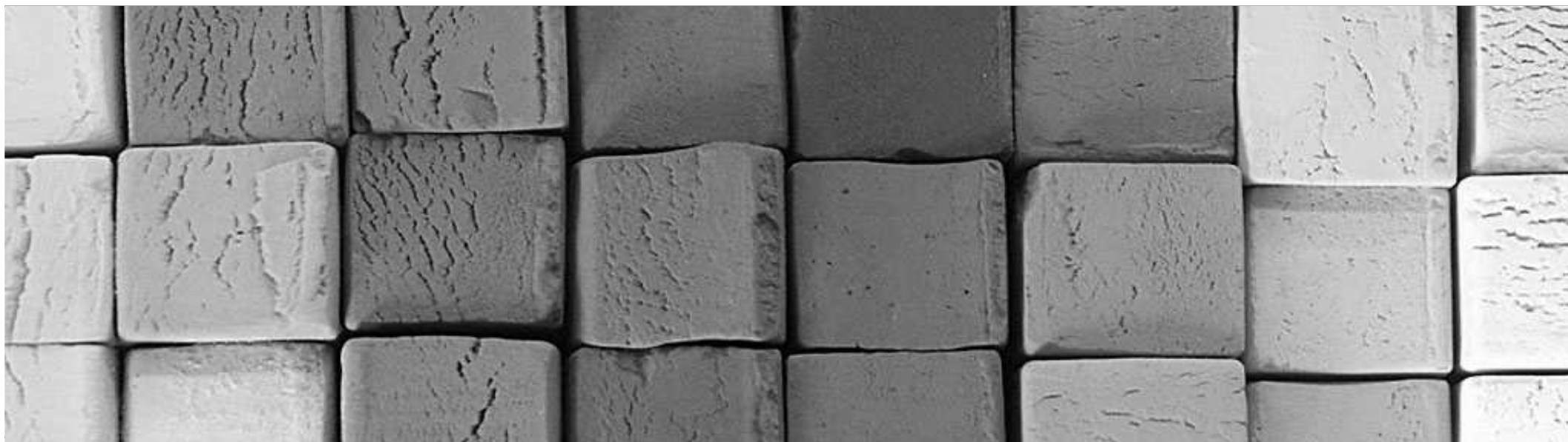




Ipsos Puls Public Affairs

Attitudes of Croatian Citizens Toward the Accession to the EU

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Croatia



- **Methodology**
- **Results**
 - **Perception of the EU**
 - **Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU**
 - **Information Needs and Habits**
 - **Knowledge and interest for EU funds**
- **Conclusions**

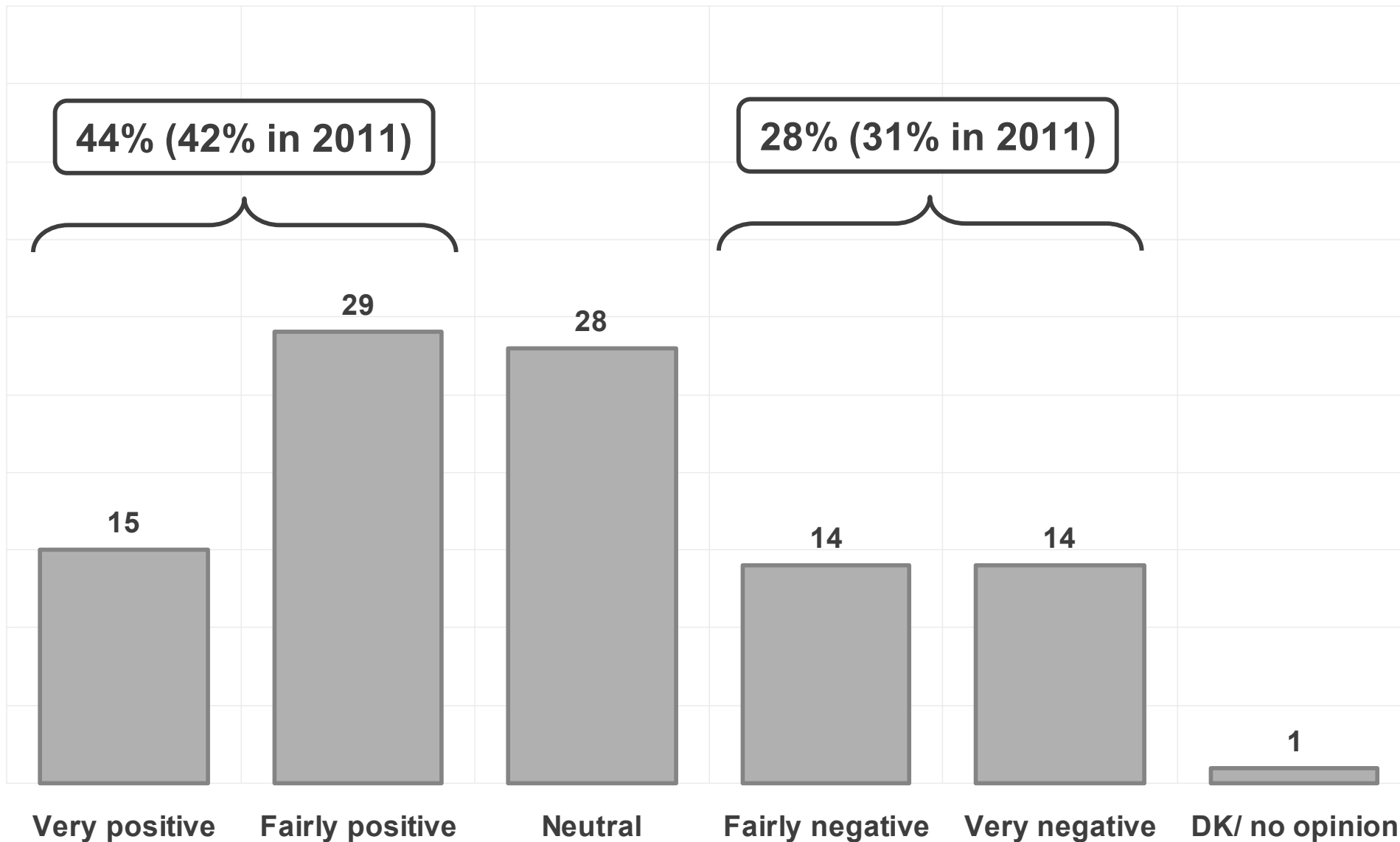
- **Face-to-face interview in respondent's household**
- **National-wide, representative sample**
- **Two-stage stratified sample**
 - Stratification by region and settlement size
 - Post-stratification by gender, age and education
- **Sample size: 1022 respondents aged 15 and up**
- **Average length of interview: 31 minutes**
- **Fieldwork conducted: July 20th - August 7th 2012**
- **The same methodology used in previous polls and in Eurobarometer**

Perception of the EU

Perception of the EU

General feeling about the EU

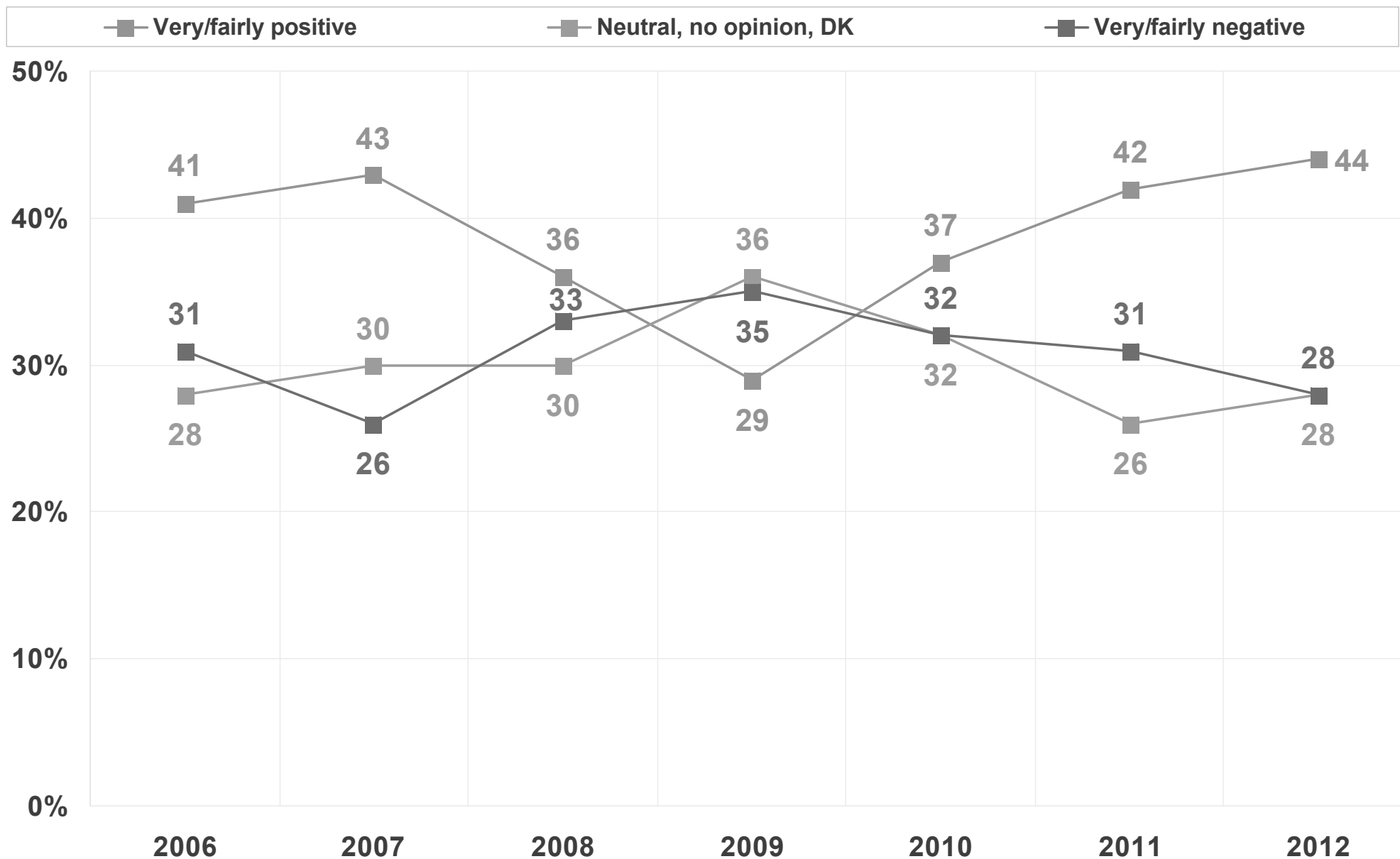
What is your general feeling about the European Union?



