



European
Movement
International

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT

INTERNATIONAL

DEFENCE POLL

JUNE 2025



OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

Research Objectives

- Measure top-level attitudes towards democracy and international affairs.
- Measure awareness, trust and perceptions of EU institutions, bodies and political personalities.
- Measure perceptions and trust in national government and/or the EU to make political decisions that influence day-to-day life.
- Measure and understand public support for defensive cooperation in Europe, including a potential European army and further defence and security support for Ukraine.

Methodology

- Online interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of n= 3,504 respondents aged 18+ in Italy, Poland, Sweden, France, Spain, Germany and Romania. The survey was translated from English into the local language for each market.
- Quotas were set for age, gender and region for each market. The data was subsequently weighted to reflect a representative sample for each market by these metrics.
- **Fieldwork dates:** 3rd – 10th June 2025

Markets and sample sizes	
Italy	n = 501
Poland	n = 501
Sweden	n = 500
France	n = 500
Spain	n = 501
Germany	n = 501
Romania	n = 500



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Democracy, international affairs and the EU

- Only just over a third (36%) of respondents are consistent supporters of democracy, with respondents in Sweden (52%), Germany (42%) and Italy (42%) most likely to fall under this bracket. Those in Spain are least likely to be consistent supporters of democracy (25%).
- Regarding attitudes towards international affairs, respondents are most likely to agree that their country should be active internationally to protect the national interest and promote peace and prosperity (80%). Nonetheless, two thirds (65%) agree that their country should prioritise the national interest, even if this sometimes conflicts with the interests of other countries. This suggests similarly inconsistent attitudes as seen above towards democracy.
- Most respondents claim to be aware and knowledgeable about the EU, with three in five (61%) saying they know at least a fair amount. When broken down into institutions, around half say they are aware of and know at least a fair amount about the European Parliament (51%) and European Commission (46%), but only one in five (22%) say the same for the European Defence Agency (EDA).
- Awareness of EU political figures tells a similar story. Almost half (49%) say they are aware and know at least a fair amount about Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission), but only just over one in ten (14%) say the same for Kaja Kallas (High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission). Even fewer respondents, less than one in ten (8%), say they are aware and know at least a fair amount about Commissioner for Defence and Space, Andrius Kubilius.
- More than half of respondents say being a member of the EU has had a positive impact on their country as a whole (56%), while just under half say it has had a positive impact on them personally (48%). The most significant positive personal impacts for respondents are access to travel freely (65%) and feeling more safe and secure (52%).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

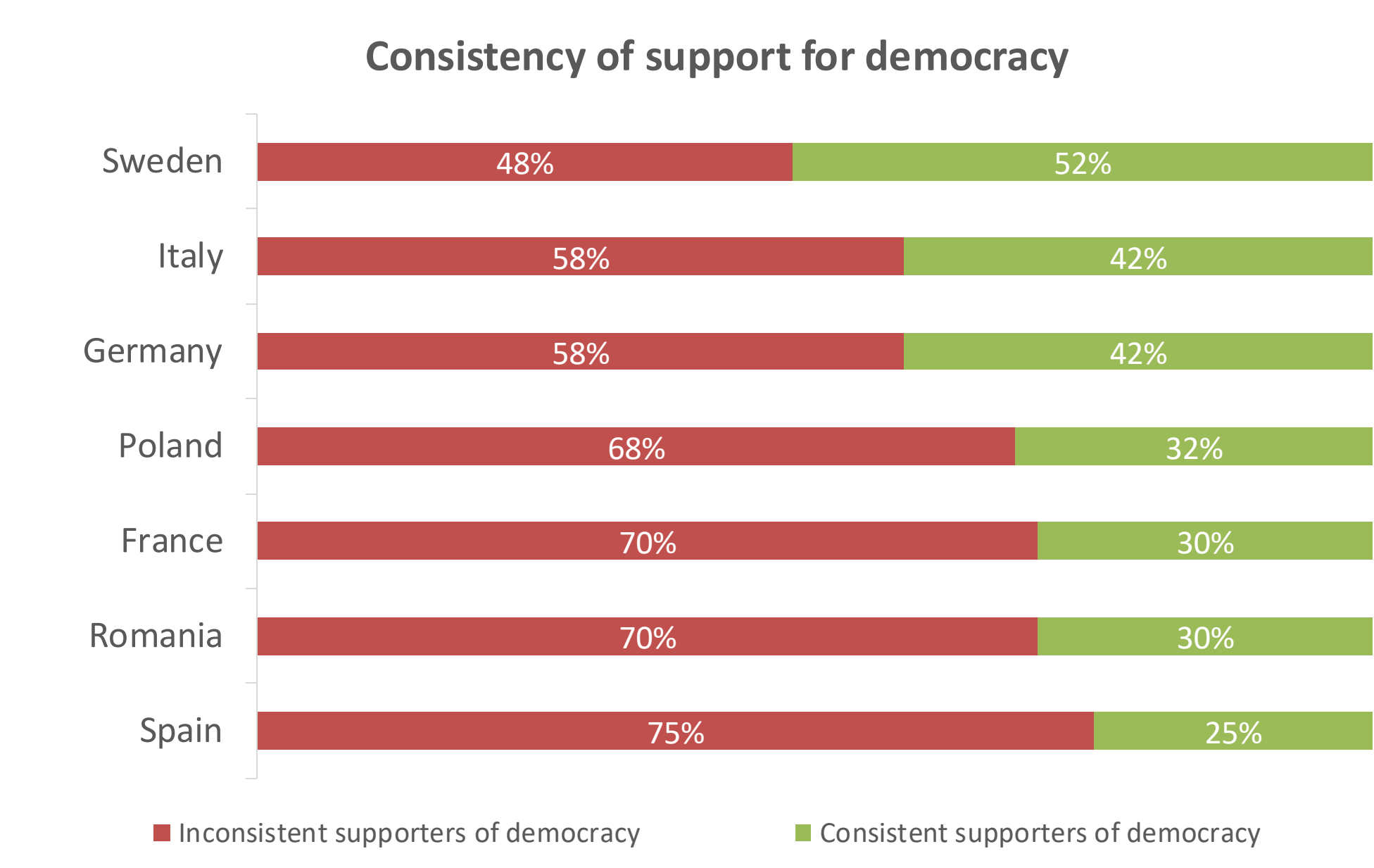
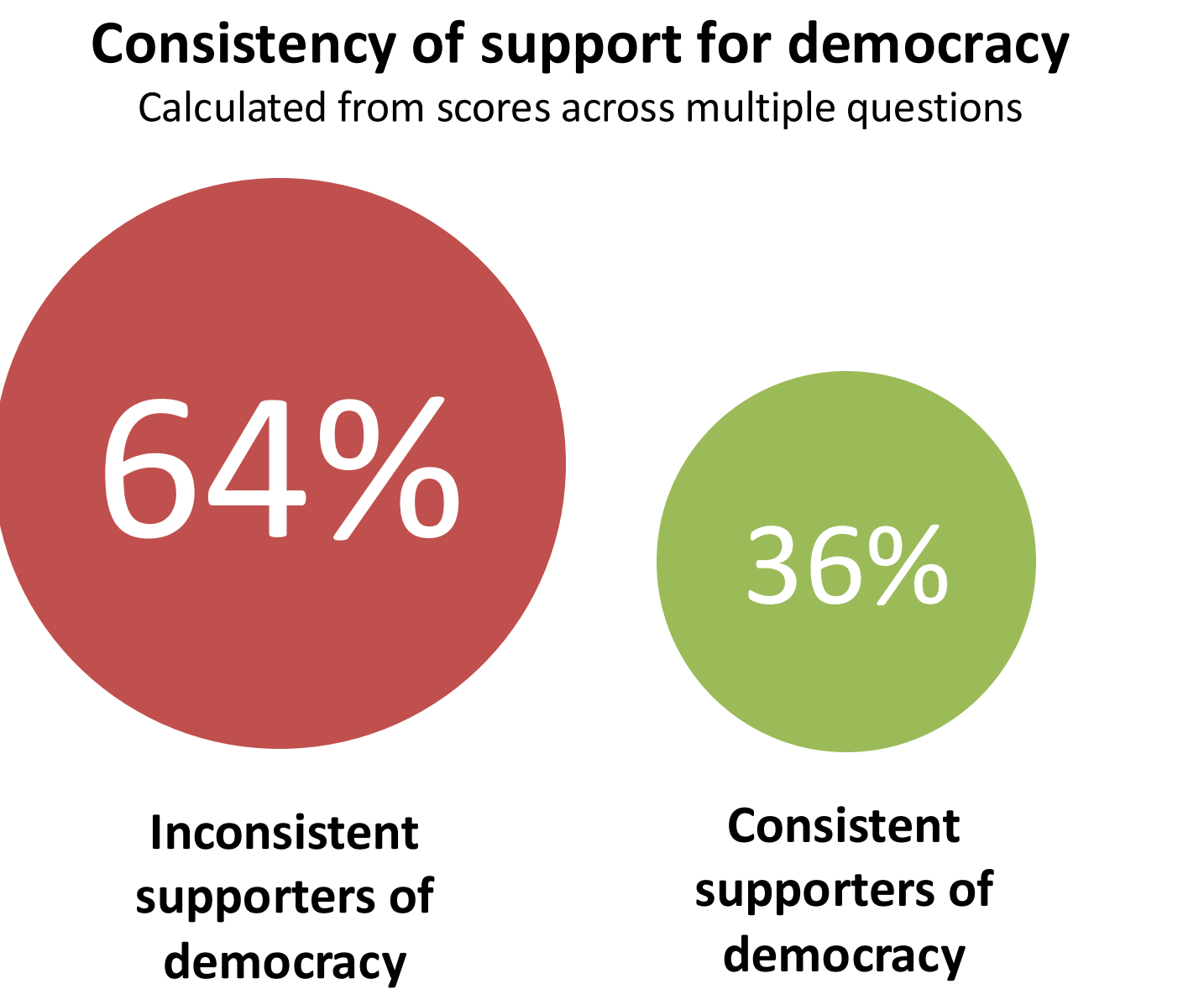
Defence & security

- Respondents are most likely to associate the term 'defence and security' with military forces and operations (62%), counter-terrorism (57%) and international alliances (53%). However, less traditional elements of defence and security such as border control and immigration management (53%) and cybersecurity (52%) also score highly.
- Over half of respondents (52%) think their country should pursue an equal balance of national interest and collaboration within the EU on defence and security, while a third (34%) think their country should pursue its national interest above all else. Respondents who want to see their country pursue greater collaboration within the EU on defence and security are most likely to want to see this through developing common defence and security policies (56%, ranked 1-5), combined efforts to fight terrorism (47%) and working together on military operations and training (45%).
- When asked about their support for potential EU defence and security initiatives, respondents are most likely to say they support creating shared initiatives to counter disinformation campaigns (66%), as well as improving the EU's relationship with the US (63%). Support for greater military/defence collaboration is also high, with more than half in support of creating a shared EU plan for member states to work together specifically on the war in Ukraine (56%) and creating a shared European military under common leadership (56%).
- Respondents who support creating a shared European military would most like to see this through creating a common EU defence industry (50%), intelligence sharing (50%) and setting up shared military bases (48%). Just under half would like to see the creation of a single European army with fully integrated national forces (46%), while less than a third would like to see EU soldiers sent on joint missions abroad (31%).
- Respondents who support creating a shared EU plan for the war in Ukraine are more likely to want more diplomatic negotiations for a ceasefire (57%), economic sanctions on Russia (55%) and humanitarian aid (50%), than military action such as providing Ukraine with more advanced and powerful weapons (39%) or sending EU soldiers to fight (13%).

PERCEPTIONS OF DEMOCRACY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

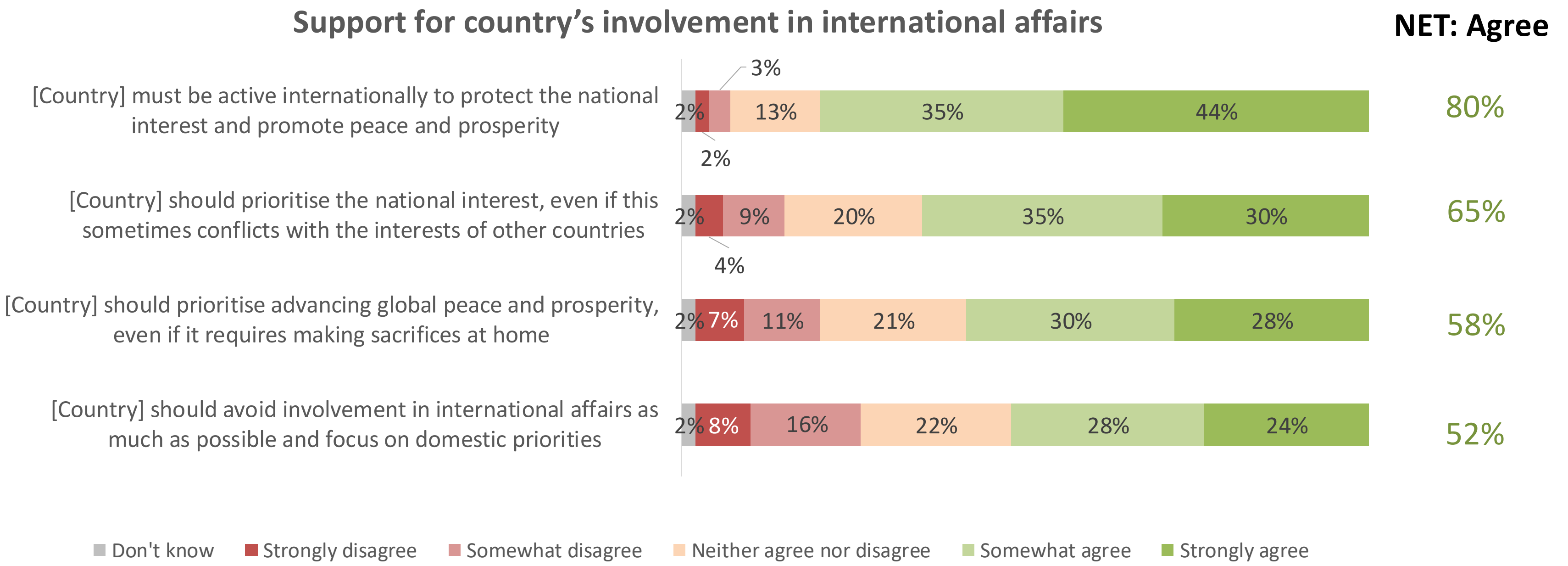


JUST OVER A THIRD OF RESPONDENTS ARE CONSISTENT SUPPORTERS OF DEMOCRACY, WITH RESPONDENTS IN SWEDEN, GERMANY AND ITALY MOST LIKELY TO FALL UNDER THIS BRACKET



