



Intercultural Trends and Social Change in Poland

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Methodological note

- § The Anna Lindh Foundation commissioned Ipsos to undertake its third opinion poll to measure intercultural trends and social change in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.
- § The opinion poll is being carried out in eight European countries (Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal and the Netherlands) and five SEM countries/territories (Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Tunisia).
- § The target population consists of all individuals, aged 15 or older, resident in each of the countries/territories covered. In all countries/territories, the target sample size was 1,000 fully-completed interviews. Fieldwork took place between 19 September 2016 and 8 November 2016.
- § In all countries, except Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) methodology was implemented. In Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, face-to-face interviewing was applied.



Demographic profile

		Poland (n=1,002)	European countries (n=8,020)	SEM countries (n=5,007)
Gender	Men	48%	45%	50%
	Women	52%	52%	50%
Age	15-29	23%	21%	36%
	30-49	33%	31%	38%
	50-64	24%	24%	15%
	65+	18%	22%	8%
	DK/REF	2%	1%	2%
Activity status	Employed	49%	47%	39%
	Unemployed or inactive	49%	52%	58%
	DK/REF	2%	1%	3%
Level of education	Primary education or less	7%	11%	22%
	Secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education	56%	52%	44%
	University-level education	37%	37%	34%
Religion	Christians	75%	63%	1%
	Muslims	0%	2%	88%
	Jews	0%	0.1%	10%
	Other	1%	1%	0%
	Unaffiliated	23%	32%	1%
	DK/REF	1%	2%	0.3%

Poland – country of many transformations

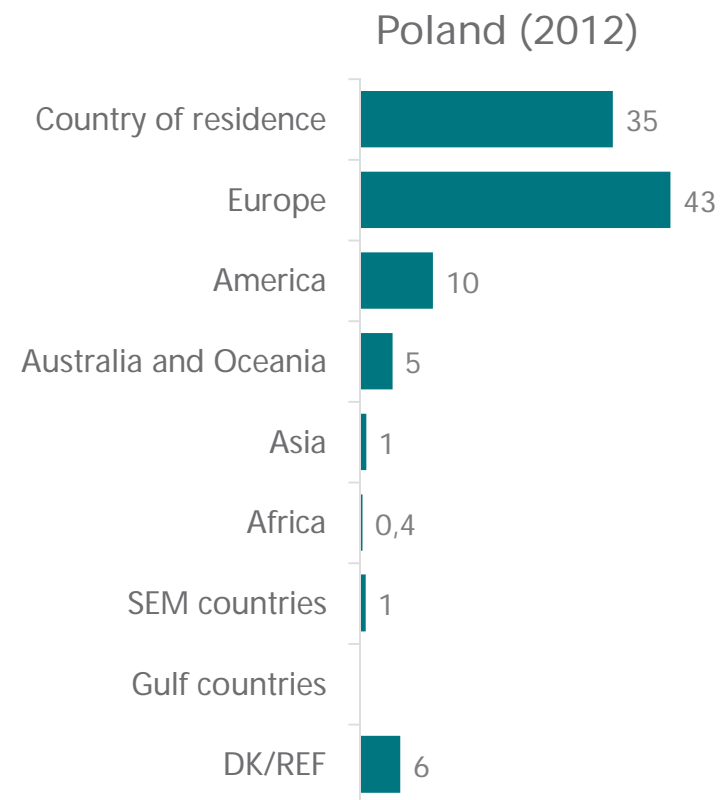
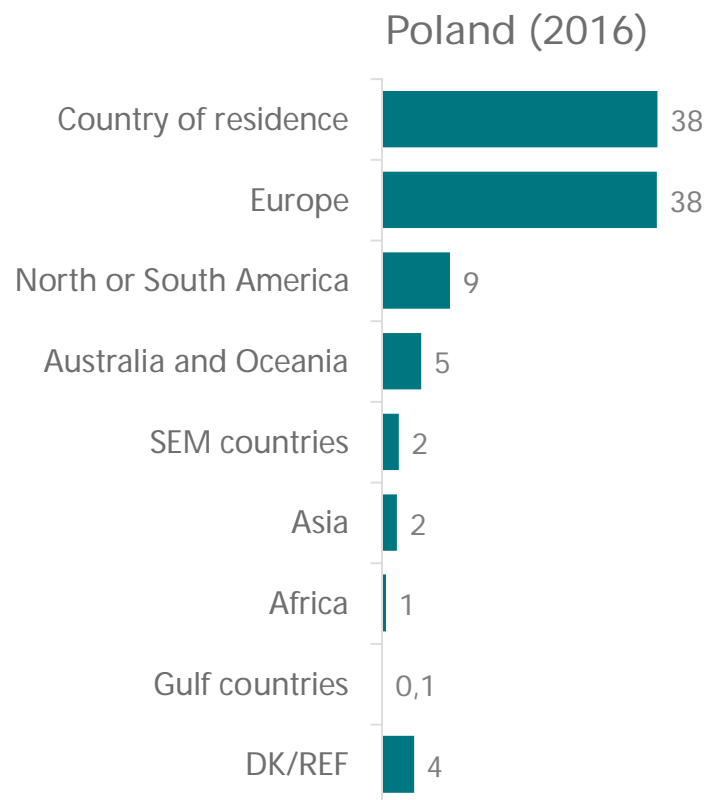
§ Since 1989 (collapse of communism) and 2004 (accession to the EU) deep social, political and economic transformations

- Polish Gross Enrolment Index - 10 % in 1990 and increased to above 40% in 2016 - MNiSW, 2016),
- Rising living standards and life expectancy (from 70 years in 1990 to almost 78 in 2016 - GUS, 2016b)
- While the number of churchgoers has been steadily decreasing since the beginning of the systemic transformations when around 50% of the population participated regularly in the religious services (Czapiński & Panek, 2015; ISKK, 2015) the pace of the secularisation processes has been rather slow (especially in comparison with Western European countries – Davie, 2002) – around 40% now (Czapiński & Panek, 2015, ISKK 2017).
- Sociological predictions suggesting the decline of religion with advance of modernity (e.g. Berger, 1967) have not been fulfilled in the country with very ethnically and religiously homogenous population (especially in comparison to Poland before the Second World War), and where the Catholic Church plays an important role in the country's public sphere (Pędziwiatr, 2015).

Poland – country of migration

- § Significant outflow of people after the insurmountable barriers to mobility in Europe were dismantled with the collapse of the Berlin Wall (Okólski, 2007).
- § The migration processes particularly accelerated when Poland joined the EU and some countries (e.g. UK and Ireland) opened their labour market for the citizens of new member states.
- § According to the last census carried out in 2011 at the moment when it was carried out over 2,5 million of 38 million Polish citizens had been living abroad for at least 3 months (GUS, 2013). Although the pace of outflow migration has been in recent years losing its dynamism, as the modernization of the economy started to generate a steady demand for foreign labour, Poland is still a net emigration rather than immigration country.

Preferred countries to start a new life



Survey question (2016 and 2012): If you could start a new life, in which country of the world would you start it?

Base: all respondents (%), by country

Key developments behind this trend

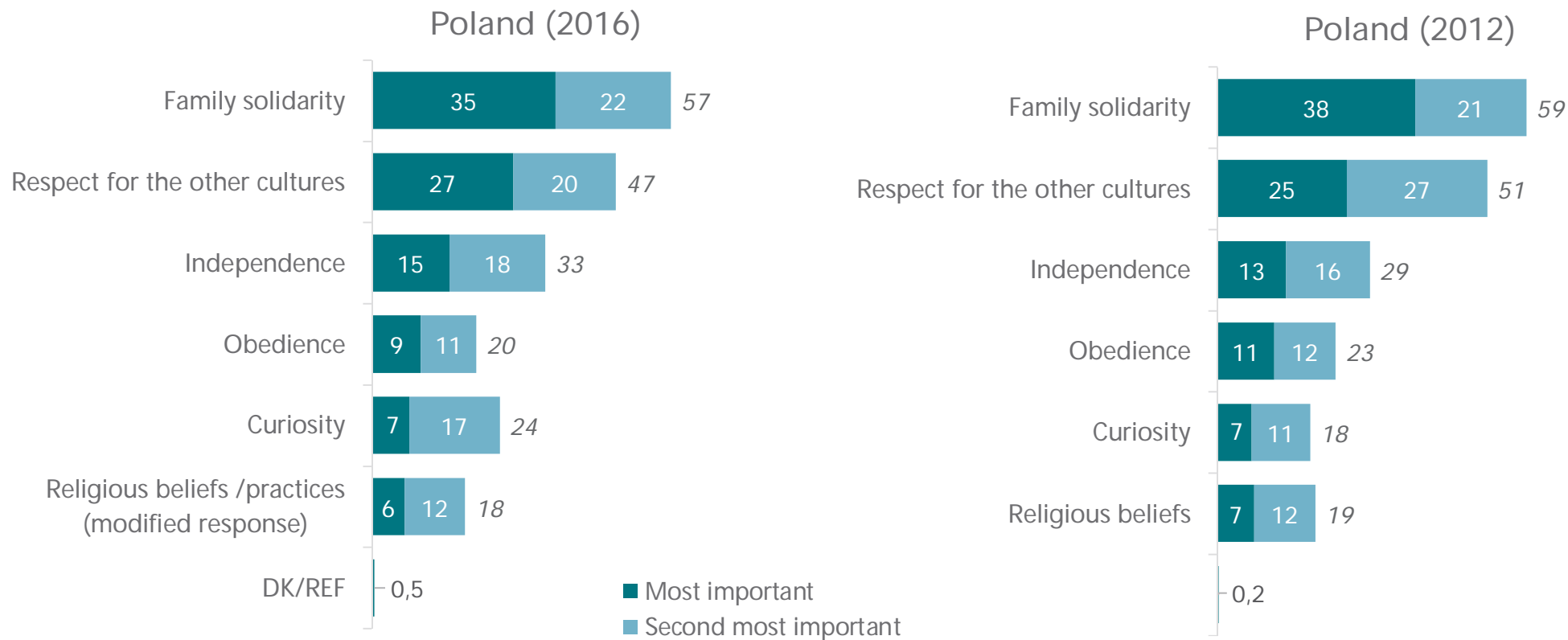
- § Weakening labour market pressures pushing people out of the country (e.g. decreasing unemployment rates from over 20% in 2002 to around 8,58.5% in 2017 - GUS, 2017b) (further decreasing in 2018 and 2019).
- § Growth of the country's GDP (from 7,500 Euro per inhabitant in 2005 to 11,200 in 2016 – GUS, 2017c) that translates also into general improvement of the economic status of Polish families.
- § Programme 500+ assisting financially families with more than one child (plans to extend it from next month to every child) - introduced in 2016 ambitiously aims to boost Polish natality which with 1,3 child per women is currently one of the lowest not only in Europe but also globally (GUS, 2016b). For opposition parties clear case of „buying votes“.

