



Western Balkans Regional Poll

February 2, 2020 - March 6, 2020



Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the International Republican Institute’s [Center for Insights in Survey Research](#) by [Ipsos Bosnia and Herzegovina](#).
- Data was collected through in-home, in-person interviews using the CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviewing) method in each of the sampled countries. In each country, the margin of error is calculated at the 95 percent confidence level for the midrange for the full sample size.

Country	Fieldwork Dates	Sample Size	Margin of Error	Response Rate
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Feb. 7 - Feb. 29, 2020	n = 1,486	±2.5	66%
Kosovo	Feb. 11 - Mar. 4, 2020	n = 1,517	±2.5	85%
North Macedonia	Feb. 15 - Mar. 4, 2020	n = 1,472	±2.6	70%
Montenegro	Feb. 2 - Feb. 28, 2020	n = 966	±3.2	66%
Serbia	Feb. 10 - Mar. 6, 2020	n = 1,481	±2.5	50%

- Nationally representative samples for each state are based on a multistage stratification proportionate to population sample distribution.
 - Stage 1: PPS stratification across regions.
 - Stage 2: PPS stratification across urban and rural areas (defined by settlement).
 - Stage 3: Random selection of sampling points.
- Households were selected using a random route technique with a right-hand rule.
- Respondents were selected randomly using the Kish grid method.
- Interviews were conducted in Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian, Montenegrin and Serbian.
- The data was weighted to the latest official census statistics for age, gender, educational attainment, urbanicity and region in each country.
- Charts and graphs may not add up to exactly 100 percent due to rounding.
- Cited bases are weighted.
- The poll was funded by the [National Endowment for Democracy](#).

Countries Polled



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Kosovo



North Macedonia



Montenegro



Serbia



General Issues

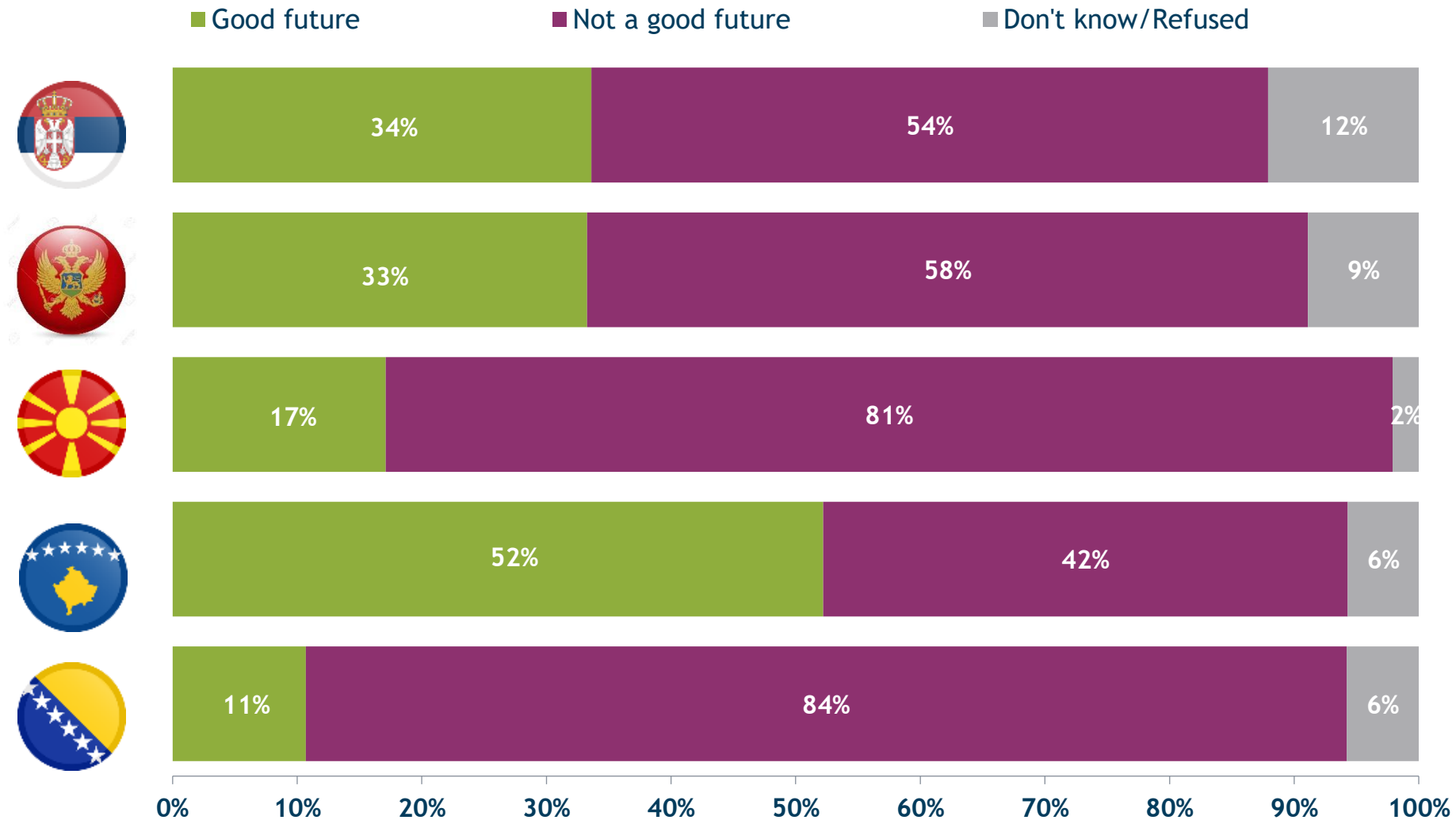


In general, would you say that our country is heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

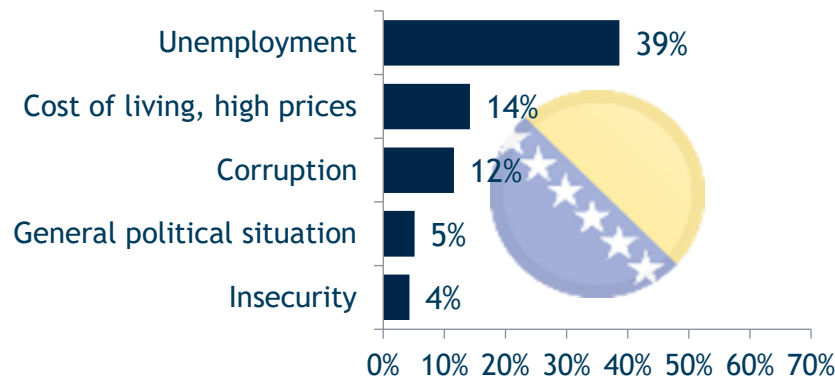
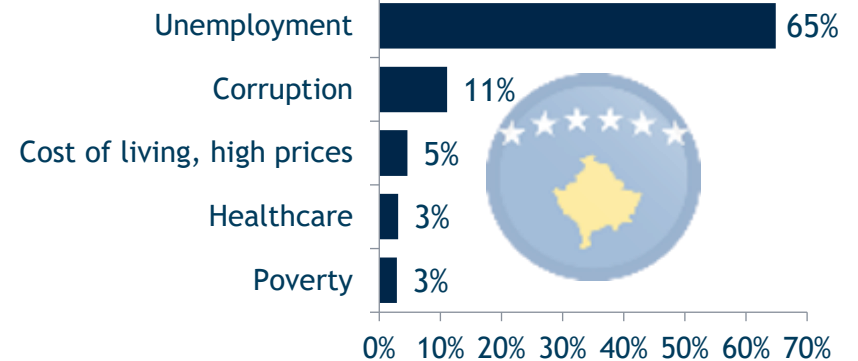
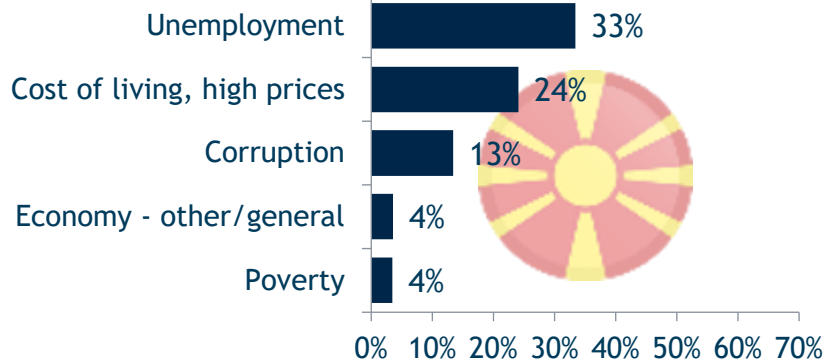
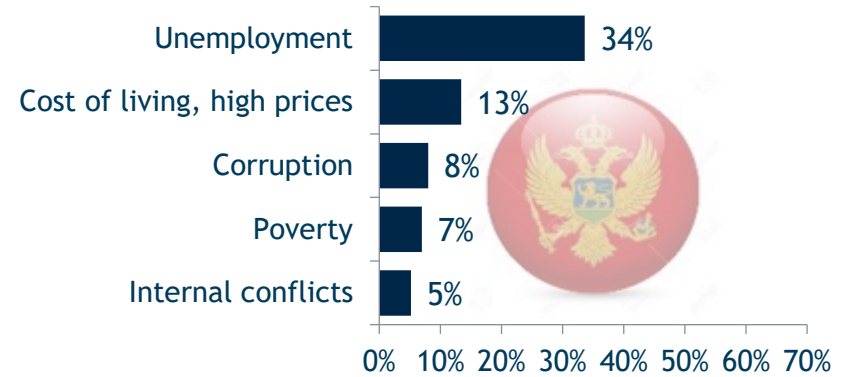
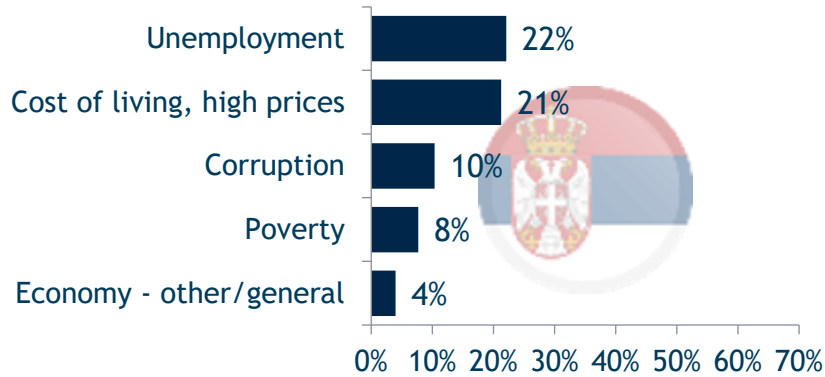
■ In the right direction ■ In the wrong direction ■ Don't know/Refused



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

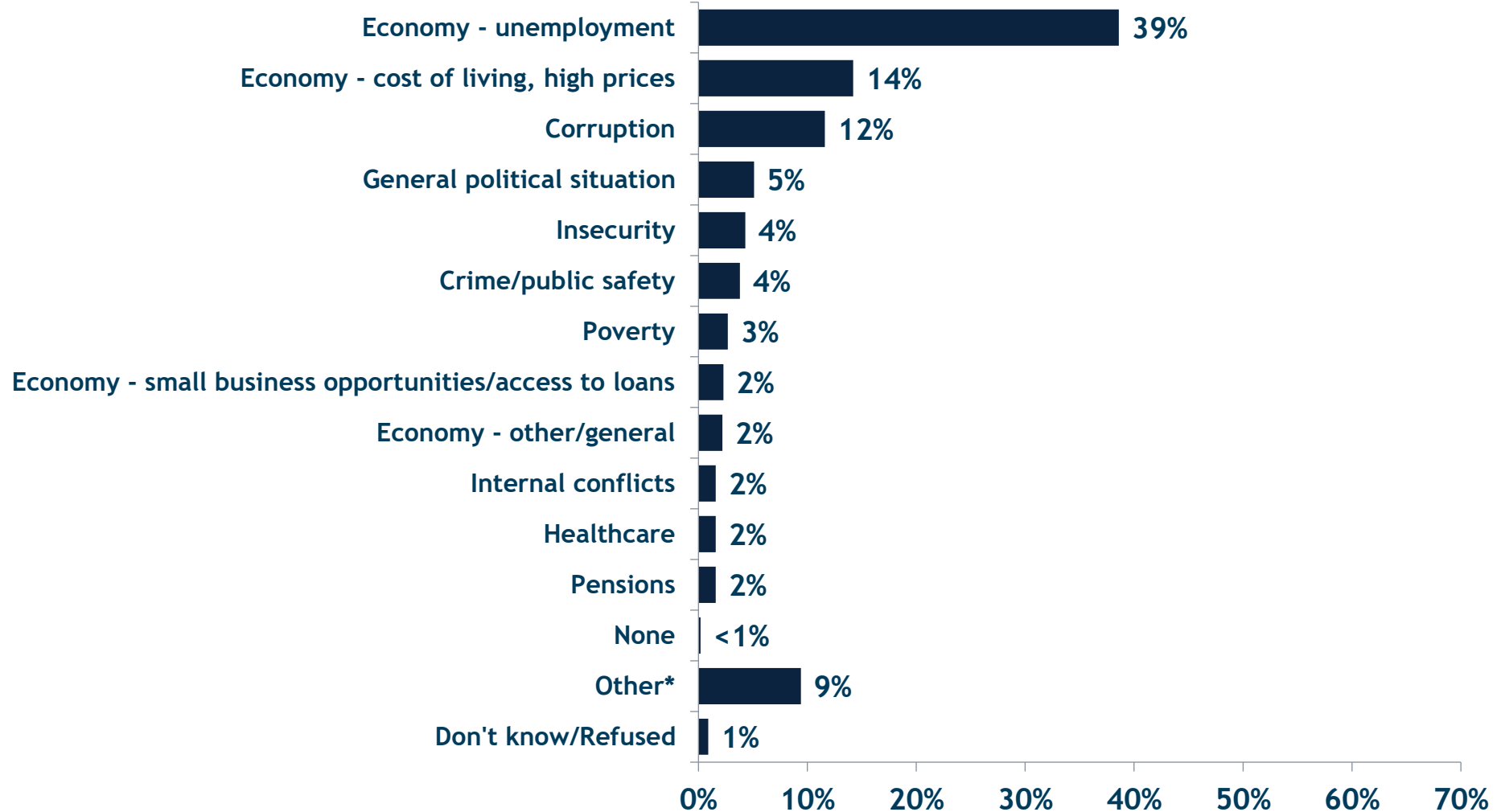


What is the most important problem facing our country today? (Top five responses; spontaneous responses)



What is the most important problem facing our country today? *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

(Spontaneous response)



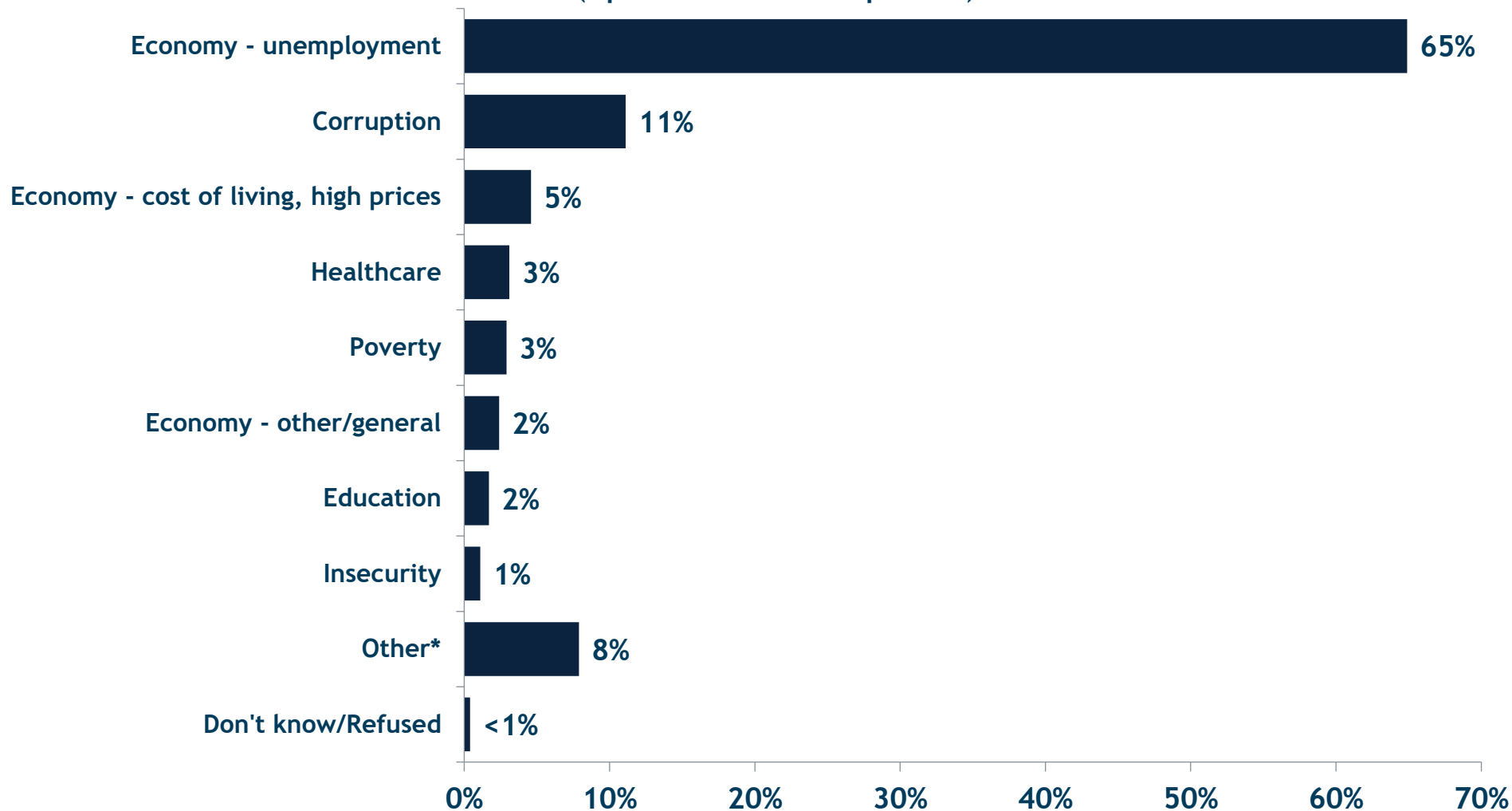
*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.



What is the most important problem facing our country today?

Kosovo

(Spontaneous response)



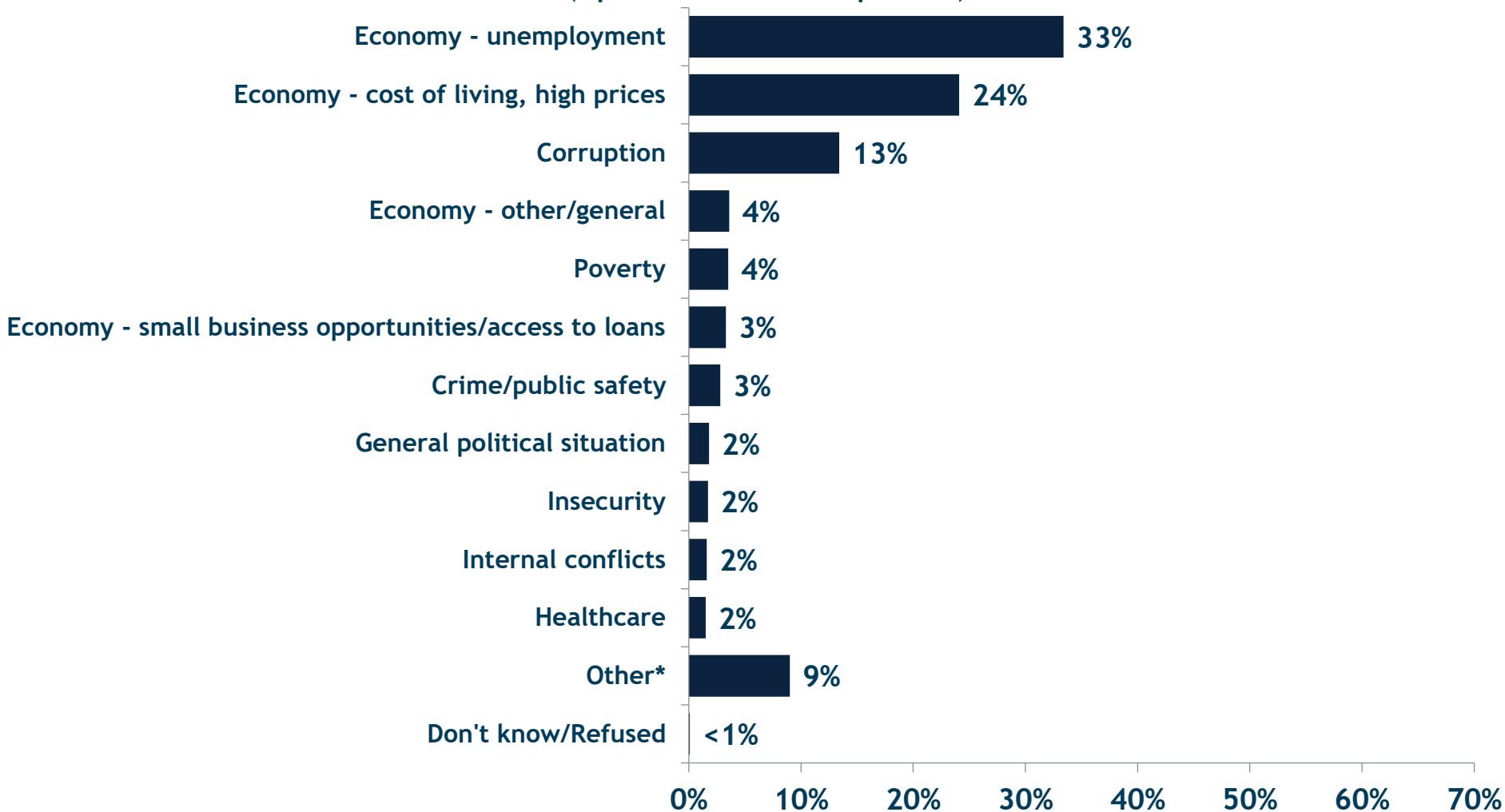
*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.



What is the most important problem facing our country today?

North Macedonia

(Spontaneous response)



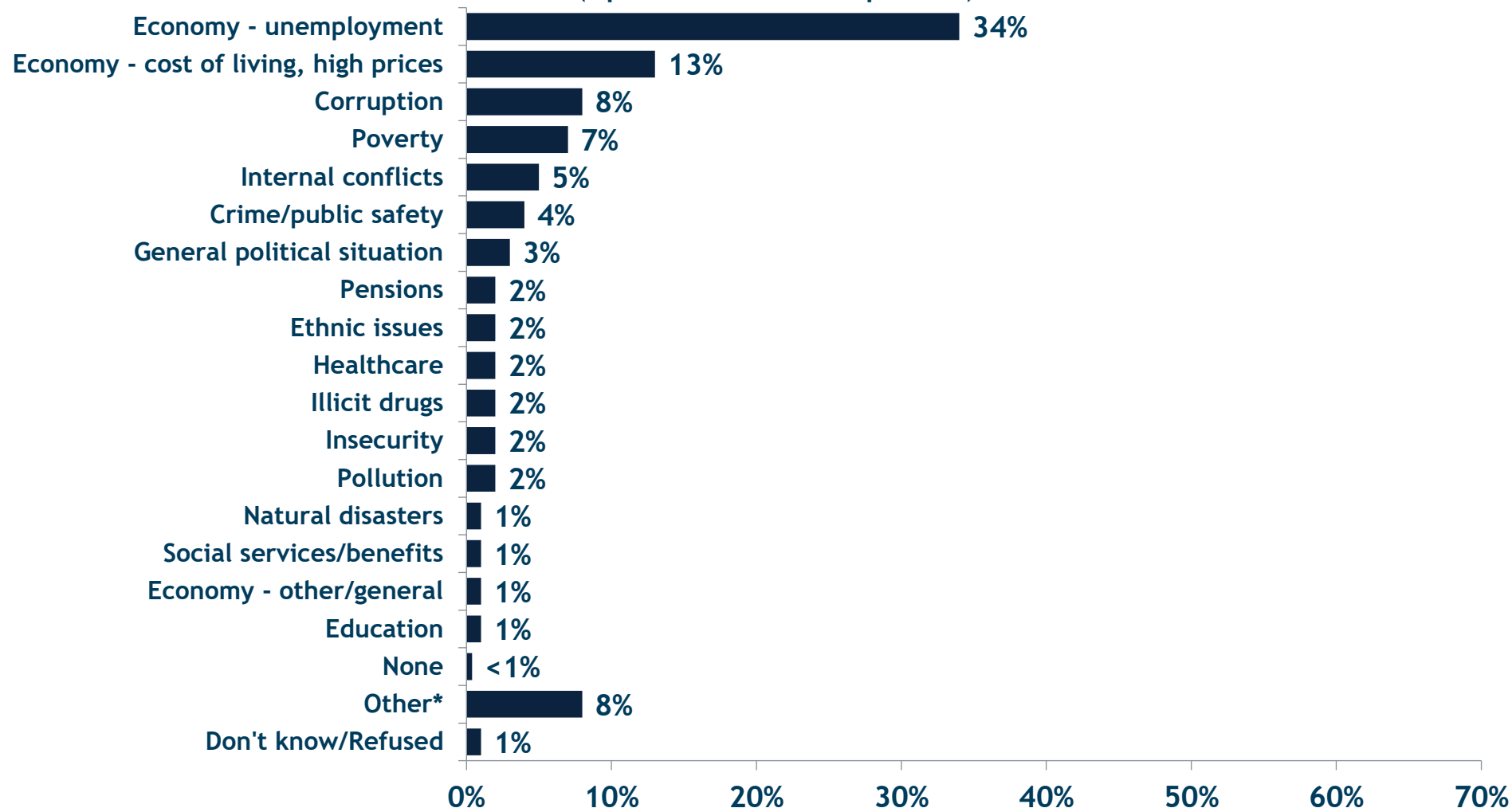
*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.



What is the most important problem facing our country today?

Montenegro

(Spontaneous response)



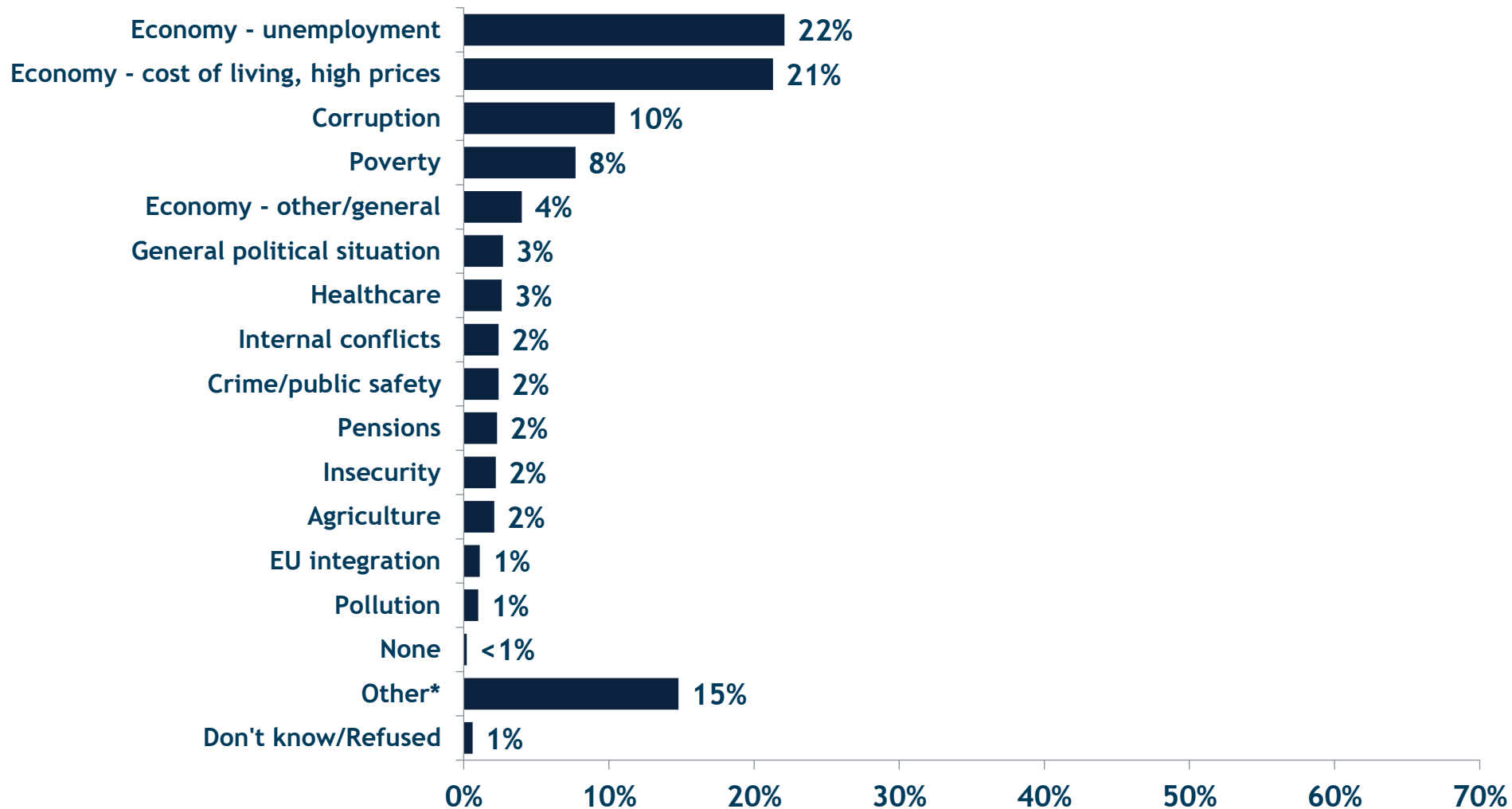
*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.



What is the most important problem facing our country today?

Serbia

(Spontaneous response)



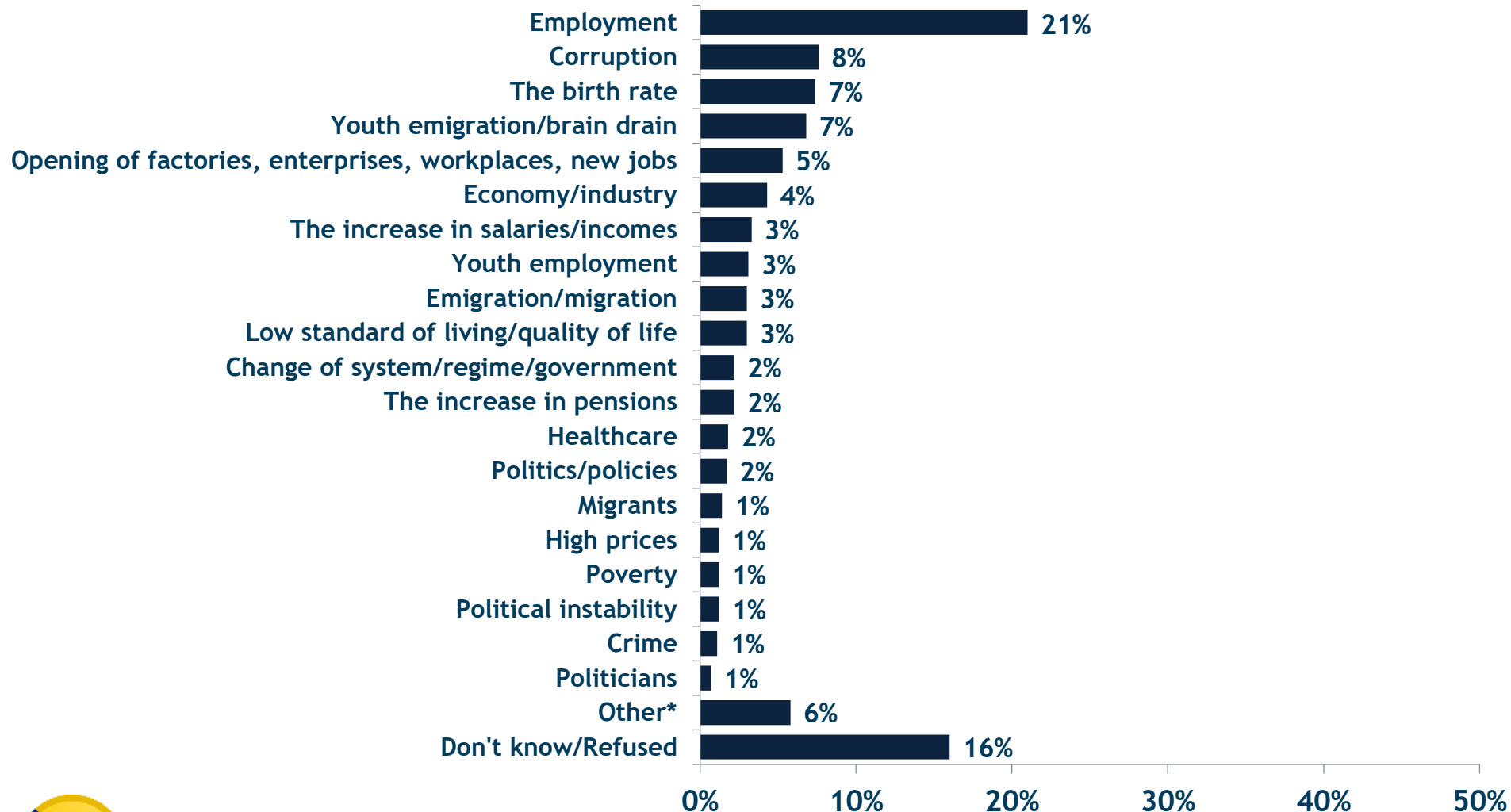
*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.



What specific issue should be the top priority for the government to address?

Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Spontaneous response)



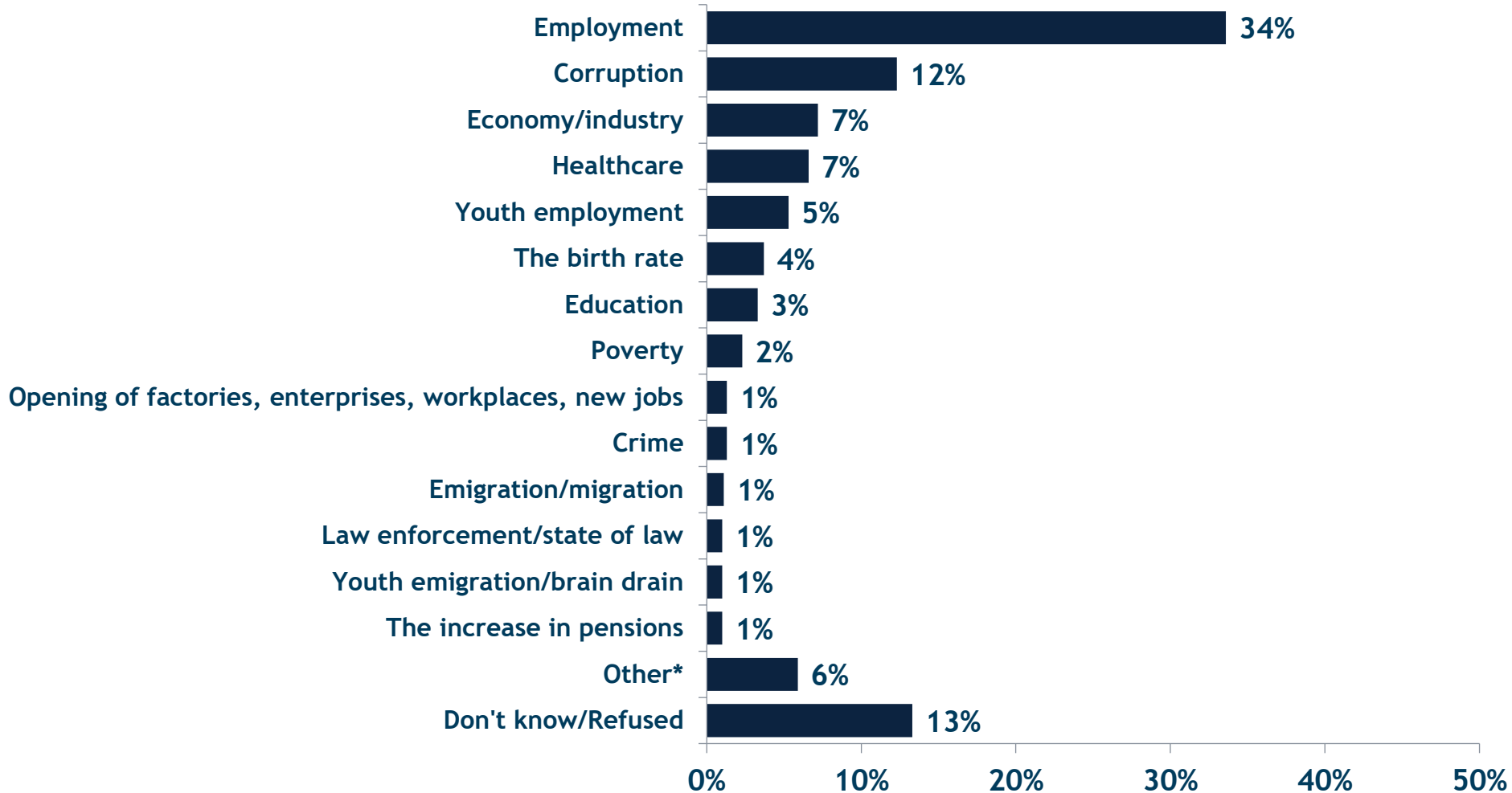
*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.



What specific issue should be the top priority for the government to address?

Kosovo

(Spontaneous response)

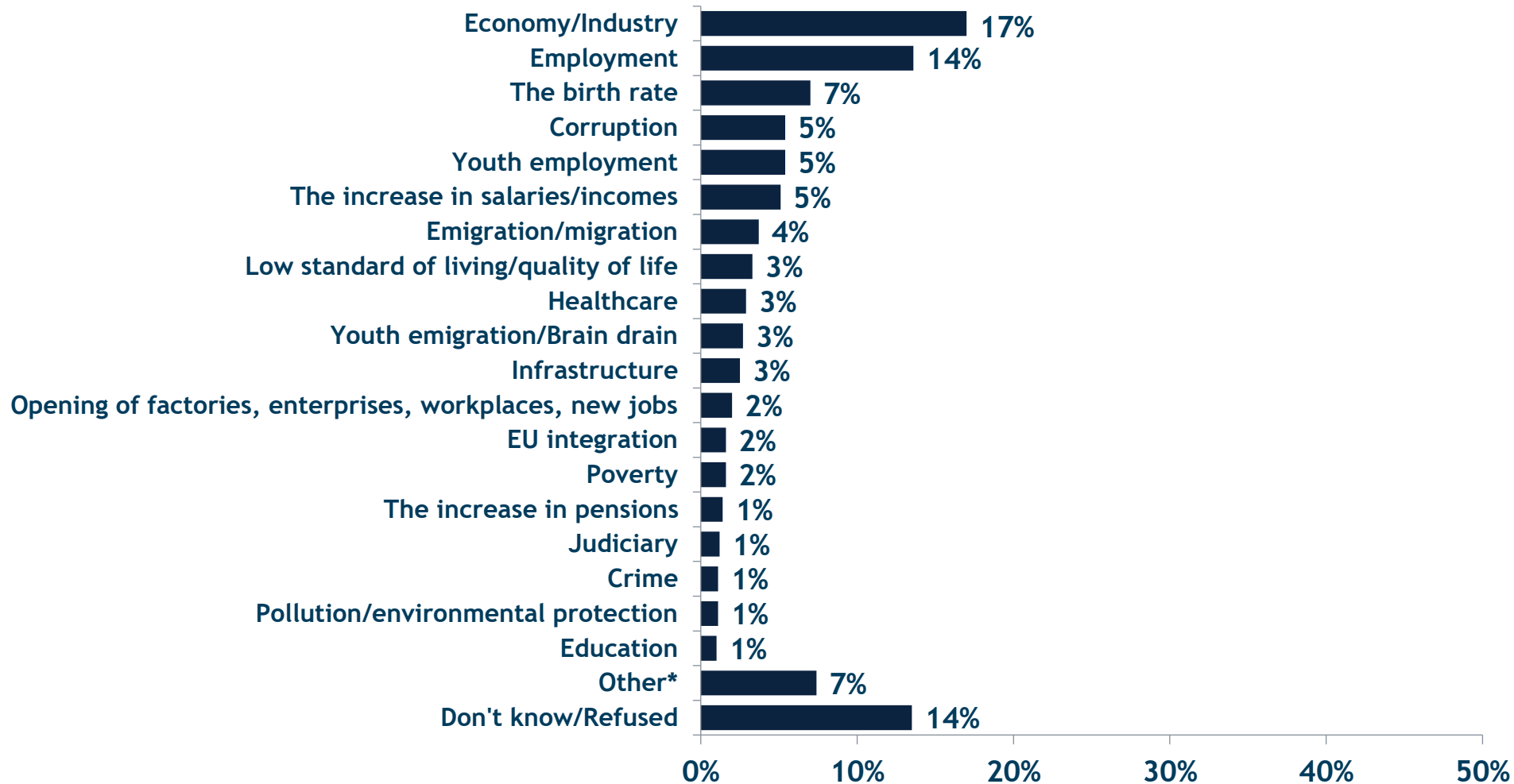


*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.



What specific issue should be the top priority for the government to address?

North Macedonia (Spontaneous response)



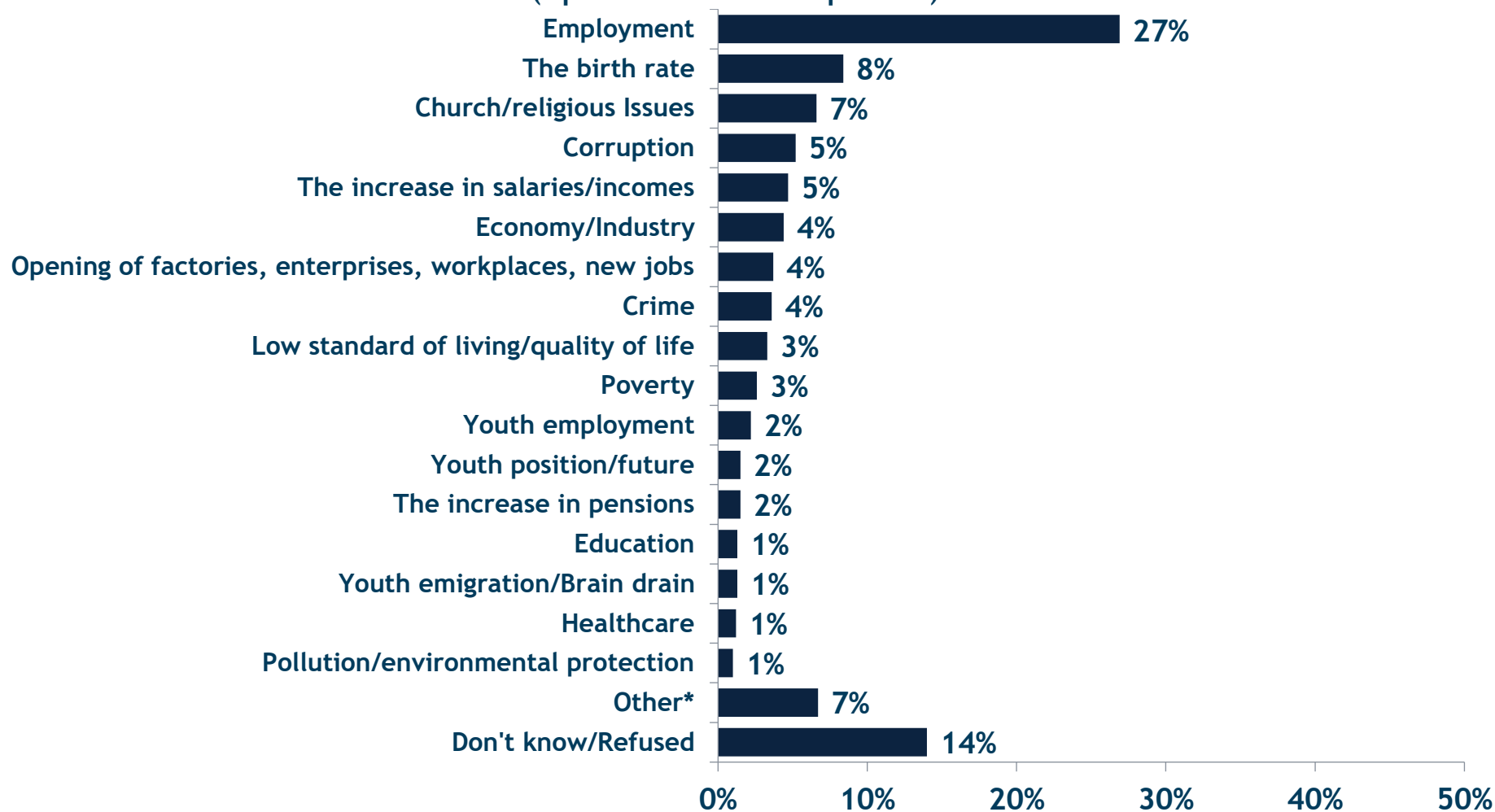
*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.



What specific issue should be the top priority for the government to address?

Montenegro

(Spontaneous response)



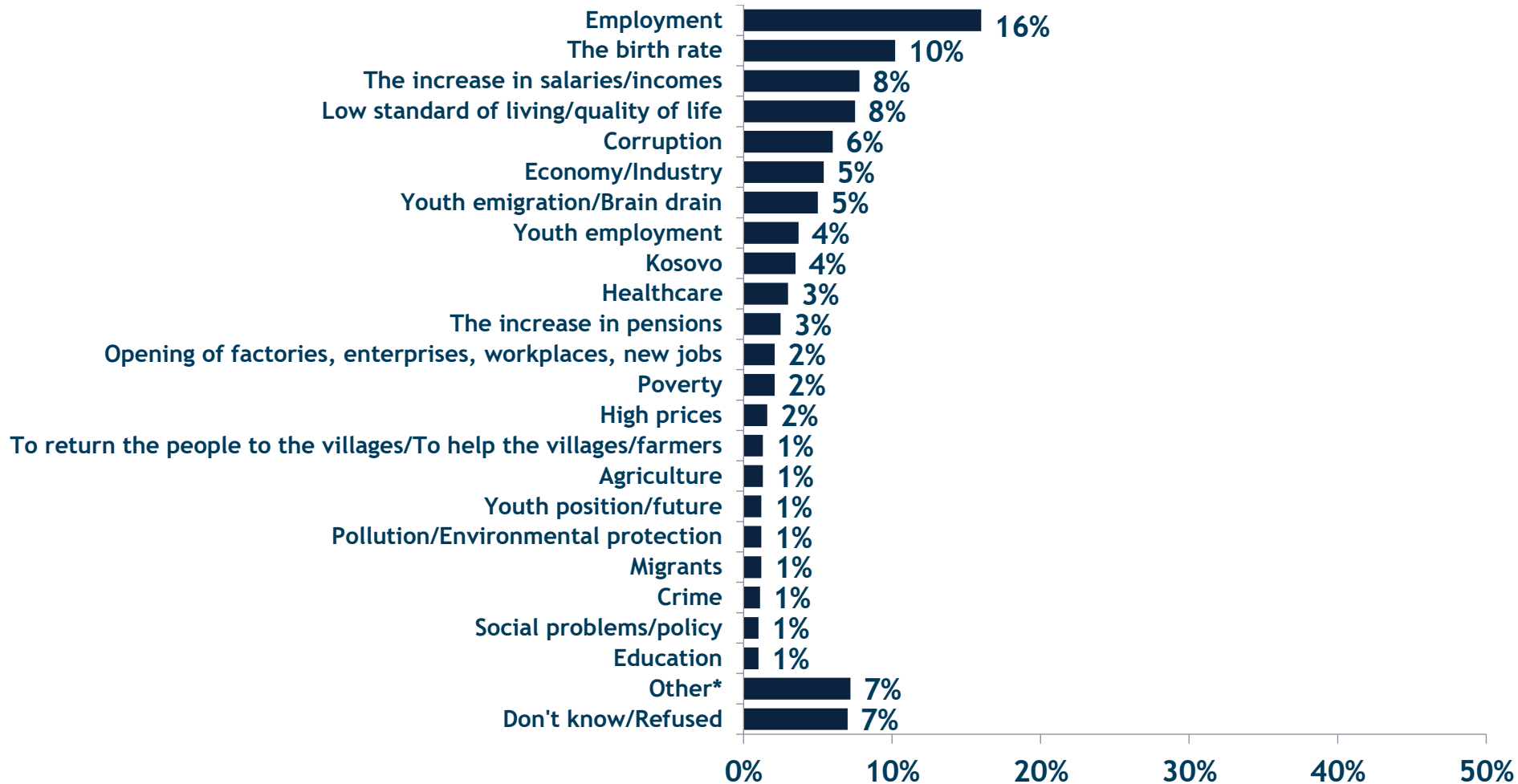
*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.



What specific issue should be the top priority for the government to address?

