

International Republican Institute: Turkish Public Opinion Survey

May 8 – 16, 2010



Methodology

This report is a summary of data from a survey conducted May 8 – 16, 2010 by Infakto Research Workshop, a Turkish polling firm.

The survey was conducted through in-person, in-home interviews by Infakto Research Workshop.

Target population of the survey was Turks aged 18 and older.

Sampling framework of the poll is designed to represent Turkish voters through a multi-stage stratified random sampling. In the first stage, the sample has been stratified to 11 NUTS (the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) of Turkey and three metropolitan cities (as Self-Representing Units). In the second stage, a province has been selected from each NUTS through the probability proportionate to size (PPS) methodology. In the third stage, the sample has been stratified according to central-other sub-provinces and the urban-rural distribution of the province. Final sampling units were households selected according to the Kish method. In order to represent three major metropolitan cities, a boosted sample with a size of 800 interviews is applied.

The sample size is 2,012 with a response rate of 24.4 percent and a cooperation rate of 42 percent according to American Association for Public Opinion Research calculation standards. Estimated sampling error under the simple random sampling assumption is ± 2.18 percent at the 95 percent level of confidence.

Infakto Research Workshop created the questionnaire with input and oversight provided by Sarah Simmons at Harris Interactive.

Figures in charts and tables may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding error, omission of “Don’t know/No answer” responses to make chart more readable, highlighting only the top responses, or as specifically explained in individual slides.

Survey Specifications – Demographics

- **Gender**

- Male 50.1%
- Female 49.9%

- **Religion**

- Muslim 99.6%
- Christian 0.3%
- Jewish 0.0%
- Other 0.0%
- No Answer 0.2%

- **Education**

- Illiterate 3.9%
- Literate, not graduated from a school 3.4%
- Primary school 37.5%
- Secondary school 15.6%
- High school 30.3%
- Vocational school (2 years) 3.3%
- University (4 years) 5.7%
- Graduate school 0.4%
- Other 0.1%
- No answer 0.1%

- **Working Status**

- Working – Full-time 30.8%
- Working – Part-time 2.3%
- Working – Seasonal 2.2%
- Working – unpaid family worker 2.74%
- Not Working – housewife 34.6%
- Not Working – retired 8.6%
- Not Working – student 8.6%
- Not Working – has other revenues 2.0%
- Not Working – unemployed 7.8%
- Not Working – because of illness, etc. 0.7%

- **Marital Status**

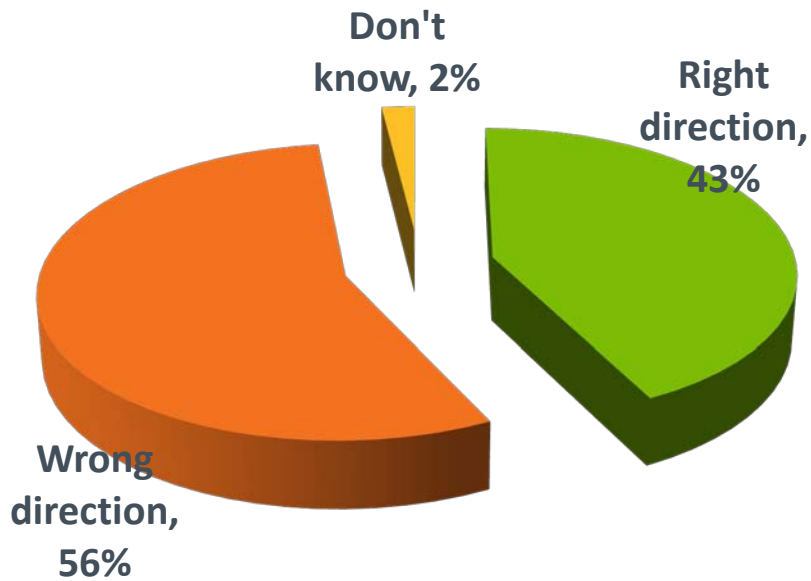
- Married 65.9%
- Single/Never married 29.1%
- Divorced/Separated 1.5%
- Widow 2.8%
- No answer 0.1%



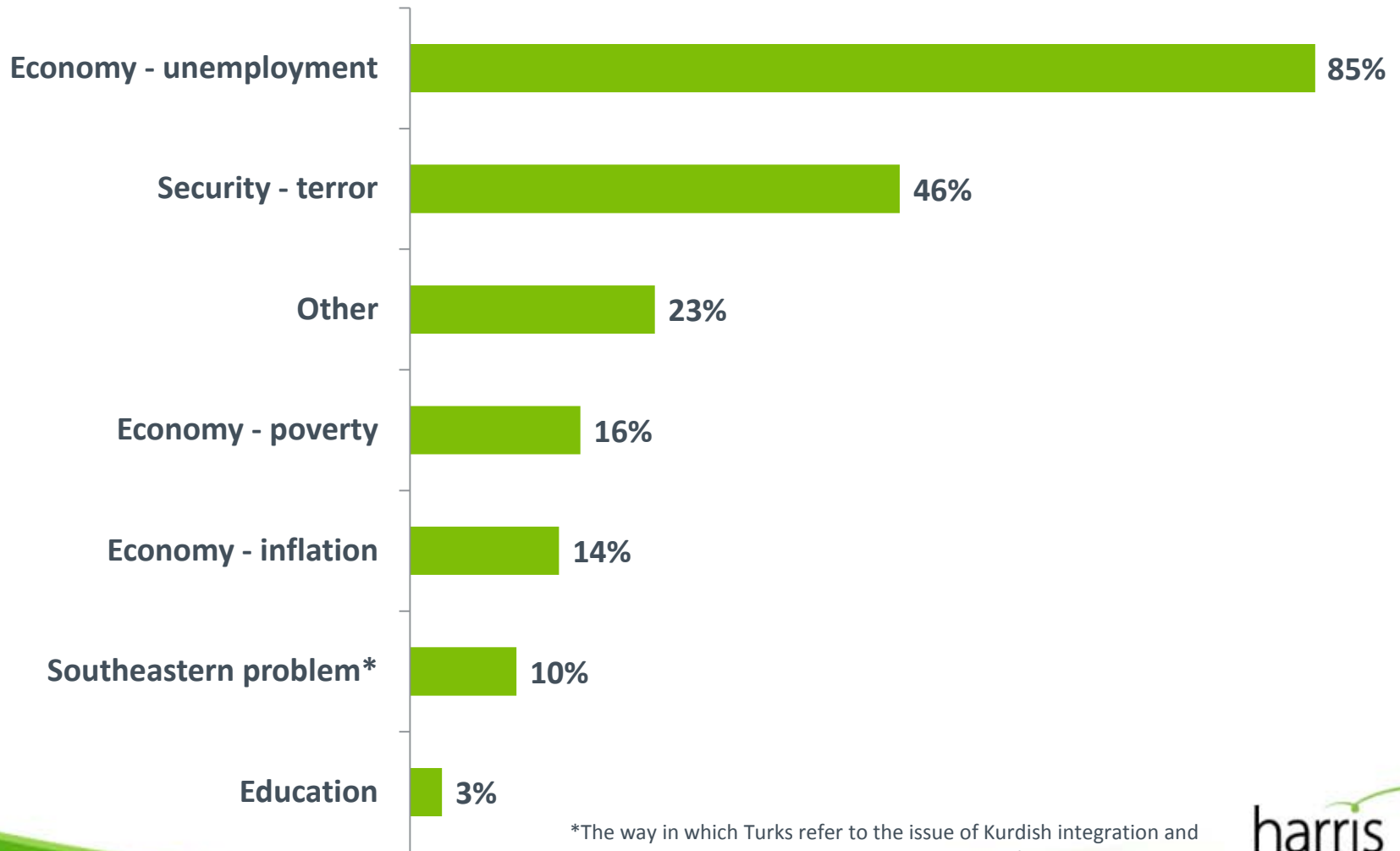
Political Environment

Overall, do you think Turkey is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

Region	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Istanbul	49%	50%
Izmir	25%	73%
Ankara	36%	63%

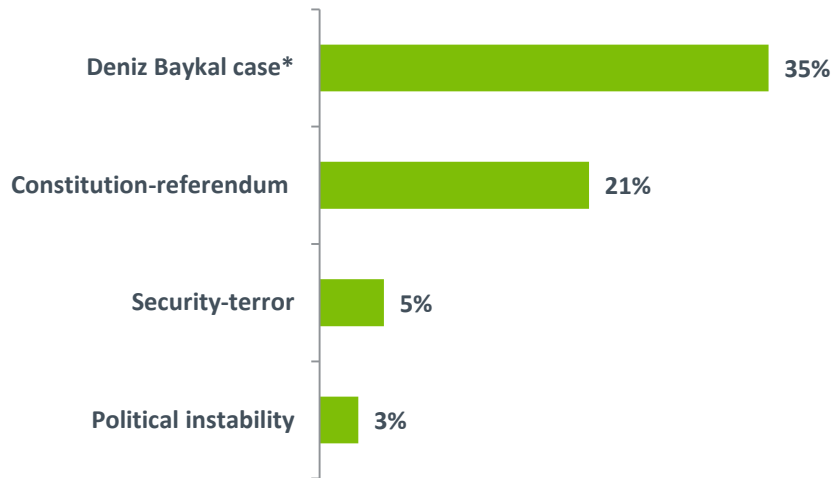


What is the most urgent problem which our country is facing today? (Top Two Issues Combined)



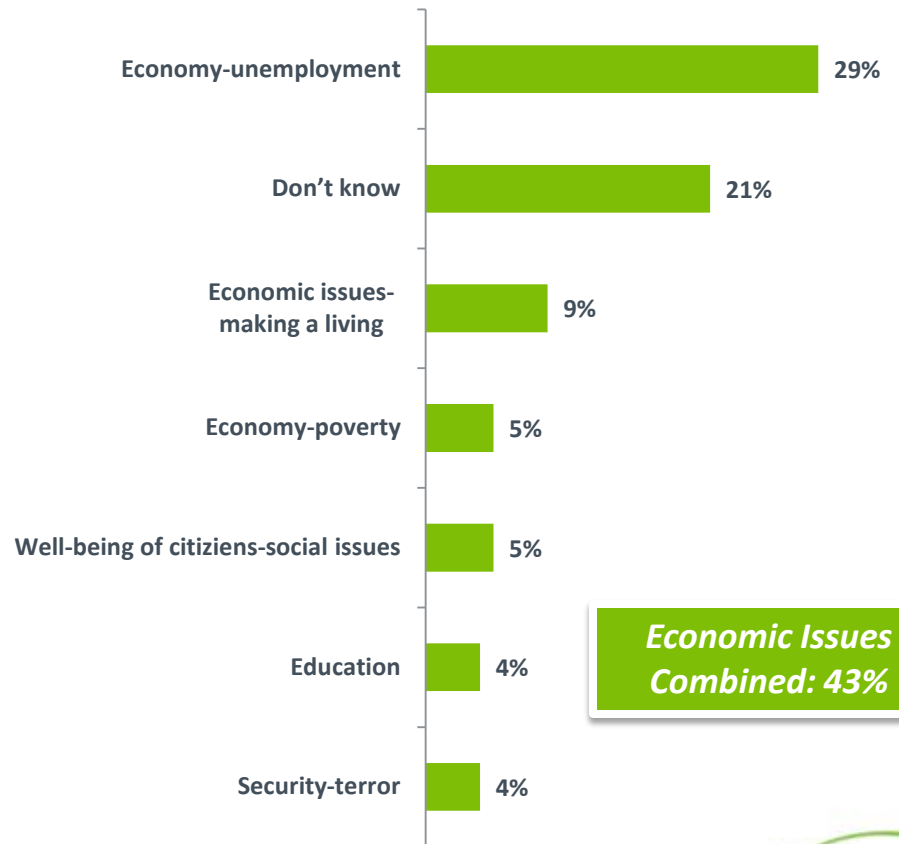
*The way in which Turks refer to the issue of Kurdish integration and nationalism in Turkey. Many Kurds live in Turkey's southeast region.

What do politicians talk about too much?



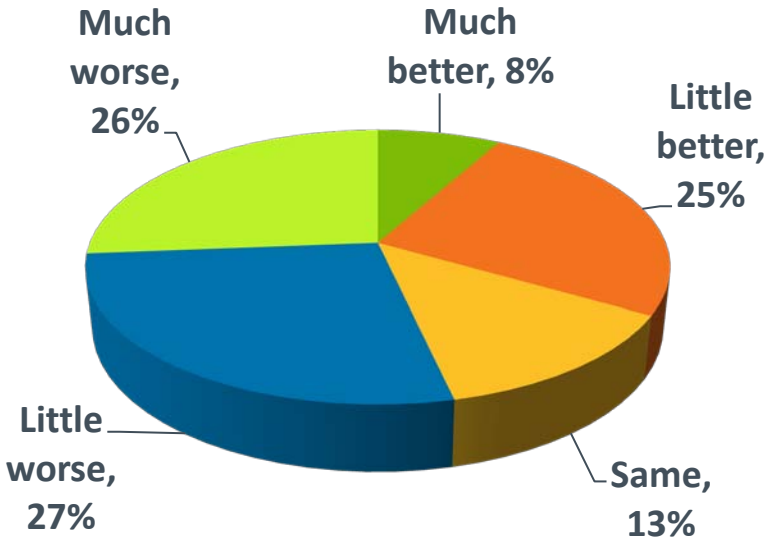
*Deniz Baykal, leader of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), was caught in a scandal involving an affair with a former assistant.

What do politicians talk about not enough?



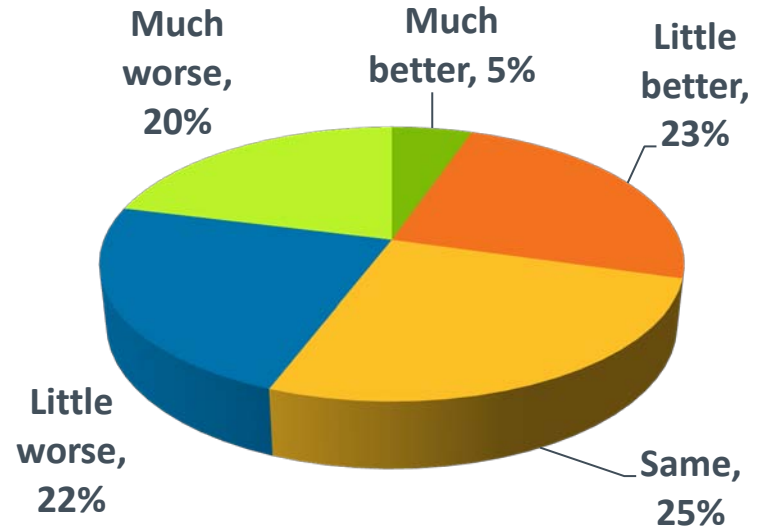
**Economic Issues
Combined: 43%**

Compared to five years ago, do you think the economic situation is better or worse?



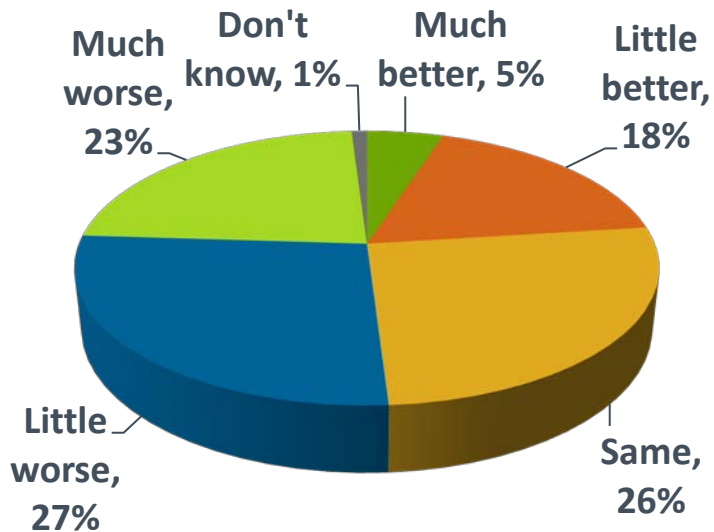
Better: 32%
Worse: 52%

When you think about the next 12 months, do you expect the economic situation will be better or worse?



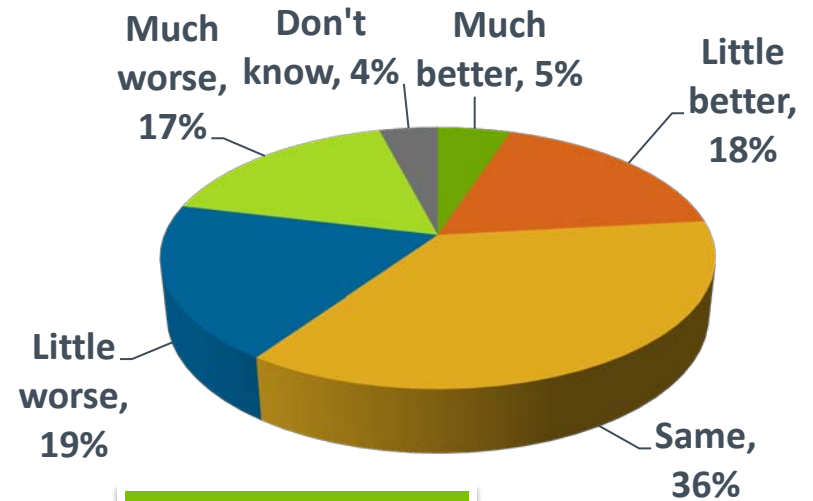
Better: 28%
Worse: 42%

Compared to five years ago, do you think your family's economic situation is better or worse?



