



# 2021 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

## POST-ELECTORAL SURVEY

Comparative results

 DECEMBER 2021

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01.

# Introduction

01.

## Introduction

# Survey design (I)

## Goal and objectives



### Goal

To track changes in the public perceptions regarding the work carried out by the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) and the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training (CCET).



### Objectives

To collect data on four post-electoral general population surveys (2019 Parliamentary Elections, 2019 General Local Elections, 2020 Presidential Elections and 2021 Parliamentary Elections) and carry out a comparative analysis.



# Survey design (II)

## Methodology and sampling



### Sampling

Sampling framework:  
All households and individuals in the country. The reference data for the sampling scheme were taken from the 2014 population census / all telephone numbers assigned to mobile service providers (Orange, Moldcell and Unite)

Sampling scheme:  
Probabilistic, stratified, with random selection principles

Geographical coverage:  
Urban and rural areas. The survey included 108 / 106 / 480 / 314 localities



### Methodology

Type of research:  
Quantitative nationally representative survey

Data collection method:  
CATI (computer assisted telephone interview)

Target group and sample size:  
**General population, 18 years old and over** on a sample of 1,418 / 1,410 / 1,510 / 1,501 respondents. Sampling error +/- 2.6%

Language of interview:  
Romanian (75% / 70% / 74% / 70%) and Russian (25% / 30% / 26% / 30%) depending on respondent's preference

Average length of interview:  
24 / 26 / 24 / 23 minutes

Data collection period:  
19 March – 14 May 2019; 9 November – 4 December 2019; 11 December 2020 – 20 January 2021; 8 August – 24 September 2021

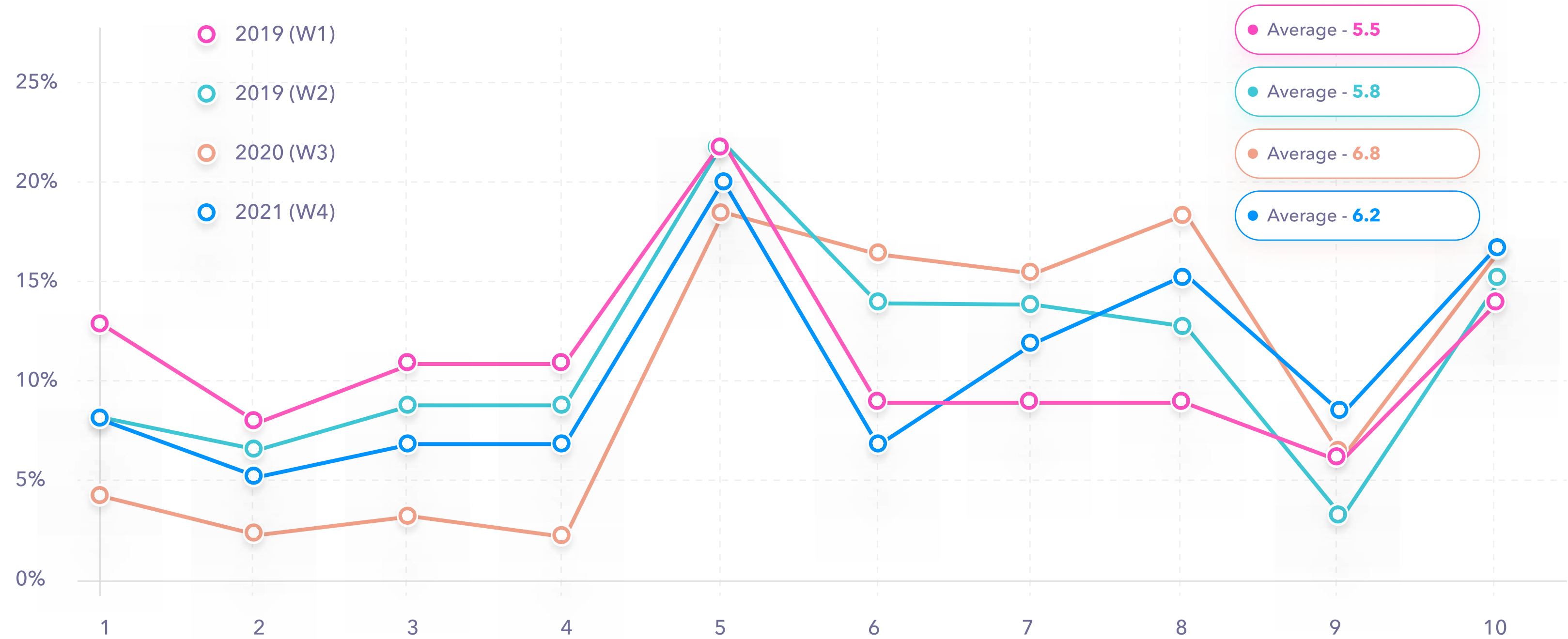
Net response rate:  
68% / 62% / 54% / 41%

02.

# Voting process and experience

# To what extent are you interested in the socio-political life of the Republic of Moldova?

Voters' interest in the socio-political events in the country remains nearly at the level of the previous poll, since 38% gave a score of 8 points and more on a scale of 1 to 10, compared to 40% in the 2020 winter survey. On the other hand, the share of disinterested respondents significantly increased, scoring less than 5 points (23% relative to 11% in the previous survey).



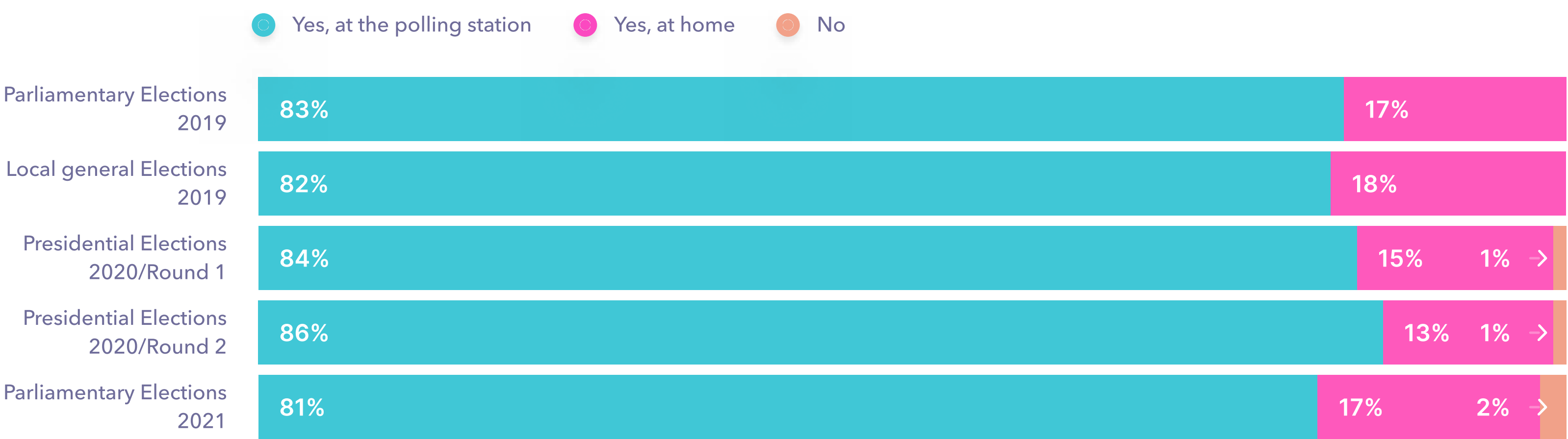
The people who participated in the Parliamentary Elections (6.5 points) and those who heard / read information campaign materials (6.5 points) show a higher level of interest in the socio-political life compared to those who did not participate (4.9 points) and those who were not exposed to the information campaign (5.3 points).

# Did you participate in the Parliamentary / General Local / Presidential Elections?

The self-declared turnout in the July 2021 Parliamentary Elections is 4% lower than in the November 2020 Presidential Elections.

The turnout increases with the age of the voters (from 69% for young people to 88% for the elderly).

The civic education campaign significantly influenced the decision to participate since the participation rate among those exposed to the campaign (84%) is much higher than the one of those not exposed to the campaign (71%).



Sample for W2 (Round 2): 777 respondents who had a second round of General Local Elections in their locality



The share of voters who participated in the Parliamentary Elections is higher in the population with tertiary education (87%) than in those with secondary education (76%). Relative to the previous survey, the turnout of young people dropped by 8%, of voters in Chisinau and in the Southern Region – by 5%, and of ethnic minorities – by 7%.



02. Voting process and experience

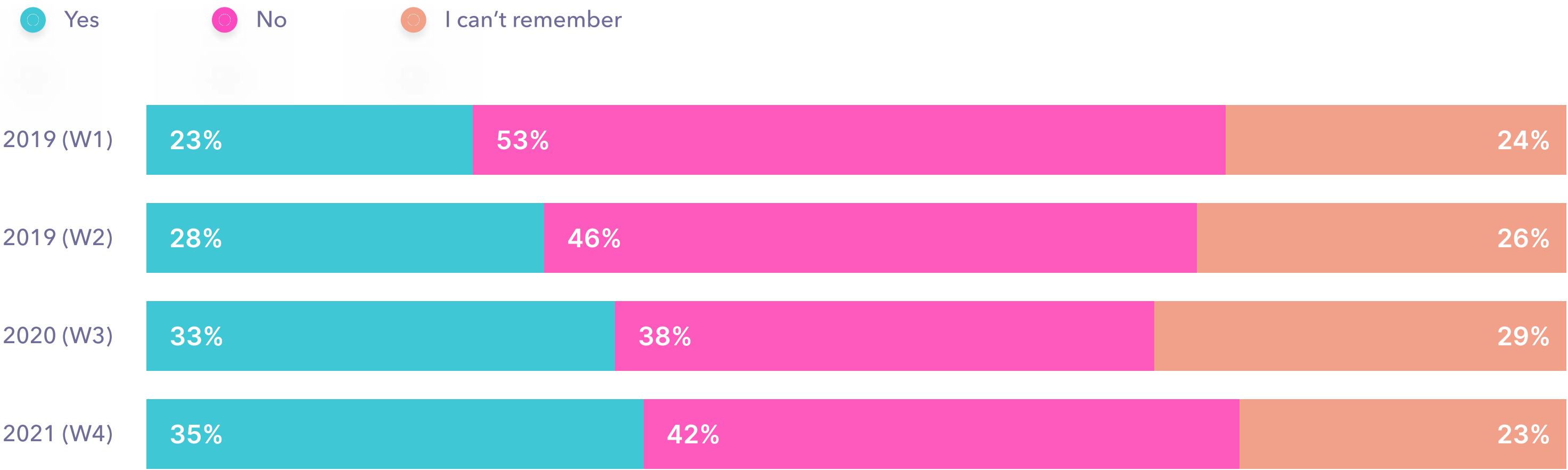
# Following your participation in the Parliamentary / Local / Presidential Elections, how satisfied were you with each item?


