



Kyrgyzstan National Opinion Poll

October 2006



International Republican Institute
Baltic Surveys Ltd. / The Gallup Organization

SIAR-Bishkek

**United States Agency for International
Development**



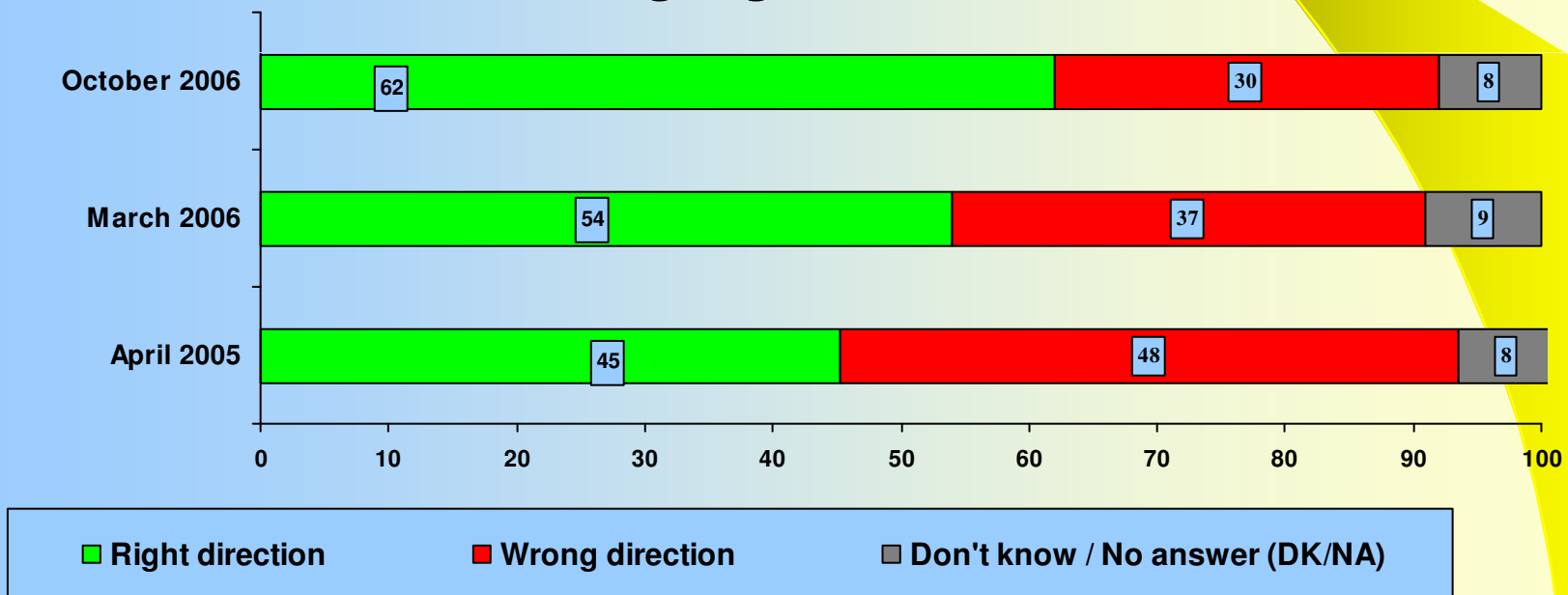
INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY

- This national representative survey was carried out October 7-25, 2006.
- 1,500 Kyrgyzstan residents aged 18 years and older were interviewed face-to-face.
- The margin of error does not exceed 3 percent.
- The survey was carried out on behalf of IRI and was funded by USAID.
- The study was designed, coordinated, and analyzed by Baltic Surveys / The Gallup Organization (Dr. R. Alisauskiene).
- The fieldwork was carried out by SIAR-Bishkek.
- The government of Kyrgyzstan contributed to the questionnaire with policy- related questions.

MOOD OF THE COUNTRY

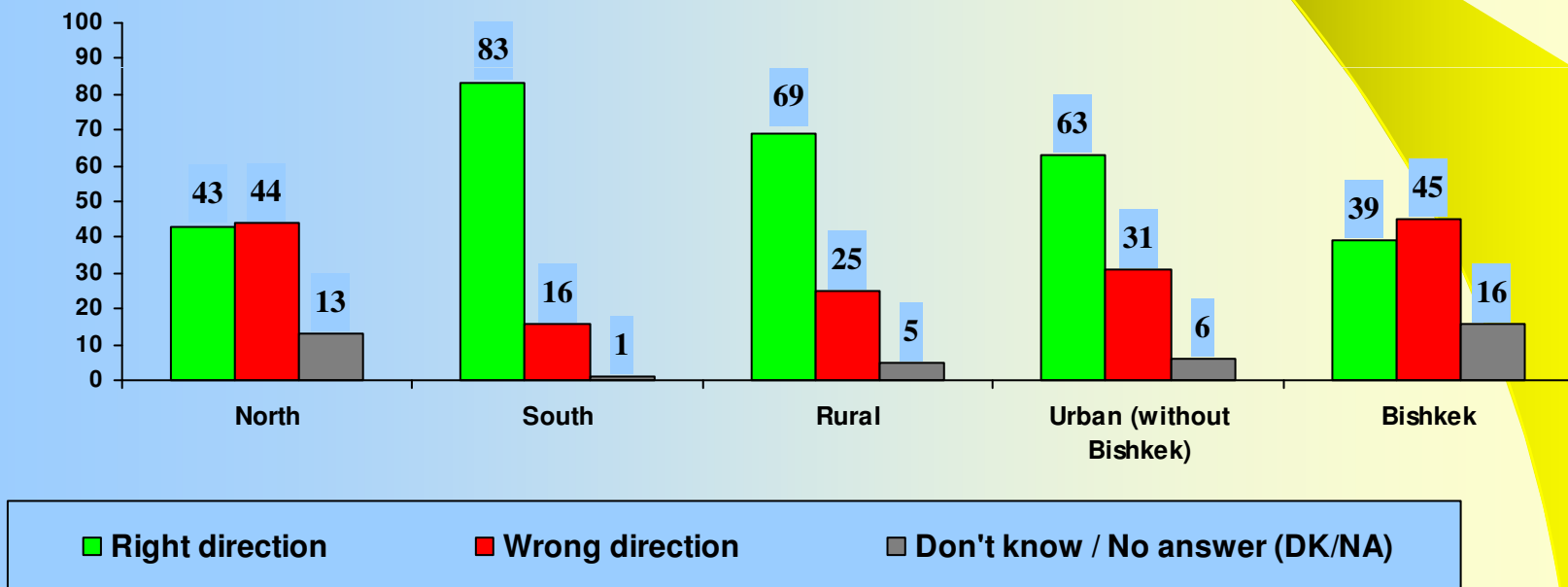
In October 2006, 62 percent of respondents say that Kyrgyzstan is on the right track, while 30 percent say it is on the wrong track. Since spring 2006, the share of respondents who say the country is heading in the right direction increased by 8 percent.

Generally speaking, things in Kyrgyzstan are going in the



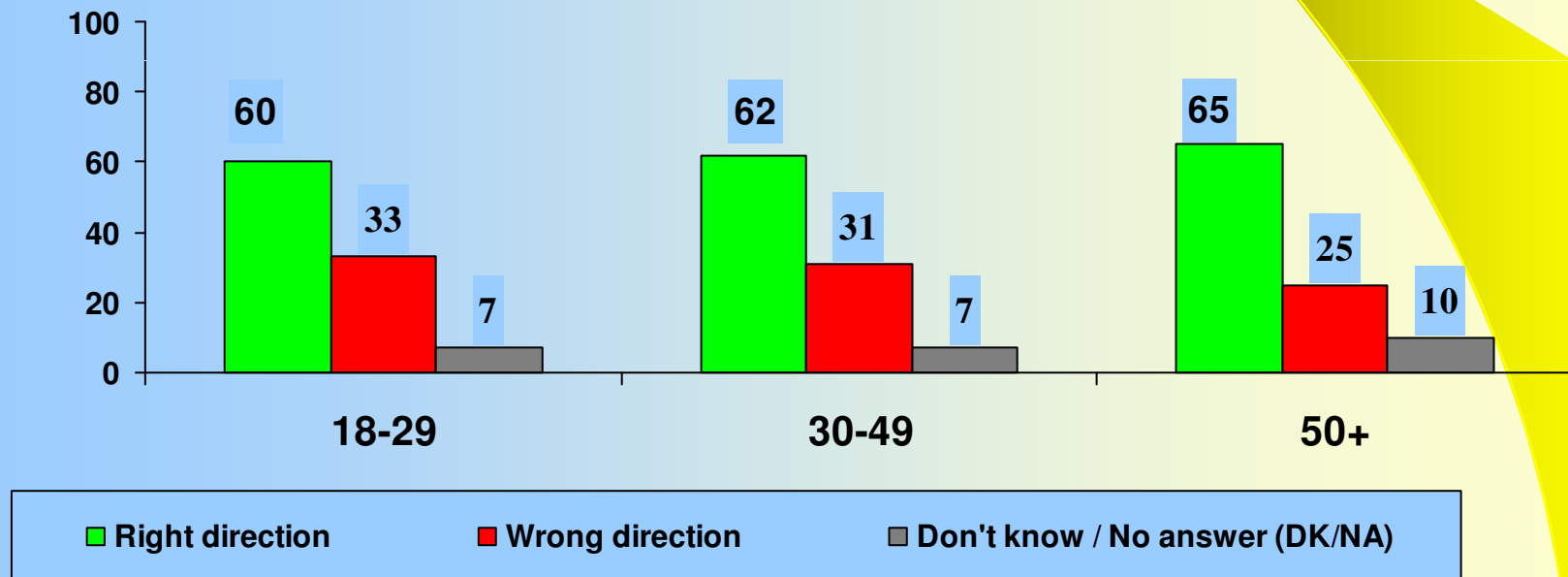
People in the south are most optimistic, with 83 percent saying the country is headed in the right direction; in the north only 43 percent say it is headed in the right direction. People on lower incomes and living in rural areas are more optimistic than residents of Bishkek.

Generally speaking, things in Kyrgyzstan are going in the....



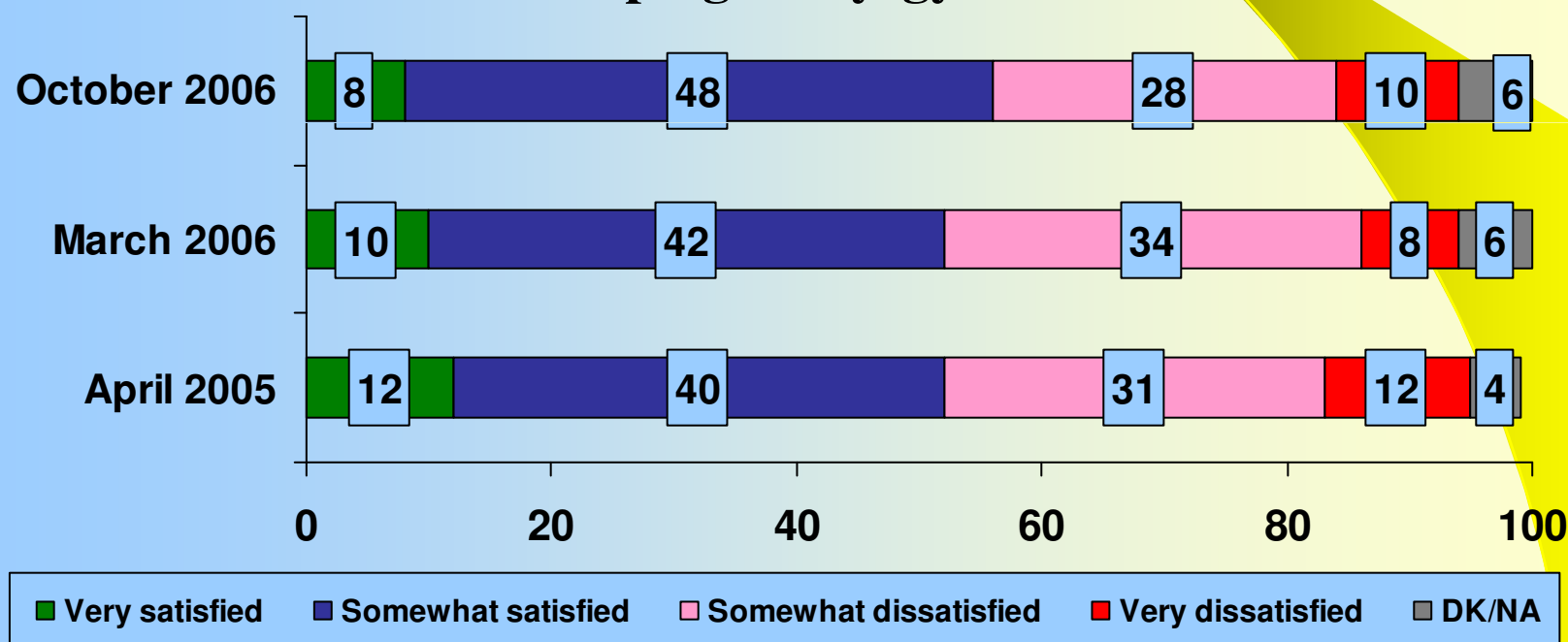
There are only small differences between different age groups' assessment of the country's direction.

**Generally speaking, things in Kyrgyzstan
are going in the....**



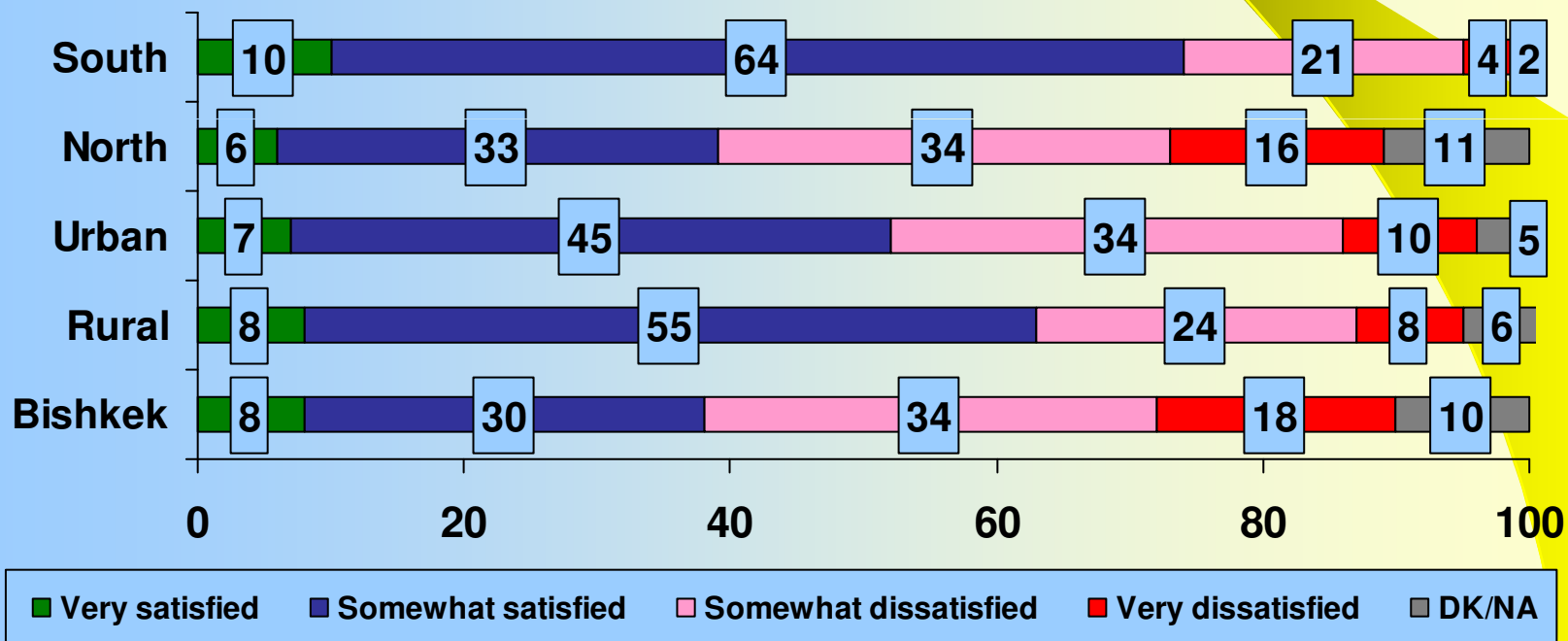
Since March 2006, attitudes towards the development of democracy have become slightly more positive: 56 percent of respondents are satisfied with the way democracy is developing, while in March 2006 52 percent were satisfied.

How satisfied are you with the way democracy is developing in Kyrgyzstan?



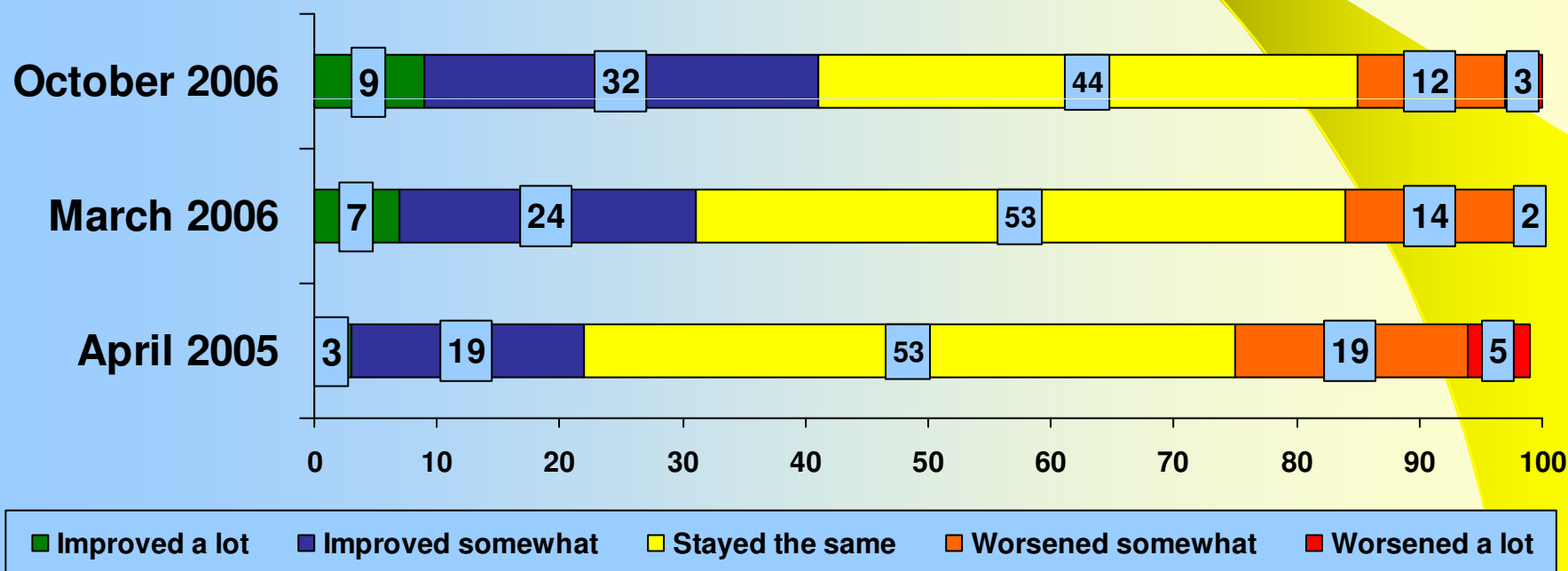
In the north, 39 percent are satisfied with the development of democracy, while in the south 74 percent are satisfied. Bishkek residents are more often dissatisfied, while dwellers in rural areas and towns express a positive attitude.

How satisfied are you with the way democracy is developing in Kyrgyzstan?



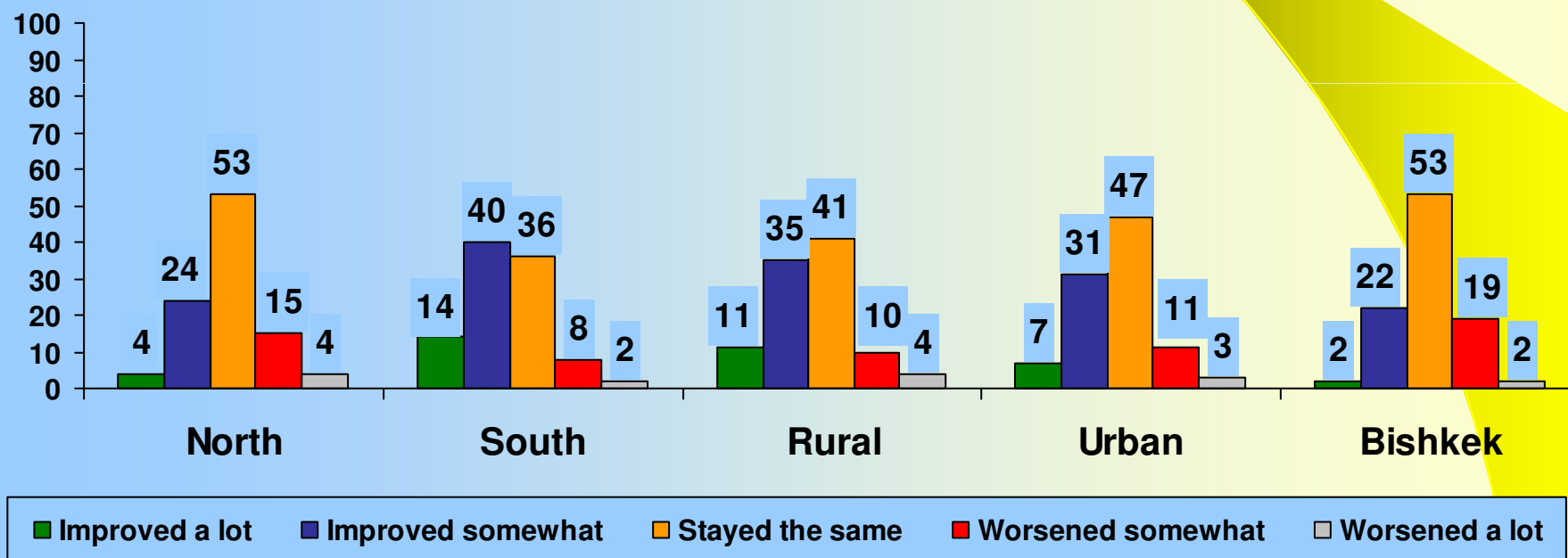
41 percent say their financial situation has improved in the last 12 months. In March 2006, 31 percent said that their financial situation had improved.

Over the last 12 months, the financial situation of my household has ...



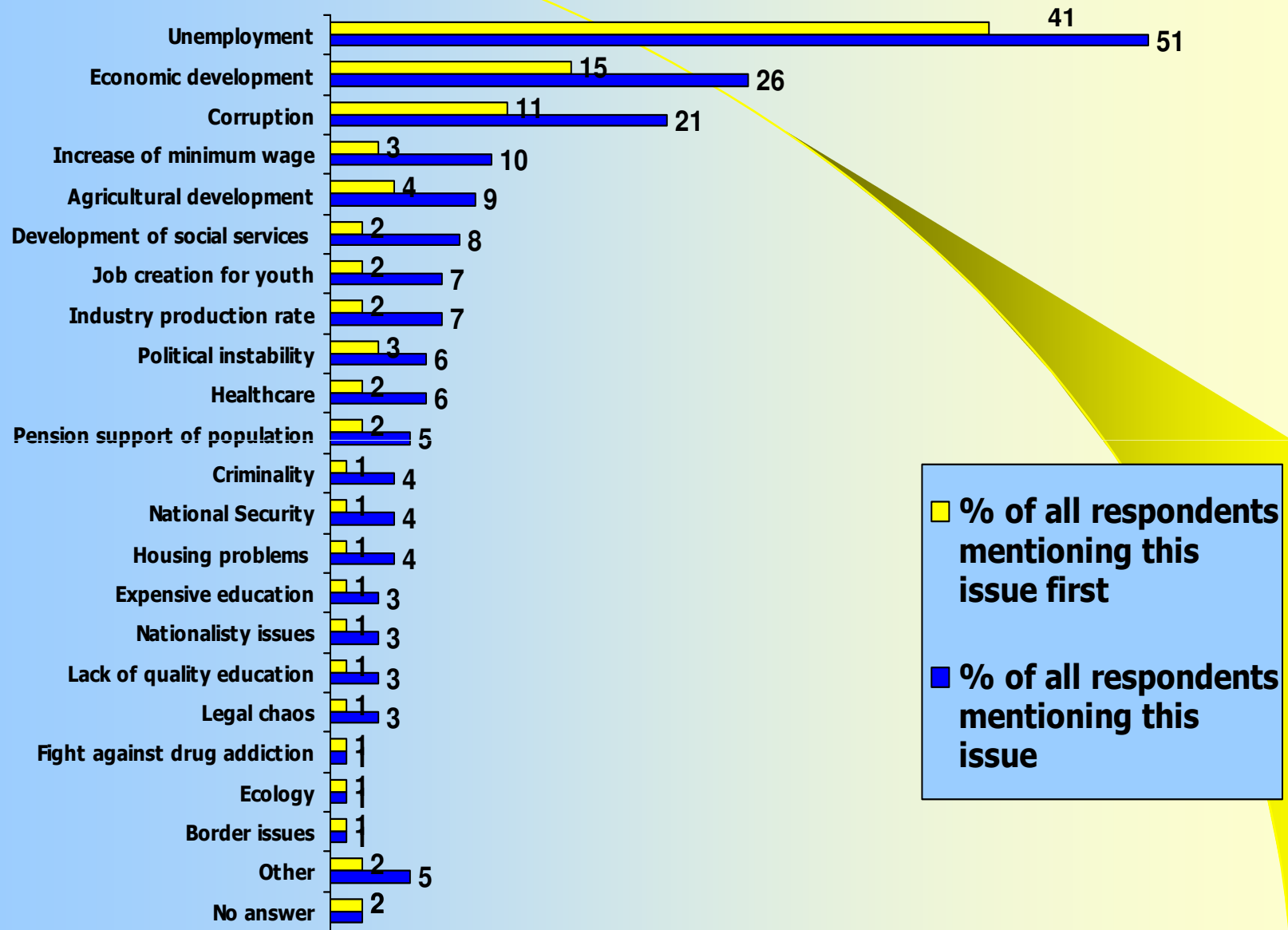
Rural residents more often notice an improvement in their financial situation, while Bishkek residents are more likely to say their financial situation is worsening. In the south, a significant share of respondents mention an improvement, while a majority in the north say that their financial situation has not changed.

Over the last 12 months, the financial situation of my household has...

