Public Opinion Poll: Residents of North Macedonia

January 30 – February 10, 2020

A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of International Republican Institute's Center for Insights in Survey Research by Brima market research firm.
- Data was collected from January 30 to February 10, 2020, through face-to-face interviews using TAPI (Tablet Assisted Personal Interviewing), in the home of the respondent by trained interviewers.
- A sample of 1,222 respondents age 18 and over was surveyed. The margin of error was plus or minus 2.8 percent at the midrange of the 95 percent confidence level. The response rate was 73 percent.
- The sample is nationally representative of the adult 18+ population by age, gender, region, urbanicity and ethnicity. The design is based on State Statistical Office (SSO) estimates for December 31, 2018. Estimates for ethnicity are based on the 2002 Census.
- A stratified multistage probability sampling method was used, with stratification based on three stages:
    - Stages 1: Probability proportionate to size (PPS) into eight regions, by urbanicity and ethnicity (Macedonian/Others and Albanian).
    - Stage 2: Allocation of number of primary sampling units (PSUs) by municipalities within each stratum, taking municipal population size into account.
    - Stage 3: Random selection of actual PSUs within municipalities.
- The “next birthday method” was used to select respondents, in combination with an ethnic quota.
- The data was weighted for age, gender, region and ethnicity. Age, gender and regional weights correspond to the 2018 SSO estimates. The ethnicity weight factor corresponds to the 2002 Census.
- Figures in charts and tables may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. All sub-group bases cited in this presentation are weighted.
- This poll was conducted with support from the National Endowment for Democracy.

Political Party Glossary

Party Name
AA: 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
VMRO-DPMNE: Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity

Political Context

- Spring 2020 – North Macedonia is expected to become a full member of NATO.
- April 12, 2020 – Snap parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place.
- January 3, 2020 – A caretaker government which includes representatives of the opposition is elected. It is mandated for 100 days in office prior to parliamentary elections and it is responsible for organizing fair, democratic and credible elections.
- October 19, 2019 – Prime Minister Zoran Zaev calls for snap parliamentary elections.
- October 18, 2019 – The European Council fails to approve the start of EU accession talks with North Macedonia and Albania following rejection by France.
- June 27, 2018 – Macedonia and Greece sign the Prespa Agreement, leading to a change in the country's name to North Macedonia and resolving a 27-year dispute which was an obstacle to the country's integration into the EU and NATO.
- May 31, 2017 – An SDSM-led government takes power following 11 years of rule by VMRO-DPMNE. The largest ethnic Albanian party, DUI, is part of the SDSM-led government. Previously, DUI was part of the VMRO-DPMNE-led government.

Economic Outlook of the Country

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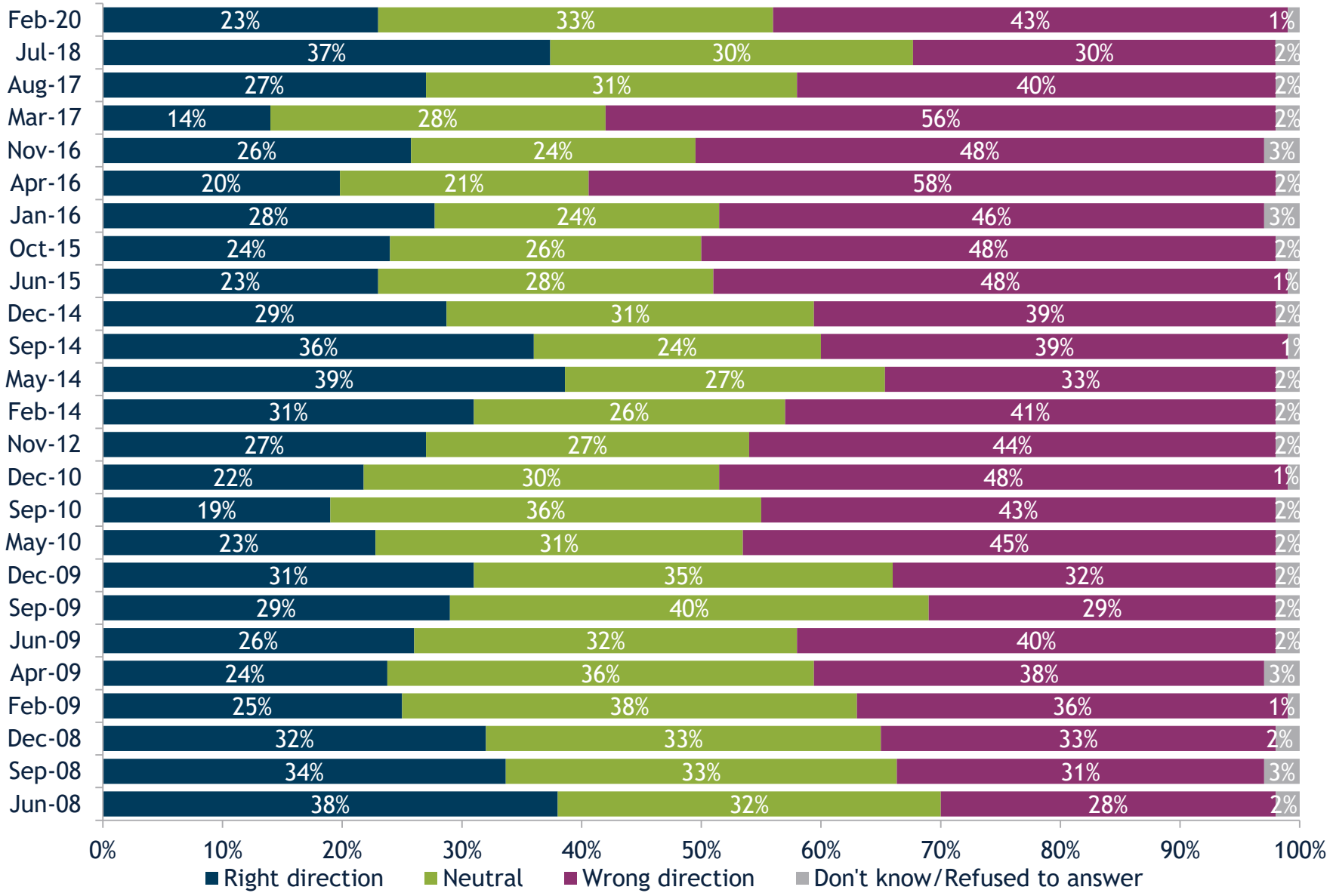
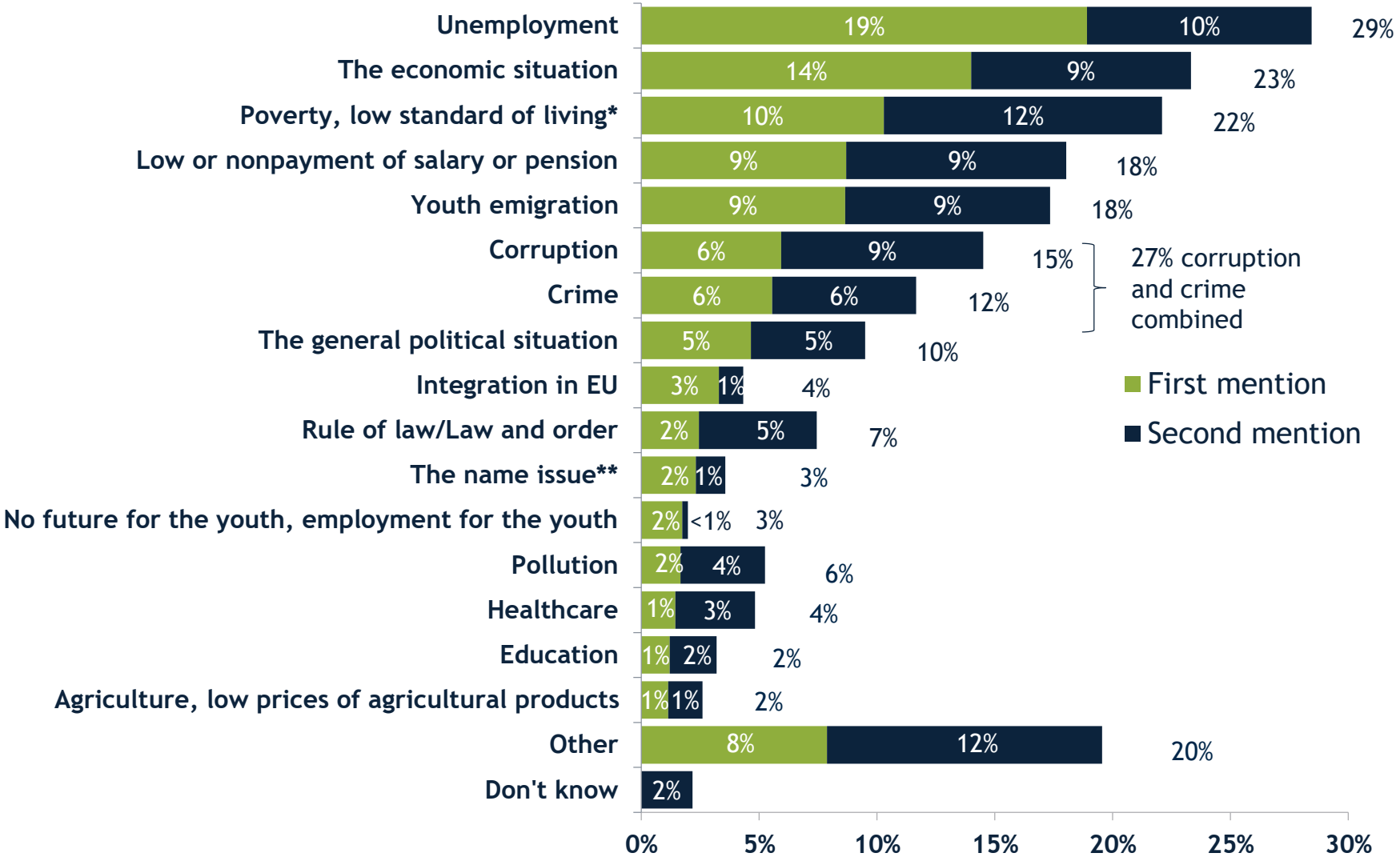
In general, would you say that North Macedonia is heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



What is the most important problem facing North Macedonia today? … And what is the second most important problem?

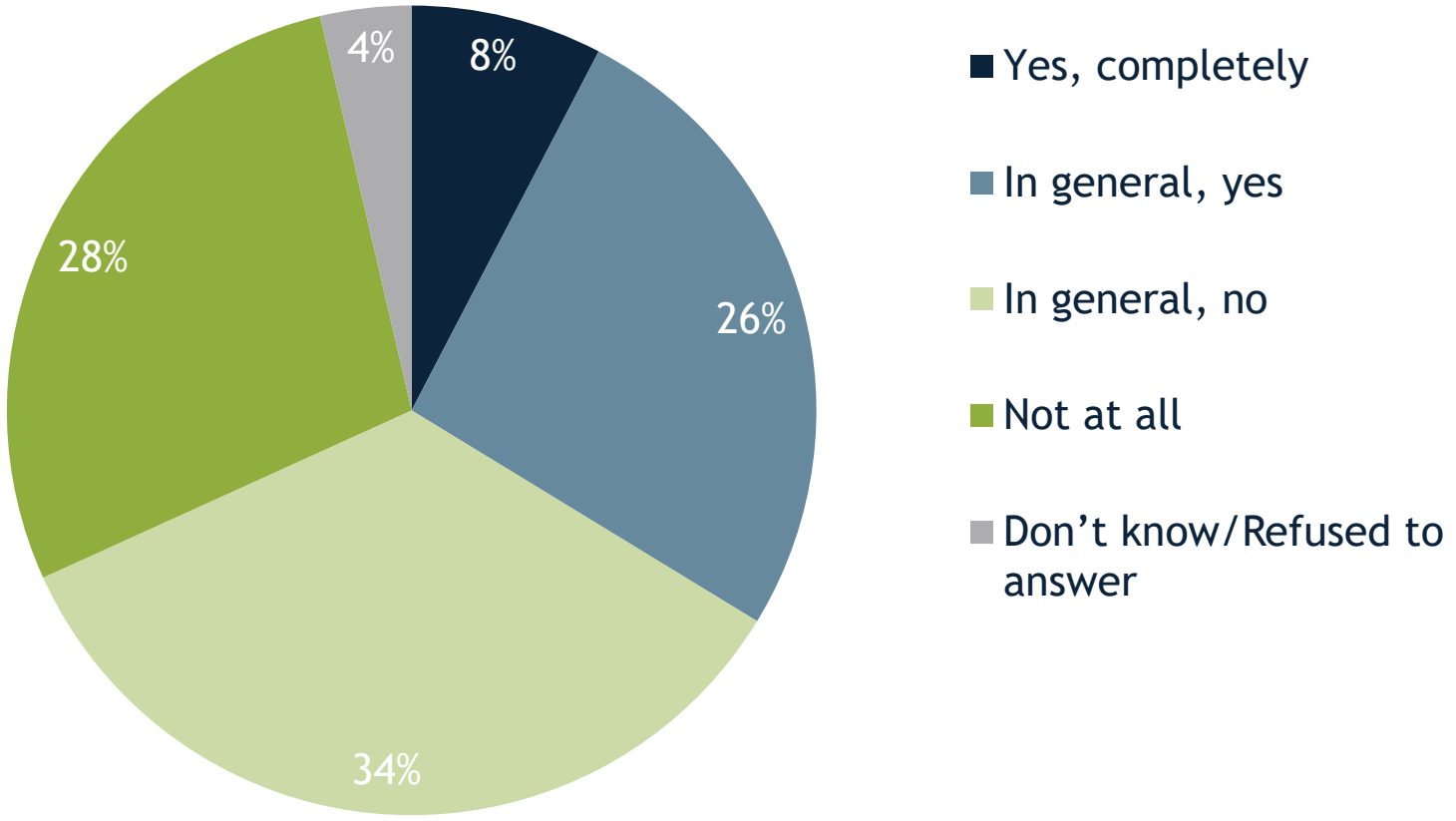
(Spontaneous responses)



*Response category also includes "problems of common people"

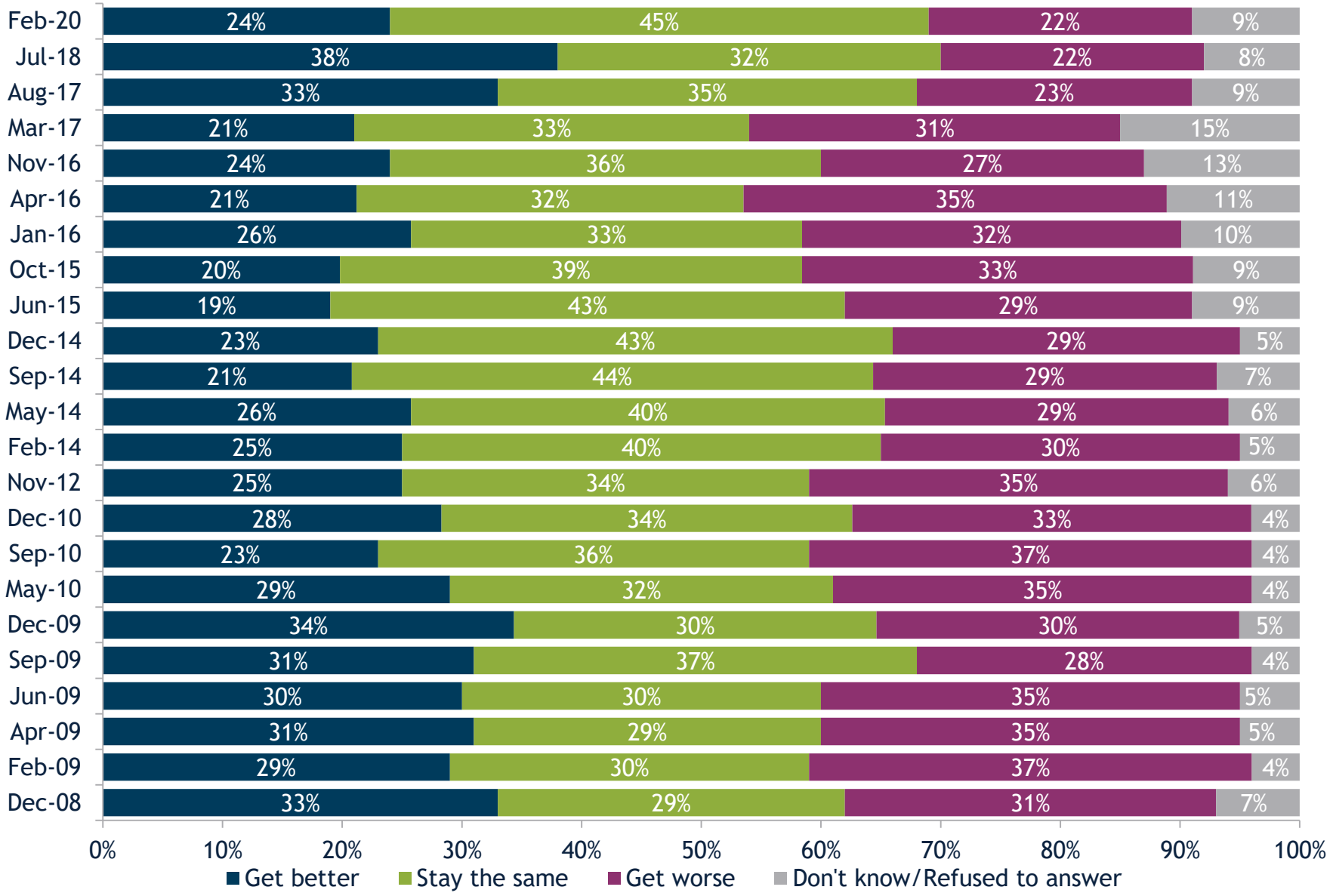
**Name issue refers to the country's name change as part of the Prespa Agreement

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

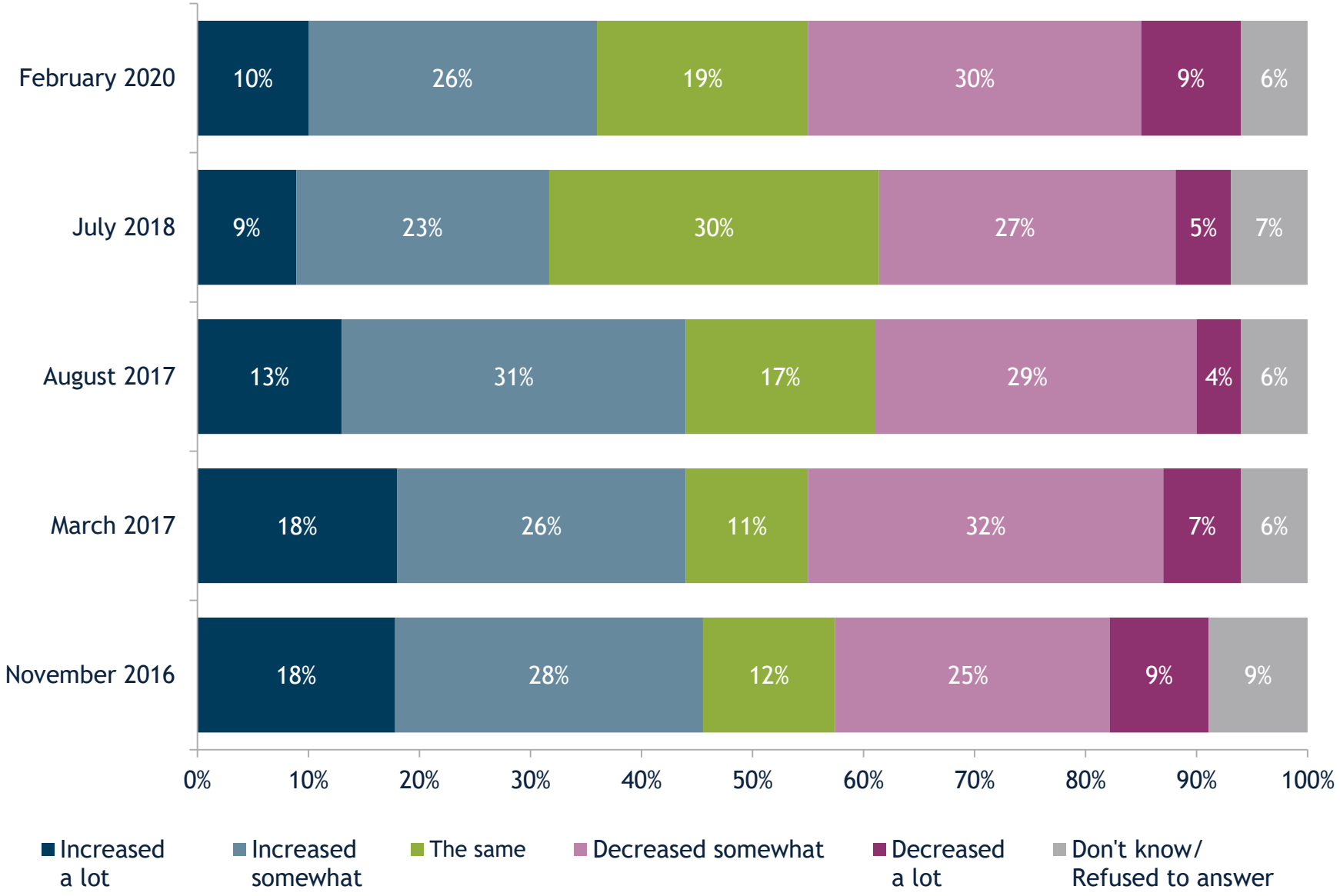


*n=1,219, those who mentioned first important problem

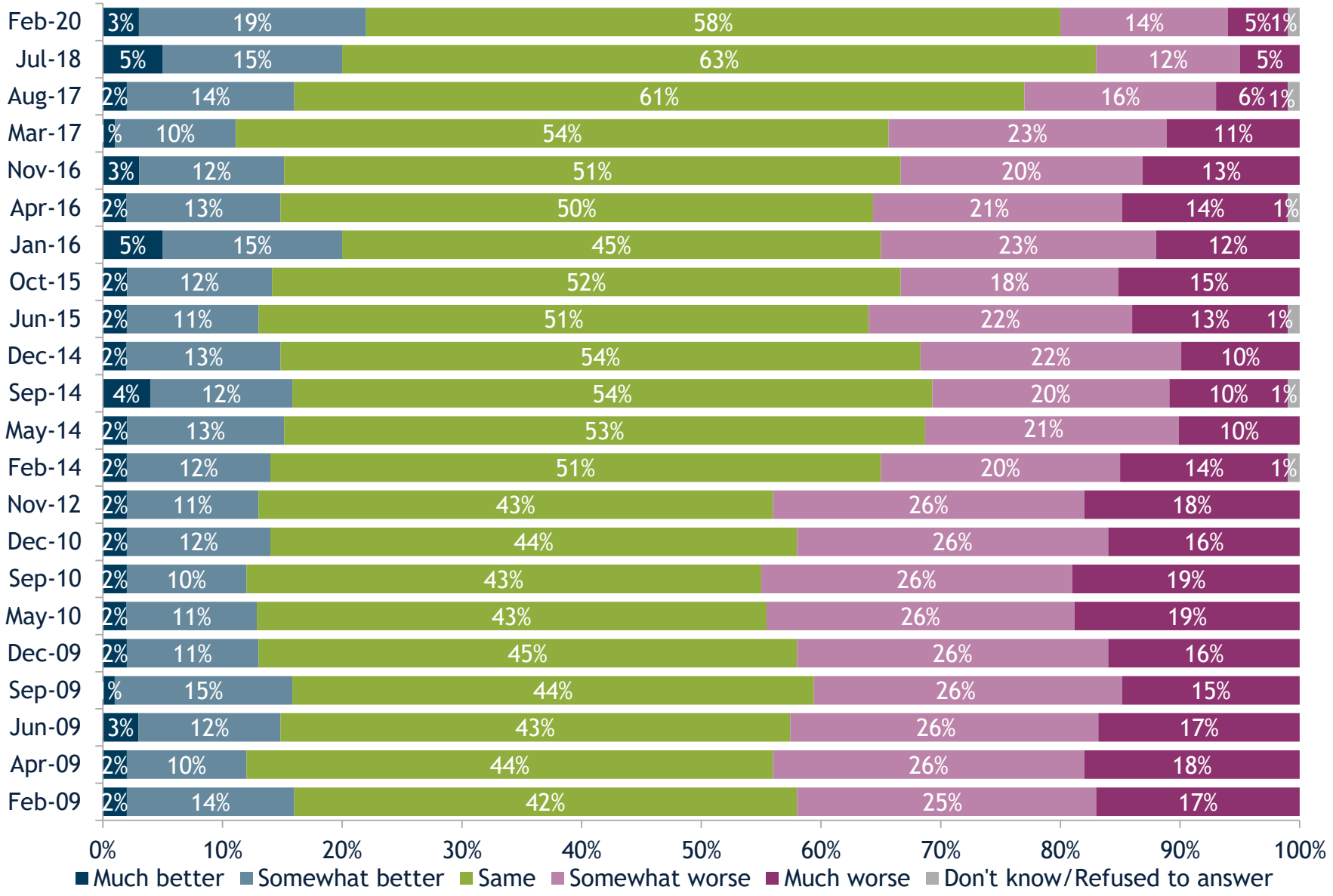
In the next two years, will the economy in North Macedonia get better, get worse, or stay the same?



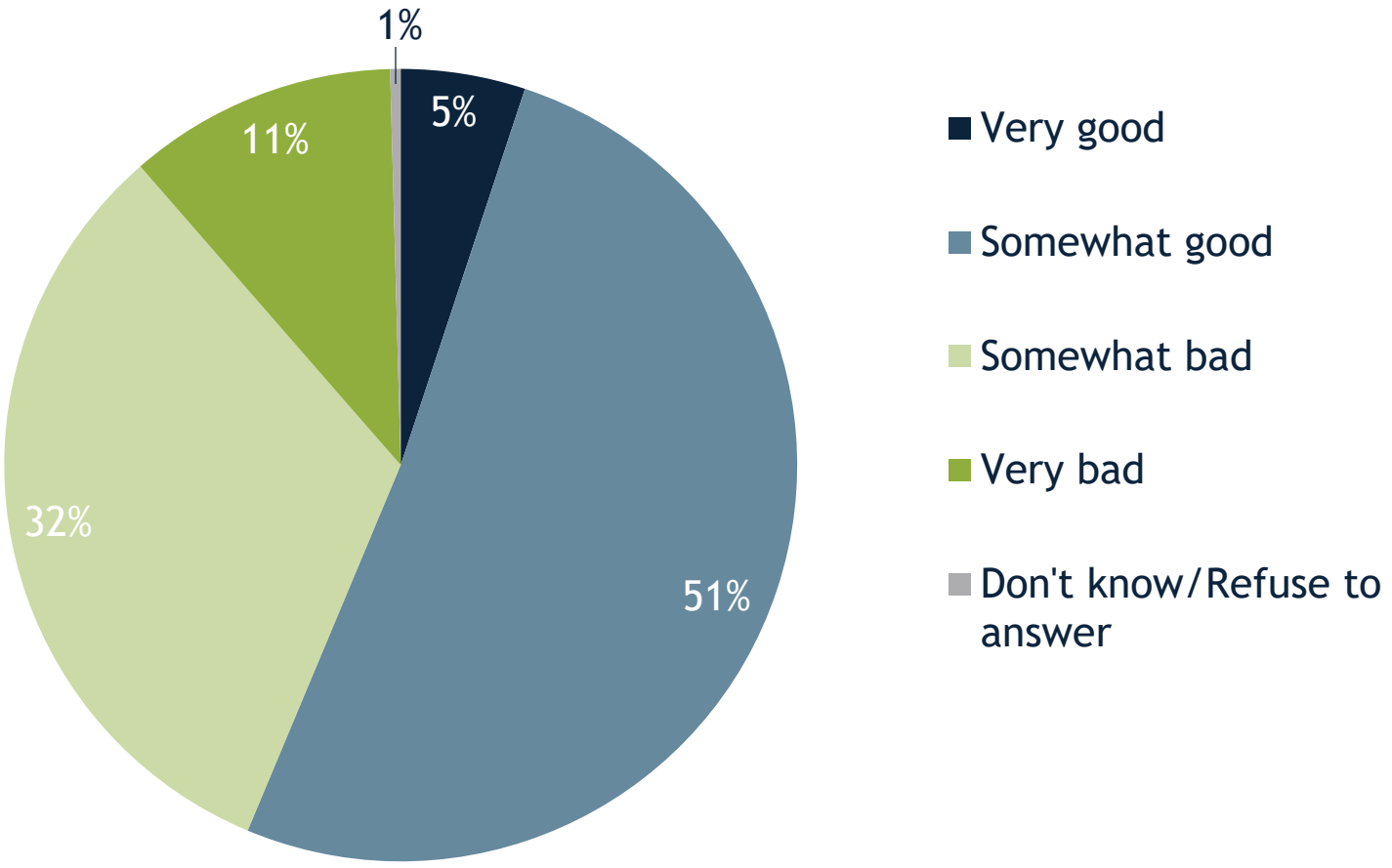
In your opinion, over the last year has unemployment…?



