



Public Opinion in Slovakia

March 8-12, 2017



Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the Center for Insights in Survey Research by Ipsos Slovakia.
- Data was collected between March 8 and March 21, 2017 through face-to-face interviews.
- The total number of interviews was 1,024.
- Sample size: Total population (n=1,024).
- Margin of error: Plus or minus 3.23 percent with a 95 percent confidence level.
- The sample is comprised of Slovak residents aged 18 to 65 years.
- Regions surveyed in the sample: Bratislava; Western Slovakia; Central Slovakia; and Eastern Slovakia. The sample includes both urban and rural inhabitants. Areas of the population excluded from the sample: none.
- The sample design consisted of a two-stage, random sample.
 - Stage One: Primary sampling unit-settlements
 - Stage Two: Secondary sampling unit-respondent (selected individuals using quotas by gender and age)
- Figures in charts and tables may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding error and/or multiple choice answers.

Glossary of Slovak Political Parties

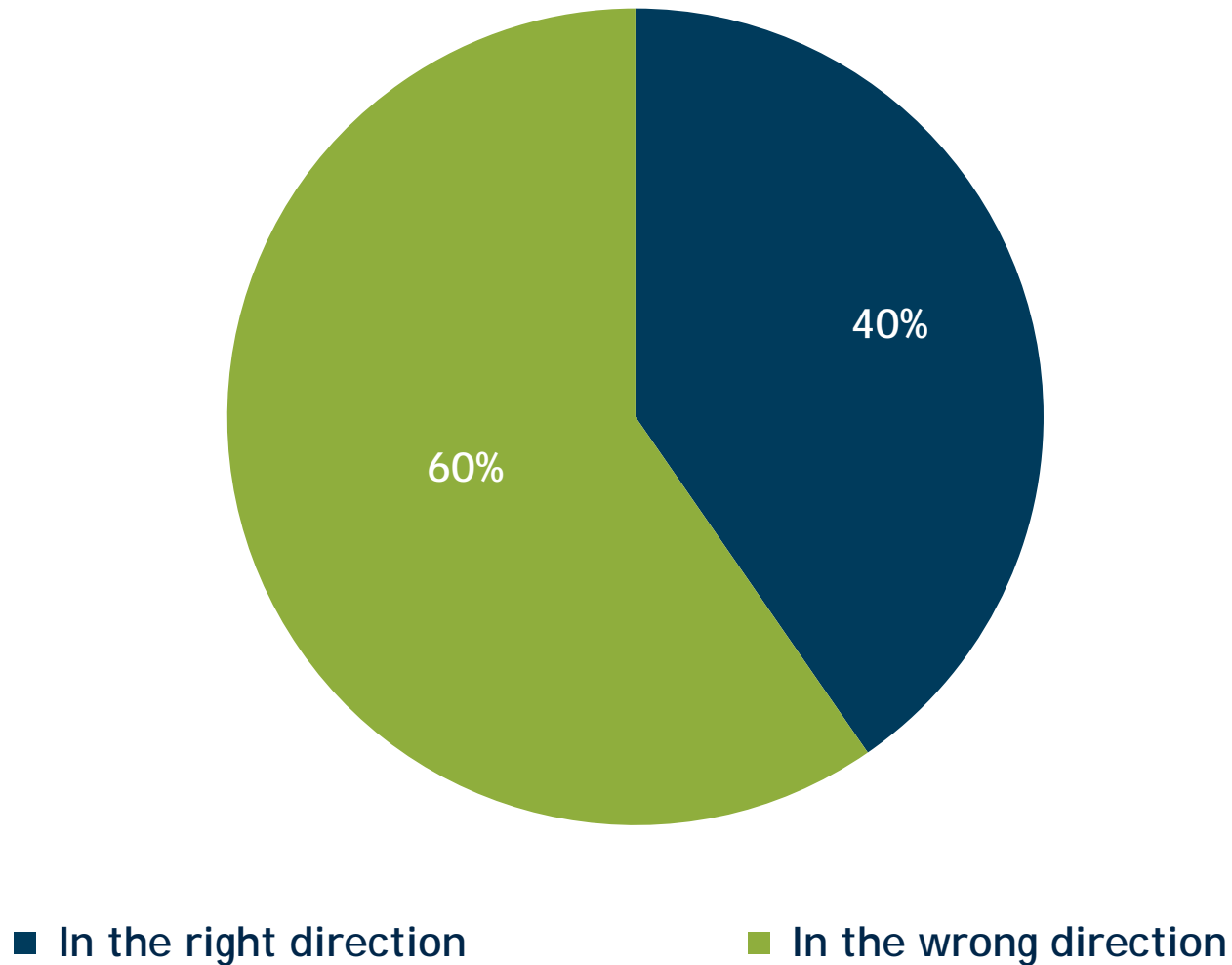
- SMER-SD: Direction (Social Democracy)
- SAS: Freedom and Solidarity
- OLaNO-NOVA: Ordinary People and Independent Personalities, New Majority
- SME RODINA: We Are Family
- LS NAŠE SLOVENSKO: People's Party-Our Slovakia
- SNS: Slovak National Party
- MOST-HÍD: Inter-ethnic political party between Hungarian minority and ethnic Slovaks
- KDH: Christian Democratic Movement
- SMK-MKP: Party of the Hungarian Community
- KSS: Communist Party of Slovakia
- SIEŤ: Network
- SDKÚ-DS: Slovak Democrat and Christian Union—Democratic Party
- TIP: TIP Party



Opinions of the National and Regional Context

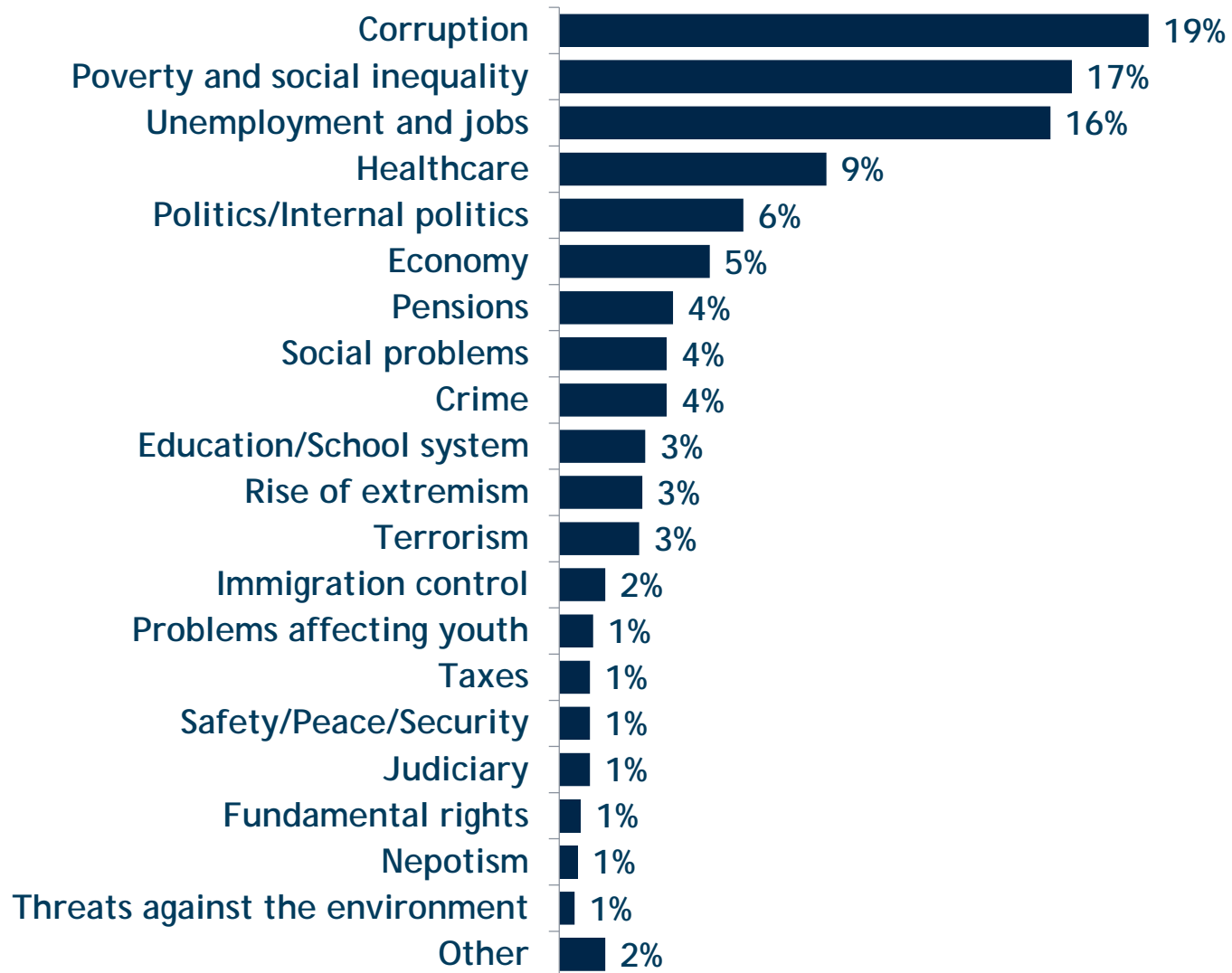


Generally speaking, would you say that Slovakia is heading...



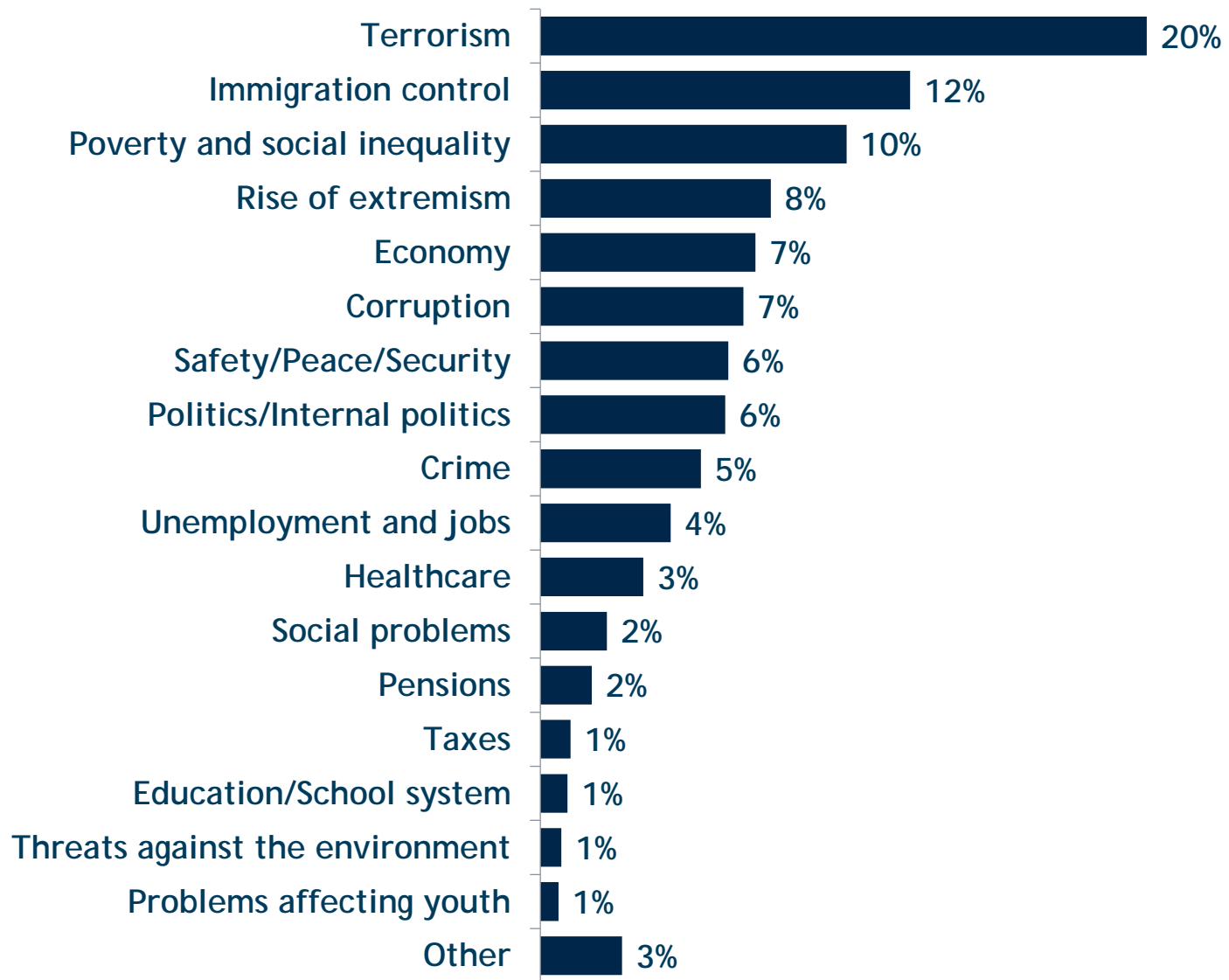
What would you say is the single biggest problem facing Slovakia today; that is, the one that you are most concerned about?

(Spontaneous answers)

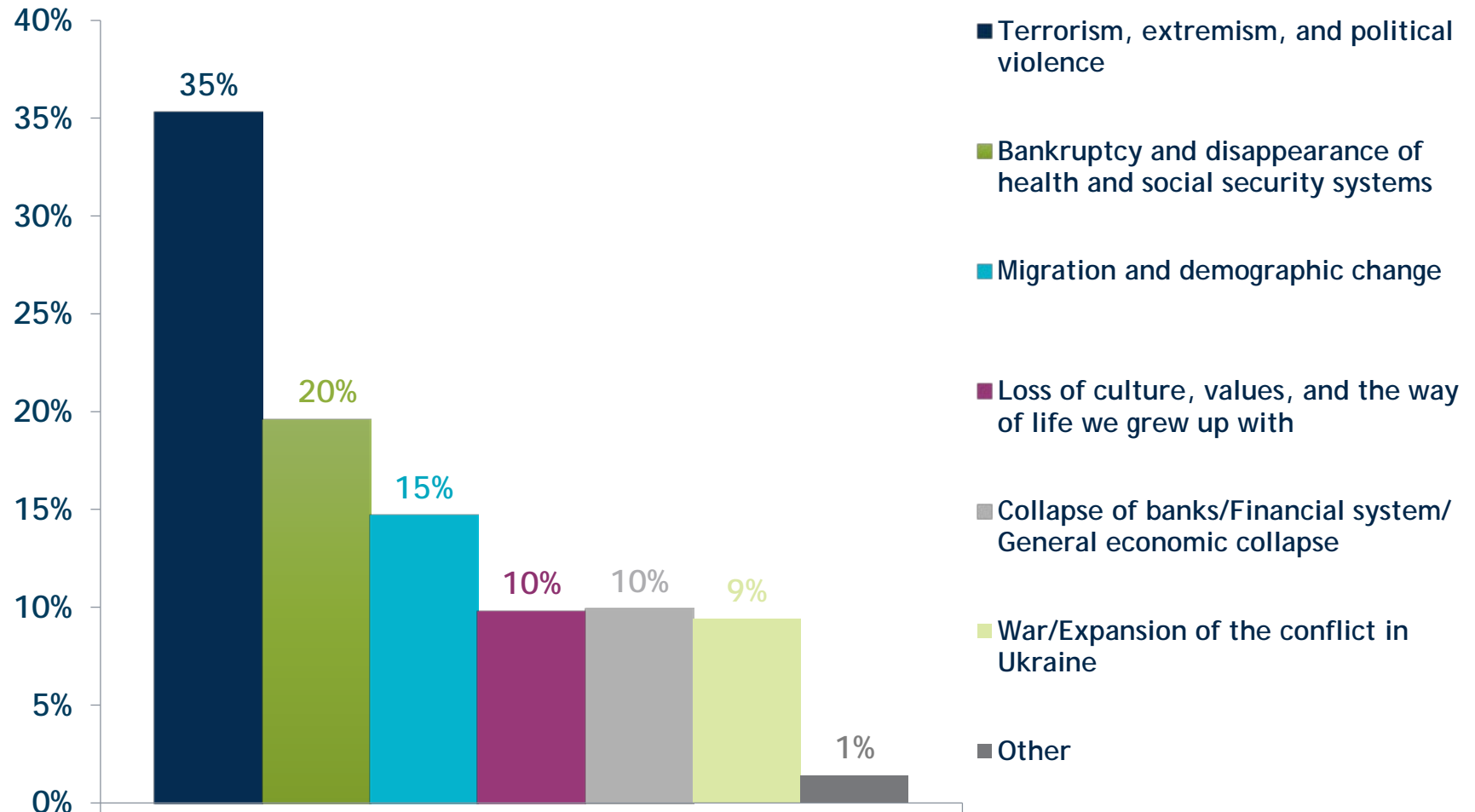


What is the single biggest problem facing Europe today; that is, the one that you are most concerned about?

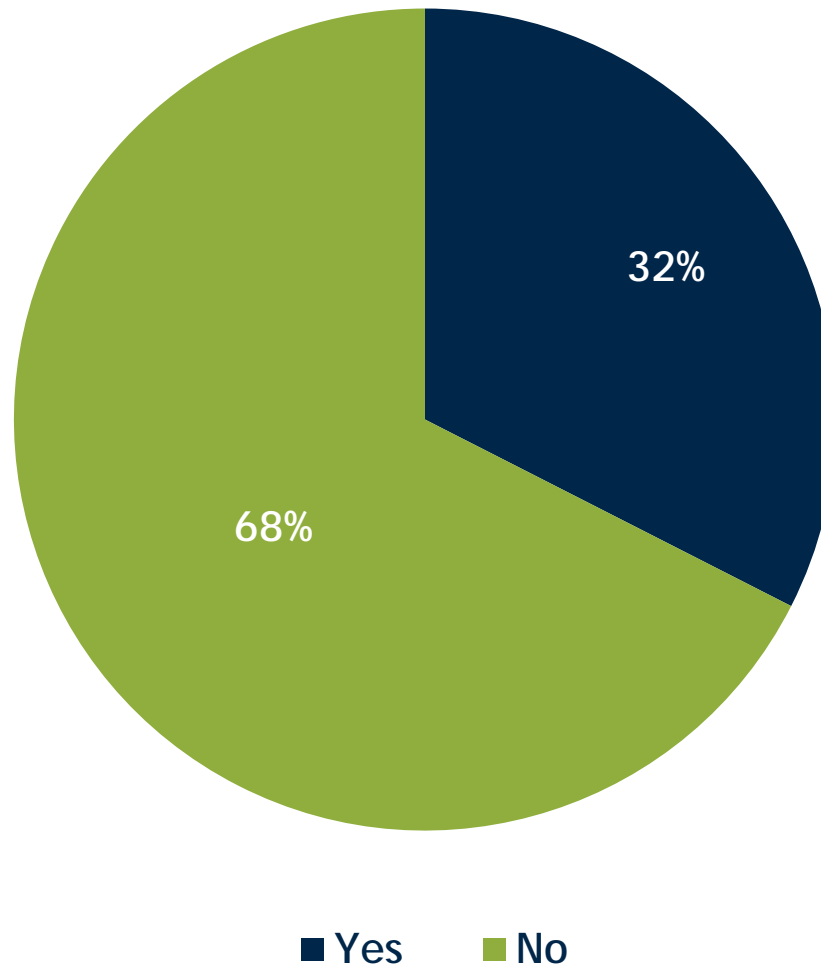
(Spontaneous answers)



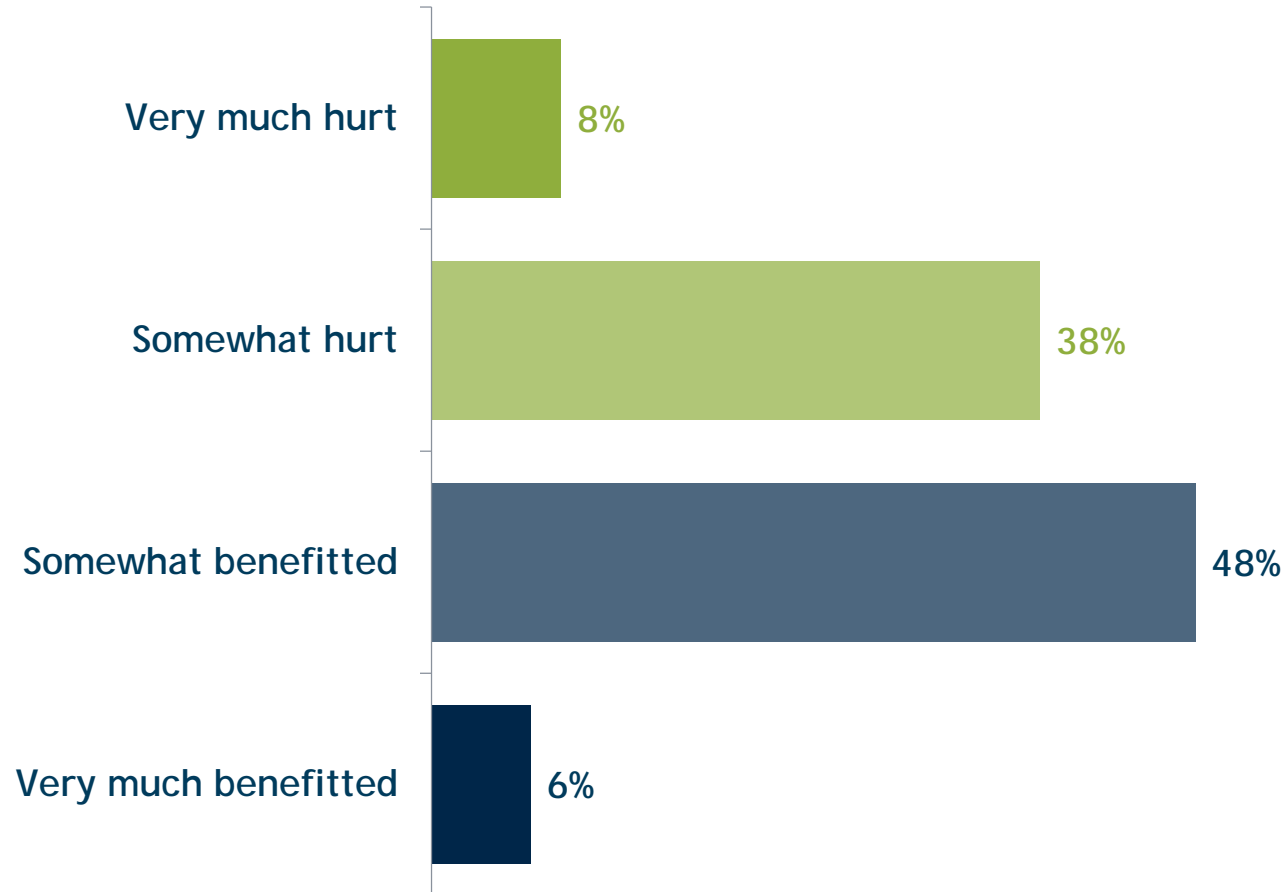
What has the greatest likelihood of threatening our way of life and our children's future?



