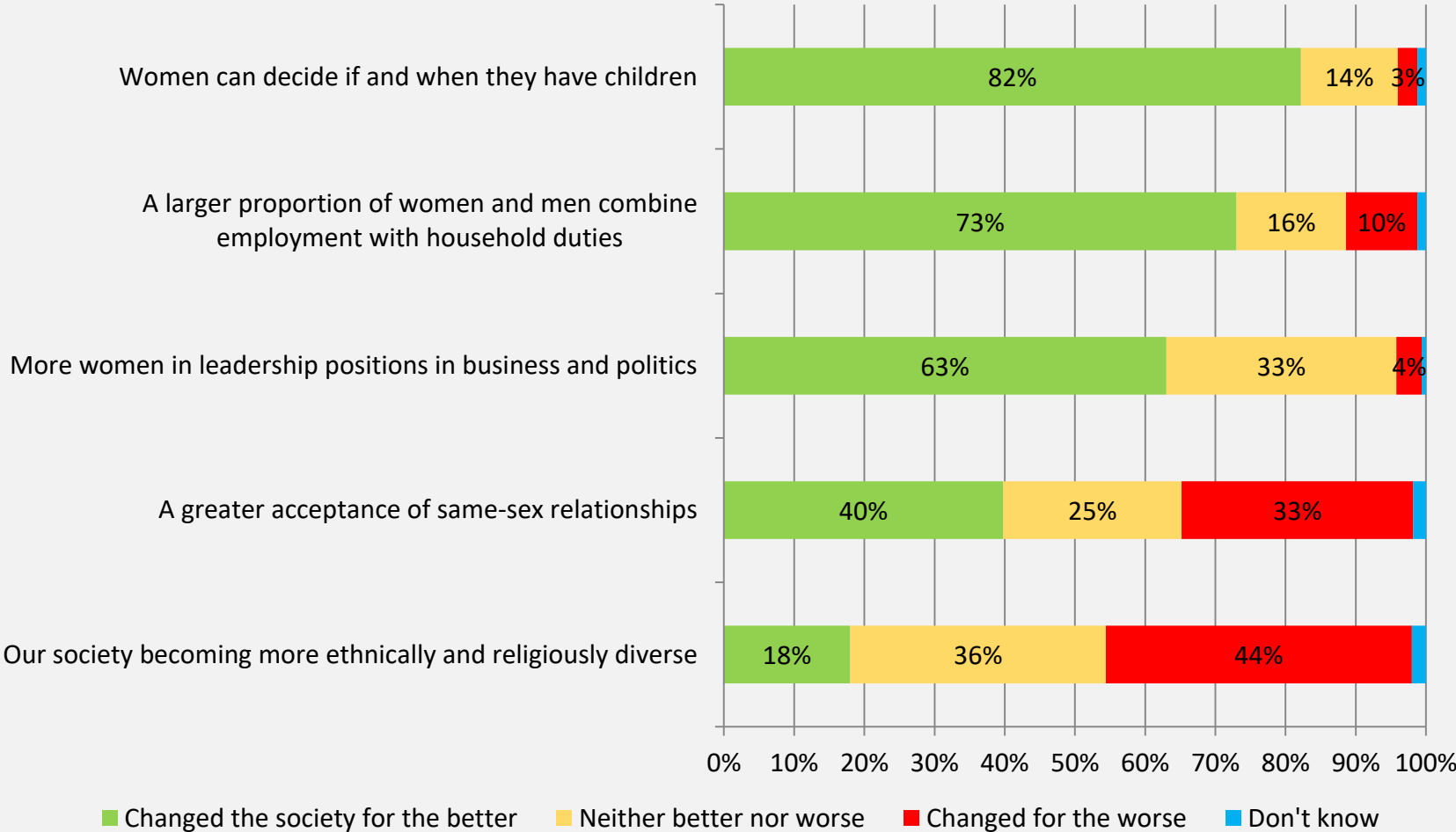


NOTE

- ✓ 55% would sacrifice some democratic principles for increased security
- ✓ 40% would for a higher standard of living
- ✓ These opinions are more strongly held by young women than young men

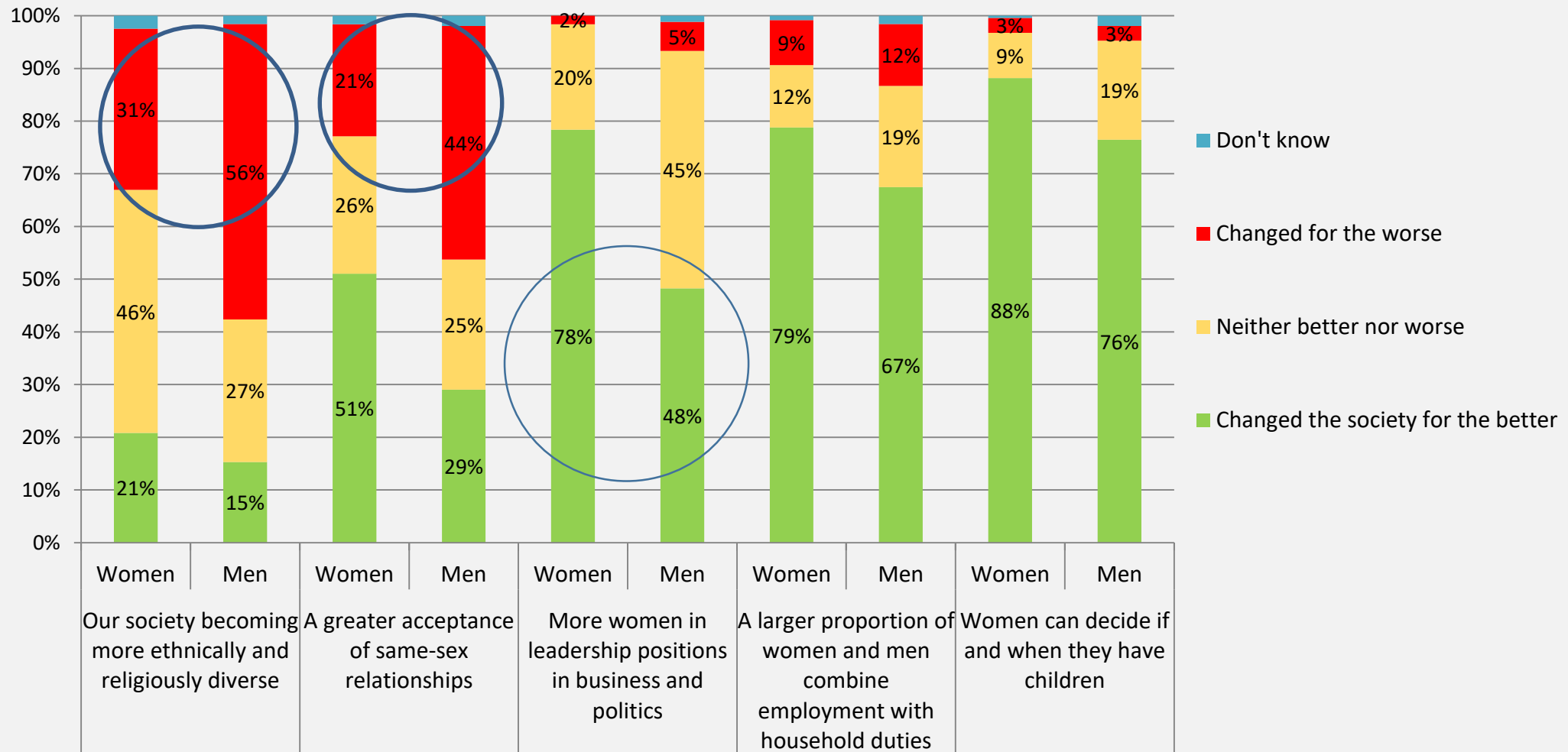
Increasing ethnic and religious diversity are the least positive changes in European societies. Issues related to gender equality are the most positive changes.