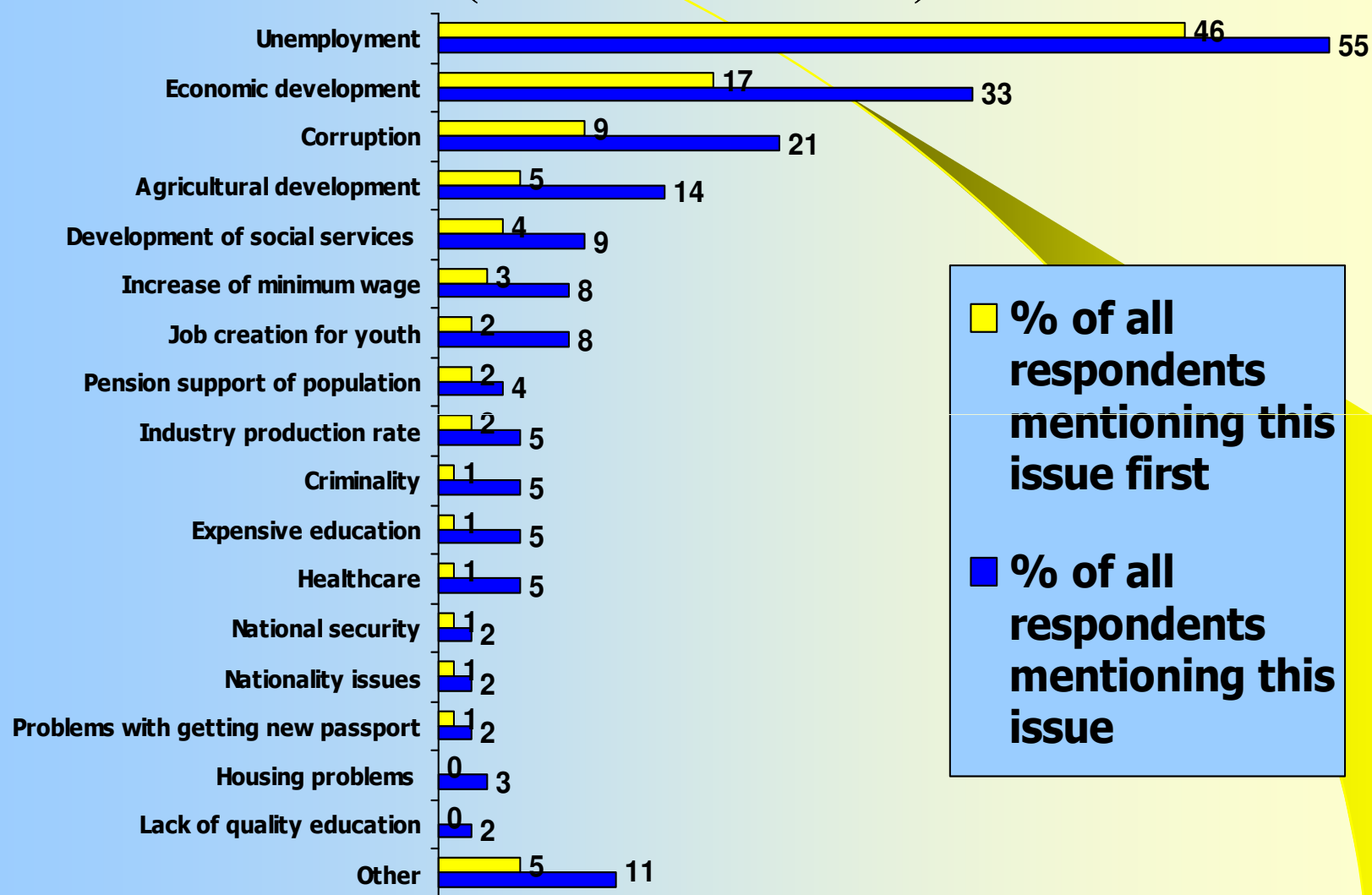


ISSUES

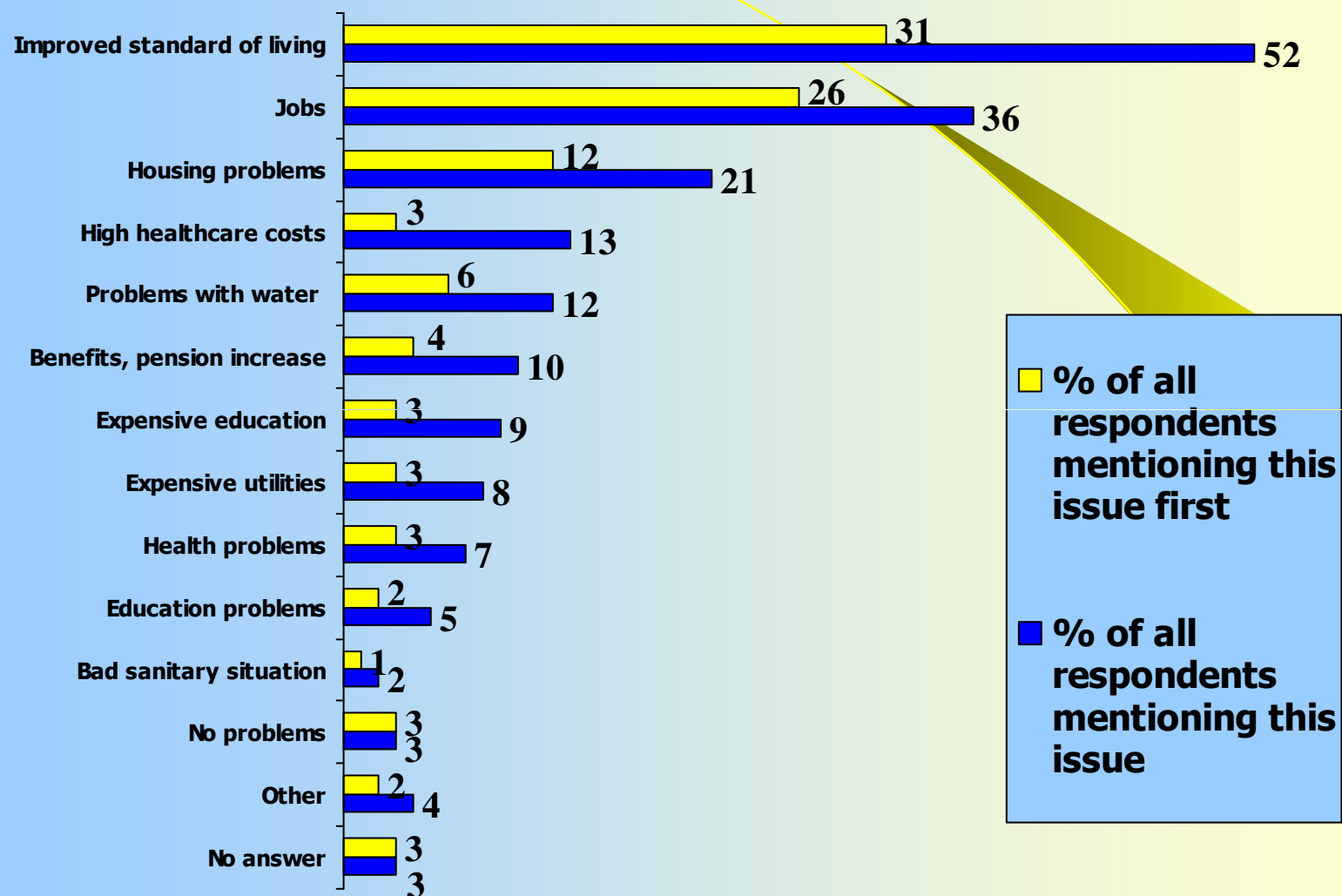
Most important issues Kyrgyzstan faces – October 2006 (two answers allowed)



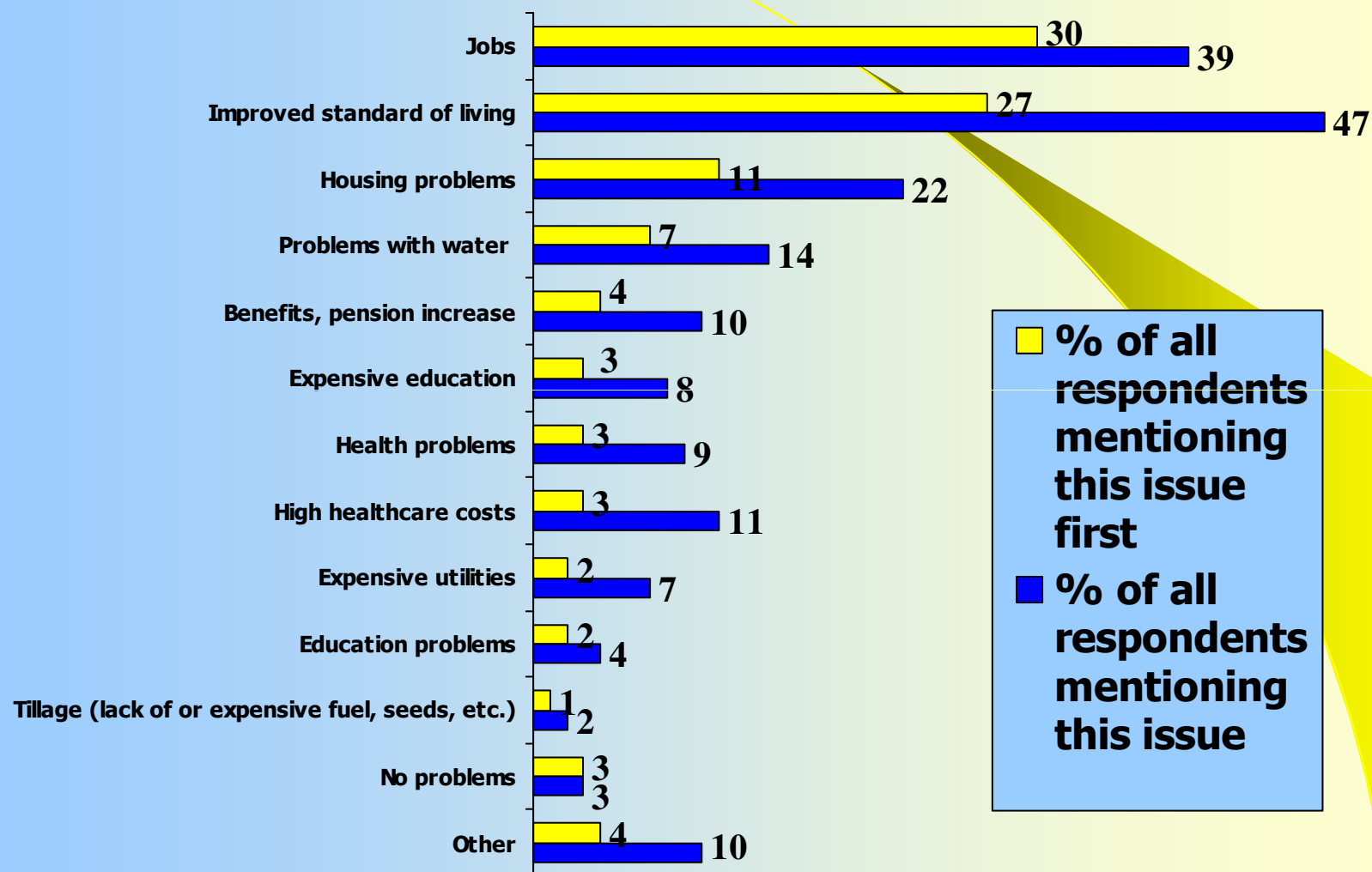
Most important issues Kyrgyzstan faces – March 2006 (two answers allowed)



Most important issue households face – October 2006 (two answers allowed)



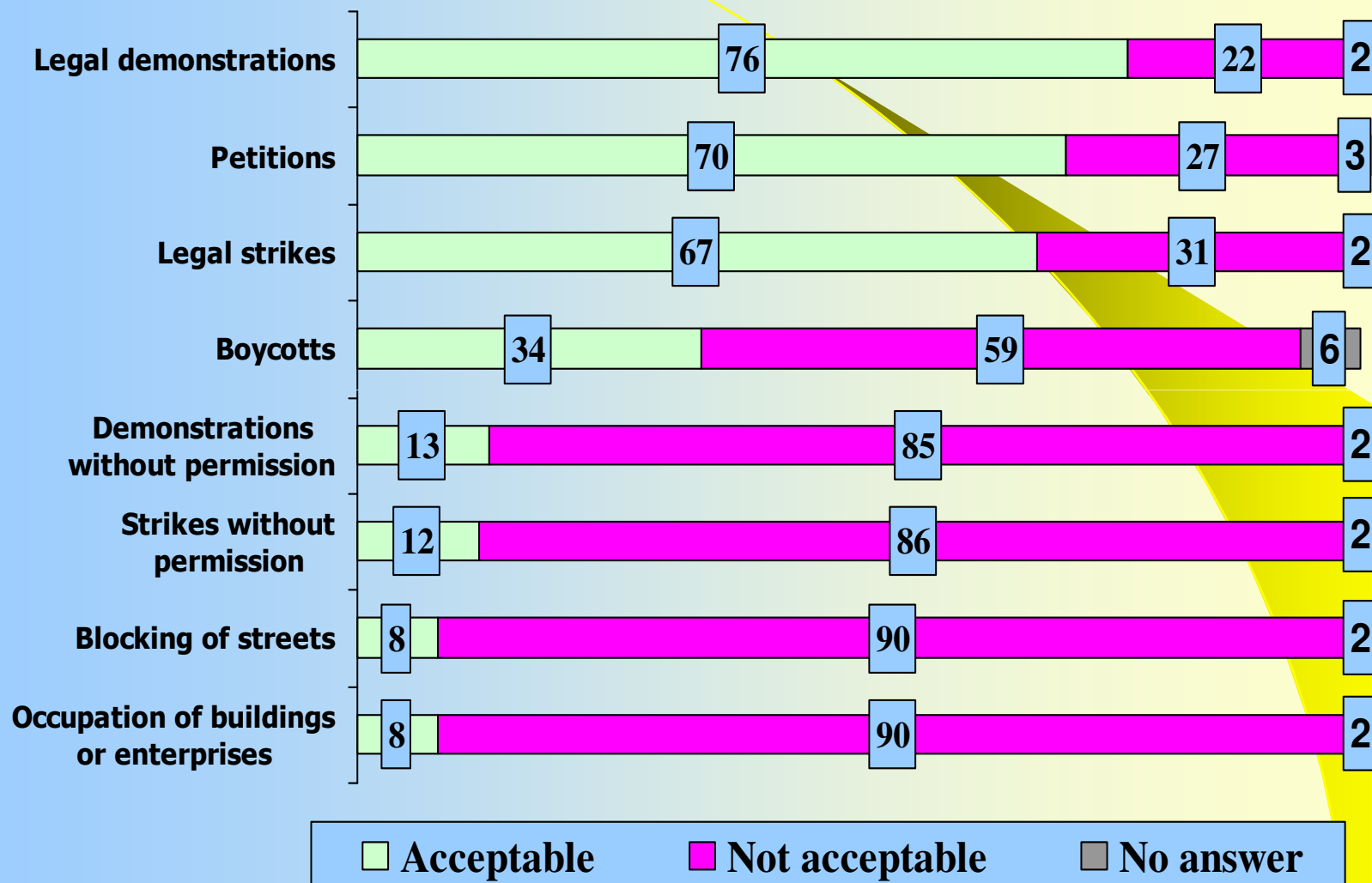
Most important issue households face – March 2006 (two answers allowed)



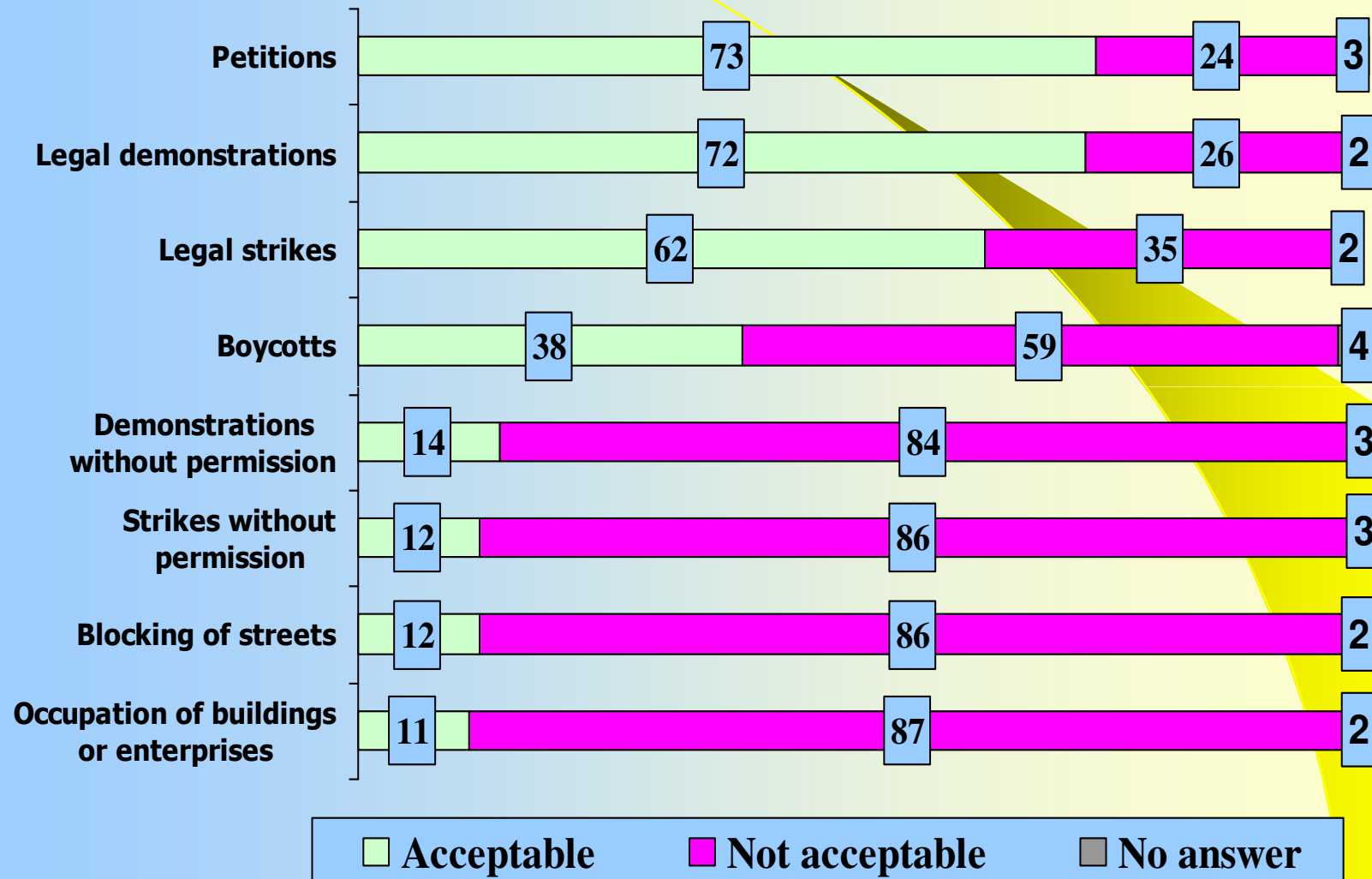
Issues

- The most pressing issues in the country, as they were the year before, are unemployment, economic development and corruption. There is a consensus among all groups that these are the three most important issues.
- On the personal/household level, social issues are the most pressing, with standard of living being most important. Unemployment, housing problems and water supply and quality are emphasized in rural areas and medium-size towns. Expensive communal services worry Bishkek residents more than others. Quality and availability of education are more often stressed in regional towns.

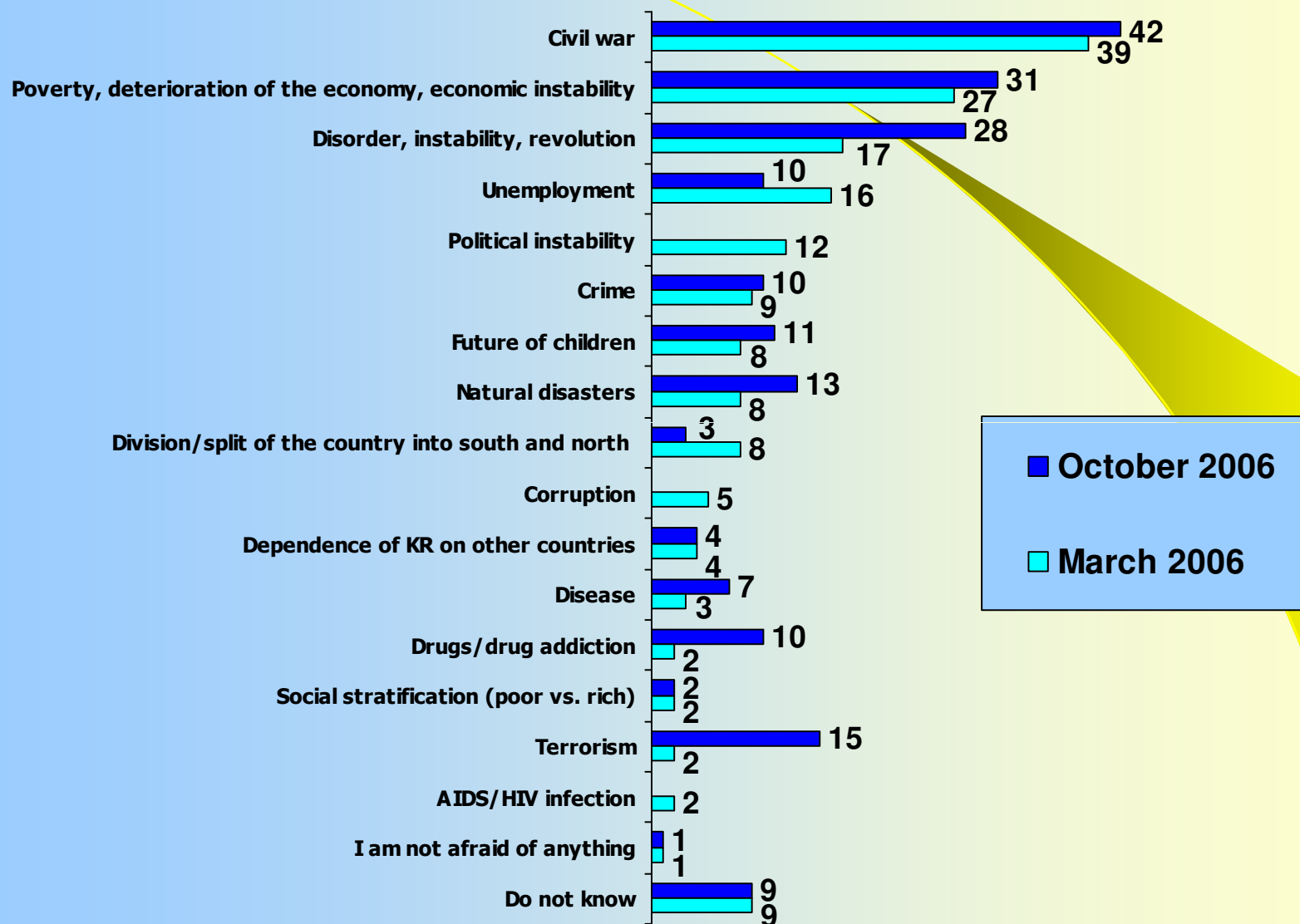
Acceptability of social protest forms – October 2006



Acceptability of social protest forms - March 2006



What do you fear the most (three answers allowed)



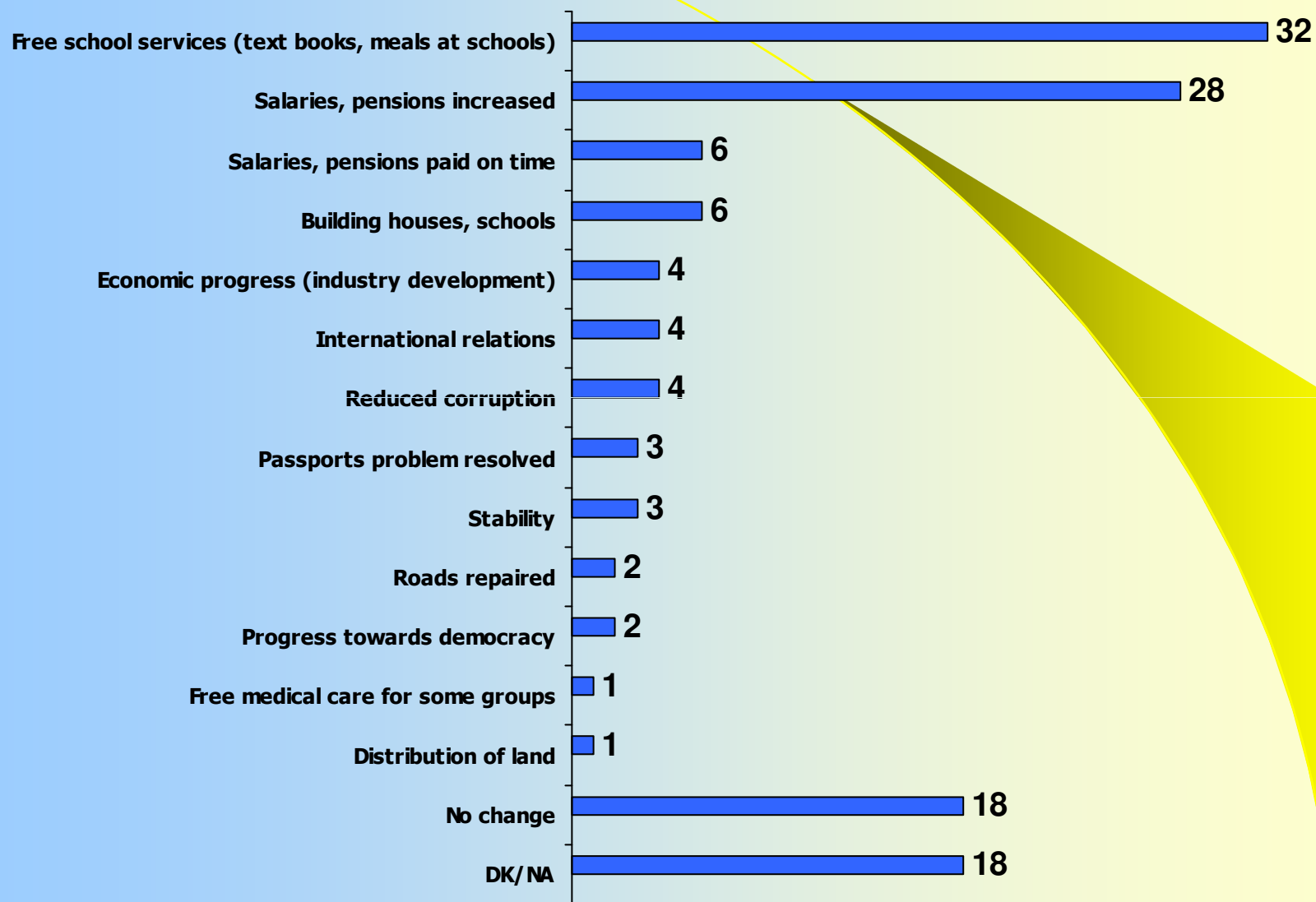
Fears

- People continue to be worried about war, disorder and economic and social instability.
- People at higher income levels and residents of Bishkek are more worried about possible disorder and instability than other groups.

POLITICS

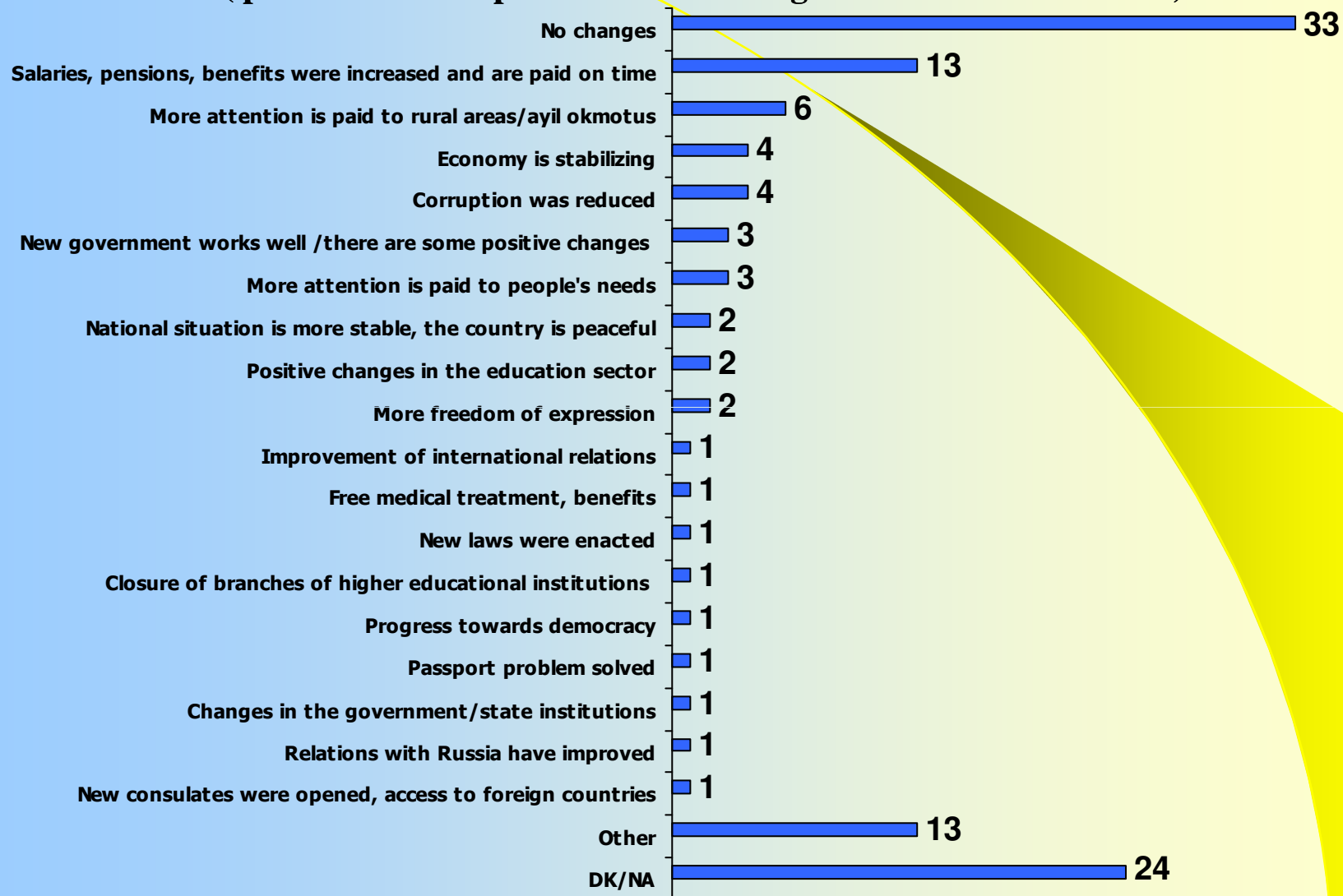
Most important achievements of the new Government – October 2006

(percent of all respondents mentioning this issue – two answers)



Most important achievements of the new government – March 2006

(percent of all respondents mentioning this issue – two answers)

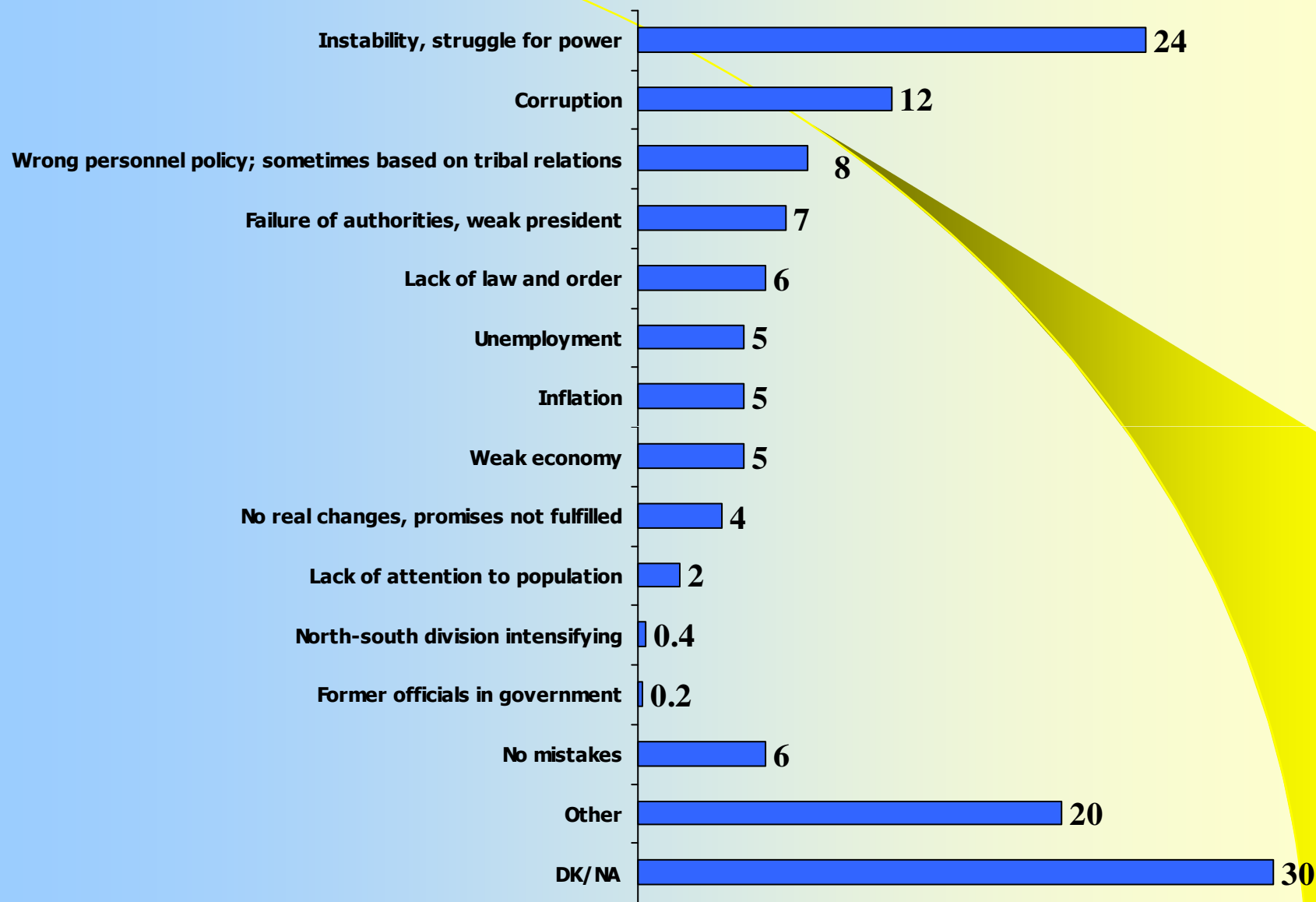


Achievements

- Free school services along with increases and timely payment of salaries and pensions are perceived as the major achievements of the new government.
- In October 64 percent of respondents mentioned important achievements of the new government compared to only 43 percent in March. Northerners still find it more difficult than southerners to name any important achievements.

