



**International Foundation
for Election Systems**

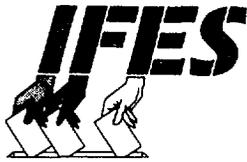
**Overview: National Surveys
of Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan**

November 29, 1995

This volume supercedes previously issued overview of findings.

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International Foundation for Election Systems

1101 15th STREET, N.W. • THIRD FLOOR • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 • (202) 828-8507 • FAX (202) 452-0804

November 29, 1995

Dear Colleague:

The International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), as part of its election administration and voter education support project for Central Asia, recently completed two public opinion surveys of 1,500 citizens of both Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan on a range of issues related to development of multi-party politics, legal reform, non-governmental organizations, and the election system in each country.

While IFES experts are continuing their analysis of the two data sets, some of the basic information presented in the enclosed report is being shared with government officials, scholars, non-governmental organization representatives, party leaders, and parliamentarians throughout the region. The findings have proven to be of particular interest as Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan prepare for elections in December.

We hope that you find the report to be useful in your work. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Soudriette
President

Enclosure: a/s

CSS/RWS

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KEY FINDINGS FROM
KAZAKSTAN NATIONWIDE SURVEY
FIELDWORK: JULY 9-29, 1995

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Pessimism is widespread about conditions. Three-fourths are dissatisfied with the situation in Kazakstan today, mostly for economic reasons, such as the worsening financial situation, inflation, delay in the payment of wages. Two-thirds state that conditions have deteriorated since independence.

No consensus on the declaration of independence. Among Kazaks the prevailing opinion is that the declaration was a "good thing," but Russians are more likely to see it as bad.

Most hope economy will improve by the year 2000.

- Few foresee economic improvements in the next year -- as many say the situation will worsen (35%), as believe it will remain the same (32%) and 23% predict economy will improve.
- By the year 2000, a slim majority (51%) predict economic conditions will have improved.
- Public opinion results do not predict what direction the public wants the economy to take -- half would return to an economy fully controlled by the state, and 37% want limited government involvement.

Most do not foresee strife between national groups. Large majority (71%) believe that relations among national groups will remain stable for a long time. This prediction is more widely expressed by Kazaks (84%) than by Russians (60%).

No consensus on curtailing freedoms.

- As many agree (44%) as disagree (45%) that to have order and discipline it is necessary to limit political and civil rights.

- Half (56%) reject the proposition that a dictatorship is necessary, but a sizeable proportion (37%) agree.

Public feels insufficiently informed about developments.

- Half (49%) say they have a fair amount of information about political developments, but two in five (42%) say they have little or no information.
- On economic reforms, by a slim margin more believe they have (47%) than lack information (43%).

Western countries are seen as models. Germany (18%) is most frequently named, followed by the United States (11%), Turkey (9%) and Russia (9%). A few (only 4%) say that no country is a model.

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

Democracy is equated with freedoms. When asked “what it means to live in a democracy,” most define it as a society which observes human rights (26%) and permits personal freedoms and the freedom of choice (16%). Many Kazaks and Russians also define it as living in an independent state (Kazaks- 17%, and Russians- 20%).

Lukewarm support for non-governmental organizations.

- Half state that the environment in Kazakhstan is conducive to the formation of citizen’s organizations without government involvement. The rest reject this view (25%) or express no opinion (23%)
- Half of the general public believe that it is necessary to have citizens freely associate and form organizations without the involvement of the government.

Political parties have very limited appeal.

- A slim majority (55%) favor a multiparty system. A third, however, believe that there should only be a single party (23%) or “no party at all” (7%).
- None of the parties attract a sizeable following. Identification with any one political party is in single digits (9% or less), with the exception of the Movement Nevada-Semipalatinsk -- among Kazaks, 13% identify with this party.

- This low level of identification with parties probably reflects a negative, maybe hostile, view of political parties. Among the public, a definite majority (58%) prefer to vote for an independent candidate. Only one-in-five (19%) would vote for a party-affiliated candidate.
- Large majorities (ranging from 69% to 85%) believe that labor unions, community organizations and political parties should have the right to nominate candidates for the Supreme Soviet.

Most vote, but few feel empowered.

- There is broad participation in elections (69% say they voted in March 1994; 73% in the referendum). Voting is seen as a duty, not a privilege or a process whereby citizens can affect decision-making.
- As many say voting gives citizens a means to influence decisions as reject this proposition (42% to 46%). Kazaks and Russians differ on this issue -- half of Kazaks see voting as empowerment, while half of Russians reject this notion.
- Many voters apparently do not vote only for themselves -- a plurality witnessed one person casting votes for others (29%) or themselves engaged in this practice (14%).
- The appearance of the ballot appears not to present any problems. Few (5%) see it as confusing, or favoring a particular candidate; most (71%) agree that the ballot did not indicate a preference for any candidate.

Most say that election officials are the same as before independence: Three-fourths agree that elections are managed by the same people who ran things before independence (42% say "all of the election officials are the same people" and 34% say "some were new, some old"). Only a few (8%) say elections are run by new people.

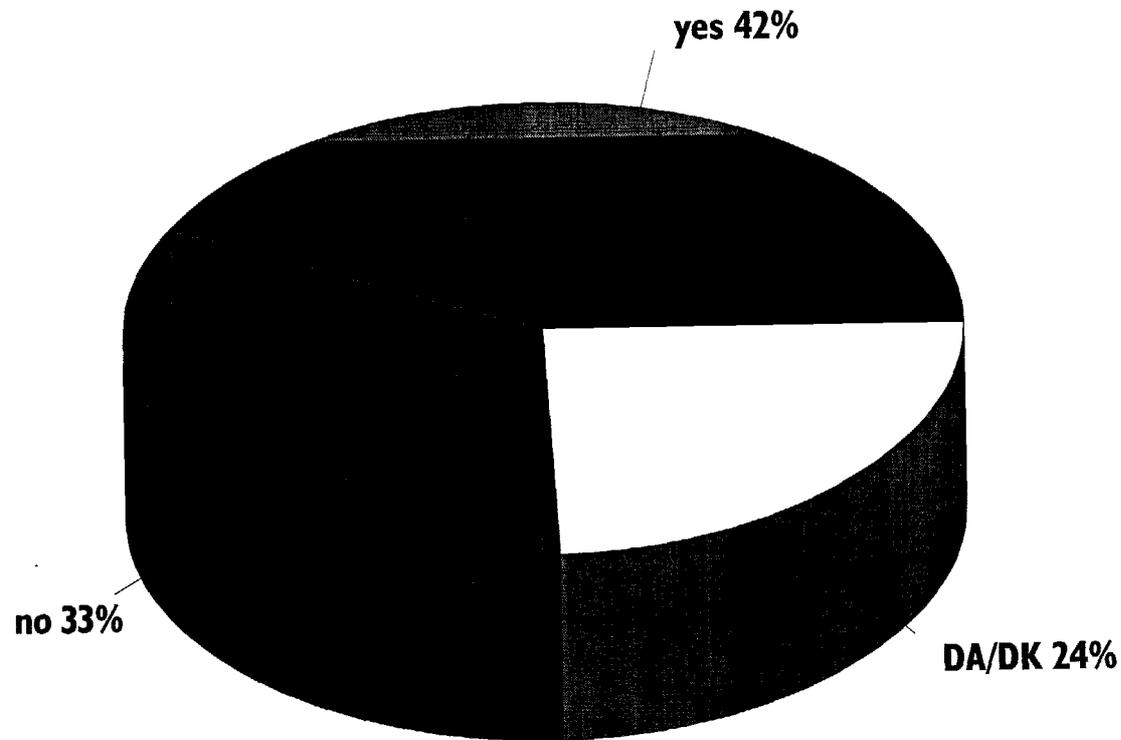
VIEWS OF YOUNG ADULTS (urbanites aged 18-24)

Compared with the general public, young adults are:

- **More optimistic** about conditions since independence: Two out of five (40%) see life as having remained the same or improved; over half (57%) say the situation has worsened (67% of the general public say conditions have worsened).
- **More dissatisfied** with the observance of human rights and political freedom.
- **Less willing** to trade personal freedoms for order --two-thirds reject the notion that order requires limiting political and civil rights or establishing a dictatorship.
- **Reject** a state-controlled economy. Albeit by the small margin, young adults favor limited government involvement rather than a return to an economy of state control (46% limited to 38% full state control; opinion divides roughly evenly among the general public.
- **Supportive** of non-governmental organizations. Two-thirds consider it necessary to have organizations without government involvement.
- **Endorse** a multiparty systems -- 70% see many parties constituting an ideal (54% of the general public hold this view).
- **More extensively identify** with a political party. Four parties have a following in two digits, the Movement Nevada-Semipalatinsk in the lead (identified by 23% of young Kazaks and 14% of young Russians); in second place, each attracting around 10% of Kazaks and Russians, are the Democratic Committee on Human Rights and The Party of Peoples Unity of Kazakstan; around 10% of Kazaks also Identify with Zheltoksan.
- **Do not accept** voting as empowerment: By more than a two-to-one margin, young Russians reject the proposition that voting gives the public influence on decisions; opinion is divided among young Kazaks.
- **More frequently witness** multiple votes cast by one person: A definite majority report seeing people voting on behalf of others (59%) or themselves participating in such a practice (30%).

Is Kazakhstan a Democracy?

Less than half think, "Kazakhstan is a Democracy."

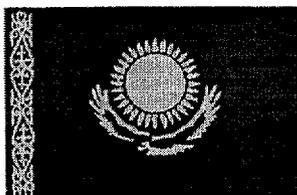
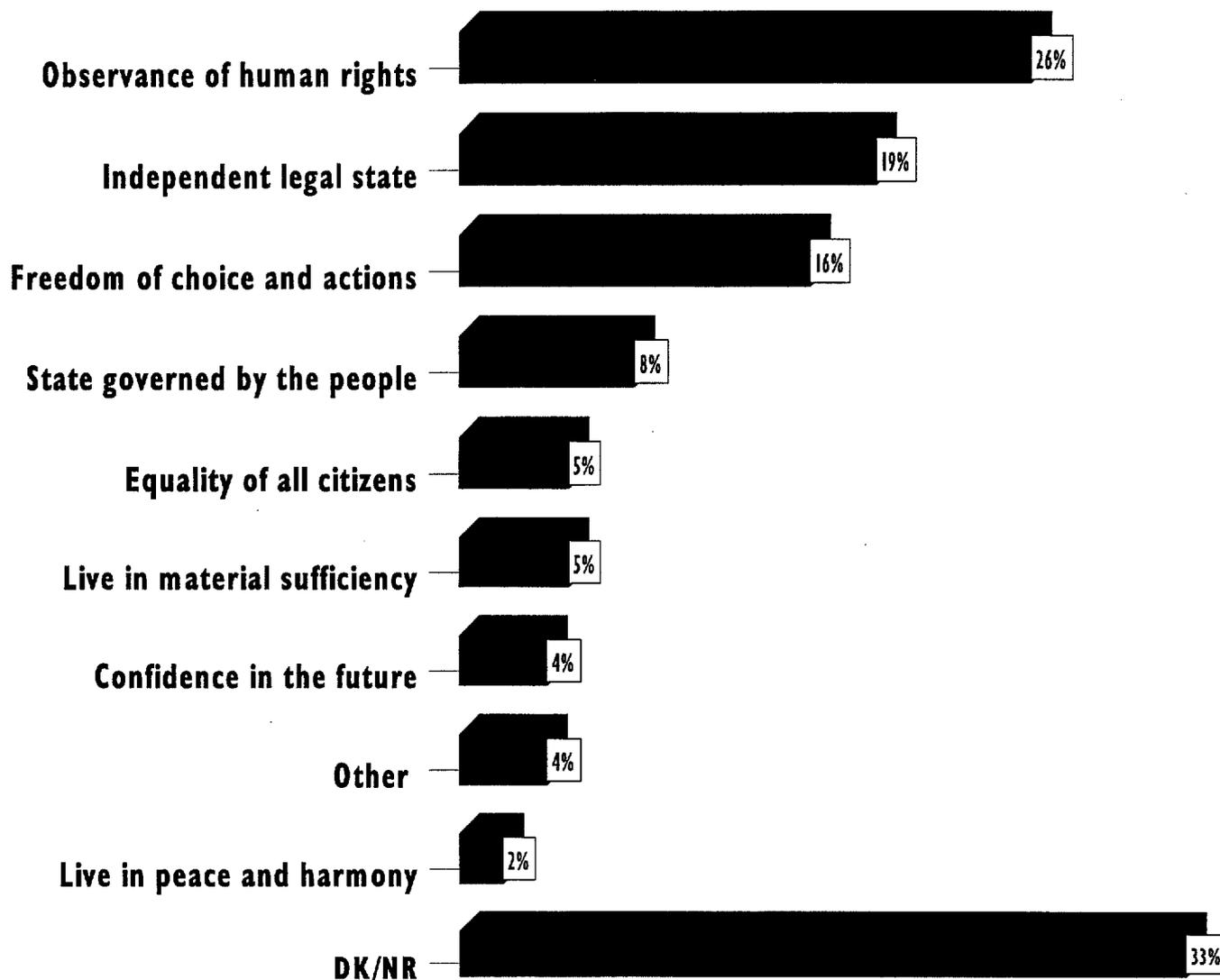


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1500 face-to-face interviews conducted nationwide 9-29 July 1995 by the Giller Institute. Margin of error is +/- 2.2%. For more information contact: IFES, 1101 15th Street, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC. (202) 828-8507; Fax: (202) 452-0804



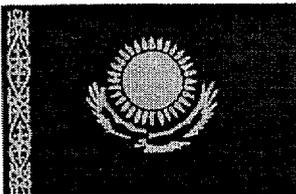
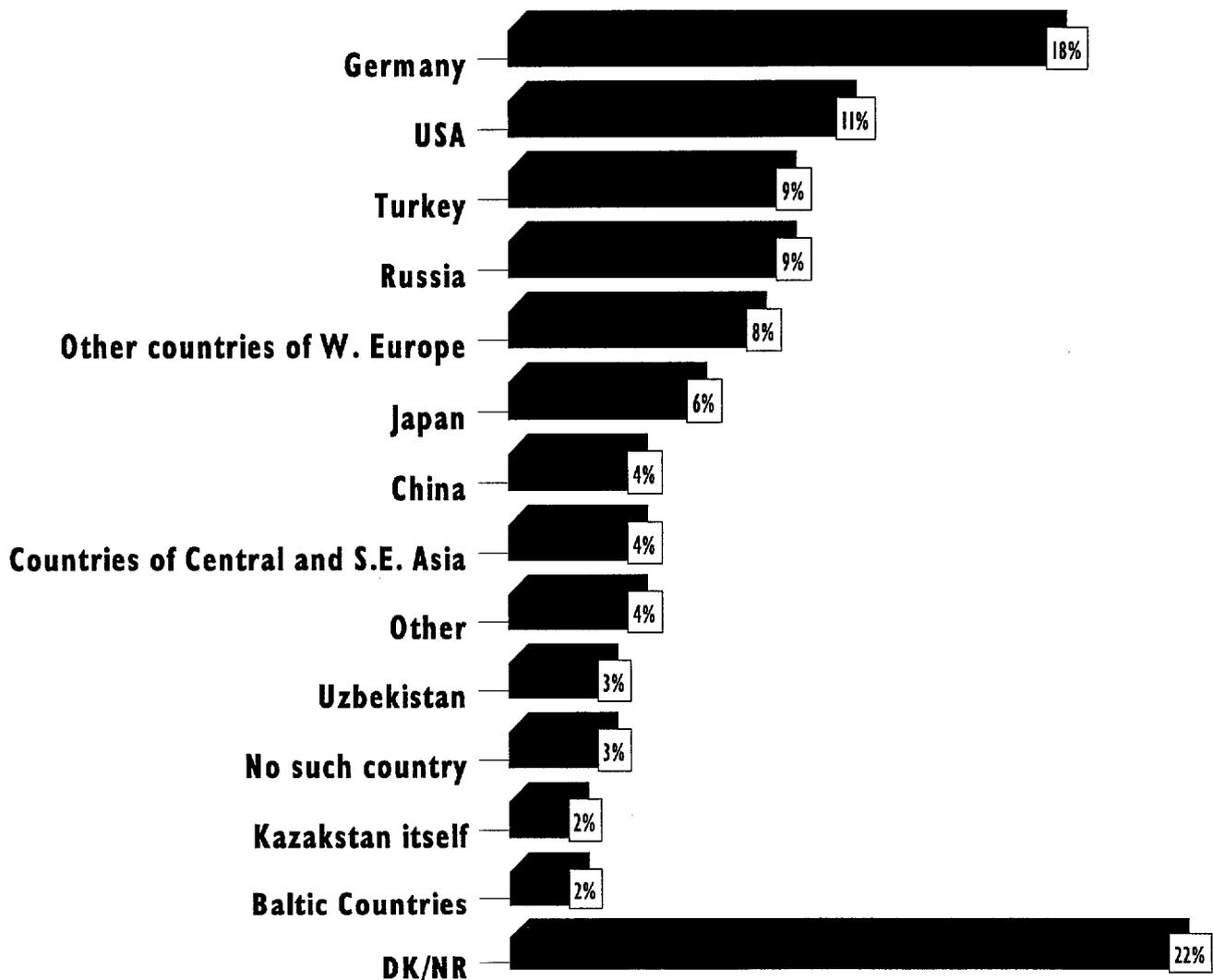
Life in a democracy means

Responses to the question "What does it mean to you to live in a democracy?"



Models for development

Responses to the open-ended question "Which foreign country could be a model for Kazakhstan's development?"

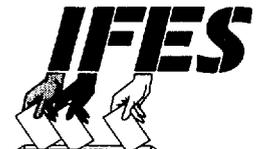
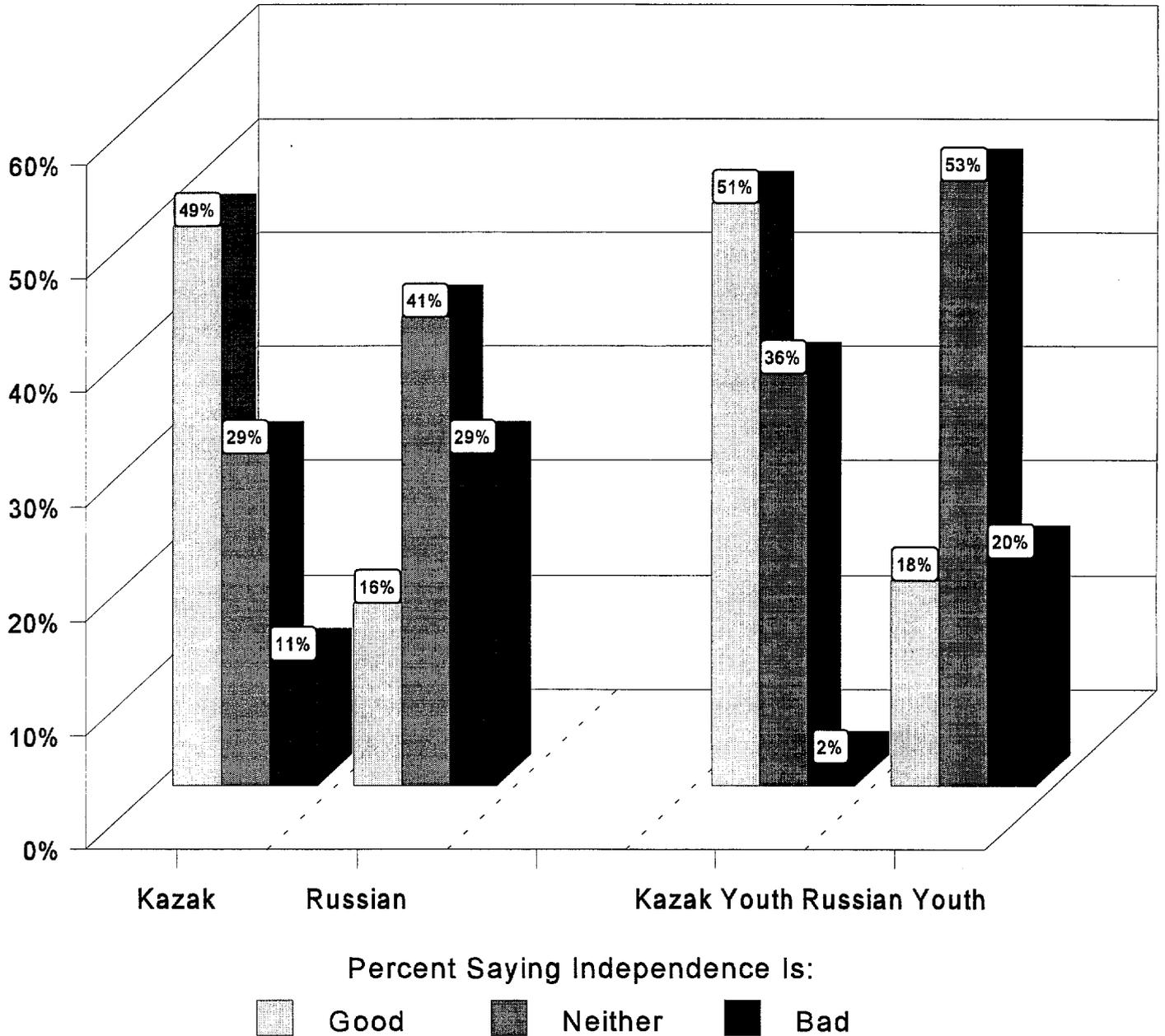


