

EUROMETER

Perceptions and attitudes of the citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia about the socio-political situation in the country, information and European integration processes

Research within the project "Media for EU" - Civil society program for the participation of the media in the negotiation process of North Macedonia for EU membership

October 2023



The project is financed
by the European Union

„Media for EU“ is implemented by Eurothink
in partnership with ALDA and BIRC



Methodology and structure

- ❑ Trend measurement – data from 2014
- ❑ The survey of public opinion carried out by the Brima agency from Skopje, through a computer-assisted telephone survey in the period from September 4 to 21, 2023, on a representative sample of 1003 respondents
- ❑ **Margin of error: +/-3.1% at C.I. 95%**
- ❑ **Sample:** multilevel stratified random sample of population 18+ years in RN Macedonia. Sample design: according to the data published by the State Statistics Office and is based on data from the Census 2021 according to the following variables: ethnicity (Macedonians + other nationalities on the one hand and ethnic Albanians on the other), regions (8 statistical regions in RS Macedonia) and settlement (village/city). rural/ urban.
- ❑ The methodological correctness of the survey is the responsibility of Brima, while the questionnaire was prepared by the EUROTHINK team.



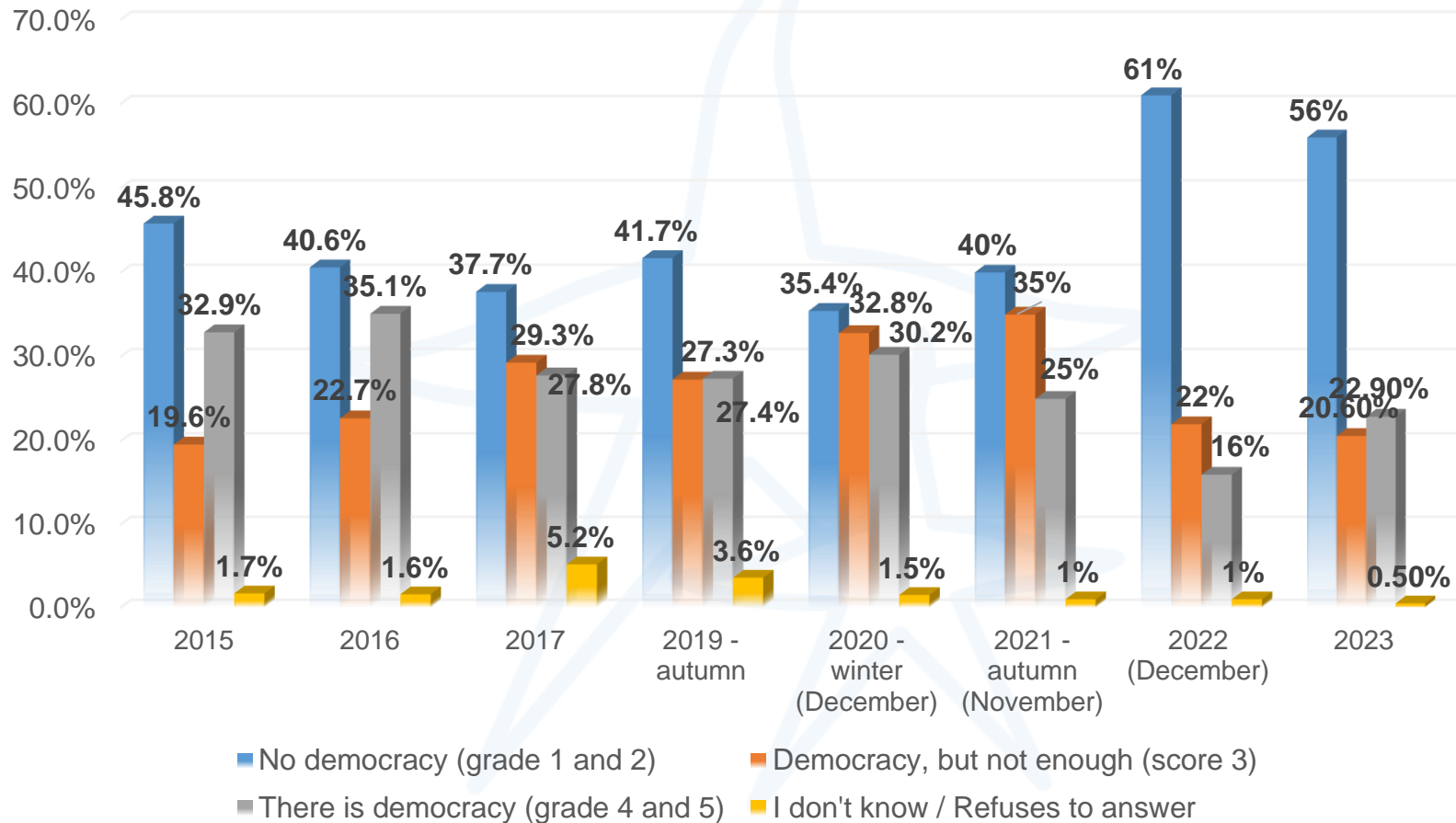
Themes

1. Democracy in RNM
2. RNM – EU relations
3. Foreign policy
4. Trust in institutions
5. EU topics and the citizens
6. Sources of information

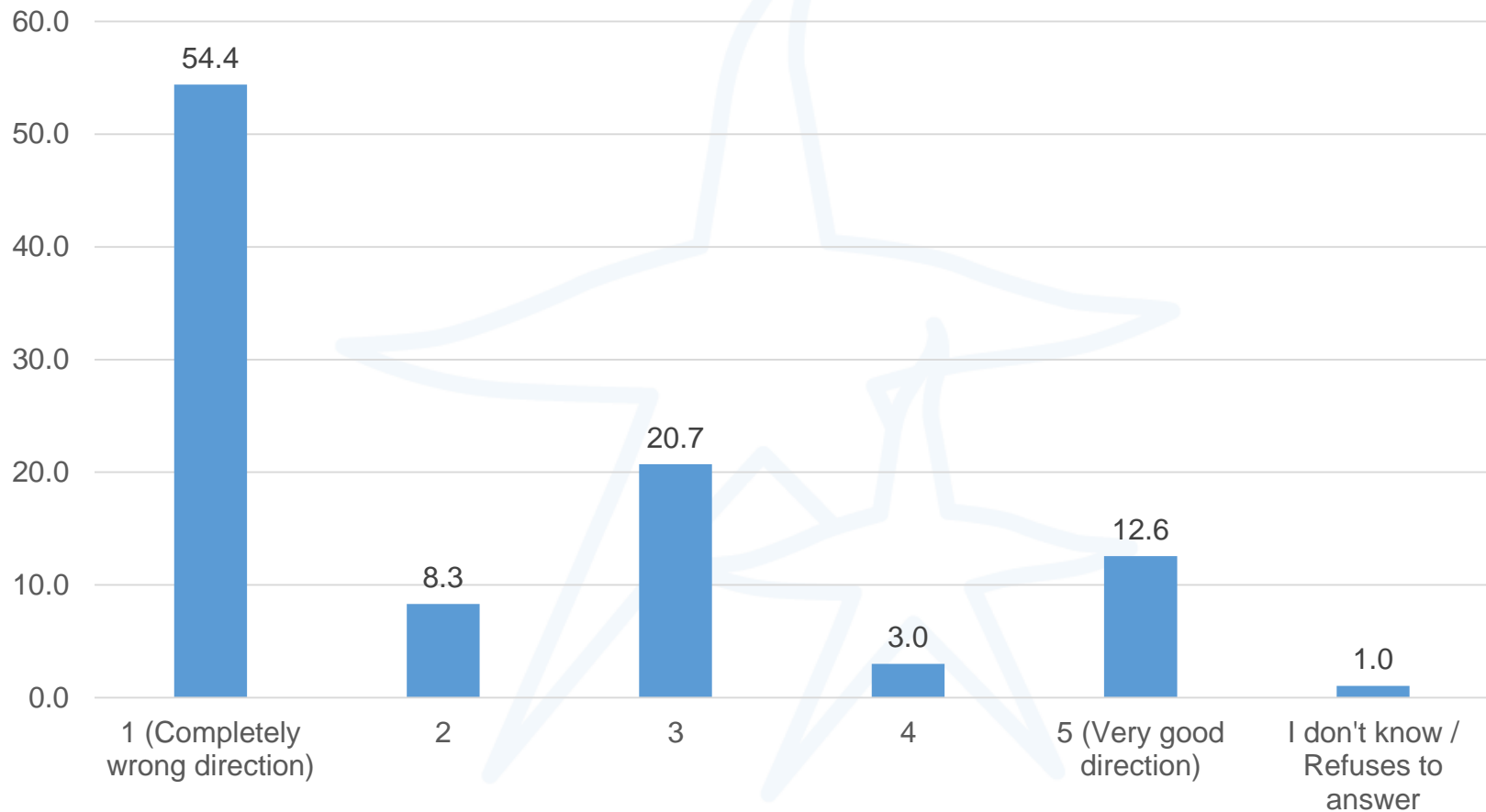


Democracy in Republic of North Macedonia

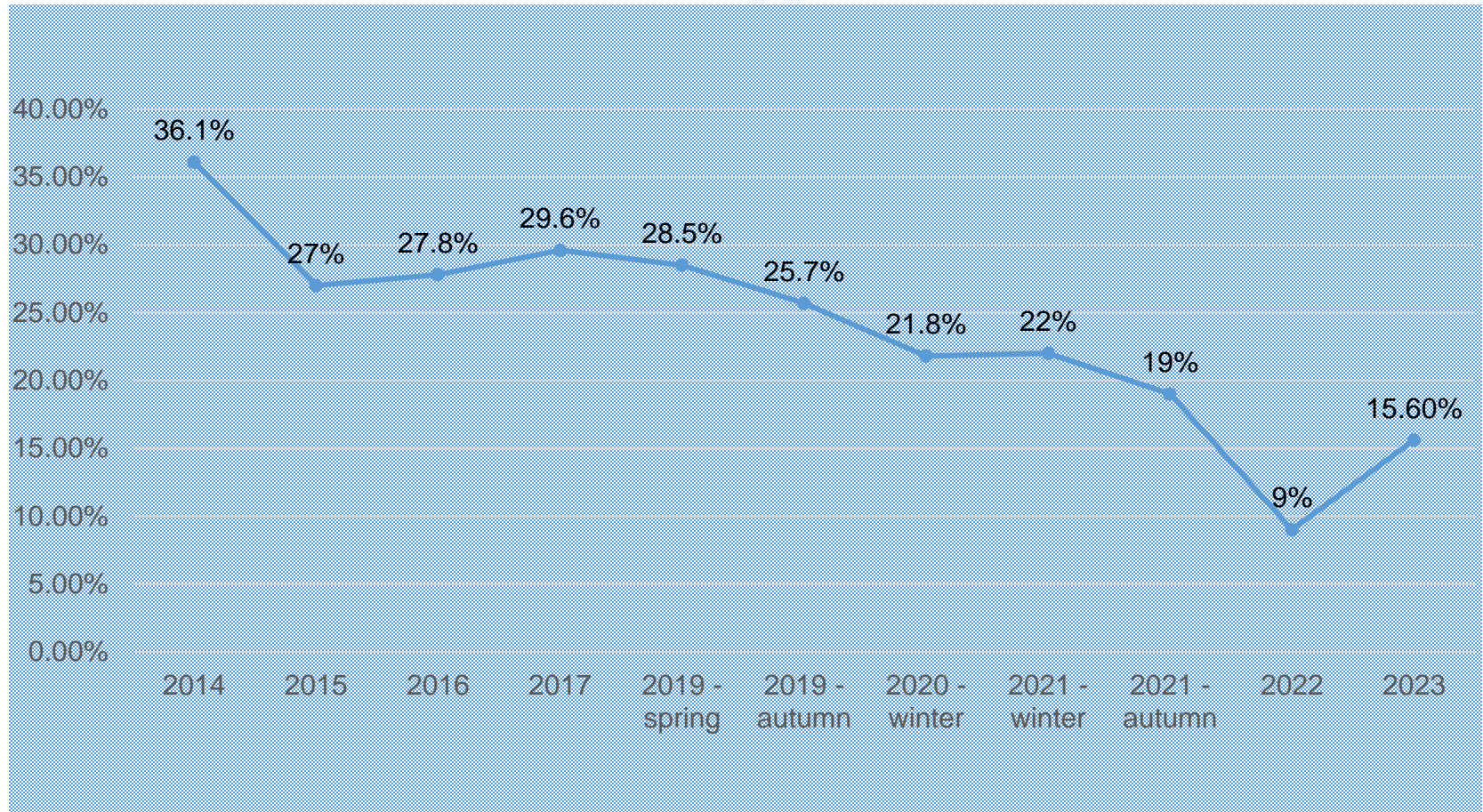
In general, is North Macedonia a democratic country?



In general, in what direction are things moving in North Macedonia?



Believes that things in North Macedonia are moving in a good direction (grades 4 and 5)