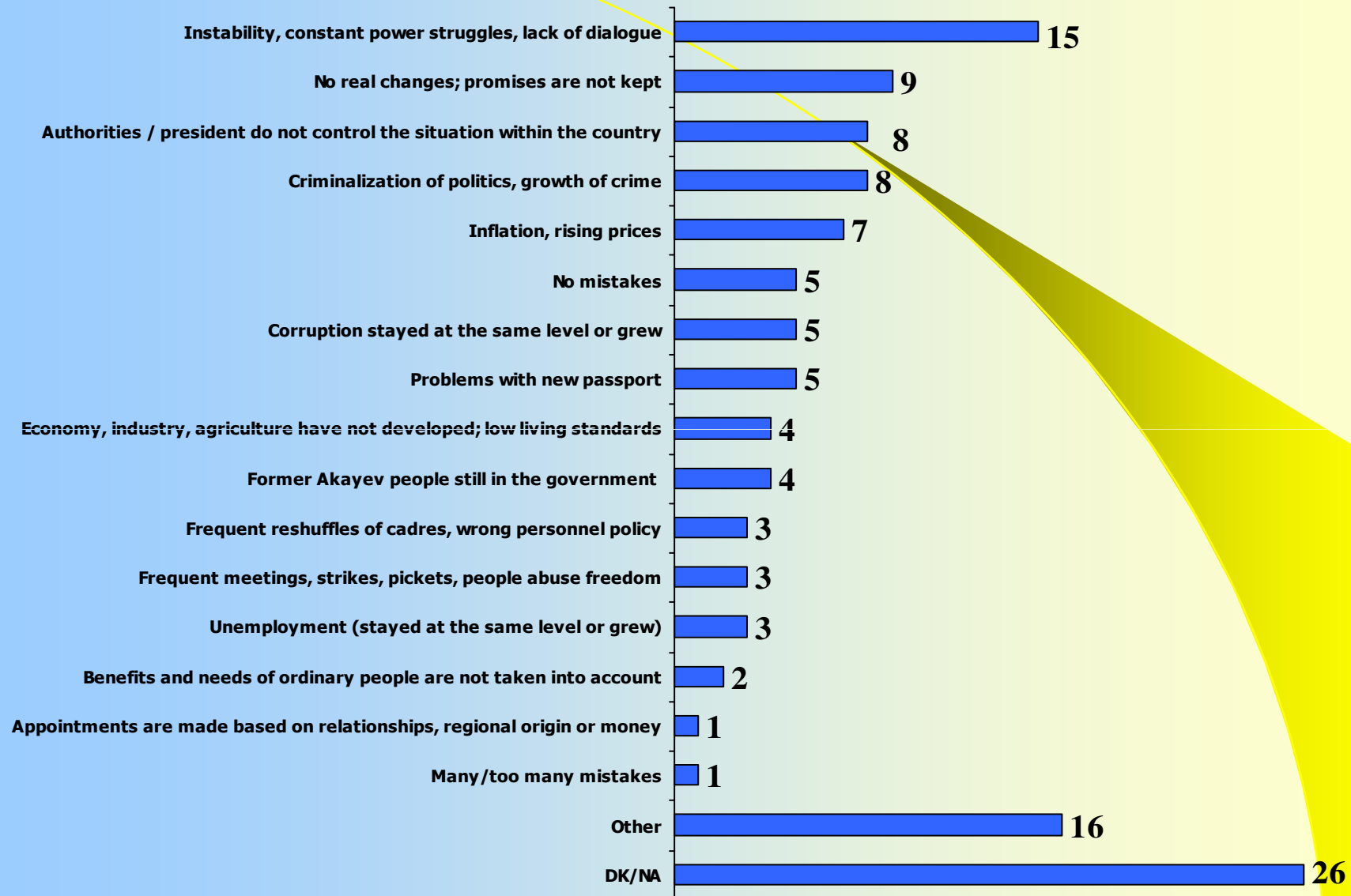
Biggest mistakes of the new government – October 2006

(percent of all respondents mentioning this issue – two answers allowed)



Biggest mistakes of the new government – March 2006

(percent of all respondents mentioning this issue – two answers)

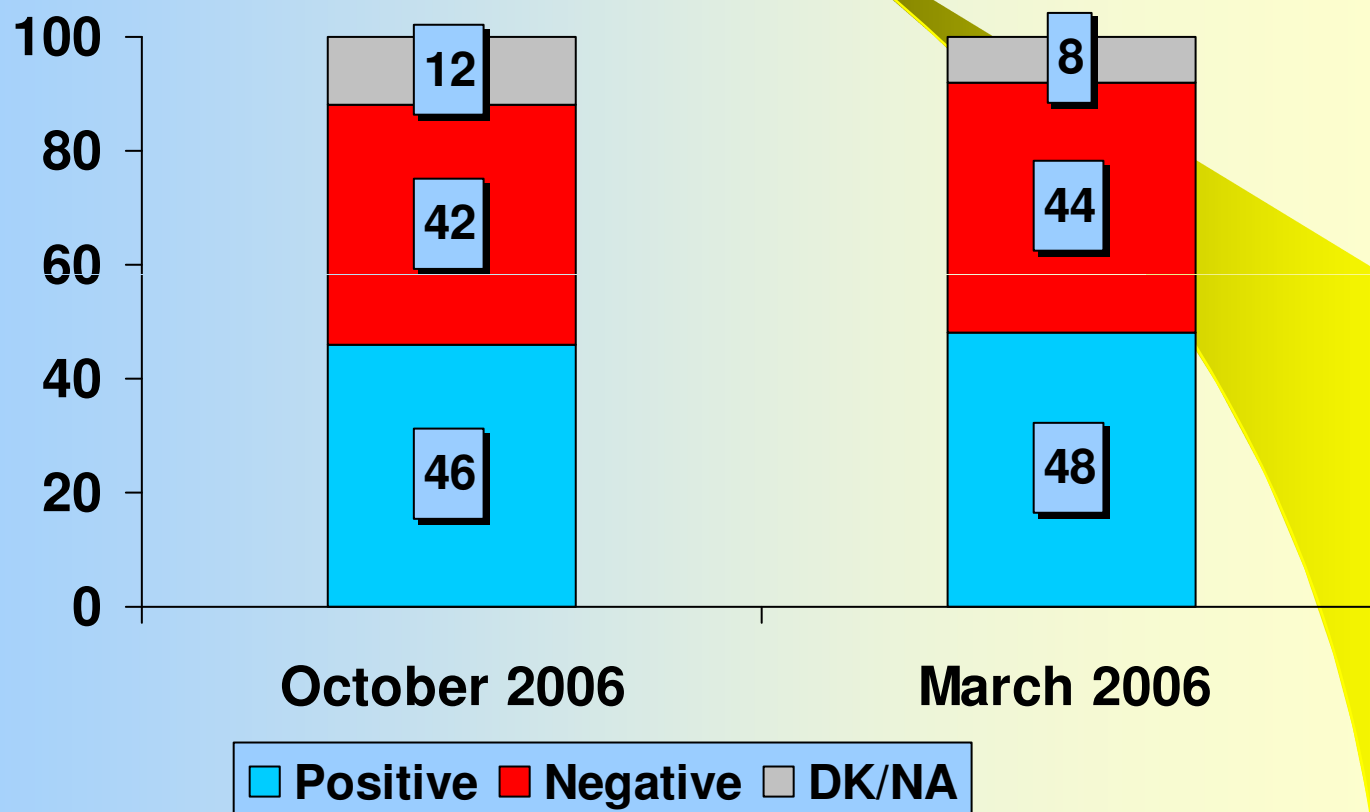


Failures

- The biggest perceived failures of the new government are constant struggles for power, corruption and wrong personnel policy.
- 12 percent of the respondents find that corruption is the government's biggest failing.

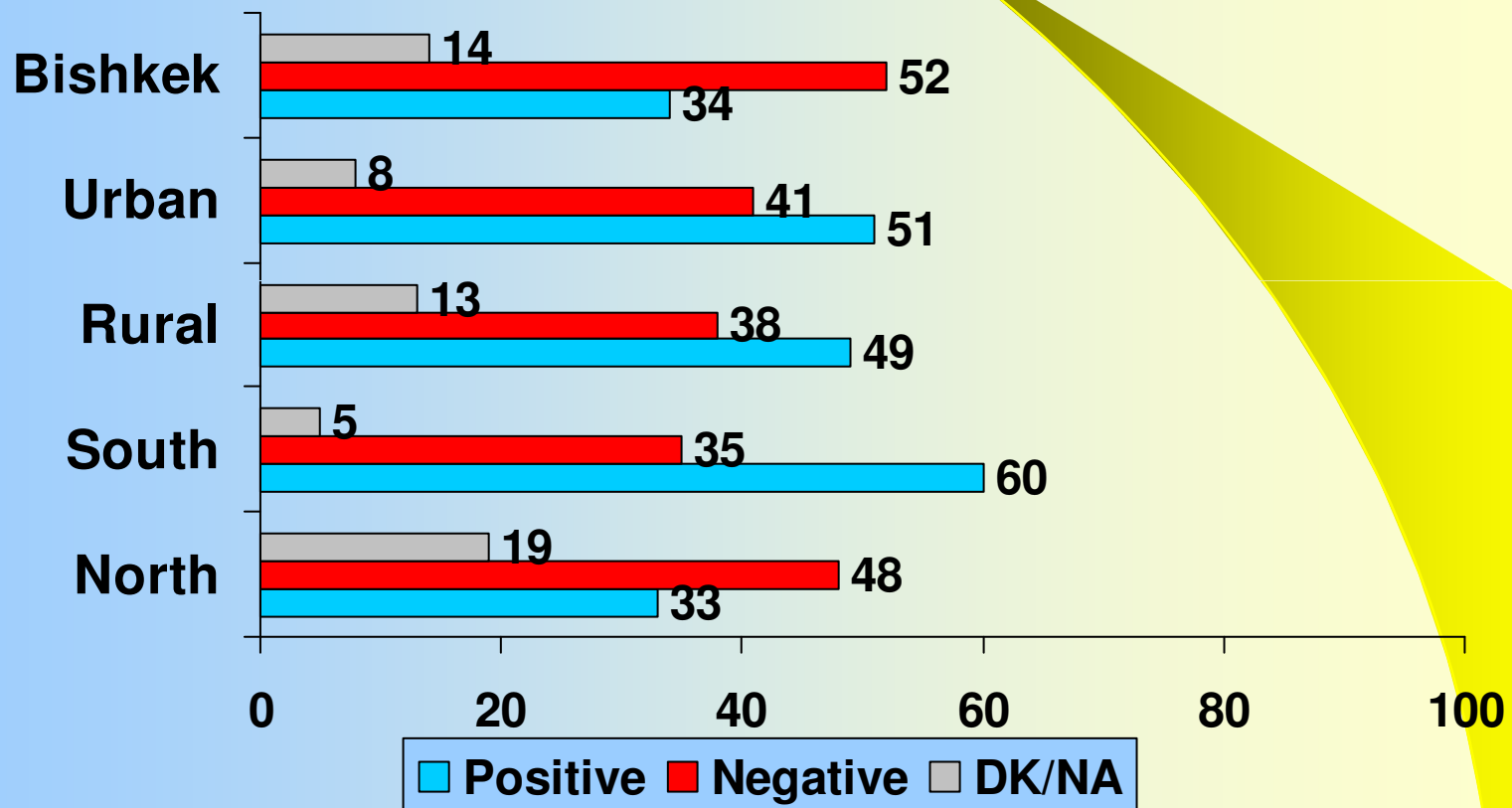
Evaluation of the current government personnel policy in Kyrgyzstan

How would you evaluate the current personnel policy in Kyrgyzstan?



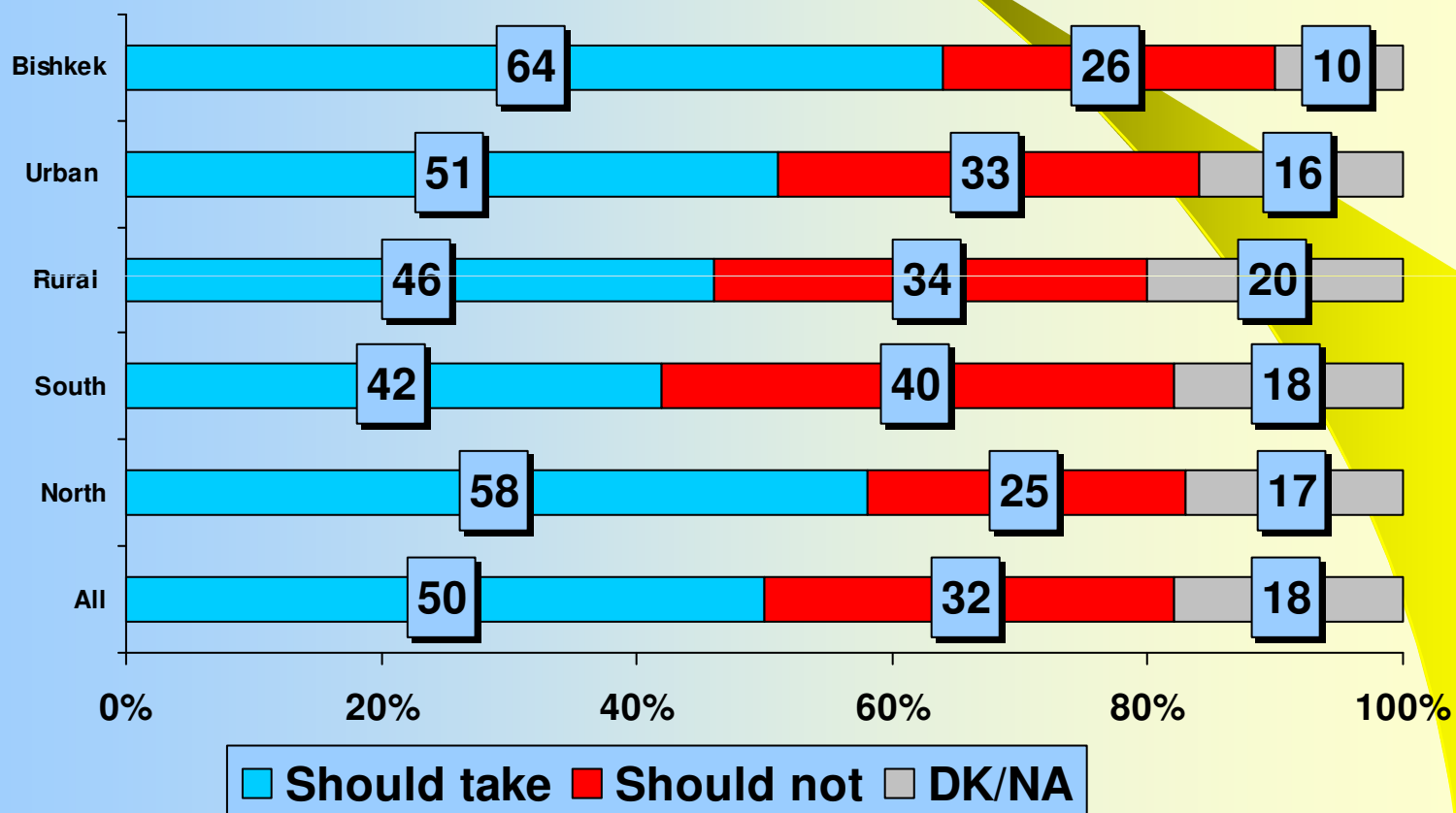
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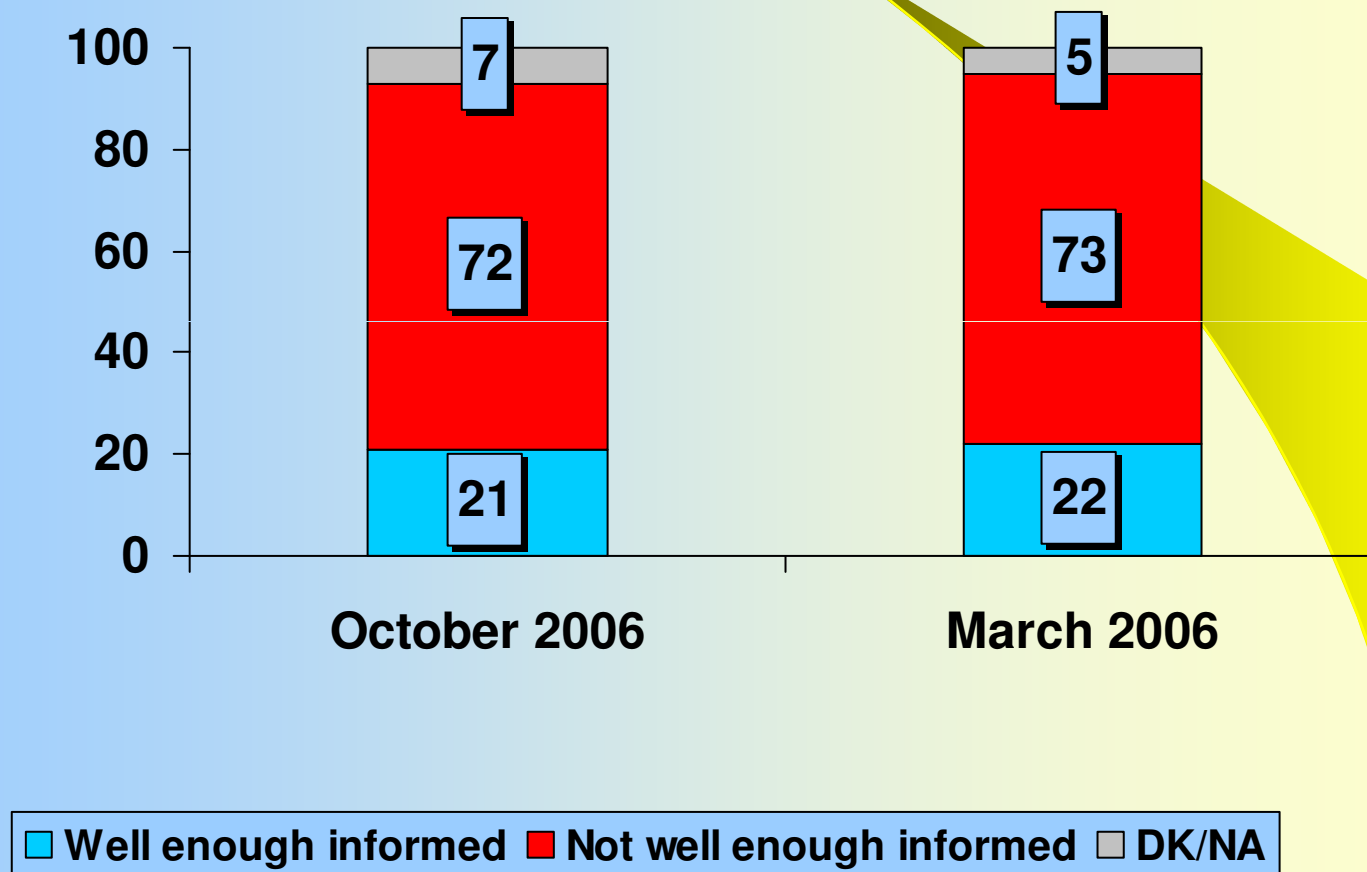


Role of nongovernmental organizations (NGO) in politics

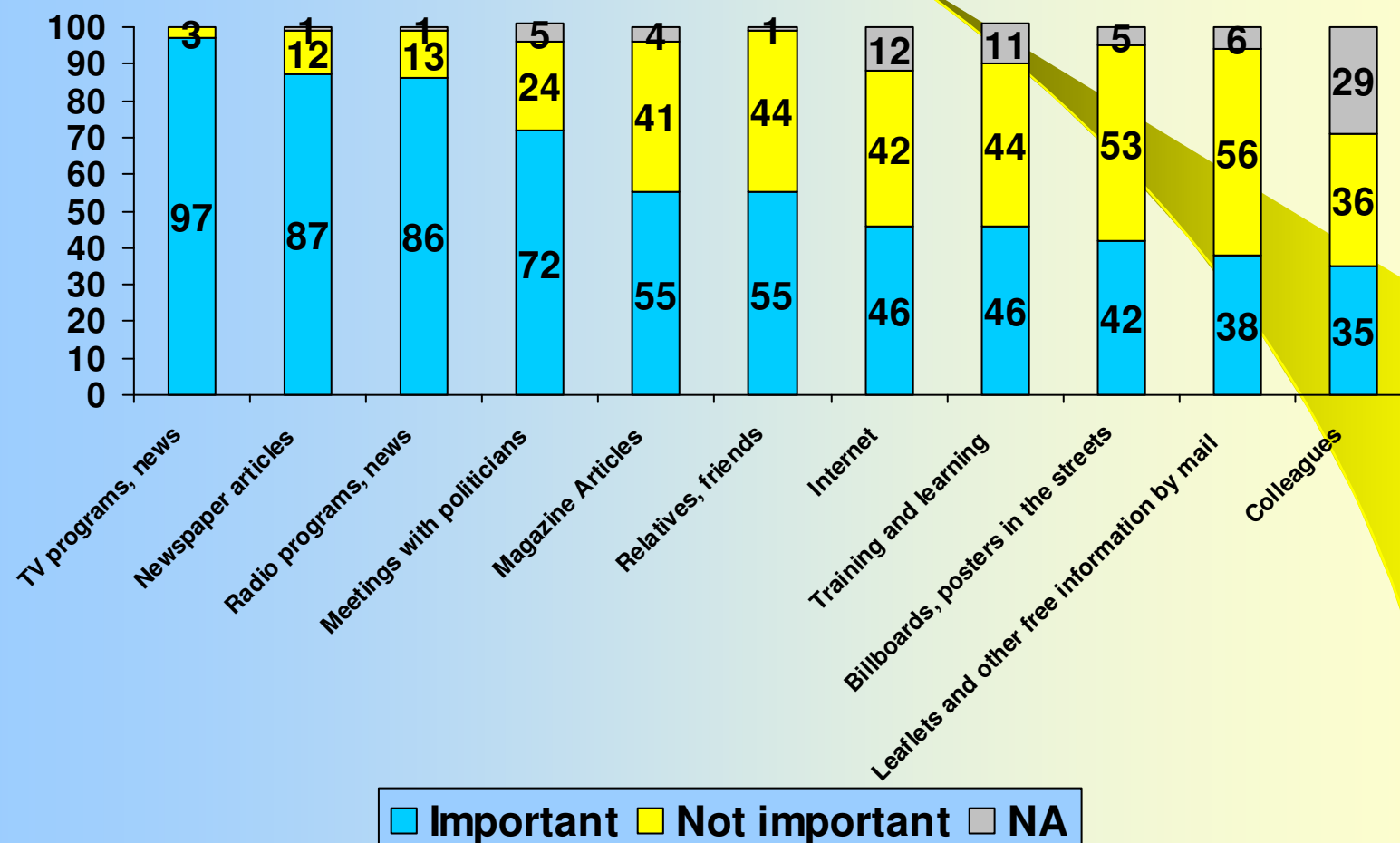
Should local NGO's take part in politics or not?



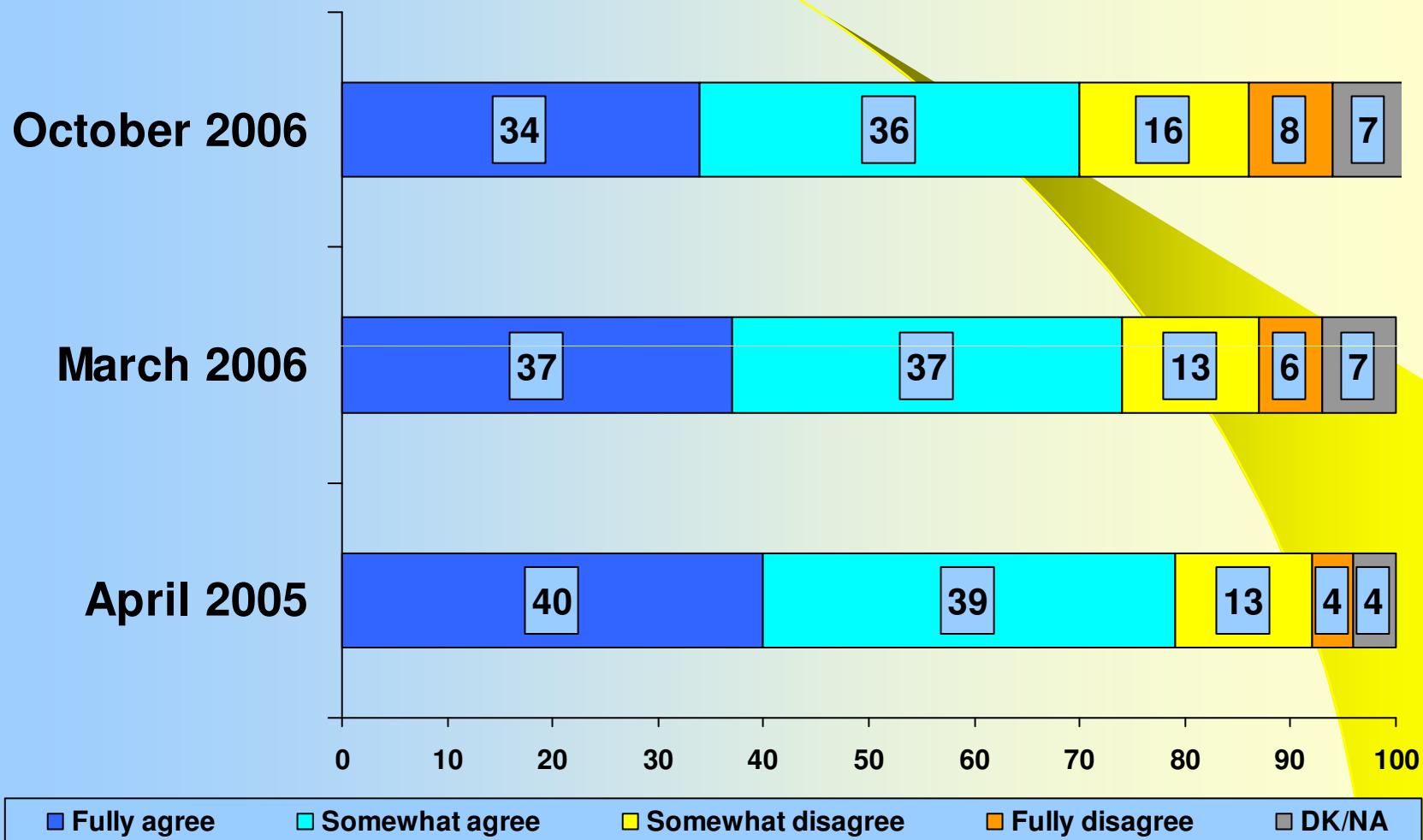
Do you think you are well enough informed or not well enough informed to decide on what form of government is most suitable for Kyrgyzstan?



