

**renew europe.**

**Romanian perceptions, attitudes  
and aspirations towards the Future  
of Europe**

*Study conducted by*



MARKET RESEARCH

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**Context**  
**and**  
**Executive Summary**

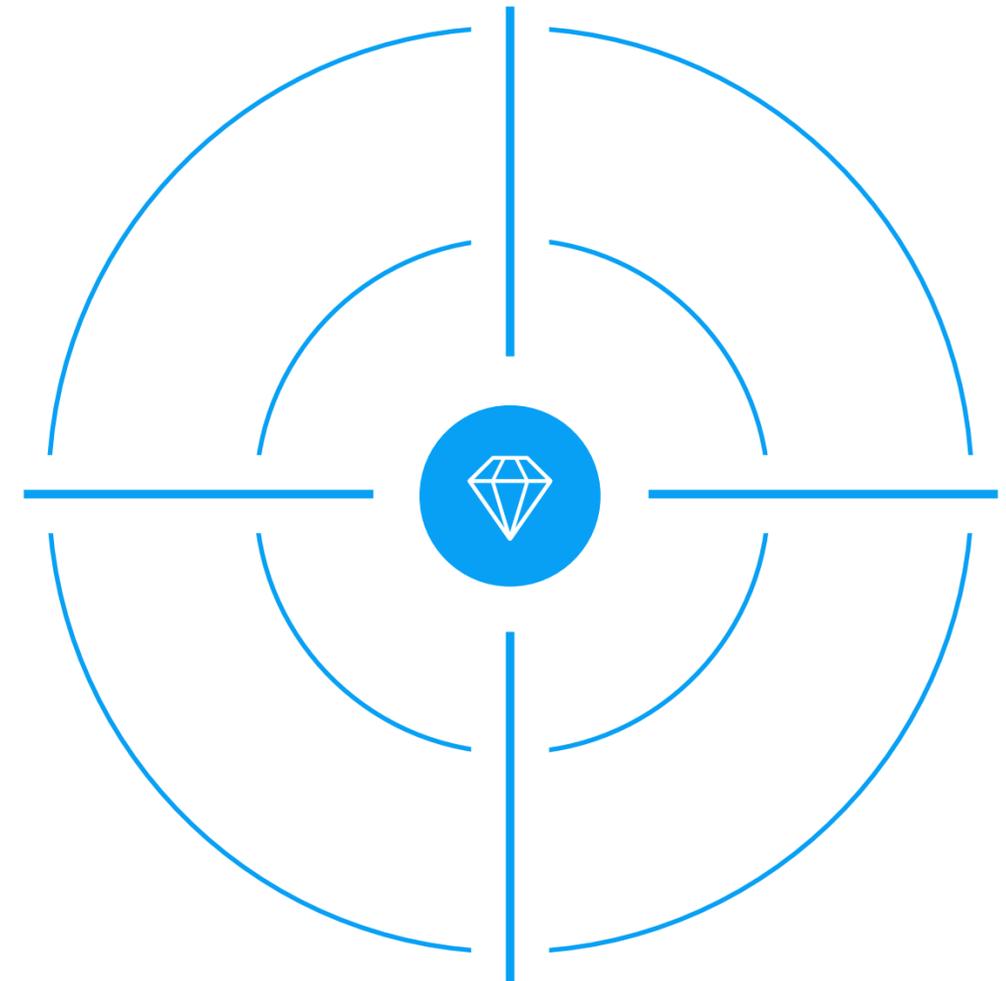


# Study objectives

to understand the Romanians attitudes on EU

to discover the importance, relevance, and positioning of Romanians regarding the political agenda

to evaluate the activity of Romanian MEPs



# The Romanian Context



- **Health, education, jobs and social security**, and **justice** are the topics Romanians are currently concerned about. These areas are prioritised by the Renew Europe political grouping and were core topics during *Europe: Make it Yours! Conference on the future of Europe*.
- The Coronavirus pandemic emphasised systemic issues of the Romanian state that led, slowly but surely, to **a governmental crisis**. The images of the main leading political parties are affected both by their activity and their internal elections. During the past months, the Romanian mass media covered extensively “*the games*” politicians played inside their parties, and the population felt let down.
- **The COVID-19 vaccination rate** in Romania is the second lowest in Europe and the communication on this topic diminished since the summer’s beginning.
- At the same time, **the Romanian social landscape looks desolate** since the EU and national labour market are affected by the pandemic. The Romanians who worked abroad had no other option but to return home during the first waves of coronavirus. At the same time, some of the Romanians got fired or were on technical unemployment since the employees revised their activity.
- Concomitant, **the education system** was challenged by frequent changes from face-to-face courses to online courses. The teachers and the professors had to find the best solutions to continue their daily activity and to keep the children/students engaged.
- Moreover, **the sanitary crisis** was amplified by fires that broke out in 10 of the Romanian hospitals in less than a year. Additionally, no significant investments have been made in the health sector during these almost 2 years of global pandemic.
- All in all, **the Romanian population feel a general fatigue**, amplified by the chronically underperforming governments. **In this context, Romanians turn their hopes to the EU’s decision-making mechanisms, know-how, and guidance.**

# Executive Summary (1/2)



*“Renew Europe is committed to bringing the discussion to all corners of the EU and consult with the widest possible audiences!”* Thus, Renew Europe commissioned an independent research company to conduct a sociological study, based on a quantitative survey, on the future of Europe seen by Romanians.

## Future of EU

- **The data reflect the two main groups Romanians adhere to while discussing about the future of EU.** One group supports the idea of a United States of Europe (more integration) and the other one believes in more independent member states of EU. Either way, **Romanians have a positive pro-EU outlook.** Most Romanians envision a slightly enlarged EU by 2030, with their country being a core balanced member of the union. Through the accession of new member states, Romania would consolidate its position and confirm its status in the EU.
- The main areas where **EU should focus its efforts** are related to **social issues and jobs**, and **economy/entrepreneurship**.
- A significant percentage of Romania’s population works/worked abroad, therefore **the freedom of movement for workers** is very important for Romanians. In the pandemic context, **the migrants** put additional pressure on an (already) uncertain European labour market. Thus, Romanians perceive **migrants as the biggest threat to the future of EU.**
- Romanians expect that **health policies** and **decision-making in education should be made at EU level.** These areas are perceived as some of the most challenging ones for the Romanian governing parties, and the politicians should have some guidelines for implementing efficient policies.

# Executive Summary (2/2)



## Romania's future on EU

- Almost half of the Romanians think that the **EU membership** will have a **positive impact** in the future.
- Overall, Romanians believe that **European Parliament's activity** has **moderate impact on their lives**.
- Currently the Romanians are divided into three categories by how they perceive **Romania's priorities in relation to the EU's ones**: *Perfect match* – Ro and EU share the same issues and needs, *Medium match* – Ro and EU share sometimes, or only with some states the same issues, and *No match* – Romania has its own particularities and problems.
- **Some of the challenges Romania faces could be solved through investments**. Thus, Romanians believe that the national political parties should prioritise obtaining more EU funds and financial advantages. The National Recovery and Resilience Plan was a topic discussed by mass media during the last previous months. Therefore, Romanians could pay more attention than usual to this type of financial stimulus.
- **At national level, EU could help the country by assisting in the fight against corruption and the reform of the judiciary**. This activity is one of the Renew Europe's Priorities during 2019-2024 mandate.

## MEPs elections

- **Over 50% of the Romanians are familiar with Renew Europe's Romanian MEPs**. The most recognised one is Dacian Cioloş, the Renew Europe president being also the most appreciated Romanian MEP, followed by Dragos Paslaru.



