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# Public Attitudes in Georgia

Results of April 2019 survey



— Carried out for NDI by CRRC Georgia —

This research project is funded with UK aid from the  
British people

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# WHY WE CONDUCT POLLS?



**To foster the development of more responsive policies and governance;**

**To help stakeholders diagnose and address issues of public concern.**

- ❖ Leaders from across the political spectrum have reported that polls are important to their work and encourage continued polling;
- ❖ Inclusive process: the polling instrument was developed in consultation with parties, government, and civil society leaders.

# ABOUT THE POLL

- ❖ Fieldwork dates: March 28-April 15
- ❖ 2,927 completed interviews (48.1% response rate)
- ❖ The average margin of error is 2.3
- ❖ Note: the margin of error is different for every response

# SAMPLE

- ❖ **A nationally representative sample** (excluding occupied territories) including oversampled areas of the Capital, large Urban, small Urban, Rural, Armenian settlements, and Azeri settlements
- ❖ **Large Urban** stratum consists of the cities with a population of 40,000 or more: Batumi, Zugdidi, Rustavi, Poti, Gori, and Kutaisi.
- ❖ **Small Urban** stratum consists of the rest of the cities/dabas holding urban status.
- ❖ **Armenian stratum** consists of population of those settlements, where Armenian minorities make at least 40% of voters. **Azeri stratum** consists of population of those settlements, where Azeri minorities make at least 40% of voters. Settlements within this stratum are dispersed through Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti & Kakheti regions.

# ABOUT THE POLL

## Quality control

- ❖ All interviewers receive special training
- ❖ CRRC central office coordinators conduct quality control interviews



# METHODOLOGY

We use random sampling at all stages. We use a complex survey design:

- ❖ **Stratification** - dividing population in relatively homogenous sub-groups;
- ❖ **Clustering** - randomly selecting small geographic areas for each sub-group (stratum).
- ❖ Households are selected via random route sampling;
- ❖ Respondents are selected using a Kish table;
- ❖ Randomly selected households and individuals are not substituted;
- ❖ All interviews were conducted face-to-face with 18+ population, using tablets, in Georgian, Armenian, and Azeri.

# How NDI Survey is Conducted

1

At the first stage, CRRC randomly selects voting precincts in Georgia. Interviewers are sent there with given starting point, directions for walking, step size, number of contacts.



2

Interviewer randomly selects households according to the given step size, e.g. every 3rd, 5th, 8th...

3

The respondent is selected randomly, with special method - so called Kish grid. Selected respondent cannot be replaced.

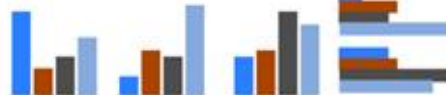
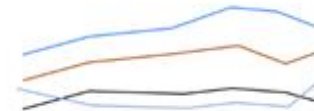


4

Interviewer conducts an interview with the selected household member. Interviewer uses tablet computer and a special software.

5

Interviewer submits the results via the internet to the special server.



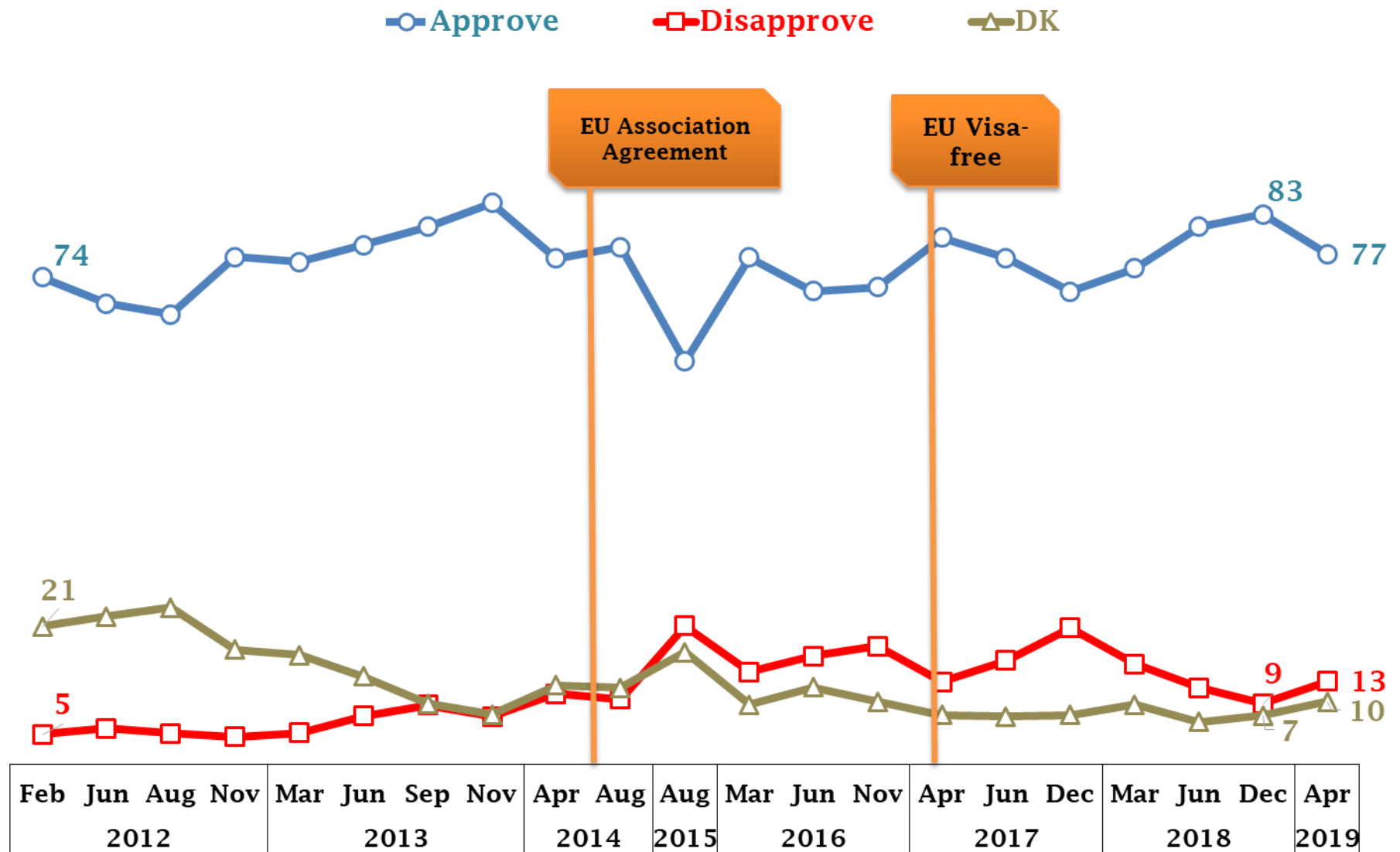
6

CRRC cleans and analyses collected data, which later is presented to the public.

# European Union

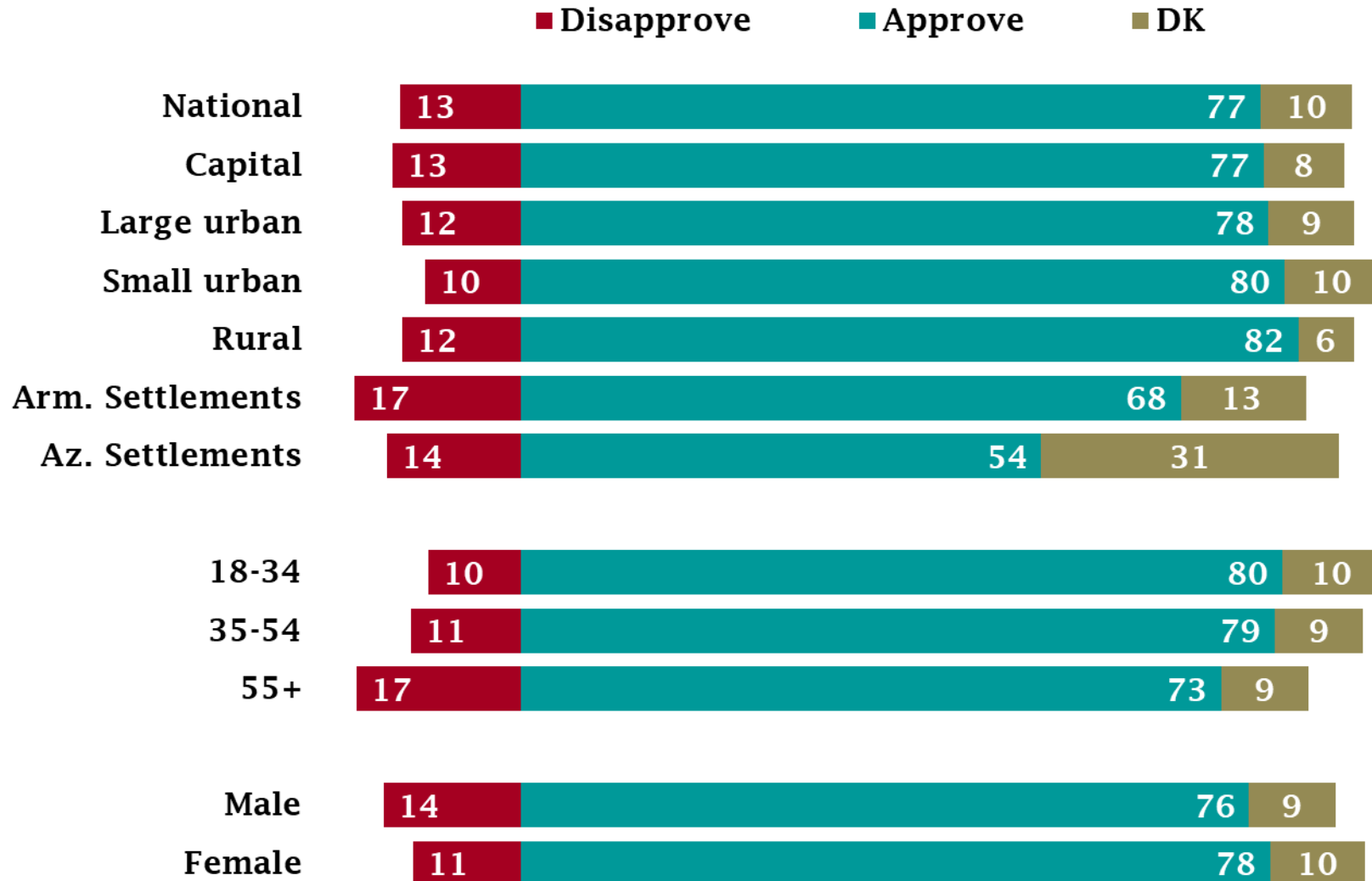
# EU membership support

Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the EU? (q14)



# EU membership support

Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the EU? (q14 X Settlement, Age, Gender)



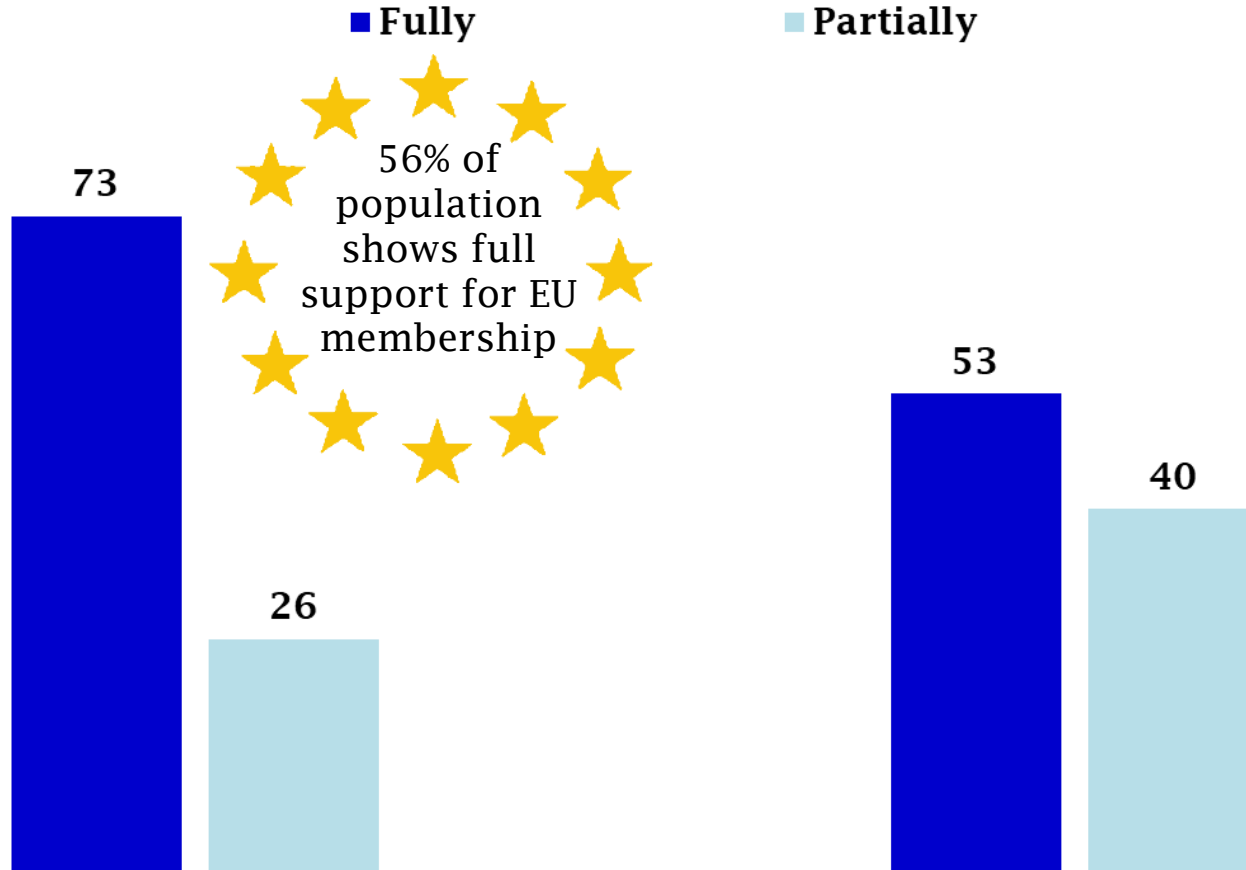
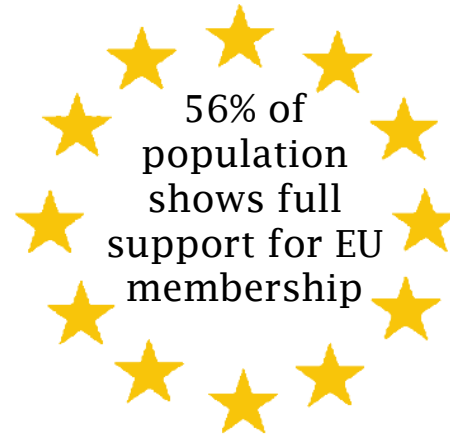


# Degrees of EU membership support

If approve/dissapprove, how much do you approve/disapprove? (q15, q17)

■ Fully

■ Partially

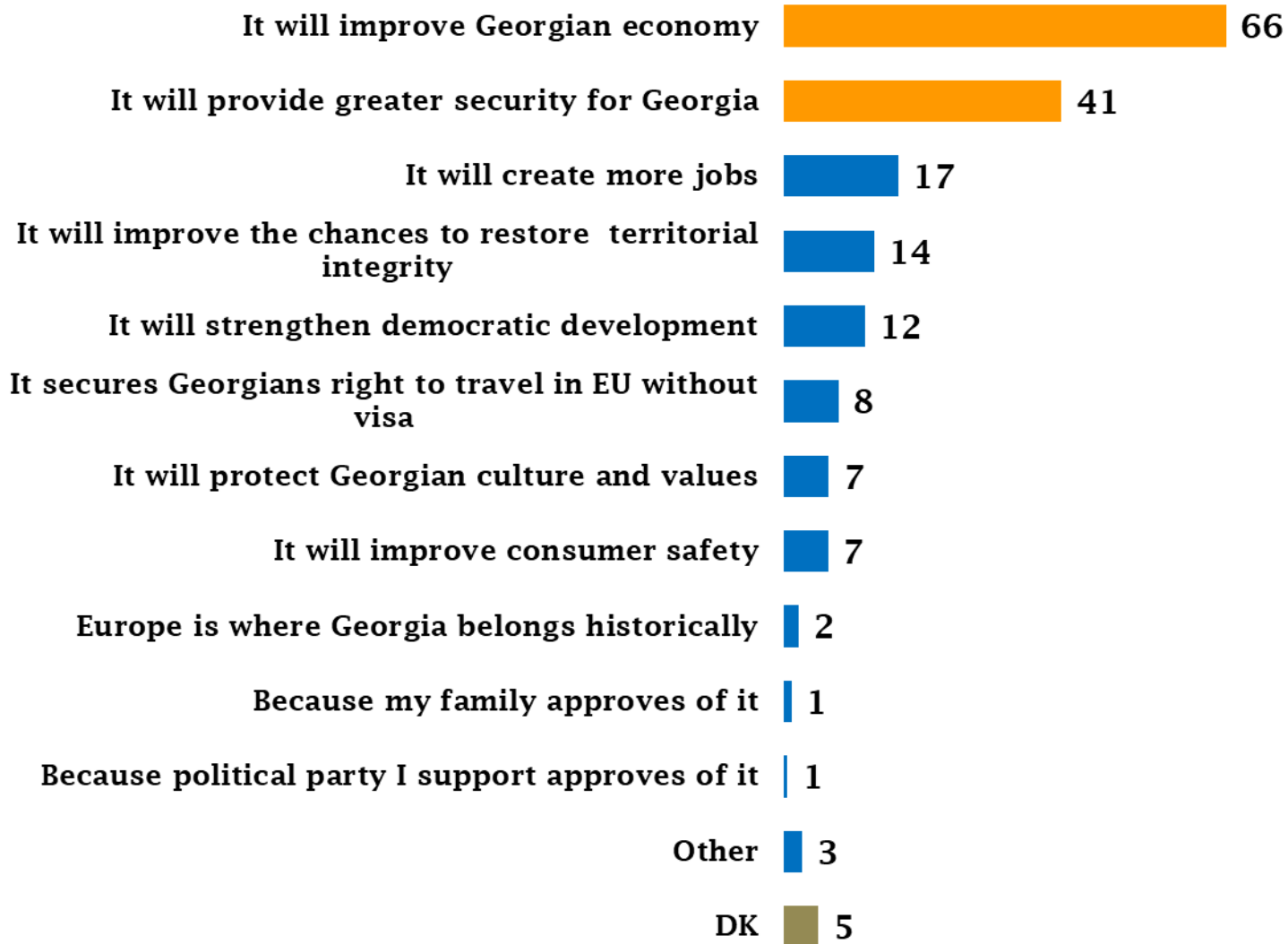


**How much do you approve joining the EU? (of the 77% who approve)**

**How much do you disapprove joining the EU? (of the 13% who disapprove)**

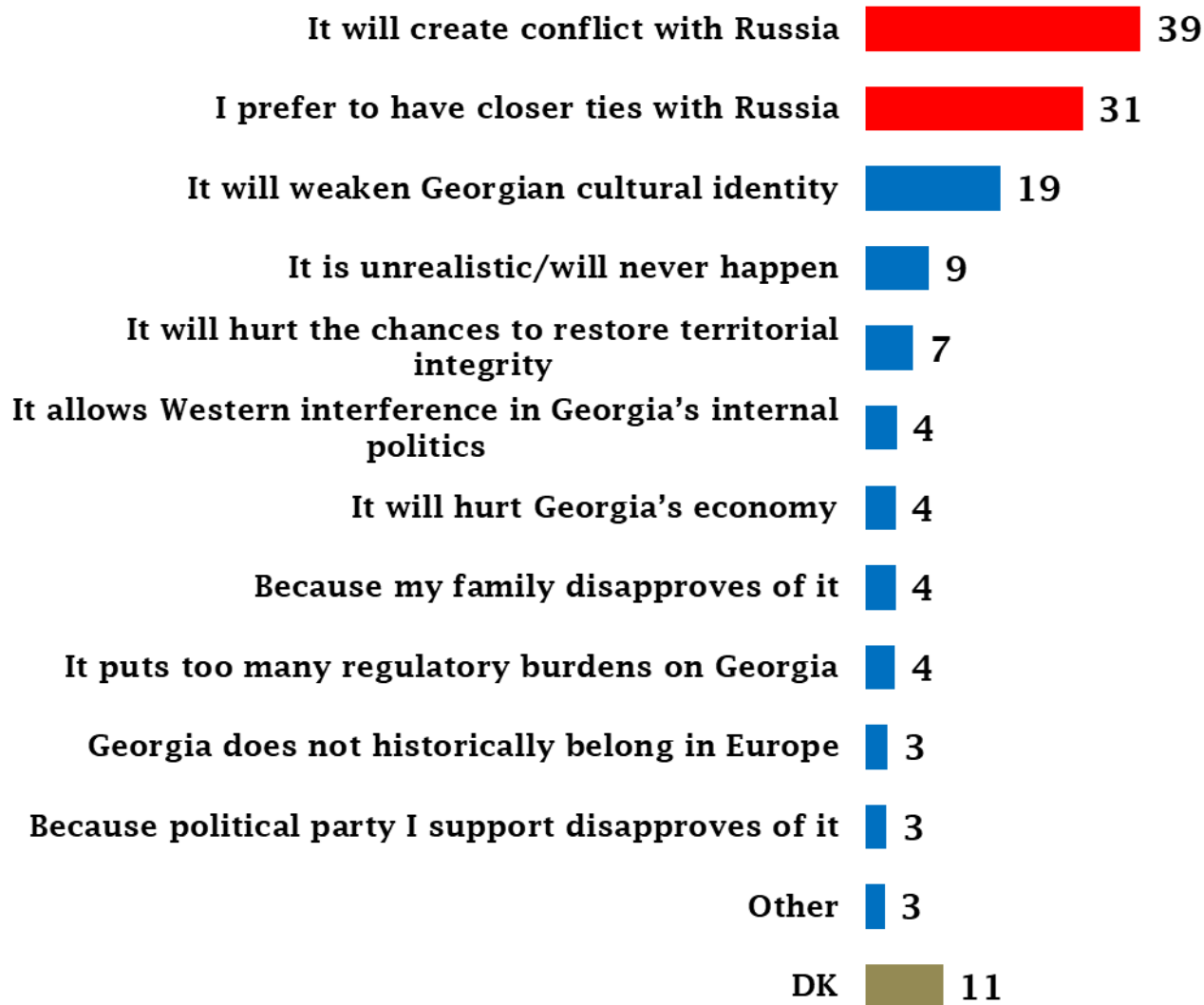
# Why EU?