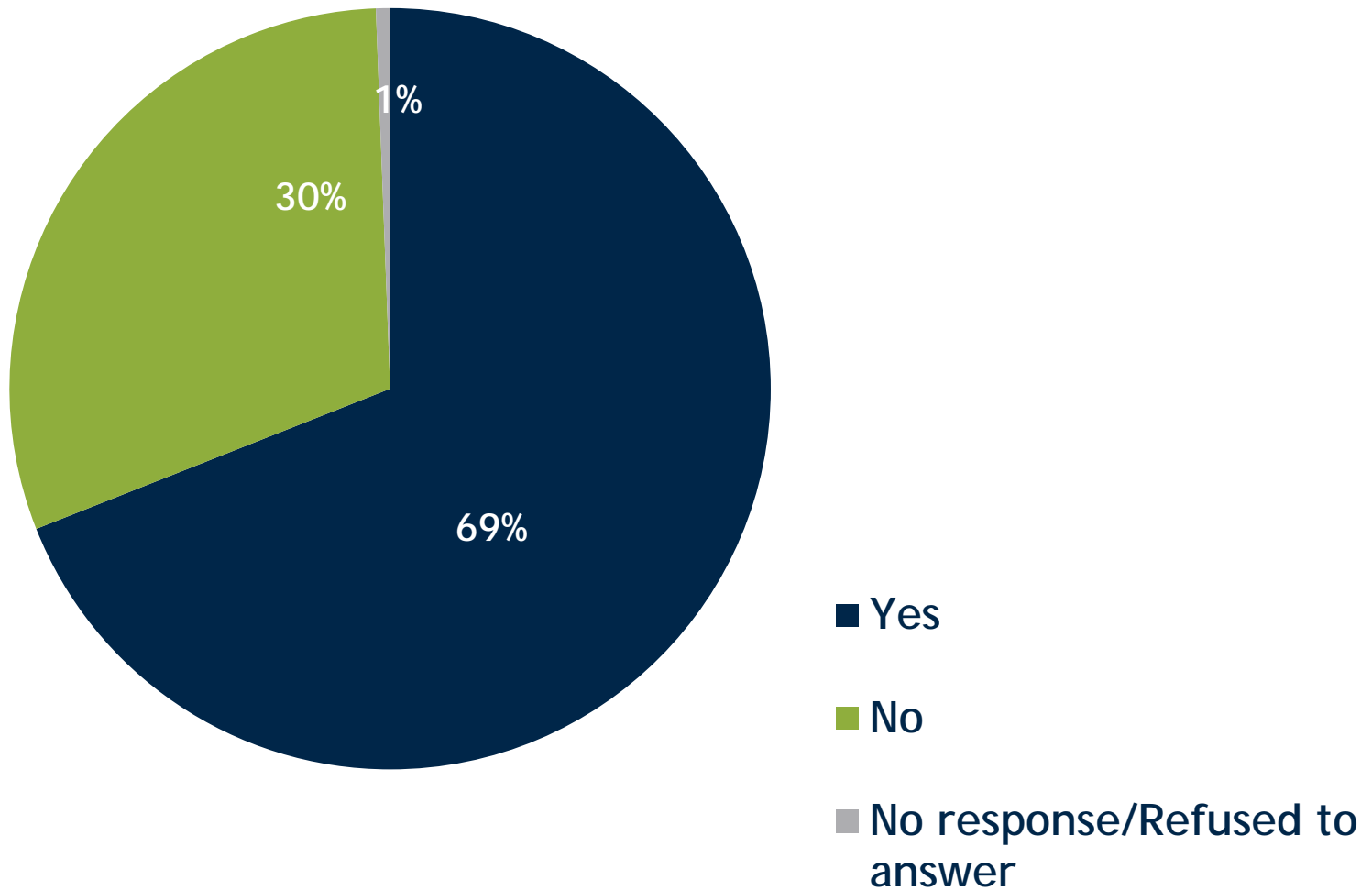
Do you think that today's generation of young people has a good future in Slovakia?



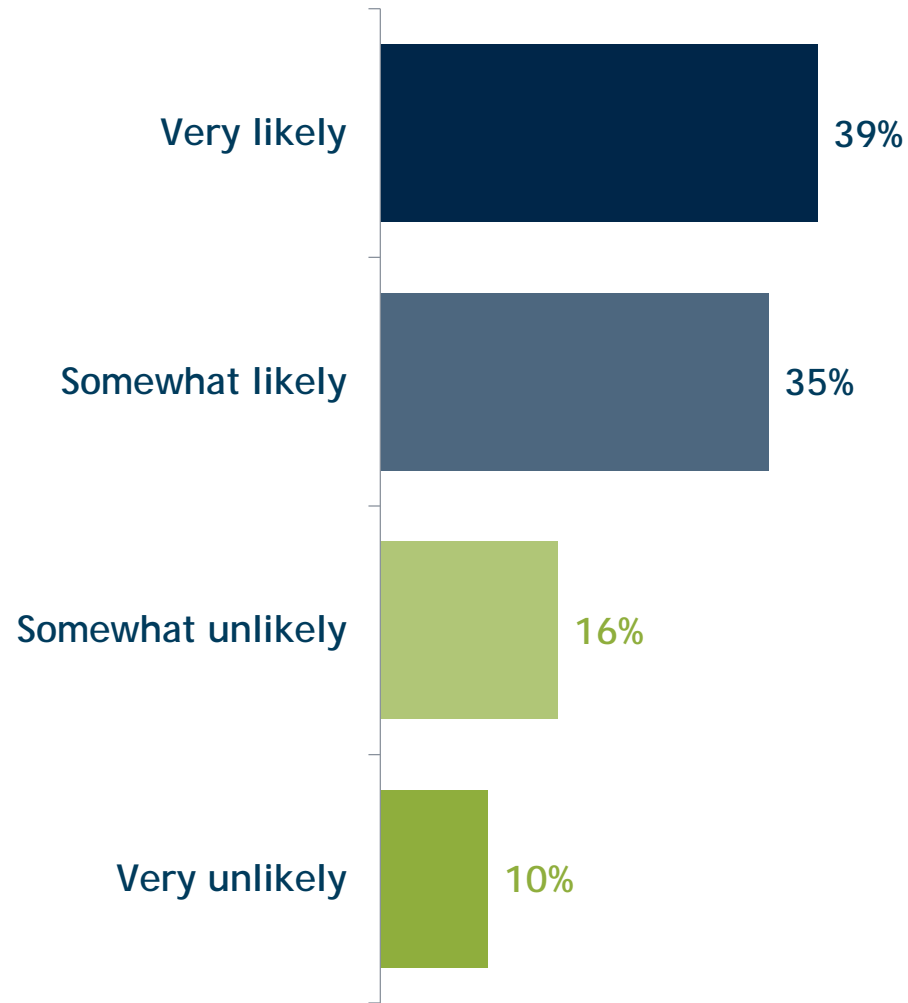
Do you think that the process of globalization has benefitted or hurt your family?



Did you vote in the Slovakian parliamentary elections?

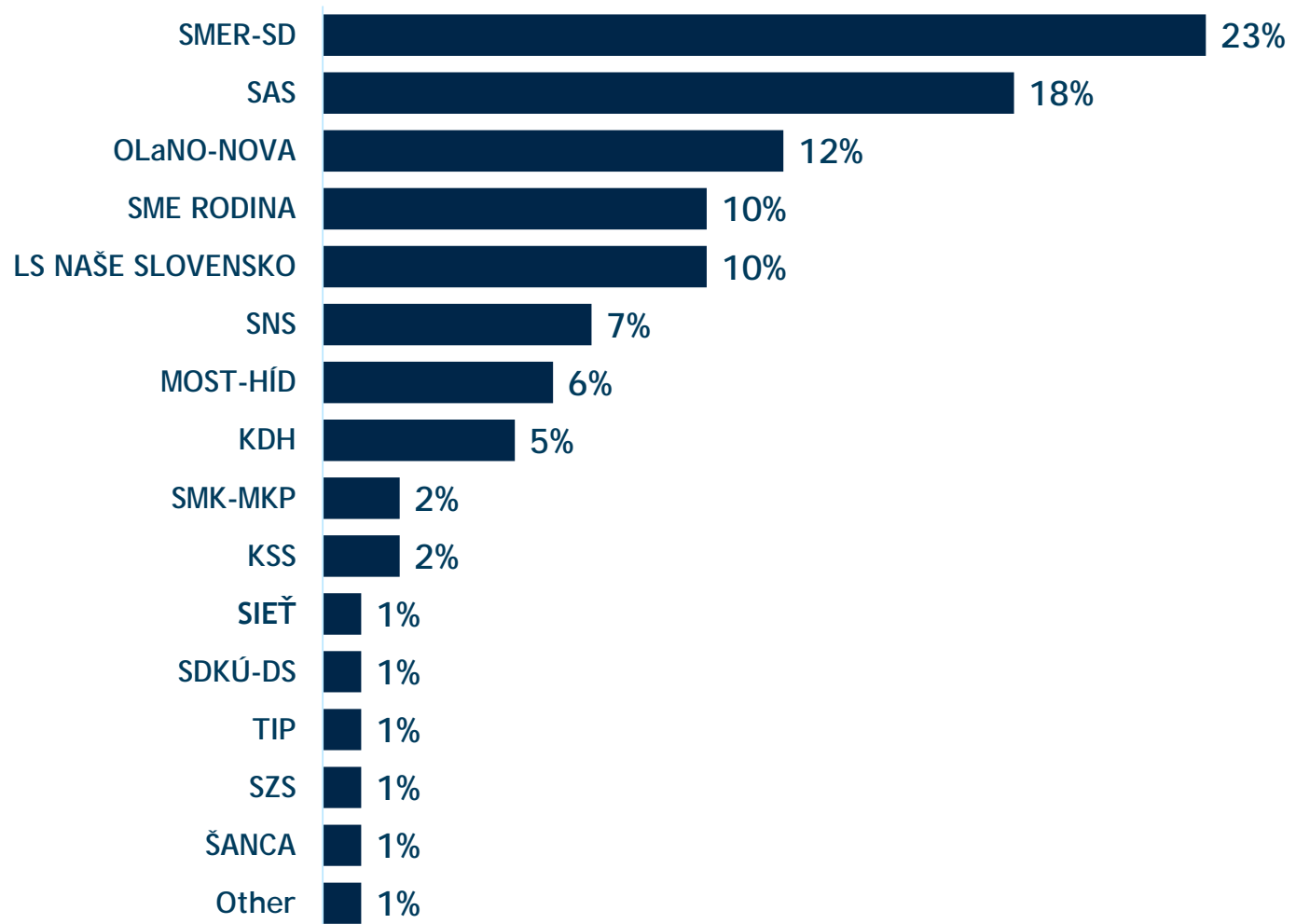


How likely, if at all, are you to vote in the next elections?



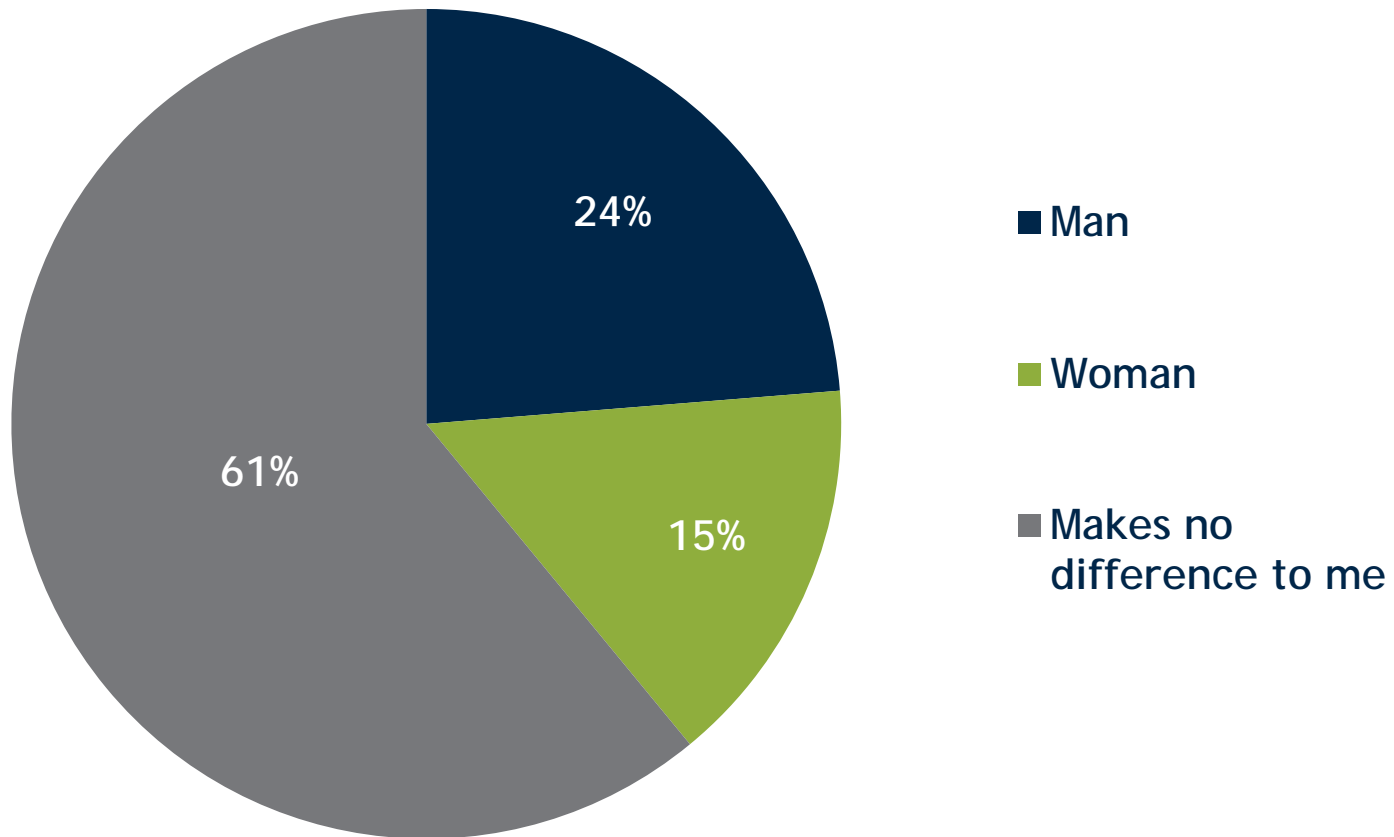
If elections were held this coming Sunday, for which party would you vote?

(Decided voters: n=787)



*See glossary of political parties on Slide 3.

If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?



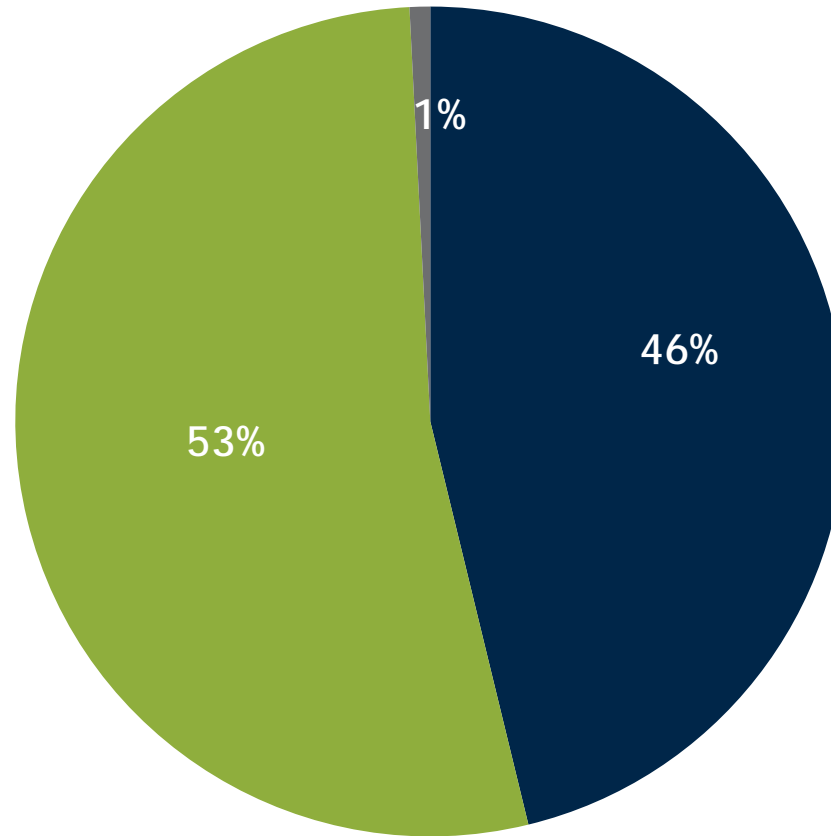


Trust in the Political System



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What is needed most in Slovakia right now?