Relations between North Macedonia and the European Union

ЕВРОТИНК

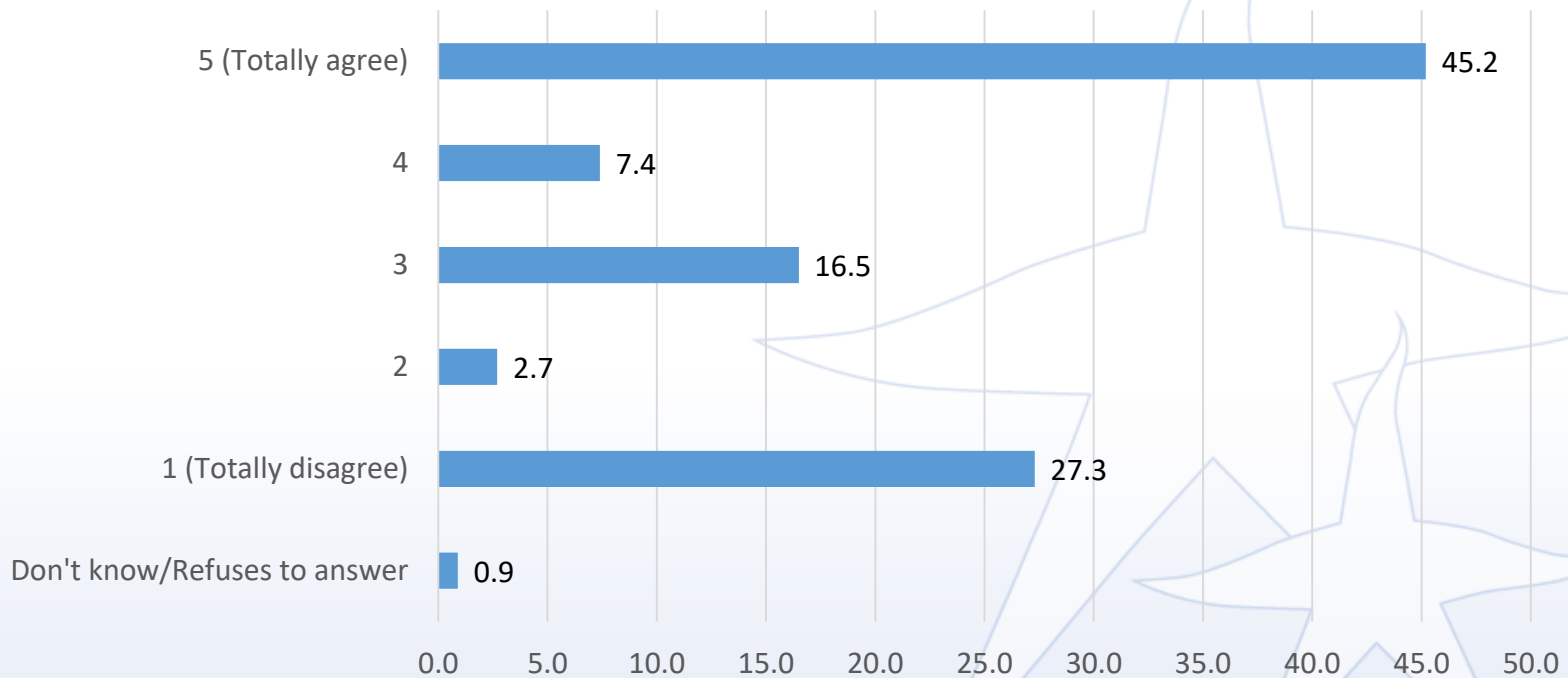
ЦЕНТАР ЗА
ЕВРОПСКИ СТРАТЕГИИ



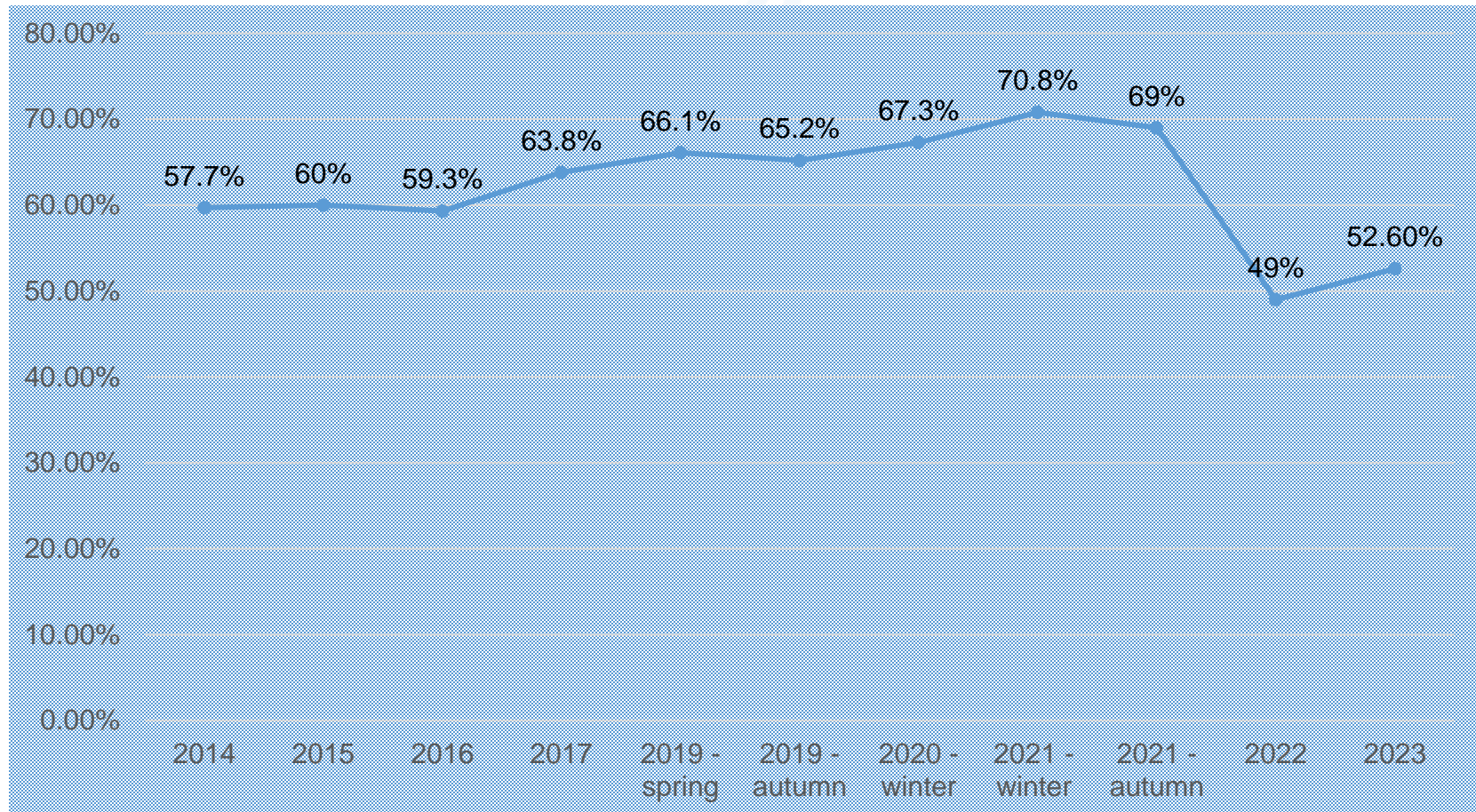
CENTER FOR
EUROPEAN STRATEGIES

EUROTHINK

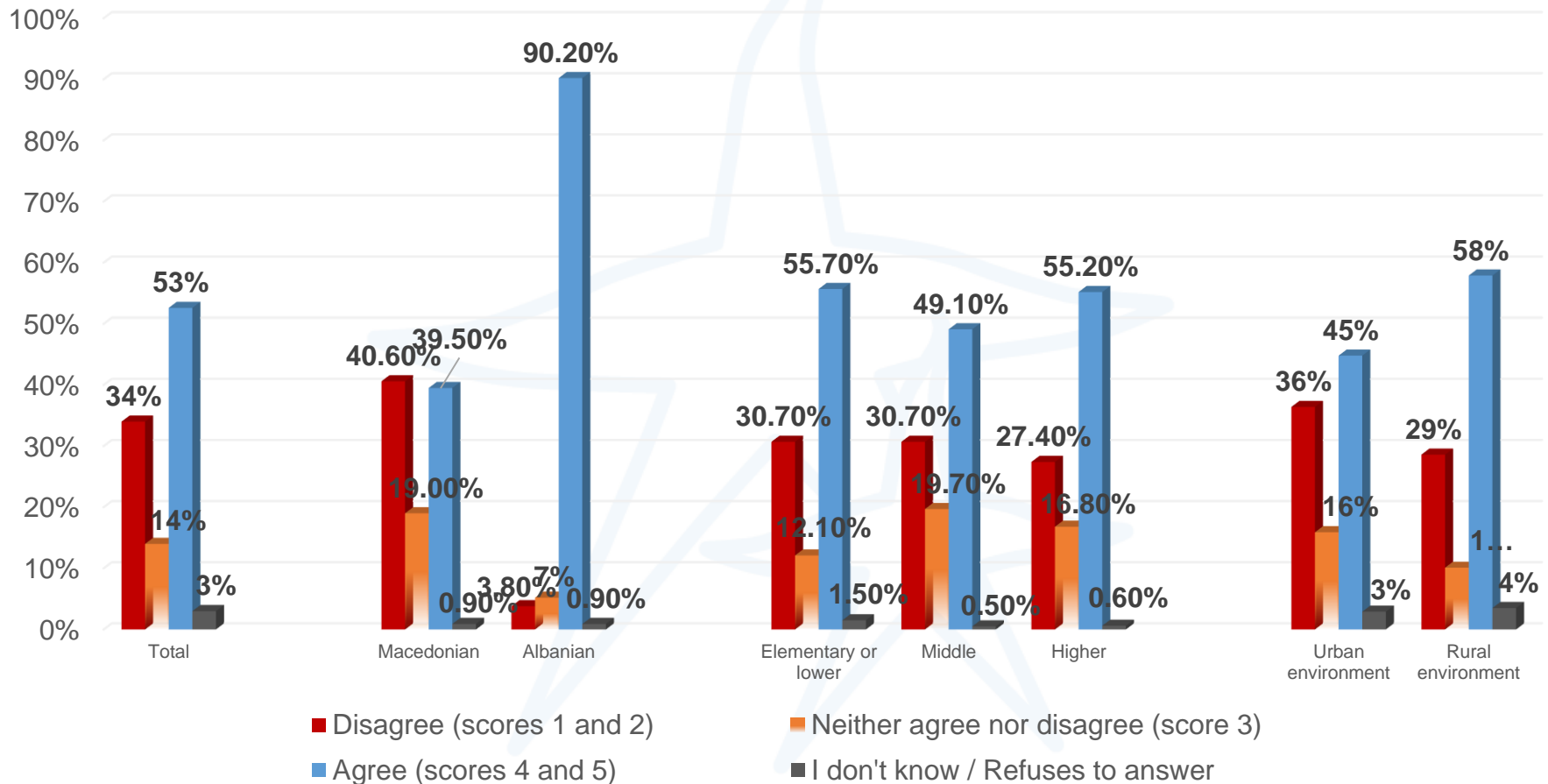
Agrees that "In general, the membership of N. Macedonia in the EU would be a good thing" (grades 4 and 5)



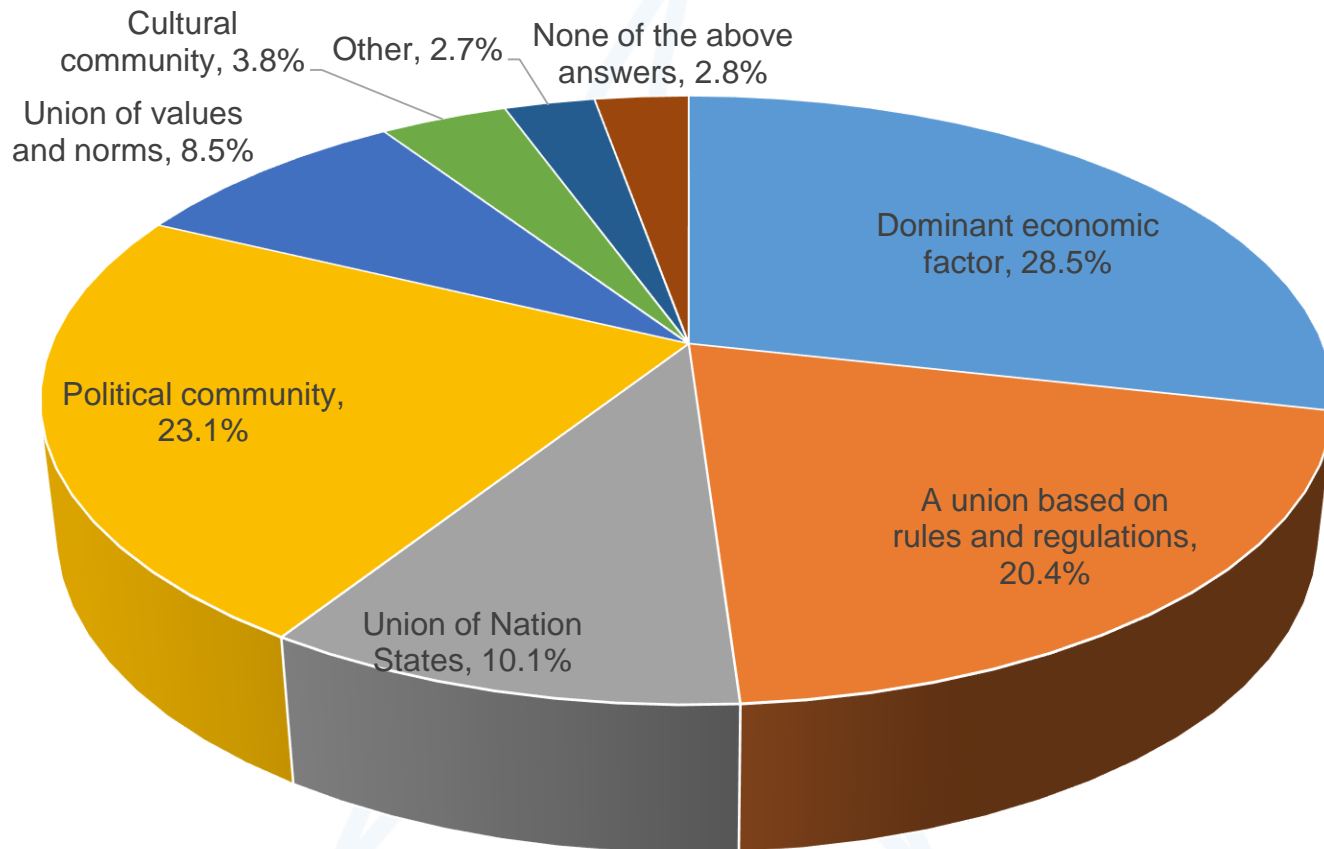
Agrees that "In general, the membership of N. Macedonia in the EU would be a good thing" (grades 4 and 5)



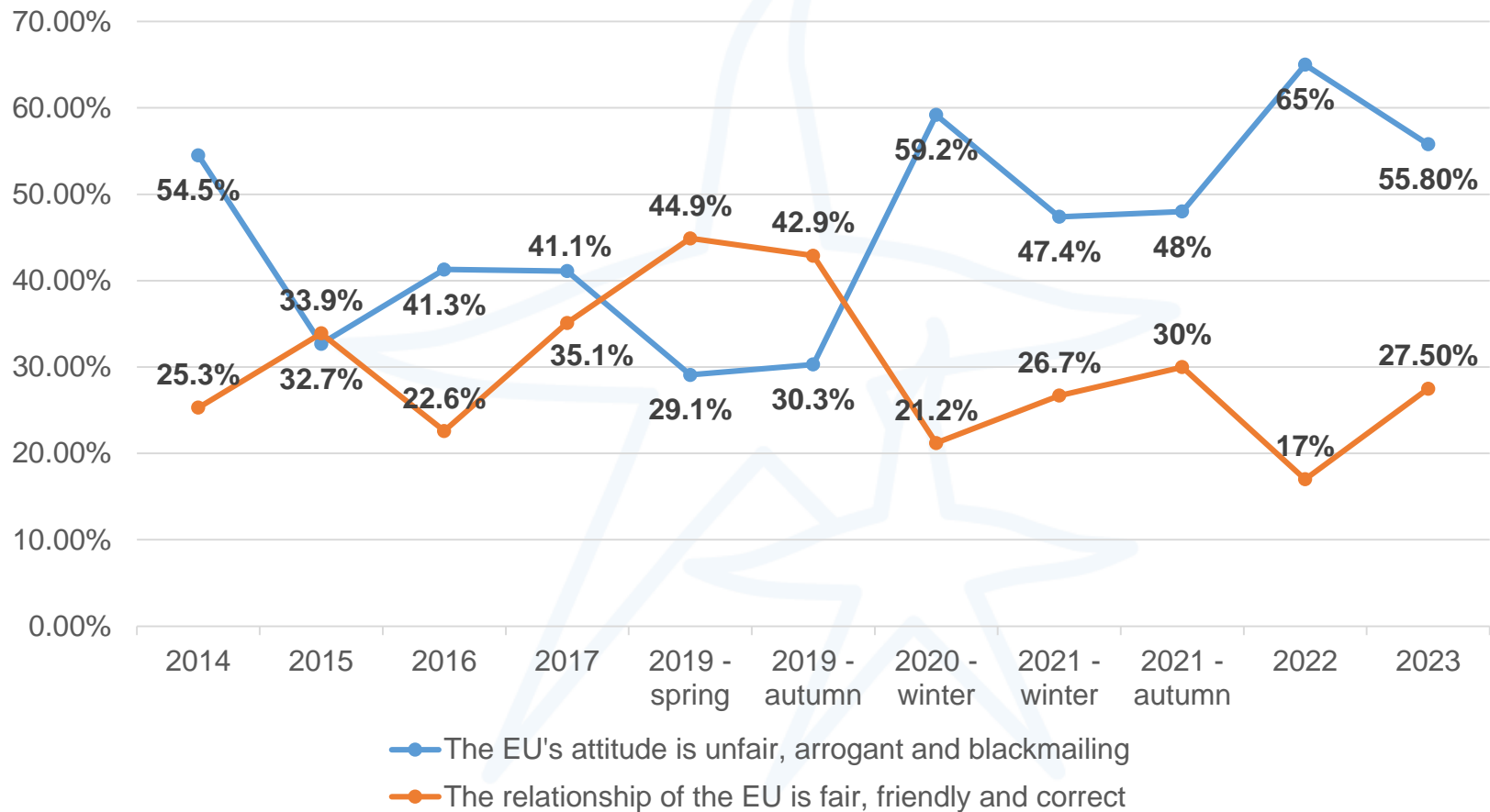
Agrees that "In general, the membership of S. Macedonia in the EU would be a good thing" (grades 4 and 5)



