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# Youth Attitudes on Politics and Democracy in Central Europe



# Methodology



**National Endowment  
for Democracy**  
*Supporting freedom around the world*

## Organizations responsible for polling in the four Visegrad countries:

**Poland:** Institute of Public Affairs, authored by Filip Pazderski

**Slovakia:** FOCUS - Center for Social and Marketing Analysis,  
authored by Martin Slosiarik

**Czech Republic:** STEM - Empirical Research for Democracy,  
authored by Martin Buchtík

**Hungary:** Political Capital, authored by Csaba Molnár and Kata Bálint

All mentions of 2018 polling reference public opinion polling conducted by the National Democratic Institute, in Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, and is accessible at [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org).

## Samples and polling

Statistically representative samples (gender, age, education level, settlement size and regions) of respondents aged 16-29 in all V4 countries participated in online pollings (Computer Assisted Web Interview - CAWI) in June 2020.

Poland - 750 respondents

Czech Republic - 1006 respondents

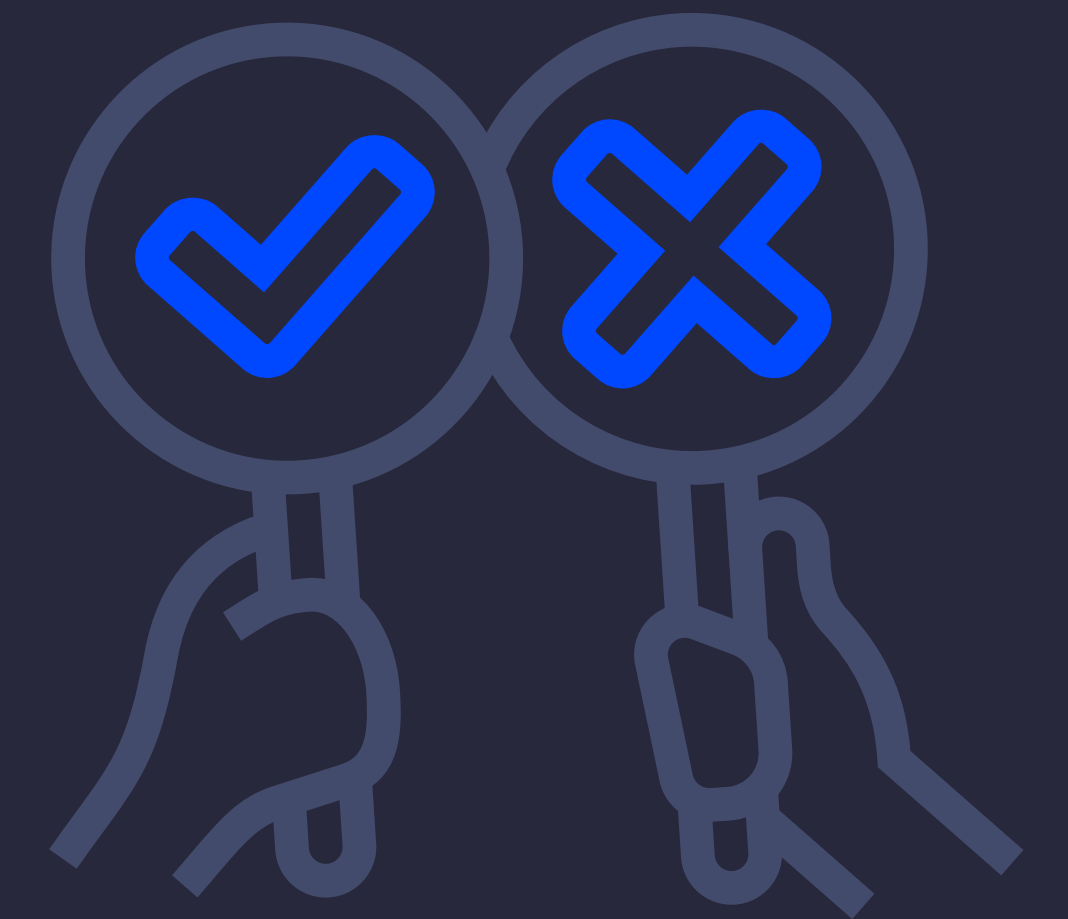
Slovakia - 756 respondents

Hungary - 750 respondents

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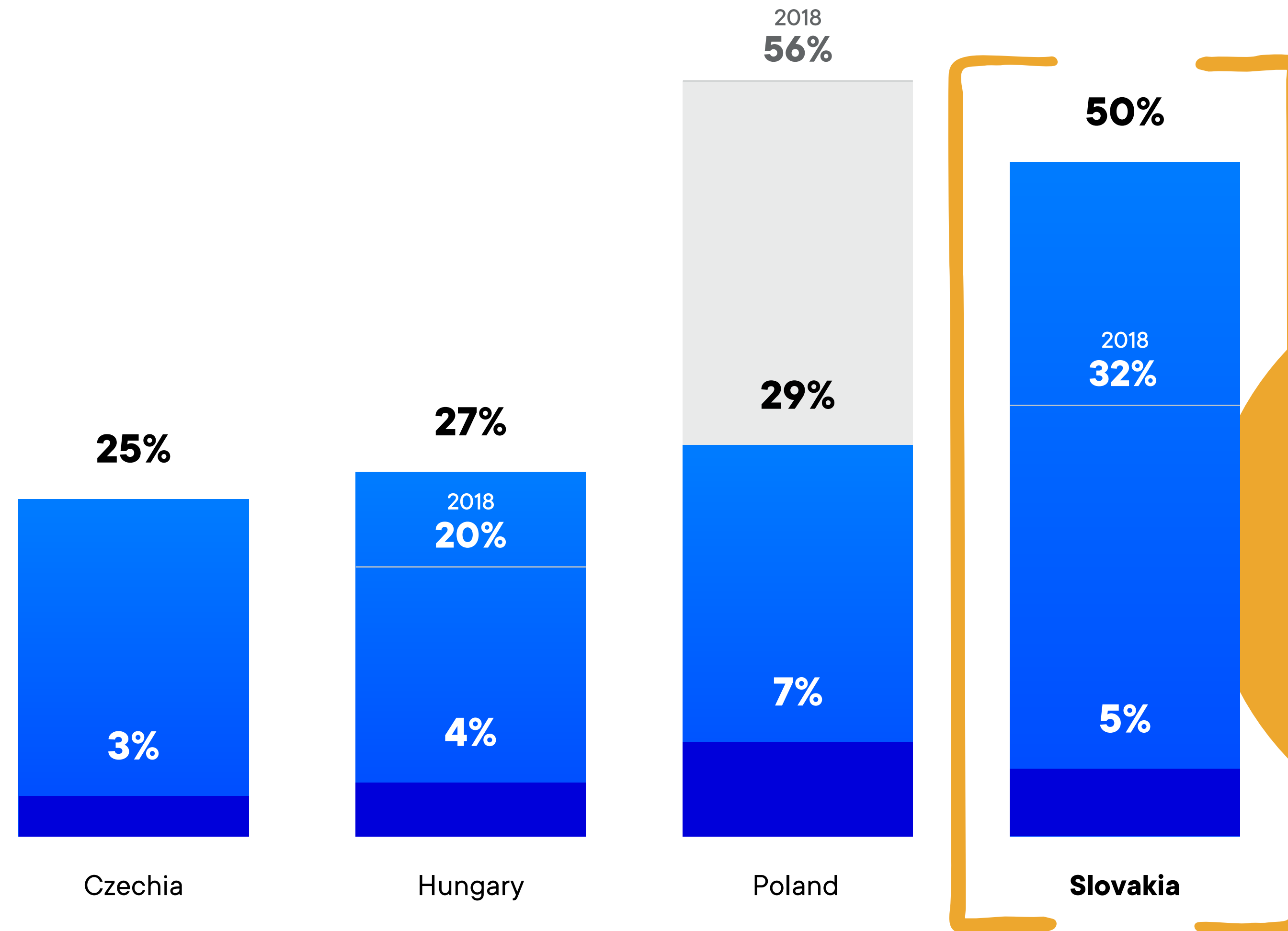
# Democracy & Interest in Public Affairs

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# Are you personally satisfied with the current political situation?

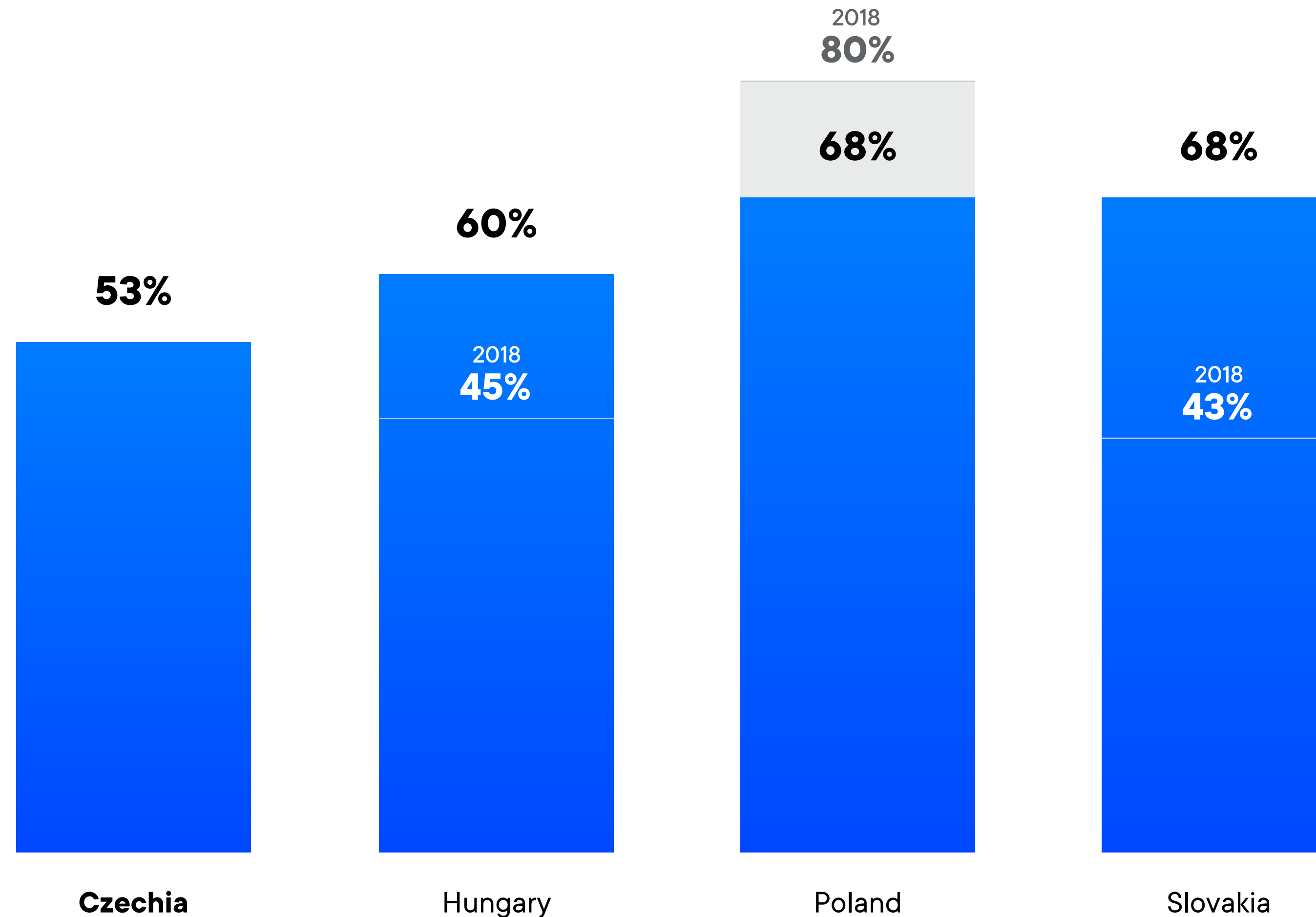
Less than one third of youth in Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic are satisfied with the political situation in their home country. Compared to NDI polling in 2018, there is a mild increase in satisfaction with the political situation in Hungary and a steep decline in satisfaction with the political situation in Poland.



★  
**Slovak youth are the most satisfied with the political situation in their country.**

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

A majority of youth in the Visegrad countries are interested in politics and public affairs. The most interested youth are in Poland and Slovakia, followed by Hungary and the Czech Republic. In Slovakia and Hungary, NDI observed interest in politics and public affairs increase.