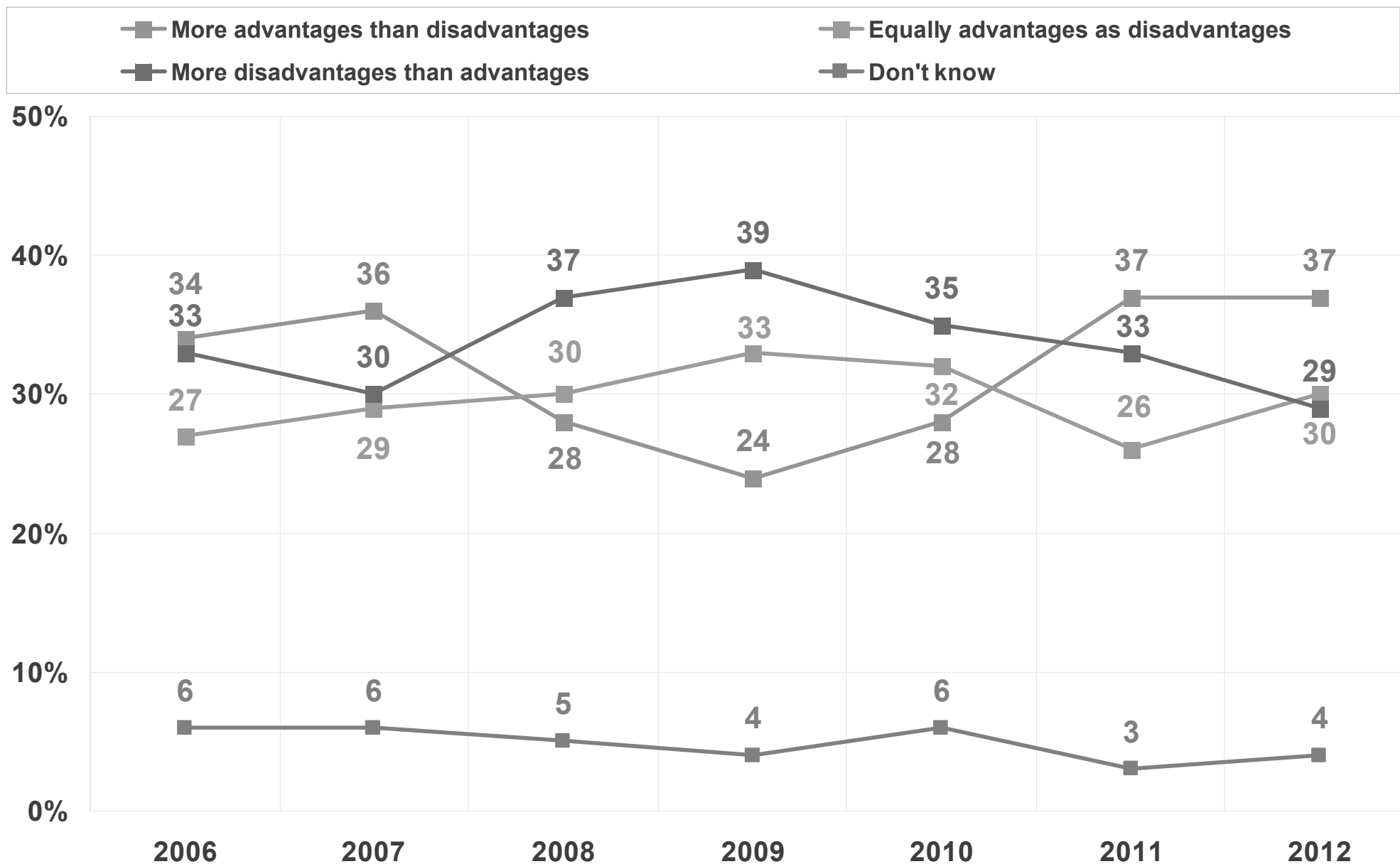
Base: All respondents, N=1022

Perception of the EU

General feeling about the EU – trends



Base: Respondents with “DK” and “no opinion” answers are excluded, N=998

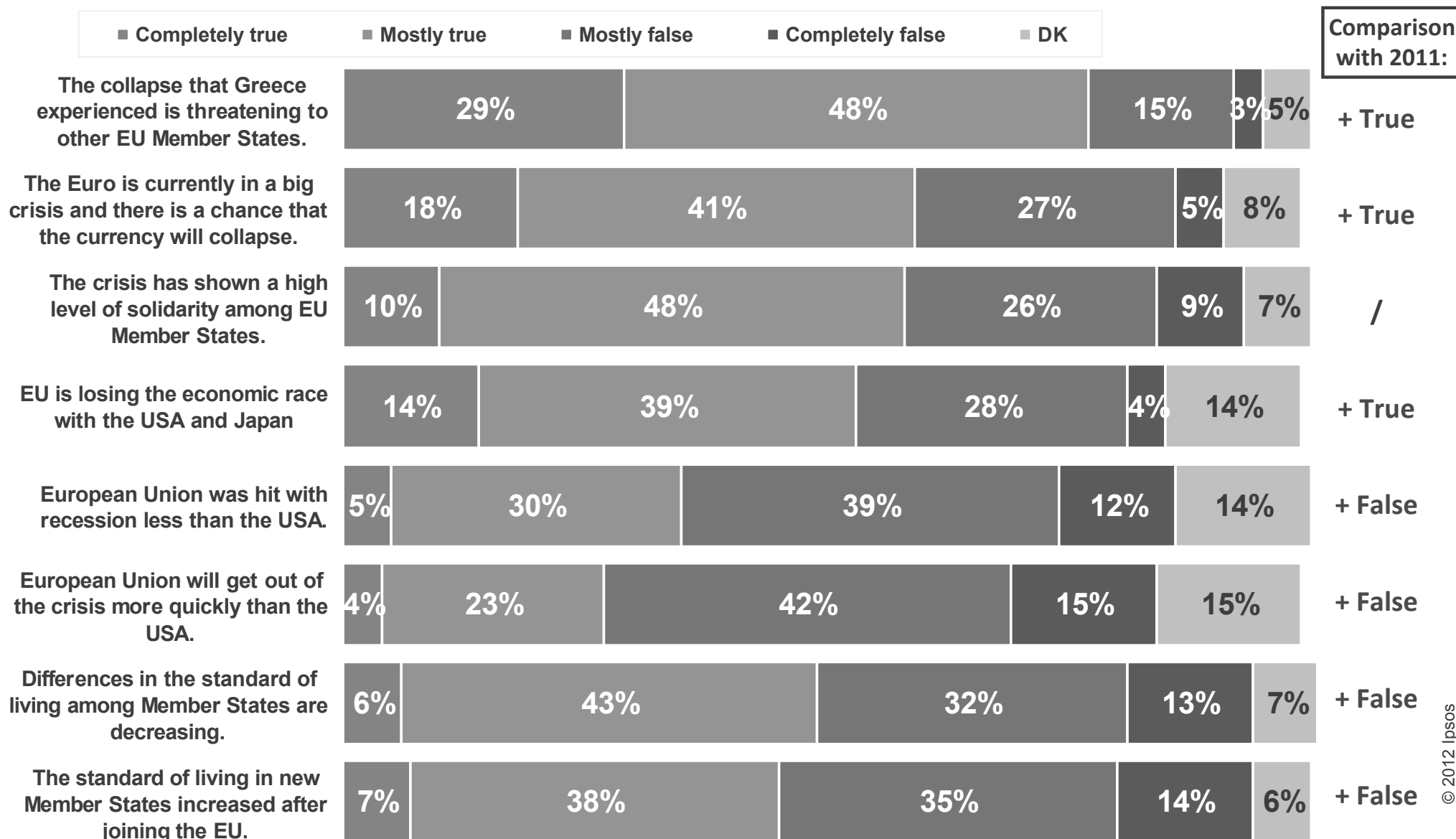


Base: All respondents, N=1022

Perception of the EU

Perception of the current situation in the EU

Please say whether you think that statement is true or false in describing the current situation in the EU?

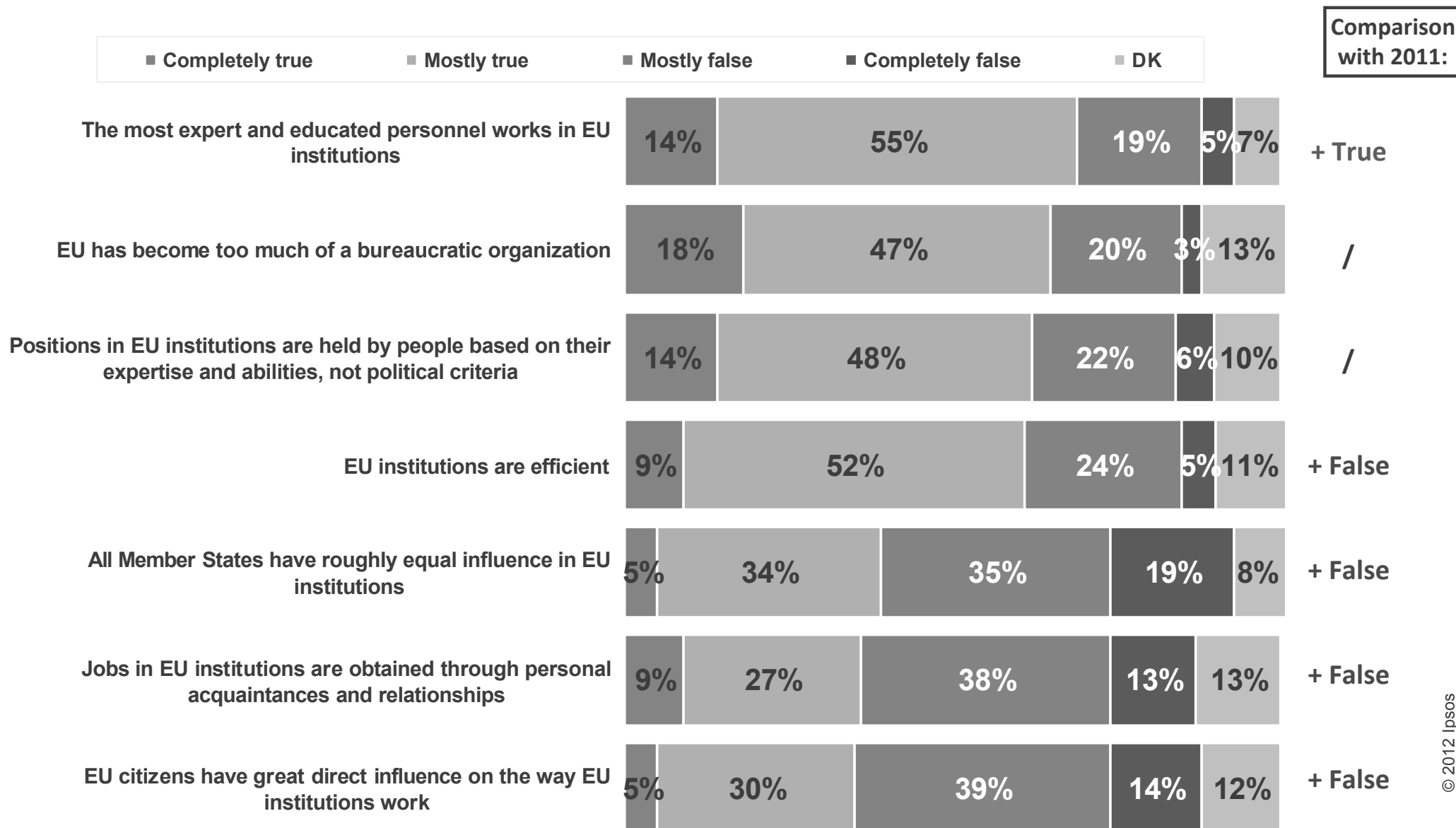


Base: All respondents, N=1022

Perception of the EU

Perception of the EU institutions

Please say whether you think that statement is true or false in describing the EU institutions.

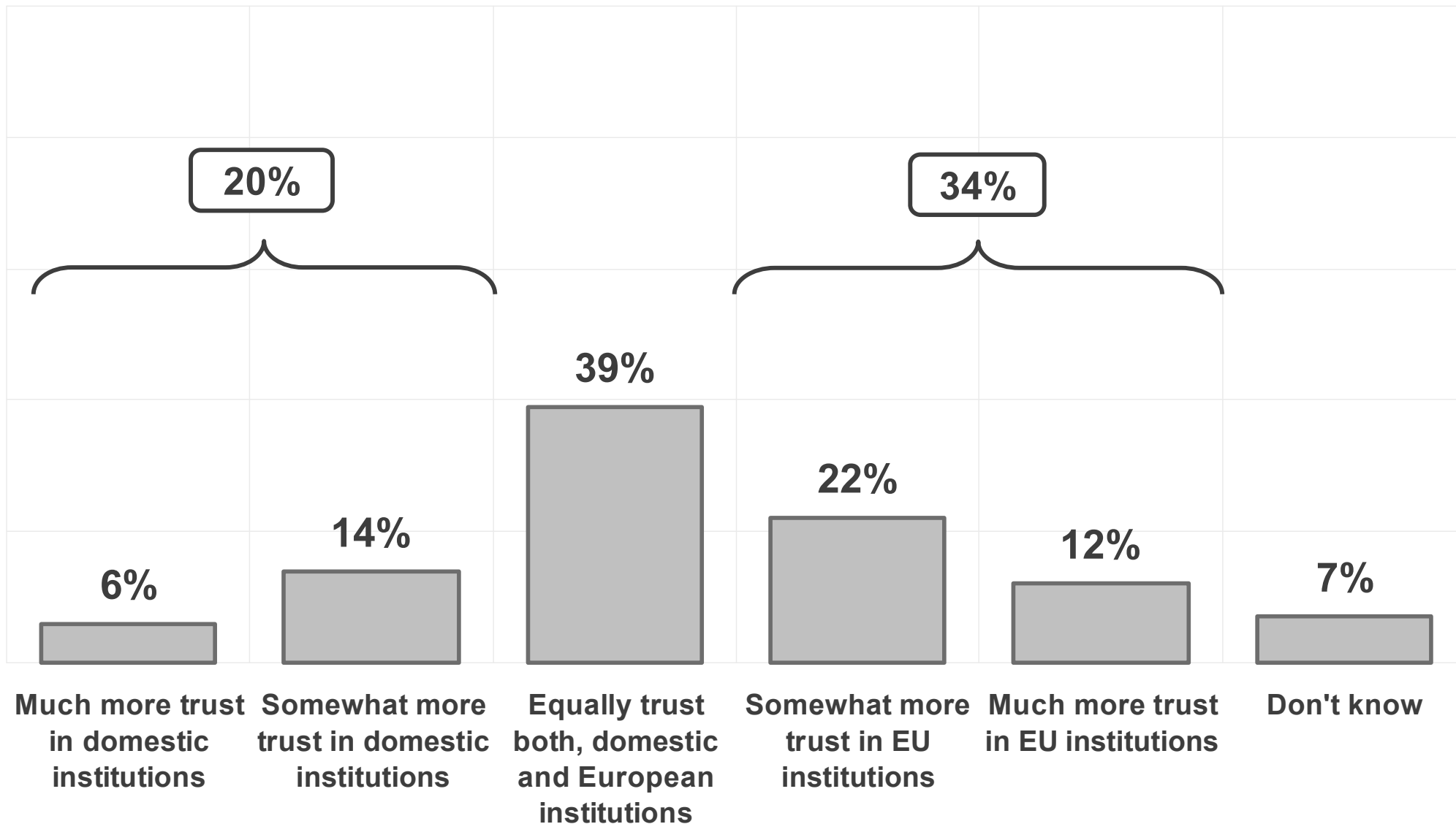


Base: All respondents, N=1022

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Trust in Croatian vs. EU institutions

In general, do you trust more to Croatian institutions, like ministries, state agencies etc. or you trust more to European respective institutions?