Values and perception of gender equality

Key values and perception of gender equality

- § In spite of the of dynamic transformations the key values of the Polish society remain quite stable. The European Value Survey shows that as the most important Poles continuously point out family, then work, then religion (Jasińska-Kania, 2012).
- § Although the majority of Poles accept the traditional model of family, recent studies suggest also increasing acceptance of divorces, couples living together without marriage, patchwork families, usage of contraception and sex before marriage (CBOS, 2013b; Slany, 2007).
- § The Anna Lindh/Ipsos Survey shows that family solidarity is one of the key values that Poles would like to imbed in their children. This value was pointed out as most or second most important by 59% of Poles in 2012 and 57% in 2016.

Key values when raising children 1



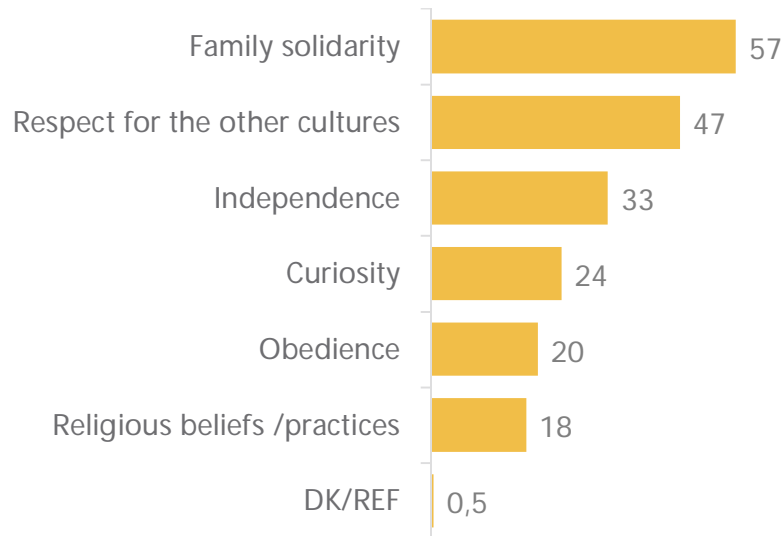
Survey question: In bringing up their children, parents in different countries may place different emphasis on different values. Assuming that we limit ourselves to six values only, I'd like to know which one of these is most important, to you personally, when raising children? And the second most important?

Base: all respondents (%), by country

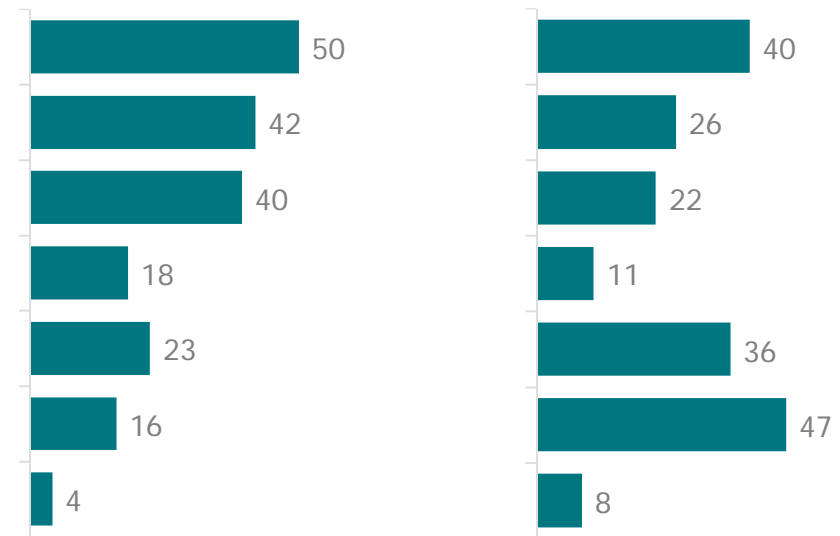
Key values when raising children 2

Perceptions about key values for parents raising children in Europe

*Key values in Poland
(for respondents personally)*



Perceptions in Poland about key values of parents in:
European countries & SEM countries



Survey question: In bringing up their children, parents in different countries may place different emphasis on different values. Assuming that we limit ourselves to six values only, I'd like to know which one of these is most important, to you personally, when raising children? And the second most important?

And which one of these six do you think is most important to parents raising children in Europe? And the second most important?

Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Key values when raising children 3

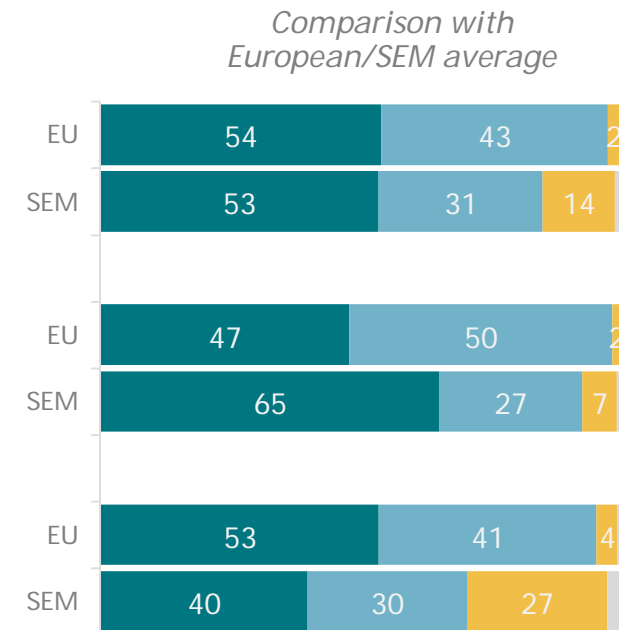
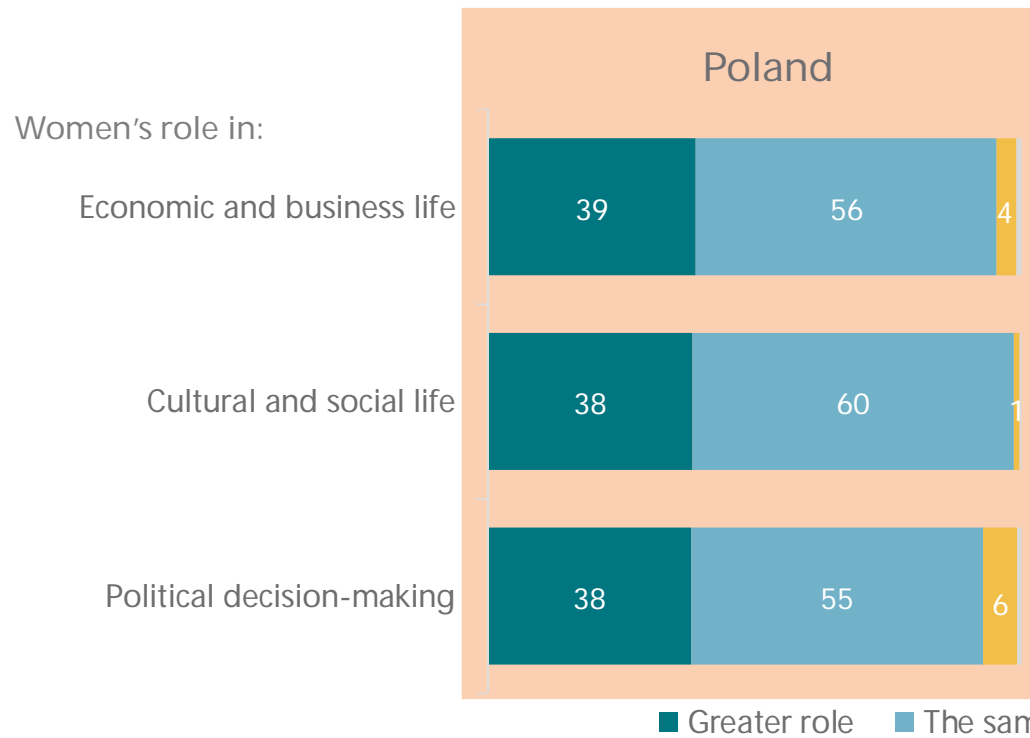
- § Quite highly valued are also respect for other cultures and independence (respectively 47% and 33% interviewees mentioned them as most or second most important values).
- § In contrast to Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries researched (i.e. Algeria, Israel, Jordan, OPT and Tunisia) where obedience and religious practices were mentioned as key values that parents would like to emphasise while bringing up their children, in Poland only every fifth person found them important.

Perception of gender equality

- § The strength of the traditional model of the family in the country is also visible in the ALF/Ipsos data on the perception of women's role in the society. The majority of the citizens believe that women already play an important role in the economic and business life, cultural and social life and political-decision making. In contrast to other European countries only a minority of 38-39% claimed that women should be playing a greater role in the aforementioned spheres of life.
- § The survey carried out in 2013 by the Polish research centre found that the majority of men and the minority of women believed that there was equality of rights between men and women in the public life and labour market (CBOS, 2013a)

Perceptions about women's roles in society

Should women be playing a greater role?



