



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

A large field of sunflowers stretches towards the horizon under a warm, golden sunset sky. A white rectangular box is centered horizontally across the middle of the image, containing the text "EXECUTIVE SUMMARY" in bold, black, uppercase letters. The sunflowers in the foreground are in sharp focus, showing their bright yellow petals and dark brown centers, while those in the distance are blurred. The overall mood is peaceful and vibrant.

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.
- Respondents are twice as likely to trust their national government over the EU to make decisions that improve their day-to-day life (41% vs. 19%), though three in ten have equal amounts of trust in both institutions (29%).
- 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

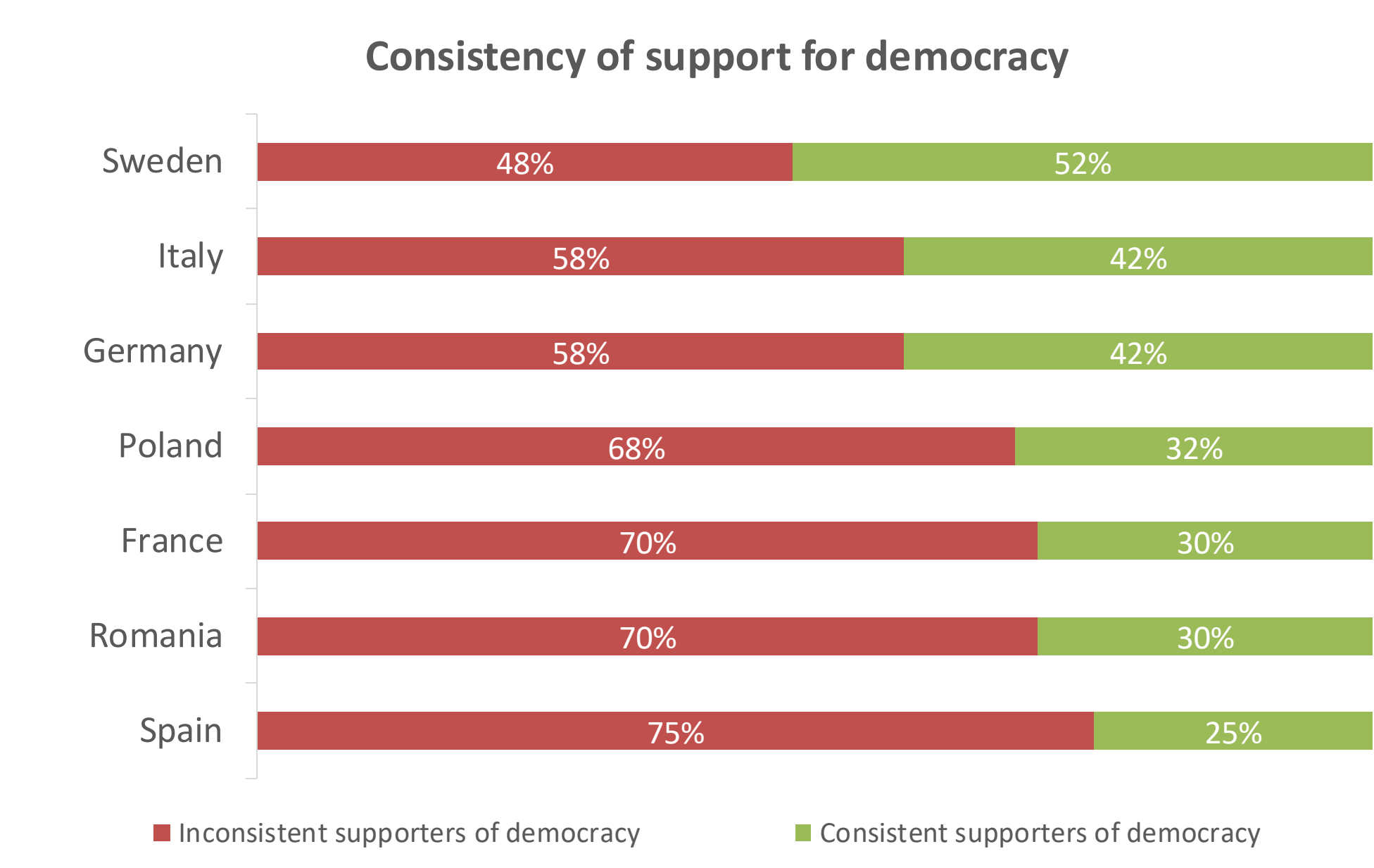
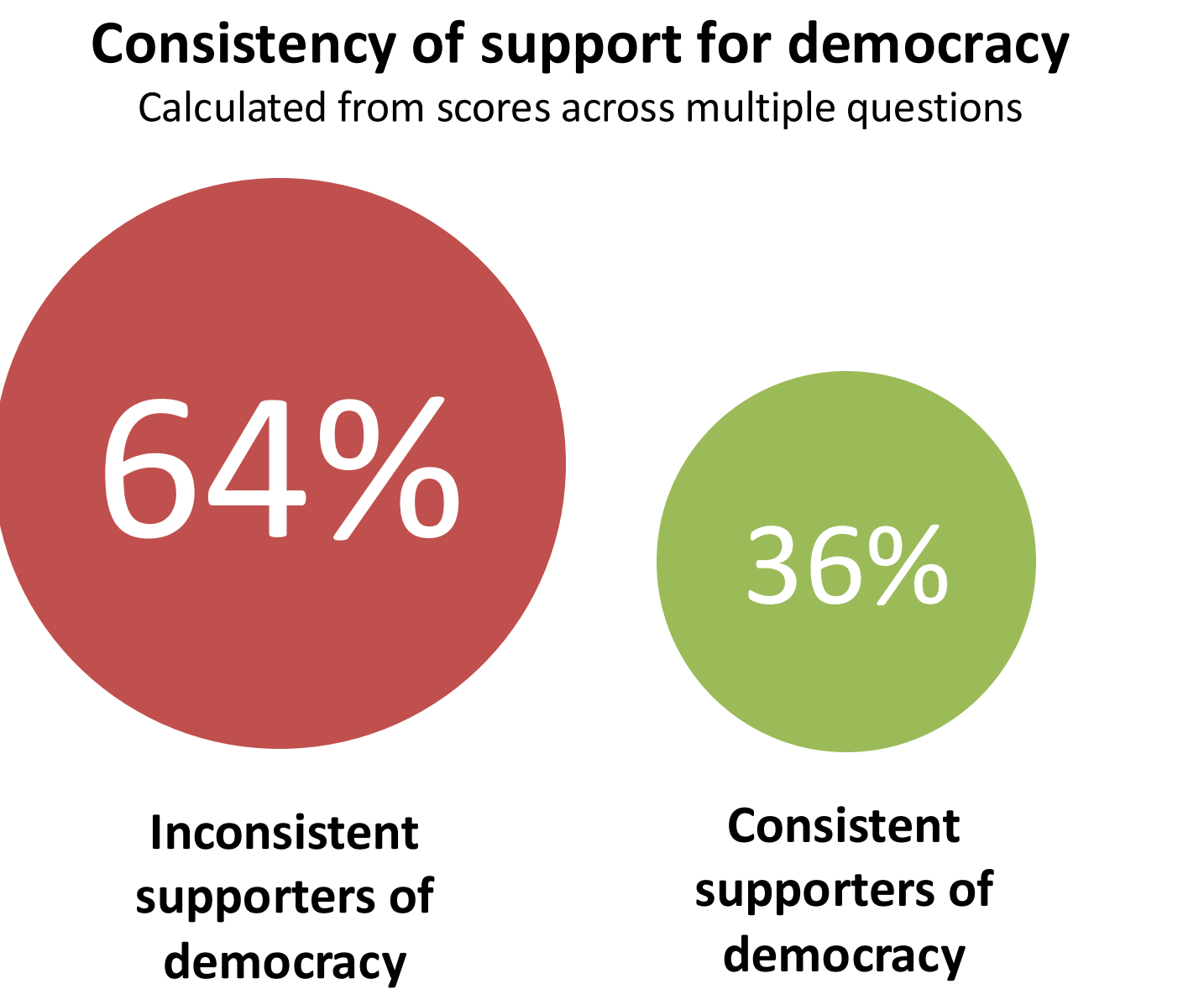
Defence & security

- 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

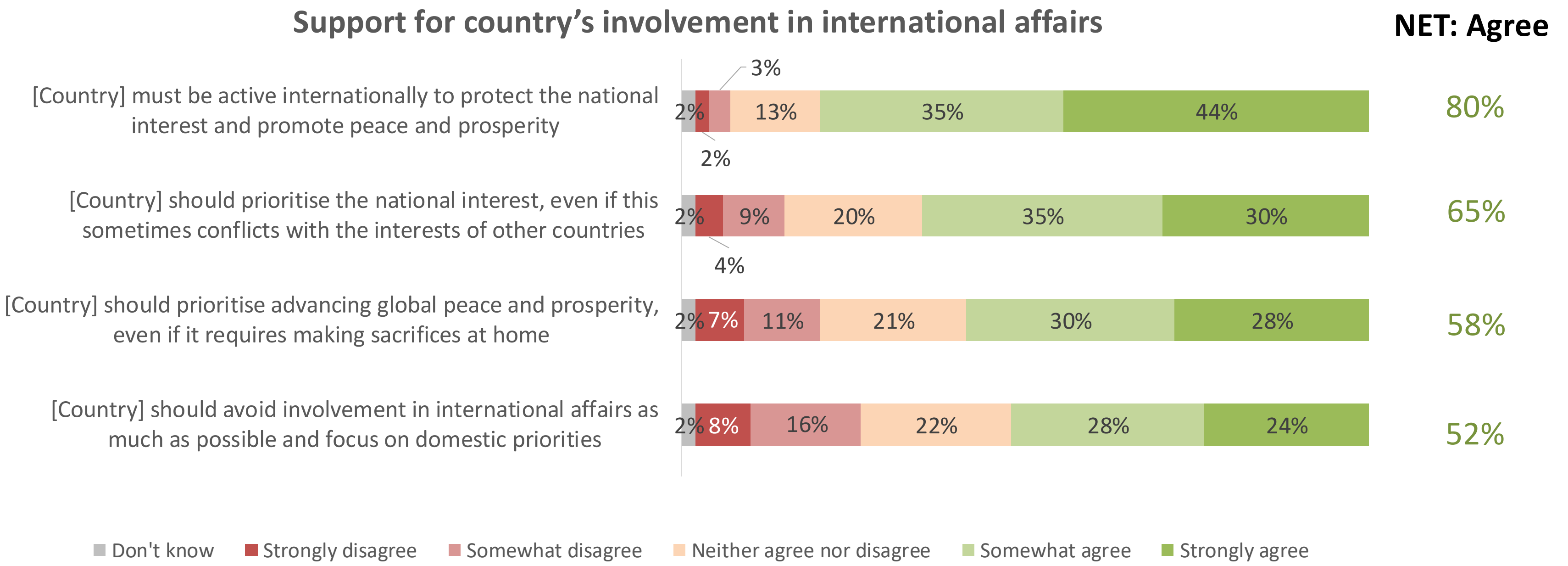


JUST OVER A THIRD OF RESPONDENTS ARE CONSISTENT SUPPORTERS OF DEMOCRACY, WITH RESPONDENTS IN SWEDEN, GERMANY AND ITALY MOST LIKELY TO FALL UNDER THIS BRACKET

