

Research Results of Public Opinion on Constitutional Amendments

Armenia 2014

www.aprgroup.org

Methodology

▪ **Type of research.** Qualitative (Expert research)- Quantitative

▪ **Goal of the research.** Find out the opinion of experts in different areas, as well as Armenia's population opinion on constitutional amendments .

▪ **Issues for qualitative research.** *Reveal a) gaps of the current RA Constitution (if there are such) b) Gaps of “Concept of constitutional reforms of RA” worked out by the professional committee for constitutional reforms adjunct to the RA President, c) necessary additions related to them. d) Recommendations of experts .*

▪ **Issues for quantitative research .** *a) find out population’s attitude towards the processes taking place in the country as well as towards the constitutional reforms. b) find out to what extent they are aware of the amendments. g) reveal their expectations from the change process d) receive their recommendations thus making them a part of such an important political process as the Change of Constitution.*

▪ **Method of research.** In-depth interviews with experts, face to face interviews with householders by semi-structured questionnaires

▪ **Sampling.** 36 in-depth interviews, 1300 quantitative interviews

▪ **Research tools.** Questionnaires for in-depth interviews, semi-structured questionnaires

Questionnaire structure

Introduction

Need for Constitutional reforms

About general issues of Concept

Human rights

Government system

Right of voting and electoral system

Judicial system

Constitutional guarantees of referendum

Conceptual fundamentals of constitutional reforms of local self government

Period of research –May-June (qualitative research) August (quantitative research)

Contents

Need for Constitutional Reforms

Human Rights

Governance System

Electoral Right and Electoral System

Judicial System

Constitutional Guarantees of Referendum

Local self-government Bodies

Democracy

Satisfaction with Social-economic Status of Country

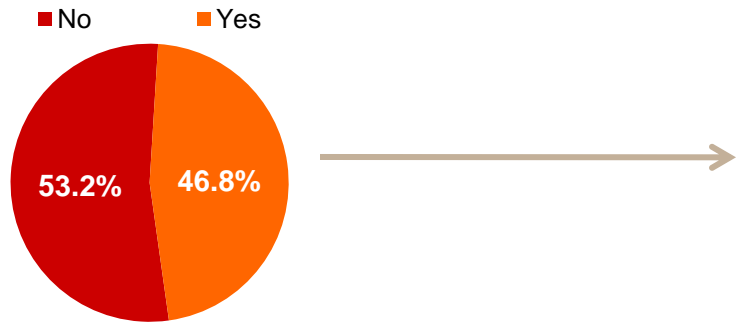
Social-demographic Data

Need for Constitutional Reforms

Awareness of Constitutional Reforms

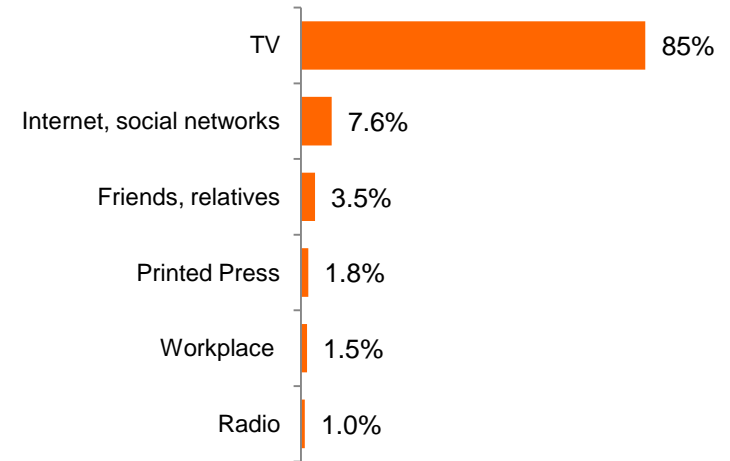
Respondents` 1300

Gr.1 Awareness of constitutional reforms

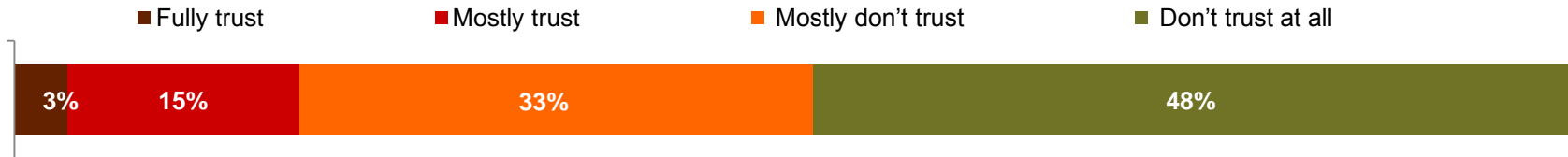


Respondents` 608

Gr.2 Sources of awareness



Gr.3. Level of trust in the process of constitutional reforms



Q12. Do you know that state authorities suggest Constitutional reforms?

Q13. Where did you learn about it?

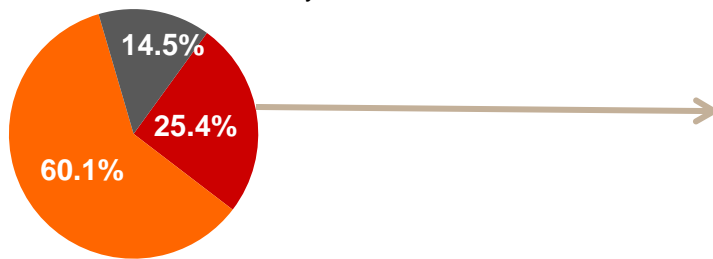
Q18. To what extent to you trust the process of constitutional reforms initiated by the government?

Need to Change the Constitution

Respondents 1300

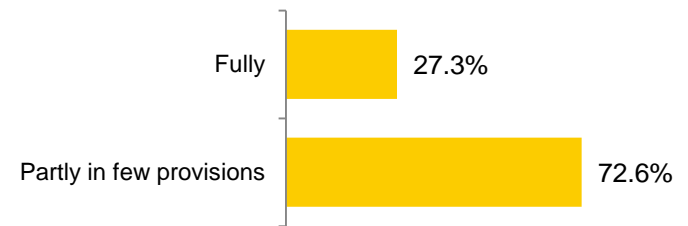
Gr. 4. Need to change constitution

■ Yes ■ No ■ Difficult to say



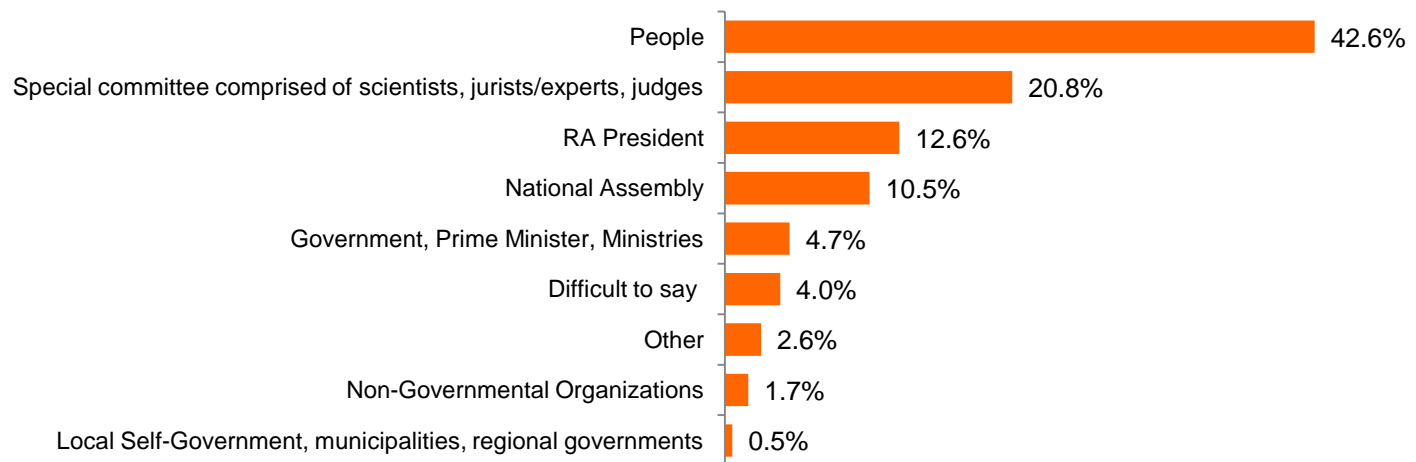
Respondents 330

Gr. 5. Volume of necessary changes



Gr.6. Desirable initiators of constitutional amendments according to respondents

Respondents 149



Q14. Is there a need to change the current Constitution?

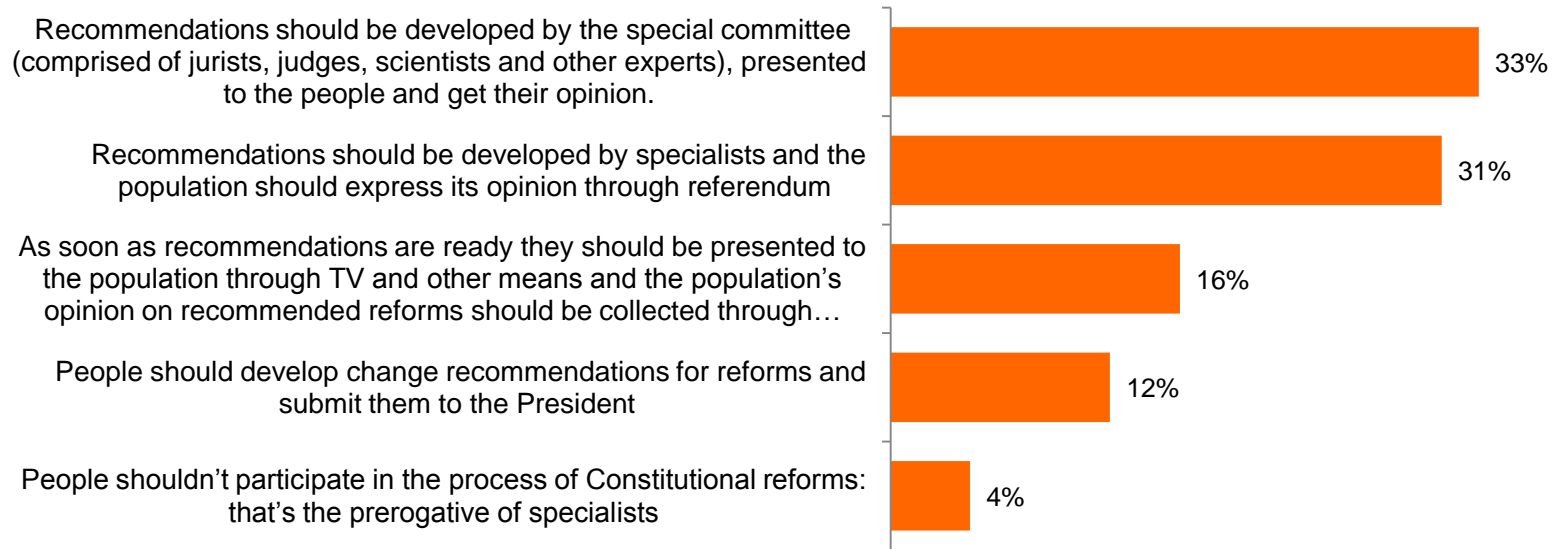
Q15. If yes, to what extent should it be changed?

Q16. In your opinion who should initiate (start) the process of Constitutional reforms?

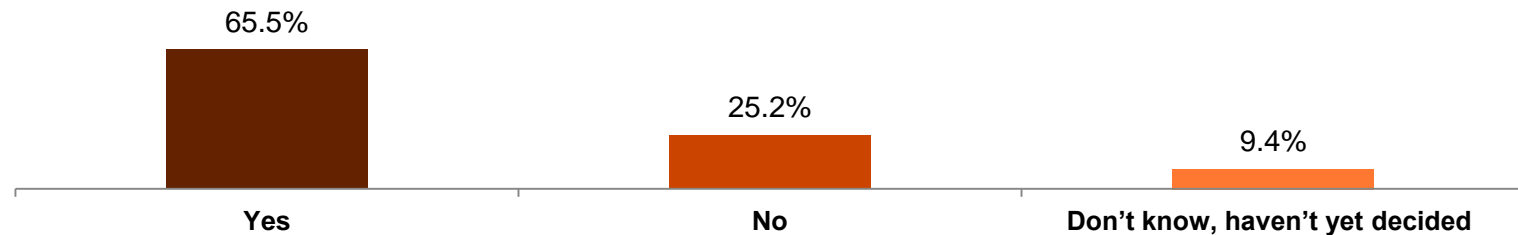
People's Possible Participation Forms in the Process of Constitutional Reforms?

Respondents 1300

Gr.7 Possible forms of participation



Gr. 8. Wish to participate in the Constitutional Referendum



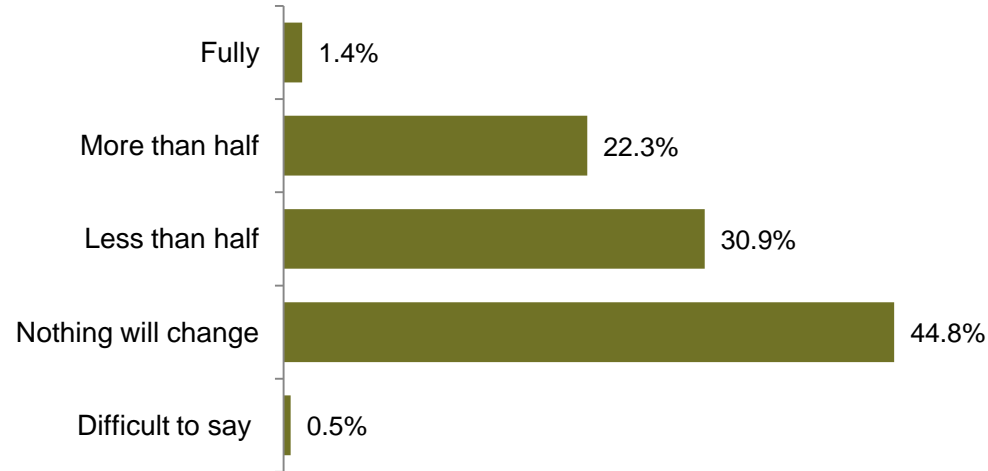
Q17. How should people (non-governmental organizations and active groups) participate in the process of Constitutional reforms?

Q22. Will you participate in the Constitutional referendum?

Impact of Changes in the Constitution

Respondents 1300

Gr. 9. Possible Impact of changes on the solution of issues the country is facing