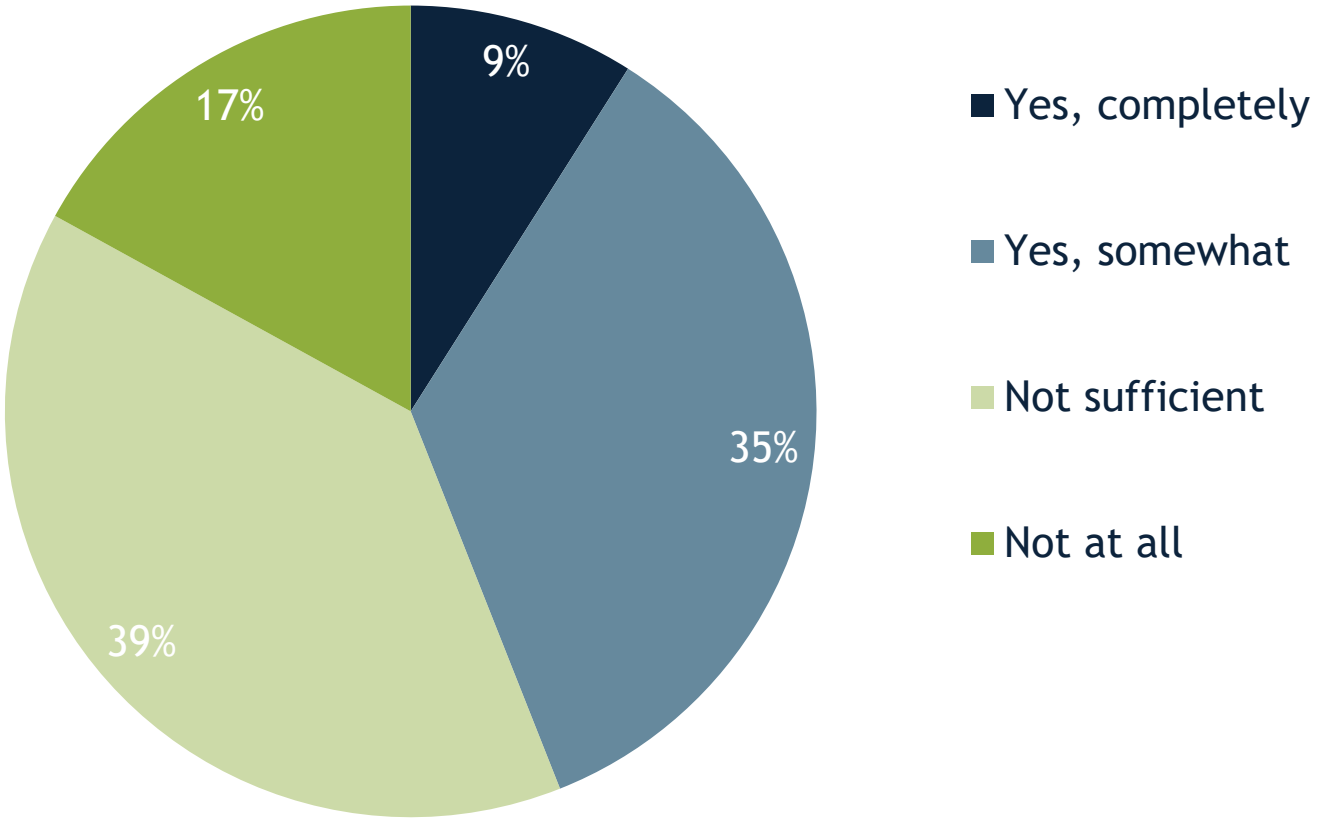
How is your family's economic situation compared to one year ago?



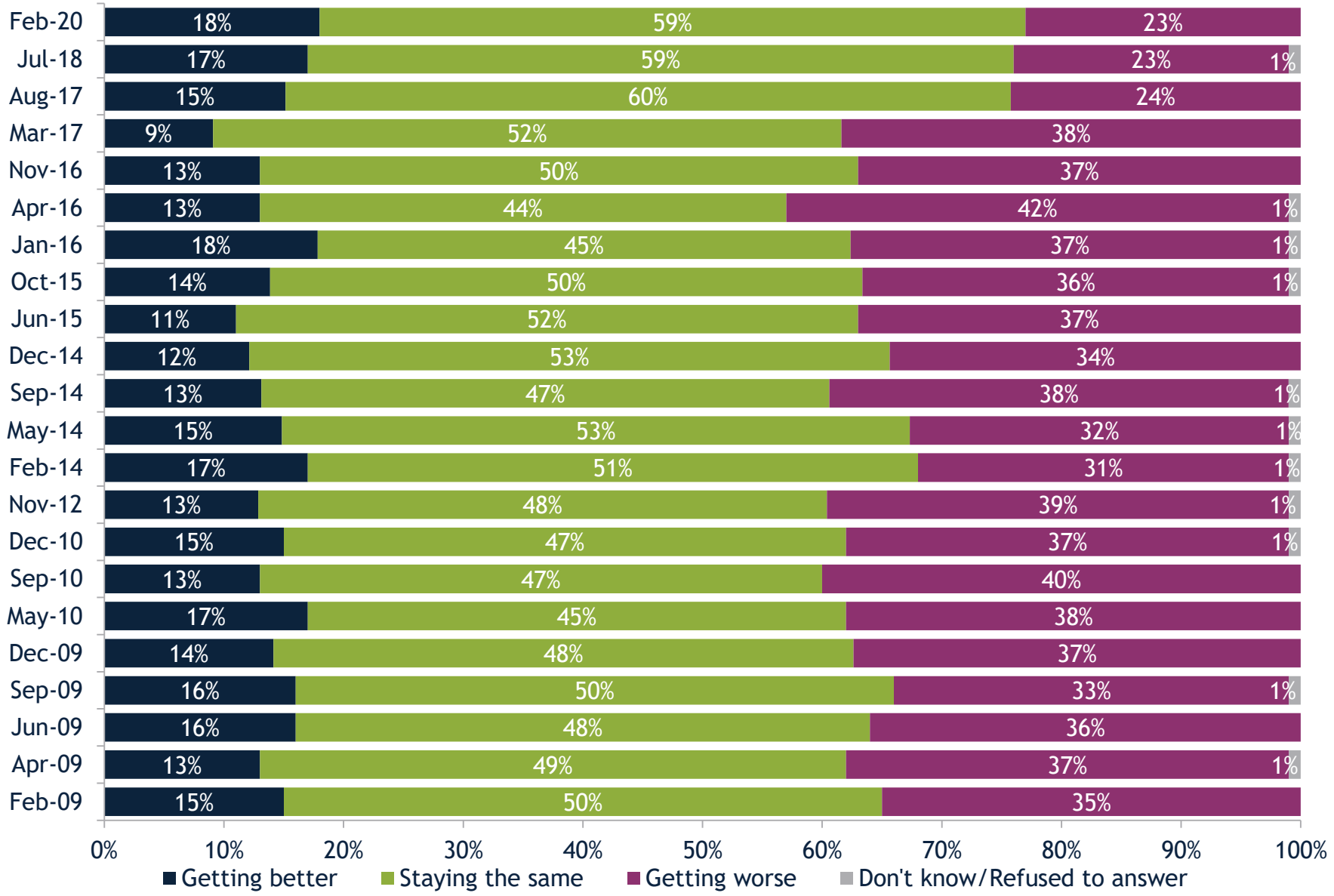
How would you describe the current economic situation of your household?



Is your household monthly income sufficient to satisfy monthly needs?



Speaking personally, is your overall quality of life…?



Elections and Political Parties

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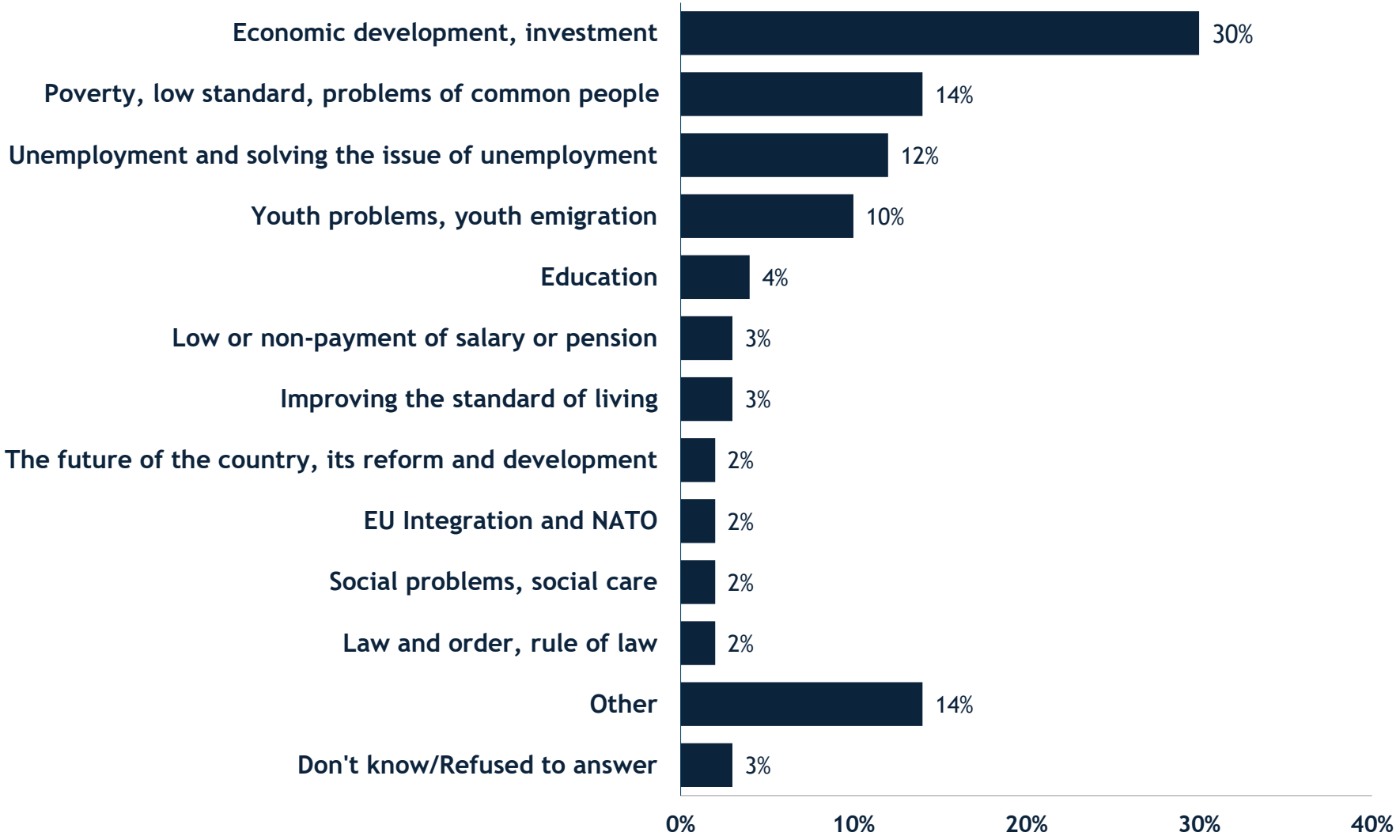
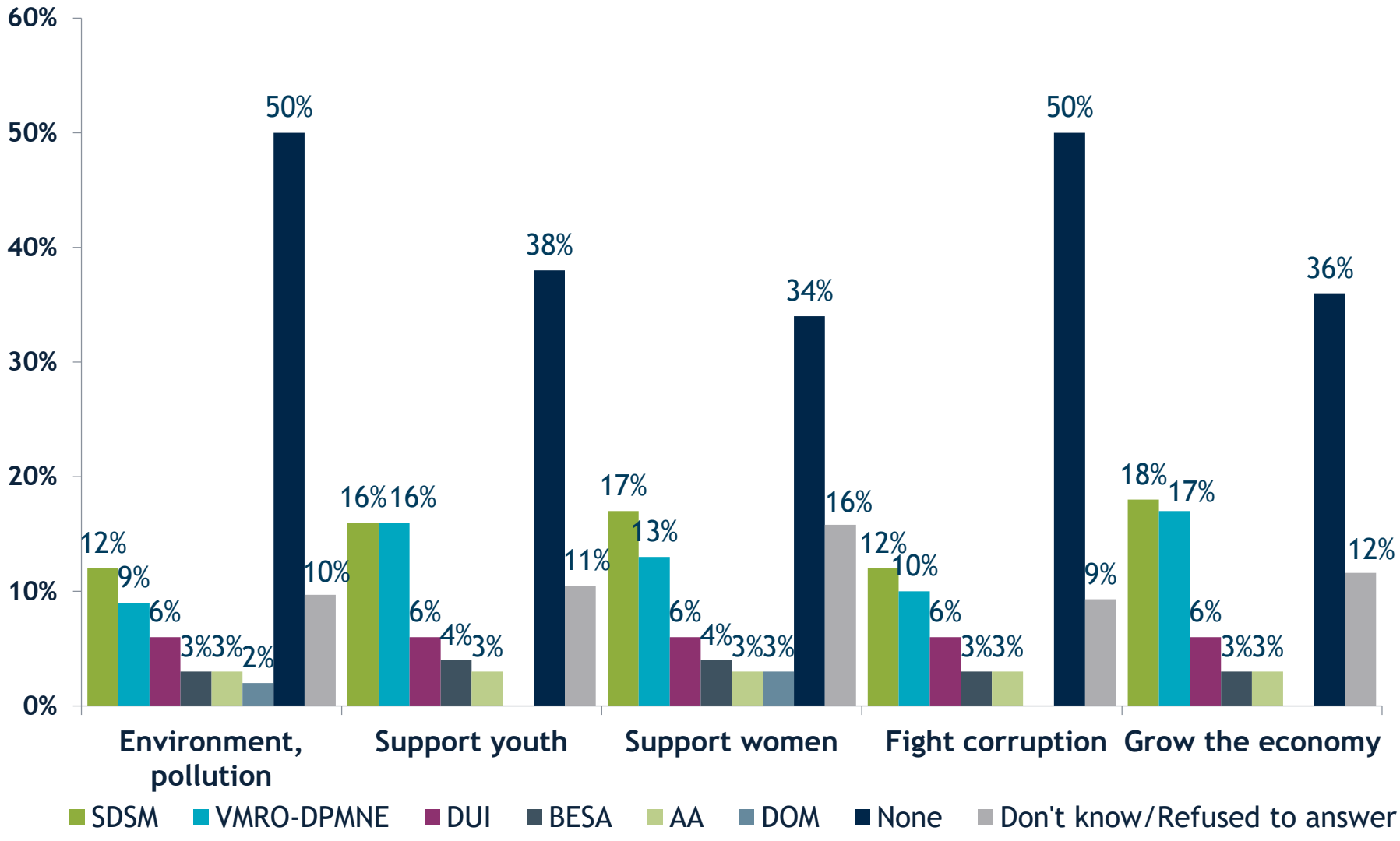
What issue do you think politicians talk TOO MUCH about? (Spontaneous response)

*Refers to the indictment of the head of the Special Prosecutor's Office for involvement in an extortion case.
**Refers to the recently passed Law on the Public Prosecution, which increases the competence of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

What issue do you think politicians should talk MORE about? (Spontaneous response)

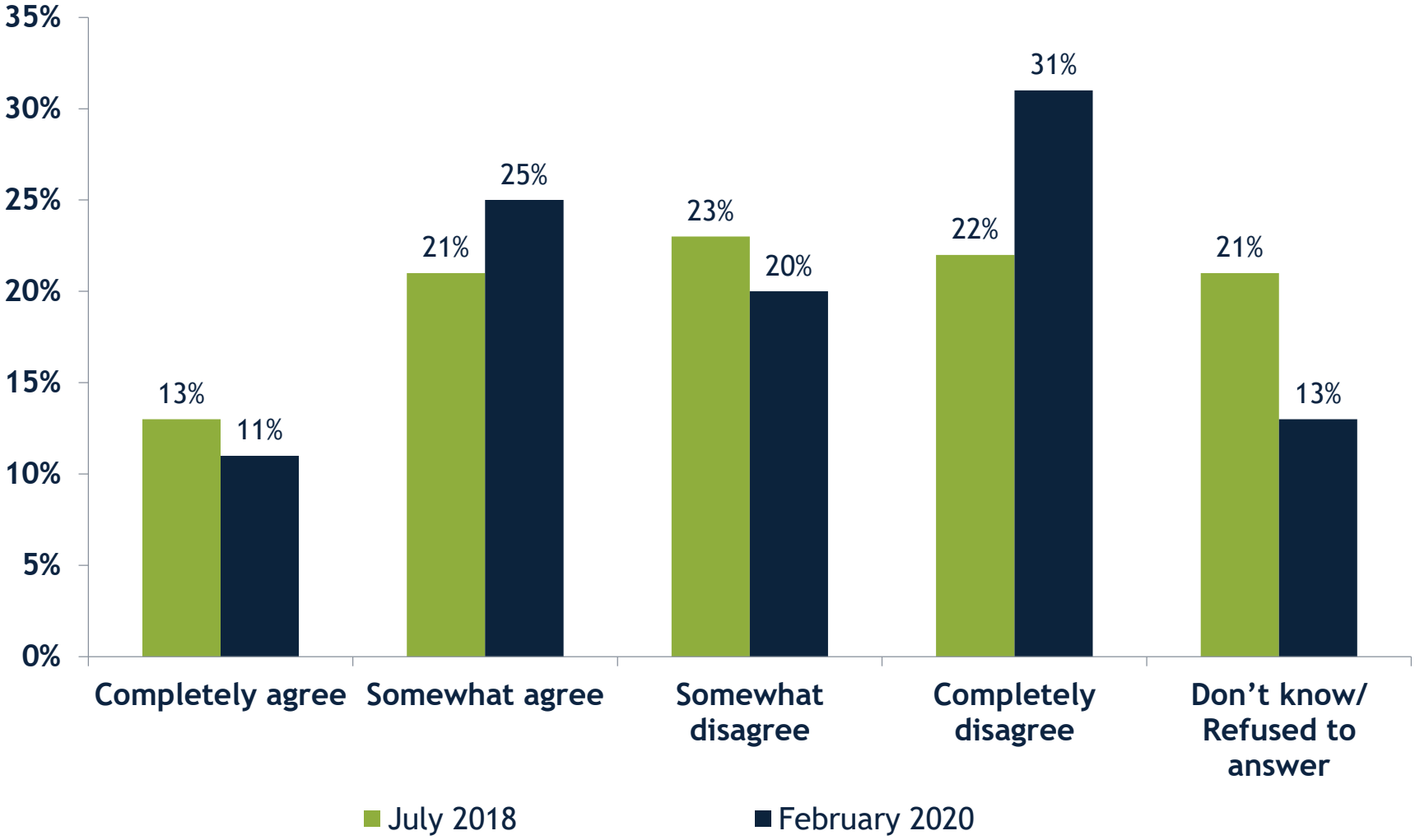


Which political party do you think is the best to address each of the following issues:



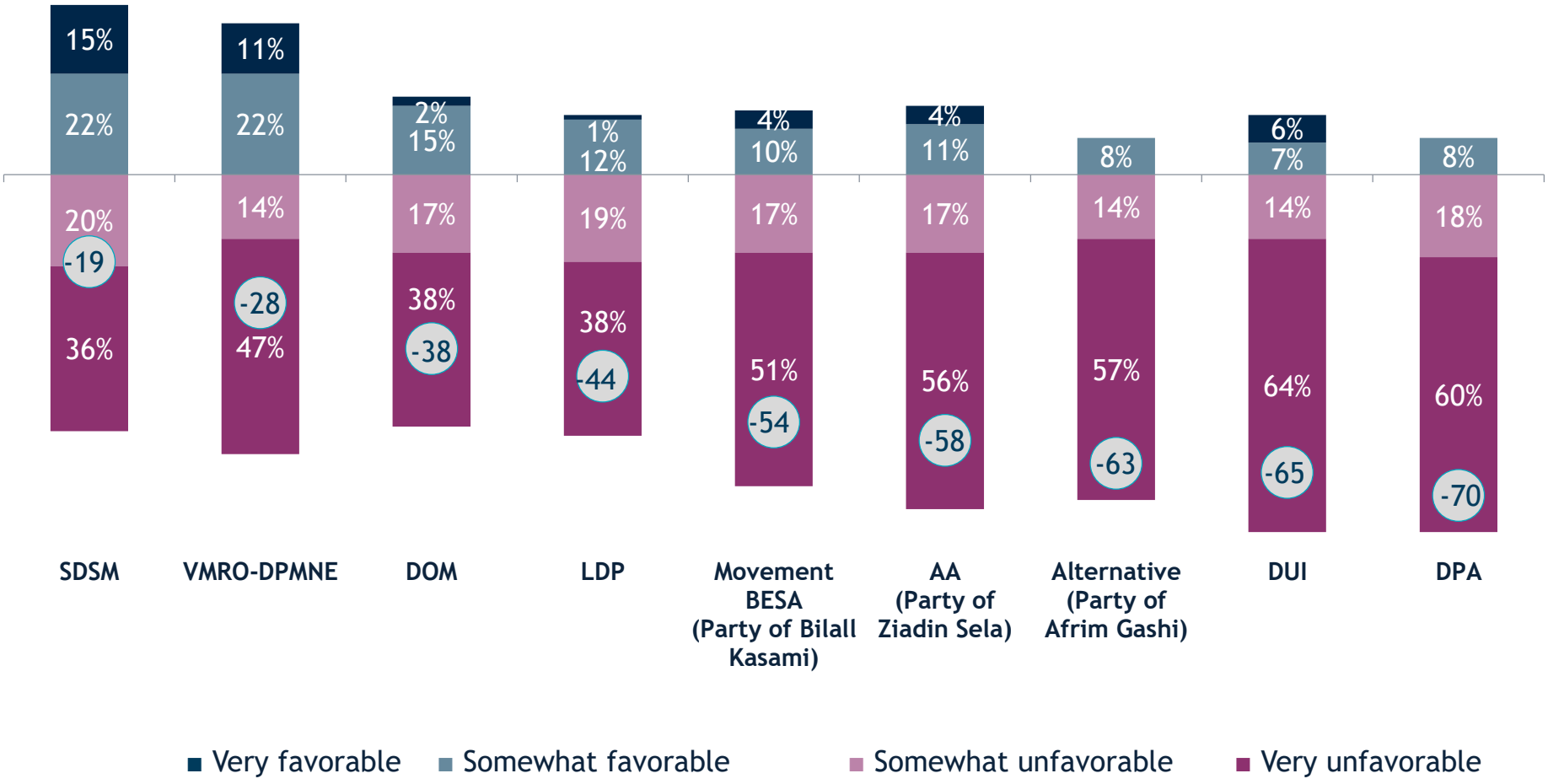
*Only political parties named by at least 2 percent are presented.

Do you agree or disagree that VMRO-DPMNE acts constructively in opposition?

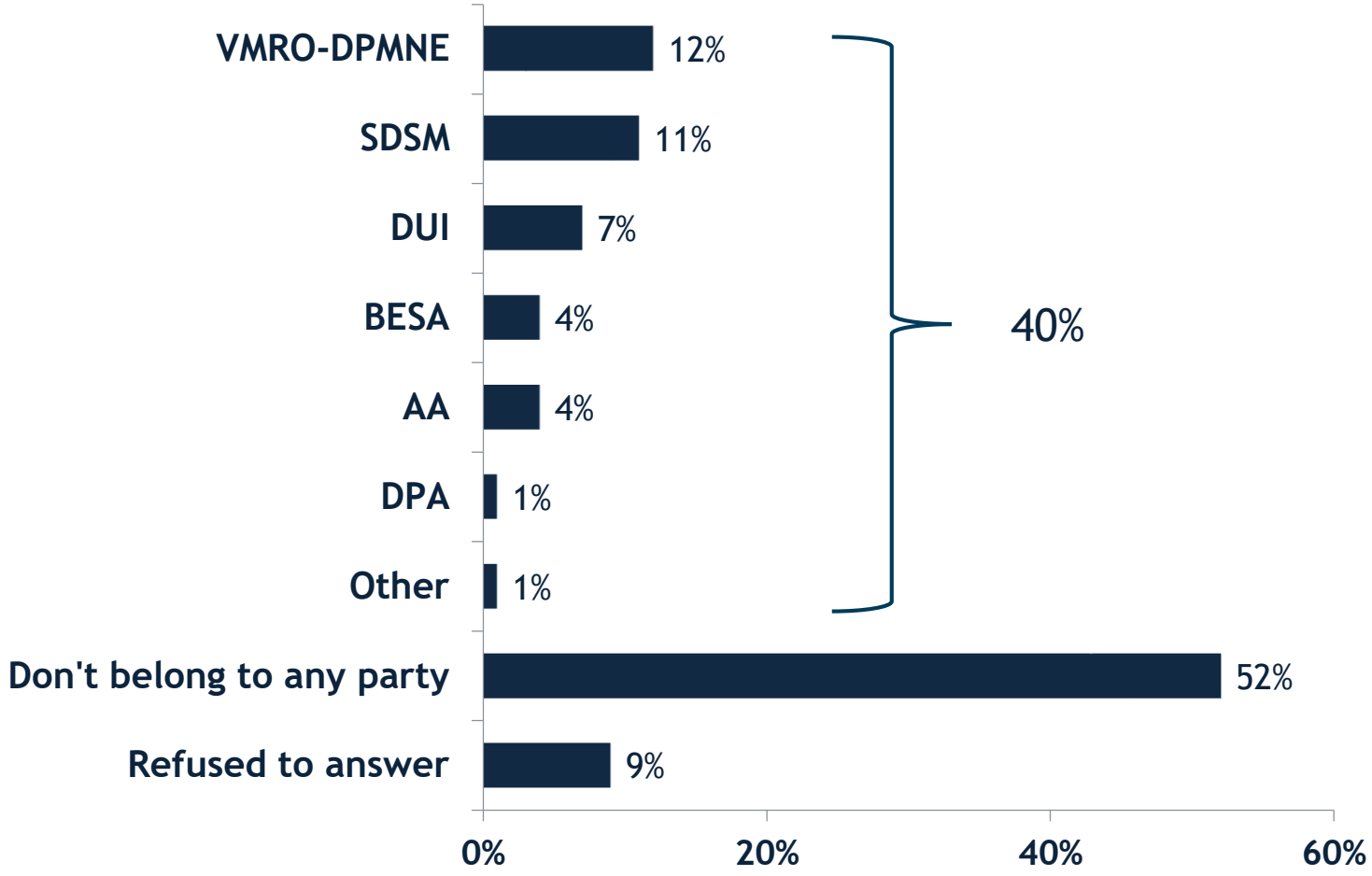


I will read you a list of political parties. Please tell me if you have a highly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or highly unfavorable opinion of this party.

(Net favorability of political parties, Don't know/Refused is not displayed)

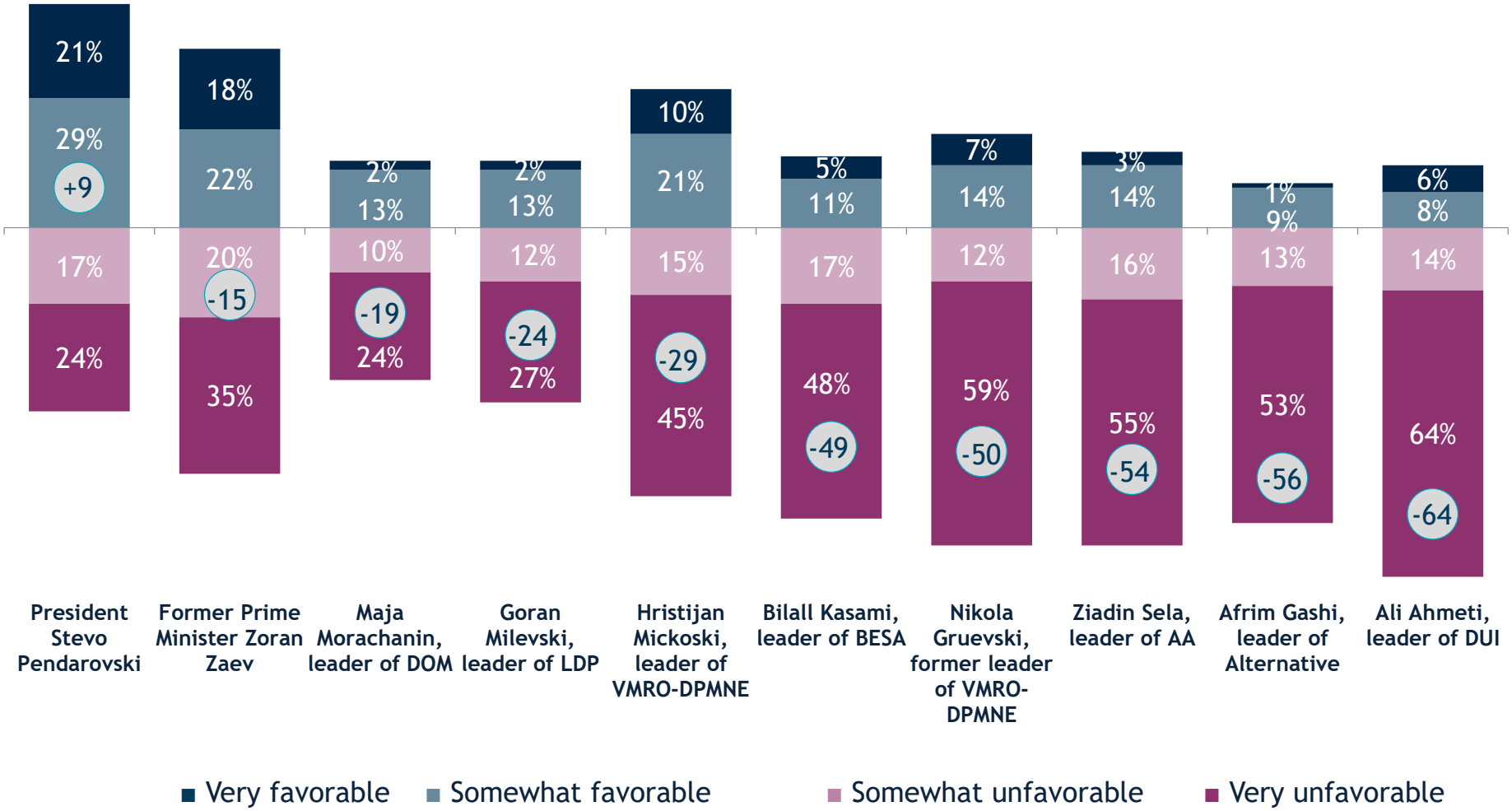


To which political party do you belong?

