



Public Opinion Poll: Residents of North Macedonia

November 27 - December 23, 2021



Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the [Center for Insights in Survey Research](#) by [Brima](#) market research firm (member of Taylor Nelson Sofres and Gallup International).
- Data was collected between November 27 through December 23, 2021, through face-to-face interviews by trained professionals. A nationally representative sample size of 1,226 respondents aged 18 and over was surveyed. The margin of error was ± 2.8 points at a 95 percent confidence level. The response rate was 75 percent.
- The national sample was prepared according to 2019 population estimates from the State Statistical office for the population aged 18 and older. It also considered the structure of the population according to age, gender, residence, national affiliation and region, and was updated accordingly with estimates and primary information collected by BRIMA.
- A multi-stage probability sampling method was used with the random route and next birthday methods for respondent selection.
- Stratification was based on three stages:
 - Stage One: The number of respondents for each of the regions was specified in proportion to the size of its population (aged 18 and older).
 - Stage Two: The sampling plan consisted of 182 sampling points located according to urban/rural split, municipality size and nationality diffusion.
 - Stage Three: The selection of households was based on a random route method. In urban areas, every third household on the left-hand side of the street was selected. In rural areas, the “wave-wise” approach was applied, in which the interviewer selects every fourth inhabited house/dwelling on both sides of the interviewer’s route/track, counting from the first house on the left.
- The “next birthday method” was used to select respondents.
- Figures in charts and tables may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. Values between 0.1 percent and 0.4 percent are displayed as <1 percent.
- Any data cited from previous surveys comes from surveys with comparable methodology.
- This poll was conducted with support from the [National Endowment for Democracy](#).
- The field work was conducted in the period of COVID-19 pandemic with all protective measures for interviewers and supervisors according to BRIMA’s protocol.

Political Party Glossary

Party Name
AfA: Alliance for Albanians
Alternative
BESA: Movement BESA
DOM: Democratic Movement of Macedonia
DPA: Democratic Party of Albanians
DUI: Democratic Union for Integration
LDP: Liberal Democratic Party
The Left: Levica
SDSM: Social Democratic Union of Macedonia
TDP: Turkish Democratic Party
VMRO-DPMNE: Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization - Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity

Political Context

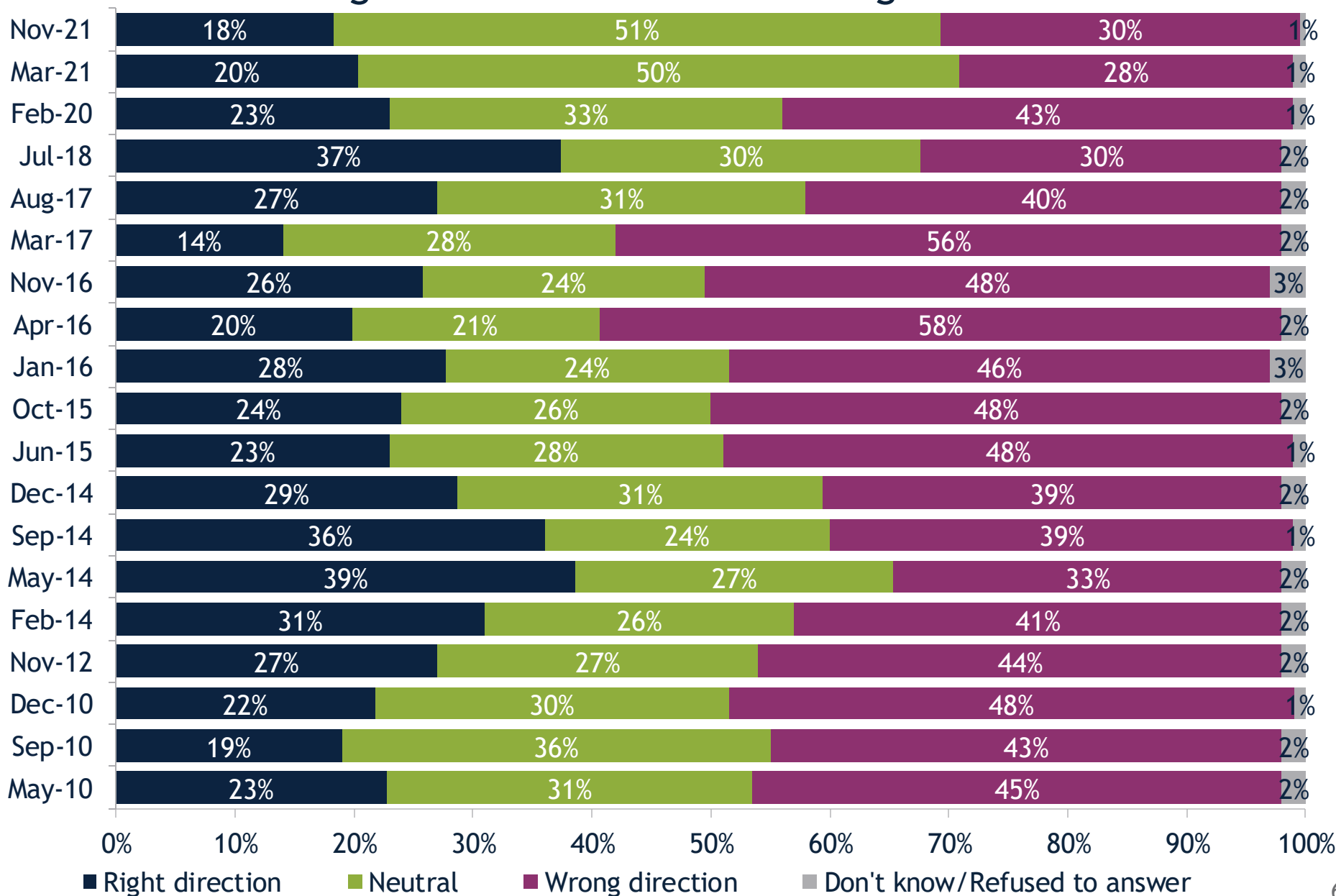
- January 26, 2022 - A new SDSM government, led by Dimitar Kovachevski, was elected in the Parliament.
- January 2022 - With Bulgaria's veto as the most recent obstacle, North Macedonia is not yet granted EU accession negotiations despite being a candidate for membership since December 2005.
- October 31, 2021 - Prime Minister and leader of governing SDSM Zoran Zaev announces he will resign from the government and party position.
- October 31, 2021 - The local elections changed the balance of power at local level. The SDSM-led mayoral seats decreased from 57 to 16, while VMRO-DPMNE-led seats increased from 5 to 43, including the independent candidate it supported for the capital Skopje. DUI won 11 mayoral seats, one more than before, AfA and Alternative won two seats, while DPA, GROM the LDP/DOM coalition and two other independent candidates each won in one municipality.
- October 17 and October 31, 2021 - First and second round of local elections were held.



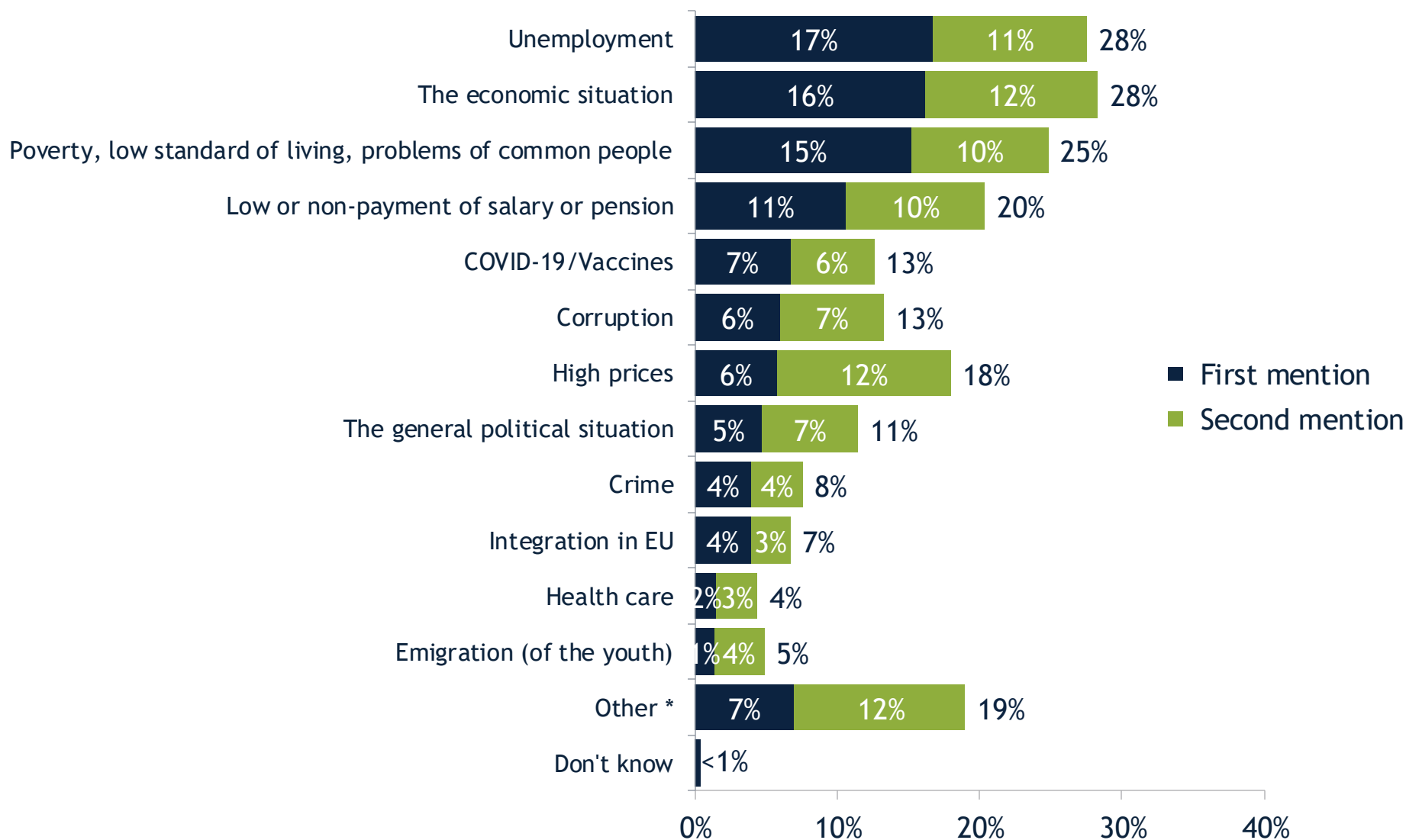
General and Economic Outlook of the Country



In general, would you say that North Macedonia is heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



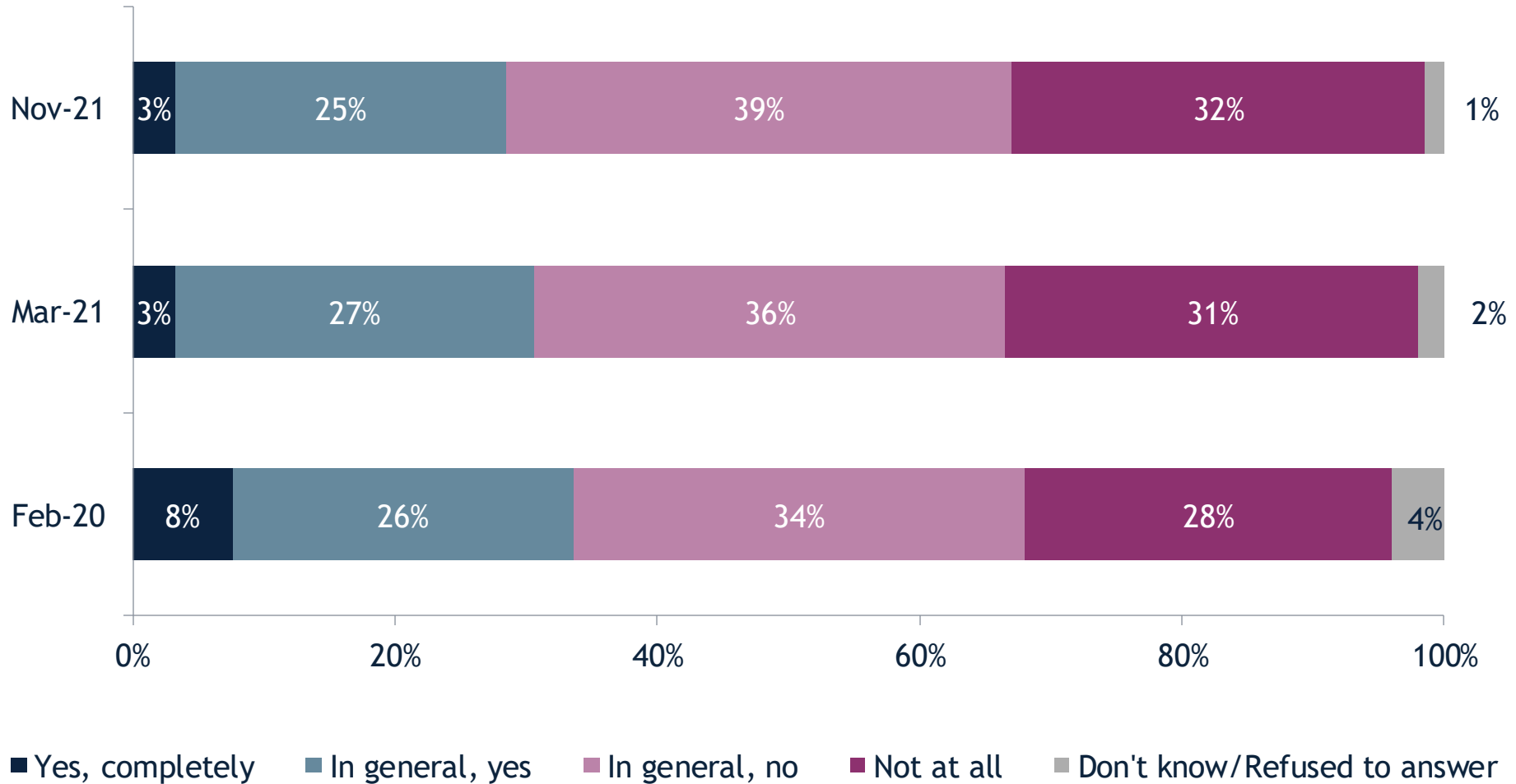
What is the most important problem facing North Macedonia today? ... And what is the second most important problem? (Spontaneous responses)



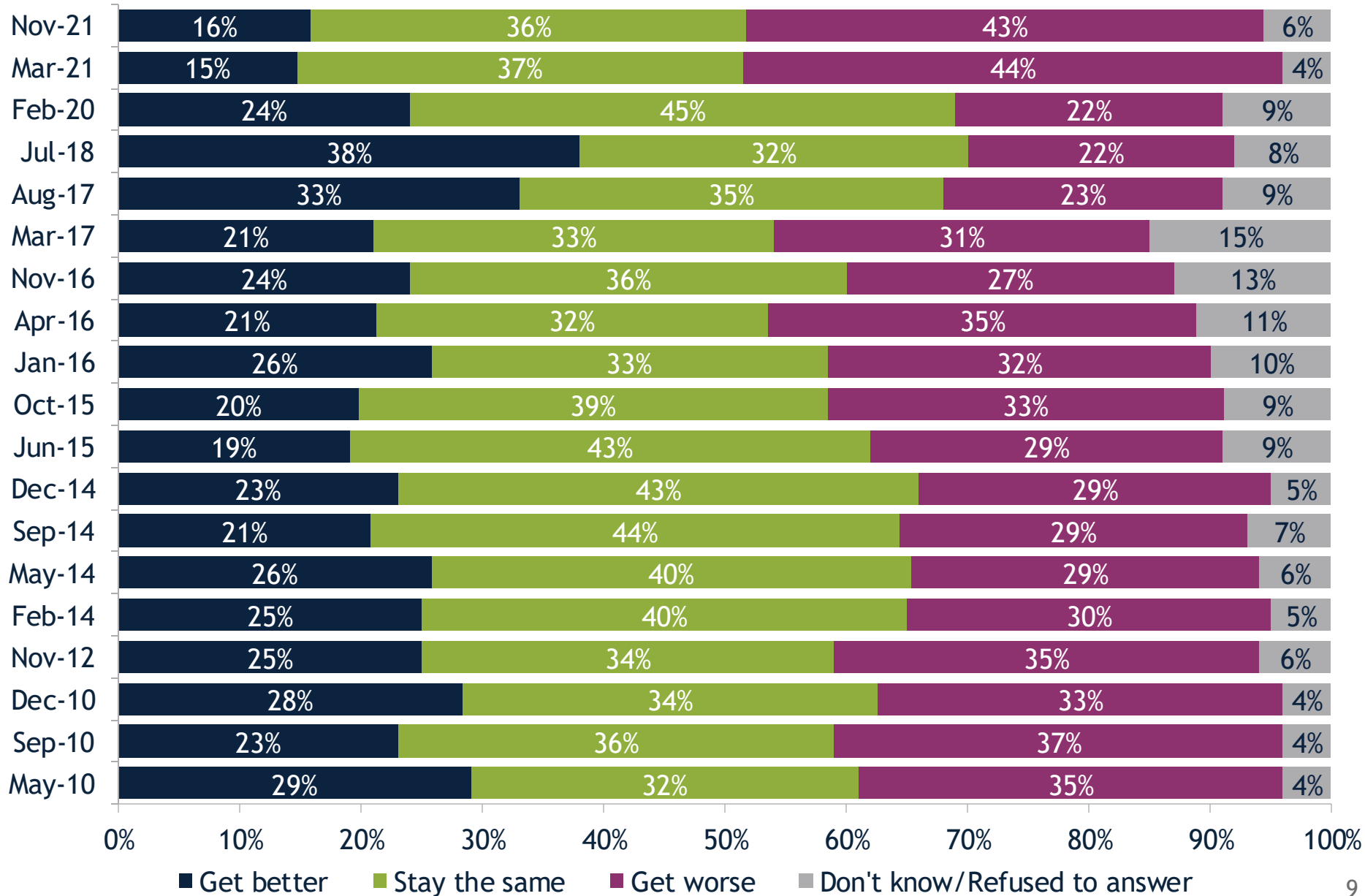
*Other includes all problems which have less than one percent first mention as most important problem.

In your opinion, did Zaev's Government dedicate itself to solving the first most important problem facing North Macedonia as you mentioned previously?

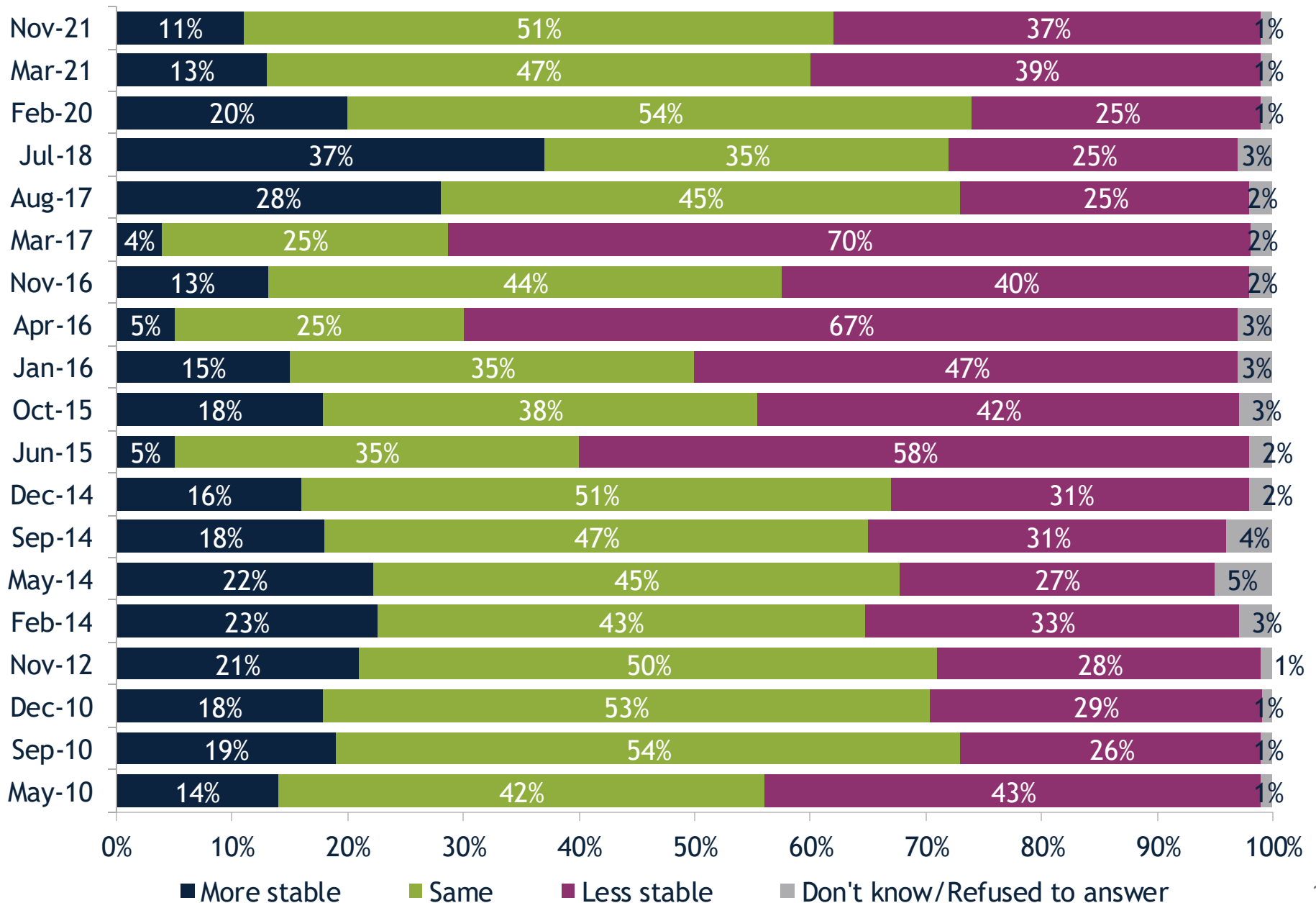
(n = 1221, those who mentioned first important problem)



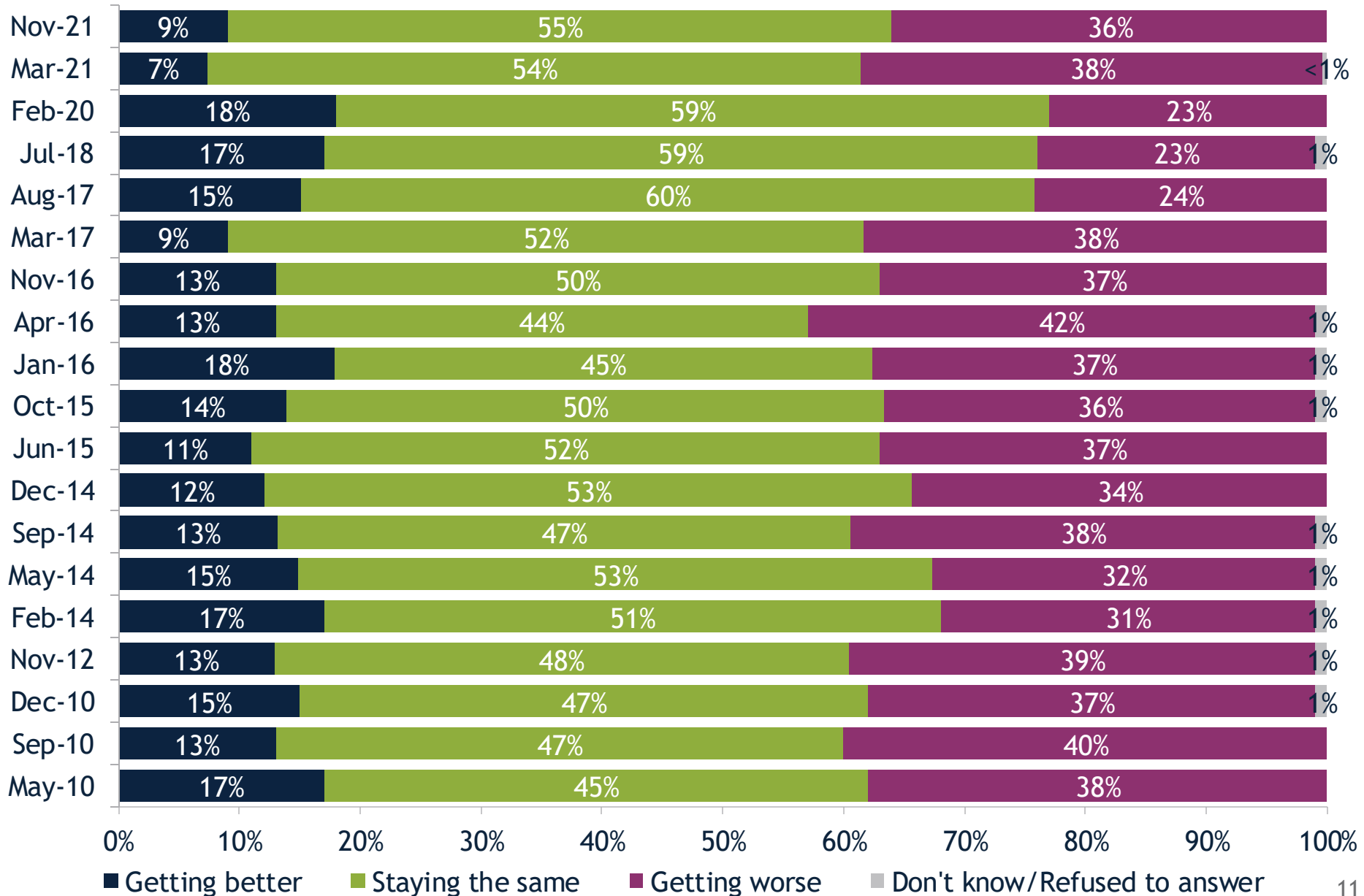
Over the next two years, will the economy in North Macedonia get better, get worse, or stay the same?



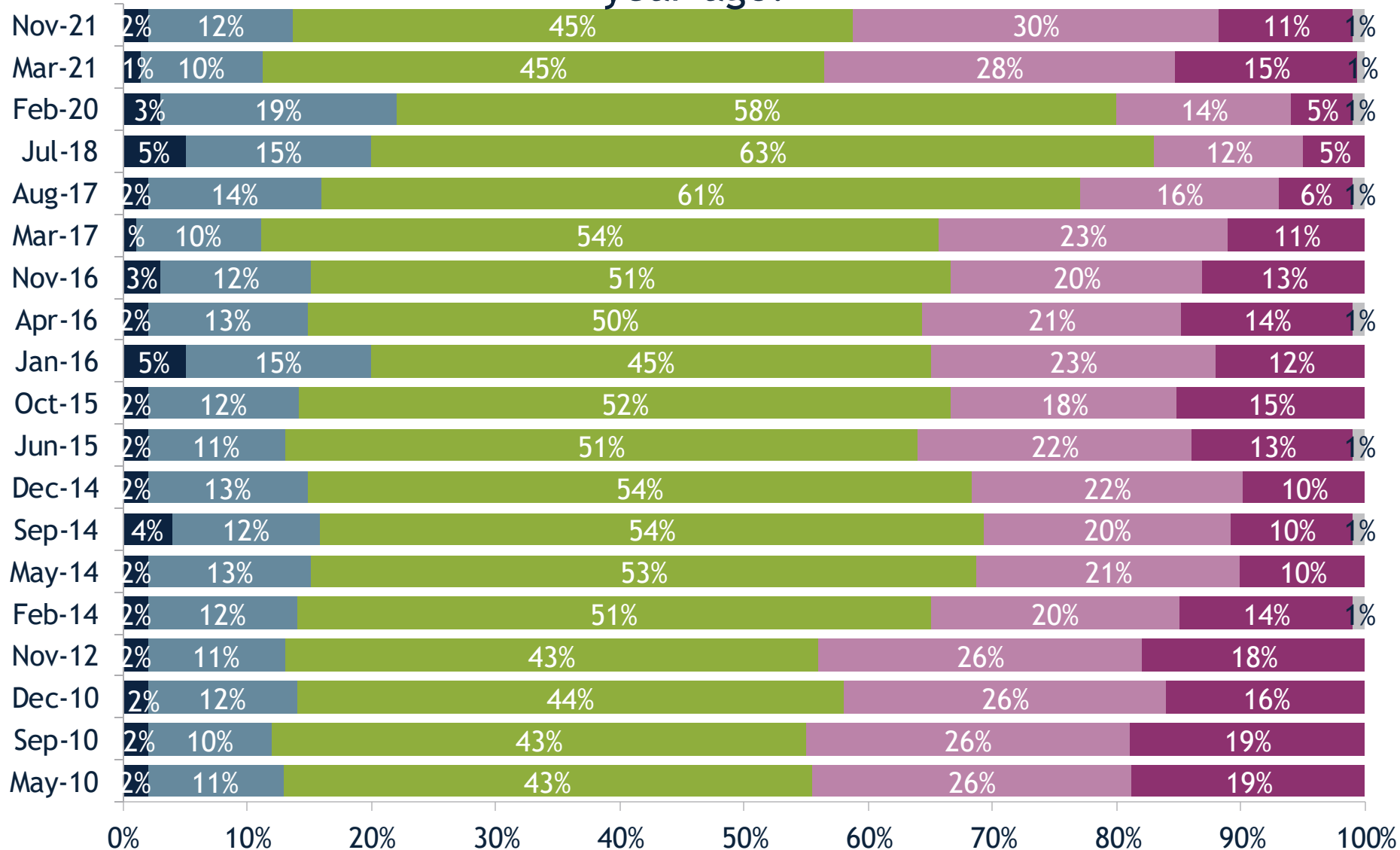
Is North Macedonia more or less stable today than it was one year ago?



