

Public Opinion on the Security of Serbia and Dialogue with Pristina

Belgrade Centre for Security Policy

14 February 2017

Project Aim

- Explore citizens' attitude about personal and national security, foreign policy and expected answers to security challenges and threats
- Contribution to the discussion on new Strategy of National Security of Serbia

On public opinion research

- **Questionnaire:** includes 135 questions envisioned by BCSP
- **Methodology:** face-to-face interviews using random sample
- **Timeframe:** from 26 December 2016 until 14 January 2017
- **Representative sample:** 1,403 adult citizens of Serbia (excluding Kosovo)

The public perception of internal and external threats

Dr Miloš Popović (BCBP)

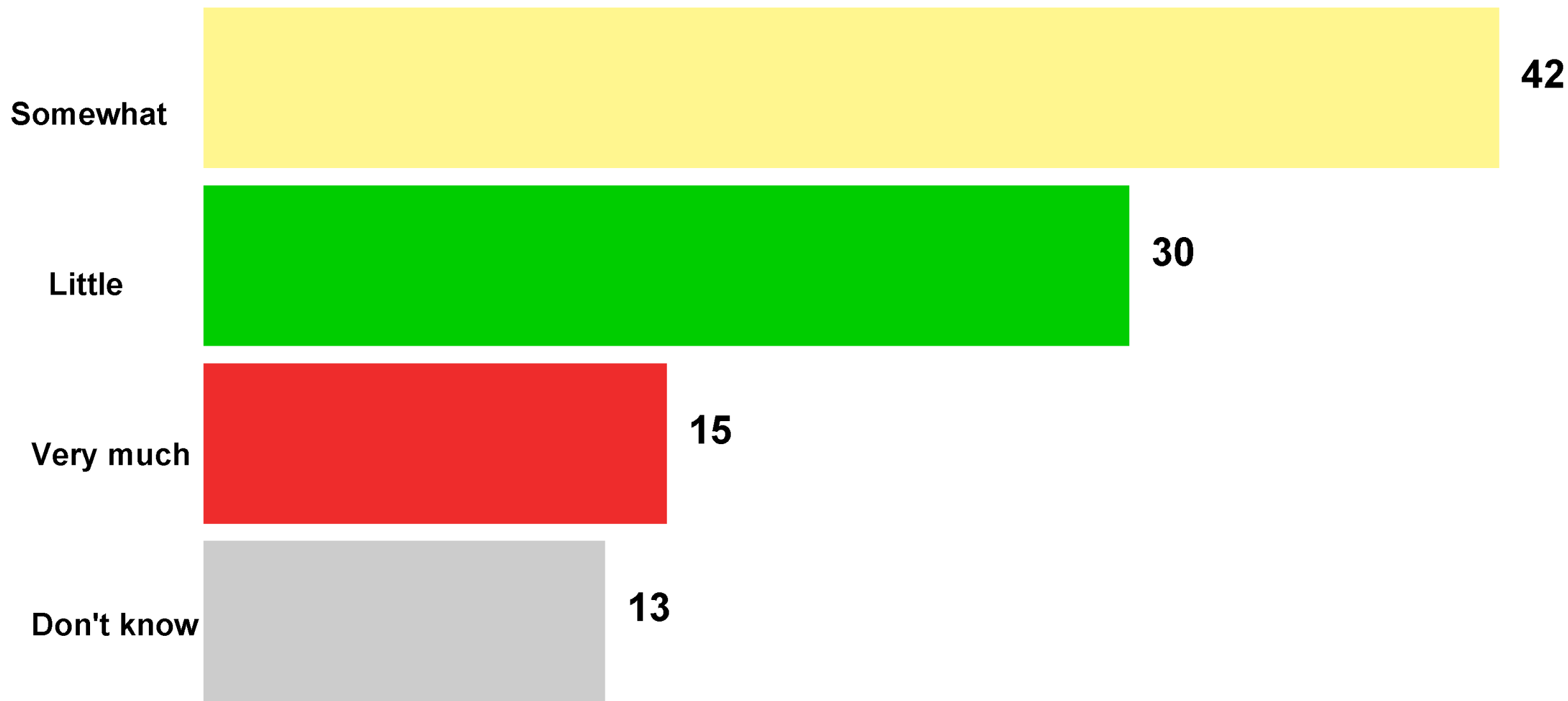
Researcher

Belgrade Centre for Security Policy

Internal threats

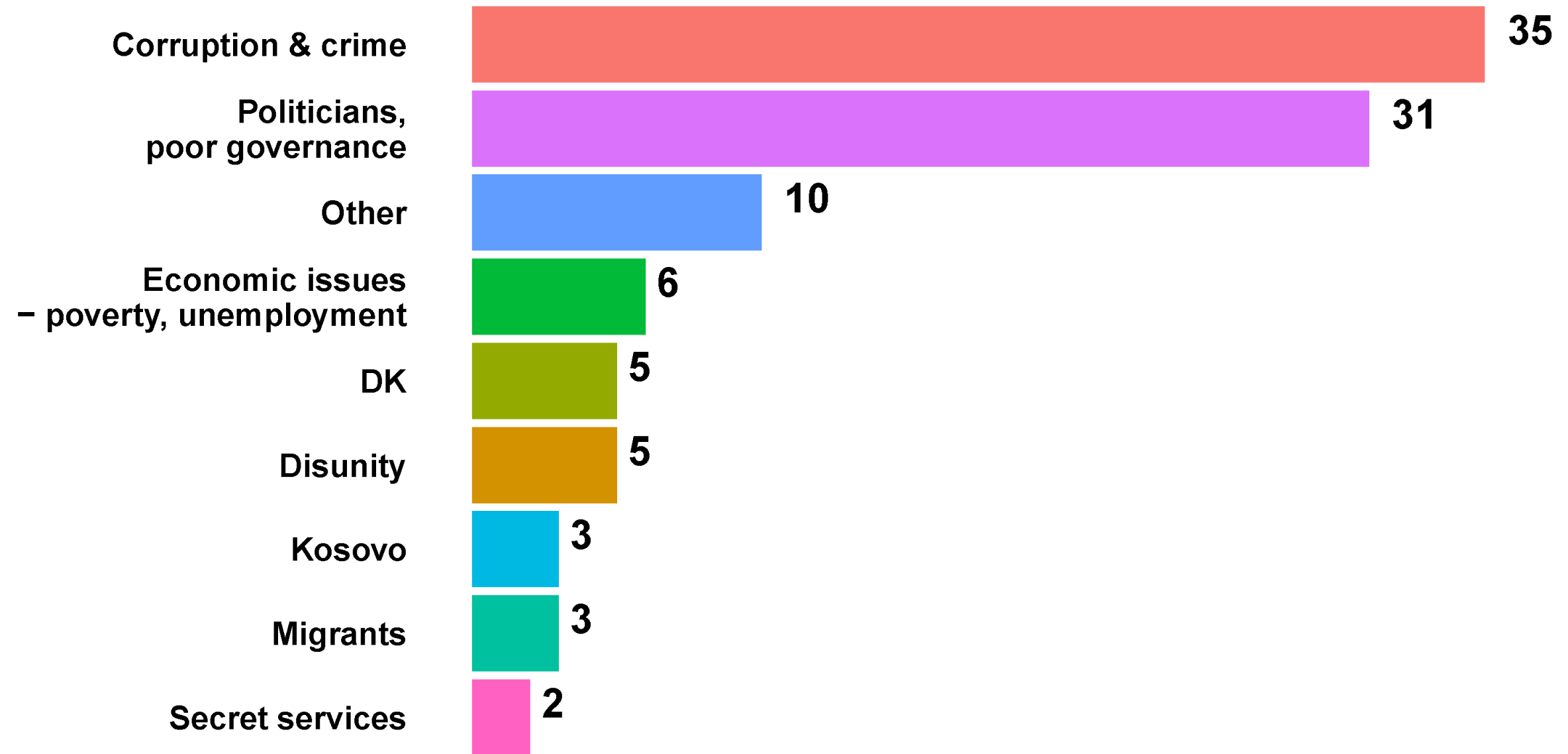
- More than a half of respondents believes that the country's national security is under threat
- Two-thirds see **corruption and crime, and the behavior of politicians** as the main internal threats
- National security requires strengthening our **economy**

TO WHAT EXTENT IS THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF SERBIA UNDER THREAT?



