

CENTRE KANTAR
SUR
LE FUTUR DE L'EUROPE



Desk Research: European Youth in 2021

This desk research was commissioned by the Youth Outreach Unit and by the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit within the Directorate General for Communication (DG COMM) of the European Parliament.



Methodology

This Desk Research is done by using the data from different surveys, mostly Eurobarometer surveys, but not only, to give a portrait of the European youth aged 16-30 years old.

For each of these surveys, the answers of the young have been extracted, and compared with that of the rest of the sample (31+).

Surveys used in this exercise are the following (from the most to the least recent one):

- Kantar International Survey (May-June 2021) – online
- Special Eurobarometer for the European Parliament, Spring 2021 (March-April 2021) – face to face complemented by online
- Standard Eurobarometer 94, Winter 2020/21 (February-March 2021) – face to face complemented by online
- Parlemeter 94.2 (November-December 2020) – face to face complemented by online
- Special Eurobarometer Future of Europe (October-November 2020) – face to face complemented by online
- Public Opinion in the EU in Time of Coronavirus Crisis (September-October 2020) - online
- Standard Eurobarometer 93, Summer 2020 (July-August 2020) – face to face complemented by online
- Standard Eurobarometer 92, Autumn 2019 (November 2019) – face to face

On some occasion, **total might differ from 100%**, because of rounding.

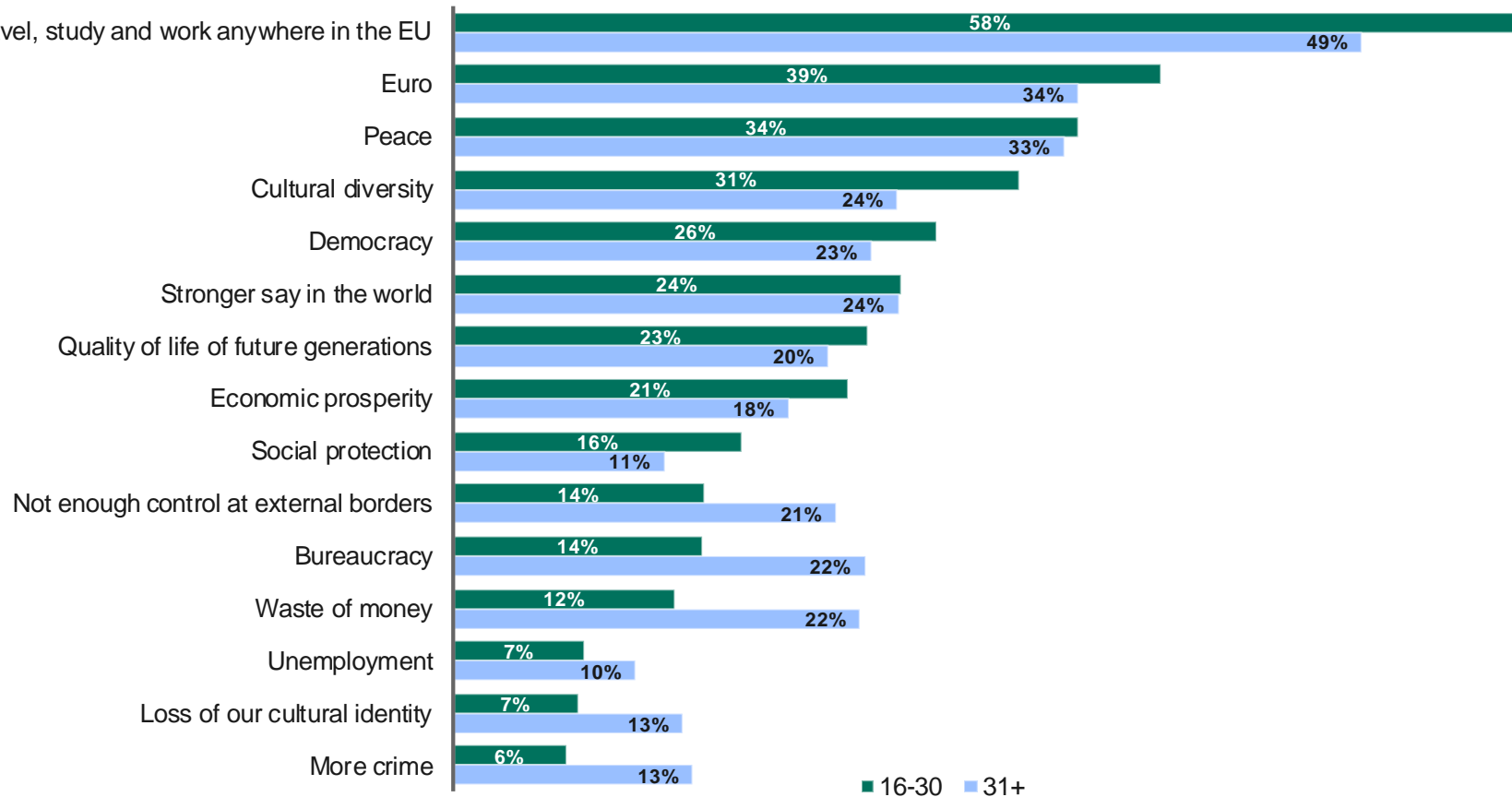
1 THE EU TODAY AND TOMORROW

#DEMOCRACY #INNOVATION #RIGHTS #CULTURE
#RULE OF LAW



When asked what the EU means to them, an absolute majority of young Europeans mention freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU. The Euro and peace are the second and third most-cited subjects. Compared to 31+, young Europeans are much more likely to mention cultural diversity and social protection

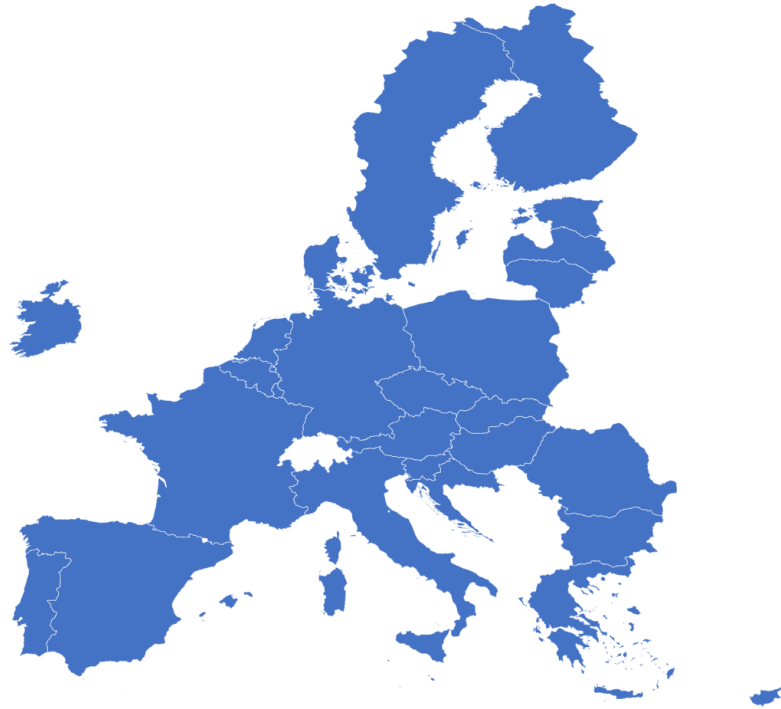
QA7 What does the EU mean to you personally? MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE



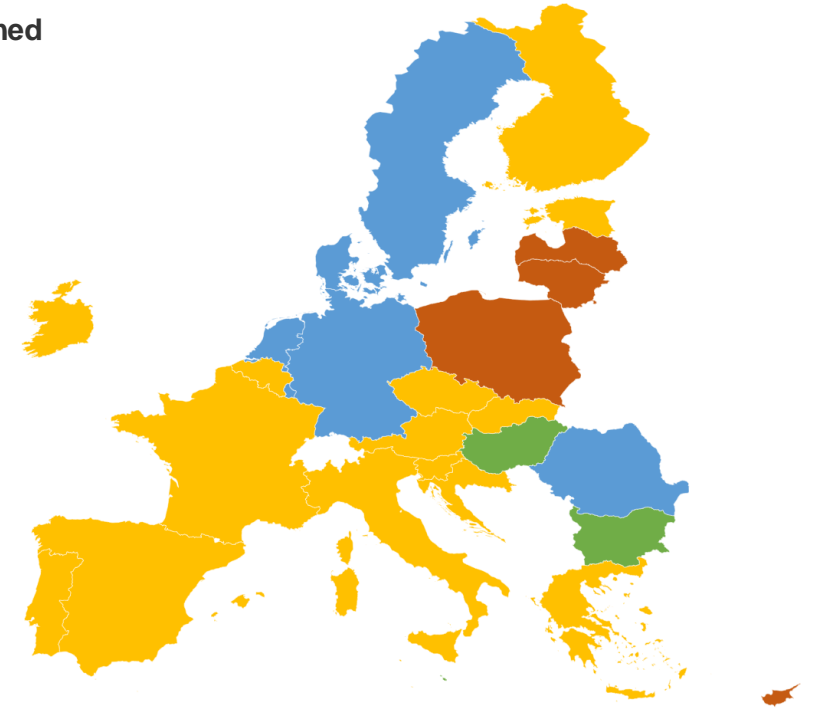
In every country, young people link the Union first and foremost to freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU. As the second most-mentioned answer, in most Eurozone countries, young people associate the EU to the single currency, while Peace and Cultural diversity are also two popular items among youth

QA7 What does the EU mean to you personally? MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE

First most mentioned



Second most mentioned

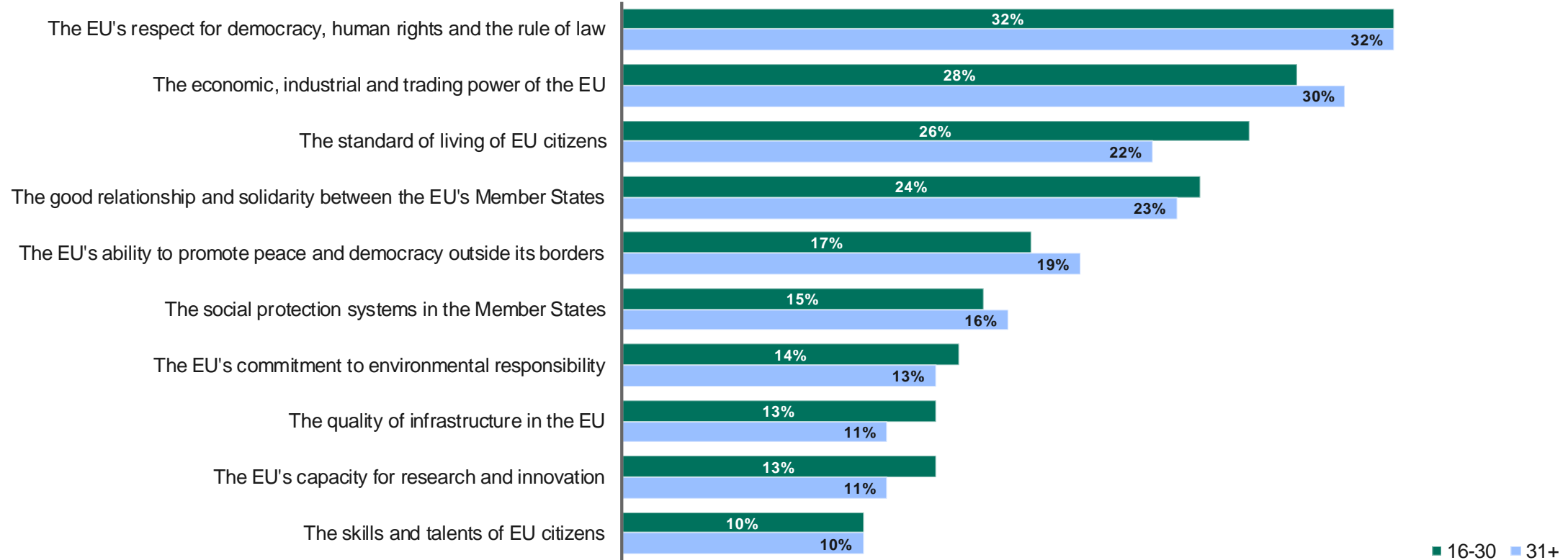


- Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU
- Peace
- Quality of life of future generations
- Euro
- Cultural diversity

- euro
- Quality of life of future generations
- Cultural diversity
- Peace

As main assets of the EU, youths value the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, followed by the economic, industrial and trading power of the EU. Compared to 31+, young Europeans assign greater value to the standard of living of EU citizens, the quality of infrastructure in the EU and its capacity for research and innovation

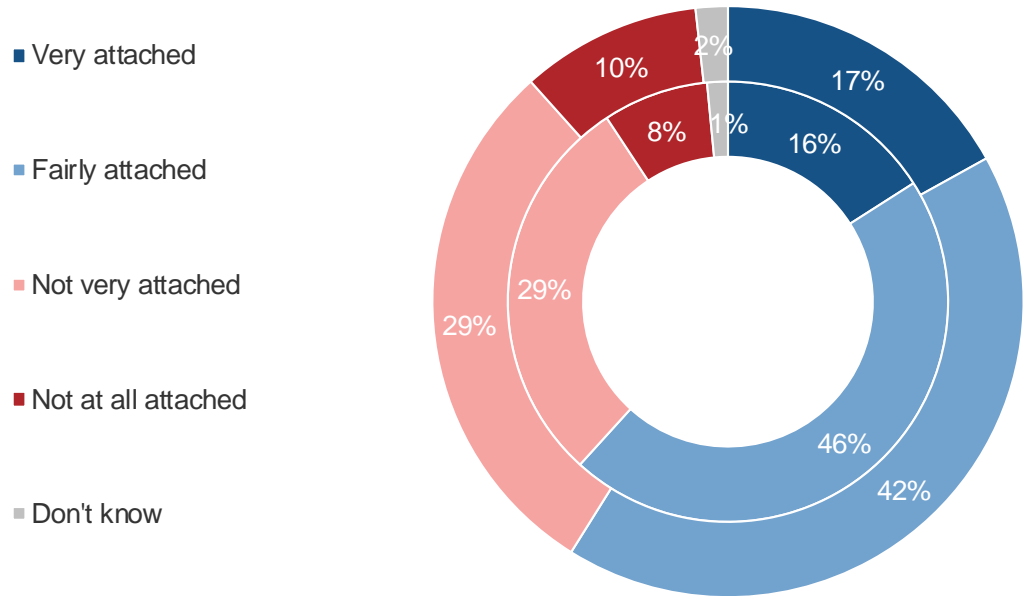
QA10T In your opinion, what are the main assets of the EU? Firstly? And then? (TOTAL) MAX. 2 ANSWERS



EU citizenship: a large majority of EU youths express attachment to the European Union

QC1a Please tell how attached you feel to... : The European Union

ST Attached 16-30 62%
ST Attached 31+ 59%

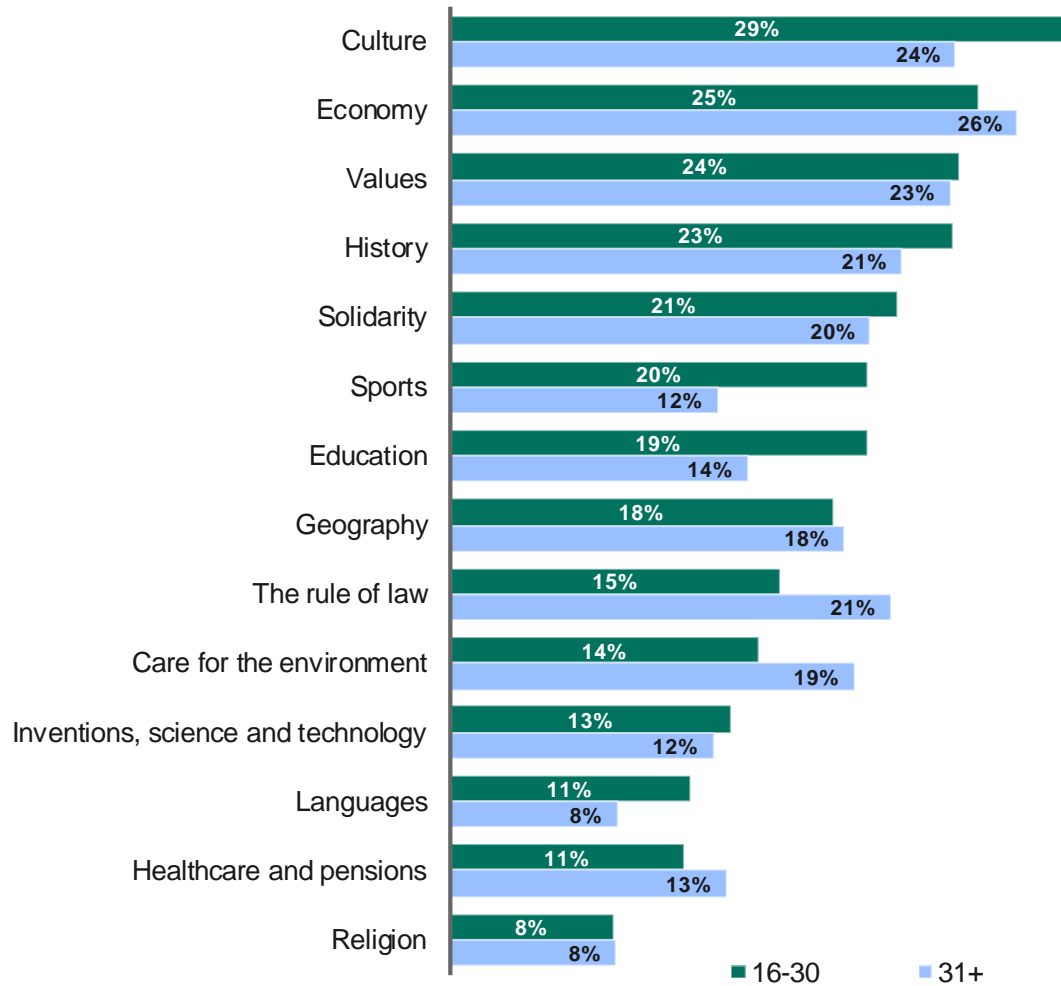


ST Not attached 16-30 37%
ST Not attached 31+ 39%

- 16% of European youths feel **very attached** to the European Union, and 46% express that they are **fairly attached** to the EU.
- This is in line with the 17% of Europeans aged 31+ who feel **very attached** to the European Union. However, only 42% of older Europeans declare they are **fairly attached** to the EU.



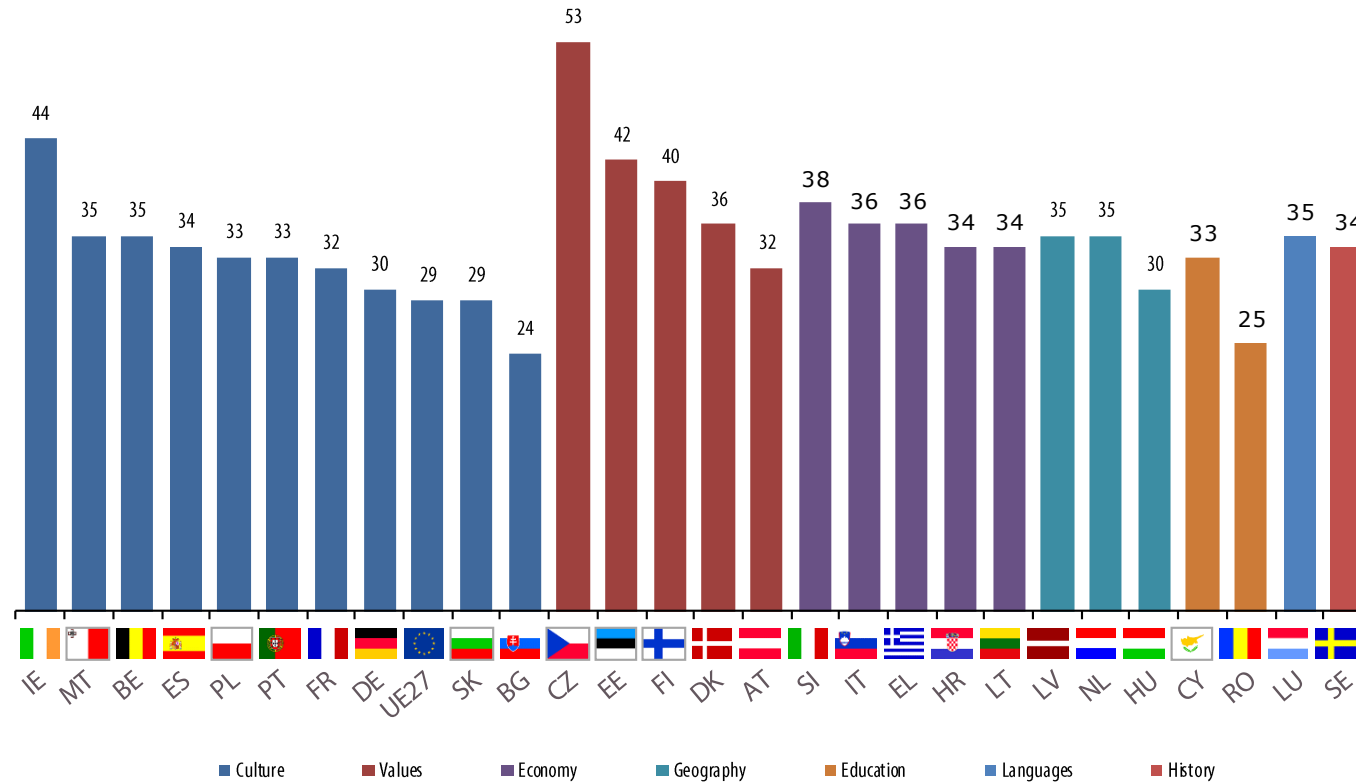
QC4 In your opinion, among the following subjects, which are those that most create a feeling of community among EU citizens? MAX. 3 ANSWERS



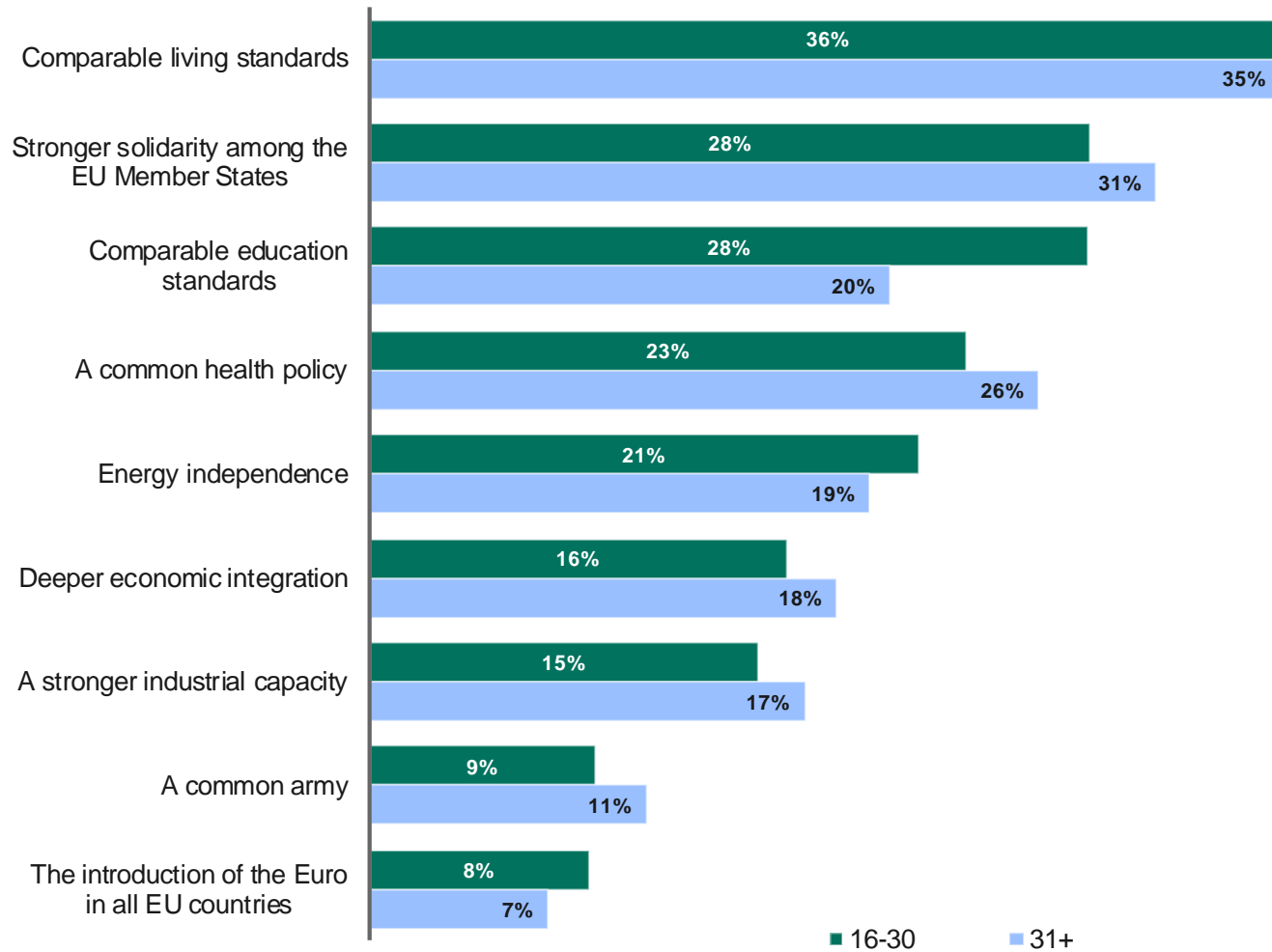
Young Europeans think that culture is the subject which creates the most a feeling of community among EU citizens. Around three quarters of them also mention economy, values and history. Being closer to their lived experiences, EU youths are more likely to consider that sports and education create a feeling of community among Europeans.

