



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of European Integration

EUROPEAN ORIENTATION OF SERBIAN CITIZENS

Public Opinion Poll (December 2019)



Agency	Smart Plus Research doo
Type of research	Quantitative field research
Methods / techniques	“Face-to-face” interview, in households, using a tablet
Sample	Three-stage random sample, adult citizens of Serbia. N = 1,050
Territory	Republic of Serbia (without Kosovo and Metohija)
Questionnaire	Structured questionnaire, duration up to 30 minutes
Weighting	By age and education
Period	11/12/2019 – 25/12/2019



- Following the July 2019 survey, which recorded 53% of respondents supporting EU membership, in December 2019 this support recorded a slight increase, reaching 54%. The percentage of those opposing EU membership dropped compared to the previous wave, standing at 24%. Regardless of these changes, more than a half of Serbian citizens still support Serbia's accession to the EU.
- 39% of Serbian citizens have a positive reaction to the image of the EU. On the other hand, there is a slight increase in the number of citizens who have a negative reaction.
- Every tenth Serbian citizen believes that the opening of negotiation chapters is the most important event regarding the EU accession, and only every thirteenth citizen mentioned negotiations with Pristina.
- As the greatest cause of deceleration of our country's accession to the EU, the citizens have identified the policy of conditioning and blackmail the EU applies towards our country. This is believed by 29% of Serbian citizens. Every seventh citizen believes that the mentality of our people is the cause of deceleration of Serbia's accession to the EU, putting this cause at the second place.
- 6 out of 10 Serbian citizens believe that the issue between Belgrade and Pristina should be resolved regardless of the EU's expectations, while 28% of citizens believe that any issue can be resolved with Pristina, except for the status of Kosovo.
- Serbia's EU membership is a good thing according to 42% of citizens, while 22% of them believe it to be a bad thing. There has been a decline in the number of those who think that membership is neither a good nor a bad thing for Serbia.
- For Serbian citizens, the EU primarily represents more employment opportunities (16%) and a path towards a better future for youth (16%), while 15% of citizens see it as the possibility to travel freely across the EU Member States.
- As in the previous polling waves, the number of citizens who believe that they would personally not benefit from Serbia's EU accession (30%) is greater than the number of those who believe the country would not benefit (26%).
- Serbian citizens would rather change their previous life habits (e.g. sort garbage for recycling, pay a deposit for PET packaging, save energy, water) and work habits (working hours, vacation, benefits), 54% and 42% respectively, than pursue further studies, retraining or professional development (35% said they were ready) and, particularly, than continue living under unsatisfying standards for some more time (24% said they were ready).

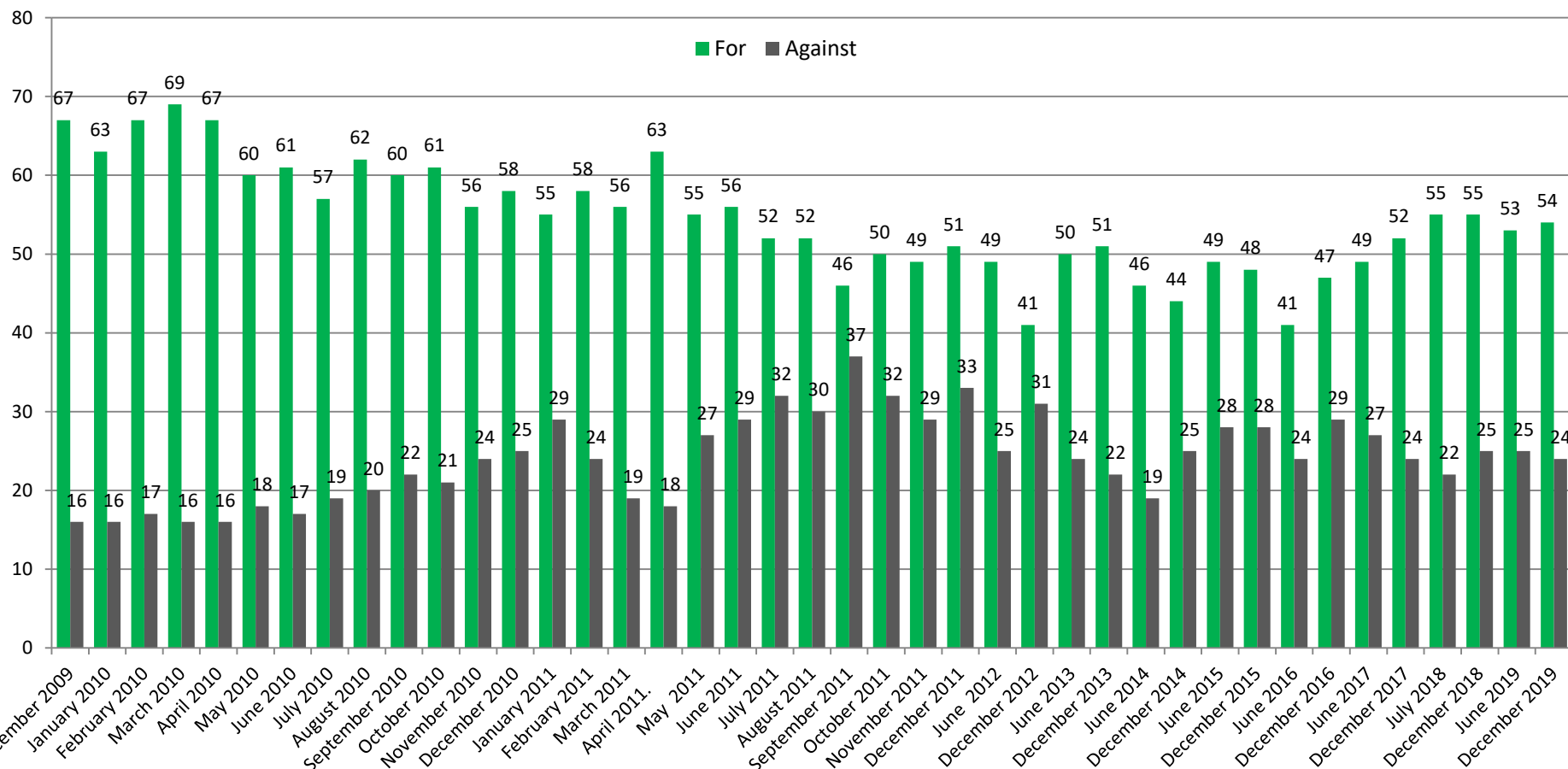


- The concern that EU membership will bring more problems to domestic farmers and that it will cost our country more money, are the most frequently cited reasons for concern, 36% and 32%, respectively. The fear that EU enlargement will cause small EU Member States to lose influence and the loss of social benefits due to EU accession is something that generally does not worry Serbian citizens, i.e. causes the least concern.
- Compared to the previous polling wave, when 40% of Serbian citizens said that several negotiation chapters had been opened when asked about the current status of our country's EU accession negotiations, this percentage has now gone up to 47%.
- Three quarters of Serbian citizens believe that reforms should be carried out regardless of the fact that they are a condition for EU membership. Traditionally, they believe that the fight against corruption (19%) is the most important reform, i.e. the one that has the most positive effect on their everyday lives. Healthcare system reform and better protection of human rights are the second and the third most important reforms, at 17% and 13%, respectively.
- The fight against corruption and better protection of human rights (12%) stand out as the areas where Serbia has achieved the greatest progress.
- With regard to the amount of grants Serbia has received from the EU since 2001, 19% of the citizens believe that it is "around EUR 1 billion", which is the predominant opinion. With regard to the level of knowledge on the topics related to EU funds, 37% of the citizens said they would like to be informed on specific projects in Serbia financed from EU funds. The amount of assistance depending on the status (in the sense of how much is that now, and how much when Serbia becomes an EU Member State) is the second most frequent topic that 25% of Serbian citizens wanted to be informed on.
- As in the previous year, every third citizen has heard of a project financed from EU funds, while most of them have heard of projects in the field of environmental protection (15%) and education (14%).
- The European Union, Russia and China have been the largest donors to Serbia since 2000, according to 26%, 23% and 20% of respondents, respectively. The United States of America have again taken the sixth place, although the facts put it at a high second place according to the amount of funds donated to Serbia.*
- 28% of citizens believe that the EU will overcome current issues, but that it will be reluctant to accept new members, while 31% say that the EU will face greater problems and that it is more likely that it will completely close itself off or even break up, than to expand or grow stronger.
- The opinion that primarily Switzerland, as well as Germany, should be country models Serbia should look up to is shared by 28% and 21% of Serbian citizens, respectively.