The absolute majority of the voters who participated in elections were satisfied with practically all matters of the voting process organisation at the polling stations. The degree of satisfaction with most of the features was close to 100%. 47% were satisfied with all organisational issues, especially the village voters (51%).



# Was there an access ramp for wheelchairs (for people with disabilities) and for baby prams/ strollers at the polling station where you voted in the last elections?

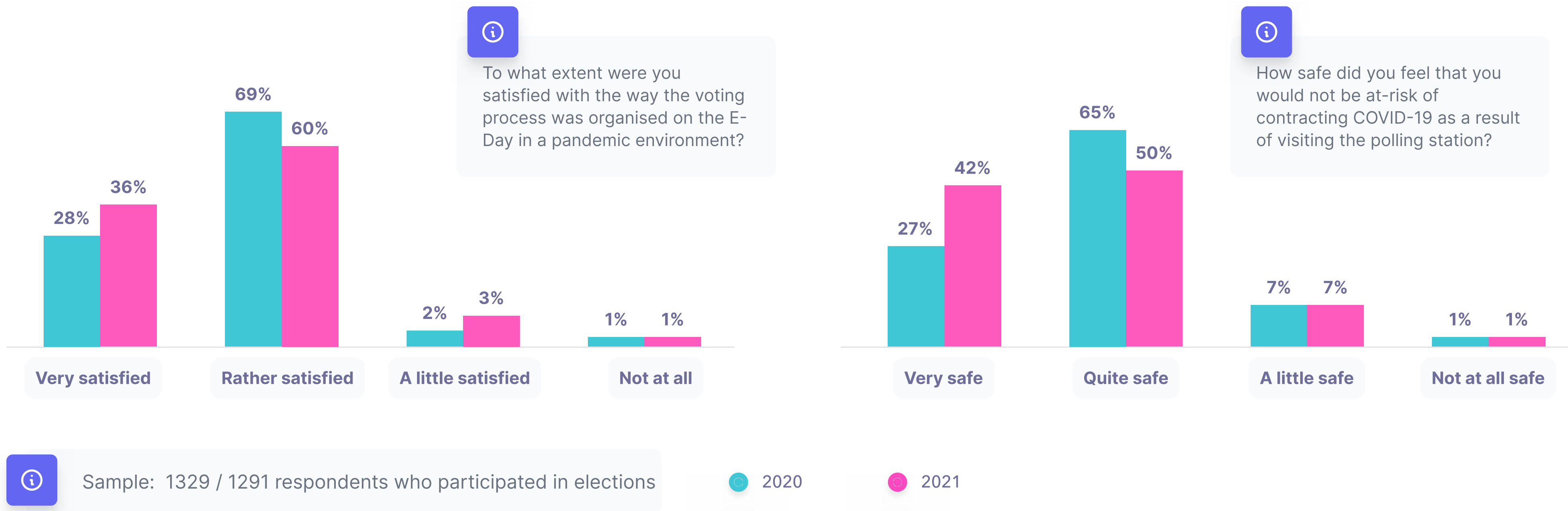
At least 4 out of 10 polling stations (assuming that the respondents were almost evenly distributed across the polling stations) still lack wheelchair access ramps. The lack of ramps outside Chisinau was mentioned to a greater extent (45% versus 27% in Chisinau), as well as in the rural areas (47% versus 35% in the urban areas).



 Sample: 1179 / 1172 / 1329 / 1219 respondents who participated in elections

# Perceptions regarding the organisation of the voting process during the COVID-19 pandemic

96% of respondents were satisfied with the way the voting process was managed on the day of Parliamentary Elections held during the COVID-19 pandemic. 92% of respondents felt safe in terms of not being at-risk of contracting Coronavirus if they participate in elections. According to them, the anti-pandemic rules imposed during the exercise of the voting right at the polling stations were observed in almost all cases, except for the use of a personal pen (25% did not sign with a personal pen).



# Did you personally notice any irregularities during the E-Day?

4% of respondents noticed irregularities on the election day (similar to the previous elections).  
Information actions on the irregularities were undertaken by 32% of voters who noticed them (down by 9% compared to the previous elections).



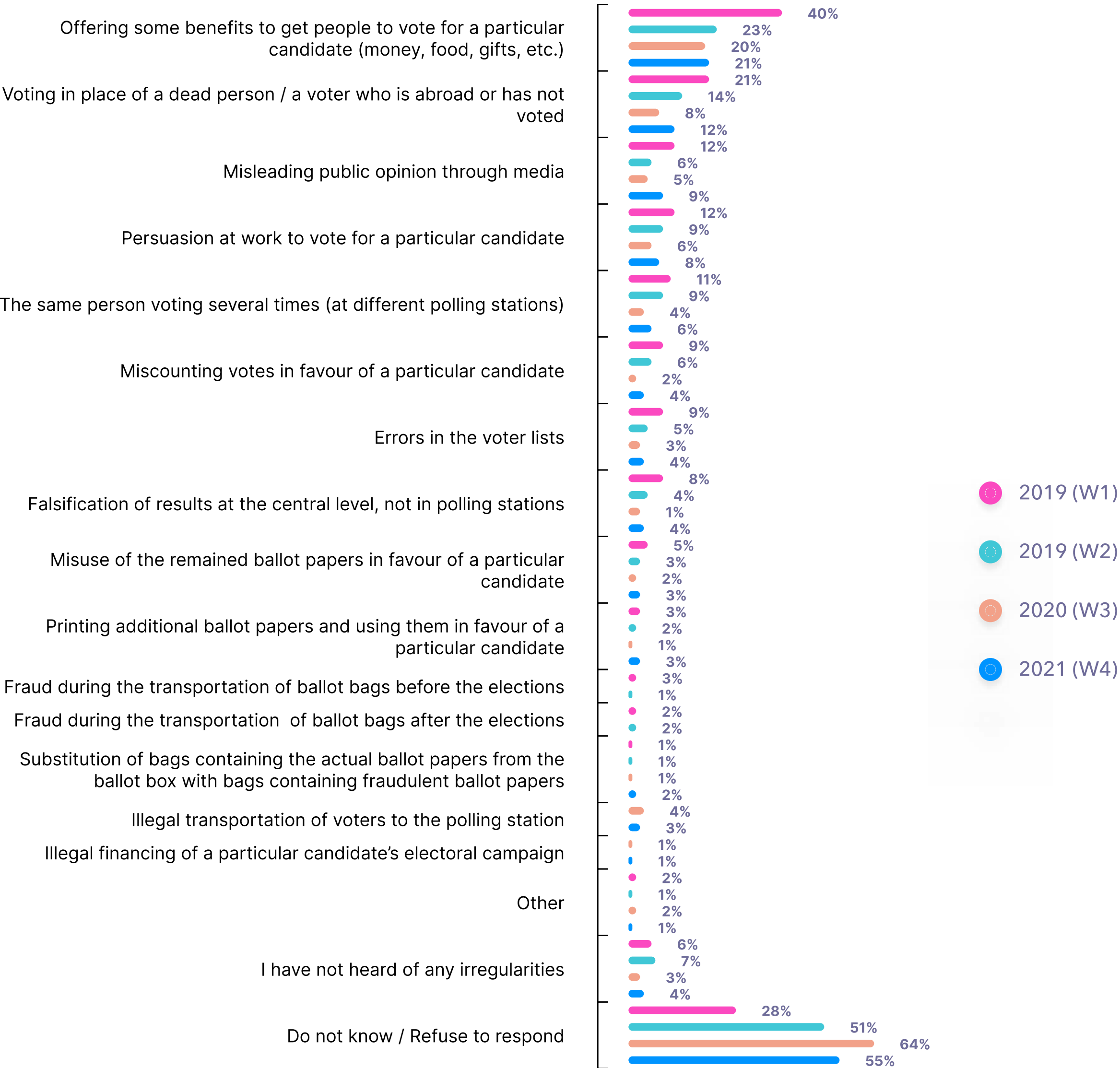
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Sample: 1179 / 1172 / 1329 / 1219 respondents who participated in elections



# What types of irregularities did you hear about/notice during the last elections?



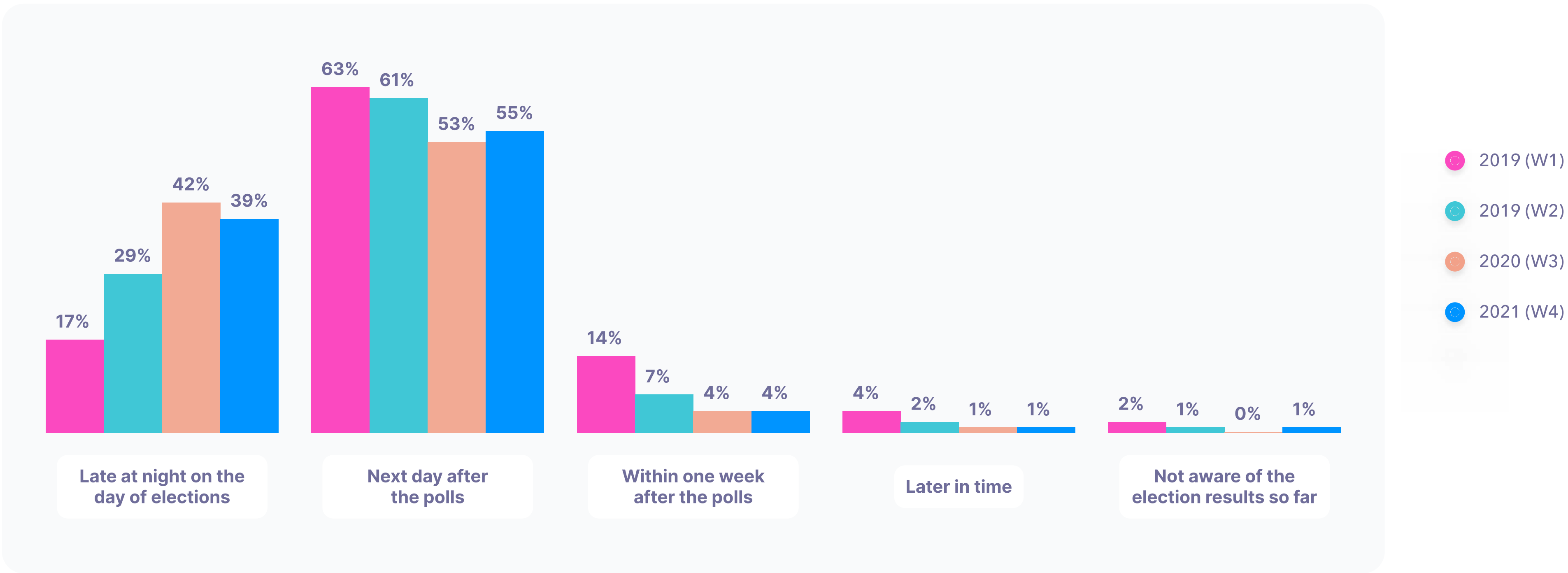
45% of voters heard about or noticed irregularities during the last elections (up by 9% relative to the previous elections), in particular, electoral gifts (money, foodstuff, etc.) and voting instead of non-voting. 8% mentioned the persuasion at work to vote for a particular candidate.