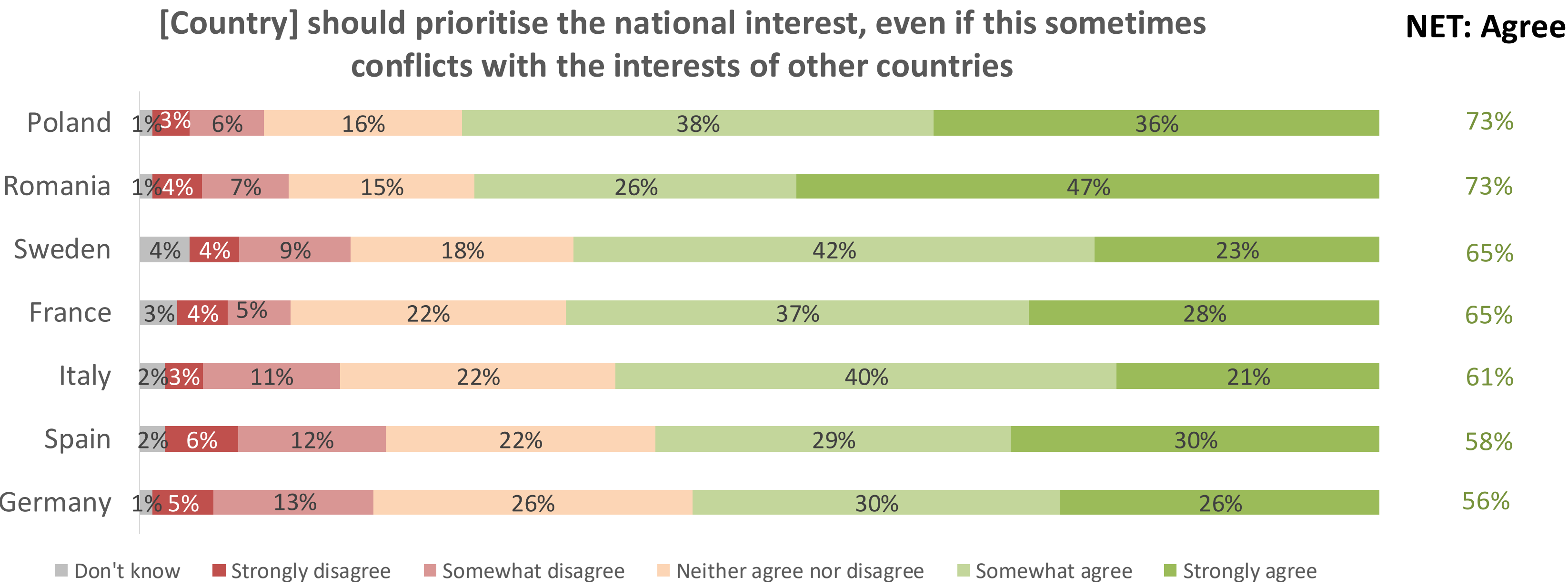


Q1a. Various types of political systems are described in the three statements below. For each one, would you say it is a very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad way of governing country? / | Q1b. On a scale where '1' represents 'Not At All Important To Me' and '10' represents 'Very Important 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

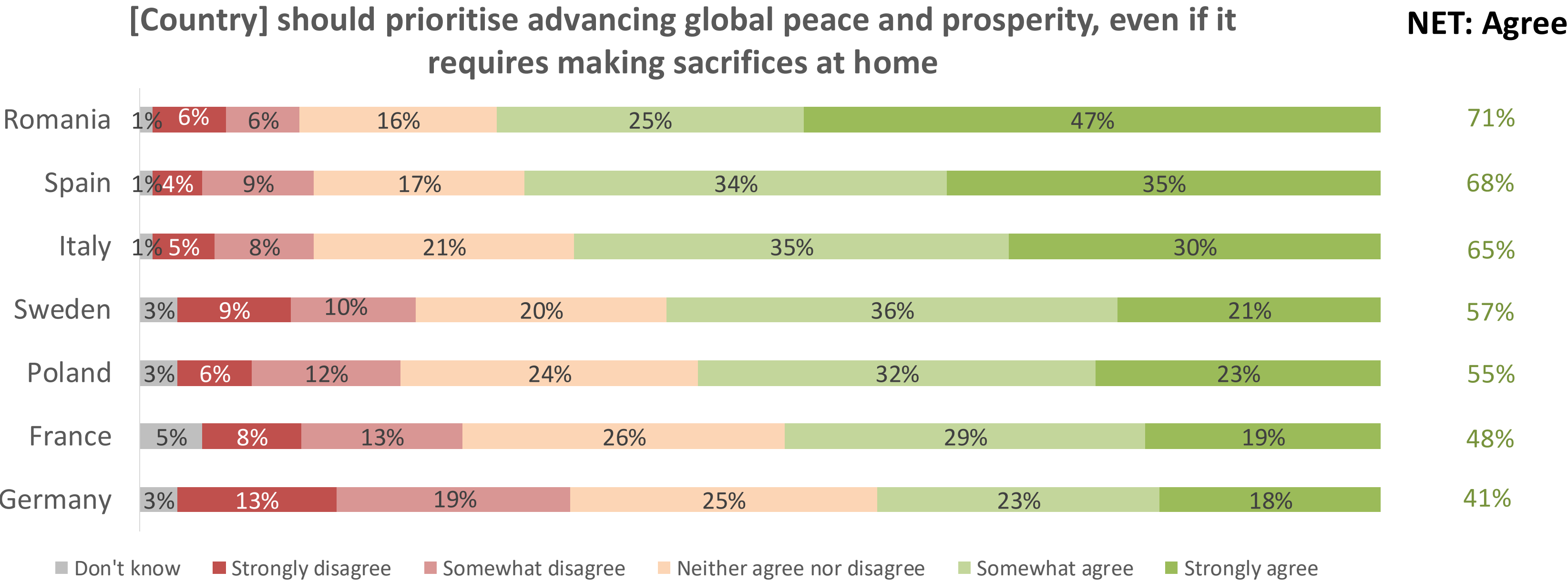
RESPONDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO AGREE THAT THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD BE ACTIVE INTERNATIONALLY TO PROTECT THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND PROMOTE PEACE AND PROSPERITY



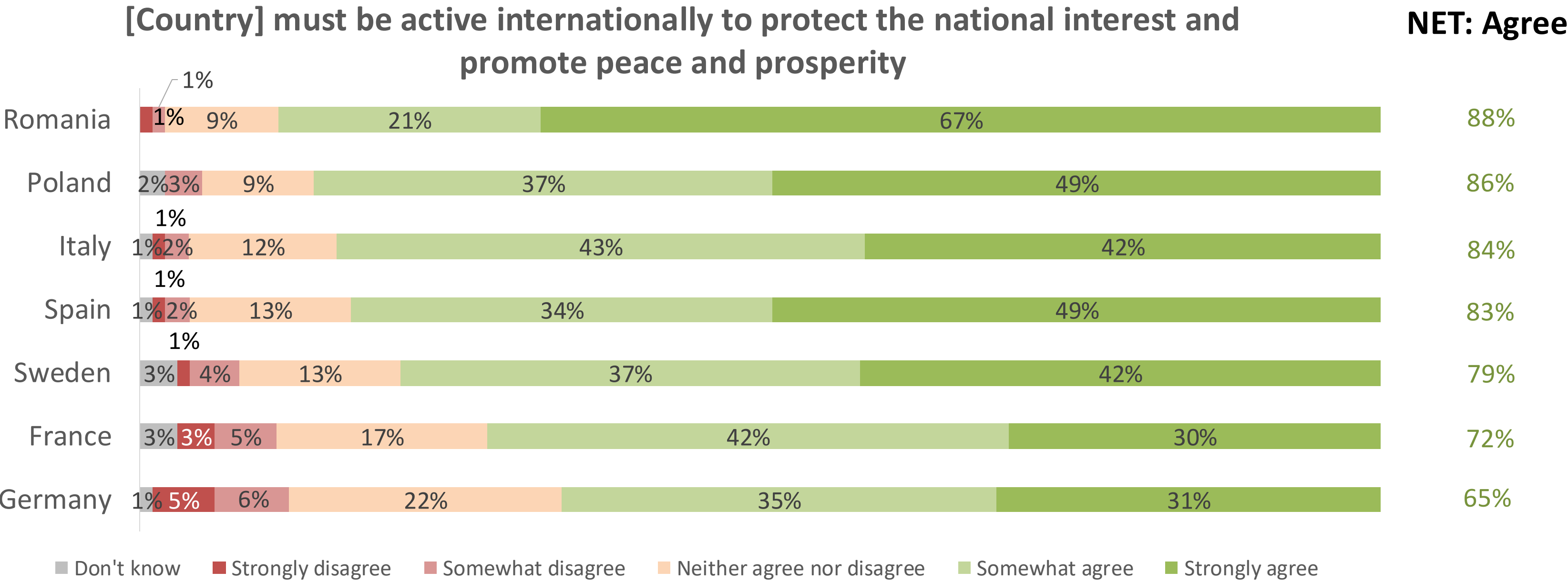
RESPONDENTS IN POLAND AND ROMANIA ARE MOST LIKELY TO AGREE THAT THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD PRIORITISE THE NATIONAL INTEREST, EVEN IF THIS SOMETIMES CONFLICTS WITH THE INTERESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES



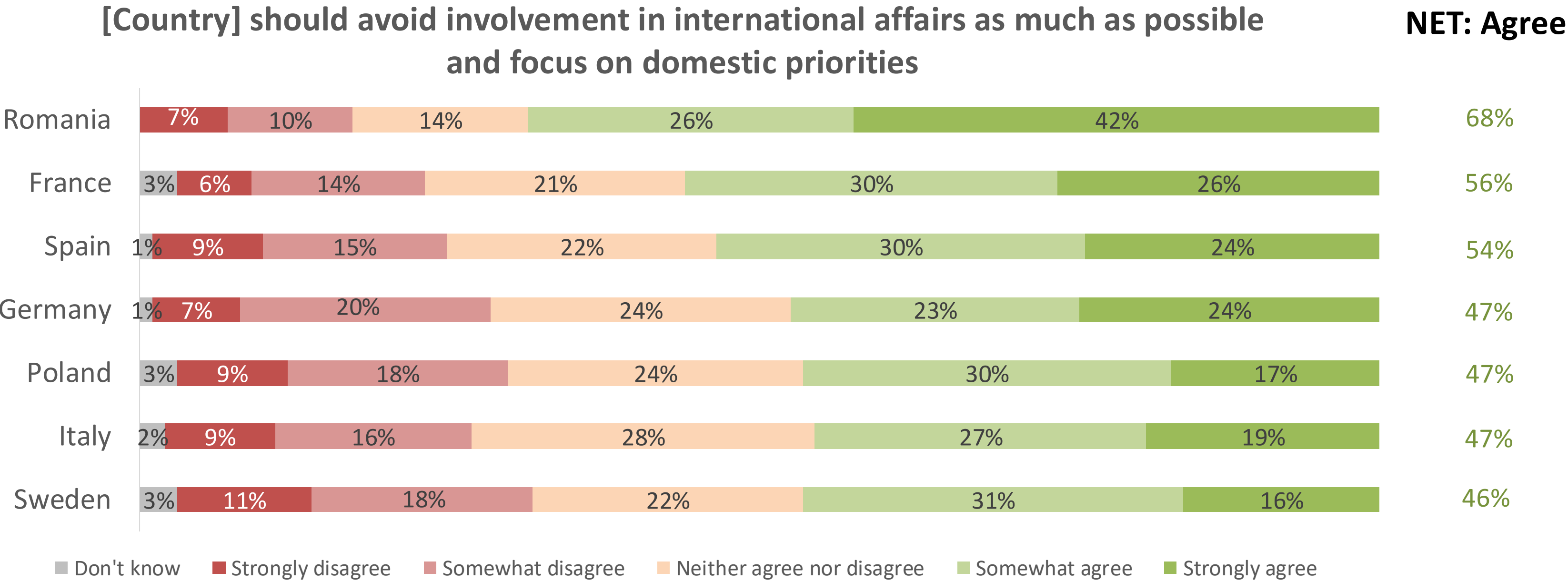
RESPONDENTS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY ARE LEAST LIKELY TO AGREE THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD PRIORITISE ADVANCING GLOBAL PEACE AND PROSPERITY, EVEN IF IT REQUIRES MAKING SACRIFICES AT HOME



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



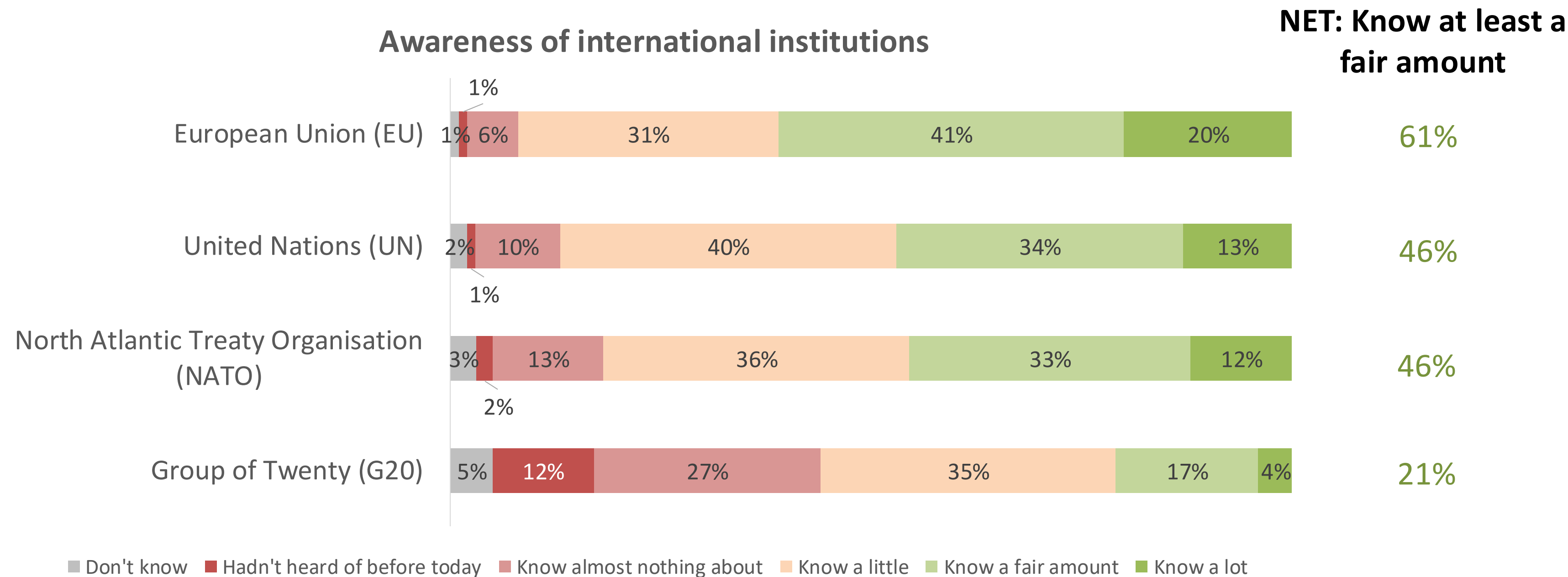
RESPONDENTS IN ROMANIA ARE MOST LIKELY TO AGREE THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND FOCUS ON DOMESTIC PRIORITIES



The background of the image is the European Union flag, which consists of a blue field with twelve five-pointed gold stars arranged in a circle. The flag is shown waving, with folds and ripples visible in the fabric. The text is overlaid on the left side of the flag.