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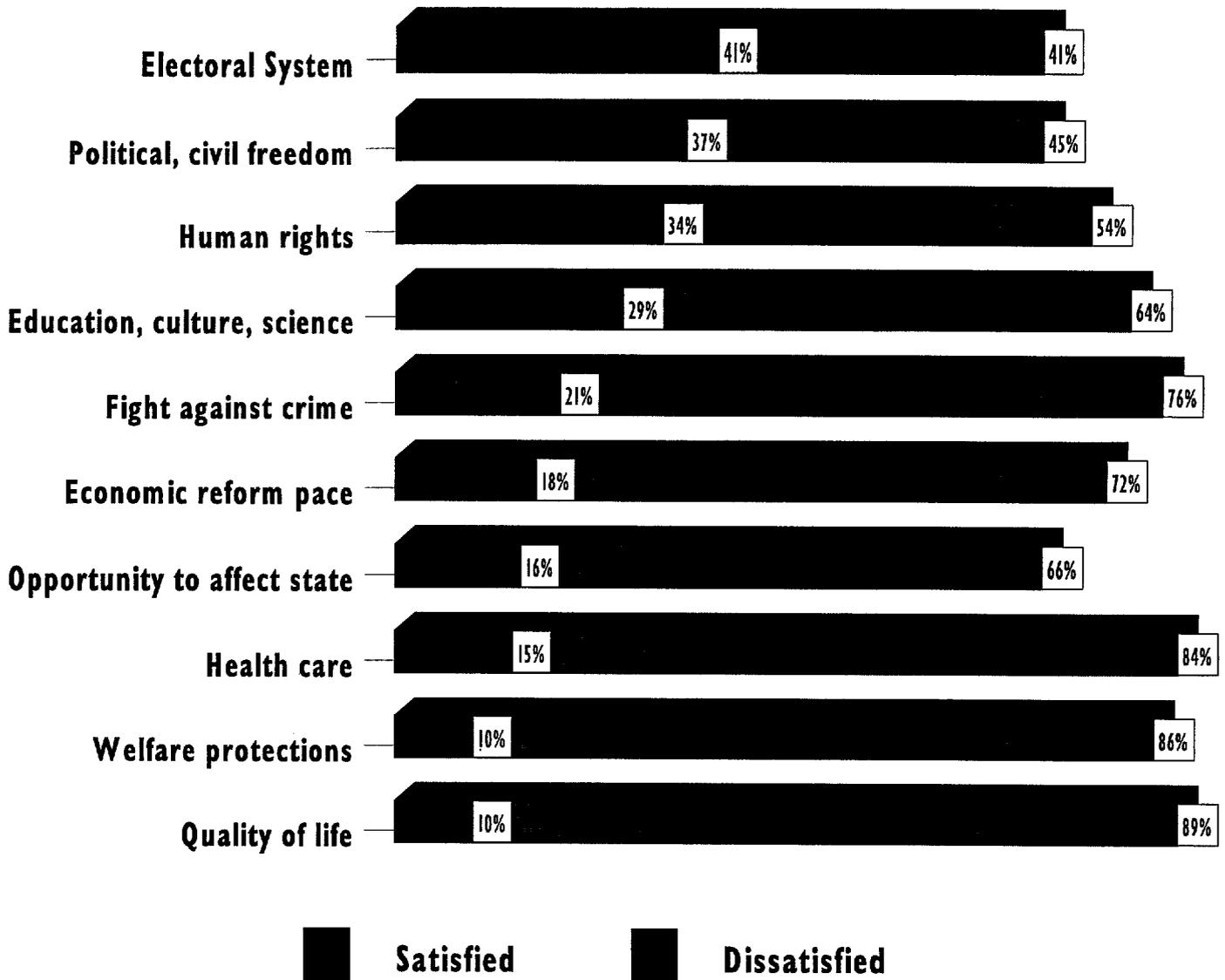
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Independence: Good or Bad

VIEWS ON INDEPENDENCE



Satisfaction with...



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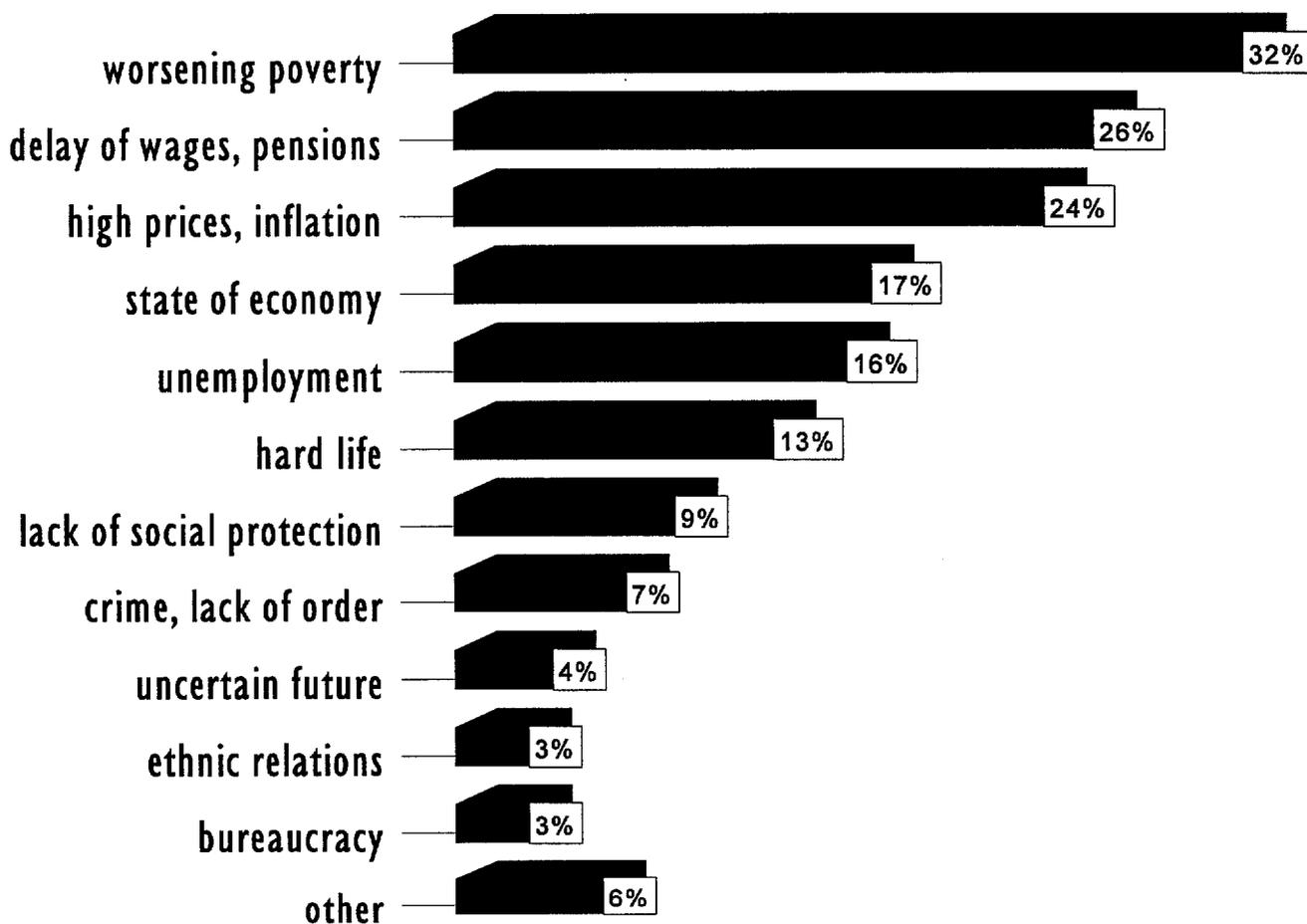
Reasons for satisfaction with the Kazakstani situation

Responses to the open-ended question: "What are some of the reasons why you said you are satisfied with the situation in Kazakstan today?"



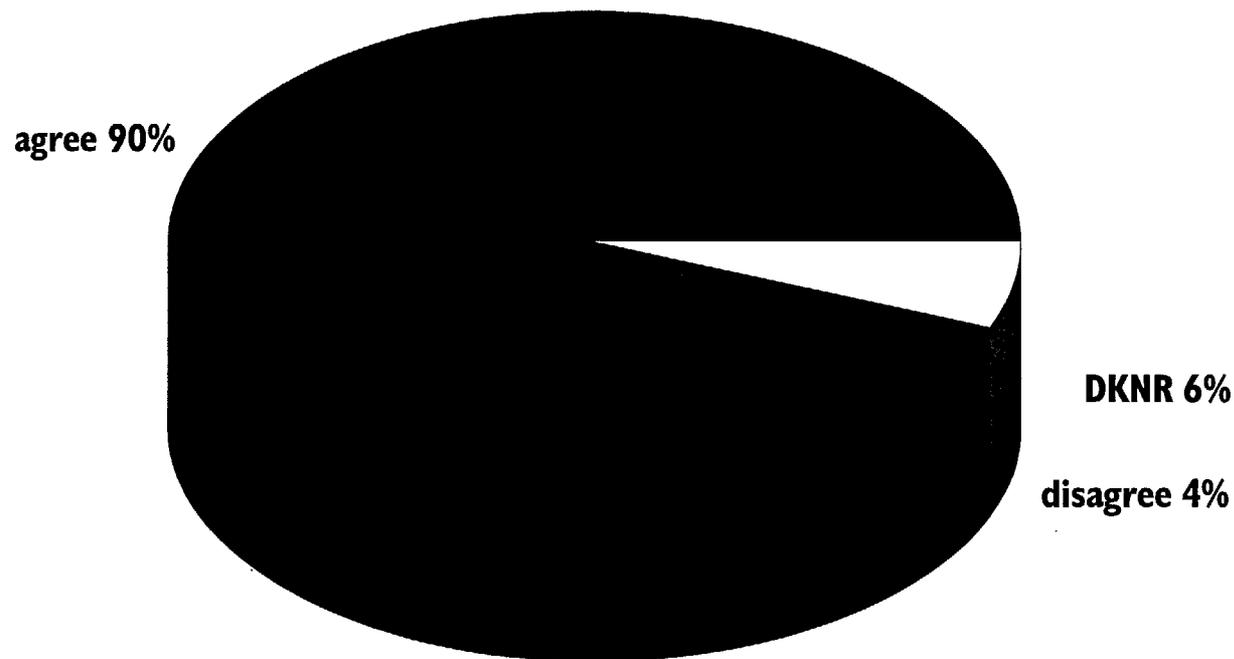
Reasons for dissatisfaction with the Kazakhstan situation

Responses to the open-ended question: "What are some of the reasons why you said you are dissatisfied with the situation in Kazakhstan today?"



Educate youth about Democracy

9 out of 10 agree: "We must educate our young people about the democratic process so that they can help make good decisions about our future."

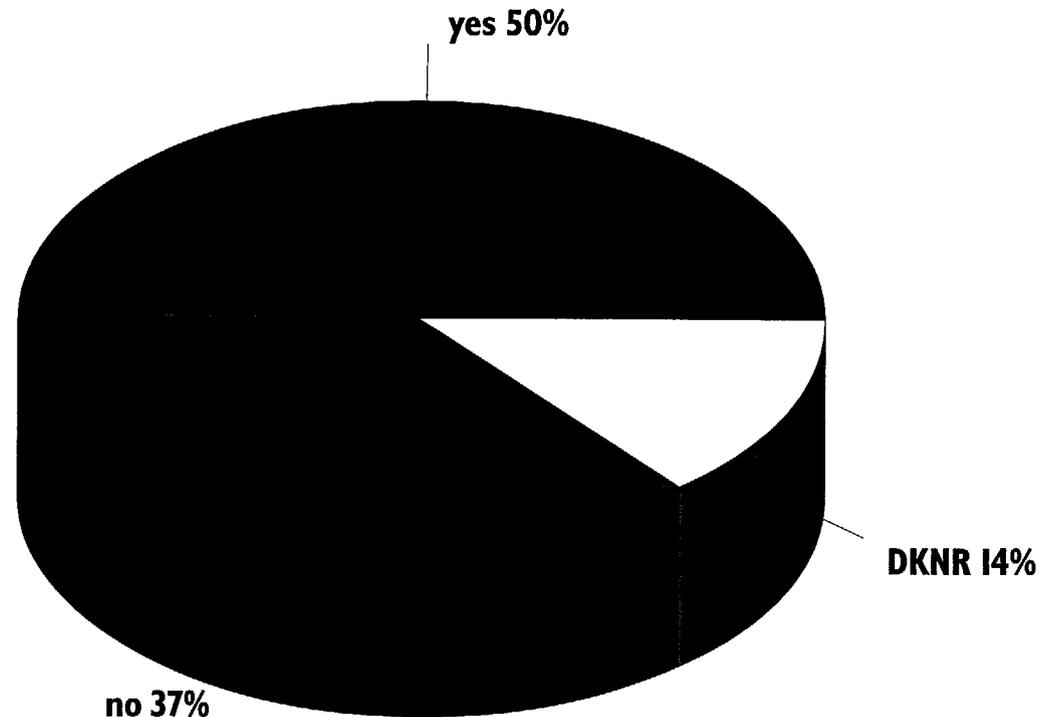


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Possible to unite into unions, associations?

Half agree that “yes, it is possible for citizens of Kazakhstan to unite into associations and unions, to improve their living conditions, without state participation.”



YOUTH OVERSAMPLING

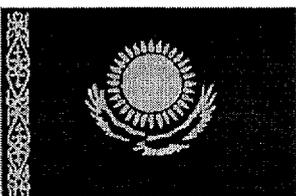
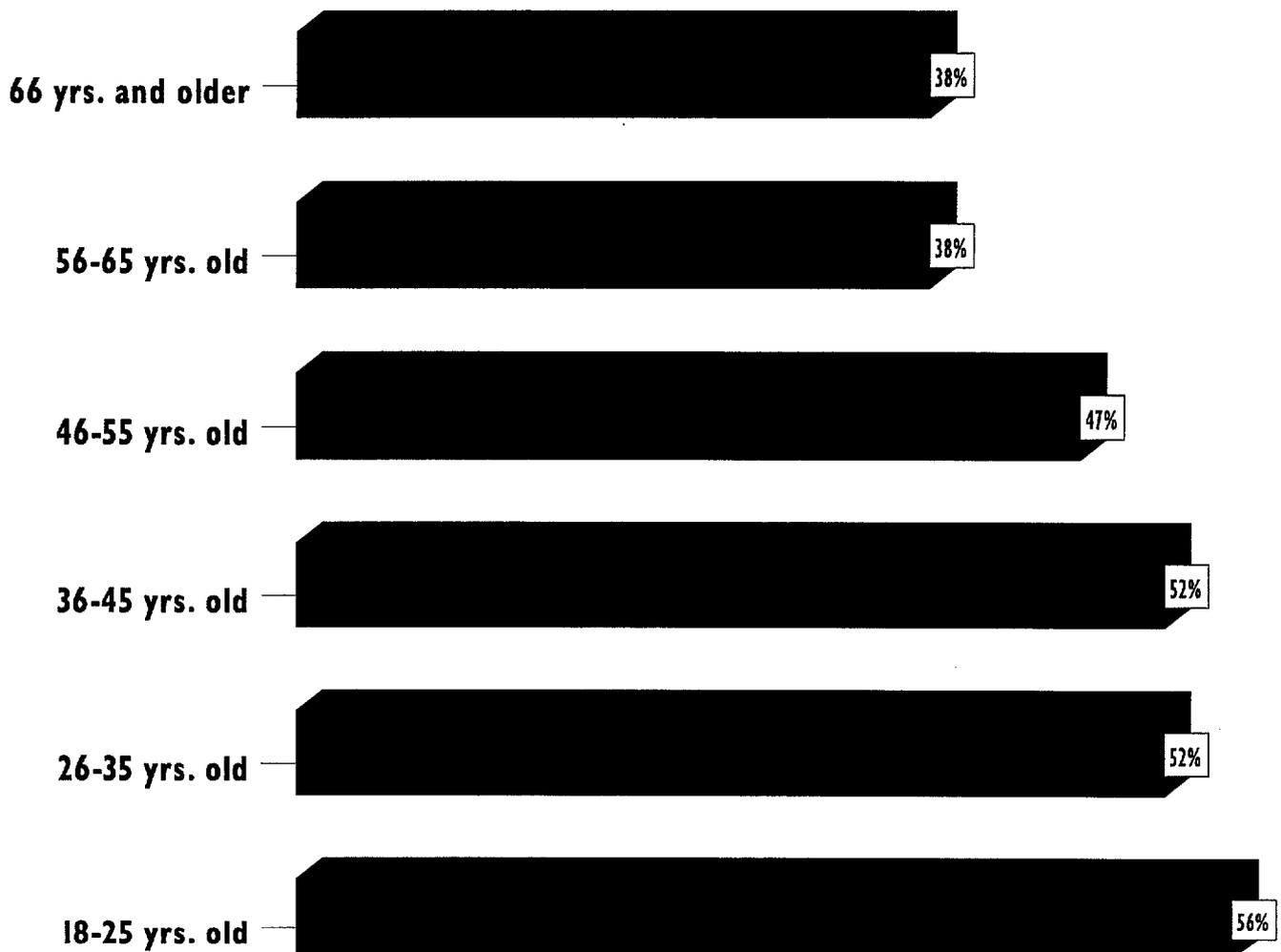
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Are civic organizations necessary?

Percentage of those in various age groups who agree that civic organizations are necessary in Kazakhstan.

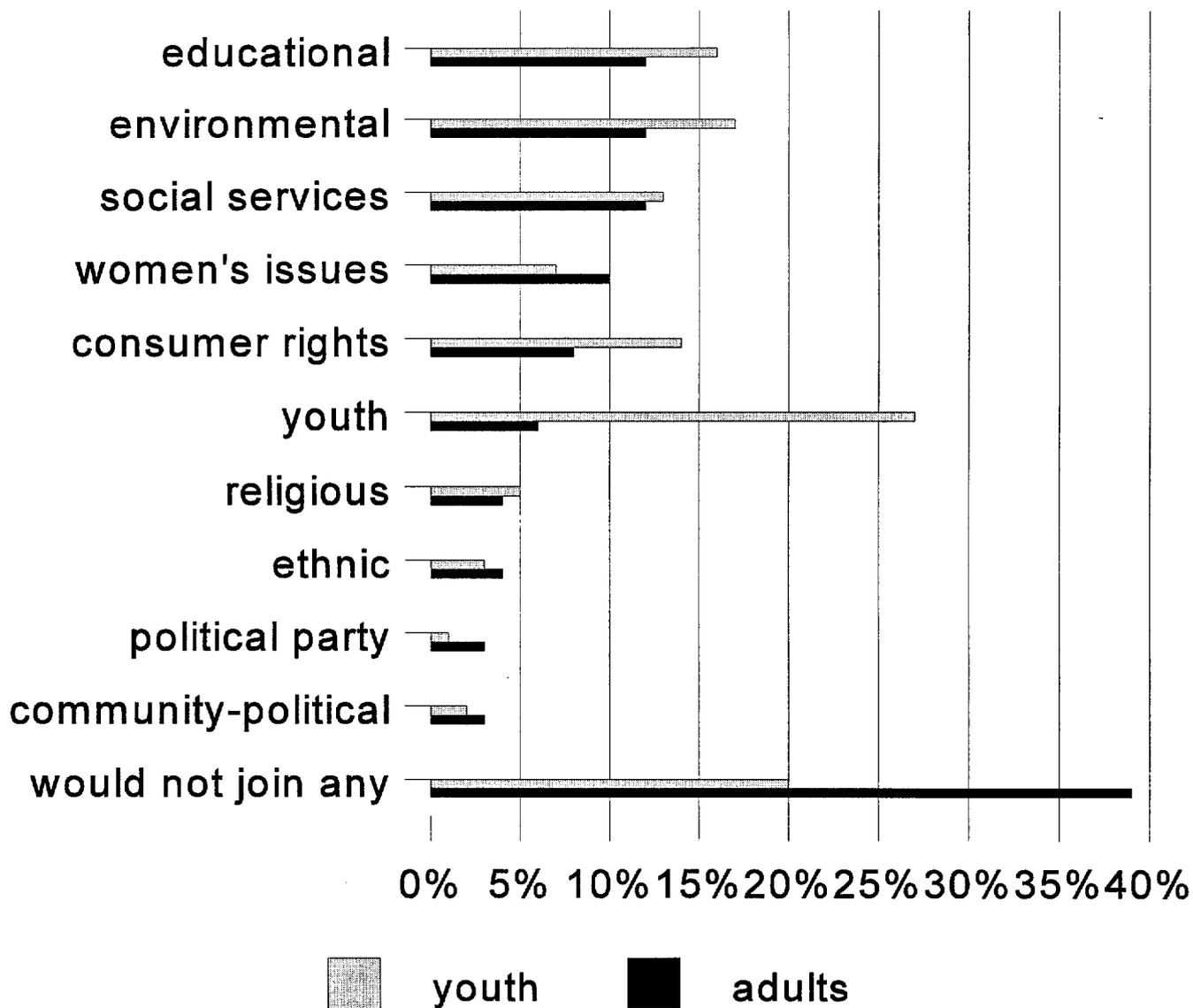


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Interest in community organizations

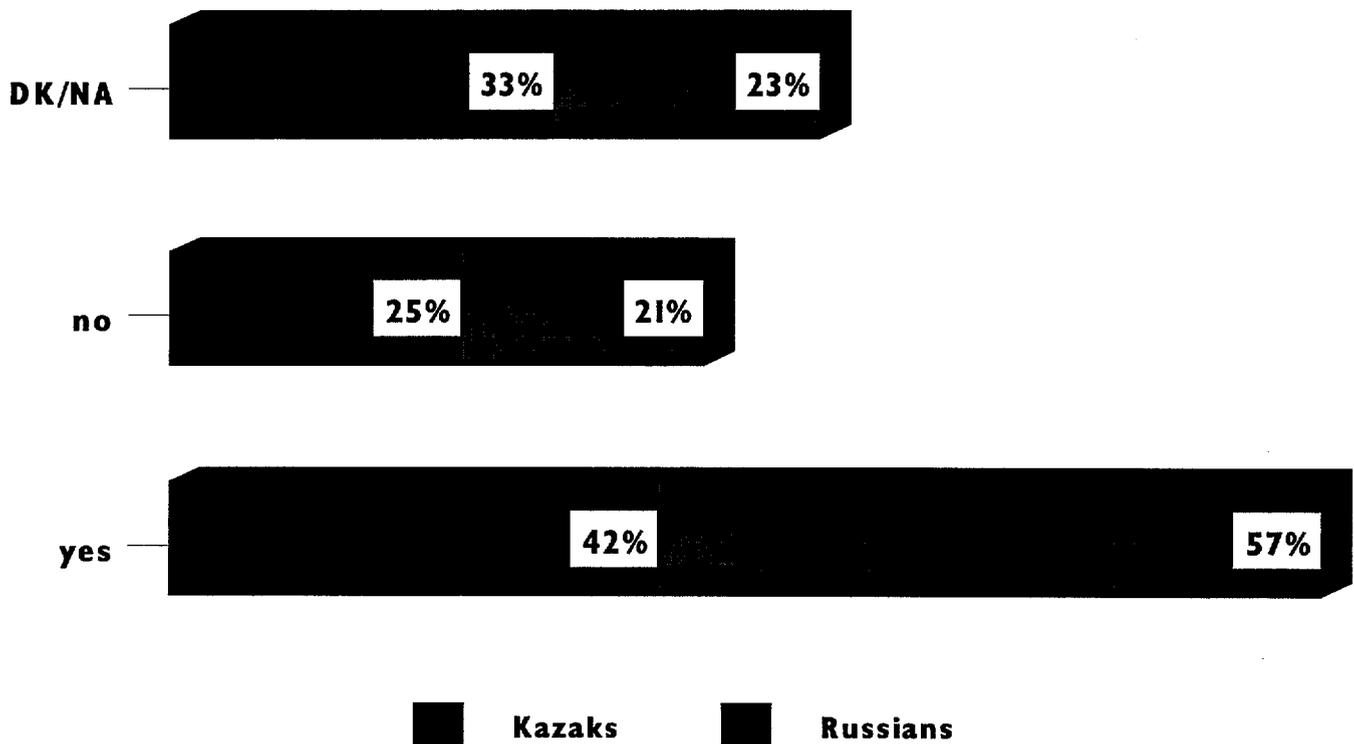
Responses to the question: "Which type of organization would you join?"