Speaking personally, is your overall quality of life...?

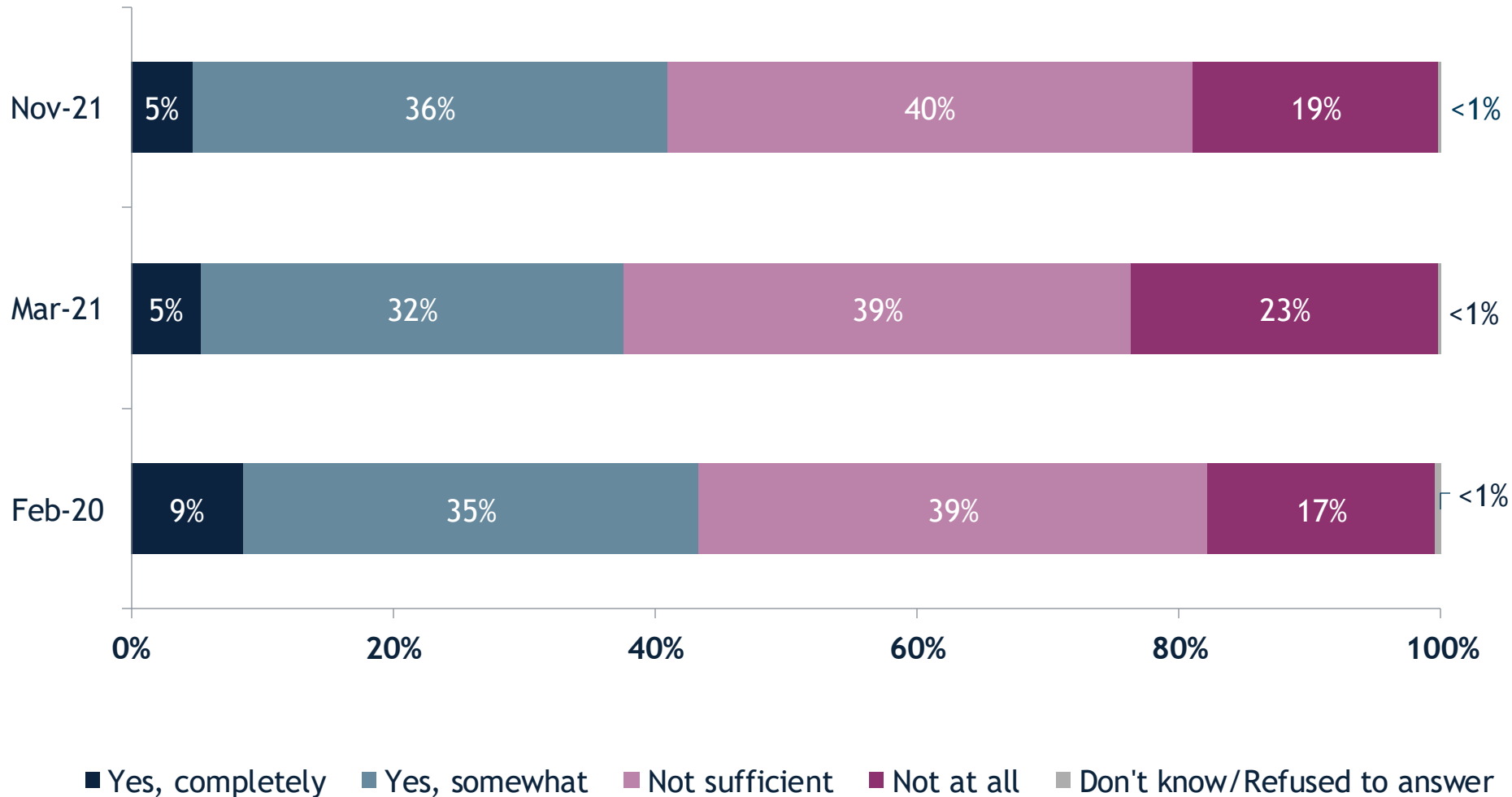


How is your family's economic situation compared to one year ago?

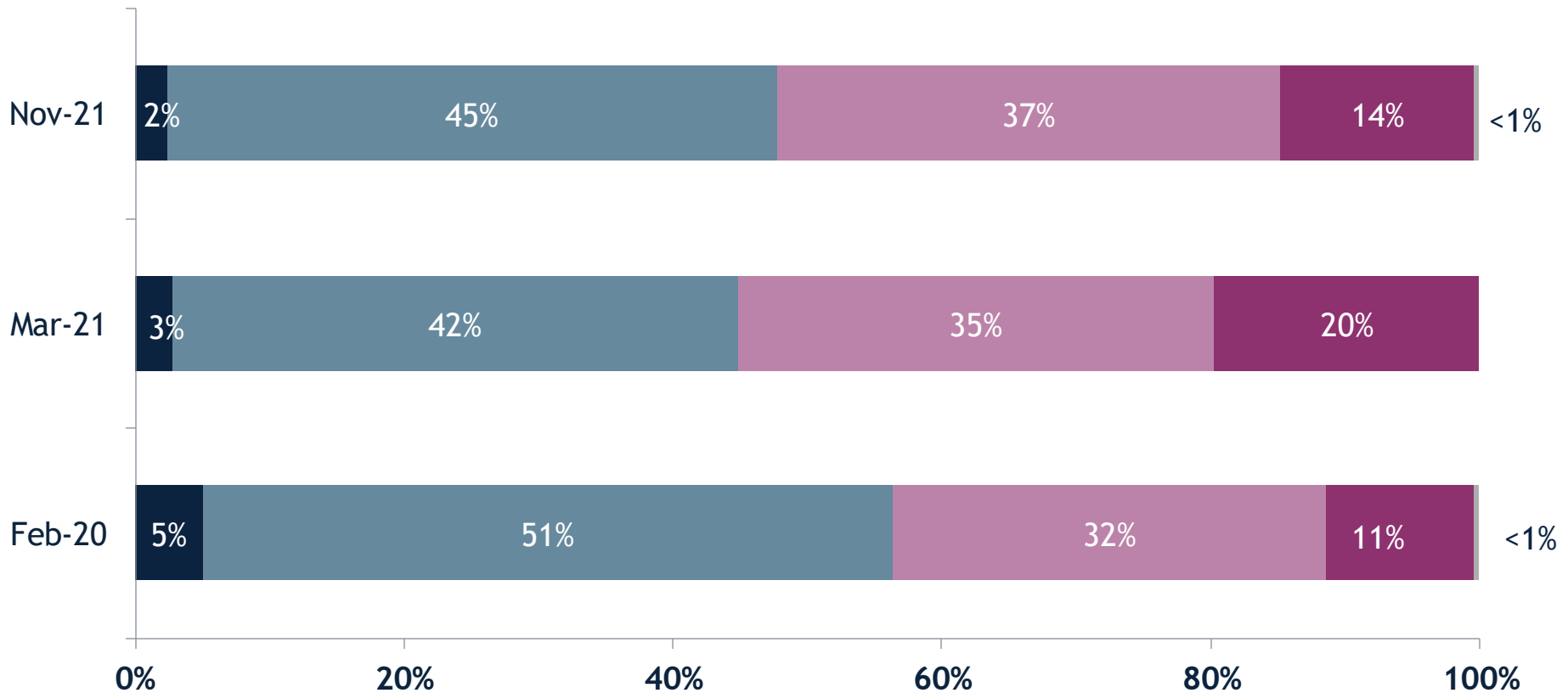


Much better
 Somewhat better
 Same
 Somewhat worse
 Much worse
 Don't know/Refused to answer

Is your household monthly income sufficient to satisfy monthly needs?



How would you describe the current economic situation of your household?

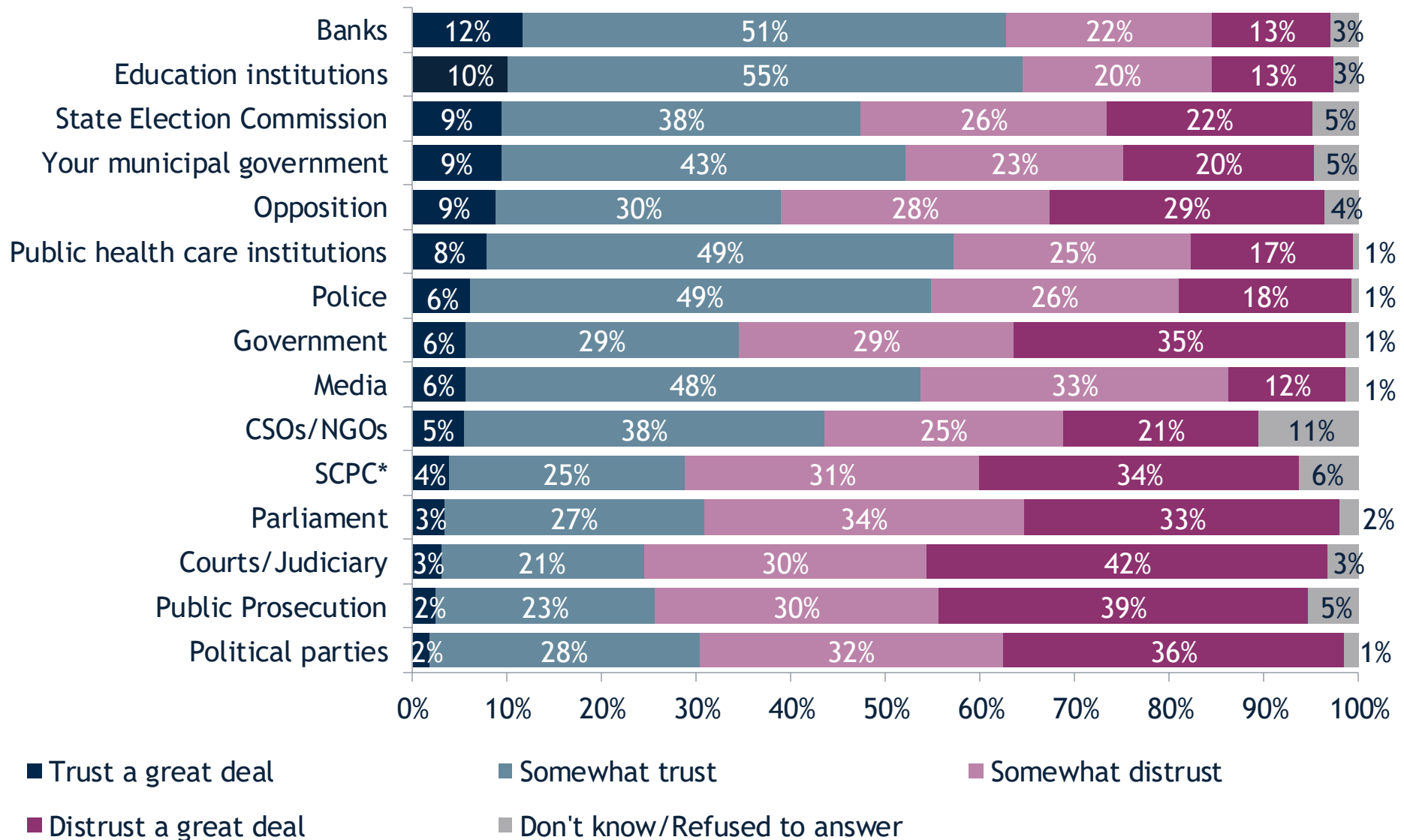


■ Very good ■ Somewhat good ■ Somewhat bad ■ Very bad ■ Don't know/Refused to answer



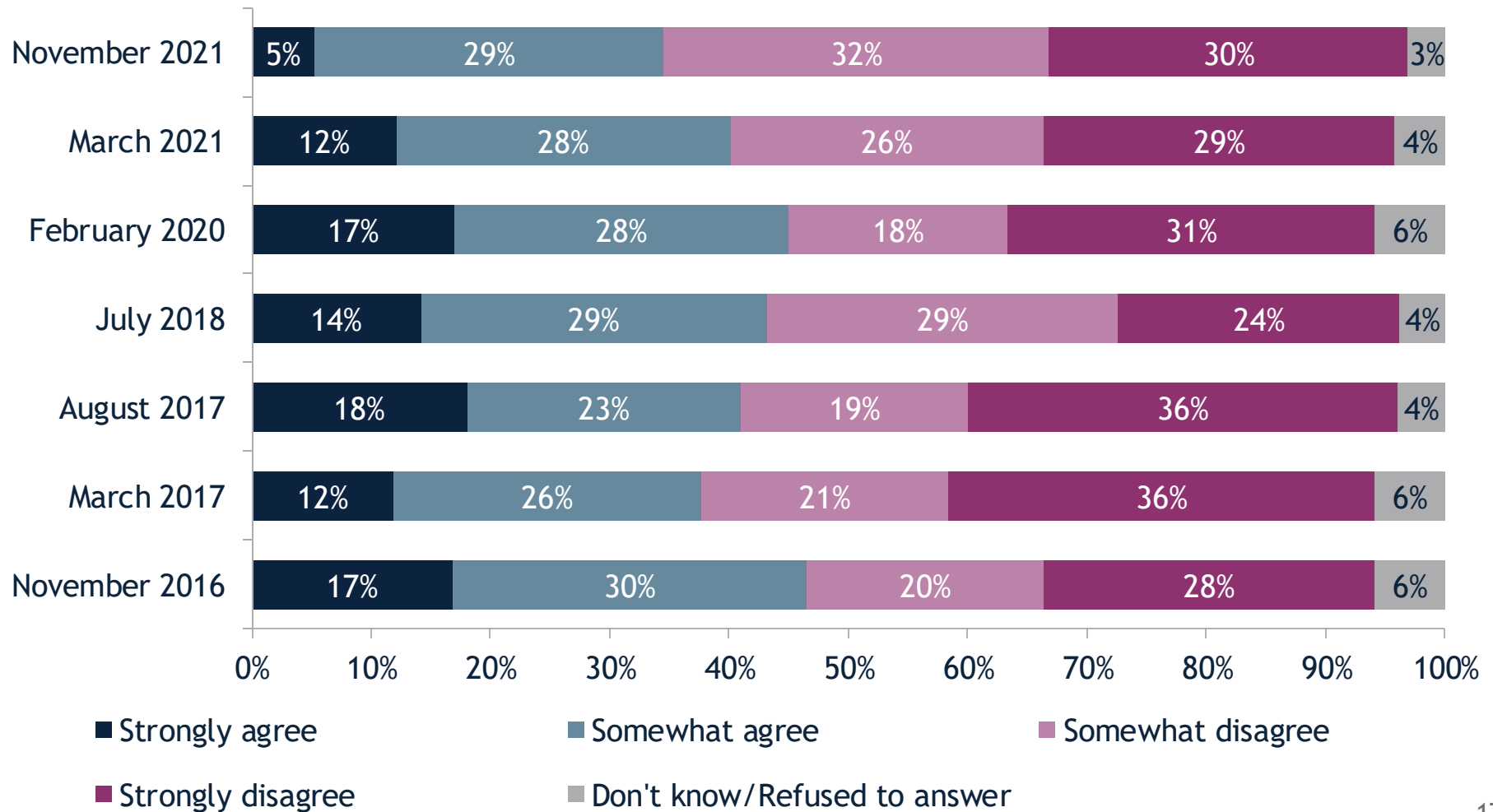
Trust in Institutions and the Rule of Law

To what extent do you trust or distrust each of the following:



*SCPC = State Commission for Prevention of Corruption

The rule of law in a democracy can be understood as: “a state when all people and institutions are accountable to the law and the Constitution, and the Constitution and the law are equally applied towards all.”
How strongly do you agree or disagree that rule of law exists in our country?

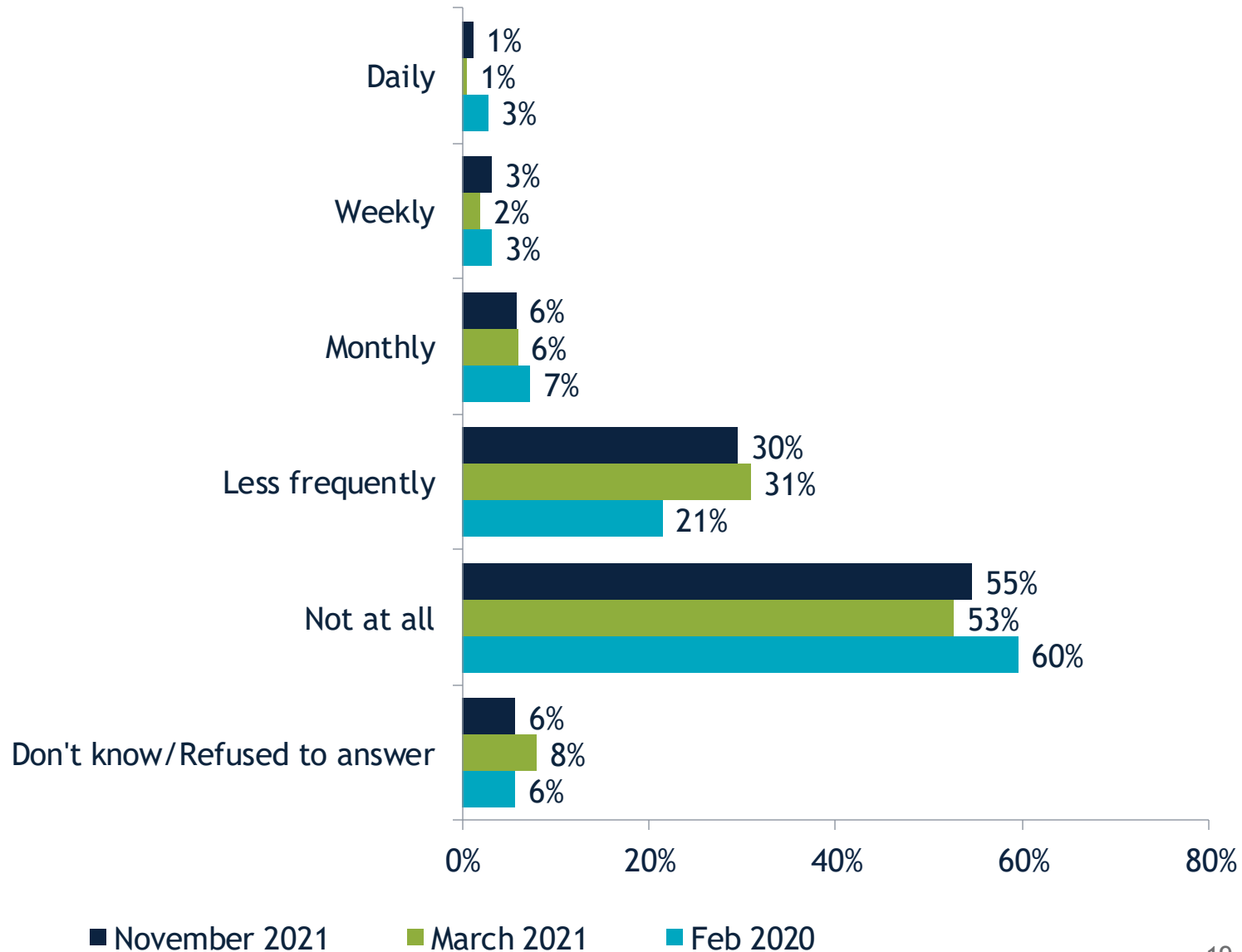


Now I would like to discuss corruption with you.

When I say corruption, I mean having to do a favor, give a gift or pay a bribe because someone misuses their position for personal gain. To what extent, if any, has corruption had a negative impact on you?



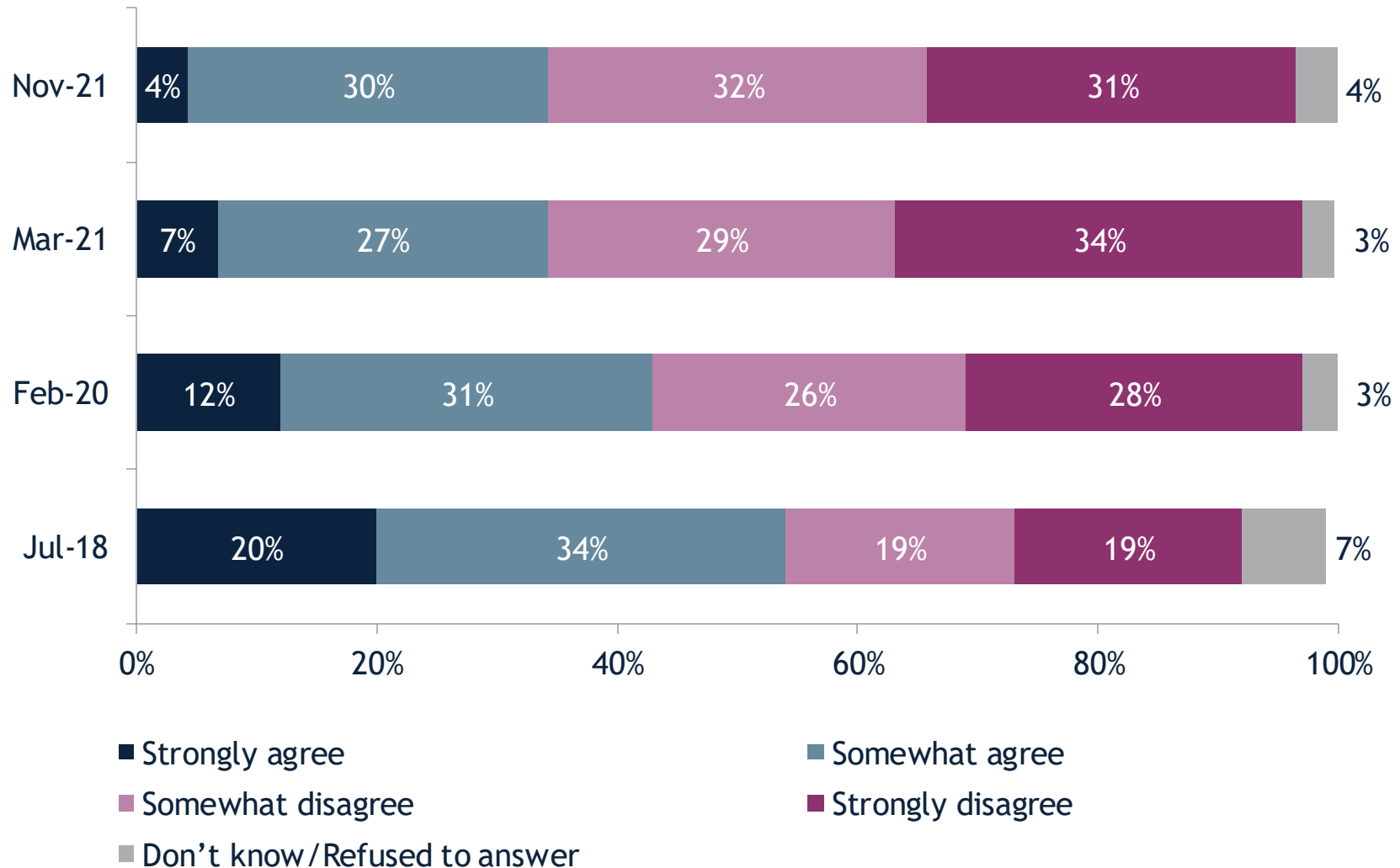
In the past 12 months, how often, if at all, have you had to do a favor, give a gift or pay a bribe?





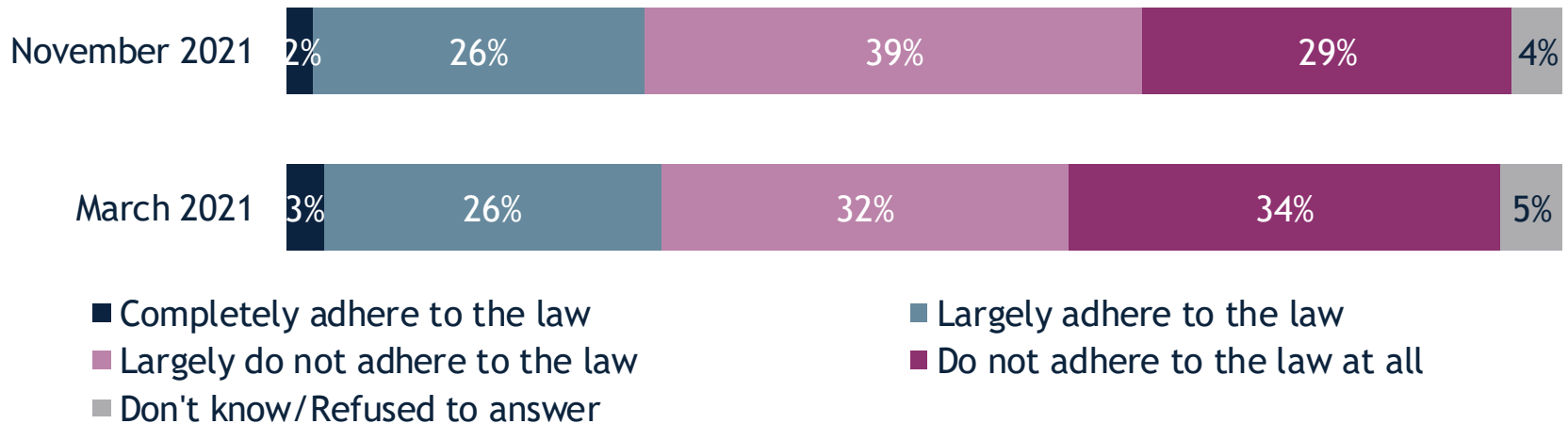
Government's Performance

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “The current Government is open and accountable to the citizens and the public”?

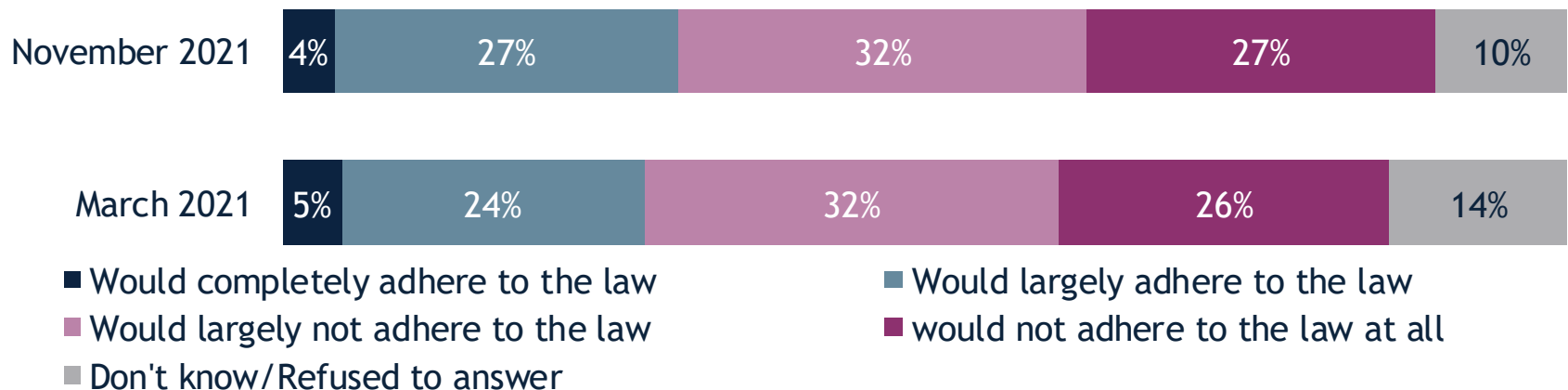


According to you, to what extent [...]

