



Ministry of Culture
Republic of Latvia

**International conference
»Disinformation and fake news challenge to democracy«**

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Survey on disinformation and fake news

(preliminary results)

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SMARTeD
against fake news



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Survey objectives

- To assess the issue of the disinformation and fake news in Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Latvia and Slovenia.
- To assess actions aimed to minimise the negative effects of the disinformation, including those taken by online platforms, and the use of e-democracy tools.
- To address the role of politicisation in disinformation strategies as one of the causes of disinformation and fake news.

Survey participants

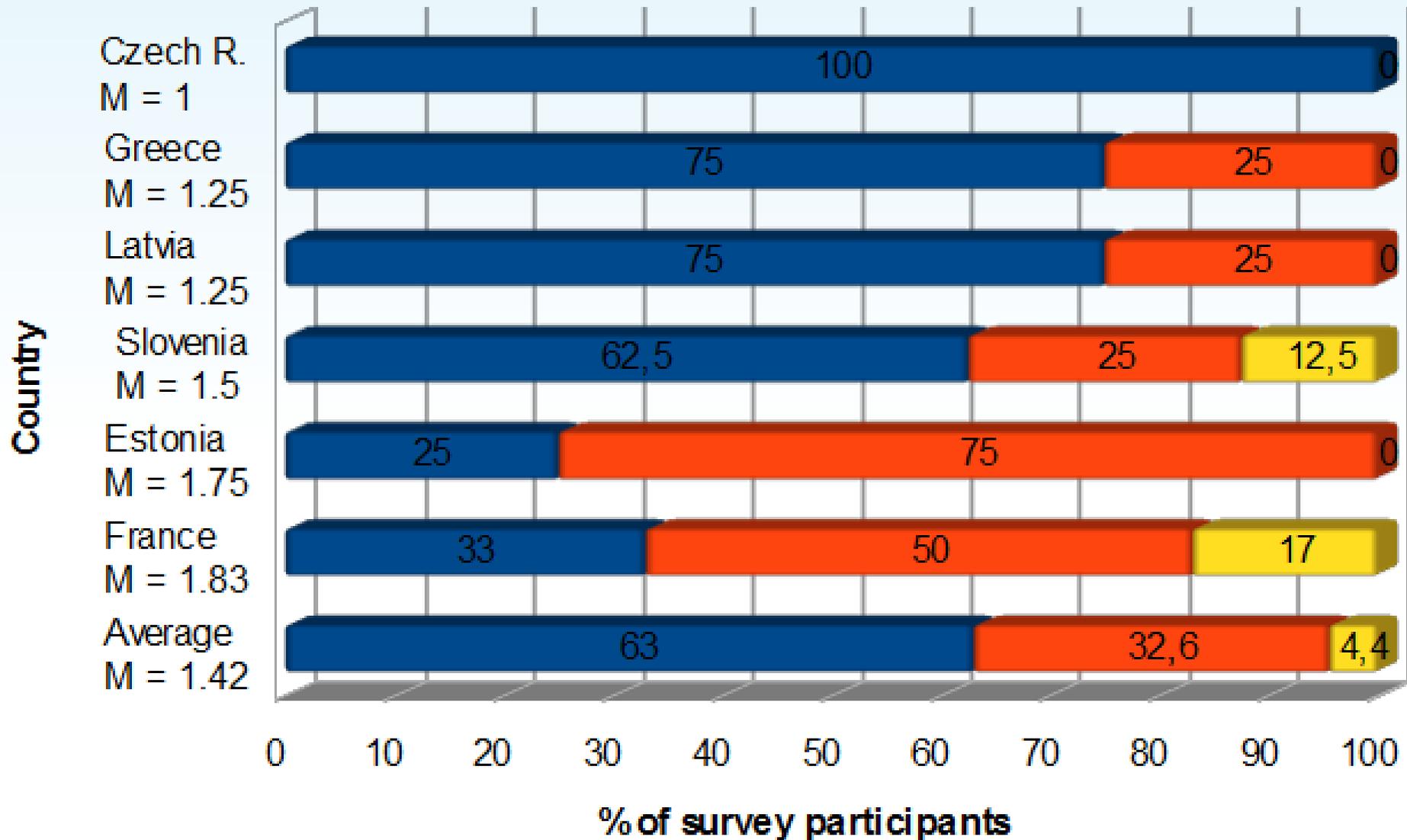
- 48 participants from Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Latvia and Slovenia.
- Main group of survey participants were academia, followed by civil society activist, media professionals / journalists and researchers.
- On-line survey data collection took place in October and November 2018.