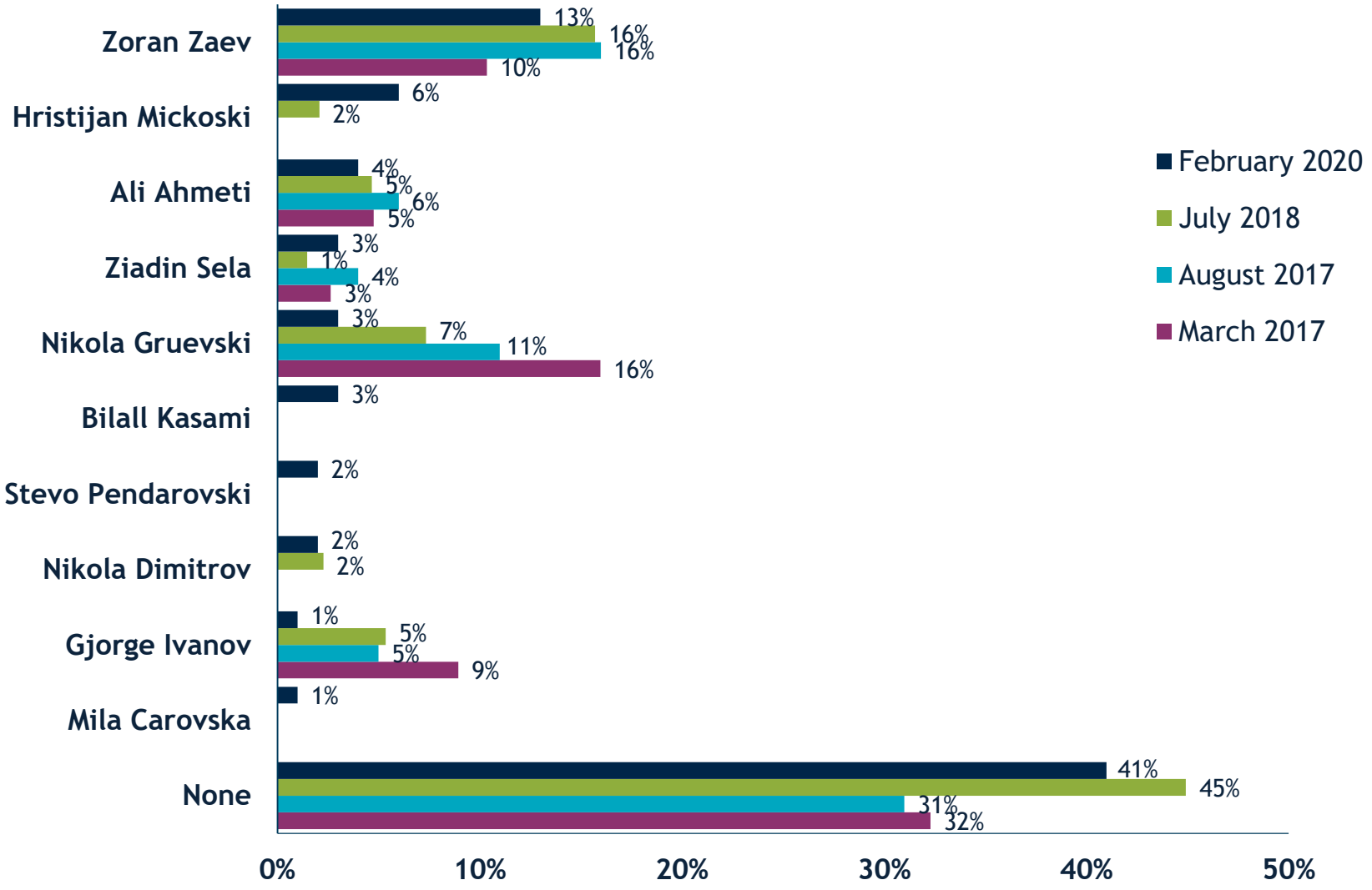


I will read you a list of names of political persons. Please tell me if you have a highly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or highly unfavorable opinion of this individual.

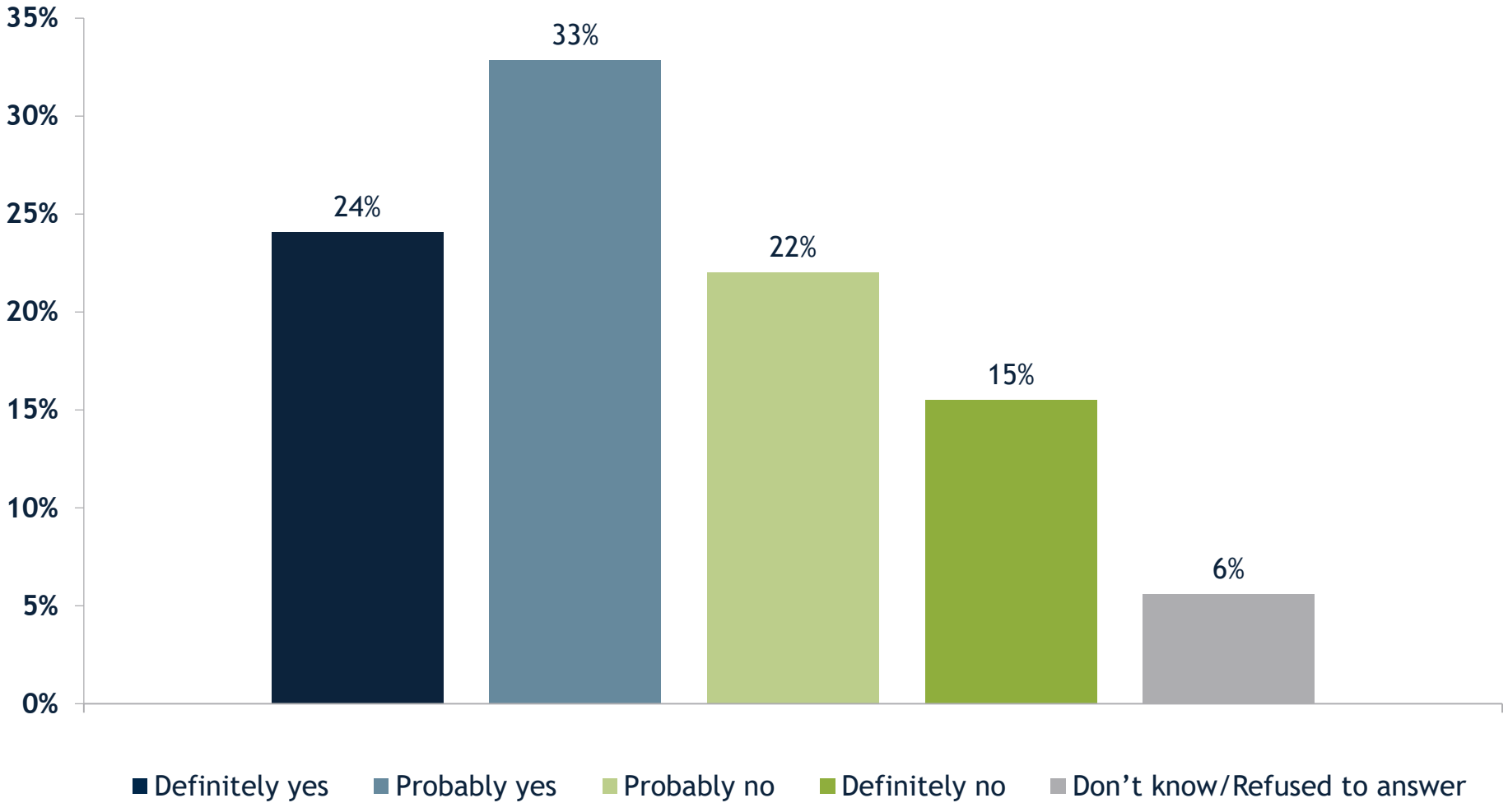
(Net favorability of political persons, Don't know/Refused is not displayed)



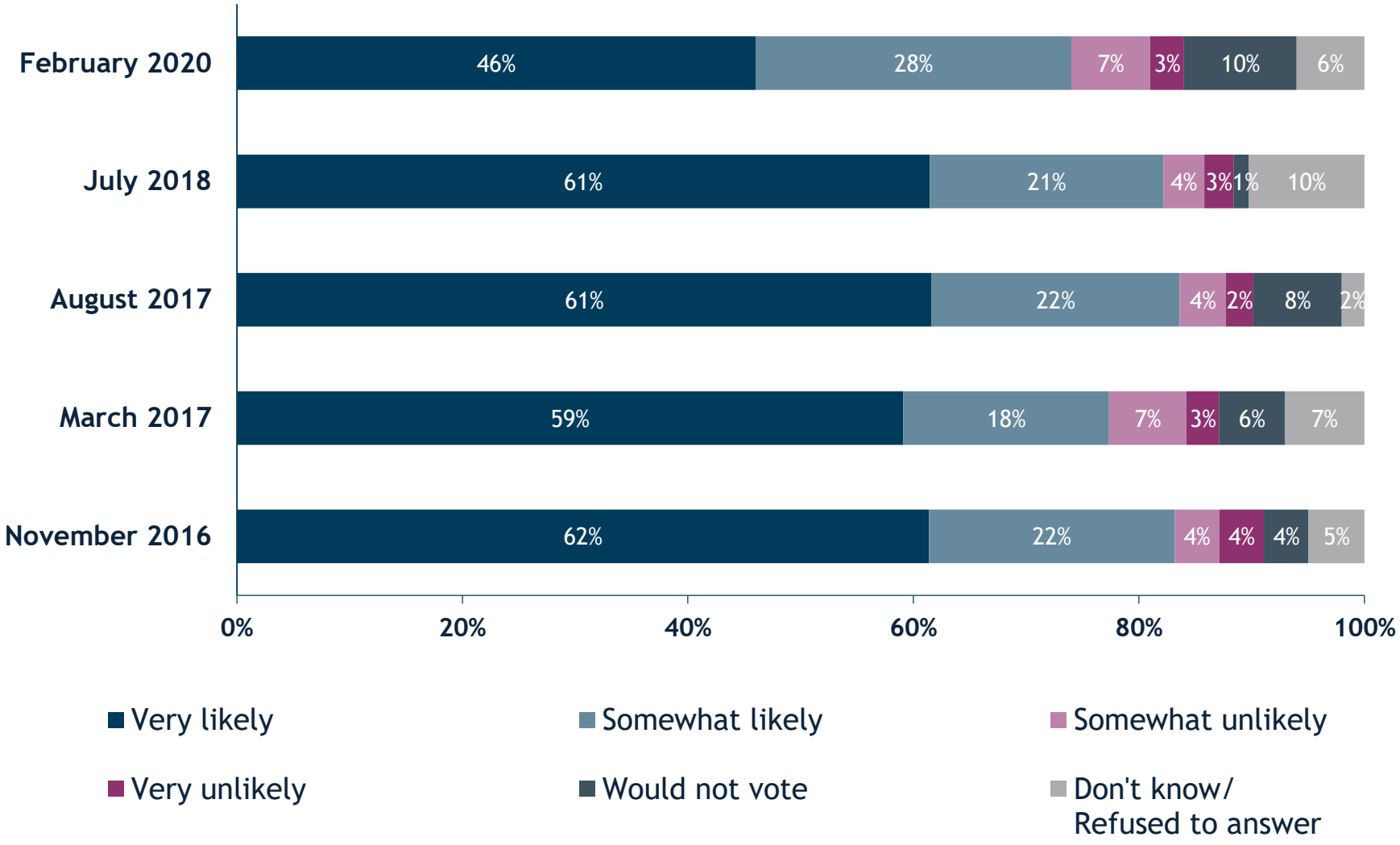
When you think about people in political life, who is the one person in North Macedonia whom you view most favorably? (Spontaneous response)



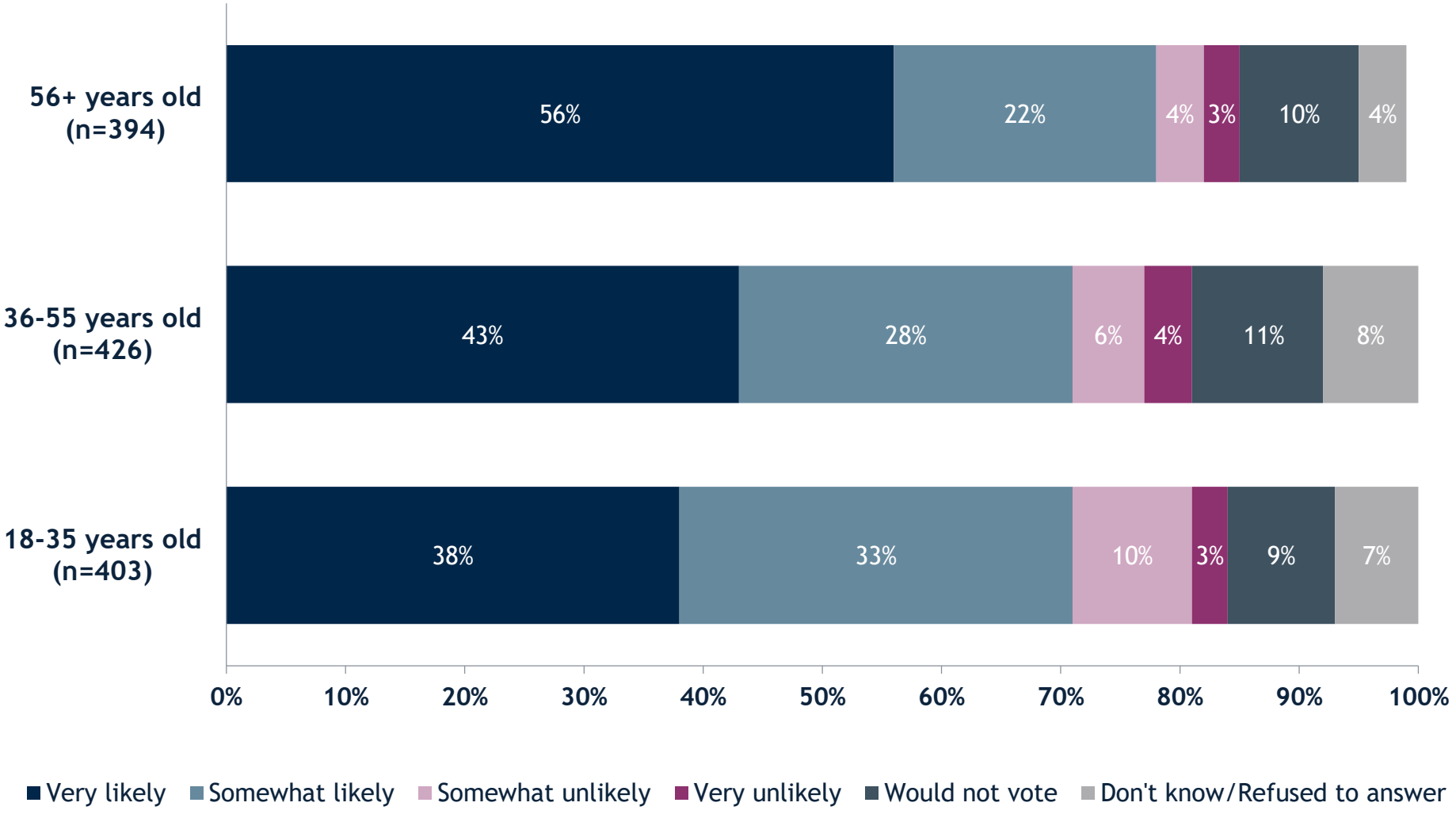
Do you think there are conditions in the country to hold free and fair elections?



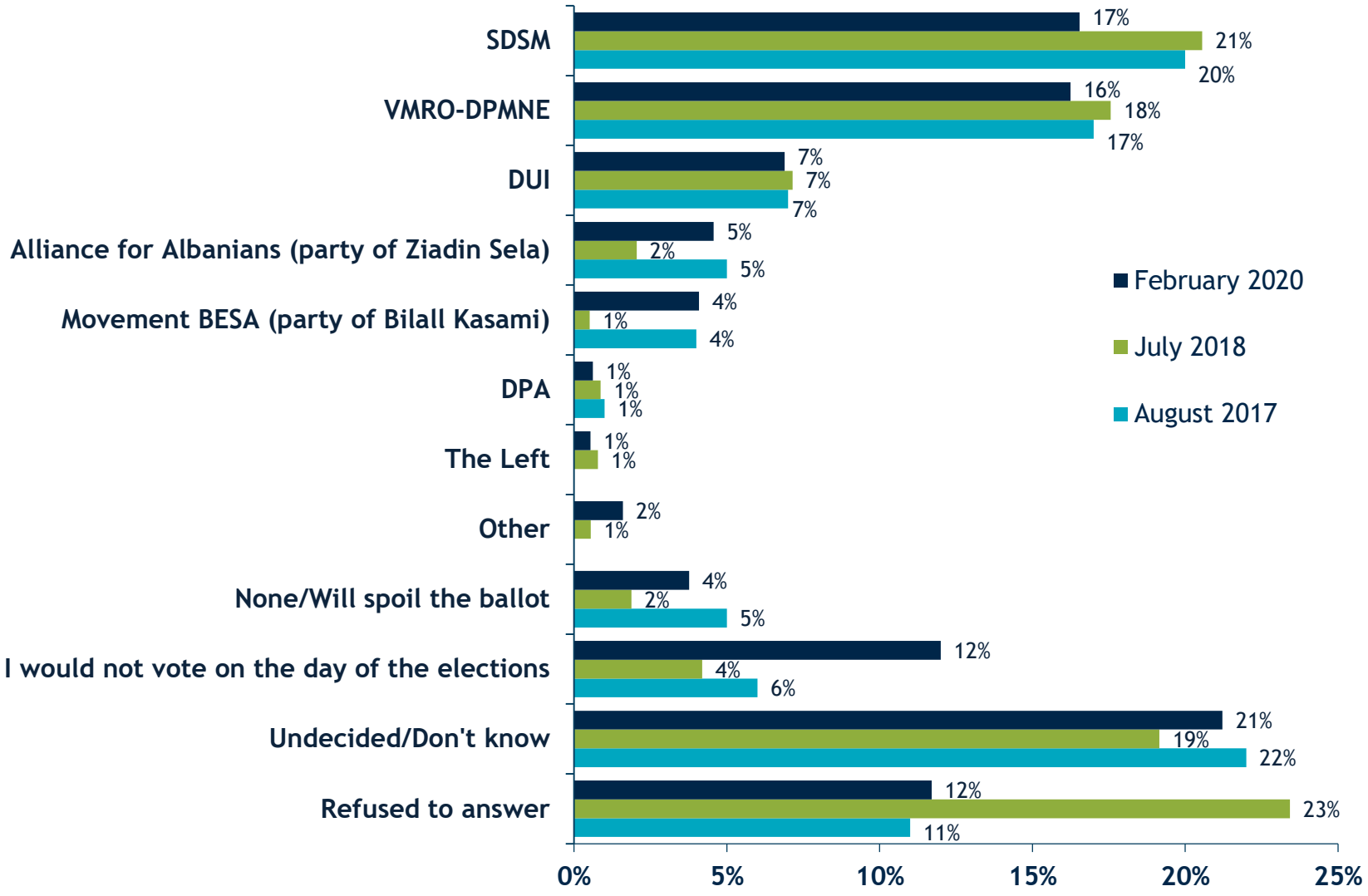
How likely or unlikely are you to vote in the parliamentary elections on April 12?



How likely or unlikely are you to vote in the parliamentary elections on April 12?
(Disaggregated by age groups)



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



*See glossary of political parties on Slide 3.

Attitudes toward Euro-Atlantic Integration and Foreign Relations

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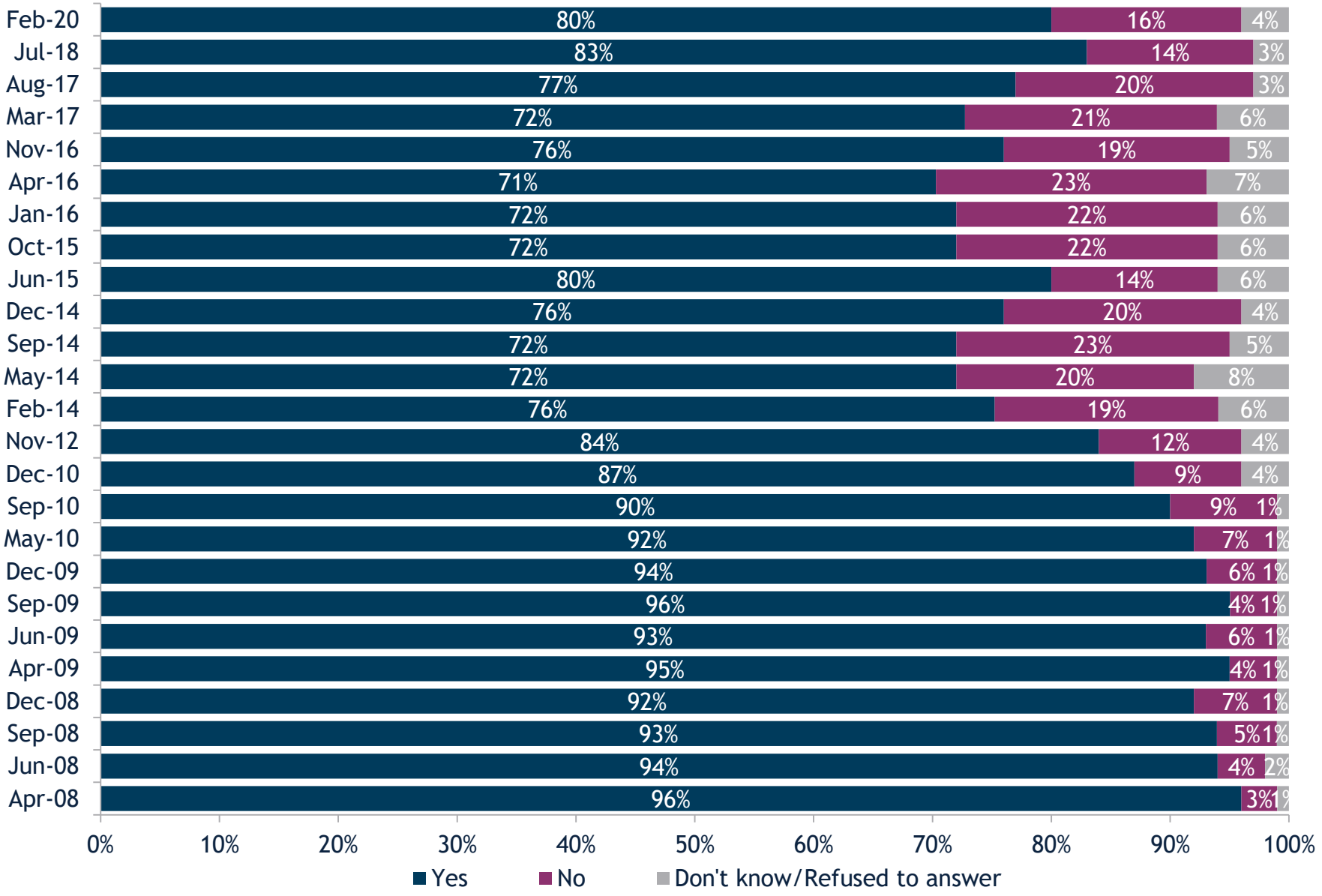
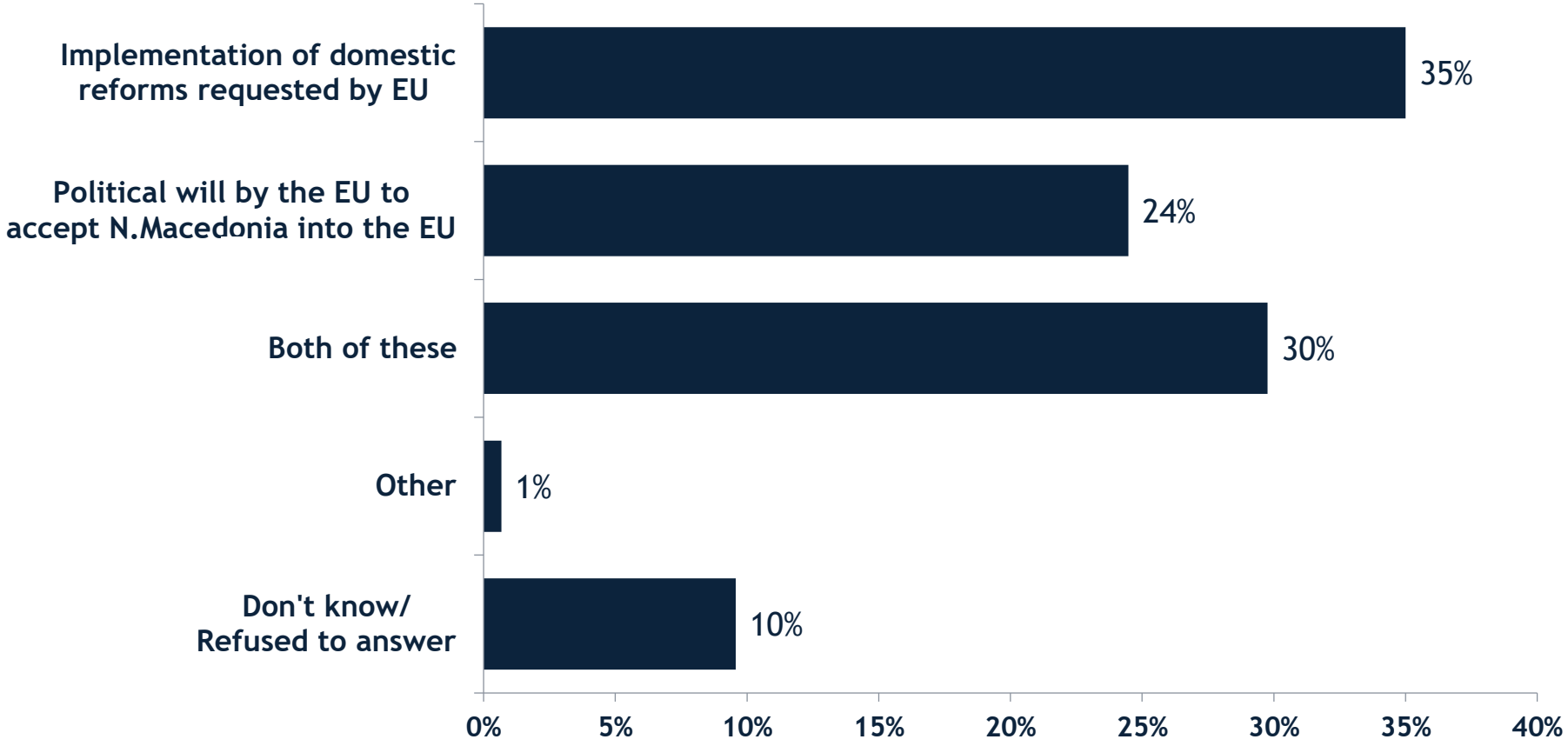
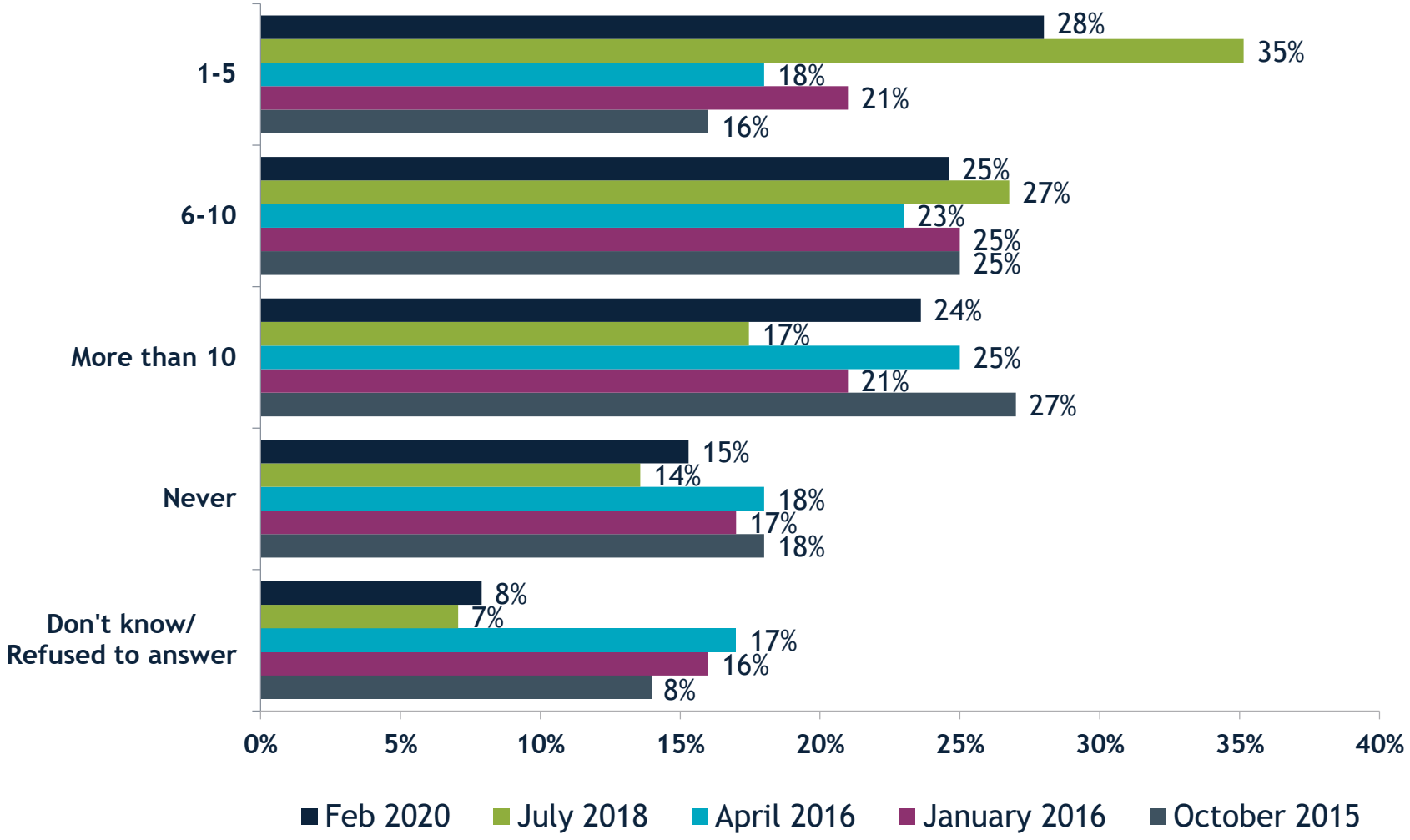
Do you support North Macedonia becoming a member of the European Union?