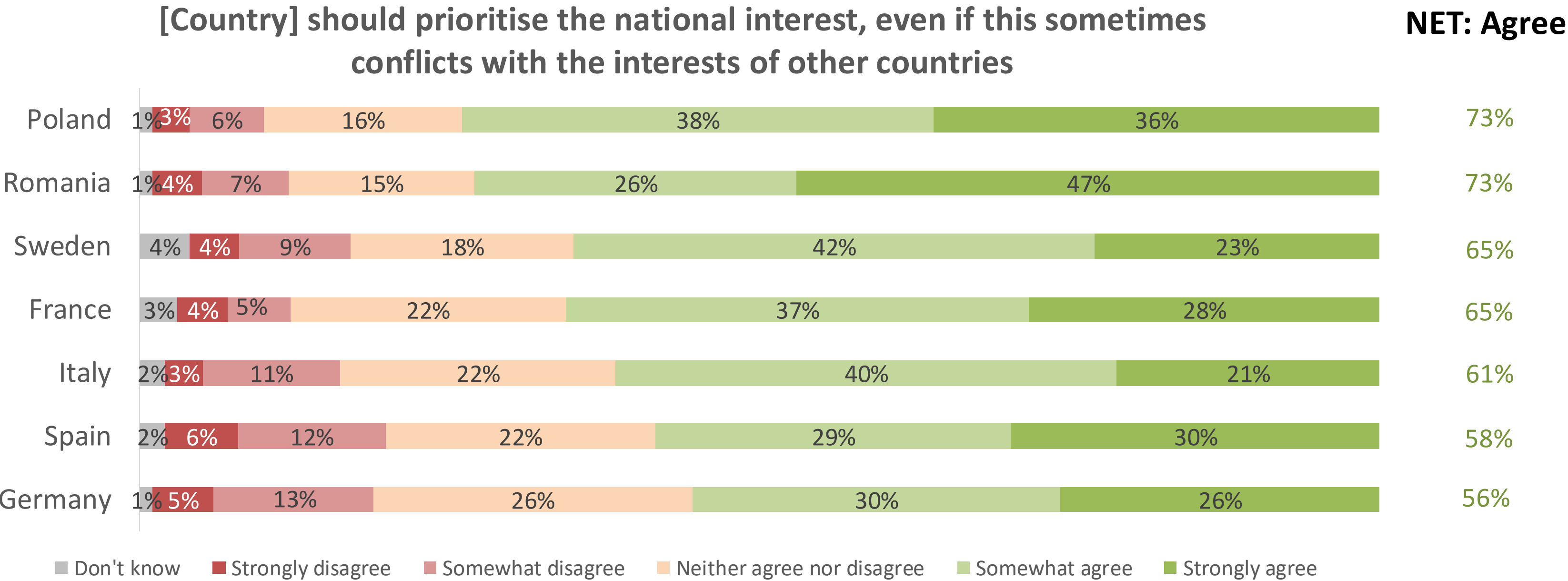
Q1a. Various types of political systems are described in the three statements below. For each one, would you say it is a very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad way of governing country? / | Q1b. On a scale where '1' represents 'Not At All Important To Me' and '10' represents 'Very Important To Me,' how important is it to you to live in a country that is governed democratically? / Q1c. Which of these statements comes closest to your view? Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500) NB: See methodology for consistent/inconsistent calculation

RESPONDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO AGREE THAT THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD BE ACTIVE INTERNATIONALLY TO PROTECT THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND PROMOTE PEACE AND PROSPERITY



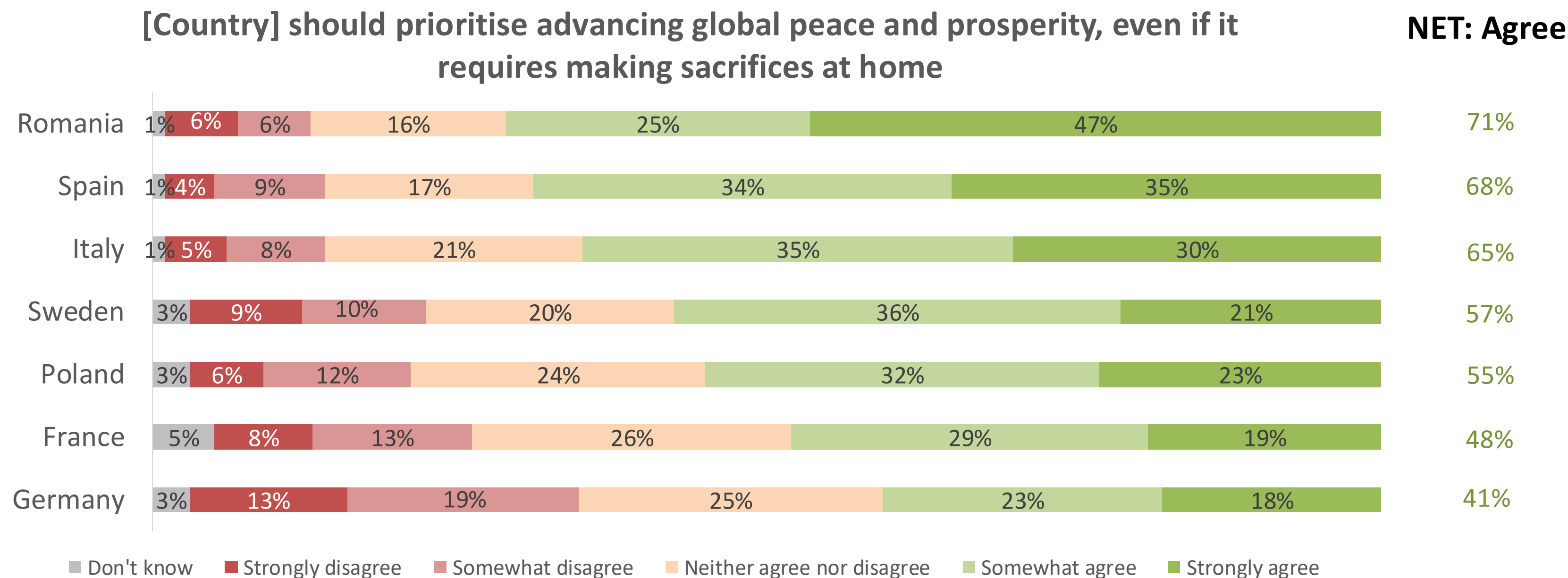
Q1d. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504)

RESPONDENTS IN POLAND AND ROMANIA ARE MOST LIKELY TO AGREE THAT THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD PRIORITISE THE NATIONAL INTEREST, EVEN IF THIS SOMETIMES CONFLICTS WITH THE INTERESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES



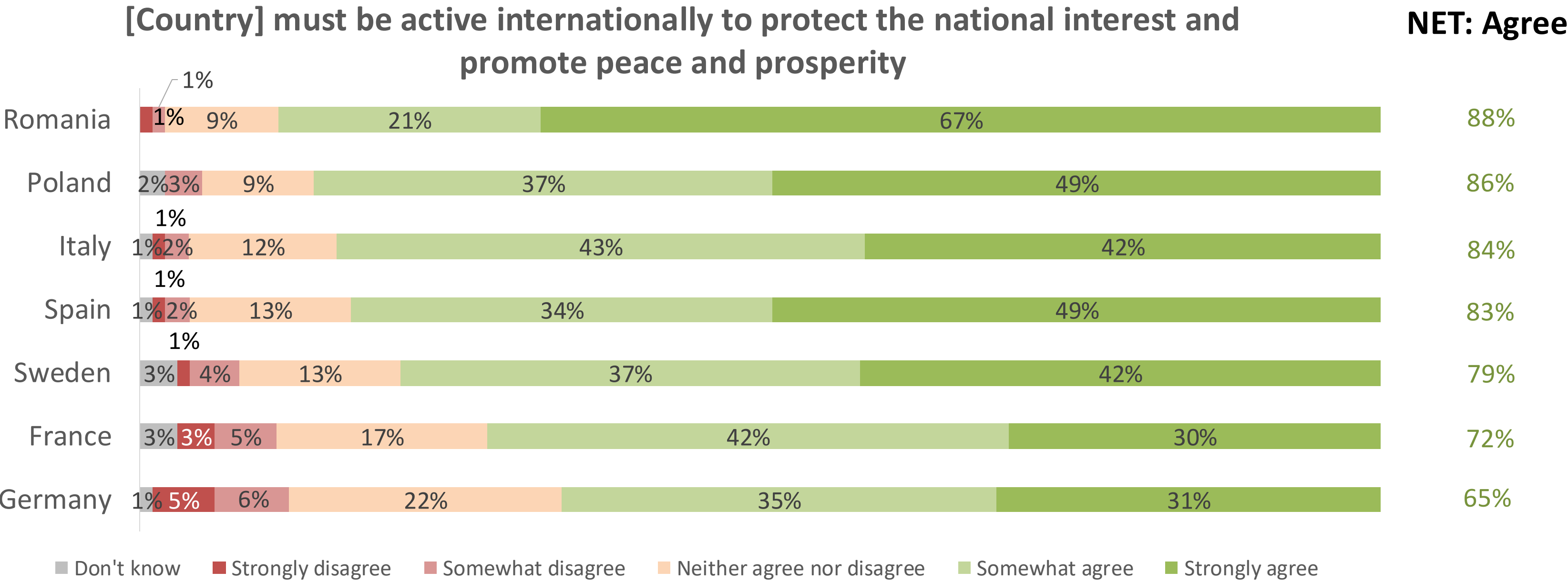
Q1d. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), , Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

RESPONDENTS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY ARE LEAST LIKELY TO AGREE THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD PRIORITISE ADVANCING GLOBAL PEACE AND PROSPERITY, EVEN IF IT REQUIRES MAKING SACRIFICES AT HOME



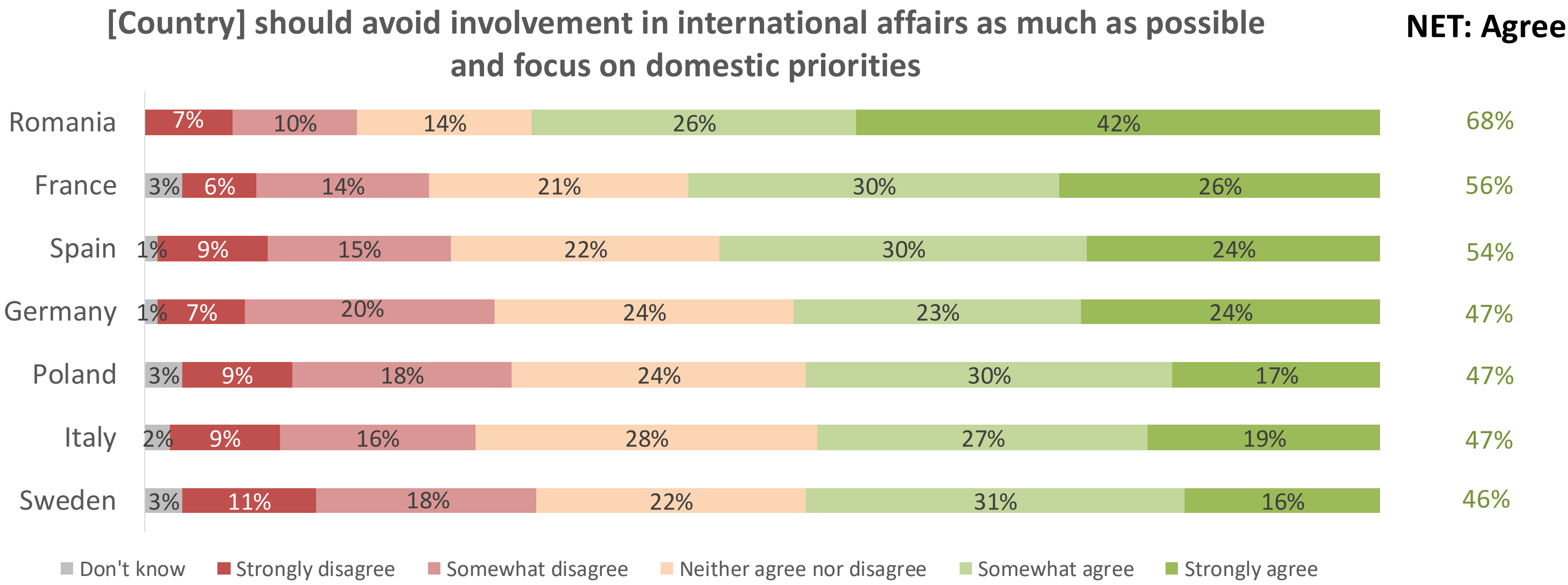
Q1d. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), , Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

AGAIN, RESPONDENTS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY ARE LEAST LIKELY TO AGREE THEIR COUNTRY MUST BE ACTIVE INTERNATIONALLY TO PROTECT THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND PROMOTE PEACE AND PROSPERITY



Q1d. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), , Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

RESPONDENTS IN ROMANIA ARE MOST LIKELY TO AGREE THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND FOCUS ON DOMESTIC PRIORITIES

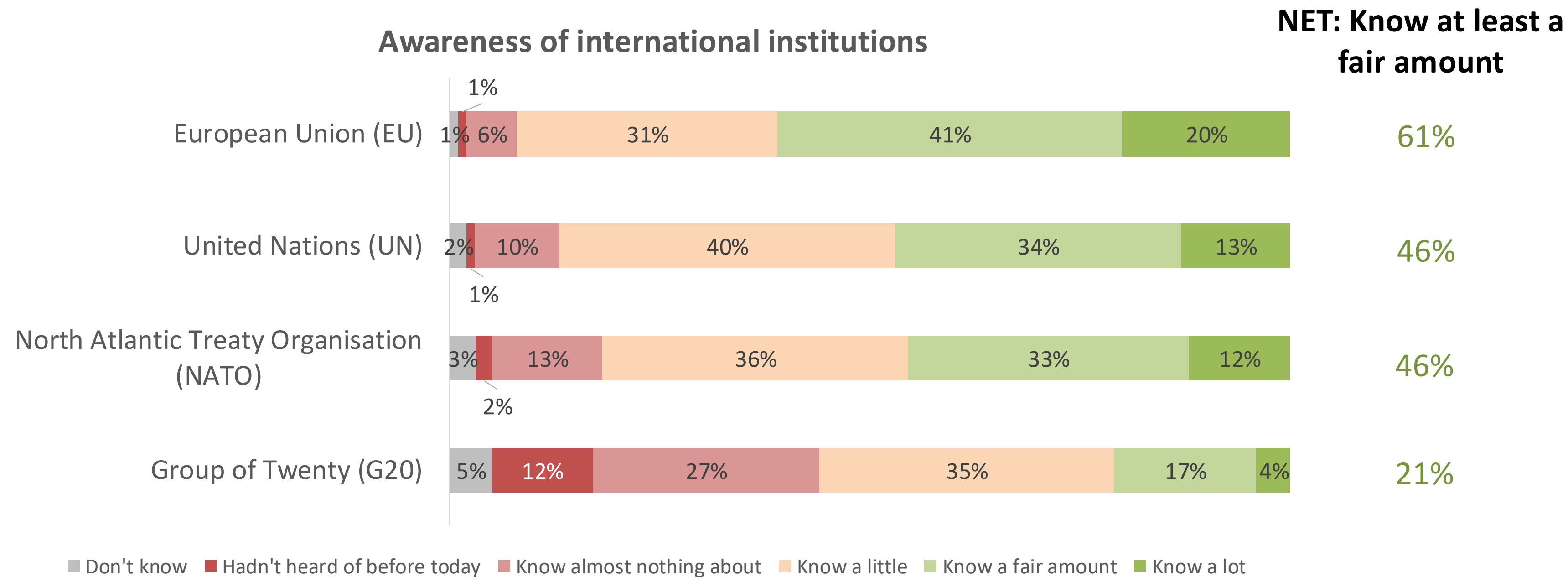


Q1d. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), , Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

The background of the image is the European Union flag, featuring a blue field with twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle. The flag is shown waving, with folds and ripples visible. The text is overlaid on the left side of the flag.