...do **government officials** adhere to the law in performing their jobs?

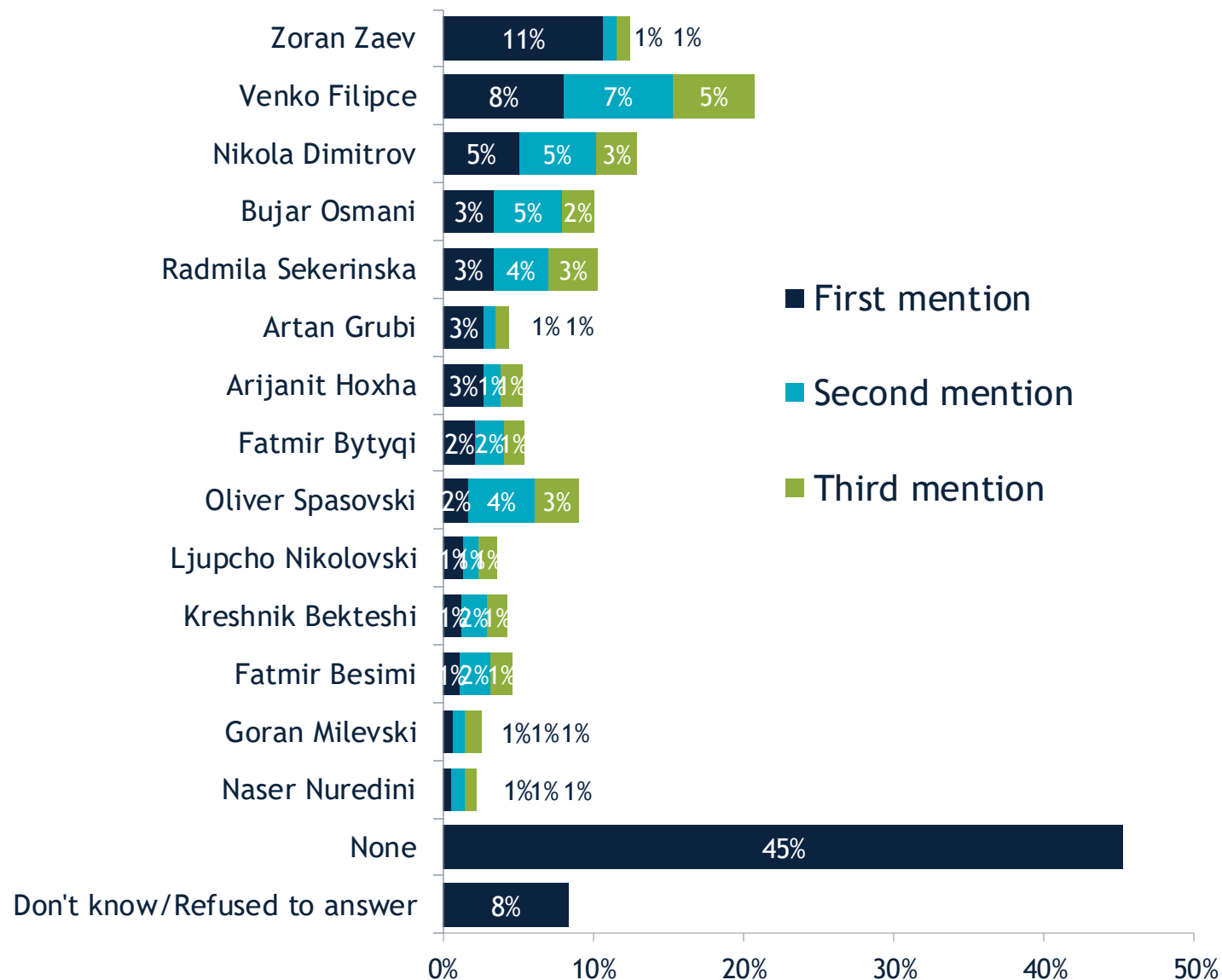


...would **opposition politicians** adhere to the law if they are elected?



Which three ministers in the Government are doing the best job?*

(Up to three responses permitted)**

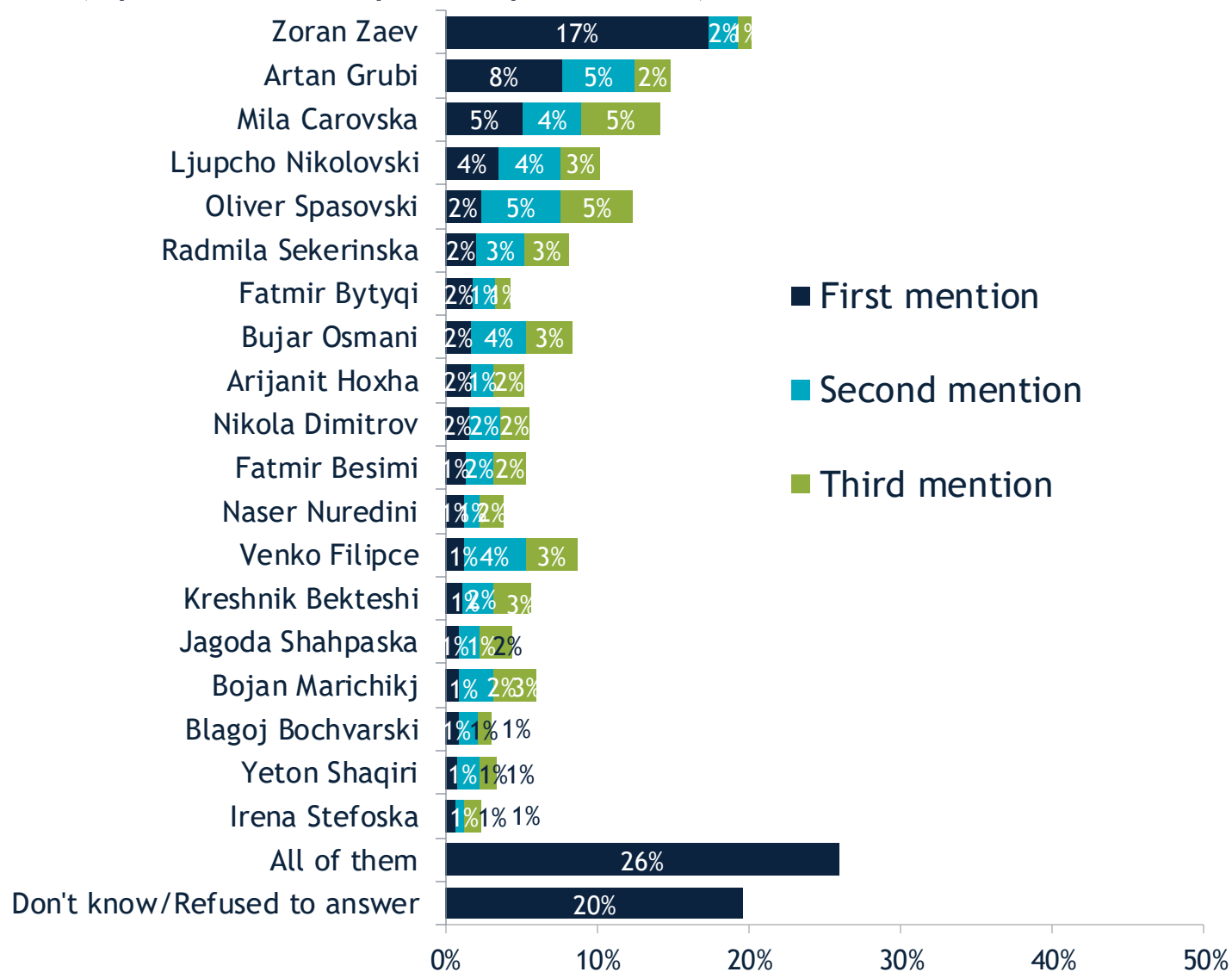


* First mentions less than one percent are not displayed.

** These government ministers are no longer in office. A new government was elected on January 16, 2022.

Which three ministers in the Government are not doing their job as they should?*

(Up to three responses permitted)**



*First mentions less than one percent are not displayed.

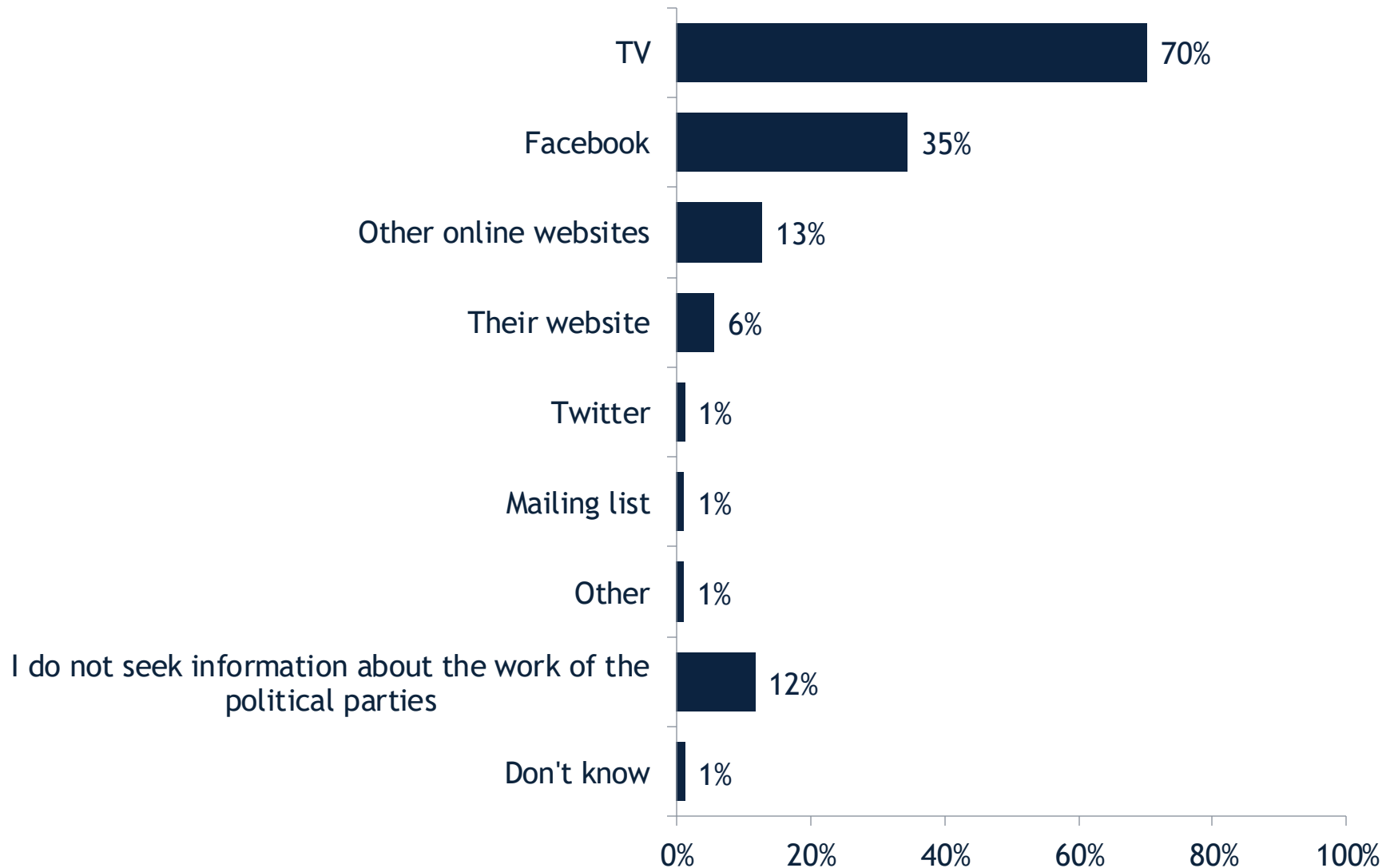
** These government ministers are no longer in office. A new government was elected on January 16, 2022.



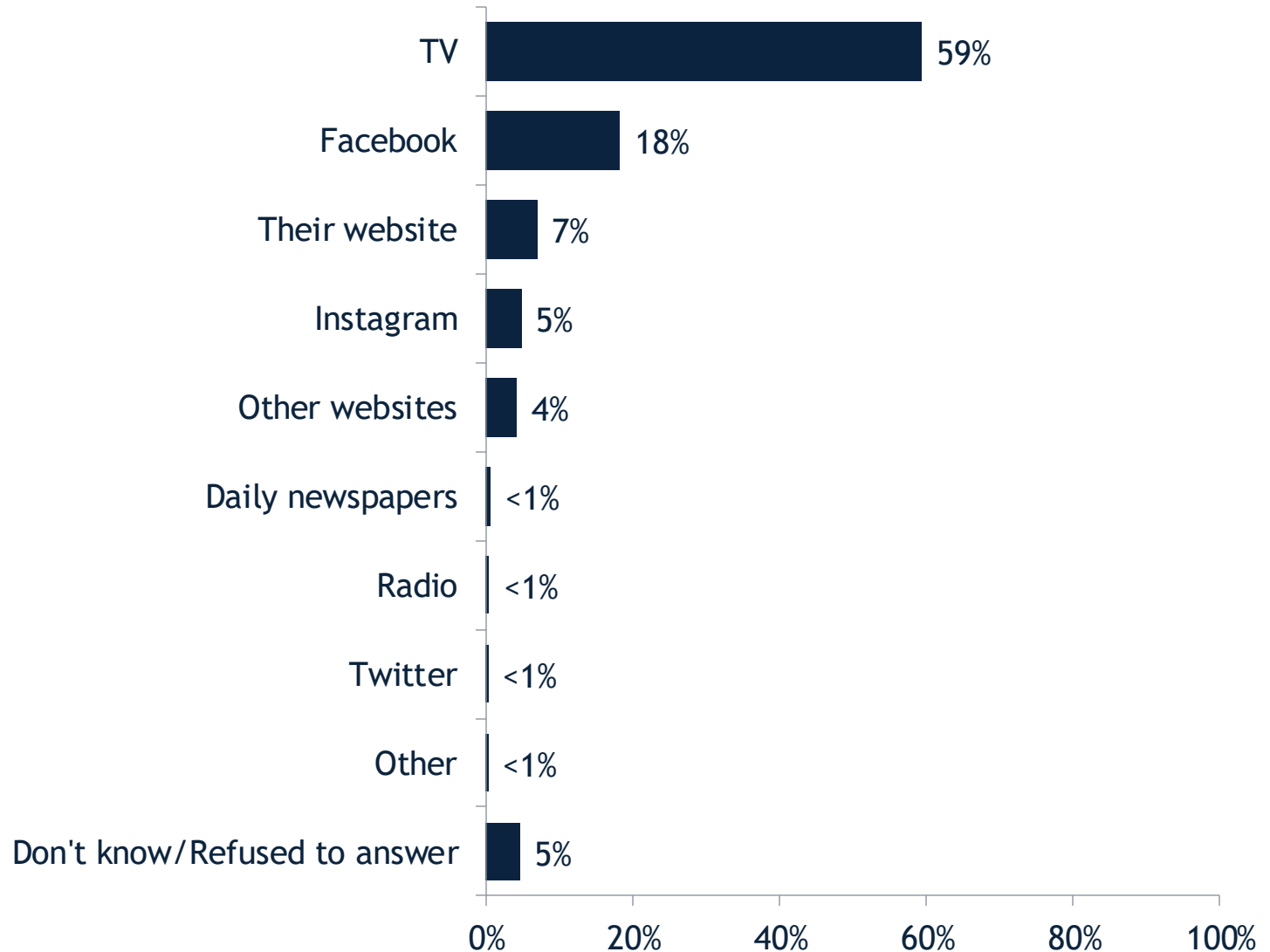
Party Financial Transparency

How do you inform yourself about the work of political parties in the country?

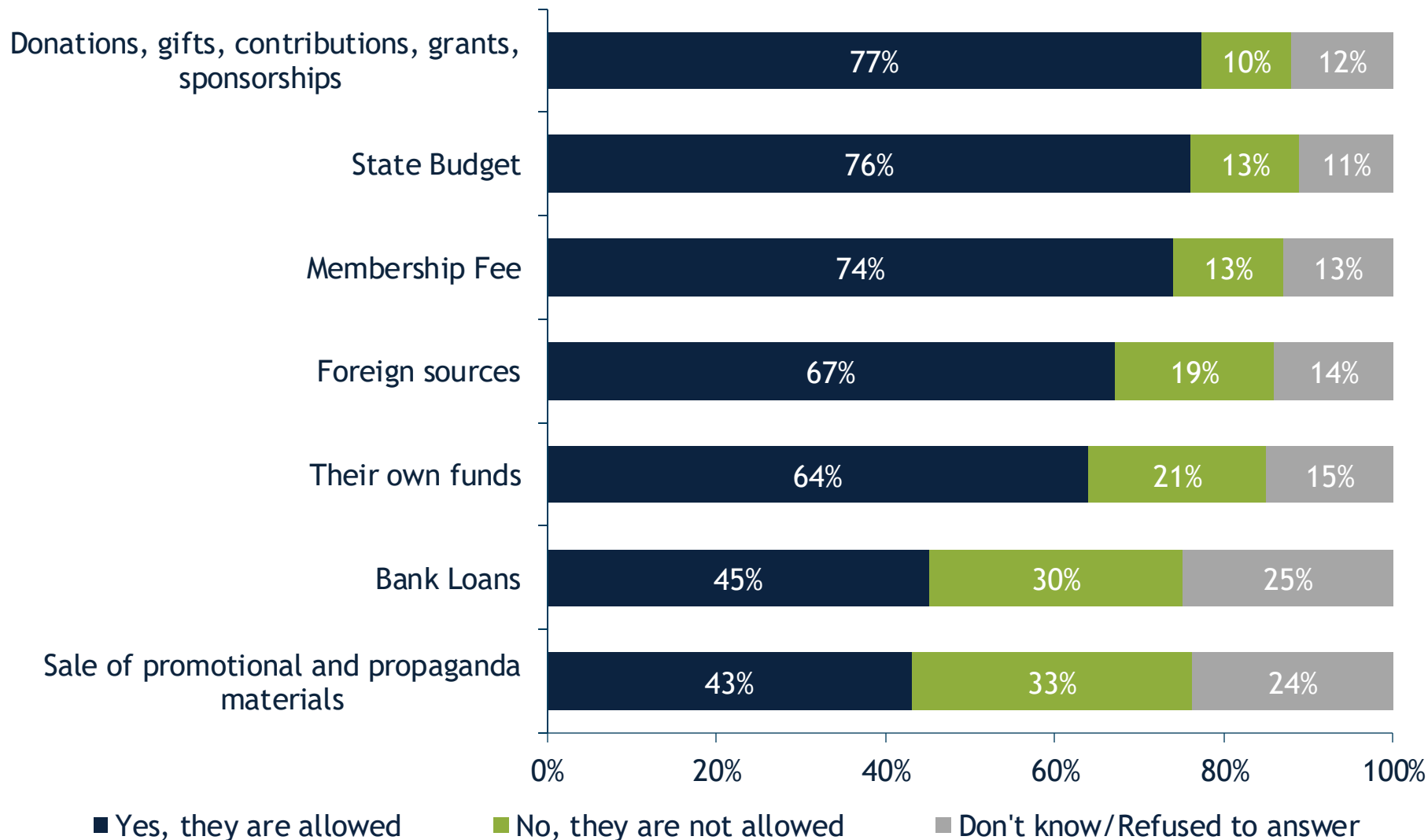
(Spontaneous responses and up to two responses accepted)



Where should a political party publish information so that it reaches you most easily?

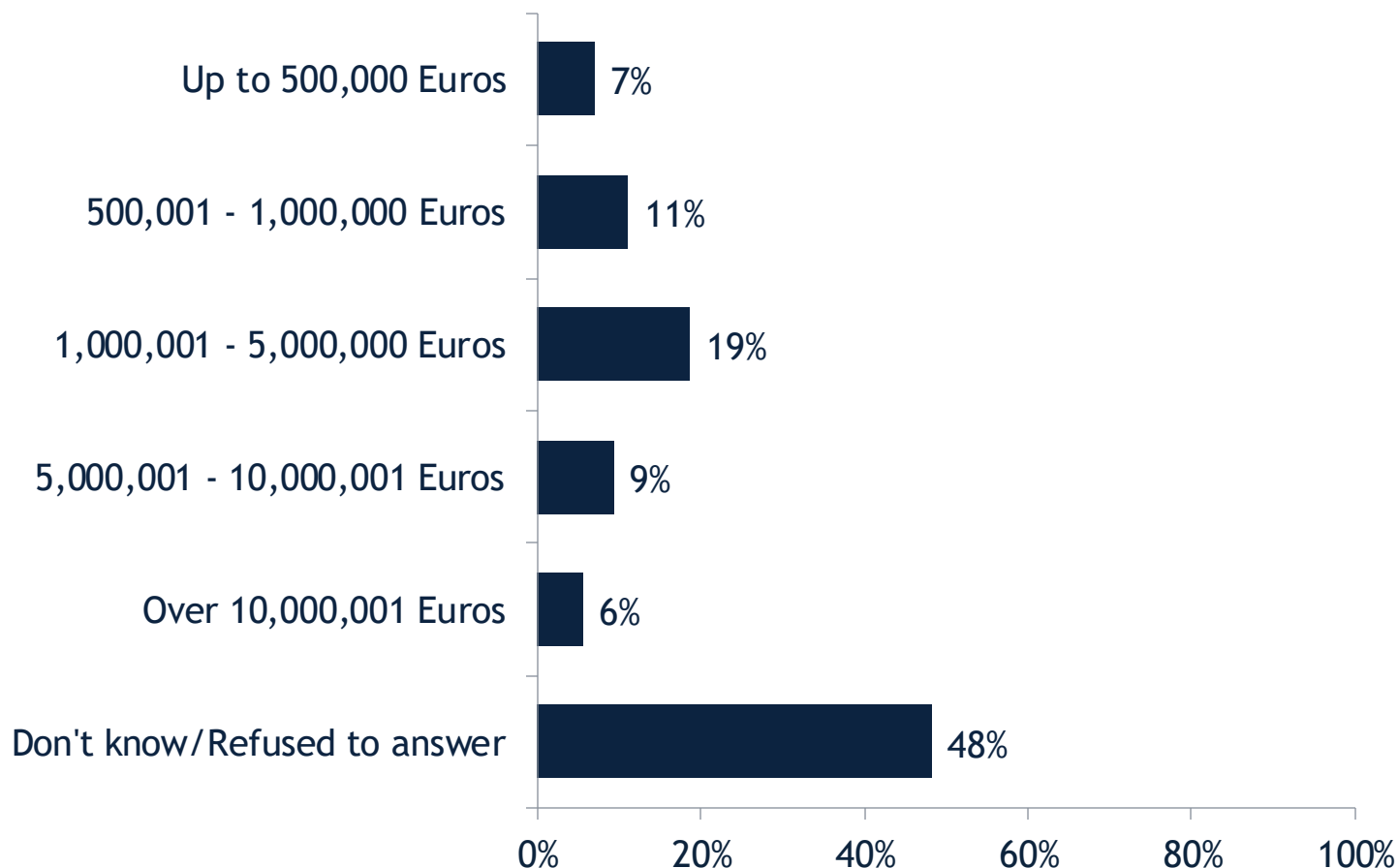


Do you know if political parties in North Macedonia are allowed to receive funding from any of the following sources?



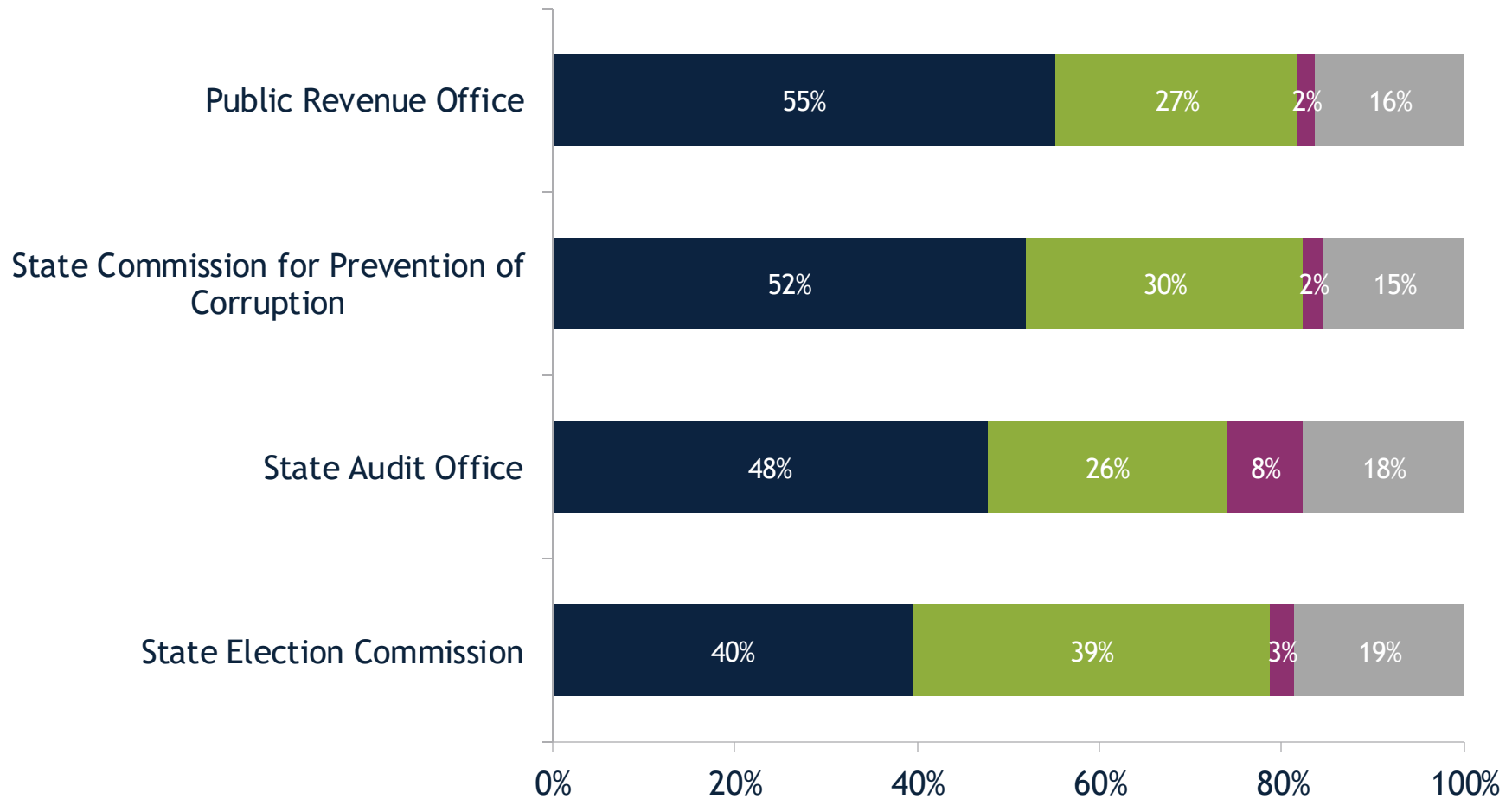
One of the sources of political party financing is the budget of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Are you aware as to how much money from the budget is allocated annually to finance political parties in the country?*



* In 2020 the annual funding for parties was 3.4 million Euros and in 2021 the annual funding was 3.5 million Euros.