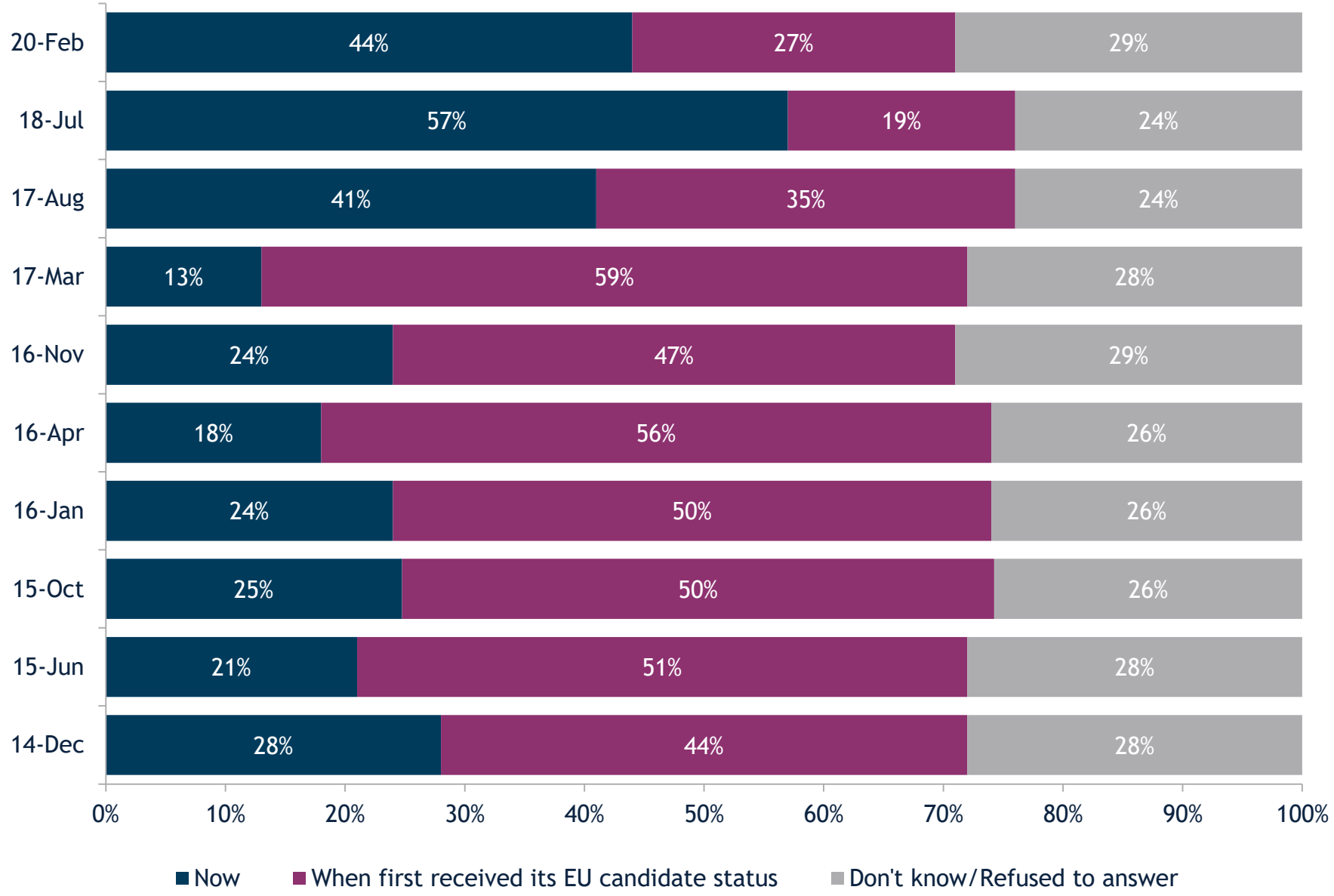
What is most important for North Macedonia's accession to the EU?



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

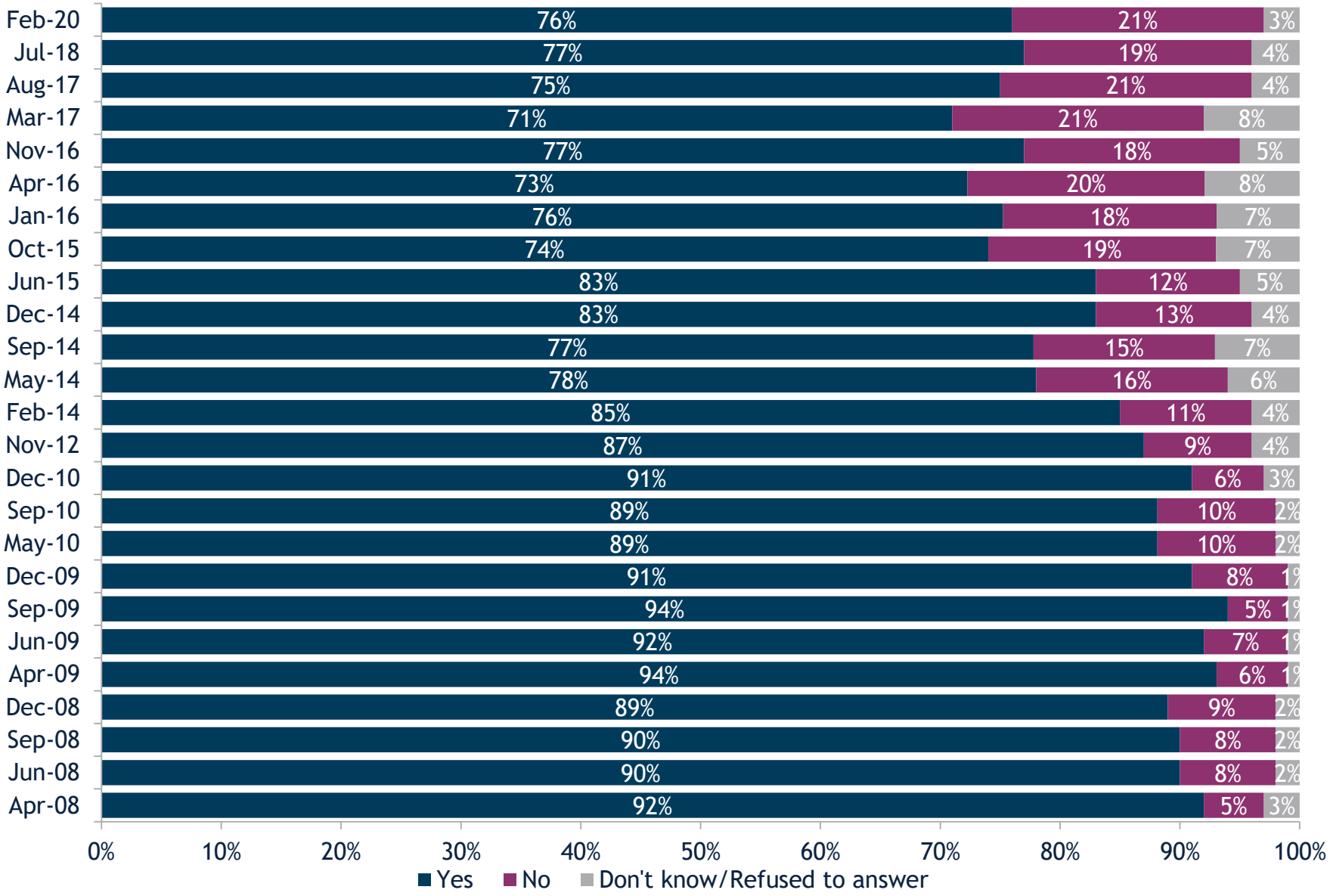


Do you think North Macedonia is closer to EU entry today, or was it closer when it first received its EU candidate member status?*

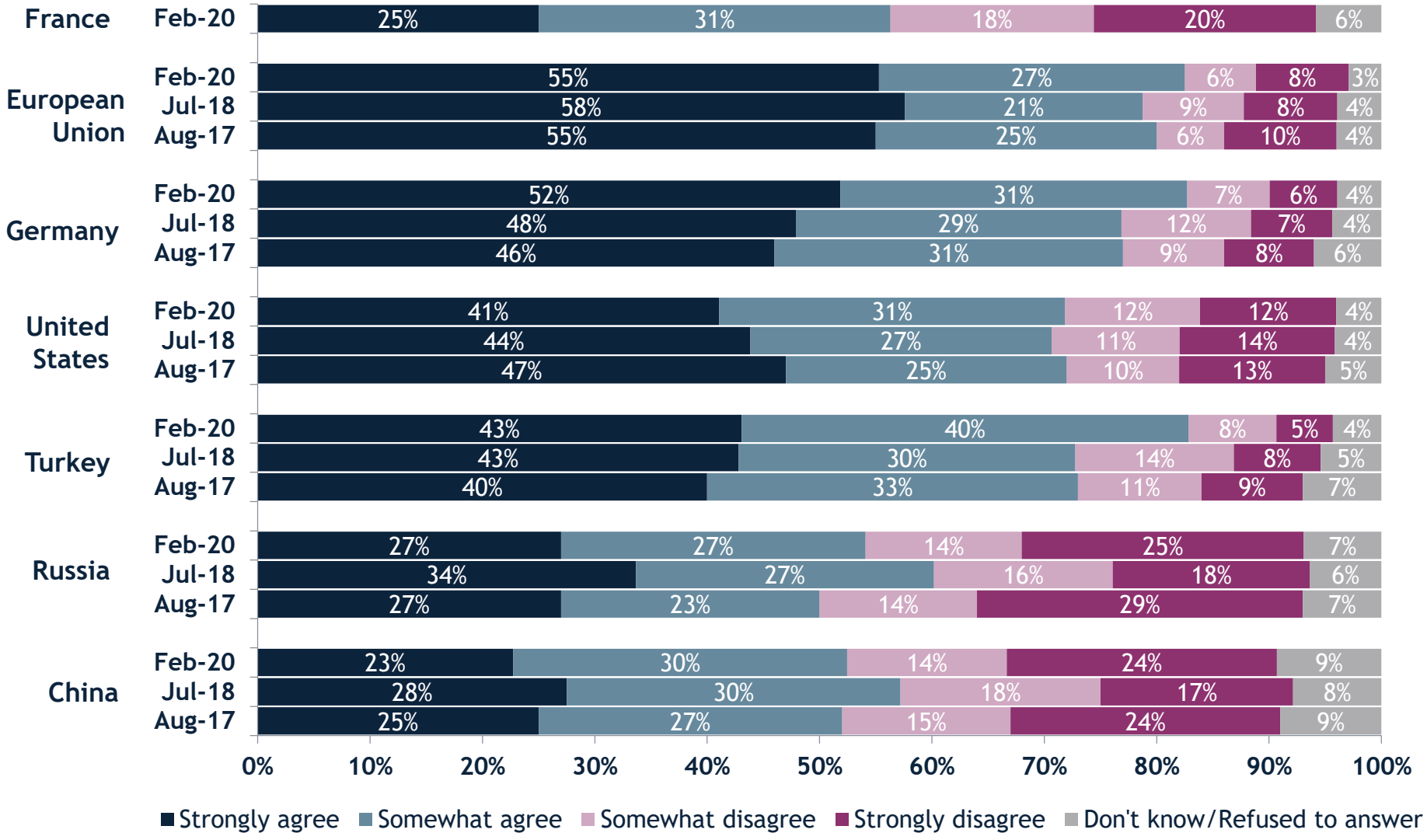


*First received in December 2005

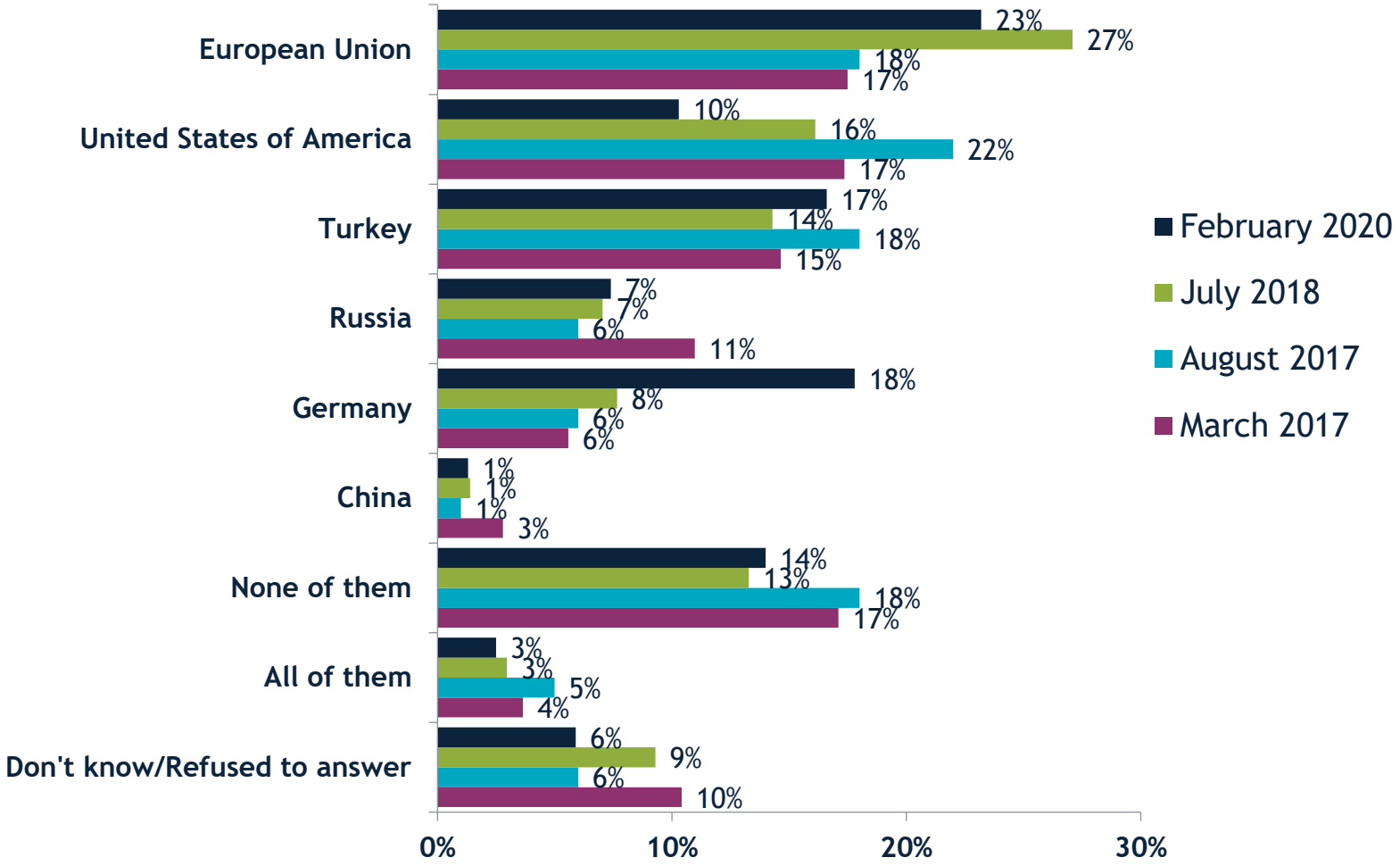
Do you support North Macedonia becoming a member of NATO?



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 helps North Macedonia's national interests the most?



Government's Performance

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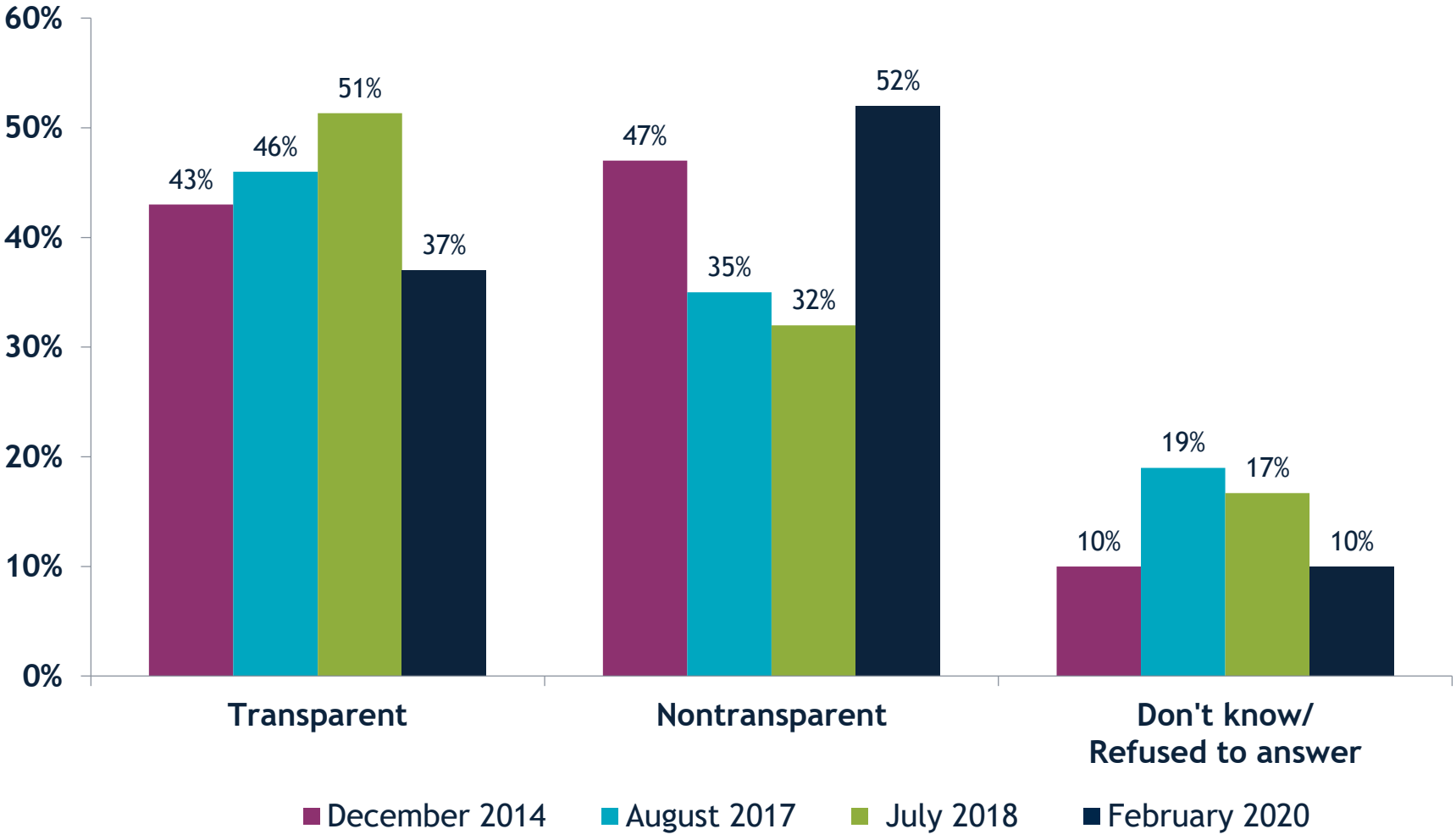
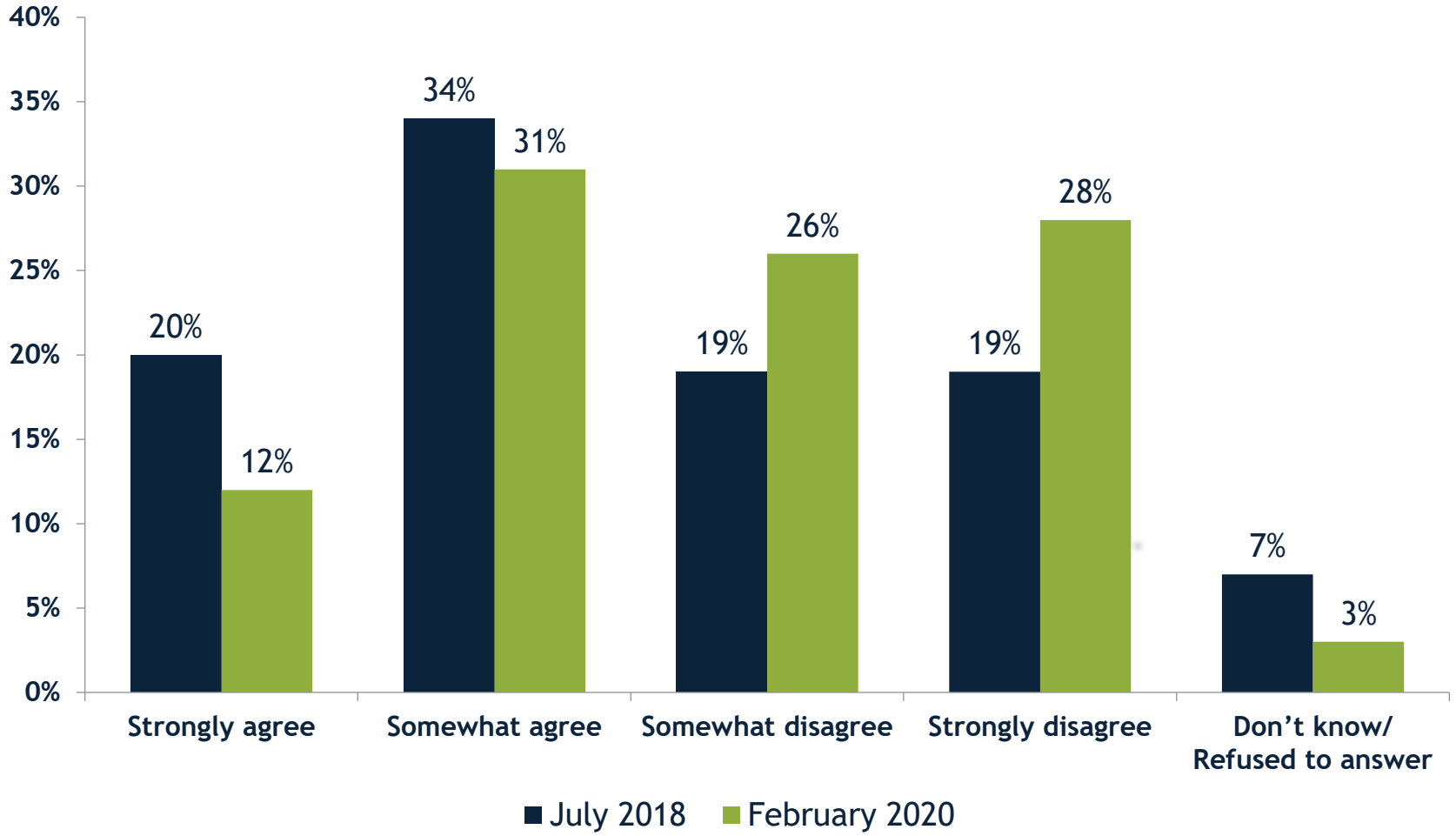
Based on its actions and behavior, do you consider the Government of Zoran Zaev to be transparent or nontransparent?

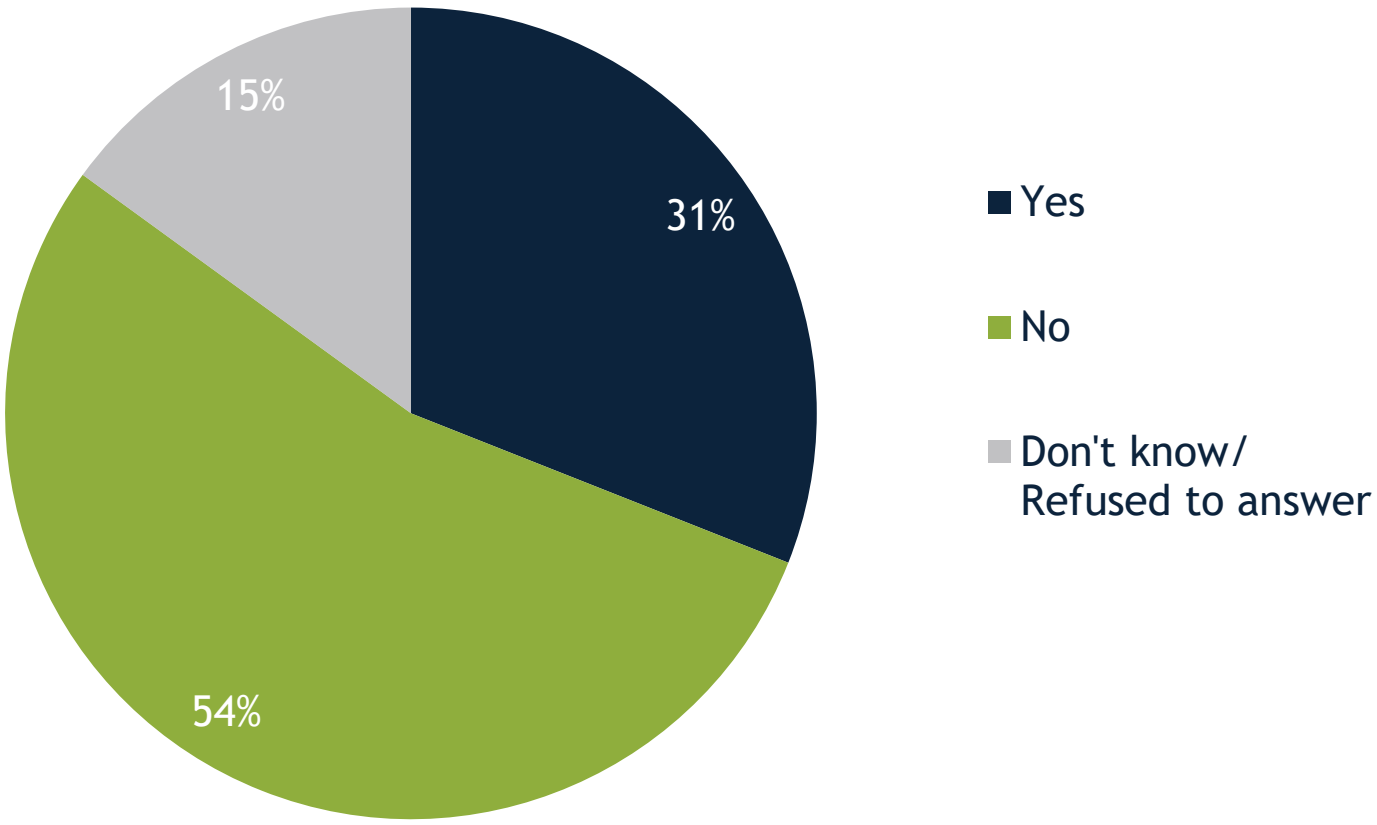


*Answers from December 2014 refer to the government led by Nikola Gruevski, VMRO-DPMNE.

