

Civil Society Organizations and Civic Initiatives in Belarus: **Potential for Engagement**

e-baltic.ORG
Baltic Internet Policy Initiative



офис европейской экспертизы
и коммуникаций

HOW DO WE MEASURE?

METHODOLOGY

The research was implemented using the online questionnaire in the pop-up format that was shown to randomly selected website users. Selection structure is corrected by weighing data by gender, age, region/city of the respondents.

Selection (N) – actual number of respondents that have answered the questionnaire

DATA GATHERING

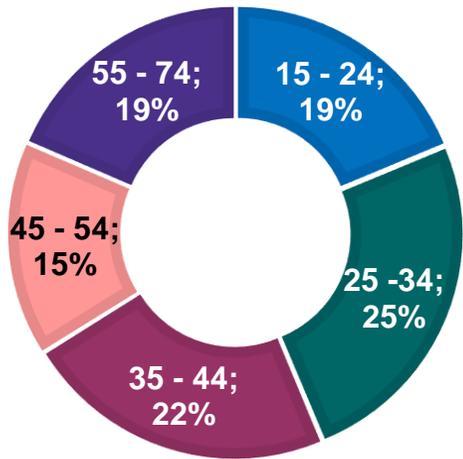
July – October 2019

Sampling

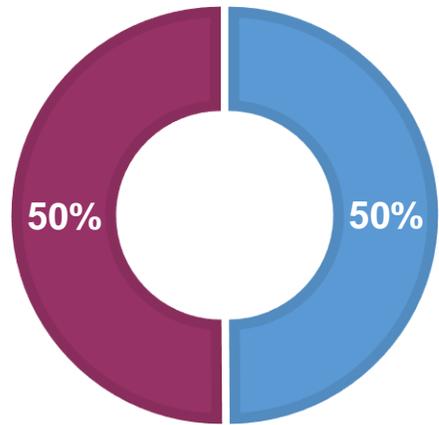
N = 1018

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

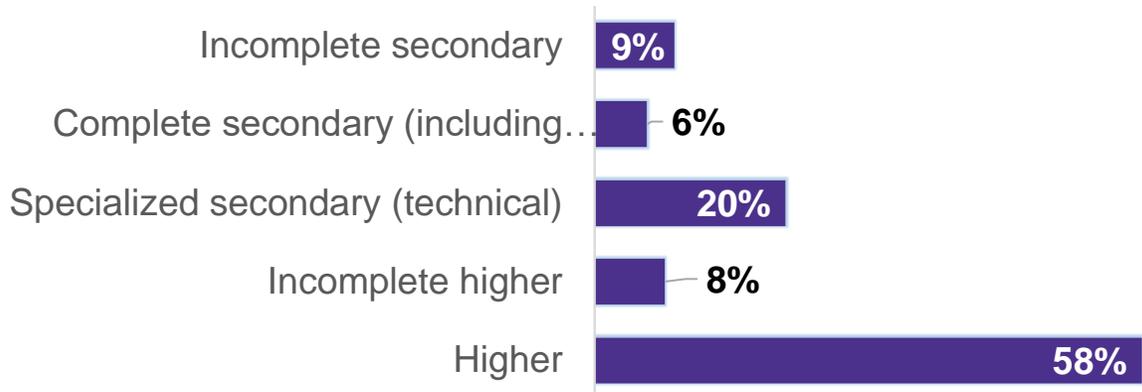


Gender

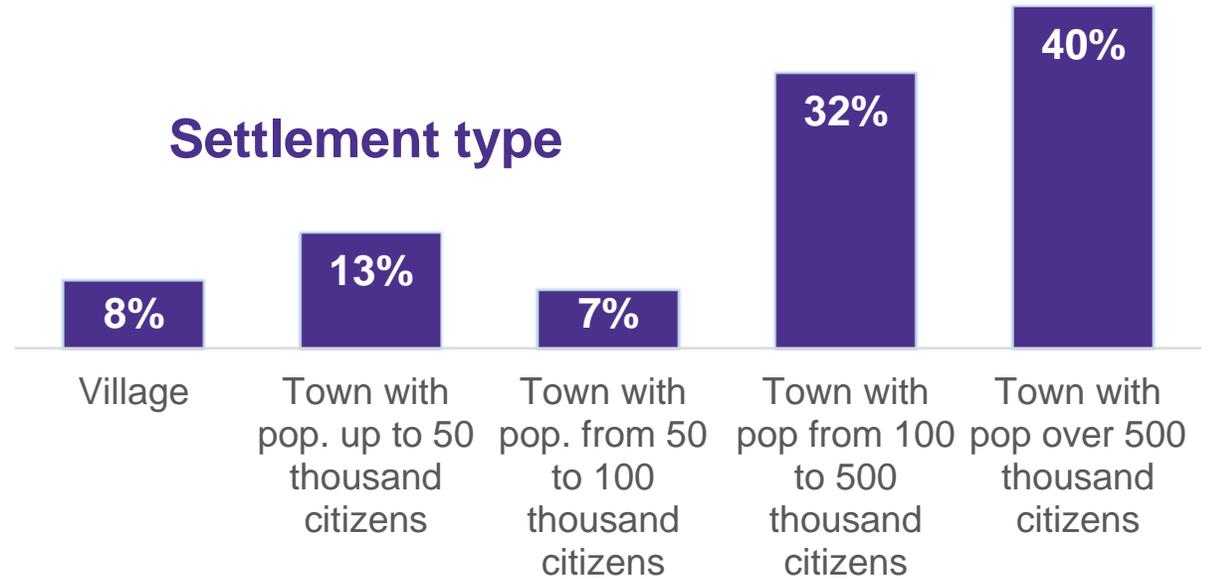


■ Men ■ Women

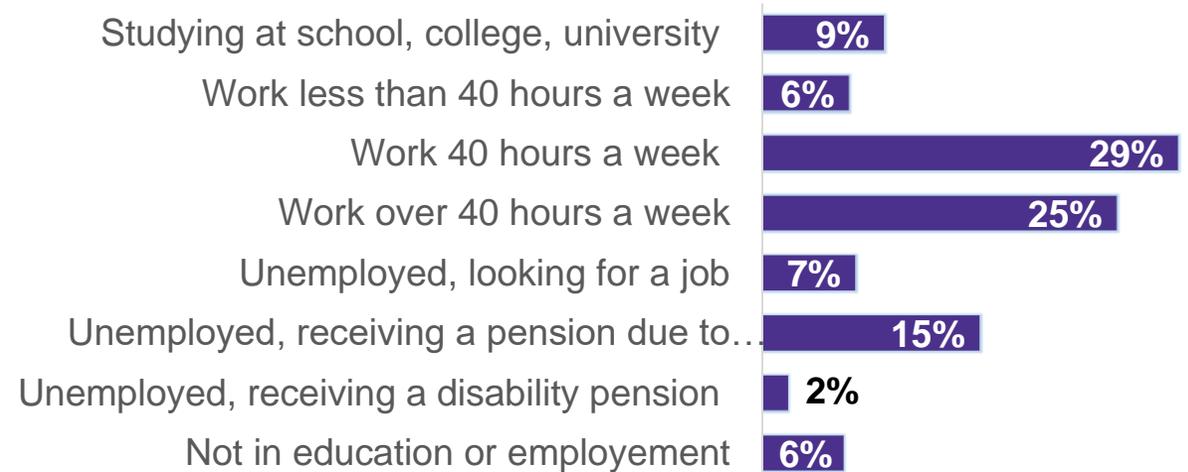
Education



Settlement type

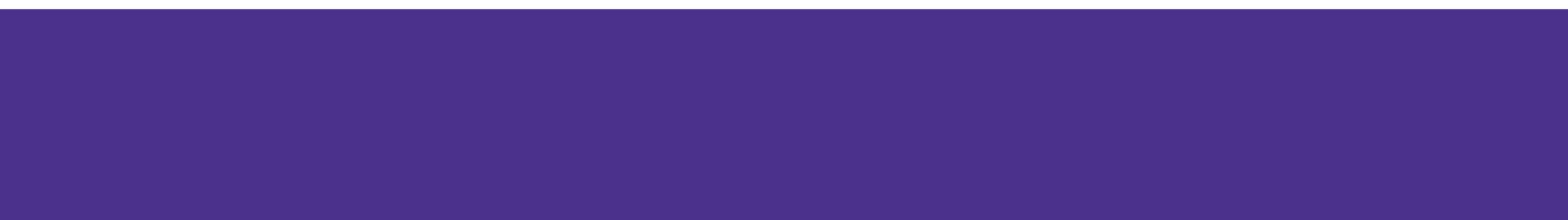


Occupation

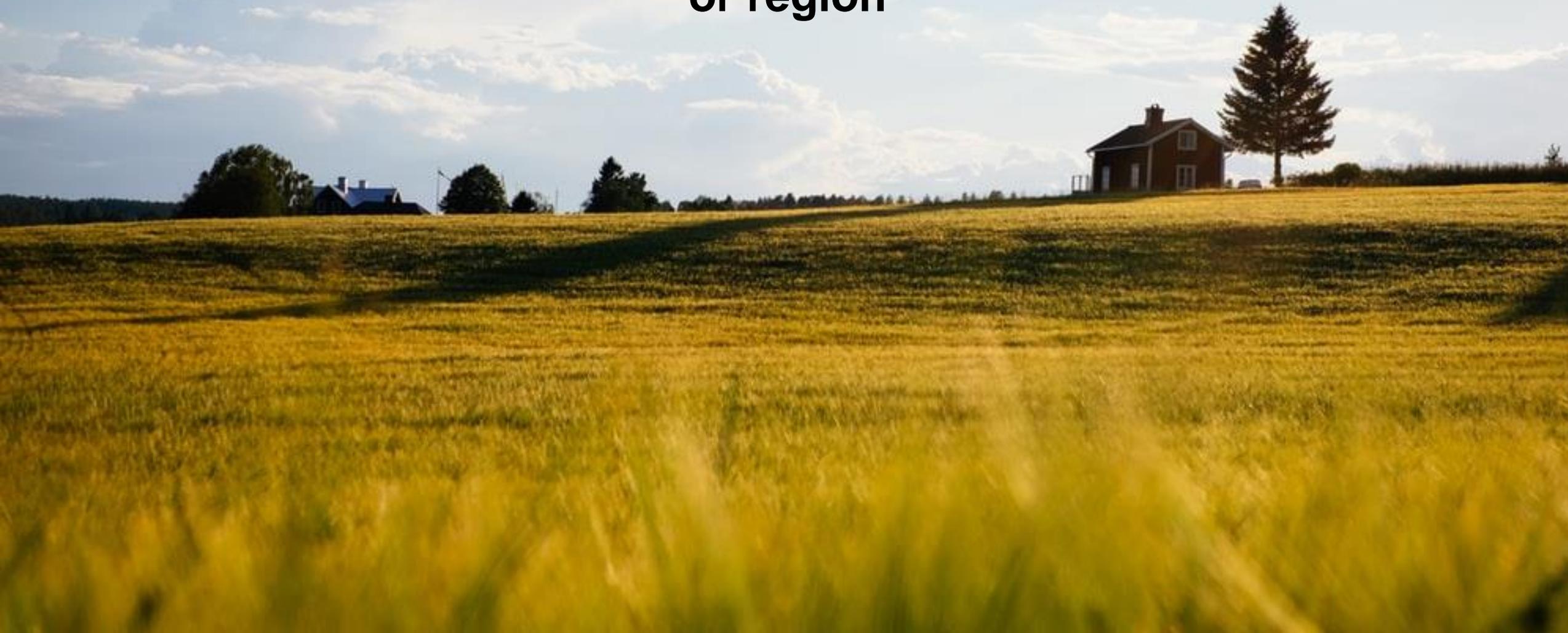




AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIC INITIATIVES

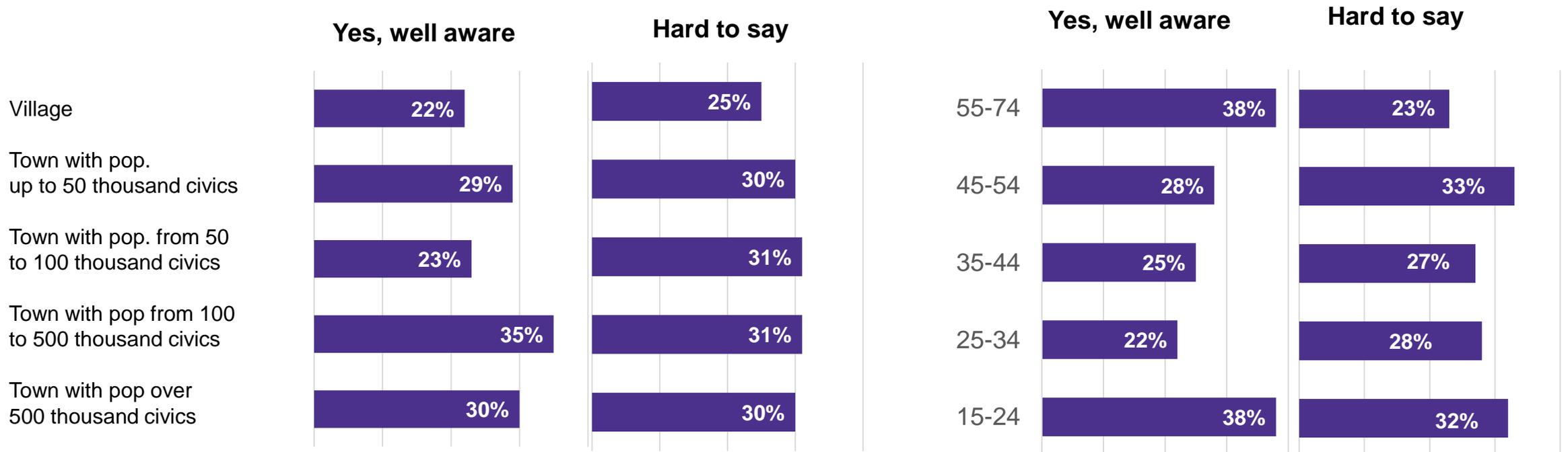


71% of respondents know about the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives in their community and / or region



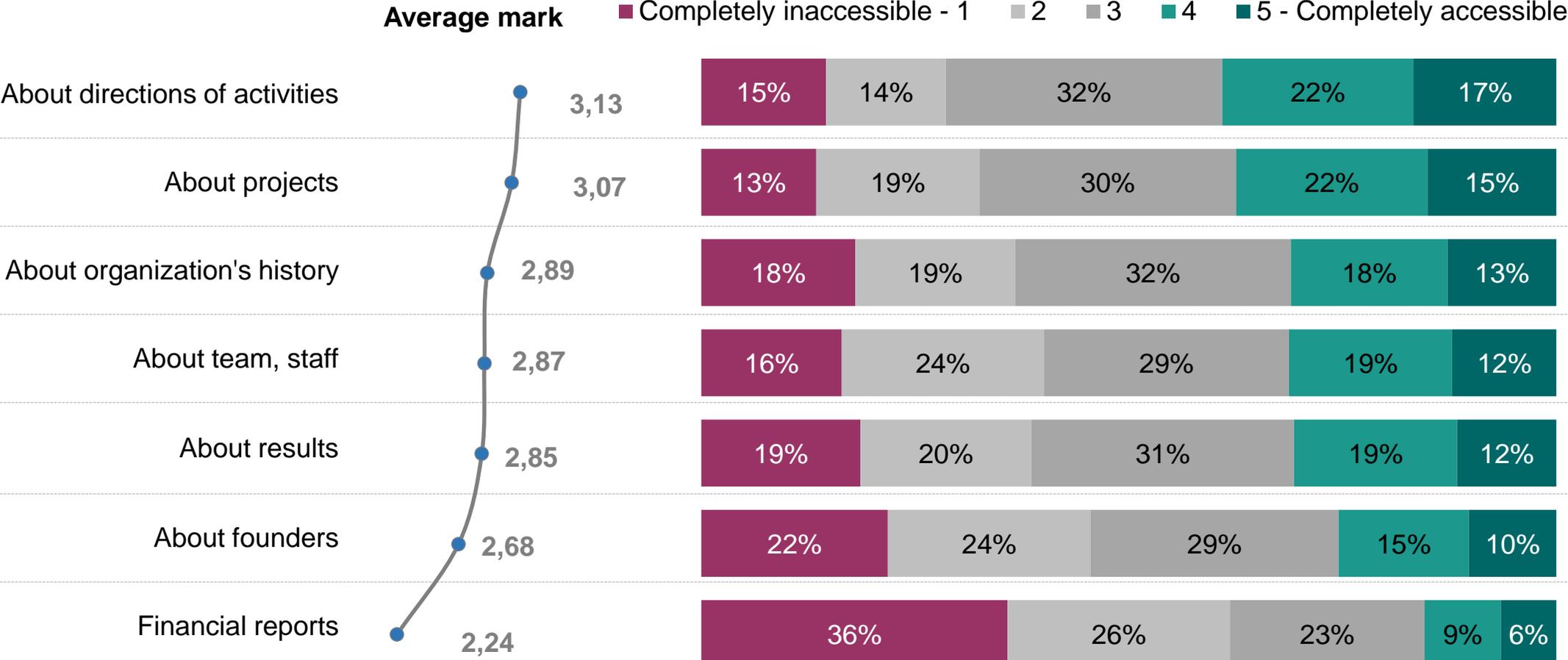
Awareness of activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives. Age and settlement type.

