



Survey of the Georgian Population's Attitudes Toward Current Events in Georgia

January 2025



Methodology

- **Research type:** Quantitative research
- **Target group:** Adult (18+) population of Georgia
- **Selective unity:** 2000 respondents
- **Method:** Face-to-face interview
- **Selection:** Probabilistic; specifically, cluster sampling with prior stratification
- **Sampling error:** $\pm 2.2\%$ for the entire sample, with a 95% confidence level
- **Response rate:** 74.4%
- **The fieldwork** was conducted between January 18 and 30, 2025

Research donors: Civil Society Foundation and the United Nations Association of Georgia.

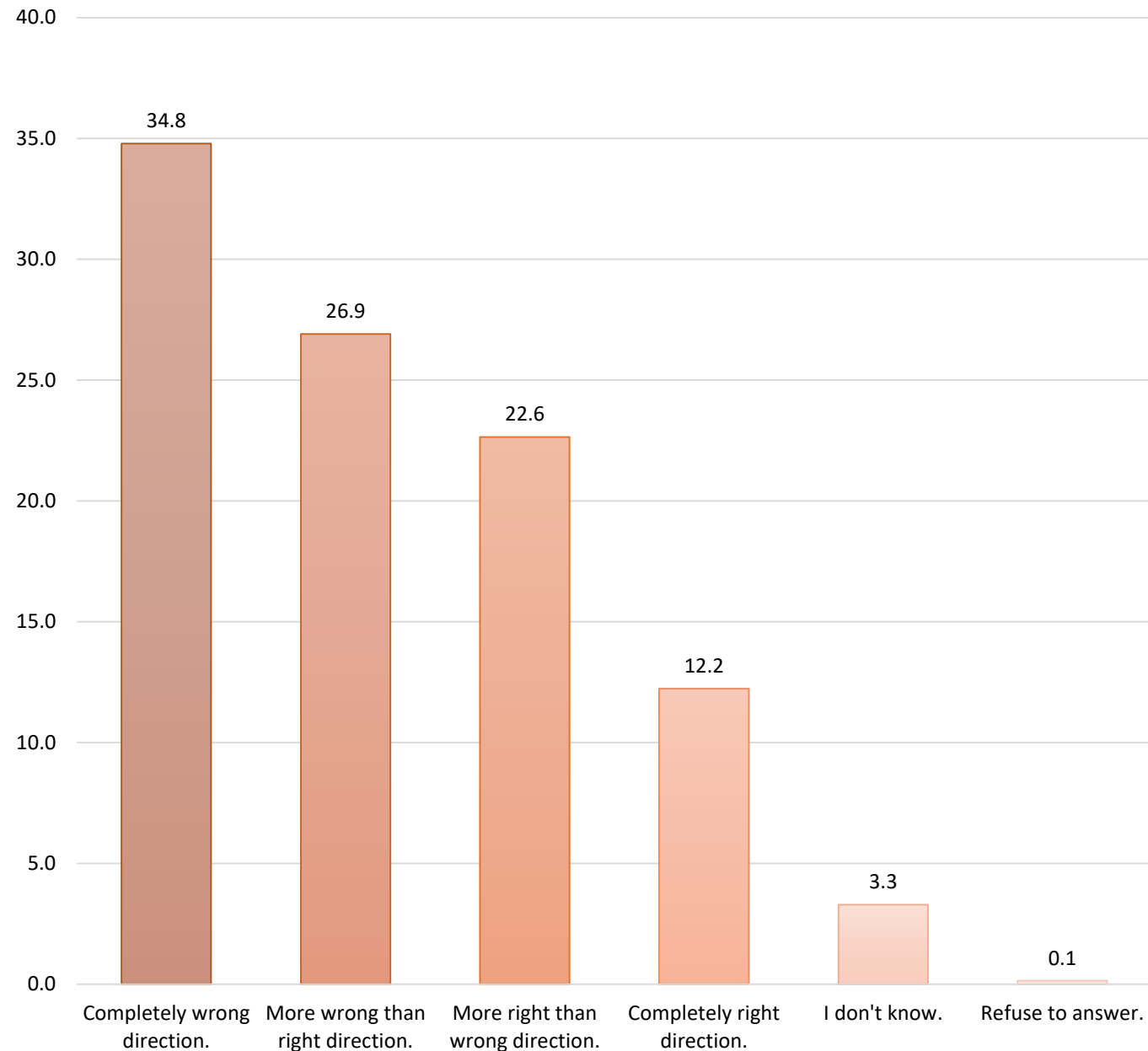
The research was conducted by the Institute for Social Studies and Analysis (ISSA).

General assessment of the current situation in Georgia

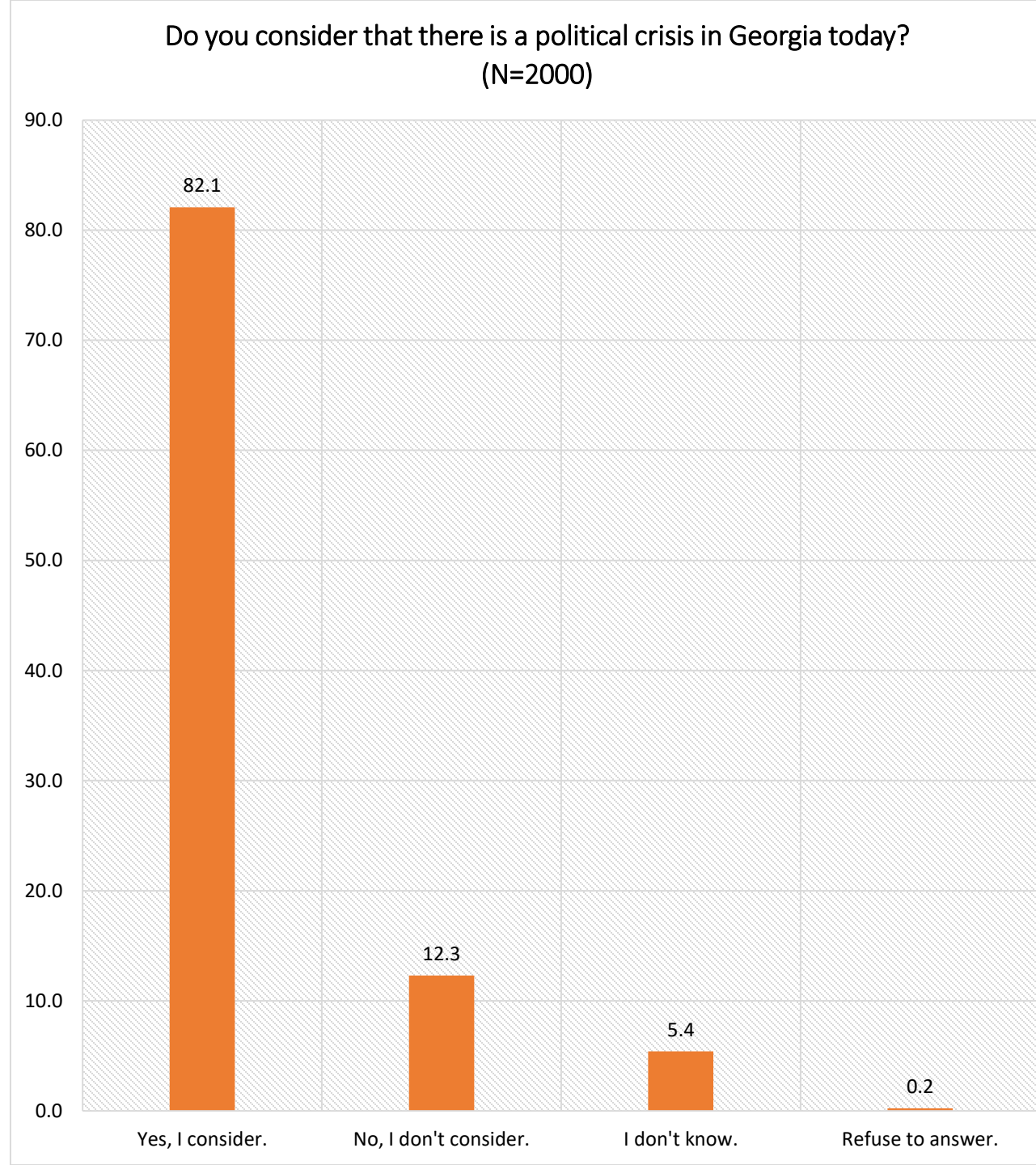
A clear majority (61.7%) considers that the country is moving in the **wrong direction**. More than one-third is categorical in their negative assessment ("completely in the wrong direction").

A total of up to 35% confirm the country's development is in the right direction. However, only 12.2% have a distinctly positive attitude.

In your opinion, in general, is Georgia developing in the right direction, or do you think the country is developing in the wrong direction? (N=2000)



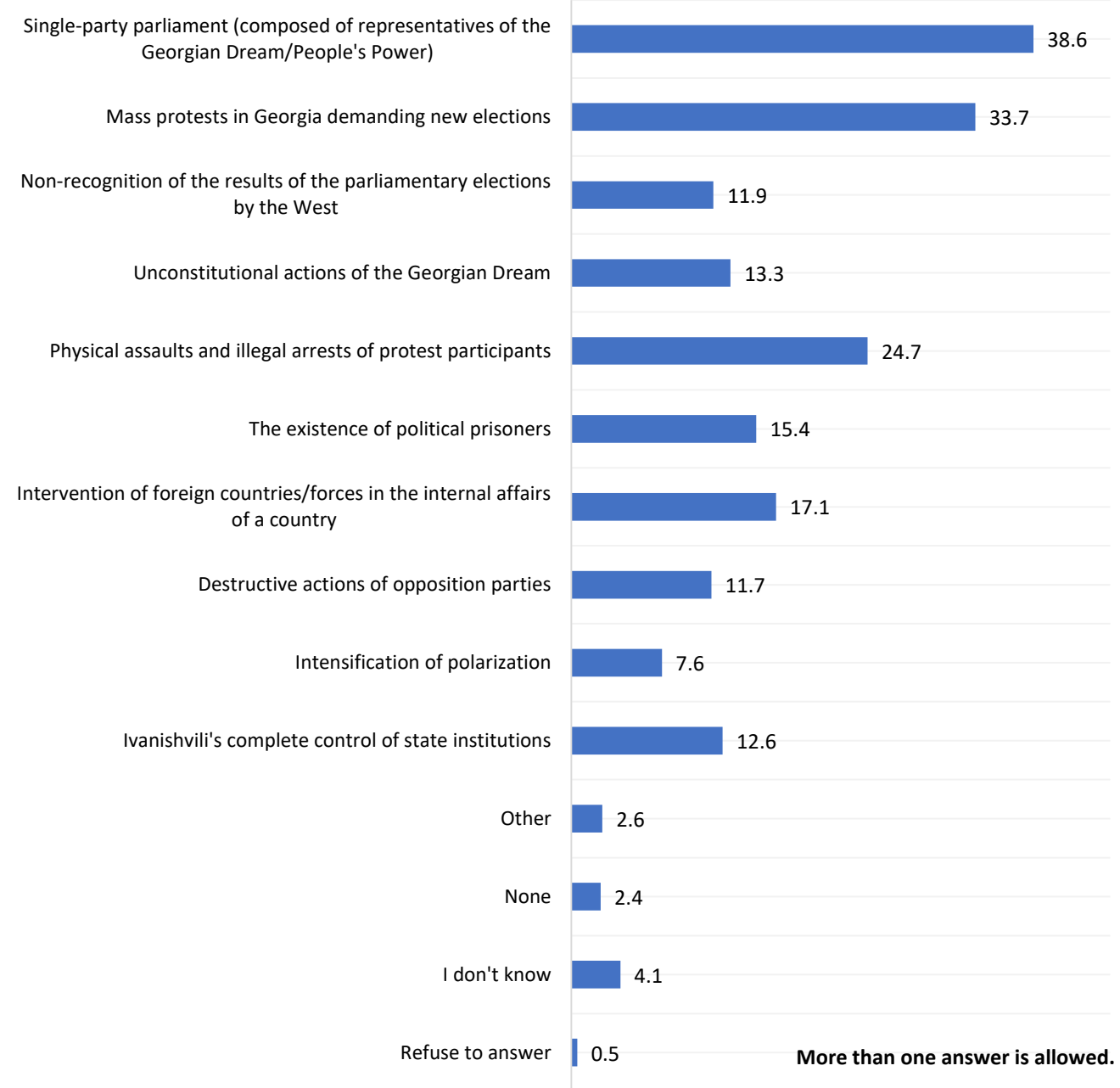
Currently, a large majority (82.1%) acknowledges the existence of a **political crisis** in Georgia.



