

Engaging the citizens on the road to EU Enlargement

*Conference in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of
the Council of the European Union 2024*

be
EU
belgium24.eu



EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM
OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK



THINK TANK
EUROPA

14:00 | WELCOME BY H.E. M. MAERTENS, *AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK*

14:05 | PART I: THE EU CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

- Keynote by Prof. Virginie Van Ingelgom
- Presentation by Rasmus Egmont Foss
- Panel debate / Q&A moderated by Iben Tybjærg Schacke-Barfoed

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:15 | PART II: THE EU PARLIAMENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

16:00 | RECEPTION



EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM
OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK



THINK TANK
EUROPA

14:00 | WELCOME BY H.E. M. MAERTENS, *AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK*

14:05 | PART I: THE EU CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

- **Keynote by Prof. Virginie Van Ingelgom**
- Presentation by Rasmus Egmont Foss
- Panel debate / Q&A moderated by Iben Tybjærg Schacke-Barfoed

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:15 | PART II: THE EU PARLIAMENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

16:00 | RECEPTION




EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM
OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK



THINK TANK
EUROPA



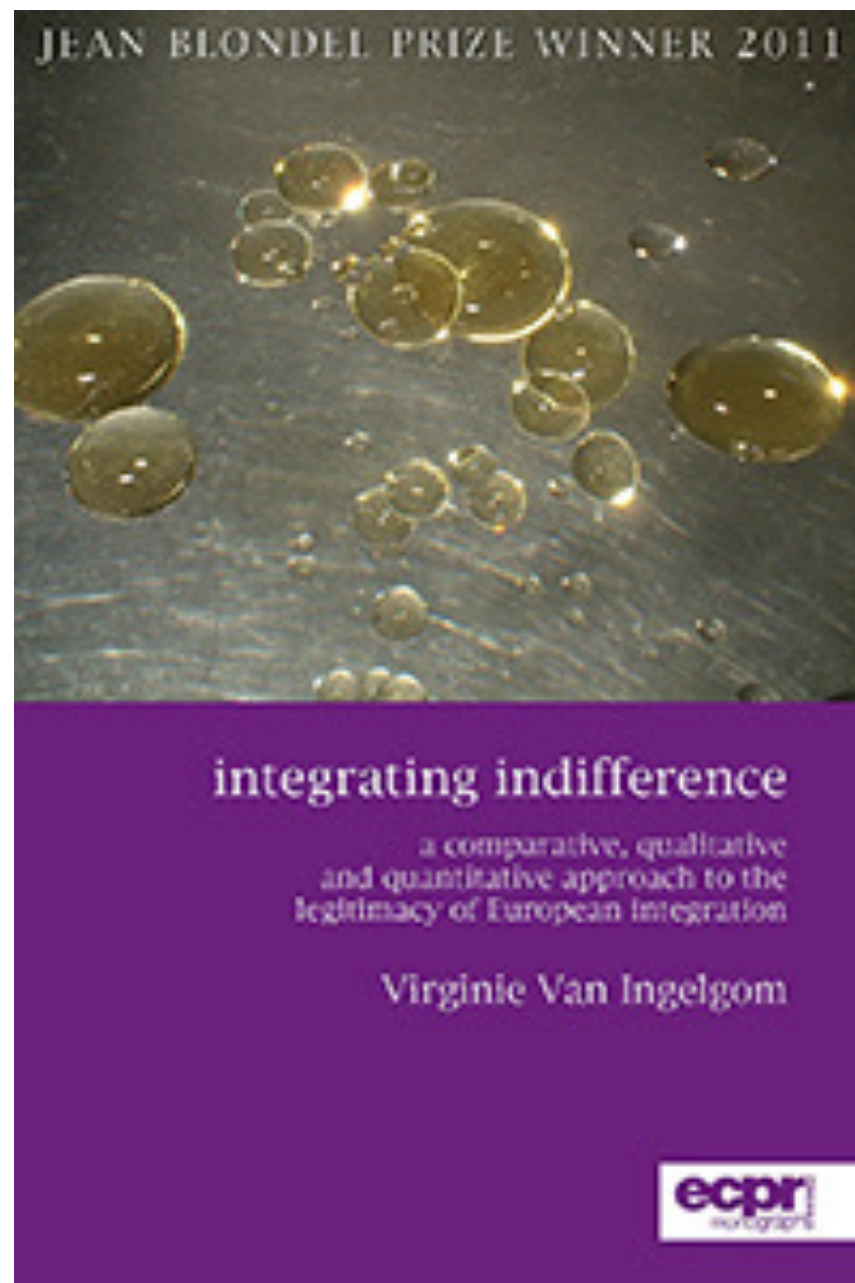
UC Louvain



Engaging the citizens on the road to EU Enlargement

Conference in the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union

Organized by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium to Denmark and Think Tank Europa
Prof. V. Van Ingelgom (F.R.S. – FNRS, UCLouvain)



European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, & Van Ingelgom, V. (2024), *L'opinion publique dans l'Union européenne. Rapport national : Belgique*, EB100, Publications Office of the European Union.

V. VAN INGELGOM (2014) , *Integrating Indifference: A Comparative, Qualitative and Quantitative Approach to the Legitimacy of European Integration*, ECPR Press Monographs Series, ECPR Jean Blondel PhD Prize.



EU Citizens and enlargement

- The return of enlargement on the political agenda
- A new geopolitical reality

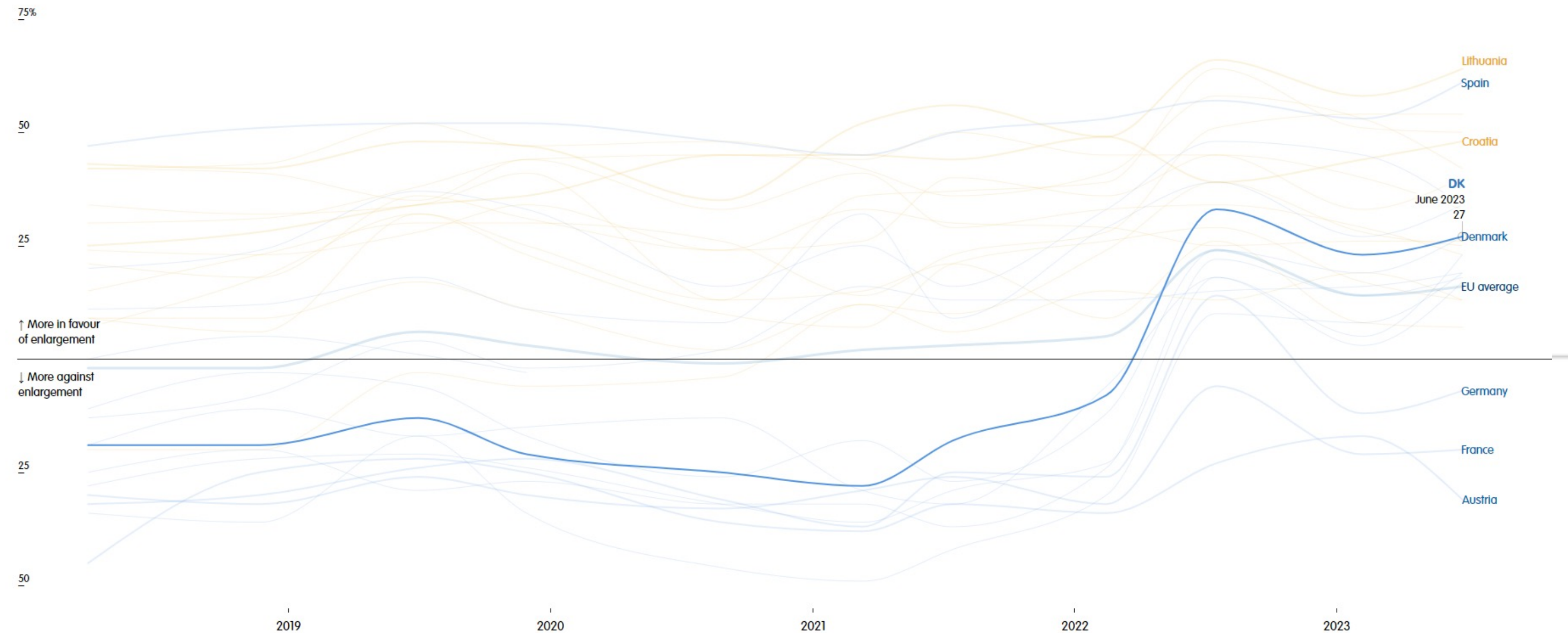
=> What about citizens' perspectives and support for future enlargement ?