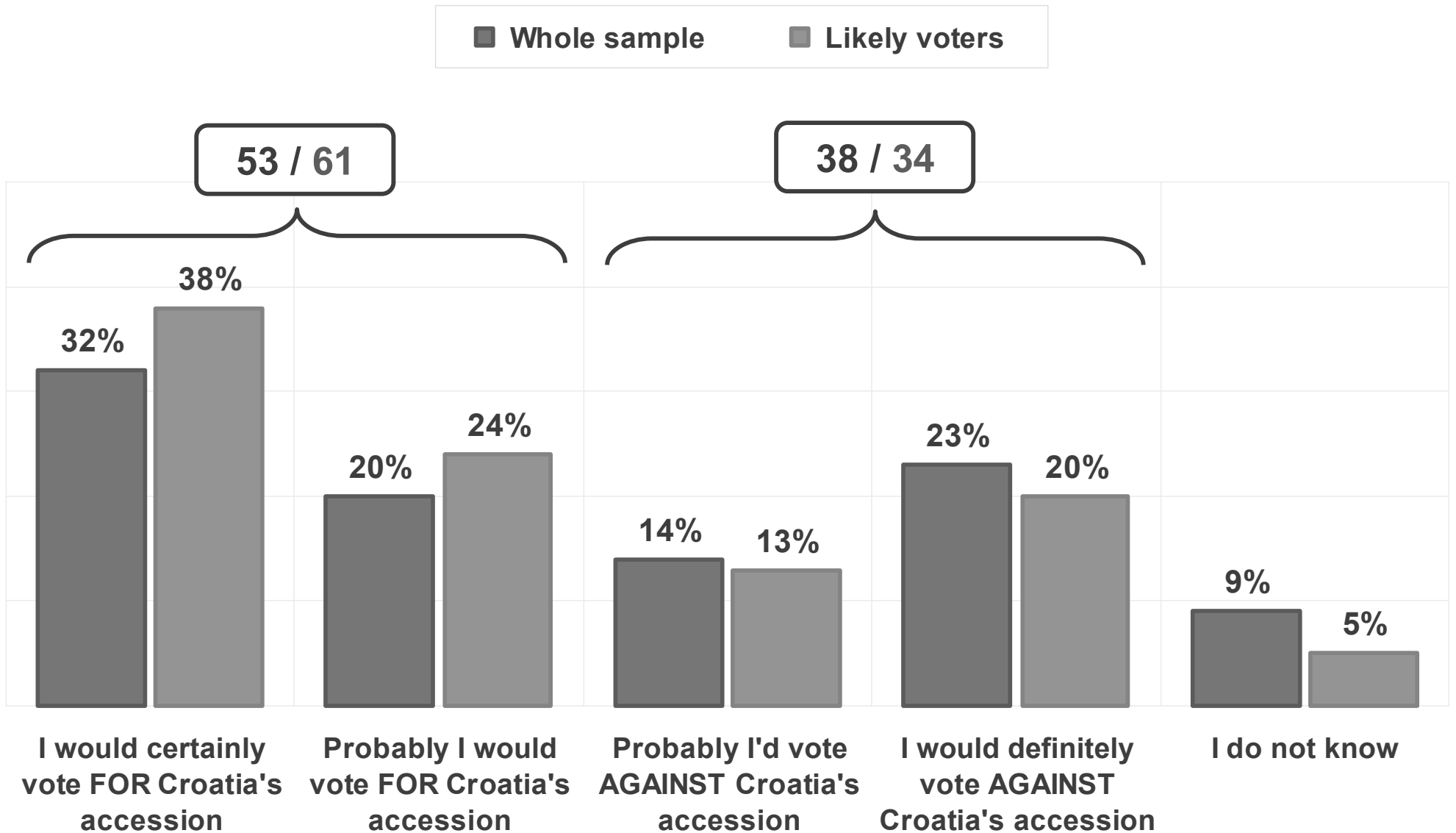
Base: All respondents, N=1022

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Voting in (hypothetical) referendum – 2012

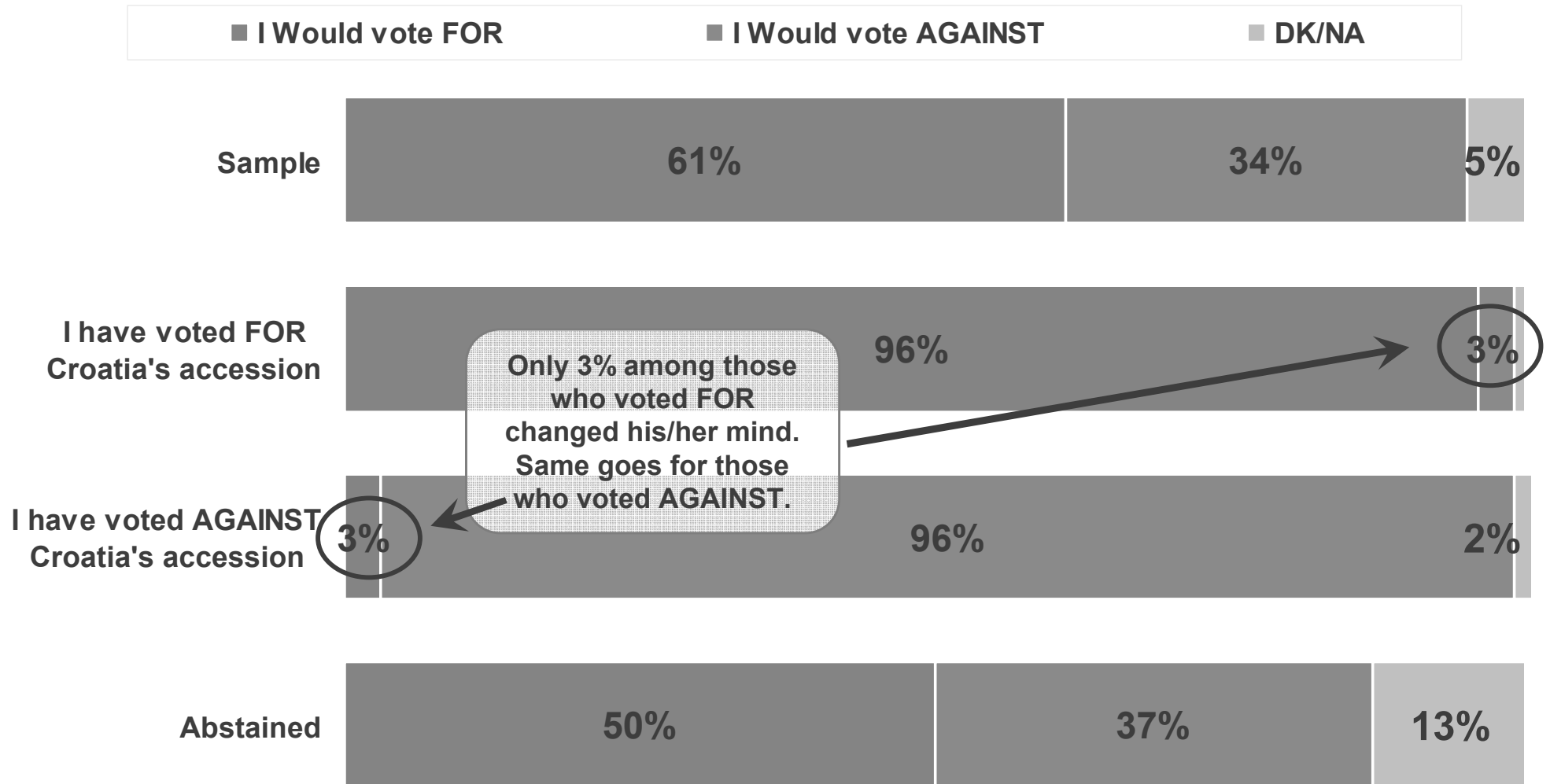
How would you vote in a referendum on Croatia's accession to the EU?



Base: All respondents; N=1022 / Likely voters; N = 647

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Current support – by actual voting on 22nd of January



Base: Only likely voters; N = 647

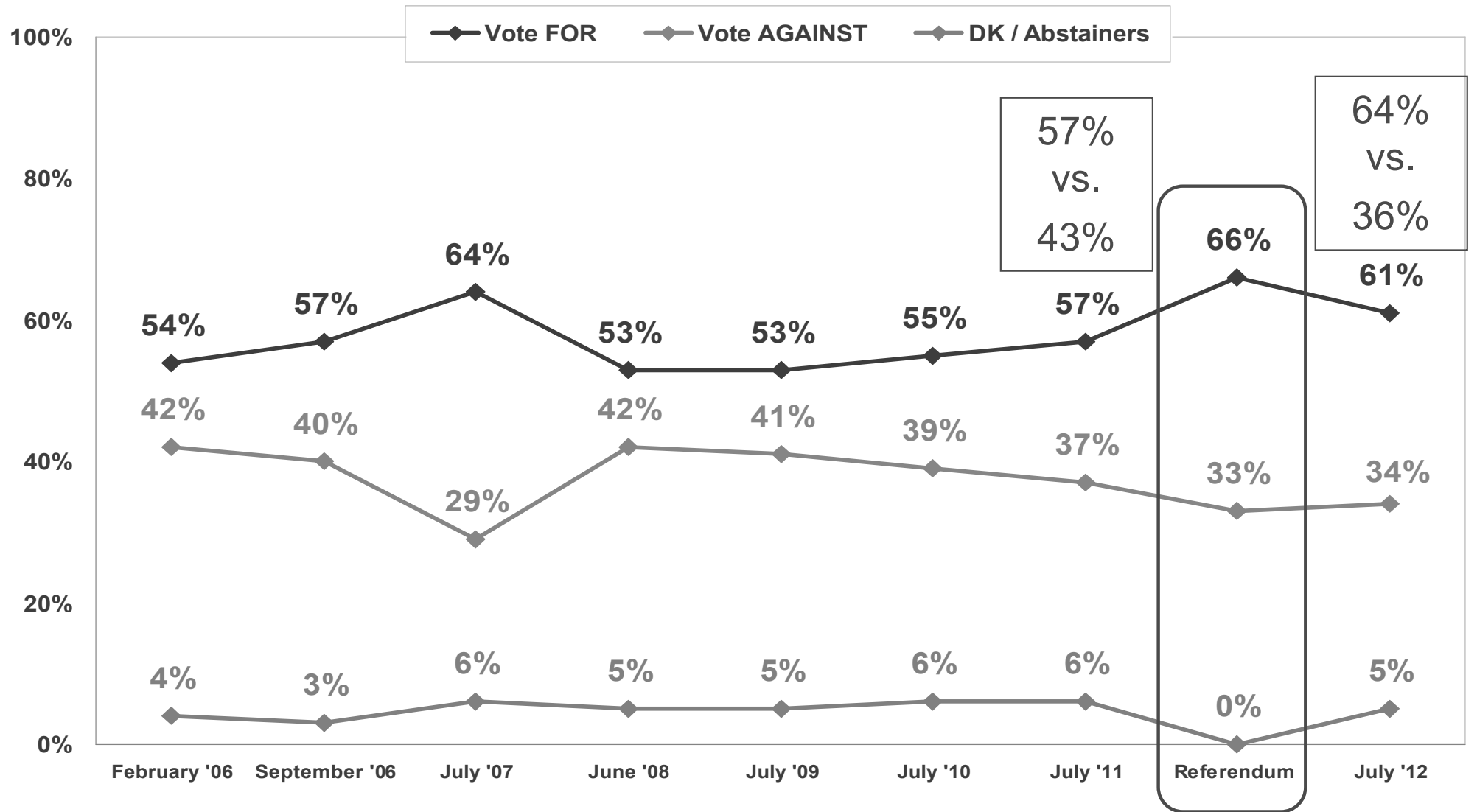
REASONS FOR BECOMING AGAINST:

- Because of new negative information and experience of people around me
- Because of the whole situation with Greece
- I am no longer an optimist when it comes to improvement of the situation in the EU
- I don't have confidence in the Government that they will do it properly
- I had doubts before, but now I am against (2x)
- Our institutions are to blame because they are only after their own interest
- People's labour rights are not respected
- I see that the situation in the EU member states is getting worse
- We are not capable of taking care of ourselves and the EU will impose its' interest on us
- We can see on the example of Greece how it may look
- Due to euro decline and prospect of introduction of another currency
- Mob in Italy

REASONS FOR BECOMING A SUPPORTER:

- I don't find that relationship to be stable
- I realized that it will get better
- Our membership in EU is inevitable, we can say what we want, it is just a matter of time
- People in authority are not doing a good job in leading the country
- Situation in the country
- We are a kind of people who like strangers to lead us