# When did you find out the information on the preliminary election results?

The interest in the preliminary results of Parliamentary Elections remained at the same level as in the Presidential Elections: 94% of voters found out about them no later than the next day after elections.

The share of voters who watched the election results on the election day is higher among those with high education (55%), medium and high income (48%), majority ethnicity (42%).

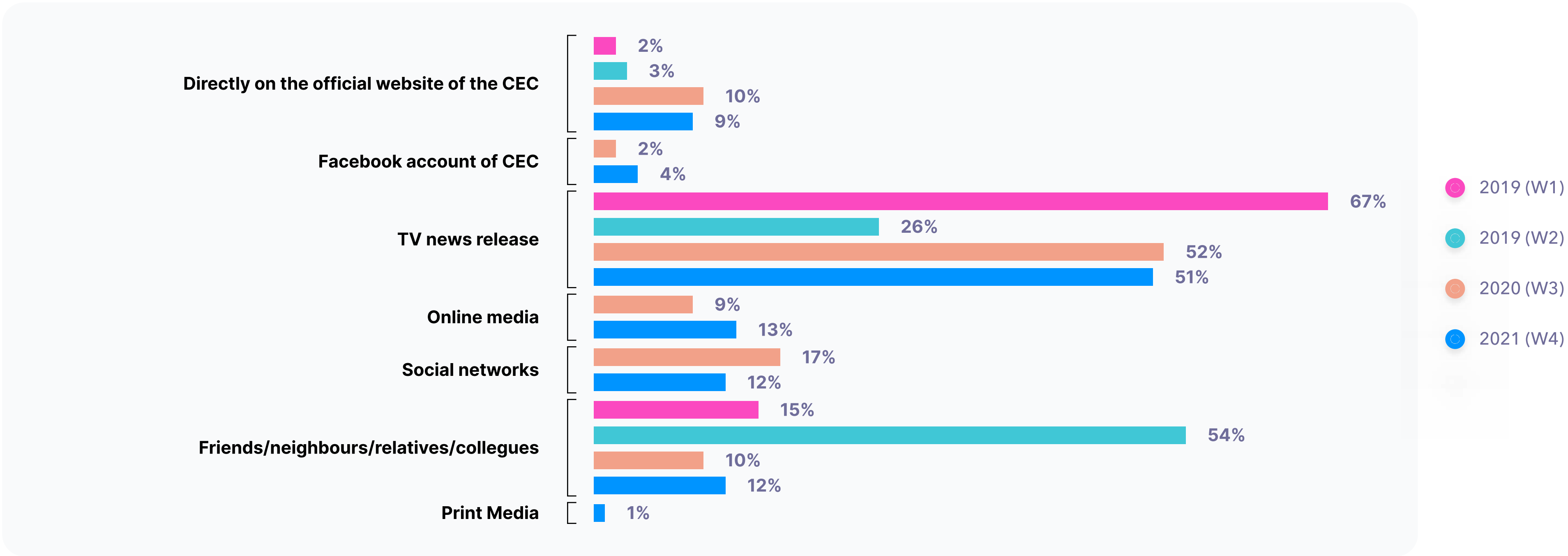


# Where from or who told you the information about the election results?

TV newsletters (51%) were the respondents’ main source of information on the Parliamentary Elections (and Presidential Elections) results, especially for the elderly (78%) and people with special needs (67%).

Social networks and online media served as a core source of information for 25% of voters, in particular for young voters and those residing in Chisinau.

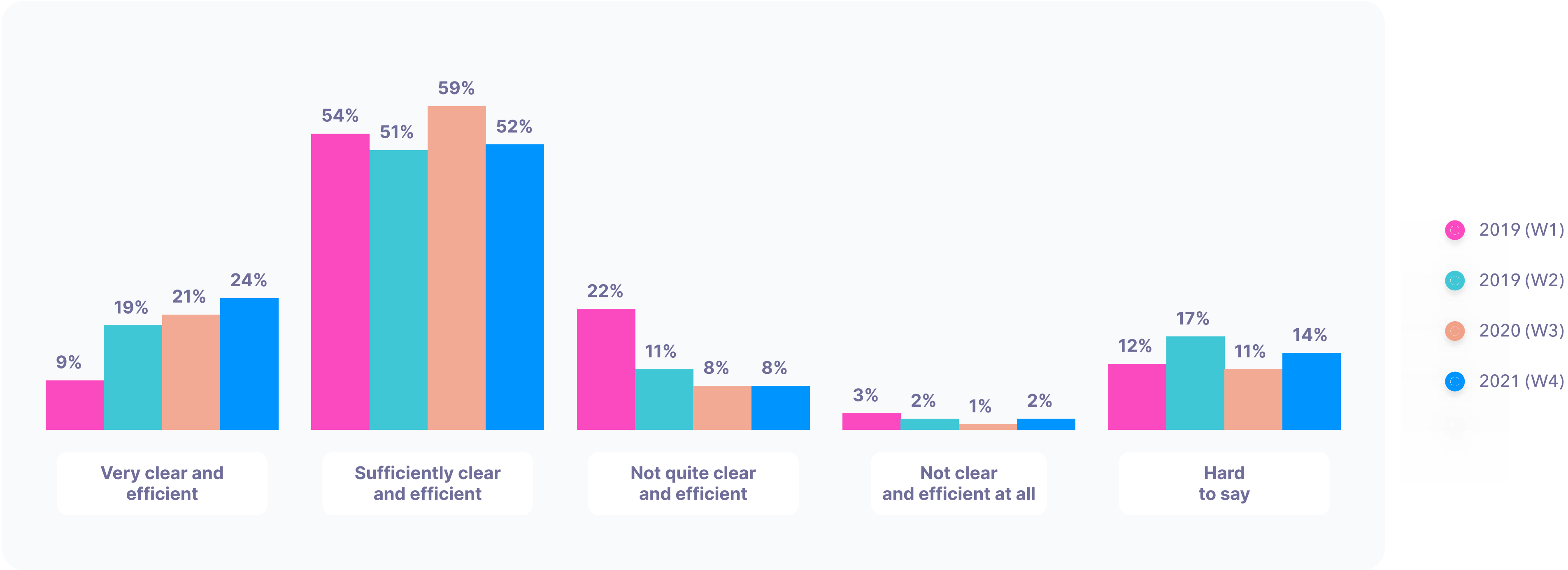
13% got the information directly from the CEC website or Facebook page (the same patterns relative to the previous elections).



# What is your opinion concerning the CEC online presentation of voter turnout and preliminary election results?

76% of voters (at the same level as in the Presidential Elections) rated the way and format of CEC presentation in real-time of voter turnout and preliminary election results as clear and efficient.

The percentage of those who considered the presentation of data as unclear and less efficient dropped three times compared to the first survey data.





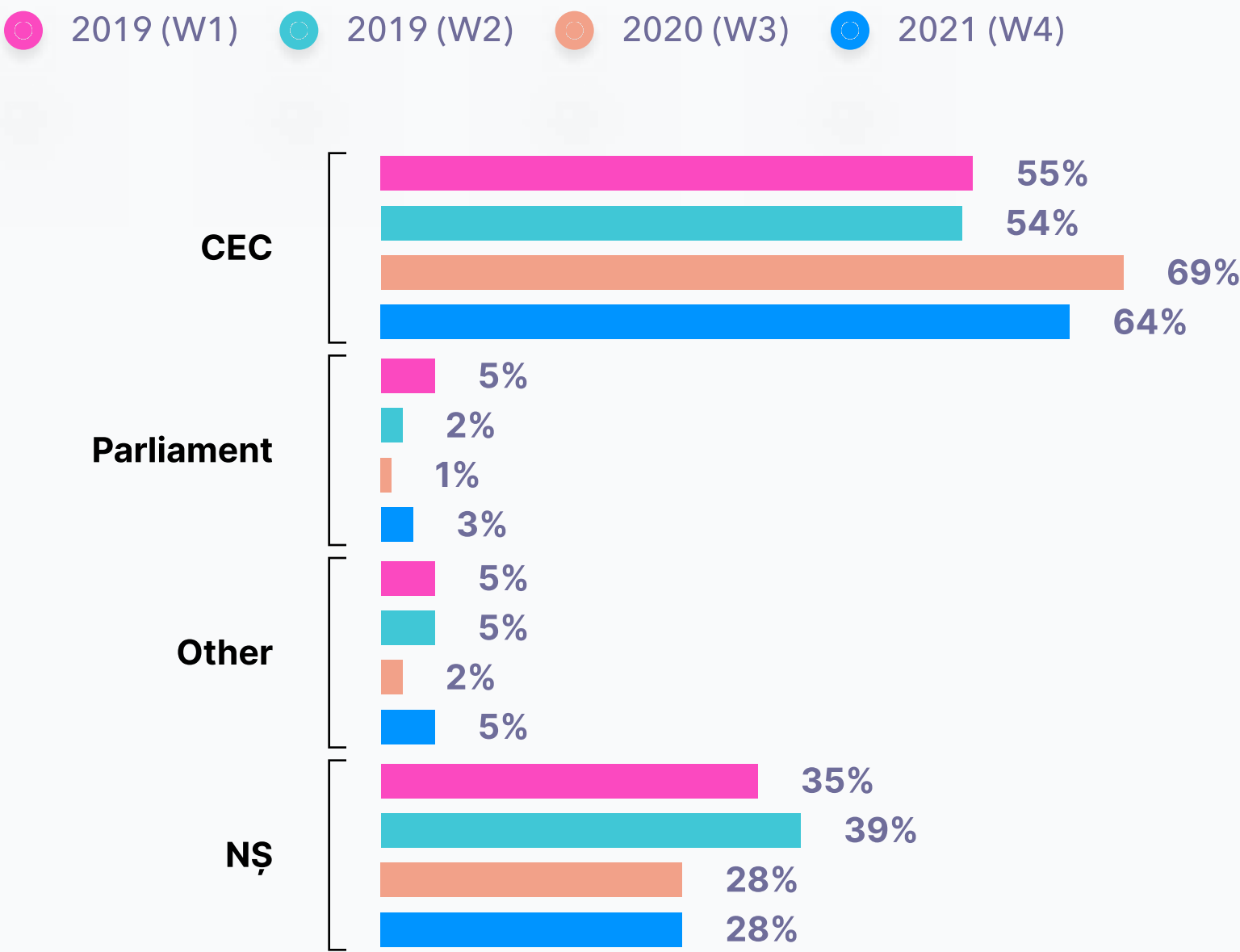
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# **Attitudes and perceptions towards CEC and CCET**