Are you aware about activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives? Please state the type of settlement where you permanently reside (at least for the last 12 months). Please state your age.



Accessibility of information about civil society organizations and civic initiatives

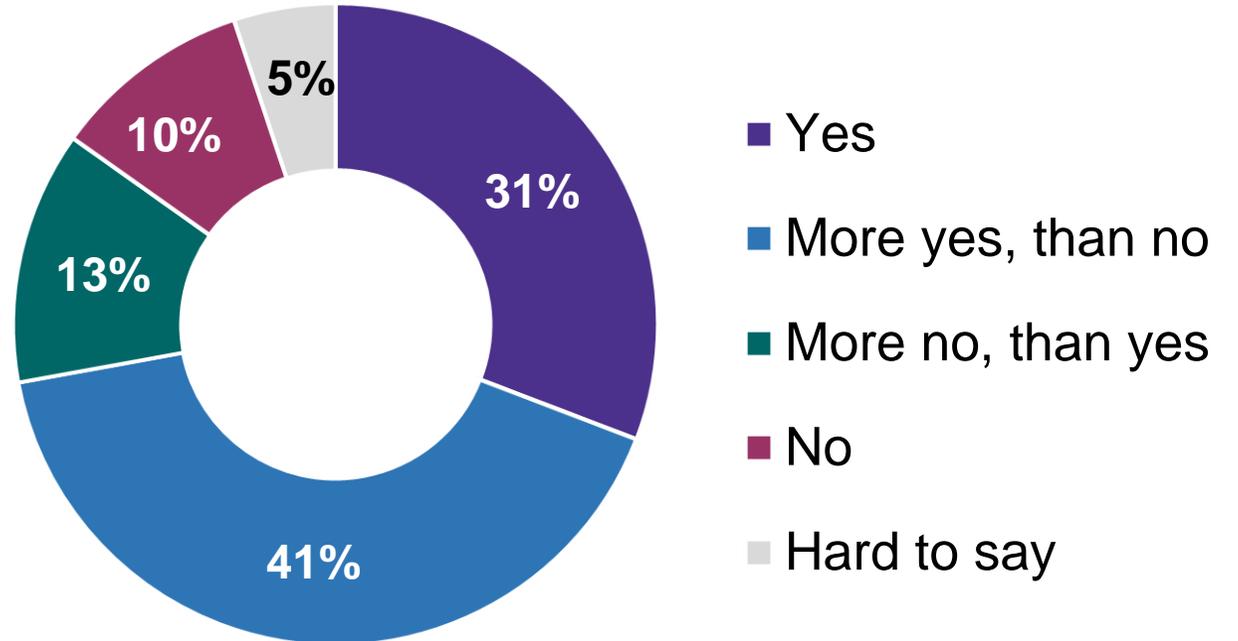
Rate accessibility of information about civil society organizations and civic initiatives on a five-point scale



Accessibility of information

Would you like to know more about activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives?

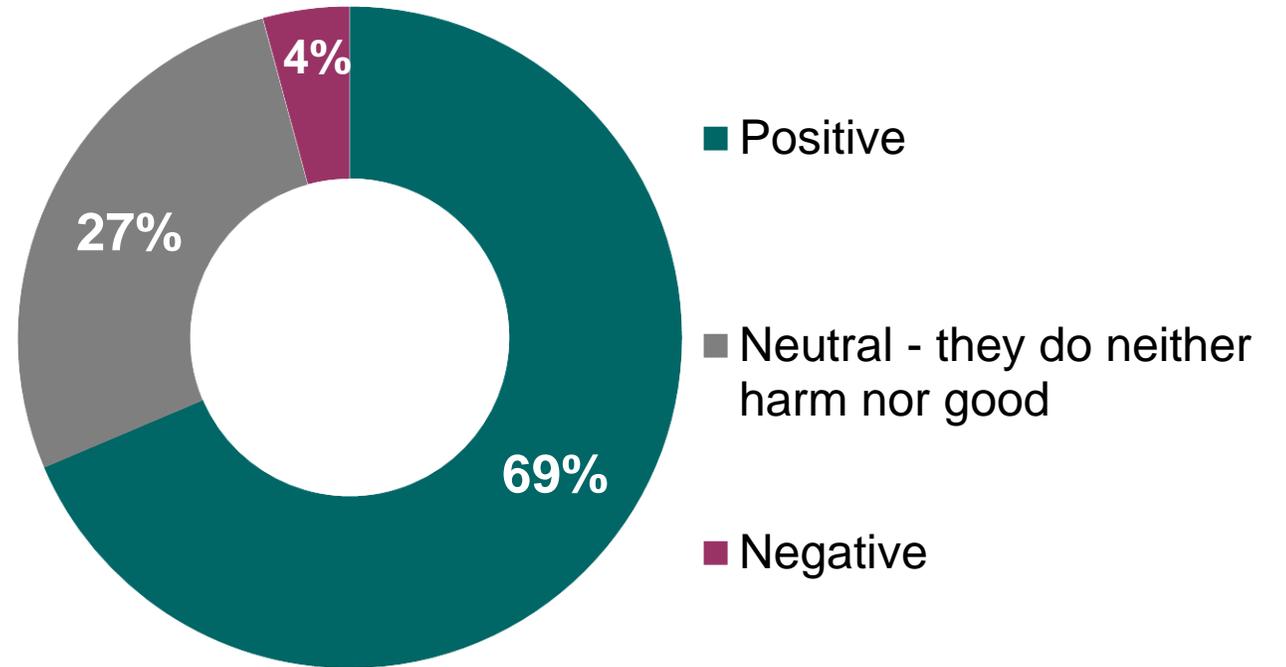
72% of respondents want to know more about activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives.



Attitude towards activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives

What is your overall attitude towards activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives?

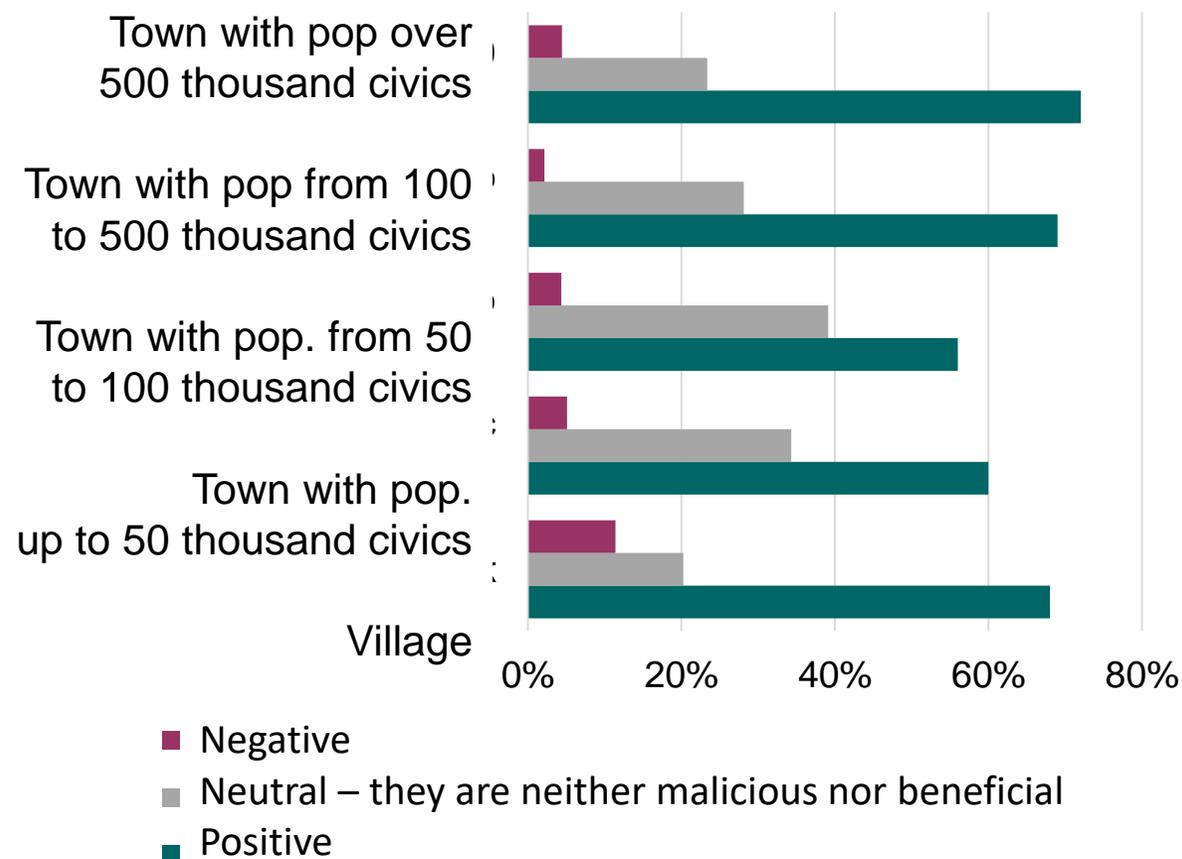
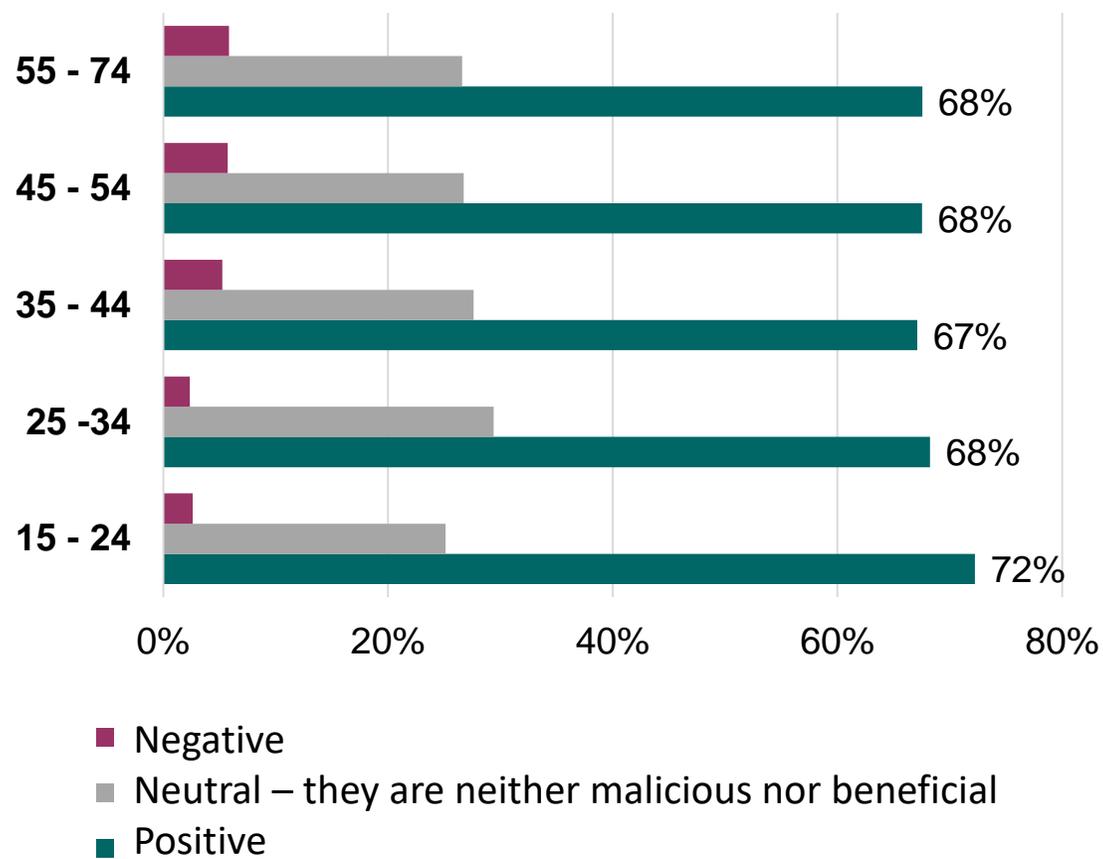
69% of respondents have a positive attitude towards activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives.



Attitude towards activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives. Age and settlement type

What is your overall attitude towards activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives?

Young people aged 15-24 and inhabitants of cities over 500 thousand population have the most positive attitude.



55% respondents think that civil society organizations and initiatives should work on solving issues of local communities, but **only 31% agree that this is happening.**

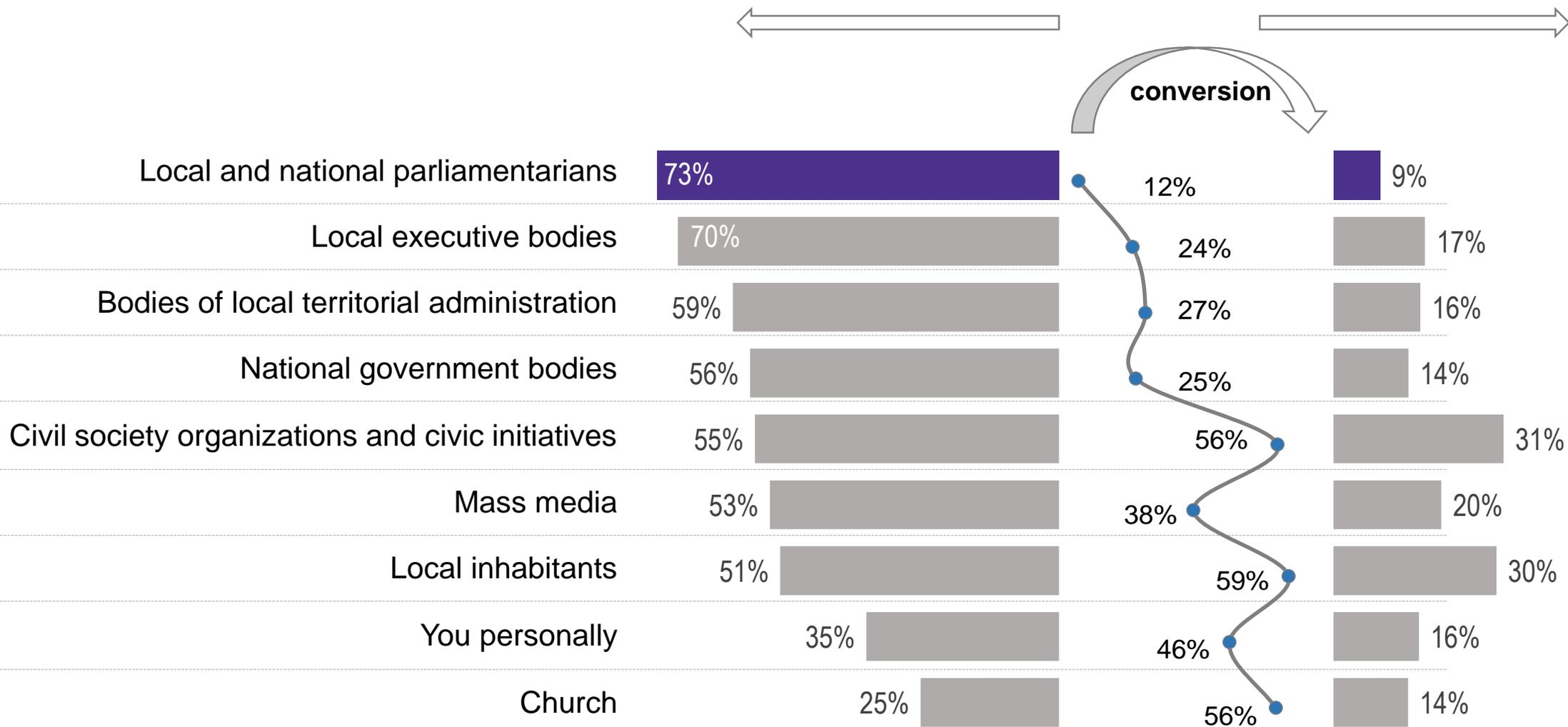


Solving issues of local communities

Who, from your point of view, should solve/solves issues of local communities?