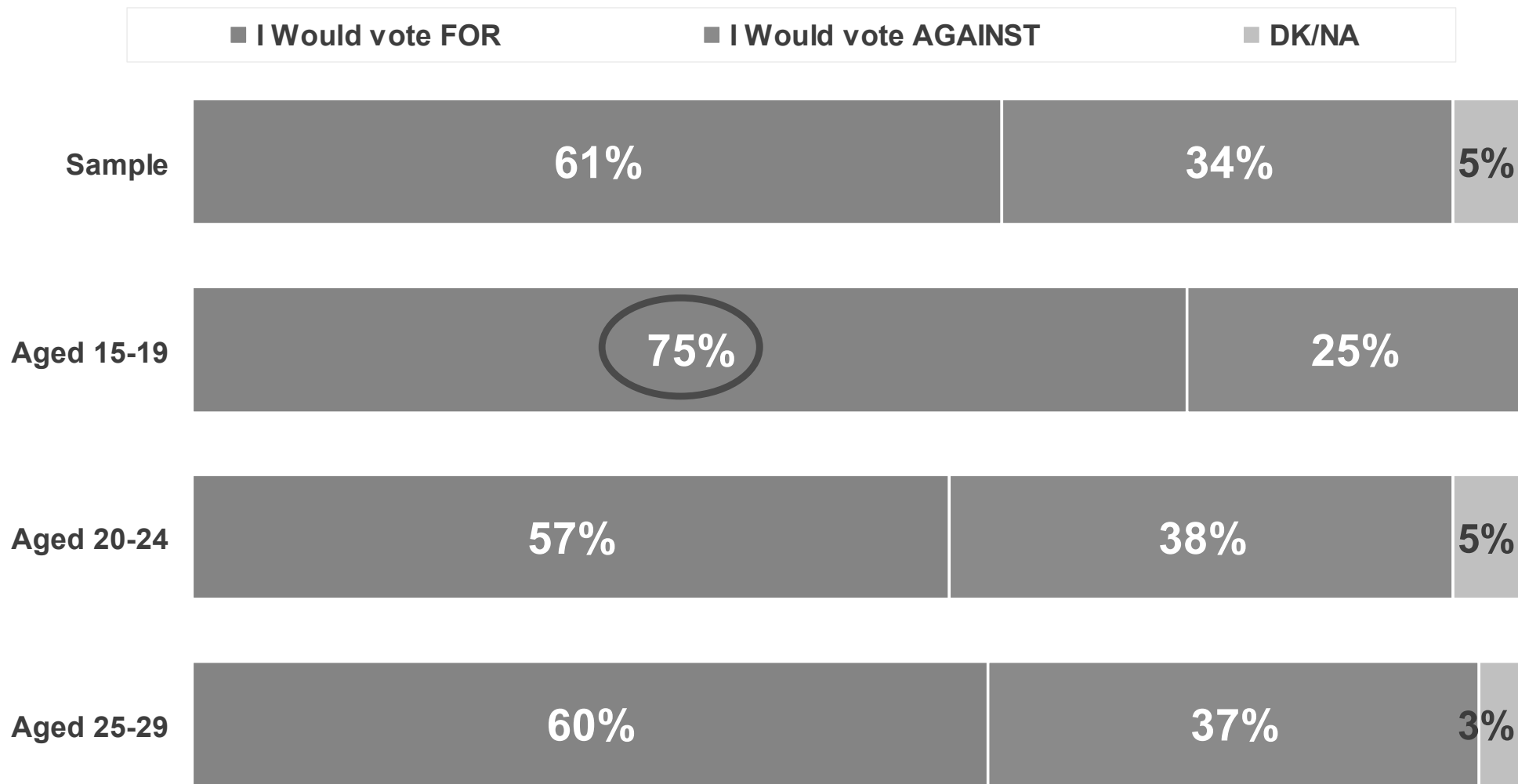
Voting in referendum – likely voters only - trend



Base: Likely voters; N = 647

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

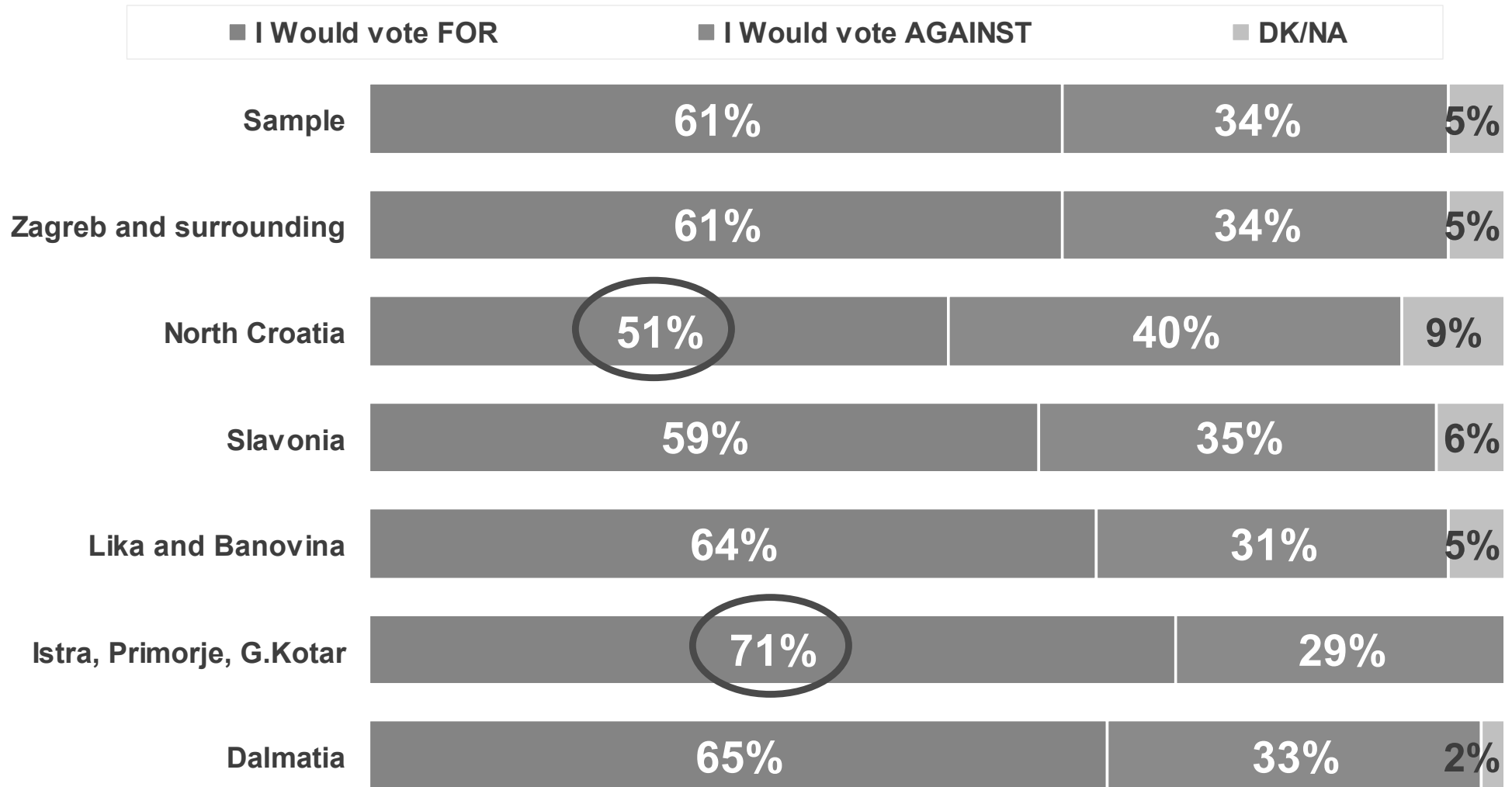
Current support – by young age groups



Base: Only likely voters among respondents aged 15-29; N=165

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Current support – only likely voters – by region

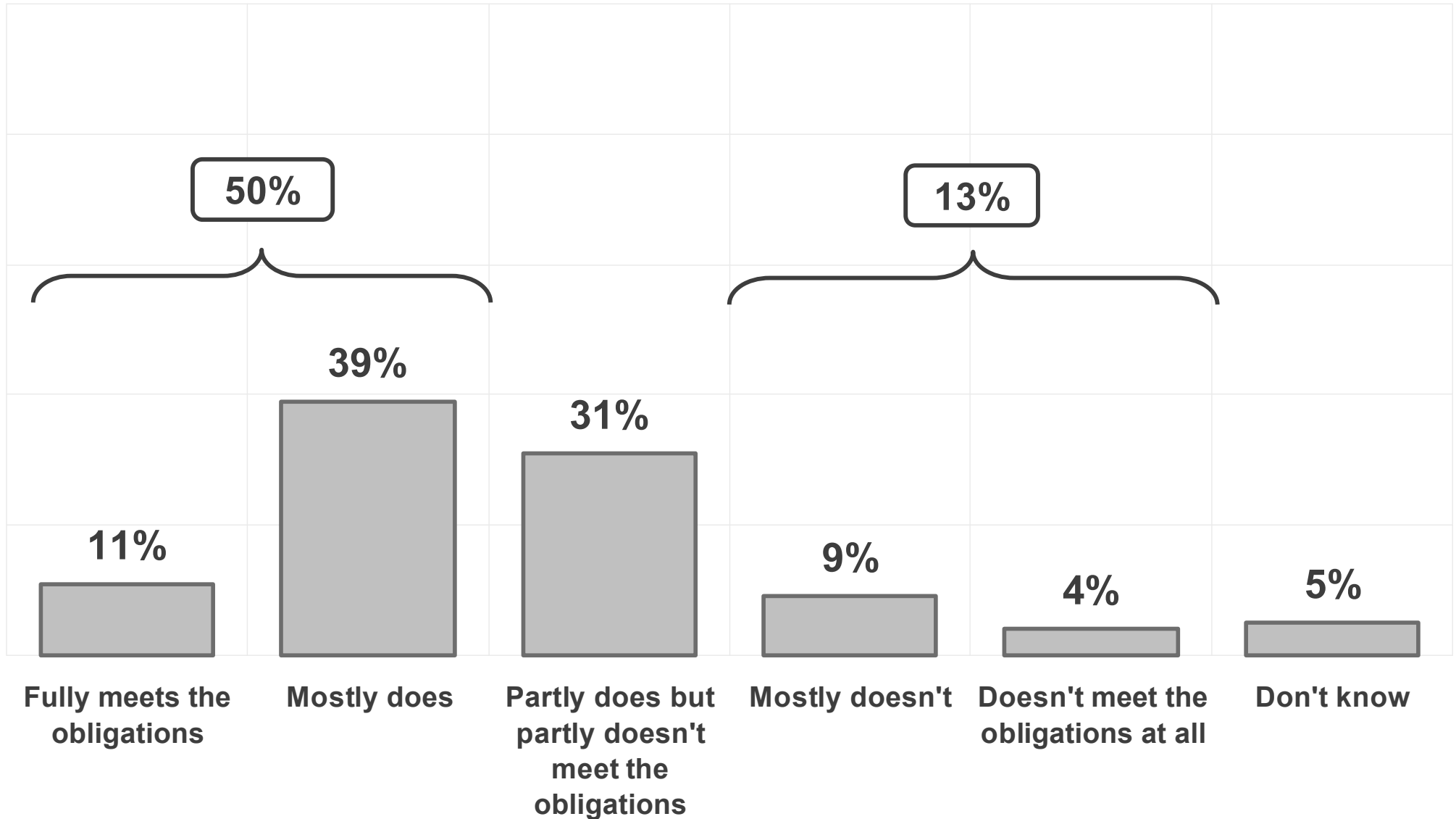


Base: Only likely voters; N = 647

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Attitudes toward Croatia's obligations

From the conclusion of negotiations, until full membership, Croatia is under EU monitoring. In your view, does Croatia meet the obligations that have been undertaken during the negotiation process?