Three factors emerged as **indicators** of the political crisis:

1. The existence of a one-party parliament;
2. Mass protests in Georgia demanding new elections;
3. Physical violence and illegal arrests of protestors

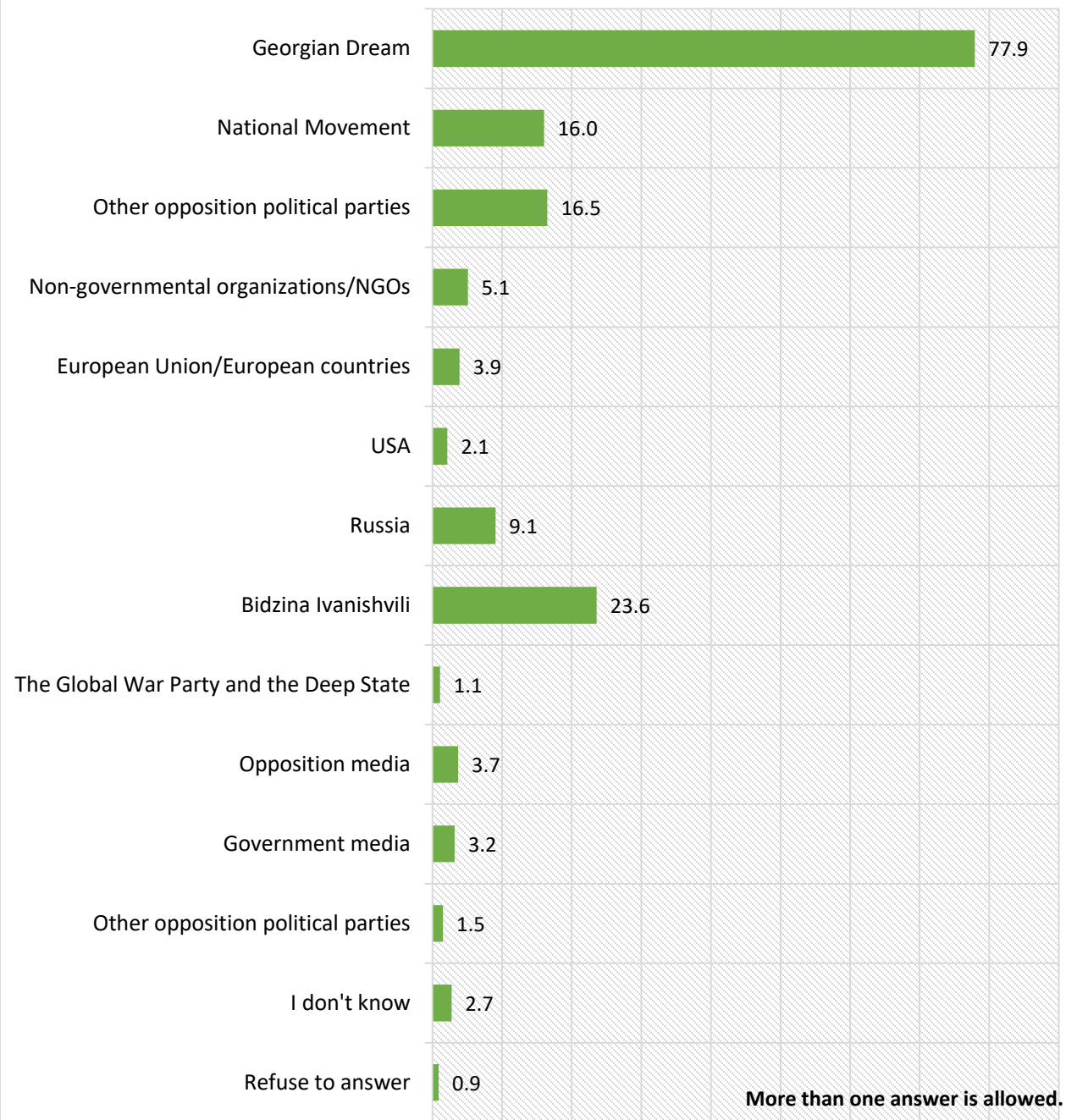
In your opinion, which of the following reflects the existence of a political crisis in Georgia? (N=2000)



The “**Georgian Dream**” party was named as the main actor responsible for the current political crisis (up to 78%).

Among other responsible actors, the following were more or less highlighted: **Bidzina Ivanishvili** (23.6%), the **United National Movement** (16%), and **other opposition political parties** (16.5%).

In your opinion, who is responsible for the current crisis in Georgia? (N=1591)

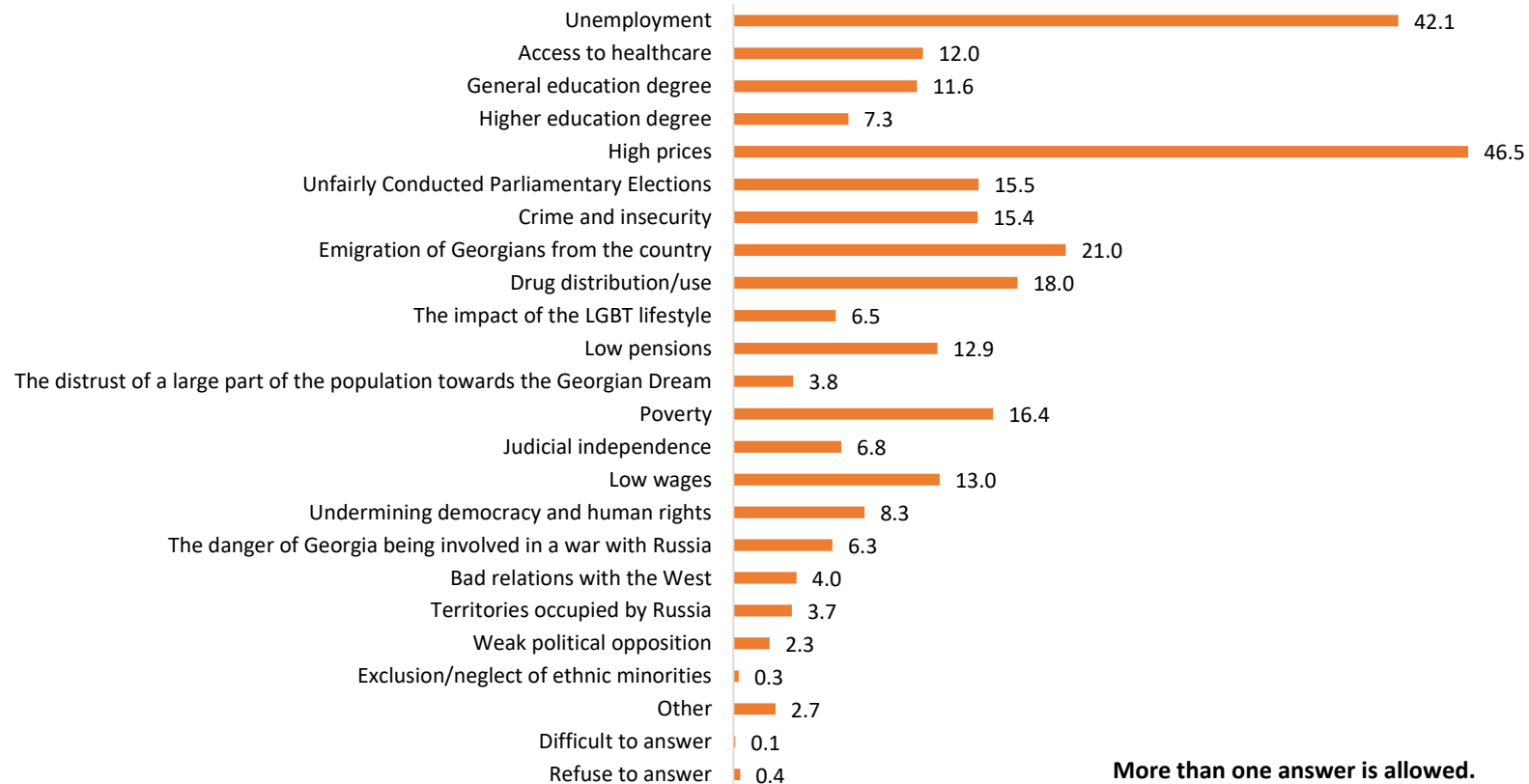


Respondents identified the following as the most pressing problems facing the country: a) **high prices** (46.5%) and b) **unemployment** (42.1%).

The following problems are also particularly acute: a) emigration of Georgians (21%); b) drug distribution/use (18%); c) poverty (16.4%); d) unfairly conducted parliamentary elections (15.5%) and e) crime and insecurity (15.4%).

*** The threat of involvement in a war with Russia is indicated by 8.3% of respondents as the most important problem.

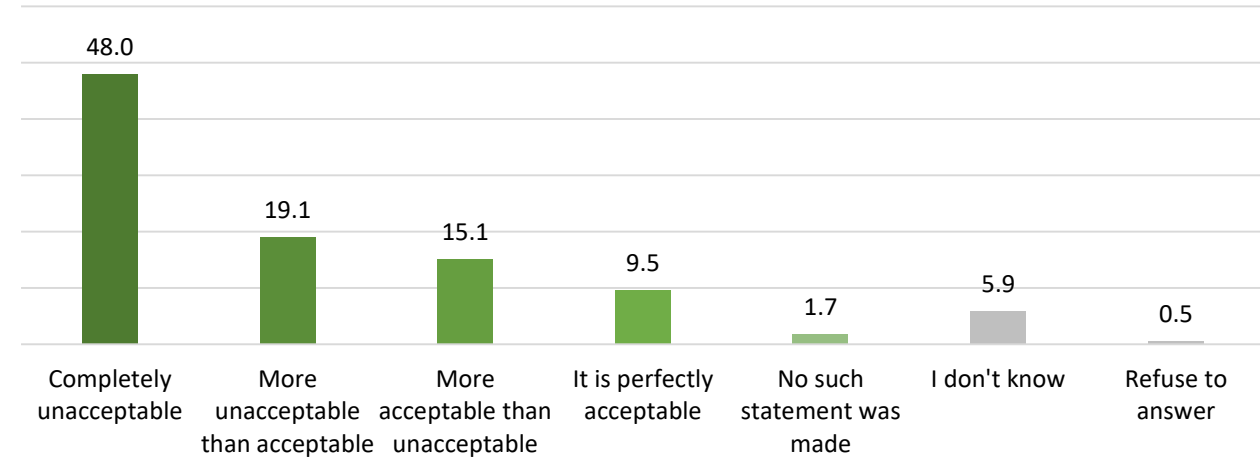
What do you think are the three most important problems facing the country today? Please select the three most important problems from the list below (N=1079)



The statement made by Irakli Kobakhidze on November 28, 2024 is considered **unacceptable** by a clear majority (67.1%); however, for almost every second person (48%), this statement is completely unacceptable.

Kobakhidze's statement is acceptable for a quarter (24.7%). However, it is completely acceptable - for only about a tenth (9.5%).

On November 28, 2024, Irakli Kobakhidze announced at a briefing that the “Georgian Dream” party was suspending the EU accession negotiations process for 4 years, until the end of 2028. How acceptable is this decision of the “Georgian Dream” party to you?



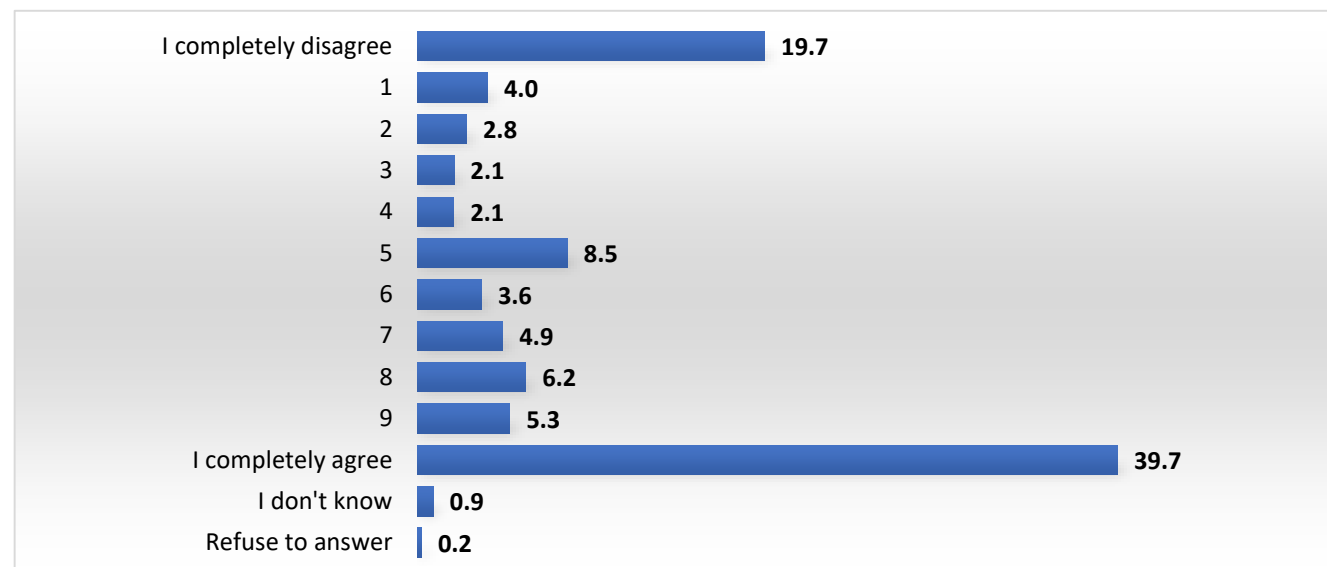
The majority - up to 60% - are **loyal** to the protests (scores 6-10).

45% have **actively expressed support** for the protests (scores 9 and 10).

Approximately 31% are **resistant** to the protests (scores 0-4). Almost a quarter (23.7%) are clearly intransigent towards the ongoing protests (scores 0 and 1).

For over a month now, continuous protests have been taking place in Tbilisi and the regions of Georgia due to the unfair conduct of the October 26 elections, the suspension of EU membership negotiations, and the mass arrest of demonstrators.