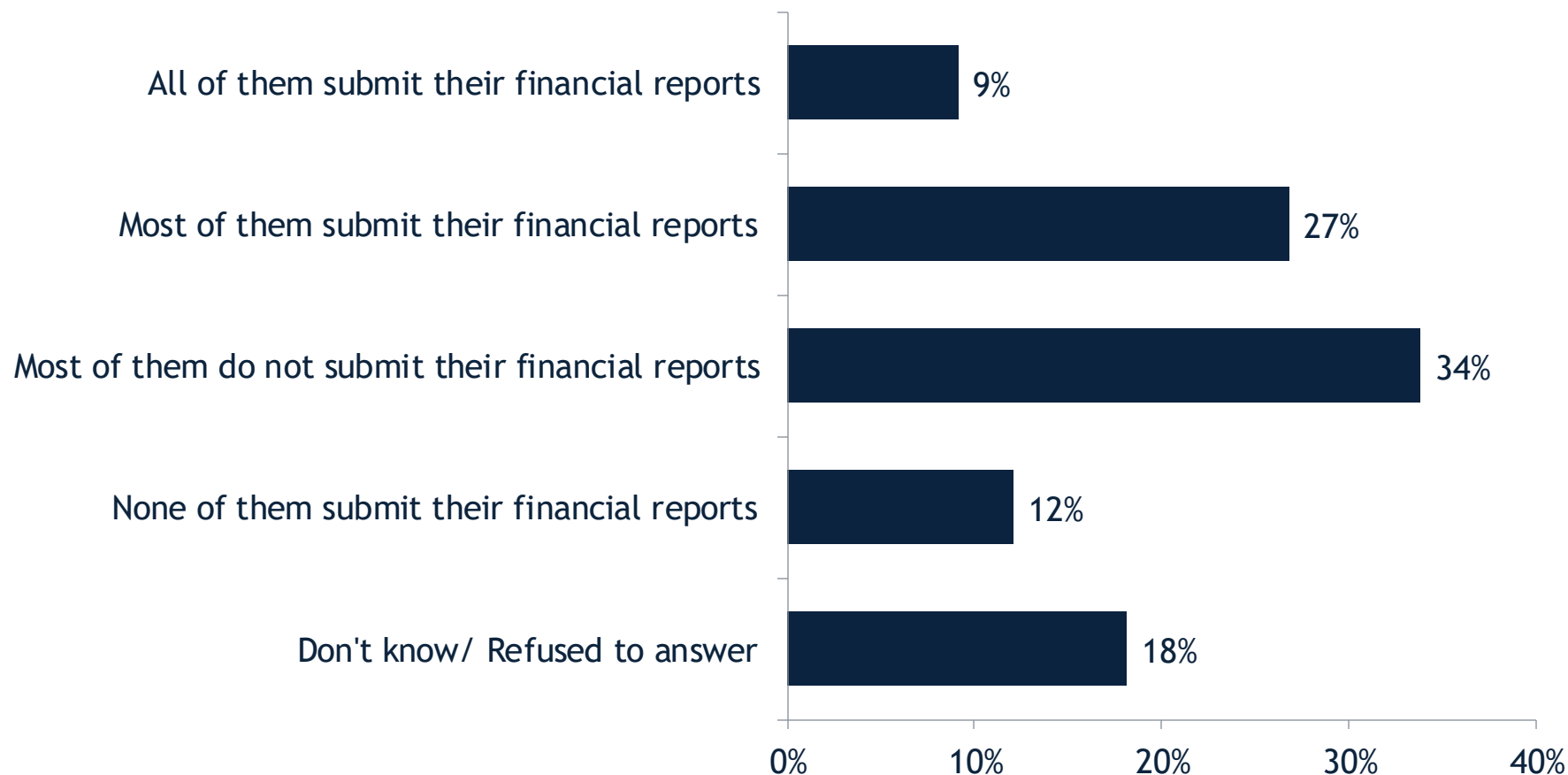
I will name a few institutions.
Can you please tell me, for each of these, whether it
exercises control over political party finances?



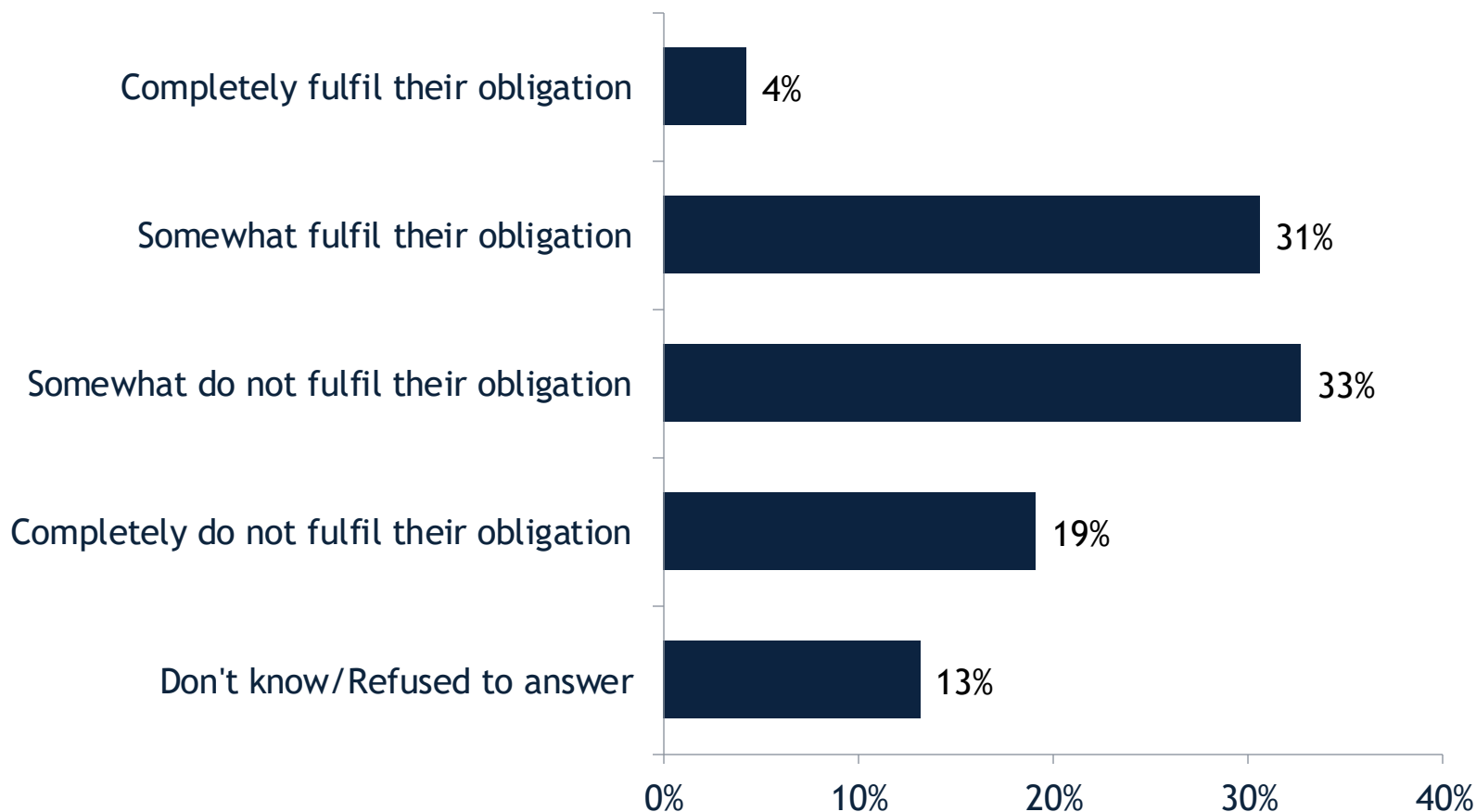
■ Yes, it does ■ No, it doesn't ■ I have never heard of this institution ■ Don't know/Refused to answer

Every year, parties are obliged to prepare an annual report listing their received donations, an annual finance accounting report, and an annual financial report, which they submit to the State Audit Office, also known as SAO.

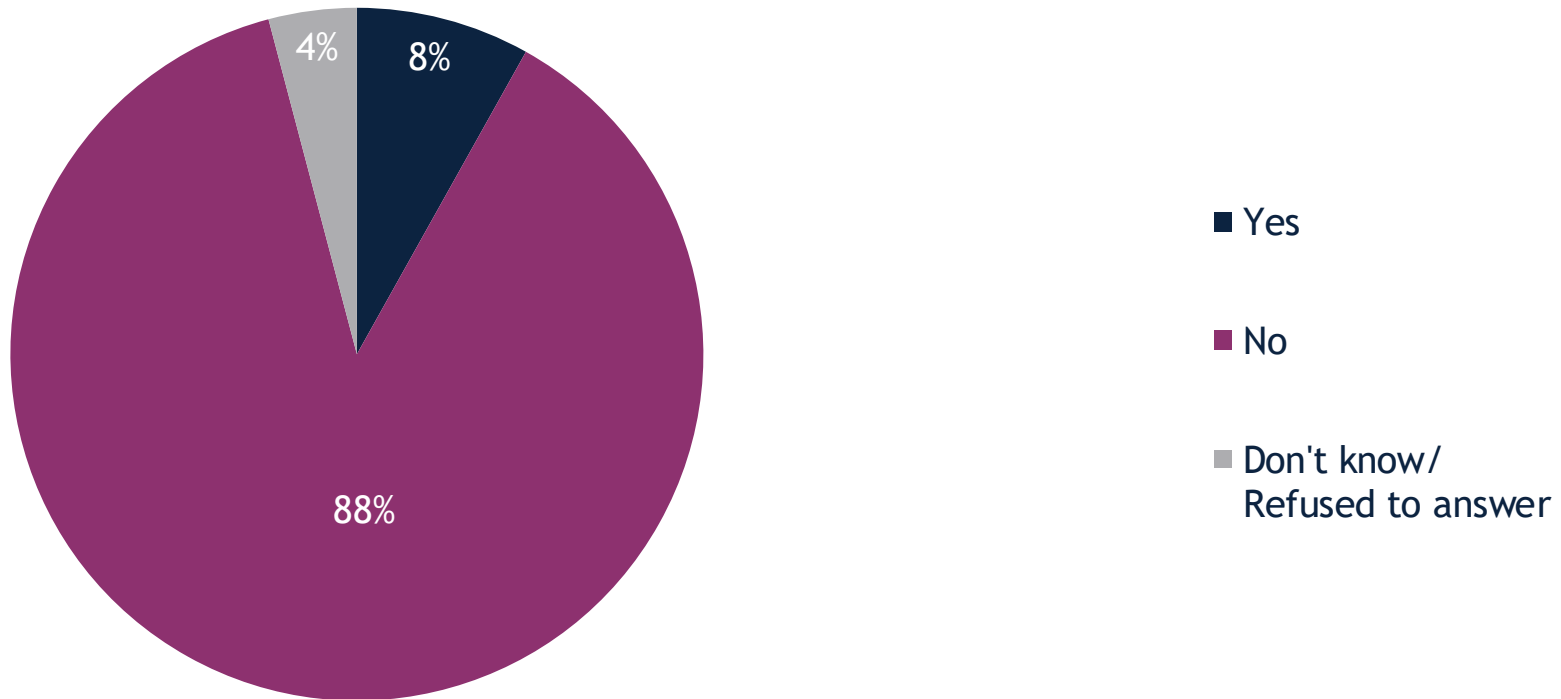
In your opinion, what share of political parties fulfill their obligation to submit their financial reports to the State Audit Office, also known as SAO?



In your opinion, do the relevant institutions fulfill their obligation to exercise control over the parties' financial reports?

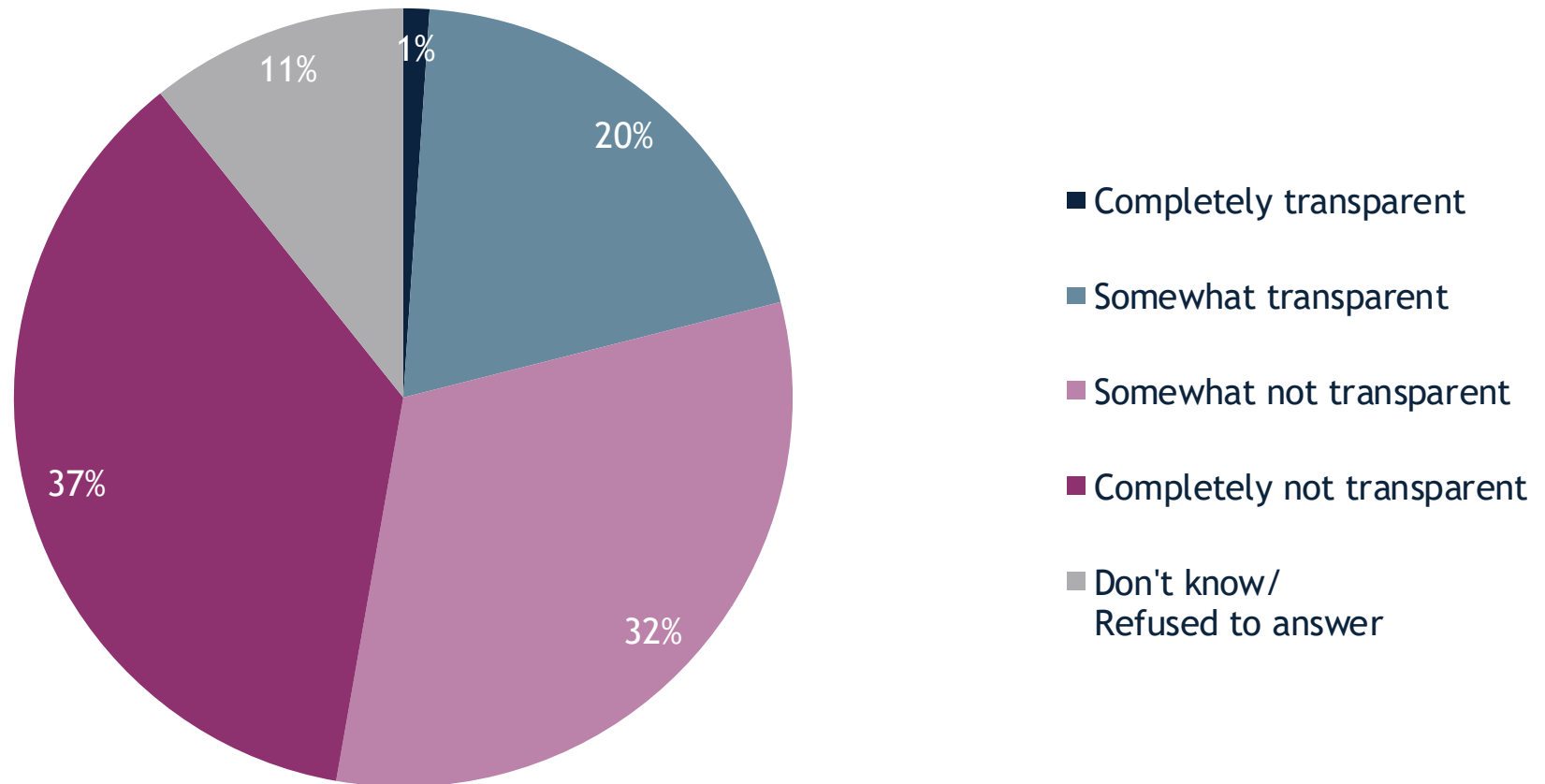


Have you ever seen a party or any campaign financial report, for example, a donor list, campaign report, or annual report?

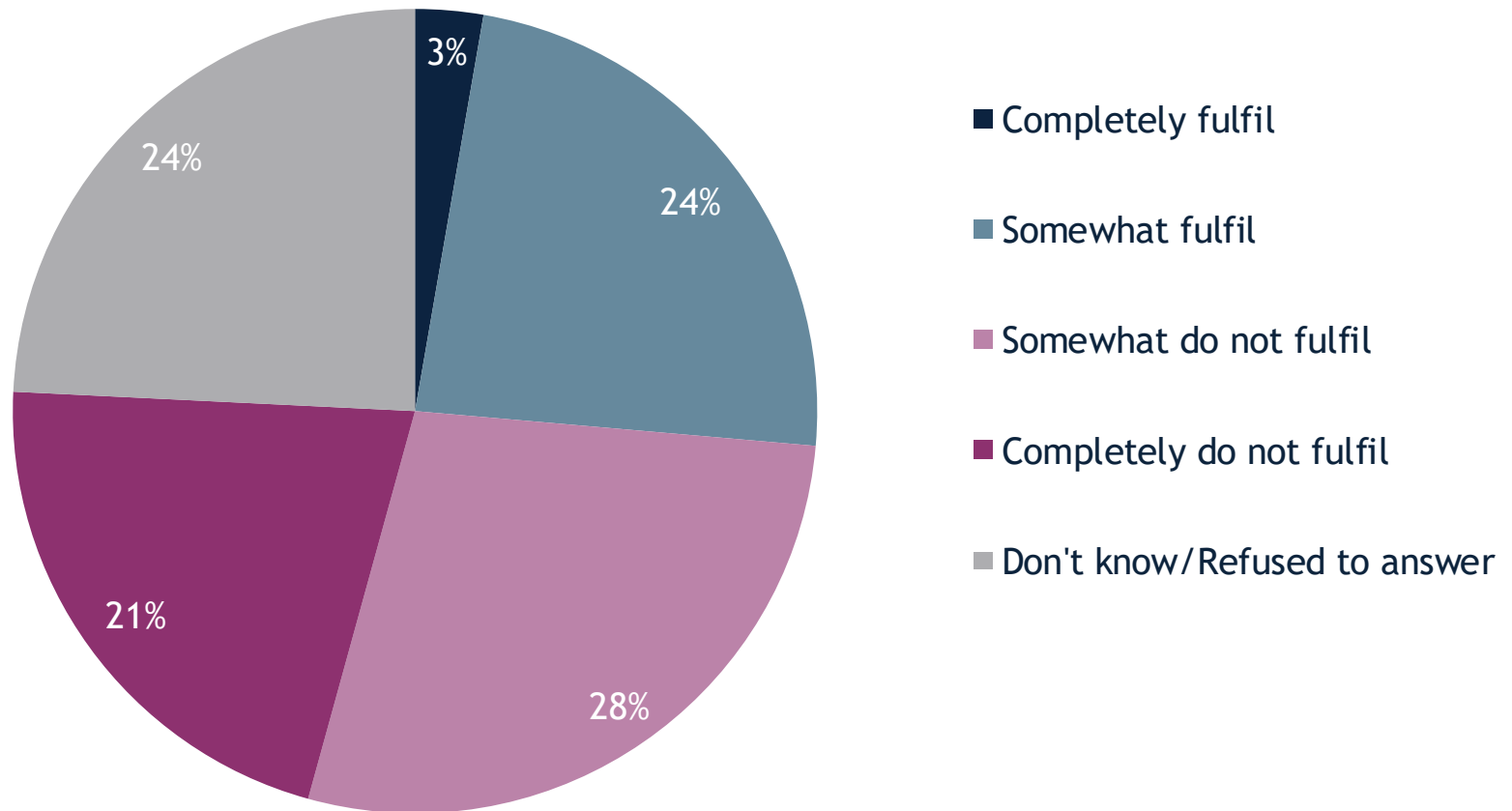


Last year, political parties received a total of roughly 5 million Euros from the state budget.

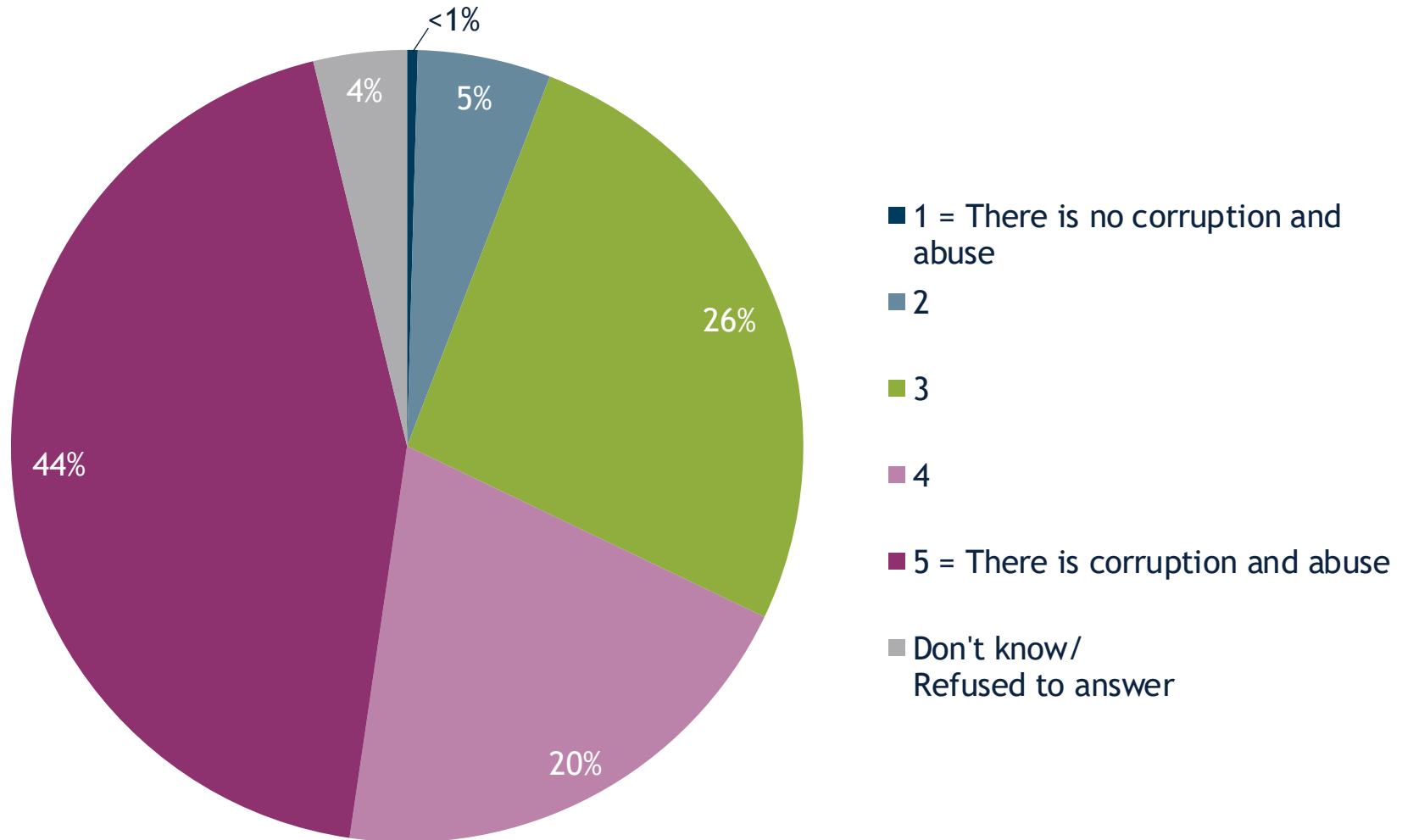
In your opinion, are political parties transparent to citizens regarding the money they receive from the budget?



In your opinion, do political parties fulfill their legal obligation to publish their financial statements on their website?



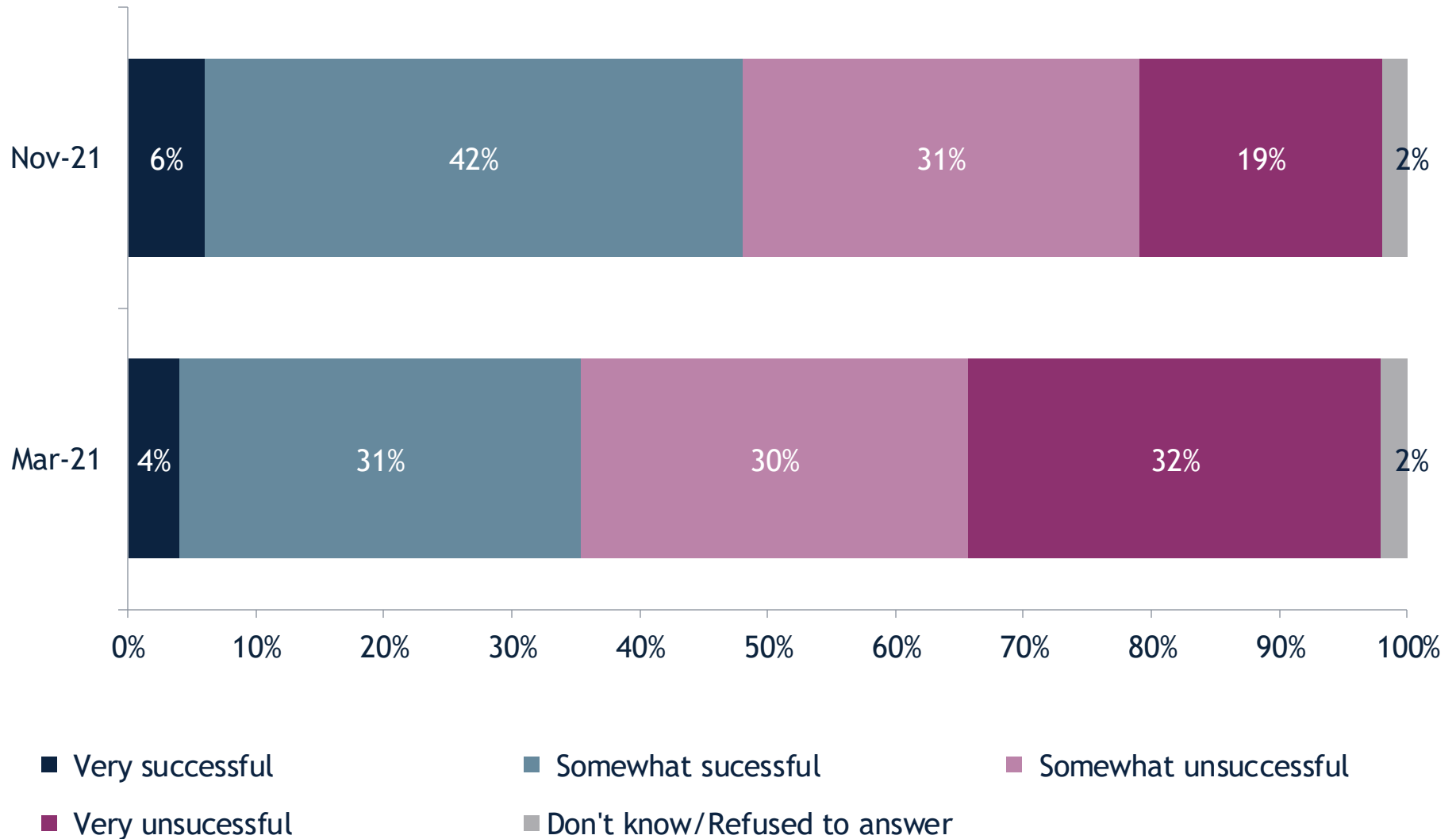
On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you think there is or there is not corruption and abuse in the financing of political parties?