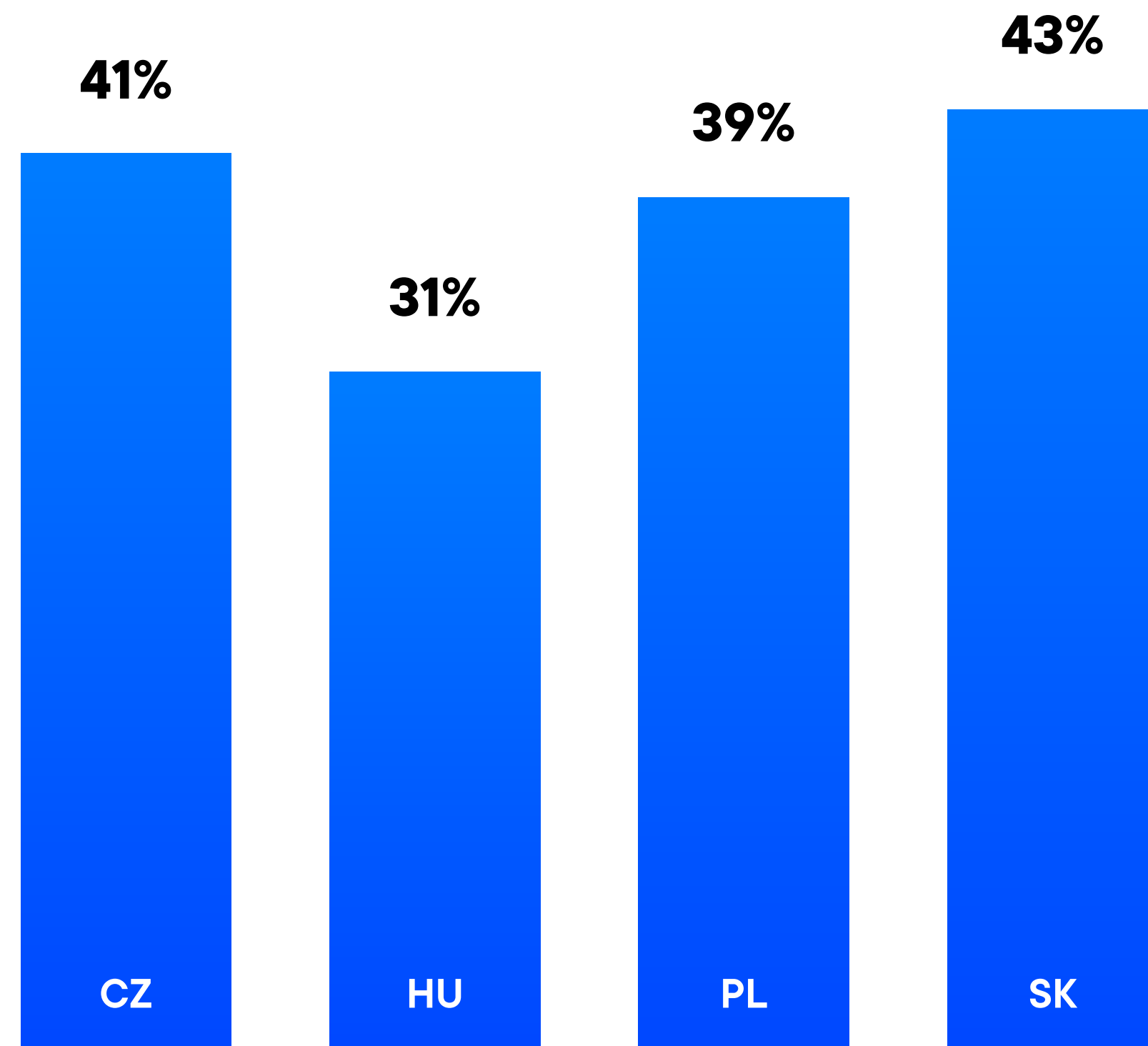


# How involved in politics have you been in the last two years? Are you willing to get involved in the future?

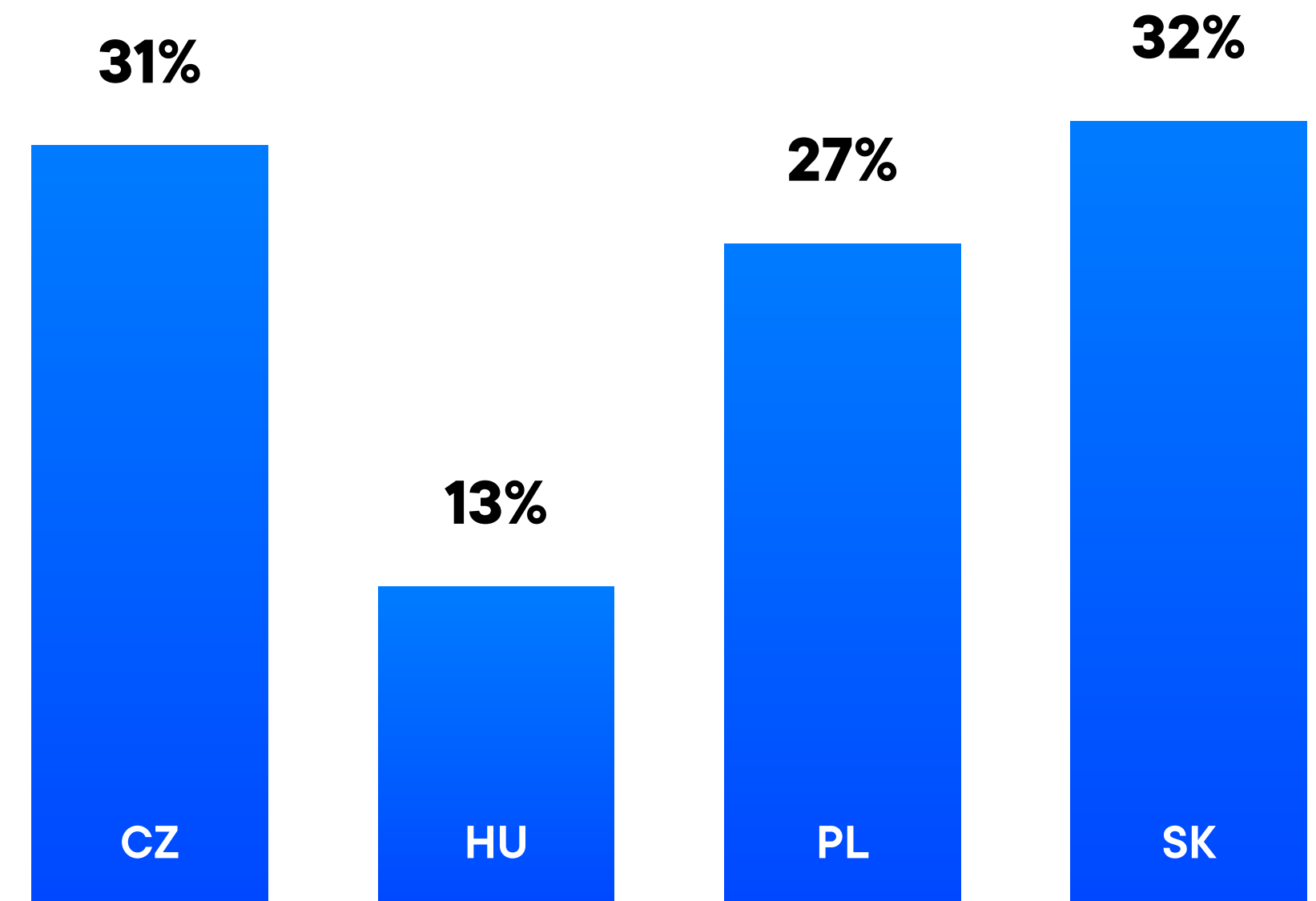
★ The most frequent form of political participation in the Visegrad countries is voting, followed by signing online petitions. In Poland crowdfunding ranked second. Crowdfunding is one of the least common forms of political engagement in the Czech Republic.

A quarter of Polish and Slovak youth stated they would consider joining a political party. The Hungarian youth show to be less politically engaged than their counterparts in the region.

# How involved have you been in the last two years? Are you willing to get involved in the future?

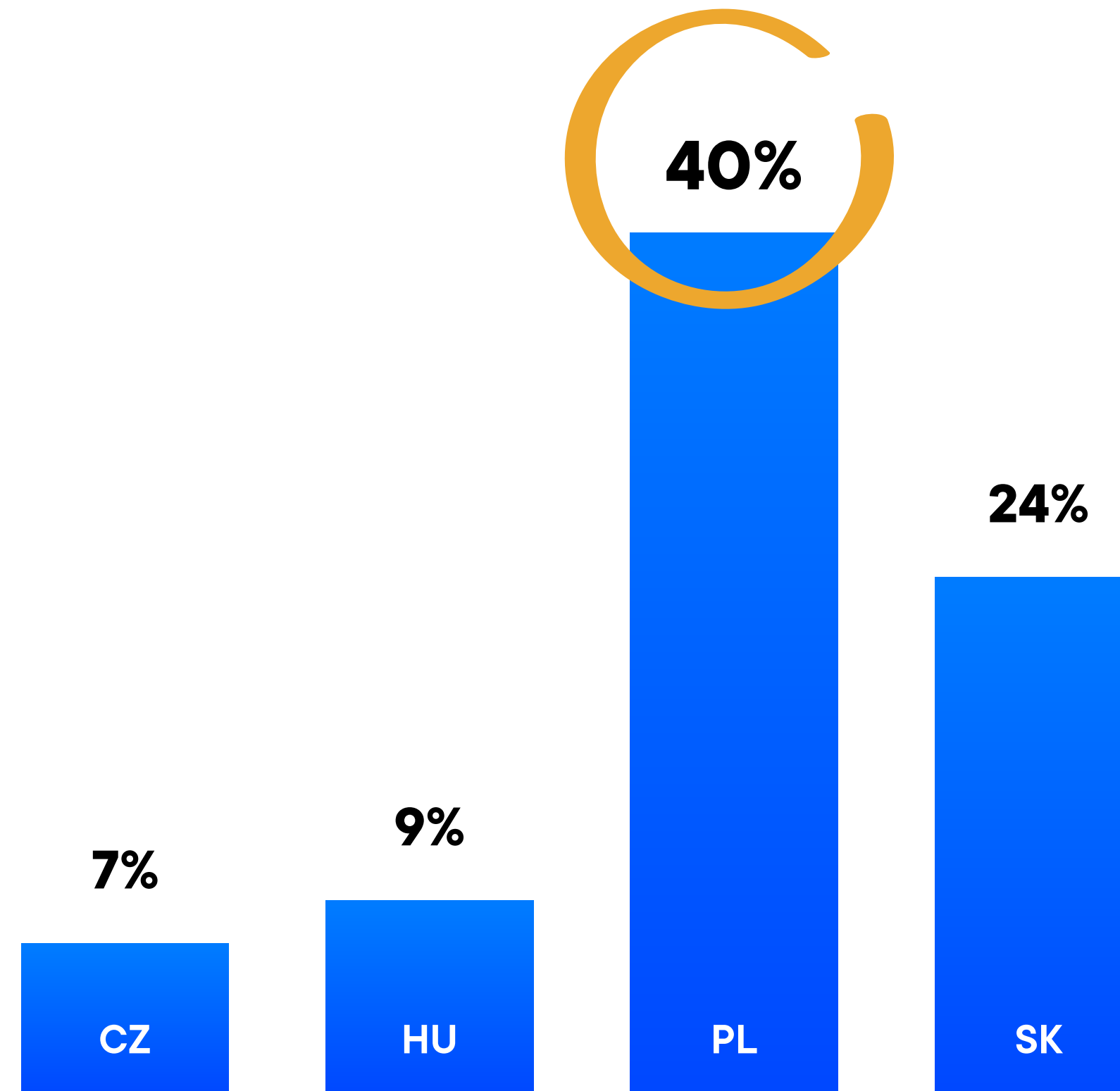


Participating in an online petition or protest



Signing a petition on the street or at another place not including the internet

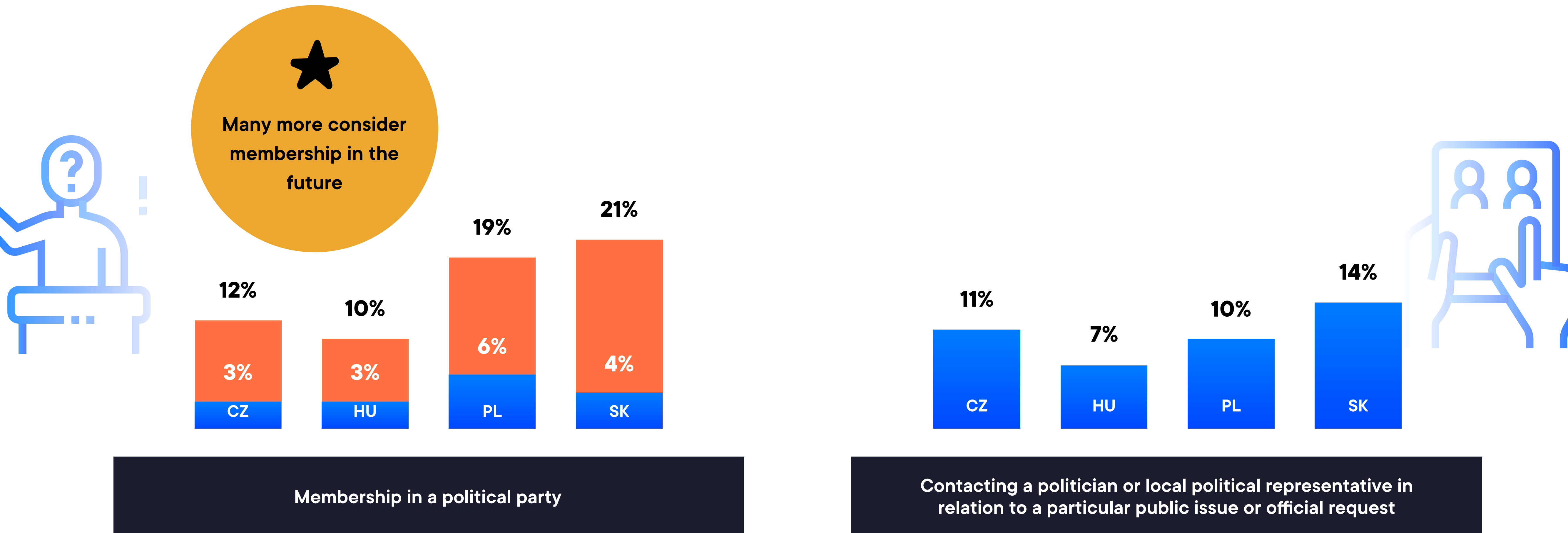
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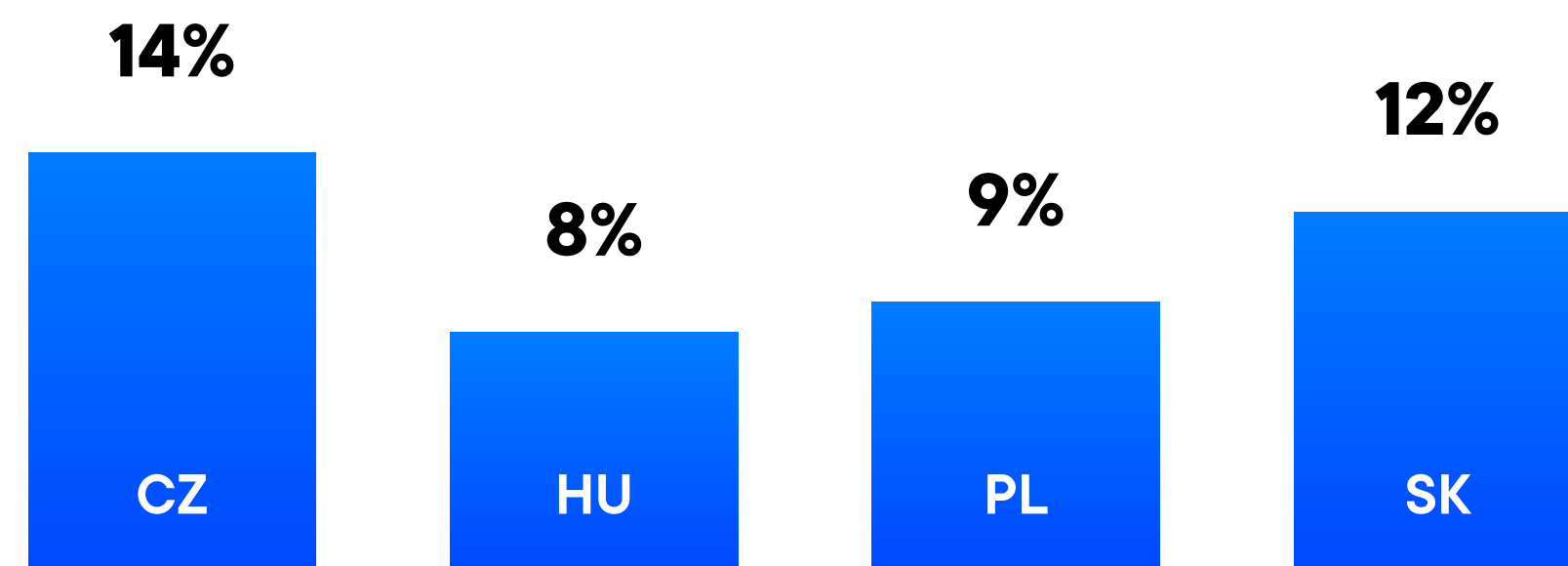
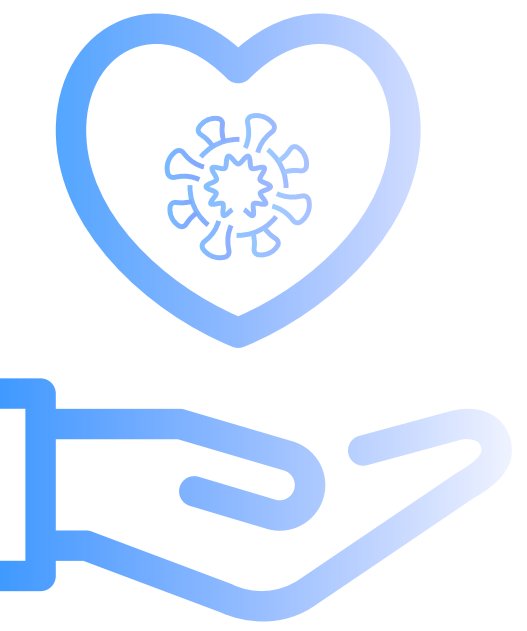
Supporting an online crowd-funding campaign