THE EUROPEAN UNION & INSTITUTIONS

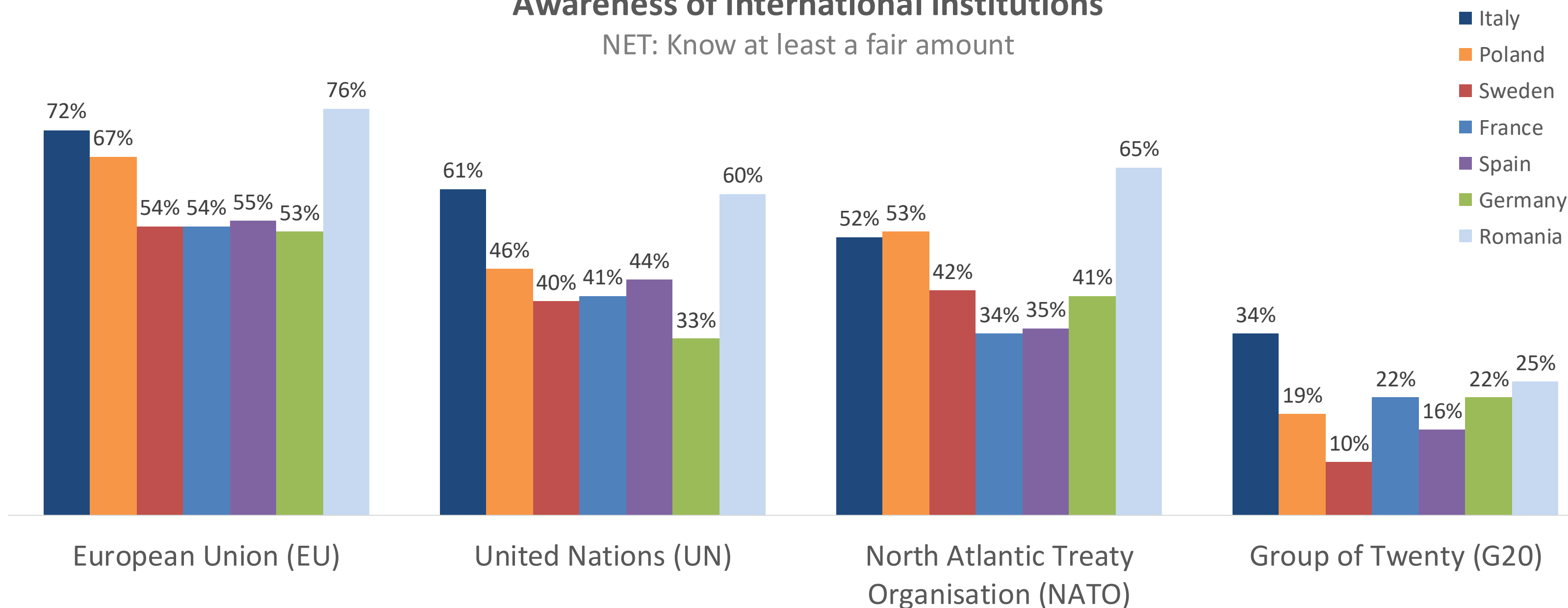
THREE IN FIVE RESPONDENTS KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE EU,
WHILE JUST UNDER HALF KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE UN AND
NATO



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

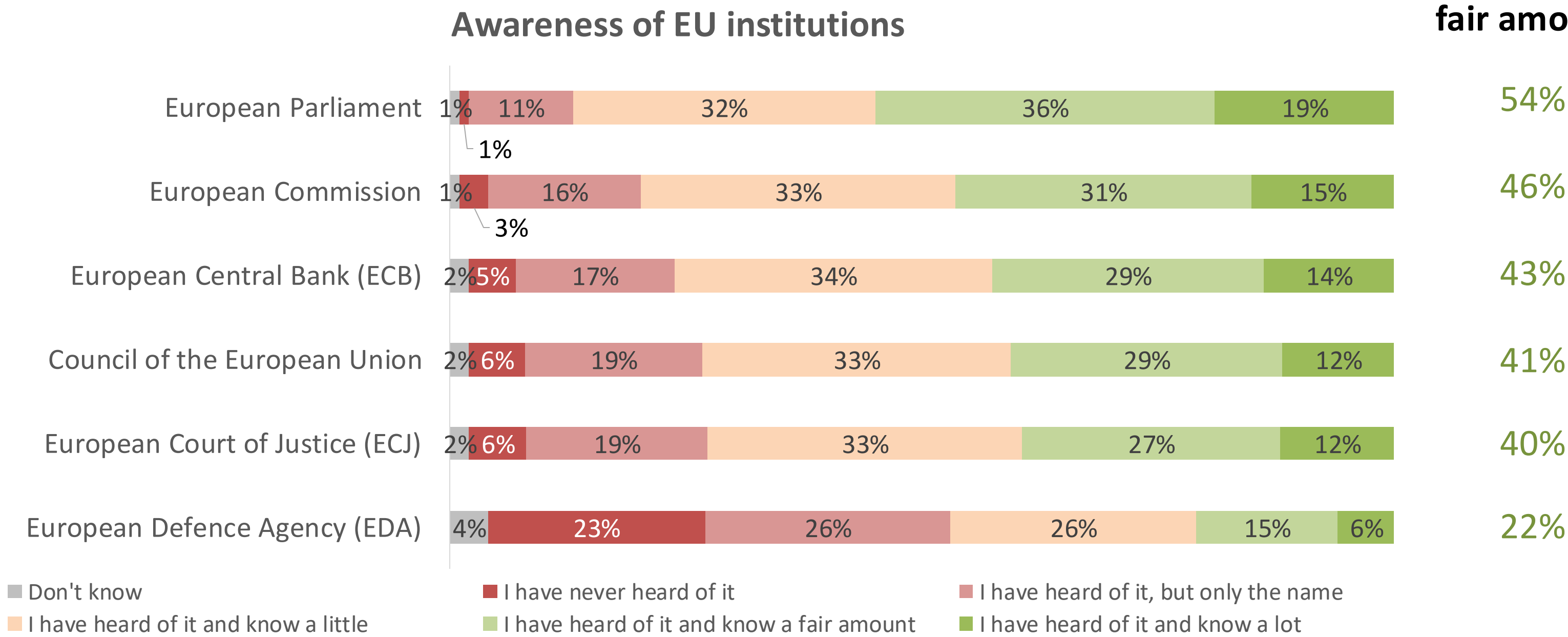
Awareness of international institutions

NET: Know at least a fair amount



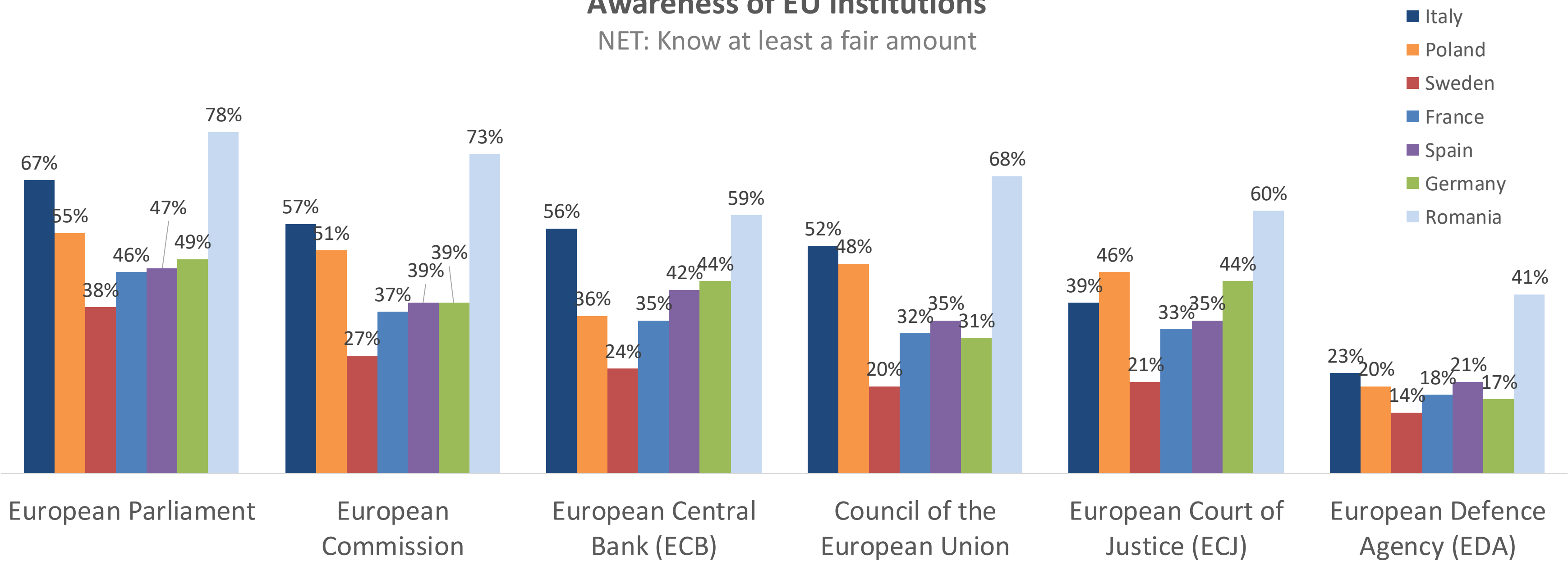
MORE THAN HALF OF RESPONDENTS KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, WHILE JUST ONE IN FIVE KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