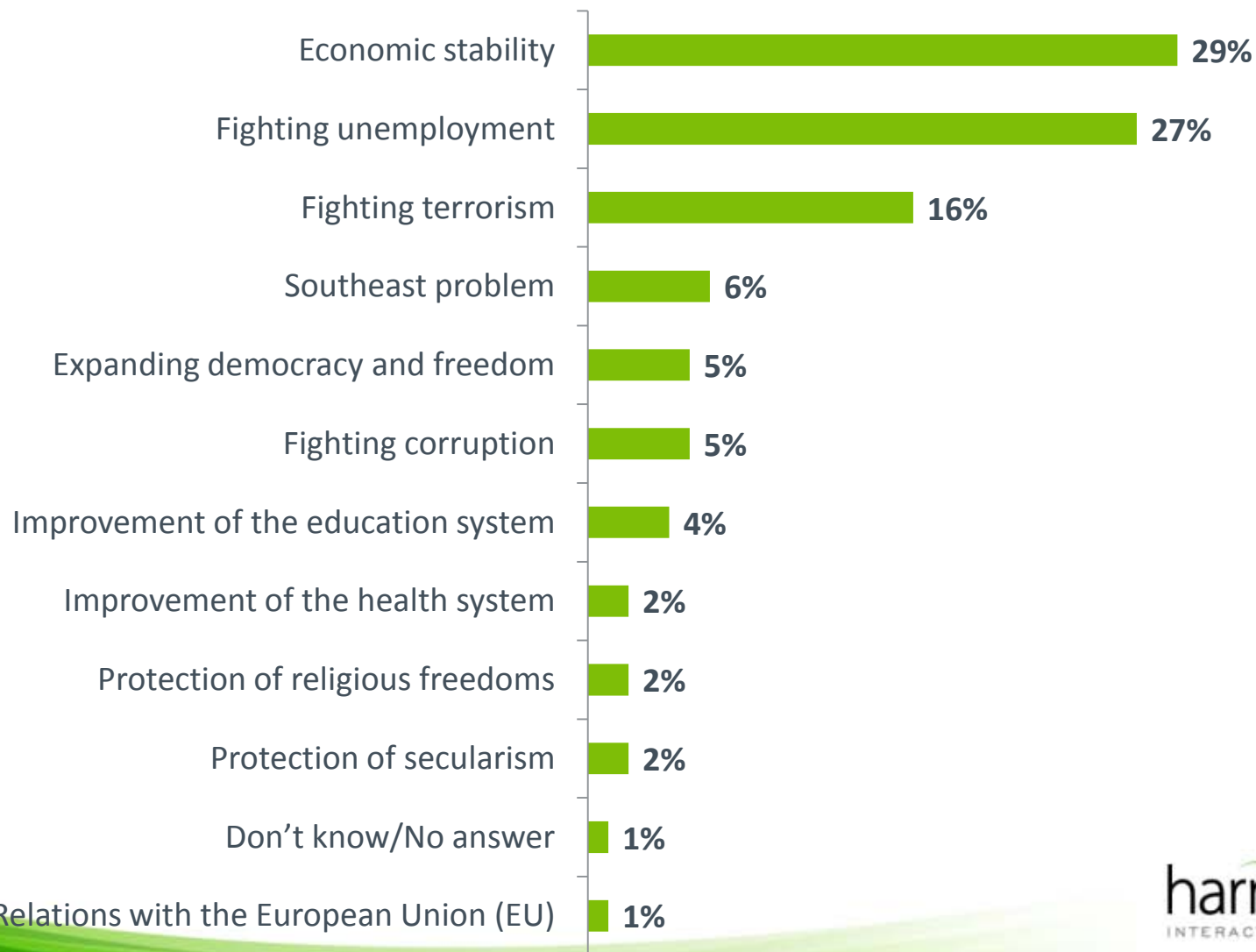
Better: 23%
Worse: 50%

When you think about the next 12 months, do you expect your family's economic situation will be better or worse?



Better: 23%
Worse: 36%

Which of these issues will be the most important for you when you vote in the next general elections?



Please state how much confidence you have in these institutions...

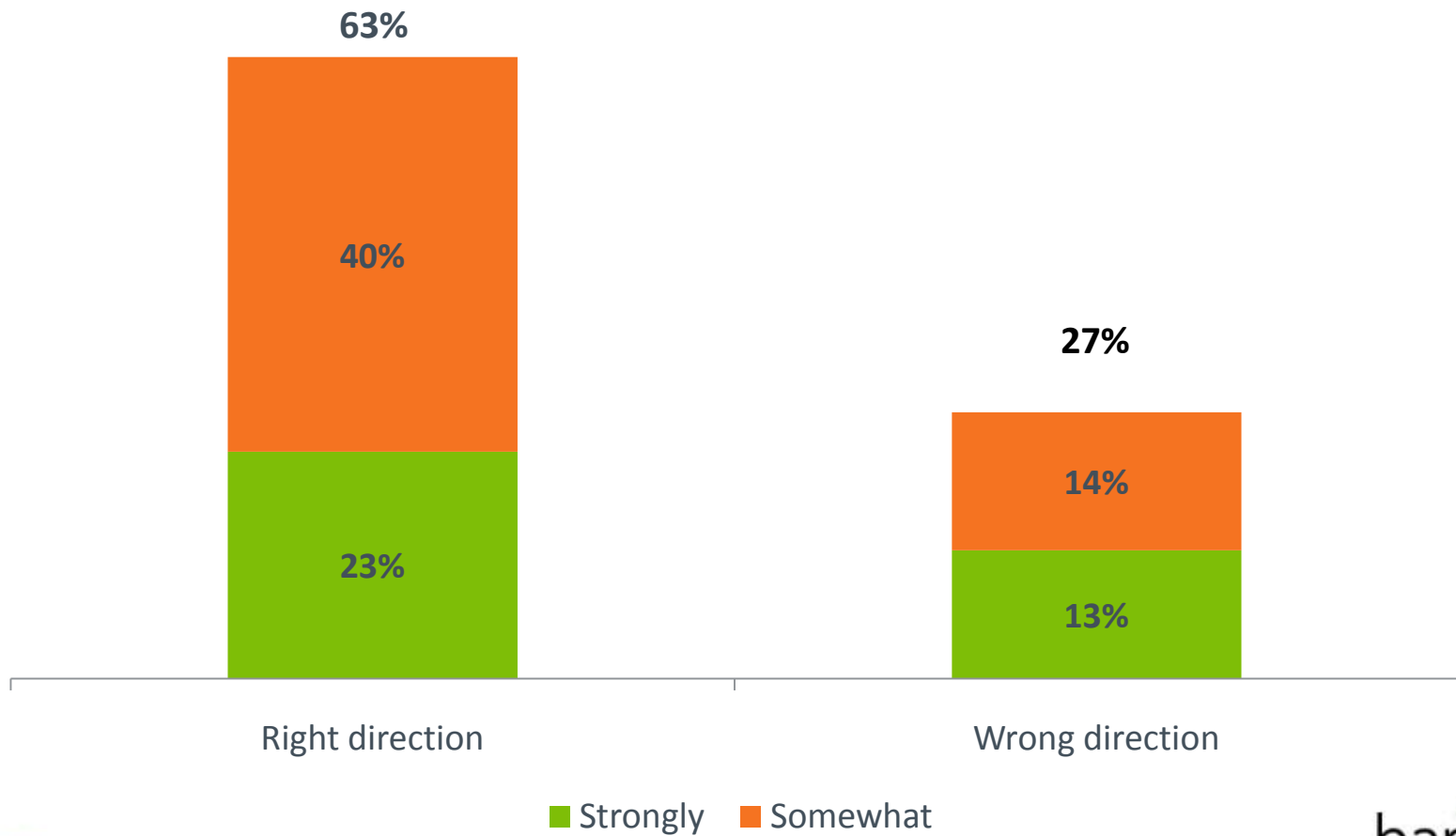
Have Confidence:



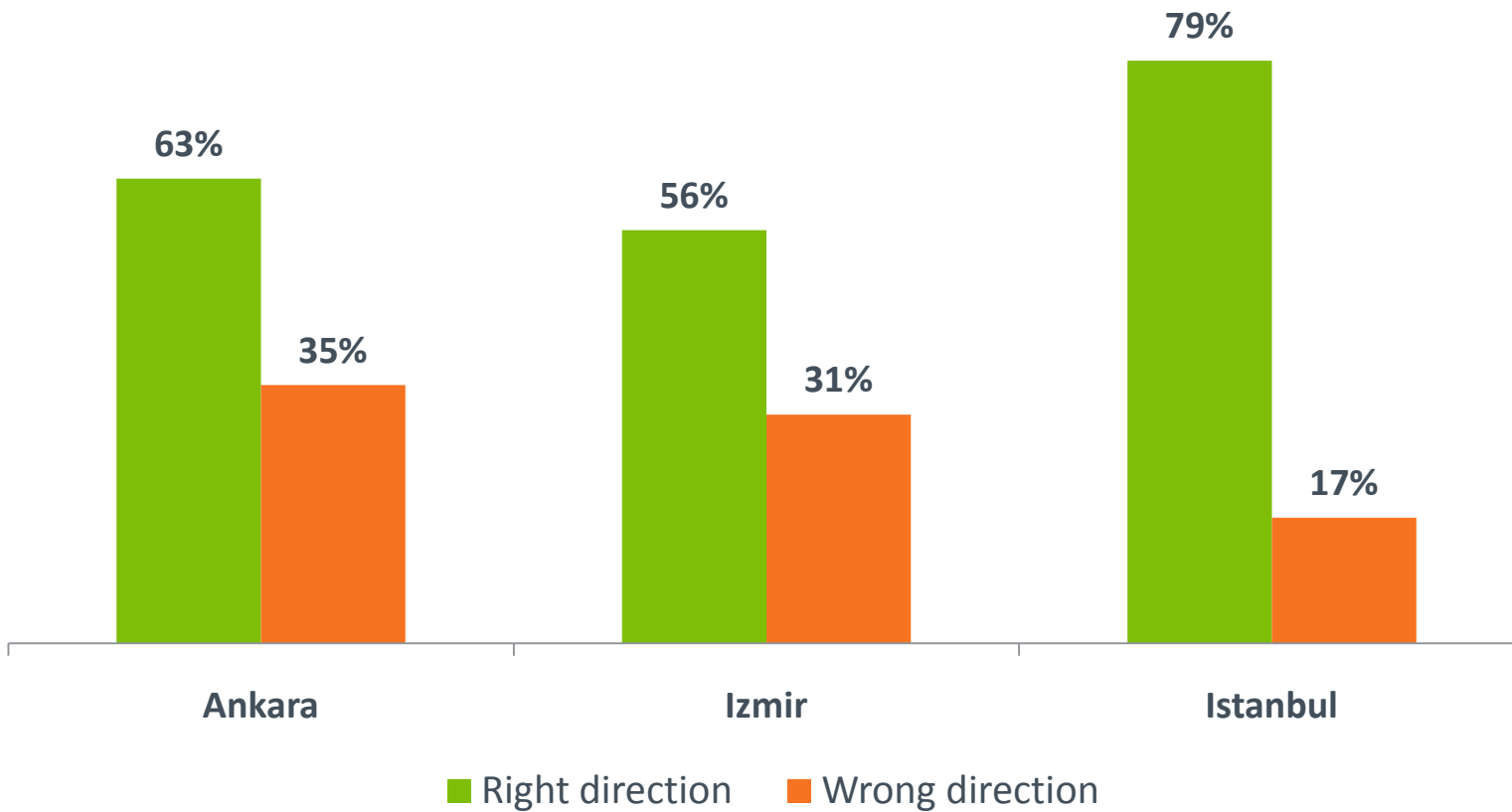


Local Political Attitudes

Generally speaking, are things in your municipality heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?



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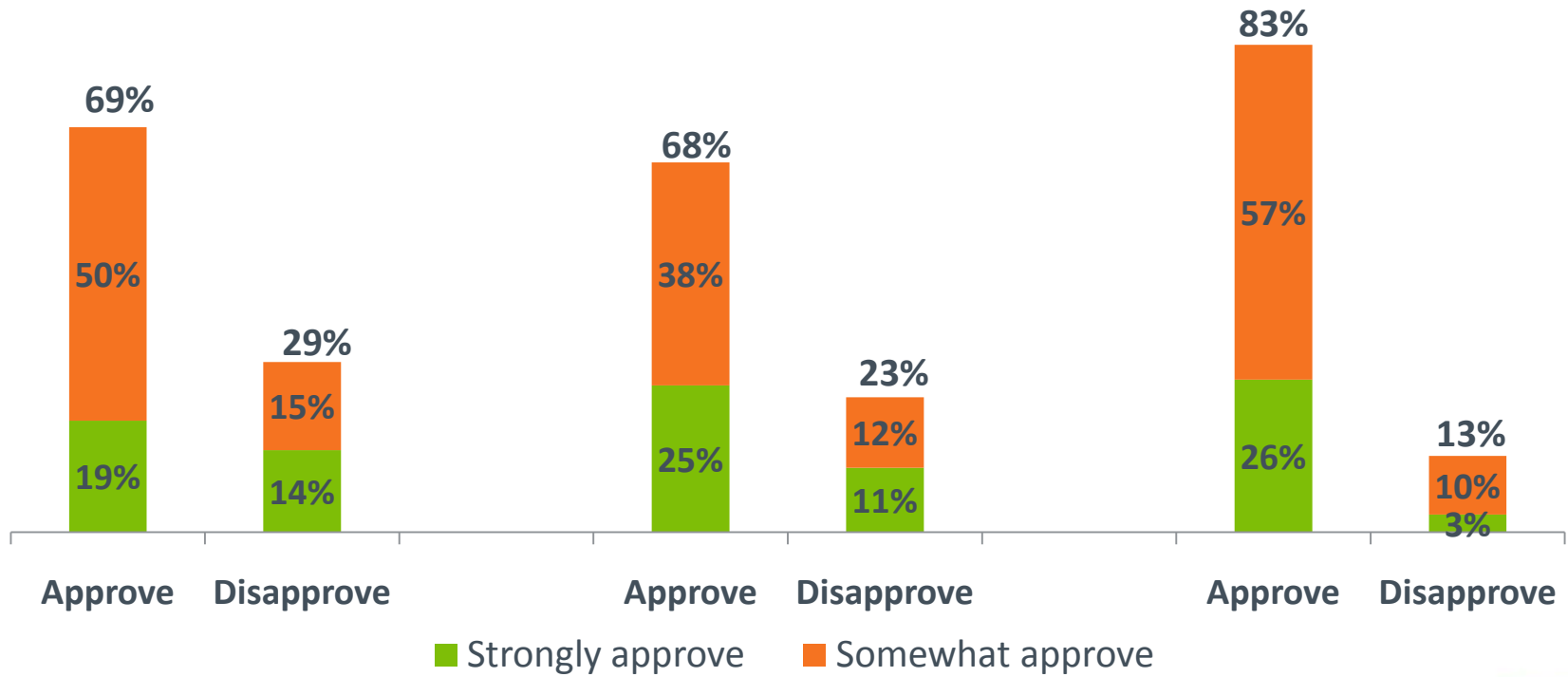


Do you approve or disapprove of the way your local mayor has been handling his job?