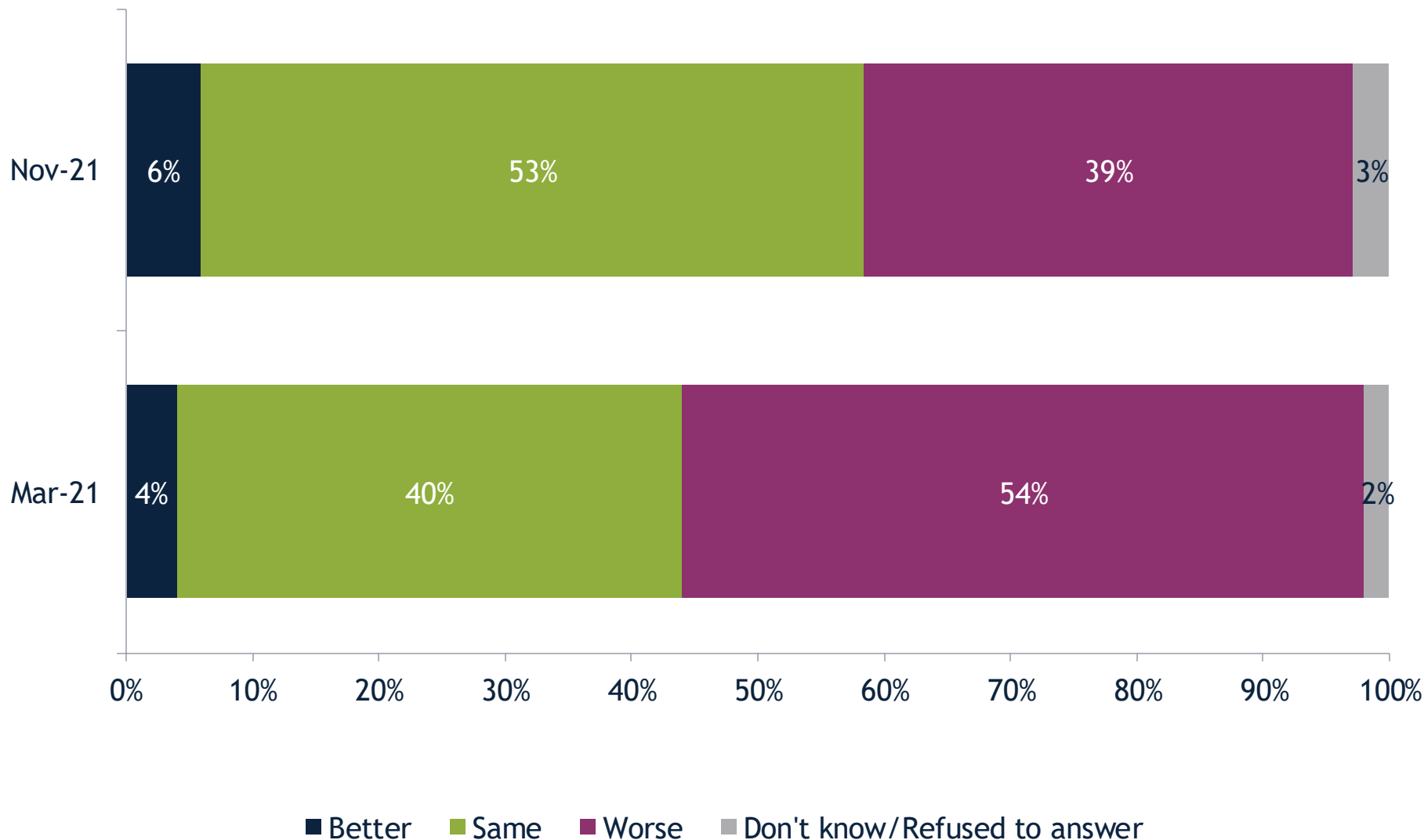


COVID-19 Pandemic

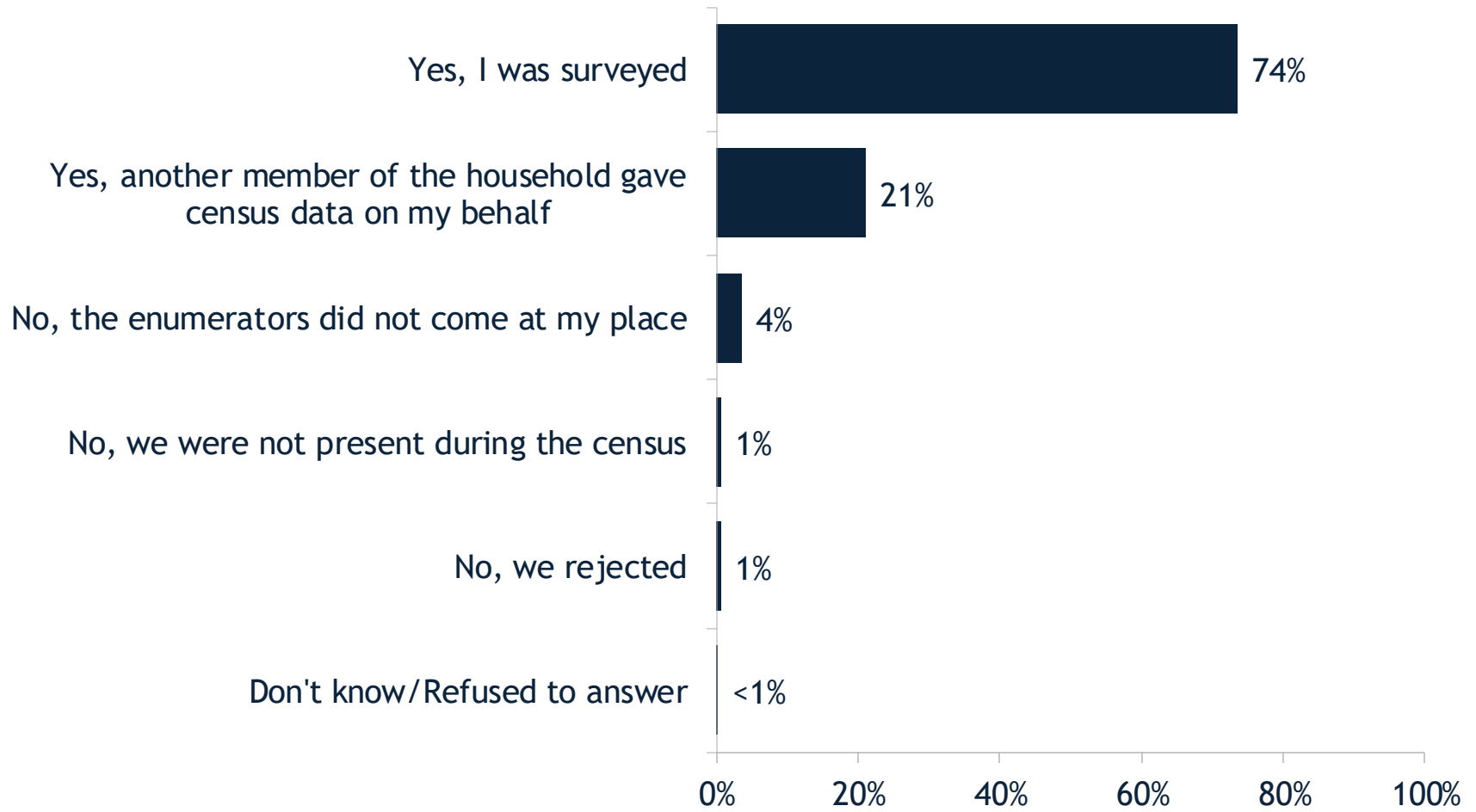
In your opinion, how is the government dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic?



In your opinion, how does the government deal with COVID-19 compared to the countries in the region?



Were you surveyed during the September census?

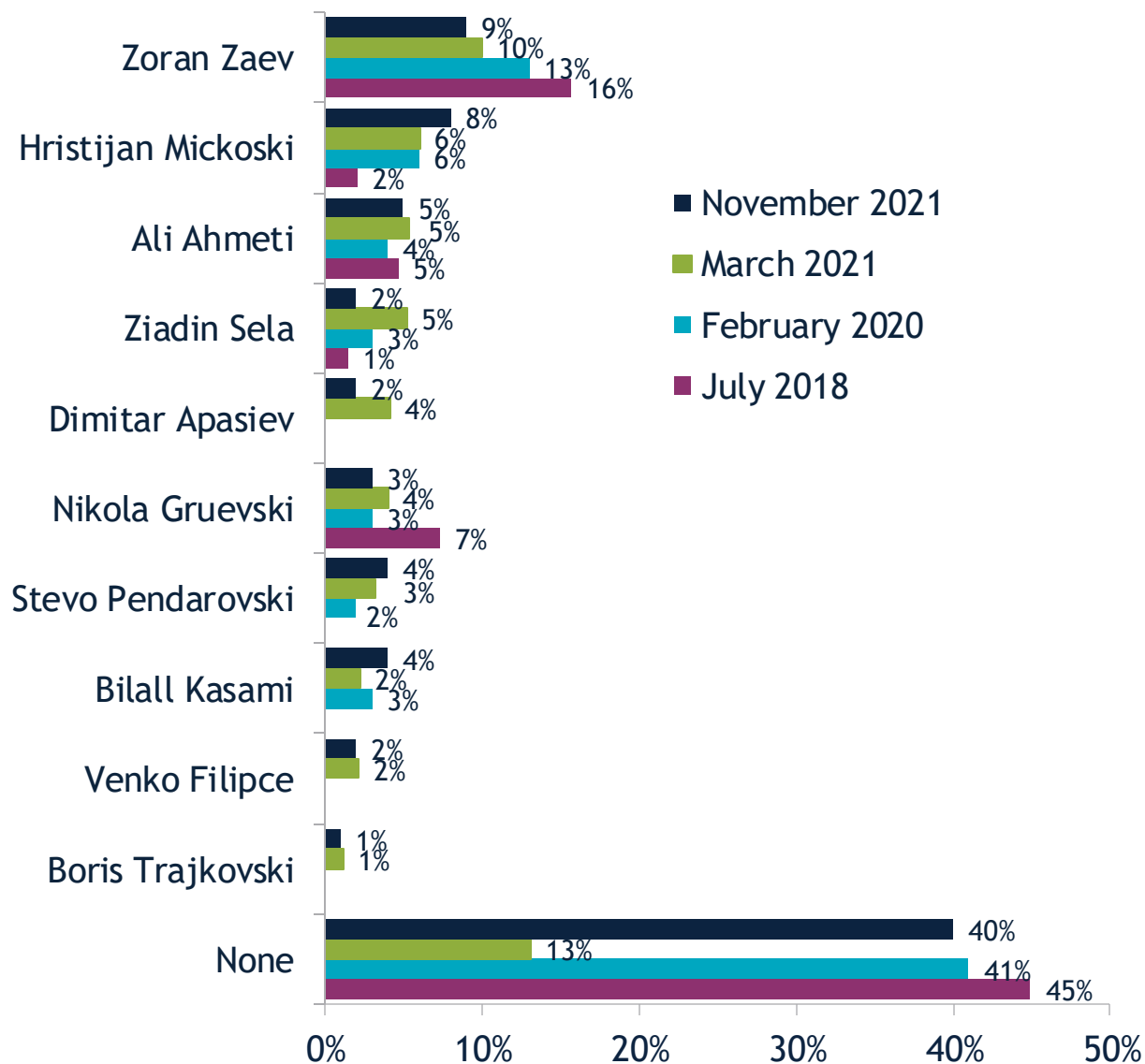




Elections and Political Parties

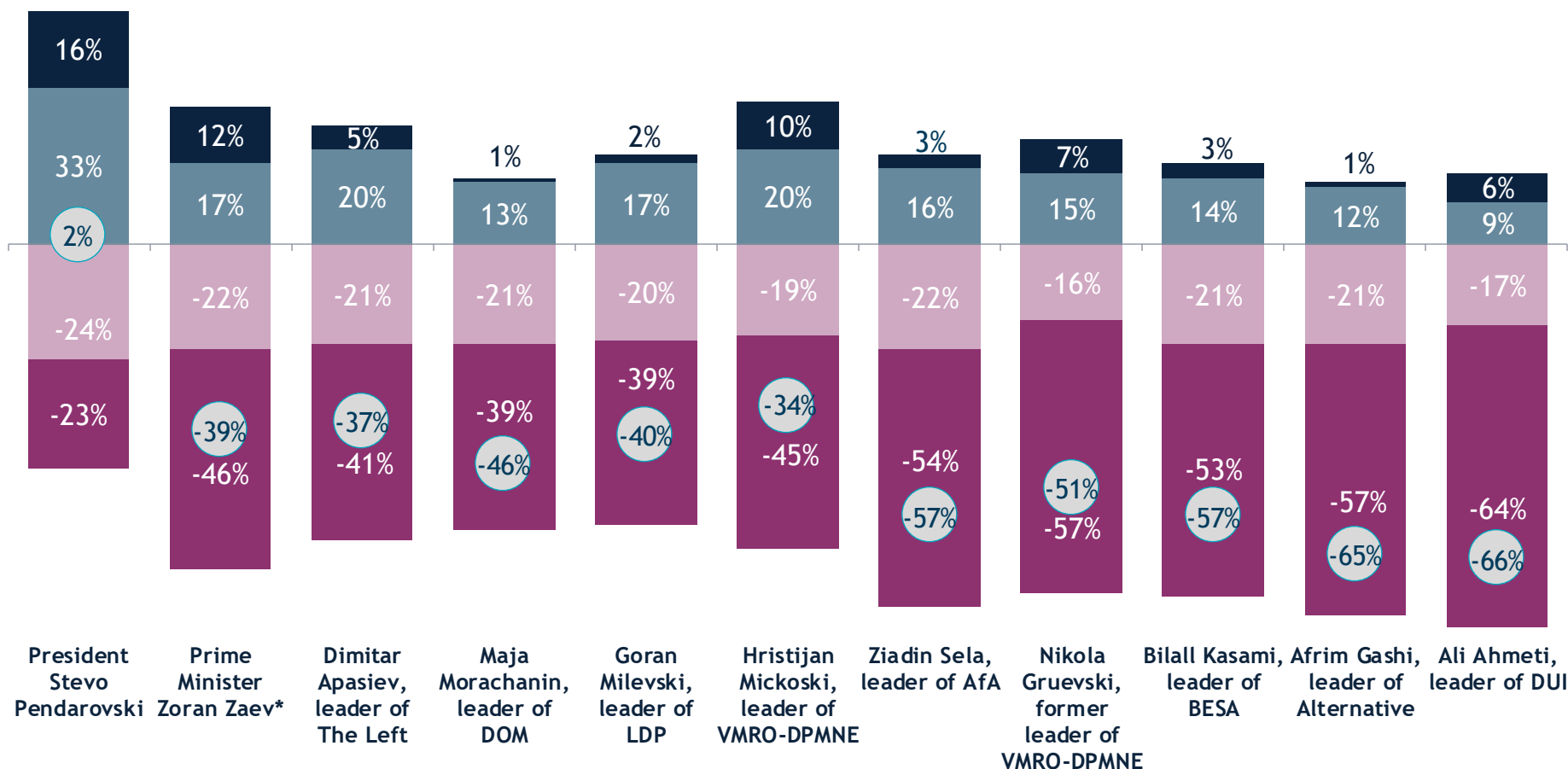
When you think about people in political life, who is the one person in North Macedonia whom you view most favorably?*

(Spontaneous response)



*“Don’t know” and mentions less than one percent are not displayed.

I will read you a list of names of political persons. Please tell me if you have a highly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or highly unfavorable opinion of this individual.
(Net favorability of political persons, Don't know/Refused to answer and I have not heard of this person are not displayed)

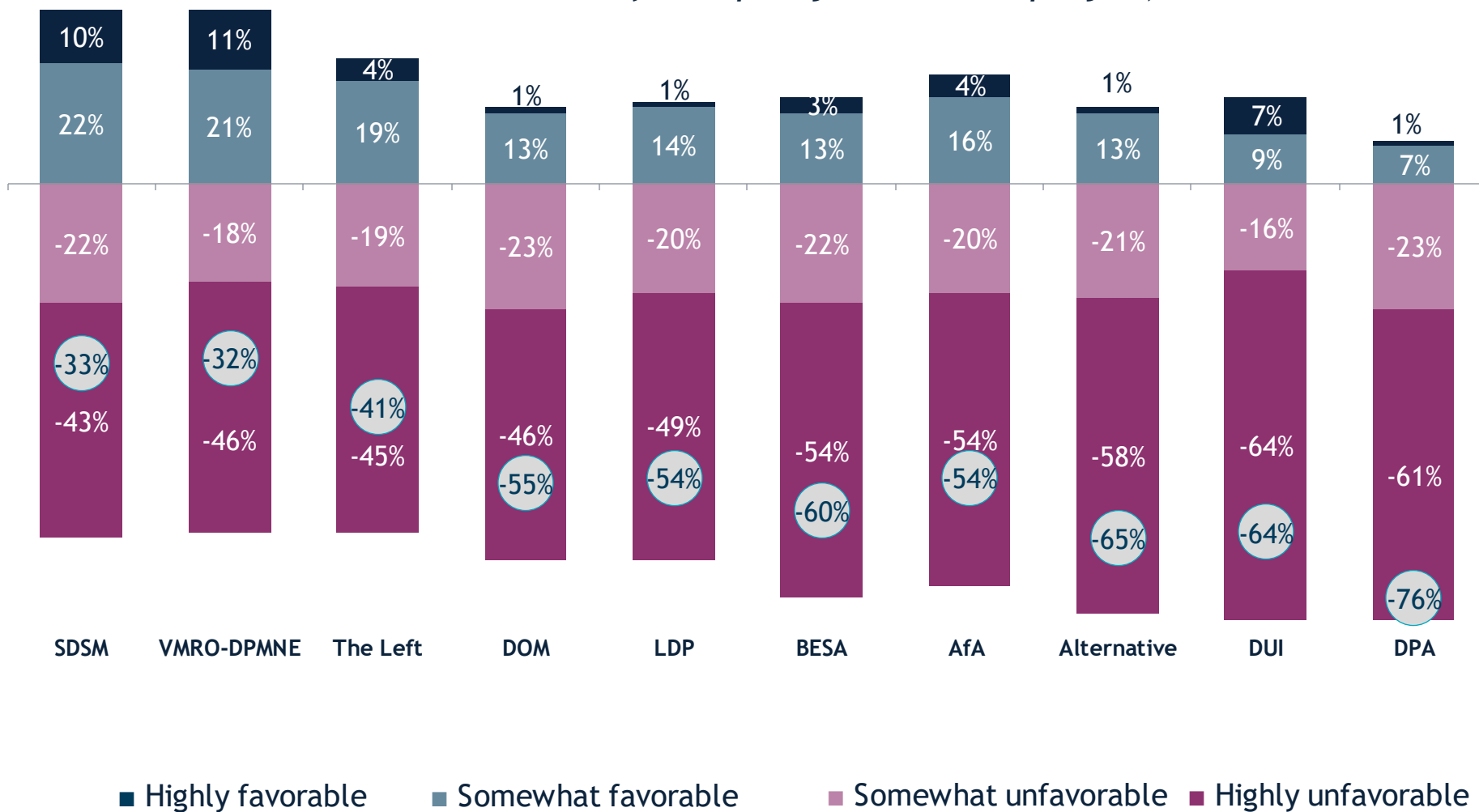


■ Highly favorable ■ Somewhat favorable ■ Somewhat unfavorable ■ Highly unfavorable

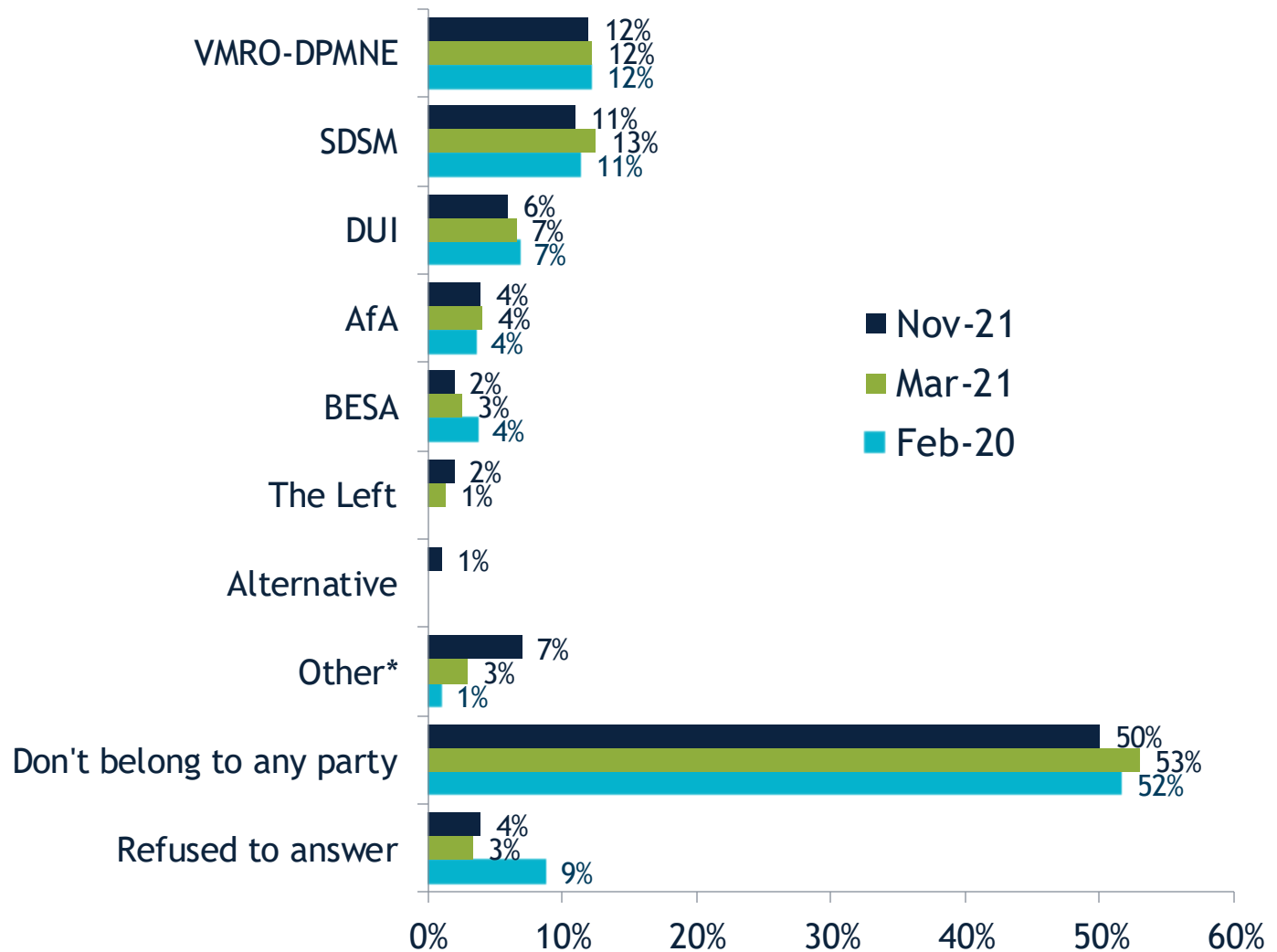
* Zoran Zaev is no longer prime minister; however, he held this position at the time when the poll was fielded.

I will read you a list of political parties. Please tell me if you have a highly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or highly unfavorable opinion of this party.

(Net favorability of political parties, Don't know/Refused to answer and I have not heard of this party are not displayed)

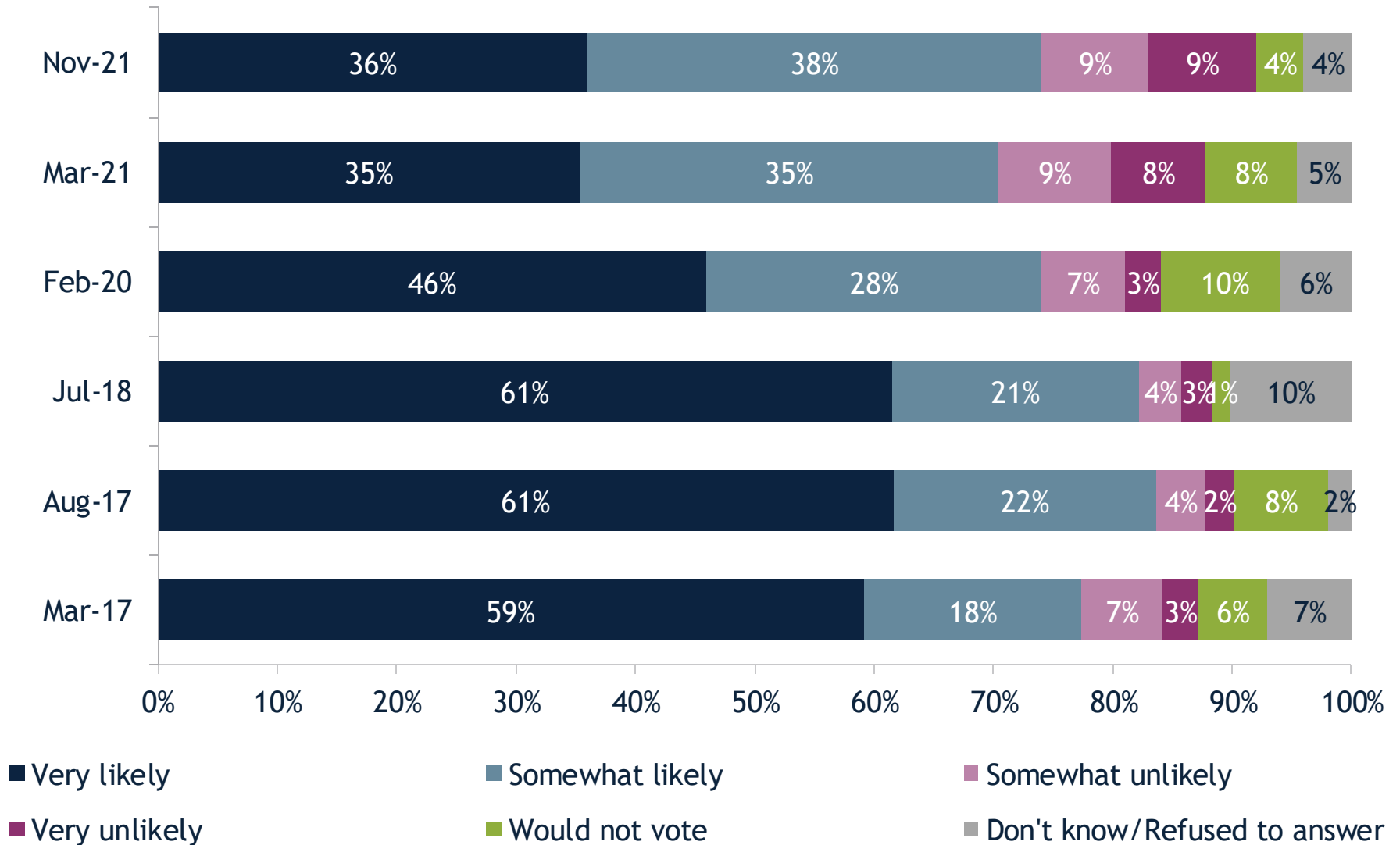


To which political party do you belong?*



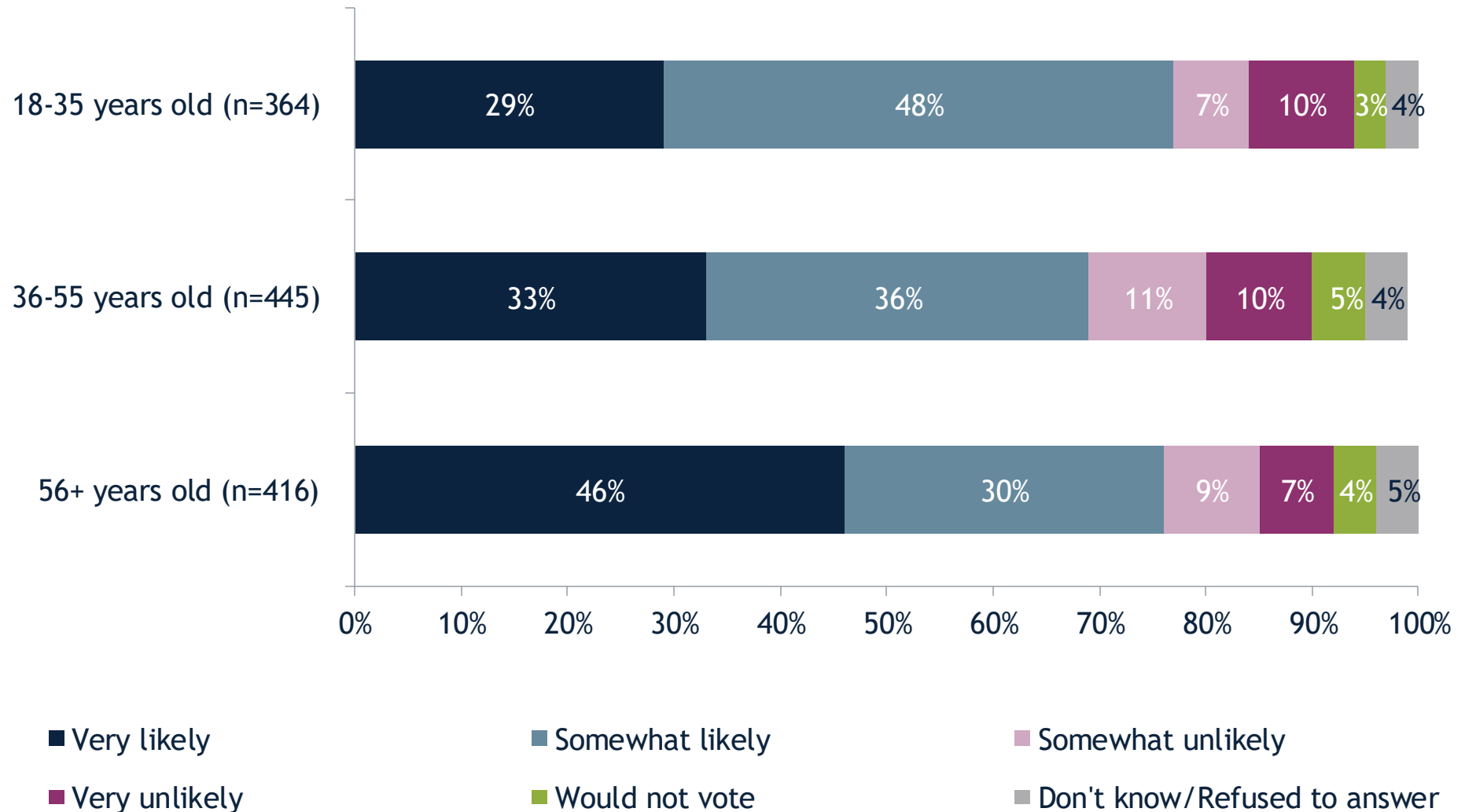
*Mentions less than one percent have been included into other.