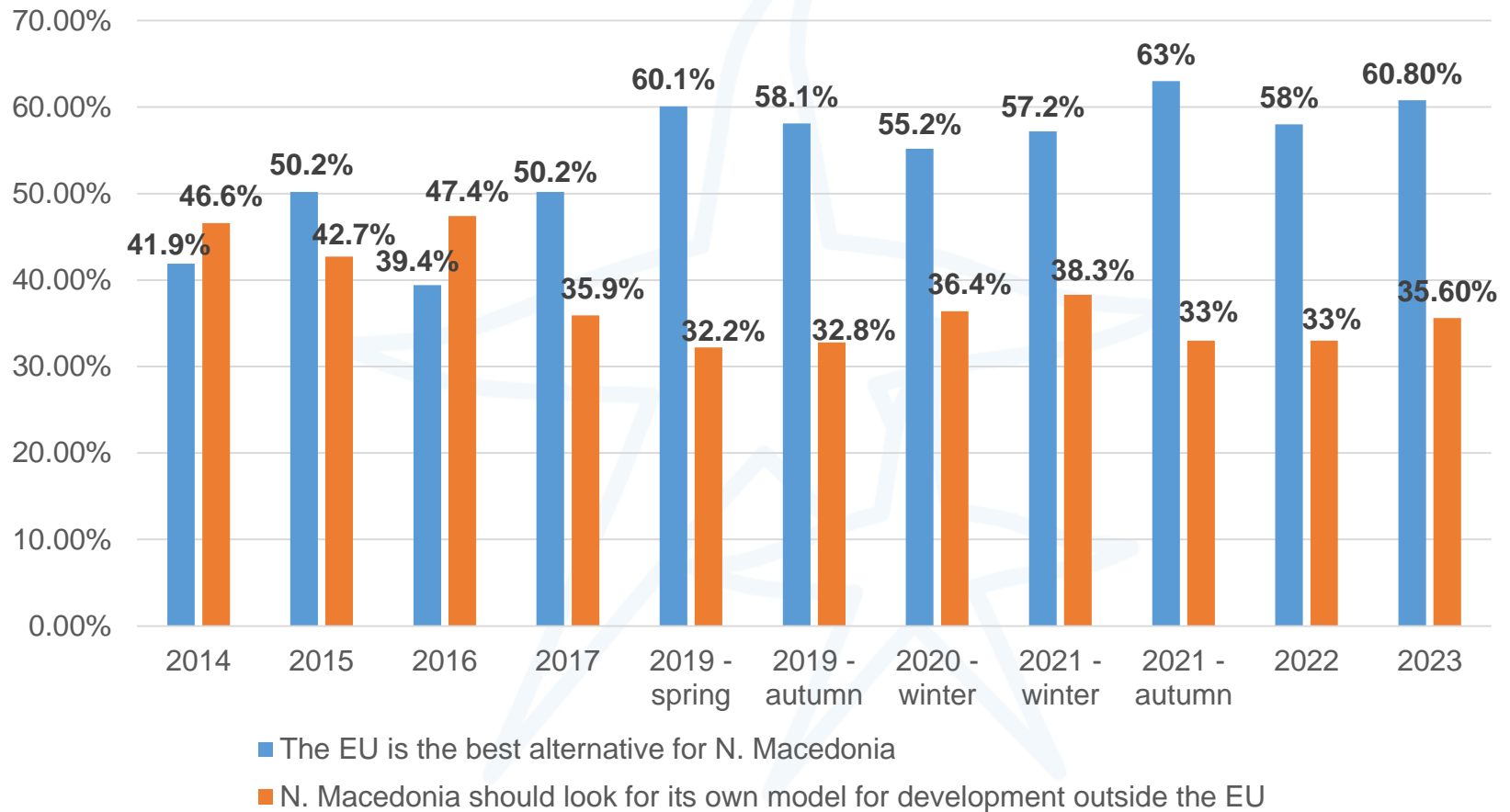
"What does the European Union represent for you?"



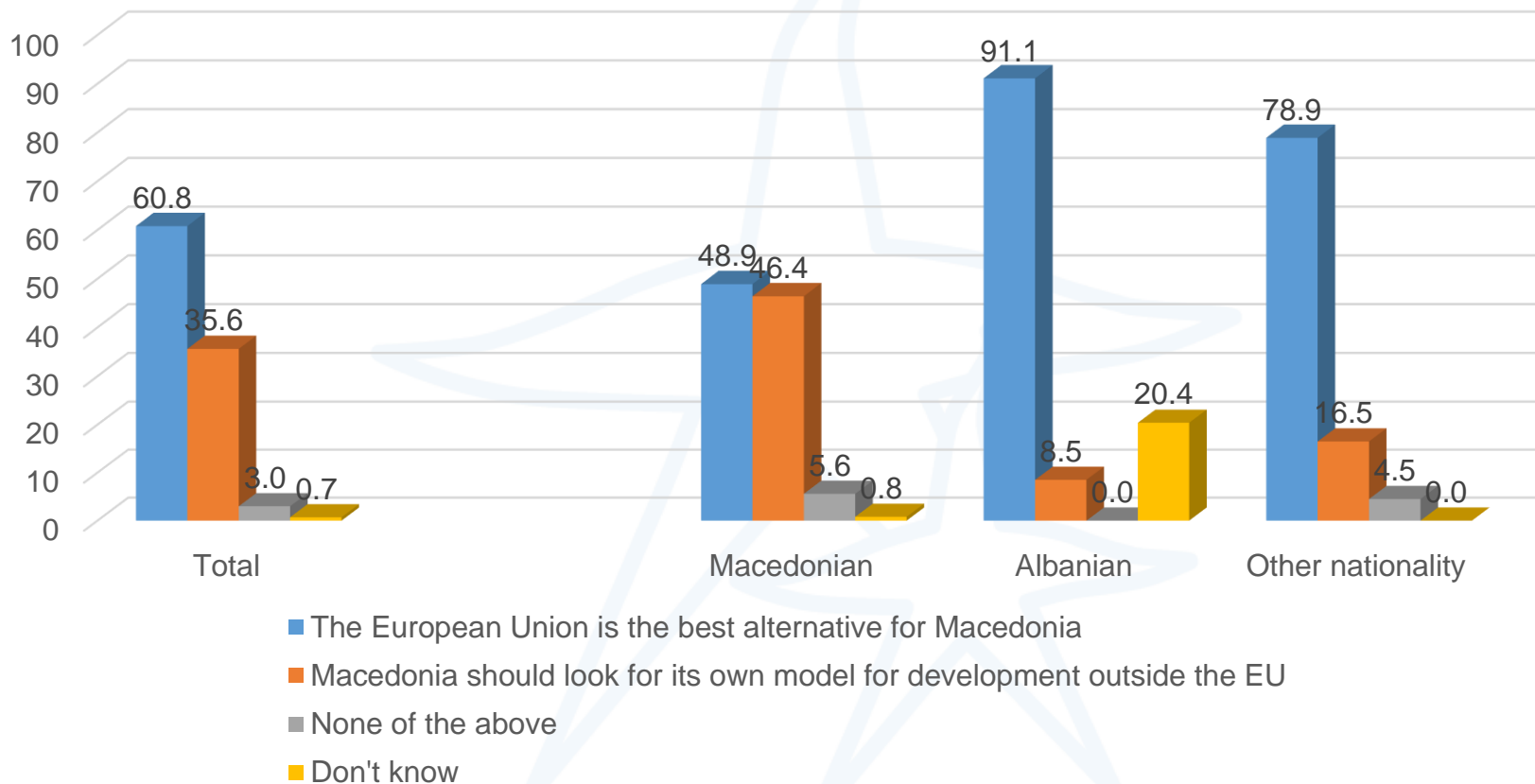
What is the attitude of the EU towards N. Macedonia?



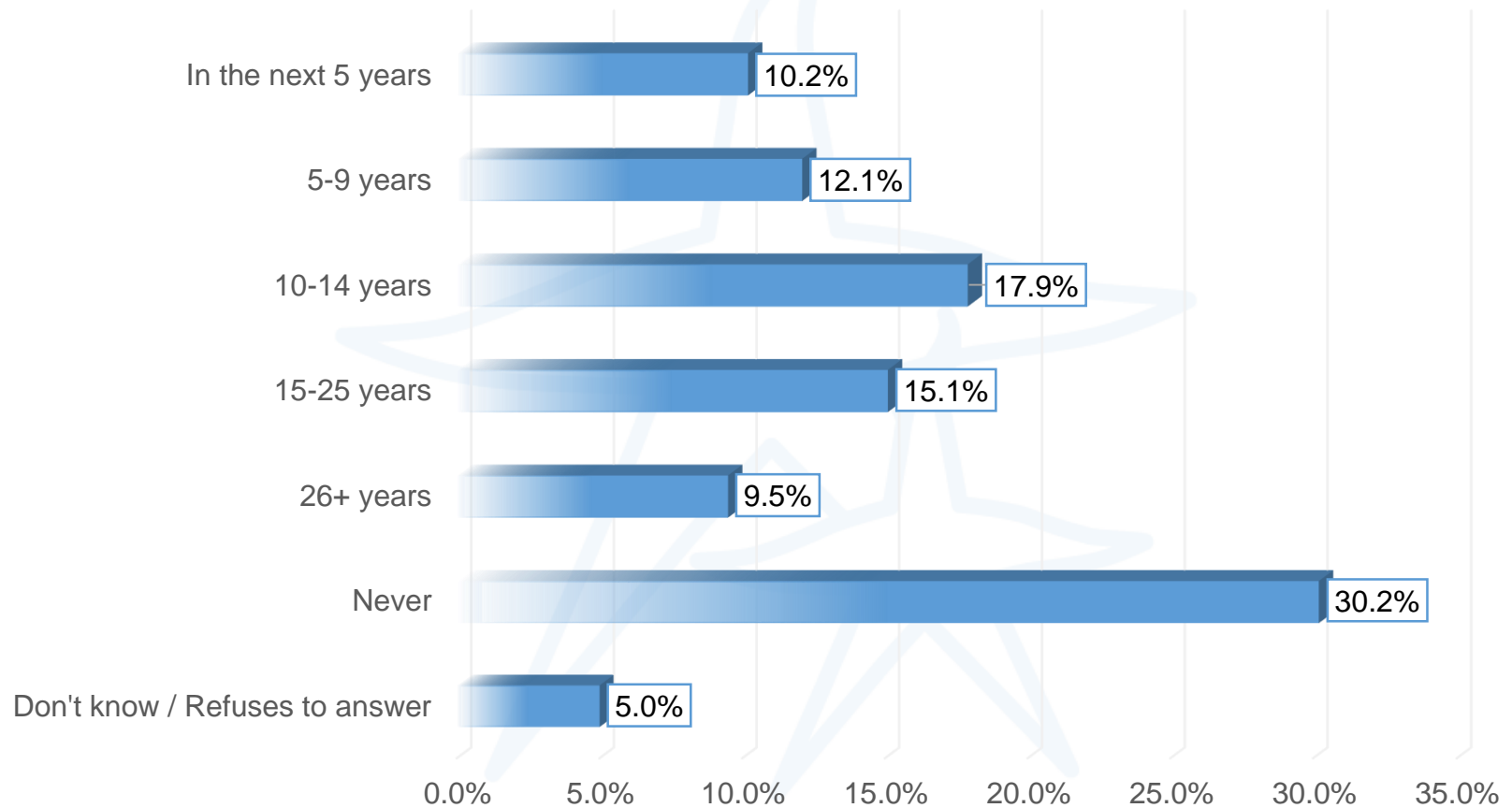
"The EU is the best alternative" or "Should N. Macedonia look for its own model of development outside the EU?"



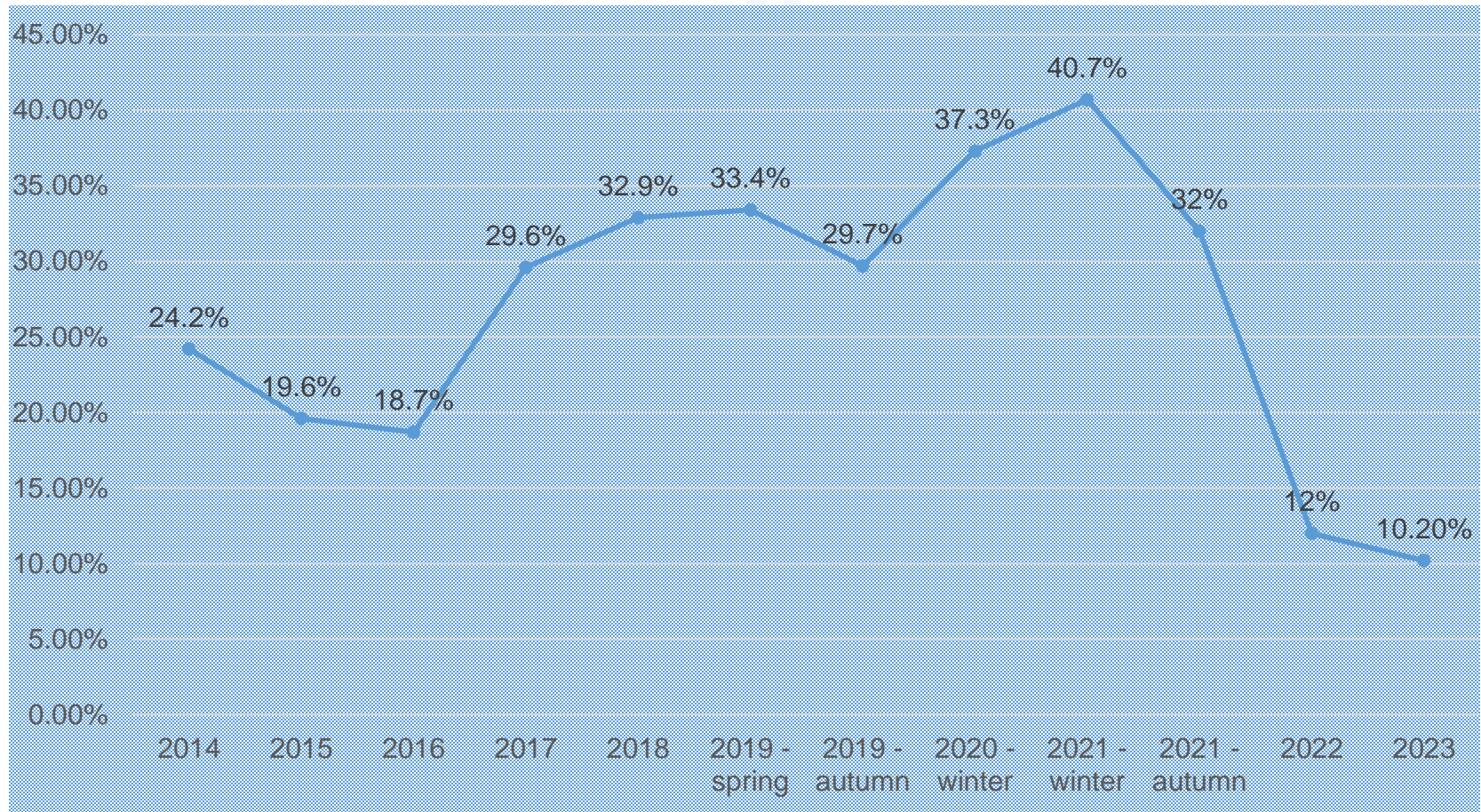
EU is the best alternative or Should N. Macedonia look for its own model of development outside the EU?