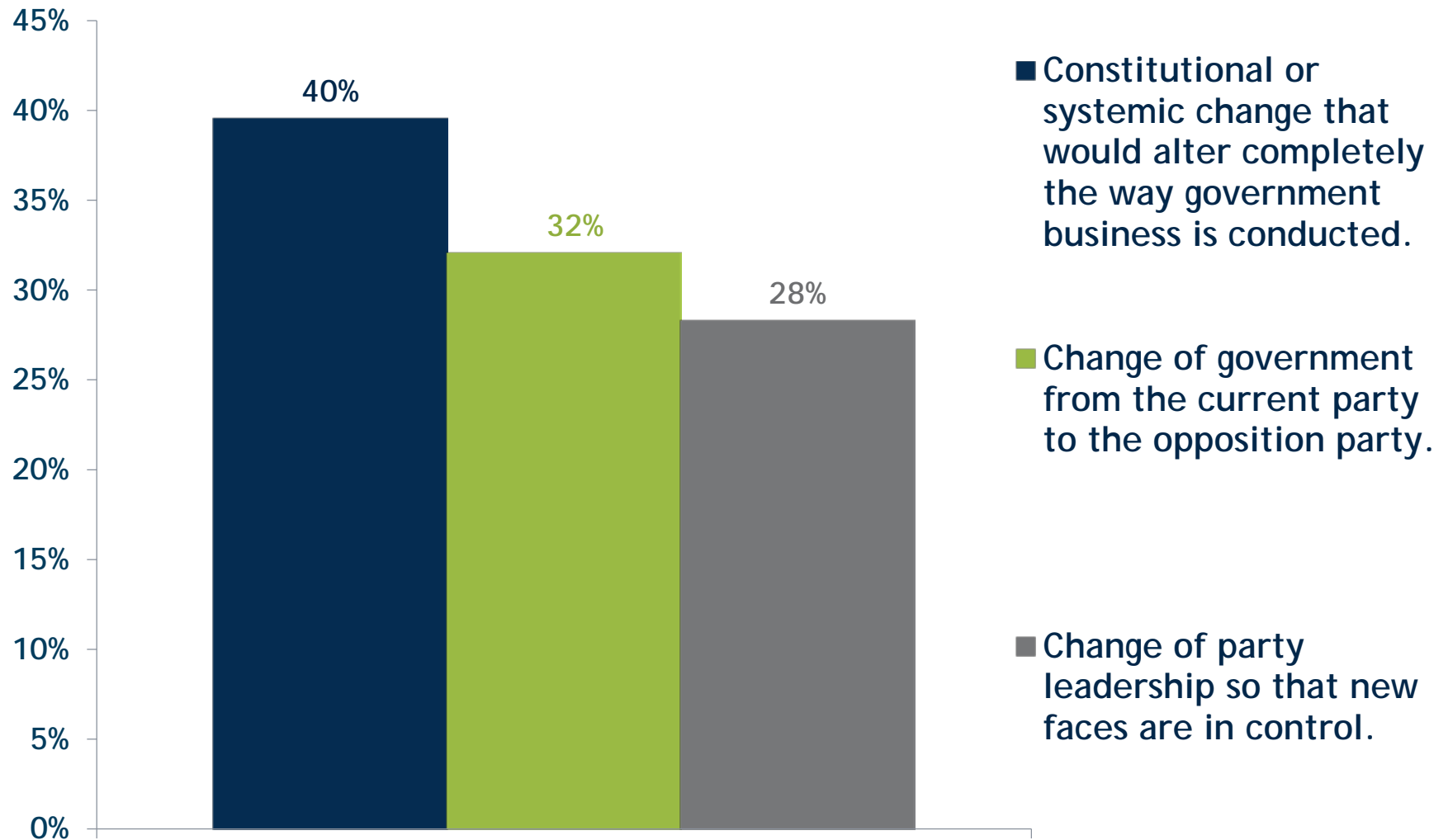
■ Stability and continuity

■ Change

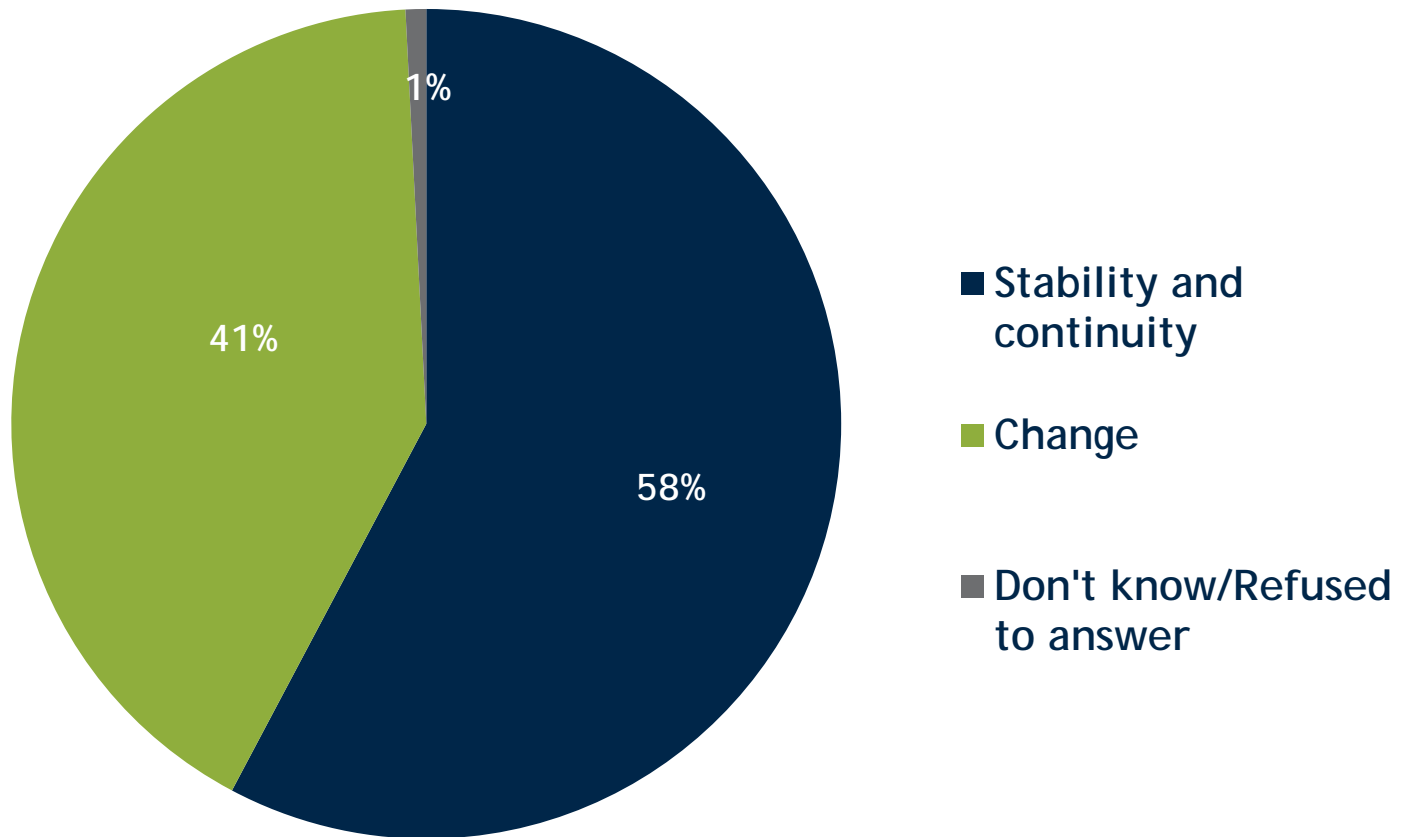
■ Don't know/Refused to answer

What should such a change look like?

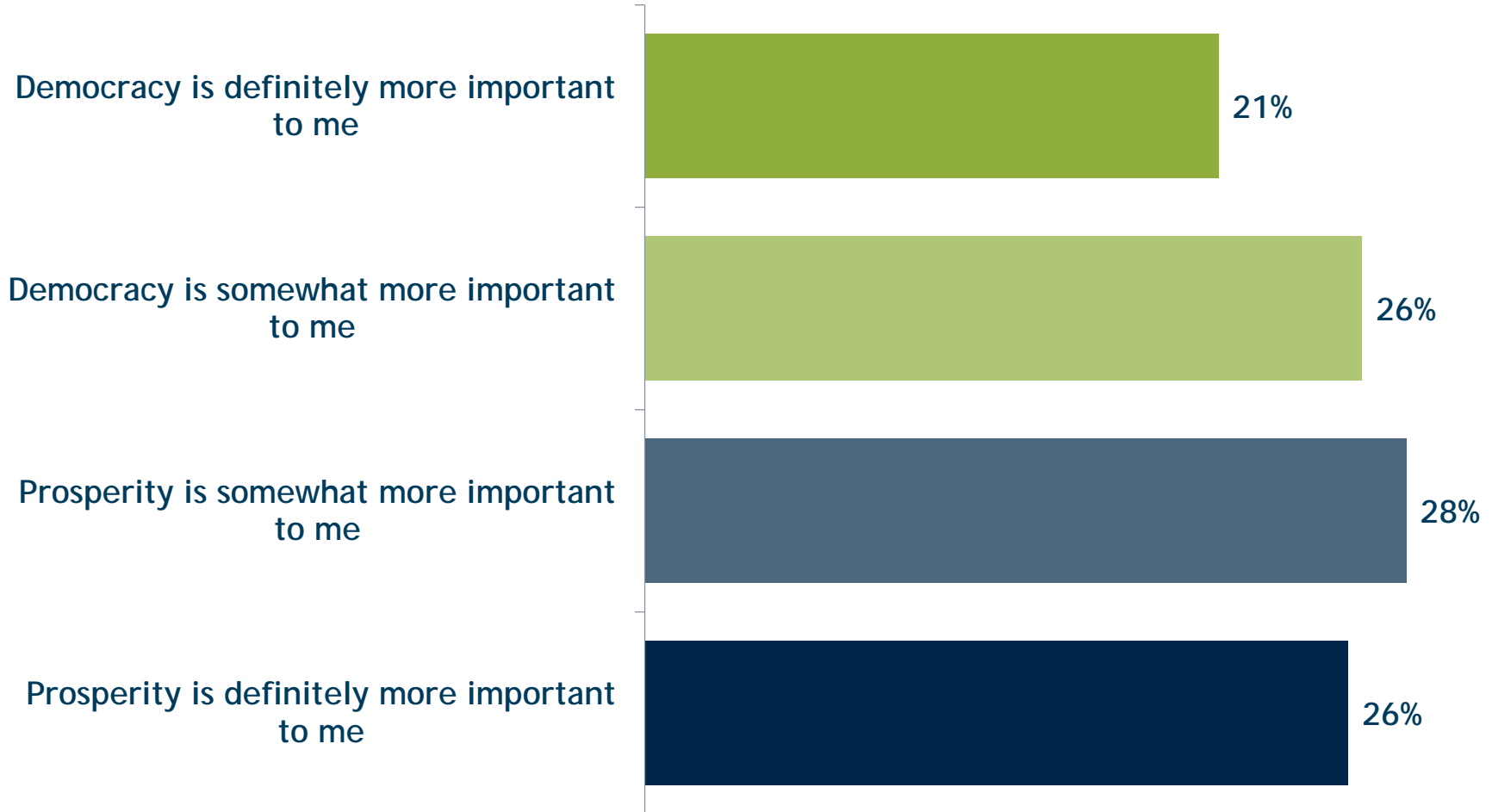
(Respondents who said that change is needed: n=543)



What is needed most at the European level?

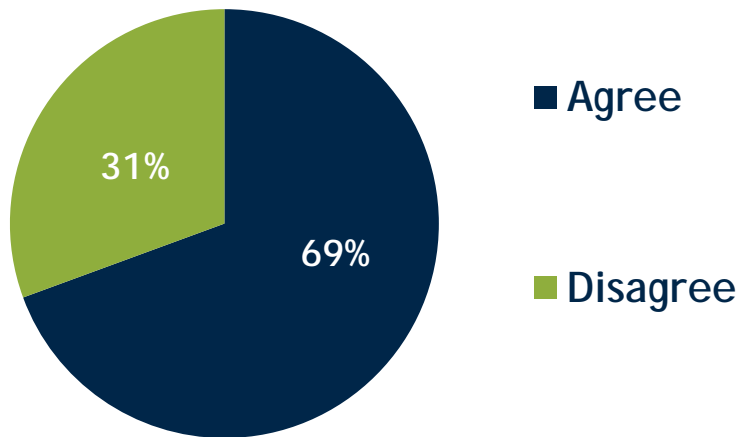


If you could have only one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?

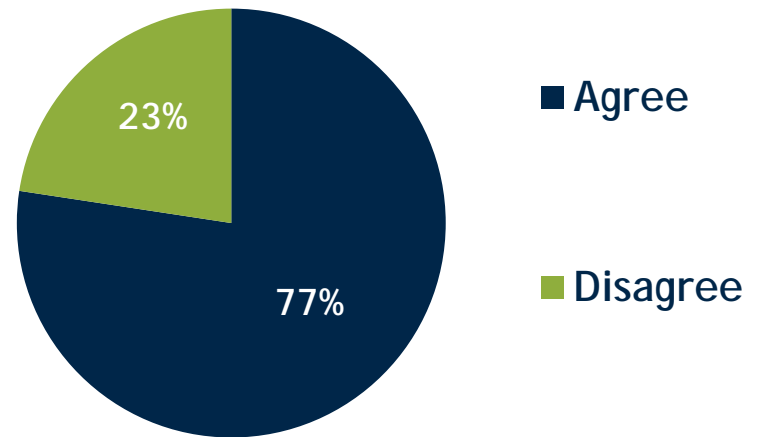


Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

"Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of women."



"Politicians do not listen to the needs and ideas of young people."





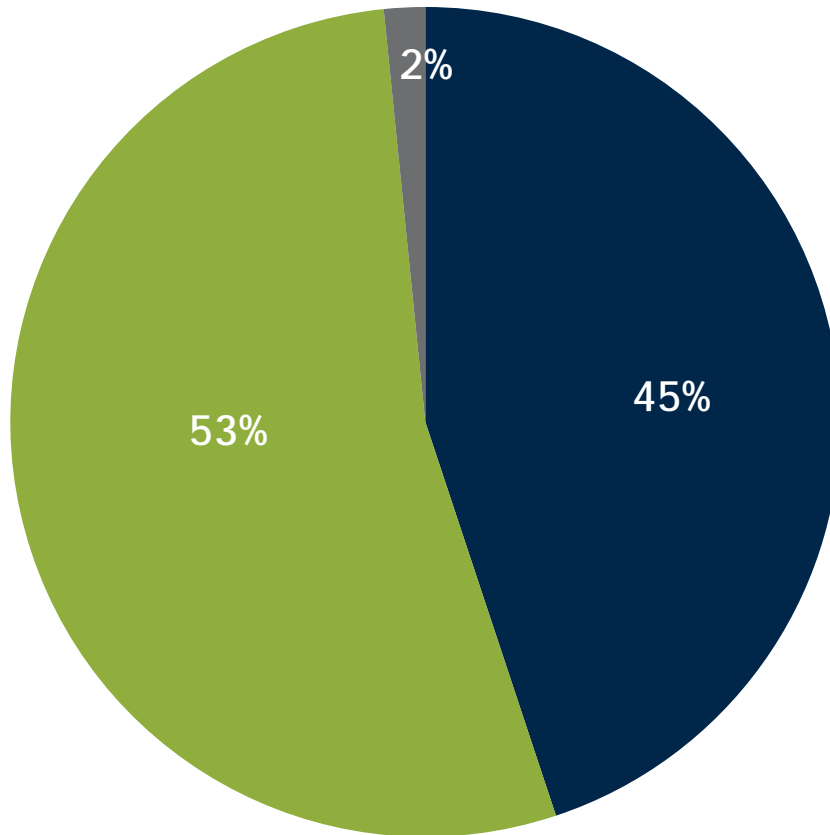
Issues of Identity



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Opinions of the European Union

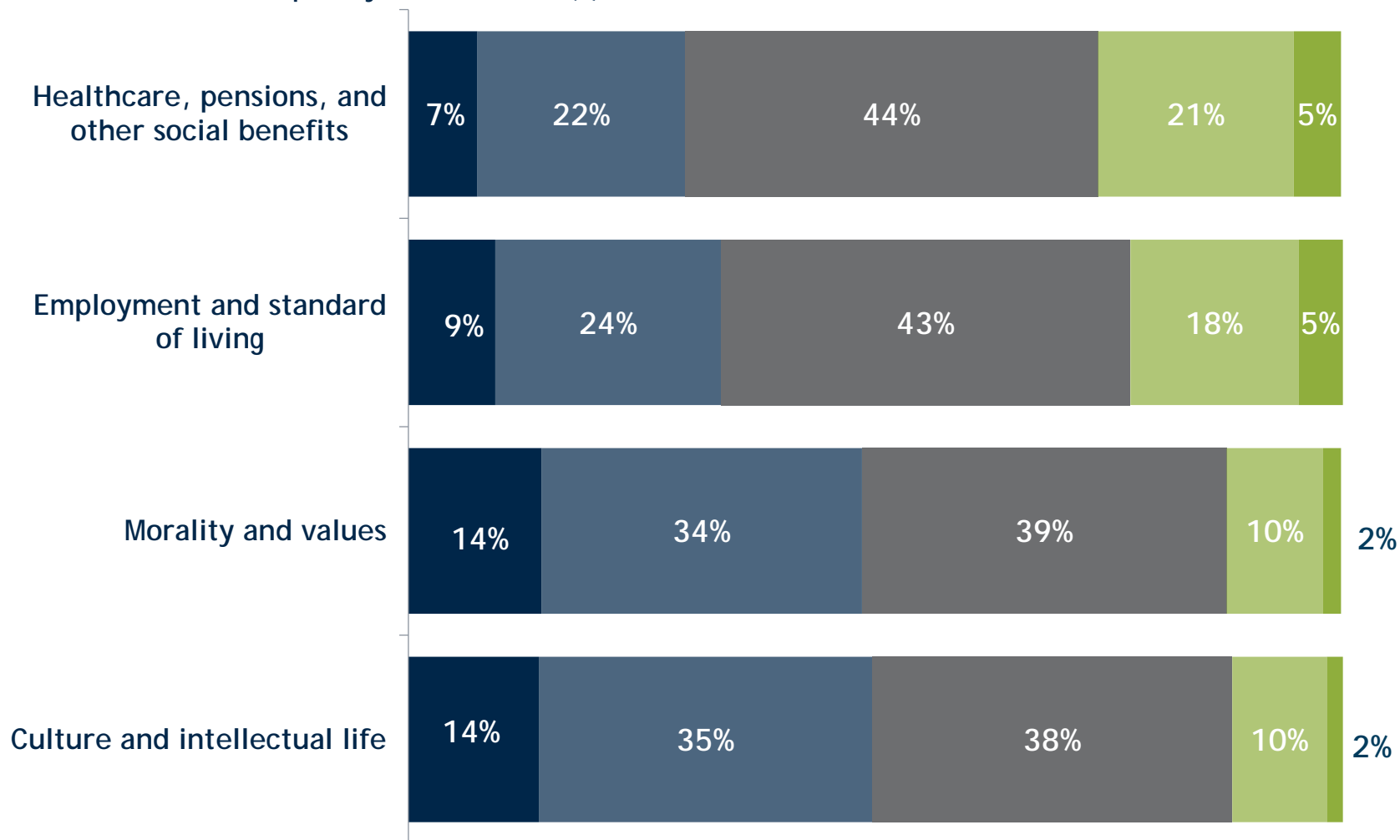
Which statement is closest to your opinion?