Rating on a 10-point scale (N=2000)



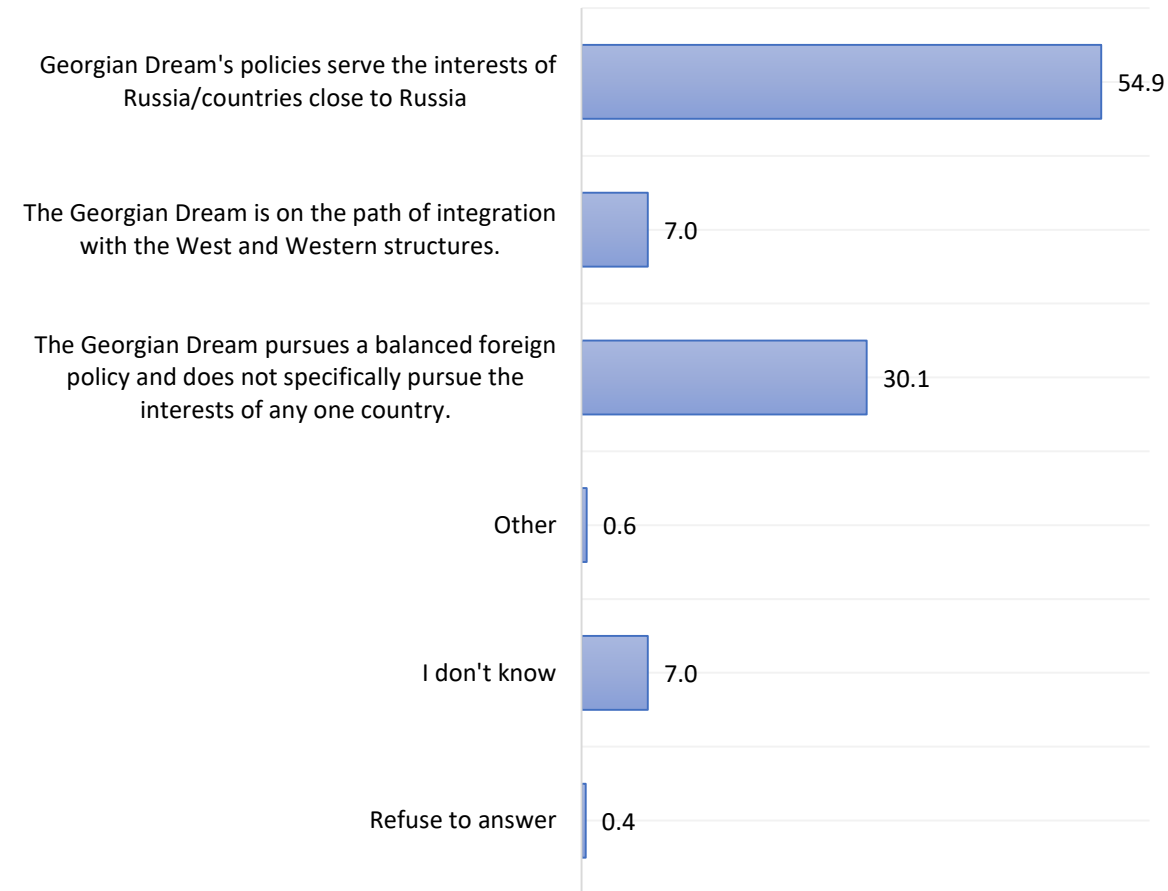
Assessment of the Georgian Dream's foreign policy

The majority (up to 55%) believe that the Georgian Dream's foreign policy serves the interests of **Russia/countries close to Russia (China, Iran, etc.)**.

30.1% believe that the Georgian Dream pursues a **balanced foreign policy** and does not specifically pursue the interests of any country.

Only 7% are convinced that the Georgian Dream is on the path of integration with the West (Europe, USA) and Western structures (EU, NATO).

How would you characterize the Georgian Dream's foreign policy today? (N=2000)

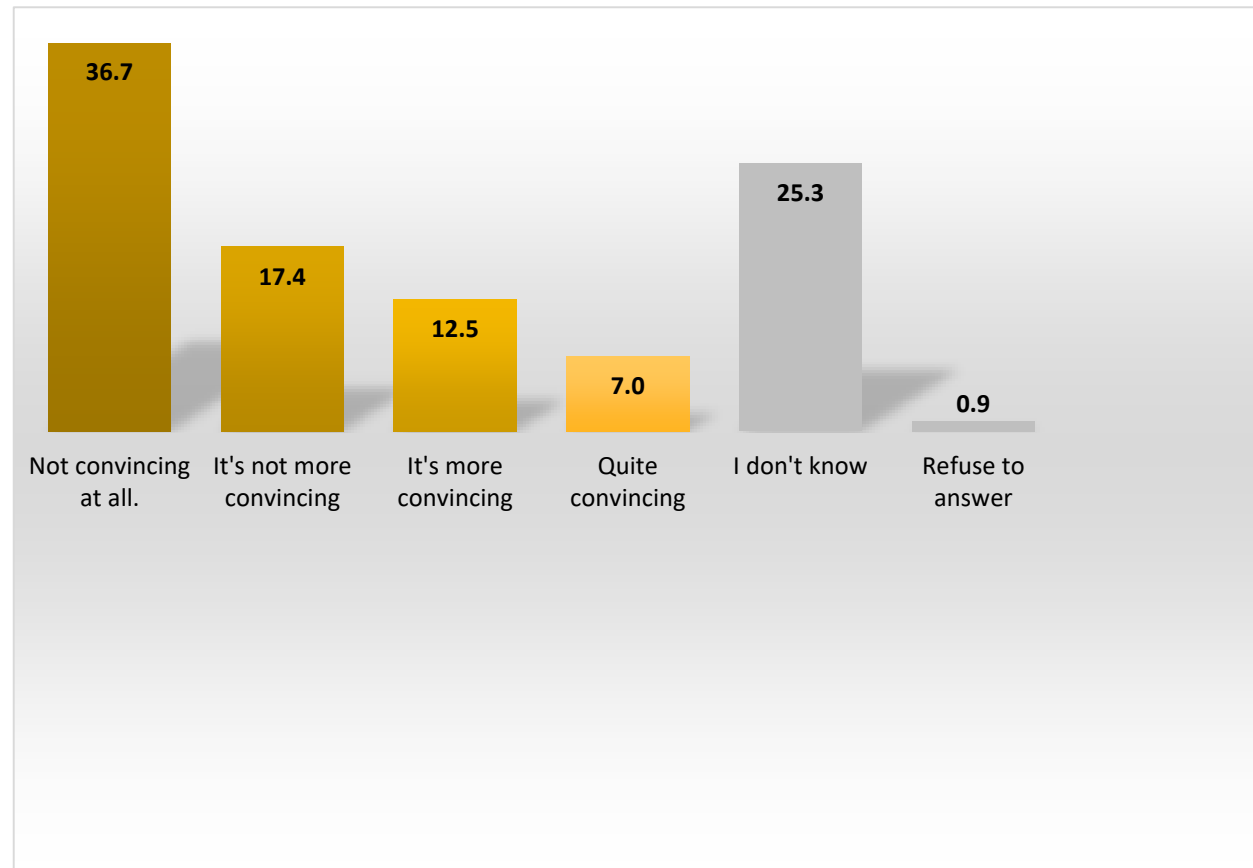


The majority (54.2%) consider **the statements of the "Deep State" and the Global War Party** about the anti-Georgian influences of the Georgian Dream as unconvincing, while almost a fifth (19.5%) consider them convincing.

It is noteworthy that every fourth respondent (25.3%) found it difficult to express their position.

The political council of the Georgian Dream announces that 'every specific politician and bureaucrat who makes anti-Georgian statements, whether they are a president, prime minister, parliament member, MEP, diplomat, or official, is a member of the 'deep state' network acting under the guidance of the global war party.

How convincing do you find the anti-Georgian influences of the 'deep state' and the global war party? (N=2000)



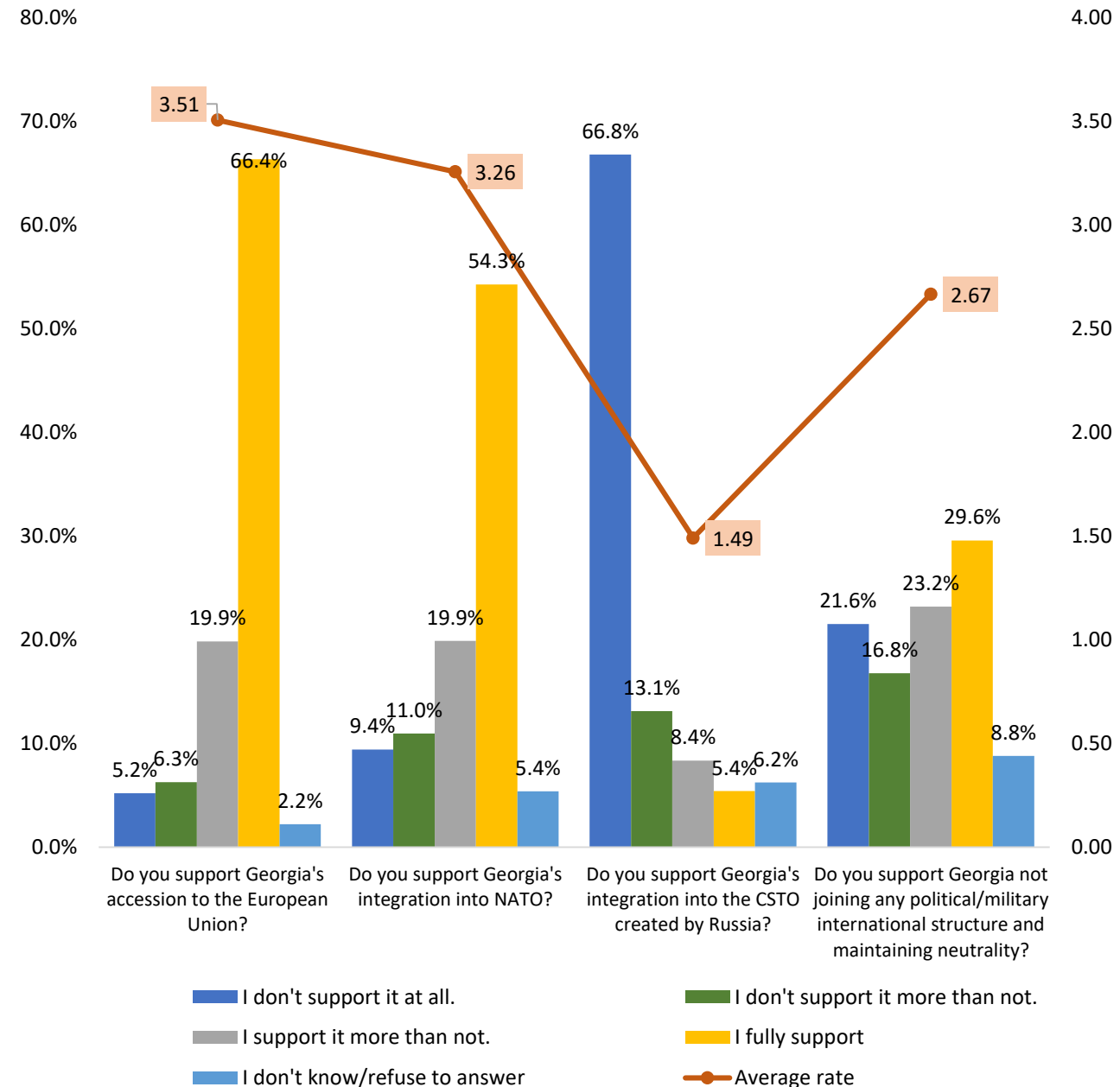
A large majority supports Georgia's accession to the **European Union** – 86.3%, while **NATO** membership is supported by a clear majority (74.2%).

80% oppose Georgia's integration into the **CSTO**, while up to 14% support it.

More than half of the respondents (up to 53%) support the idea that Georgia should not join any political/military international structure and should remain **neutral** (with up to 30% being strong supporters).

38.4% oppose the prospect of neutrality.

What do you think about Georgia's integration into international structures?
 (% and average scores on a 4-point scale – 1 being 'strongly oppose' and 4 being 'strongly support') (N=2000)

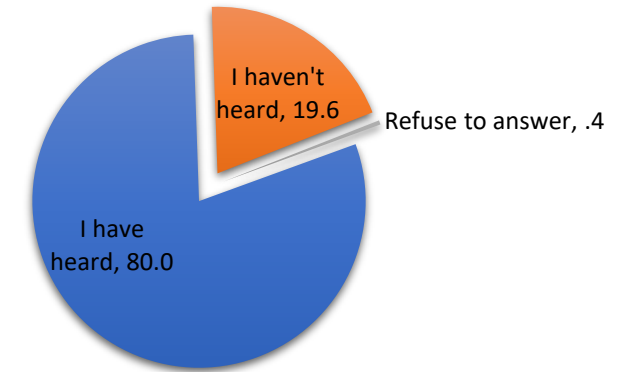


80% of respondents are **aware** that the USA has suspended strategic partnership with Georgia.

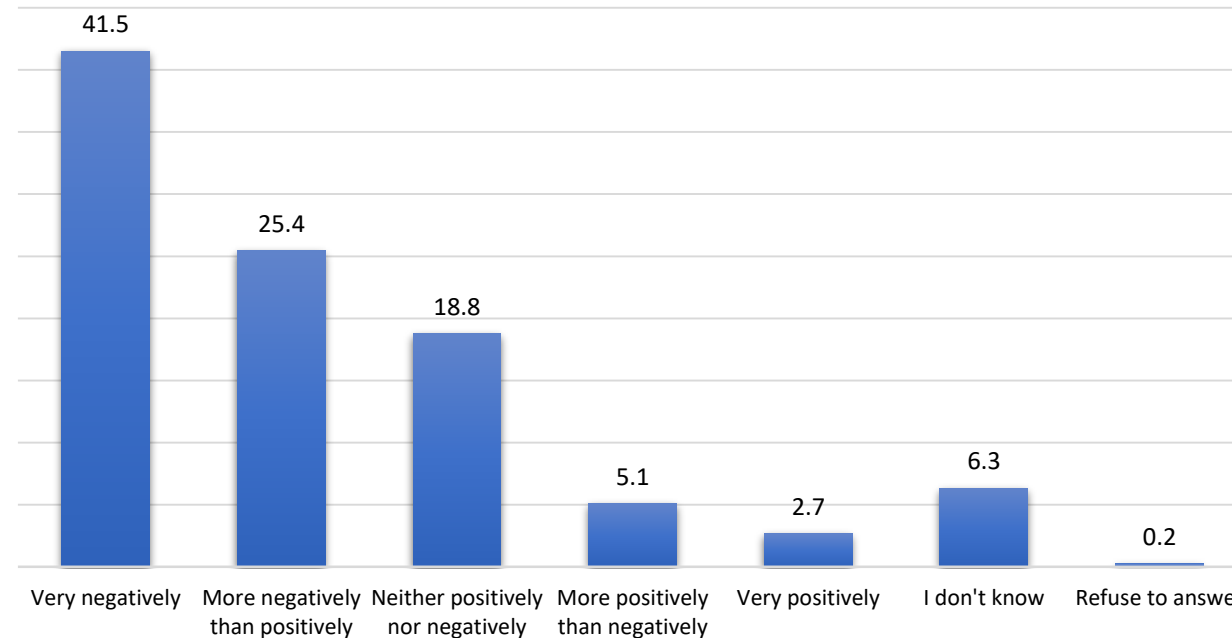
At the same time, a clear majority of respondents (up to 67%) assess the termination of strategic relations with the USA **negatively**.

Only up to 8% of respondents approve of this.