In many Member States young respondents are mostly likely to consider culture as a subject that creates a feeling of community among EU citizens. Values and the economy are also the first choice in five countries each

QC4 In your opinion, among the following subjects, which are those that most create a feeling of community among EU citizens? MAX. 3 ANSWERS



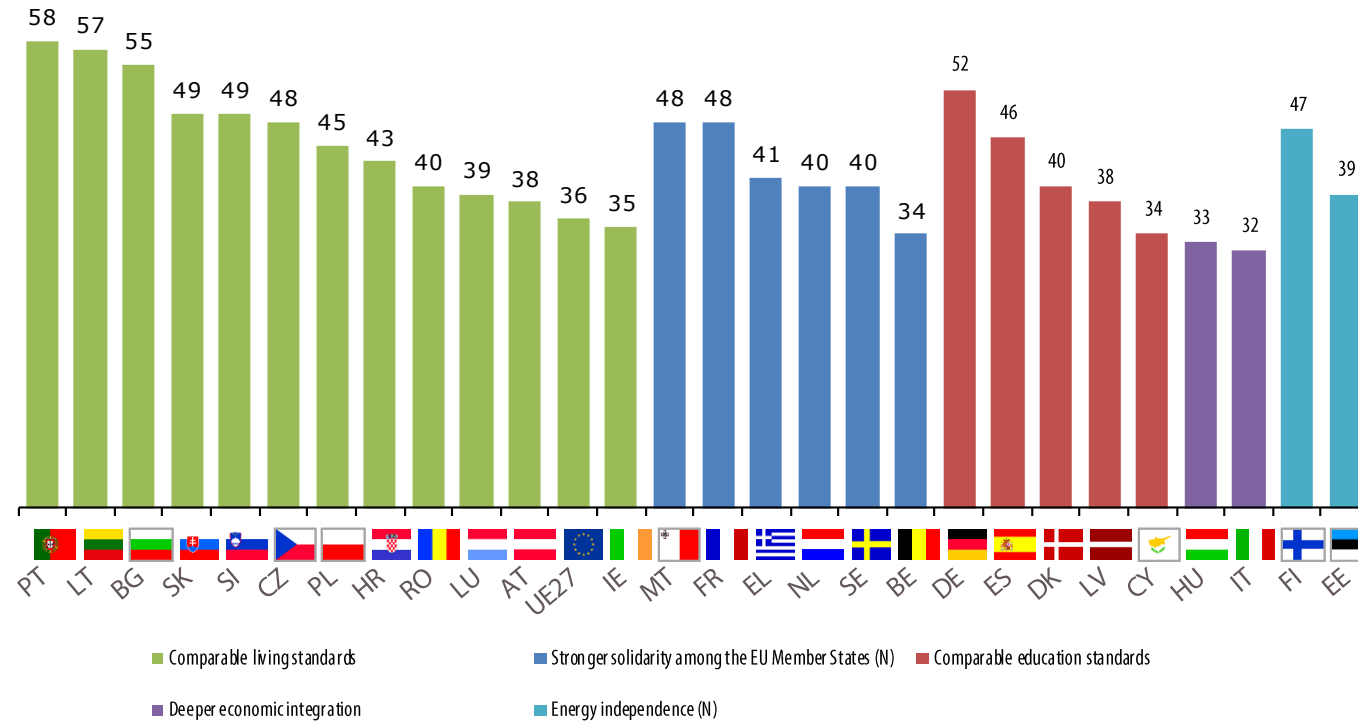
QA18 Which two of the following would you consider to be most helpful for the future of Europe? MAX. 2 ANSWERS



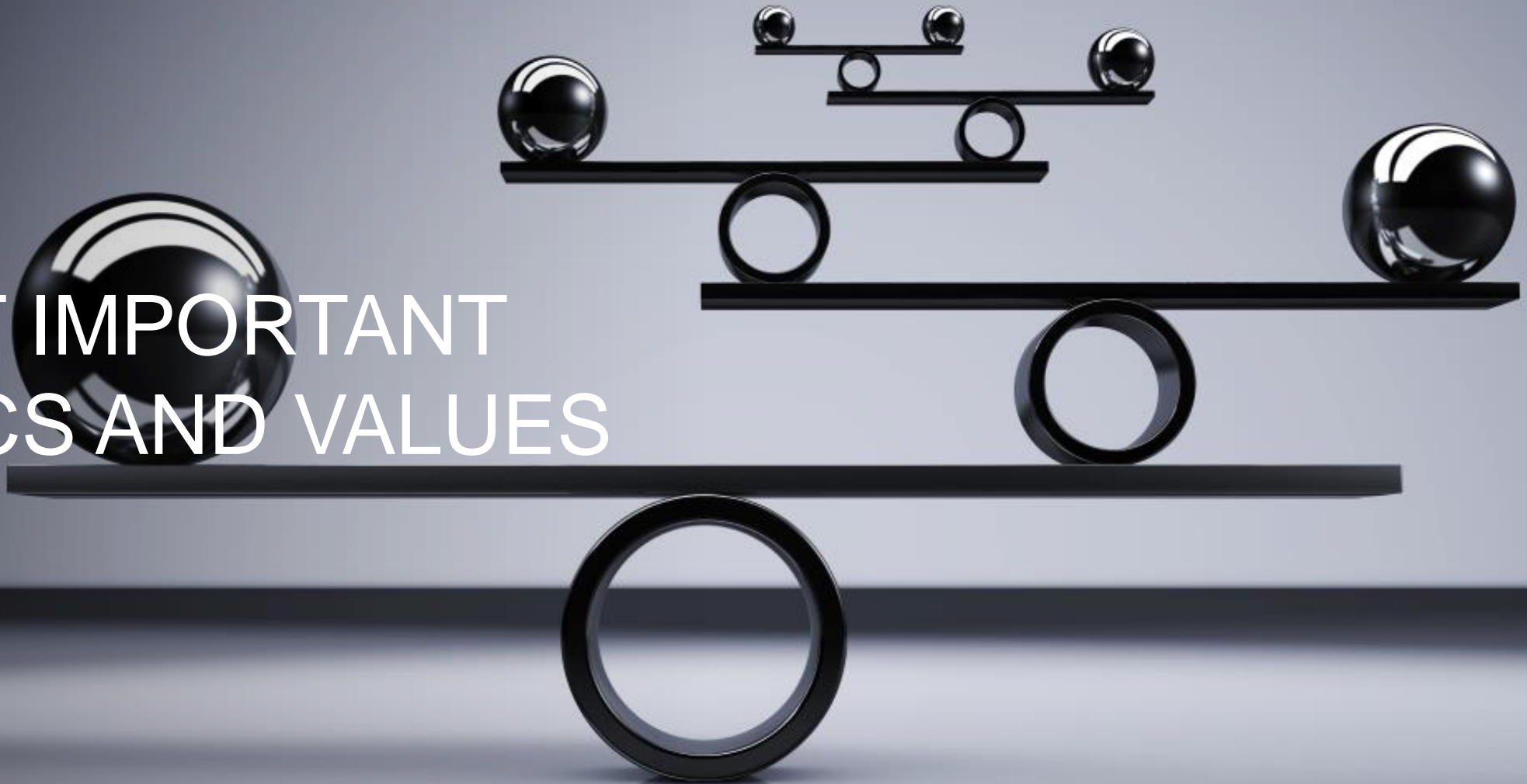
EU youths consider comparable living standards as most helpful for the future of Europe, followed by stronger solidarity between Member States and comparable education standards. Compared to older Europeans, they value comparable education standards more.

In thirteen countries, young people are more likely to mention comparable living standards as something helpful for the future of Europe, while in the other Member States many young respondents choose stronger solidarity among the EU Member States and comparable education standards

QA18 Which two of the following would you consider to be most helpful for the future of Europe? MAX. 2 ANSWERS



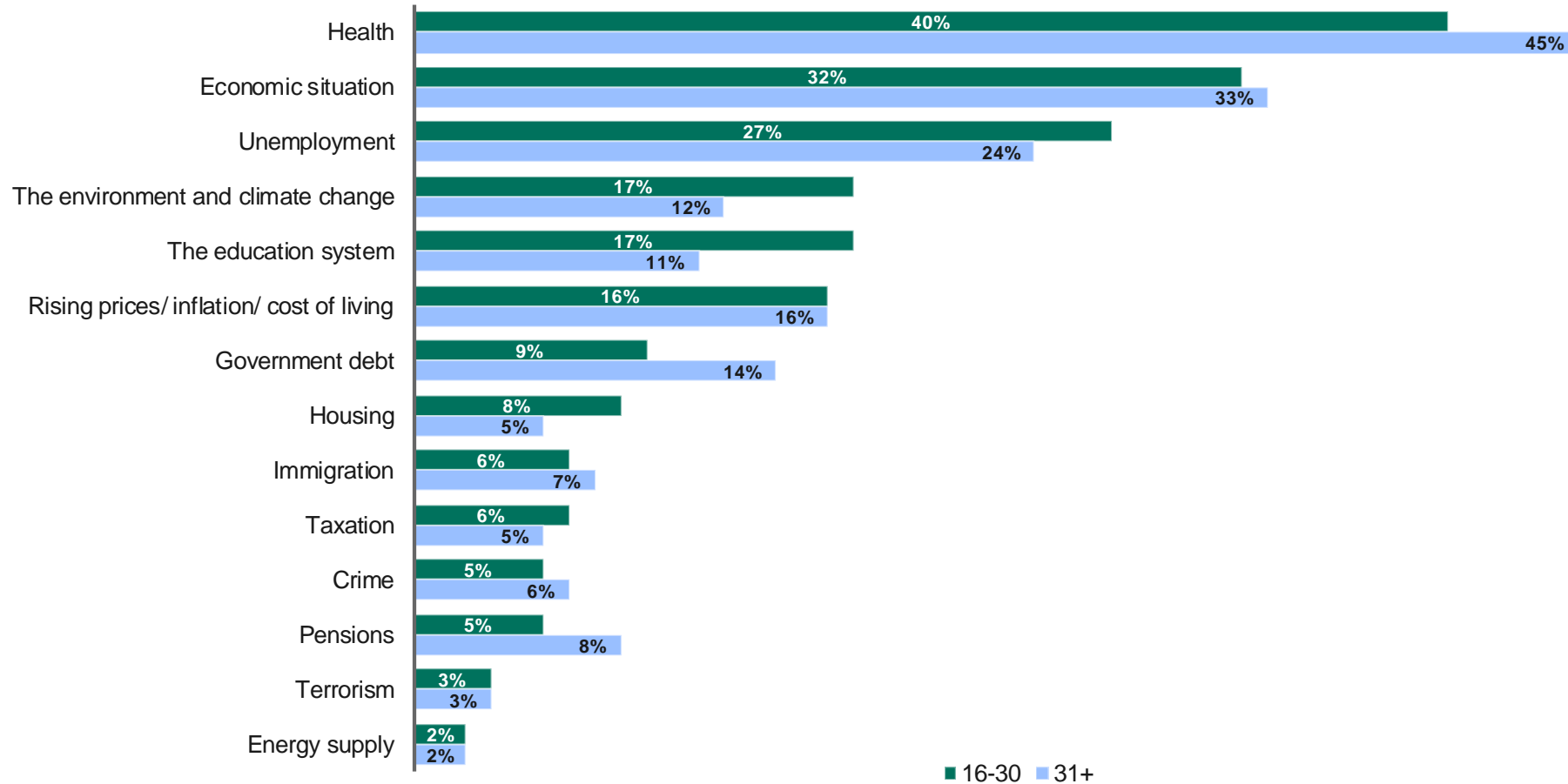
2 MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS AND VALUES



#SOCIETY #EDUCATION #MIGRATION
#ENVIRONMENT #SECURITY #SOCIAL

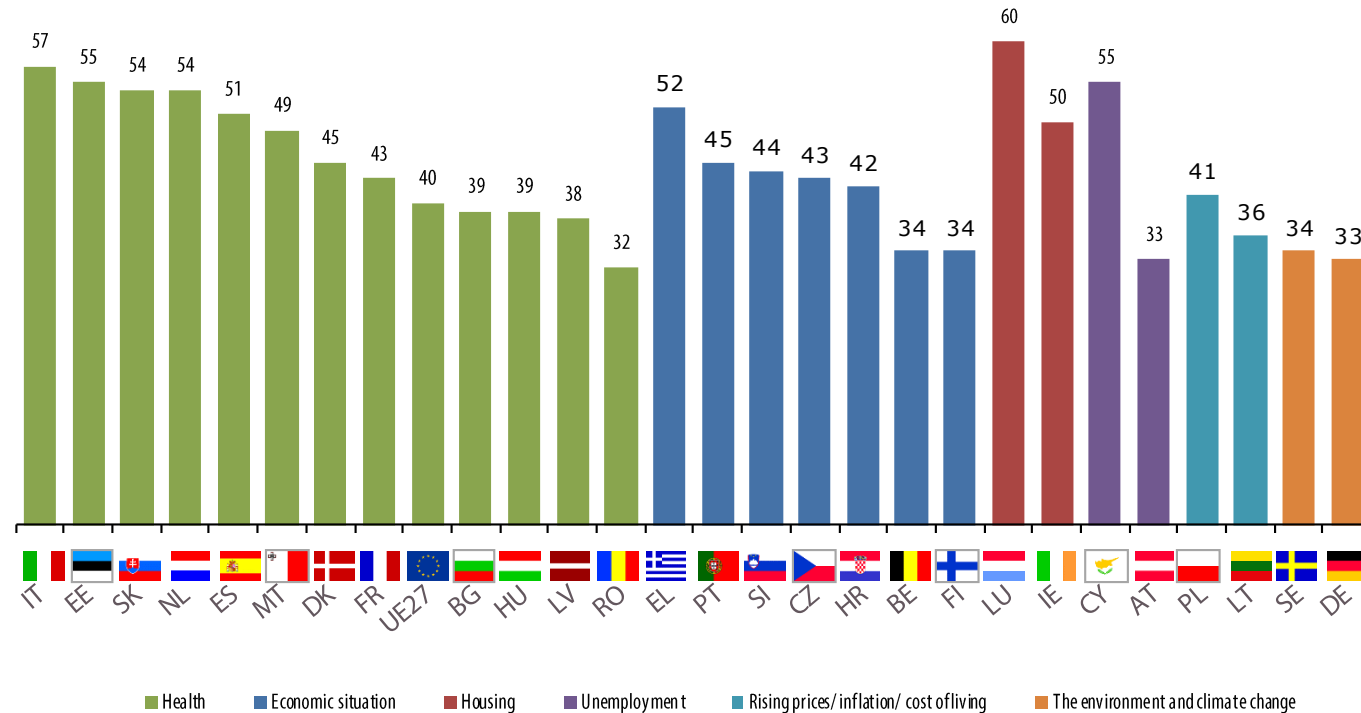
When it comes to the key issues that their country is facing, EU youths place health, the economic situation and unemployment first. Younger Europeans give more importance to unemployment, the environment, and the education system compared to citizens aged 31+, while they give relatively less importance to government debt and pensions

QA3a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? MAX. 2 ANSWERS



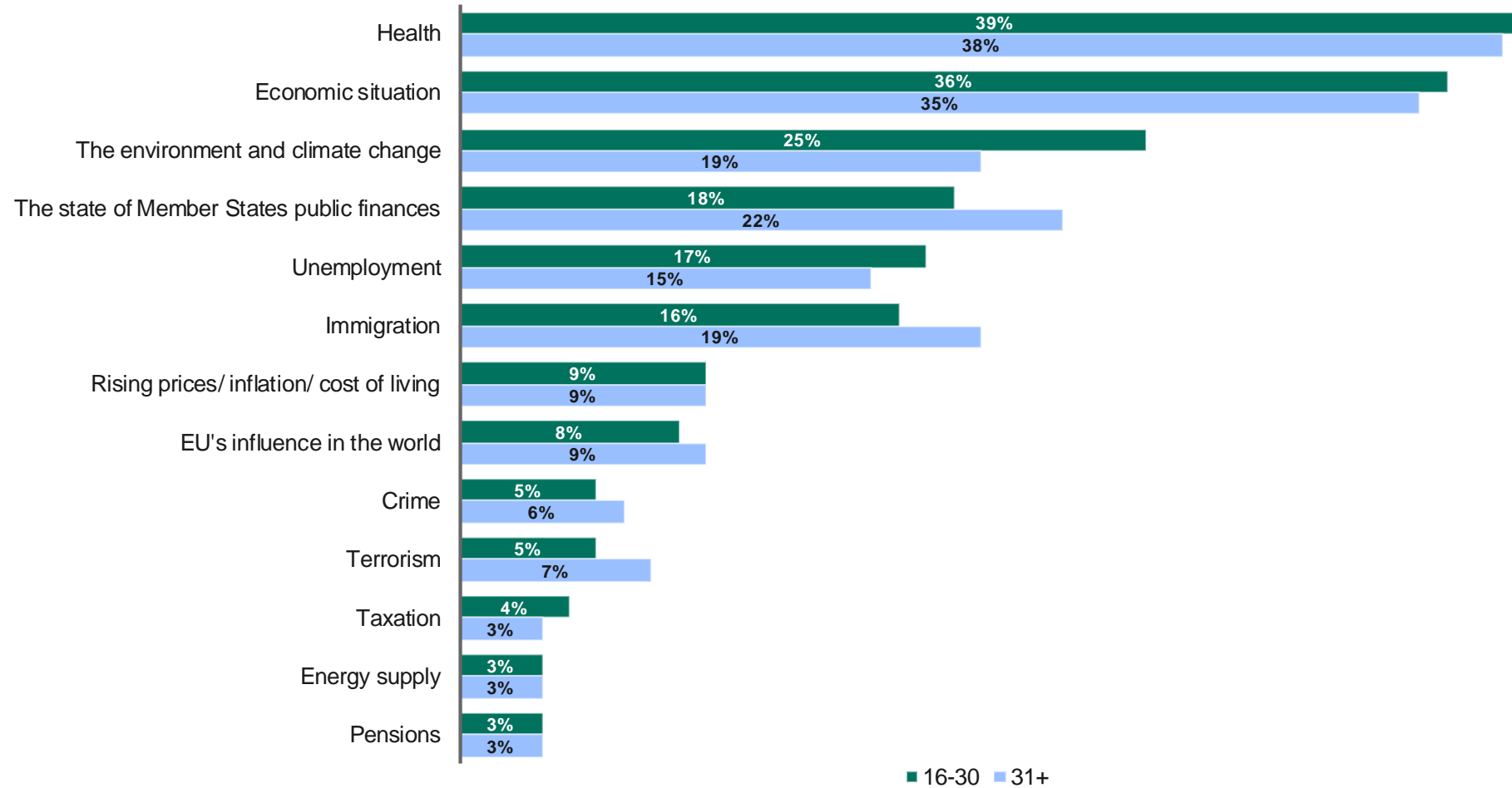
Young people in thirteen Member States consider health the most important issue faced by their country. The economic situation is their main concern in seven countries, but economy-related preoccupations like housing, unemployment and inflation represent young people’s main concern in six more states. The environment and climate change is the most important issue for youth in Germany and Sweden

QA3a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? MAX. 2 ANSWERS



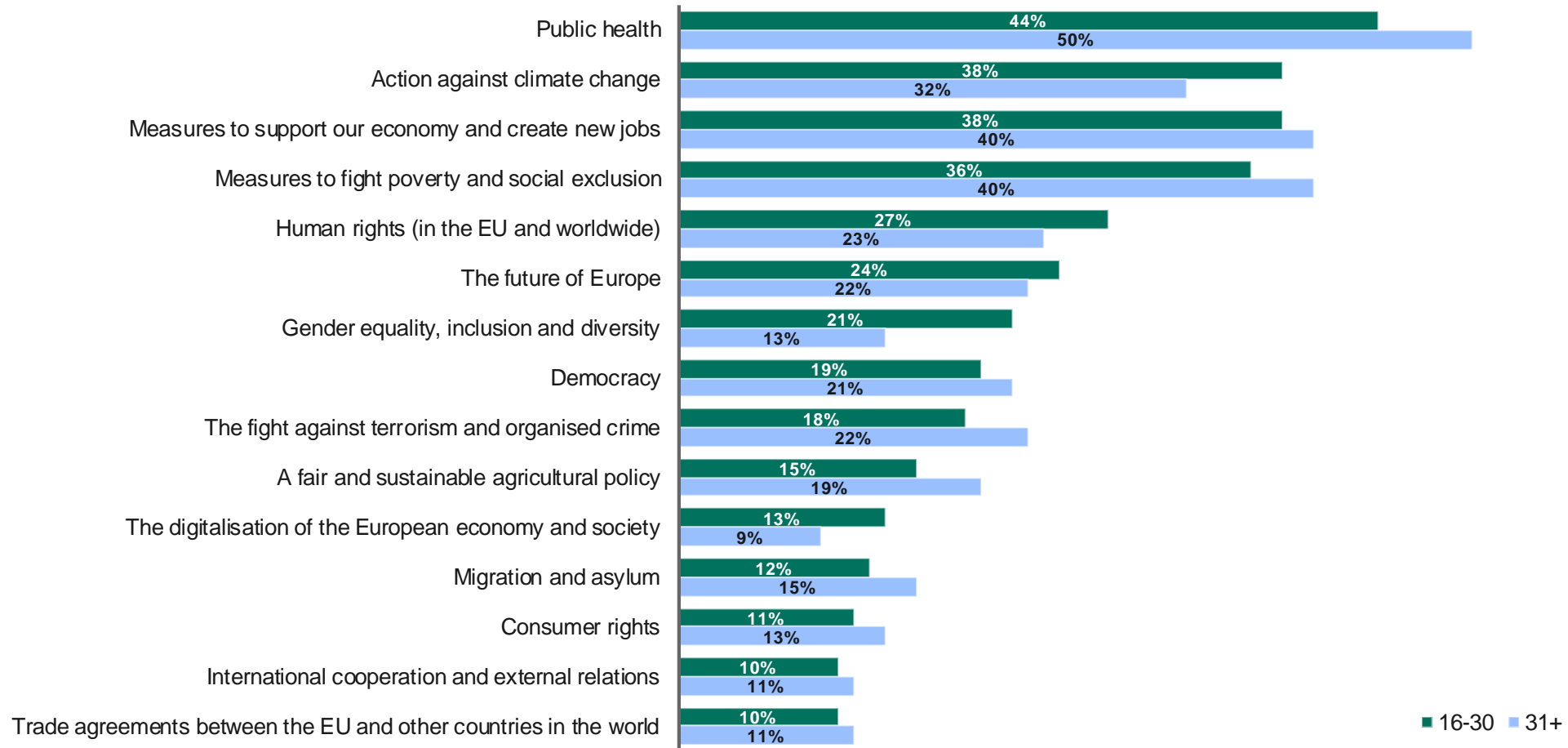
When thinking of issues that the EU is facing, EU youths tend to give slightly more importance to health and the economic situation, yet they place significantly more importance on the environment and climate change than 31+

QA5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? MAX. 2 ANSWERS



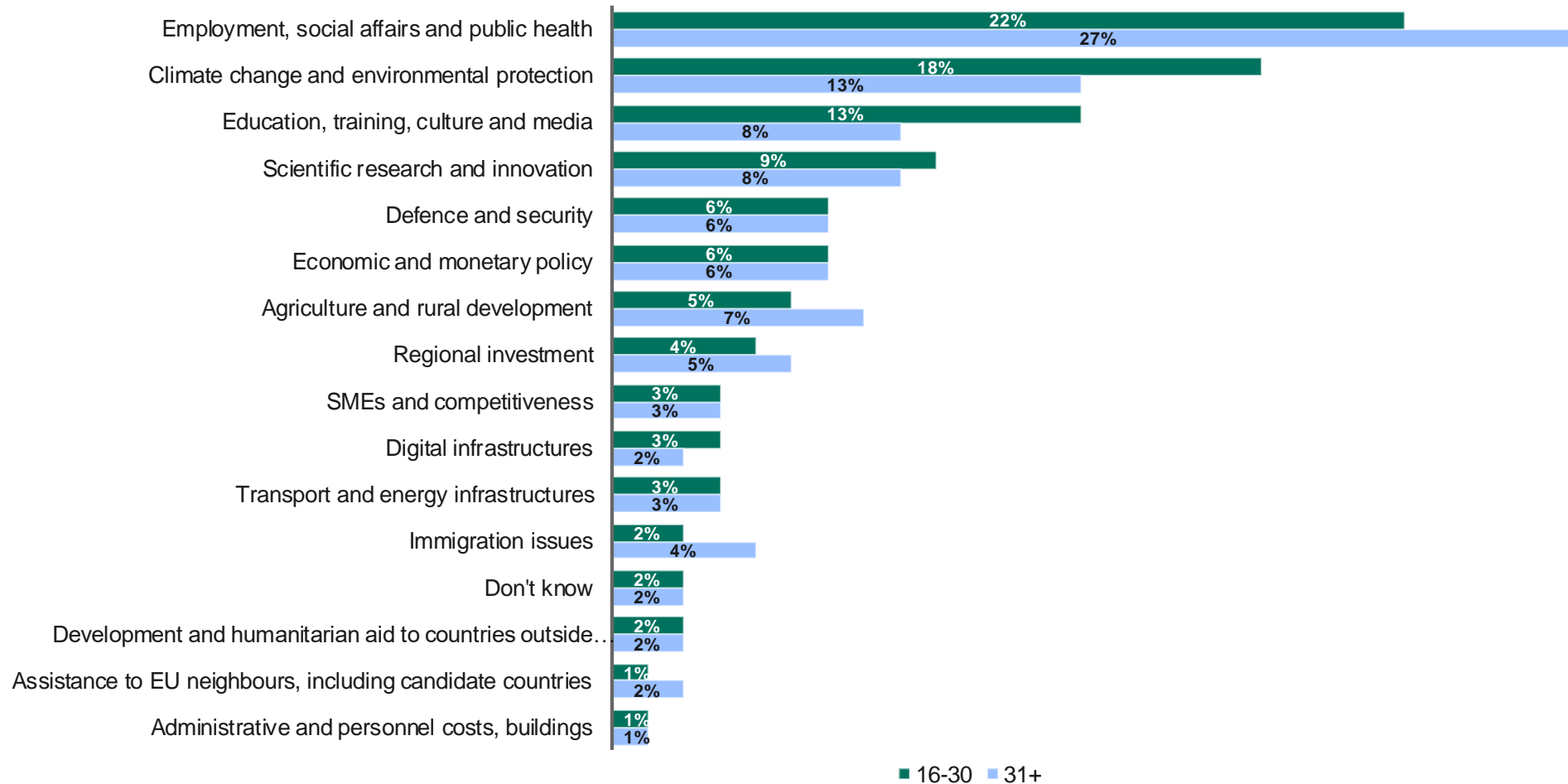
EU youths think that the European Parliament should address in priority the topics of public health, action against climate change, and measures to support the economy and create new jobs. Compared to the 31+ they place more importance on climate change, human rights and moreover, on gender equality, inclusion and diversity issues