- The EU is a political community, granting certain rights and benefits to all citizens, and requiring loyalty and sacrifice in return.
- The EU is an association of sovereign states, with little connection to individual citizens; citizens owe loyalty and sacrifice to their states, not to the EU.
- Don't know

On a scale from 1 to 5, does Slovakia have more in common with Western Europe or with Russia in the following areas?
(1=completely akin to Western Europe; 5=completely akin to Russia)

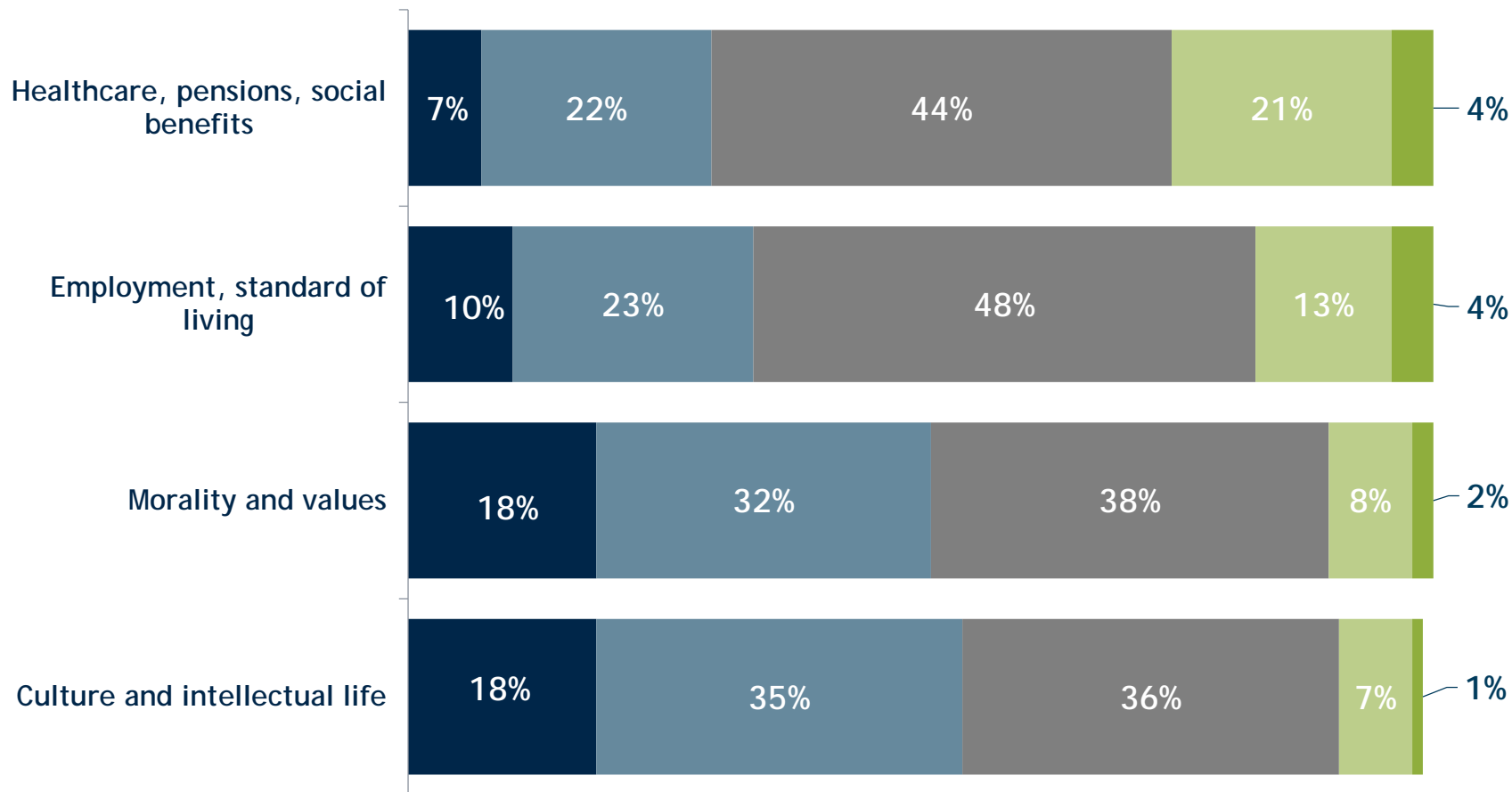
- Completely akin to Western Europe (1)
- Somewhat akin to Western Europe (2)
- Somewhere in between (3)
- Somewhat akin to Russia (4)
- Completely akin to Russia (5)



On a scale from 1 to 5, does Slovakia have more in common with Western Europe, or with Russia, in the following areas? (1=completely akin to Western Europe; 5=completely akin to Russia)

Age: 18-29

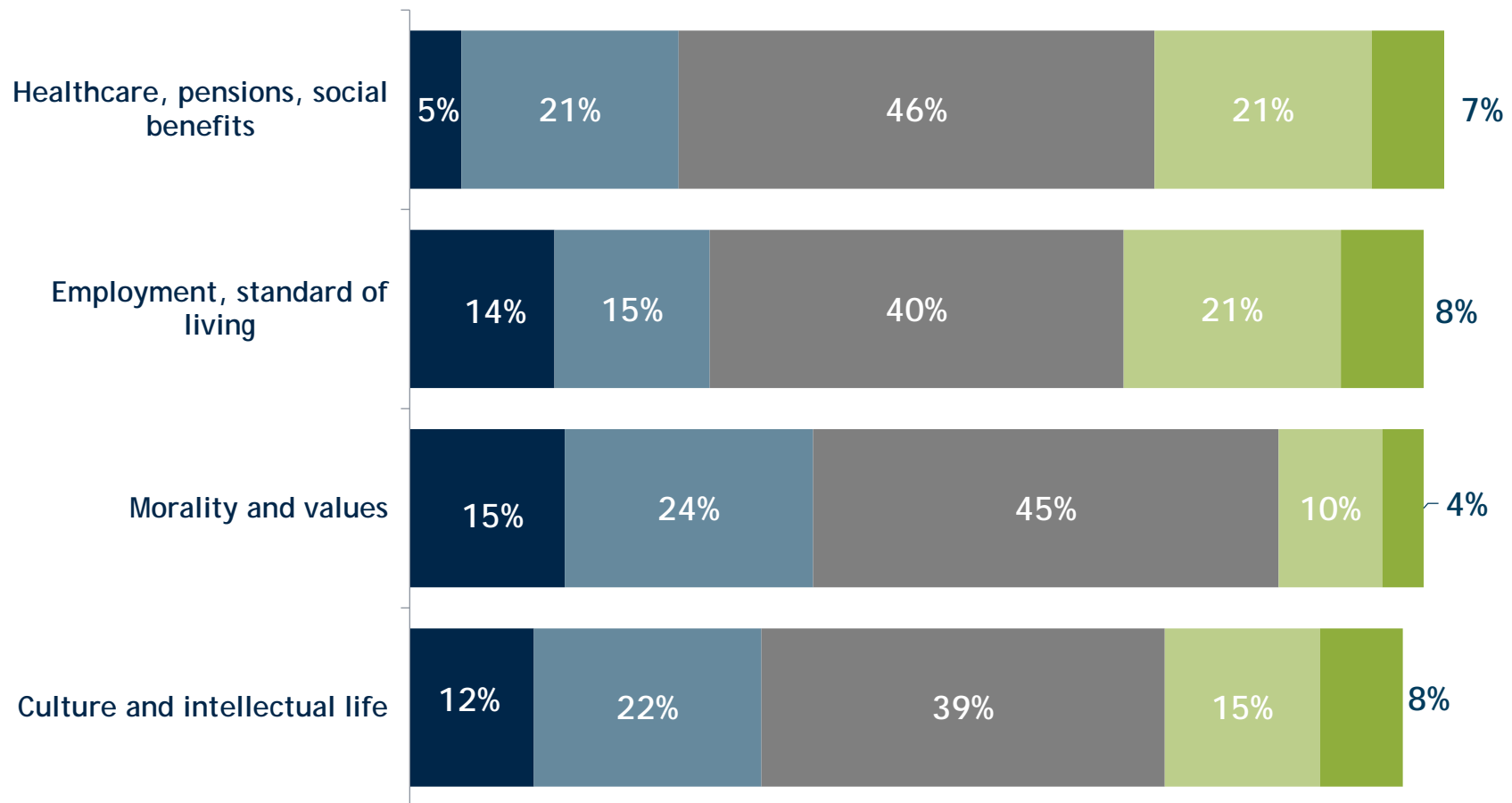
■ Completely akin to Western Europe (1) ■ Somewhat akin to Western Europe (2) ■ Somewhere in between (3)
■ Somewhat akin to Russia (4) ■ Completely akin to Russia (5)



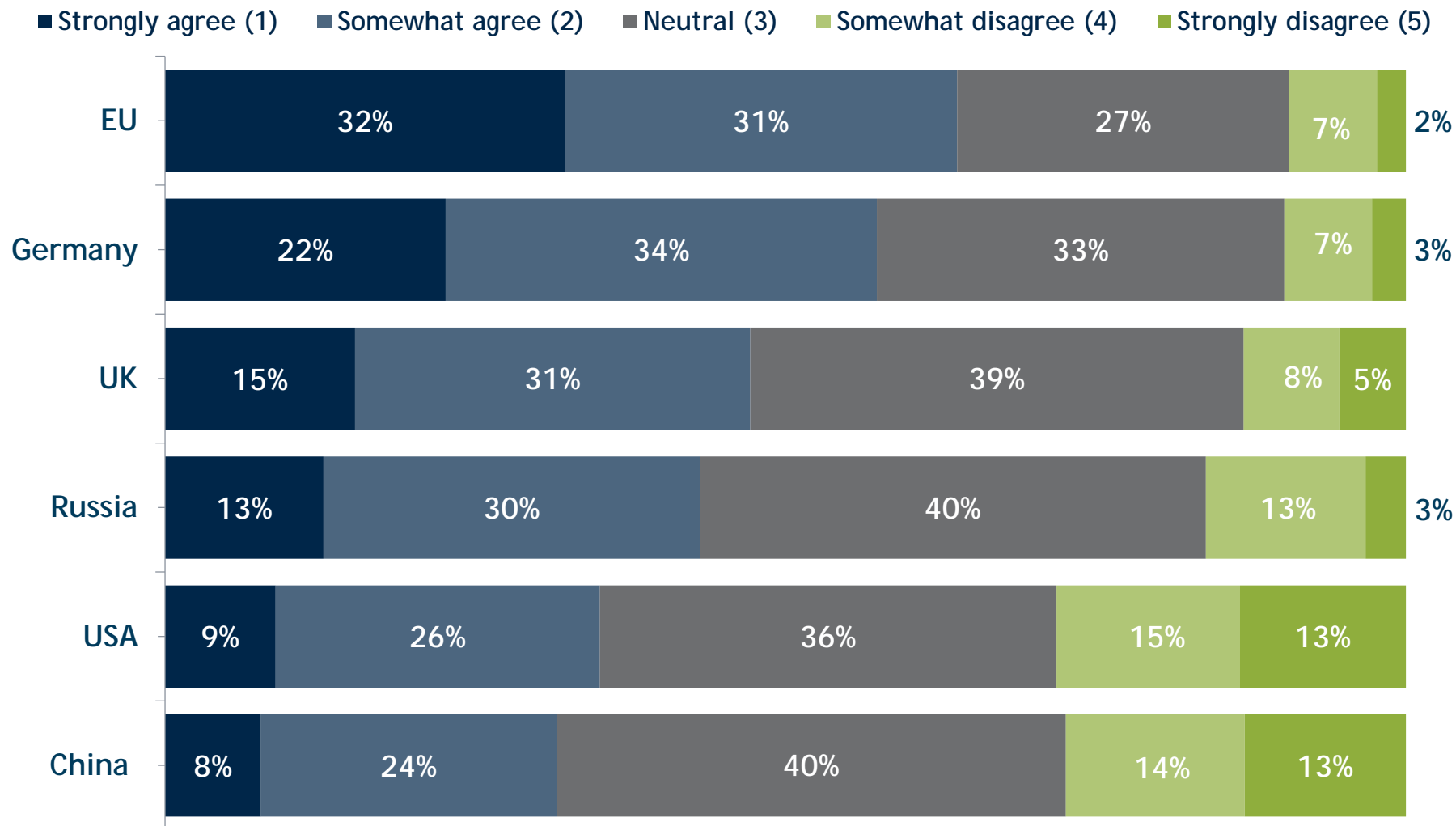
On a scale from 1 to 5, does Slovakia have more in common with Western Europe, or with Russia, in the following areas? (1=completely akin to Western Europe; 5=completely akin to Russia)

Age: 60+

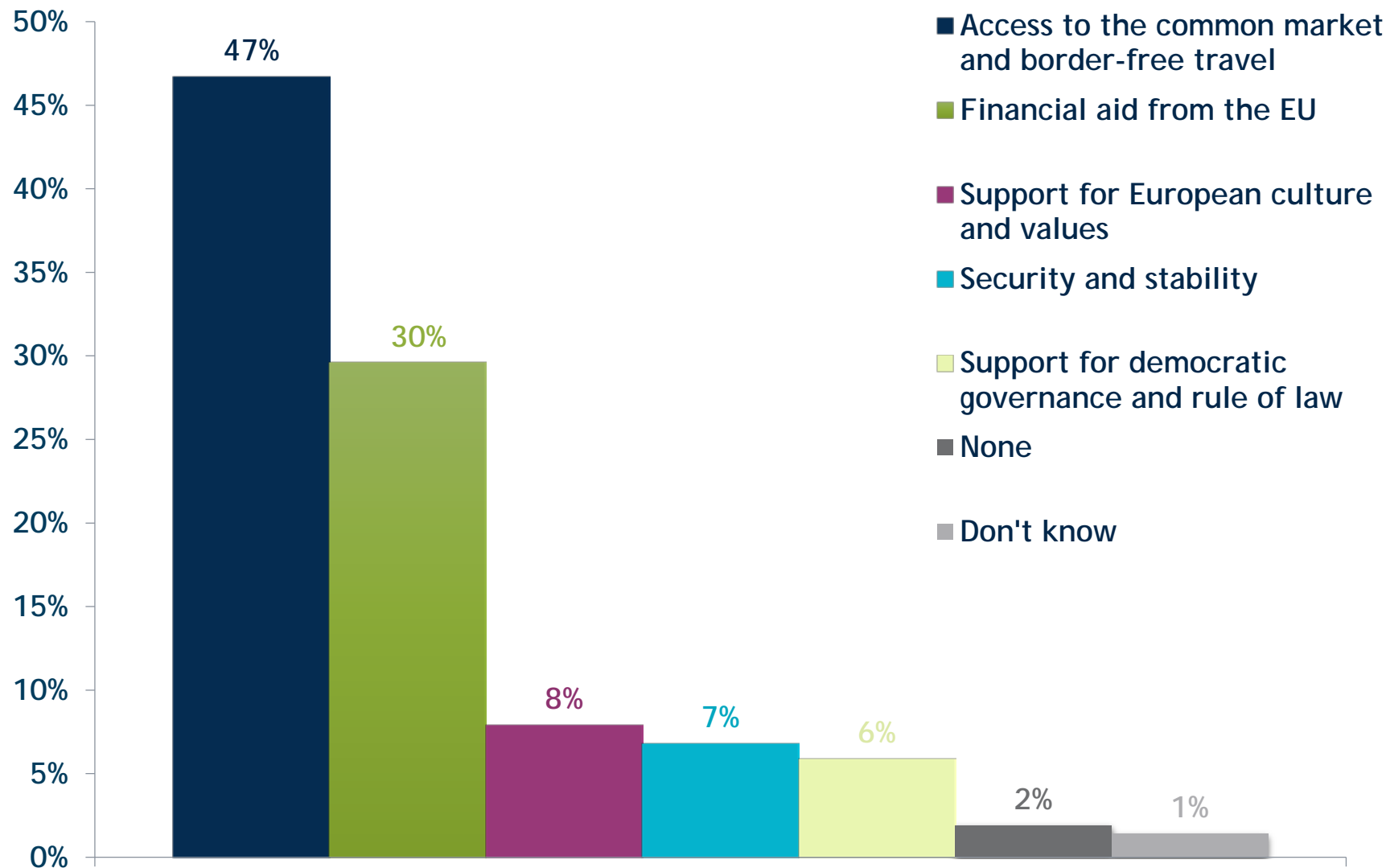
■ Completely akin to Western Europe (1) ■ Somewhat akin to Western Europe (2) ■ Somewhere in between (3) ■ Somewhat akin to Russia (4) ■ Completely akin to Russia (5)



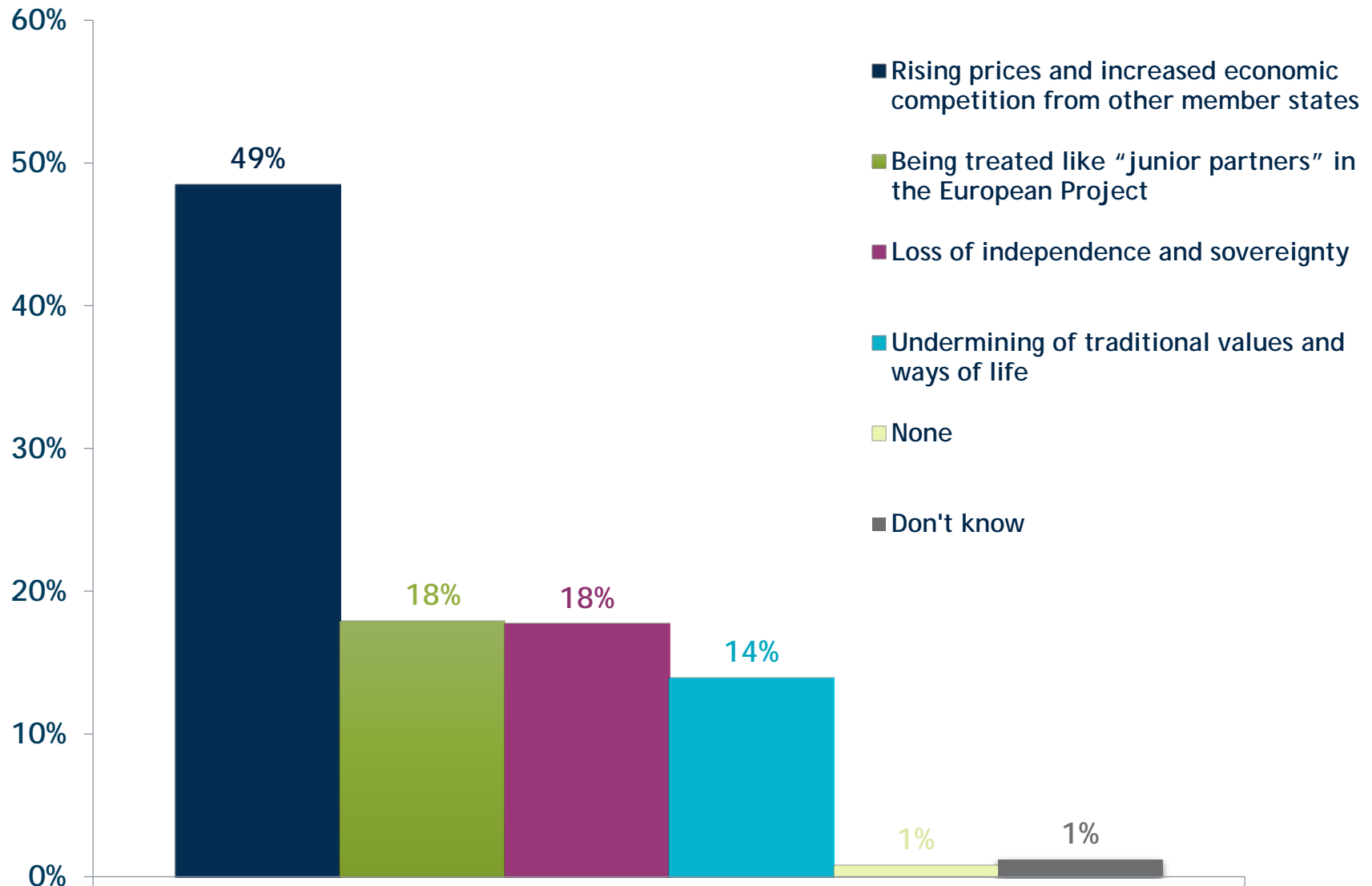
On a scale of 1 to 5, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
"Slovakian interests are best served by maintaining strong relations with..."



In your opinion, what is the greatest benefit Slovakia receives from its membership in the European Union?

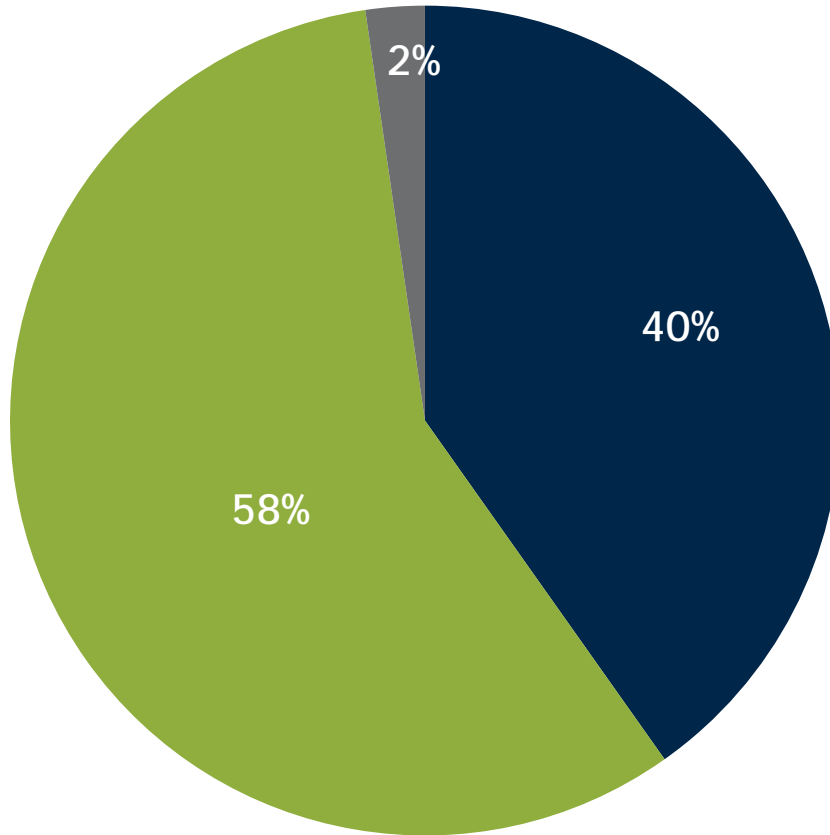


In your opinion, what is the greatest cost Slovakia incurs because of its membership in the European Union?