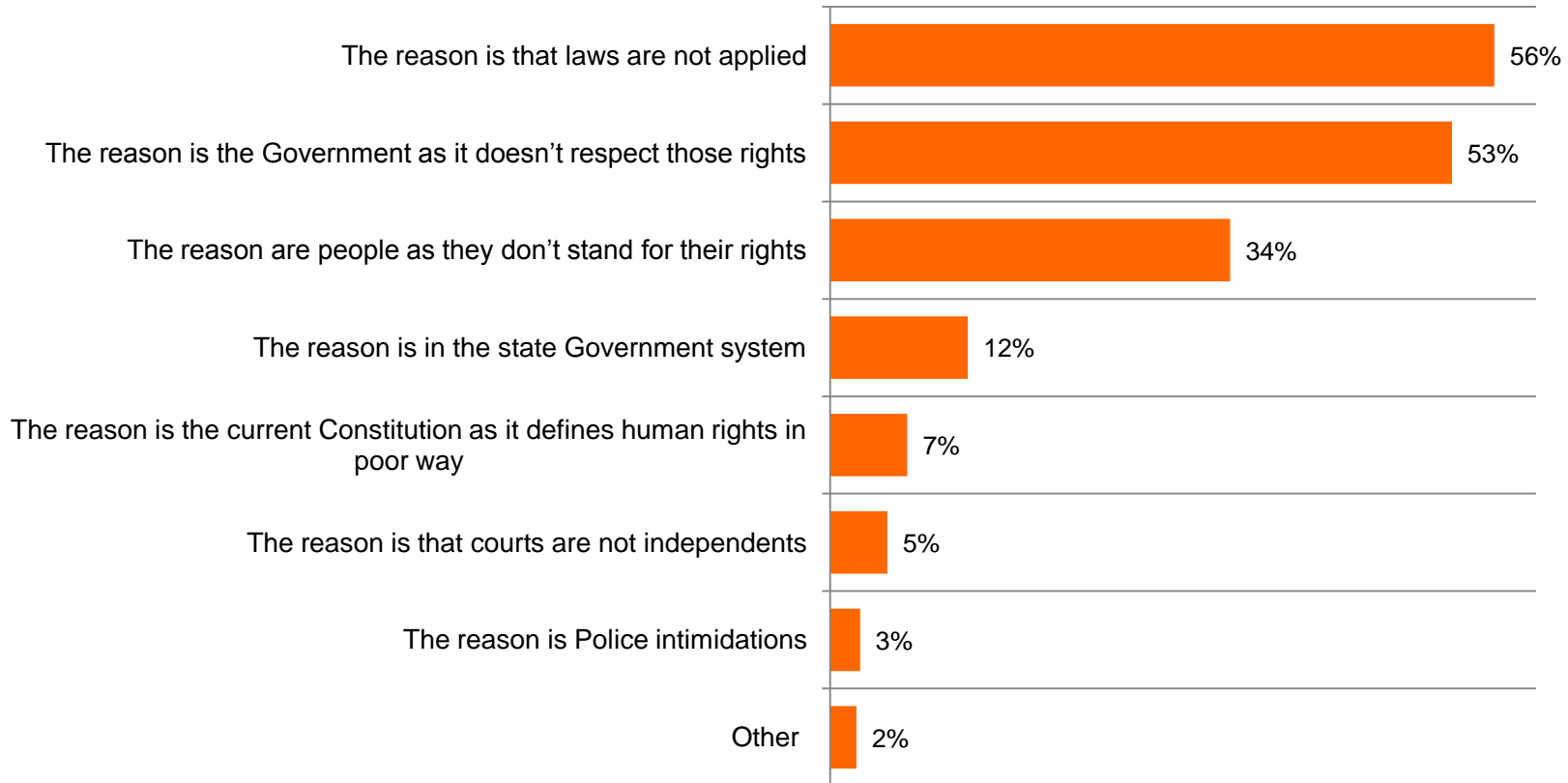


Human Rights

Reasons Why Human Rights are not Protected in our Country

Respondents 1300

Gr. 10. Reasons for not being protected

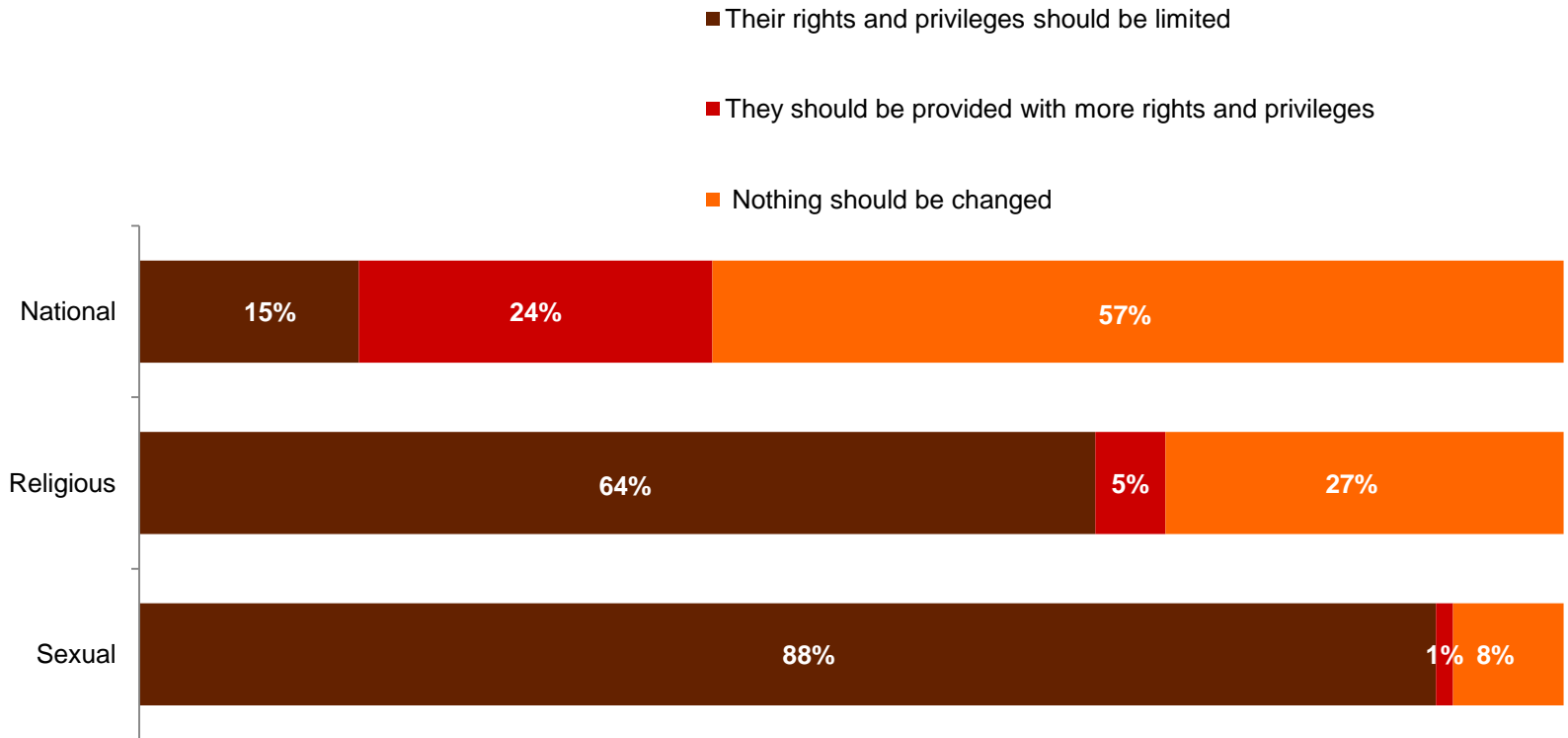


Q23. In your opinion what's the reason that human rights are not protected in our country?

Rights and Privileges

Respondents 1300

Gr. 11. Rights and privileges of minorities

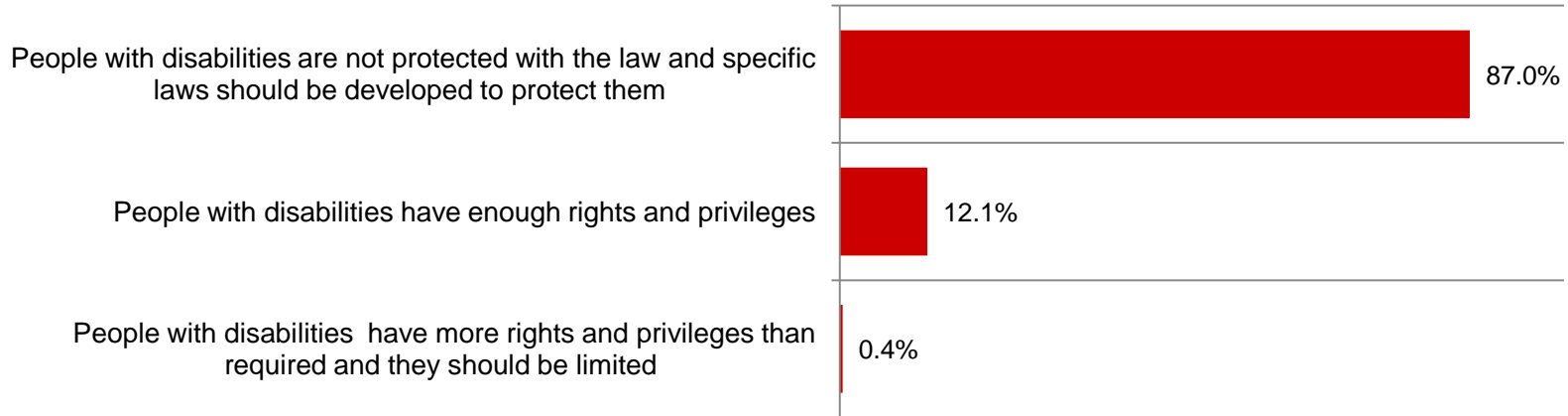


Q25. Should minorities be provided with more rights and privileges than they have today?

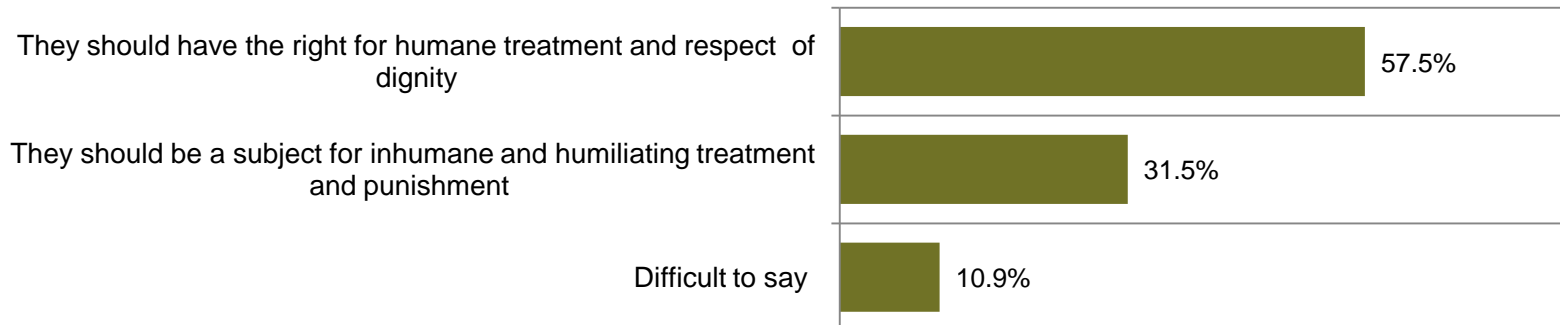
Treatment

Respondents 1300

Gr. 12 Rights of people with disabilities



Gr. 13. Rights of people committed serious crime



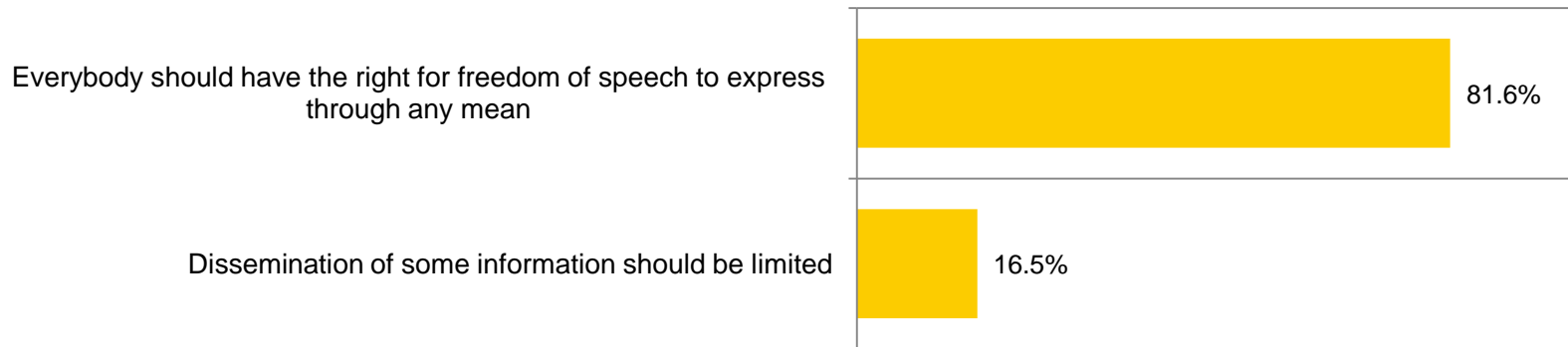
Q26. Which of the following judgments do you agree with?

Q29. How should people committing serious crime be treated?

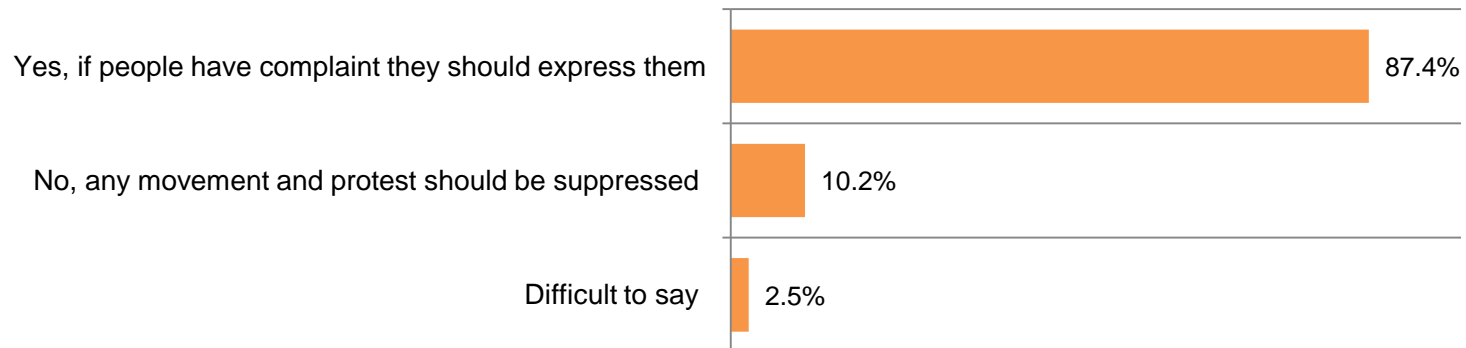
Right for freedom of speech

Respondents 1300

Gr. 14 Right of freedom of speech



Gr. 15. Rights of rallies, demonstrations



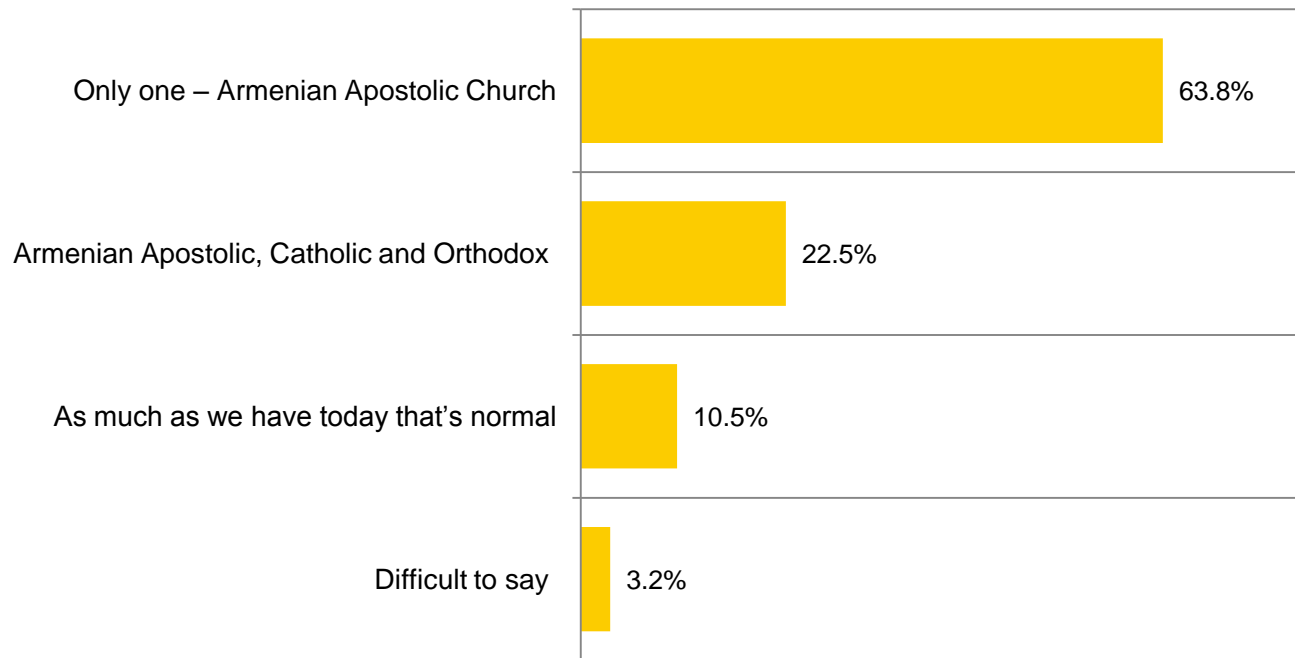
Q36. Which of the following statements do you agree with the most?

Q37. If you were the head of the country would you allow rallies, demonstrations and other events in the country?

Right of Religious Freedom

Respondents 1300

Gr. 16 Right of religious freedom

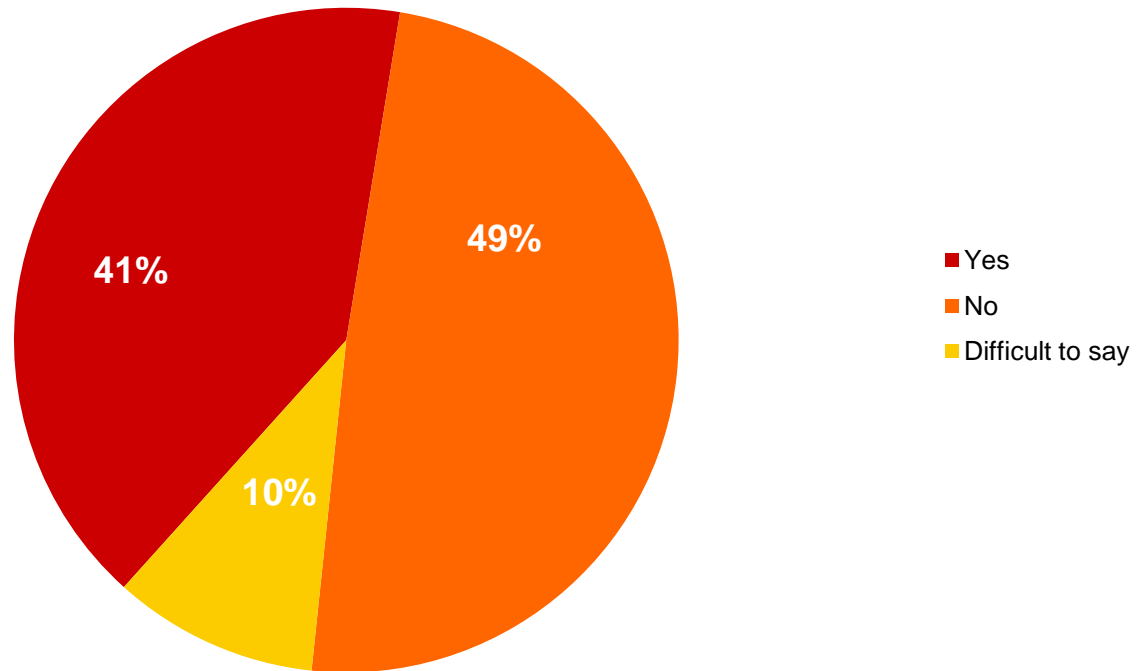


Q34. In your view how many religious organizations should exist in Armenia?

