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FROM BASIC SERVICES



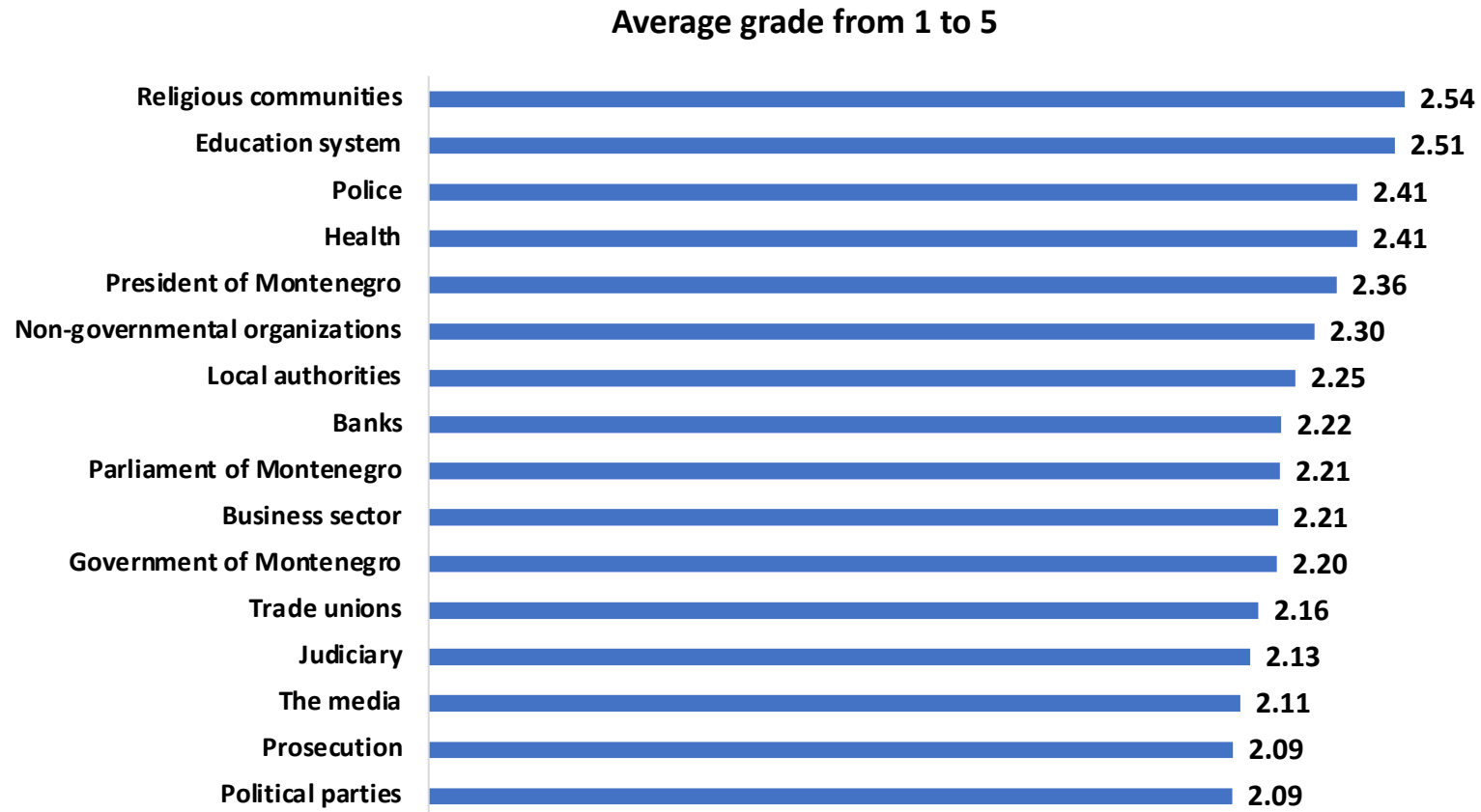
TO POLICY SHAPERS

Public perception on the role of civil society in the process of democratization and Europeanization of Montenegro

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

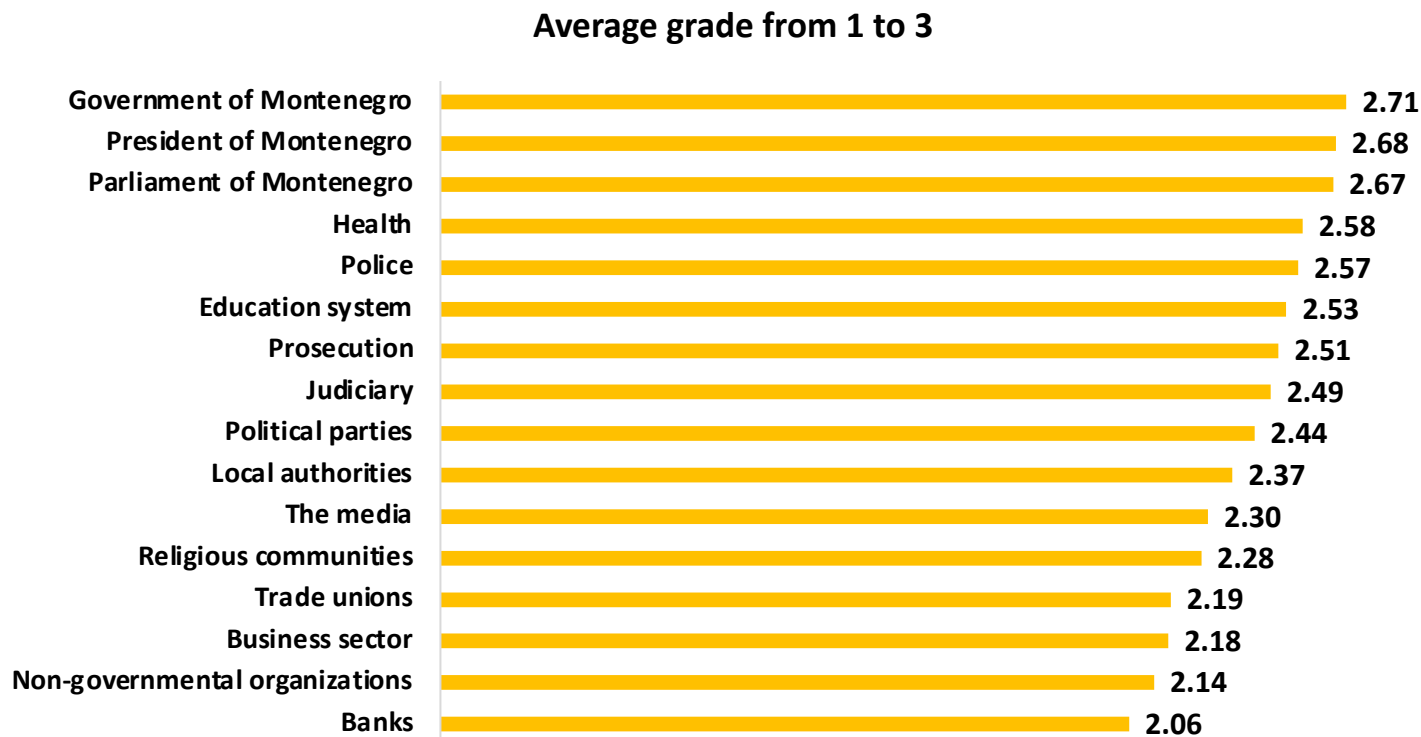
Performance:	Data collection was done from 18/11 to 24/11/2021
Sample frame:	Citizens of Montenegro older than 18 years
Sample size:	1020
Sample type::	Three-stage, stratified sample
	First stage: Region
	Second stage: Household by simple random sample (SRSWoR)
	Third stage: Kish grid within household
Type of research:	CAPI
Researched places:	9 Montenegrin municipalities The allocation by strata is proportional to the size of the given strata

To what extent do you trust each of these institutions?



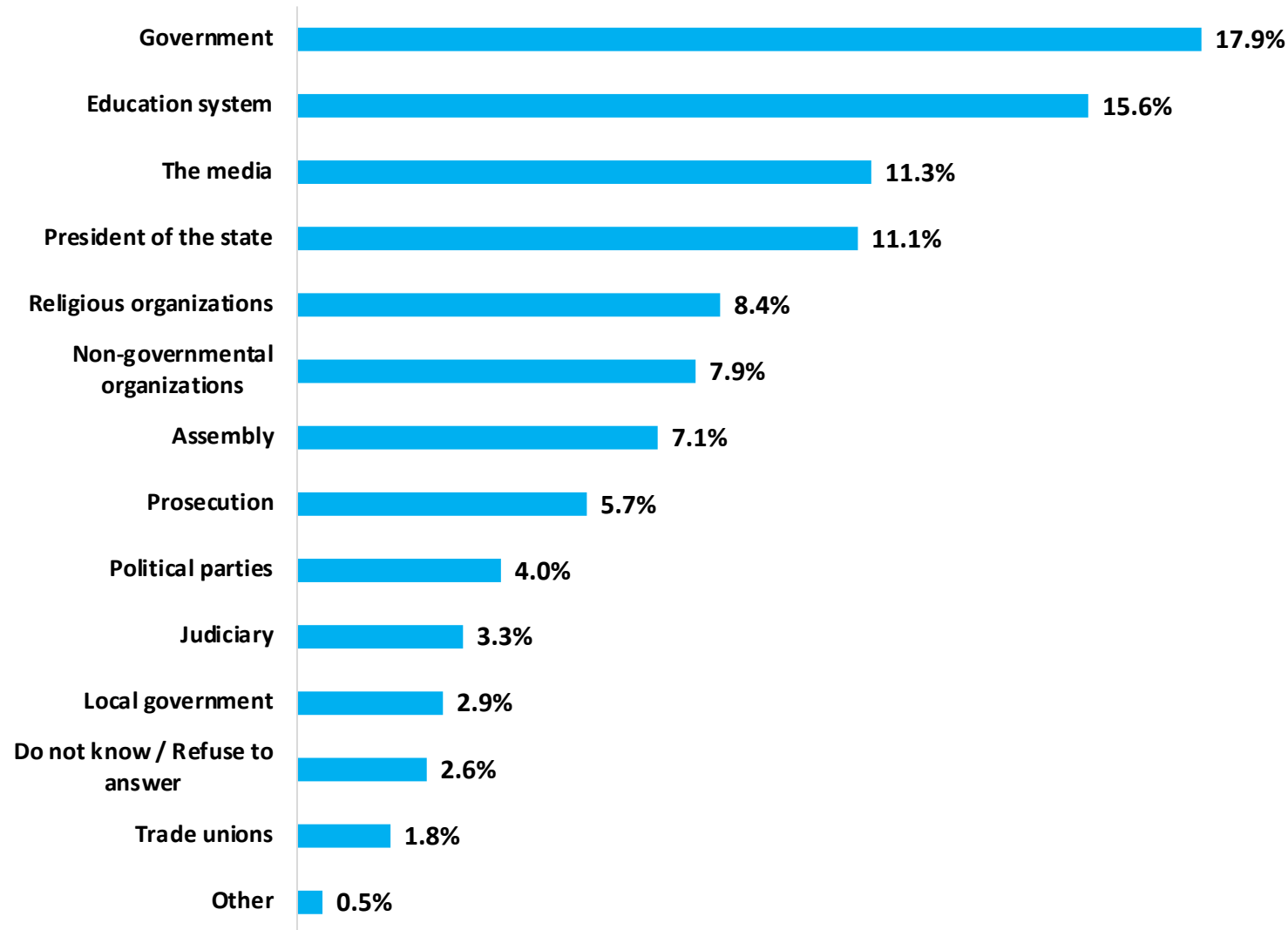
The findings indicate that there is a general decline in the trust of citizens in all institutions, in comparison to some of our previous research. On a scale of 1 to 5, the highest average grade (2.54) have religious communities, followed by the education system, then police and health system, then the President of Montenegro, and NGOs. Political parties, the prosecution, the media, the judiciary, and trade unions are the least trusted.

Who bears the greatest responsibility for the well-being of society?



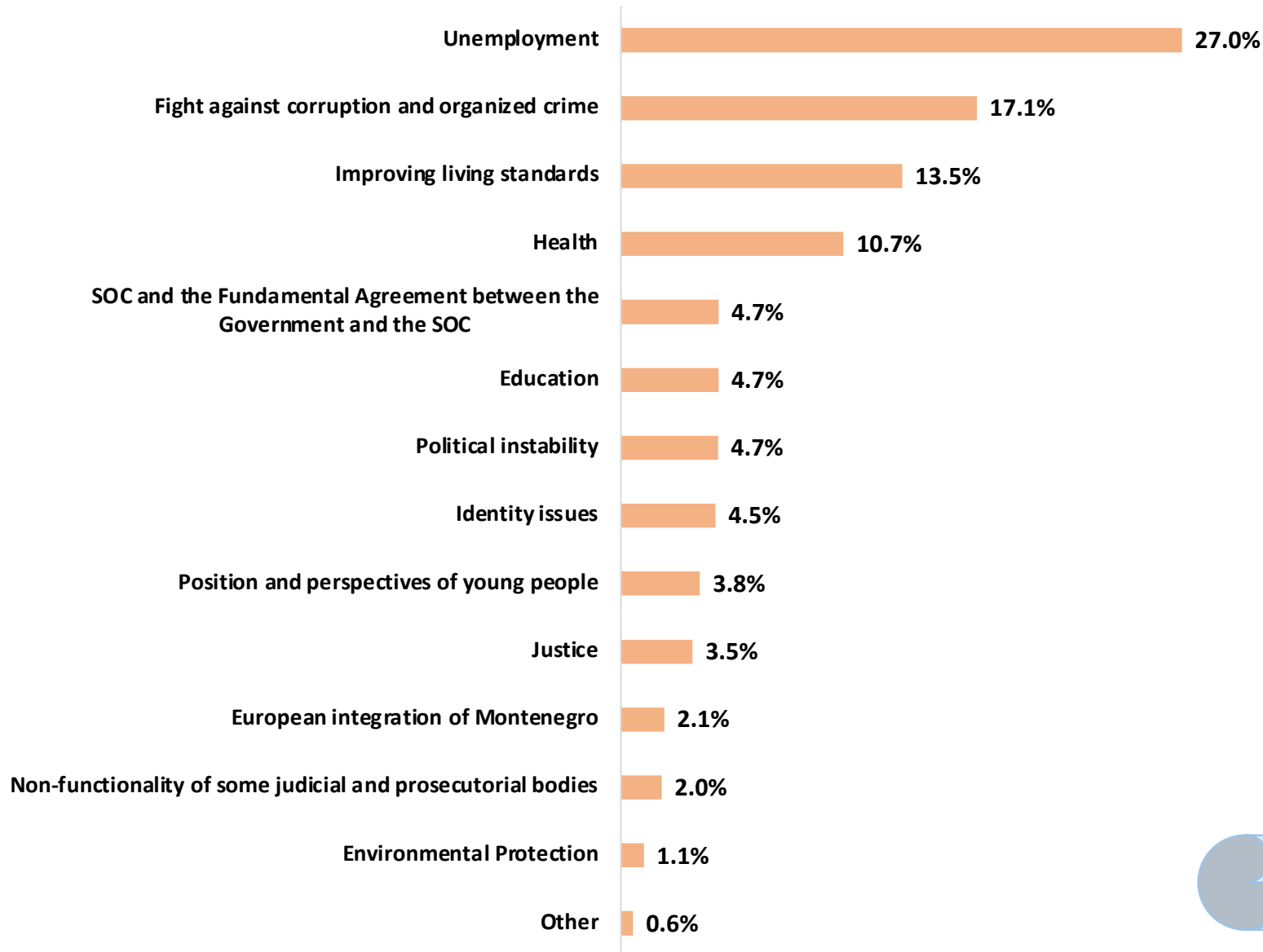
Citizens consider that the greatest responsibility for the well-being of society lies with the **Government** (2.71 on a scale from 1 to 3), followed by the **President** (2.68) and the **Parliament of Montenegro** (2.67), which indicates that, **regardless of the level of trust, citizens are aware of the competencies and abilities of institutions**. Banks, NGOs, the business sector and trade unions are perceived as the institutions with the least responsibility for the well-being of society.