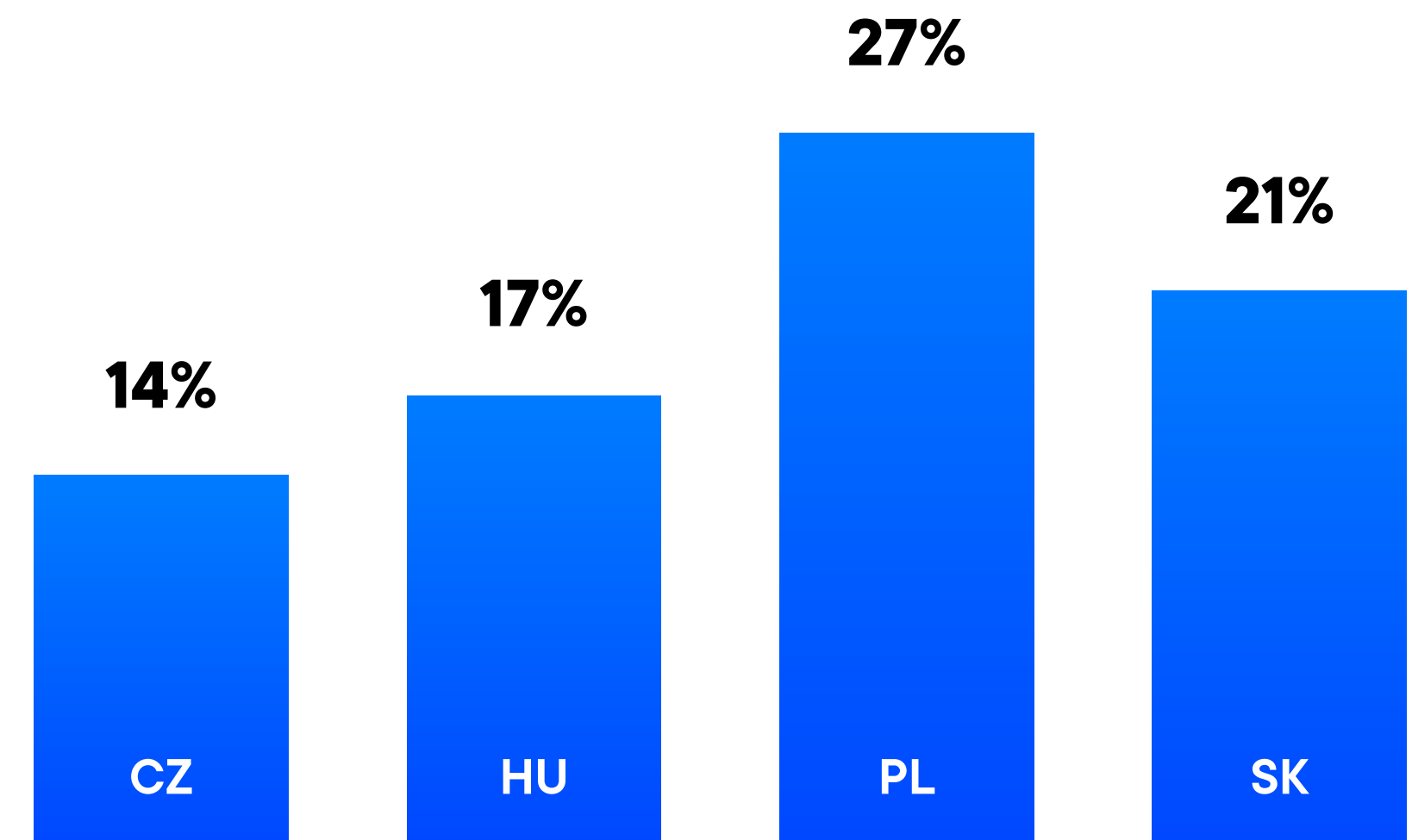
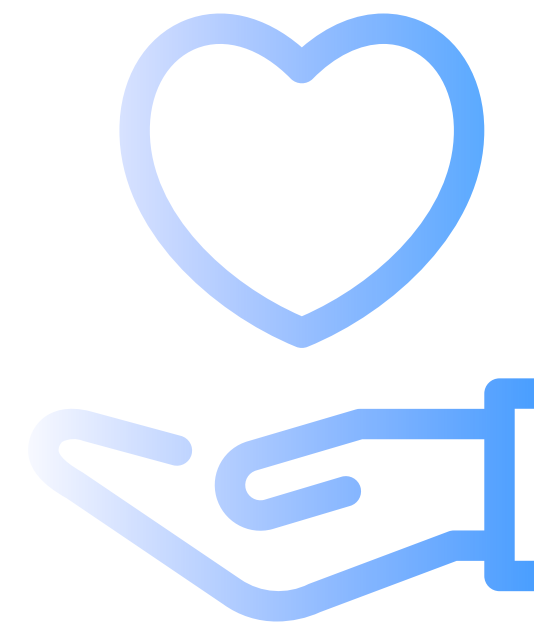
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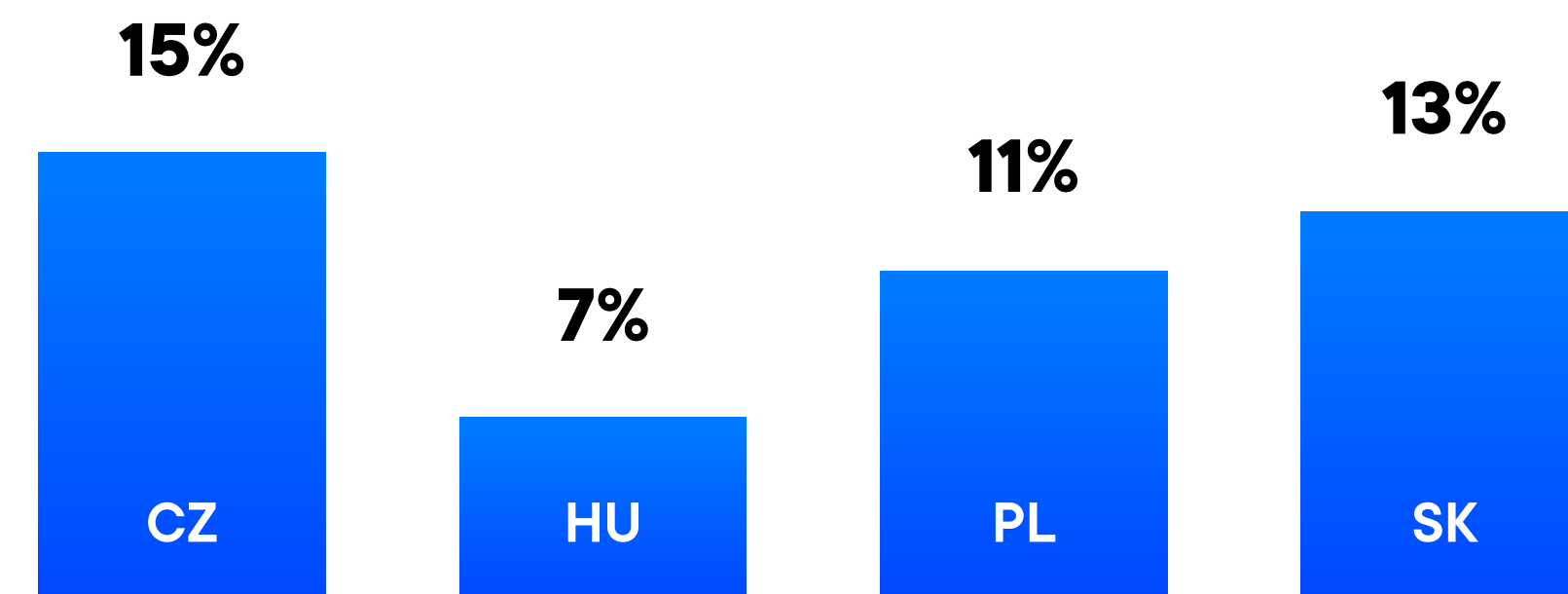
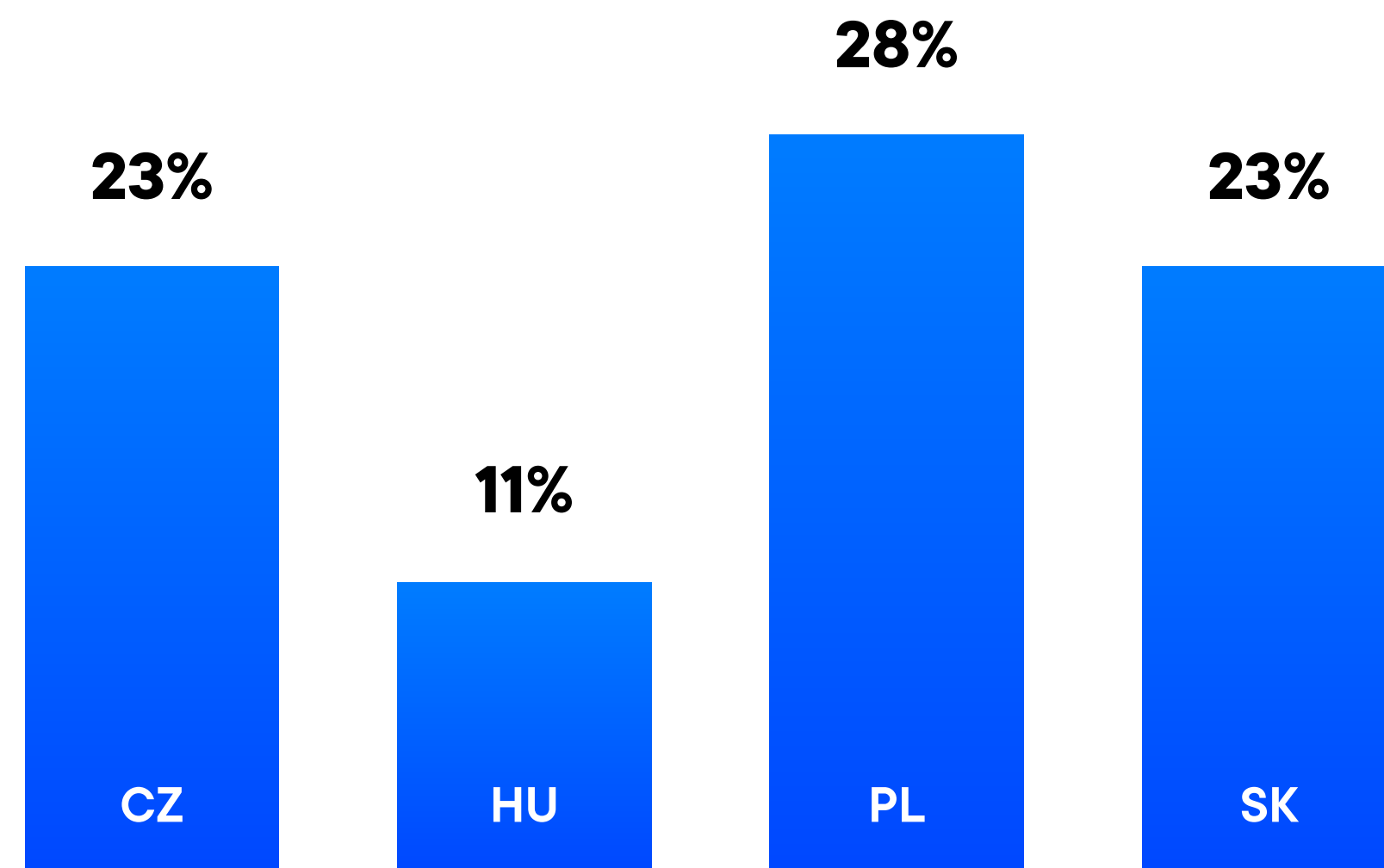


Volunteering in COVID-19-related initiatives



Volunteering (excluding COVID-19 related initiatives)

# How involved have you been in the last two years? Are you willing to get involved in the future?

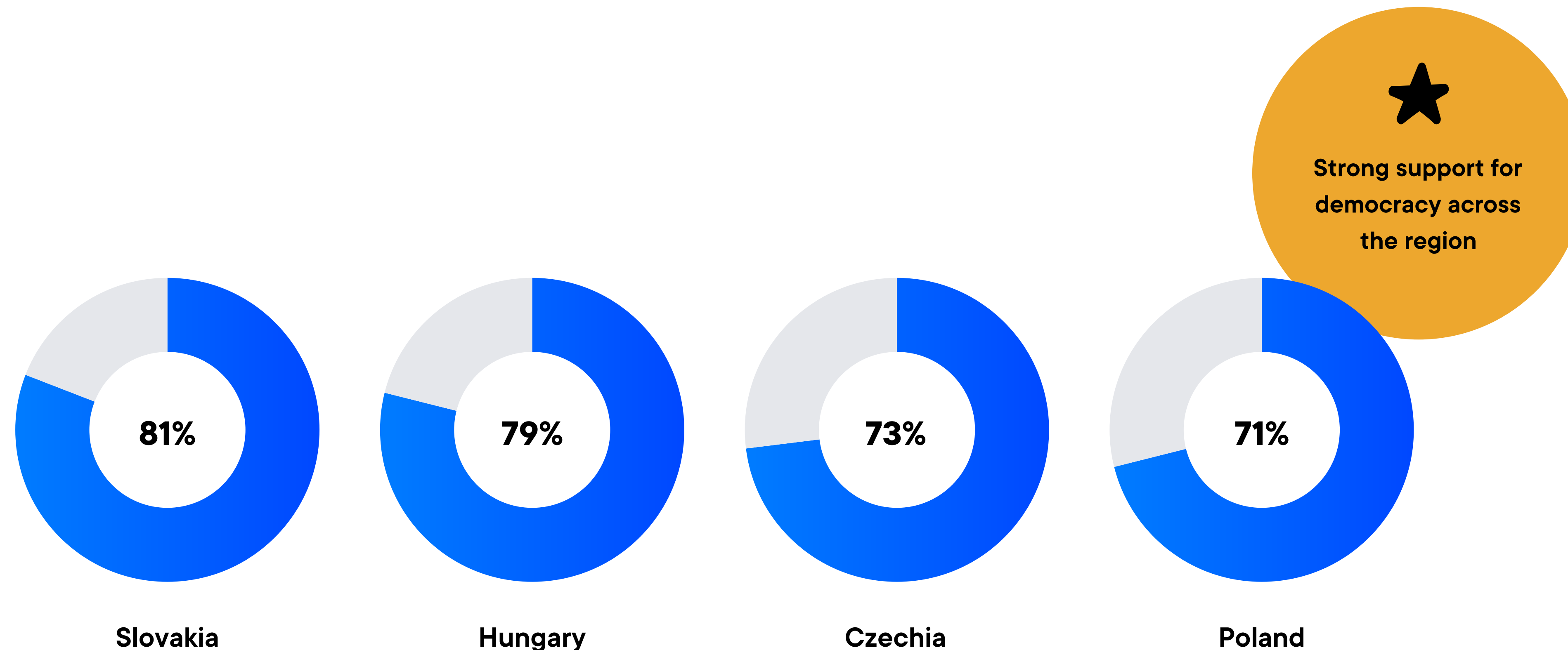


Publicly sharing or expressing your ideas on politics or important public issues through blogs, comments to the media, social networks, public discussions, etc.