Survey question: Compared to their present role in your country, do you think that women should be playing a greater, the same, or lesser role in each of the following domains:

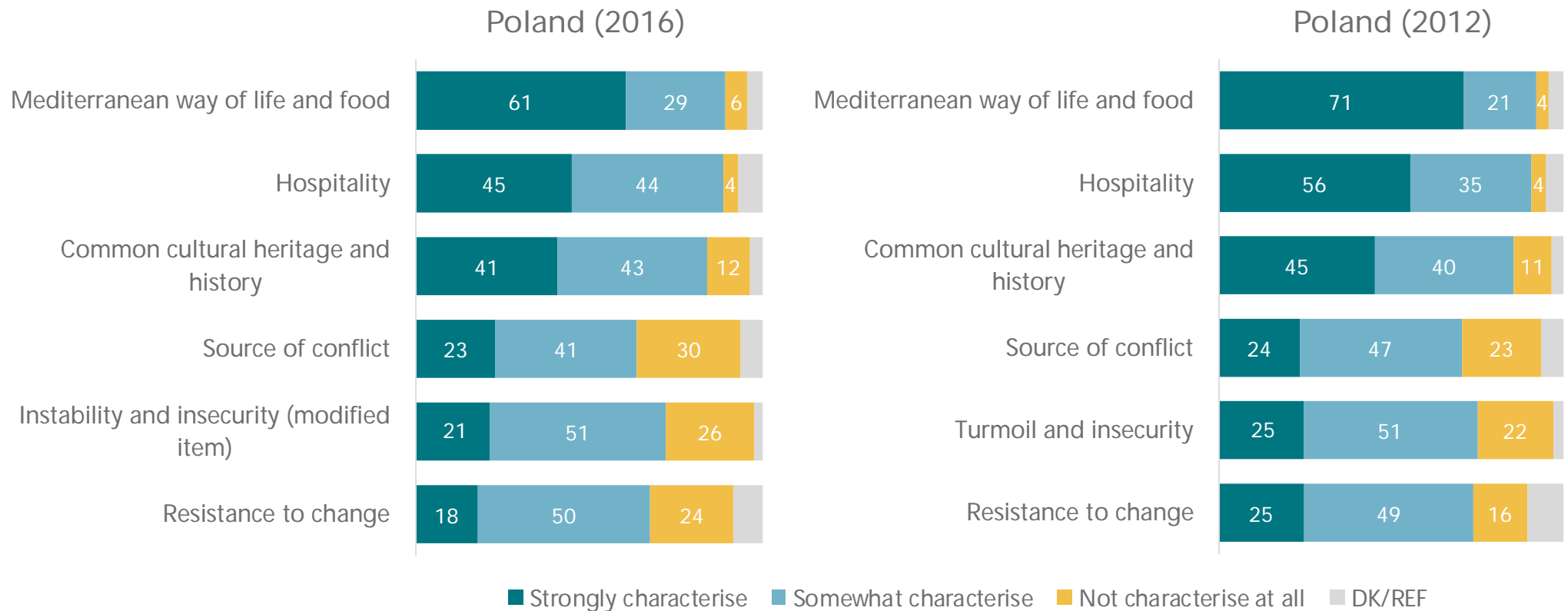
Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Representation of the Mediterranean region

Perception and interest in the SEM region 1

- § The perception the Mediterranean region by the Polish society has been quite stable and not too distant from the views of other Europeans surveyed by Ipsos Mori in Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Portugal and the Netherlands.
- § Most commonly the Poles see the region through the perspective of a Mediterranean way of life and food, hospitality and common cultural heritage and history - These were also the main characteristics pointed out by other Europeans and respondents of SEM interviewed in the course of the research.
- § Less widespread were perceptions of the region as being the a source of conflict, instability and resistance to change.
- § As far as the main changes over the course of the last 2 years in the perception of the region are concerned there were around 10% less Poles who claimed that specific way of life and food as well as hospitality strongly characterised the region in 2016 in comparison to 2012. 11% less respondents viewed the region as strongly characterised by hospitality and 10% less Poles interviewed associated Mediterranean region with specific way of life and food.

Characteristics of the Mediterranean region



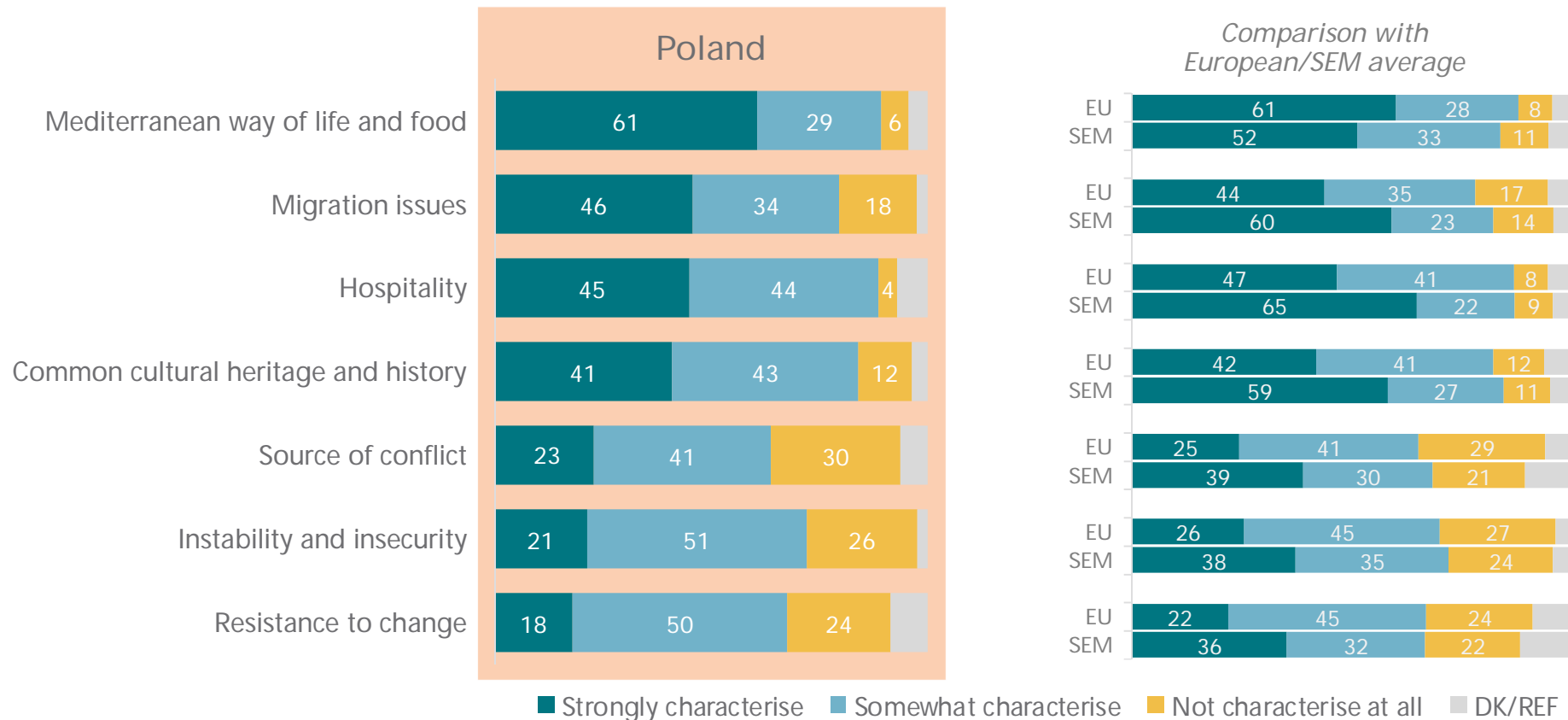
Survey question: Different people have different thoughts about what the Mediterranean region represents. I will read out a set of ideas and images; please tell me if you think these characterise the Mediterranean region strongly, somewhat or not at all.

Base: all respondents (%), by country

Perception and interest in the SEM region 2

- § At the end of 2016 more people viewed the region through the prism of migration issues (new category in the poll) than through the lens of hospitality. Although the migration crisis has not directly influence Poland, as the country has served neither as a transit space nor as destination for increased migratory mobility from MENA to Europe, more Poles than other European surveyed said that this feature strongly characterised the region.
- § This kind of perception of the SEM region, as I argue elsewhere has been strongly linked with the politicisation and mediatisation of the migration crisis during the Polish parliamentary elections in 2015 and in their aftermath (Pędziwiatr, 2016, 2017).
- § The result of it has been inter alia a significant overestimation of the number of Muslims living in the country. While all the EU societies analysed in the Ipsos Mori study on Perils of Perceptions overestimate the number of Muslims in their countries (e.g. in Italy 6 times more than the actual size, in France almost 5 times more and Belgium 4 times more), it is the Poles who are in Europe the unquestionable champion of such overestimations believing that at present 7% of the total population is Muslim while there are maximum 0.1% Muslims in the country and that by 2020 there will 13% of Muslims in Poland (Ipsos Mori, 2016).

Characteristics of the Mediterranean region



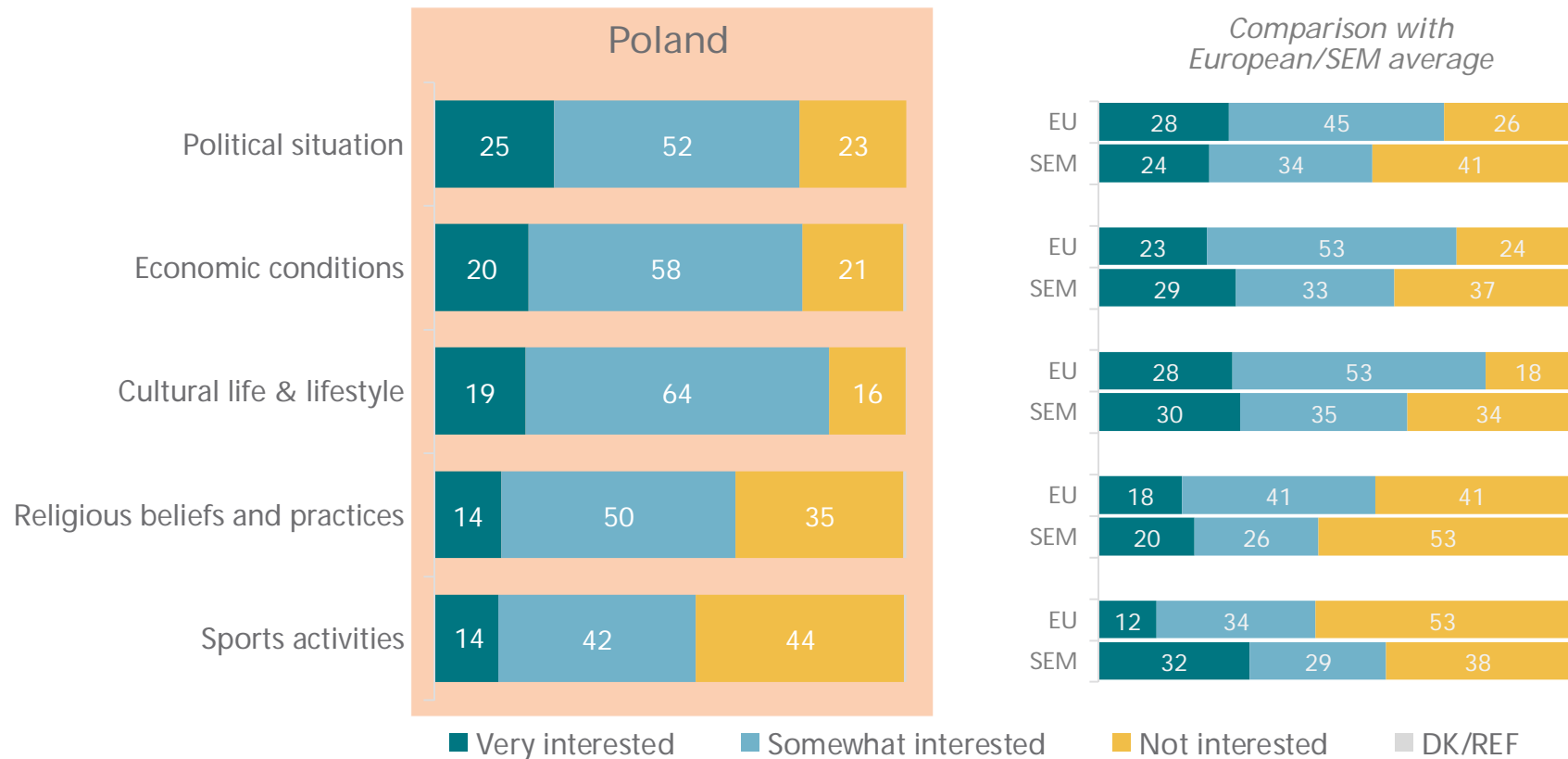
Survey question: Different people have different thoughts about what the Mediterranean region represents. I will read out a set of ideas and images; please tell me if you think these characterise the Mediterranean region strongly, somewhat or not at all.

Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Perception and interest in the SEM region 3

- § At the same time Anna Lindh/Ipsos Survey shows that there is very limited interests amongst the Poles in news and information about political and economic situation in the SEM region. Only every 4th or 5th interviewee respectively was very interested in these news and information about the SEM region.
- § Even less Polish citizens were very interested in cultural life, religious believes and practices and sport in the region. Here, one needs to point out that this disinterest is mutual and that on the other side of the Mediterranean the interest of interviewees in the European countries (except in their sport – most probably football) did not cross 30% either in relation to high level of interest, larger number of populations both in Poland and in other countries relates a somewhat level of interest.

Interest in news and information about SEM/European countries

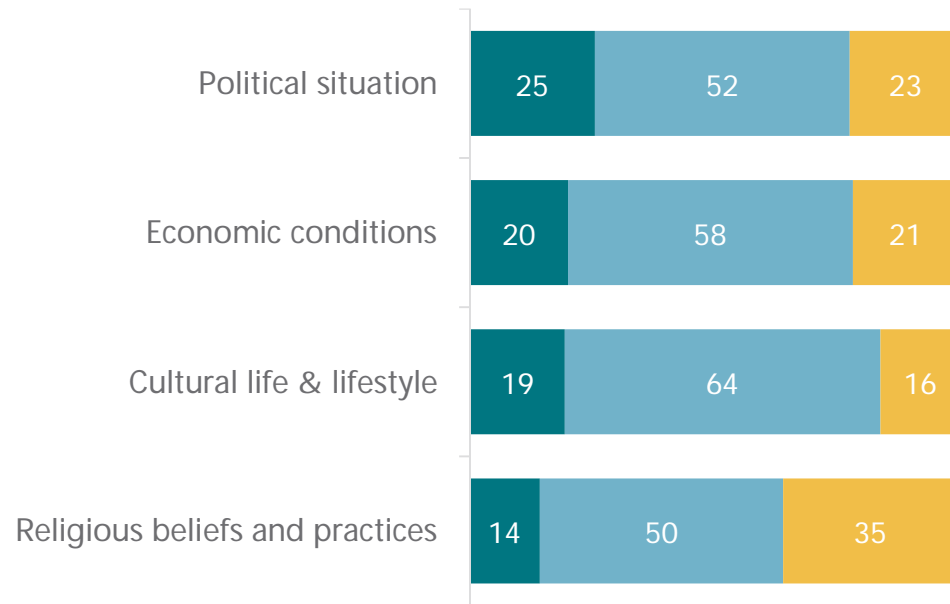


Survey question: Thinking about the countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries), how much interest would you say you personally have in news and information about their [TOPICS A-E]?

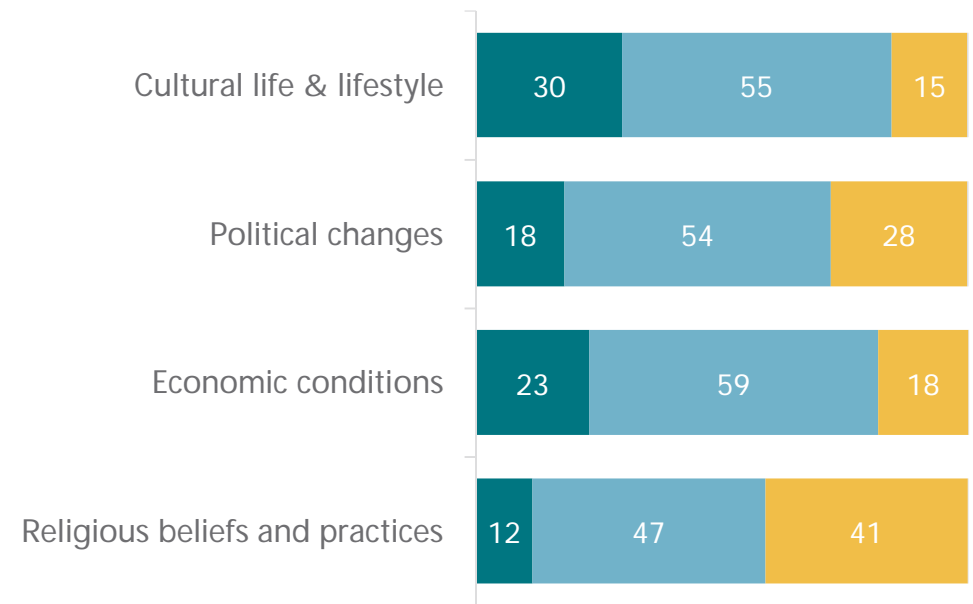
Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Interest in news and information about SEM/European countries

Poland (2016)



Poland (2012)

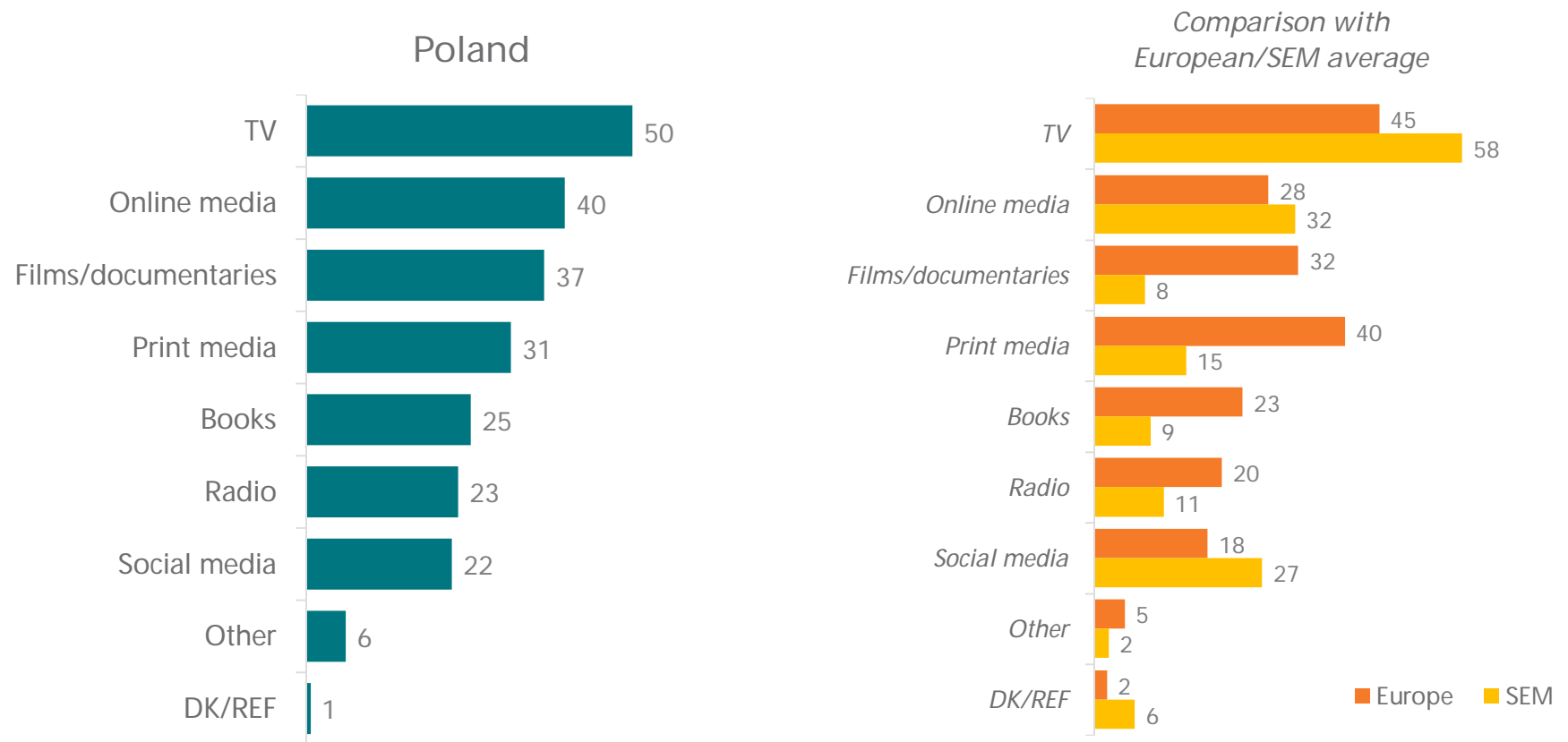


■ Very interested
 ■ Somewhat interested
 ■ Not interested
 ■ DK/REF

Survey question: Thinking about the countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries), how much interest would you say you personally have in news and information about their [TOPICS A-E]?

Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Most trusted media sources for cross-cultural reporting



Survey question: Which of the following sources do you trust most for information about countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries)?