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?



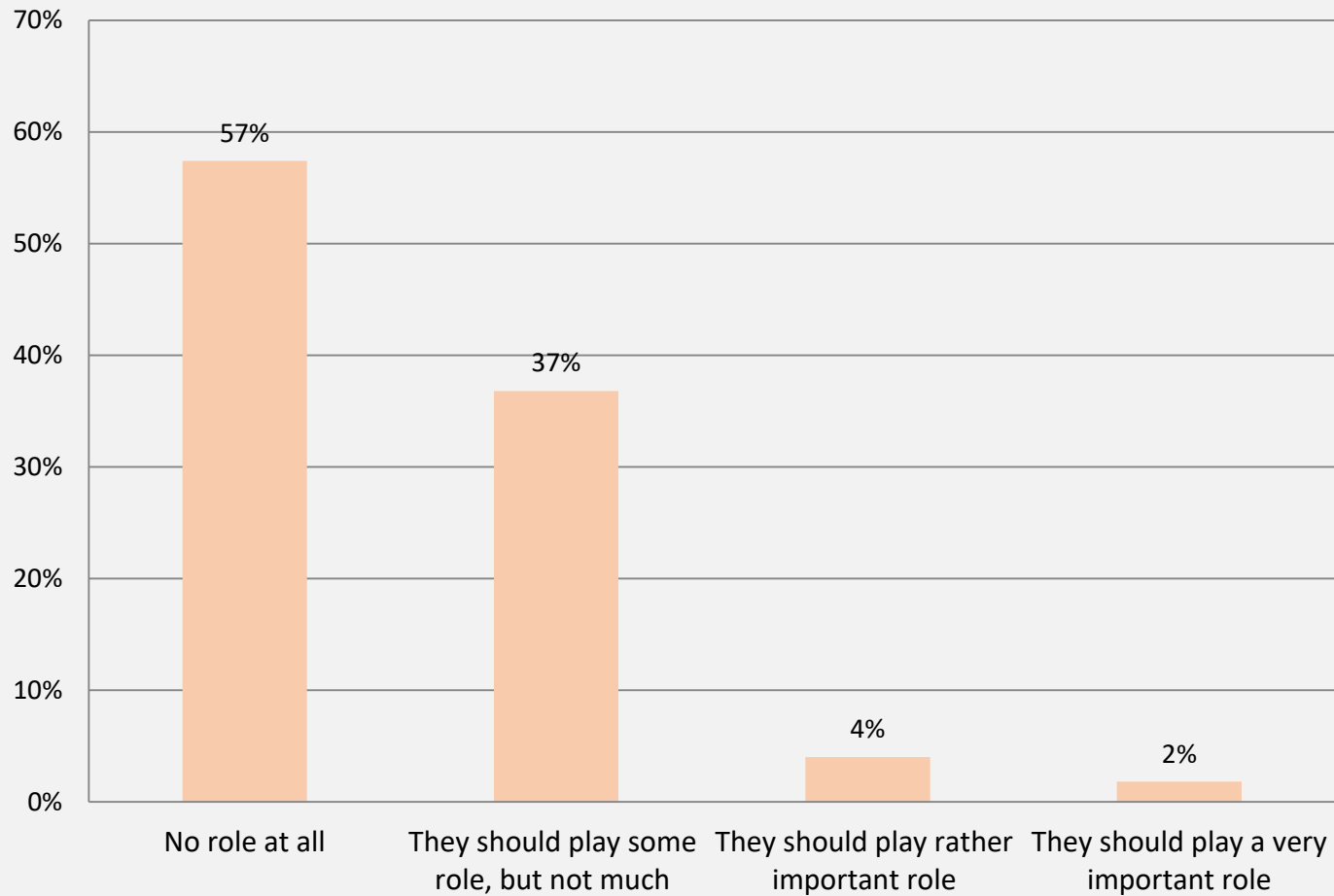
Gender divergence is present on issues concerning women in leadership, same-sex relationships, and ethnic and religious diversity.

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 majority believes religious values should not play a role in politics.

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



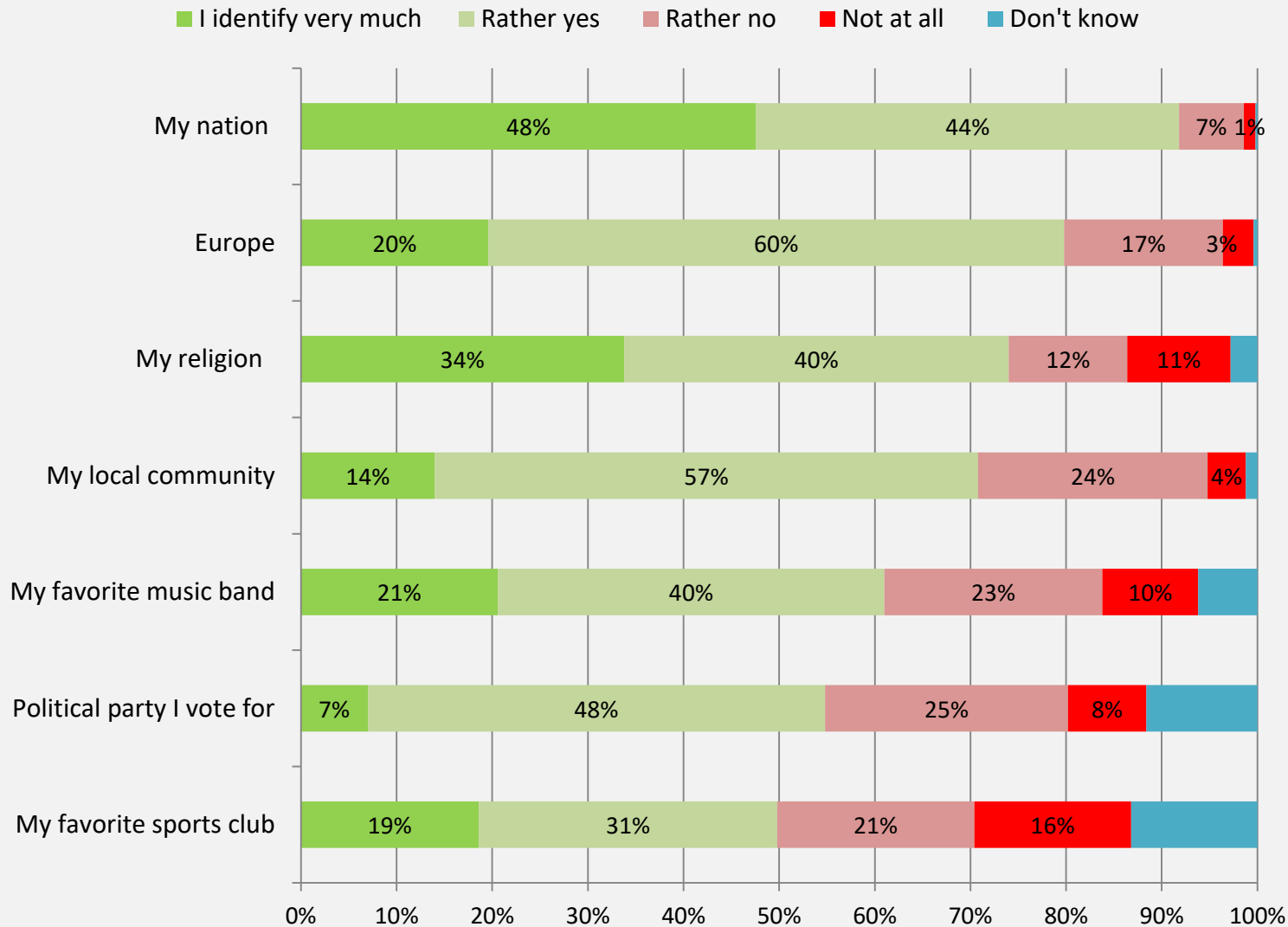
NOTE

✓ Those from rural areas are more split on this question. 50% of this group believe religious values should play no role and 46% think they should play only a minor role.