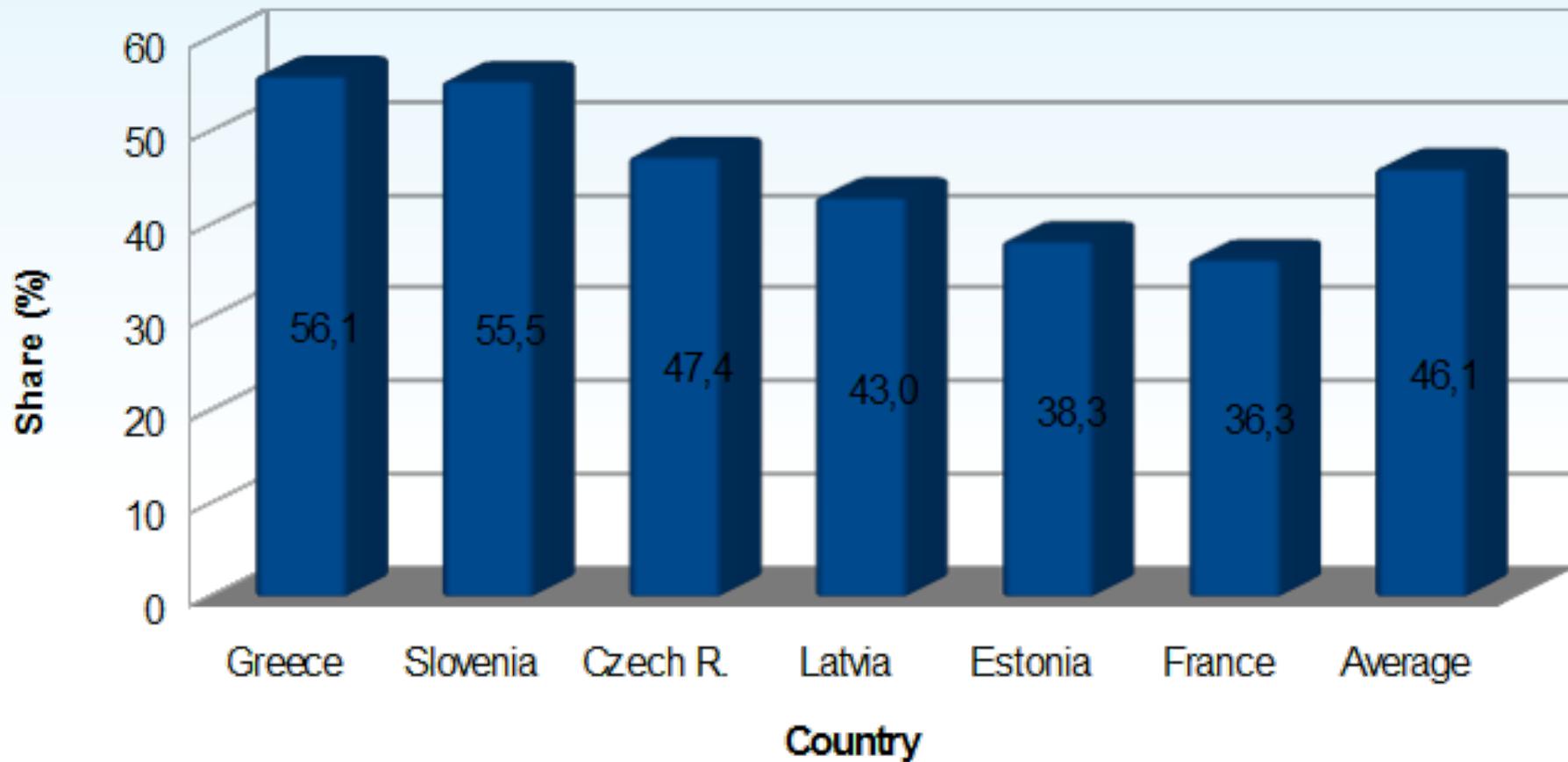
Mapping disinformation and fake news issue

Is the existence of disinformation a problem in your country?

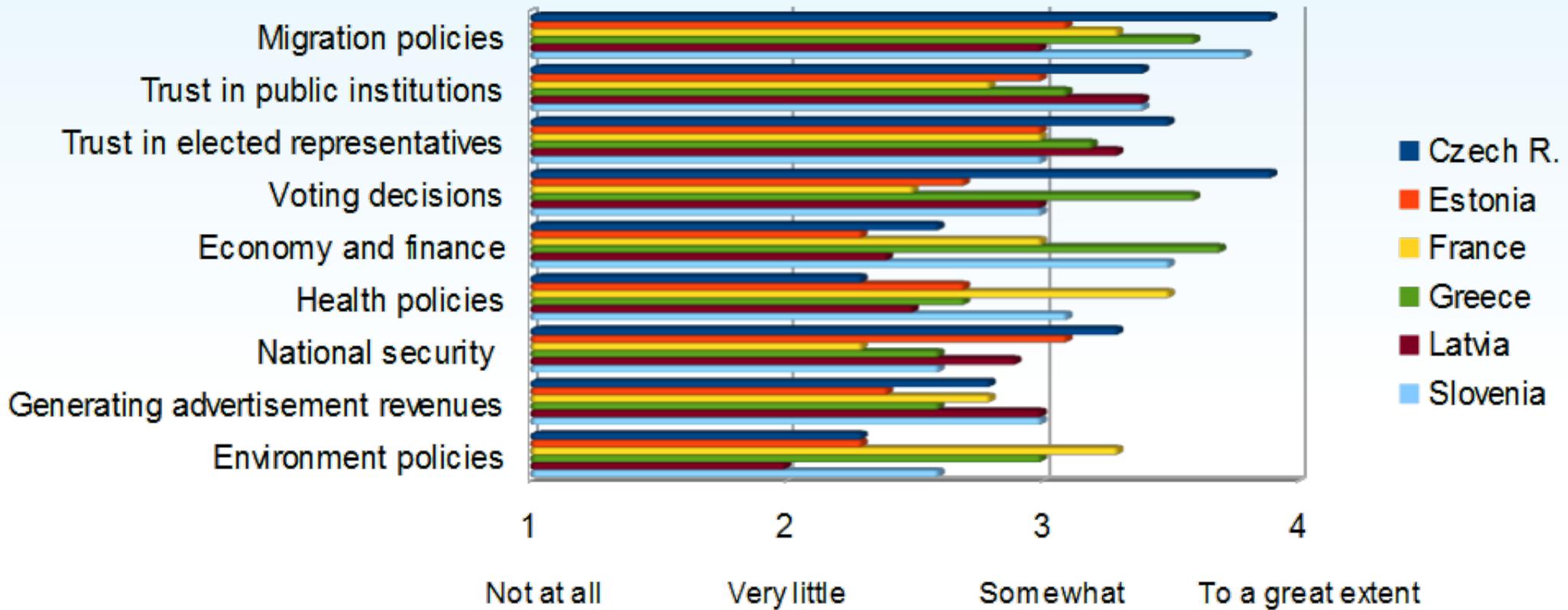
■ Yes, definitely = 1 ■ Yes, to some extent = 2 ■ No, not really = 3 ■ No, definitely not = 4