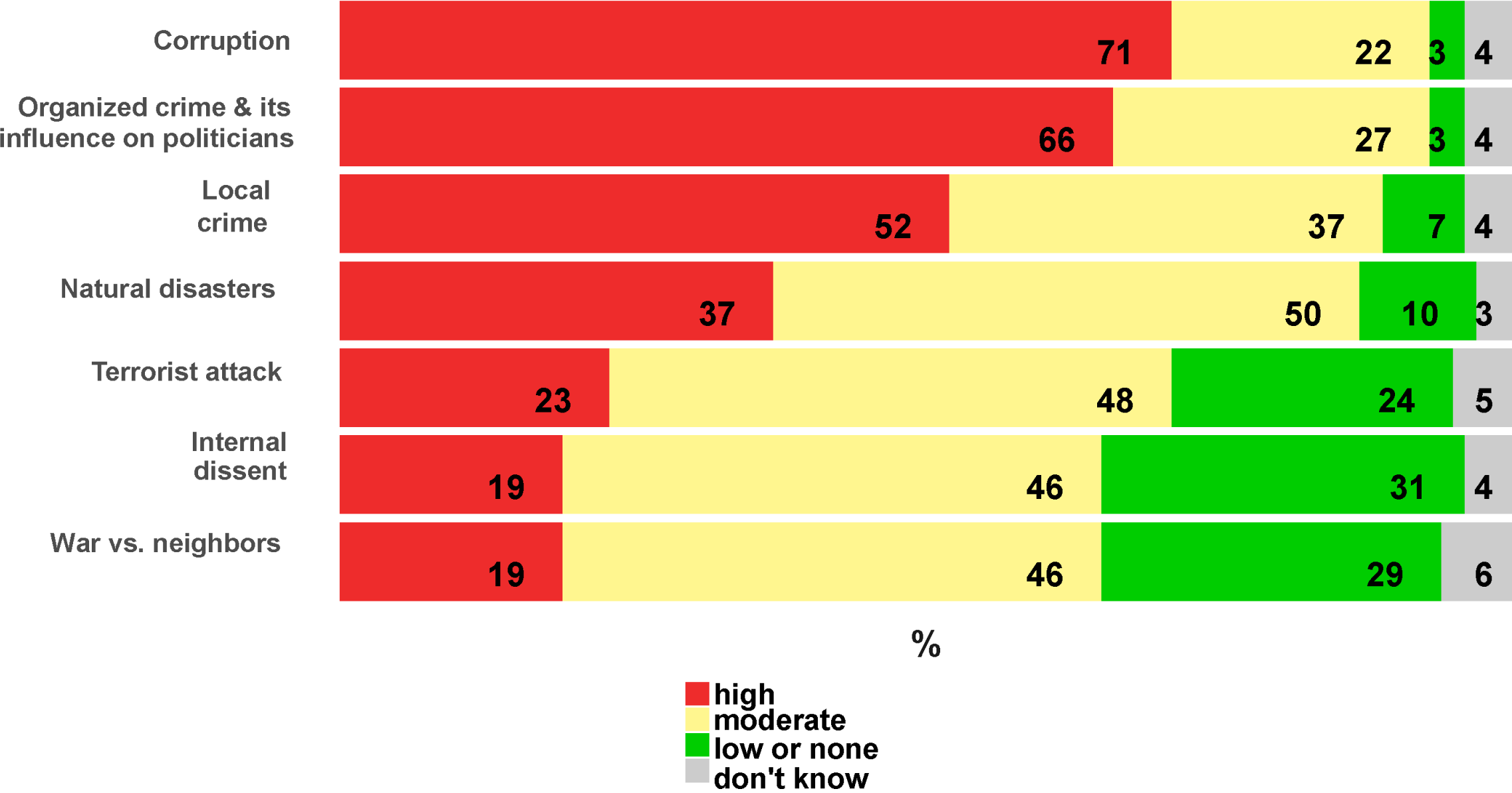
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WHAT IS THE MAIN INTERNAL THREAT TO SERBIA?



%

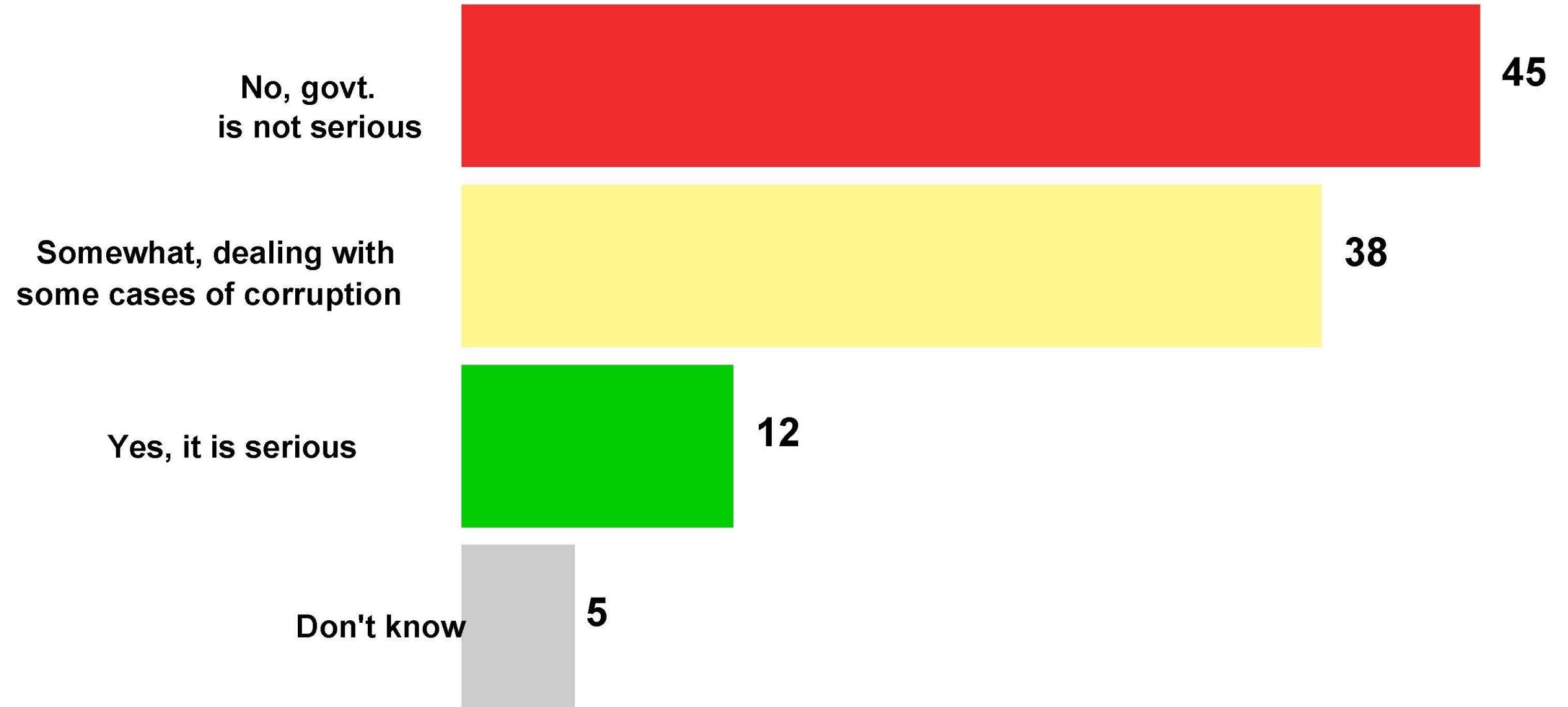
How high is the risk of the following threats?



Citizens give a bad grade to government for its fight against crime and corruption

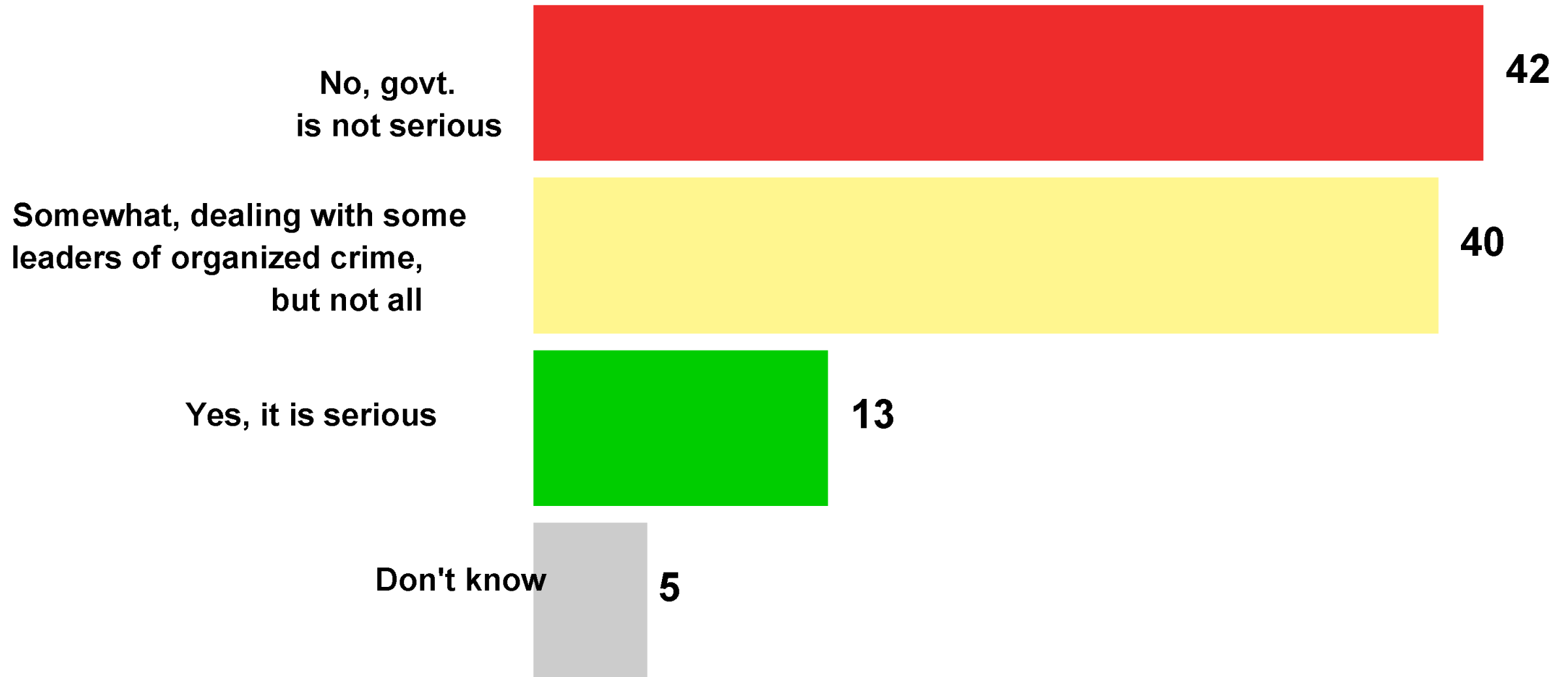
- The government is not serious about fighting corruption
- The government is selective in its fight against organized crime
- Investments into economy/education strengthen national security

IS GOVERNMENT SERIOUS ABOUT FIGHTING CORRUPTION?