Which of the following social actors is crucial in promoting democracy in our society?



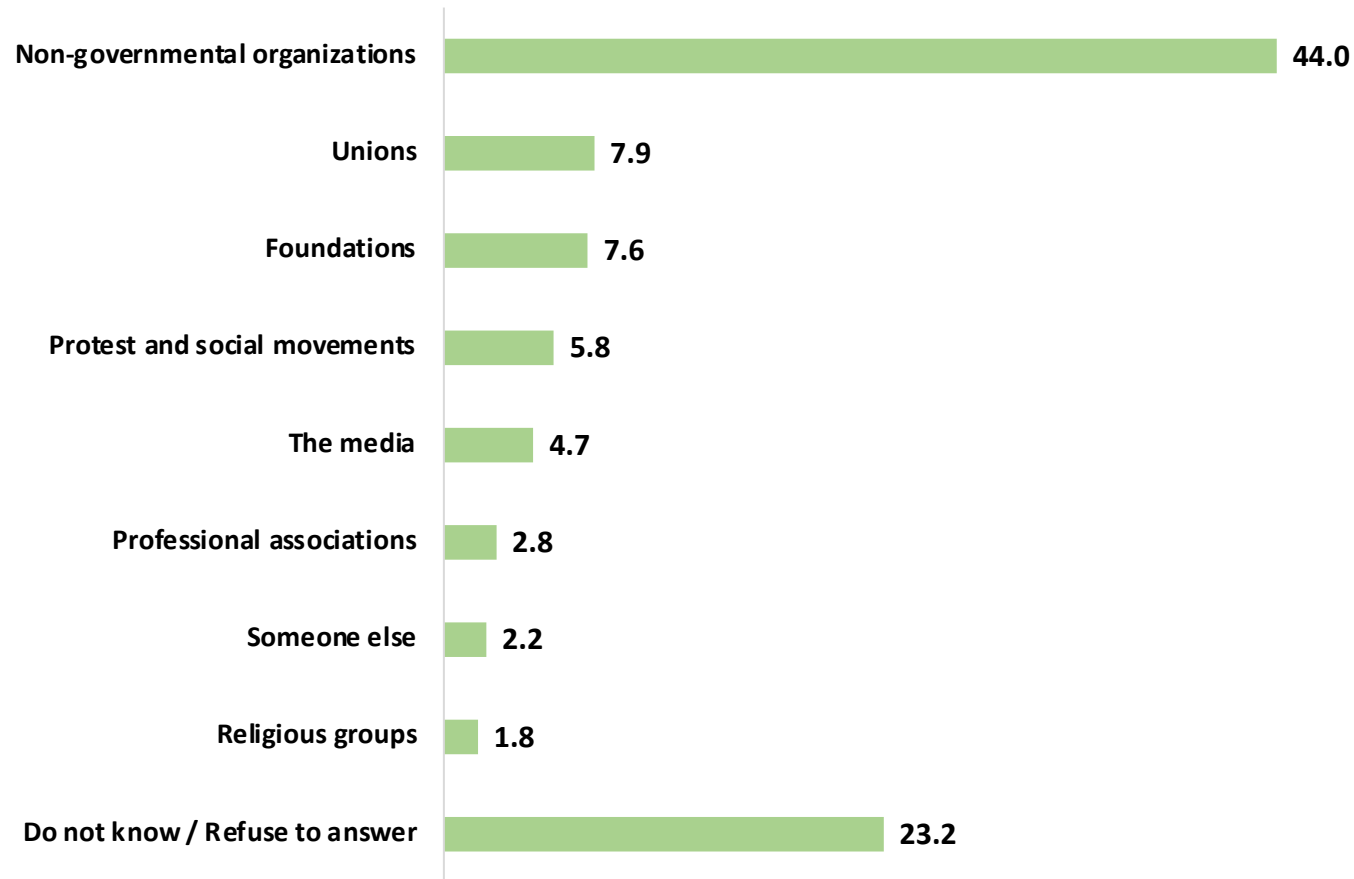
According to citizens, many different actors are **crucial to promoting democracy**, but primarily it is the Government, followed by the education system, the media, and the President, then religious communities and NGOs.

In your opinion, what are the most important current problems in Montenegro today?



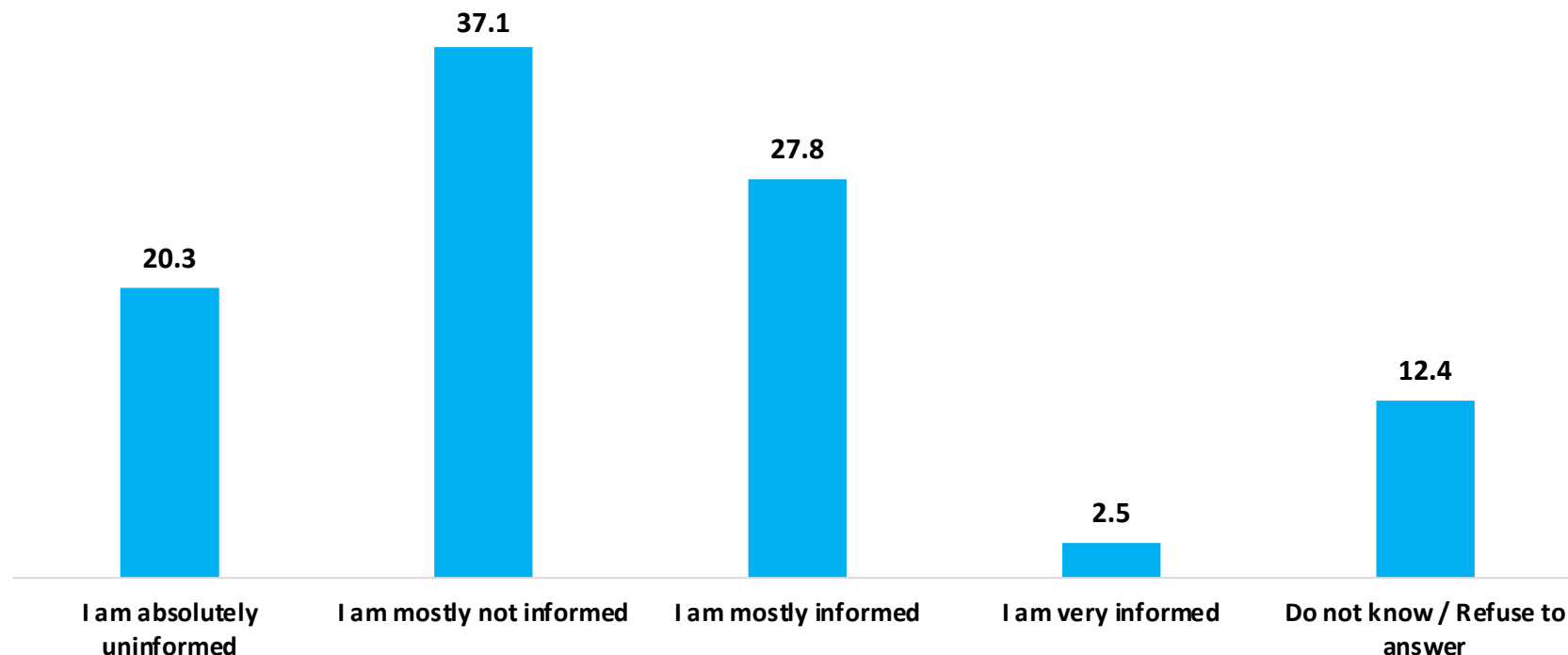
As **major problems**, citizens cite those **from the socio-economic sphere** - unemployment (27%), the fight against corruption and organized crime (17.1%) and improving living standards (13.5%), as well as health (10.7%).

In your opinion, who constitutes civil society?



Although civil society constitute numerous social actors, citizens predominantly cite NGOs (44%), and in much smaller percentages trade unions (7.9%), foundations (7.6%), protest and social movements (5.8%), media (4.7%), professional associations (2.8%), religious groups (1.8%), etc. Almost a quarter of citizens did not know what are the actors of civil society.

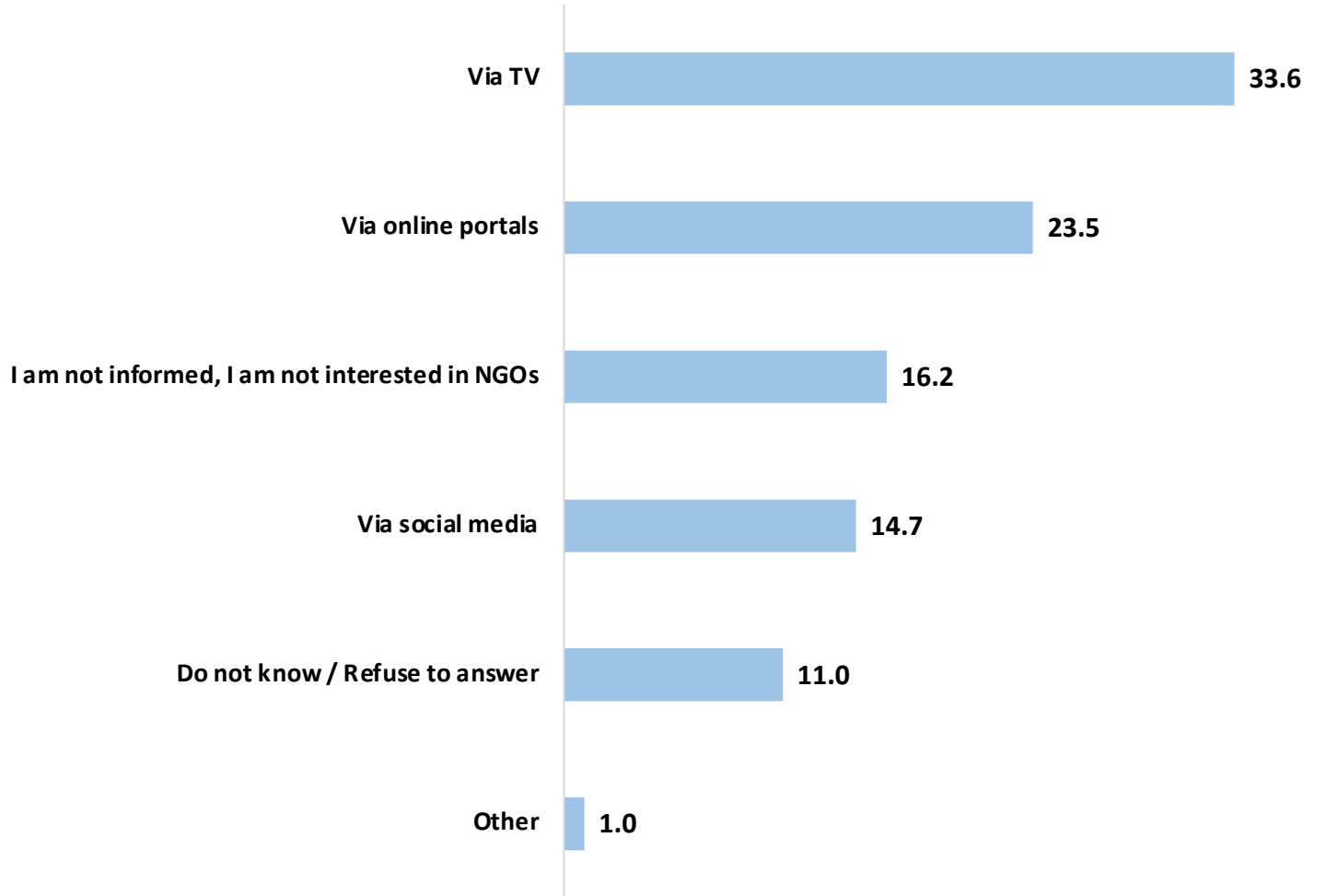
How much do you know about the work of the civil sector in Montenegro?