IDENTITY

Young poles identify most strongly with their nation, then Europe and their religion.

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

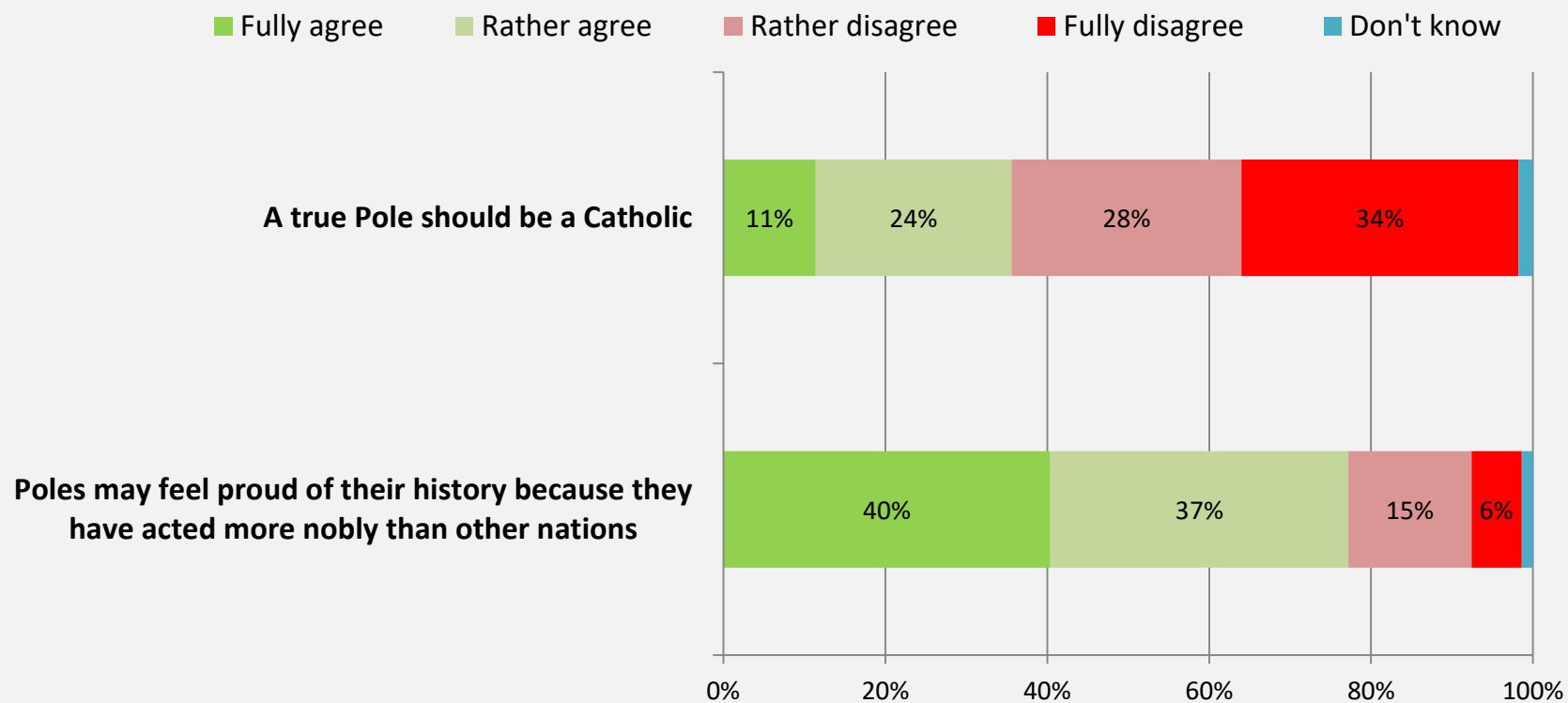


NOTE

- ✓ Young Poles identify less with their local community than the nation or Europe—the opposite of the trend for all Poles.
- ✓ Level of identification with the nation and local community increases with the age of respondents.

Nearly two-thirds do not think a true Pole should be Catholic.

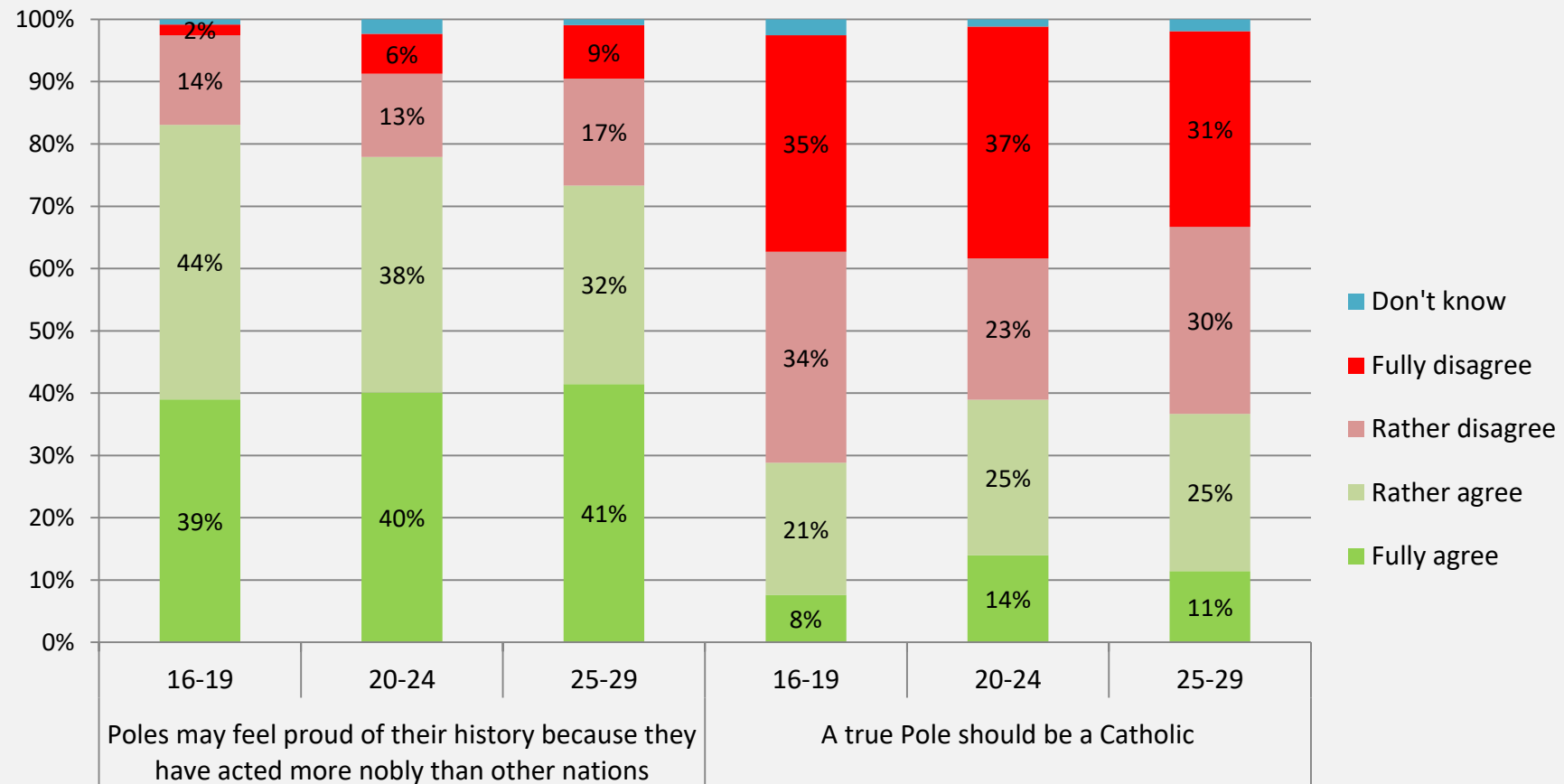
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?