Since February 2022, public support for EU enlargement has risen in almost every member state (BE & DK)

Difference between for and against opinions on enlargement among the public, by member state, 2018-2023

Countries that joined the EU • before 2004 • In 2004 and after



The chart shows the difference between "for" and "against" opinions about the further enlargement of the EU to include other countries.

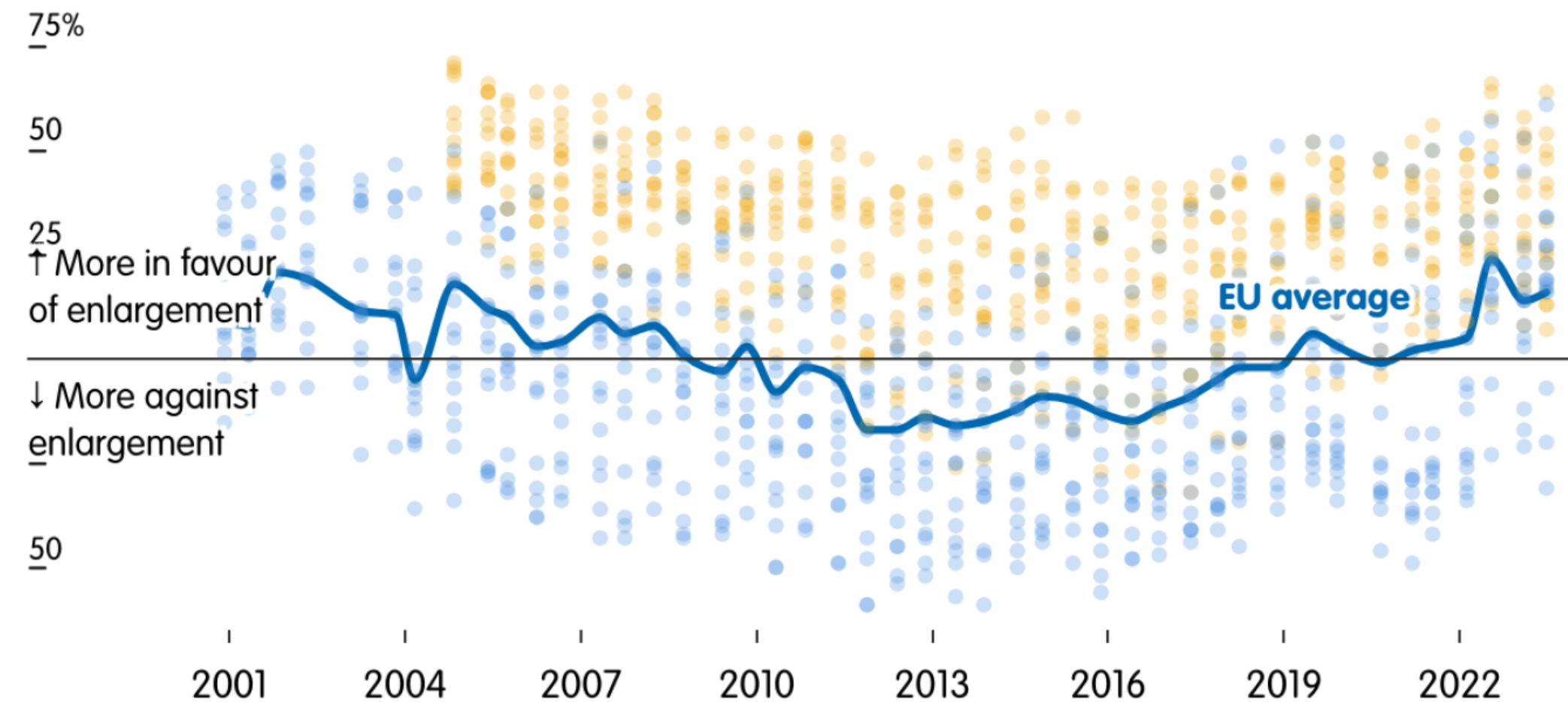
Source: Eurobarometer
ECFR · ecf.eu



However important this change is, in the long term what characterizes public opinion towards future enlargement is a **certain 'fatigue' and a majority who is not in favor of further enlargements.**

Difference between for and against opinions on enlargement among the public, by member state, 2000-2023

Countries that joined the EU ● before 2004 ● In 2004 and after



The chart shows the difference between "for" and "against" opinions about the further enlargement of the EU to include other countries.

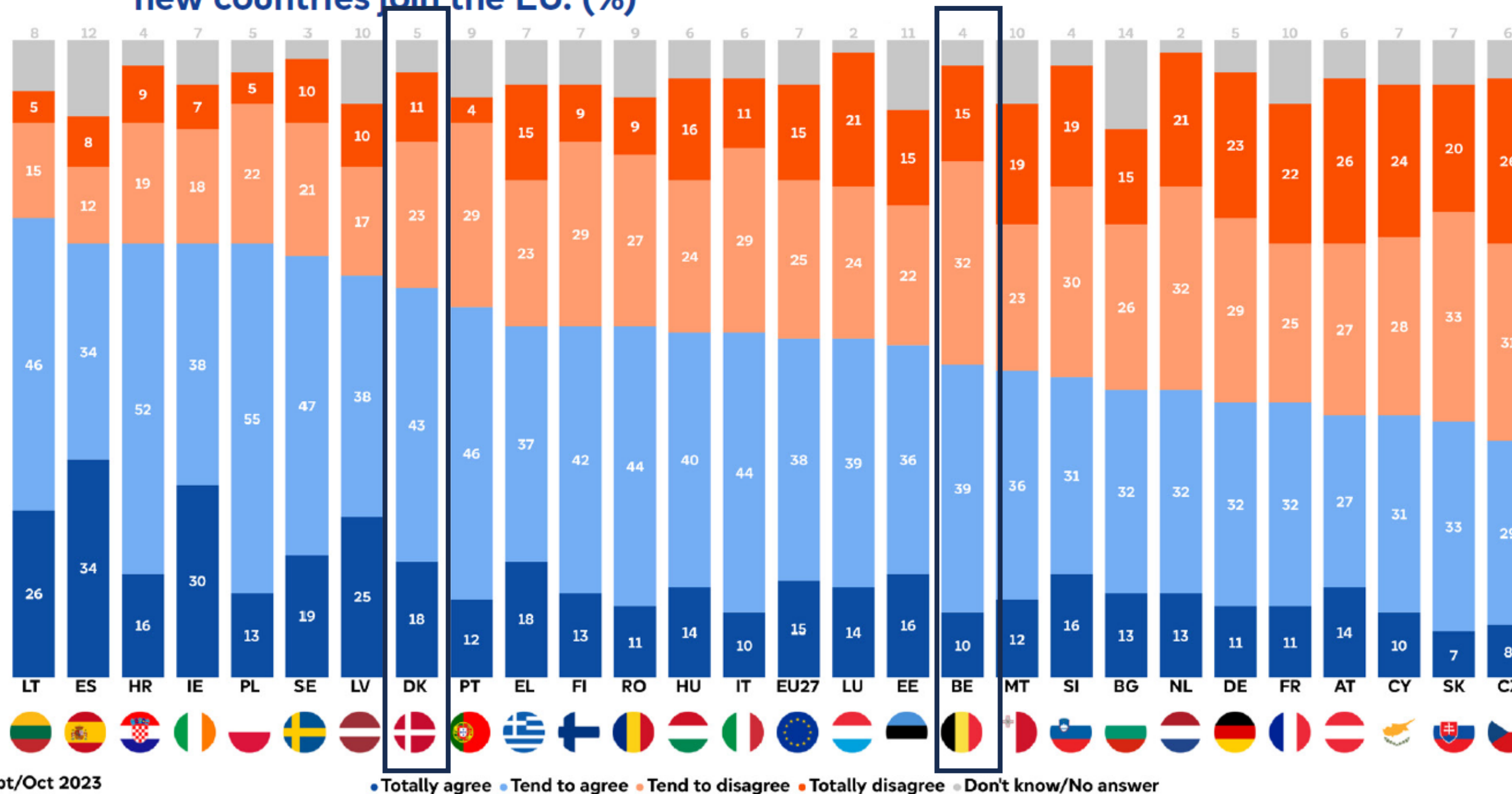
Source: Eurobarometer
ECFR · ecf.eu



Support for enlargement but also for speeding up efforts to let new countries join the EU varies considerably between Member States

QA22

Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement. In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Union should speed up its efforts to let new countries join the EU. (%)