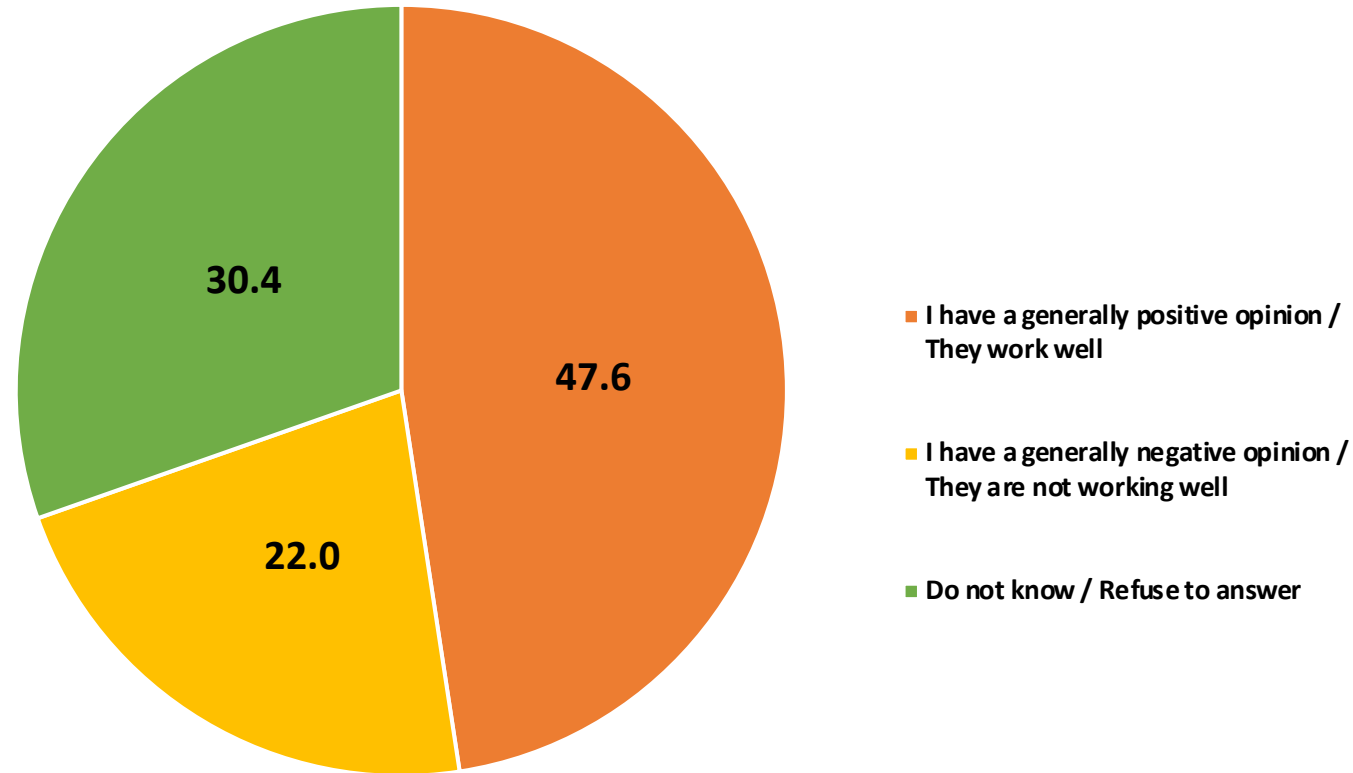
Citizens are either completely or mostly uninformed about the work of the civil sector (57.4%), while about a third (30.3%) of citizens are mostly or very informed. A higher level of education of respondents brings also greater knowledge about the civil sector.

How do you get information about the activities of the civil sector in Montenegro?

Citizens are mostly informed about the work of the civil sector via TV (33.6%), online portals (23.5%) and social media (14.7%). Slightly less than a sixth are those who are not interested in the work of civil society.

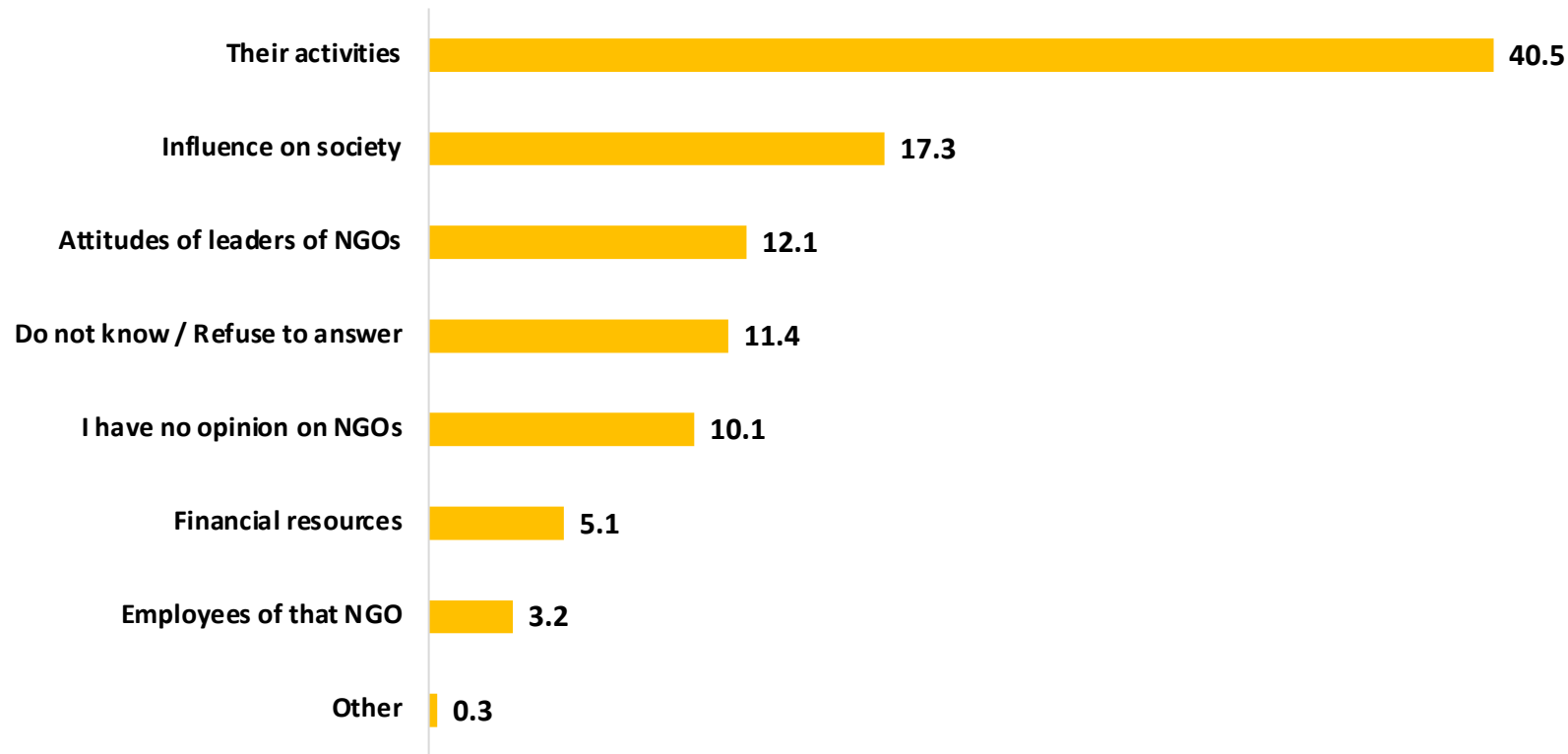


What is your opinion about non-governmental organizations?



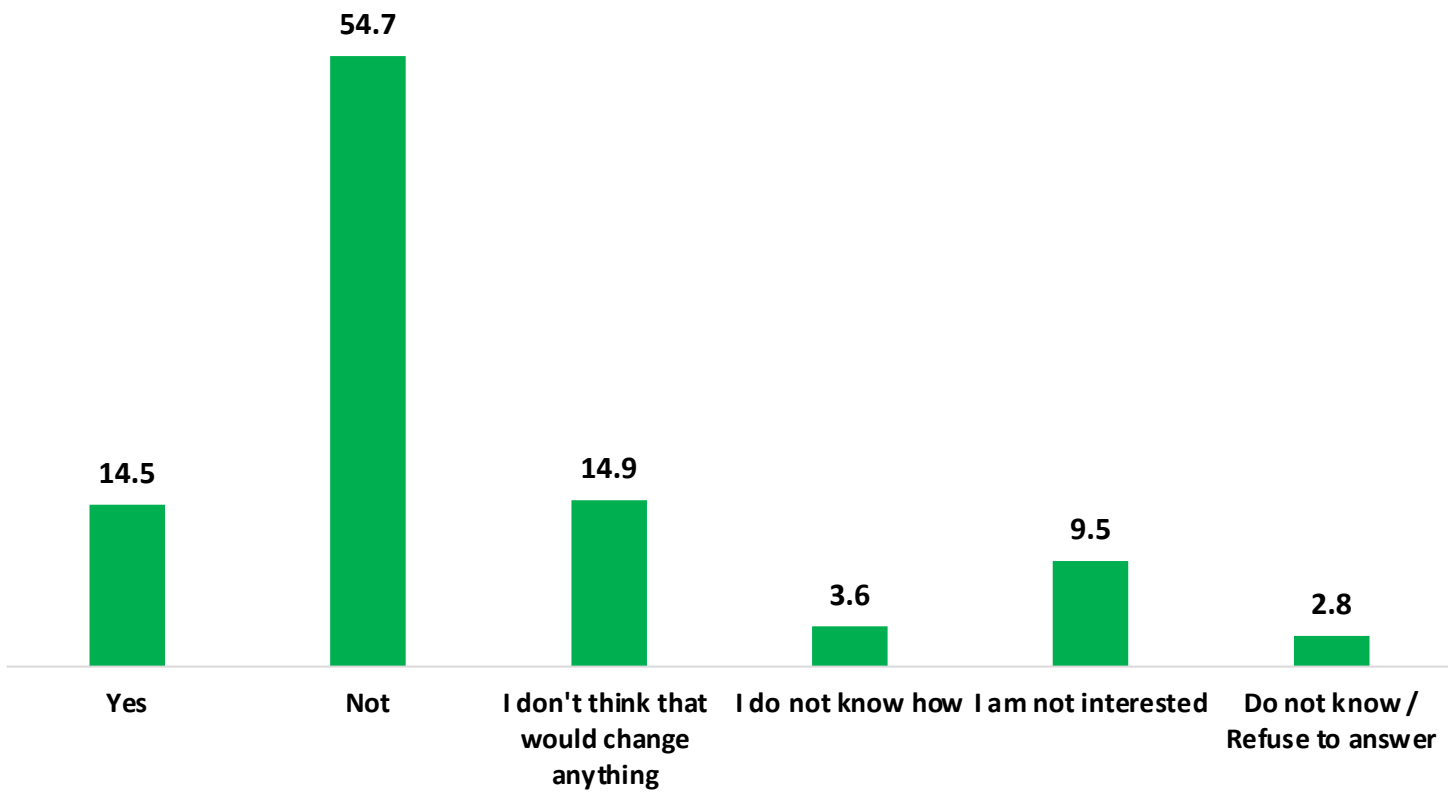
In the general position towards non-governmental organizations, the positive attitude of citizens and the assessment that NGOs work well prevail (47.6%), while slightly more than a fifth (22%) disagree with this statement. Over a third of citizens (30.4%) do not have an opinion on this issue. Similar to information, as the level of education increases, so does the more positive attitude towards NGOs.

What has the strongest influence on creating your attitude about an NGO?



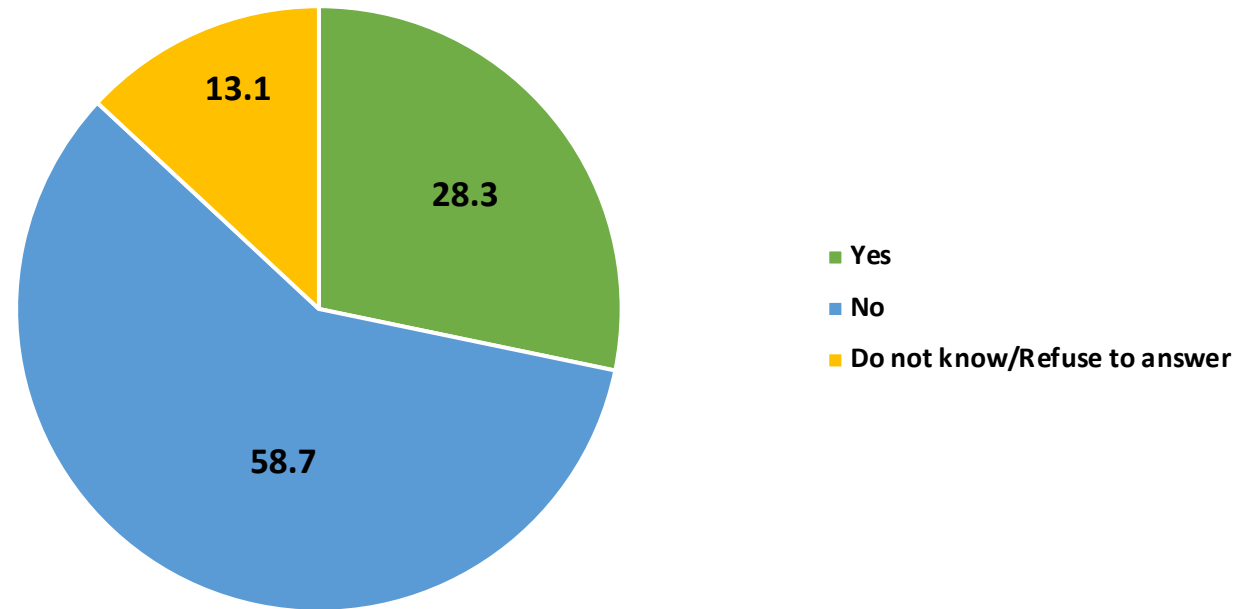
Creating an attitude about an NGO is mostly influenced by the activities of that NGO (40.5%), followed by the perceived influence of that NGO on society (17.3%), but also the standpoints of the leader of that NGO (12.1%). The activities of NGOs are becoming more important to citizens as their educational level grows, while those without education above-average form opinion according to the attitudes of NGO leaders.

In the past 12 months, have you personally initiated any action aimed at addressing a specific problem in your community?



In the last year, citizens were not motivated to engage themselves in social work. Over half of them (54.7%) stated that in that period they did not take any action aimed at addressing a specific community problem in which they live. It is also interesting that there is a slightly larger number of those who think in advance that such an action would not change anything than number of those who have tried at least something, and about a dozen are not interested.

Would you consider getting involved in an NGO activity that promotes the goals, activities, or changes you advocate?



As a result of the strong social inactivity of citizens in the last year, over half (58.7%) state that they would not get involved in the activities of NGOs that promote the goals, activities or changes they advocate, while less than a third (28.3 %) is willing to engage in such activities.