Serbia

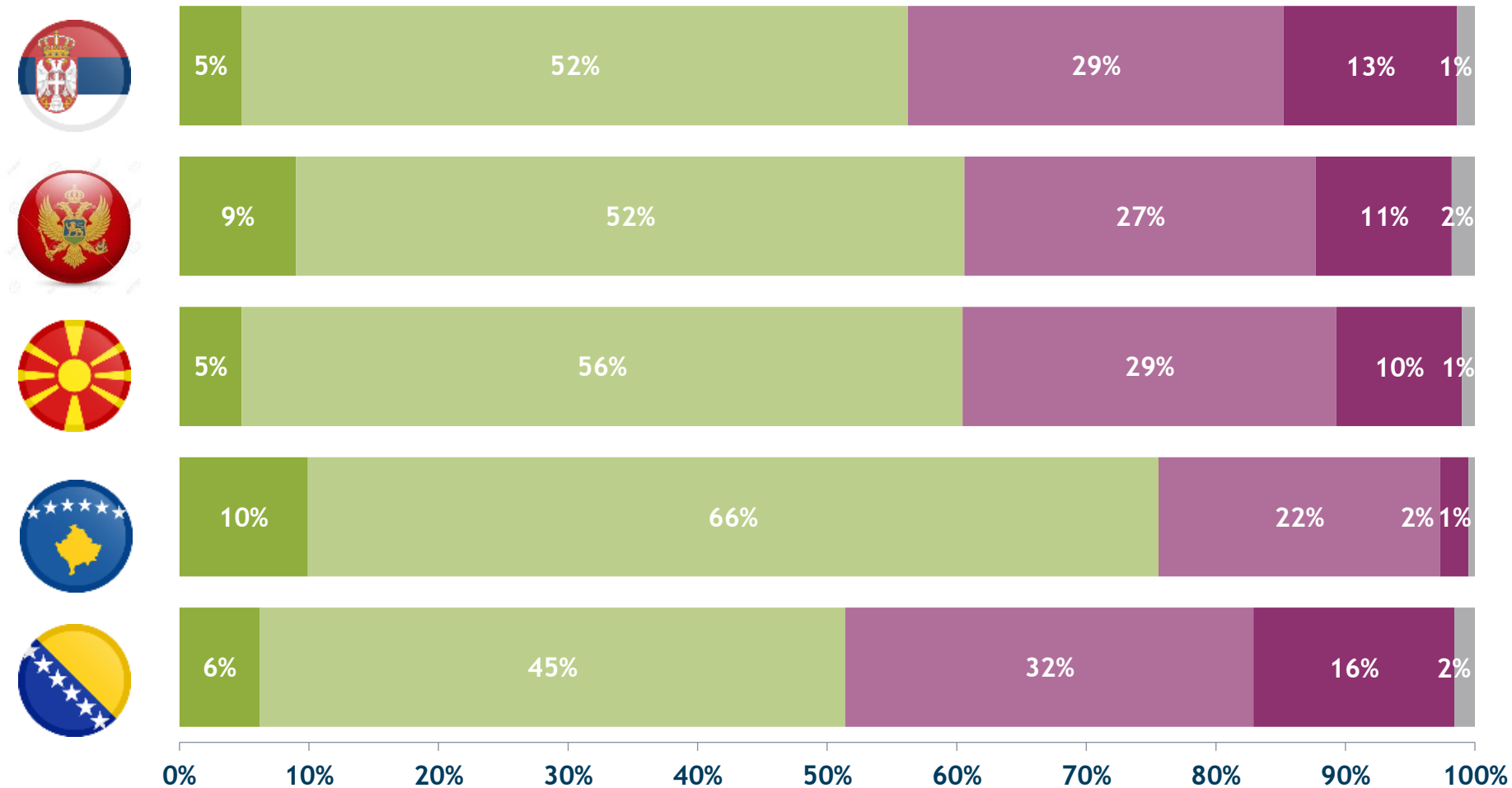
(Spontaneous response)



*Responses receiving less than 1 percent are collapsed into Other.

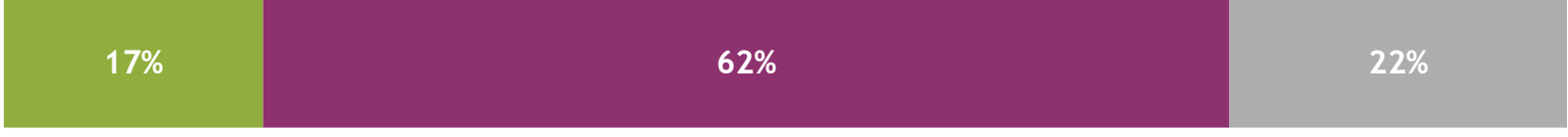
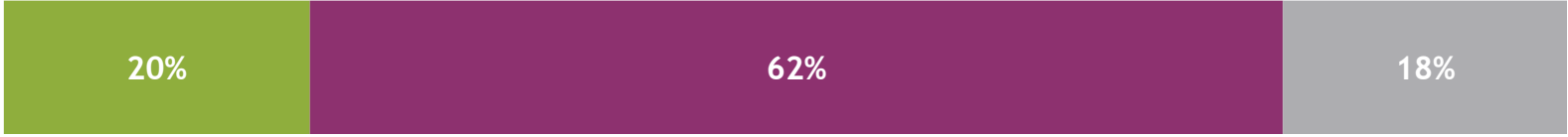
How would you describe the current economic situation of your household?

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



When was life better for you, today or before the breakup of Yugoslavia?

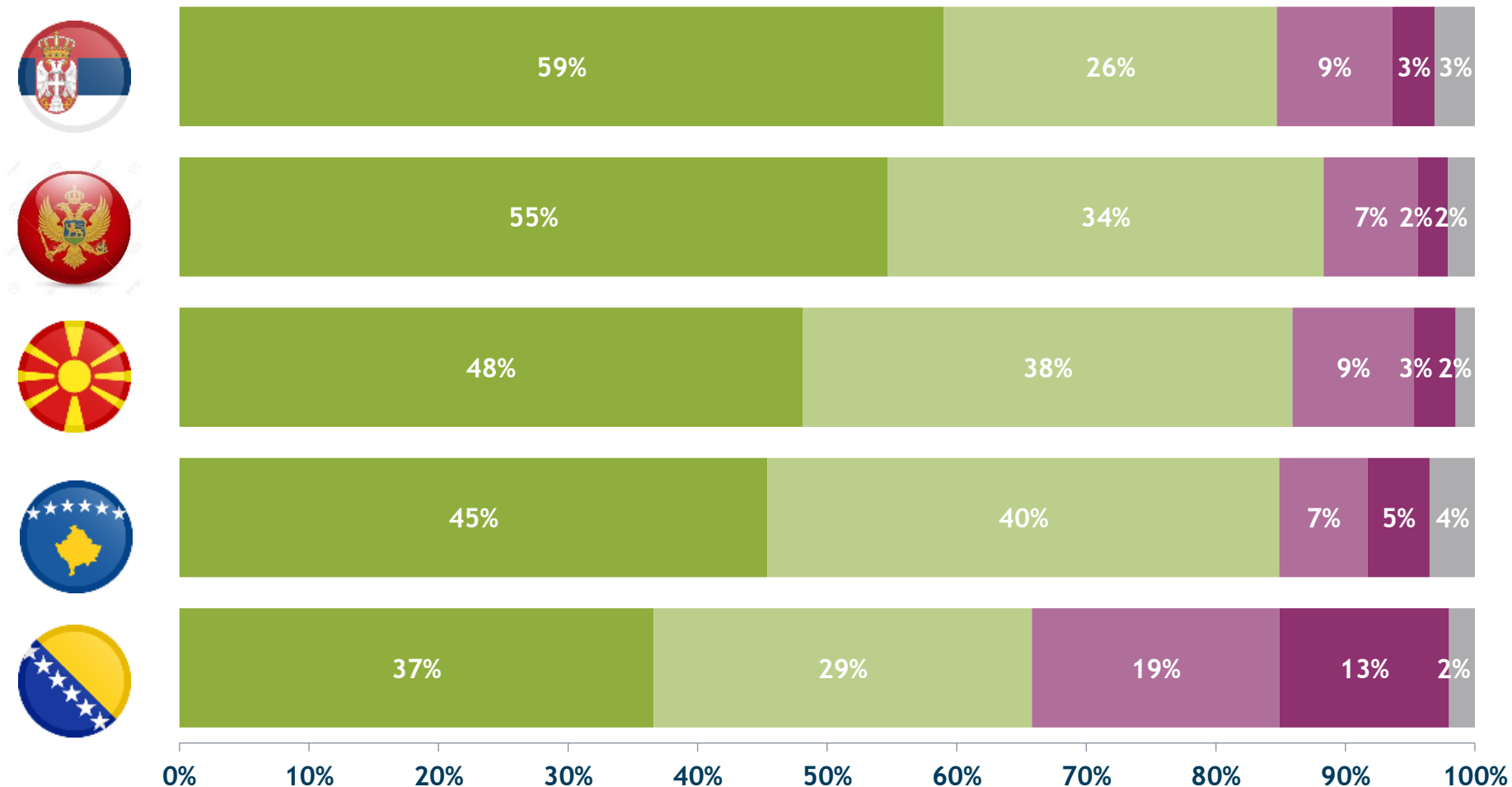
■ Today ■ Before breakup ■ Don't know/Refused



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

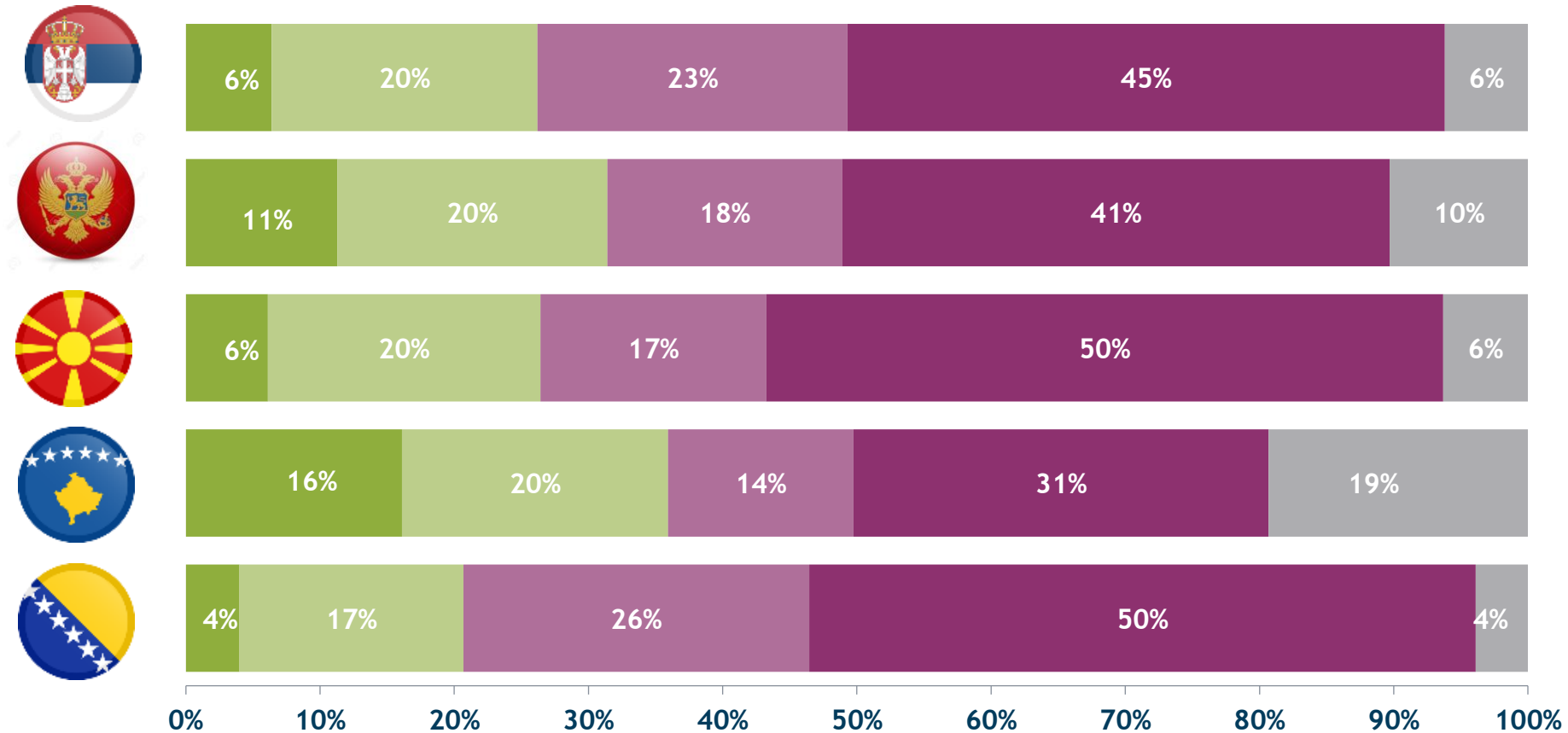
How important or unimportant is it that all members of our country's adult population, including women, young adults, minorities, and people with disabilities, are included in political decision-making?

■ Very important
 ■ Somewhat important
 ■ Somewhat unimportant
 ■ Very unimportant
 ■ Don't know/Refused



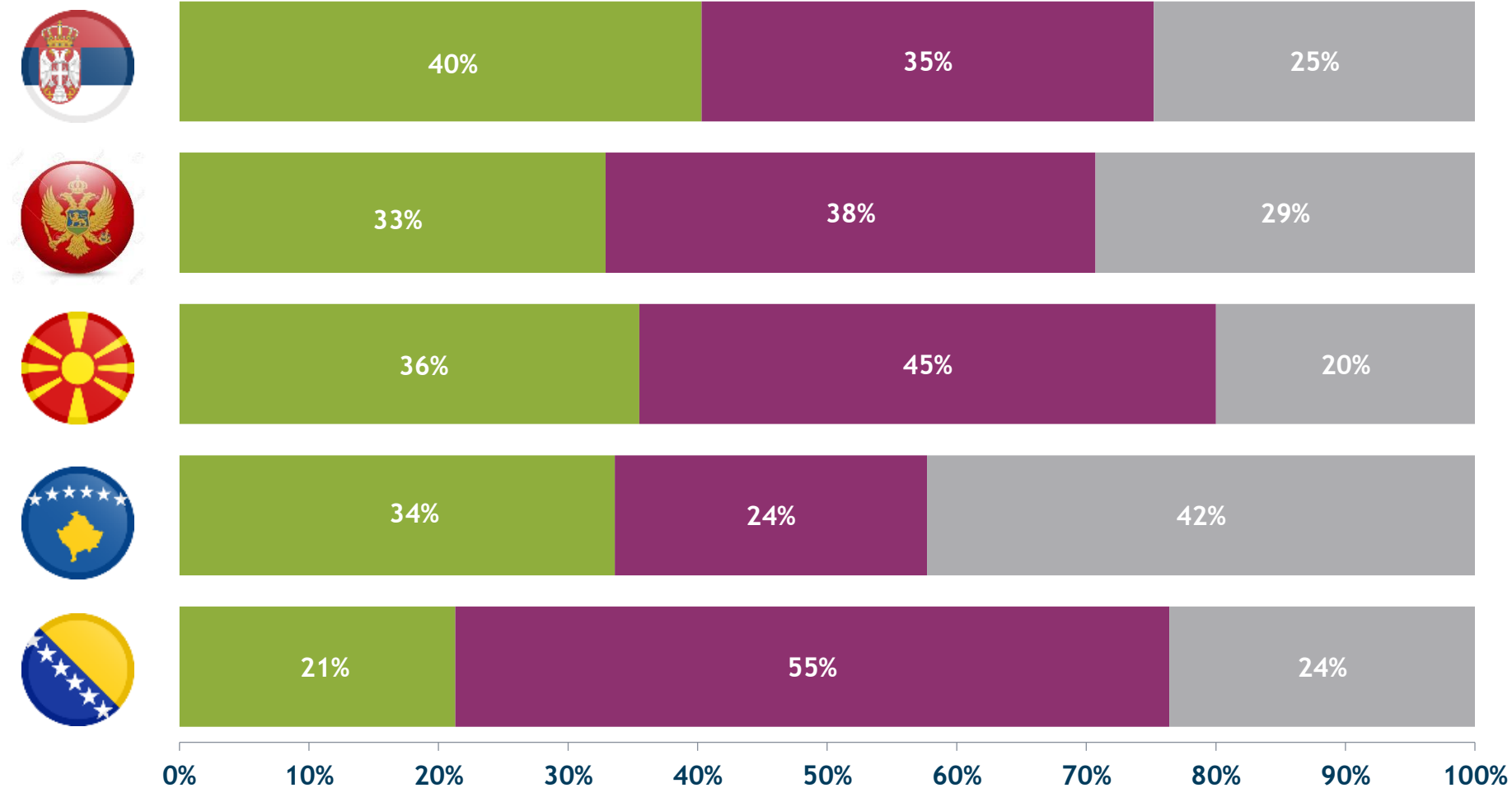
Which of the following statements best matches your own opinion of the role that religion should play in government and law-making?

- Religious texts should form the foundations of all policy and law-making
- The principles of religious teaching should be one consideration but not the only
- Religious views should not provide a source of justification for a policy or law
- Religion should be completely absent from government decision-making
- Don't know/Refused



Would you say that our country's politics are moving toward more consensus or more polarization?

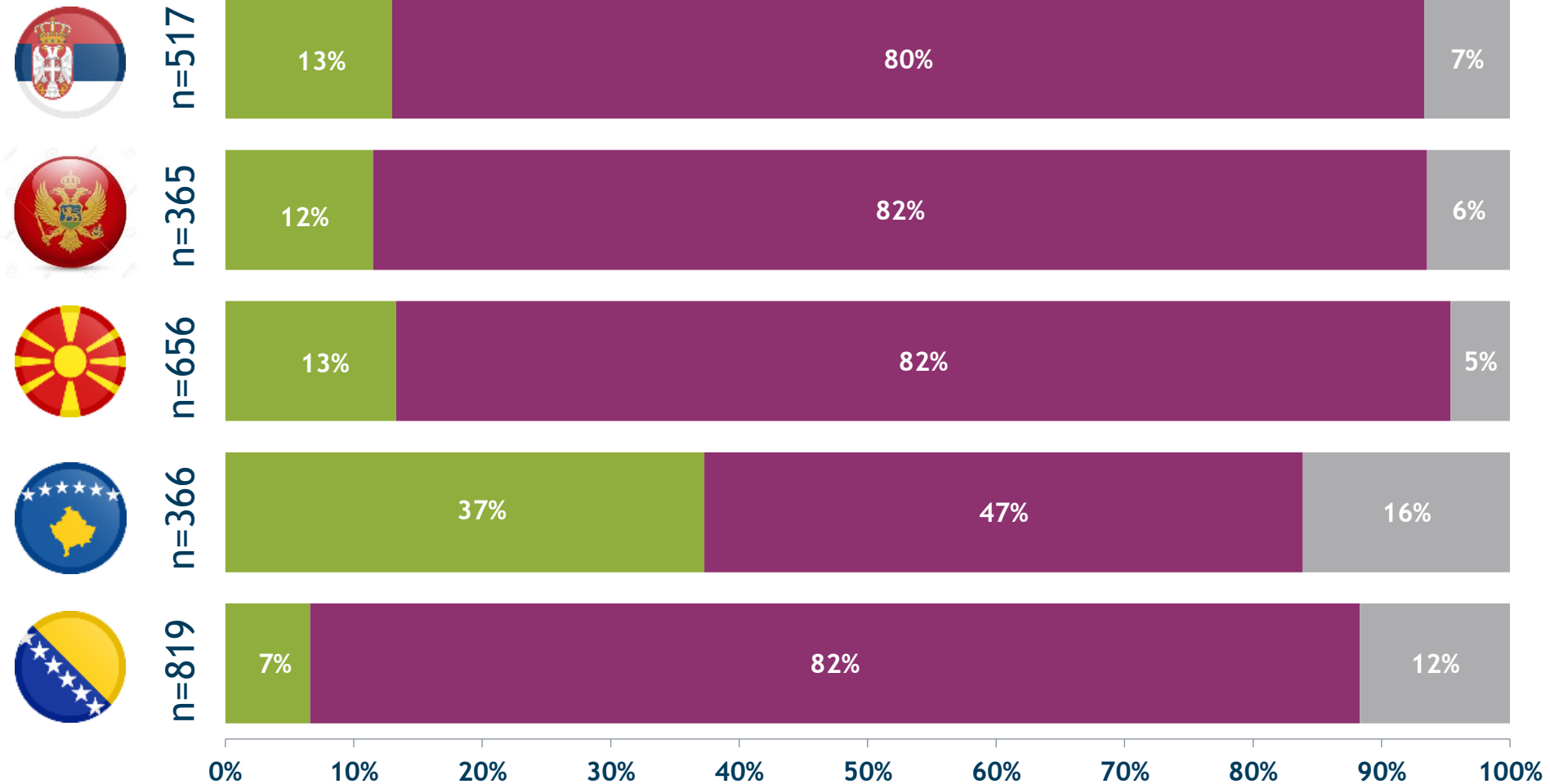
More consensus More polarization Don't know/Refused



Is polarization of our country's politics a positive or negative development?

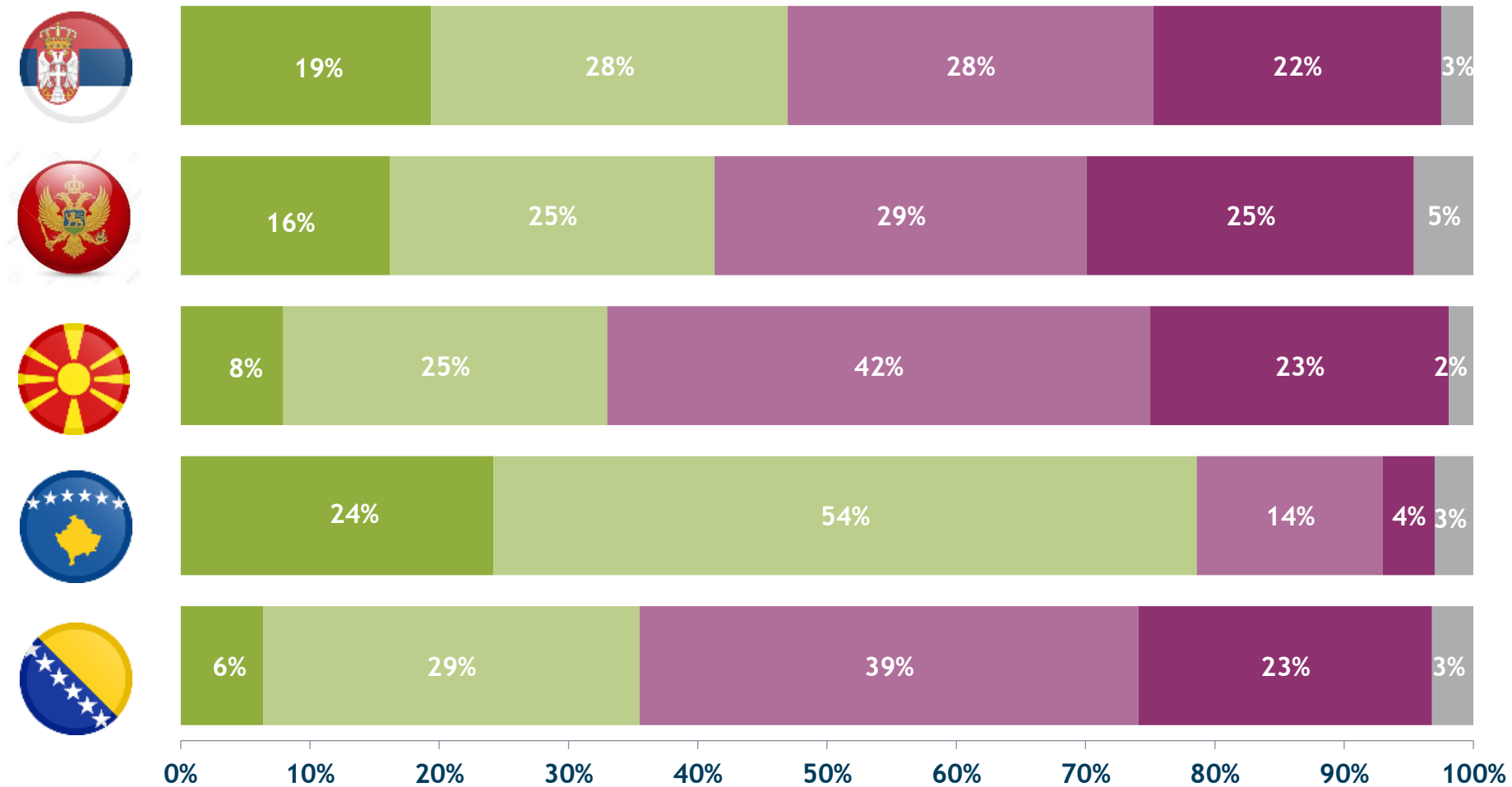
(Among those who said the country's politics are moving toward polarization)

■ Positive ■ Negative ■ Don't know/Refused



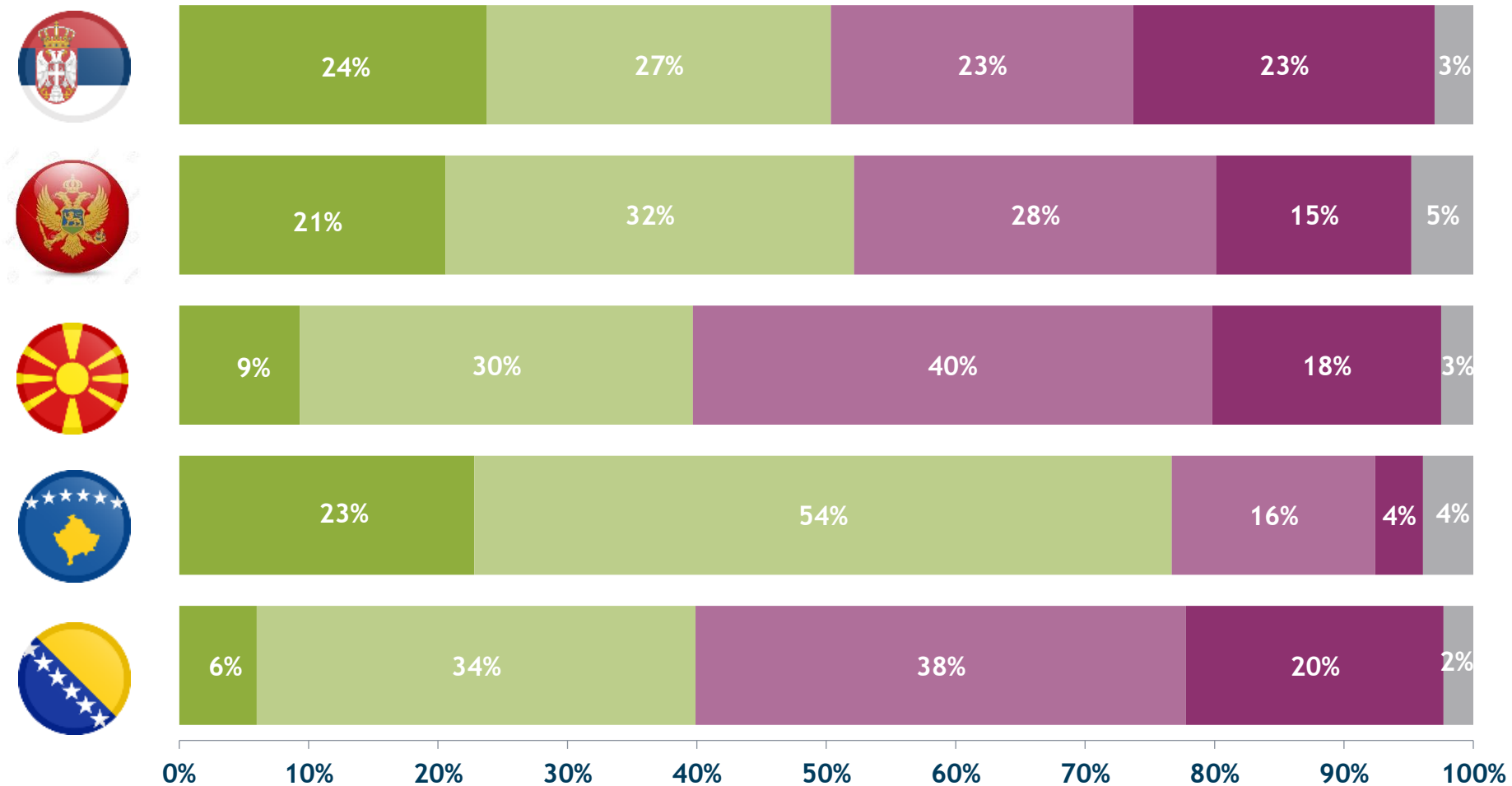
Do people in our country feel free to openly express their opinions or are they afraid?

■ Very free
 ■ Somewhat free
 ■ Somewhat afraid
 ■ Very afraid
 ■ Don't know/Refused



Are the media in our country free to independently cover any issue or not?

Very free Somewhat free Somewhat not free Very not free Don't know/Refused



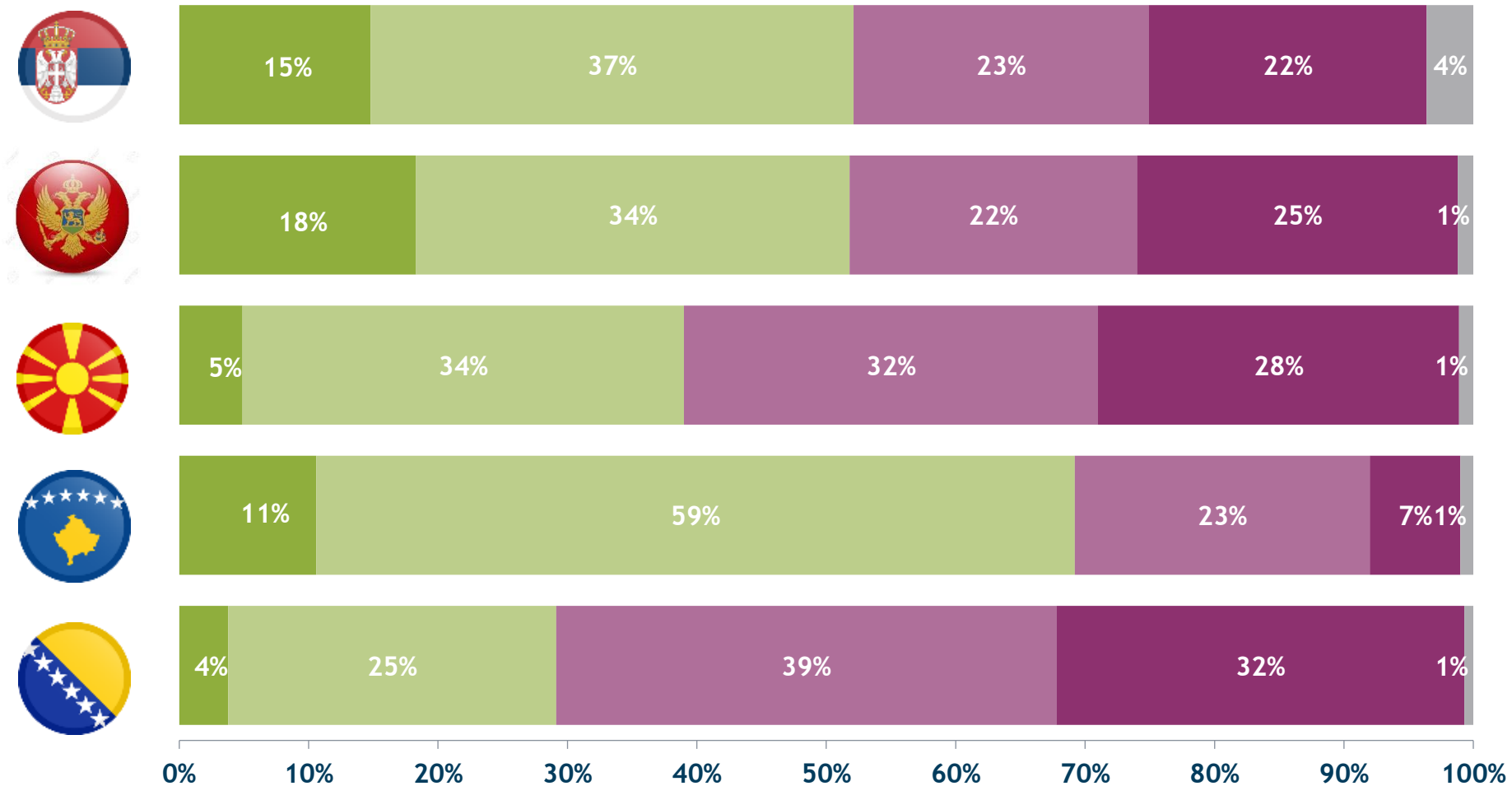


Democracy and Human Rights



How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy is developing in our country?

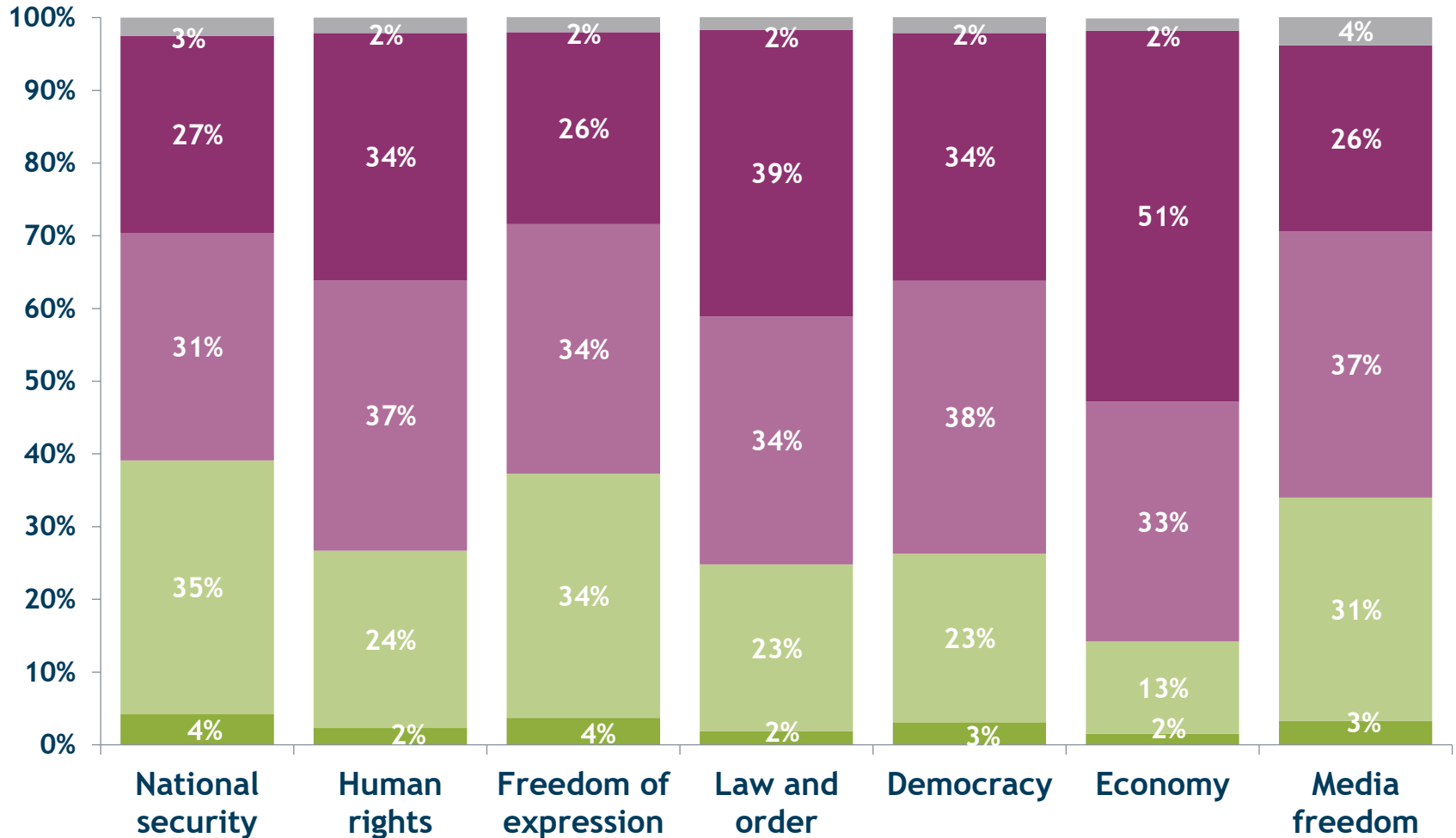
■ Very satisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Very dissatisfied
 ■ Don't know/Refused



How would you describe the current status of each of the following items in our country?

Bosnia and Herzegovina

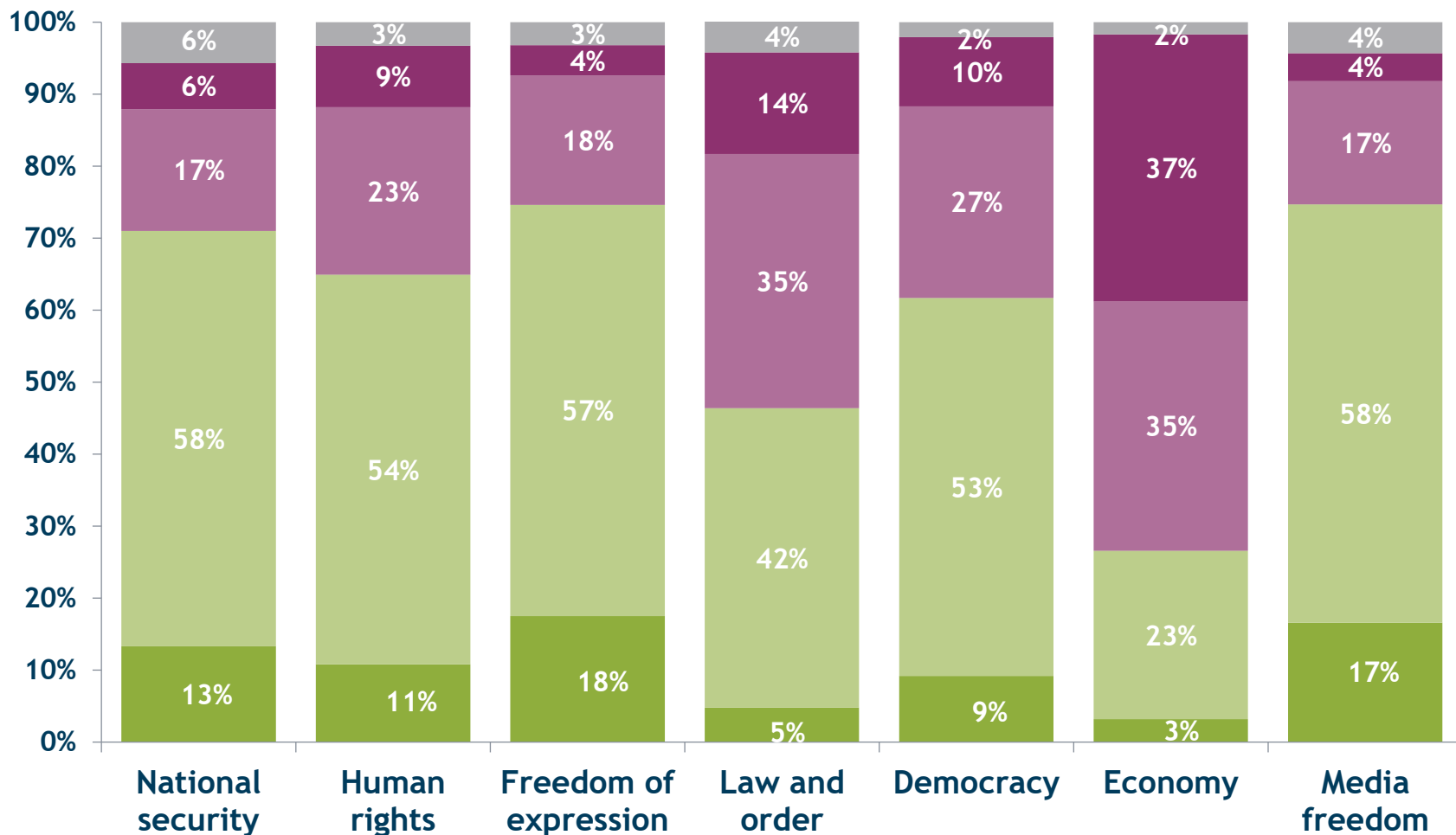
■ Very good
 ■ Somewhat good
 ■ Somewhat bad
 ■ Very bad
 ■ Don't know/Refused



How would you describe the current status of each of the following items in our country?

Kosovo

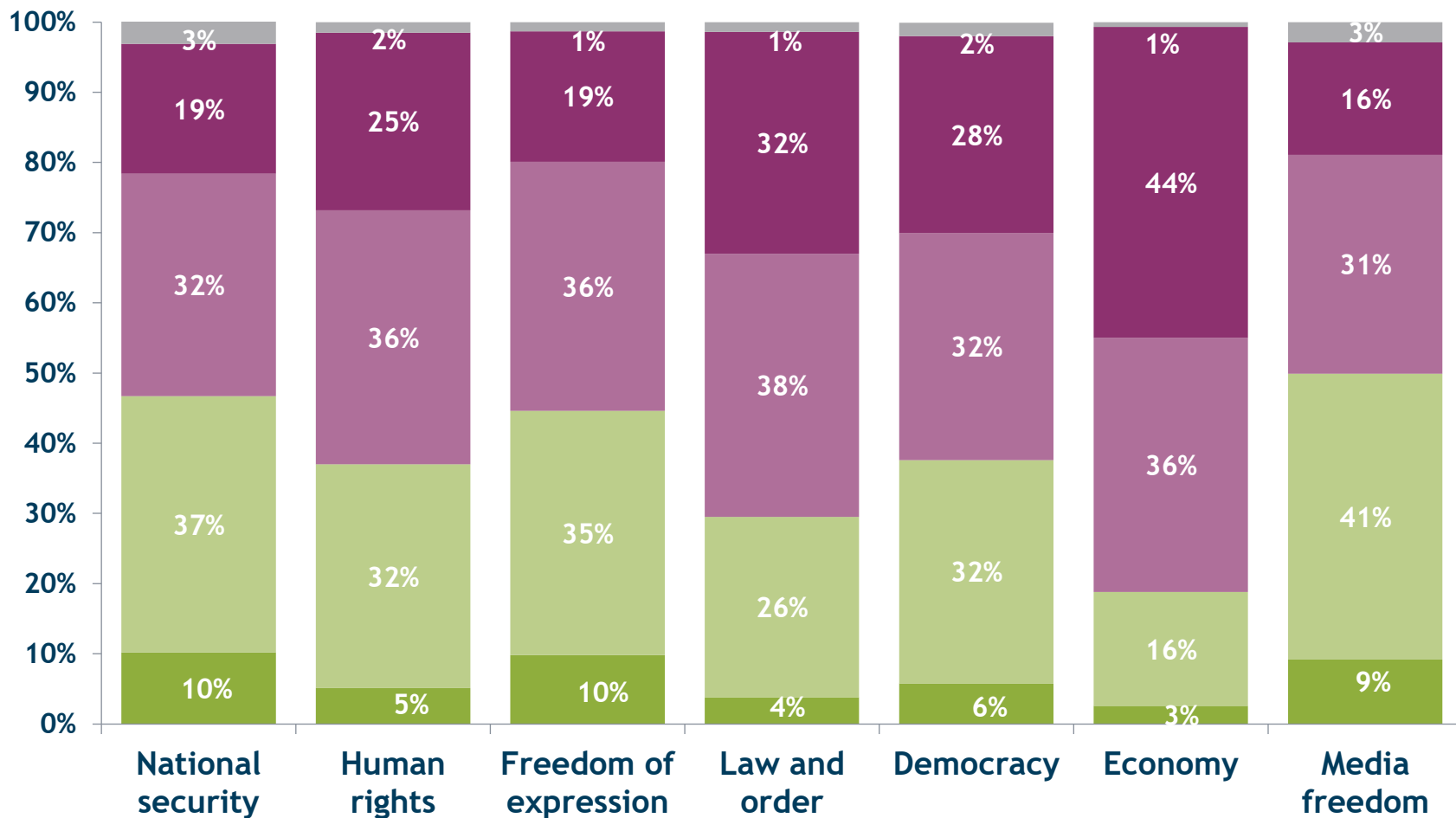
■ Very good
 ■ Somewhat good
 ■ Somewhat bad
 ■ Very bad
 ■ Don't know/Refused



How would you describe the current status of each of the following items in our country?

North Macedonia

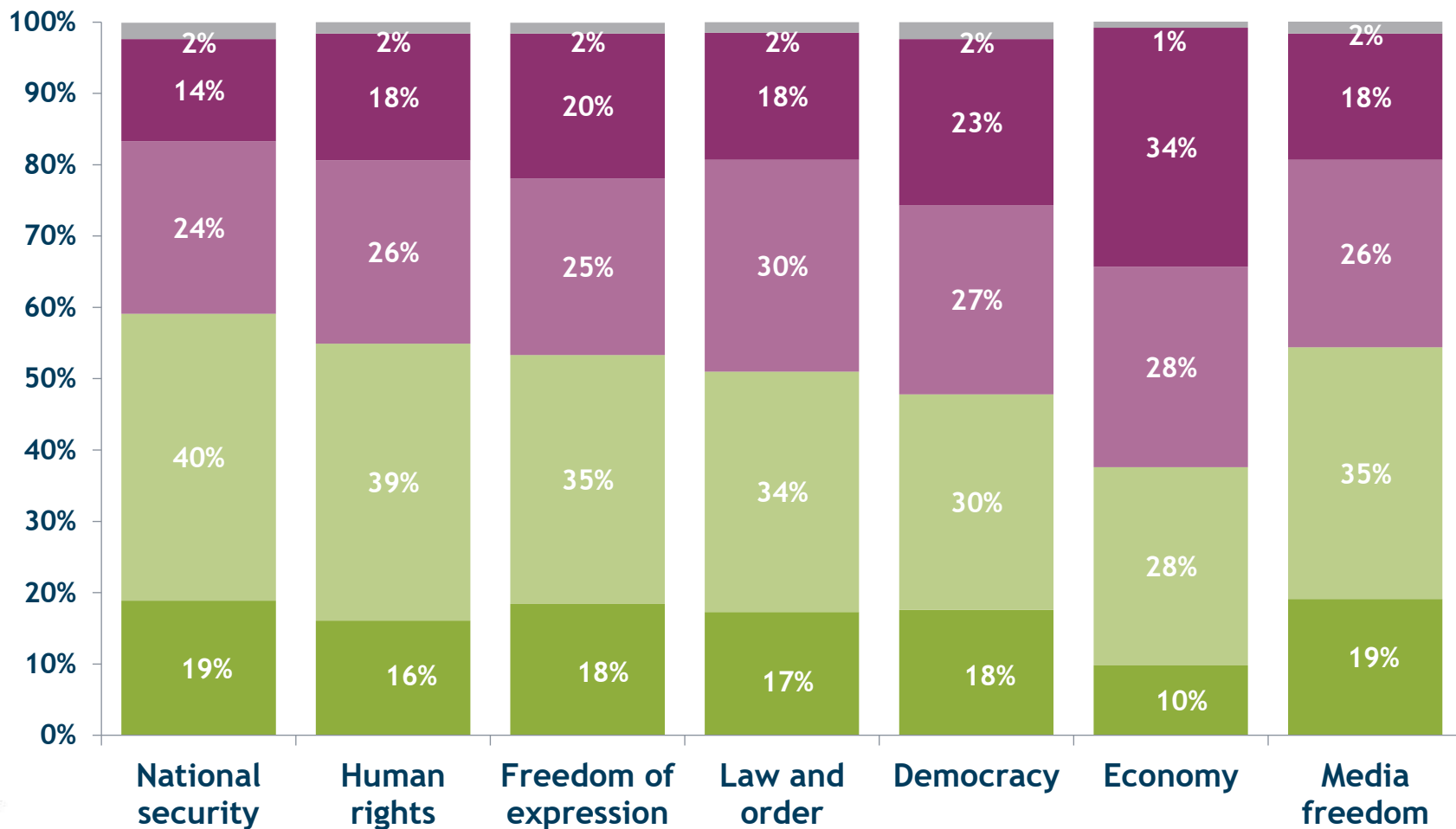
Very good Somewhat good Somewhat bad Very bad Don't know/Refused



How would you describe the current status of each of the following items in our country?

Montenegro

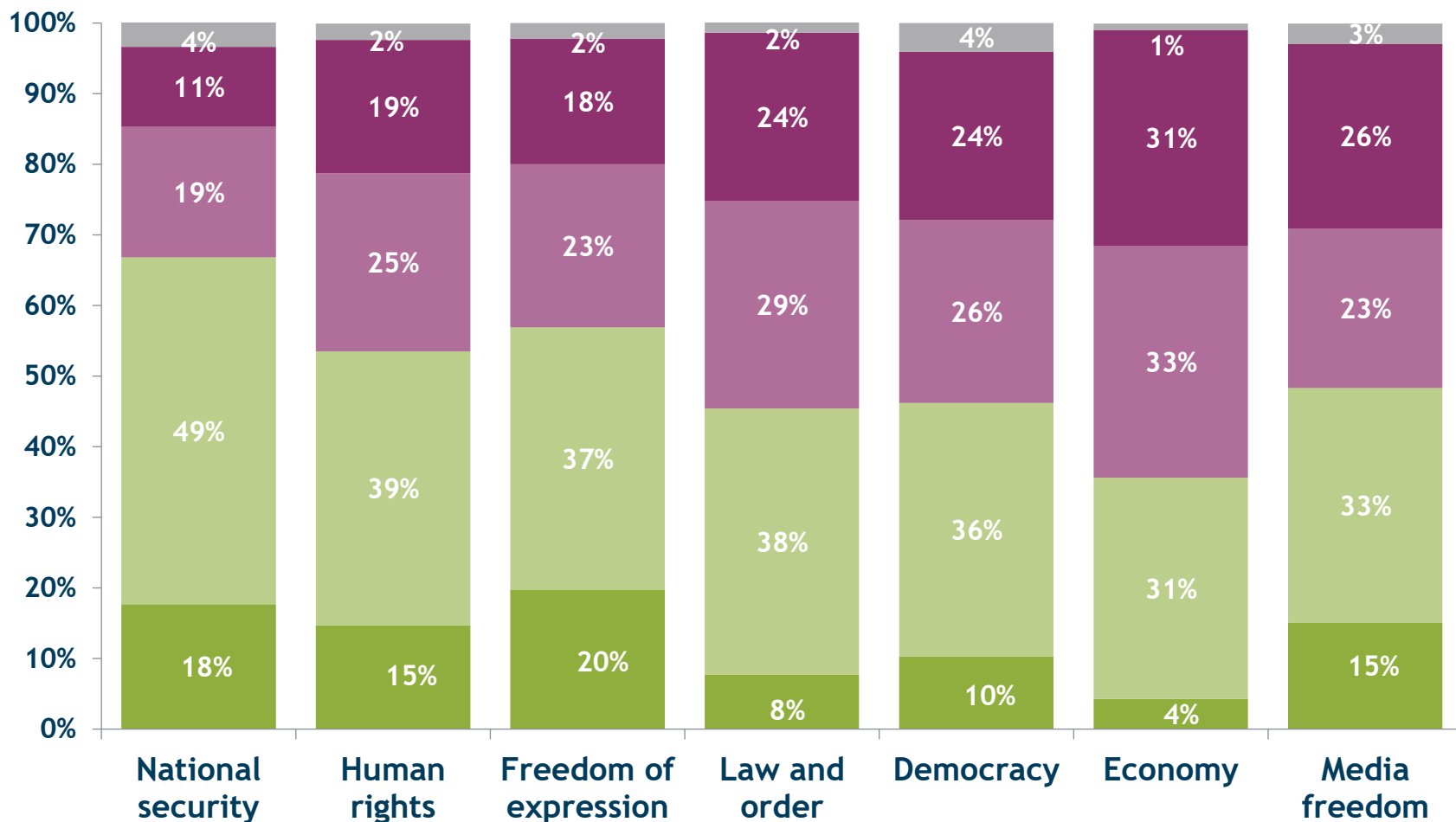
■ Very good
 ■ Somewhat good
 ■ Somewhat bad
 ■ Very bad
 ■ Don't know/Refused



How would you describe the current status of each of the following items in our country?