If there was a referendum tomorrow with the question: "Do you support the accession of our country to the European Union", how would you vote? (%)

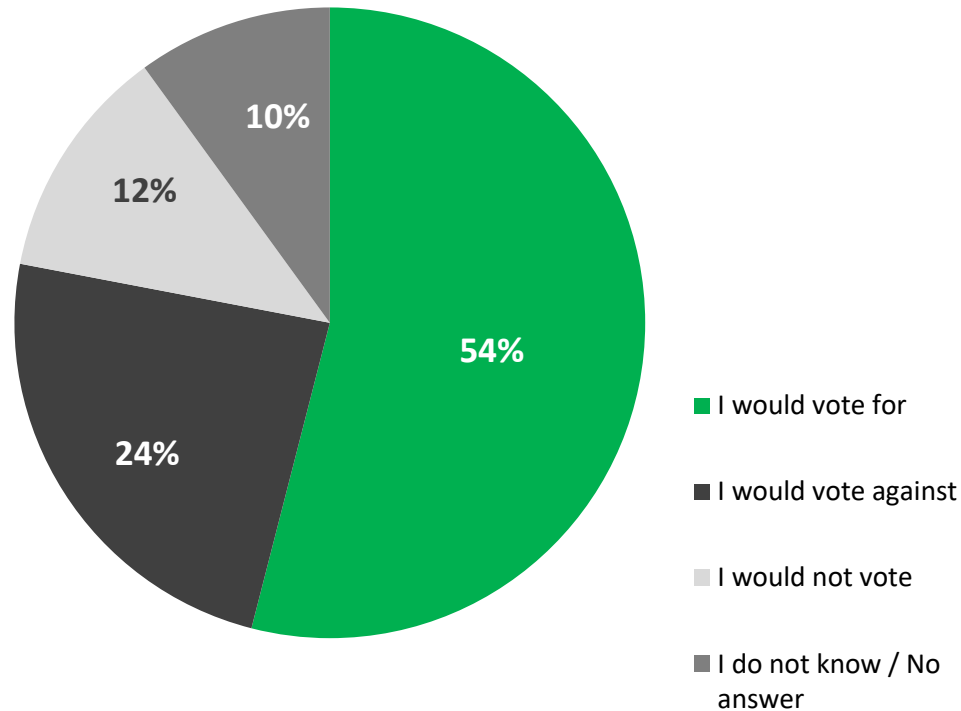
View through waves of surveys





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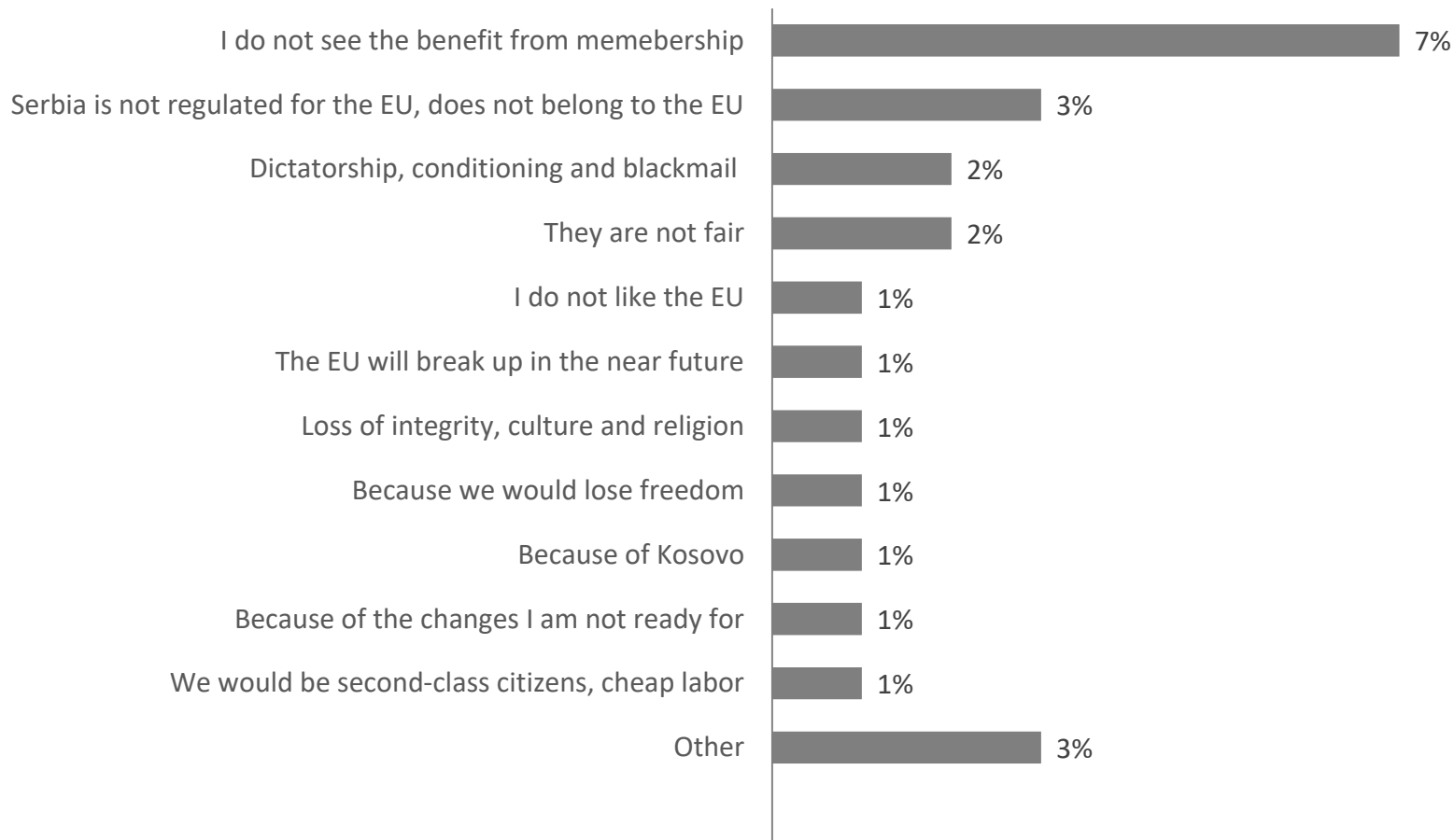
Total sample





(If you would vote against) Why would you vote against? Please state one main reason why you would vote against our country's EU accession.

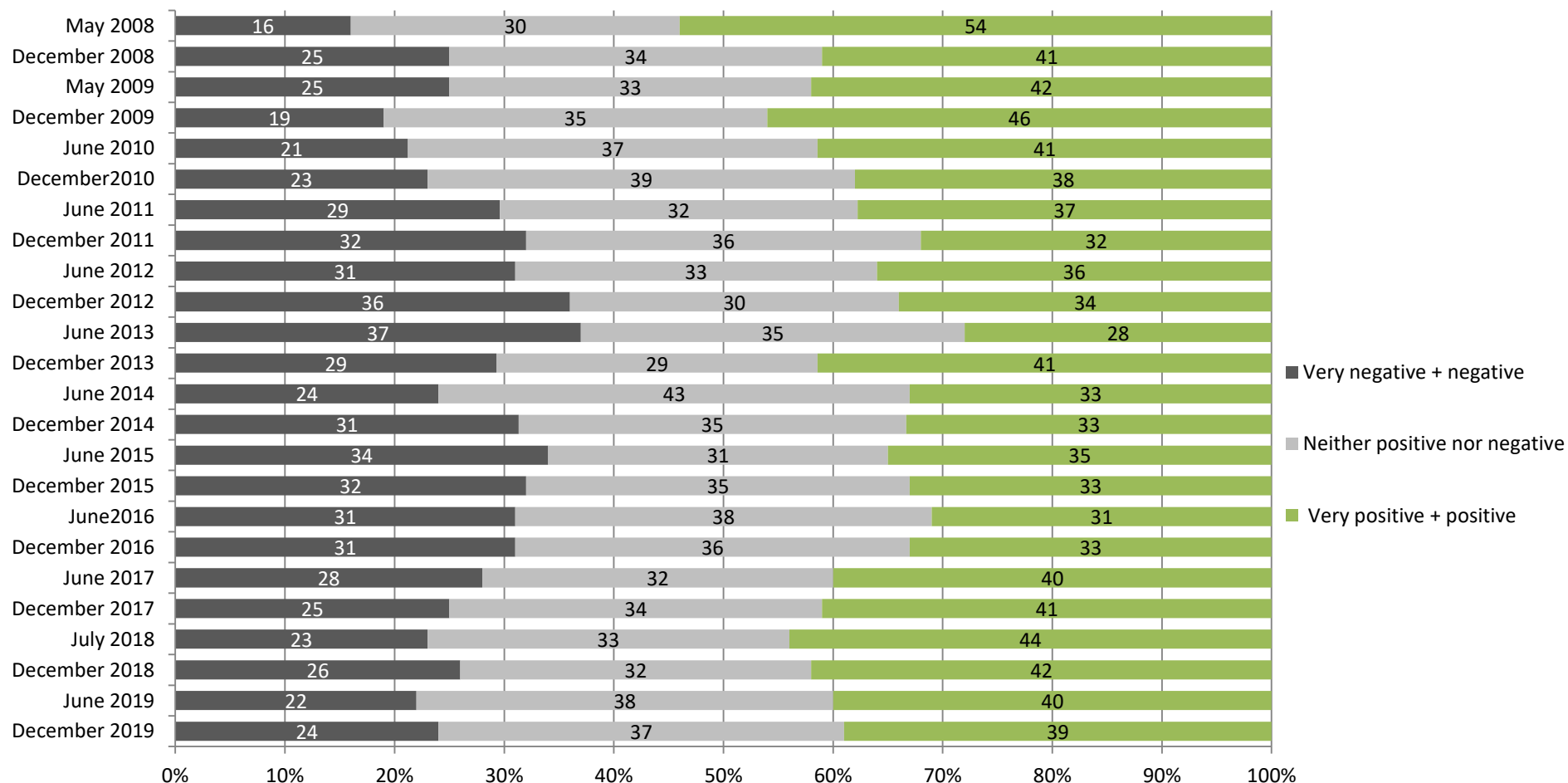
Subsample of 21.5% of citizens who would vote against Serbia's EU accession at the referendum





In general, which reaction does the current image of the European Union cause with you? (%)