NGOs in relation to various actors, interests and goals

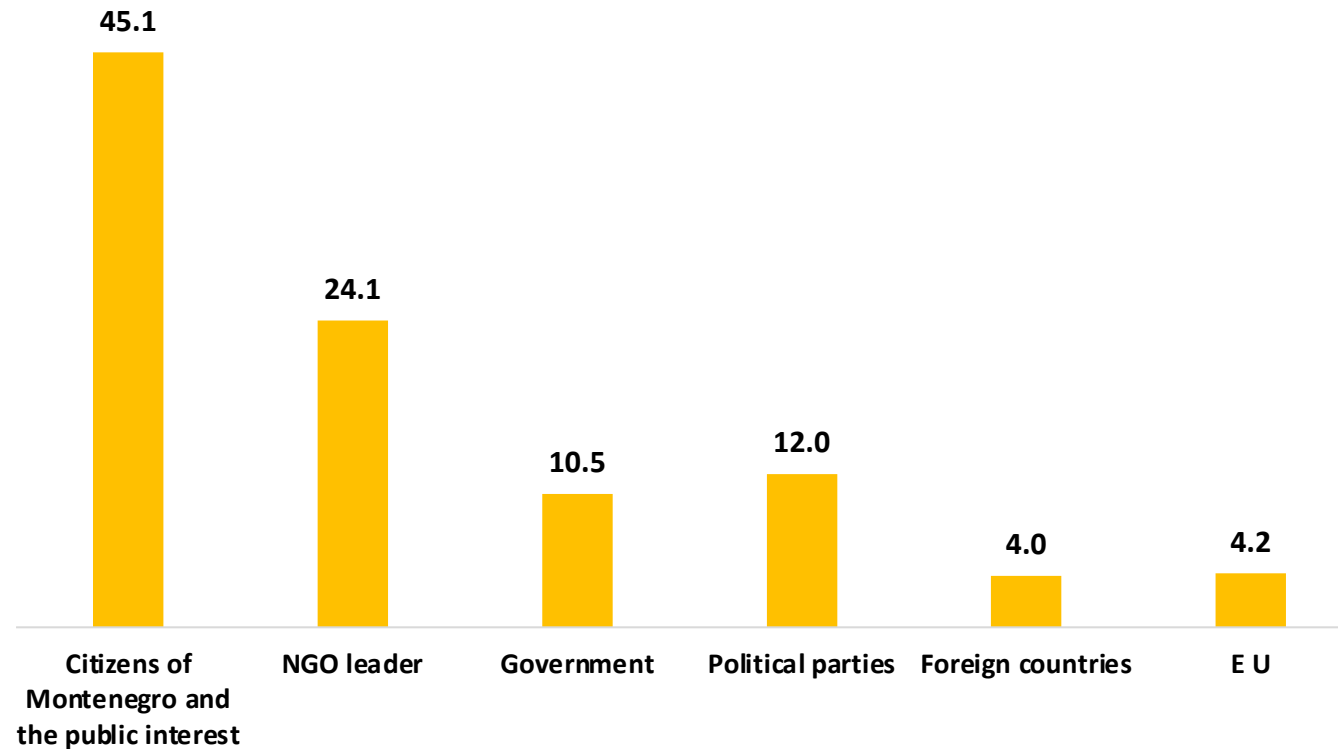
	Strongly disagree	Partially disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Partially agree	I completely agree
NGOs are independent of the government	11.1	21.8	34.5	24.0	8.5
NGOs are independent of political parties	12.7	22.3	34.9	21.8	8.4
NGOs are trying to be a corrective to the government	6.1	12.7	44.8	28.3	8.0
NGOs have been very critical of the previous government, but are now predominantly silent in their criticism, although many old problems have remained	9.8	13.1	46.1	20.7	10.3
NGOs are fighting for justice and human rights of all, and especially of marginalized and jeopardized	7.1	16.5	42.5	23.5	10.3
NGOs are committed to European values and standards	5.9	12.9	40.7	30.2	10.3
NGOs mostly serve the personal interests of individuals	6.4	18.4	45.7	20.2	9.3
The real goals of NGOs depend on who finances them	5.3	11.1	41.8	29.1	12.6
NGOs have an important role to play in pointing out and solving problems in society	5.6	10.8	44.9	29.4	9.3

NGOs in relation to various actors, interests and goals

- Citizens are divided over the independence of NGOs from the government, so slightly over a third (34.5%) cannot give a clear answer, a third (33%) partially or completely disagree, while almost a third (32.5%) partially or completely agrees that NGOs are independent of the government.
- The situation is similar with regard to the independence of NGOs from political parties.
- The opinion that NGOs are trying to be a corrective of the government is partially or completely supported by 36.3% of citizens, while 18.8% of citizens have the opposite opinion. 44.8% of citizens could not answer.
- Slightly less than a third of citizens (31%) support the position that NGOs were very critical of the previous government, but now dominantly silenced in criticism although many old problems have remained. Less than a quarter (23%) of citizens partially or completely disagree with this statement, while the majority (46%) do not have a defined attitude.
- The majority of citizens (42.5%) could not say whether NGOs fight for justice and human rights of all, especially the marginalized and vulnerable. This position is partially or completely supported by 34%, while 23.6% of citizens do not agree with it to some extent.

- The majority of citizens (40.5%) are either of the opinion that NGOs are committed to European values and standards, or neutral (40.7%), while less than a fifth (18.8%) have the opposite opinion.
- Most citizens neither agree nor disagree with the statement that NGOs mostly serve the personal interests of individuals (45.7%), and 29.5% of citizens partially or completely agree with such an attitude, while 24.8% of citizens partially or completely disagree.
- The prevailing attitude of citizens (41.7%) is that the real goals of NGOs depend on who finances them, or that they do not have an opinion (41.8%), while 16.4% of respondents disagree with this opinion.
- About 45% of citizens do not have a clear position on the importance of the role of NGOs in pointing out and solving problems in society, while this role is recognized by 38.7% of citizens, and is not recognized by 16.4% of citizens.

In whose interest do NGOs work?



The majority of Montenegrin citizens (45.1%) consider that NGOs work in their and the public interest. Almost a quarter (24%) are of the opinion that the work of NGOs is in the service of its leaders. Slightly more than one-eighth (12%) believe that NGOs work in the interest of political parties, and every tenth respondent estimates that NGOs work in the interest of the Government.

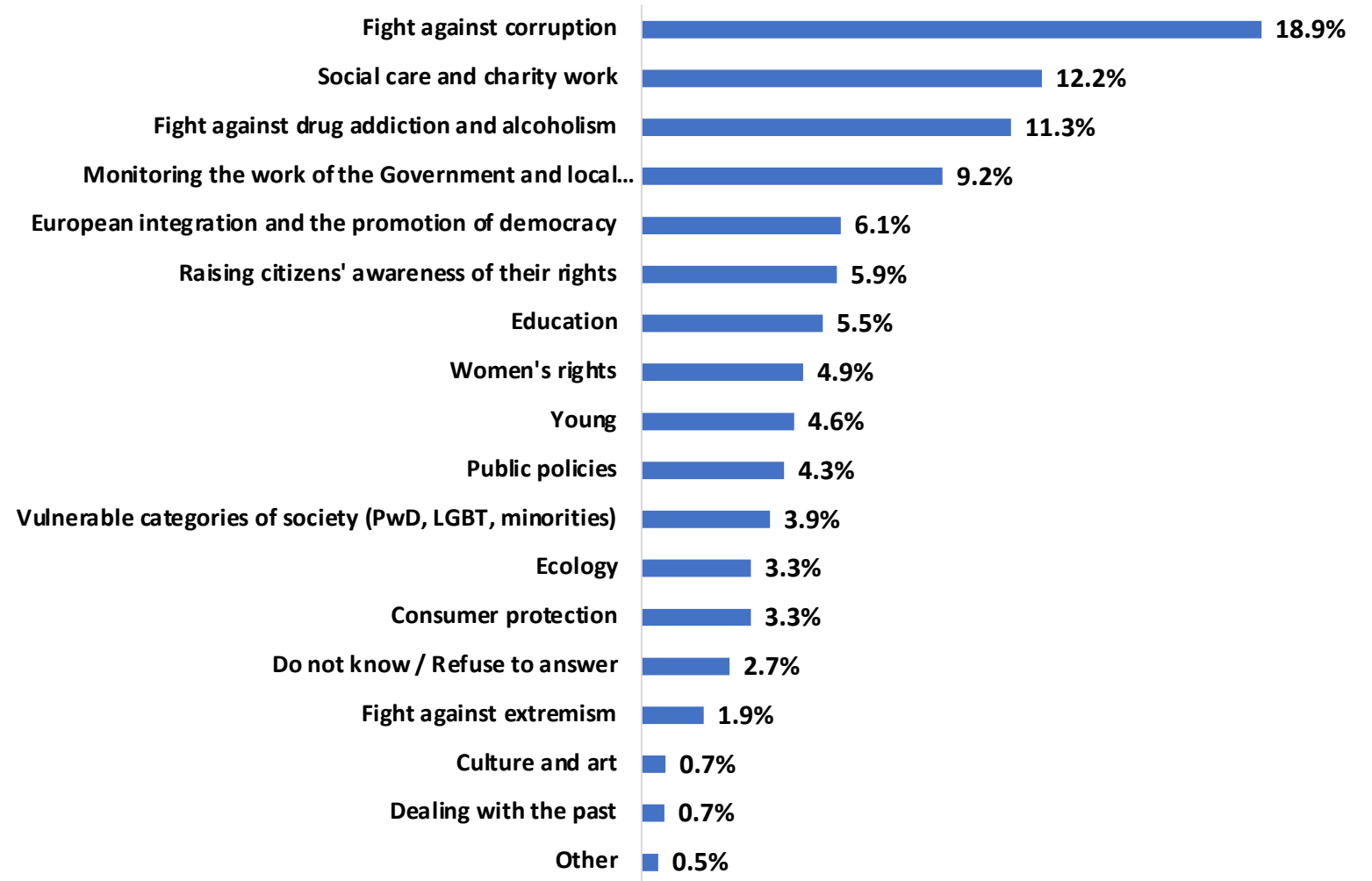
In which areas are NGOs in Montenegro most active?



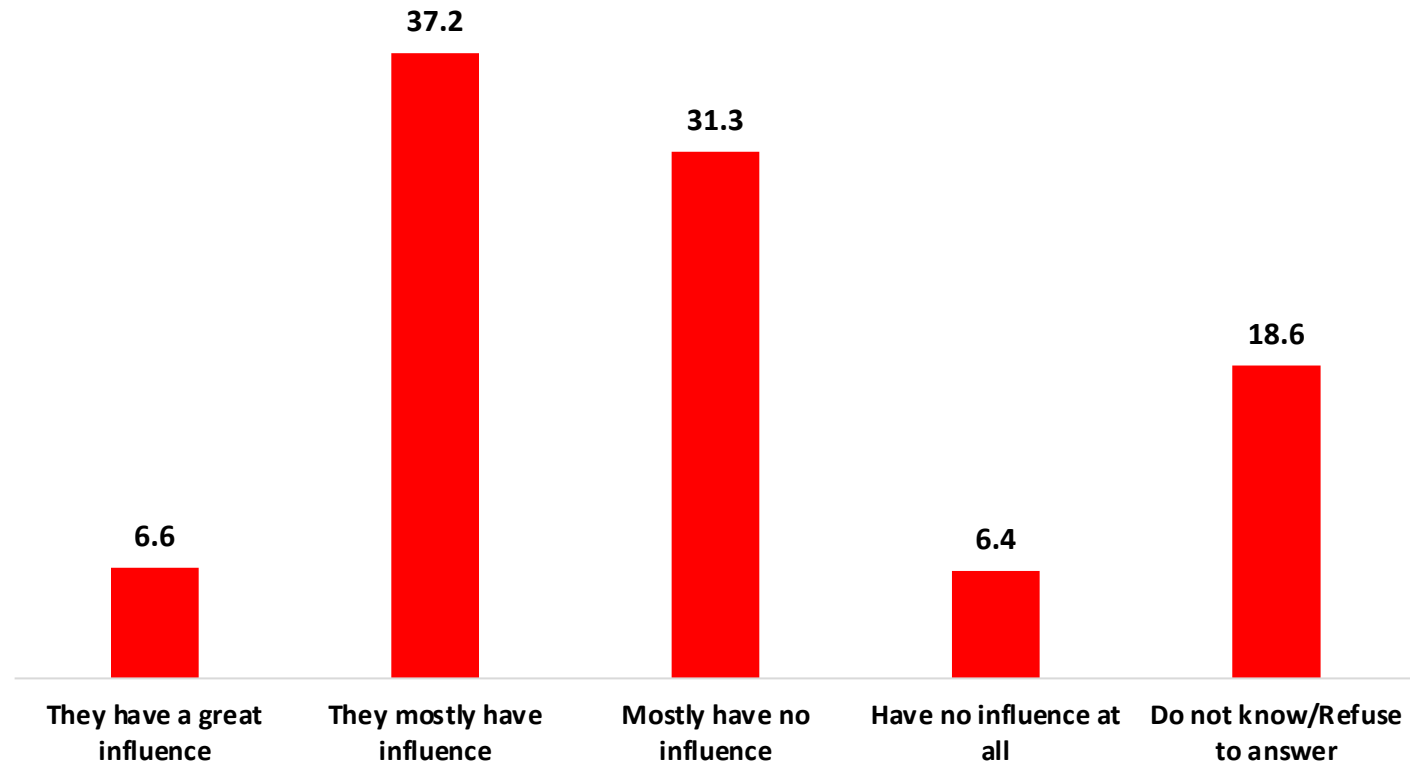
The most recognizable work of the NGO is in the area of anti-corruption (32%). Work with vulnerable categories of society, monitoring the work of Government and local authorities, fight against drug and alcohol addiction, as well as in European integration and the promotion of democracy is also noted.

In which areas should NGOs in Montenegro be more involved?

Citizens believe that NGOs should be more involved in the fight against corruption (19%), social welfare and charity work (12.2%), the fight against drug and alcohol addiction (11.3%) and monitoring the work of the Government and local authorities (9.2%), as well as in European integration and the promotion of democracy (6.1%).