Opinions of the European Project

Which statement is closest to your opinion?



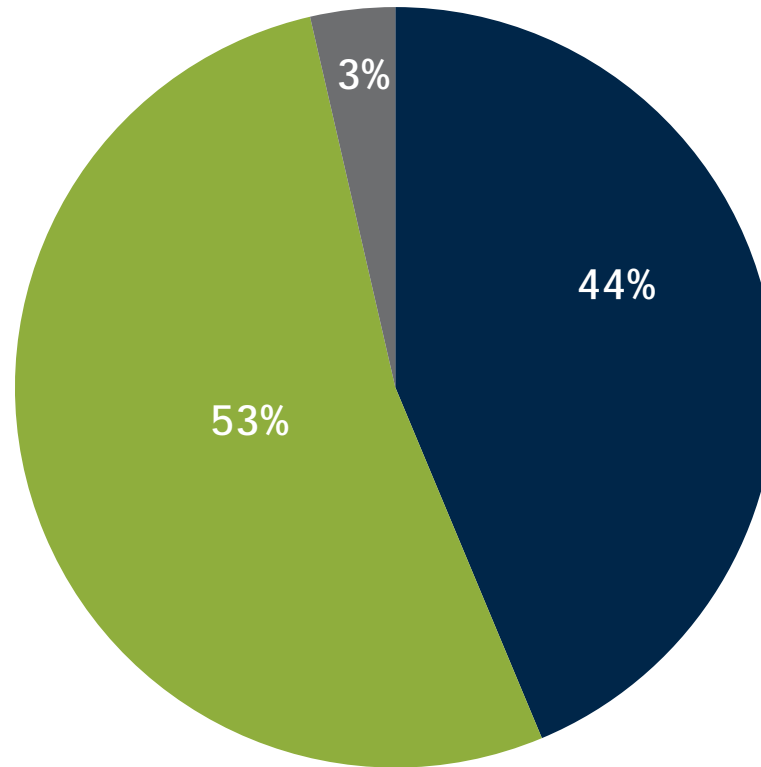
■ The European Project has been a success, ensuring peace, economic growth, and the reintegration of Eastern Europe; its important work must continue.

■ The European Project played a major role in creating modern Europe, but the world has changed; the Project needs to be rethought.

■ Don't know

Opinions of NATO

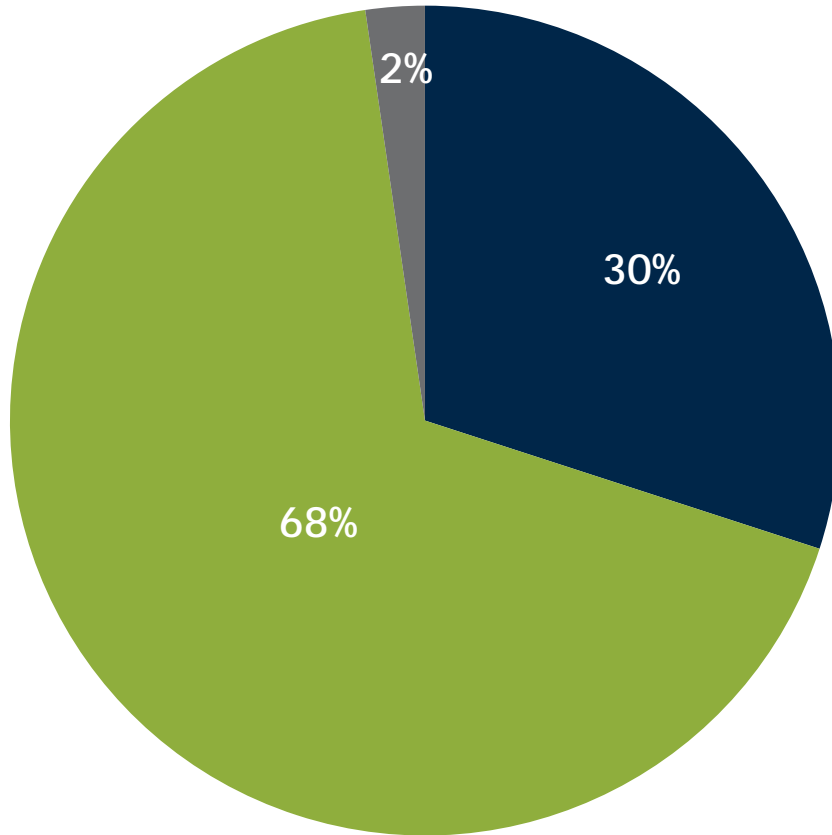
Which statement is closest to your opinion?



- NATO guaranteed peace in Europe for the last 70 years, and retains a vital role in the maintenance of peace and security on the Continent.
- Though NATO played a significant role in the security of Europe in the past, the world has changed since the end of the Cold War and NATO is no longer as important; our approach to security should be rethought.
- Don't know

Opinions of European peace and security

Which statement is closest to your opinion?



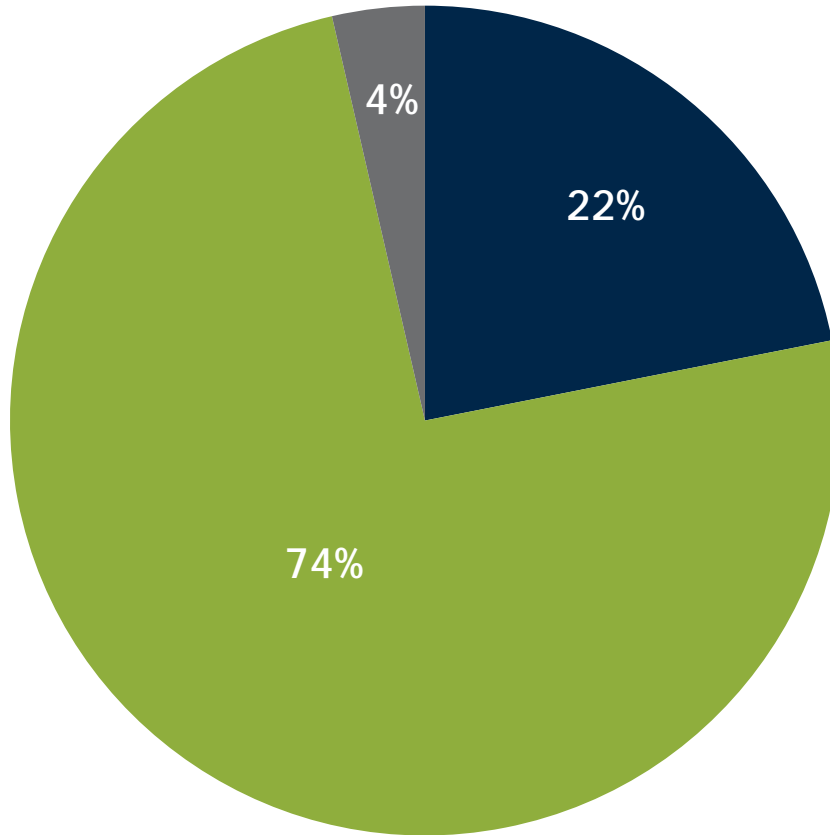
■ Europe is at peace, and there are no significant threats to peace on the horizon.

■ The peace of Europe is threatened on multiple fronts, from terrorism to a resurgent Russia to an influx of migrants.

■ Don't know

Opinions of Russia's role in Europe

Which statement is closest to your opinion?



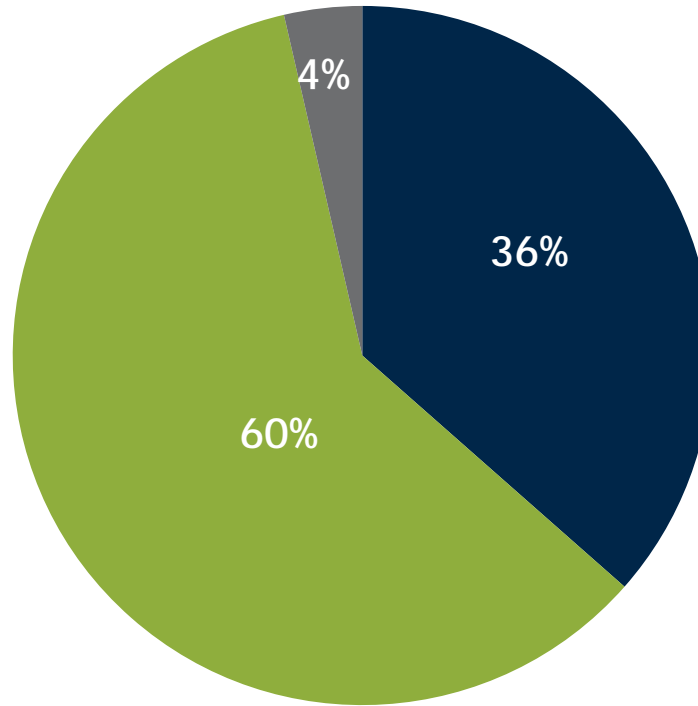
■ Russia is a continuous external threat to Europe, and must be countered by a strong security alliance.

■ Russia should be considered a partner in European security and brought into European security structures; keeping Russia out makes us less secure.

■ Don't know

Opinions of U.S. partnership in Europe

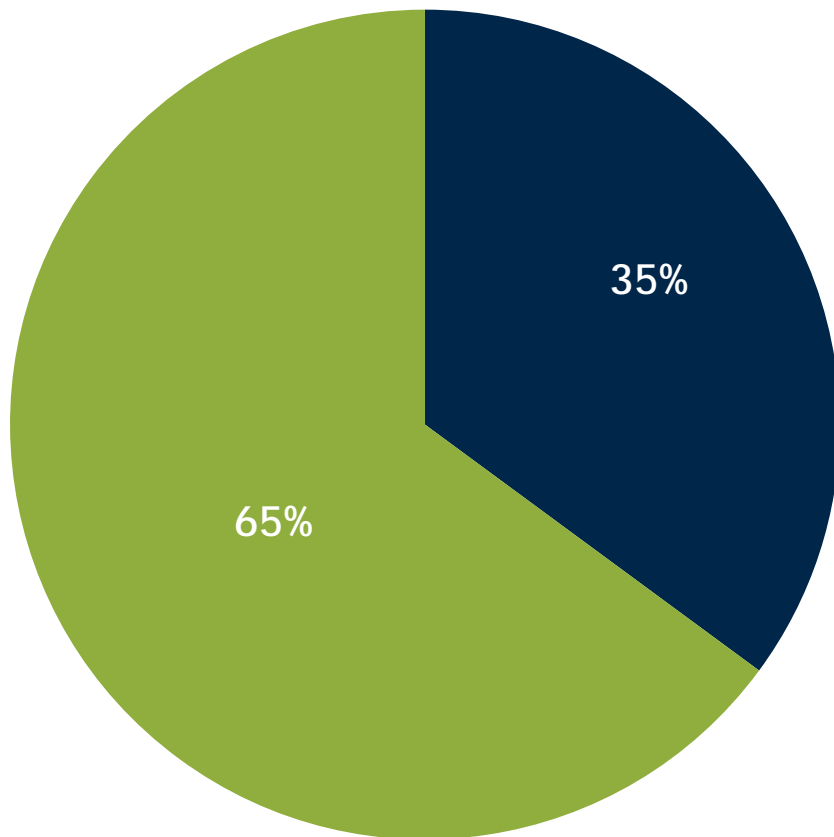
Which statement is closest to your opinion?



- The United States is a natural partner for European security, and its presence in NATO contributes to peace of Europe.
- The United States should not play a role in European security, and in fact its presence in Europe increases tensions and insecurity.
- Don't know

Opinions of investing in security

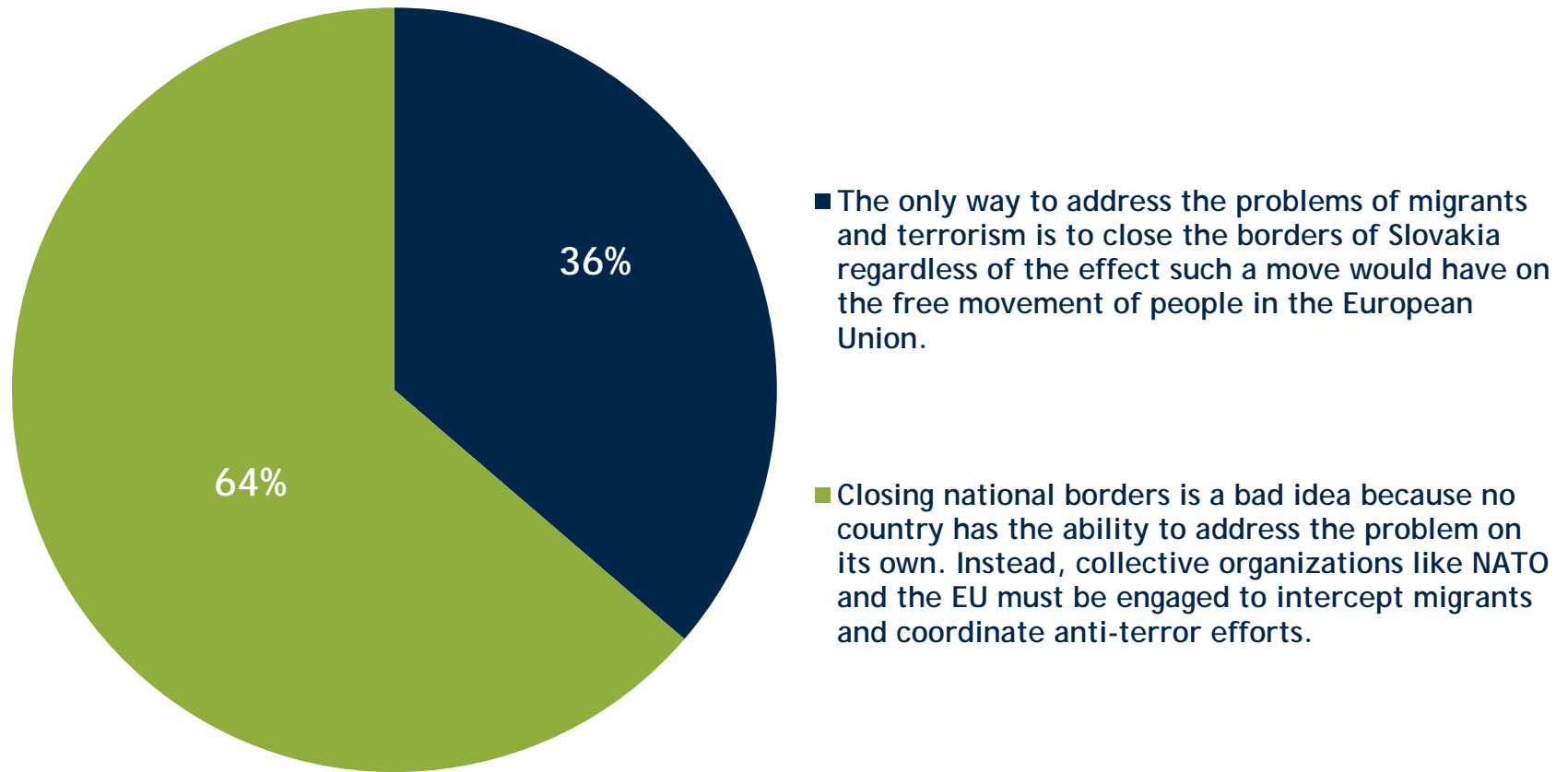
Which statement is closest to your opinion?



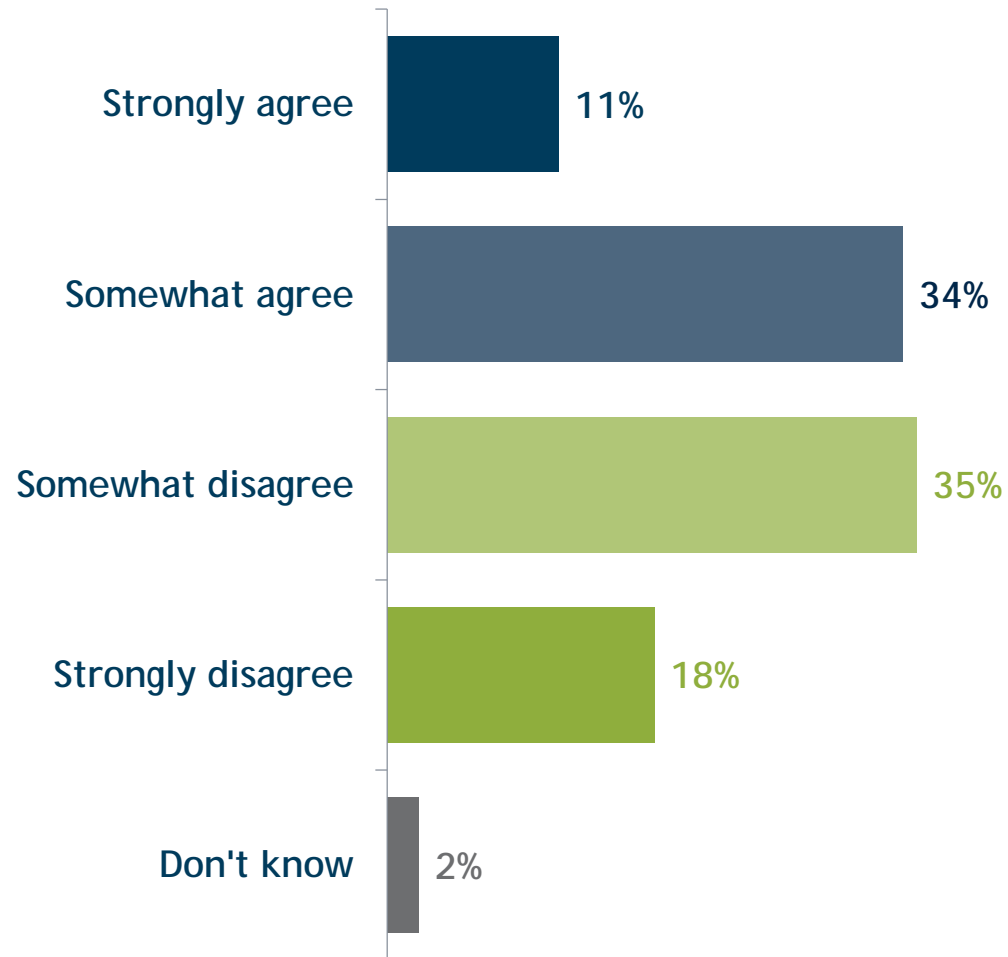
- Current security threats mean Slovakia should invest more money in defense and security, even if this means having less money available for things like pensions, healthcare, and education.
- The current security threats are not serious enough to justify increased defense spending; these resources should instead be used for things like pensions, healthcare, and education.

Opinions of border security

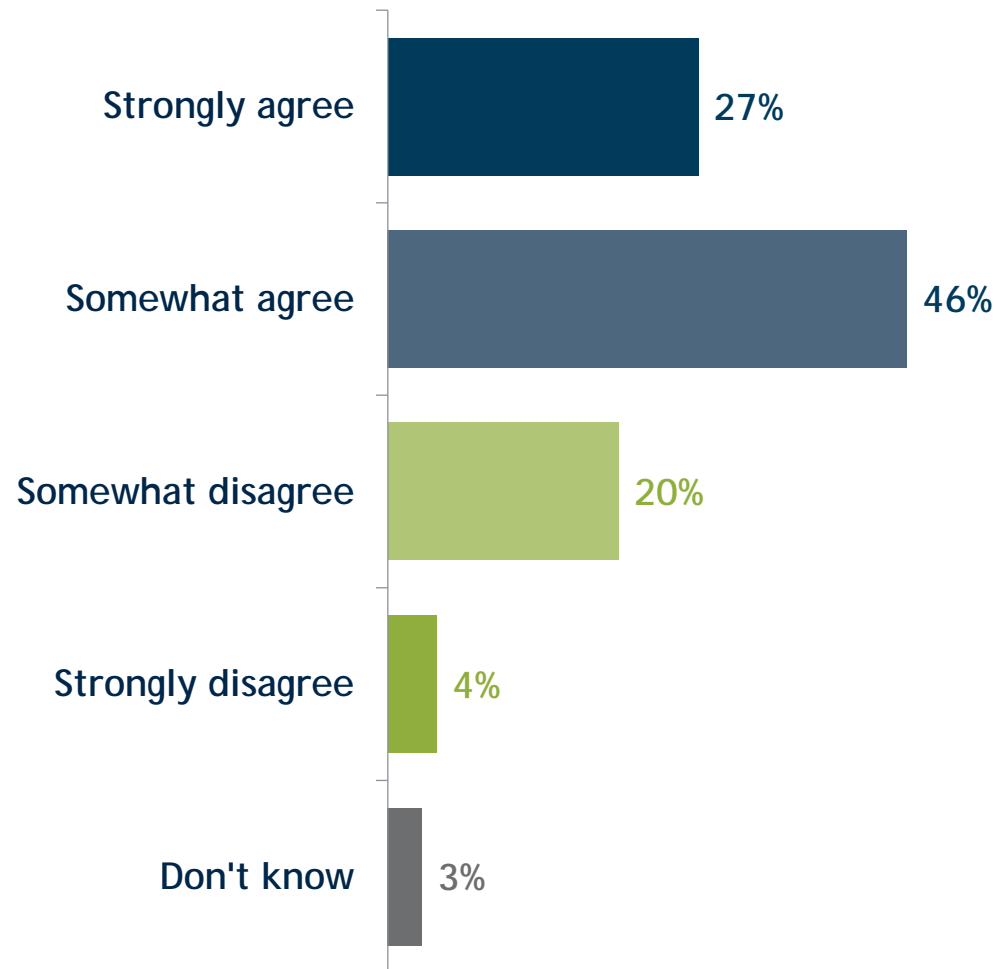
Which statement is closest to your opinion?