# The Future of EU



# Romanians on the Future of EU



- Romanians are **either** optimistic about the future of European Union, envisioning the future EU as a **United States of Europe (slightly enlarged, that offers more integration)** **or** they would like that each **member state to be more independent**. These two visions about the EU's future might be shaped by numerous factors such as politicians' discourses about EU topics (pro-UE vs anti-UE), dealing the COVID-19 pandemic at national level, the process of implementation of *the Recovery and Resilience Facilities*, Brexit, and others.
- Most Romanians believe that European Union must focus its future efforts on **social issues** and **jobs**. This social area is relevant for Romanians since a significant percentage of the population worked and/or works abroad. The global pandemic changed the labour market both at national level and EU level. Moreover, Brexit deepened the consequences of the pandemic, due to the difficulty of some Romanian workers to go back to their jobs in UK. **Thus, Romanians rely on EU to protect and support the free movement of workers, and to create new work opportunities.**
- The **health policy** and **decision-making in education** should become EU topics in the future. These beliefs are directly linked to the pandemic that triggered different approaches, rules, and measures in each EU member state. Besides, **health** and **education** are two of the most relevant areas/topics for Romanian population, especially in the pandemic context. Therefore, coherent and well-regulated EU strategies might be one of the safety net the Romanian citizen need.
- Romanians believe that **migrants, climate change and terrorism** are the main threats to the future of the European Union. These topics have been massively covered by mass- and social media before and during the pandemic. Additionally, since Romania became an attractive work destination for non-EU residents, the Romanians might treat foreign workers with mistrust, and might associate them with potential threats of terrorism.

# Romania and the Future of Europe



**44%**

**More integration and a  
United States of Europe**



**17%**

**Preserve the  
current balance**

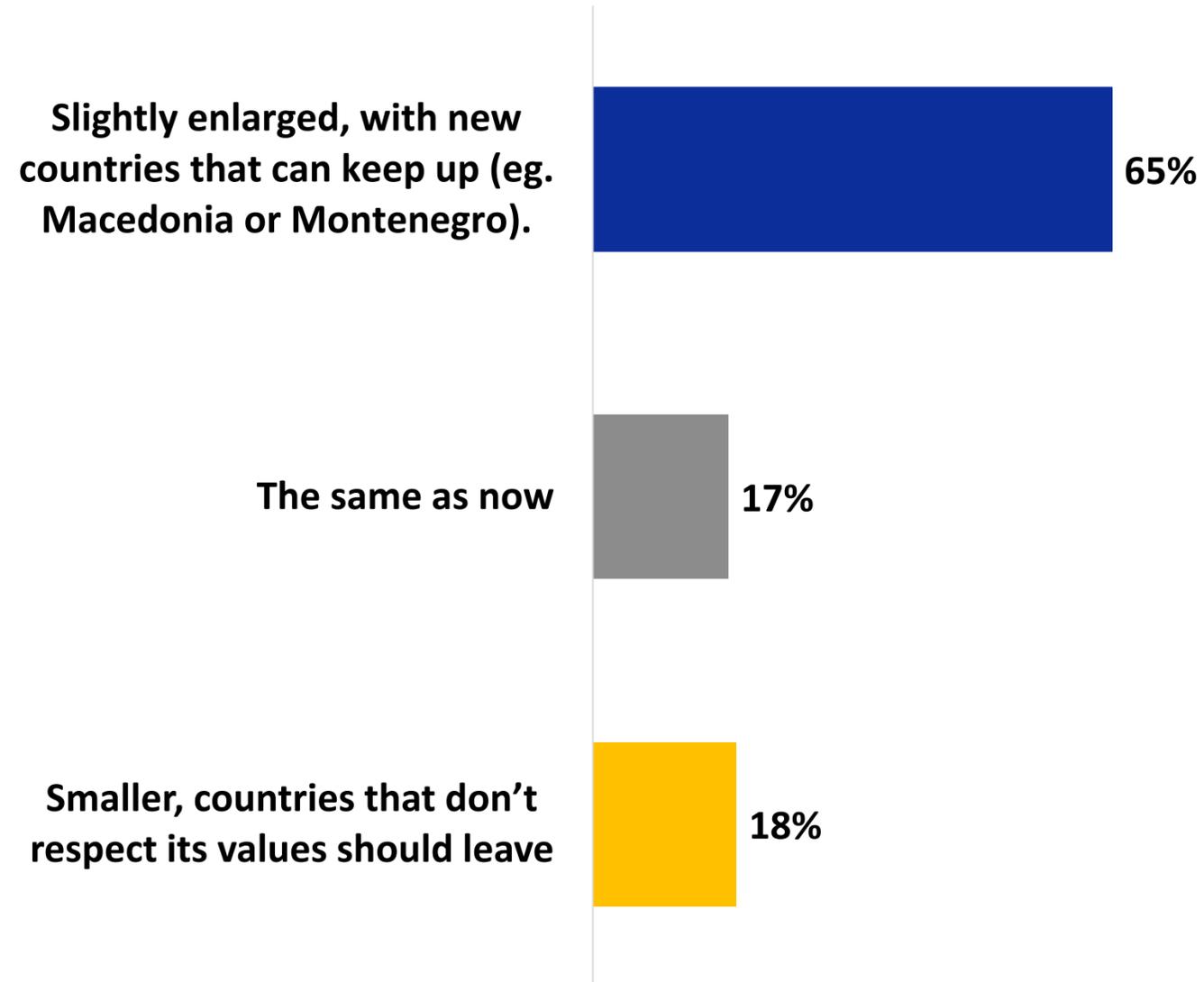


**39%**

**Give more  
independence to  
each member state**

*Q1. What do you think the future of the EU must be? (N=808)*

# Europe in 2030

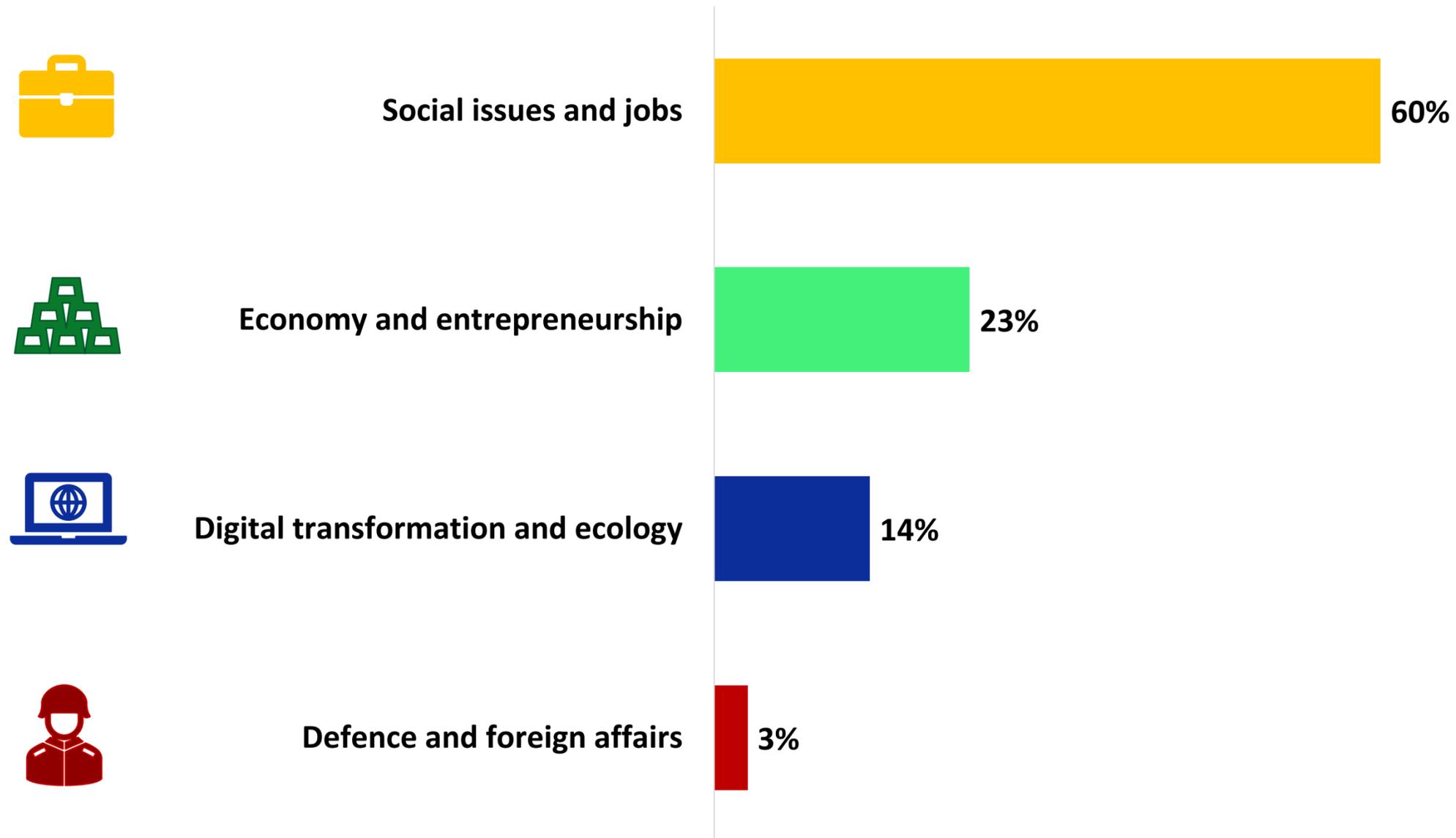


Q3. How should the EU of 2030 look like? (N=808)