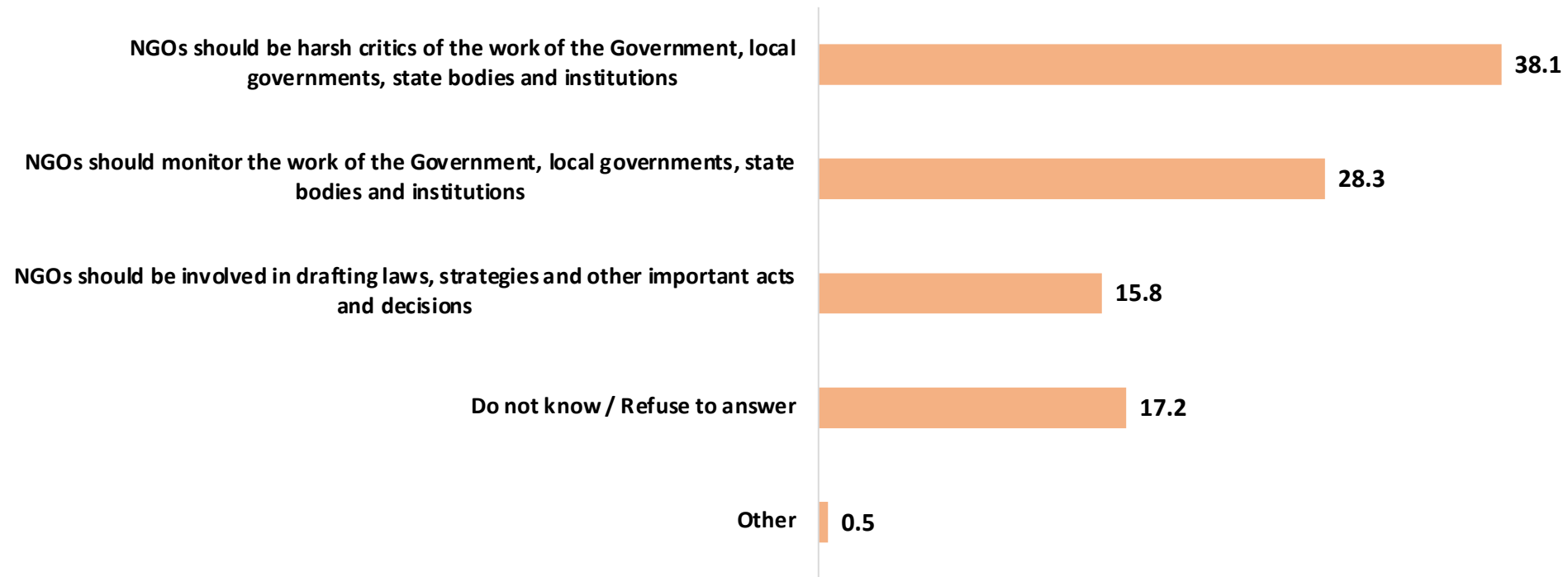


How much influence do NGOs have on improving the situation in Montenegrin society?



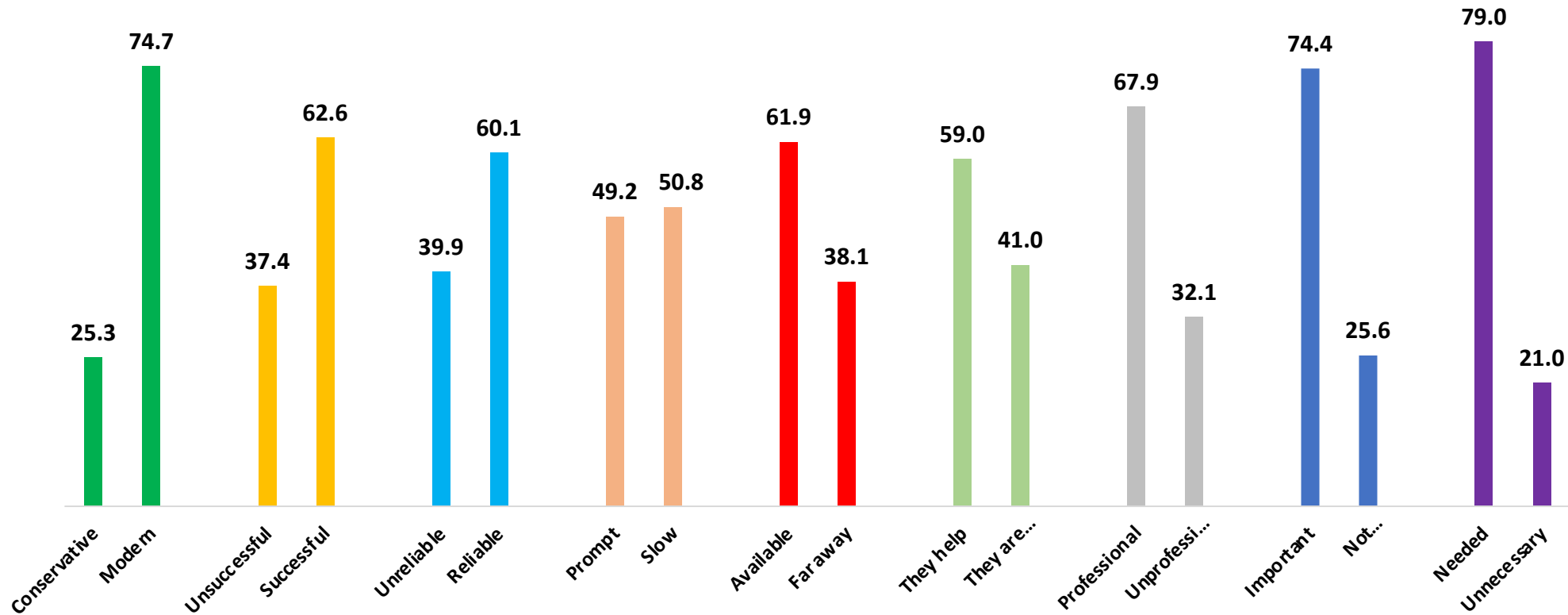
According to the perception of citizens, NGOs have considerable influence in society, i.e. cumulatively 43.8% of them recognize a certain type of NGO influence, which is disproportionate to the real possibilities of NGOs, but also a reflection of lack of trust in the institutional framework. In addition to a fifth of those who cannot estimate that impact, 37.7% are those who consider that NGOs have little or no influence.

What is the most important role that NGOs should play in Montenegro?



In determining the most important role of NGOs in society, **the prevailing attitude of citizens (38.1%) is that NGOs should be harsh critics of the work of the Government, local governments, state bodies and institutions.** This is followed by the positions that NGOs should monitor the work of the Government, local governments, state bodies and institutions (28.3%), and participate in the drafting of laws, strategies and other important acts and decisions (15.8%). Less than a fifth have no opinion on what is the most important role of NGOs.

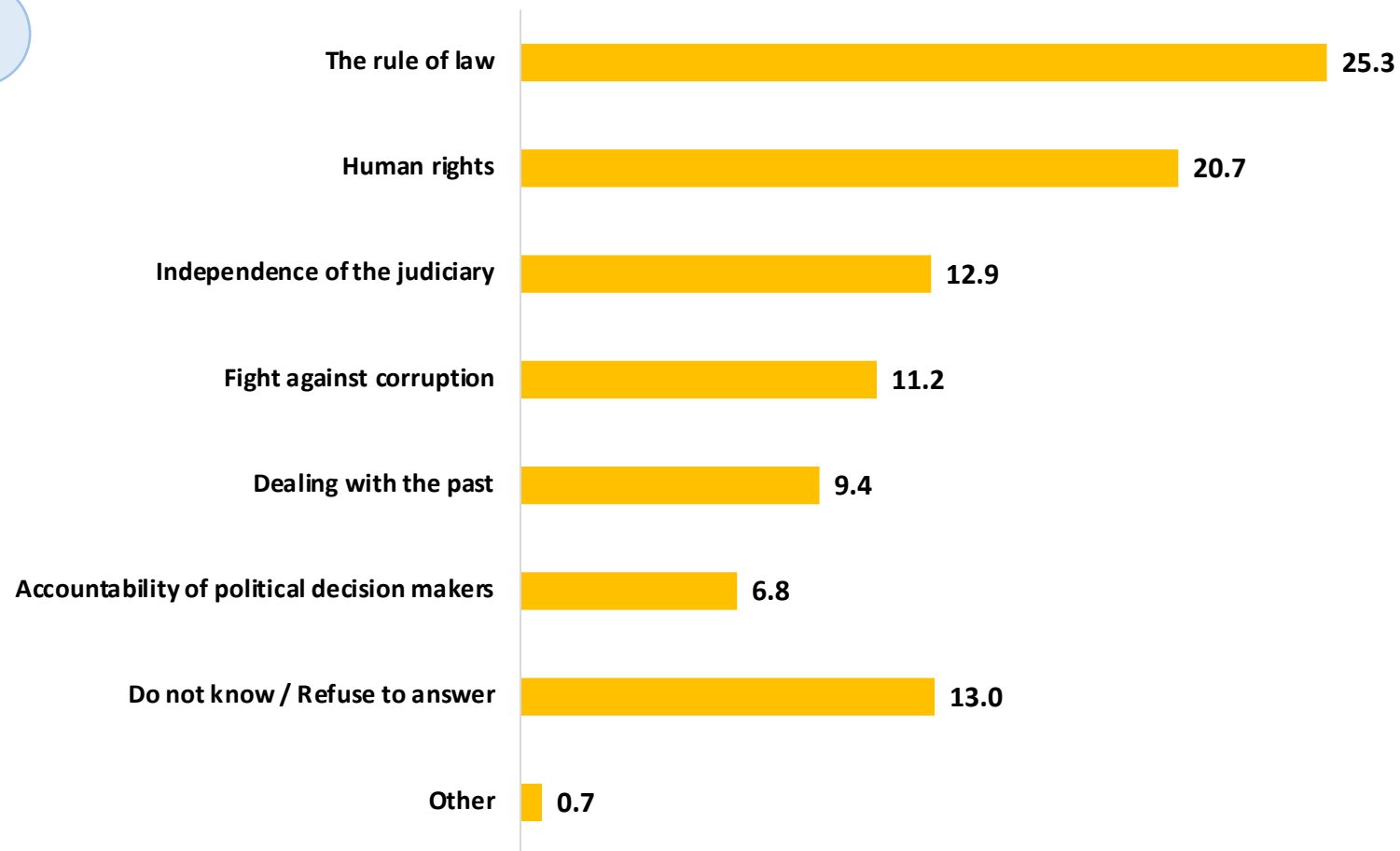
How would you characterize NGOs?



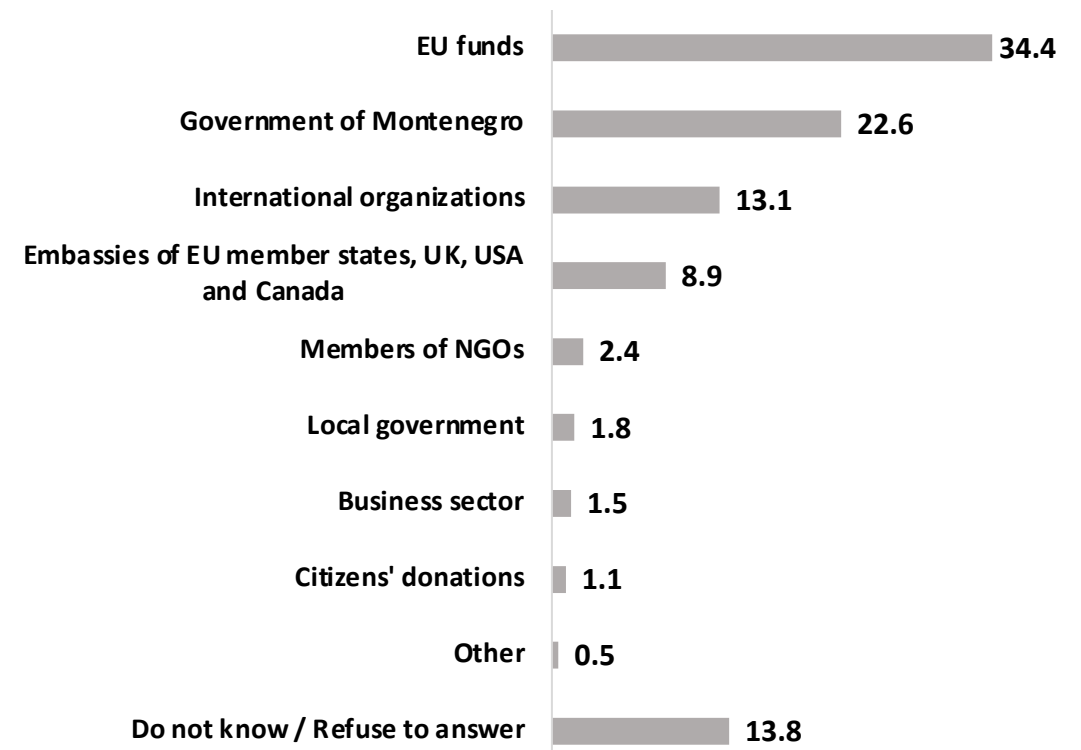
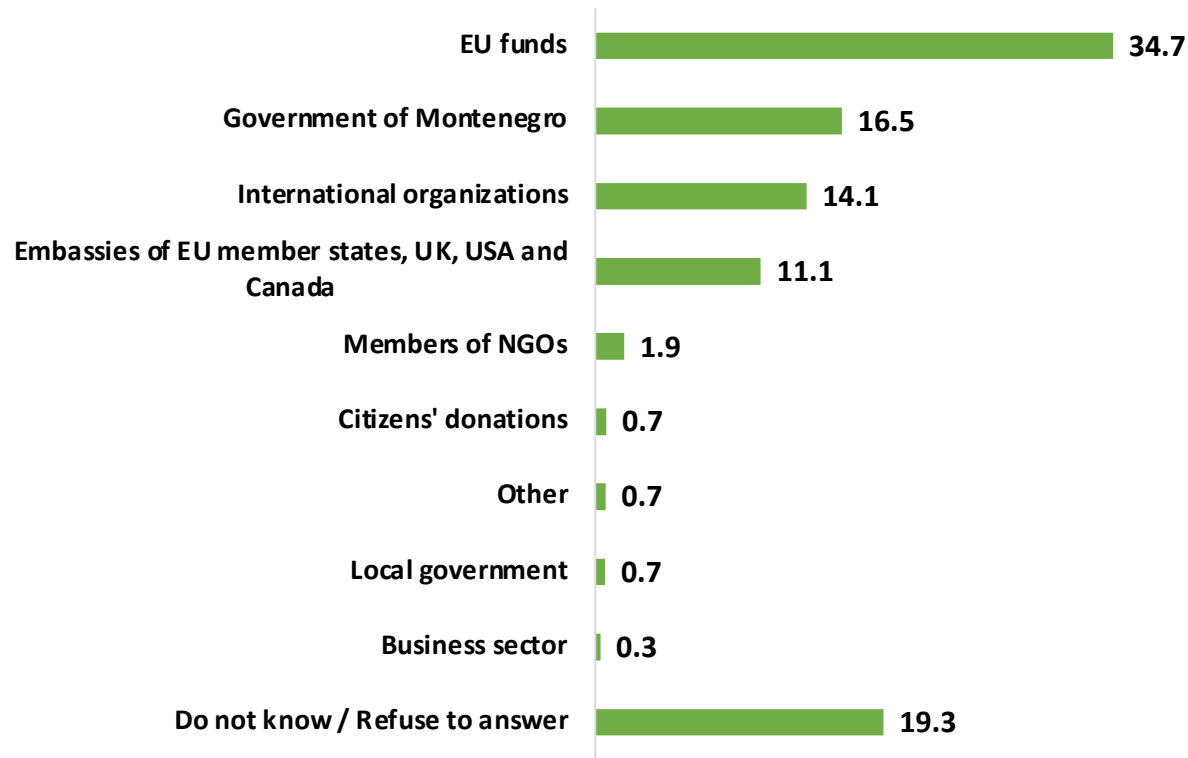
NGOs are predominantly recognized as needed, important, professional, reliable and accessible, those who help, and citizens perceive them as modern and successful organizations. Attitudes are somewhat more divided over the promptitude of NGO work.