Base: All respondents, N=1022

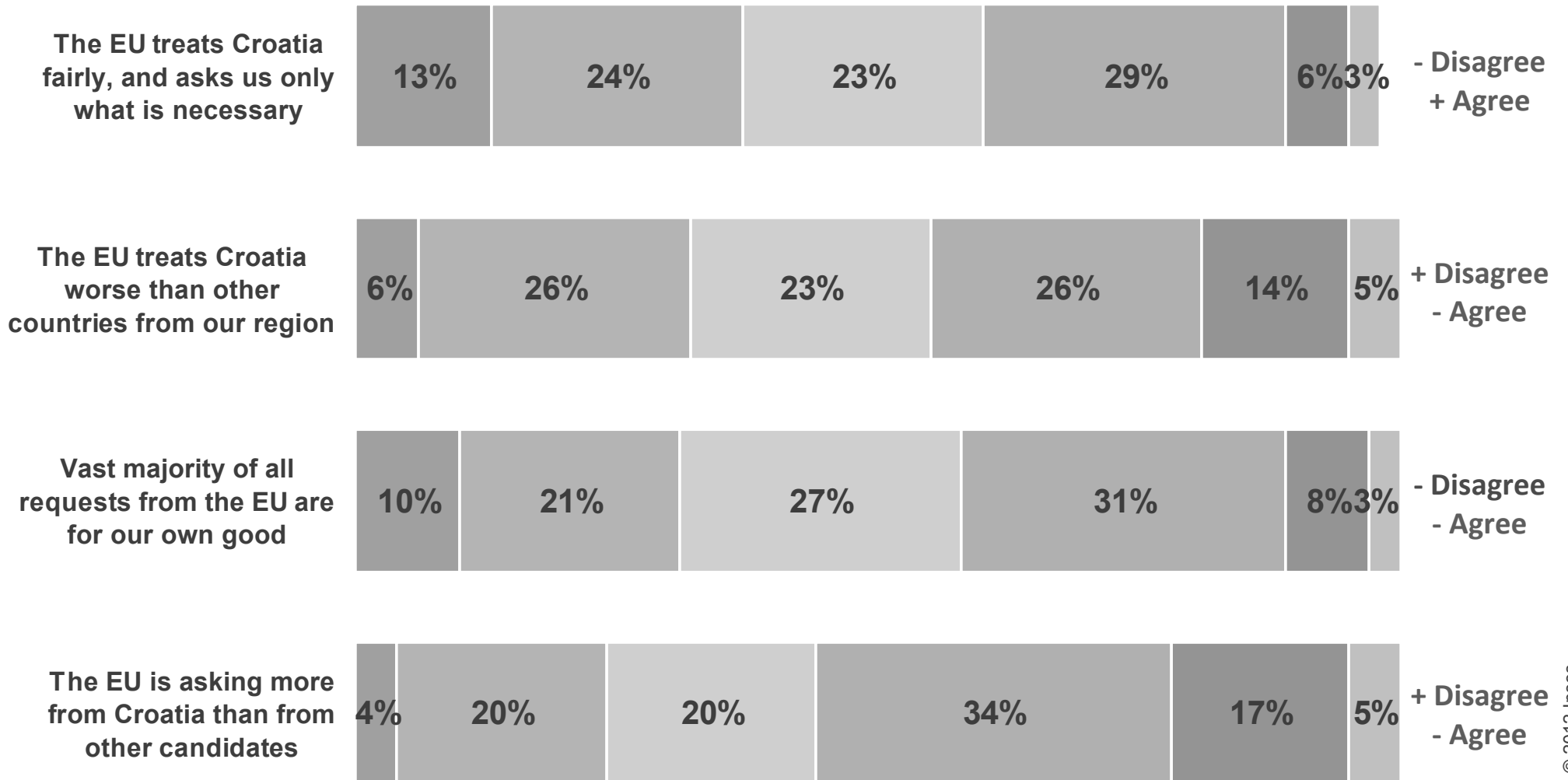
Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Relationship between Croatia and the EU

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Comparison with 2011:

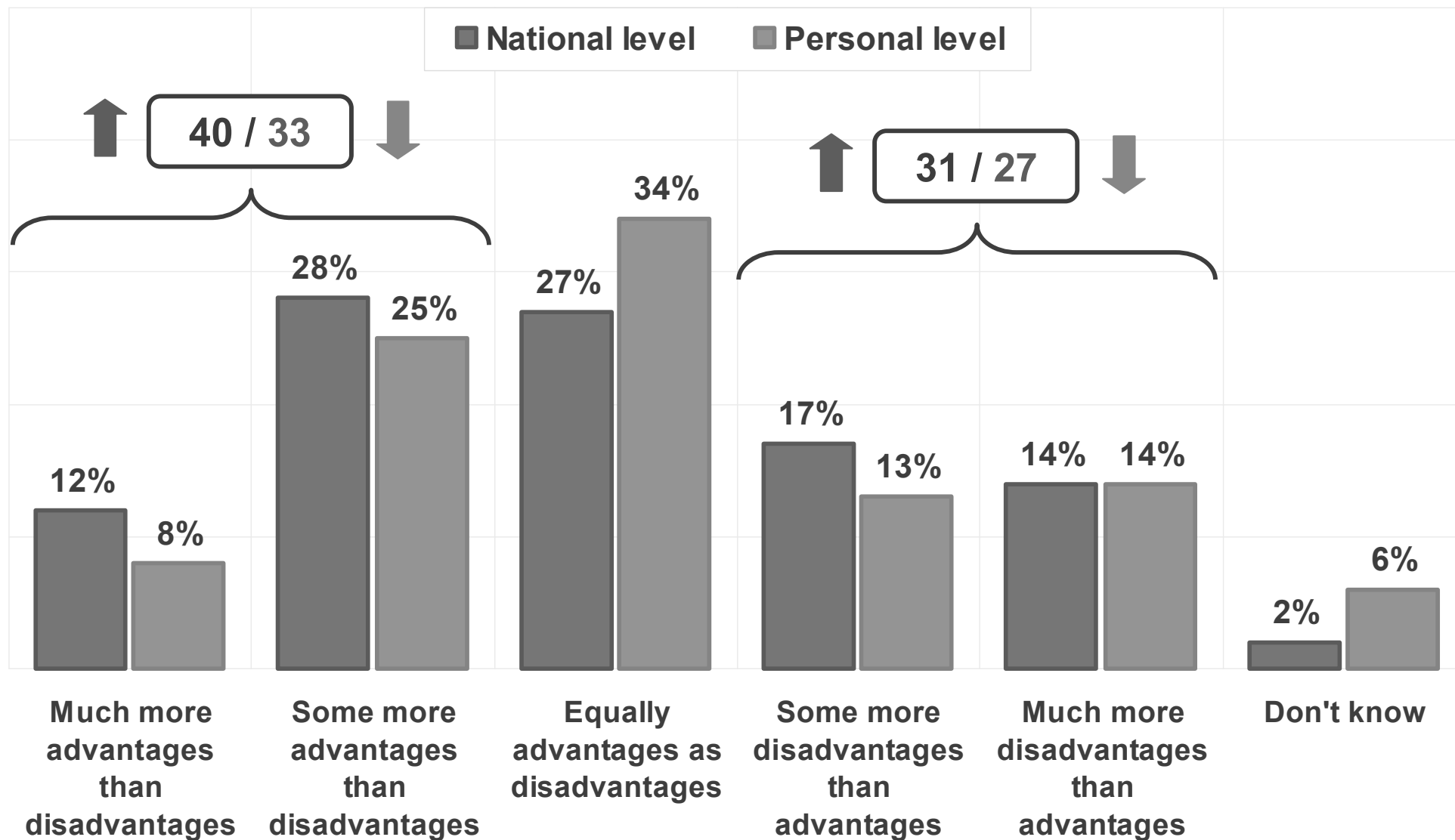
Completely disagree
 Disagree
 Both disagree and agree
 Agree
 Completely agree
 Does not know



Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Expected consequences of Croatia's membership in the EU

Would you expect Croatia / you personally to get more advantages or disadvantages should it become a full member of the EU?

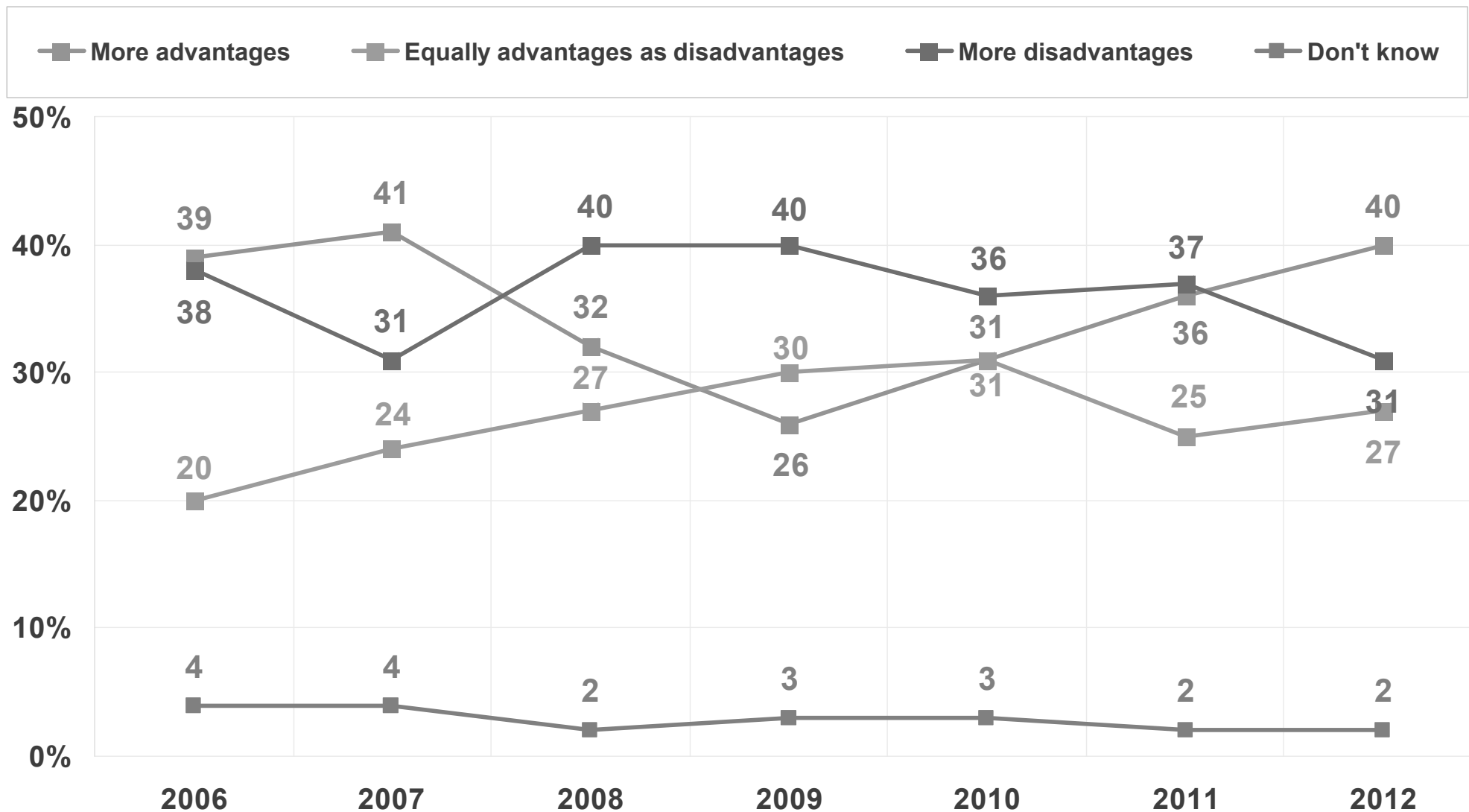


Base: All respondents, N=1022

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Expected consequences of Croatia's membership in the EU

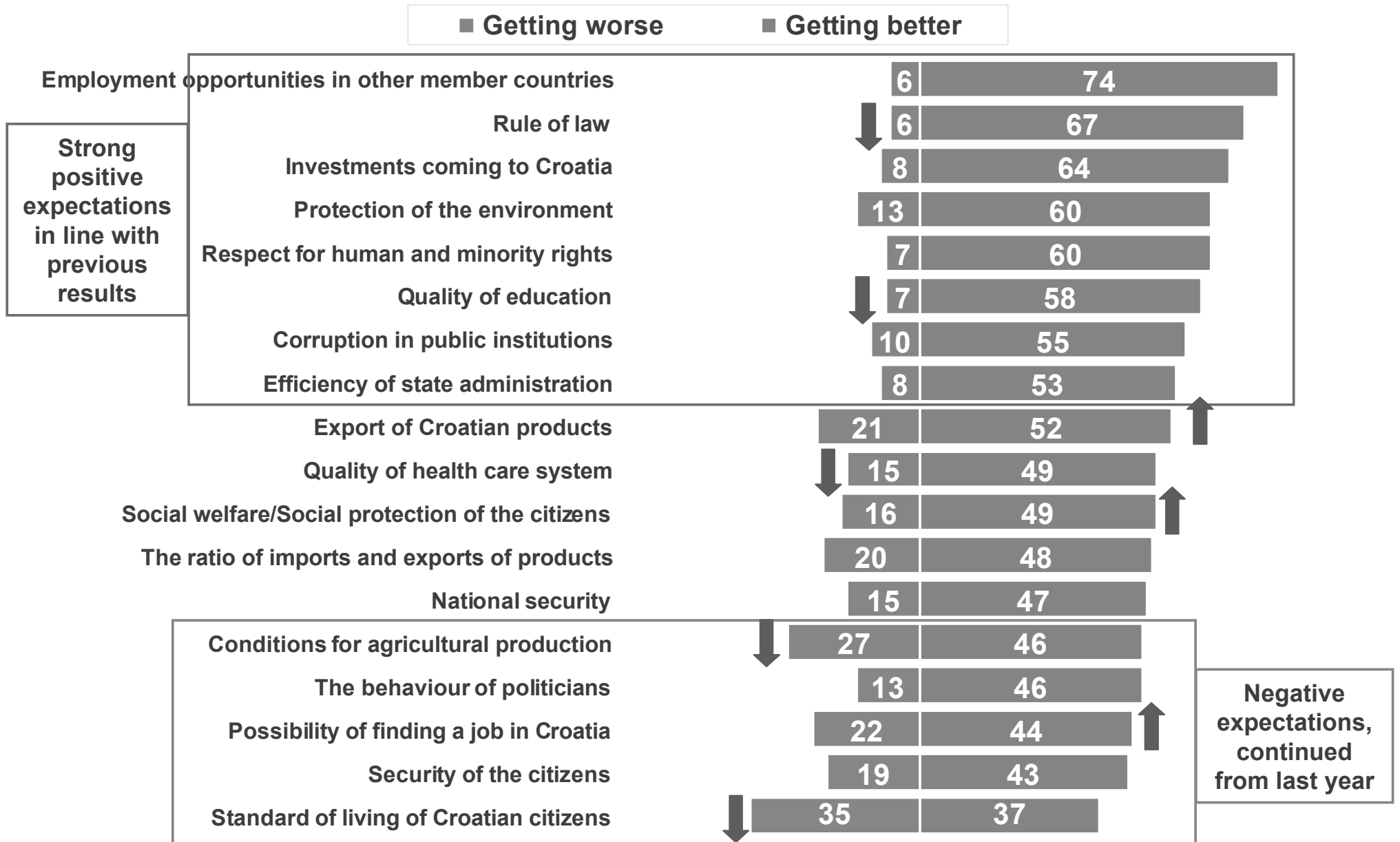
Would you expect Croatia to get more advantages or disadvantages should it become a full member of the EU?