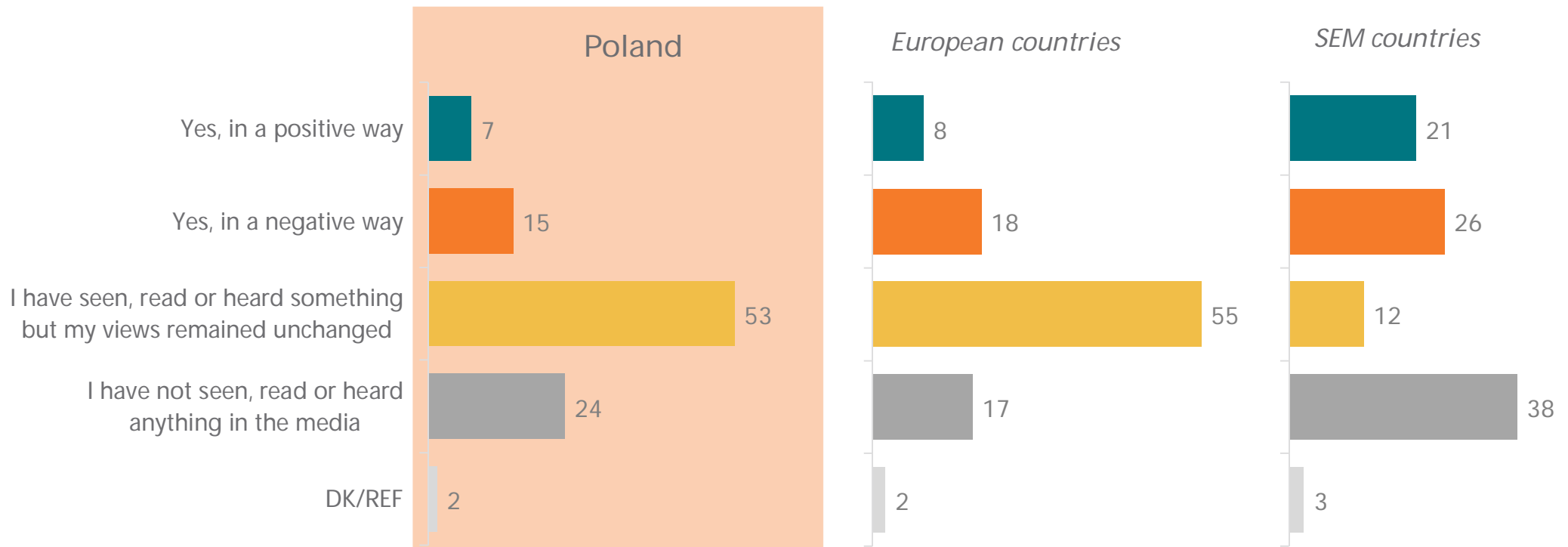
Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Perception and interest in the SEM region 4

- § The Survey shows also interestingly that the majority of Polish interviewees claim that that the media had no impact on their views about people from SEM. In the case of those whose views changed after the exposure to media information about the region for 15% they changed in a negative and only for 7% in a positive way. One fourth of the people interviewed however have not seen, read or heard anything in the Polish media about the SEM region.
- § One may also see in the Anna Lindh/Ipsos data increasing importance of online media as key source of cross-cultural reporting. In Poland where by the end of 2016, 80% of households had access to the internet (GUS, 2017a), 40% of people treated online as the most trusted source of information about the SEM. This is significantly higher than in other European countries where on average for 28% interviewees online media was a source information and in the SEM where for 32% people treated in such a way. TV still remains the main source of information for Poles about the SEM, however, its role has been diminishing especially vis-à-vis growing importance of online and social media.

Media role in shaping public perception

Did media cause a change in views about people from SEM/European countries?



Survey question: During the past 12 months, have you seen, read or heard anything in the media that has influenced your view of people in countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries)

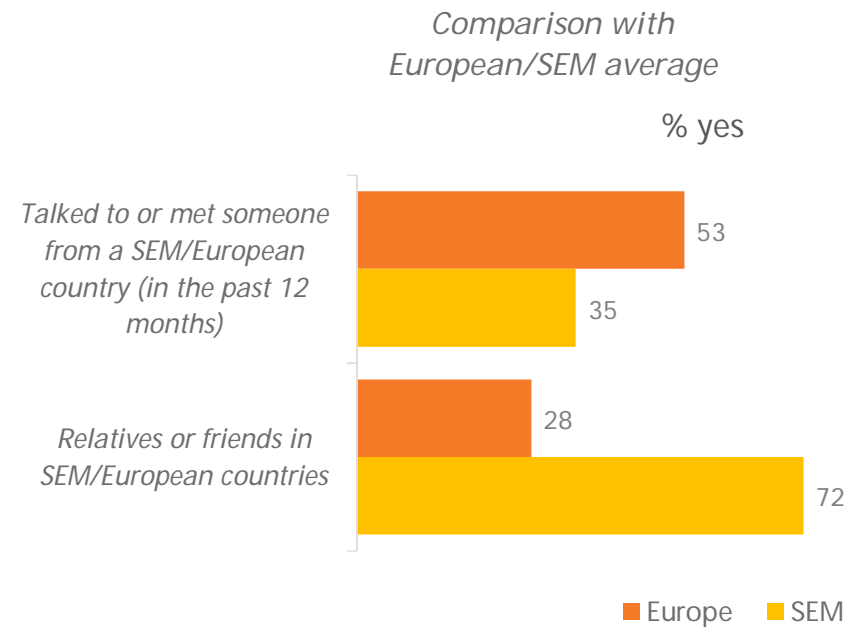
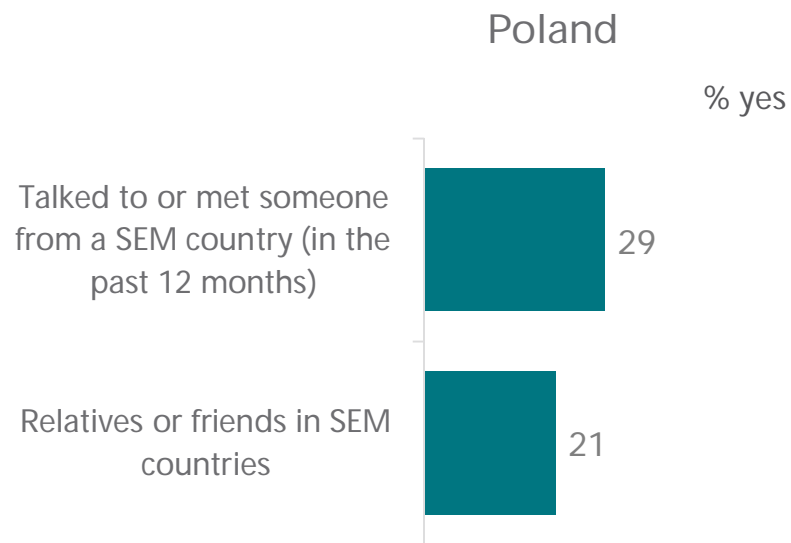
Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Interaction and dialogue

Limited encounters 1

- § Poland emerged after the Second World War for the first time, in its over a millennium long state history, as a country with very small ethnic and religious minorities. Some anthropologist call this new reality in which almost 95% of the population are ethnic Poles and 88% are Roman Catholics (GUS, 2015) 'superhomogeneous' (Buchowski, 2016) to emphasise the uniqueness of this new social arrangement in which additionally Catholicism very strongly intertwines with nationalism.
- § The Anna Lindh/Ipsos data confirm the limitations of having cross-cultural encounter in such a society. While the majority of Europeans (53%) surveyed had talked or met someone from SEM in the last 12 months only 29% of Poles had any contact with SEM people over the last year.

Interactions with people from different countries



Survey question: In the past 12 months, have you talked to or met someone from a country bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/a European country (asked in SEM countries)? *(top bar in the chart)*
 Do you have any relatives or friends who live in countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries)? *(bottom bar)*

Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

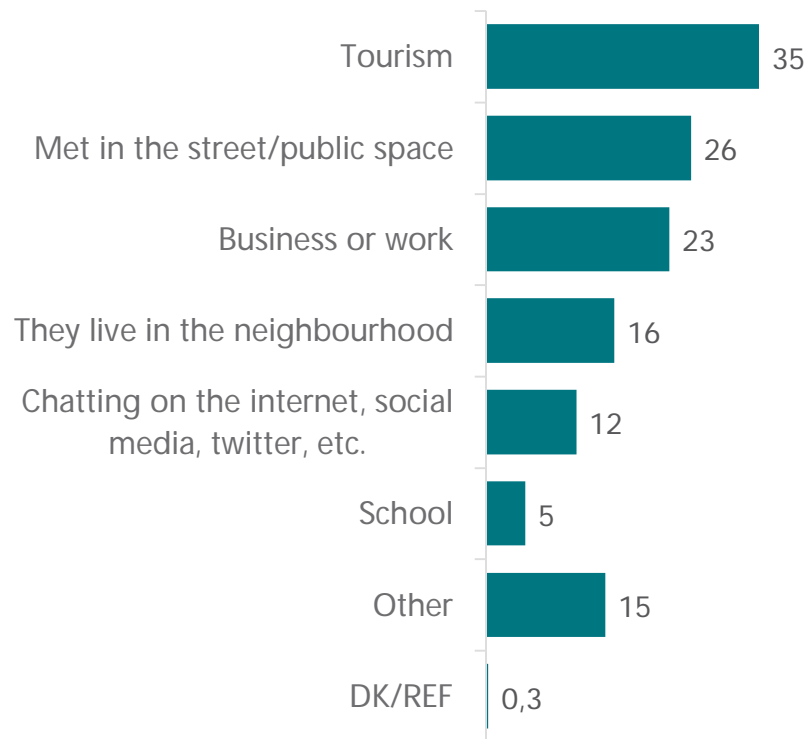
Limited encounters 2

§ If Poles did have any contact with people from the region it was mostly through tourism, meeting in the public sphere or in the business or work context. This is in line with other research carried out in Poland that showed that every tenth Pole personally knows a Muslim (CBOS, 2015) and that the negative attitudes towards followers of Islam develop in the absence of any contact with Muslims or the Muslim world , only 16% of ALF/Ipsos MORI interviewees in Poland met SEM people in their neighbourhood .