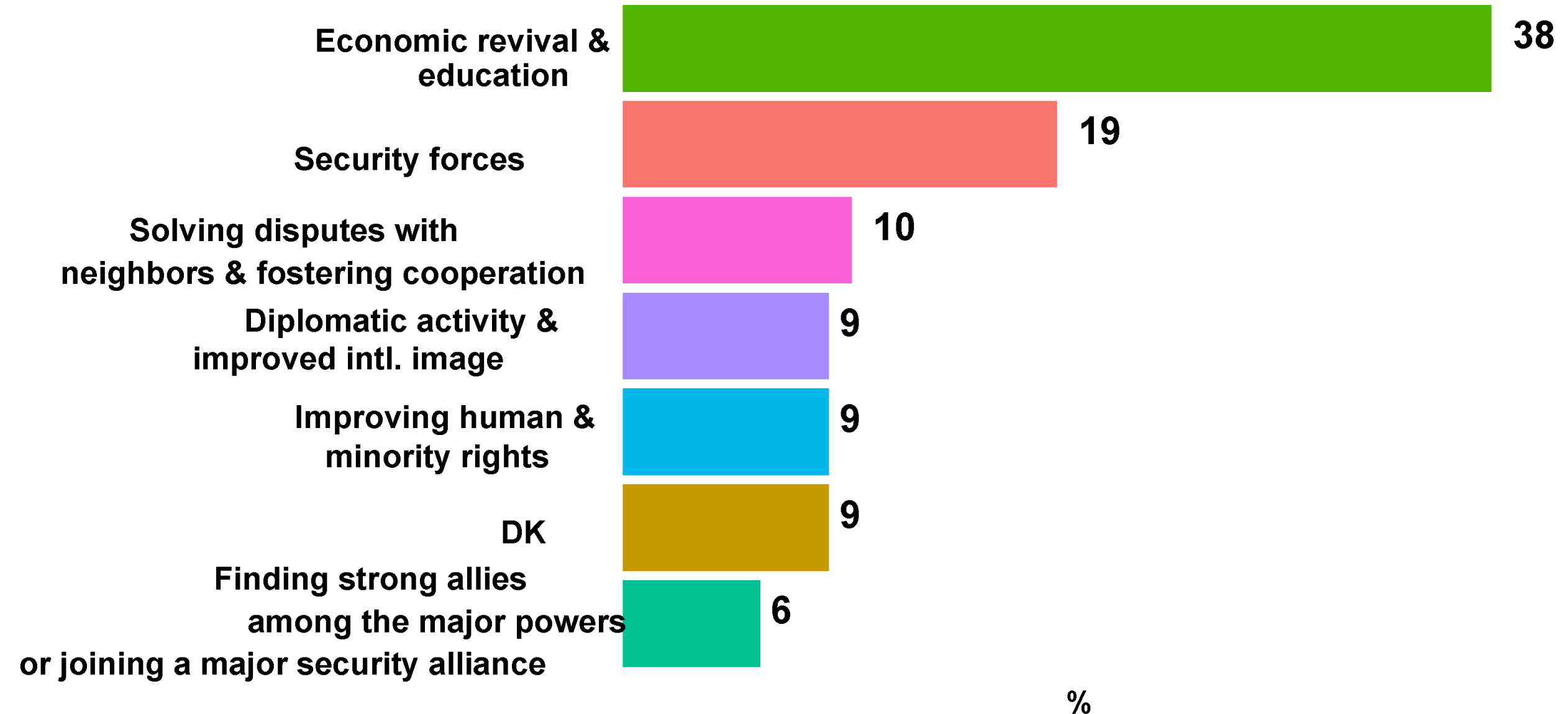
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IS THE GOVERNMENT SERIOUS ABOUT FIGHTING ORGANIZED CRIME?



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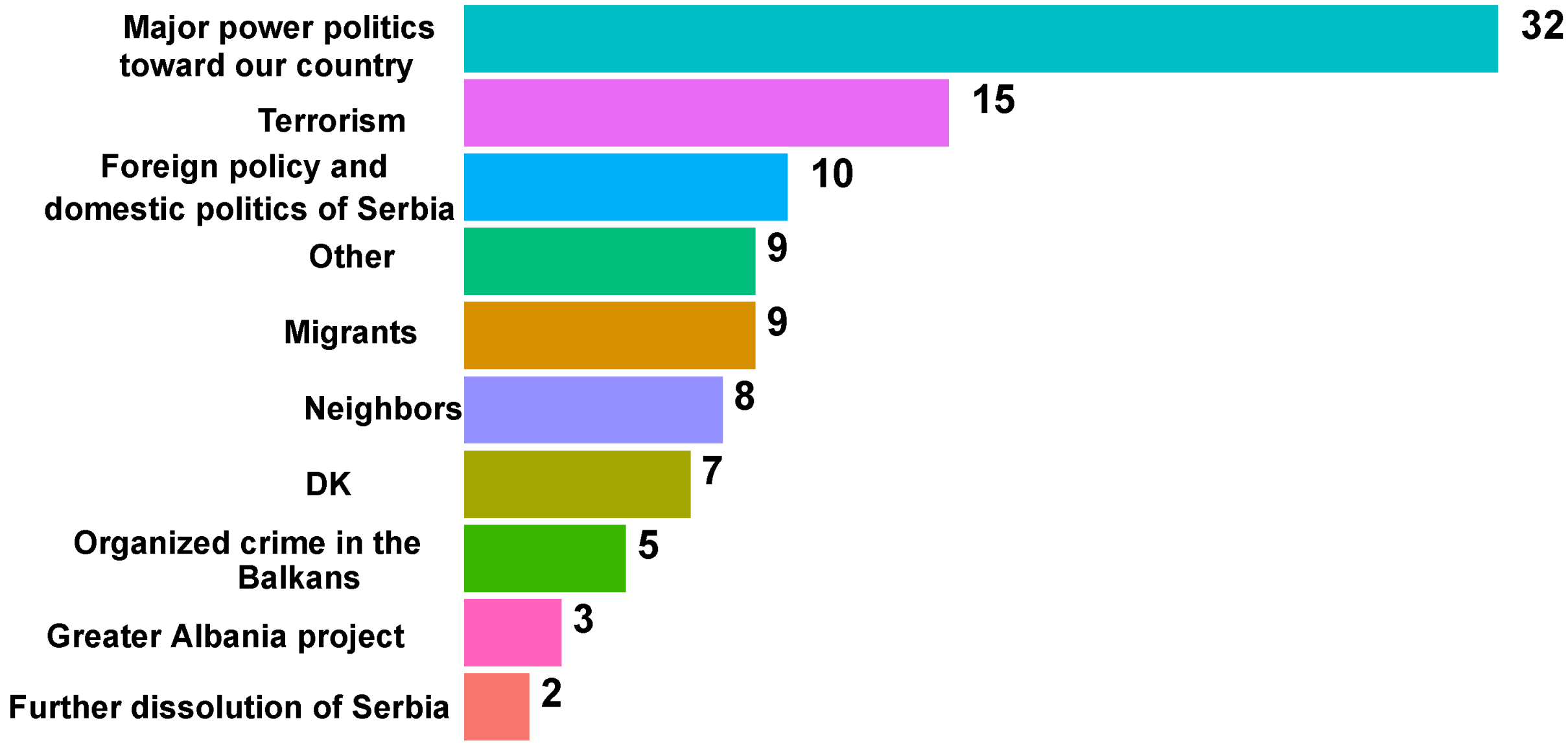
STRONGER NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIRES INVESTING IN:



External threats

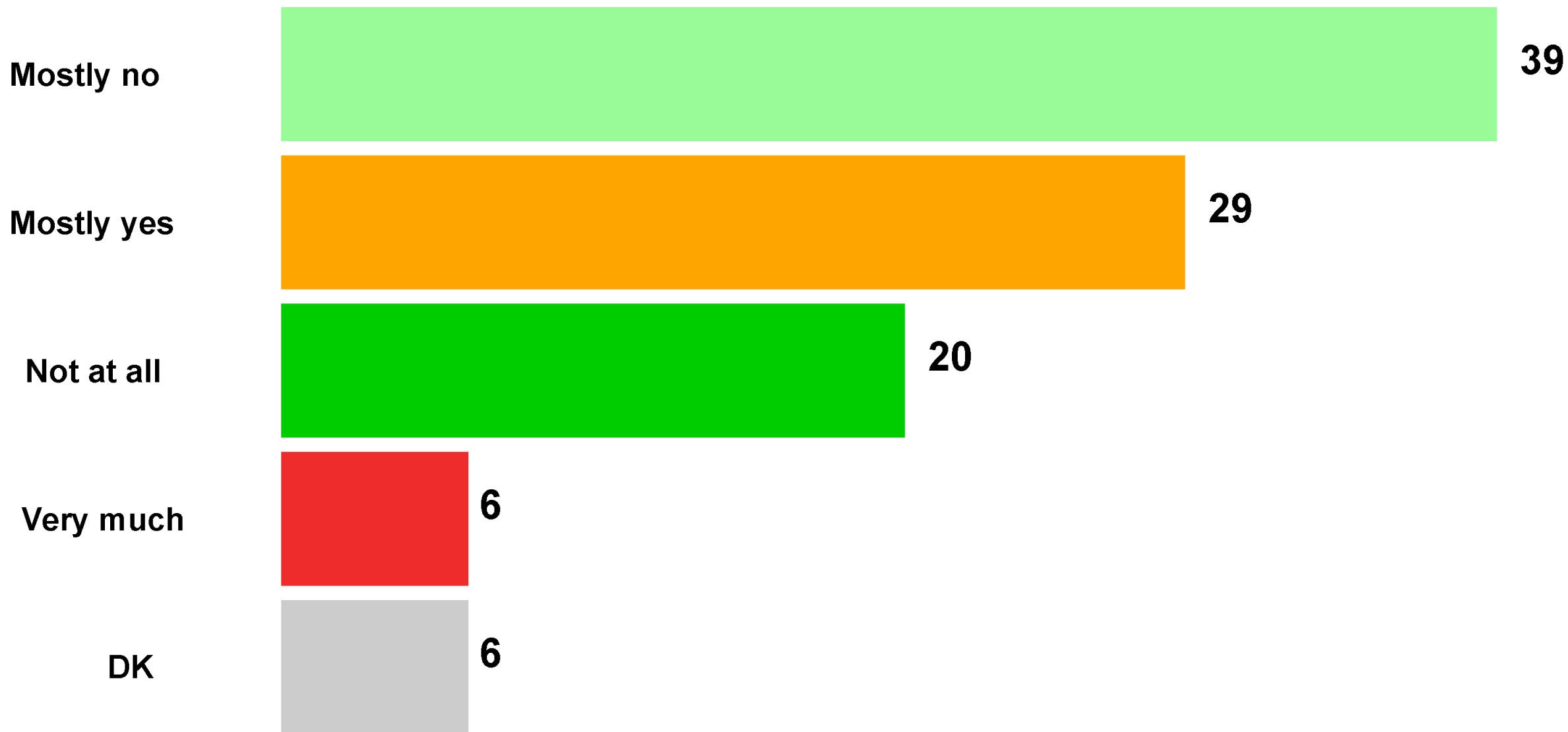
- Major powers and terrorism are key external threats for a half of respondents
- The majority is not afraid of terrorist attacks
- The government cannot protect us from terrorism, nearly a half of citizens thinks
- Better economy facilitates fight against terrorism, every third respondent thinks

WHAT ARE EXTERNAL THREATS TO SERBIA?



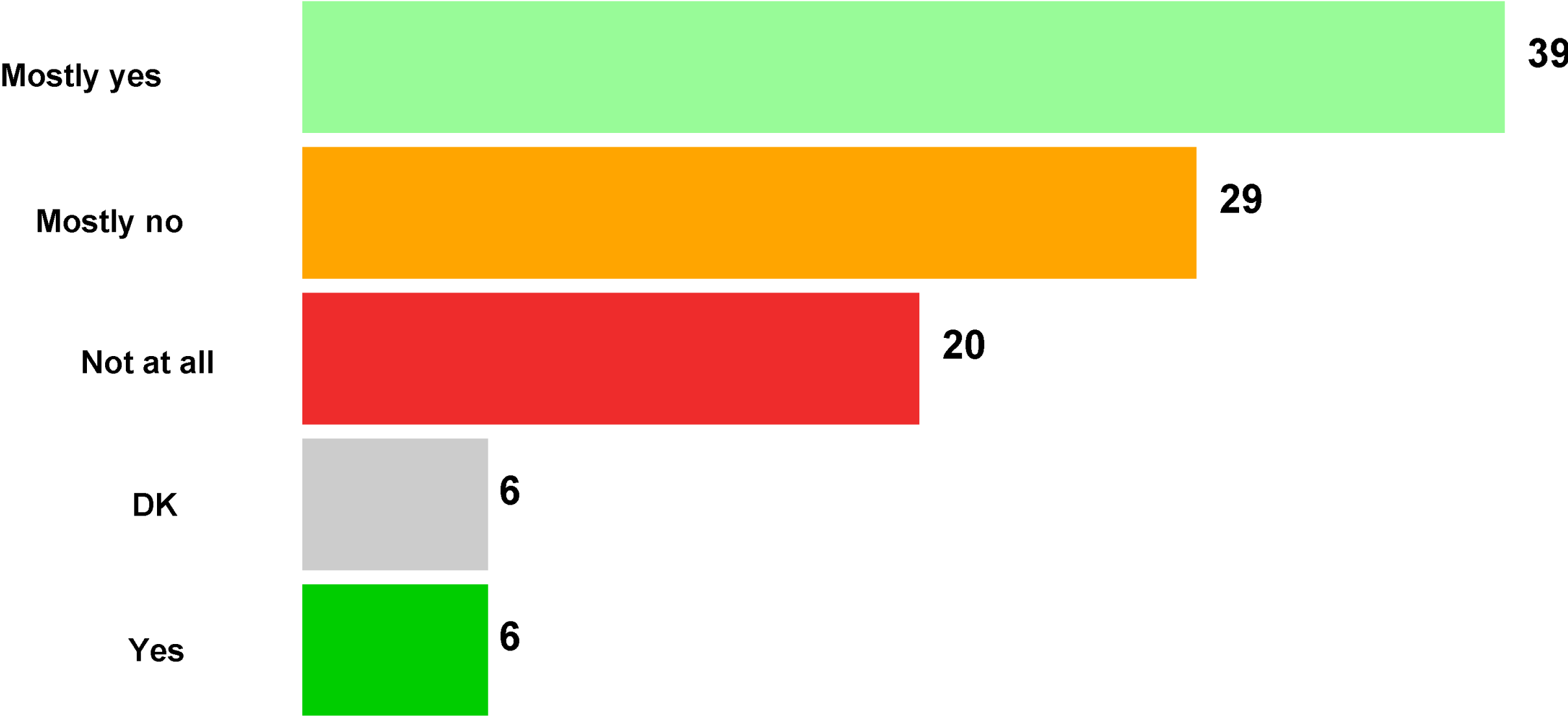
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ARE YOU AFRAID OF TERRORIST ATTACKS IN SERBIA?



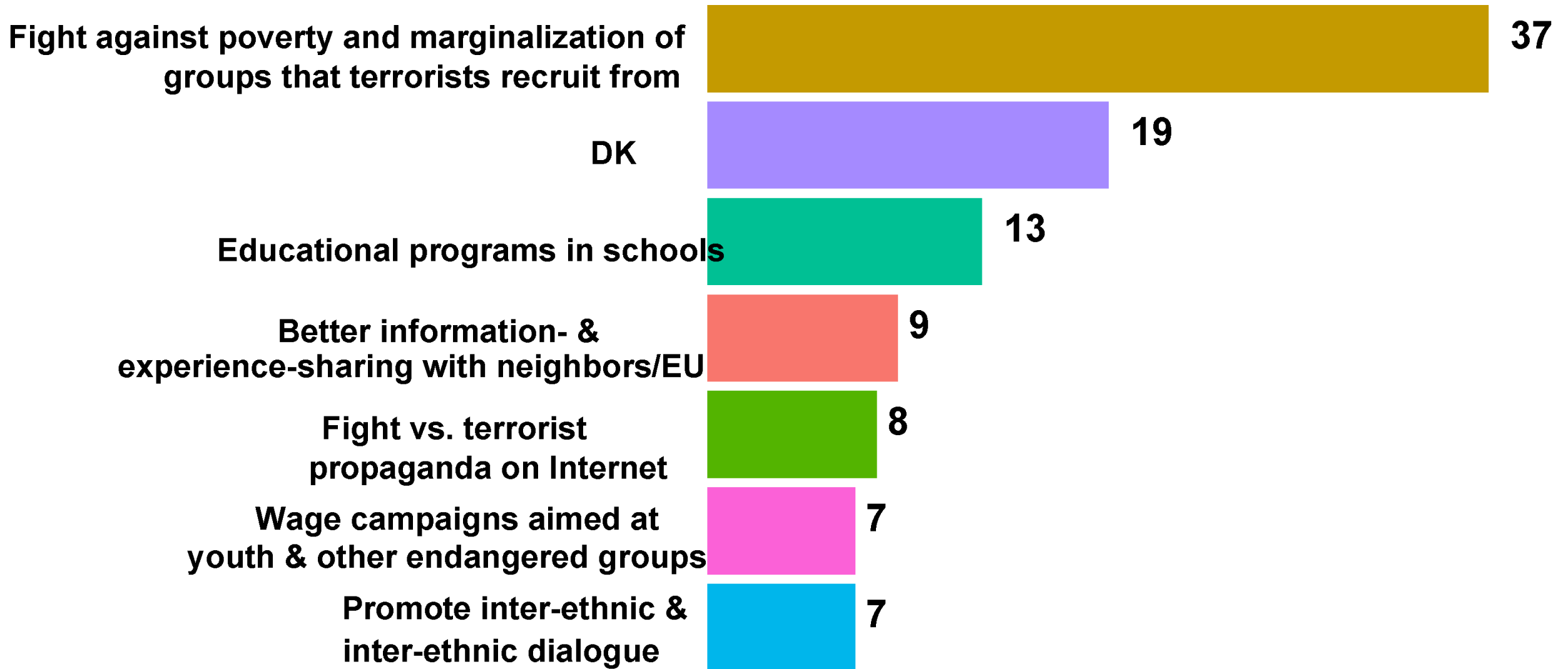
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IS THE GOVERNMENT ABLE TO PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN SERBIA?