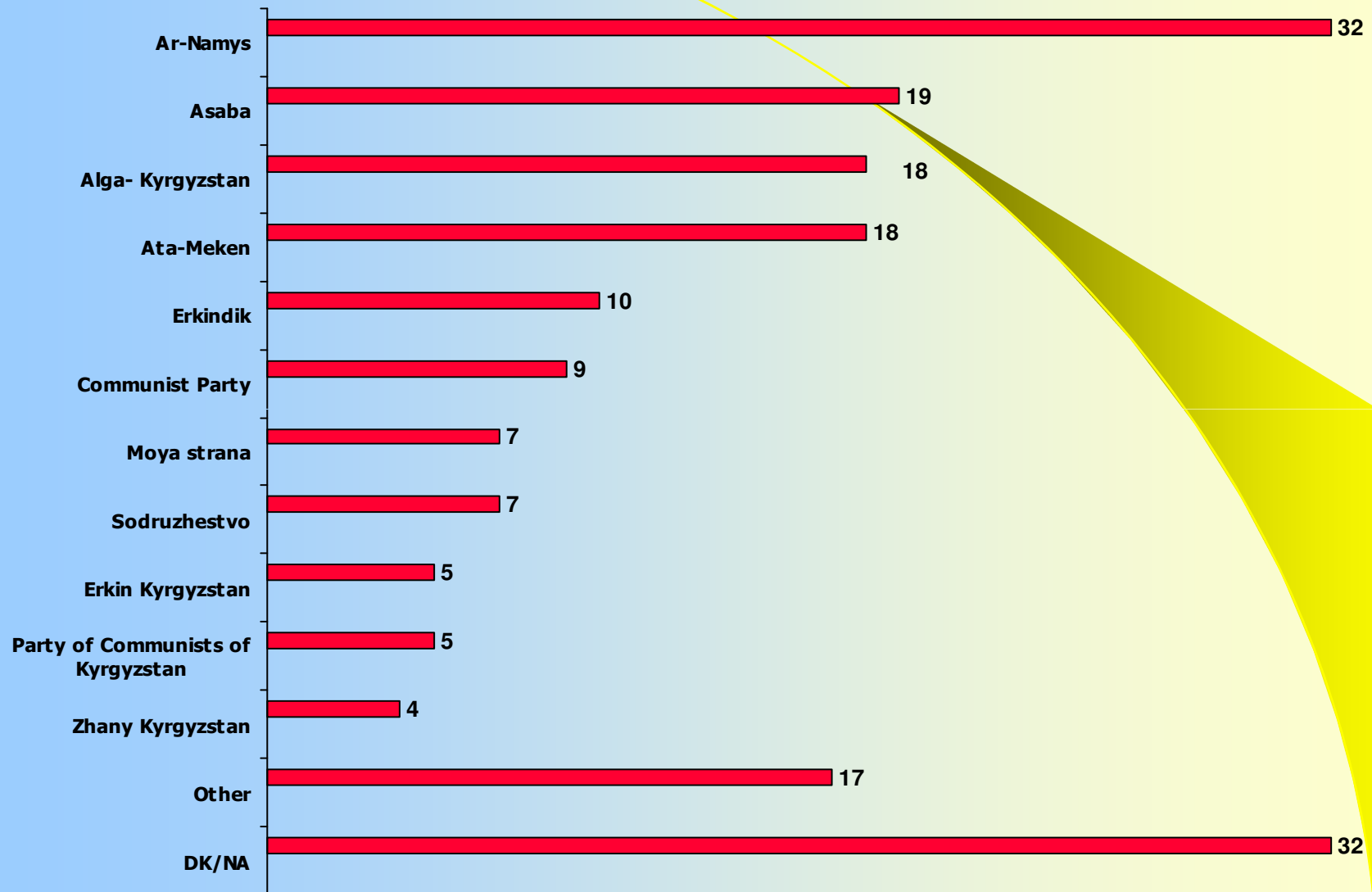
What sources of information are important for you in order to be informed about forms of government?



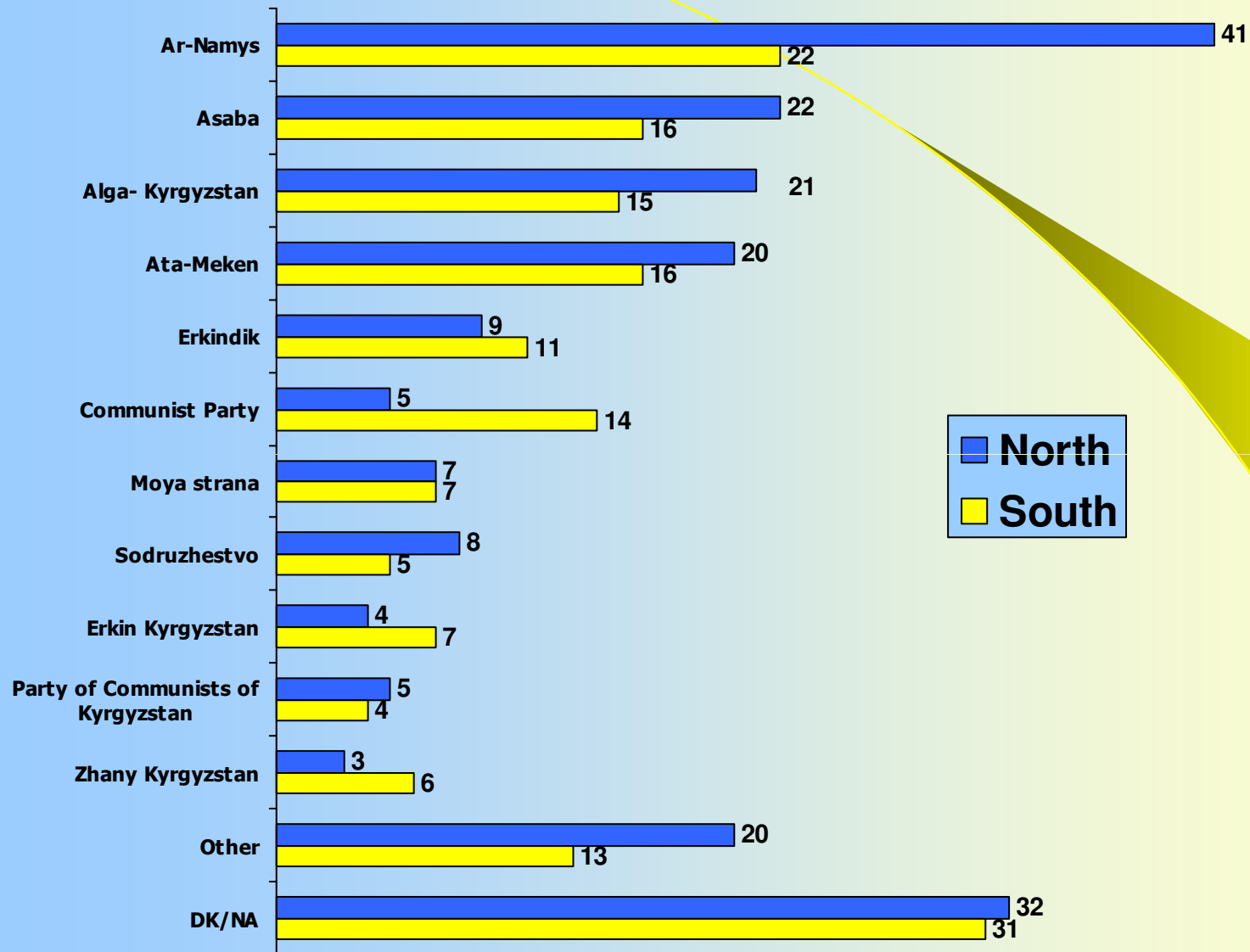
Do you agree or disagree with following statement?
"It is healthy for Kyrgyzstan to have an active opposition."



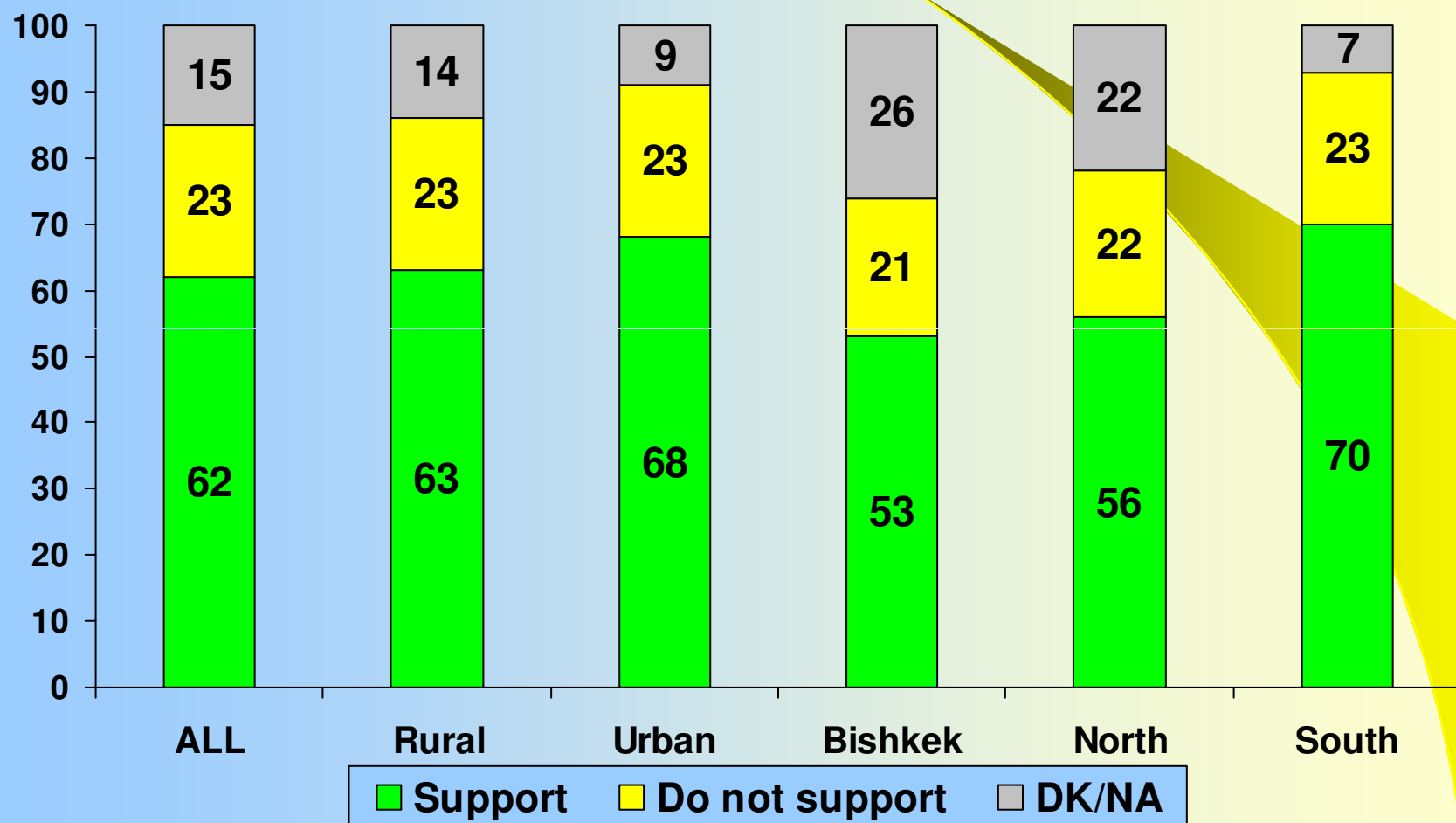
Please name all political parties you know in Kyrgyzstan:



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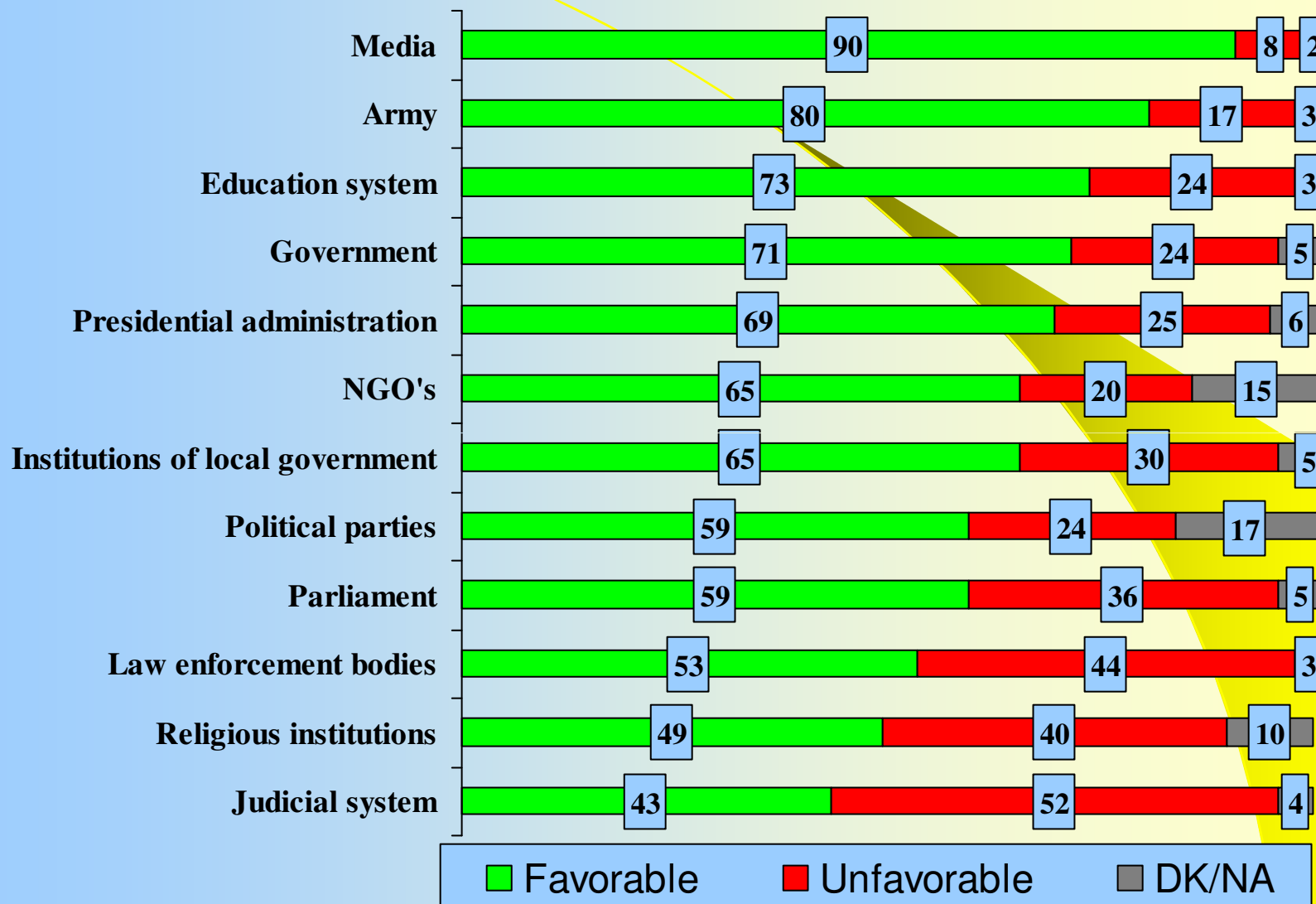


A simplified budget system establishes a direct connection between national and local budgets, excluding oblast and rayon levels. Do you support this system or not?

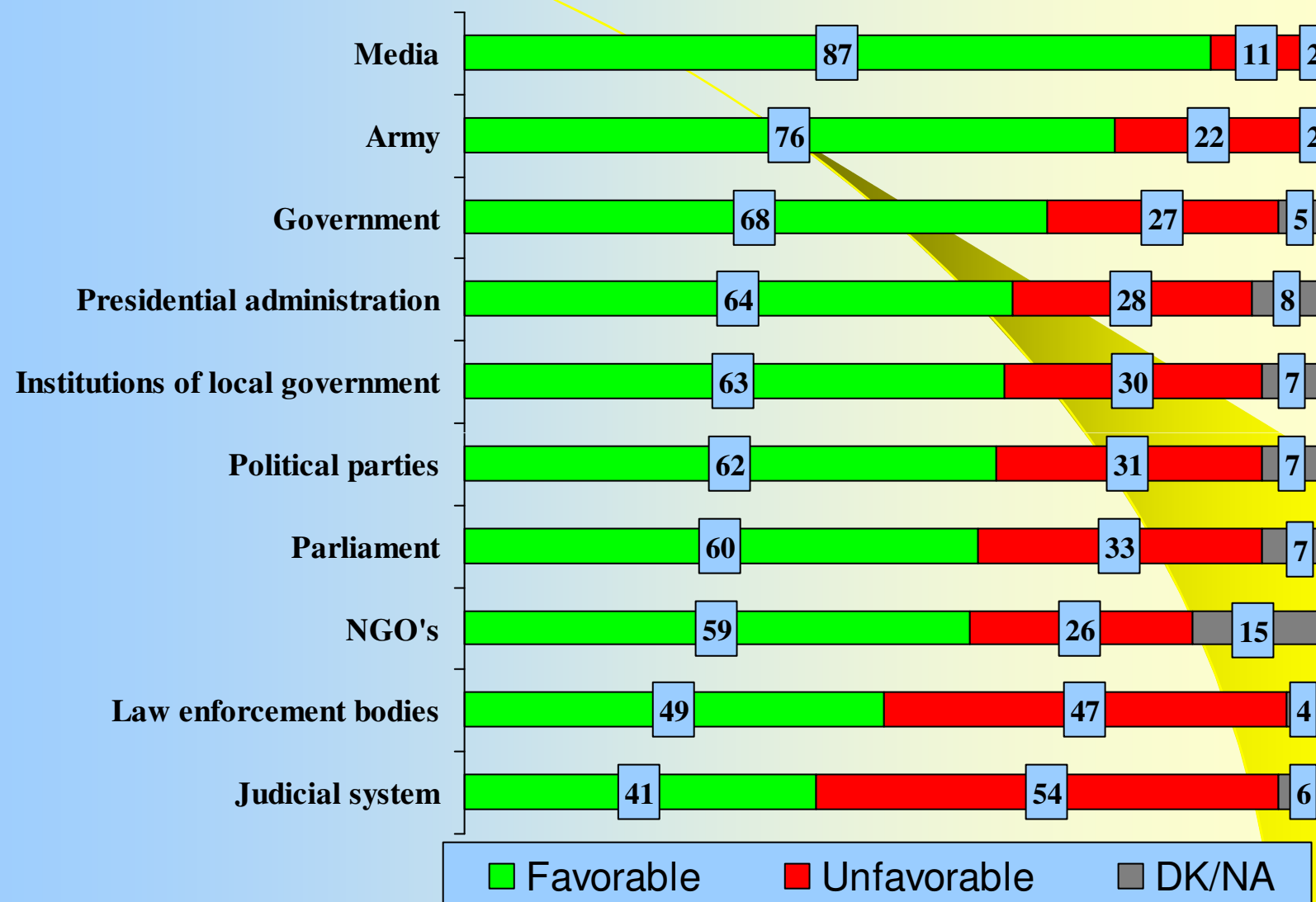


INSTITUTIONS

Confidence in institutions – October 2006

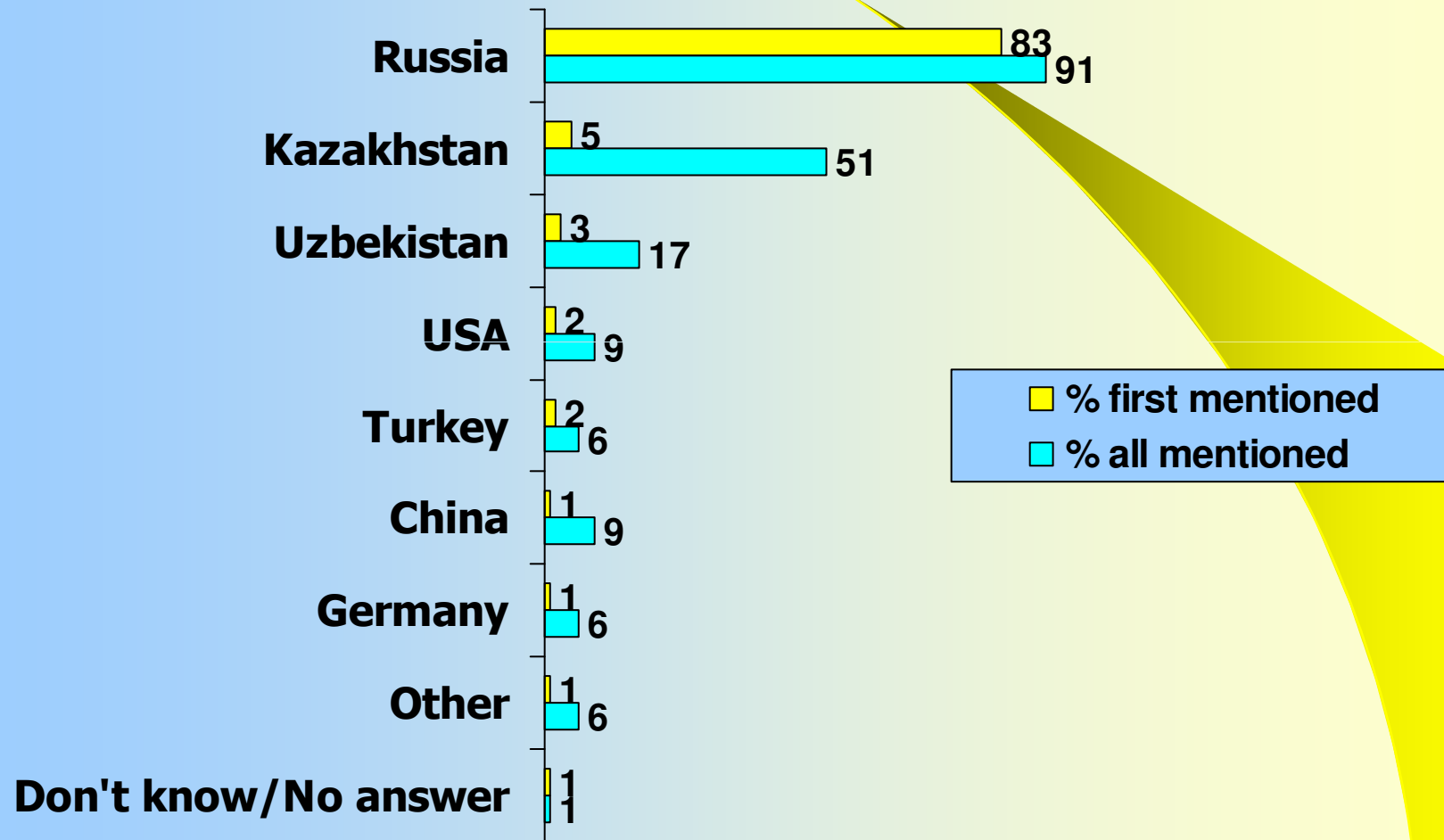


Confidence in institutions – March 2006



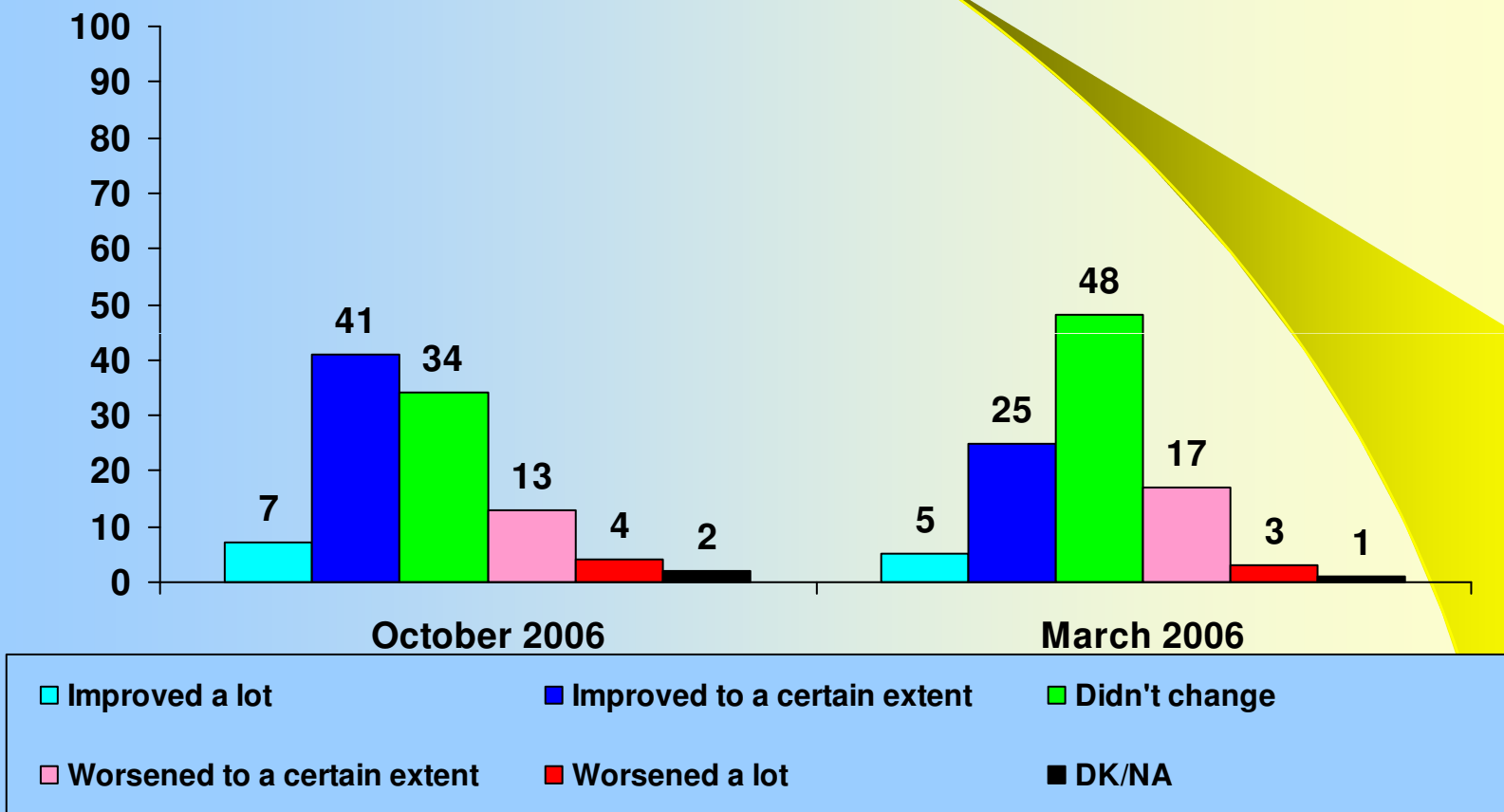
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Which country should Kyrgyzstan give priority to in its international relations? (two answers allowed)



ECONOMY

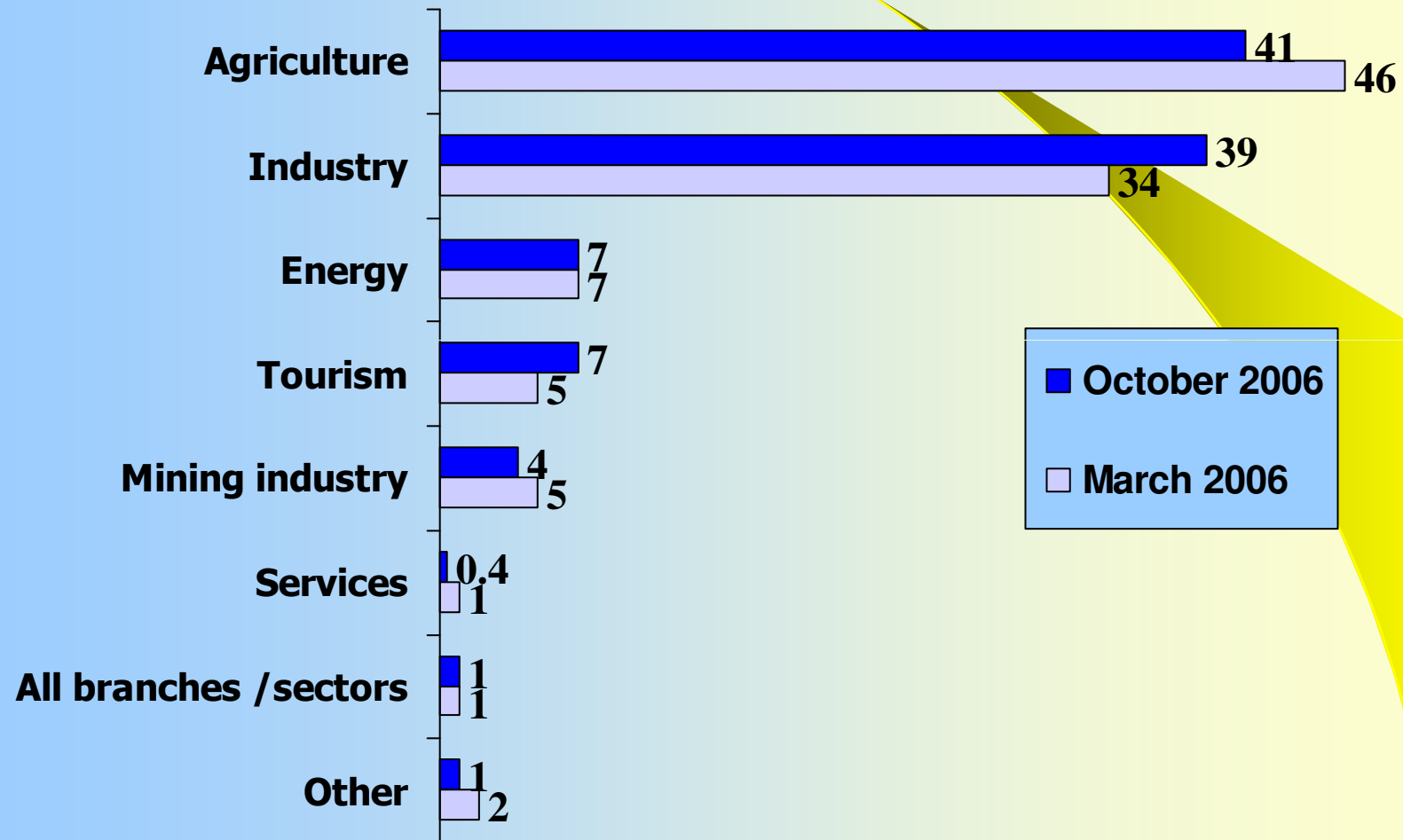
The economy in Kyrgyzstan over the last 12 months has...