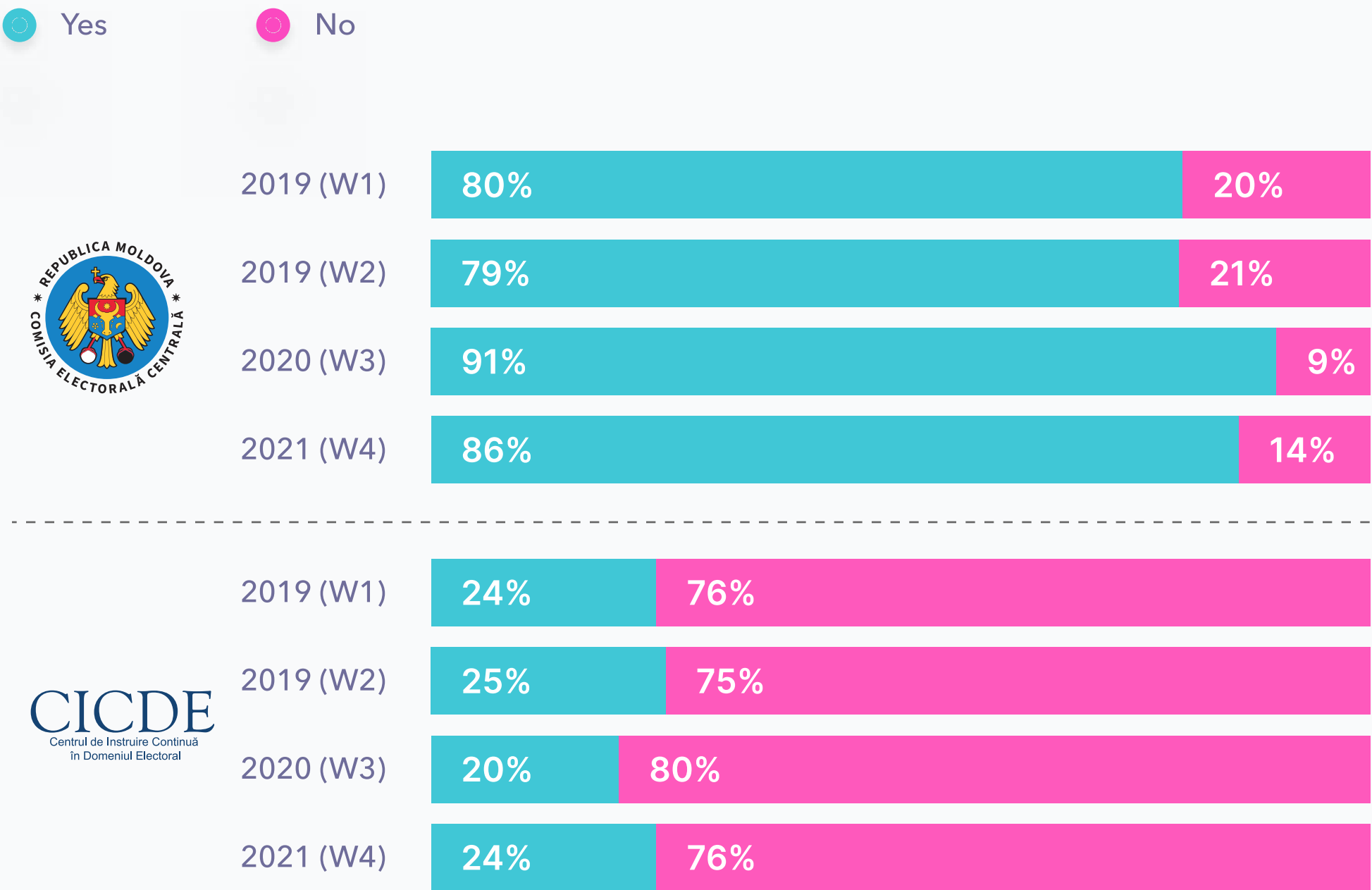
# The notoriety of CEC and CCET

Spontaneous notoriety of CEC decreased by 5% compared to the previous survey, but remains higher relative to the first two surveys. Spontaneous notoriety is higher among the respondents with a high level of education (86%), from urban areas (74%), from the Chisinau region (83%), exposed to information campaign (69% versus 42% among the non-exposed) and those who voted (67% versus 46% of non-voters). CEC's assisted notoriety decreased by 5% compared to the previous survey: 9 out of 10 voters heard about the CEC; CCET notoriety showed a 4%-increase and reached 24%. To a greater extent CEC is not famous among people with low level of education (30%), from rural areas (18%), who do not participate in elections (23%) and who are not aware of elections (30%).

## What institution is responsible for organising and holding elections in the Republic of Moldova? (Open question)

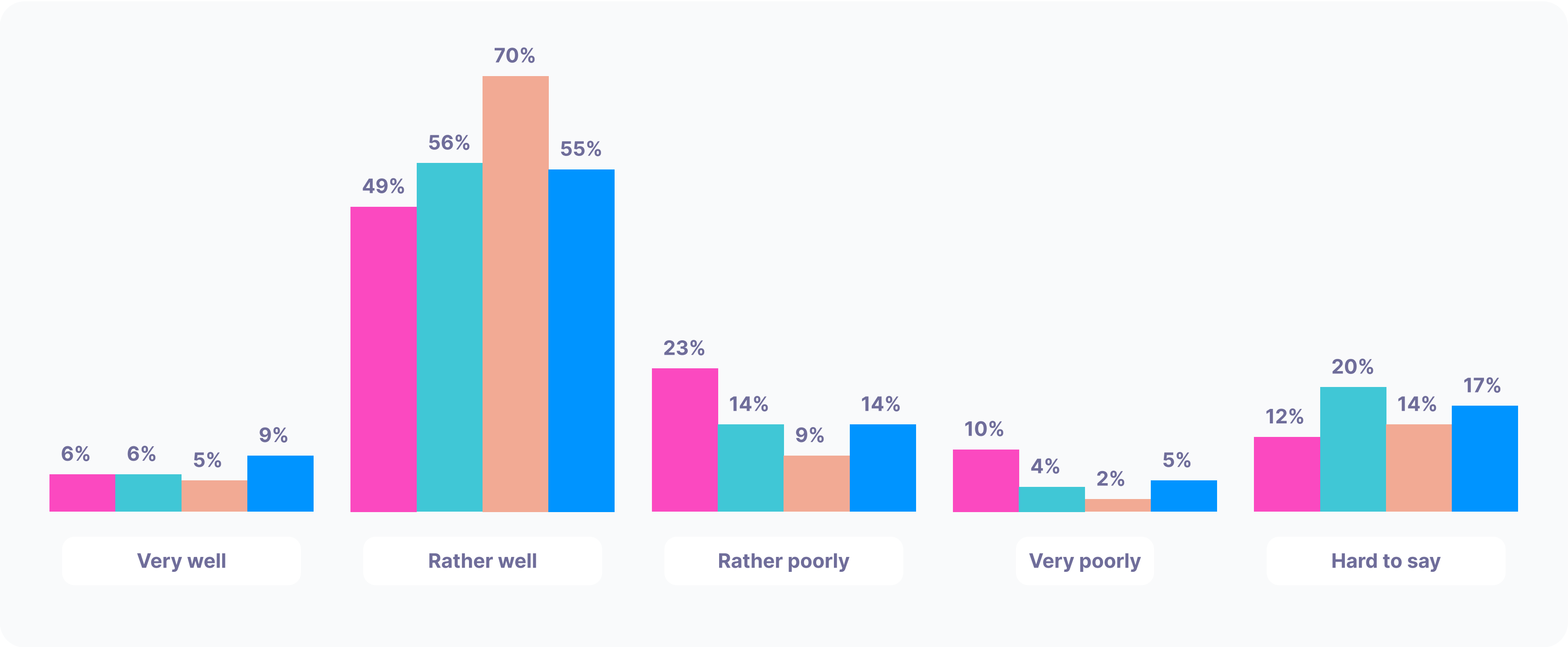


## Have you ever heard of the following institutions?



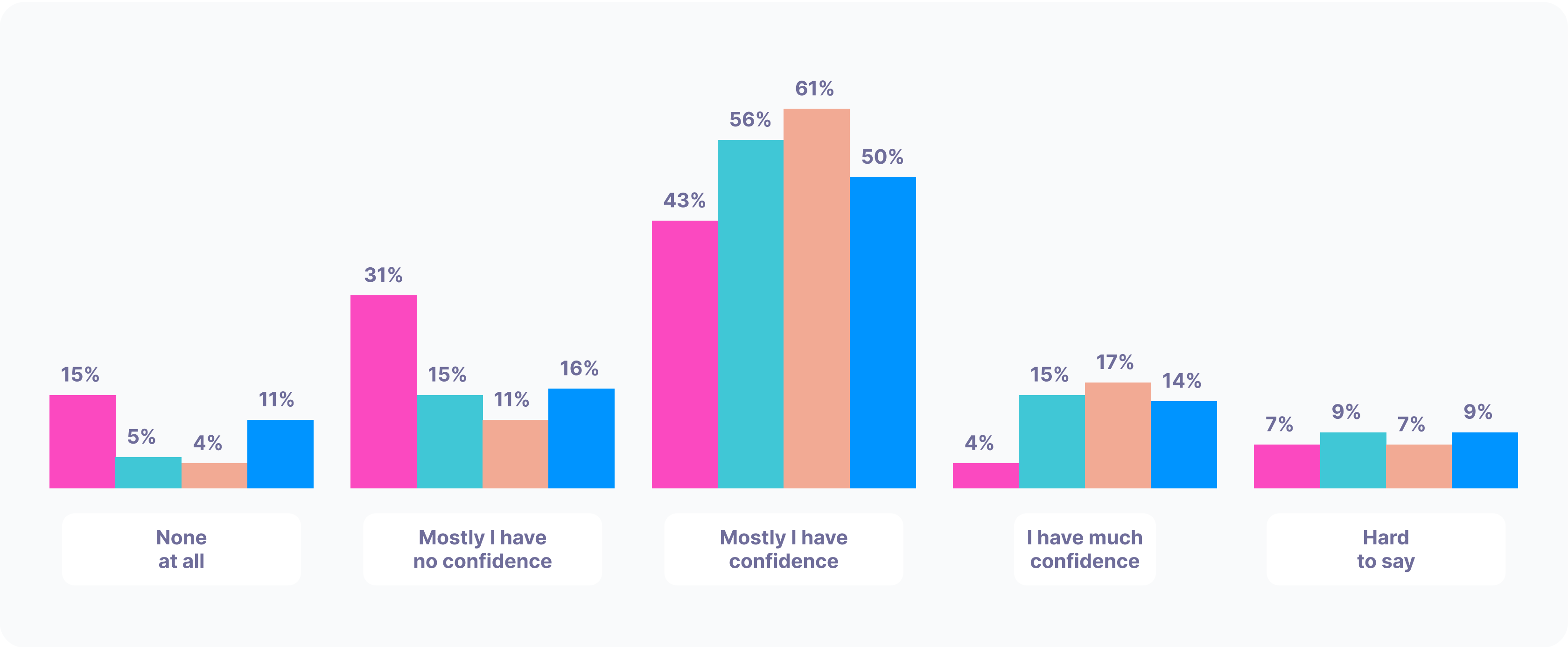
# How well do you think the Central Electoral Commission is fulfilling its functions?