%

HOW SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT DETER CITIZENS FROM JOINING TERRORIST GROUPS?



%

The perception of Belgrade-Pristina relations

Sonja Stojanović Gajić

Executive

Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP)

Perception of the region

- The majority believes that Serbia has more enemies than friends in the neighborhood, although a significant number of respondents does not think in those terms
- The majority expects no armed conflict in the next 5 years, although the proportion of those afraid of war has increased
- The majority does not want to wage war to keep Kosovo as a part of Serbia, nor in cases human rights violations of Serbs in the neighborhood

DOES SERBIA HAVE MORE FRIENDS OR ENEMIES IN ITS NEIGHBORHOOD?

More enemies



40

**Don't think in those
terms**



30

More friends



23

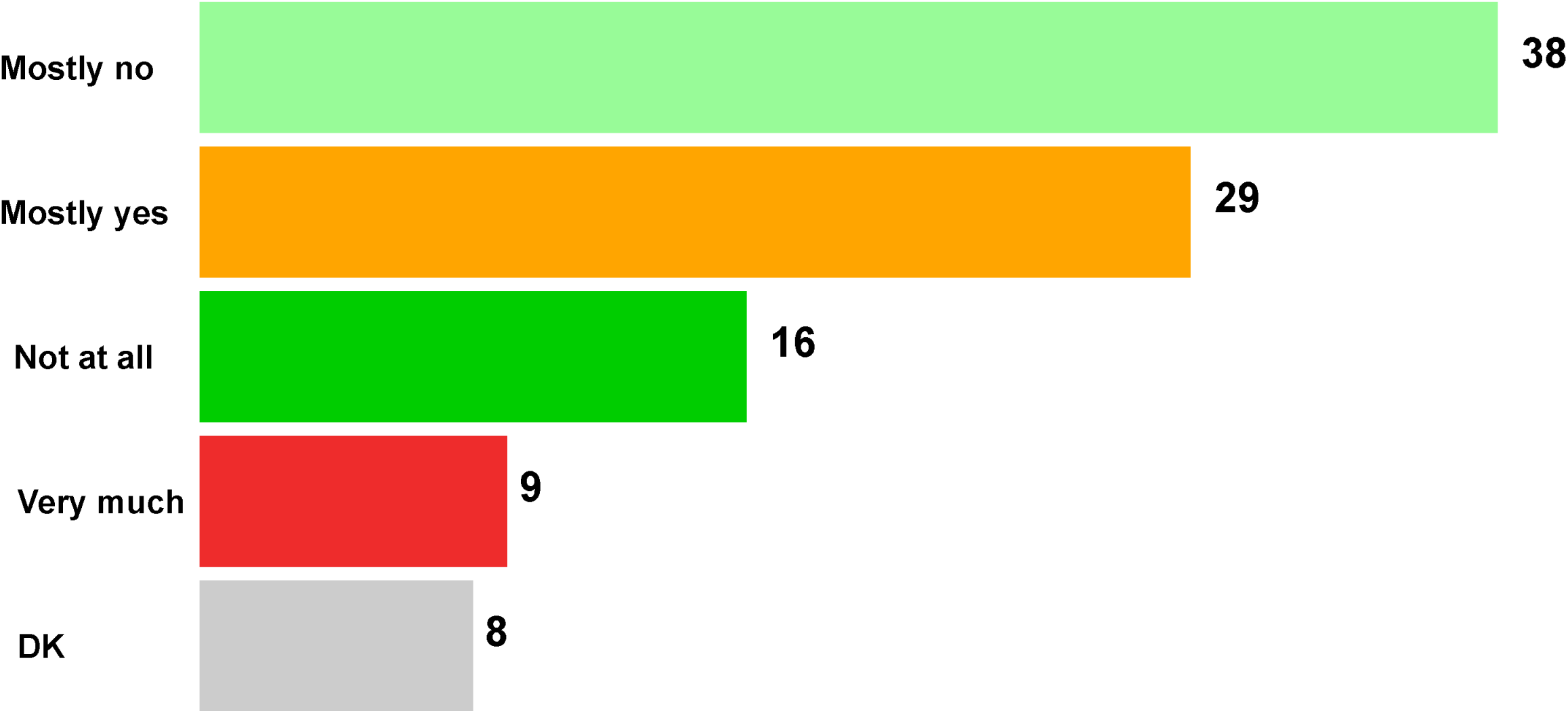
DK



7

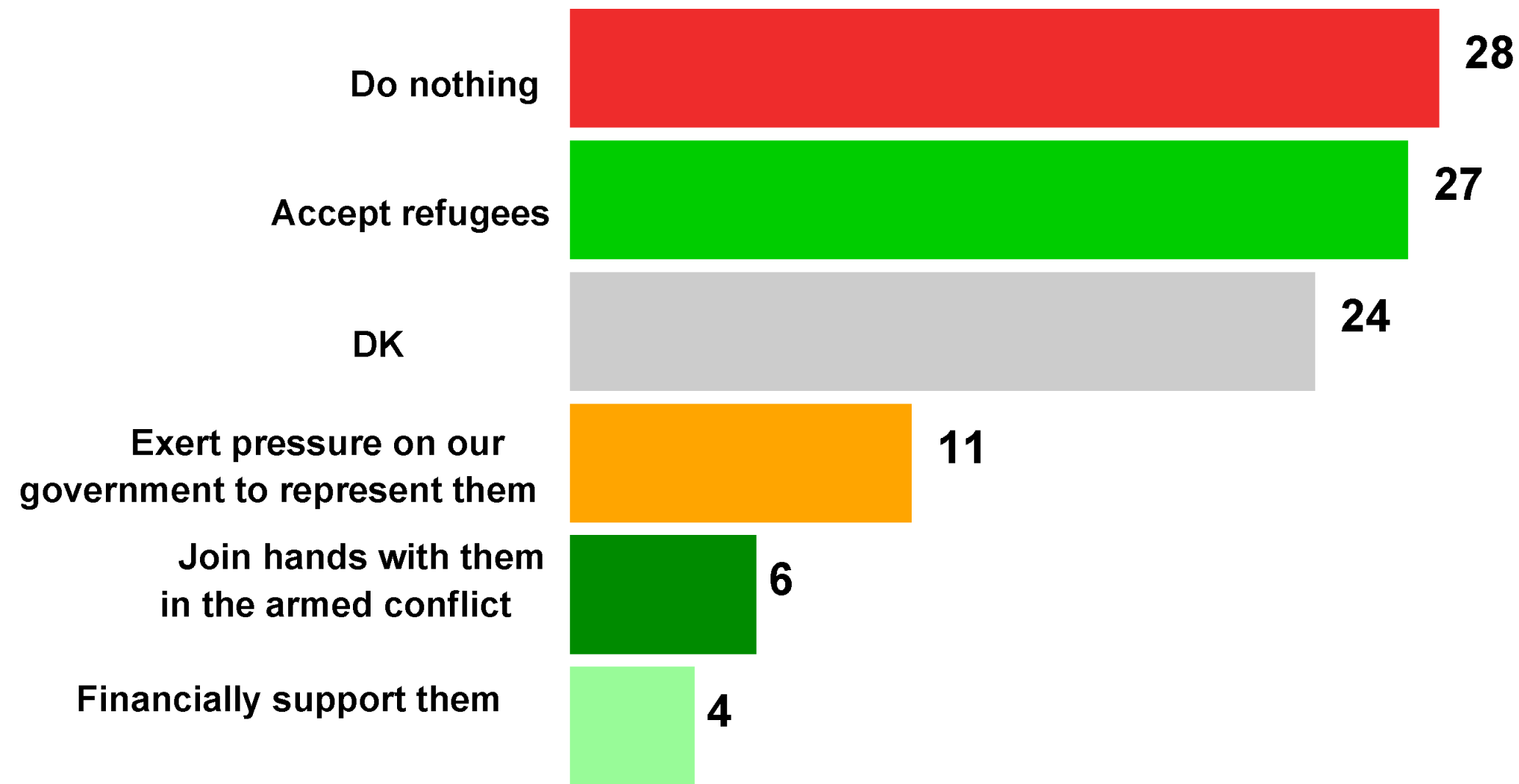
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**ARE YOU AFRAID THAT ARMED CONFLICT MAY ERRUPT
IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS IN THE BALKANS?**