Have you heard about the USA's suspension of strategic partnership with Georgia? (N=2000)



How would you assess the fact that the USA has suspended its strategic partnership with Georgia? (N=2000)

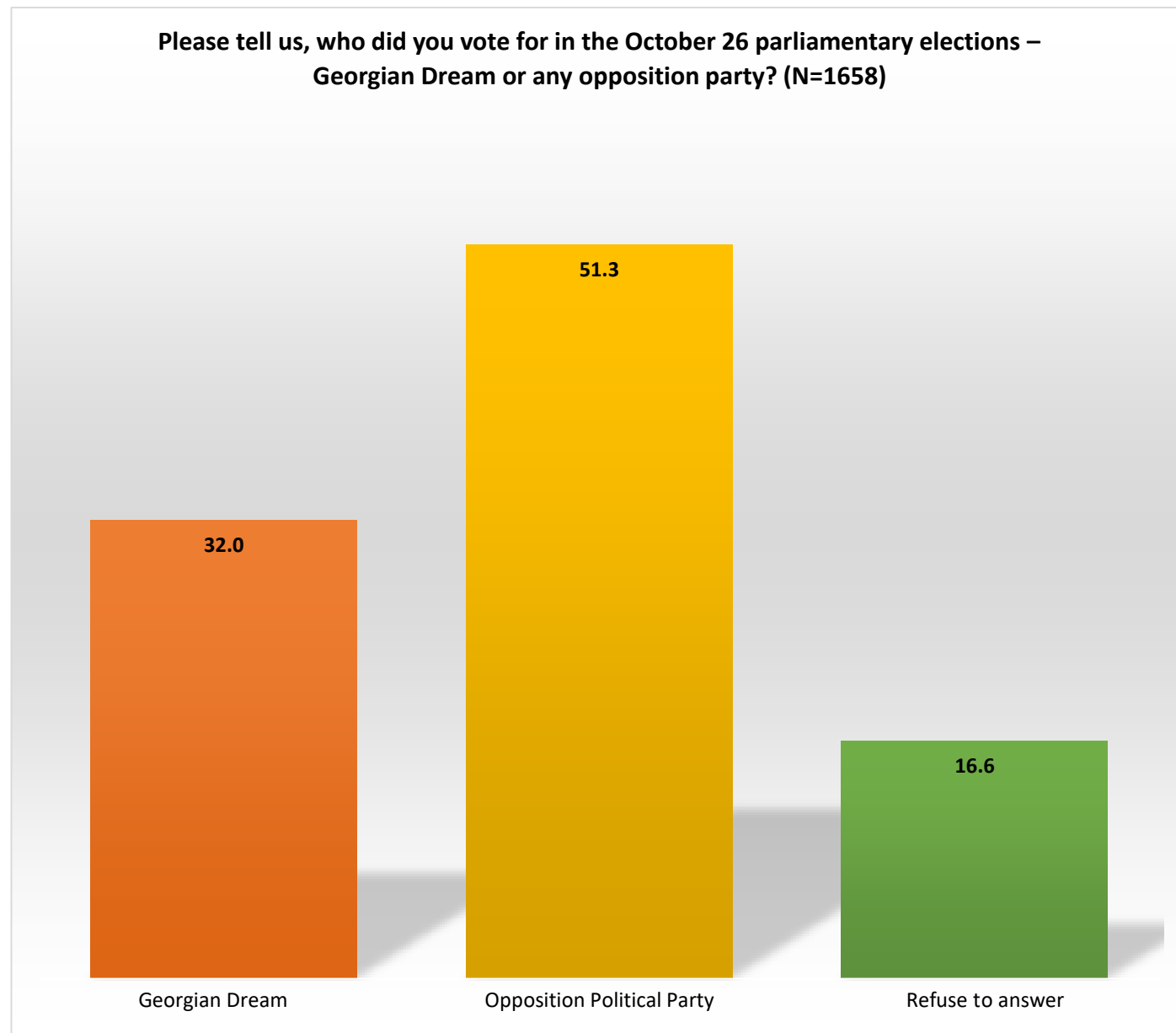


Assessment of the October 26 Parliamentary Elections

More than half of the respondents (51.3%) state that they voted for an **opposition political party**, while about one-third (32%) confirm voting for **Georgian Dream**.

Approximately 17% of respondents **did not answer** the given question.

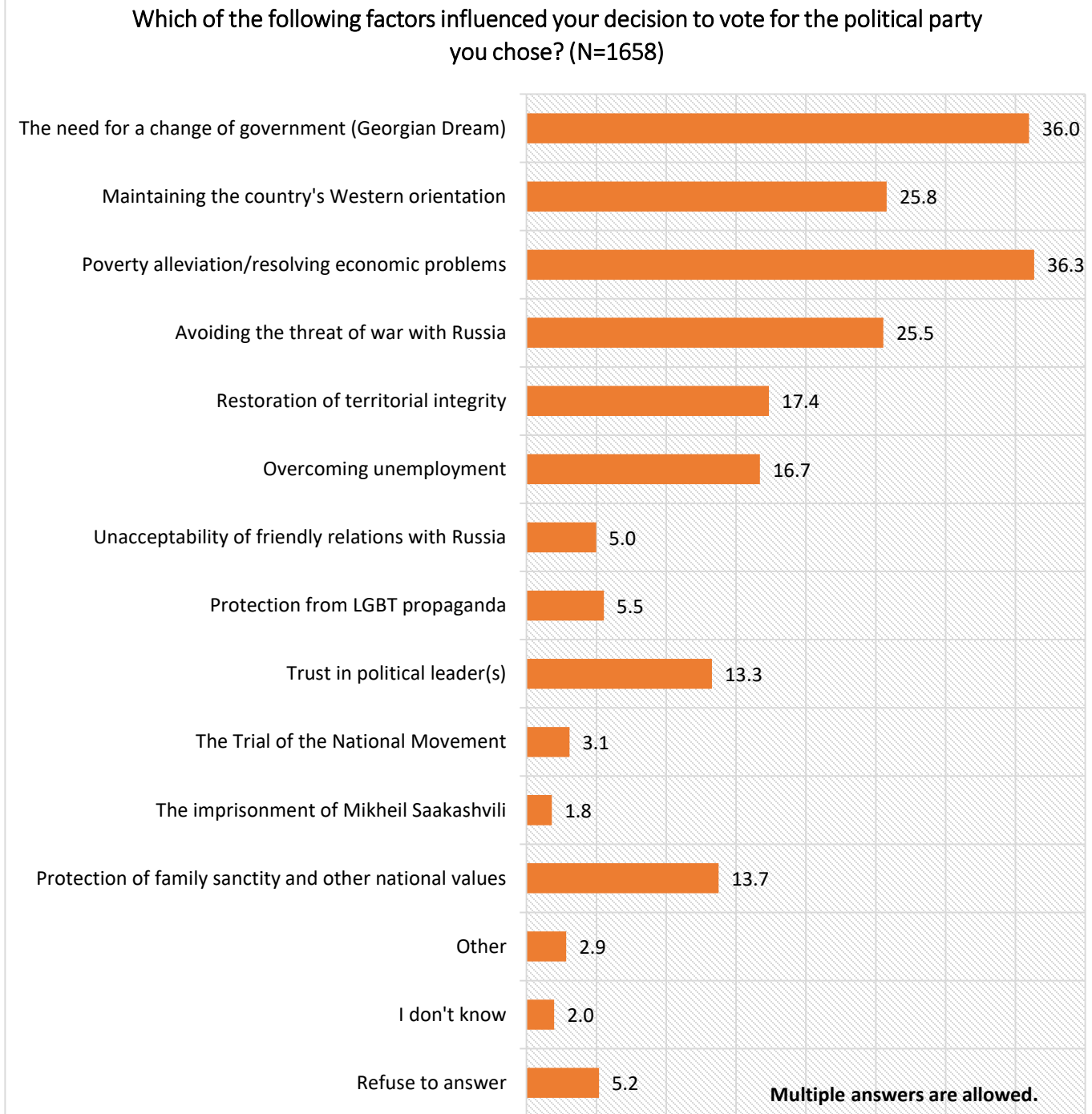
*** Cross-sectional analysis with other variables showed that among the subgroup who did not answer the question, about 8% strongly express opposition views, while 9% are loyal to the Georgian Dream's policies.



Among the factors that influenced the respondents' decisions to vote for a political party, two stood out:

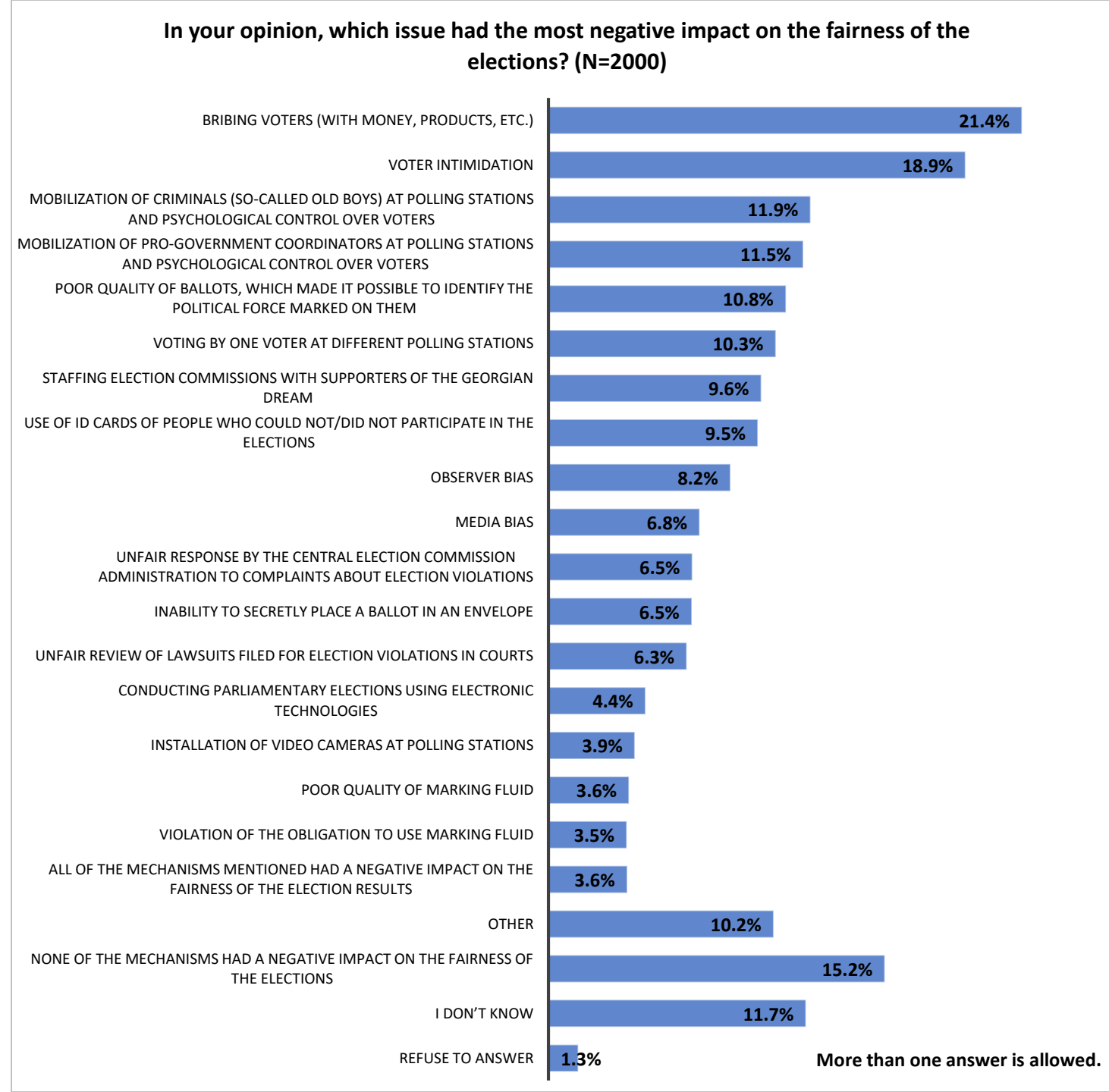
- Government (Need for change Georgian Dream) - 36%
- Overcoming poverty/solving economic problems (36.3%)

Other factors mentioned include maintaining the country's Western orientation (25.8%) and avoiding the threat of war with Russia (25.5%).



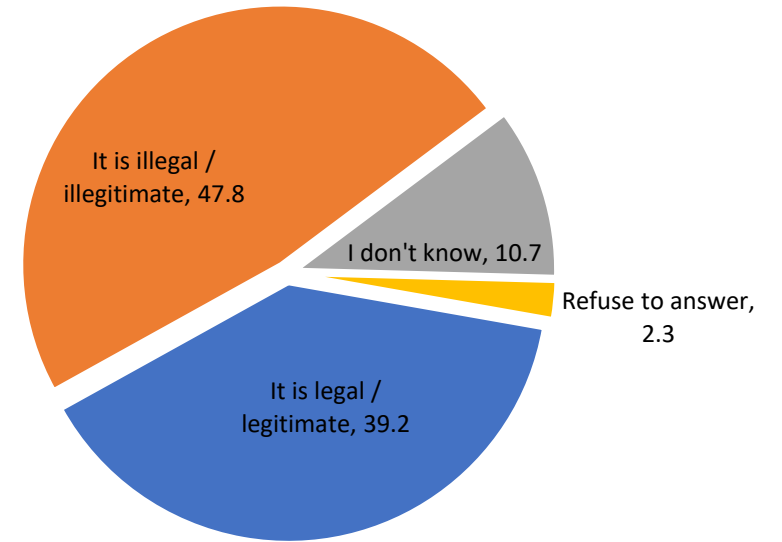
Among the issues that **negatively affected the fairness of the elections**, respondents highlighted:

- Bribing voters;
- Intimidating voters;
- Mobilizing criminal individuals at polling stations and exercising psychological control over voters;
- Mobilizing government-supporting coordinators at polling stations and exercising psychological control over voters, etc.