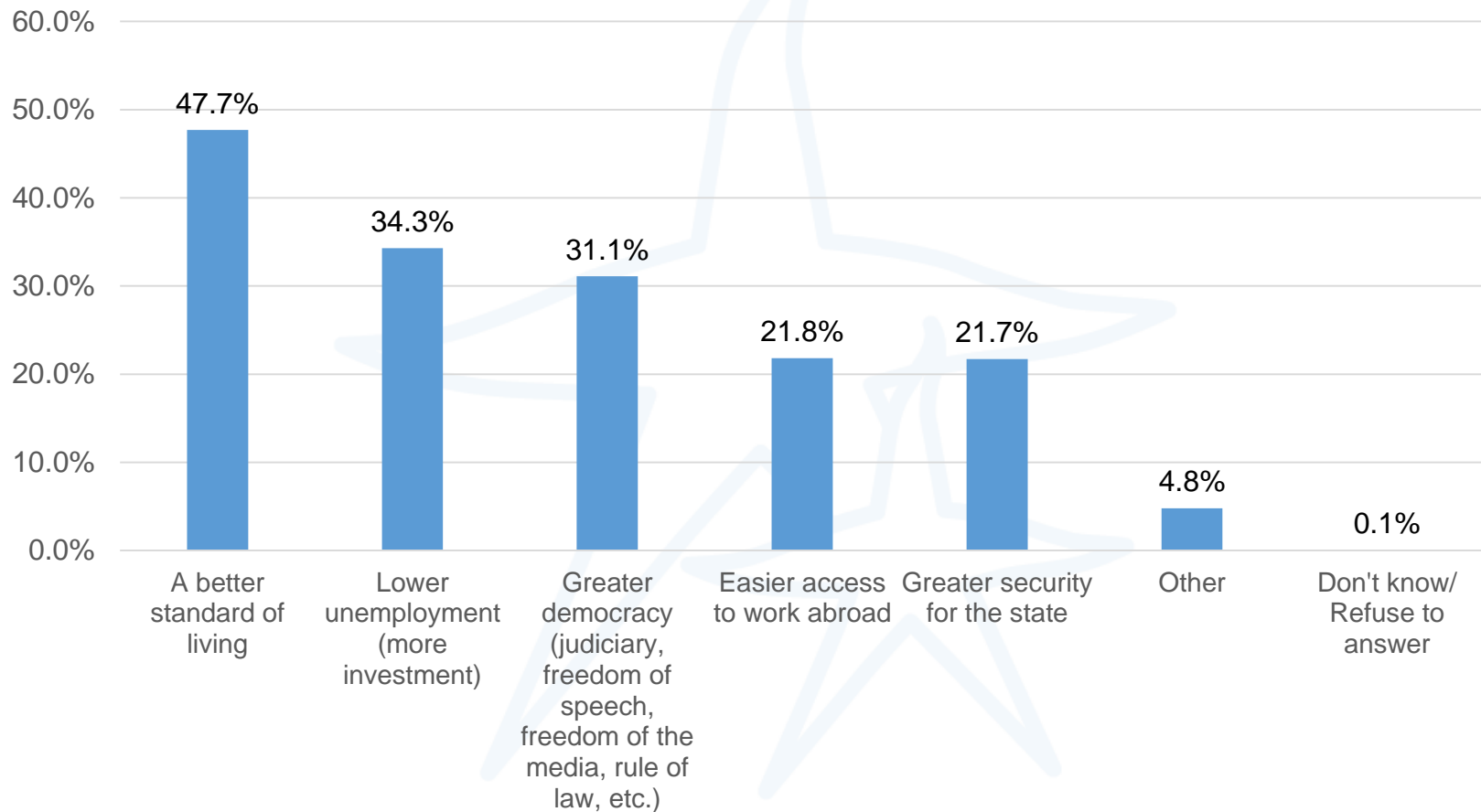
According to you, when can N. Macedonia expect entry into the EU?



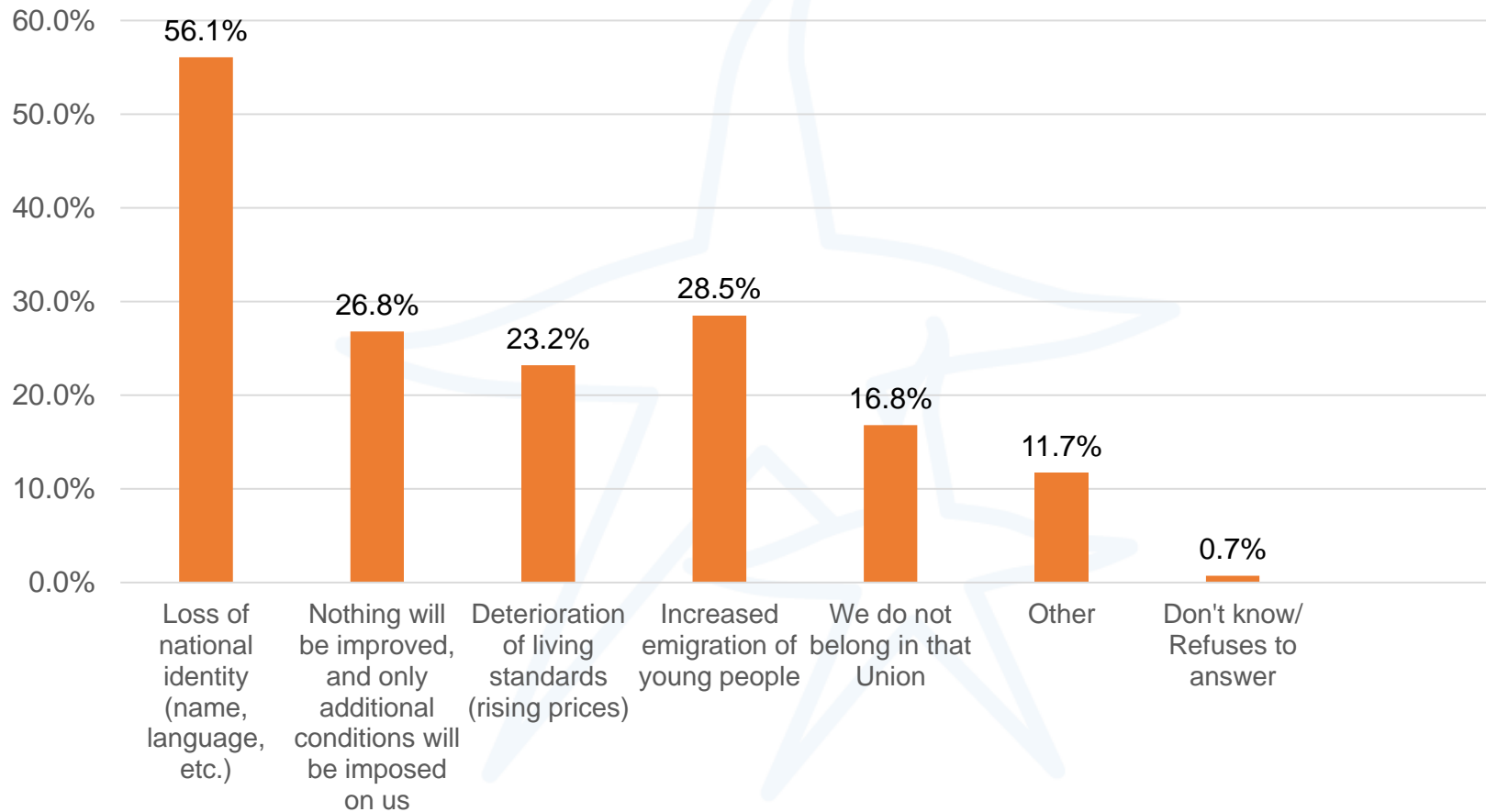
Believes that North Macedonia can expect entry into the European Union in the next 5 years



Main reasons for supporting EU entry (multiple answers)



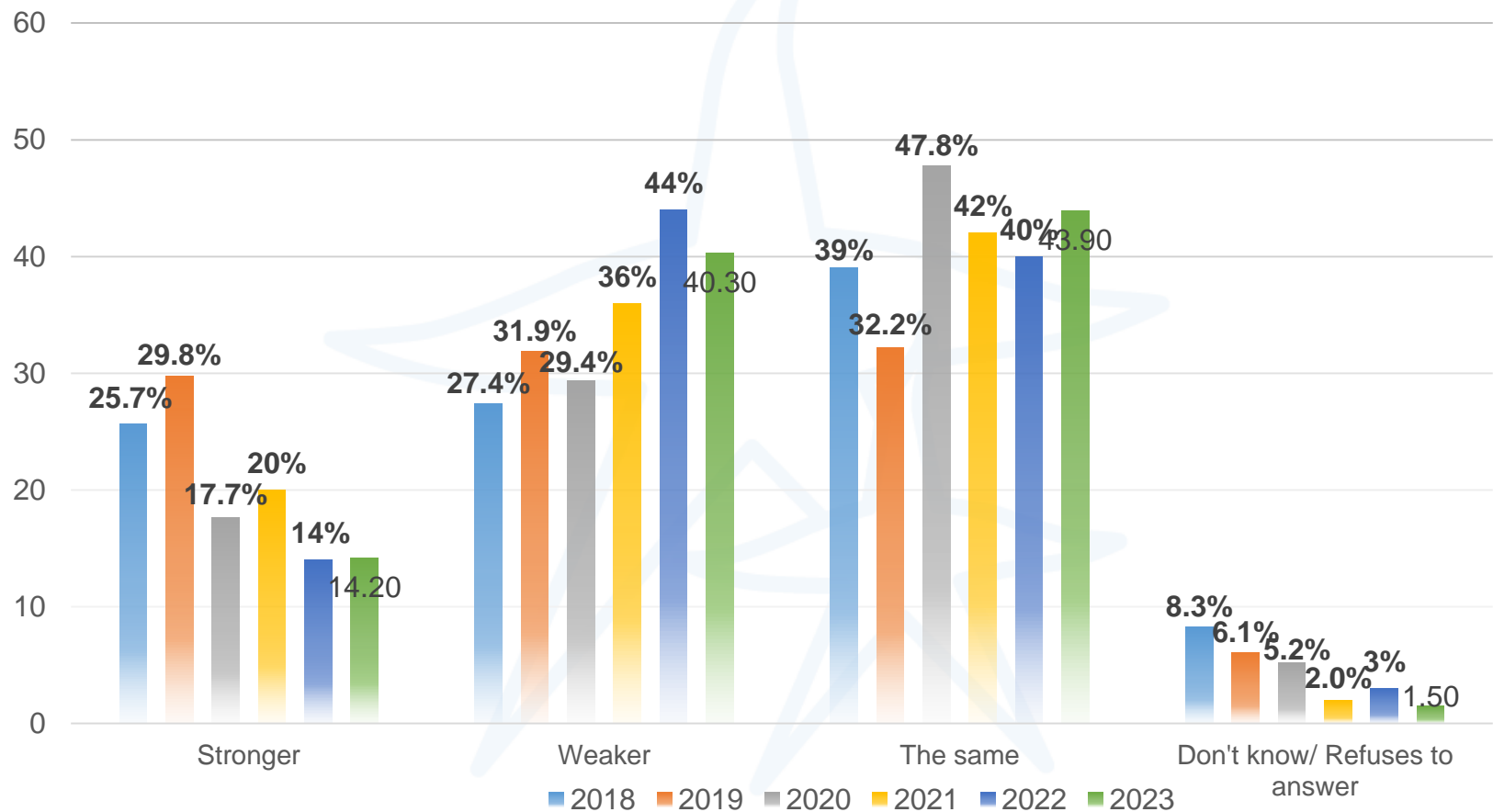
Main reasons for refusal to enter the EU (multiple answers)



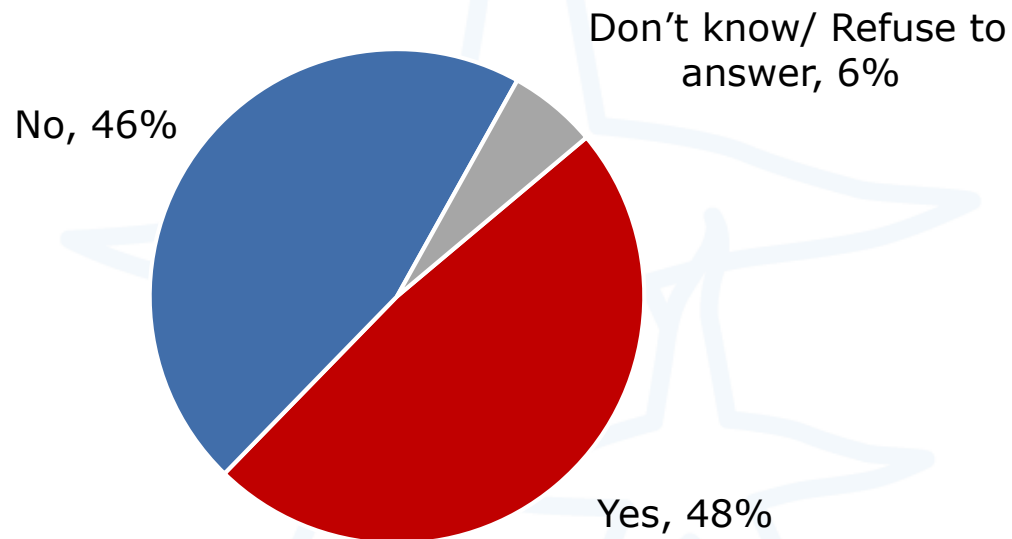


Foreign Policy

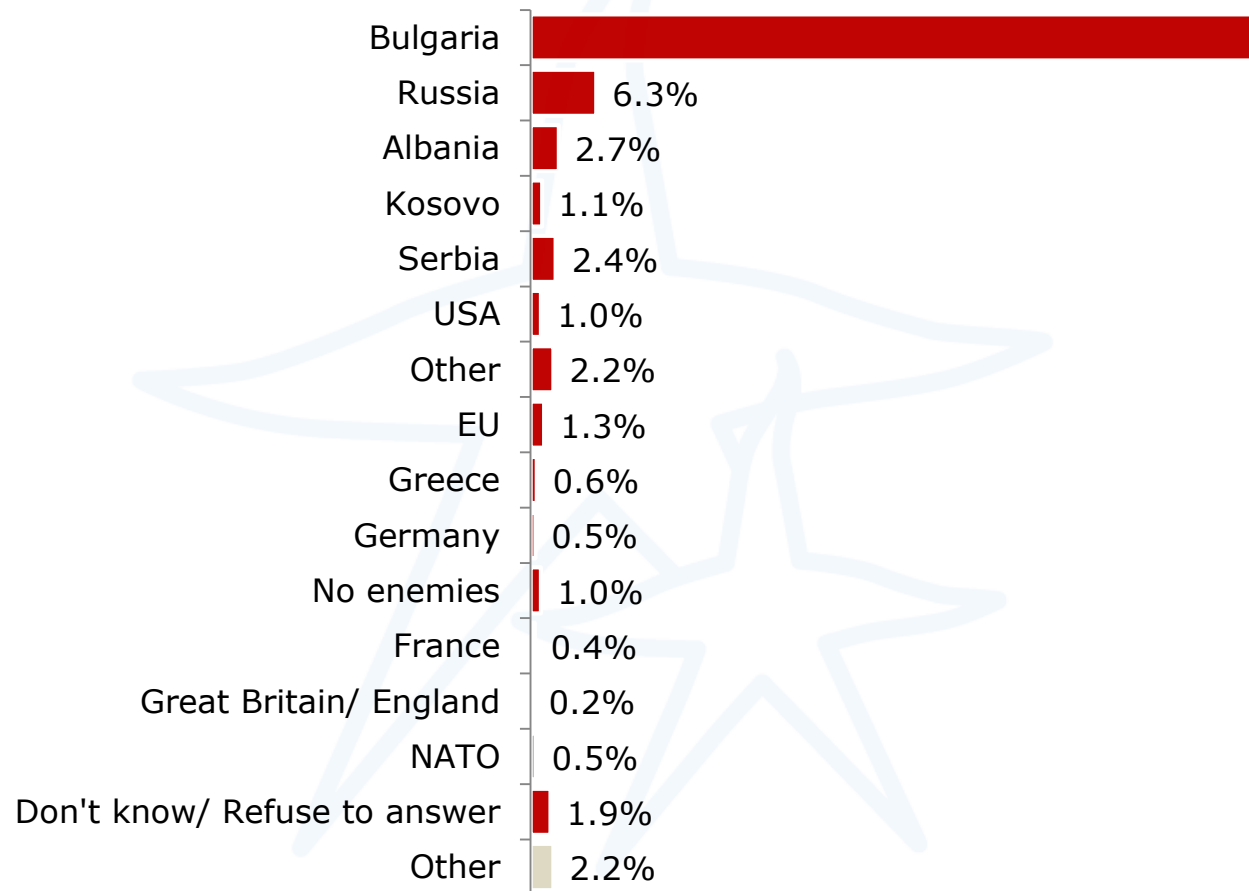
Is the international position of North Macedonia stronger, weaker or the same compared to 12 months ago?