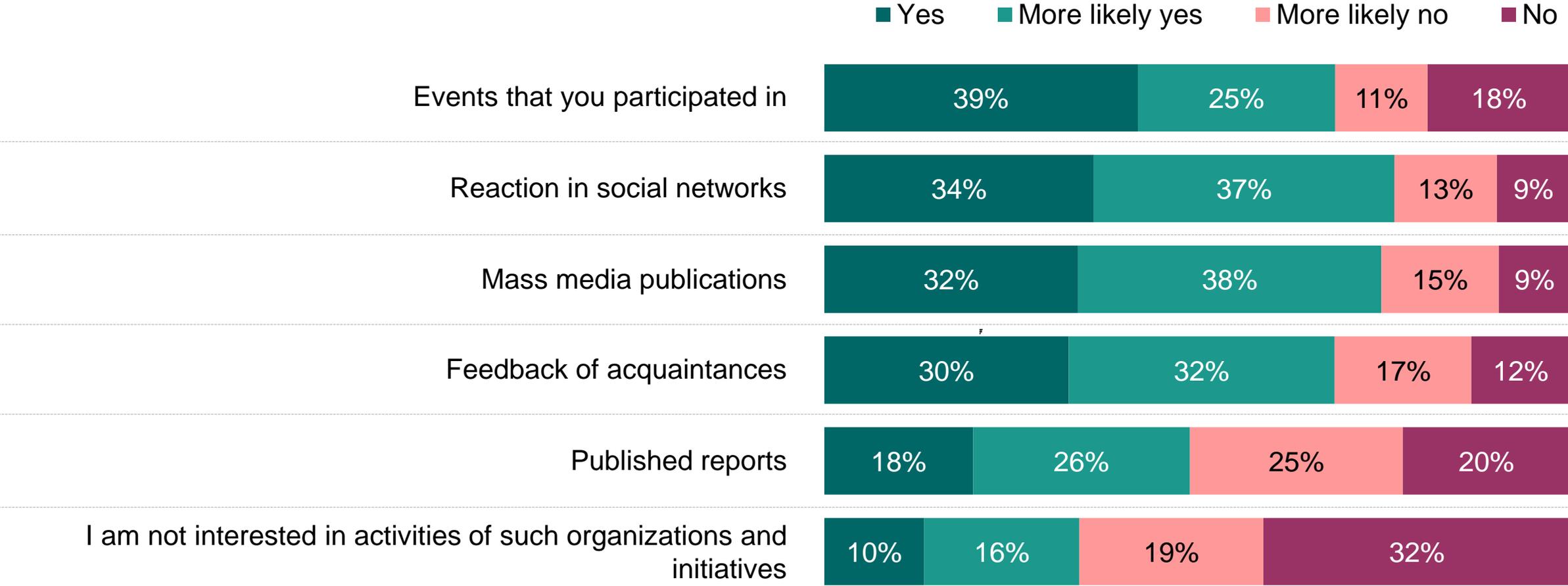
Should work on solving issues

Actually working on solving issues



Criteria for assessing the effectiveness of civil society organizations and civic initiatives

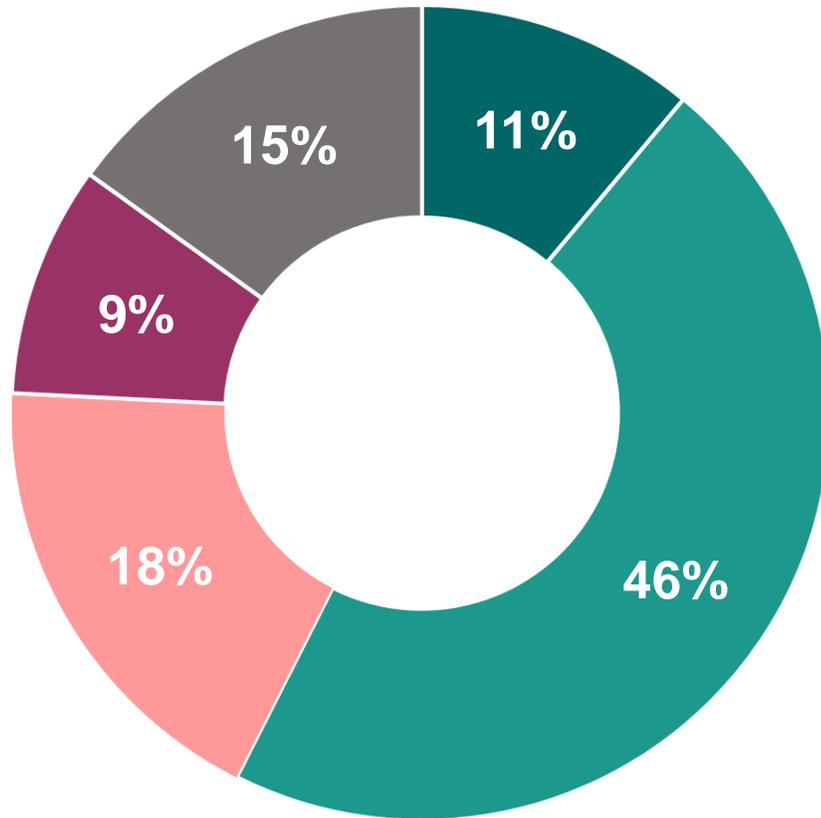
You judge the effectiveness of civil society organizations and civic initiatives by ...



Trust towards civil society organizations and civic initiatives

Do you trust civil society organizations and civic initiatives?

57% of respondents trust civil society organizations

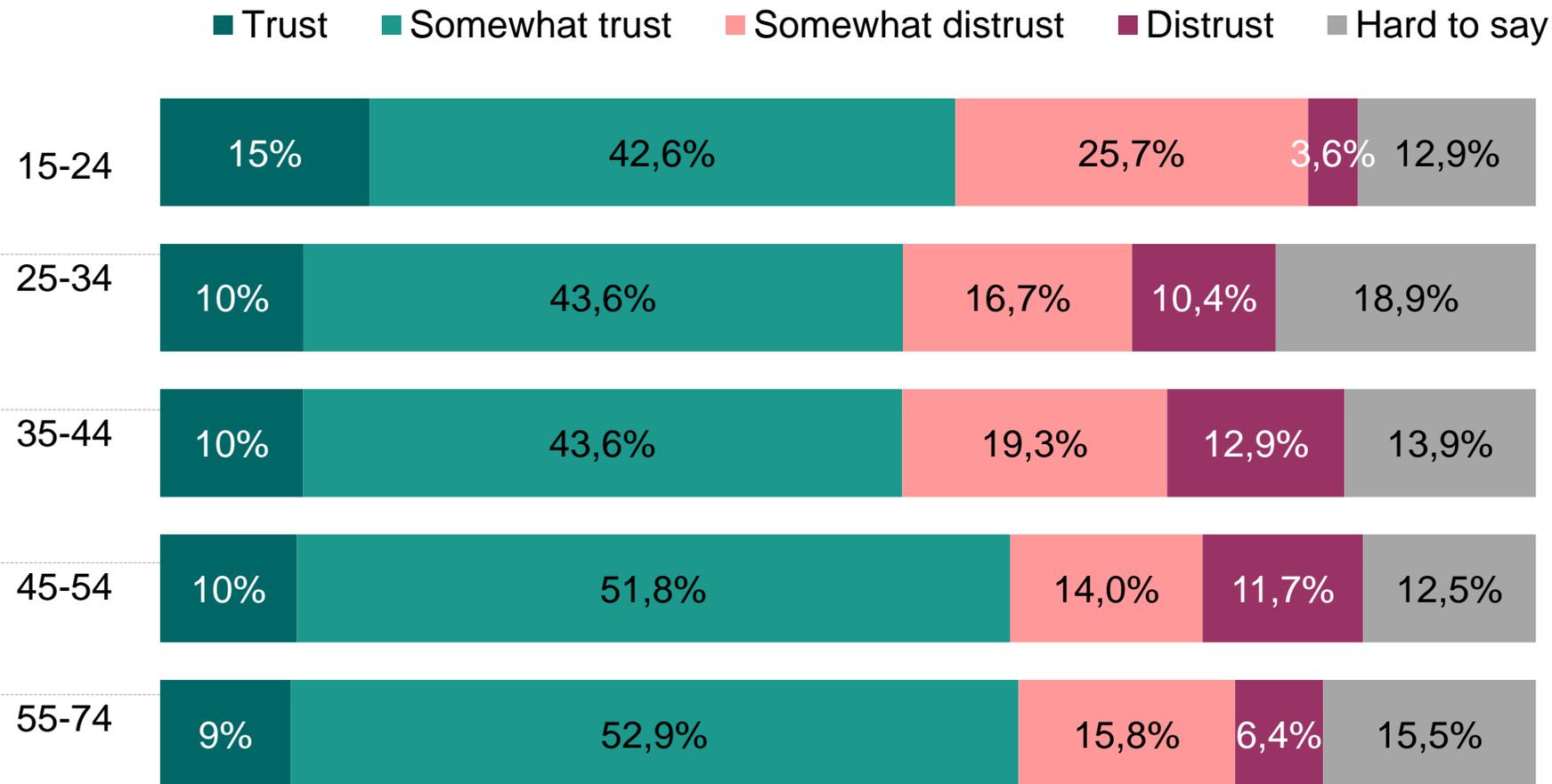


- Trust
- Somewhat trust
- Somewhat don't trust
- Don't trust
- Hard to say

Trust towards civil society organizations and civic initiatives. Age

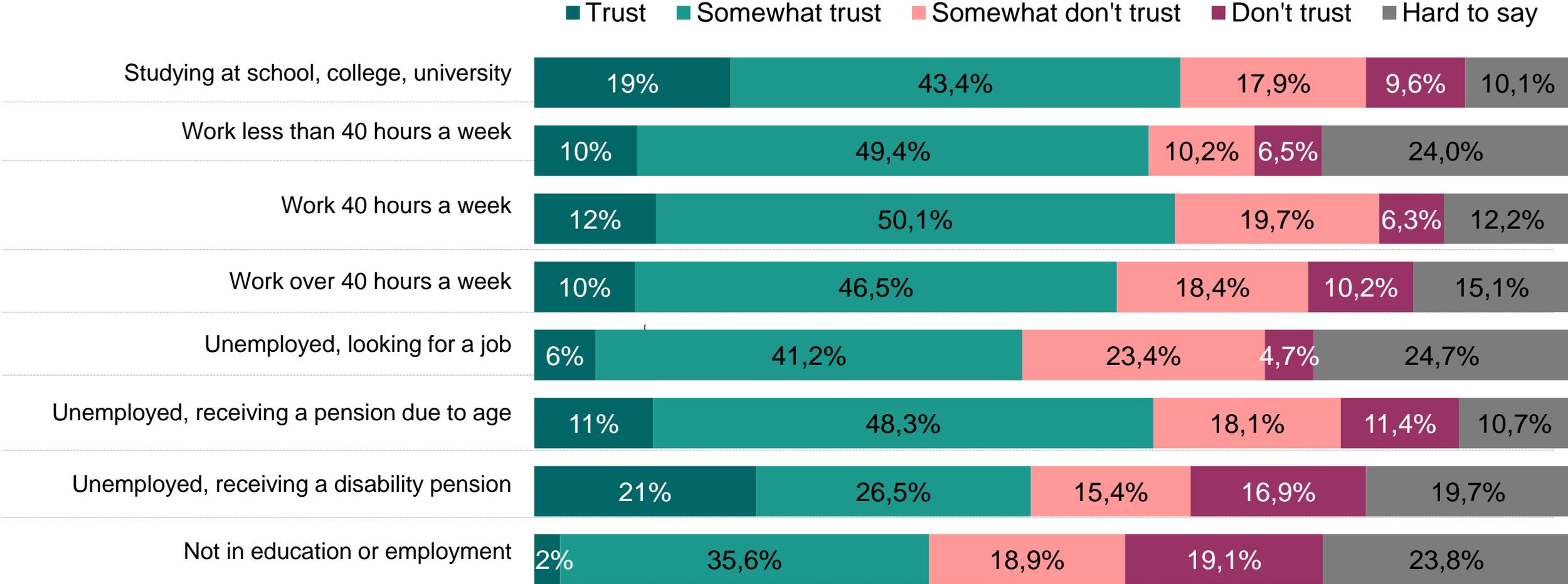
Do you trust civil society organizations and civic initiatives? Please state your age

Most respondents trust civil society organizations regardless of age.



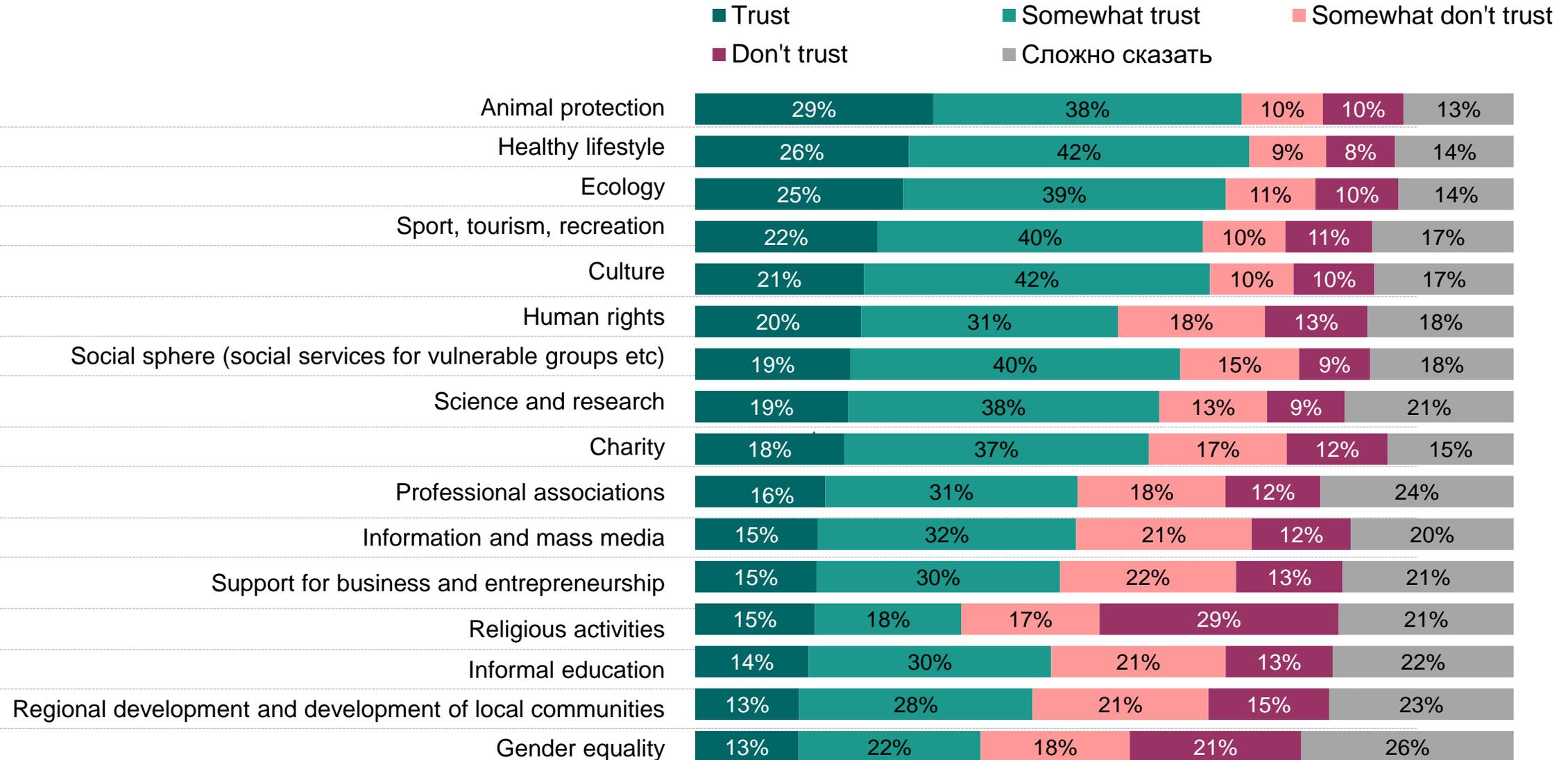
Trust towards civil society organizations and civic initiatives. Education

Do you trust civil society organizations and civic initiatives? Please state your education.