16 to 19 year olds are most proud of Polish history and least supportive of the idea that a true Pole should be Catholic.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

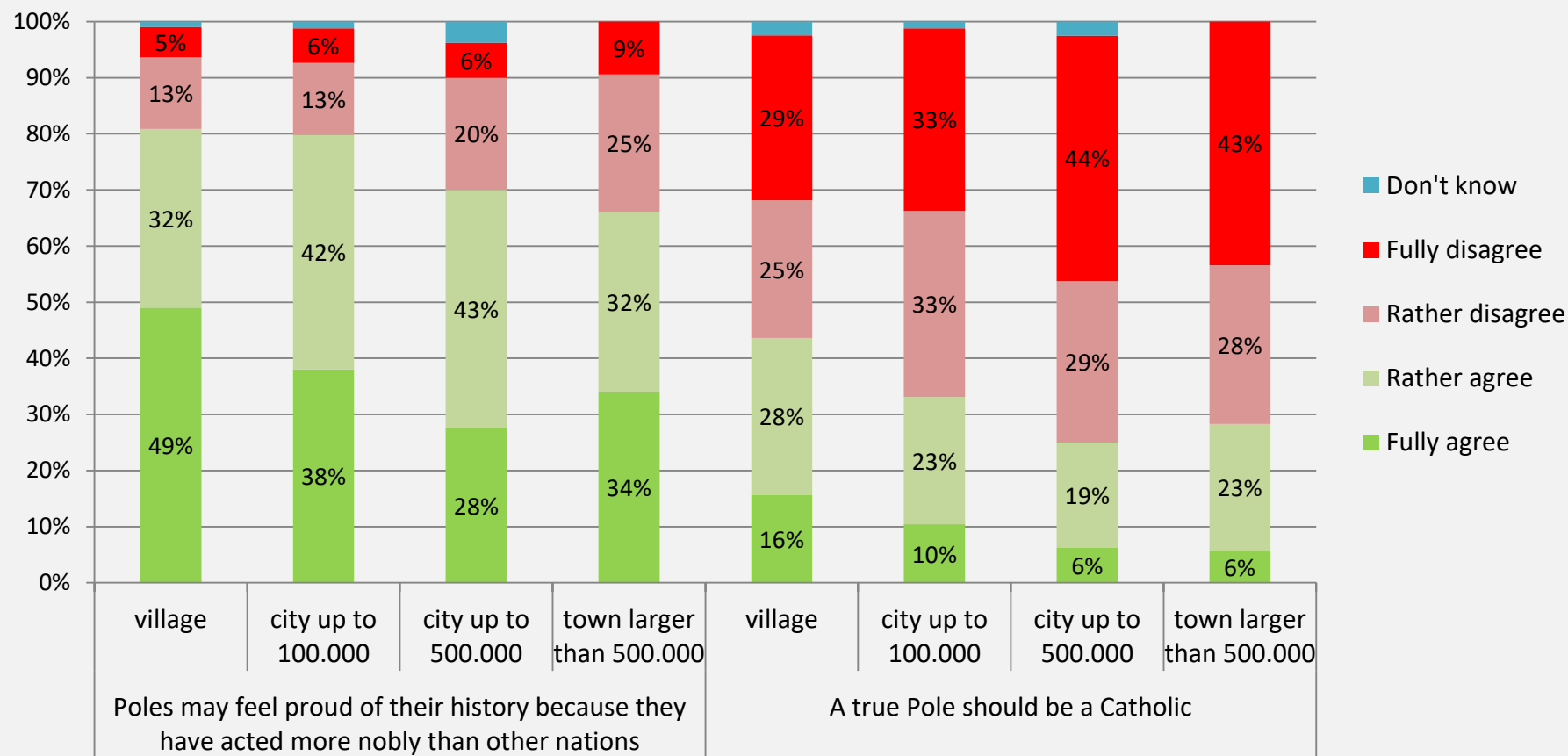
Results within age groups



Divergence between and rural/urban areas exists, but the overall opinions on national pride and whether a true Pole should be Catholic are consistent across the country.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