QA9T Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (TOTAL) MAX. 4 ANSWERS



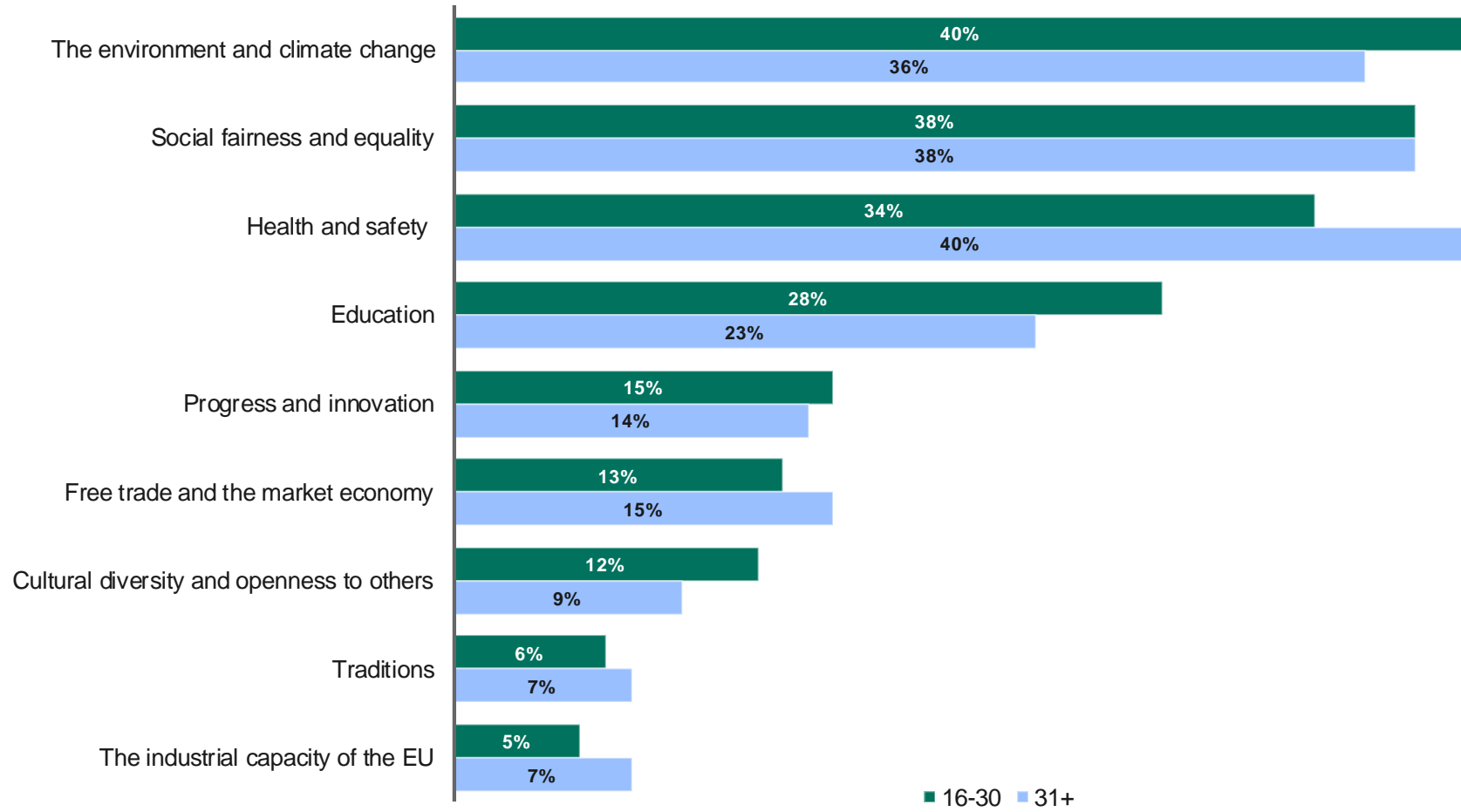
Young Europeans would like the EU budget to be spent on employment, social affairs and public health, followed by climate change and environmental protection, and education, training, culture and the media. Compared to older respondents, they are much more likely to mention these last two subjects

QD3 And on which of the following would you like EU budget to be spent? Firstly? And then? MAX. 4 ANSWERS



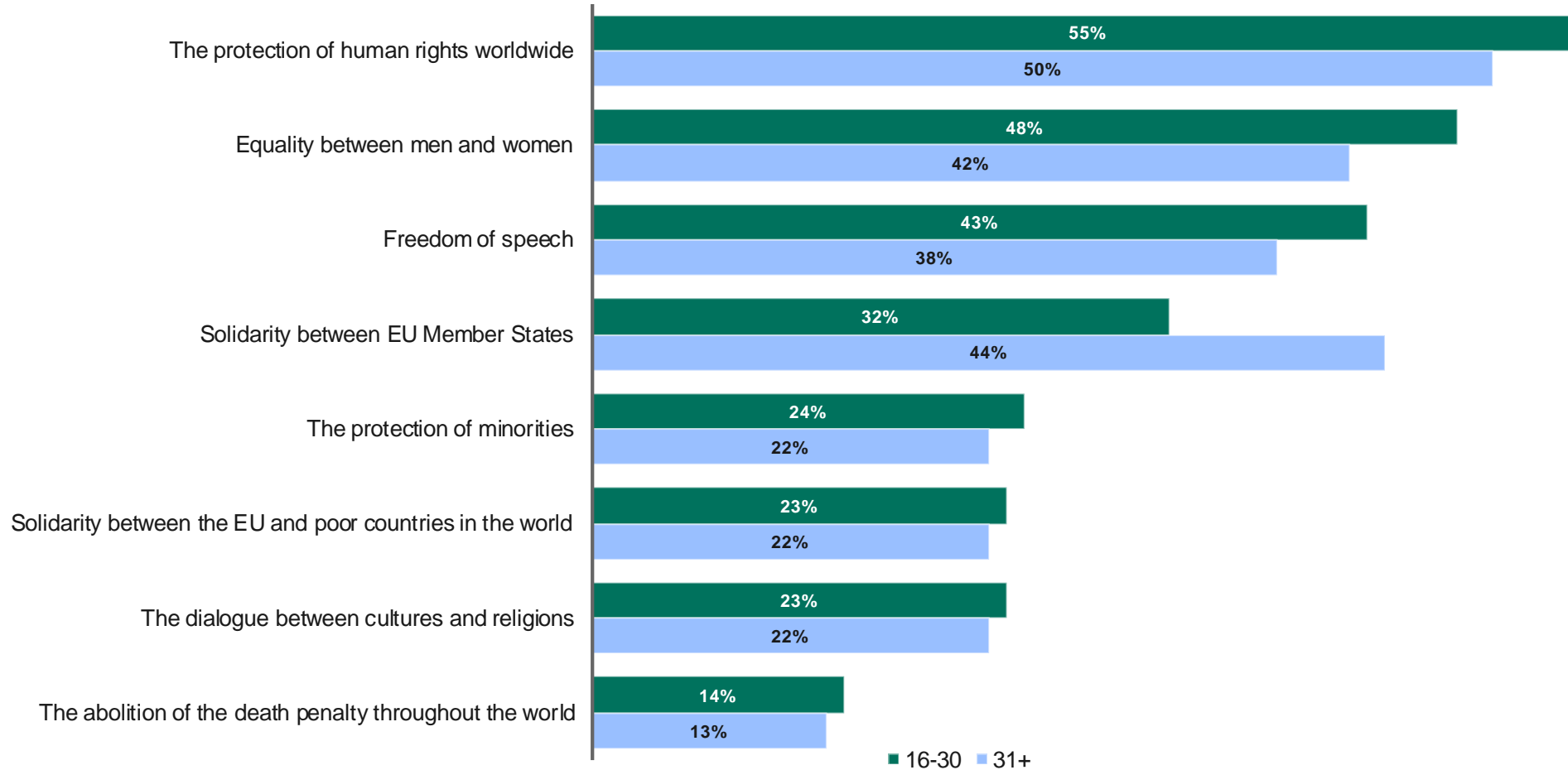
EU youths believe that the environment and climate change, social fairness and equality, and health and safety should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges. Compared to 31+, they are more likely to mention education among their top priorities

QA16 Which two of the following should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges? MAX. 2 ANSWERS



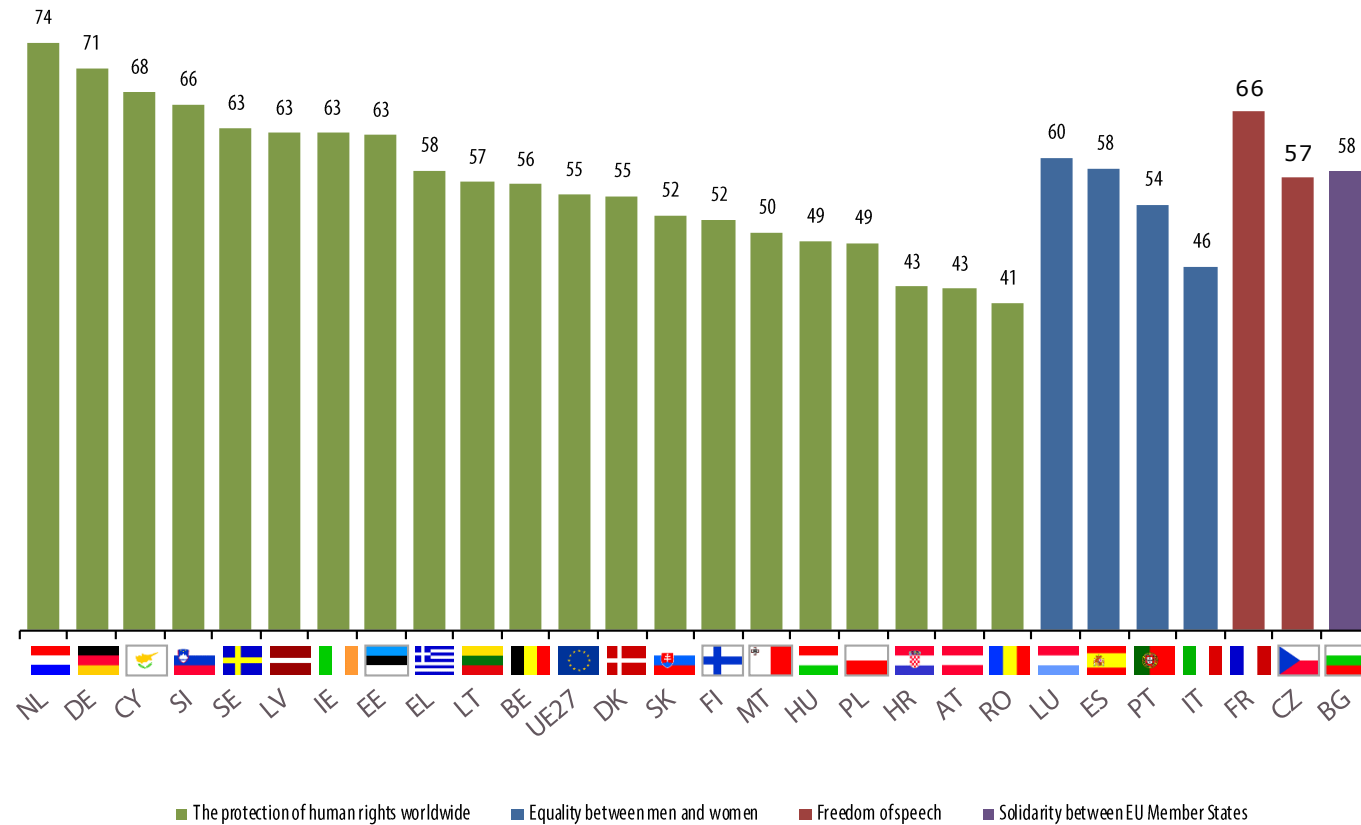
When it comes to the values that the European Parliament should defend, EU youths are more likely than 31+ citizens to name the protection of human rights worldwide, equality between men and women, and freedom of speech

QA6 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? MAX. 3 ANSWERS



In a majority of EU countries, young people are most likely to consider that the EU should defend the protection of human rights worldwide as a matter of priority

QA6 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? MAX. 3 ANSWERS



The image features three wind turbines in silhouette against a vibrant sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon, with some light clouds. The turbines are positioned at different heights and angles, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is serene and hopeful, representing clean energy and environmental sustainability.

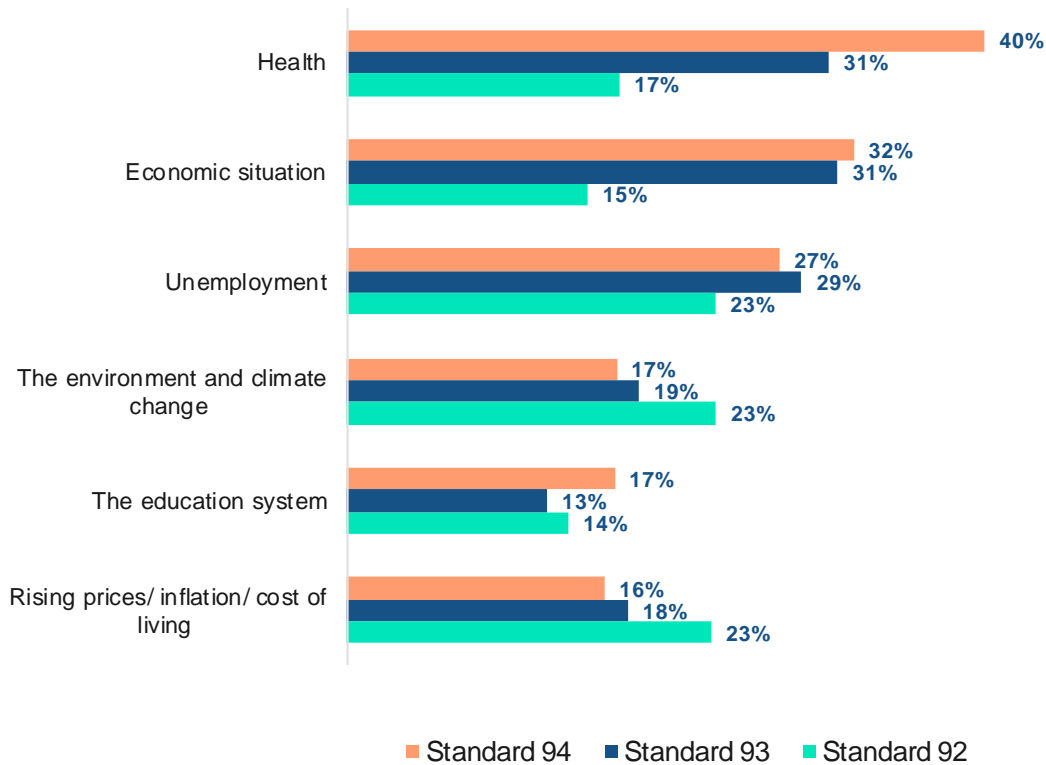
3 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

#SUSTAINABILITY

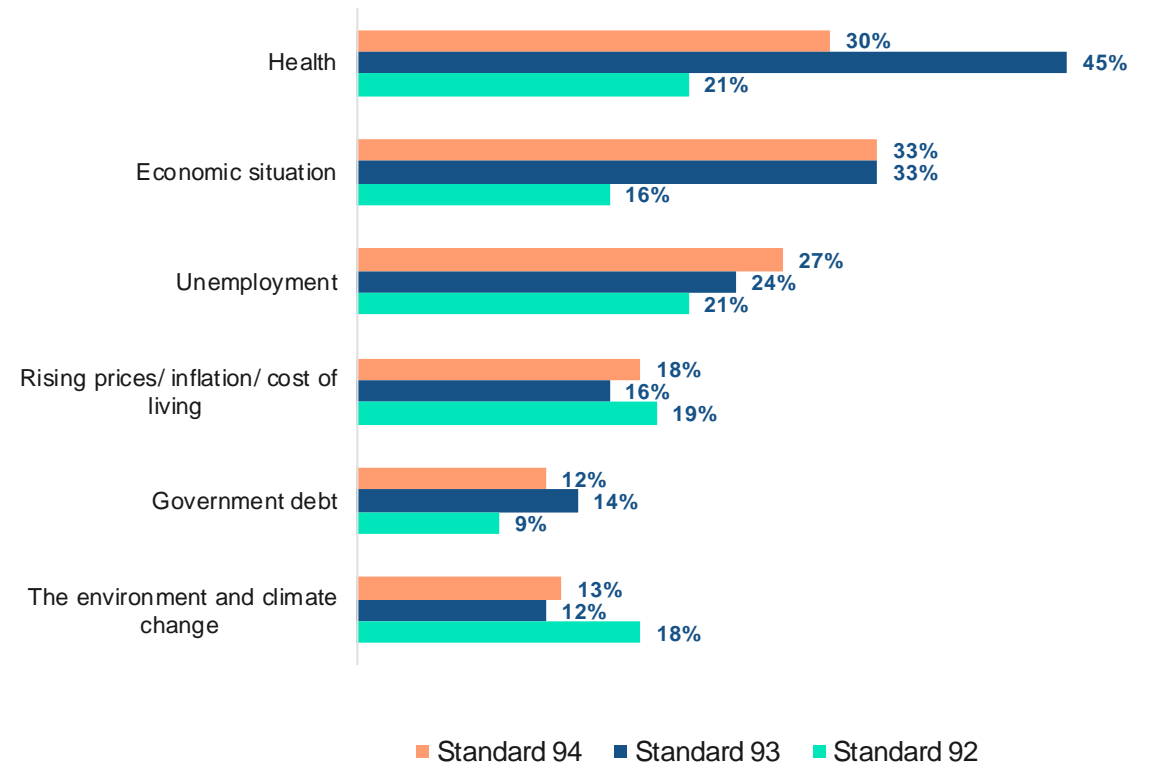
Young Europeans' concern about the environment and climate change has progressively decreased since the onset of the pandemic. However, EU youths keep placing more importance on climate change than 31+ EU citizens

QA3a What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? MAX. 2 ANSWERS

Most important issues EU youth feel their country is facing at the moment



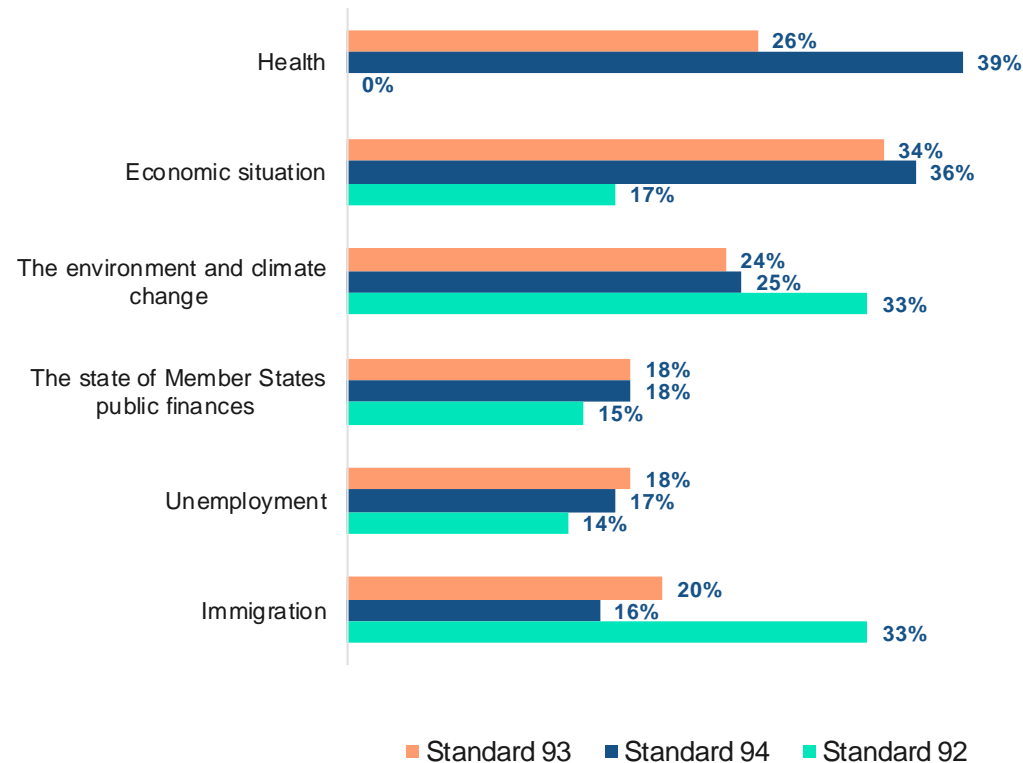
Most important issues 31+ EU citizens feel their country is facing at the moment



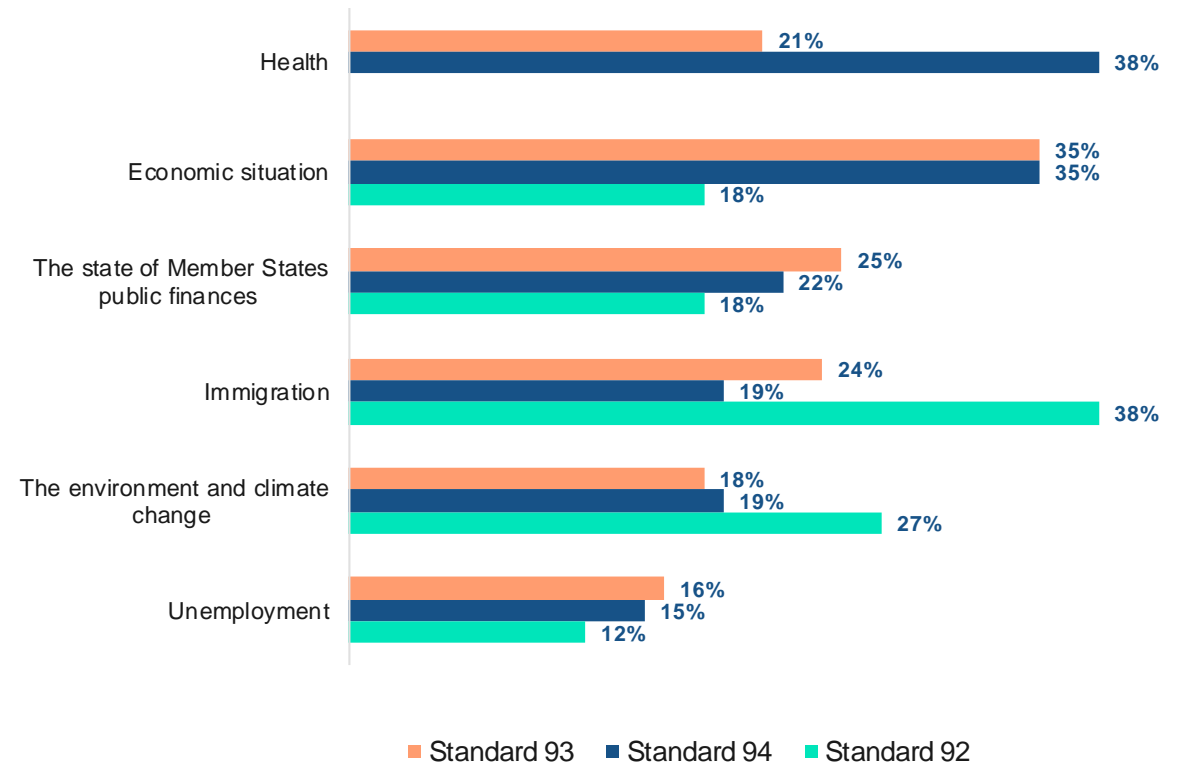
Although EU youths' concern for the environment and climate change has decreased, they remain more prone than 31+ EU citizens to consider that climate change is a crucial issue for the European Union at the moment