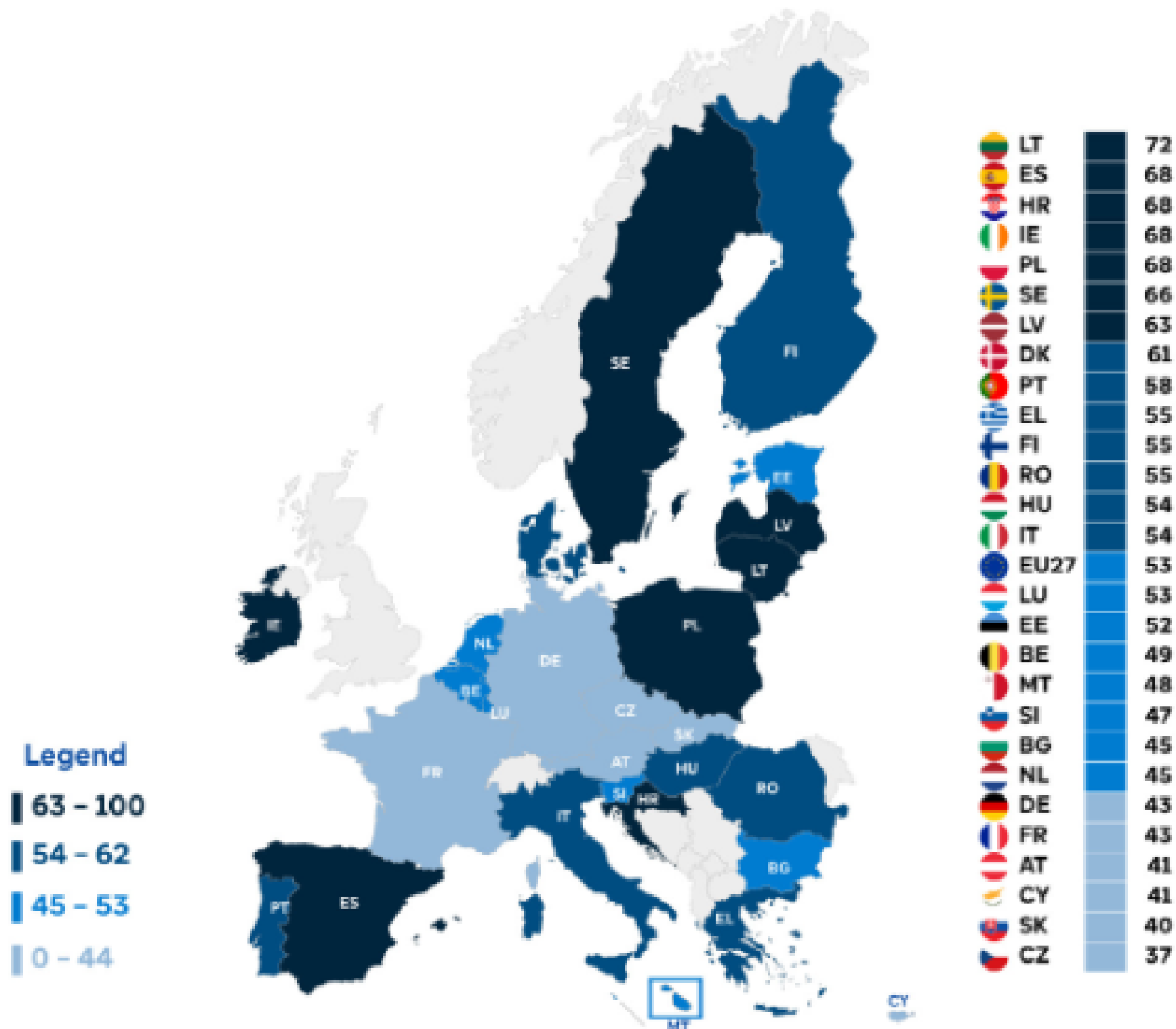


Sept/Oct 2023

• Totally agree • Tend to agree • Tend to disagree • Totally disagree • Don't know/No answer

Institut de sciences politiques Louvain-Europe (ISPOLE)

Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement. In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Union should speed up its efforts to let new countries join the EU. Total 'Agree' (%)



Support is strongest among younger, more highly educated and wealthy respondents and those who think things in the EU are going in the right direction.

+ Belonging to the EU is important

	Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know/No answe	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'
EU27	15	38	25	15	7	53	40
Gender							
Man	15	39	25	16	5	54	41
Woman	14	37	25	15	9	51	40
Age							
15-24	15	45	22	9	9	60	31
25-39	16	40	25	14	5	56	39
40-54	15	39	25	17	4	54	42
55 +	14	34	26	17	9	48	43
Education (End of)							
15-	14	29	25	19	13	43	44
16-19	12	38	27	17	6	50	44
20+	17	40	24	14	5	57	38
Still studying	17	44	23	8	8	61	31
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	17	39	25	14	5	56	39
Managers	16	43	23	15	3	59	38
Other white collars	13	45	25	13	4	58	38
Manual workers	14	37	27	16	6	51	43
House persons	12	28	29	13	18	40	42
Unemployed	14	31	24	24	7	45	48
Retired	14	33	26	18	9	47	44
Students	17	44	23	8	8	61	31
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	14	26	24	26	10	40	50
From time to time	13	39	27	15	6	52	42
Almost never/ Never	16	39	24	14	7	55	38
Things in the EU are going in...							
Right direction	23	49	18	6	4	72	24
Wrong direction	10	32	30	23	5	42	53
Neither	13	34	28	14	11	47	42
Belonging of (OUR COUNTRY) to the EU							
Important	19	44	23	9	5	63	32
Neutral	7	32	32	19	10	39	51
Not important	5	16	29	42	8	21	71

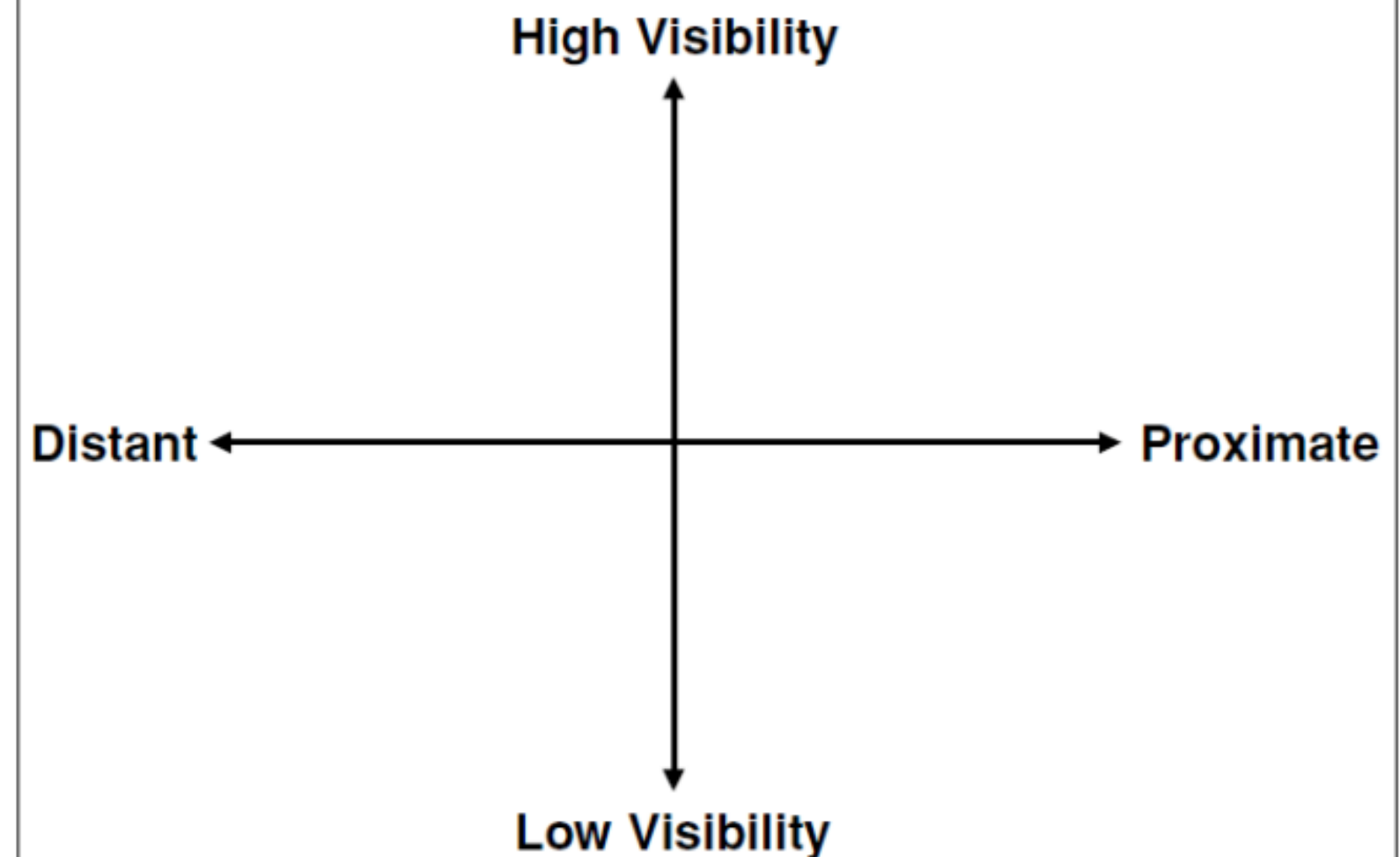
How to account for these differences ?