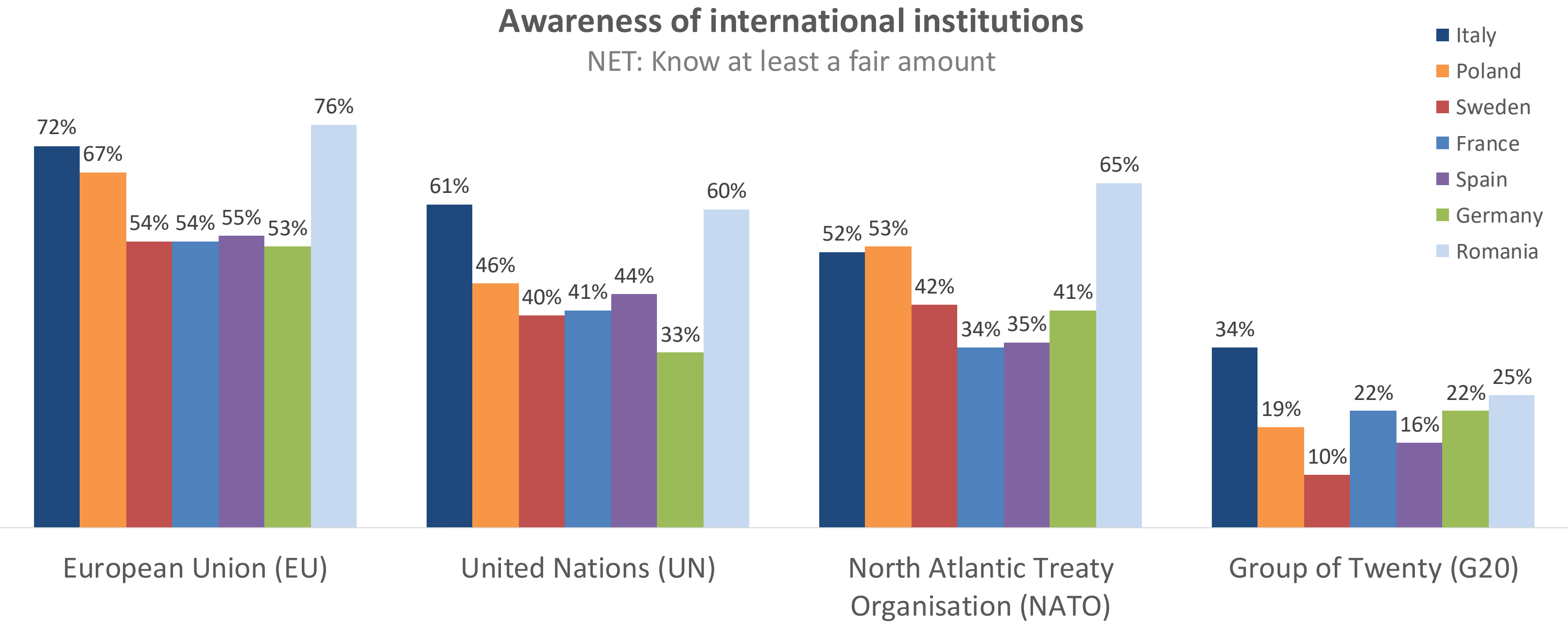
THE EUROPEAN UNION & INSTITUTIONS

THREE IN FIVE RESPONDENTS KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE EU,
WHILE JUST UNDER HALF KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE UN AND
NATO



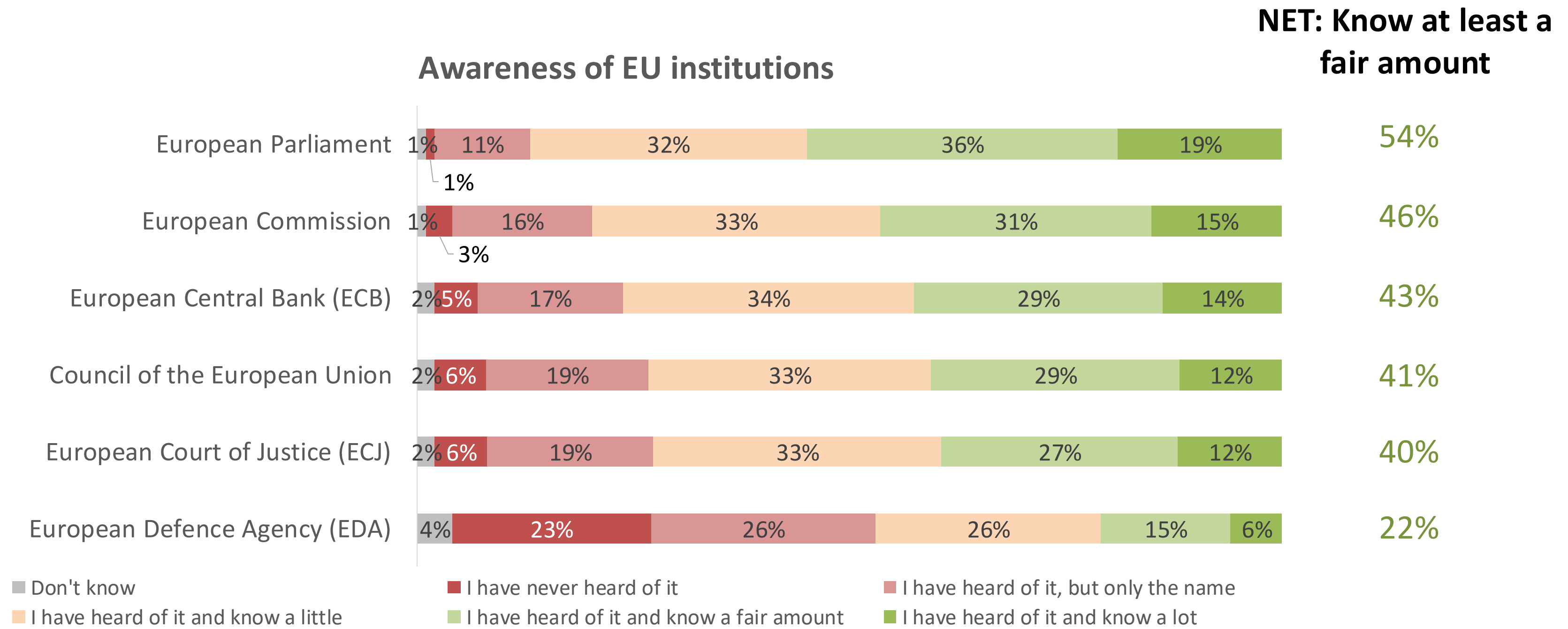
Q2. Overall, how much would you say you know about the following international institutions? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504)

RESPONDENTS IN ITALY AND ROMANIA ARE MOST LIKELY TO CLAIM TO KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE EU, WHILE AWARENESS OF THE G20 IS LOWER



Q2. Overall, how much would you say you know about the following international institutions? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

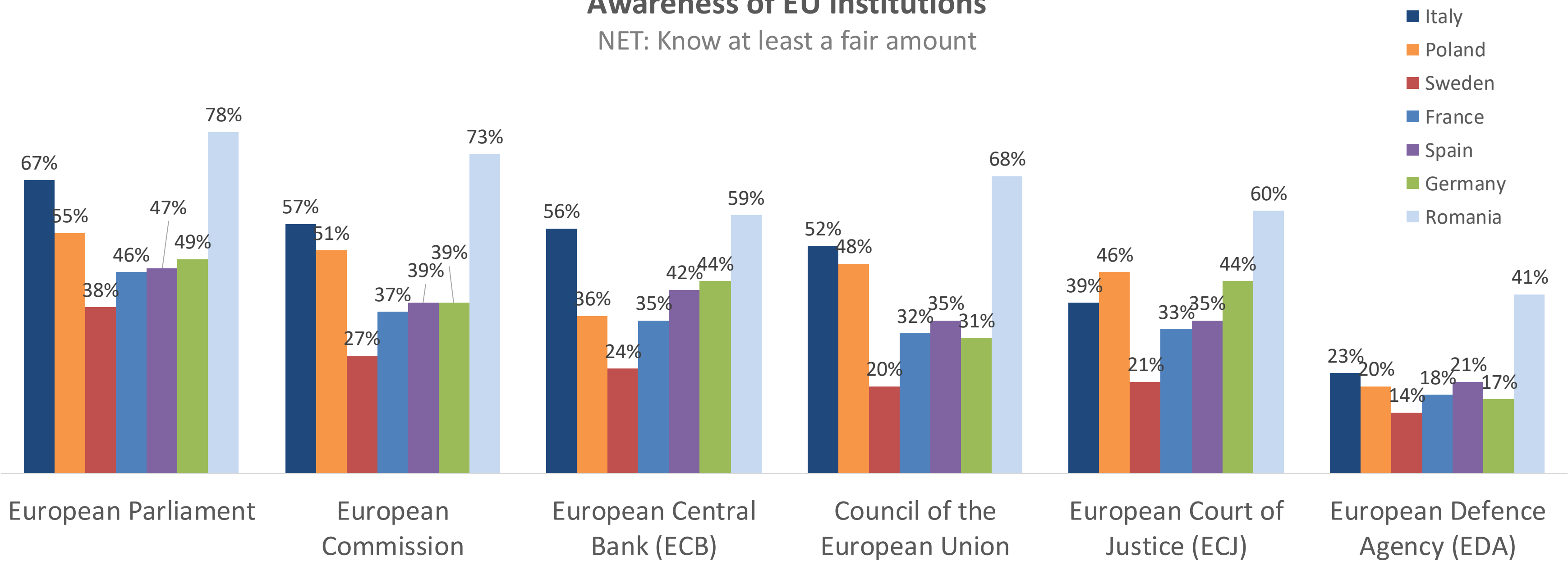
MORE THAN HALF OF RESPONDENTS KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, WHILE JUST ONE IN FIVE KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY



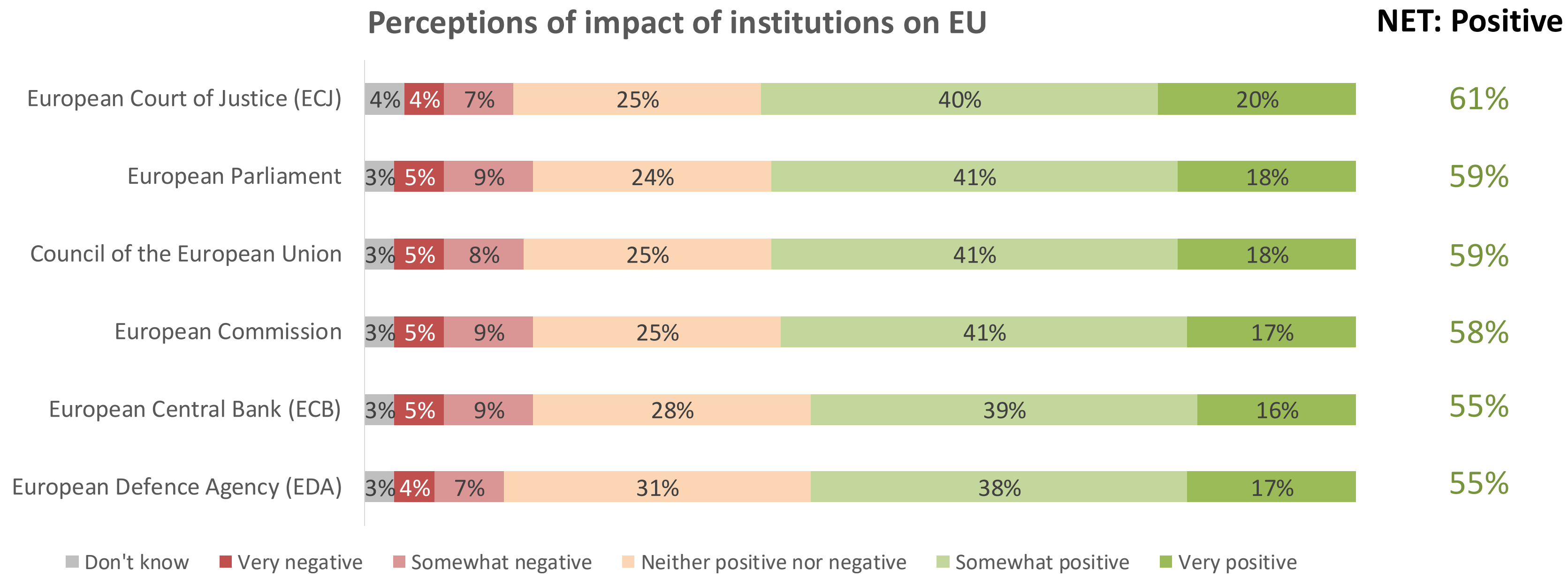
Q3a. Before today, had you heard of the following institutions?| Base = All respondents (n=3,504)