QA5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? MAX. 2 ANSWERS

Most important issues EU youth feel the EU is facing at the moment

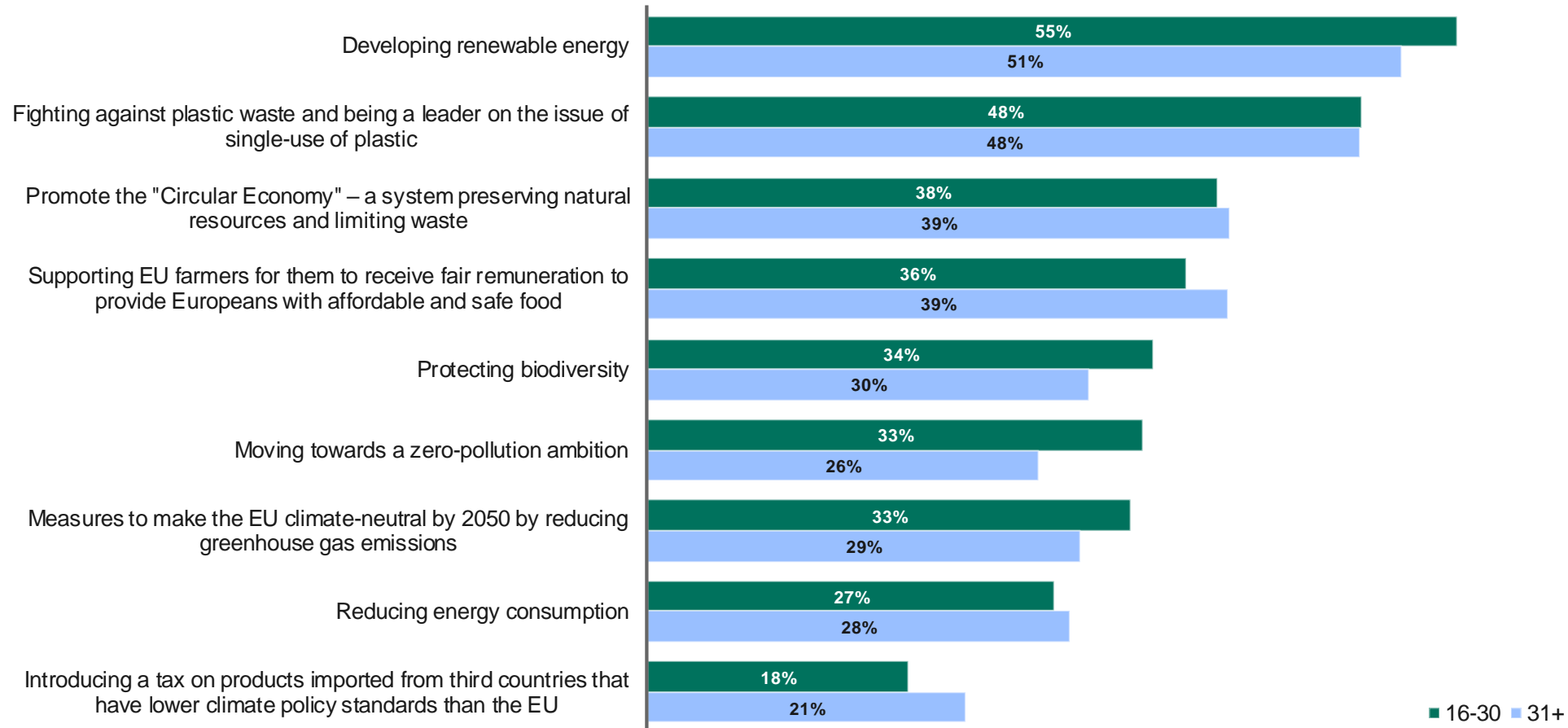


Most important issues 31+ EU citizens feel the EU is facing at the moment



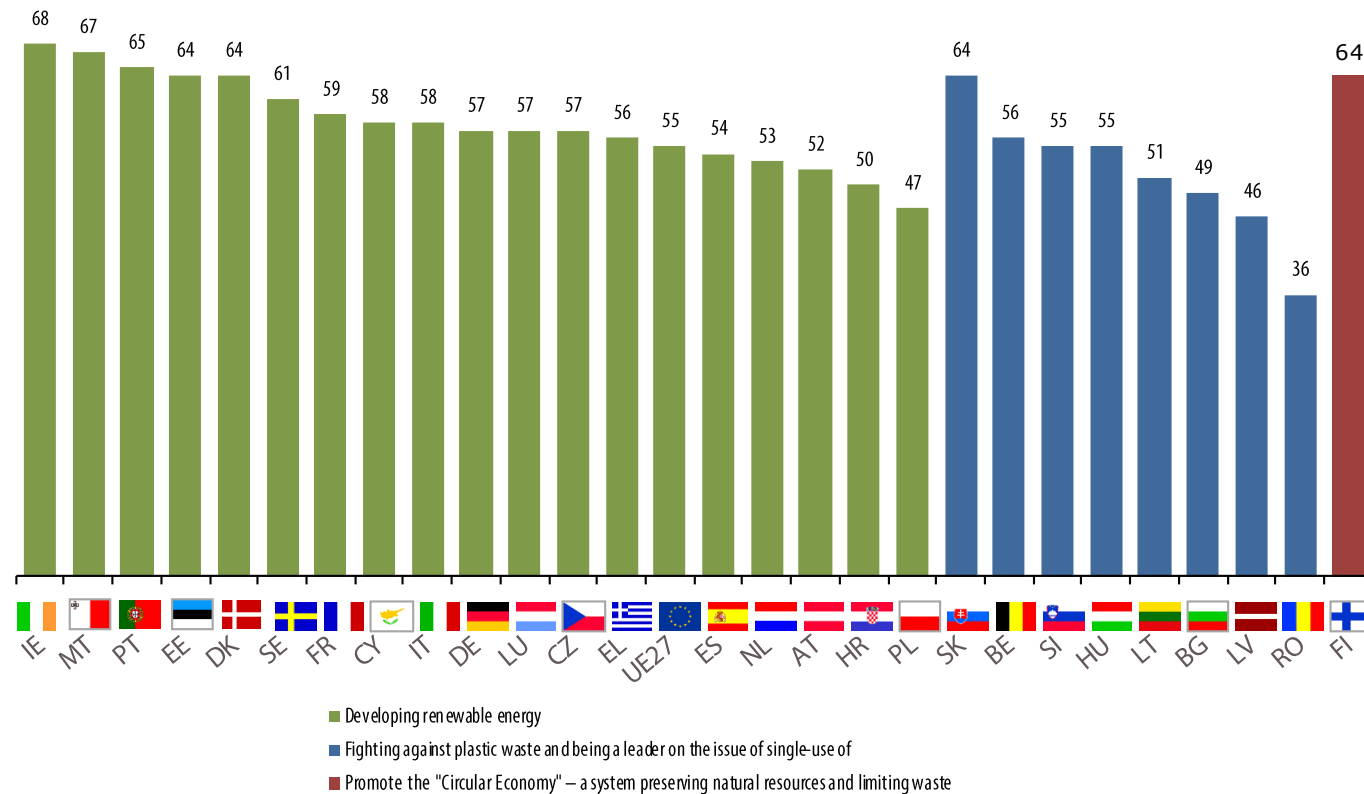
EU youths believe that developing renewable energy, fighting against plastic waste and promoting the “Circular Economy” should be the top objectives in a European Green Deal

QB5 In your opinion, which of the following objectives should be given top priority in a European Green Deal, a set of measures to protect the environment and fight climate change? MAX. 4 ANSWERS



In a majority of EU Member States, youth think that developing renewable energy should be given top priority in a European Green Deal. Fighting against plastic waste is the preferred item in eight more countries, while Finland is the only Member State where young people prioritise the promotion of the “Circular Economy”

QB5 In your opinion, which of the following objectives should be given top priority in a European Green Deal, a set of measures to protect the environment and fight climate change? MAX. 4 ANSWERS



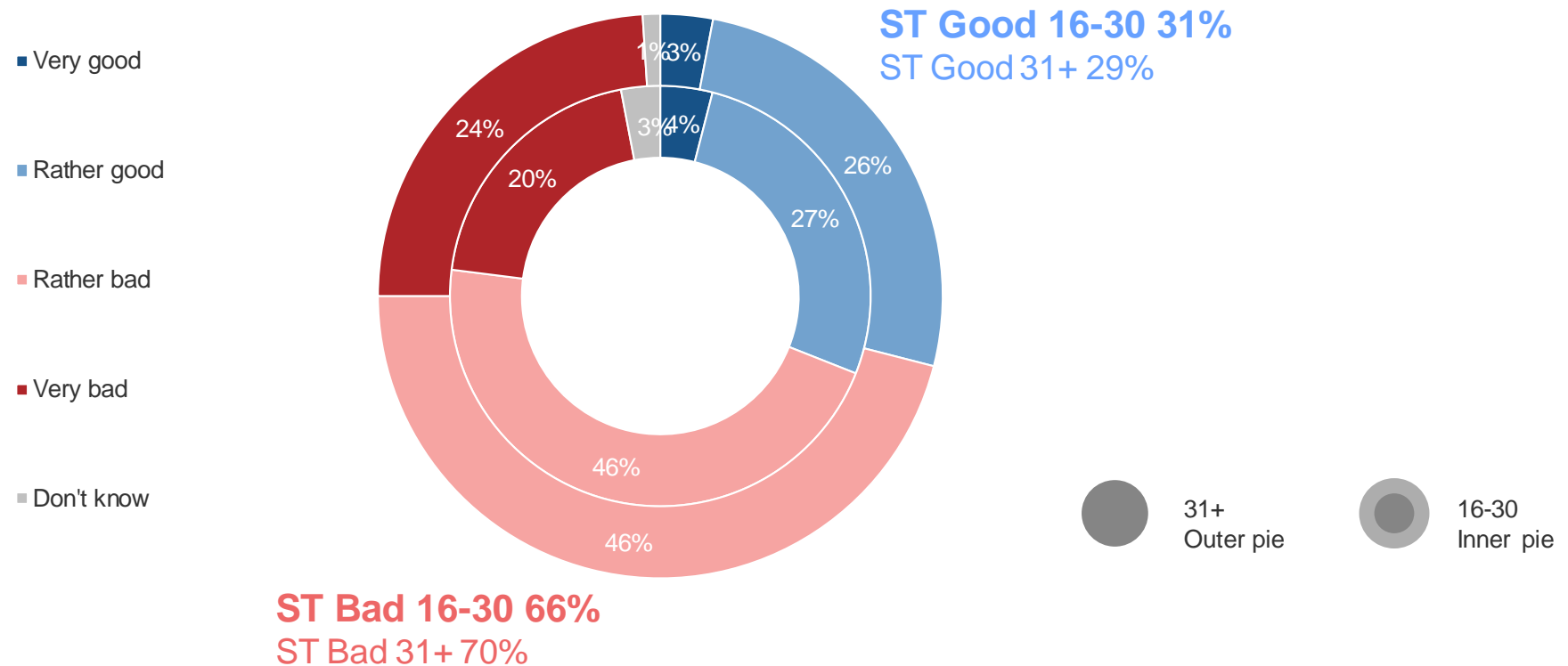


4 THE ECONOMY AND JOBS

#ECONOMY #WORK

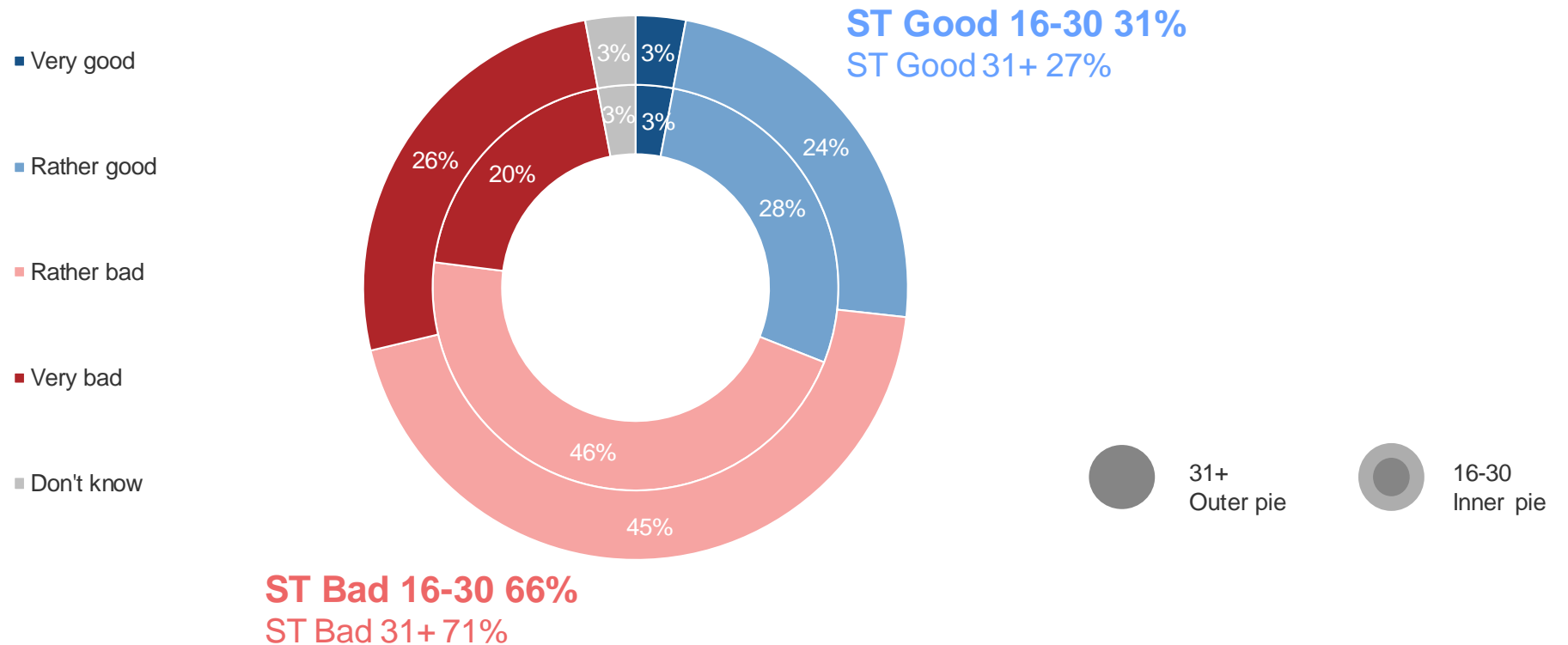
Young Europeans' opinion about their country's economic situation is largely negative and similar to that of EU citizens aged 31+. However, EU youths are slightly less likely to judge the state of their national economy as very bad

QA1a How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? : The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy



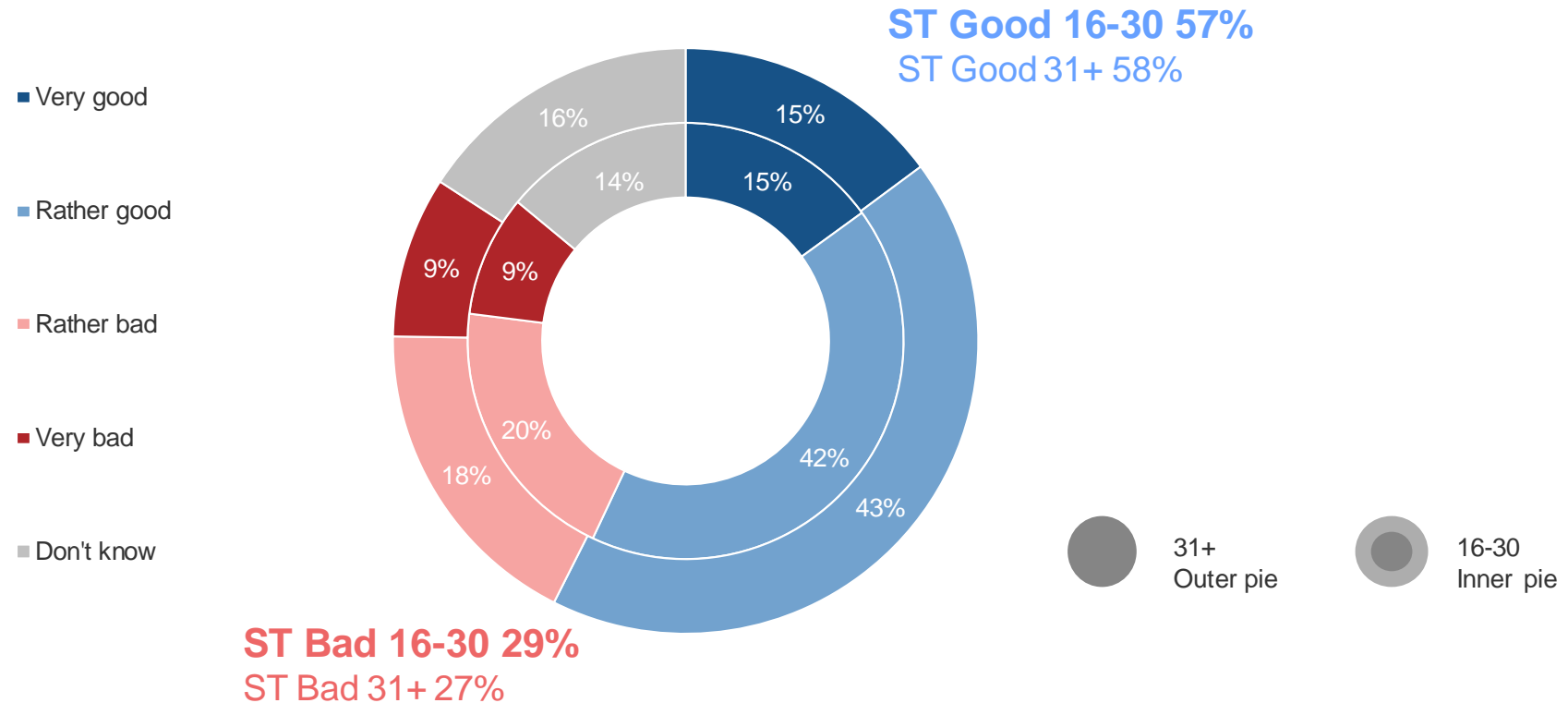
A majority of young Europeans consider the employment situation in their country as bad (66%), although they are less likely than older respondents to think that it is very bad and more likely to judge it as good

QA1a How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? : The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



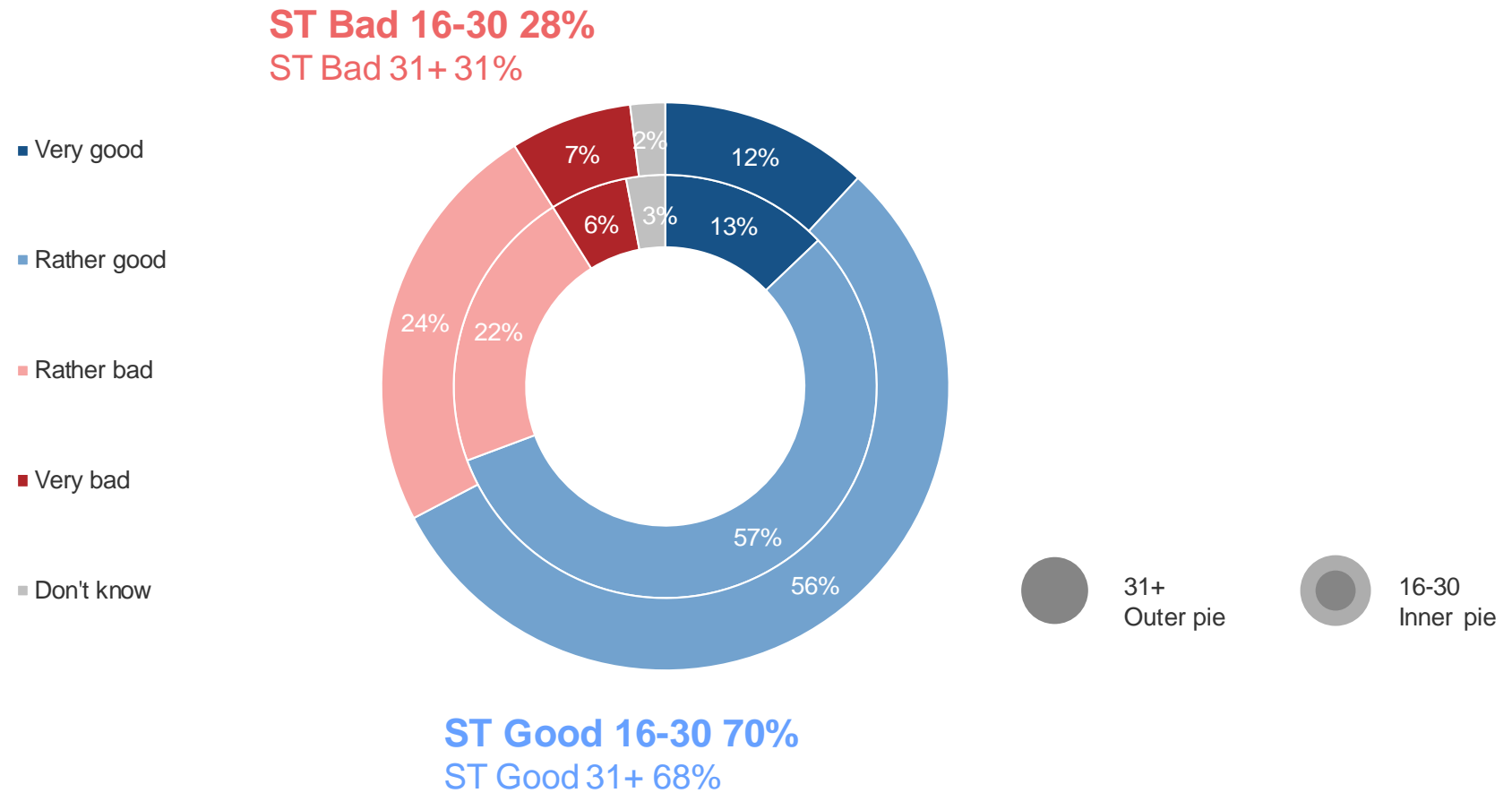
A majority of young Europeans (57%) describe their personal job situation as rather (42%) or very good (15%). However, close to three in ten are currently experiencing a rather bad (20%) or very bad (9%) job situation

QA1a How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? : Your personal job situation



A large majority of young Europeans (70%) consider their household's financial situation as rather or very good. Still, almost 30% of them live in households that are experiencing a bad financial situation

QA1a How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? : The financial situation of your household



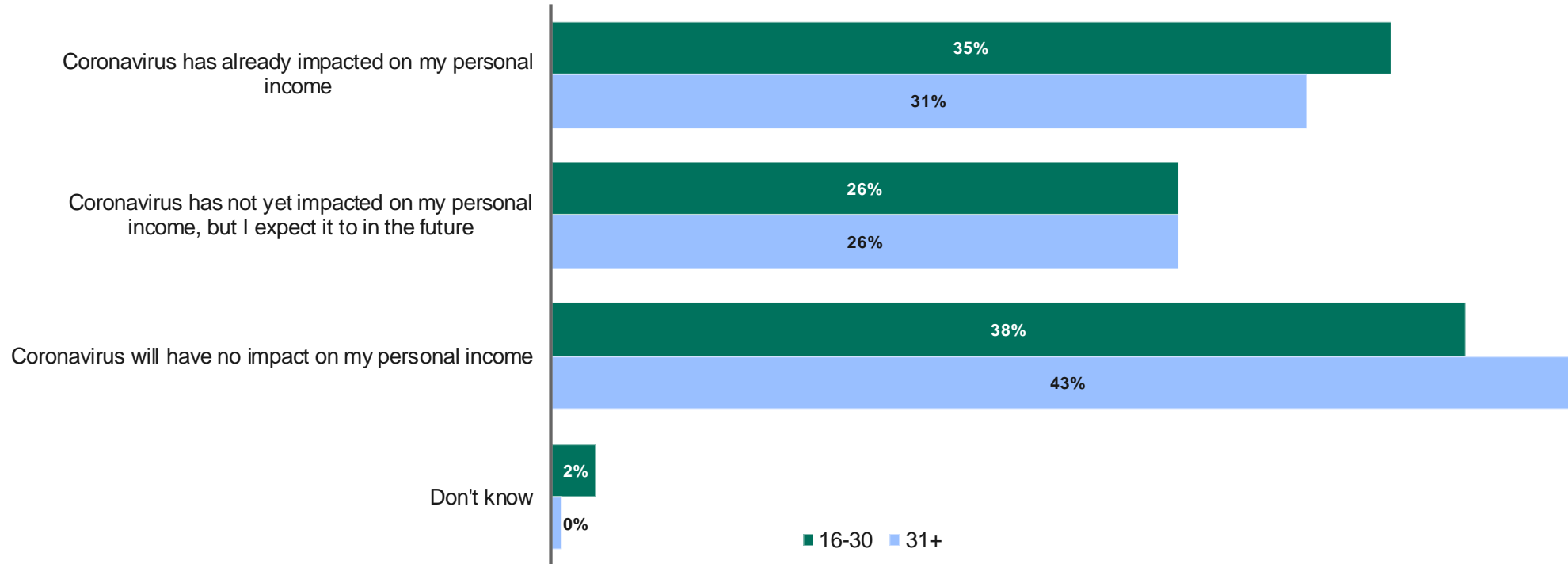
5 THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

#HEALTH #SOCIETY



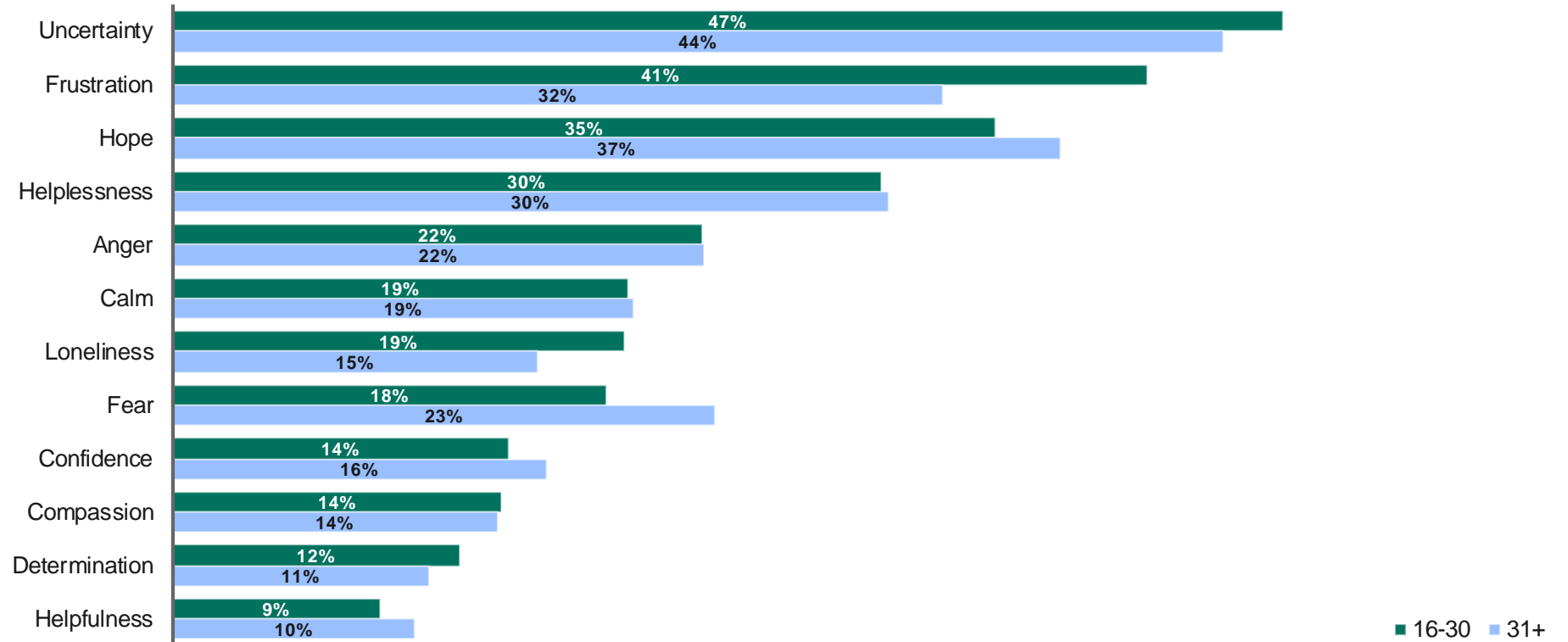
More than a third of young Europeans (35%) have already seen their income impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This is more than those aged 31+. Symmetrically, they are less likely to consider that the pandemic will have no impact on their personal income (38% vs 43%)

QA8 Thinking about your personal income, which one of these statements comes closest to your current situation?