NET: Know at least a fair amount

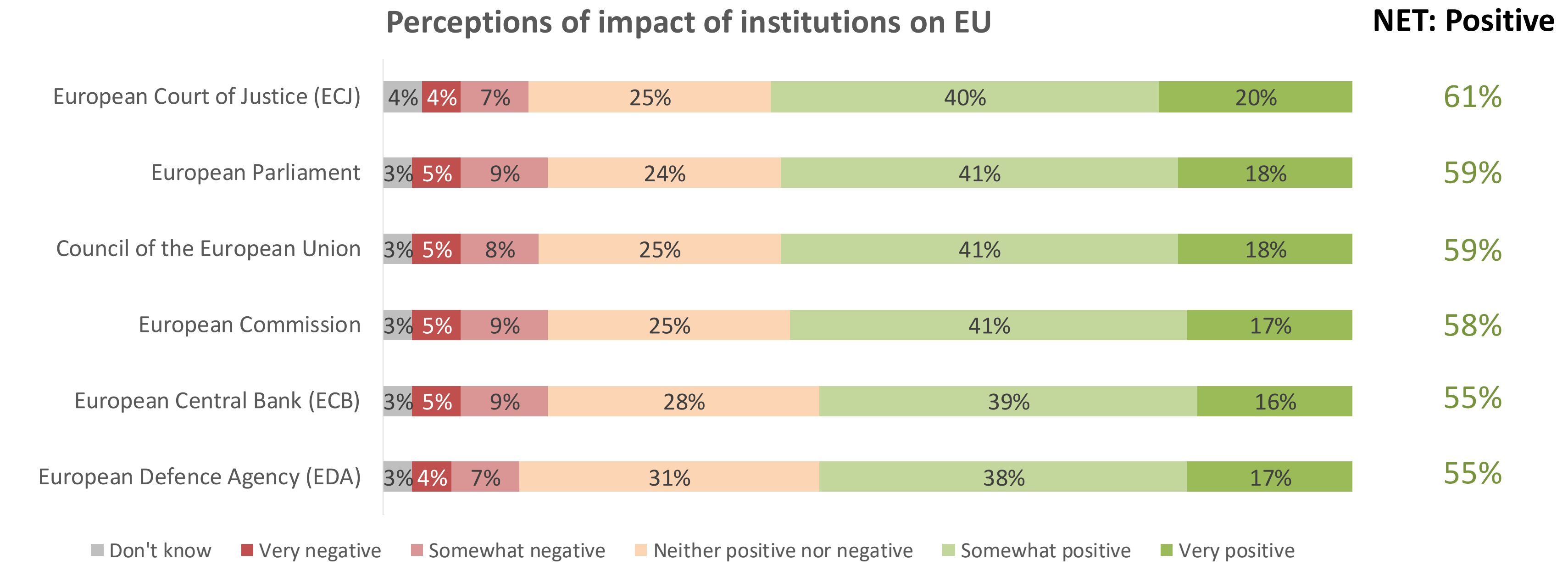


RESPONDENTS IN ROMANIA CLAIM TO HAVE THE HIGHEST AWARENESS OF EU INSTITUTIONS

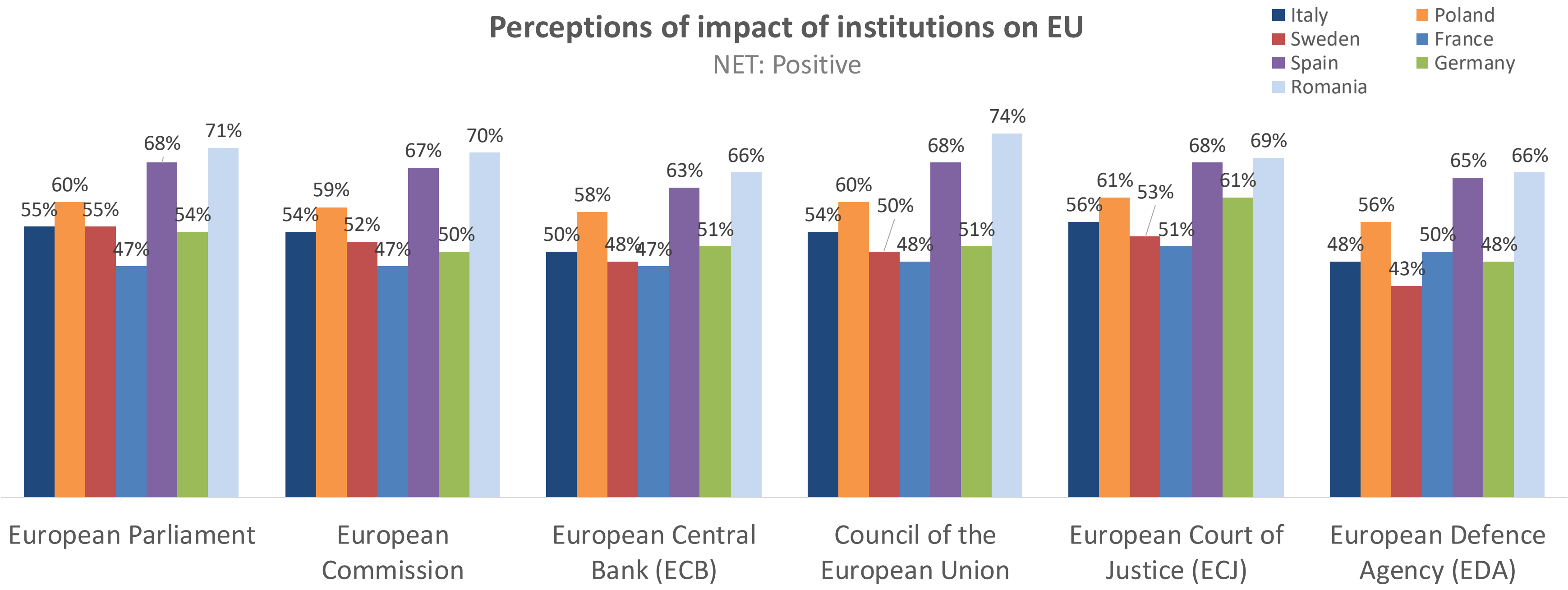
Awareness of EU institutions
NET: Know at least a fair amount



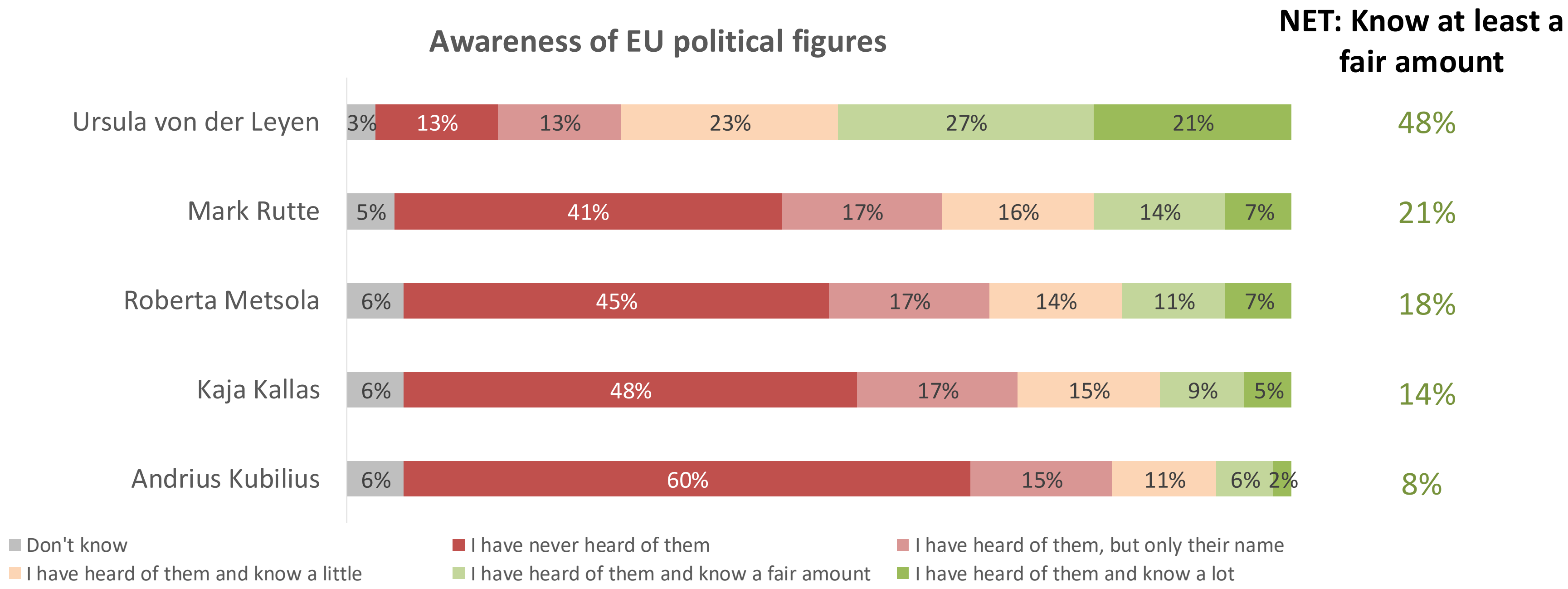
RESPONDENTS WHO KNOW AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT THE INSTITUTION ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THE ECJ HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE EU. WHILE SCORES REMAIN RELATIVELY HIGH, THEY ARE LEAST POSITIVE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE EDA



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



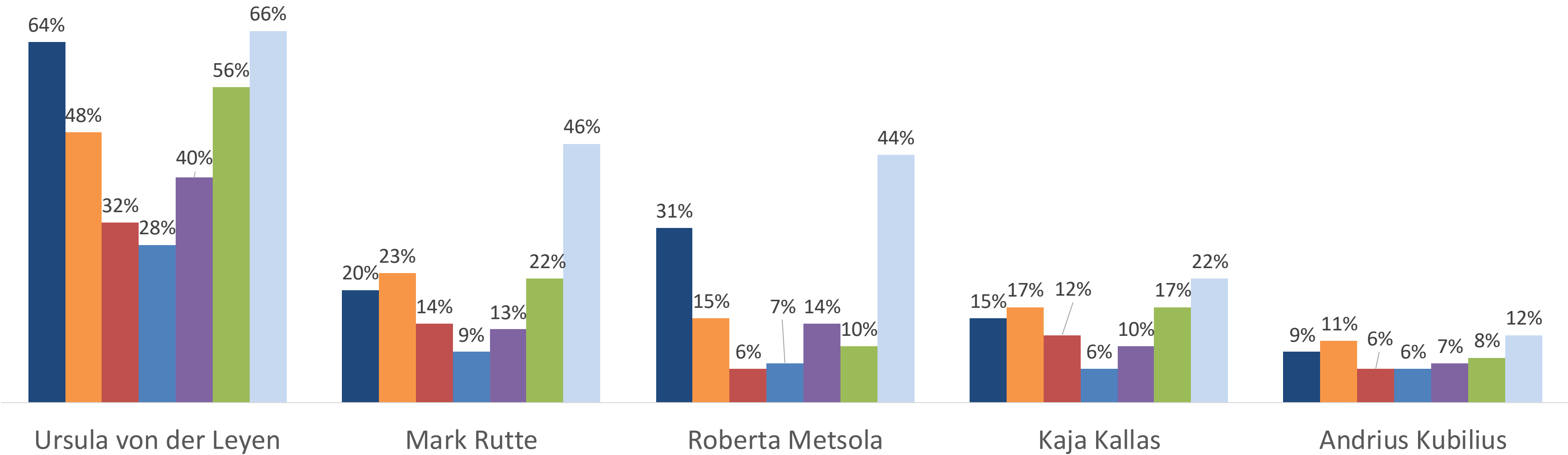
ALMOST HALF OF RESPONDENTS KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT URSULA VON DER LEYEN, WHILE LESS THAN ONE IN TEN KNOW AT LEAST A FAIR AMOUNT ABOUT DEFENCE COMMISSIONER ANDRIUS KUBILIUS



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

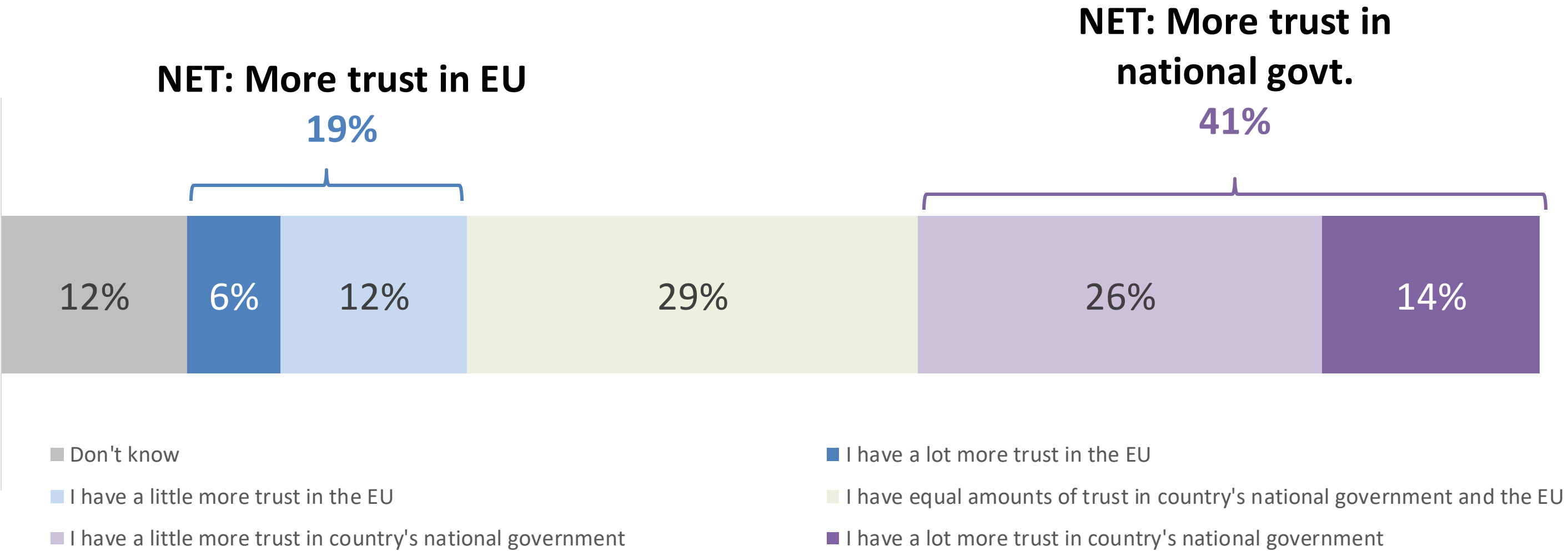
Awareness of EU political figures
NET: Know at least a fair amount