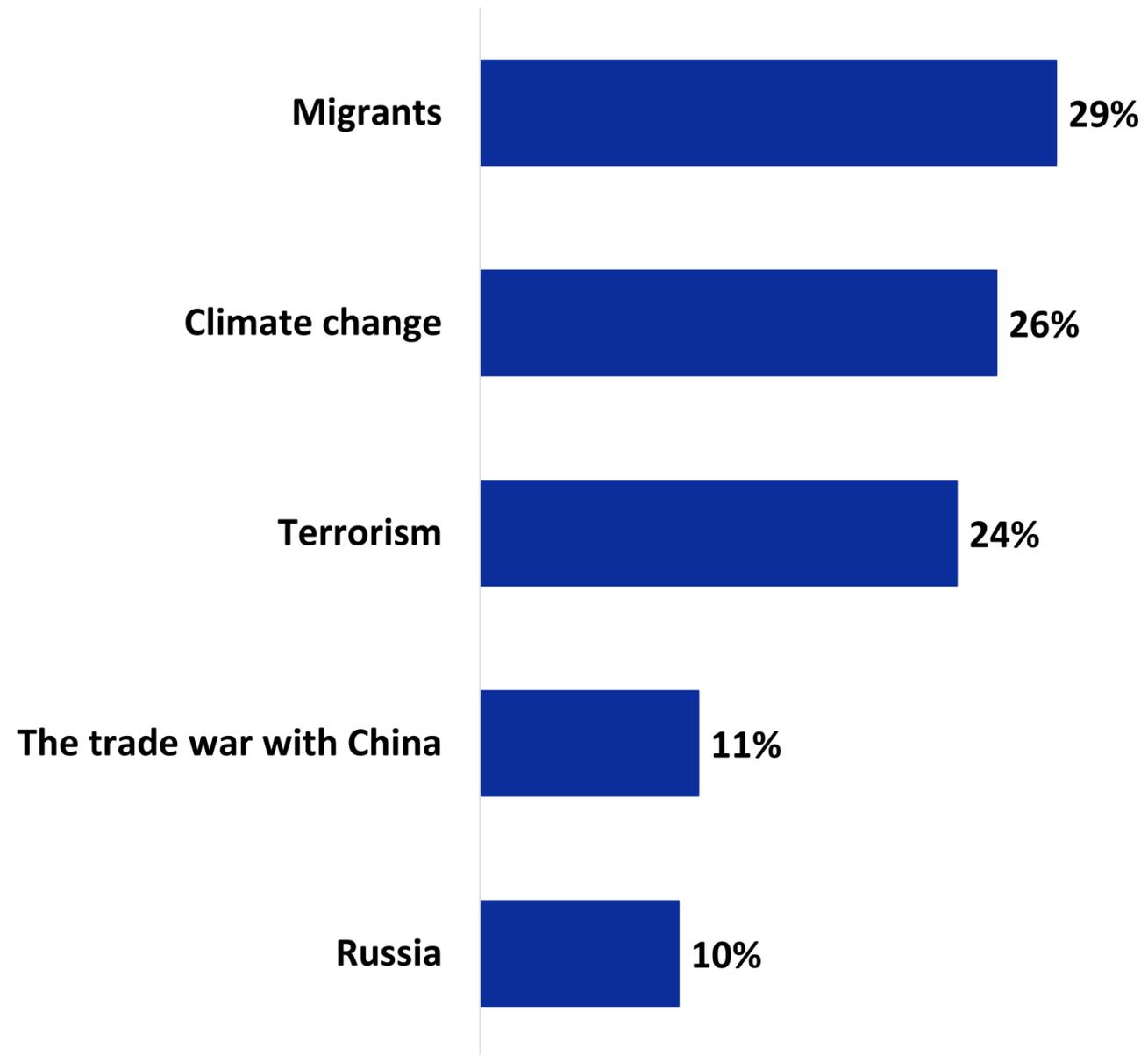
Source: Unsplash - Guillaume Périçois

# Areas EU should focus its efforts



Q2. Where should the EU focus its efforts on the future? (N=808)

# The biggest threat for EU future

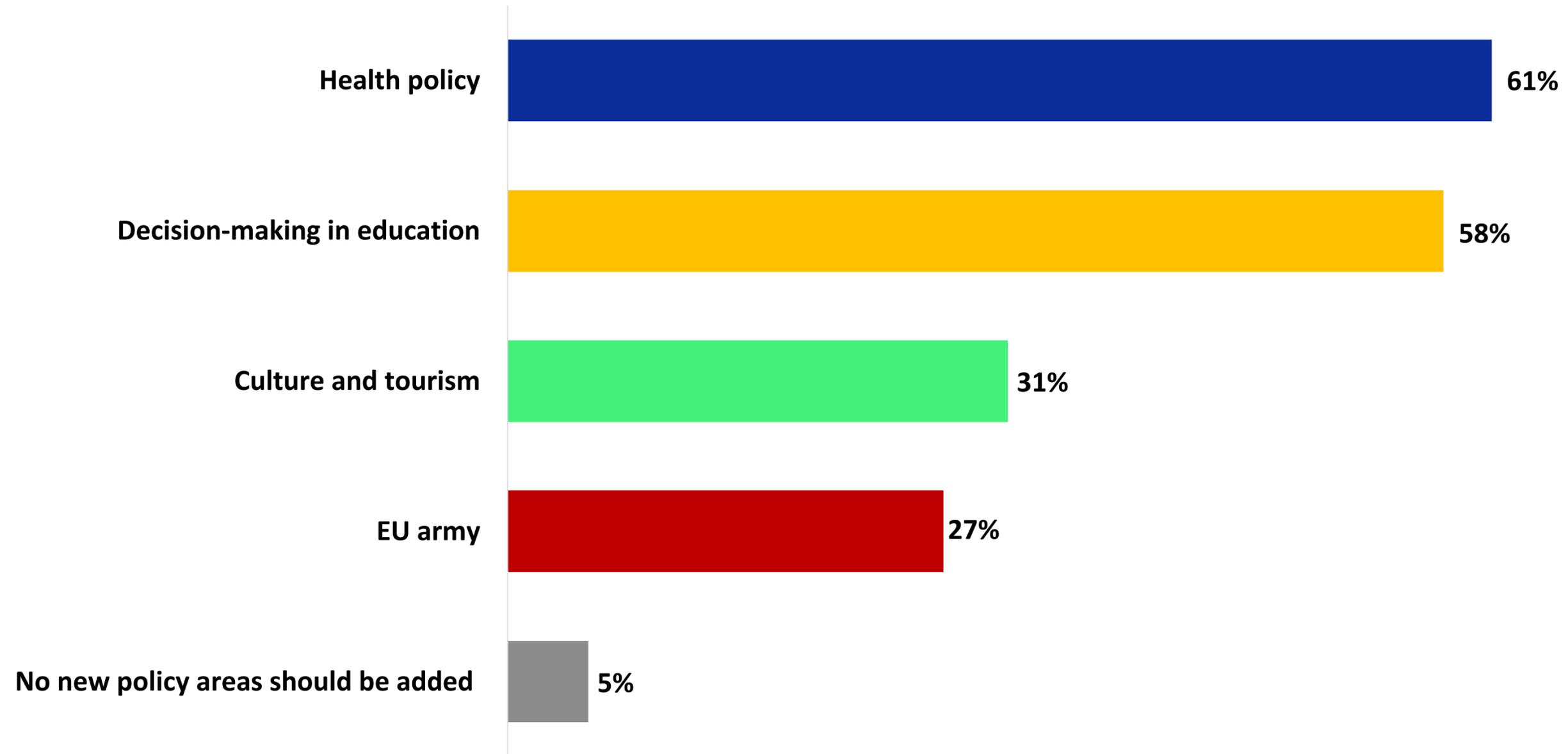


Q5. What is the biggest threat for the EU in the future? (N=808)