- **The utilitarian approach** : based on a cost-benefit analysis as a driver of support or Euroscepticism, this approach argues that citizens' support for the EU is conditional on whether they think their country's membership serves their economic interest.
- **The identify-based approach** : citizens' attachment to their nations and their perceptions of other cultures influence their support or rejection of European integration.
- **The cue-taking approach**: only a few people have direct personal experiences with the EU and knowledge related to the EU is generally low. Studies have therefore focused on the role of parties and the media, in shaping support for or opposition to the EU

Proximity and visibility as conditions of policy effects on citizens

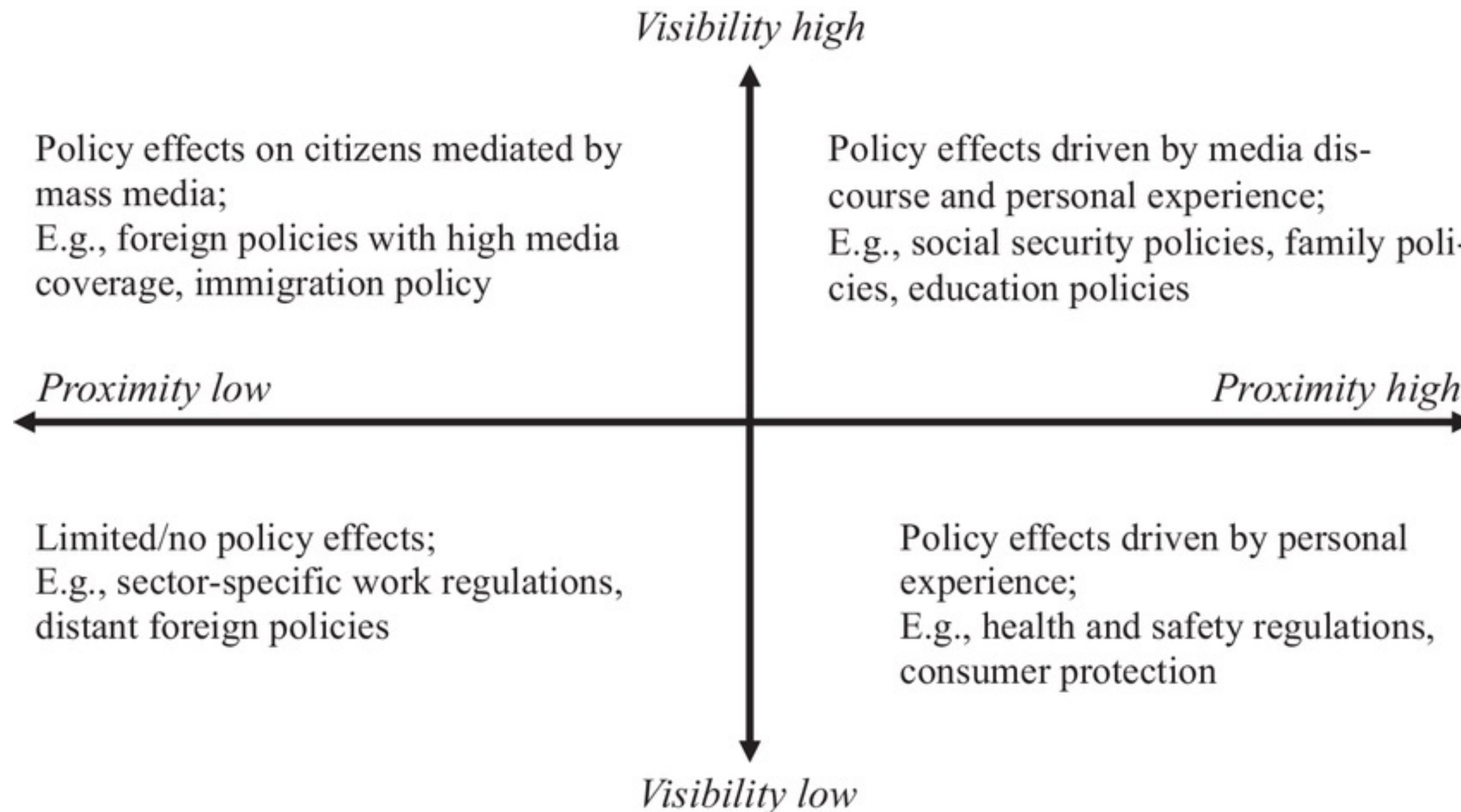
- **Visibility**, is conventional in studies of policy feedback and concerns the degree to which a policy is salient to mass publics (Hacker 2002)
- **Proximity** concerns the extent to which it exists as a tangible presence affecting people's lives in immediate, concrete ways versus existing as a distant object.

FIGURE 3. A General Framework for the Analysis of Mass Feedback Processes: Policy Visibility and Proximity



Reference: Soss and Schram 2007.

Proximity and visibility as conditions of policy effects on citizens



Modified from Soss and Schram 2007. Ziller, C. *Policy Effects on Political Engagement*. Köln Z Soziol 71 (Suppl 1), 285–312 (2019).

References

- Buras, Piotr & Engjellushe Morina (2023). *Catch-27: The Contradictory Thinking about Enlargement in the EU*, ECFR Policy Brief.
- European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, & Van Ingelgom, Virginie (2024), *L'opinion publique dans l'Union européenne. Rapport national : Belgique, EB100*, Publications Office of the European Union.
- European Parliament, Directorate-General for Communication (2023), *Parlemeter 2023 – Special Eurobarometer 100.1 – EB044EP*, European Parliament.
- Van Ingelgom, Virginie (2023), « Citizens », in Faure, S. Lesquesne, C. (Eds.), *Elgar Companion to the European Union*, 194-208.



Merci
Thank you

14:00 | WELCOME BY H.E. M. MAERTENS, *AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK*

14:05 | PART I: THE EU CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

- Keynote by Prof. Virginie Van Ingelgom
- **Presentation by Rasmus Egmont Foss**
- Panel debate / Q&A moderated by Iben Tybjærg Schacke-Barfoed

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:15 | PART II: THE EU PARLIAMENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

16:00 | RECEPTION



EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM
OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK



THINK TANK
EUROPA



THINK TANK
EUROPA

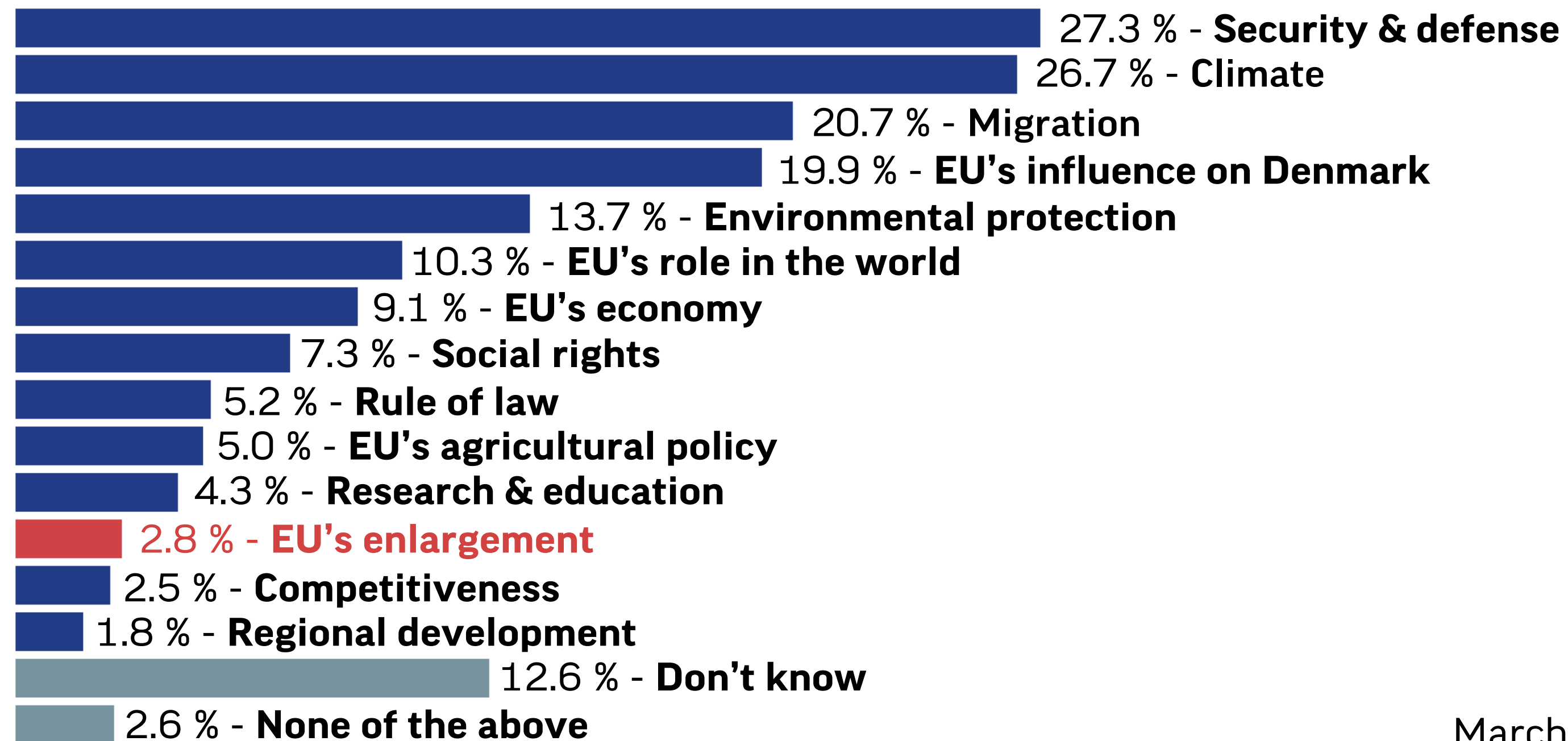
The EU's Enlargement **From a Danish Perspective**

April 15, 2024

Rasmus Egmont Foss, Think Tank EUROPA

Enlargement and European Elections

Key topics at 2024 European Elections according to Danish voters

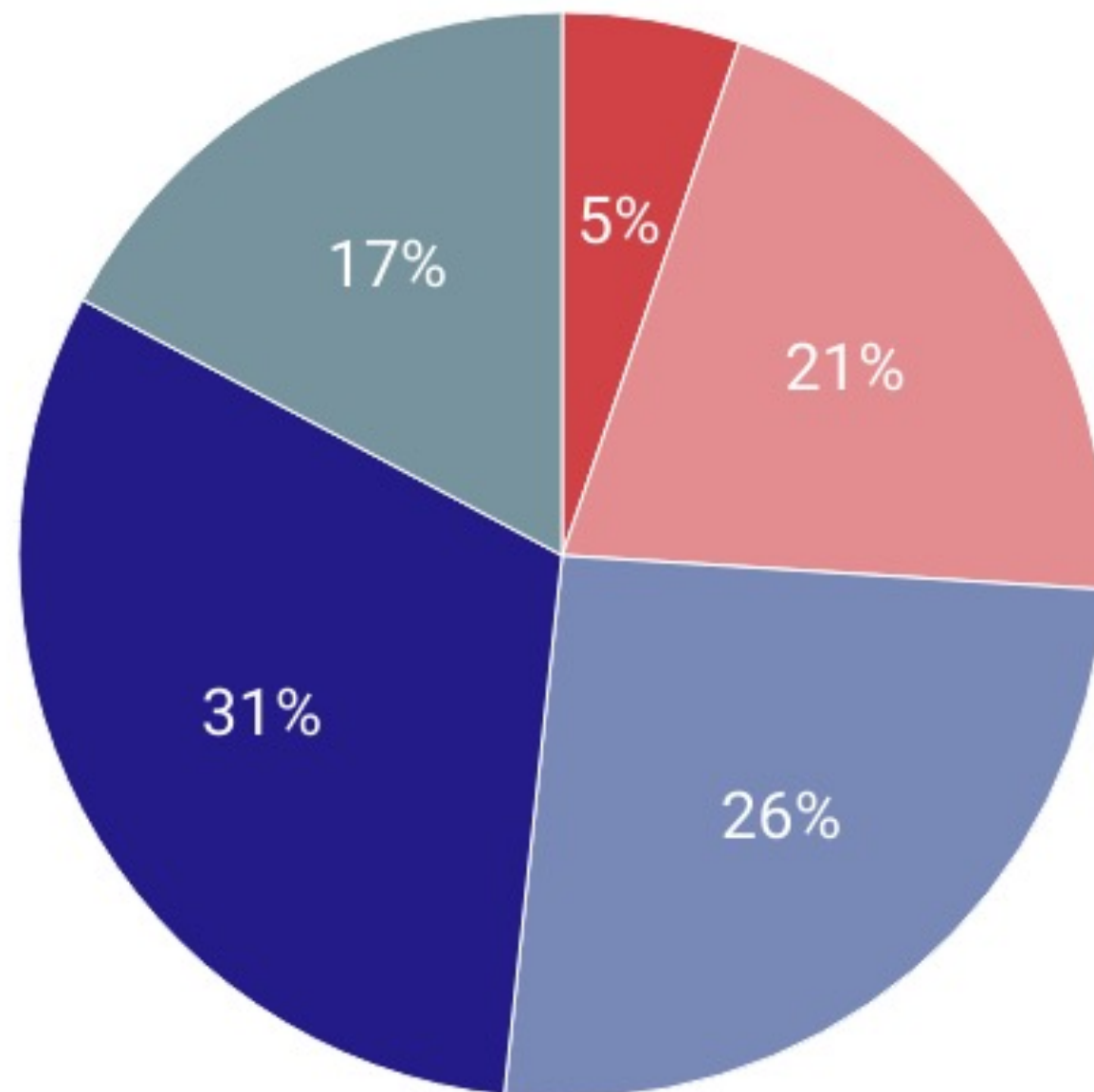


1,634 polled,
March 19-25, 2024

Frugal Danes

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Richer countries like Denmark should pay more to the EU budget than they do today as the EU enlarges to include countries like Ukraine and Moldova