- Italy
- Sweden
- Spain
- Romania
- Poland
- France
- Germany



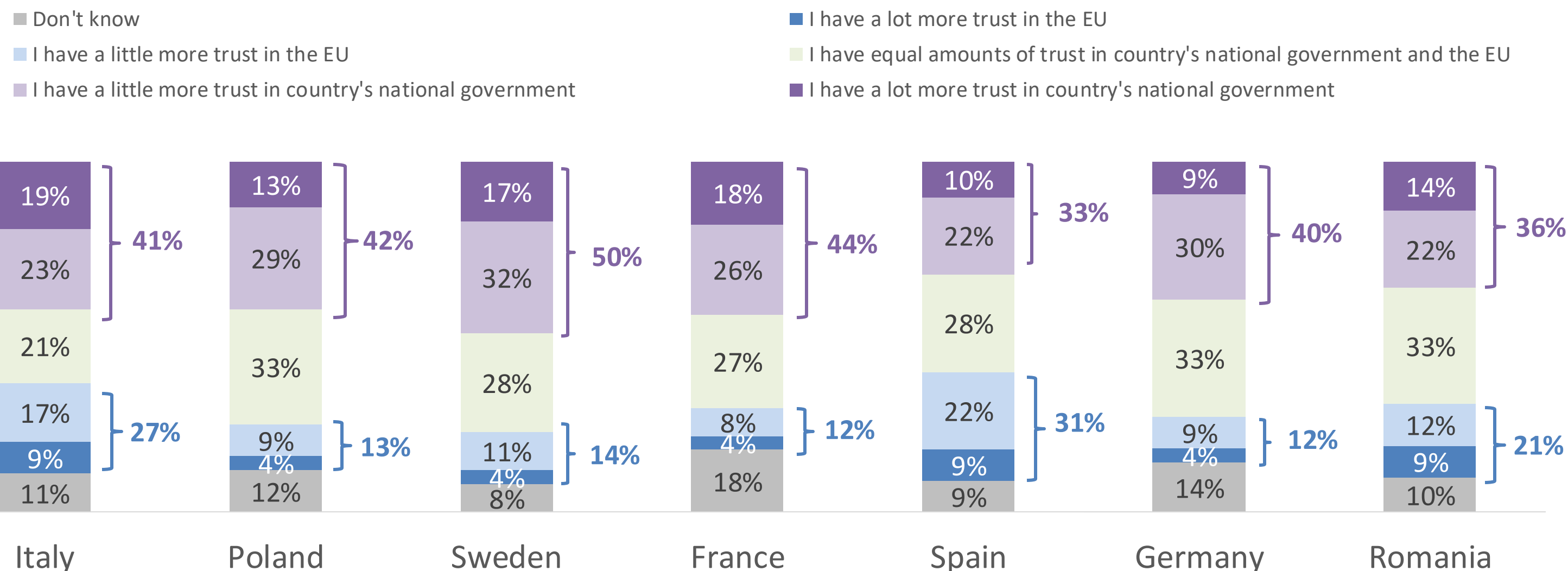
RESPONDENTS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO TRUST THEIR NATIONAL GOVT. OVER THE EU TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT IMPROVE THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE, THOUGH THREE IN TEN HAVE EQUAL AMOUNTS OF TRUST IN BOTH INSTITUTIONS

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

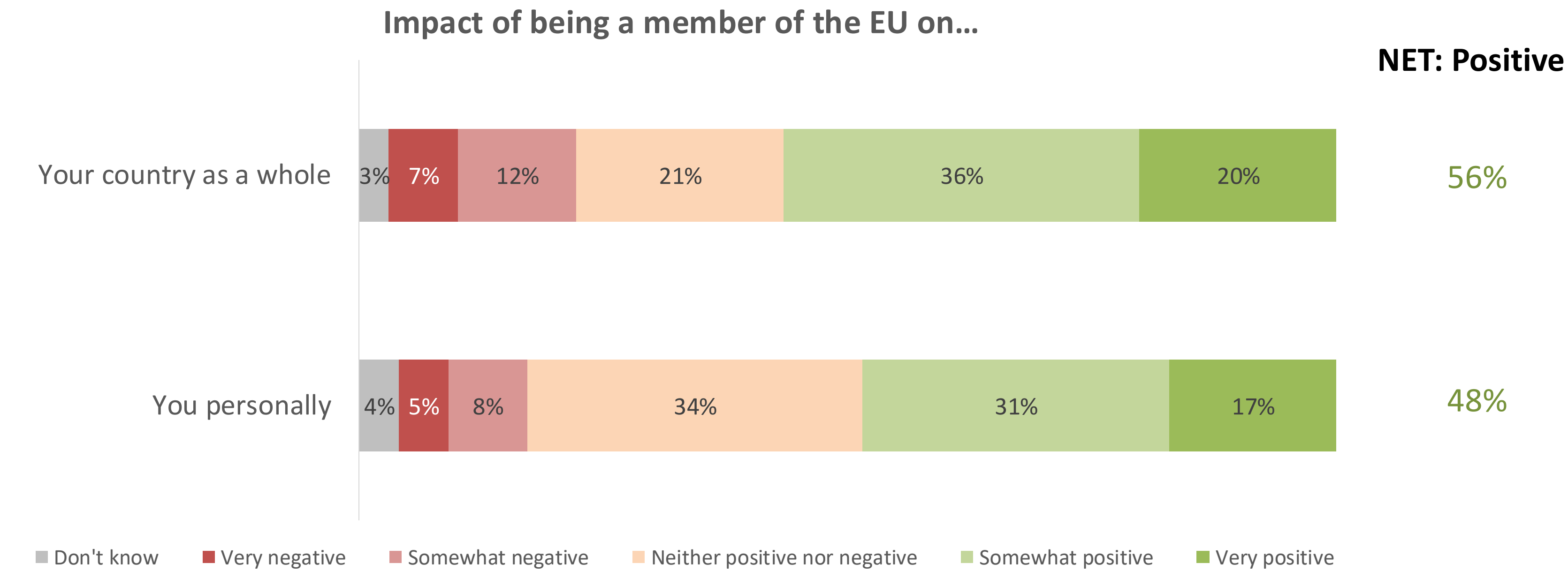


RESPONDENTS IN SPAIN ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THEY HAVE MORE TRUST IN THE EU THAN THEIR NATIONAL GOVT TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT IMPROVE THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE, BUT NO COUNTRY'S RESPONDENTS TRUST THE EU MORE THAN THEIR NATIONAL GOVT

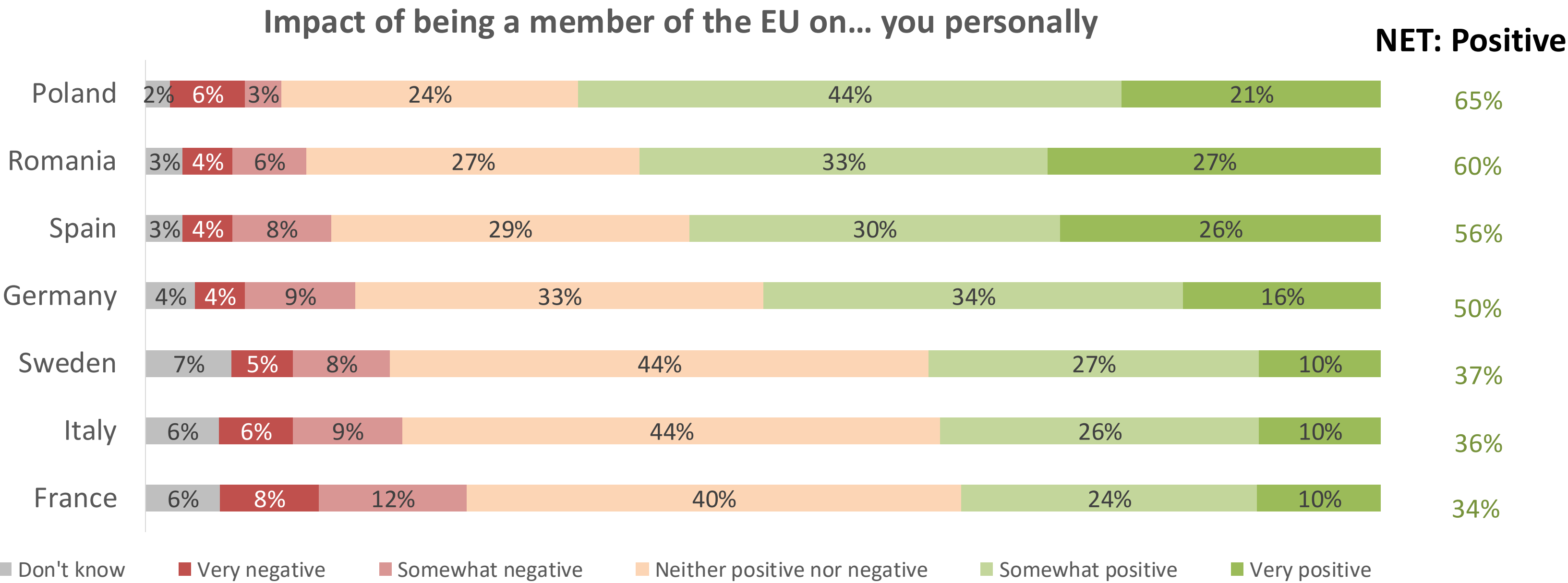
Trust in national govt. vs. EU to make decisions that improve day-to-day life



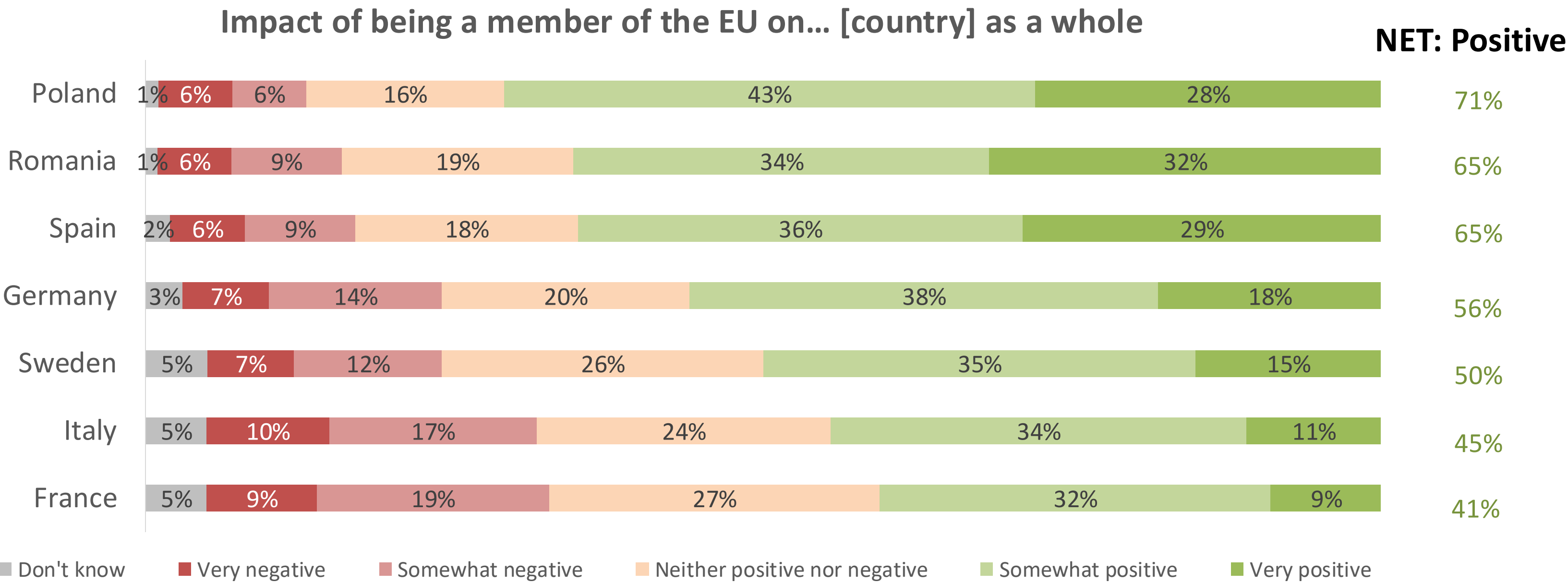
MORE THAN HALF OF RESPONDENTS SAY BEING A MEMBER OF THE EU HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR COUNTRY AS A WHOLE, WHILE JUST UNDER HALF SAY IT HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEM PERSONALLY