Source: Unsplash - Christian Lue

# New policy areas to be decided at EU level



Q4. What new policy areas, that currently are not decided at EU level, should become EU topics? (multiple choice)

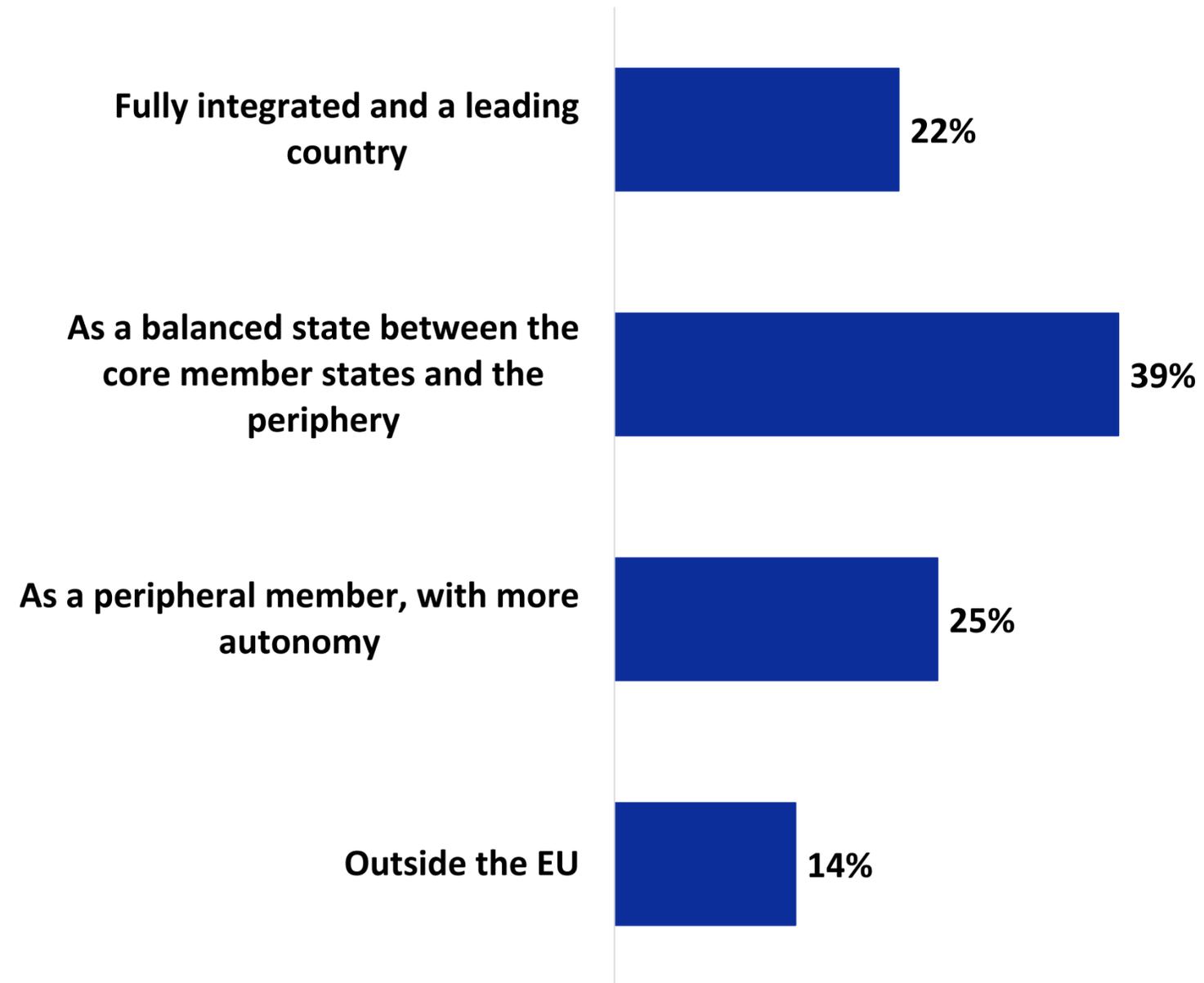
# Romania's Future in EU

# Romania's future in EU



- Romania is foreseen as **a balanced EU state** between the core member states and the periphery. This result might reflect the population's views on Romania's role in the EU, that is a stable country, with growth potential, yet with moderate power in negotiations.
- The EU membership is perceived as having **a positive impact** on Romania's future. As we have previously learnt, Romania would benefit from EU decisions on health and education. Also, Romanians believe the EU should assist their country **in the fight against corruption and the reform of the judiciary**. Romanians show a great interest in these topics since numerous cases of corruption and law avoidance are presented by mass media.
- Most citizens identify **common issues and needs** with rest of the EU. Facing similar or/and identical challenges leads to the necessity of adopting and implementing strategies that have a standard EU framework, and additional bespoke measures for each member state.
- The main priority that political parties should have towards the EU is **to obtain more EU funds and financial advantages**. Investments is a topic frequently discussed both on mass media and on informal settings, thus Romanians are keen on knowing how national and European funds are spent on investments. Thus, attracting more EU funds could support Romania's development and growth.
- Overall, Romanians believe that **European Parliament's** activity has **moderate impact** on their lives.