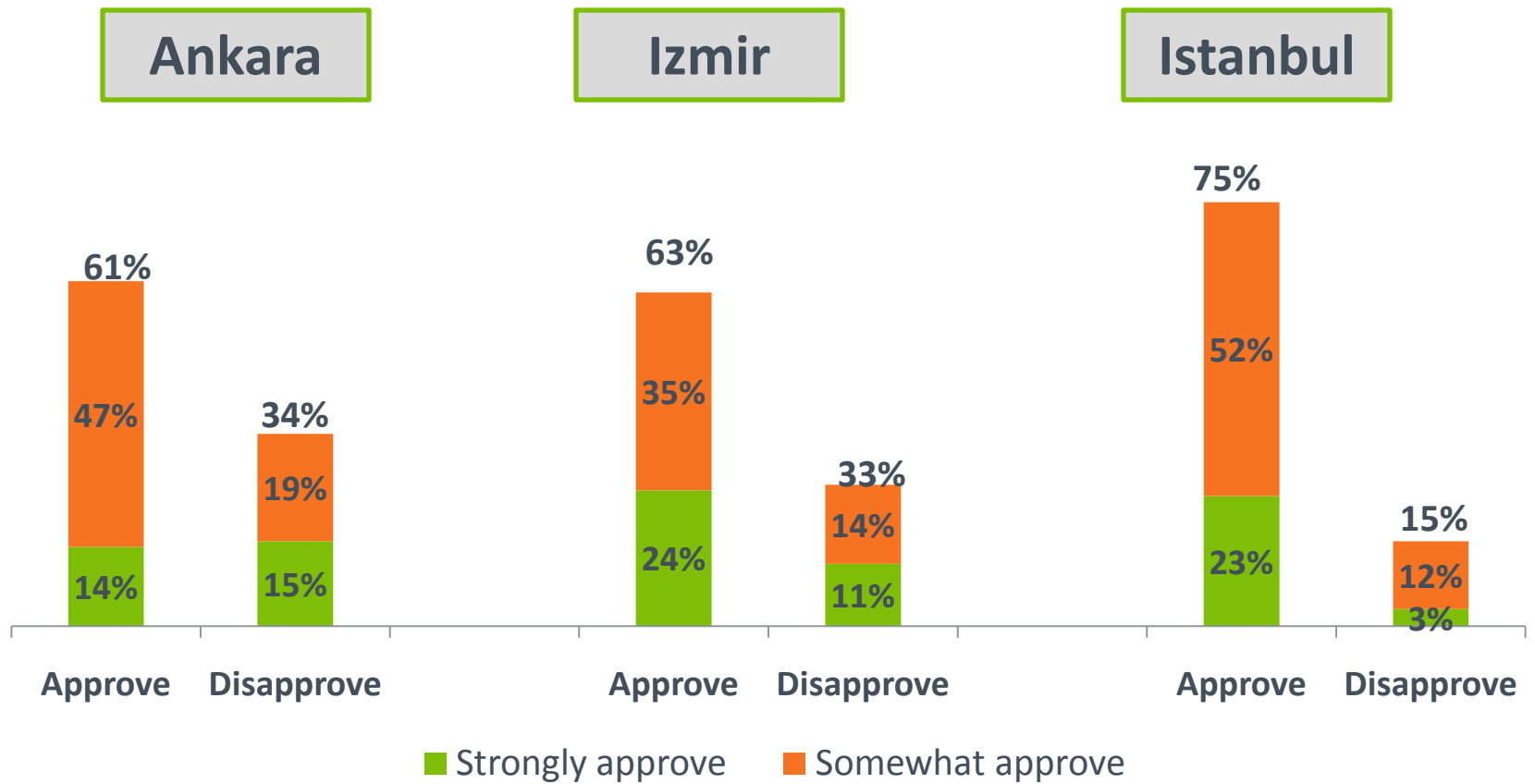
Ankara

Izmir

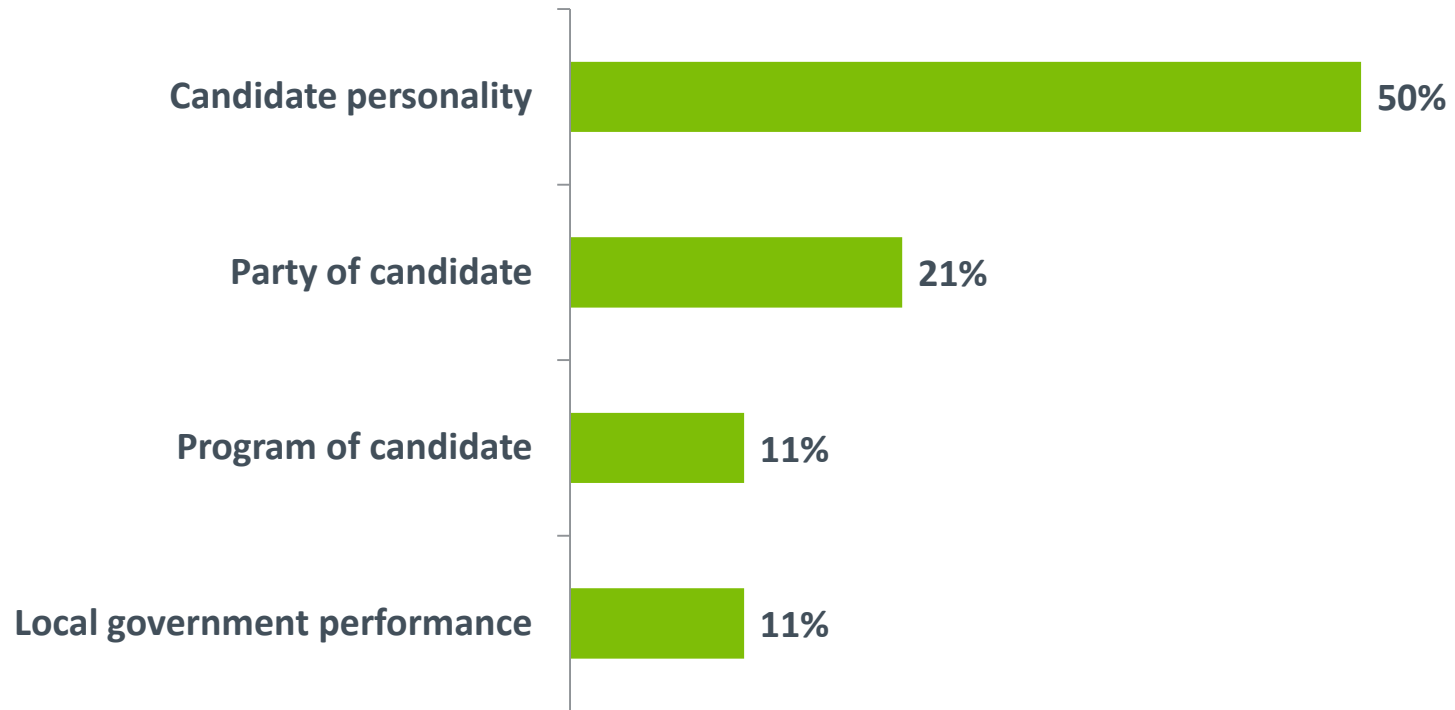
Istanbul



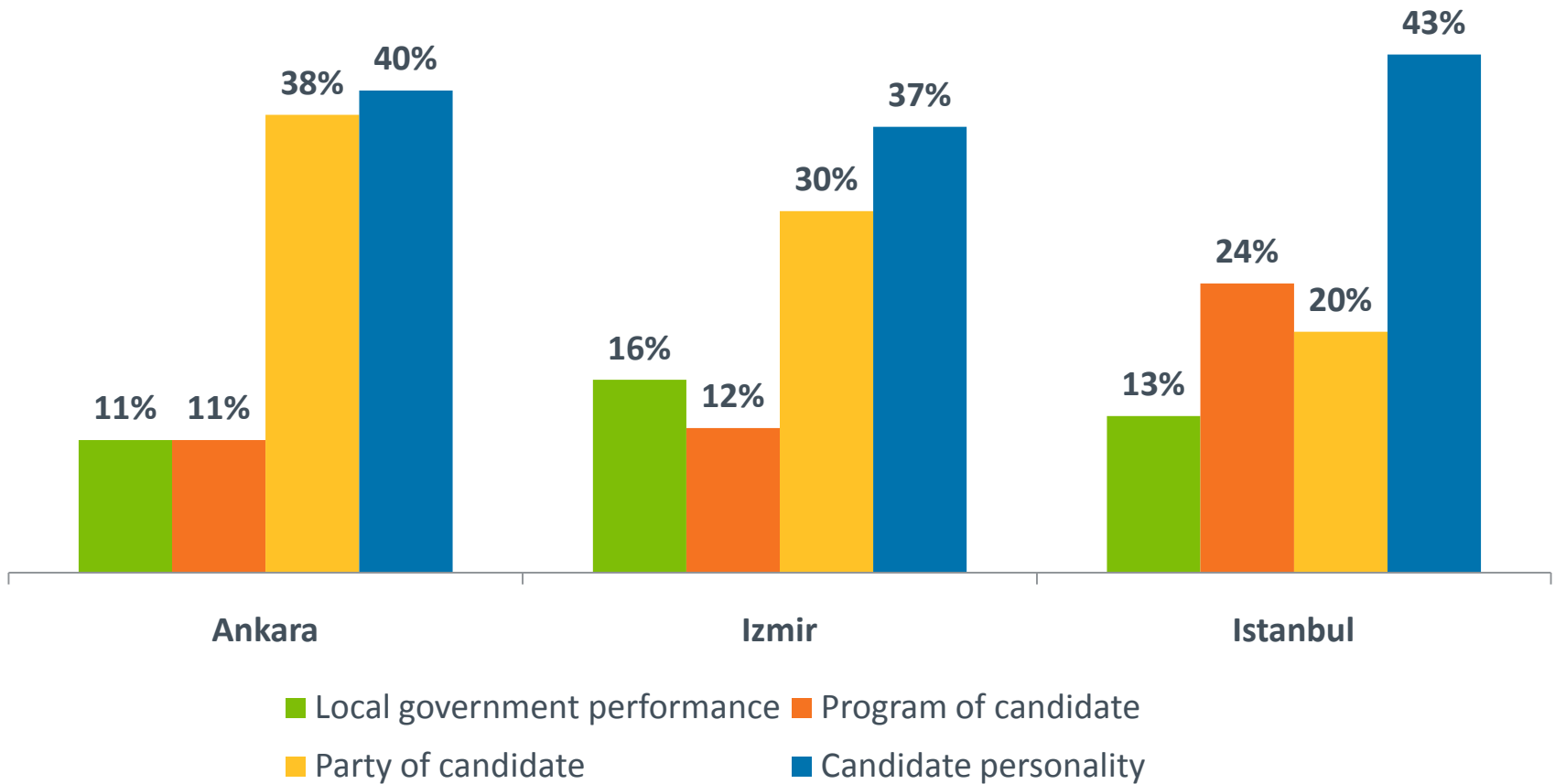
Do you approve or disapprove of the way your local municipal council has been handling its job?



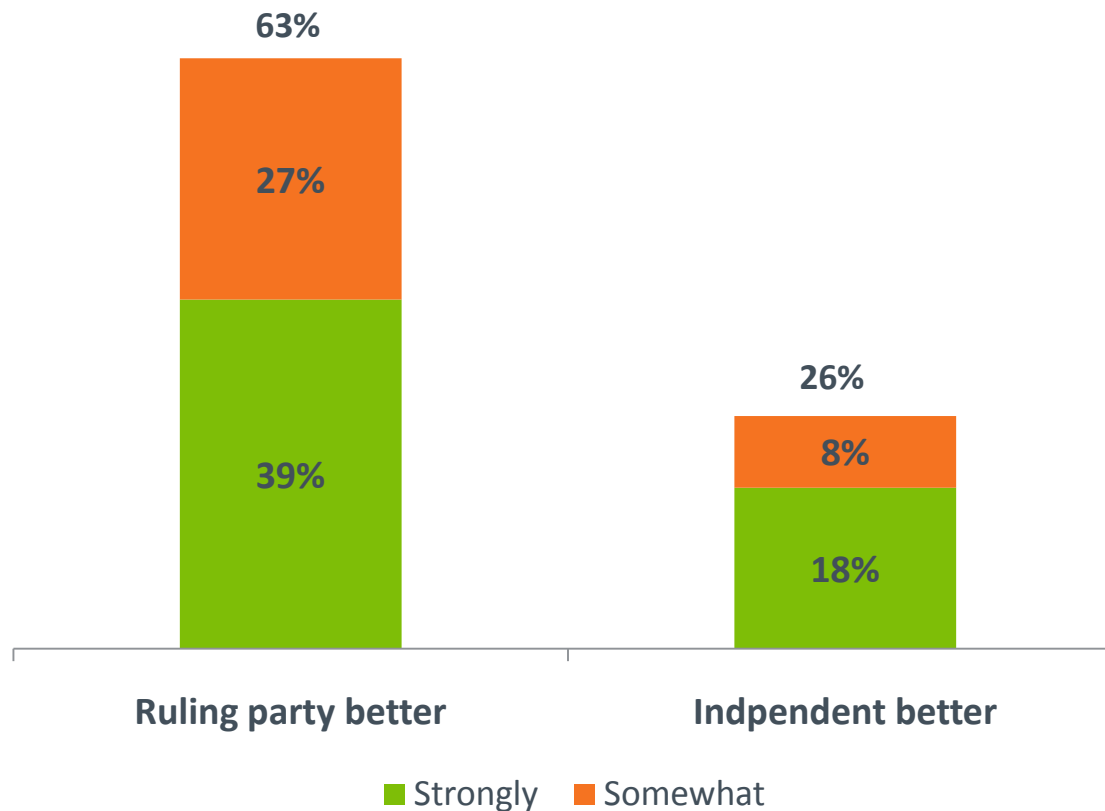
I will read out some factors which may affect your decision in local elections. Please say which of these factors is the most important.



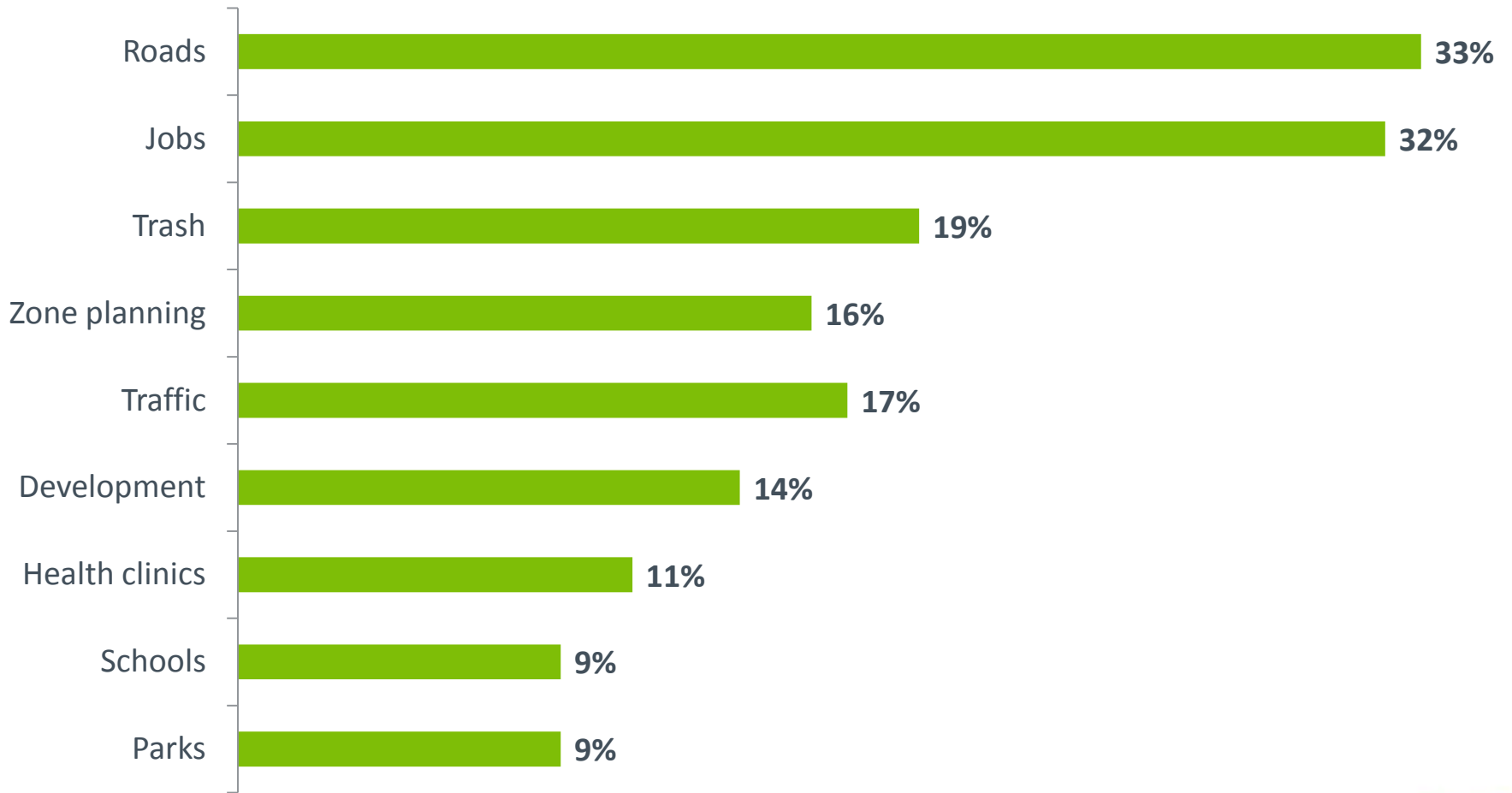
I will read out some factors which may be affecting your decisions in the forthcoming local elections. Please can you say which of these factors is the most important.



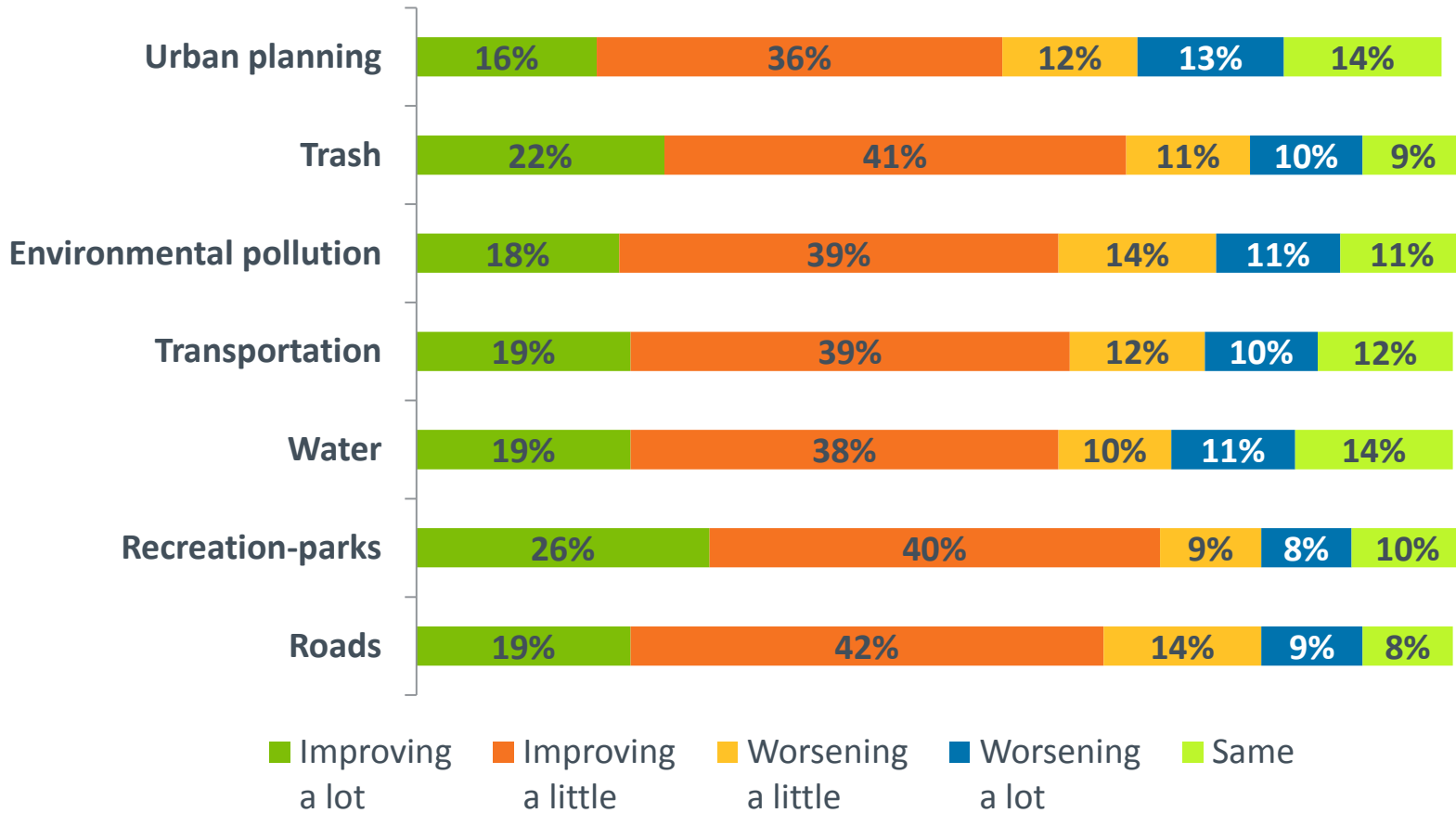
Some argue that if the mayor is from the ruling party, he/she can perform better with the support of the central government. Some say that if the mayor is not from the ruling party, they will be more independent. Which argument best describes your point of view?