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



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



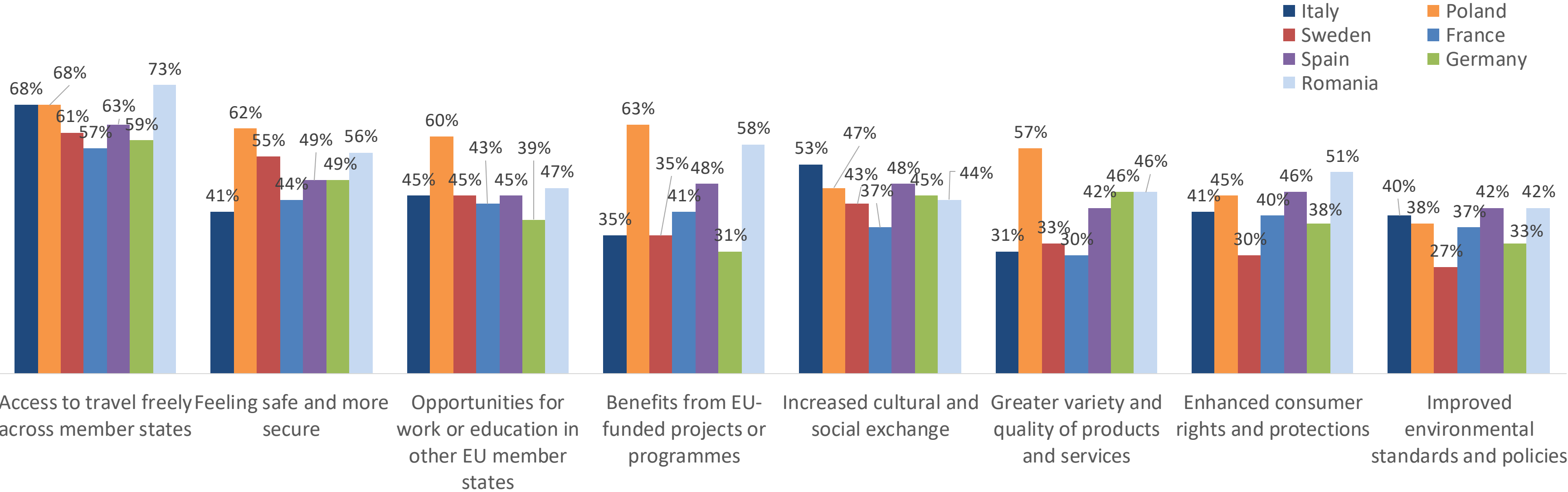
RESPONDENTS WHO THINK THE EU HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEM PERSONALLY ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THIS IS BECAUSE OF ACCESS TO TRAVEL FREELY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THEY FEEL MORE SAFE AND SECURE

Positive (personal) impacts of country being member of EU



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

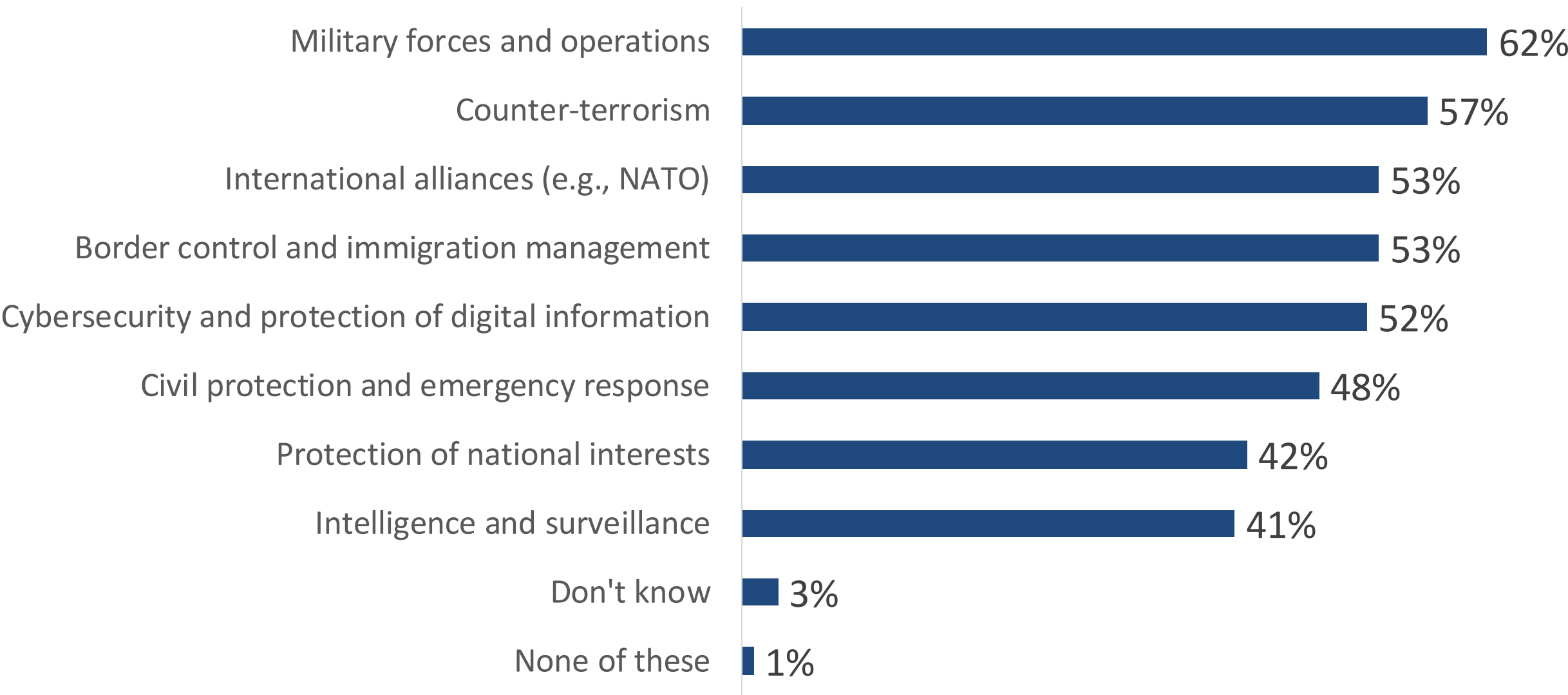
DEFENCE &

SECURITY



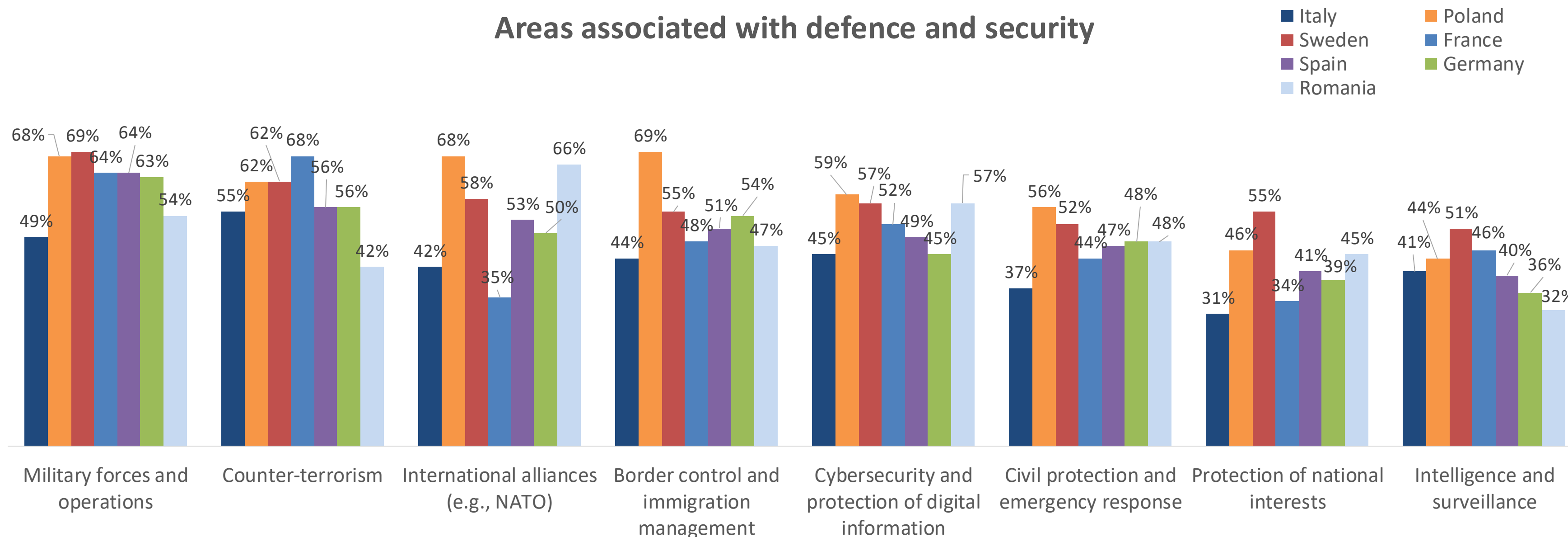
RESPONDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO ASSOCIATE THE TERM ‘DEFENCE AND SECURITY’ WITH MILITARY FORCES AND OPERATIONS, COUNTER-TERRORISM AND INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES

Areas associated with defence and security

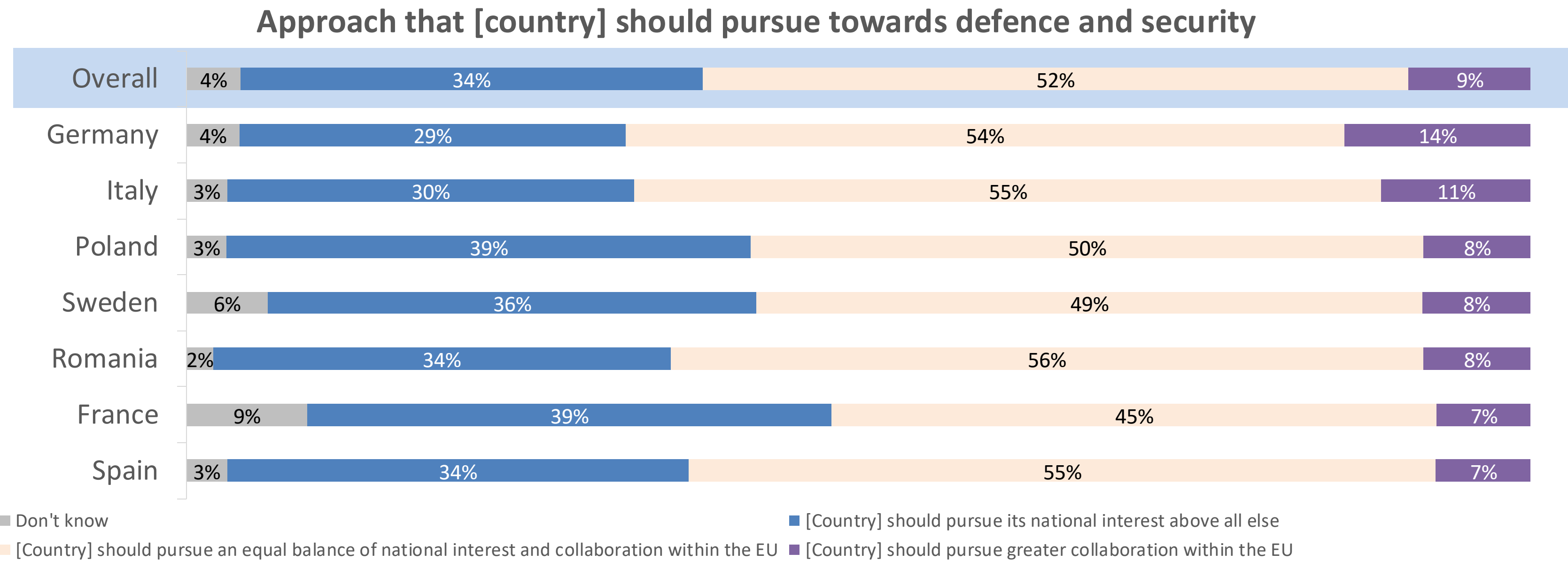


RESPONDENTS IN SWEDEN ARE MOST LIKELY TO ASSOCIATE DEFENCE AND SECURITY WITH TRADITIONAL MILITARY FORCES AND OPERATIONS, WHILE RESPONDENTS IN POLAND ARE MOST LIKELY ASSOCIATE THE TERM WITH INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES, BORDER CONTROL AND CYBERSECURITY