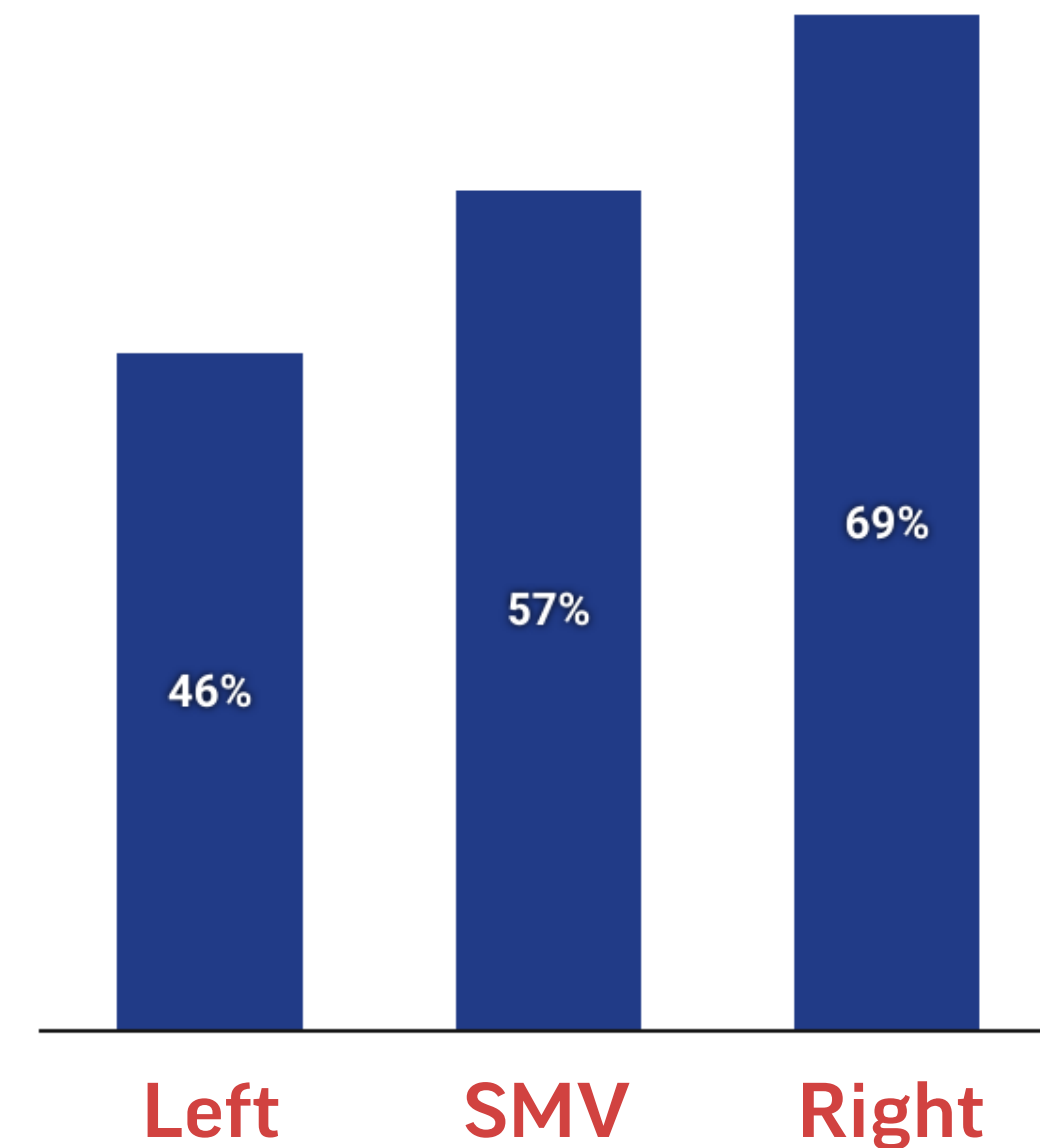
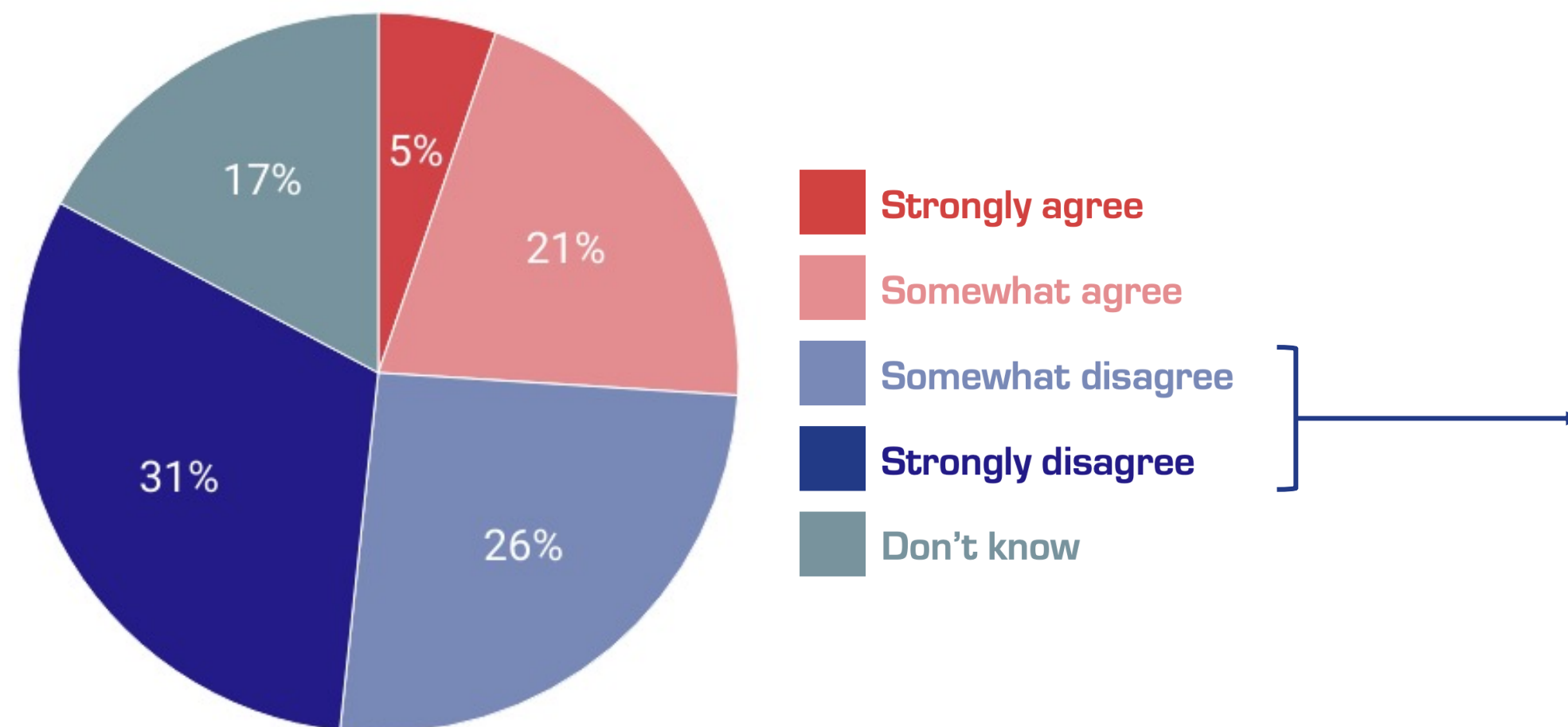


1,634 polled,
March 19-25, 2024

Frugal Danes Lean Right

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

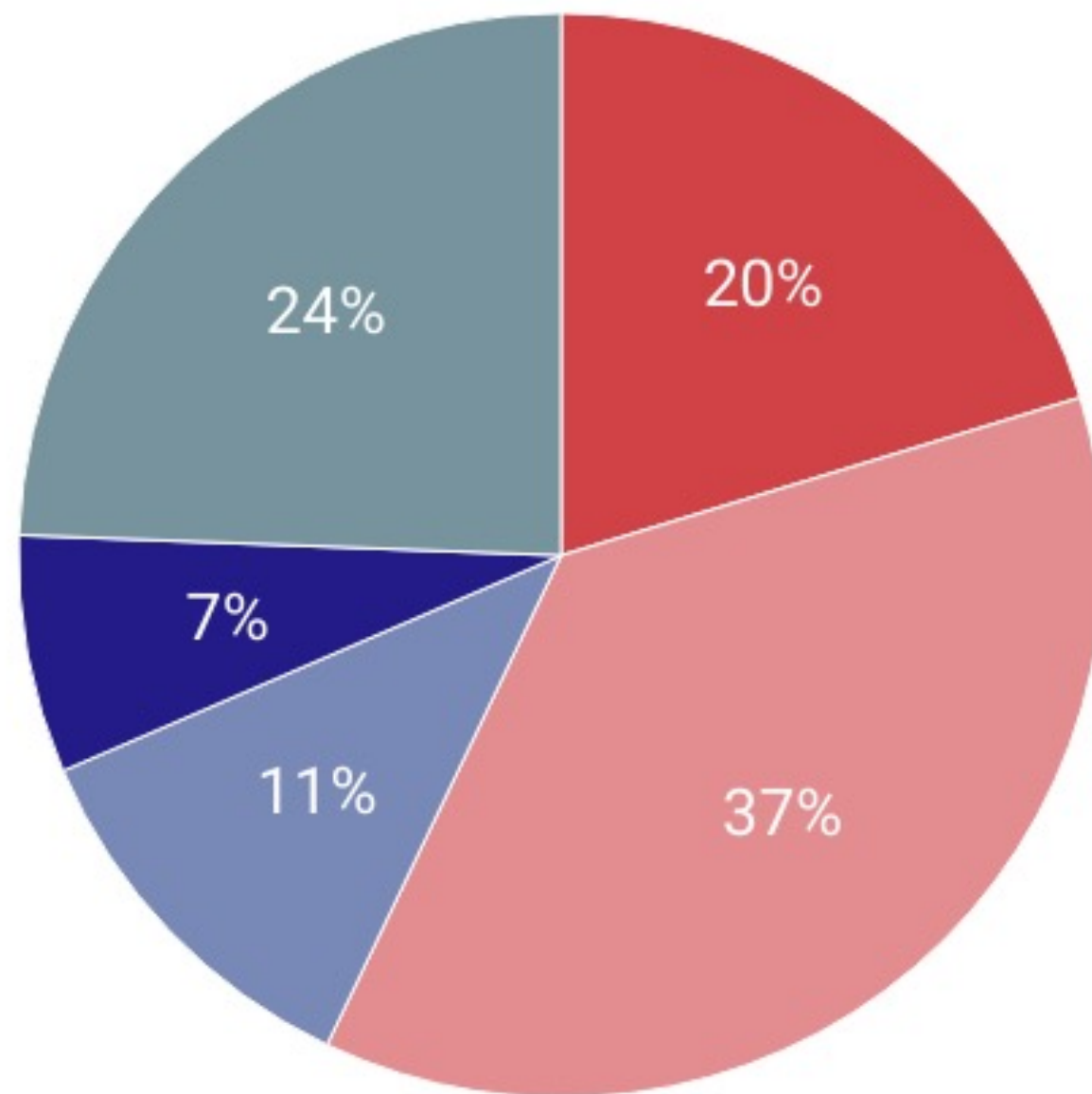
Richer countries like Denmark should pay more to the EU budget than they do today as the EU enlarges to include countries like Ukraine and Moldova