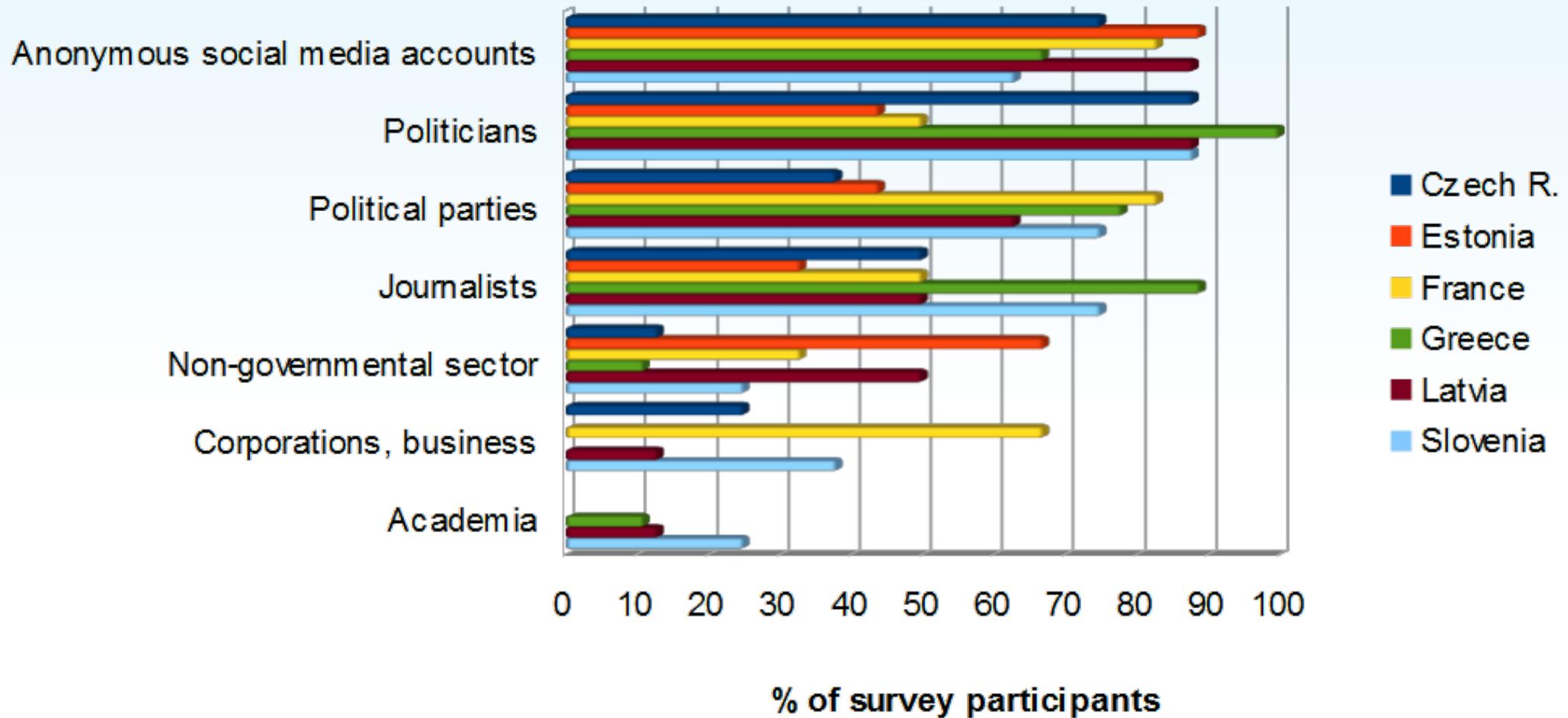
Share of the population that cannot identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is false



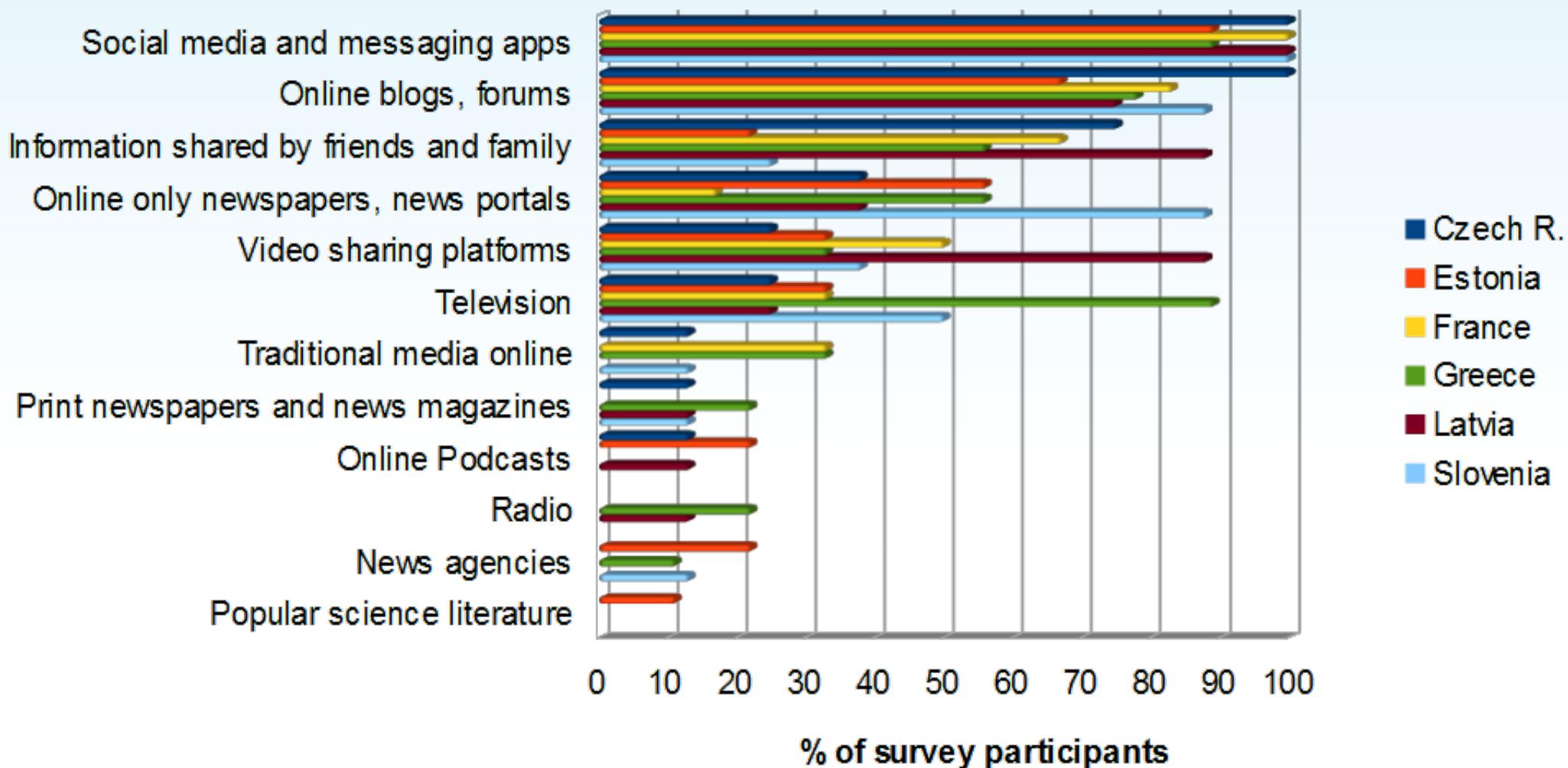
An extent of harm caused by an intentional disinformation in areas of public life