If approve, why do you approve it? Up to 3 answers (q16) - of the 77% who approve of Georgian government's stated goal to join the EU



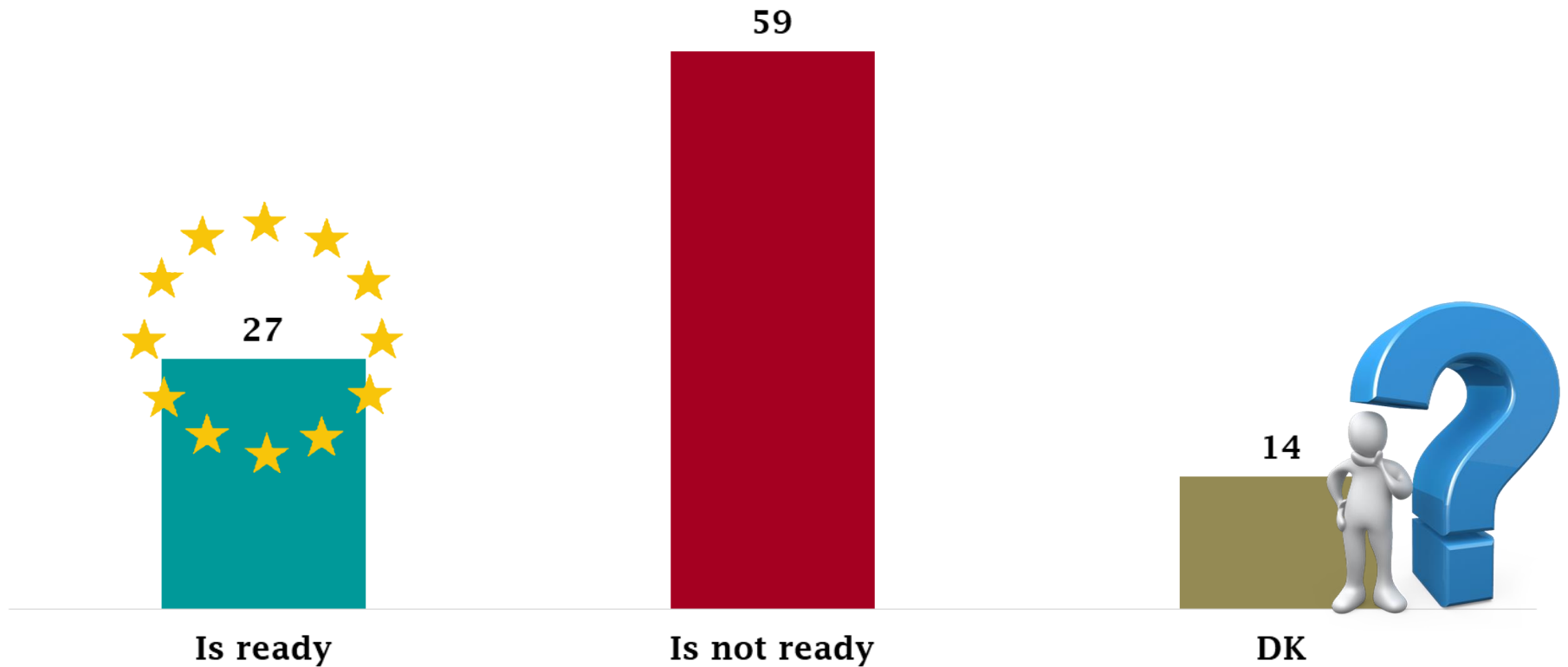
# Why not EU?

If disapprove, why do you disapprove it? Up to 3 answers (q18) - of the 13% who disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the EU



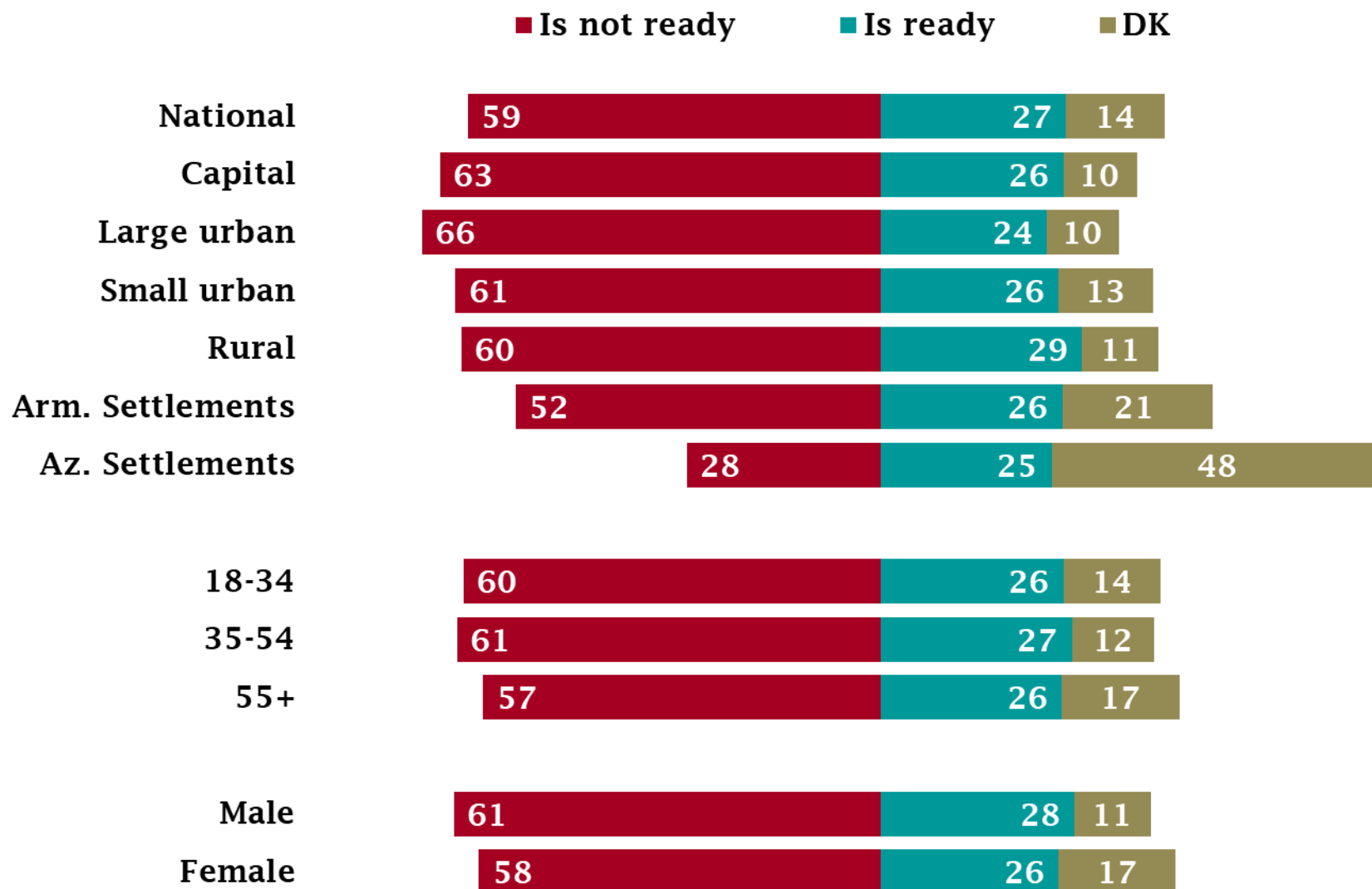
# Readiness for EU membership

Is Georgia ready for EU membership? (q20)



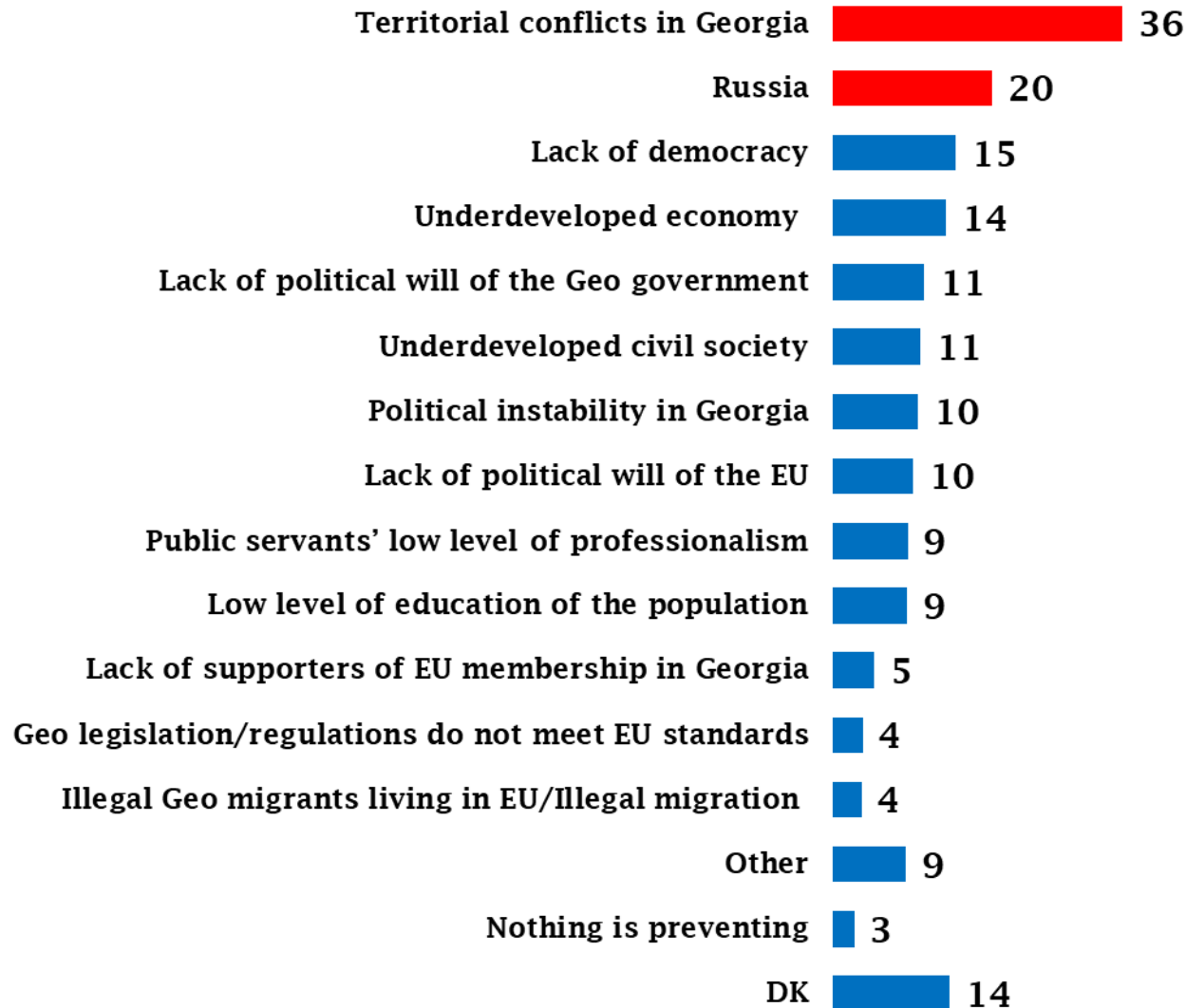
# Readiness for EU membership

Is Georgia ready for EU membership? (q20 X Settlement, Age, Gender)



# Factors hindering EU membership

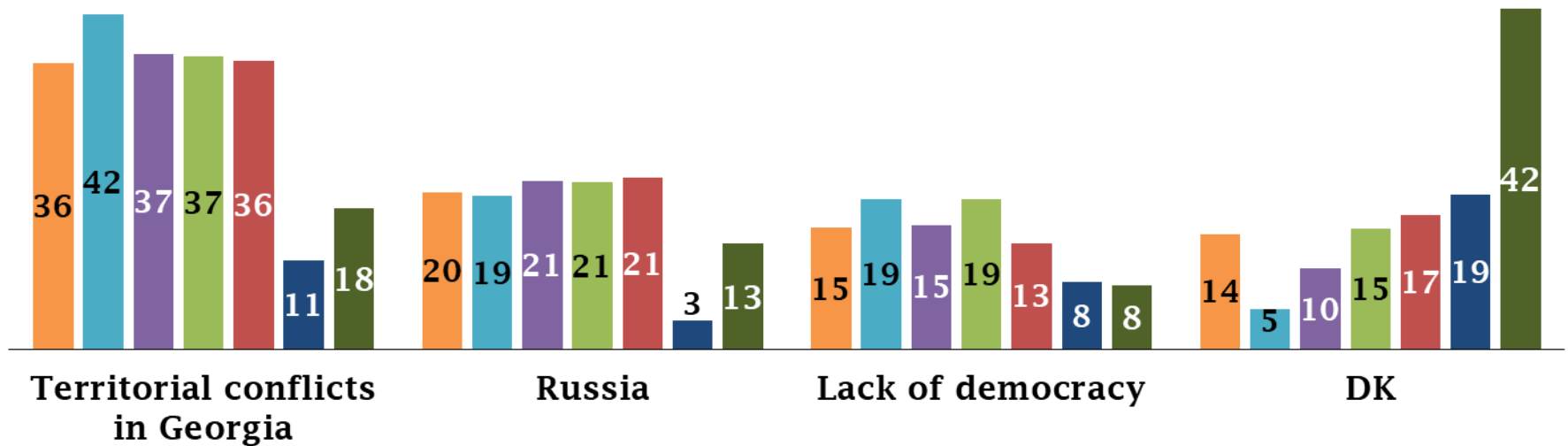
What are the main factors preventing Georgia from EU membership? Up to 3 answers (q21)



# Factors hindering EU membership

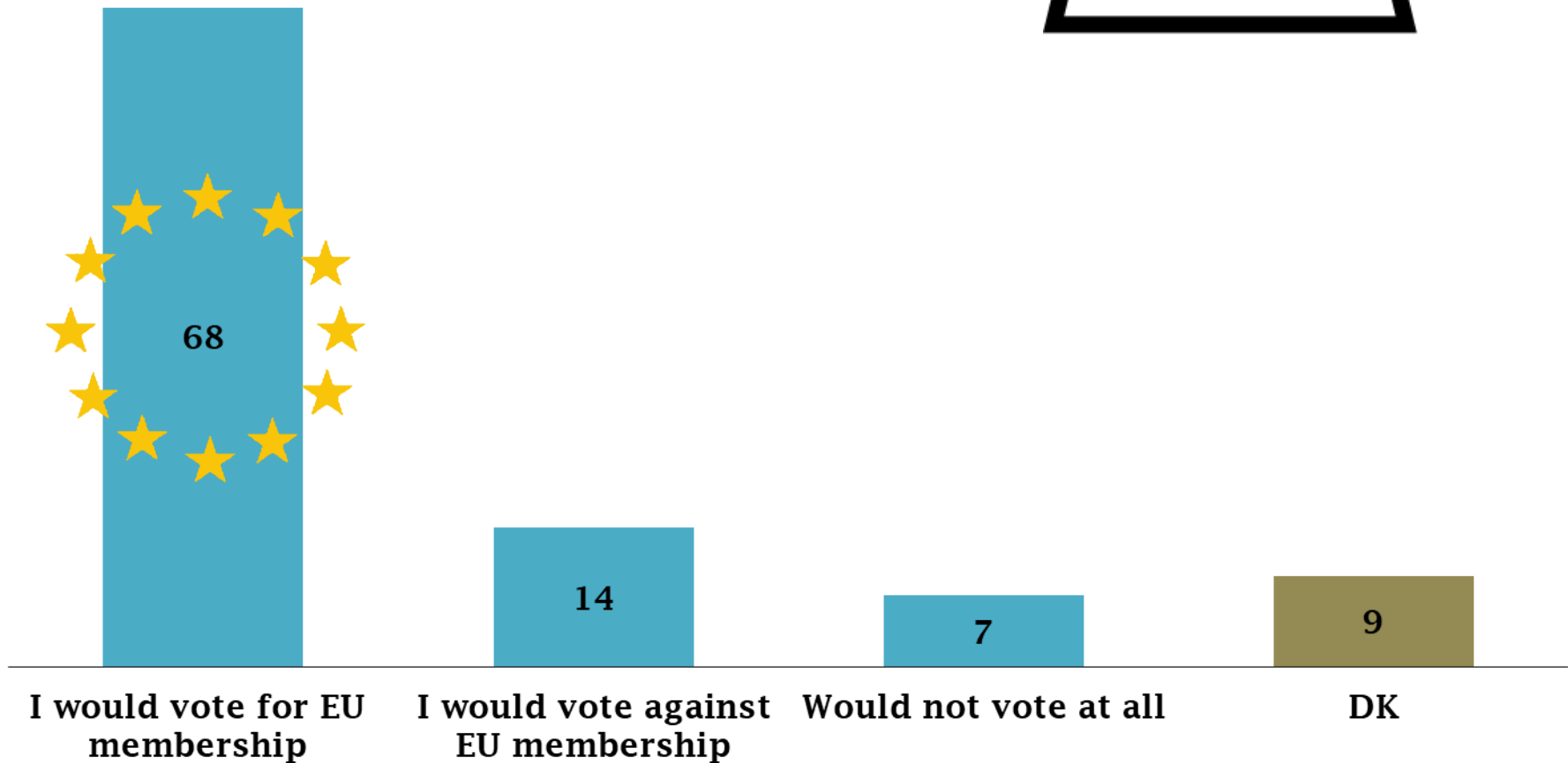
In your opinion, what are the main factors preventing Georgia from EU membership? Up to 3 answers (q21 X Settlement)

- National
- Capital
- Large urban
- Small urban
- Rural
- Arm. Settlements
- Az. Settlements



# Support for EU membership

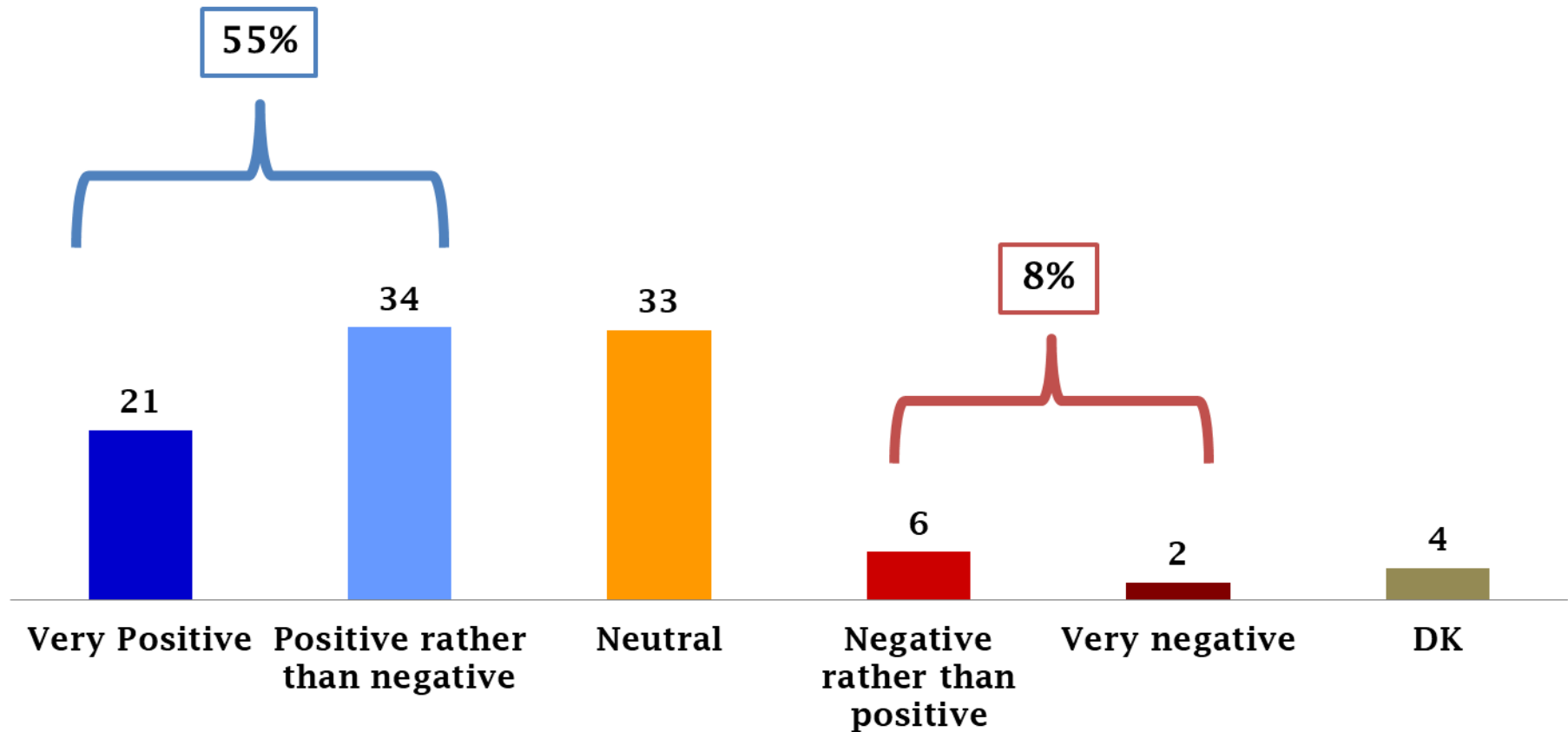
If there were a referendum tomorrow regarding Georgia's membership in the European Union, would you vote for or against it? (q22)