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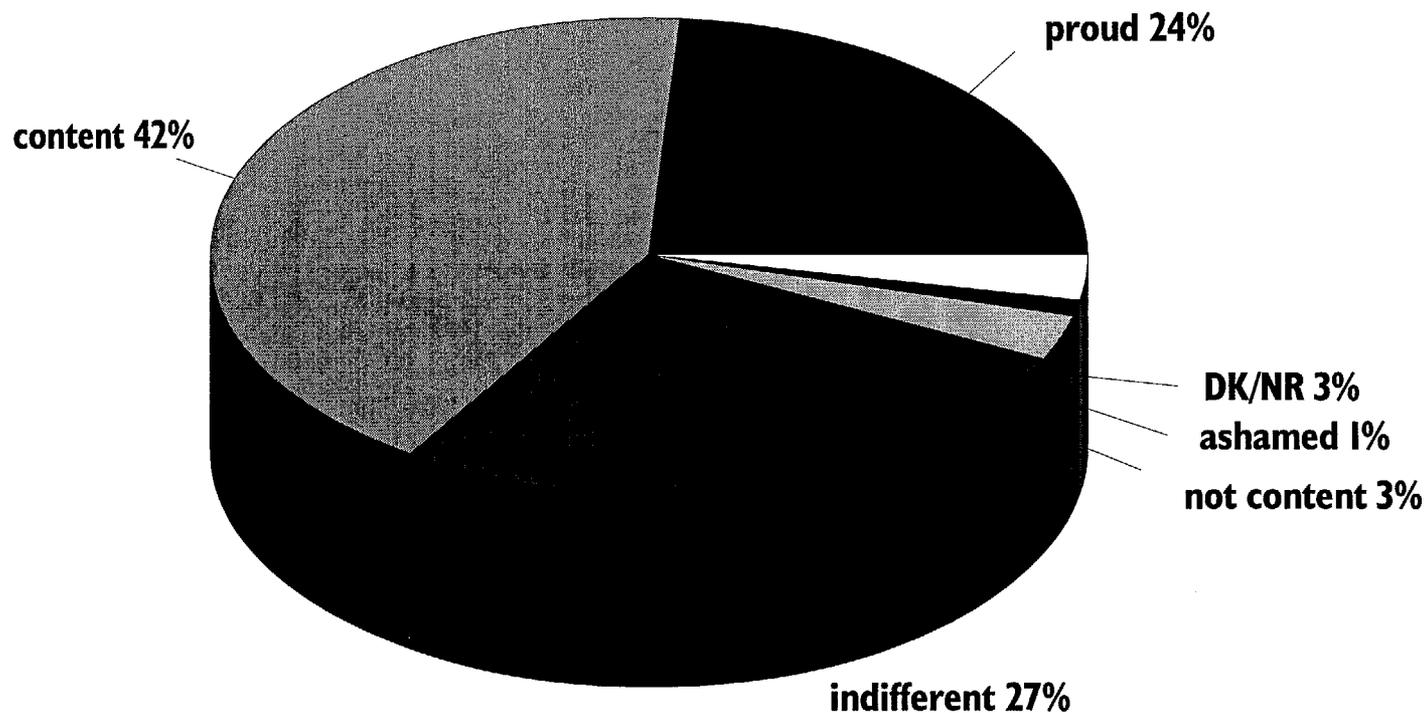
Value of civic organizations

More than half of Russians living in Kazakhstan think civic organizations are necessary. A large percentage of Kazaks also agree.



Level of pride among citizens

6 out of 10 are "proud" or "content" about their Kazakhstan citizenship.

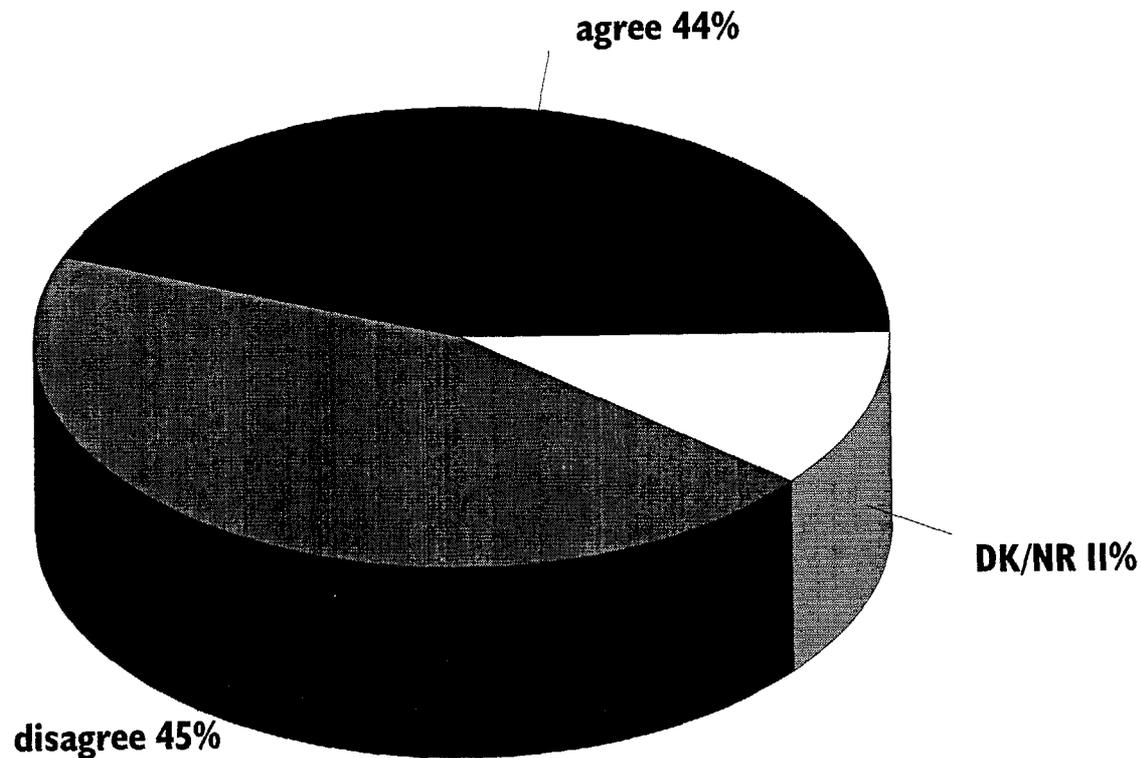


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Do not limit the rights of the people

Opinion is divided whether "it is necessary to limit the political and civic rights of the people in order to establish order and discipline."



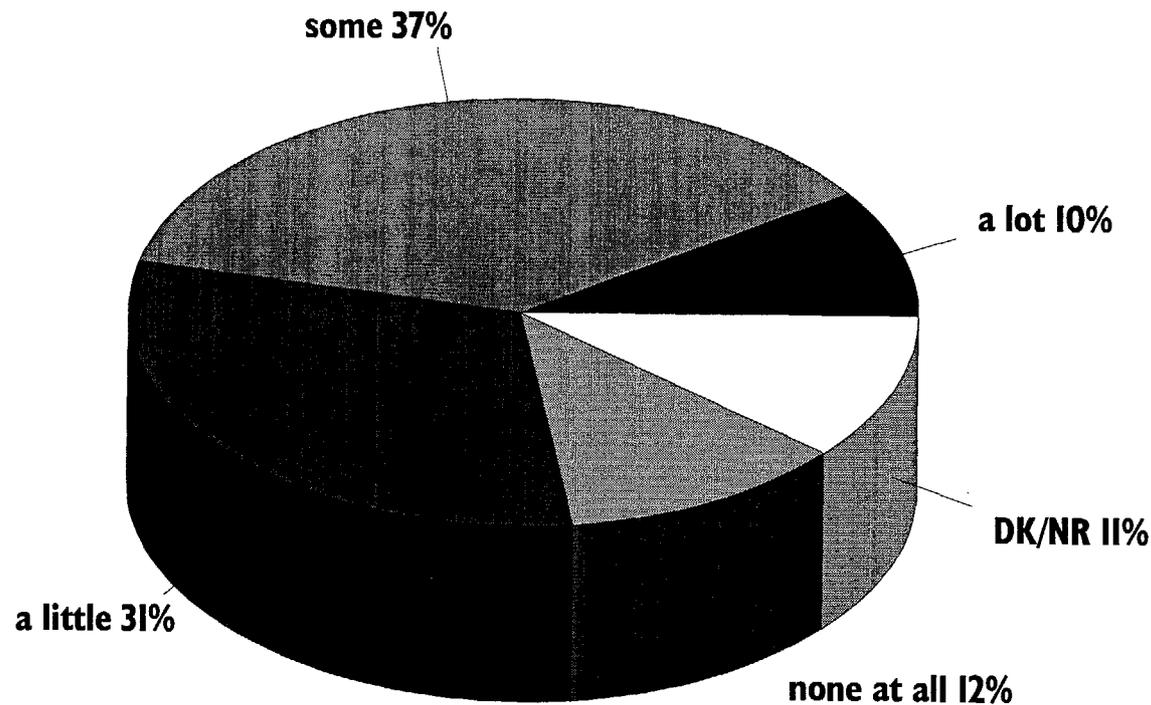
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Respect for individual civil rights

There is a wide split in opinion on how much respect there is for individual civil rights now in Kazakhstan.

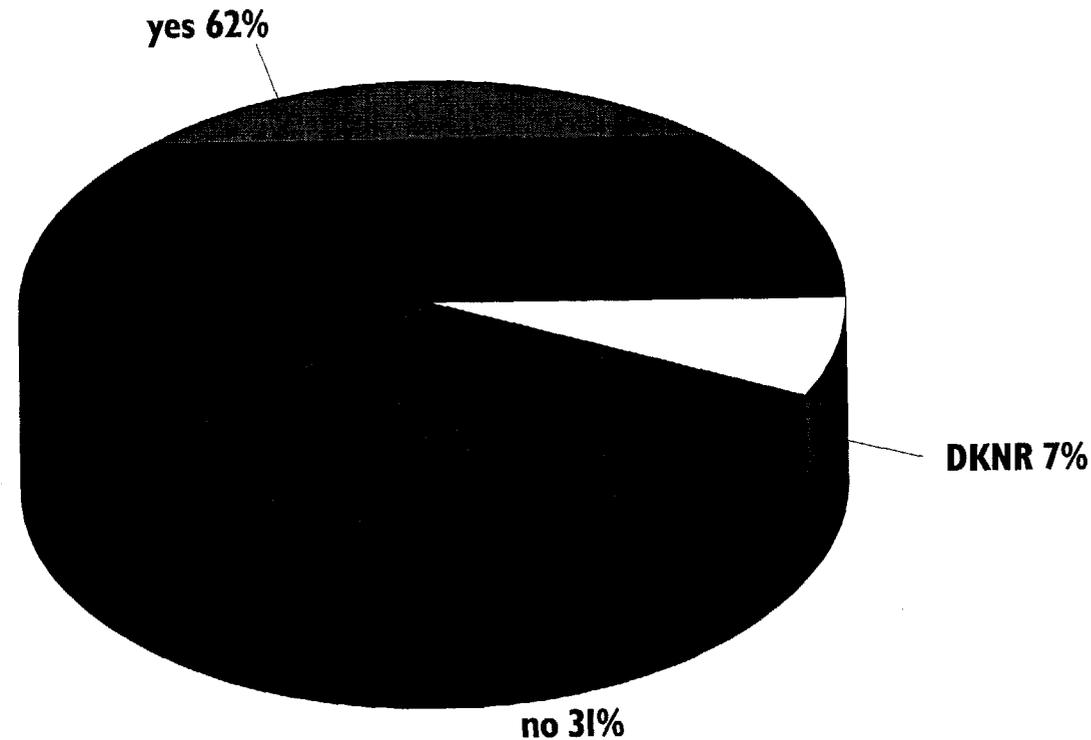


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Kazak: the national language?

More than 6 out of 10 agree that "we should encourage everyone to speak Kazak in our country."

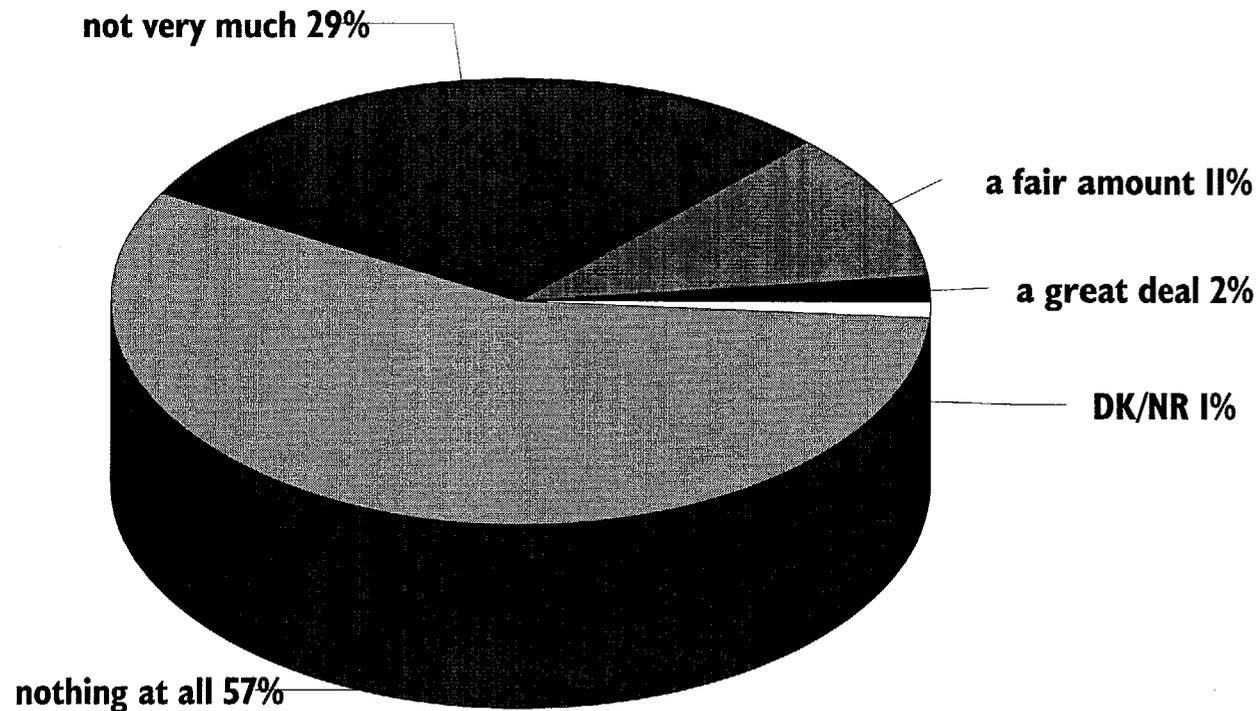


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Central Election Commission

Almost 6 out of 10 have never heard of the Central Election Commission.

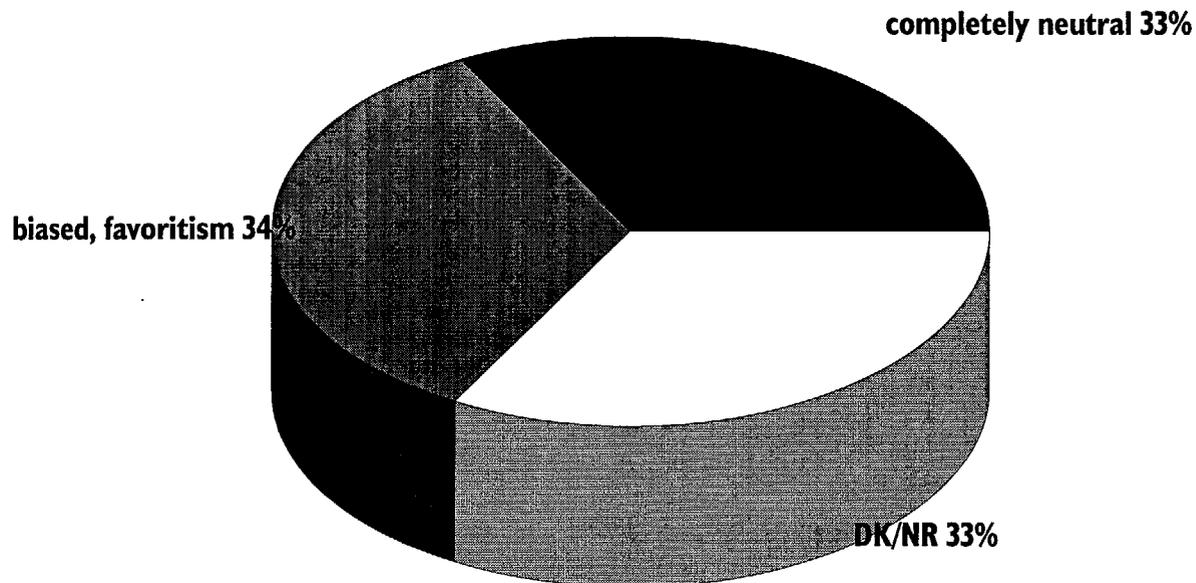


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Opinion on the Election Commission

Of those responding, a roughly equal split exists between those who believe the Central Election Commission is a completely neutral body, and those who think it makes decisions in favor of candidates the government supports.



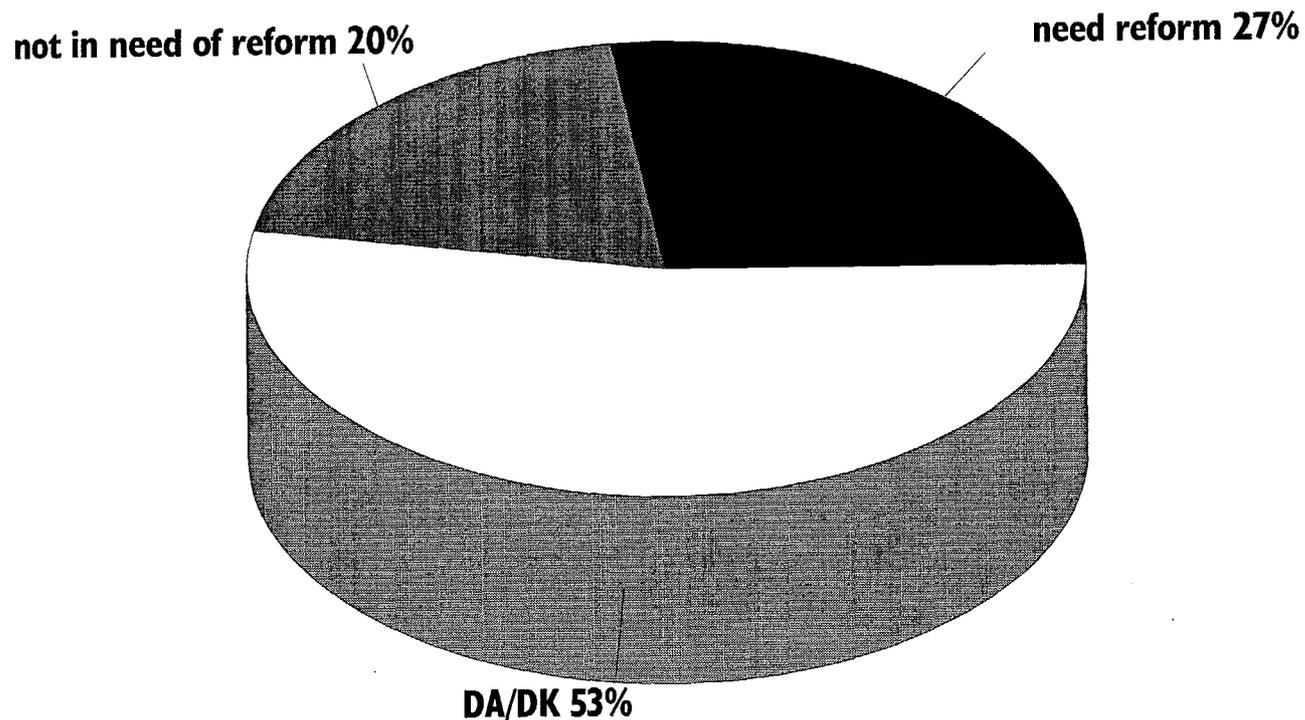
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Election law reform needed

Only 1 in 5 thinks the election laws of Kazakhstan “are not in need of reform.”