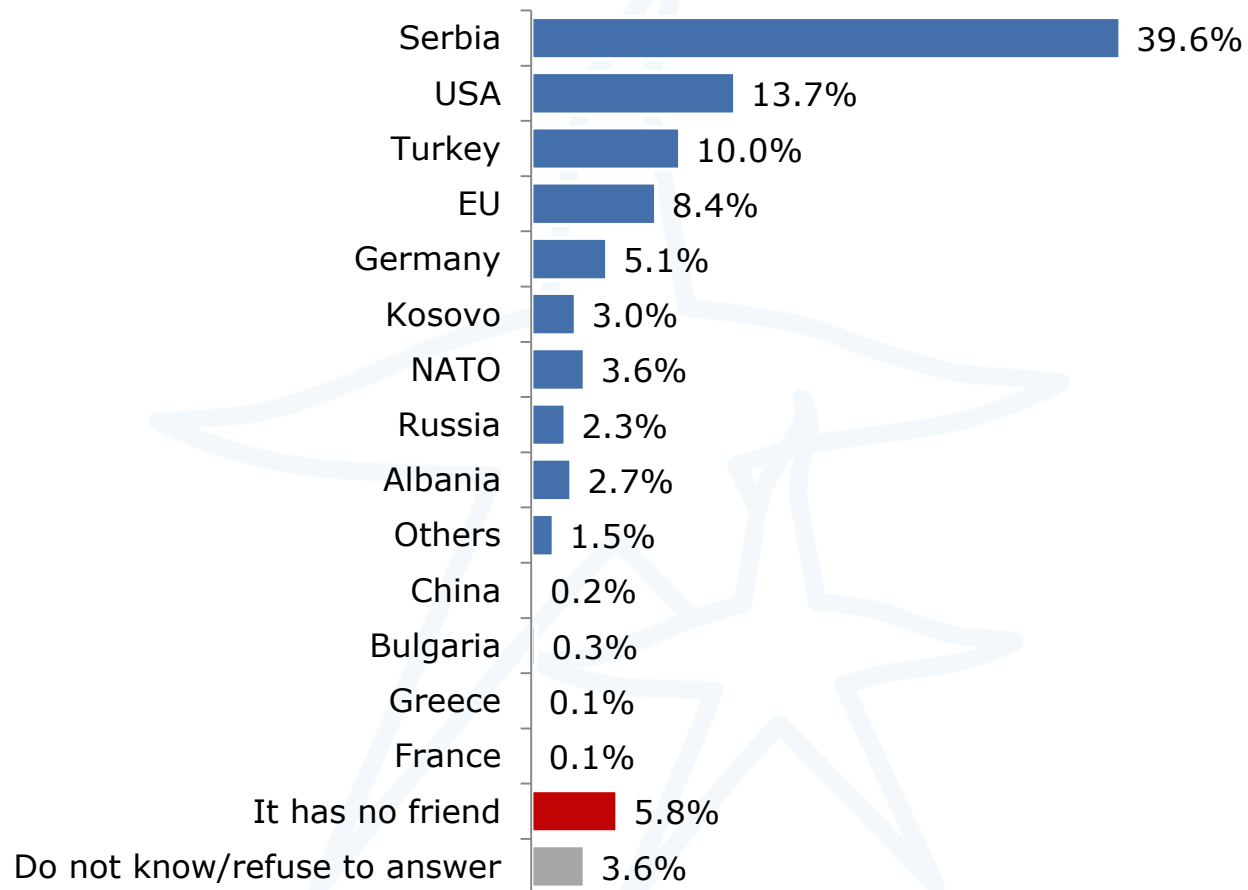
In general, do you believe that there is a state or an international organization that poses a threat to North Macedonia?



If yes, which is that country or international organization that poses a threat to Macedonia?

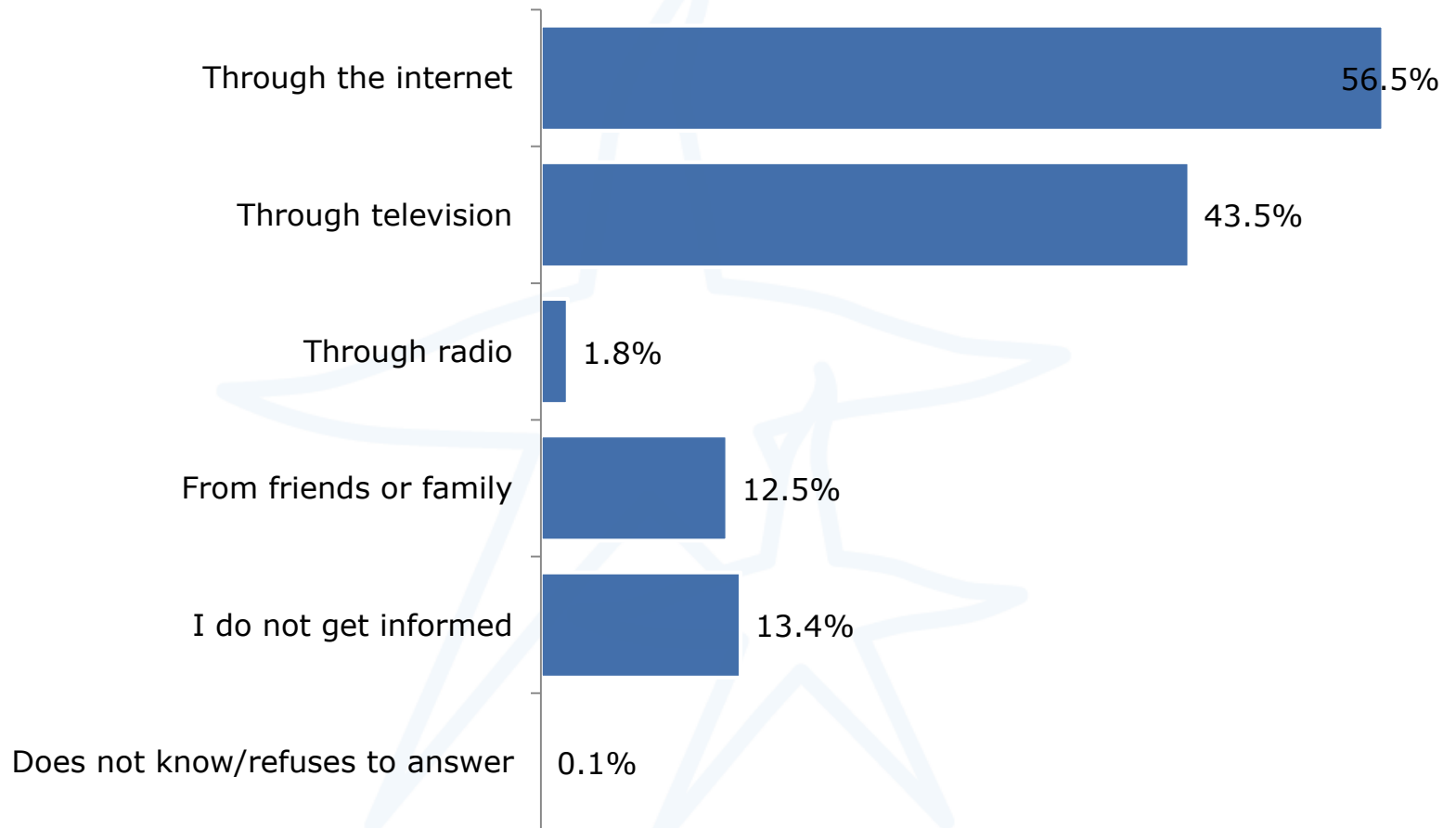


Which country or international organization is the biggest friend of North Macedonia?

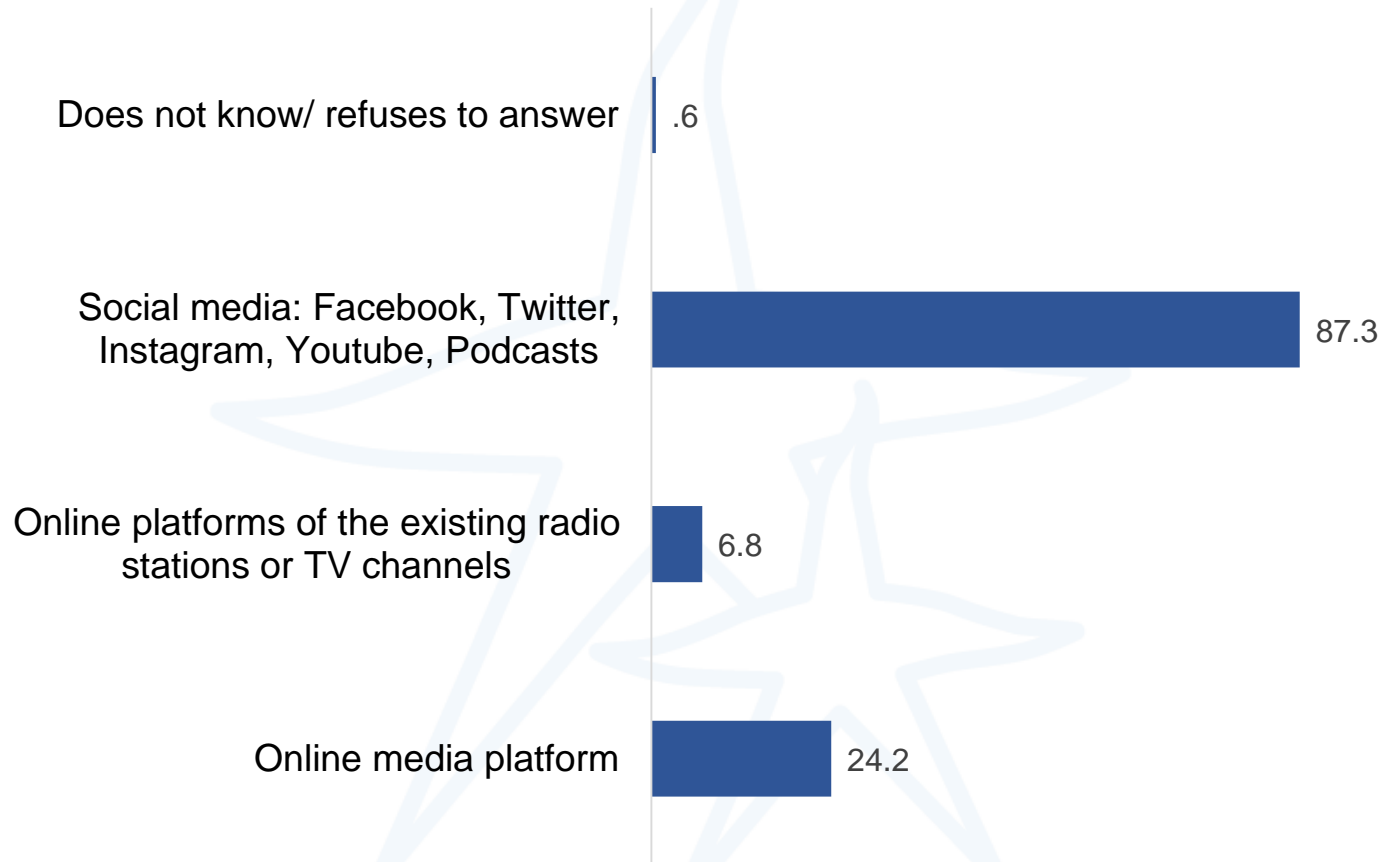


How and from Where do citizens inform themselves

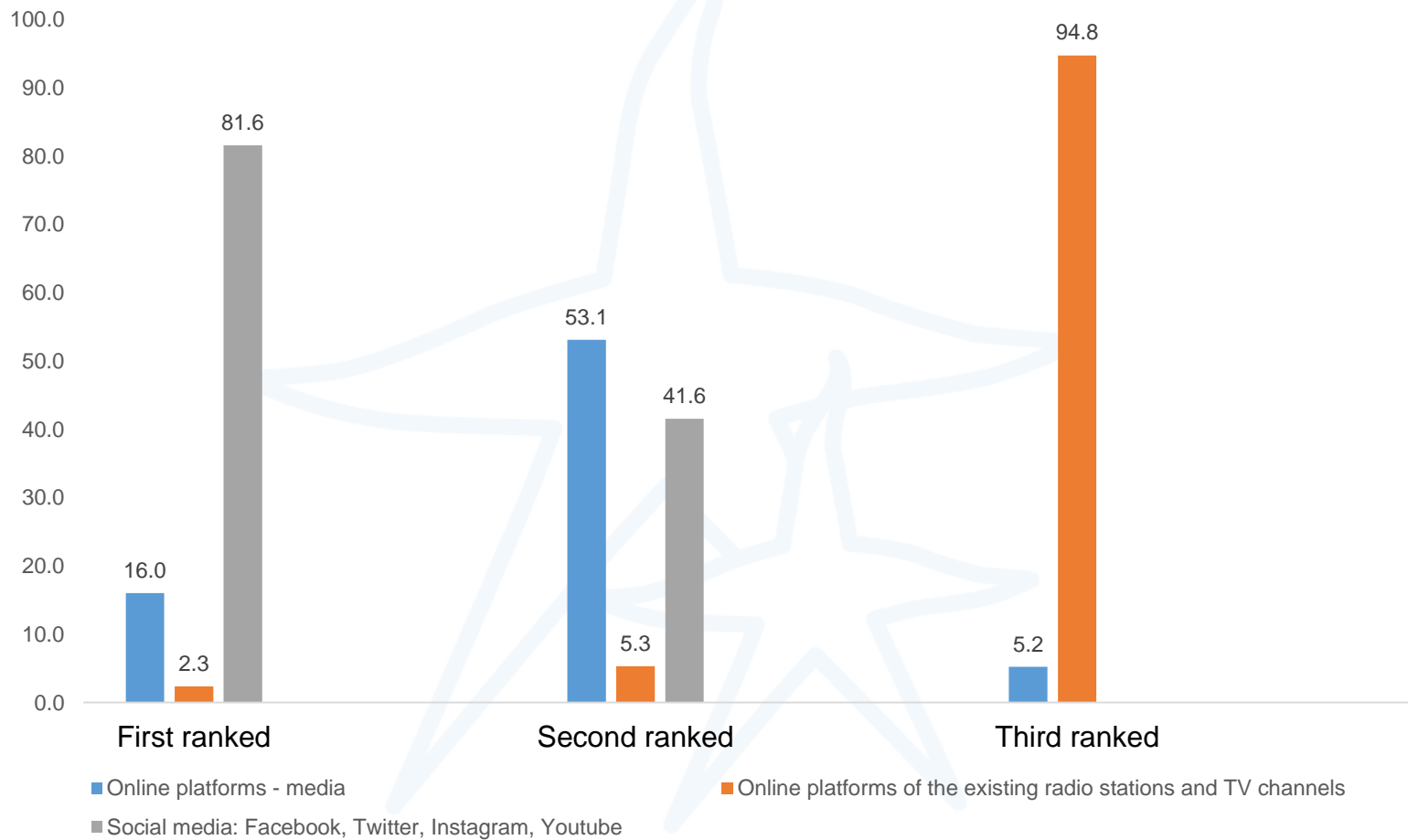
How do you get informed about political topics?