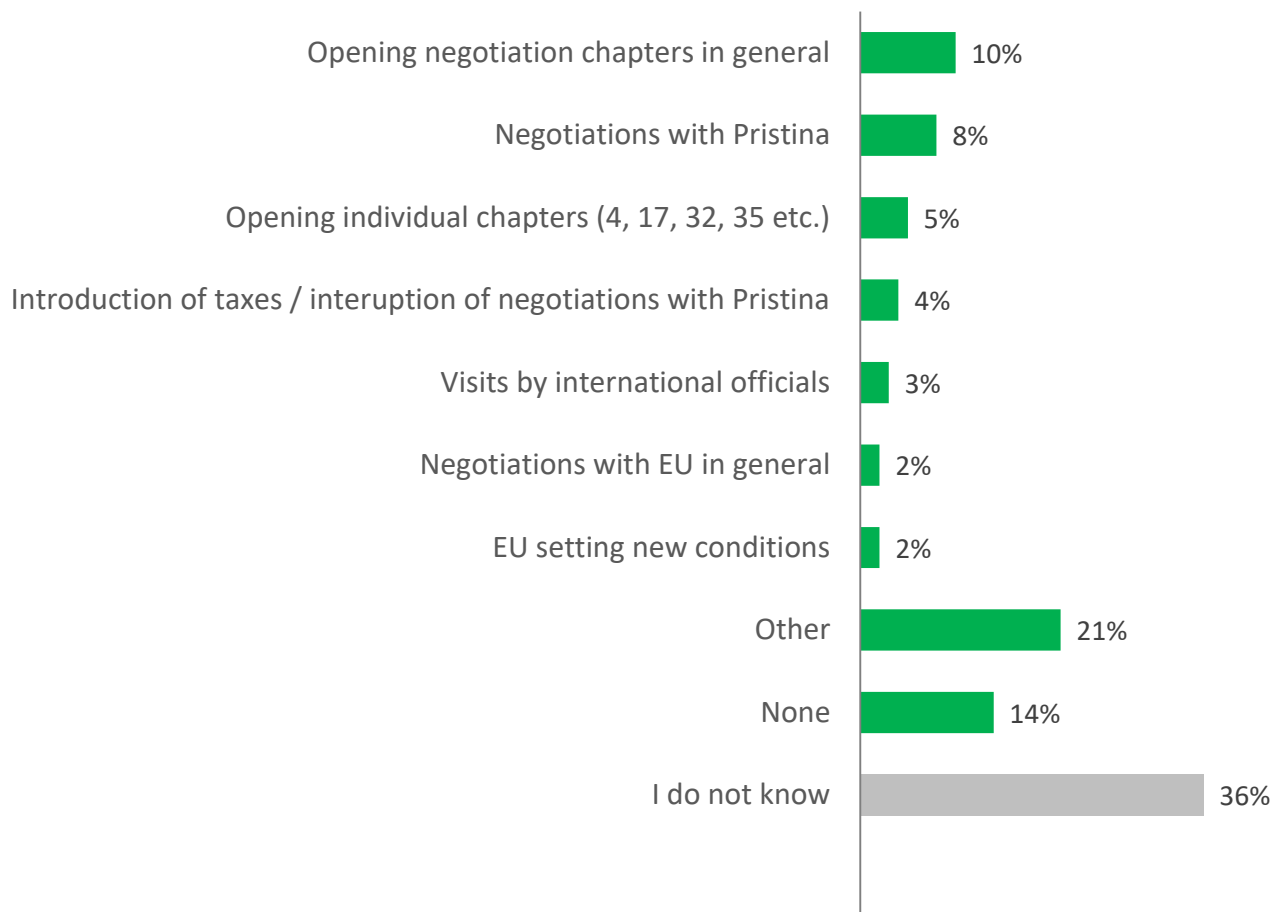
View through waves of surveys





In your opinion, which has been the most important event in Serbia's EU accession process in the past year?

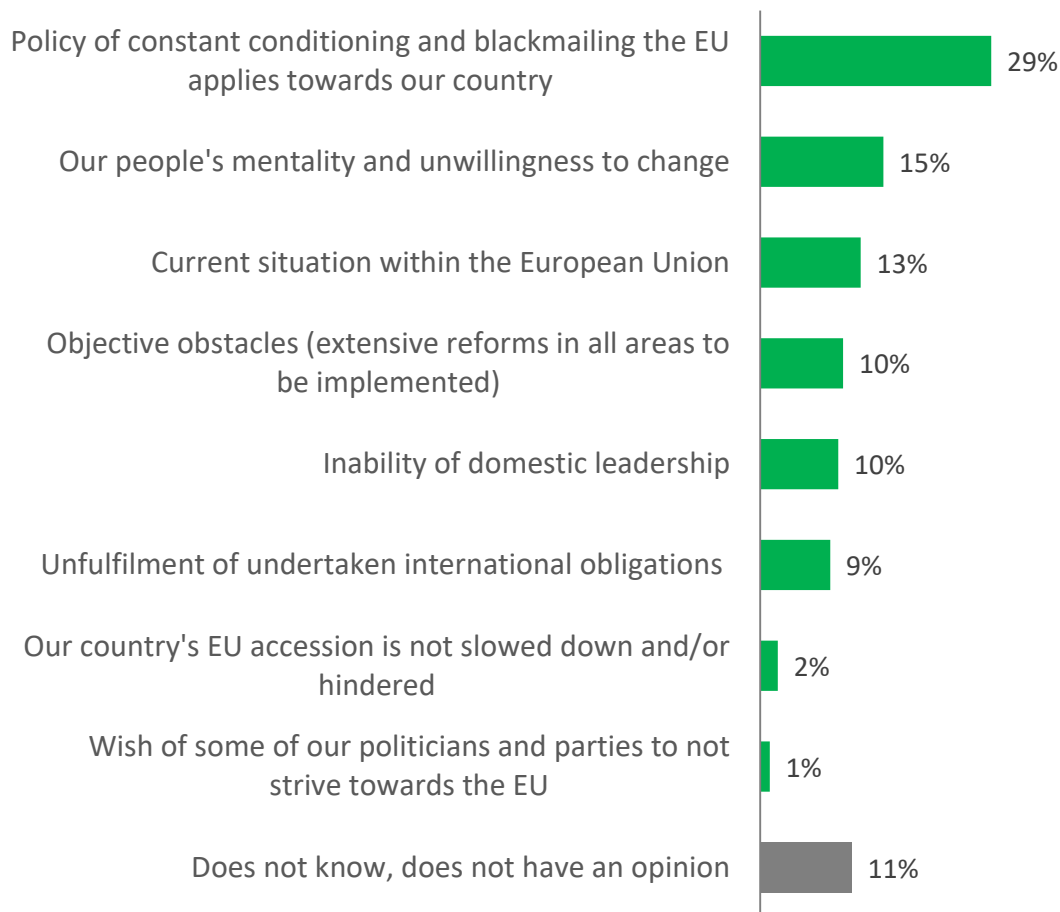
Total sample





What do you think hinders our country's accession to the EU the most?

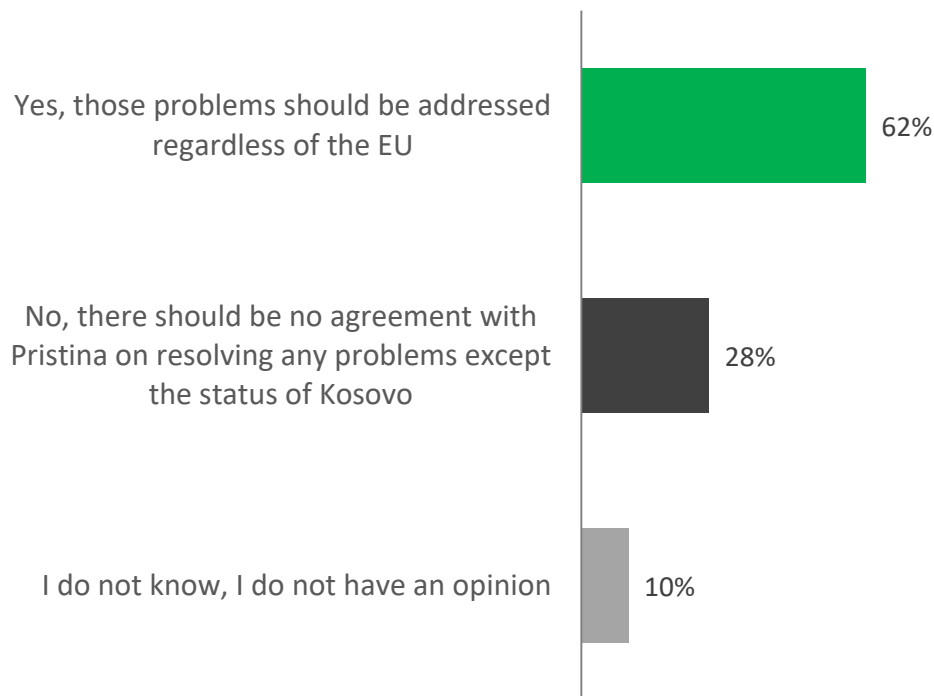
Total sample





As you know, the EU expects Belgrade and Pristina to resolve a series of problems in their relations. In your opinion, should these problems in the relations between Belgrade and Pristina be addressed regardless of the EU?

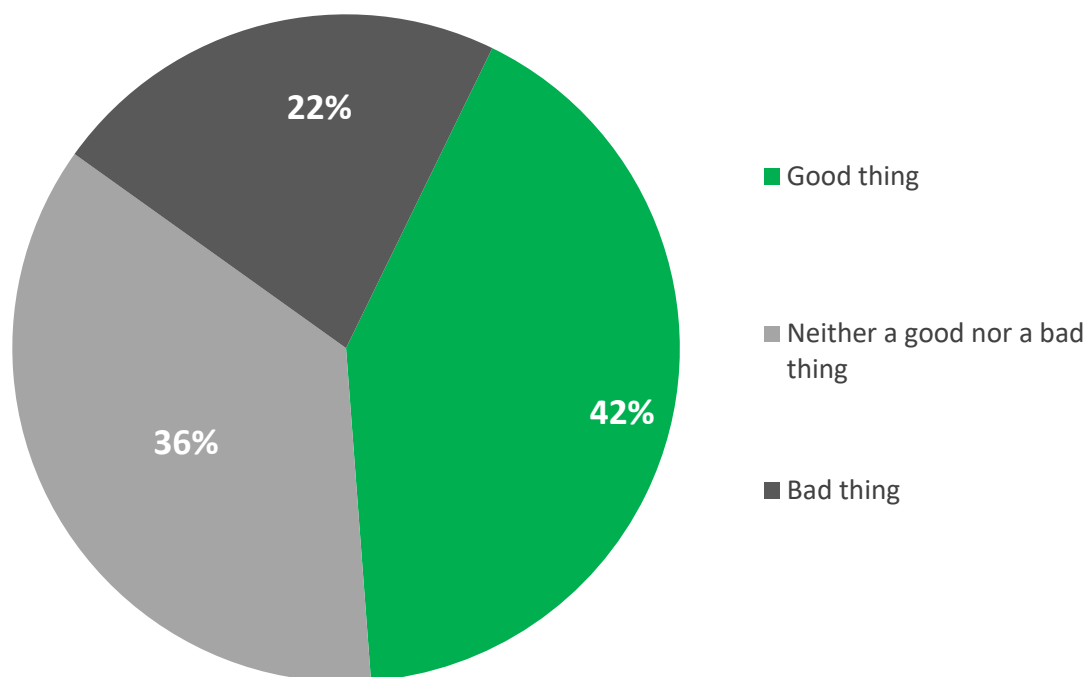
Total sample





In general, do you think that our country's EU membership would be...?