Areas associated with defence and security

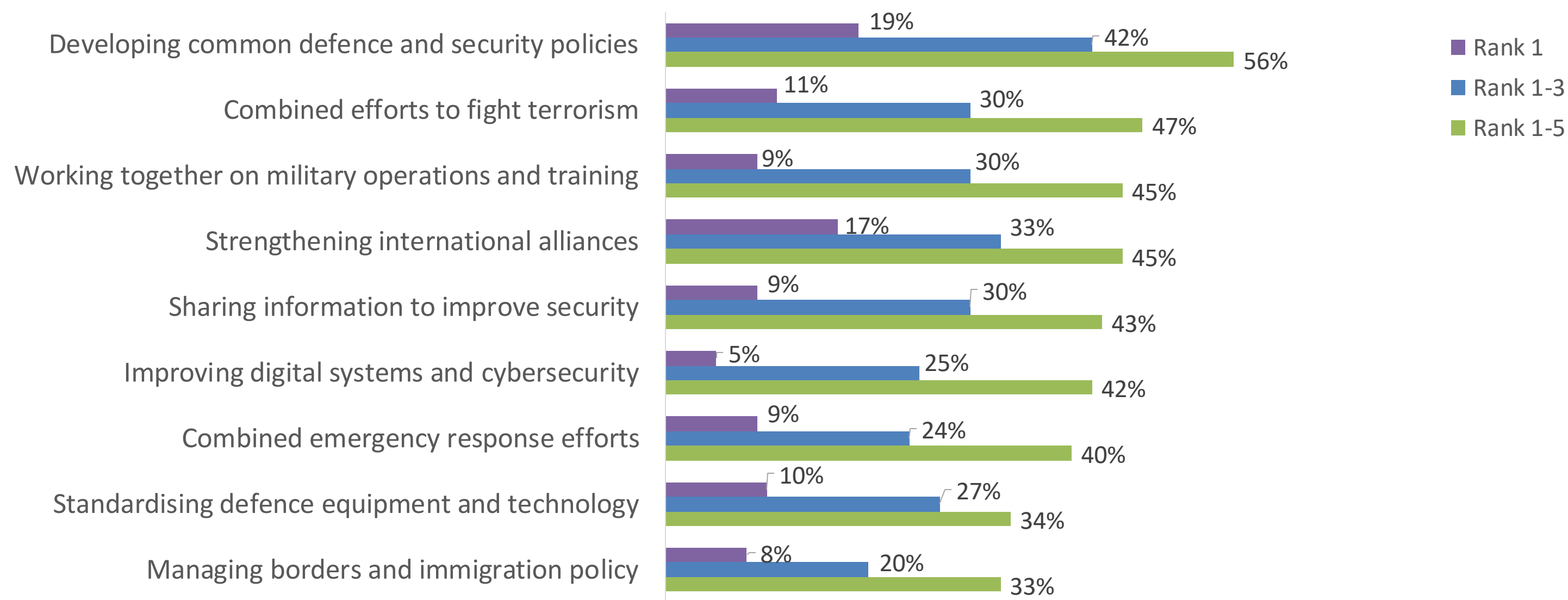


OVER HALF OF RESPONDENTS THINK THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD PURSUE AN EQUAL BALANCE OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND COLLABORATION WITHIN THE EU ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY

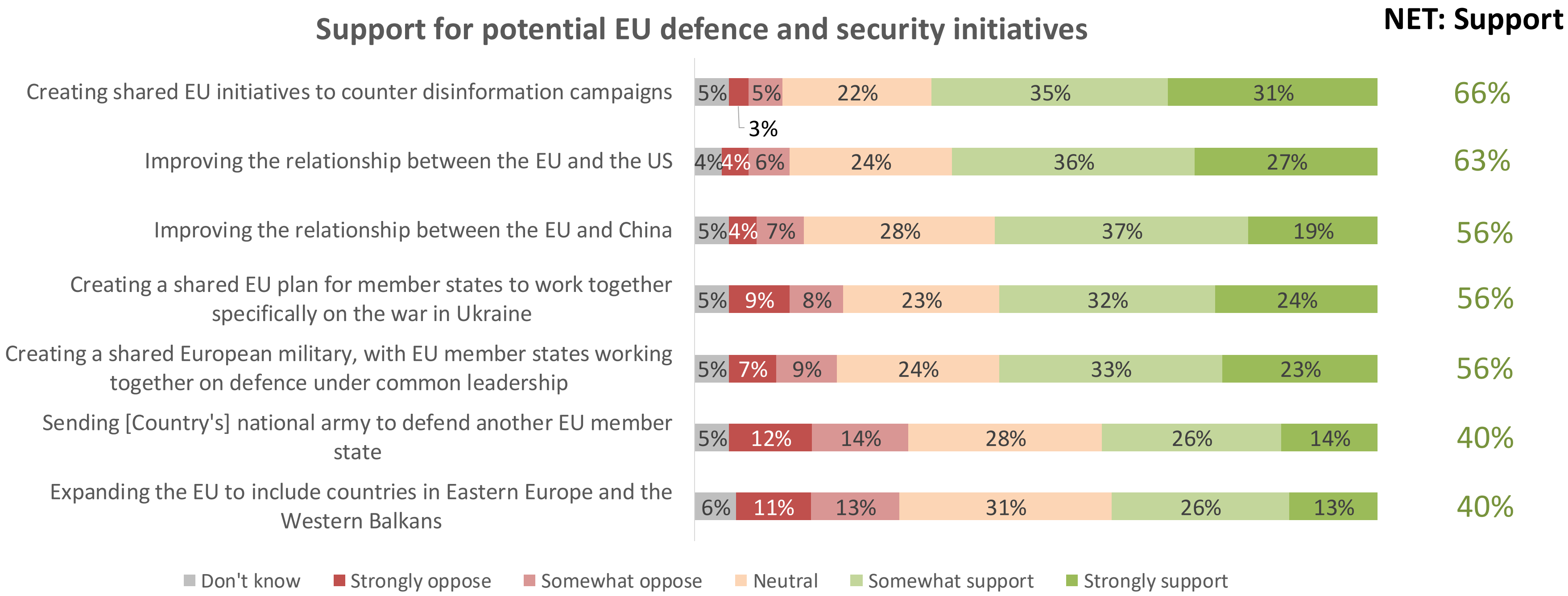


RESPONDENTS WHO WANT TO SEE THEIR COUNTRY PURSUE GREATER COLLABORATION WITHIN THE EU ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY ARE MOST LIKELY TO WANT TO SEE THIS THROUGH DEVELOPING COMMON DEFENCE AND SECURITY POLICIES

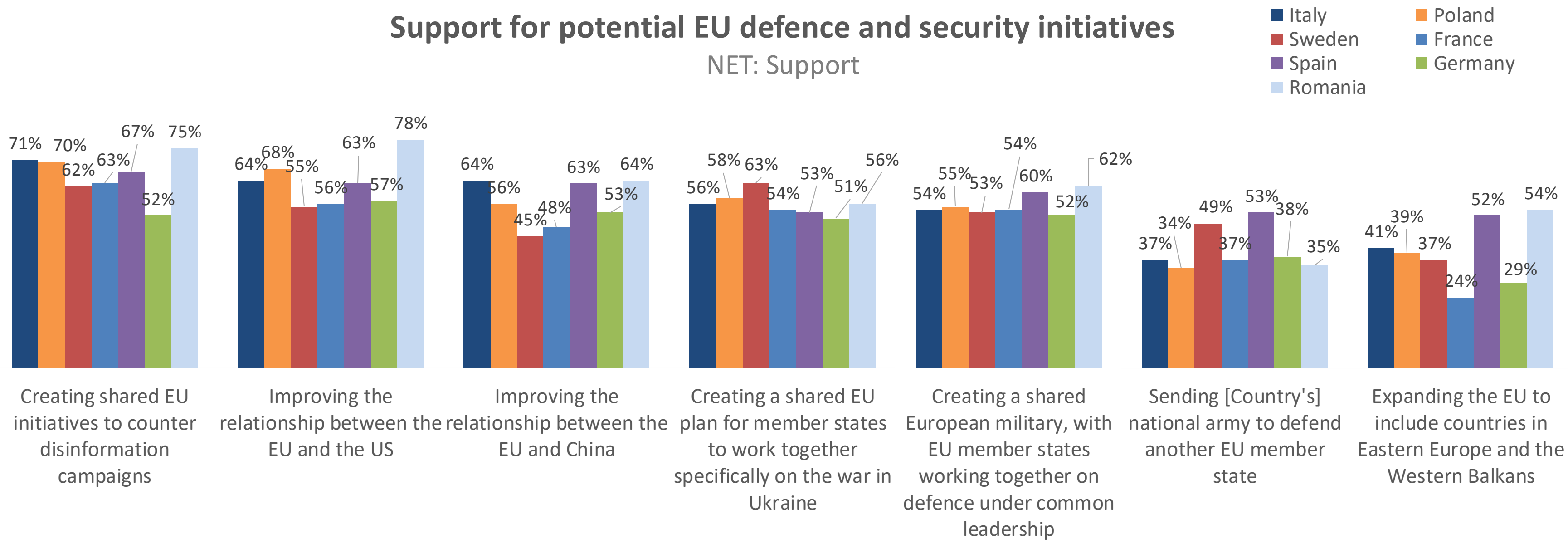
Where would like [country] to pursue greater collaboration within EU on defence and security (ranked options)



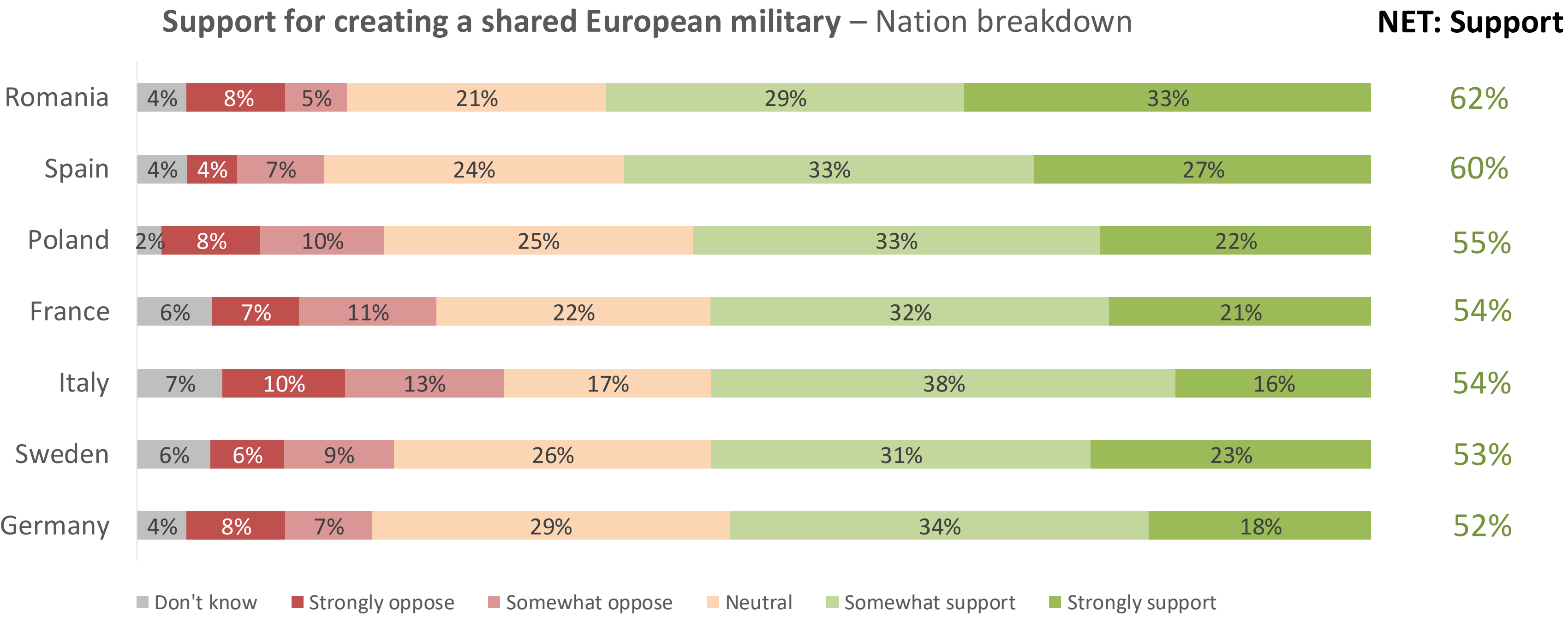
RESPONDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT CREATING SHARED INITIATIVES TO COUNTER DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS, WHILE OVER HALF WOULD SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EUROPEAN MILITARY