# Attitude towards EU

Lots of people talk about EU in Georgia. Please tell me, how is your attitude towards EU? (q24)





# EU benefits

Do you think the following groups would benefit or be disadvantaged if Georgia became a member of the EU? (q26) Part 1

- Would benefit
- Would neither benefit nor be disadvantaged
- Would be disadvantaged
- DK
- RA

Business people



Politicians



Farmers



Students



State employees



Sexual minorities



# EU benefits

Do you think the following groups would benefit or be disadvantaged if Georgia became a member of the EU? (q26) Part 2

- Would benefit
- Would neither benefit nor be disadvantaged
- Would be disadvantaged
- DK
- RA

Unemployed people



Ethnic minorities



Religious minorities



People living bellow poverty line



Pensioners



# EU benefits

Imagine Georgia is EU member, how would the situation regarding following issues be: better, worse, or the same, compared to today: (q27)

Part 1

■ Better      ■ The same      ■ Worse      ■ DK      ■ RA

Quality of education



Affordability of healthcare



Georgia's security



Protection of minority rights

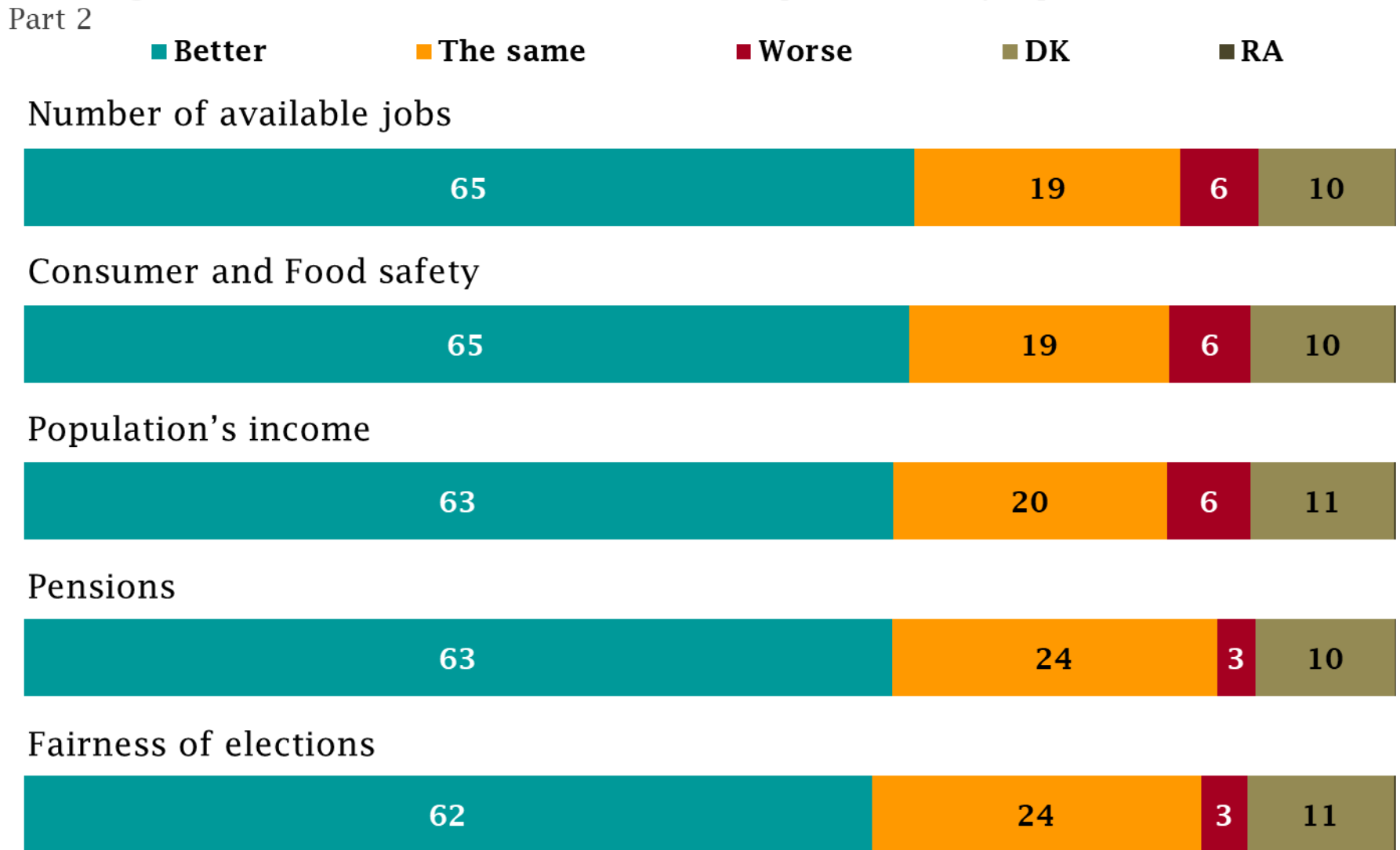


Freedom of speech



# EU benefits

Imagine Georgia is EU member, how would the situation regarding following issues be: better, worse, or the same, compared to today: (q27)



# EU benefits

Imagine Georgia is EU member, how would the situation regarding following issues be: better, worse, or the same, compared to today: (q27)

Part 3

■ Better      ■ The same      ■ Worse      ■ DK      ■ RA

Poverty



Independence of courts



Corruption



Territorial integrity

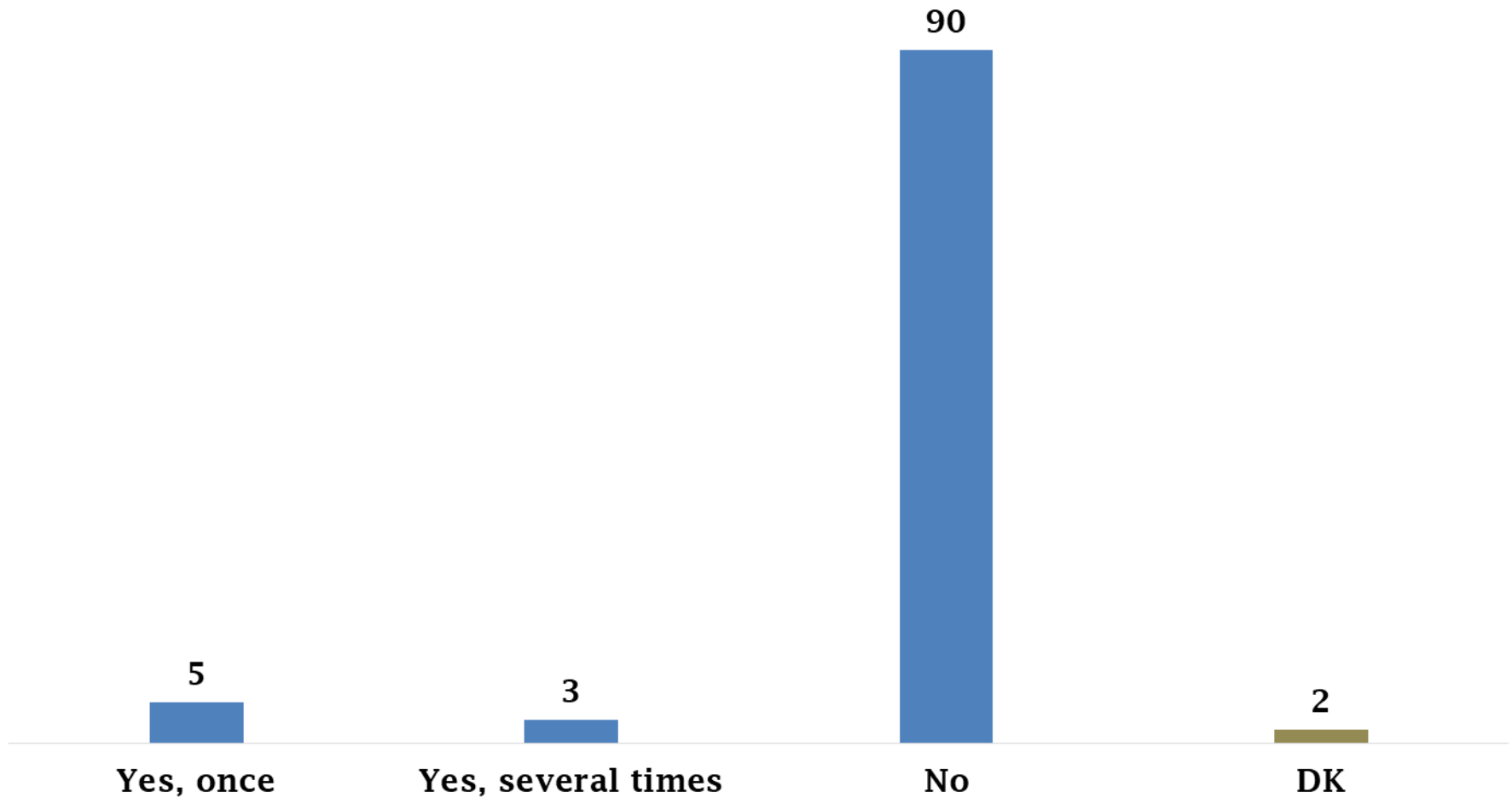


Respect for Georgian traditions



# Visa liberalization

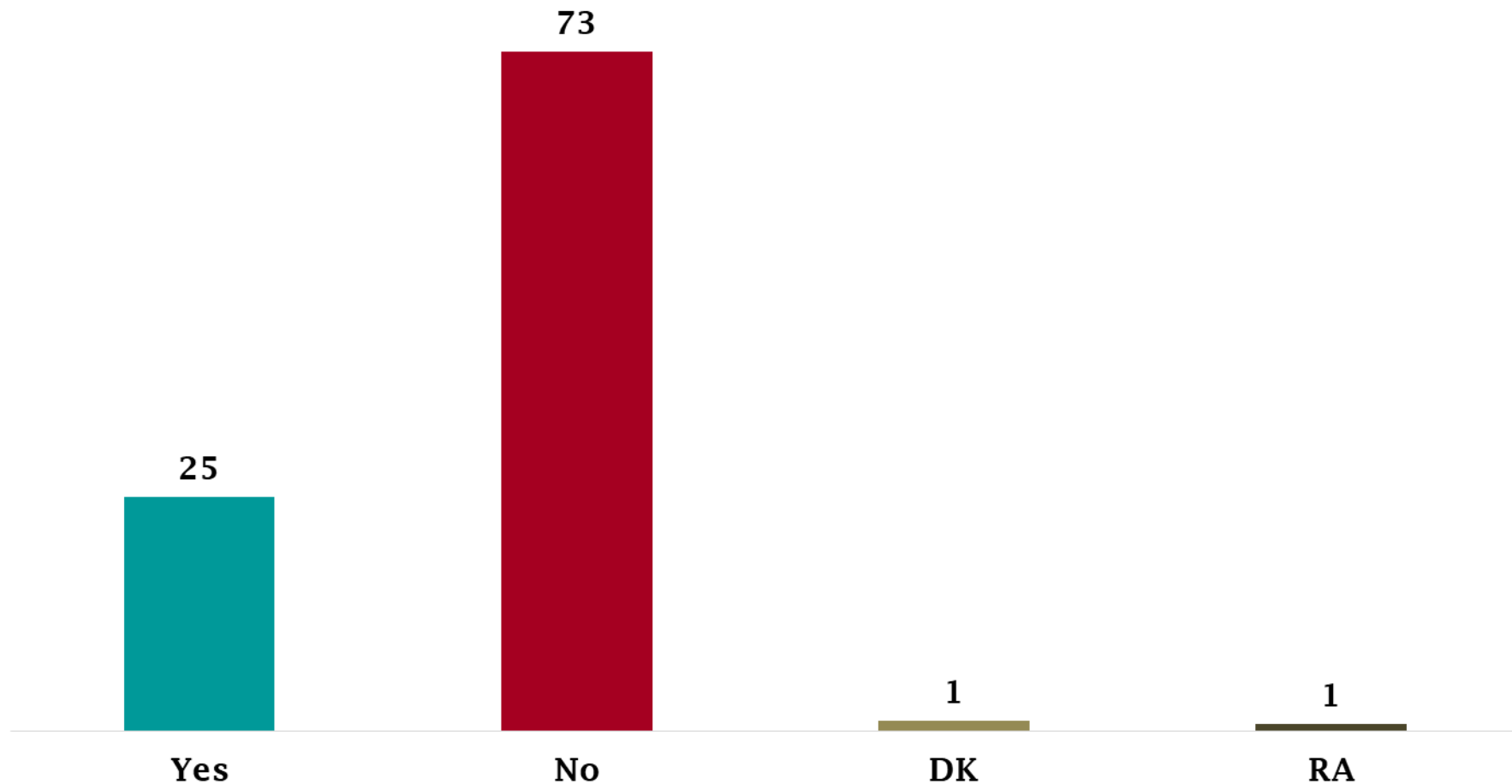
Since visa liberalisation, since spring 2017, have you traveled in in any European country within Schengen area? (q29)





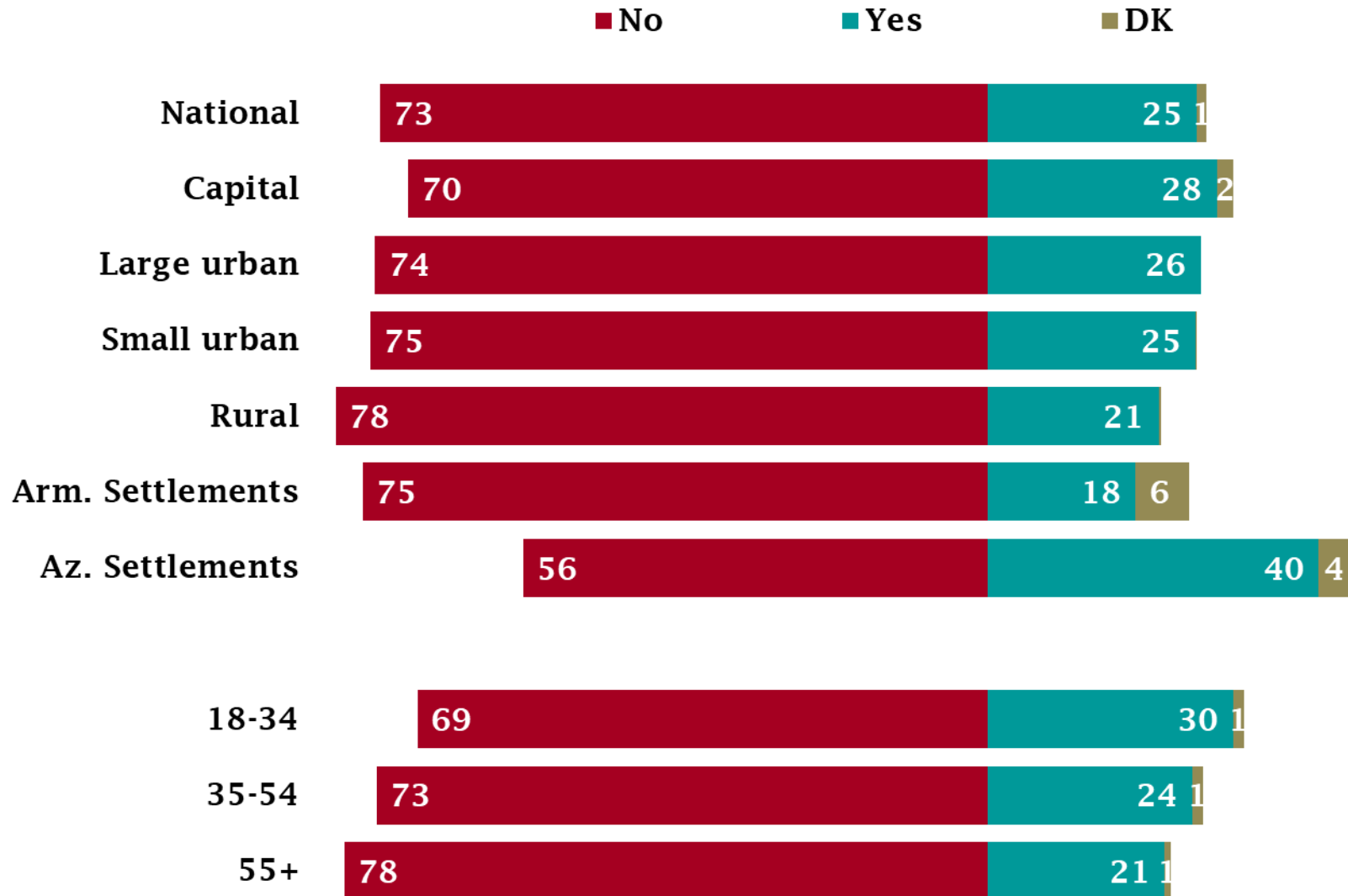
# Living abroad

Since 1991, have you, or your family member, lived in a foreign country for at least three months? (q30)



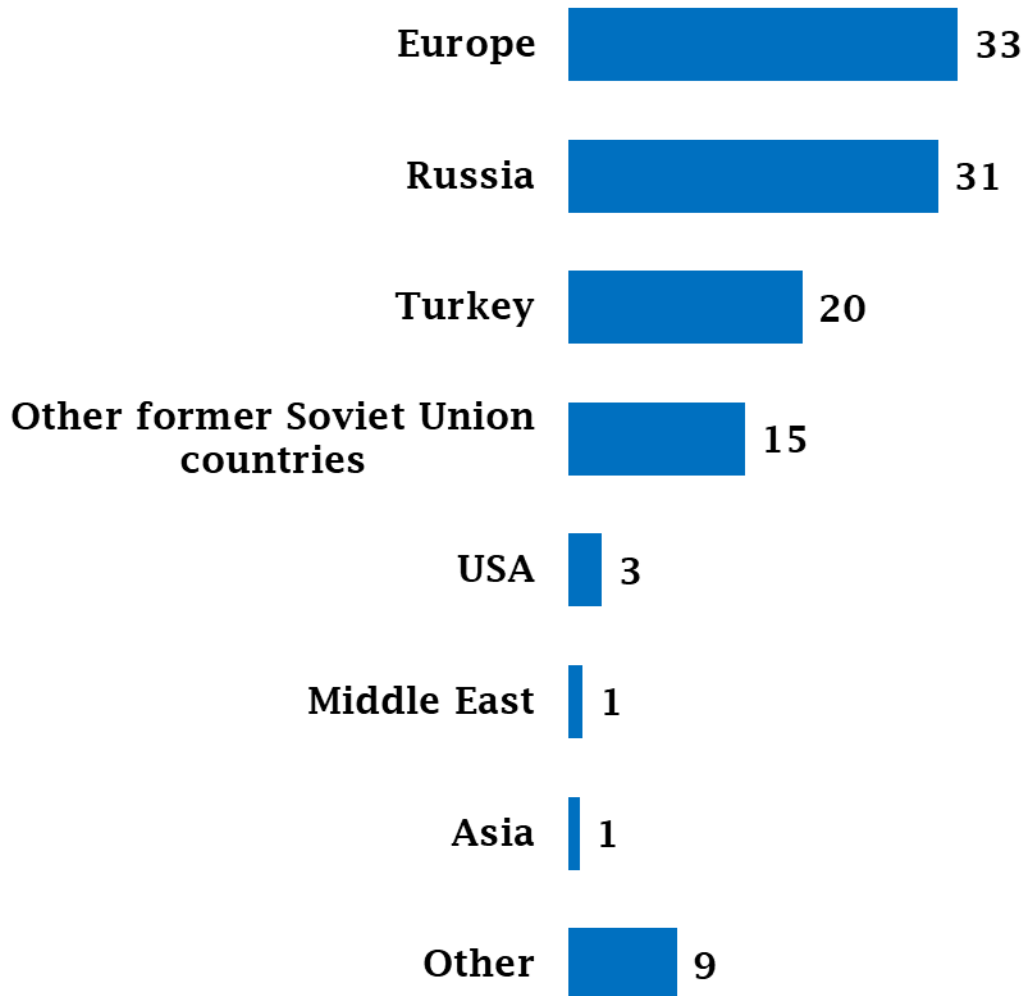
# Living abroad

Since 1991, have you, or your family member, lived in a foreign country for at least three months? (q30 X Settlement and Age)



# Living abroad

If yes, which country or region? Accept all answers (q31)  
- of the 25% who/whose family member have/has lived in a foreign country since 1991



# Results of in-depth analyses on EU support



# Main findings

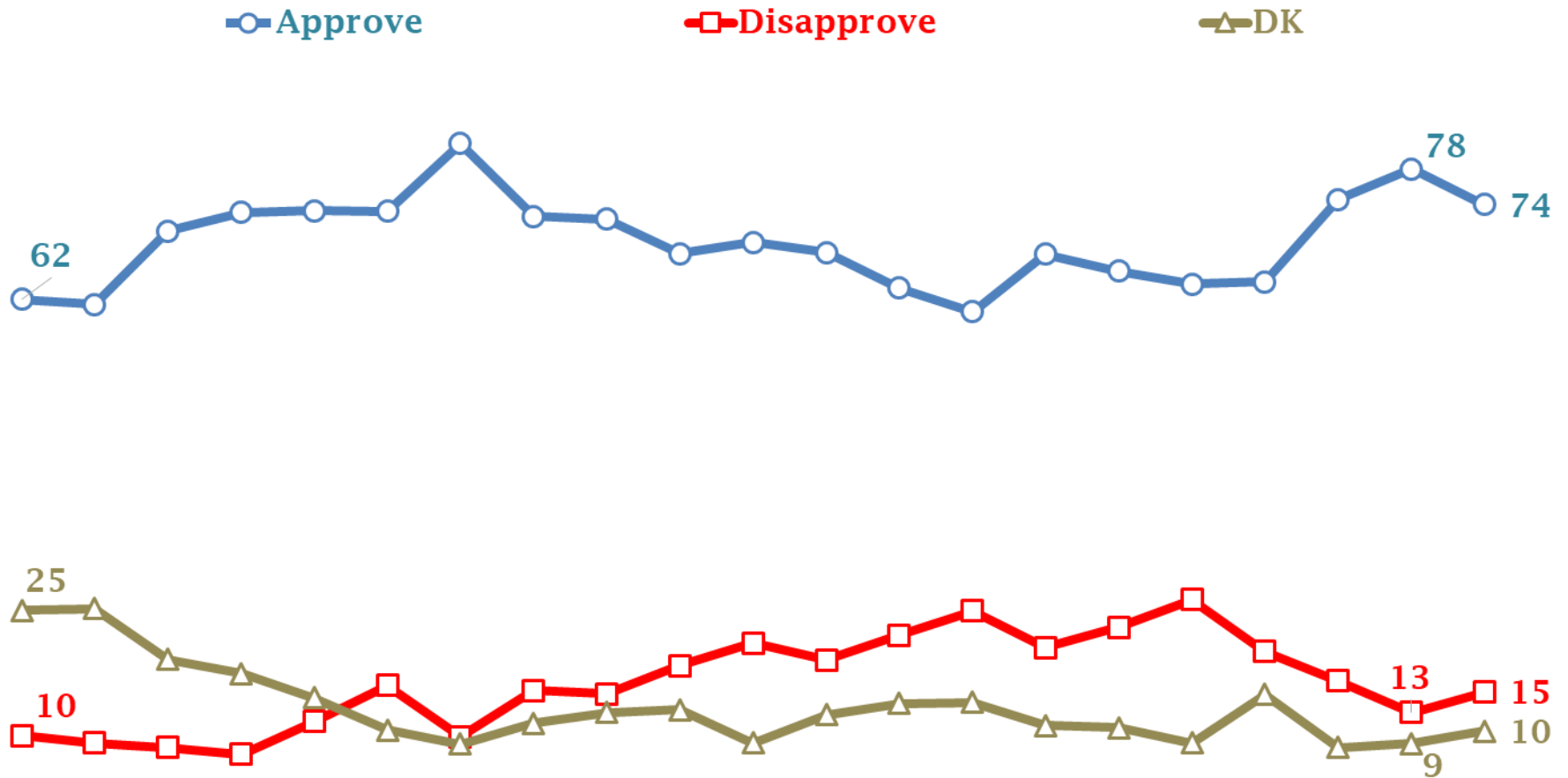


- ❑ Speaking about EU's economic benefits has a small positive effect **only when you mention potential Russian military threat**;
- ❑ **Speaking about potential economic burden** from EU lowers EU support, regardless you mention Russia or not;
- ❑ **Socio-economic status and ethnicity** are the best predictors of EU support;
- ❑ **Emotional level** is the driving factor for EU support;
  - ❑ Fear of losing cultural identity still biggest concern;
- ❑ **Exposure to EU** countries (travelled to EU or not) has no significant influence on EU support;
- ❑ **People with no party affiliation** are less likely to support EU membership than supporters of GD and UNM.