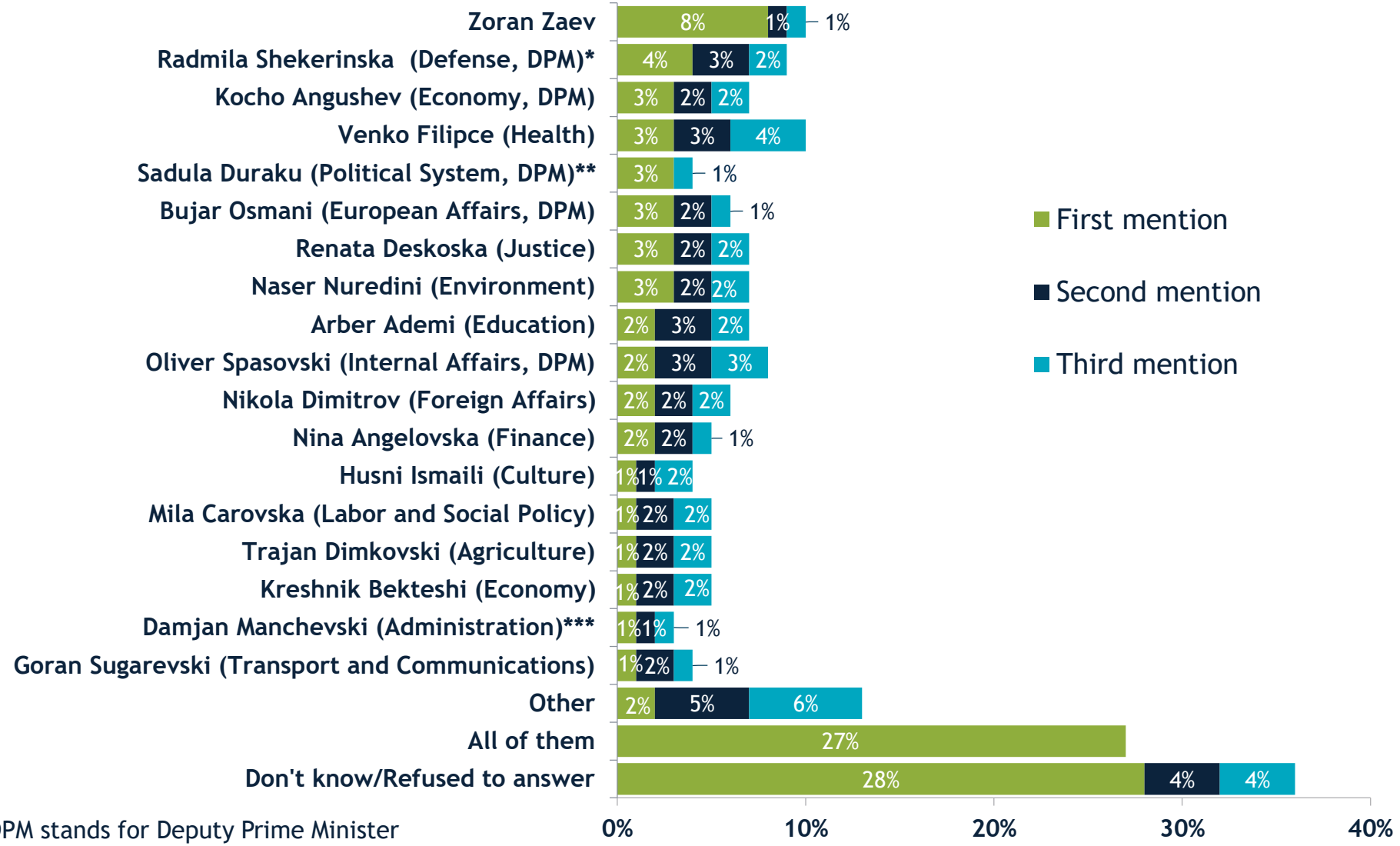
How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The Government led by SDSM is open and accountable to the citizens and the public"?



Has Zoran Zaev done his job well enough to deserve re-election?



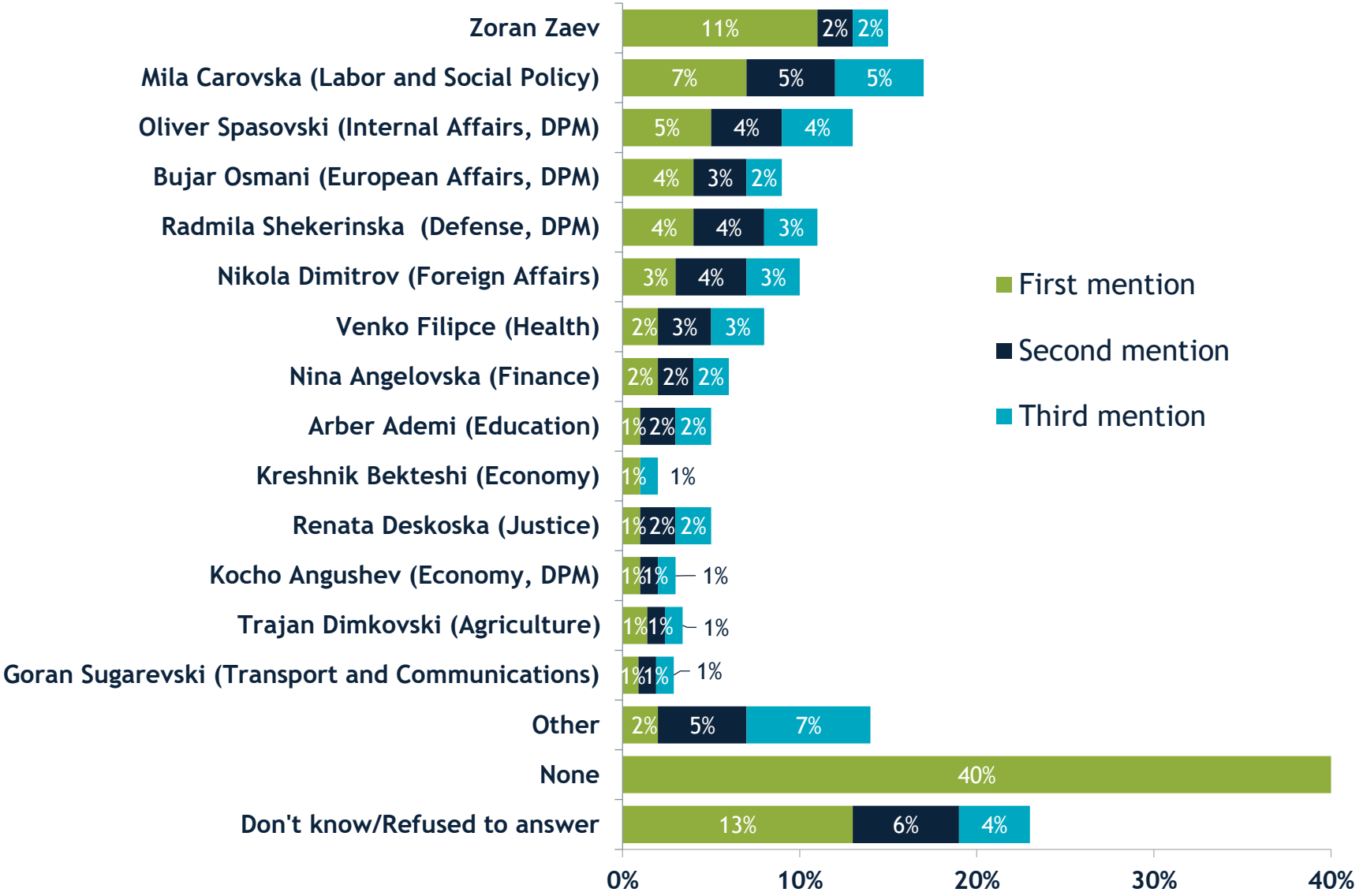
Which three ministers in Prime Minister Zaev's Government were not doing their job as they should?
(Up to three responses permitted)



*DPM stands for Deputy Prime Minister
**Political System and Relations among the Communities
***Information Society and Administration

Which three ministers in Prime Minister Zaev's Government were doing the best job?

(Up to three responses permitted)



Governance and Strength of Institutions

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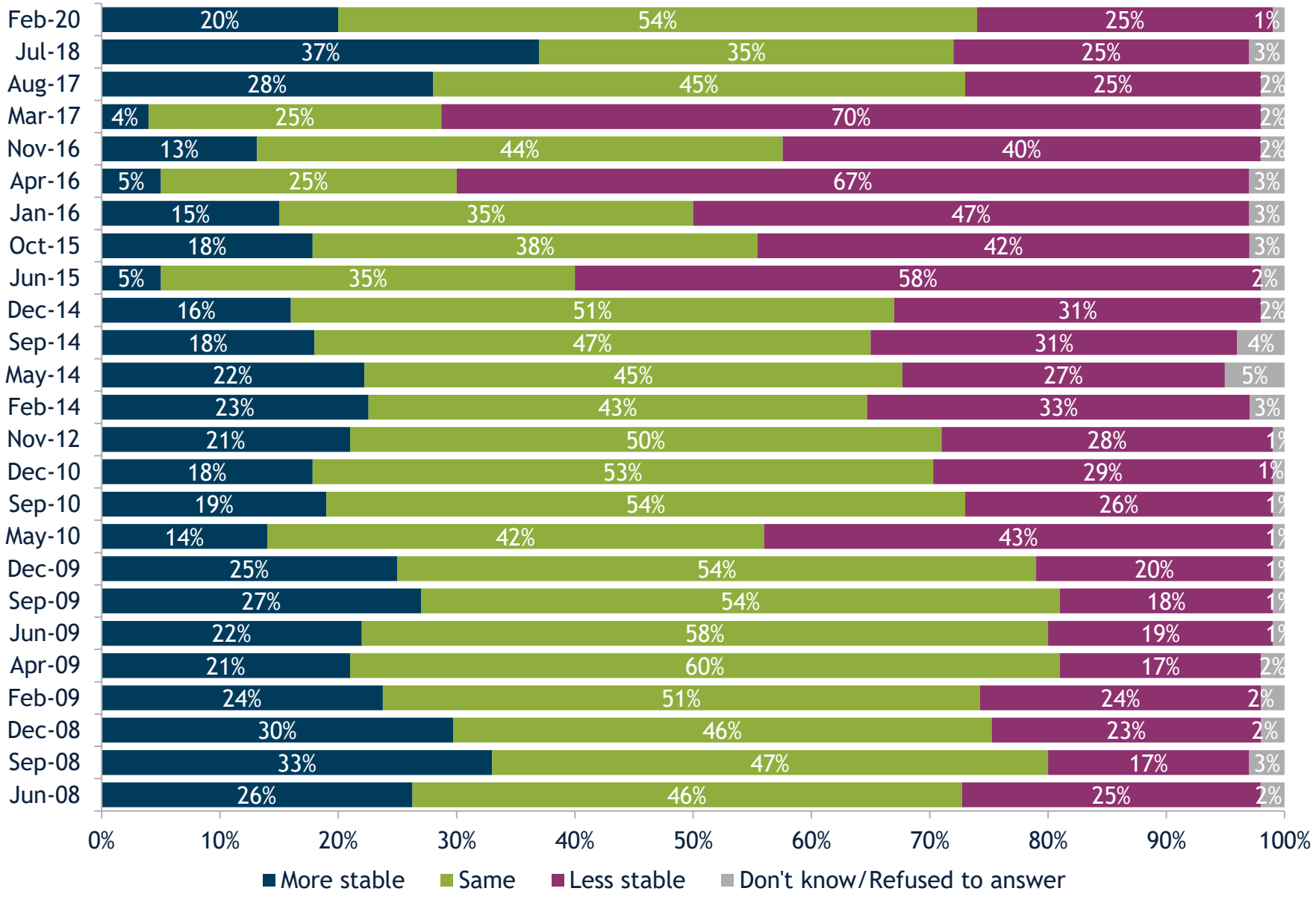
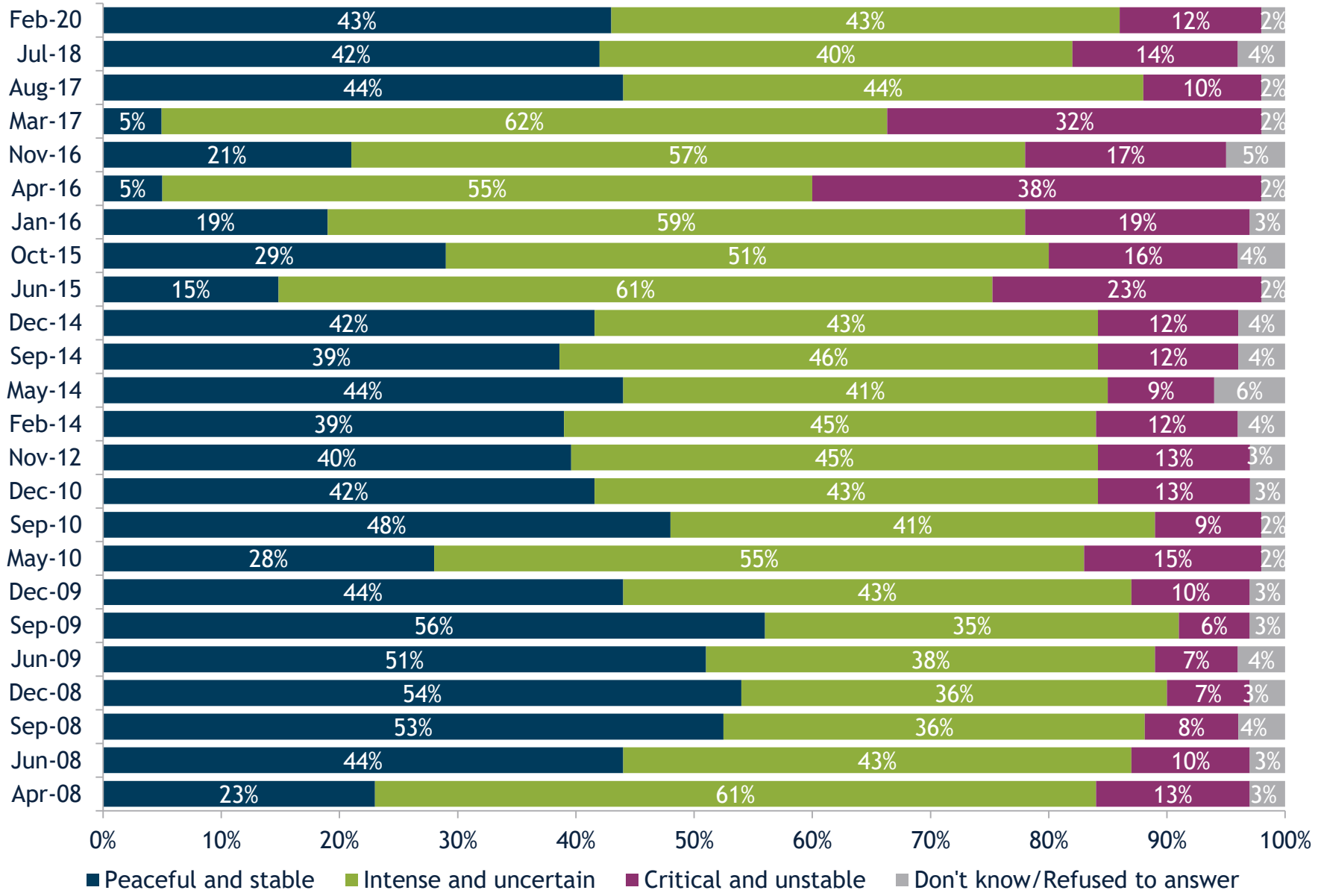
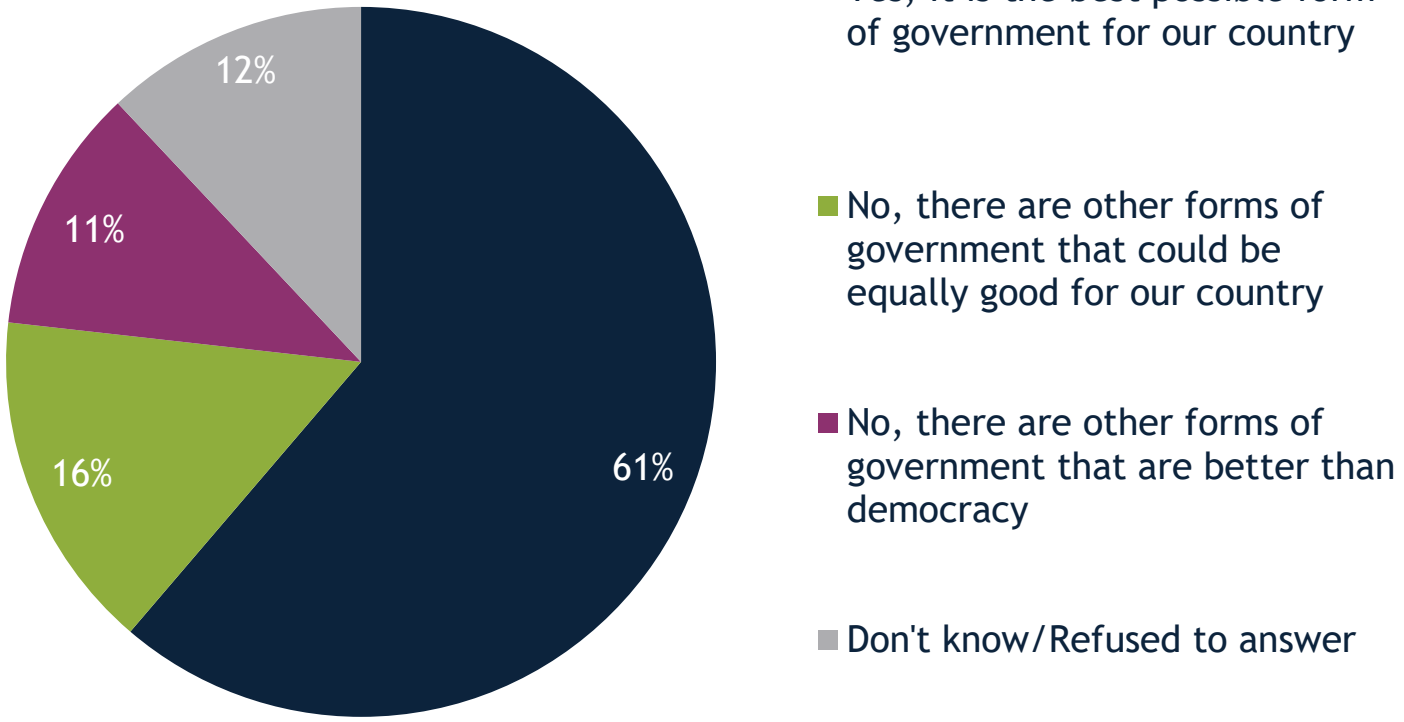
Is North Macedonia more or less stable today than it was one year ago?



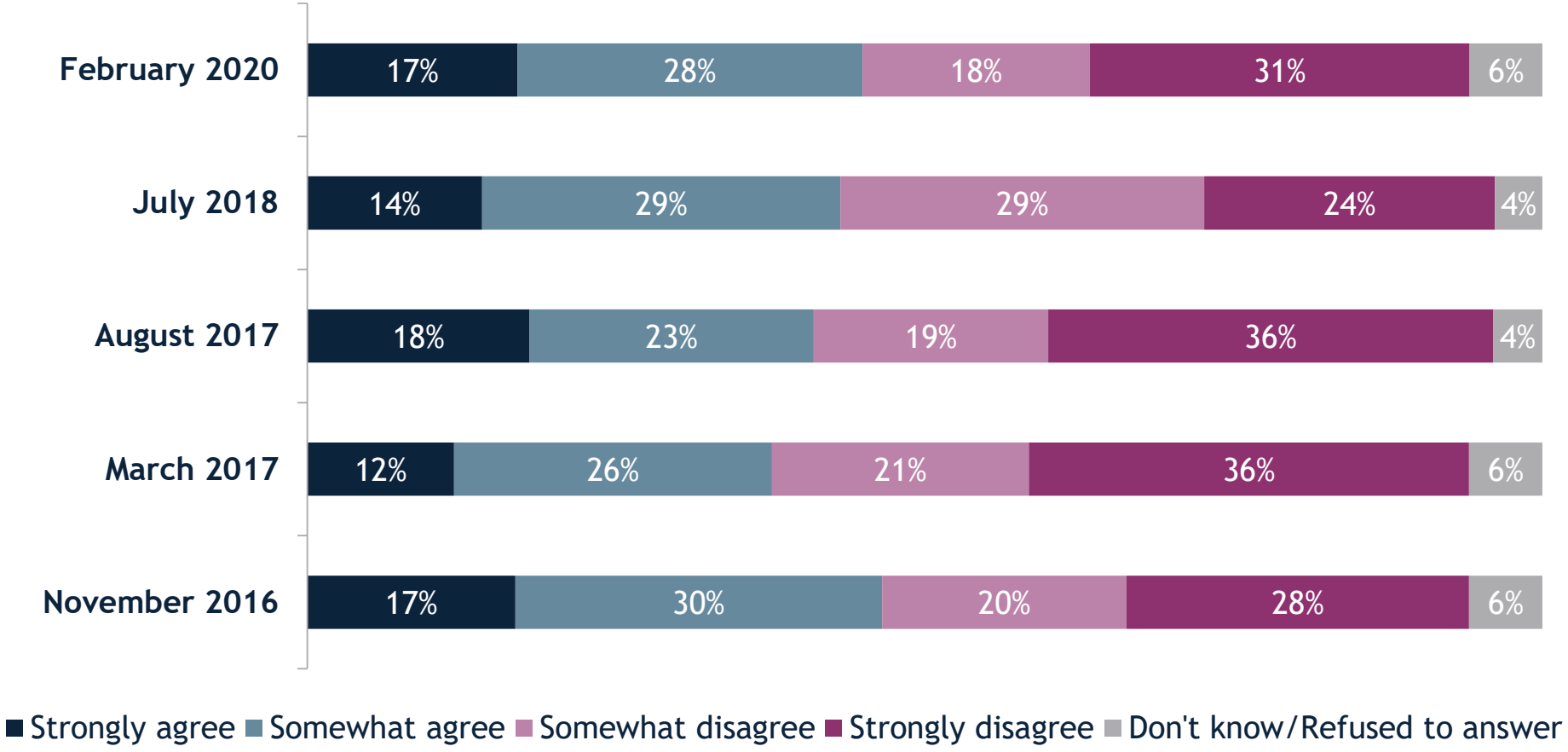
How would you describe the current internal political situation in North Macedonia?



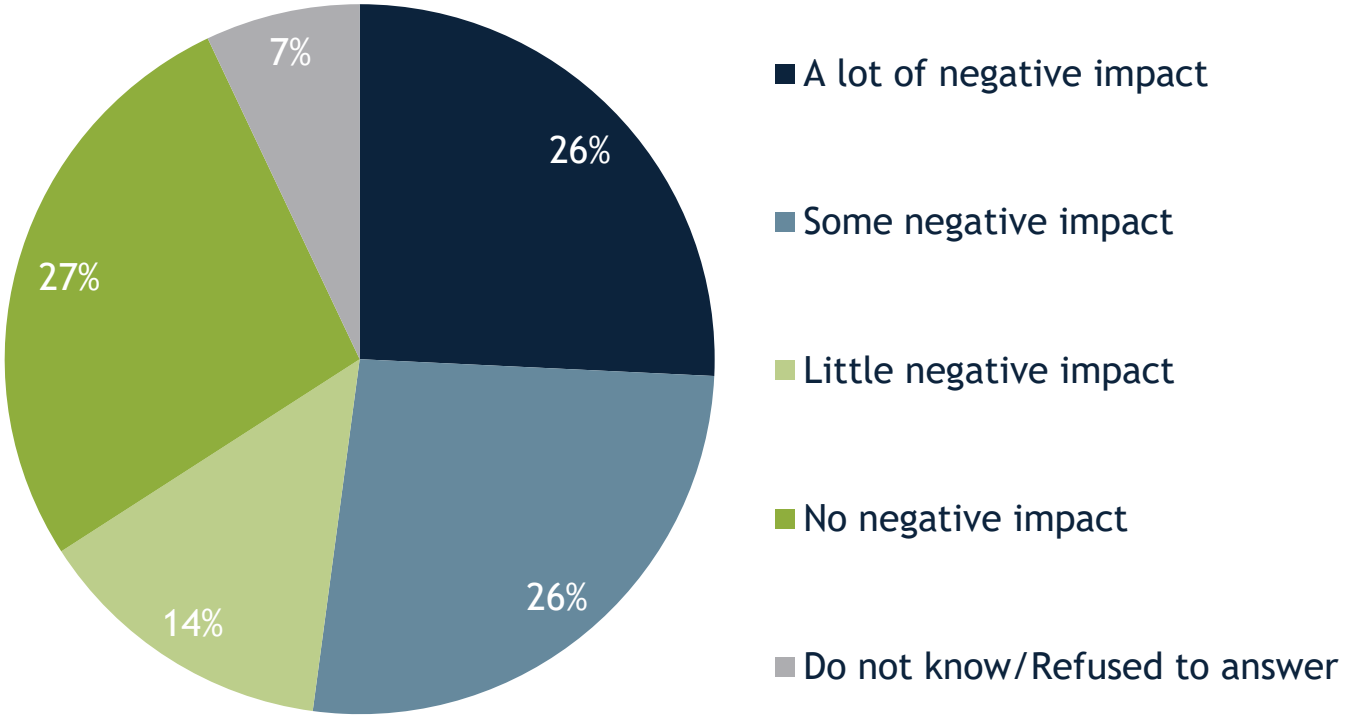
Do you believe that democracy is the best possible form of government for our country or not?



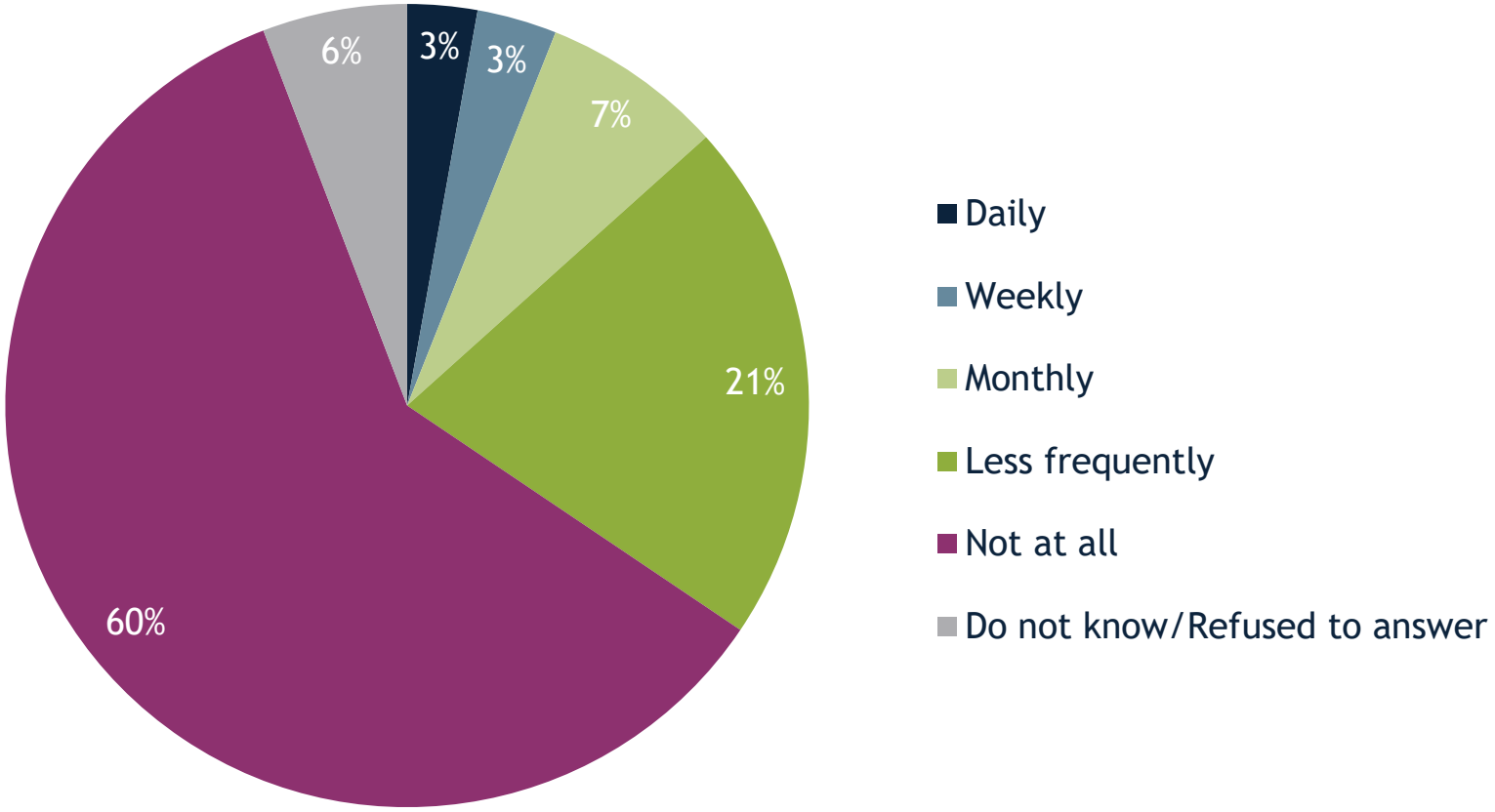
The rule of law in a democracy could be understood as "a state when all people and institutions are accountable to the law and the Constitution, and the Constitution and the law are equally applied towards all."
How strongly do you agree or disagree that rule of law exists in our country?