# Romania's future in EU

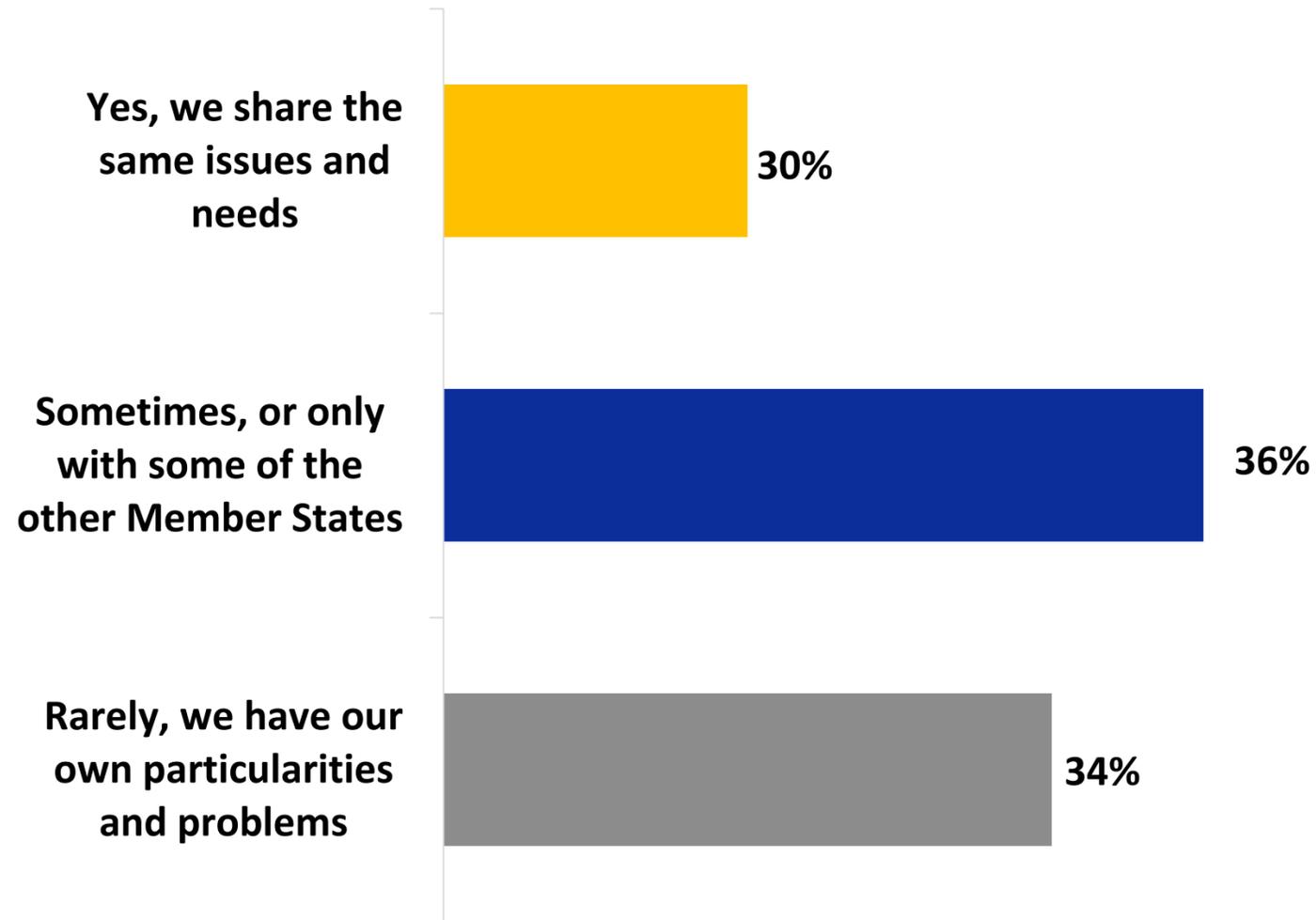


Q6. How do you see Romania's future in the EU? (N=808)



Source: Unsplash - Majkl Velner

# Romania's priorities in the EU context

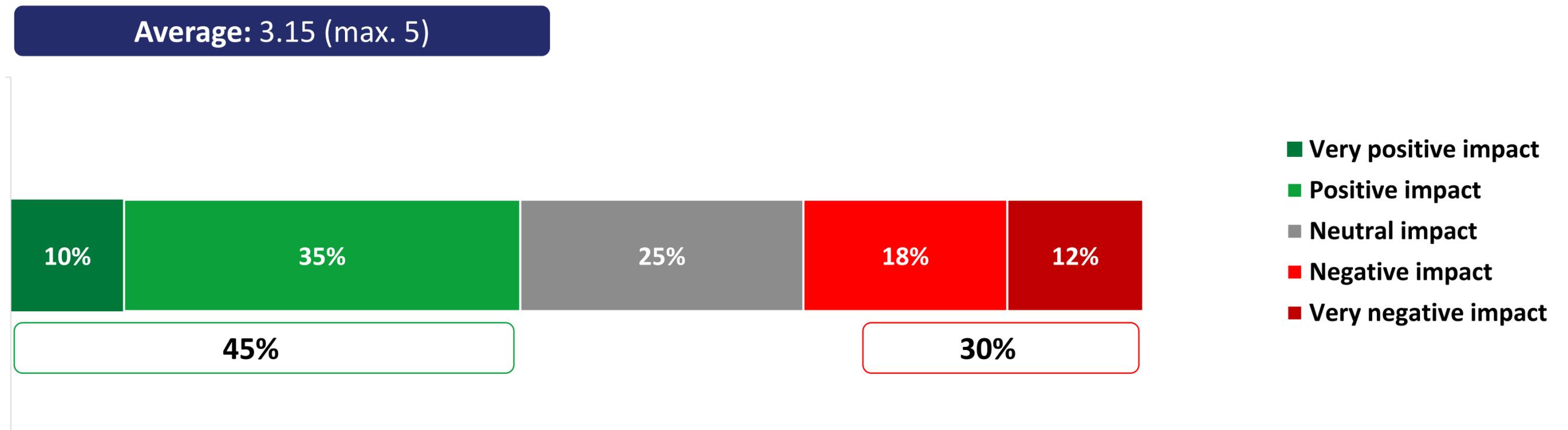


Q7. Do you think Romania's priorities are aligned with those of the rest of the EU? (N=808)



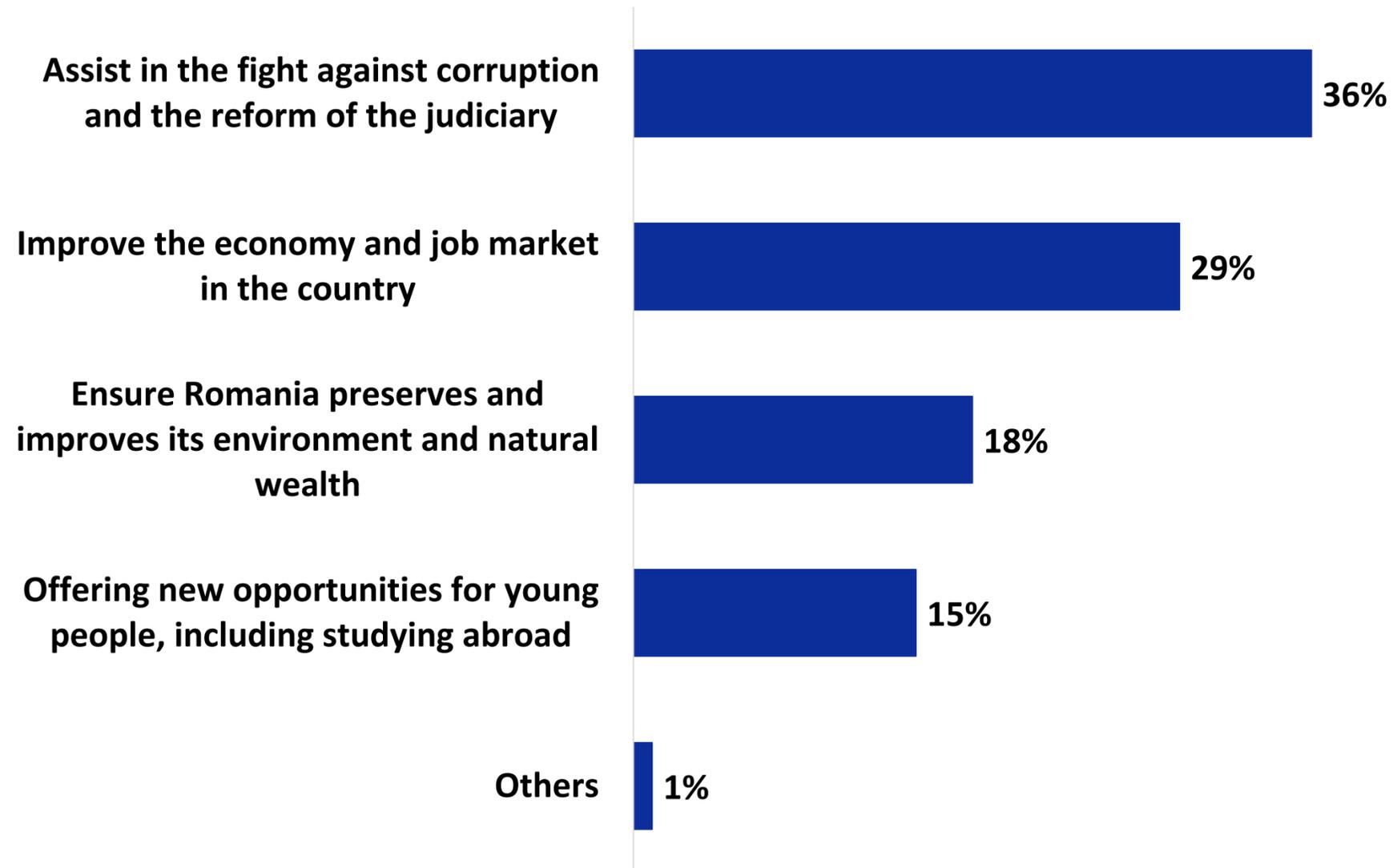
Source: Unsplash - Henri Lajarrige Lombard