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
"Ukraine is a part of Russia's sphere of influence, thus Russia has a right to have a role
in decisions made in Ukraine."



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“The security of Slovakia would be better protected by remaining neutral, rather than
being forced to choose sides between NATO and Russia.”



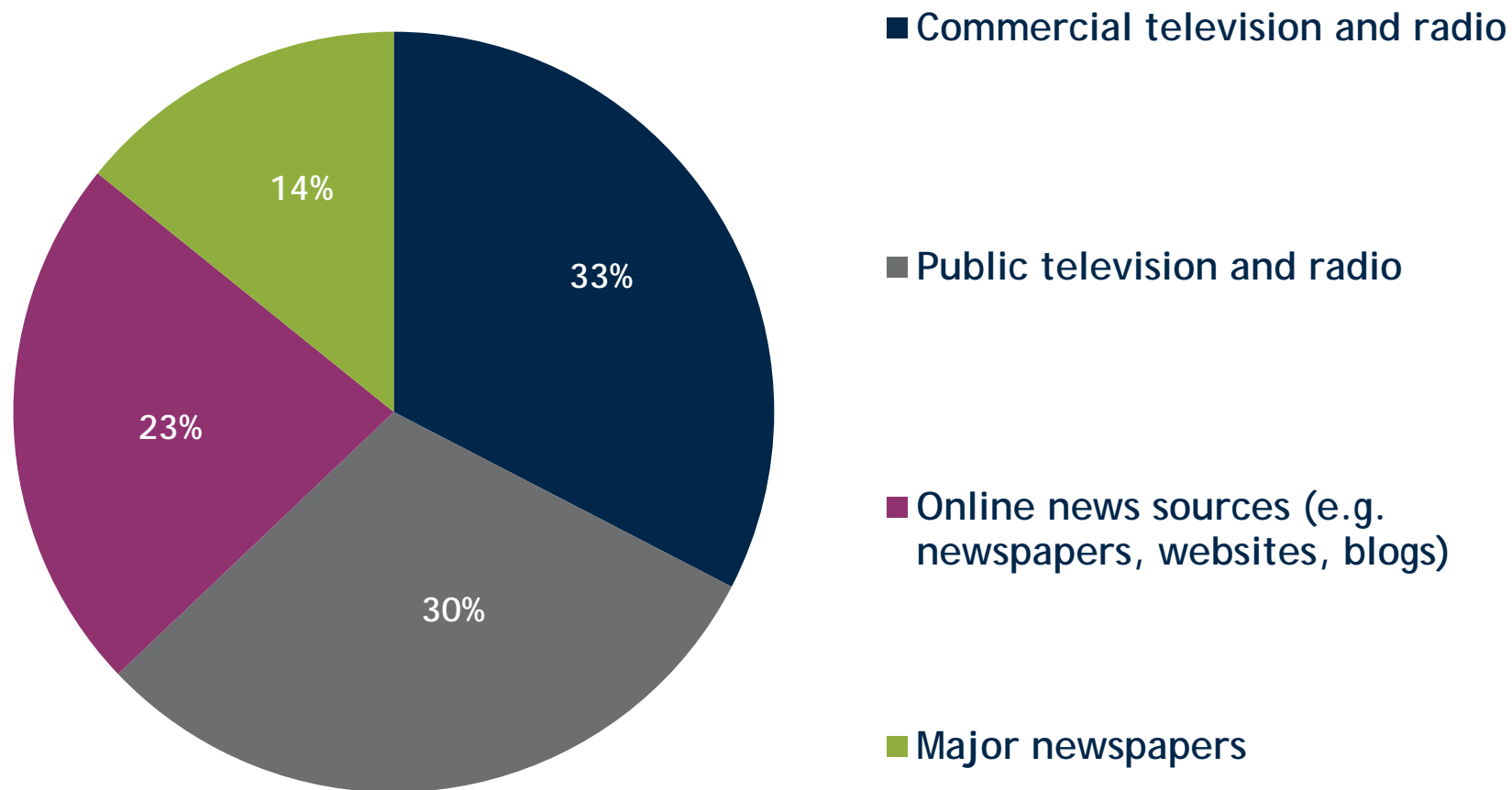


Sources of Political News



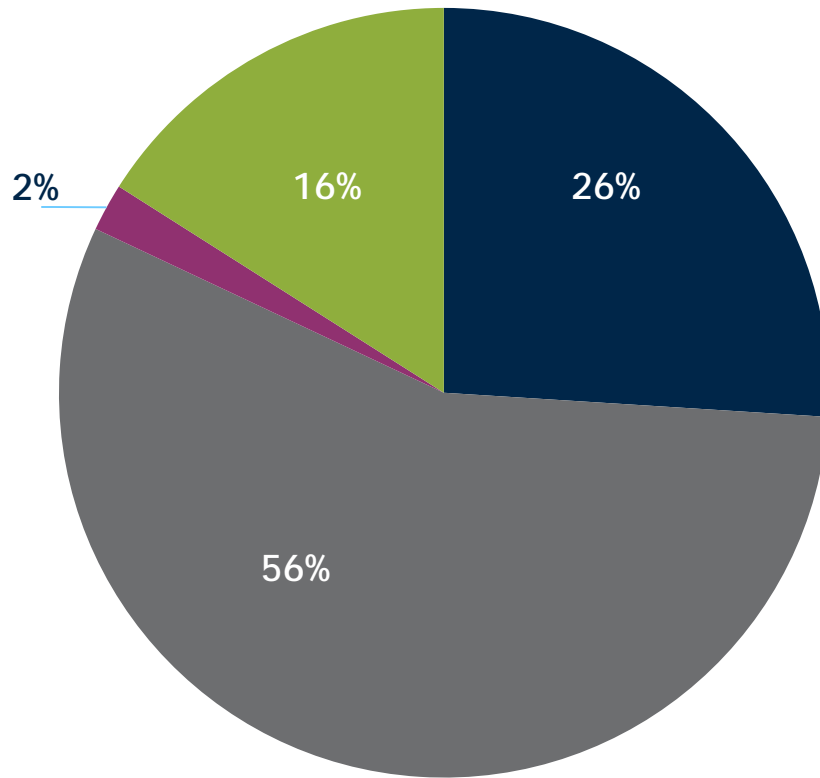
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From which source do you get most of your daily social and political news?

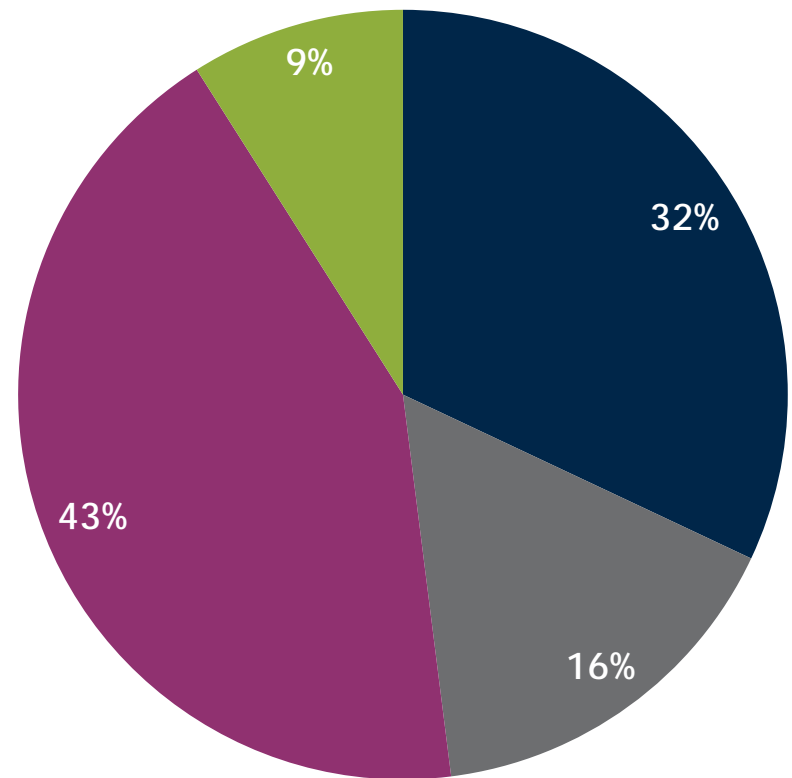


From which source do you get most of your daily social and political news?

Age:60+

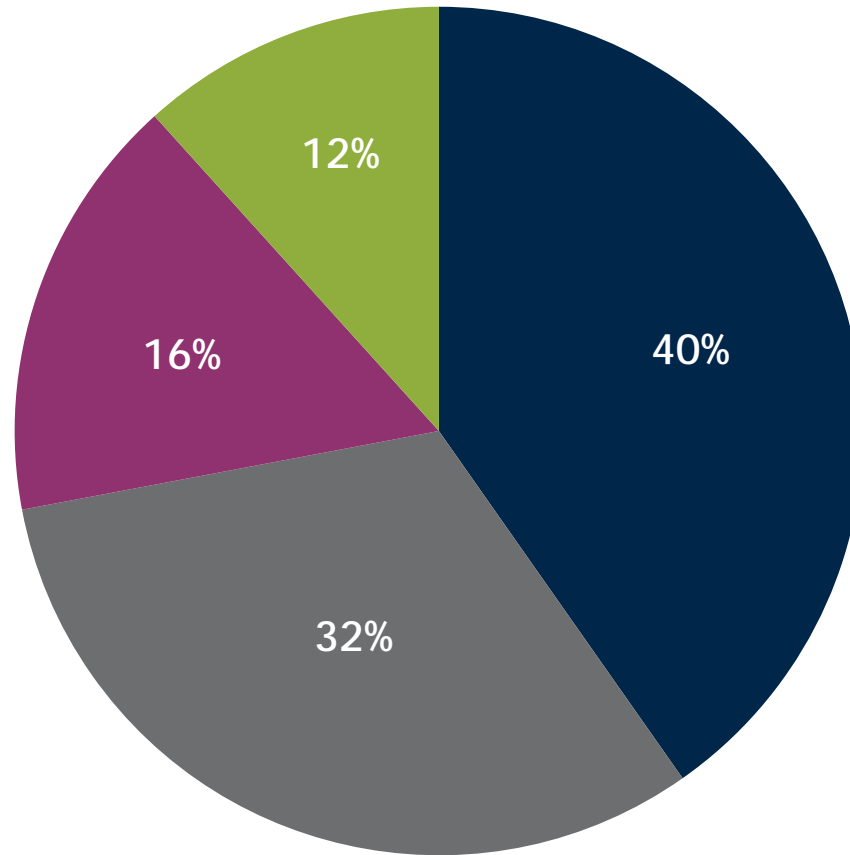


Age:18-29



- Commercial television and radio
- Public television and radio
- Online news sources (e.g. newspapers, websites, blogs)
- Major newspapers

How often do you use social media as a source of daily news?



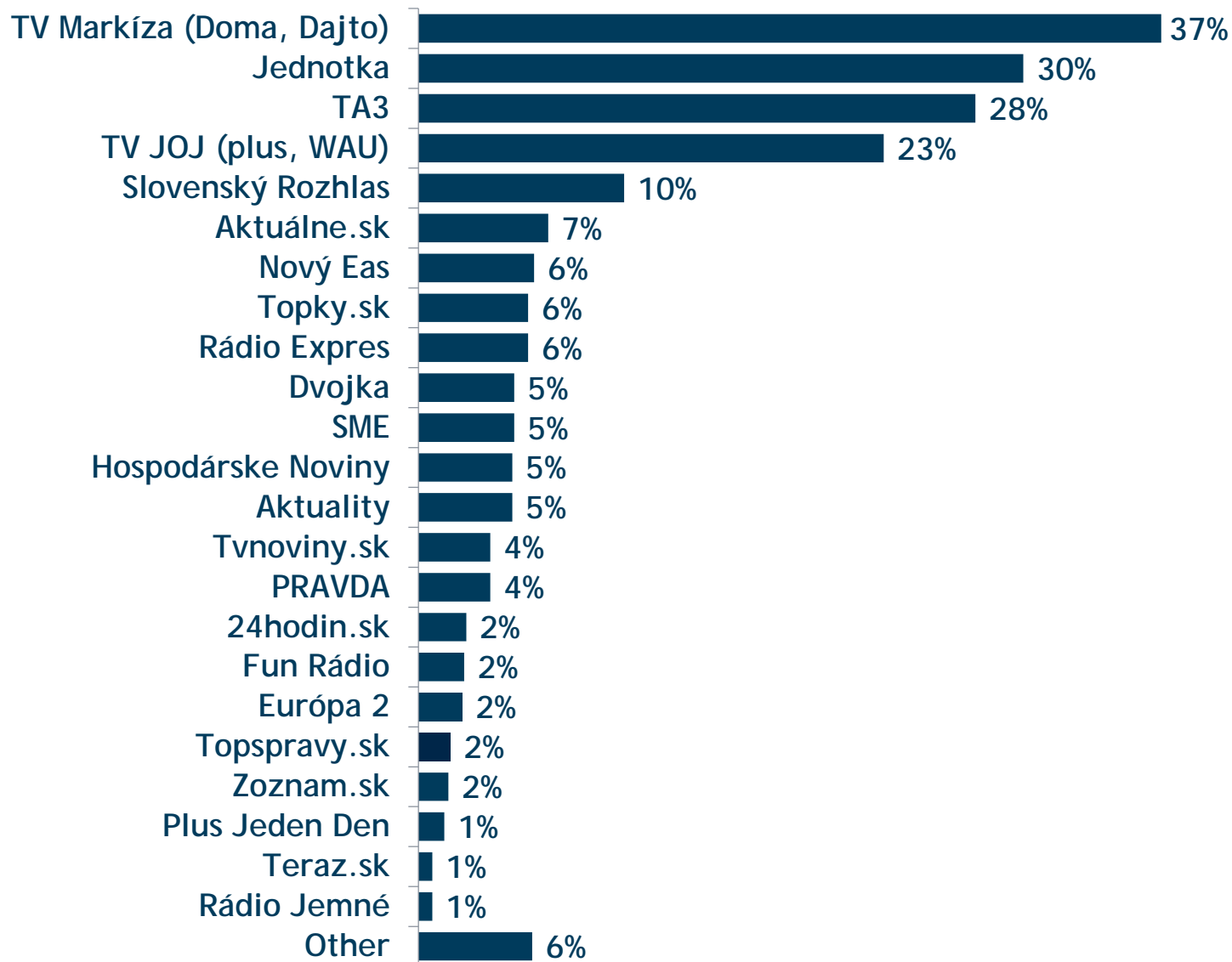
■ Every day

■ Occasionally (once or twice per week)

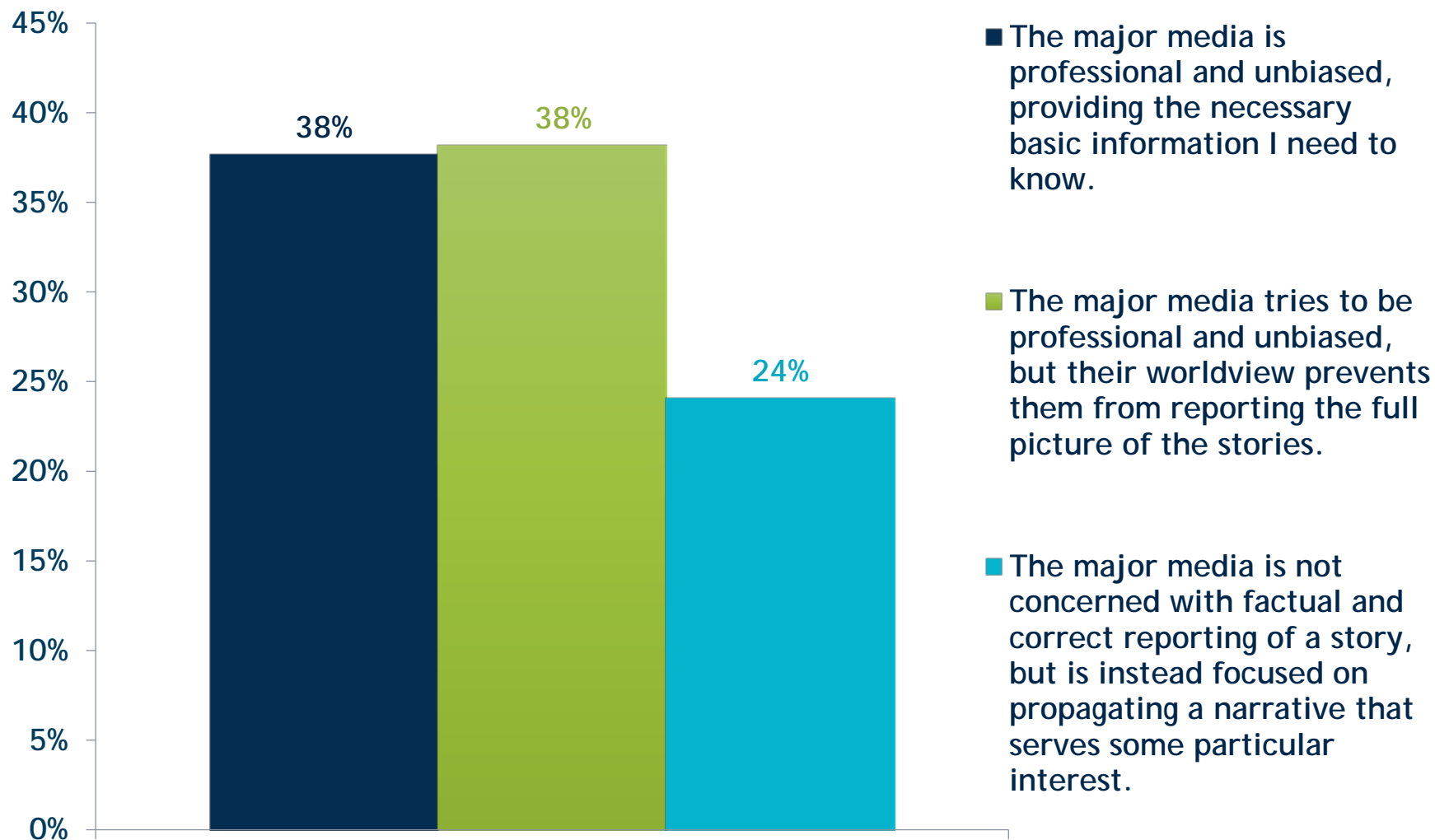
■ Rarely (once or twice per month)