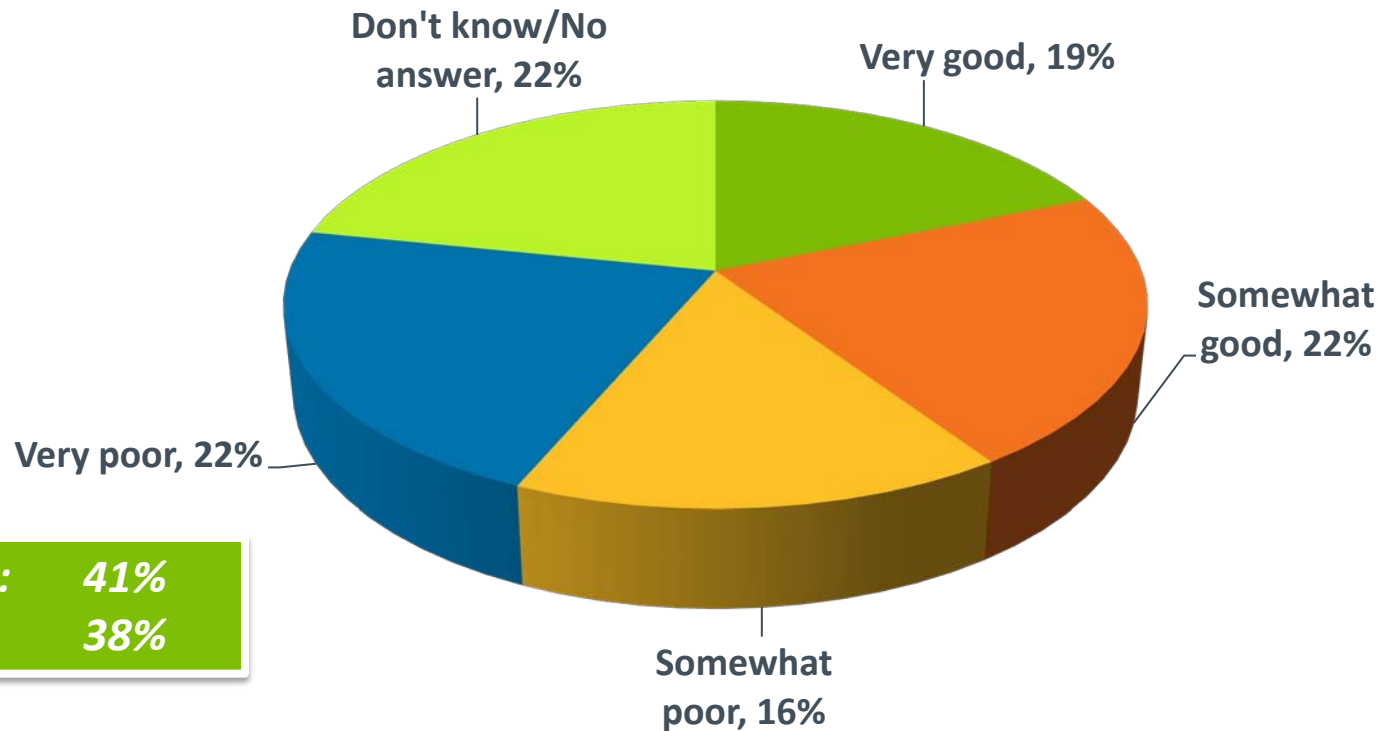
What is the most pressing issue for local government to address?



Are the following local problems improving or worsening...?

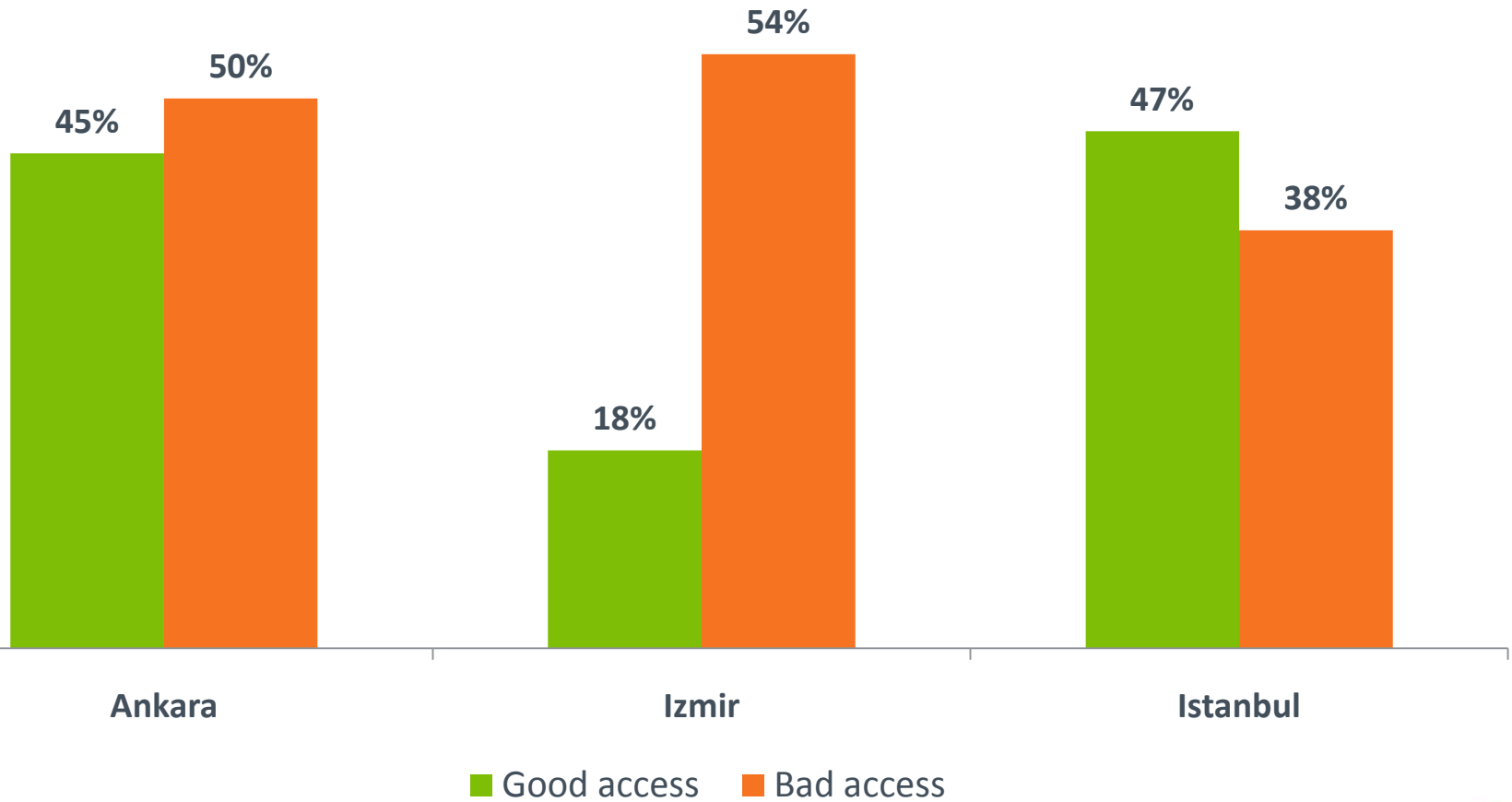


As a citizen, do you have good or poor access to your local government elected officials?

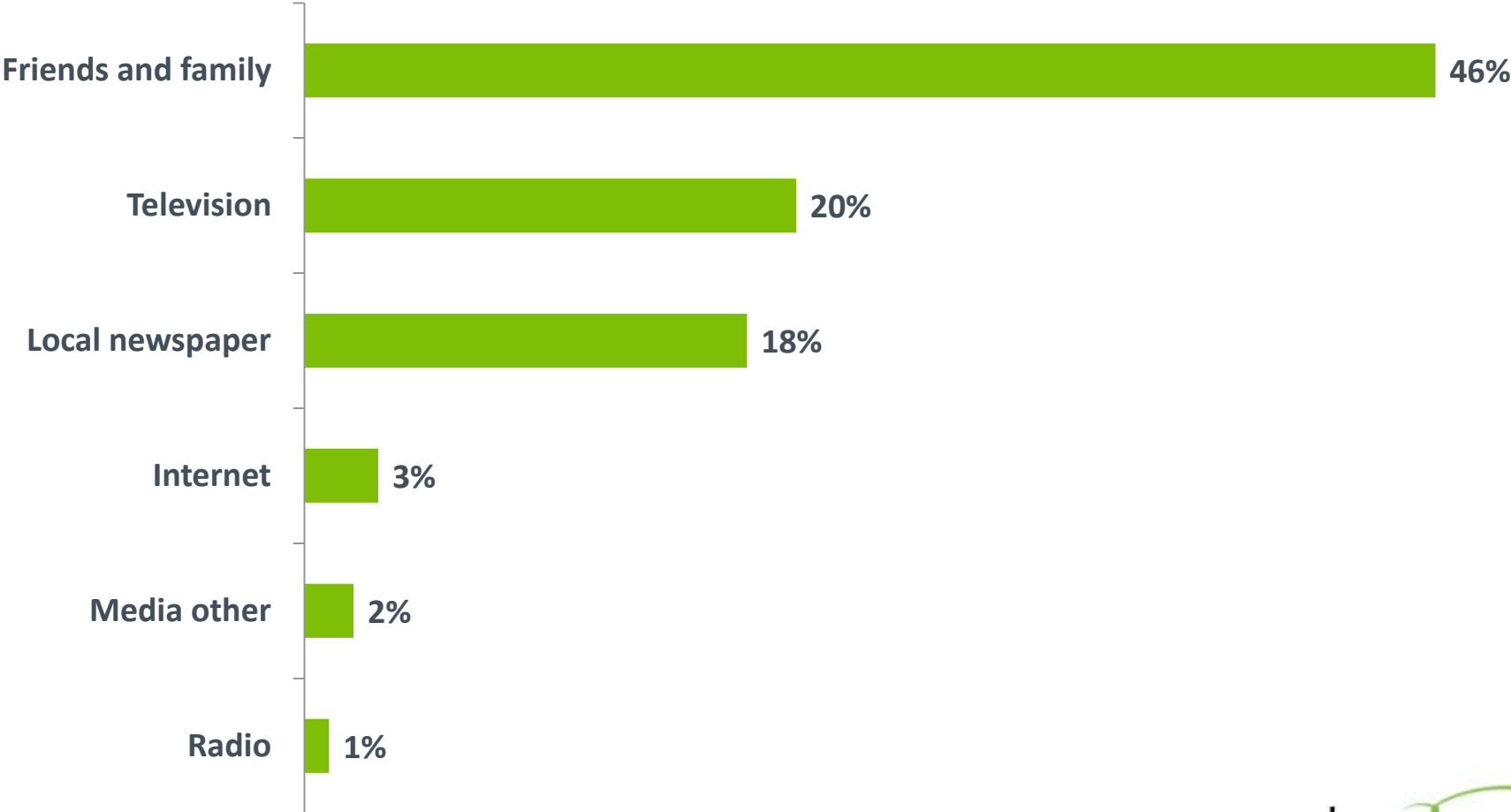


Good: 41%
Poor: 38%

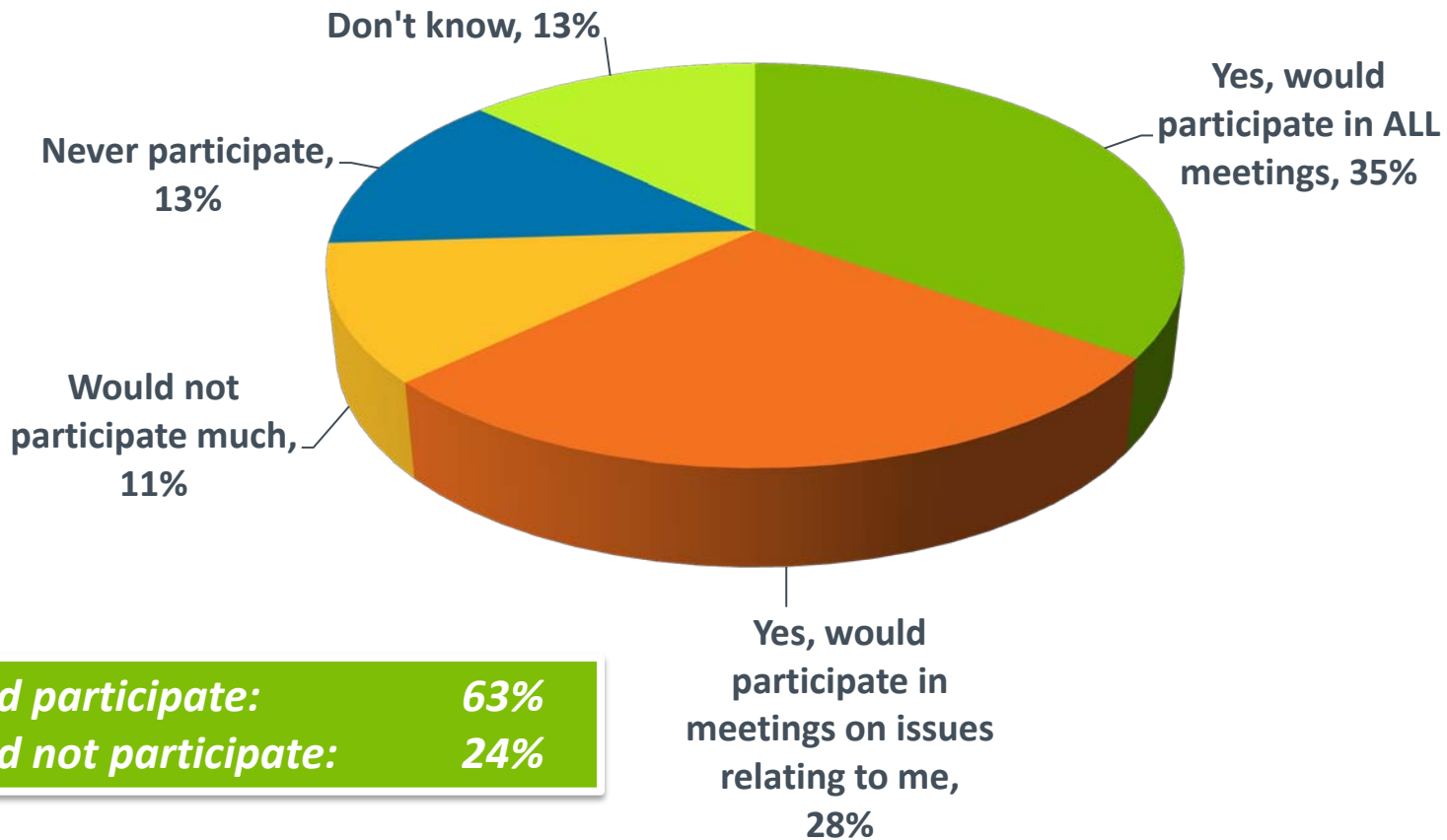
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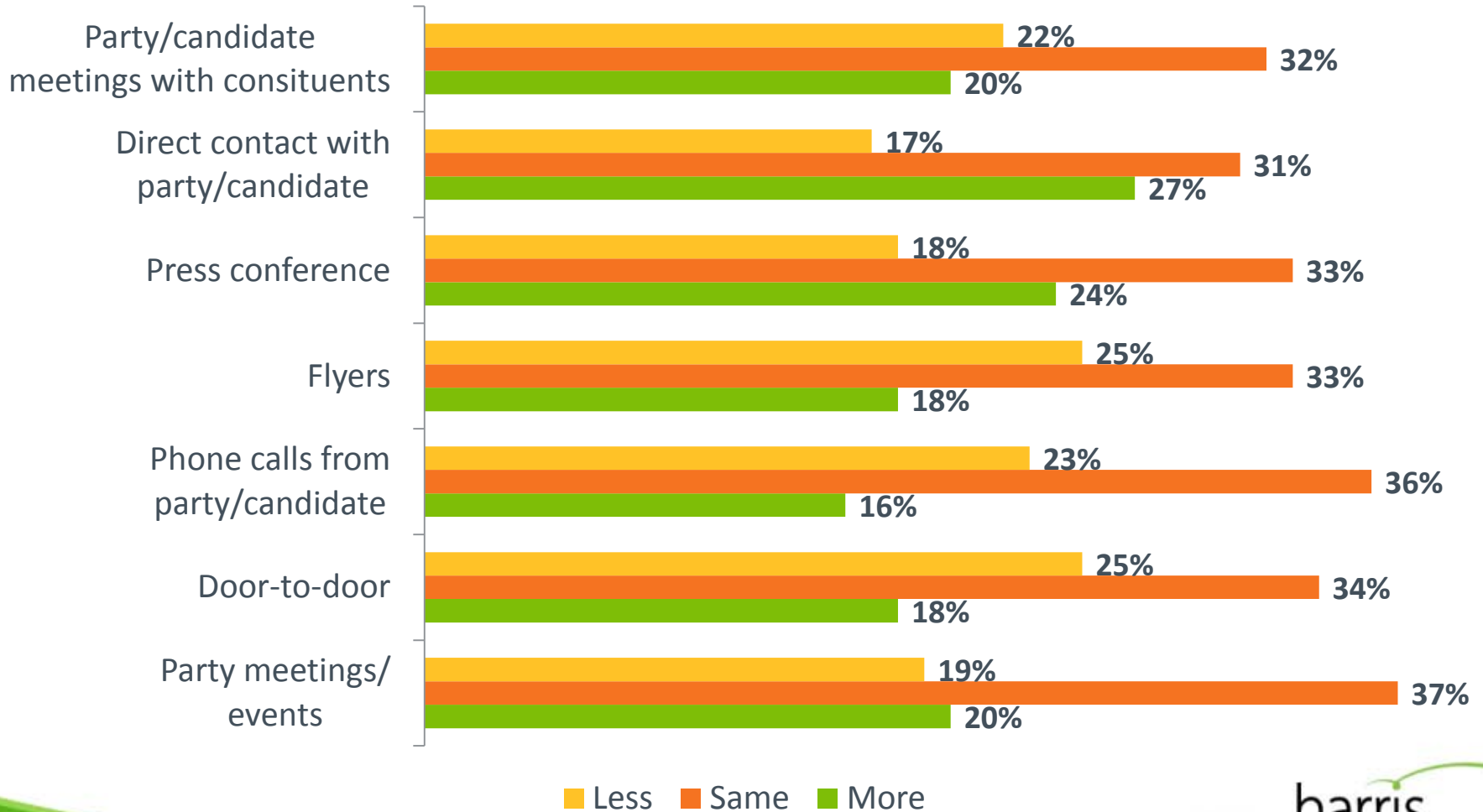
Where do you receive information about what is happening in your municipality?