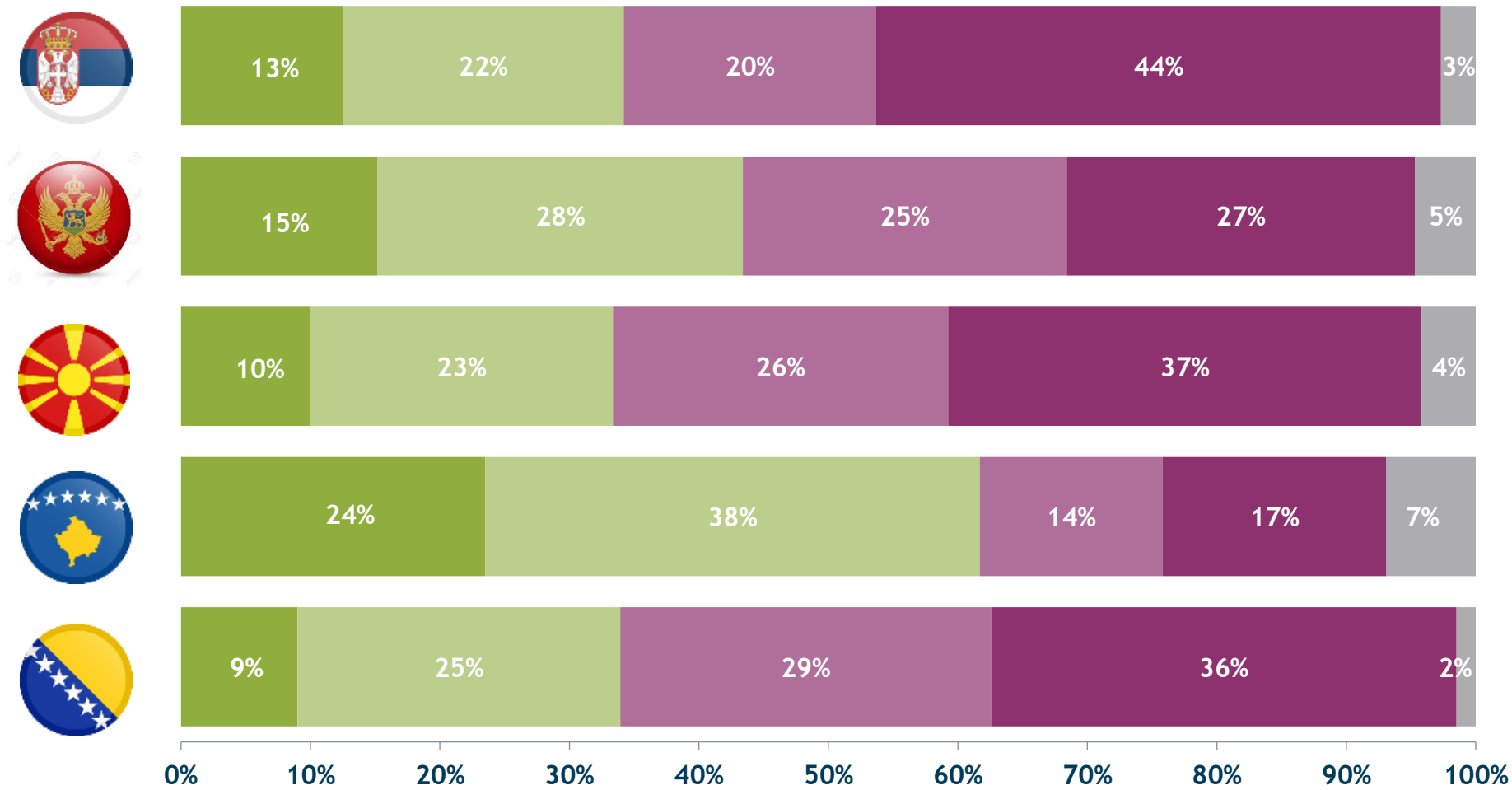
Serbia

Very good Somewhat good Somewhat bad Very bad Don't know/Refused



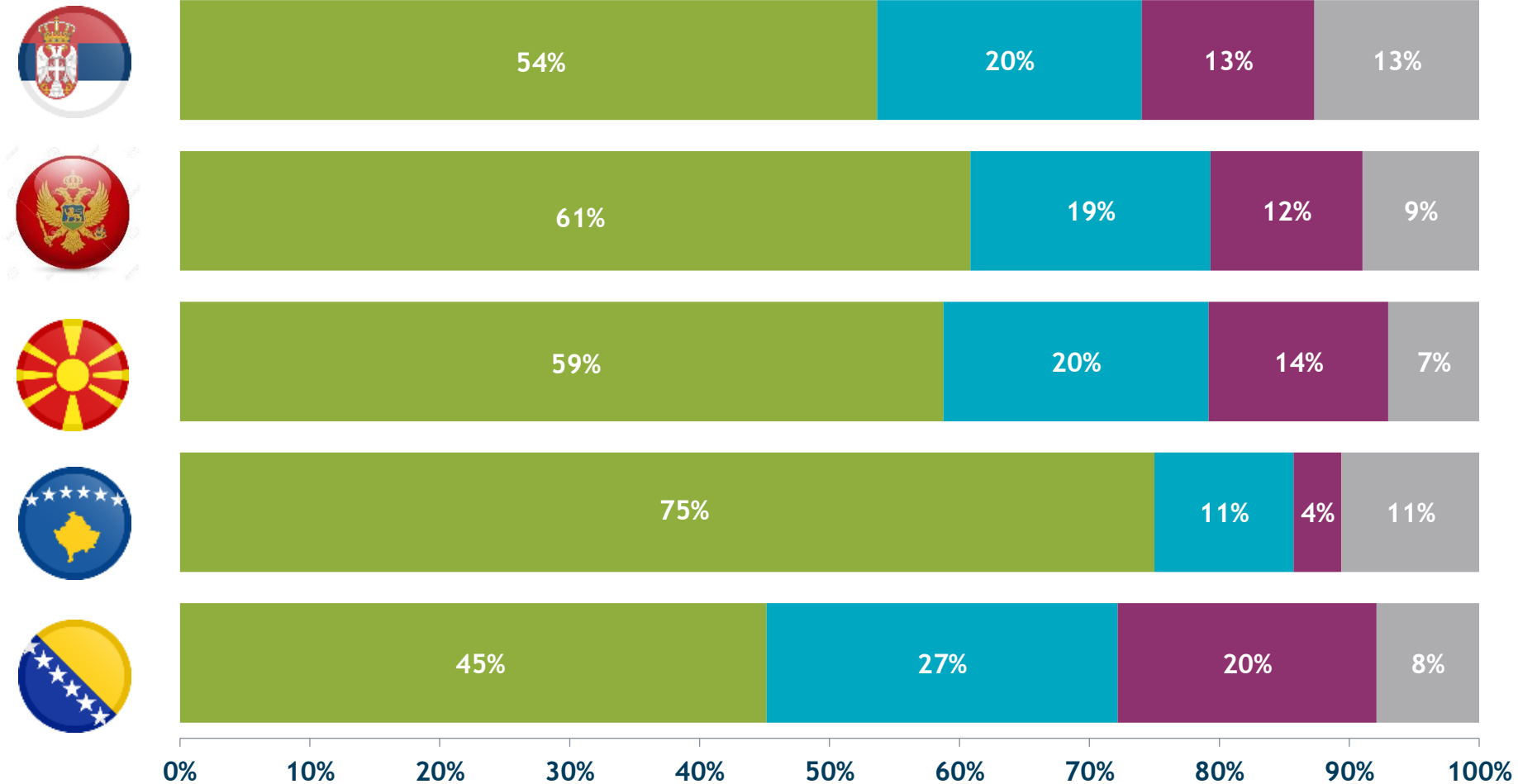
How likely or unlikely are ordinary people able to influence decisions made in our country?

■ Very likely
 ■ Somewhat likely
 ■ Somewhat unlikely
 ■ Very unlikely
 ■ Don't know/Refused



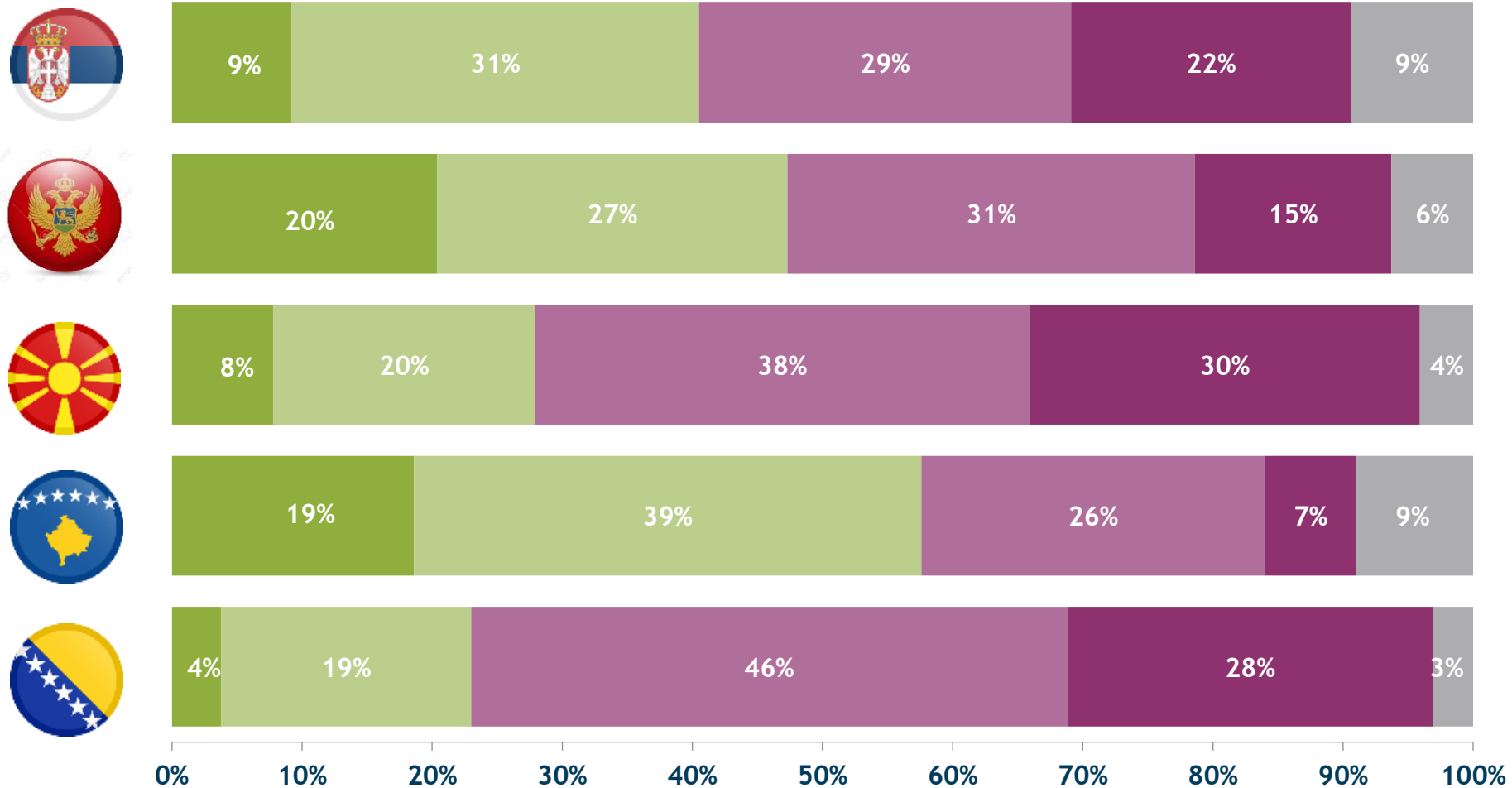
Do you believe that democracy is the best possible form of government for our country or not?

- Yes, it is the best possible form of government for our country.
- No, there are other forms of government that could be equally good for our country.
- No, there are other forms of government that are better than democracy.
- Don't know/Refused



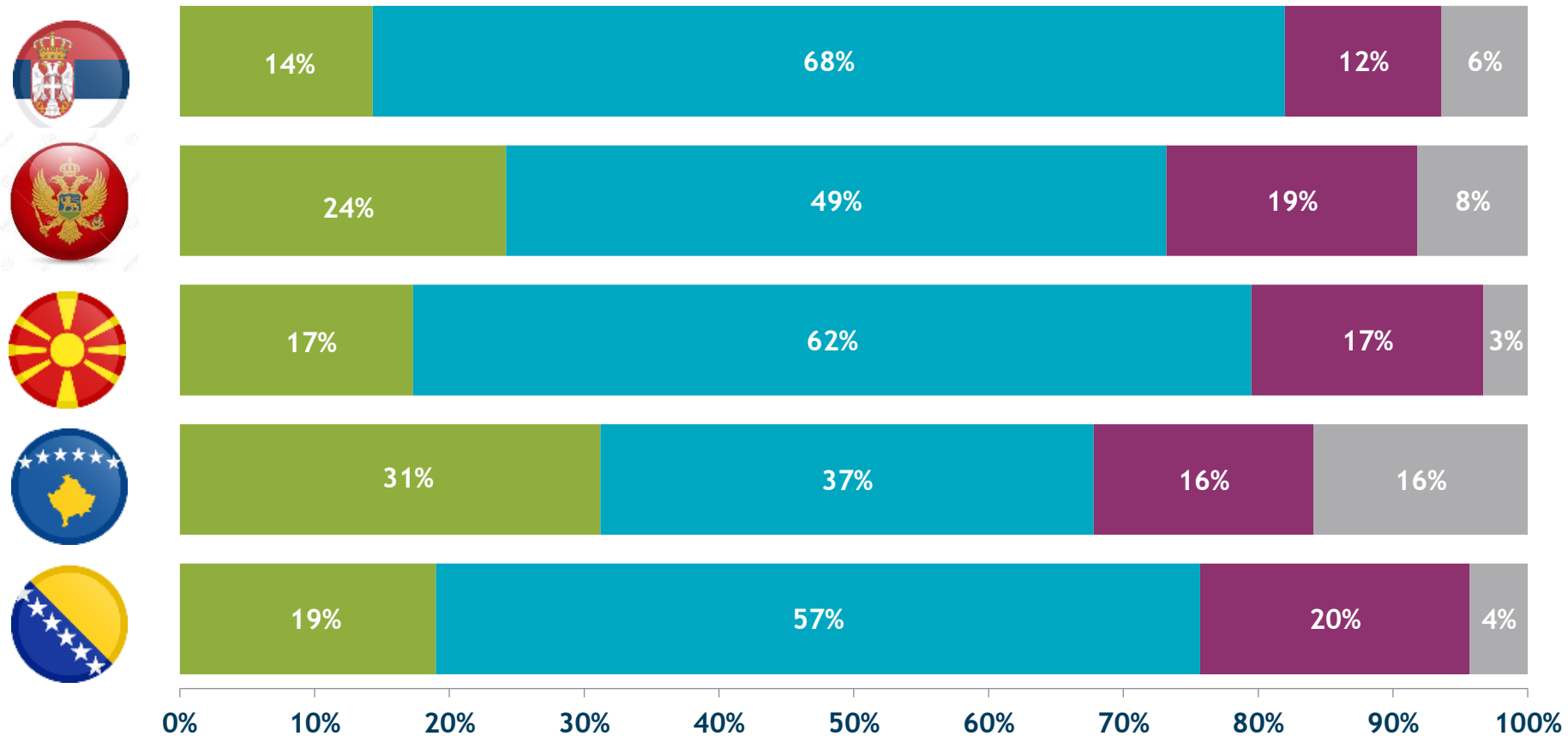
Thinking about our country's current political system, do you believe it is a:

■ Full democracy
 ■ Nearly full democracy
 ■ Flawed democracy
 ■ Not a democracy at all
 ■ Don't know/Refused



Which one of these statements is closest to your opinion?

- In a democracy, citizens should have more rights than responsibilities before the state.
- In a democracy, there should be a balance between rights and responsibilities of the citizens before the state.
- In a democracy, citizens should have more responsibilities than rights before the state.
- Don't know/Refused

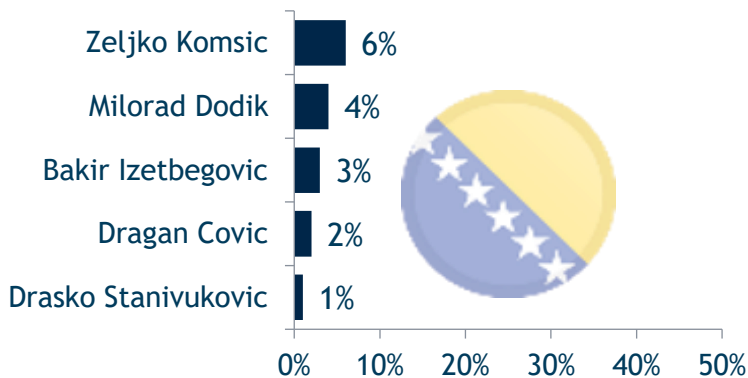
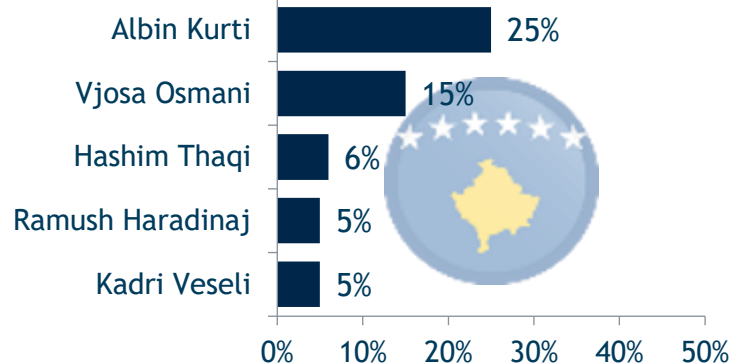
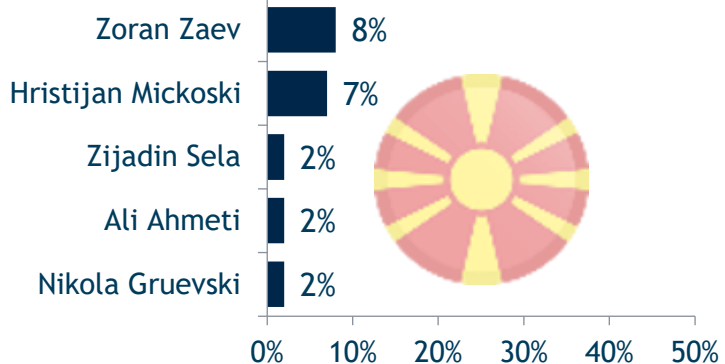
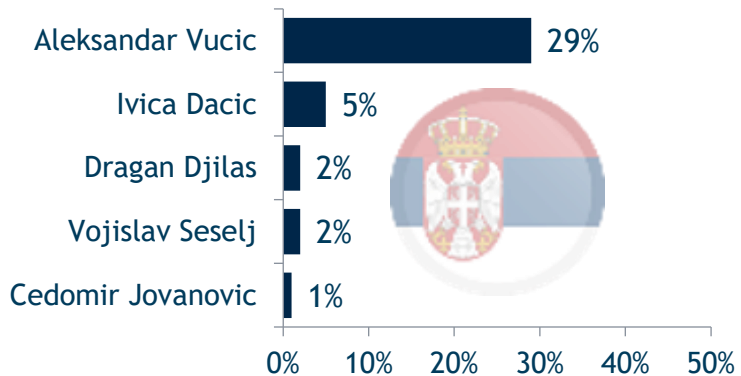




Trust in Politicians and Institutions



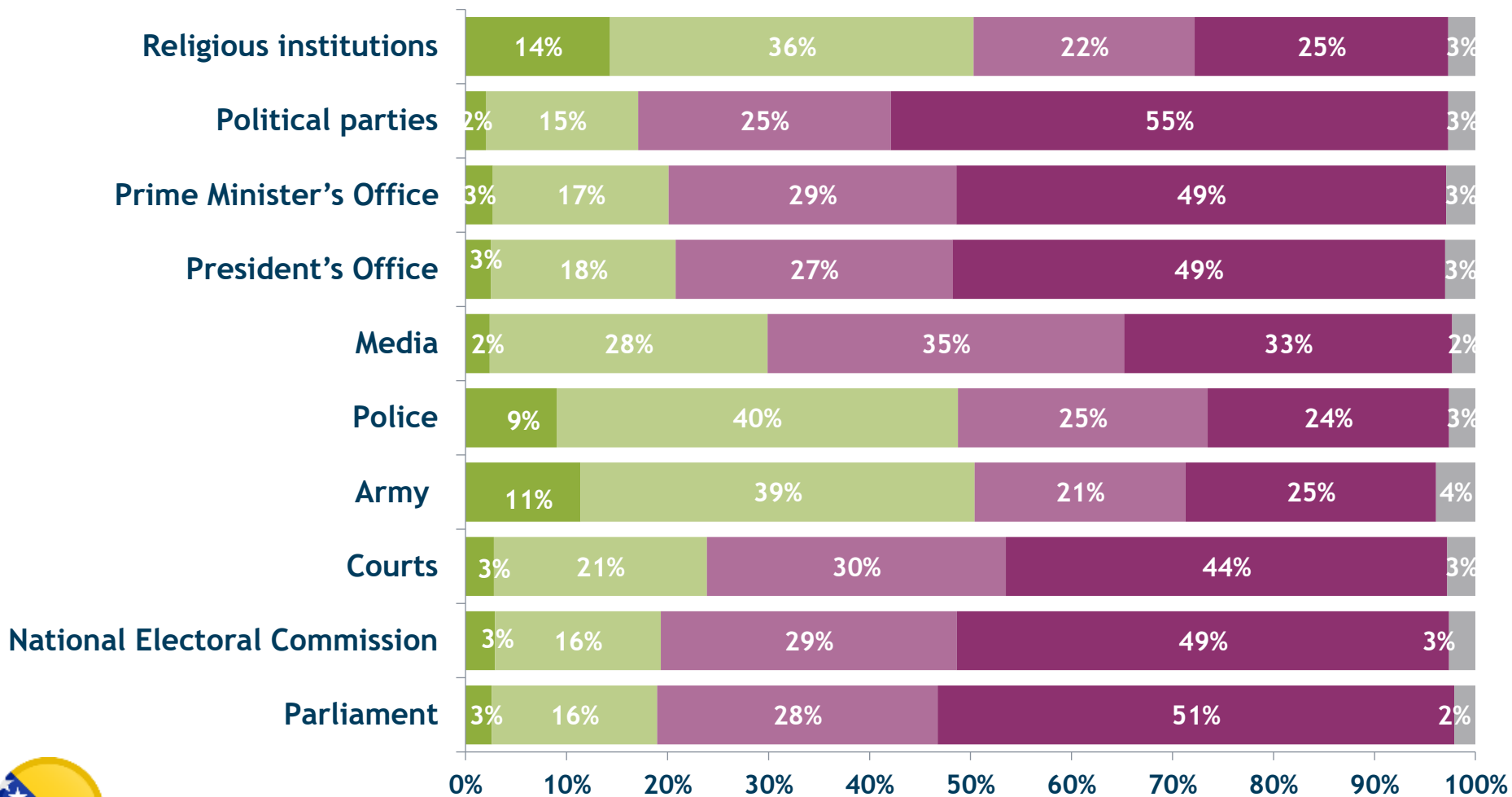
Which politician or public person do you trust the most? (Top five responses; spontaneous responses)



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

Bosnia and Herzegovina

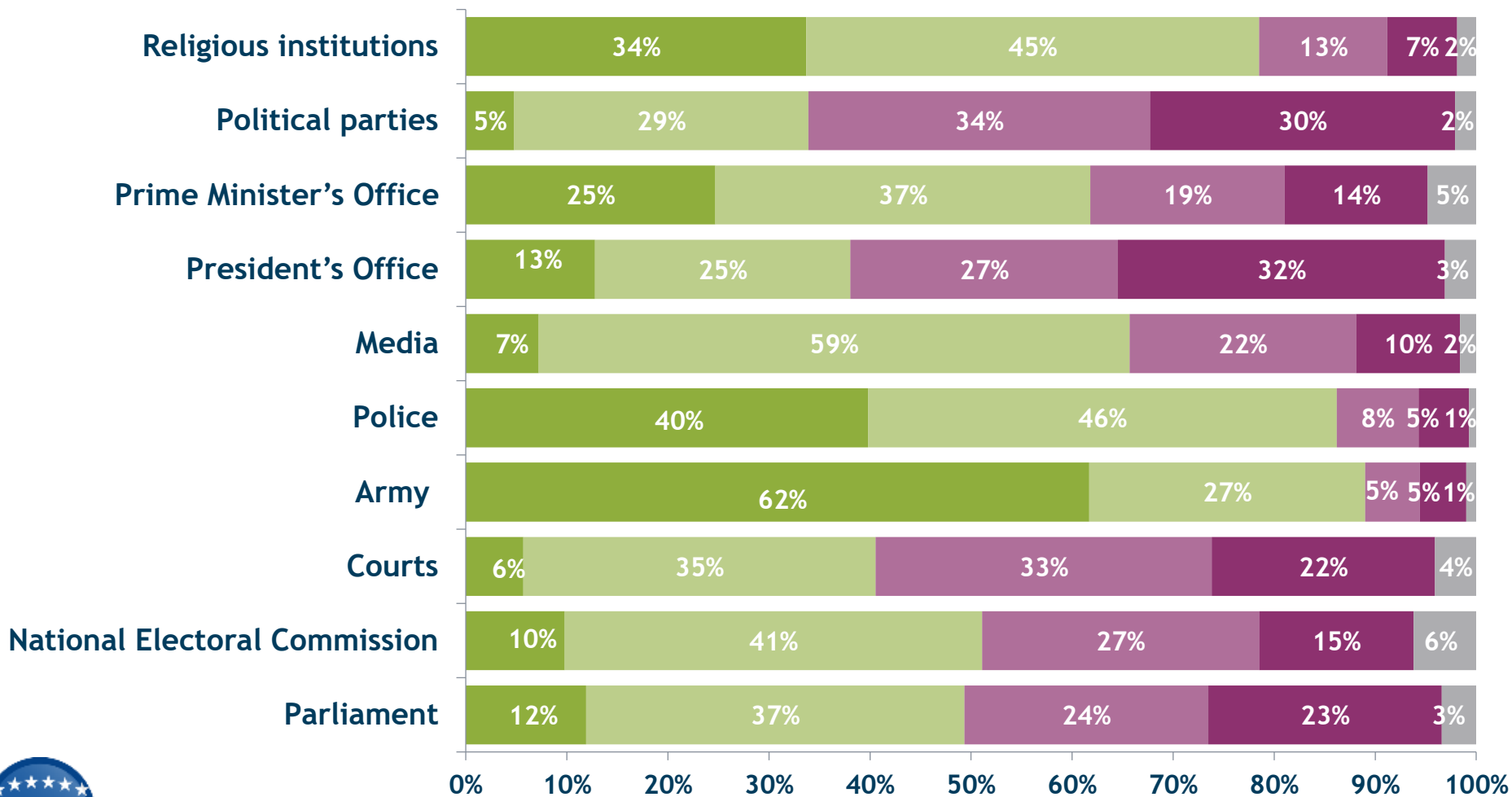
■ Trust a great deal
 ■ Somewhat trust
 ■ Somewhat distrust
 ■ Distrust a great deal
 ■ Don't know/Refused



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

Kosovo

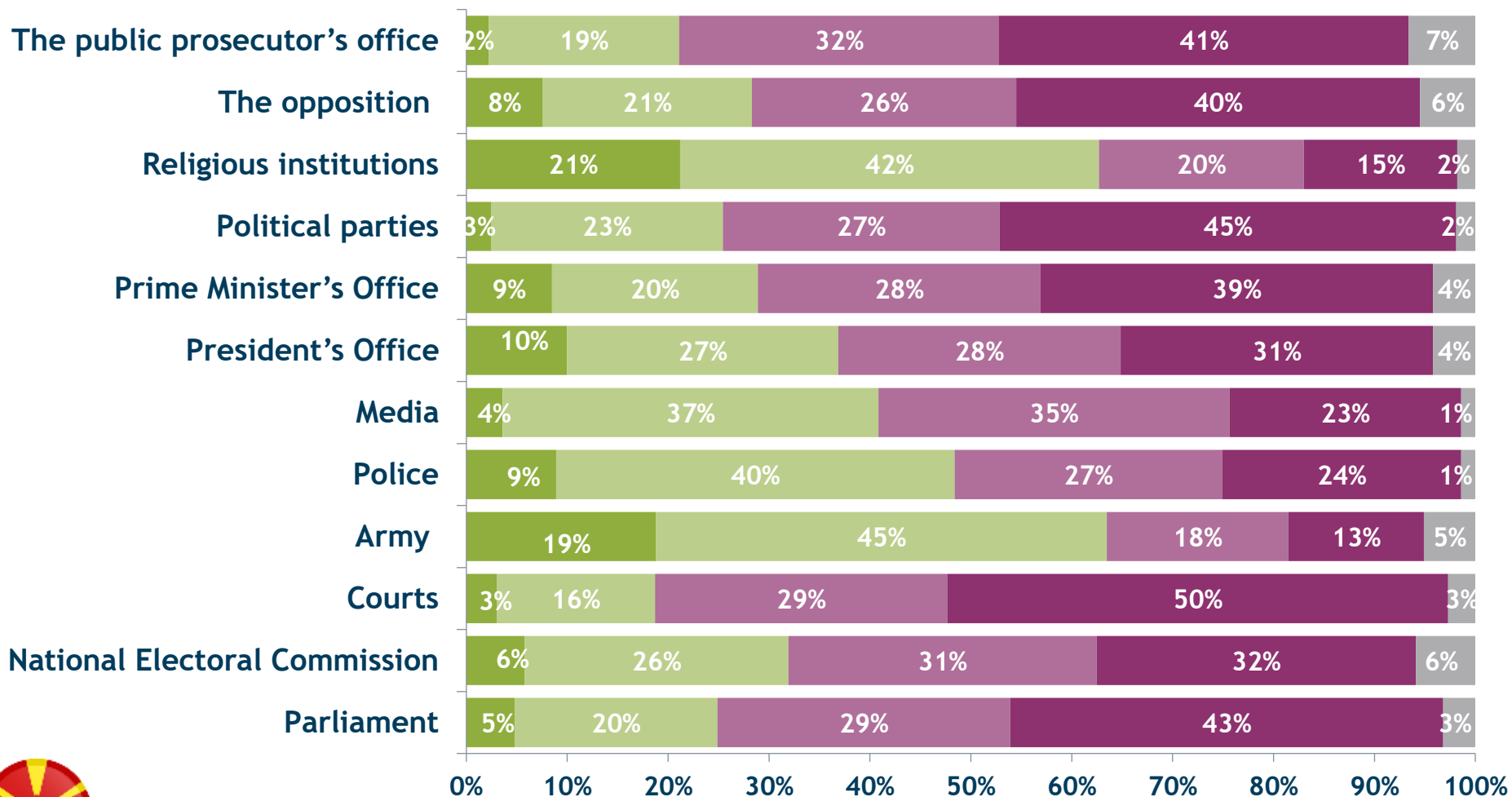
■ Trust a great deal
 ■ Somewhat trust
 ■ Somewhat distrust
 ■ Distrust a great deal
 ■ Don't know/Refused



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

North Macedonia

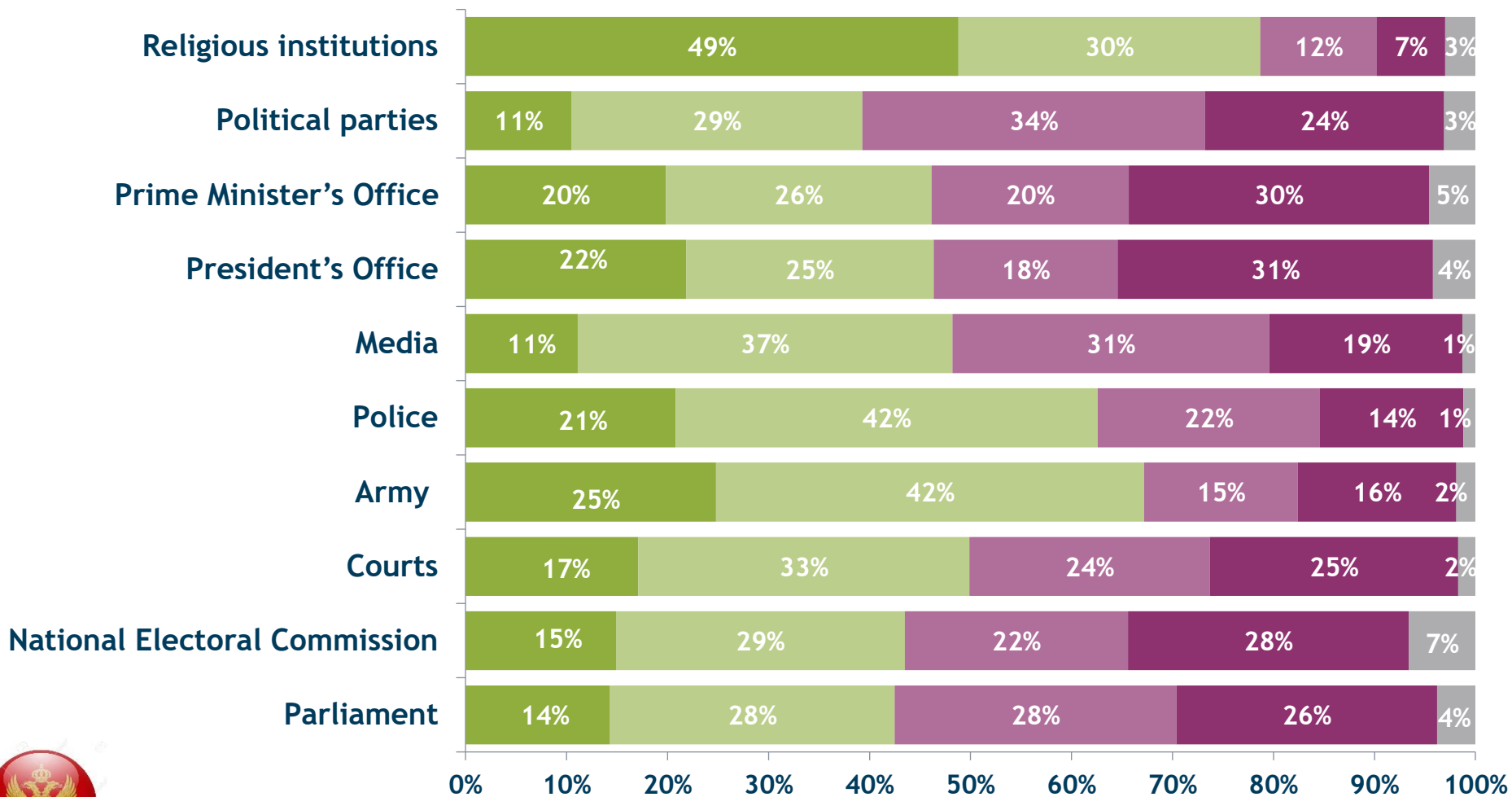
■ Trust a great deal
 ■ Somewhat trust
 ■ Somewhat distrust
 ■ Distrust a great deal
 ■ Don't know/Refused



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

Montenegro

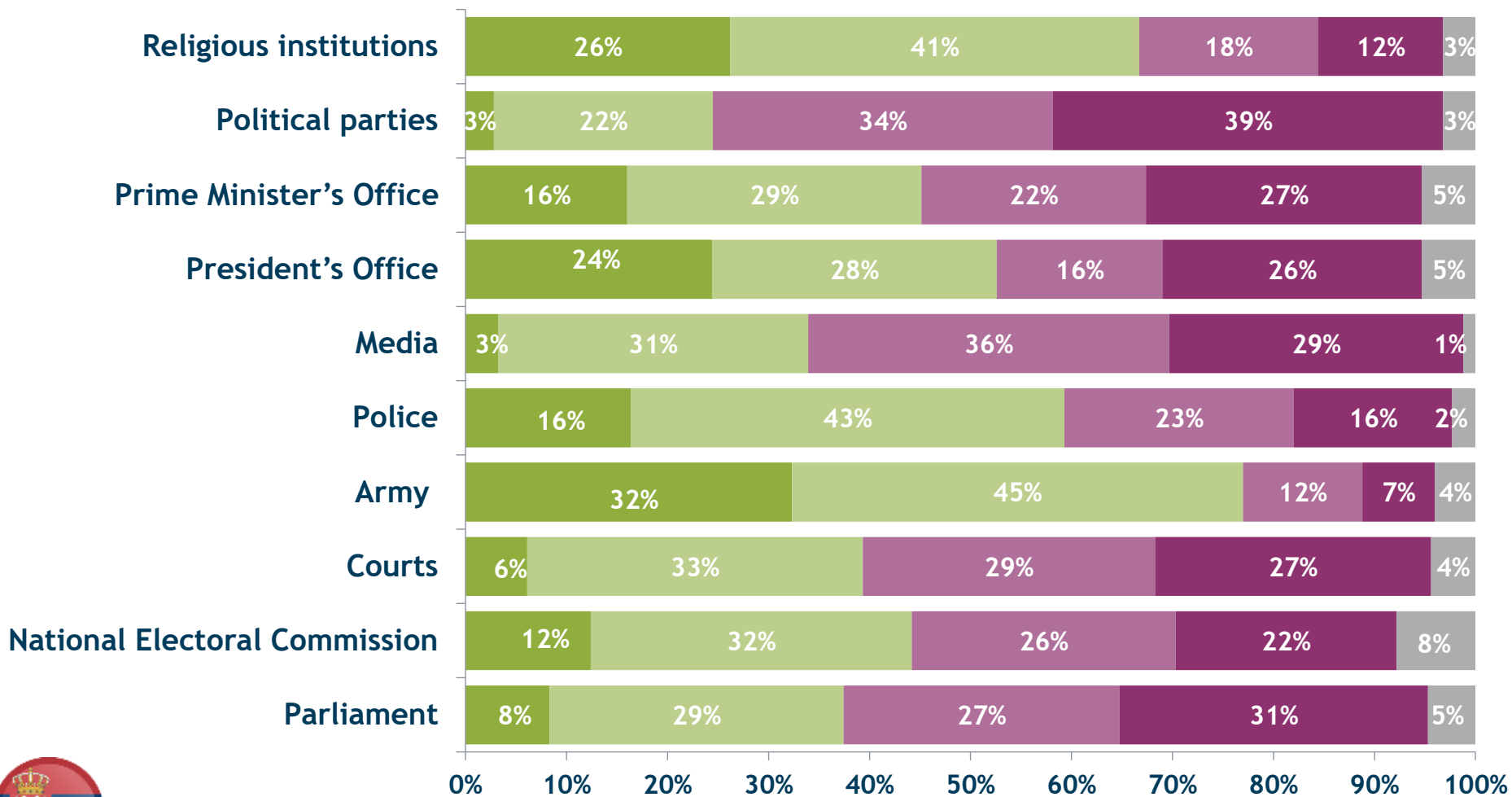
■ Trust a great deal
 ■ Somewhat trust
 ■ Somewhat distrust
 ■ Distrust a great deal
 ■ Don't know/Refused



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

Serbia

■ Trust a great deal
 ■ Somewhat trust
 ■ Somewhat distrust
 ■ Distrust a great deal
 ■ Don't know/Refused



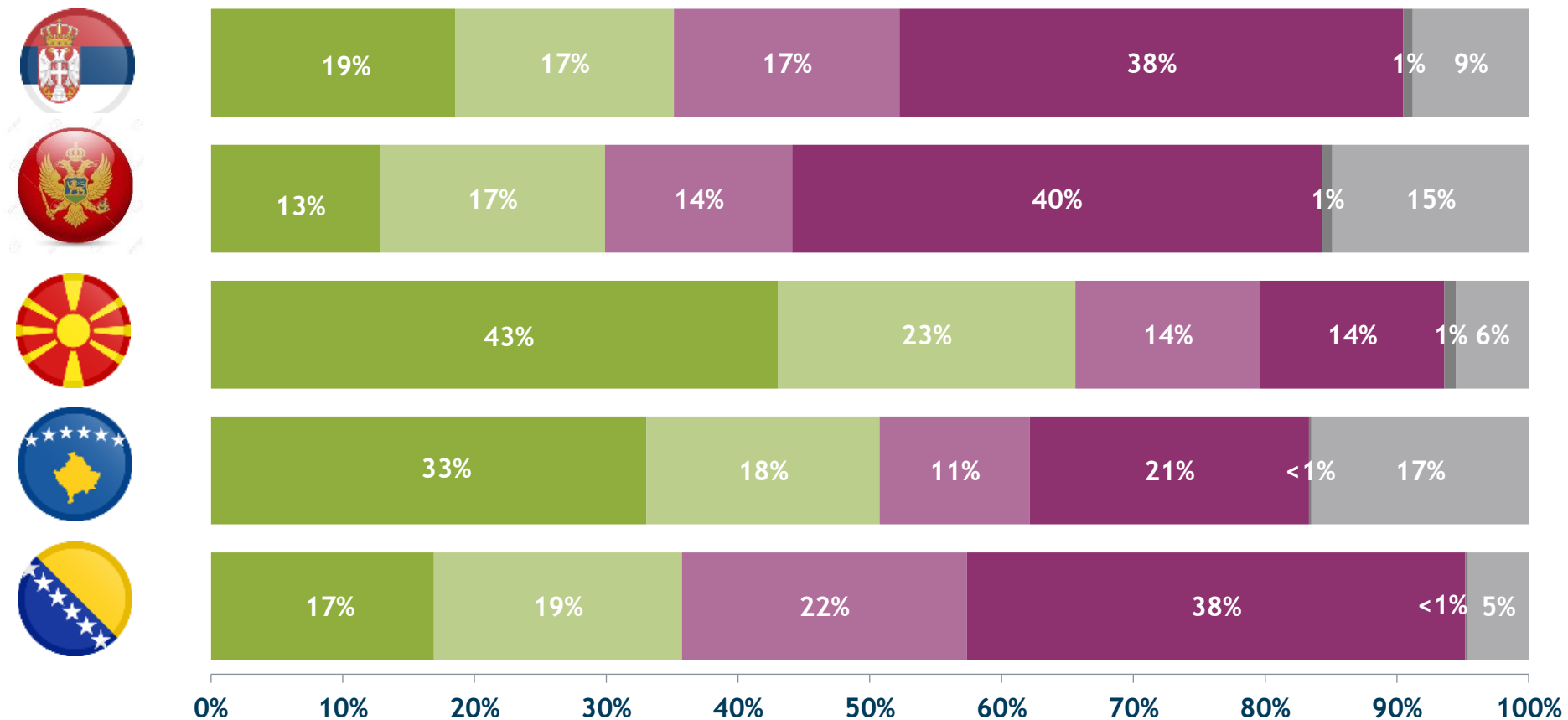


Corruption

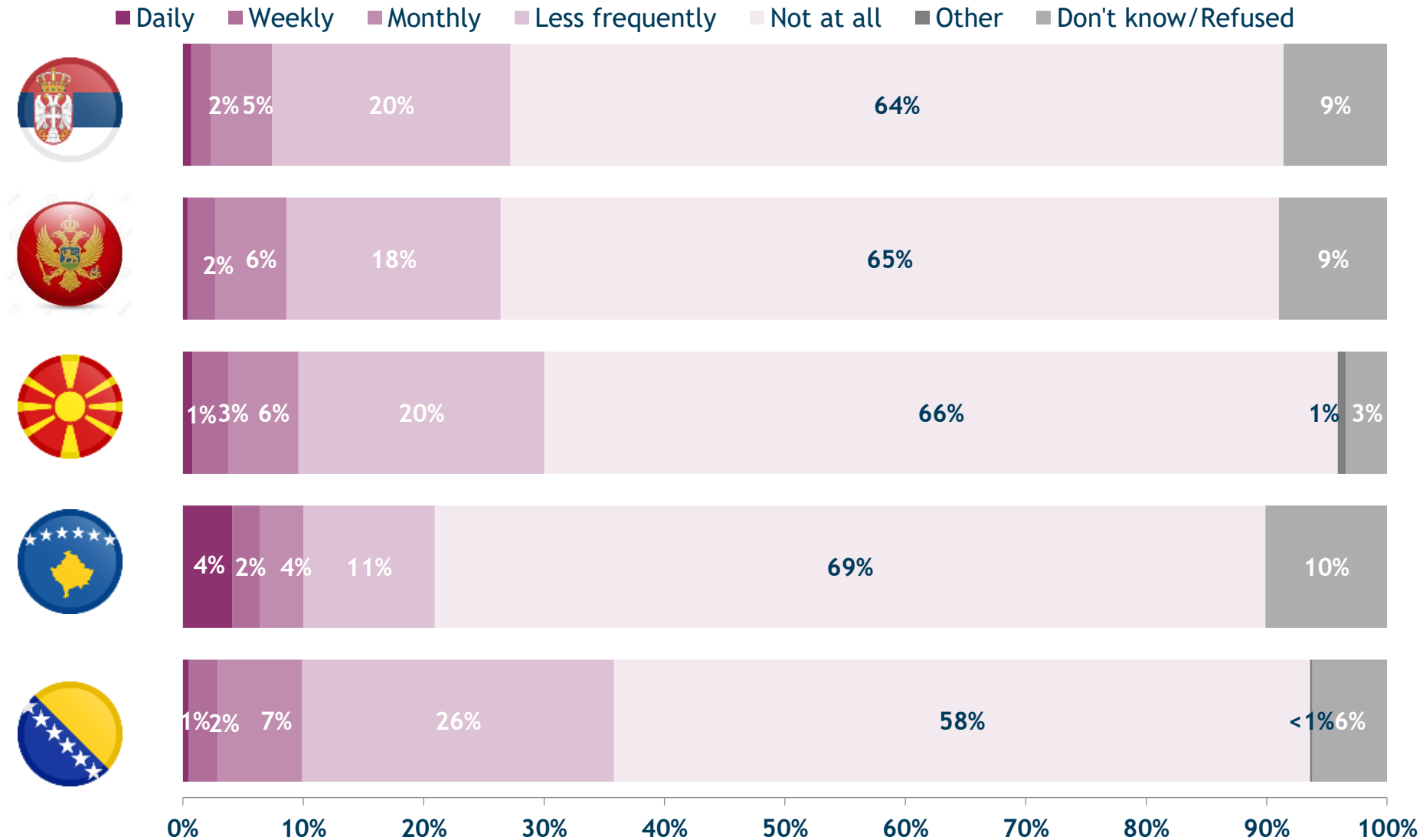


To what extent, if any, has corruption had a negative impact on you?