How likely are you to vote in the parliamentary elections if they are held this Sunday?

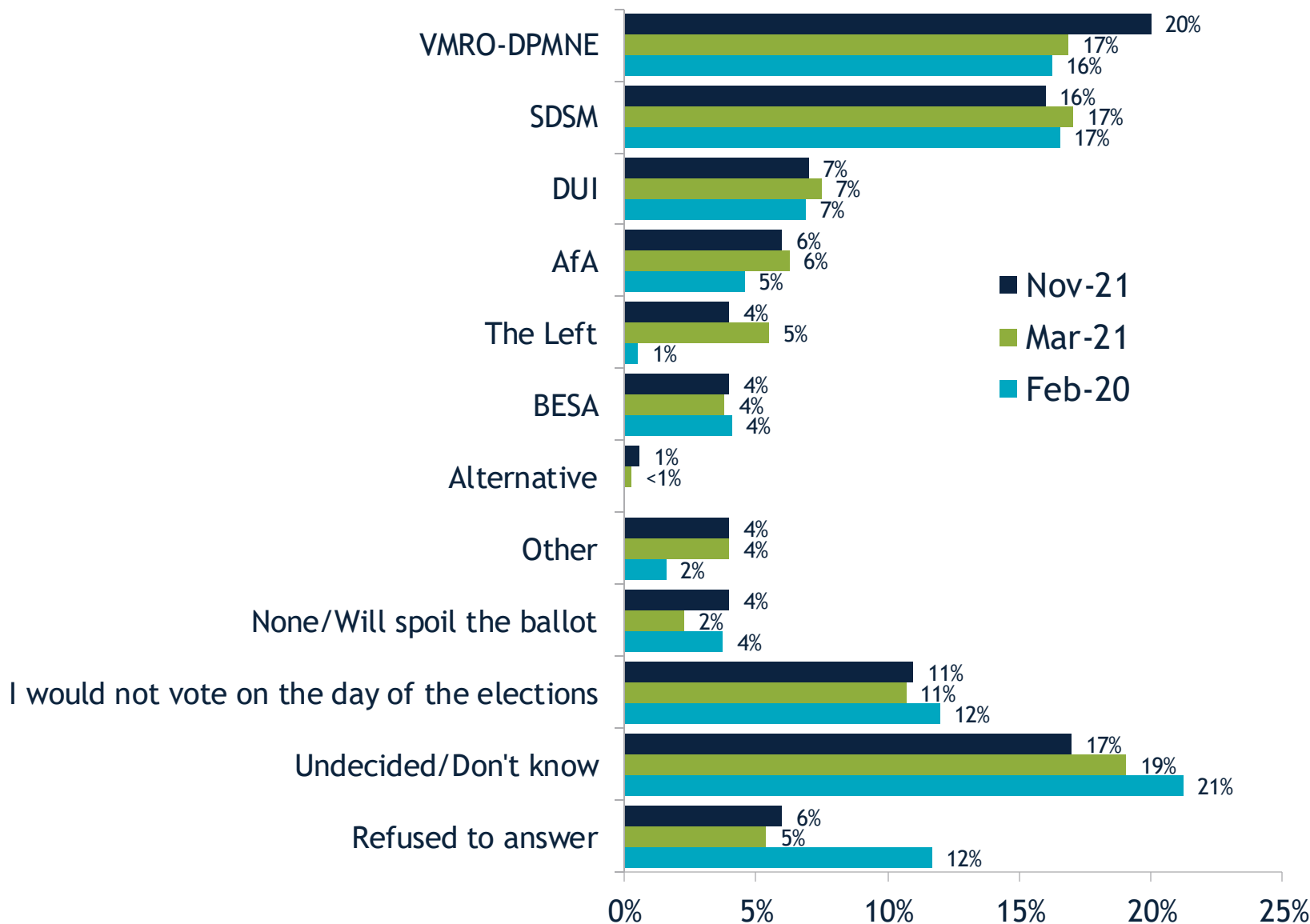


How likely or unlikely are you to vote in the parliamentary elections if they are held this Sunday?

(Disaggregated by age)



If parliamentary elections were held this coming Sunday which party, if any, would you vote for?*



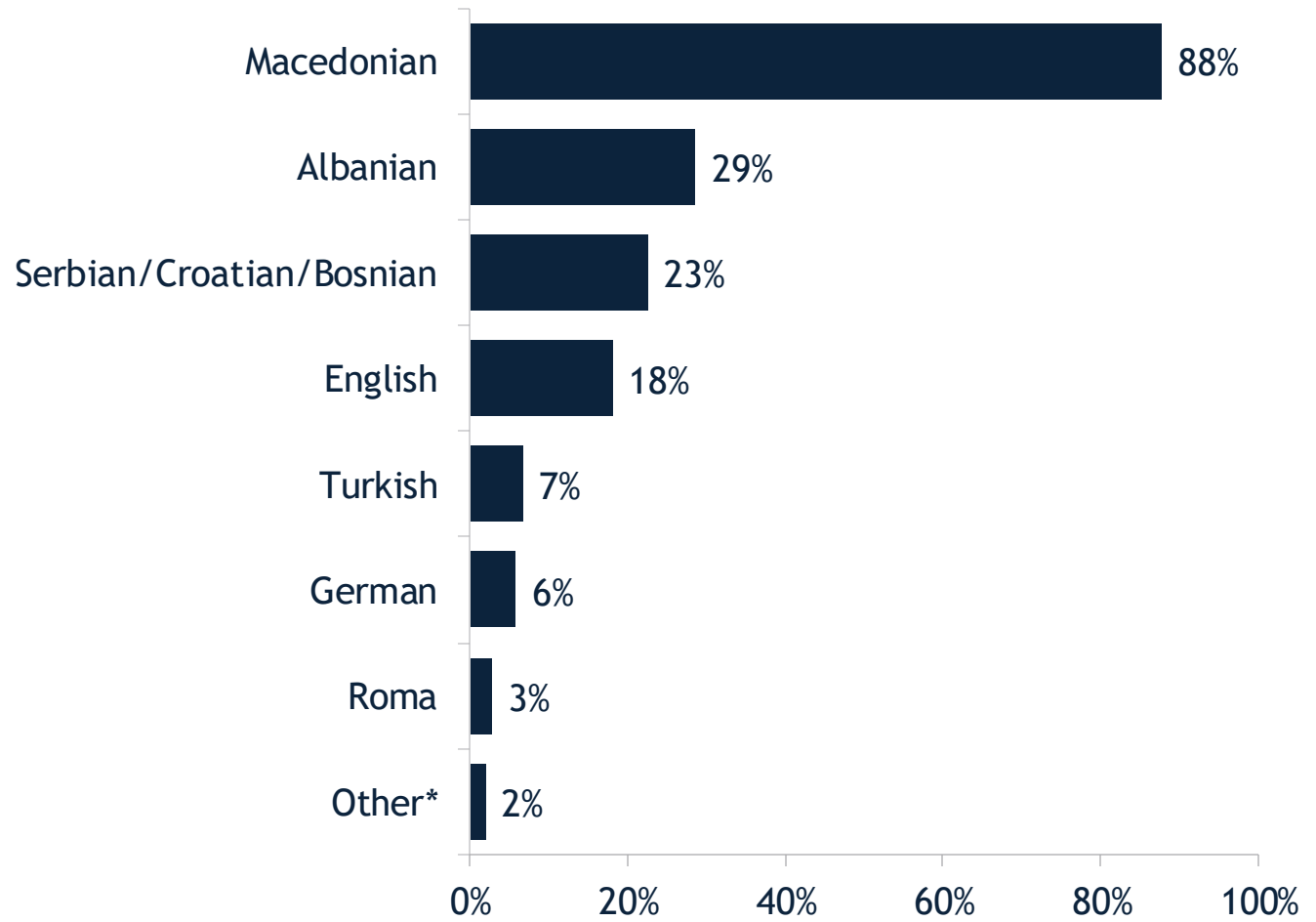
*See glossary of political parties on slide 3.



Social Cohesion

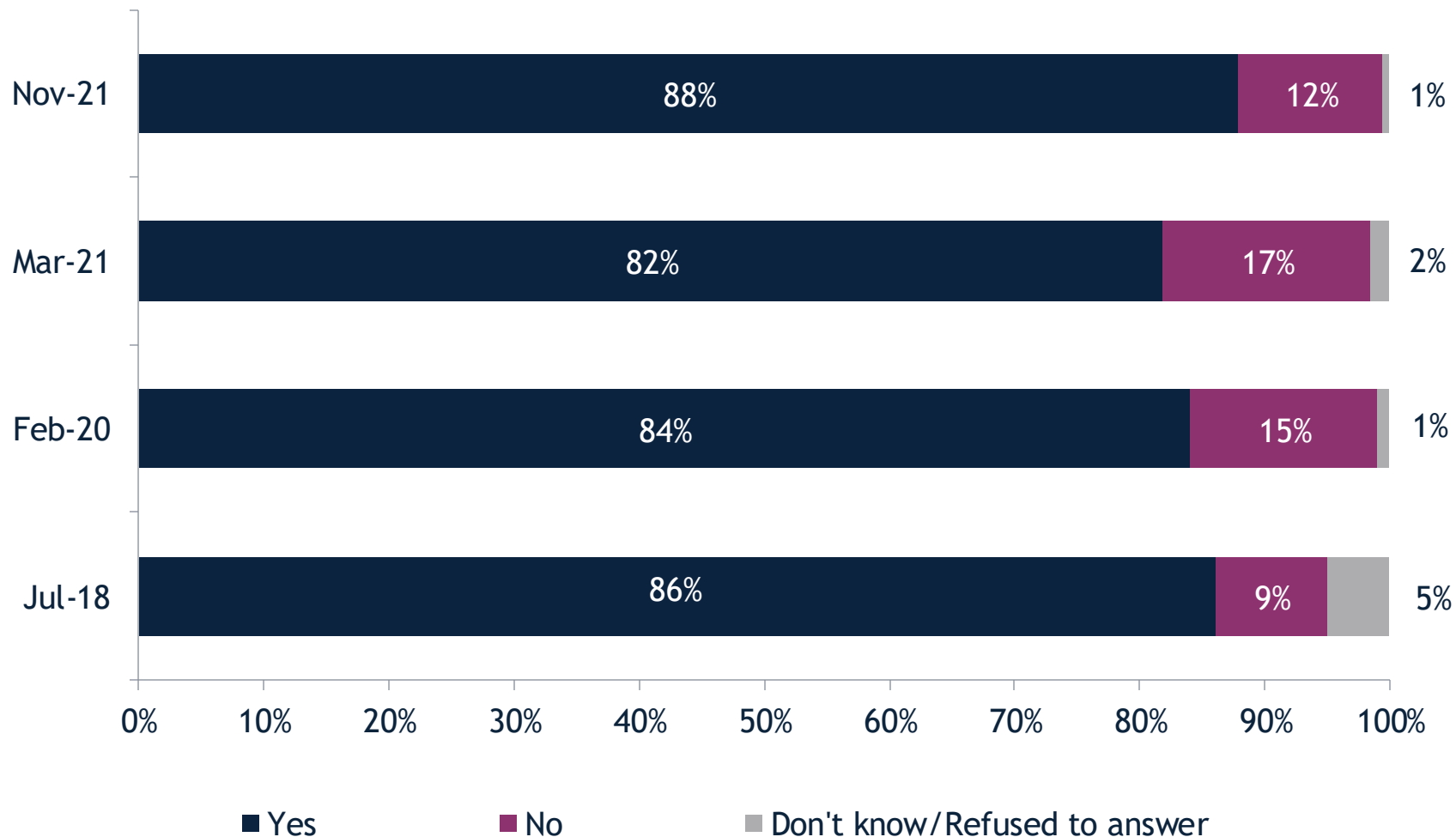
What language(s) do you speak at a level to be able to study and work in that language?

(Spontaneous response; multiple responses permitted)

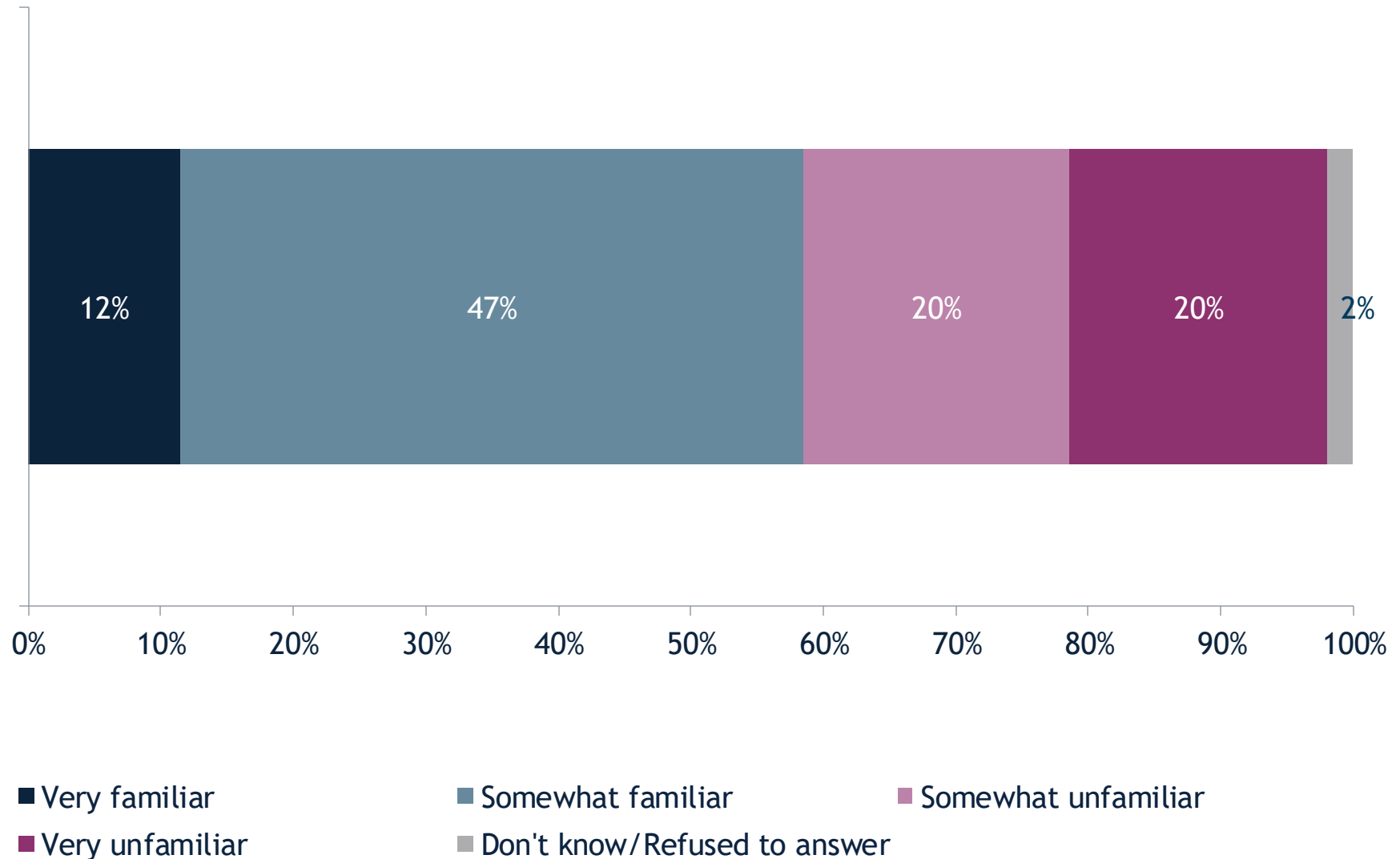


* Mentions less than one percent have been combined into other.

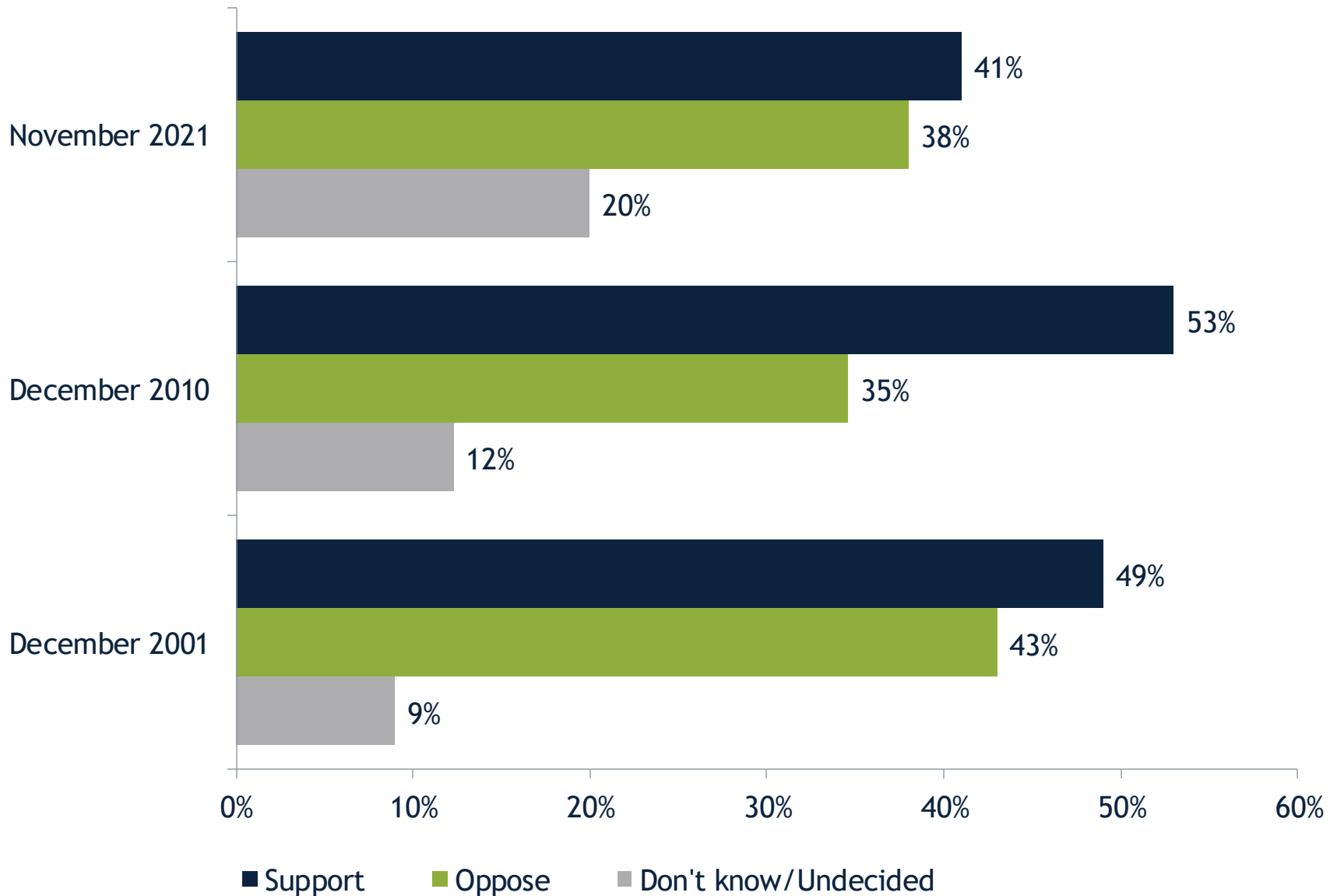
Should all citizens, regardless of ethnic background, be proficient in Macedonian as the official state language?



How familiar are you with the Ohrid Framework Agreement?



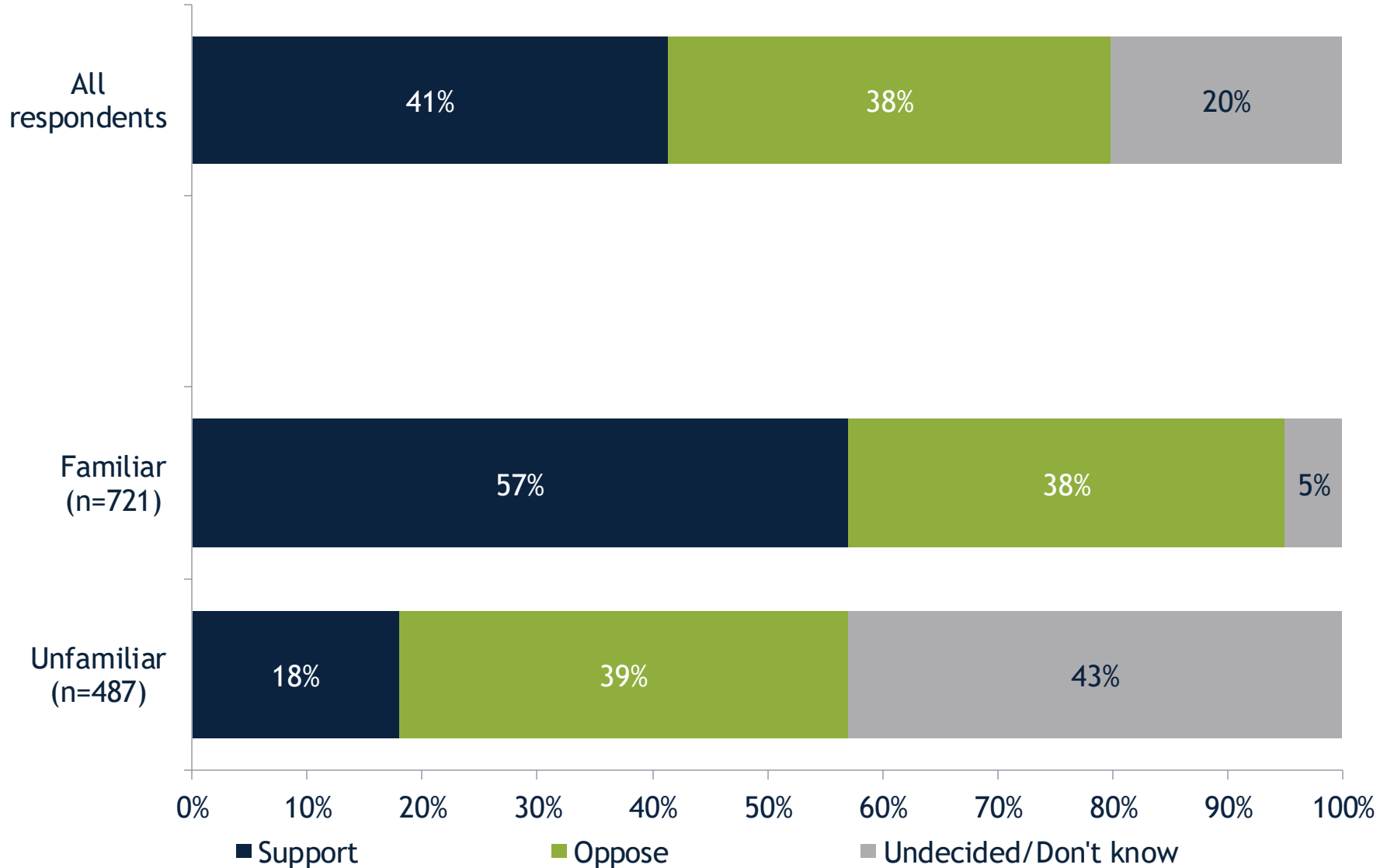
Do you personally support or oppose the Ohrid Framework Agreement?*



*Refused to answer is not displayed.

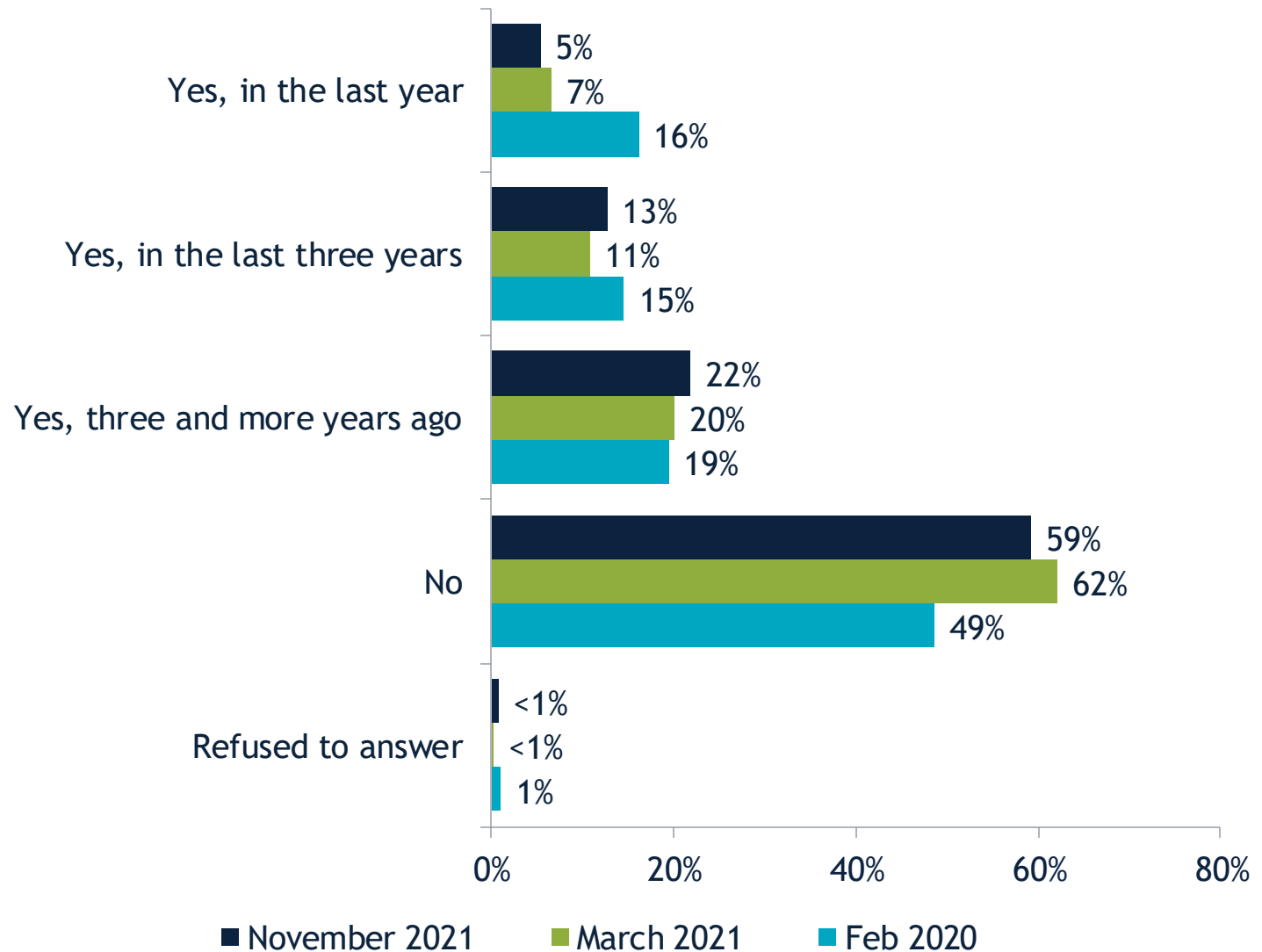
Do you personally support or oppose the Ohrid Framework Agreement?*

(Disaggregated by level of familiarity with Ohrid Framework Agreement)



*Refused to answer is not displayed.

Is there any member of your household who has emigrated to live and/or work abroad?