# NATO

# NATO membership support

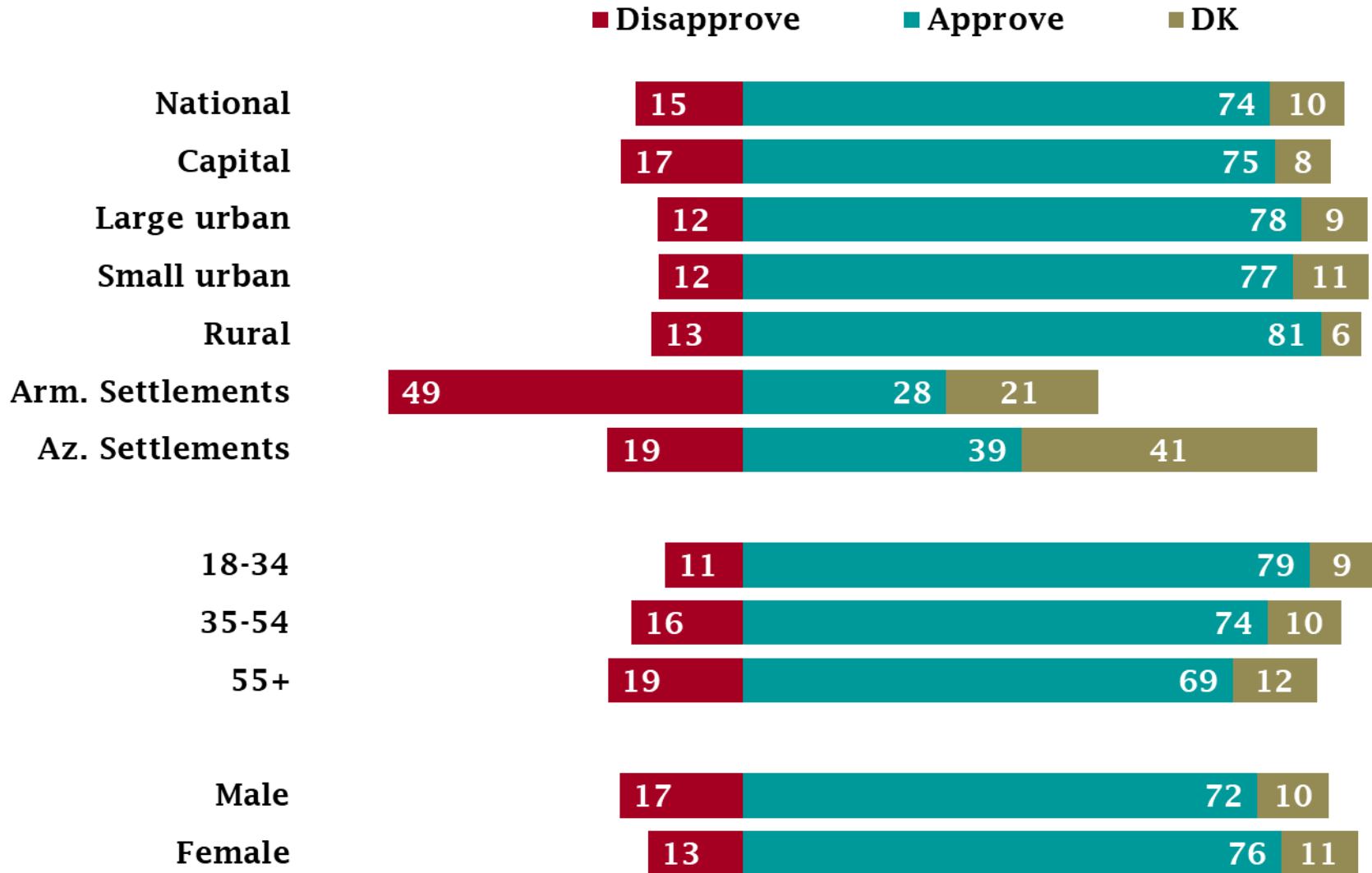
Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the NATO? (q32)



Jun 2012	Aug 2012	Nov 2012	Mar 2013	Jun 2013	Sep 2013	Nov 2013	Apr 2014	Aug 2014	Apr 2015	Nov 2015	Mar 2016	Jun 2016	Nov 2016	Apr 2017	Jun 2017	Dec 2017	Mar 2018	Jun 2018	Dec 2018	Apr 2019
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# NATO membership support

Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the NATO? (q32 X Settlement, Age, Gender)

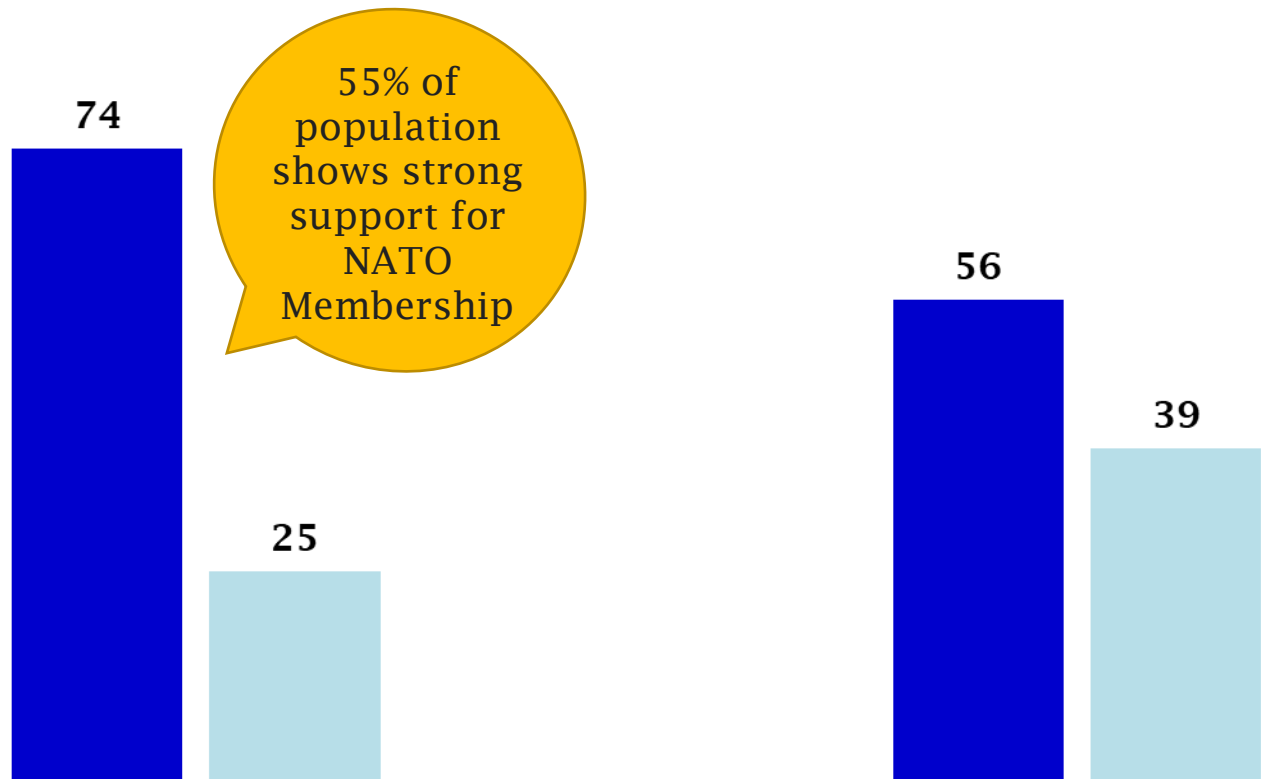




# Strength of NATO membership support

If approve/disapprove, how much do you approve/disapprove? (q33, q35)

■ Strongly      ■ Somewhat

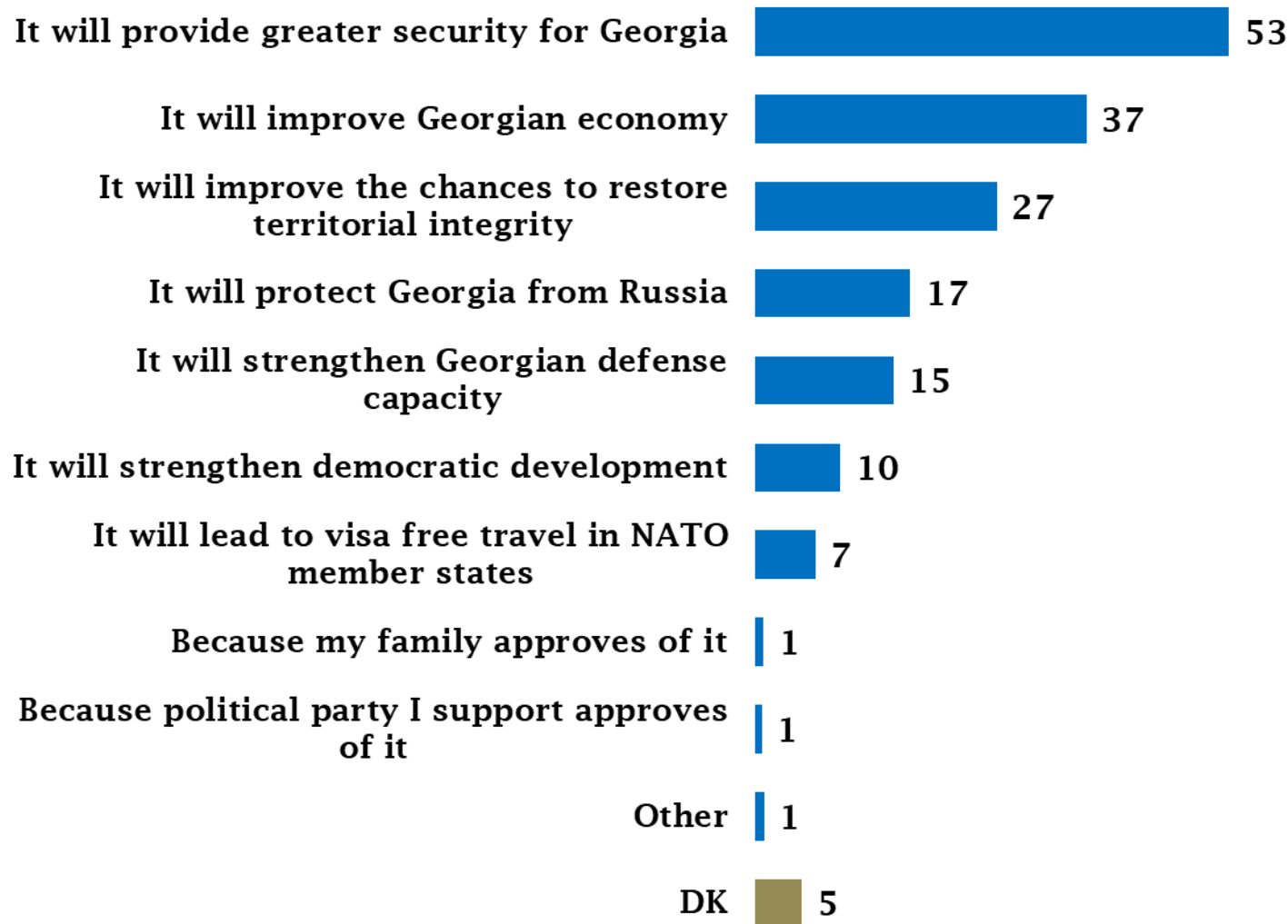


How much do you approve joining the NATO? (of the 74% who approve)

How much do you disapprove joining NATO? (of the 15% who disapprove)

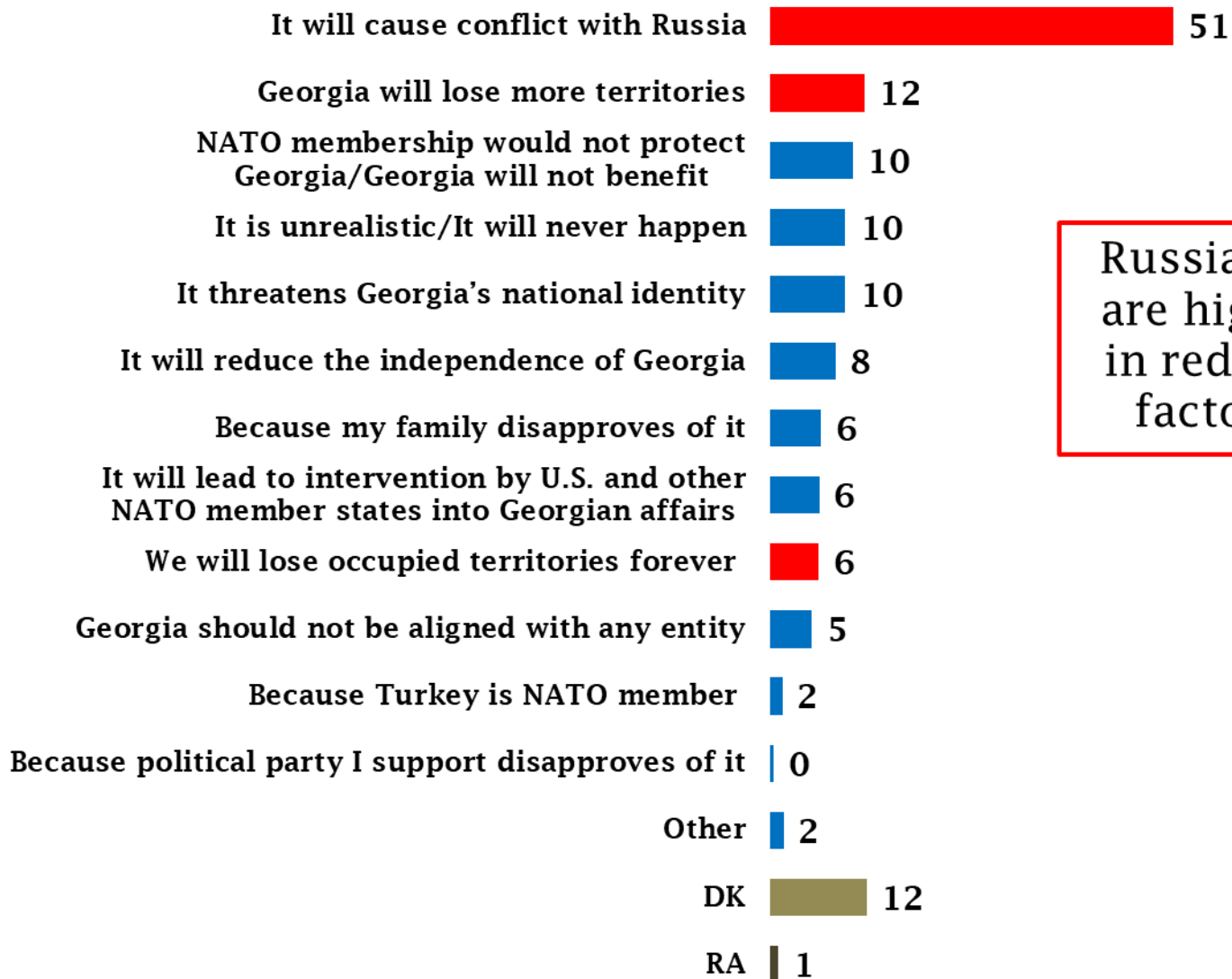
# Why NATO?

If approve, why? Up to 3 answers (q34) - of the 74% who approve of Georgian government's stated goal to join the NATO



# Why not NATO?

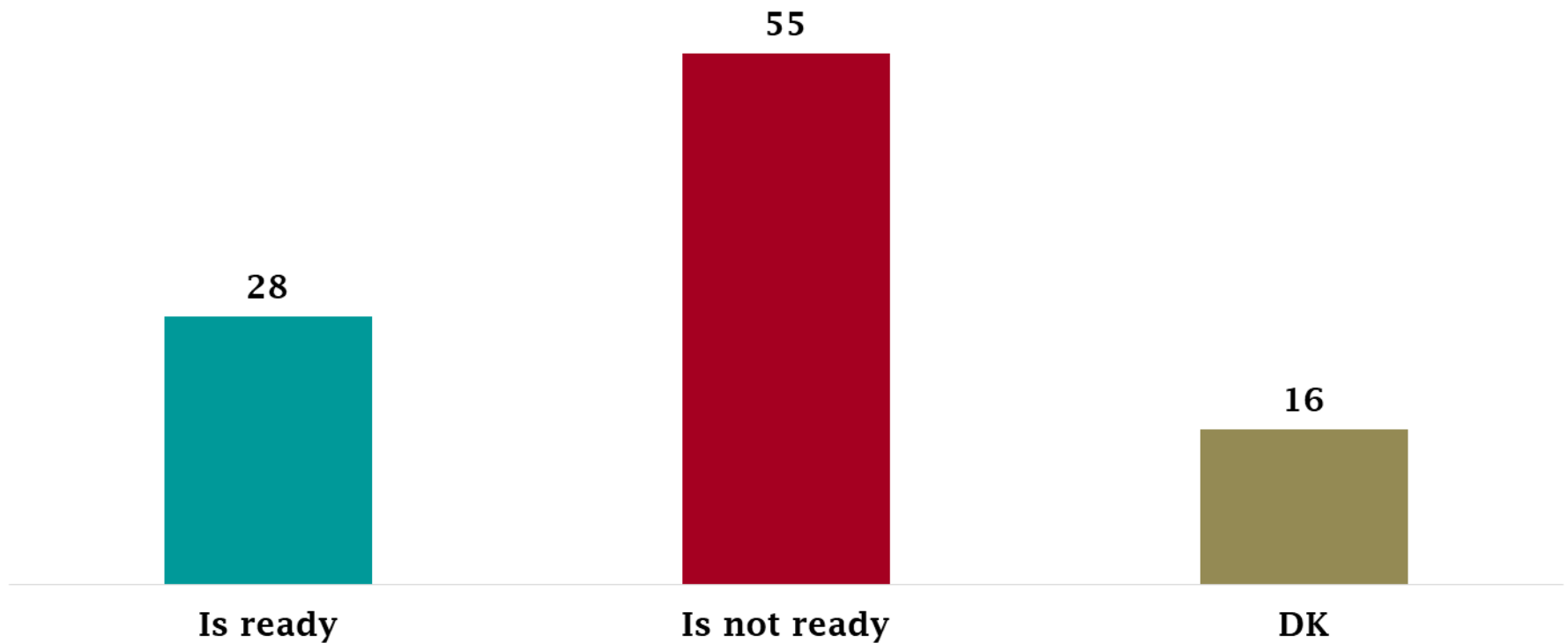
If disapprove, why? Up to 3 answers (q36) - of the 15% who disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the NATO