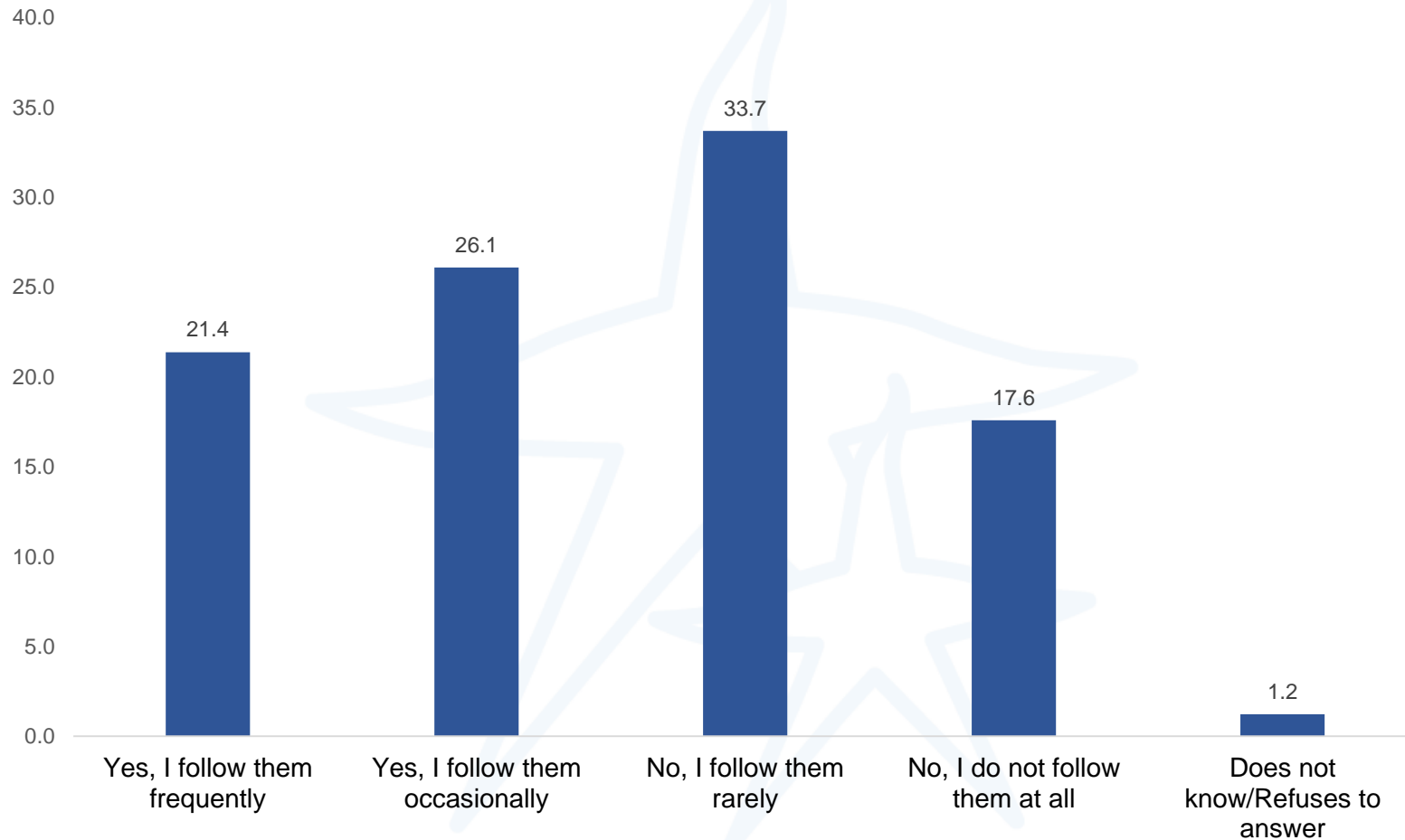
Who/what is the Internet source for political topics? (multiple answers are possible)



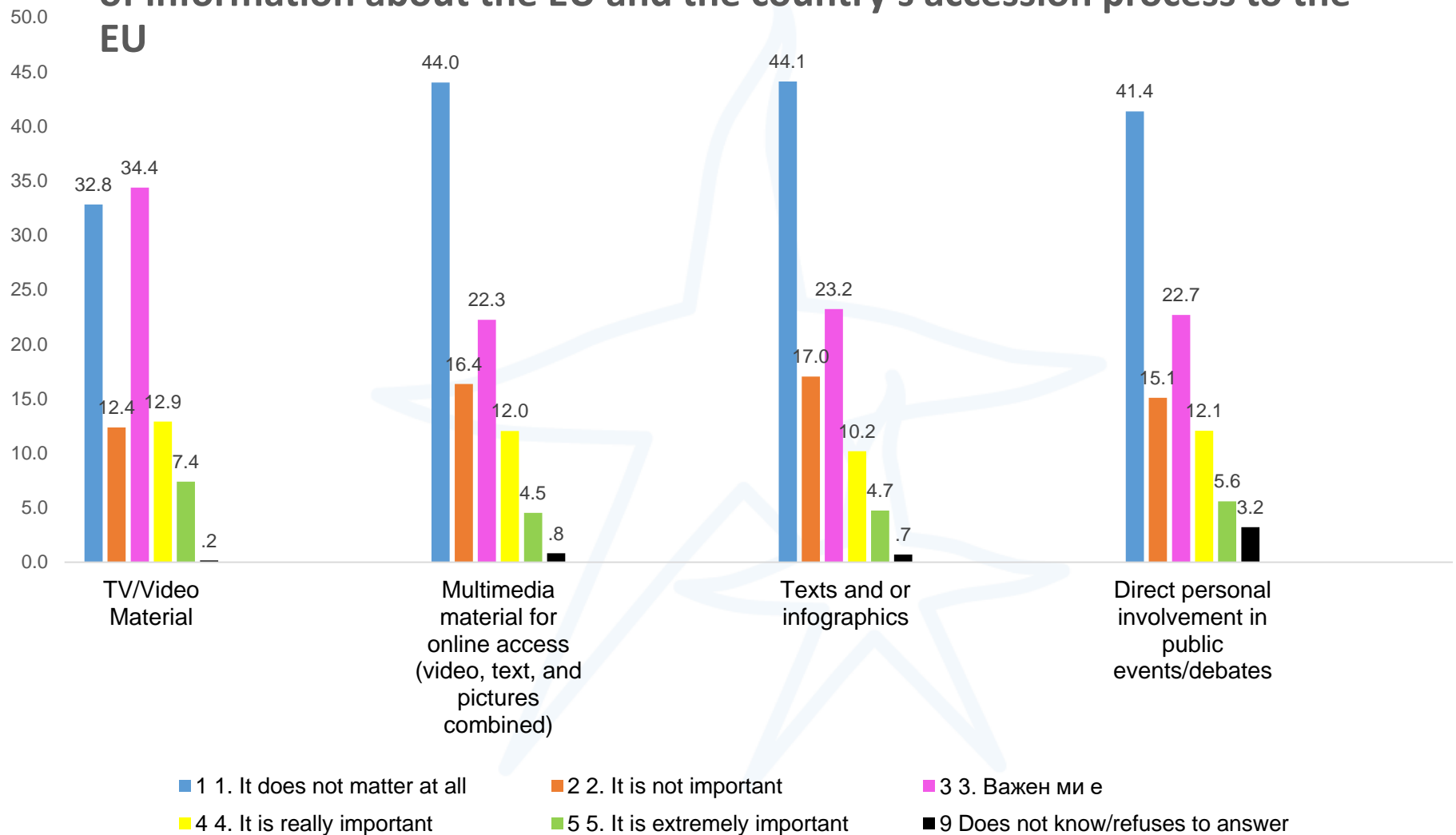
How citizens are informed about political topics according to rank



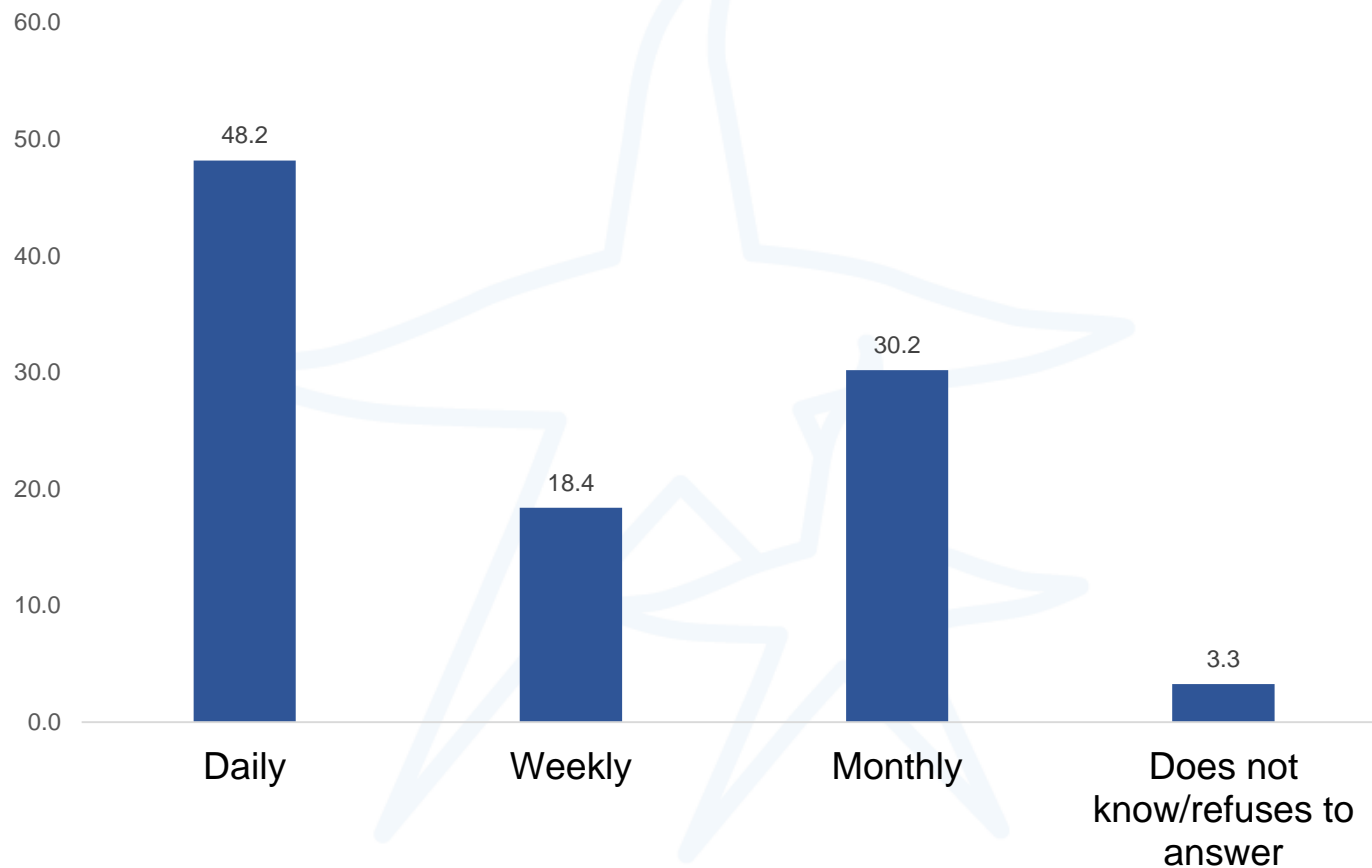
Do you follow foreign policy topics i.e.. Macedonia's European integration processes?



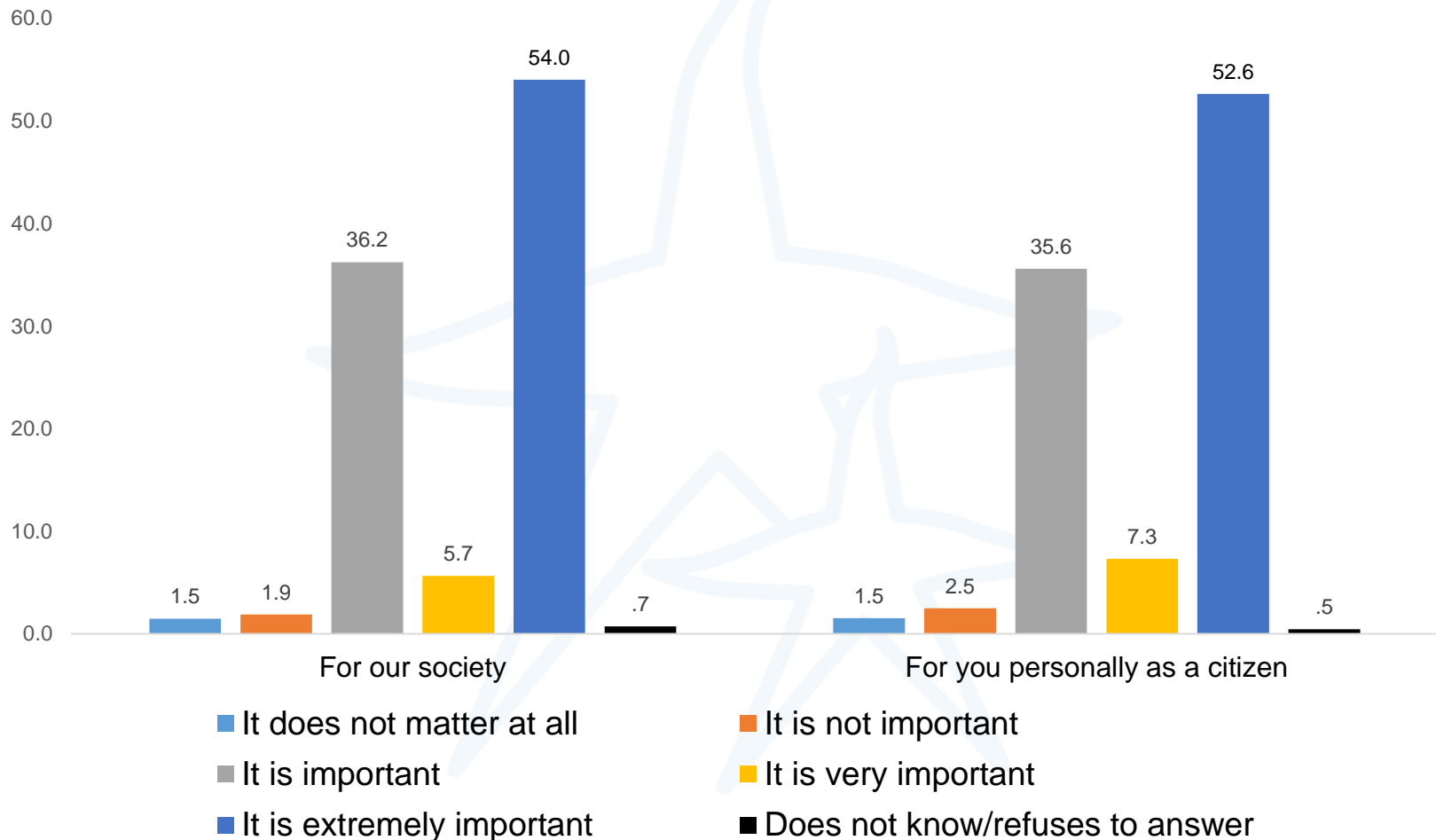
How important or not important to you is each of the following sources of information about the EU and the country's accession process to the EU



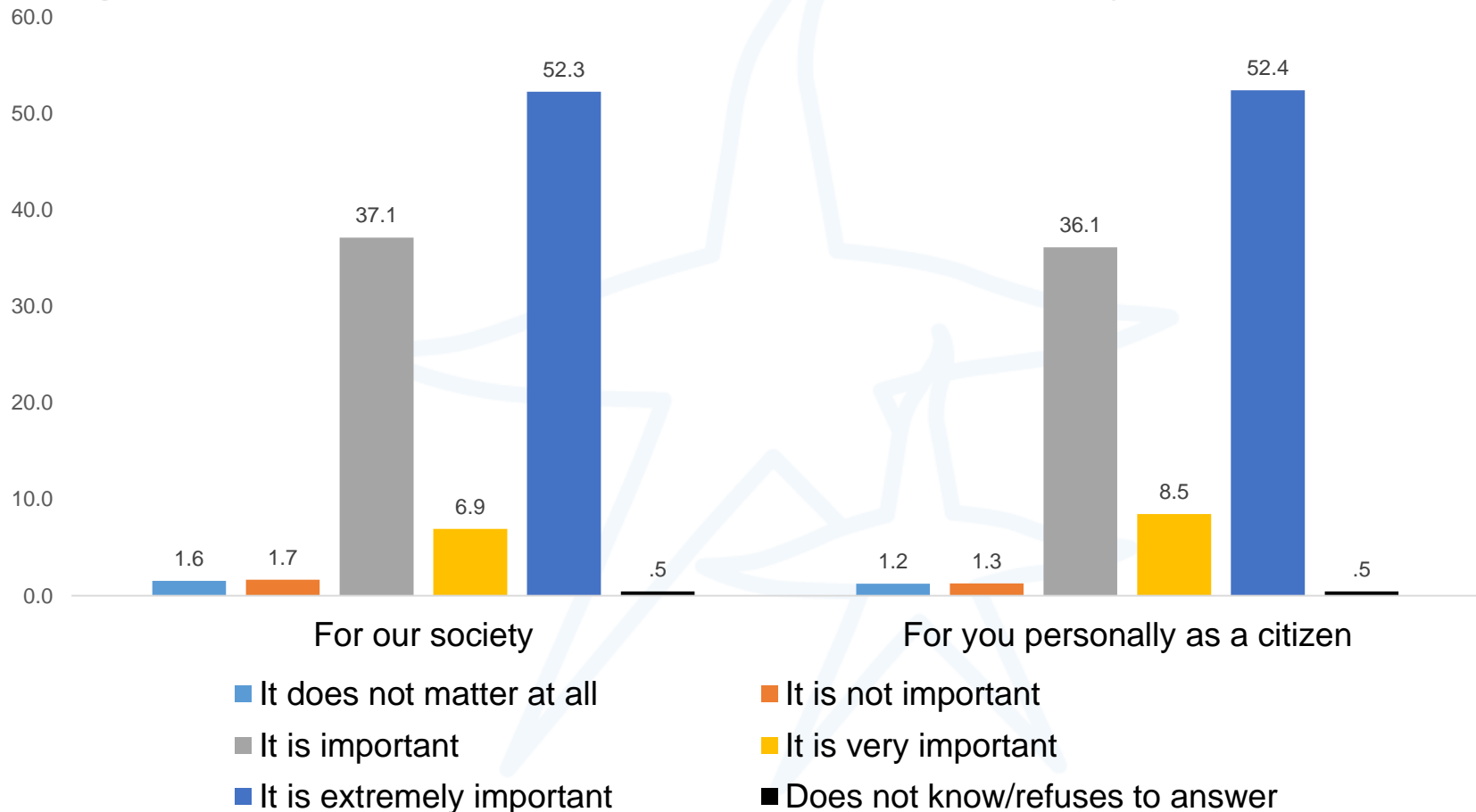
How often/frequently are you informed/want to be informed on the subjects of Macedonia in relation to the EU