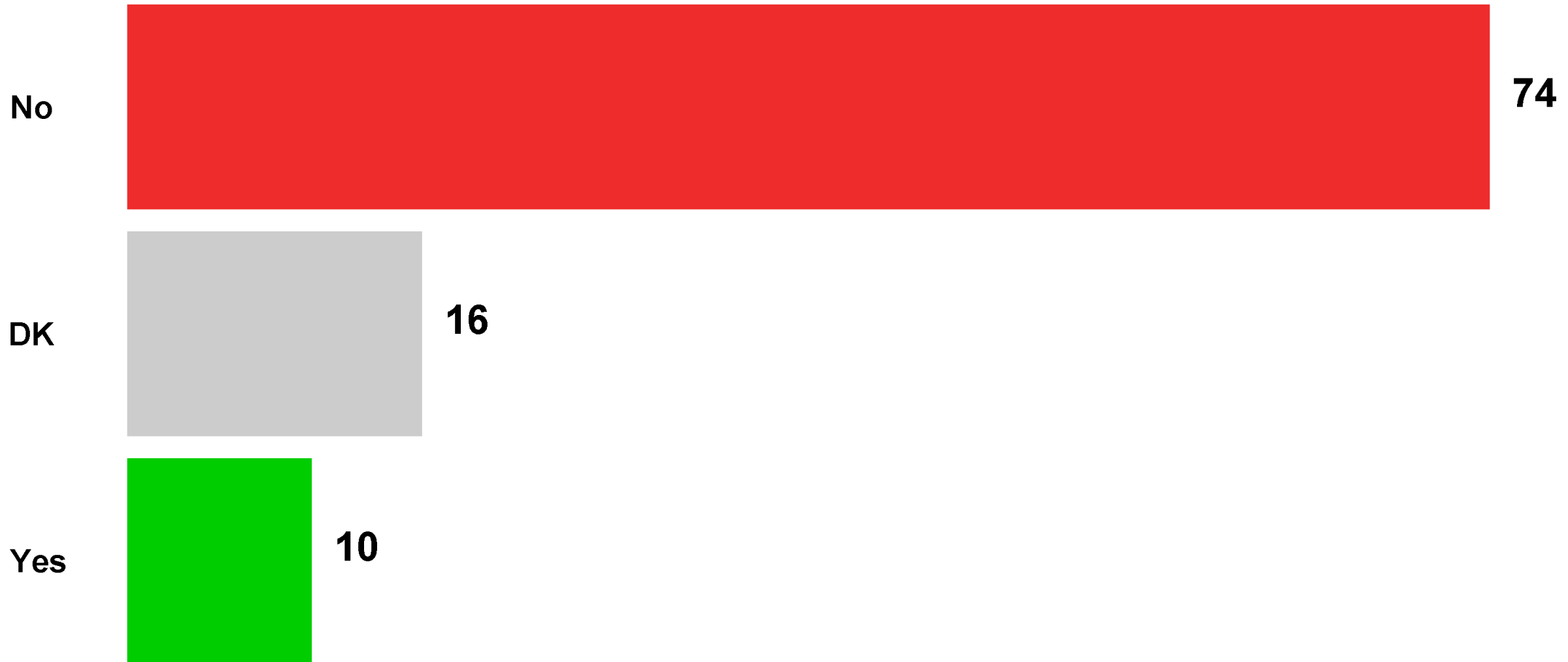
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**IF YOUR CO-ETHNICS ARE SUFFERING IN ARMED CONFLICT IN
A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY, I WOULD BE READY TO:**



%

SHOULD SERBIA WAGE ARMED CONFLICT TO PRESERVE KOSOVO AS ITS INTEGRAL PART?

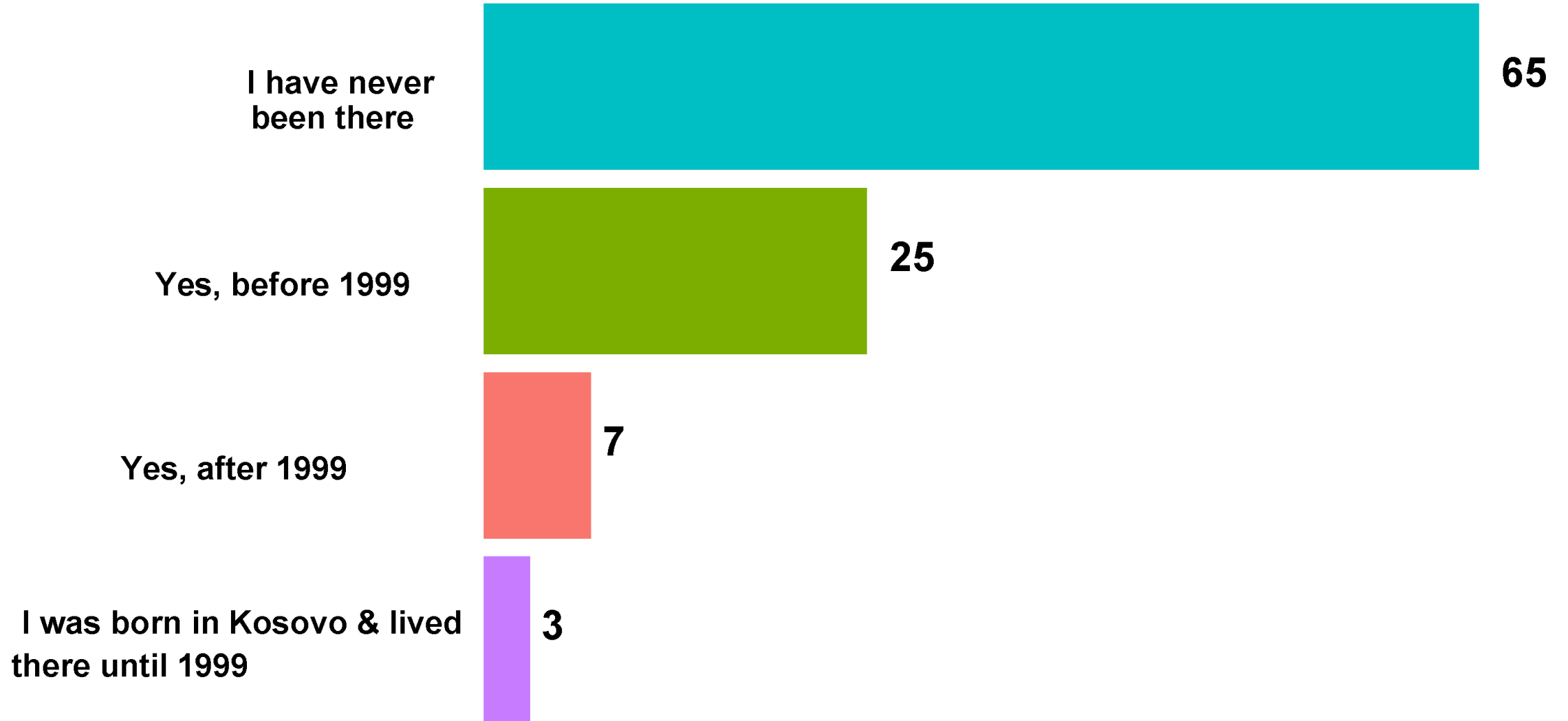


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Belgrade- Pristina

- The majority has no relatives or friends in Kosovo (80%), and has never been there or met an ethnic Albanian
- Among 7% of those who were in Kosovo after 1999, and met ethnic Albanians last year are mostly youth (14%) and Bosniaks
- Bosniaks can serve as a bridge between the Serbs and Albanians (27% of them have relatives and friends in Kosovo)
- The majority is against waging wars to preserve Kosovo as a part of Serbia

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO KOSOVO?



%

Do you have relatives or friends who live in Kosovo?



Didi you talk or meet ethnic Albanian last year?