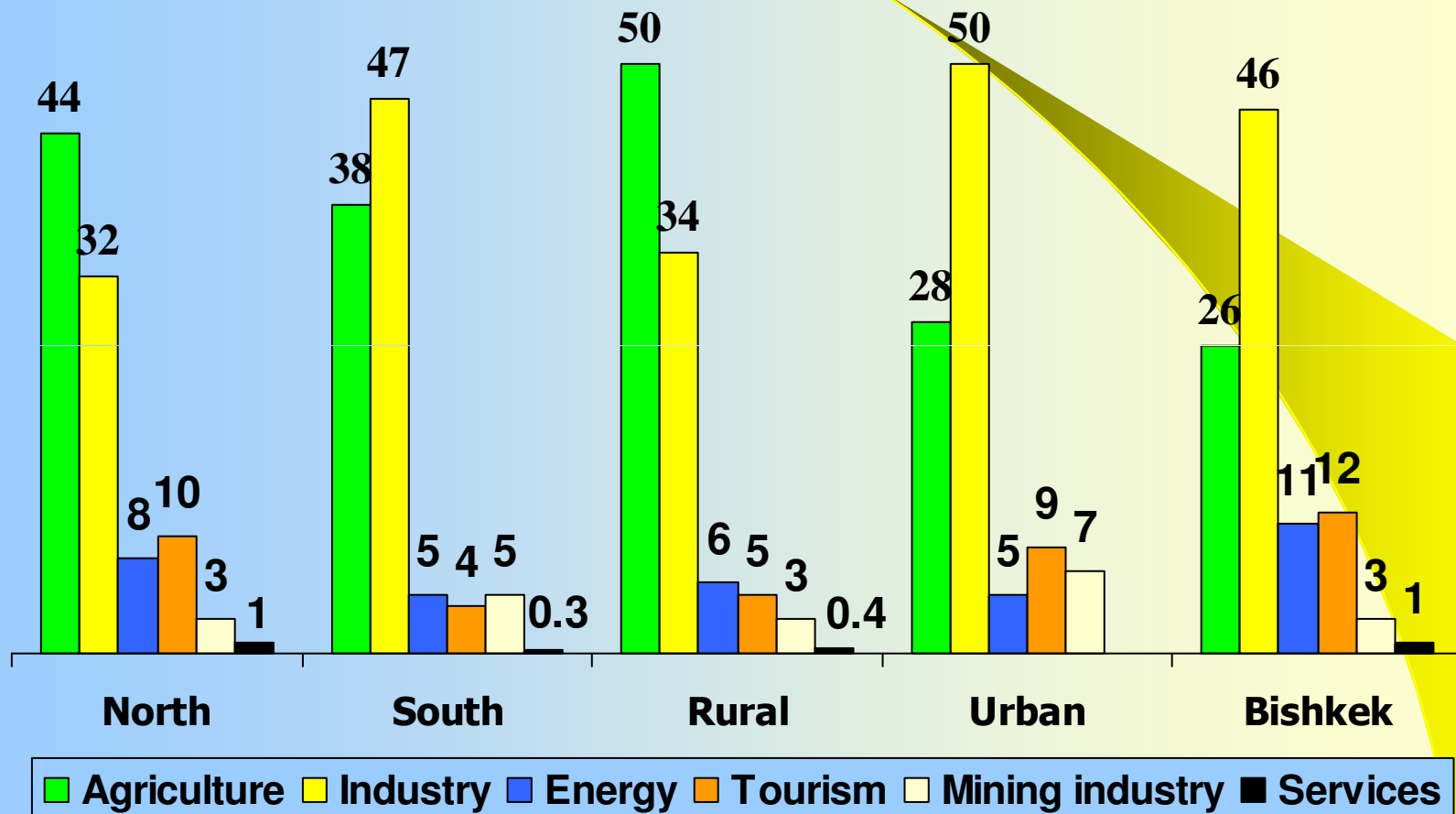
Economic situation

- 48 percent of respondents say the economy has improved since last year, an increase of 18 percent since March.
- In the south, 68 percent see improvement in the economy, while only 29 percent in the north find that the economy has improved.
- Both the rural (53 percent) and urban (54 percent) populations see improvement, while only 26 percent of Bishkek residents cite improvement.

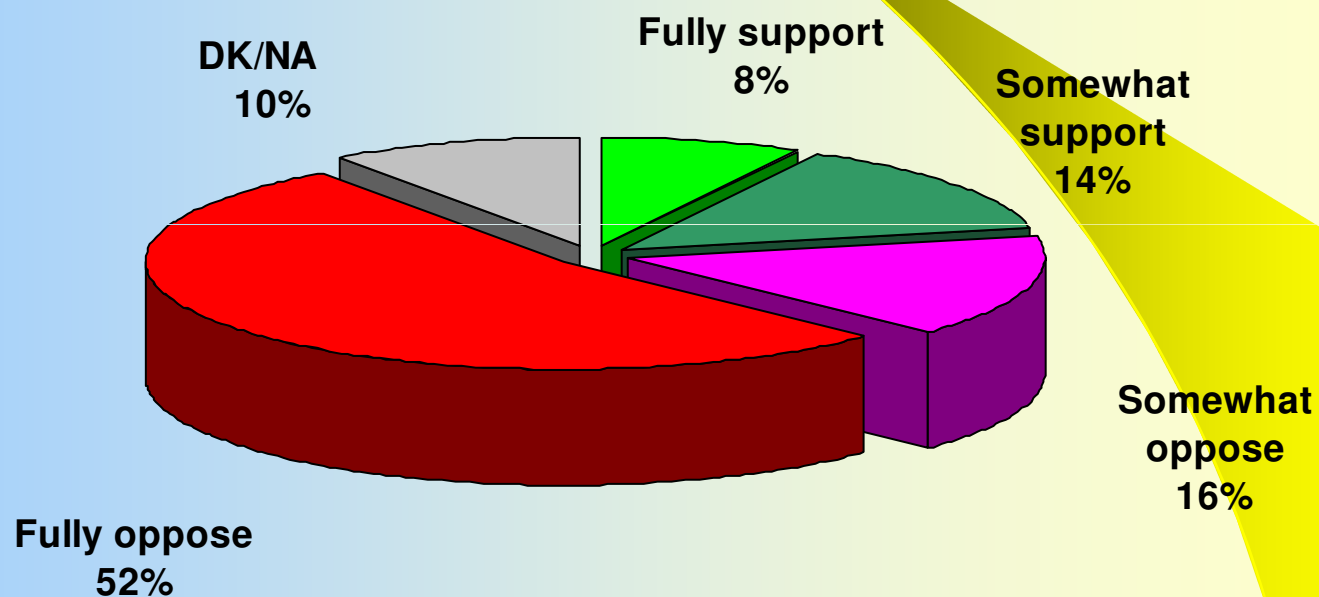
In your opinion, what sector should have priority in the development of the national economy?



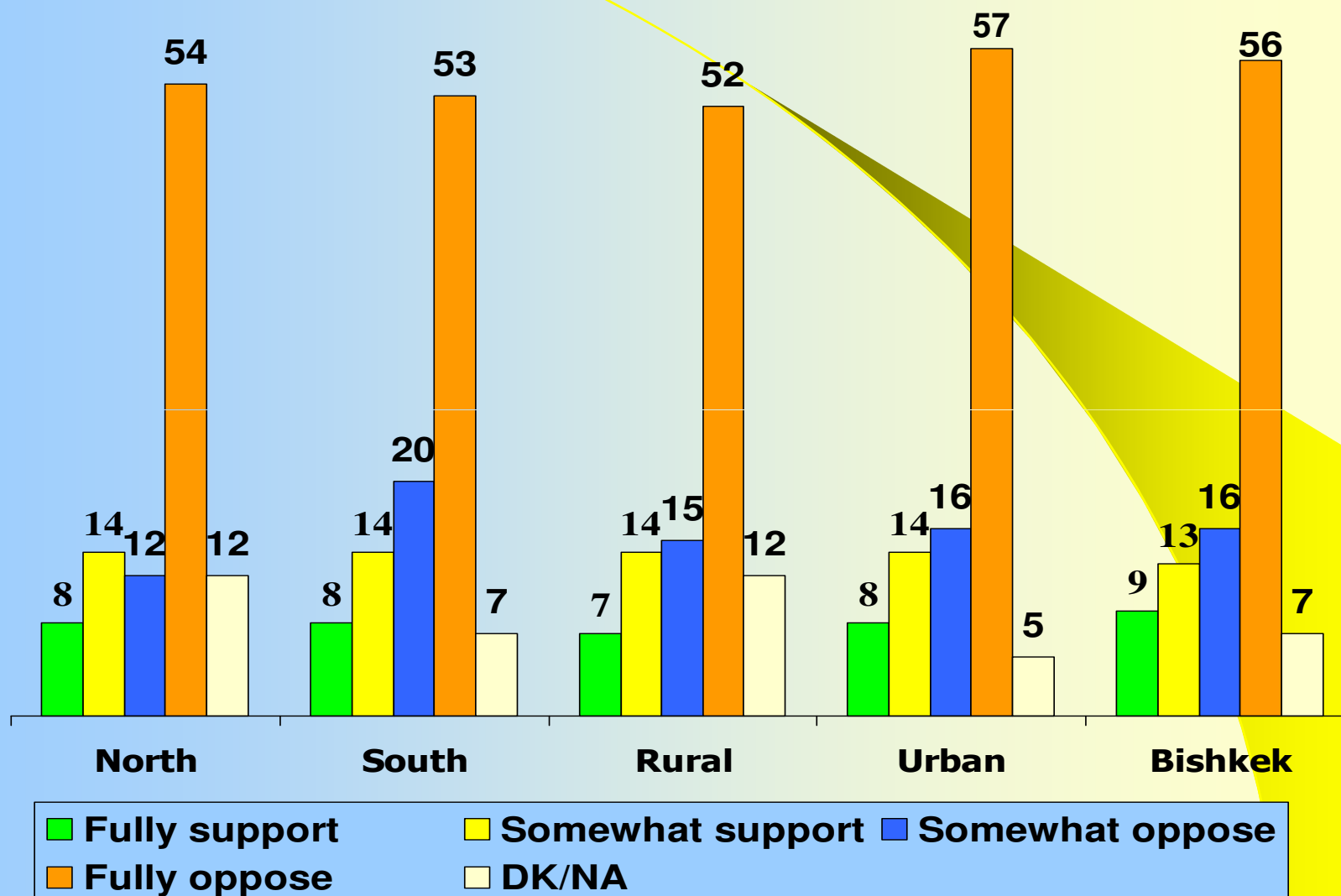
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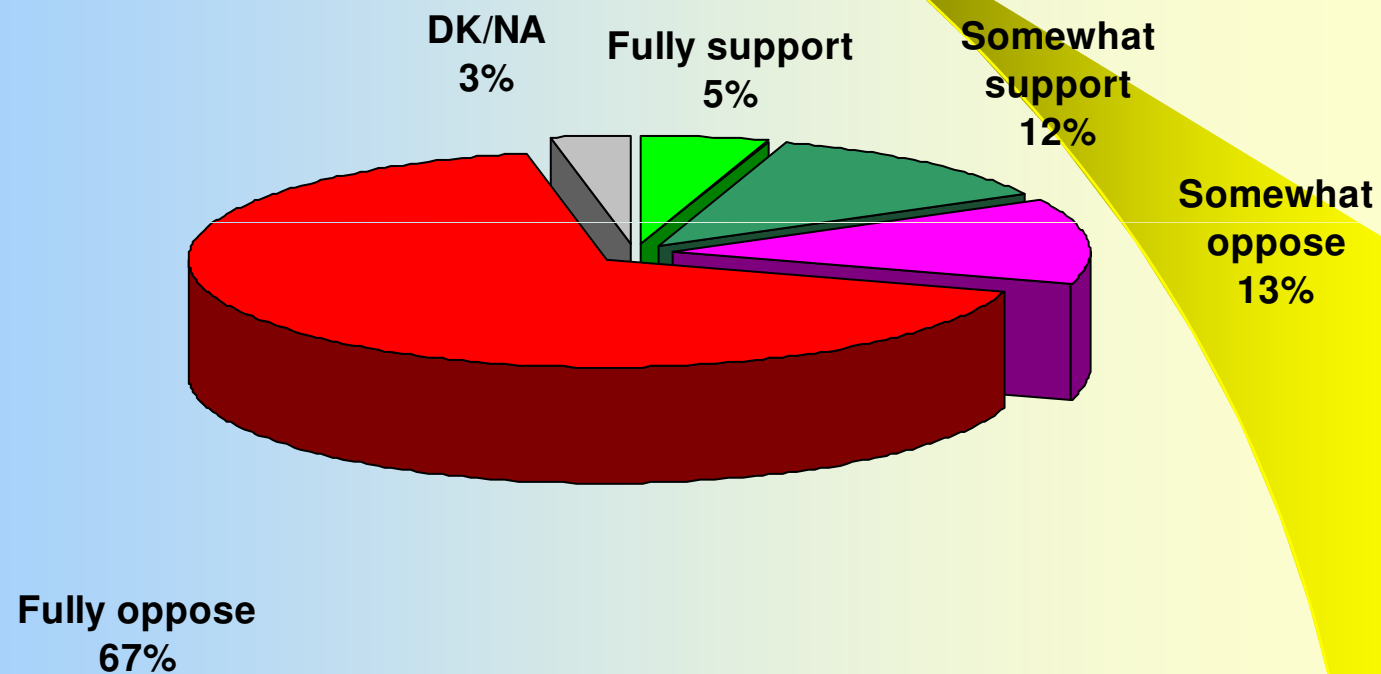
Attitude towards a possible privatization of 'Kyrgyztelecom' public corporation



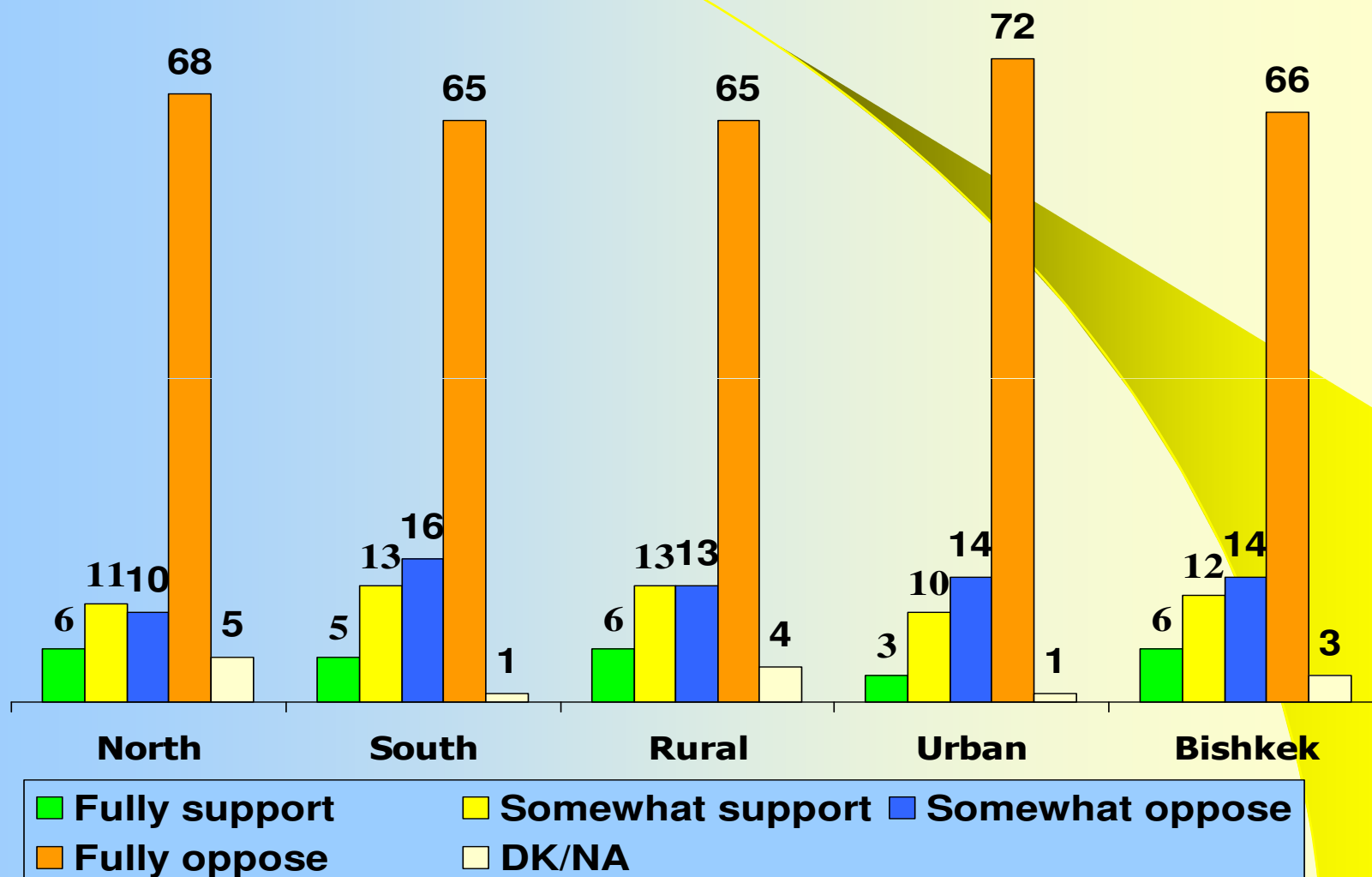
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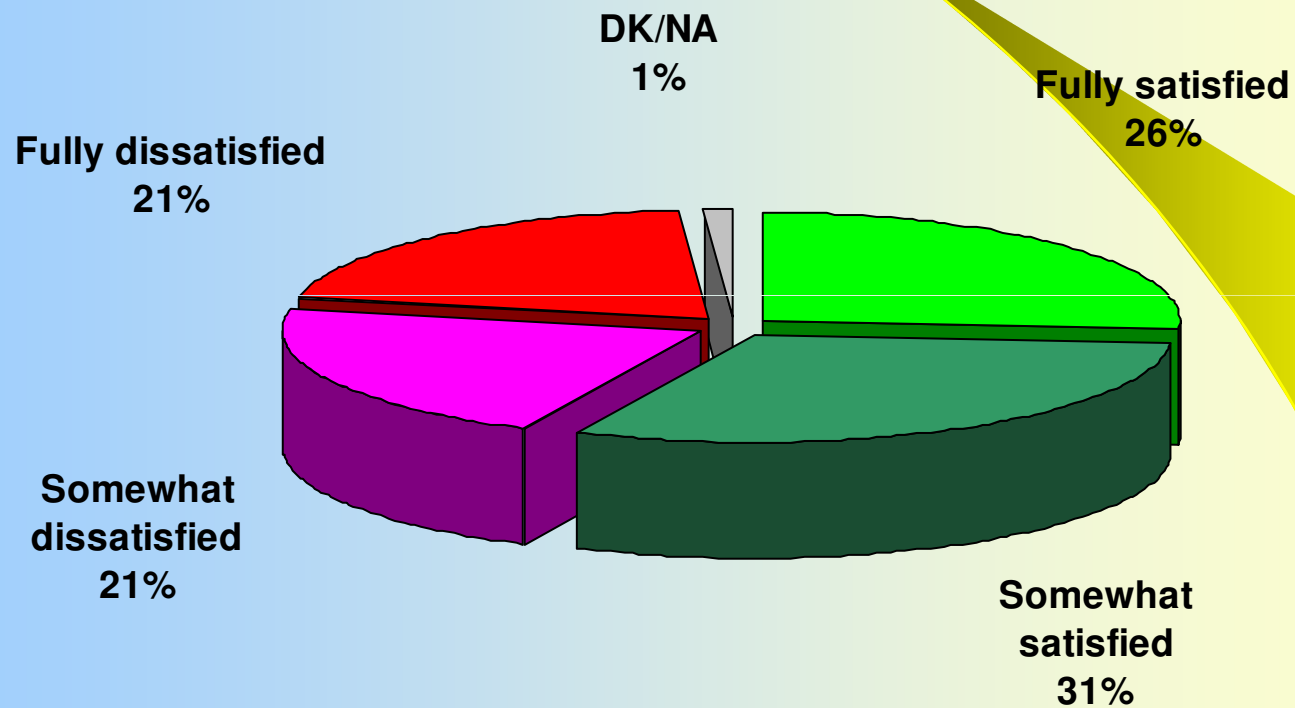
Attitude towards a possible privatization of the energy sector in Kyrgyzstan



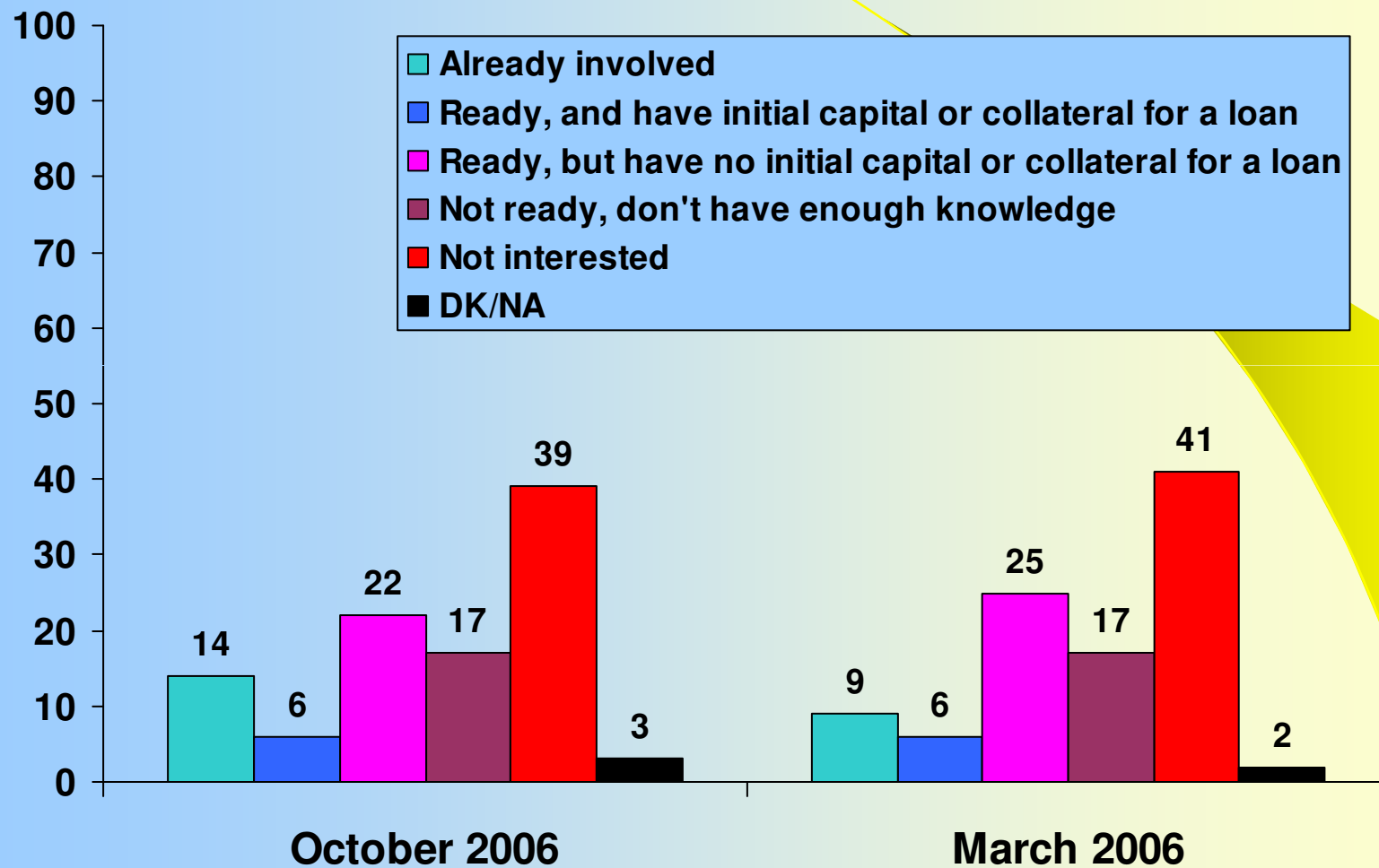
Attitude towards a possible privatization of the energy sector in Kyrgyzstan



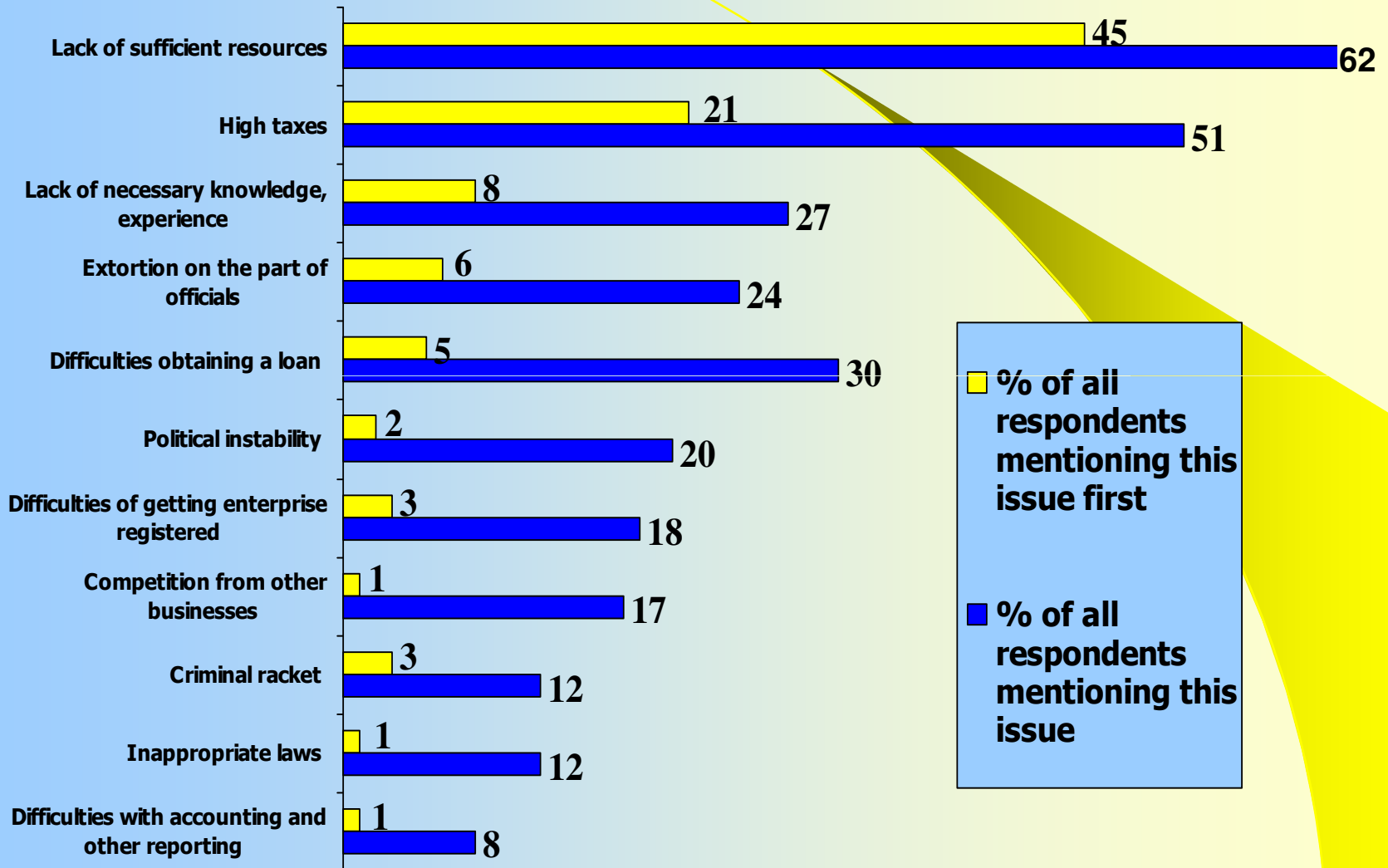
Satisfaction with residential electricity service during fall-winter