Agents most likely to create and disseminate disinformation



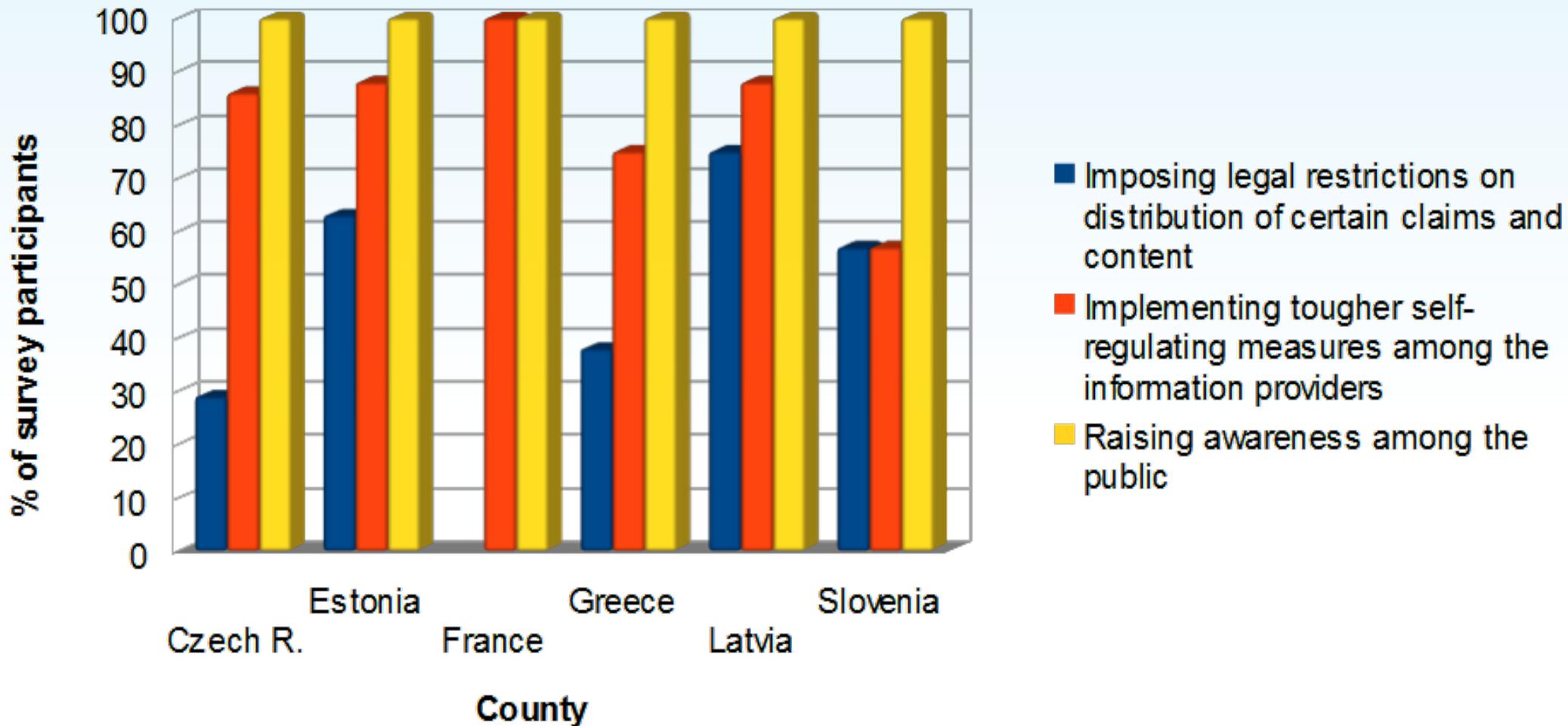
Media in which people come across disinformation





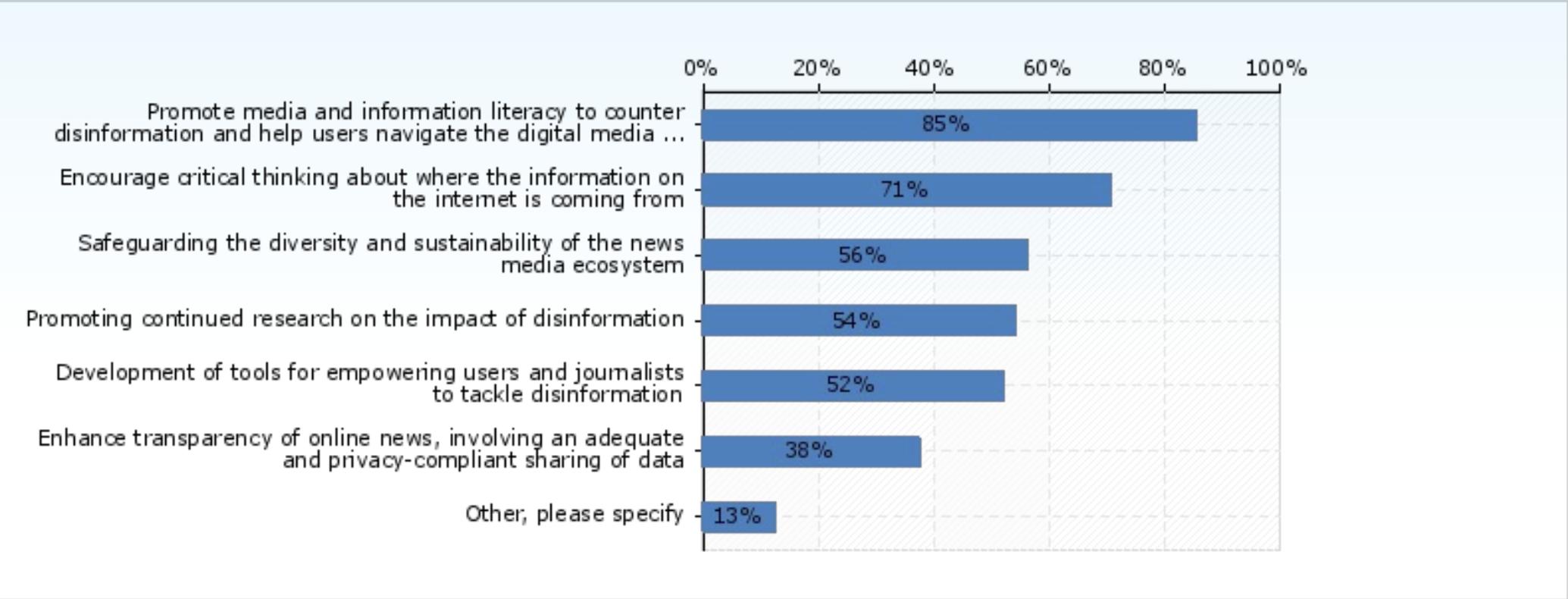
Addressing disinformation and fake news issue