Base: All respondents, N=1022

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

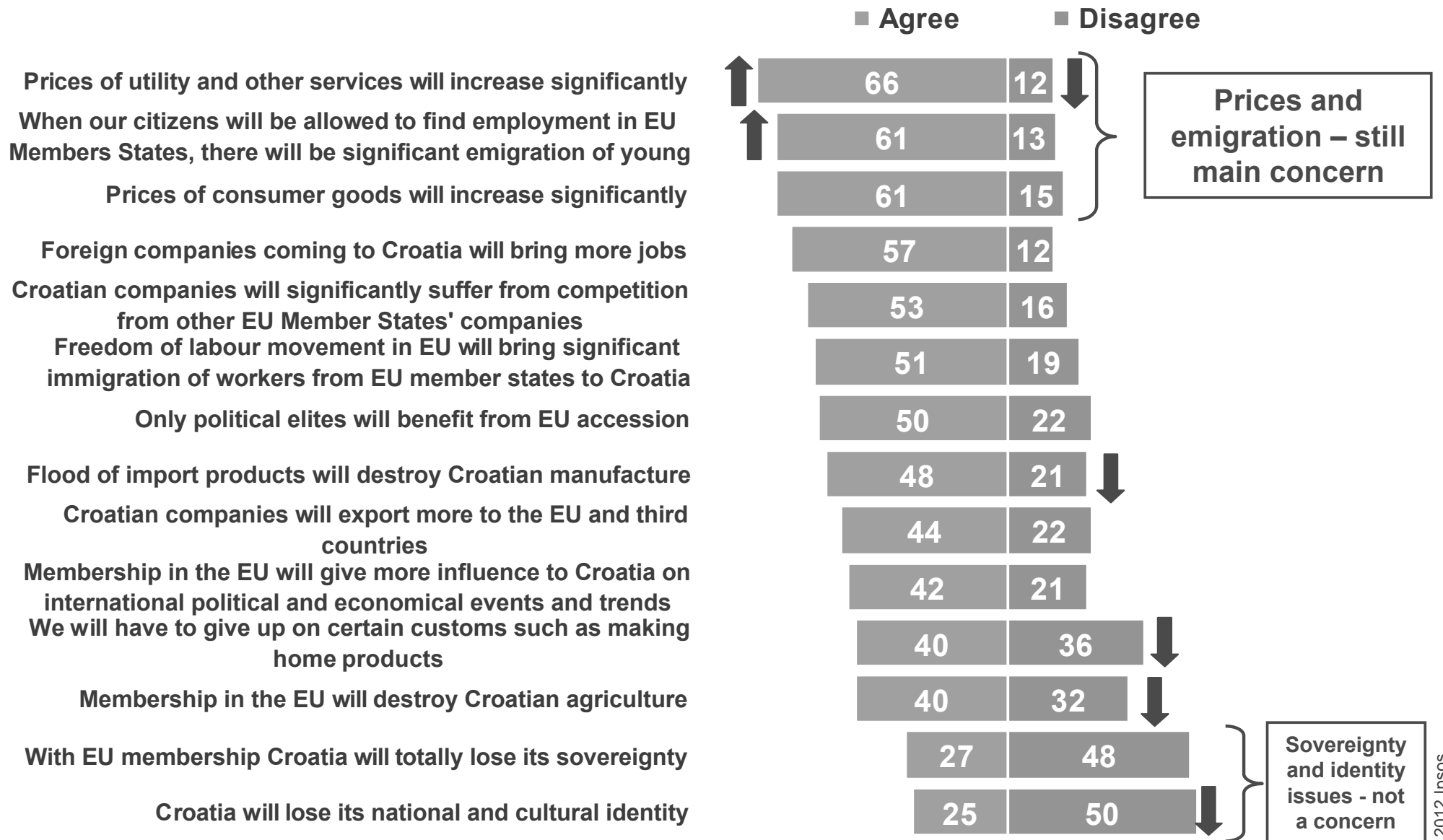
Expected changes from Croatia's membership in the EU



Base: All respondents, N=1022

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

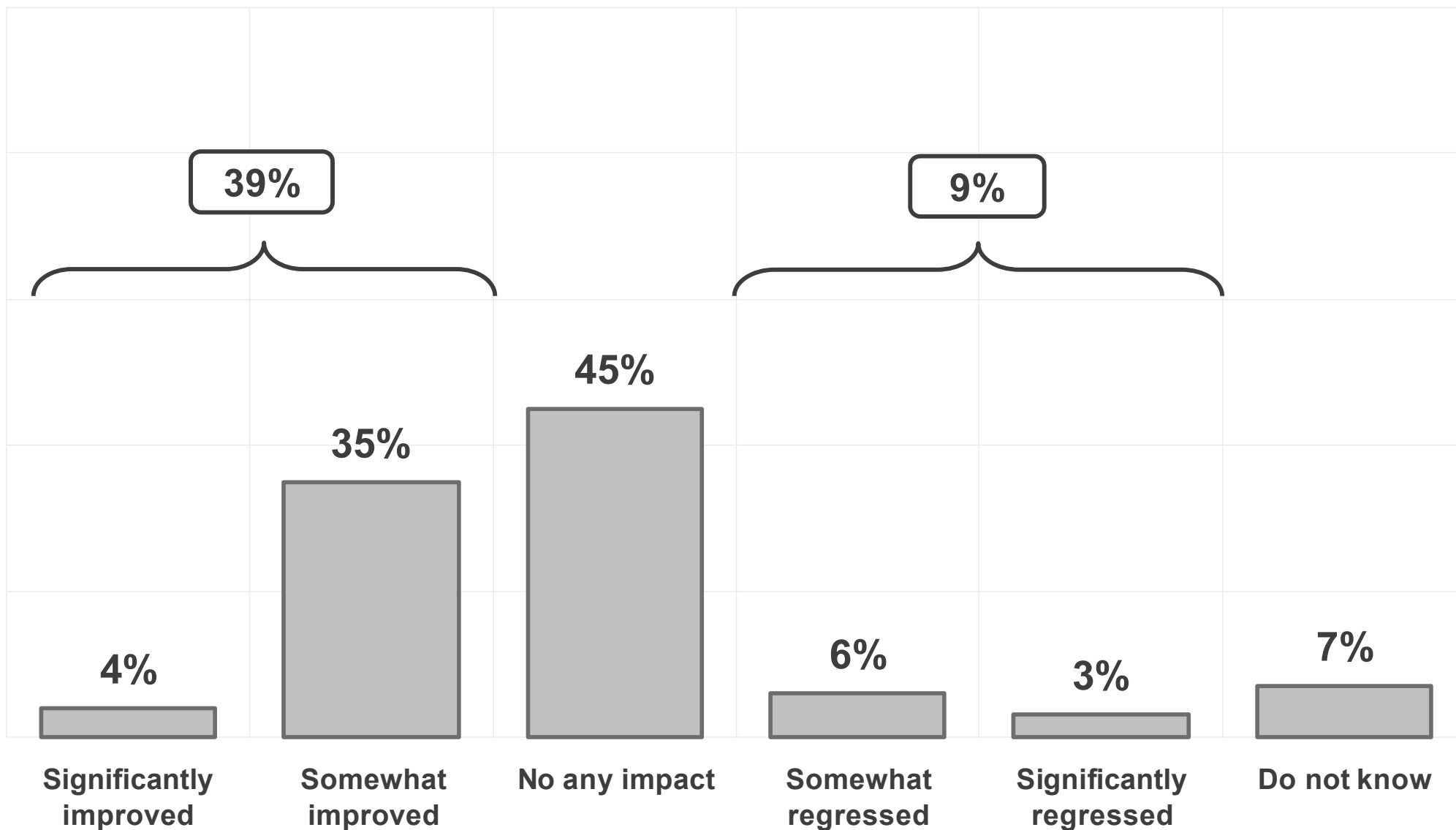
Expectations from Croatia's membership in the EU



Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Attitudes toward reforms in justice system

How would you evaluate impacts of reforms undertaken in justice system during last several years

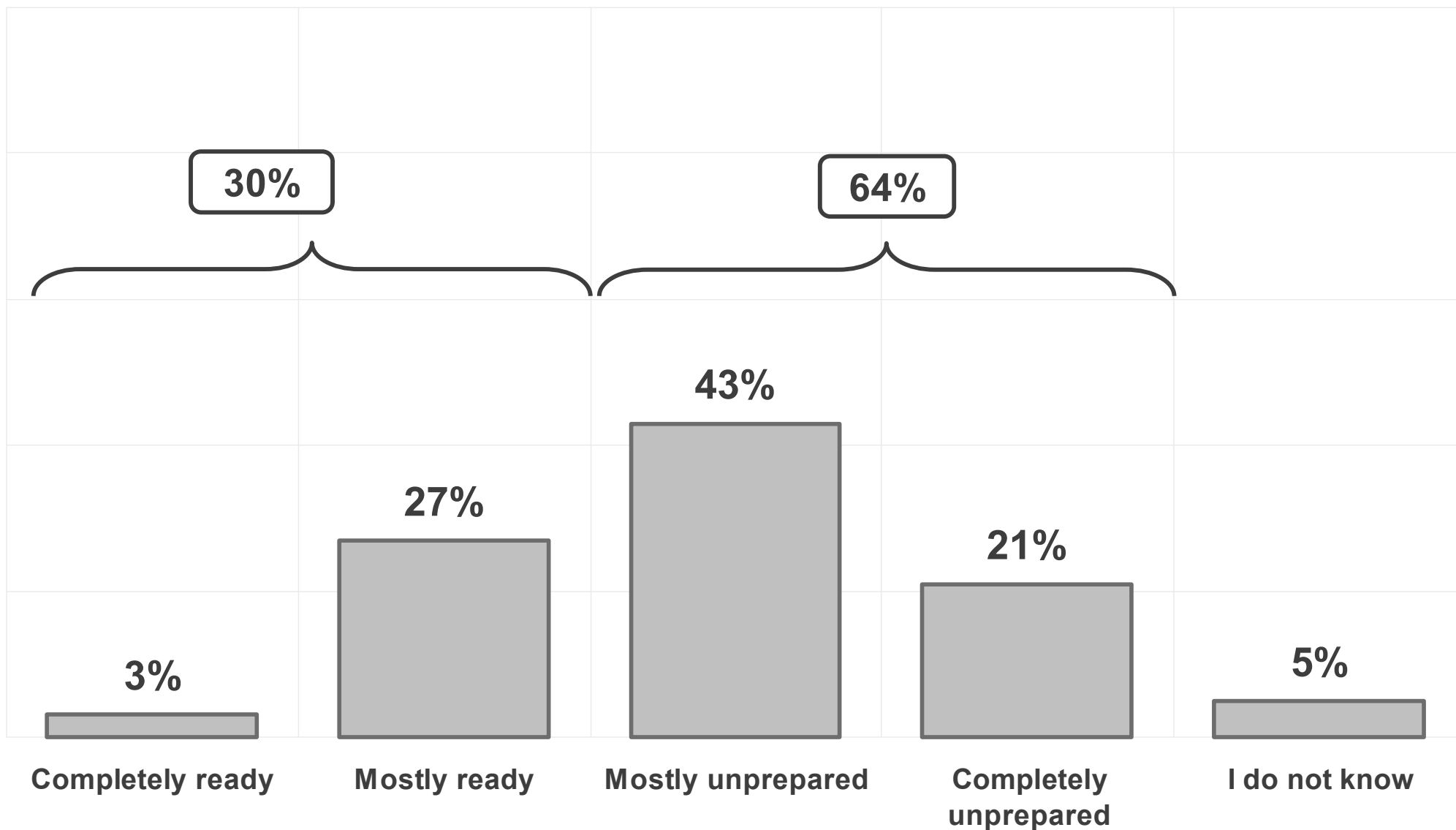


Base: All respondents, N=1022

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Extent to which Croatian economy will be ready for EU accession

Extent to which Croatian economy will be ready for EU accession at the date of entry, 01.07.2013?