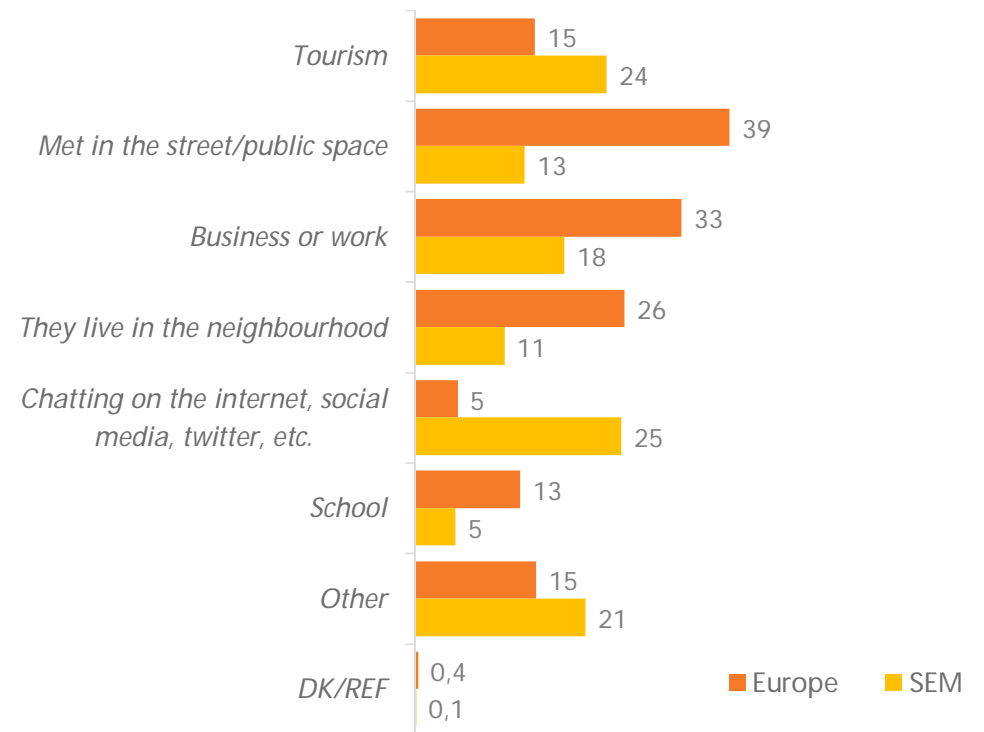
Cross-cultural encounters

Method of interaction

Poland



Comparison with European/SEM average



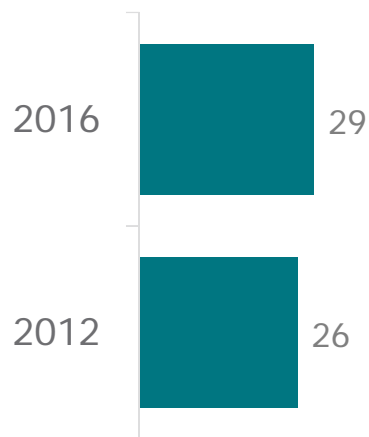
Survey question: Thinking of this/these person(s) you have interacted with, was this mainly through:

Base: respondents who have talked to or met someone from a SEM/European country in the past 12 months (%), by country and country group

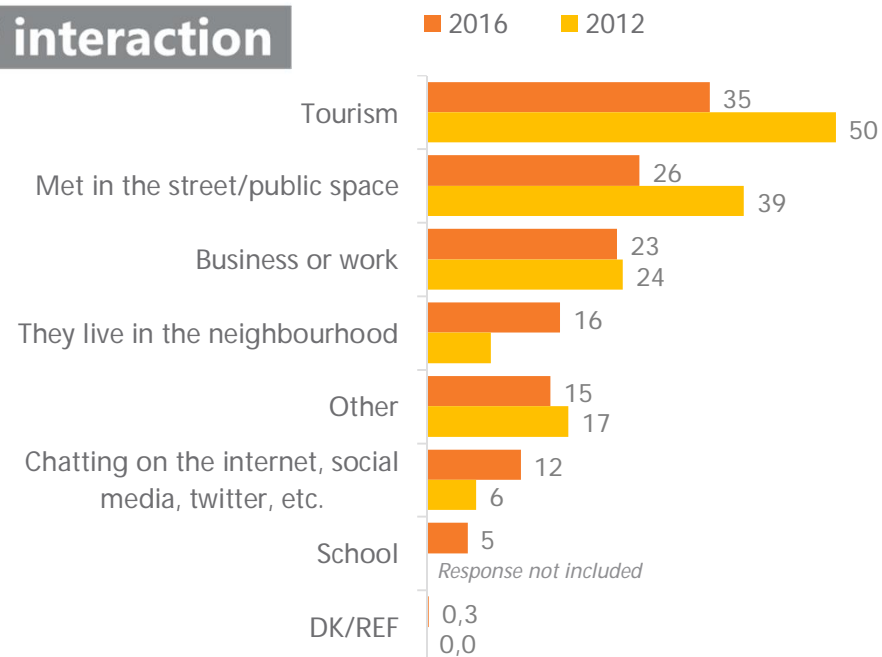
Interactions with people from different countries

Poland

% of respondents who talked to or met someone from a SEM country



Method of interaction



Due to differences in question wording, caution should be exercised when comparing the 2016 and 2012 results.

Survey question (2016): In the past 12 months, have you talked to or met someone from a country bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/a European country (asked in SEM countries)? Thinking of this/these person(s) you have interacted with, was this mainly through:

Survey question (2012): In the last 12 months have you personally talked to or met with any person (or persons) from countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries)? How did you meet or talk to that person?

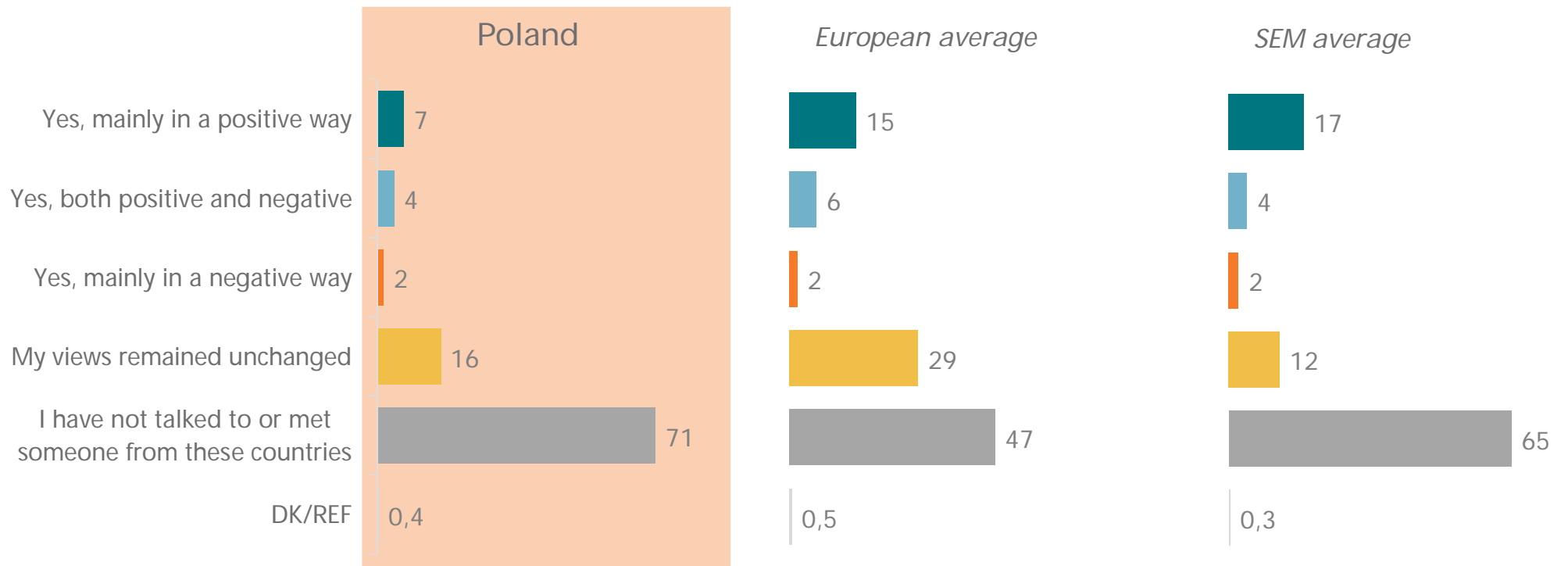
Base: all respondents (%), by country

Limited encounters 3

§ Although the results of the cross-cultural encounters are mixed, the Survey confirms that the more intensive is the contact, the more people point out that it has mainly a neutral or positive outcome.

Cross-cultural encounters

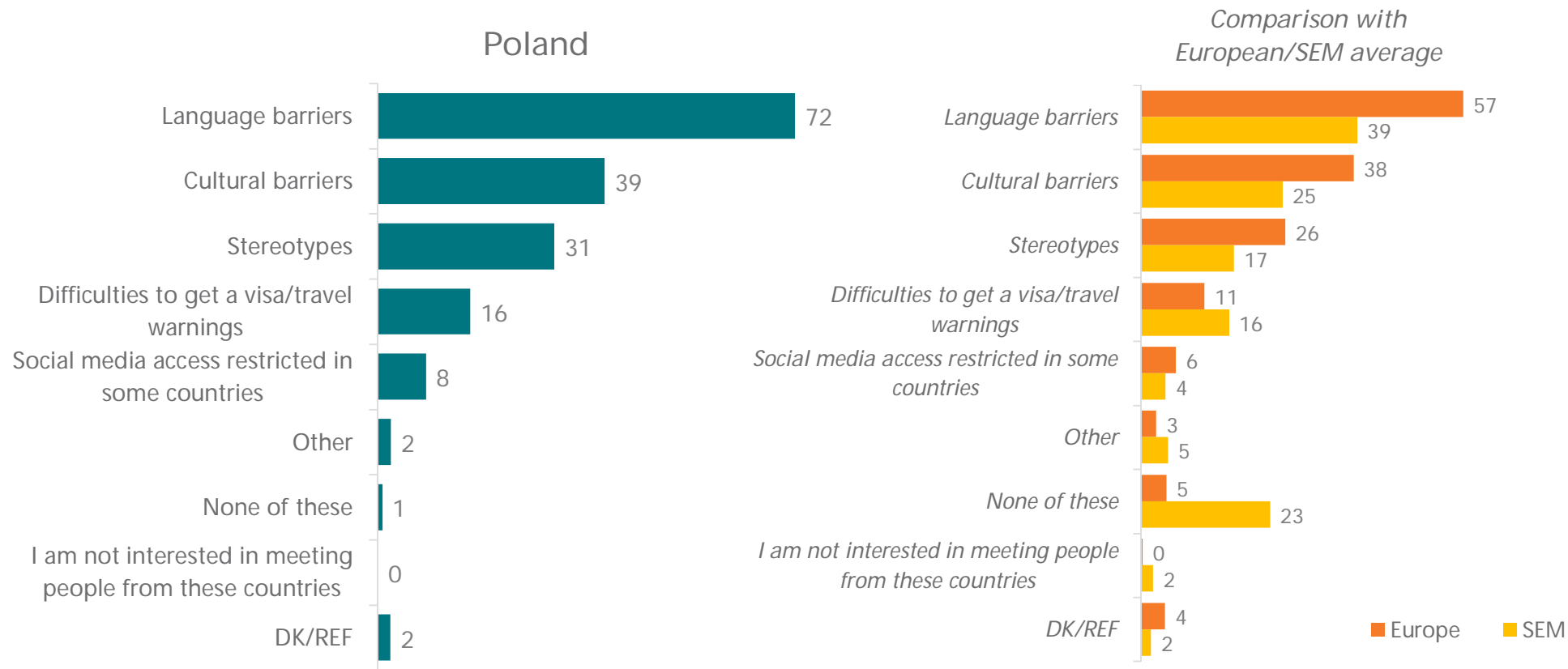
Did meeting people from SEM/European countries cause a change in views?