Respect for the Right of Personal and Family Life

Respondents 1300

Gr. 17. Right of Personal and Family Life



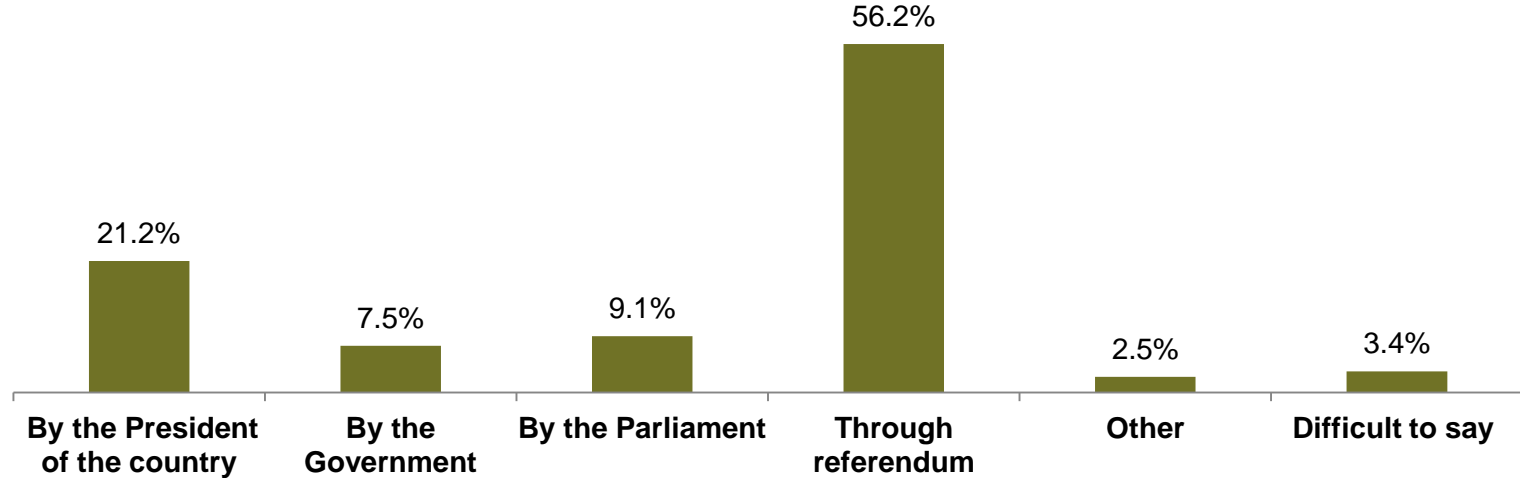
Q30. What do you think, is the right for personal and family life respected in Armenia?

Government System

Solving Crucial Issues for the Country

Respondents 1300

Gr. 18. Desirable responsible structures for solving crucial issues for the country according to respondents

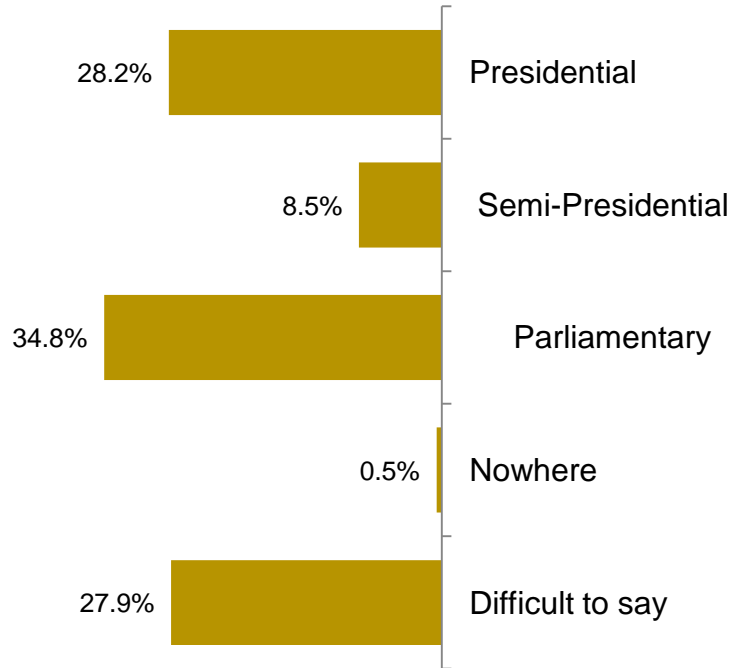


Q38. Would you wish that decisions on crucial issues (e.g. membership of the Republic of Armenia to the Customs Union or European Union) are made

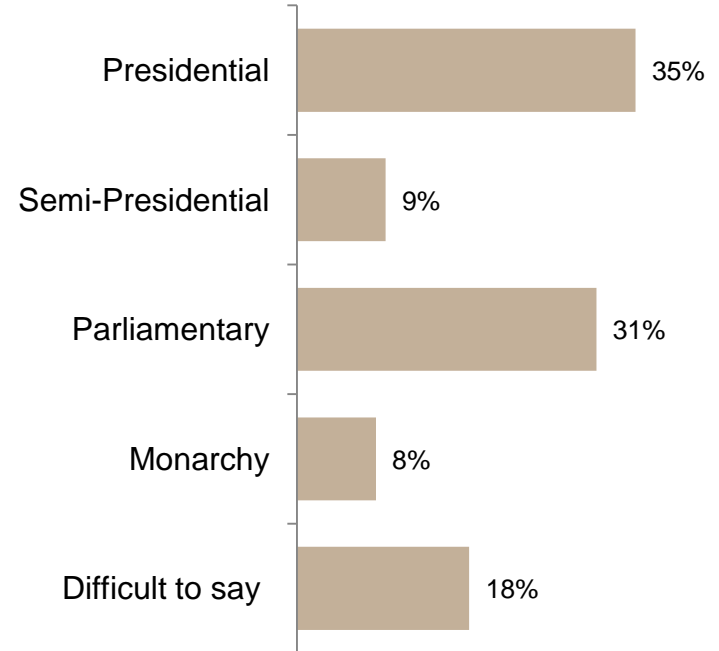
Desired Forms of Governance

Respondents 1300

Gr. 19. People representation in governance system



Gr. 20. Desired form of the government

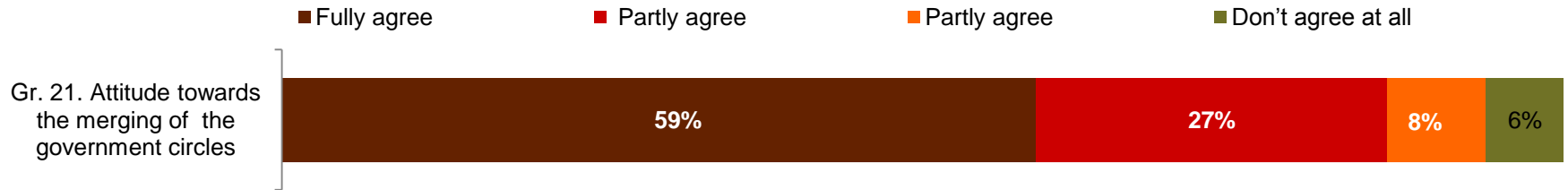


Q39. In your view is the population well represented in the Presidential, Semi-Presidential or Parliamentary government system?

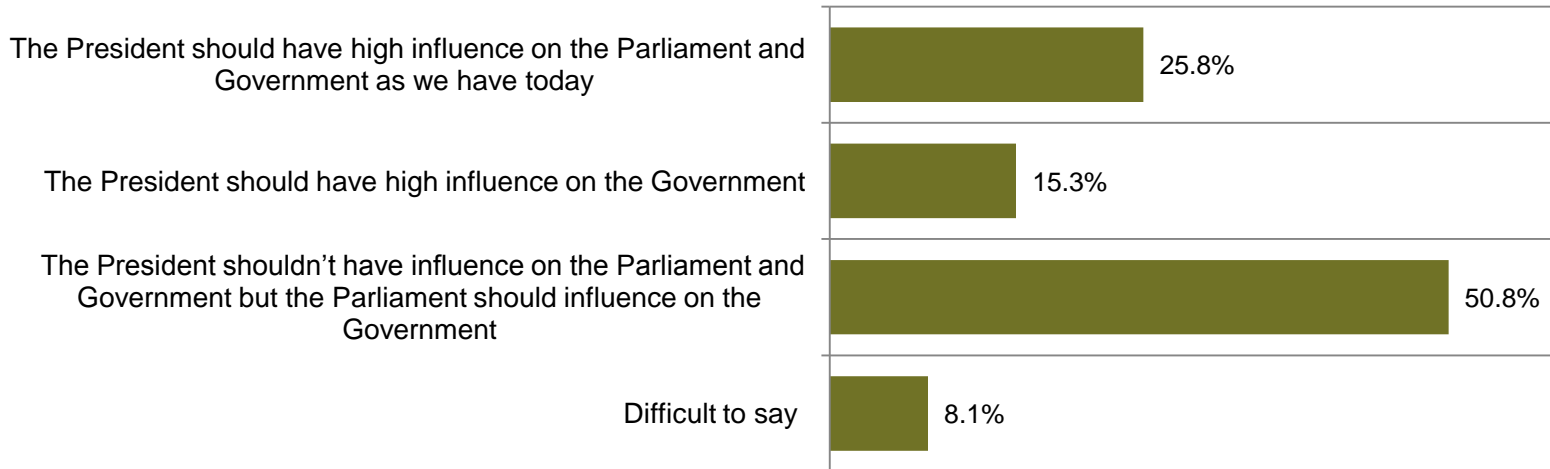
Q40. What government system would you like to see in our country?

Correlation of the Government Circles

Respondents 1300



Gr. 22. Desirable correlation of government circles according to respondents



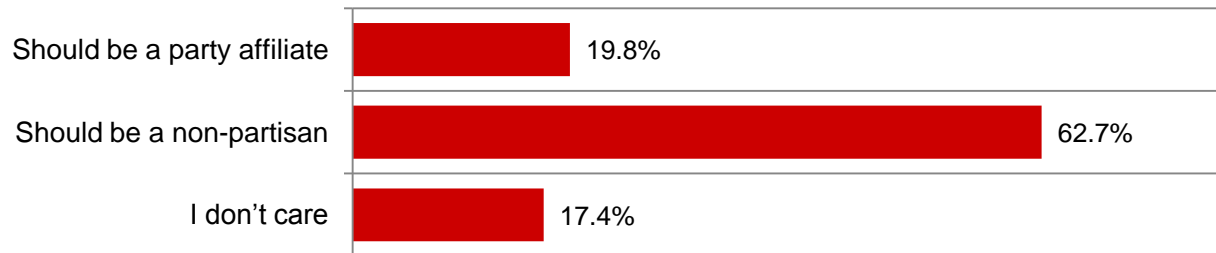
Q41. Do you agree that currently the President, Parliament and Government of Armenia are monolithic (political monopoly)?

Q42. How would you like to see the correlation of the President, Parliament and Government?

Election of the Government Circles

Respondents 1300

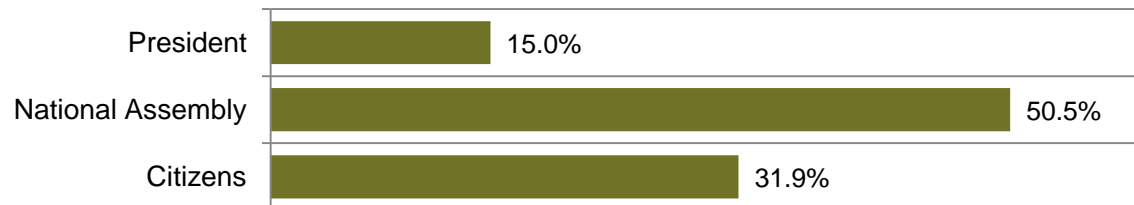
Gr. 23. President's Political orientation



Gr. 24. Right to elect the president Նախագահի ընտրելու իրավունքը



Gr. 25. Selection of the government



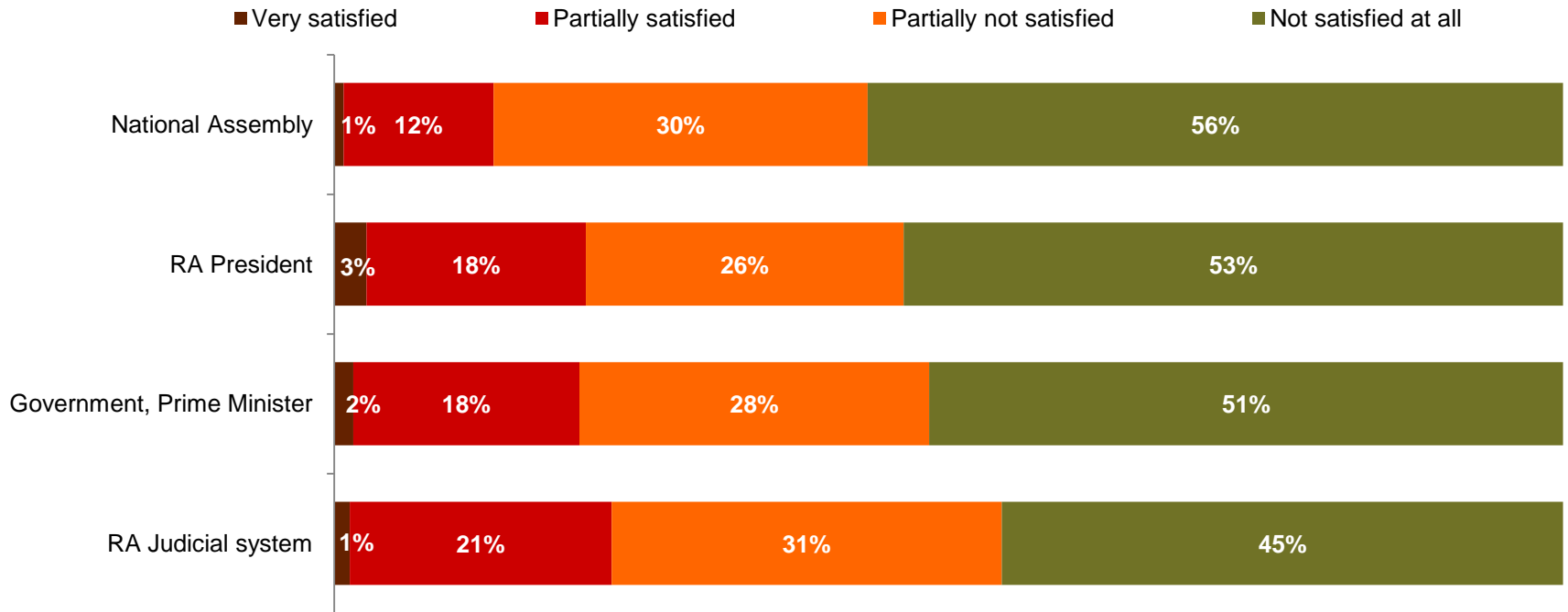
Q44. What do you think, should the President be a representative of a political party or should be a non-partisan?

Q45. In your opinion who should elect the President of the Republic?

Q46. Who should select the Prime Minister of the Republic and form the Government?

Gr.26. Satisfaction from the State Structures

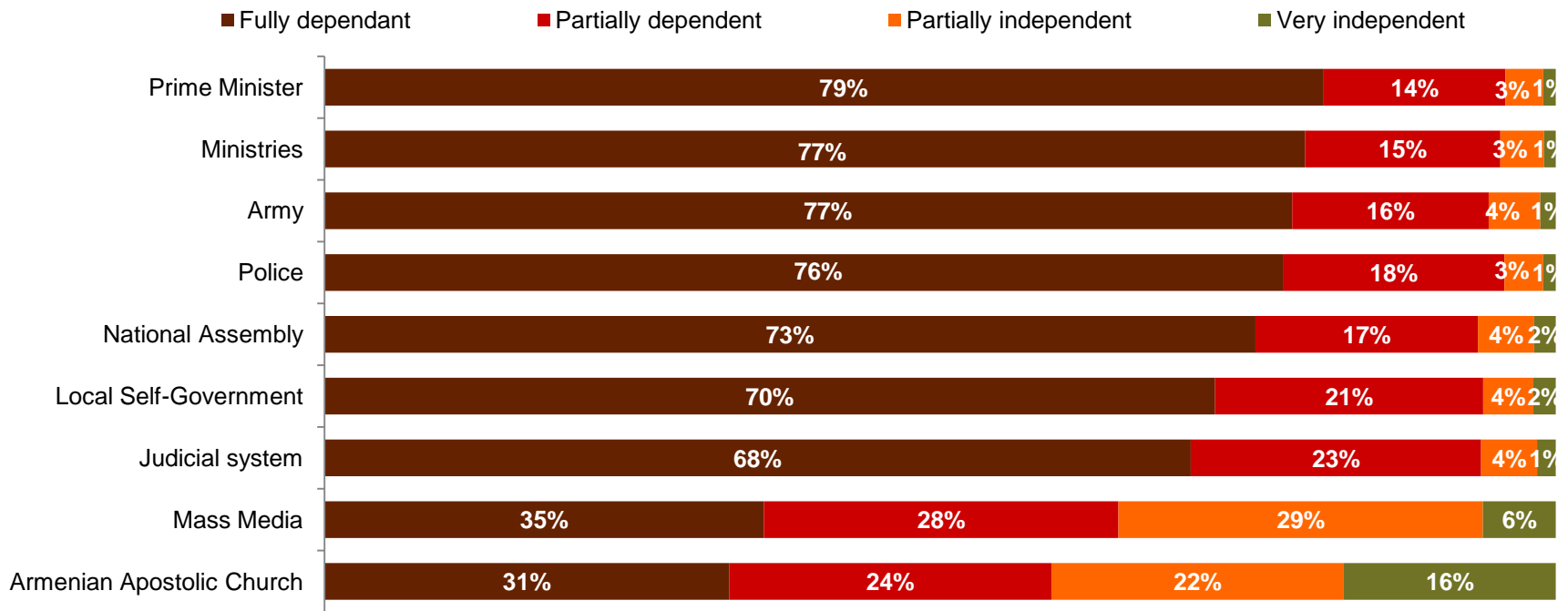
Respondents 1300



Q10. How satisfied are you from activities of following structures?