RESPONDENTS IN ROMANIA CLAIM TO HAVE THE HIGHEST AWARENESS OF EU INSTITUTIONS

Awareness of EU institutions
NET: Know at least a fair amount



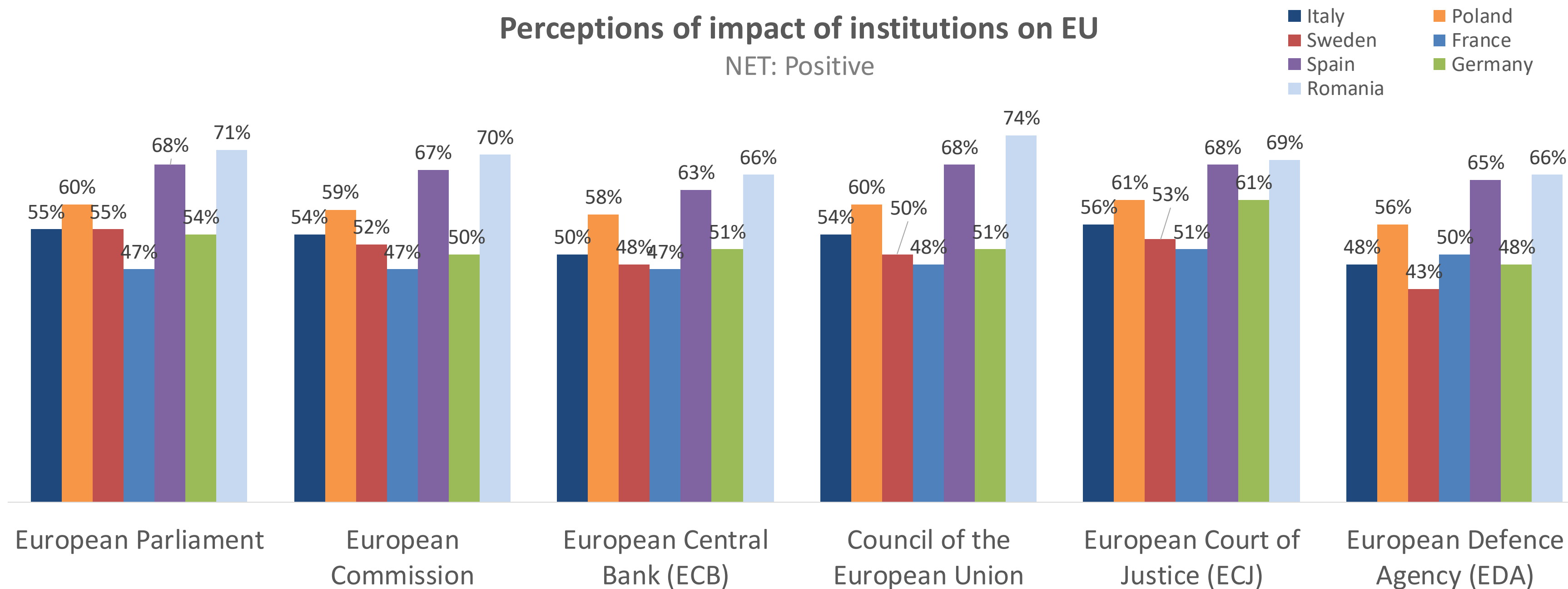
RESPONDENTS WHO KNOW AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT THE INSTITUTION ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THE ECJ HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE EU. WHILE SCORES REMAIN RELATIVELY HIGH, THEY ARE LEAST POSITIVE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE EDA



Q3b. And to what extent do you think this institution has a positive or negative impact on the EU as a whole? | Base = All respondents who know at least a little about [institution] (n=1,690-3,036)

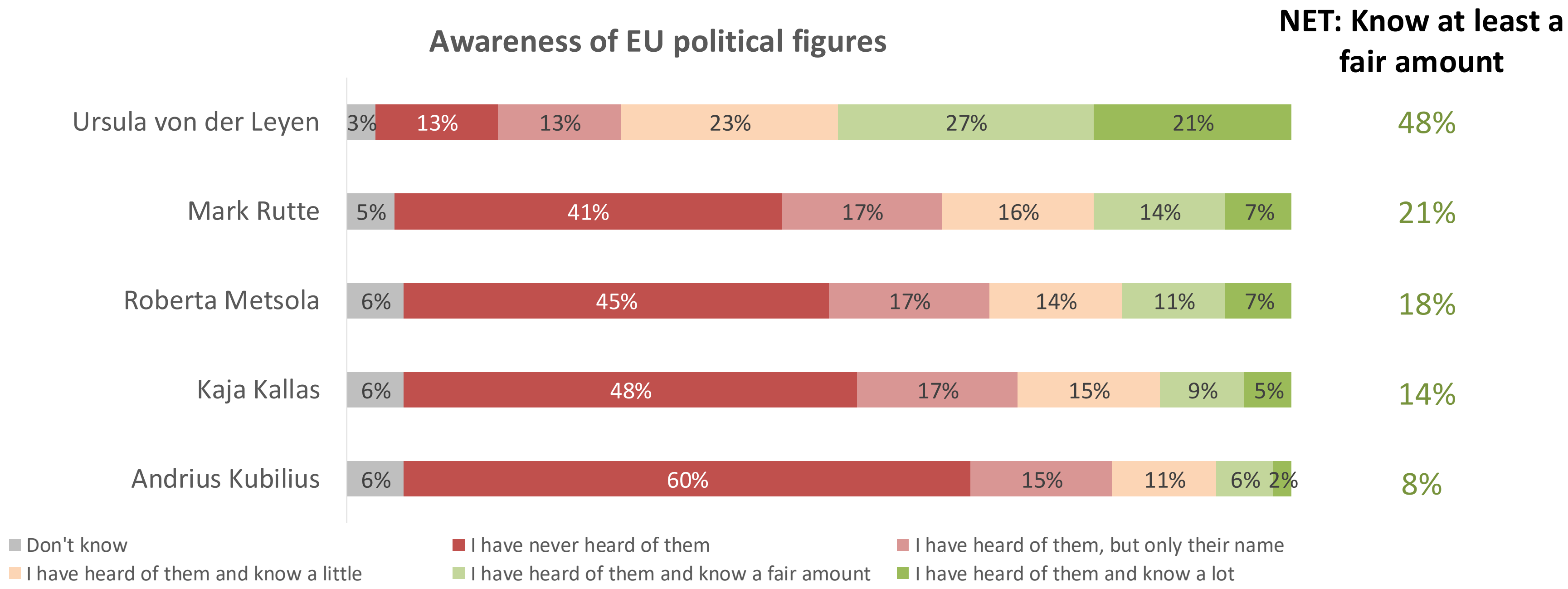
RESPONDENTS IN ROMANIA WHO KNOW AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT INSTITUTIONS CLAIM TO FEEL MOST POSITIVE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THESE ON THE EU, WHICH TRACKS WITH THEIR INCREASED AWARENESS

Perceptions of impact of institutions on EU
NET: Positive



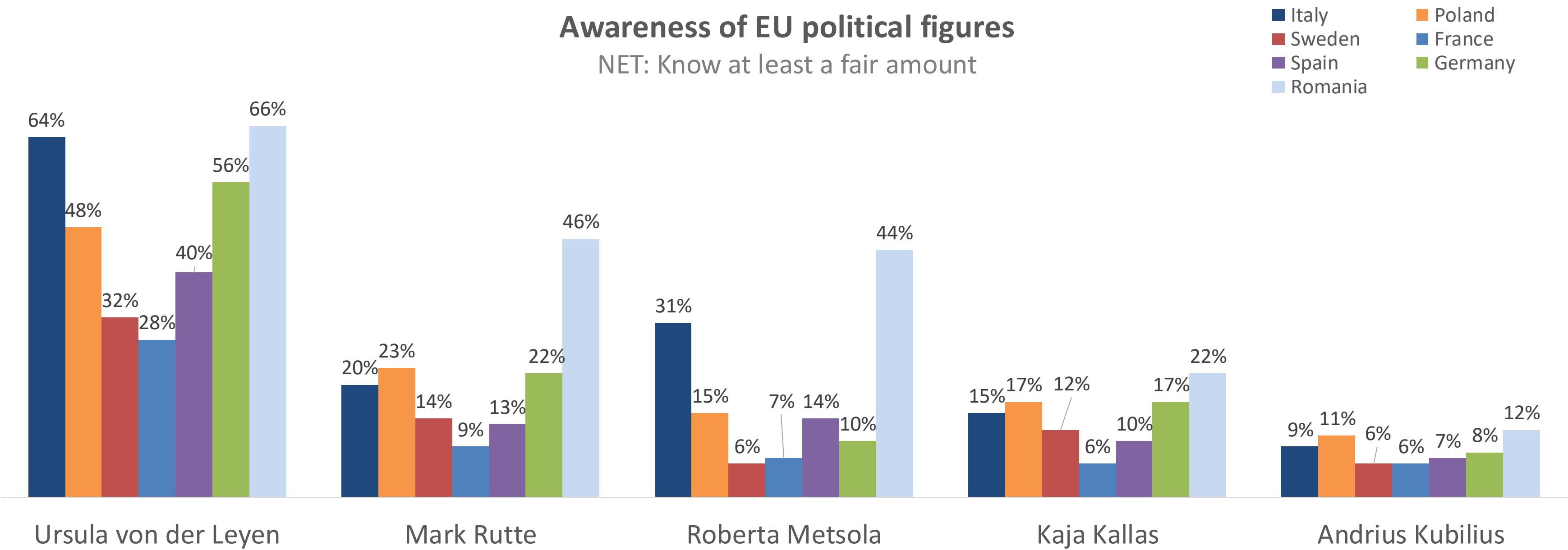
Q3b. And to what extent do you think this institution has a positive or negative impact on the EU as a whole? | Base = All respondents who know at least a little about [institution]
(n=1,690-3,036), Italy (n=252-447), Poland (n=243-461), Sweden (n=165-396), France (n=199-414), Spain (n=261-435), Germany (n=216-419), Romania (n=354-464)

ALMOST HALF OF RESPONDENTS KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT URSULA VON DER LEYEN, WHILE LESS THAN ONE IN TEN KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT DEFENCE COMMISSIONER ANDRIUS KUBILIUS



Q3c. Before today, had you heard of the following people?| Base = All respondents (n=3,504)

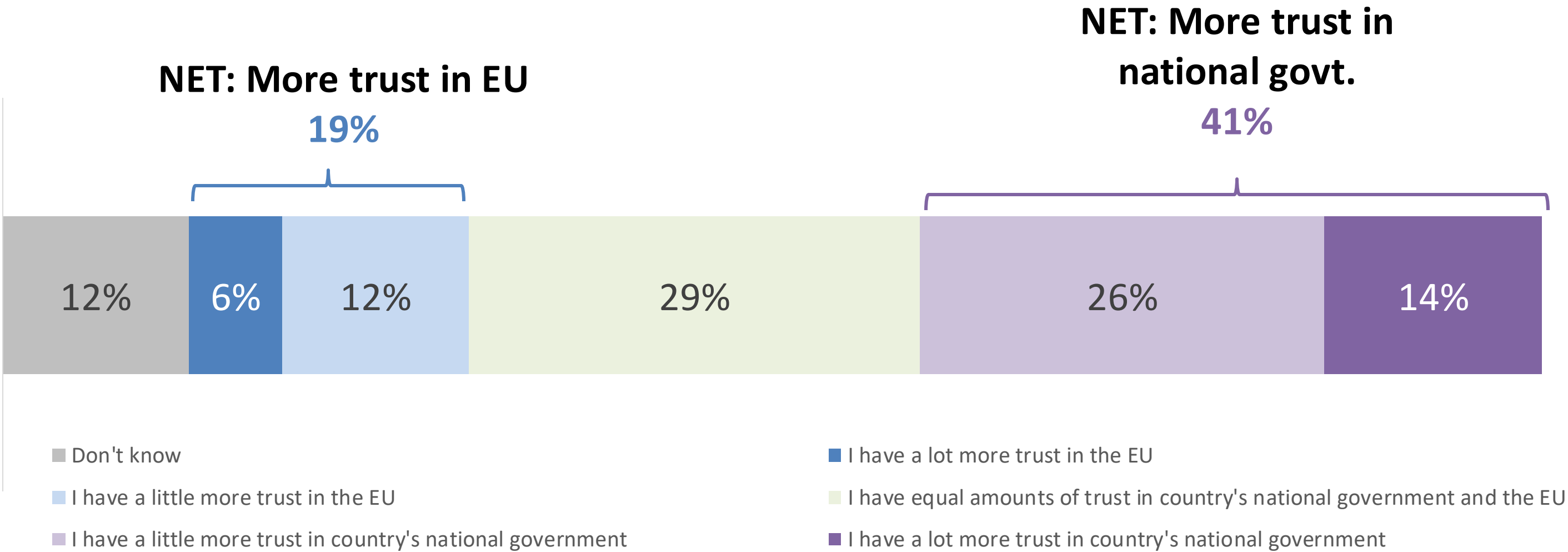
RESPONDENTS IN ROMANIA CLAIM TO BE MOST AWARE OF EU POLITICAL FIGURES



Q3c. Before today, had you heard of the following people?| Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

RESPONDENTS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO TRUST THEIR NATIONAL GOVT. OVER THE EU TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT IMPROVE THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE, THOUGH THREE IN TEN HAVE EQUAL AMOUNTS OF TRUST IN BOTH INSTITUTIONS