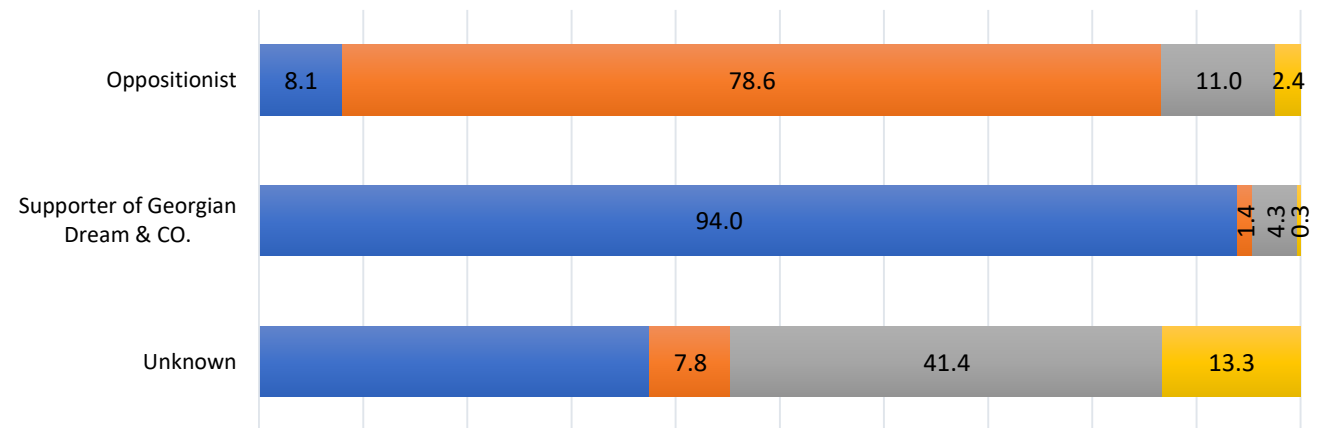


Up to 48% consider Georgian Dream's presence in power to be **illegal/illegitimate**, while 39.2% consider it **legal/legitimate**.

In your opinion, the "Georgian Dream" government today ... (N=2000)



In your opinion, the "Georgian Dream" government today ... (N=2000)



■ It is legal / legitimate ■ It is illegal / illegitimate ■ I don't know ■ Refuse to answer

Attitude towards a new Parliamentary Elections

The absolute majority of respondents (96%) have **heard** about the demands of citizens supporting the protests in Georgia: a) "Hold new, free, and fair elections" and b) "Free the regime's prisoners."

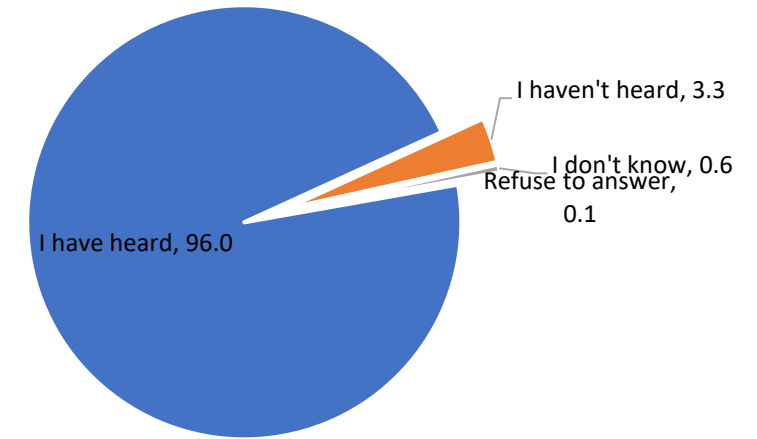
The **majority** supports the scheduling of new parliamentary elections – 62%; moreover, 47.2% fully agree with this demand.

Approximately one-third (34.2%) **does not support** the scheduling of new elections. Among them, about a quarter (23.8%) are categorical opponents.

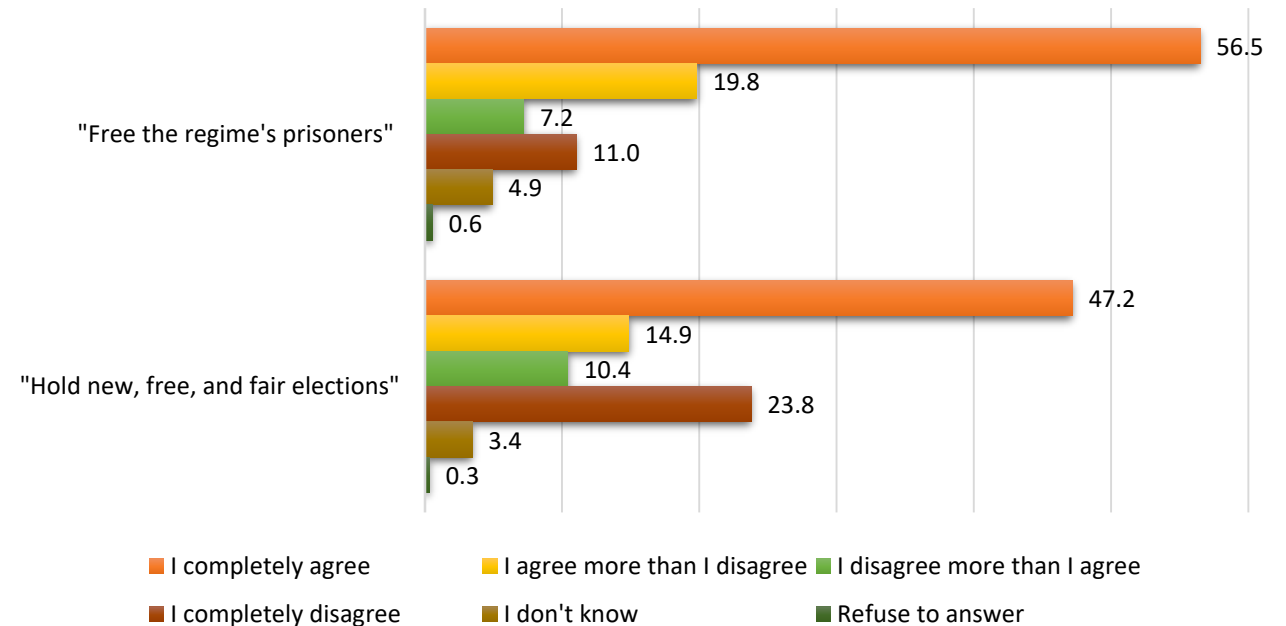
Respondents' support is **significantly higher** for the second demand of the protests: the release of regime prisoners, which is supported by a clear majority (76.3%). Moreover, 56.5% fully agree with this demand.

Approximately one-fifth (18.3%) **oppose** the release of the prisoners.

Have you heard about the demands of citizens supporting/participating in the ongoing protests in Georgia: a) "Hold new, free, and fair elections" and b) "Free the regime's prisoners"? (N=2000)



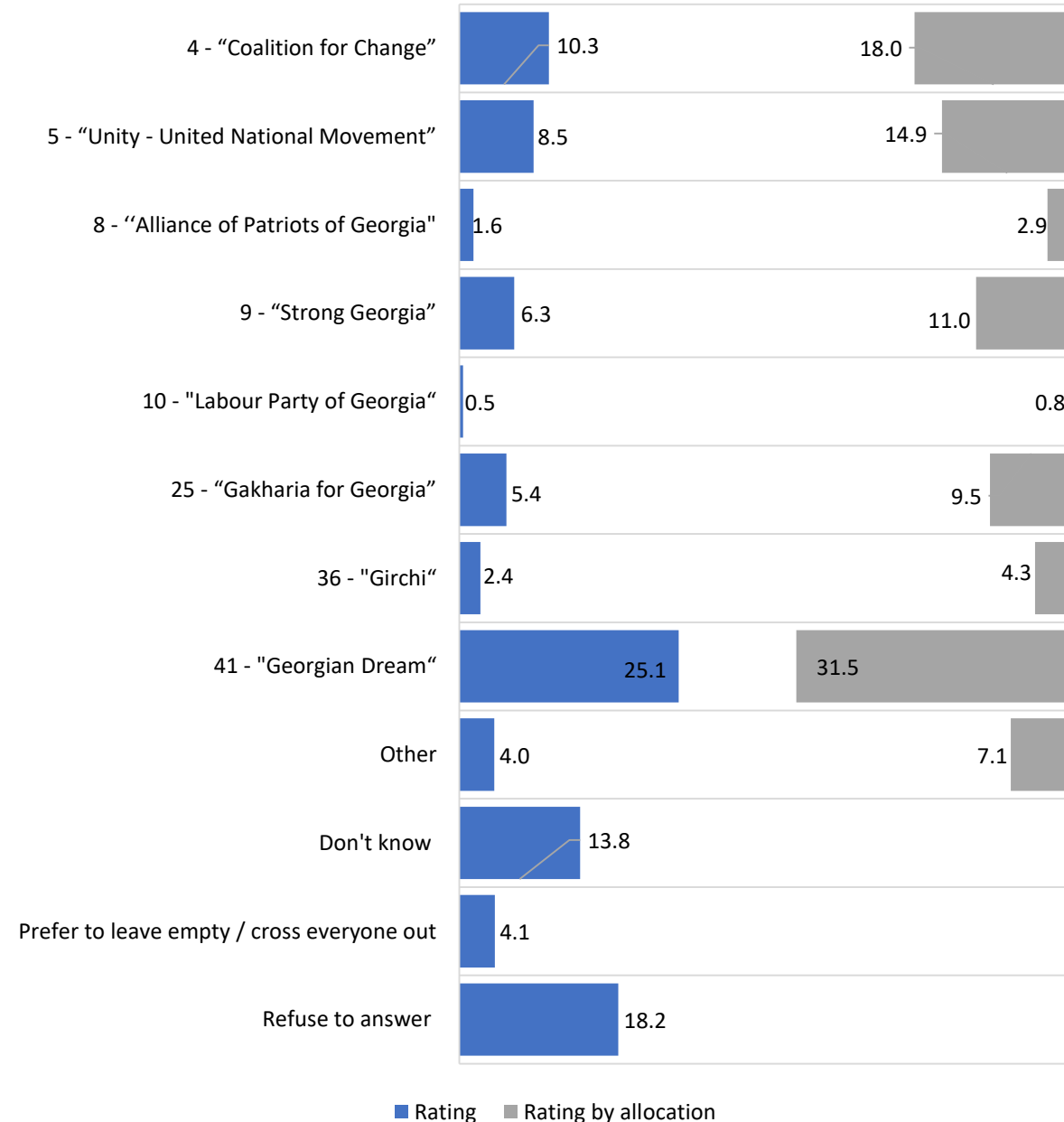
To what extent do you agree with the demands of citizens supporting/participating in the ongoing protests in Georgia? (N=2000)



The political party ratings are as follows:

- (4) Coalition for Change - 10.3% (allocated 18%)
- (5) Unity - United National Movement - 8.5% (allocated 14.9%)
- (8) Alliance of Patriots of Georgia - 1.6% (allocated 2.9%)
- (9) Strong Georgia - 6.3% (allocated 11%)
- (10) Labour Party of Georgia - 0.5% (allocated 0.8%)
- (25) Gakharia for Georgia - 5.4% (allocated 9.5%)
- (36) Girchi - 2.4% (allocated 4.3%)
- (41) Georgian Dream - 25.1% (allocated 31.5%)
- Other party - 4% (allocated 7.1%)
- Don't know - 13.8%
- Prefer to leave empty - 4.1%
- Refuse to answer - 18.2%

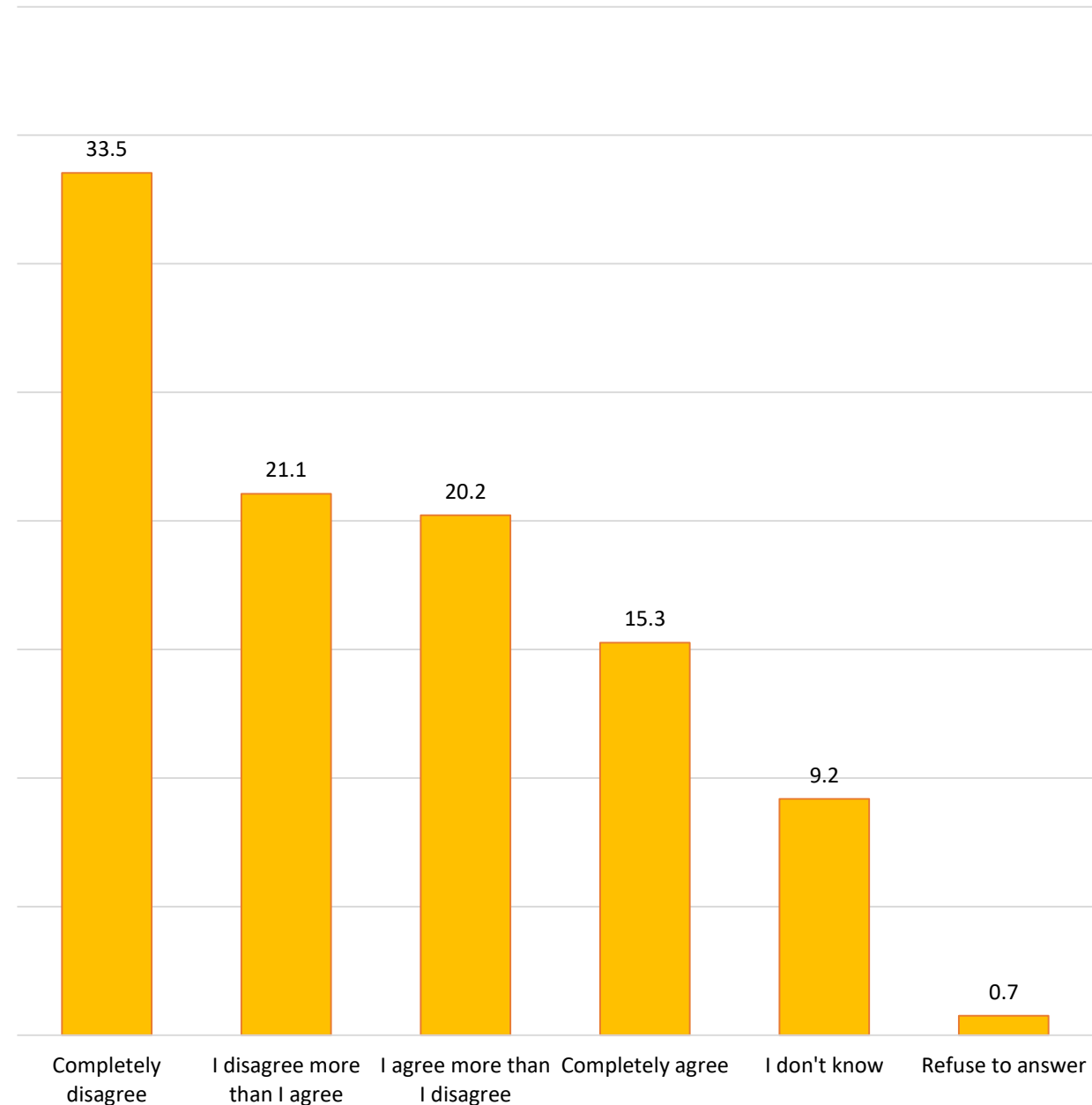
Now, I will ask you in more detail: If new parliamentary elections were held this Saturday, which party would you vote for, given the following options? (N=1912)



To what extent do you agree with the statement that if Georgian Dream does not remain in power, the risk of Georgia's involvement in a war with Russia will increase? (N=2000)

The majority of respondents (up to 55%) **do not share** the opinion that if Georgian Dream does not remain in power, the risk of Georgia's involvement in a war with Russia will increase (one-third – 33.5% – strongly disagrees with this perspective).