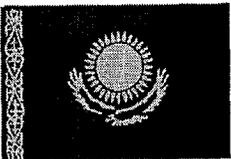
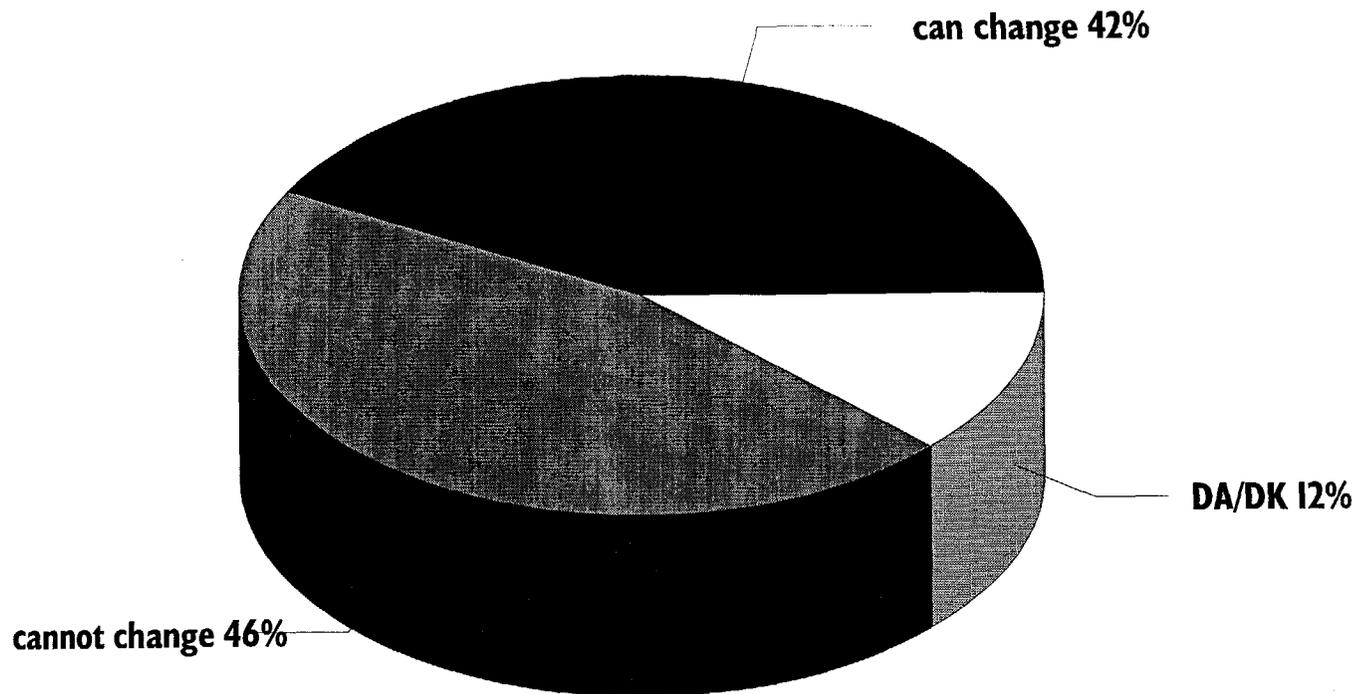


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Can elections change the country?

Nearly half believe "the people of Kazakhstan cannot change the situation in the country by participating in elections."

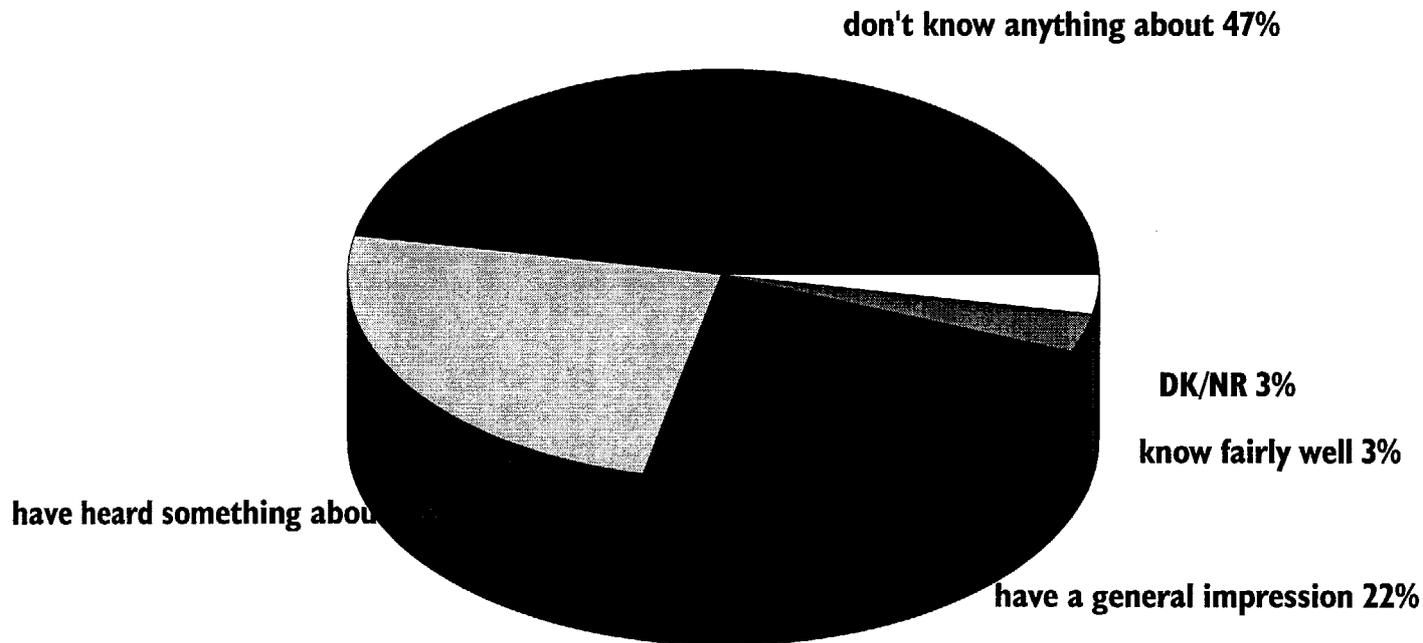


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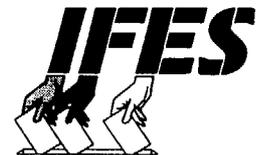
Knowledge of election laws

Almost half “don’t know anything about the election laws of Kazakhstan.”



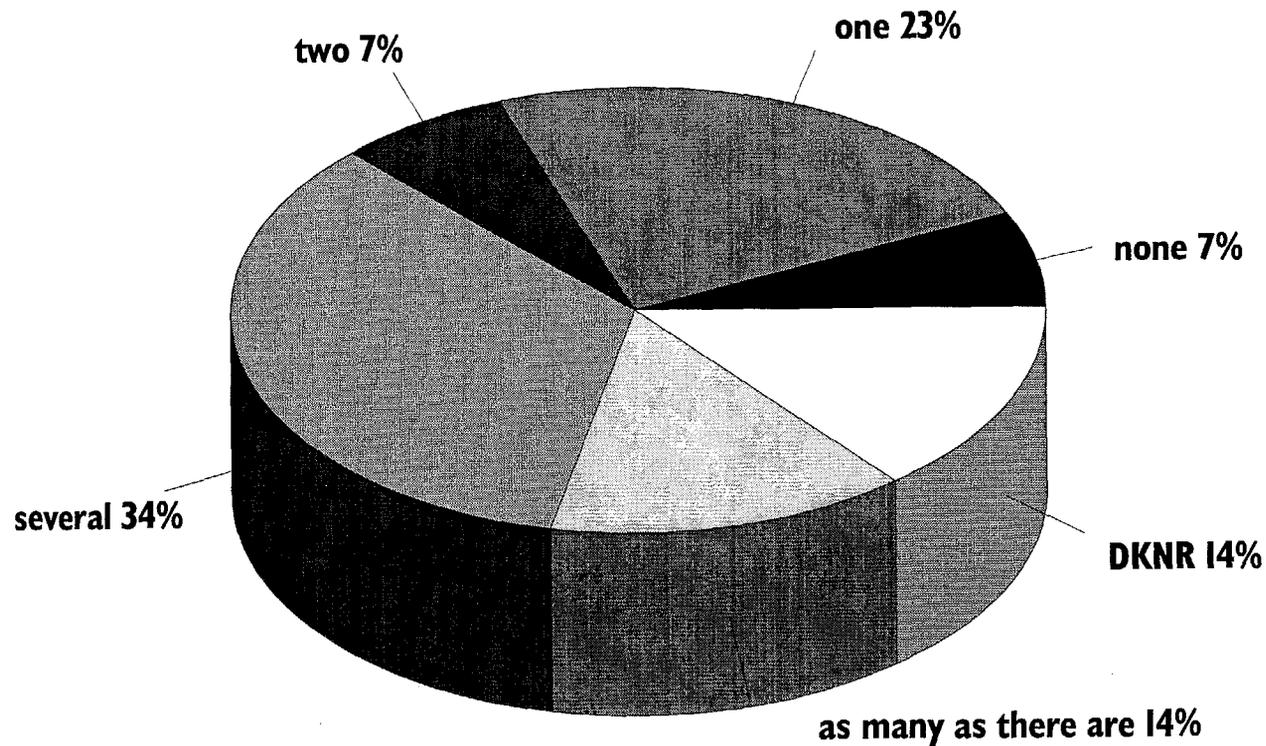
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Ideal number of political parties

Most want two or more political parties.

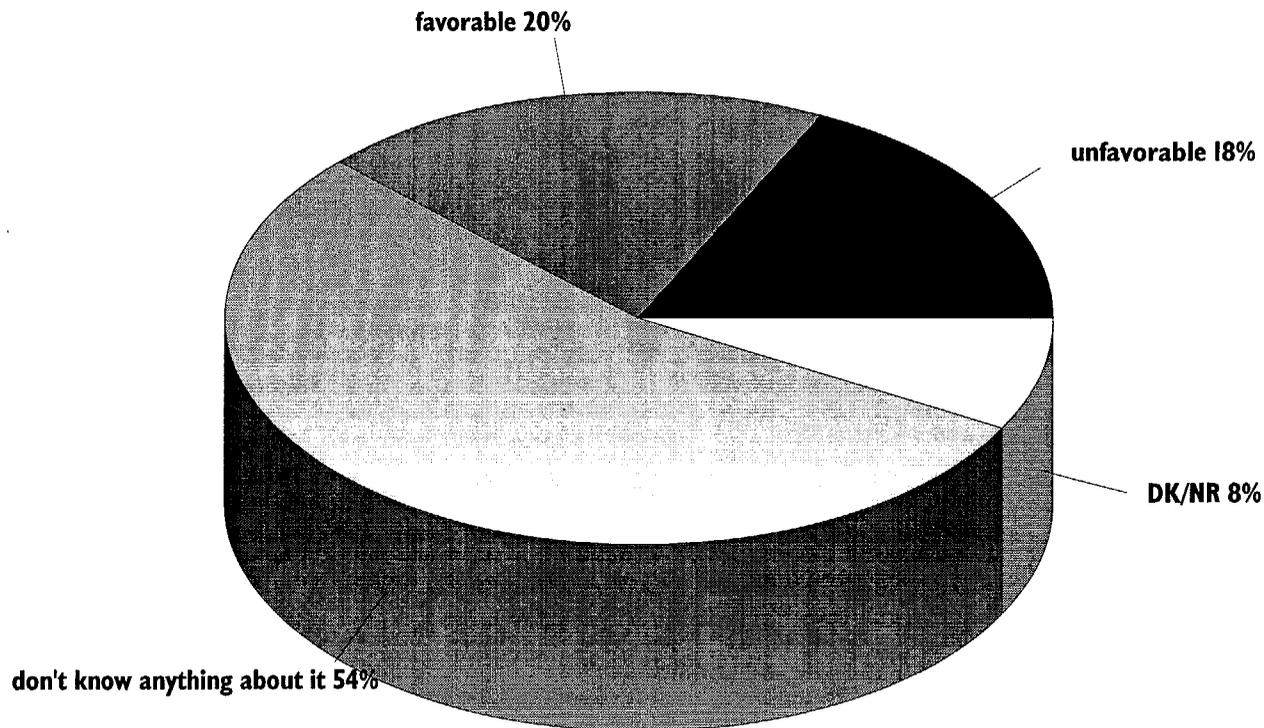


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Few Know Communist Party

More than half “do not know anything about” the present-day Communist Party.

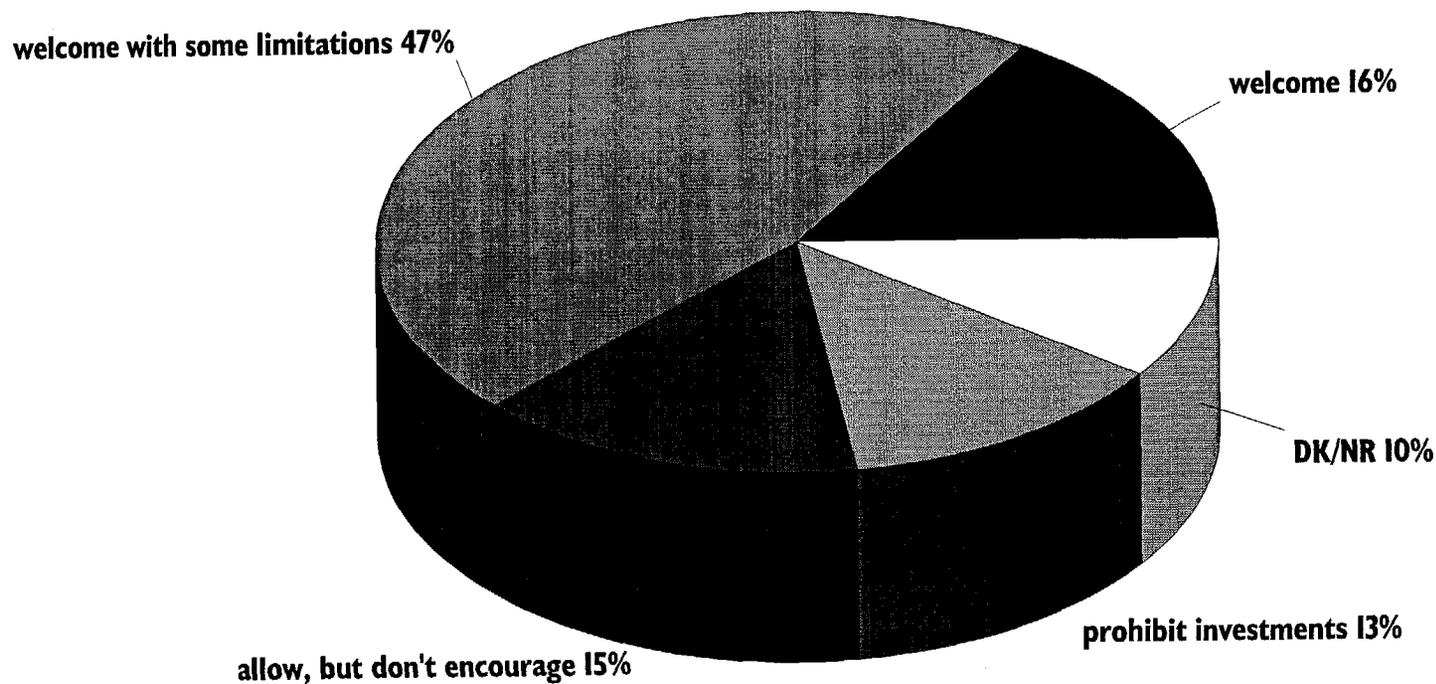


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Foreign investments are welcome in Kazakhstan

Two-thirds believe Kazakhstan should welcome foreign investment.



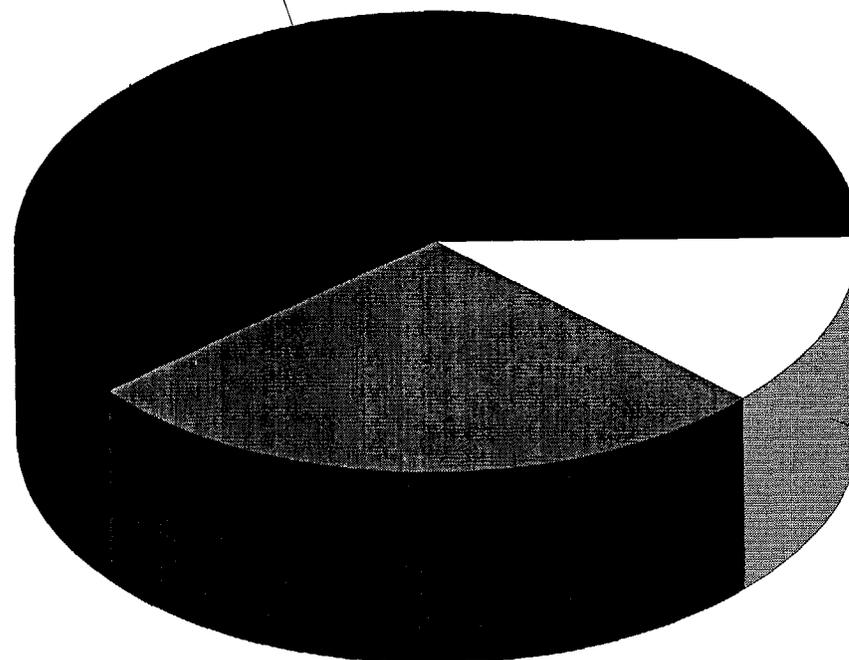
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Rate of change to a free economy

6 in 10 believe Kazakhstan should get to a free market economy through steady, smaller reforms, instead of as quickly as possible.

steady, smaller reforms 61%



DK/NR 12%

as quickly as possible 27%

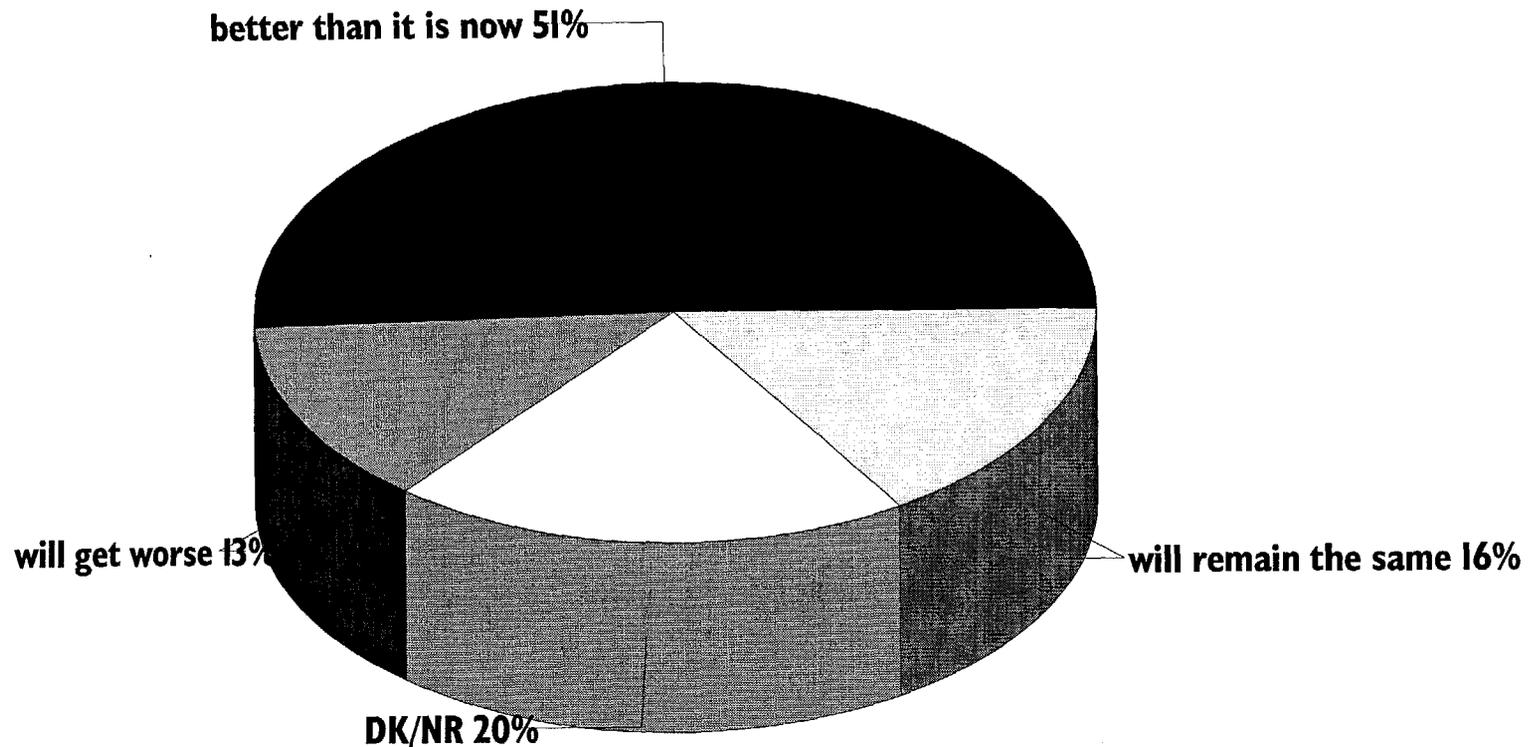


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Optimism on economic future

Half believe the economic situation in Kazakhstan will be "better than it is now" by the year 2000.