64% (down by 11% relative to the previous survey) of voters consider that the institution performs its functions very well or rather well. The positive perception has a higher incidence among the young people (73% compared to 61% of adult voters) and those exposed to information campaigns (67% versus 50% of not exposed).



# How confident are you in the results of Parliamentary, General Local and Presidential Elections?

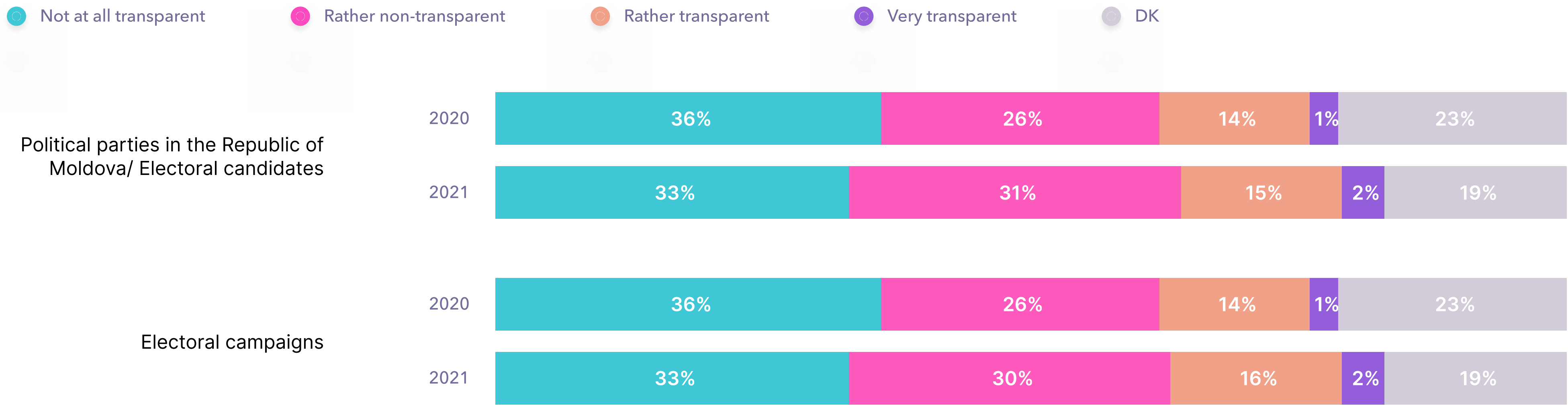
64% of voters (down by 14% relative to the previous survey) trust the election results, of whom 14% have much confidence. The majority ethnic group voters (69% versus 48% of the minority ethnic group) with a high level of education (76%), who participated in elections (69%), as well as those exposed to information campaigns (70%) have higher confidence in the parliamentary election results.





# How do you rate the transparency level of financing of ...?

Only 17% -18% of voters consider that the financing method is quite transparent in both instances.



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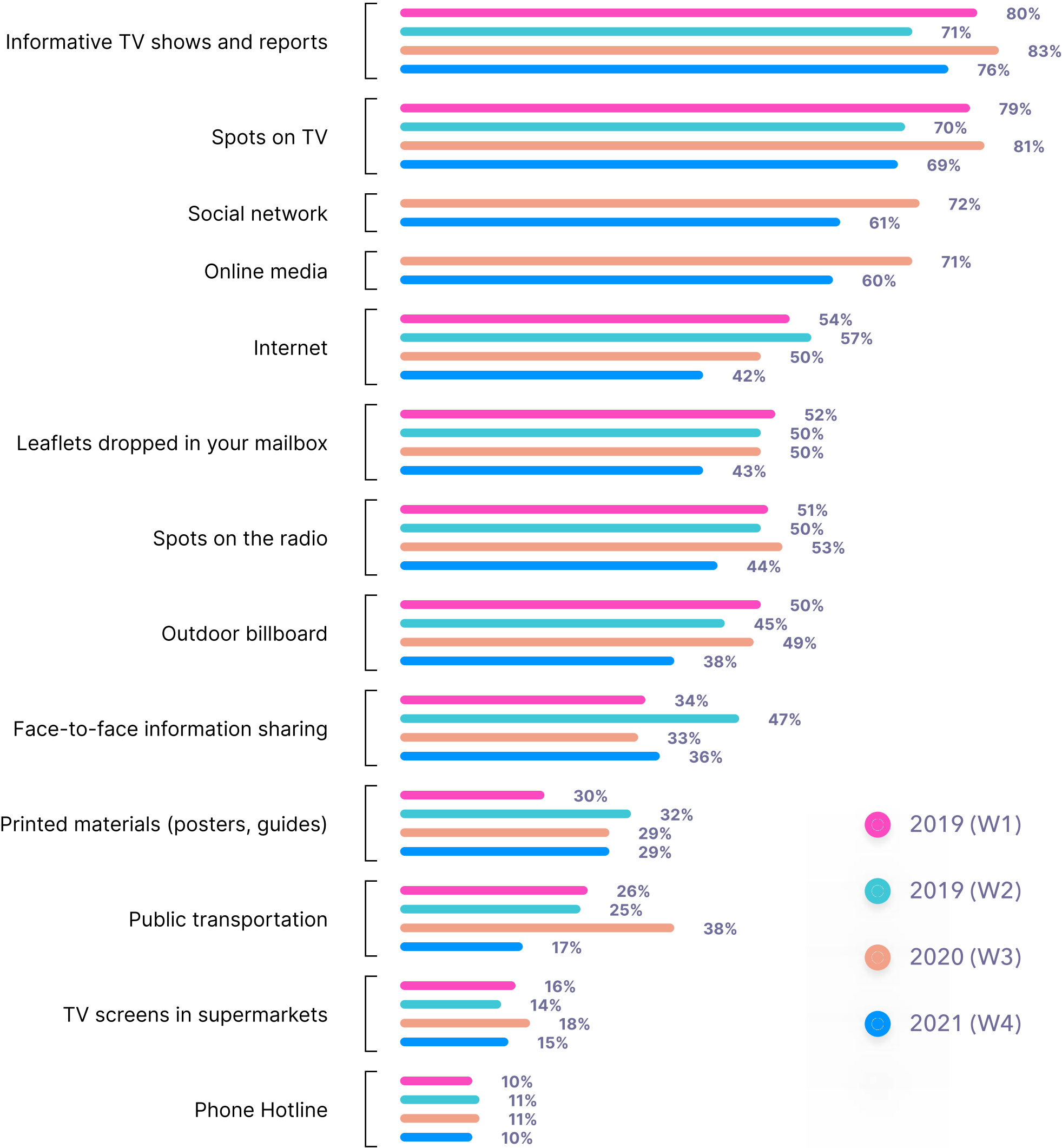
# Civic education campaign

# What sources of information about elections did you use?

96% of respondents heard / watched some general information about elections.

Top 2 sources of information about elections are still the TV shows and reports (76%) and TV advertisings (69%), the share of the latter is much lower in comparison with the previous survey.