Survey question: Thinking of your encounter(s) with this/these person(s), did meeting or talking to them change or reinforce your view of people from countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries)?

Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Barriers to cross-cultural encounters



Survey question: What do you think are the main barriers when meeting with or talking to people in or from countries bordering the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea (asked in European countries)/European countries (asked in SEM countries)?

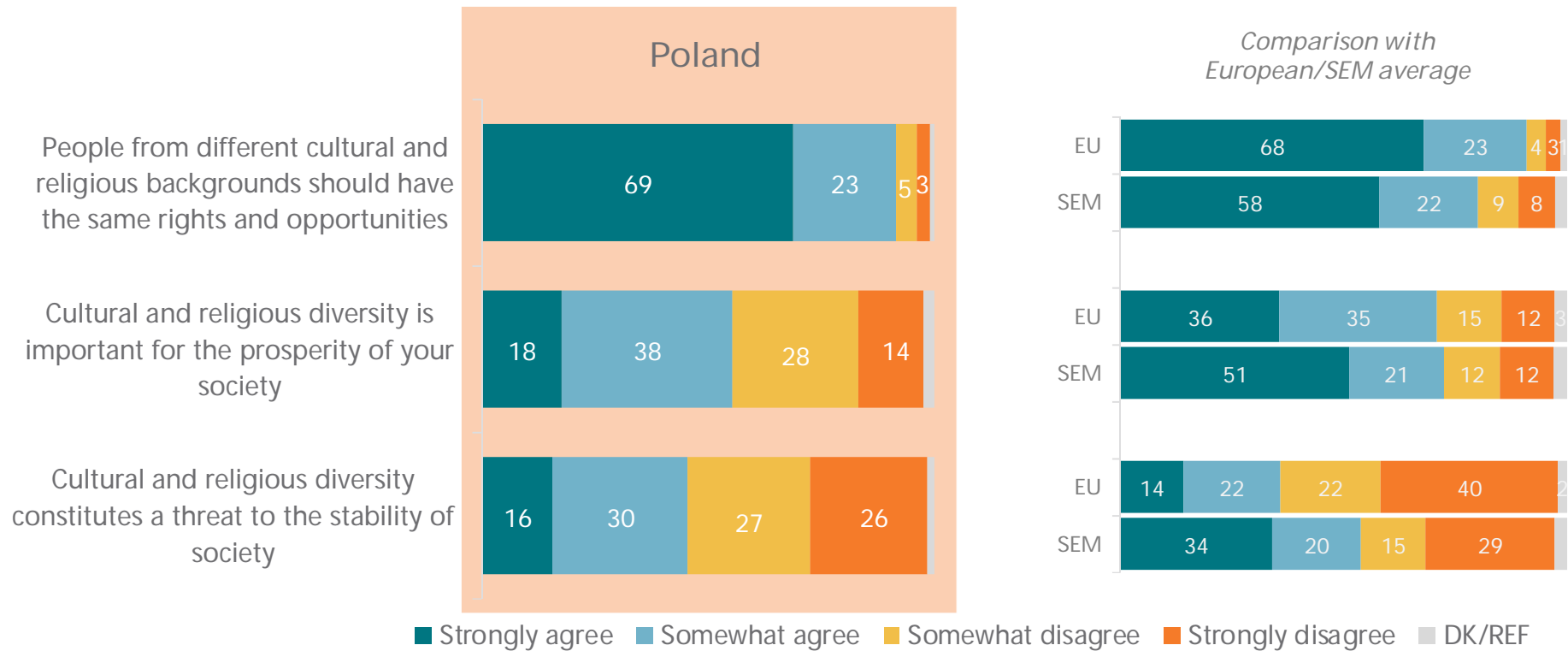
Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Living together in multi-cultural environments

Living together 1

§ In comparison to 2012 decreasing number of Poles believed that cultural and religious diversity was important for the prosperity of the society. While in 2012, 36% either strongly or 45% somewhat agreed that diversity was important, in 2016 only 18% strongly and 38% mildly agreed with this statement (Chart 19).

Perceptions about religious and cultural diversity 1

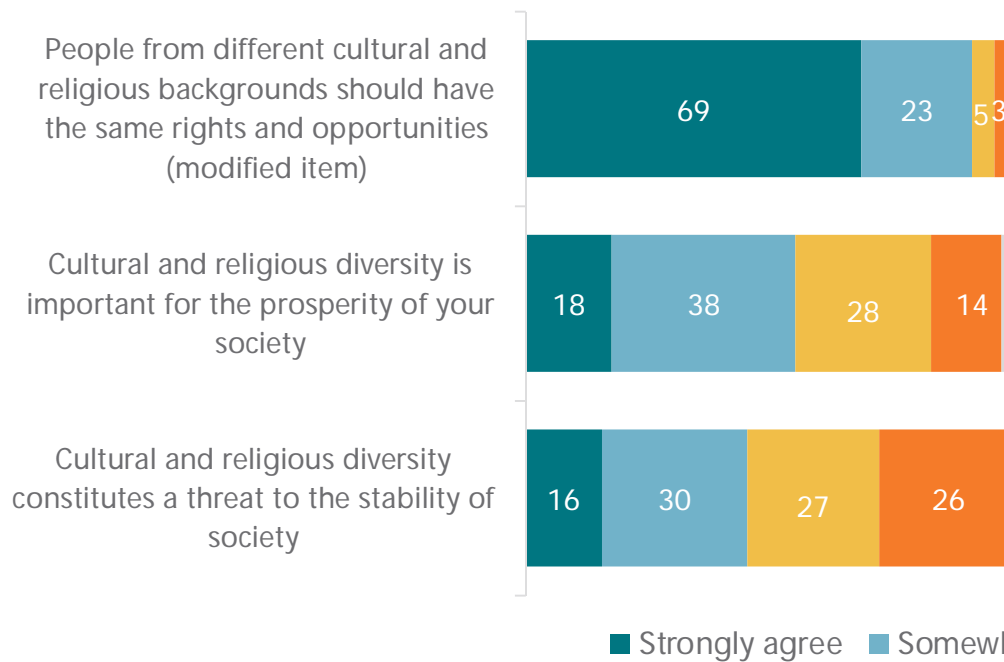


Survey question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

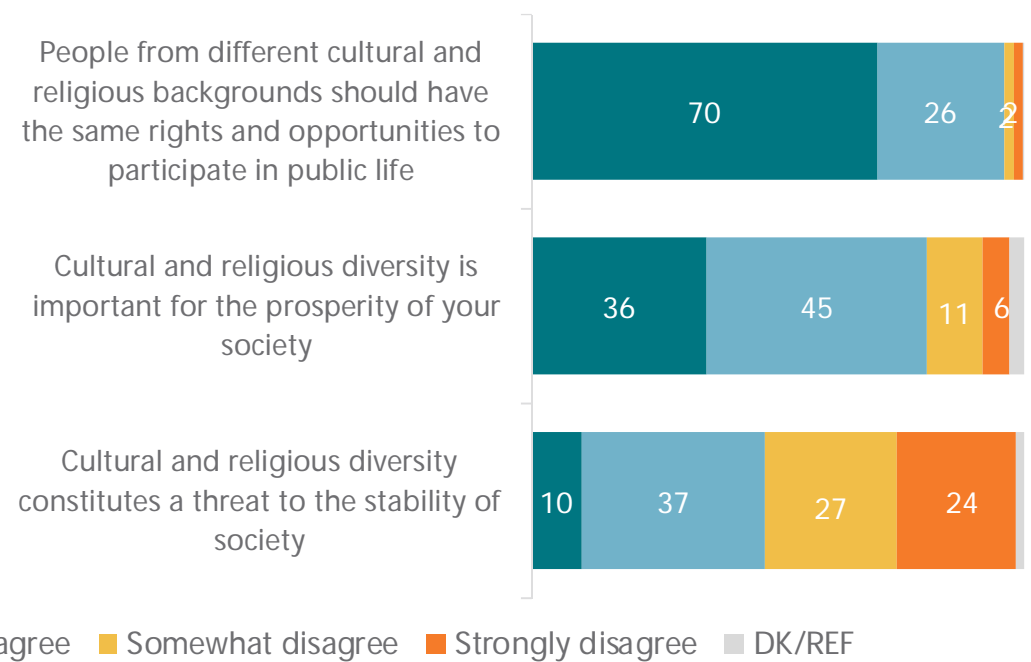
Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

Perceptions about religious and cultural diversity 2

Poland (2016)



Poland (2012)



Survey question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: all respondents (%), by country

Living together 2

§ In a relatively homogenous society cultural diversity is somehow feared and hence one may find in the country also lower than in other parts of Europe levels of tolerance of it. For example if for 65% of European interviewees marriage of close relative with someone from a different cultural background would not be problematic at all in Poland the same answer gave only 38% of interviewees.

Cultural diversity and tolerance

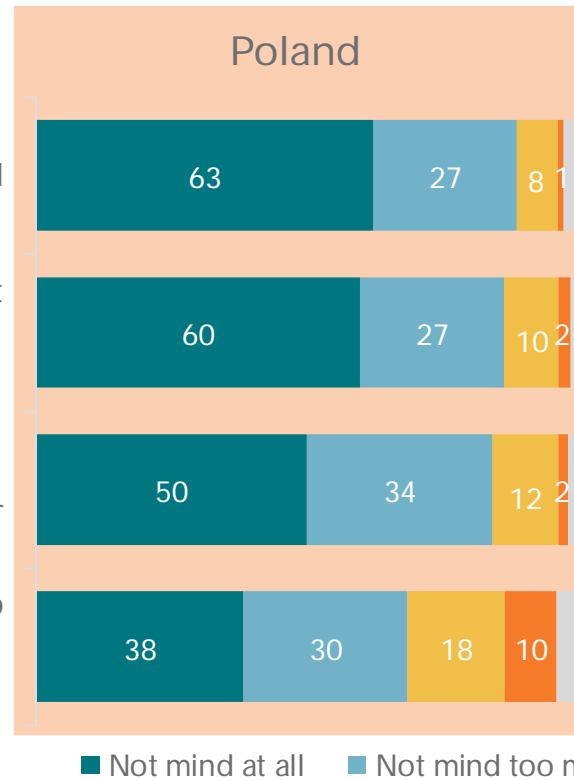
Would you mind:

If your children were to go to school with children from a different cultural background

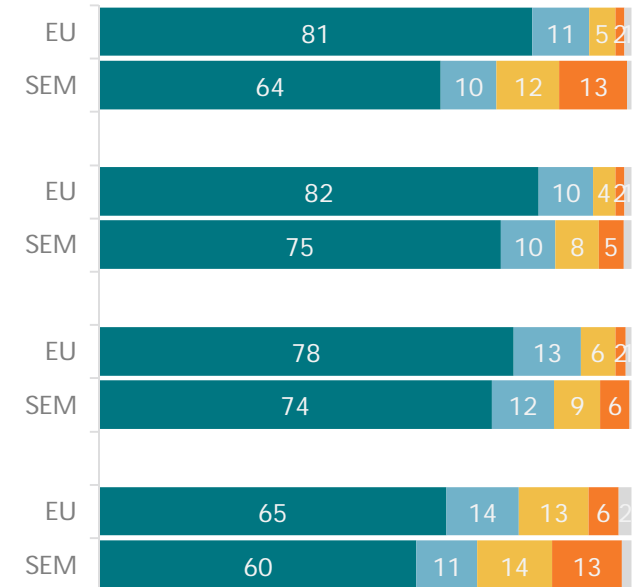
Having a person from a different cultural background as a work colleague

Having a person from a different cultural background as a neighbour

If one of your close relatives were to marry someone from a different cultural background



Comparison with European/SEM average



■ Not mind at all ■ Not mind too much ■ Mind a little ■ Mind a lot ■ NA/DK/REF

Survey question: I am now going to read out a number of scenarios. For each of them, please tell me whether you would mind a lot, mind a little, or whether you would not mind too much, or not mind at all.

Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

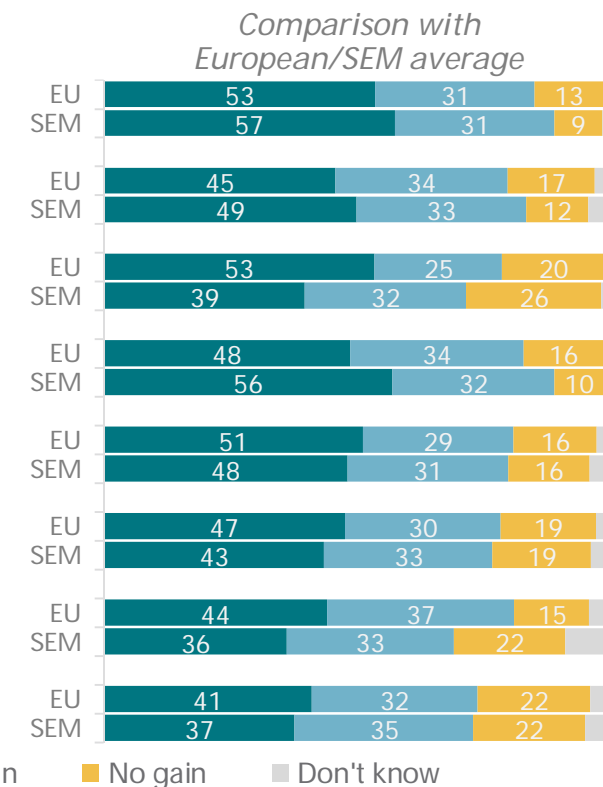
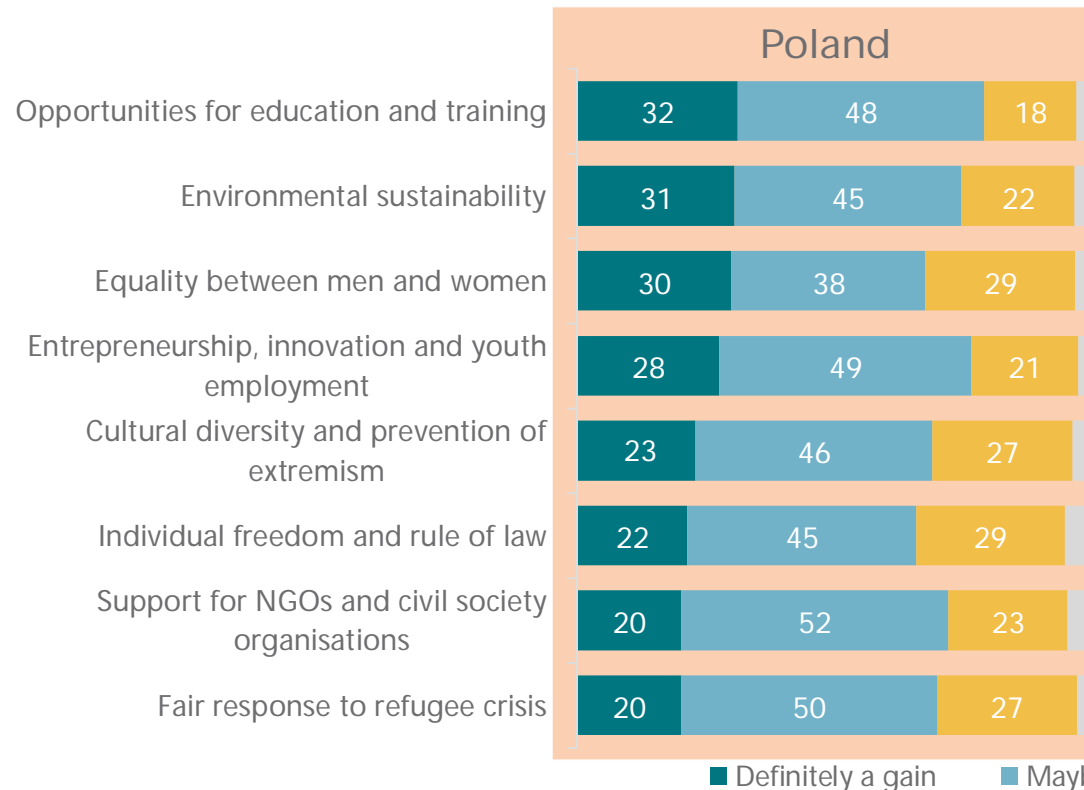
Gains from Euro-Med cooperation

Gains from cooperation 1

§ Poles did not see substantial benefits from the Euro-Med cooperation. If other European nations surveyed saw important gains from such cooperation either in educational, environmental, cultural or business domains, in Poland only every third person saw it as a clear gain.

Gains from Euro-Med cooperation

Cooperation in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy



Survey question: Your country, with other European/SEM countries, has decided to reinforce closer cooperation with SEM/European countries in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Which of the following do you think your society can gain by reinforcing such cooperation?

Base: all respondents (%), by country and country group

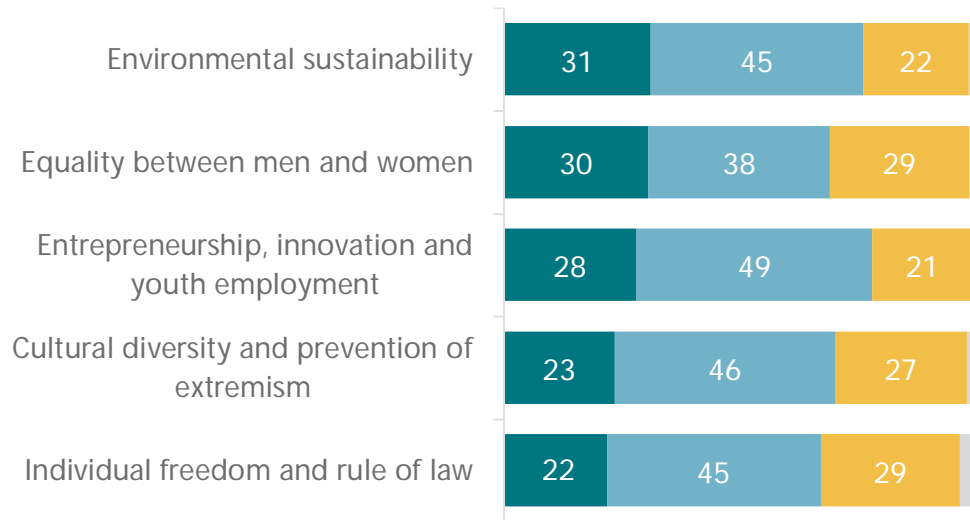
Gains from cooperation 2

§ While this reluctance to more dynamically engage in Euro-Med cooperation can be partially explained by geography and geopolitical position, some of it stems also from the national populist turn taking place over the last years in the Polish society and political decisions to scale down some of the European and Euro-Med partnerships.

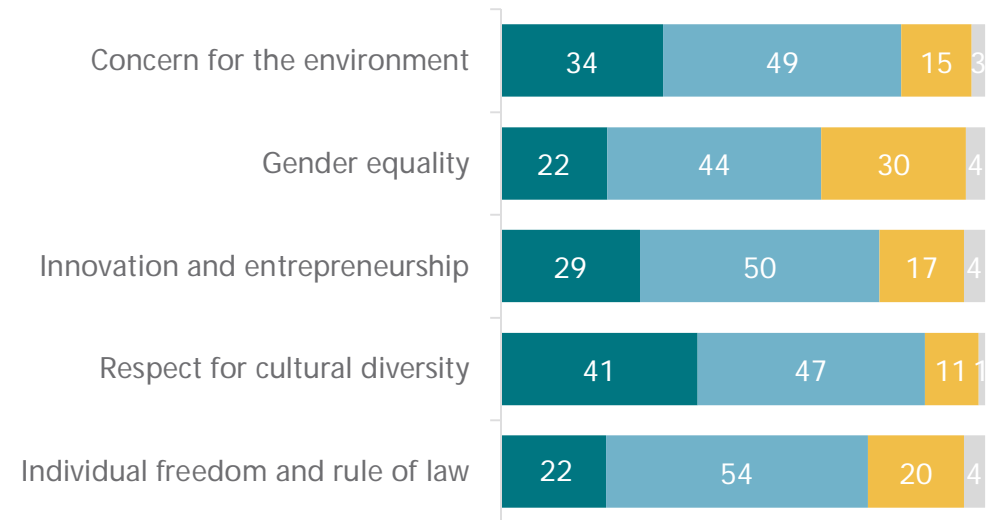
Gains from Euro-Med cooperation

Cooperation in the framework of ENP (2016) and UfM (2012)

Poland (2016)



Poland (2012)



■ Definitely a gain ■ Maybe a gain ■ No gain ■ Don't know

Due to substantial differences in question wording, caution should be exercised when comparing the 2016 and 2012 results.

Survey question (2016): Your country, with other European/SEM countries, has decided to reinforce closer cooperation with SEM/European countries in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Which of the following do you think your society can gain by reinforcing such cooperation?

Survey question (2012): Your country, with other European countries and the countries on the southern and eastern shore of the Mediterranean, has decided to establish closer political, economic and cultural exchanges, within a project called "Union for the Mediterranean." Which of these aspects do you think your society can gain from such a shared project?

Base: all respondents (%), by country

Thank you for your attention