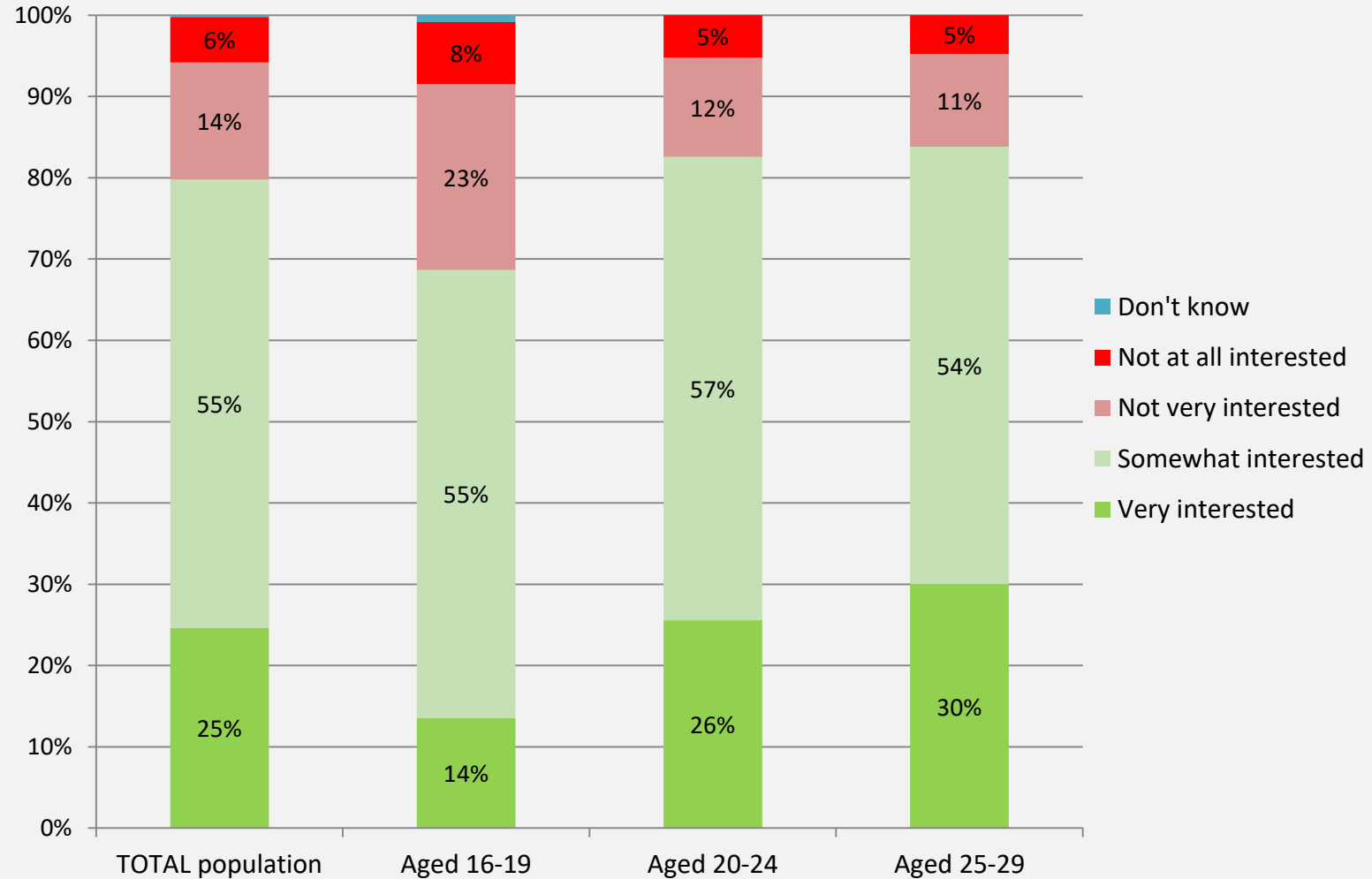
Results by size/kind of residence place



MEDIA CONSUMPTION AND TOP CONCERNS

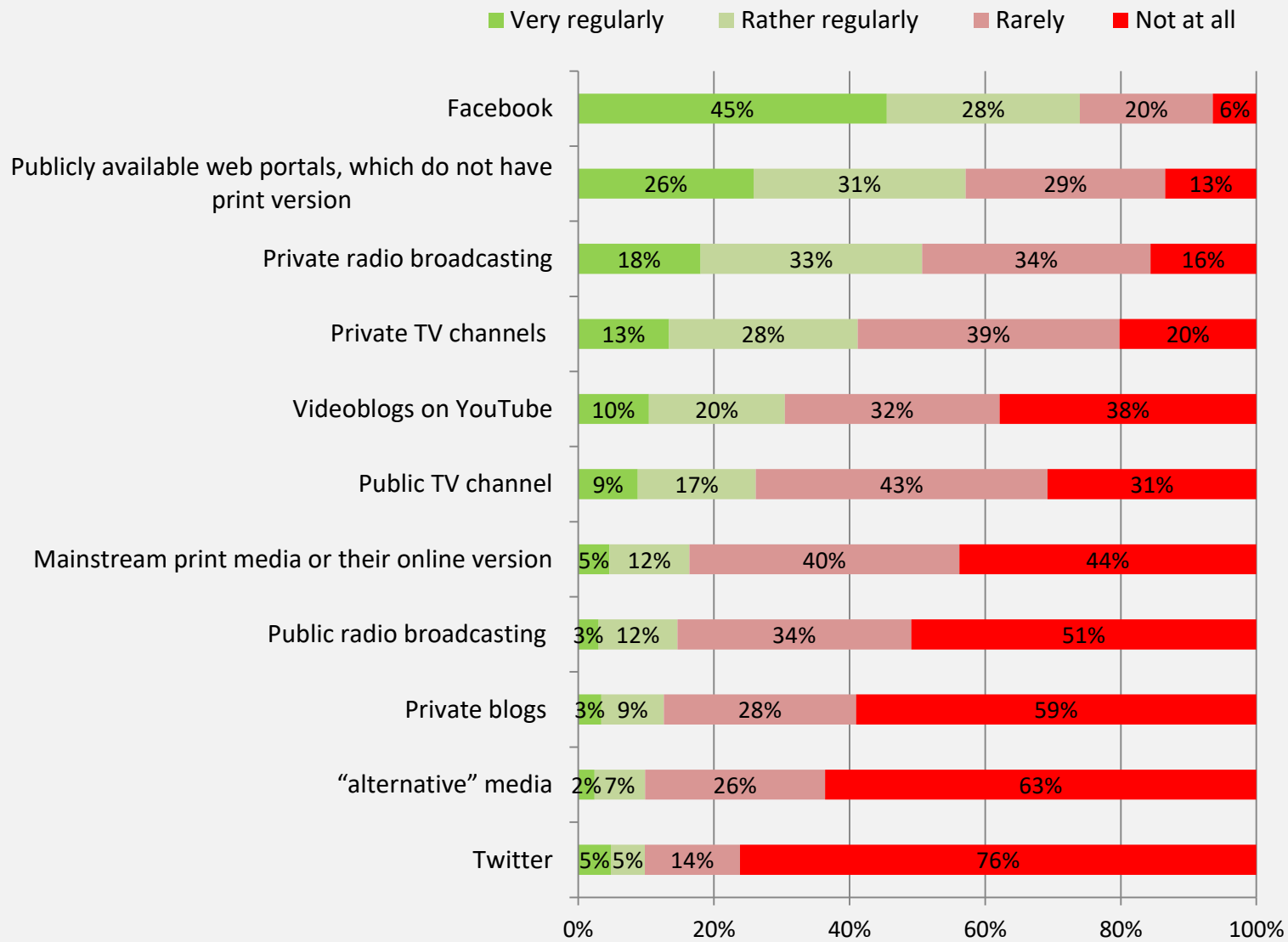
8-in-10 are interested in politics. Interest increases with age.

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



7-in-10 report Facebook as their most common source of political information.

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

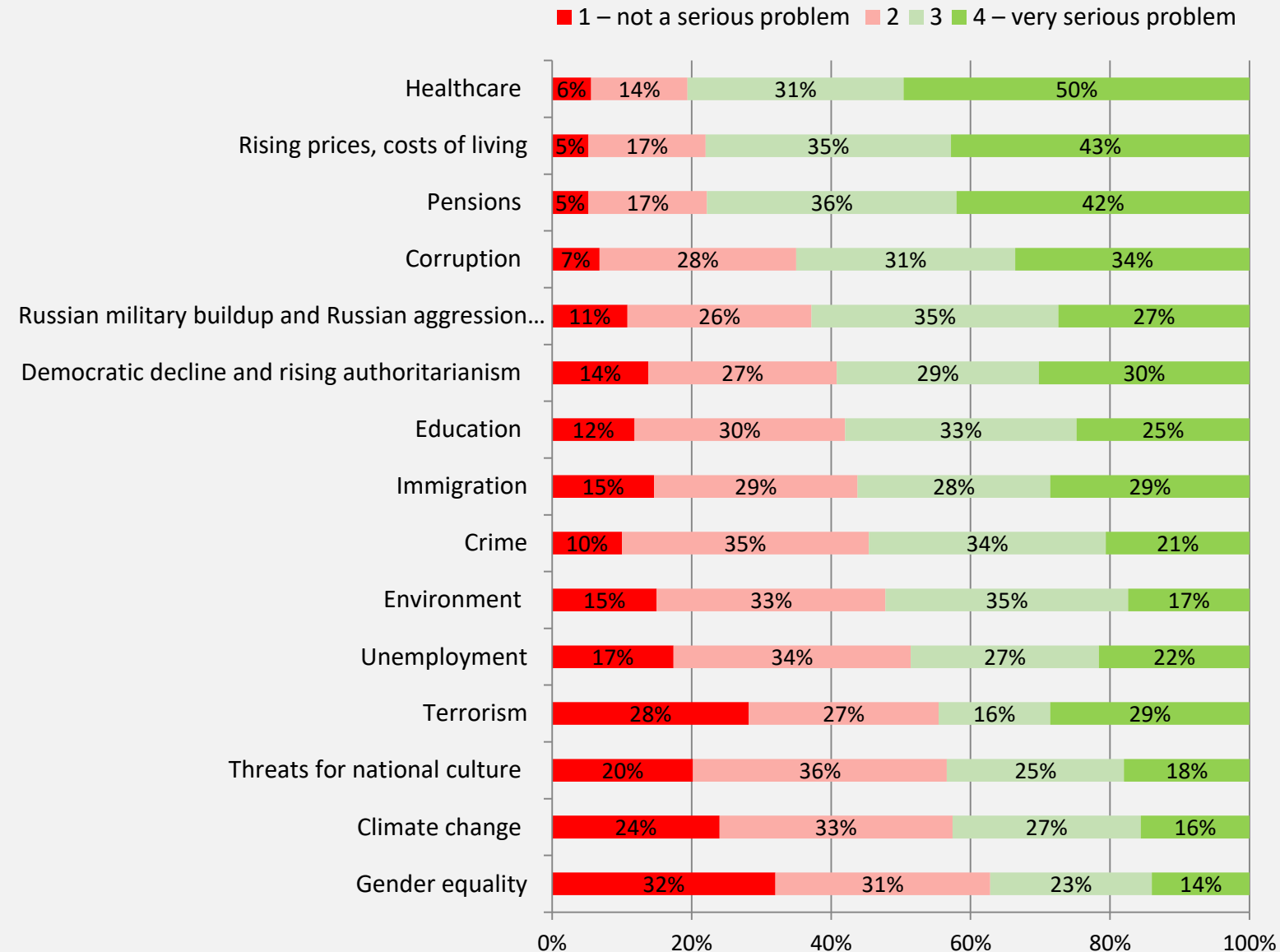


NOTE

- ✓ Traditional media use is low, especially public radio and print newspaper.
- ✓ While online news portals without print versions are popular, blogs, Twitter, and alternative media are not.
- ✓ Private TV and radio are used more often than public broadcasters.