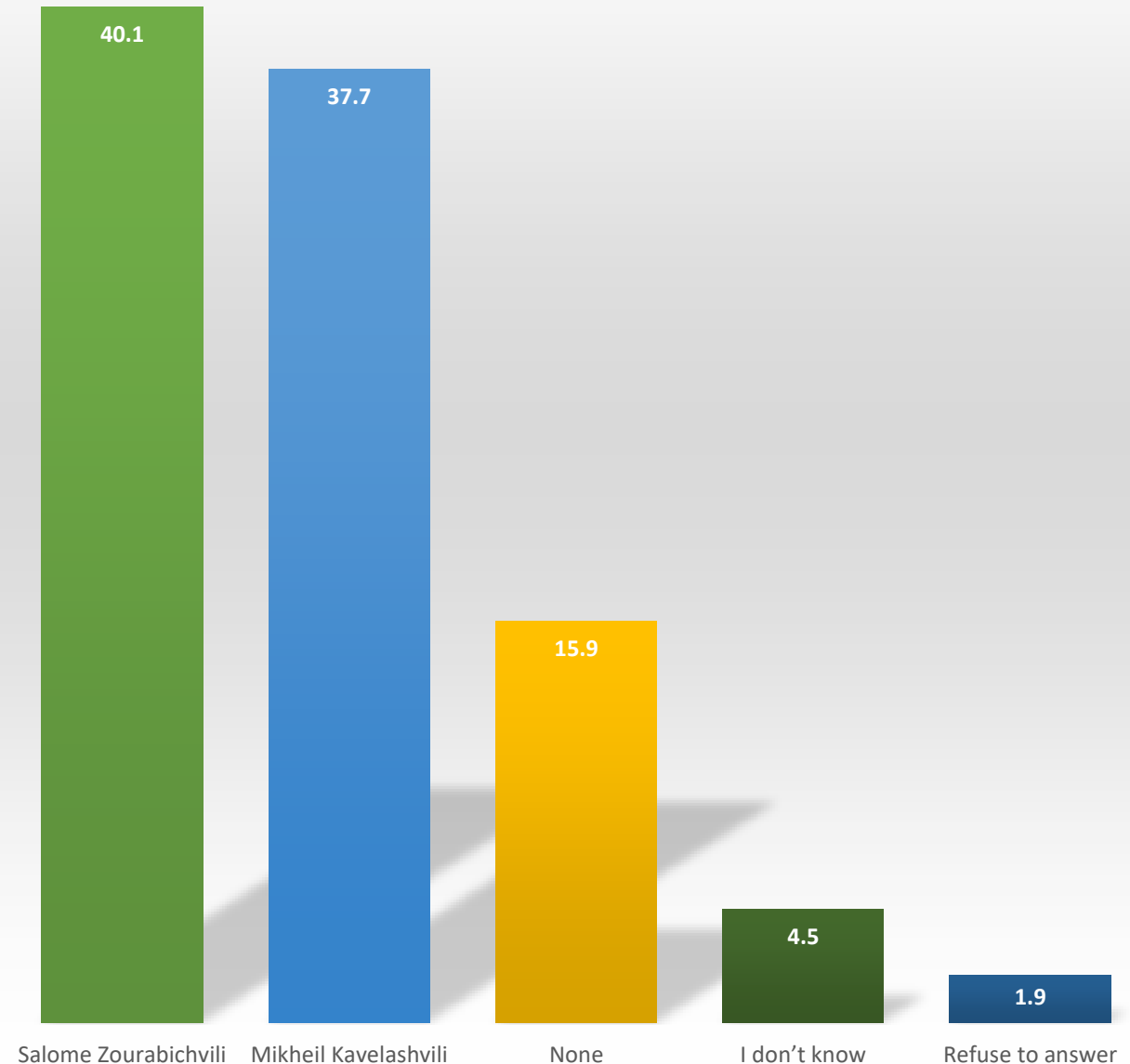
In the case of Georgian Dream's removal from power, a total of 35.5% of respondents agree with the possibility of involvement in a war with Russia. However, only 15.3% are fully convinced of this.



Respondents' opinions are **divided** regarding who is the legitimate president of Georgia:

- ✓ A slight majority (40.1%) considers Salome Zourabichvili as the legitimate president;
- ✓ On the other hand, about 38% consider Mikheil Kavelashvili as the president of Georgia.

In your opinion, who is the legitimate president of Georgia?
(N=2000)



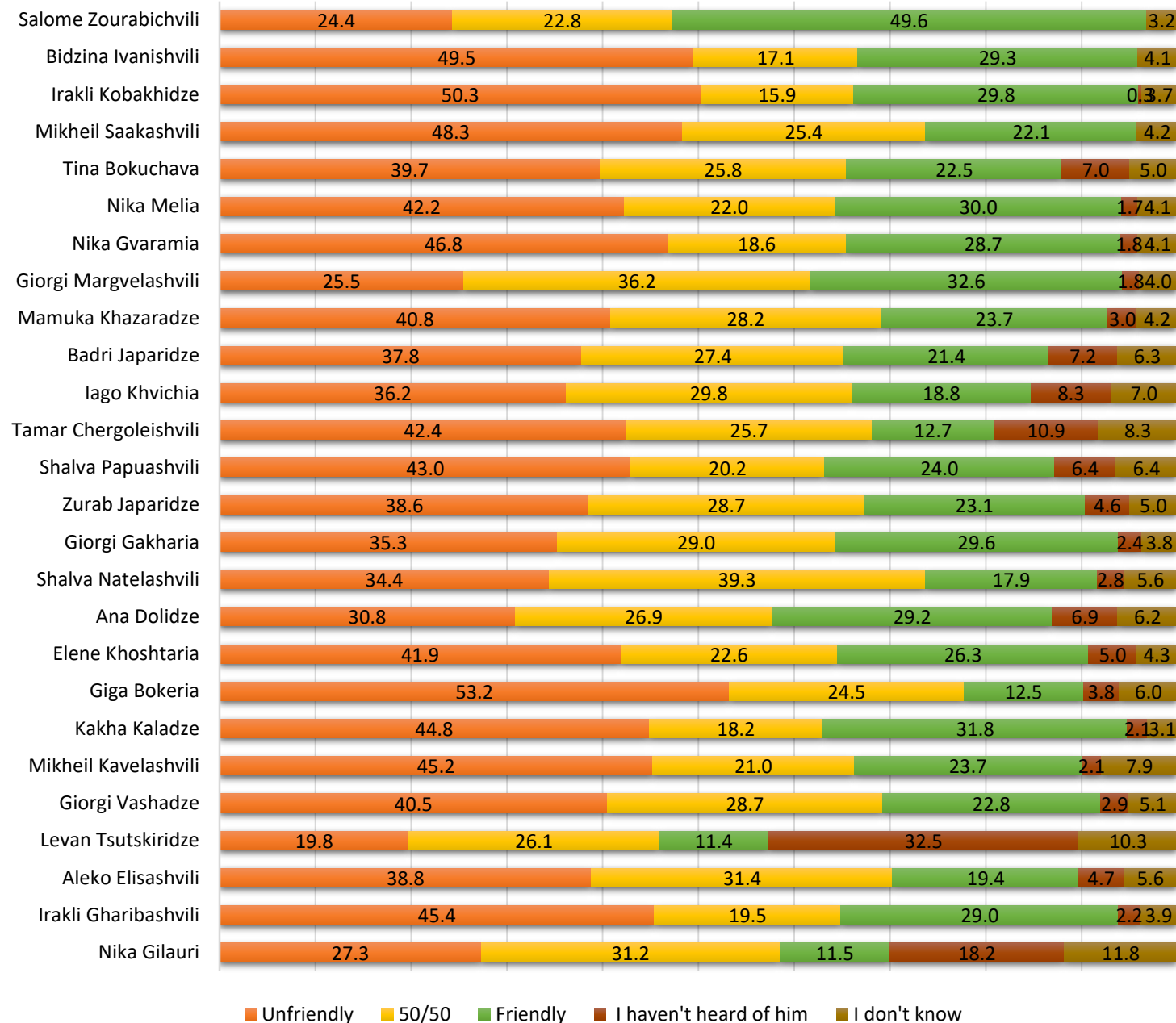
Favorability rating of politicians

Among politicians, **Salome Zourabichvili** has a significantly high rating (up to 50%).

Relatively high ratings ($\approx 30\%+$) are observed for:

- ✓ Giorgi Margvelashvili
- ✓ Kakha Kaladze
- ✓ Nika Melia
- ✓ Irakli Kobakhidze
- ✓ Giorgi Gakharia

To what extent are you favorable towards the following politicians?
(N=2000)



In the past few months, when assessing the activities of various actors/events, the most positive attitude is towards **Salome Zourabichvili's** activities (49%).

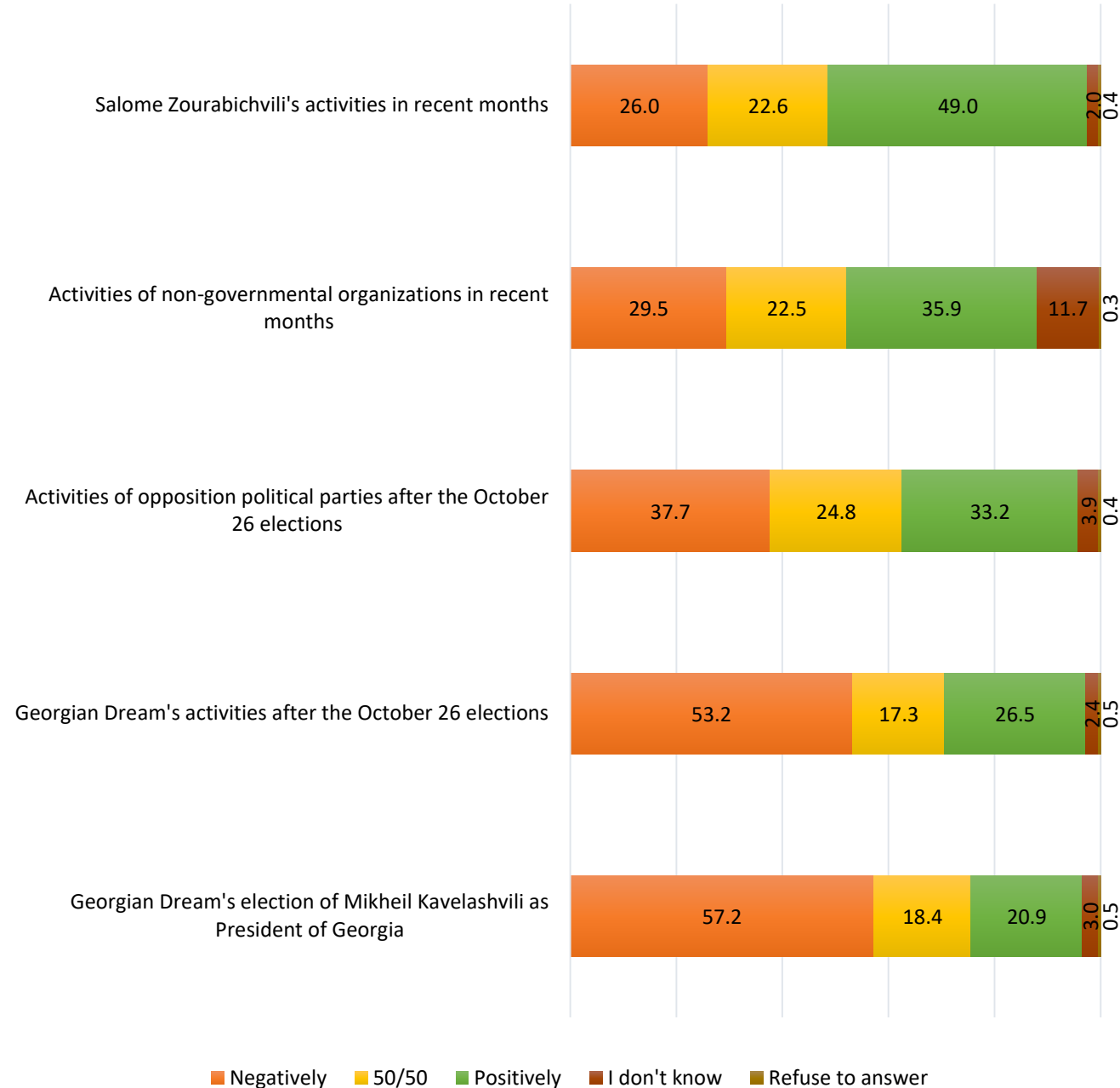
There is also a positive attitude towards the activities of **non-governmental organizations**: the share of those who assess them positively (up to 36%) exceeds the share of those who assess them negatively (up to 30%).

When evaluating the activities of **opposition political parties**, the balance has shifted towards negative assessments (“negatively” – up to 38%; “positively” – 33.2%).