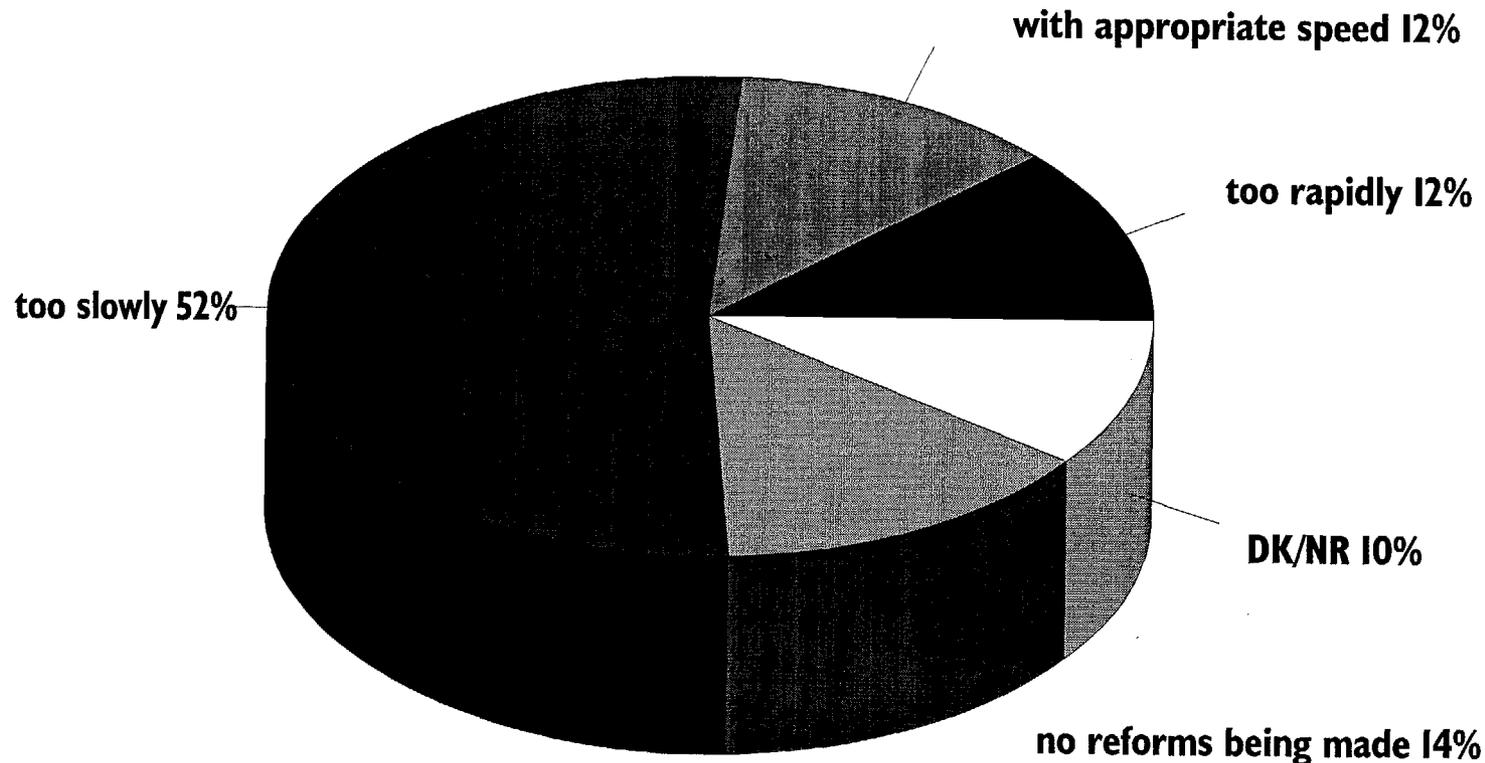


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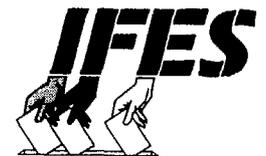
88

Pace of economic reforms

Almost 7 in 10 believe “economic reforms are made too slowly,” or are not being made.



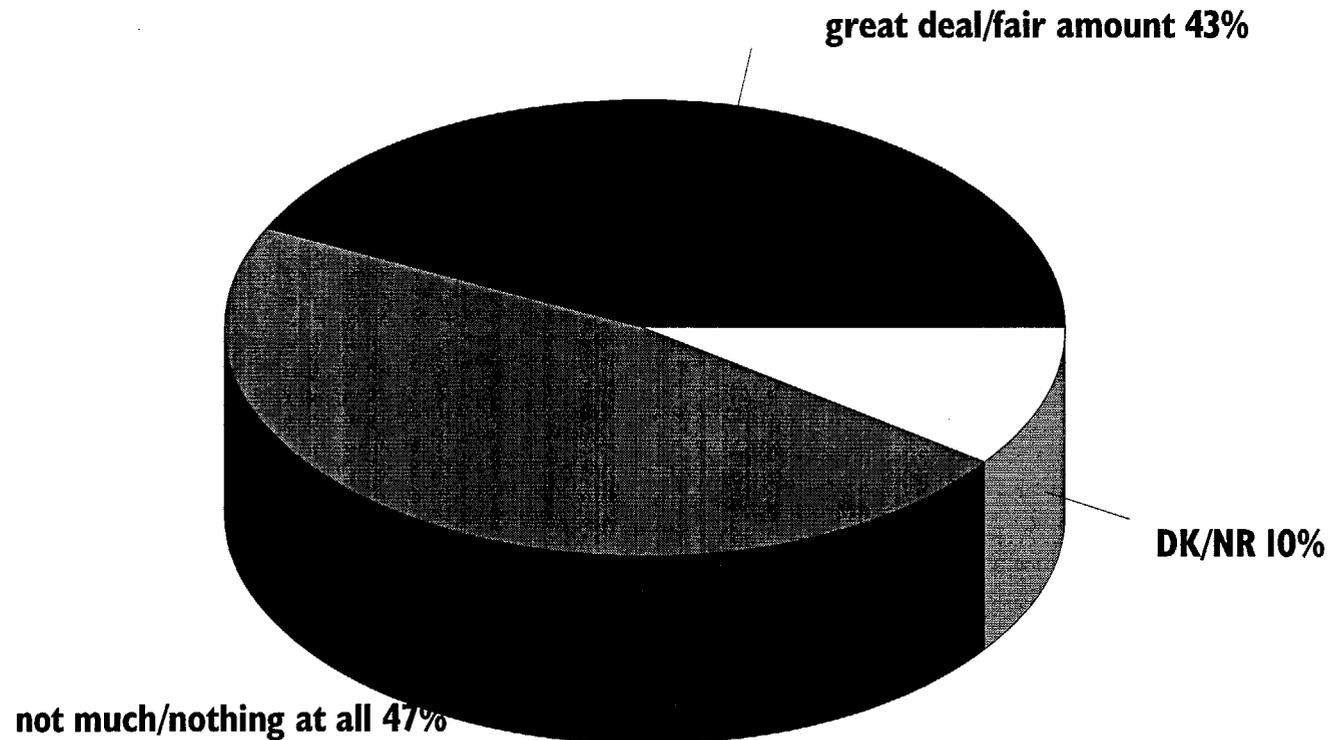
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Few know of market reforms

Only 4 in 10 have a “great deal” or a “fair amount” of information about “free market reforms.”

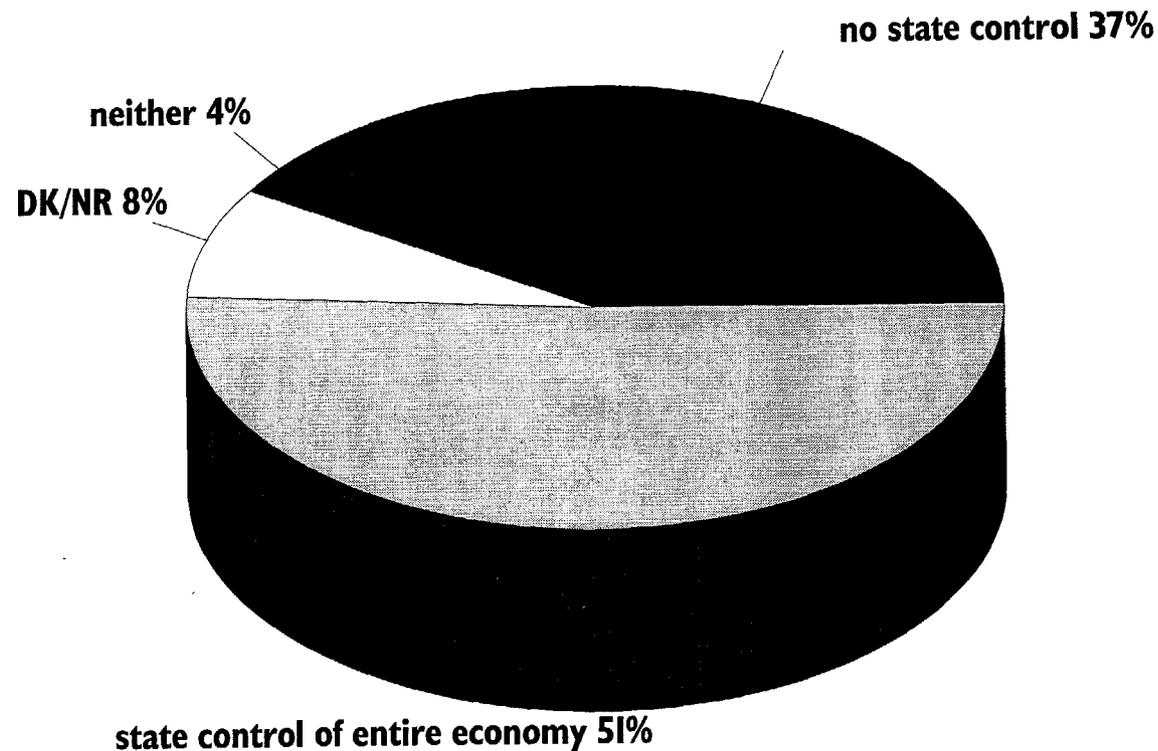


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Less than half want mostly state economy

Attitudes are mixed on whether Kazakhstan should “strive for an economy with no state control” or “return to a system where the state controls the entire economy.”



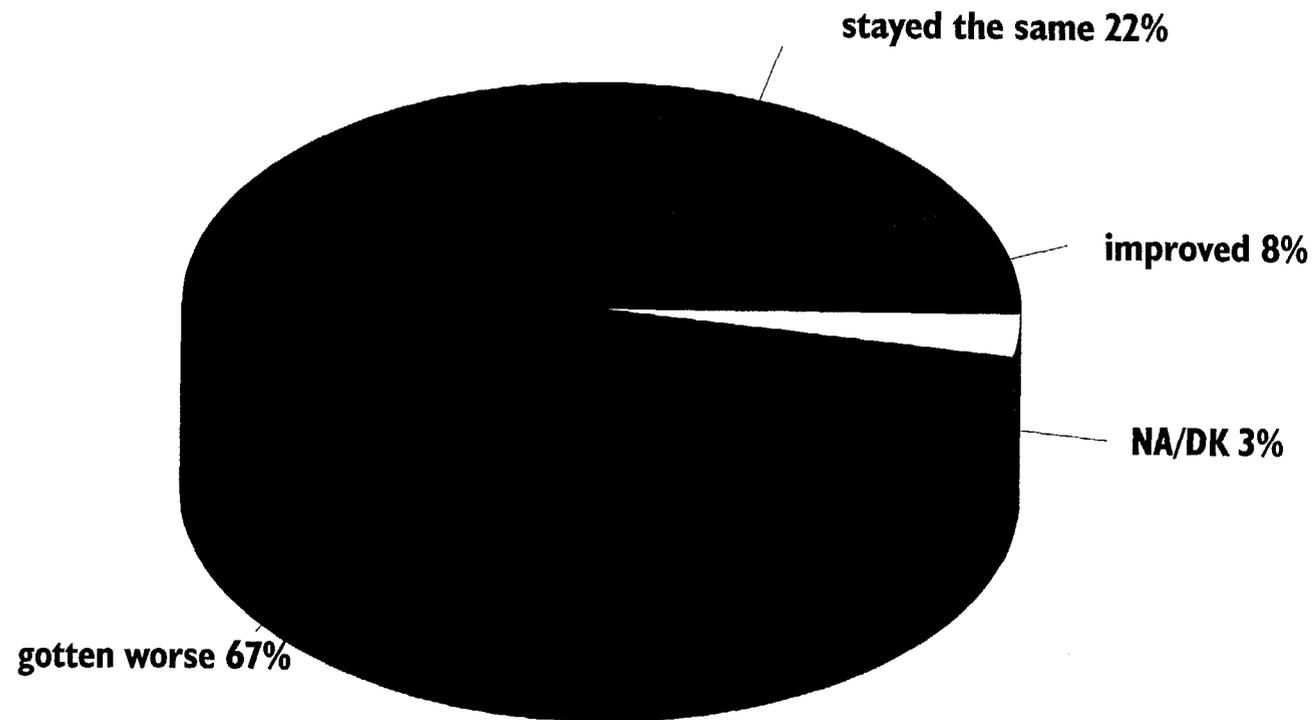
Survey design and supervision by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems.
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Quality of life has worsened since independence

7 out of 10 say life has “gotten worse” in Kazakhstan since achieving independence.



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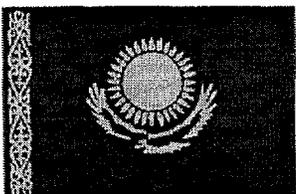


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YOUTH OVERSAMPLING

Life in a democracy means

Responses to the open-ended question "What does it mean to you to live in a democracy?"



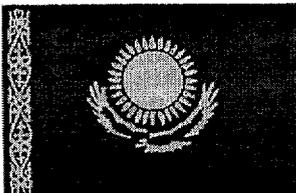
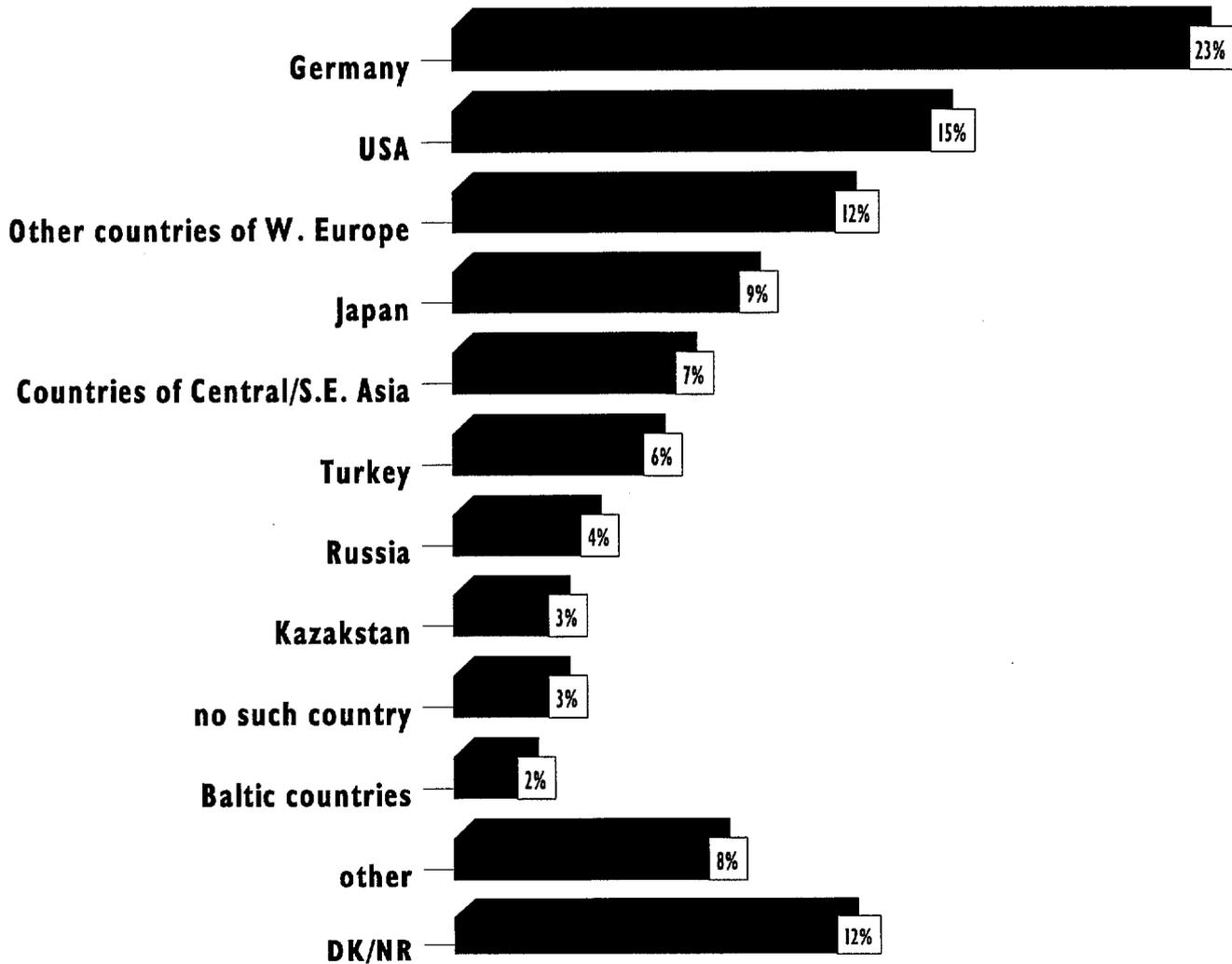
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Models for Development

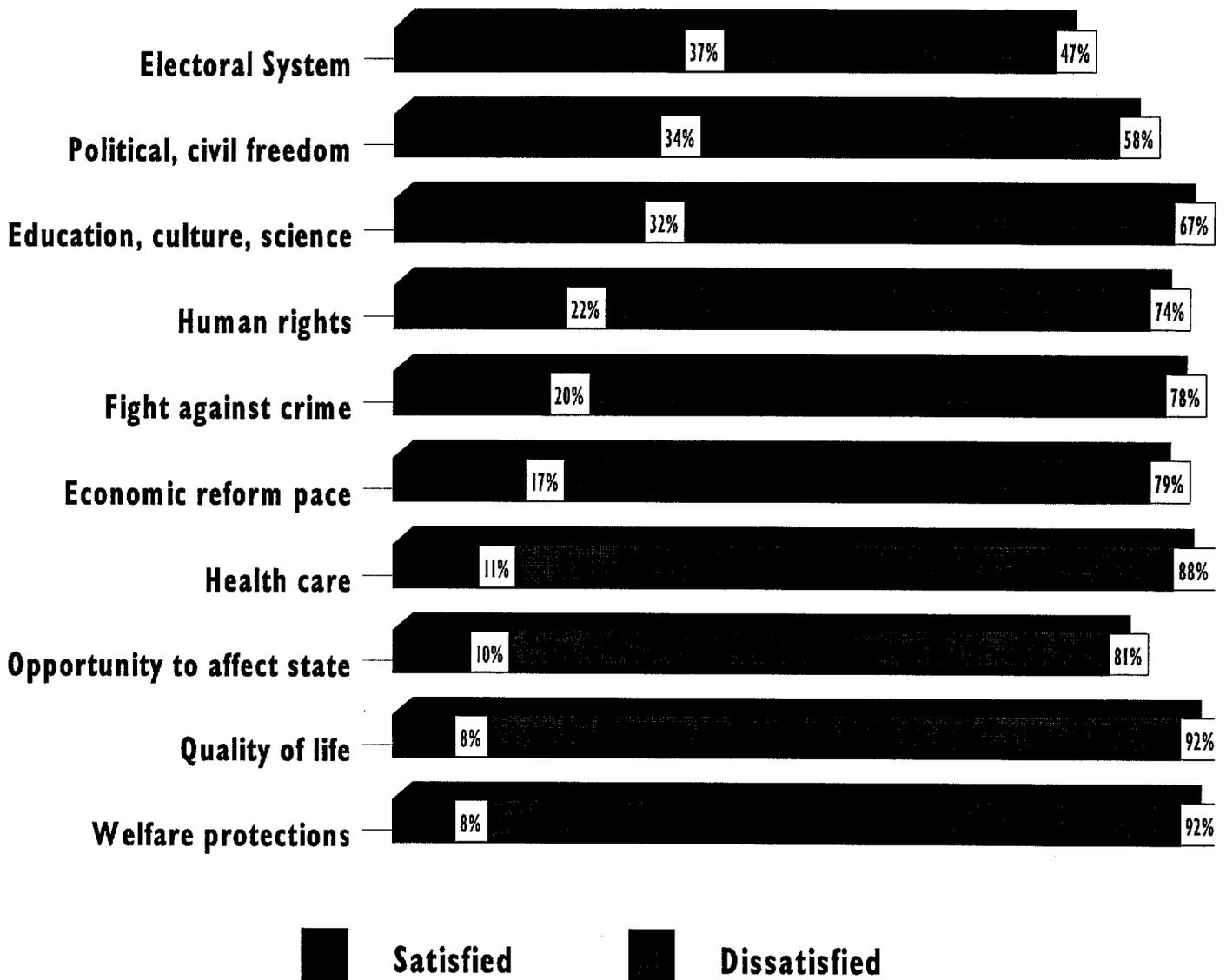
Responses to the question "Which foreign country could be a model for Kazakstan's development?"