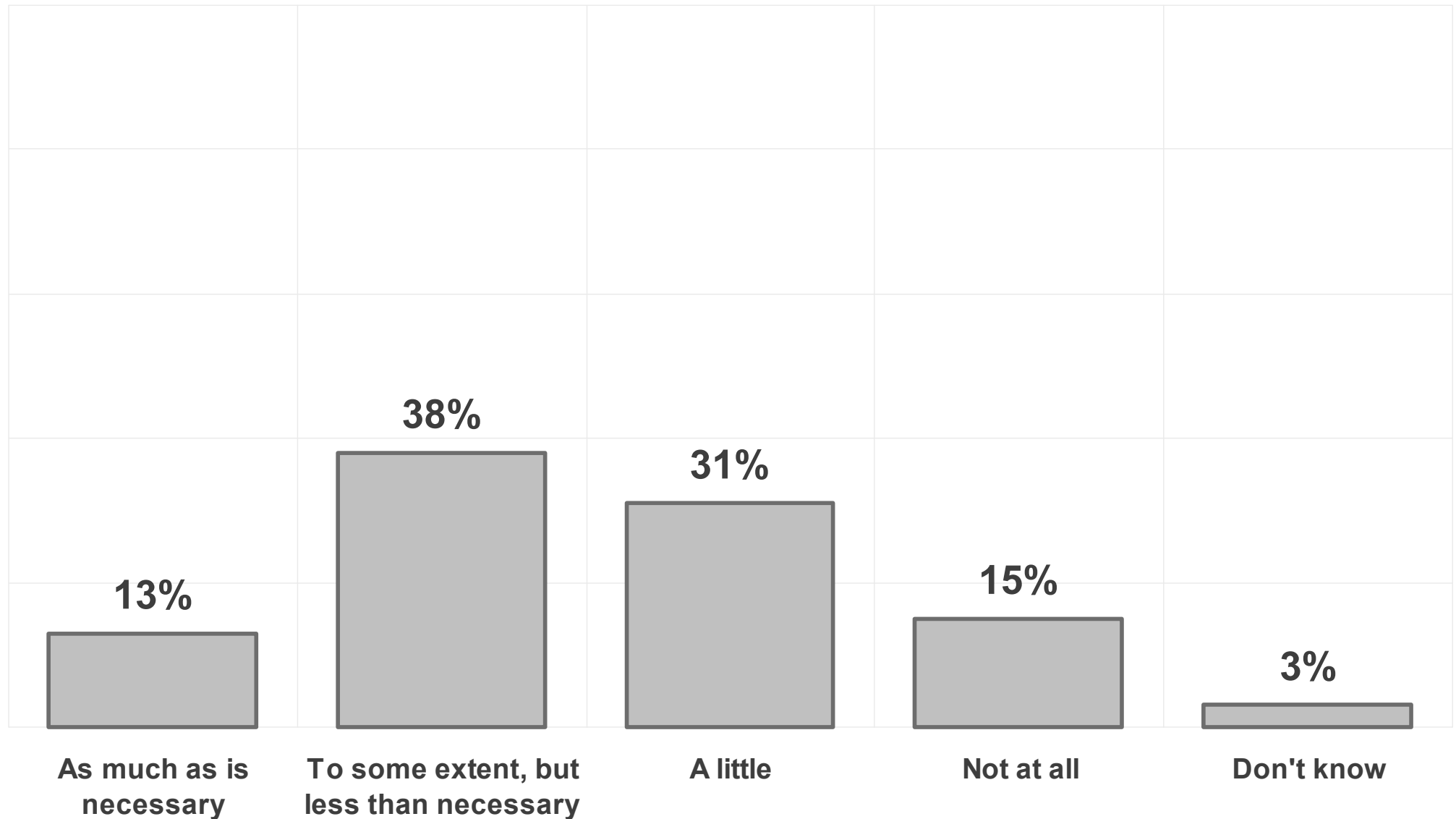


Base: All respondents, N=1022

Attitudes toward Croatia's membership in the EU

Effort the Government makes to increase the country's readiness

How much effort the Government makes to increase the country's overall readiness to meet all accession consequences?



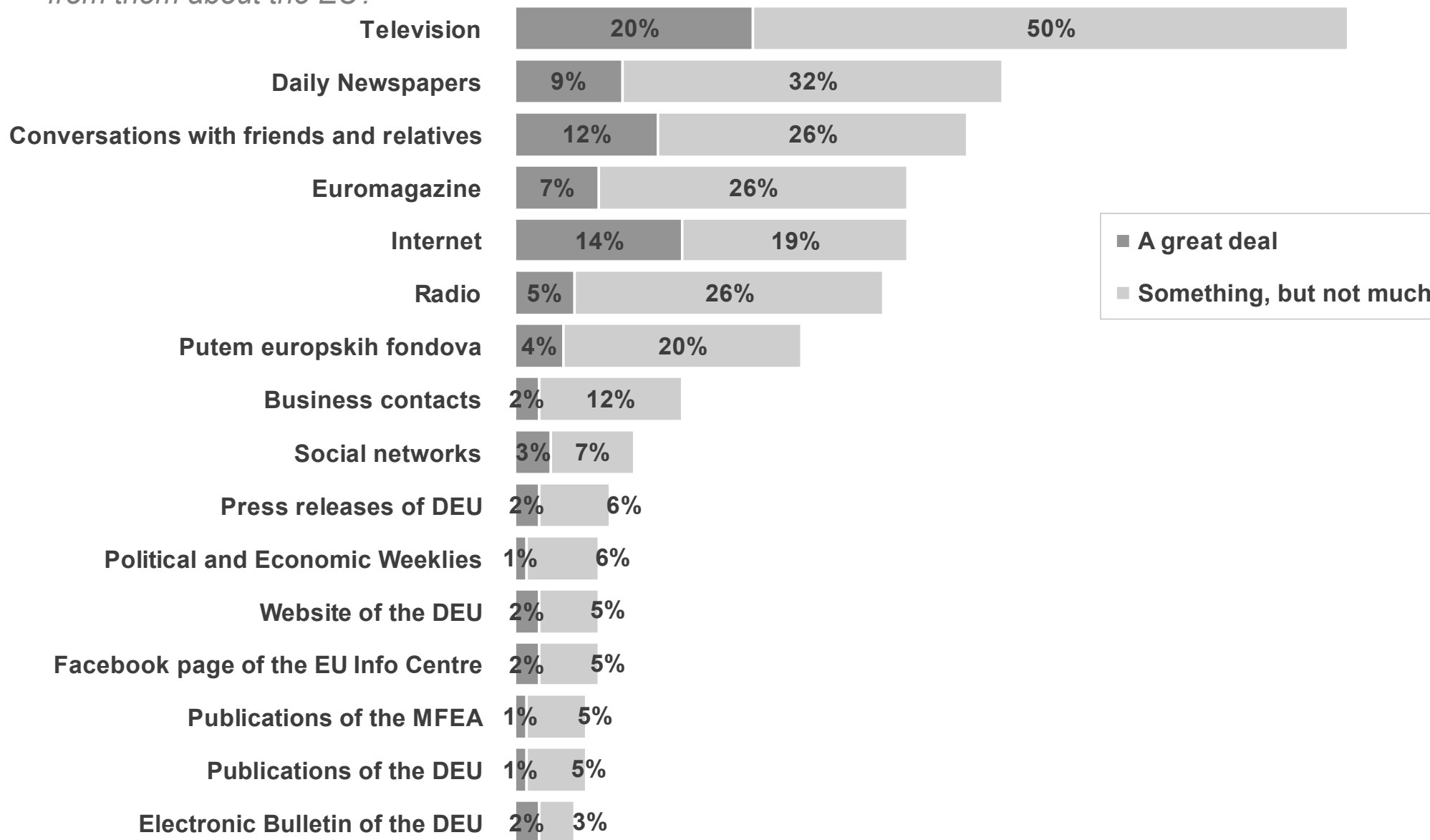
Base: All respondents, N=1022

Information needs and habits

Information about the EU

Efficient sources of information

Please tell me for each of the following persons and institutions how much you have personally learned from them about the EU?

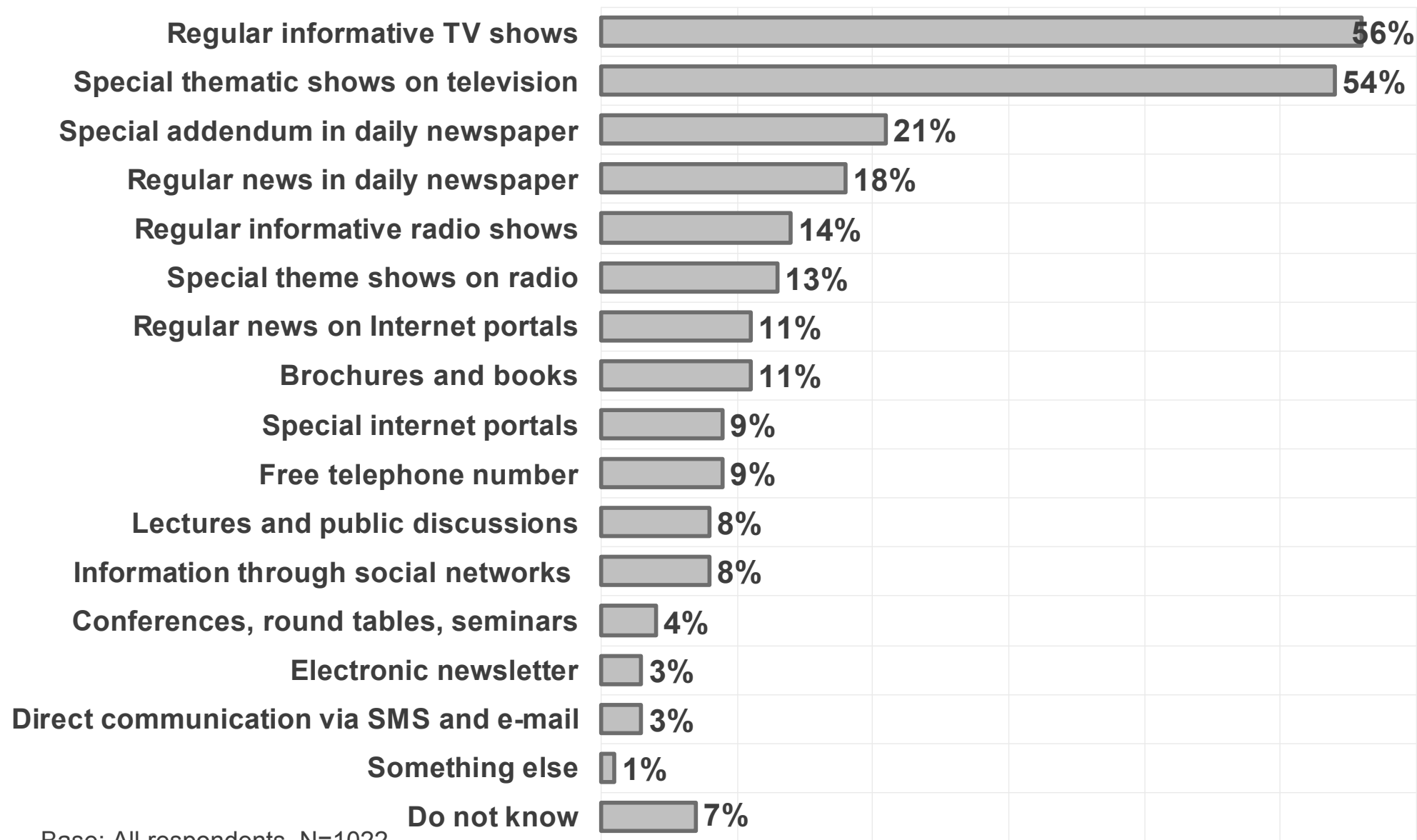


Base: All respondents, N=1022

Information about the EU

Preferred sources of information

From which of the next sources would you like to get information about Croatian accession to the EU?