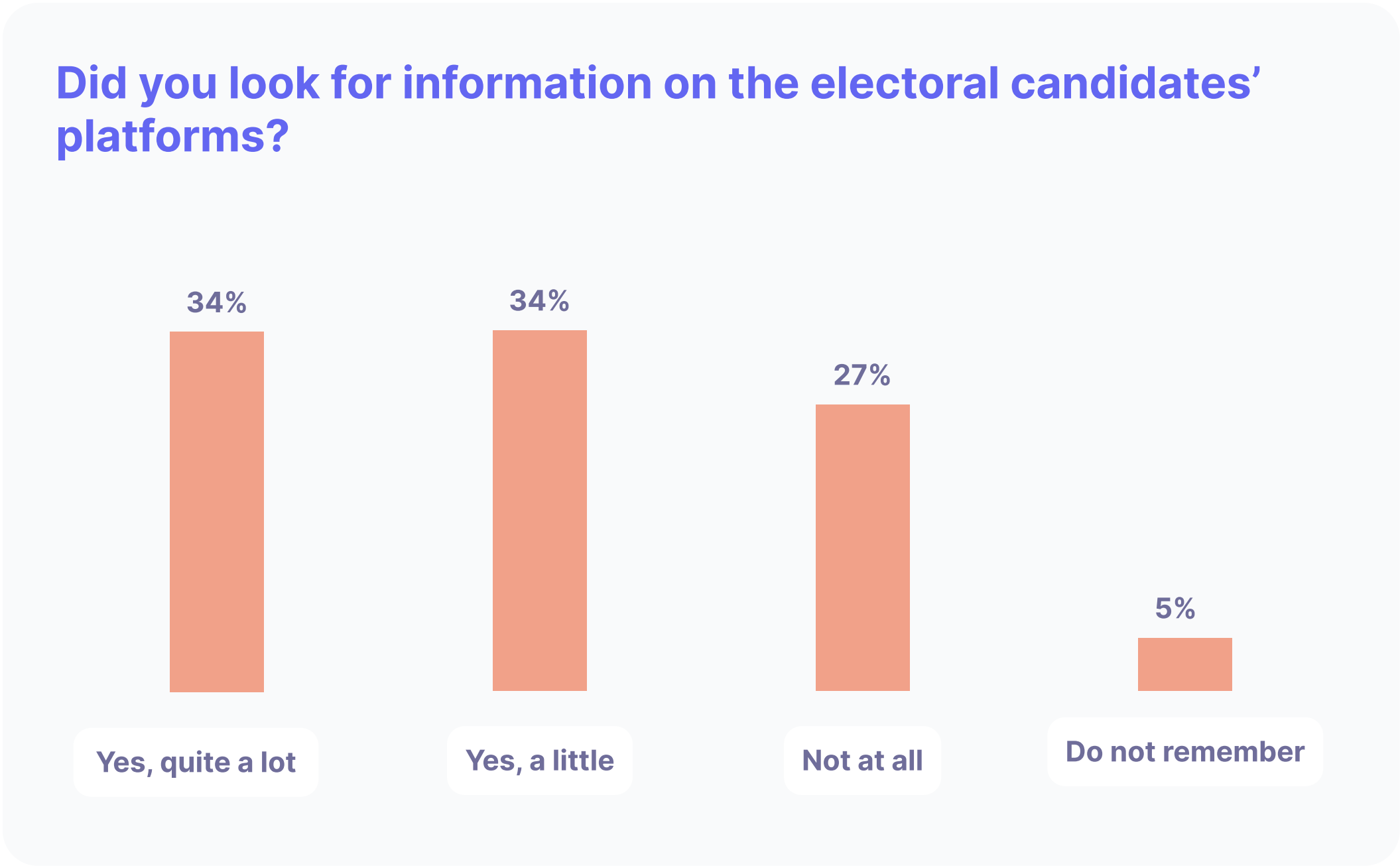
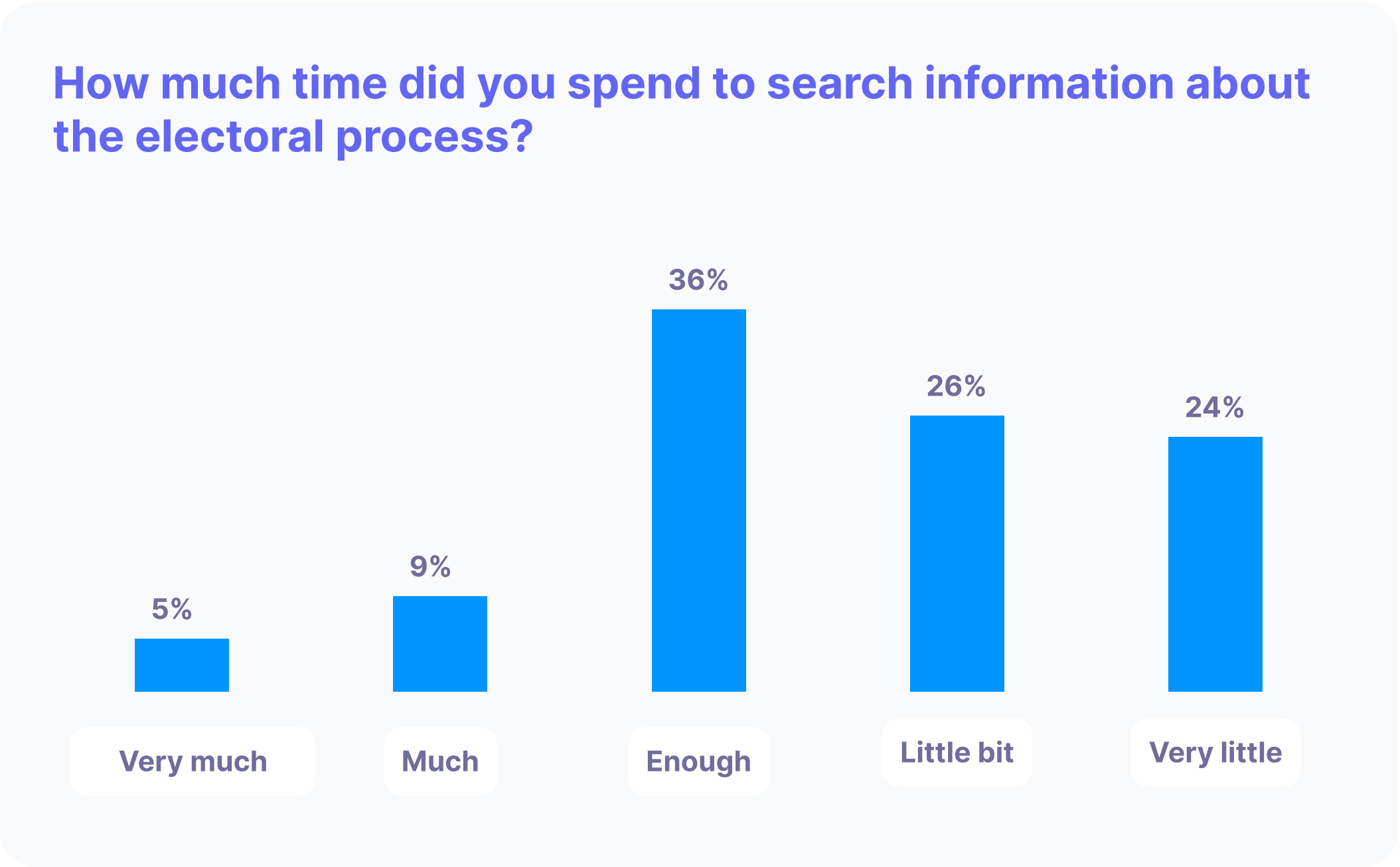
These are followed, at a short distance, by the social networks (61%) and online media (60%).



# Interest in the electoral process and electoral platforms

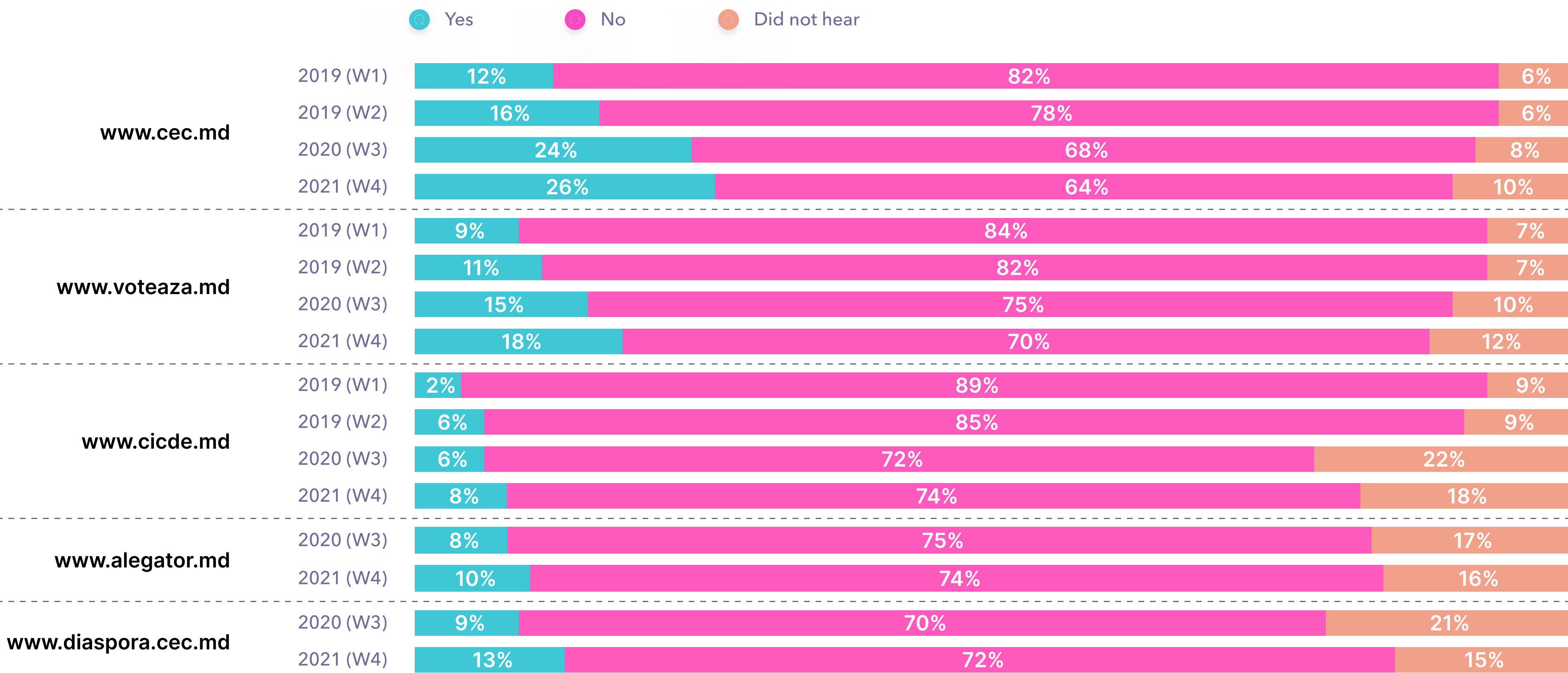
Although the percentage of voters who find out about the voting procedures has increased, the quality of information seems to be superficial, since every second person claims that he/she spent insignificant time to find out about the electoral process.

Unlike the electoral process, voters seem to be more interested in the electoral platforms of electoral candidates, with each third voter stating that he/she is well informed. Those interested in electoral platforms are mostly over 35 years old (38%), with a high level of education (44%), ethnic majority (36%, compared to 26% ethnic minorities) and exposed to information campaigns (39%).