Readiness of population to get involved in entrepreneurial activities

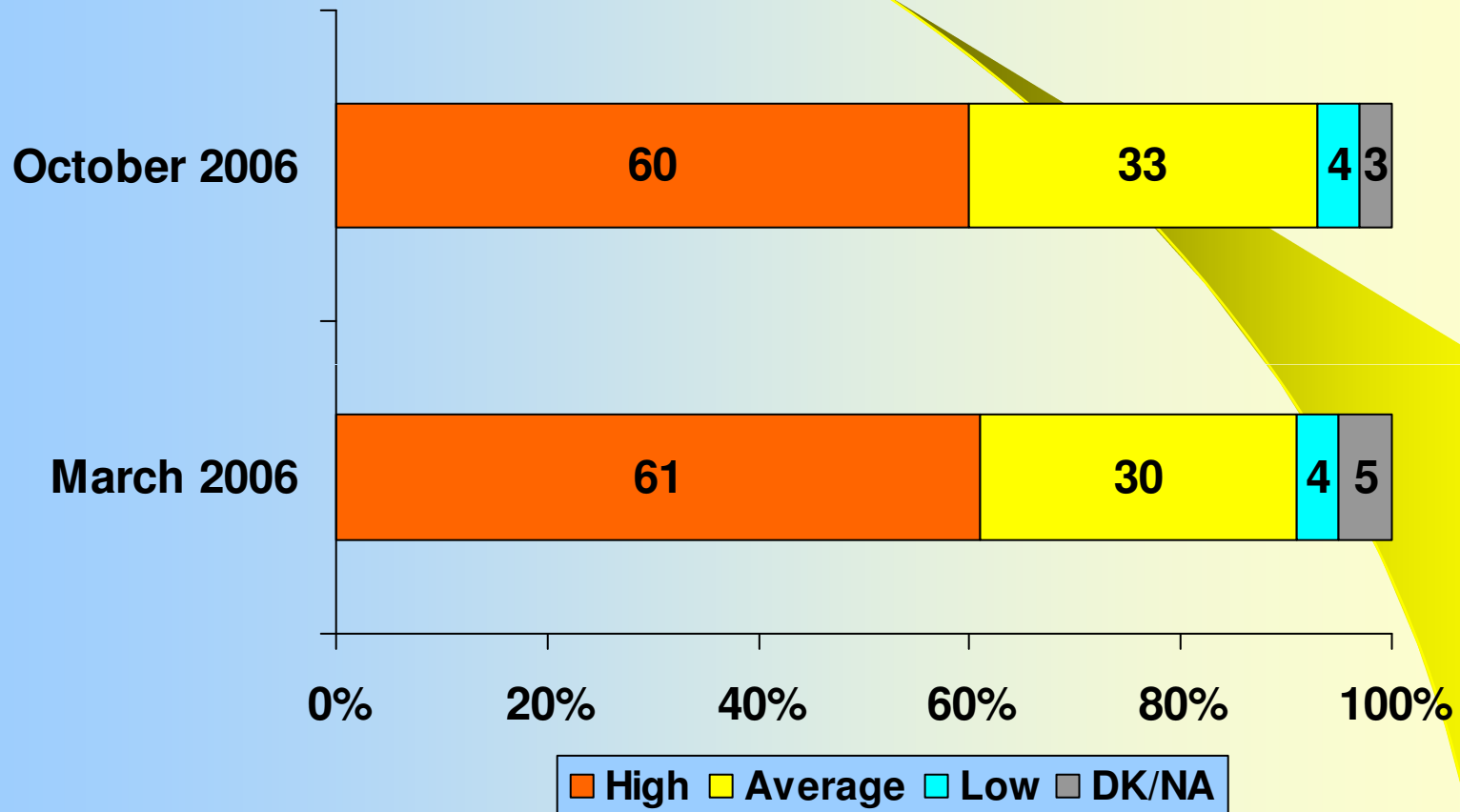


Which basic difficulties prevent you from being engaged in business in Kyrgyzstan? (three answers)

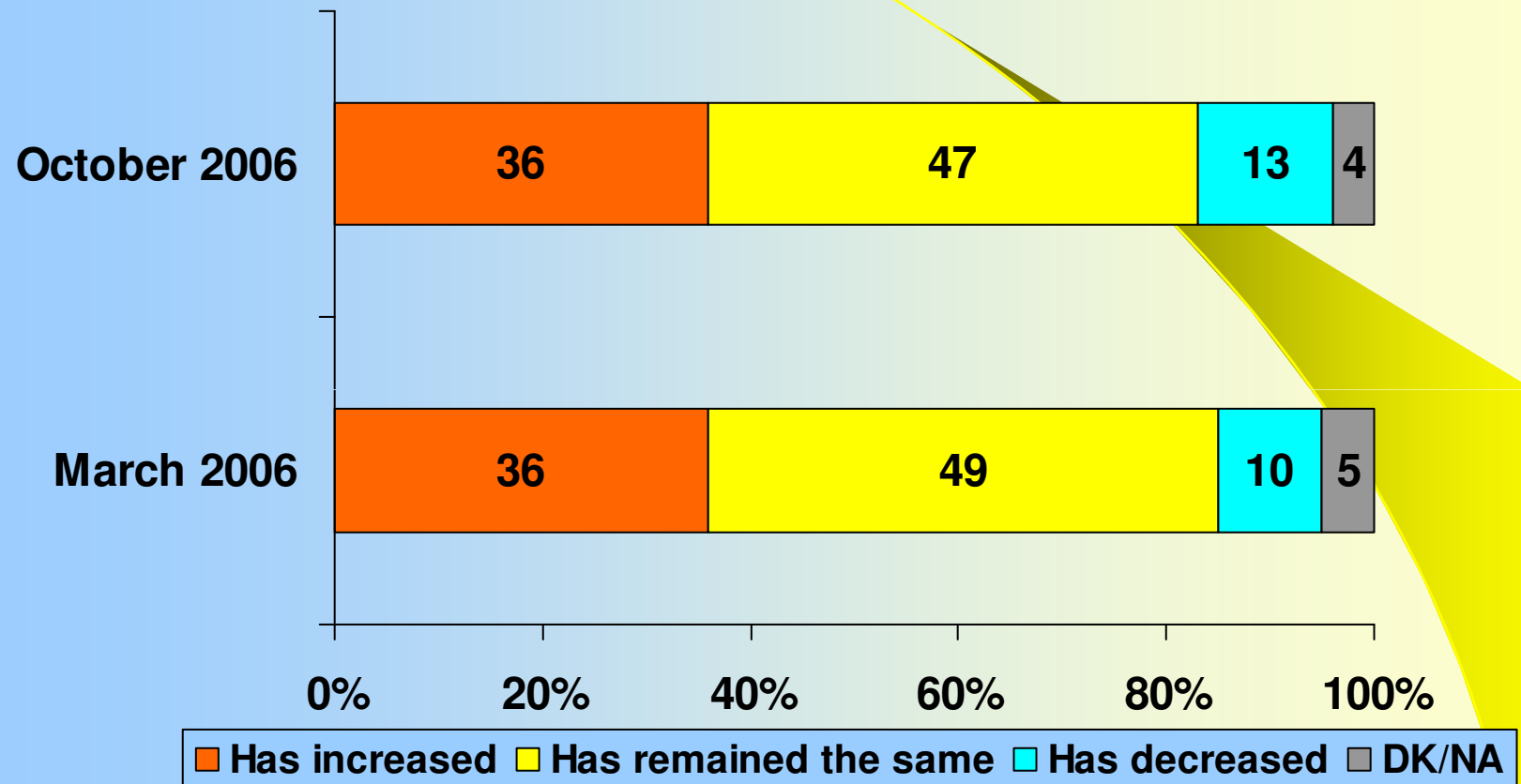


CORRUPTION

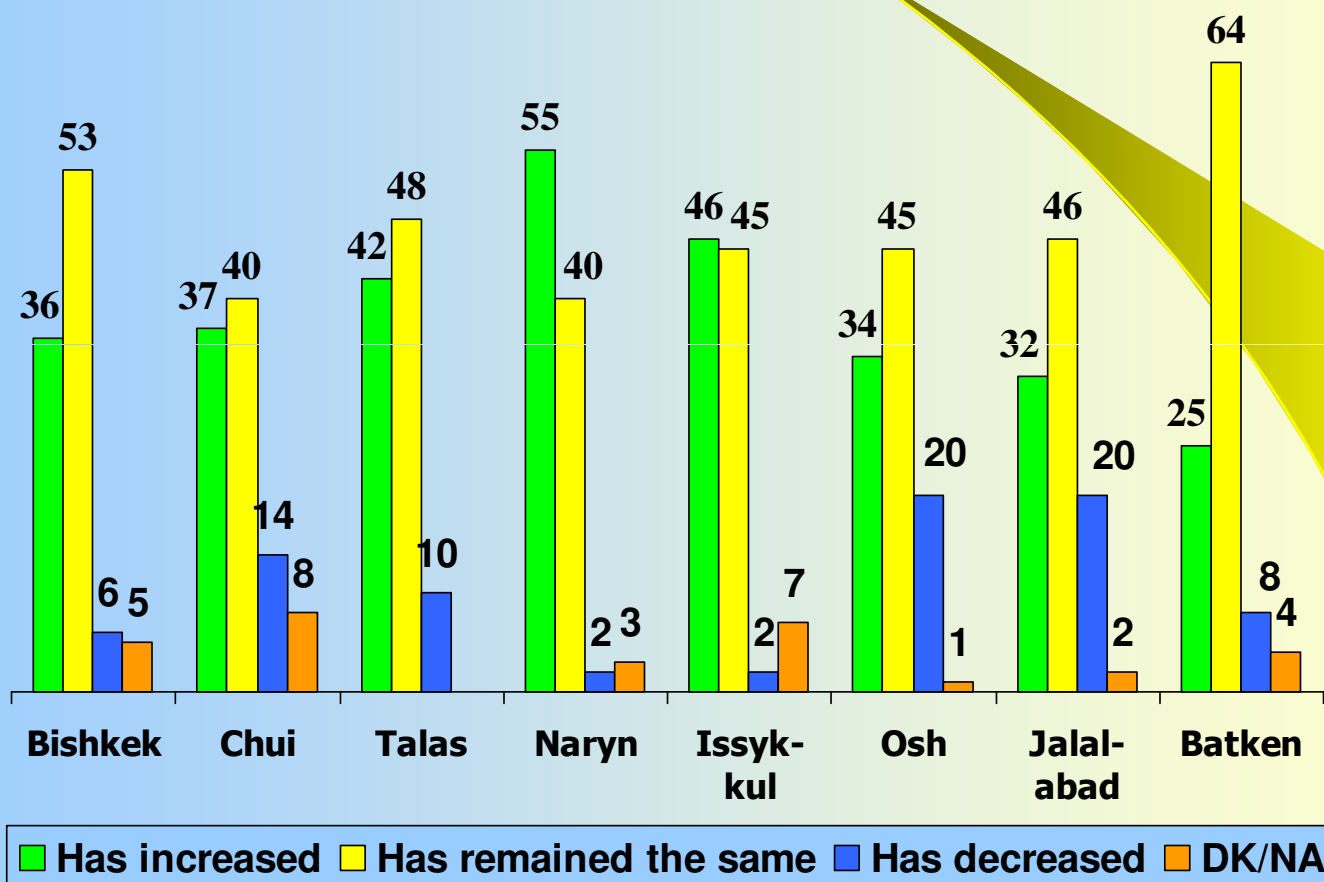
Perception of the current level of corruption in Kyrgyzstan



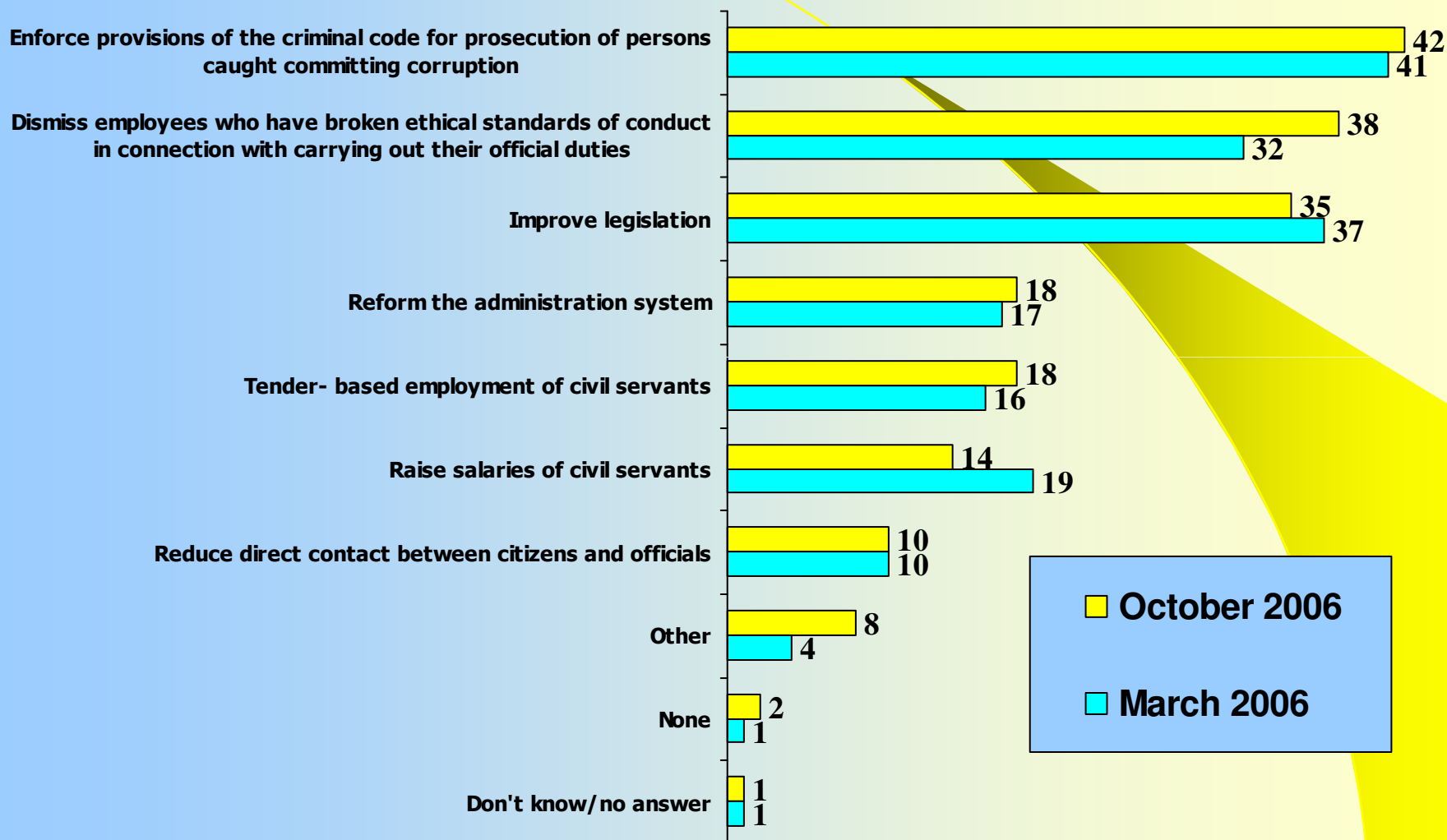
After the March 24, 2005 events, corruption in Kyrgyzstan...



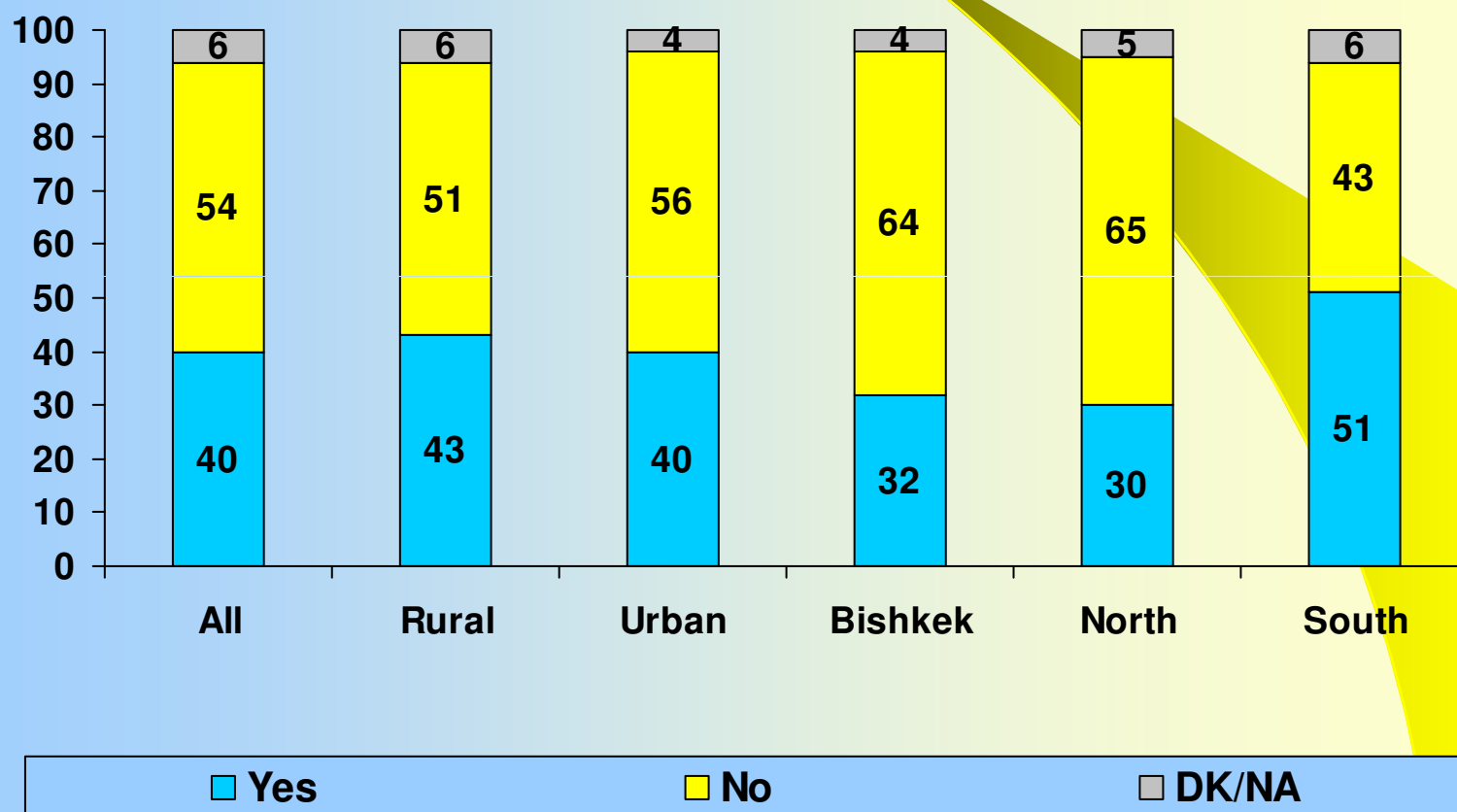
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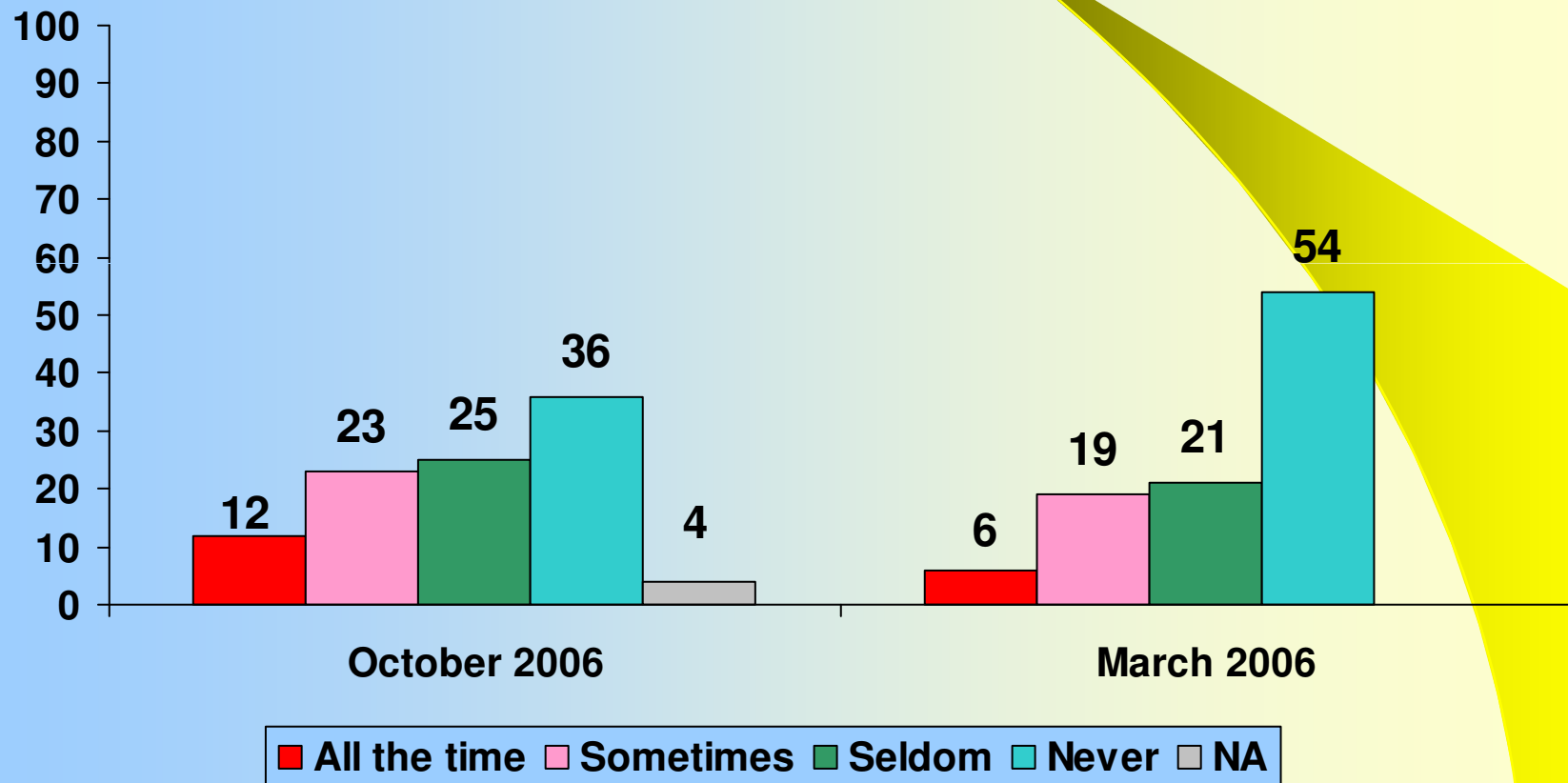
What measures should be undertaken to fight corruption in Kyrgyzstan? (two answers allowed)



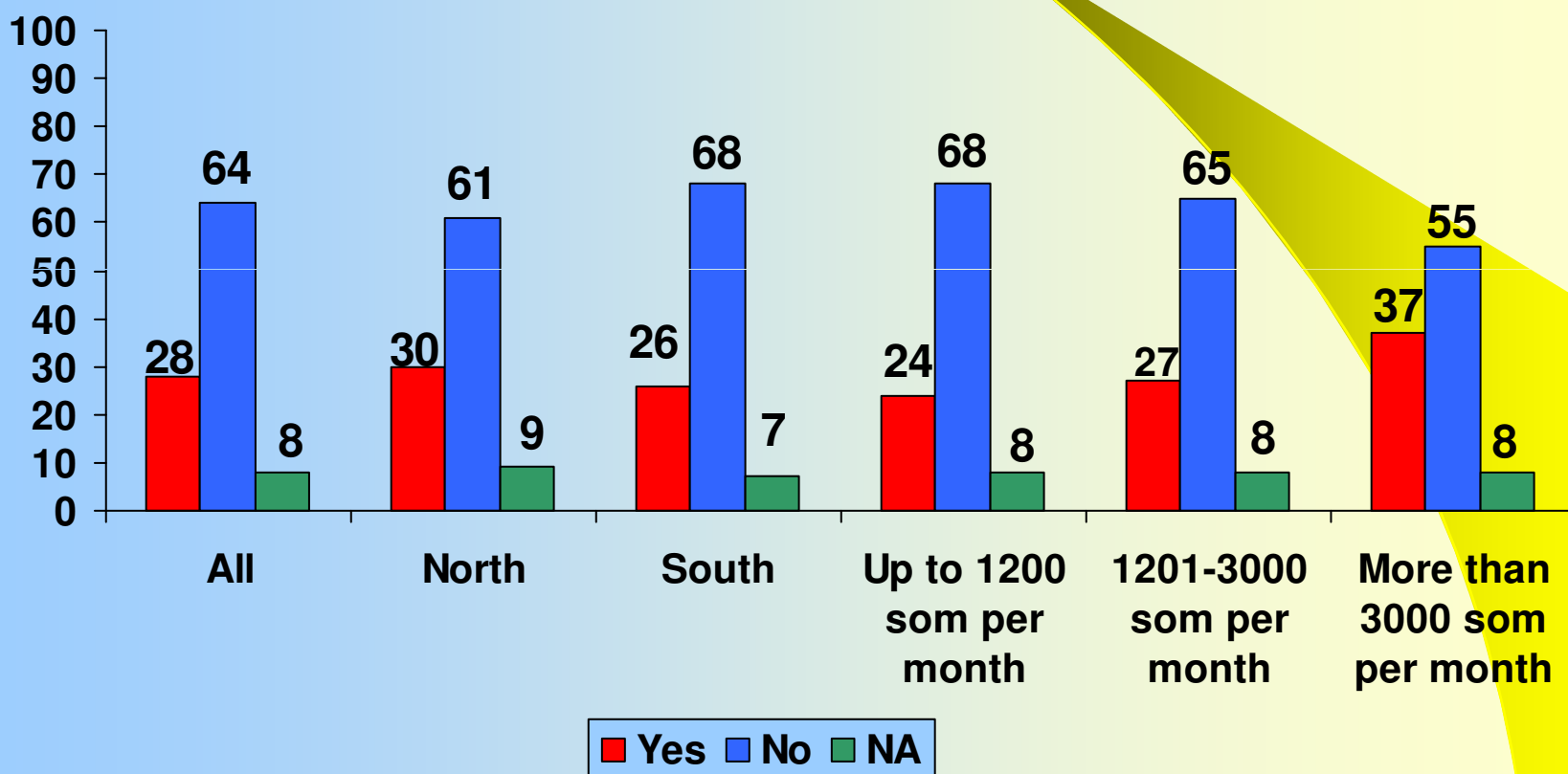
Do you think that considerable raises in government employee salaries would be a main factor in solving corruption?



Have you personally faced corruption in government institutions?