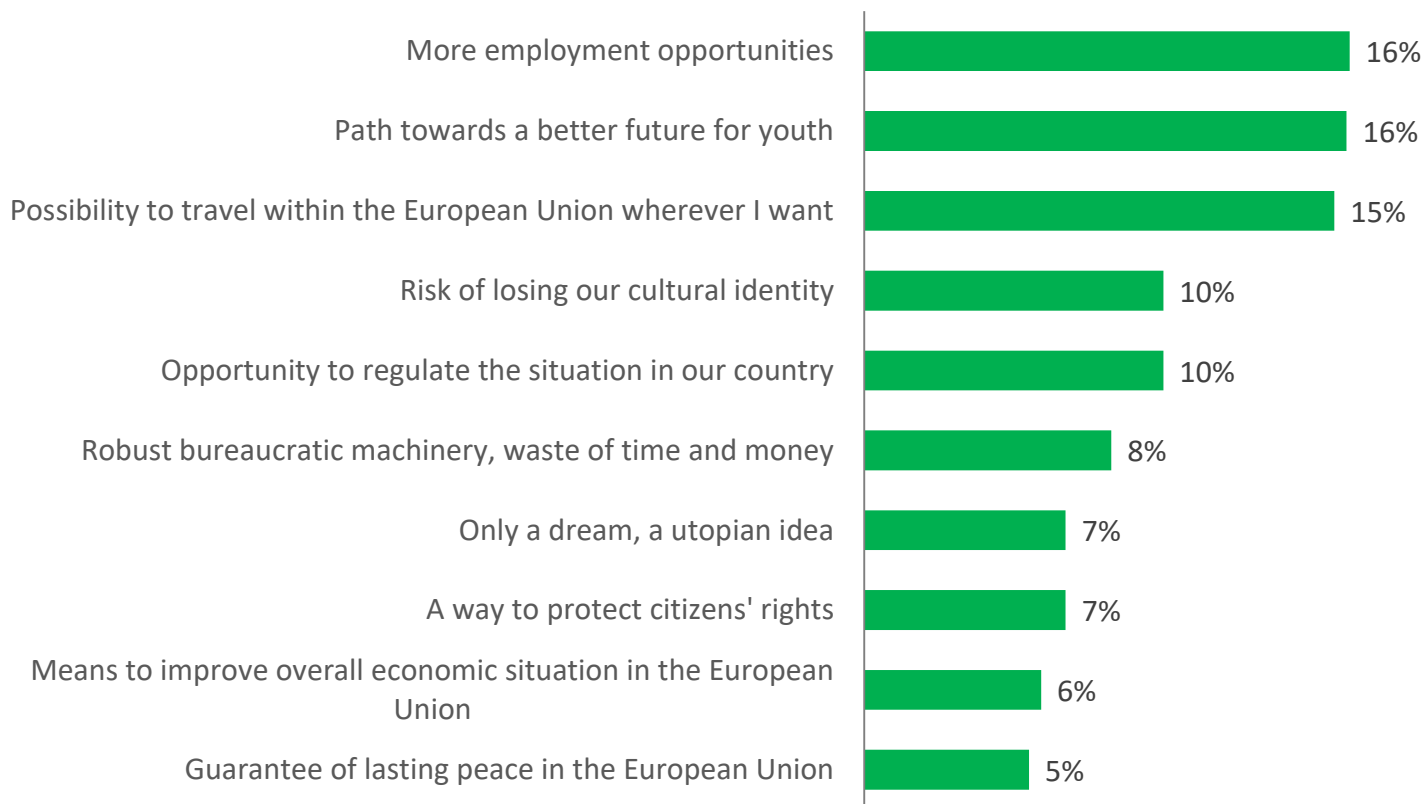
Total sample





I will now show you and read to you several statements regarding the European Union.
Which of these statements best describe what the EU represents for you personally?

Total sample. Possibility of multiple answers. Overview at 100%

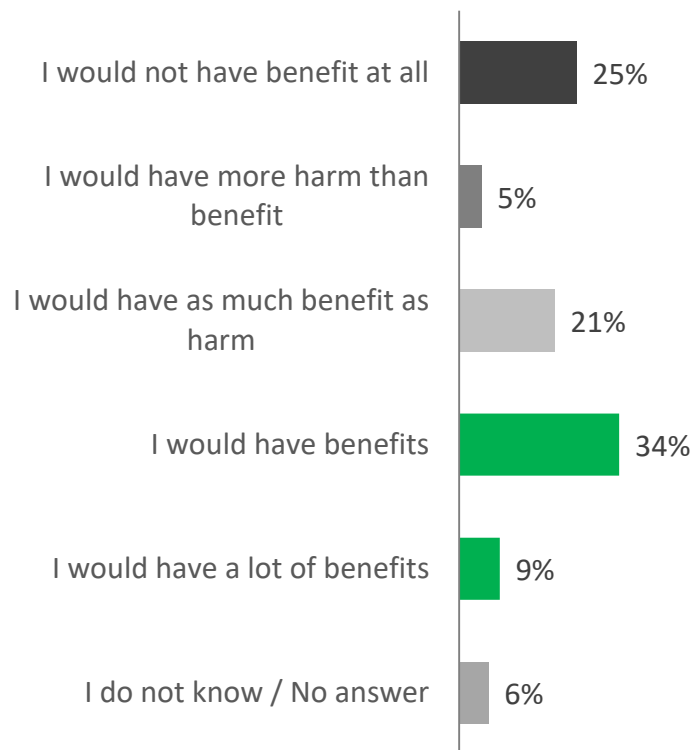




Support to EU membership

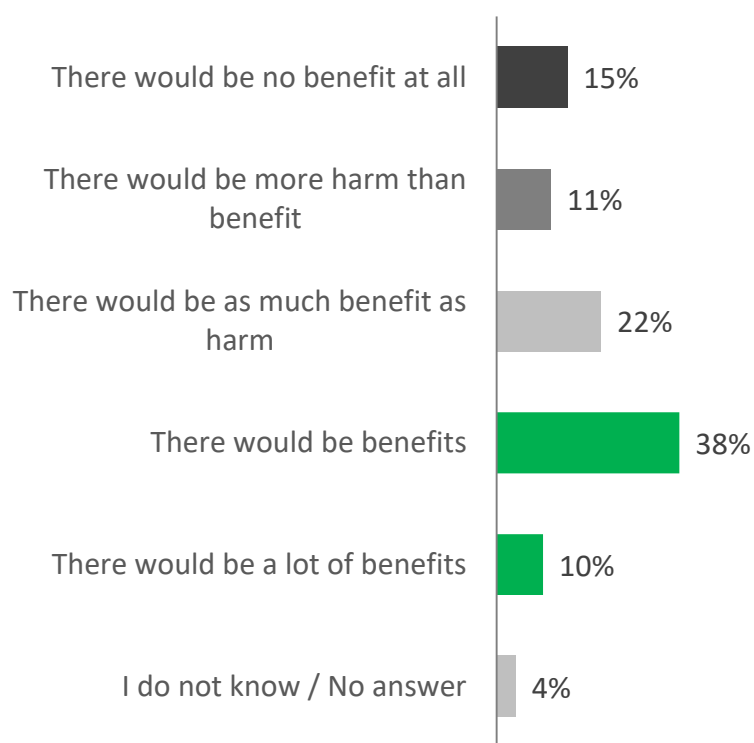
Do you think that you would personally
have benefits from our country's EU
membership?

Total sample



All things considered, do you think our
country would have benefits from the EU
accession or not?