Russian factors are highlighted in red. Russian factors=69%

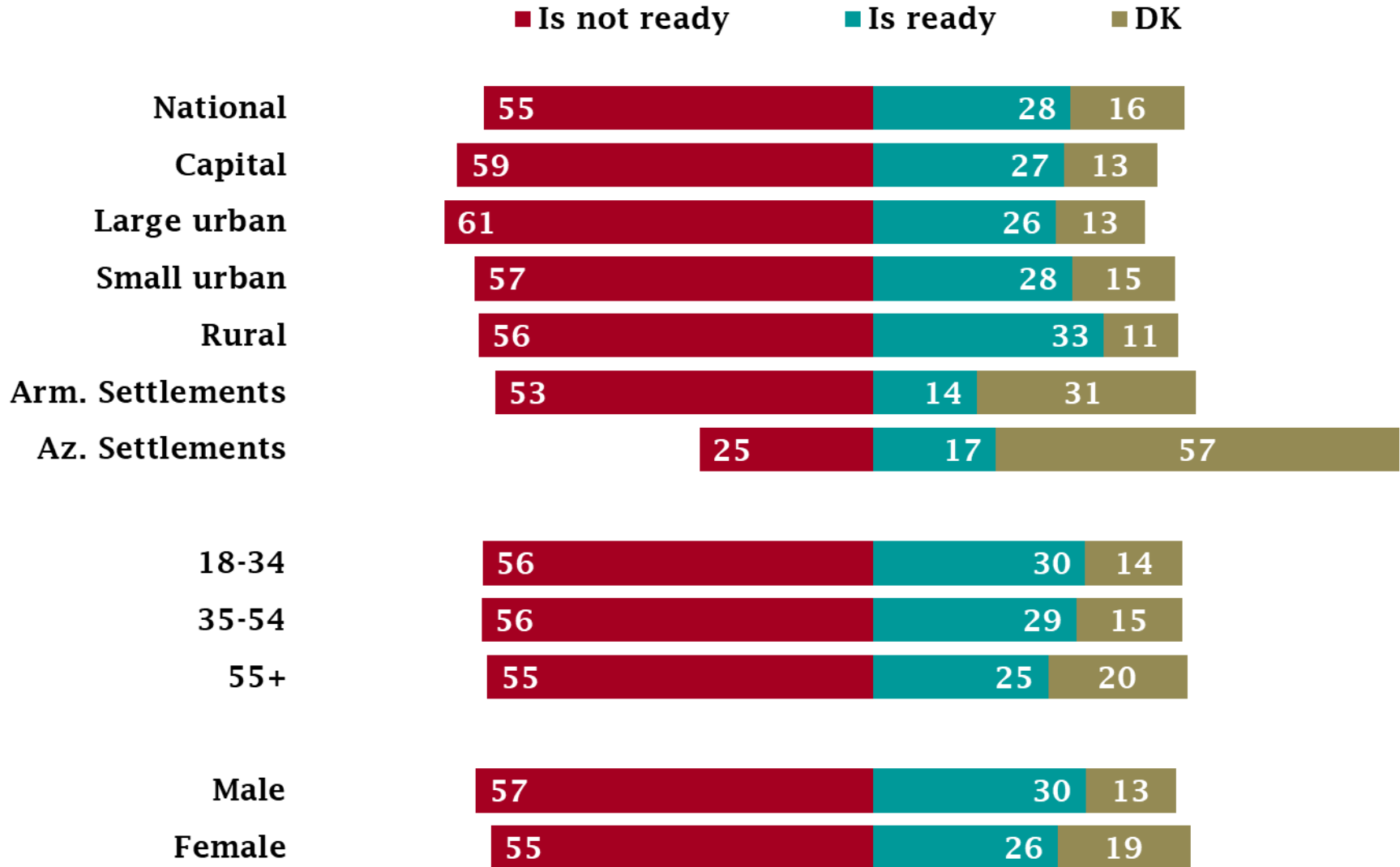
# Readiness for NATO membership

Is Georgia ready for NATO membership? (q37)

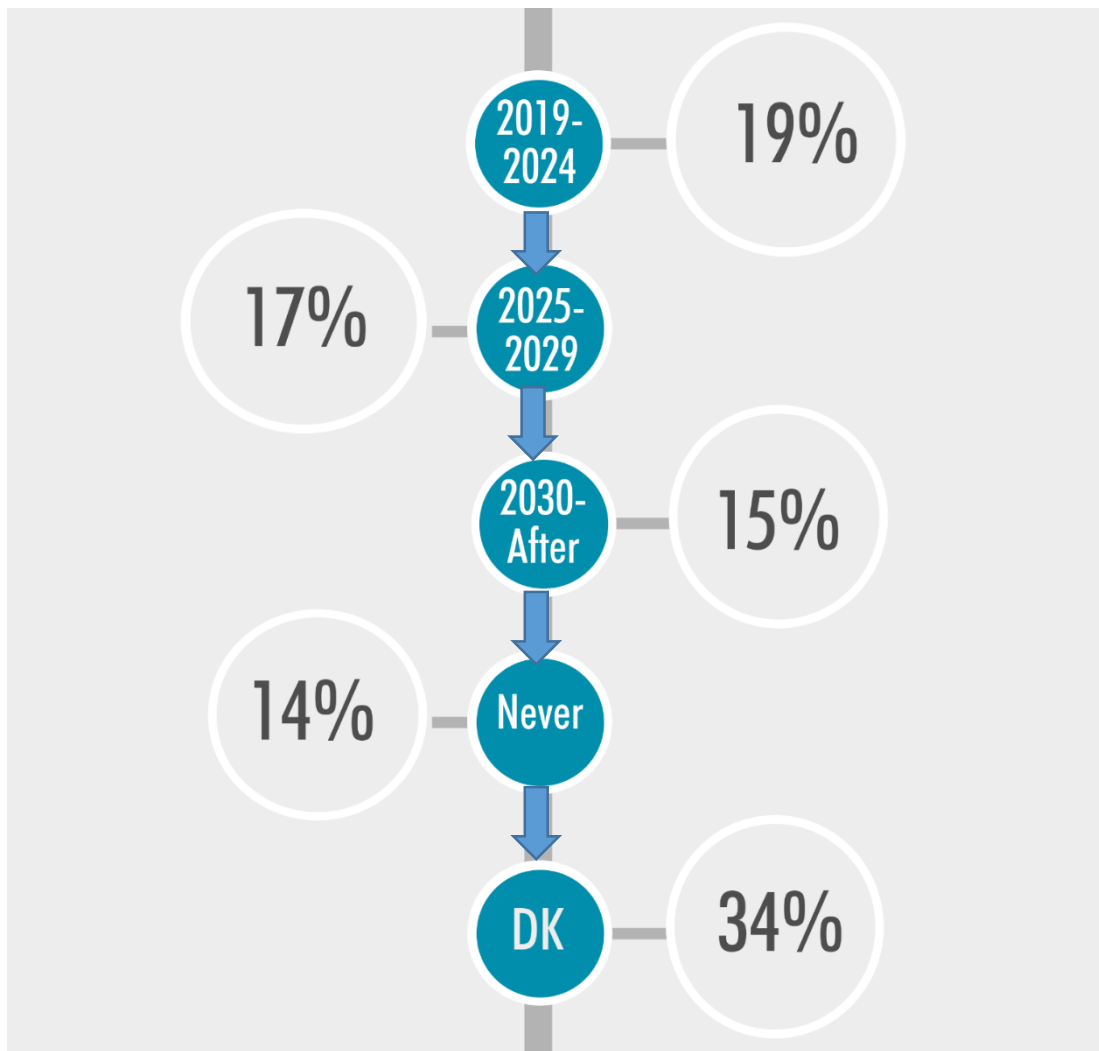


# Readiness for NATO membership

Is Georgia ready for NATO membership? (q37 X Settlement, Age, Gender)

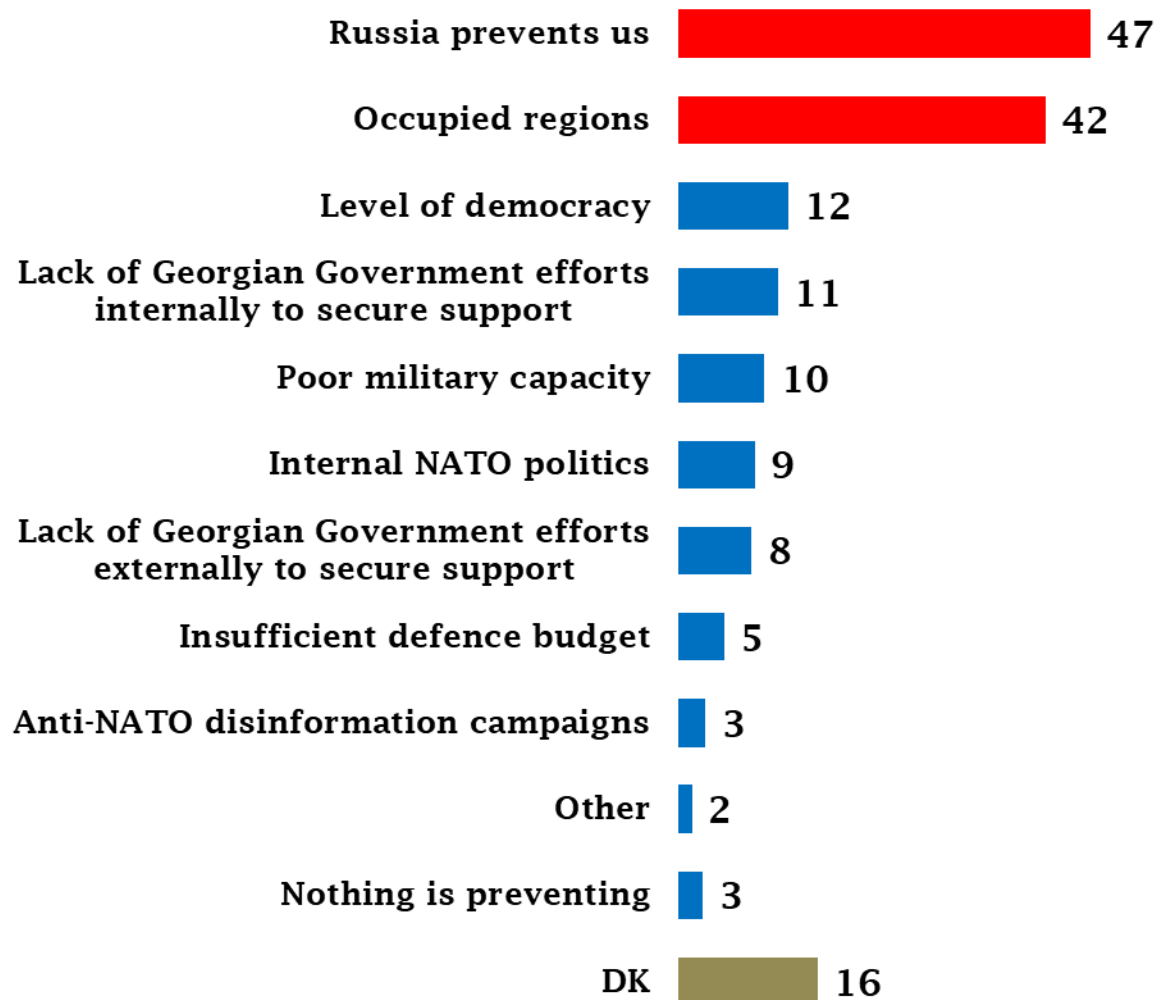


# When do you think Georgia will be granted full NATO membership? (q38)



# Factors hindering NATO membership

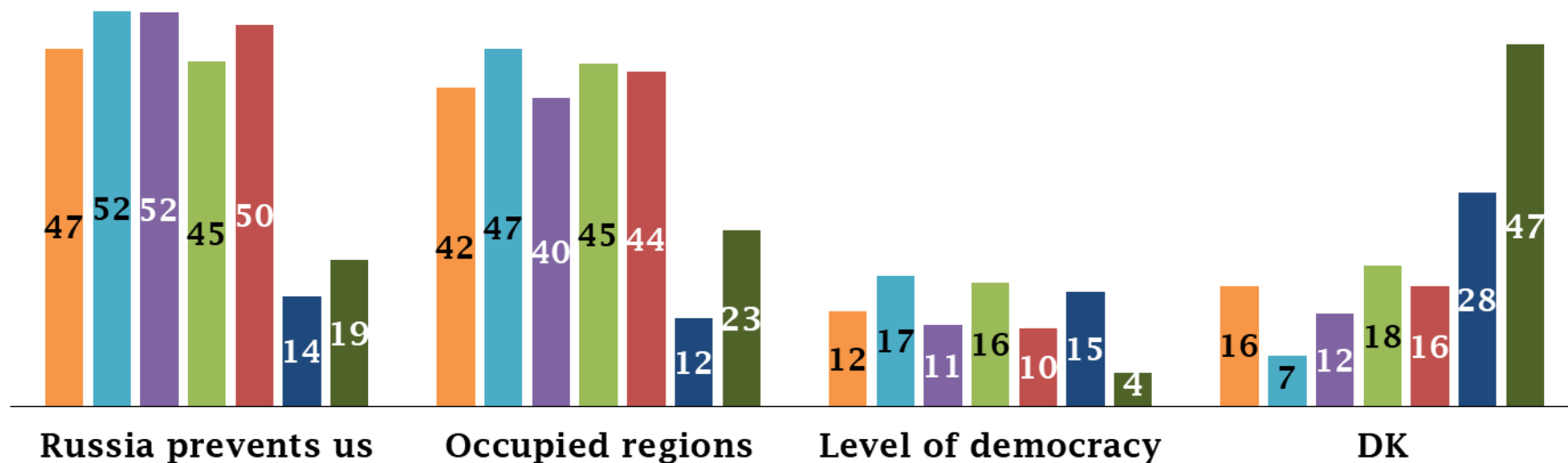
What factors, if any, are preventing Georgia from joining NATO?  
Up to 3 answers (q39)



# Factors hindering NATO membership

What factors, if any, are preventing Georgia from joining NATO?  
Up to 3 answers (q39 X Settlement)

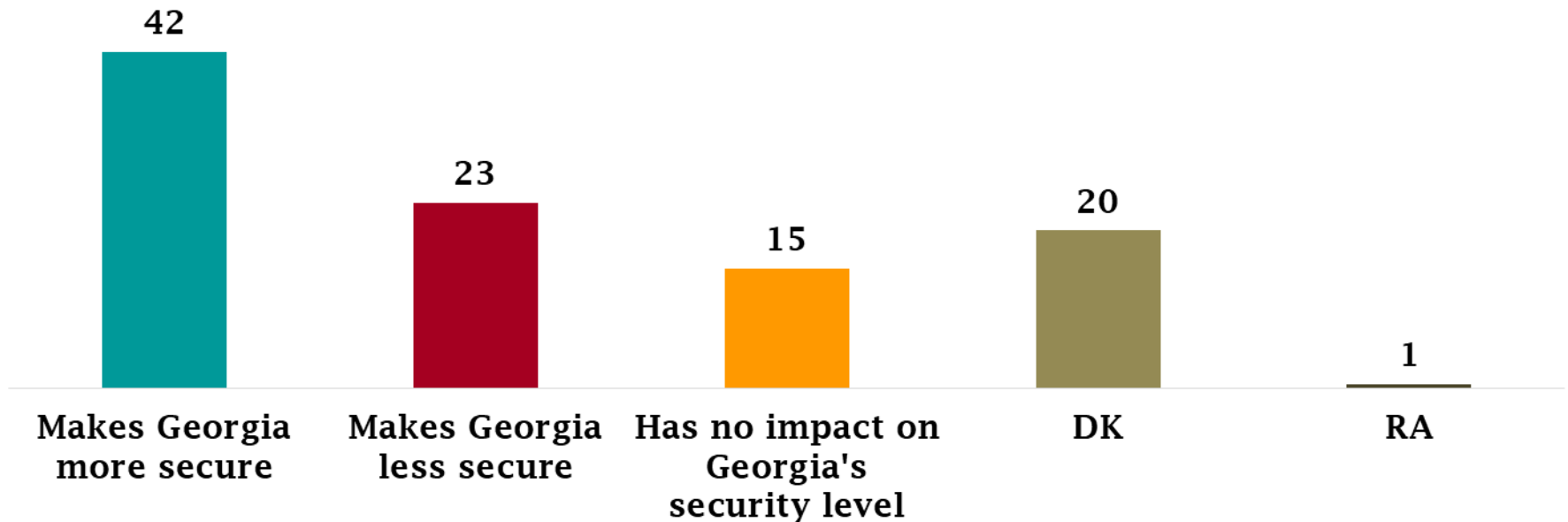
■ National      ■ Capital      ■ Large urban      ■ Small urban  
■ Rural      ■ Arm. Settlements      ■ Az. Settlements





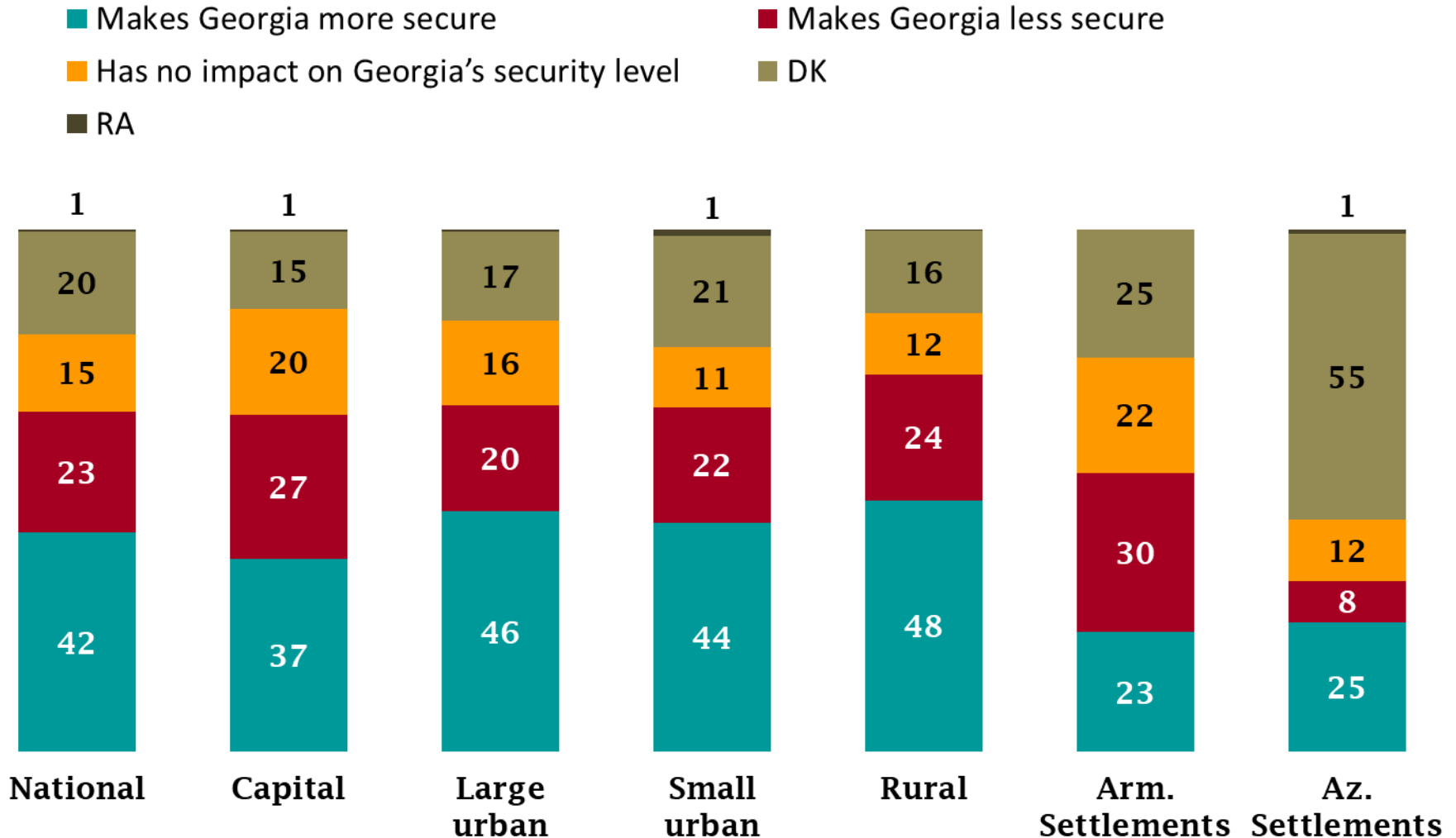
# NATO and Georgia's security

Thinking about current Georgia-NATO relationship and joint initiatives and exercises, do you think that this relationship ... (q40)



# NATO and Georgia's security

Thinking about current Georgia-NATO relationship and joint initiatives and exercises, do you think that this relationship ... (q40 X Settlement)