Taking part in a demonstration

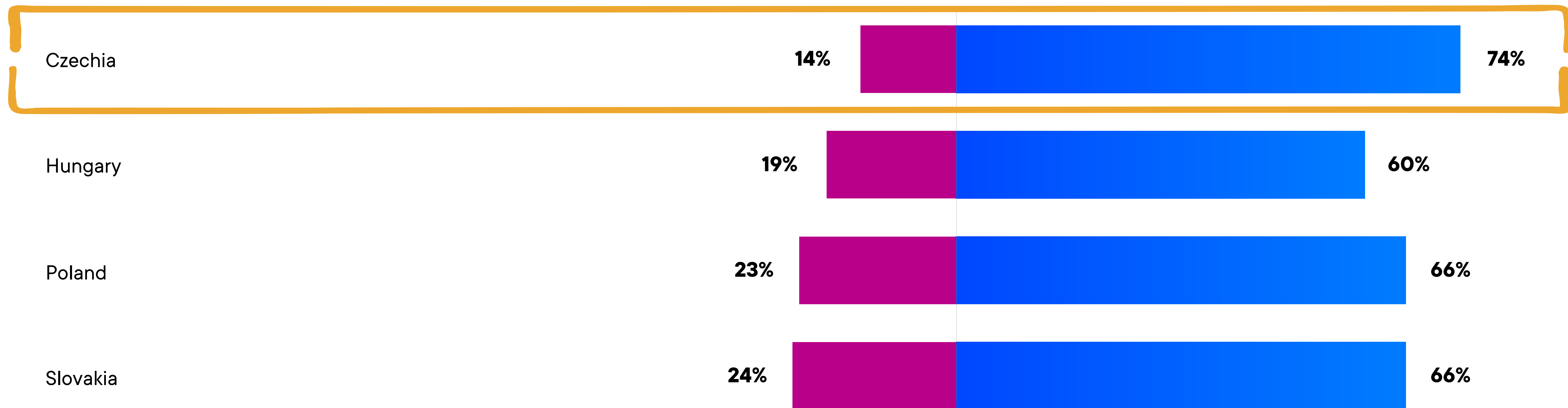
# Having a democratic political system in which decisions are made through legislative deliberation and public consultation.

Commitment for democratic political system remains strong across the region, however a majority of respondents, in all four countries, stated that they would be willing to sacrifice some freedoms for health and safety, and better protection from terrorism and other threats.



# Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

**“Democracy is the best possible system of government.”**



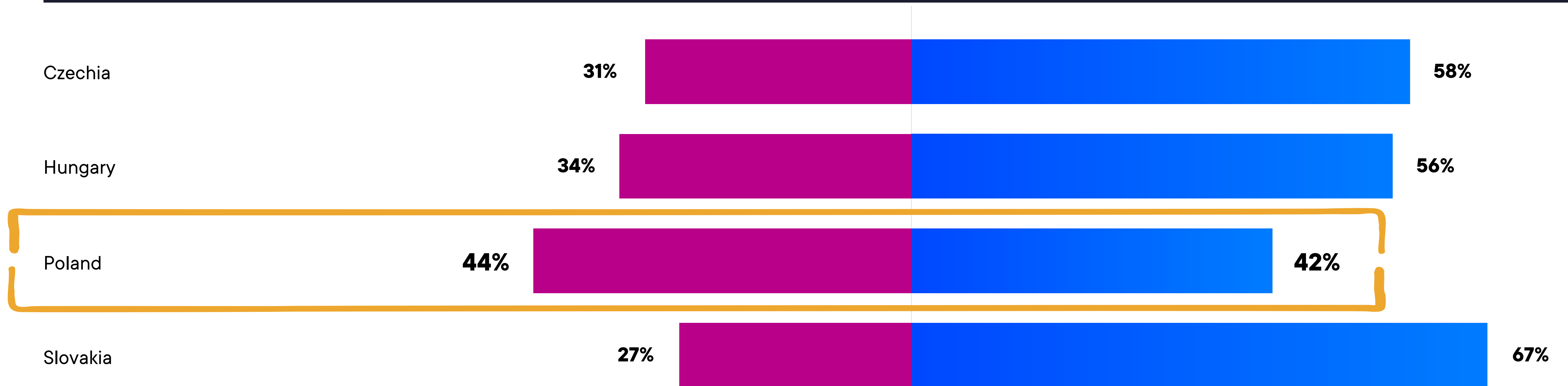
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

**“It does not matter if the government is democratic or undemocratic.”**



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

**“Sometimes, human rights and civil liberties should be restricted in order to better protect people from terrorism and other threats.”**



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

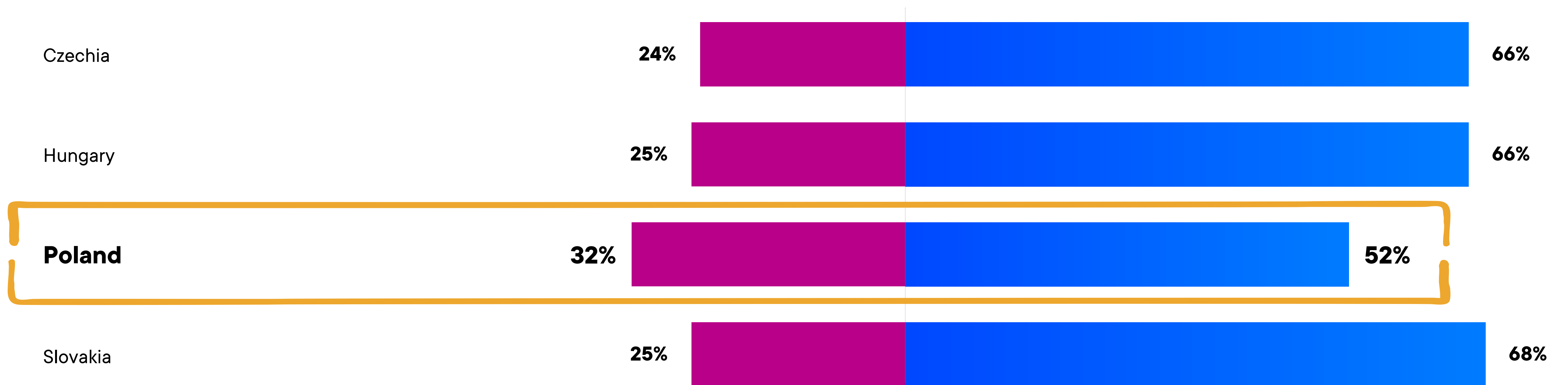
**“I would be ready to sacrifice some civil liberties to secure higher standards of living.”**





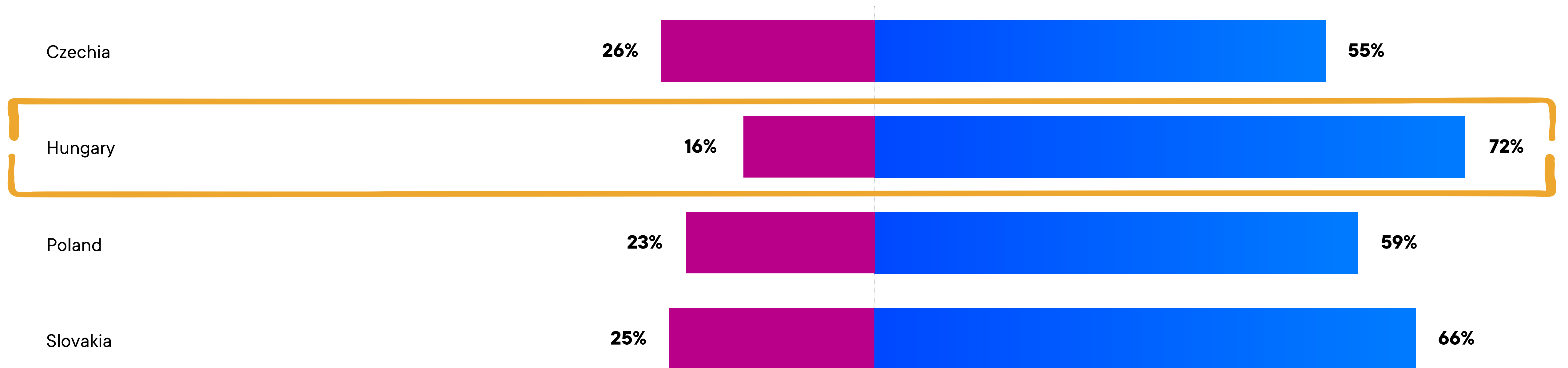
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

**“I would be ready to sacrifice some freedoms for health and safety during the pandemic.”**



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

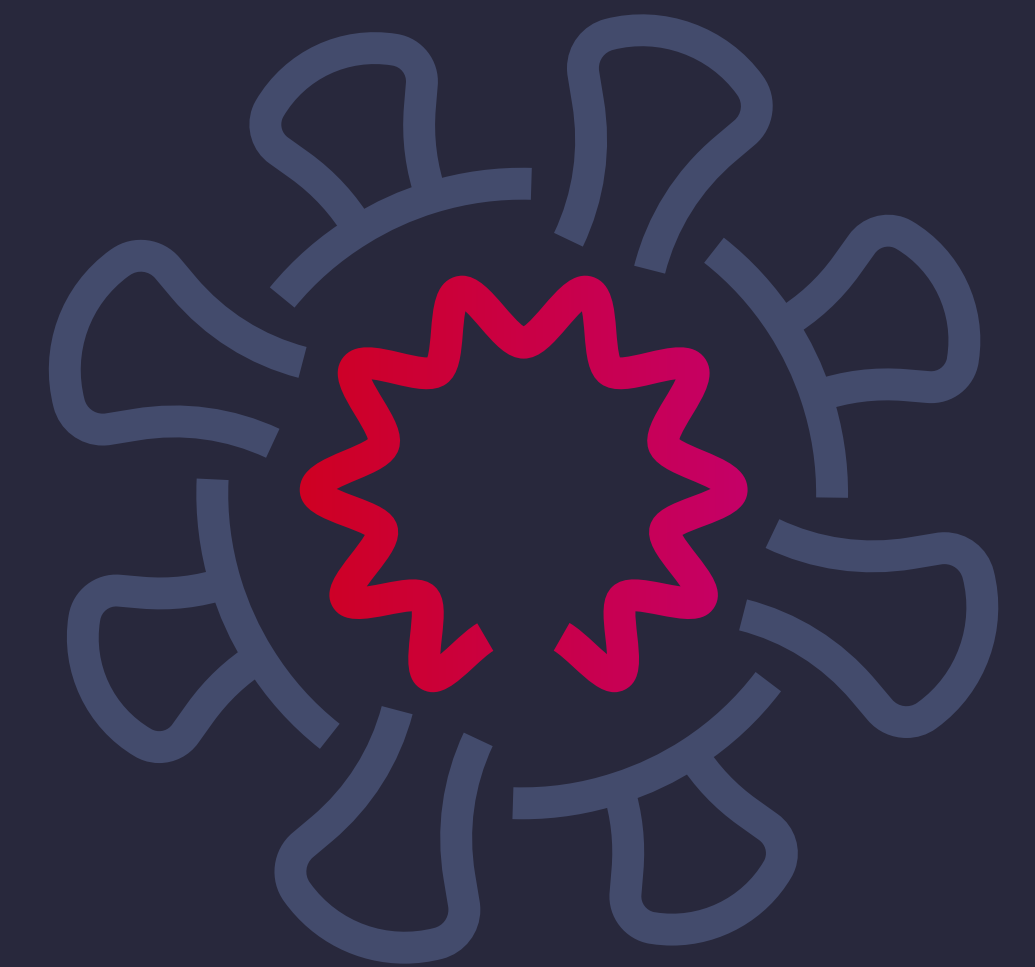
**“Democracy is the best possible system of government only when it can deliver economic security for people.”**



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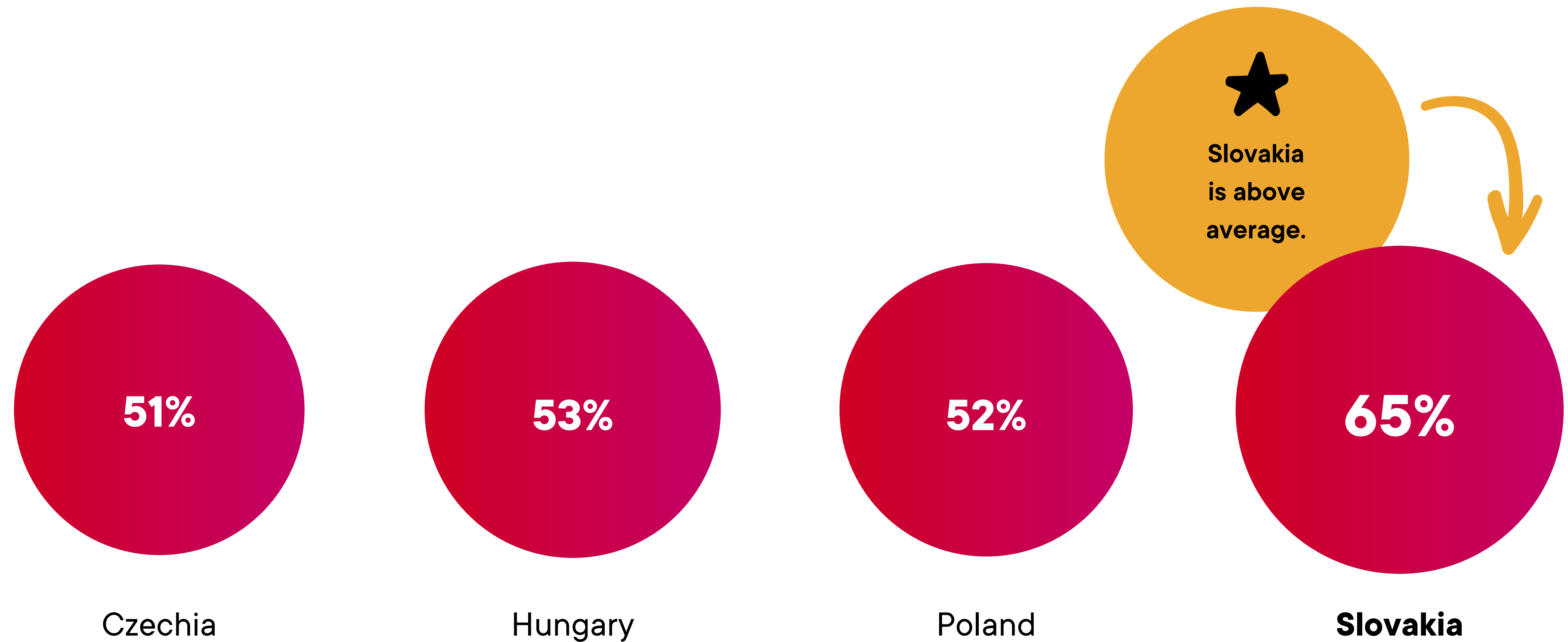
# COVID-19 Pandemic

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# Has the COVID-19 crisis increased your level of interest in politics in public affairs?

A majority of youth in the region declared that the COVID-19 pandemic increased their interest in politics and public affairs.