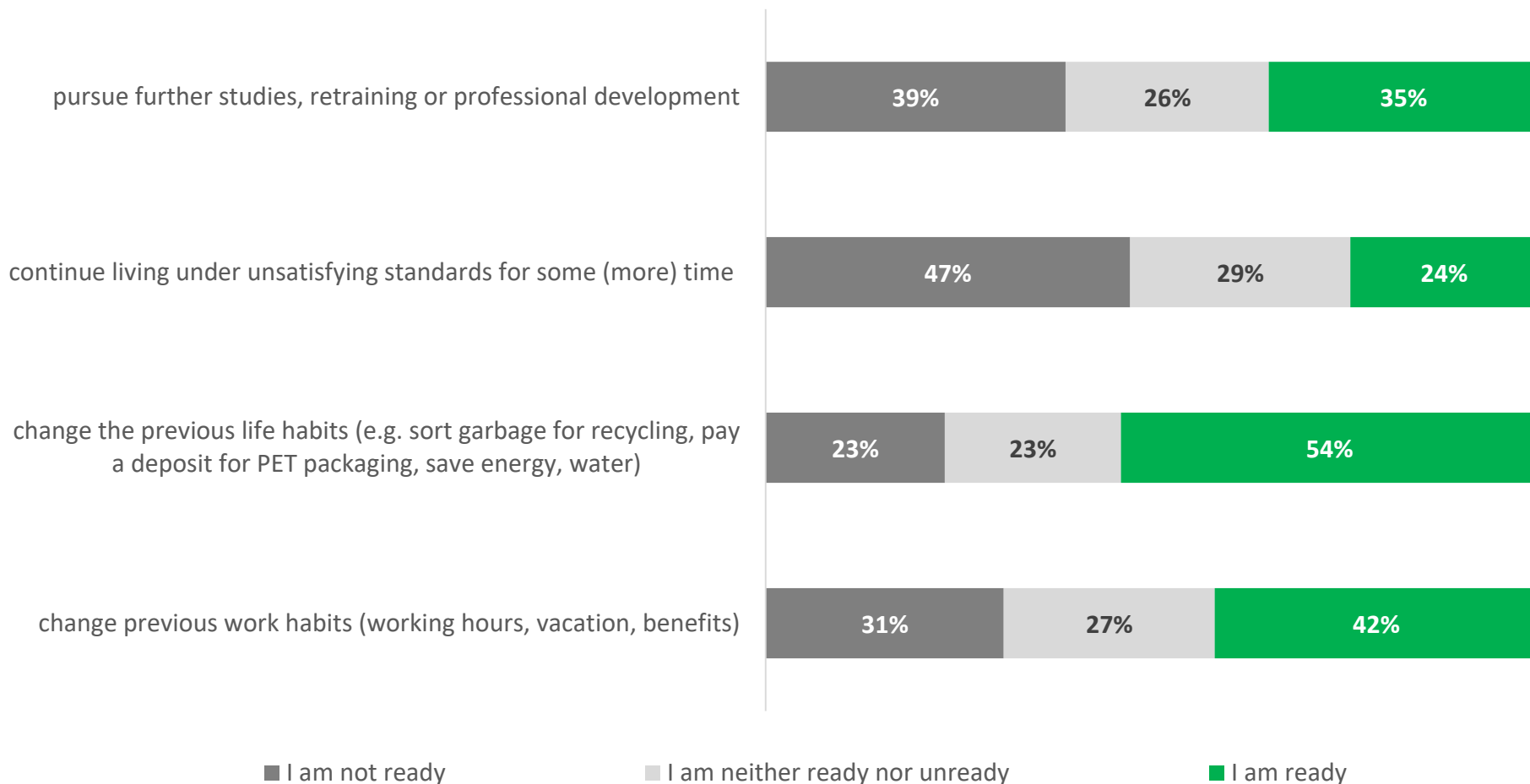
Total sample





Now think about the period preceding the EU accession. In order to join the EU, to what extent are you personally willing to:

Total sample

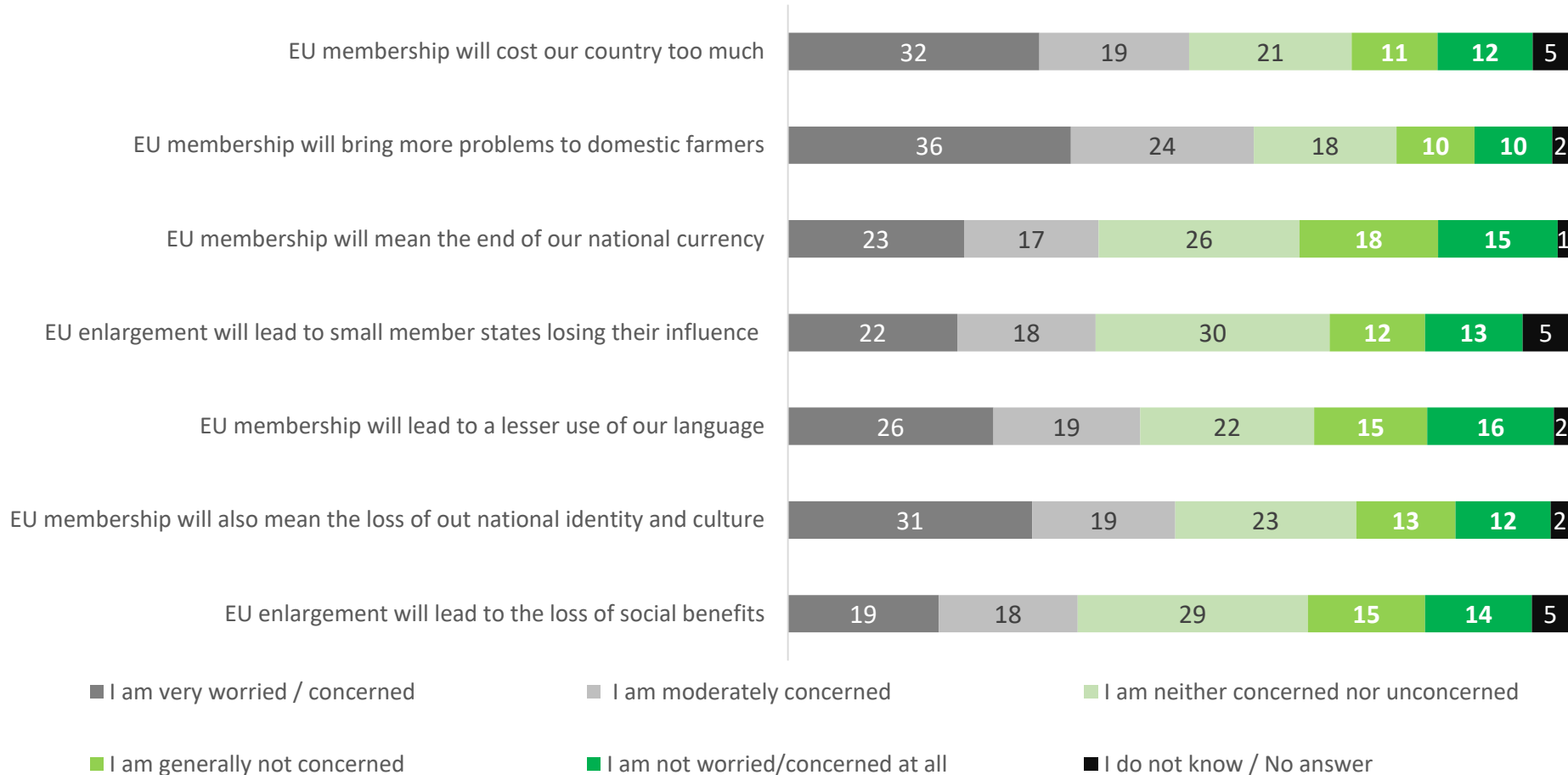




Support to EU membership

Some people fear the unification of Europe and the EU enlargement. I am going to read you a list of things some people have stated they fear. For each of them, please indicate how much you personally fear them at this moment. (%)

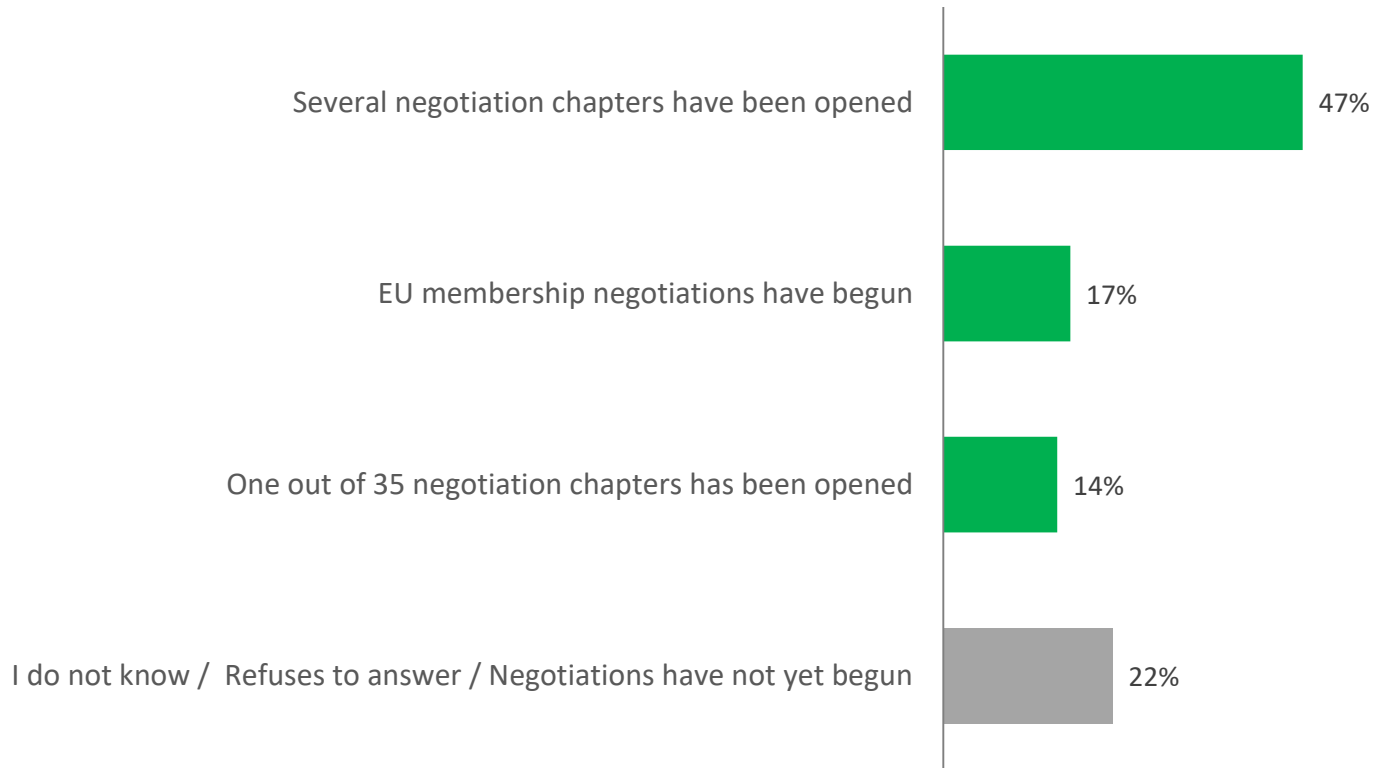
Total sample





Are you familiar with the current status of our country in the EU accession negotiations?