The activities of the Georgian Dream after the October 26 elections are mostly assessed negatively (53.2%). The most negative assessment is for the election of **Mikheil Kavelashvili** as the President of Georgia (negatively assessed by 57.2%).

How would you rate...

(N=2000)



Attitude towards sanctions

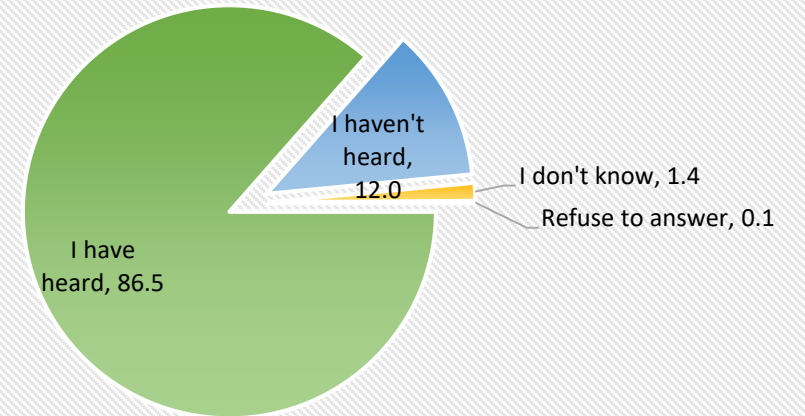
The vast majority of respondents (86.5%) have **heard** about the sanctions imposed on Bidzina Ivanishvili by the U.S. State Department.

More than half of the respondents (52%) consider the sanctions imposed on Ivanishvili to be **justified**.

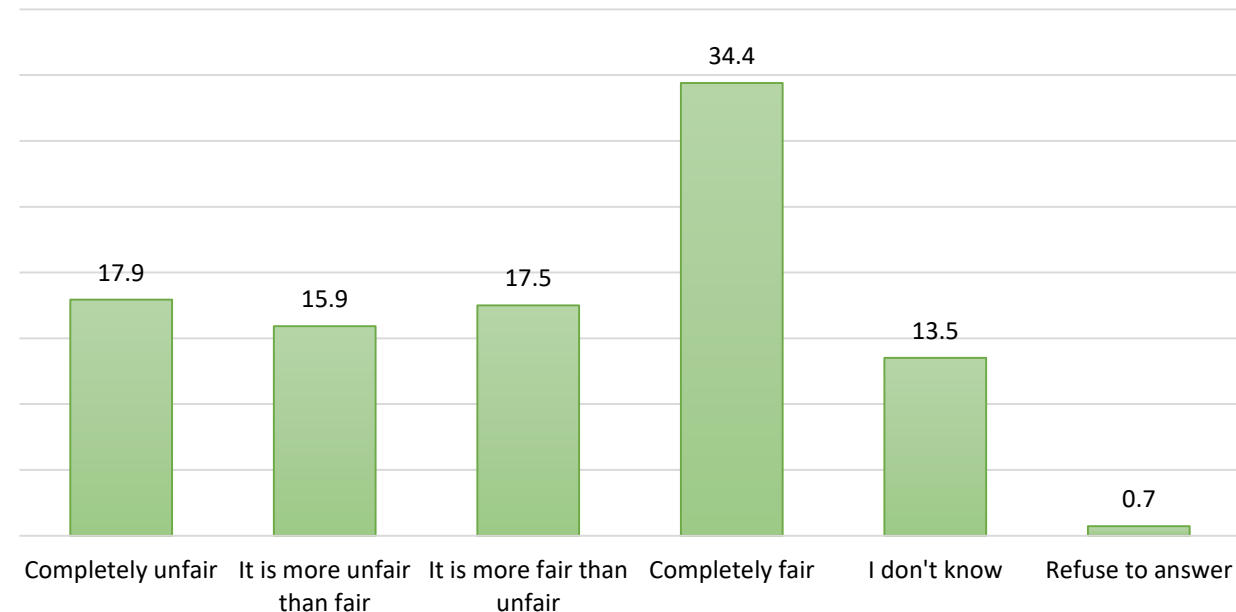
A third of the respondents (33.8%) consider the sanctions to be unjust.

On December 27, 2024, the U.S. State Department imposed sanctions on Bidzina Ivanishvili. According to the sanctions, all of Ivanishvili's assets located in the U.S. will be blocked (i.e. frozen).

Have you heard about this? (N= __)



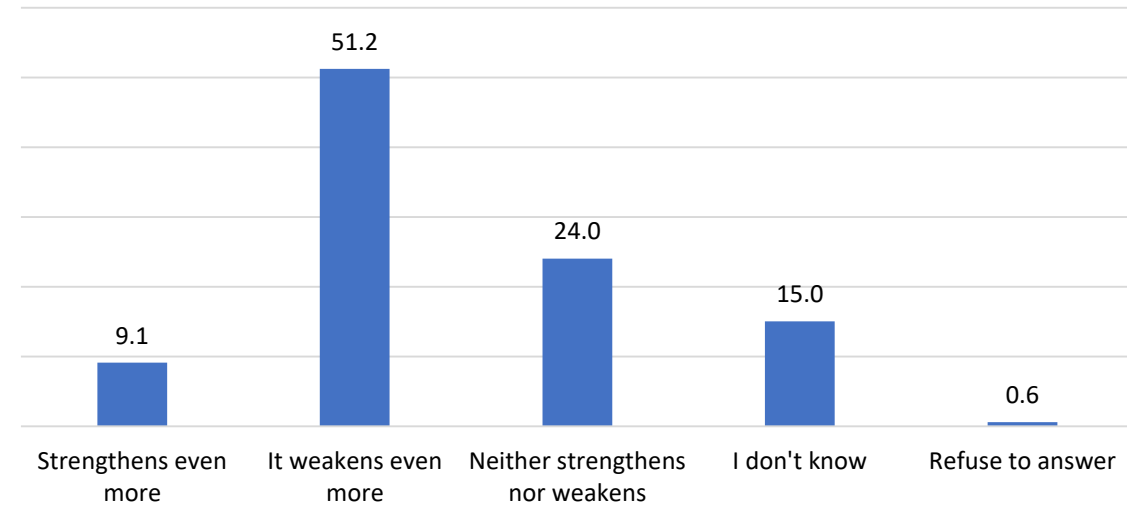
How fair do you consider the sanctions imposed by the U.S. State Department on Bidzina Ivanishvili? (N=2000)



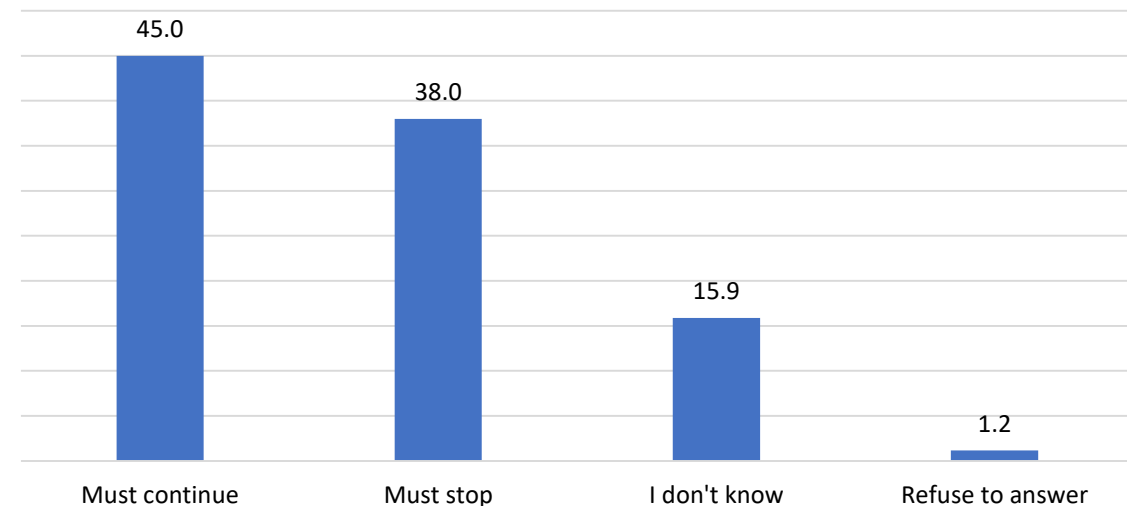
At least every other respondent (51.2%) believes that the sanctions imposed by the U.S. **weaken** Bidzina Ivanishvili.

At the same time, 45% think that the sanctioning of Bidzina Ivanishvili **should continue**.

What is your opinion: Do you think the U.S. sanctions on Bidzina Ivanishvili strengthen or weaken his influence/power in Georgia?
(N=2000)



What is your opinion: Should the sanctions on Bidzina Ivanishvili continue or be lifted?
(N=2000)

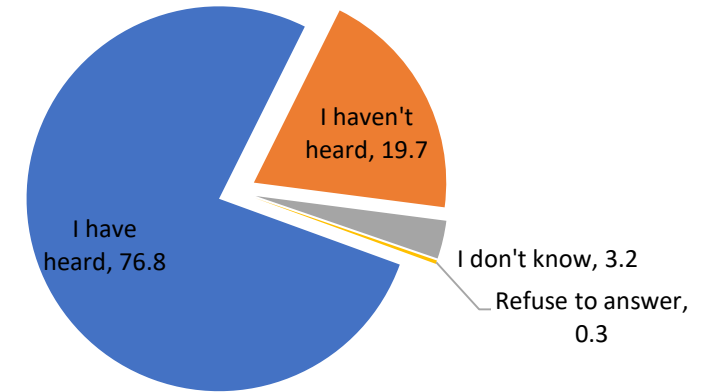


The overwhelming majority of respondents (up to 77%) have **heard** about the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Department of State on high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

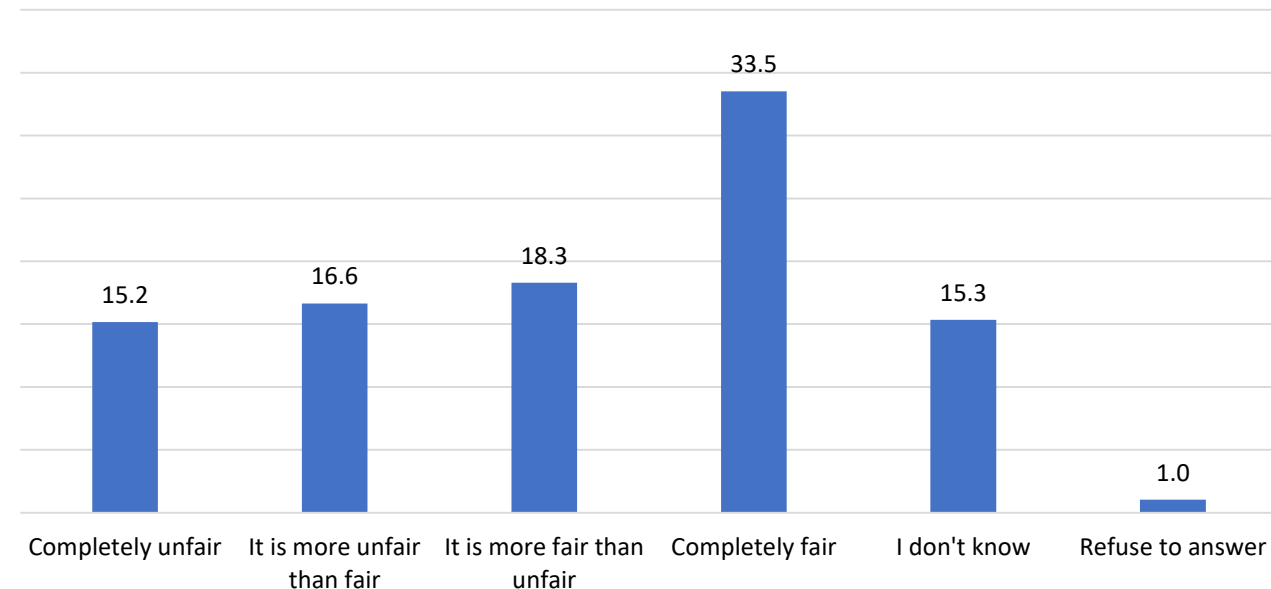
More than half of the respondents (up to 52%) believe that the sanctions imposed on high-ranking MIA officials are **fair**.

About one-third (31.8%) consider the sanctions to be unjust.

Have you heard about the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Department of State on the Minister of Internal Affairs, Vakhtang Gomelauri, the Director of the Special Tasks Department of MIA Zviad Kharazishvili ("Khareba"), and their sanctioning?