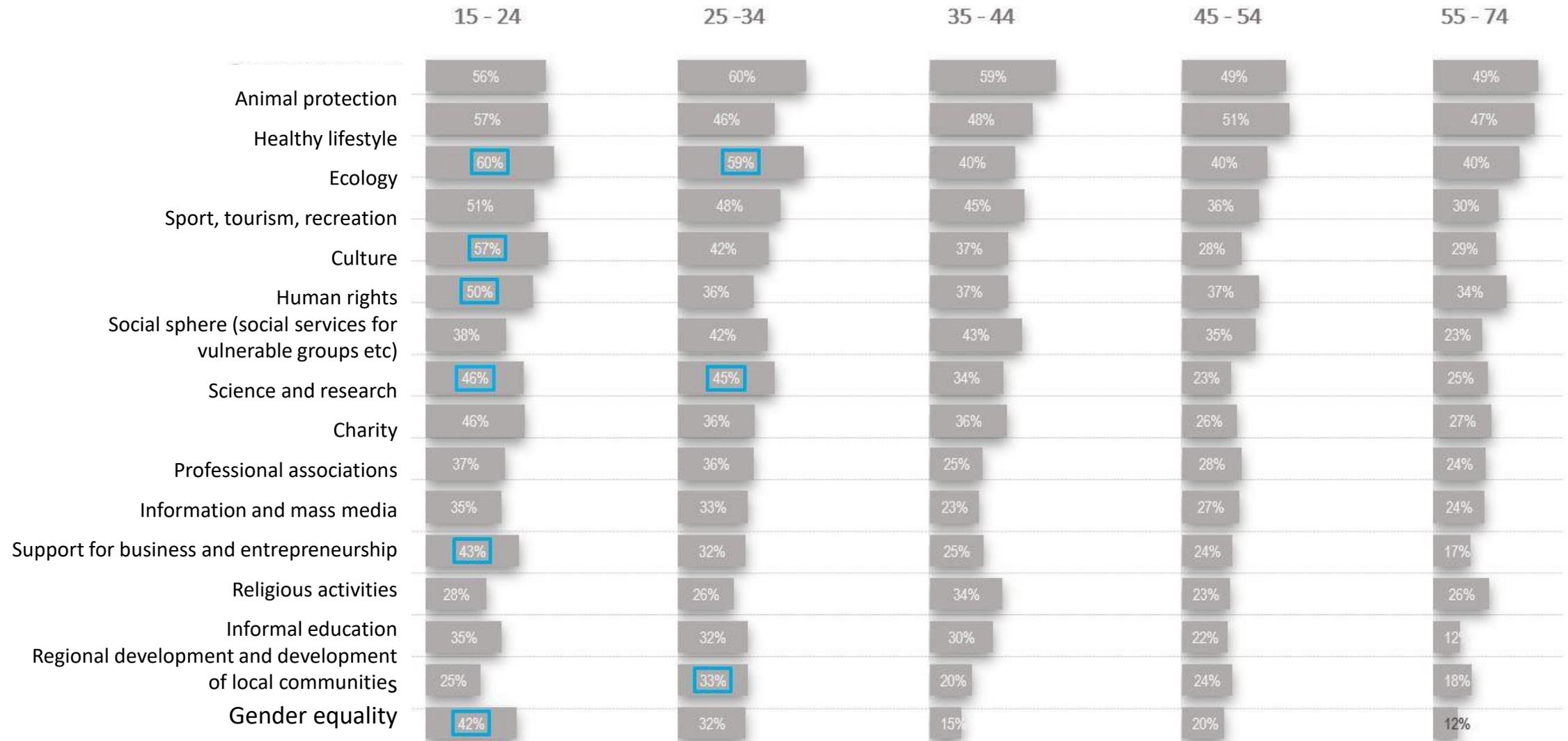
Trust towards civil society organizations and civic initiatives in different spheres

Do you trust civil society organizations and civic initiatives that work in the following spheres:



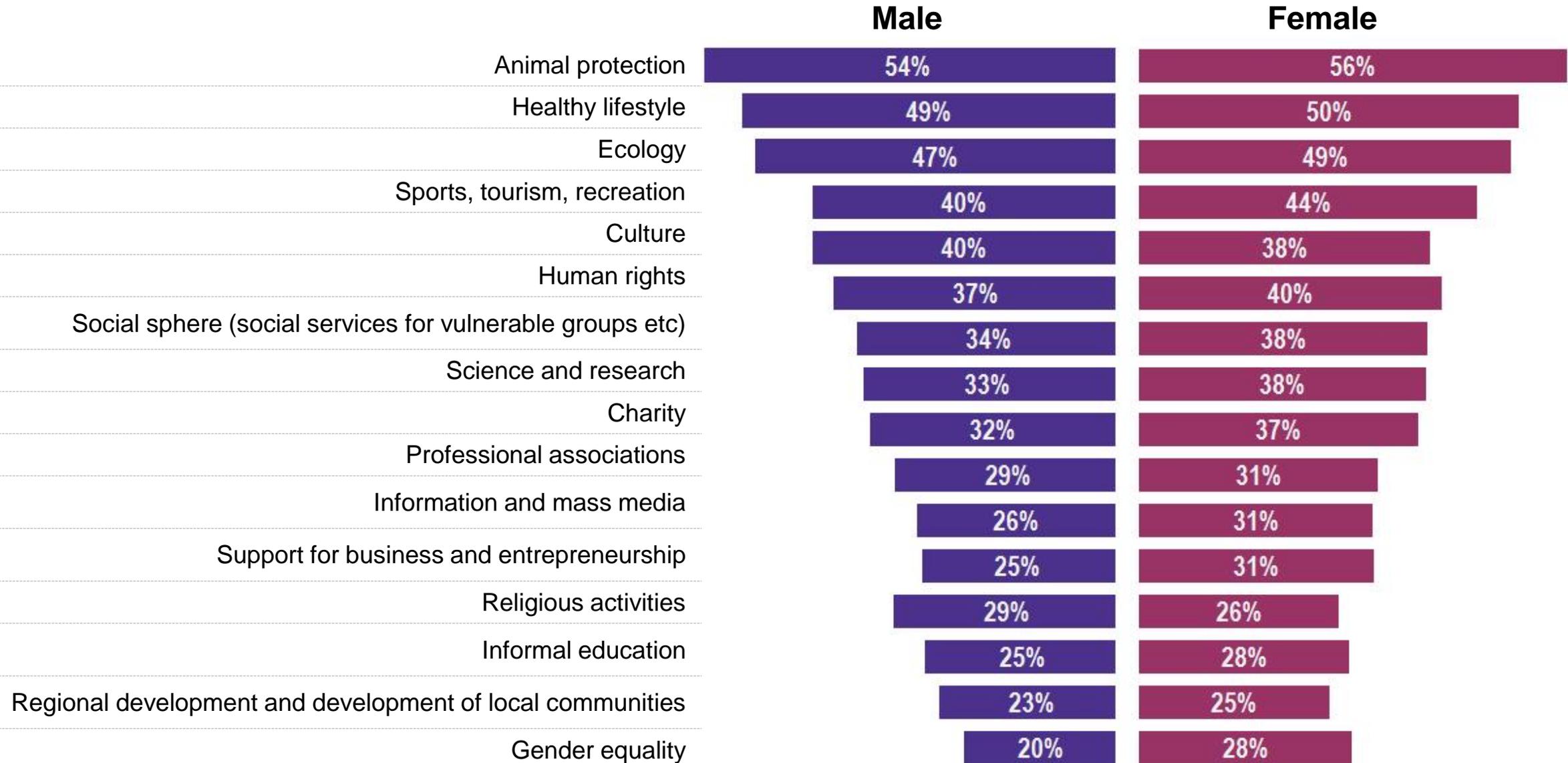
Trust towards civil society organizations and civic initiatives in different spheres. Age

How much do you trust civil society organizations and civic initiatives that work in the following areas.



Trust towards civil society organizations and civic initiatives in different spheres. Gender

How much do you trust civil society organizations and civic initiatives that work in the following areas.



Attitude towards civil society organizations and civic initiatives: summing up responses

- 71% of respondents know about activities of civil society organization and civic initiatives in their settlement or region, but would like to know more (72%)
- 69% of respondents have a positive attitude towards activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives, but only 57% trust them
- Young people aged 15-24 and inhabitants of cities with over 500 thousand people have the most positive attitude
- Respondents trust, most of all, civil society organizations and civic initiatives working in the spheres of animal protection and healthy lifestyle
- Deputies of various levels and local authorities are expected to be solving the problems (73 and 70% answers), but in practice the problems are solved by civil society organizations and citizens themselves (31 and 30% answers)
- 55% respondents think that civil society organizations must solve local problems, but just 33% have answered that they do, in reality
- Personal participation in events and reaction in social networks are the most important factors of evaluation of effectiveness of civil society organizations and civic initiatives activities

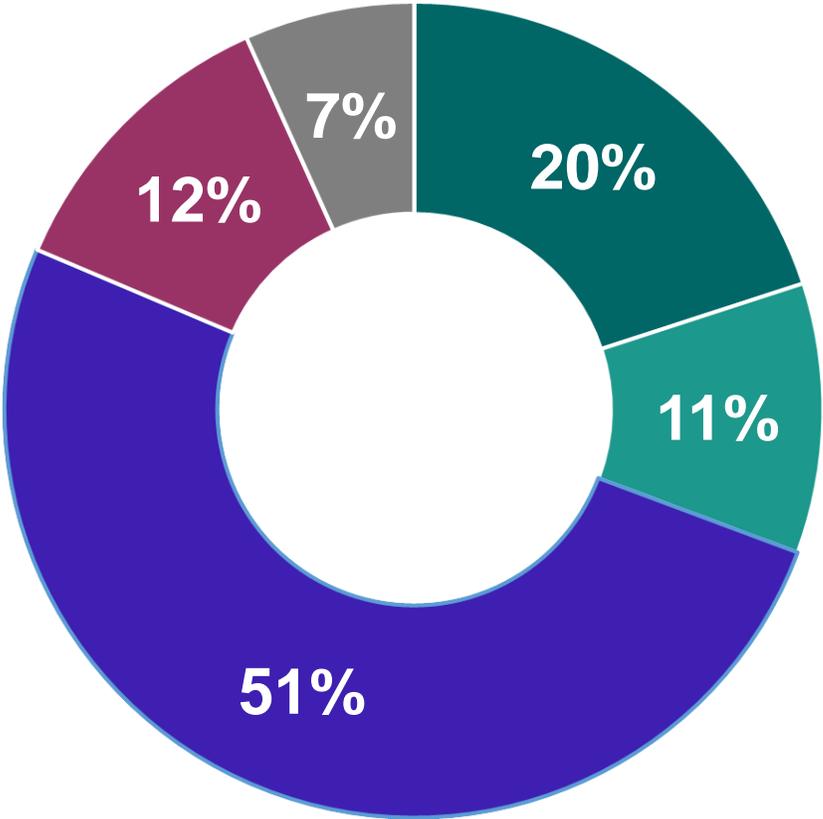


PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIC INITIATIVES

Readiness to participate in the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives

Are you ready to participate in the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives?

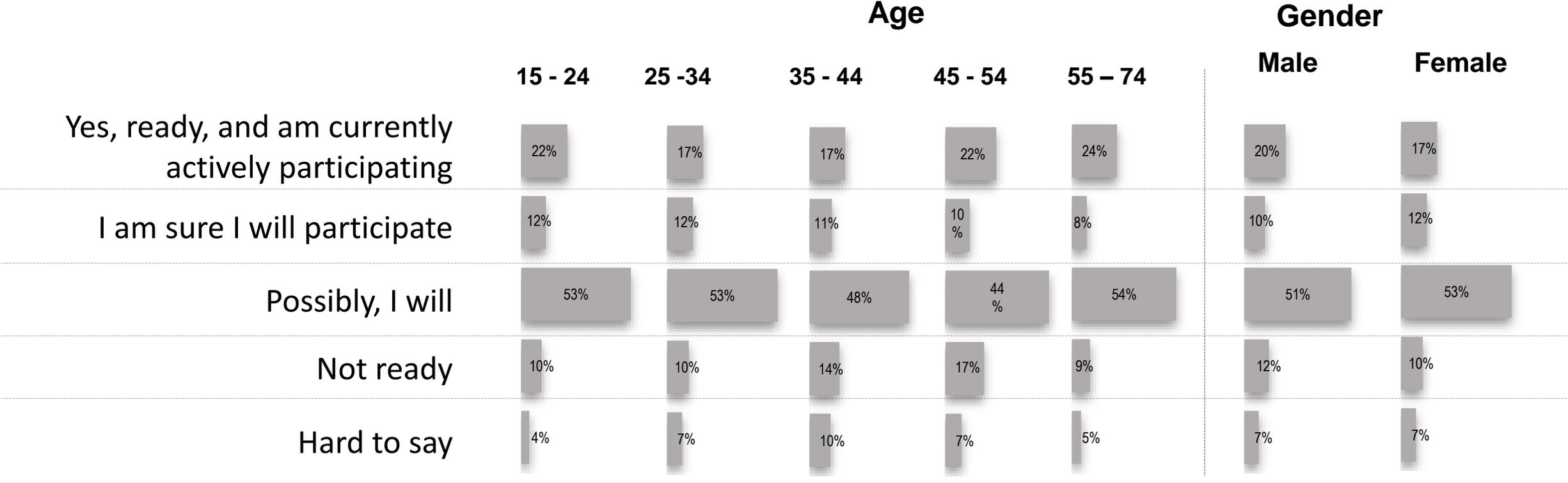
Over half of respondents overall are ready to participate in civil society organizations and civic initiatives



- Yes, ready, and am currently actively participating
- I am sure I will participate
- It's a possibility
- Not ready
- Hard to say

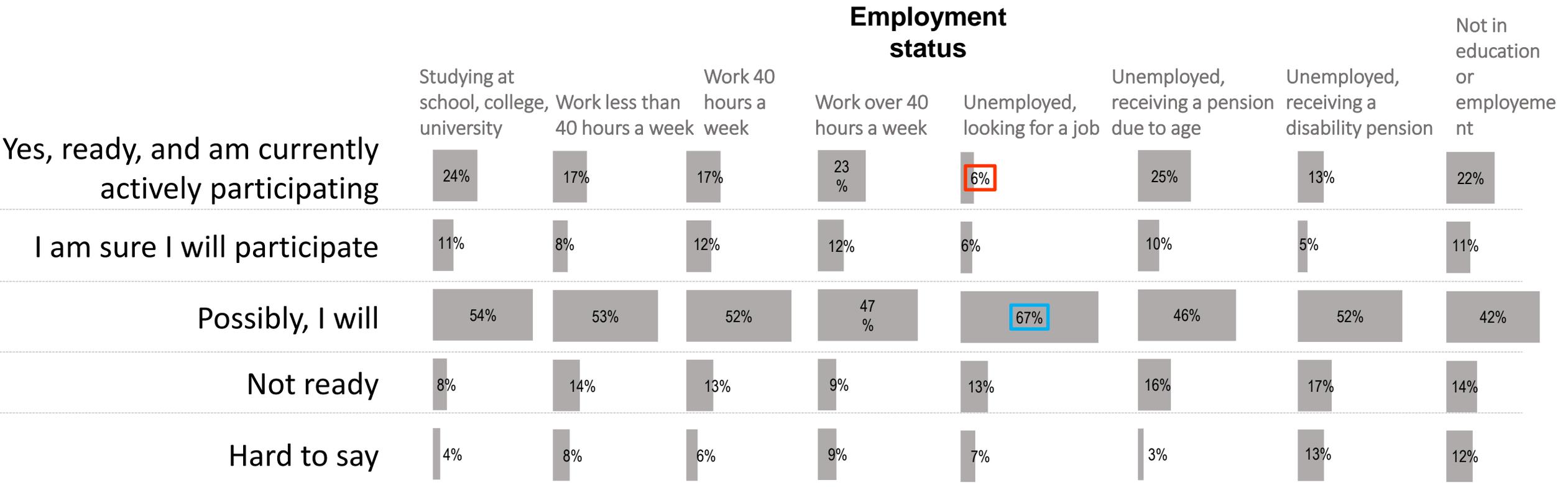
Readiness to participate in the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives. Age and gender

Are you ready to participate in the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives? Please state your age. Please state your gender.



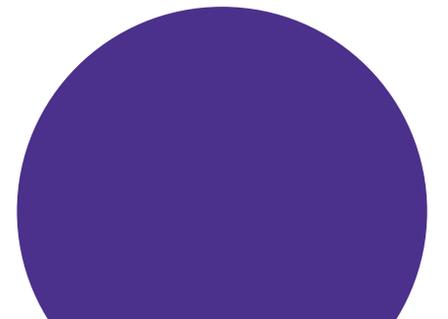
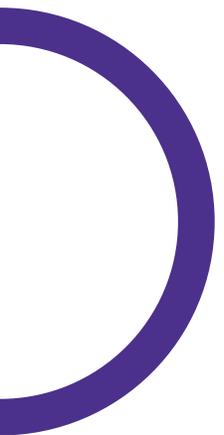
Readiness to participate in the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives. Occupation

Are you ready to participate in the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives? Which of the categories reflects your employment status?



Readiness to participate in the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives: summing up responses

- 20% of respondents participate in the activities of civil society organizations and initiatives
- Participation potential - 3 times more (62% of answers)
- The most active respondents are aged 15-24 and 45-75
- By type of employment, these are students, those who work more than 40 hours per week and those retired by age

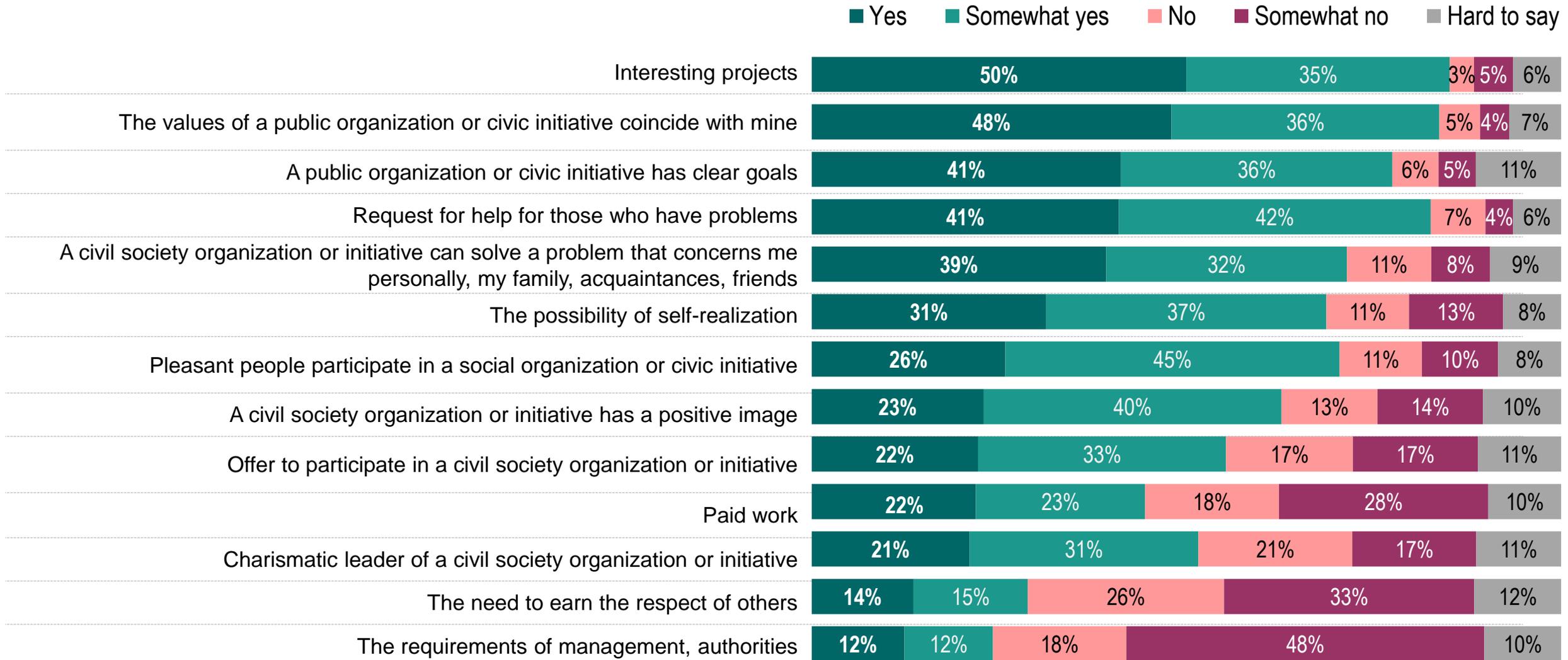


The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a road. On the left side, there is a white plastic safety barrier with several rectangular red reflective markers. To the right of the barrier, there are several orange traffic cones with white reflective bands. The road surface is dark, and the overall scene is out of focus, creating a sense of depth and perspective.