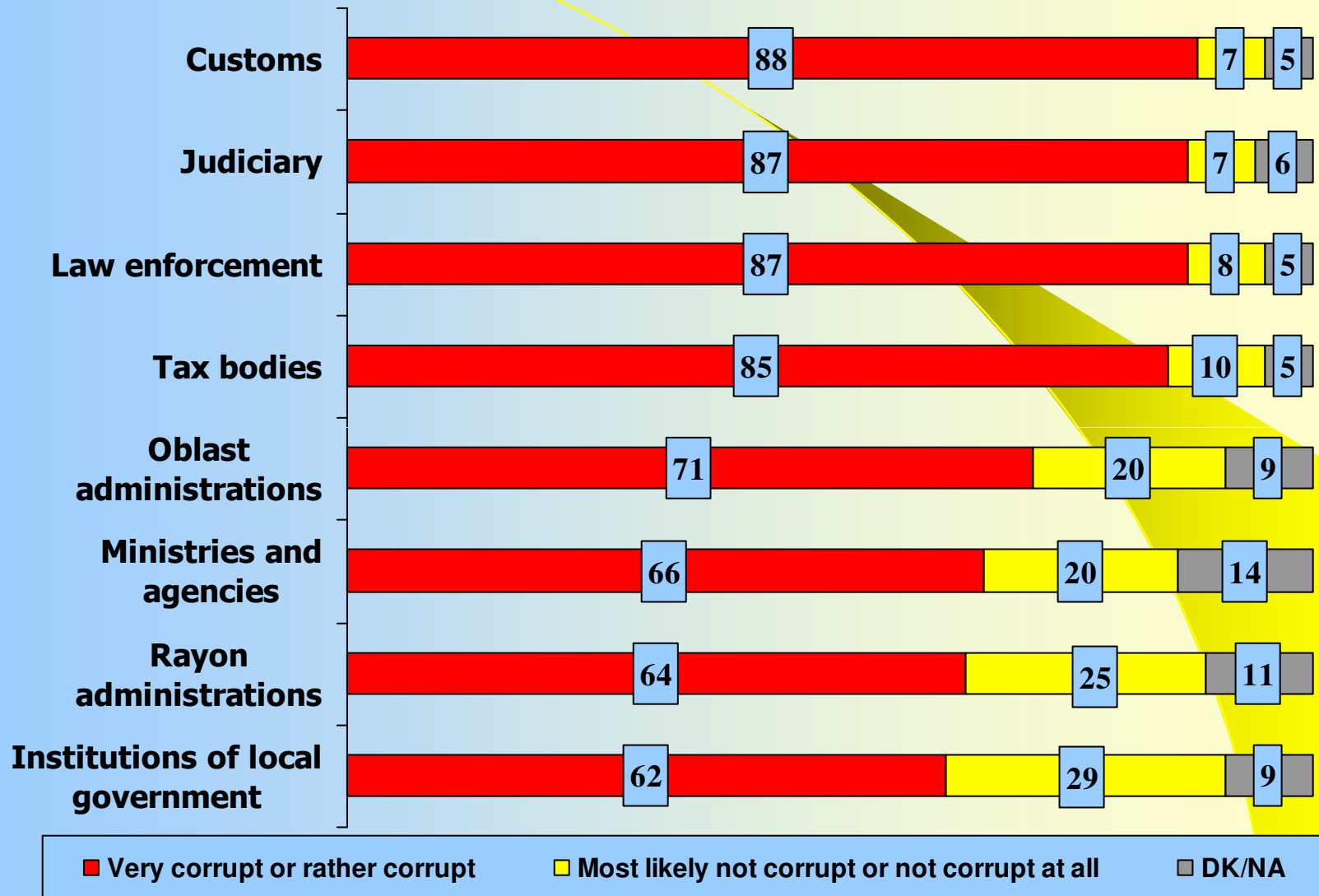
There are cases when civil servants abuse their powers by using their official positions for selfish aims in connection with their engagement in commercial activities. Have you personally encountered such cases in the last 12 months?



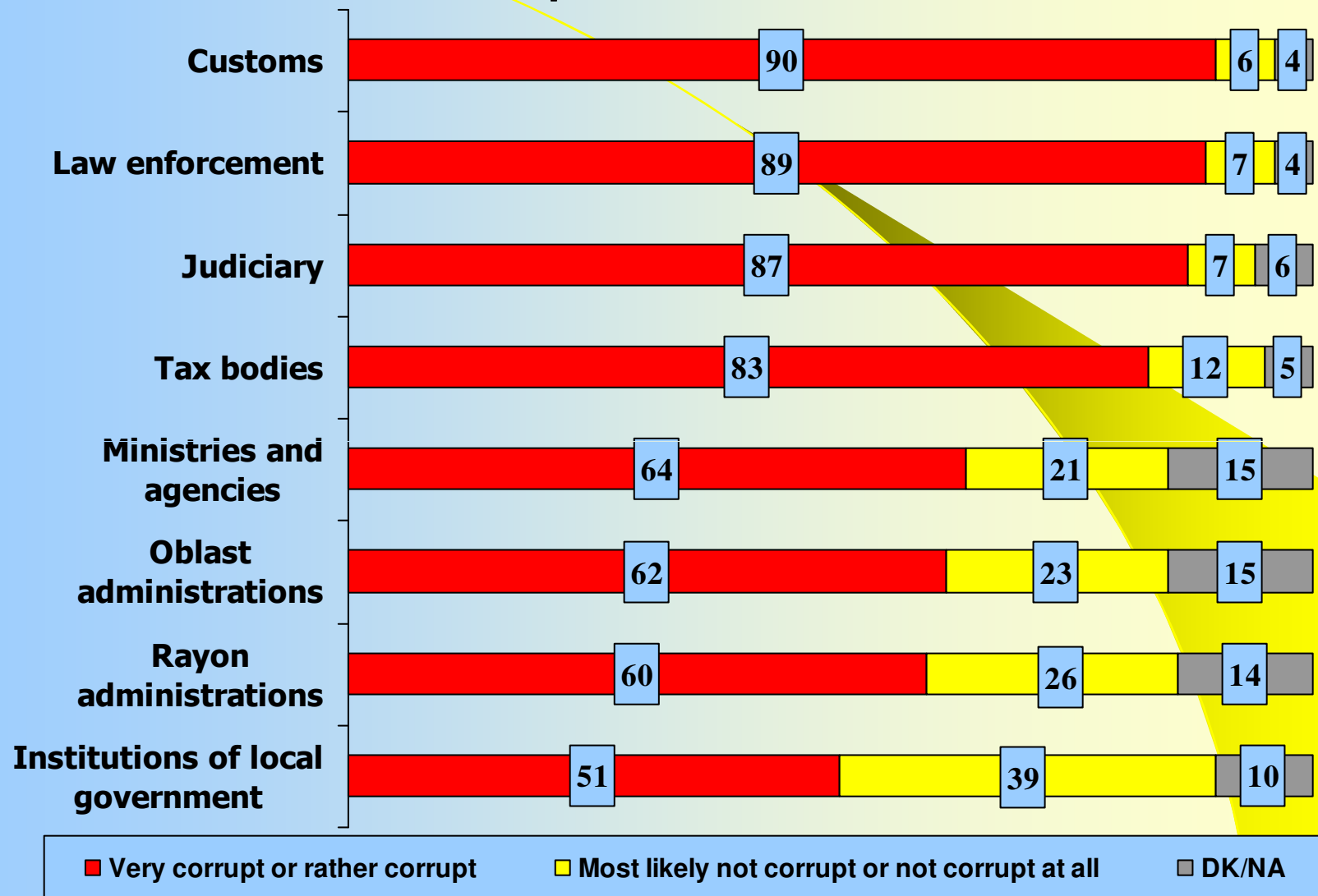
Corruption

- People think stronger enforcement of the criminal code and harsh punishment are the most effective ways to fight corruption.
- A majority of people (54 percent) don't think that raising salaries for civil servants will solve the problem with corruption.
- In October 2006, 35 percent of respondents say they have personally encountered corruption in government institutions all the time or sometimes, an increase of 10 percent from March 2006.

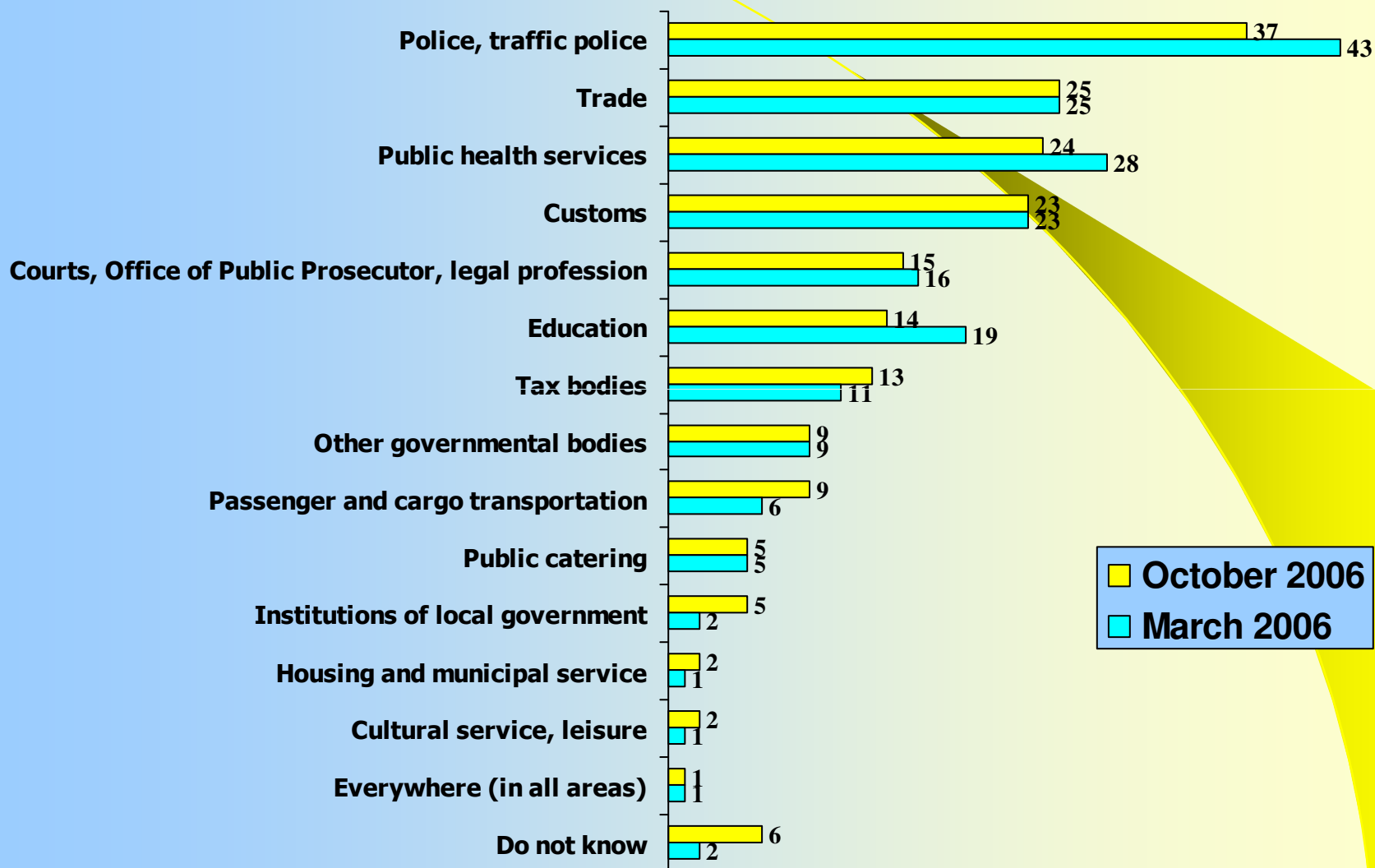
Perceived level of corruption of institutions – October 2006



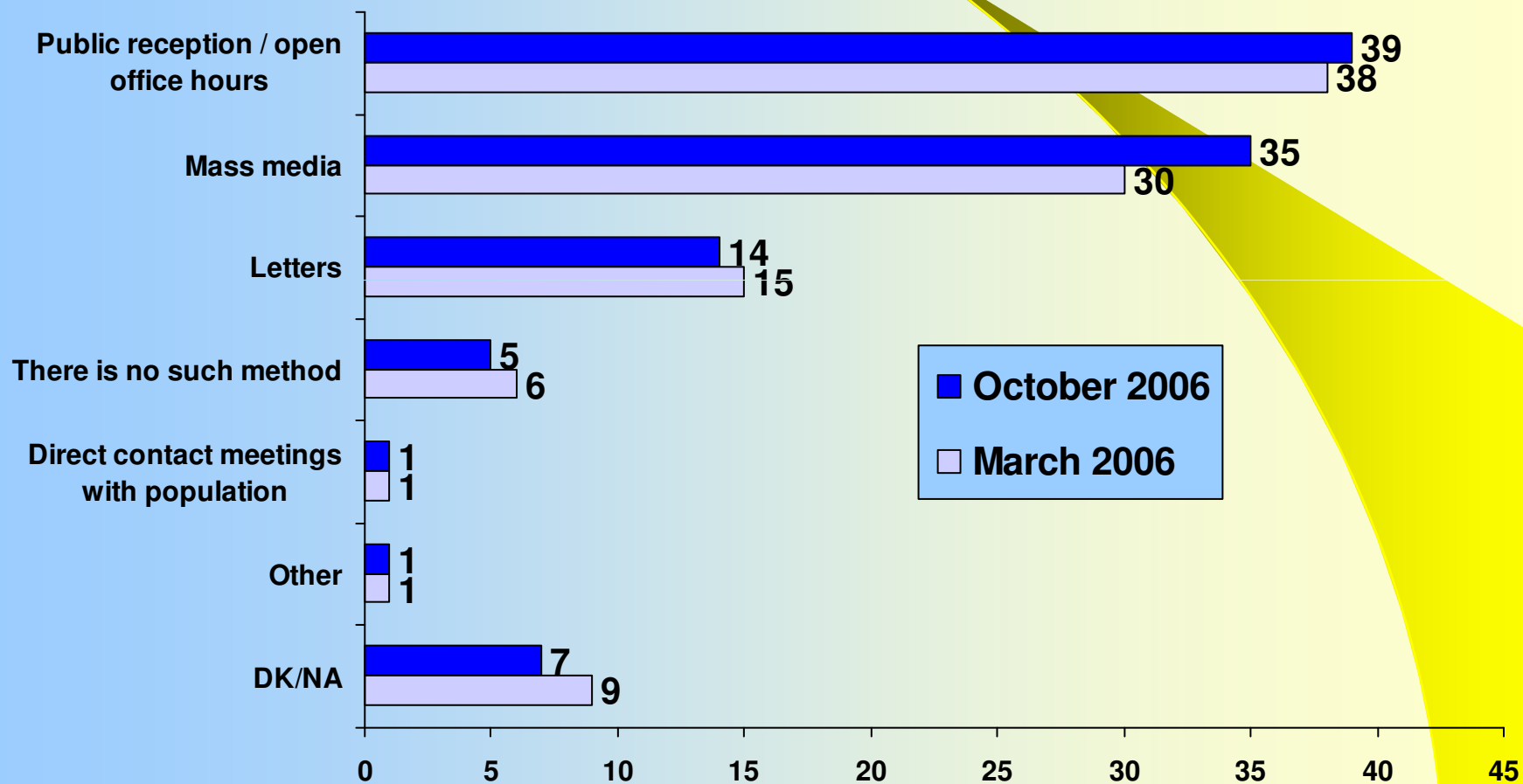
Perceived level of corruption of institutions – March 2006



**In what areas of life are paid services most often rendered informally, bypassing official accounting procedures?
(percent of all respondents mentioning this issue - two answers allowed)**



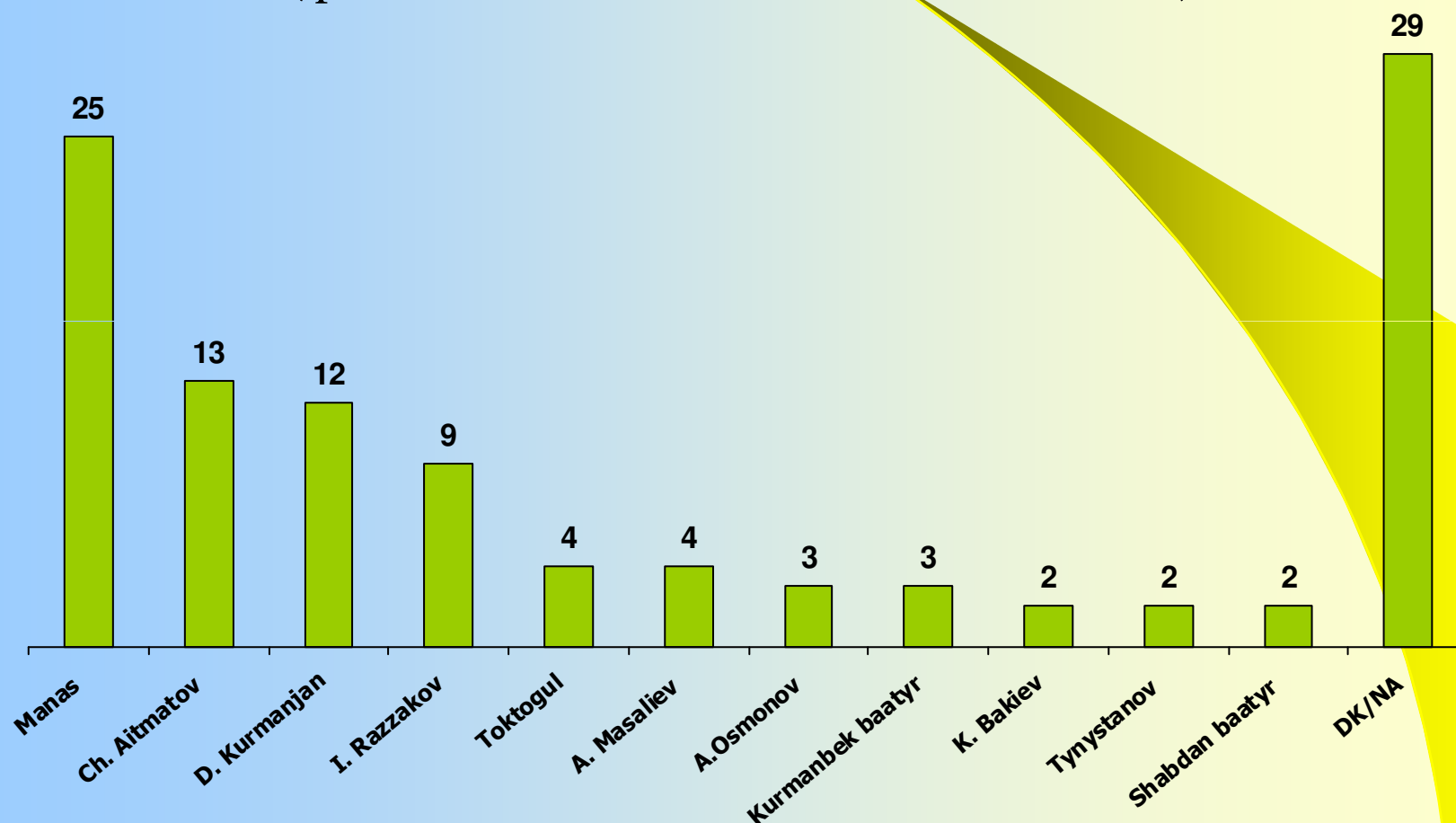
What method is most effective and convenient in setting up communication channels between citizens and state bodies/officials?



VALUES

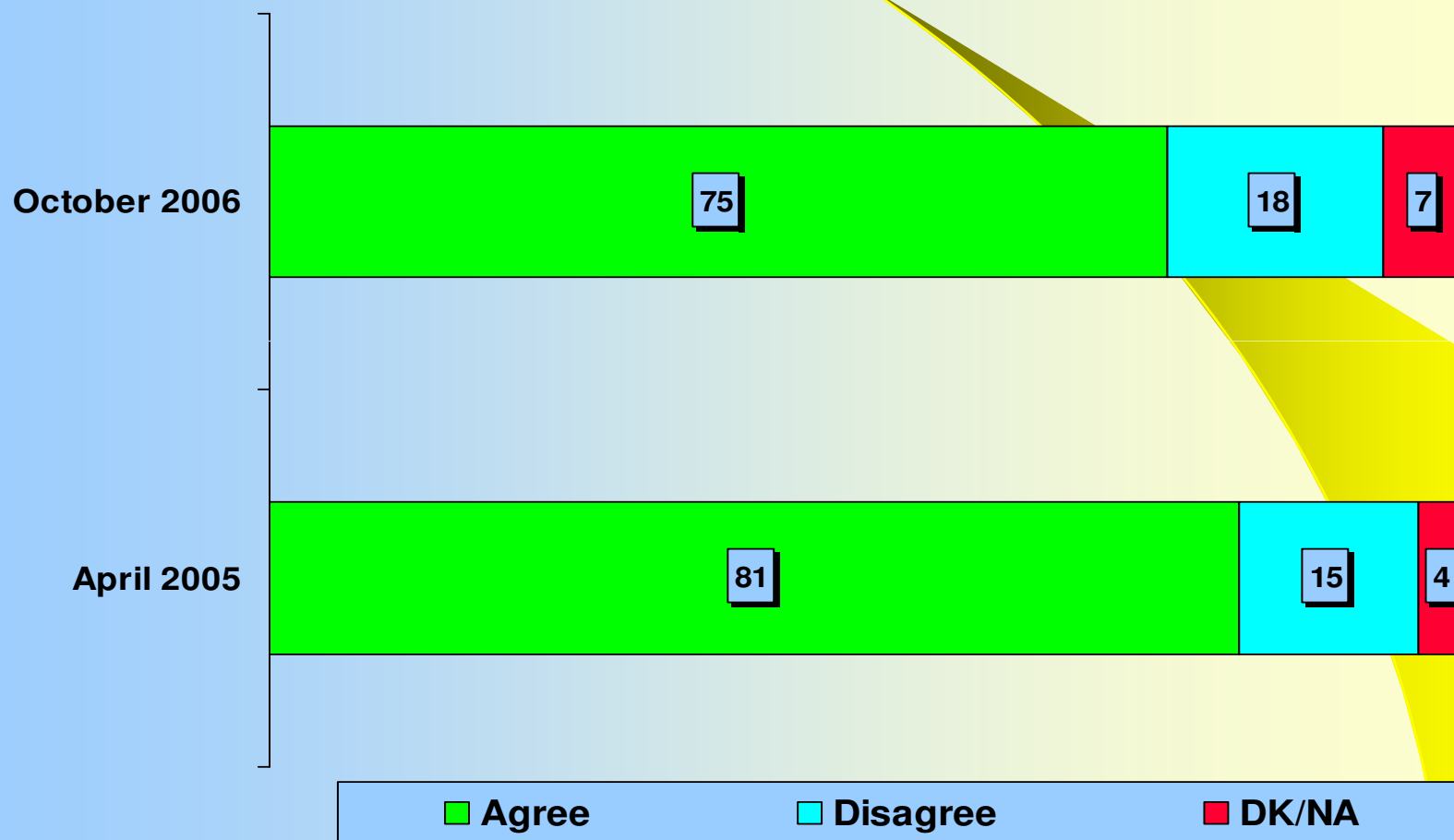
Heroes of our times

Thinking about the prominent Kyrgyz people and characters in Kyrgyz history and folk culture, who is most suited to be a national hero or leader in current times?
(percent all mentioned – two answers allowed)



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

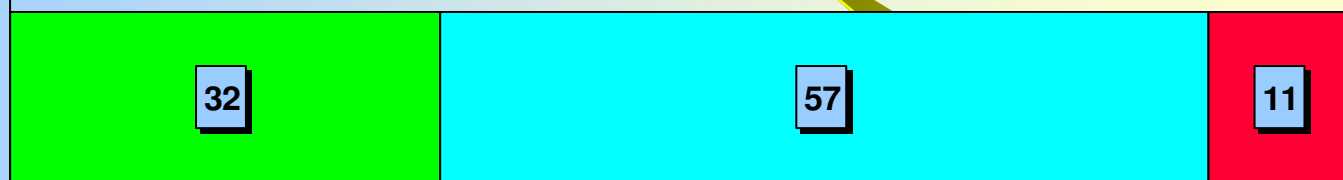
"It is a good thing when society is made up of people from different ethnic, national, and religious groups."



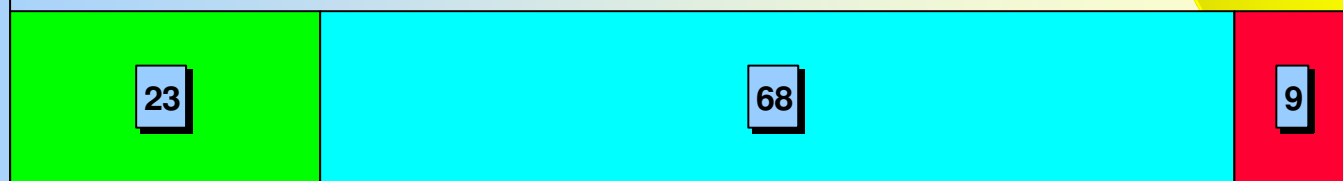
Do you agree or disagree with the following?

“If there were more people in the Republic belonging to religious or national minorities, we could have problems.”

October 2006



April 2005

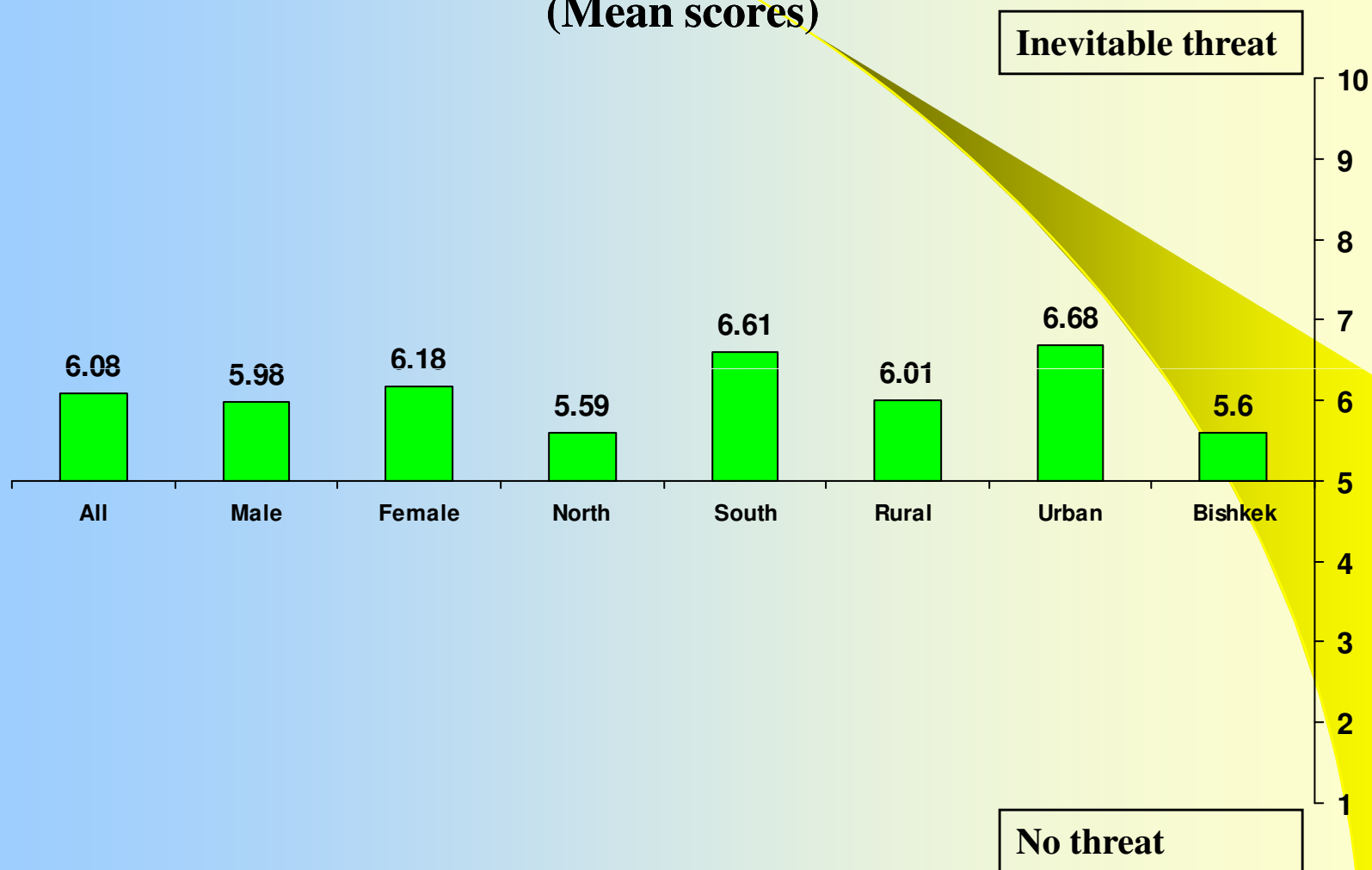


■ Agree

■ Disagree

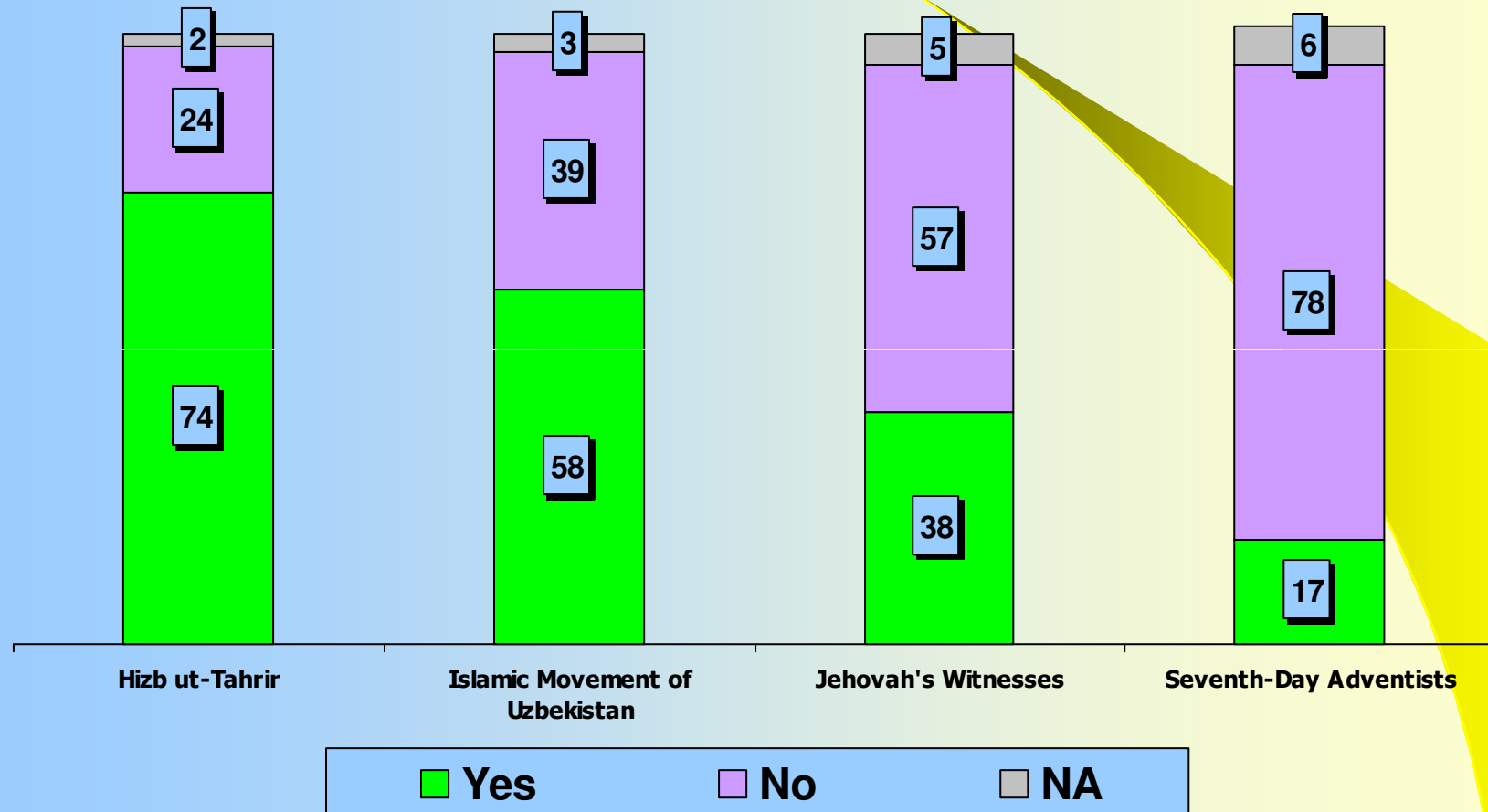
■ DK/NA

How would you assess the threat of religious extremism in Kyrgyzstan?
Use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means 'no threat'
and 10 means 'inevitable threat'
(Mean scores)