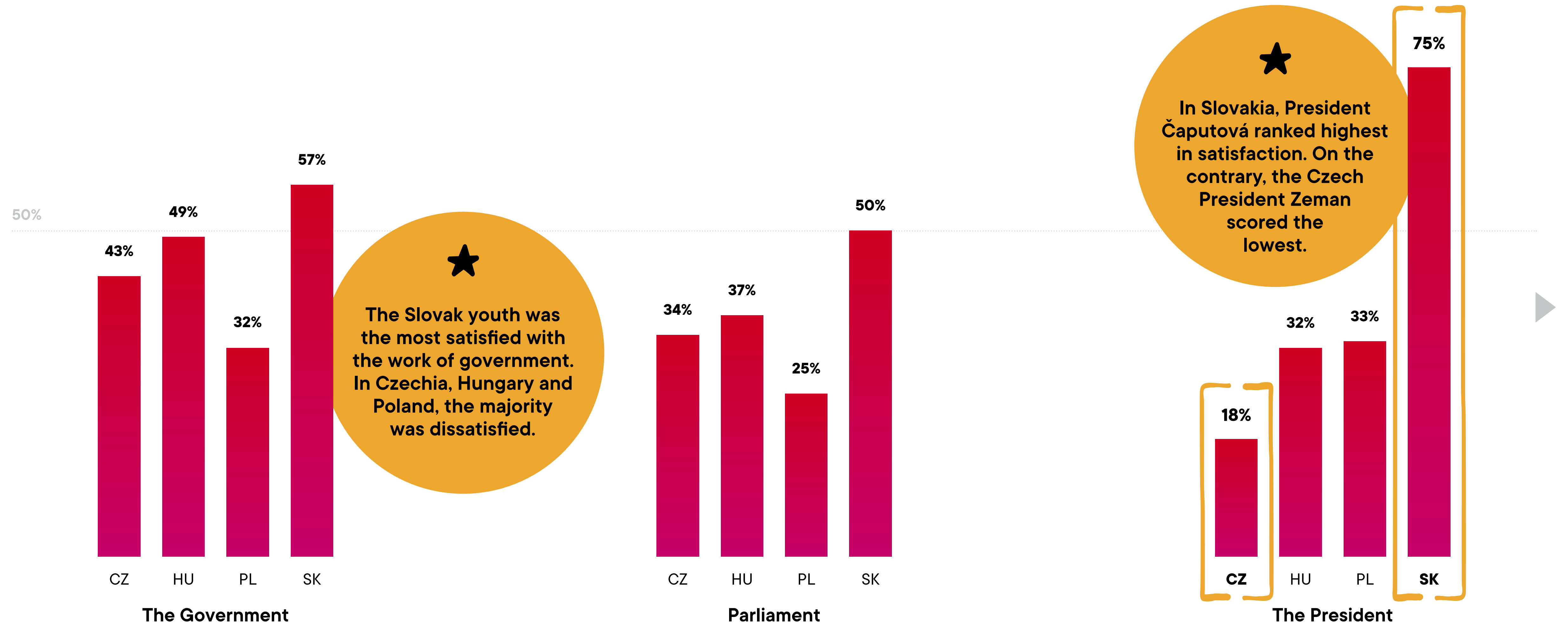


# How satisfied are you with the government's communication and information sharing on the COVID-19 outbreak?

There are significant differences between countries in the level of satisfaction with the government's communication and information sharing, related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Youth in Slovakia are the most satisfied and the least satisfied in Poland. In Hungary and Czech Republic, youth respondents are nearly evenly split between those who are satisfied and dissatisfied.



# How satisfied are you with the work of the following institutions during the epidemic crisis?

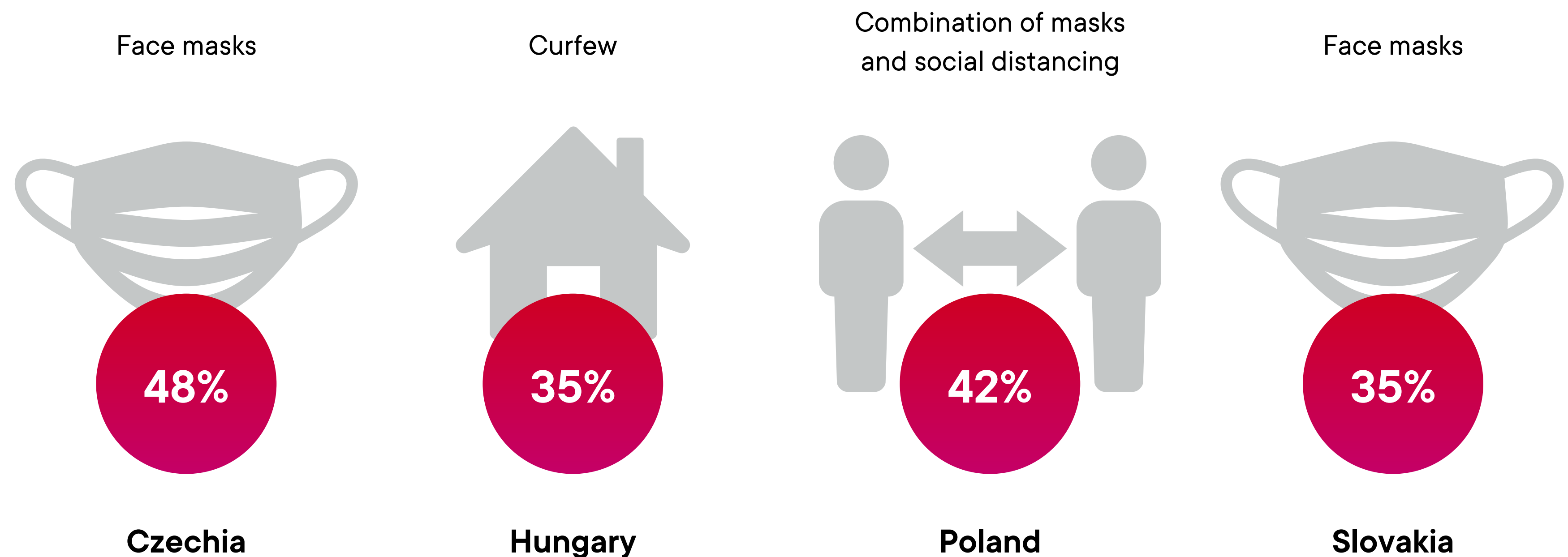


# How satisfied are you with the work of the following institutions during the epidemic crisis?



# Can you name one good measure introduced by the national or local government in response to the pandemic?

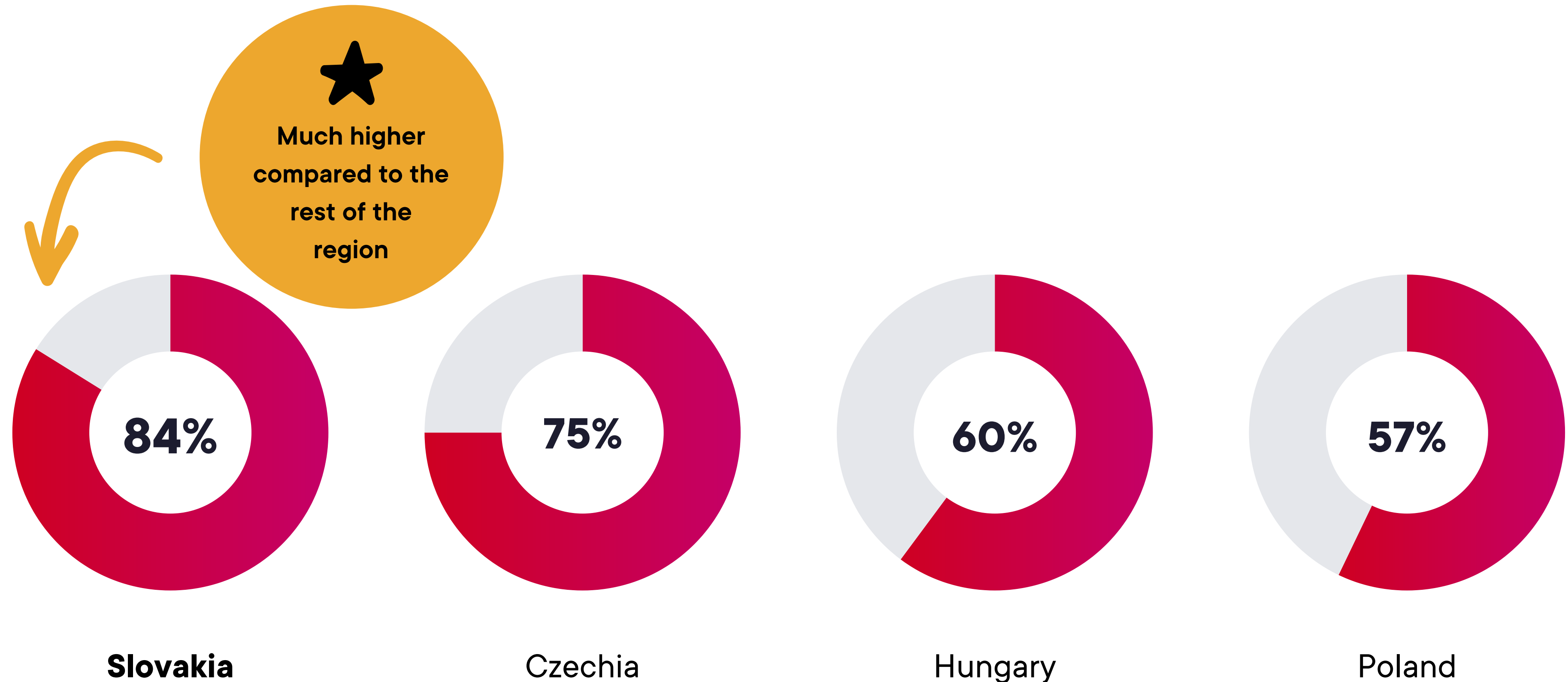
Face masks were the most commonly mentioned good measure introduced by the governments in Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland. In Hungary it was curfew.





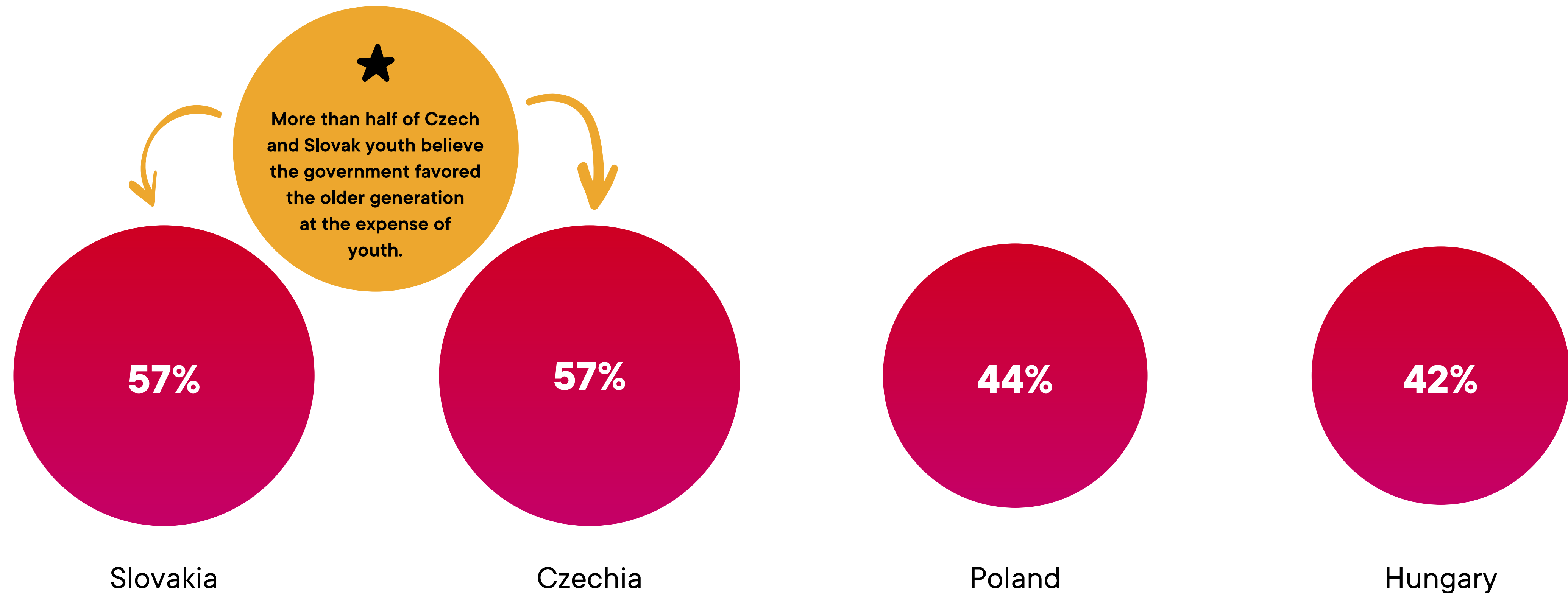
# Do you approve of how your country respond to the pandemic?

The majority of youth approve of how their government responded to the pandemic.



The government responded effectively to the pandemic

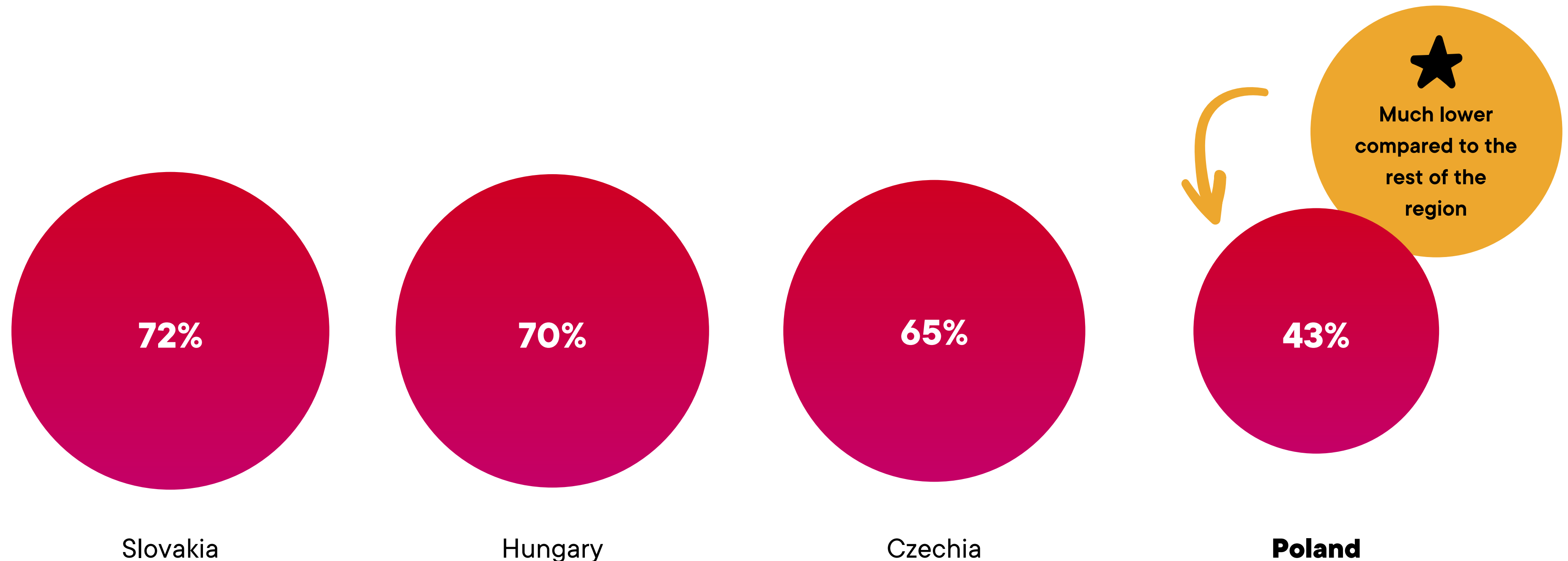
# Do you agree or not that the government has favored the older generation at the expense of youth in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic?



The government responded effectively to the pandemic

# Governmental measures limiting individual rights of the citizens were reasonable and understandable to the situation.

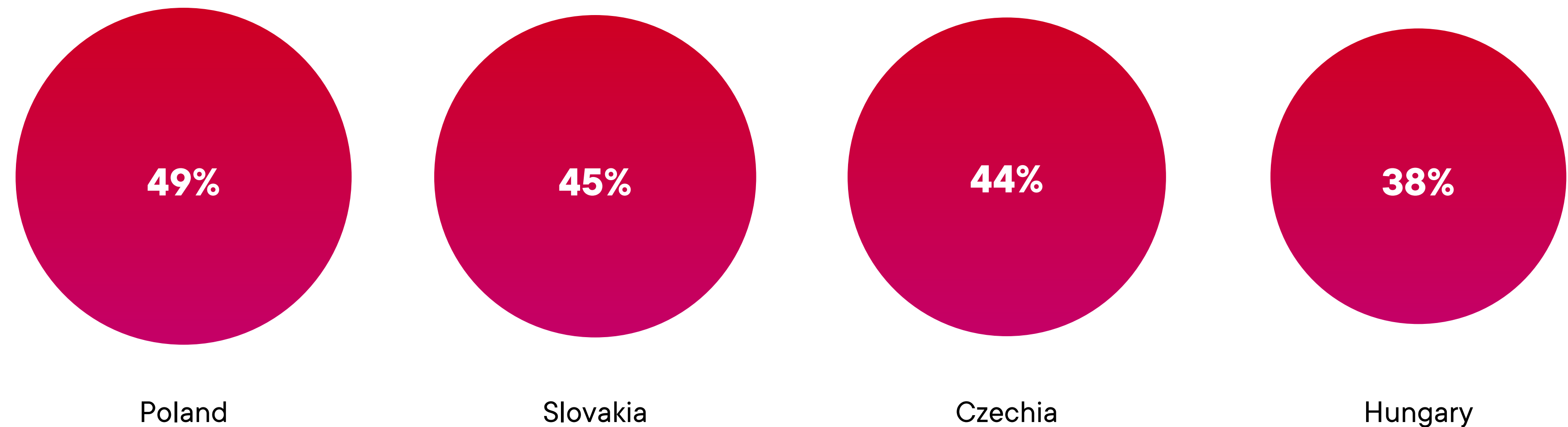
In Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia a significant majority of youth respondents support the way the government handled the pandemic crisis and believe the measures limiting individual rights of the citizens were reasonable and understandable to the situation. In Poland the support is lower.