Economic and social welfare are top concerns, then corruption and the decline of democracy.

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

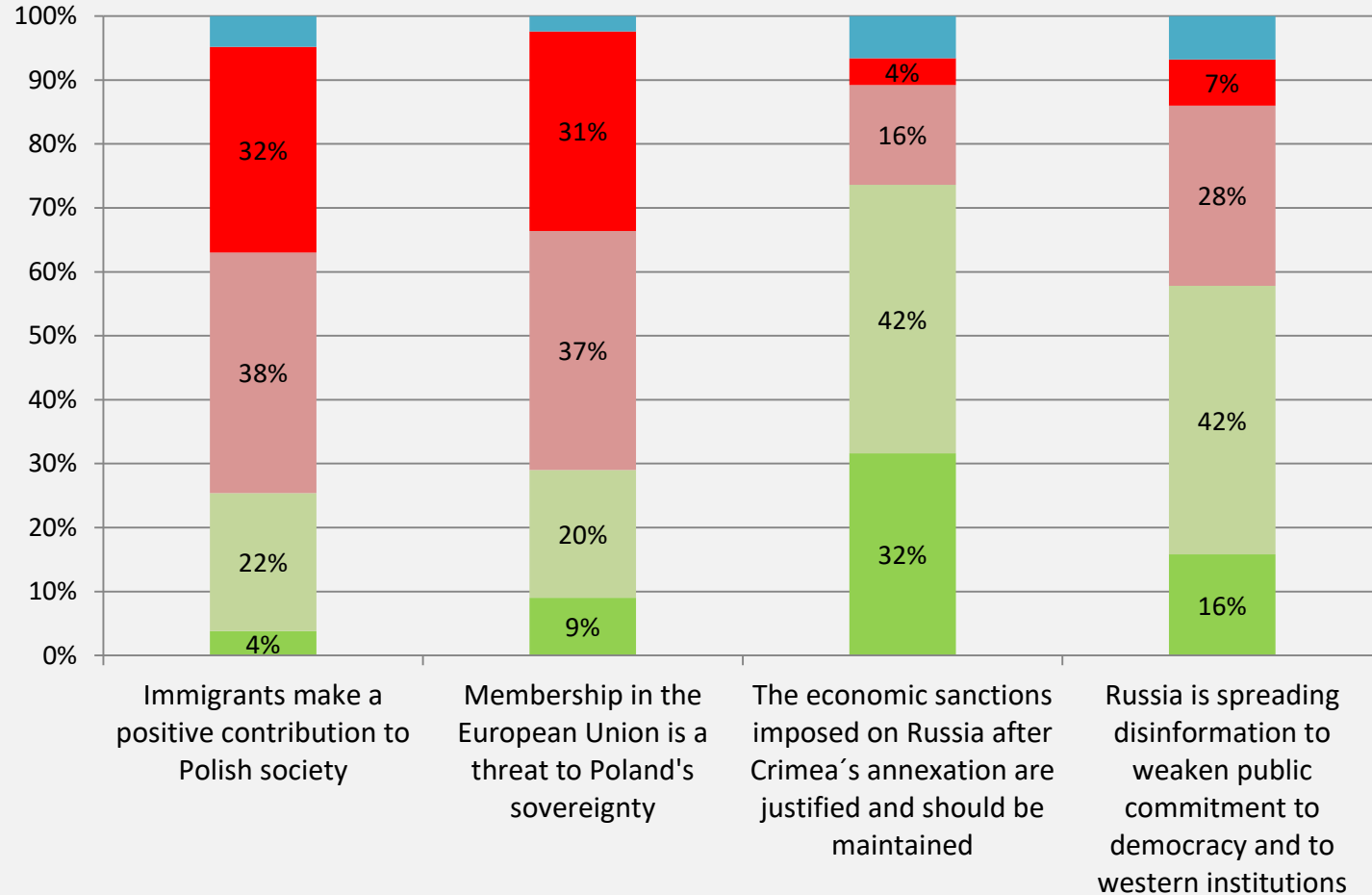


NOTE

- ✓ More than half see immigration as an important problem.
- ✓ Threats to national culture, gender equality, and environmental protection are the least pressing issues.

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

Do you agree or disagree with following statements?



- Don't know
- Fully disagree
- Rather disagree
- Rather agree
- Fully agree

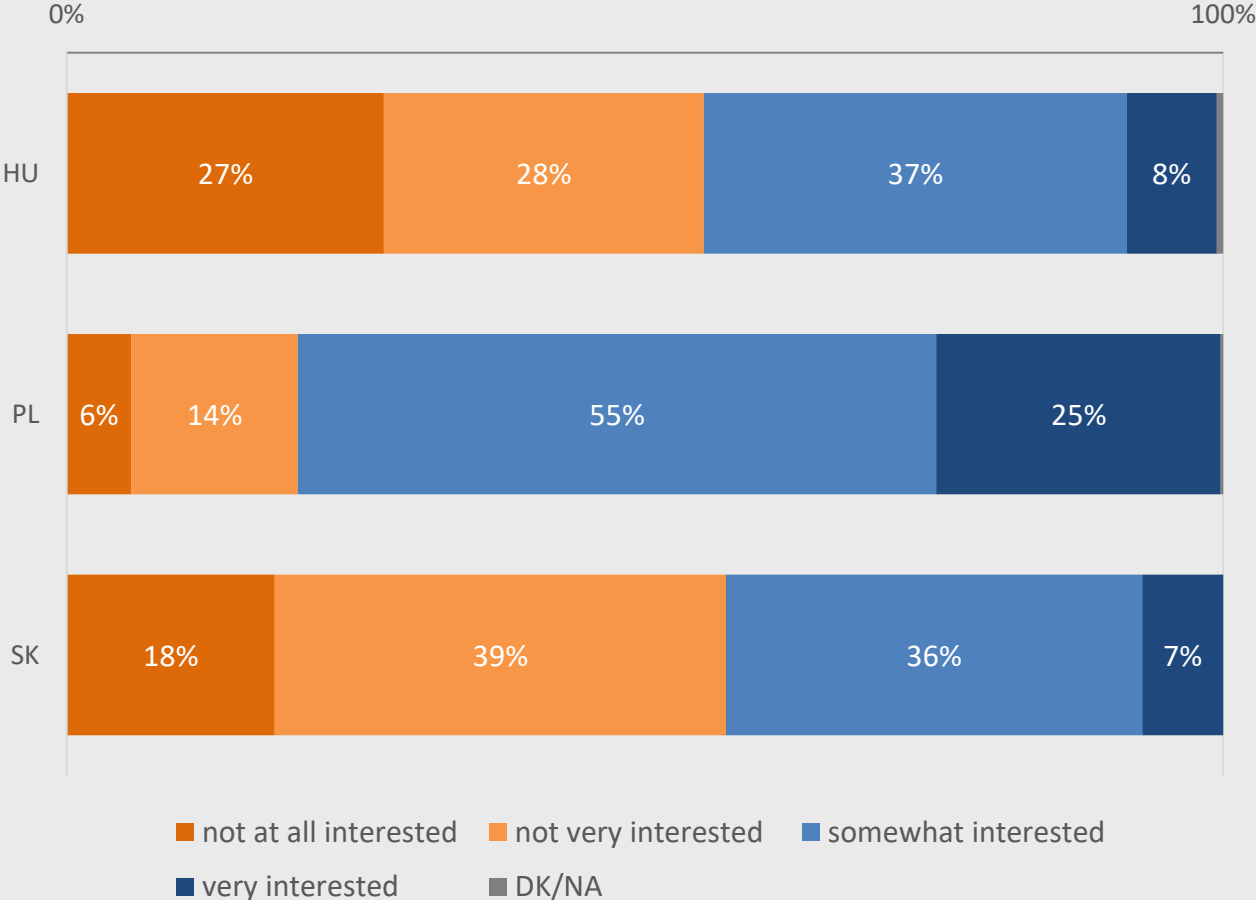
NOTE

- ✓ 58 percent believe Russia is spreading disinformation.
- ✓ The youngest Poles are least likely to see EU membership as a threat to Poland's sovereignty.