Incentives and barriers

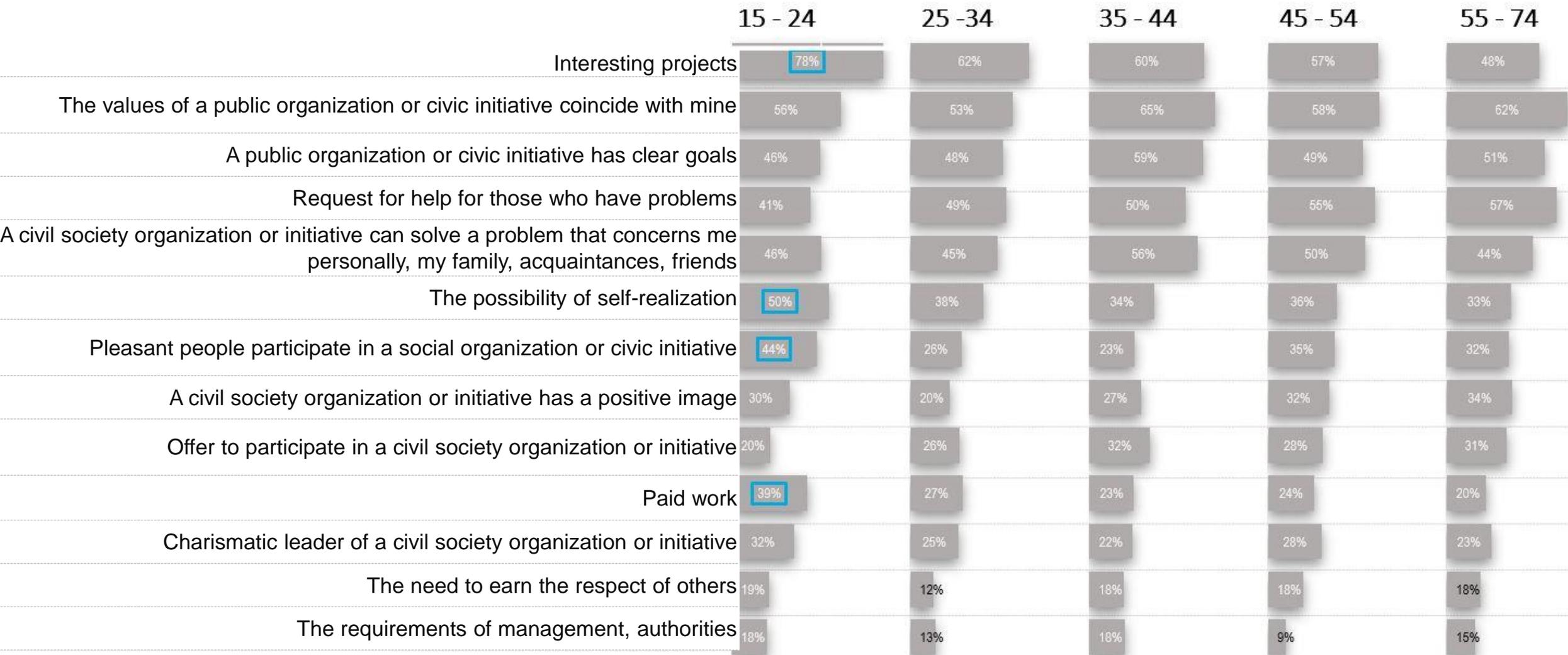
Incentives for participating in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives

What motivates you to participate in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives ?



Incentives for participating in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives. Age

What motivates you to participate in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives ?
Among those who have answered "YES". Please state your age.

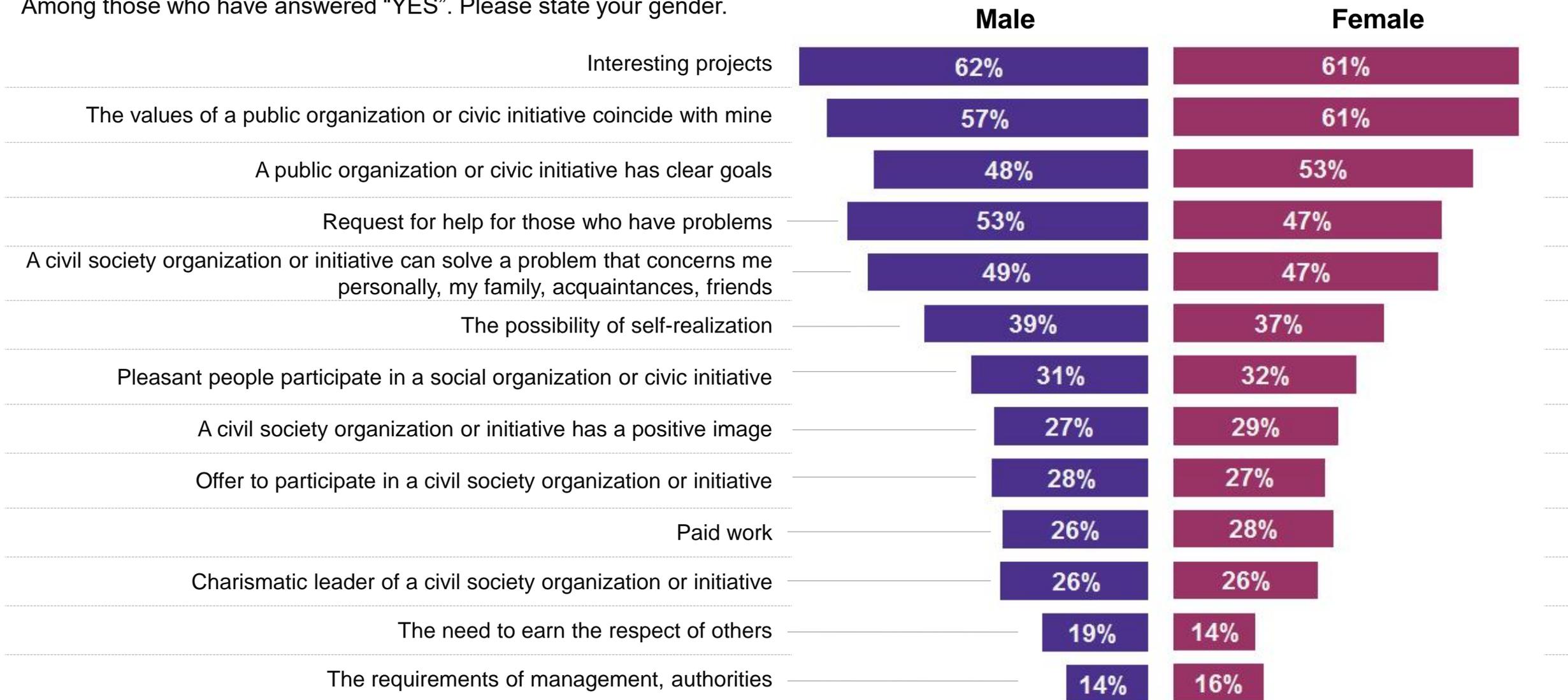


Incentives for participating in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives

Gender

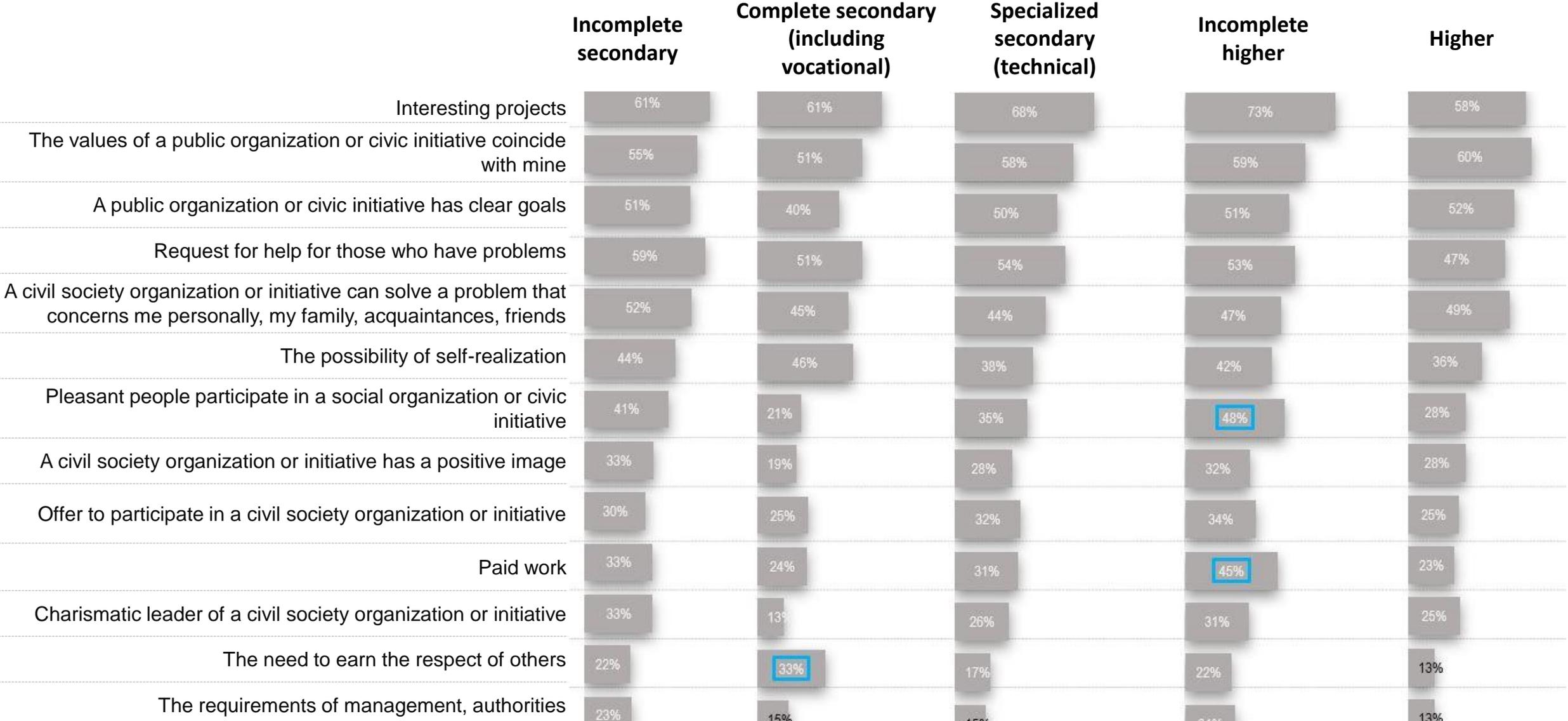
What motivates you to participate in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives ?

Among those who have answered "YES". Please state your gender.



Incentives for participating in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives. Education

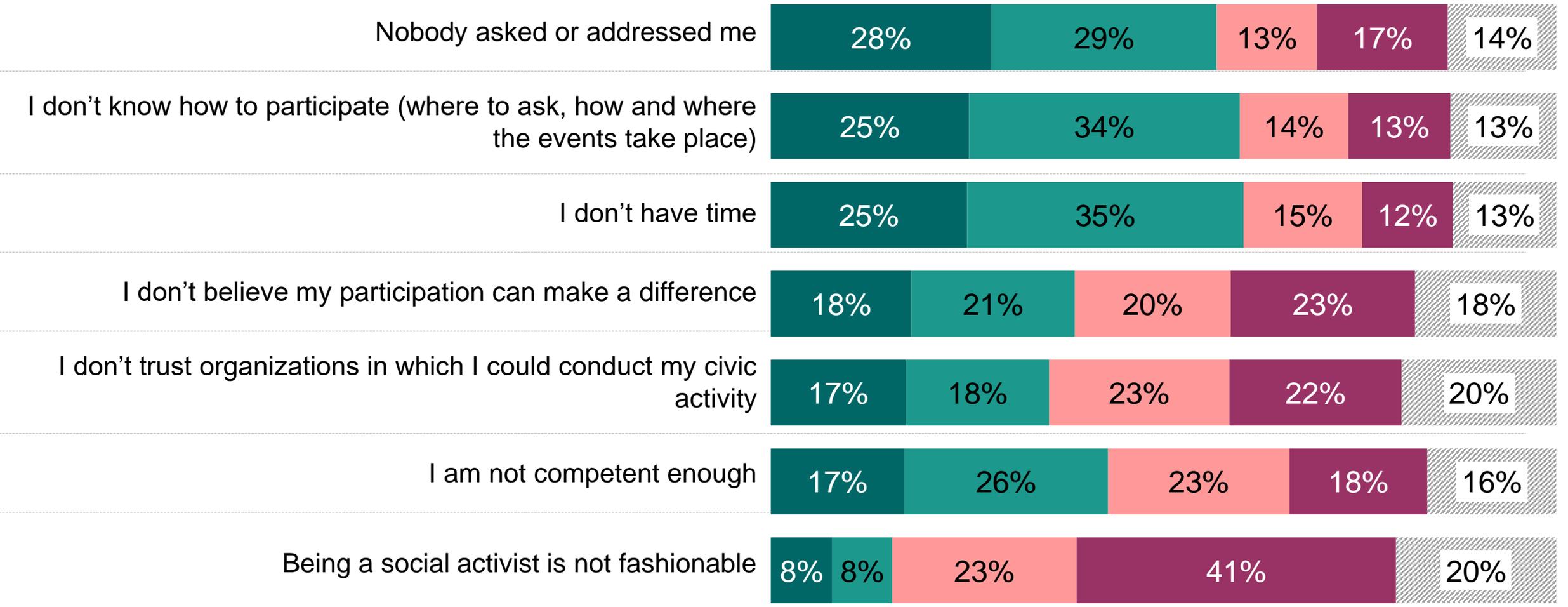
What motivates you to participate in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives ?
 Among those who have answered "YES". Please state your education.



Barriers for participating in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives

What prevents you from participation in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives?

■ Yes
 ■ Somewhat yes
 ■ Somewhat no
 ■ No
 Hard to say



Barriers for participating in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives.

Age

What prevents you from participation in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives?

Among those who have answered “YES” or “SOMEWHAT YES”

Please state your age:

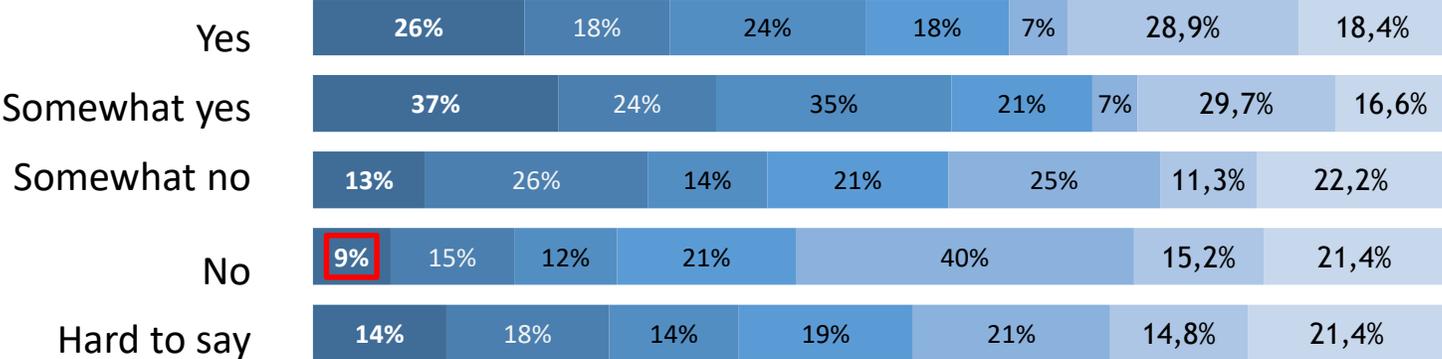
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-74
I don't know how to participate (where to ask, how and where the events take place)	72%	64%	61%	47%	49%
I don't have time	68%	58%	61%	64%	50%
Nobody asked or addressed me	56%	54%	61%	48%	34%
I am not competent enough	52%	43%	44%	39%	34%
I don't believe my participation can make a difference	39%	39%	37%	34%	44%
I don't trust organizations in which I could conduct my civic activity	32%	30%	40%	34%	40%
Being a social activist is not fashionable	17%	13%	14%	14%	21%

Barriers for participating in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives. Gender

What prevents you from participation in activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives?