Which of the issues that NGOs raise are important for the democratization and Europeanization of society?

Among the issues that NGOs raise as the most important for democratization and Europeanization, citizens cite the rule of law (25.3%), then human rights (20.7%), independence of the judiciary (13%) and the fight against corruption (11.2%), while lower on the scale are dealing with the past (9.4%) and the accountability of political decision-makers (6.8%).



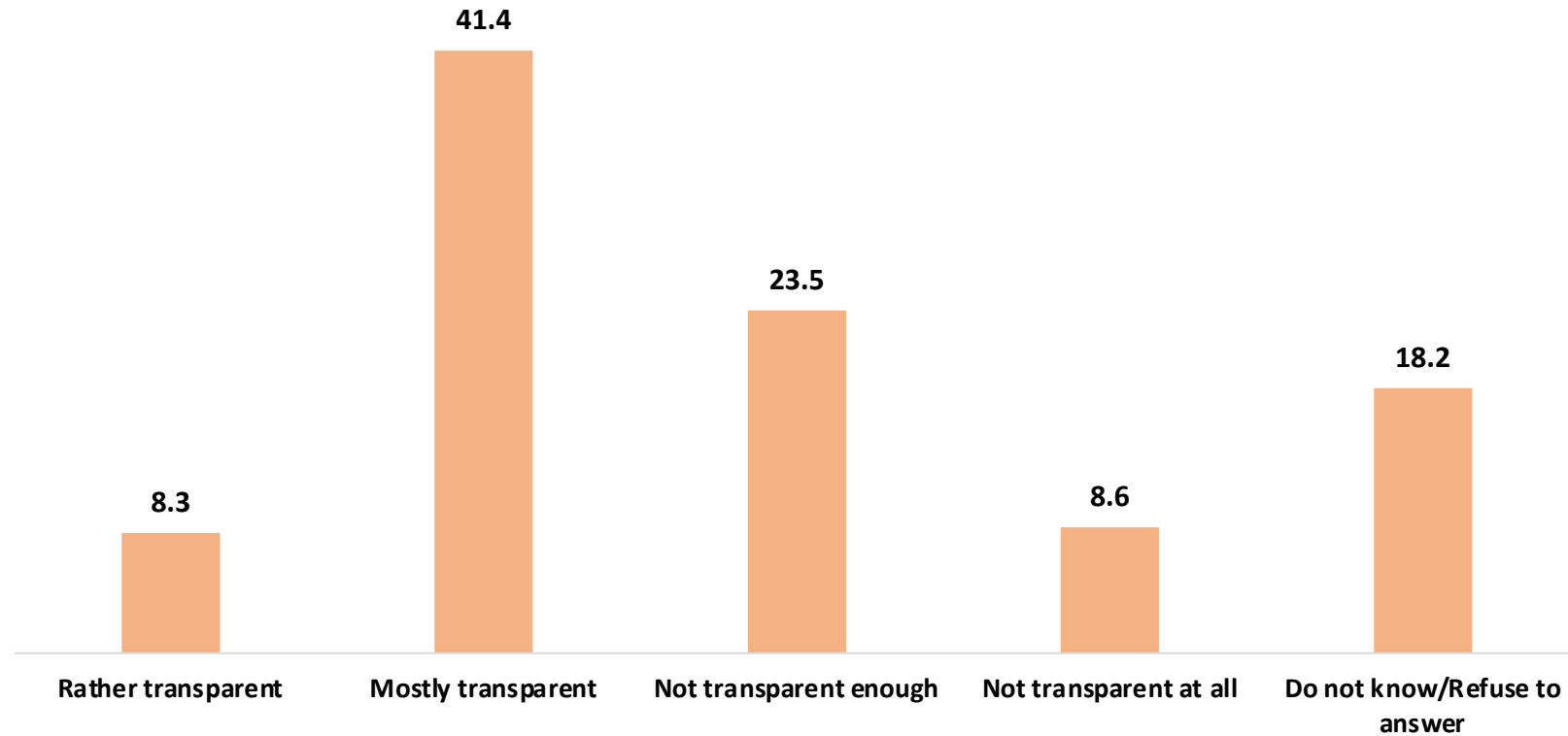
In your opinion, who are the main donors of NGOs in Montenegro, and who should be mostly support NGOs?



Citizens currently see the EU as the main donor to the NGO sector (34.7%), followed by the Government of Montenegro (16.5%), then international organizations (14%) and embassies of EU member states, the UK, the US and Canada (11%).

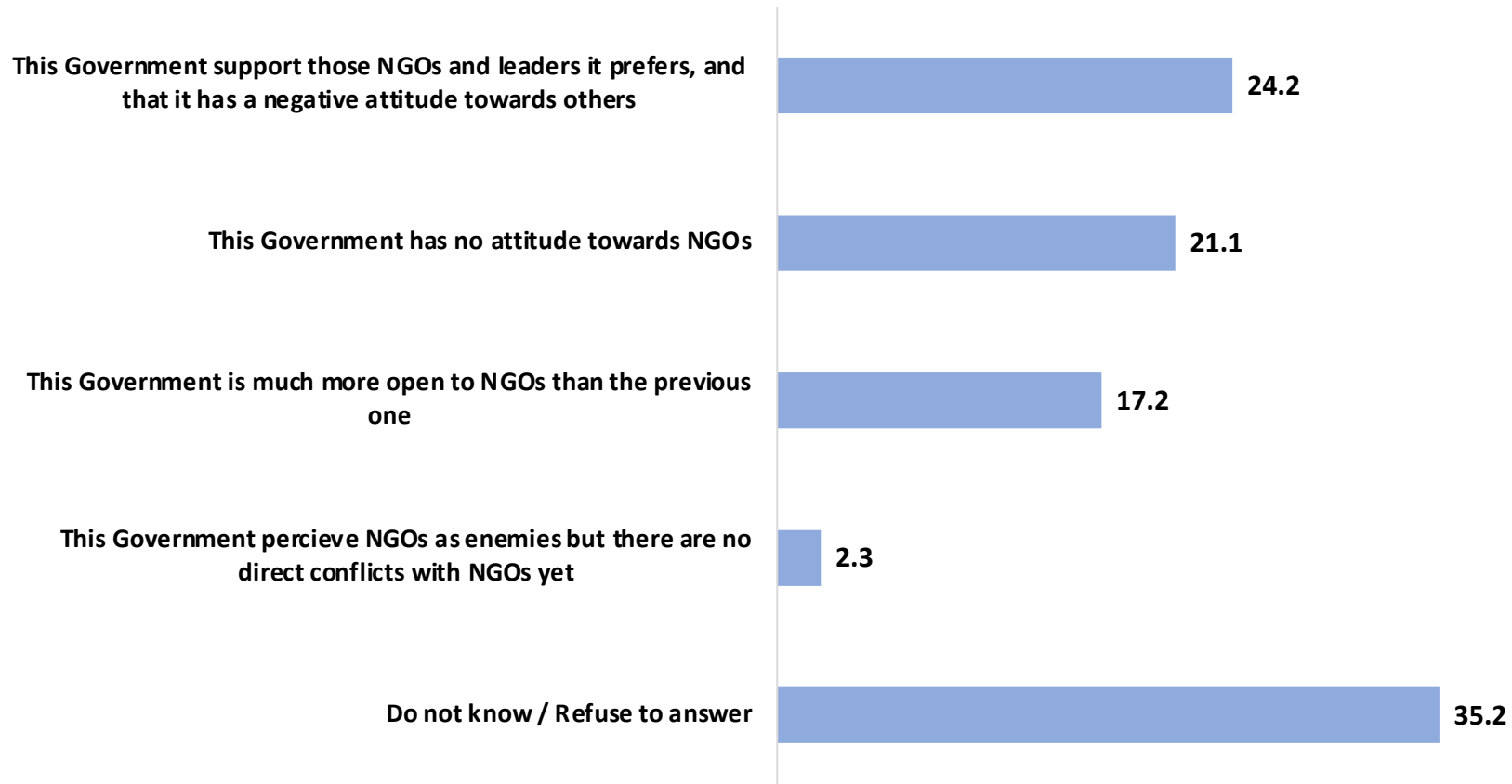
When asked who should be the main donors, the scale is similar, except that there is a significantly higher number of those (22.6%) who believe that the Government should take greater responsibility in this area, which is not in line with the Government's plan to reduce allocations to NGOs by 60% in the next year.

How transparent are NGOs in their work?



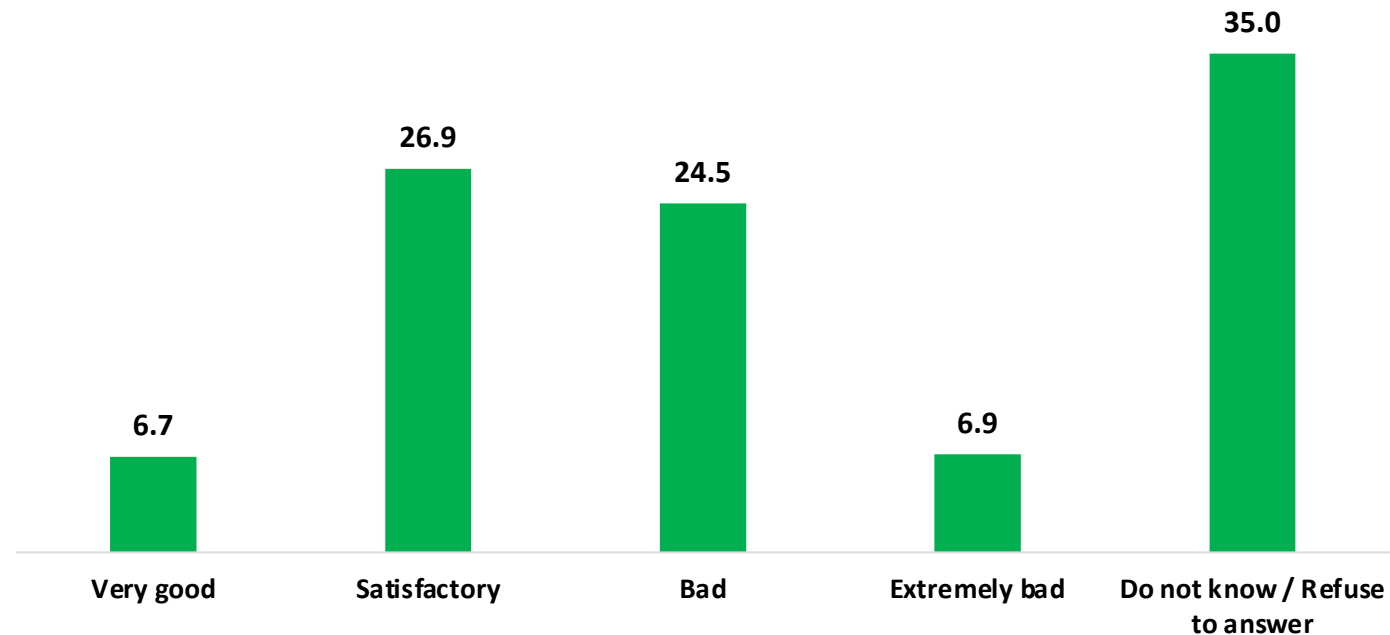
The vast majority of citizens consider that NGOs are mostly or completely transparent in their work (49.7%), while less than a third think that they are not transparent enough or not transparent at all (32.1%), and somewhat less than fifth do not have an attitude.

In your opinion, what is the position of this Government towards NGOs?



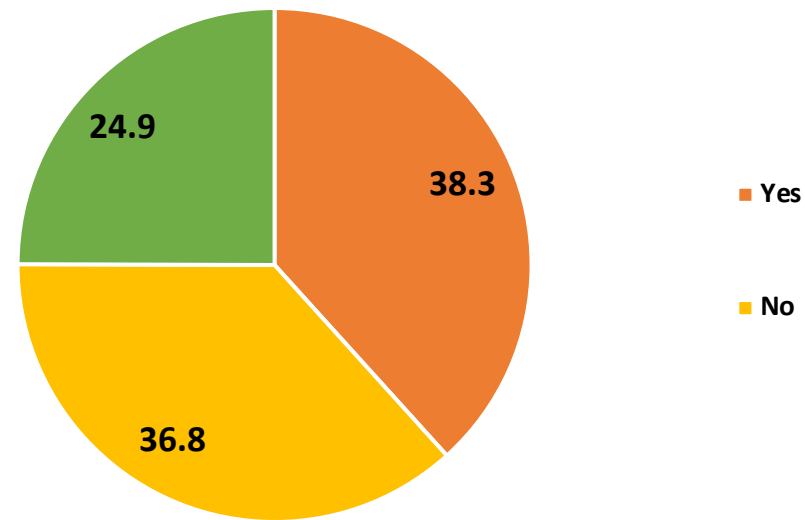
When it comes to the position of this Government towards NGOs, it is prevailing attitude that **this Government support those NGOs and leaders it prefers, and that it has a negative attitude towards others (24.2%)**. About **one-fifth of citizens consider that this Government has no attitude towards NGOs**, and **approximately one sixth (17.2%) of citizens believe that this Government is much more open to NGOs than the previous one**. However, **slightly over 35% of citizens do not have an opinion on this issue**.