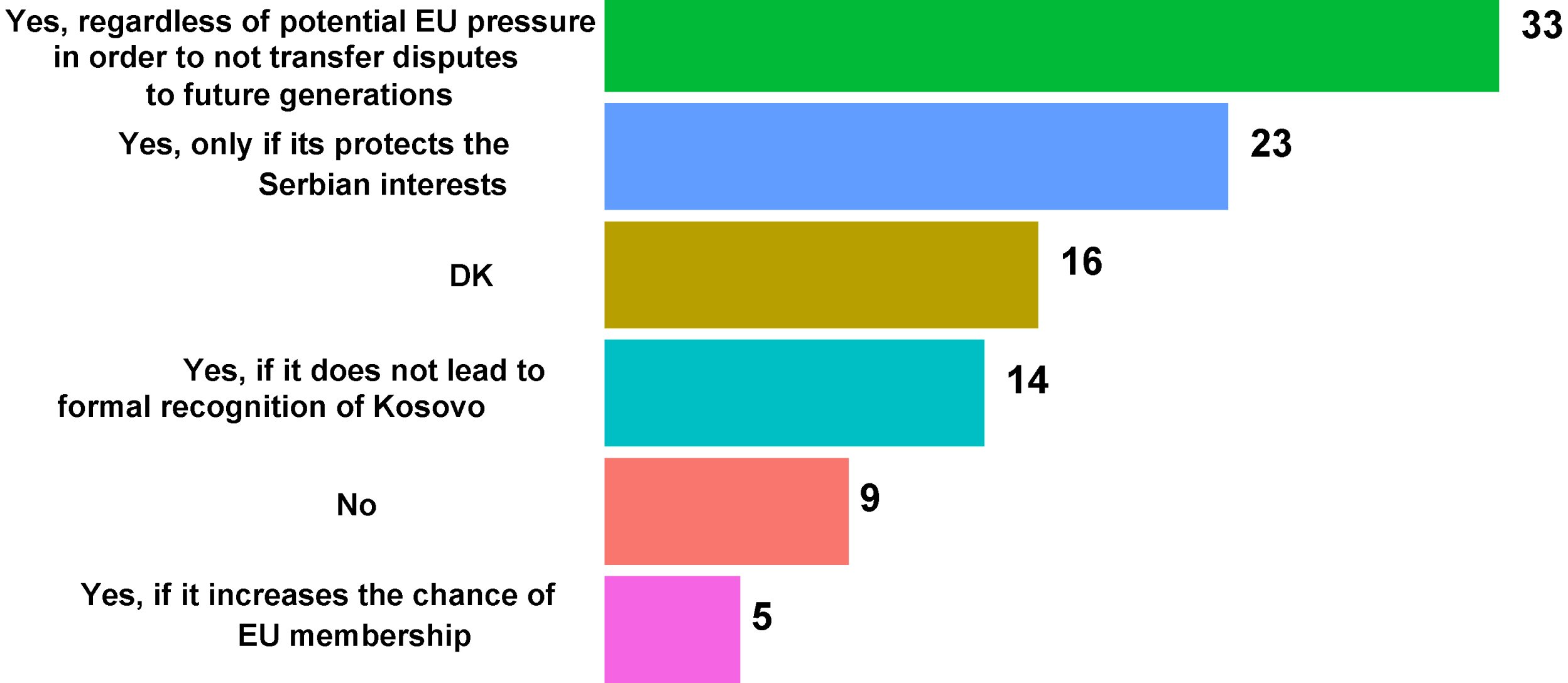
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 No
 Yes
 No answer

The Perception of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue

- Three-quarters are in favor of the dialogue, only 9% are against
- The citizens of Serbia think that Albanians have more gains from the dialogue, while a research from Kosovo shows that Albanians believe that Serbs benefit more
- The citizens support the agreements with Pristina as long as they do not lead to the recognition of Kosovo. Only 8% is in favor of independence, and 10% - for partition
- One quarter expects Kosovo to be independent in the future, and one-fifth that it will be part of Serbia or be partitioned between Albania and Serbia, respectively

SHOULD THERE BE A BELGRADE-PRISTINA DIALOGUE?



%

**WHAT TYPE OF AGREEMENT
IS THE MOST ACCEPTABLE IN
NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRISTINA?**

**All deals that improve stability are in order,
short of formal recognition of Kosovo's independence**

31

**All deals that improve the protection of
Serbs who live in Kosovo**

30

DK

20

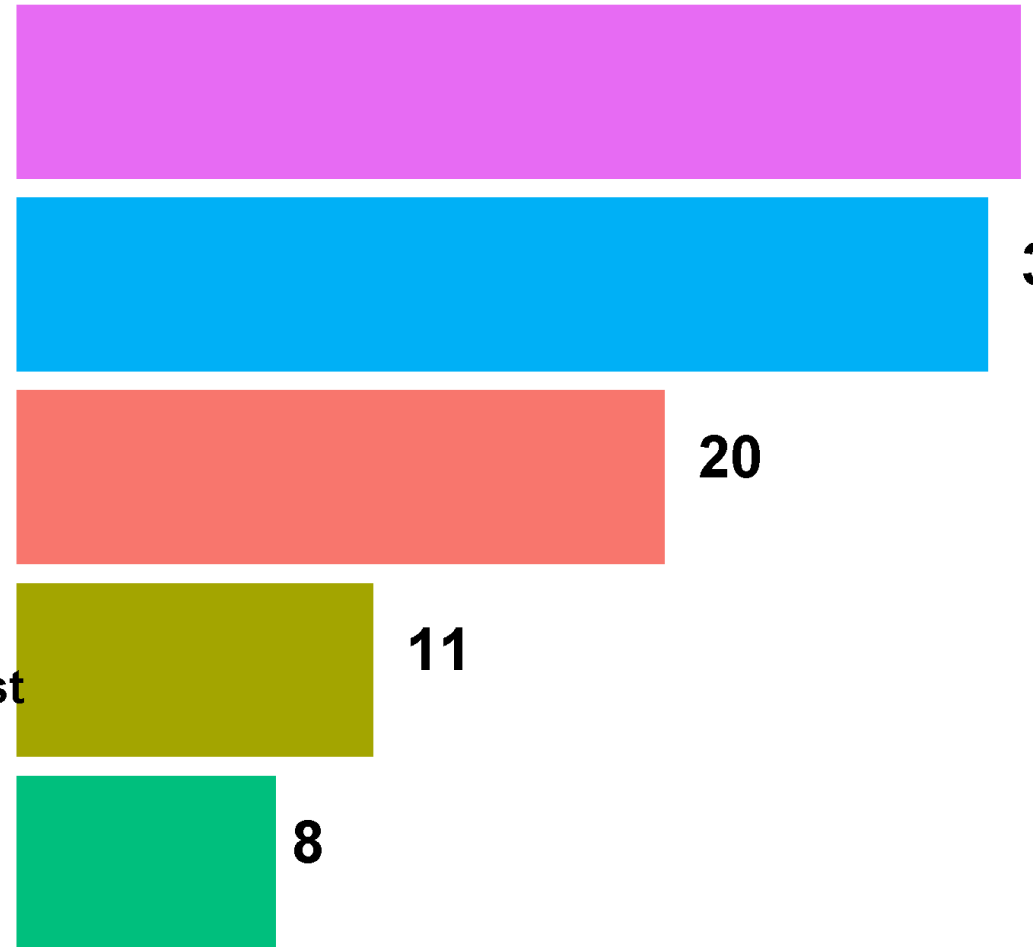
**Partition of Kosovo into southern
& northers with Serb majority is best**

11

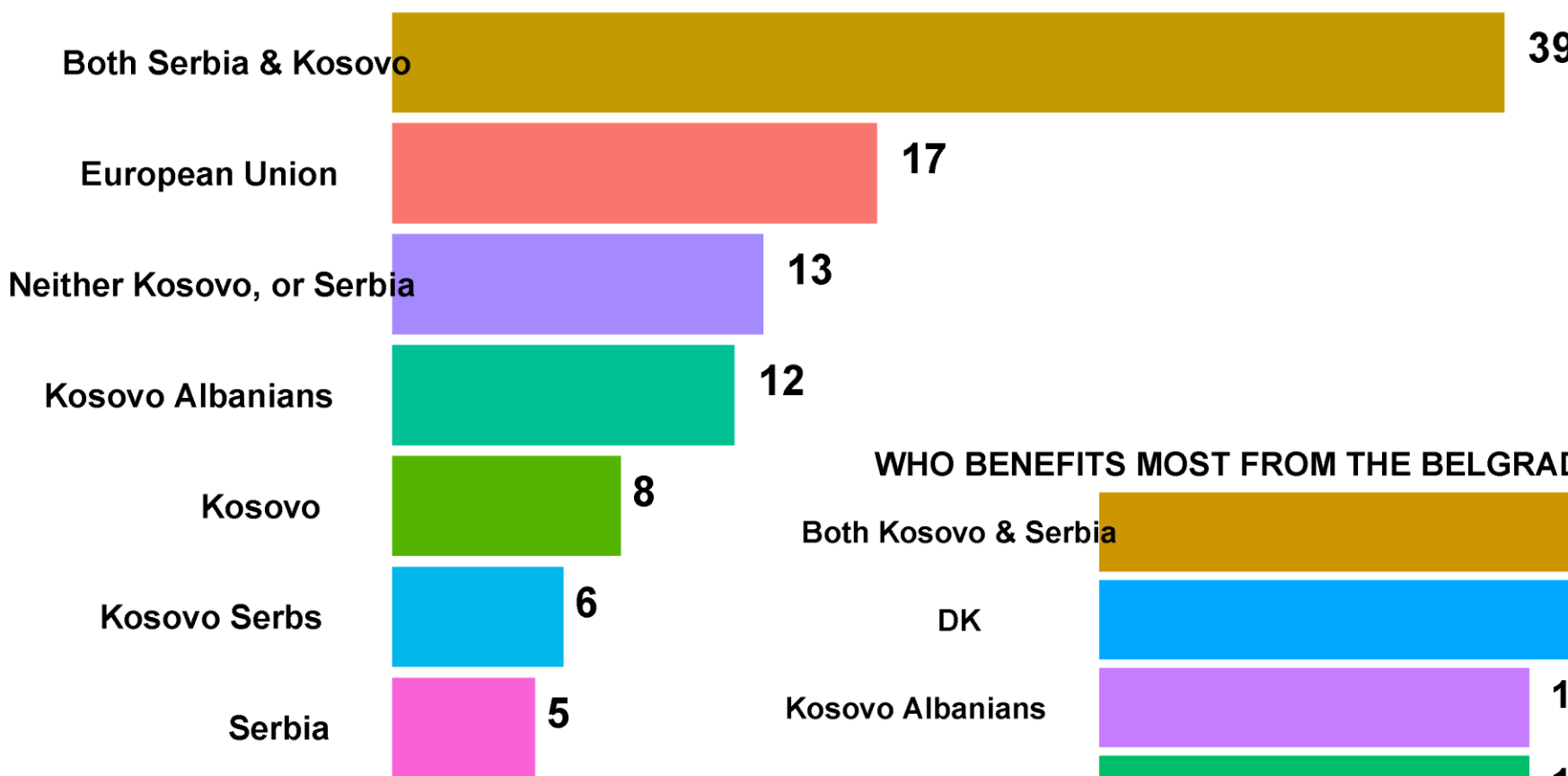
**Recognition of independence is ok,
if it brings regional stability
& accelerates our development**