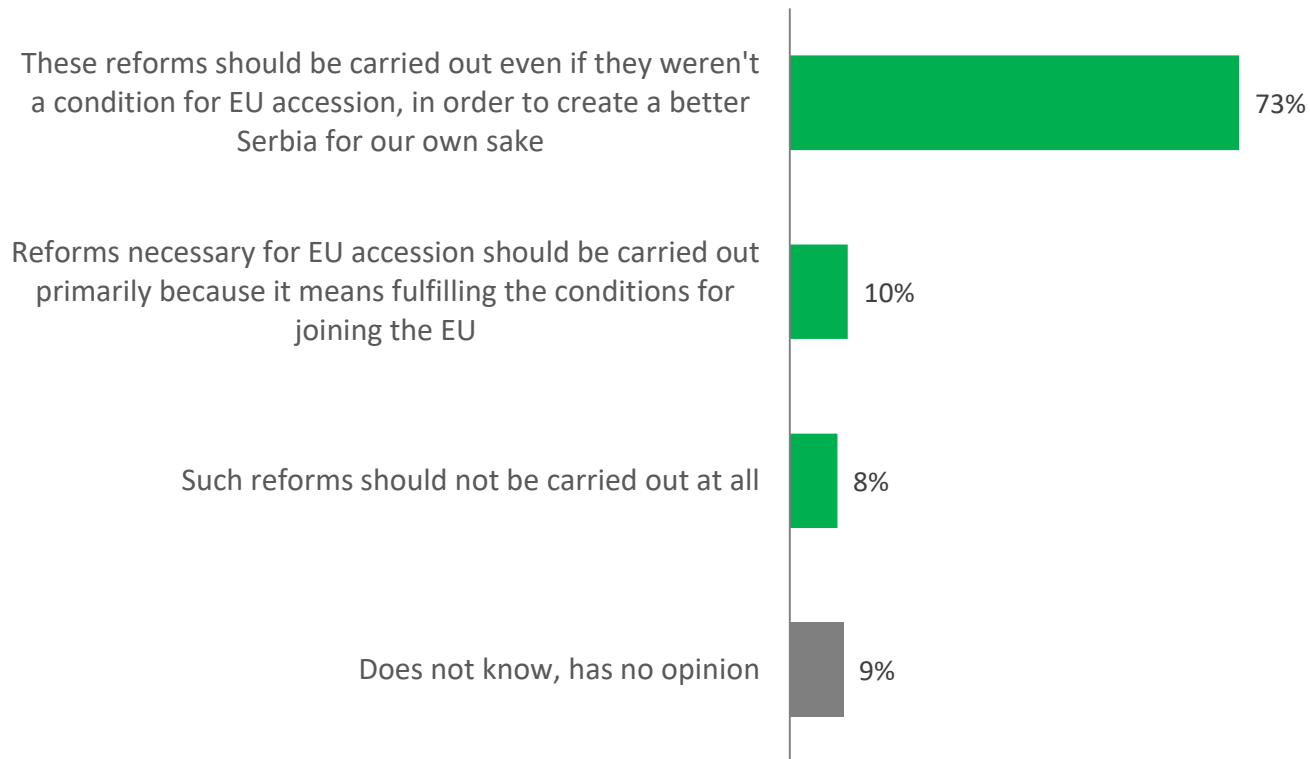
Total sample





In your opinion, do reforms necessary for EU accession need to be carried out primarily because that means fulfilling the conditions the EU has set, or should they be carried out for our own sake, regardless of whether the EU sets it as a condition?

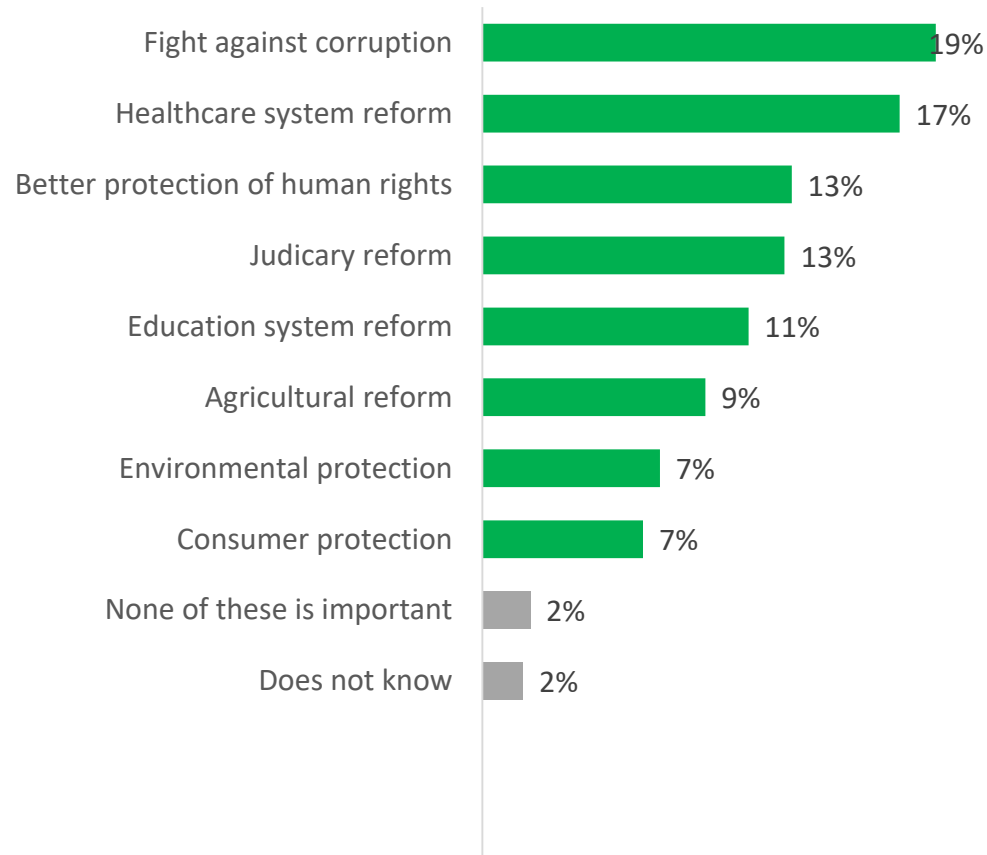
Total sample





In your opinion, which of the following reforms are the most important? Which reforms have the most positive effect on your daily life?

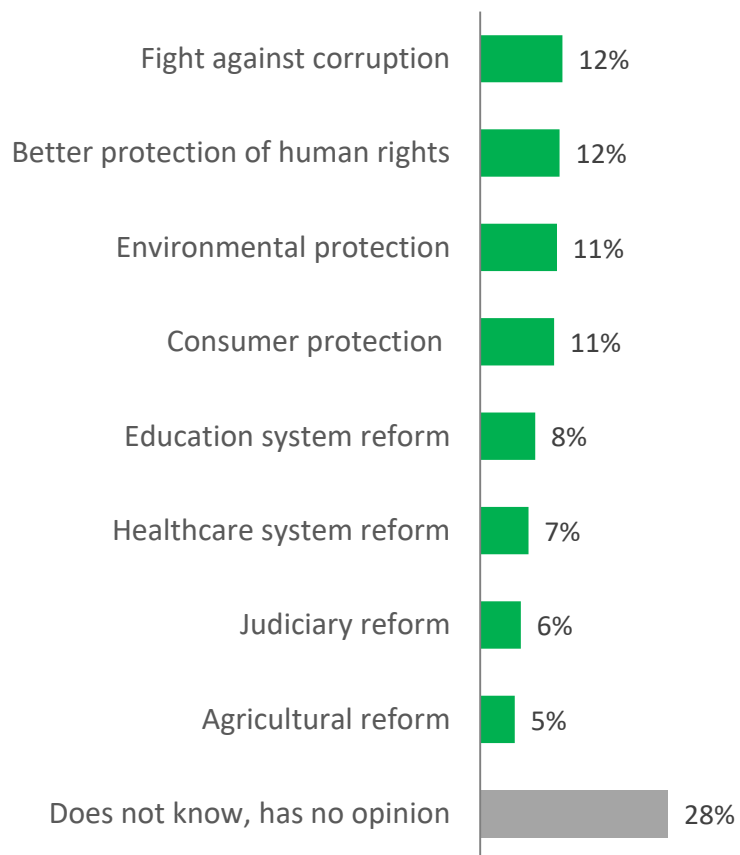
Total sample. Possibility of multiple answers. Overview at 100%.





In your opinion, in which areas has Serbia made the most progress?