YOUTH OVERSAMPLING



Satisfaction with...



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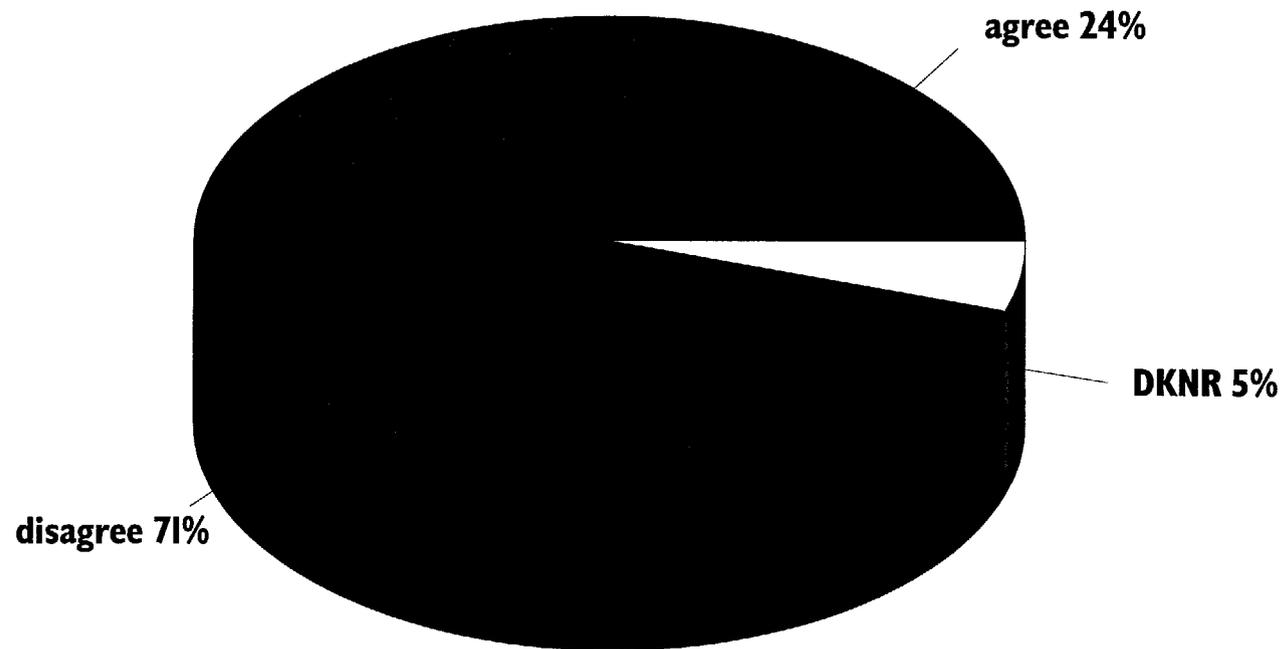


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Dictatorship not necessary

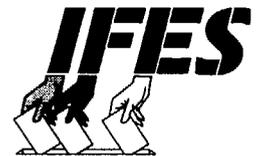
7 out of 10 disagree with the statement that "it is necessary to have a dictatorship in order to establish order and discipline in society."



YOUTH OVERSAMPLING



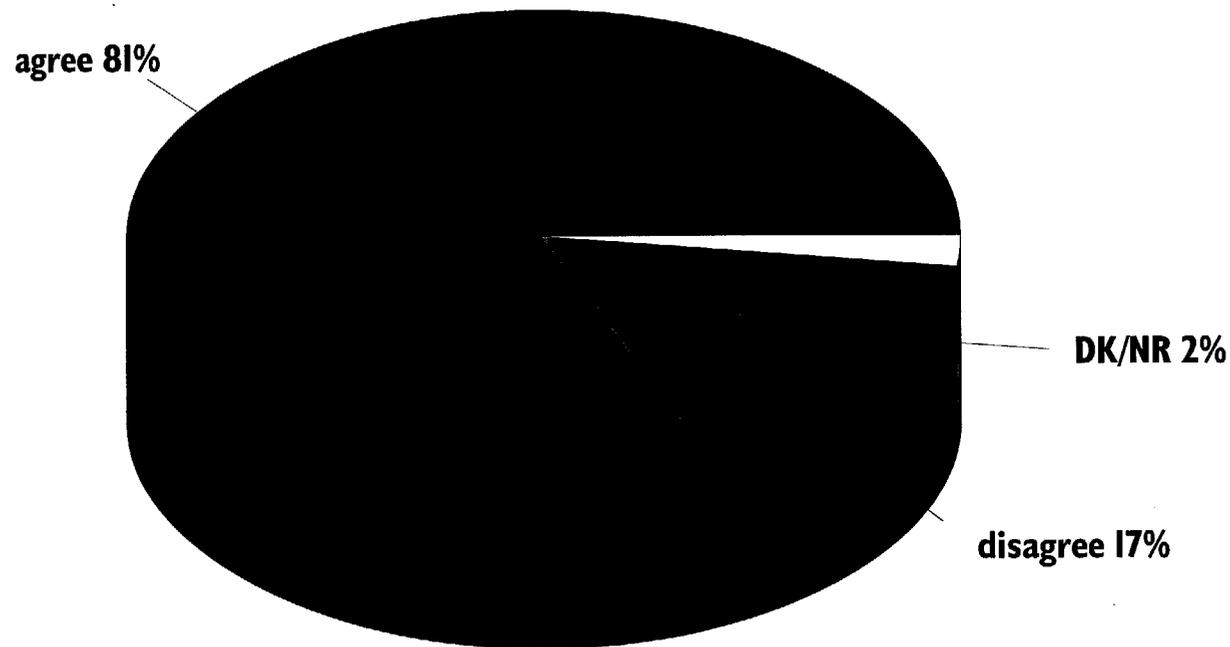
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Information about civil rights

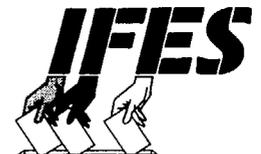
Almost 8 out of 10 agree with the statement: "I don't have enough information about my rights with regard to the authorities."



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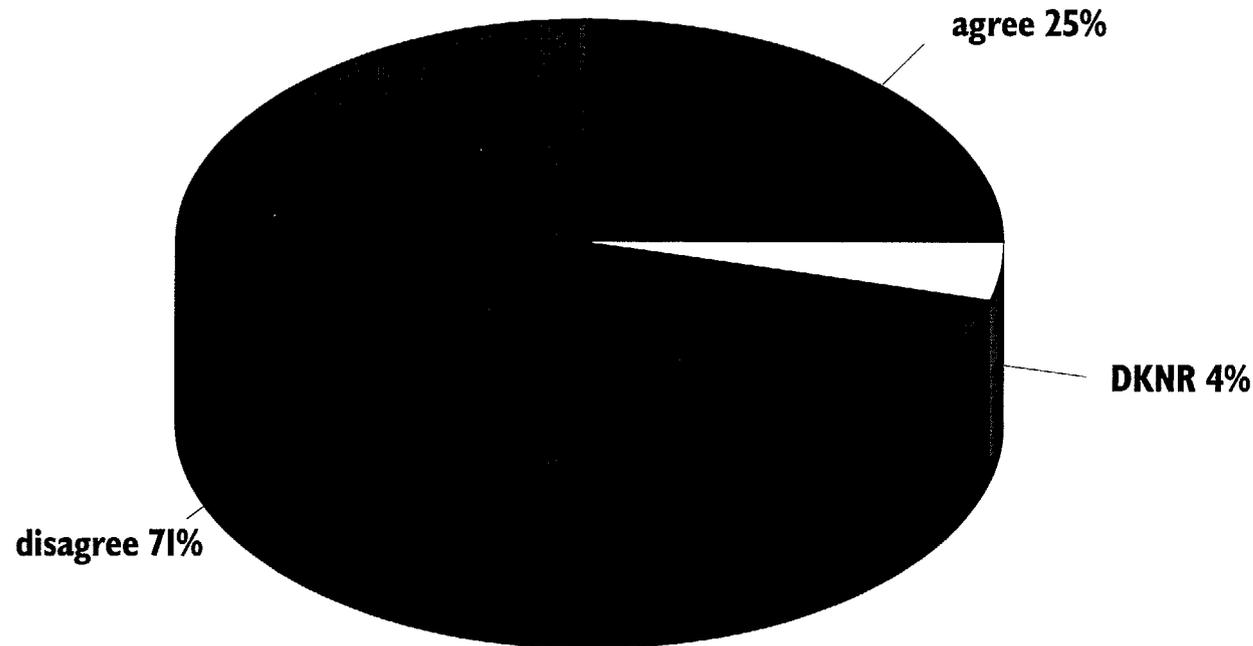


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Do not limit the rights of the people

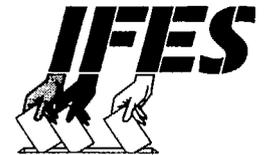
Most disagree that “it is necessary to limit the political and civic rights of the people in order to establish order and discipline.”



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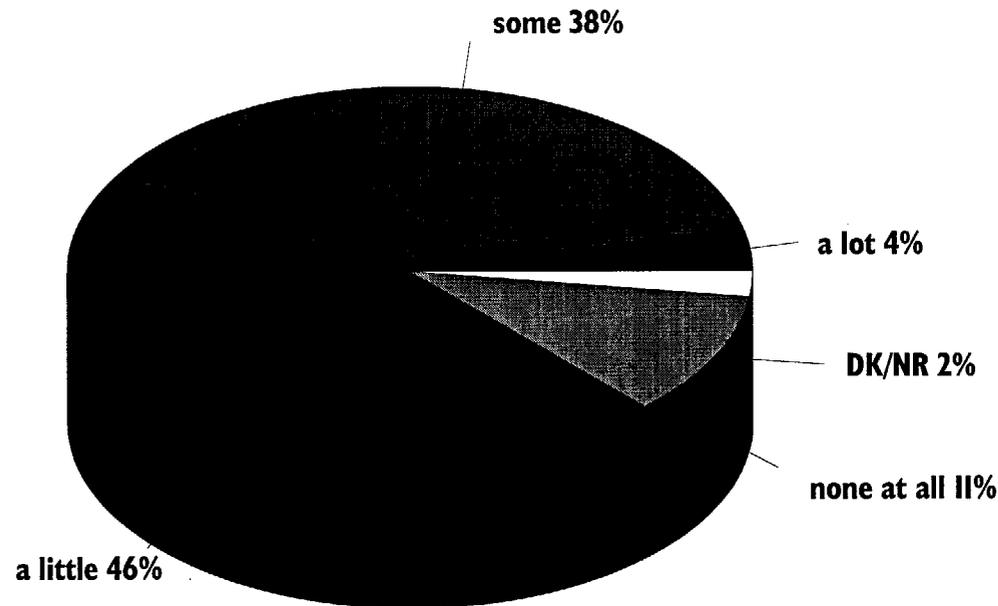


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Respect for individual civil rights

There is a wide split in opinion on how much respect there is for individual civil rights now in Kazakhstan.



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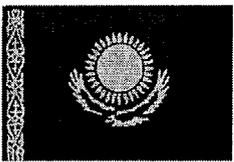
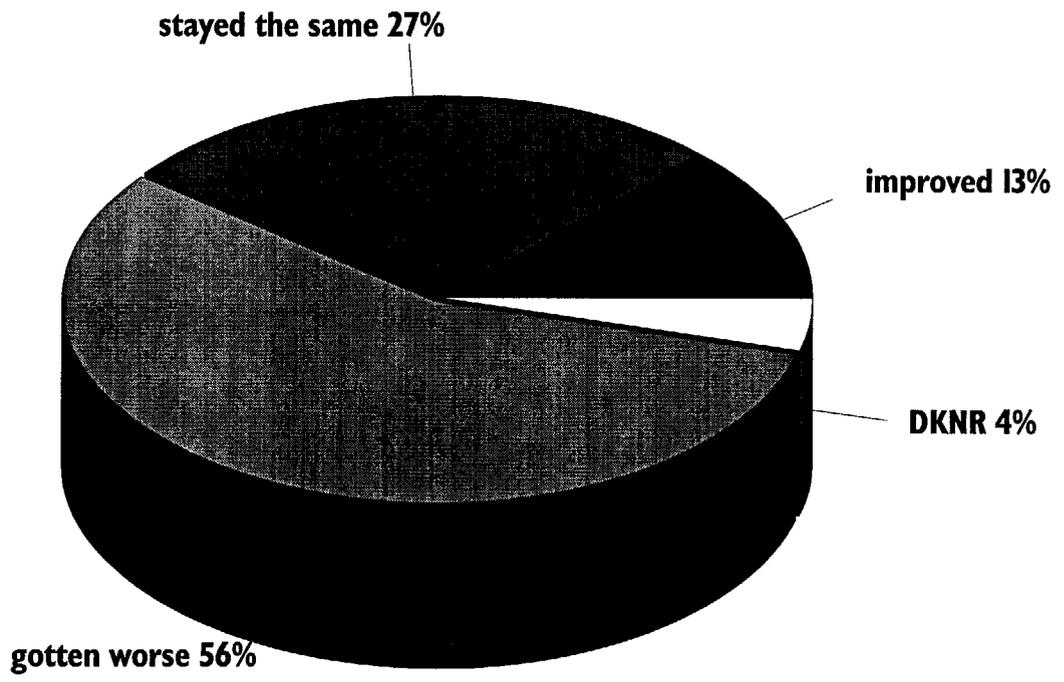
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Quality of life has worsened since independence

Nearly 6 out of 10 say life has “gotten worse” in Kazakhstan since achieving independence.



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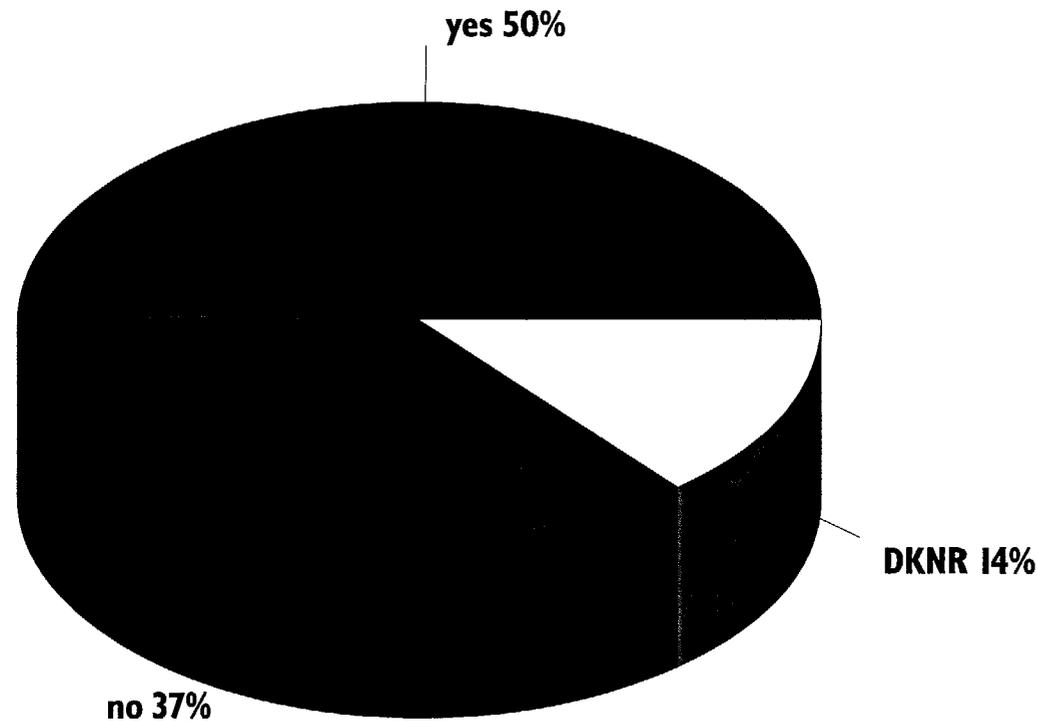
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W

Possible to unite into unions, associations?

Half agree that “yes, it is possible for citizens of Kazakhstan to unite into associations and unions, to improve their living conditions, without state participation.”



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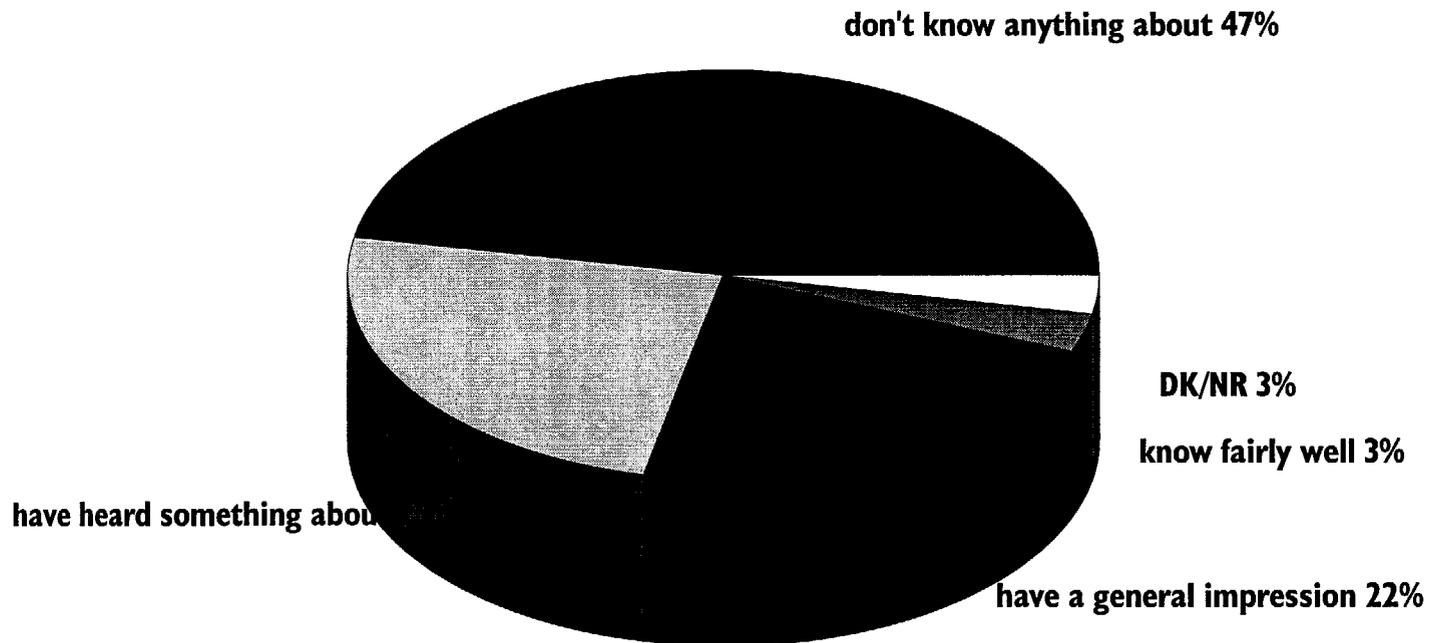


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Knowledge of election laws

Almost half “don’t know anything about the election laws of Kazakhstan.”