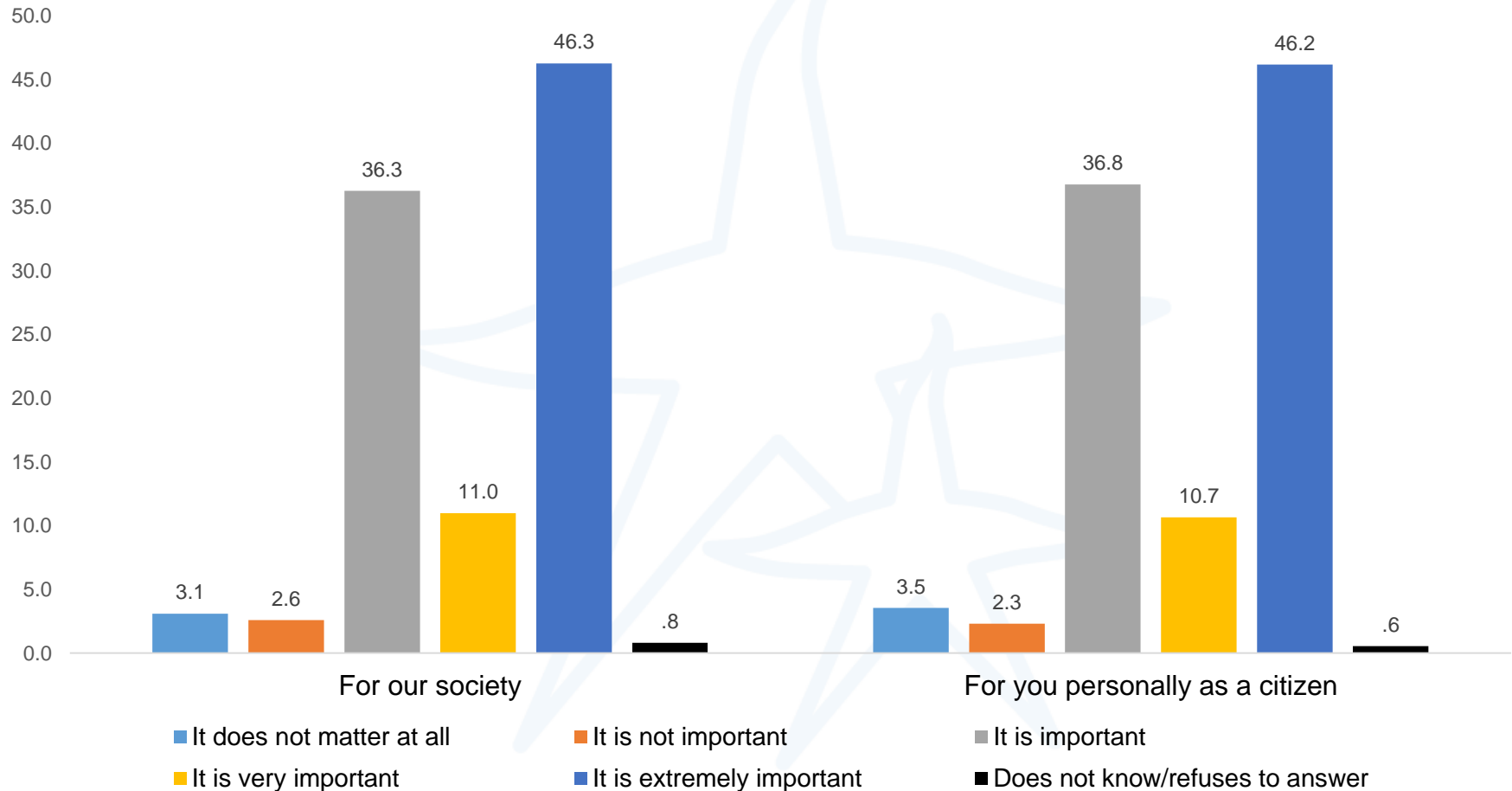
How important do you think each of the following topics is or is not important for our society for the accession process and the EU accession negotiations themselves: Judiciary and fundamental rights



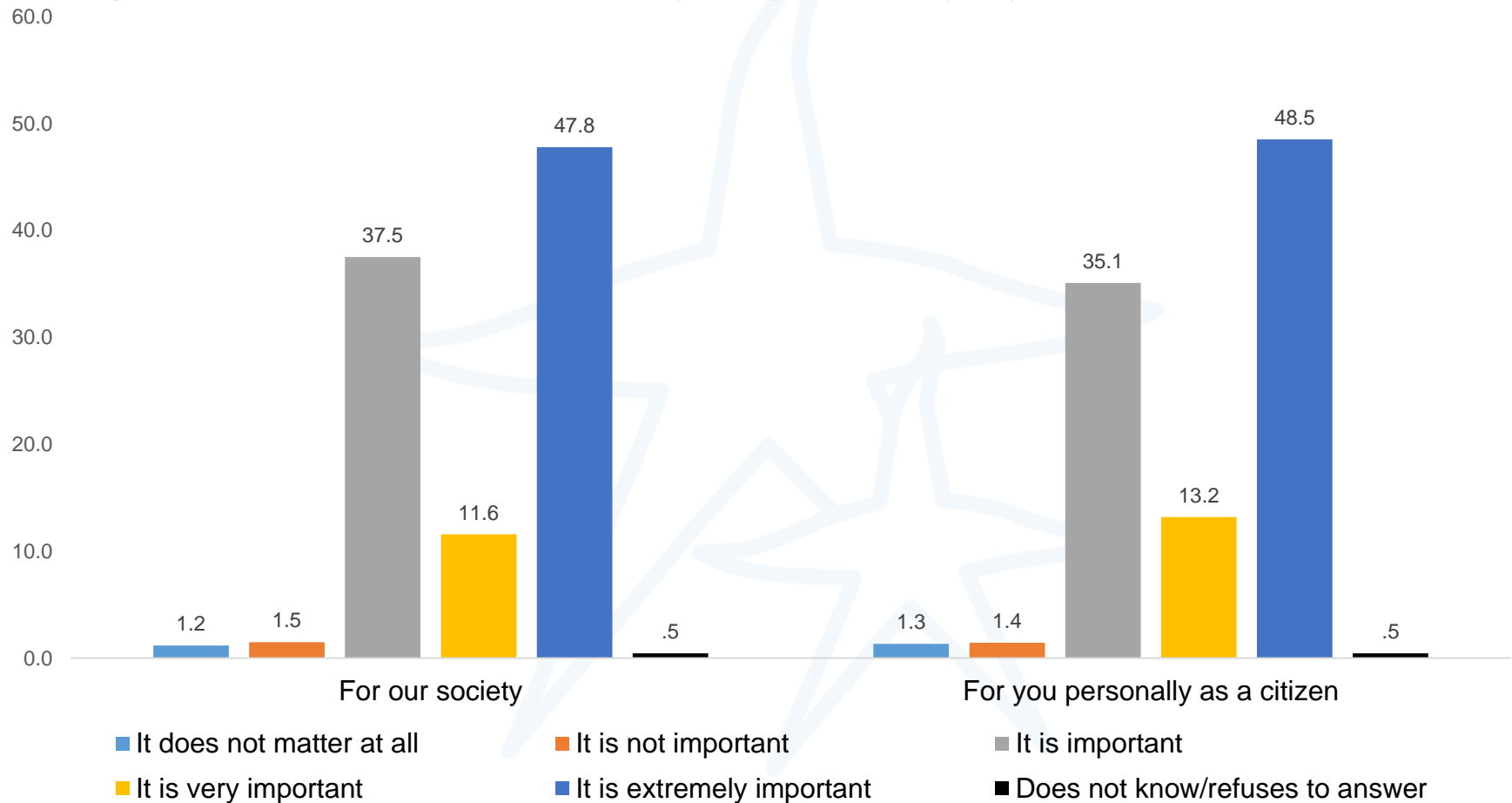
How important or unimportant do you think each of the following topics is to our society for the accession process and the EU accession negotiations themselves: Justice, freedom and security



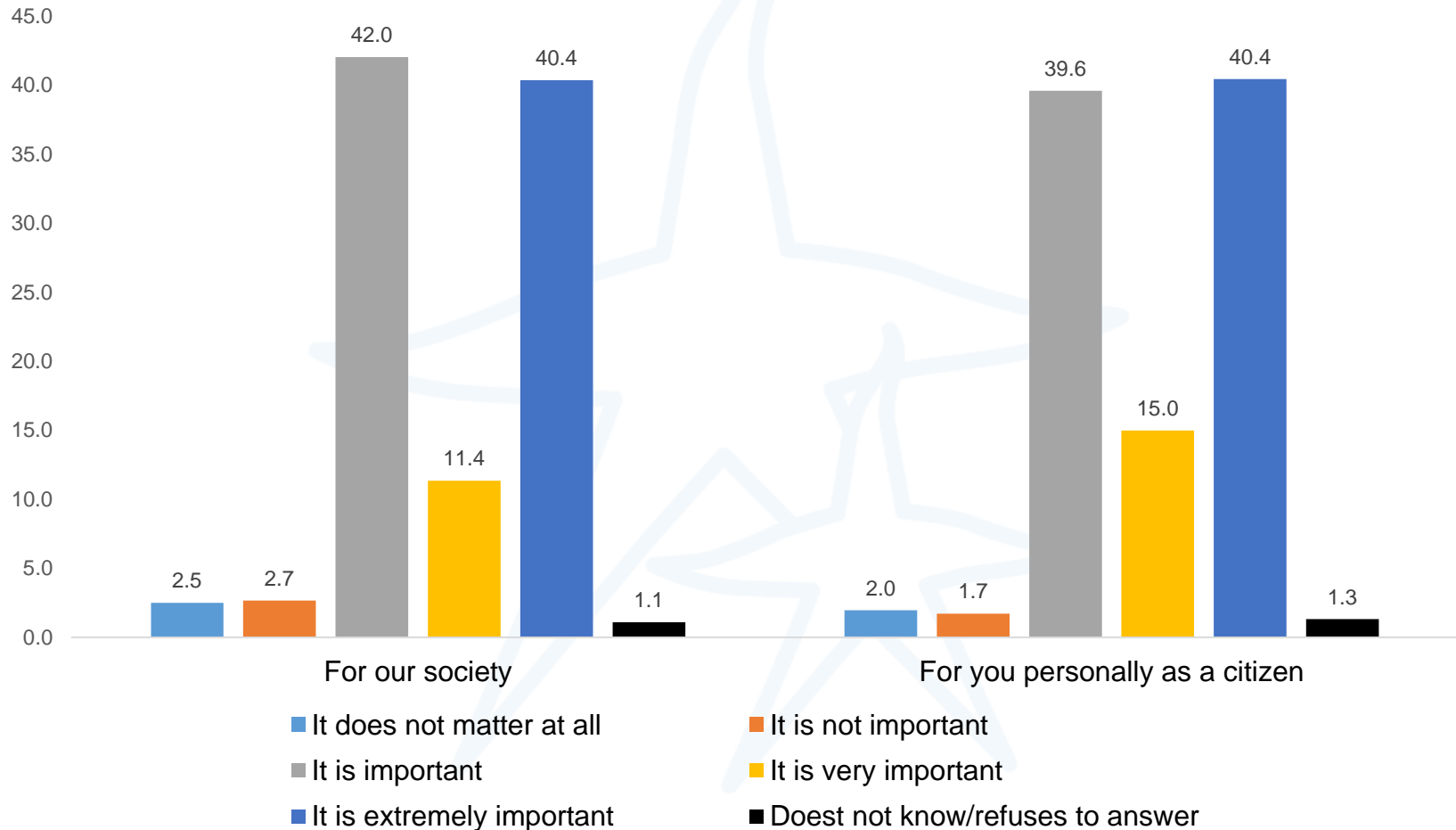
How important or unimportant do you think each of the following topics is to our society for the accession process and the EU accession negotiations themselves: Financial control



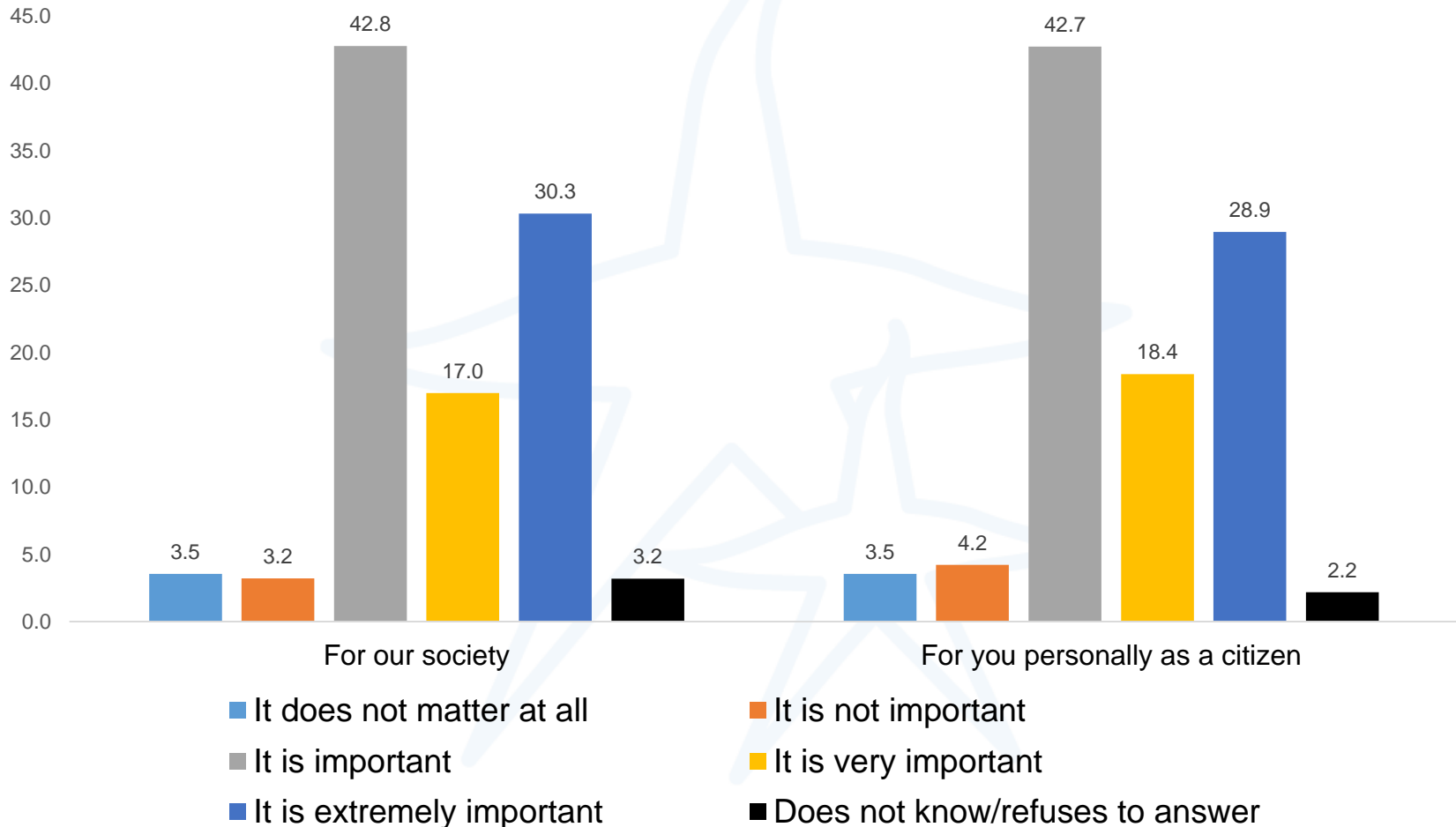
How important or unimportant do you think each of the following topics is to our society for the accession process and the EU accession negotiations themselves: Social policy and employment