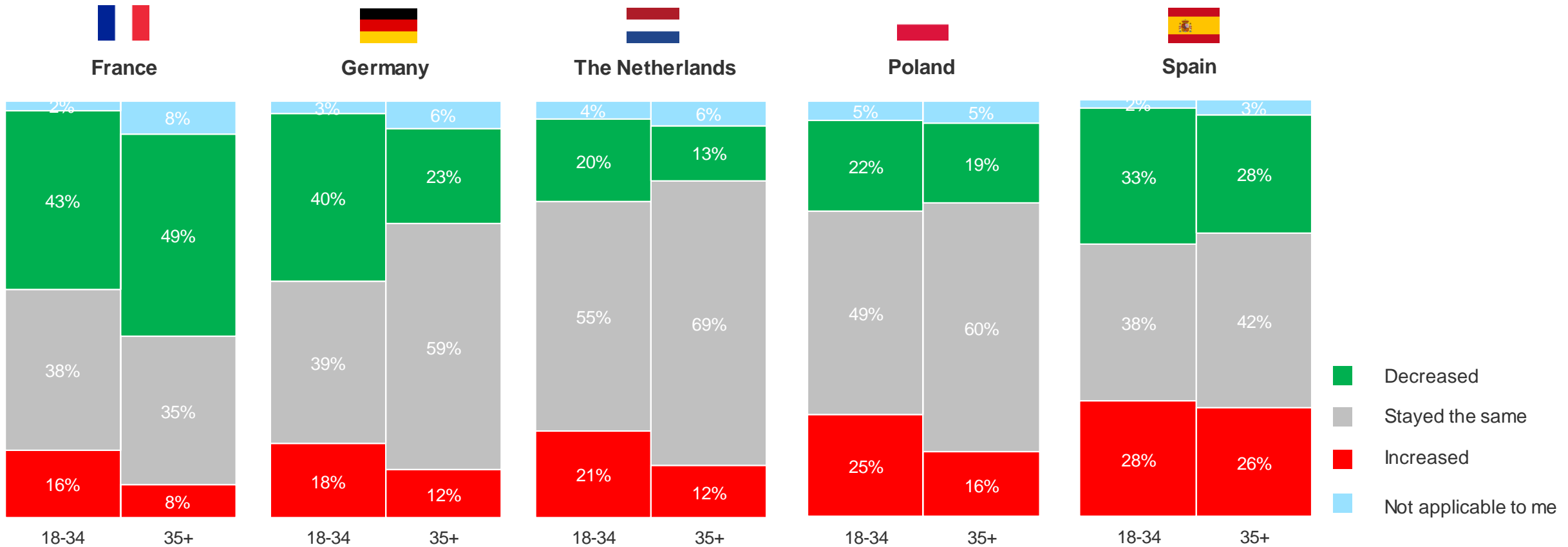
EU youths tend to describe themselves mostly as uncertain and frustrated. Although hope is their third most-mentioned feeling, they are less hopeful, more lonely, and in particular more frustrated than older respondents

QA7 What feelings best describe your current emotional status? MAX. 4 ANSWERS



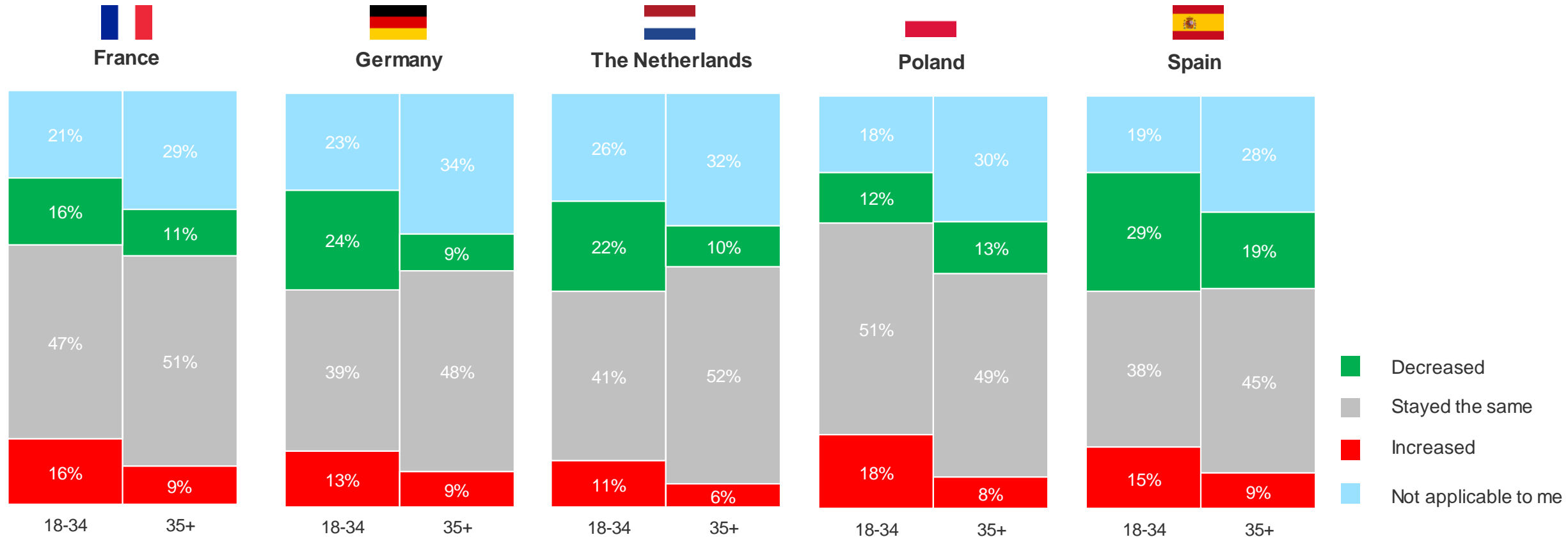
In France, Germany and Spain, a significant number of young people declare that the time dedicated to their hobbies decreased during the lockdowns. In the Netherlands and Poland, the answers “increased” outweigh “decreased”

Q3r2: Governments in some countries implemented lockdowns to try to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you experienced a lockdown, to what extent did it have an impact on your behaviours and activities from the following: **Doing hobbies** -



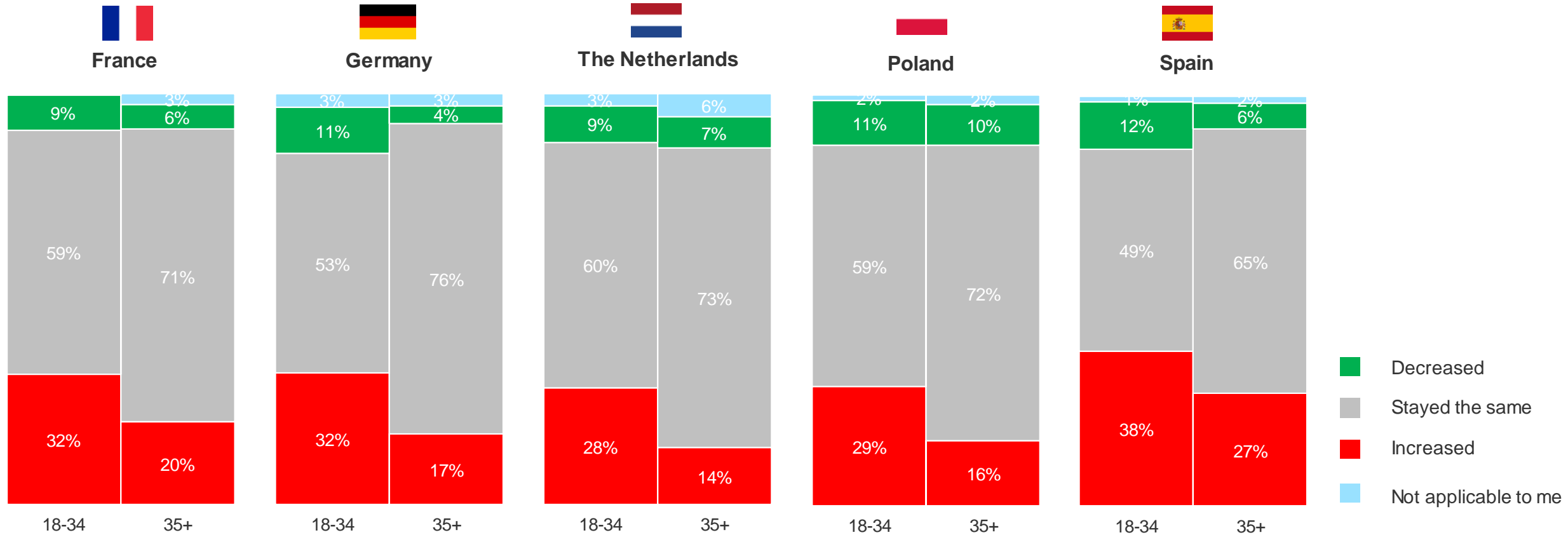
Alcohol consumption among EU youths remained generally unchanged during the lockdowns. In most countries analysed, the alcohol consumption index (decrease-increase) was positive (or null for France), with Poland being the exception

Q3r3: Governments in some countries implemented lockdowns to try to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you experienced a lockdown, to what extent did it have an impact on your behaviours and activities from the following: **Drinking alcohol -**



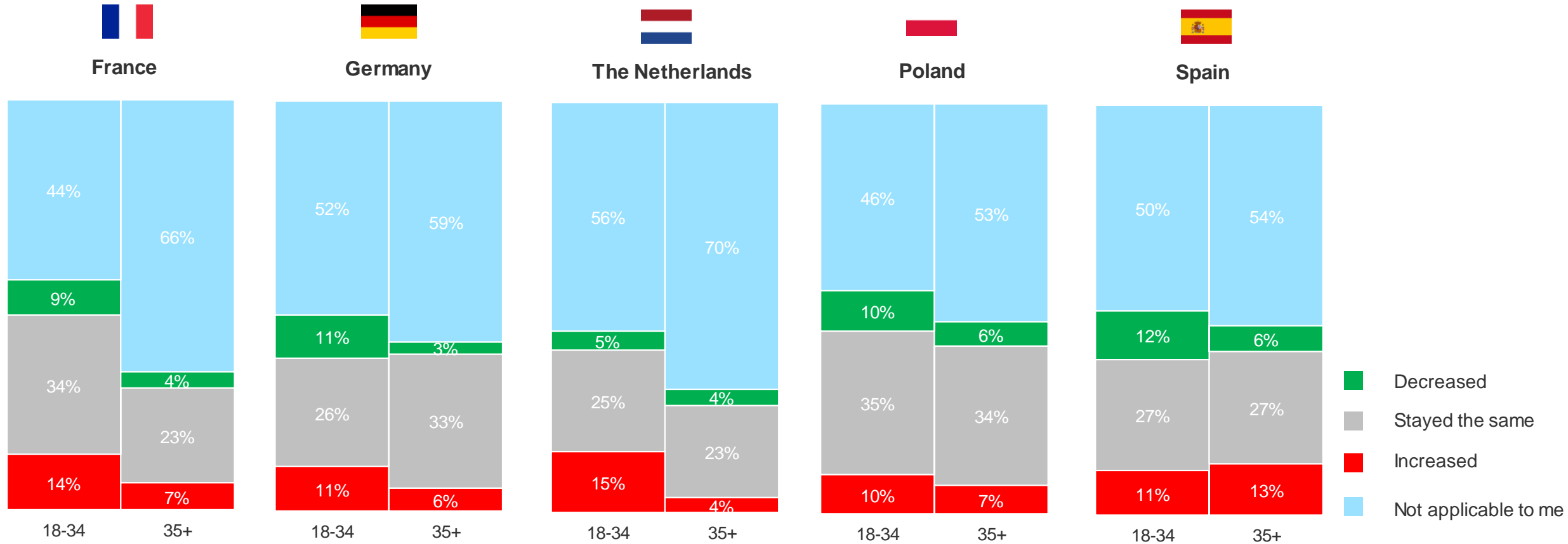
Food consumption increased during the lockdowns for a significant percentage of young people, more than for older people

Q3r5: Governments in some countries implemented lockdowns to try to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you experienced a lockdown, to what extent did it have an impact on your behaviours and activities from the following: **The amount of food I ate** -



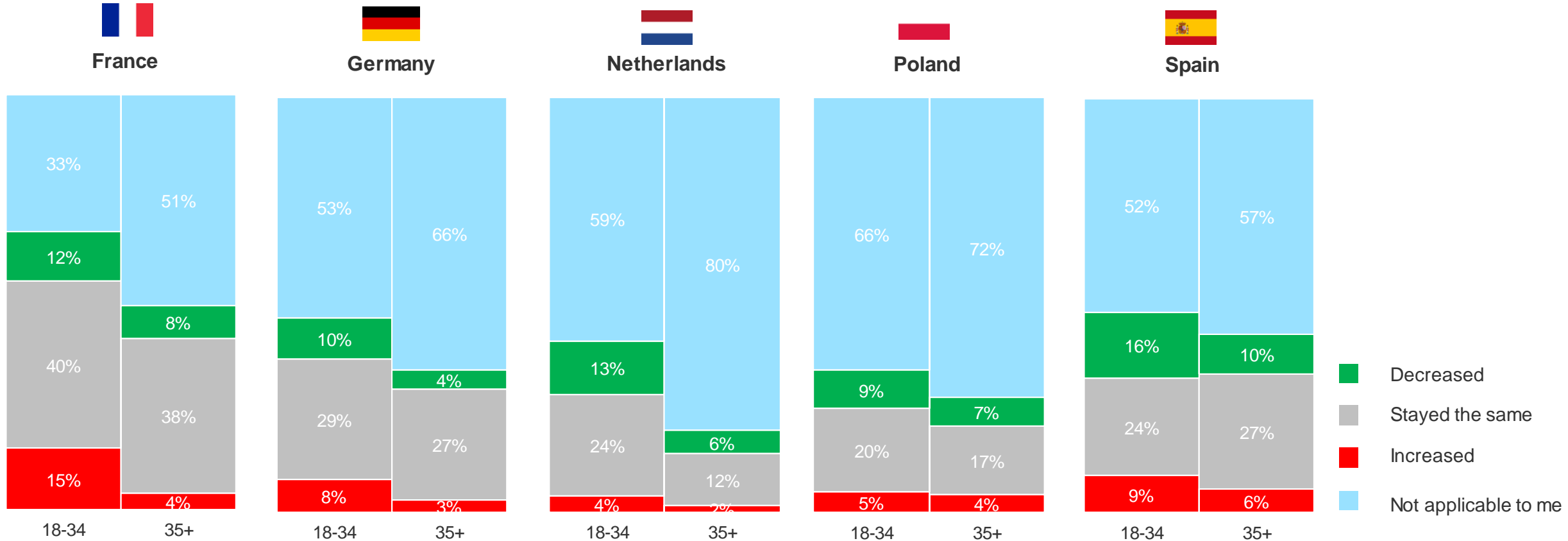
Tobacco consumption increased more among younger individuals than older ones during the lockdowns, although in Germany, Poland and Spain the increase was offset by an equal or higher decrease in tobacco consumption

Q3r4: Governments in some countries implemented lockdowns to try to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you experienced a lockdown, to what extent did it have an impact on your behaviours and activities from the following: **Smoking tobacco** -



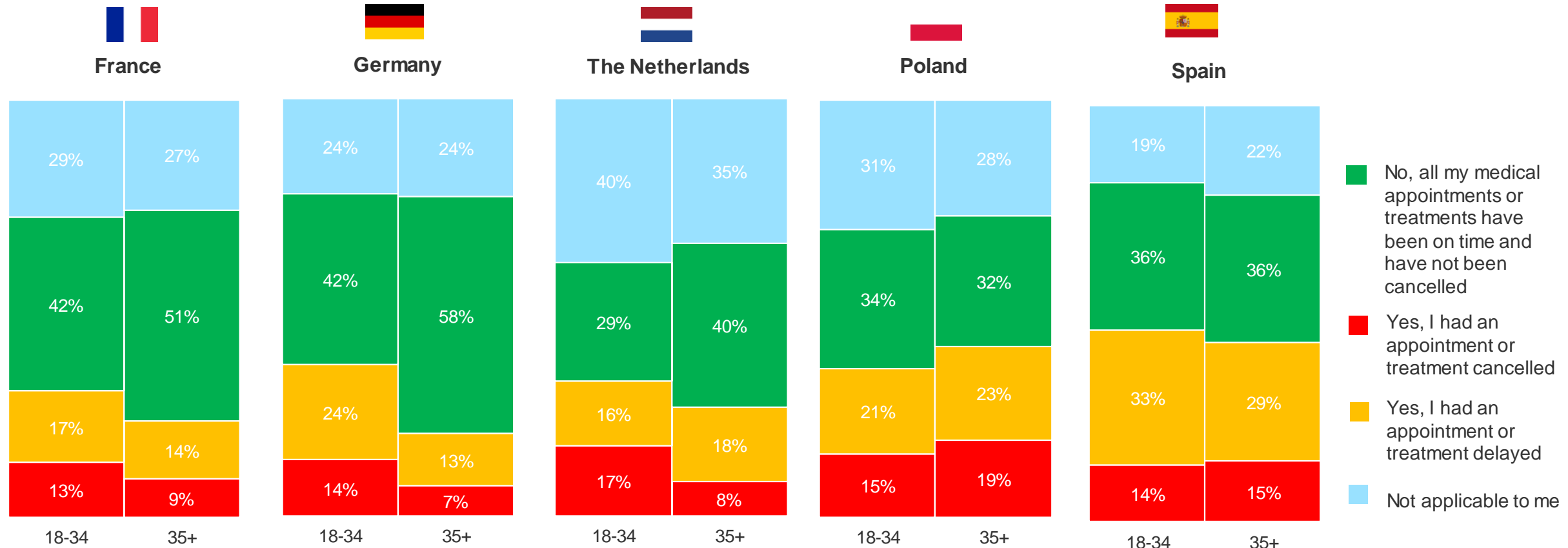
In four out of the five countries analysed, gambling has more decreased than increased during the lockdowns, with France being an exception in this regard

Q3r8: Governments in some countries implemented lockdowns to try to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you experienced a lockdown, to what extent did it have an impact on your behaviours and activities from the following: **Gambling** -



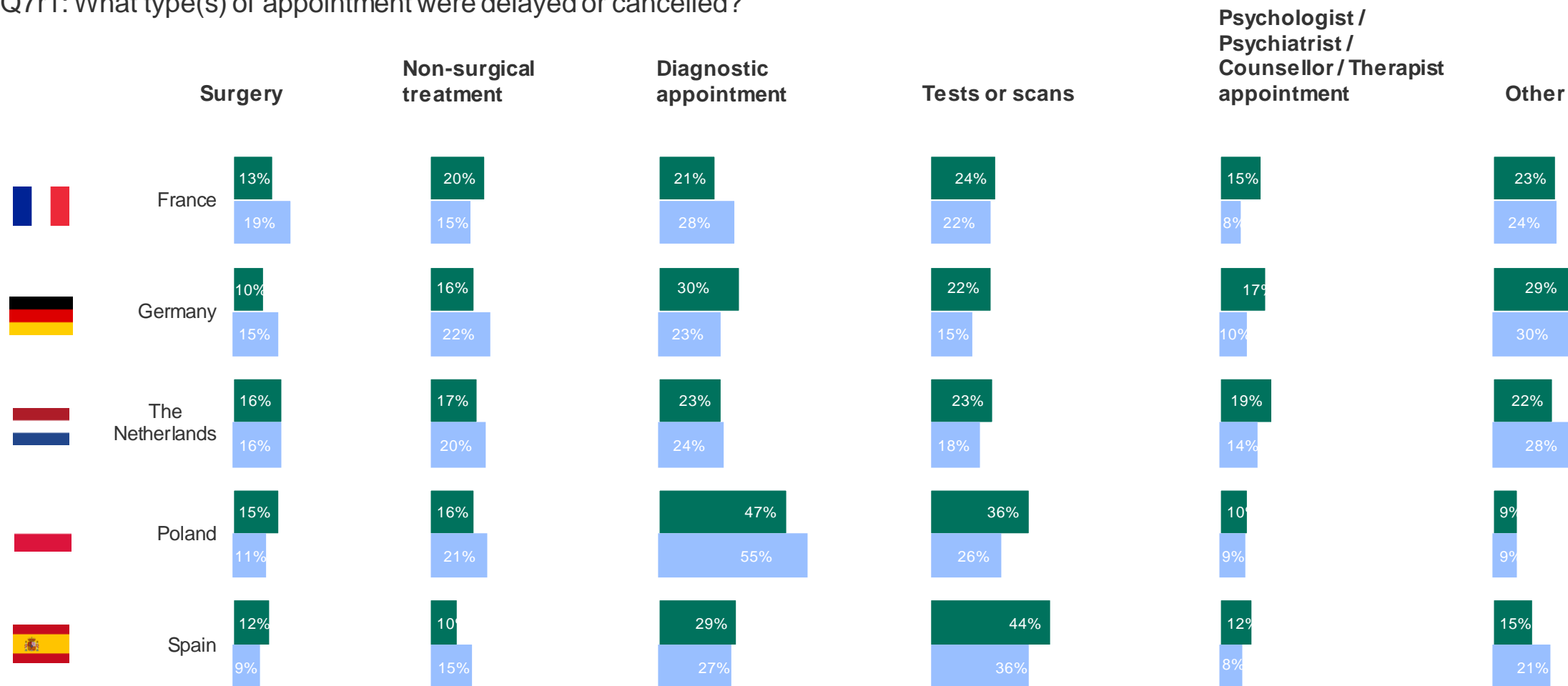
Despite being relatively less concerned, youths experienced delays and cancellation of healthcare appointments and treatments as much as older people and even more in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain

Q6r1: As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, have you experienced any delay or cancellation of appointments or treatments by a hospital, or another healthcare professional (e.g. a doctor, nurse, psychologist)



Young people were more likely to have appointments for tests or scans or mental health-related appointments delayed or cancelled compared to older people

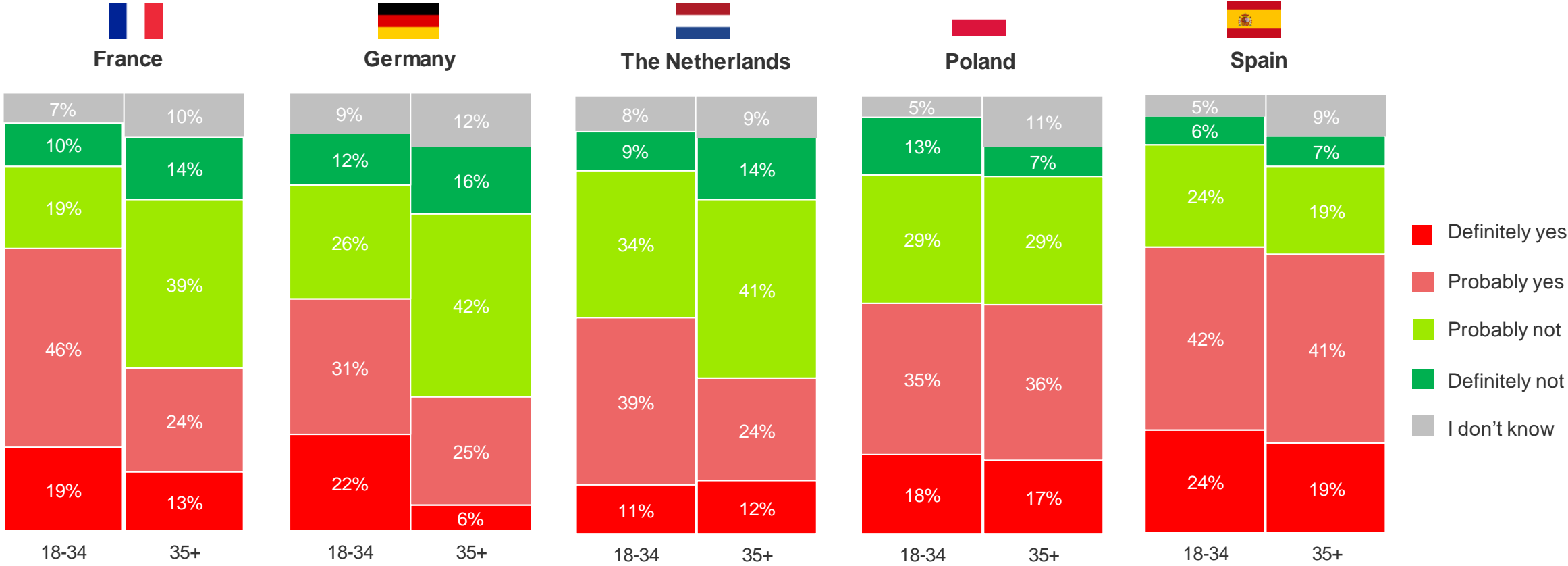
Q7r1: What type(s) of appointment were delayed or cancelled?