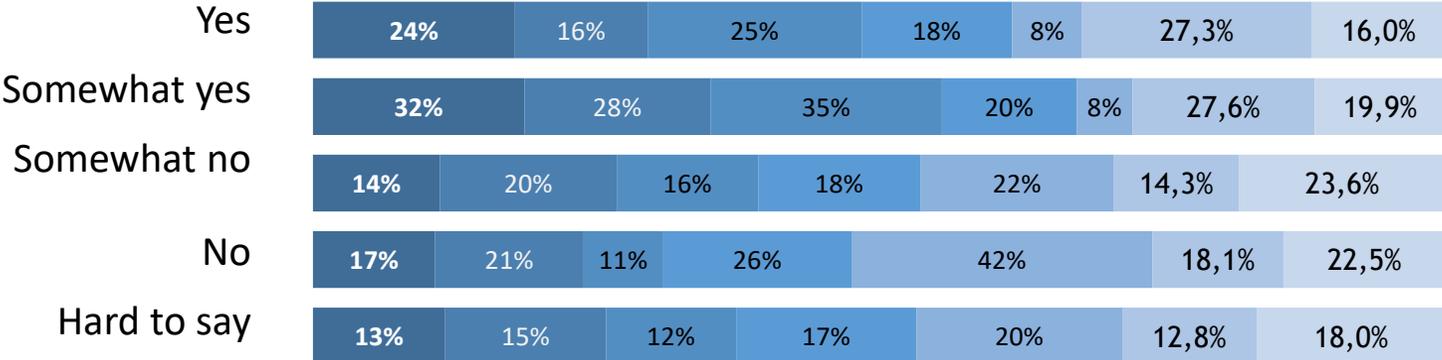
Please state your gender:

Male



- I don't know how to participate (where to ask, how and where the events take place)
- I am not competent enough
- I don't have time
- I don't believe my participation can make a difference
- Being a social activist is not fashionable
- Nobody asked or addressed me
- I don't trust organizations in which I could conduct my civic activity

Female



Incentives and barriers for participation in civil society organizations and civic initiatives: summing up responses

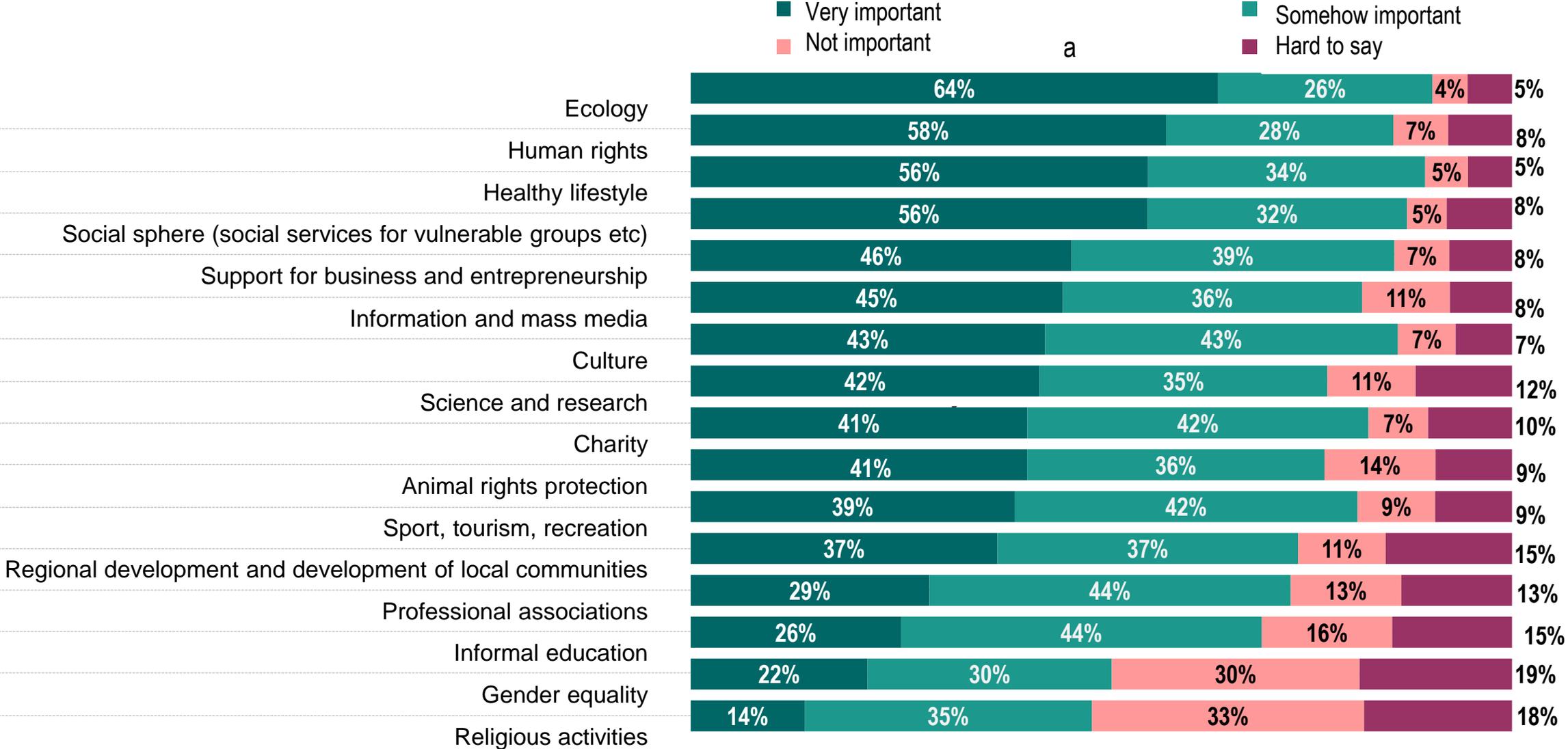
- Main motives for participation: interesting projects, common values, desire to help others and clear goals of organizations and initiatives
- The importance of common values increases with age
- Men are more pragmatic: clarity of goals is somewhat more important for women, and helping those who have problems is more important for men
- The main barriers to participation in organizations and initiatives are lack of awareness of participation opportunities and lack of resources (time and competencies)
- The least informed about participation opportunities are the respondents aged 15-24

Potential for engagement: areas of activities



The most important areas of activity of civil society organizations and civic initiatives

In what areas is the activity of civil society organizations and civic initiatives currently most important in Belarus?



The most important areas of activity of civil society organizations and civics' initiatives. Top 5 by settlement type

In what areas is the activity of civil society organizations and civic initiatives currently most important in Belarus? “Very important” and “Somehow important”

Top 5 of respondents' answers

Ecology 64%

Human rights 58%

Healthy lifestyle 58%

Social sphere 56%

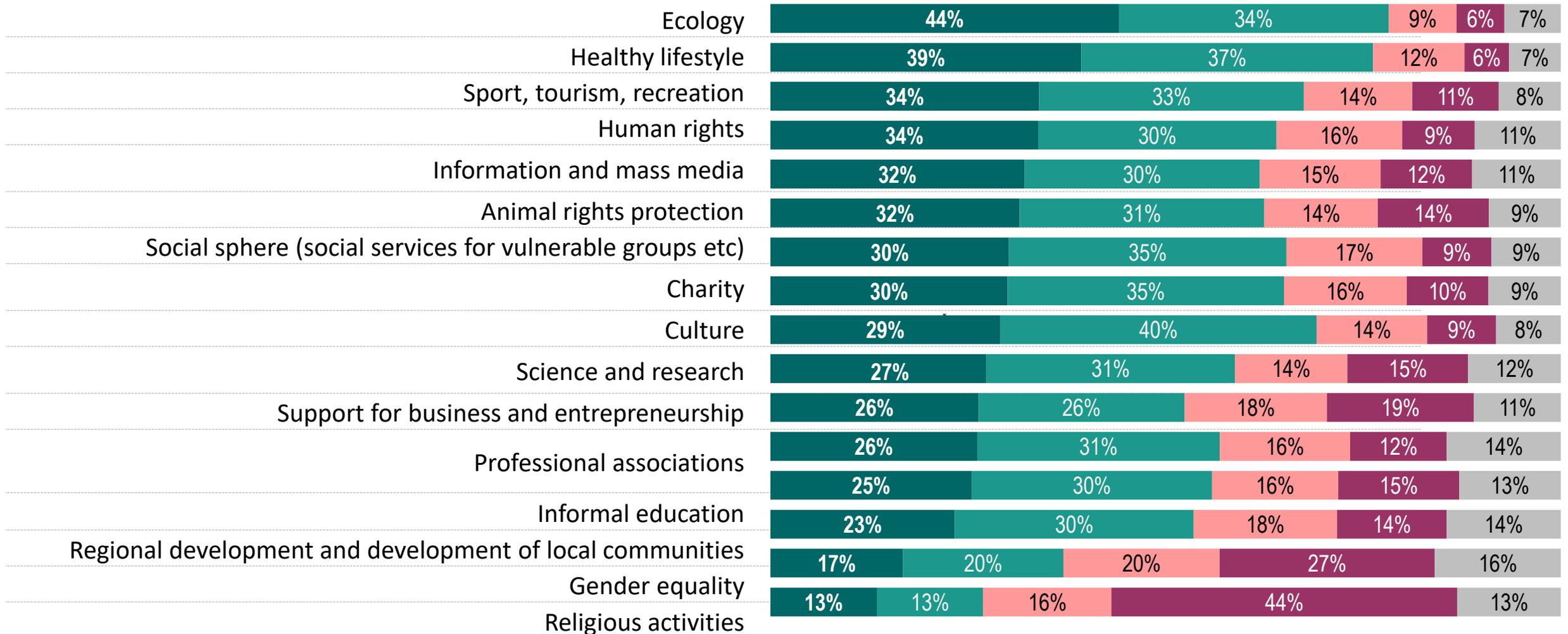
Support of business and entrepreneurship 48%

Village	Town < 50 thousands	Town 50-100 thousands	Town 100-500 thousands	Town > 500 thousands
Ecology 62%	Ecology 59%	Ecology 60%	Ecology 60%	Ecology 64%
Healthy lifestyle 60%	Social sphere 54%	Human rights 56%	Human rights 58%	Human rights 63%
Human rights 57%	Healthy lifestyle 49%	Social sphere 54%	Healthy lifestyle 57%	Social sphere 58%
Social sphere 47%	Human rights 45%	Information 50%	Social sphere 58%	Healthy lifestyle 56%
Culture 46%	Culture 43%	Healthy lifestyle 51%	Culture 47%	Business support 54%

Willingness to take part in various fields of activity of civil society organizations and civics' initiatives

In which sphere of activity of civil society organizations and civics' initiatives are you ready to take part?

■ Ready
 ■ Somewhat ready
 ■ Somewhat not ready
■ Not ready
 ■ Сложно сказать



Areas of activity of civil society organizations and civic initiatives in which respondents are ready to participate. Top 5 by age

In which sphere of activity of civil society organizations and civics' initiatives are you ready to take part? Among those who answered "YES"

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-74
Ecology	Ecology 57%	Ecology 46%	Ecology 34%	Ecology 40%	Ecology 44%
Sport, tourism, recreation	Sport, tourism, recreation 47%	Healthy lifestyle 43%	Sport, tourism, recreation 33%	Healthy lifestyle 33%	Healthy lifestyle 41%
Healthy lifestyle	Healthy lifestyle 41%	Human rights 38%	Healthy lifestyle 33%	Sport, tourism, recreation 33%	Social sphere 39%
Information and mass media	Information and mass media 41%	Sport, tourism, recreation 37%	Social sphere 29%	Social sphere 33%	Human rights 33%
Защита животных/ Права человека	Защита животных/ Права человека 40%	Social sphere 36%	Human rights 28%	Human rights 29%	Information and mass media/Charity 32%

Top 5 of respondents' answers

Ecology 44%

Healthy lifestyle 39%

Sport, tourism, recreation 34%

Human rights 34%

Information and mass media

32%

Areas of activity of civil society organizations and civic initiatives in which respondents are ready to participate. Top 5 by type of settlement

In which sphere of activity of civil society organizations and civics' initiatives are you ready to take part? Among those who answered "YES"

Top 5 of all answers of respondents' answers

Ecology 44%

Healthy lifestyle 39%

Sport, tourism, recreation 34%

Human rights 34%

Information and mass media 32%

	Village	Town < 50 thousands	Town 50-100 thousands	Town 100-500 thousands	Town > 500 thousands
	Ecology 59%	Ecology 48%	Ecology 38%	Ecology 46%	Ecology 40%
	Healthy lifestyle 52%	Healthy lifestyle 41%	Healthy lifestyle 33%	Healthy lifestyle 44%	Healthy lifestyle 34%
	Sport, tourism, recreation 44%	Human rights 35%	Human rights 30%	Sport, tourism, recreation 37%	Human rights 32%
	Information and mass media 43%	Sport, tourism, recreation 33%	Charity 29%	Human rights 36%	Information and mass media 31%
	Human rights 39%	Social sphere 35%	Social sphere 25%	Social sphere 35%	Animal rights protection 30%

Areas of activity of civil society organizations and civic initiatives in which respondents are ready to participate. Top 5 by education

In which sphere of activity of civil society organizations and civics' initiatives are you ready to take part? Among those who answered "YES"

Top 5 of respondents' answers

Ecology 44%

Healthy lifestyle 39%

Sport, tourism, recreation 34%

Human rights 34%

Information and mass media 32%

32%

	Incomplete secondary	Complete secondary (including vocational)	Specialized secondary (technical)	Incomplete higher	Higher
	Ecology 49%	Ecology 45%	Healthy lifestyle 51%	Ecology 47%	Ecology 41%
	Information and mass media 44%	Animal rights protection 40%	Ecology 49%	Healthy lifestyle 44%	Healthy lifestyle 36%
	Healthy lifestyle 40%	Sport, tourism, recreation 38%	Information and mass media 42%	Sport, tourism, recreation 41%	Human rights 32%
	Human rights 39%	Social sphere 29 %	Culture 41%	Animal rights protection 37%	Sport, tourism, recreation 31%
	Animal rights protection 36%	Healthy lifestyle 26%	Sport, tourism, recreation 40%	Business and entrepreneurship support/ Information and mass media 34%	Animal rights protection 28%

Engagement potential: importance vs readiness

	Consider the sphere really important	Ready to participate
Ecology	Age 15-24 years City > 500 thousands	15-24 Village
Healthy lifestyle	55-74 Village	55-74 Village
Human rights	25-34 Town > 500 thousands	25-34 Village*
Sport, tourism, recreation	25-34 Towns**	15-24 Village
Social sphere	55-74 Town > 100 thousands	45-74 Town
Support of business and entrepreneurship	25-34 Town > 500 thousands	15-24 Town > 500 thousands*
Information and mass media	55-74 Town 50-100 thousands**	15-24 Village

In which sphere of activity of civil society organizations and civics' initiatives are you ready to take part? Among those who answered "YES"

* Not in the Top 5 for readiness to participate

** Not in Top 5 in importance

Engagement potential: areas of activity. Summary of responses

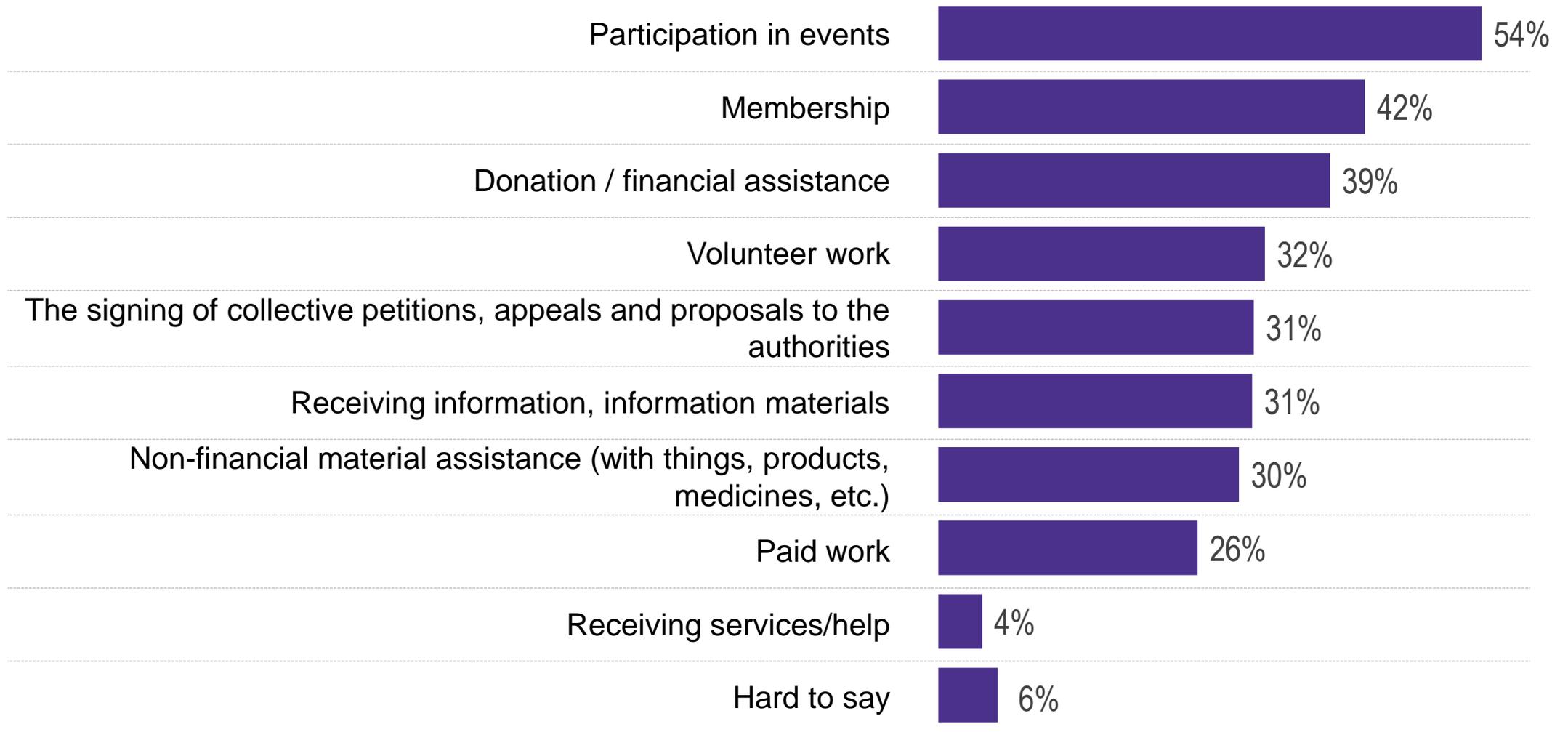
- The most in-demand areas of activity are ecology, healthy lifestyle, human rights
- For respondents aged 15-24, the five most important areas of activity (“very important” and “somewhat years - business support; 45-54 - charity; 55-74 – Information.
- In rural areas and cities with less than 500 thousand inhabitants, culture and information are the top five in demand, and in cities over 500 thousand inhabitants - business support
- Most of respondents are ready to participate in the activities of organizations and initiatives involved in ecology, healthy lifestyle, as well as sports, recreation, tourism.
- The greatest potential for participation is among residents of villages and small towns aged 15-24

The background is an abstract composition of large, overlapping geometric shapes. A large light blue shape is in the center, surrounded by darker blue, yellow, and pink shapes. The overall style is modern and colorful.