Gr.27. Independence of State Institutions from the President

Respondents 1300

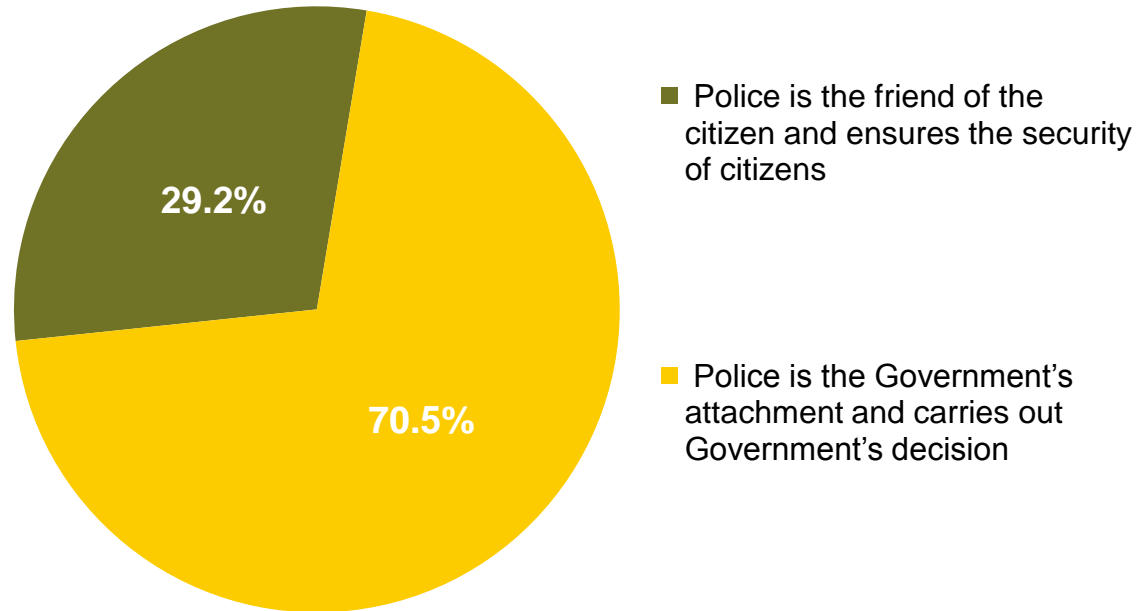


Q11. In your view how independent are the following structures from the President

Role of the Police

Respondents 1300

Gr. 28. Role of the Police according to respondents



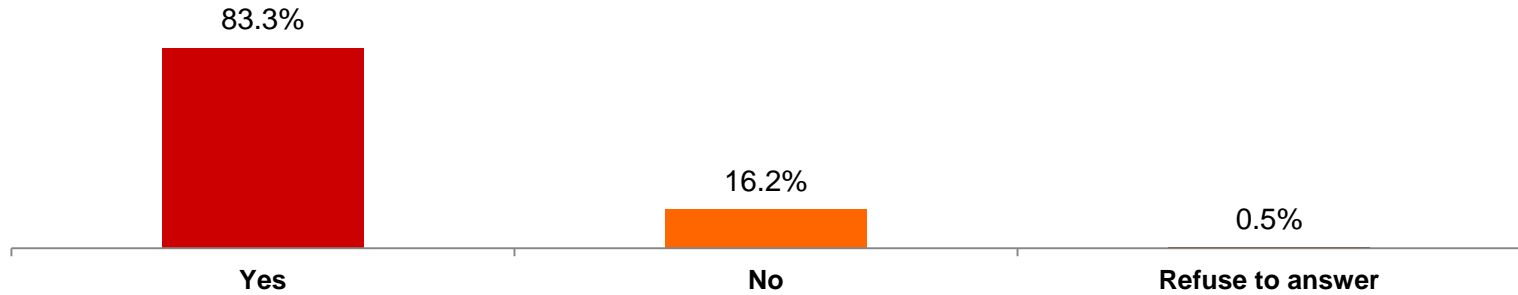
Q43. Which of the following statements do you agree?

Right of Voting and Election System

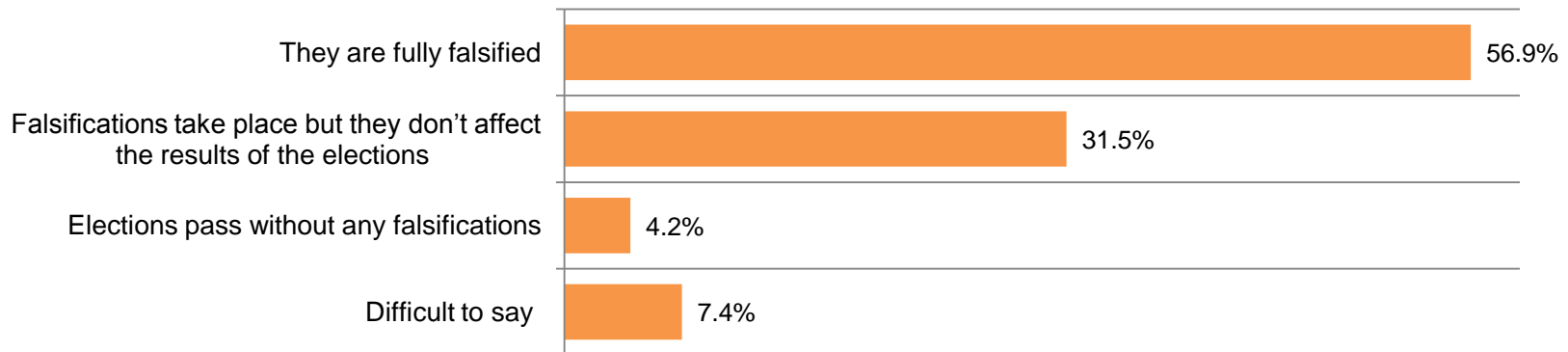
Last Presidential Elections

Respondents 1300

Gr. 29. Participation in the last Presidential elections



Gr. 30. Compliance of Elections' Results with the reality



Q47. Did you participate in the last Presidential elections?

Q48. In your view to what extent do the results of the elections in Armenia correspond to reality?

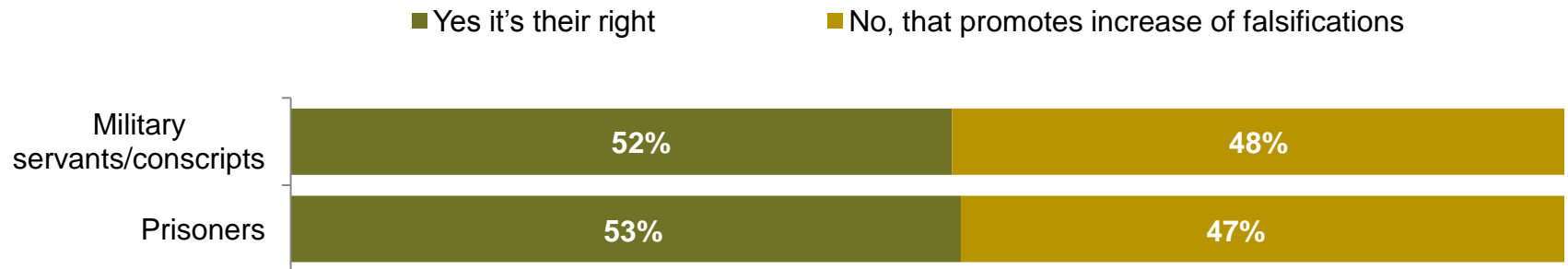
Realization of the Right of Voting

Respondents 1300

Gr. 31. Right of voting of RA citizens living abroad



Gr.32. Voting right of military servants/conscripts and prisoners



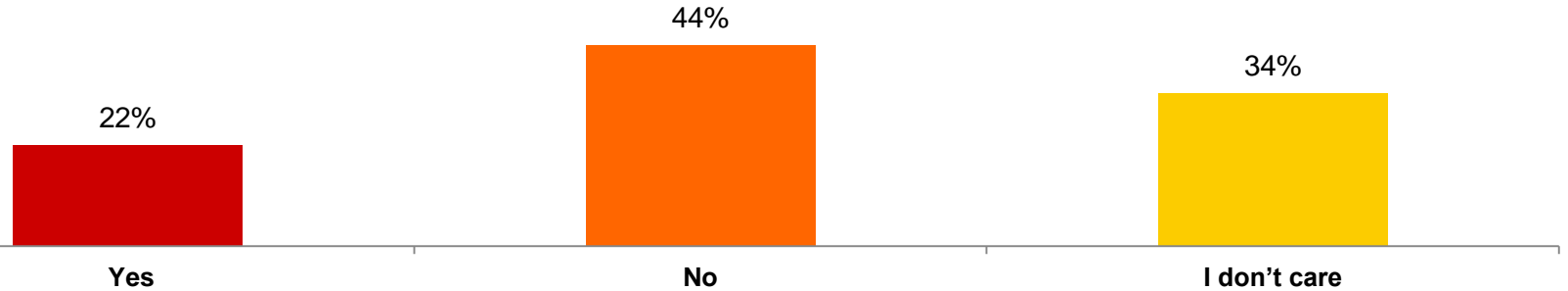
Q50. Can the RA citizen living abroad participate in the elections in taking place in Armenia

Q51. In your view should the following groups participate in elections?

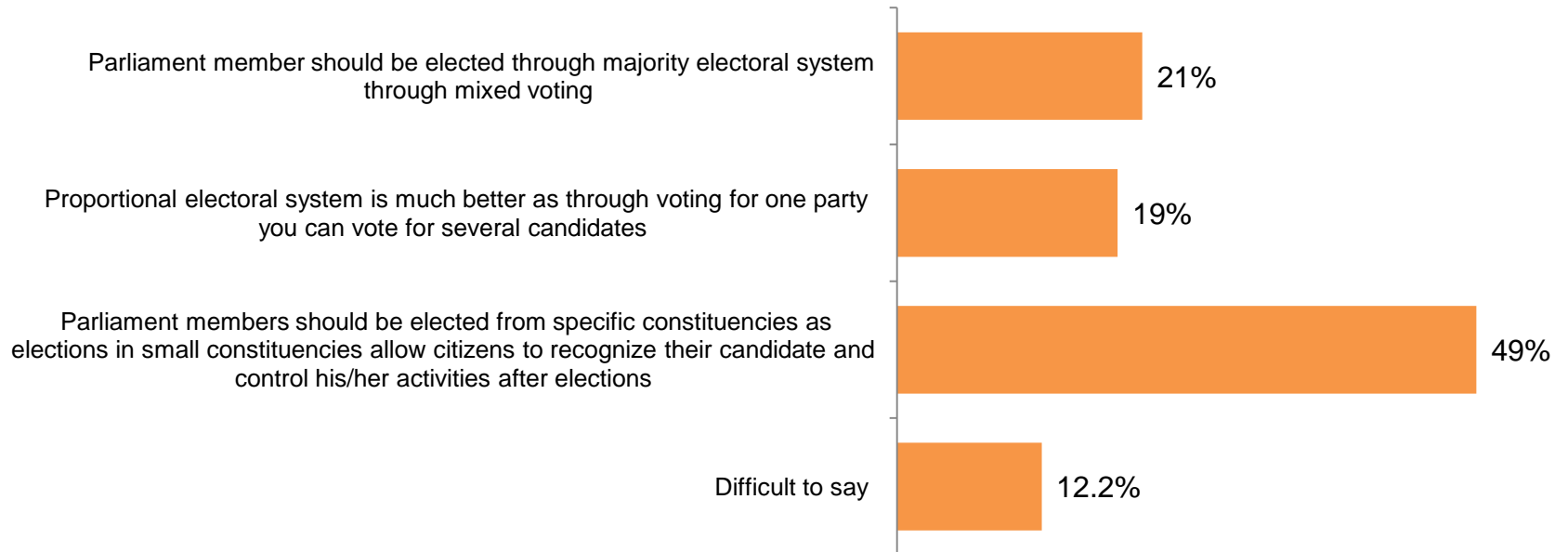
Parliamentary Elections

Respondents 1300

Gr. 33. Preference to have Parliamentary and Presidential elections on the same



Gr. 34. Preferable way to elect the MPs



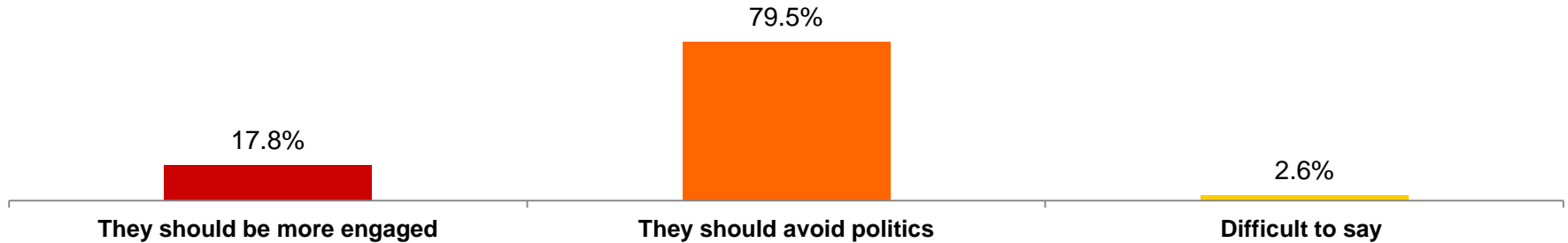
Q55. Would you like to have Parliamentary and Presidential elections on the same day?

Q54. In your view how Parliament members should be elected – through majority or proportional electoral system?

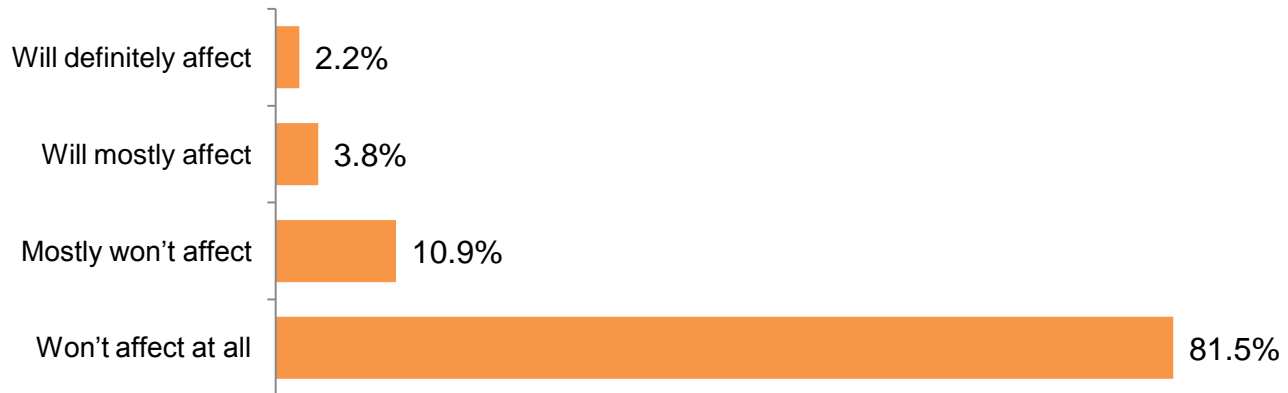
Involvement of Religious Leaders in Elections

Respondents 1300

Gr.35. Relevance of involvement of religious leaders in politics



Gr. 36. Possible influence of religious leaders on the voting right of respondents



Q57. There is a viewpoint that religious leaders should be more involved in politics while others think that they should avoid engagement in secular life and should focus on religious and moral issues. Which of the following statements do you agree with the most?

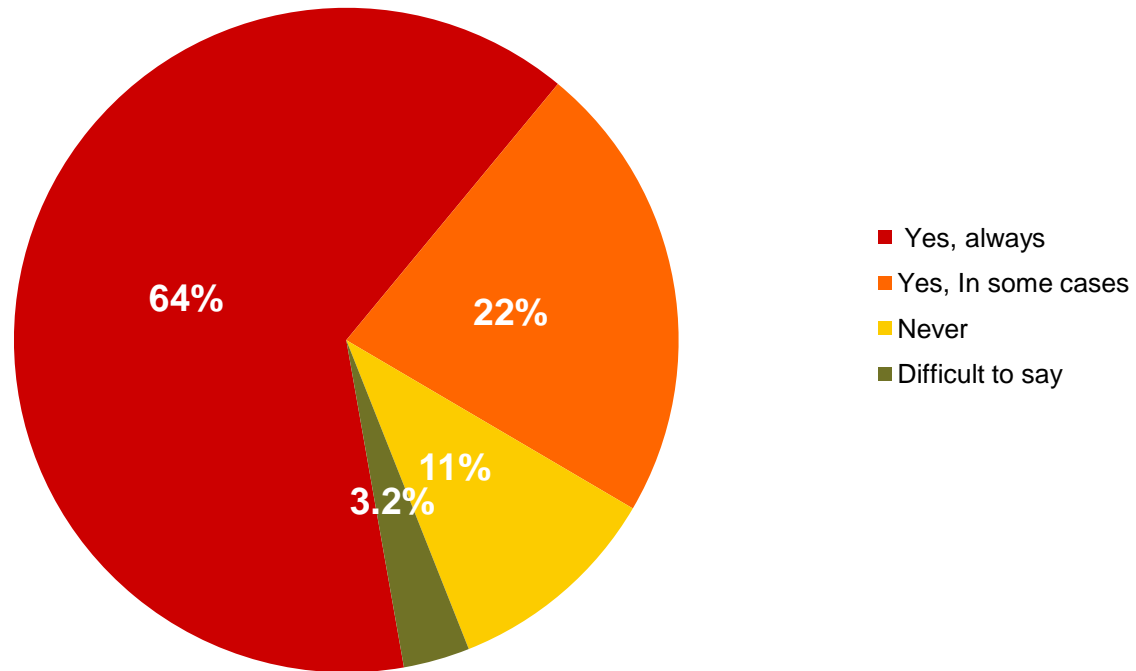
Q58. If the religious leader in your community promote you to support any political party of candidate would that affect the way you vote?