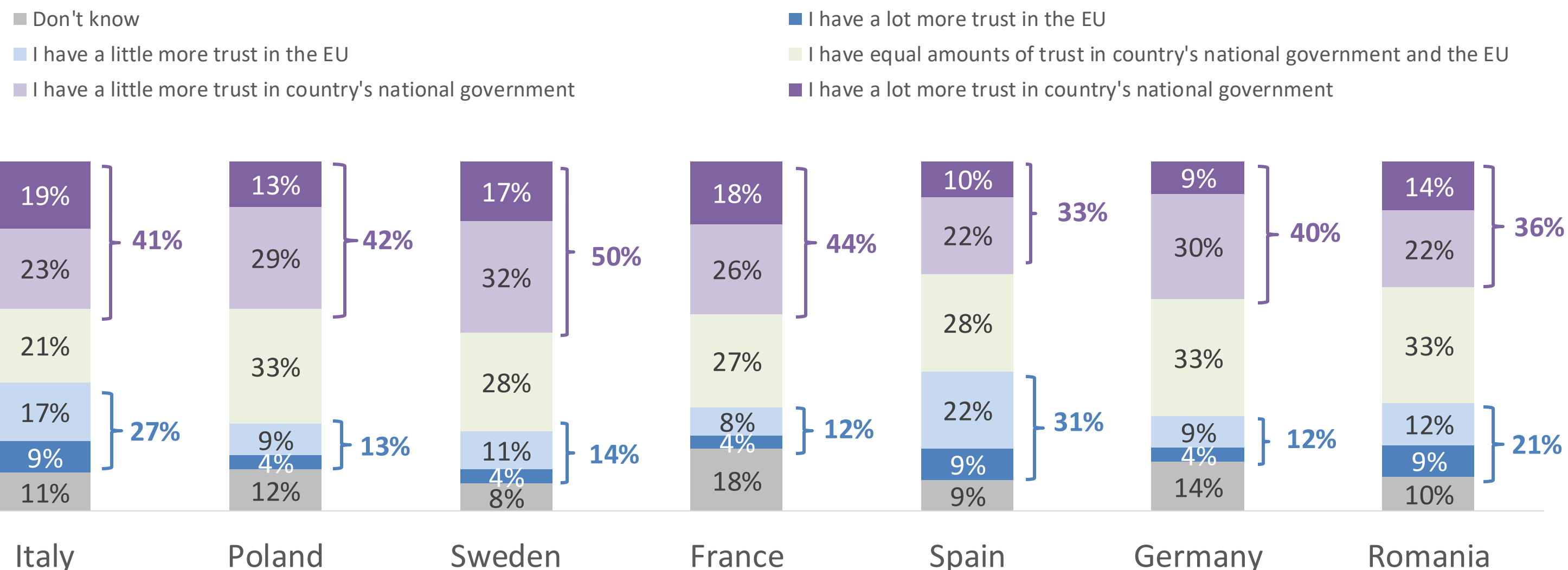
Trust in national govt. vs. EU to make decisions that improve day-to-day life



Q5. How would you compare your level of trust in country's national government and the EU to make decisions that improve your day-to-day life? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504)

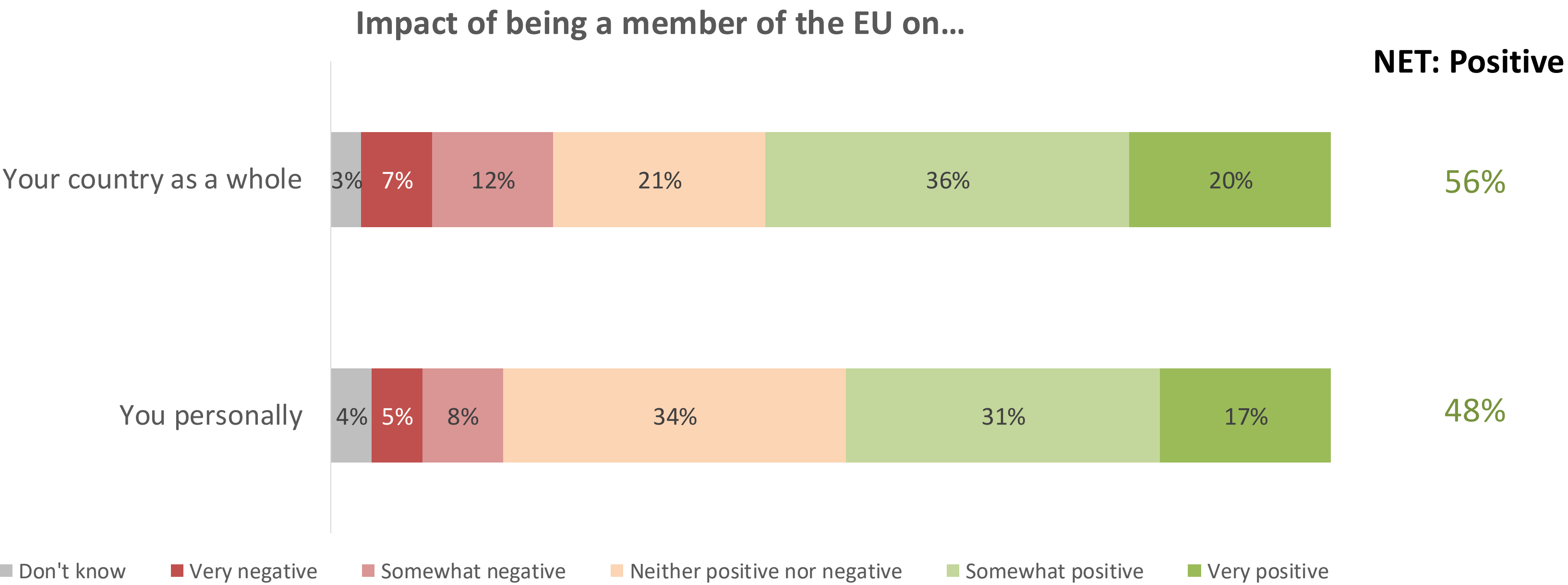
RESPONDENTS IN SPAIN ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THEY HAVE MORE TRUST IN THE EU THAN THEIR NATIONAL GOVT TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT IMPROVE THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE, BUT NO COUNTRY'S RESPONDENTS TRUST THE EU MORE THAN THEIR NATIONAL GOVT

Trust in national govt. vs. EU to make decisions that improve day-to-day life



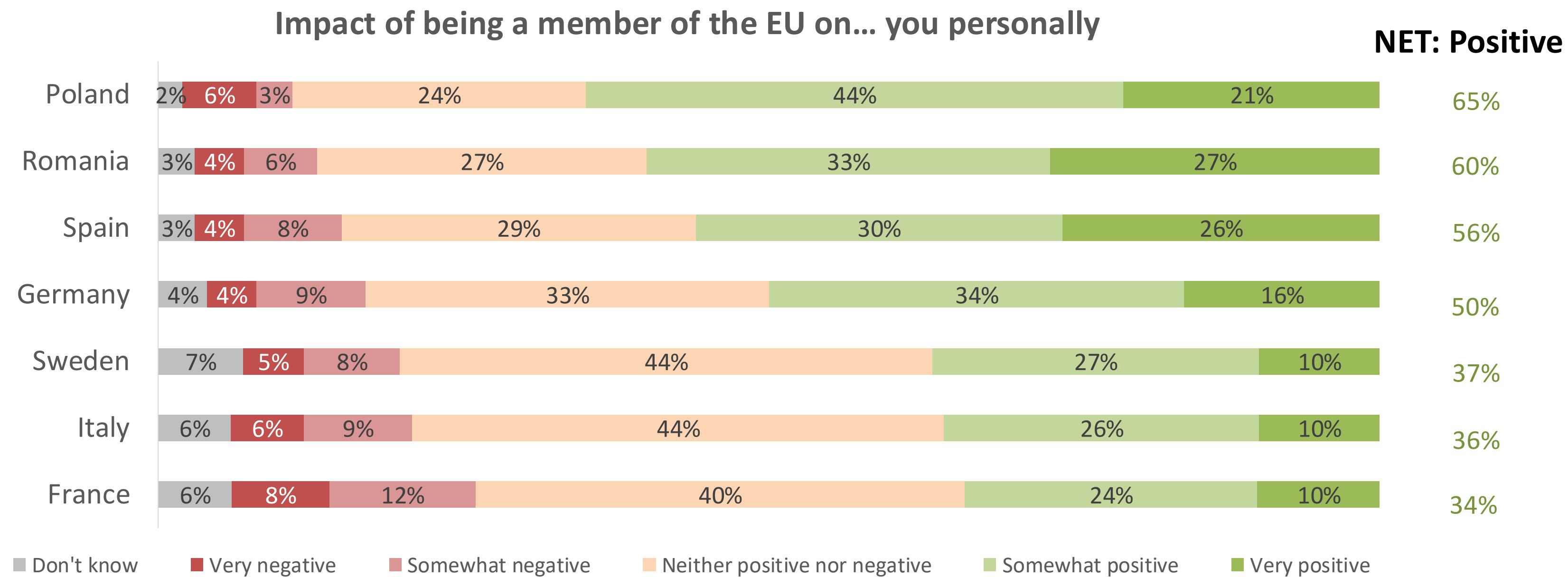
Q5. How would you compare your level of trust in country's national government and the EU to make decisions that improve your day-to-day life? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

MORE THAN HALF OF RESPONDENTS SAY BEING A MEMBER OF THE EU HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR COUNTRY AS A WHOLE, WHILE JUST UNDER HALF SAY IT HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEM PERSONALLY



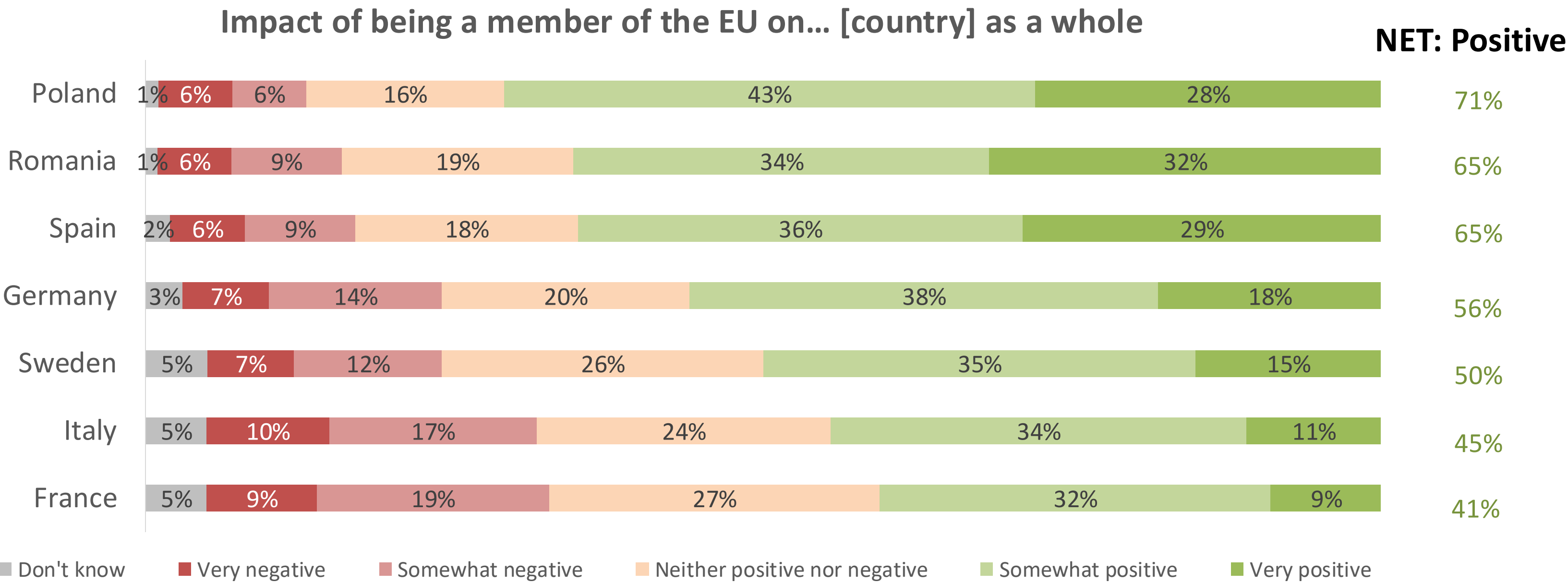
Q7. To what extent, if at all, has [country] being a member of the EU had a positive or negative impact on... | Base = All respondents (n=3,504)

RESPONDENTS IN POLAND AND ROMANIA ARE MOST POSITIVE ABOUT THE IMPACT THEIR COUNTRY BEING A MEMBER OF THE EU HAS HAD ON THEM PERSONALLY, WHICH TRACKS WITH THEIR HIGH OVERALL AWARENESS OF THE EU AND ITS INSTITUTIONS



Q7. To what extent, if at all, has [country] being a member of the EU had a positive or negative impact on... | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

RESPONDENTS IN POLAND AND ROMANIA ARE MOST POSITIVE ABOUT THE IMPACT THEIR COUNTRY BEING A MEMBER OF THE EU HAS HAD ON THEIR COUNTRY AS A WHOLE, WHICH AGAIN TRACKS WITH THEIR HIGH OVERALL AWARENESS OF THE EU AND ITS INSTITUTIONS



Q7. To what extent, if at all, has [country] being a member of the EU had a positive or negative impact on... | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

RESPONDENTS WHO THINK THE EU HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEM PERSONALLY ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THIS IS BECAUSE OF ACCESS TO TRAVEL FREELY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY FEEL MORE SAFE AND SECURE

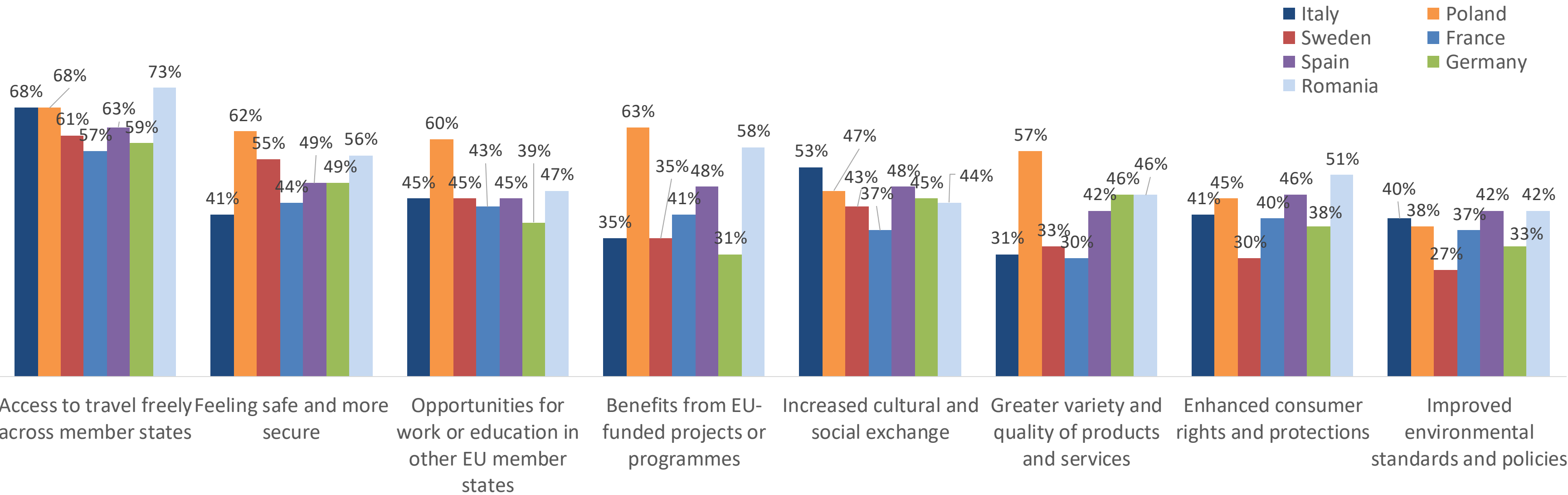
Positive (personal) impacts of country being member of EU