To those respondents who had an appointment delayed or cancelled

At least half of young respondents in every country think that the delay or cancellation of their medical appointments will have a negative impact on their health. In France, Germany and the Netherlands, youths are significantly more likely to hold this opinion compared to older respondents

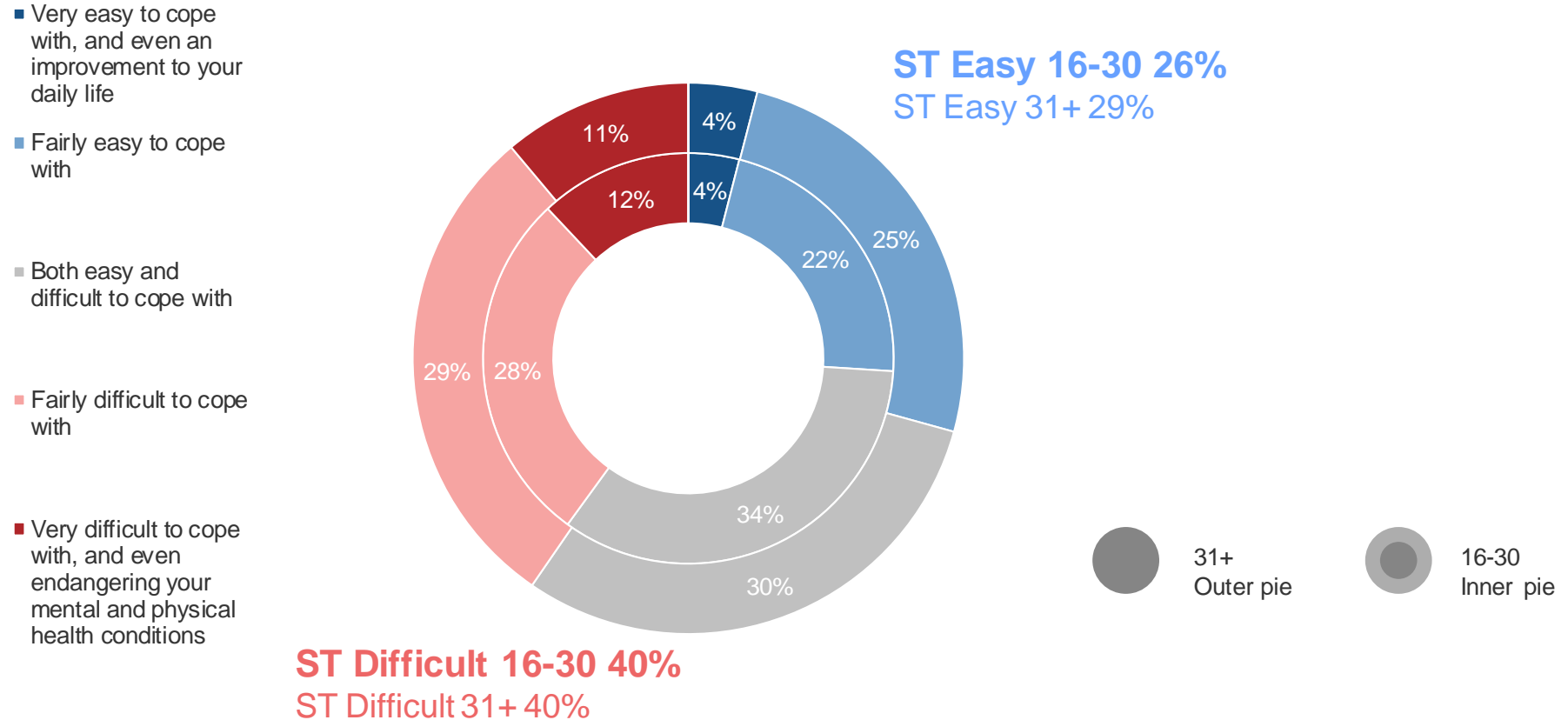
Q8: If you experienced a delayed or cancelled treatment or medical appointment, do you think this may have a negative impact on your health?



To those respondents who had an appointment delayed or cancelled

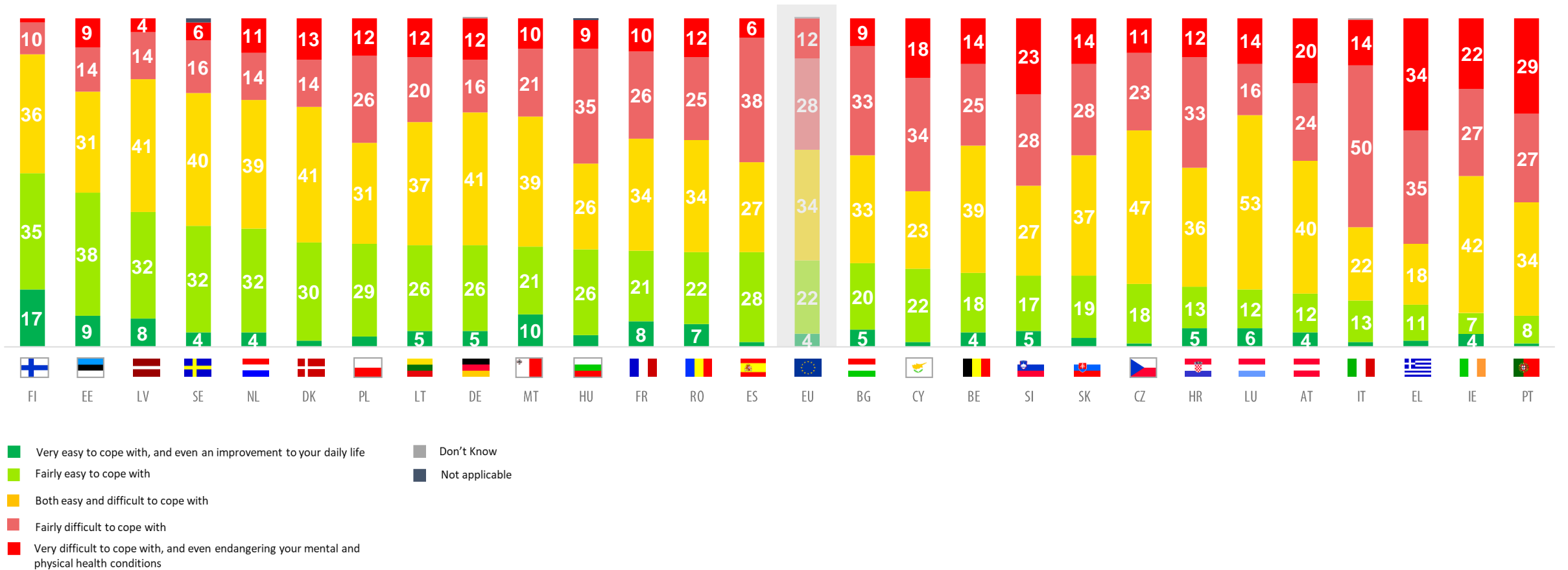
Only 26% of EU youths think the measures taken to fight the Coronavirus pandemic are fairly or very easy to cope with, versus 40% who think they are fairly or very difficult to cope with. Still, 34% of them express mixed feelings about those measures, saying they are both easy and difficult to cope with (more than older respondents)

QA17 Thinking about the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic, in particular the confinement measures, would you say that it is an experience easy or difficult to cope with? An experience...



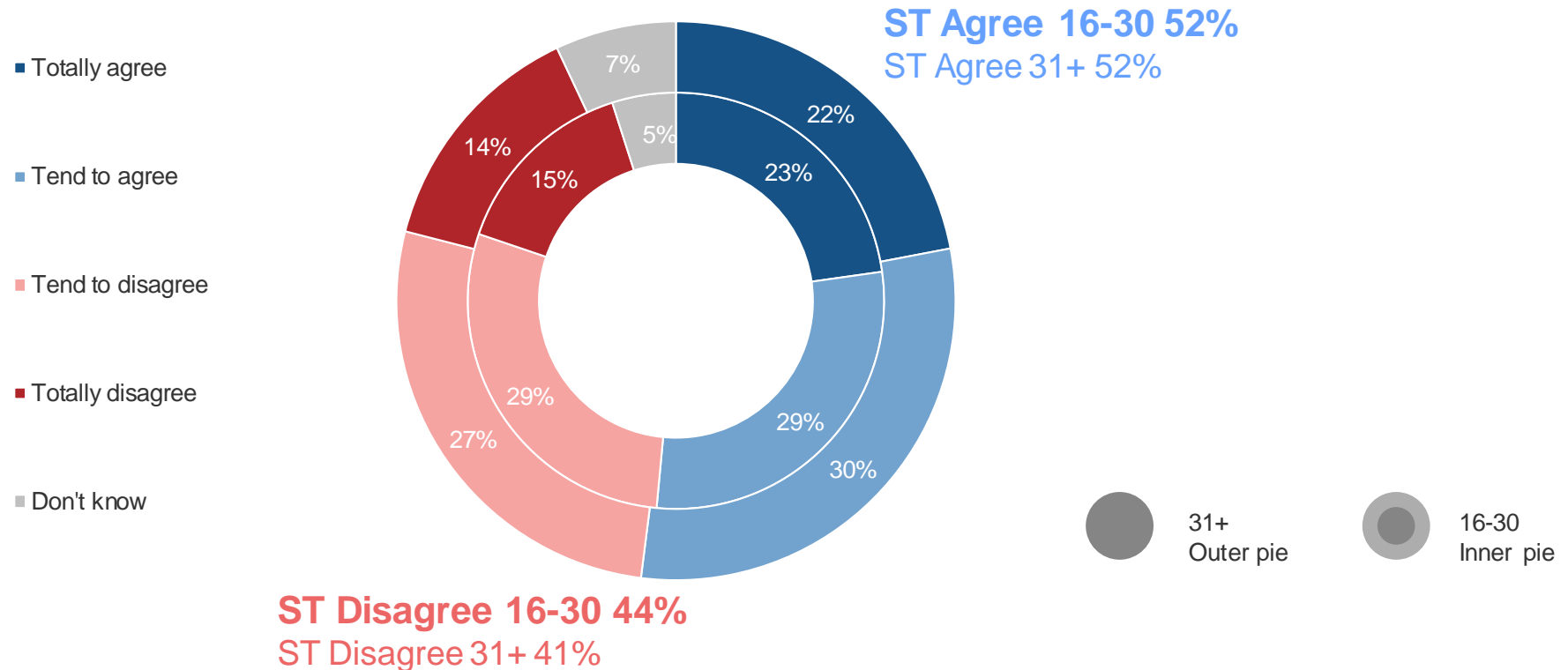
Youth in Southern European countries, and in some Central European countries, are more likely to say that confinement measures were difficult to cope with

Thinking about the measures taken to fight the Coronavirus pandemic, in particular the confinement measures, would you say that it is an experience easy or difficult to cope with? An experience... (%)



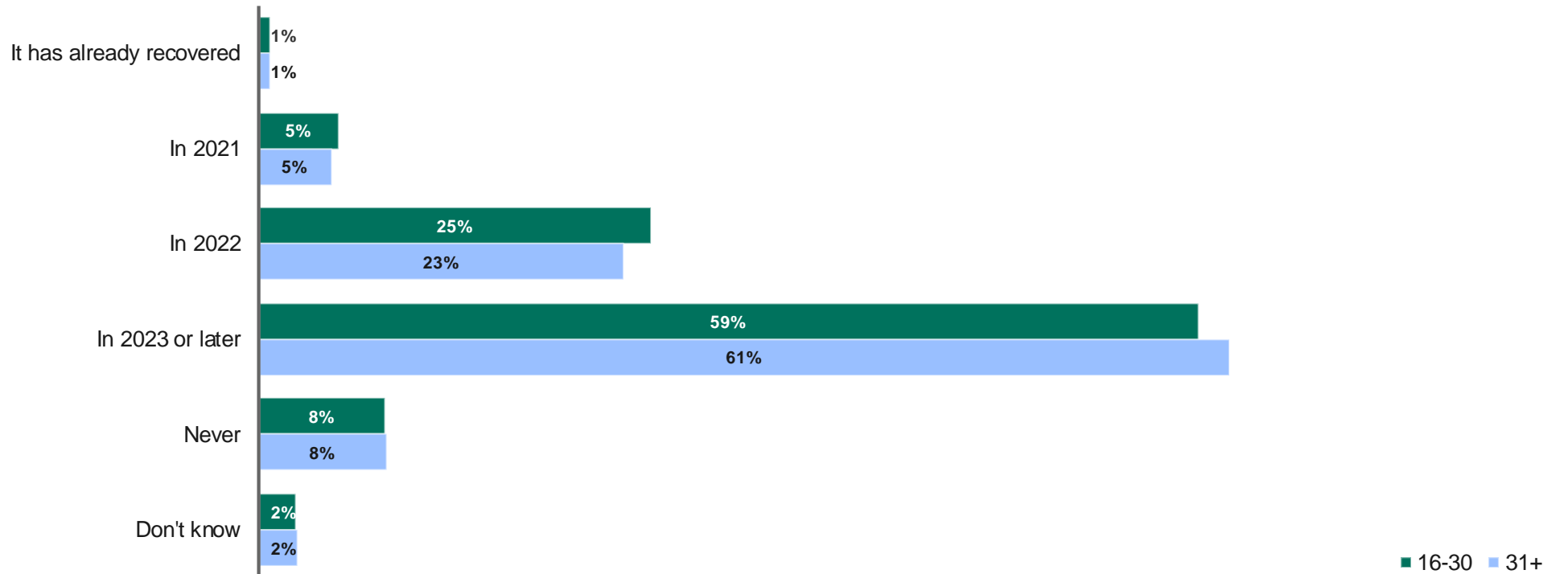
A majority of EU youths express at least some doubts about Covid-19 vaccine. 52% of them think the vaccines have been developed, tested and authorised too quickly to be safe. Their opinion is comparable to that of older respondents (31+)

QA18 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?: 'COVID-19 vaccines are being developed, tested and authorised too quickly to be safe'



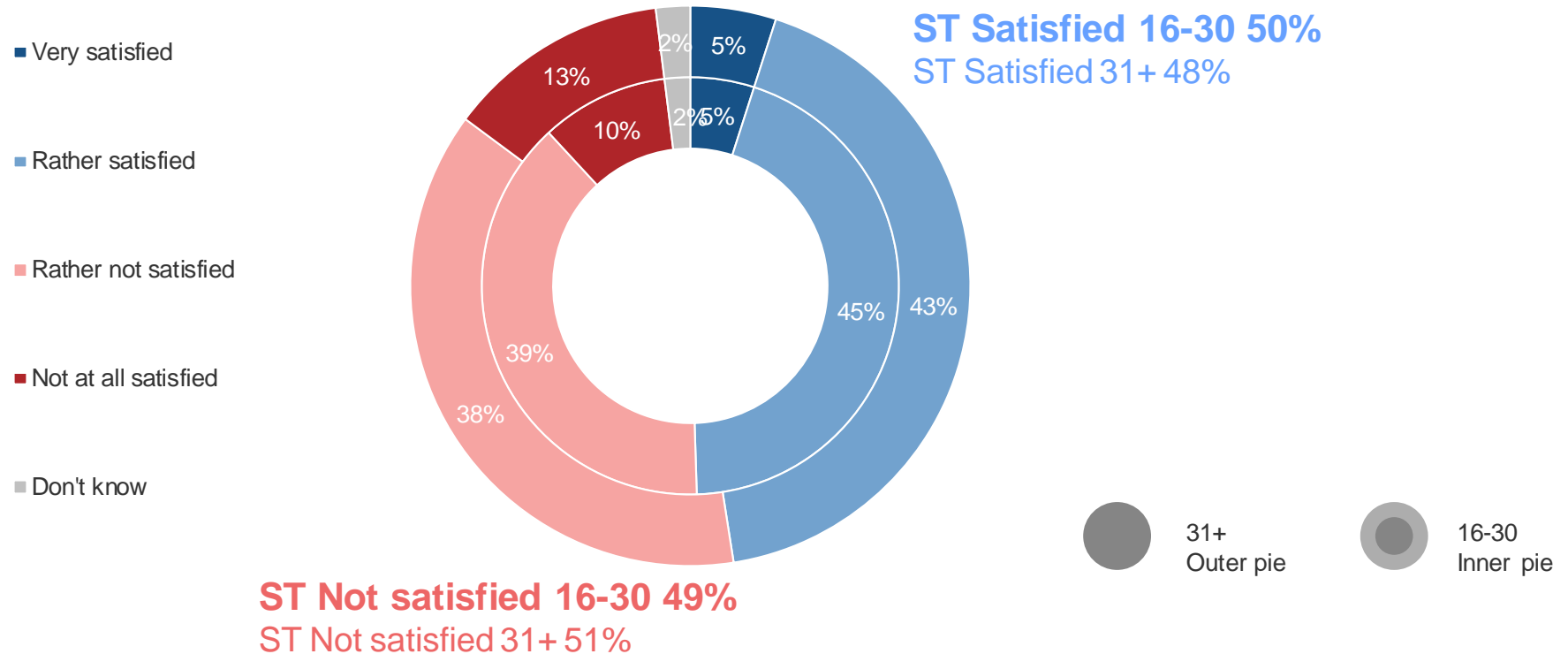
Young Europeans are slightly more optimistic about their country's prospects of recovering from the economic crisis compared to older respondents. However, a majority of them thinks economic recovery will not come before 2023 and only a very small minority (5%) thinks it will come in 2021

QA14 When do you think (OUR COUNTRY)'s economy will recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic?



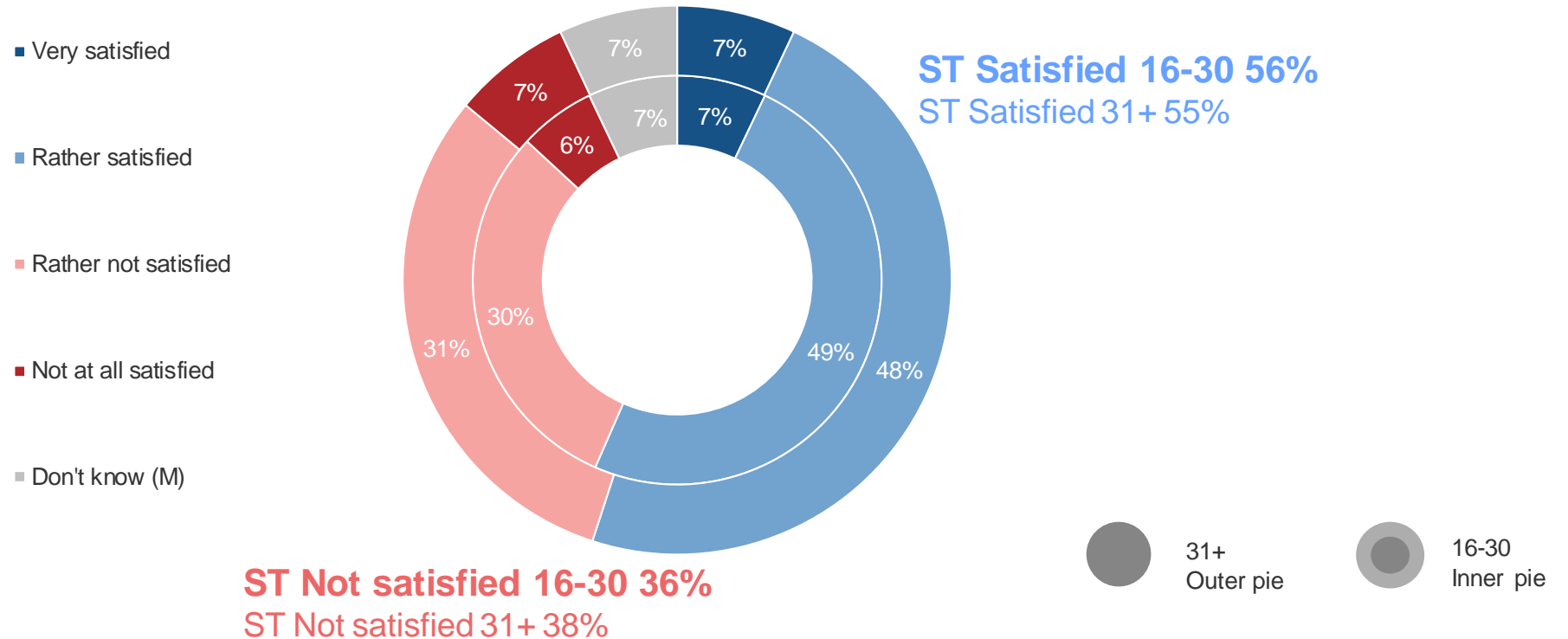
Half of young Europeans are satisfied with the measures taken by the EU to fight the coronavirus pandemic. That is slightly more than for respondents aged 31+, a majority of whom is not satisfied with those measures

QA2 In general, how satisfied are you with the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic by the European Union?



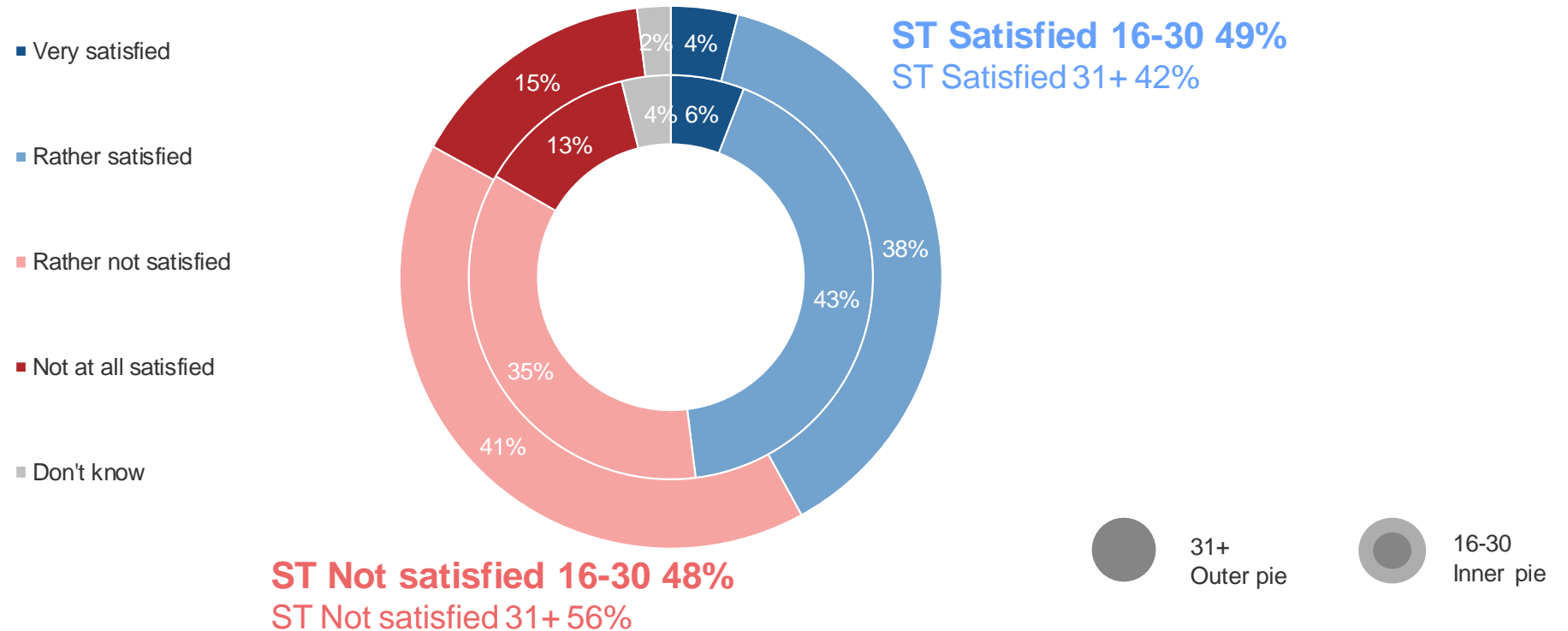
An absolute majority of European youths (56%) think the NextGenerationEU recovery plan is effective in responding to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic

QA15 The European Union has designed a recovery plan of 750 billion euros, NextGenerationEU, to support the economy through grants and loans. How effective or not do you think that this measure is to respond to the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic?



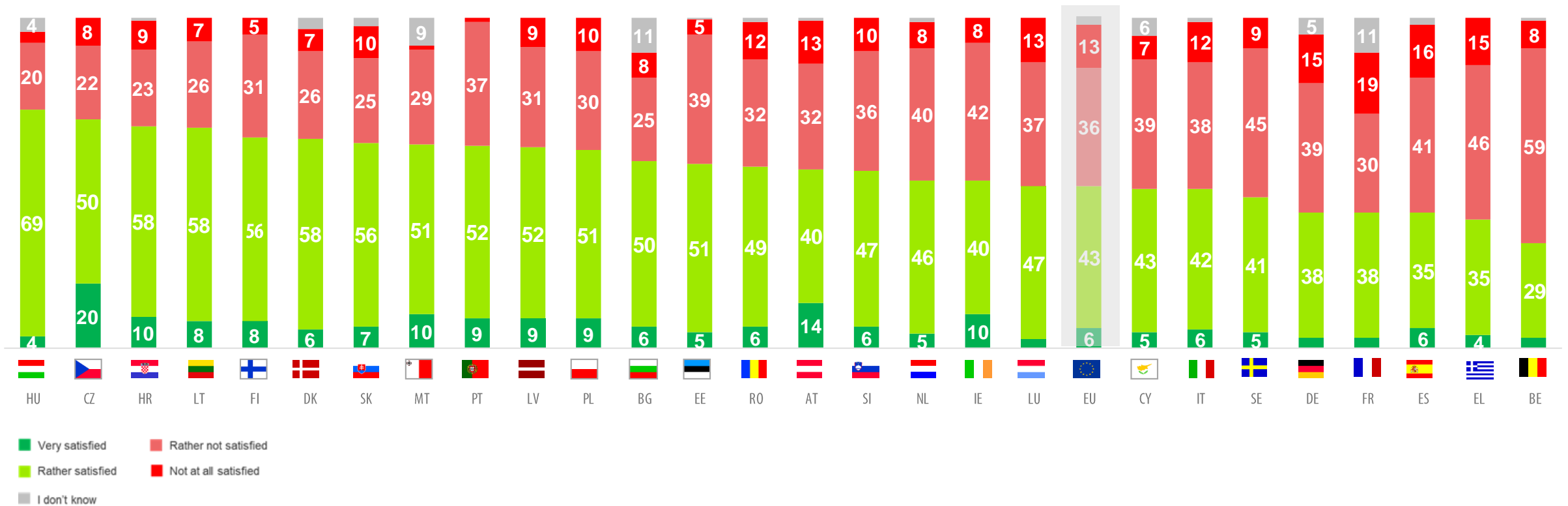
Young Europeans are equally divided between those who are satisfied by the solidarity between EU Members States during the pandemic and those who are not. In general, EU youths have a more positive judgment of solidarity between EU countries during the pandemic compared to older respondents

QA4 How satisfied are you with the solidarity between EU Member States in fighting the coronavirus pandemic?



In the Eastern and Northern European countries, young people are more satisfied with the solidarity between EU Member States in fighting the coronavirus pandemic compared to the Southern European countries. Sweden is an exception among the Northern European countries, while Portugal and Malta stand out among the Southern ones

QA4 How satisfied are you with the solidarity between EU Member States in fighting the coronavirus pandemic?