Open to QMV

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

With up to 36 Member States in the EU, it can be necessary to take more decisions by qualified majority voting in replacement of unanimity

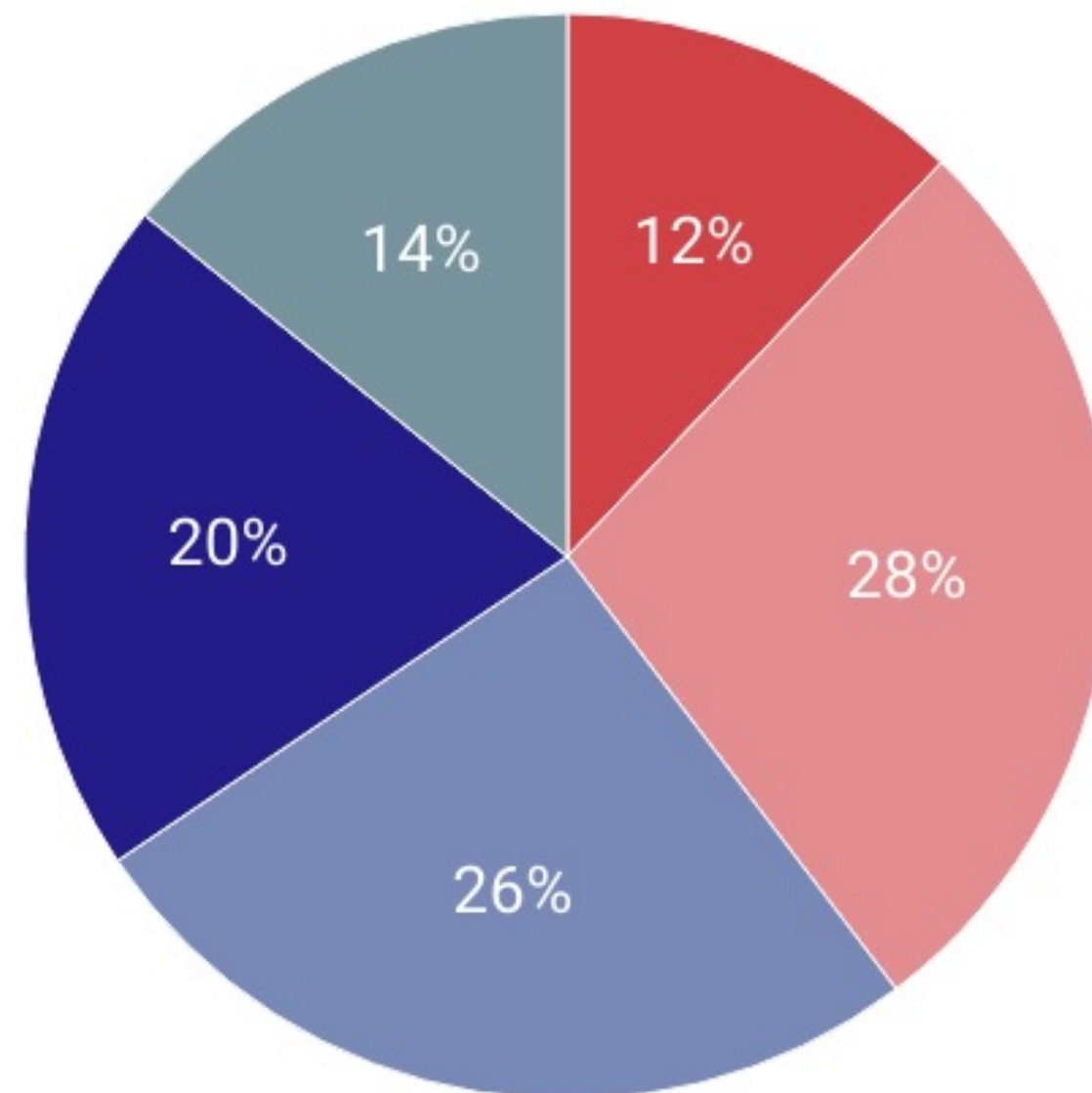


1,634 polled,
March 19-25, 2024

How to Enlarge

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

**The EU should accelerate Ukraine's accession to the EU,
even if Ukraine does not meet all the requirements**

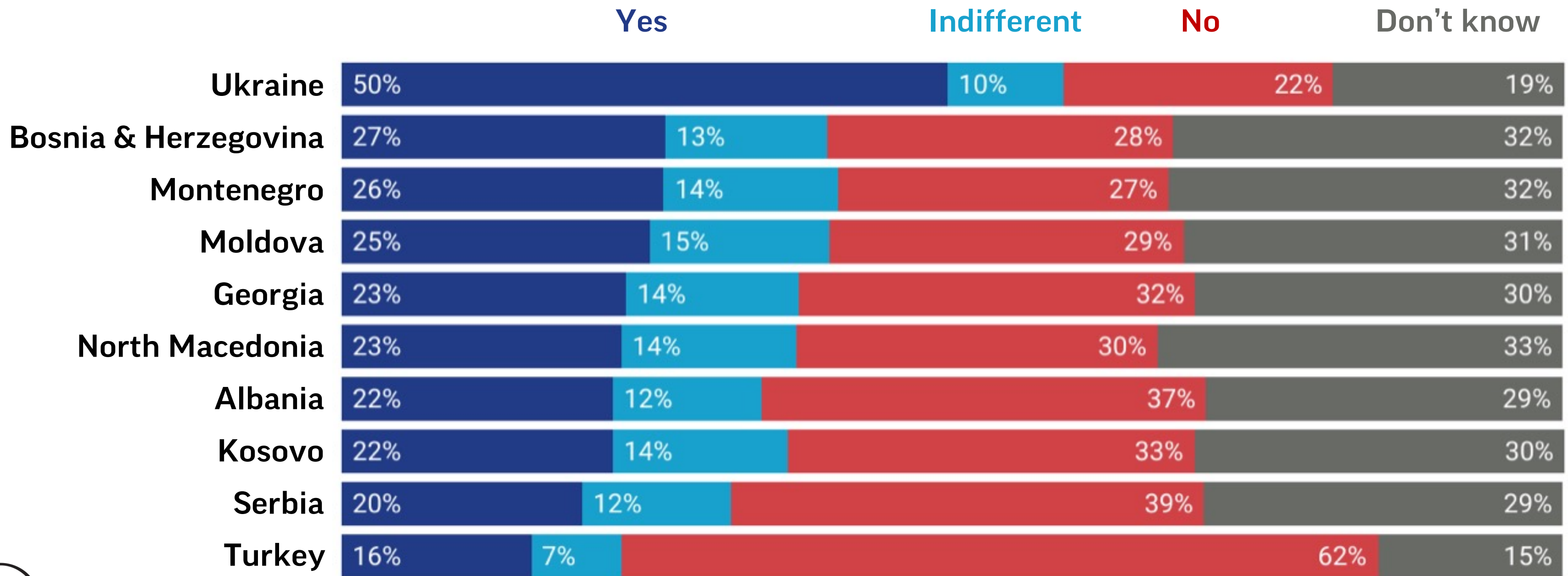


1,634 polled,
March 19-25, 2024

The Waiting Room

Should X be able to join the EU?