The government responded effectively to the pandemic

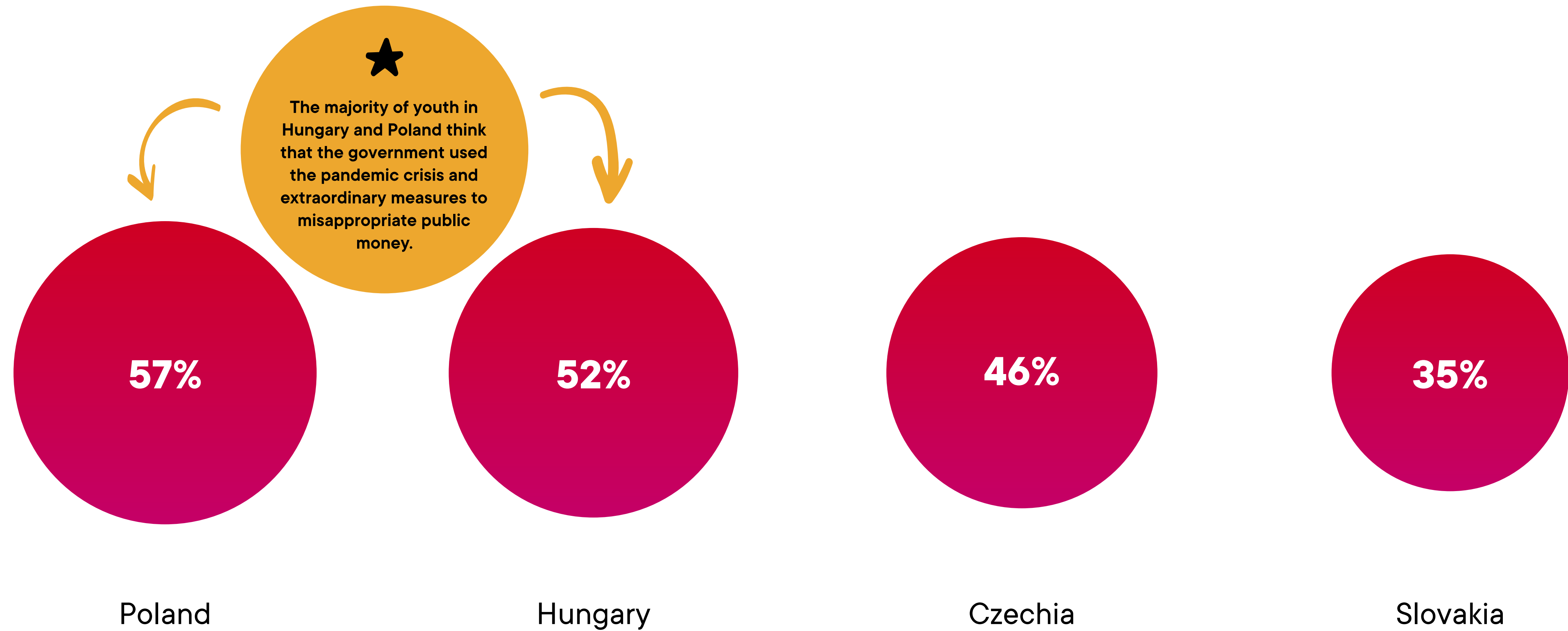
# The governmental measures were too extensive, unduly threatening the functioning of the economy.

Almost half of the respondents in Poland believe, that the measures the government proposed to stop the further development of the epidemic were too extensive, unduly threatening to the functioning of the economy. In remaining countries around 40% of respondents support the statement.



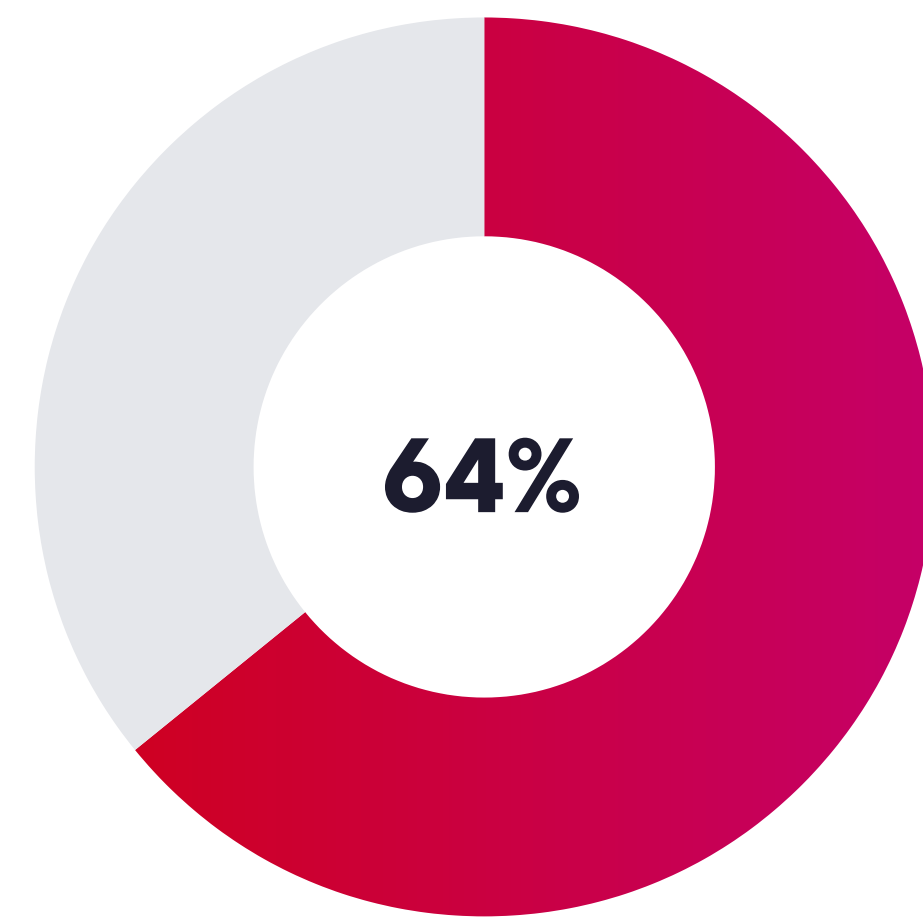
The government responded effectively to the pandemic

# The government used the pandemic crisis and extraordinary measures to misappropriate public money.

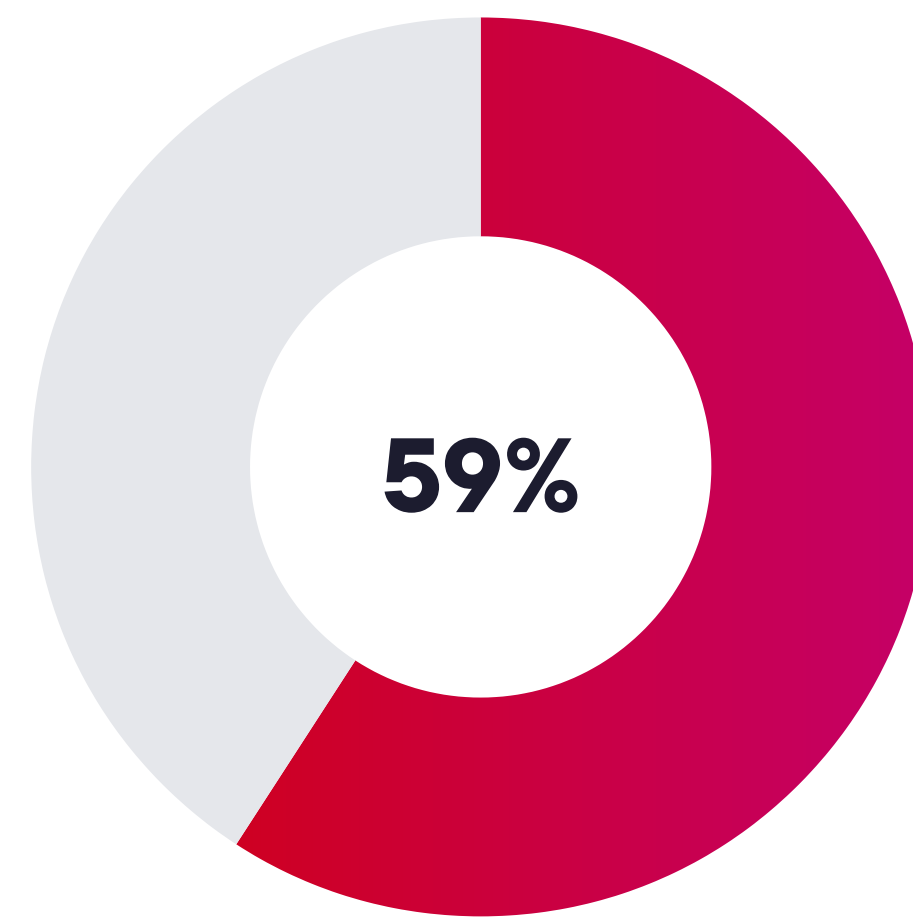


The government responded effectively to the pandemic

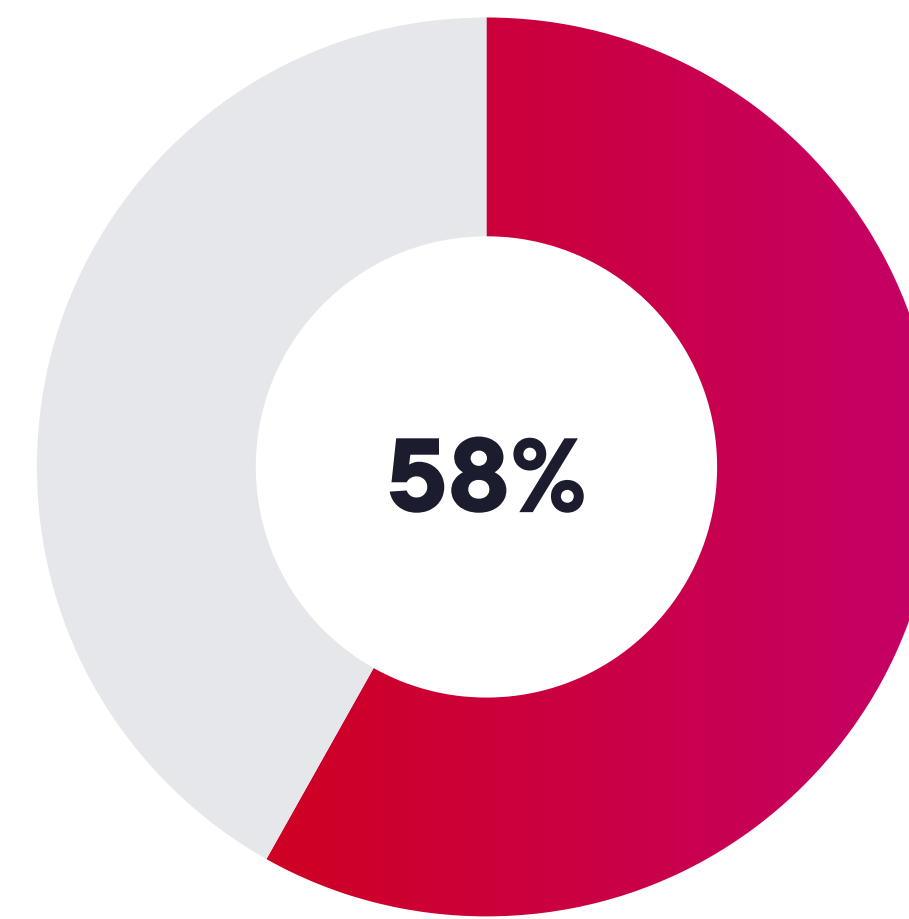
# Due to the pandemic crisis I am concerned about my future professional and economic situation more than before.