Judicial System

Fairness of Judicial System

Respondents 1300

Gr. 37. Making fair decisions by Armenian courts

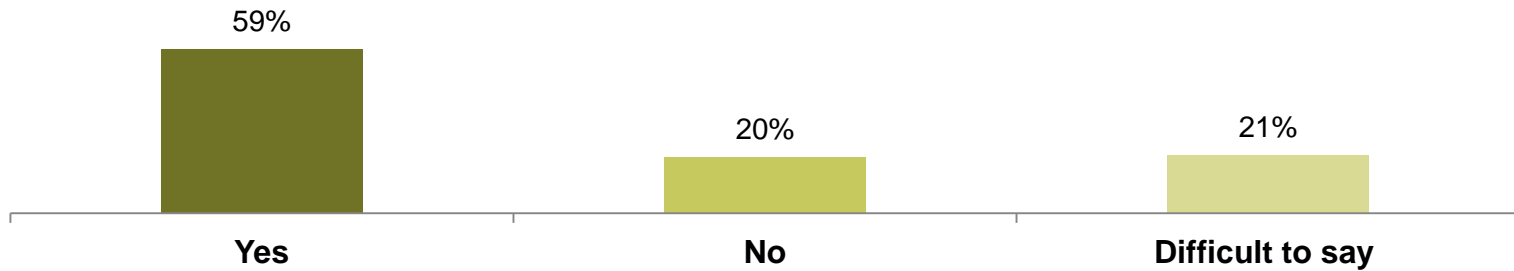


Q35. In your view do Armenian courts make fair decisions?

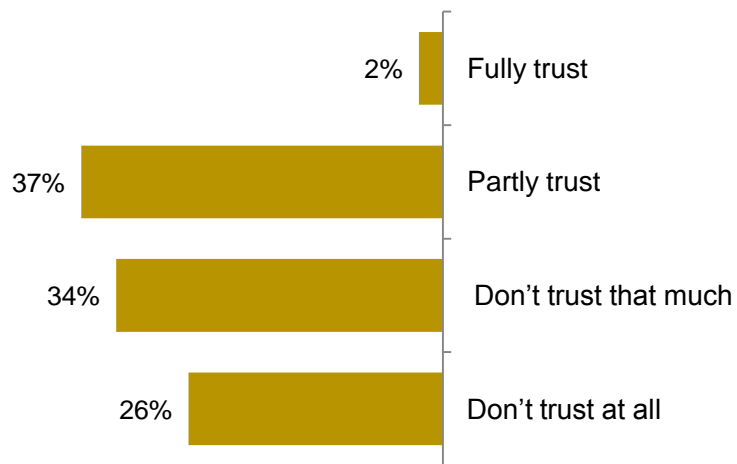
Judicial System

Respondents 1300

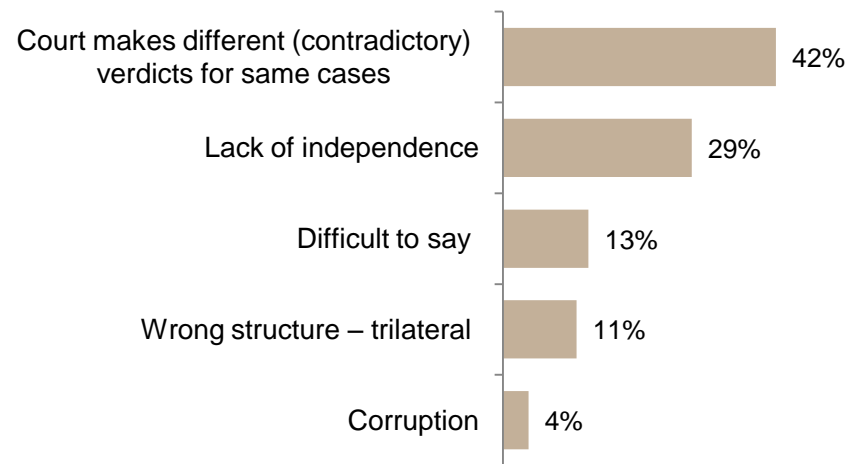
Gr. 38. Desire to have courts with juries in the Republic of Armenia?



Gr. 39. Trust towards the courts



Gr. 40. The main gap of the Judicial System



Q59. Would like to have courts with juries in the Republic of Armenia?

Q60. To what extent do you trust courts?

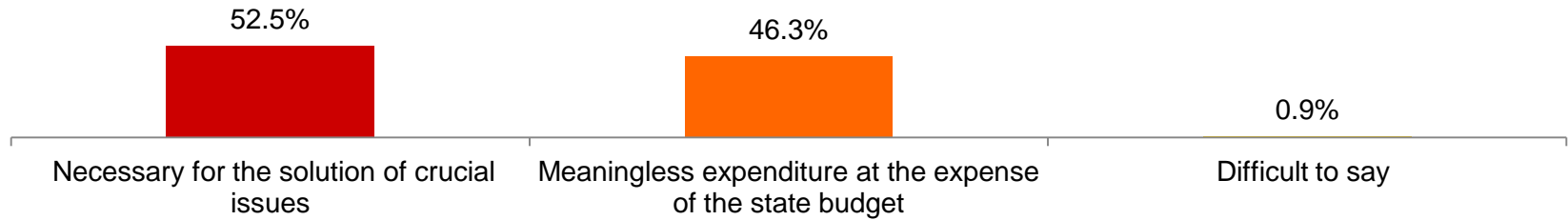
Q61. What do you think which is the main gap of the Judicial System?

Constitutional Guarantees of the Referendum

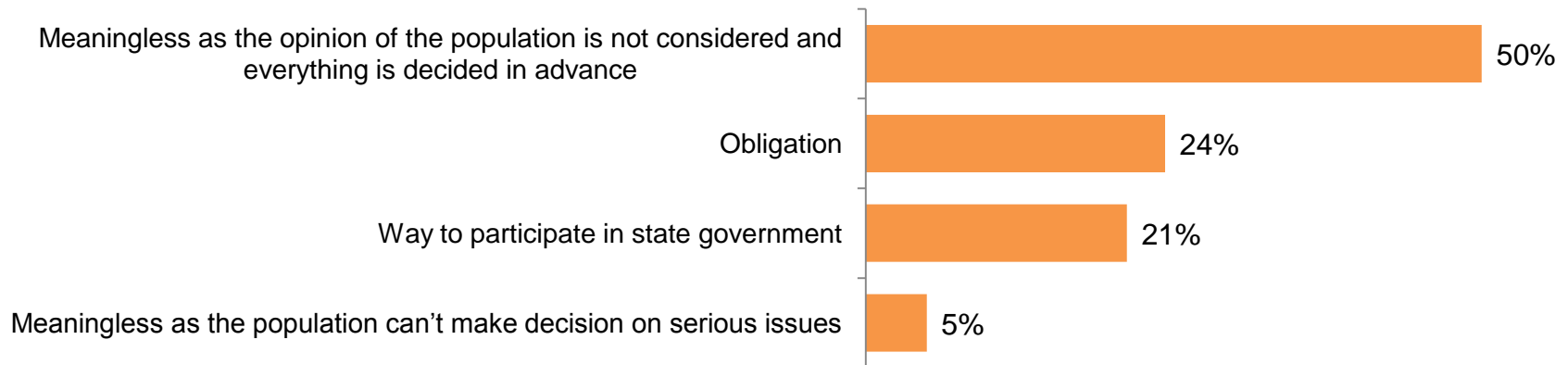
Need for and Participation in Referendum

Respondents 1300

Gr. 41. Need for the referendum



Gr. 42. Attitude towards referendum



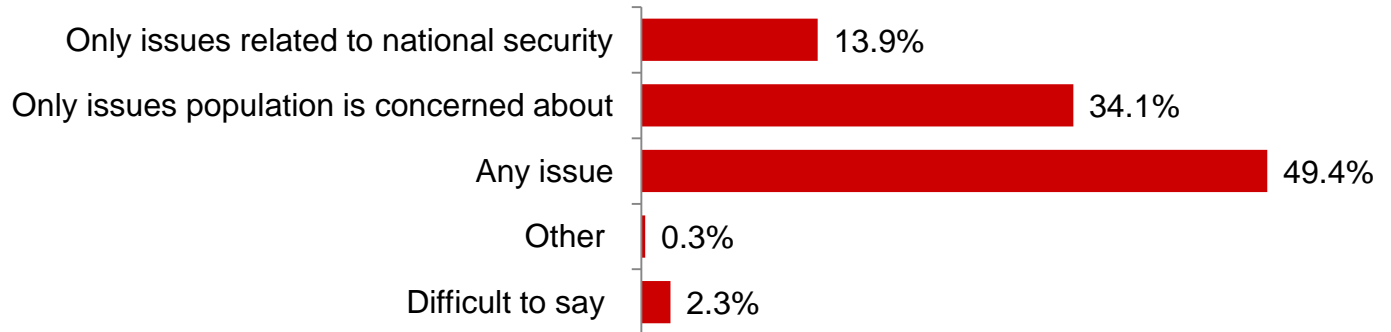
Q62. In your opinion referendum is...

Q63. In your view participation in the referendum is

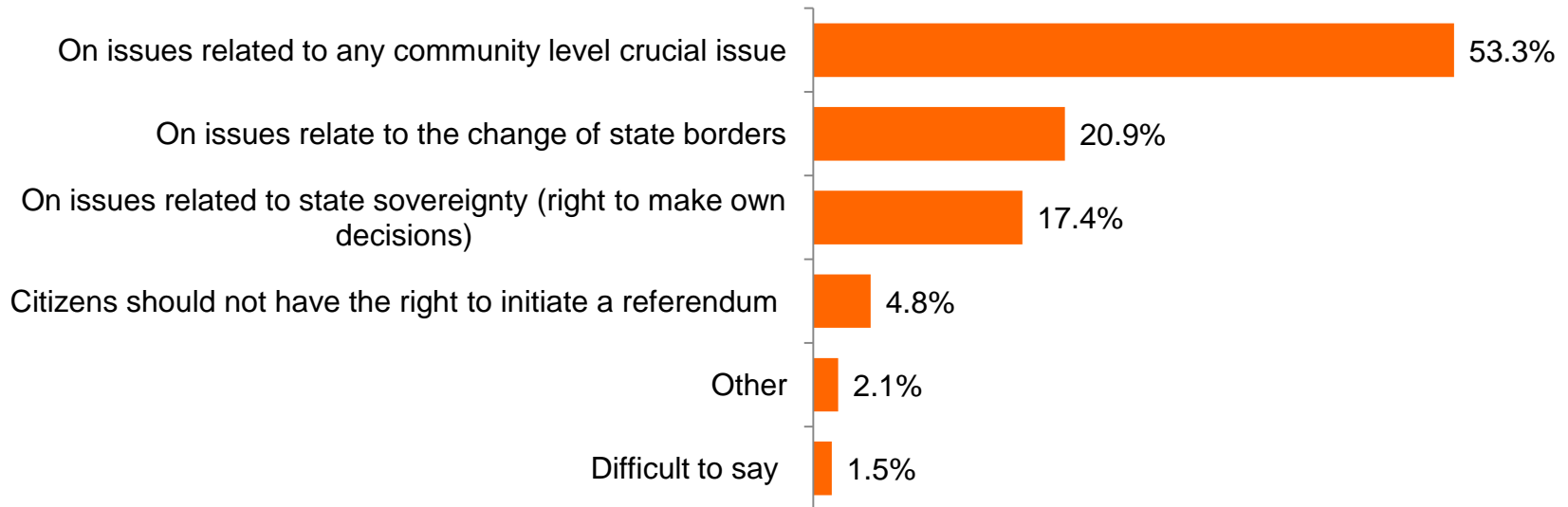
Issues Put to a Referendum

Respondents 1300

Gr. 43. Preferable issues put to a referendum



Gr.44. Desirable range of issues on which the population should be empowered to initiate a referendum?



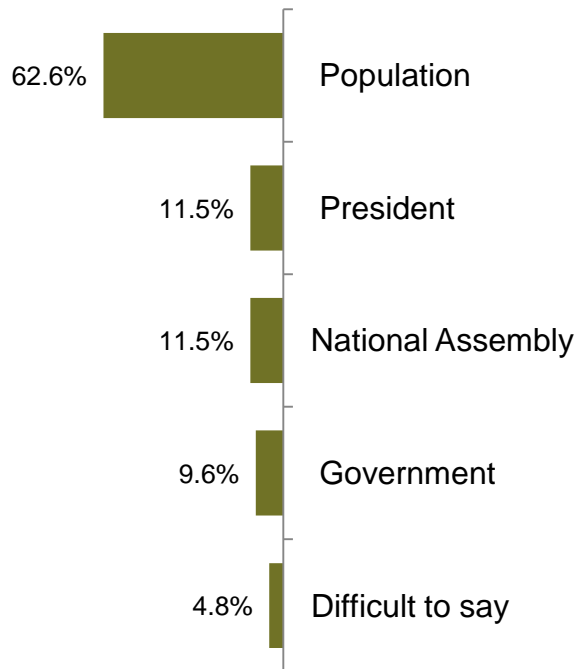
Q65. In your view what issues should be put to a referendum?

Q66. Զեղր In your view on which issues should the population be empowered to initiate a referendum?

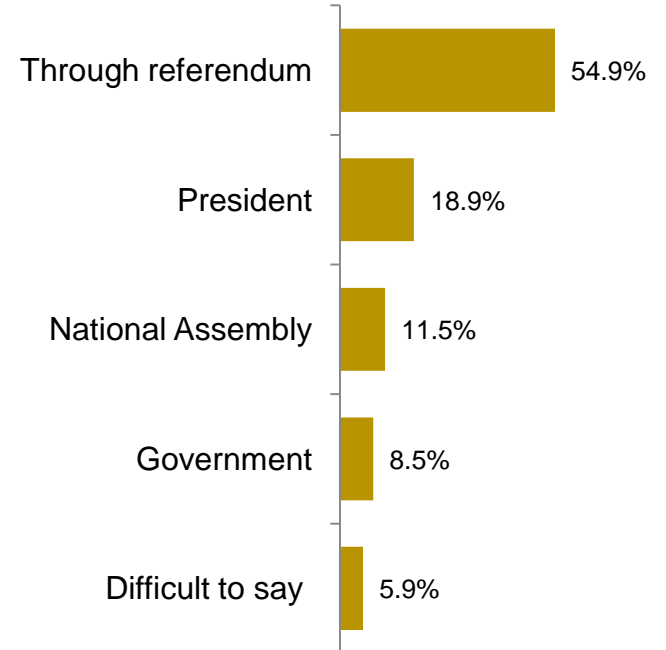
Initiators of Referendums

Respondents 1300

Gr. 45. Preferable initiators of referendums according to respondents



Gr. 46. Desirable structure to decide on membership to the Customs Union according to respondents



Q64. In your view who should initiate the referendum?

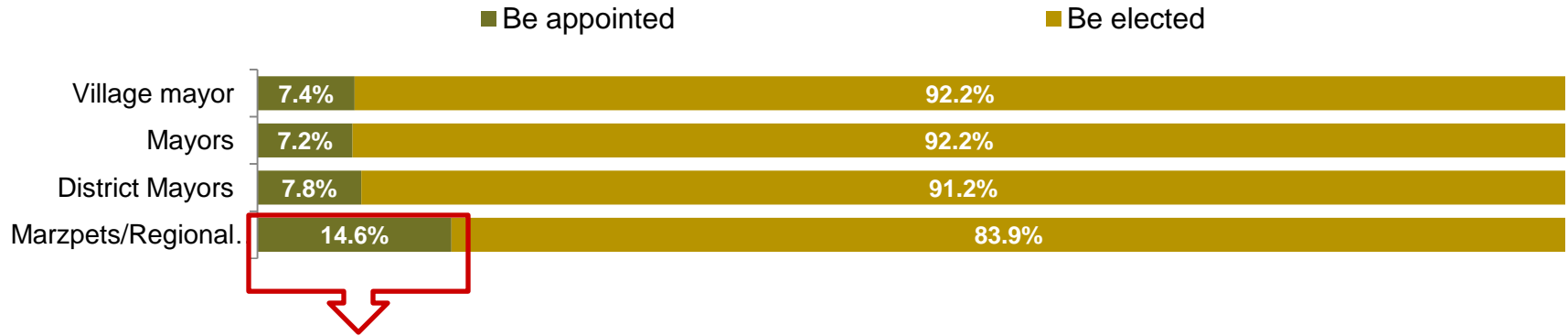
Q67. In your opinion should the issue related to membership to the Customs Union have been decided by the President, Government, National Assembly or through a referendum?