Cooperation between the Government and NGOs in Montenegro



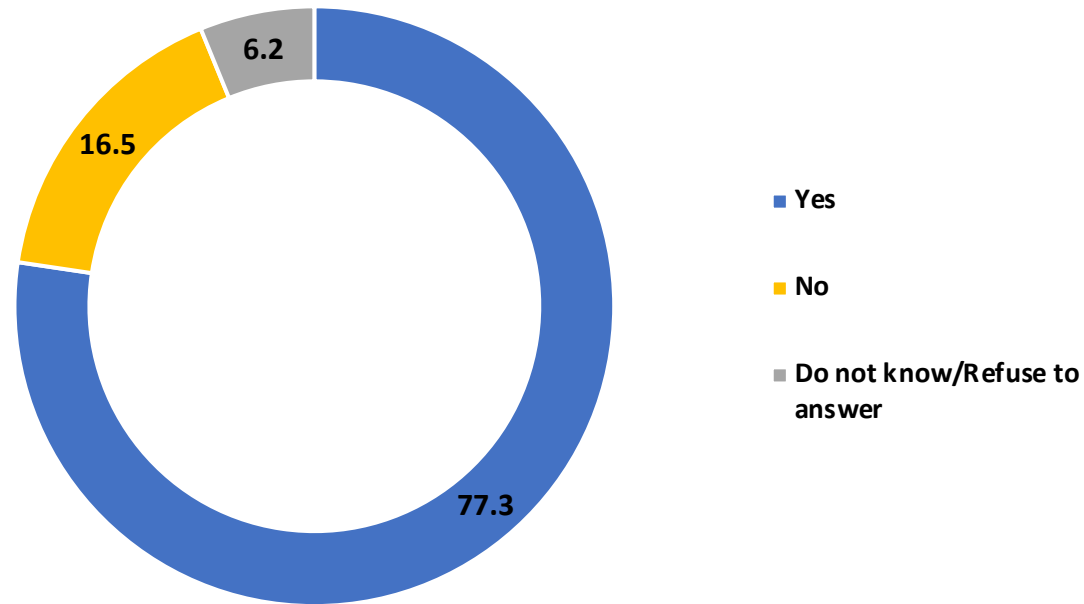
Opinions are divided when it comes to assessing the cooperation between the Government and NGOs. Thus, just over one-third (33.6%) of citizens believe that this cooperation is satisfactory or good, while less than a third (31.4%) assess this cooperation as bad or extremely bad.

Is there a good climate in Montenegro for the development of NGOs that can freely criticize and limit the government when necessary?



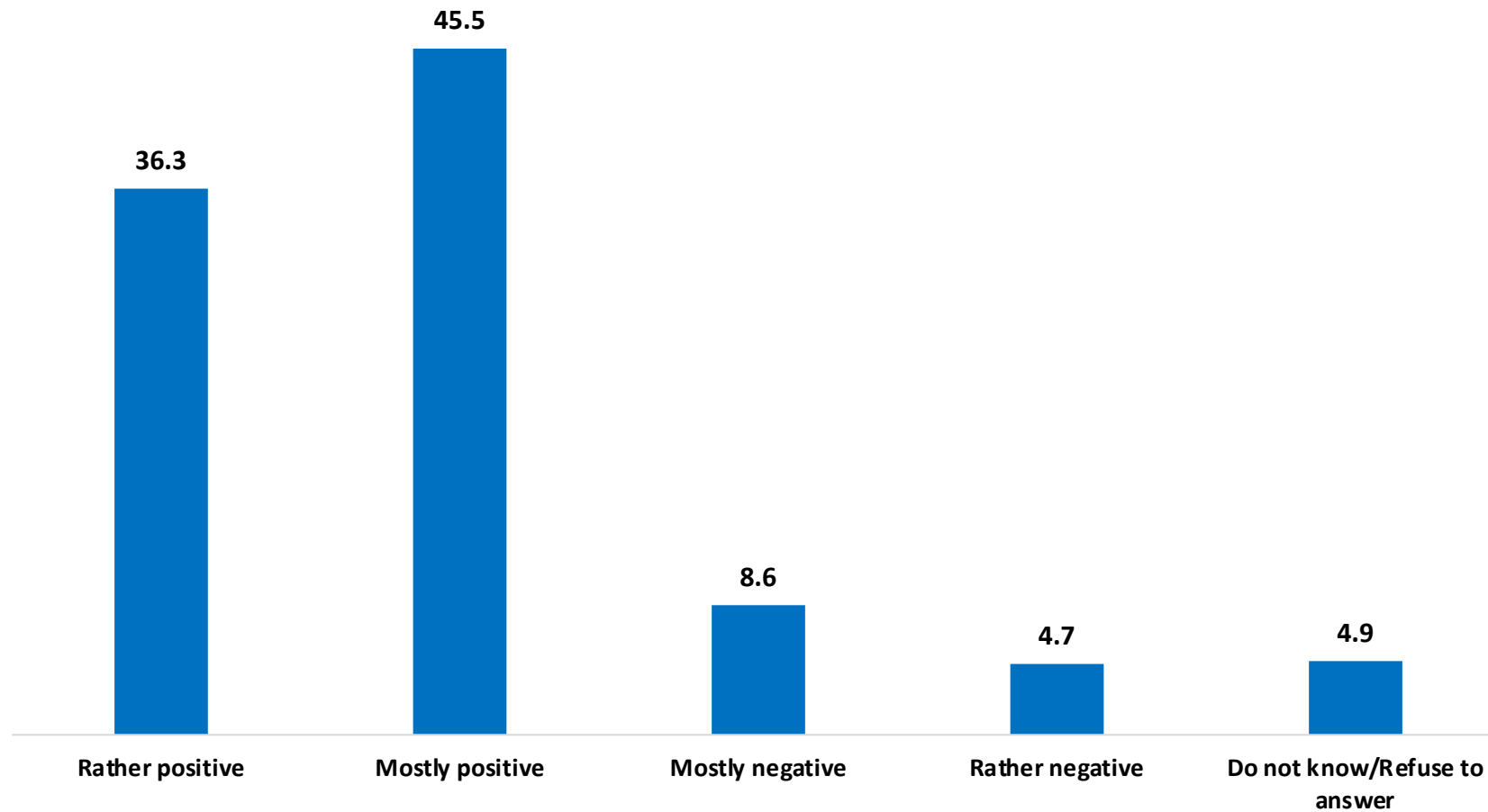
The division of views is emphasized in the **assessment of conditions for the development of NGOs that are free to criticize and control the government when necessary**, so **38.3%** of citizens believe that there are **good climate for this**, **36.8%** have the **opposite position**, and almost a fifth did not have an opinion on this issue.

Do you support Montenegro's membership in the EU?



More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of citizens or 77.3%, support Montenegro's membership in the EU. Among the opponents, the most numerous are men, the elder, as well as respondents who nationally identify themselves as Serbs. Also, at some lower levels of education there is a higher share of those who are against membership.

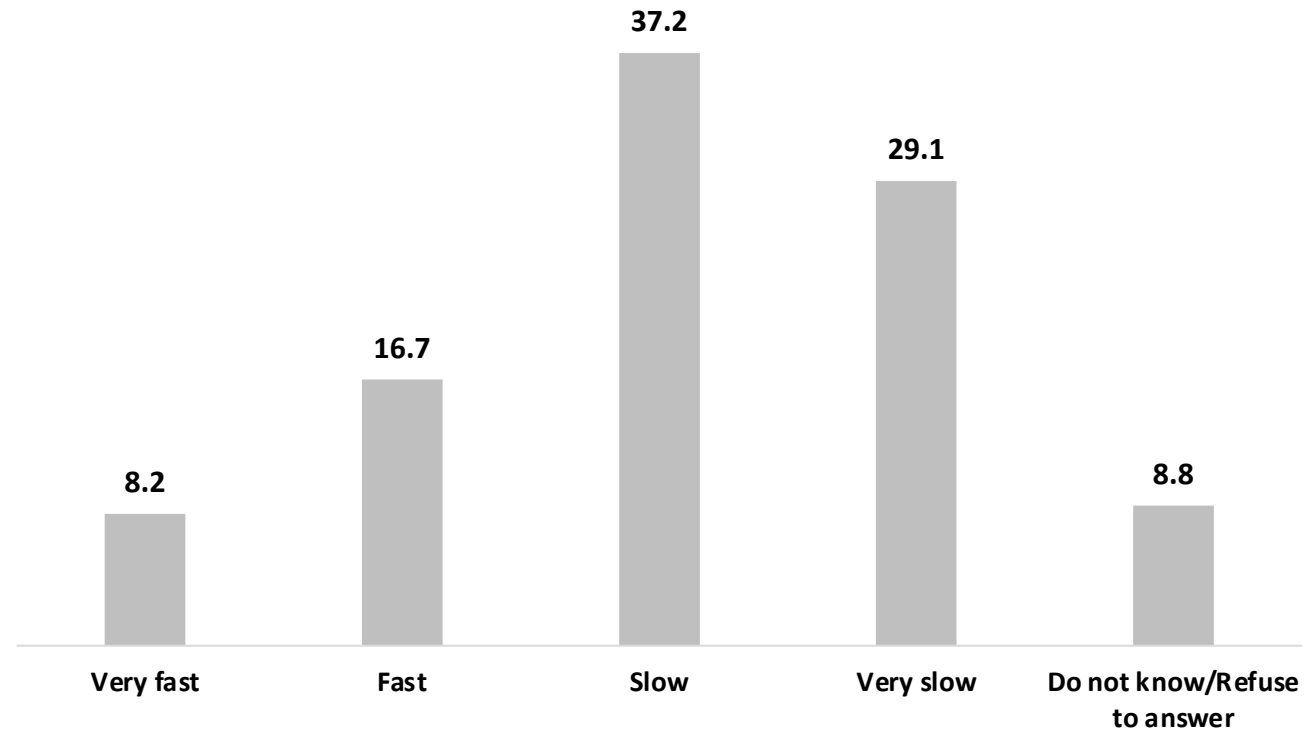
What is your general attitude towards the EU?



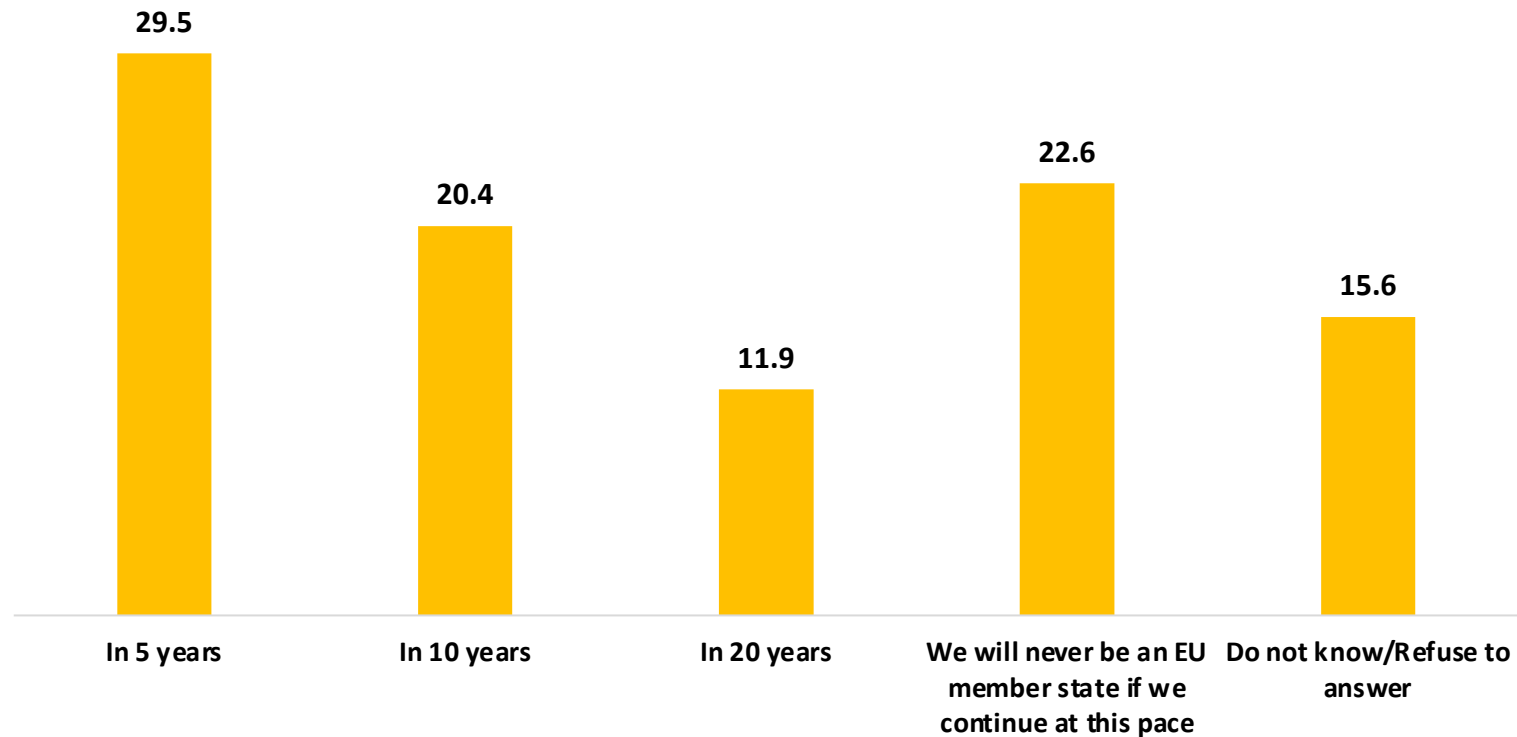
The vast majority of Montenegrin citizens (81.8%) have a positive or mostly positive attitude towards the EU. Slightly more than a seventh respondents (13.3%) have a mostly or rather negative attitude.

In your opinion, how fast is Montenegro moving in the accession negotiation process with the EU?

The majority of citizens (66.3%) consider that Montenegro is moving slowly or very slowly in the accession negotiation process with the EU, while only a quarter consider this dynamics as fast or very fast.