If there was a citizen council auditing the decisions and practices of your municipality, would you participate in its meetings?



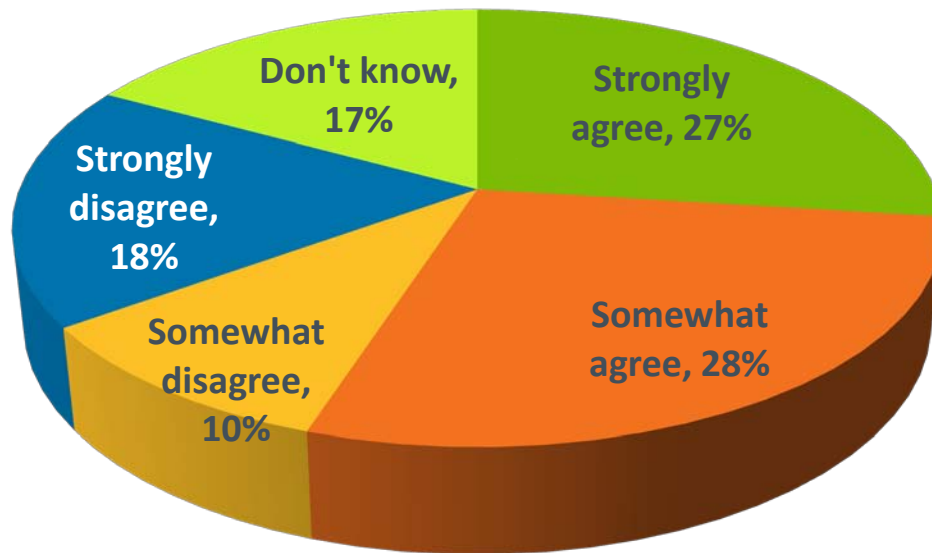
Would you like to see more, less, or the same...?





Key Issues for Turkey

Some argue that certain groups have sought to take control of the government through a plan called Ergenekon. Do you agree or disagree with them?*

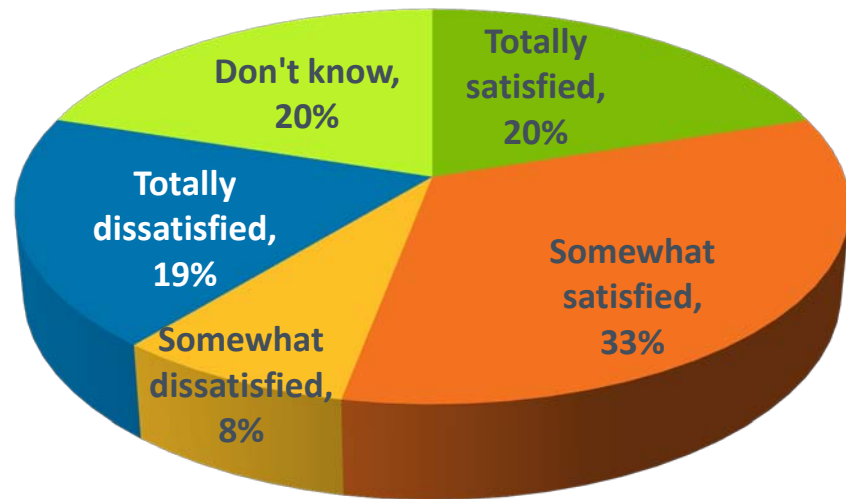


Agree:	55%
Disagree:	28%

*The name given to an alleged conspiracy to overthrow the government

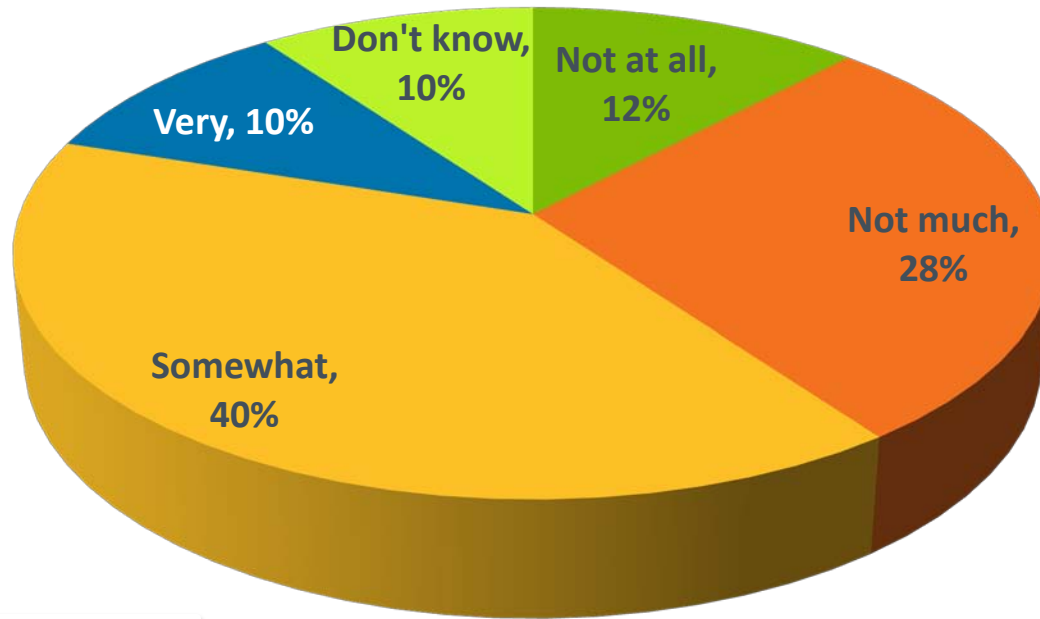
Are you satisfied with the way the Ergenekon investigation has been carried out?

Those who are dissatisfied list the following reasons (n=540):



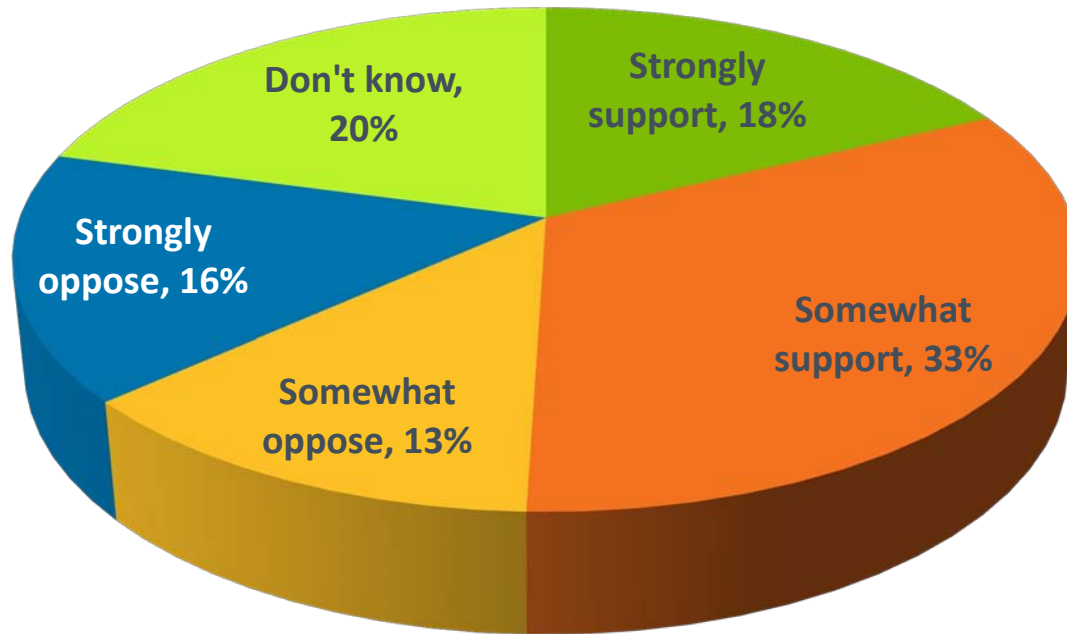
Satisfied	53%
Dissatisfied	27%

How well informed do you feel about the government's Democratization Program?



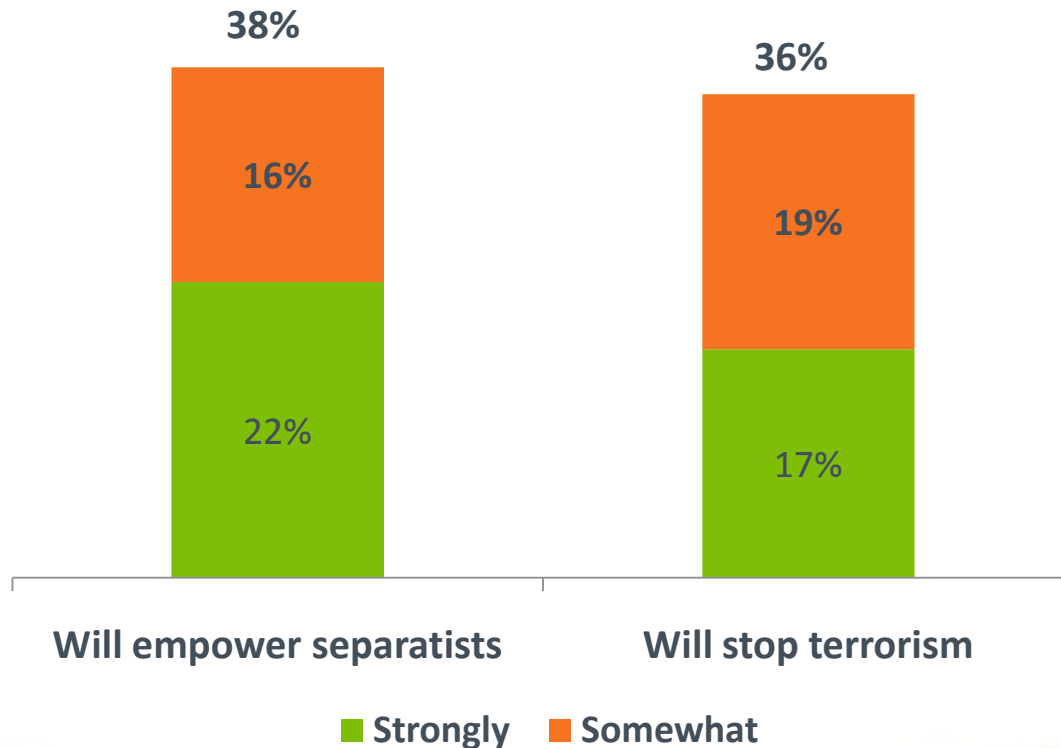
Informed:	50%
Not Informed:	40%

Do you support the latest reforms of the government known as the Democratization Program?

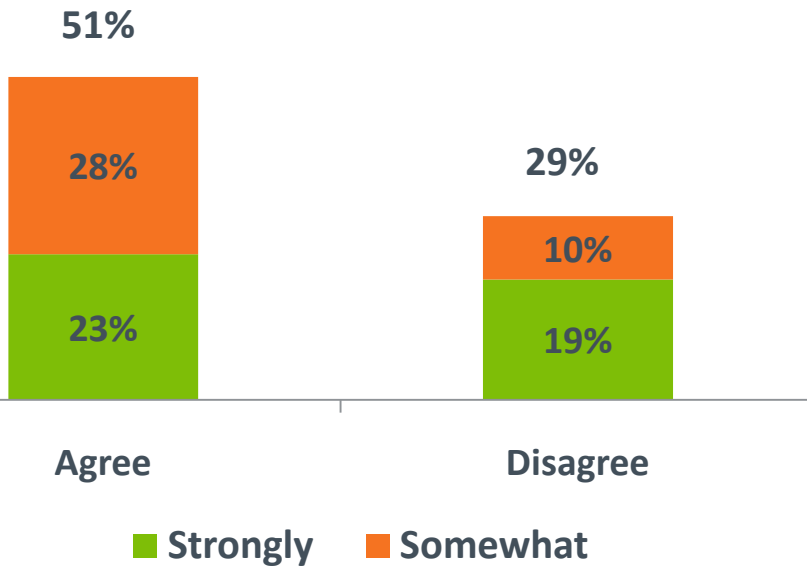


Support	51%
Oppose	29%

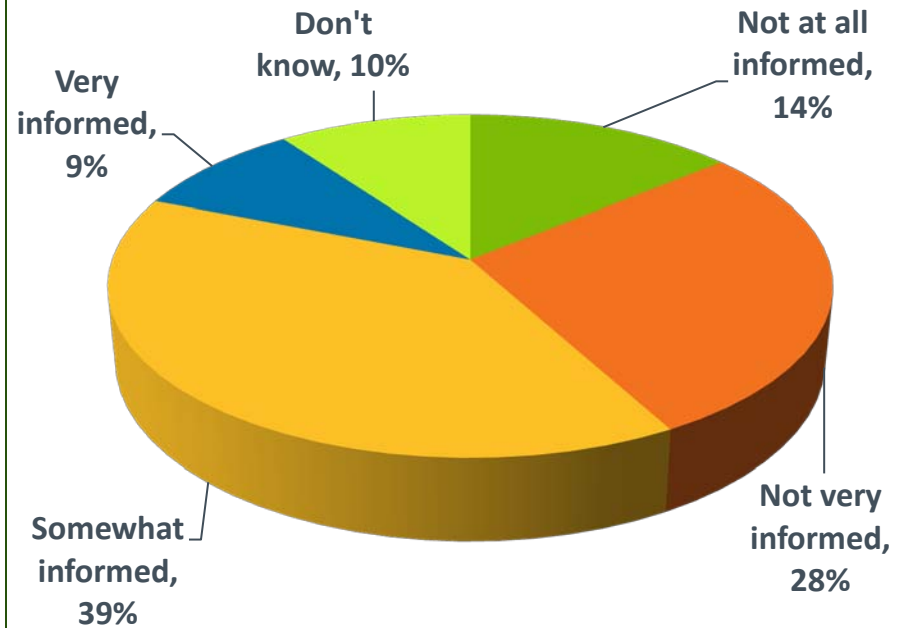
Some argue that the Democratization Program of the government will empower separatist movements while others believe that this program is an important opportunity to stop terrorism. Which one of these arguments is closer to your opinion?



Some argue that the current Constitution needs to be amended. Do you agree or disagree with them?