Q8a. You said that country being a member of the EU has had a positive impact on you personally. In which of the following ways has country being a member of the EU had a positive impact on you personally?| Base = All respondents who said their country being an EU member has had a positive impact on them personally (n=1,687)

RESPONDENTS IN POLAND AND ROMANIA ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THEY HAVE BENEFITED FROM EU-FUNDED PROJECT OR PROGRAMMES, WHILE RESPONDENTS IN POLAND ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THEY BENEFIT FROM FEELING SAFE AND MORE SECURE

Positive (personal) impacts of country being member of EU



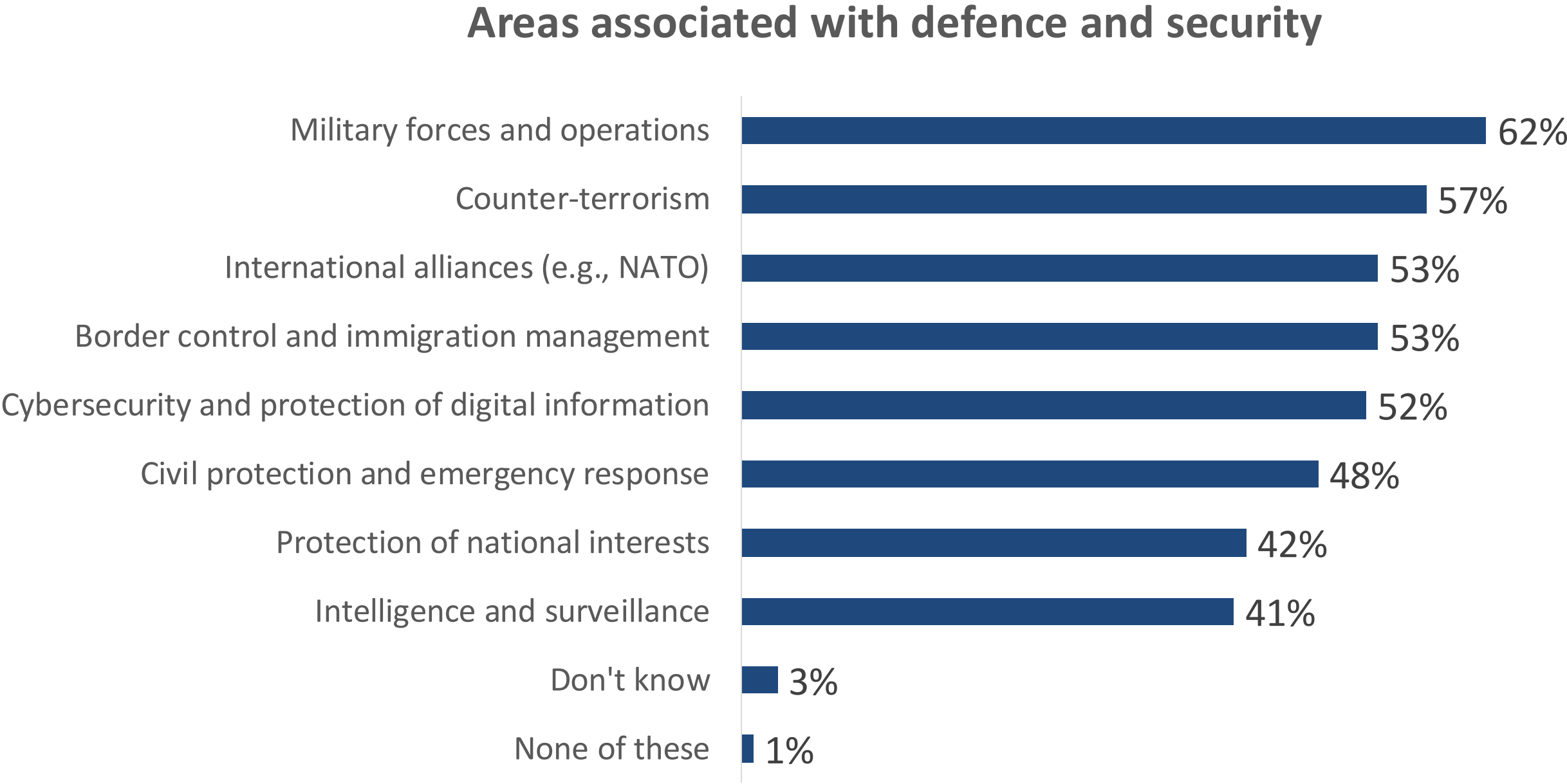
Q8a. You said that country being a member of the EU has had a positive impact on you personally. In which of the following ways has country being a member of the EU had a positive impact on you personally?| Base = All respondents who said their country being an EU member has had a positive impact on them personally (n=1,687)
Italy (n=180), Poland (n=321), Sweden (n=184), France (n=169), Spain (n=279), Germany (n=249), Romania (n=305) NB: Not showing “other”, “don’t know”, “none of these” response options

DEFENCE &

SECURITY



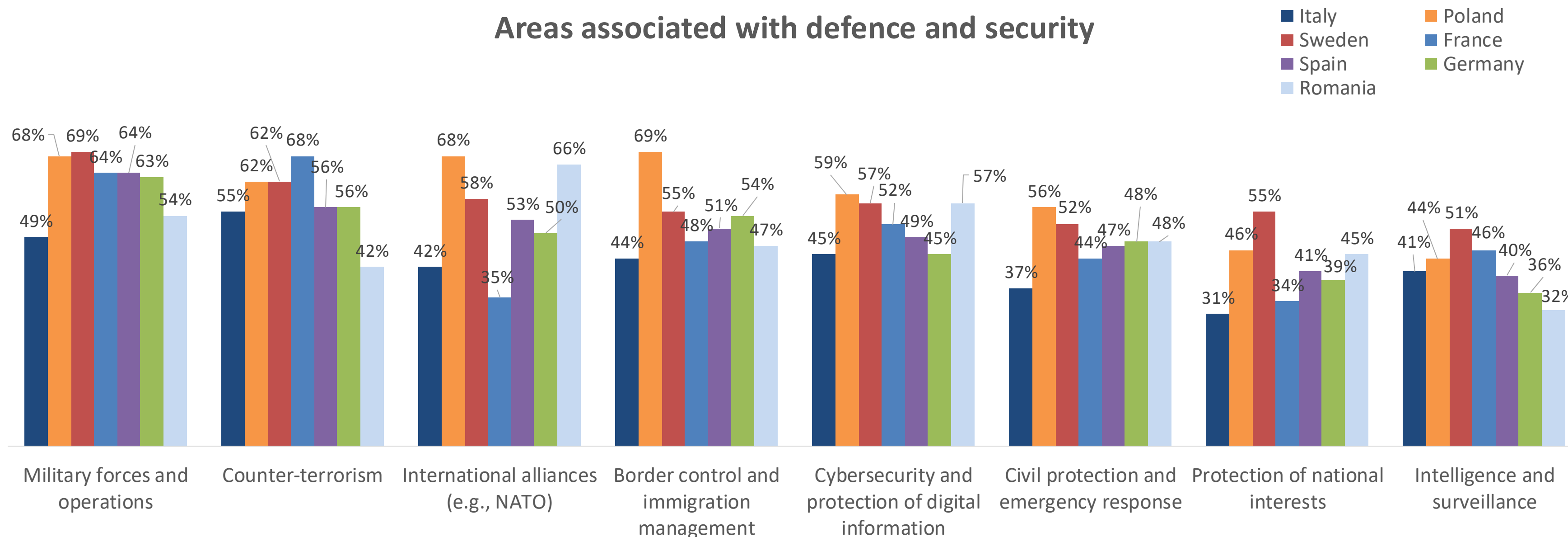
RESPONDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO ASSOCIATE THE TERM ‘DEFENCE AND SECURITY’ WITH MILITARY FORCES AND OPERATIONS, COUNTER-TERRORISM AND INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES



Q10. Which of the following areas, if any, do you associate with the term 'defence and security'? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504)

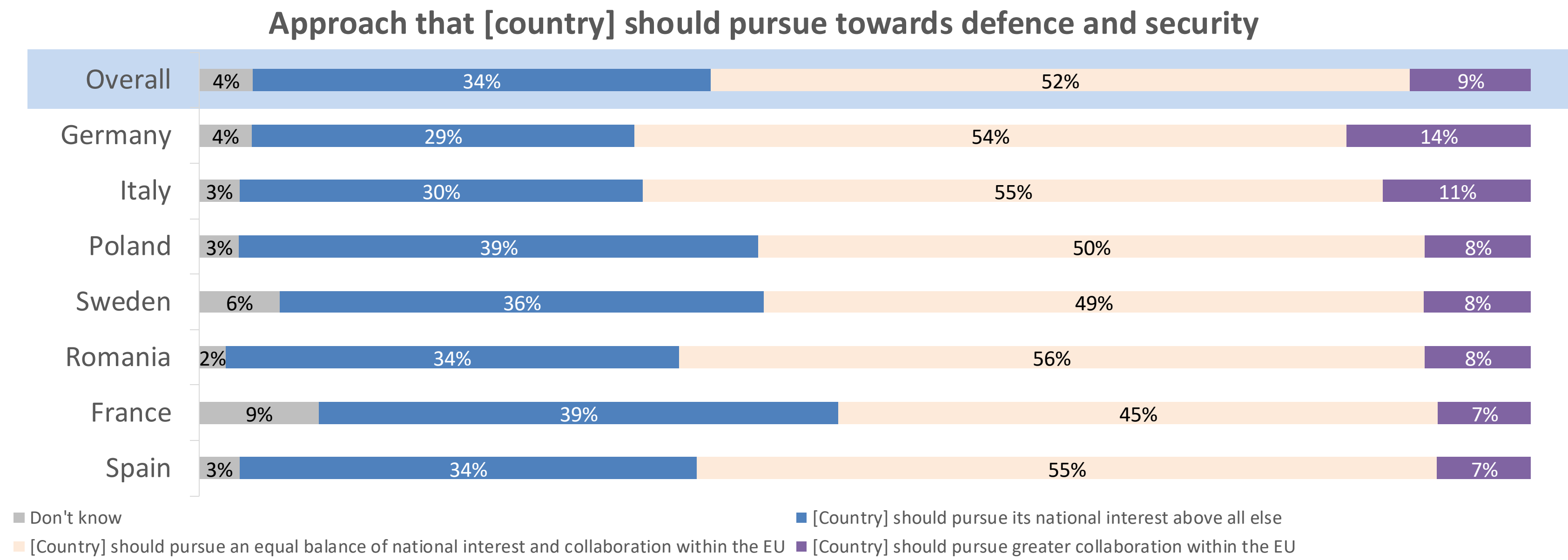
RESPONDENTS IN SWEDEN ARE MOST LIKELY TO ASSOCIATE DEFENCE AND SECURITY WITH TRADITIONAL MILITARY FORCES AND OPERATIONS, WHILE RESPONDENTS IN POLAND ARE MOST LIKELY ASSOCIATE THE TERM WITH INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES, BORDER CONTROL AND CYBERSECURITY

Areas associated with defence and security



Q10. Which of the following areas, if any, do you associate with the term 'defence and security'? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500) NB: Not showing "other", "don't know", "none of these" response options

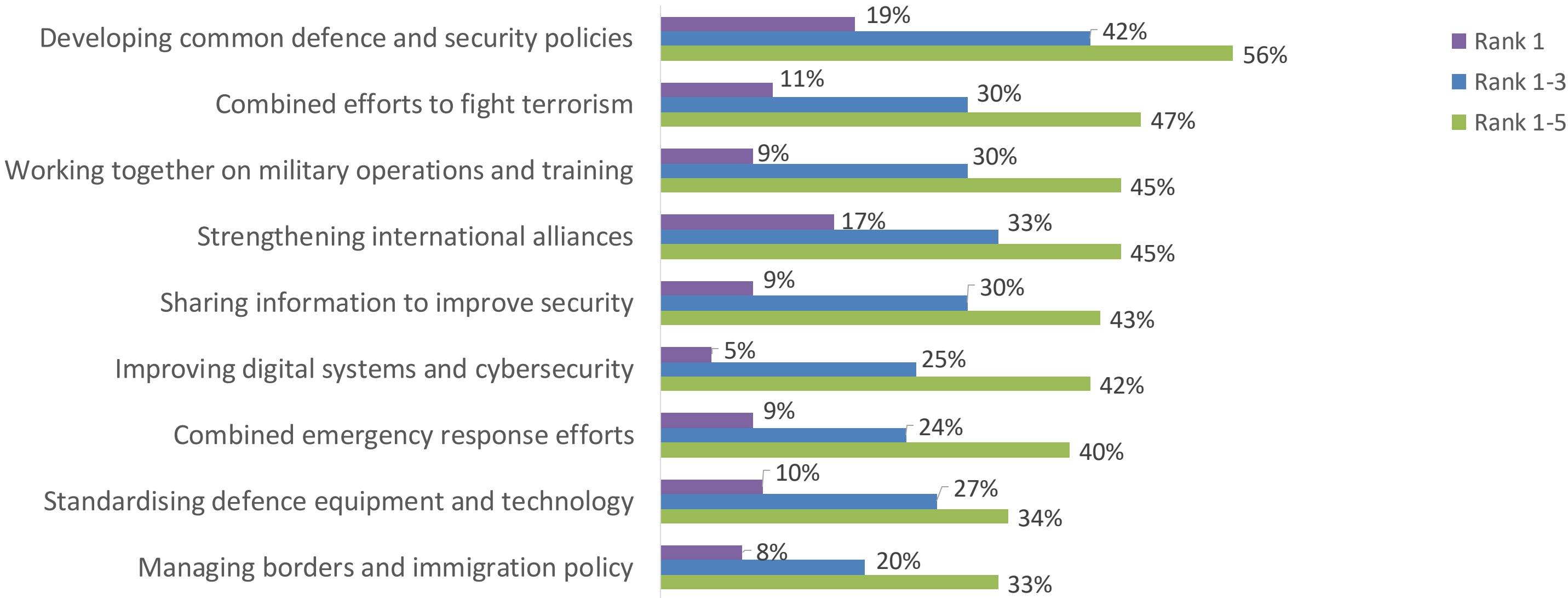
OVER HALF OF RESPONDENTS THINK THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD PURSUE AN EQUAL BALANCE OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND COLLABORATION WITHIN THE EU ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY



Q11. What approach do you think [country] should pursue in terms of defence and security? | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

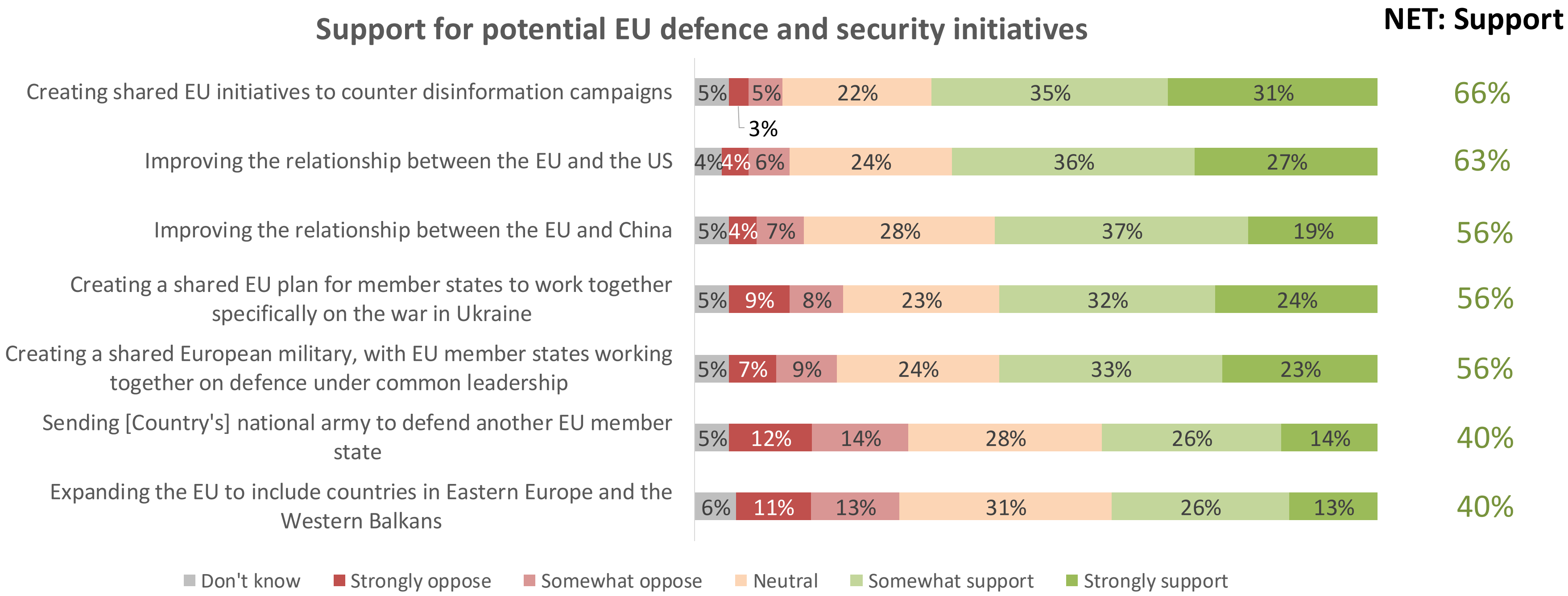
RESPONDENTS WHO WANT TO SEE THEIR COUNTRY PURSUE GREATER COLLABORATION WITHIN THE EU ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY ARE MOST LIKELY TO WANT TO SEE THIS THROUGH DEVELOPING COMMON DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICIES

Where would like [country] to pursue greater collaboration within EU on defence and security (ranked options)



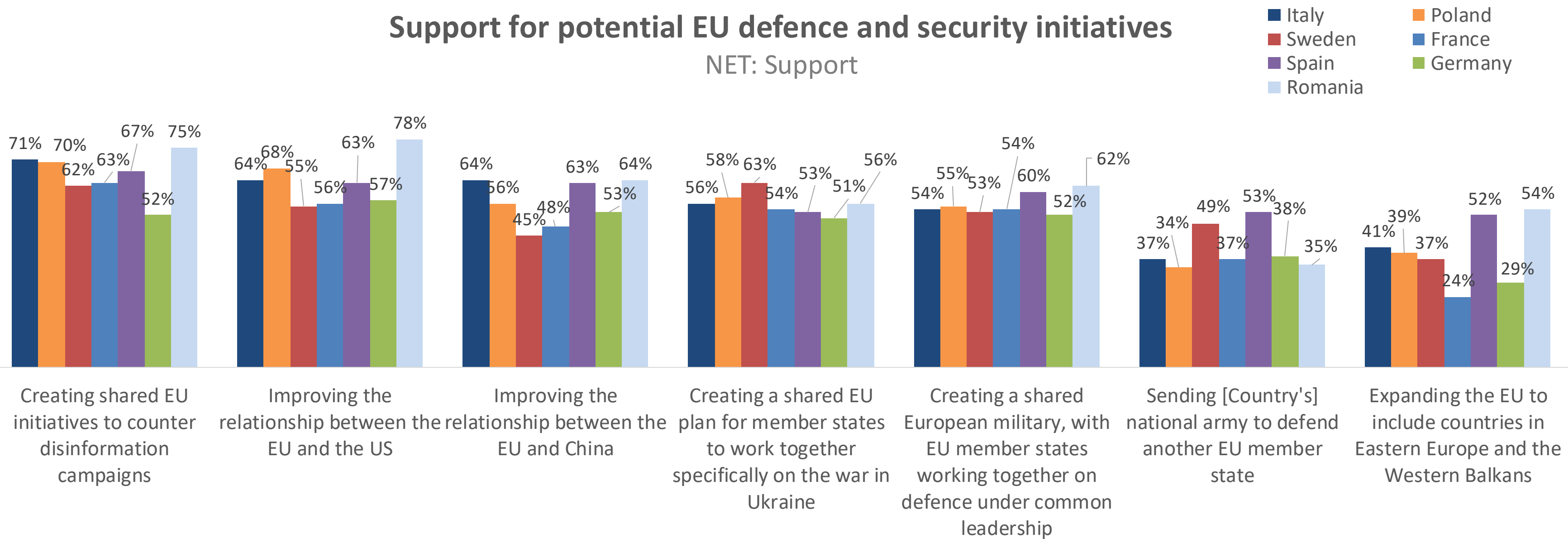
Q12. You said you would like to see [country] pursue greater collaboration with the EU on defence and security. On which of the following areas would you most like to see greater collaboration? | Base = All respondents who say their nation should pursue greater collaboration with the EU on defence and security (n=320)

RESPONDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT CREATING SHARED INITIATIVES TO COUNTER DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS, WHILE OVER HALF WOULD SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EUROPEAN MILITARY



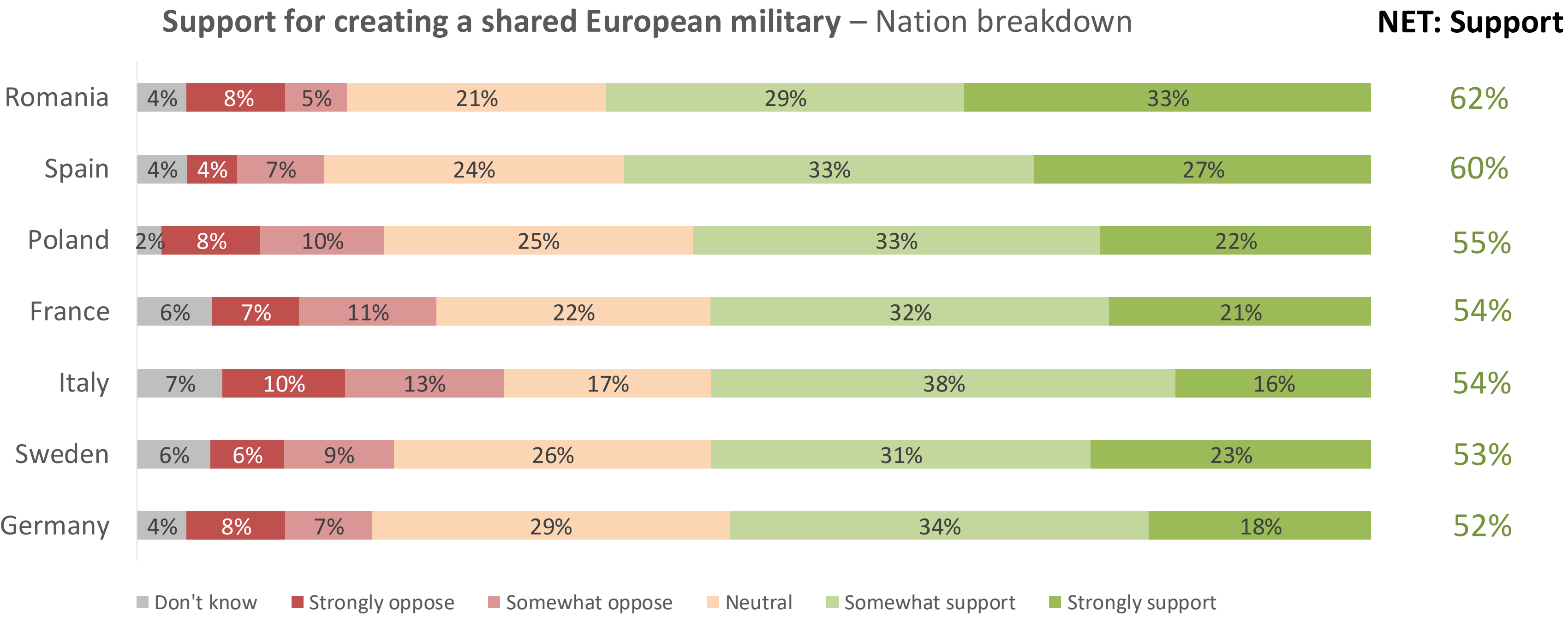
Q13. To what extent would you support or oppose... | Base = All respondents (n=3,504)

RESPONDENTS IN ROMANIA ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EUROPEAN MILITARY, WHILE RESPONDENTS IN SWEDEN ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EU PLAN FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE



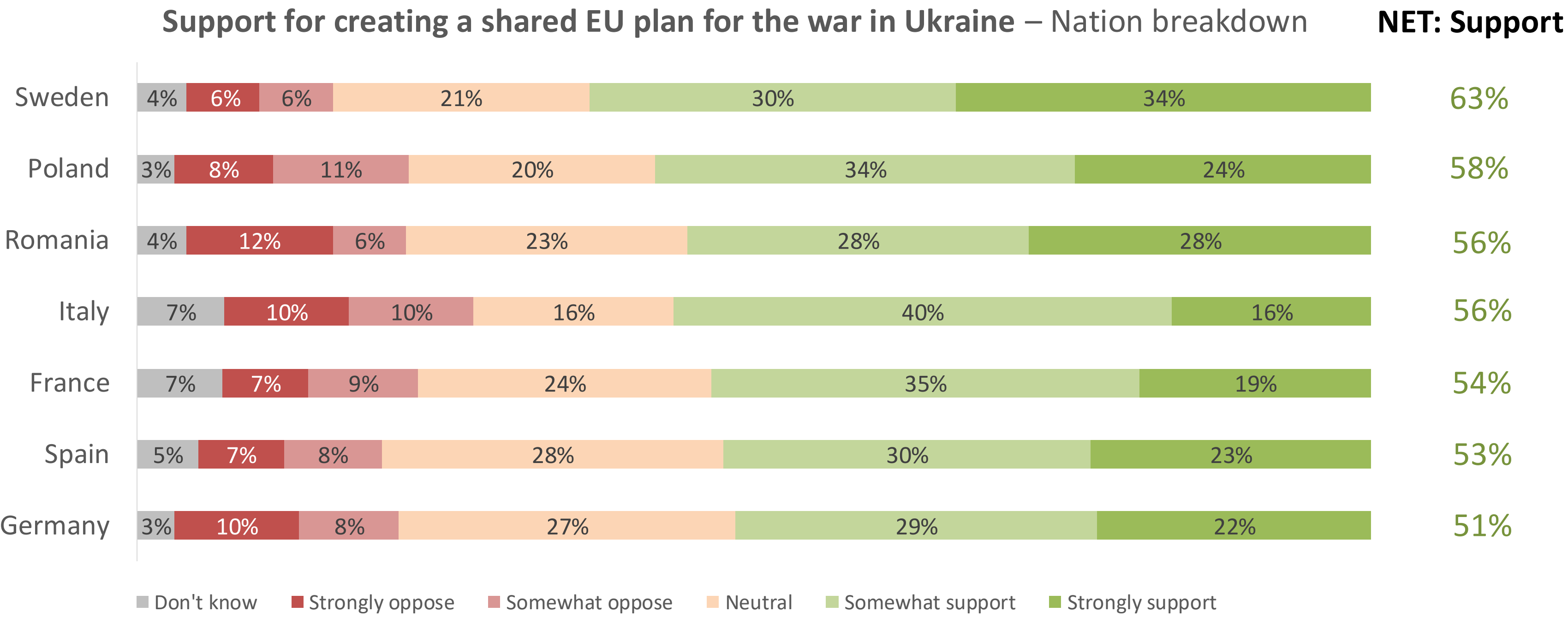
Q13. To what extent would you support or oppose... | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

RESPONDENTS IN ROMANIA AND SPAIN ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EUROPEAN MILITARY UNDER COMMON LEADERSHIP



Q13_1. Creating a shared European military, with EU member states working together on defence under common leadership: To what extent would you support or oppose... | Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