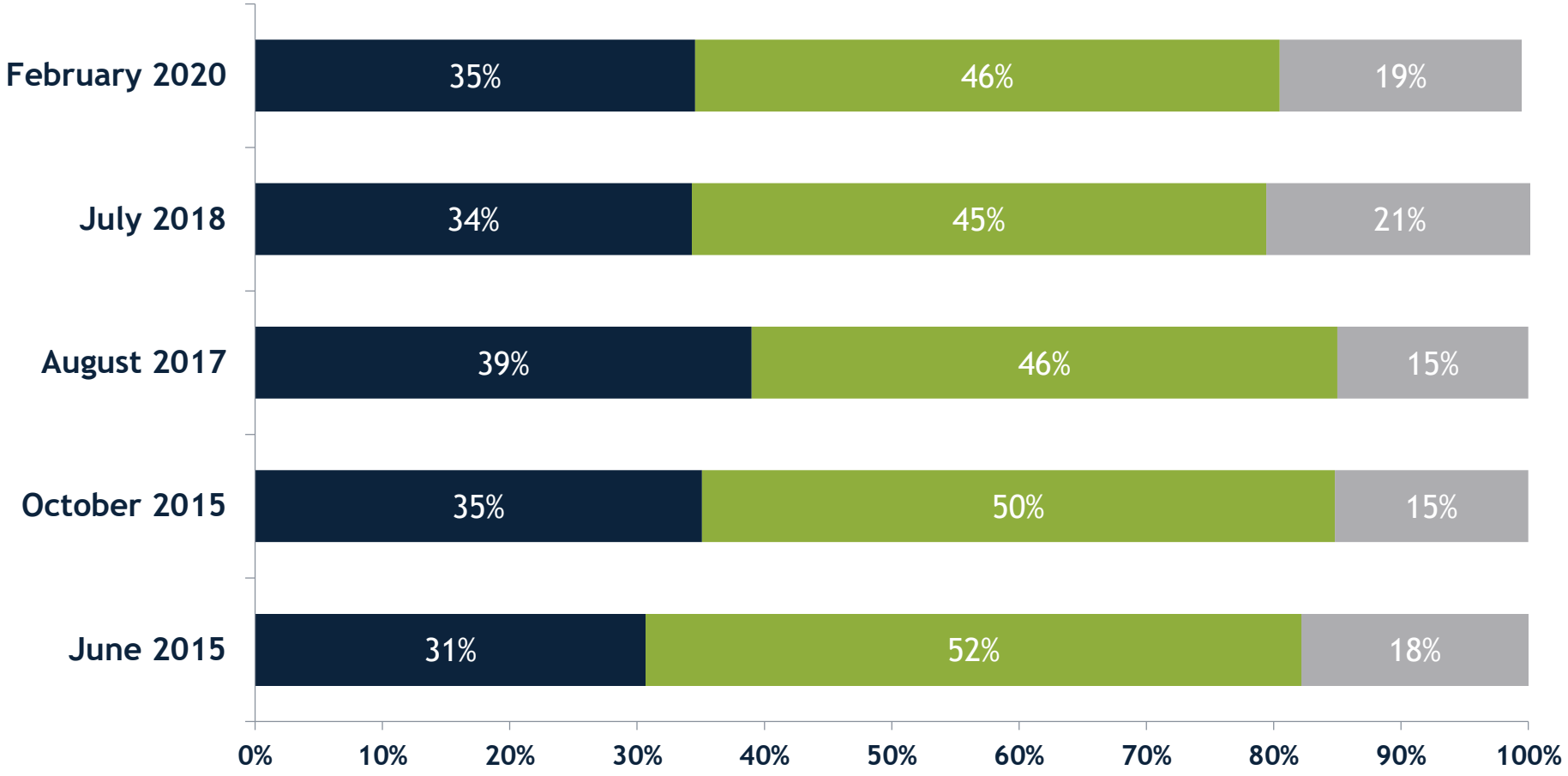
Now I would like to discuss corruption with you.
When I say corruption, I mean having to do a favor, give a gift or pay a bribe because someone misuses their position for personal gains. To what extent, if any, has corruption had a negative impact on you?



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

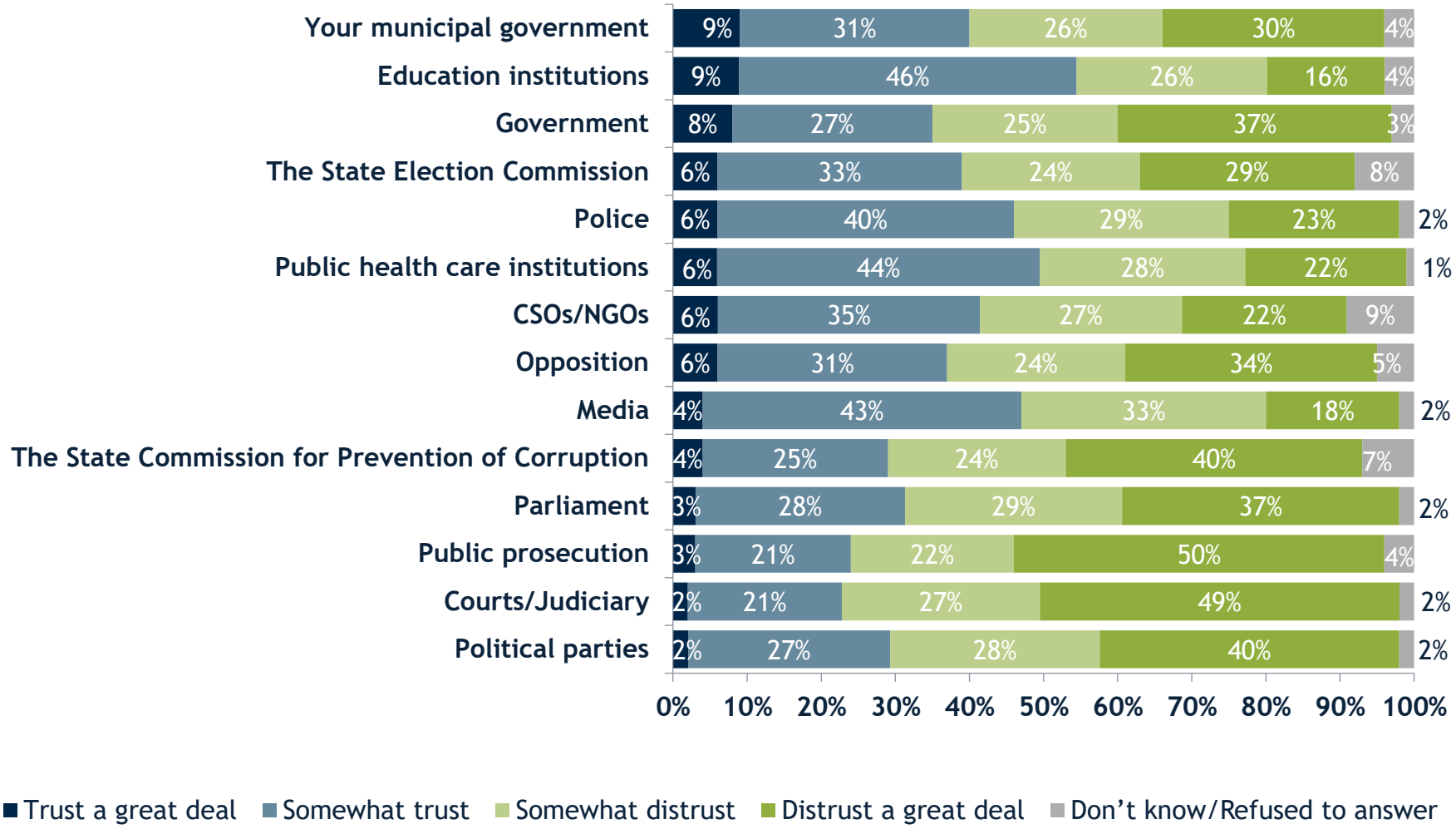


Do you think your phone conversations are:



- Private and safe? That is, you and the other person in the conversation are the only ones aware of the conversation.
- Not private and safe? That is, there is a possibility that your conversations are being listened to and/or recorded by a third party.
- Don't know/Refused to answer

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



Social Cohesion

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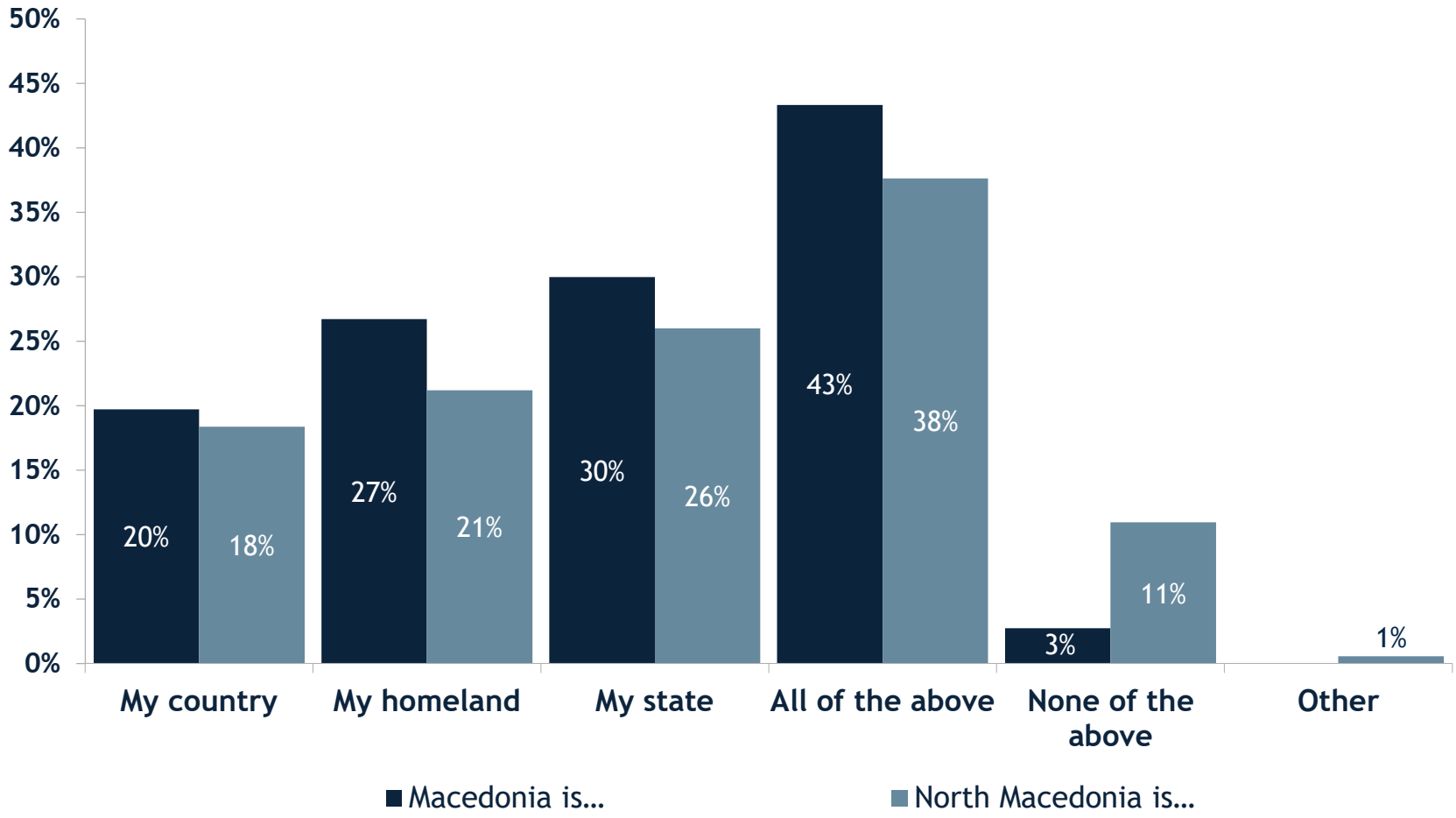
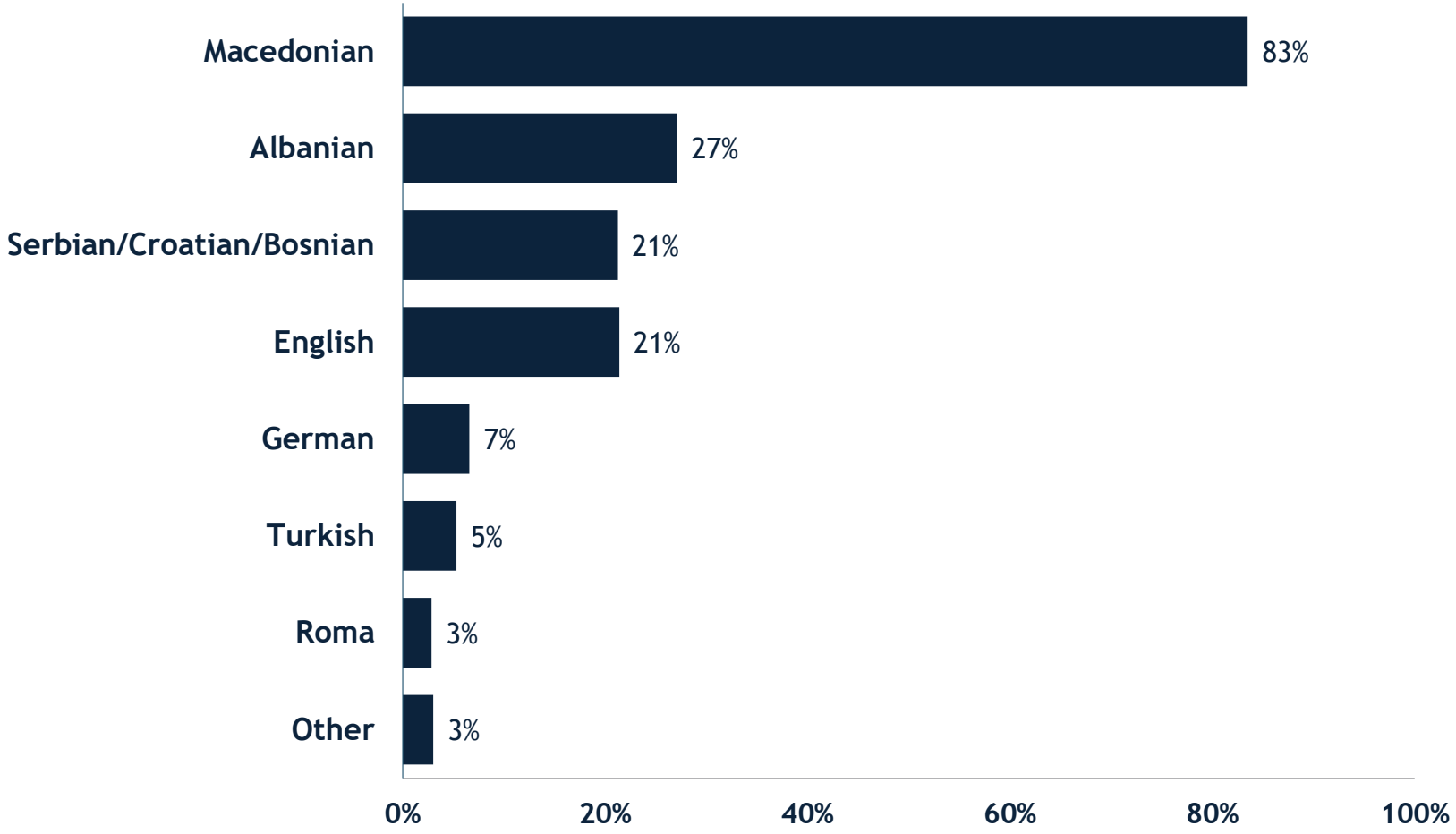
Fill in the blank:
Macedonia is…*/North Macedonia is…**
(Multiple responses permitted)



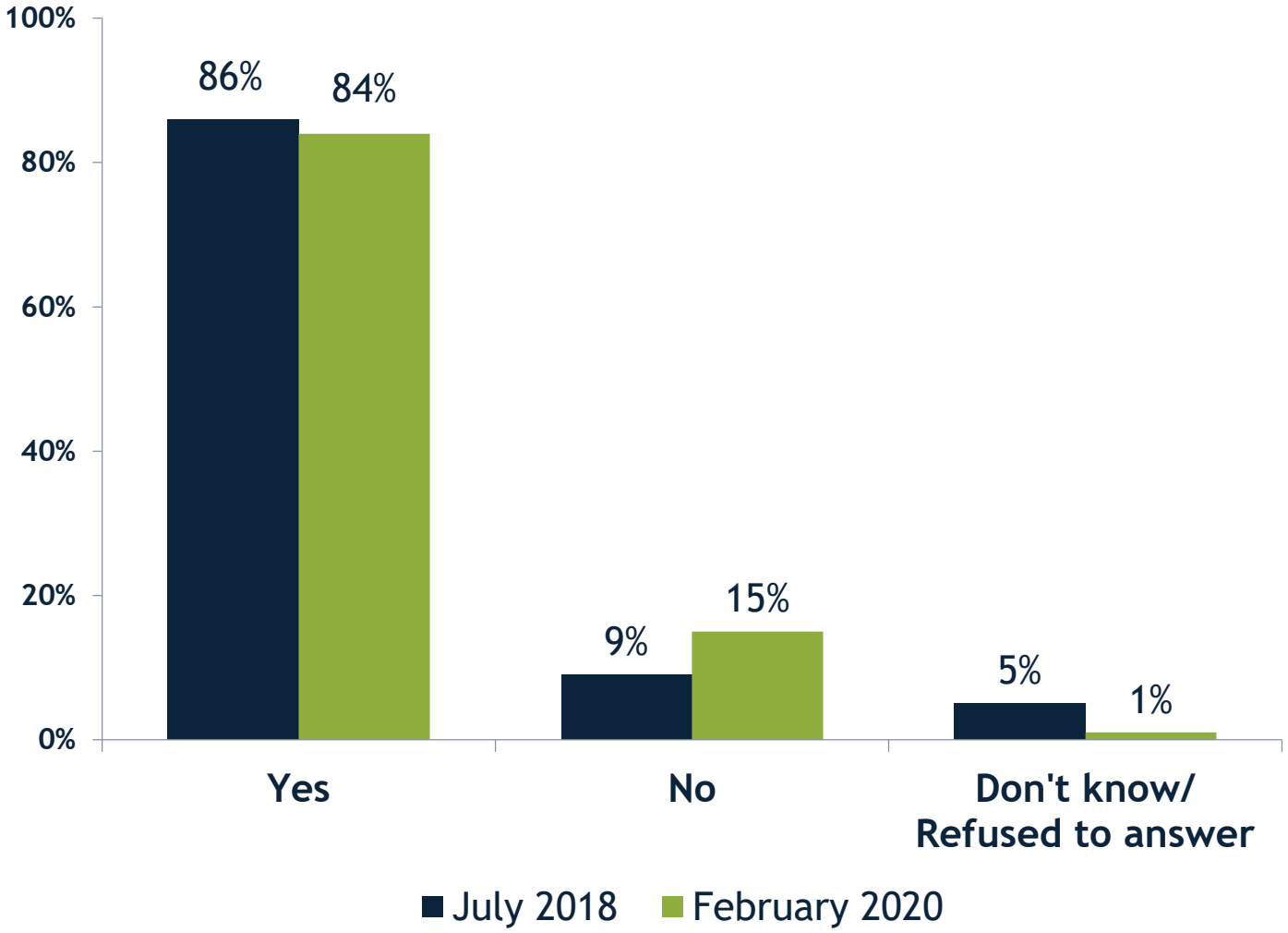
A split sample method was applied on this question: half of the sample was asked how they feel about "Macedonia" and the other half was asked how they feel about "North Macedonia."
* n=628, margin of error ± 3.9%
** n=594, margin of error ± 4.0%

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

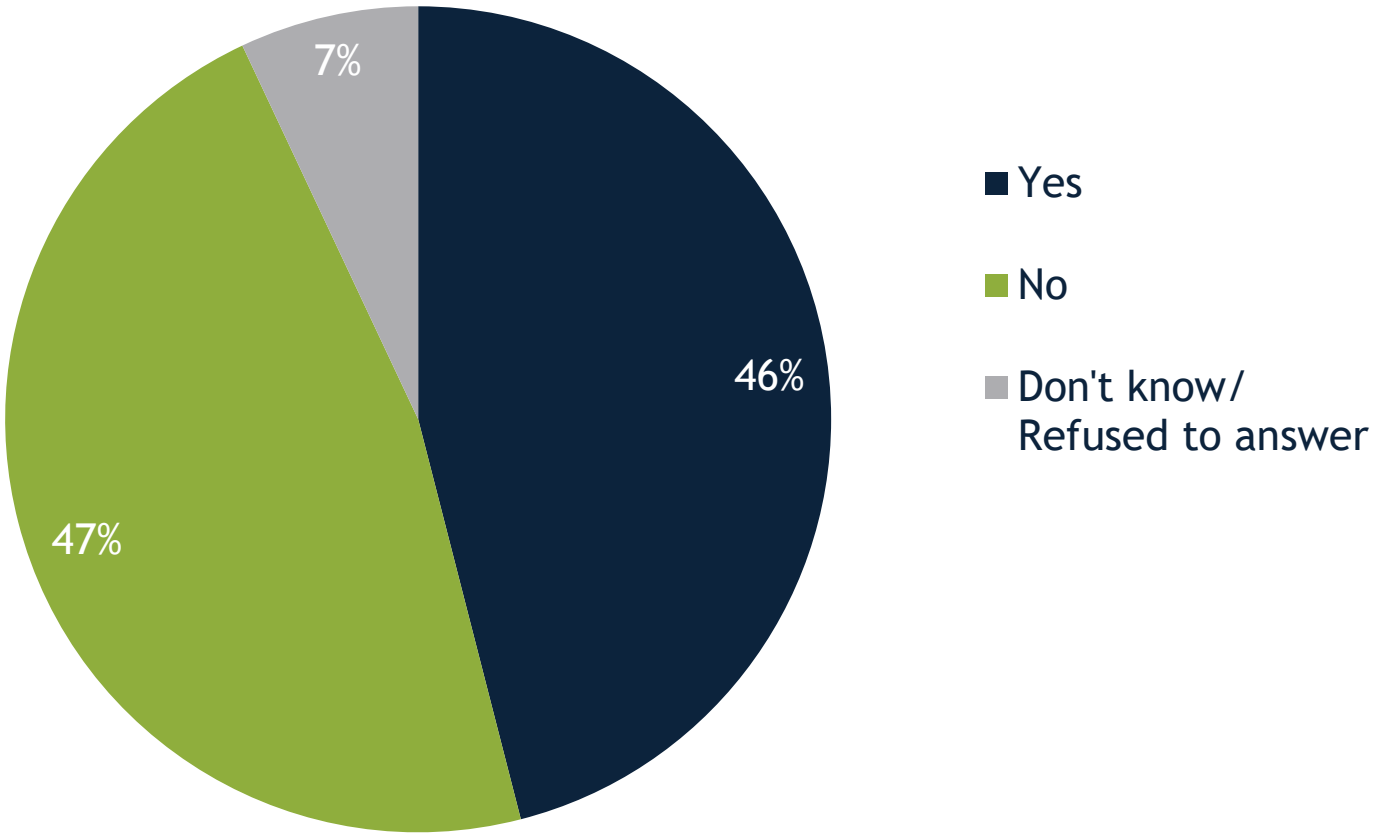
(Spontaneous response; multiple responses permitted)



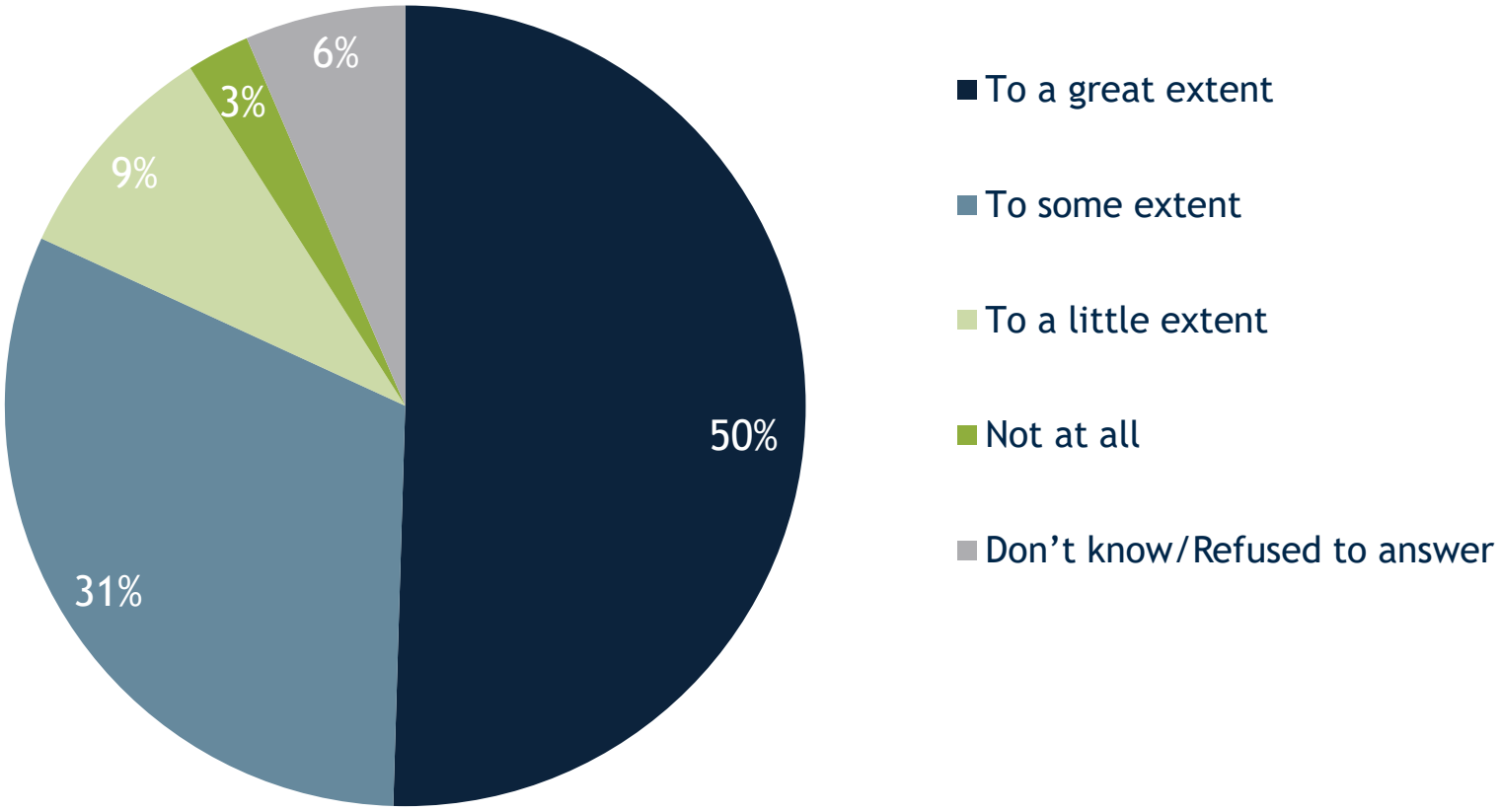
Should all citizens, regardless of ethnic background, be proficient in Macedonian language as the official state language?



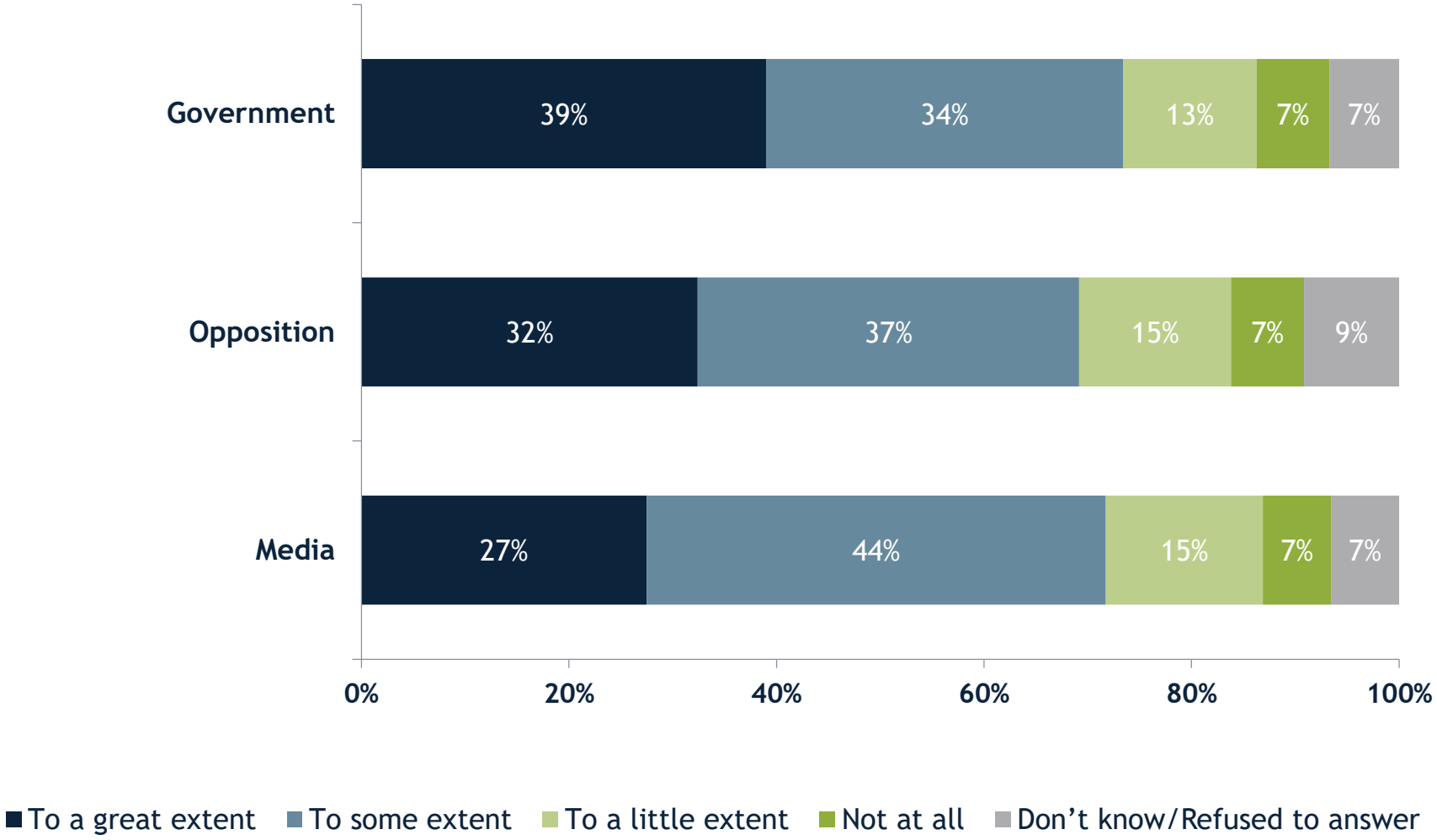
Our country recently changed its name to North Macedonia. Did this affect the identity of ethnic Macedonians?