- It has had a lot of negative impact
- It has had some negative impact
- It has had little negative impact
- It has not had any negative impact
- Other
- Don't know/Refused



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

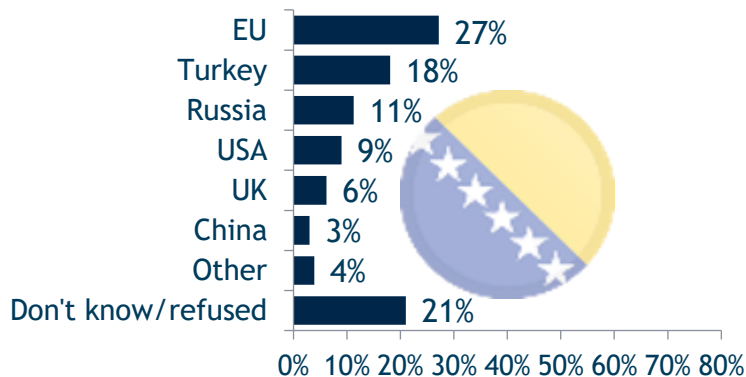
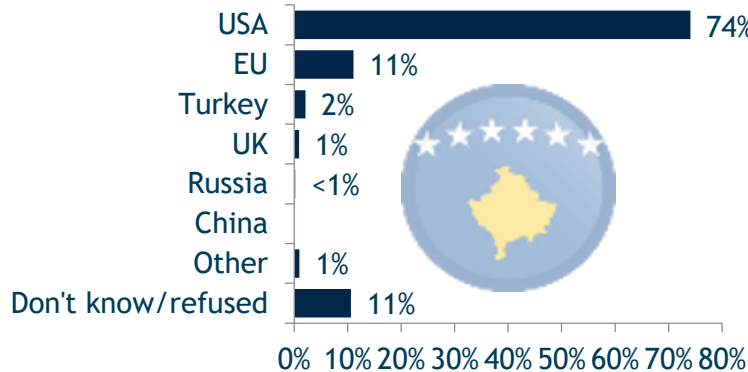
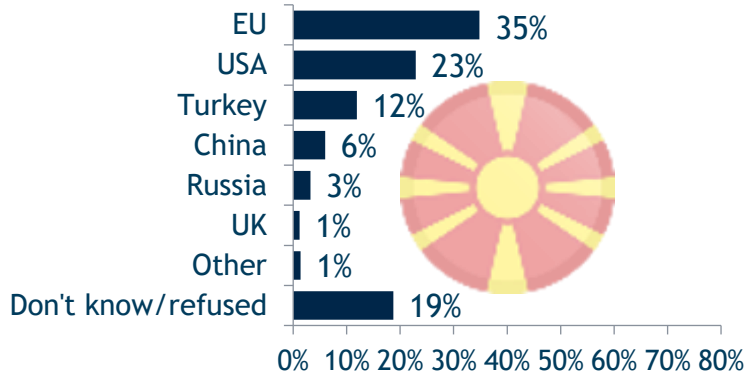
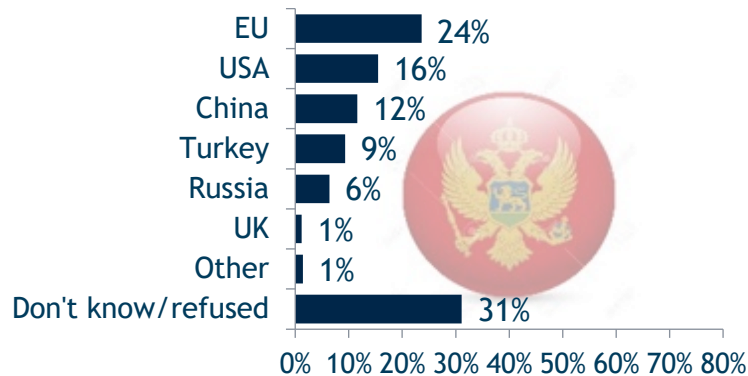
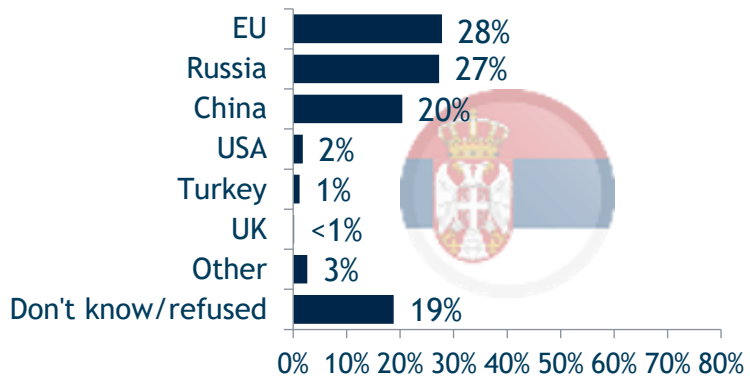




Foreign Influence



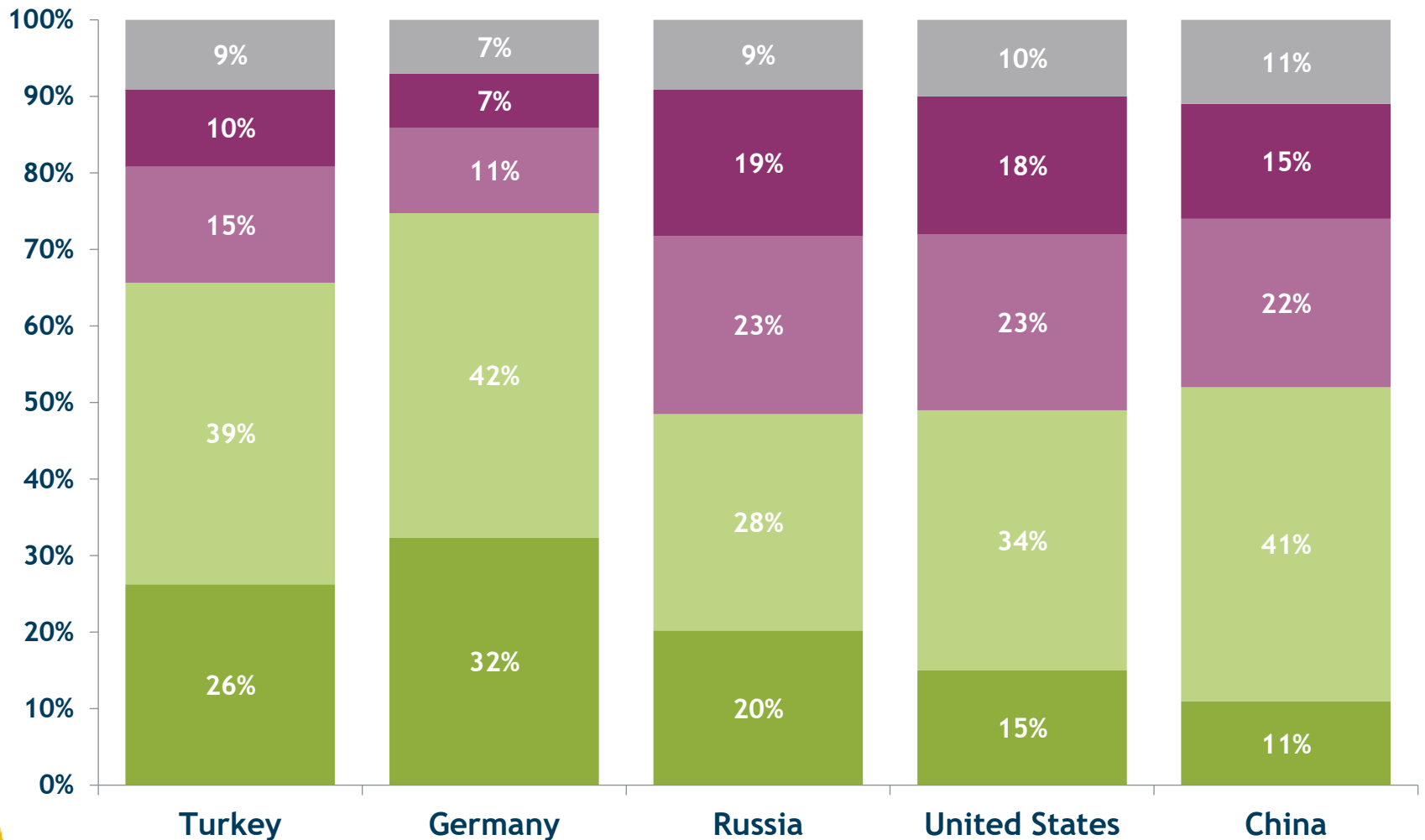
Which country is the biggest foreign donor to our country? (Spontaneous response)



Please tell me your opinion of each of the following countries

Bosnia and Herzegovina

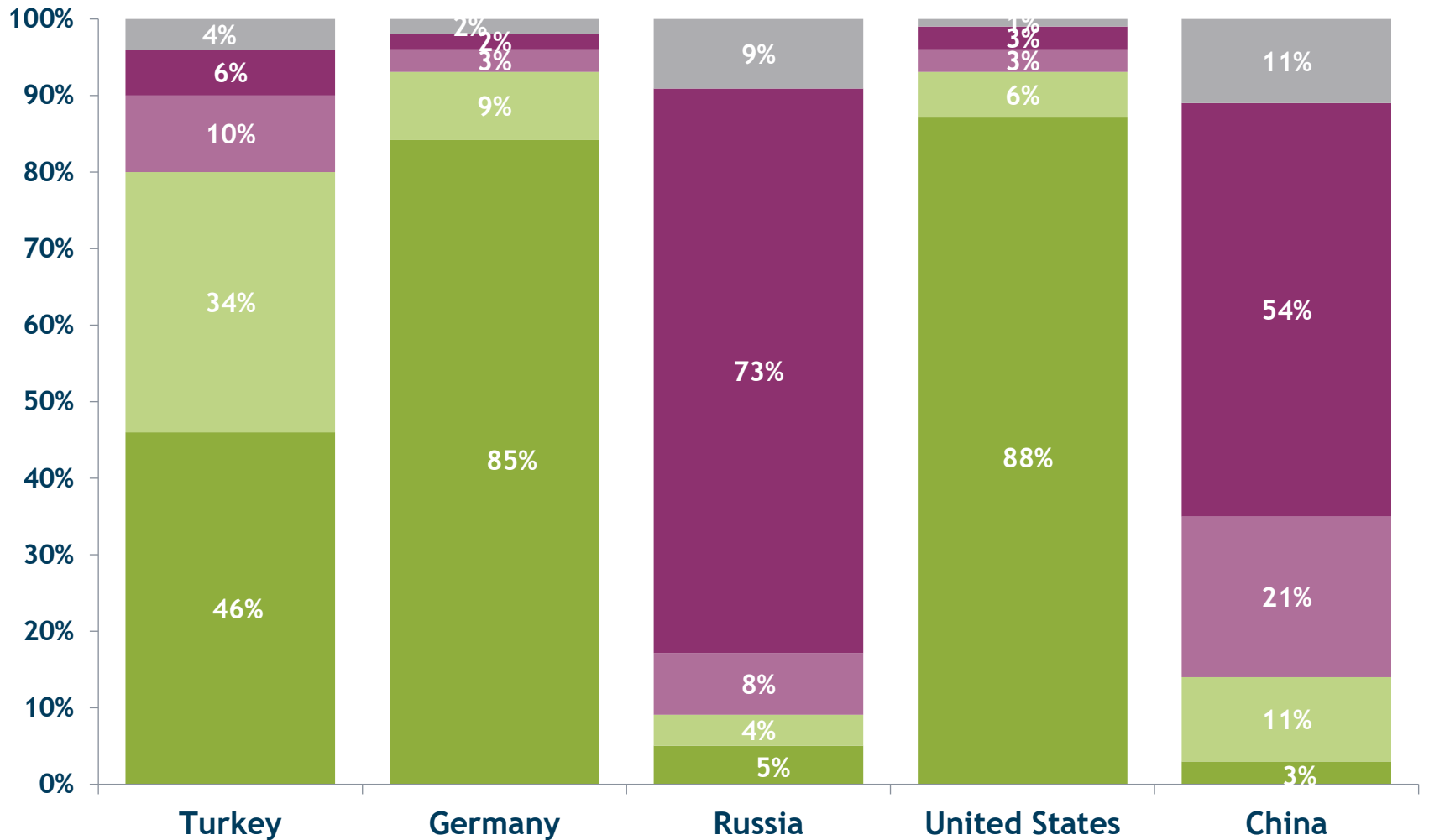
■ Highly favorable ■ Somewhat favorable ■ Somewhat unfavorable ■ Highly Unfavorable ■ Don't know/Refused



Please tell me your opinion of each of the following countries

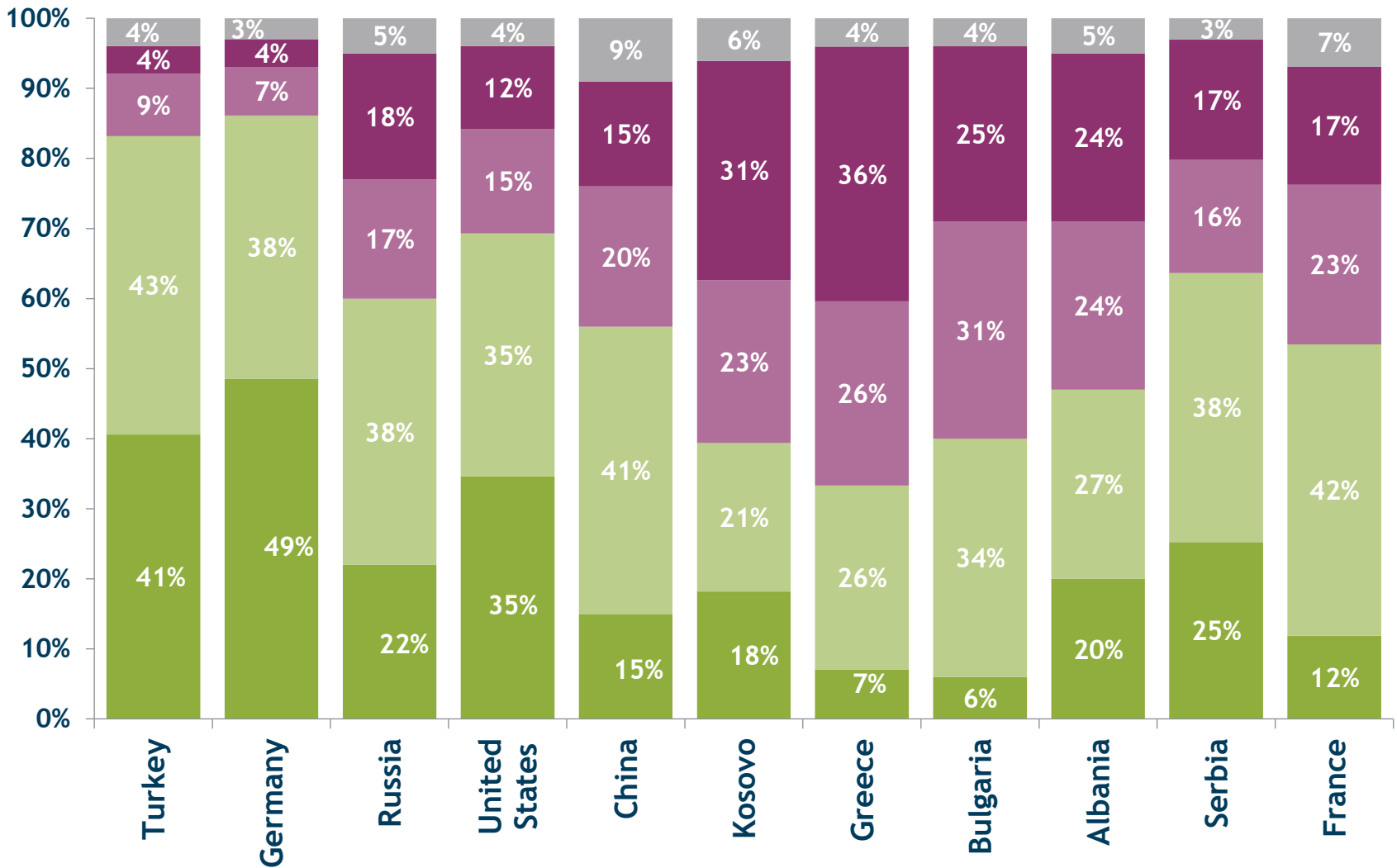
Kosovo

■ Highly favorable ■ Somewhat favorable ■ Somewhat unfavorable ■ Highly unfavorable ■ Don't know/Refused



Please tell me your opinion of each of the following countries North Macedonia

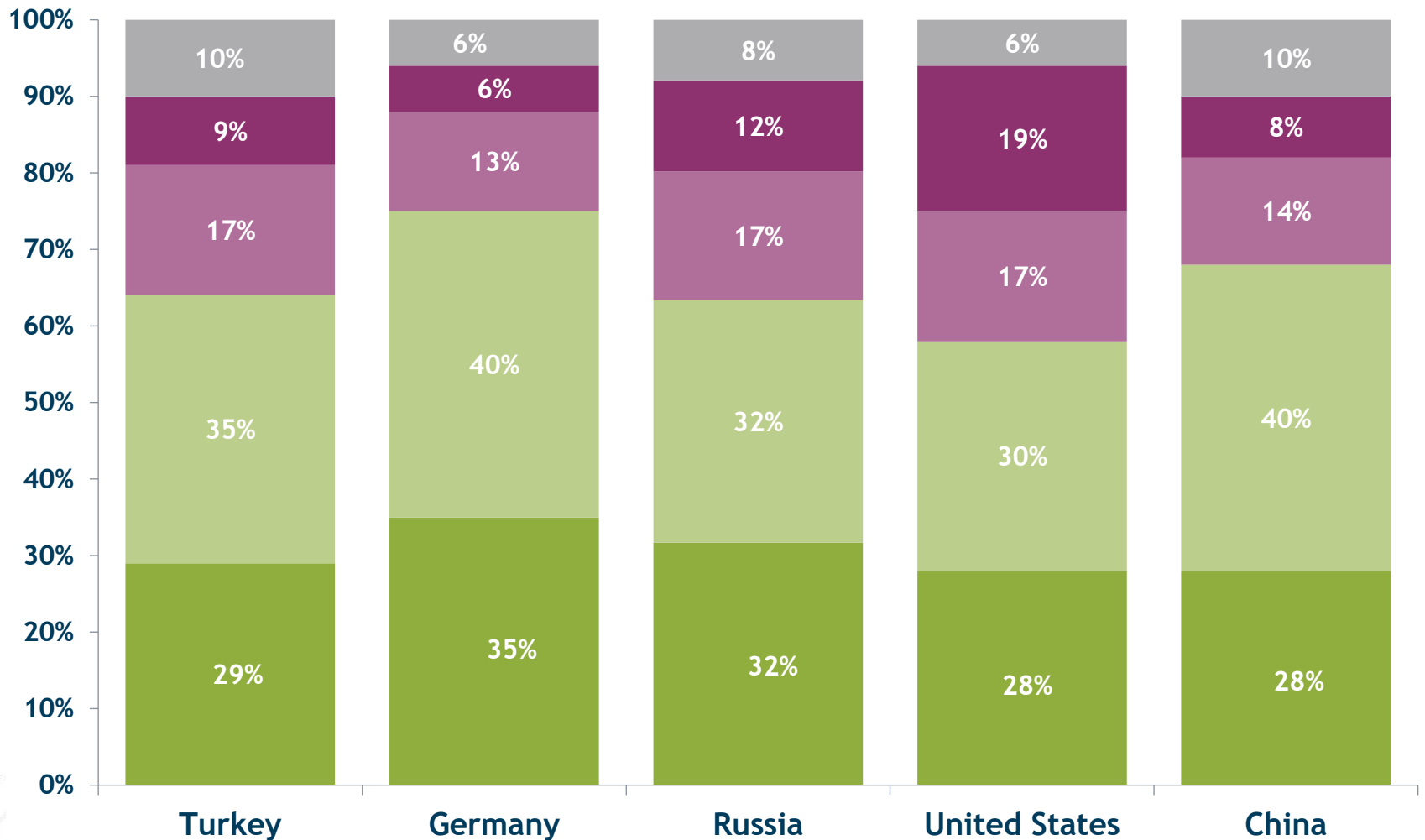
Highly favorable Somewhat favorable Somewhat unfavorable Highly unfavorable Don't know/Refused



Please tell me your opinion of each of the following countries

Montenegro

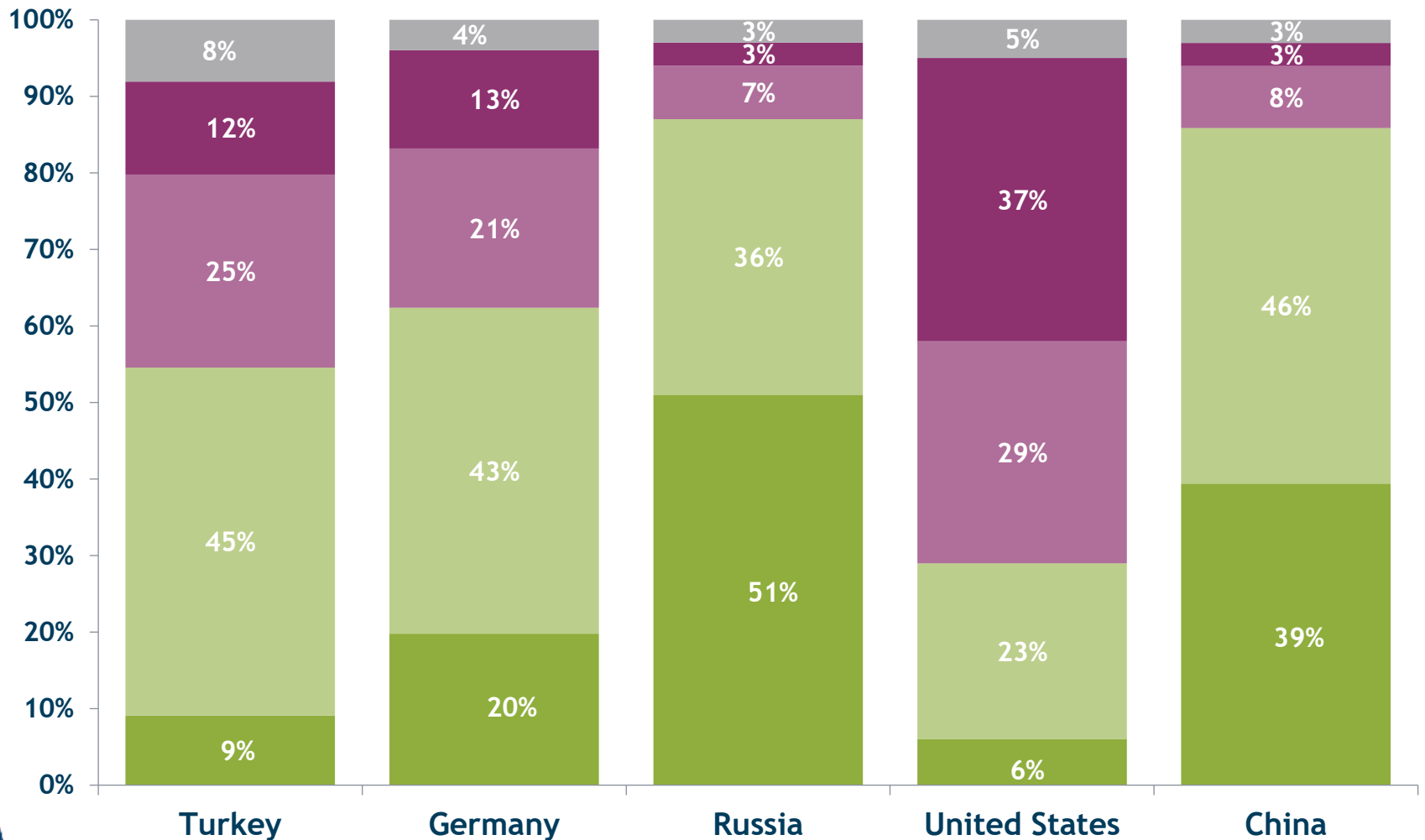
■ Highly favorable ■ Somewhat favorable ■ Somewhat unfavorable ■ Highly unfavorable ■ Don't know/Refused



Please tell me your opinion of each of the following countries

Serbia

■ Highly favorable ■ Somewhat favorable ■ Somewhat unfavorable ■ Highly unfavorable ■ Don't know/Refused



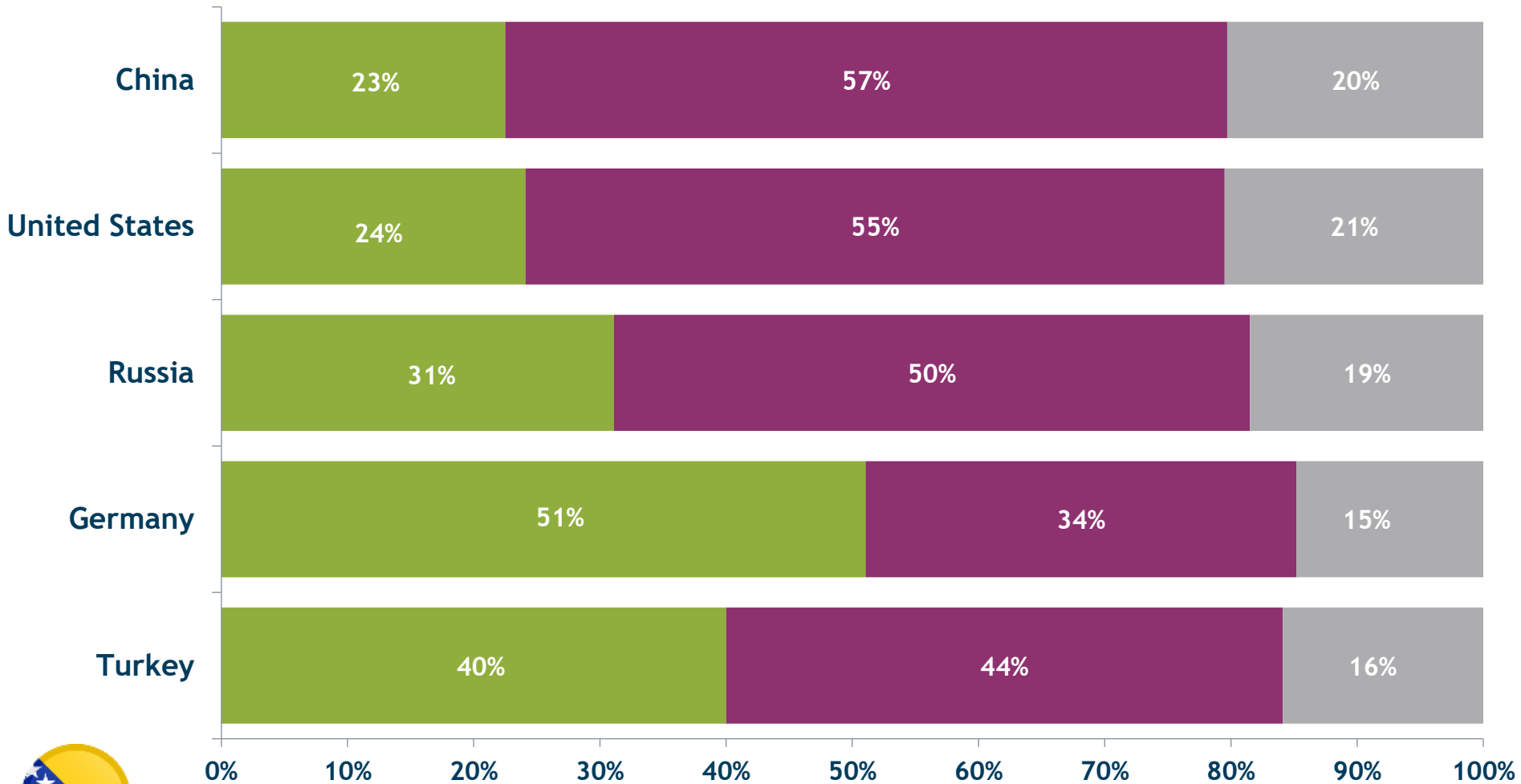
Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important economic partner or partners for our country?

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Most important

Not among most important

Don't know/Refused



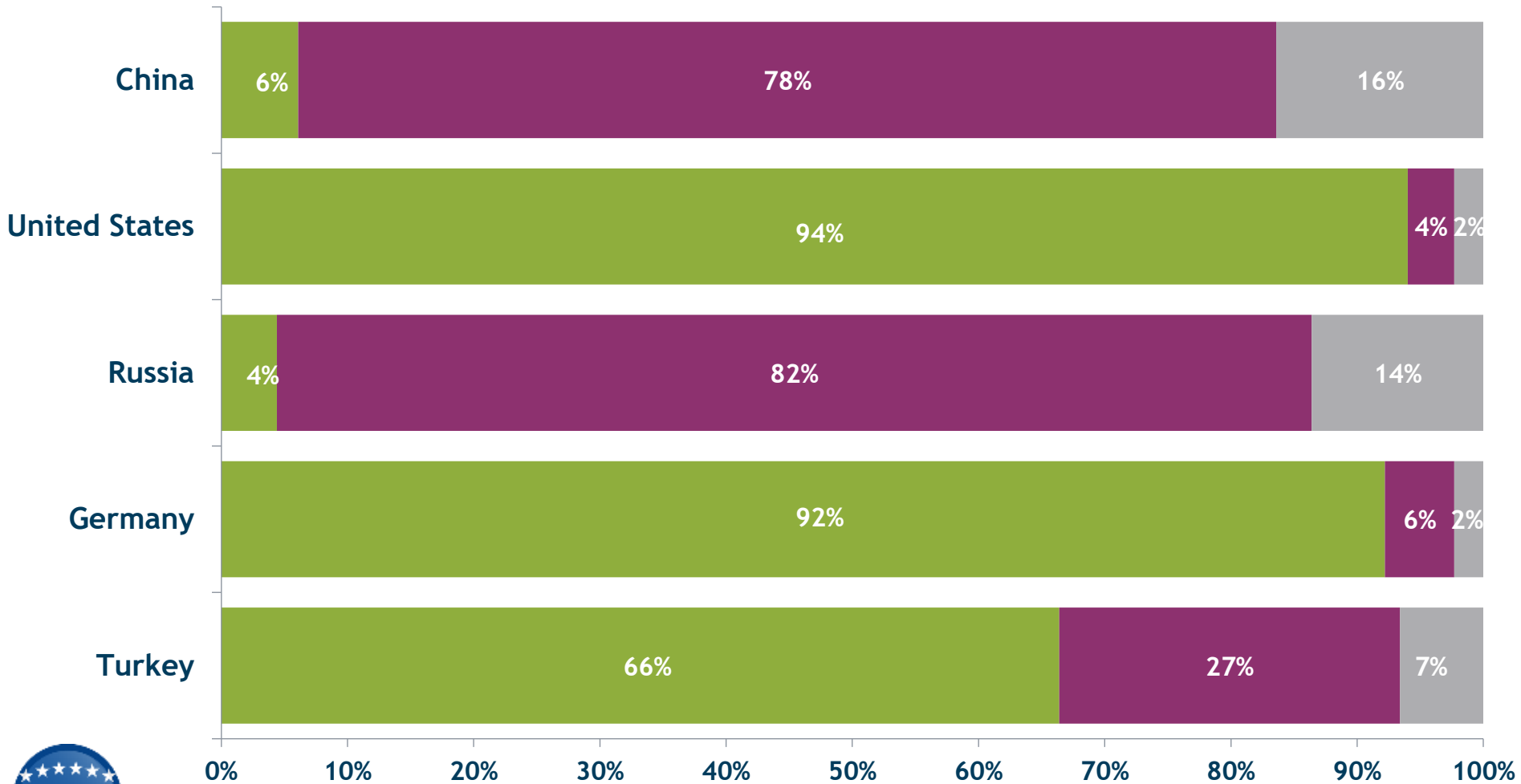
Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important economic partner or partners for our country?

Kosovo

Most important

Not among most important

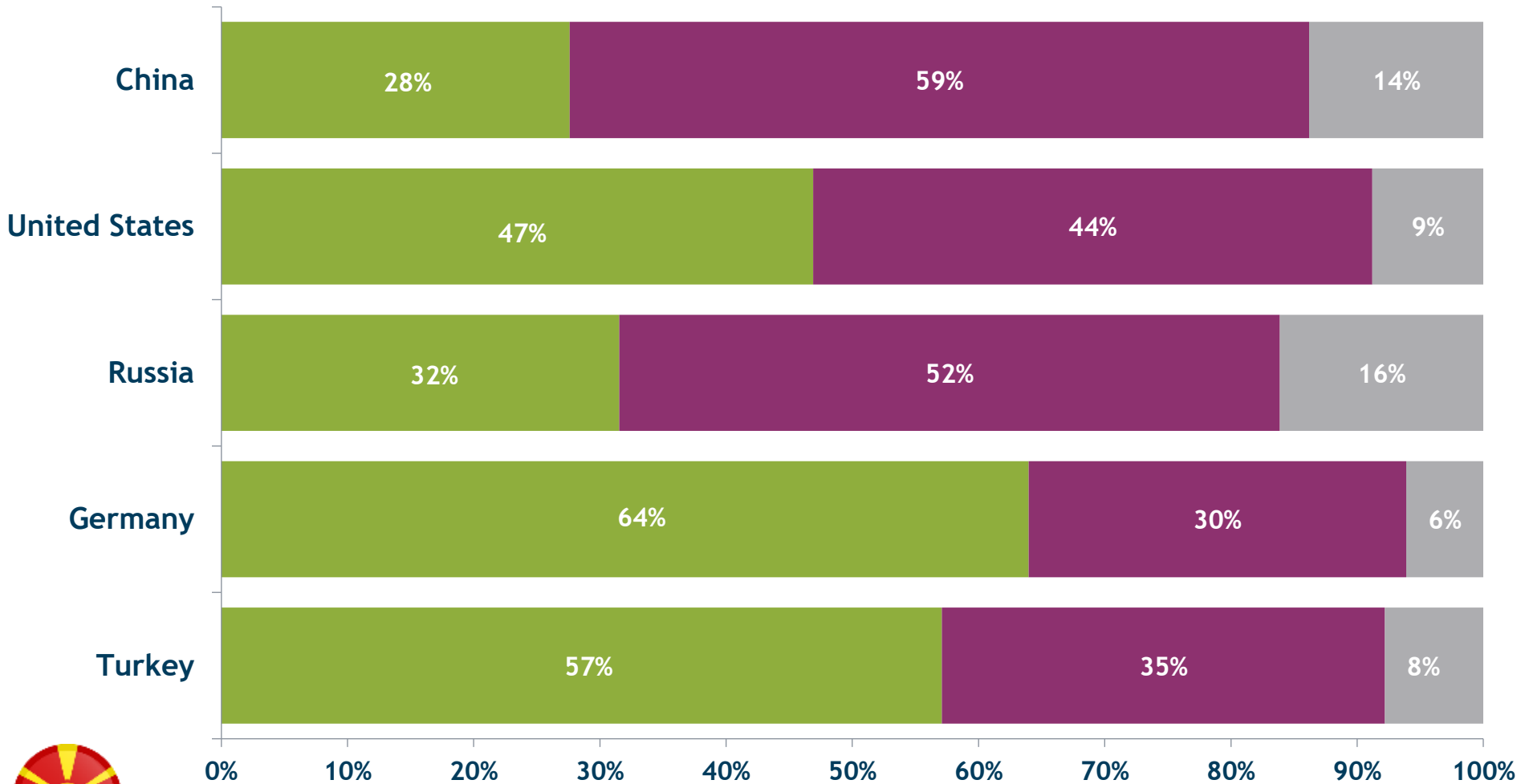
Don't know/Refused



Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important economic partner or partners for our country?

North Macedonia

■ Most important ■ Not among most important ■ Don't know/Refused



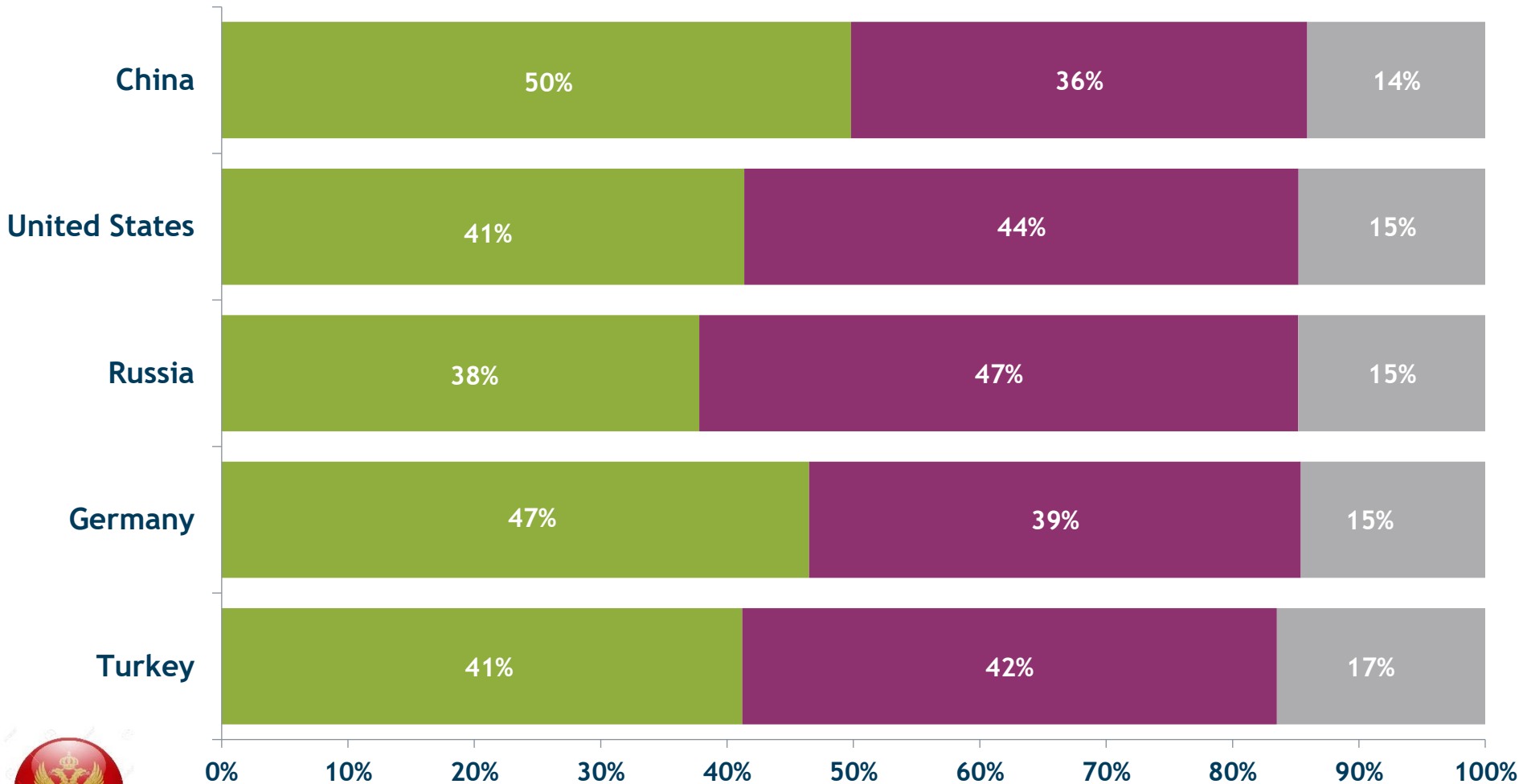
Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important economic partner or partners for our country?

Montenegro

Most important

Not among most important

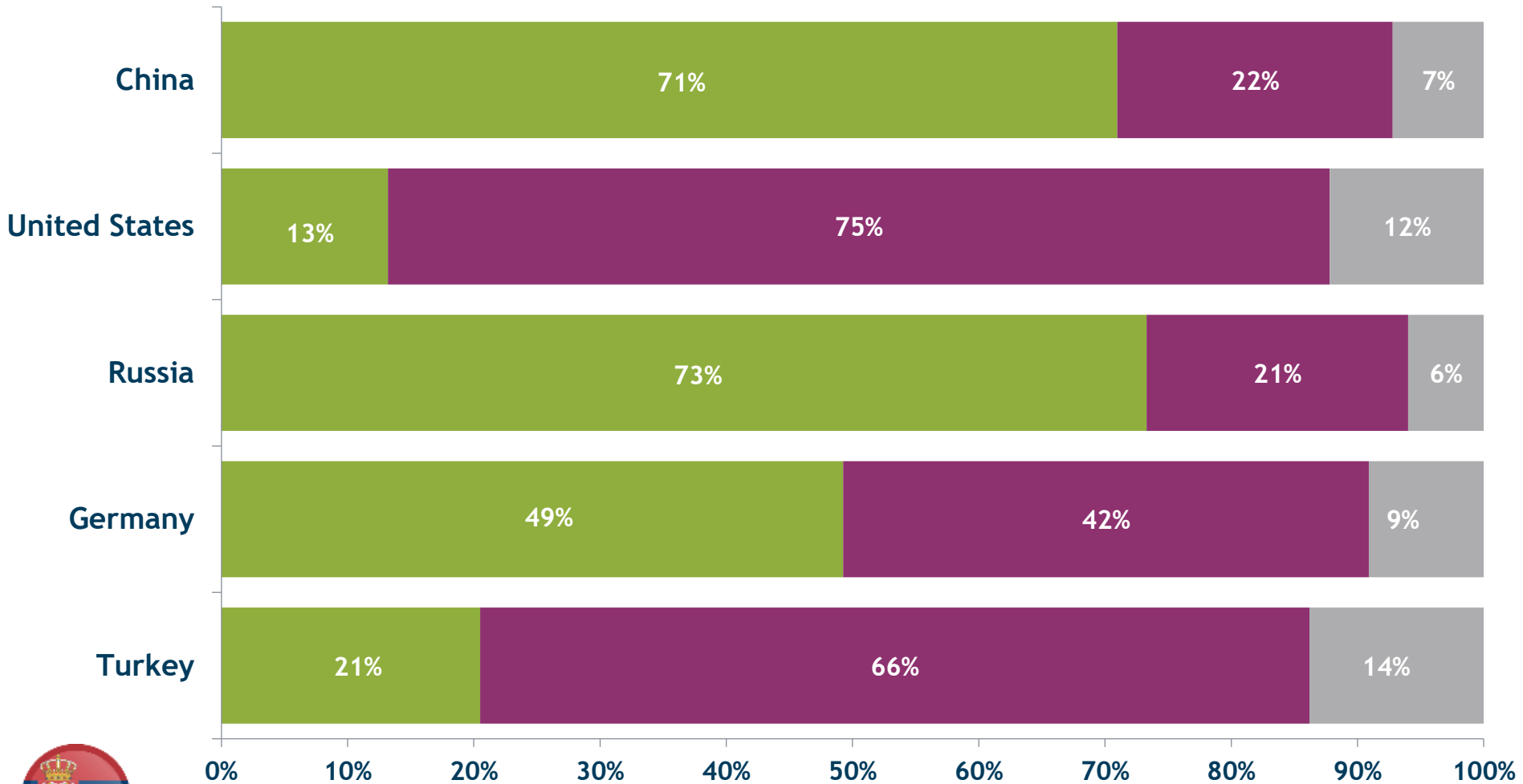
Don't know/Refused



Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important economic partner or partners for our country?

Serbia

■ Most important ■ Not among most important ■ Don't know/Refused



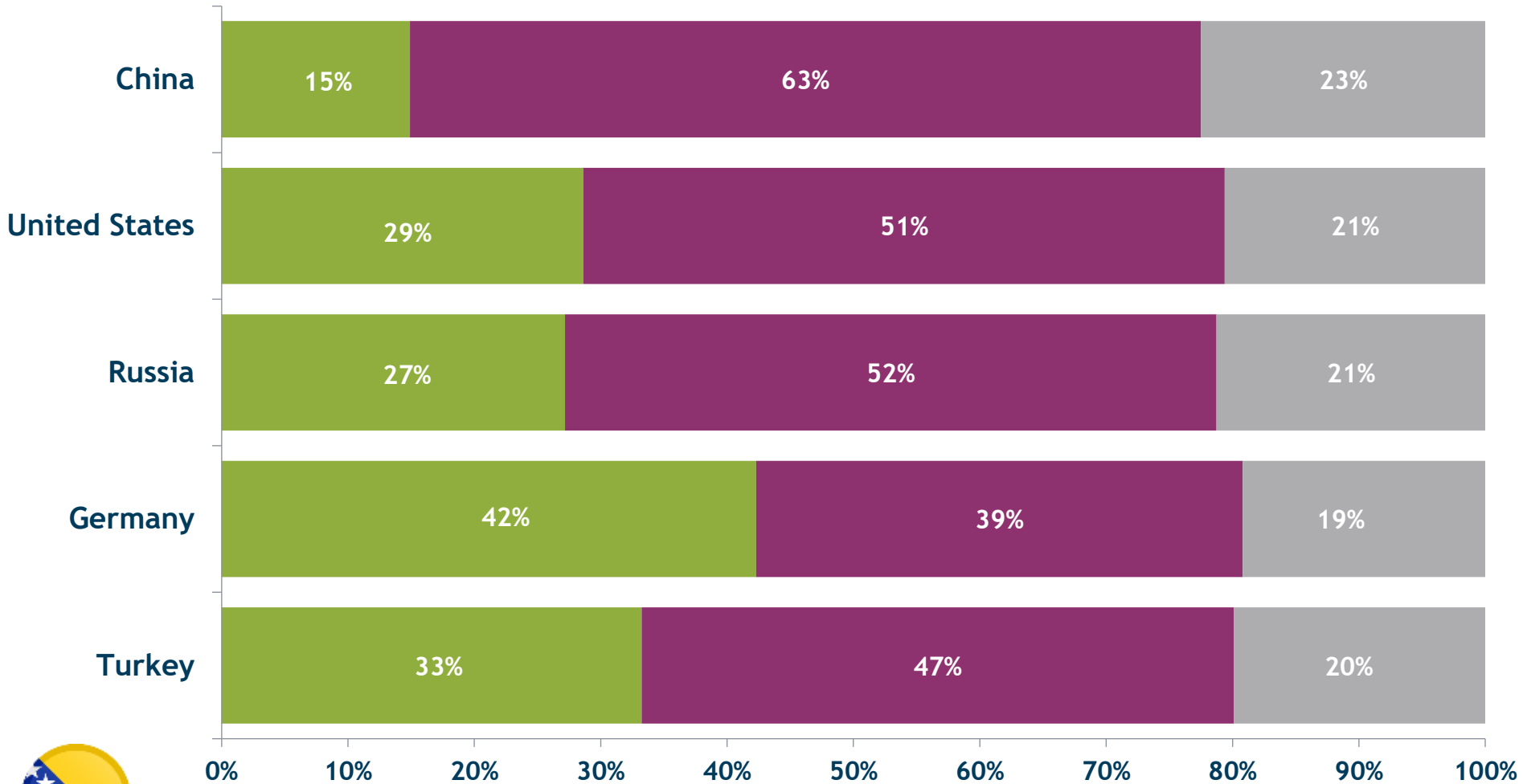
Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political partner or partners for our country?

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Most important

Not among most important

Don't know/Refused



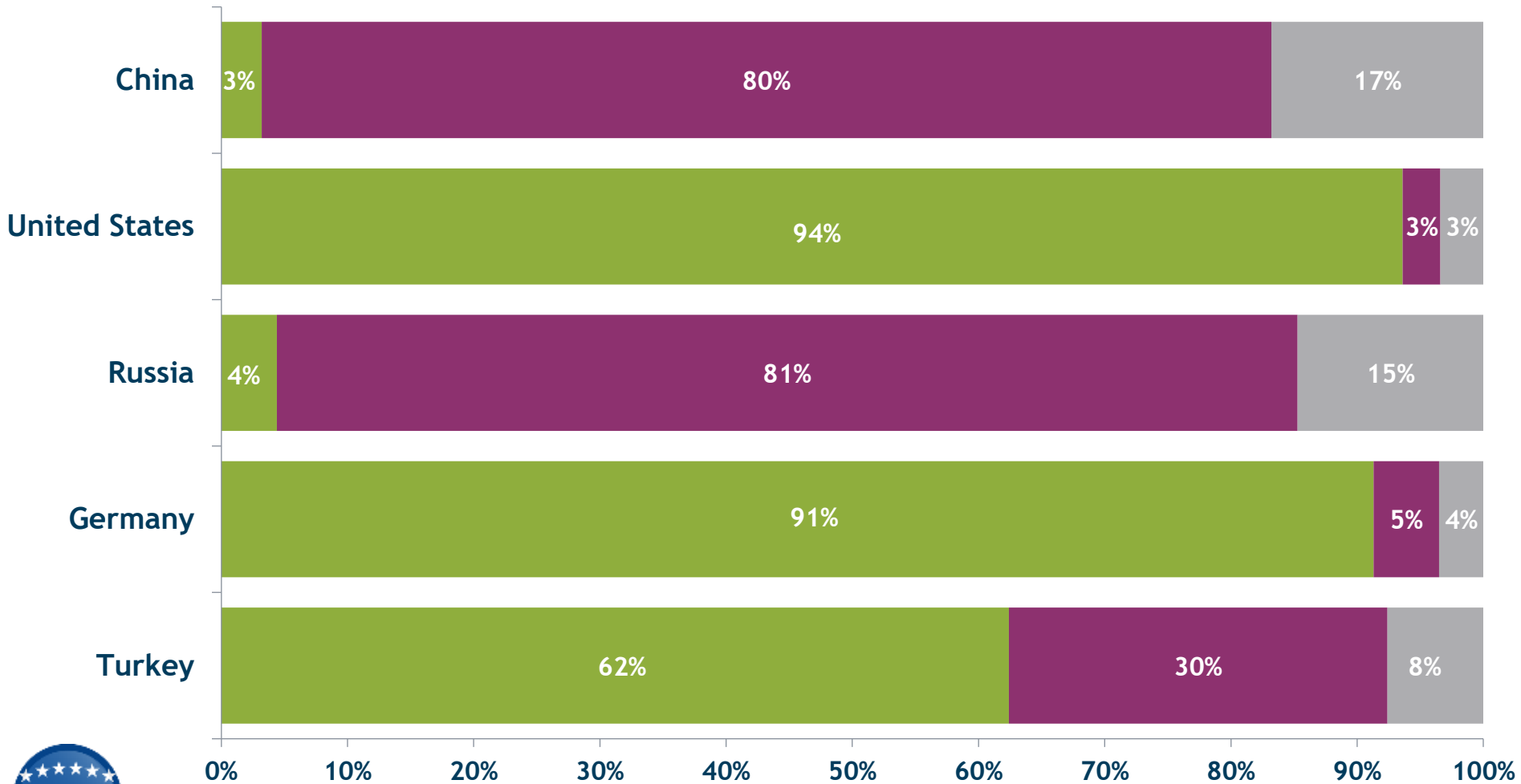
Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political partner or partners for our country?

Kosovo

Most important

Not among most important

Don't know/Refused



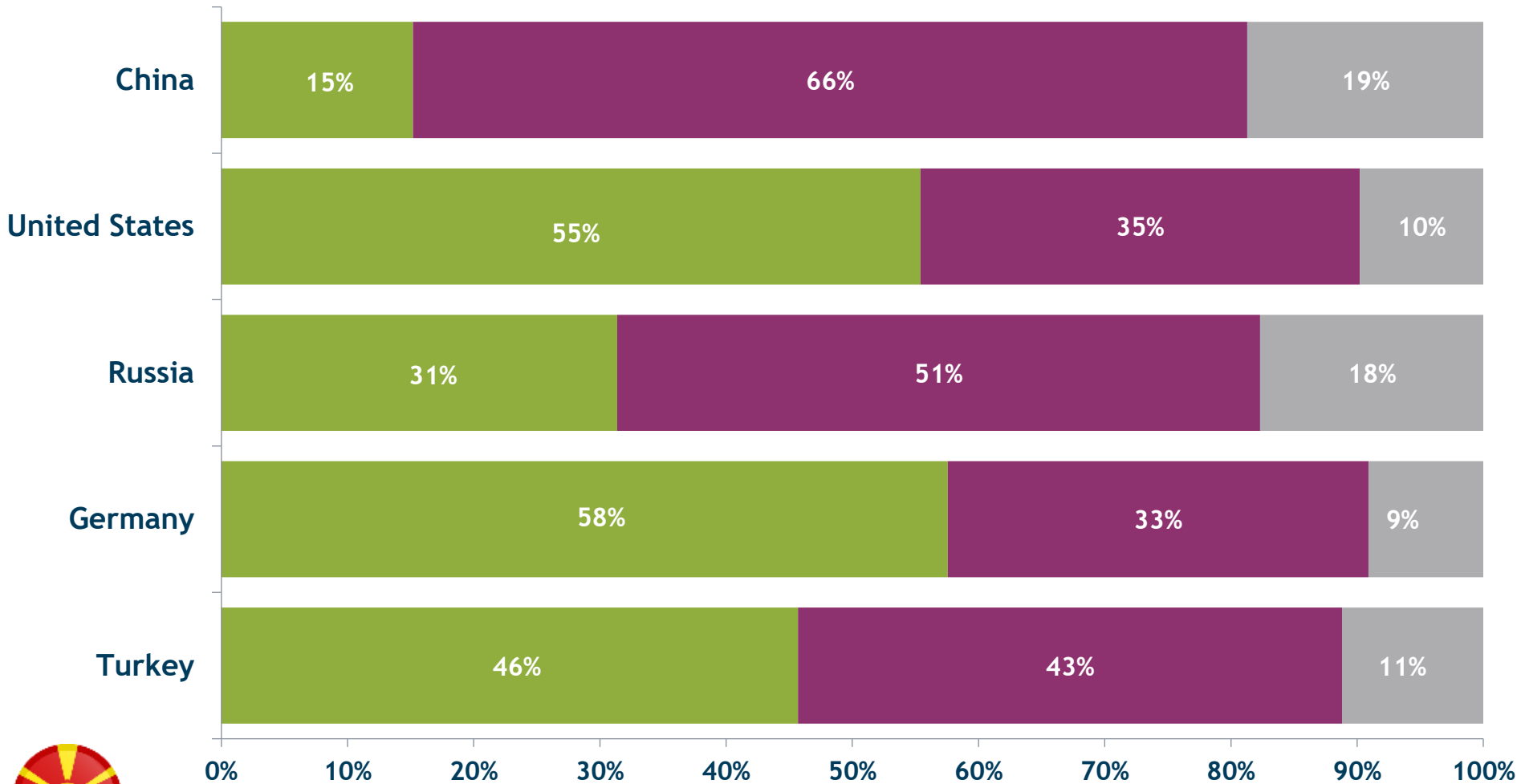
Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political partner or partners for our country?