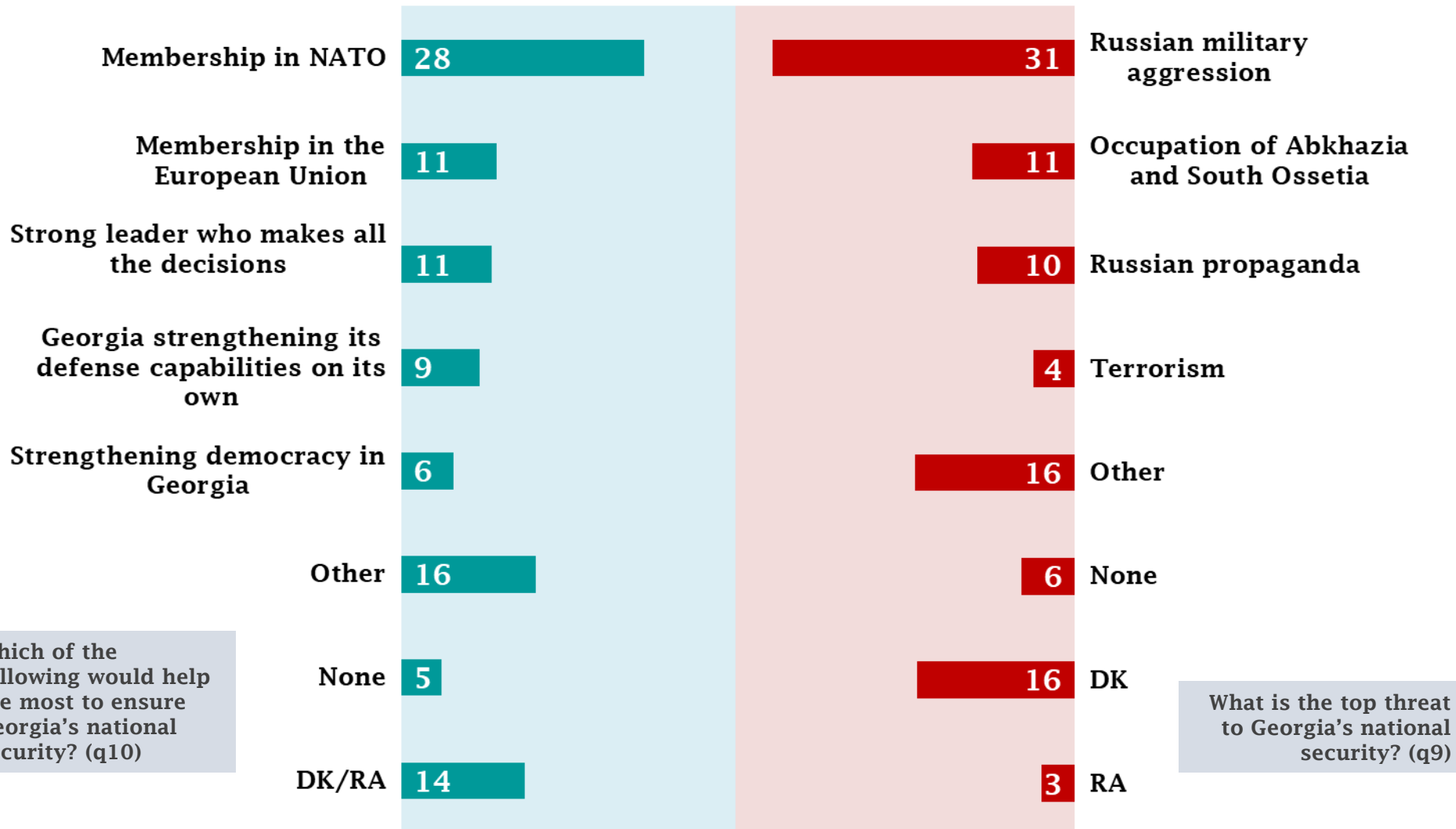


# National Security & Russia

# National security threats and guarantees

## Top security guarantees

## Top security threats



Which of the following would help the most to ensure Georgia's national security? (q10)

What is the top threat to Georgia's national security? (q9)

# Impact of Russia-Georgia relationship

Thinking about Georgia's relationship with Russia since 2012, what kind of impact, do you think, this relationship had on Georgian economy/politics/national security? (q46, q47, q48)

■ Positive impact    ■ No impact    ■ Negative impact    ■ DK    ■ RA

## Georgian economy



## Georgian politics



## Georgia's national security

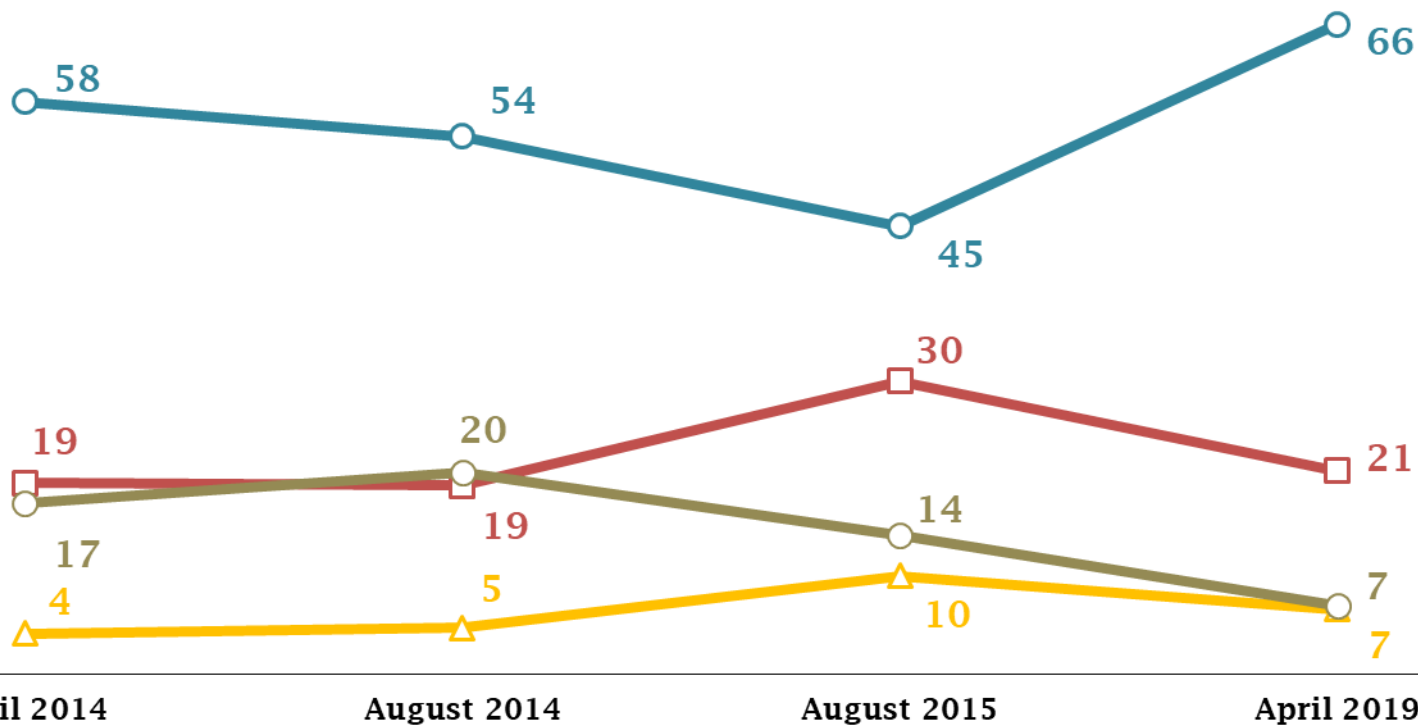


# EU-NATO vs Russia benefits

Please tell me, which of the following statements do you agree with? (q19)

- Georgia will benefit more from European and Euro-Atlantic integration (joining EU and NATO)
- Georgia will benefit more from abandoning European and Euro-Atlantic integration in favor of better relations with Russia
- △ Agree with neither

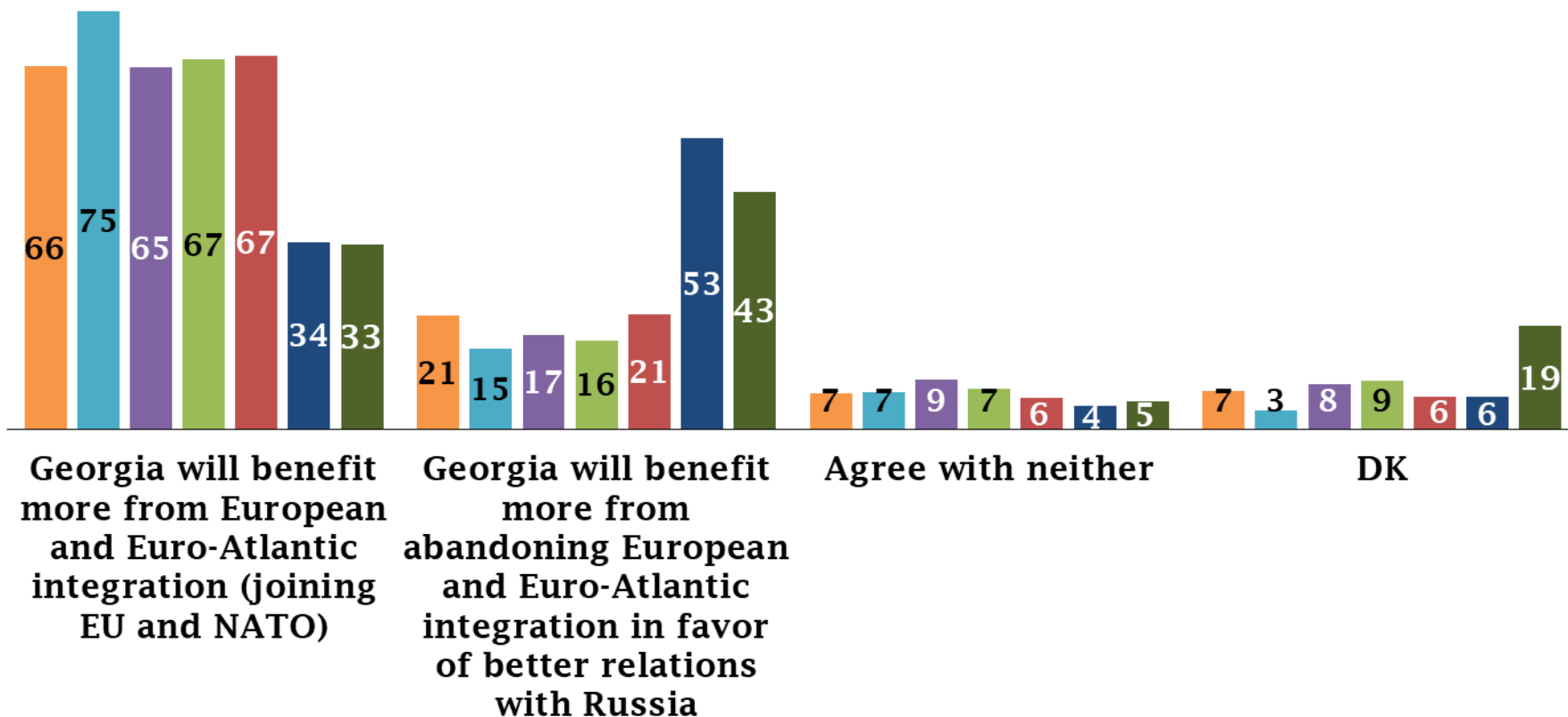
—○ DK



# EU vs Russia benefits

Please tell me, which of the following statements do you agree with?  
(q19 X Settlement)

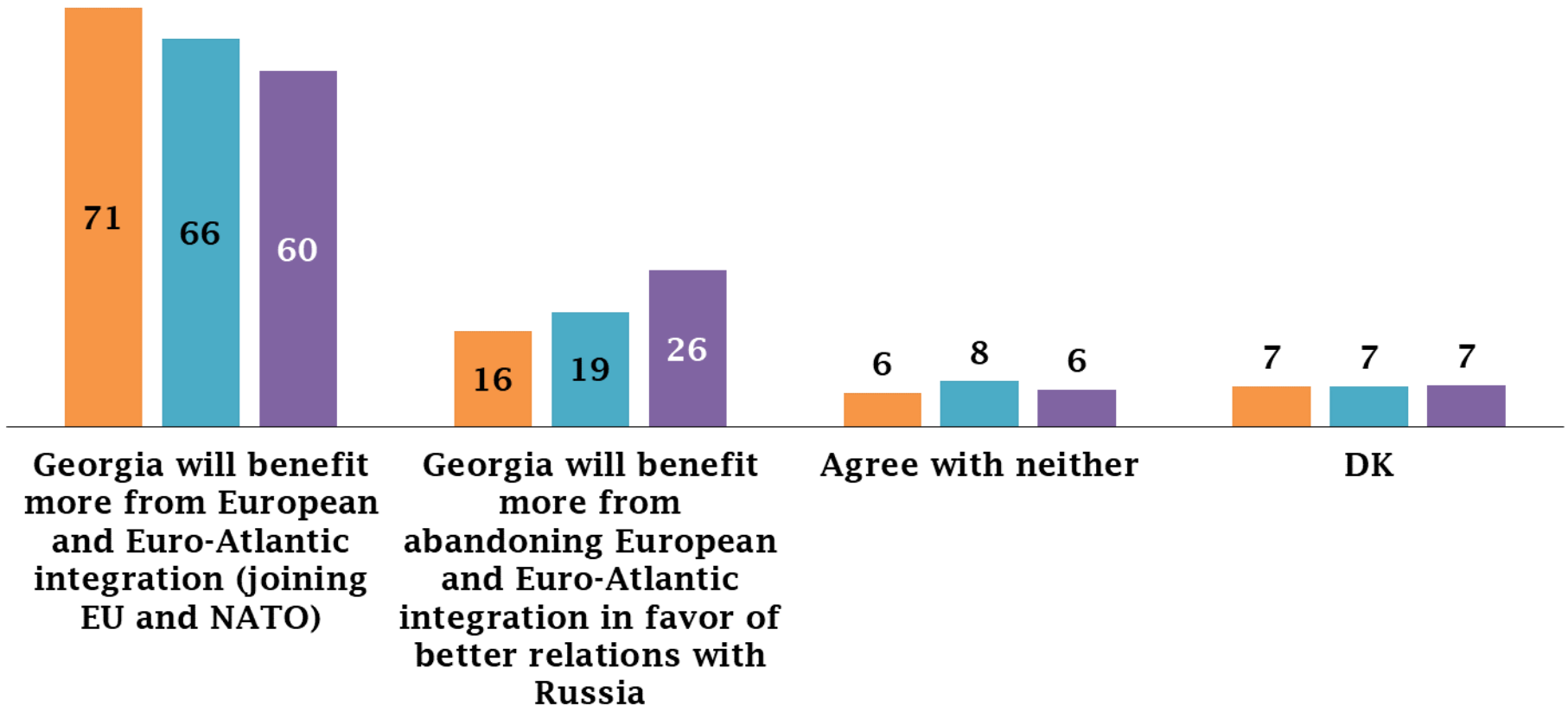
■ National     
 ■ Capital     
 ■ Large urban     
 ■ Small urban  
■ Rural     
 ■ Arm. Settlements     
 ■ Az. Settlements



# EU vs Russia benefits

Please tell me, which of the following statements do you agree with?  
(q19 X Age)

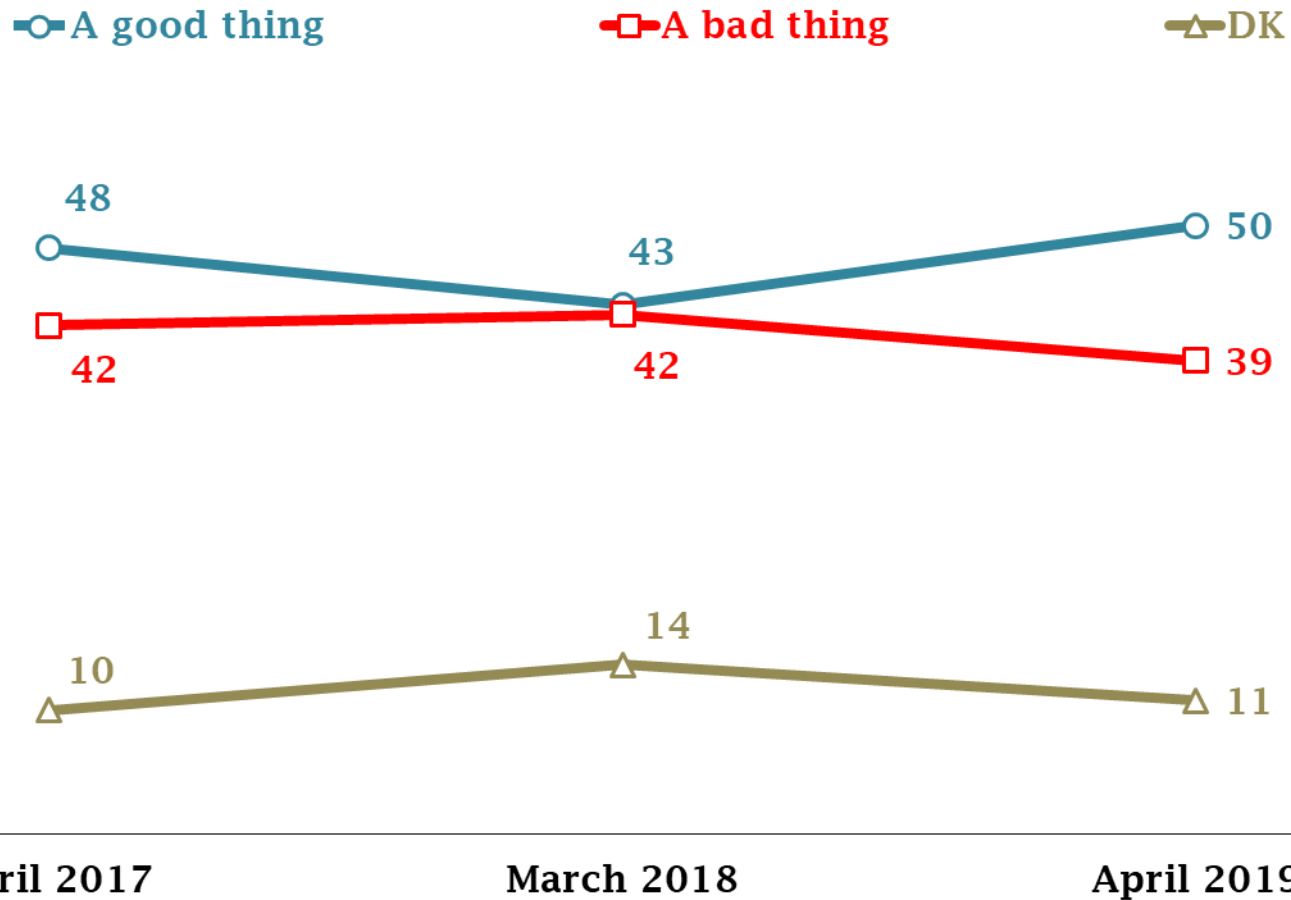
■ 18-34   ■ 35-54   ■ 55+





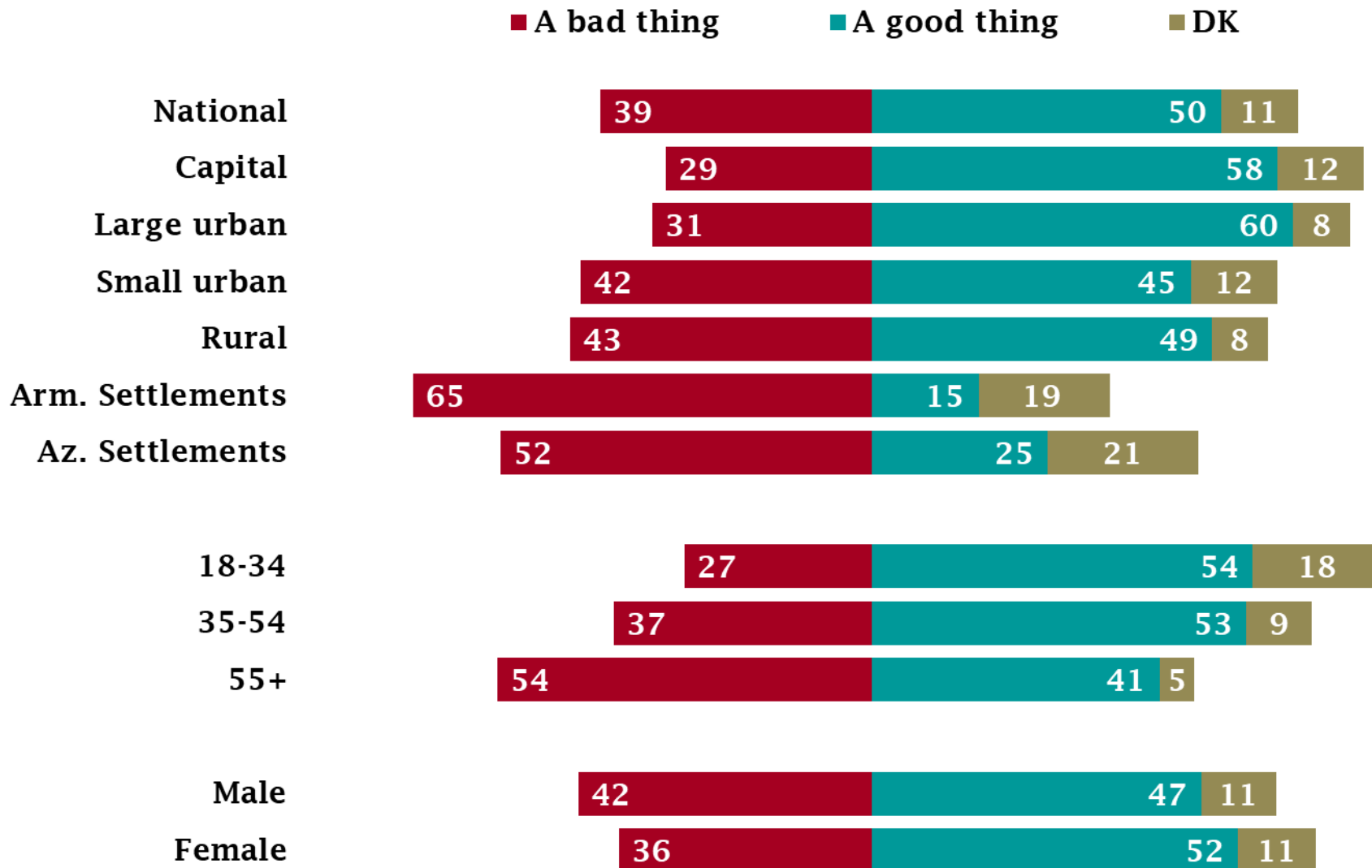
# Dissolution of USSR

In general, do you think the dissolution of the Soviet Union has been a good thing or a bad thing for Georgia? (q41)



# Dissolution of USSR

In general, do you think the dissolution of the Soviet Union has been a good thing or a bad thing for Georgia? (q41 X Settlement, Age, Gender)



# Disinformation Messages

# Disinformation messages

I will now read out statements. For each, please, tell me, do you think it is true or false? (q53)