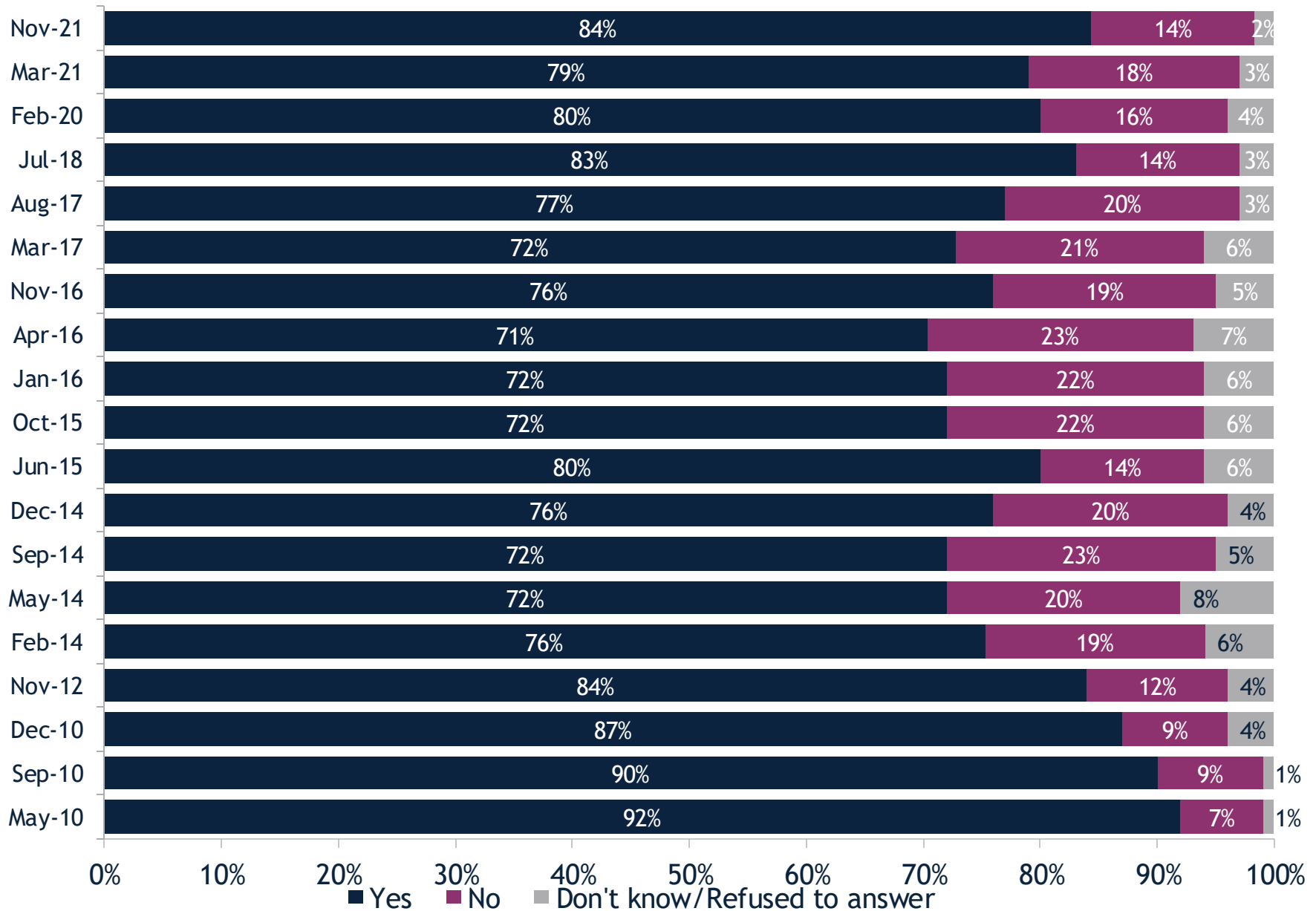


Attitudes toward Euro-Atlantic Integration and Foreign Relations

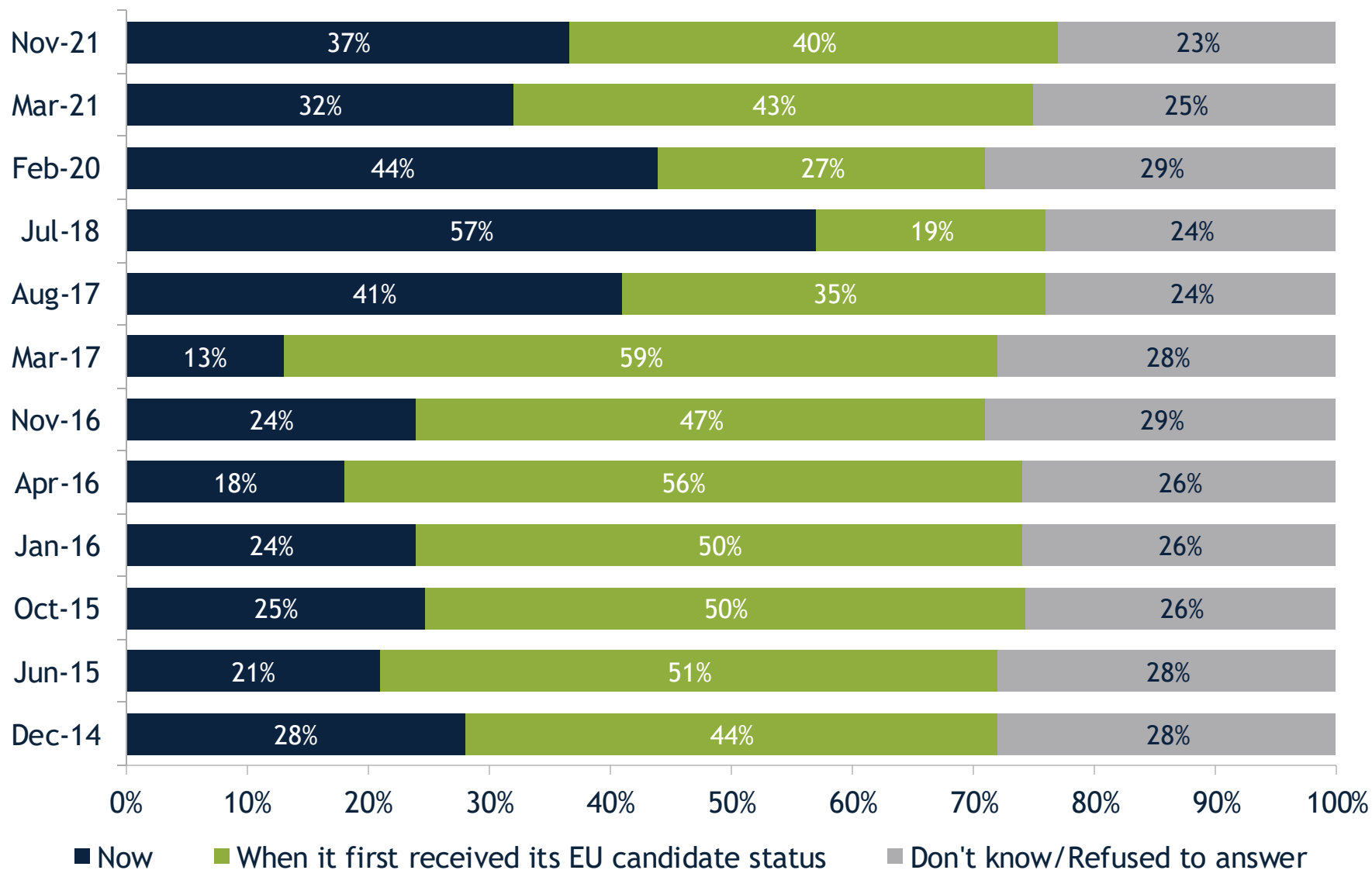


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Do you support North Macedonia becoming a member of the European Union?

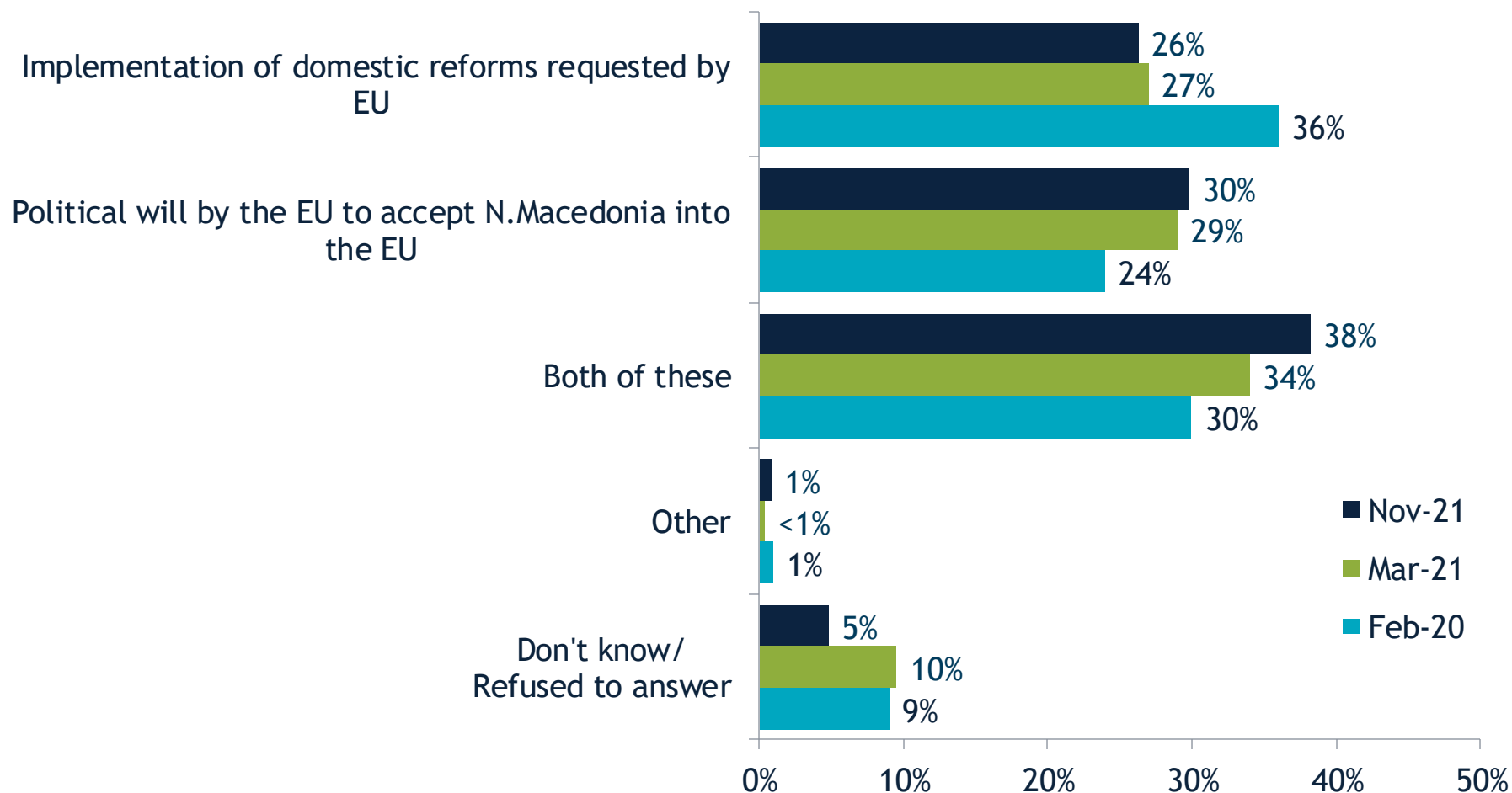


Do you think North Macedonia is closer to EU entry today, or was it closer when it first received its EU candidate member status?*



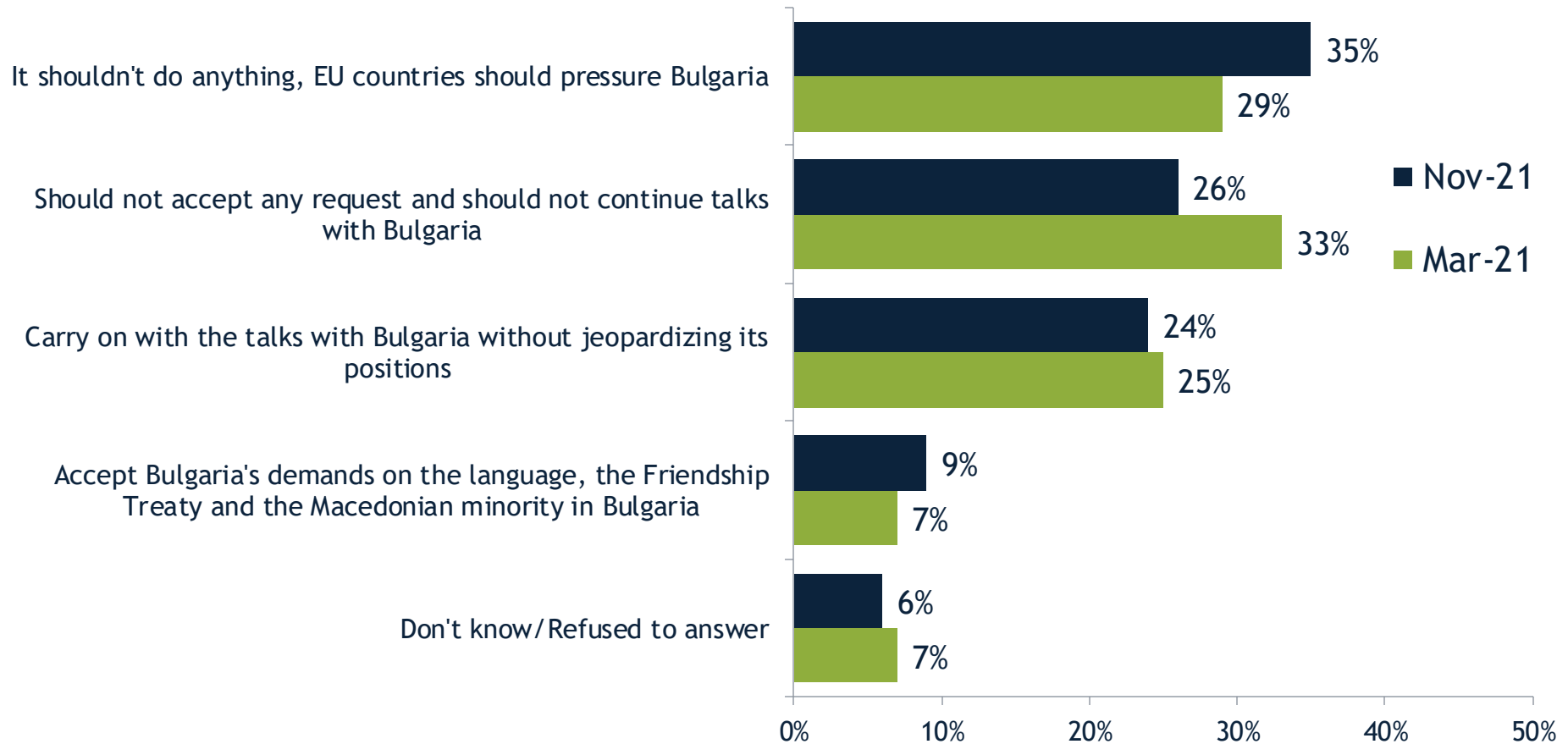
*First received in December 2005

What is most important for North Macedonia's accession to the EU?

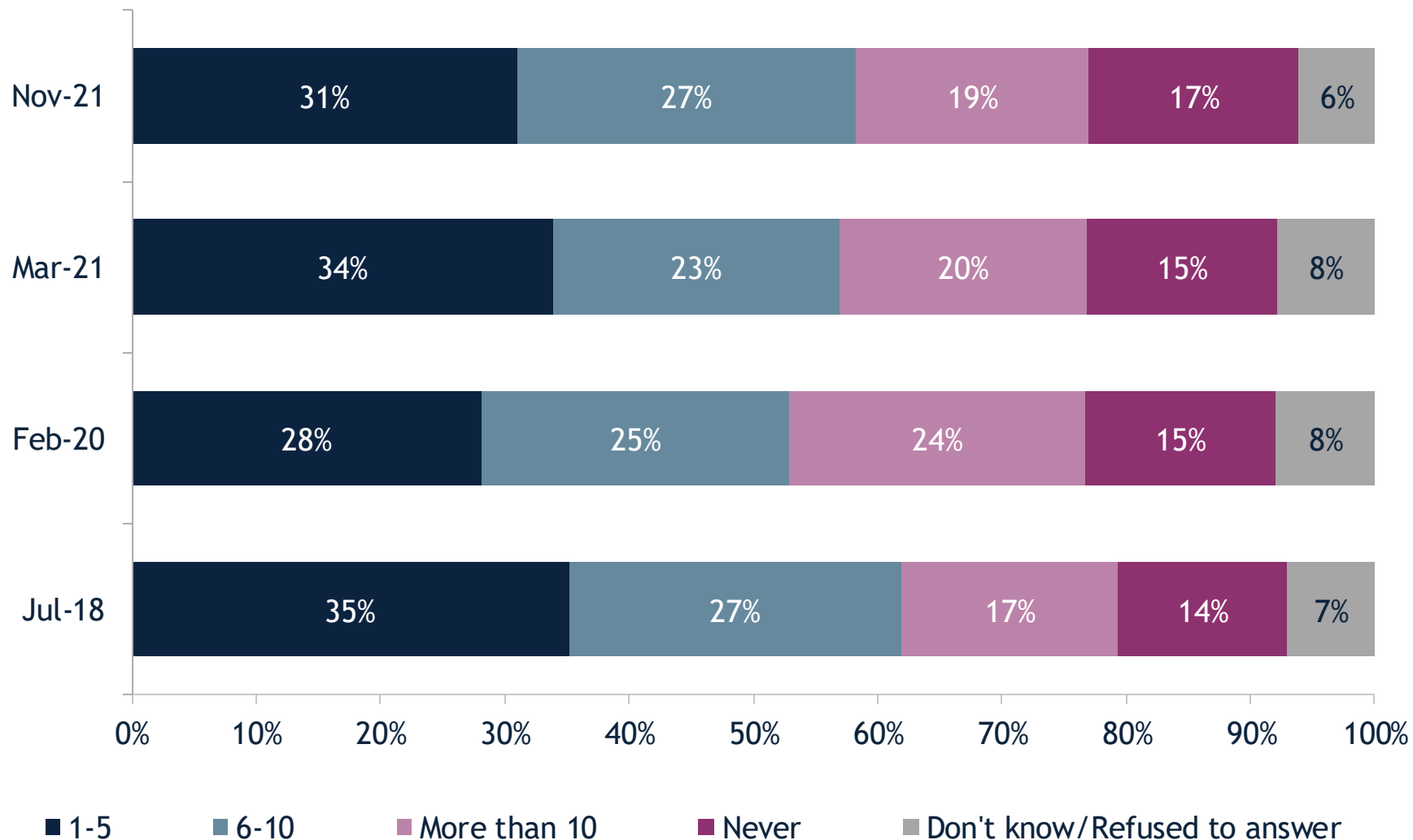


Bulgaria recently vetoed the start of North Macedonia's negotiations with the EU.

In your opinion, what should North Macedonia do in its relations with Bulgaria in order to unblock the negotiations?

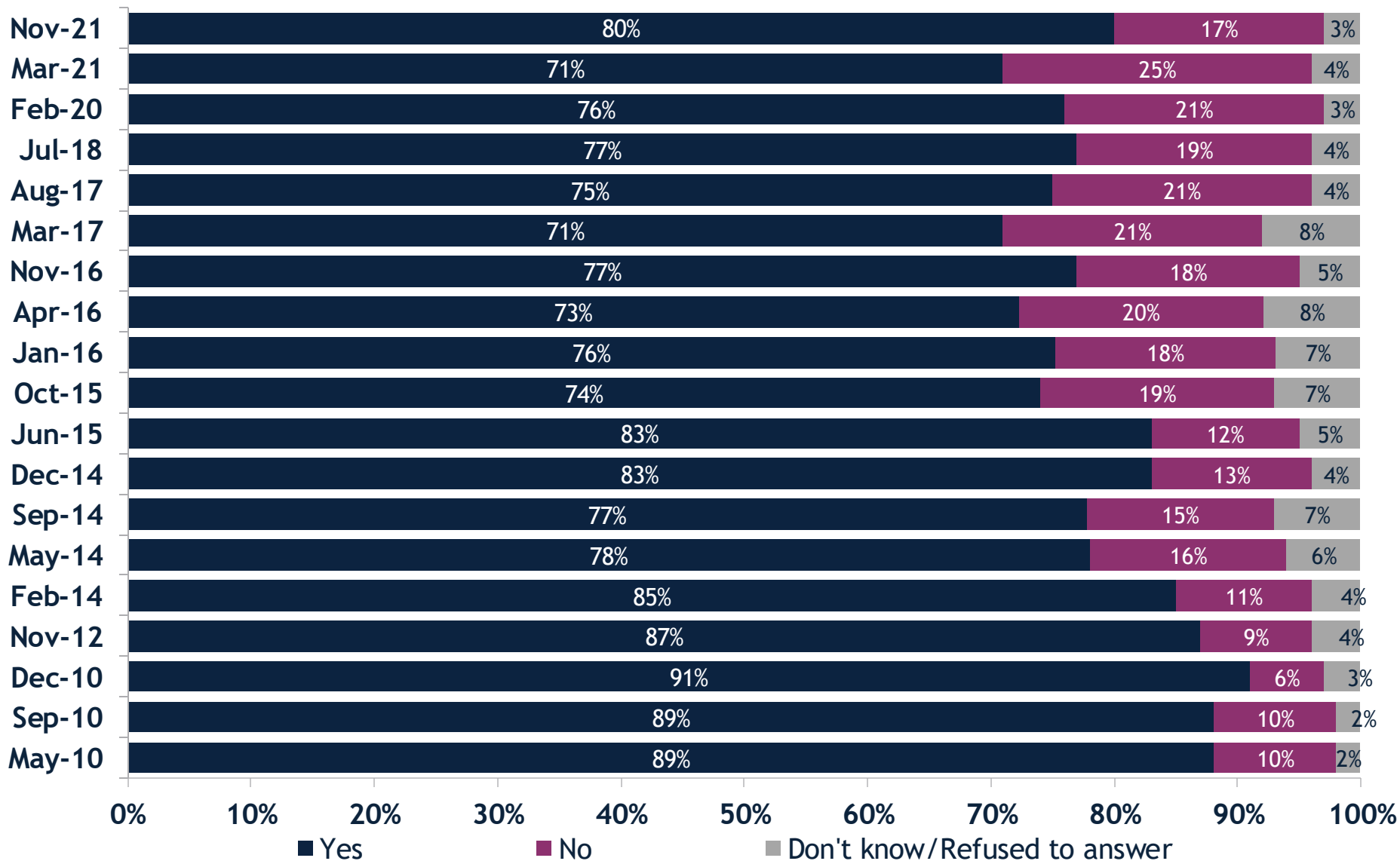


In how many years do you think North Macedonia will become a member of the EU?



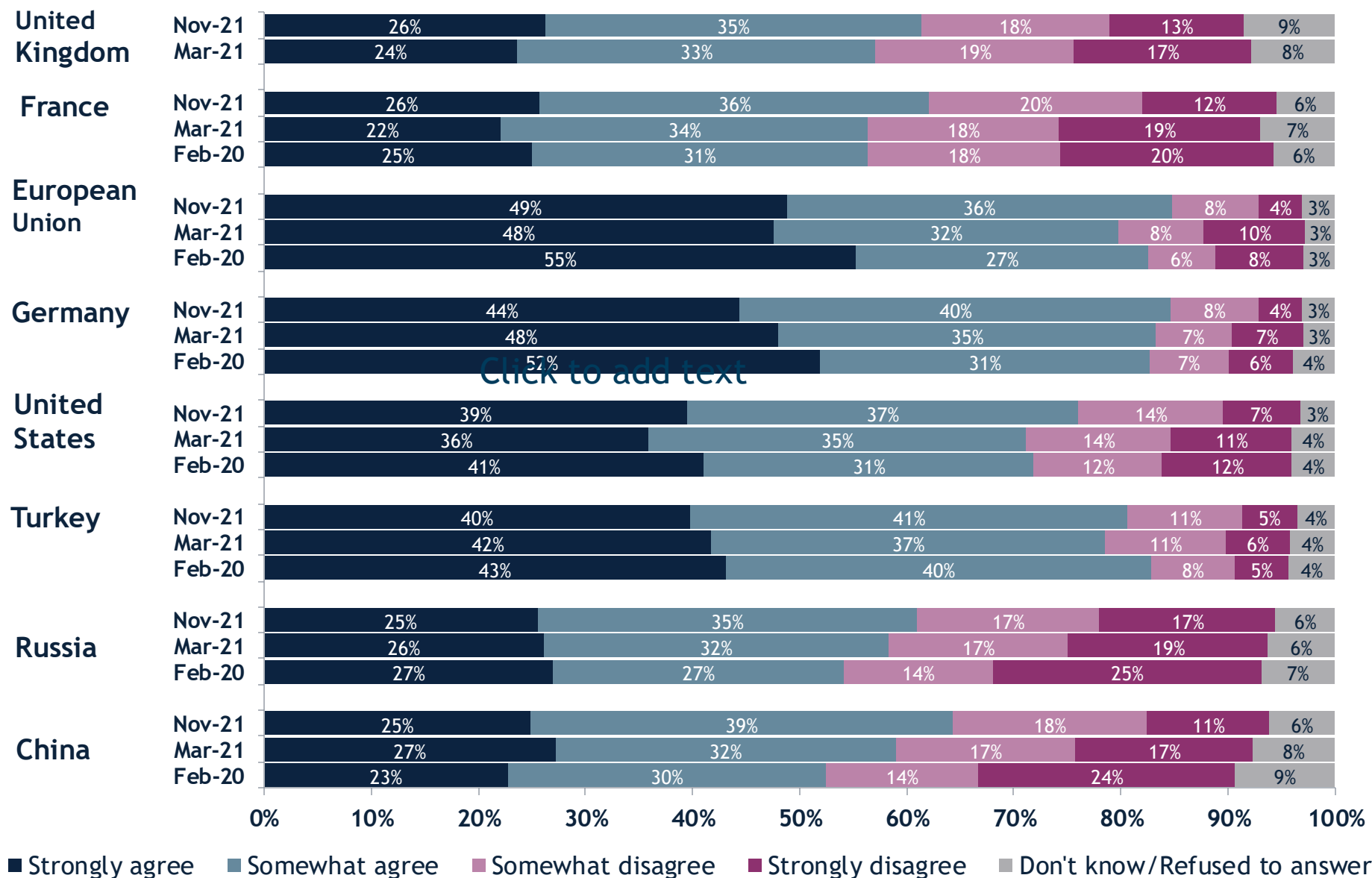
Do you support North Macedonia's membership in NATO

(Before March 2021, the question was "...becoming a member of NATO"?)

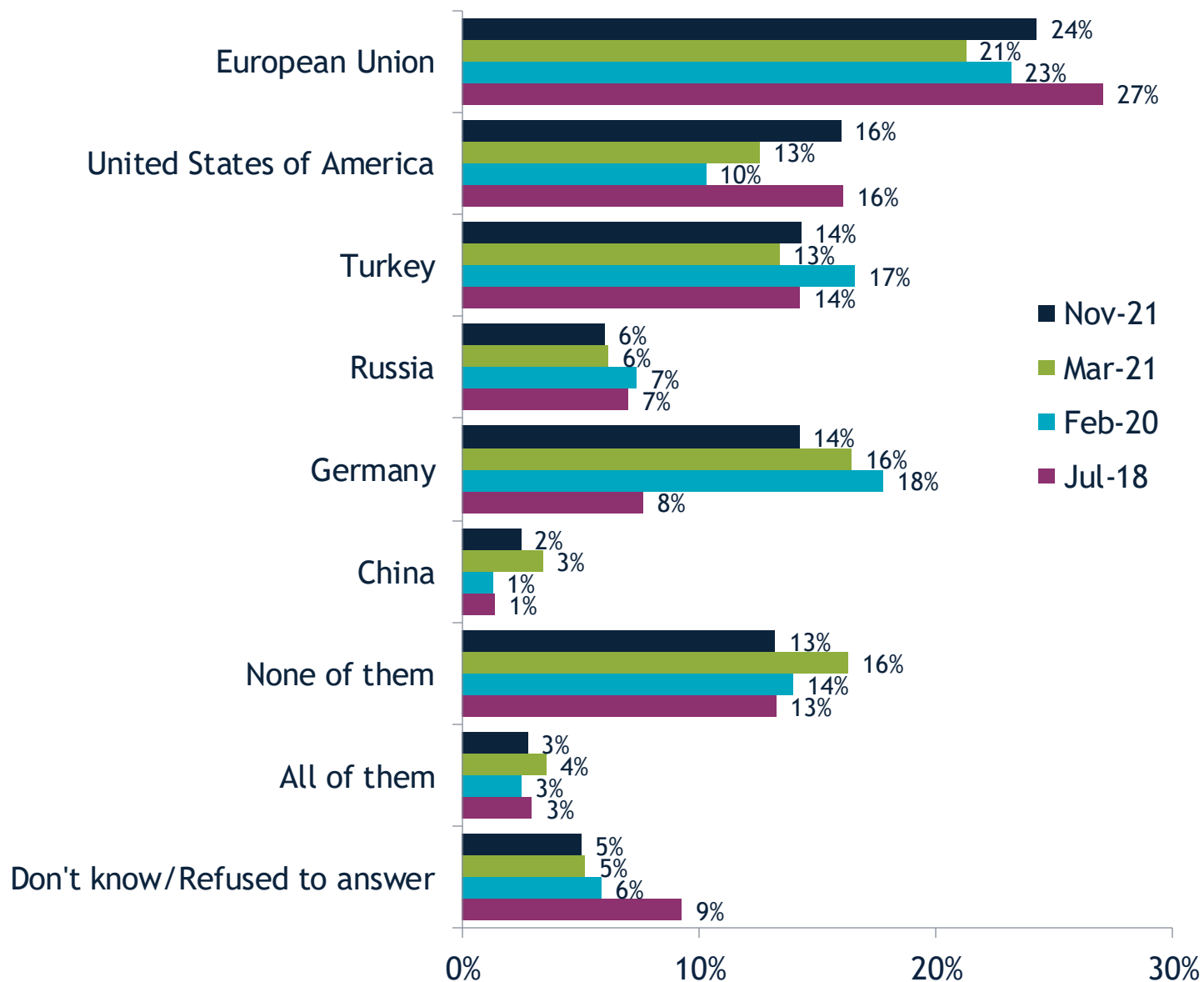


*North Macedonia became a member of NATO on March 27, 2020.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements: “North Macedonia’s interests are best served by maintaining strong relations with...”