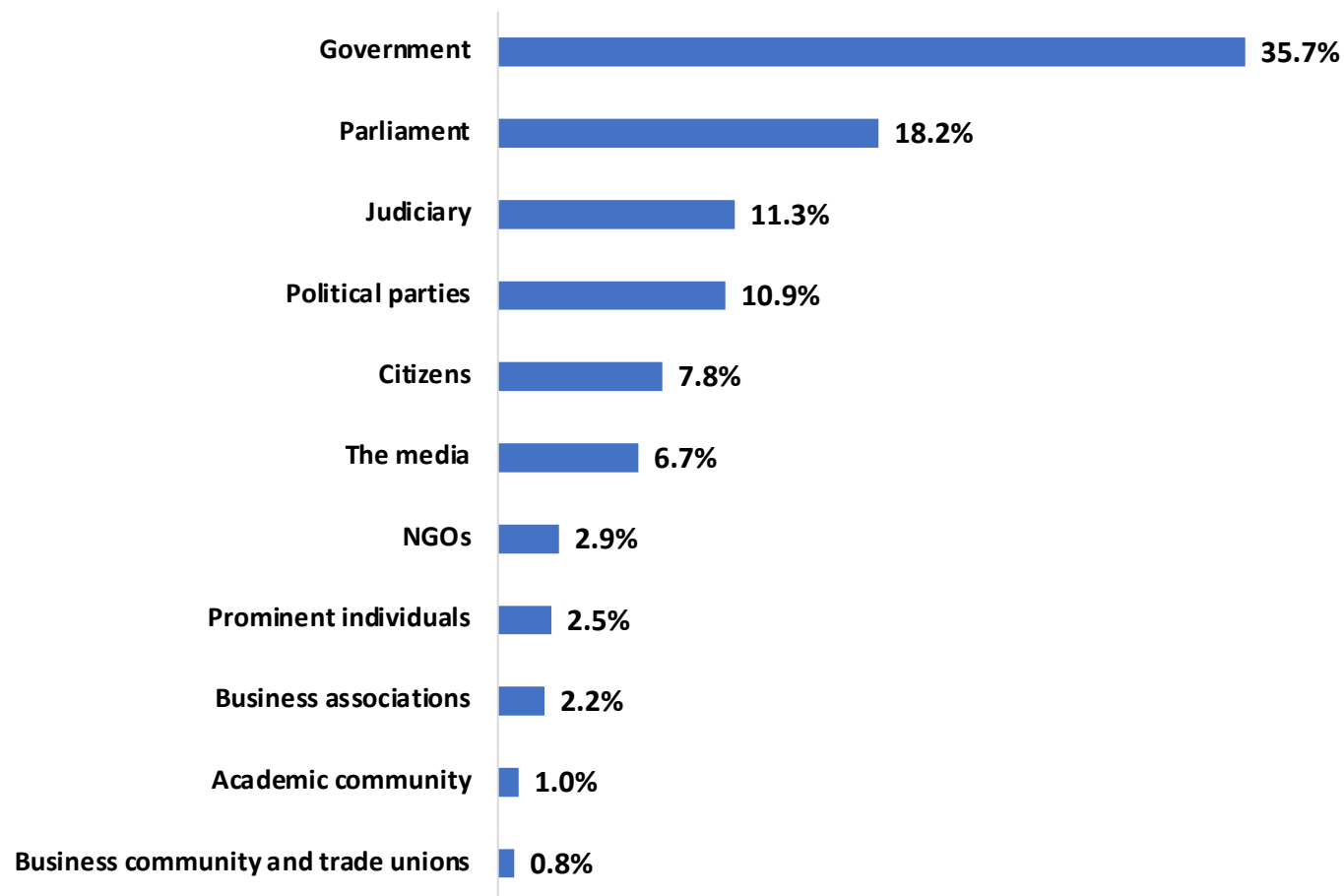


When do you think Montenegro will become a member of the EU at this pace?



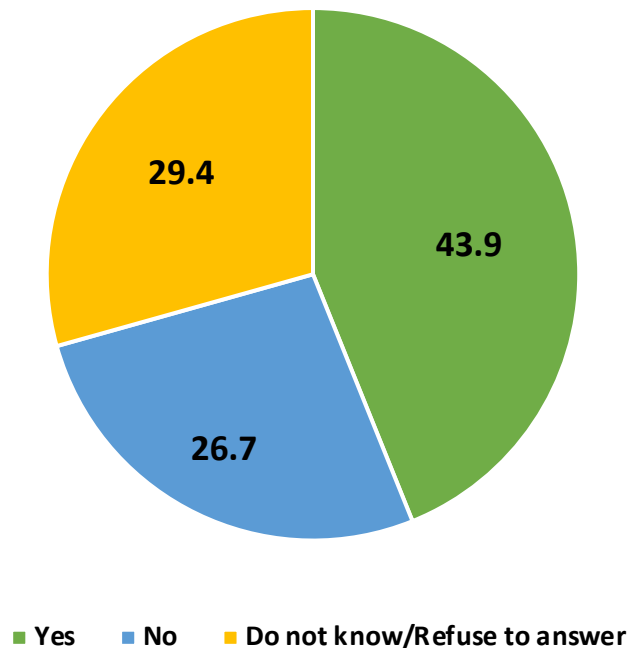
Given the perceived slow pace on the EU path, the optimism of the citizens that we will become a member of the EU still exists. Thus, 29.5% of them believe that Montenegro will become EU member in five years, while 20.4% are of the opinion that it will be in 10 years, and 12% in 20 years. Just over a fifth (22.6%) do not believe we will ever become an EU member.

In your opinion, who is most responsible for the dynamics of Montenegro's EU accession process?



It seems that in these nine years of negotiations, citizens have learned a lot about who is working what in this process, so **most of them (35.7%) consider that the Government is most responsible for the dynamics of Montenegro's accession to the EU.** Slightly less than a fifth (18.2%) think that it is the Parliament, and almost equal responsibility, according to citizens, have the judiciary (11.3%) and political parties (10.9%). **It is interesting and good that citizens perceive themselves as very responsible for the accession process.**

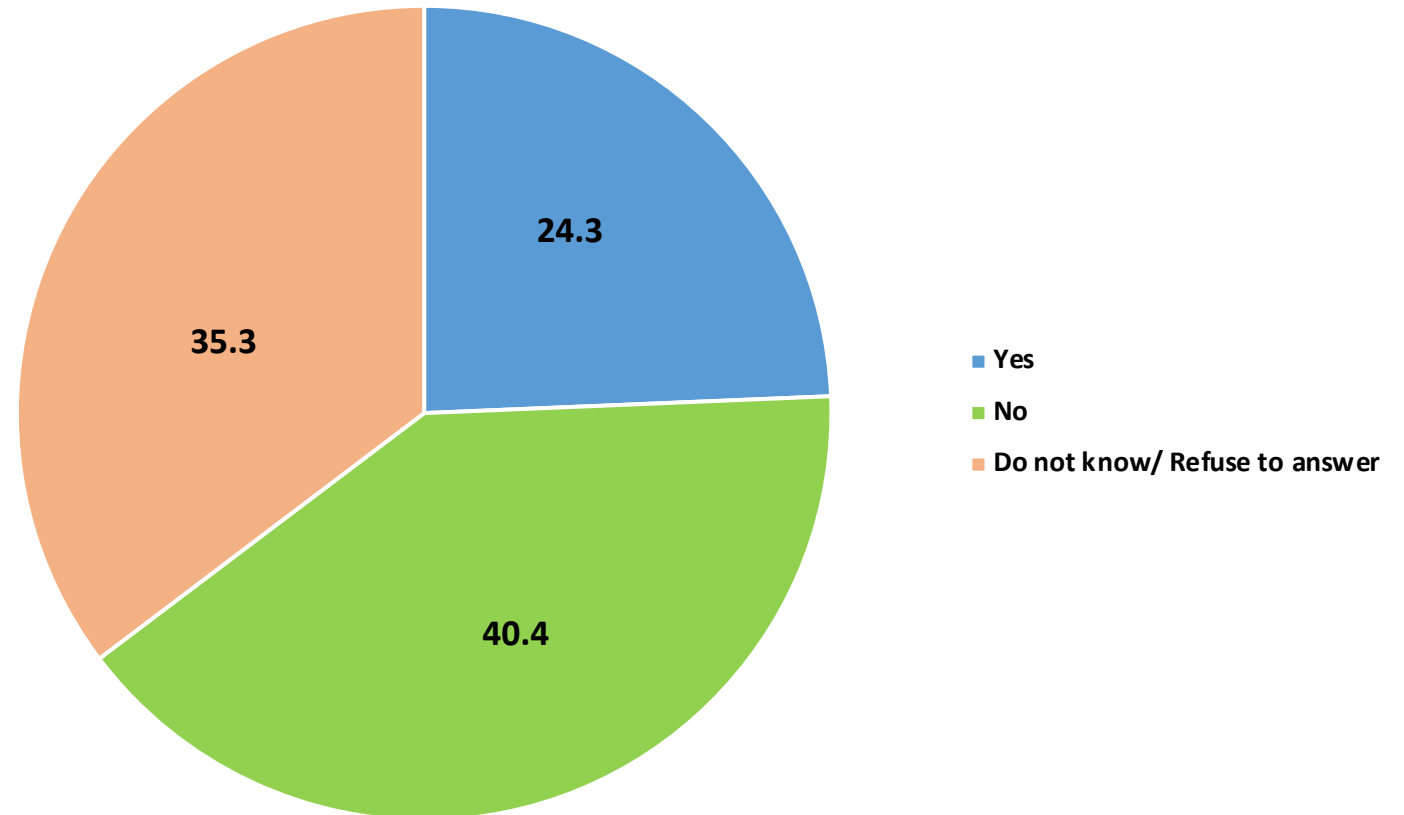
Do NGOs have expertise/knowledge concerning European integration?



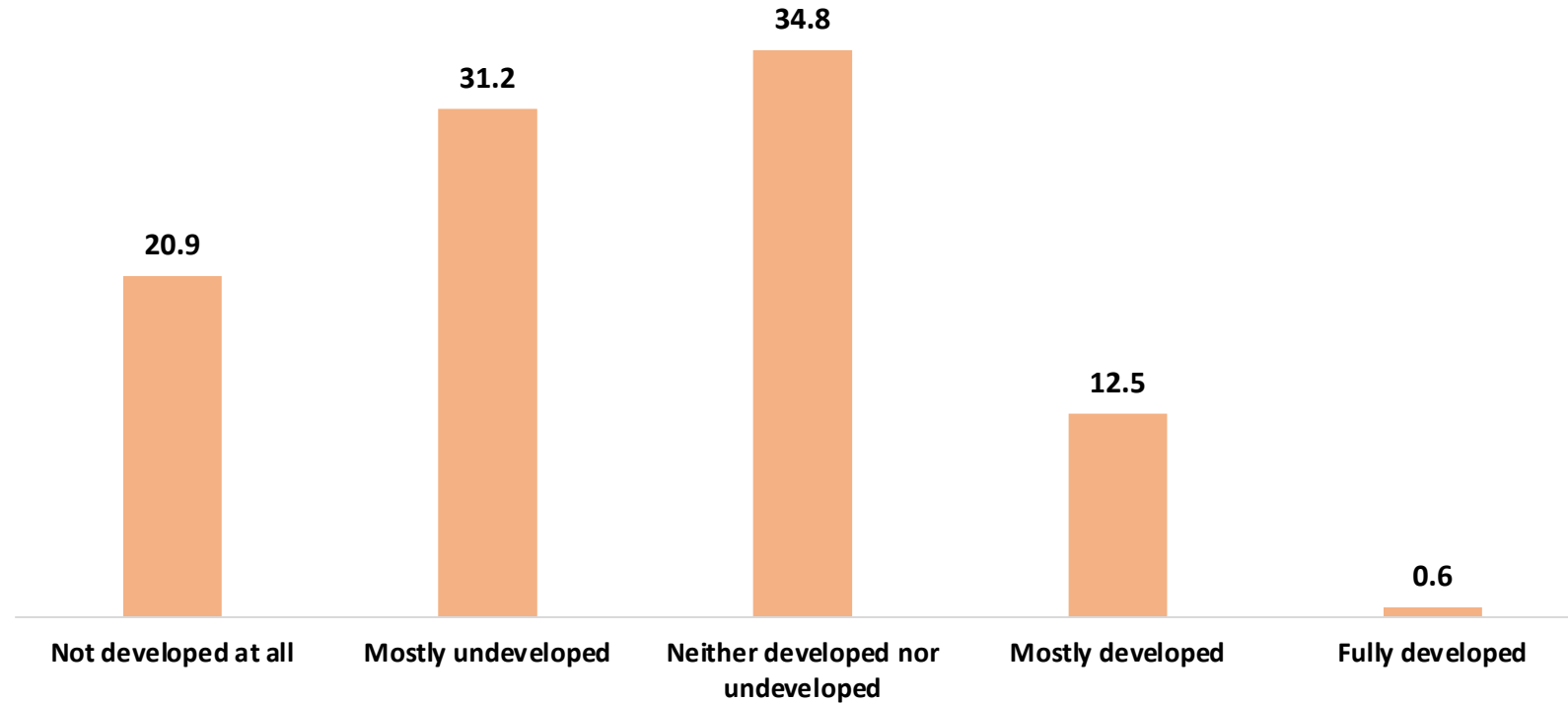
A significant majority of citizens believe that NGOs have expertise/knowledge concerning European integration (44%), while less than a third cannot assess this, and about a fifth do not attribute this capacity to the NGOs.

Do the authorities take into account the attitudes of NGOs regarding European integration process and Montenegro's commitments on that path?


The authorities seem to have a different view of NGO expertise in this area, and the majority of citizens (40.4%) find that the authorities do not consider the views of NGOs on the European integration process and Montenegro's commitments along that path. Slightly less than ¼ respondents (24.3%) believe that the Government take into account the attitudes of NGOs on this issue.



Social dialogue between trade unions, employers and the authorities on development, wages, employment and decent work, and labor and social rights is a fundamental, democratic value and a condition for EU integration. In your opinion, how developed is the social dialogue in Montenegro?



The dominant majority of Montenegrin citizens (52%) consider that the social dialogue of trade unions, employers and the authorities on development, wages, employment and decent work and labor and social rights is mostly or not developed at all. Slightly more than one-eighth (13.1%) consider that social dialogue in Montenegro is developed to some extent, and over a third could not assess.

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