Potential for engagement: types of activities

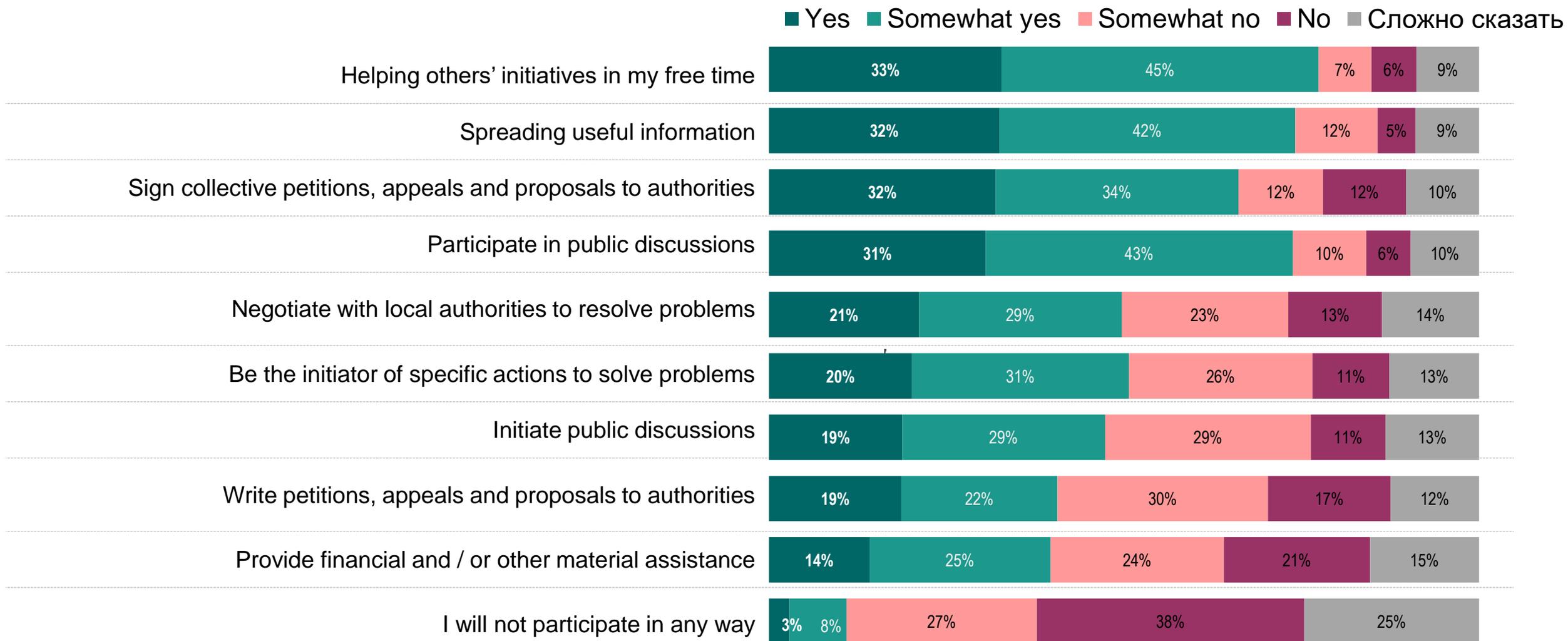
Forms of participation in the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives

If you participated in the activities of civil society organizations and civic initiatives during the past year, please, indicate what was the form of your participation?



Willingness to participate in solving relevant problems of your local community

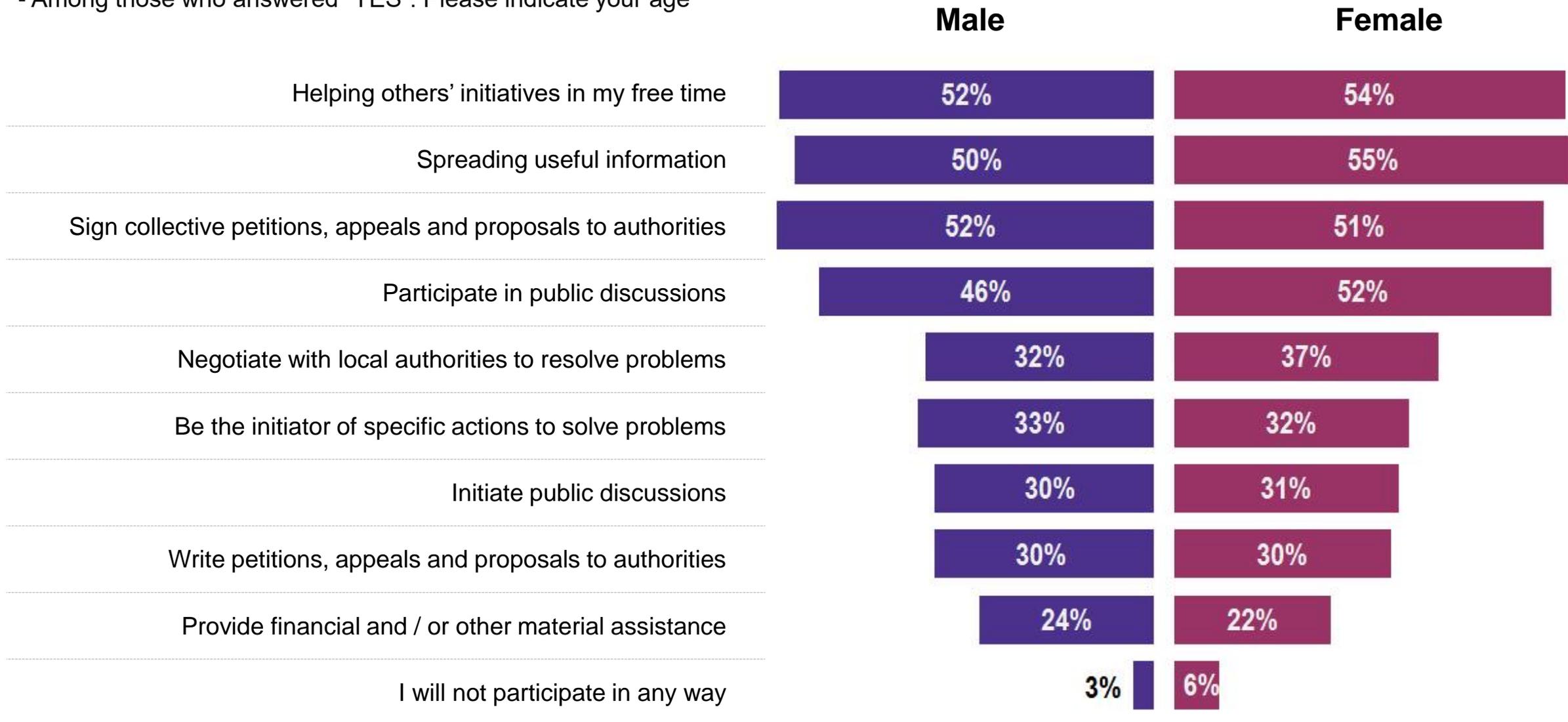
Are you ready to participate in solving relevant problems of your local community (your district, village, street, home, etc.) through?



Willingness to participate in solving relevant problems of your local community.

Gender

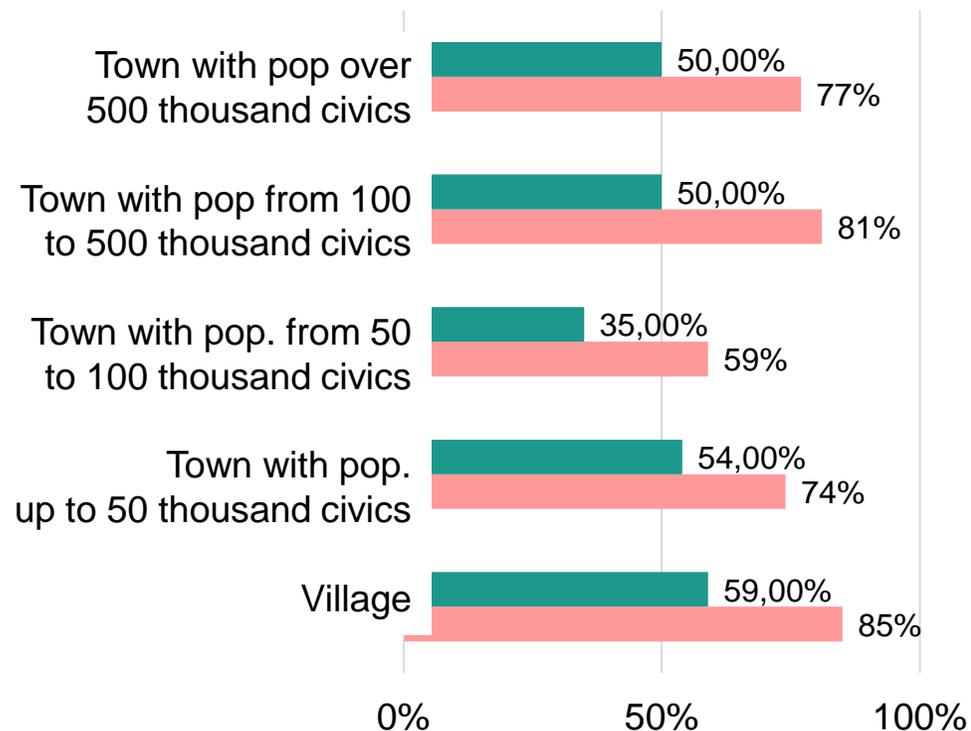
Are you ready to participate in solving relevant problems of your local community (your district, village, street, home, etc.) through?
- Among those who answered "YES". Please indicate your age



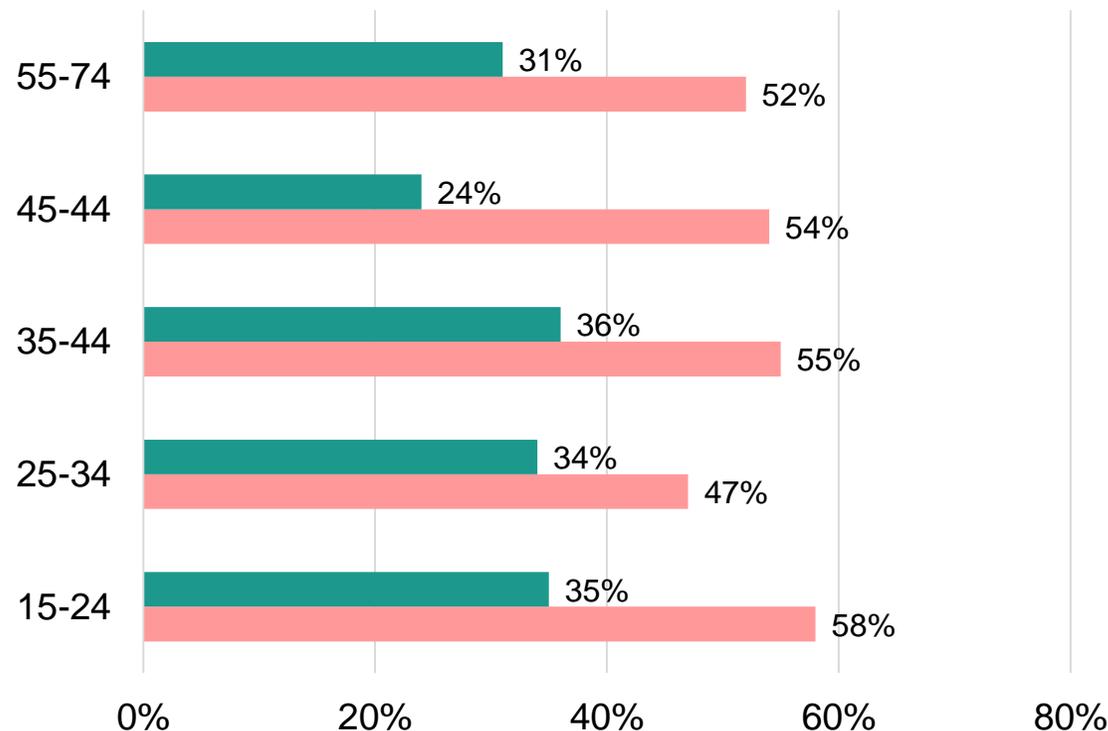
Willingness to participate in solving relevant problems of your local community

Are you ready to participate in solving relevant problems of your local community (your district, village, street, home, etc.) through?
- Among those who answered "YES" and "SOMEWHAT YES"

Settlement type



Age

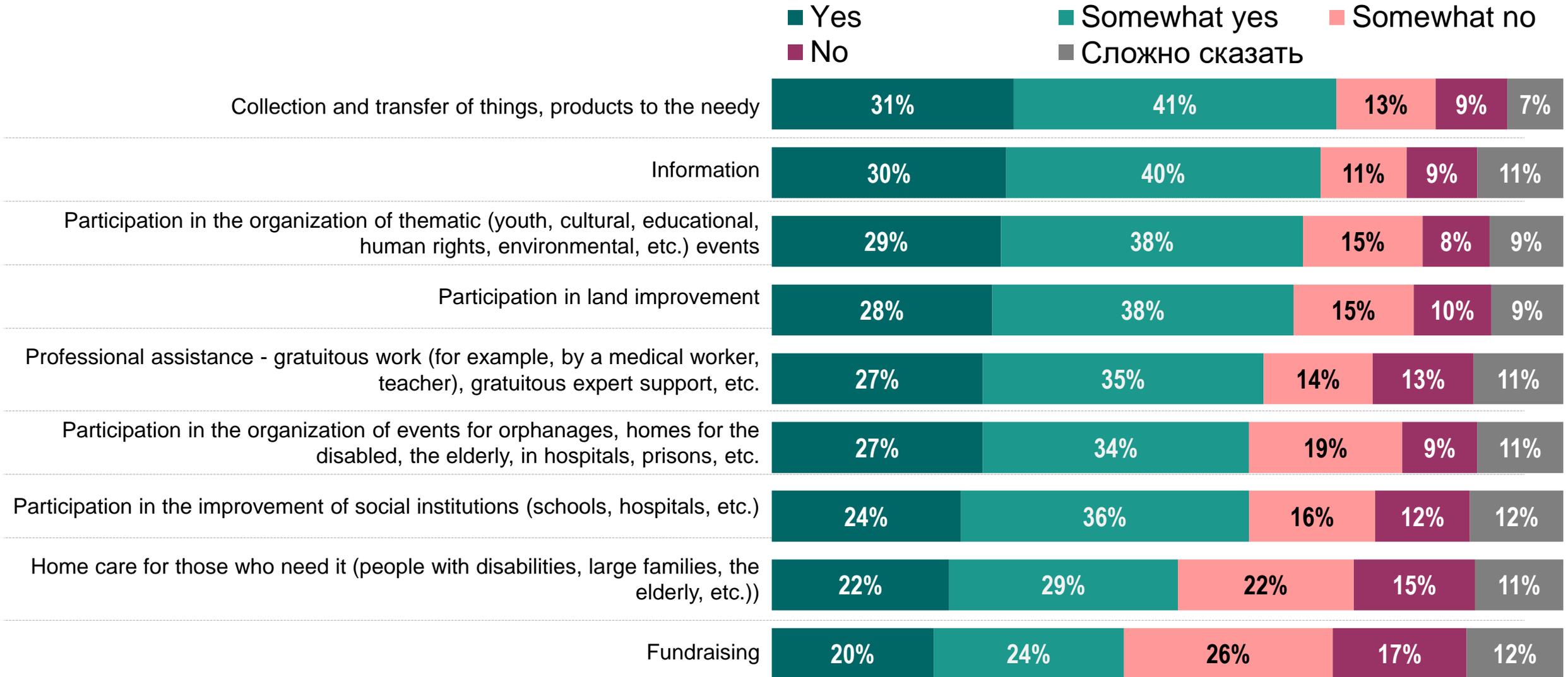


- Be the initiator of specific actions to solve problems
- Helping others' initiatives in my free time

- Be the initiator of specific actions to solve problems
- Helping others' initiatives in my free time

Volunteering

What types of volunteering would be acceptable to you?