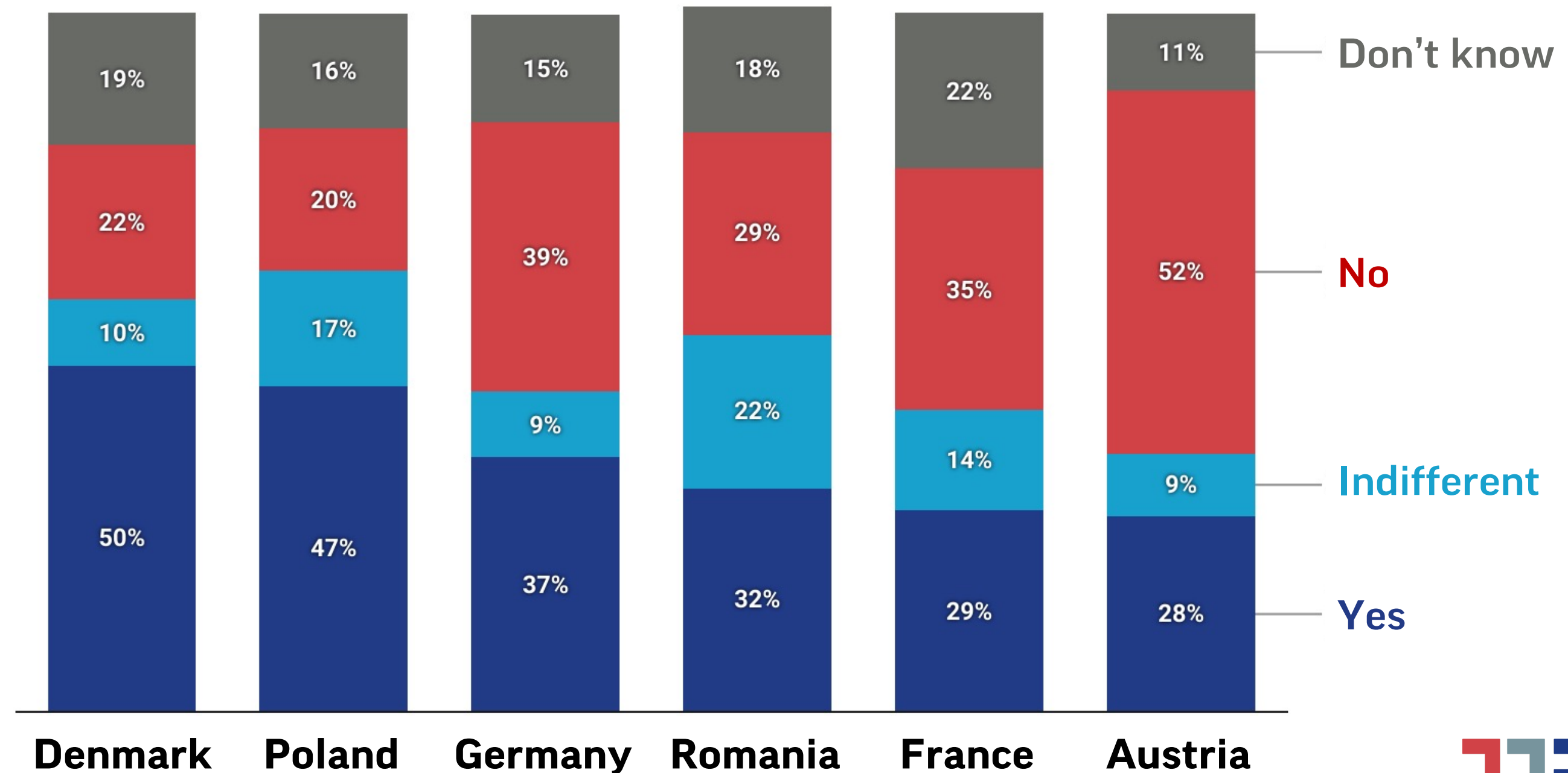
1,018 Danes polled in November 2023



Varying Degrees of Support

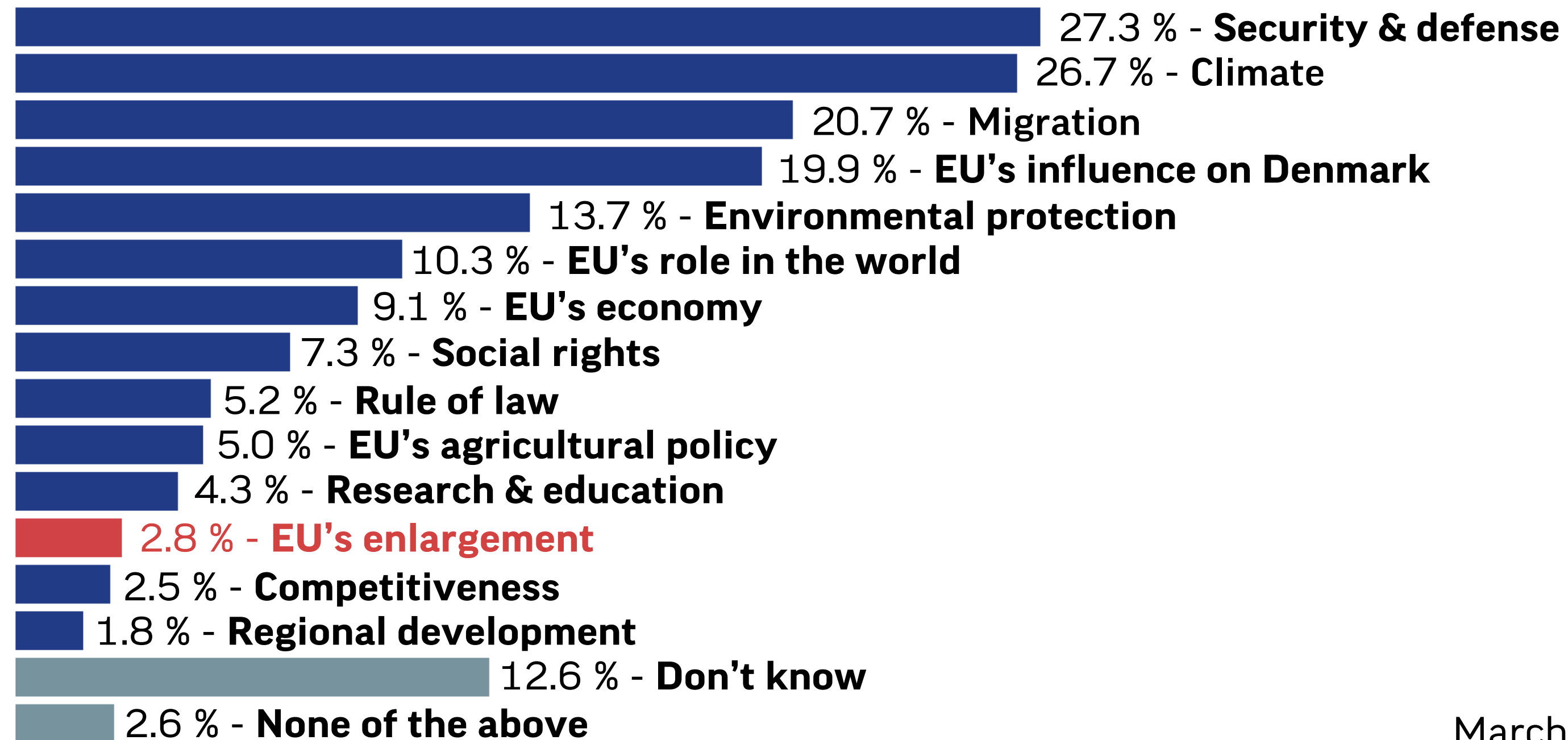
Should Ukraine be able to join the EU?

6,186 Danes, Poles, Germans, Romanians, French, and Austrians
polled in November 2023



Enlargement and European Elections

Key topics at 2024 European Elections according to Danish voters



1,634 polled,
March 19-25, 2024



Thank you

14:00 | WELCOME BY H.E. M. MAERTENS, *AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK*

14:05 | PART I: THE EU CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

- Keynote by Prof. Virginie Van Ingelgom
- Presentation by Rasmus Egmont Foss
- **Panel debate / Q&A moderated by Iben Tybjærg Schacke-Barfoed**

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:15 | PART II: THE EU PARLIAMENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

16:00 | RECEPTION



EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM
OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK



THINK TANK
EUROPA

14:00 | WELCOME BY H.E. M. MAERTENS, *AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK*

14:05 | PART I: THE EU CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

- Keynote by Prof. Virginie Van Ingelgom
- Presentation by Rasmus Egmont Foss
- Panel debate / Q&A moderated by Iben Tybjærg Schacke-Barfoed

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:15 | PART II: THE EU PARLIAMENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

16:00 | RECEPTION



EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM
OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK



THINK TANK
EUROPA

14:00 | WELCOME BY H.E. M. MAERTENS, *AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK*

14:05 | PART I: THE EU CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

- Keynote by Prof. Virginie Van Ingelgom
- Presentation by Rasmus Egmont Foss
- Panel debate / Q&A moderated by Iben Tybjærg Schacke-Barfoed

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:15 | PART II: THE EU PARLIAMENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

16:00 | RECEPTION



EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM
OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK



THINK TANK
EUROPA

14:00 | WELCOME BY H.E. M. MAERTENS, *AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK*

14:05 | PART I: THE EU CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

- Keynote by Prof. Virginie Van Ingelgom
- Presentation by Rasmus Egmont Foss
- Panel debate / Q&A moderated by Iben Tybjærg Schacke-Barfoed

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:15 | PART II: THE EU PARLIAMENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON ENLARGEMENT OF THE EU

16:00 | RECEPTION



EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM
OF BELGIUM TO DENMARK