■ Never

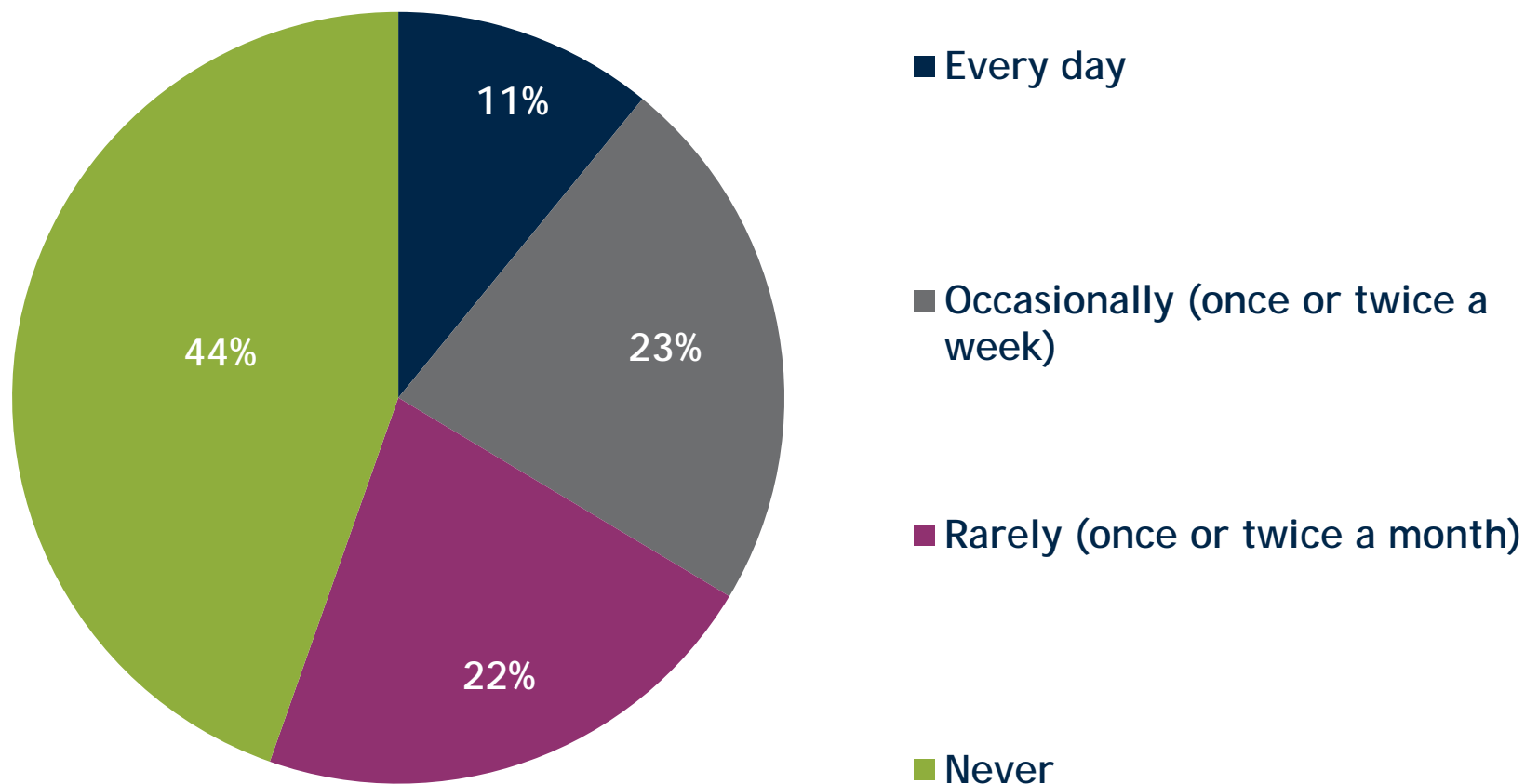
Which specific media outlet do you trust the most for your news? (Multiple responses)



Thinking about the major broadcasters, newspapers, and similar media outlets, which statement is closest to your opinion?

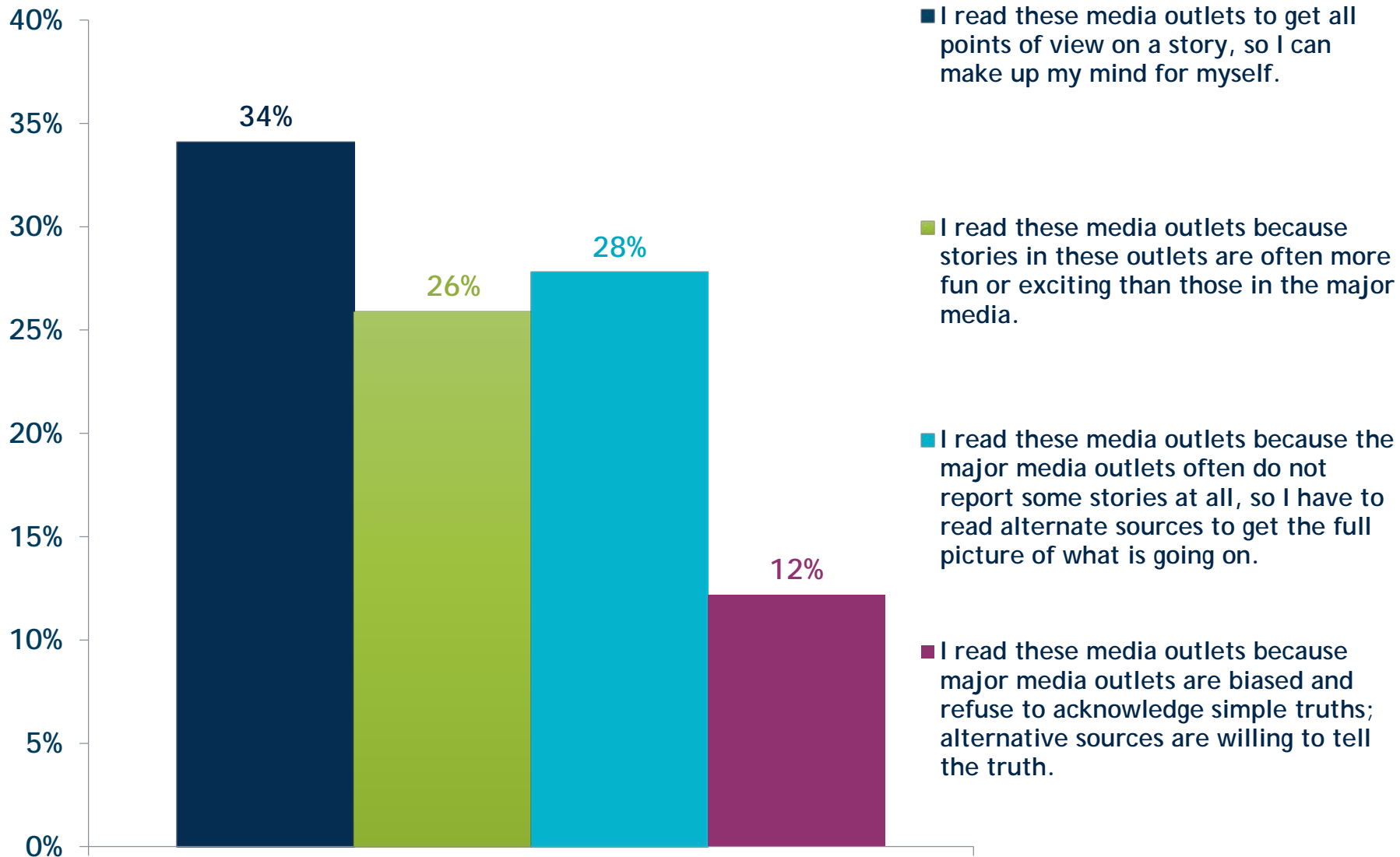


Do you watch or read other media outlets, that often have a different point of view than the major media outlets?
(e.g. Hlavne spravy, Zem i Vek, and Slobodny vysielac)



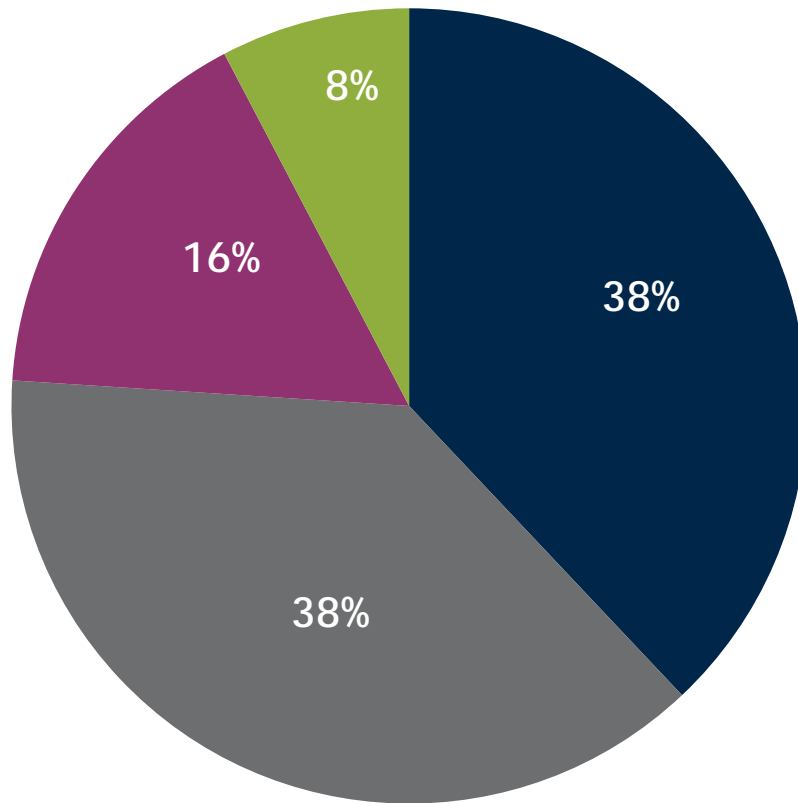
Why do you think it is worthwhile to watch/read these alternative sources of news?

(Respondents who watch or read alternative media outlets: n=568)



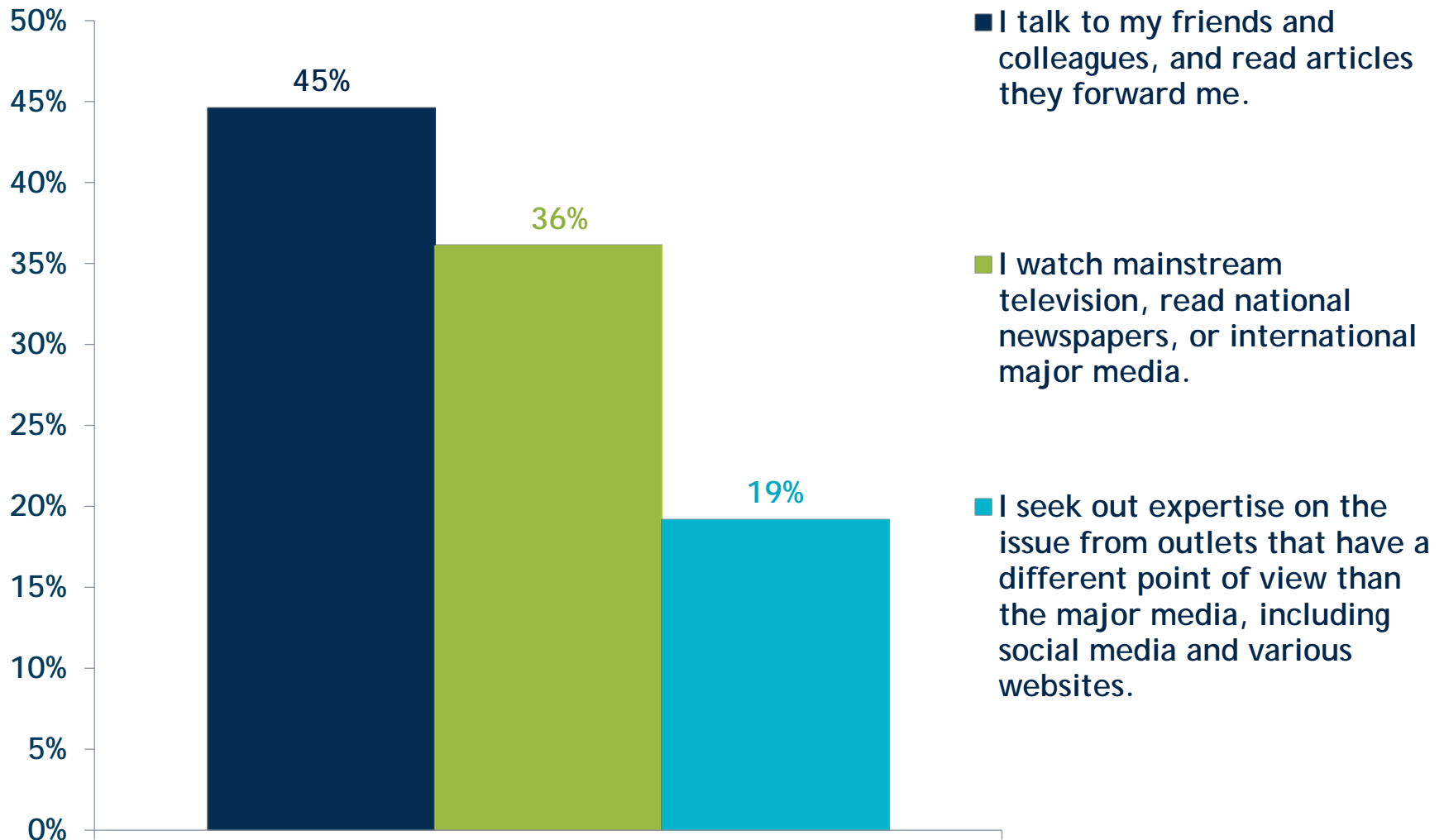
Some people say that these media outlets are funded by obscure sources related to Russia or the Russian government and are engaged in efforts to mislead people. What is your response to this charge?

(Respondents who watch or read alternative media outlets: n=568)

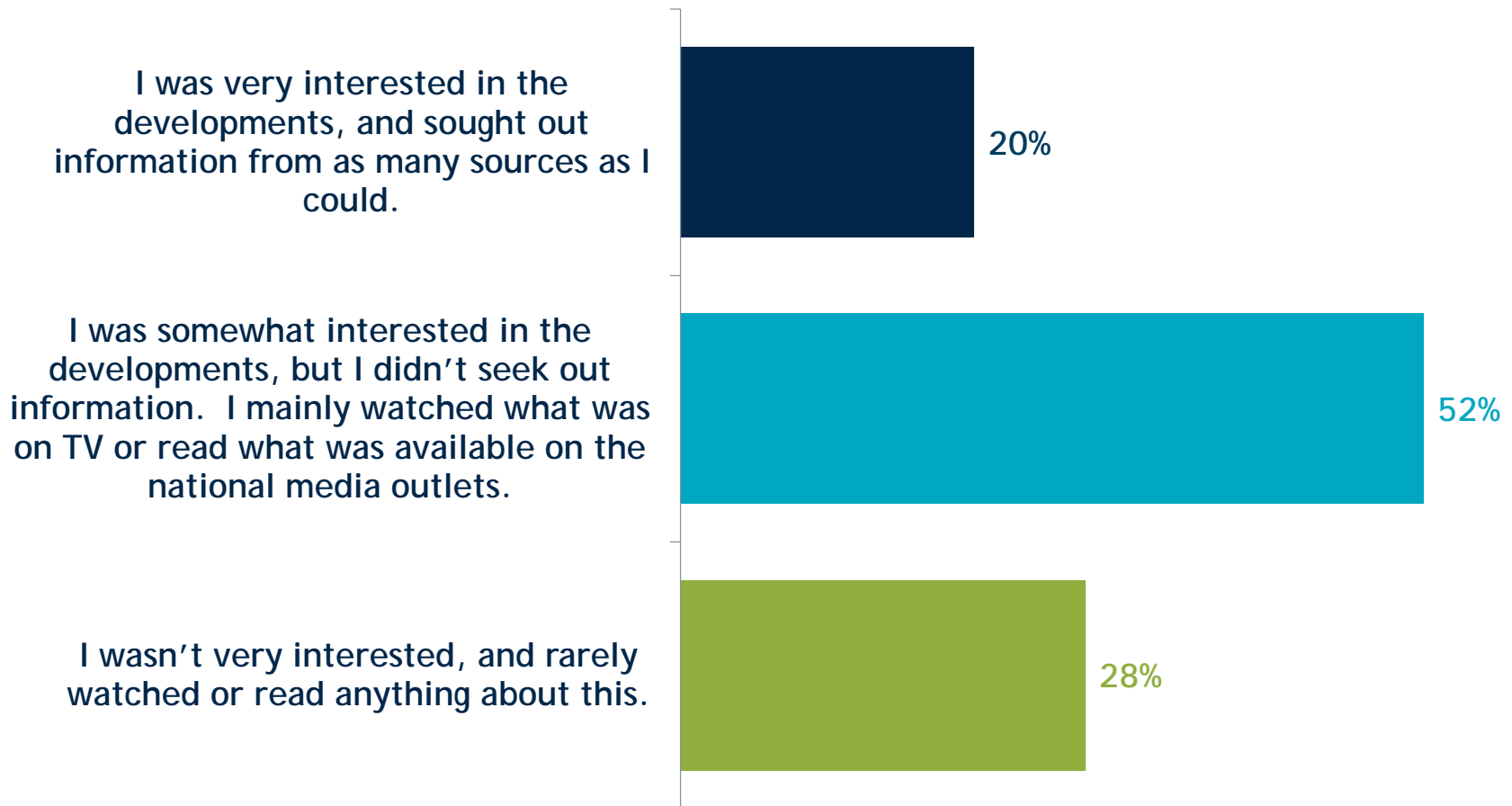


- I don't believe that Russians fund these media outlets - it sounds like a conspiracy theory coming from anti-Russian interests.
- I don't care if Russians fund these media outlets - the main point is that they tell the truth.
- I would be concerned if these media outlets were funded by the Russians, but I have seen no evidence that this is true.
- I believe that the Russians or others are behind these media outlets, and that they are not always truthful; but I still read them because they are fun and interesting.

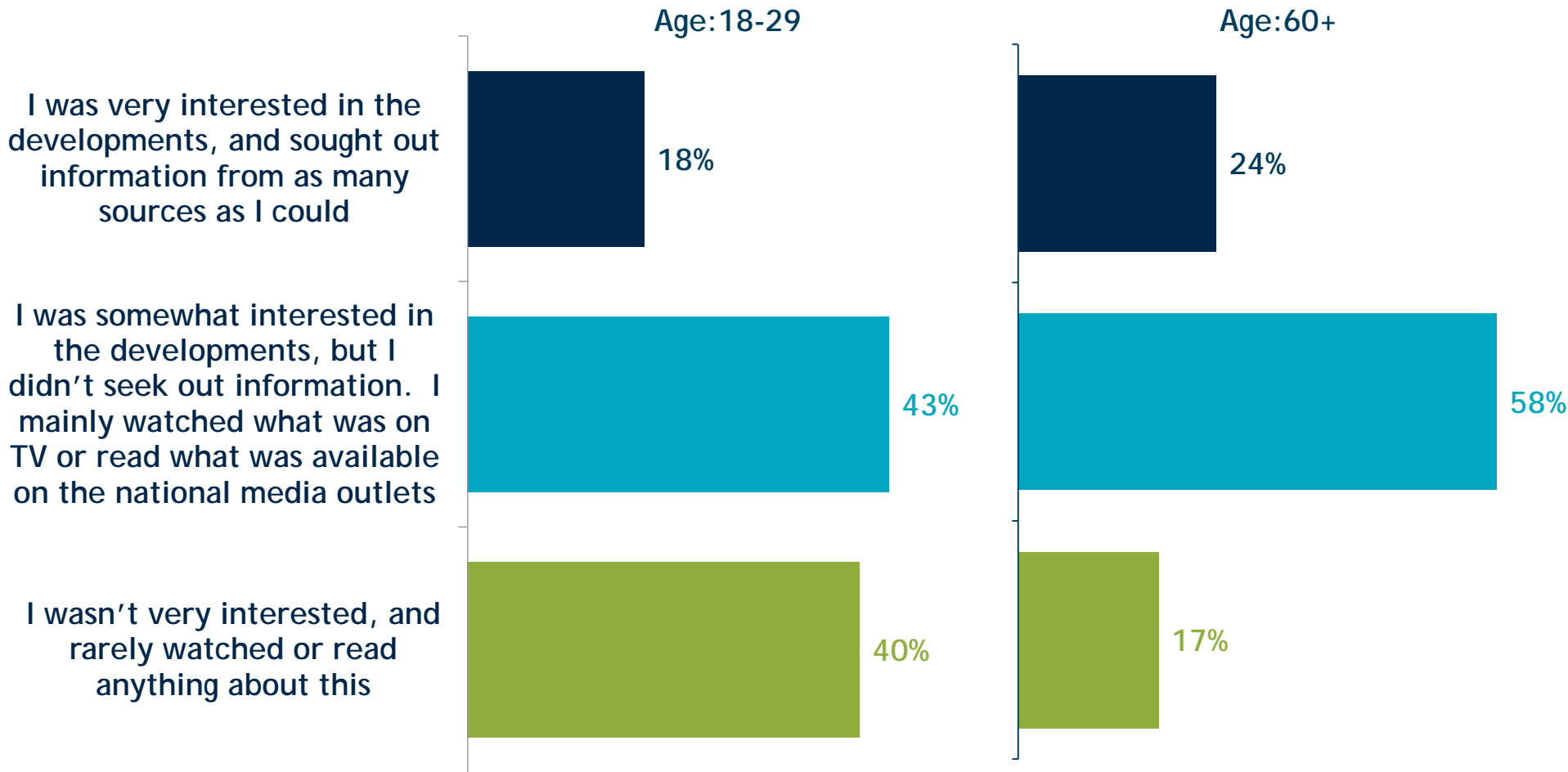
When a major international news story breaks, how do you generally get information about it? Who do you trust most to help you understand what is going on?