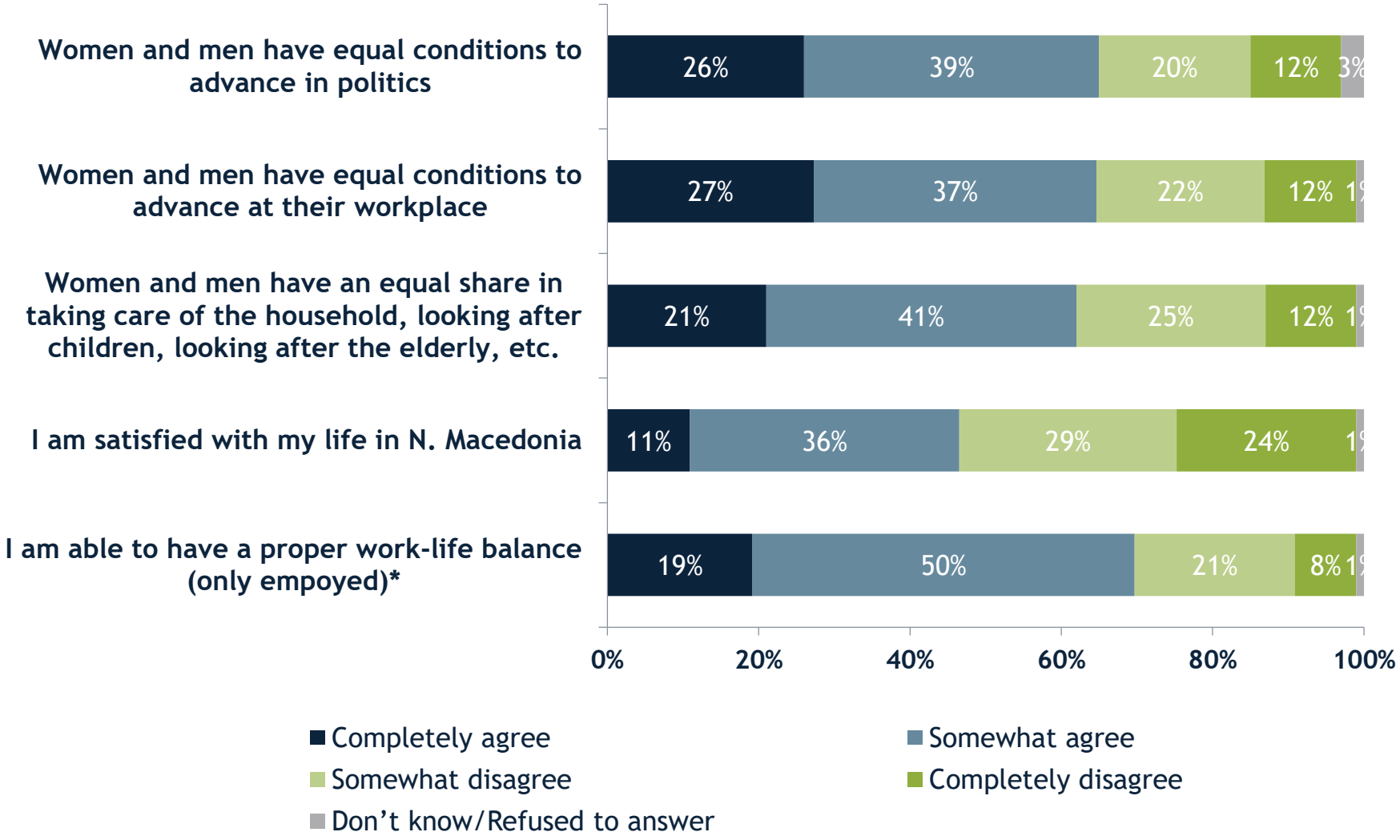
According to you, to what extent is there political division and polarization in North Macedonia?



According to you, to what extent do each of these institutions create political division and polarization in North Macedonia?

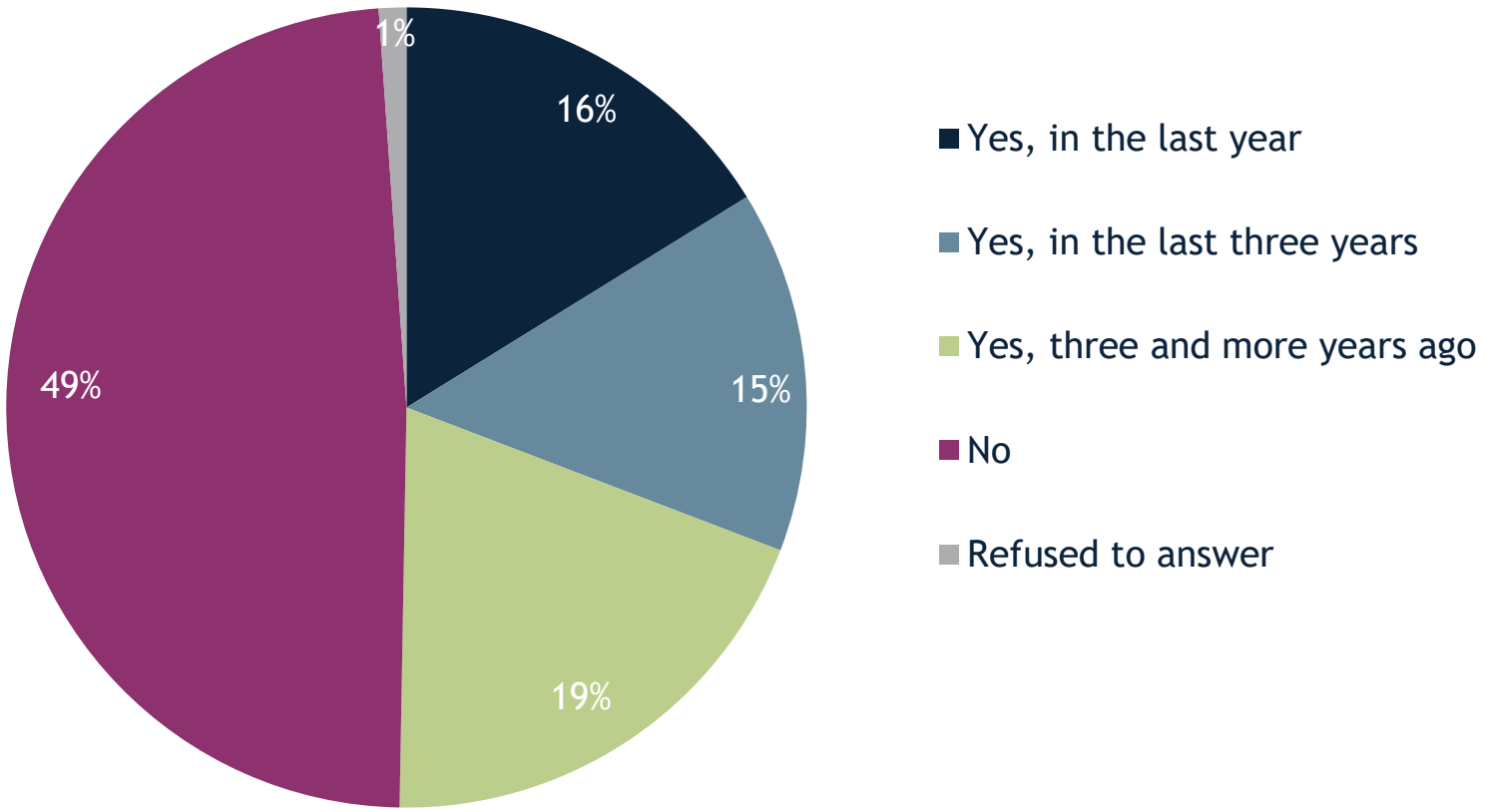


How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about life in North Macedonia?

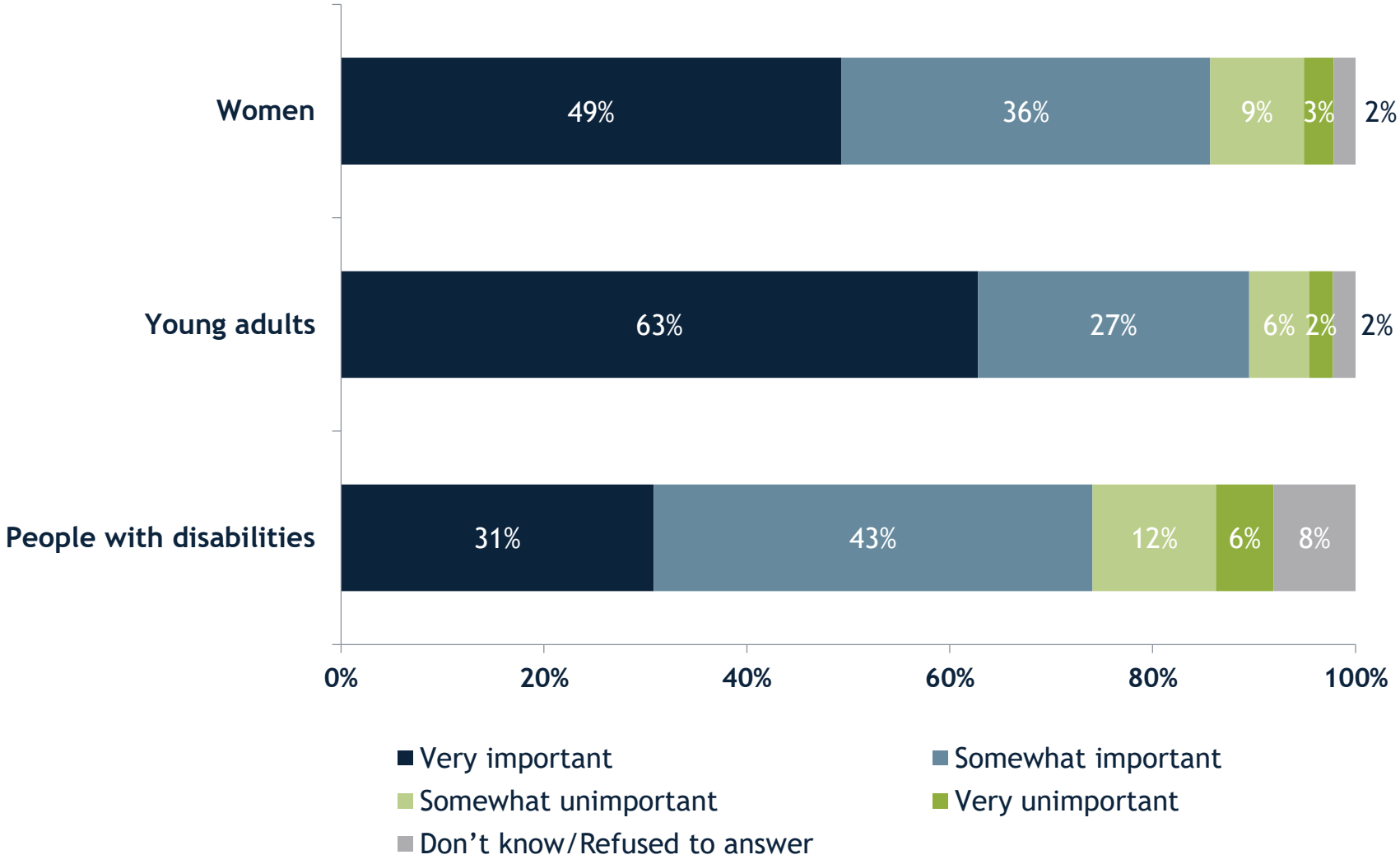


*n=578, margin of error ±4.3%

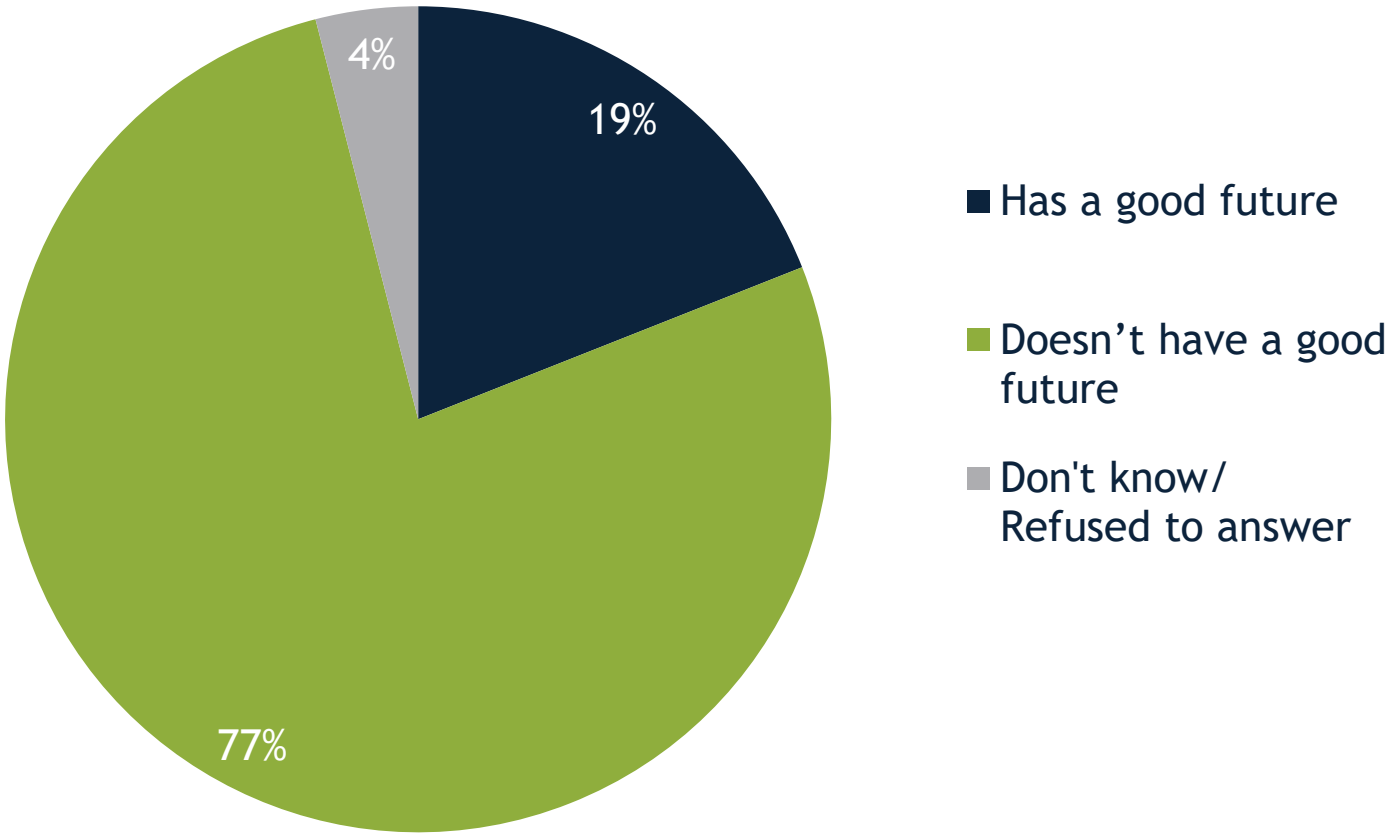
Is there any member of your household who has emigrated to live and/or work abroad?



How important or unimportant is it that all members of our country's adult population are included in political decision making? How important is that […] are included?



Do you think that today's generation of young people has a good future in our country or not?



Environmental Awareness: Usage of Plastic Bags

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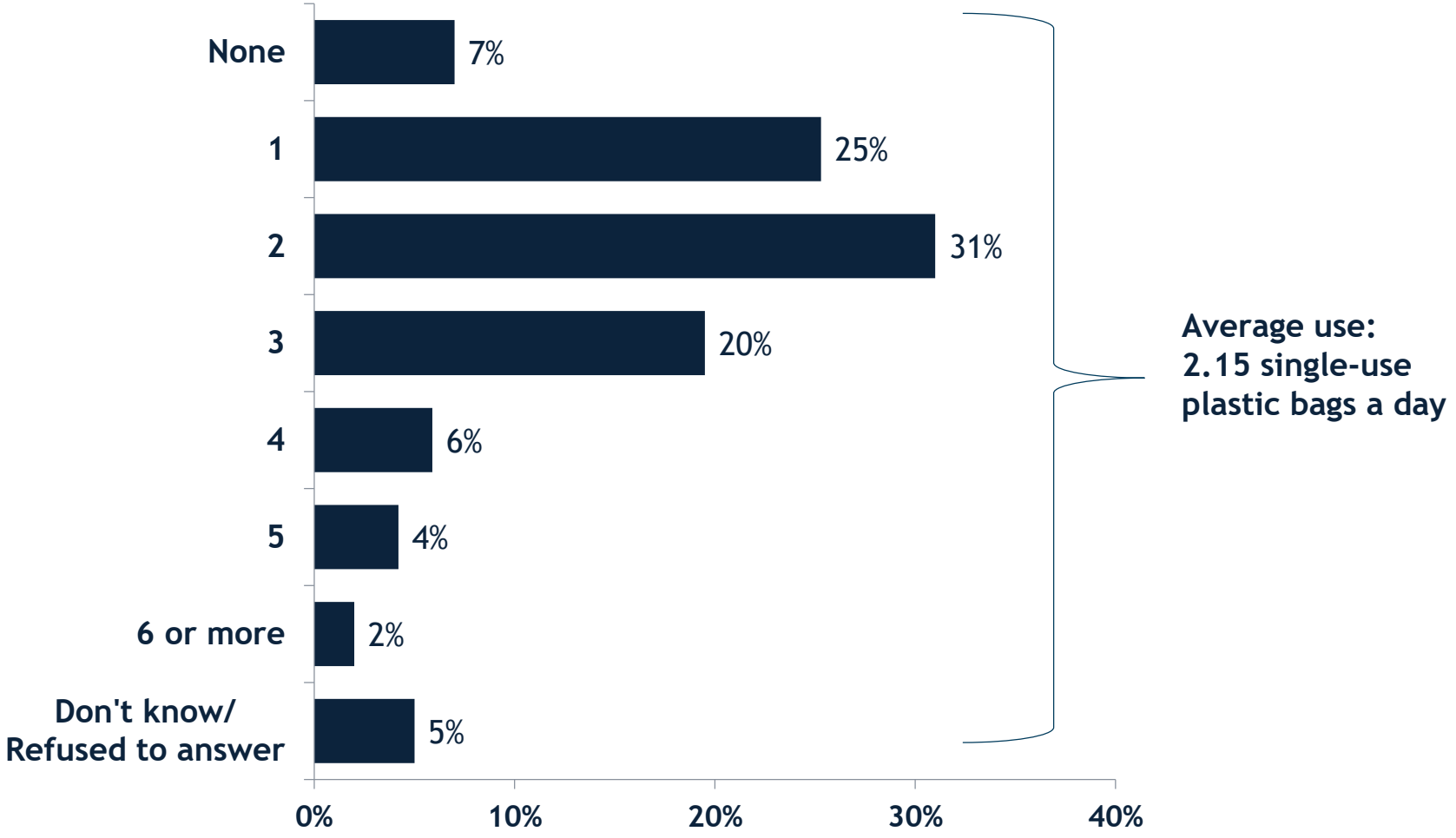
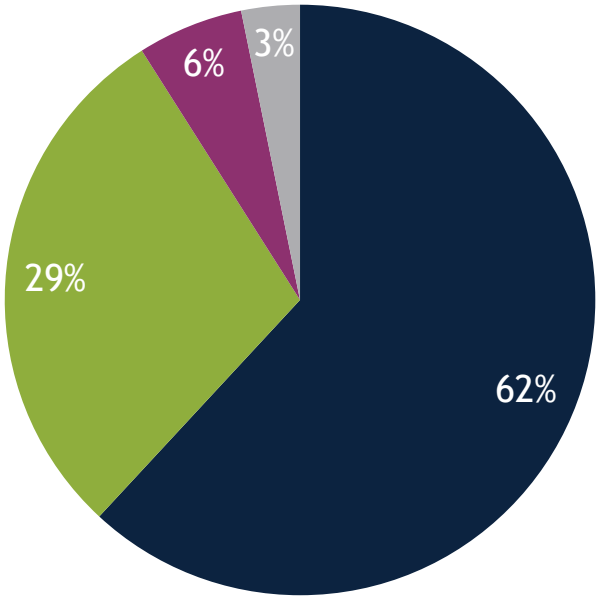
On average, how many single-use plastic bags do you get on a daily basis to carry your purchases?

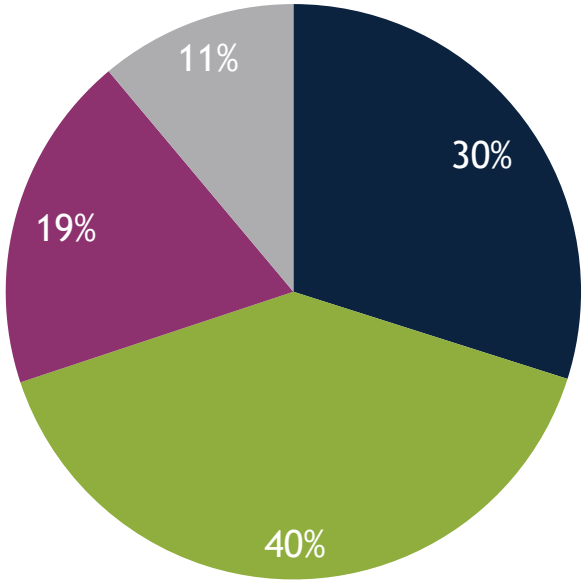


In your opinion, how much, if at all, do plastic bags/biodegradable bags pollute the environment?

Plastic bags



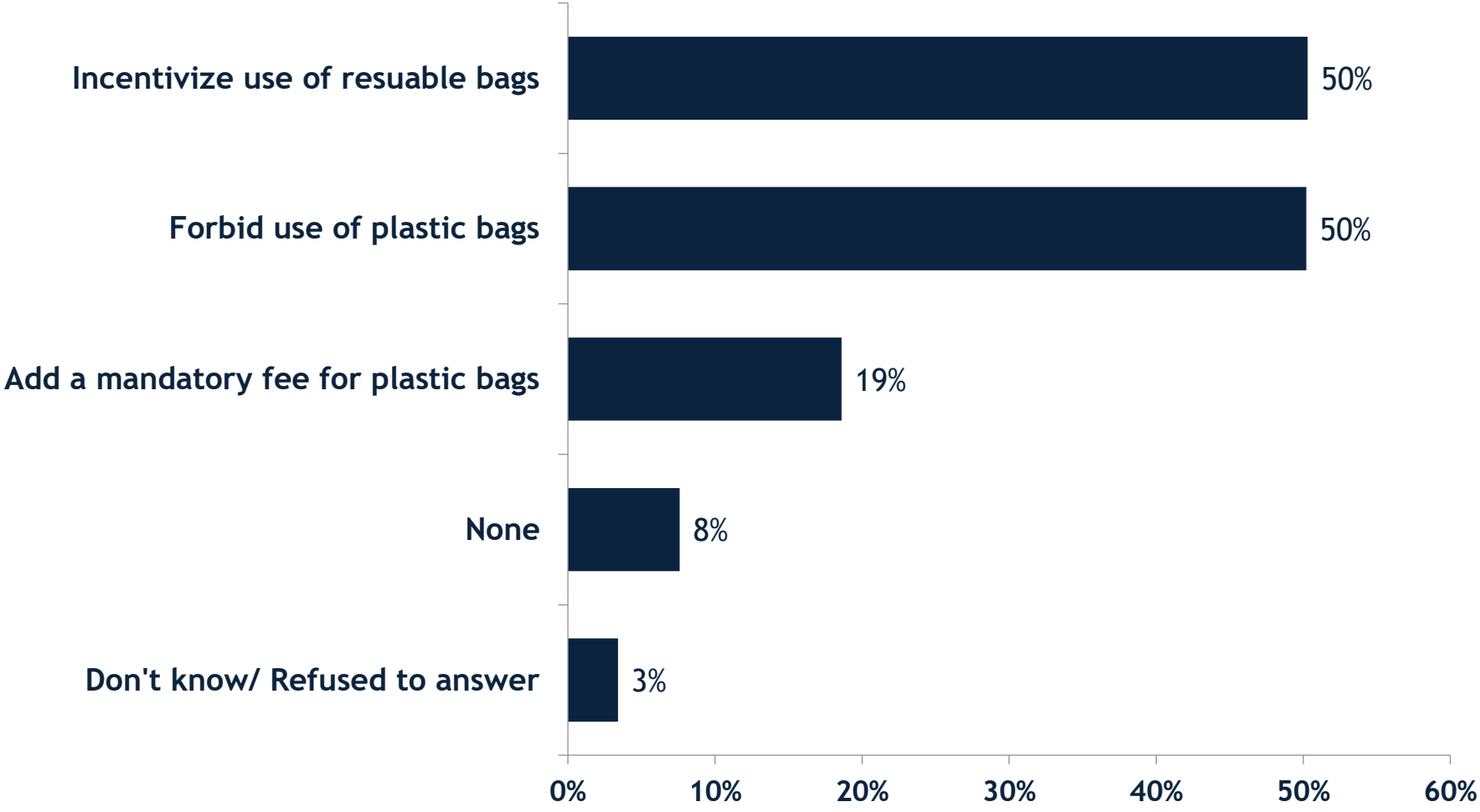
Biodegradable bags



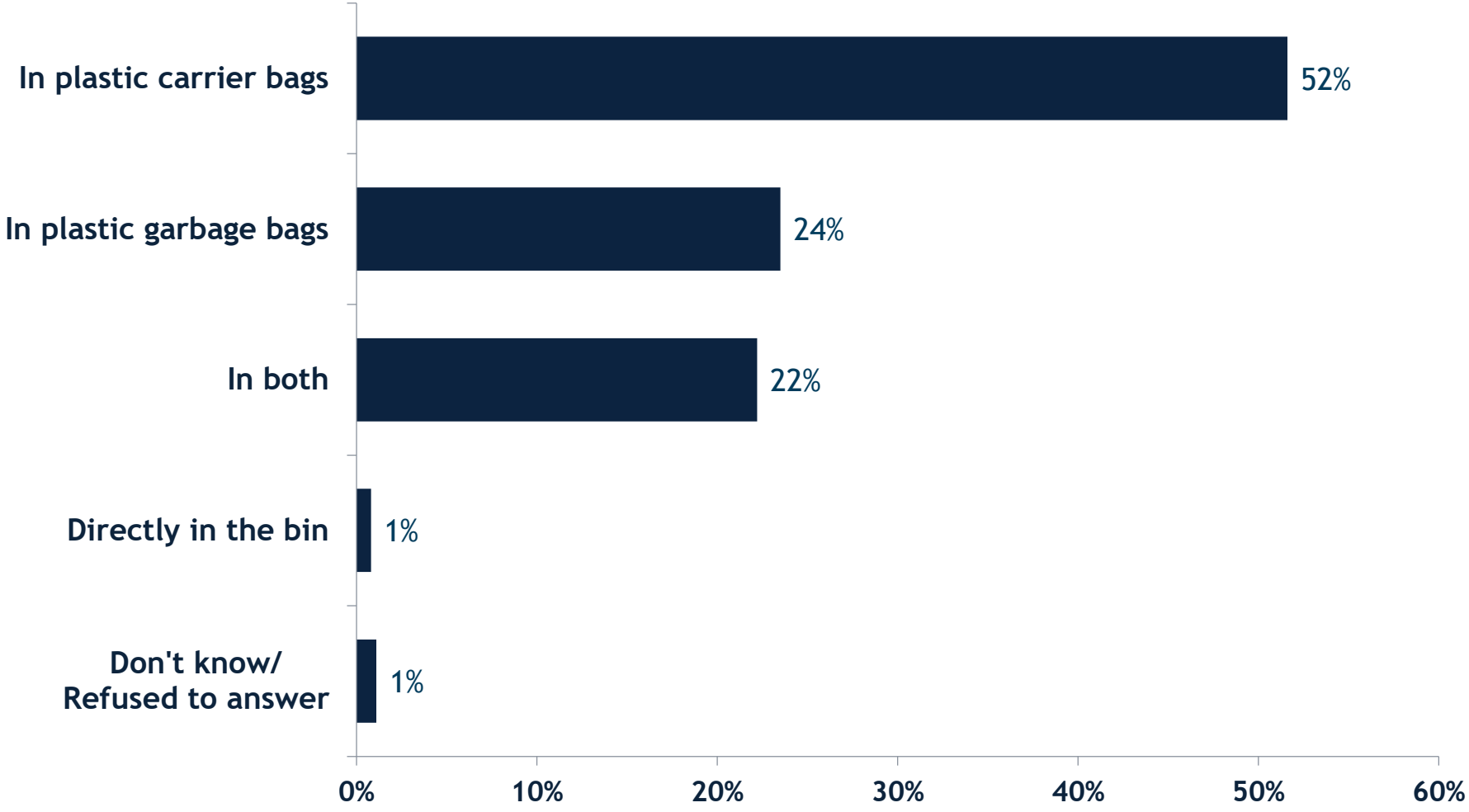
- Significantly pollute the environment, with damaging consequences to it
- Pollute the environment, but not significantly
- Don't pollute the environment
- Don't know/Refused to answer

According to you, what are the best measures to decrease the use of plastic bags?