# EU membership: the impact on Romania's future



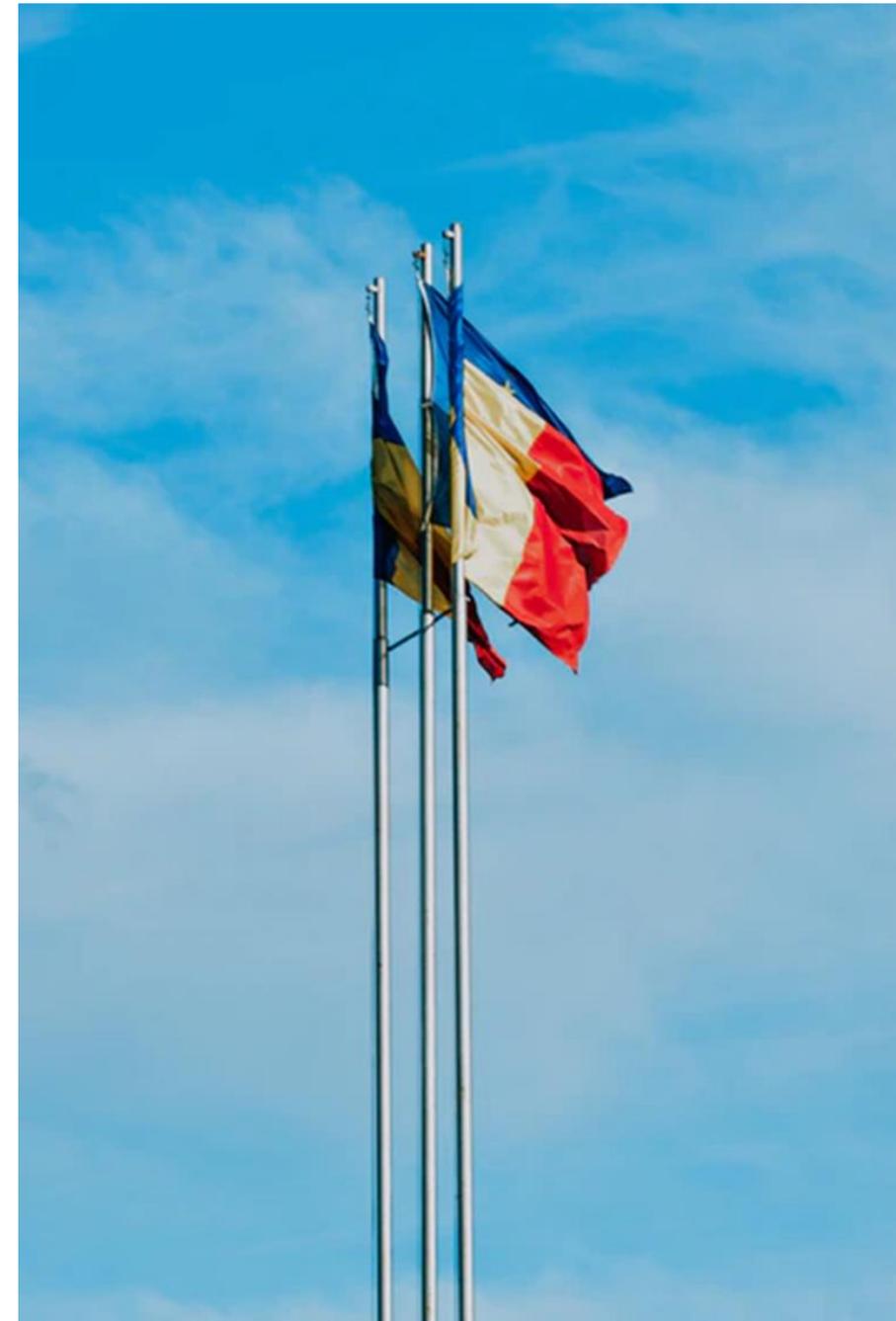
Q8. What impact do you think its membership in the EU will have for Romania in the future? (N=808)

# EU help for Romania



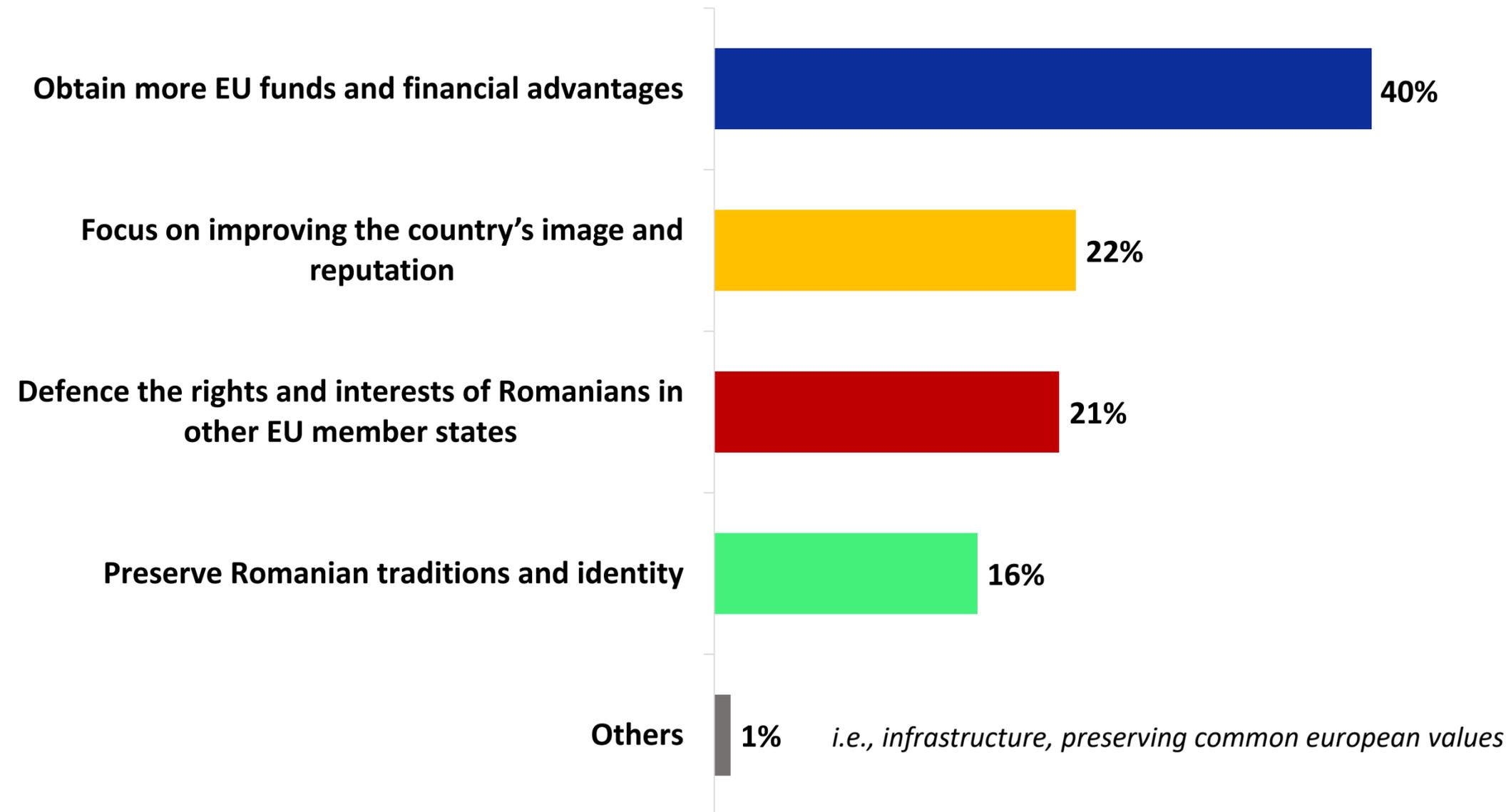
*Others: respecting culture and values, guidance, infrastructure*

Q9. How could the EU best help Romania in the future? (N=808)