North Macedonia

■ Most important

■ Not among most important

■ Don't know/Refused



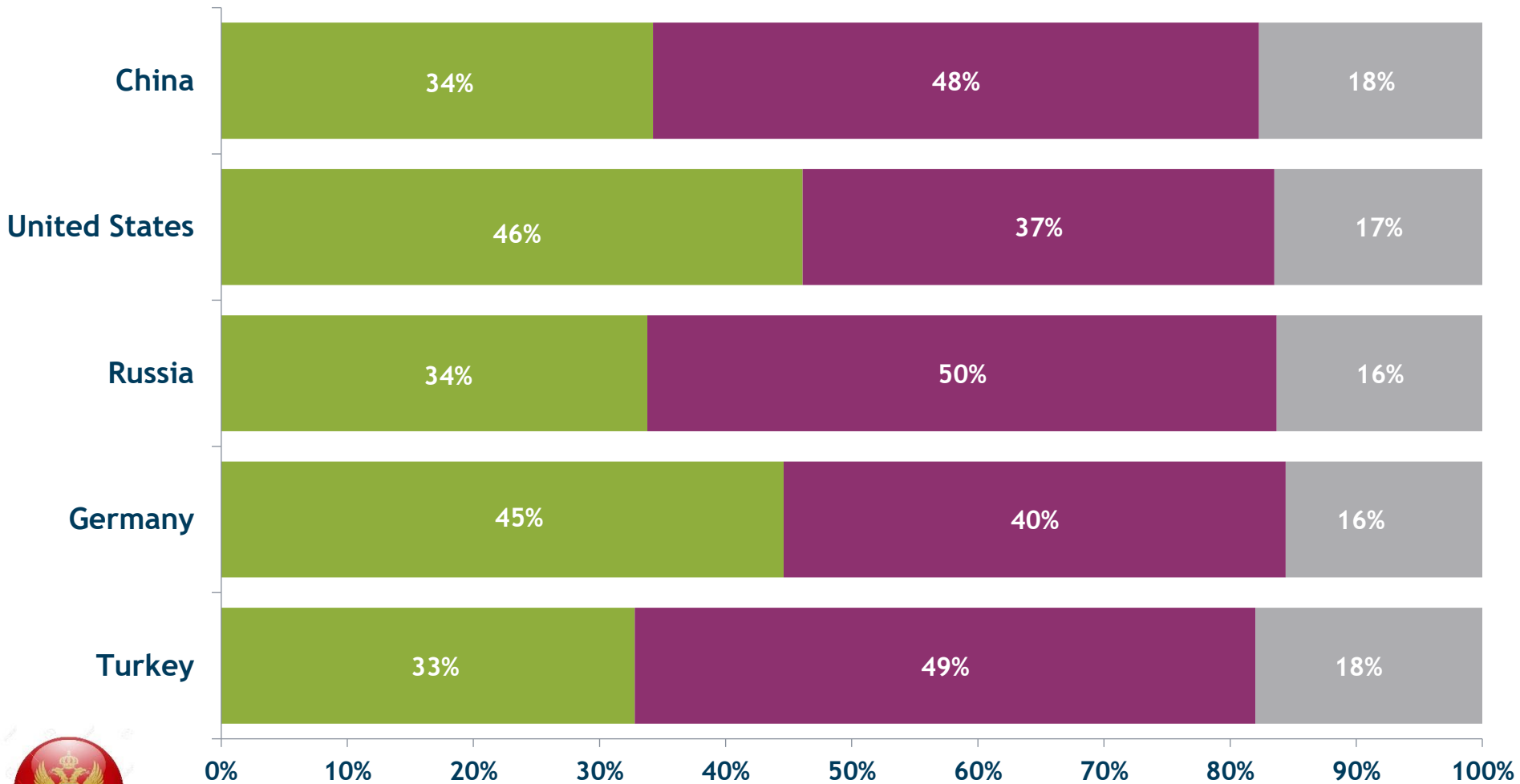
Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political partner or partners for our country?

Montenegro

Most important

Not among most important

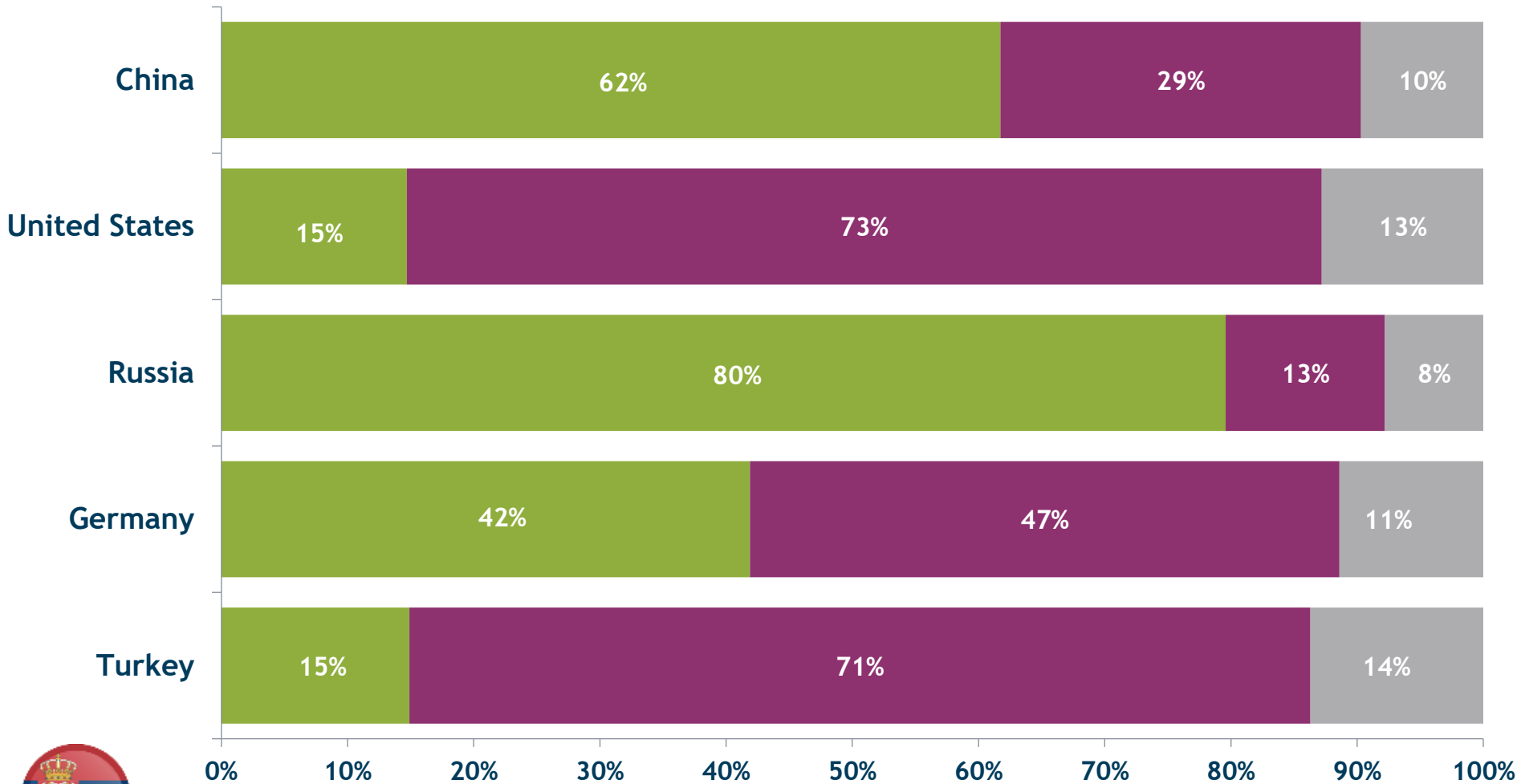
Don't know/Refused



Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political partner or partners for our country?

Serbia

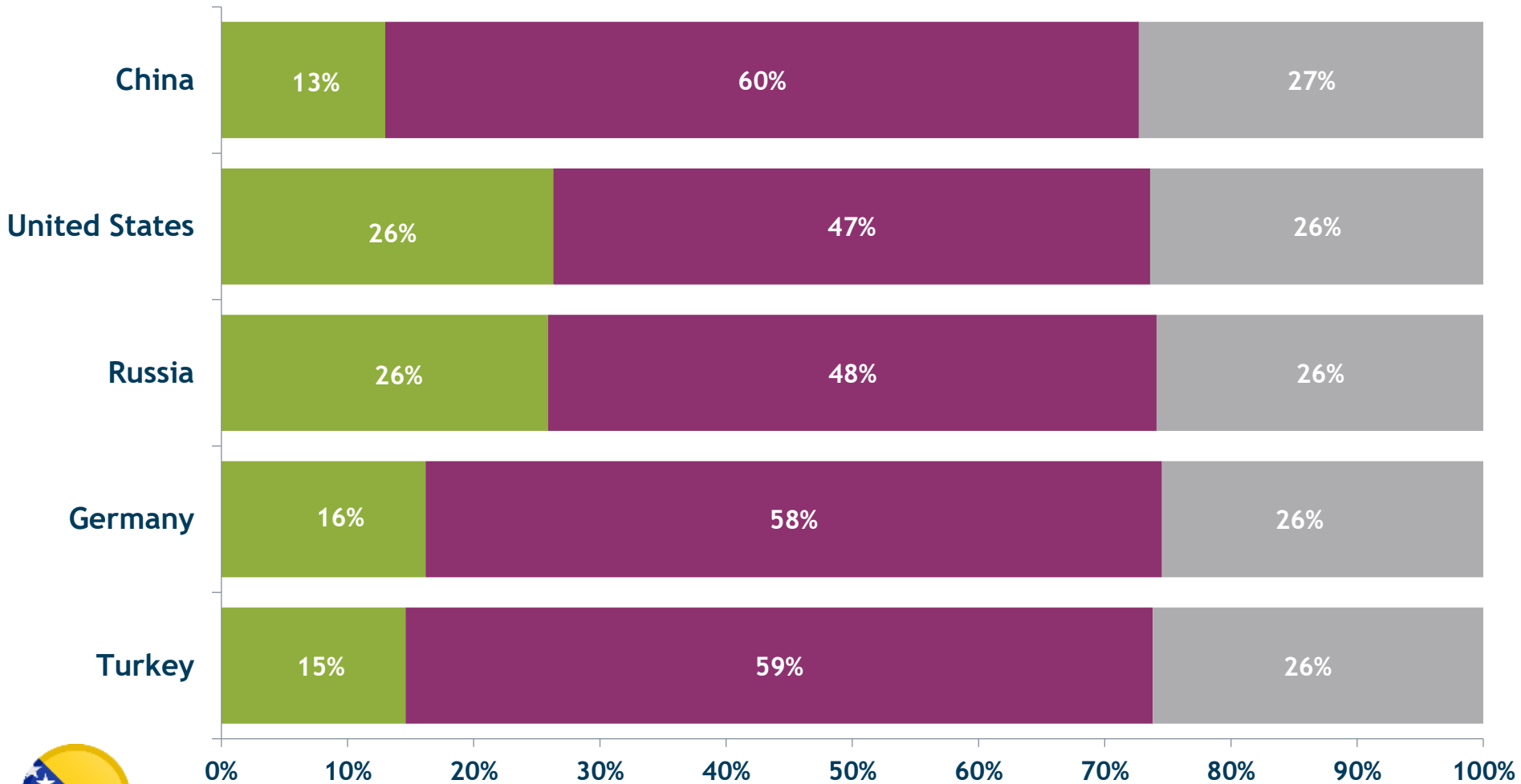
■ Most important ■ Not among most important ■ Don't know/Refused



Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political threat or threats for our country?

Bosnia and Herzegovina

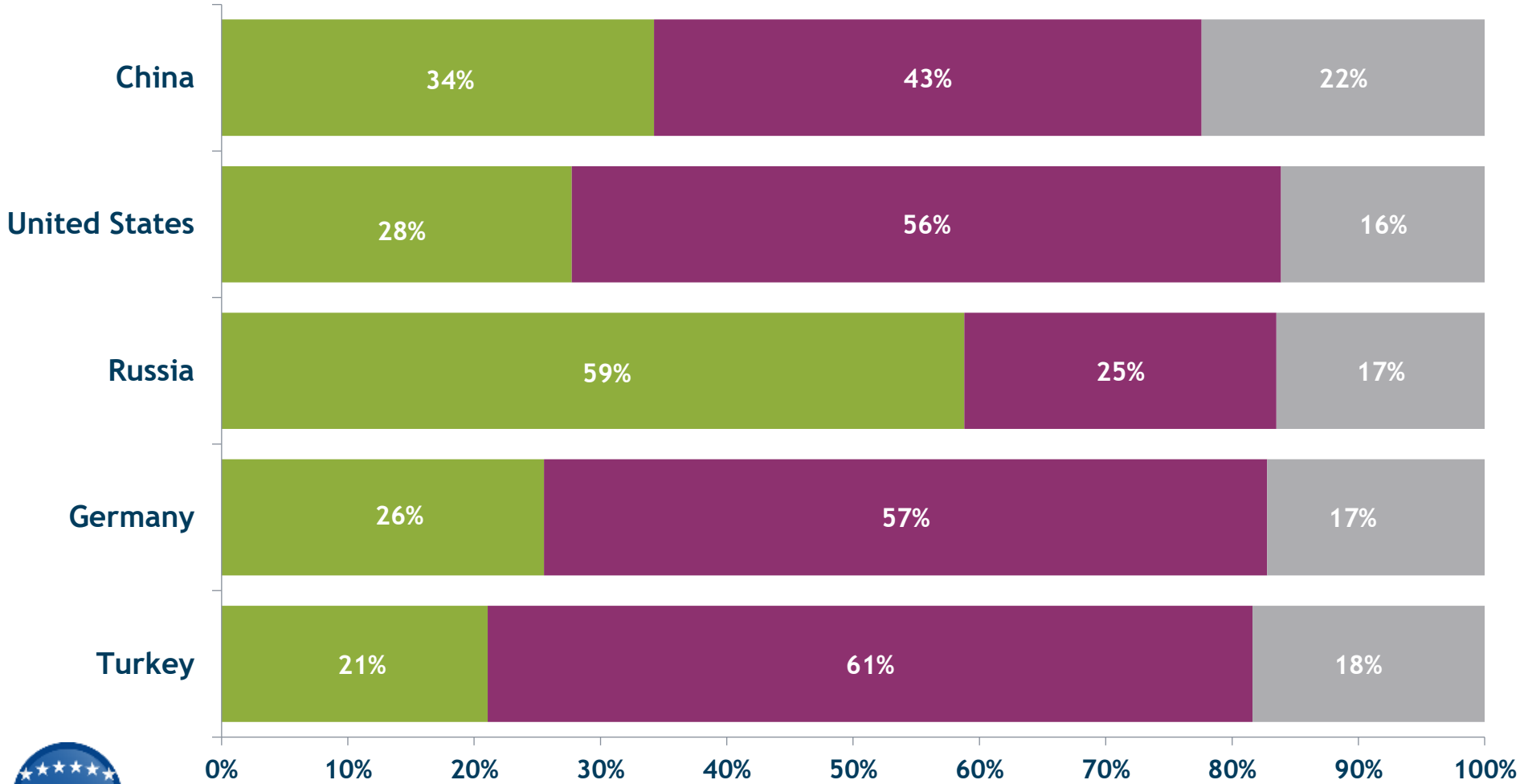
■ Most important ■ Not among most important ■ Don't know/Refused



Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political threat or threats for our country?

Kosovo

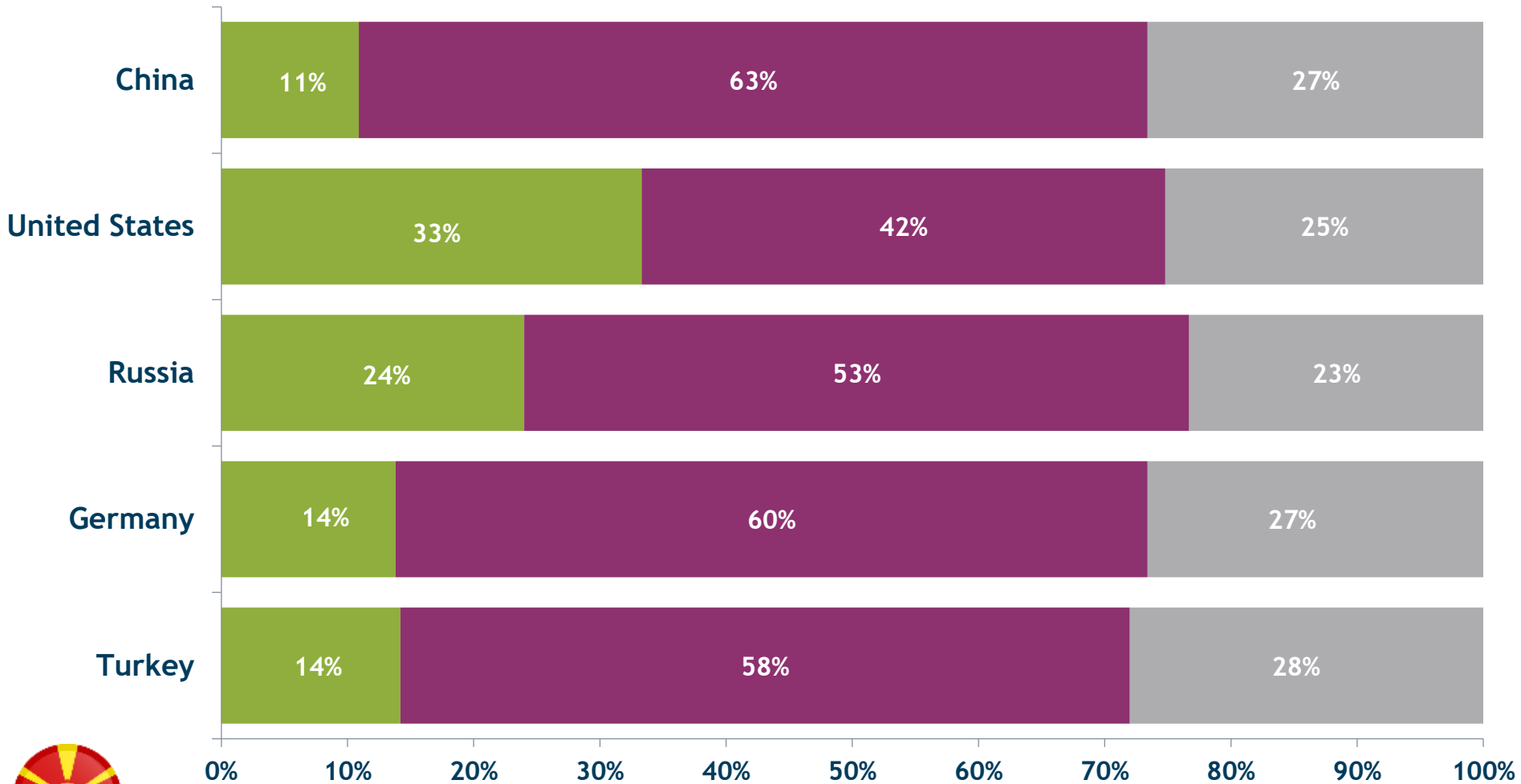
■ Most important ■ Not among most important ■ Don't know/Refused



Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political threat or threats for our country?

North Macedonia

■ Most important ■ Not among most important ■ Don't know/Refused



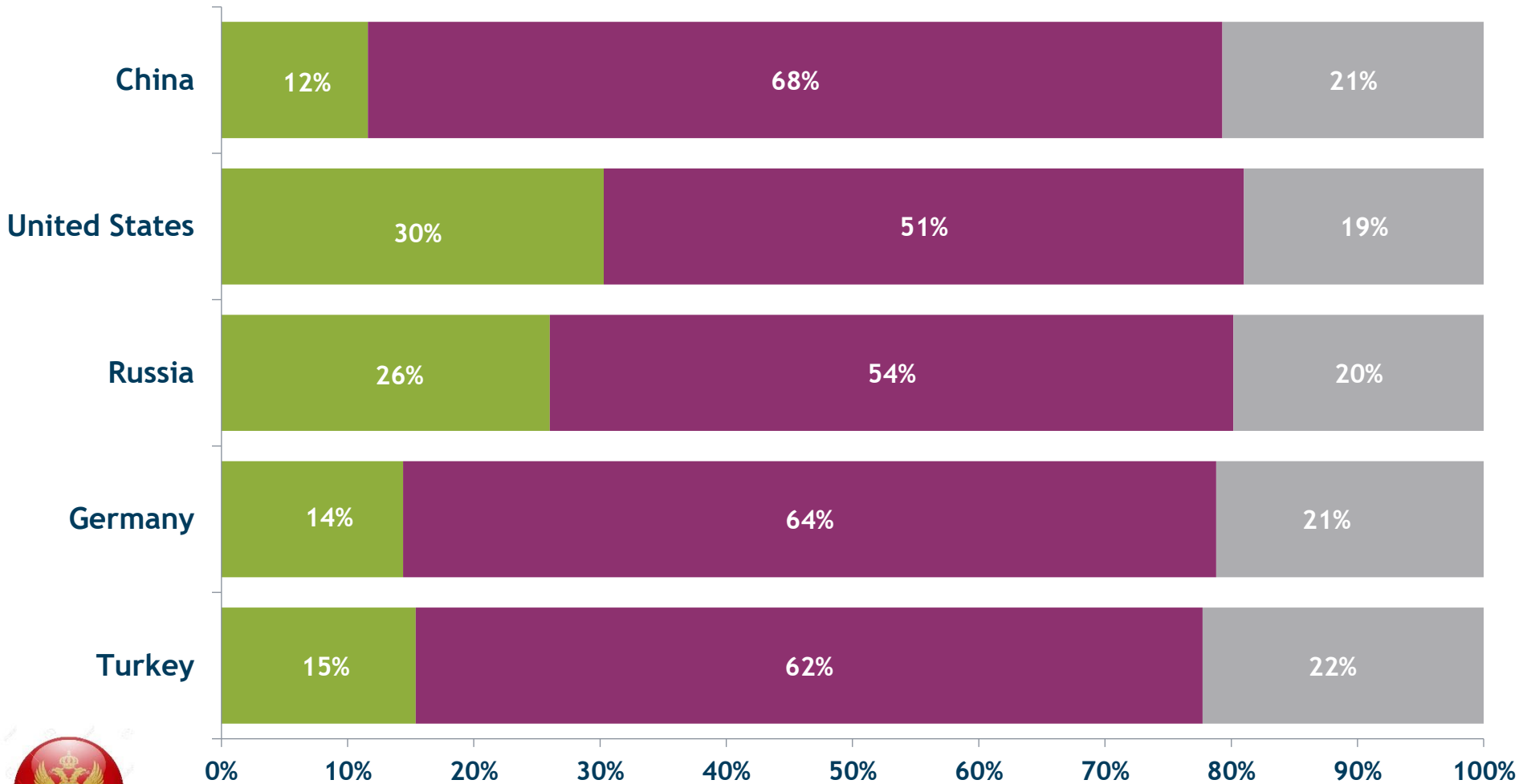
Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political threat or threats for our country?

Montenegro

Most important

Not among most important

Don't know/Refused



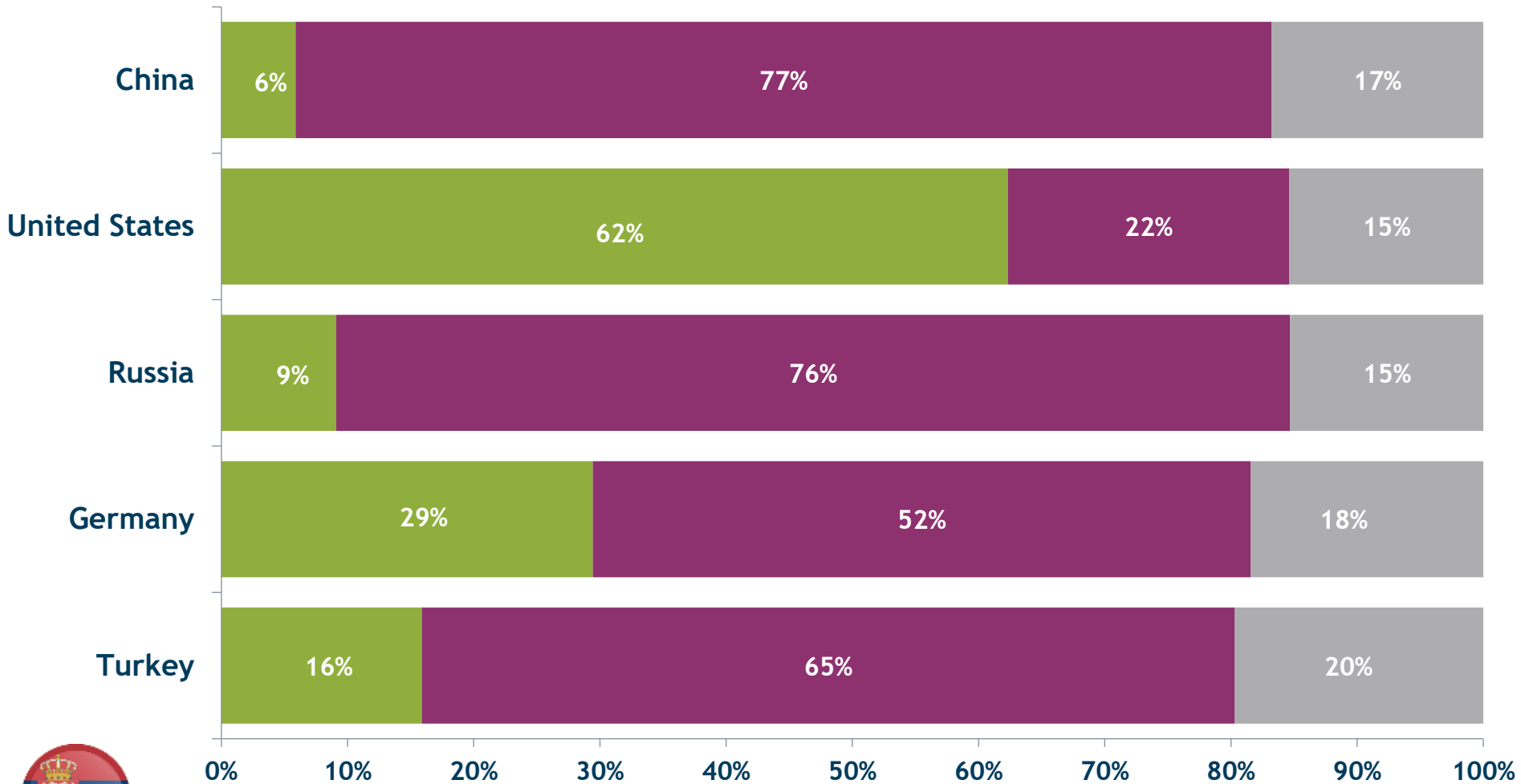
Which of these countries do you consider to be the most important political threat or threats for our country?

Serbia

Most important

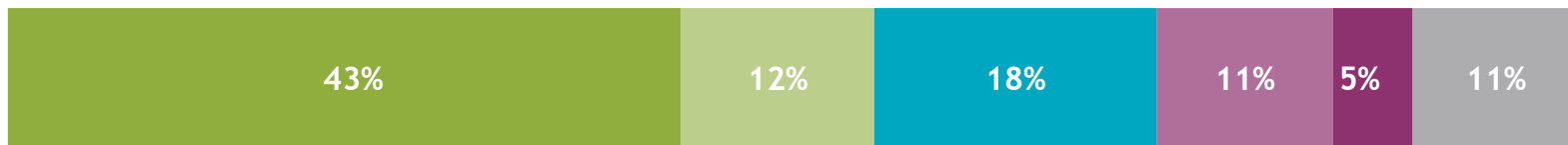
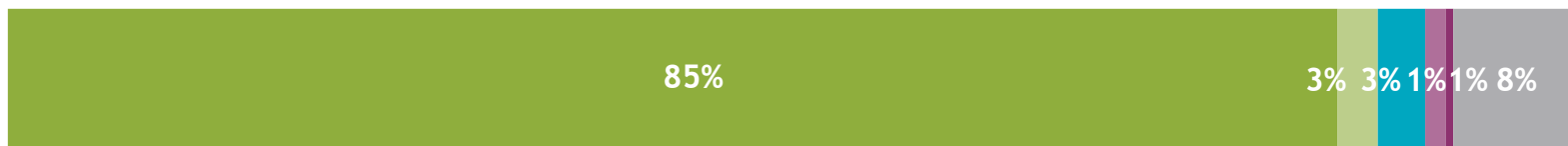
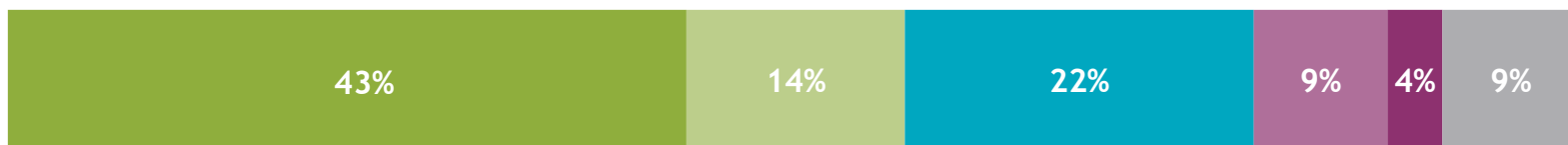
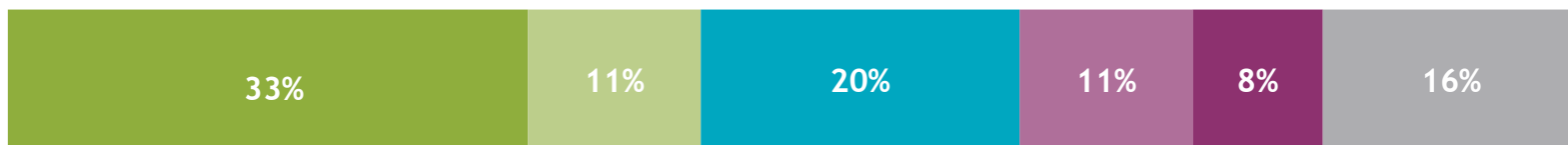
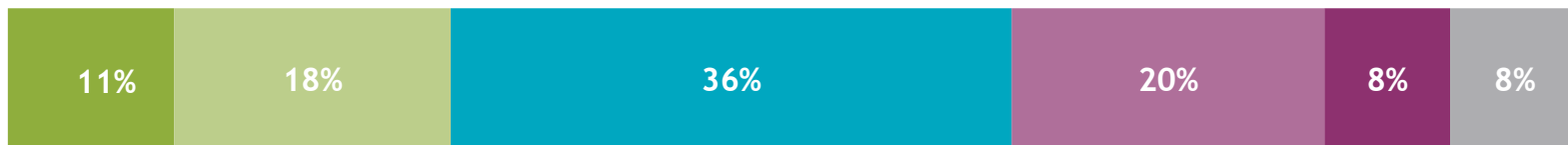
Not among most important

Don't know/Refused



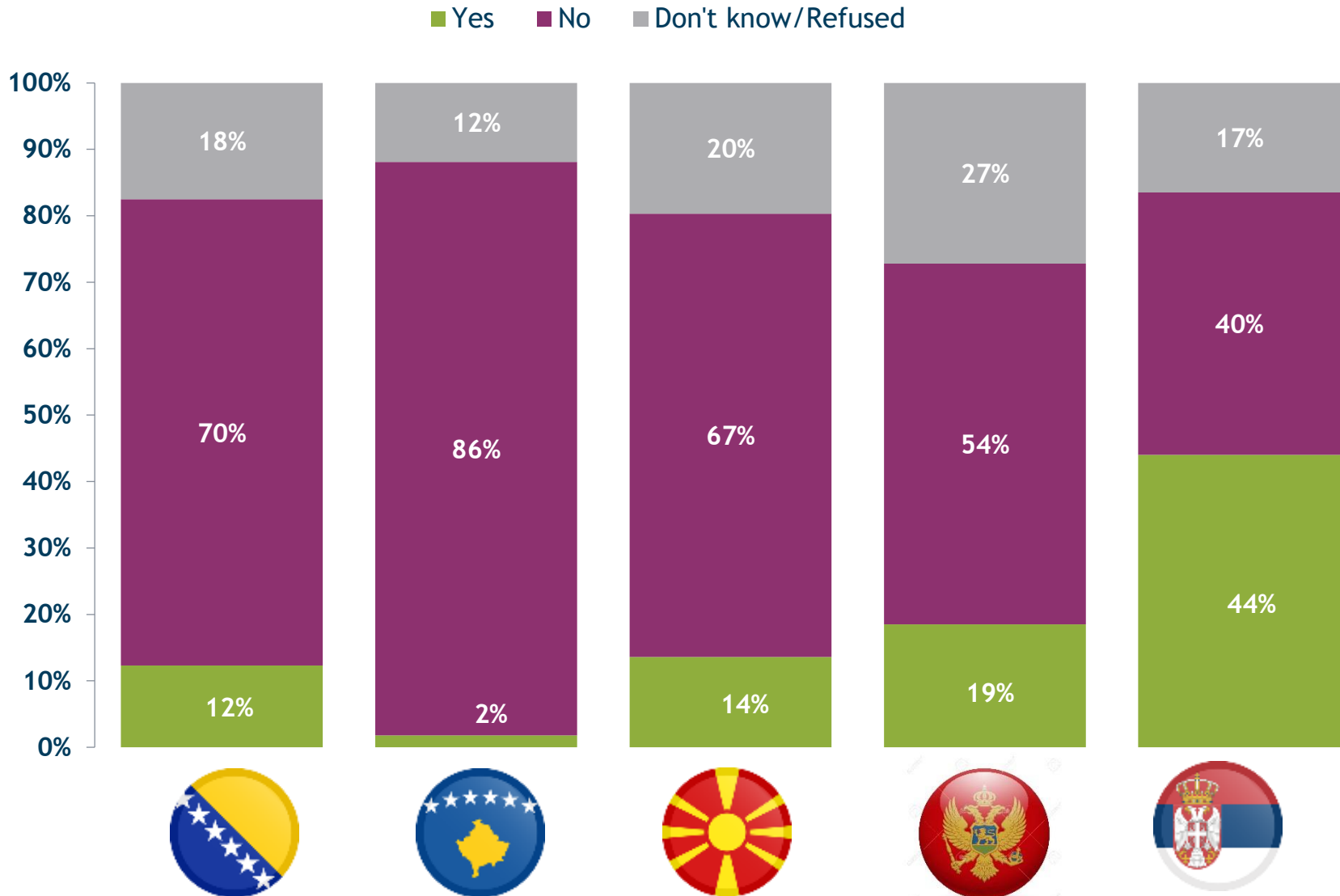
What should our country's foreign policy course be?

- Only pro- European Union and the West
- Pro-Western but keep up relations with Russia
- West and Russia equally
- Pro-Russian but keep up relations with the European Union and the West
- Only pro-Russian
- Don't know/Refused



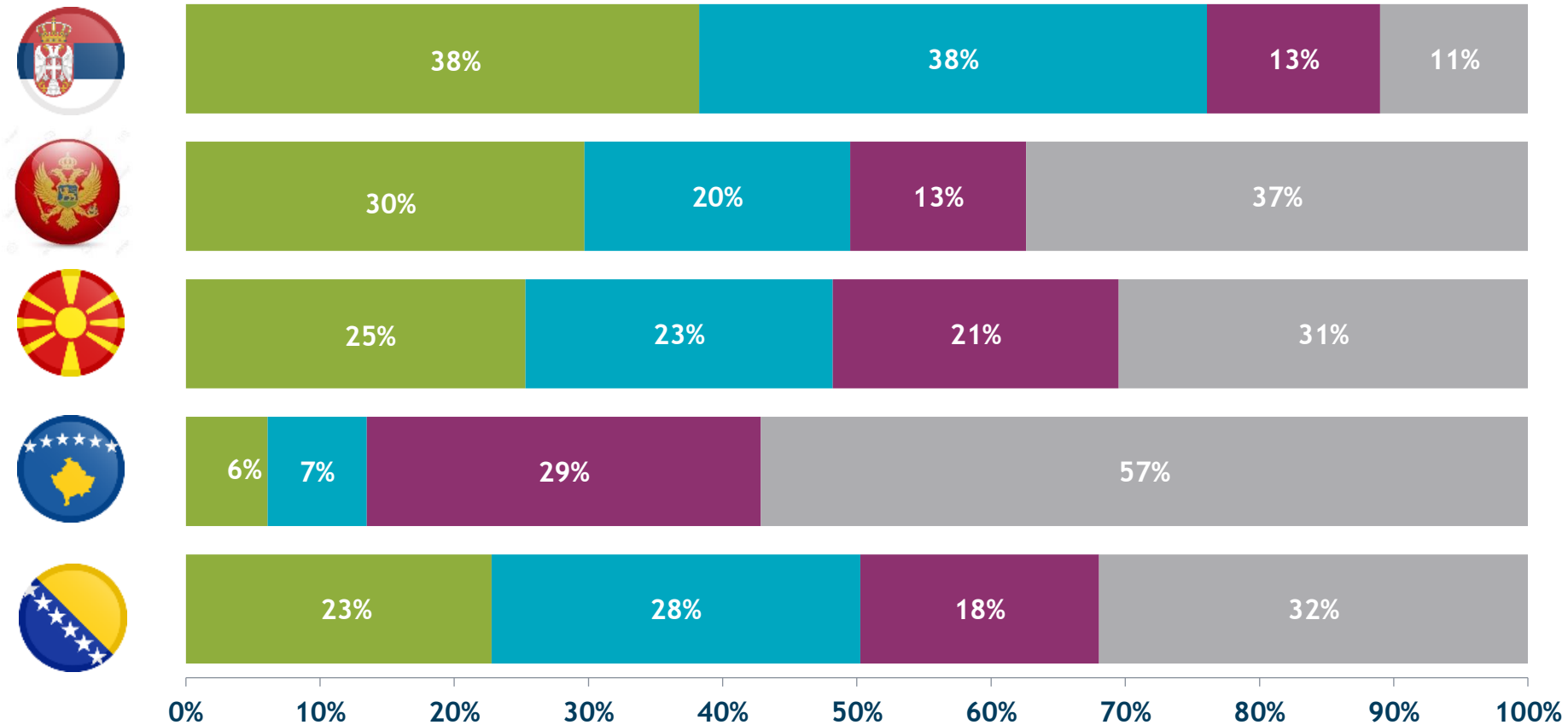
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Are you aware of any major Russian investments in our country?

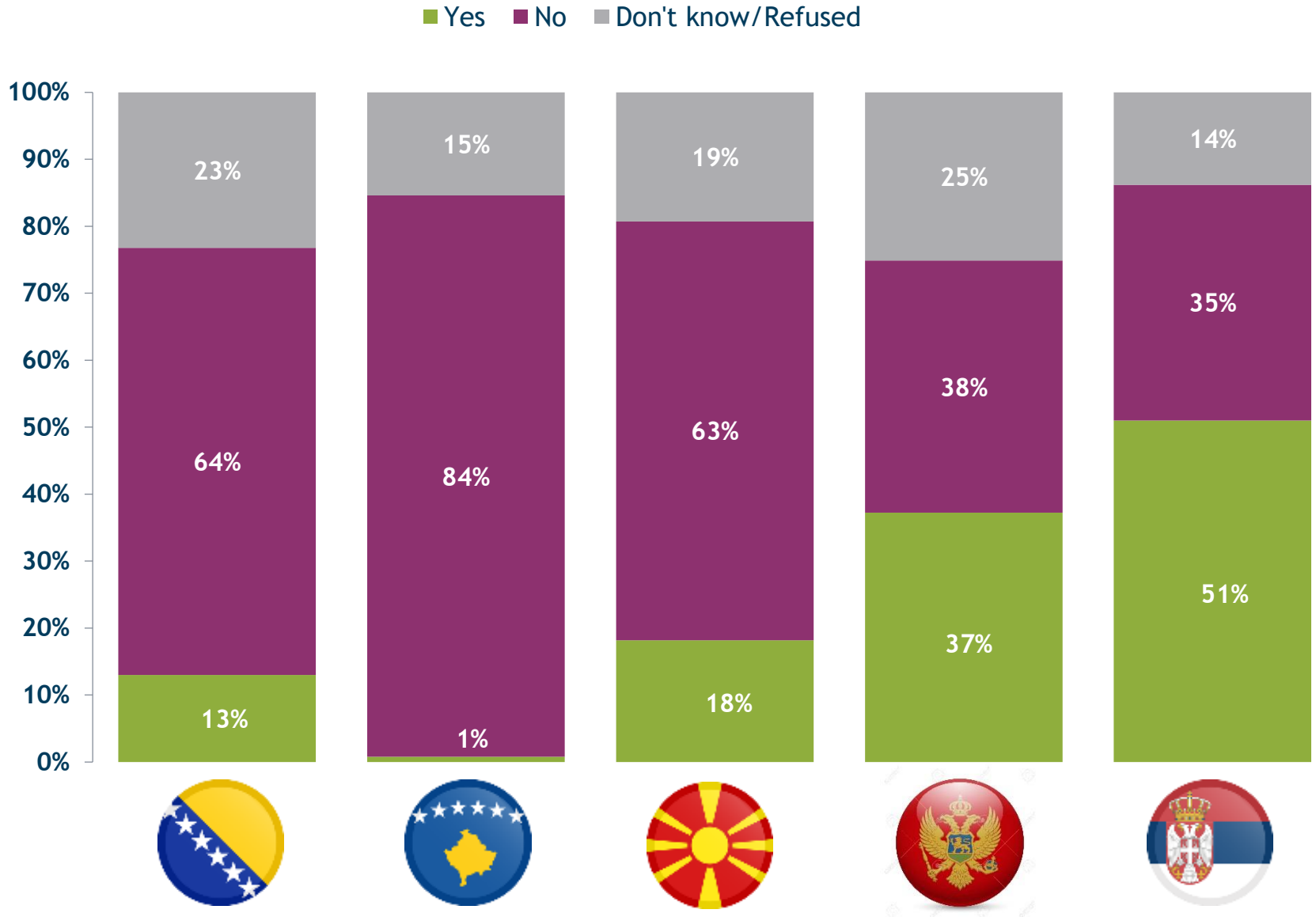


Which of the following statements best describes Russia's motivations to invest in our country?

- Russian investment is primarily about economics, delivering benefits to both sides
- Russian investment gives some economic benefits to our country, but it always carries certain political expectations and conditions
- Russian investment is primarily about influence and control of our country
- Don't know/Refused

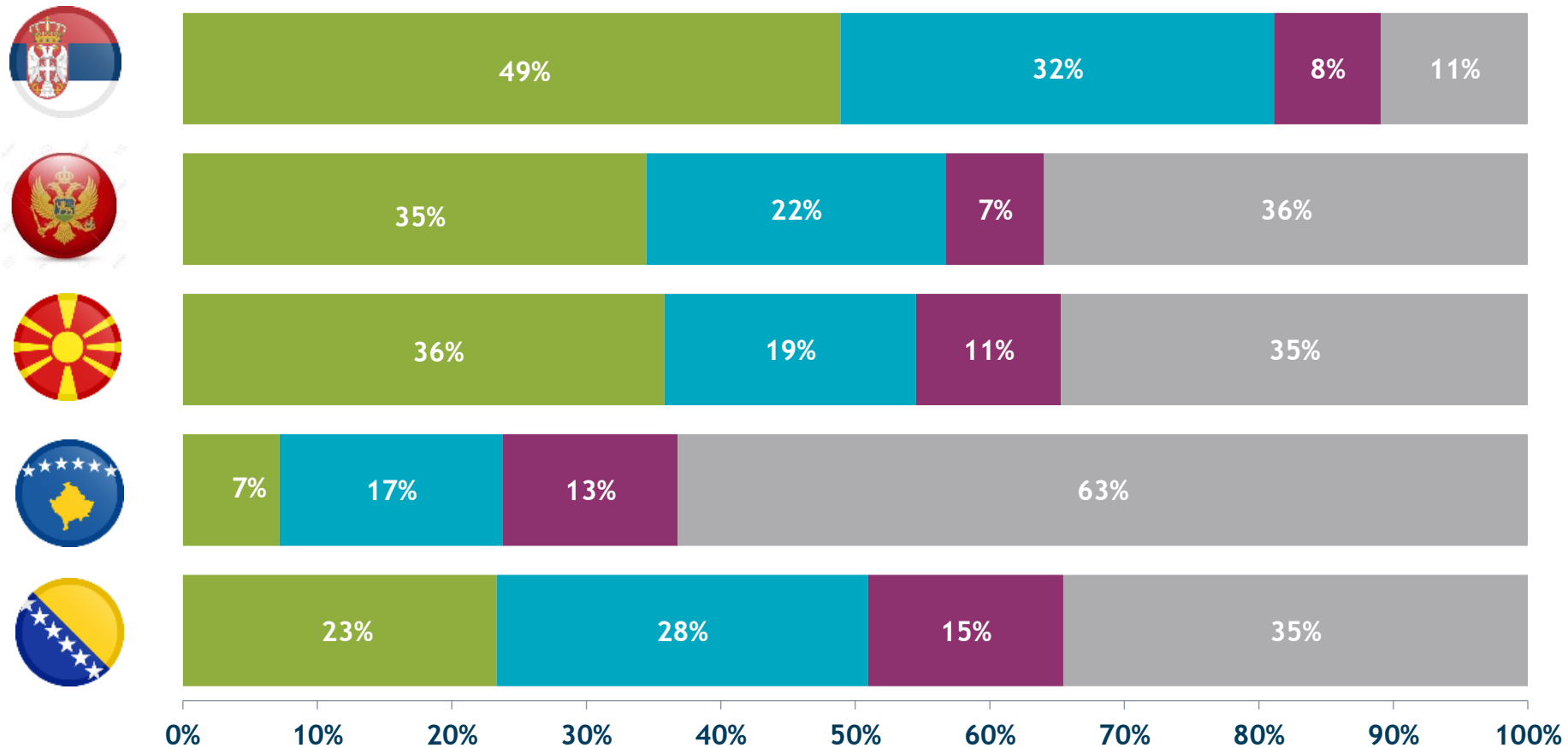


Are you aware of any major Chinese investments in our country?



Which of the following statements best describes China's motivations to invest in our country?

- Chinese investment is primarily about economics, delivering benefits to both sides
- Chinese investment gives some economic benefits to our country, but it always carries certain political expectations and conditions
- Chinese investment is primarily about influence and control of our country
- Don't know/Refused



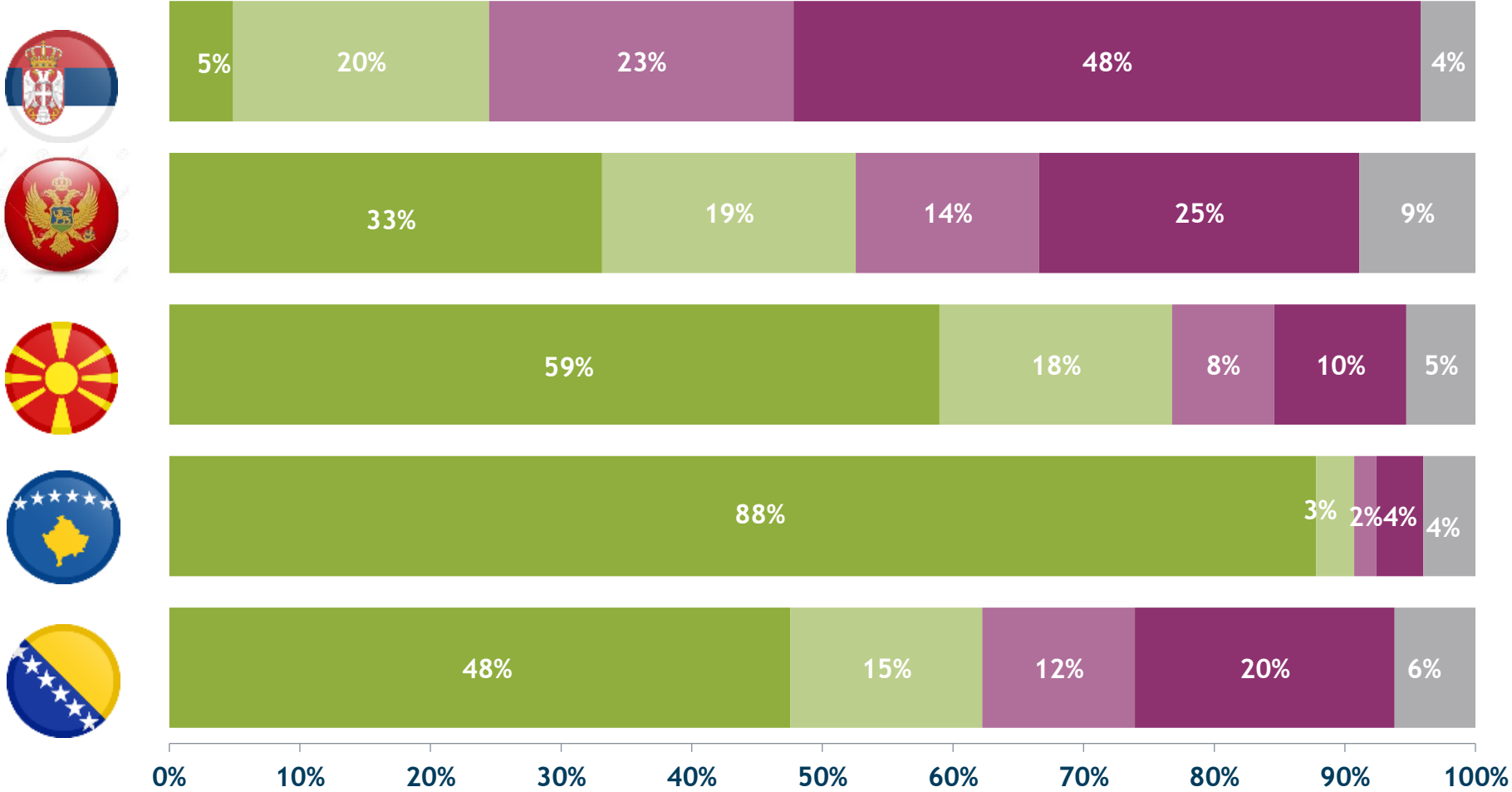


NATO Integration



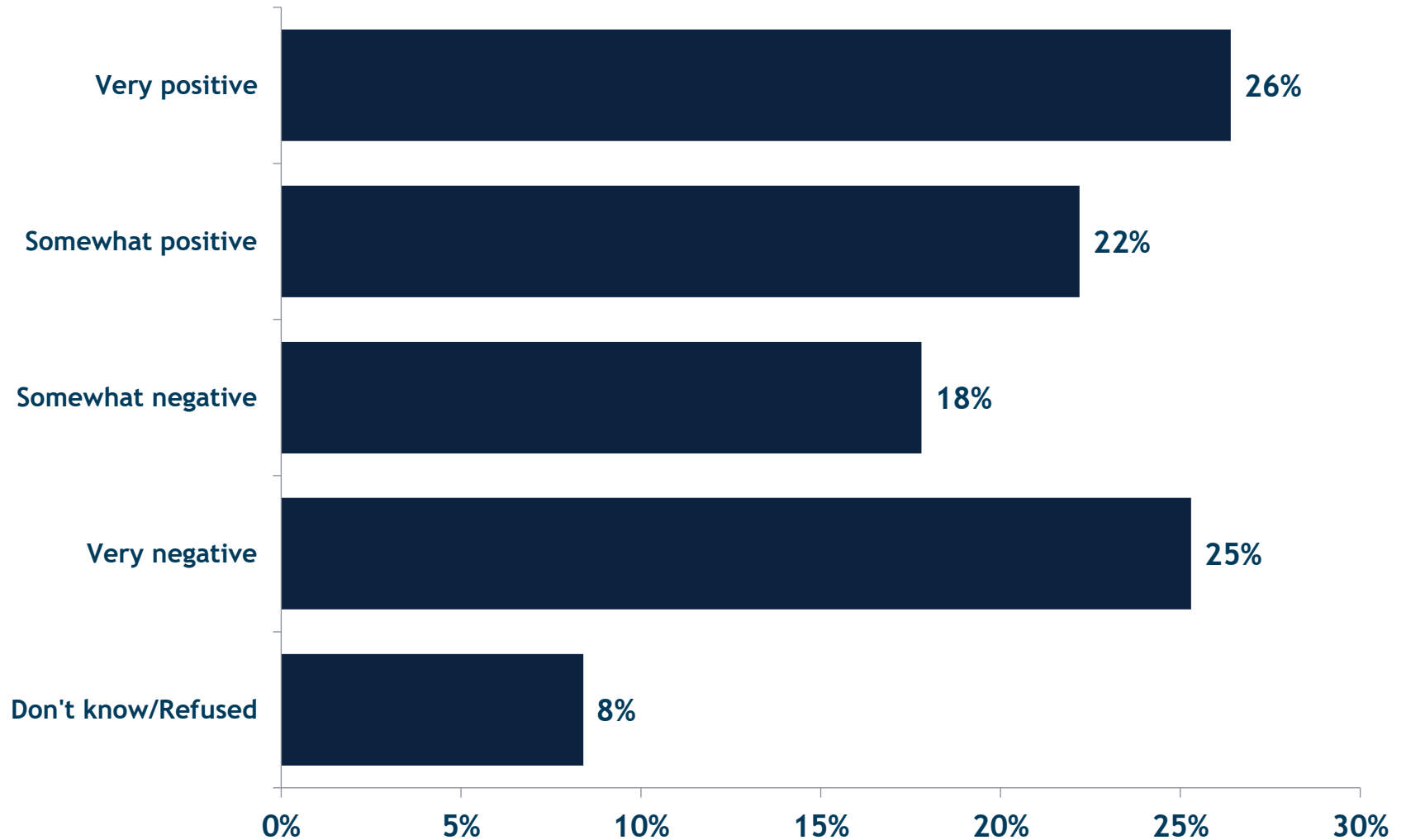
In your opinion, our country's future is best served by having what kind of relationship with NATO?