Volunteering

What types of volunteering would be acceptable to you?

Among those who answered “YES” and “SOMEWHAT YES”. Please indicate your age

15 – 24	25 -34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 74	
Participation in the organization of thematic events 79%	Collection and transfer of donated goods and food products to the needy 72% / participation in the organization of thematic events 73%	Information 66%	Collection and transfer of donated goods and food products to the needy 73%	land improvement 78%	Top 5 for all respondents
Participation in organization of events for orphanages etc 75%/Information 75%	Professional gratuitous assistance 65%	Participation in the organization of thematic events 64%	land improvement 71%	Collection and transfer of donated goods and food products to the needy 74%	Collection and transfer of donated goods and food products to the needy
Participation in improvement of social institutions 61%/Professional gratuitous assistance 60%	land improvement 63%	Collection and transfer of donated goods and food products to the needy 62%/ land improvement 62%/ Professional gratuitous assistance 61%	Participation in the organization of thematic events 68%	Information 71%	Information
land improvement 59%	Participation in improvement of social institutions 61%	Participation in organization of events for orphanages etc 50%	Information 62%	Professional gratuitous assistance 66%/Participation in improvement of social institutions 65%	Participation in the organization of thematic events
Collection and transfer of donated goods and food products to the needy 57%	Participation in organization of events for orphanages etc 59%	Home care 47%	Participation in improvement of social institutions 59%	Participation in organization of events for orphanages etc 63%	Land improvement
					Professional gratuitous assistance

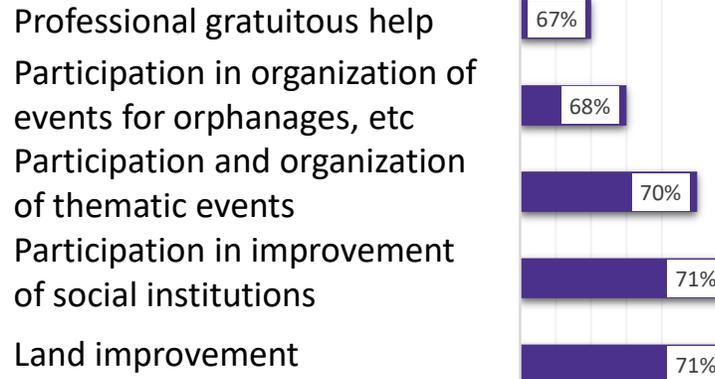
Volunteering

What types of volunteering would be acceptable to you
Among those who answered "YES" and "SOMEWHAT YES". Please indicate your settlement type.

Village



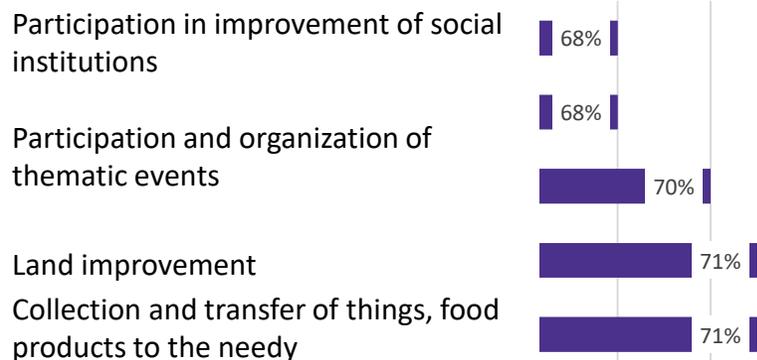
Town < 50 thousands



Top 5 for all respondents

- Collection and transfer of things, food products to the needy
- Information
- Participation in the organization of thematic events
- Participation in land improvement

City 50-100 thousands



City 100-500 thousands



City > 500 thousands



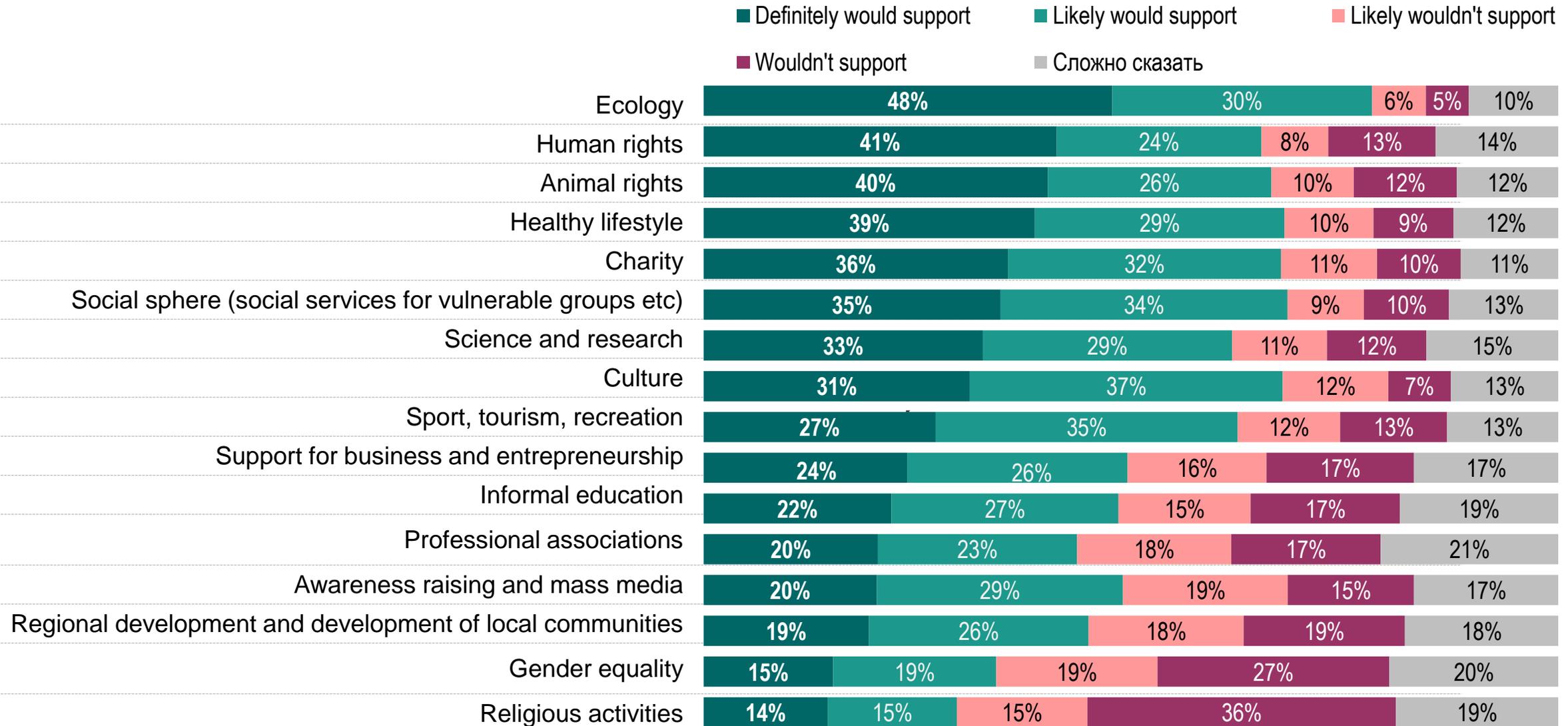
мероприятия

60% 65% 70% 75%

50% 60% 70% 80%

Willingness to financially support community service

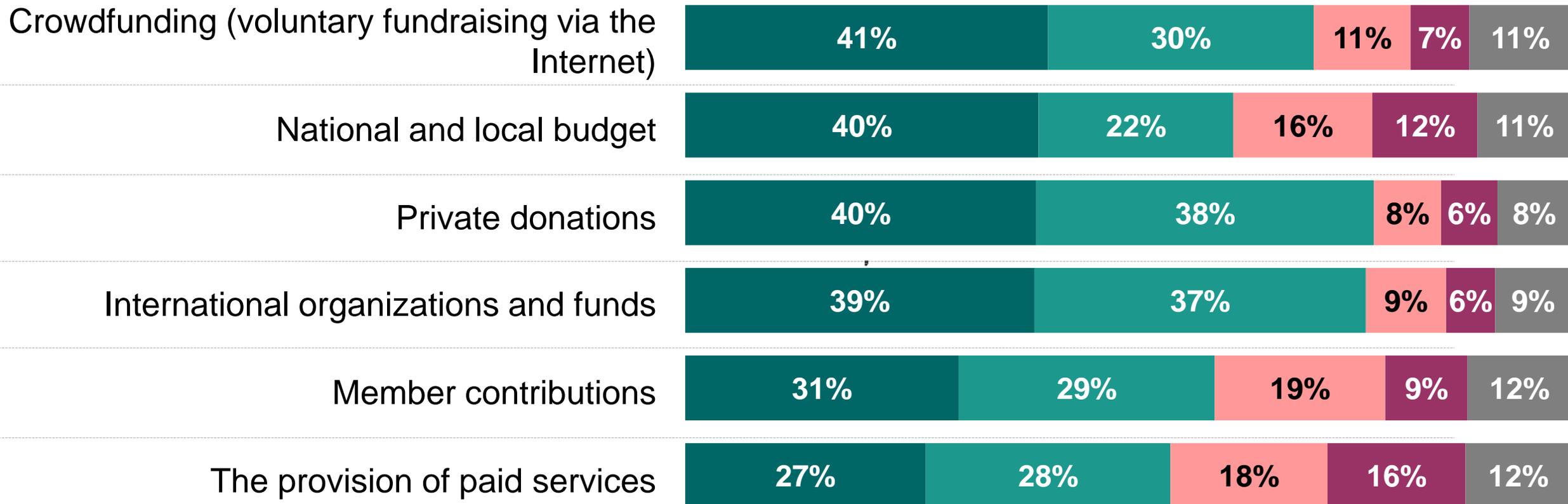
If you had the opportunity to transfer 1% of your taxes to community service, what would you support?



Sources of funding for civil society organizations and civic initiatives

What is your opinion regarding the sources from which civil society organizations and civic initiatives be predominantly financed?

■ Yes ■ Somewhat yes ■ Somewhat no ■ No ■ Сложно сказать



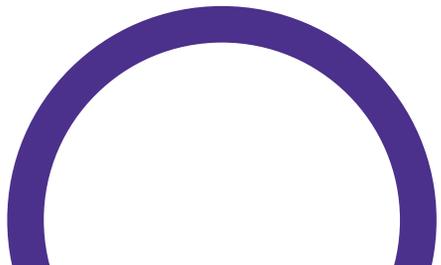
Potential for engagement: types of activity. Summary of responses

- Actions and events - the main form of participation
- 27% of respondents aged 15-24 are members of public organizations or civic initiatives
- At least 40% of those who know about the activities of organizations in their locality or region reported that they were members of organizations
- 51% of respondents are ready to be the initiators of specific actions; 78% are ready to help the initiatives of others
- There are more initiators of activity among respondents aged 15-44 years, with complete secondary and incomplete higher education, living in rural areas; these are students, those who work more than 40 hours a week and those who have not worked and not studied over the past year
- The most acceptable types of volunteer activities: gathering items and food products and Information; least – at-home help and fundraising

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the center is a large, vibrant green field, possibly corn, which is bordered by a light-colored path or road. This central field is surrounded by several large, rectangular fields of brown soil, likely recently plowed or harvested. The bottom and left sides of the image are dominated by dense, dark green forests. The word "Conclusions" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the upper-middle part of the image.

Conclusions

AWARENESS

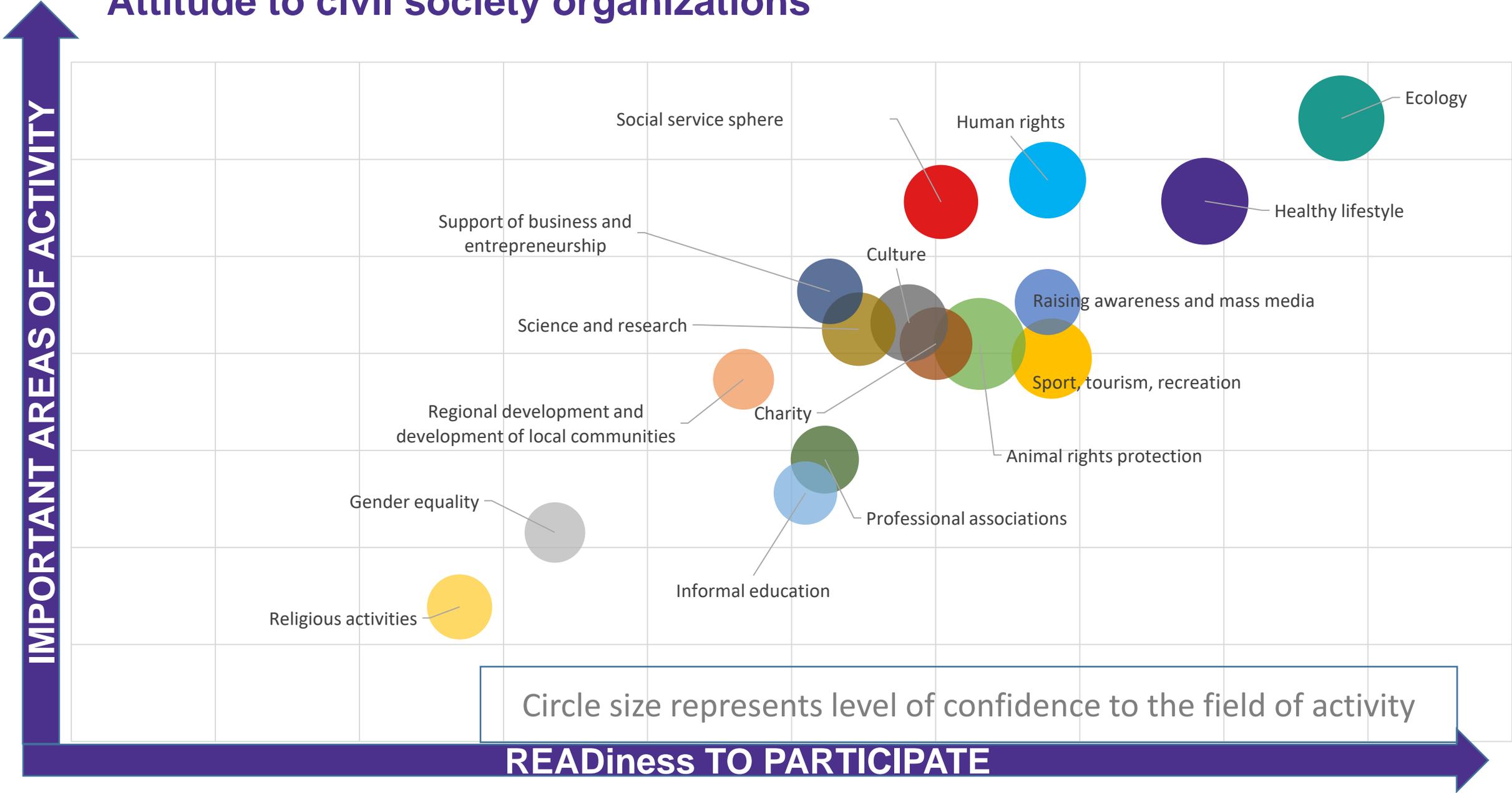


- 71% of respondents know about the activities of public organizations and civic initiatives in their locality and / or region,
- 72% would like to know more

IMAGE

- 69% of respondents have a positive attitude to the activities of civil society organizations and civics' initiatives, but only 58% trust them
- Respondents trust civil society organizations and initiatives in the sphere of the protection of animals and healthy lifestyle most of all
- 55% of respondents believe that civil society organizations and initiatives should solve local problems, but only 33% believe that this is happening
- Personal participation in events and reaction in social networks are the most important factors in assessing the effectiveness of civil society organizations and initiatives

Attitude to civil society organizations



Circle size represents level of confidence to the field of activity

READINESS TO PARTICIPATE

ENGAGEMENT POTENTIAL



- 20% of respondents participate in the activities of civil society organizations and initiatives
- Participation potential is 3 times larger (62% of answers)
- Main incentives for participation: interesting projects, common values, the desire to help others and clear goals of organizations and initiatives
- The main barriers are lack of awareness of participation opportunities and lack of resources (time and competencies)
- The most in-demand areas of activity: ecology, healthy lifestyle, human rights
- In rural areas and cities with less than 500 thousand inhabitants, culture and information are in the top five in demand, and in cities over 500 thousand inhabitants - business support
- The greatest potential for participation - residents of villages and towns aged 15-24
- 51% of respondents are ready to be the initiators of civic activities; 78% are ready to help the initiatives of others
- There are more initiators among respondents aged 15-44, with complete secondary and incomplete higher education, living in rural areas; these are students, those who work more than 40 hours per week and those who have not worked and not studied over the past year
- The most acceptable types of volunteer activities: gathering items and food products and information distribution; least acceptable ones—home care and assistance, fundraising

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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