6

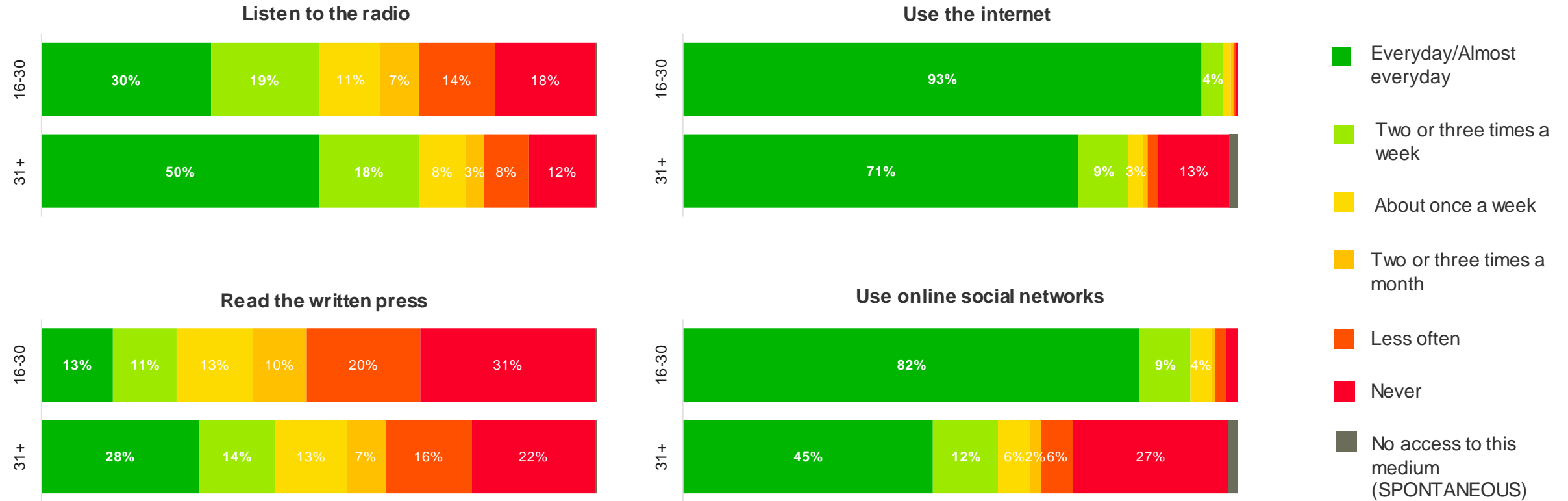
YOUNG EUROPEANS AND THE MEDIA

#DIGITAL



Very large majorities of young Europeans are using internet and online social networks everyday or almost. This is more (and much more for online social networks) than those aged 31+. In comparison, young Europeans listen to the radio and read the written press less than their older counterparts

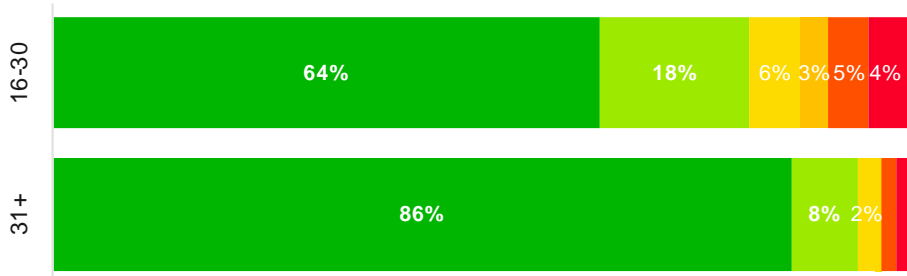
QD3 Could you tell to what extent you...?



Young Europeans are less likely to watch TV on a daily basis compared to Europeans aged 31+

QD3 Could you tell to what extent you...?

Watch TV on a TV set + via the Internet



Everyday/Almost everyday

Two or three times a week

About once a week

Two or three times a month

Less often

Never

No access to this medium (SPONTANEOUS)

Everyday/Almost everyday

Two or three times a week

About once a week

Two or three times a month

Less often

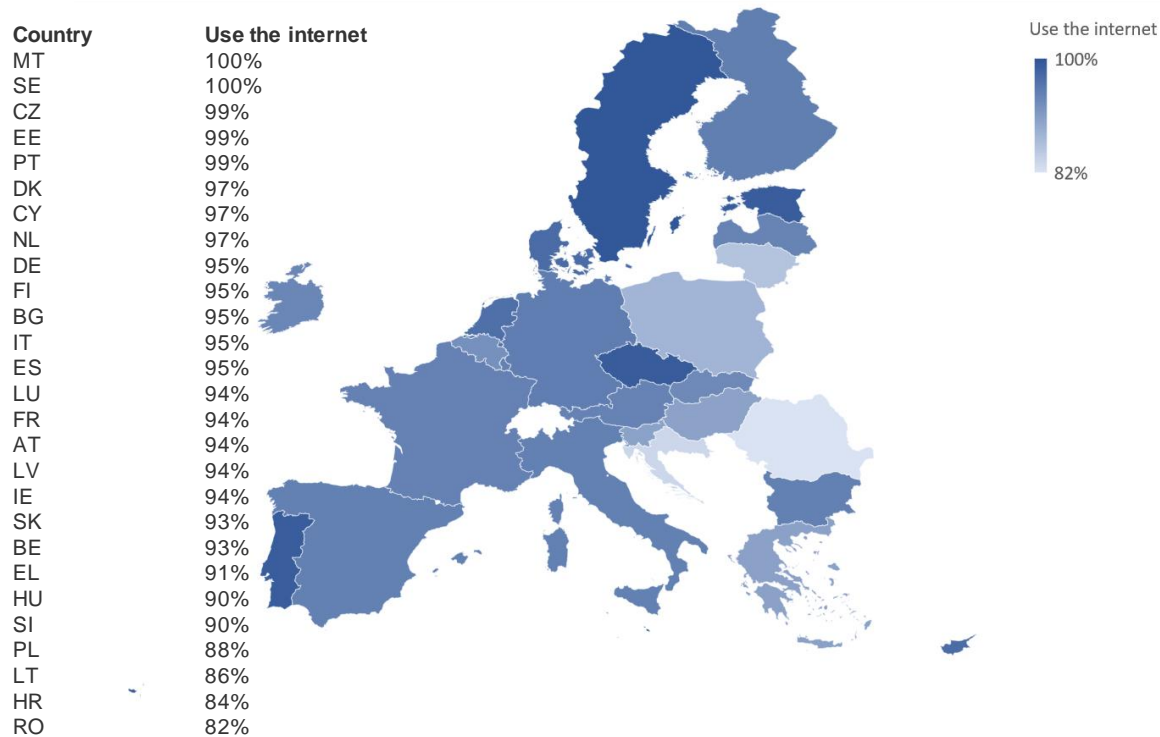
Never

No access to this medium (SPONTANEOUS)

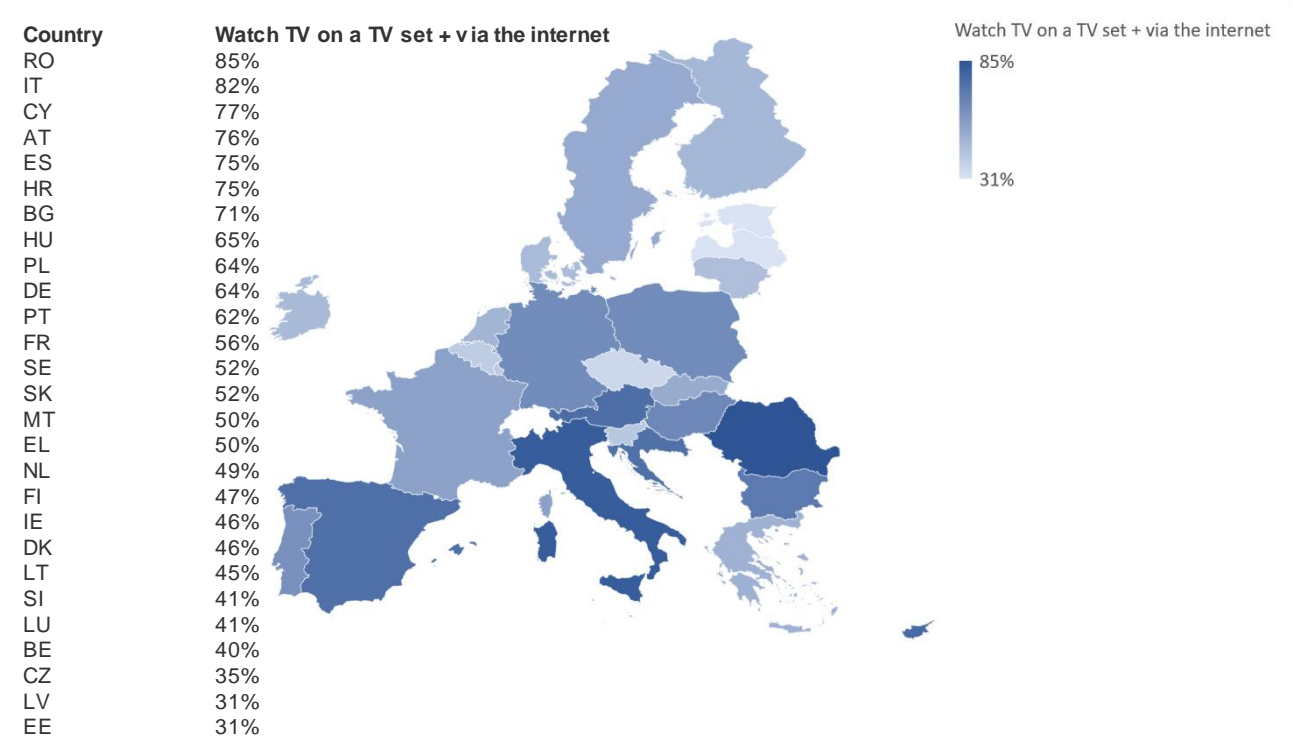
Internet use among young people is above 80% in every Member States, with close to a totality of young people in the Northern EU states using it on an everyday basis, or almost. Daily TV use is greater among youth in Southern, Central and Eastern countries, with some exceptions like the Baltic republics, Czechia, and Slovenia, where this is below 50%

QD3 Could you tell to what extent you...? – Everyday/Almost everyday

Use the internet



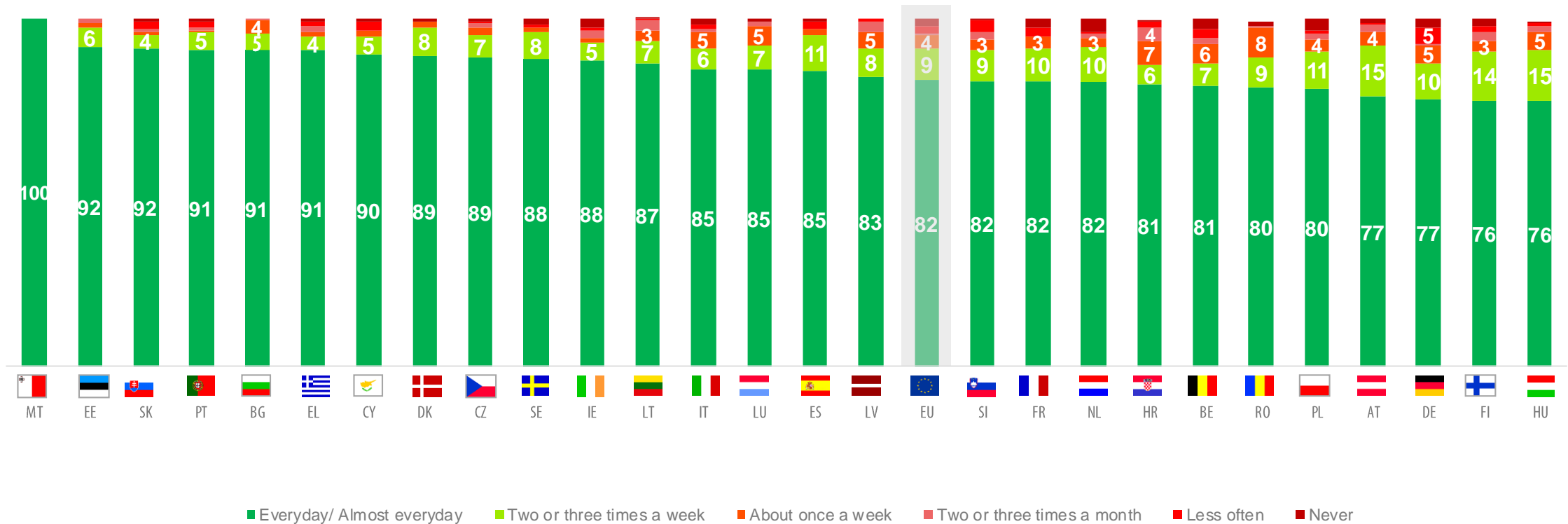
Watch TV + watch TV via the internet



A large majority of young Europeans in every country uses social media everyday or almost, with no clear trends delineating between the countries

QD3 Could you tell to what extent you...?

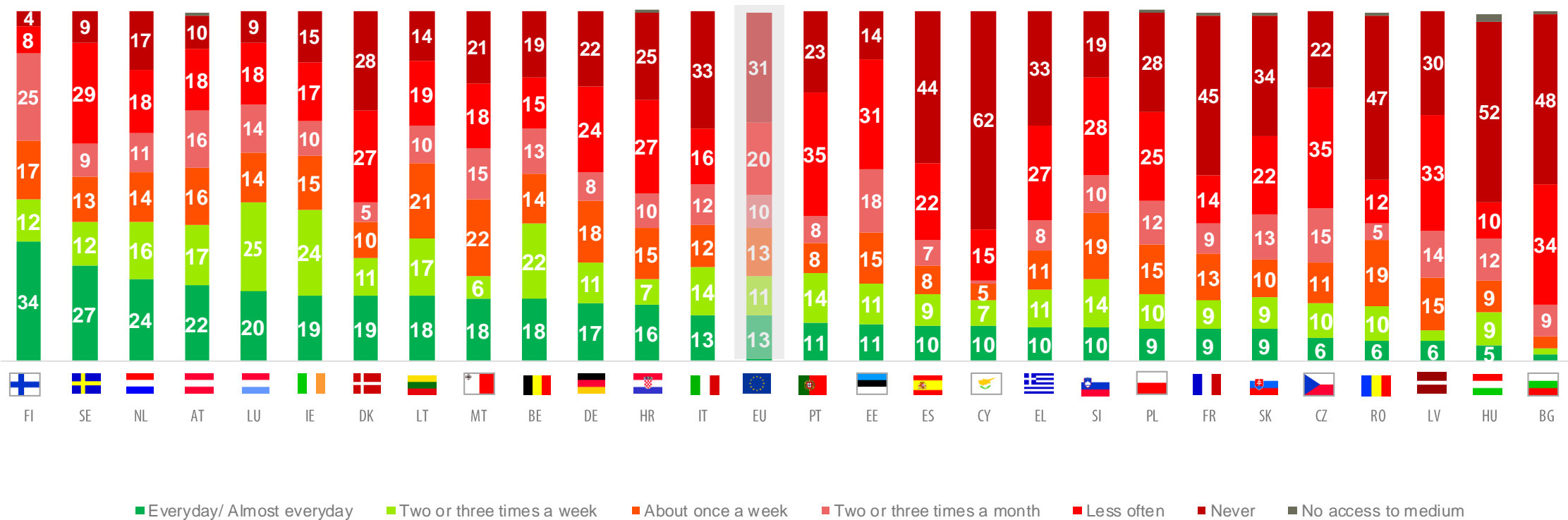
Use online social networks



Youth in Northern European countries are more likely to regularly read the written press, while in the Central-Eastern and Southern countries they are less likely to do so

QD3 Could you tell to what extent you...?

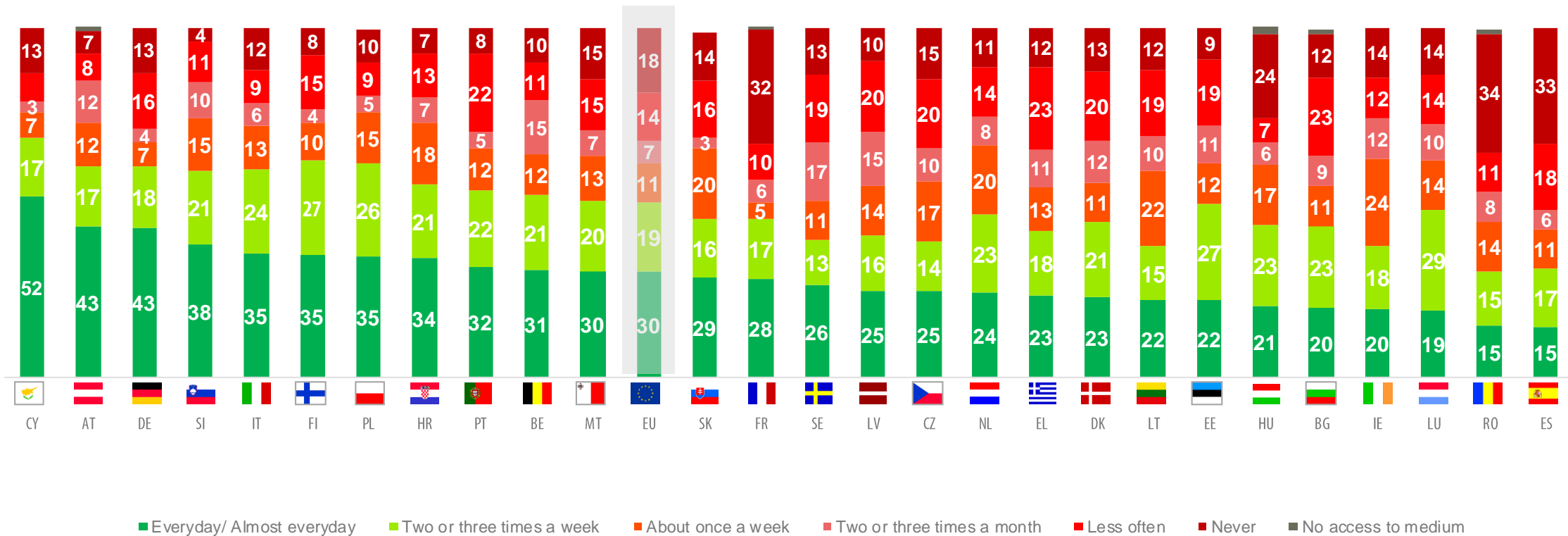
Read the written press



Radio use among young people is significantly different from country to country. In Cyprus, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Italy, Finland, Poland, Croatia, Portugal, Belgium and Malta, at least half of them listens to it on a daily or weekly basis, but that is not the case in the rest of the EU

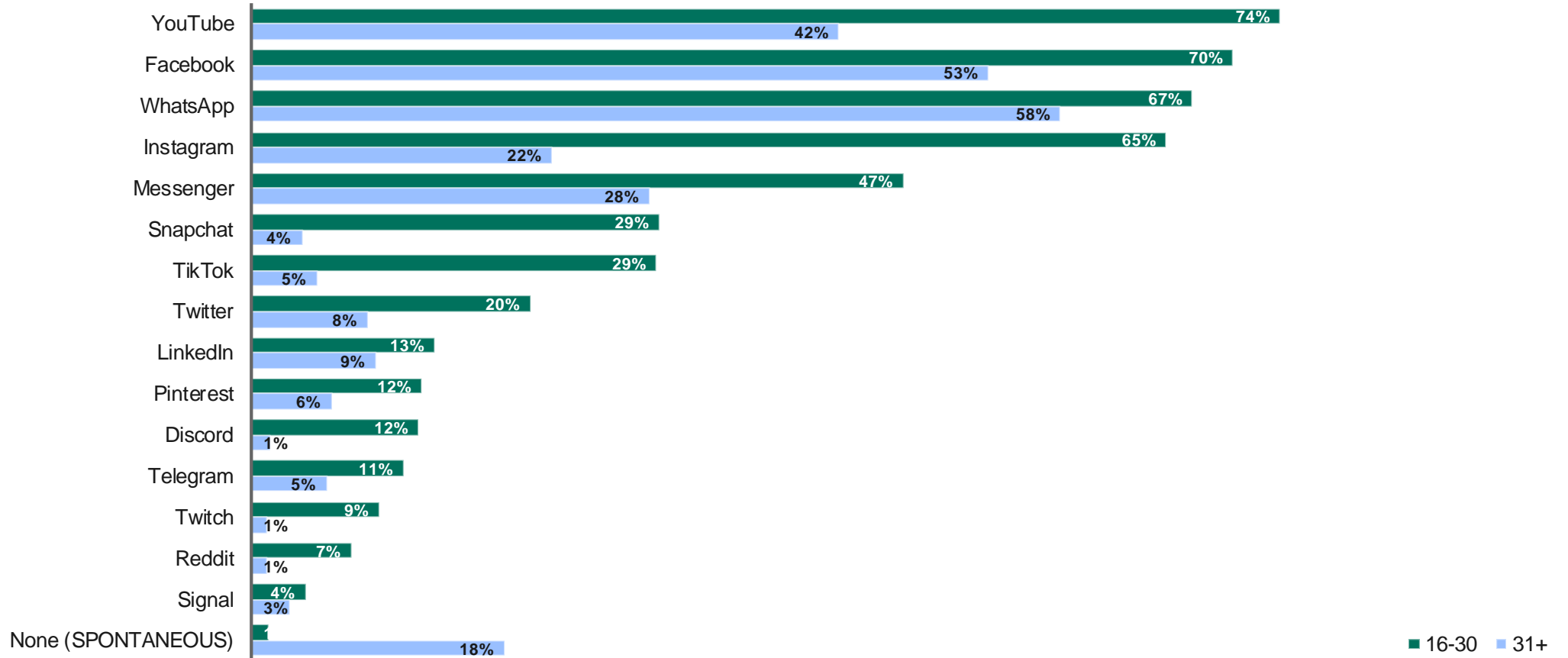
QD3 Could you tell to what extent you...?

Listen to the radio



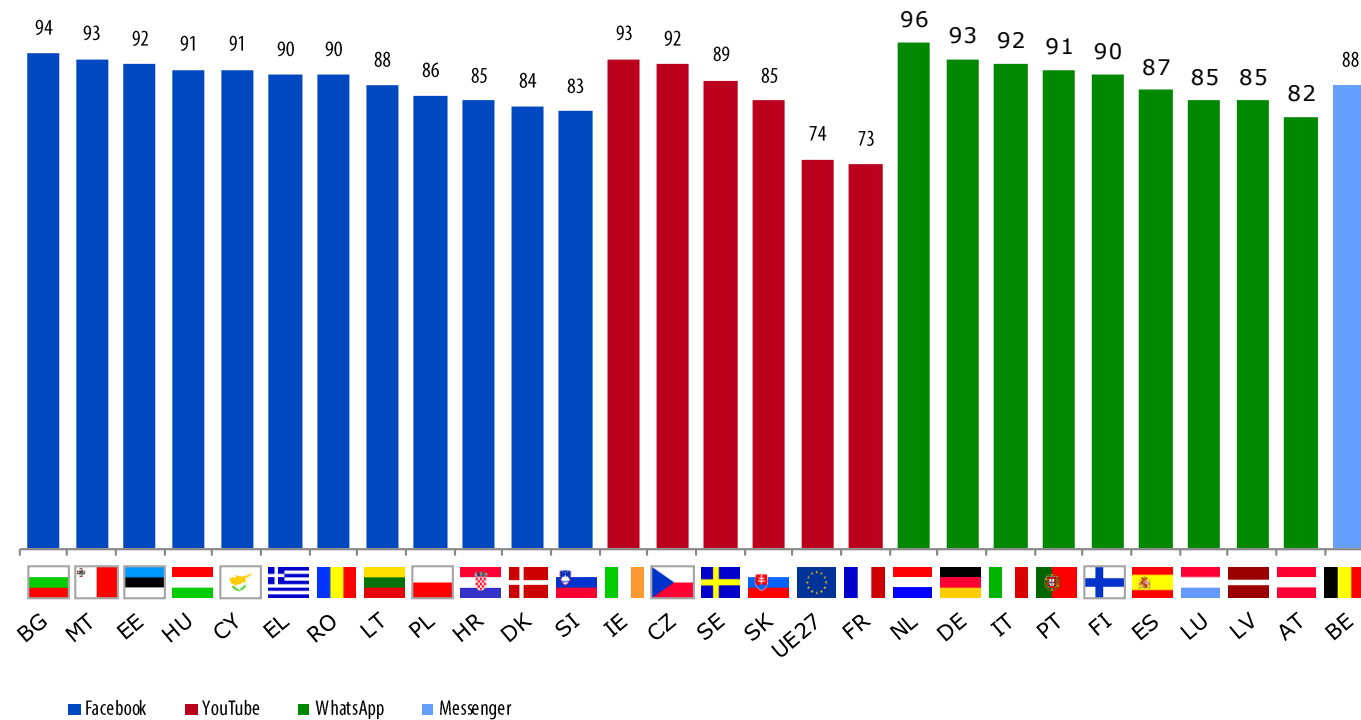
YouTube is the most used online social network among Europeans, followed by Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger. Image and video-based social media like Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok, are much more diffused among the younger. Only 1% of young Europeans do not use any social media, versus 18% of people aged 31+

QA13 Which online social network(s) have you used in the last 7 days for any purpose? MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE



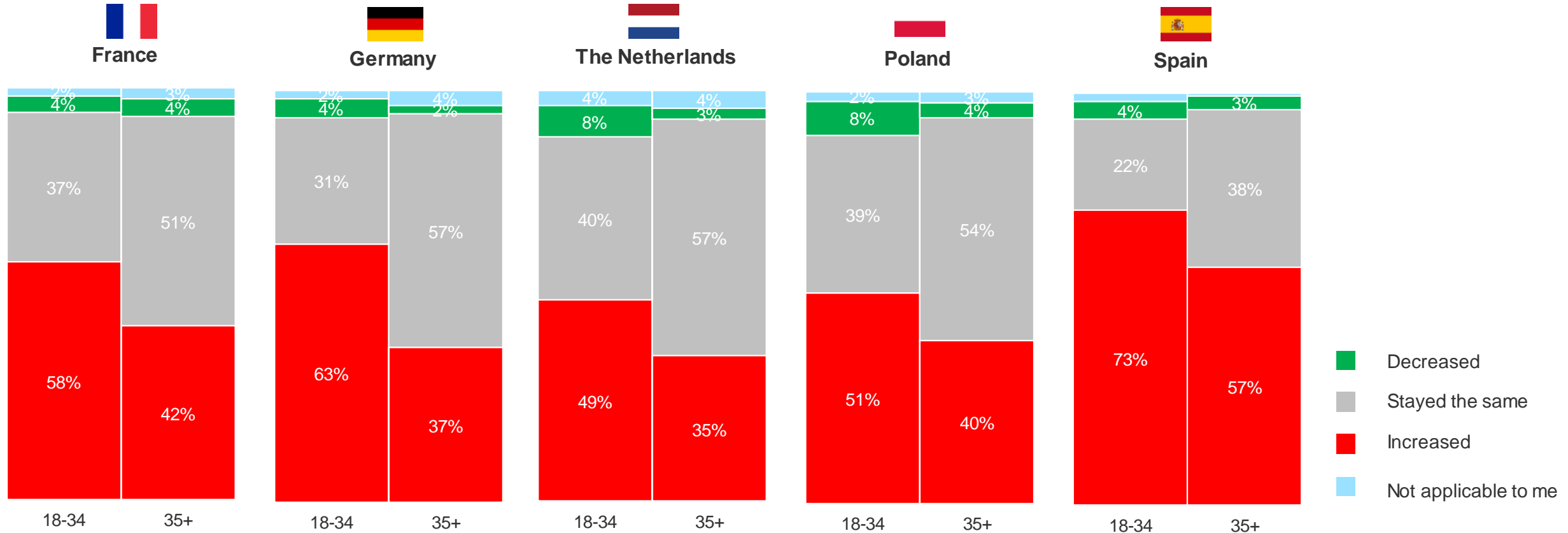
In most Eastern European countries, Facebook is the most widely used platform by young people. WhatsApp is the most diffused app among youth in Southern Europe, as well as in some Central and Western European states. In this part of Europe, WhatsApp is sometimes overcome by YouTube or, less often, by Facebook Messenger

QA13 Which online social network(s) have you used in the last 7 days for any purpose? MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE



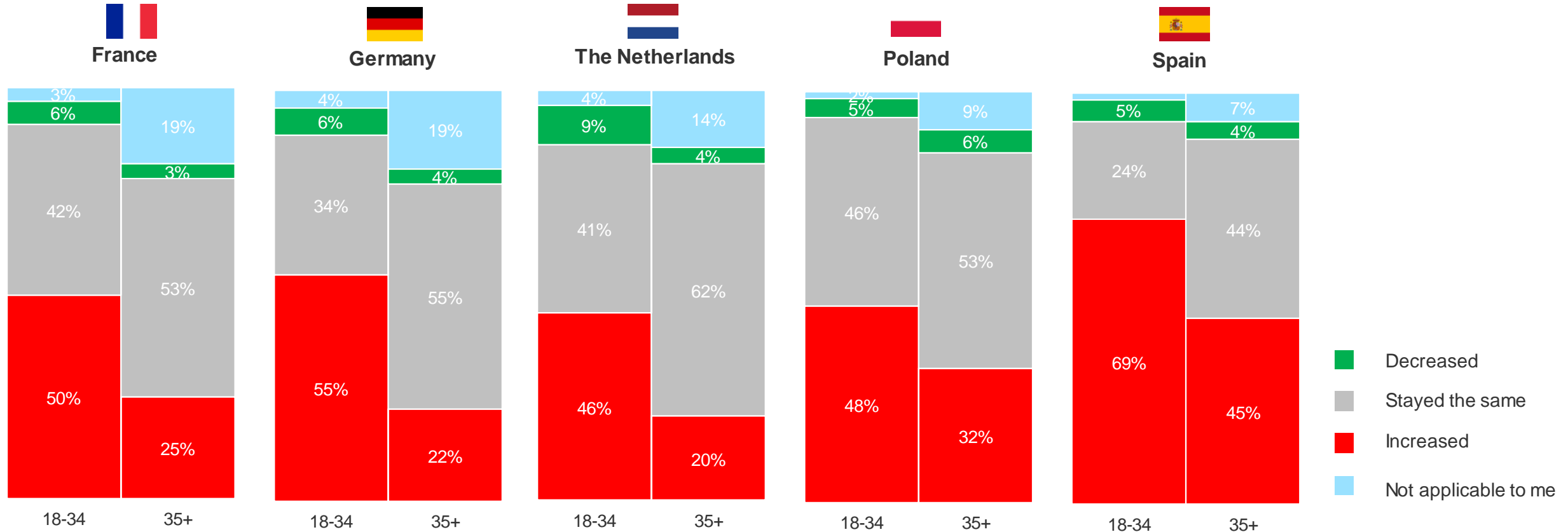
In every country analysed, the amount of screen time significantly increased for both young and older respondents, and to a greater extent among the younger

Q3r10: **Screen time** - Governments in some countries implemented lockdowns to try to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you experienced a lockdown, to what extent did it have an impact on your behaviours and activities from the following:



The amount of time young Europeans spend on social media significantly increased during the lockdowns. In France, Germany, and the Netherlands it increased at least twice more for younger than for older people

Q3r9 Governments in some countries implemented lockdowns to try to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. If you experienced a lockdown, to what extent did it have an impact on your behaviours and activities from the following: **Using social media** -



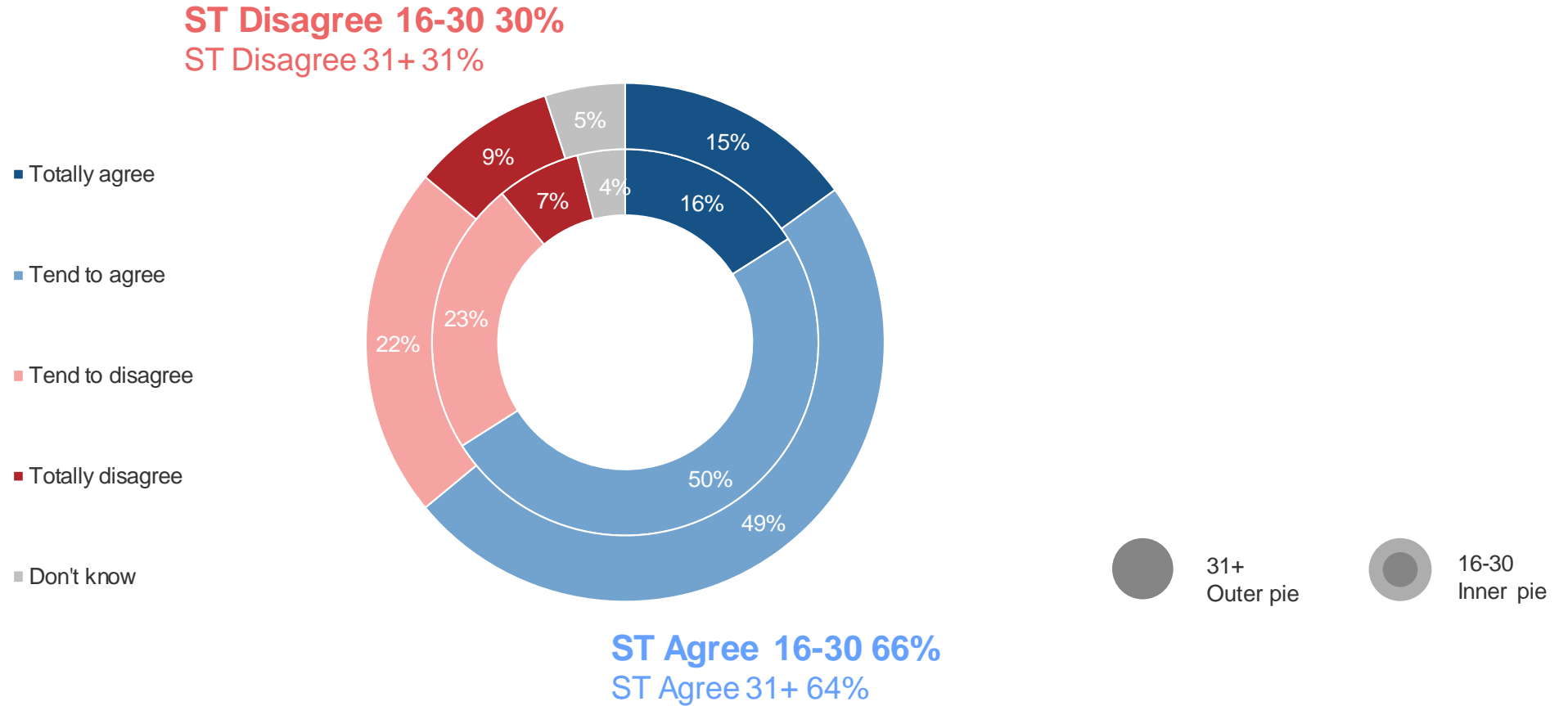
7 THE EU AND THE WORLD

#WORLD



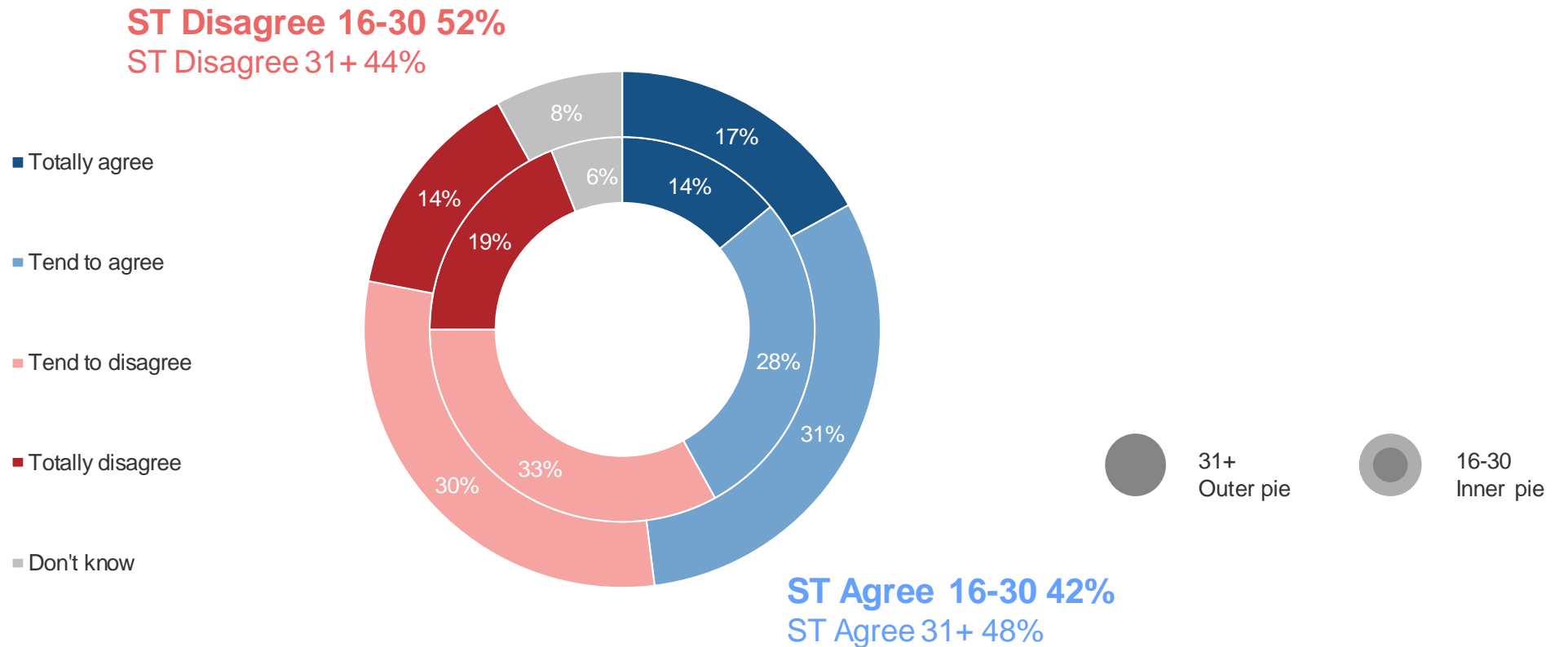
An absolute majority of young Europeans thinks that the European Union is a place of stability in a troubled world

QA15.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: The European Union is a place of stability in a troubled world



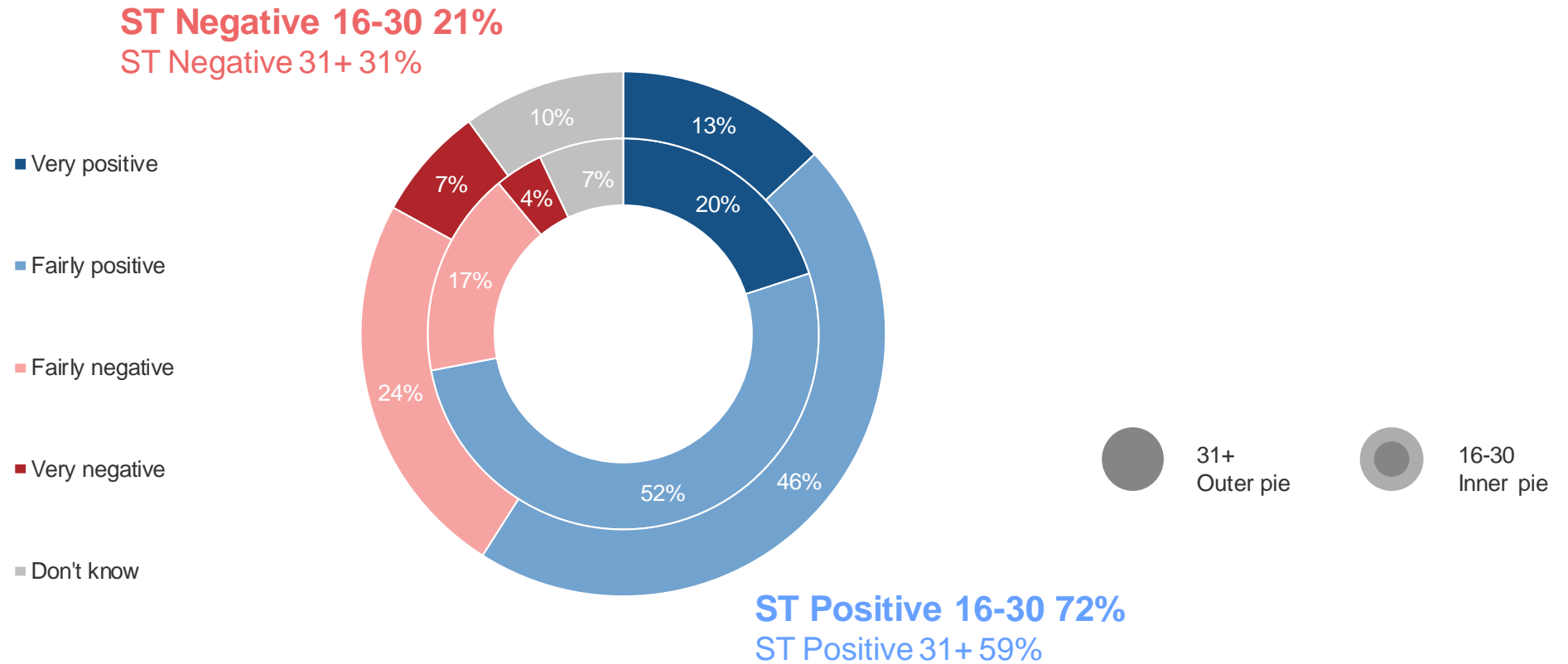
Europeans aged less than 31 are less likely than their older counterparts to consider globalisation a threat to their country's identity (42% vs 48%). A majority of them (52%) disagree with such statement, unlike older respondents (44%)

QA15.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Globalisation threatens (OUR COUNTRY)'s identity



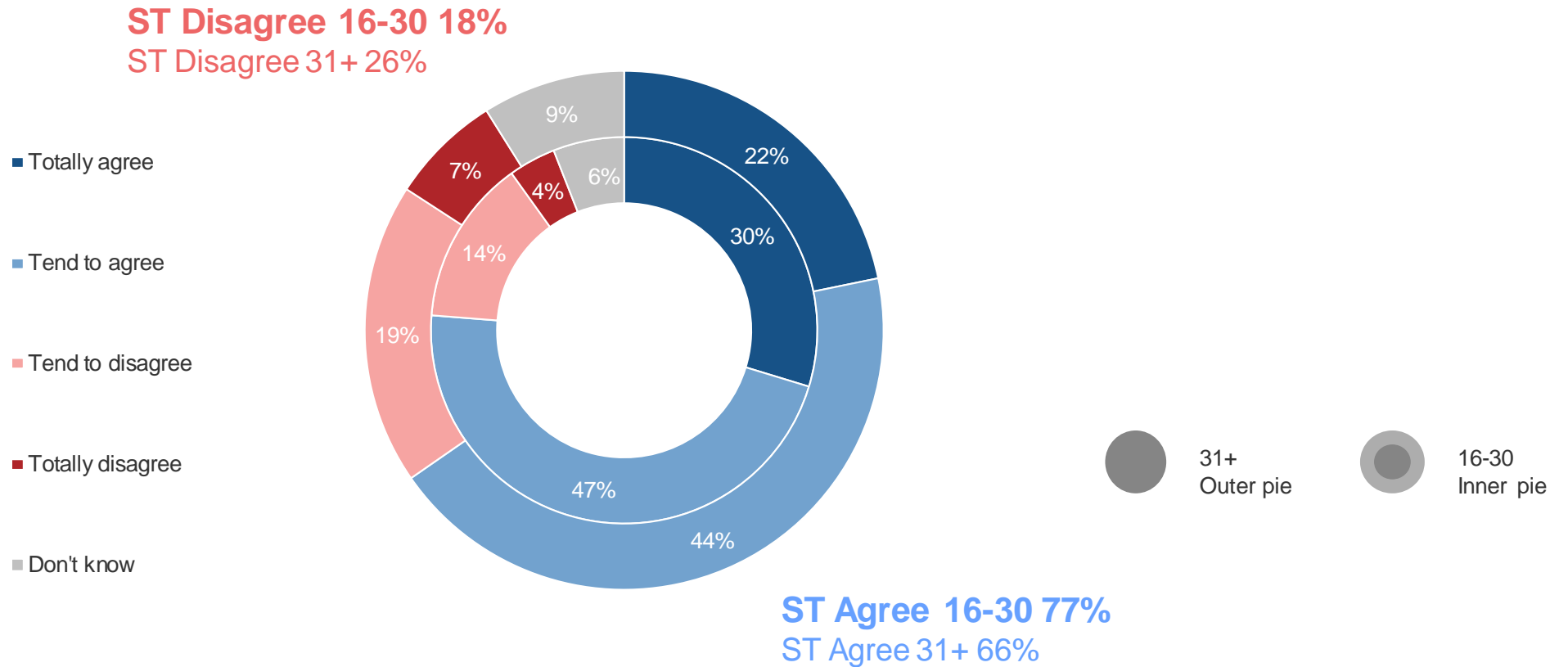
A large majority of young respondents (72%) hold a positive opinion of globalisation, while only 21% of them have a negative opinion of it (compared with 59% vs 31% among older respondents)

QB2 Could you please tell for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative: Globalisation

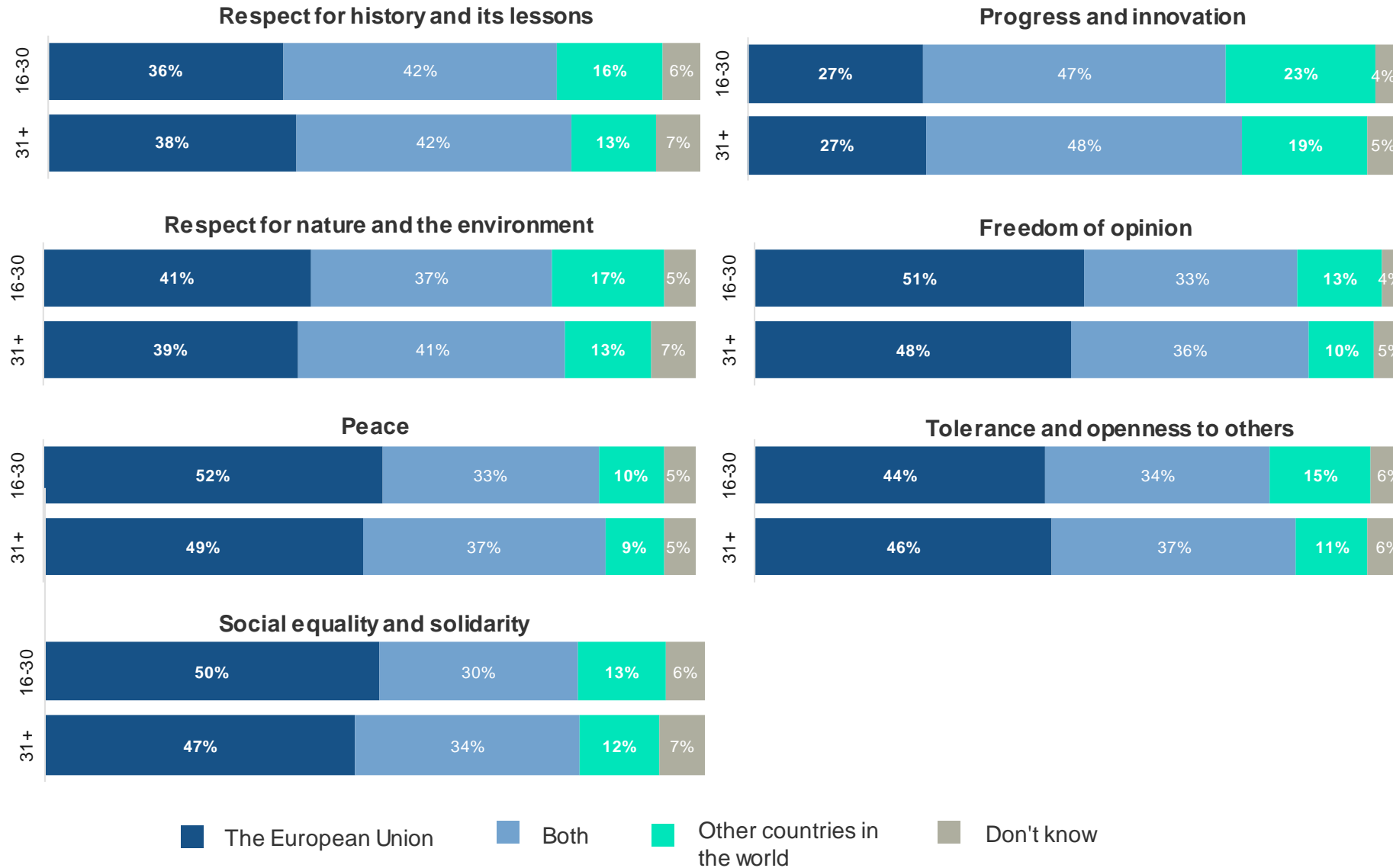


A large majority of young Europeans consider globalisation an opportunity for economic growth (77%), much more than Europeans aged 31+. While over a quarter of the older respondents disagree with such a statement, only 18% of Europeans aged less than 31 do

QB4 For each of the following statements, do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree: Globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth



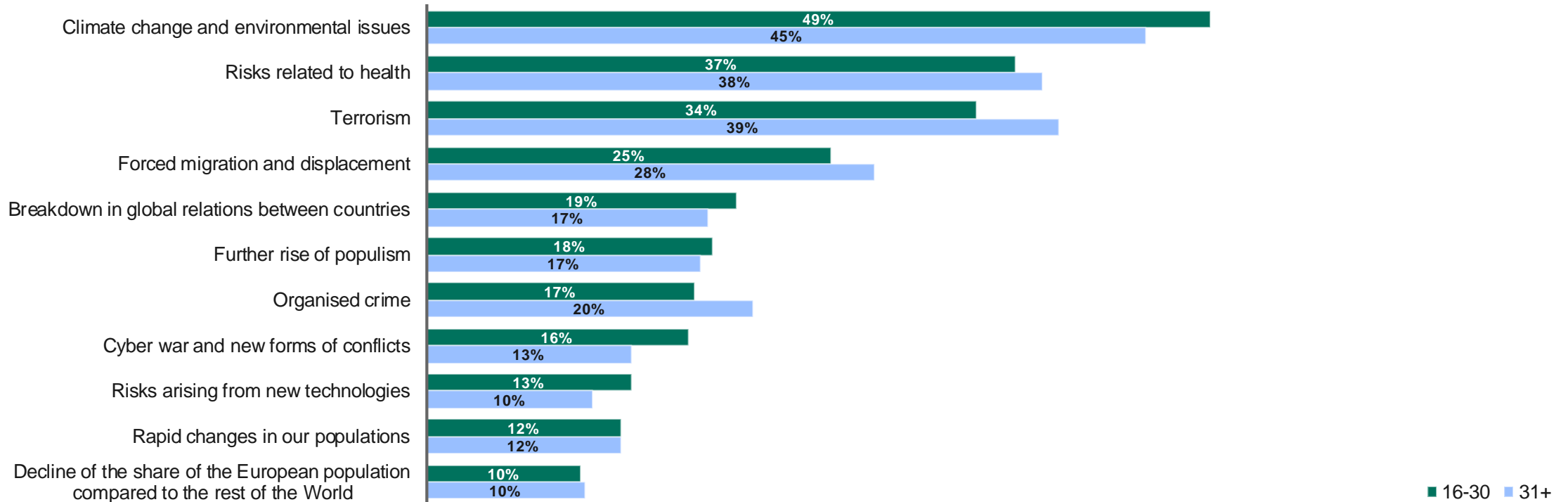
QA17.1 For each of these values, please tell me if they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both?



An absolute majority of young Europeans think that the values of peace, social equality and solidarity, and freedom of opinion are best embodied by the sole EU. Close to half of them consider that progress and innovation is best embodied by both the EU and other countries in the world

When considering the greatest global challenges for the future of the EU, young EU citizens prioritise climate change (49%), health risks (37%) and terrorism (34%). Compared to older respondents they are more concerned by climate change, and less concerned by terrorism and organised crime

QA12 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? MAX. 3 ANSWERS



Comparable living standards are considered the main global challenges for the future of the EU by young people in thirteen Member States. In six countries, stronger solidarity between the EU Member States is young citizens' preferred choice. Comparable education standards is the main global challenge for youth in five EU states

QA12 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? MAX. 3 ANSWERS