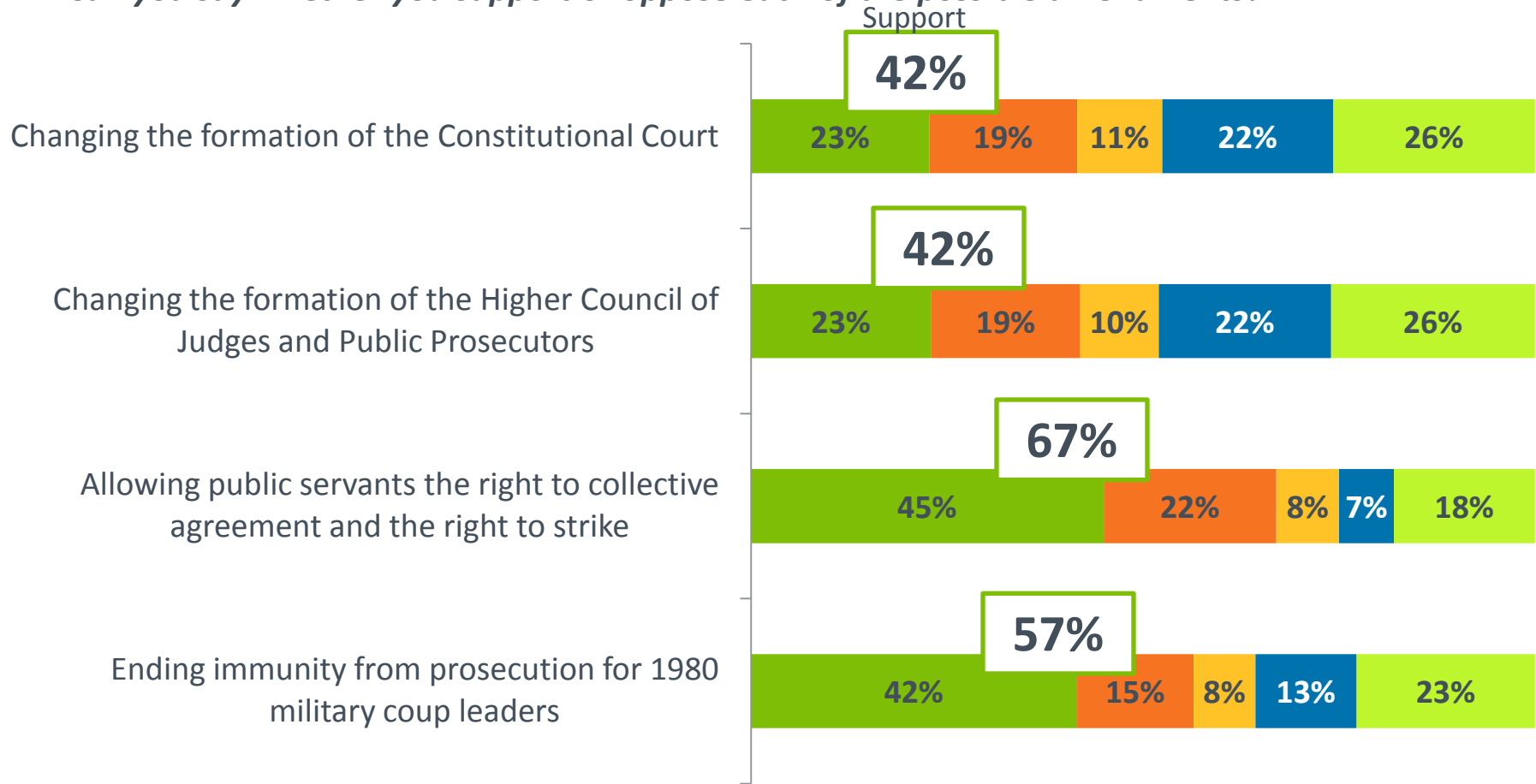


How well informed do you feel about the government's current package of Constitutional amendments?



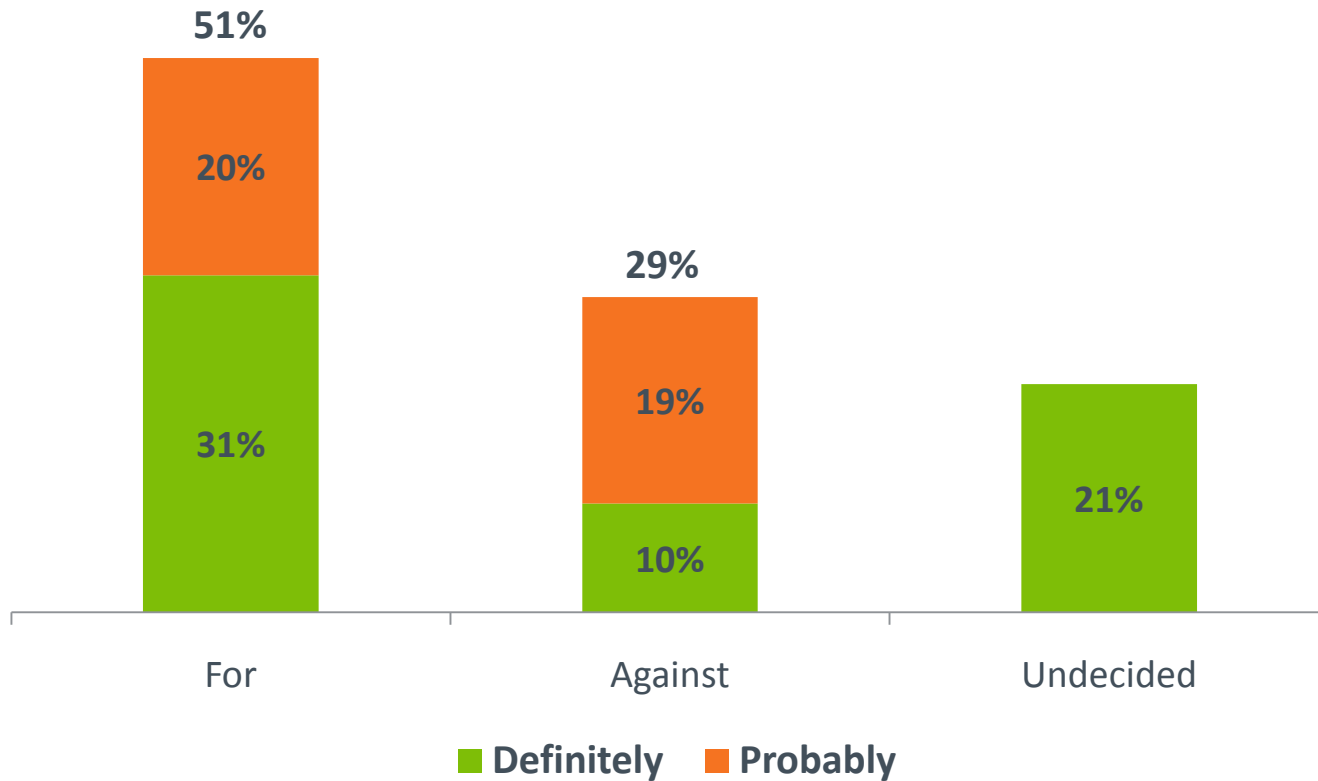
Informed	48%
Not informed	42%

Can you say whether you support or oppose each of the possible amendments?



■ Strongly support
 ■ Somewhat support
 ■ Somewhat oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know

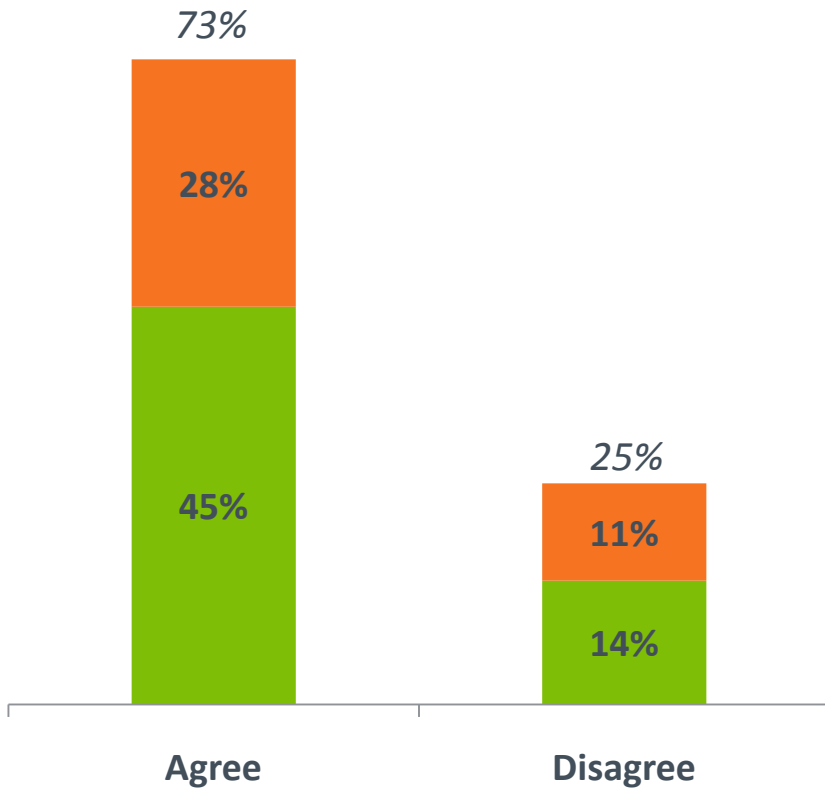
If a referendum were to be held this Sunday for the approval of the Constitutional amendments would you vote for or against?



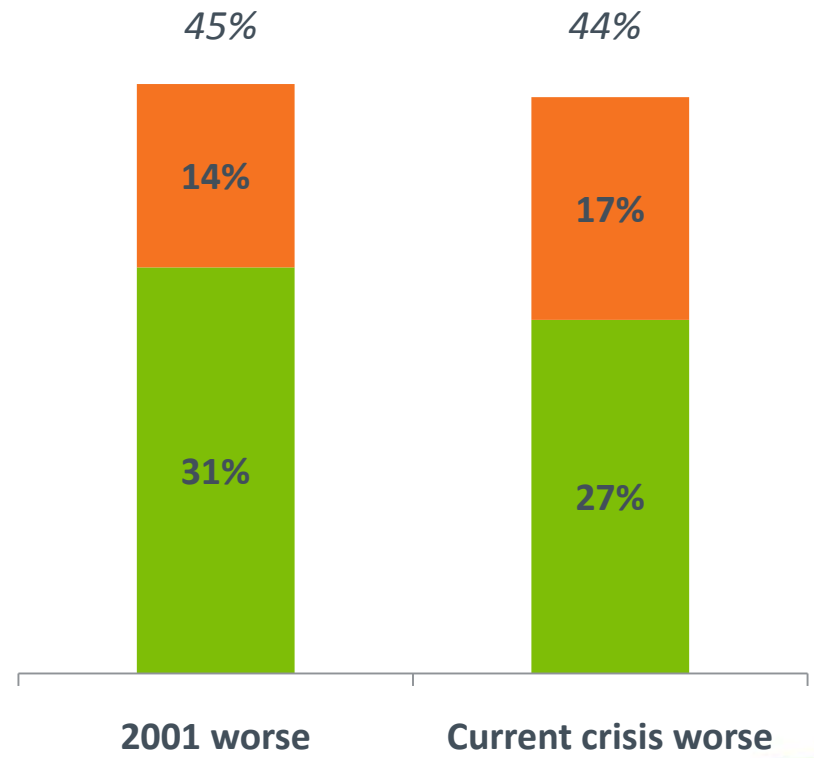


Financial Crisis

Is there a financial crisis?



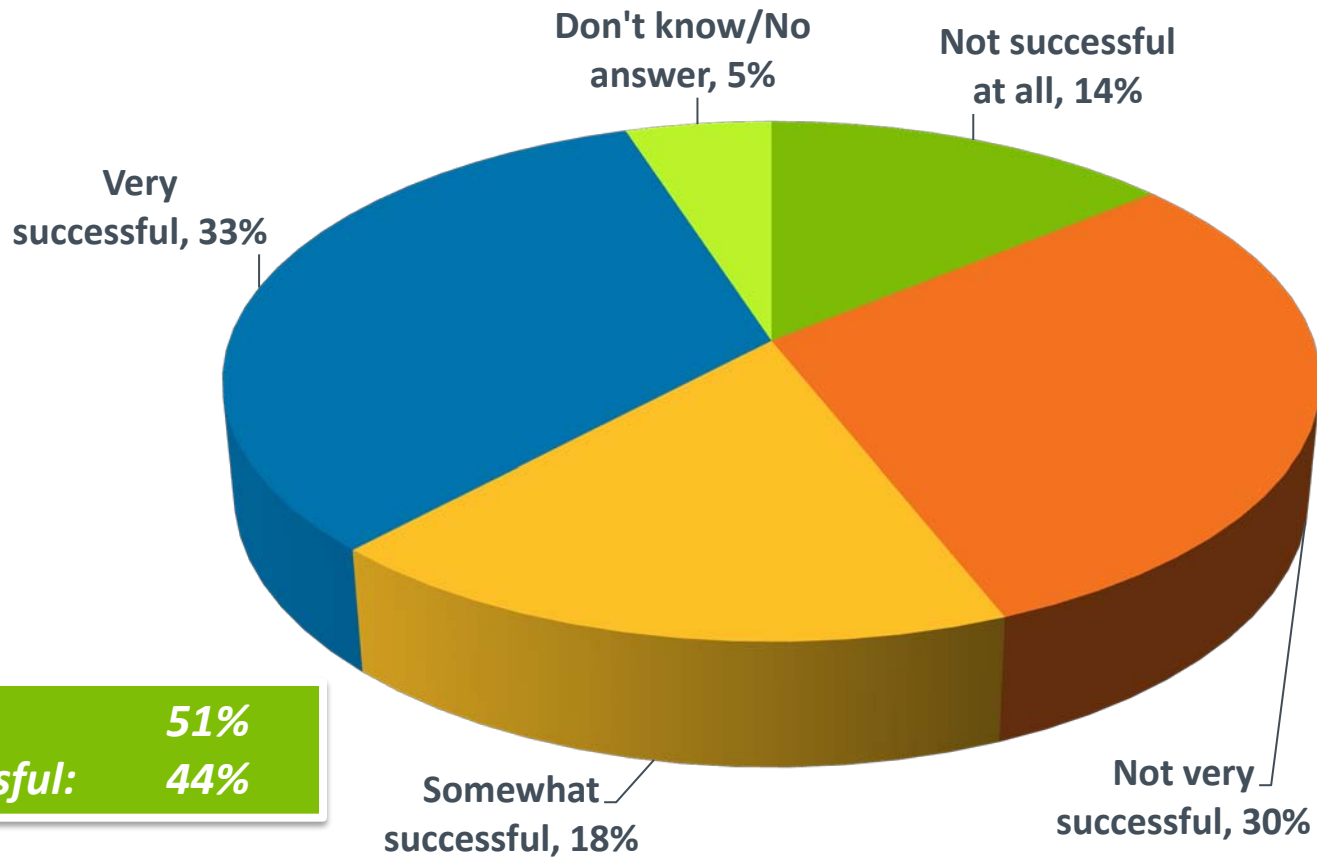
Is the existing situation worse than the 2001 financial crisis?



■ Strongly ■ Somewhat

■ Totally ■ Somewhat

How successful has the government been dealing with the crisis?