The most effective measures for curtailing the adverse effects of disinformation

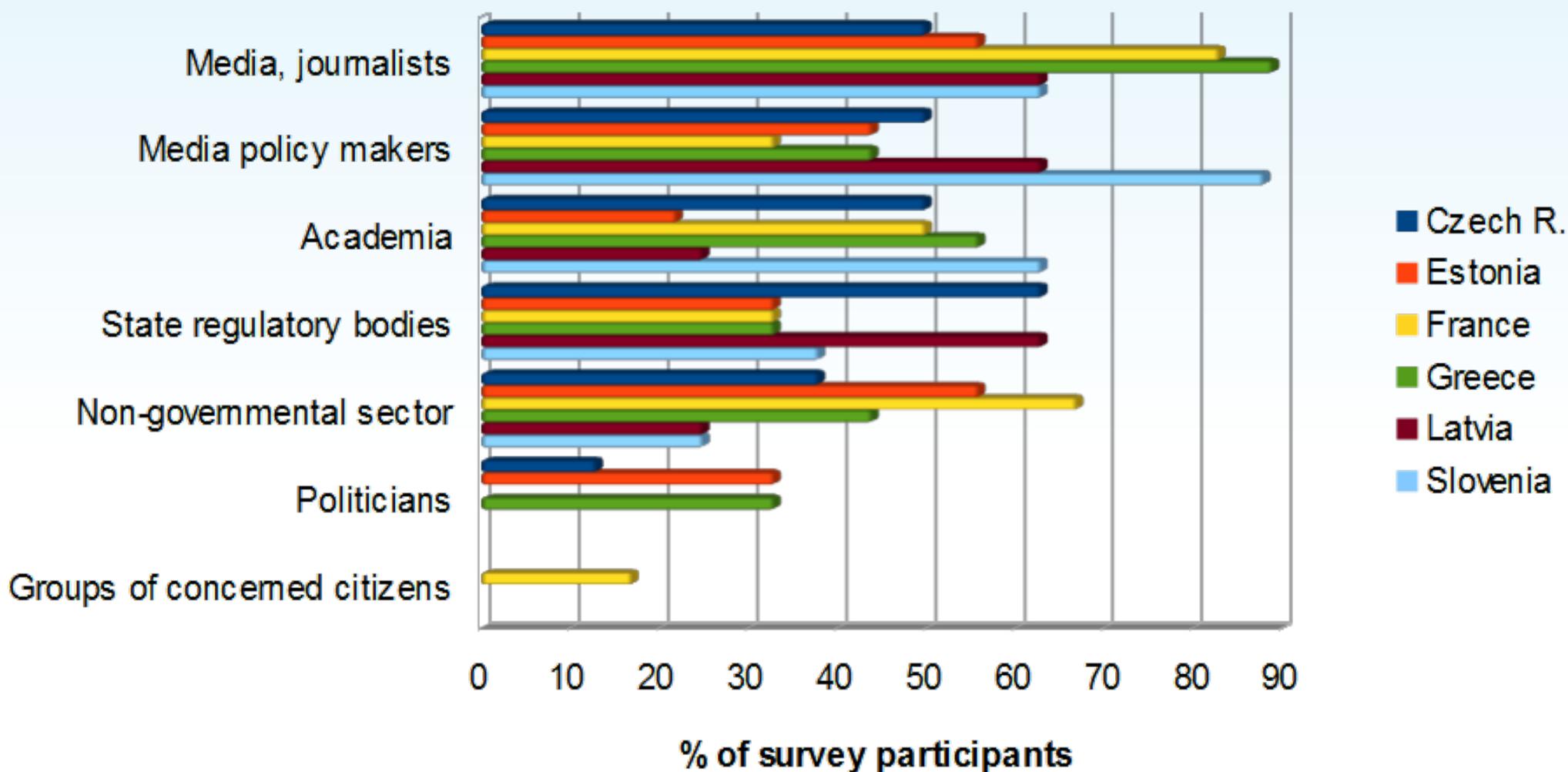


18. Which of these policies should be prioritized to address the disinformation more effectively in your country? (n = 48)