- Full membership
- More communication but no cooperation
- Don't know/Refused
- Closer cooperation but not membership
- No relationship at all



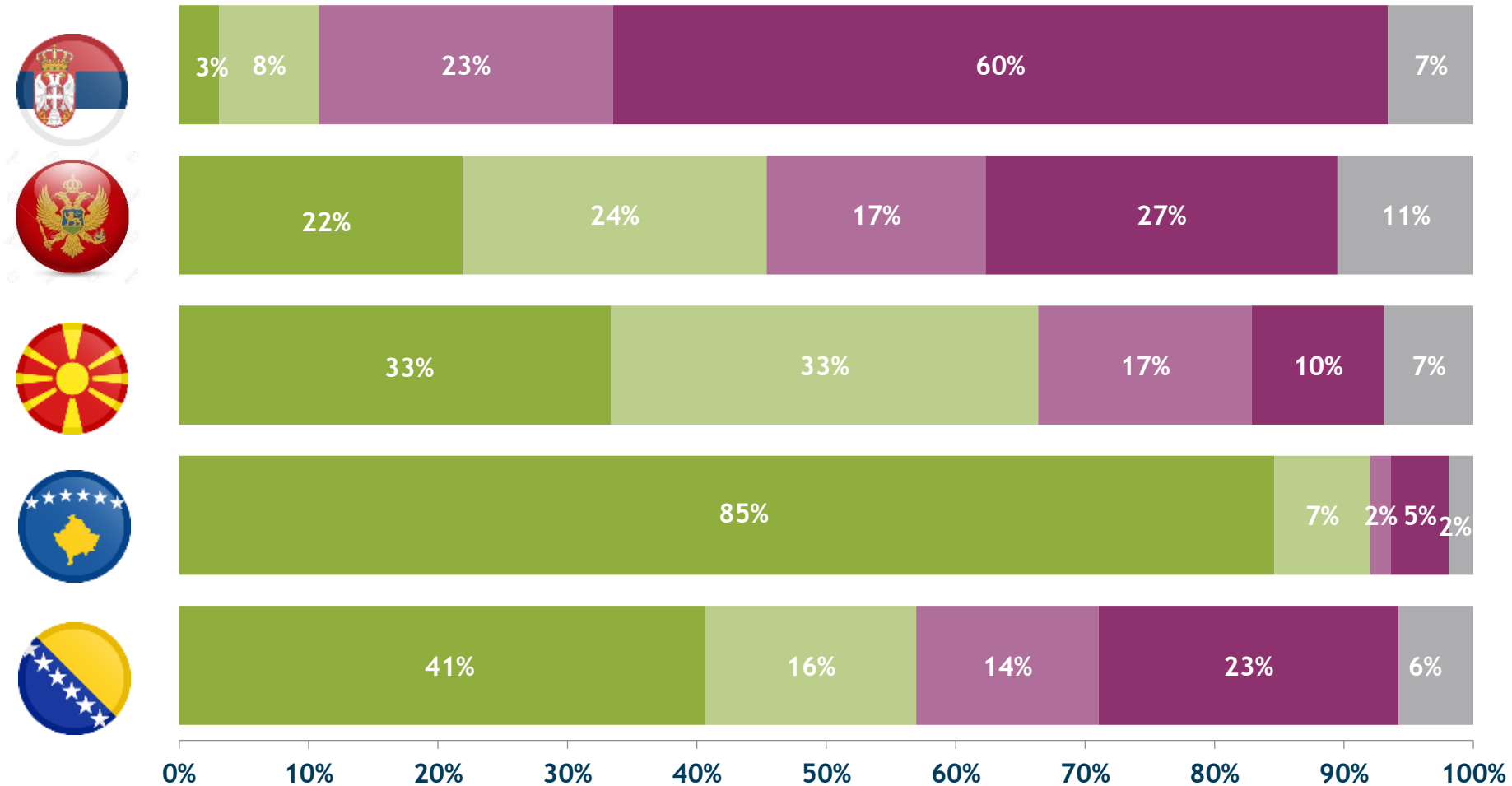
Has NATO membership been positive or negative for our country?

Montenegro



How do you view the role of NATO in the world?

■ Mostly positive
 ■ Somewhat positive
 ■ Somewhat negative
 ■ Mostly negative
 ■ Don't know/Refused





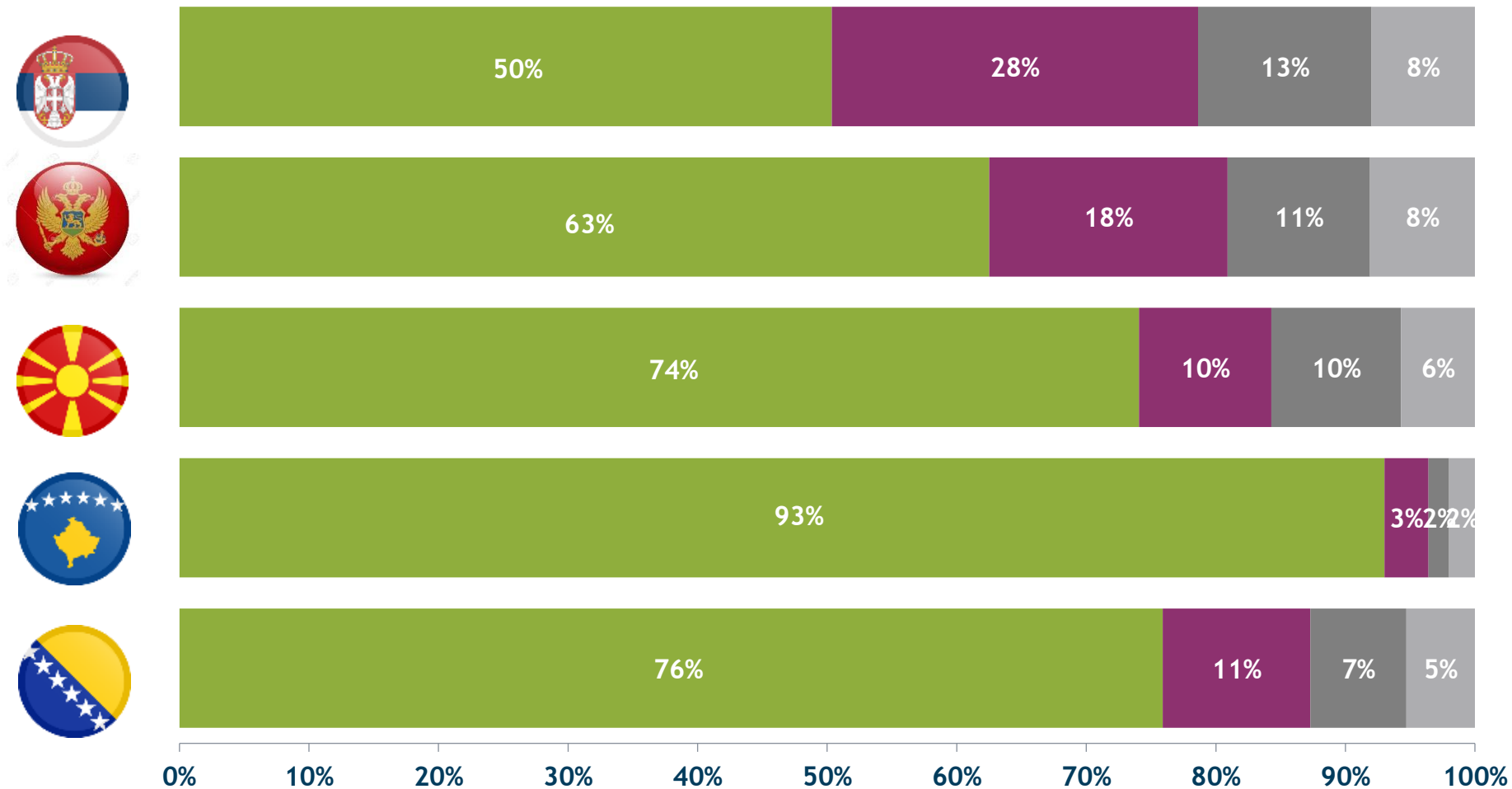
EU Integration



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RESEARCH

If a referendum were held today on our country joining the European Union, how would you vote?

■ Would vote to join the EU
 ■ Would vote against joining the EU
 ■ Would not vote
 ■ Don't know/Refused



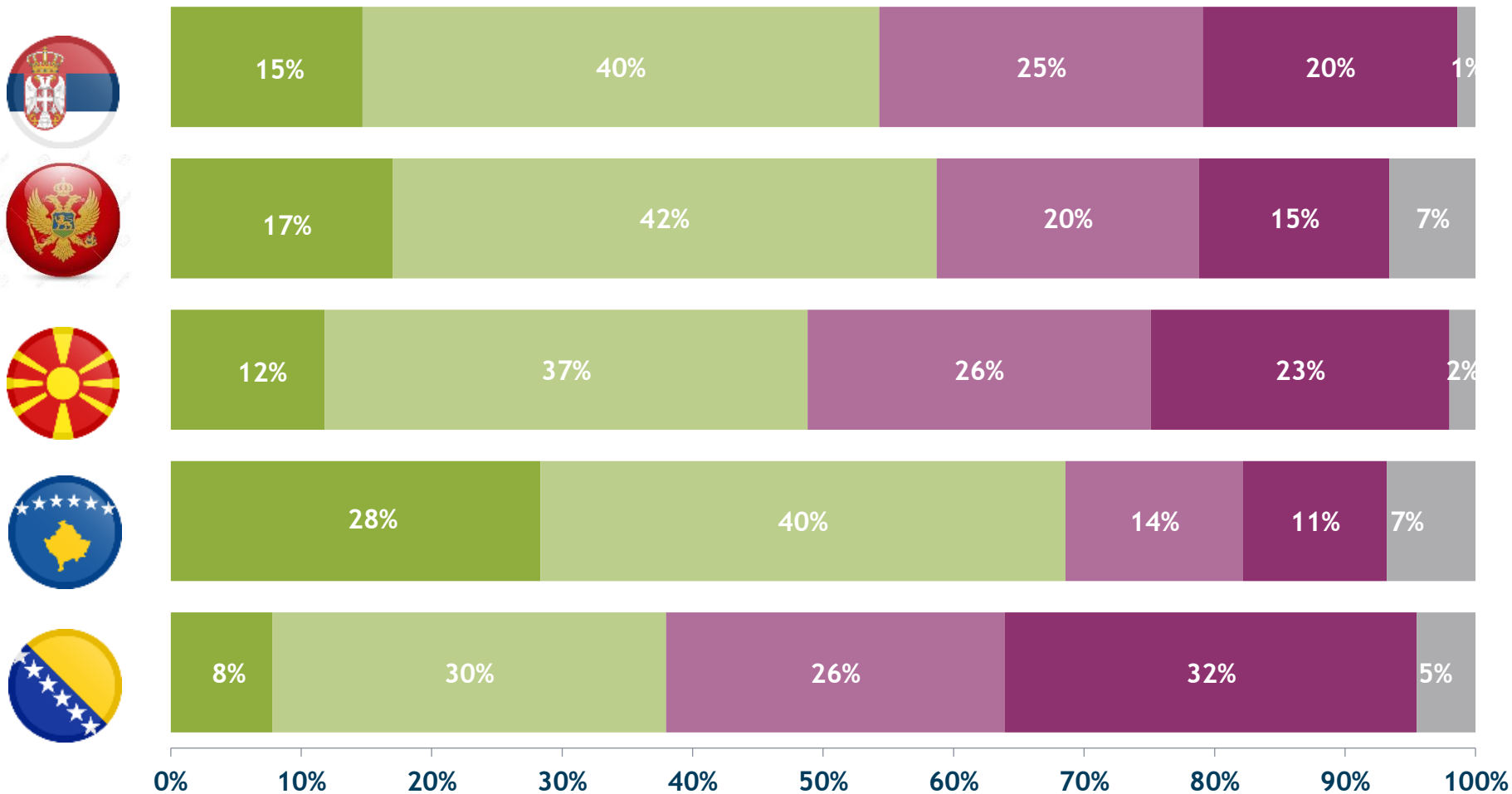


Media Preferences

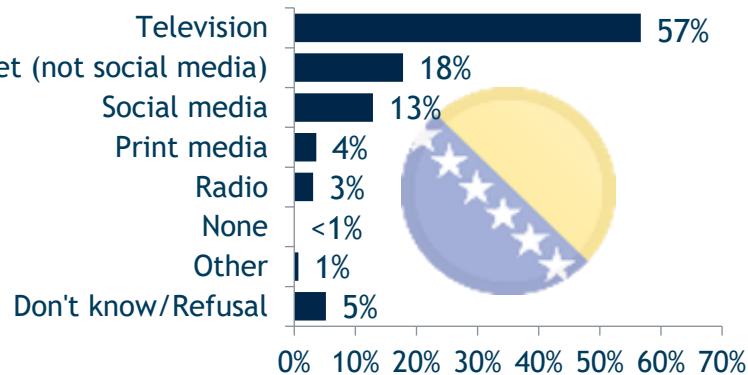
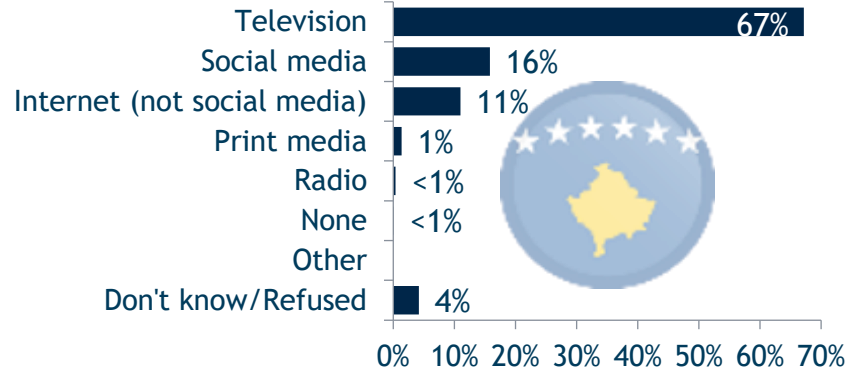
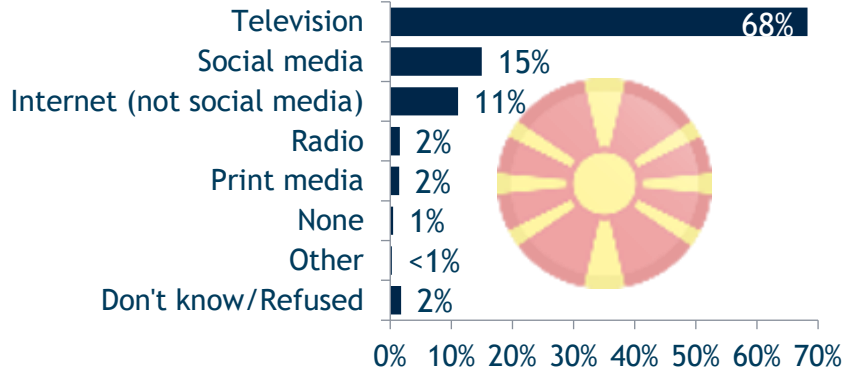
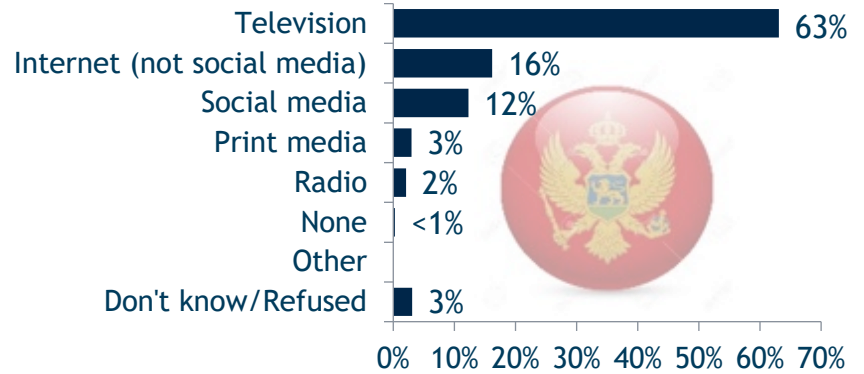
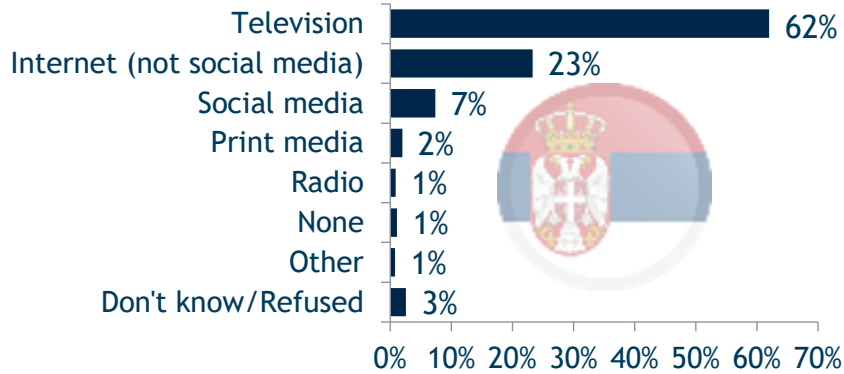


How interested or uninterested are you in political news and information?

■ Very interested
 ■ Somewhat interested
 ■ Somewhat uninterested
 ■ Very uninterested
 ■ Don't know/Refused

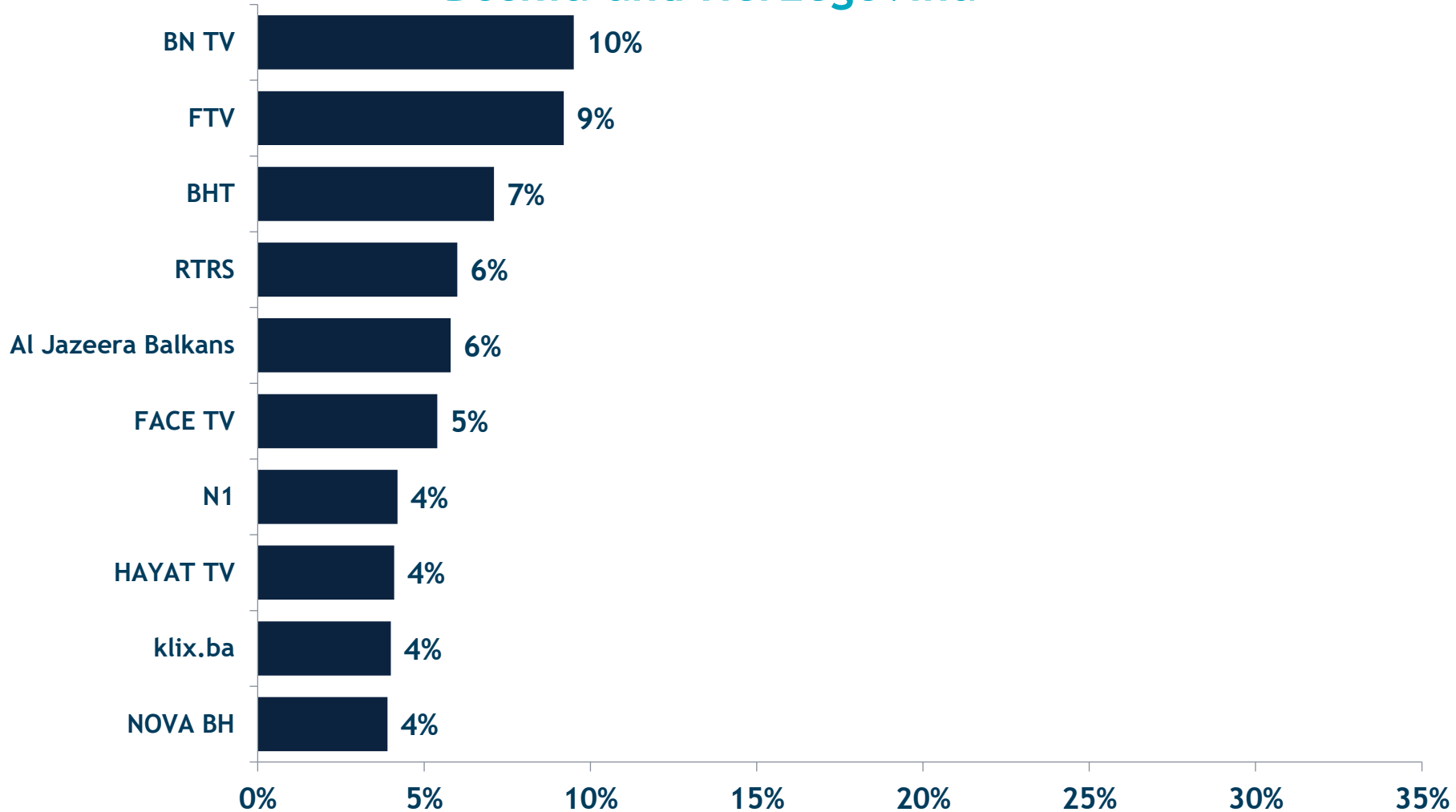


Which media platform do you use most frequently to gain political news and information?



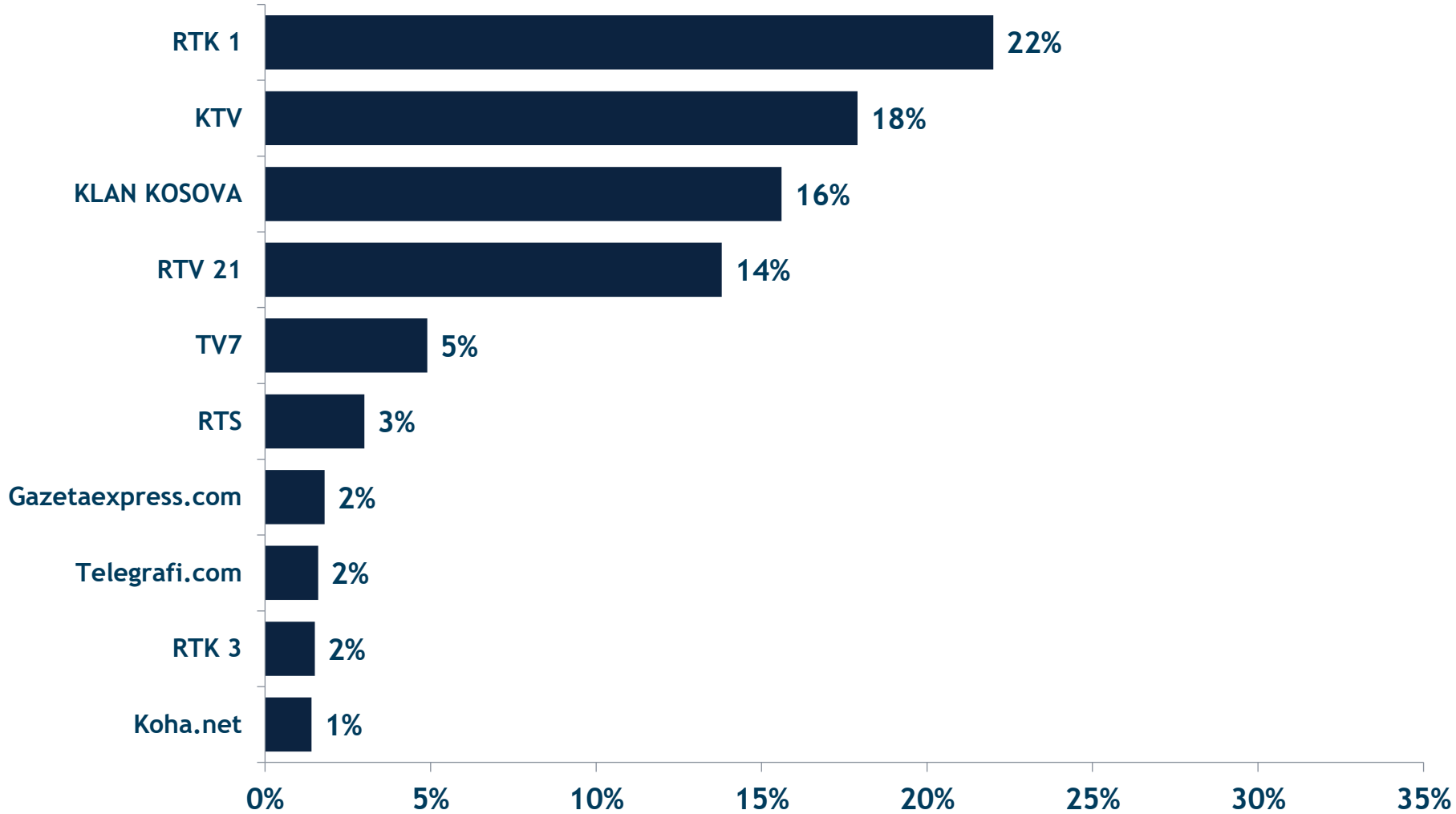
Which specific media outlets, such as a specific TV channel, radio station, newspaper, website etc., do you consider most trustworthy for political information? (Top 10 responses)

Bosnia and Herzegovina



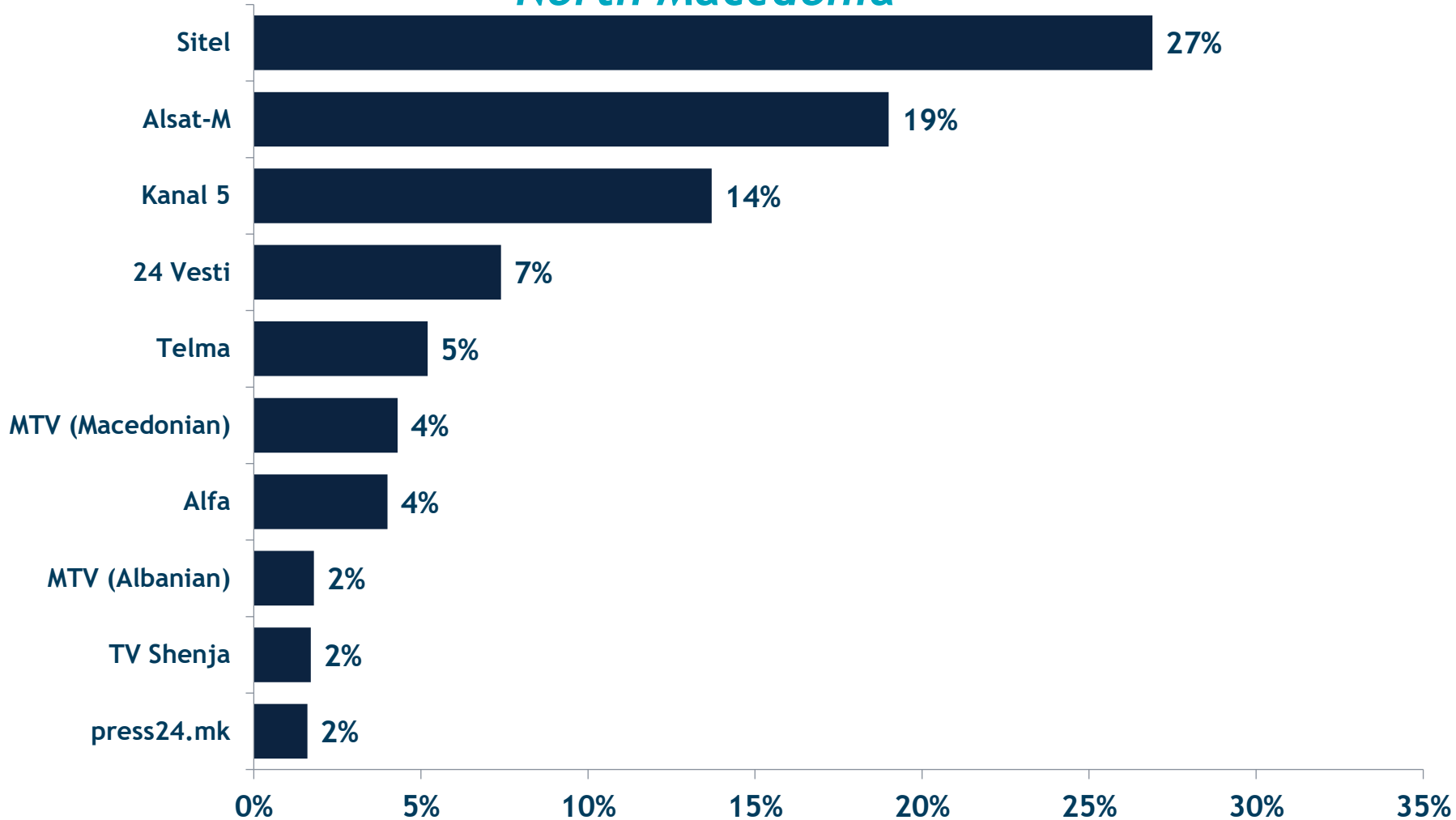
Which specific media outlets, such as a specific TV channel, radio station, newspaper, website etc., do you consider most trustworthy for political information? (Top 10 responses)

Kosovo



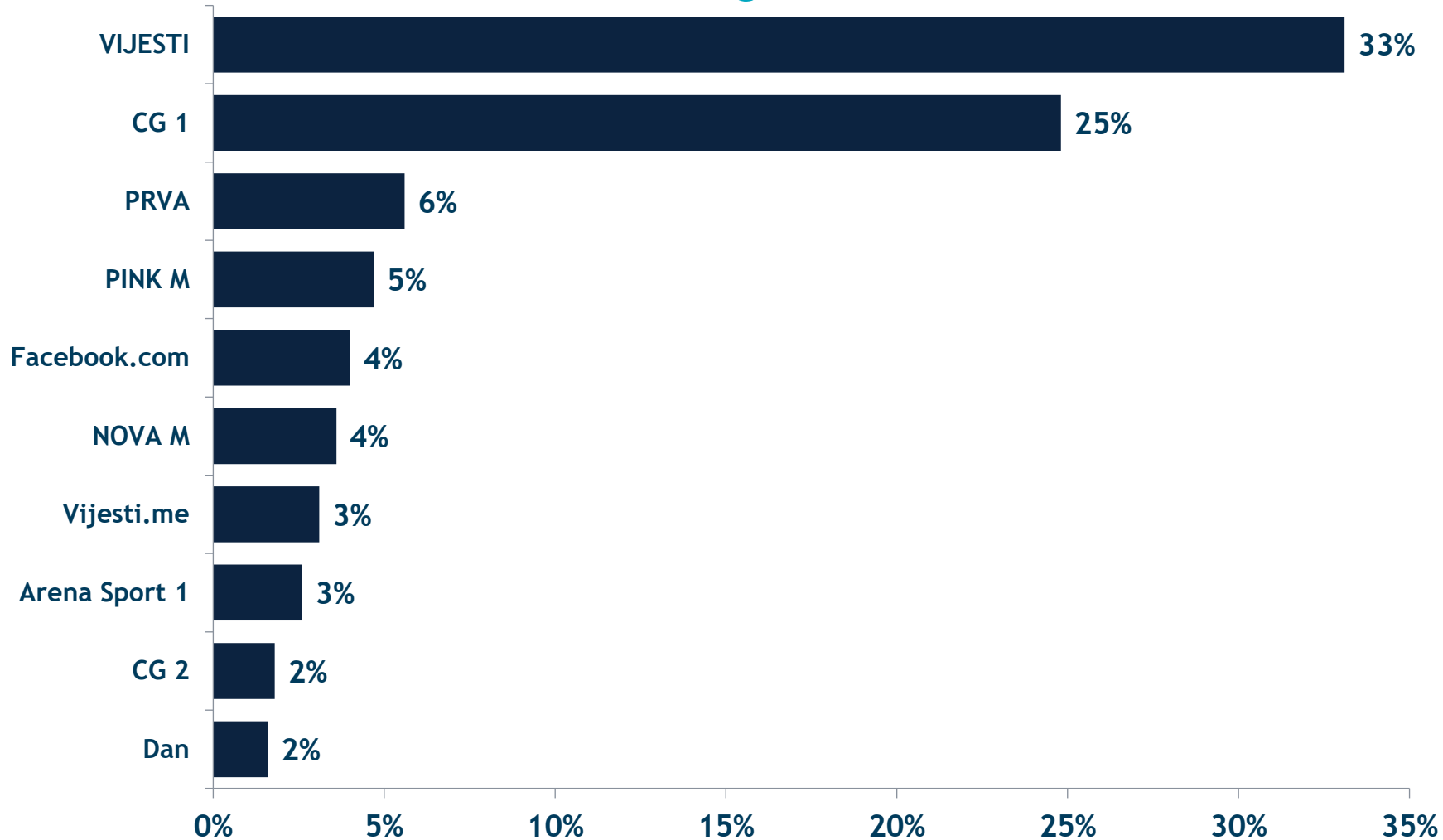
Which specific media outlets, such as a specific TV channel, radio station, newspaper, website etc., do you consider most trustworthy for political information? (Top 10 responses)

North Macedonia



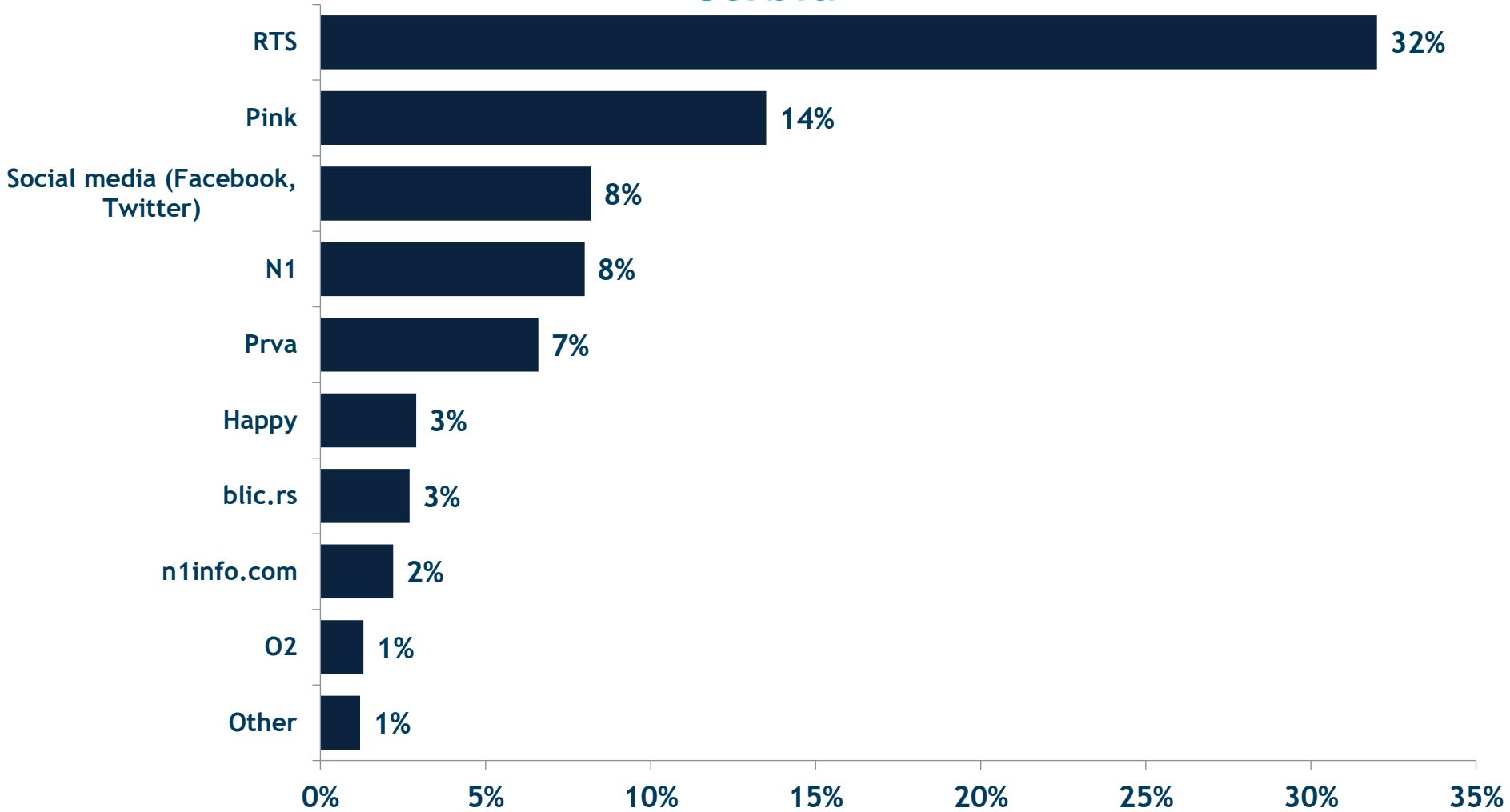
Which specific media outlets, such as a specific TV channel, radio station, newspaper, website etc., do you consider most trustworthy for political information? (Top 10 responses)

Montenegro



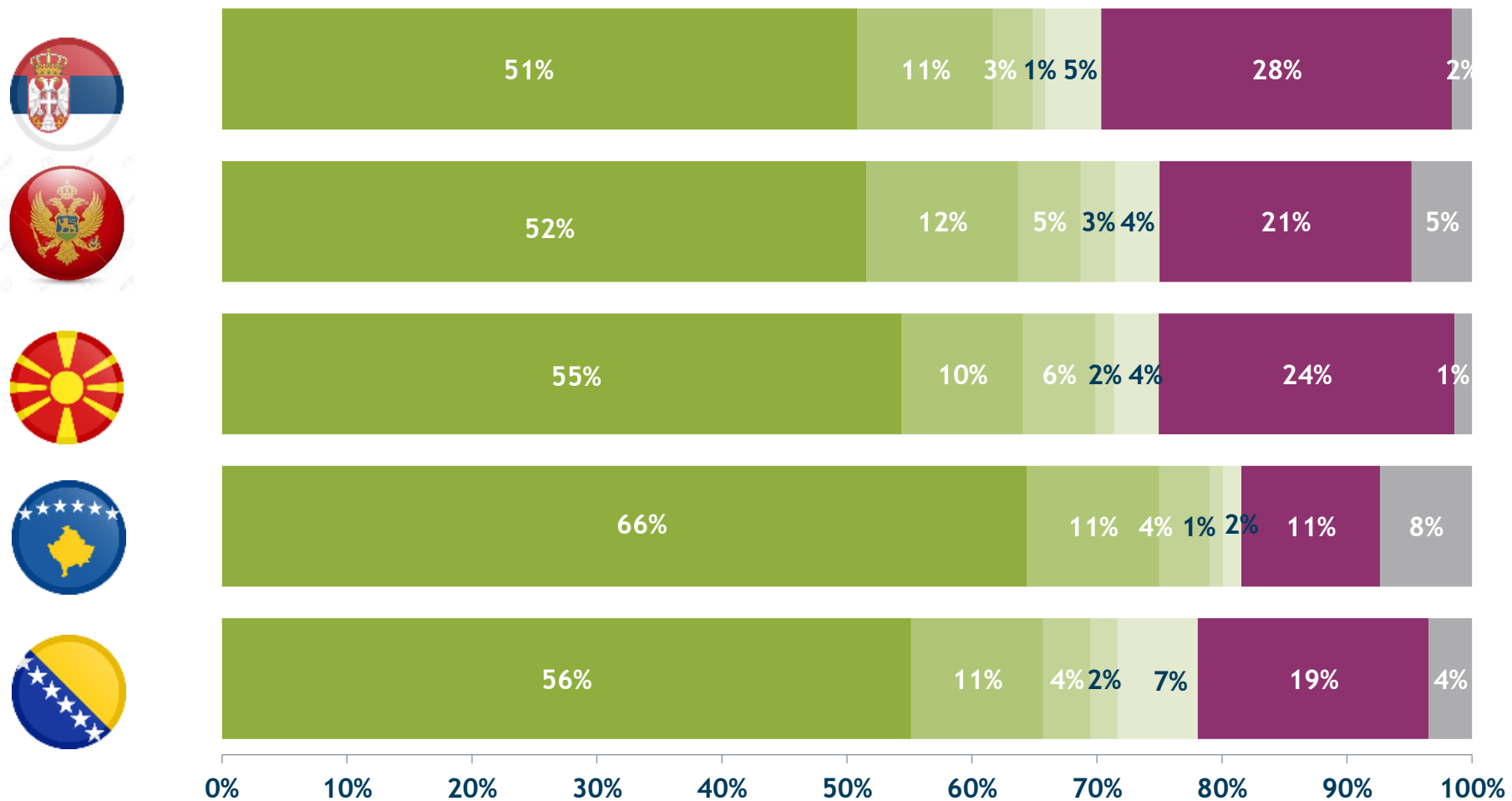
Which specific media outlets, such as a specific TV channel, radio station, newspaper, website etc. do you consider most trustworthy for political information? (Top 10 responses)

Serbia



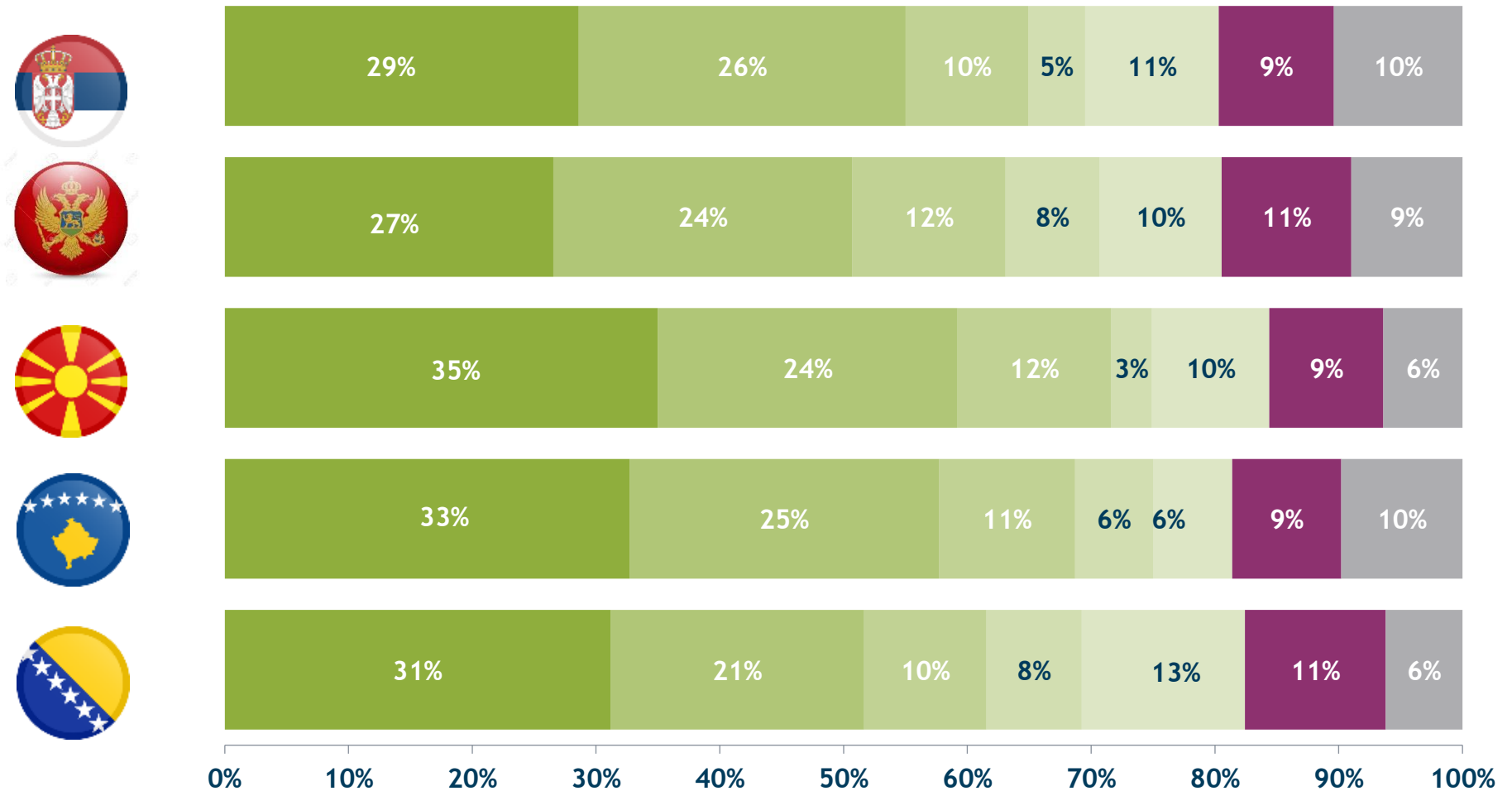
How often, if ever, do you use the internet or social media?

■ Daily or almost daily
 ■ Several times a week
 ■ Weekly
 ■ Monthly
 ■ Less often
 ■ Never
 ■ Don't know/Refused



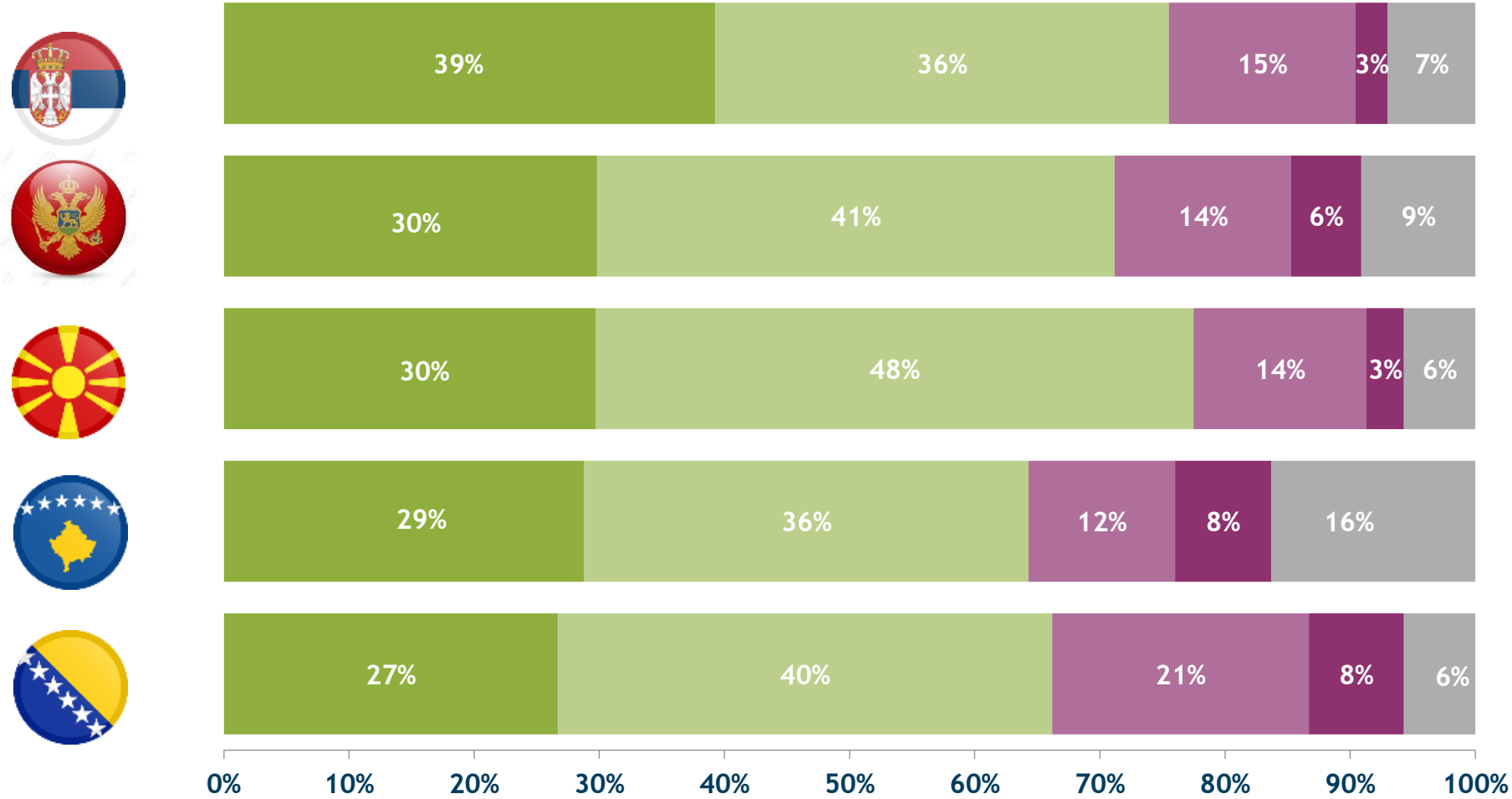
How frequently do you encounter information in the media, including social media, that you believe is misleading or false?