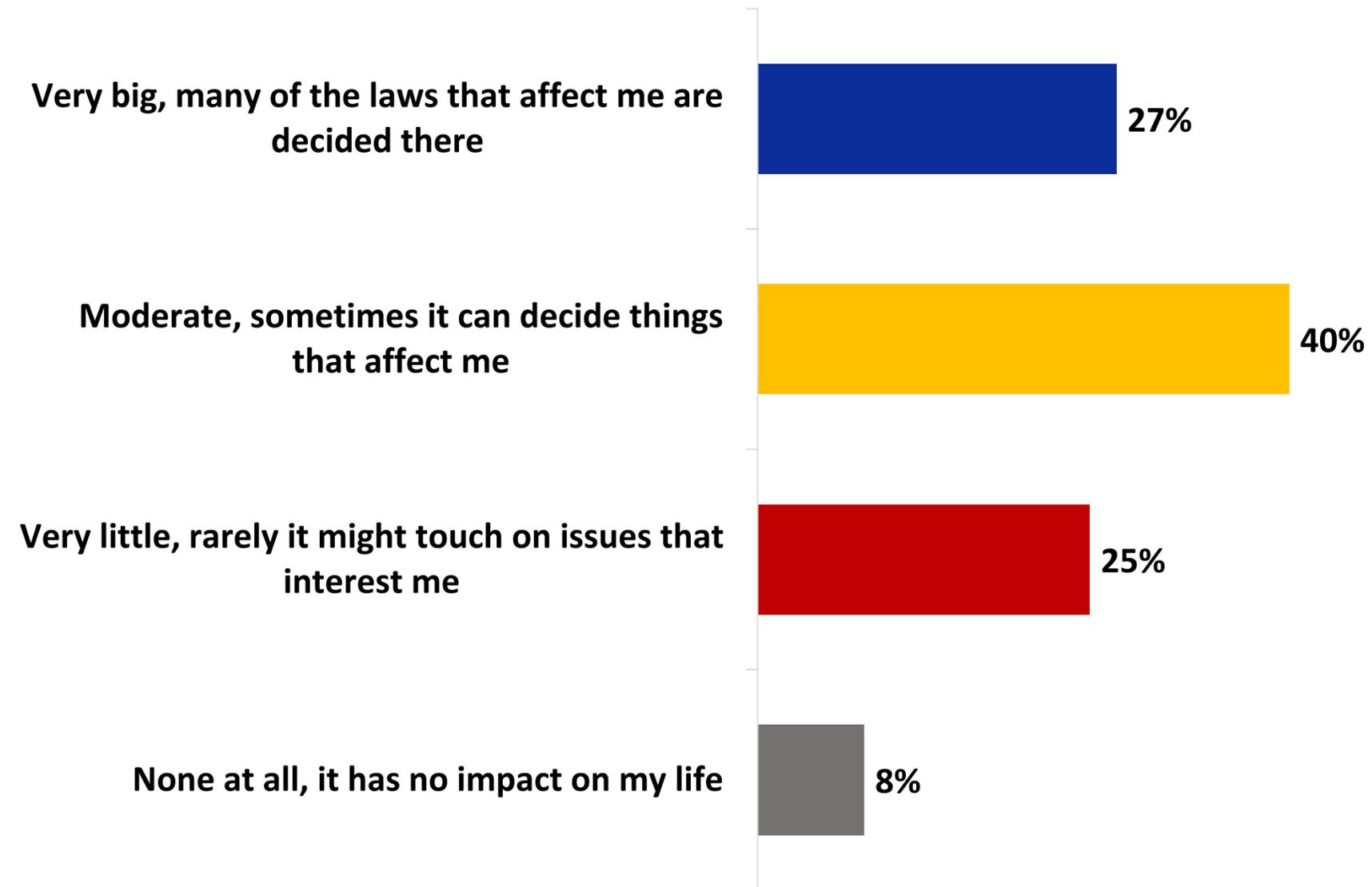
Source: Unsplash - Didssph

# Romanian political parties' priorities towards the EU



Q10. What priorities should the Romanian political parties have towards the EU? (N=808)

# The impact of European Parliament on Romanians' lives



Sursa: Unsplash, Frederic Köberl

Q11. What impact do you think the European Parliament has on your life? (N=808)



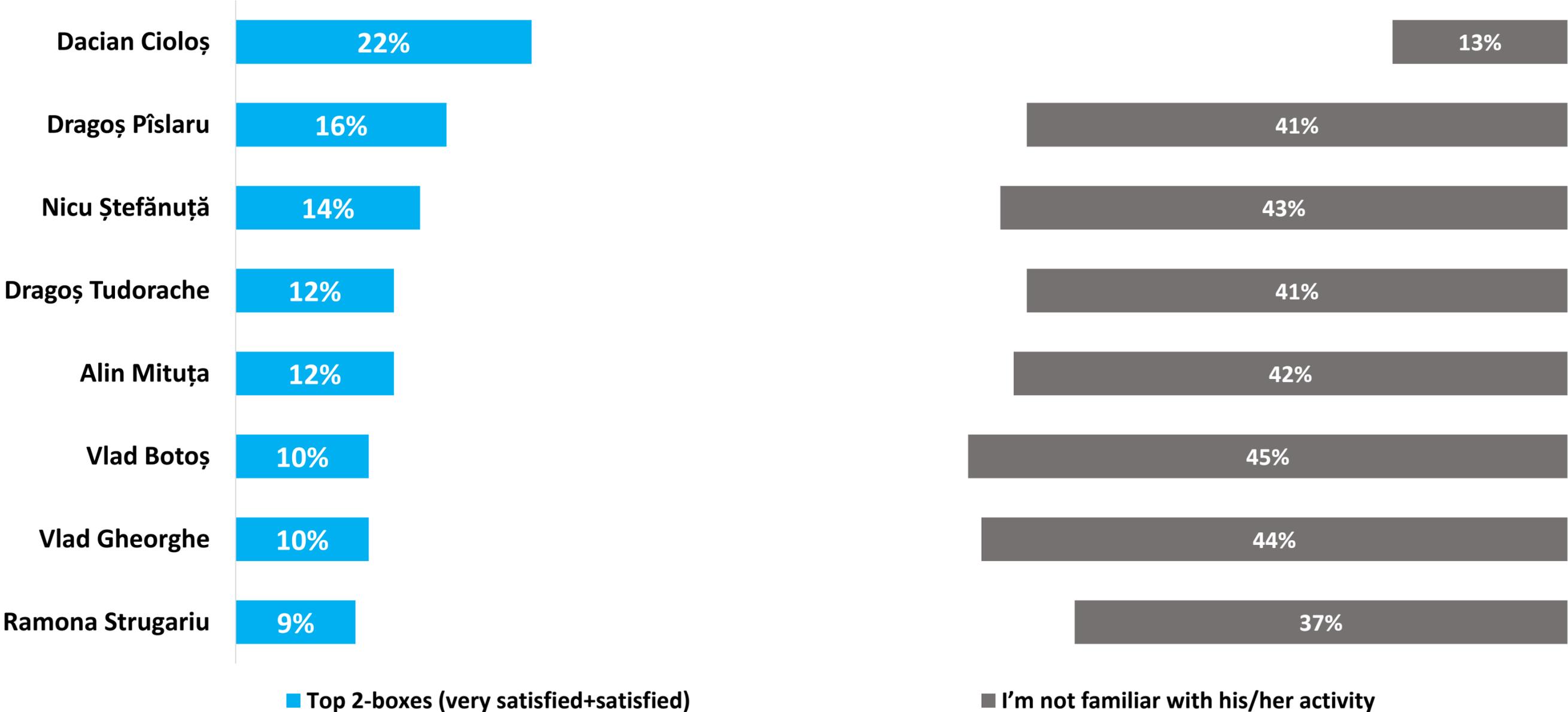
**MEPs election**



# Romanians on MEPs election

- **Over 50% of the Romanians** are familiar with Renew Europe's Romanian MEPs.
- **Dacian Cioloș** is the most know Romanian MEP who is part of Renew Europe. Also, 1 out of 5 Romanians **are satisfied with his work as MEP**. Dacian Cioloș is one of the most visible representatives of USR PLUS political alliance and has extensive experience in Romanian and European politics.
- The second most appreciate Romanian MEP and Renew Europe member is **Dragos Paslaru**, yet Romanians seem to be less familiar with his work.
- If **European Elections were held next Sunday**, most Romanians would vote for either PNL's or PSD's members.

# Satisfaction with the work of Renew Europe' Romanian MEPs



Q14. How satisfied are you with the work of the next Romanian MEPs who are part of the Renew Europe political grouping?