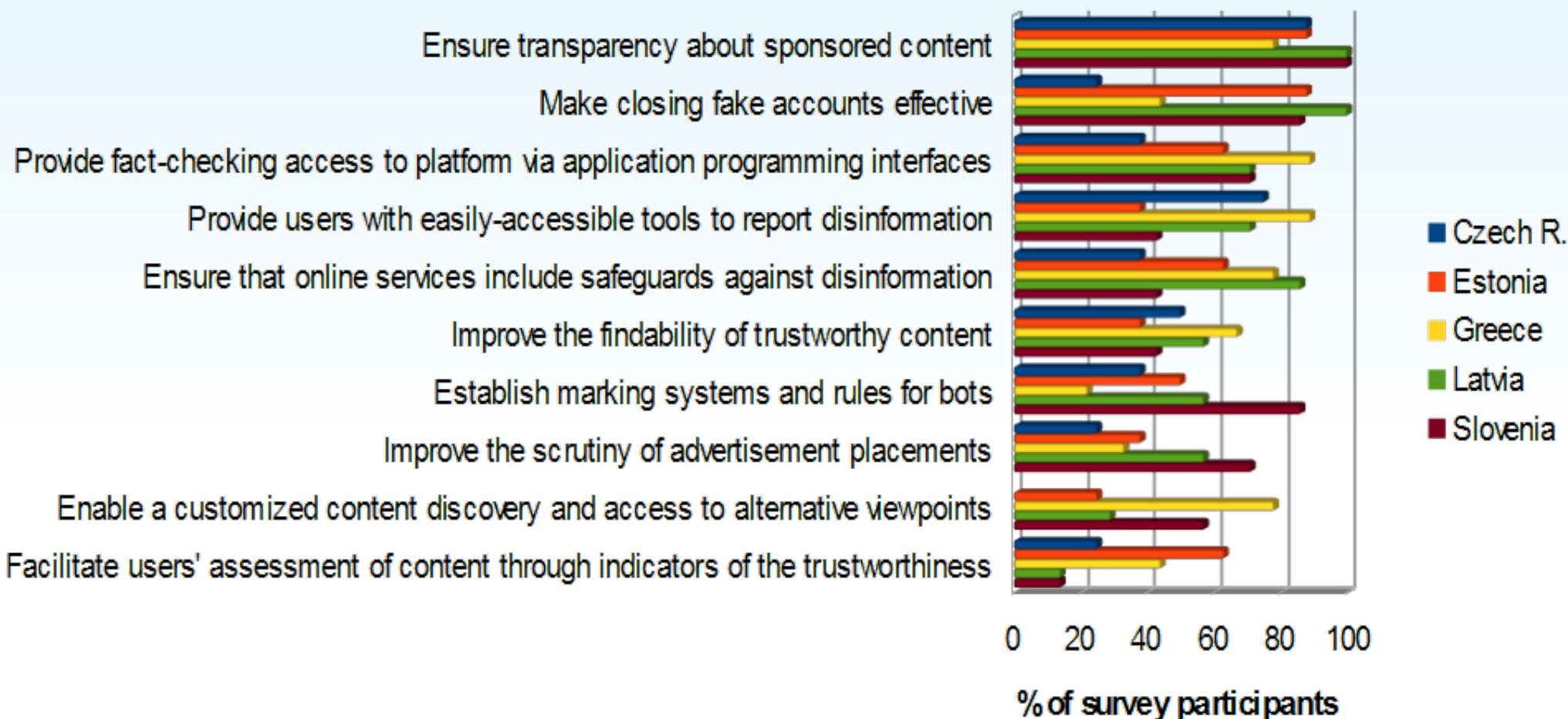
Multiple answers are possible



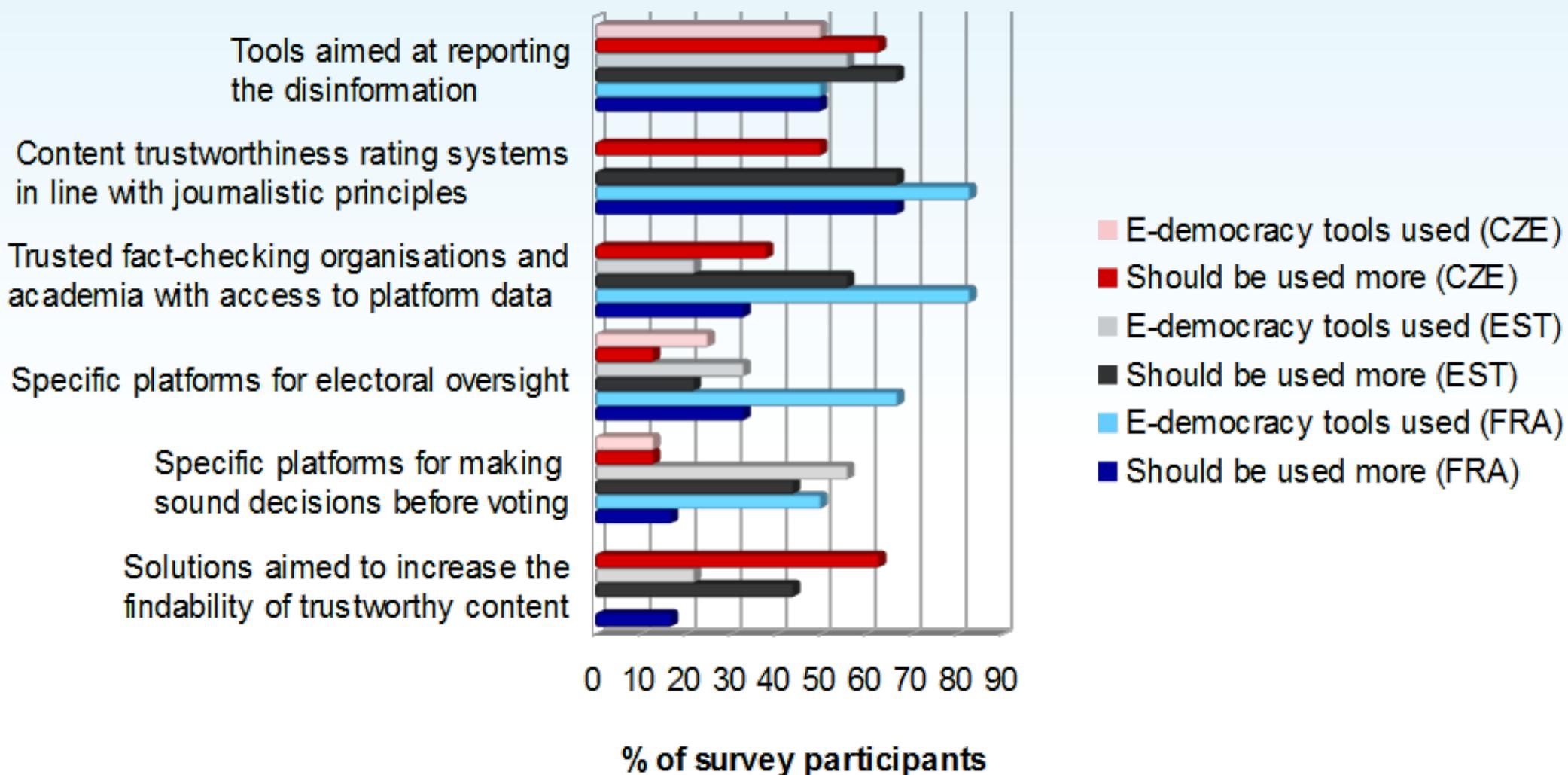
Groups that should lead curtailing the adverse effects of disinformation