■ Daily or almost daily
 ■ Several times a week
 ■ Weekly
 ■ Monthly
 ■ Less often
 ■ Never
 ■ Don't know/Refused



To what extent is misleading or false information in the media problematic for our country?

■ Very problematic
 ■ Somewhat problematic
 ■ Somewhat unproblematic
 ■ Very unproblematic
 ■ Don't know/Refused



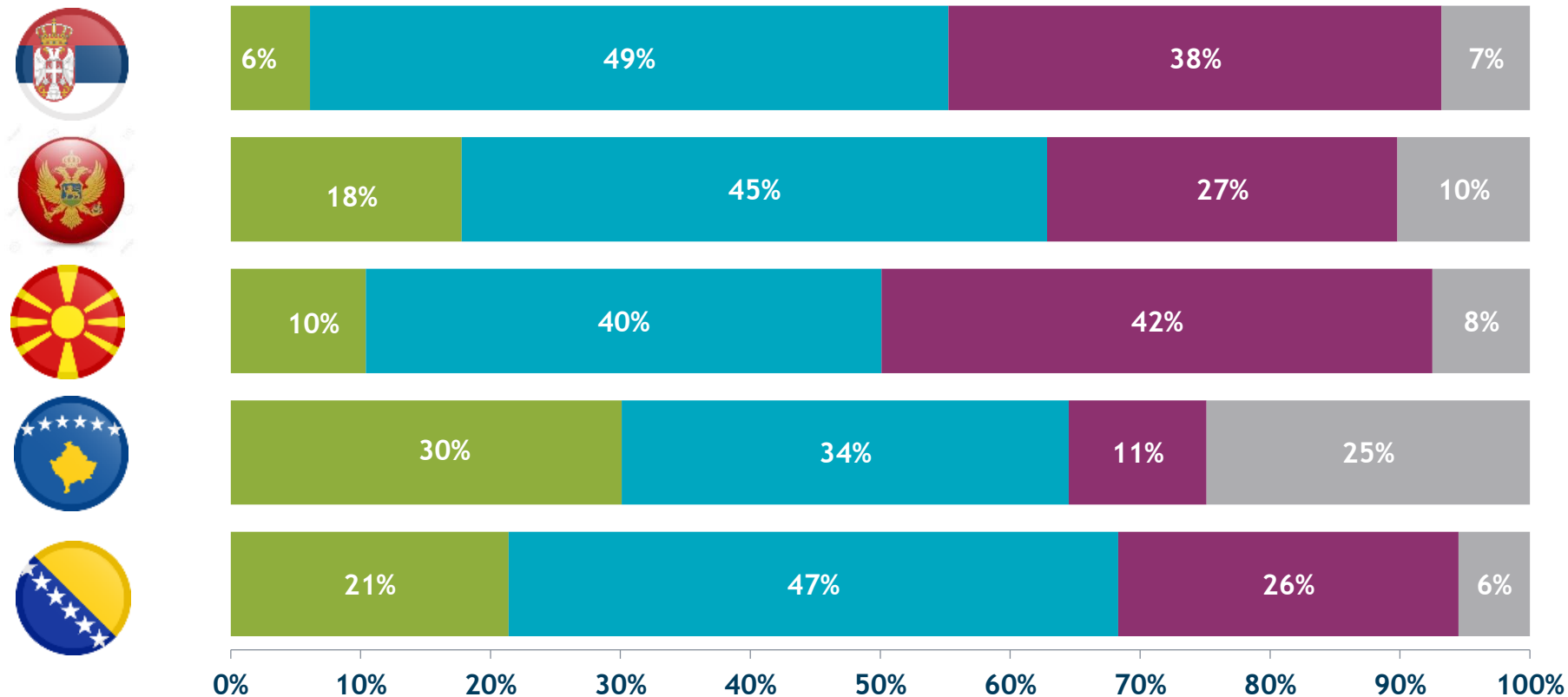


Security Issues



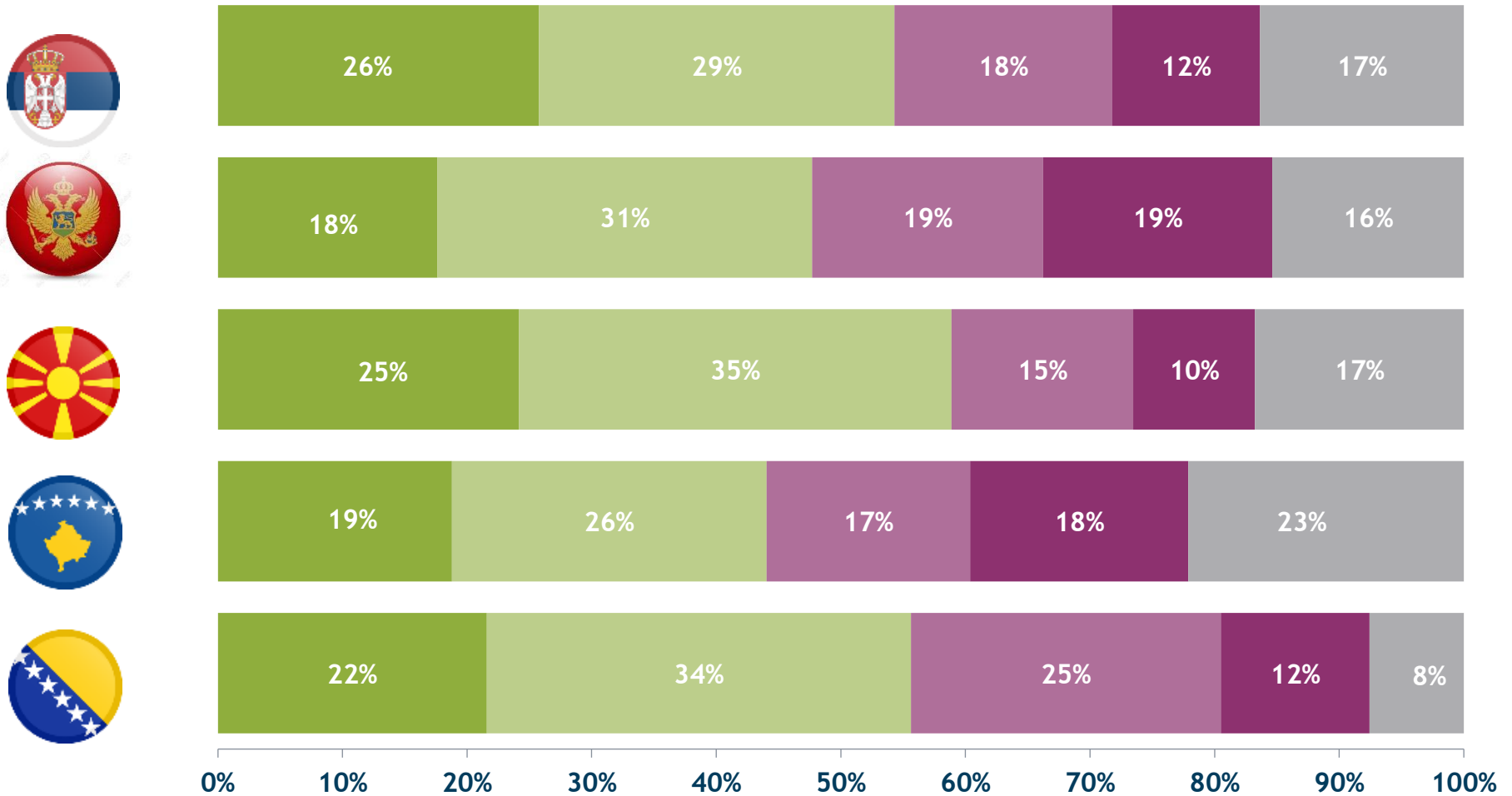
Which statement about refugees and migrants is closest to your opinion?

- Our country has a responsibility to help those in need by taking in refugees and migrants, regardless of the costs in financial, social, and security realms.
- Our country has a responsibility to help those in need by taking in refugees and migrants, but only after certain steps have been taken to ensure that they will not place excessive financial, social, or security burden on our country.
- Our country does not have a responsibility to help those in need by taking in refugees and migrants.
- Don't know/Refused

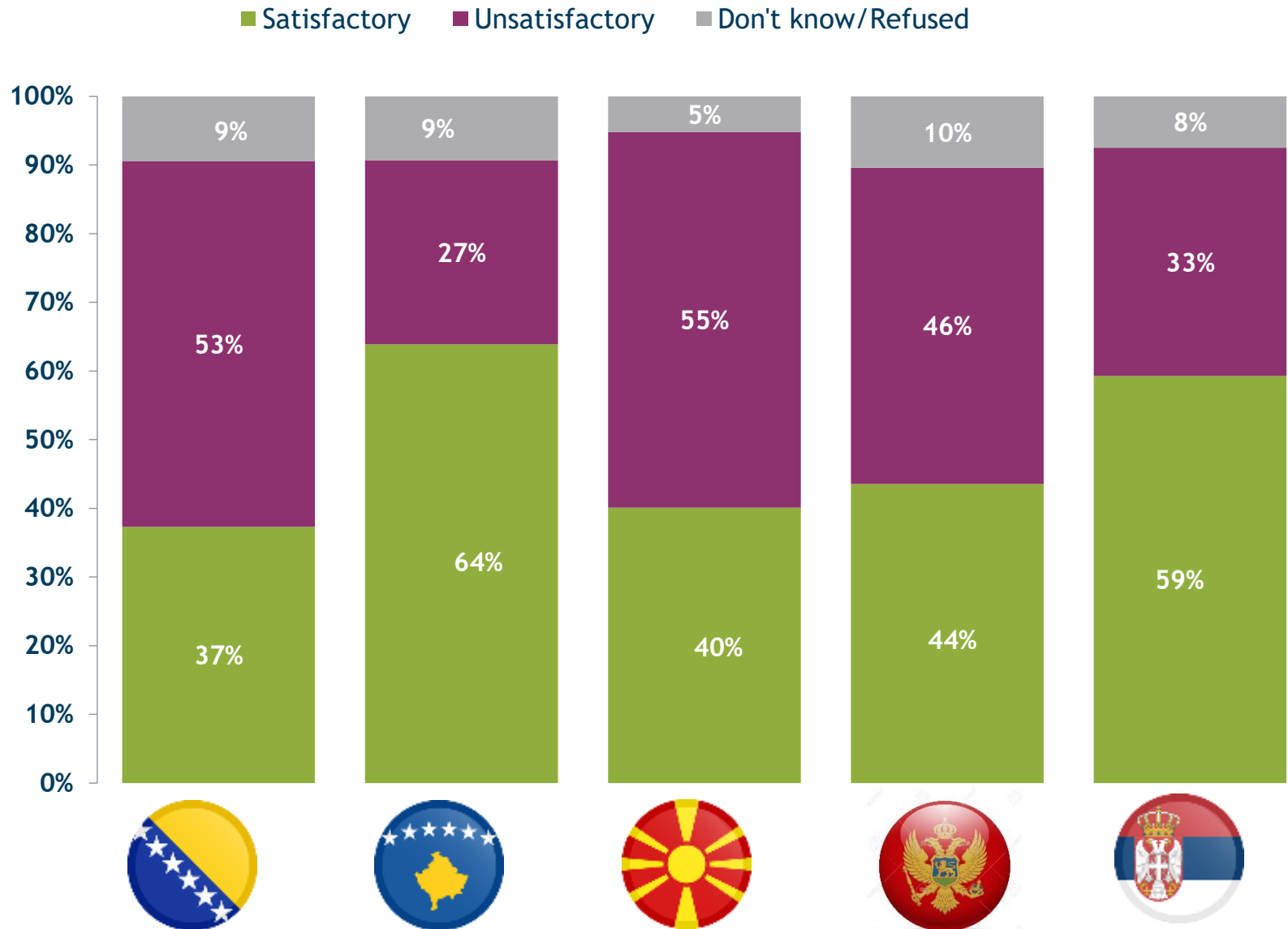


To what extent is violent extremism a problem in our country?

■ Big problem
 ■ Somewhat if a problem
 ■ Small problem
 ■ Not a problem at all
 ■ Don't know/Refused



How would you evaluate the security situation in the country?



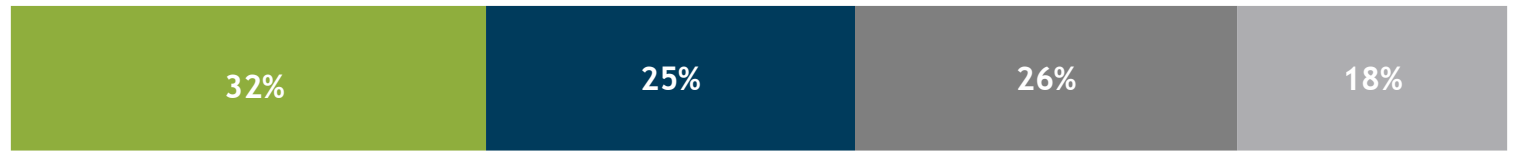
In your opinion, what kind of extremism is more present in our country?

■ Religious

■ Ethno-nationalist

■ Neither

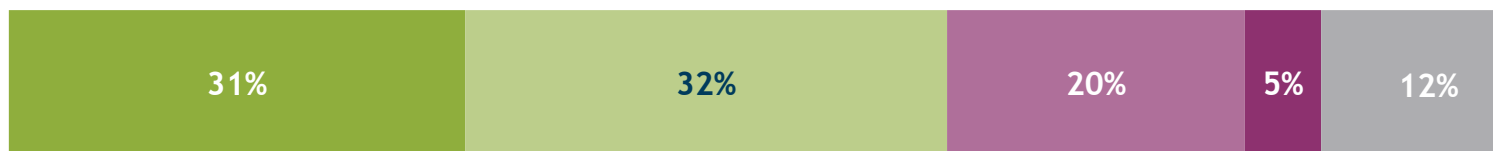
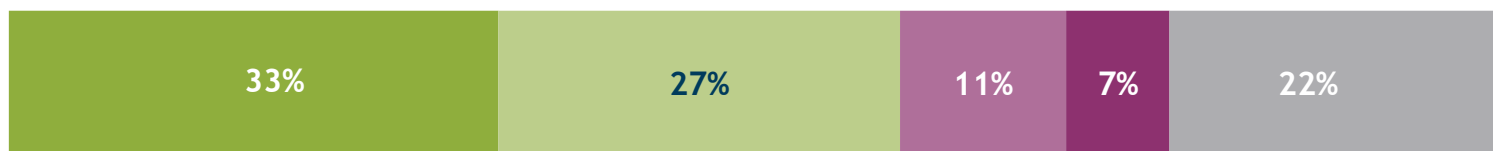
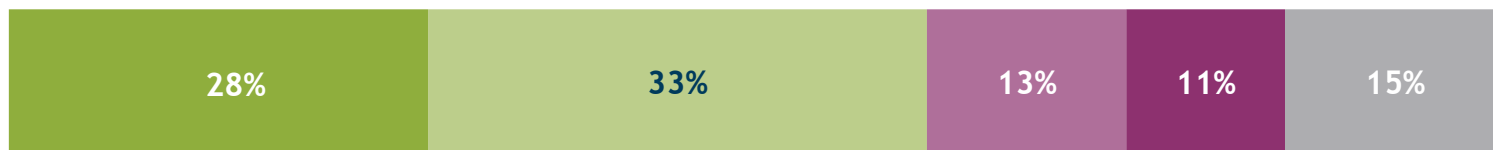
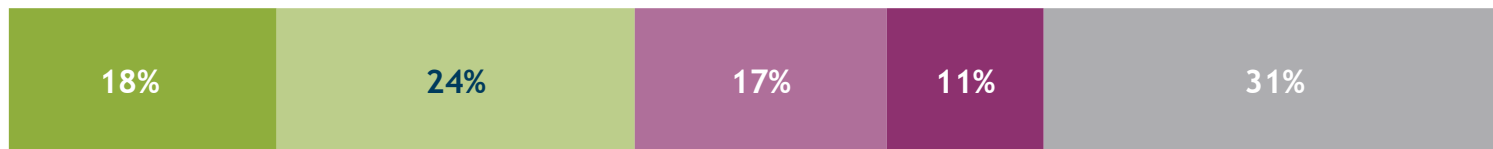
■ Don't know/Refused



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

To what extent do you support or oppose legal consequences, including prison terms, for citizens returning from participating in foreign conflicts?

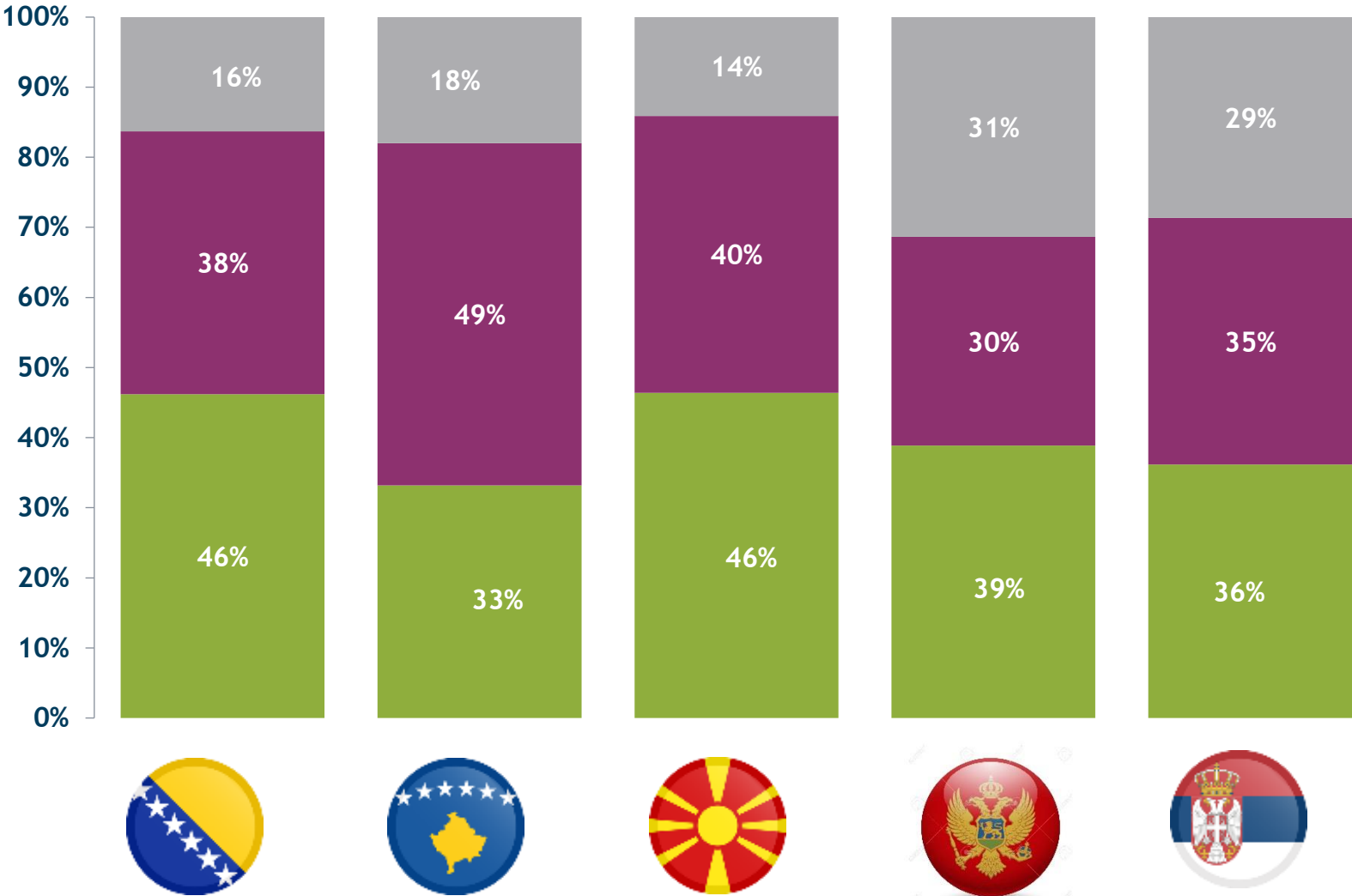
■ Strongly support
 ■ Somewhat support
 ■ Somewhat oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know/Refused



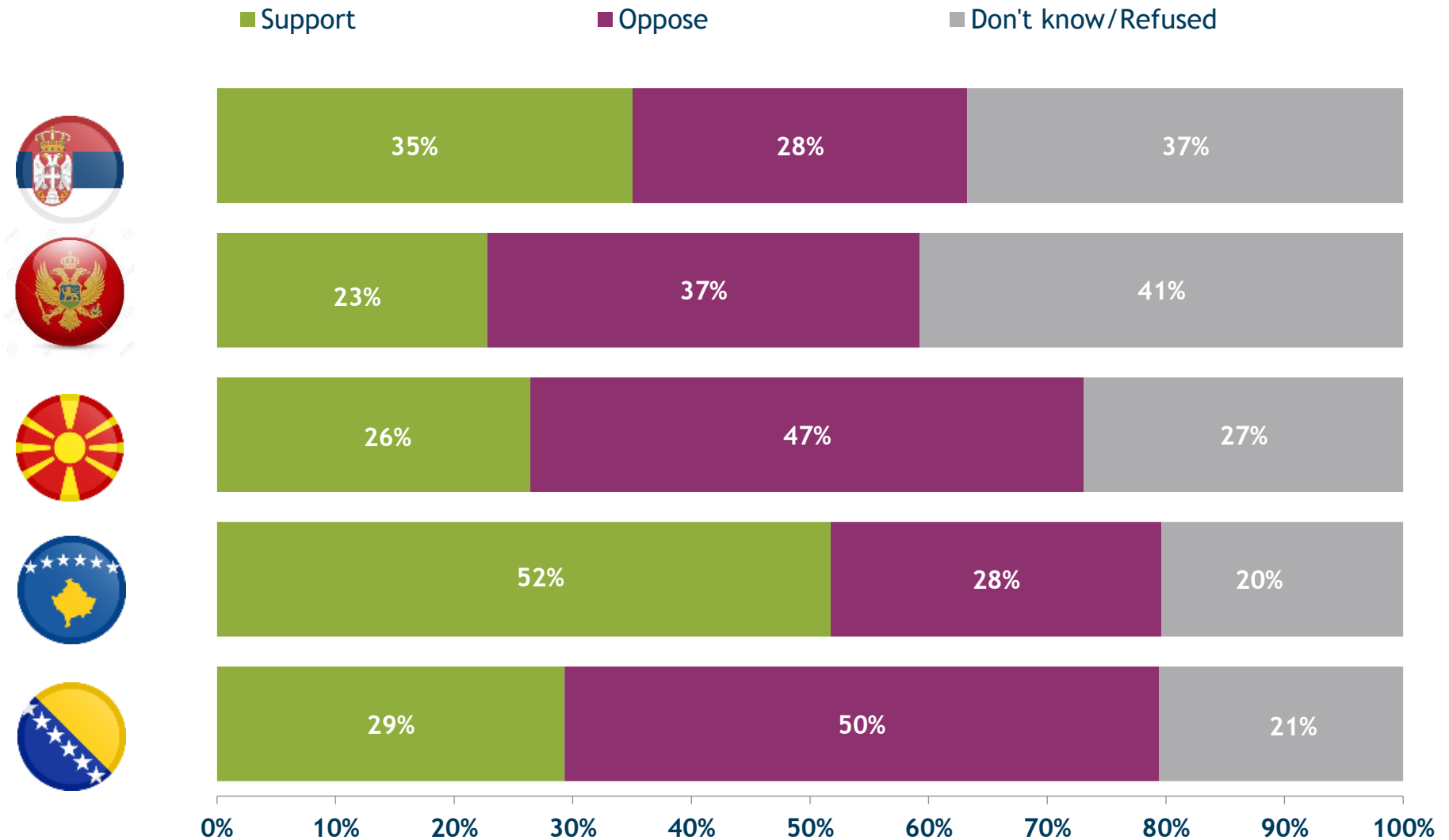
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Do you believe that our country's citizens who are returning from fighting in foreign conflicts represent a security threat?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused



Would you support or oppose returnees from foreign conflicts reintegrating into society?



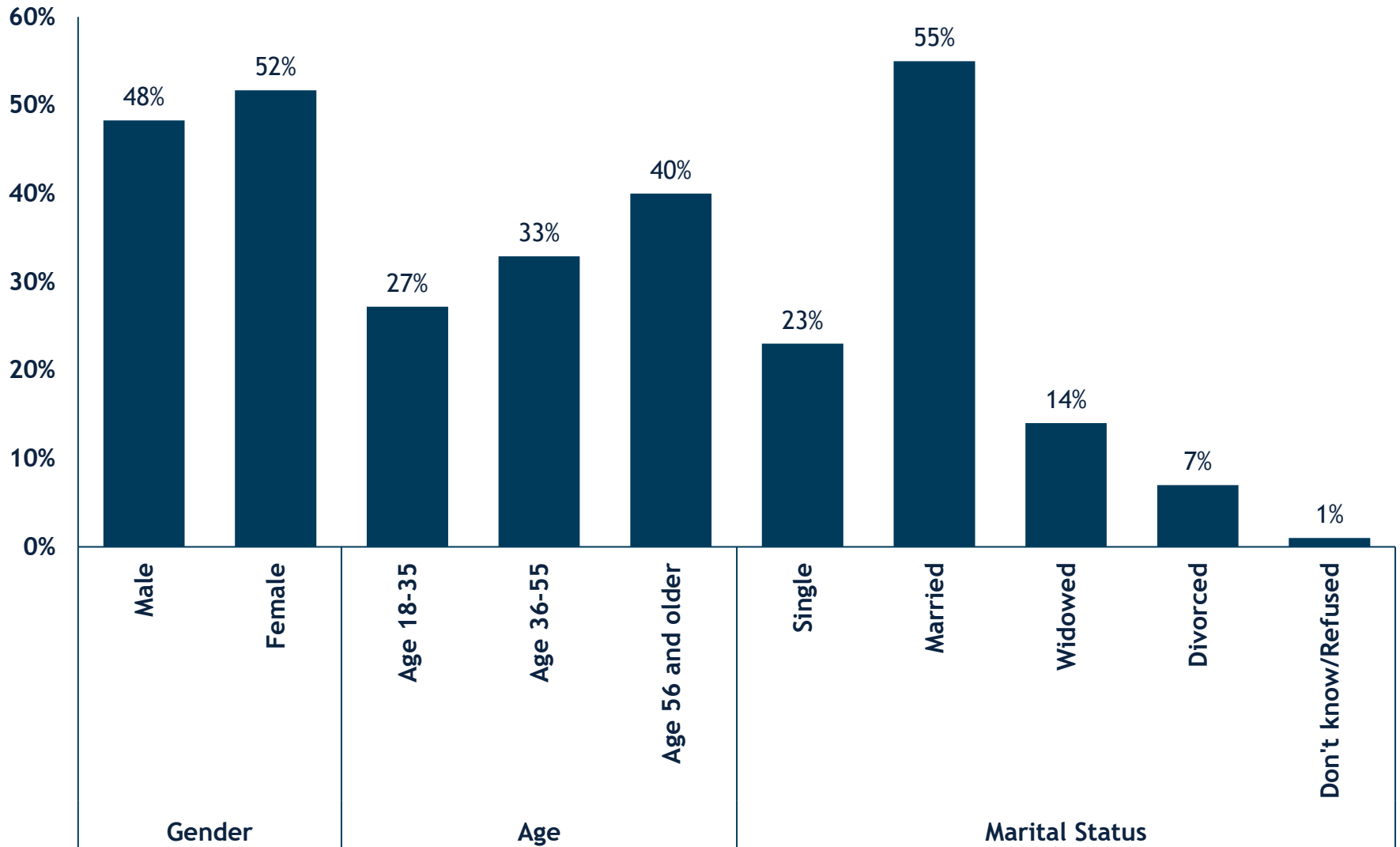


Demographics



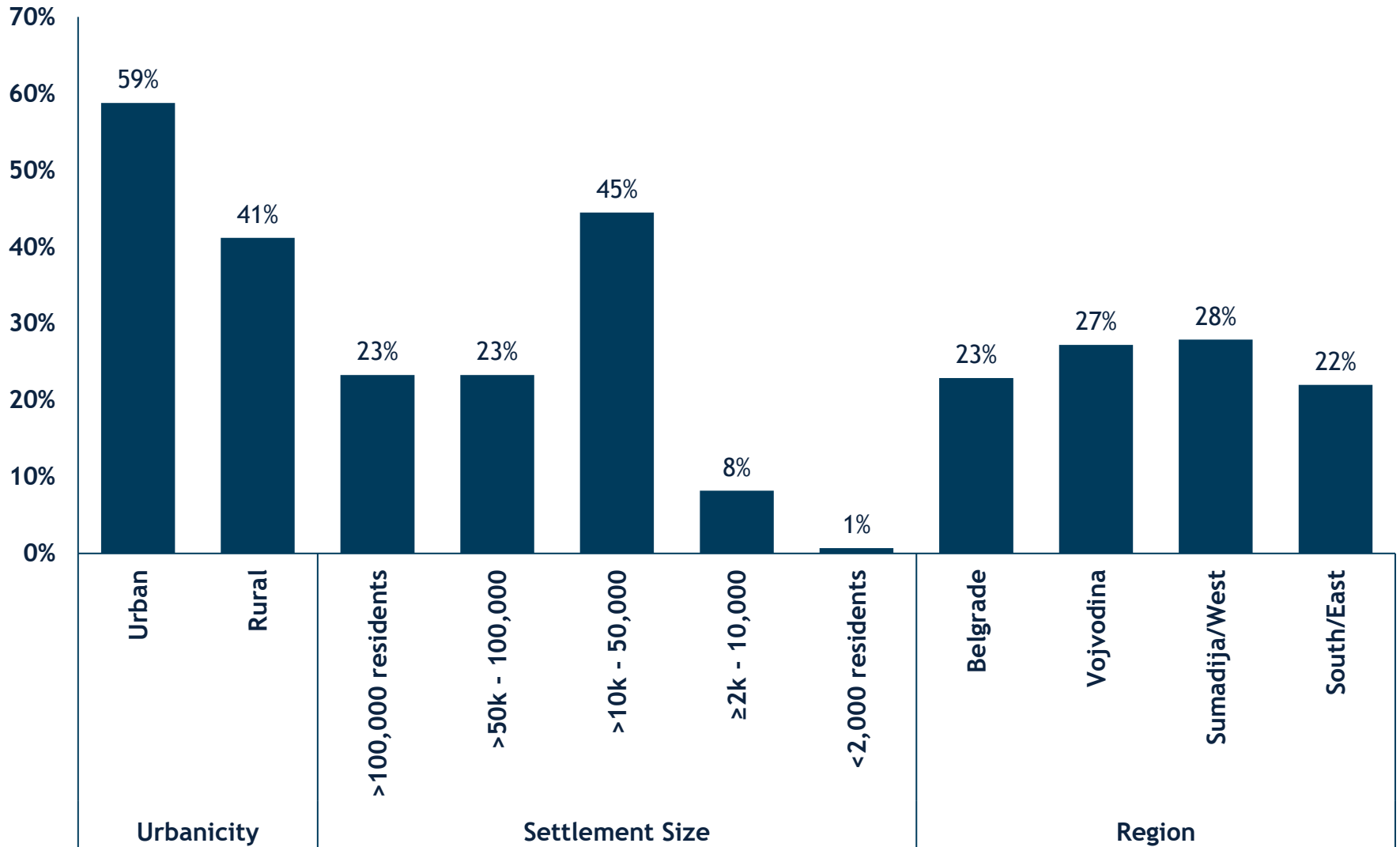


Demographics - Serbia



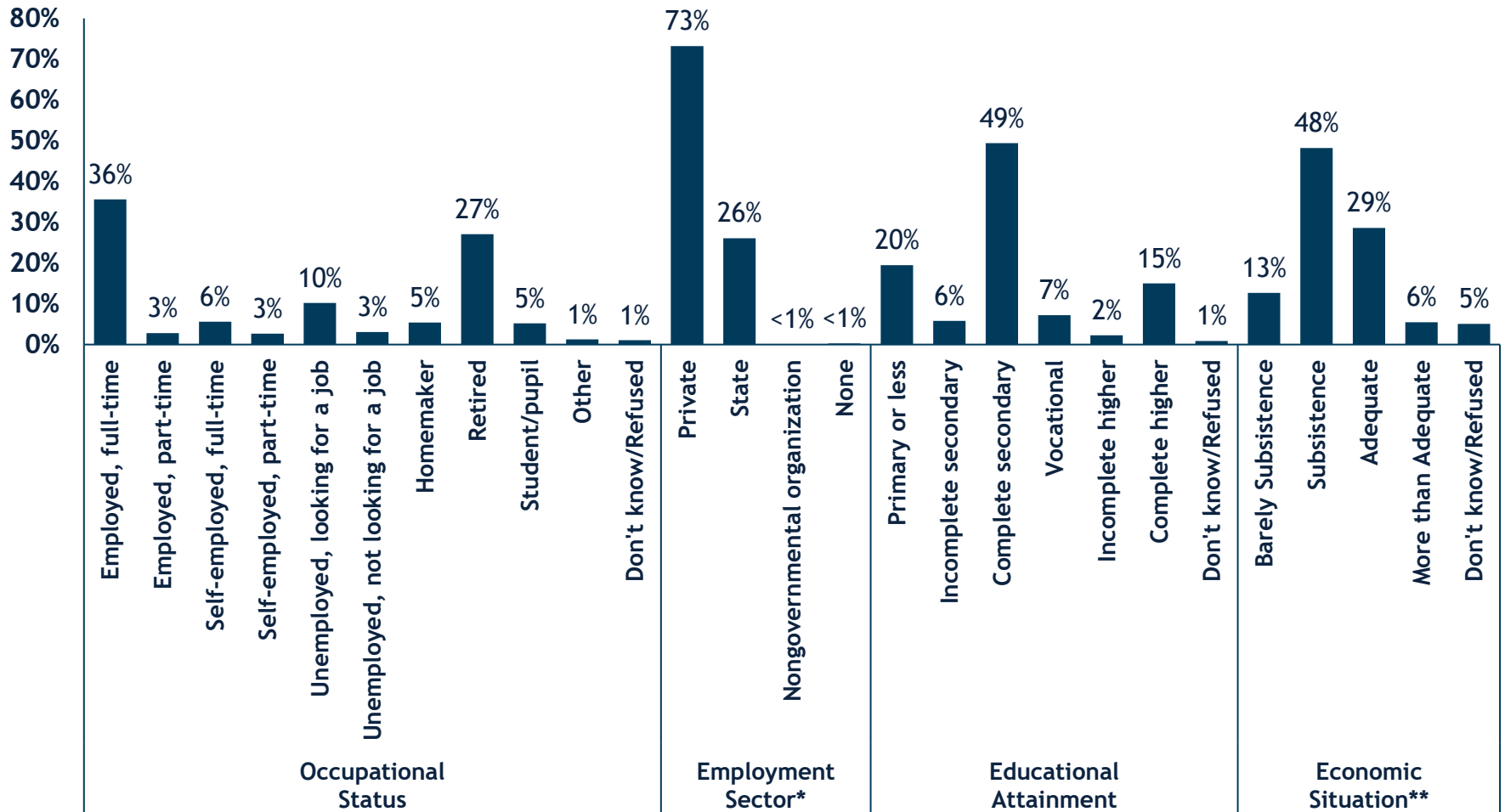


Demographics - Serbia





Demographics - Serbia



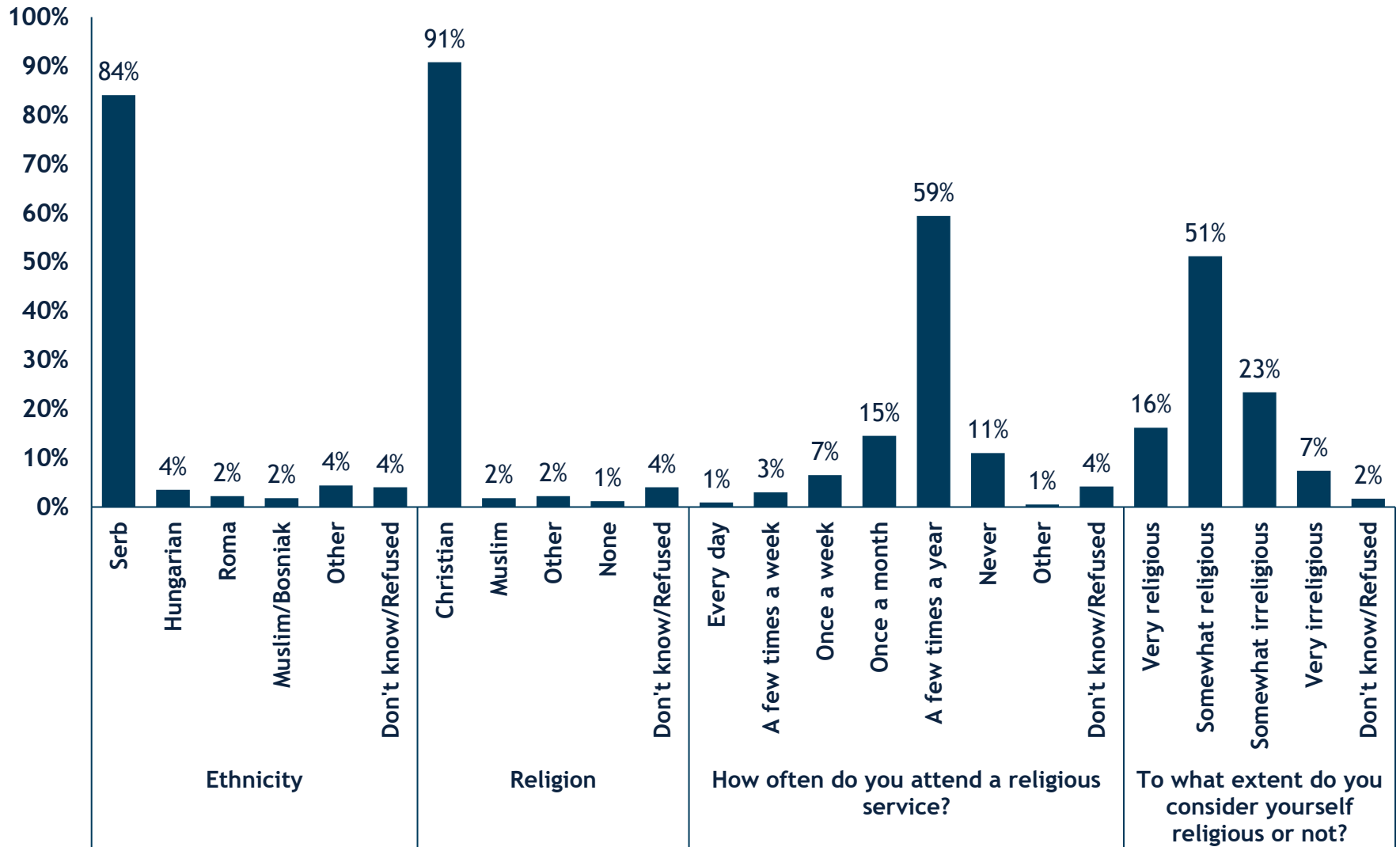
***Employment Sector** is among those who are *employed full-time* or *employed part-time* (n=568).

****Economic Situation** is based on the question “Please tell us which answer best describes your current economic situation.”

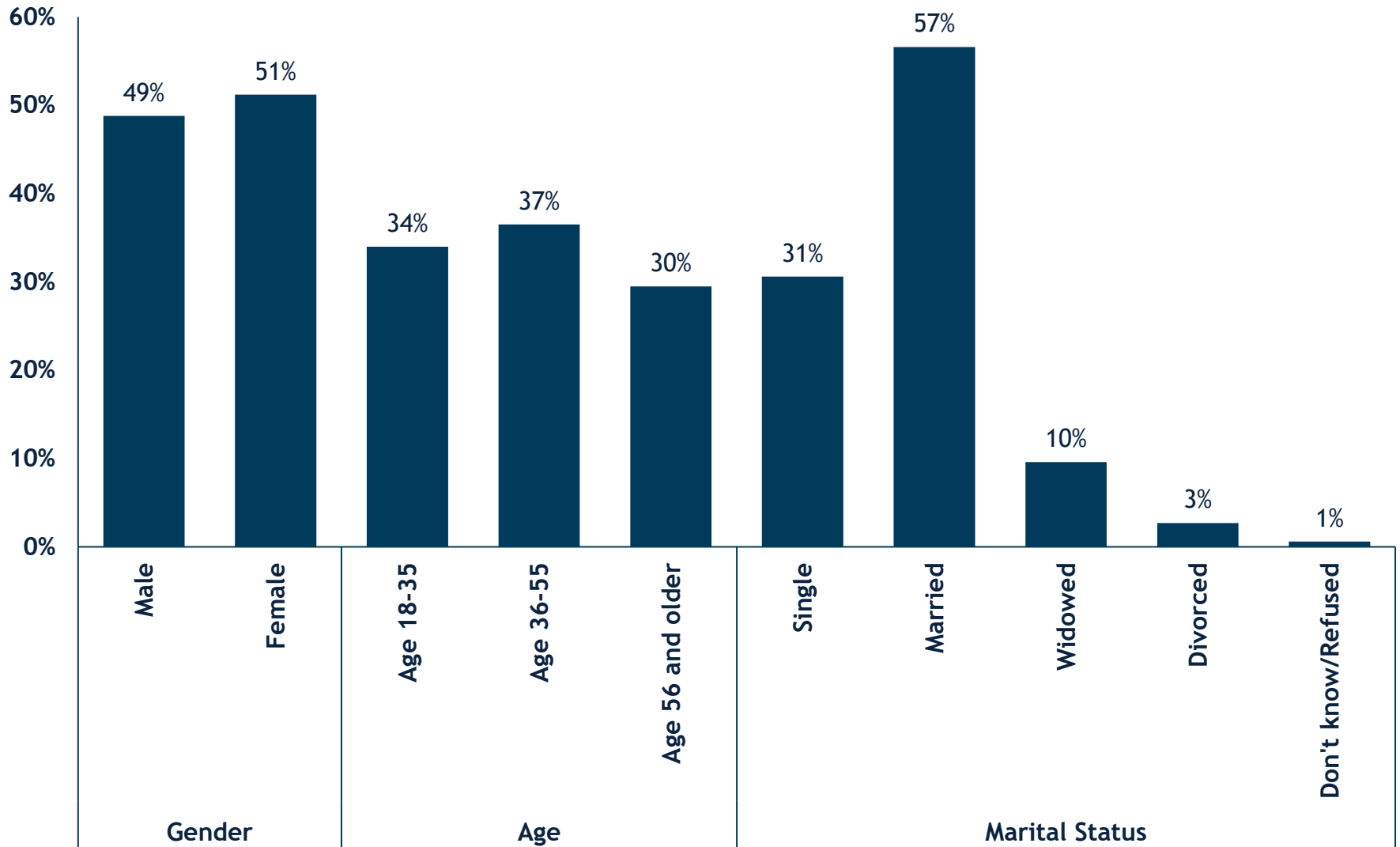
- Barely Subsistence = “I have trouble feeding myself and my family and buying even the most essential things for survival.”
- Subsistence = “I have enough means for survival, but I do not have enough money for extra things.”
- Adequate = “I am able to afford a few new extra things.”
- More than Adequate = “I am able to afford most things I want.”



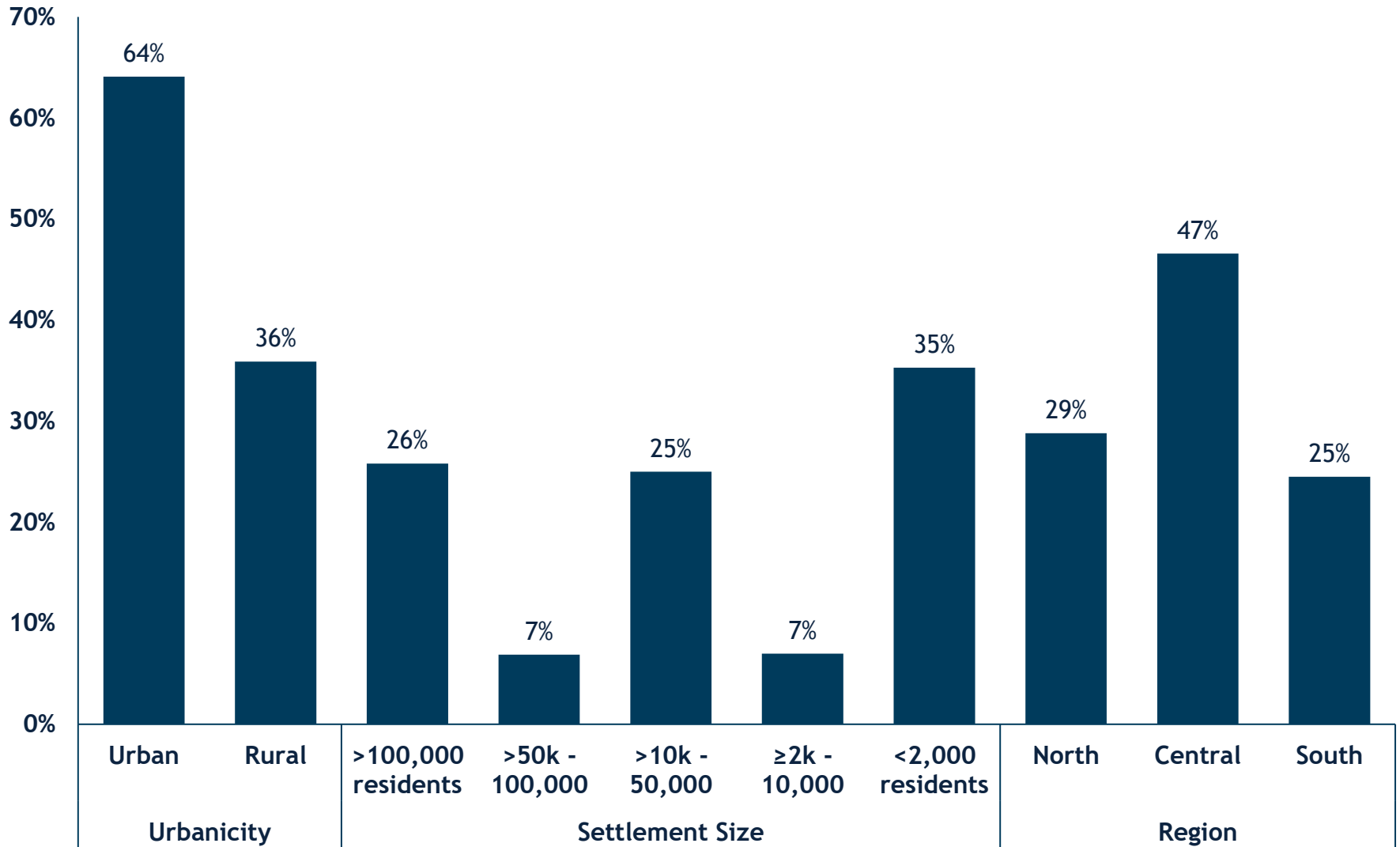
Demographics - Serbia



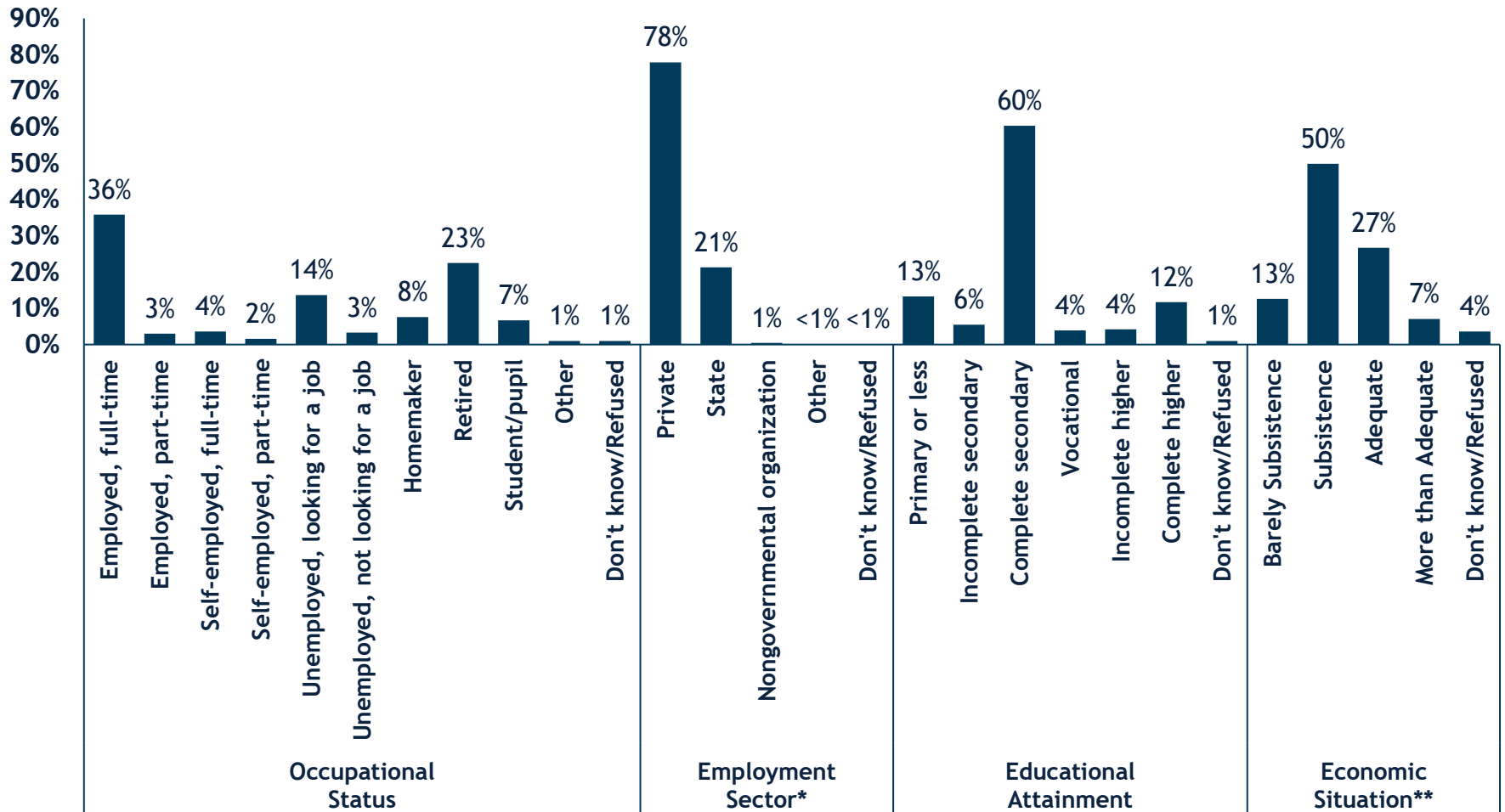
Demographics - Montenegro



Demographics - Montenegro



Demographics - Montenegro

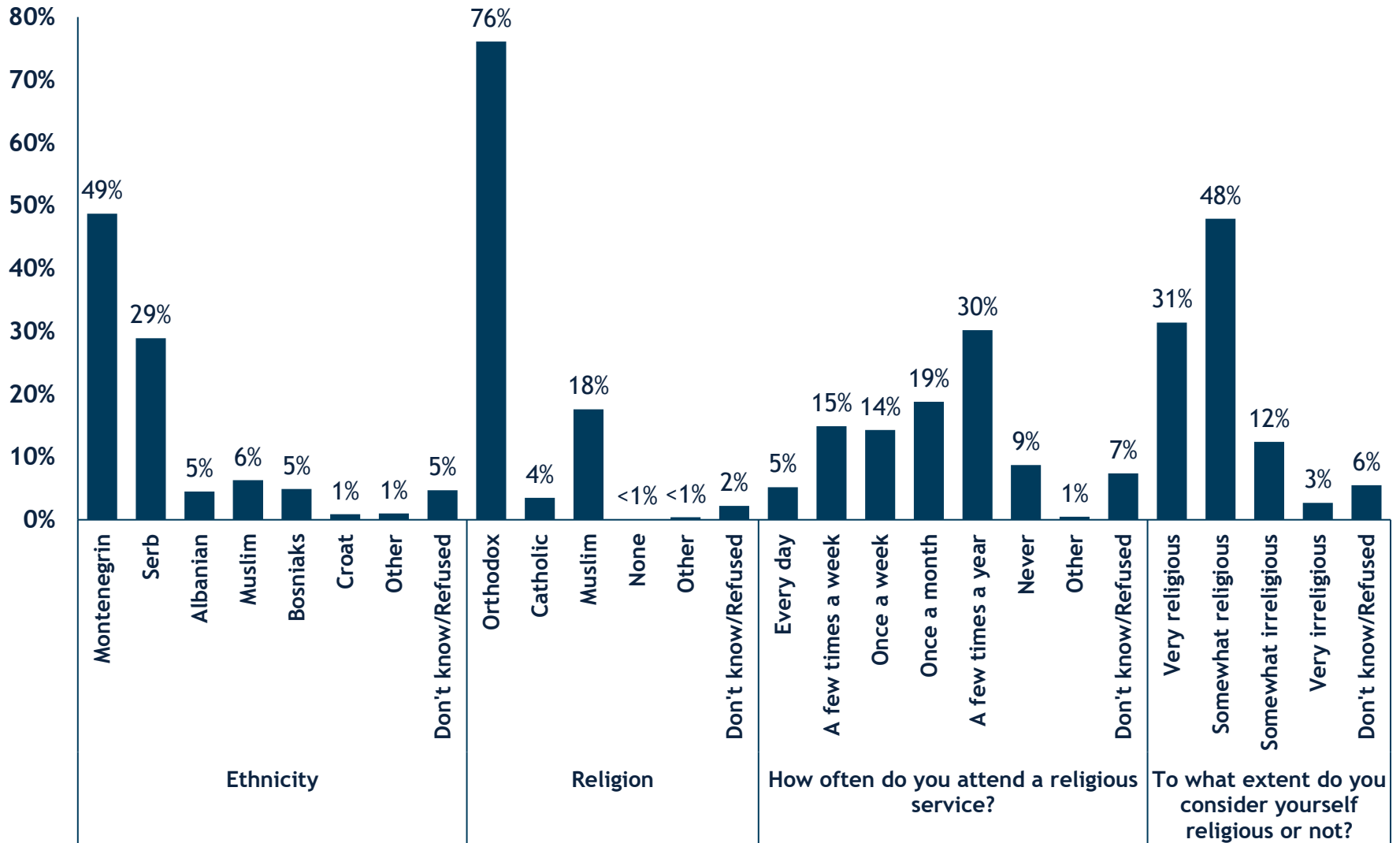


***Employment Sector** is among those who are *employed full-time* or *employed part-time* (n=376).

****Economic Situation** is based on the question “Please tell us which answer best describes your current economic situation.”