# Have you ever visited the following websites?

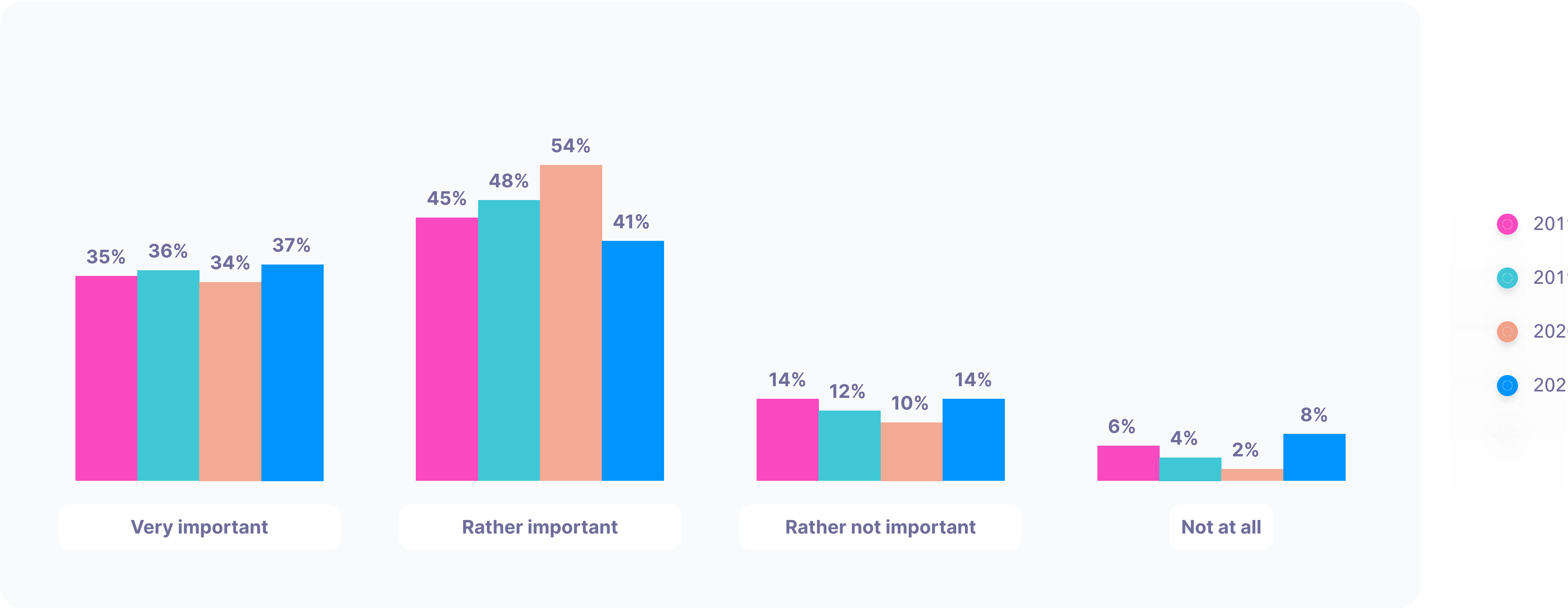
The survey has ascertained a continuous increase in the popularity of online pages of specialised institutions. Hence, [www.cec.md](#) is still the most popular, being visited by every fourth voter (a twofold increase in comparison with the first survey). The specialised online resources are visited mainly by young voters, with a high level of education, ethnic majority and those exposed to information campaigns.





# In your opinion, how important is the continuous civic education on elections and electoral processes?

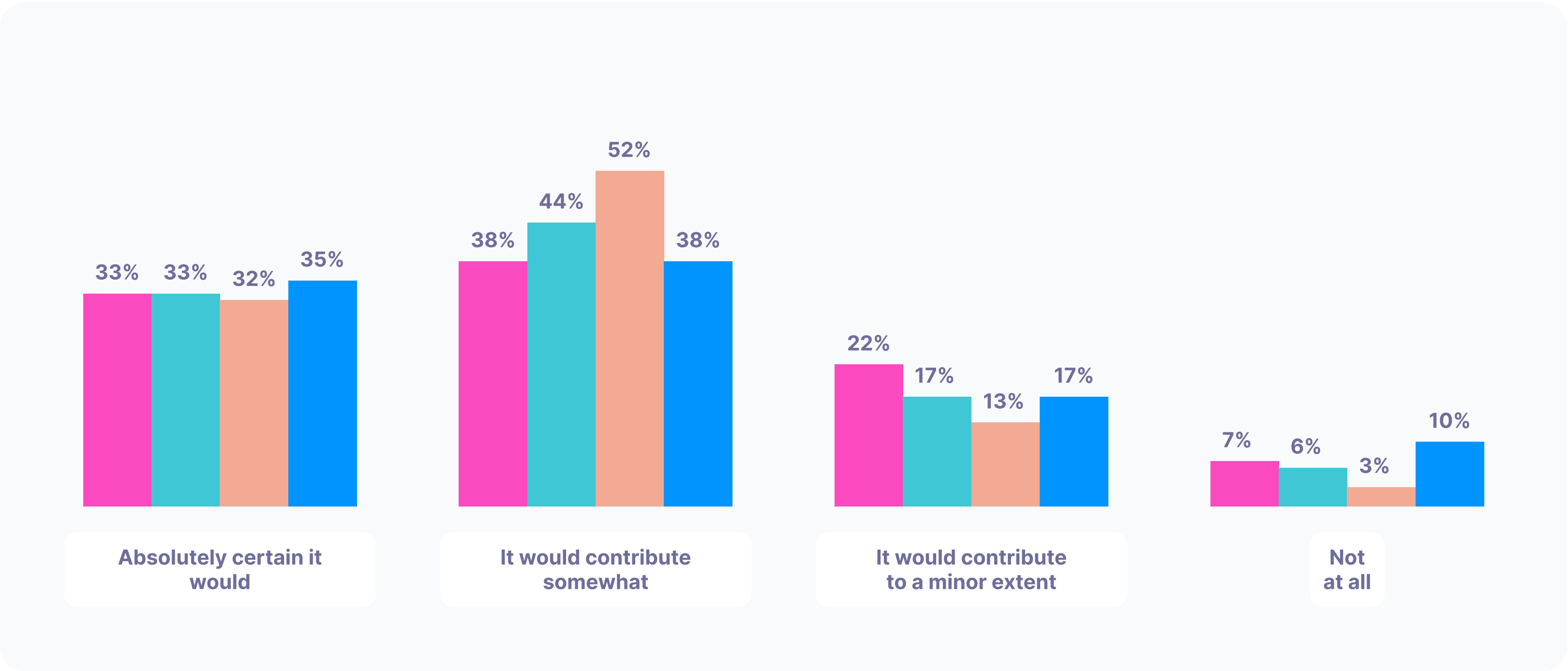
78% of respondents (10% less than in the previous survey) say that continuous civic education in the electoral field is important, especially the voters with a high level of education and those who were exposed to information campaigns.



# Do you believe that continuous electoral civic education contributes to a more active involvement of citizens in the electoral processes?

73% of respondents (11 percentage points less than in the previous survey) are confident that continuous education in the electoral field may contribute to a more active involvement of citizens in elections.

The degree of confidence is significantly higher among the respondents with a high level of education (81%) and those who were exposed to information campaigns (79%).

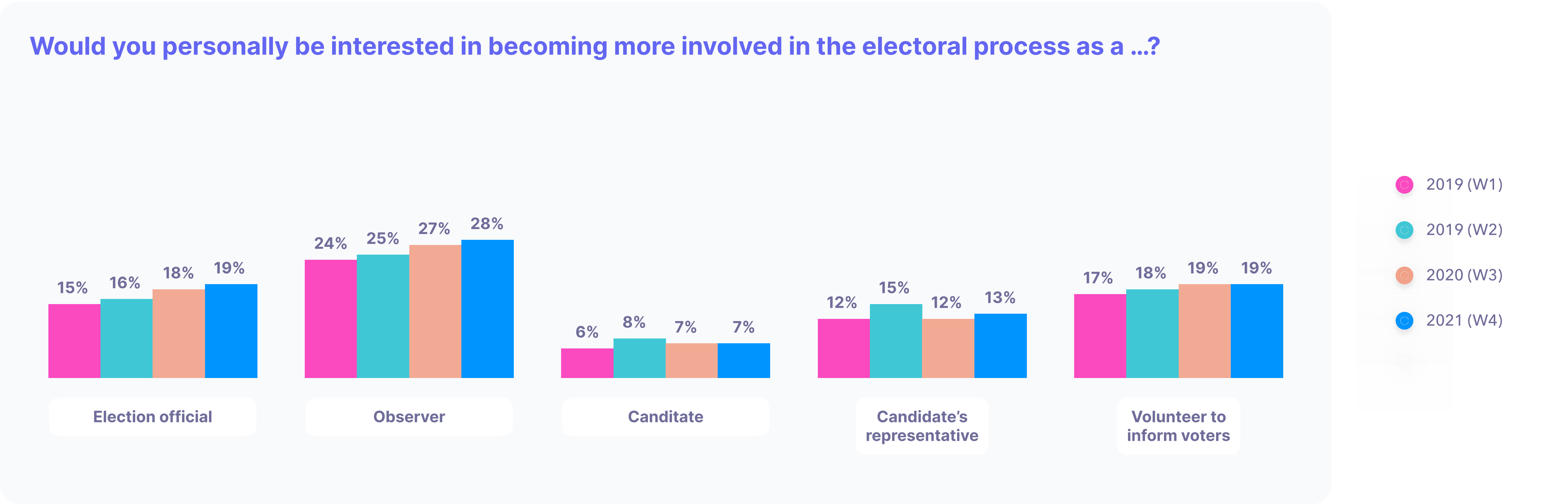


# Level of interest in being involved in the electoral process

7% of voters personally participated in trainings or information events organised by CEC or CCET during 2018-2020.

One in four respondents is interested in participating in election-related information events.

35% of respondents (mostly young people, from the rural areas, with a high level of education, ethnic majority) would like to be actively involved in the electoral process, mainly as observers, volunteers and election officials.

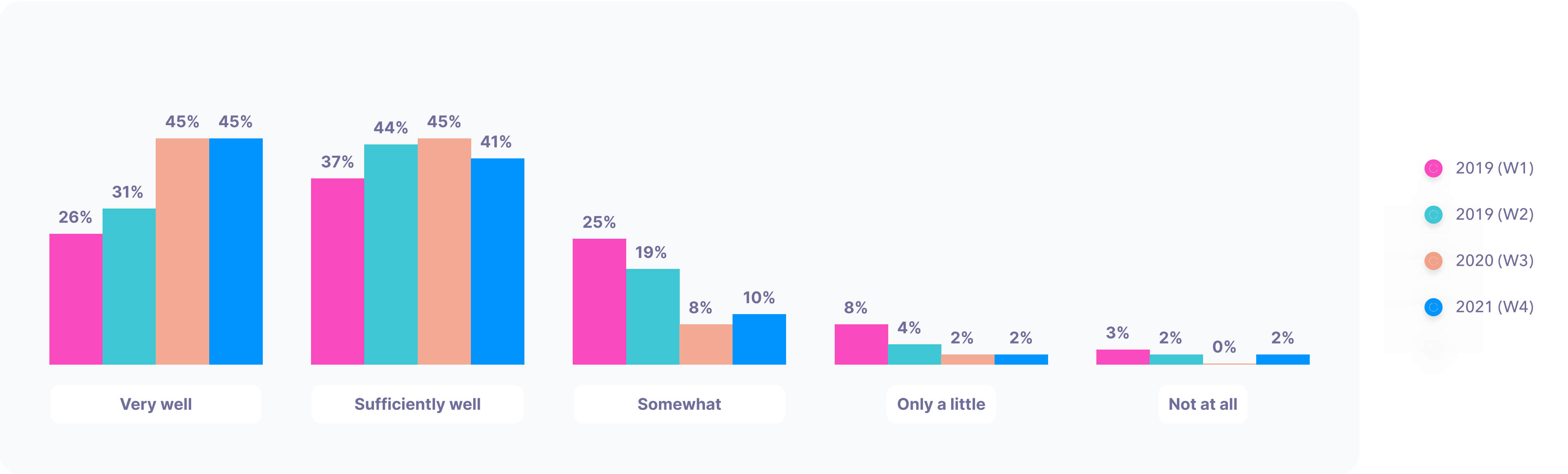


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# **Knowledge about the voting procedure**

# How well did you understand the voting procedure before the E-Day?

Only 14% of voters (compared to 36% in the first poll) acknowledge they were poorly informed about the voting procedure prior to the election day. The awareness level is lower among the people with a low level of education (24%), from the regions (11%), who did not participate in elections (38% versus 10% who participated) and those who were not exposed to information campaigns (27% versus 11% exposed). Only 10% of respondents named correctly all the documents based on which one can vote across the country.