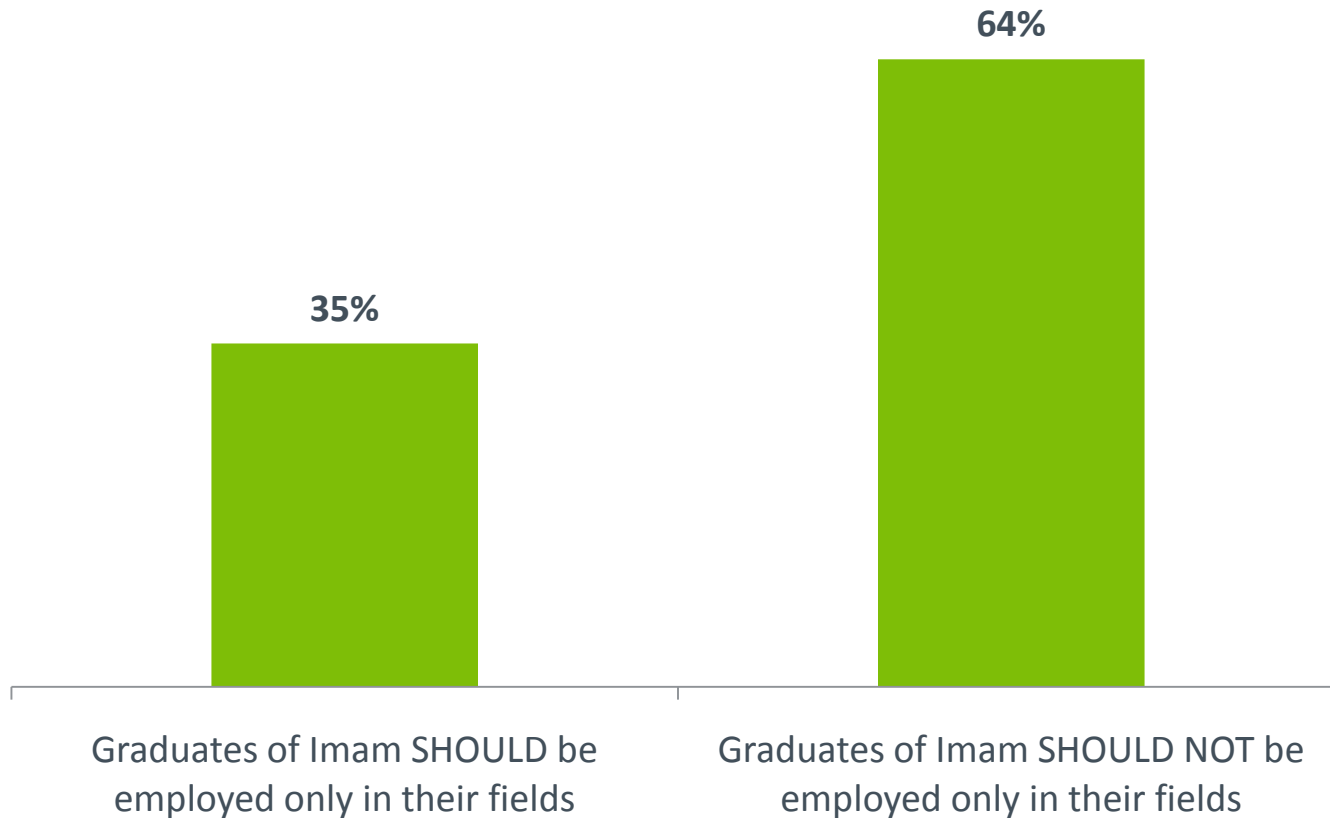




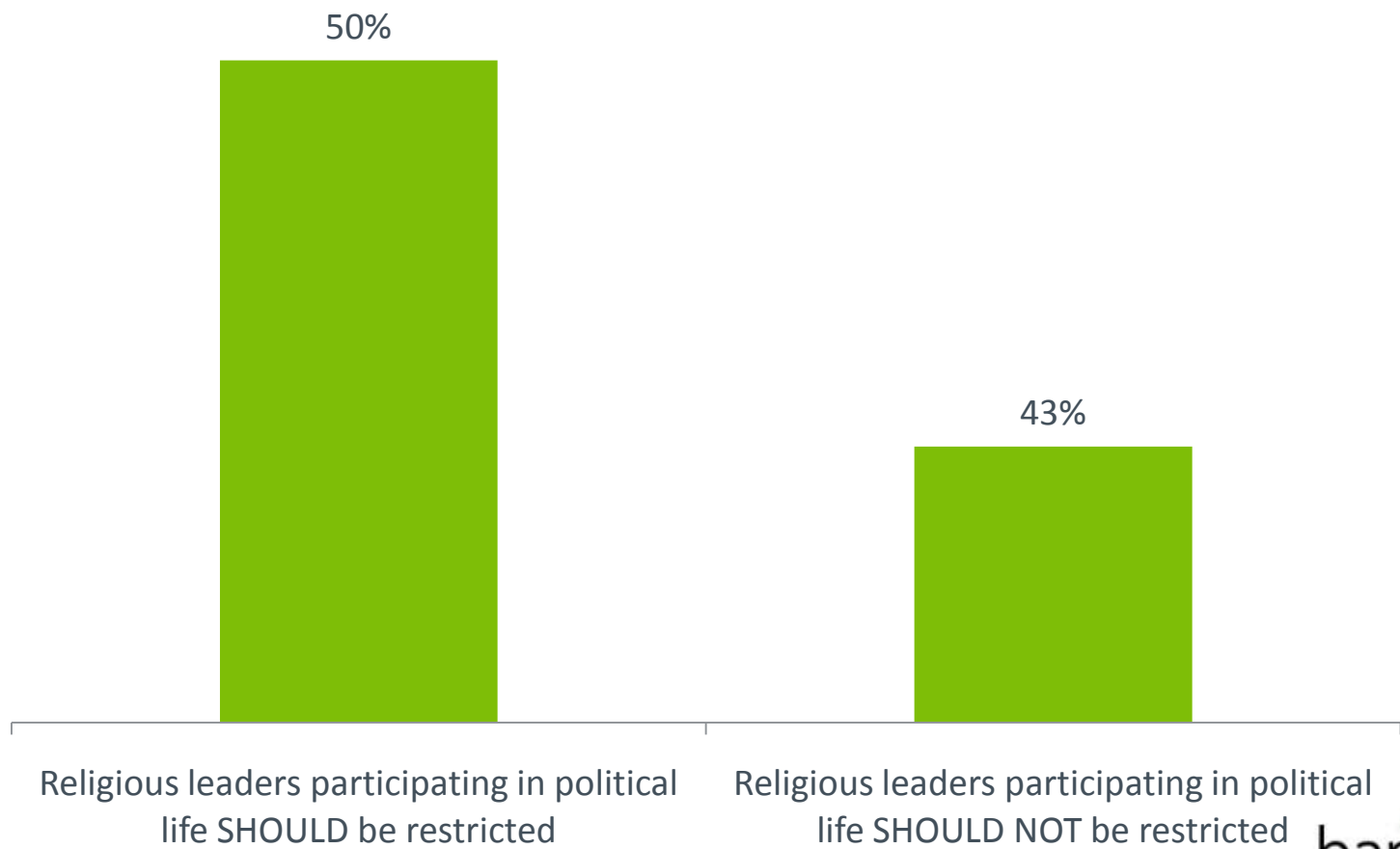
Turkish Cultural Attitudes

Graduates of Imam Hatip schools* should: A. be employed ONLY in their fields or B. SHOULD NOT ONLY be employed in their fields

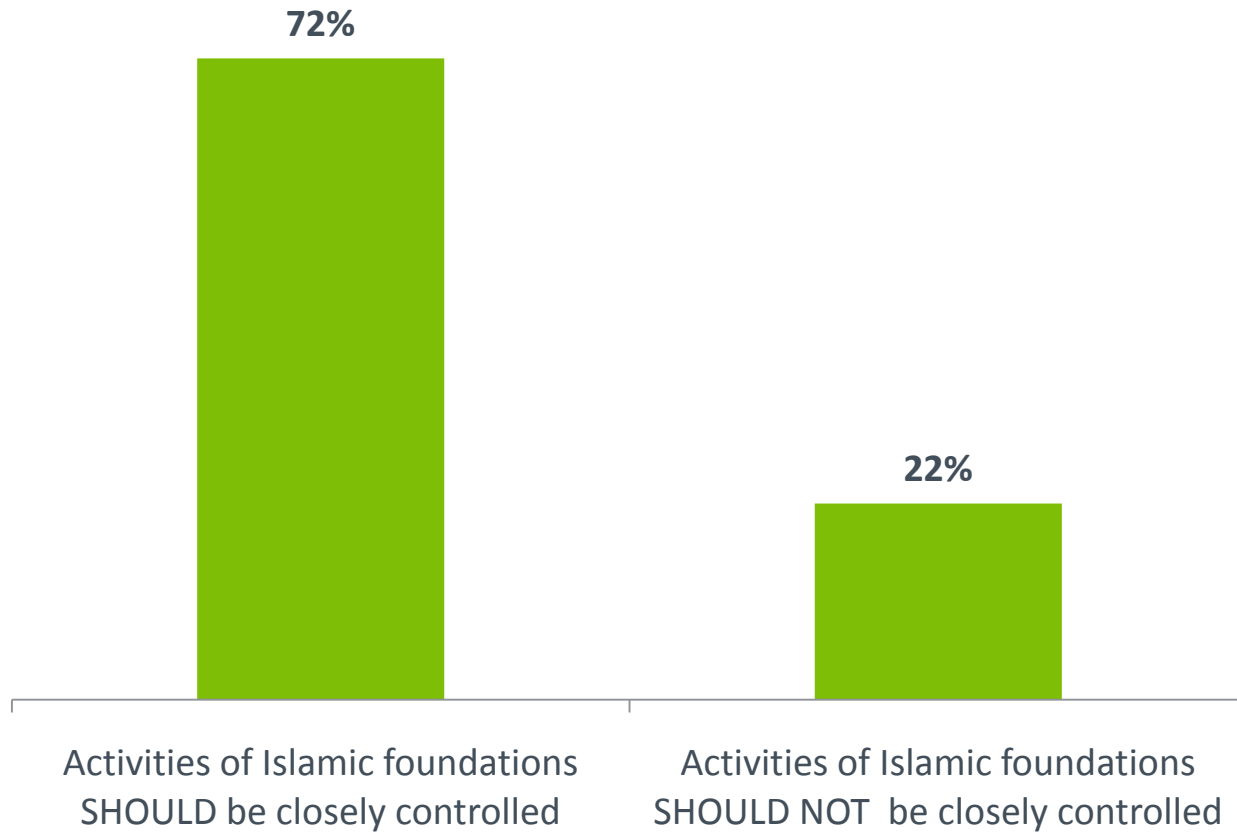
*Imam Hatip schools are state-run, religious educational institutions, similar to vocational schools, whose students typically study to become imams.



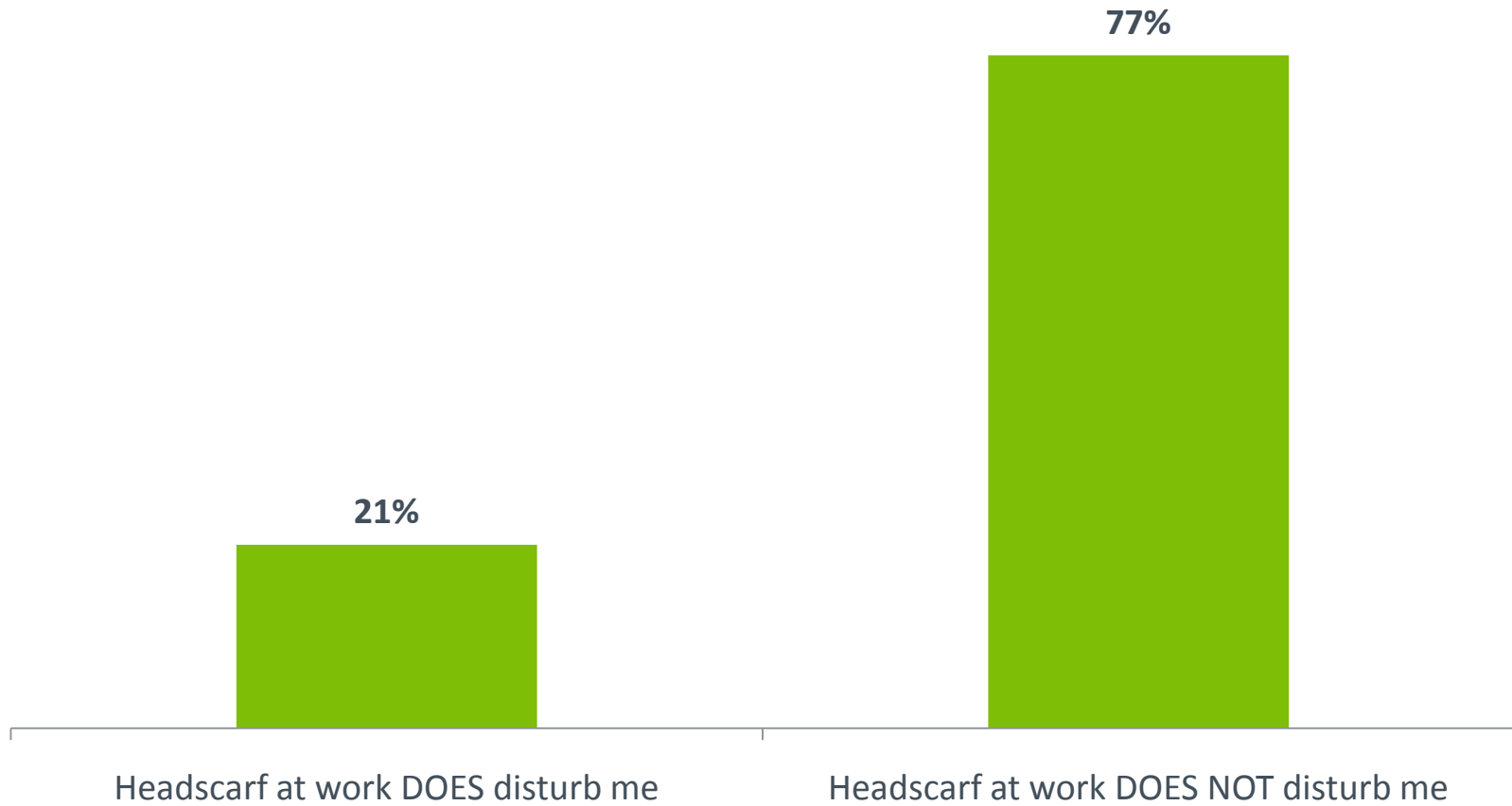
Participation of religious leaders or authorities in political life: A. SHOULD be restricted or B. SHOULD NOT be restricted ?



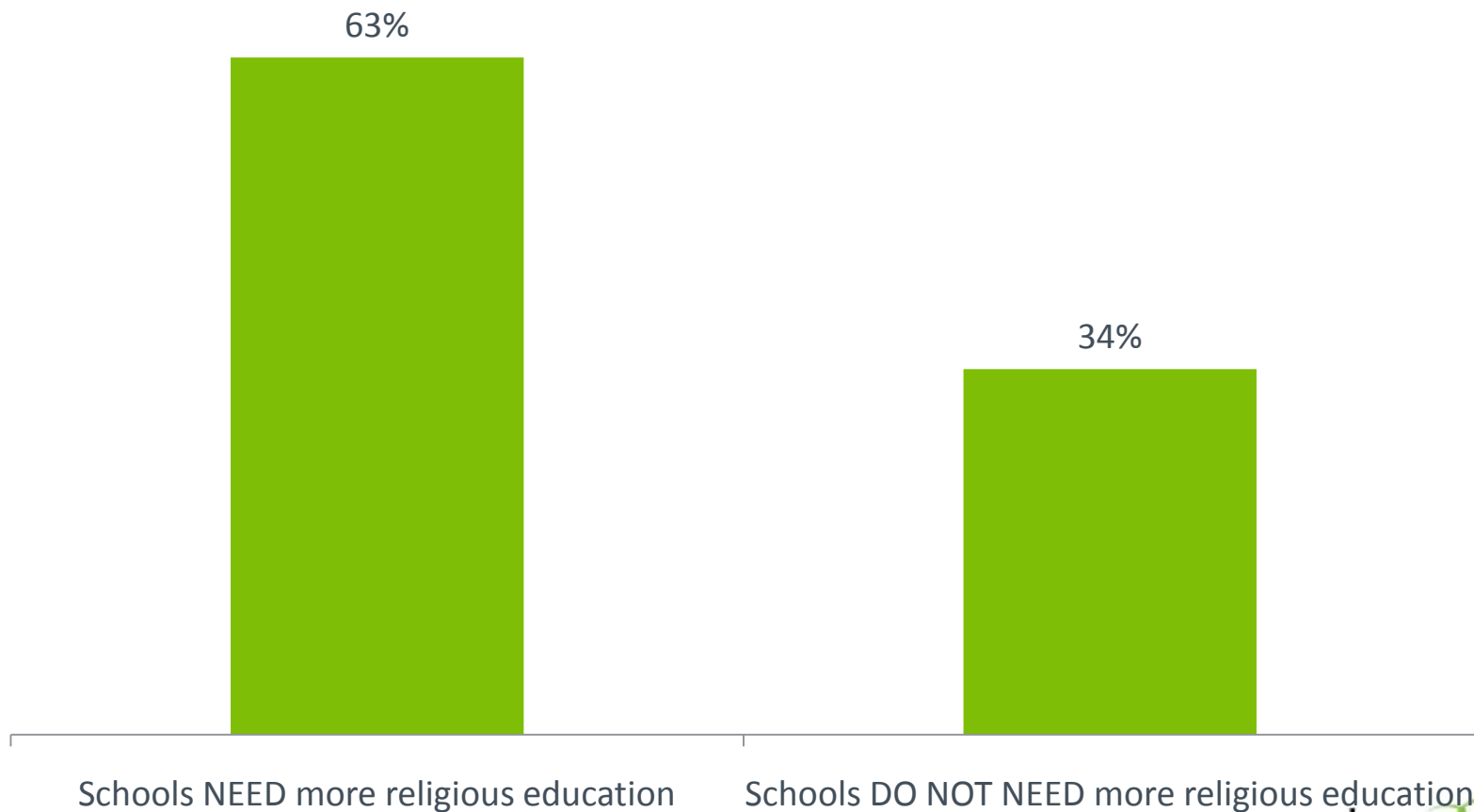
I believe the activities of Islamic foundations: A. SHOULD be closely controlled or B. SHOULD NOT be closely controlled?