■ False    ■ True    ■ DK    ■ RA

Russian market is more beneficial than EU market for Georgia



US sponsored Lugar lab in Georgia contributes to spread of epidemics



EU integration obligates Georgia to receive Syrian refugees

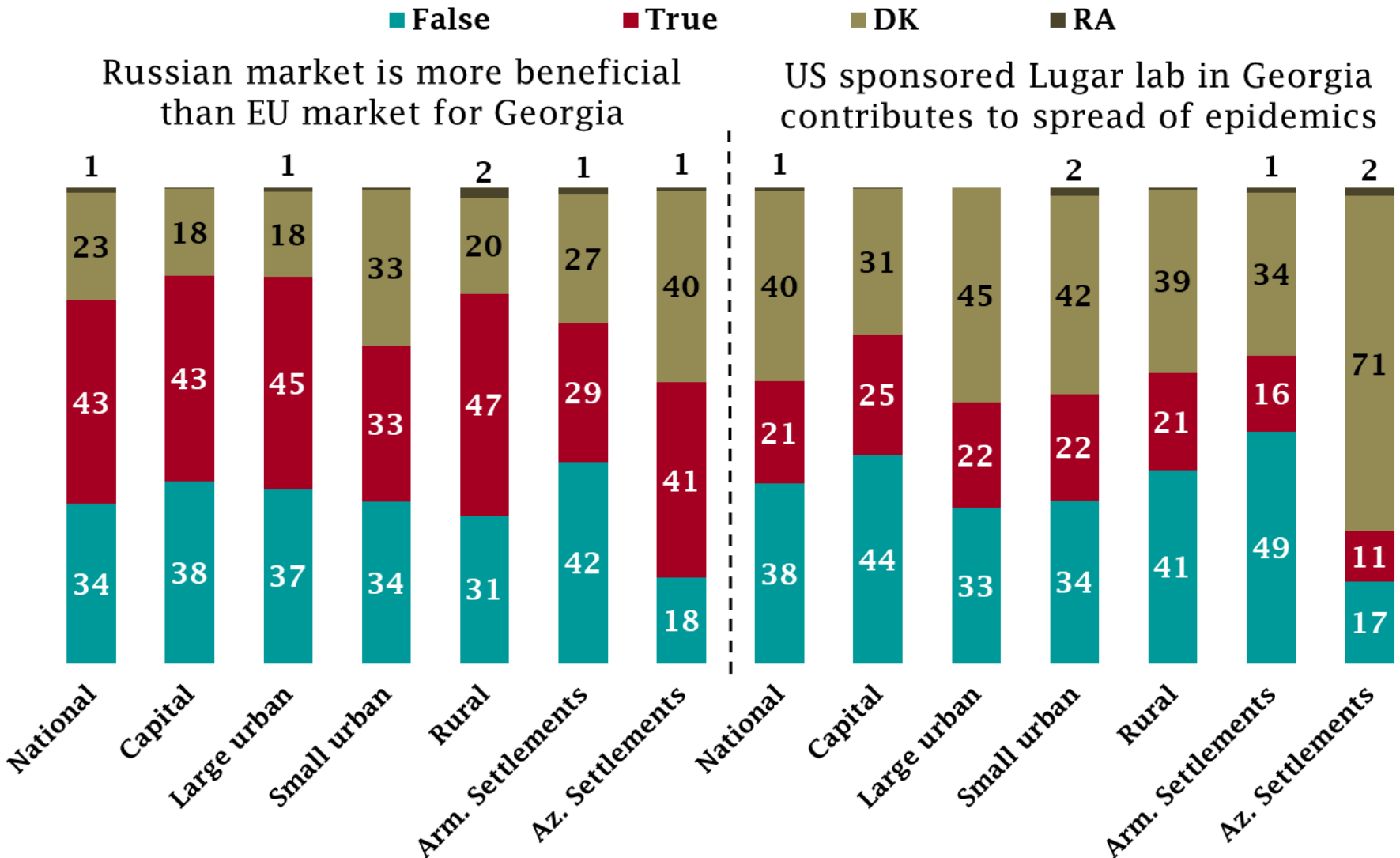


If Georgia joins NATO, Turkish army will establish military base in Samtskhe-Javakheti



# Disinformation messages

I will now read out statements. For each, please, tell me, do you think it is true or false? (q53 X Settlement) Part 1



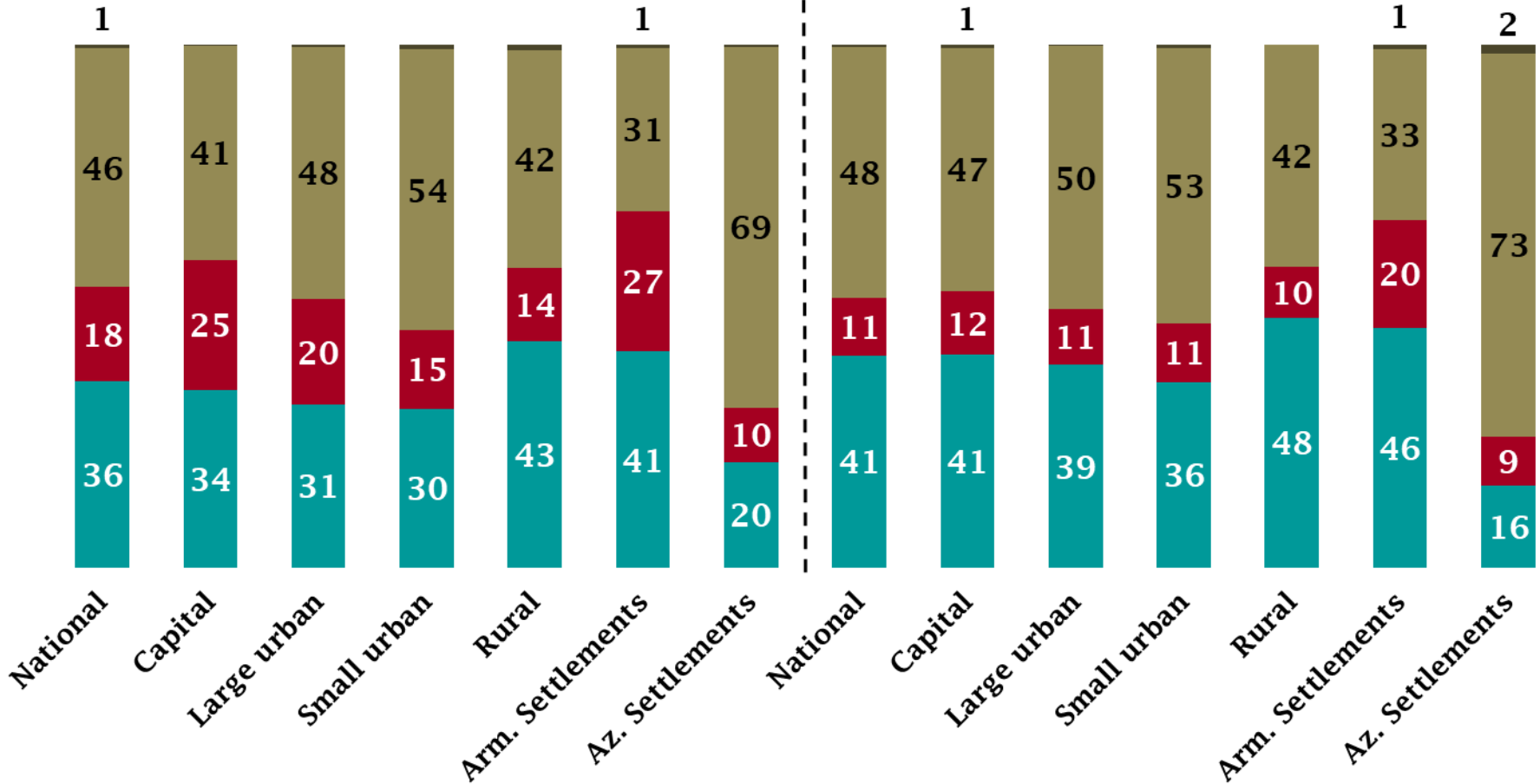
# Disinformation messages

I will now read out statements. For each, please, tell me, do you think it is true or false? (q53 X Settlement) Part 2

■ False      ■ True      ■ DK      ■ RA

EU integration obligates Georgia to receive Syrian refugees

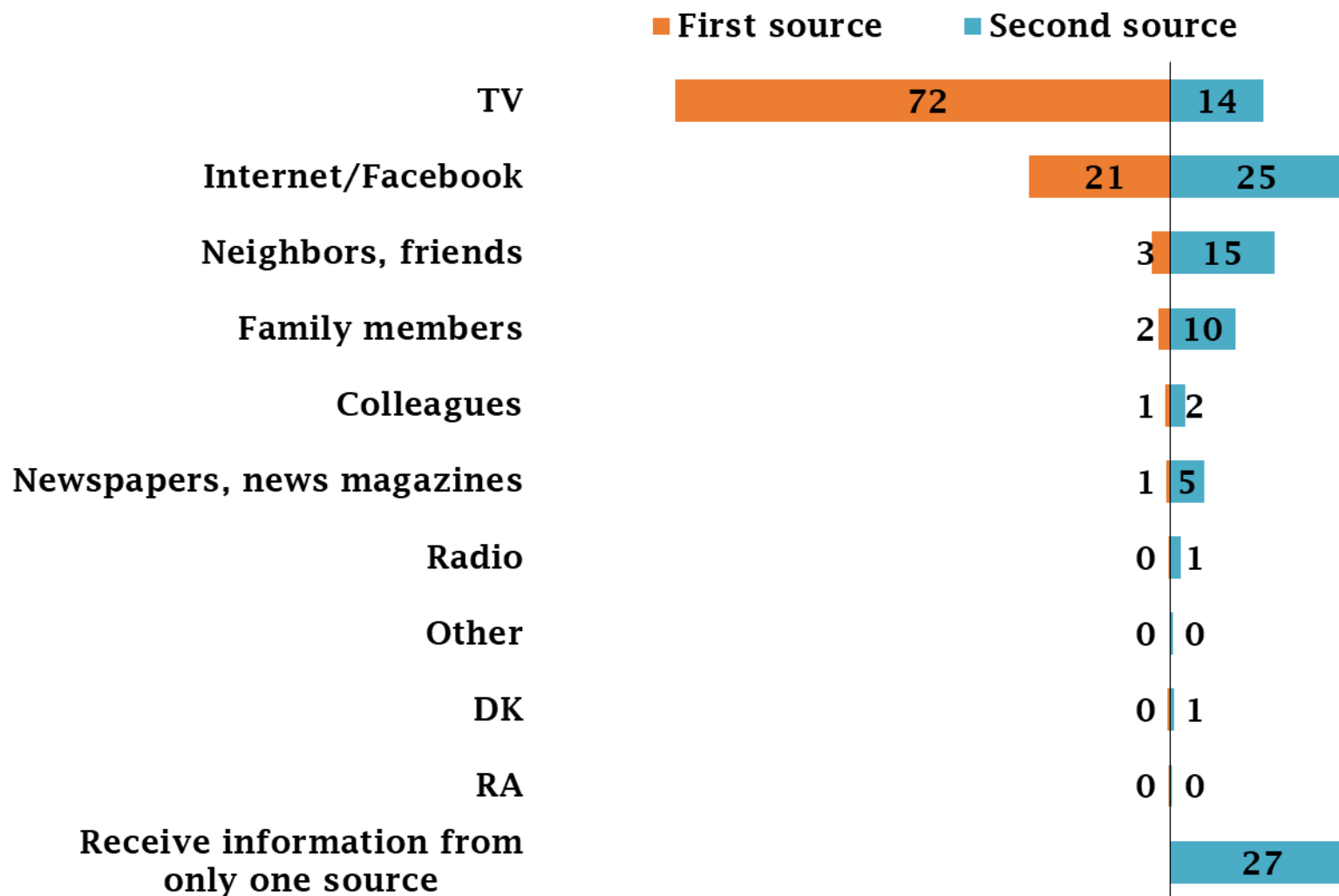
If Georgia joins NATO, Turkish army will establish military base in Samtskhe-Javakheti



# Information Space

# Information sources

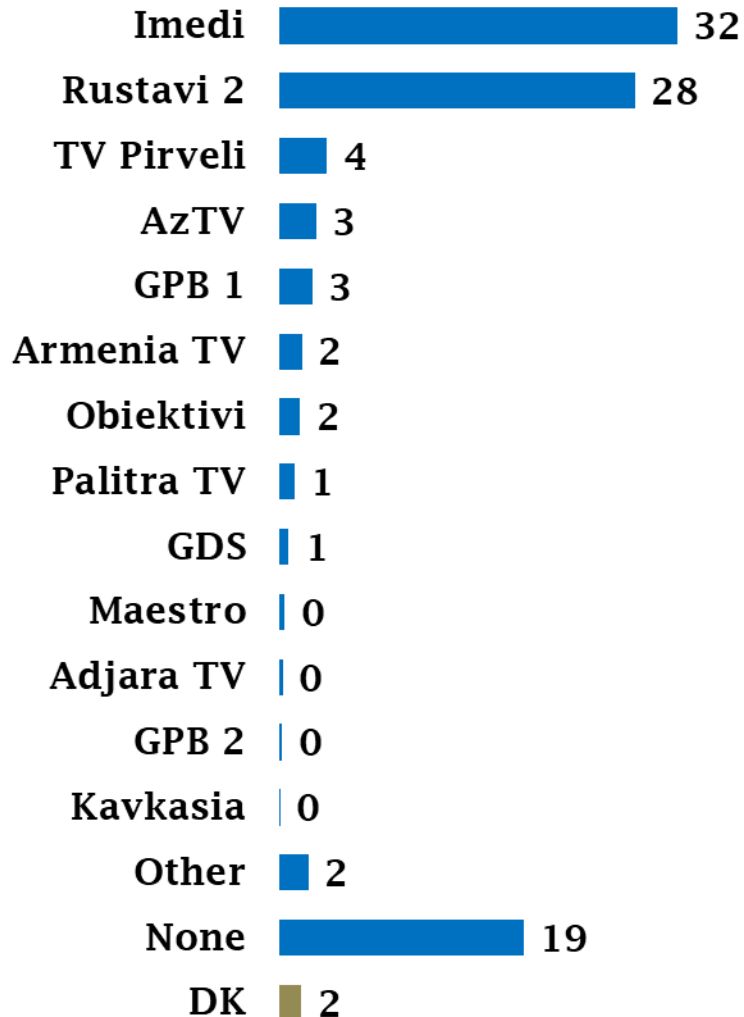
What are your main sources of information for receiving news about Georgian politics and current events? Please tell me, which is your first/second main source of information (q54, q55)





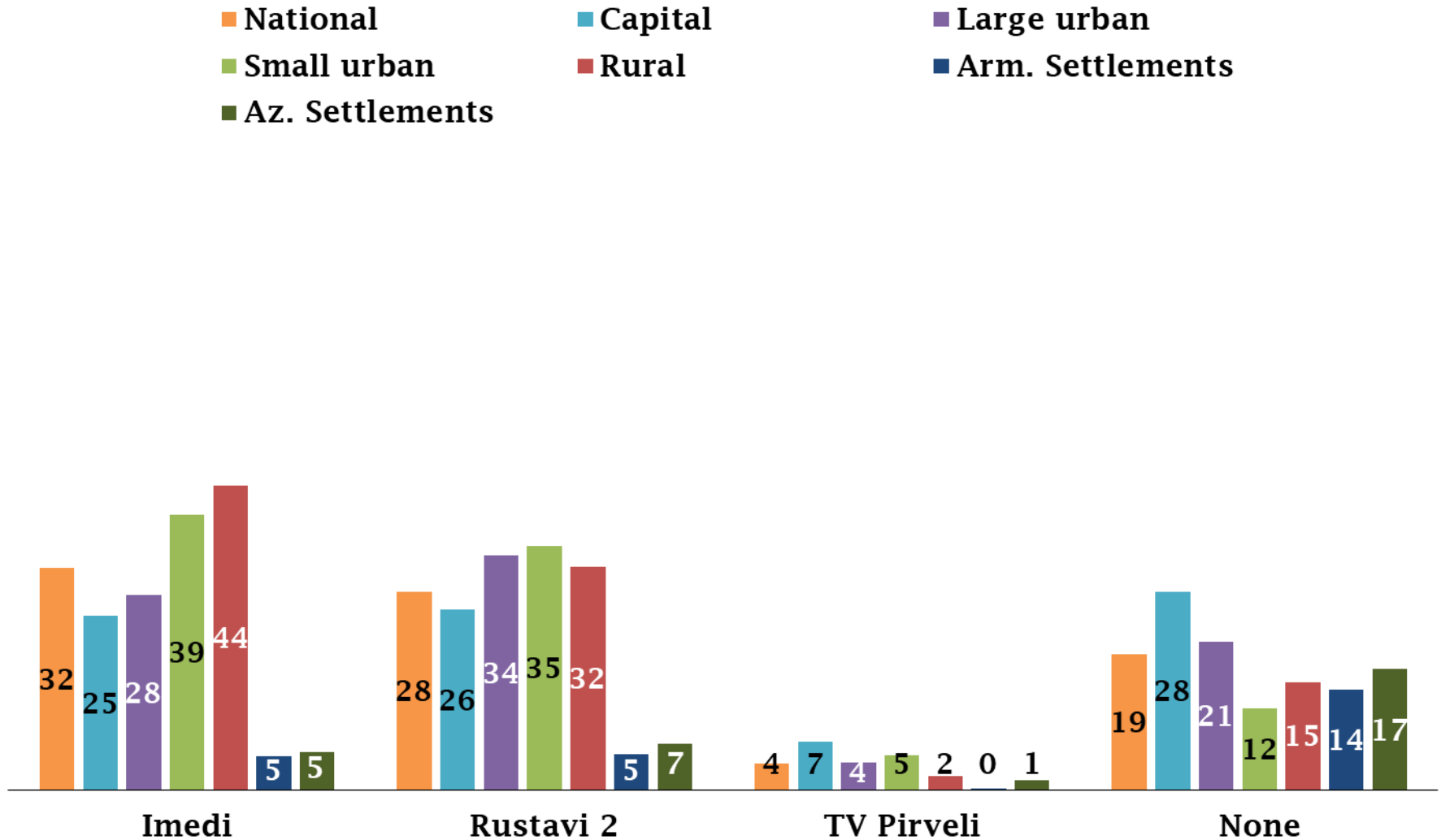
# Trust in TV channels

Which TV channel do you trust the most for accurate information on politics and current events? (q56)



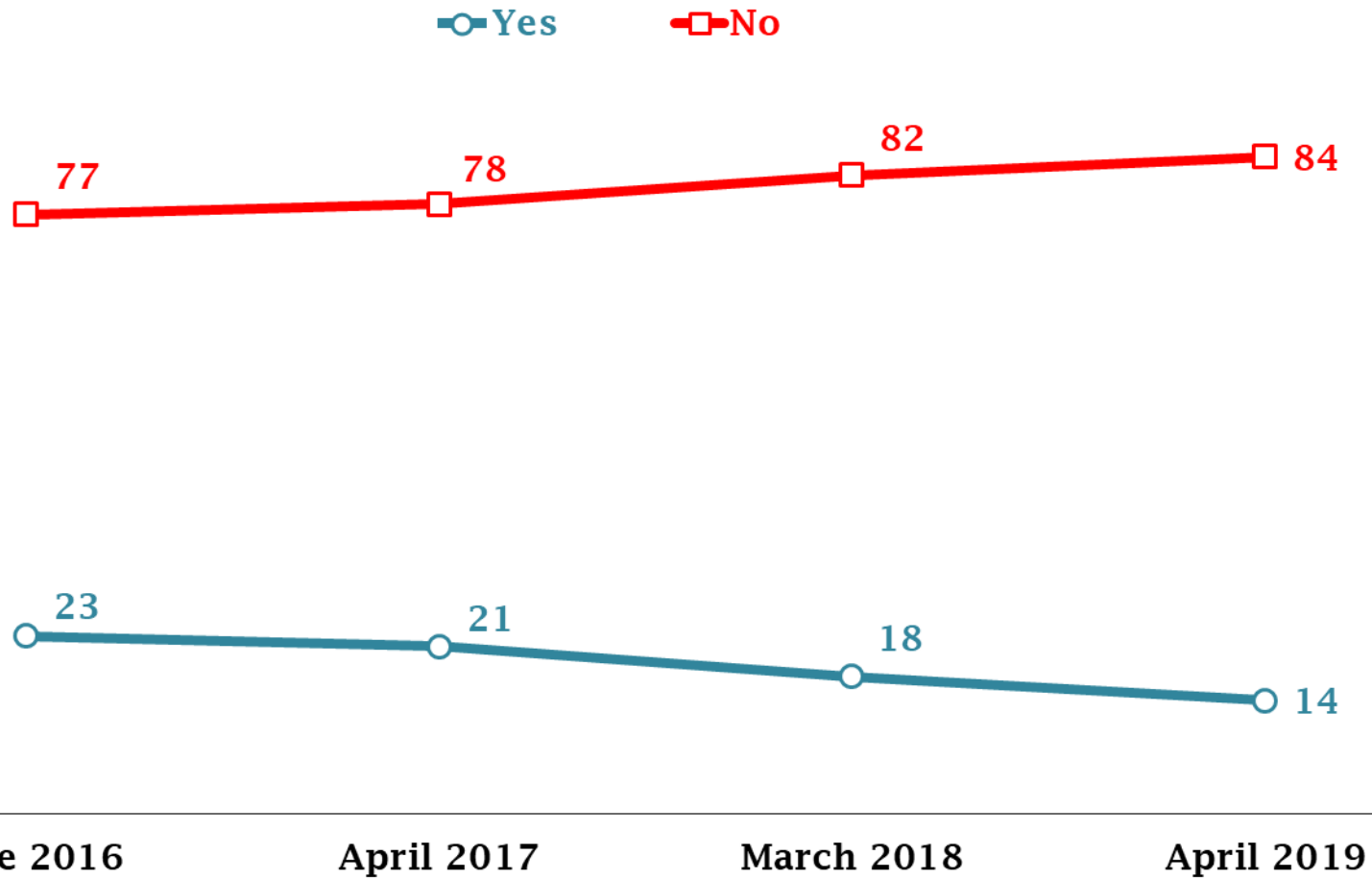
# Trust in TV channels

Which TV channel do you trust the most for accurate information on politics and current events? (q56 X Settlement)