Local Self-Government

Formation of Local Self-Government Bodies

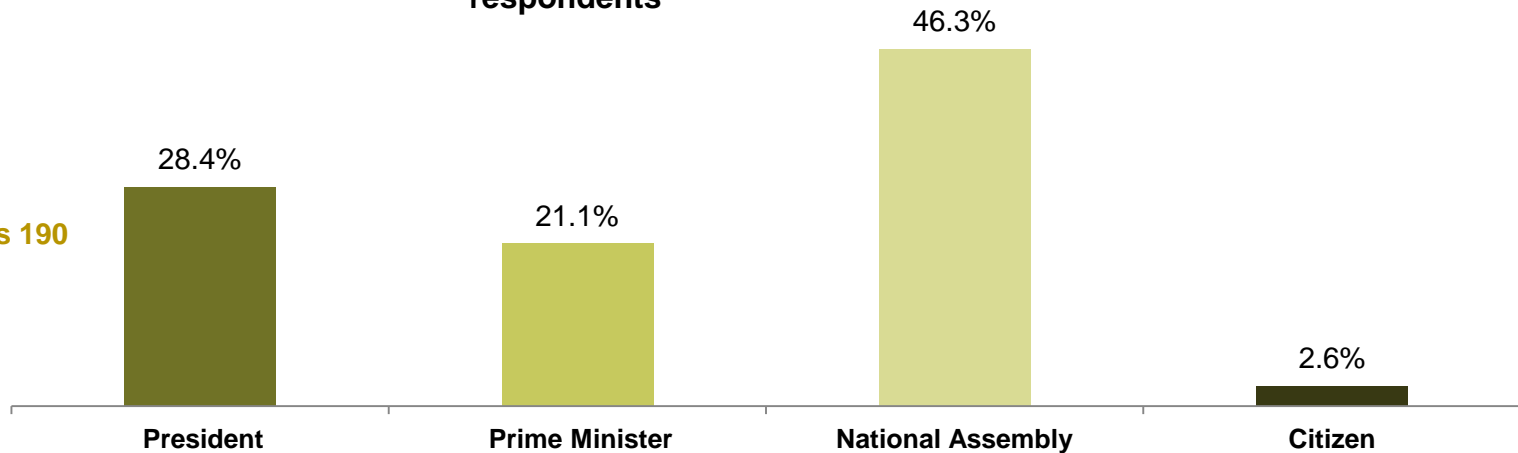
Respondents 1300

Gr. 47. Desirable Forms of formation of local self-government bodies according to respondents



Gr. 48. Preferable structure to appoint regional governors according to respondents

Respondents 190



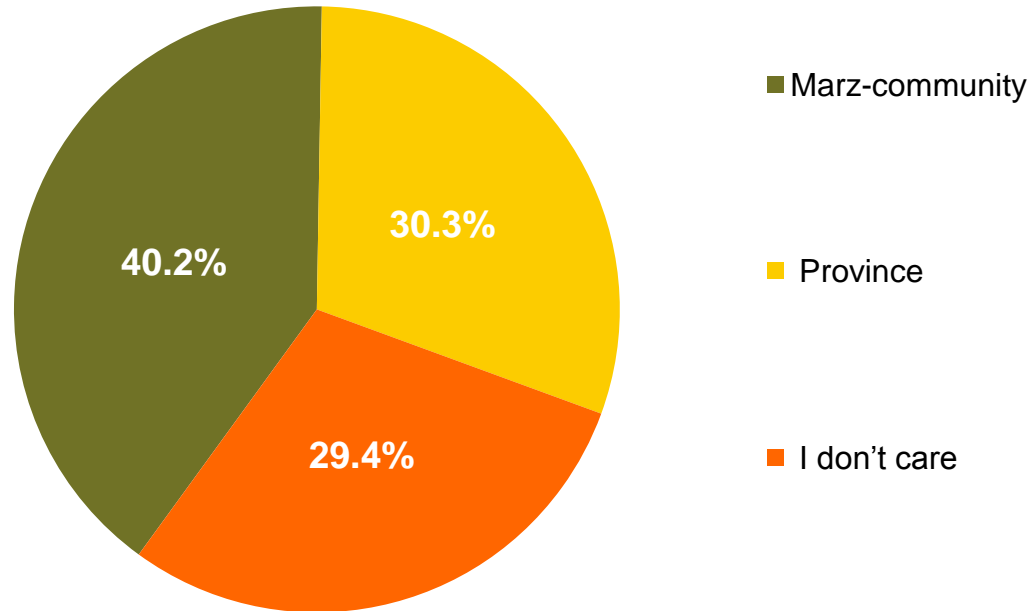
Q68. In your opinion should following structures be elected or appointed?

Q69 If they should be appointed who should appoint them?

Territorial Division

Respondents 1300

Gr. 49. Preferable form of territorial division according to respondents

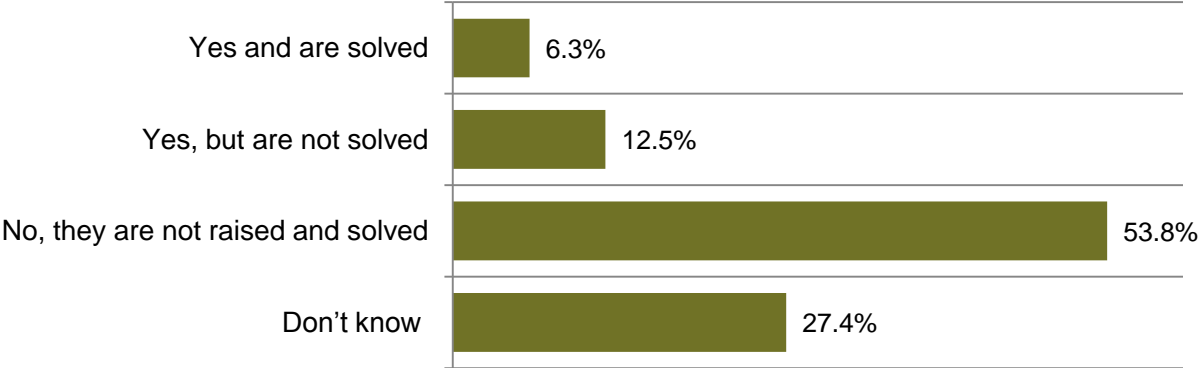


Q70. What forms of territorial division do you agree with?

Community Candidates

Respondents 1300

Gr. 50. Voicing community issues at the National Assembly

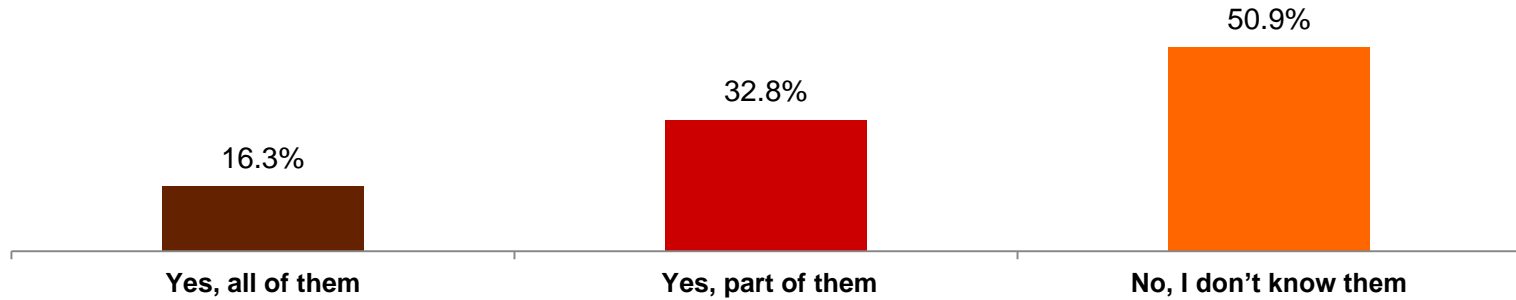


Q72. Are issues raised at the National Assembly by the PM elected from your community?

Municipal Council Members

Respondents 1300

Gr. 51. Level of recognition of municipal council members



Gr. 52. Independence of the municipal council from the mayor



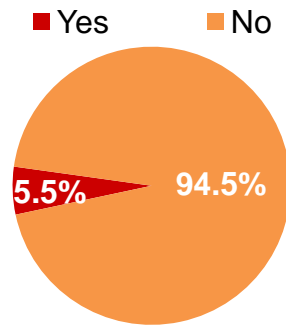
Q73 Do you know your municipal council members?

Q74 In your opinion does the municipal council have enough independence from the mayor?

Participation in the Elections of Municipal Council Members

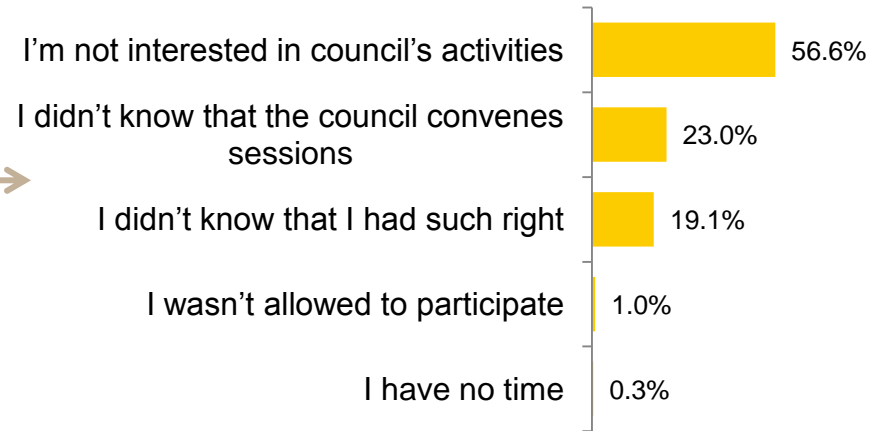
Respondents 1300

Gr. 53. Participation in the council sessions

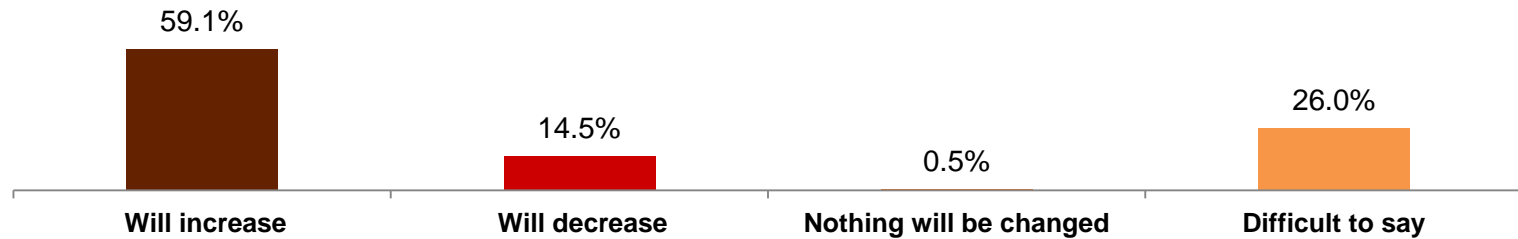


Respondents 1228

Gr. 54. Reasons for not participating in municipal council sessions



Gr. 55. Change of the role of the council in case of community enlargement



Q75. Have you ever participated in the sessions of your municipal council?

Q76. You haven't participated in the council sessions as

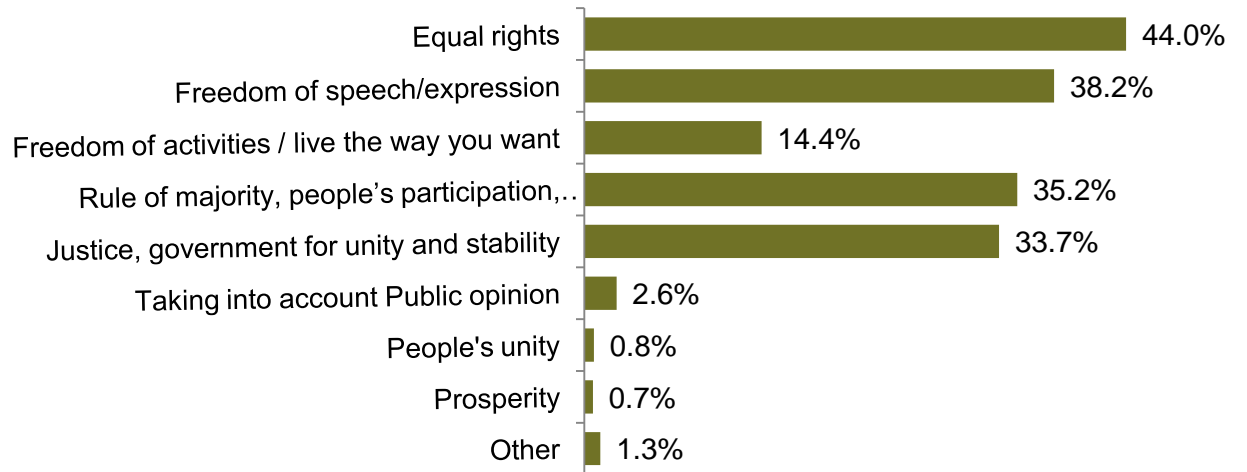
Q77. If some communities in Armenia are merged and enlarged the role of the council...

Democracy

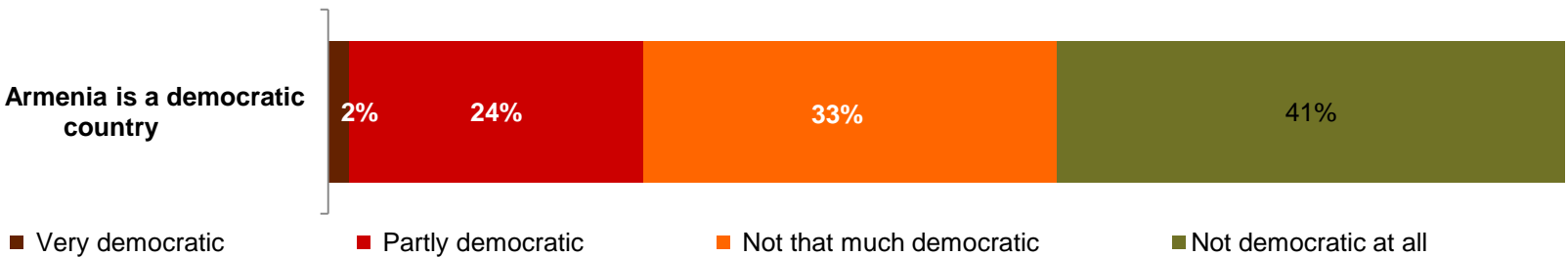
Perception of Democracy

Respondents 1300

Gr. 56. Perception of democracy within respondents



Gr. 57. Armenia is a democratic country



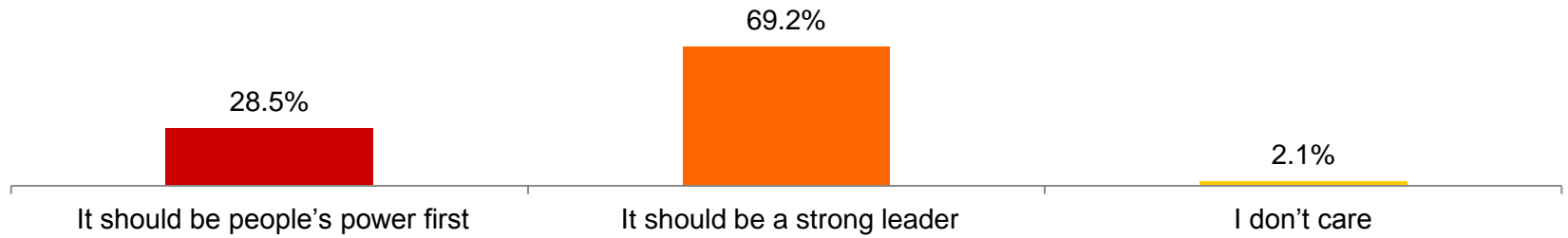
Q78. What do you understand by saying democracy ?

Q81. In your opinion to what extent is Armenia a democratic country?

Public Role in the Governance System

Respondents 1300

Gr. 58. People's power or a strong leader?

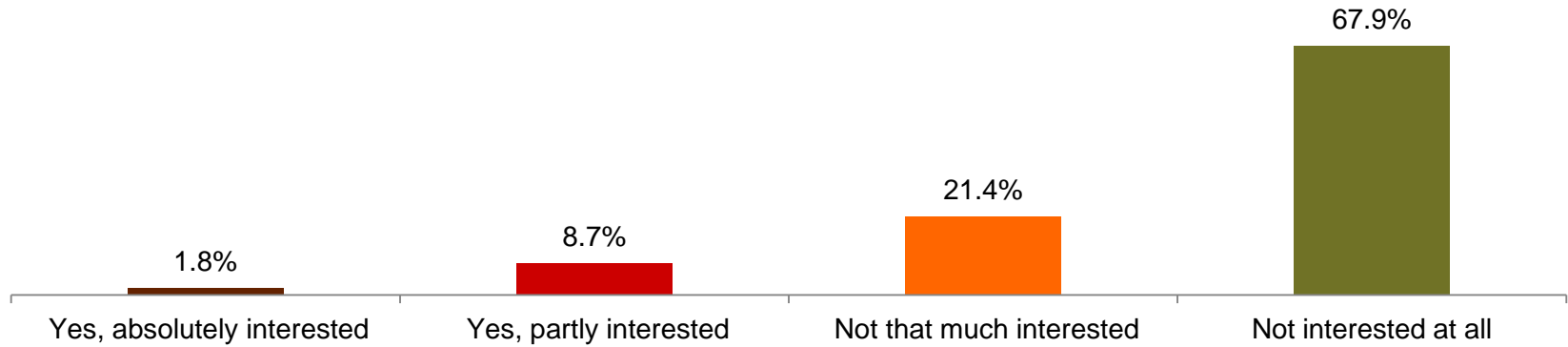


Q79. In your view should Armenia have people's power or a strong leader?

Free Expression of Political Views.

Respondents 1300

Gr. 59. Is the Government interested in the opinion of such people like you?