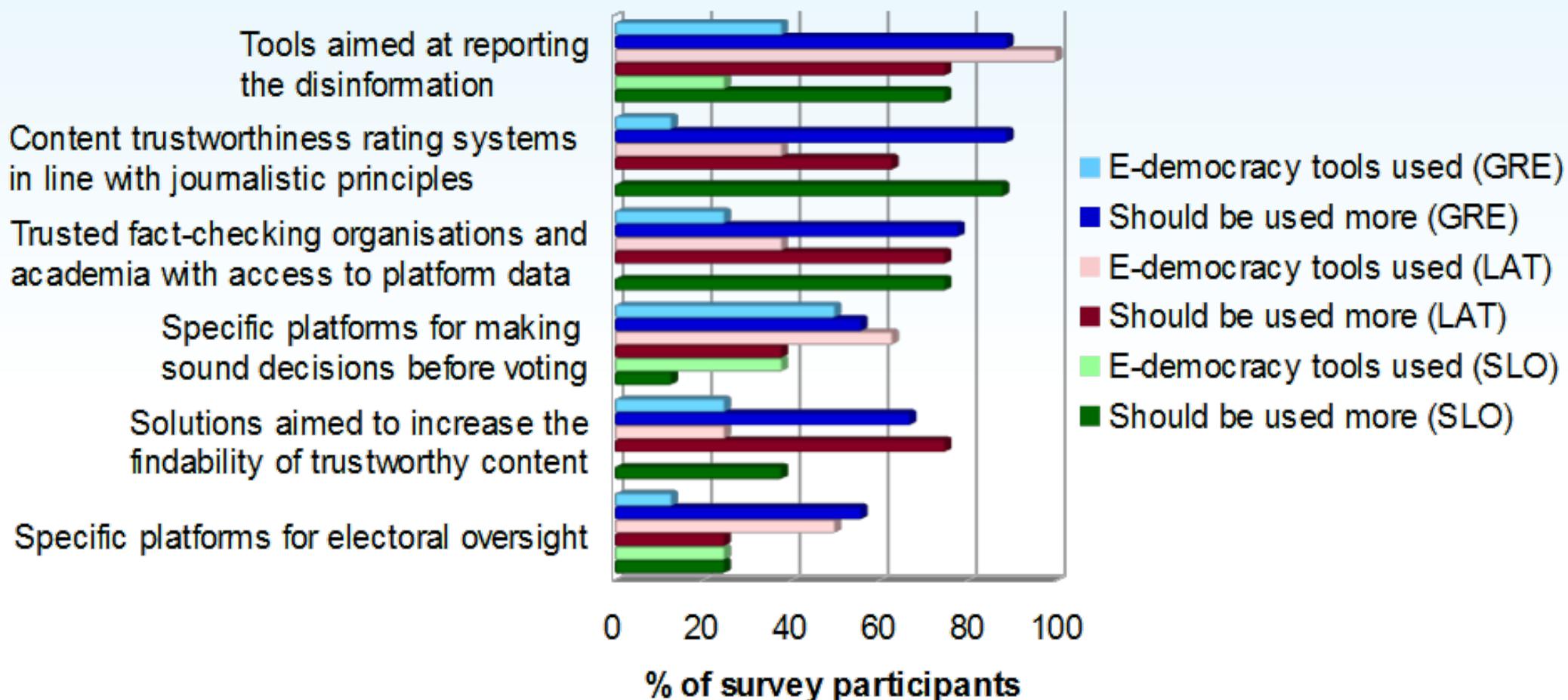
How online platforms should step-up their efforts to protect its users from disinformation



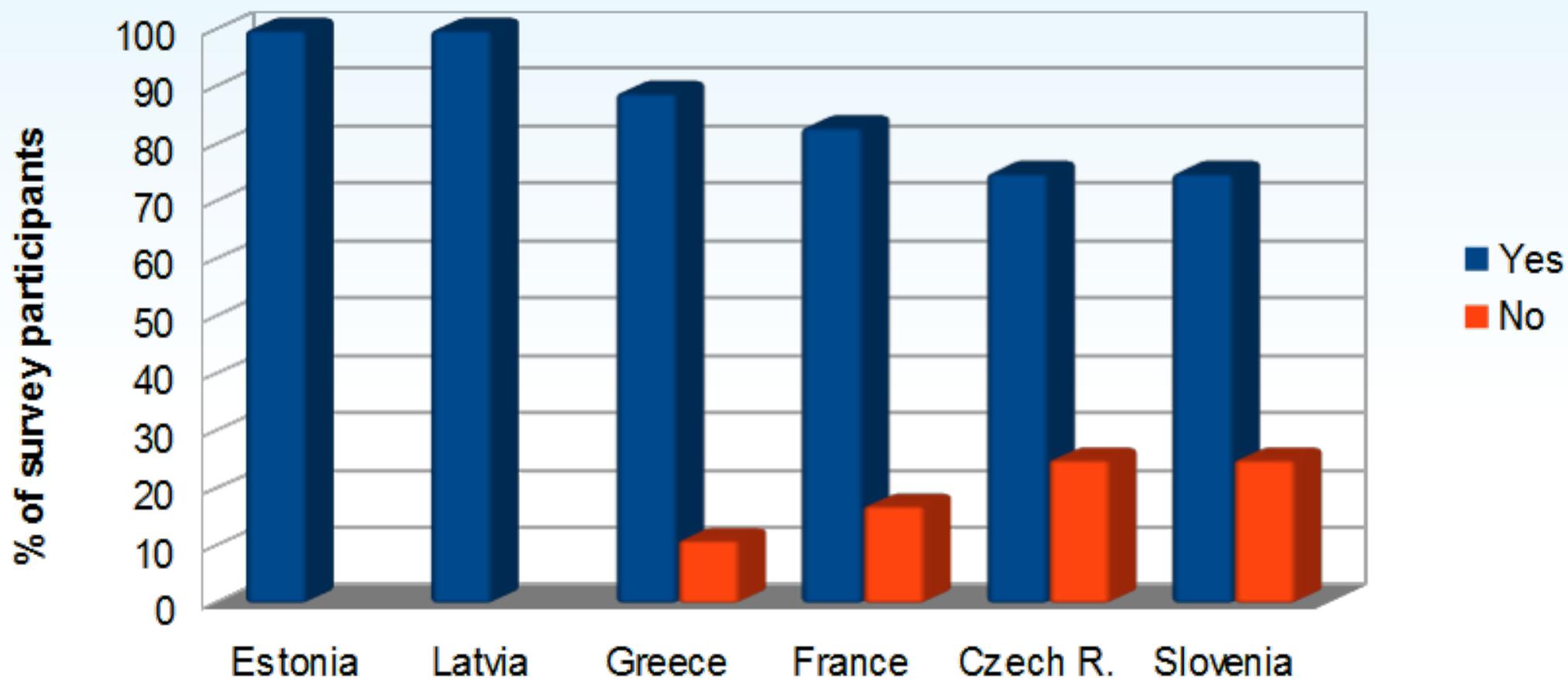
E-democracy tools used / should be used more to minimise effects of the disinformation