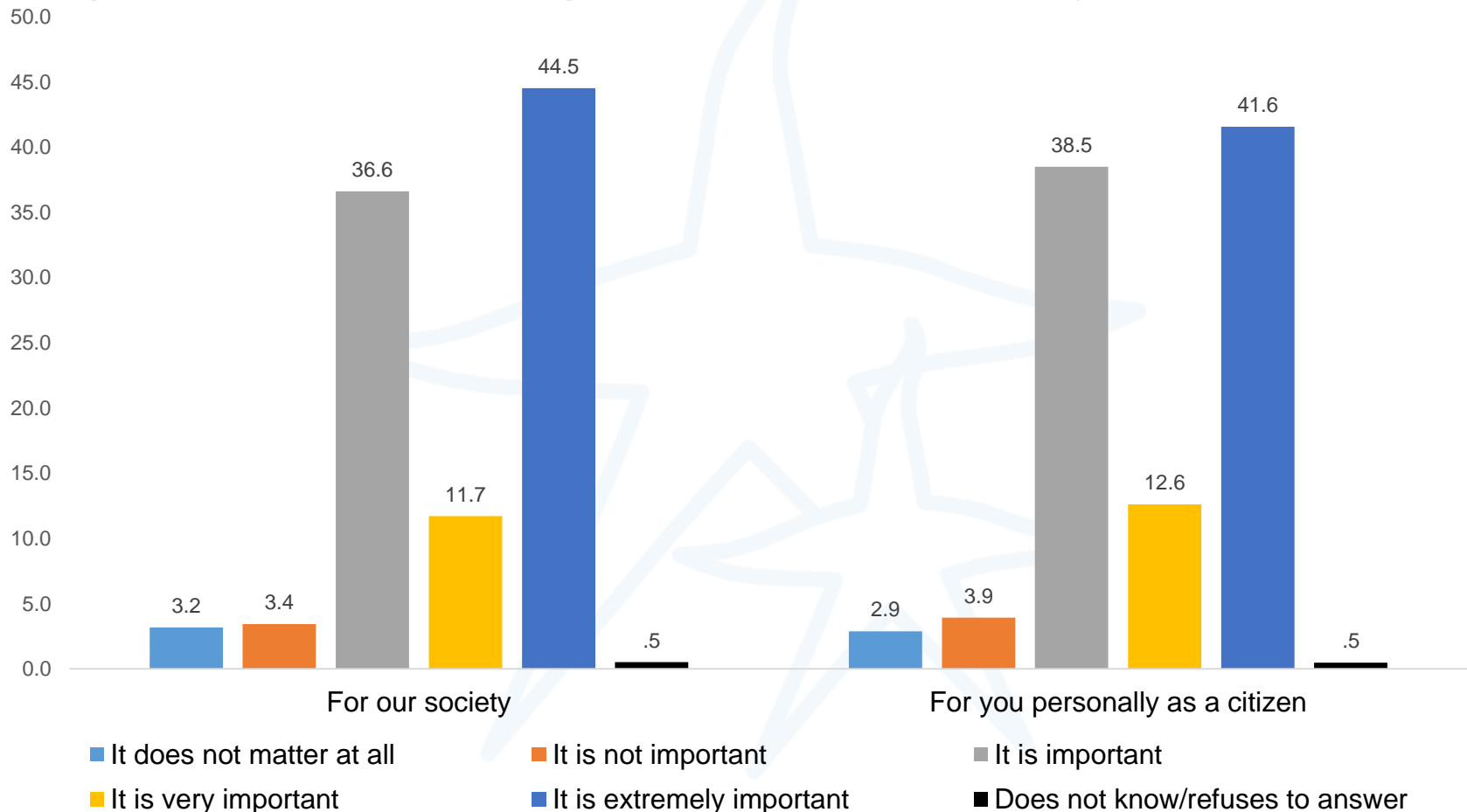
How important or unimportant do you think each of the following topics is to our society for the accession process and the EU accession negotiations themselves: Environment and climate change



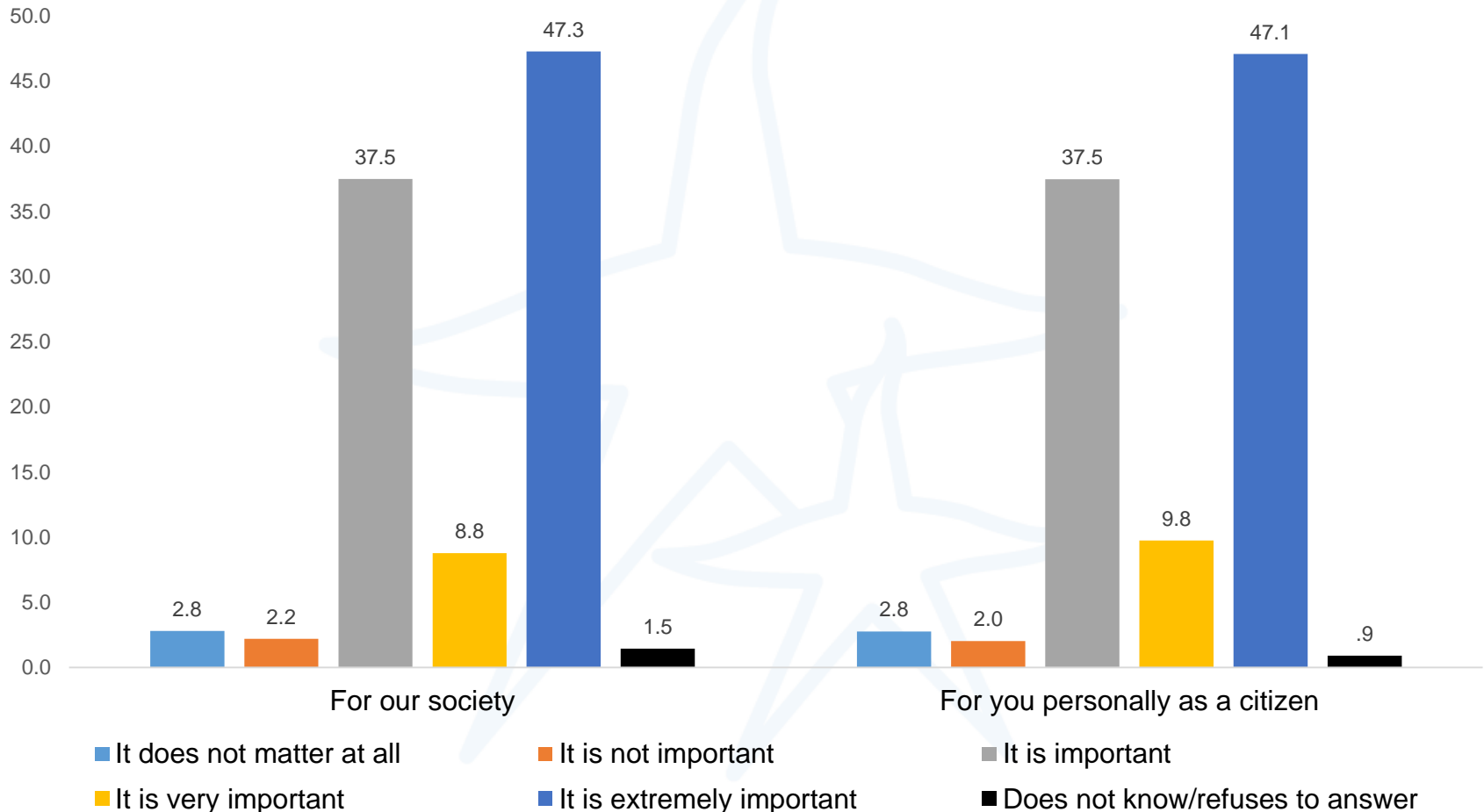
How important or unimportant do you think each of the following topics is to our society for the accession process and the EU accession negotiations themselves: Free movement of goods



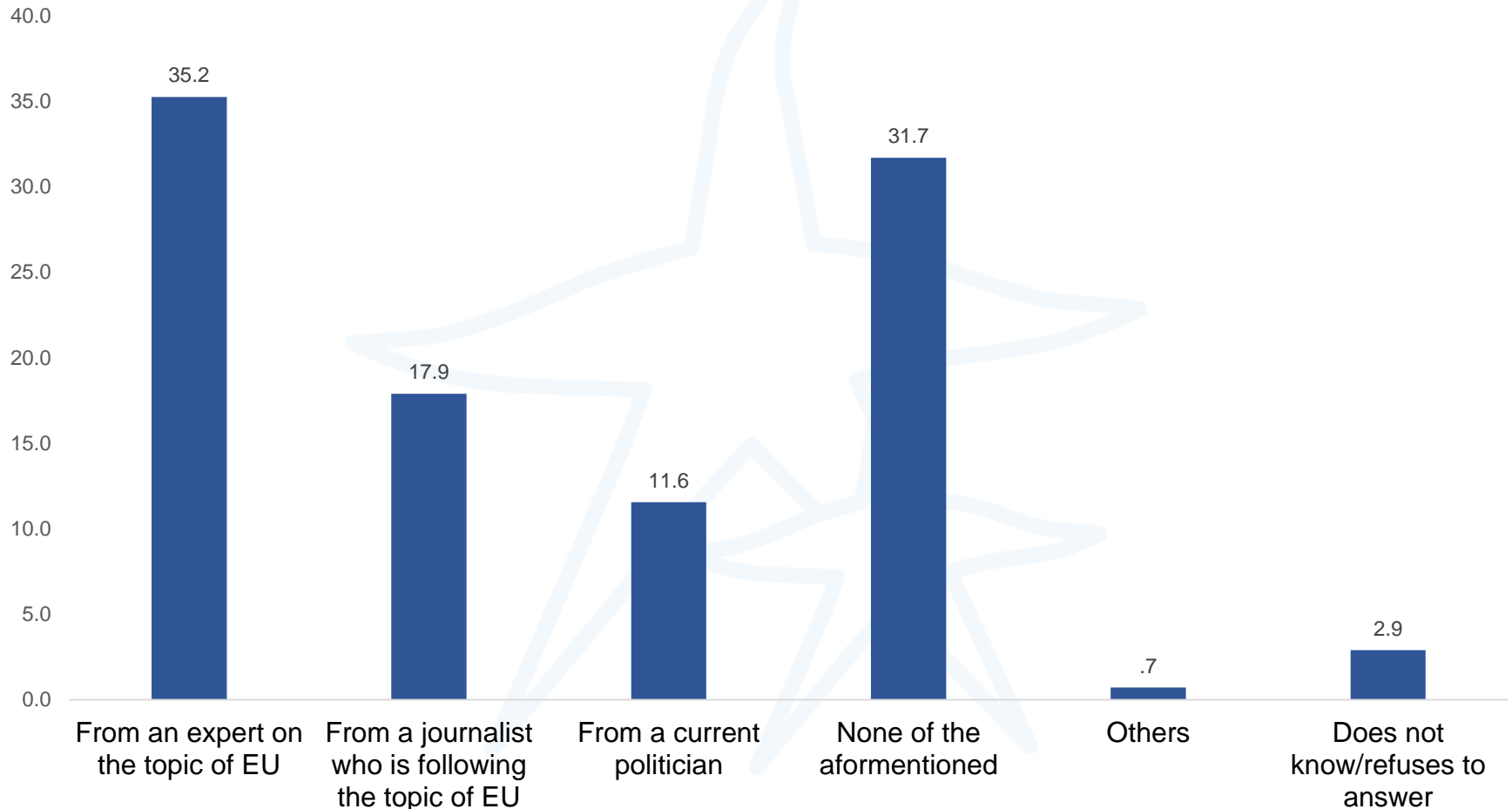
How important or unimportant do you think each of the following topics is to our society for the accession process and the EU accession negotiations themselves: Agriculture and rural development



How important or unimportant do you think each of the following topics is to our society for the accession process and the EU accession negotiations themselves: Consumer protection and public health



If you have the opportunity for a direct meeting, direct participation, with whom would you like to talk, to get more information about the negotiation process of the RNM with the EU?



SUMMARY



SUMMARY

- Party preference has a very strong influence on the formation of public opinion and perception on most of the socio-political topics in RN Macedonia;
- In terms of fundamental social values, a high 56% of respondents believe that there is no democracy; this is considered a decrease of 5%, compared to 61% who declared in 2022
- The same decrease in general dissatisfaction is reflected through the citizens' opinion about the direction of the state, where from 72% in 2022, now in 2023, 62% believe that North Macedonia is moving in the wrong direction;
- Despite the growing skepticism regarding the entry of North Macedonia into the European Union, 53% agree that the entry into the EU is a good thing for the country in 2023 compared to 49% in 2022, while 30% do not think so; 30% of respondents think that Macedonia will never enter the EU, 12% think it will happen in 5-9 years, 10% think it would happen in the next 5 years, 18% in 10-14 years, 15% in 15-25 years, and 9% believe it will happen in more than 26 years

- The largest percentage of respondents who see a threat, believe that at this moment it is Bulgaria (79%). This answer is most common among ethnic Macedonians (85.1%) and supporters of VMRO - DPMNE (89.7%), and among SDSM (80.4%). The second mentioned "threat" is Russia (6.3%), after the events in Ukraine, and this answer is more present among younger respondents and respondents of Albanian nationality;
- Informing through the Internet (56%) and through TV (43%) are the two most used ways of informing about political news among the respondents. 10% are not informed, and 13% are informed through friends and family;
- Social networks turn out to be the highest-ranked source (most important) for political information, with "winning" 87% of the maximum possible score (100%). Online portals are significantly lower ranked with 24% of the maximum score. Online platforms of existing radio stations or TV channels are ranked with only 7% points won;

SUMMARY

- All the mentioned topics related to EU membership can be said to be considered important by the respondents, and the Judiciary and fundamental rights stand out, where 54% consider it extremely important for the accession process and the EU accession negotiations themselves, 52% highlight Justice, freedom and security, the topics of Social Policy and employment 48%;
 - More than half of respondents point out Judiciary and fundamental rights and Justice, freedom and security as "extremely important". The "lowest" percentage (29%) mentions the free movement of goods as "extremely important";
 - The topics that the respondents consider to be the most important for society are also the most important for them personally as citizens with insignificant small variations in terms of answers
- Regarding the importance of sources of information, respondents give the highest priority to TV/video material (47%); Direct personal participation in a public event/debate is important or extremely important for 35% of respondents; Multimedia material for online access for 34% of respondents; and text and/or infographics for 33% of respondents;
 - Respondents would like to receive information from an expert on the EU topic (35%), 18% want to be informed by a journalist who follows the EU topic and 11.6% want to be informed by a current politician. 32% of respondents stated that they do not prefer any of the offered answers;



*The research was carried out within the framework of the **project "Media for the EU"**: Civil society program for the participation of the media in the negotiation process of North Macedonia for EU membership implemented by EUROTINK - Center for European Strategies, in partnership with ALDA and BIRS, and financially supported from the European Union. The views expressed do not reflect those of the EU and responsibility for the content rests solely with EUROTINK - Center for European Strategies.*



Проектот е финансиран
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„Медиумите за ЕУ“ го спроведува Евротинк
во партнерство со АЛДА и БИРЦ



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