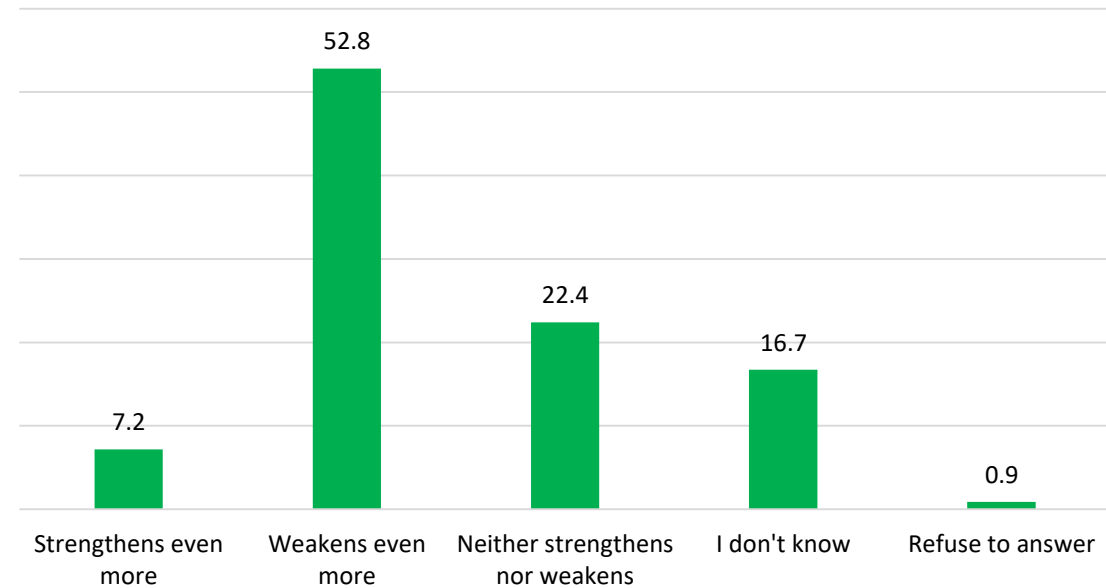
How fair do you think the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Department of State on high-ranking officials of the Georgian Dream party are? (N=2000)



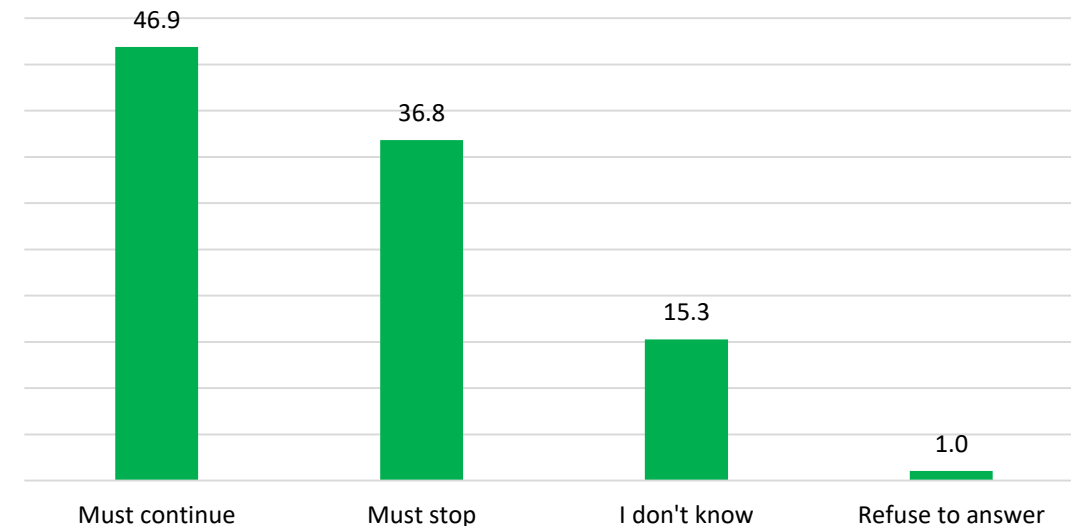
The majority of respondents (up to 53%) believe that the sanctions imposed by the U.S. **weaken** the high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

At the same time, almost 47% think that the sanctions on high-ranking officials of Georgian Dream **should continue**.

What do you think, does the U.S. sanctioning high-ranking officials of Georgian Dream strengthen or weaken their influence/power in Georgia? (N=2000)



In your opinion, should the U.S. continue or stop sanctioning high-ranking officials of Georgian Dream? (N=2000)

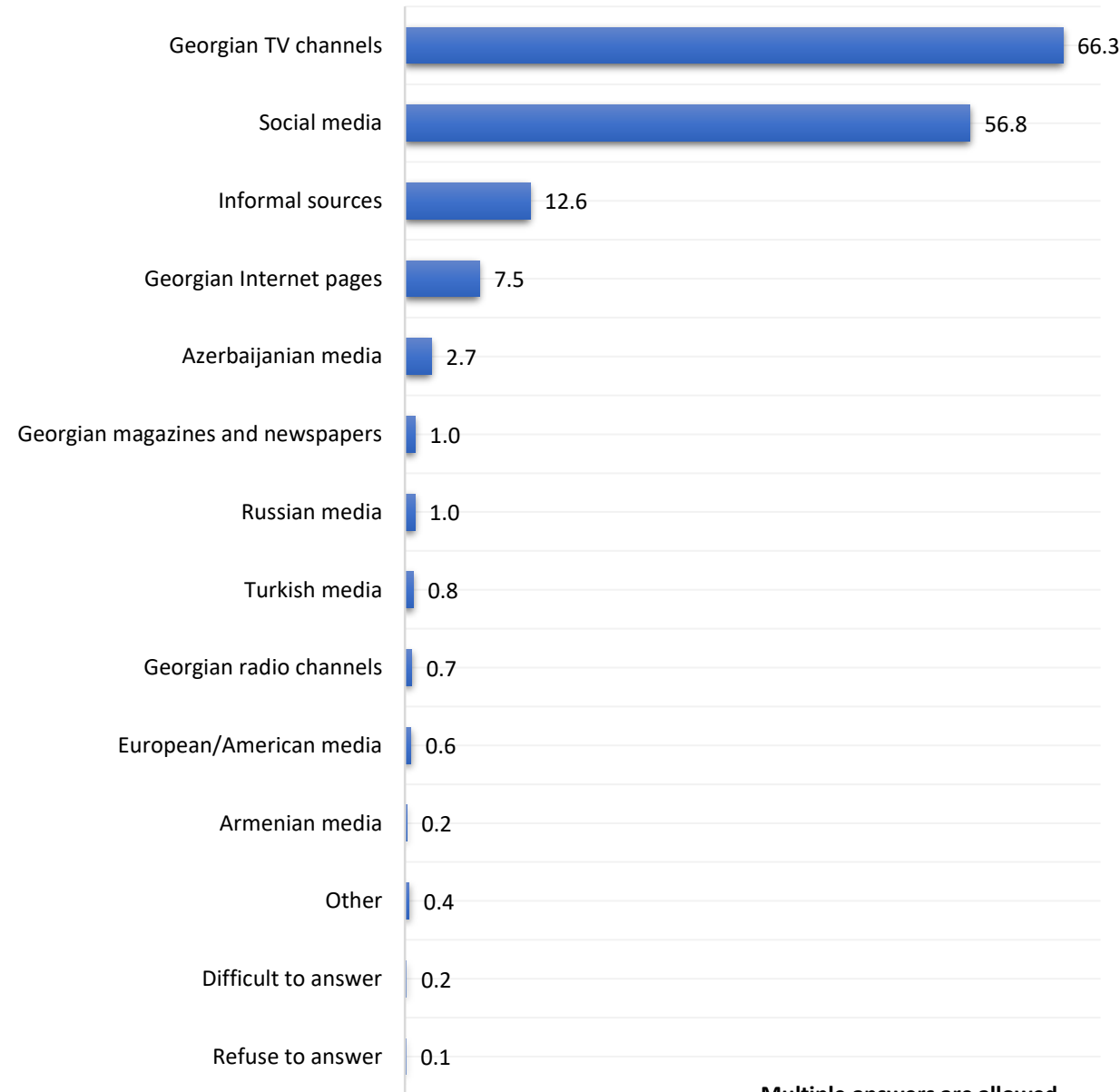


Sources for news information

Two sources emerged from which **respondents receive information** about ongoing **socio-political events** in the country:

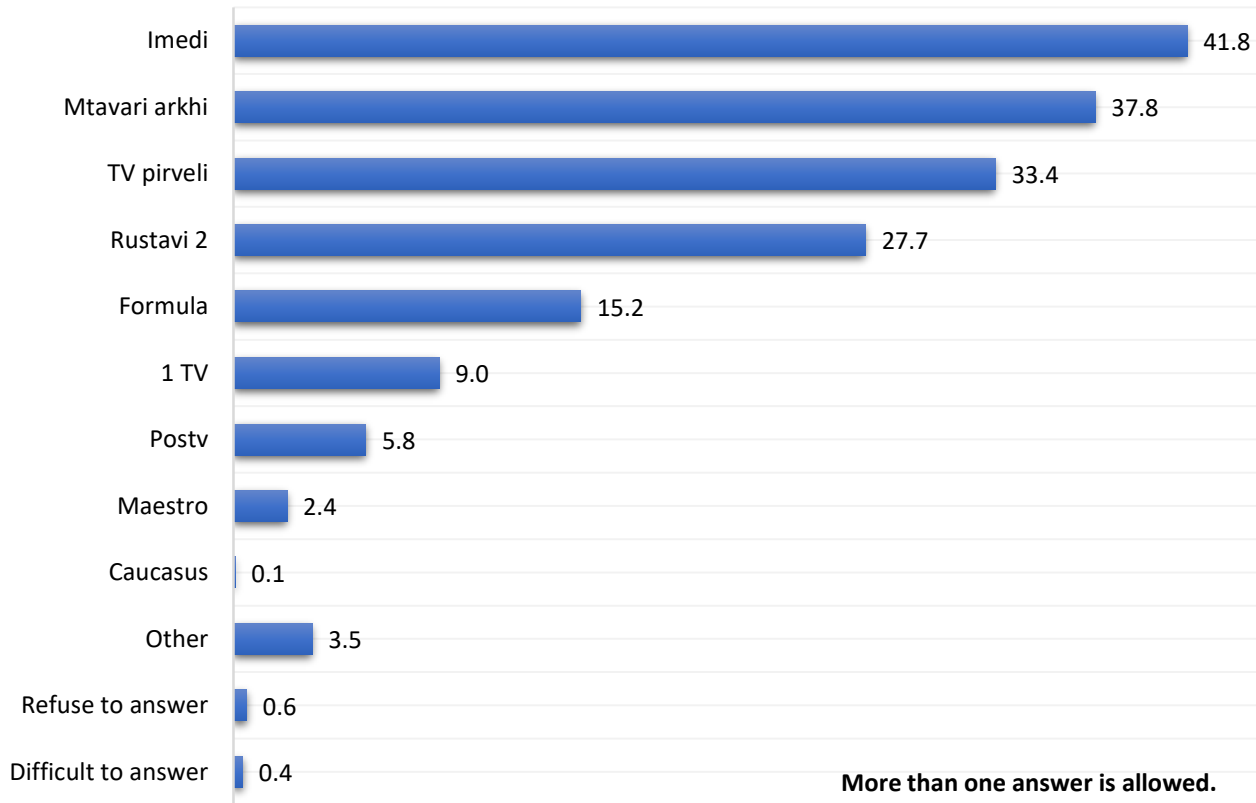
- ✓ Georgian television channels
- ✓ Social media

Which source do you primarily use to get information about socio-political events occurring in Georgia? (N=2000)



Multiple answers are allowed.

Ranking of Georgian TV channels (N=1328)

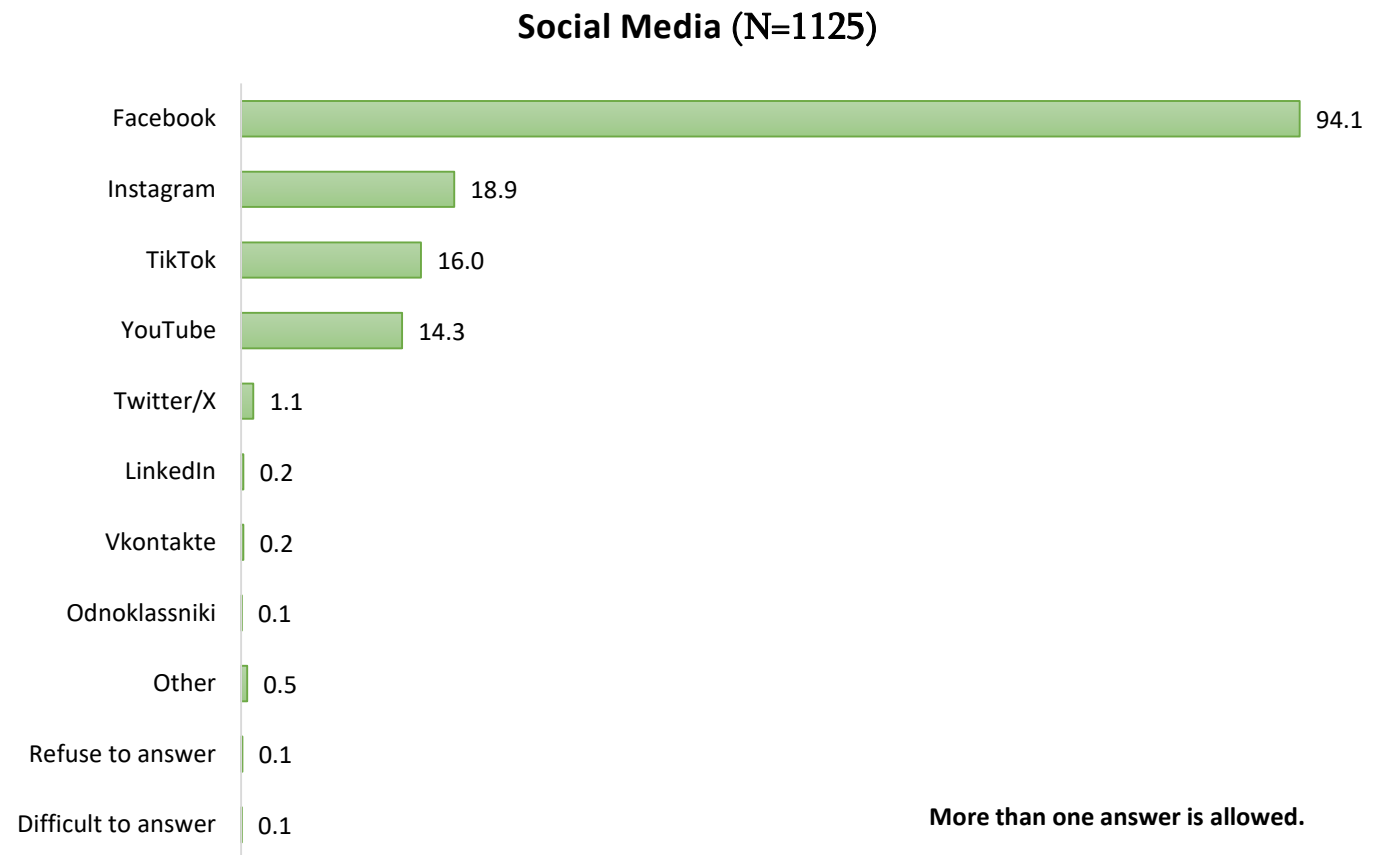


Among Georgian **TV channels**, with not a big distance between each other, the leaders are:

- ✓ Imedi (up to 42%)
- ✓ Mtavari Arkhi (up to 38%)
- ✓ TV Pirveli (33.4%)

Among **social media** platforms,
Facebook is the undisputed leader.

Approximately one-fifth use Instagram,
16% use TikTok, and 14.3% use YouTube.



Thank you!