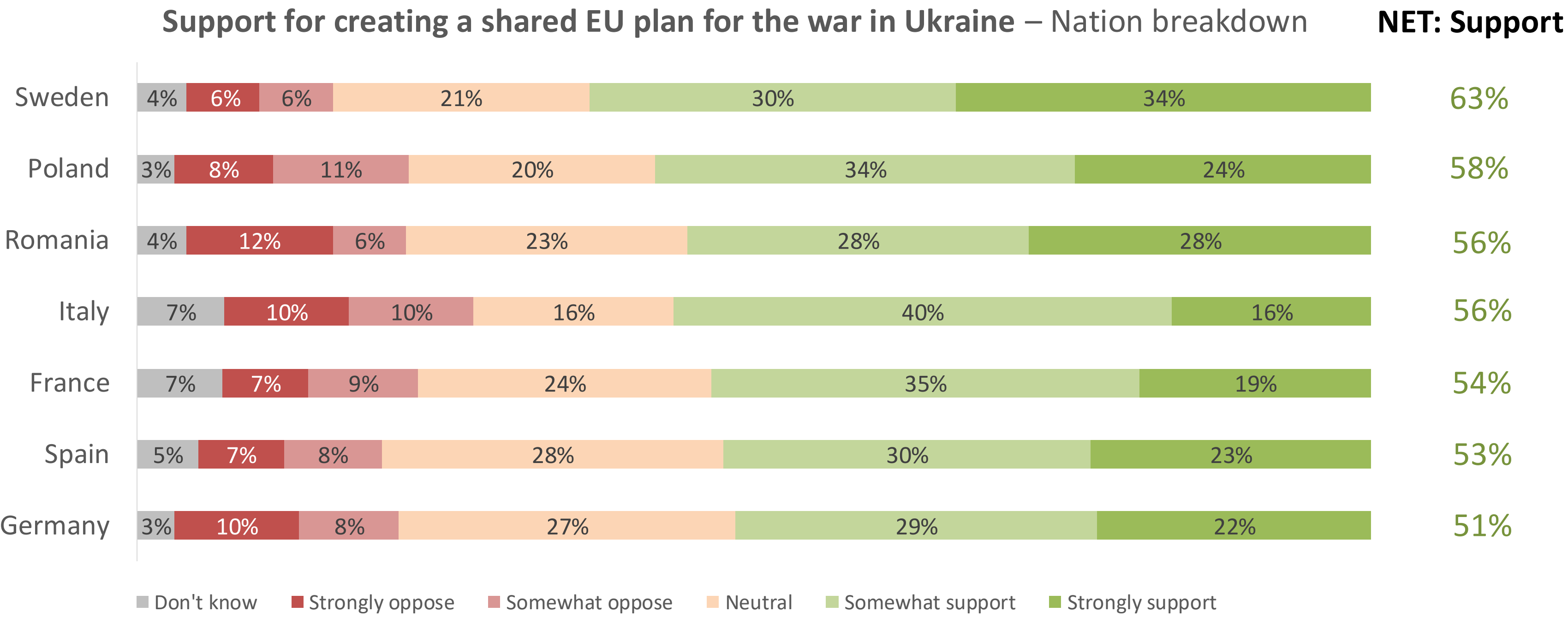
RESPONDENTS IN ROMANIA ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EUROPEAN MILITARY, WHILE RESPONDENTS IN SWEDEN ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EU PLAN FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE



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

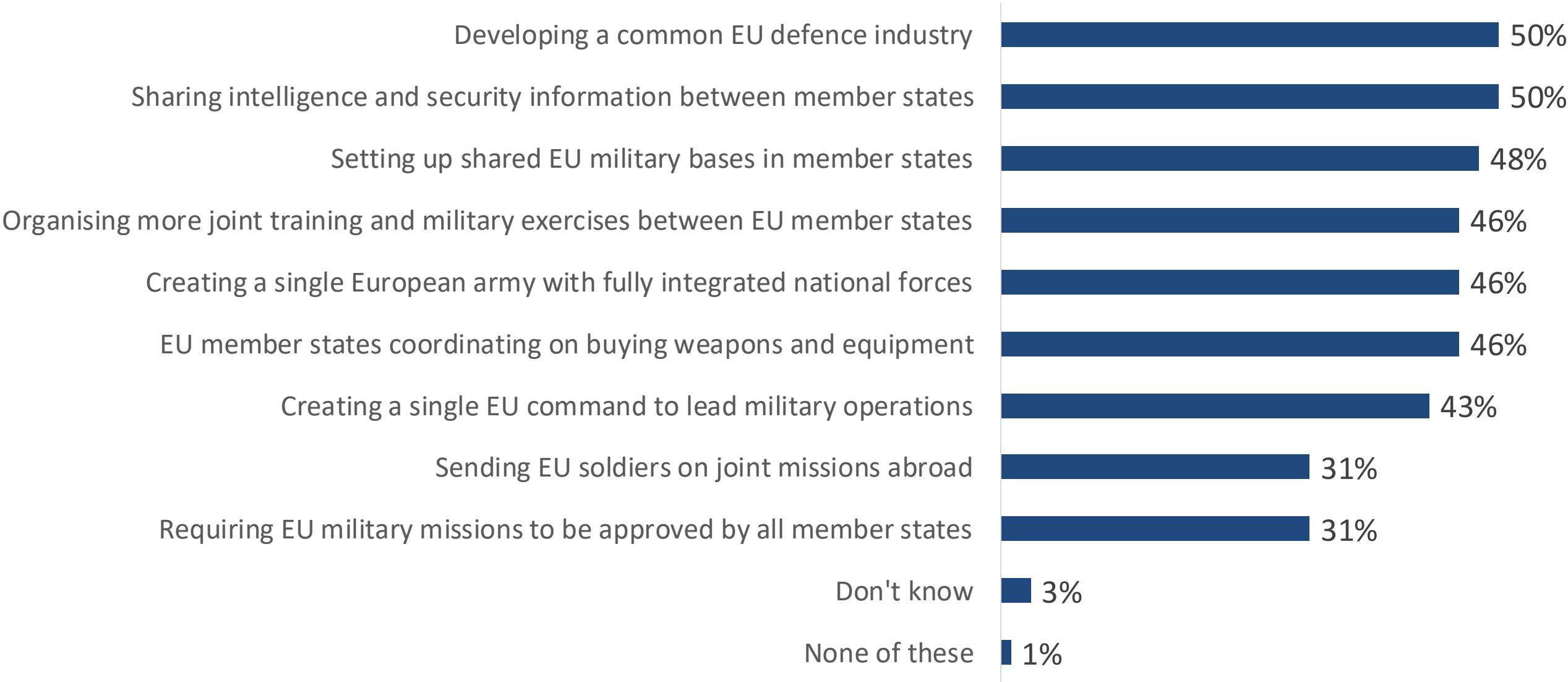


RESPONDENTS IN SWEDEN AND POLAND ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EU PLAN FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE



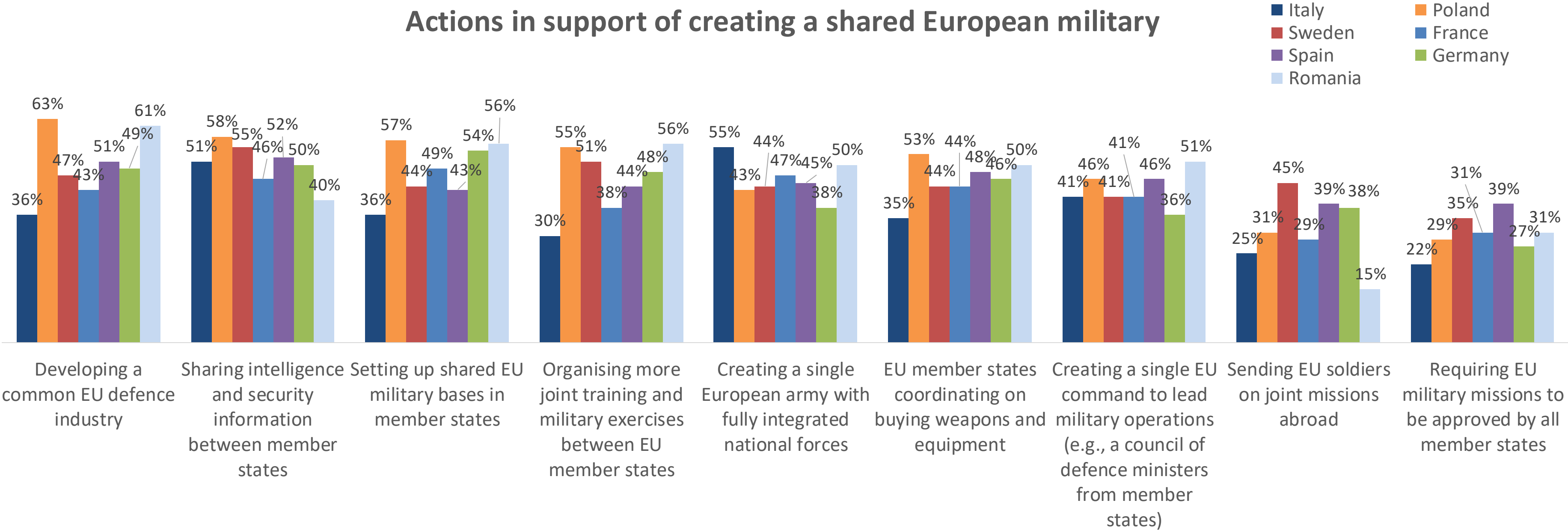
RESPONDENTS WHO SUPPORT CREATING A SHARED EUROPEAN MILITARY WOULD MOST LIKE TO SEE THIS THROUGH CREATING A COMMON EU DEFENCE INDUSTRY, INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND SETTING UP SHARED MILITARY BASES

Actions in support of creating a shared European military



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

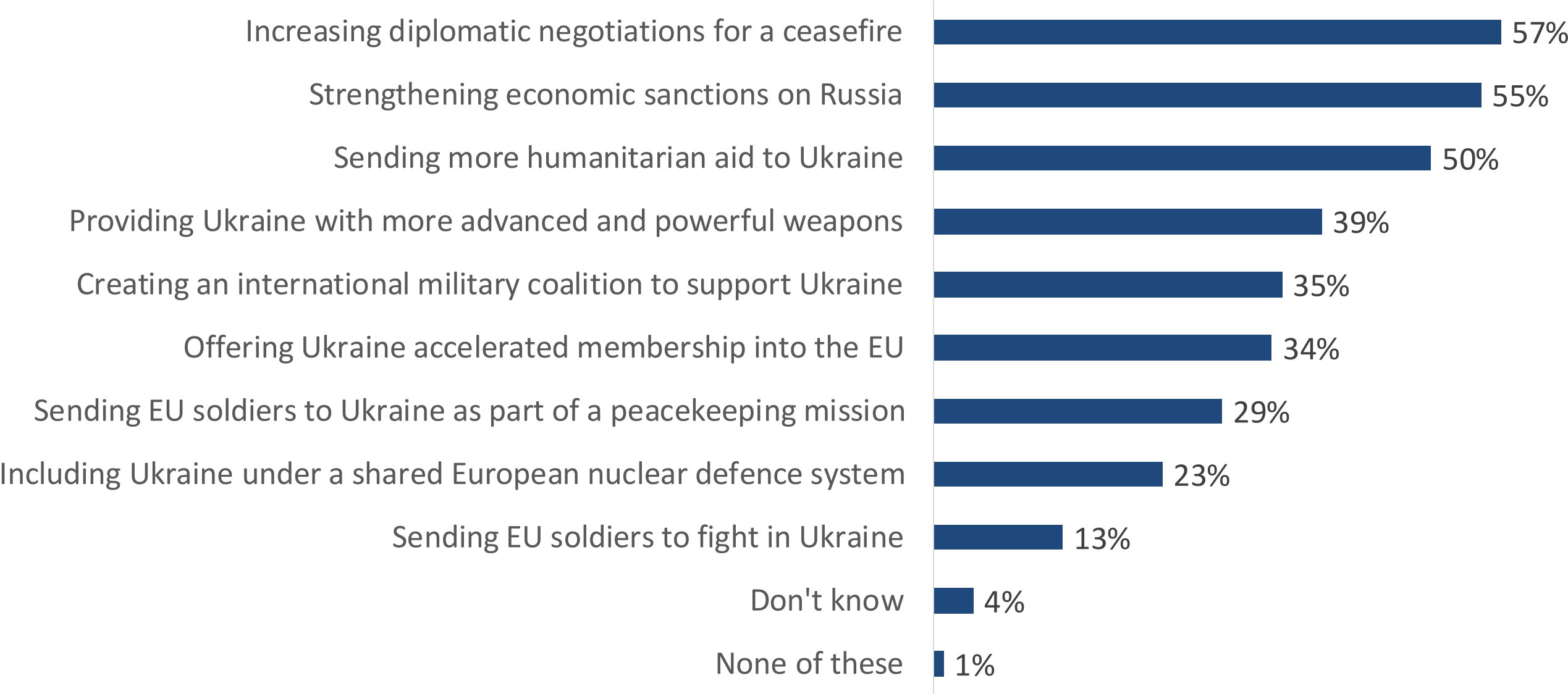
Actions in support of creating a shared European military



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



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