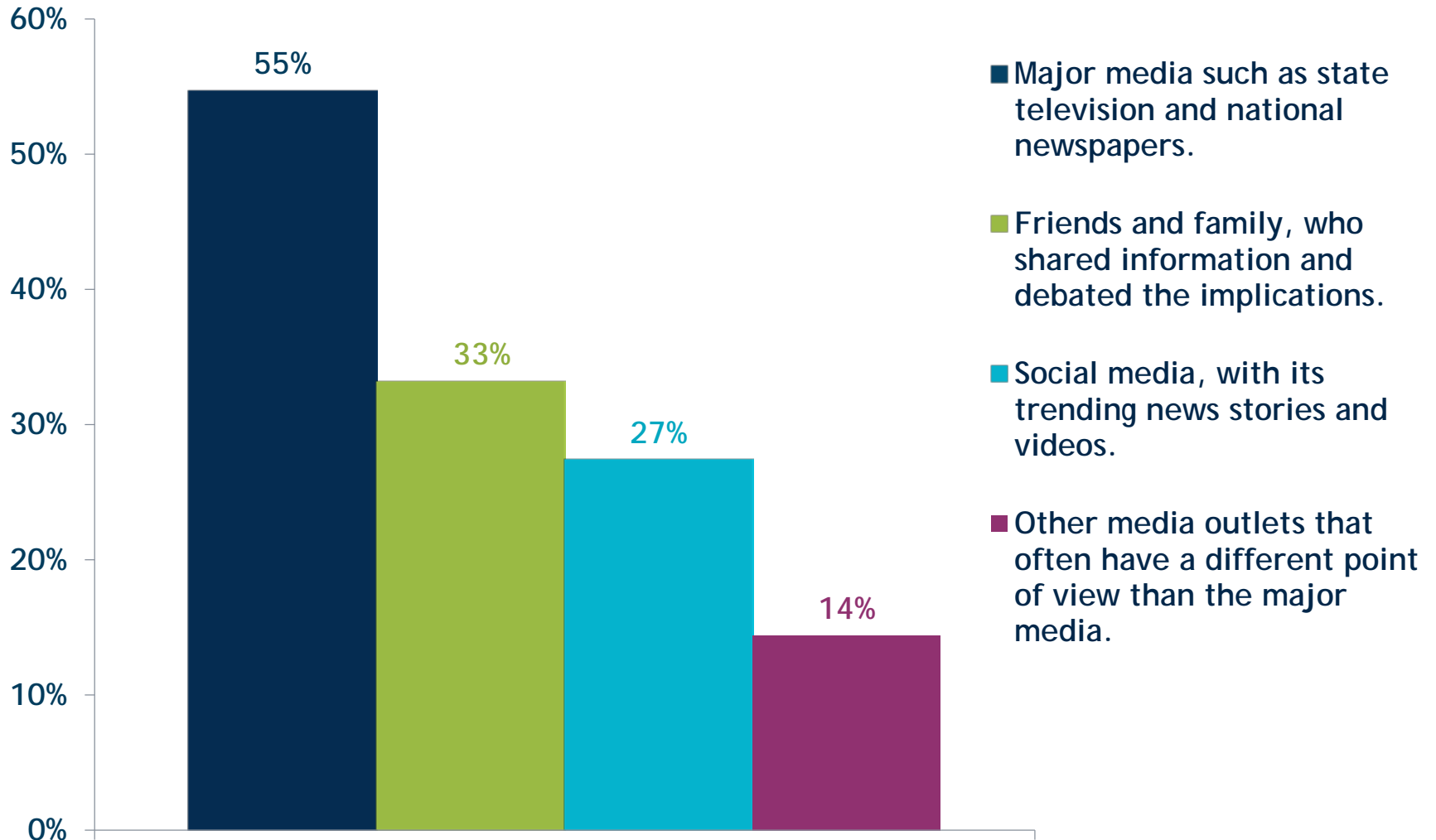
Let's think about a particular major international news story that has developed over the last few years—the crisis in Ukraine. Can you tell me your approach to learning about the situation?



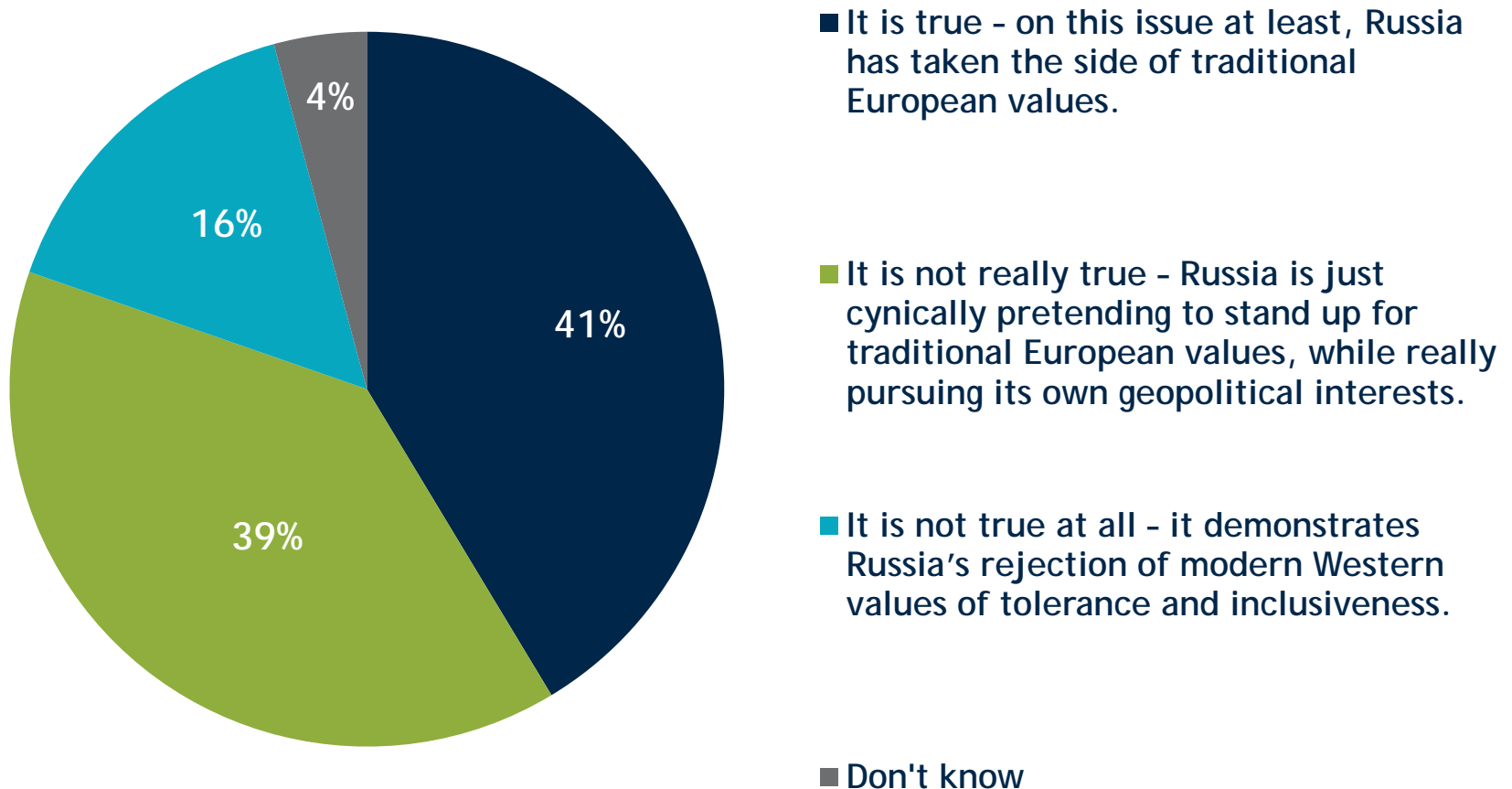
Let's think about a particular major international news story that has developed over the last few years—the crisis in Ukraine. Can you tell me your approach to learning about the situation?
(Disaggregated by age)



As you heard about the crisis in Ukraine, which sources did you find the most helpful to understanding the developments?

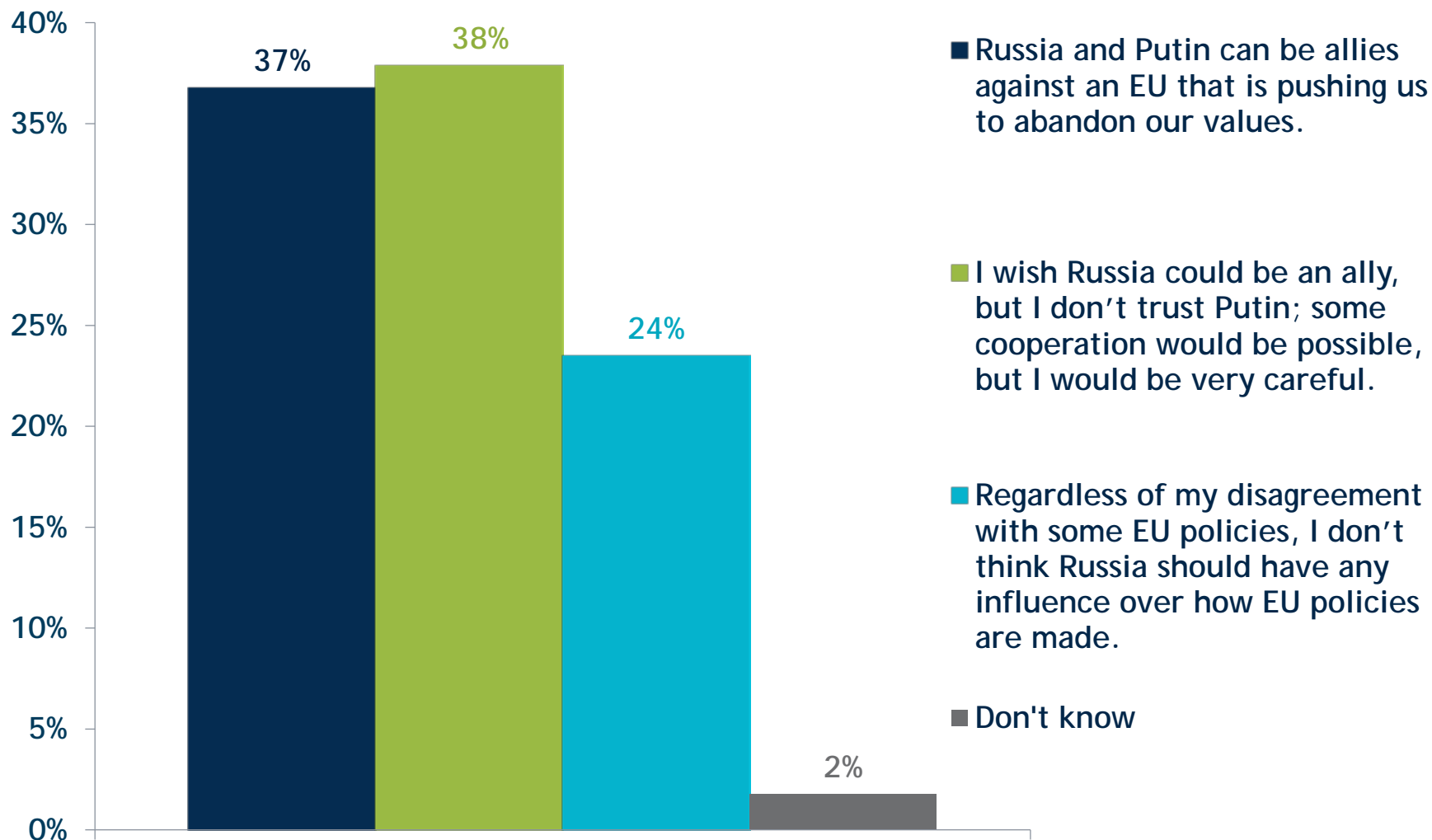


Vladimir Putin's Russia has tried to portray itself as a defender of Christendom and traditional European values in areas ranging from the protection of the family unit to defending against Islamic and other non-European cultures. What is your opinion of this view of Russia?



How, then, do you view Russia and Putin as you try to address these changes in European culture and practice?

(Respondents who believe that Russia is defending European values: n=424)



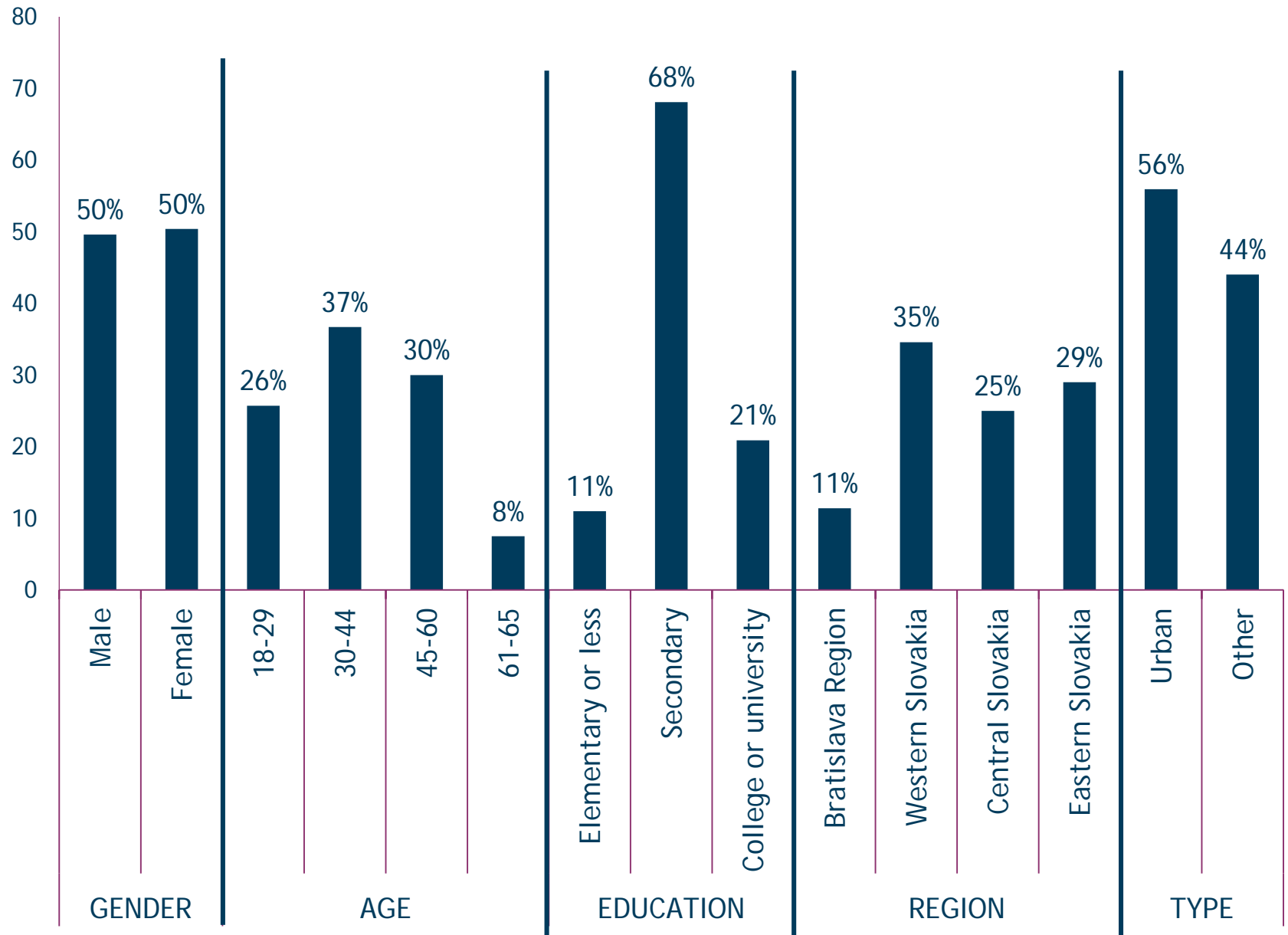


Demographics

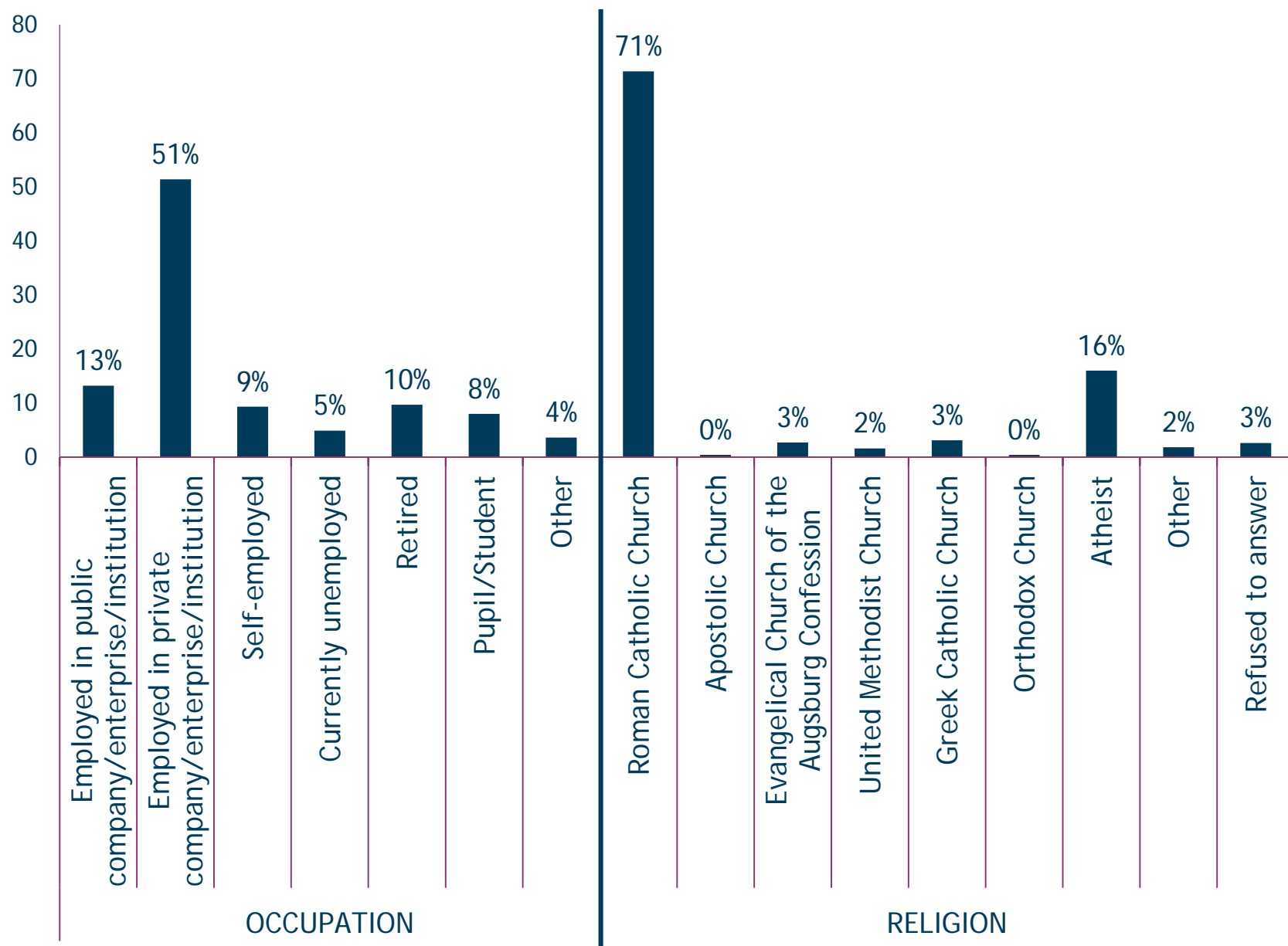


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Demographics



Demographics



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