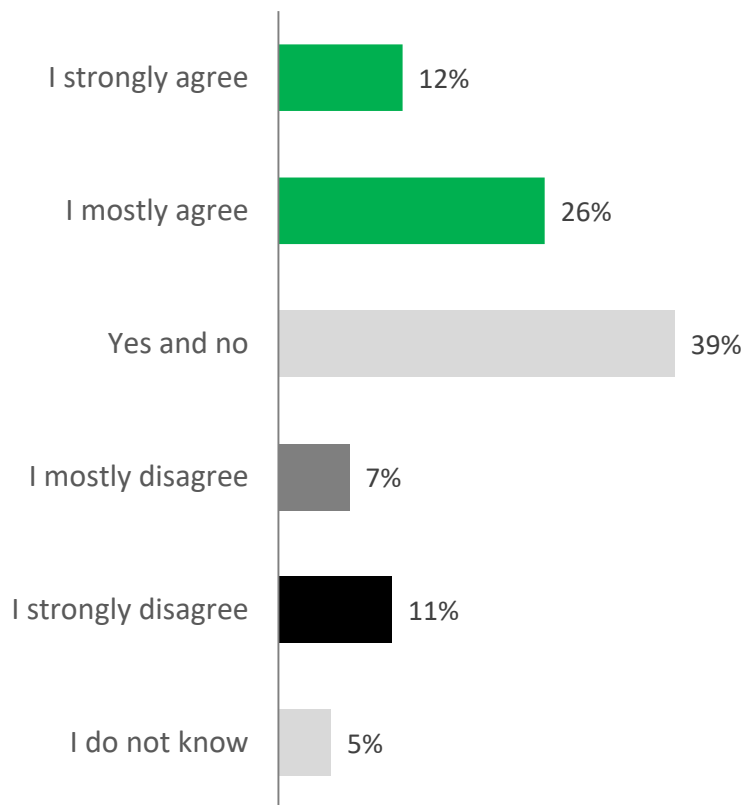
Total sample. Possibility of multiple answers. Overview at 100%.





To what extent do you agree with the opinion that being a member of the European Union means, among other things, getting assistance and support of other European Union members in crisis situations?

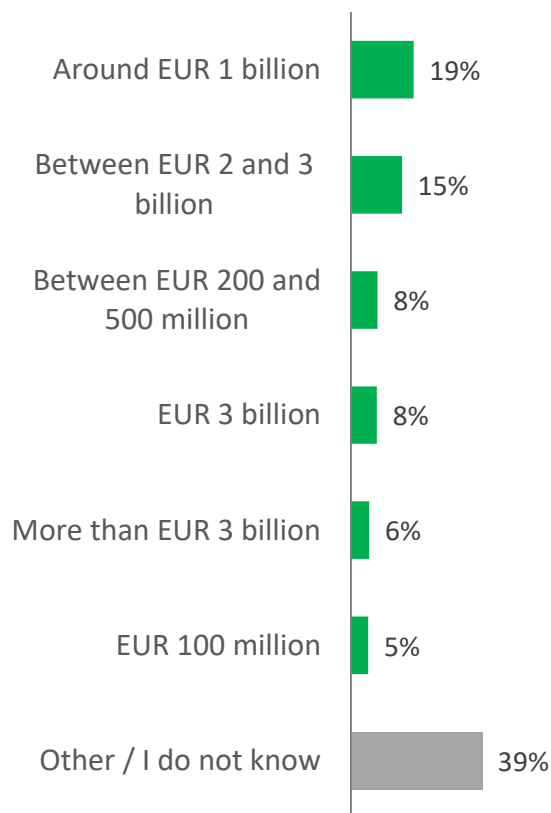
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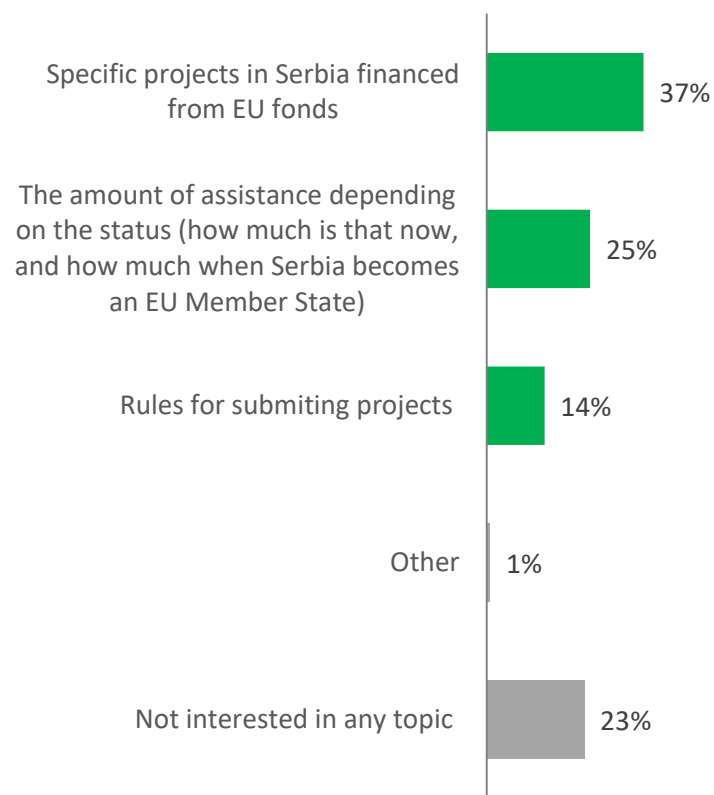
What do you think, how much has Serbia received from EU grants since 2001?

Total sample



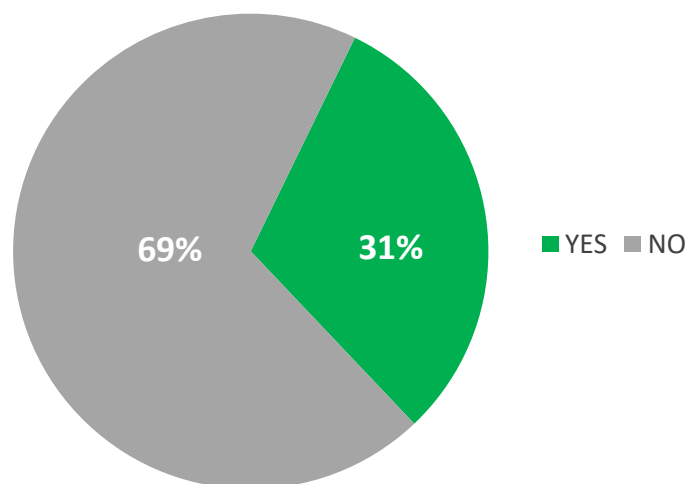
On which topics related to EU funds would you like to be informed?

Total sample

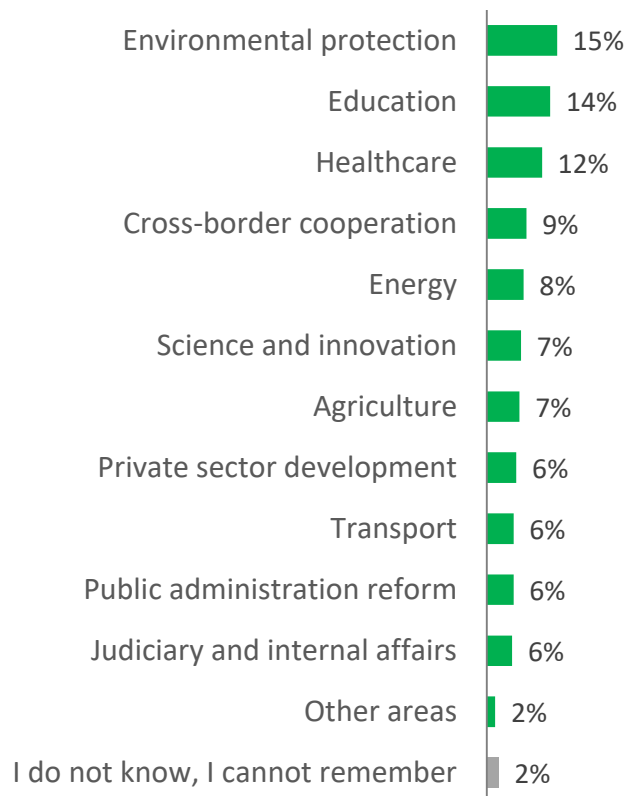




Have you heard of any EU-funded projects?
Total sample



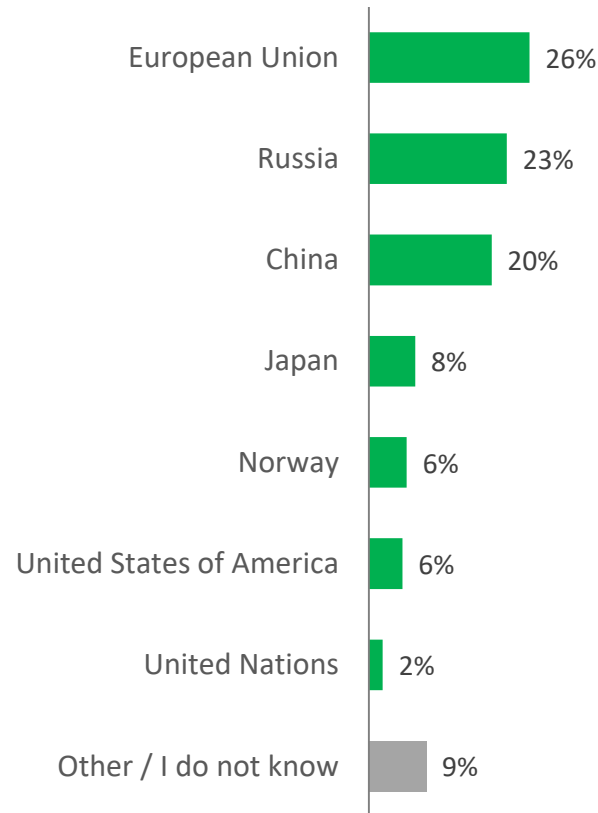
(If you have heard, subsample at 100%)
From which areas are these projects?





Who would you say has been the largest donor to Serbia since 2000?

Total sample. Possibility of multiple answers. Overview at 100%.