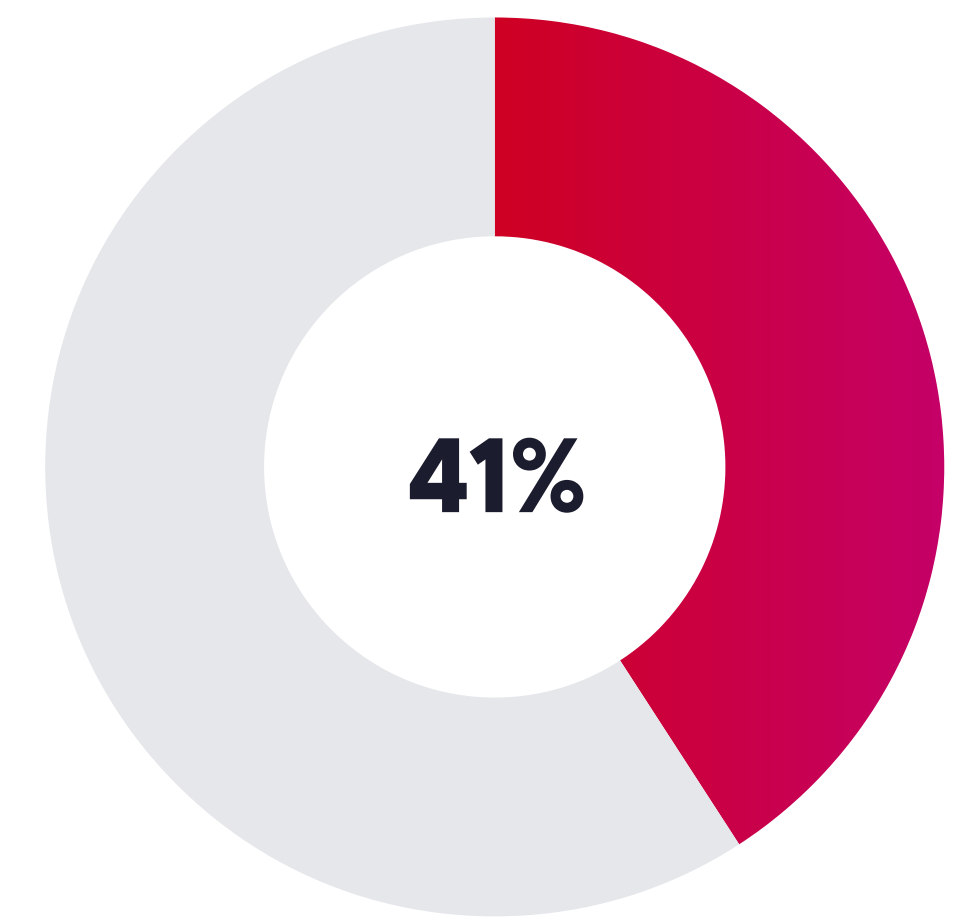
Poland



Slovakia

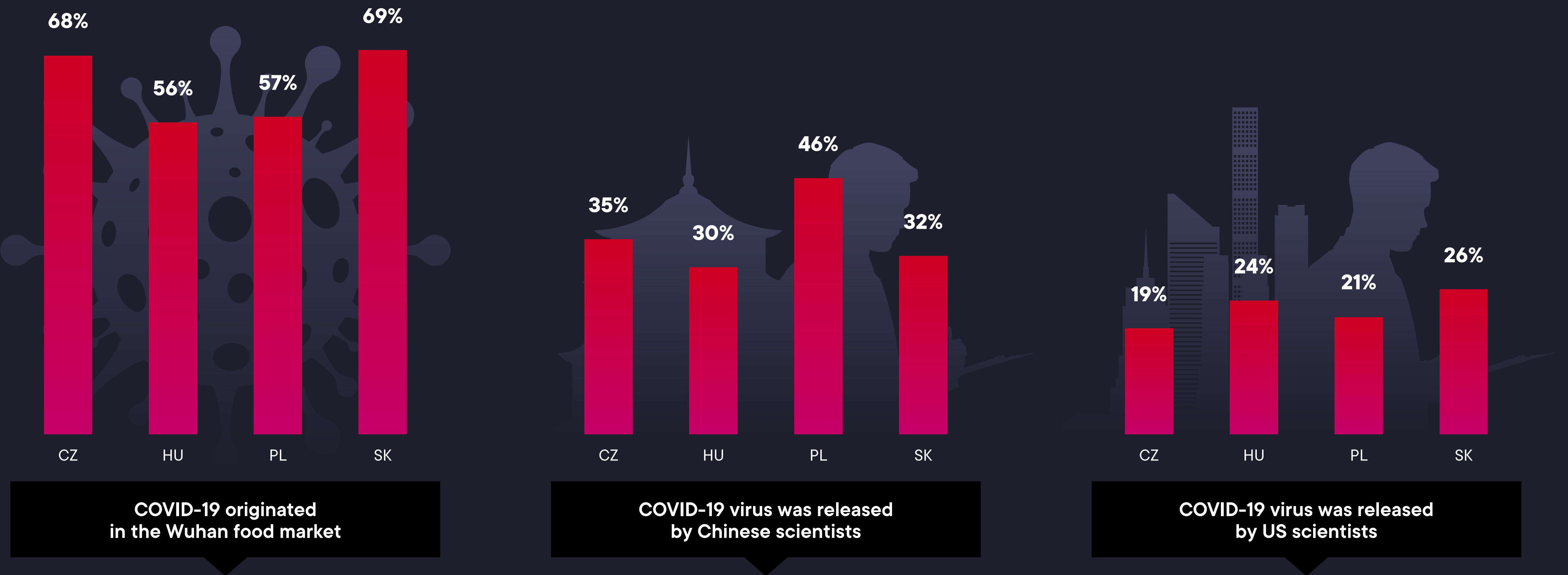


Hungary



Czechia

# To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

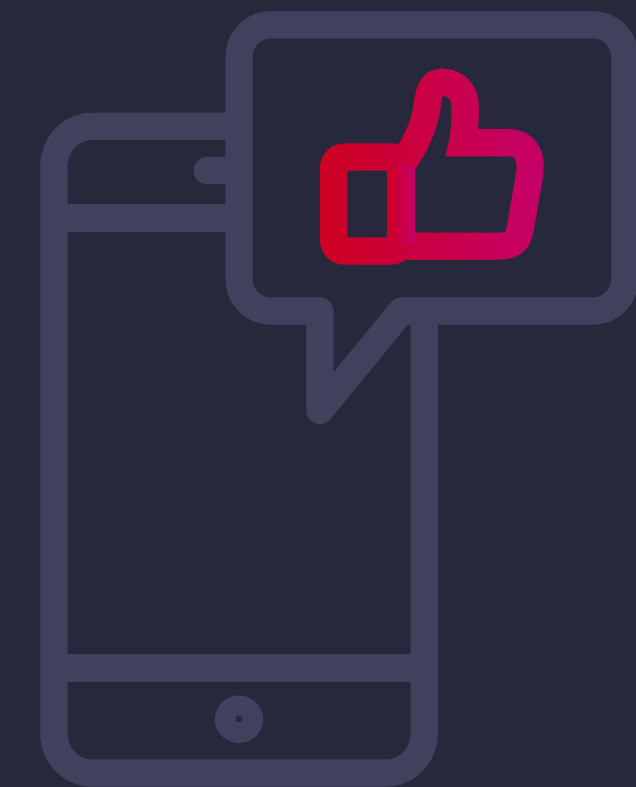


**The Covid-19 pandemic has increased trust and cooperation between European Union member states.**

**Most of respondents don't think that  
the trust and cooperation between  
the EU member states increased  
because of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

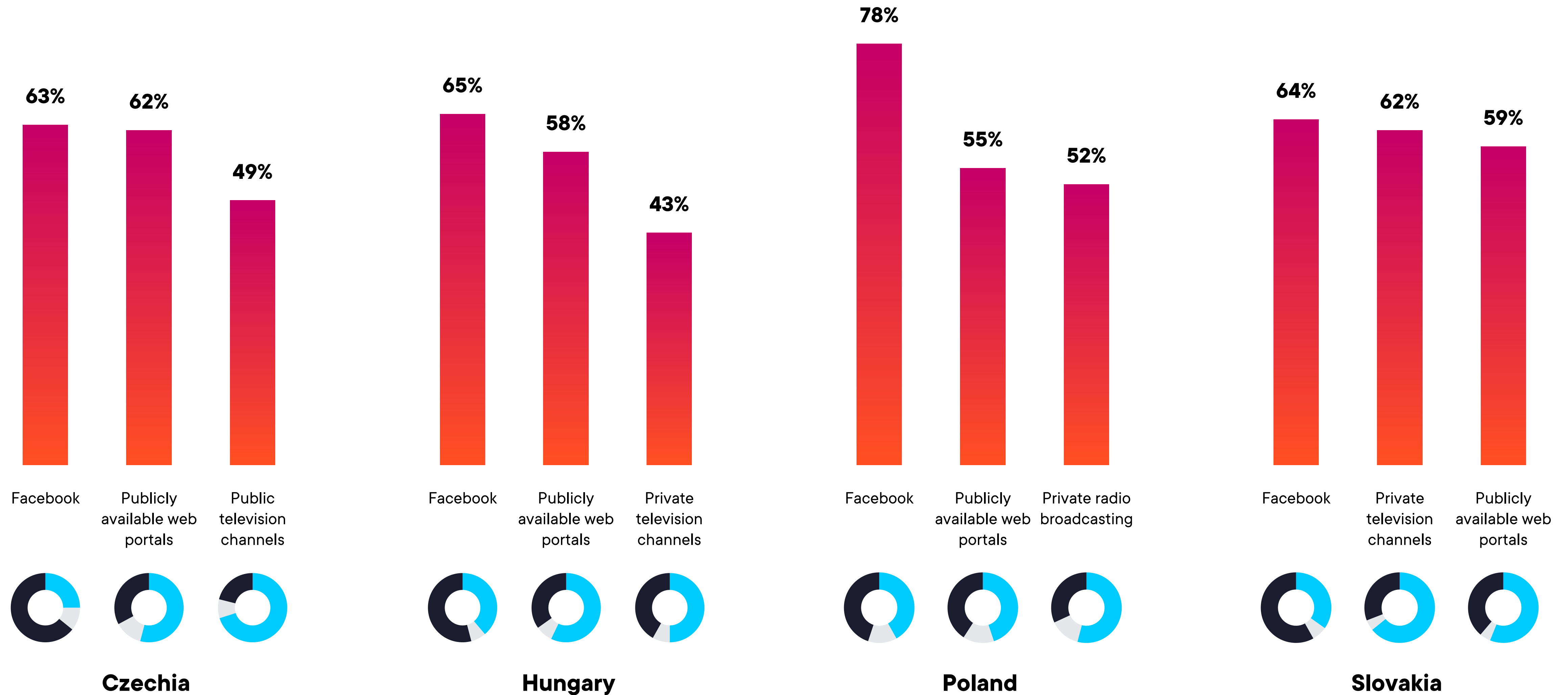


# Sources of Information About Society and Politics

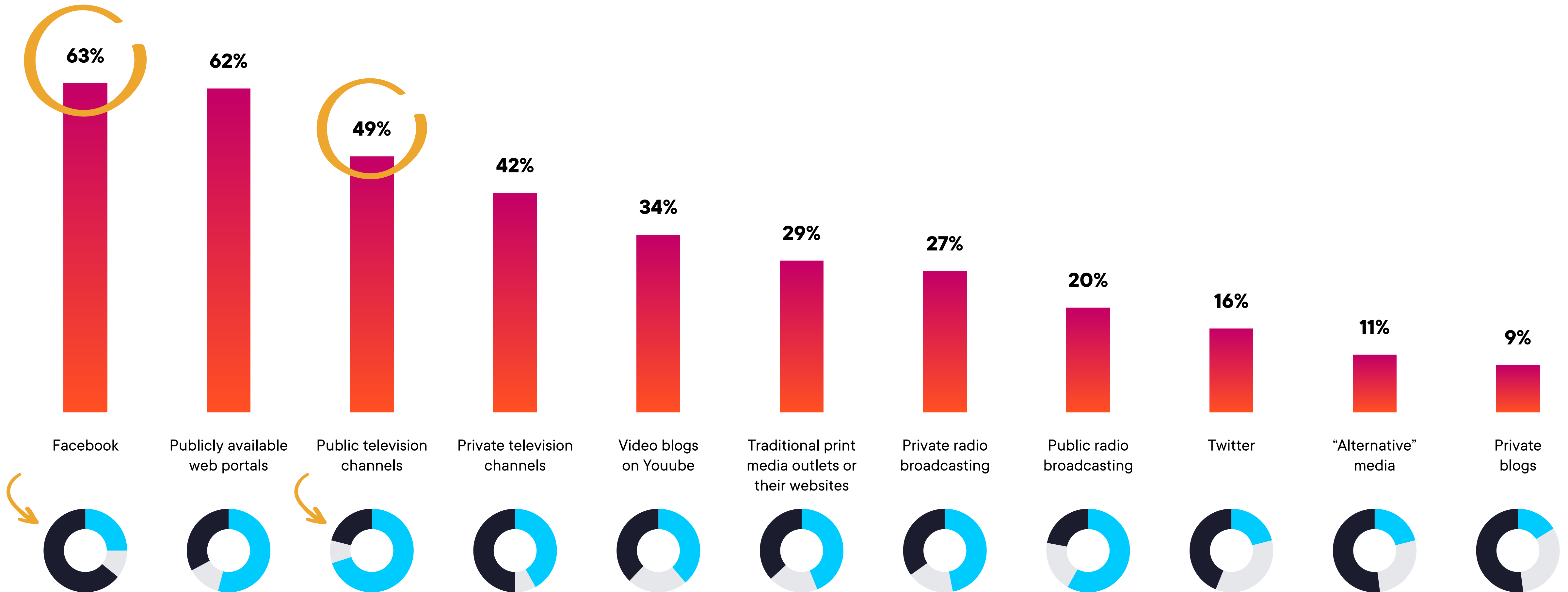


**Facebook and online news outlets  
are the most popular sources of  
information in the region, but  
traditional media (TV, radio) are more  
trusted.**

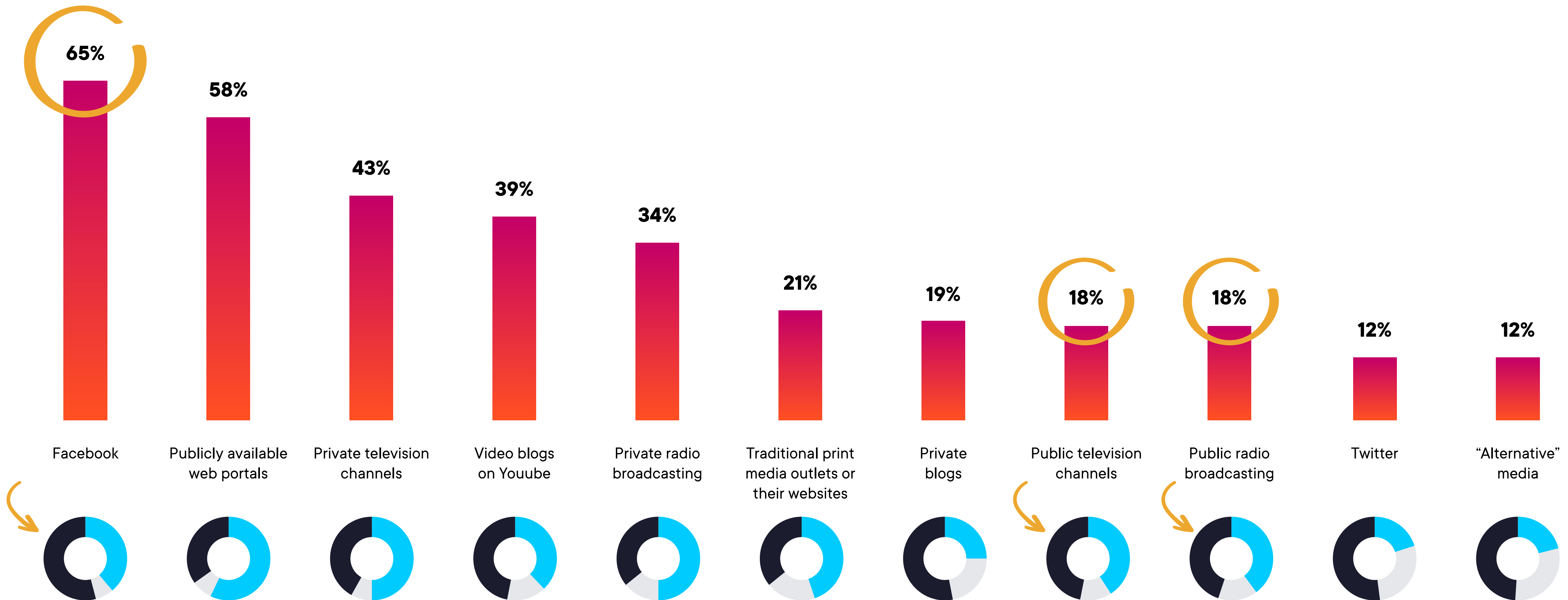
# How frequently do you use the following as sources of information about society and politics, and how do you trust or distrust them?