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?

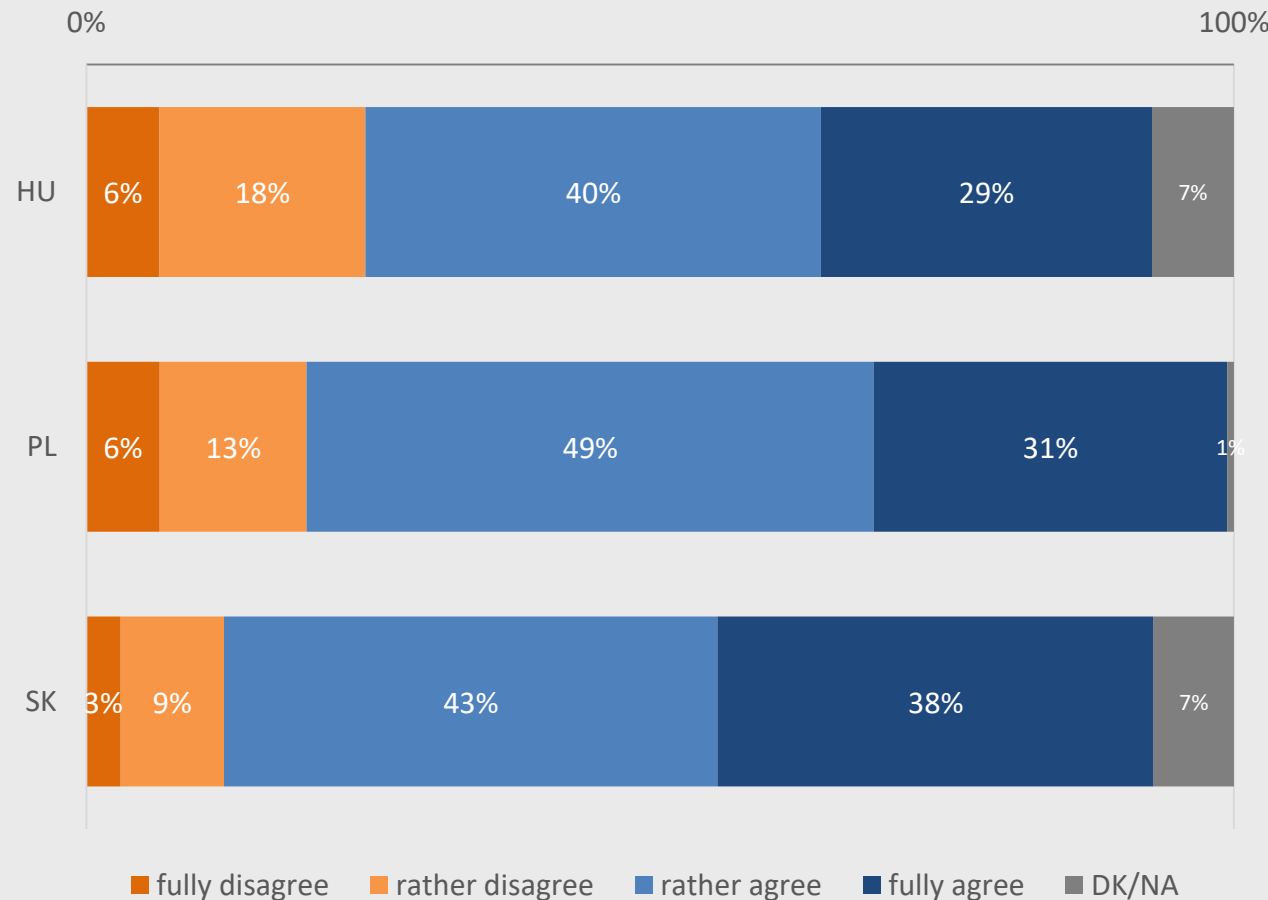


NOTE

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

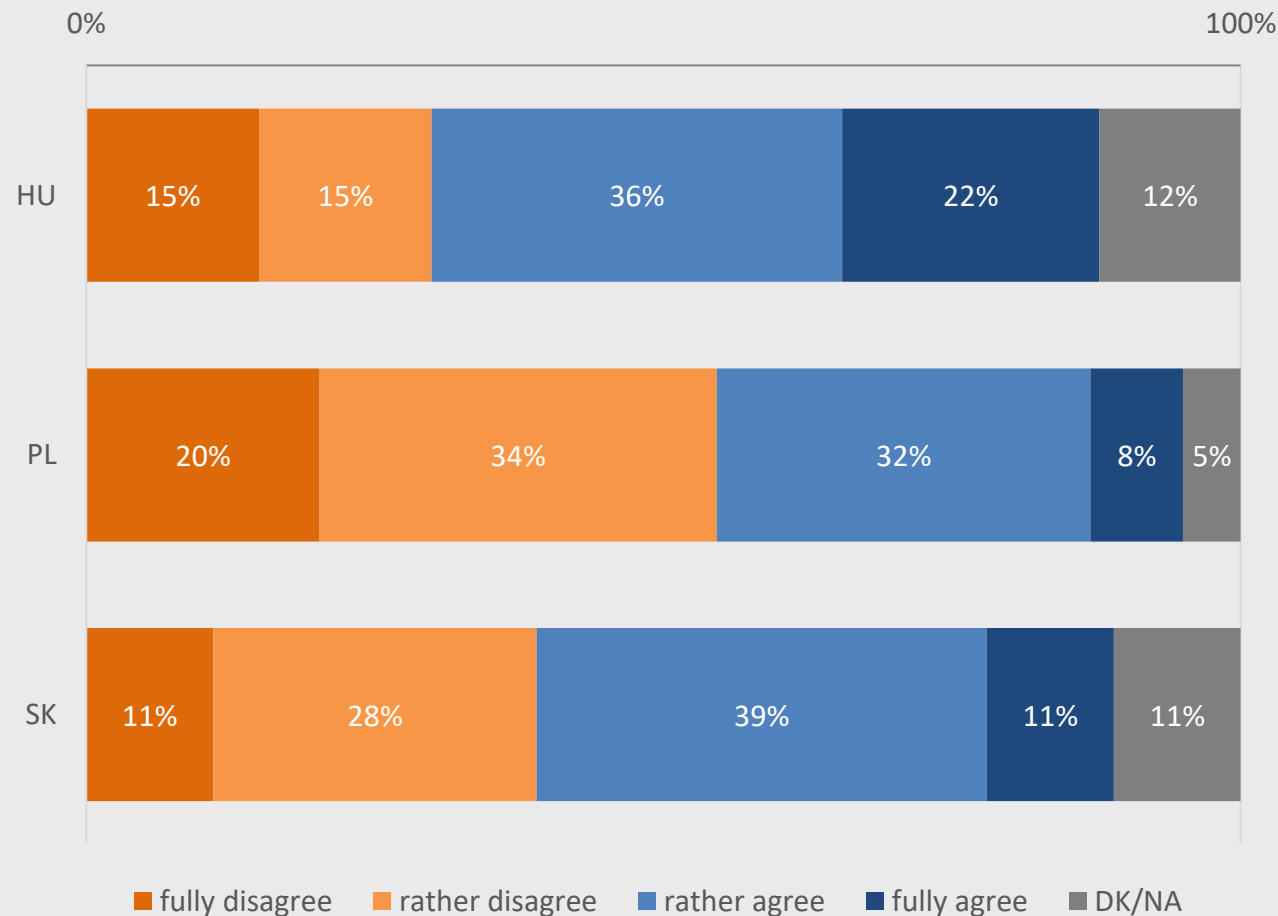
All believe democracy is the best possible political system. This belief is weakest in Hungary.