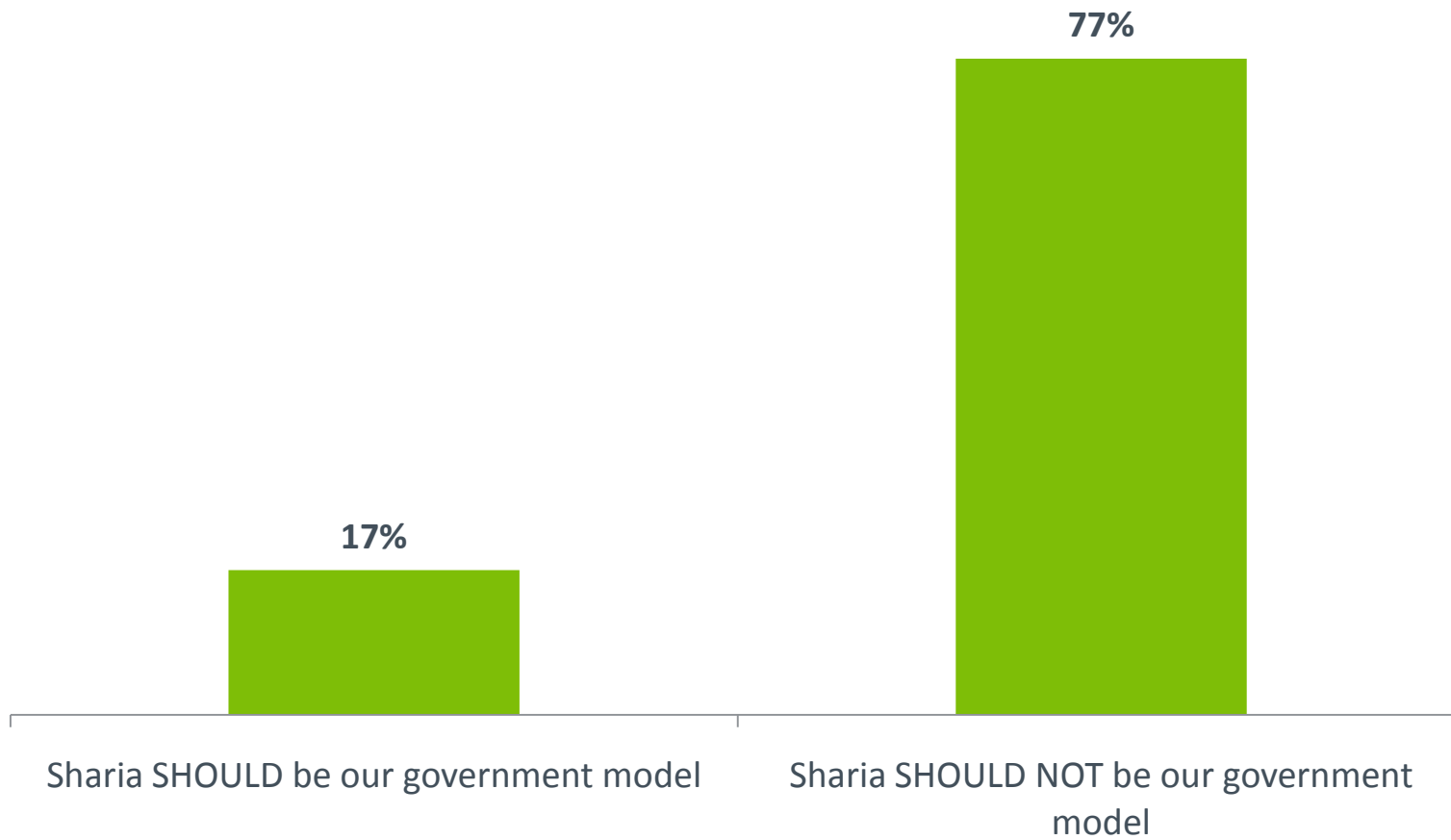
A woman who wears a headscarf in my workplace: A. DOES disturb me or B. DOES NOT disturb me ?



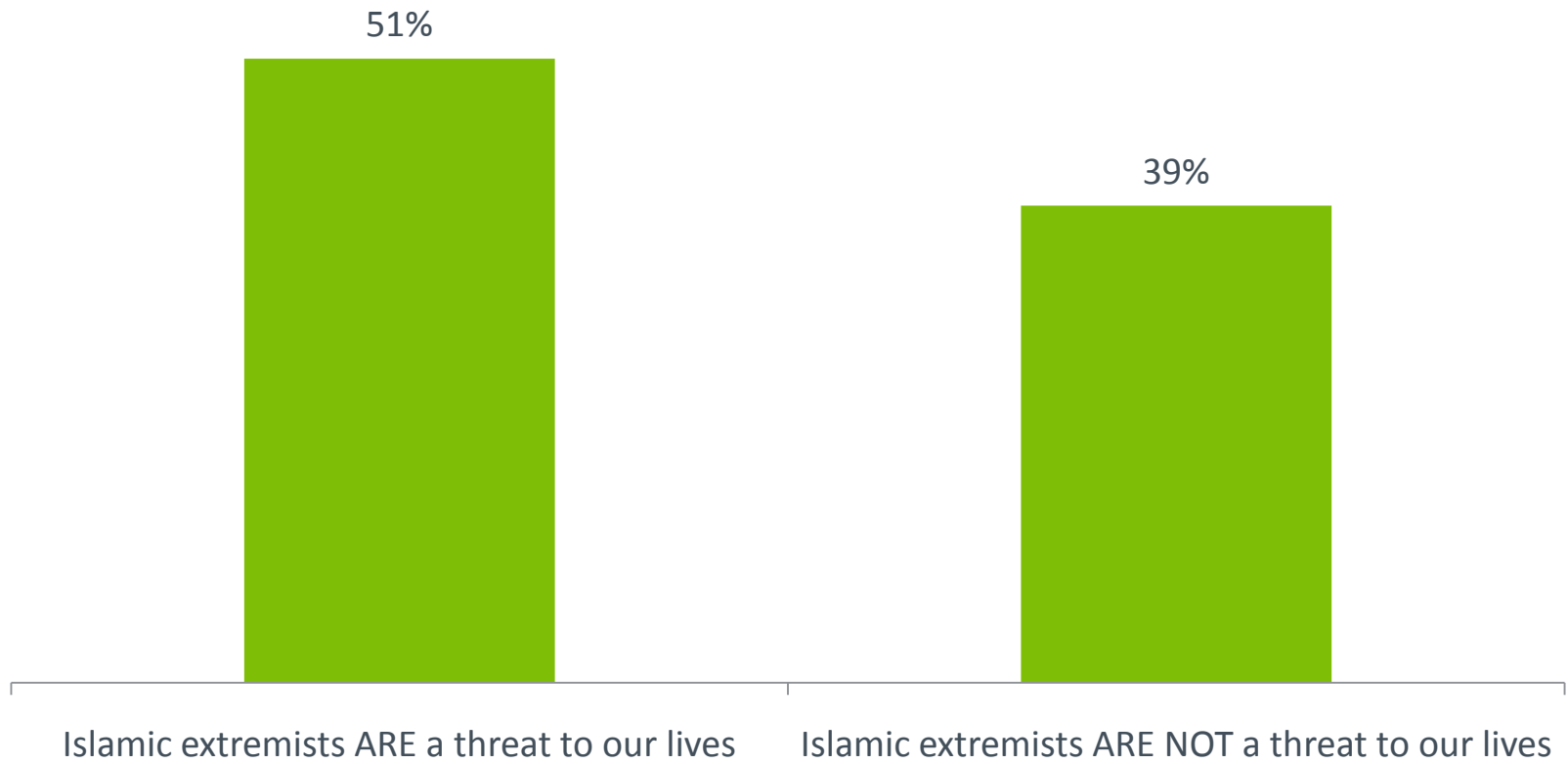
Our schools: A. NEED or B. DO NOT NEED to provide more religious education to our children?



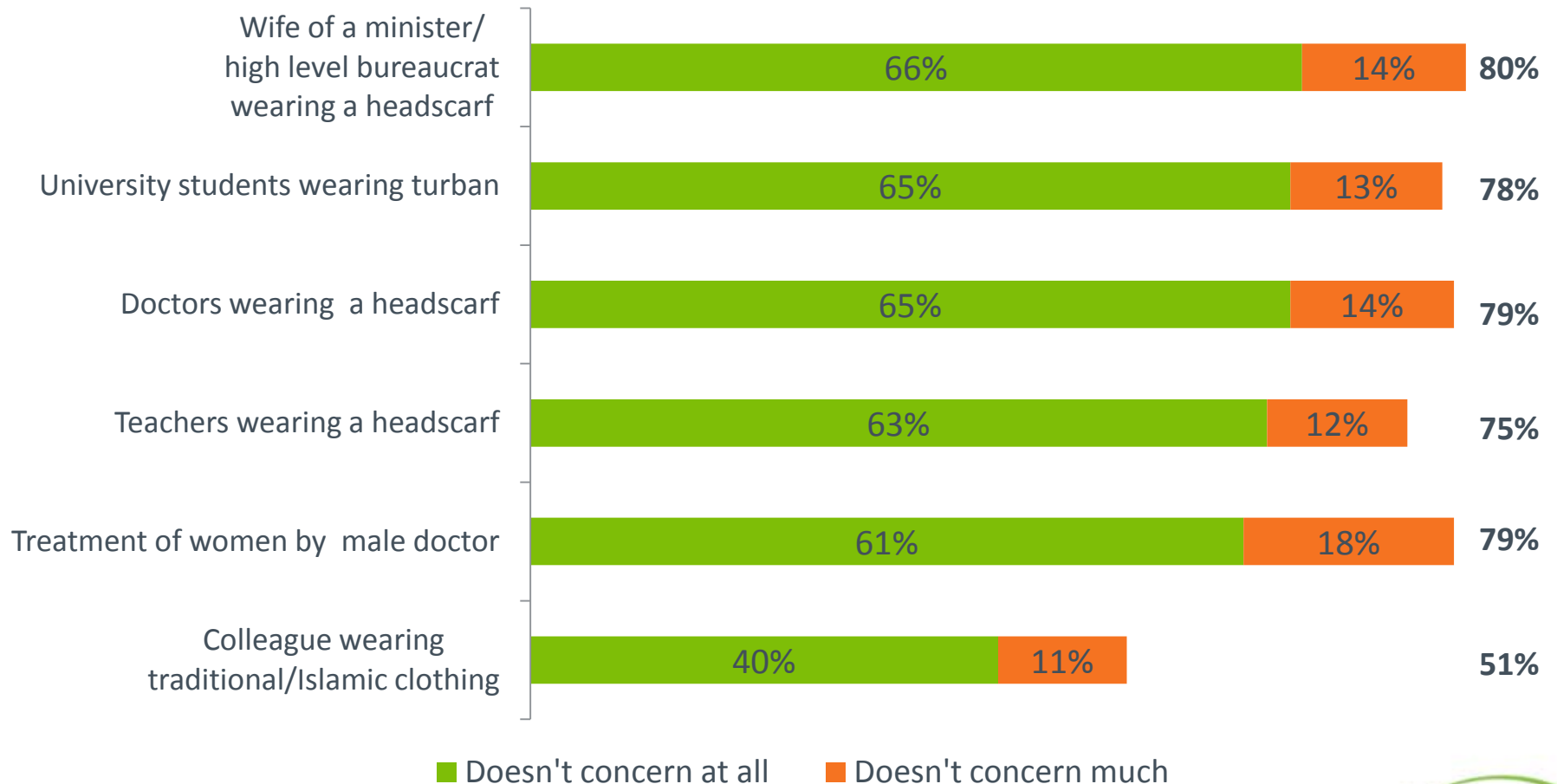
Sharia: A. SHOULD be our government model or B. SHOULD NOT be our government model?



Islamic extremists: A. ARE a threat to our lives or B. ARE NOT a threat to our lives?



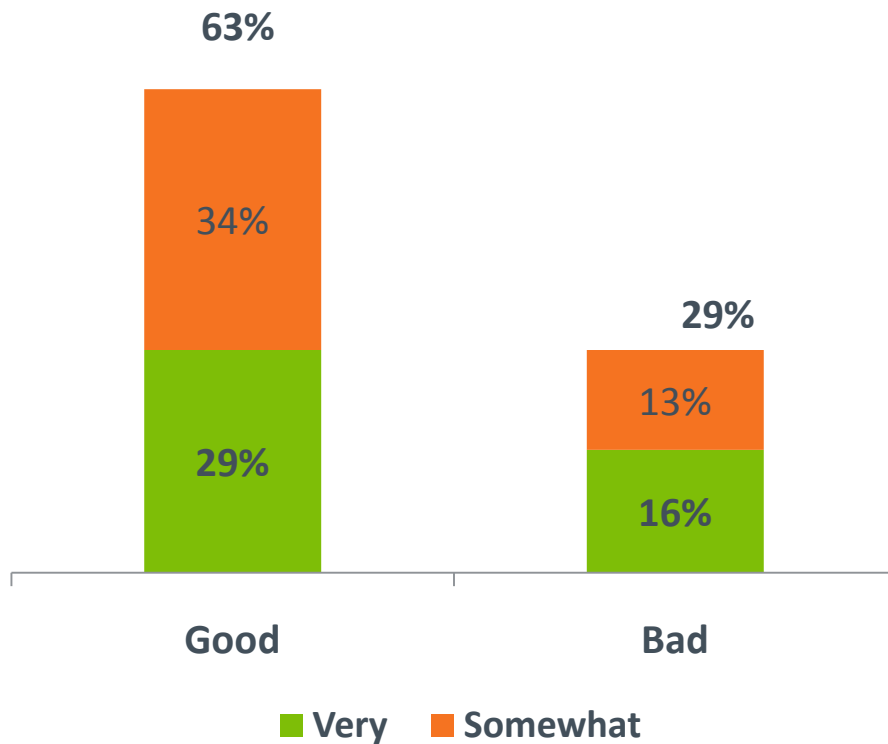
Now, I will read some situations from our daily lives that concern some, but not others. Regardless of what others think, for each one of them, can you state whether it concerns you or not?



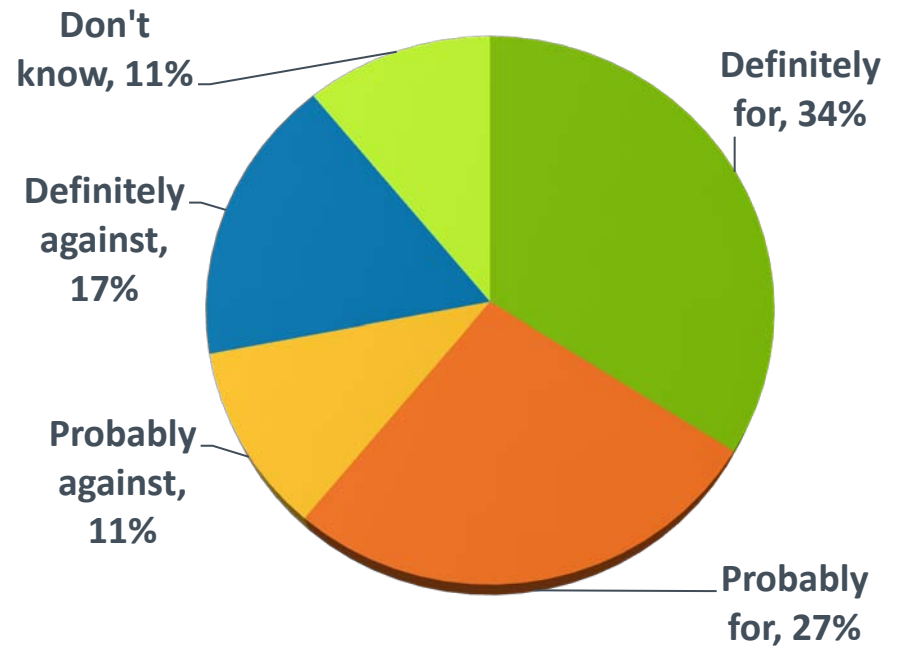


International Relationships

Generally speaking, do you think that the Turkey's membership in the European Union is a good thing or a bad thing?

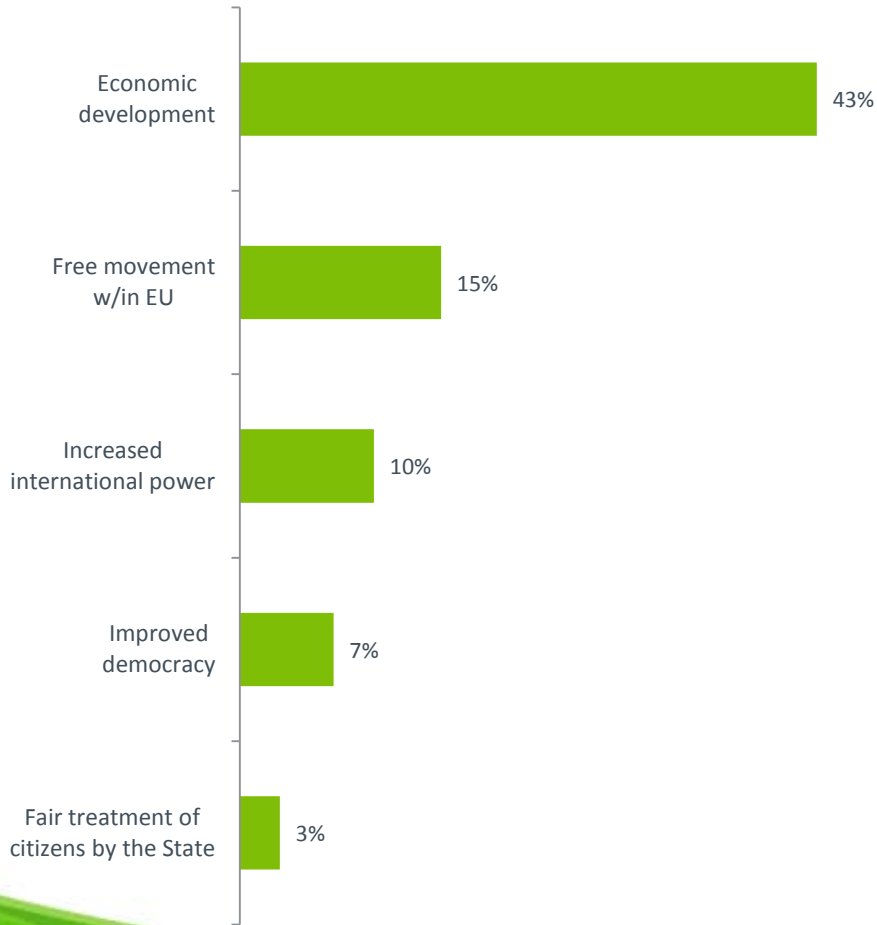


If a referendum were held this Sunday for Turkey's full membership in the European Union, would you vote for or against full membership?



Total for EU membership:	51%
Total against EU membership:	28%

Generally speaking, what are the most important advantages of Turkey's membership in the European Union?



What are the most important disadvantages of European Union membership?