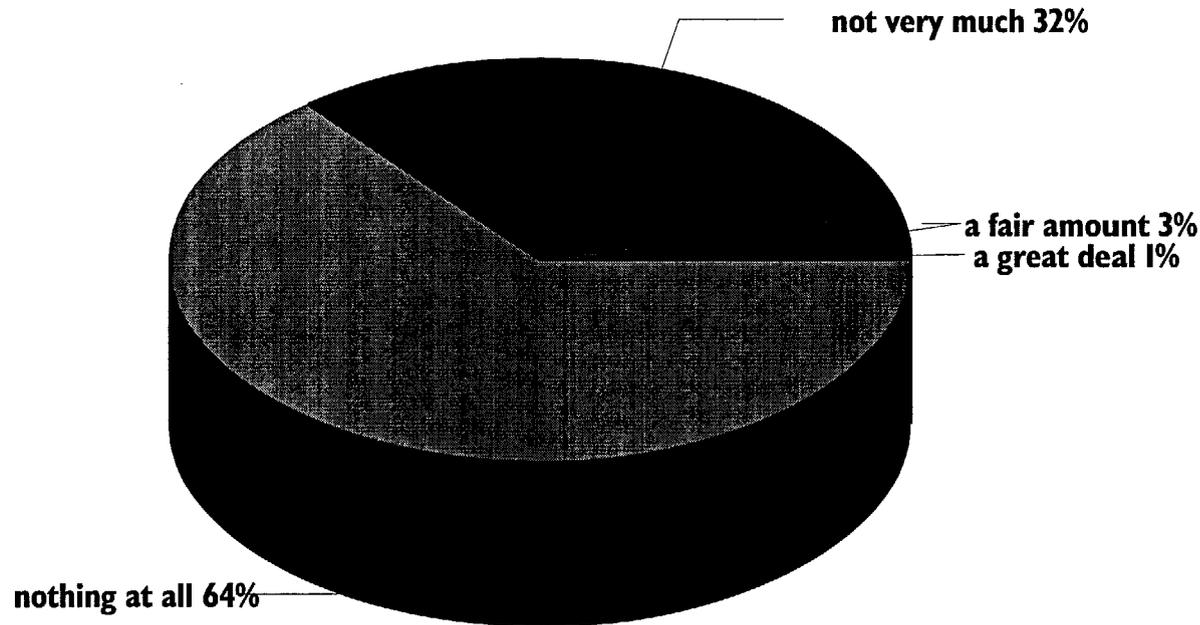
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Central Election Commission

More than 6 out of 10 have never heard of the Central Election Commission



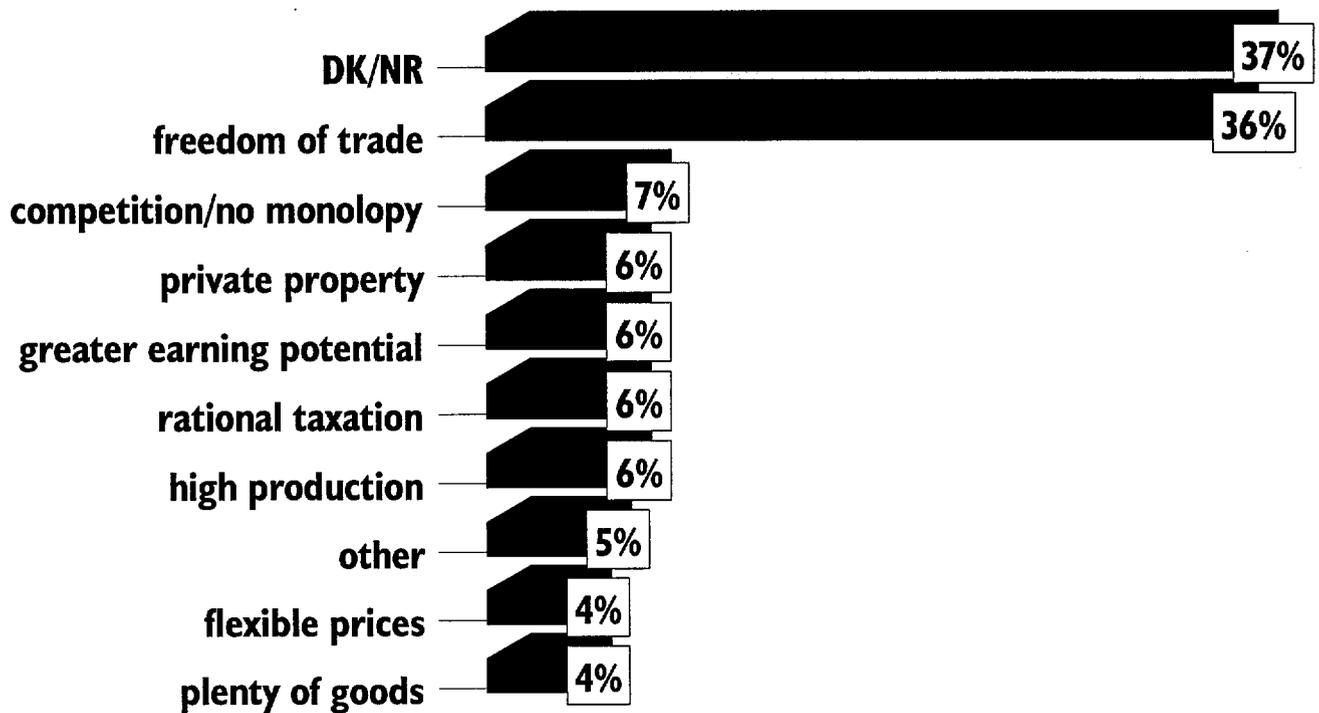
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What is a free market economy?

Responses to the open-ended question: "What does it mean to you to have a free market economy?"



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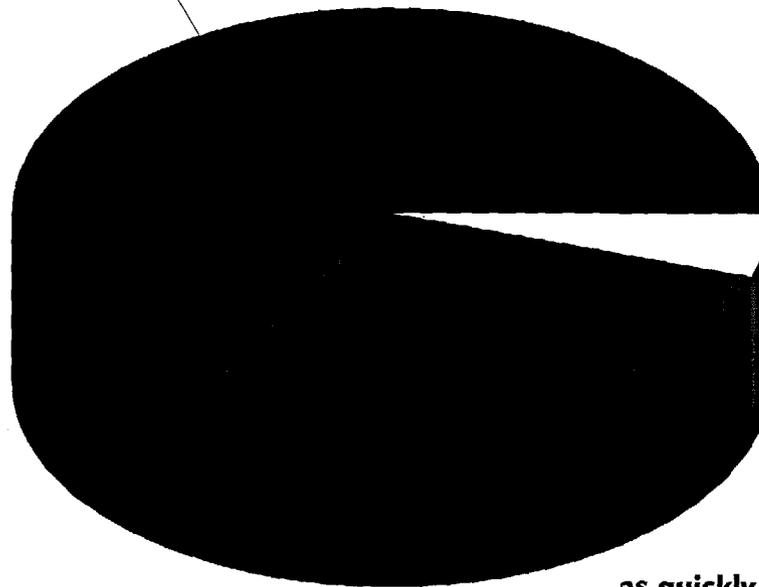


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Rate of change to a free economy

6 in 10 believe Kazakhstan should get to a free market economy through steady, smaller reforms, instead of as quickly as possible.

steady, smaller reforms 67%



DK/NR 5%

as quickly as possible 28%

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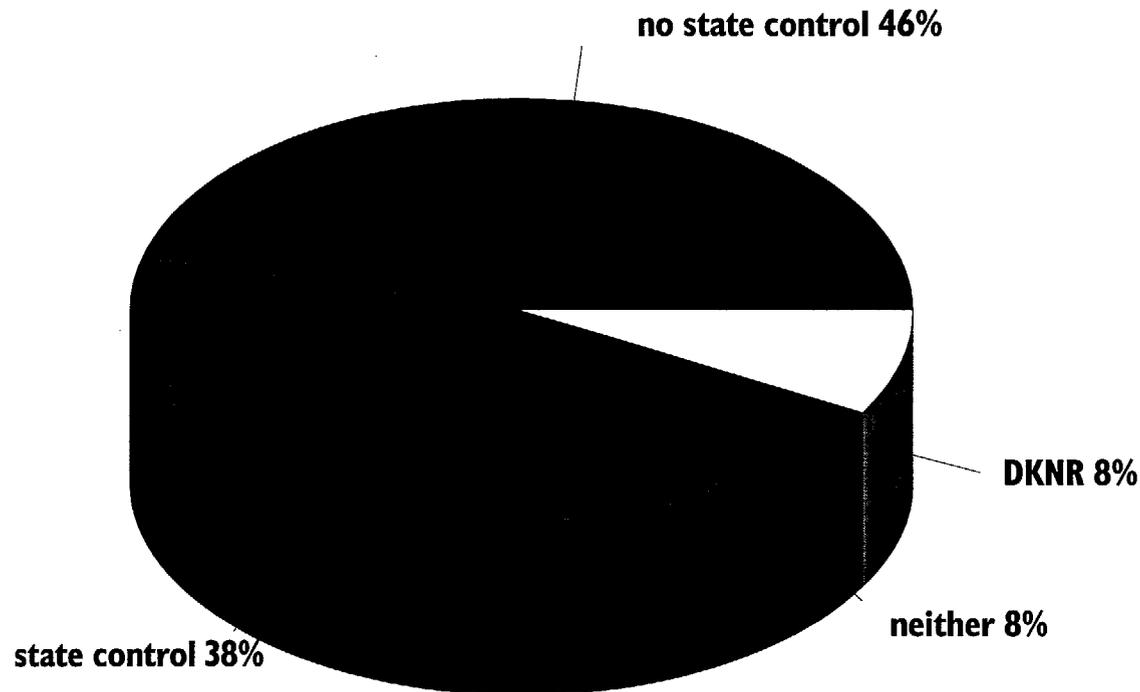
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State controlled economy

Nearly half believe that Kazakhstan should strive for an economy that is free of any state control.



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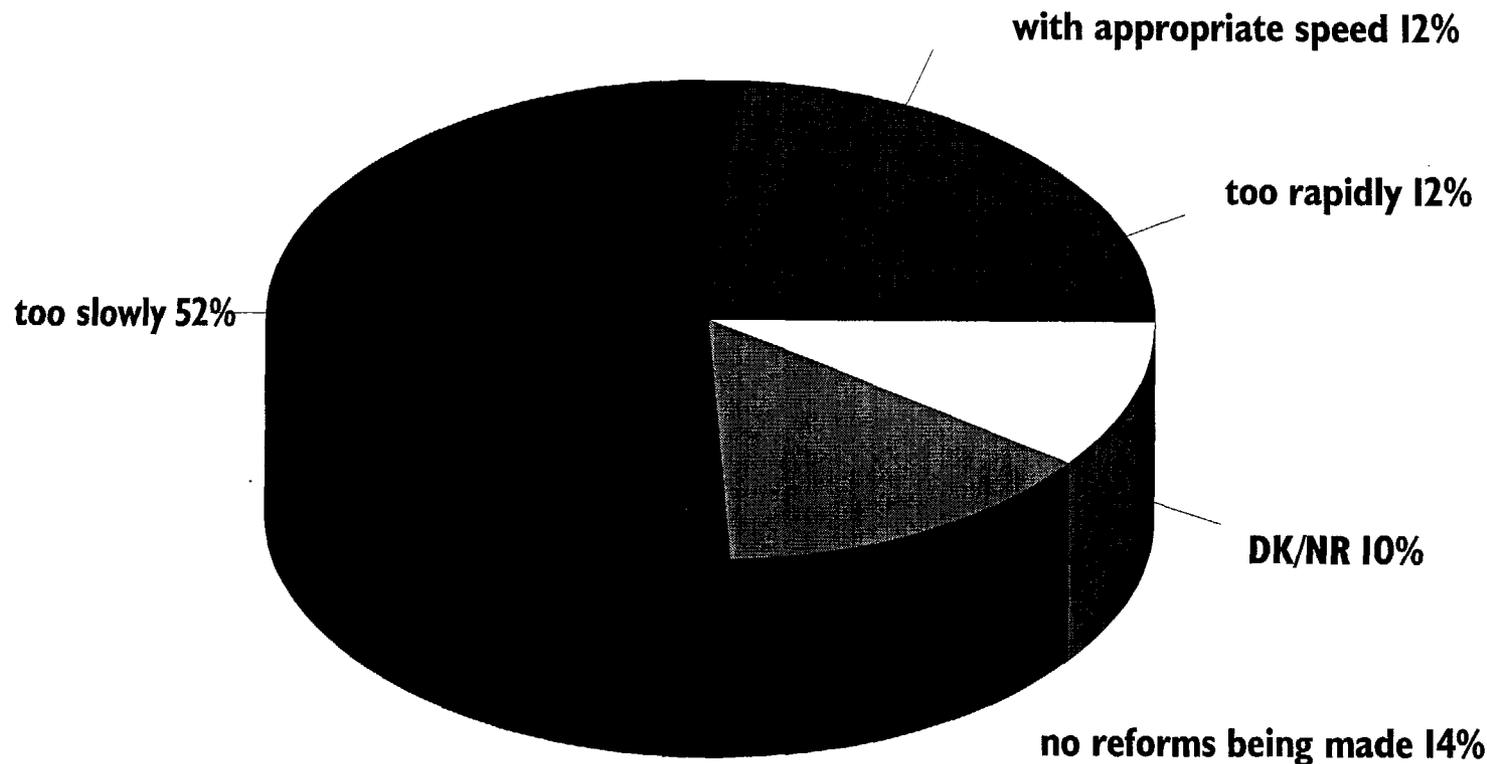
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Pace of economic reforms

Almost 7 in 10 believe “economic reforms are made too slowly,” or are not being made.



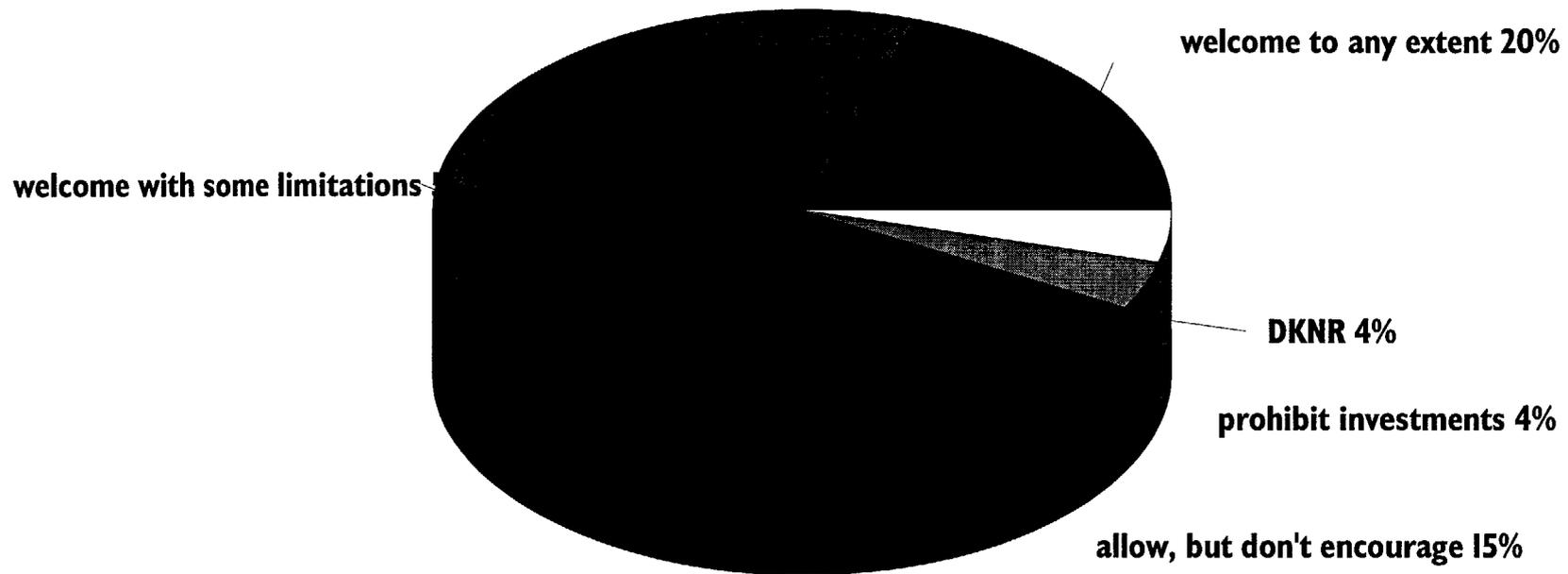
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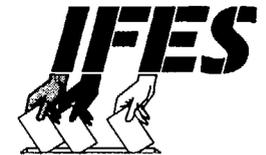
Foreign investments are welcome in Kazakhstan

77% believe Kazakhstan should welcome foreign investment. Another 15% believe it should be allowed, but not encouraged.



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KEY FINDINGS FROM
KYRGYZSTAN NATIONWIDE SURVEY
FIELDWORK: JULY 11-24, 1995

General Mood

Most people are dissatisfied with the economic situation and the political environment, but are hopeful that order will be maintained and that relations among national groups will remain stable. Nationwide, over three-fourths are dissatisfied with the situation in the country (48% are "somewhat" and 26% "very" dissatisfied). Young adults are equally dissatisfied (52% "somewhat" and 19% "very" dissatisfied). Economic issues predominate as the reason for the widespread dissatisfaction -- most frequently named are the low living standard, inflation and high prices, low productivity and unemployment. Fewer mention socio-economic problems -- insecurity and instability. Reasons given by young adults parallel those expressed by the general public.

Not only is the public dissatisfied with the overall conditions in the country, but most see life deteriorating since independence:

- majorities say life has "gotten worse" (69% general public; 64% young adults)
- a fifth (19%) believe it has "remained the same" (19%; 21%), and
- one-in-ten that life has "improved" (9%; 9%).

To gauge the level of public concern about the situation in Kyrgyzstan in more detail, the survey measured how the public assesses political, economic, and social conditions. Vast majorities (80% or more) are dissatisfied with the standard of living in the country and the meeting of basic needs -- the social welfare system, anti-crime measures, and the delivery of health care. Around two-thirds are dissatisfied with the pace of reforms, the protection of human rights, the state of education, science and culture, and the electoral system. Young adults share the perceptions of the general public. Sentiments about independence tend to be more positive than negative. A majority, including young adults, view Kyrgyzstan's declaration of independence as "a good thing" or "neither good or bad."

By more than two-to-one margin, the public believes that conditions of law and order have improved (23%) or remained the same (39%) since independence; a fourth (25%) say the situation has worsened.

The public also asserts that power has shifted since independence. Half of the general public, as well as young adults, states that the power of local officials has increased (49% general public, 48% young adults) and far fewer say that power has decreased (28% and 27% respectively).

Ethnic Relations and Personal Liberties

The public is not concerned about civil conflict erupting in the country. Young adults similarly assess conditions. Among the general public:

- A majority believe that conditions of law and order will improve (23%) or remain the same (39%); a fourth believe that things will get worse.
- A majority state that ethnic relations will continue to be stable "permanently" or for a "for a long time." Only one-in-ten foresee stability ending.

These predictions of continued stability in relations among national groups appear not to emerge from any consensus on the state of human rights in Kyrgyzstan. A half of the general public as well as young adults state that human rights are not observed in the country ("very little" or "not at all"). Slightly fewer, however, believe that human rights are observed.

Among the general public, opinion is indefinite as to whether order and discipline require limiting personal freedoms:

- Half agree that "to establish order and discipline, it is necessary to limit the democratic rights and freedoms of citizens," but a third disagree.
- As many agree as disagree that "to establish order and discipline, it is necessary to have dictatorship."

Young adults reject the notion that a dictatorship is necessary but are divided about the need of curtailing political rights.

No one country dominates the public mind as a model for Kyrgyzstan. The highly-industrialized western countries -- specifically Japan, the United States, and Germany -- are named slightly more frequently than other countries, such as Turkey, Russia, or Uzbekistan. Young adults offer an almost identical list of countries.

The public is receptive to foreign investment. A majority (61%) would welcome it -- most wanting

limits placed on foreign investors (47%) rather than allowing unrestricted investment (14%). Only one in ten would prohibit investment. Young adults express similar views: 48% support investment but with limitations, 16% would have unrestricted investment, and 8% would prohibit all foreign investment.

Economic Future

As already noted, economic problems are the public's main concern. Overall, there is a sense of positive changes coming. Half believe that in the next year the economic situation in the country will "improve" (34%) or "remain the same" (26%). One-third predict the situation will "get worse" (23%). Young adults have similar positive predictions for the next year.

However, at this time conditions appear quite bleak: a large majority (74%) of the general public, and as many young adults (69%), assert that "it is very hard for (my) family to buy enough food each month."

Half of the general public, but a definite majority of young adults, declare that Kyrgyzstan is democracy. Only one in five disagree.

Public perceptions suggest an expectation that continued democratization will lead to economic improvements. By a large margin, a plurality believe that continued democratization will assist in resolving economic problems (43%; 15% say democracy will hinder economic growth and an additional 22% do not believe that democracy affects economics one way or another).

AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

Public perceptions on the availability of information in Kyrgyzstan suggest that communications may be at the core of some problems in state-building and in the development of a civil society. Overall, the public is interested in developments in the country but many feel a lack of information. A majority (60%) are interested in "matters of politics and government" (40% are not interested). Young adults express a roughly comparable level of interest (56% interested, 43% not).

Opinion about information is mixed. Half of the general public as well as young adults say they have sufficient information about political developments, but almost as many say they have very little or no information at all. Information concerning economic reforms is also found lacking by around half, though two out of five say they have some information.

Two-thirds of the public (68%), and as many young adults (72%) assert that they do not have enough information on their rights concerning authorities.

Another indicator of the lack of information is the large proportion who express no opinion on how well a Deputy represents the views of his district. Roughly as many give no opinion as say he poorly represents the electorate (among the general public 34% give no opinion, 41% represents district

poorly, and 24% represents it well; similarly, among the young adults -- 40% no opinion, 36% represent poorly and 24% well). However, as regards the February 1995 elections, the public feels they had sufficient information (65% general public, 64% young adults).

Civic Associations

Half of the general public (46%) and half of young adults (52%) agree that "citizens of Kyrgyzstan have the possibility to unite into associations, unions, without state participation to improve their living conditions." Pluralities also believe that such organizations are necessary for Kyrgyzstan.

Political Parties

Overall, the public favors a multiparty system. Half would support two or more parties, but a third want a single party or no party at all.

Political parties do not have distinct images. A third of the public see clear differences among the various parties. The rest either see no differences or express no opinion. Young adults, in contrast, are more likely to say that there are clear differences among the parties.

Very small numbers identify with any political party -- no party appeals to more than 10 percent of the public. This low level of identification is also characteristic of the young adults.

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

Election Laws

Knowledge about election laws appears limited. About 40% know nothing at all about elections laws and an additional 29% are minimally aware of the basic principles. Only a fourth of the general public and a fifth of young adults are knowledgeable about election laws.

Opinion is divided on the practice of voiding an election if less than half of the electorate participate. As many say it is fair as say it is not that "if in an electoral district less than 50 percent of the voters participate, than no one can be elected as Deputy to Parliament and, therefore that District would not be represented" (53% fair to 31% unfair).

Voting

Voting -- the means by which publics can affect change -- is one of the most basic aspects of participatory democracy, representing a structured and formal method that gives the public a voice in the decision-making process of a country. In Kyrgyzstan, the survey data show widespread participation in elections, but no corresponding sense of empowerment.

To examine opinion about elections, the following proposition was presented: "by participating in an election, citizens of Kyrgyzstan can substantively influence the course of development in the country." Half agree that voting is empowerment and a third deny it. Voting is more widespread than the sense of empowerment. Over two-thirds voted in the last election.

Opinion on empowerment among young adults is similar to that of the general public. However, young adults are less likely to go to the polls than their elders.

Voting is seen mainly as a duty and not a privilege. The reasons for going to vote (selected from a list of 8) was that: because it was a duty as a citizen (37% of the general public 28% of young adults). One in ten voted to express their opinion (10%, 8%), or liked the candidate (9%, 7%). Only a few voted to support a party (3%).