# Non-Georgian TV consumption

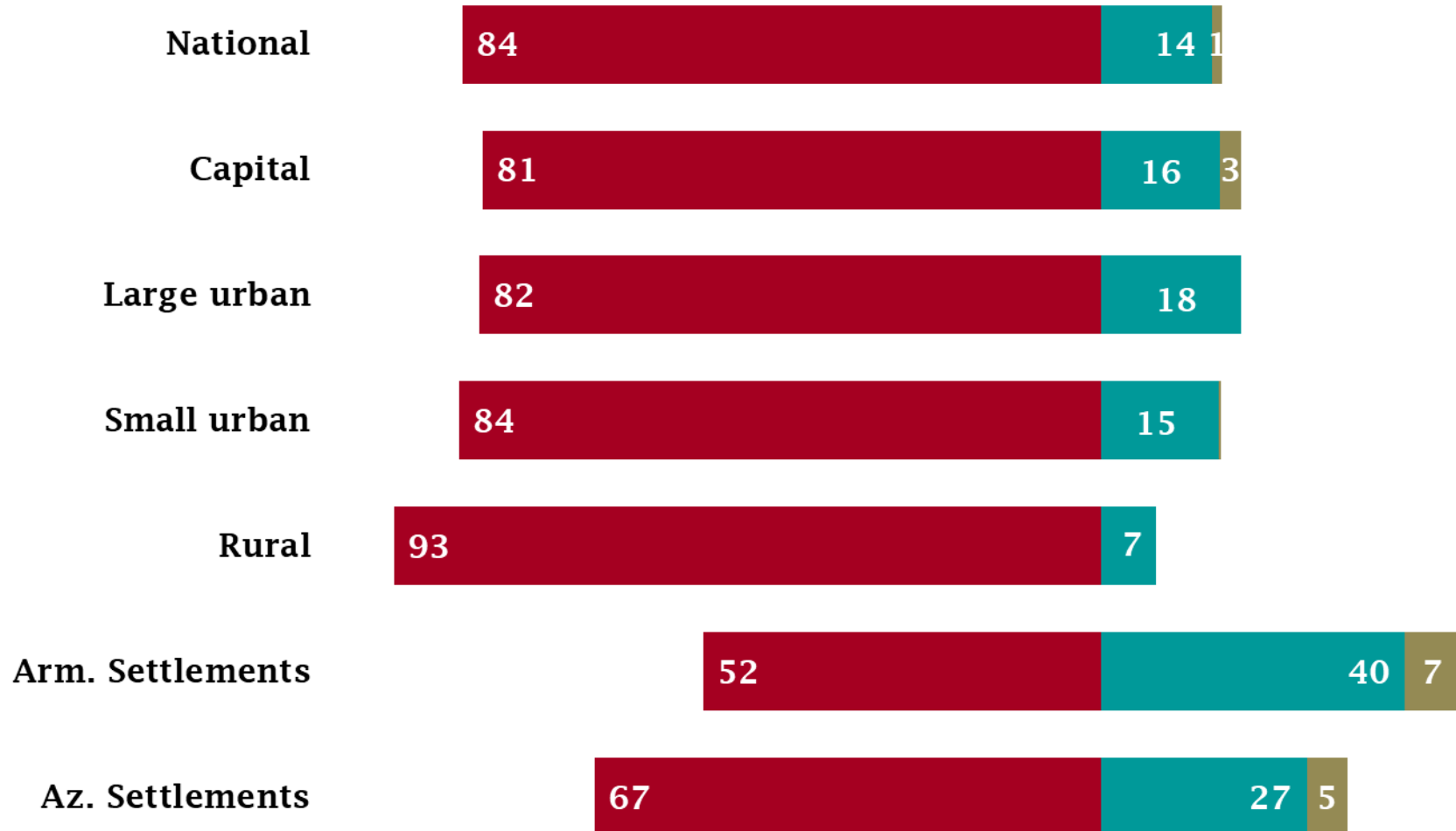
Do you watch coverage of news and current affairs on non-Georgian TV channels? (q57)



# Non-Georgian TV consumption

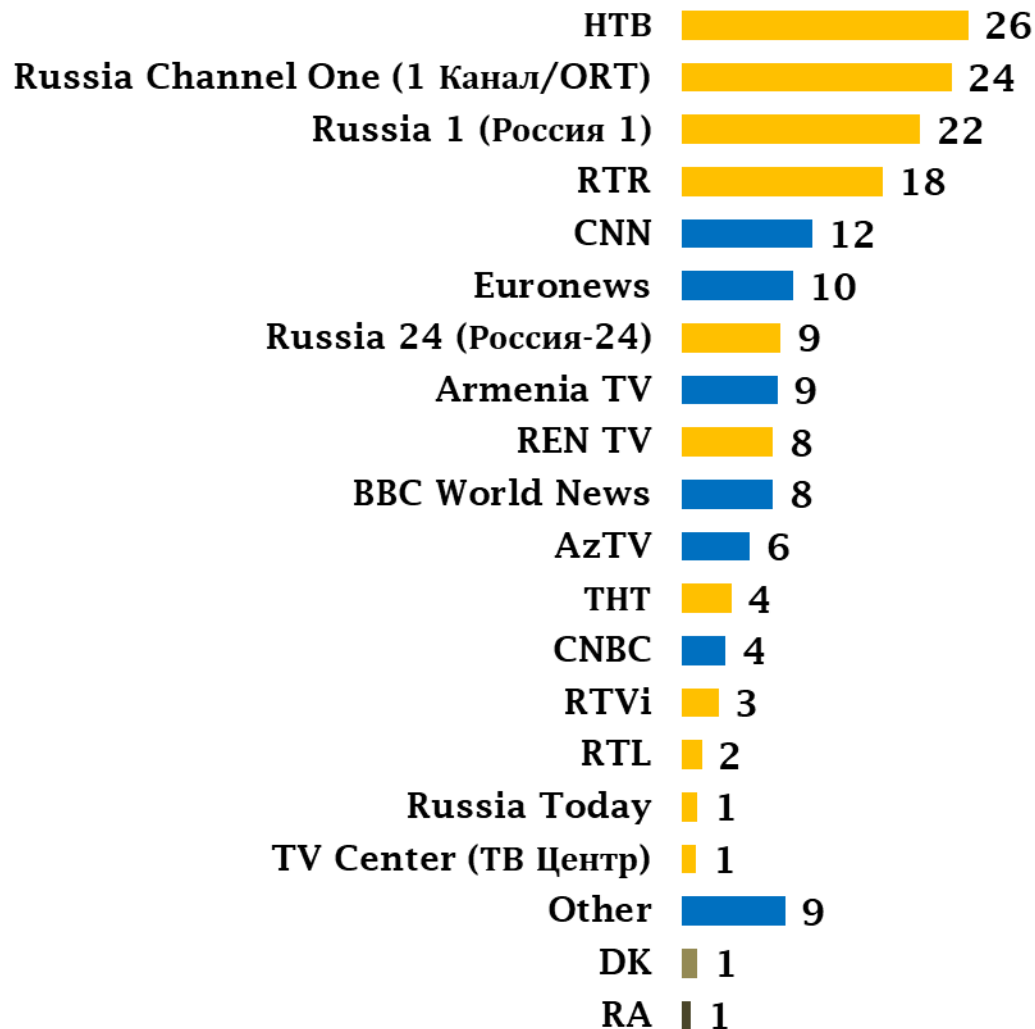
Do you watch coverage of news and current affairs on non-Georgian TV channels? (q57 X settlement)

■ No ■ Yes ■ DK



# Non-Georgian TV consumption

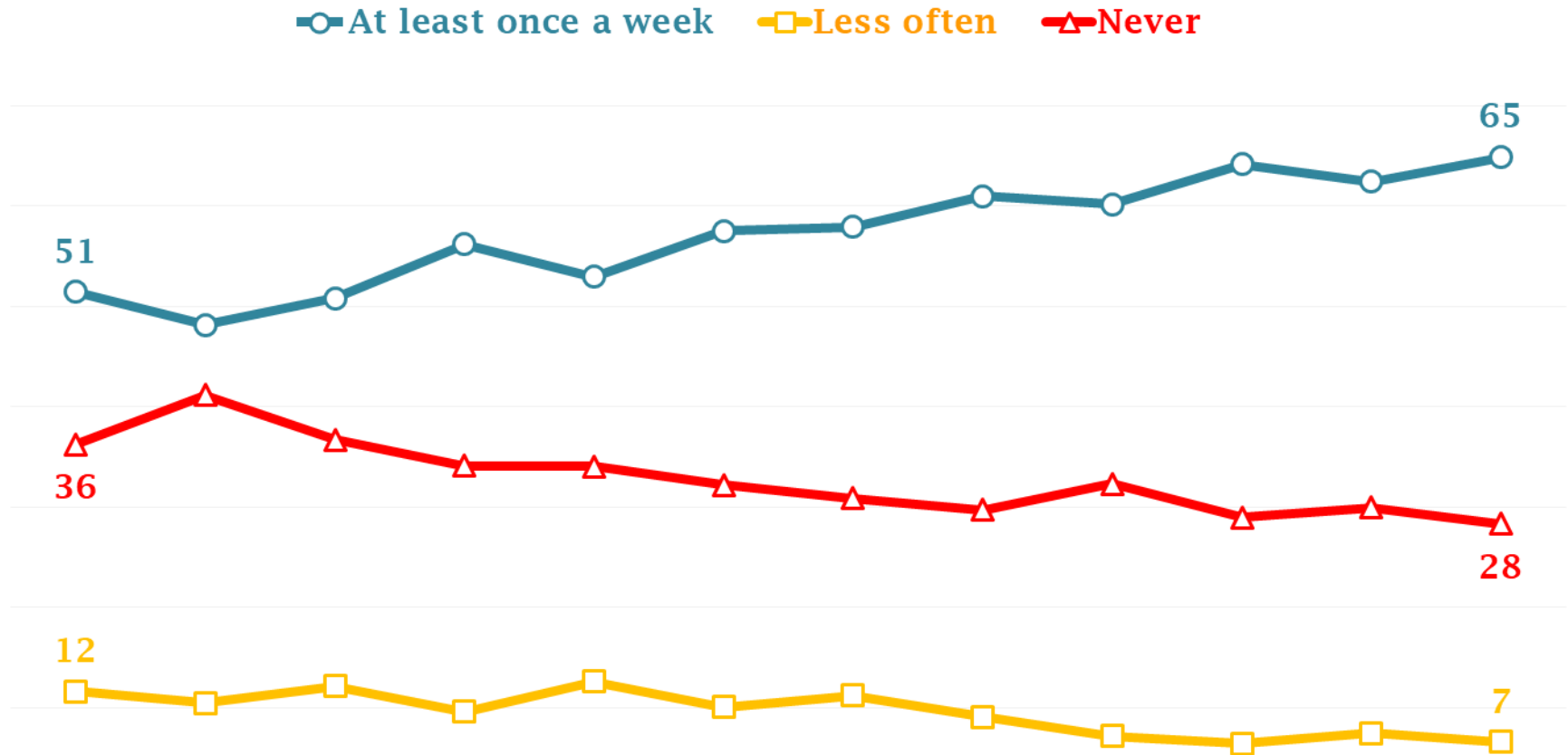
If yes, which TV channels? Accept all answers (q58) - of the 14% who said they watch coverage of news and current affairs on non-Georgian TV channels



Russian TV channels are highlighted in orange

# Internet usage

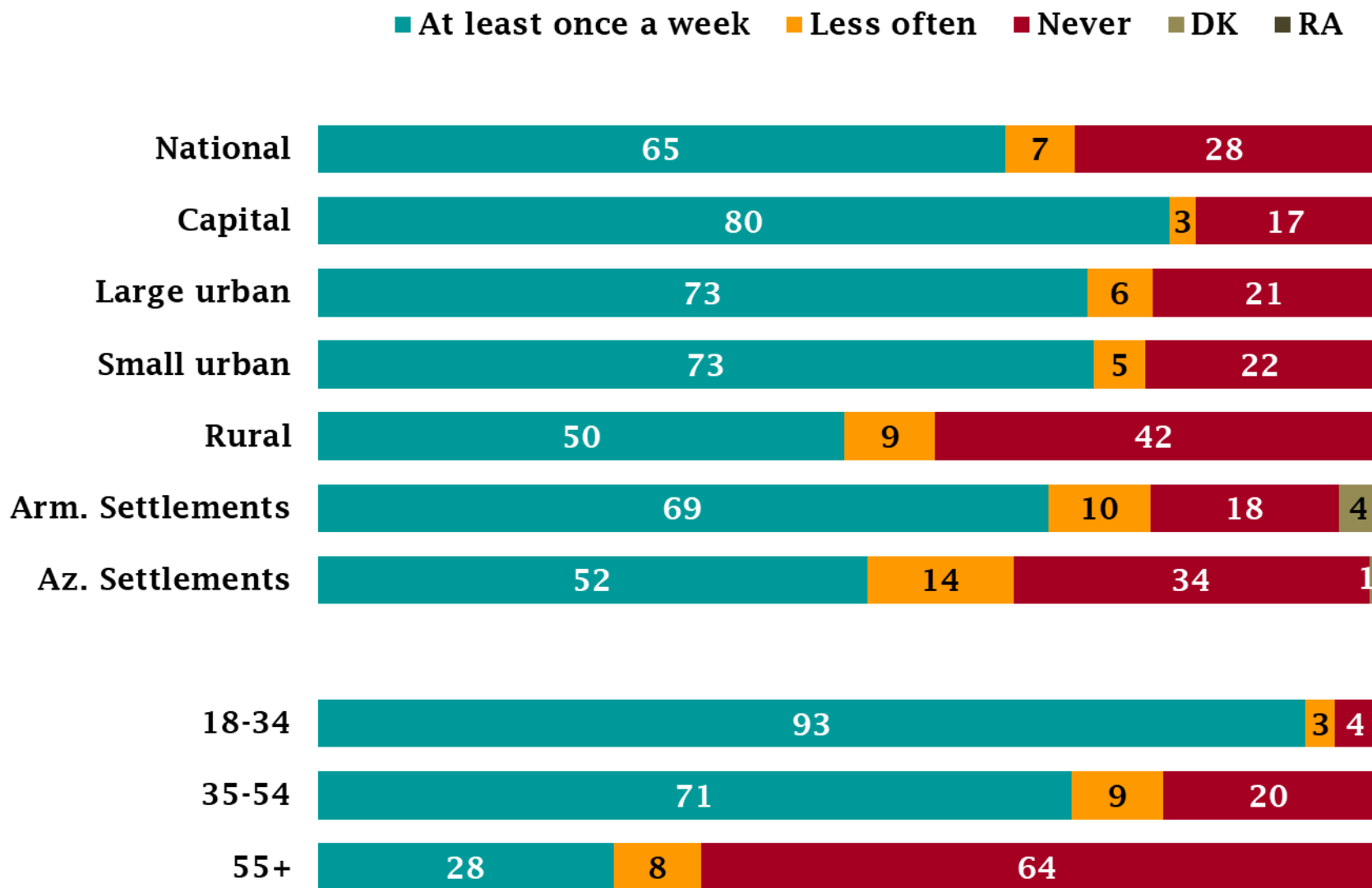
How often do you use the Internet? Do you use the Internet ... (q68)



Aug	Nov	Mar	Jun	Nov	Apr	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Apr
2015			2016			2017			2018		2019

# Internet usage

How often do you use the Internet? Do you use the Internet ...  
(q68 X Settlement and Age)



# Current Events



# Ukraine Orthodox Church independence

In December 2018, Ukraine announced the creation of an independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church and split from Russian Orthodox Church. Were you aware? (q44)



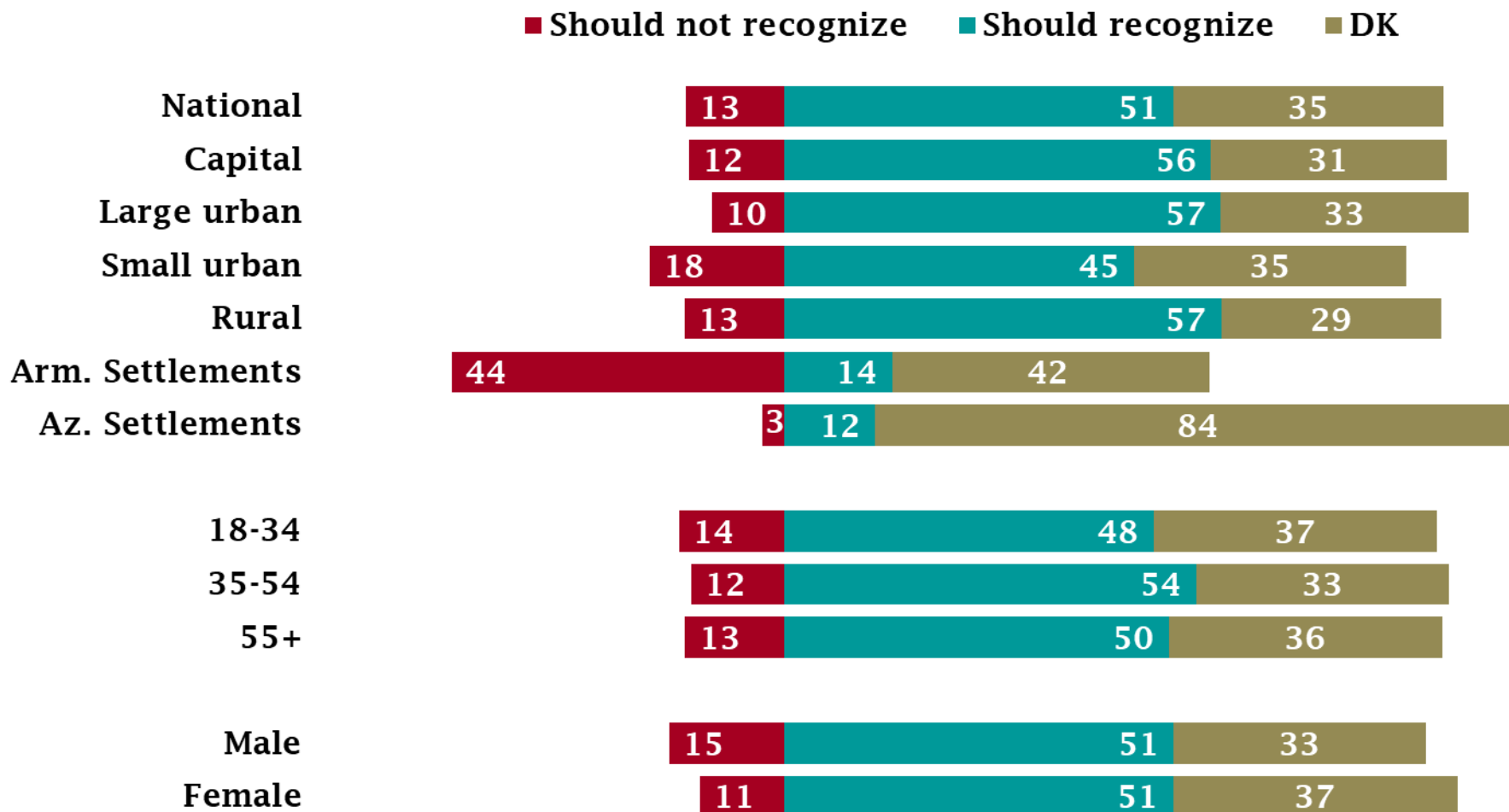
In your opinion, should Georgian Orthodox Church recognize the independence (autocephaly) of the Ukrainian Church? (q45)



# Ukraine Orthodox Church independence

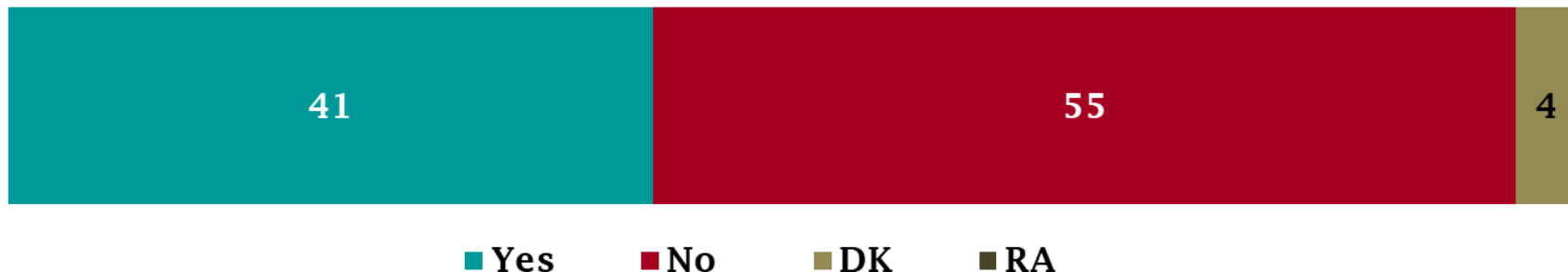
In your opinion, should Georgian Orthodox Church recognize the independence (autocephaly) of the Ukrainian Church?

(q45 X Settlement, Age, Gender)



# Karasin-Abashidze format

Are you aware of the Karasin-Abashidze format? (q51)



Do you think it is helpful or not helpful for Georgia? (q52) - of the 41% who were aware of the Karasin-Abashidze format



The Karasin-Abashidze informal bilateral dialogue was launched between Russia and Georgia in 2012. The Karasin-Abashidze talks focus on mainly issues related to trade, economy, humanitarian, and cultural aspects of the bilateral relationship.

# New military reserve law

If the armed forces has a need for someone with your profession, would you be willing to voluntarily get enrolled in the reserve? (q12)

■ Yes ■ No ■ DK ■ RA

Respondents were informed that the question was about paid voluntary reserve

April 2019



March 2018



# NDI-CRRC POLLS AVAILABLE AT:

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