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

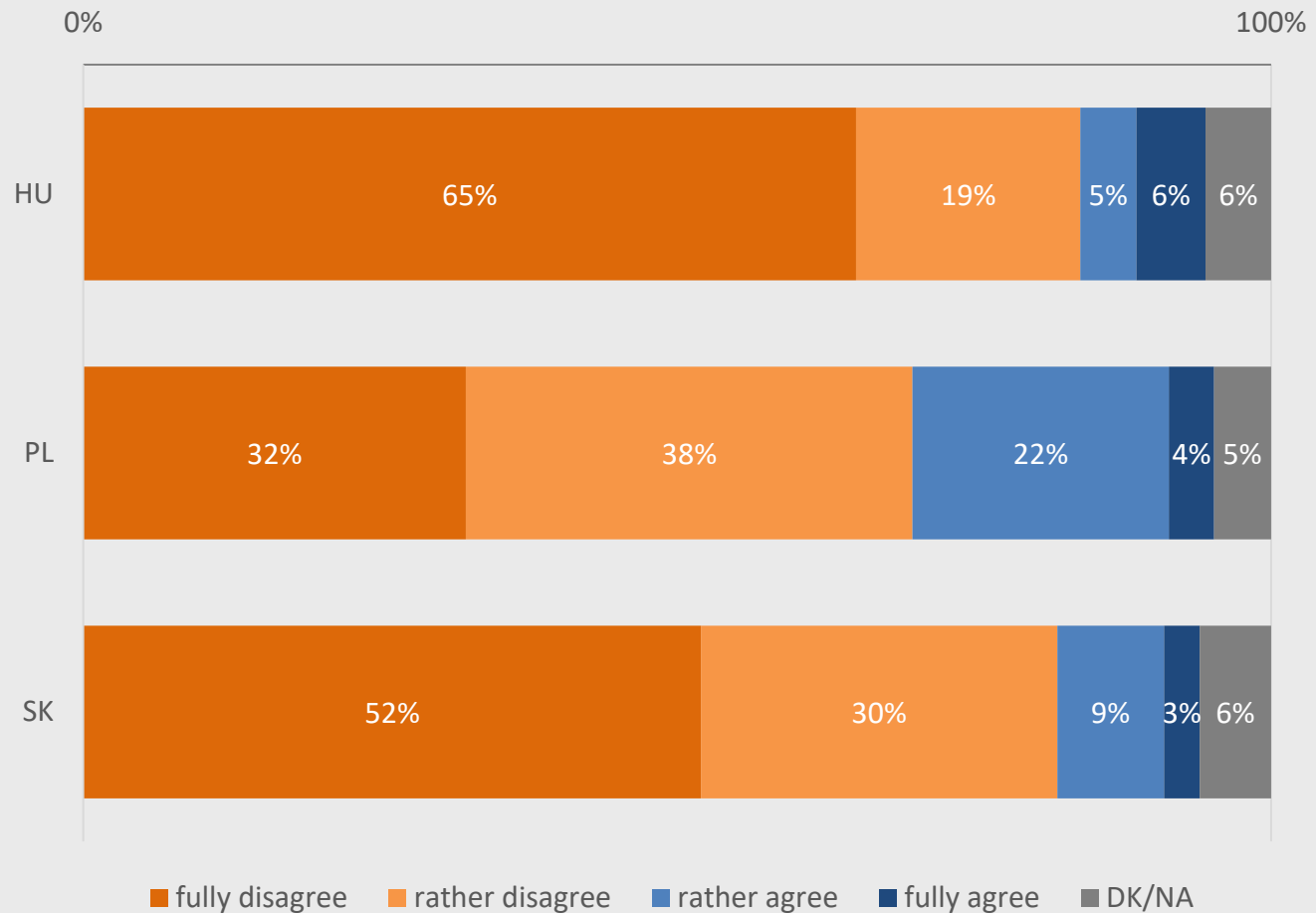


NOTE

- ✓ 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

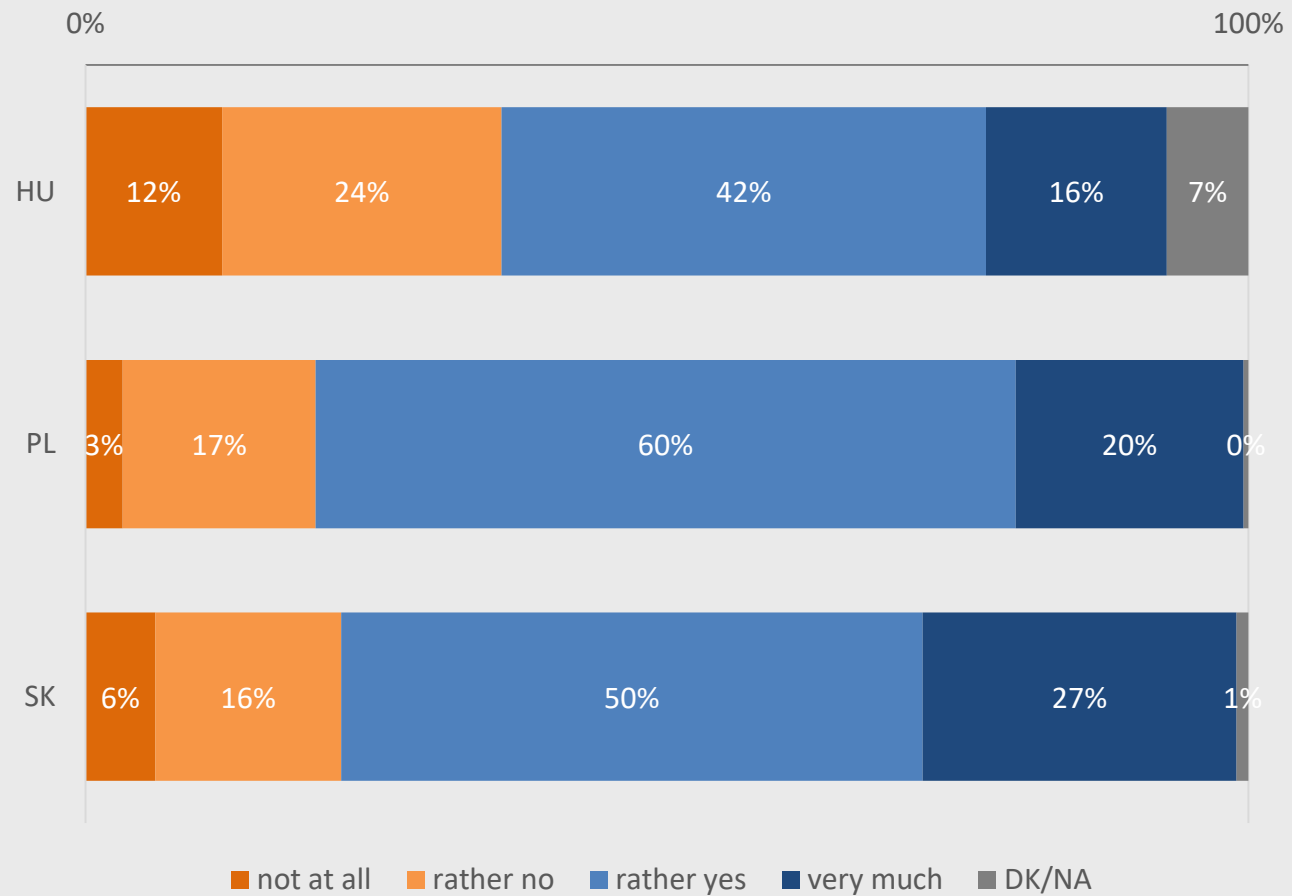


NOTE

- ✓ 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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