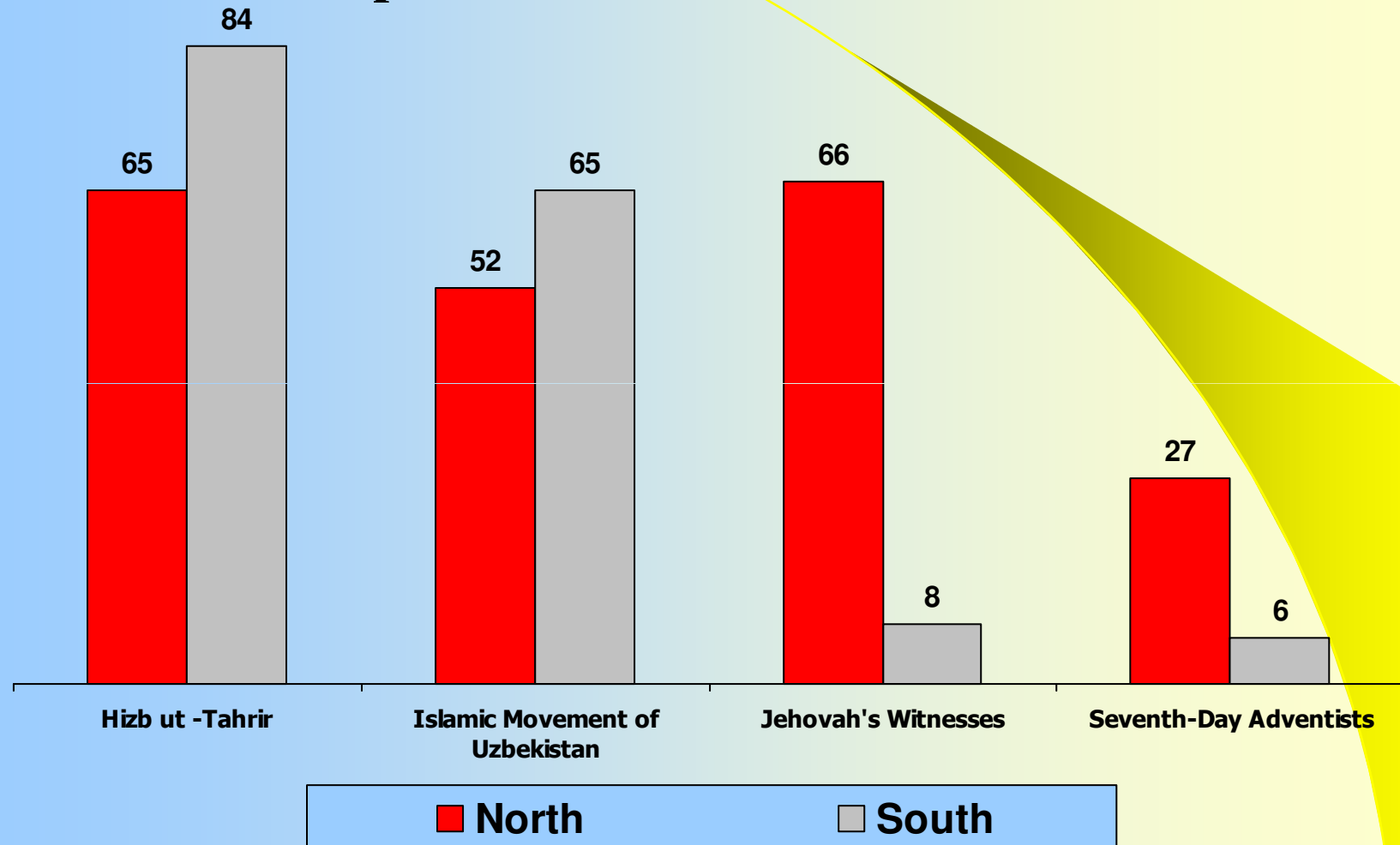


Religious Groups

Have you ever heard of such groups as ...

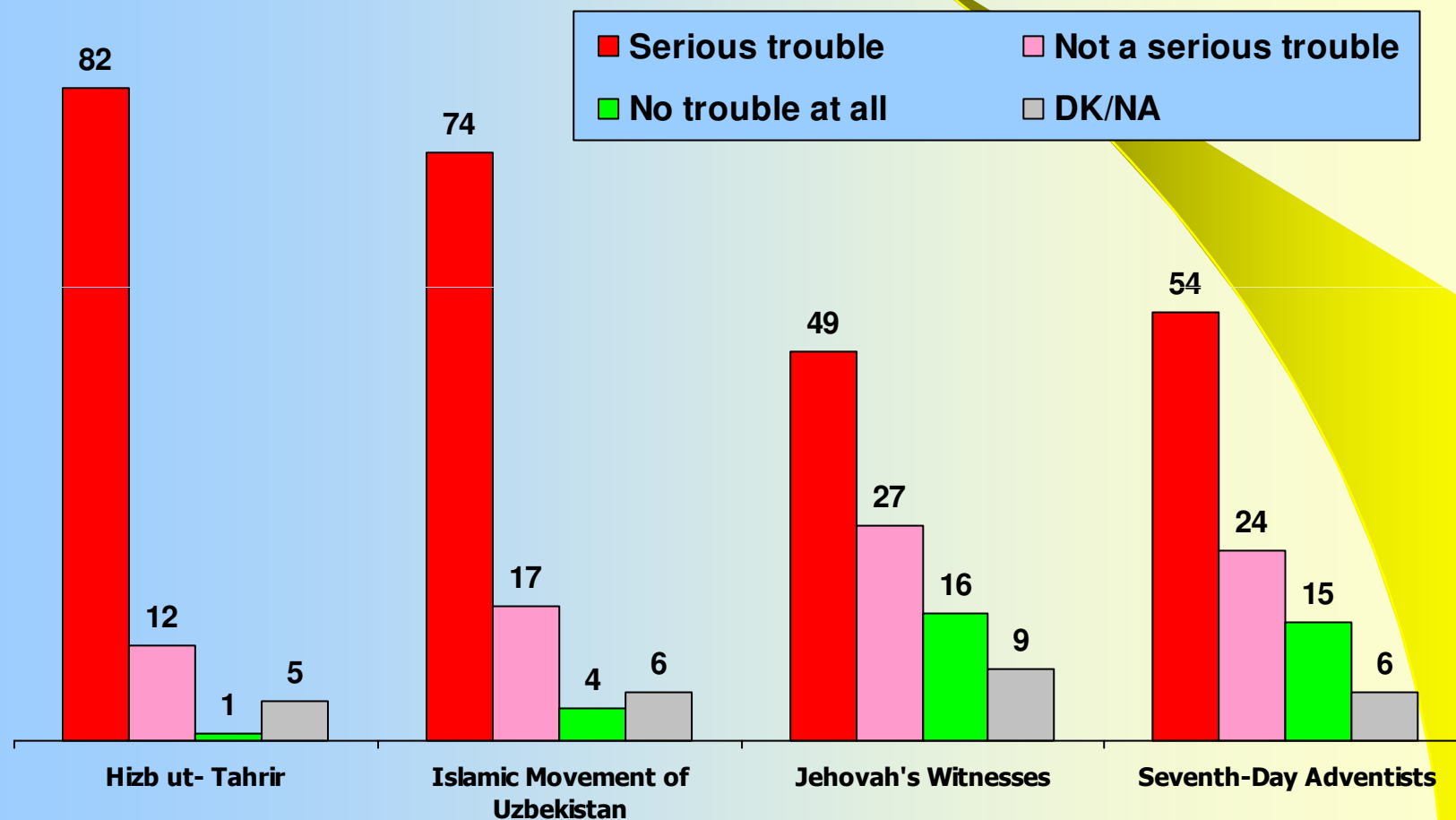


Religious Groups - percent who have heard of ...



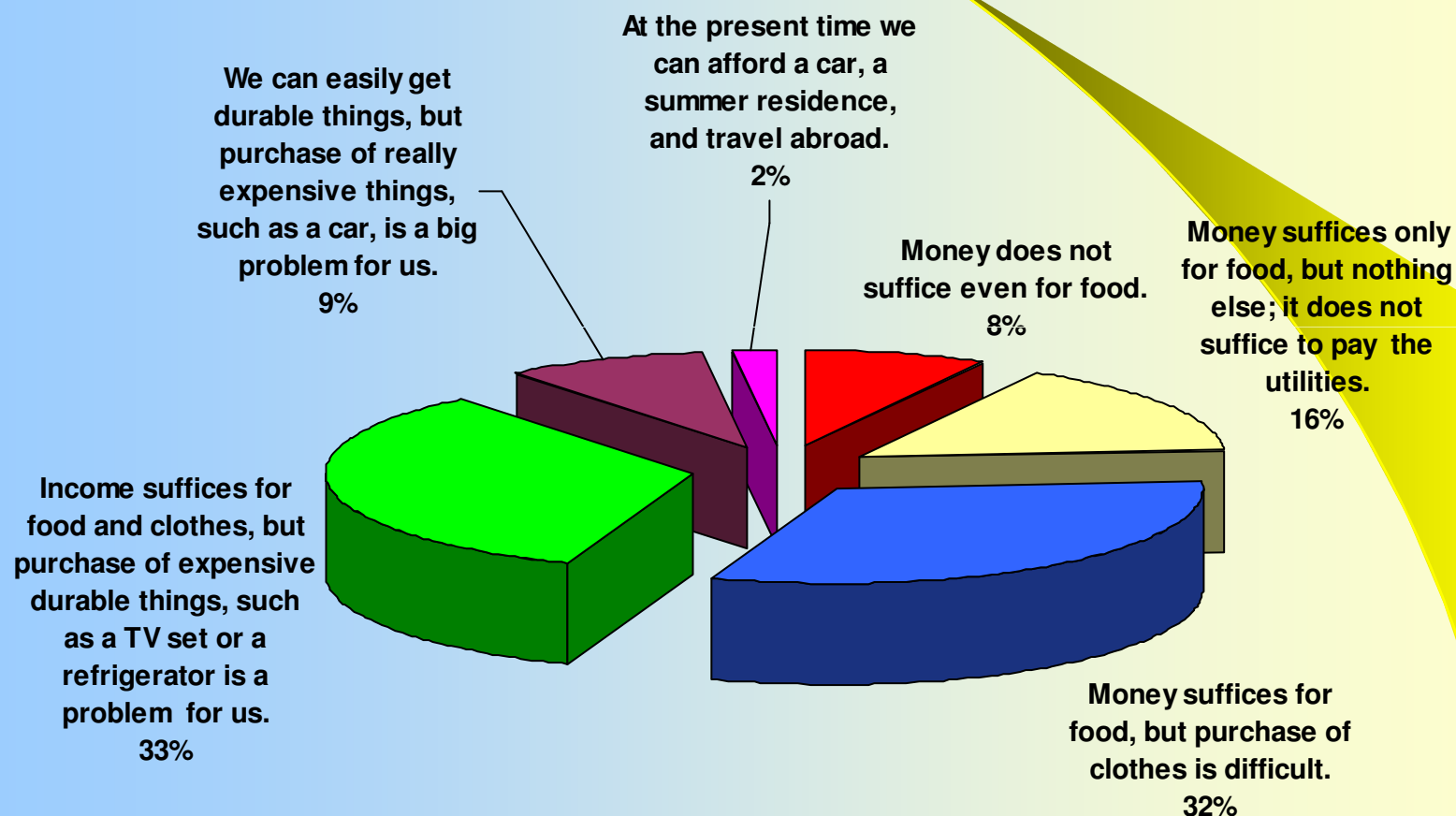
Religious Groups

**In your opinion, does this group cause serious trouble
for the security of Kyrgyzstan or not ?
(only respondents who have heard of the group were asked)**



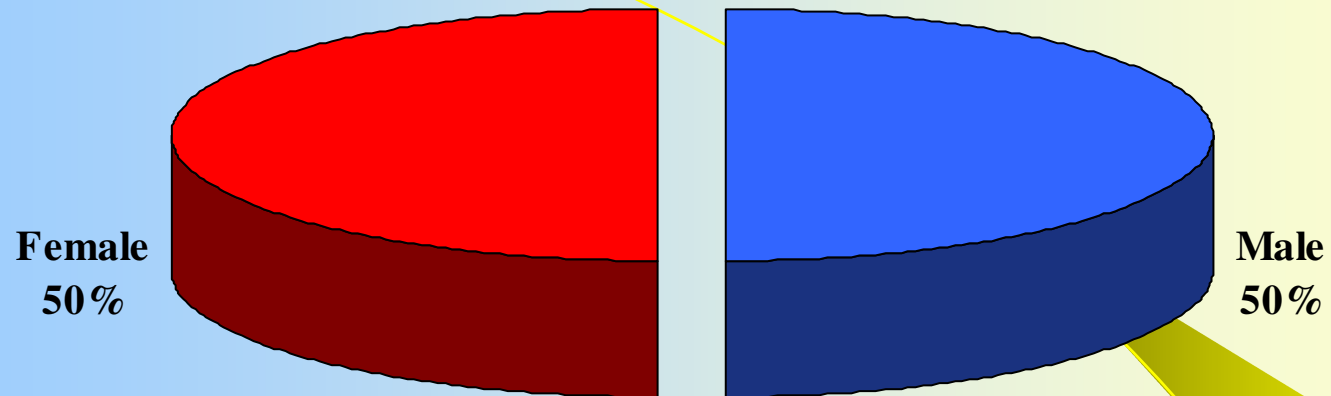
MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE

Estimation of financial position of households

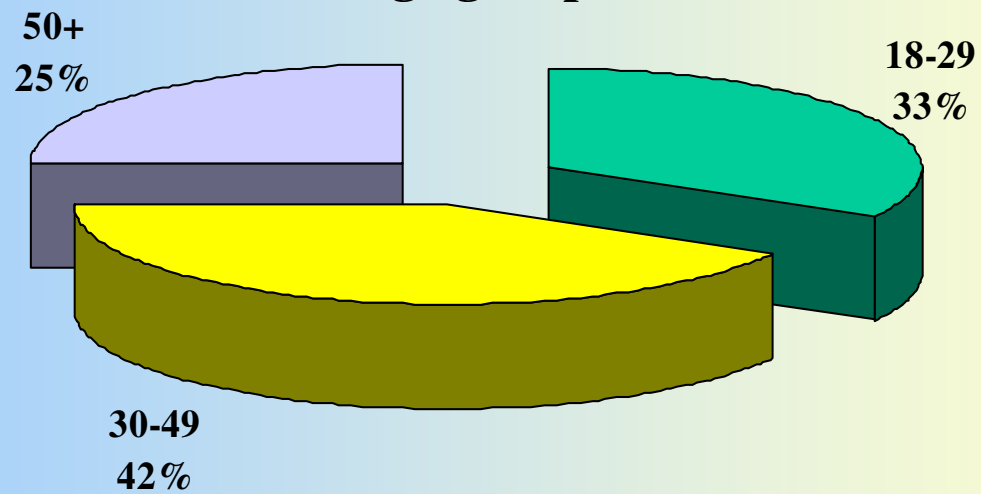


SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

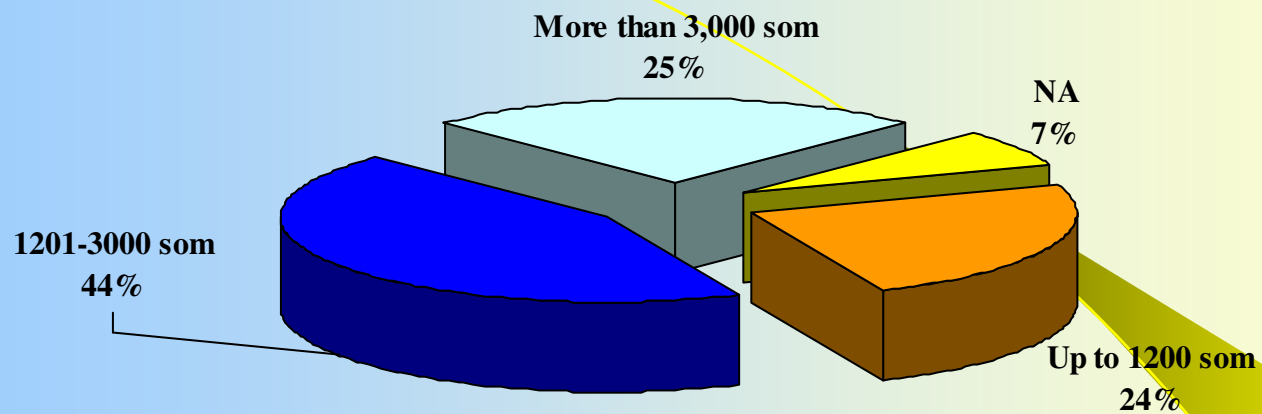
Gender



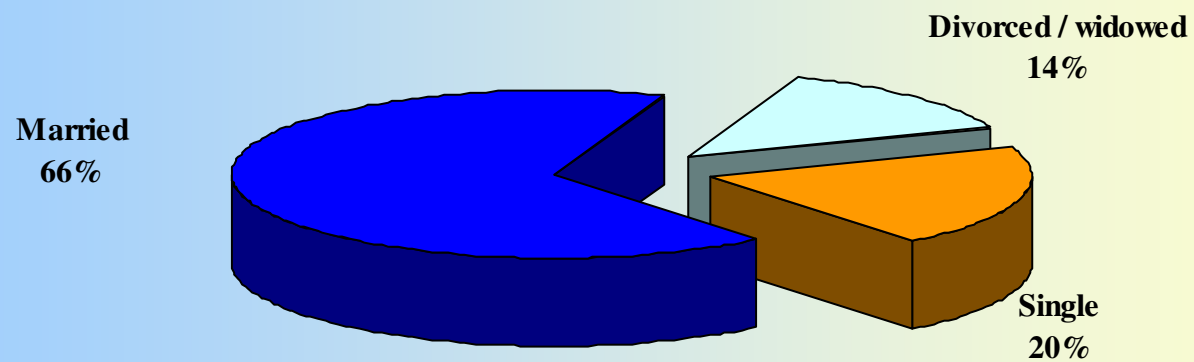
Age groups



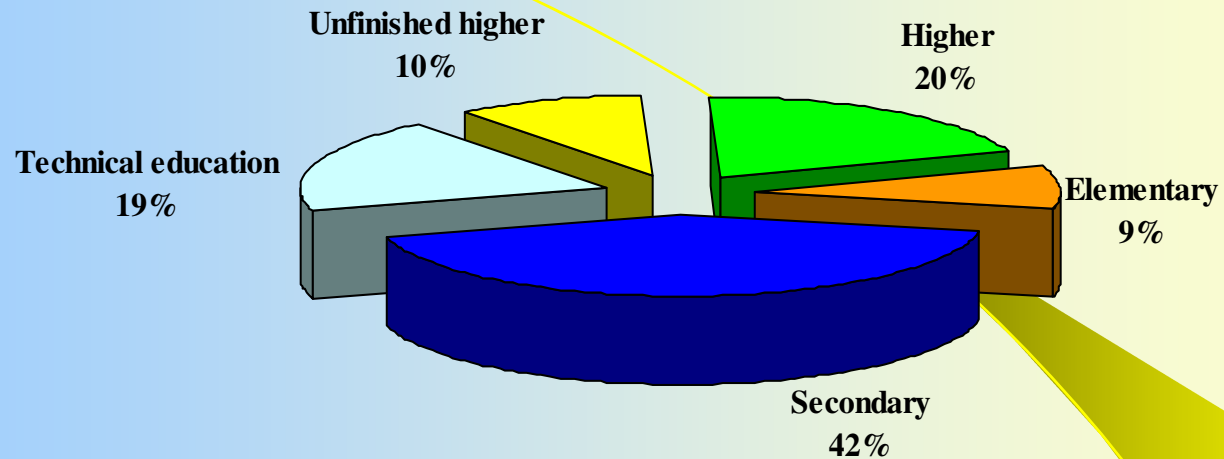
Household income



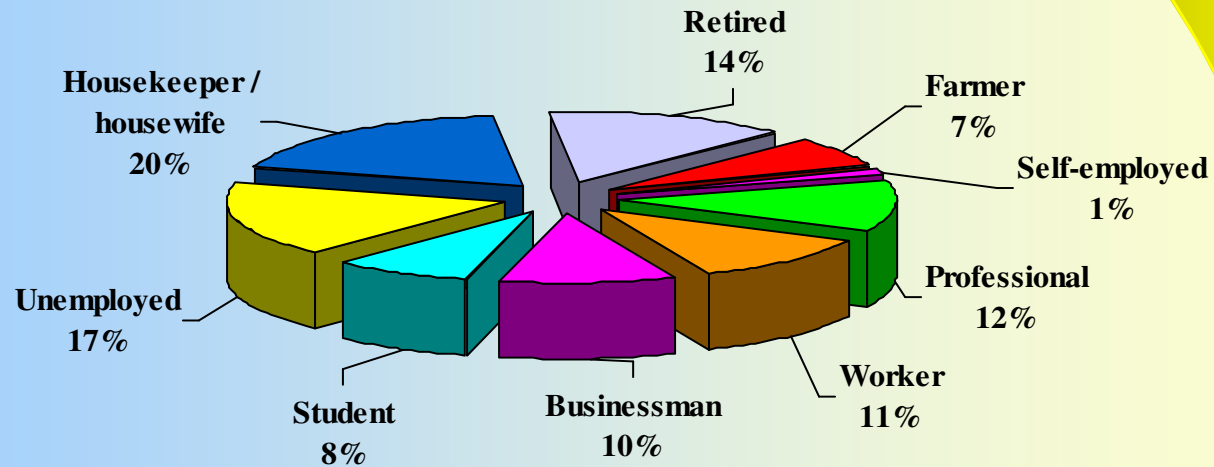
Marital status



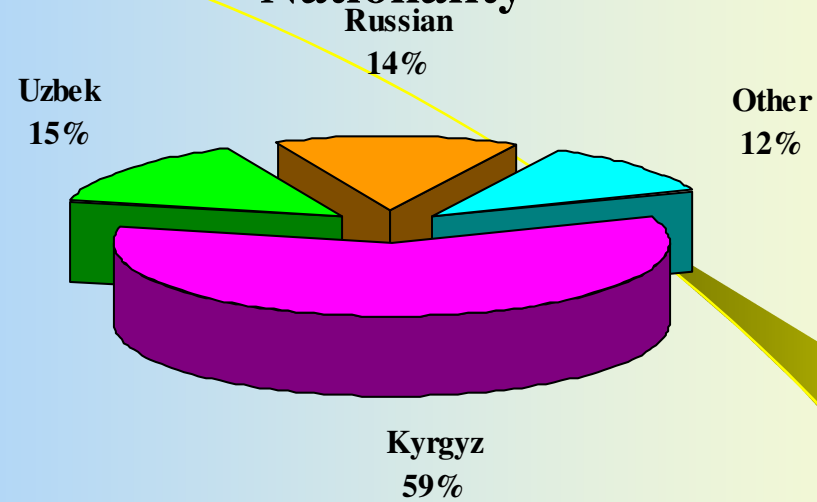
Education



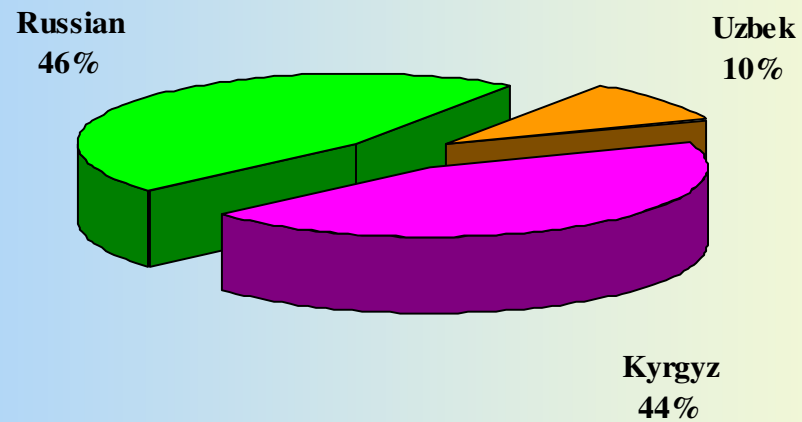
Occupation



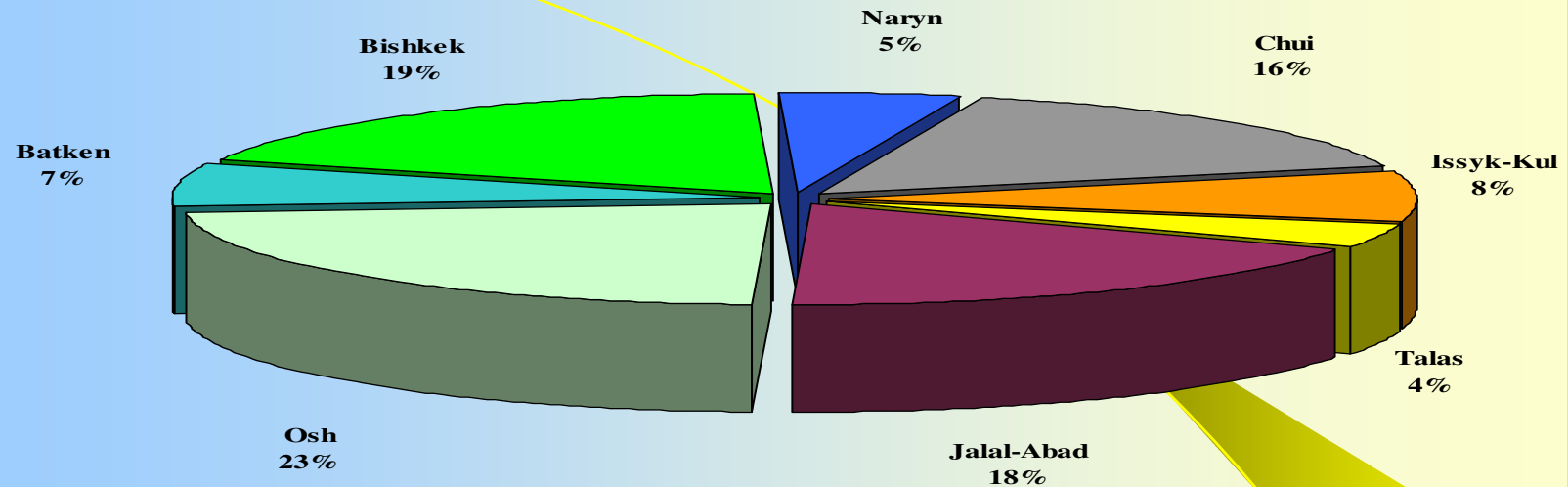
Nationality



Language of the interview



Regions



Size of settlement