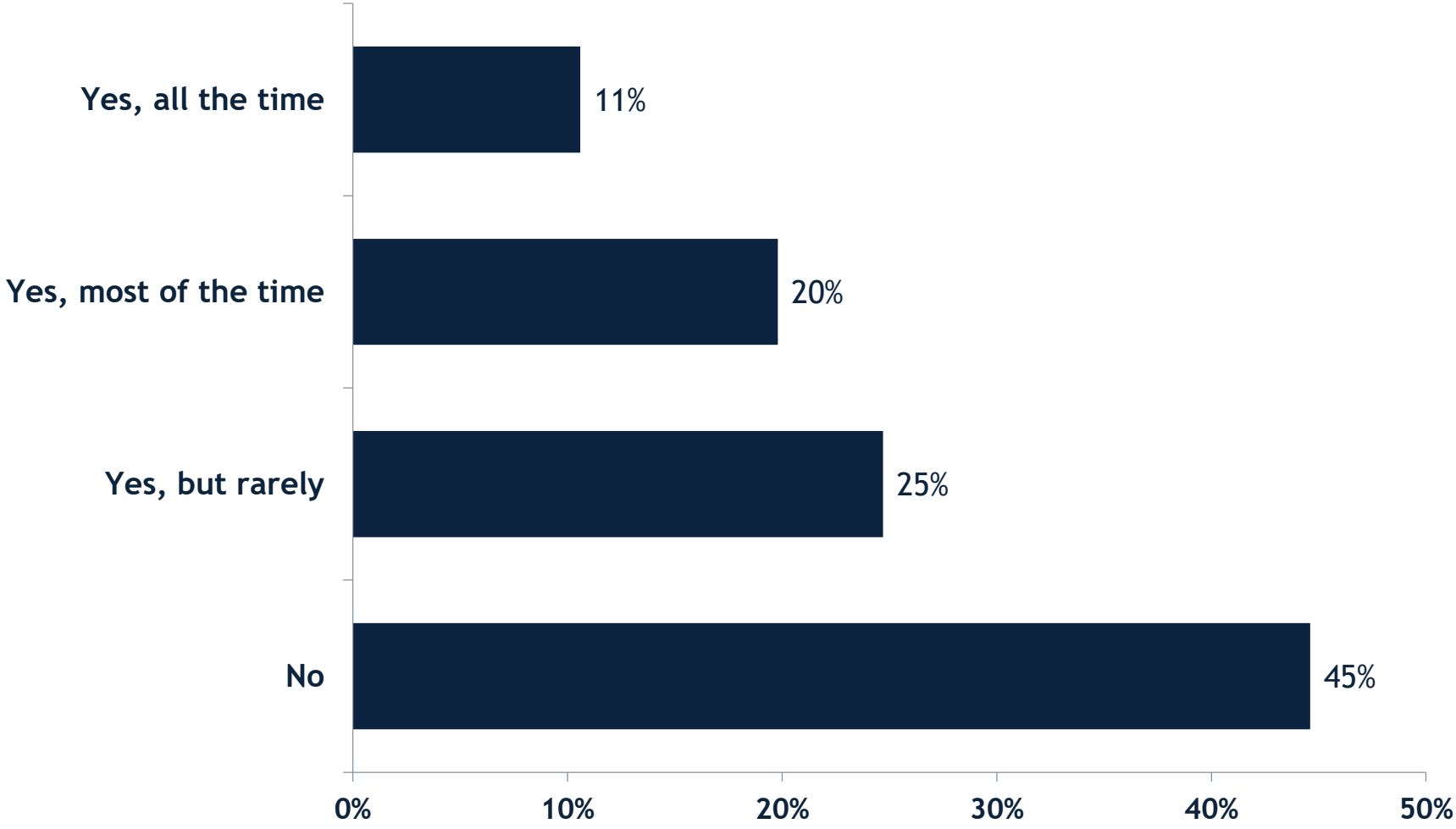
(Up to two responses permitted)



How do you throw your garbage away at home?



Do you sort waste in your home?
Do you separate waste from plastic, glass, paper, food, etc.?



Sources of Political News

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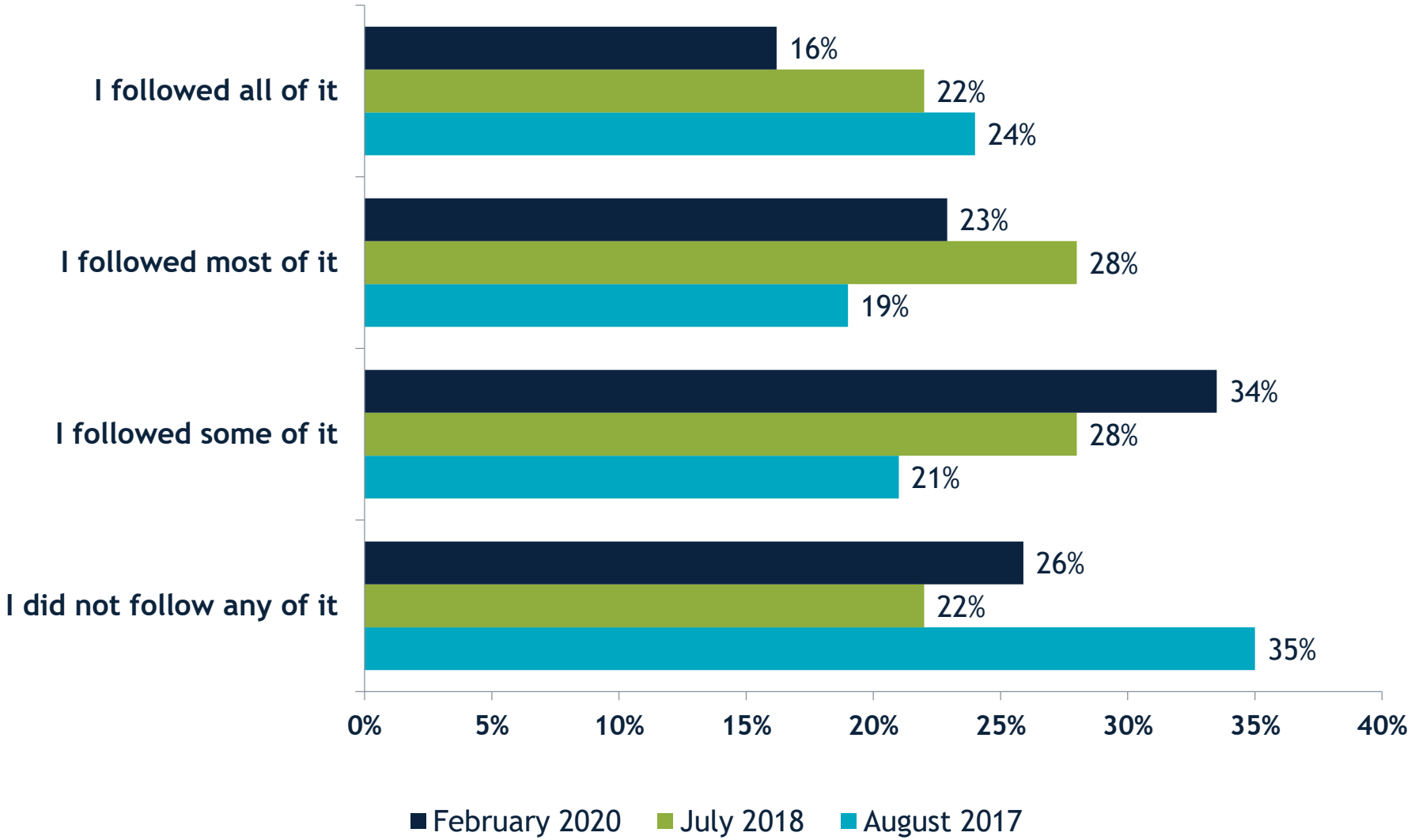
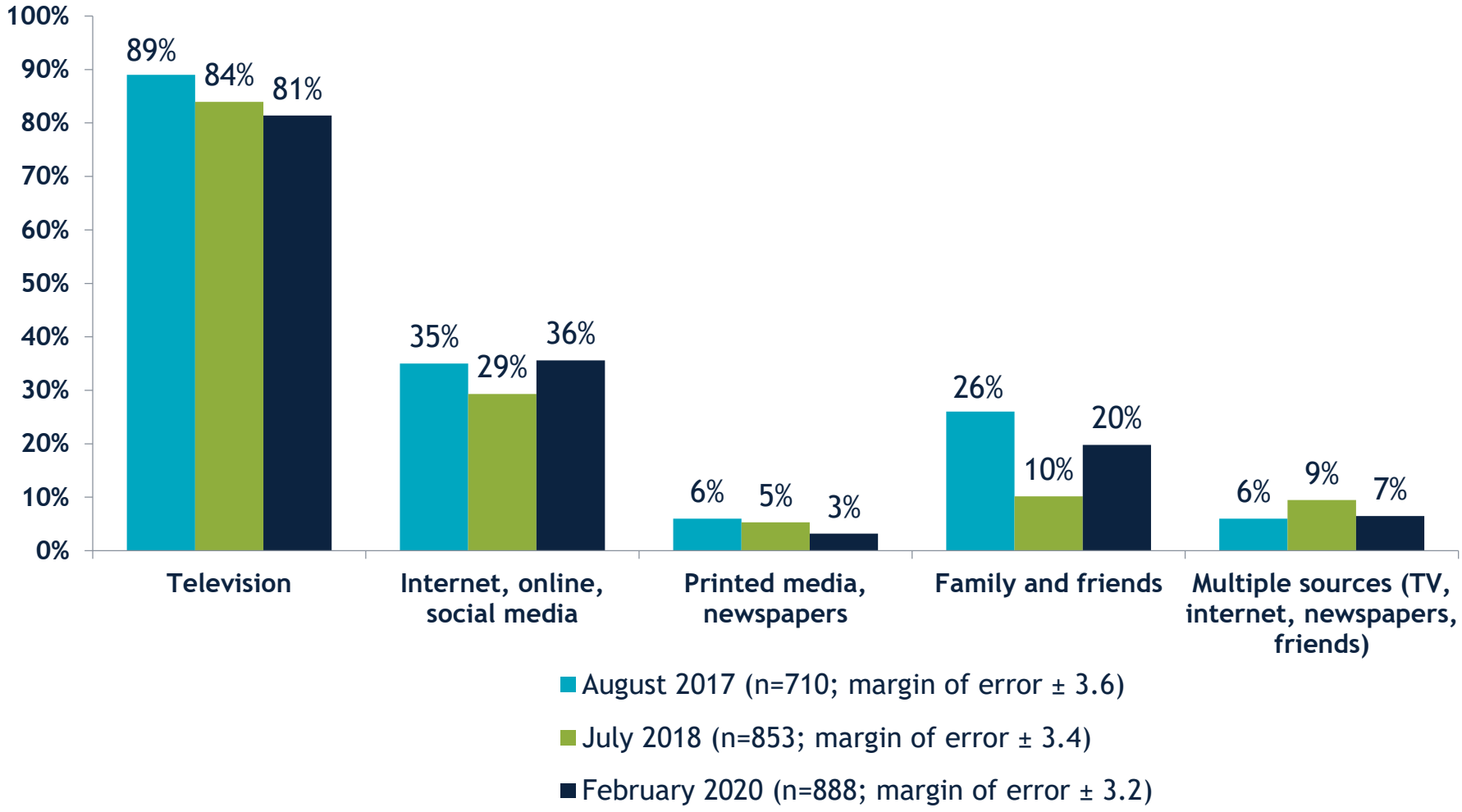
How much did you follow political news yesterday?



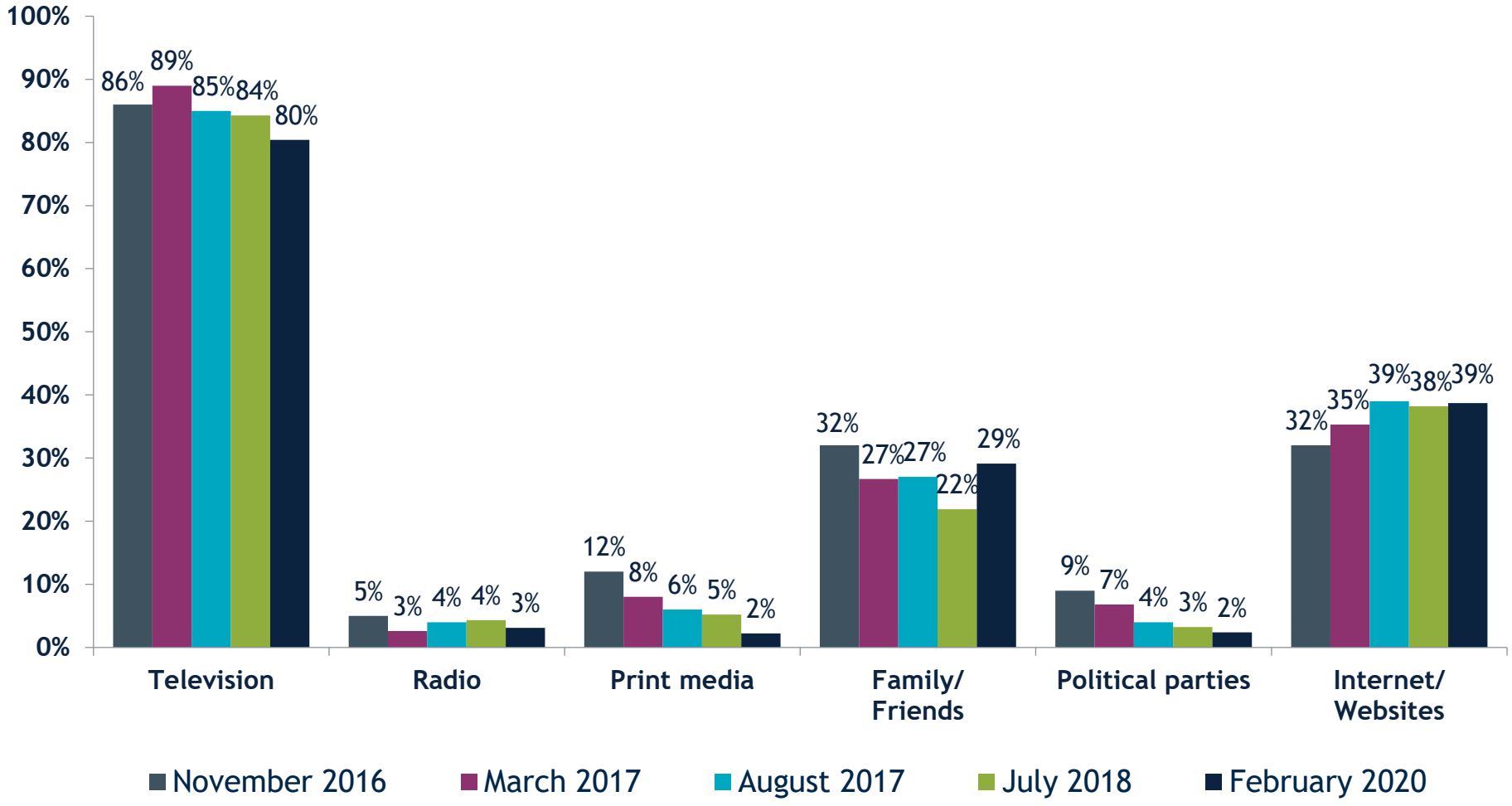
* *Don't know/Refused to answer* is not displayed.

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)

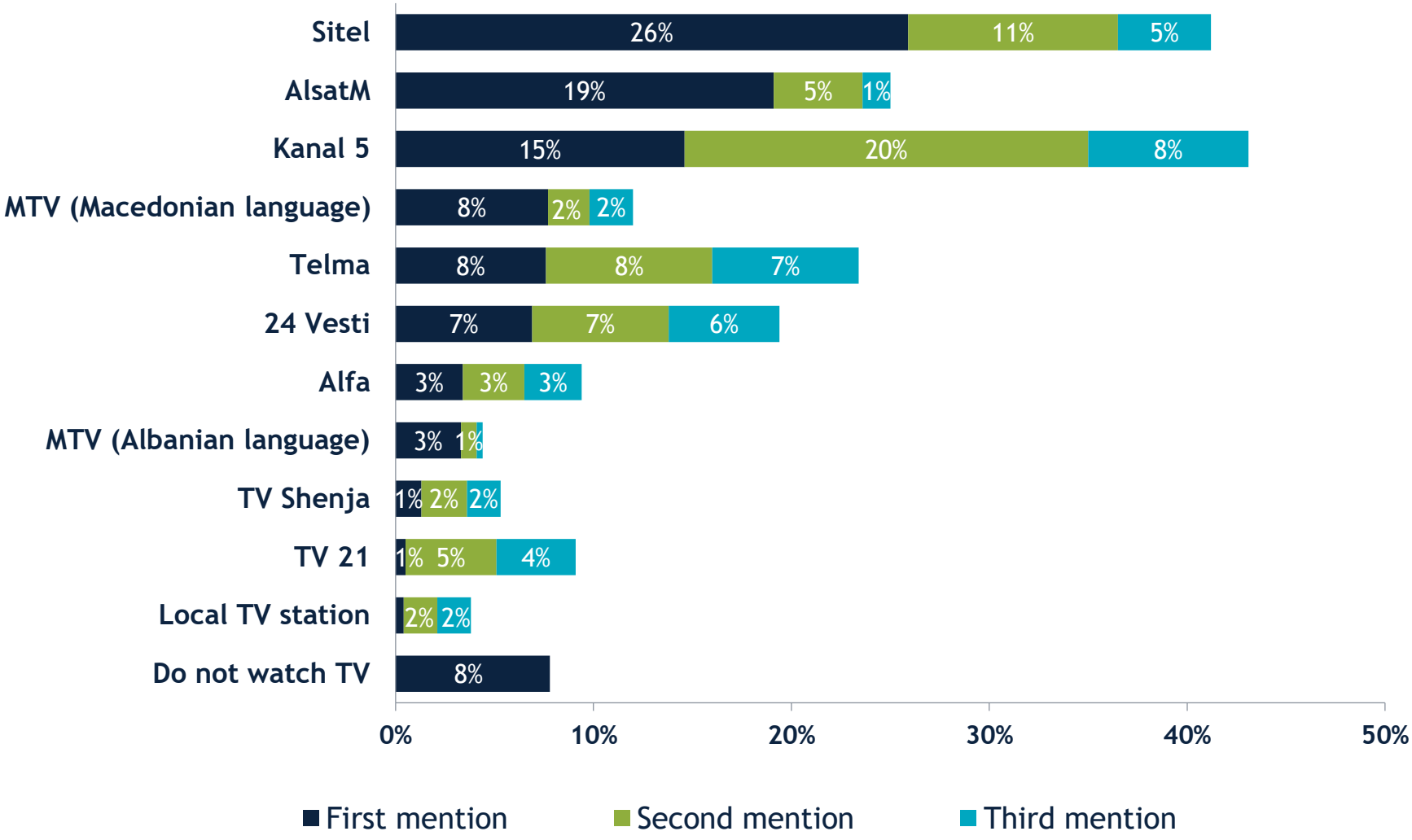


What are your most used sources of political news?
(Multiple responses permitted)

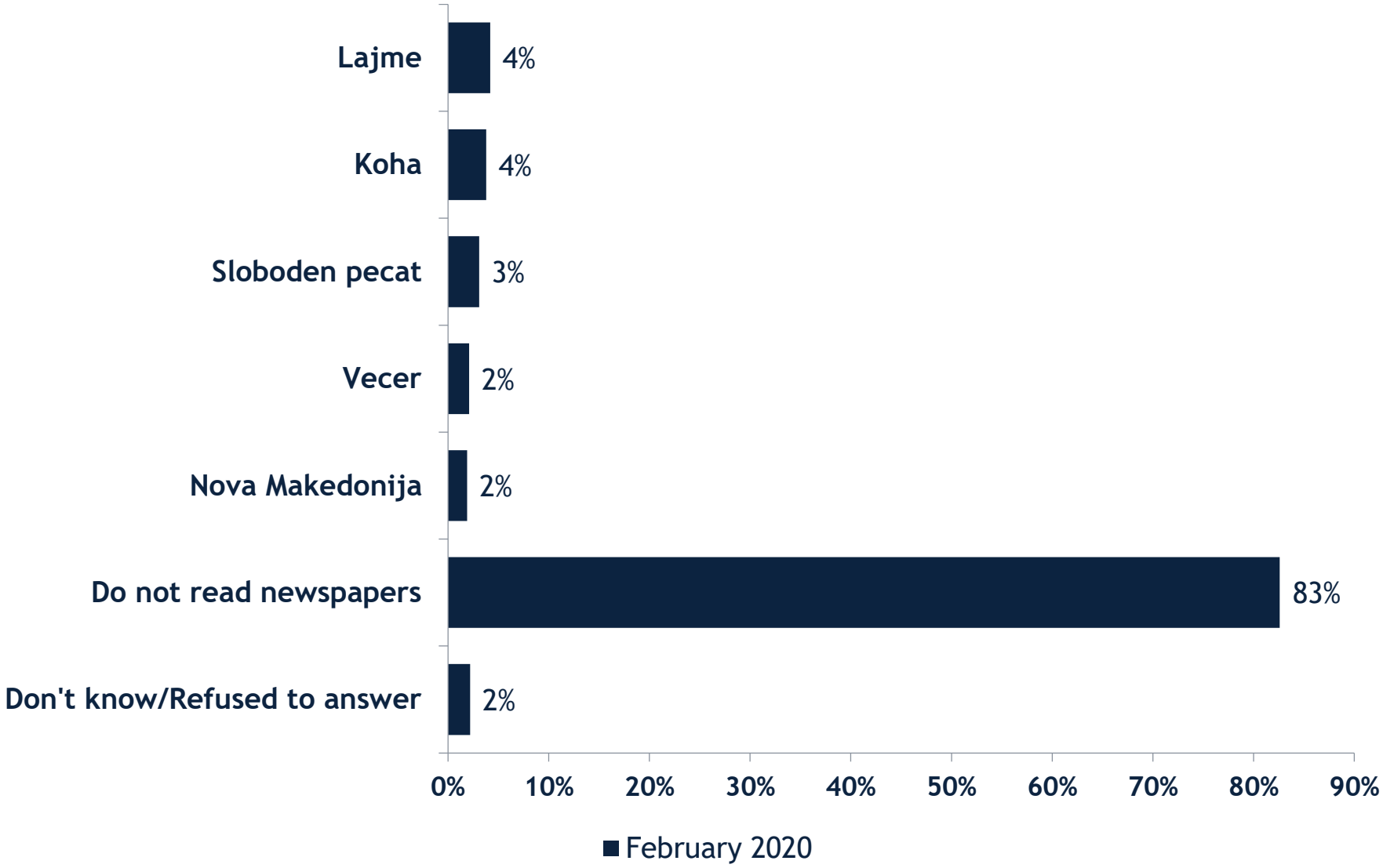


Which television station do you watch most often for political news?

(Spontaneous response; multiple responses permitted)



Which daily newspaper do you read most often for political news?
(Spontaneous response)



Demographics

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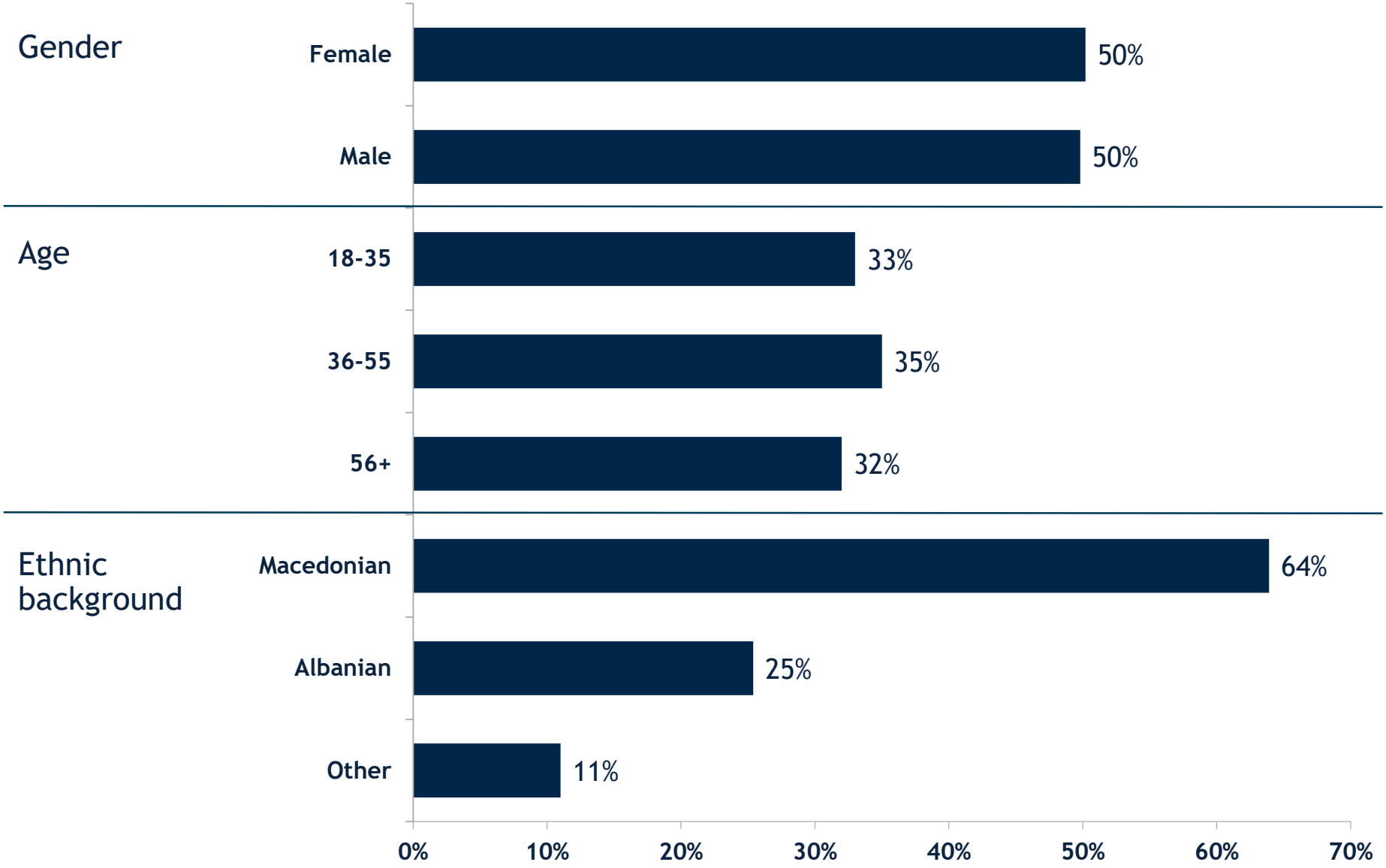
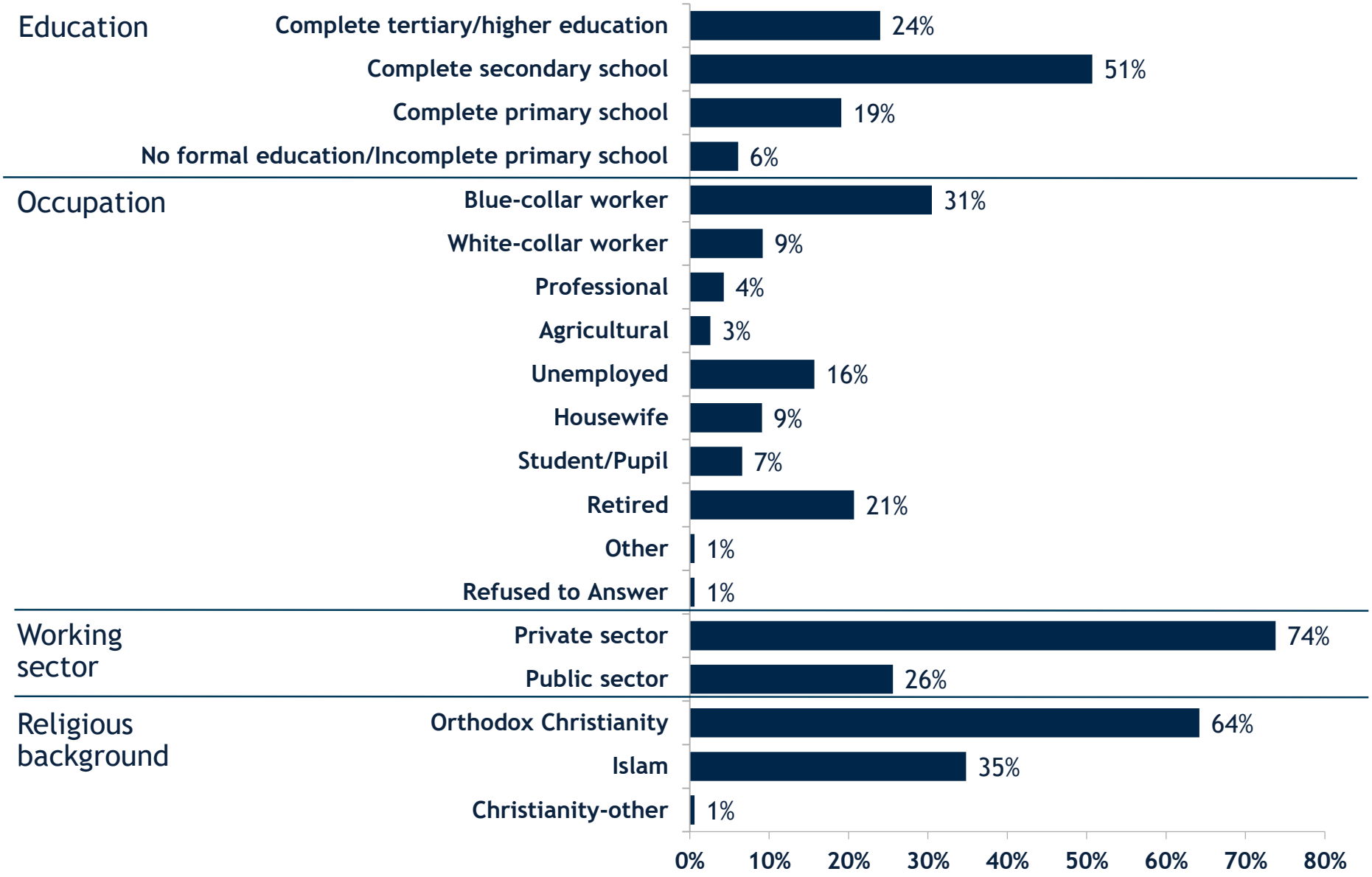
Demographics



Demographics



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