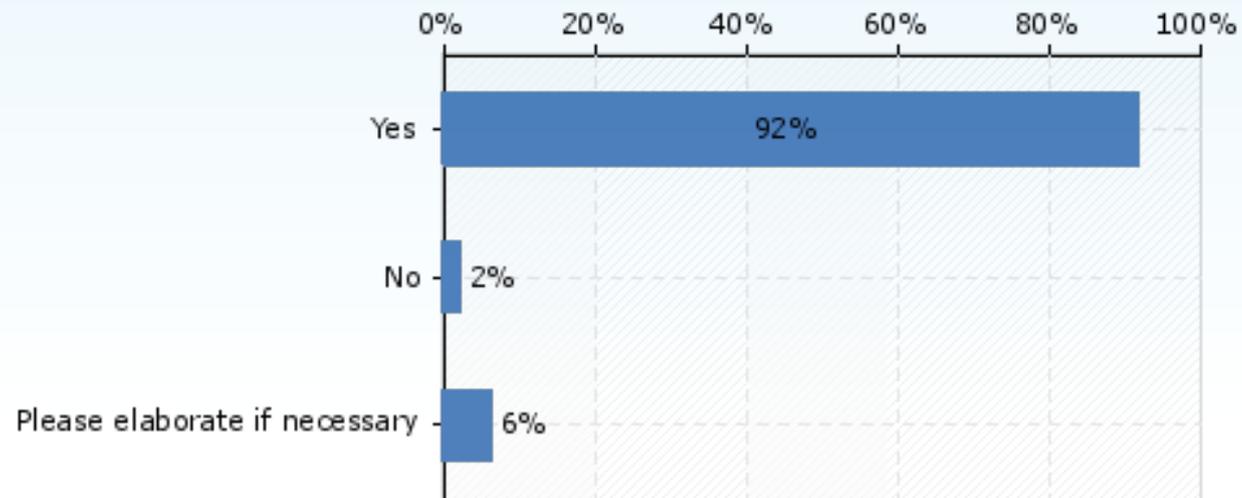
E-democracy tools used / should be used more to minimise effects of the disinformation



Empowering of the EU for a more active role in combating fake news/misinformation/politicization of information

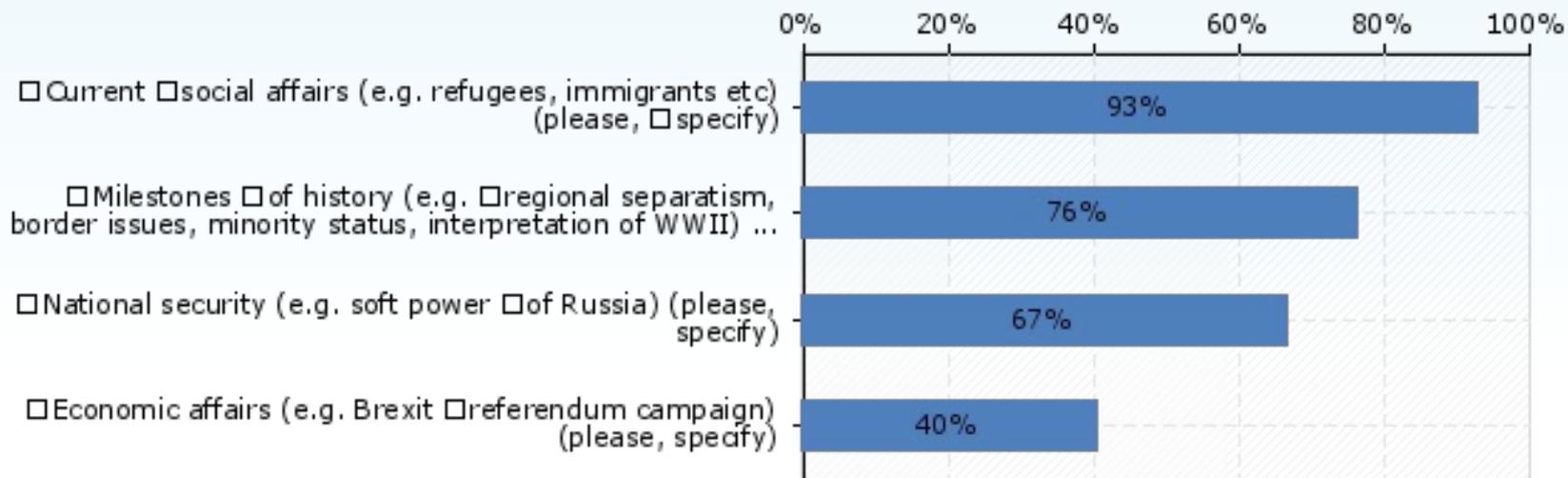


10. In your opinion can politicization of certain things/events/social processes/milestones of history in your country produce a significant change in the way audience perceives certain phenomena? (n = 48)



9. What kind of phenomena are most often being politicized in your country? (n = 42)

Multiple answers are possible



Key findings

- Migration polices and trust in democratic process are harmed to a greatest extent by an intentional disinformation.
- Anonymous social media accounts and politicians are the most likely agents of disinformation.
- Social media, messaging apps, online blogs and forums are media in which people most often come across disinformation.
- Raising awareness among the public, promoting media and information literacy and encouraging critical thinking are an effective measures for addressing disinformation.
- Media / journalists and media policy makers should take the leading role in curtailing the adverse effects of disinformation.
- Ensuring transparency about sponsored content should be stepped-up by online platforms.
- Tools aimed at reporting the disinformation and specific platforms for making sound decisions before voting are used to tackle disinformation.

THANK YOU!

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