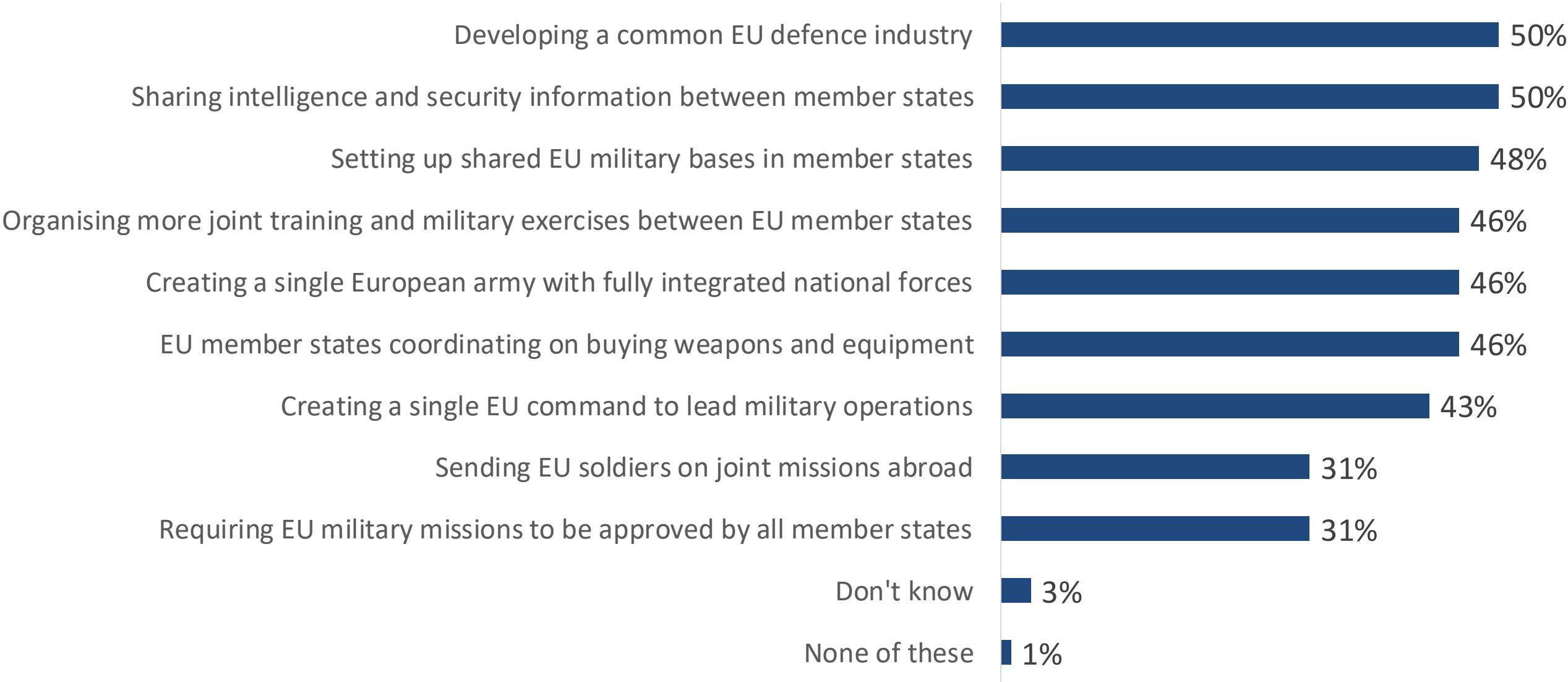
RESPONDENTS IN SWEDEN AND POLAND ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EU PLAN FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE



Q13_3. Creating a shared EU plan for member states to work together specifically on the war in Ukraine: To what extent would you support or oppose...| Base = All respondents (n=3,504), Italy (n=501), Poland (n=501), Sweden (n=500), France (n=500), Spain (n=501), Germany (n=501), Romania (n=500)

RESPONDENTS WHO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EUROPEAN MILITARY WOULD MOST LIKE TO SEE THIS THROUGH CREATING A COMMON EU DEFENCE INDUSTRY, INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND SETTING UP SHARED MILITARY BASES

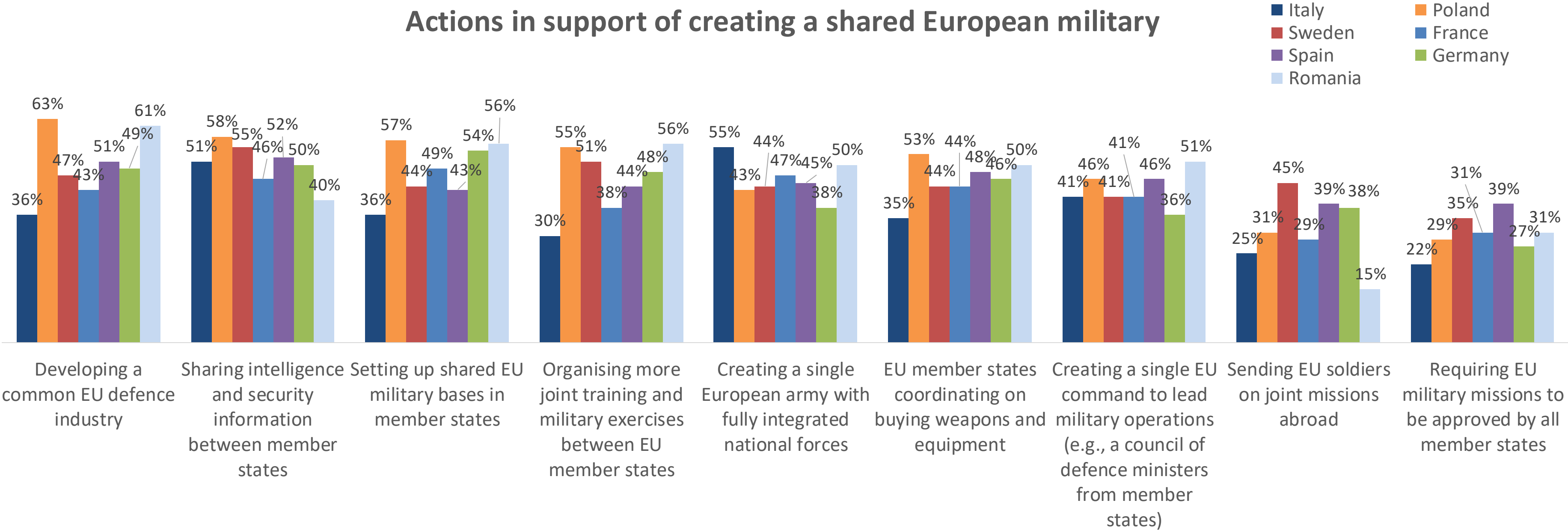
Actions in support of creating a shared European military



Q14. You said you would support creating a shared European military, with EU member states working together on defence under common leadership. Which of the following actions, if any, would you support as part of this shared European military? | Base = All respondents who say they support created a shared European military (n=1,955)

RESPONDENTS IN ITALY AND ROMANIA WHO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EUROPEAN MILITARY ARE MOST LIKELY TO WANT TO SEE THIS THROUGH CREATING A SINGLE EUROPEAN ARMY, WITH RESPONDENTS IN GERMANY LEAST LIKELY TO SUPPORT THIS

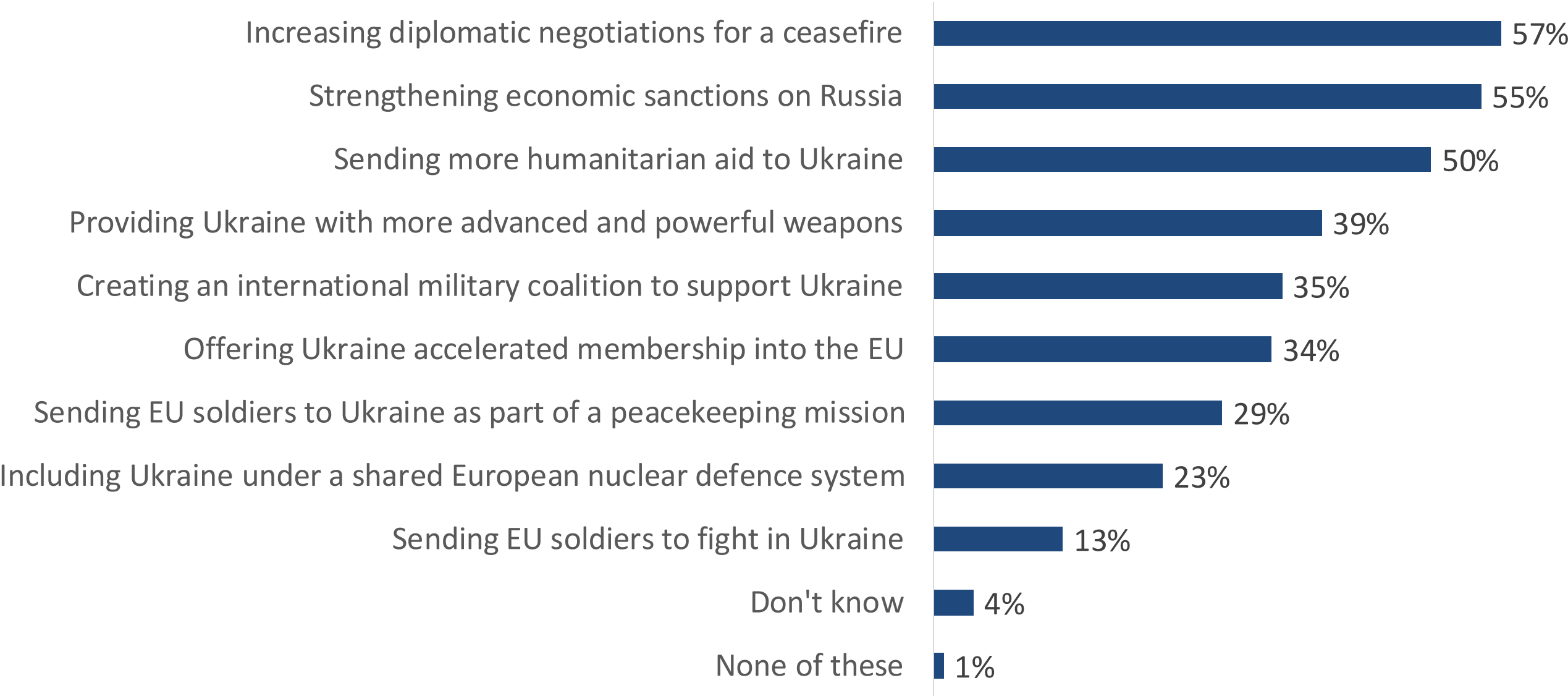
Actions in support of creating a shared European military



Q14. You said you would support creating a shared European military, with EU member states working together on defence under common leadership. Which of the following actions, if any, would you support as part of this shared European military? | Base = All respondents who say they support created a shared European military (n=1,955), Italy (n=271), Poland (n=276), Sweden (n=267), France (n=267), Spain (n=302), Germany (n=262), Romania (n=310) NB: Not showing “other”, “don’t know”, “none of these” response options

RESPONDENTS WHO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EU PLAN FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE WOULD MOST LIKE TO SEE INCREASED DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CEASEFIRE, STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA, AND SENDING MORE HUMANITARIAN AID

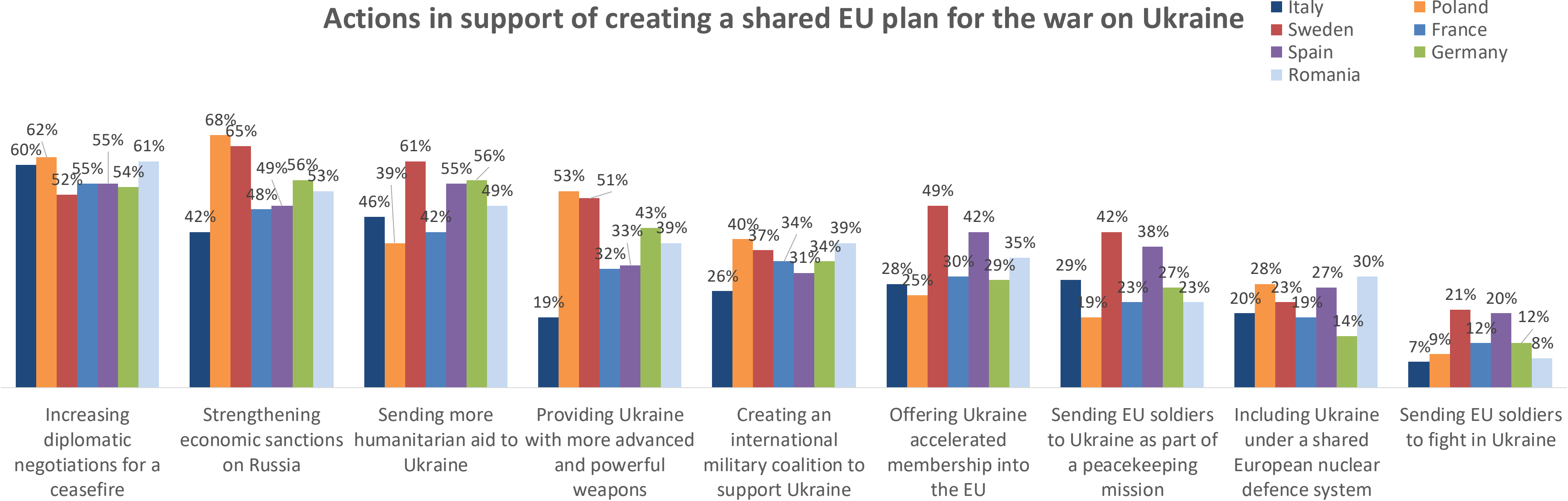
Actions in support of creating a shared EU plan for the war on Ukraine



Q15. You said you would support creating a shared EU plan for member states to work together on the war in Ukraine. Which of the following actions, if any, do you think the EU should consider in response to the war in Ukraine?| Base = All respondents who say they would support creating a shared EU plan for member states to work together on the war in Ukraine (n=1,962)

RESPONDENTS IN SWEDEN WHO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EU PLAN FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT DIRECT ACTION SUCH AS SENDING EU SOLDIERS AS PART OF PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS, OR TO FIGHT IN UKRAINE

Actions in support of creating a shared EU plan for the war on Ukraine



Q15. You said you would support creating a shared EU plan for member states to work together on the war in Ukraine. Which of the following actions, if any, do you think the EU should consider in response to the war in Ukraine? | Base = All respondents who say they would support creating a shared EU plan for member states to work together on the war in Ukraine (n=1,962), Italy (n=281), Poland (n=291), Sweden (n=318), France (n=269), Spain (n=264), Germany (n=258), Romania (n=281) NB: Not showing “other”, “don’t know”, “none of these” response options