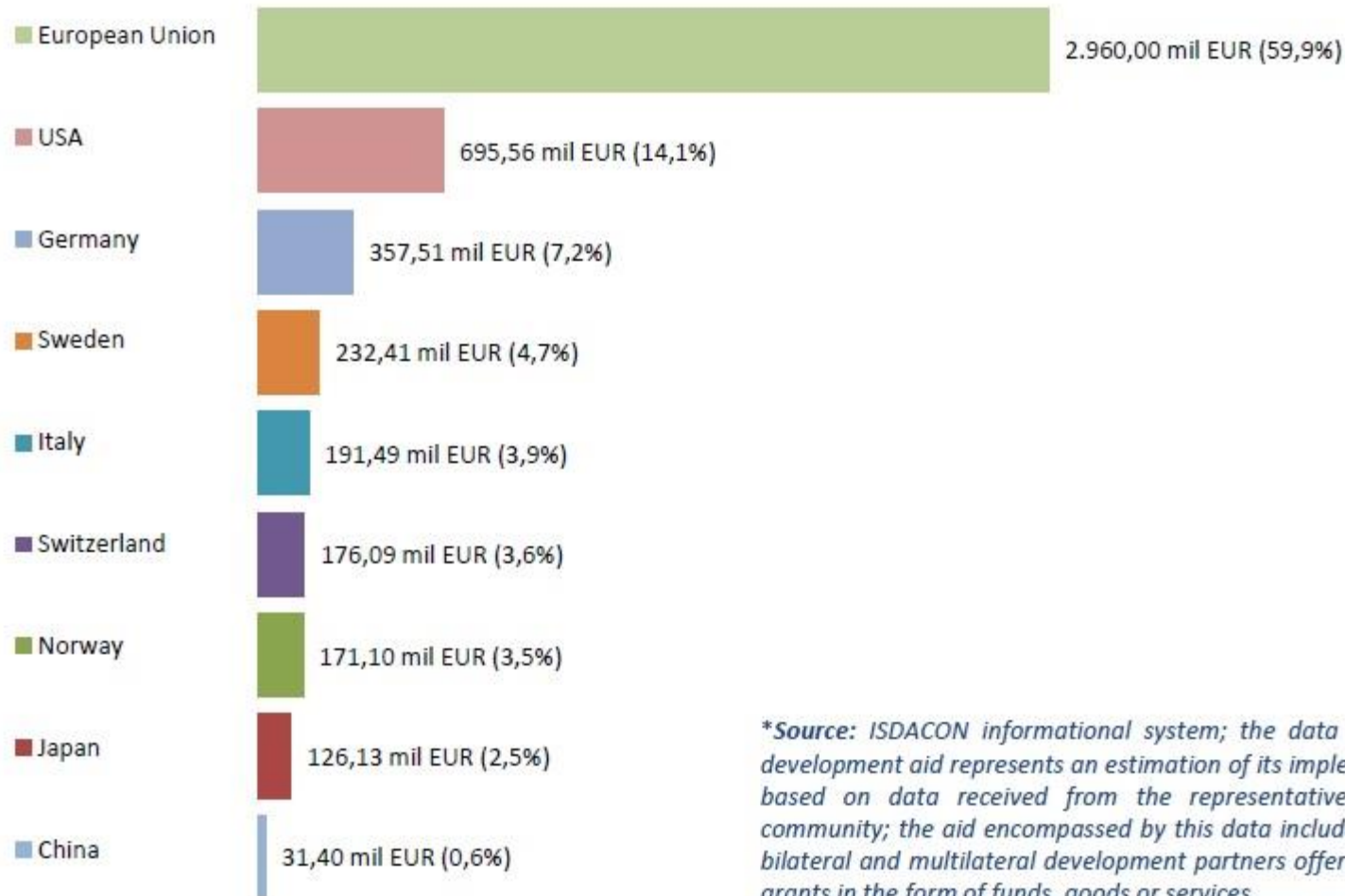




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And the situation is actually the following: Assessment of the implementation of international development grants to the Republic of Serbia for the period 2000 – 2016 (in EUR millions)*

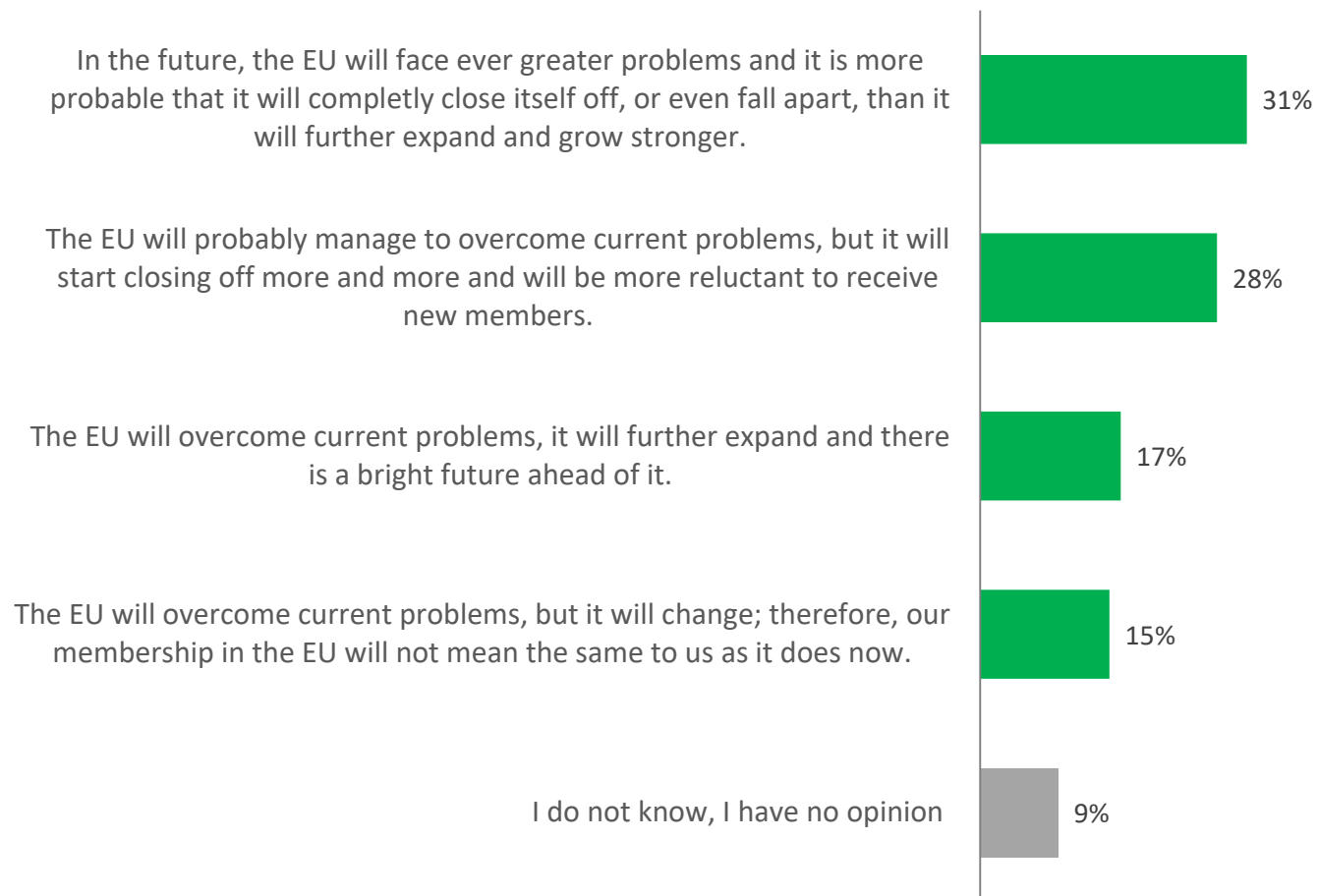


**Source: ISDACON informational system; the data on international development aid represents an estimation of its implementation and is based on data received from the representatives of the donor community; the aid encompassed by this data includes the support of bilateral and multilateral development partners offered in the form of grants in the form of funds, goods or services.*



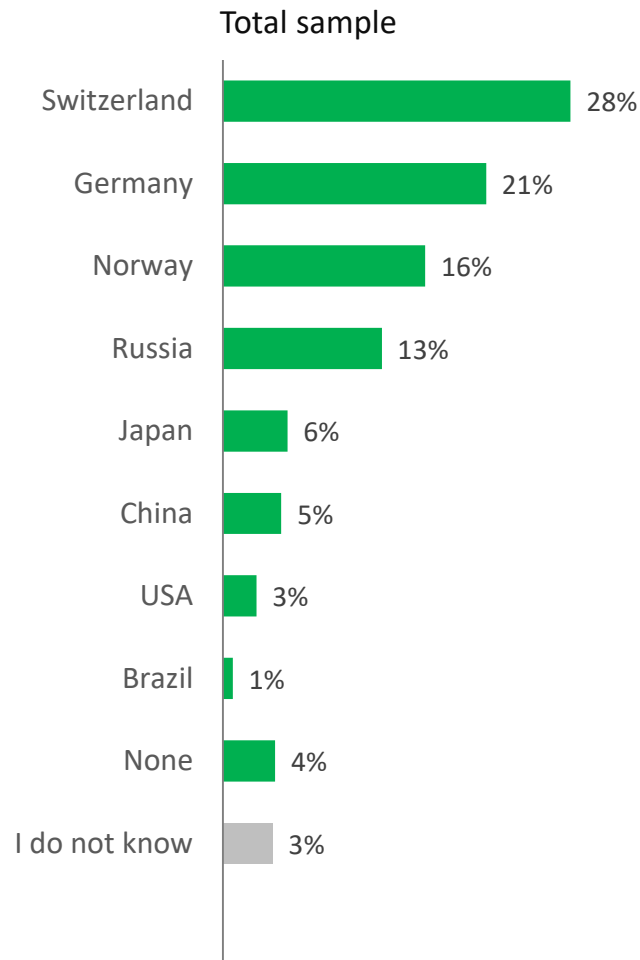
How do you see the future of the European Union?

Total sample





If you could choose a model of the country you would like to live in, which of the following country models would you choose for Serbia?





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