8

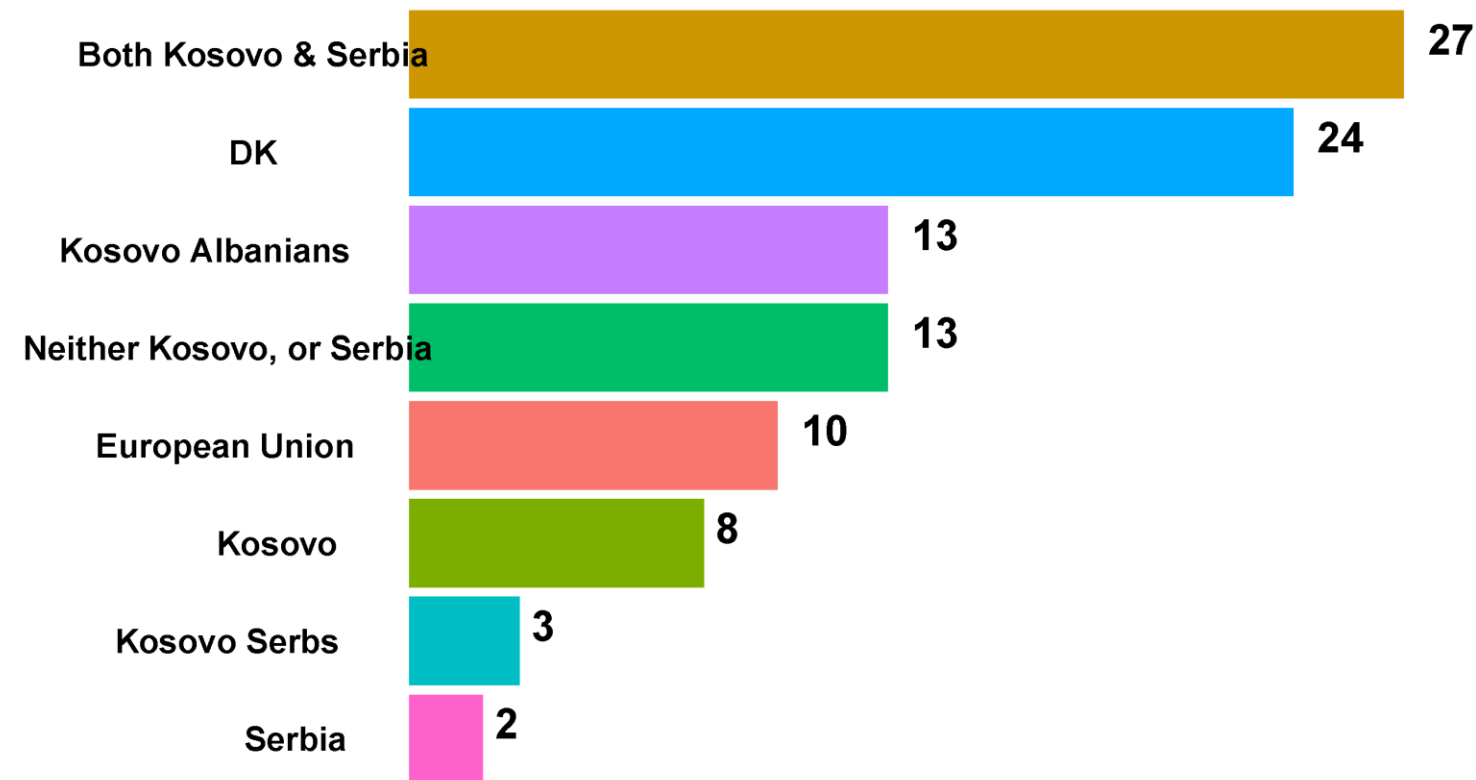
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WHO BENEFITS MOST FROM THE BELGRADE-PRISTINA DIALOGUE? (2013)

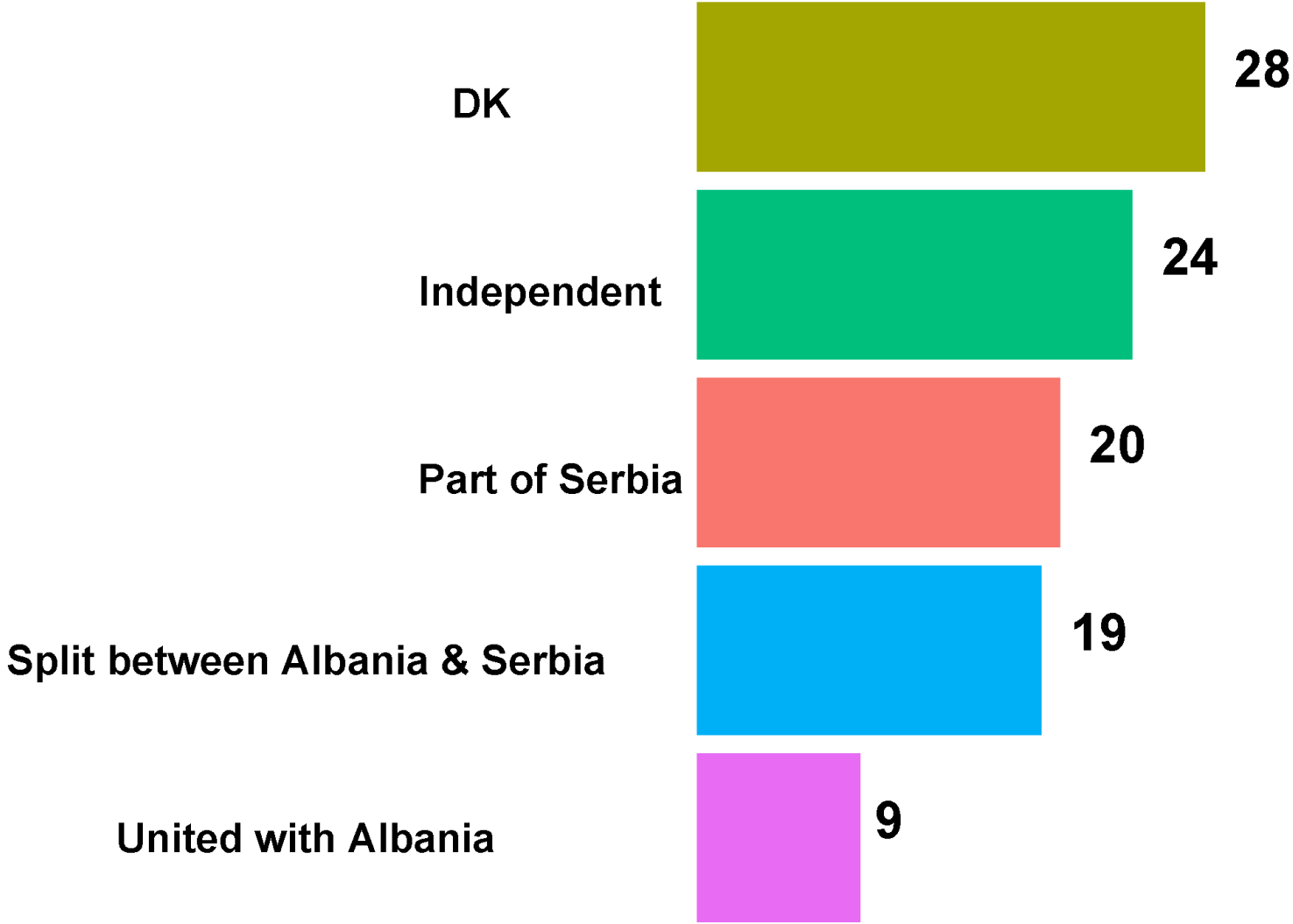


WHO BENEFITS MOST FROM THE BELGRADE-PRISTINA DIALOGUE? (2017)



%

HOW DO YOU SEE KOSOVO'S FUTURE?



%

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