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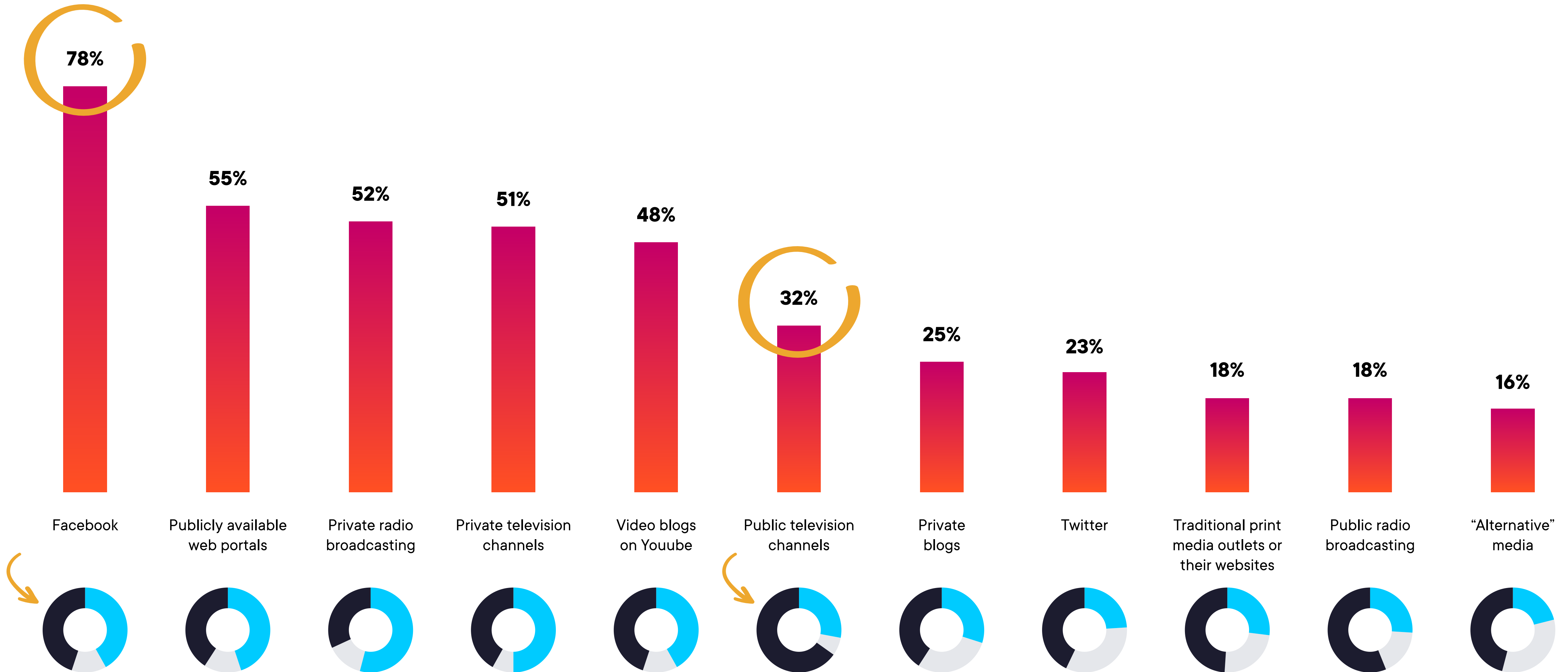


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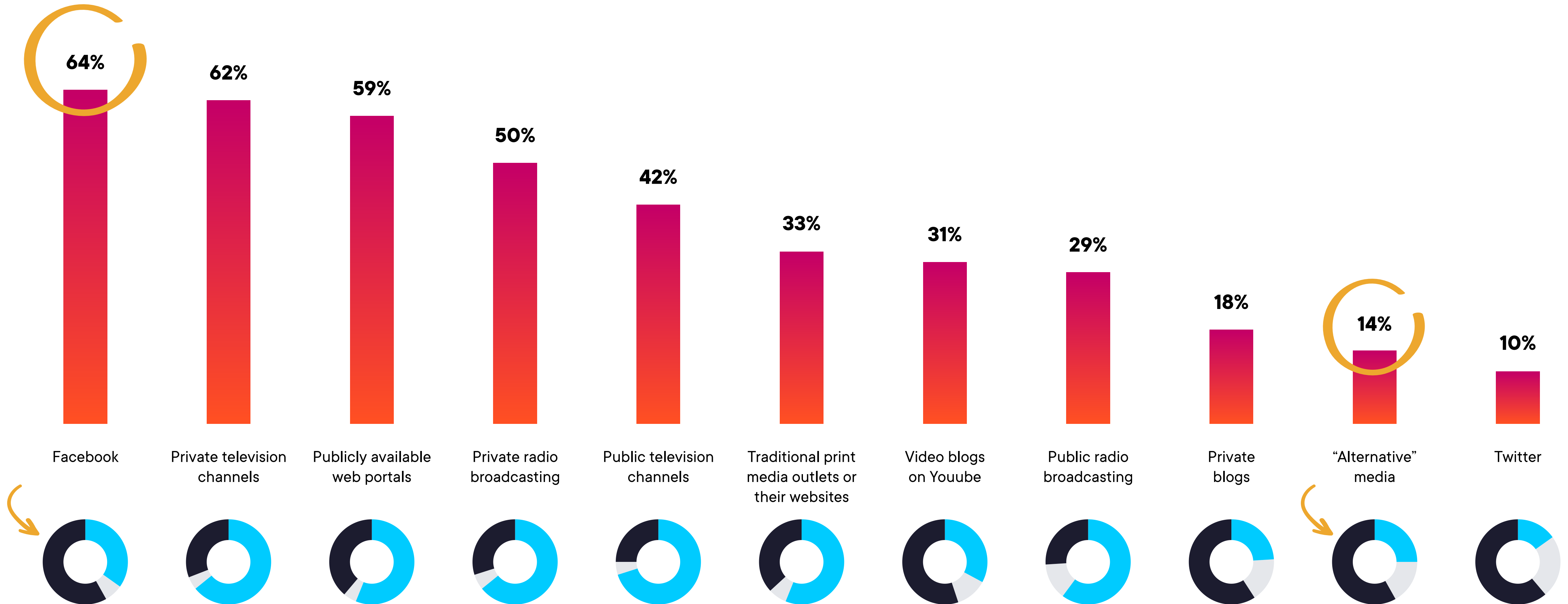


# How frequently do you use the following as sources of information about society and politics, and how do you trust or distrust them?

 **Poland**



# How frequently do you use the following as sources of information about society and politics, and how do you trust or distrust them?



# Identities





# To what extent do you identify yourself or not identify with the following entities?



## My nation

Hungary **75%**

Czechia **74%**

Slovakia **73%**

Poland **70%**



## Europe

Hungary **73%**

Slovakia **73%**

Czechia **61%**

Poland **60%**



## My local community

Hungary **72%**

Slovakia **66%**

Czechia **55%**

Poland **51%**



## My religion

Slovakia **64%**

Poland **55%**

Hungary **32%**

Czechia **12%**



## The political party I have voted or would vote for

Slovakia **48%**

Poland **47%**

Hungary **37%**

Czechia **18%**

★  
Strong European identity across the region after the national one.

★  
Identification with the local community ranks third across the region.

★  
Very strong identification with religion in Slovakia and low in Czechia.

# Country Issues



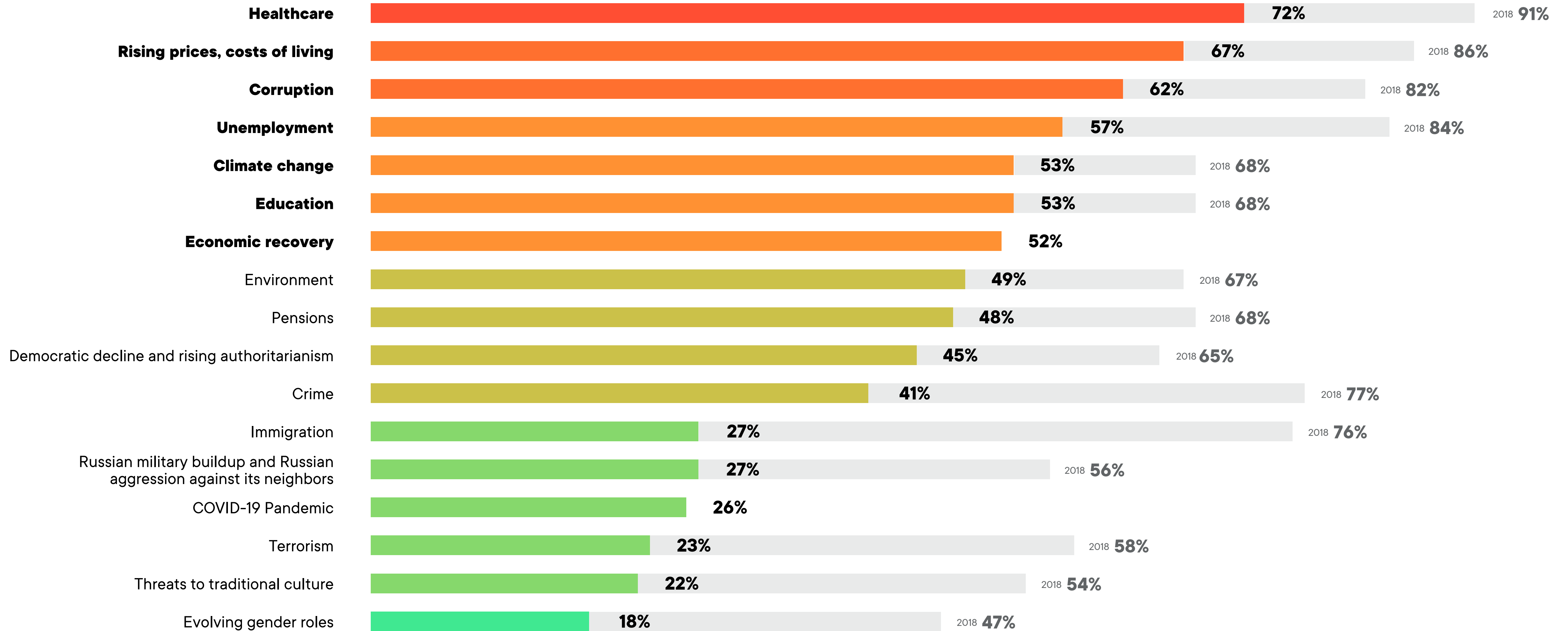
## **How serious problems are these issues in your country?**

**The most serious problems for youth in the region are corruption alongside rising prices and cost of living.**

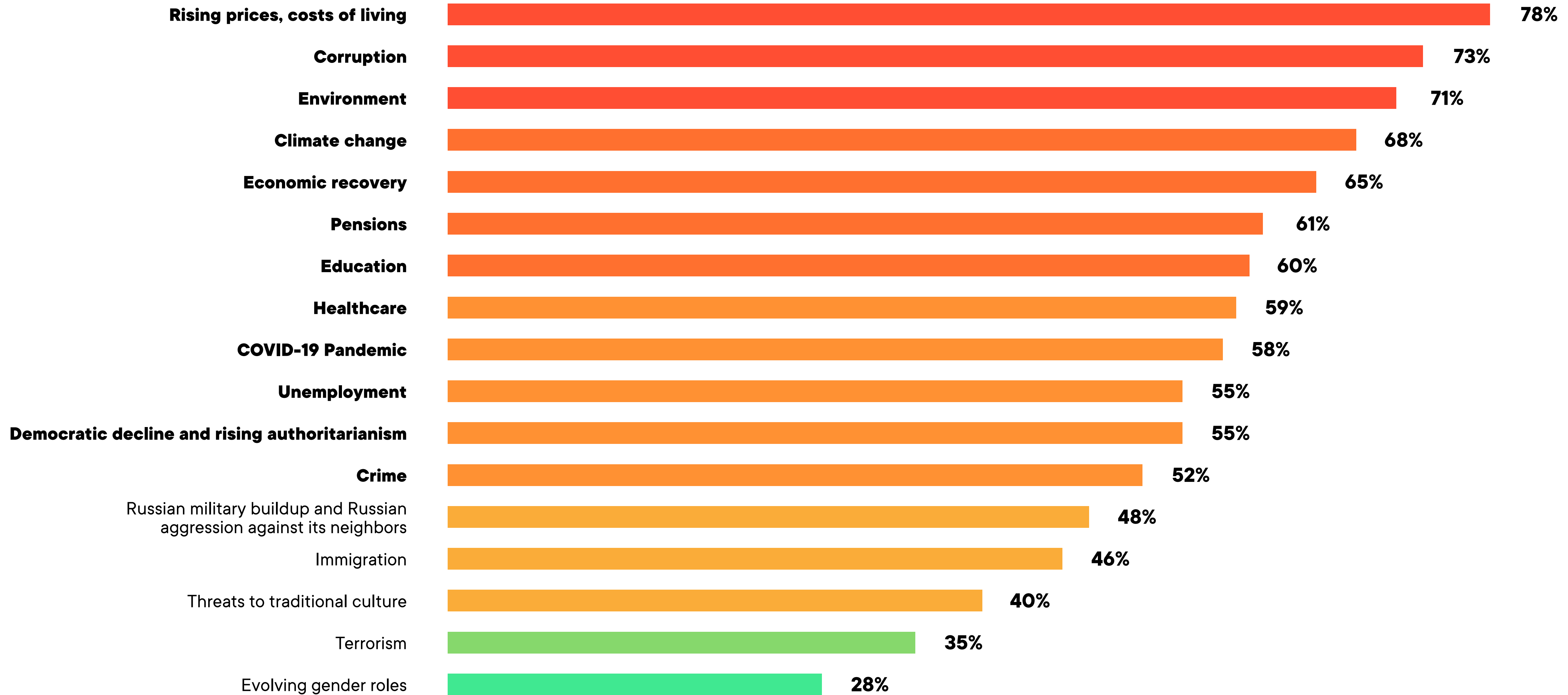
**In Hungary, Poland and Slovakia the other leading problems are unemployment and healthcare.**

**Environment and climate change are among top 5 issues for youth in the region, higher compared with 2018 research.**

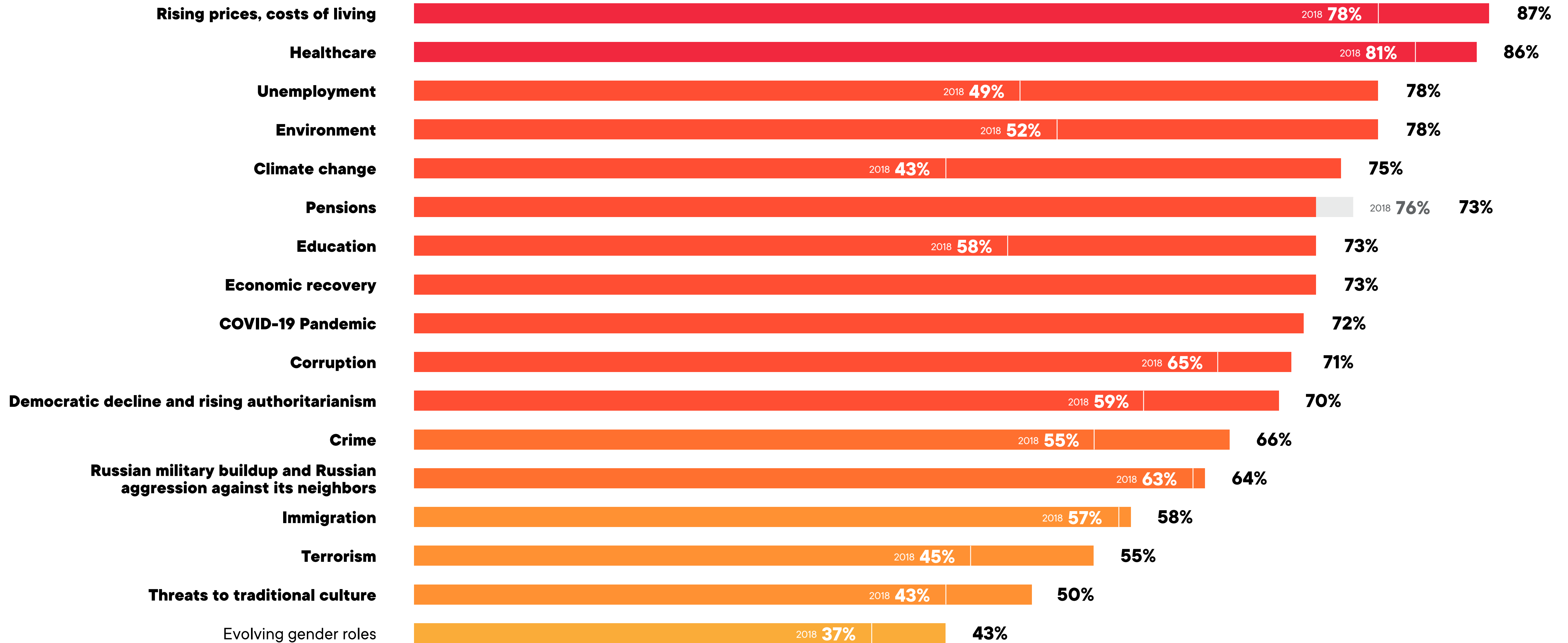
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