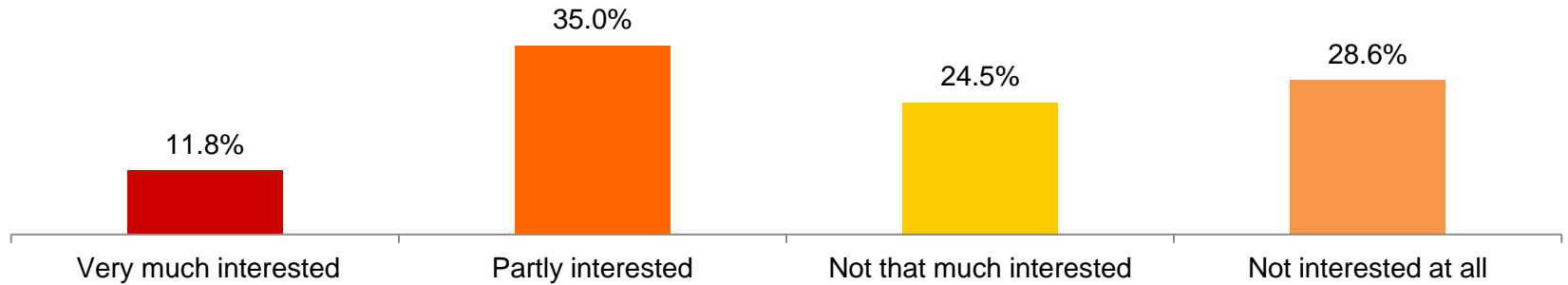


Q84. In your opinion is the Government interested in the opinion of such people like you?

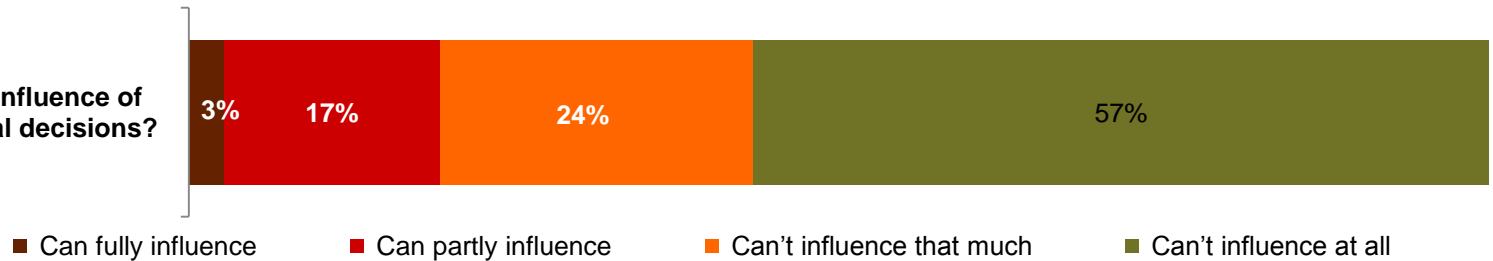
Interest in Politics and Participation in Political Decisions

Respondents 1300

Gr. 60. Extent of respondents' interest in politics



Gr. 61. Extent of influence of citizens on political decisions?



Q83. To what extent are you interested in politics?

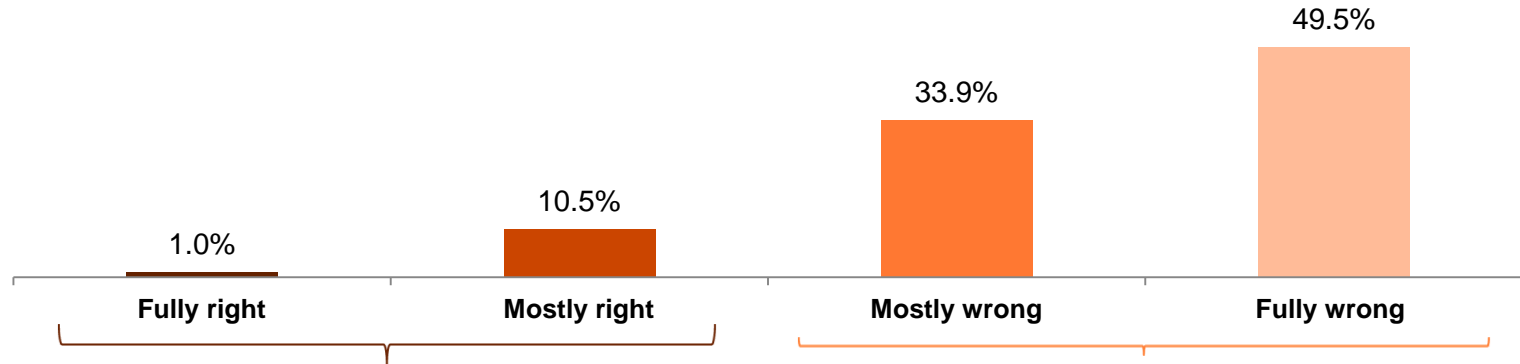
Q85. In your view how can people like you influence on political processes and decisions?

Satisfaction from the Social-economic State of the Country

Development Direction of Armenia

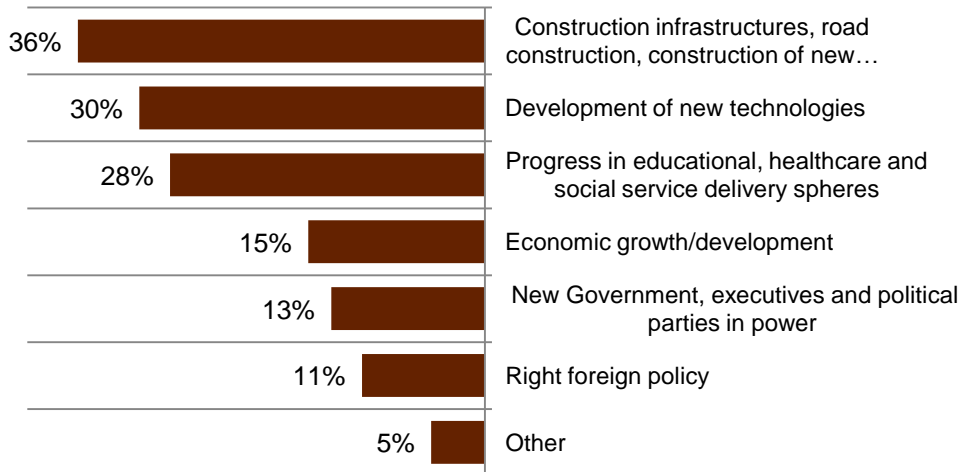
Respondents 1300

Gr. A. Development direction of Armenia



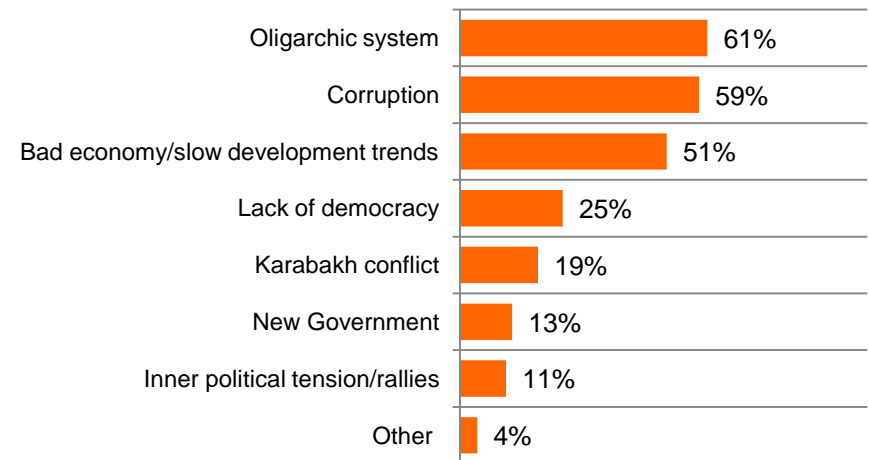
Respondents 149

Gr. B. Reasons for moving in right direction



Respondents 1085

Gr. G. Reasons for moving in wrong direction



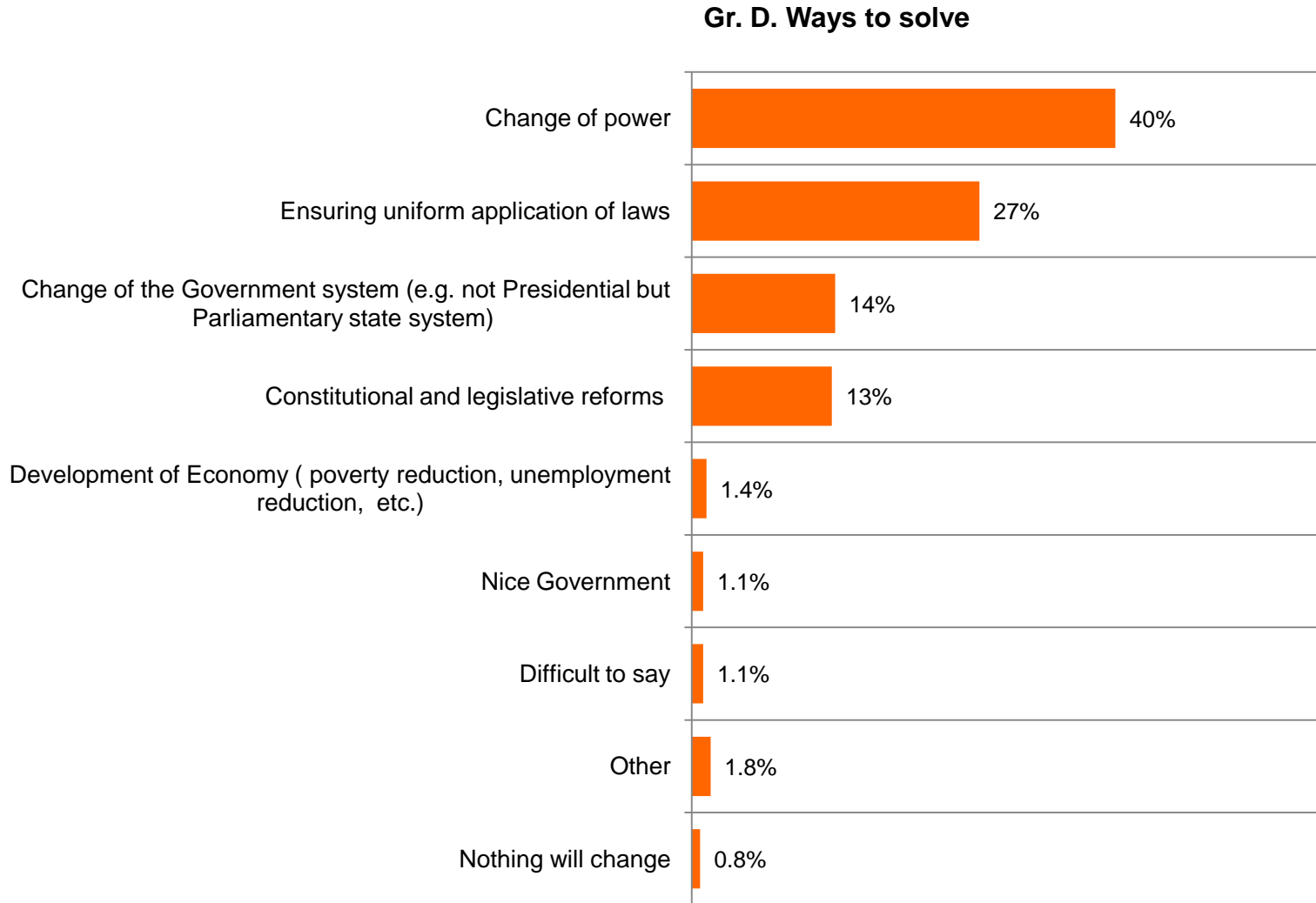
Q4. In your opinion is Armenia moving in right direction or not?

Q5. If it's moving in wrong direction what is the reason?

Q6. If it's moving in right direction what is the reason?

Ways to Solve the Problems

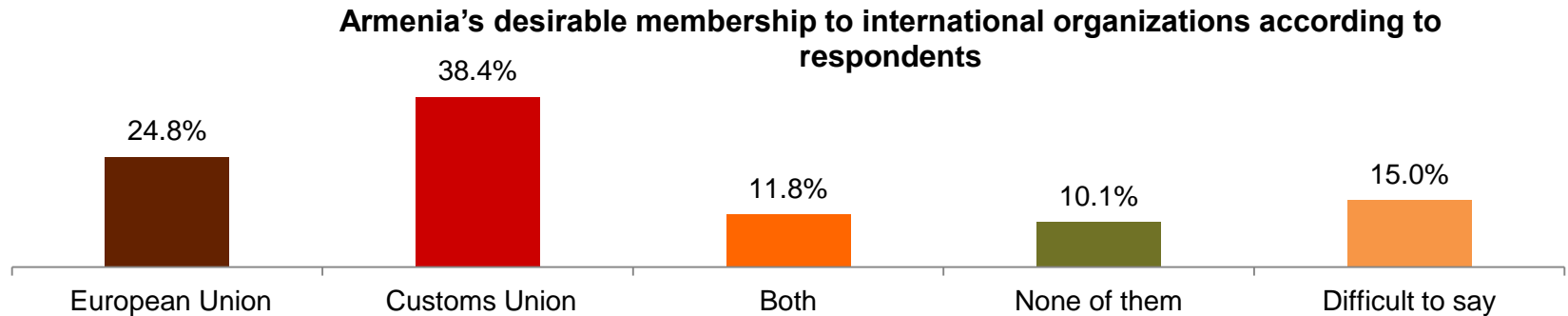
Respondents 1300



Q3. In your view what should be done immediately to solve the issues Armenia is currently facing?

Gr. E. Membership in International Organizations and Perception of Democracy

Respondents 1300

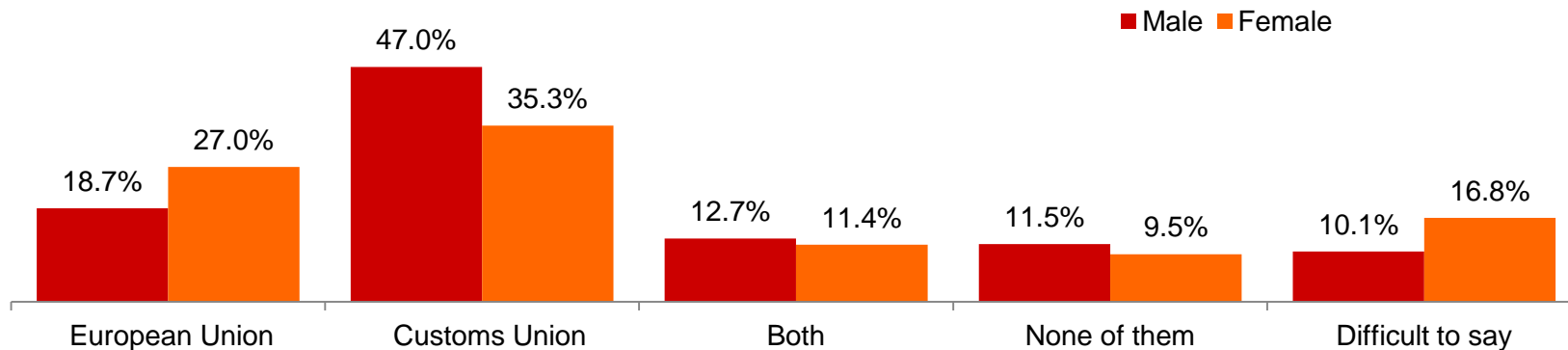


Q86. Do you think that Armenia should become a member of ...