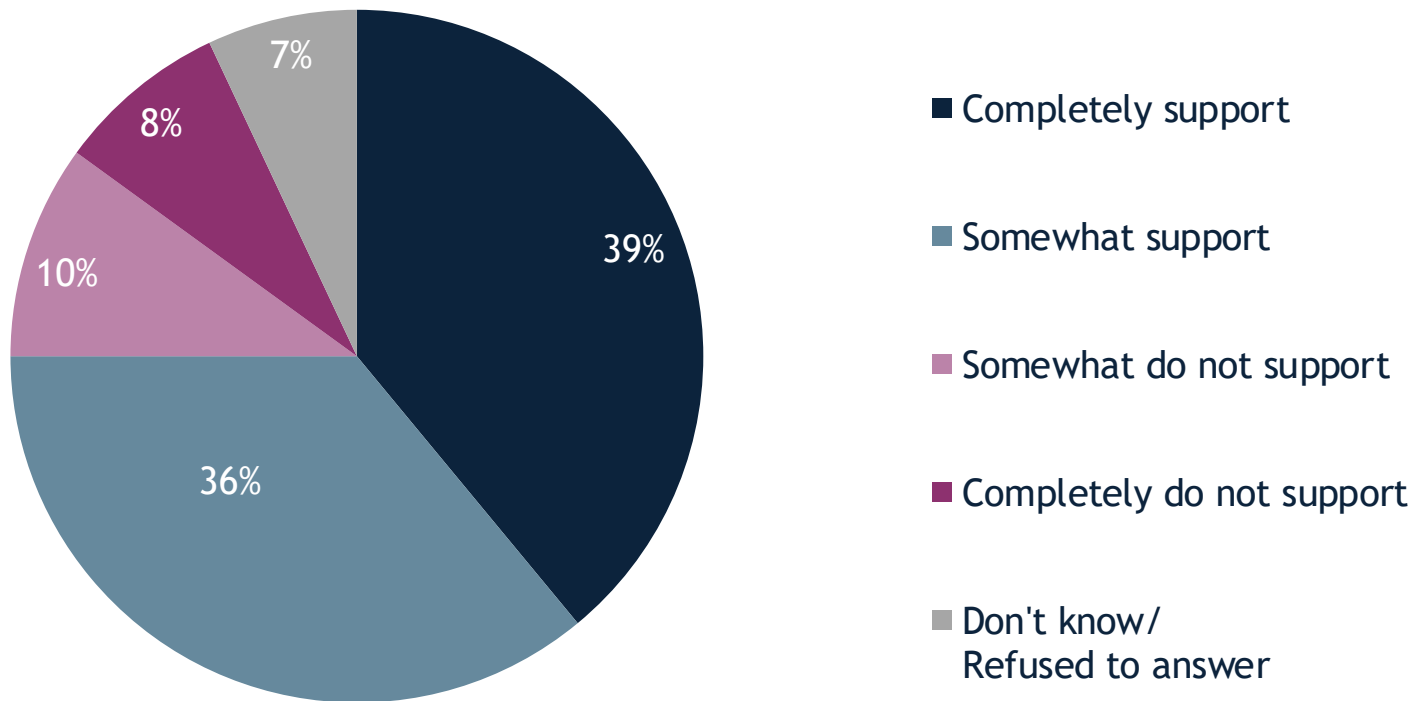


Which one of these countries (including the EU) helps North Macedonia's national interests the most?



The Open Balkan initiative is an agreement among North Macedonia, Serbia, and Albania that aims to enable the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital and cooperation for protection from catastrophes among the three countries.

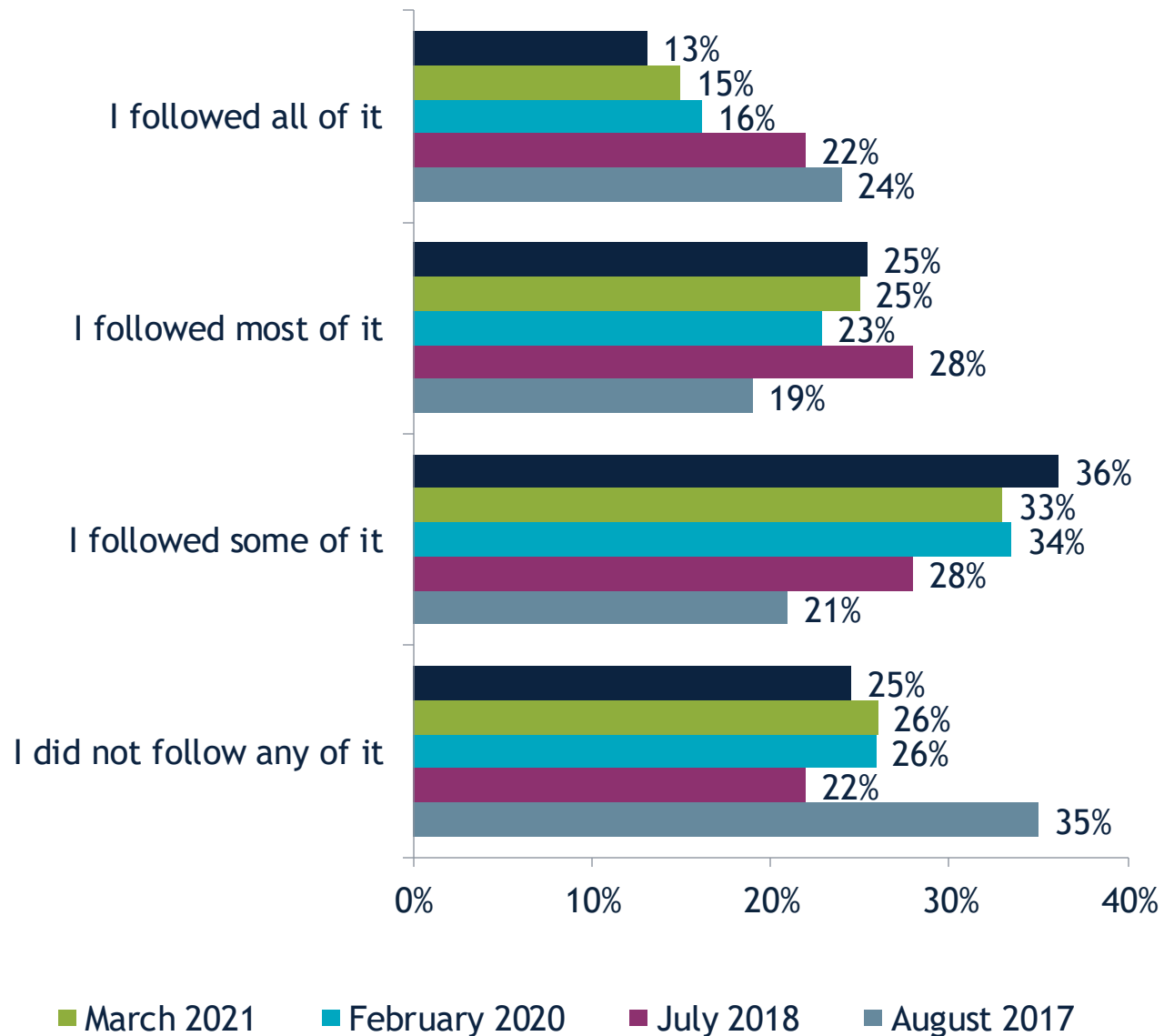
Do you or do you not support the Open Balkan initiative?





Sources of Political News

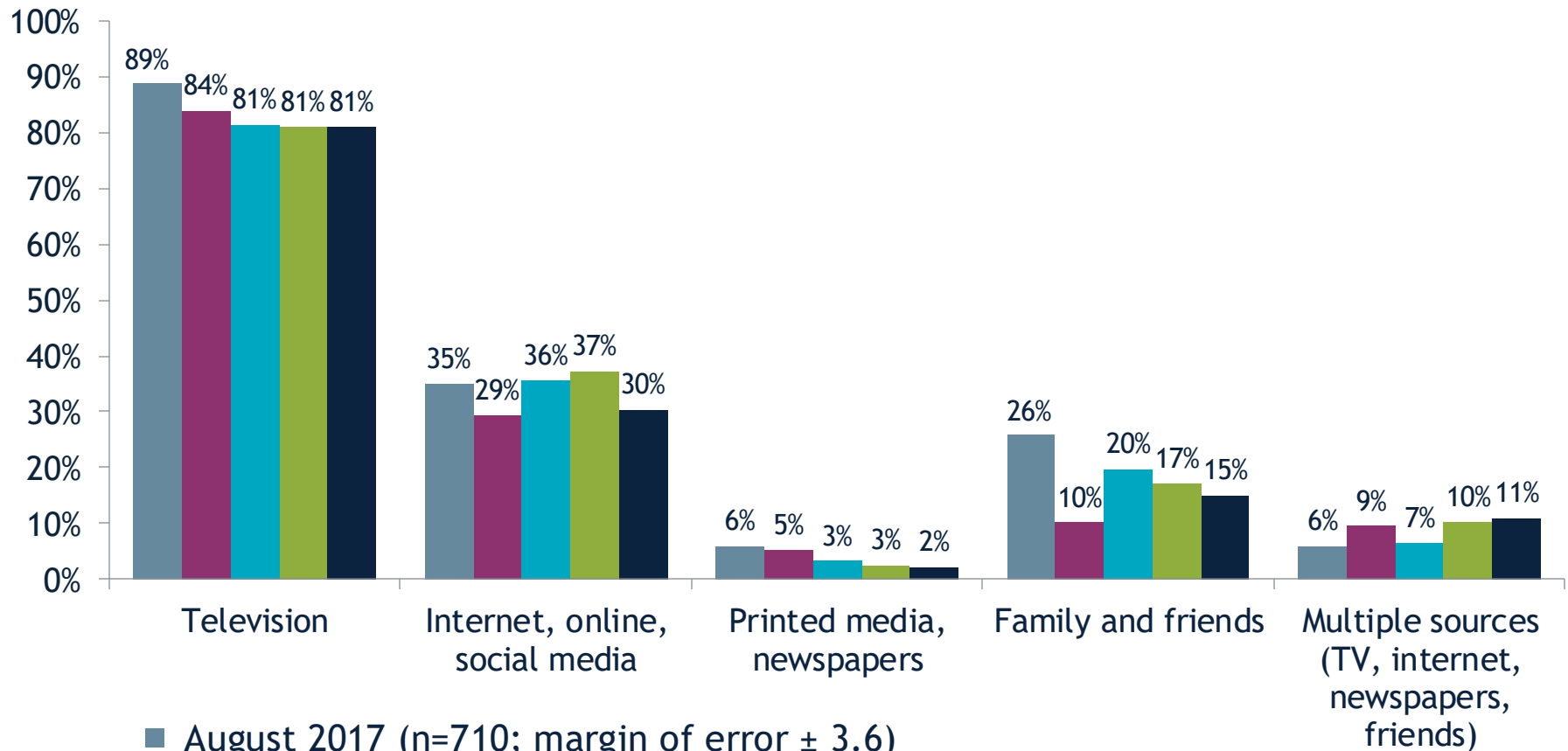
How much did you follow political news yesterday?



* Don't know/Refused to answer is not displayed.

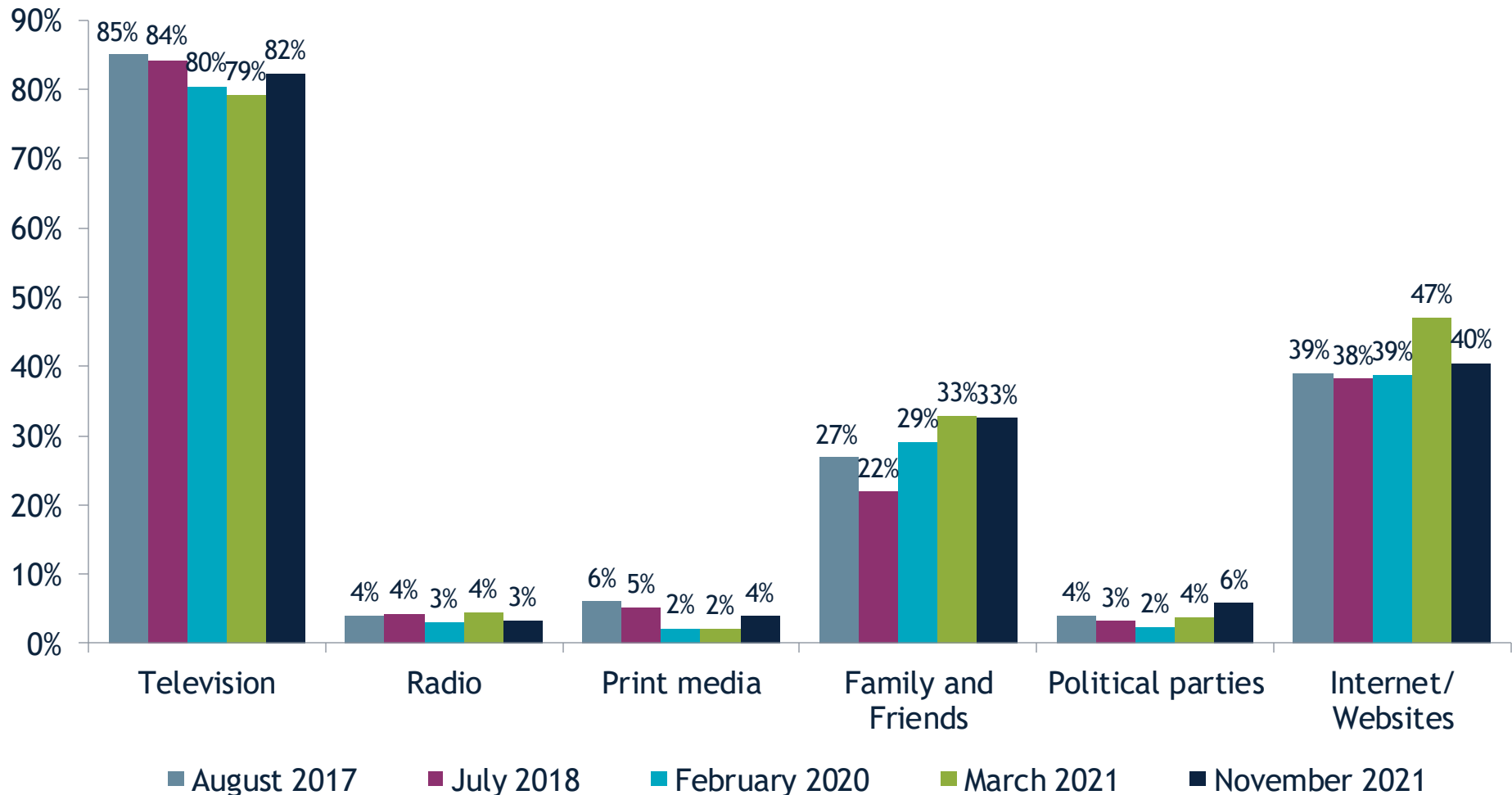
Where did you follow political news yesterday?

(Spontaneous response; multiple responses permitted; among those who answered that they followed at least some political news yesterday)



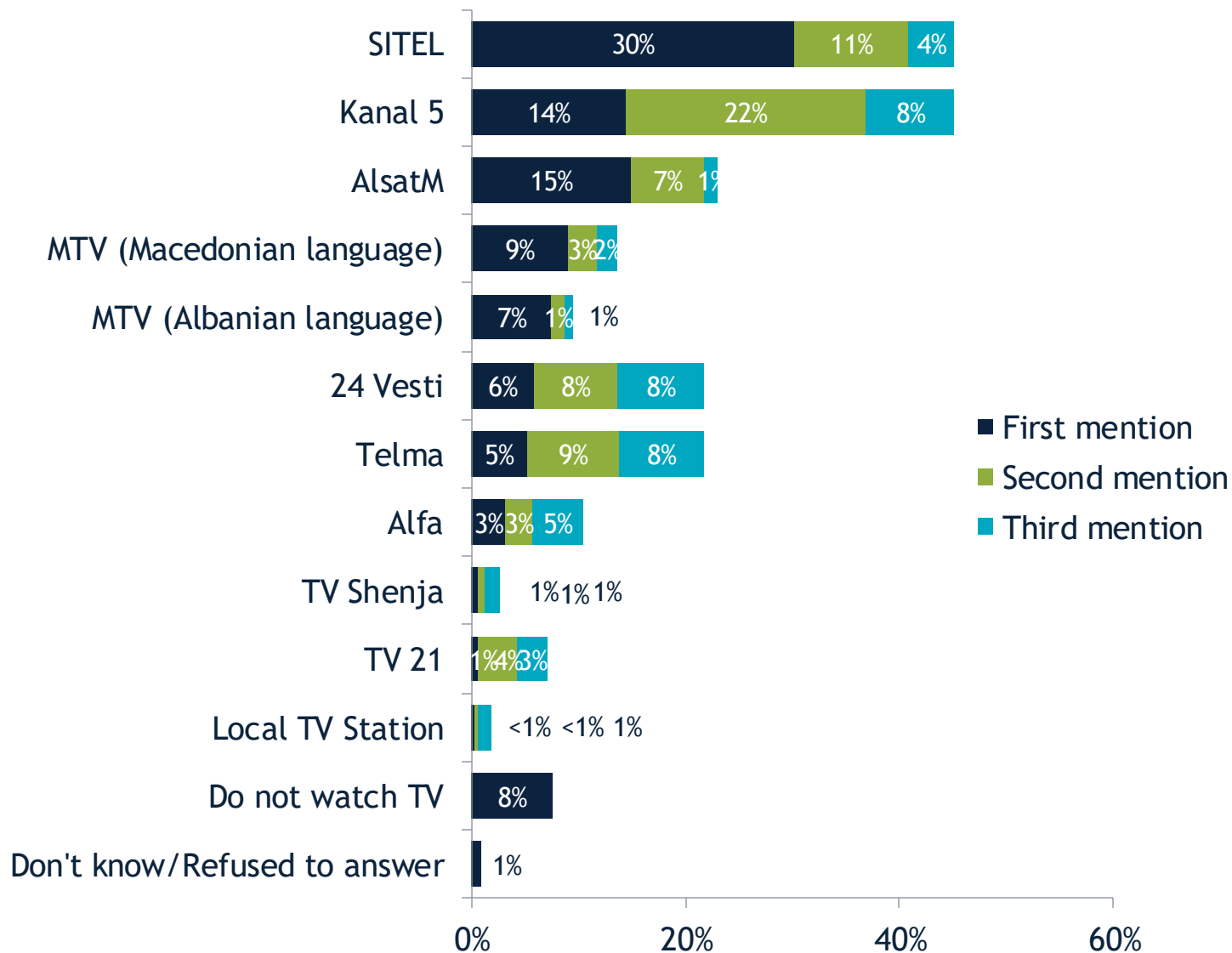
- August 2017 (n=710; margin of error ± 3.6)
- July 2018 (n=853; margin of error ± 3.4)
- February 2020 (n=888; margin of error ± 3.2)
- March 2021 (n= 1820; margin of error ± 2.3)
- November 2021 (n=916; margin error ± 3.2)

What are your most used sources of political news? *(Multiple responses permitted)*



Which television station do you watch most often for political news?

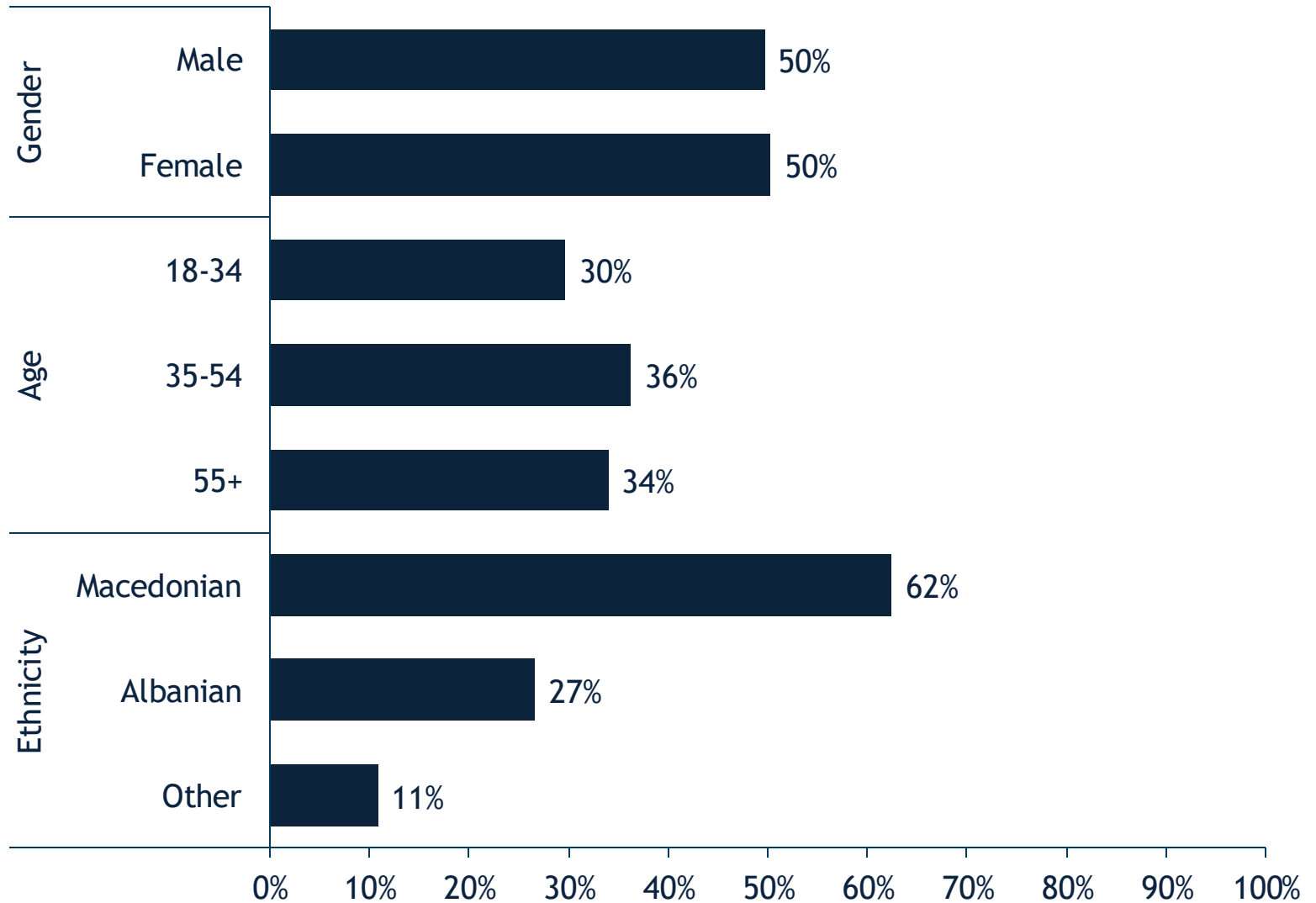
(Spontaneous response; multiple responses permitted)



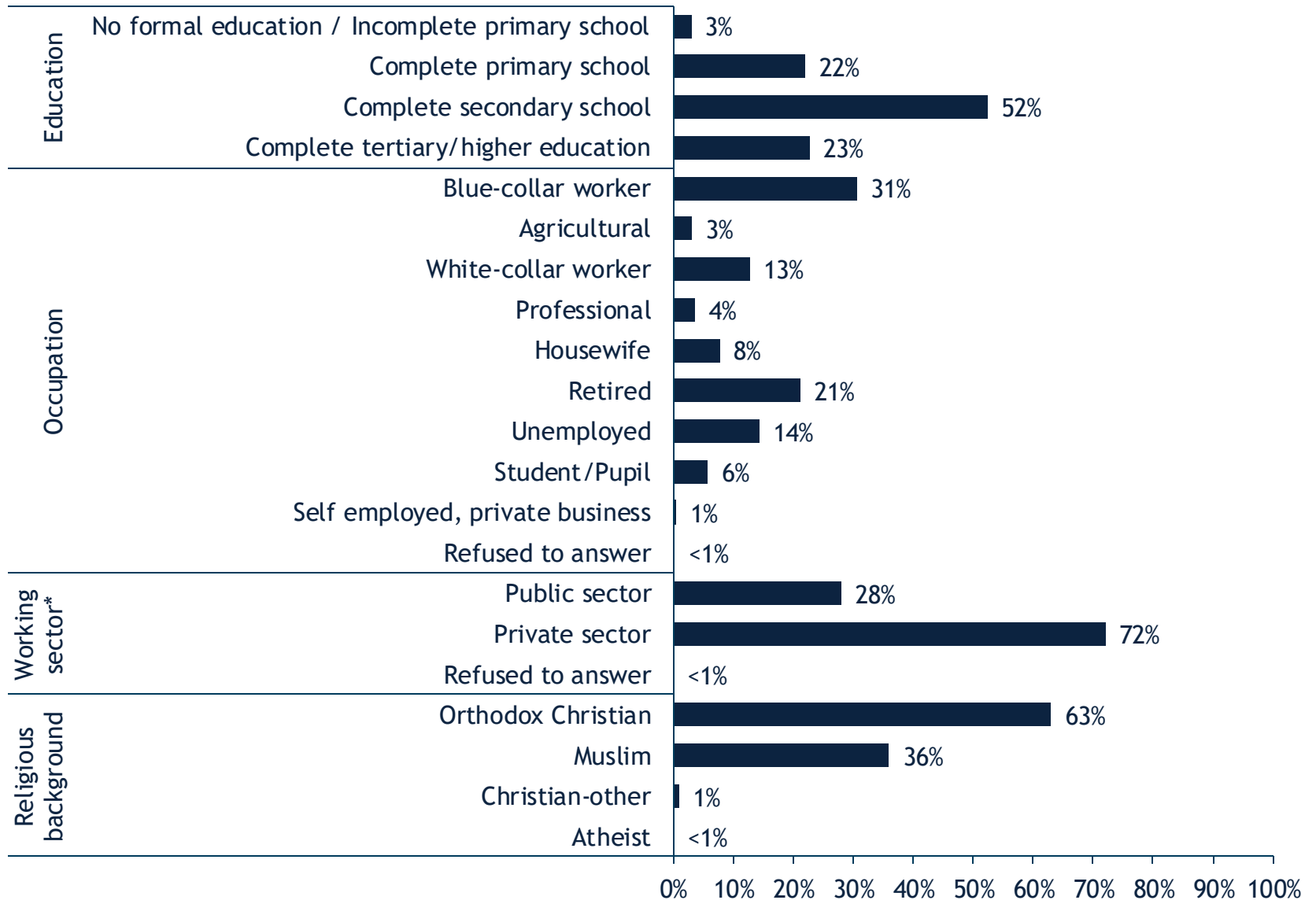


Demographics

Demographics



Demographics



*Among people employed as blue-collar worker, white-collar worker, professional, self-employed or private business, n=583

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