# Do you know that you have the right to...?

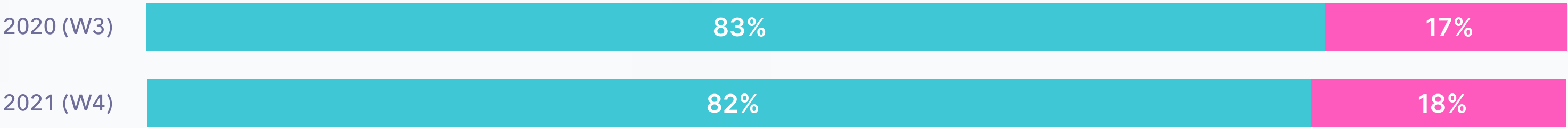
Practically 1 in 5 voters lives in another locality than the one where he/she has a residence visa.

10% of voters are not aware they have the right to vote at home in case of illness and 24% do not know they may submit an application to the polling station to cast their vote for Parliamentary Elections in another locality than the one they have a residence visa in.

The people who are not aware of their voting rights are mainly the ones with a low level of education (39%), from the rural areas (28%), who do not participate in elections (39%).

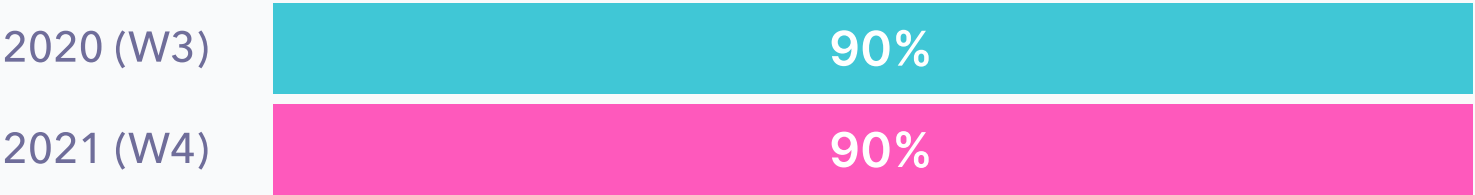
## Is your basic residence / residence visa in ...?

- ☒ No, I live in the same place where I have my residence visa
- ☐ Yes, I live elsewhere that my residence visa

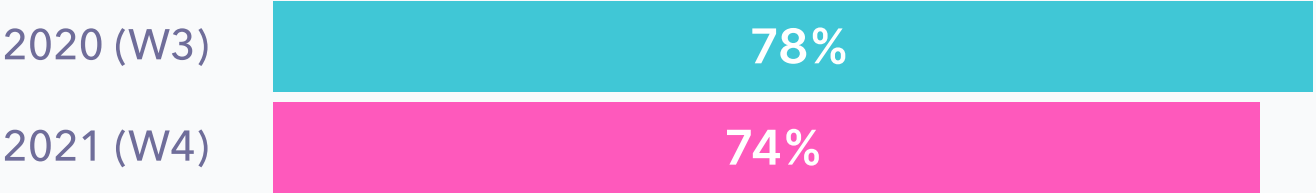


## Do you know that you have the right ...?

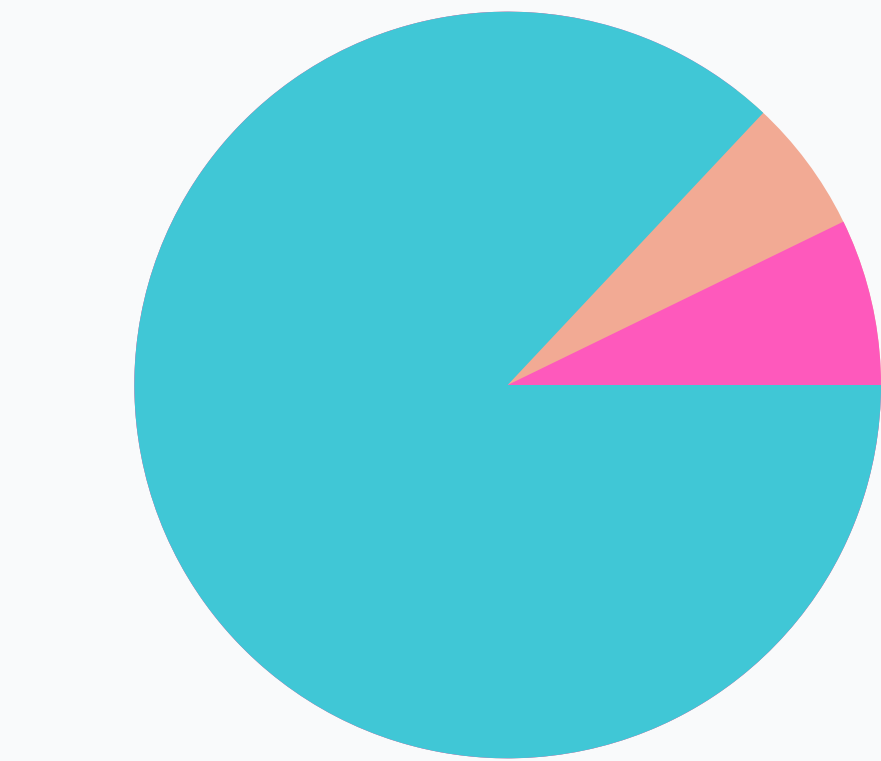
To vote at home, requesting a mobile ballot box, if you could not go to the polling station?



To submit an application to the polling station in order to cast your vote in another locality than the one you have a residence visa in?



## Did you use this right?

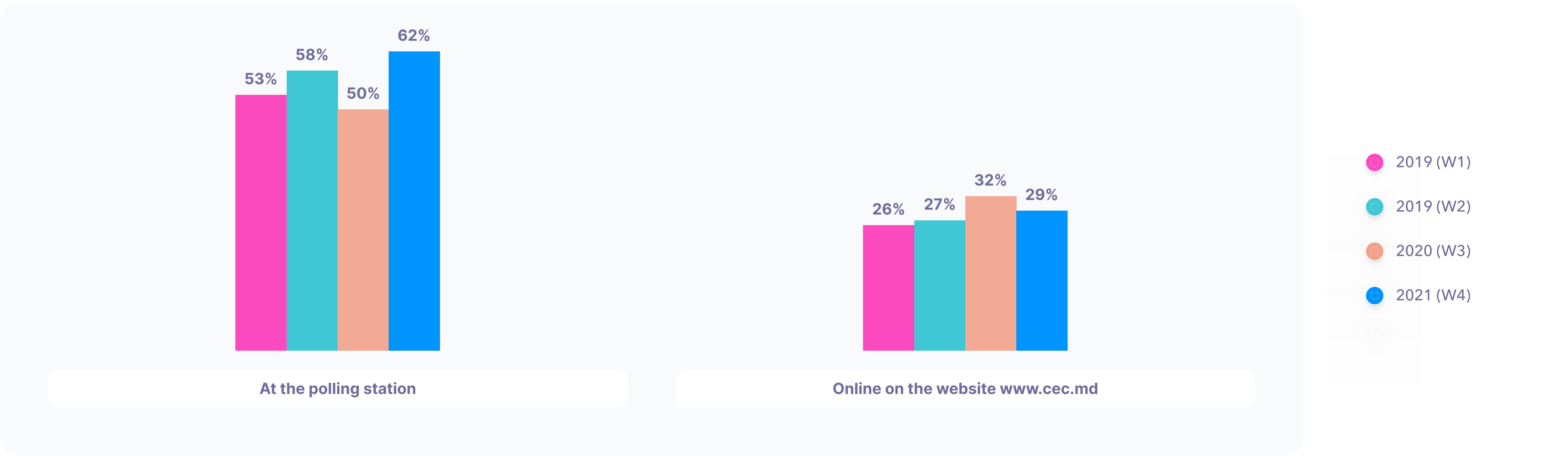


- ☒ No, I didn't need to 87%
- ☐ Yes 8%
- ☐ No, I didn't have time 5%

# Do you know that you can check your personal data in the voter lists?

62% of respondents (a 12%-increase relative to the previous survey) know about the possibility to check their personal data at the polling stations and 29% know that they can do it on the CEC website.

The level of knowledge increases with the level of education, from 10% online and 47% electoral lists for people with low level of education to 52% online and 78% electoral lists for people with high level of education, but decreases with age (from 35% online for young people to 19% for older people). The respondents residing in the urban areas are better informed about the possibilities to check their personal data, compared to those residing in the rural areas.



06.

# Conclusions and recommendations

06.

## Conclusion and recommendations

### Conclusion 1:

The level of interest in becoming involved in the electoral process as volunteers, observers or electoral officials continues to be high (it has been expressed by almost every third respondent).

### Recommendation 1:

To inform those who are willing to be actively involved in organising the electoral process about the registration procedure, the tasks/roles thereof and the possible benefits.

### Conclusion 2:

TV shows and TV promotion spots as well as social media and online media continue to be the most popular sources of information about elections.

### Recommendation 2:

To continue promoting the awareness raising events and their content through the most popular information channels, taking due account of various socio-demographic groups' peculiarities.

## 06. Conclusion and recommendations

### Conclusion 3:

On the one hand, a significant percentage of voters (18%) are actually residing in a locality different from the one where they have their registered residence address; on the other hand, 26% are not aware of the right to submit an application to the electoral committee at the polling station in order to cast their vote in a locality different from the one where they have their registered residence.

### Recommendation 3:

To raise voters' awareness about this right; to streamline and facilitate the process of getting the right to vote in a locality different from the one's locality of residence.

### Conclusion 4:

The level of confidence in the transparency of financing the candidates and election campaigns registered among voters continues to be very low: only 17% believe the financing is transparent.

### Recommendation 4:

To strengthen the CEC capacity in terms of monitoring and controlling the financing of electoral candidates and electoral campaigns.  
To make public the findings of such controls.





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The opinions expressed in this Presentation belong to the authors (CIVIS) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the UNDP, the financing institution or the Government of the Republic of Moldova.