**Study`s  
methodology**



# Survey methodology



data collection  
period

23-26 september 2021



theoretical  
margin of error

+3.5%



sample size

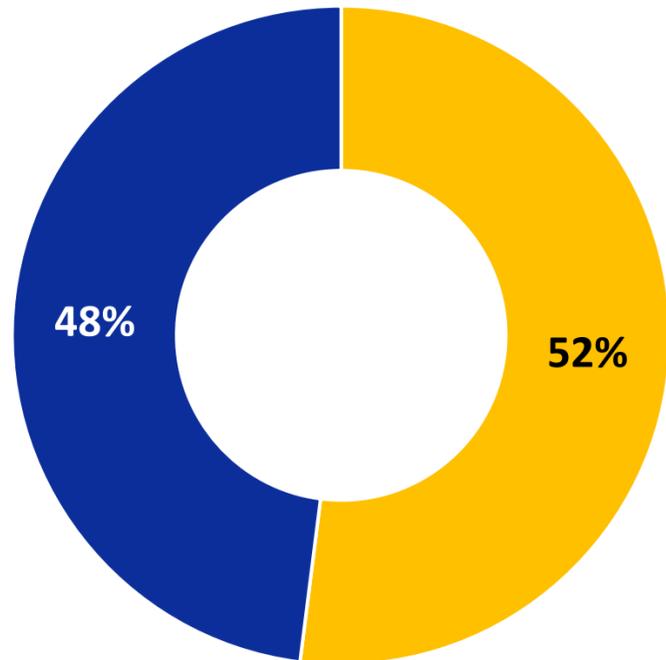
808 respondents  
representative for Romanian population  
18-65 y.o.



data collection type

Online via National Aggregated Panels  
of respondents  
Quota sample by gender, age and  
education level

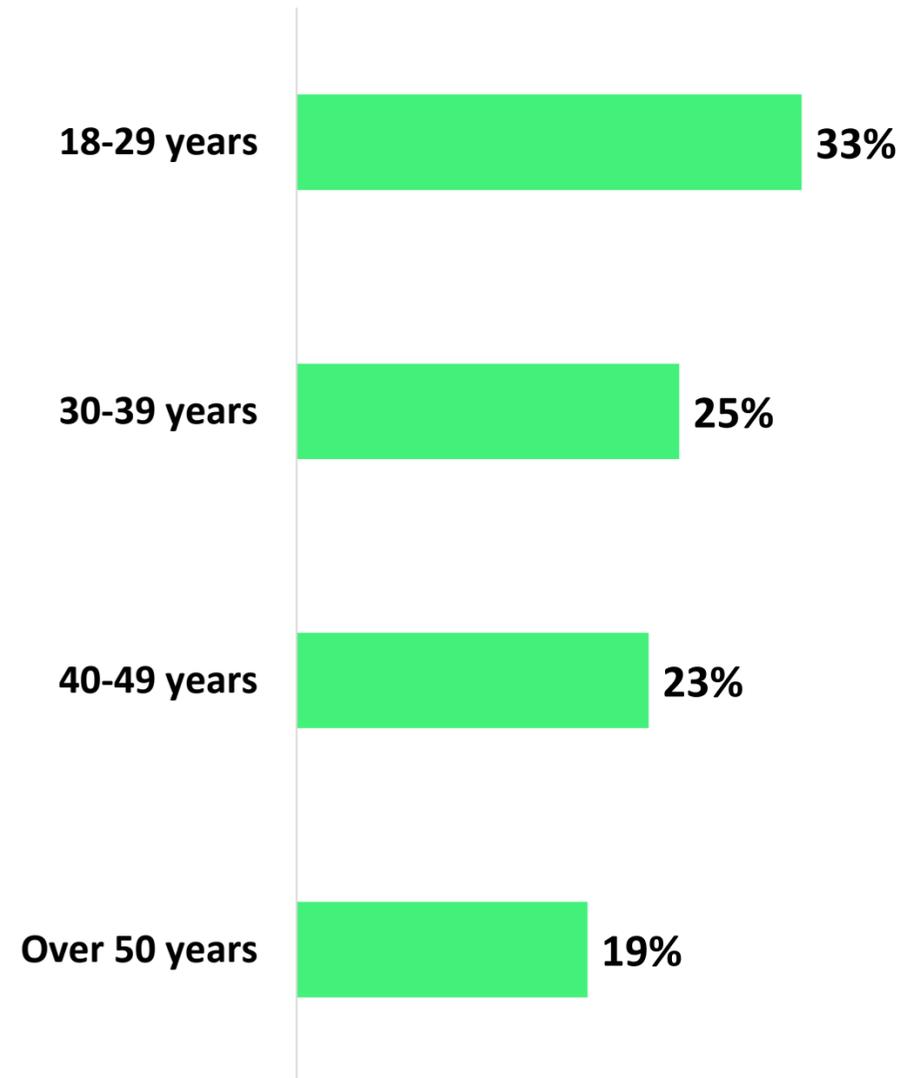
# Sample's structure



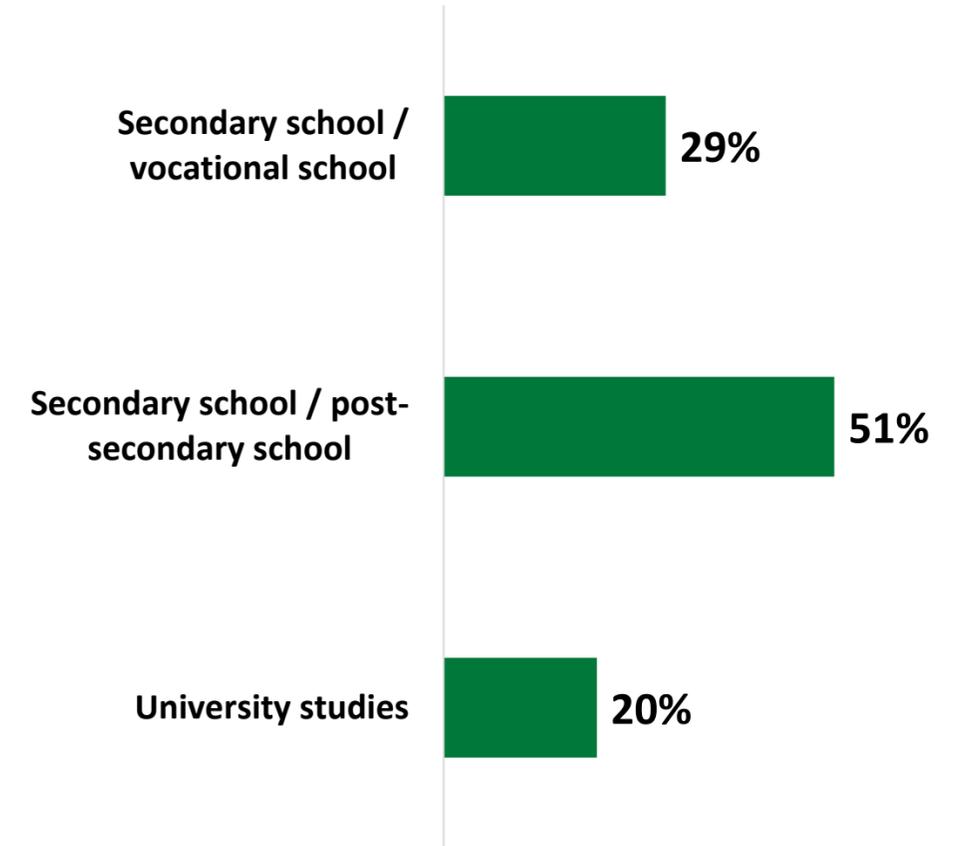
Female Male

D2. Sex (N=808)

Mean age: 37



D1. Age (N=808)



D3. What is the last form of education you have completed?

## Cult Market Research Project Team

Paul Acatrini – Research Director & Managing Partner  
Paul Kasprovschi – Research and Communication Consultant  
Mihaela Samoilă – Analysis and Reporting  
Alexandra Vîjeu – Analysis and Reporting  
Alexandru Stroe – National Aggregated Panels Specialist