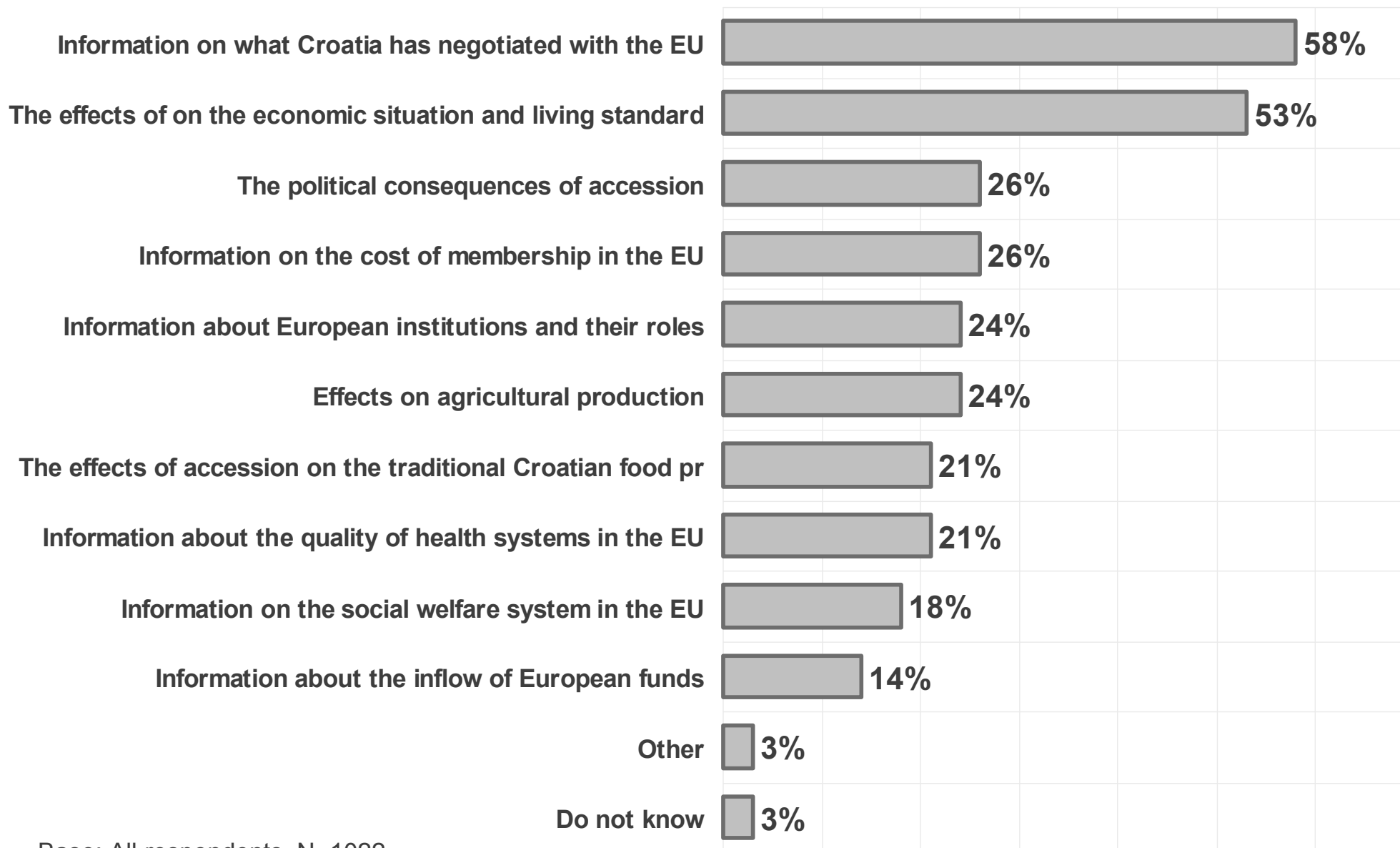


Base: All respondents, N=1022

Information about the EU

Areas of lacking information

From which three areas from this list you miss the most information on Croatian accession to the EU?



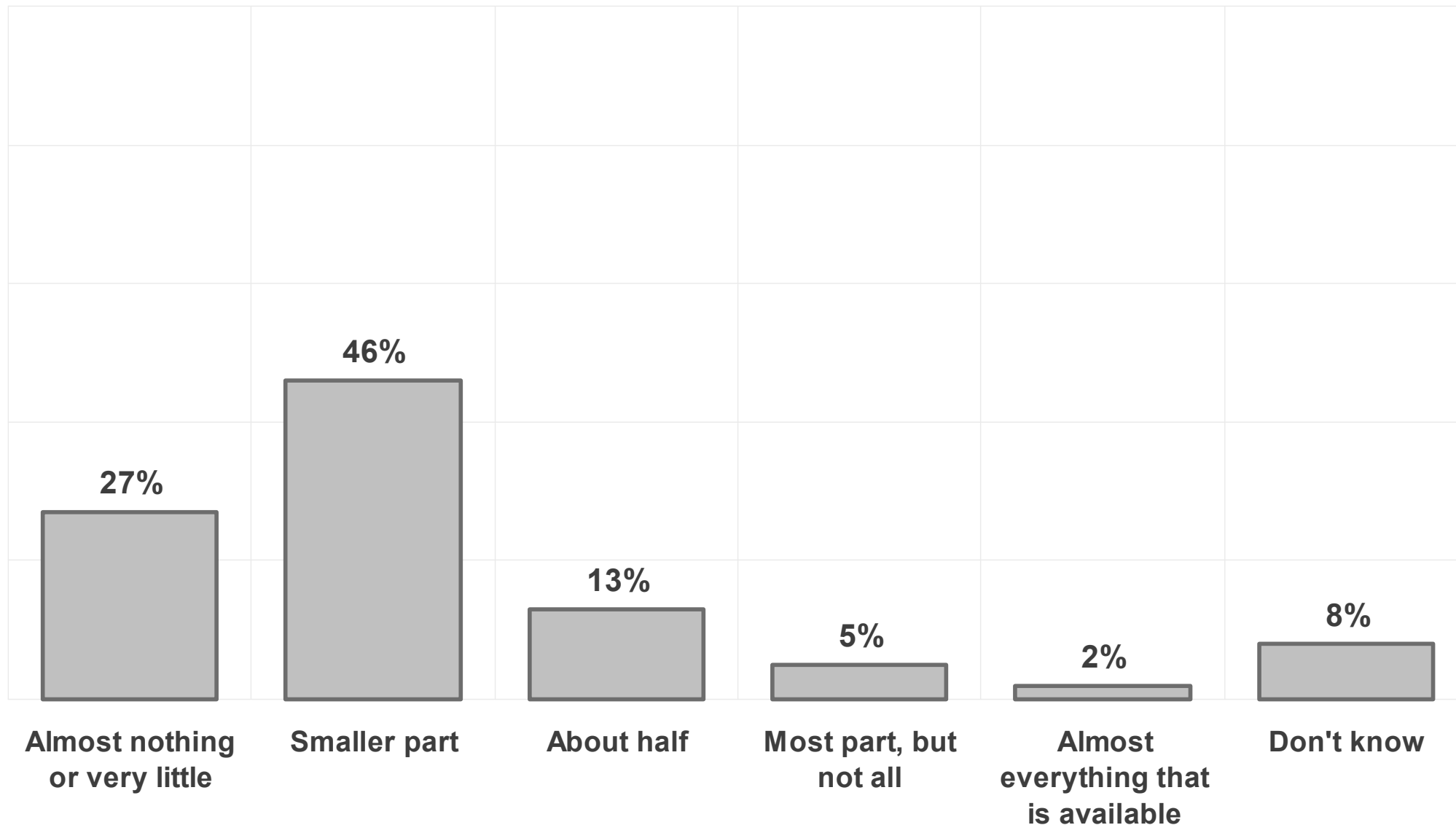
Base: All respondents, N=1022

Knowledge and interest for EU funds

Knowledge and interest for EU funds

EU funds – ability to withdraw assets

According to your information, how much funds assets which are available from EU funds Croatia is able to withdraw at this moment?

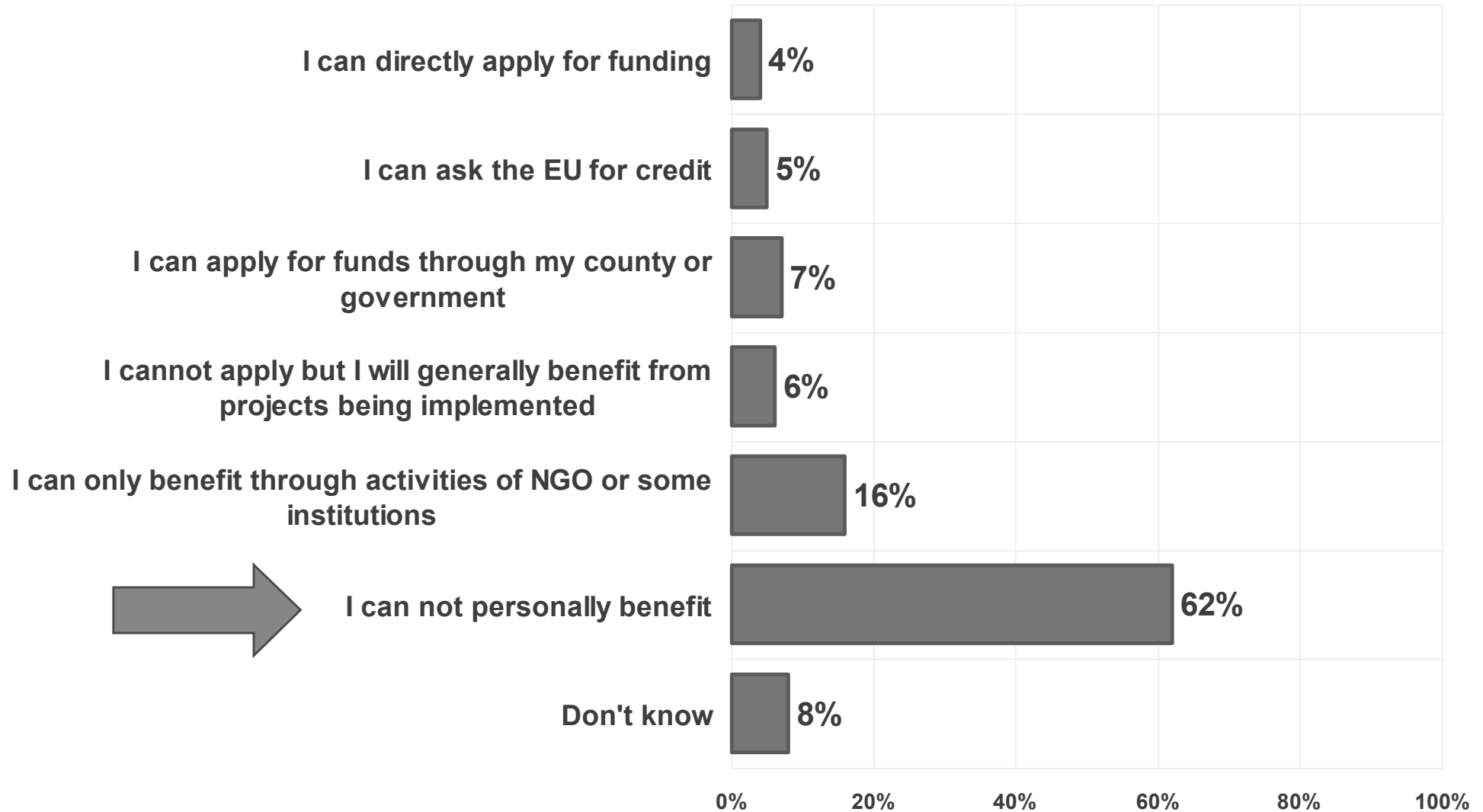


Base: All respondents, N=1022

Knowledge and interest for EU funds

EU funds – perception of personal benefits from EU funds

Do you think that you can personally benefit from EU funds?



Base: All respondents, N=1022

Conclusions

- Major change in context: On January 22nd, Croatian citizens decided that they want to become part of the EU.
- General results – positive feelings are still rising / declining some negative feelings. This is a trend first recorded last year – after Croatia finished negotiations in June. This year general feeling about EU is highest recorded in this series of surveys.
- The virtual referendum voting behavior also reflected the change - support values are among the most highest recorded.
- Some of the indicators stayed at approximately same level as in 2011., including that the EU membership would bring Croatia more advantages than disadvantages.
- But it should be noted that perception of a current situation in the EU is somewhat more pessimistic than previous years. Ongoing public debt crisis is starting to have significant impact on Croatian public opinion about EU.
- EU institutions are perceived as a staffed with experts and educated personnel, but there is rising level of citizens who think that they are inefficient and unaccountable.
- On the other hand, while many citizens still think that EU treats Croatia unfairly, there is rising percentage of citizens who relations between EU and Croatia perceive in brighter light than previous years.

- There is still large necessity for informing Croatian citizens about EU in general, about negotiation process, and especially about consequences of accession.
- Number of people having certain misconception, is significantly lower, but informing citizens is still important. Some of the misconceptions are still deeply rooted, for example, those about destruction of about Croatian agriculture / industry by competition from other EU members, or believe that all EU members must introduce Euro as a currency – and it should be kept in mind that image of euro as a solid currency is falling in Croatian public. But the biggest fear and concern are rising prices, and emigration of young people.
- Also, 2/3rd's of citizens think that Croatian economy is not ready for EU accession, and this feeling just helps to rise fears about possible unwanted economic consequences of membership.