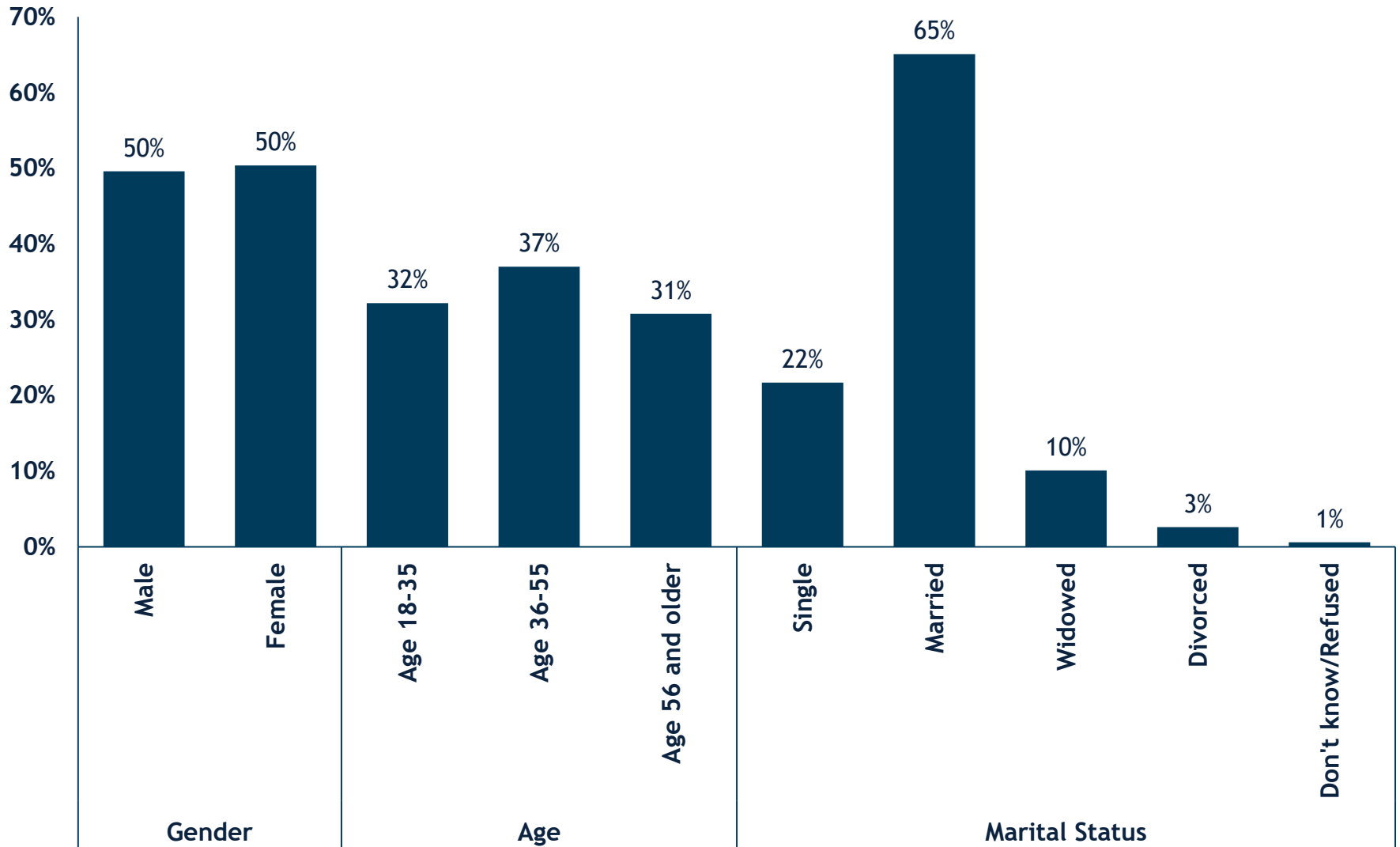
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Demographics - Montenegro



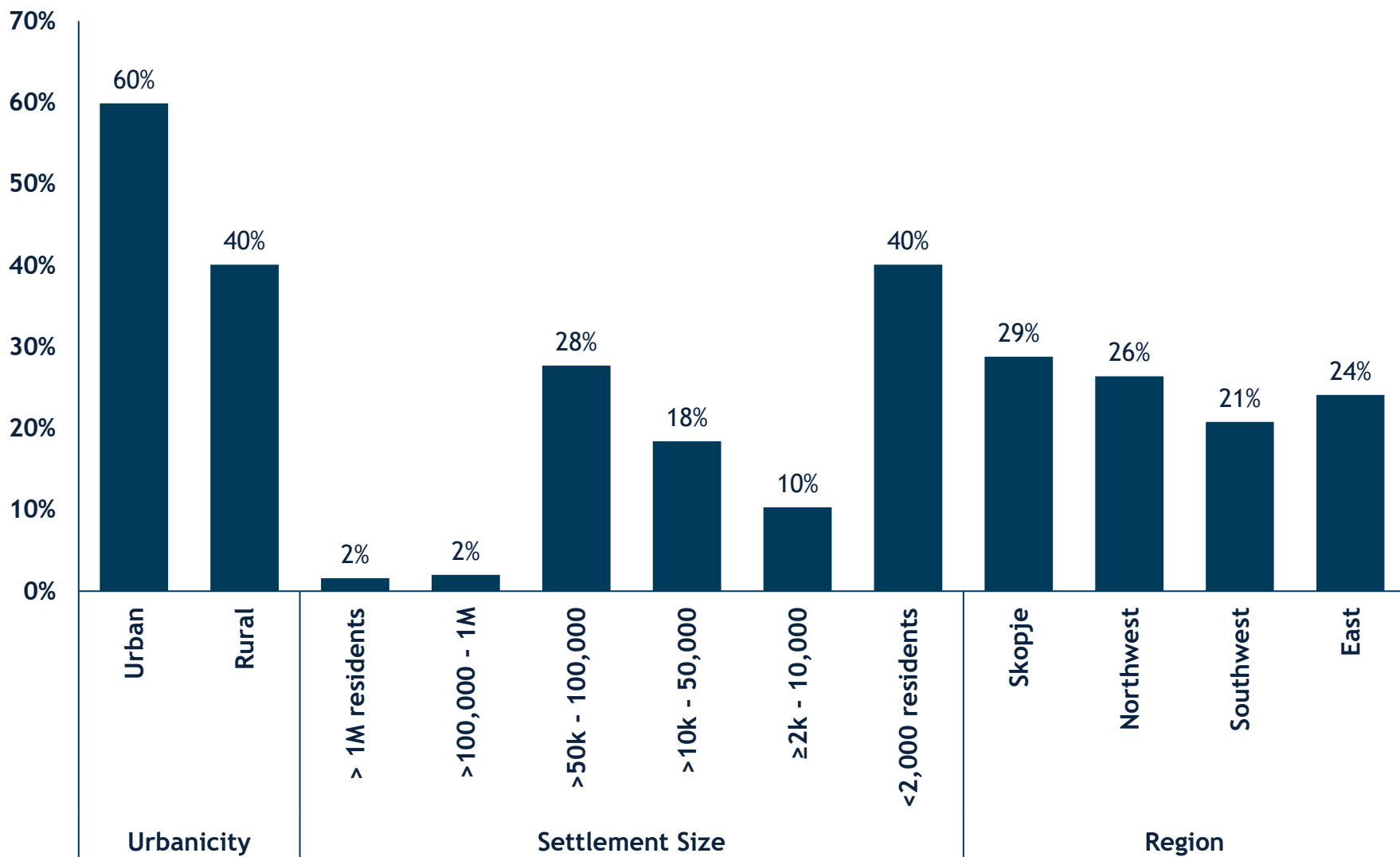


Demographics - North Macedonia



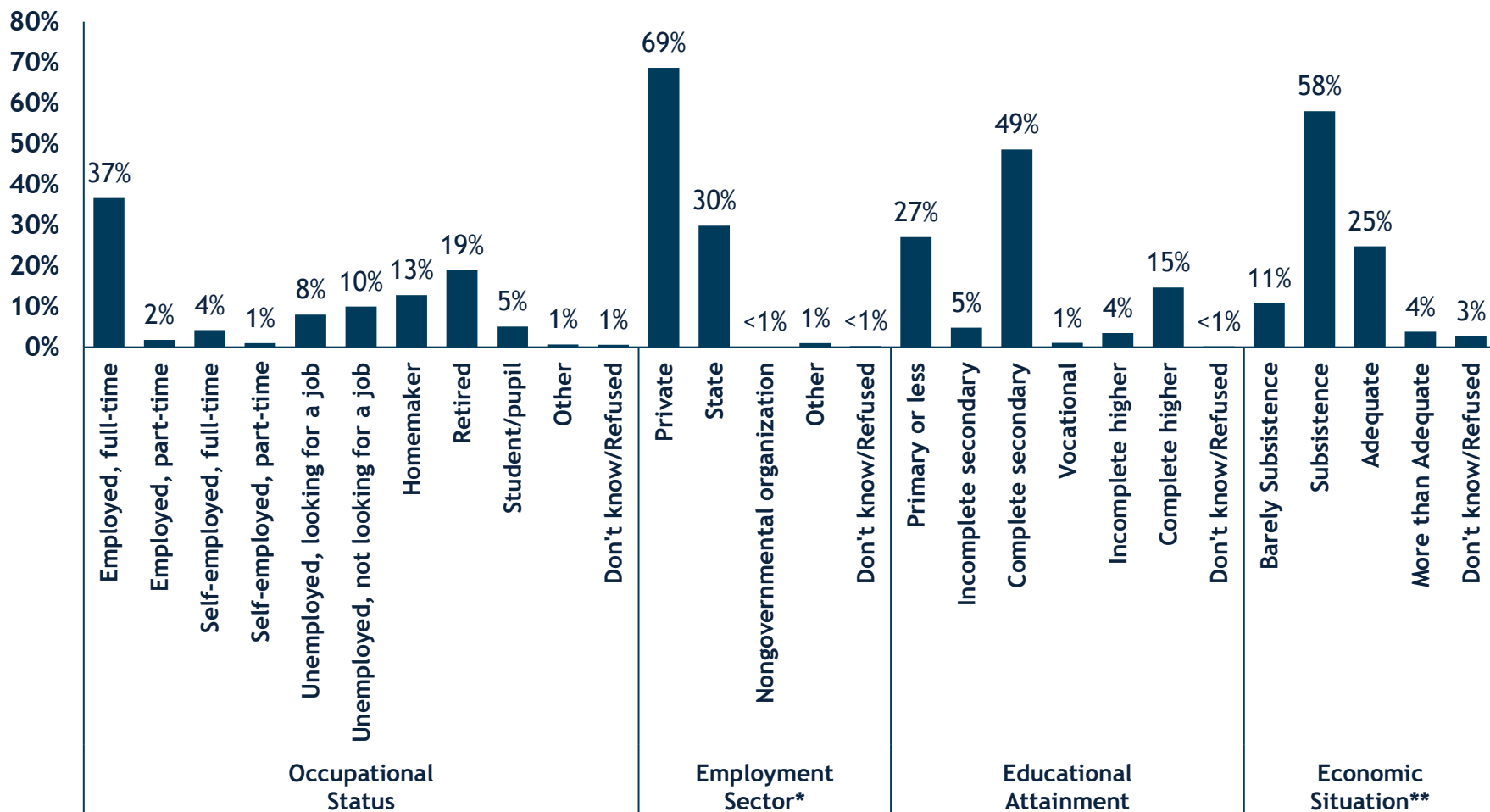


Demographics - North Macedonia





Demographics - North Macedonia



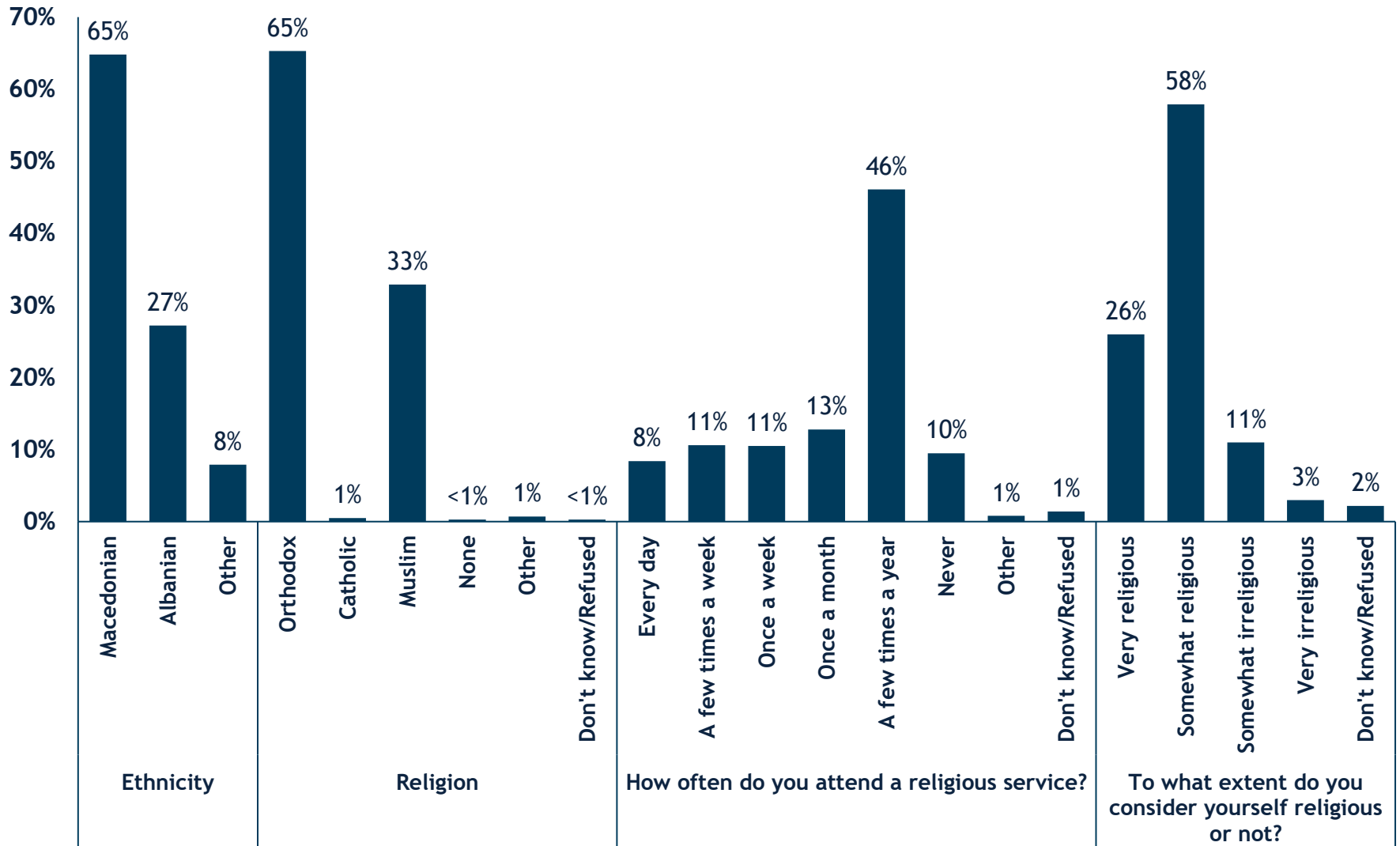
***Employment Sector** is among those who are *employed full-time* or *employed part-time* (n=566).

****Economic Situation** is based on the question “Please tell us which answer best describes your current economic situation.”

- Barely Subsistence = “I have trouble feeding myself and my family and buying even the most essential things for survival.”
- Subsistence = “I have enough means for survival, but I do not have enough money for extra things.”
- Adequate = “I am able to afford a few new extra things.”
- More than Adequate = “I am able to afford most things I want.”

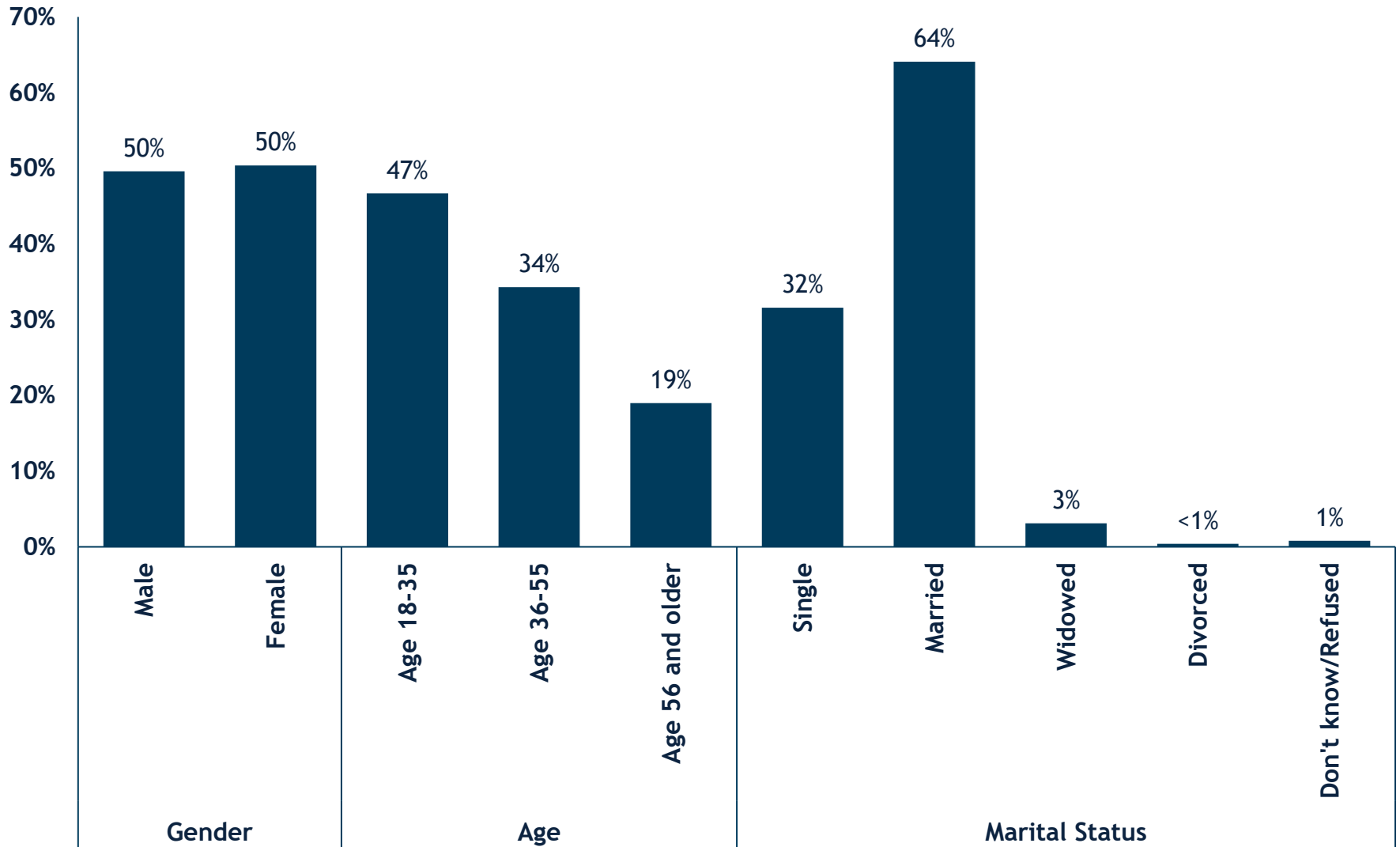


Demographics - North Macedonia



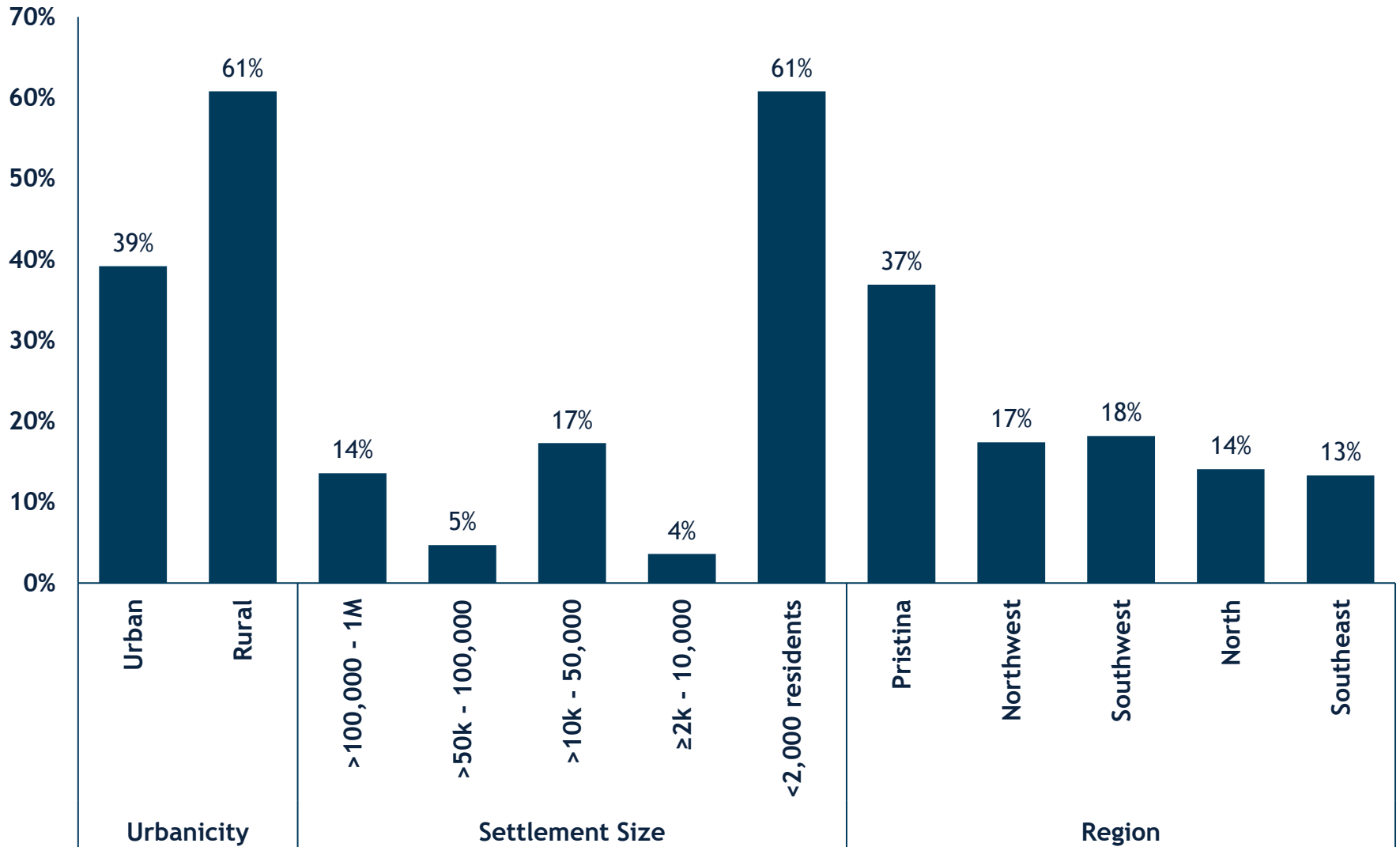


Demographics - Kosovo



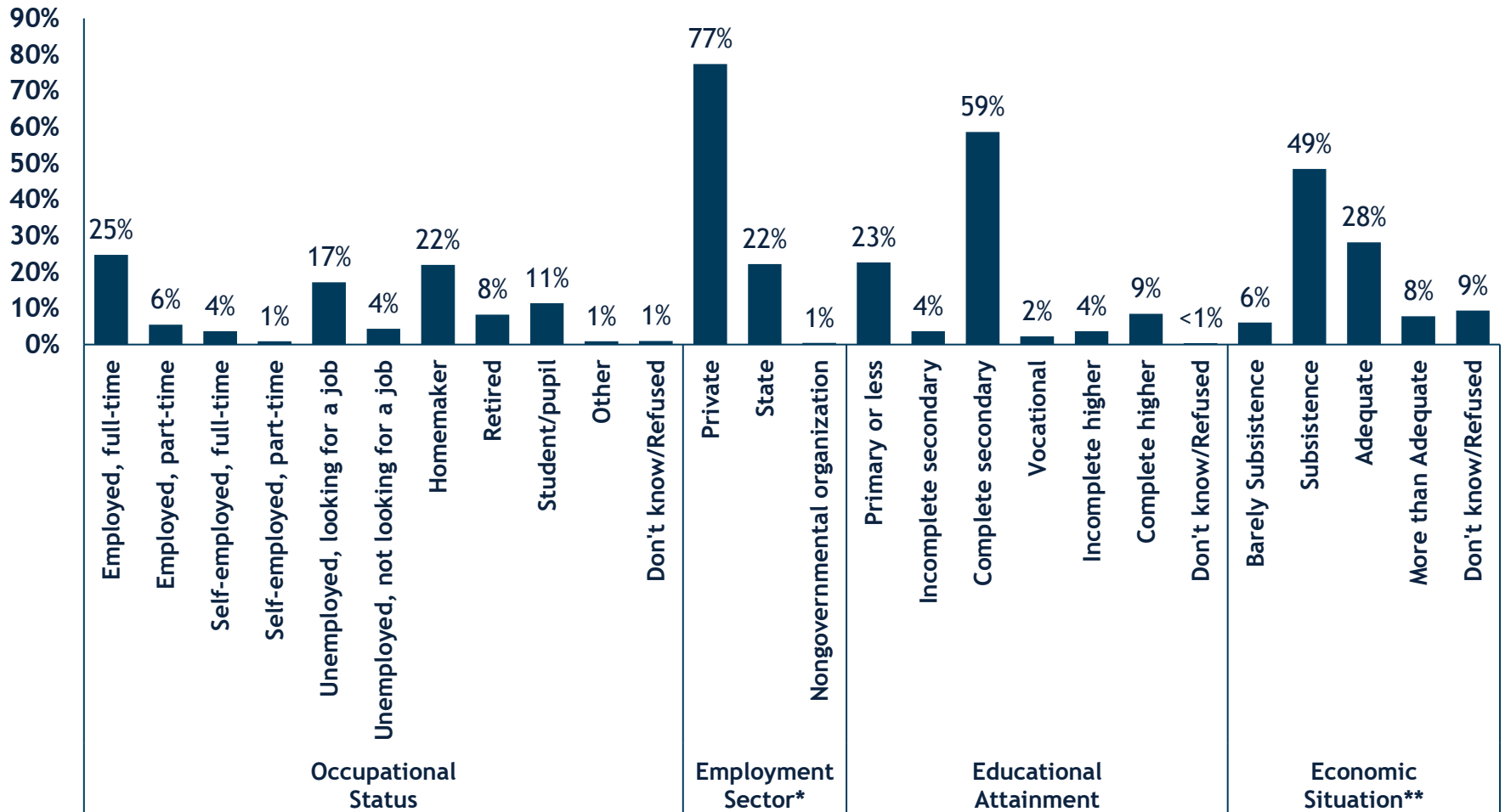


Demographics - Kosovo





Demographics - Kosovo



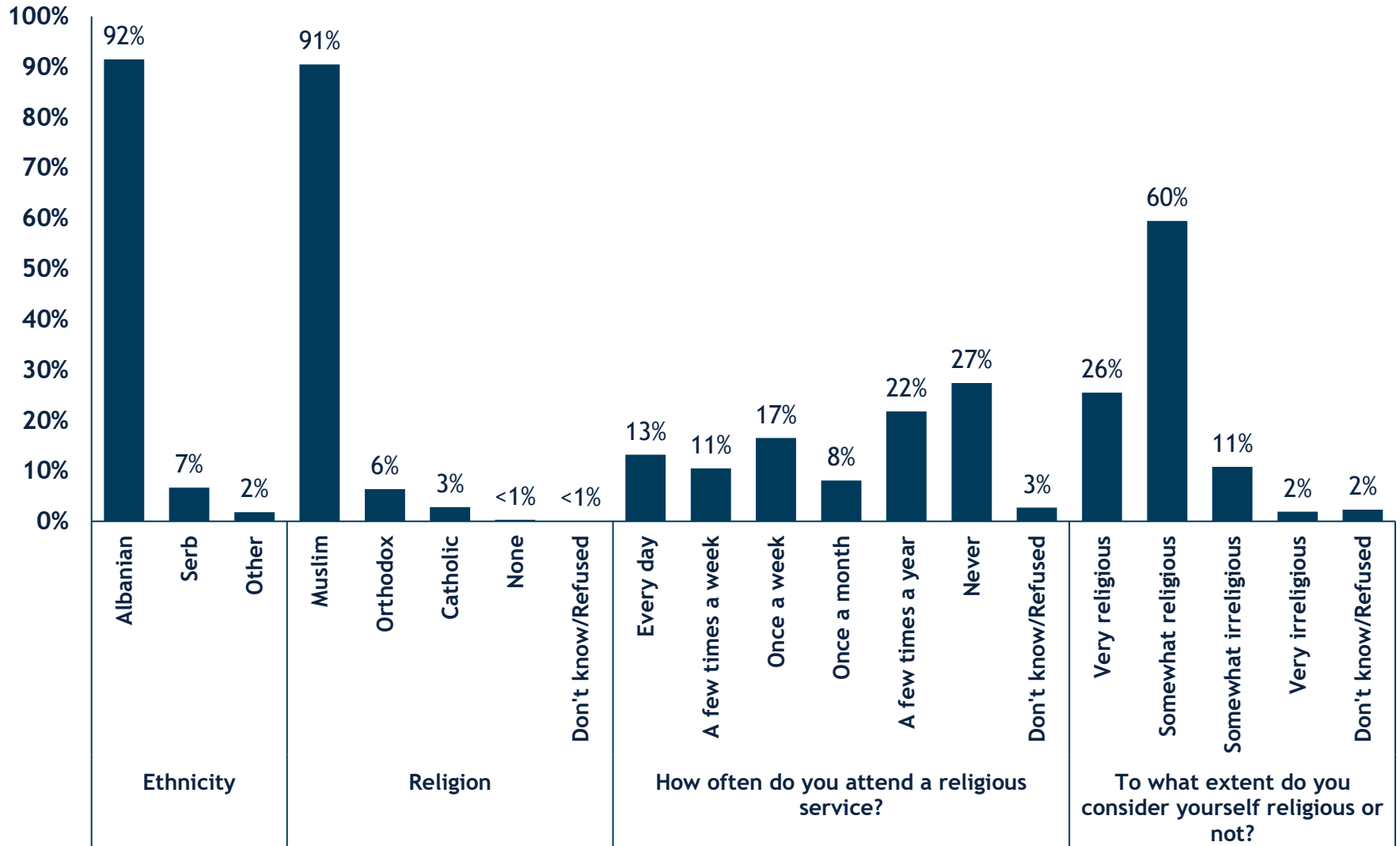
***Employment Sector** is among those who are *employed full-time* or *employed part-time* (n=459).

****Economic Situation** is based on the question “Please tell us which answer best describes your current economic situation.”

- Barely Subsistence = “I have trouble feeding myself and my family and buying even the most essential things for survival.”
- Subsistence = “I have enough means for survival, but I do not have enough money for extra things.”
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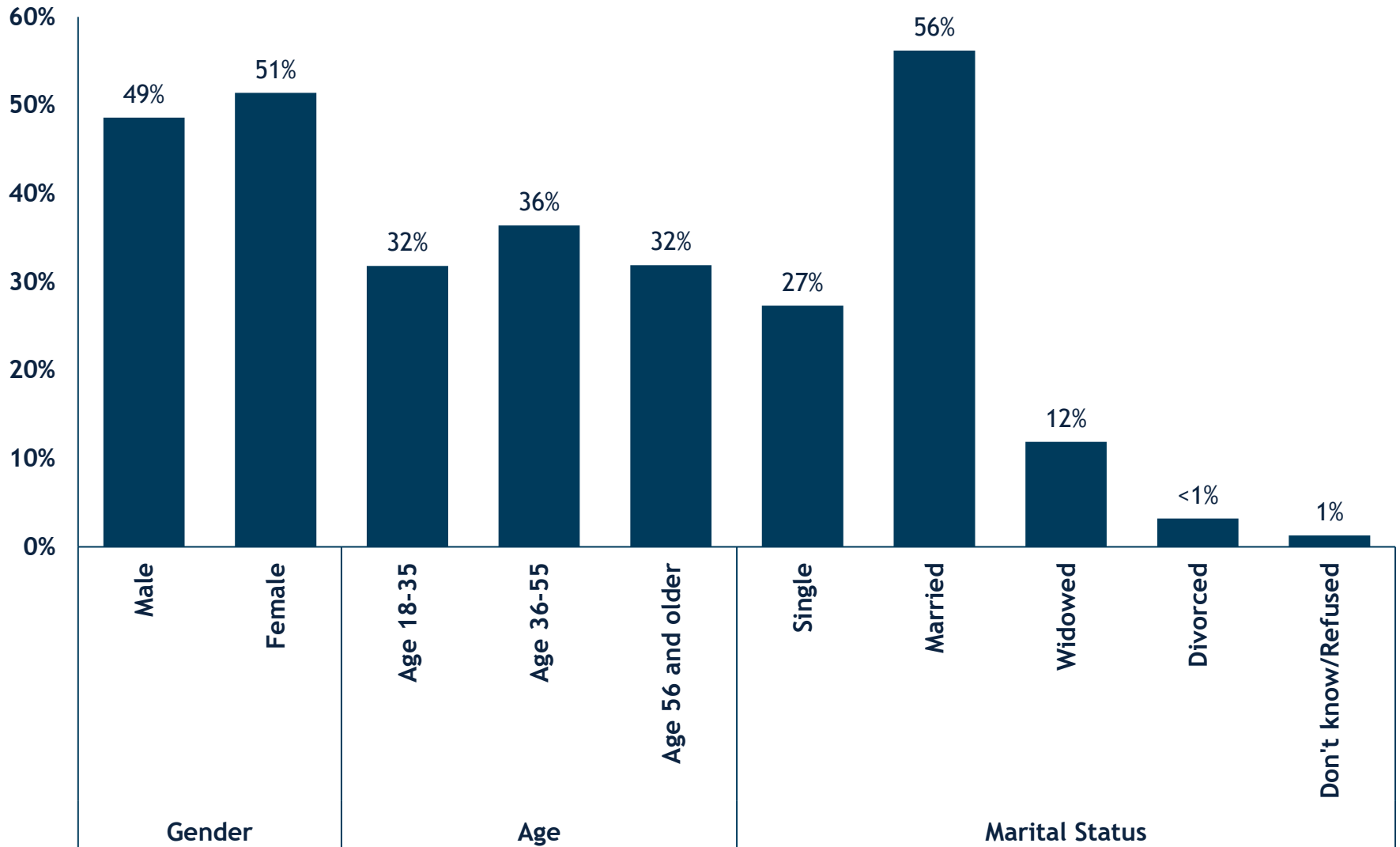


Demographics - Kosovo



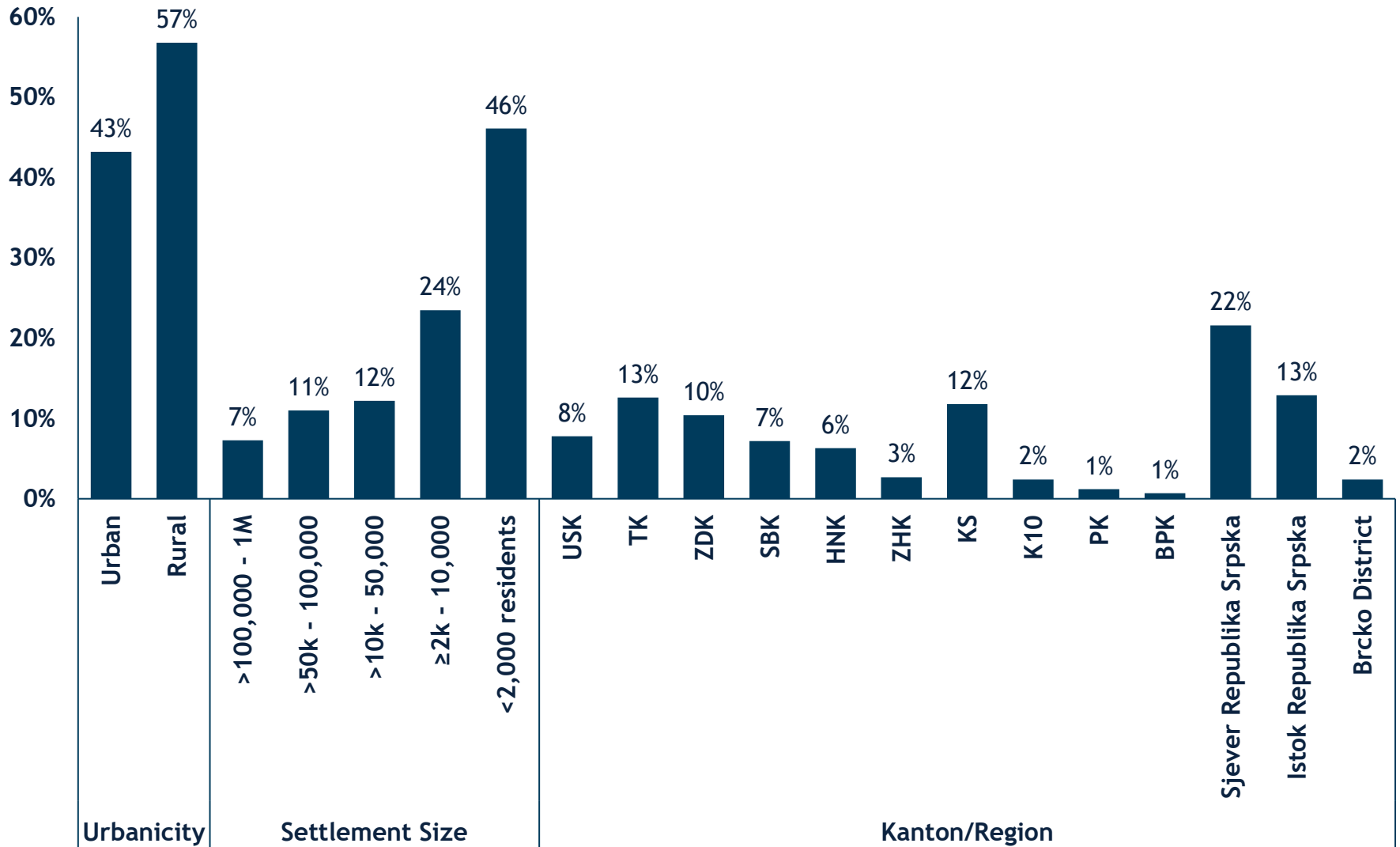


Demographics - Bosnia and Herzegovina



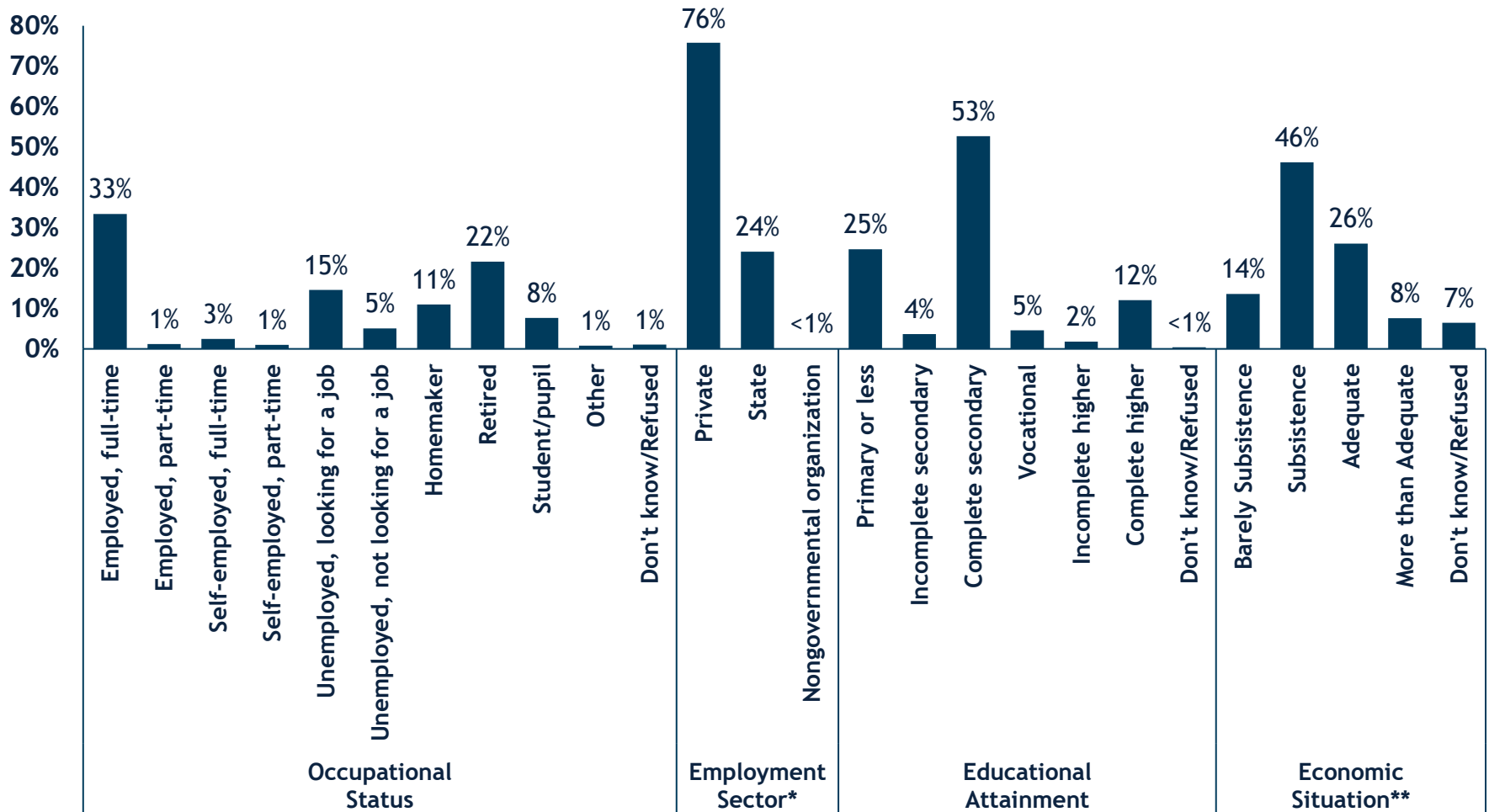


Demographics - Bosnia and Herzegovina





Demographics - Bosnia and Herzegovina



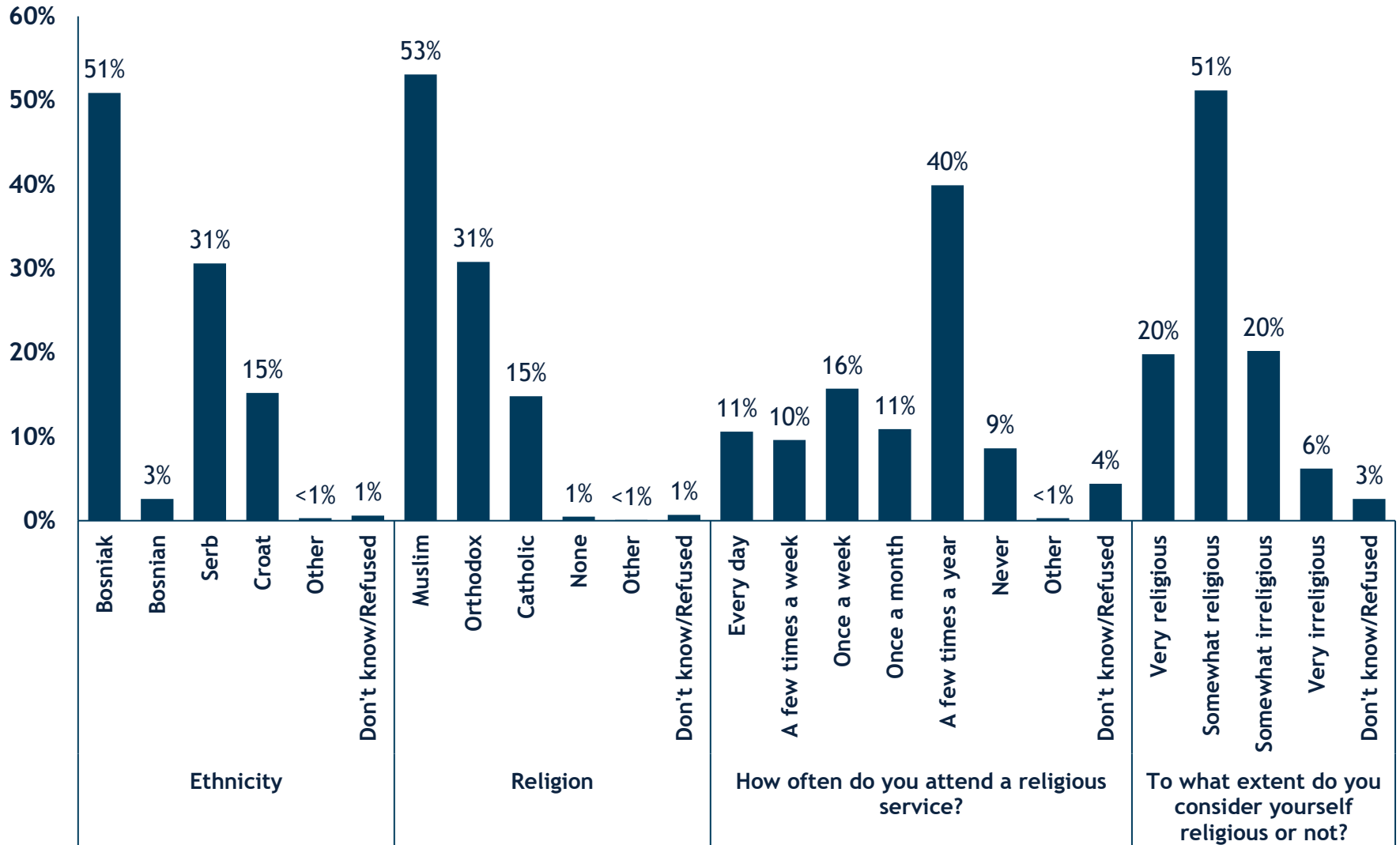
***Employment Sector** is among those who are *employed full-time* or *employed part-time* (n=515).

****Economic Situation** is based on the question “Please tell us which answer best describes your current economic situation.”

- Barely Subsistence = “I have trouble feeding myself and my family and buying even the most essential things for survival.”
- Subsistence = “I have enough means for survival, but I do not have enough money for extra things.”
- Adequate = “I am able to afford a few new extra things.”
- More than Adequate = “I am able to afford most things I want.”



Demographics - Bosnia and Herzegovina



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