Gr. Z. Membership to the International Organizations according to Respondents' Gender and Place of Residence

Respondents Male 347

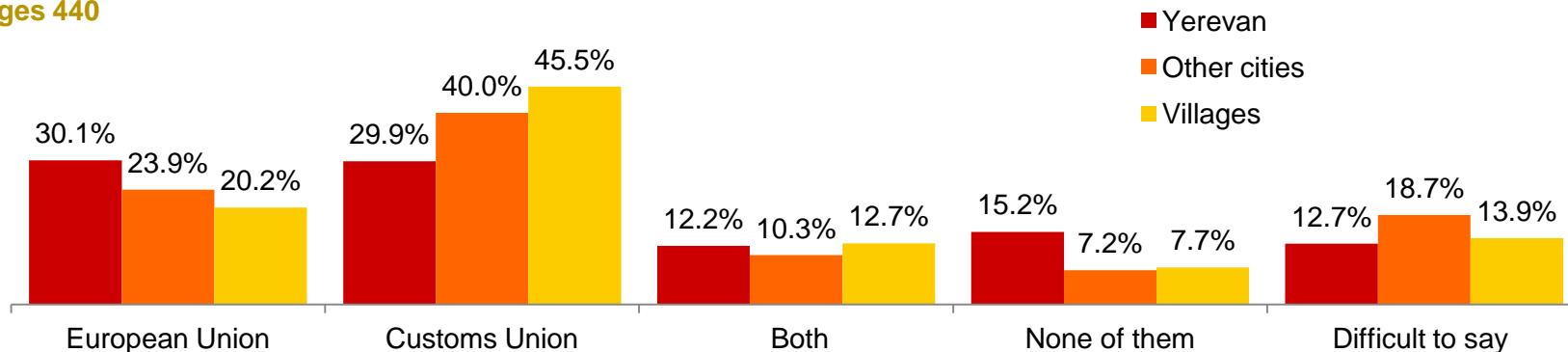
Female 953



Respondents Yerevan 442

Other cities 418

Villages 440

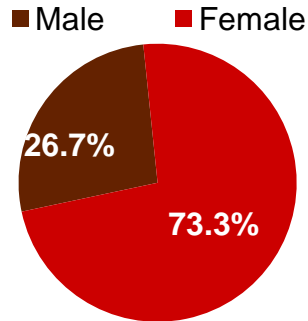


Social-demographic Picture

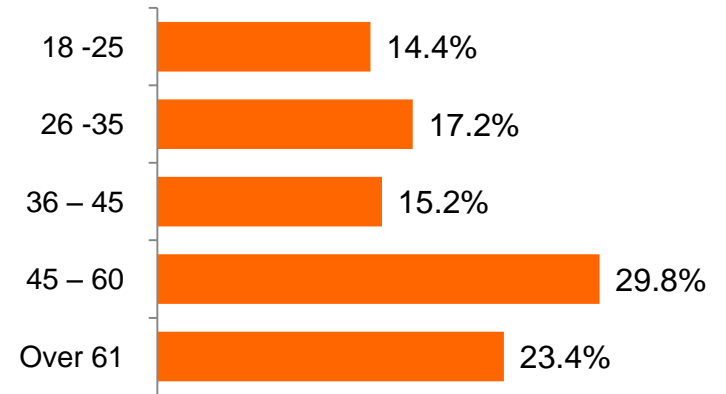
Respondents' gender, age, education

Respondents 1300

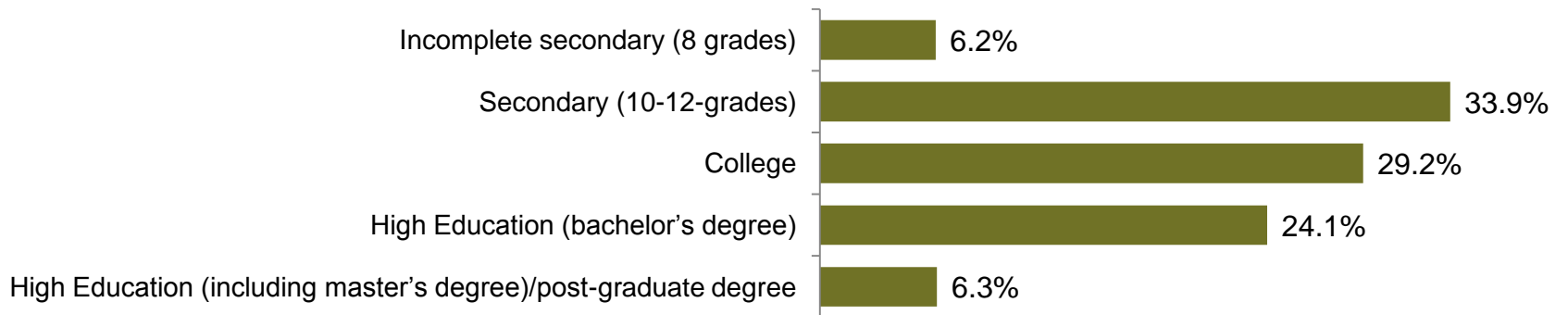
Gr. 62. Respondents' gender



Gr. 63. Respondents' age



Gr. 64. Respondents' education



Q87. Respondent's gender

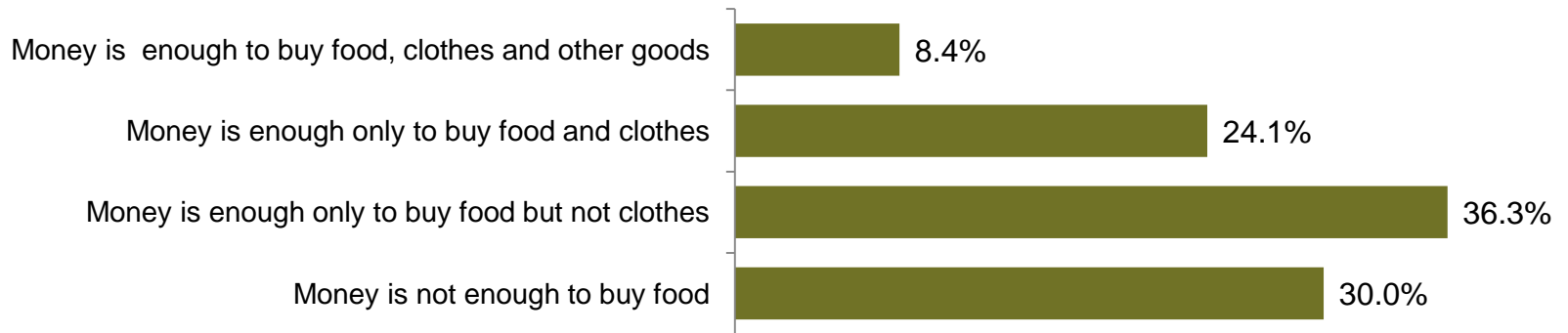
Q88. Your age

Q89. Your education

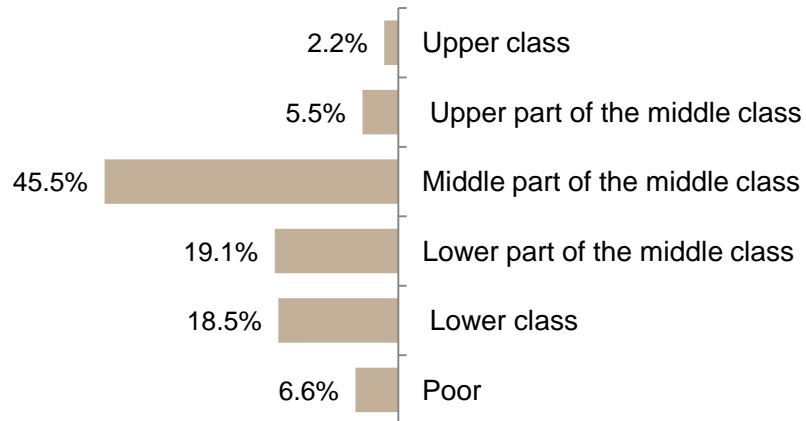
Respondents' Social-economic Conditions

Respondents 1300

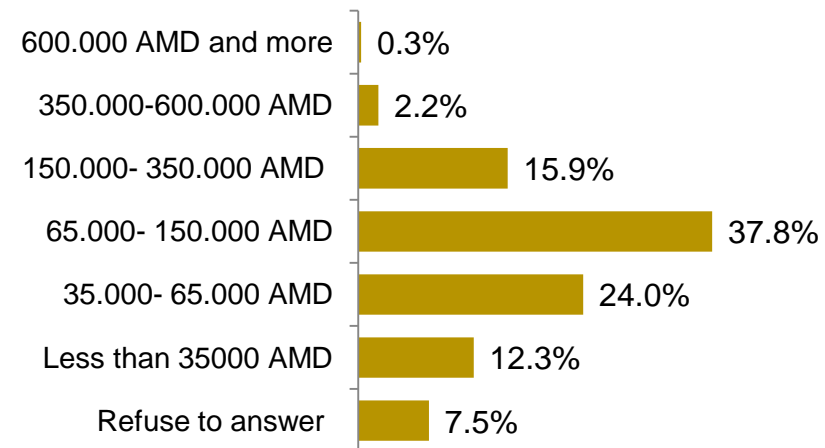
Gr. 65. Social-economic conditions of respondent's household



Gr. 66. Classification of respondents



Gr. 67. Respondents' family's average monthly salary



Q90. Please tell me which of the following below mentioned judgments describes your economic condition the best?

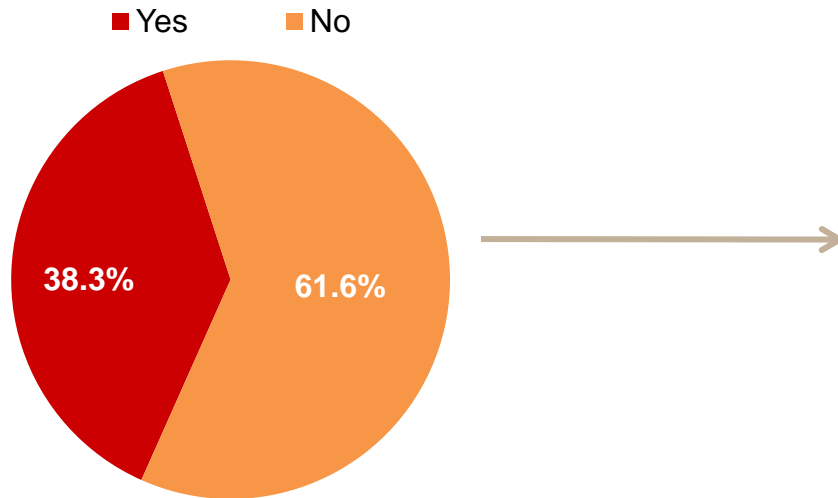
Q92. Representative of what class do you consider yourself?

Q91. What is your family's average monthly salary?

Reasons for Having or not Having a job

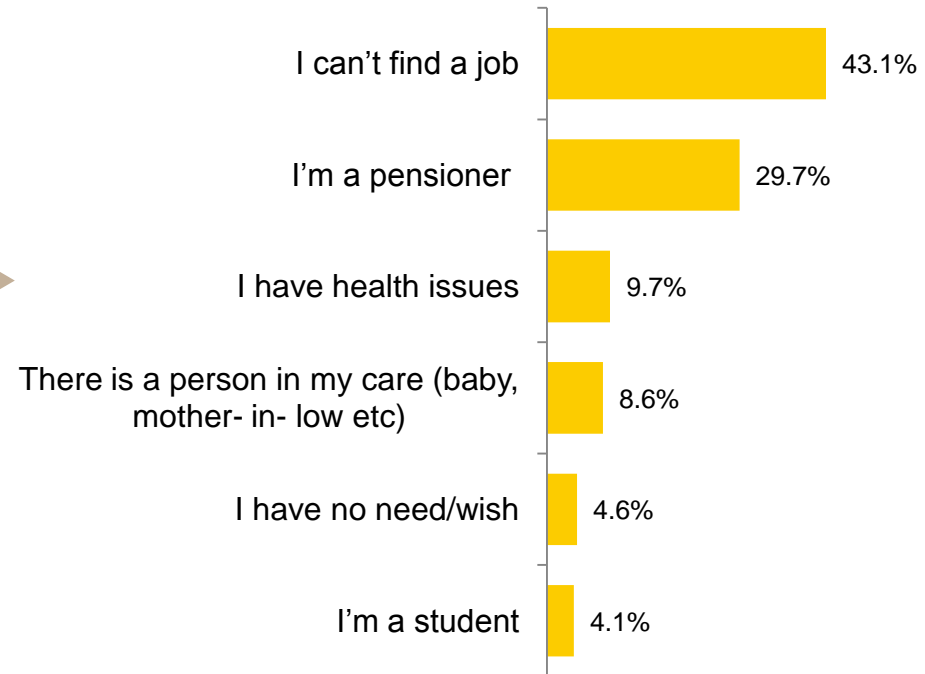
Respondents 1300

Gr. 68. Availability of job providing income



Respondents 801

Gr. 69. Reasons for not working



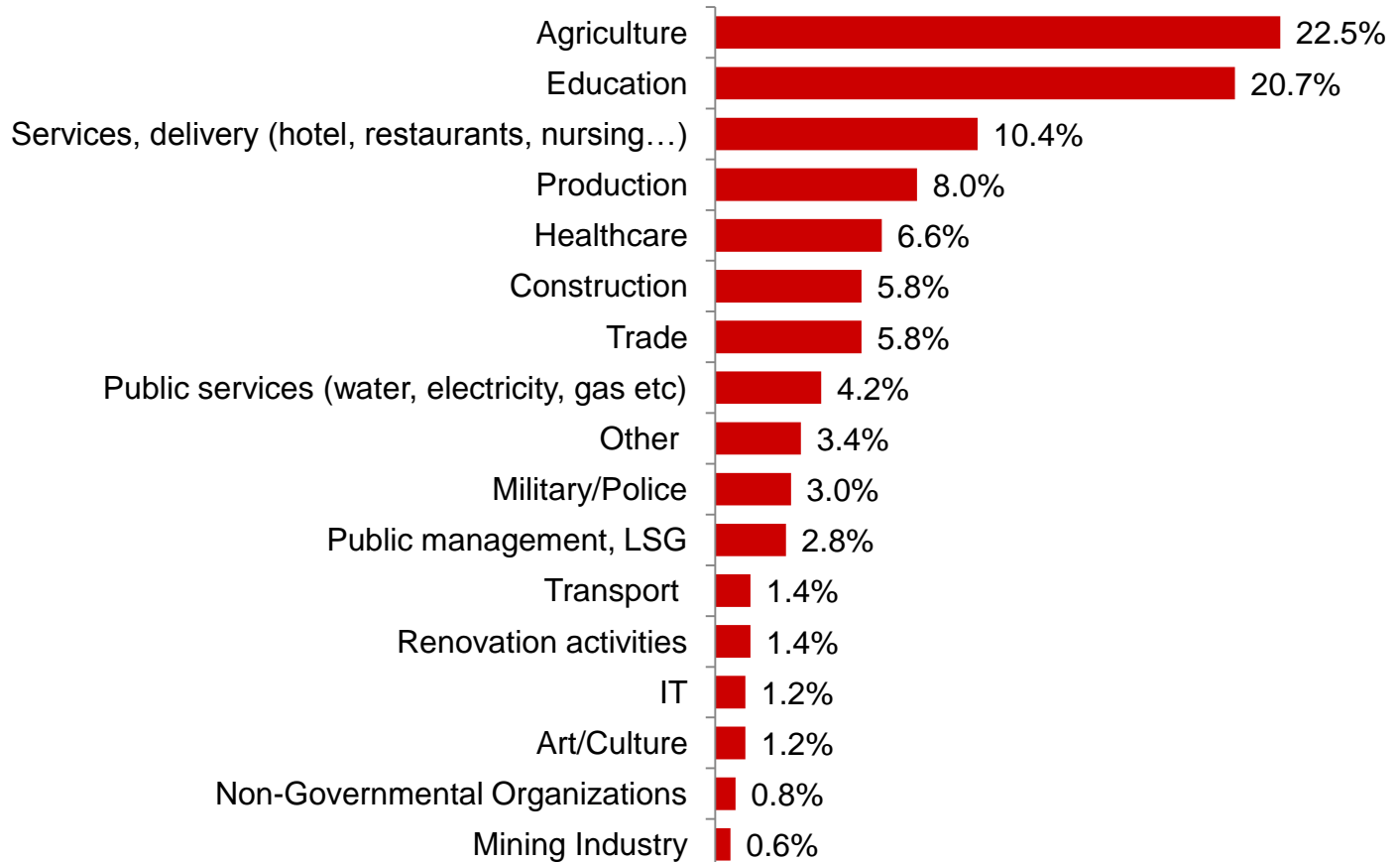
Q93. Do you have a job providing income (inform of either money or goods)?

Q94. If no what is the reason that you don't work?

Sphere of Respondents' Employment

Respondents 1300

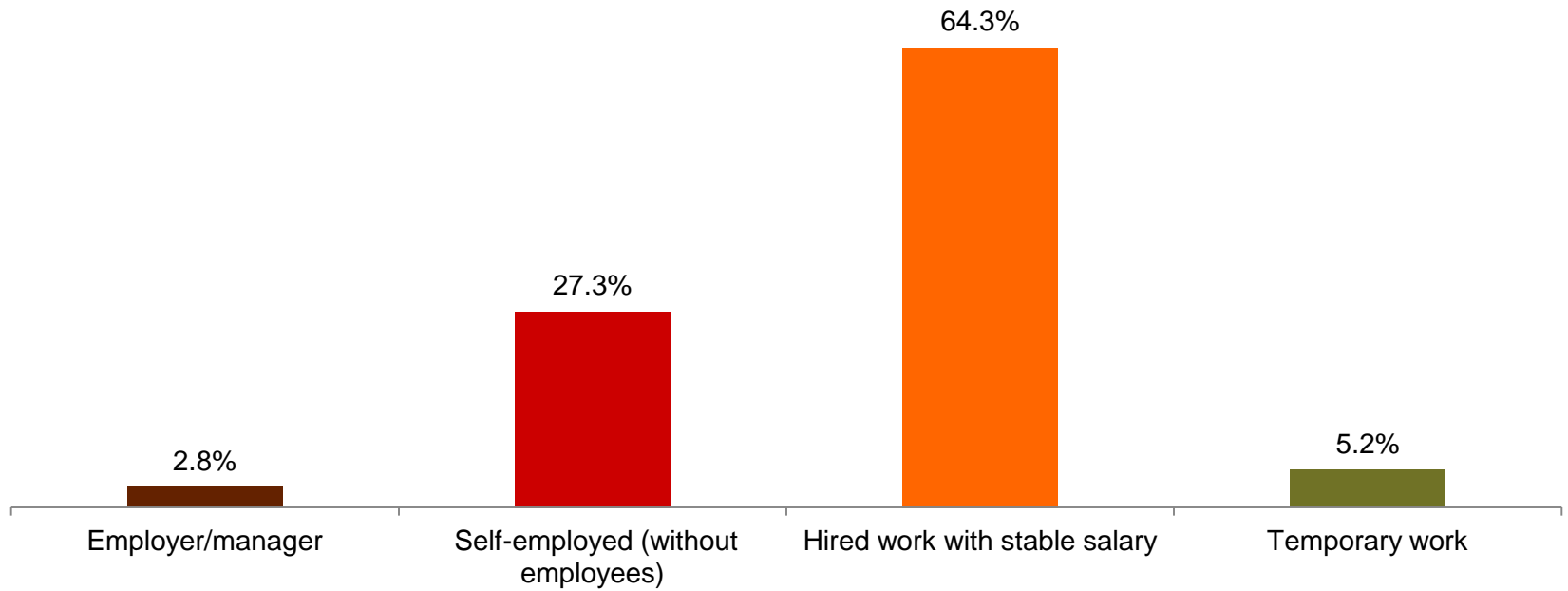
Gr. 70. Sphere of employment of respondents



Respondents' Job Nature

Respondents 1300

Gr. 71. Job nature of respondents



Q96. What is the nature of your job?

EUROPEAN
ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY



Thank You for Cooperation

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