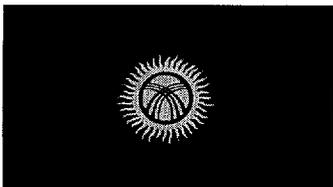
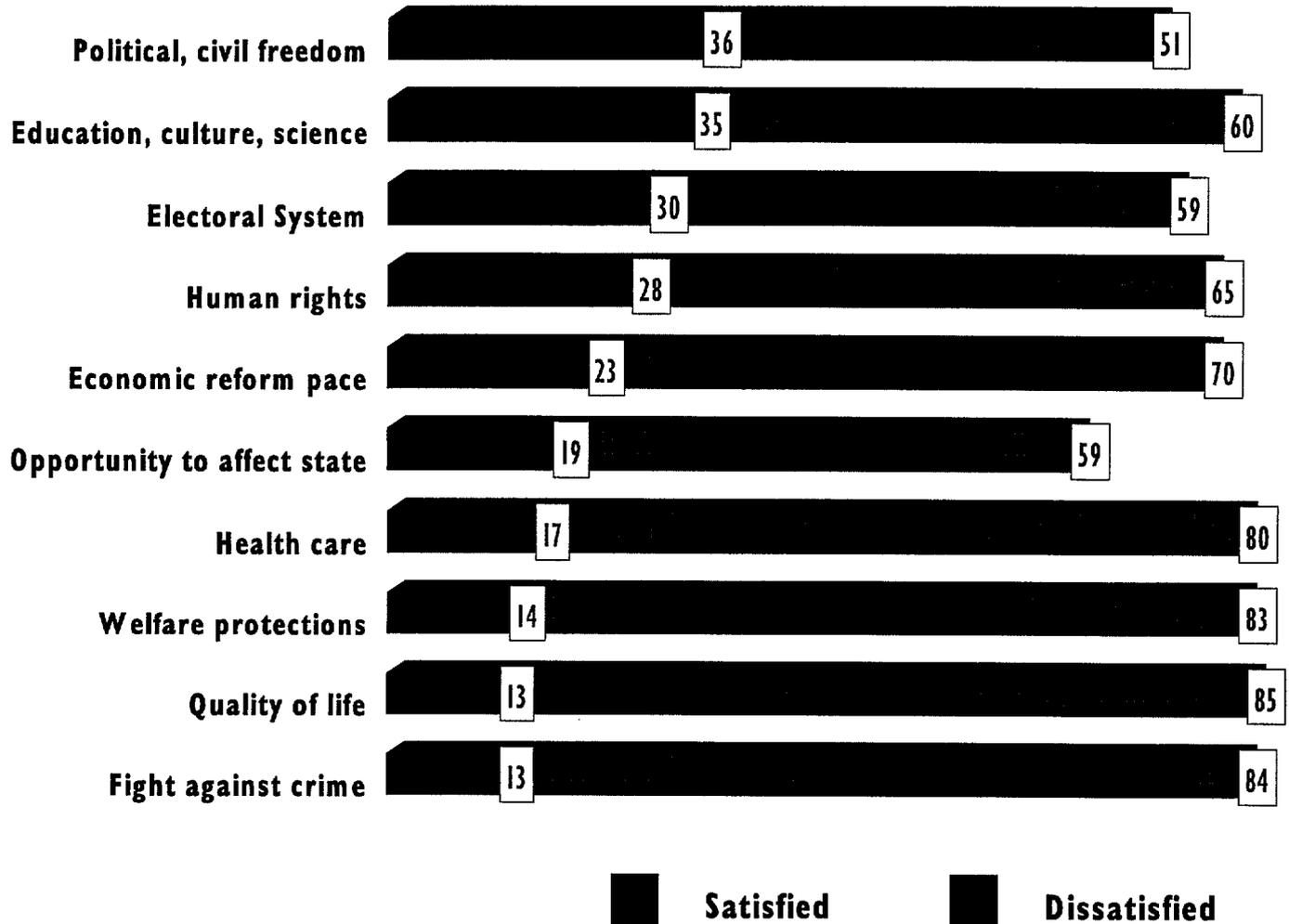
CONCLUSIONS

Findings from the nationwide and young adults survey provides an overview of current attitudes in Kyrgyzstan. It is not possible, however, to use this data for predicting how public opinion will affect subsequent political and economic developments, primarily because the necessary data on opinions among population subgroups are not yet available. Moreover, such information is essential to gauge public support for the independence of Kyrgyzstan and other critical issues.

Nevertheless, on many issues, the nationwide figures provide reliable indicators of the opinion climate in Kyrgyzstan. The survey results show a public:

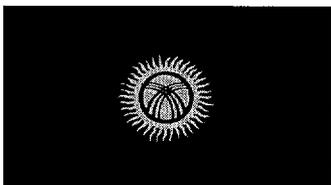
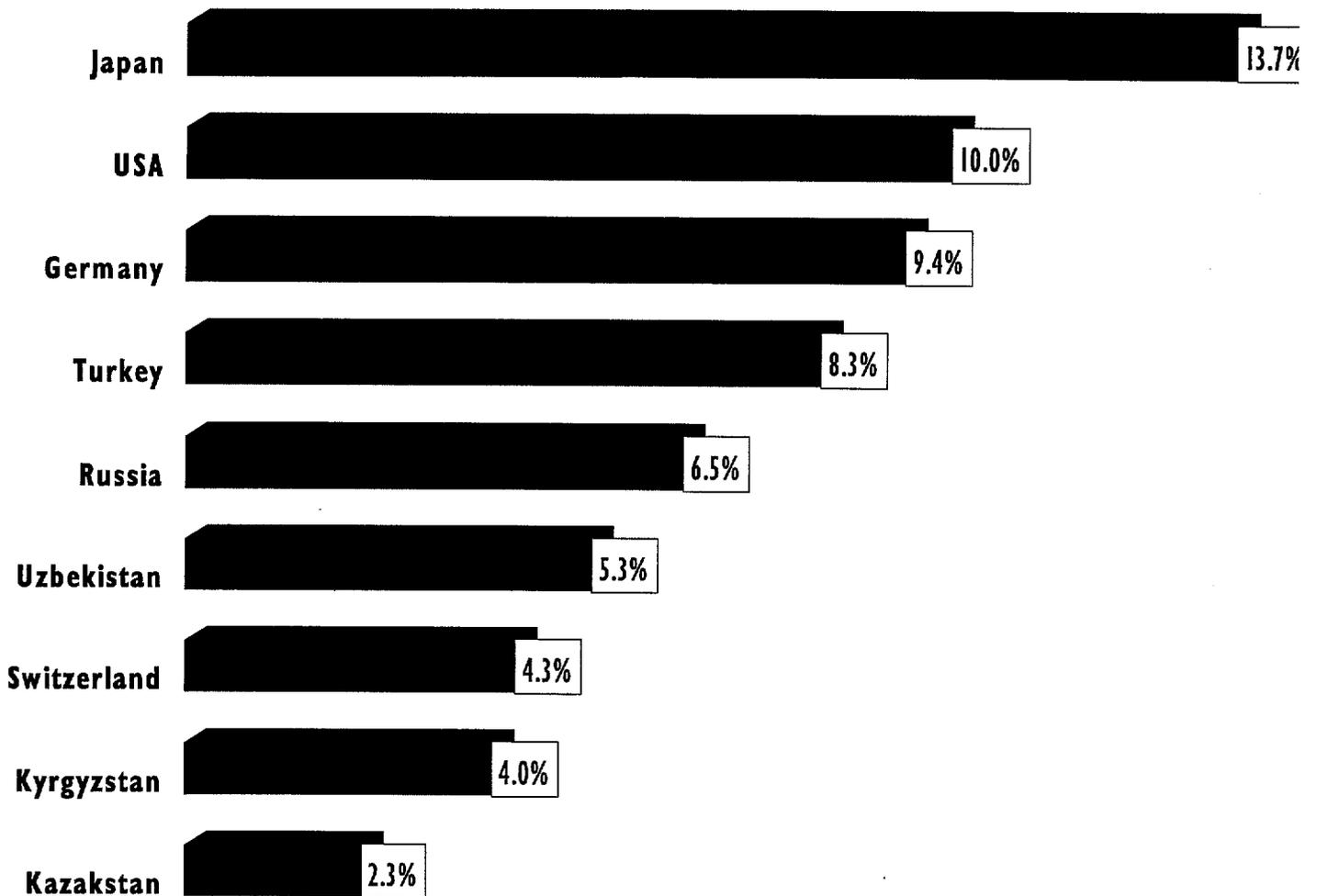
- preoccupied with economic problems, but anticipating future improvements
- convinced that there will be no civil conflict and that ethnic relations will remain stable
- interested in political and economic developments, but not receiving sufficient information on these issues
- alienated from political parties though committed to a multiparty system, except for a third who favor a single or no party
- participating in elections, with young adults less likely to go to the polls than their elders
- lukewarm, if not disinterested, in developing civic organizations

Issues of Satisfaction



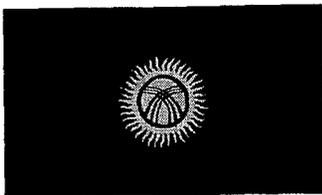
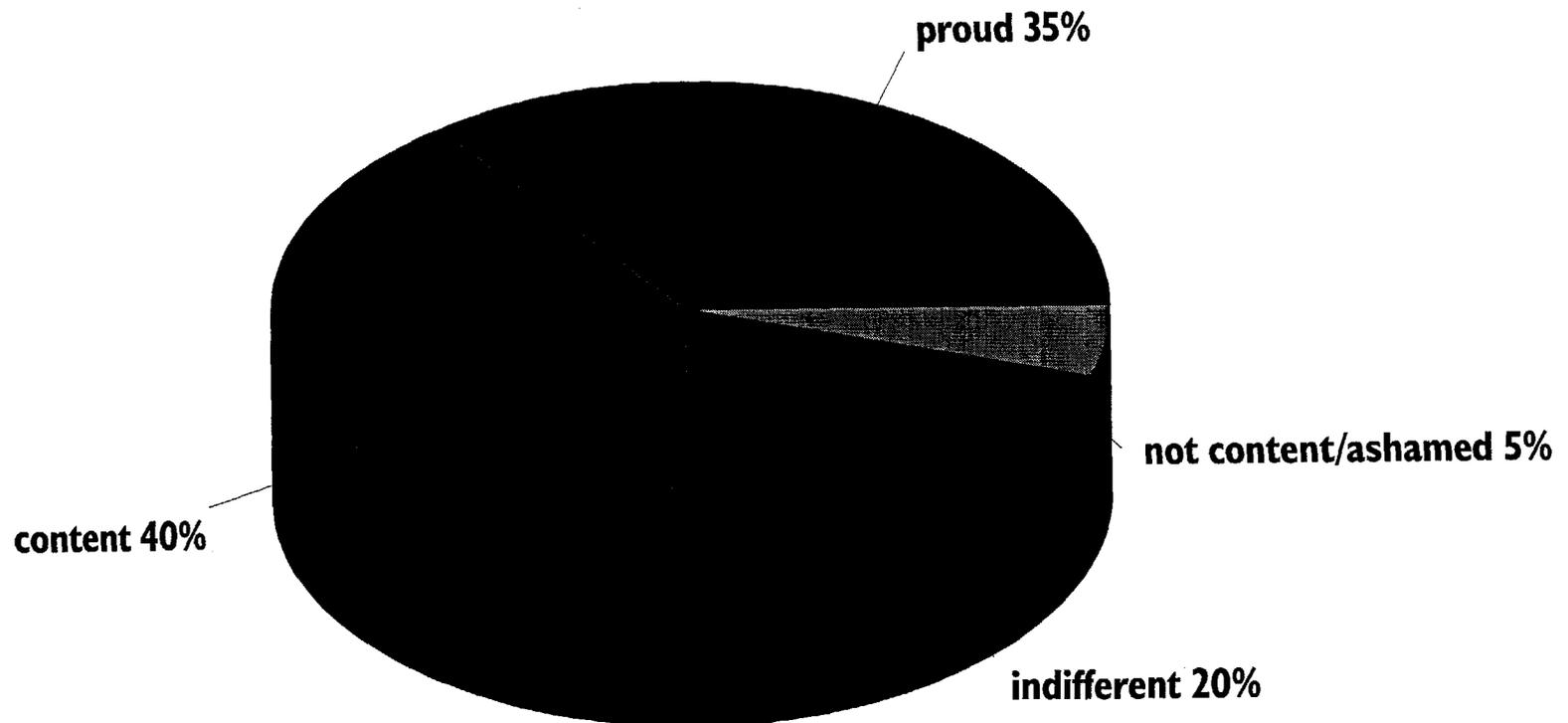
Models for Development

Responses to the question: "Which country do you think could be a model for Kyrgyzstan's development?"



Pride of citizenship

7 out of 10 are "proud" or "content" about saying they are citizens of Kyrgyzstan.

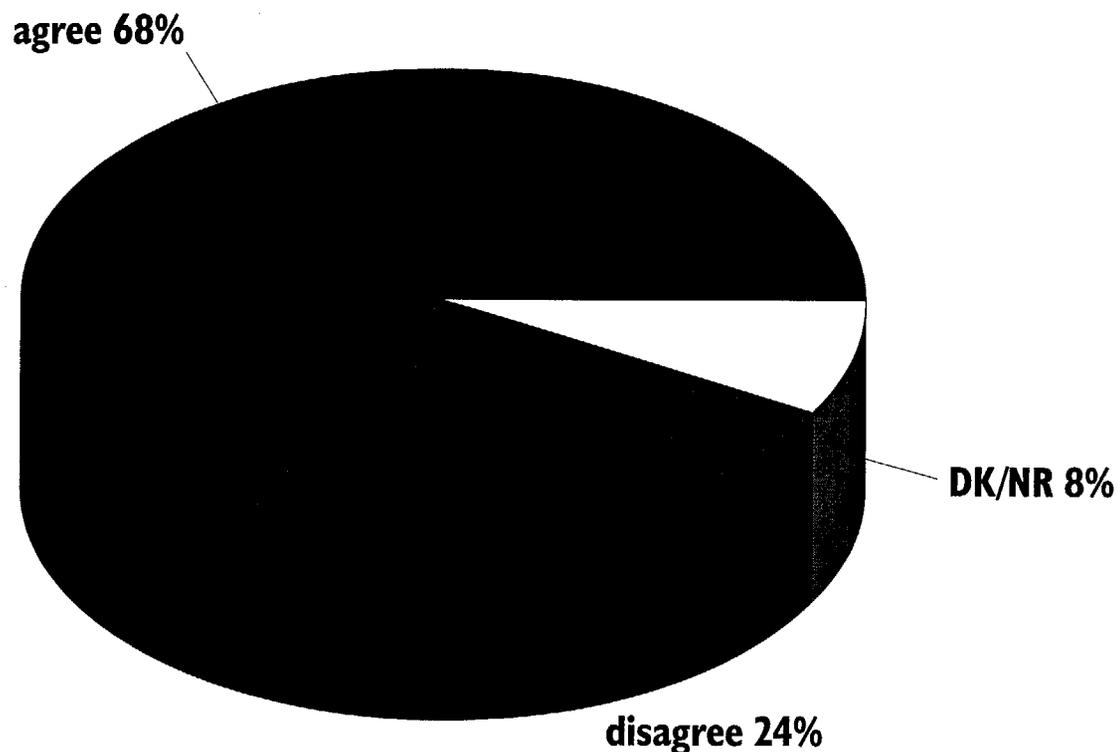


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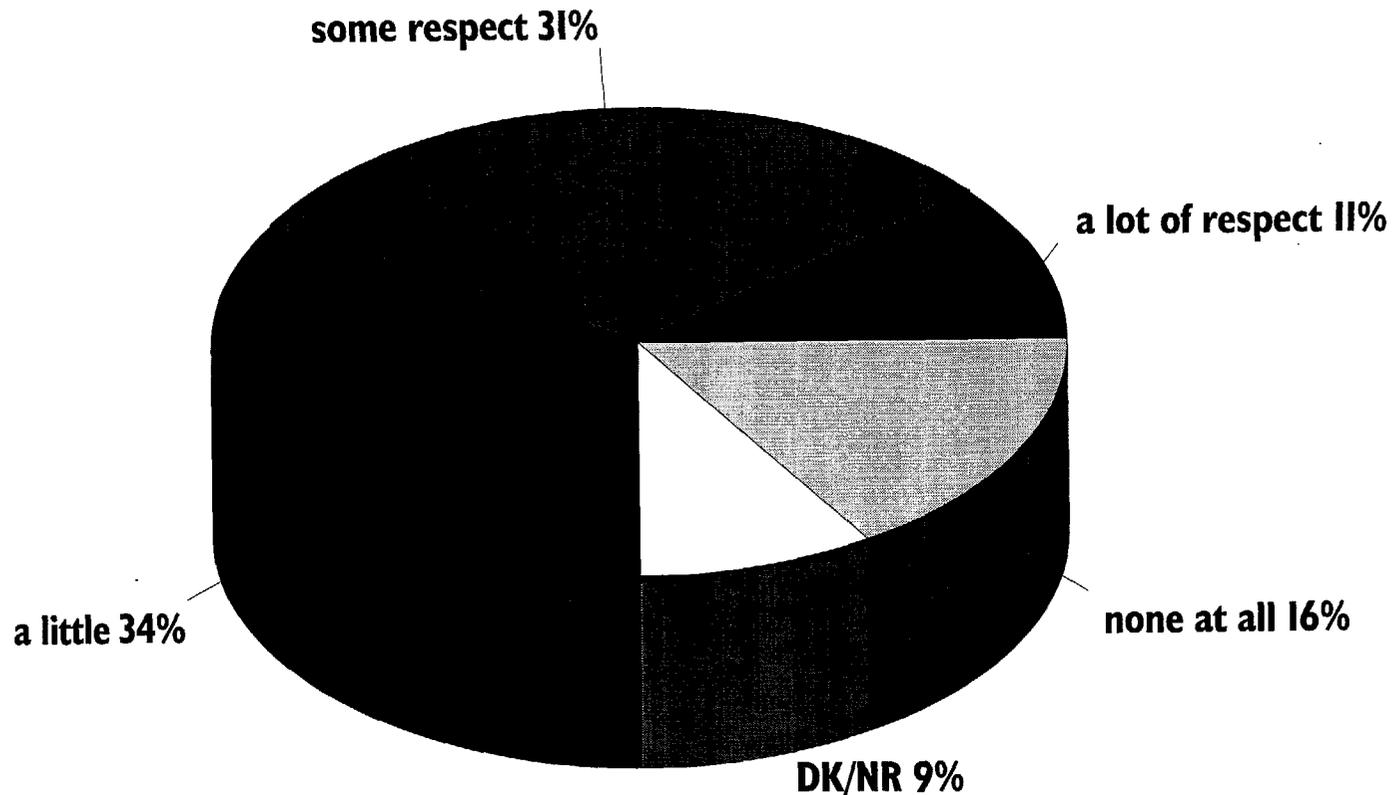
Information about individual rights

Almost 7 out of 10 agree with the statement, "I don't have enough information about my rights with regard to the authorities."



Respect for civil rights

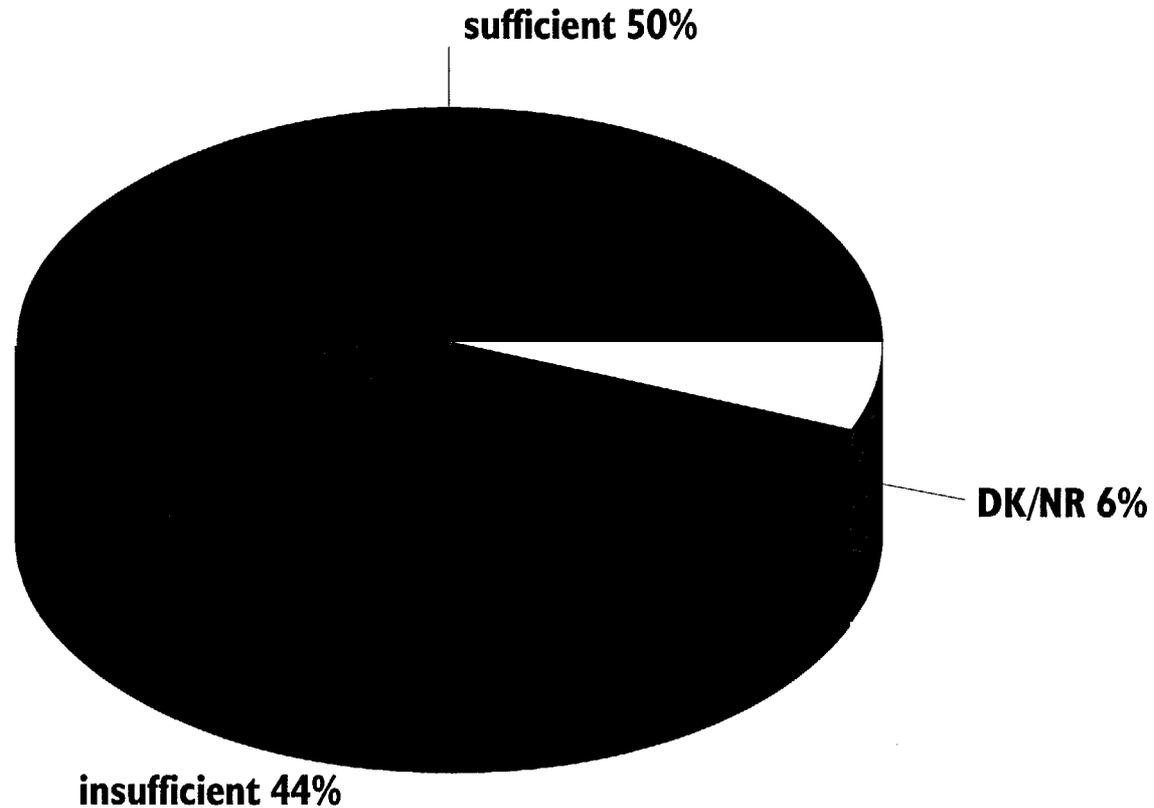
Half feel the government has little or no respect for civil rights.



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Information on Political Developments

Half believe “political development information is sufficient.”



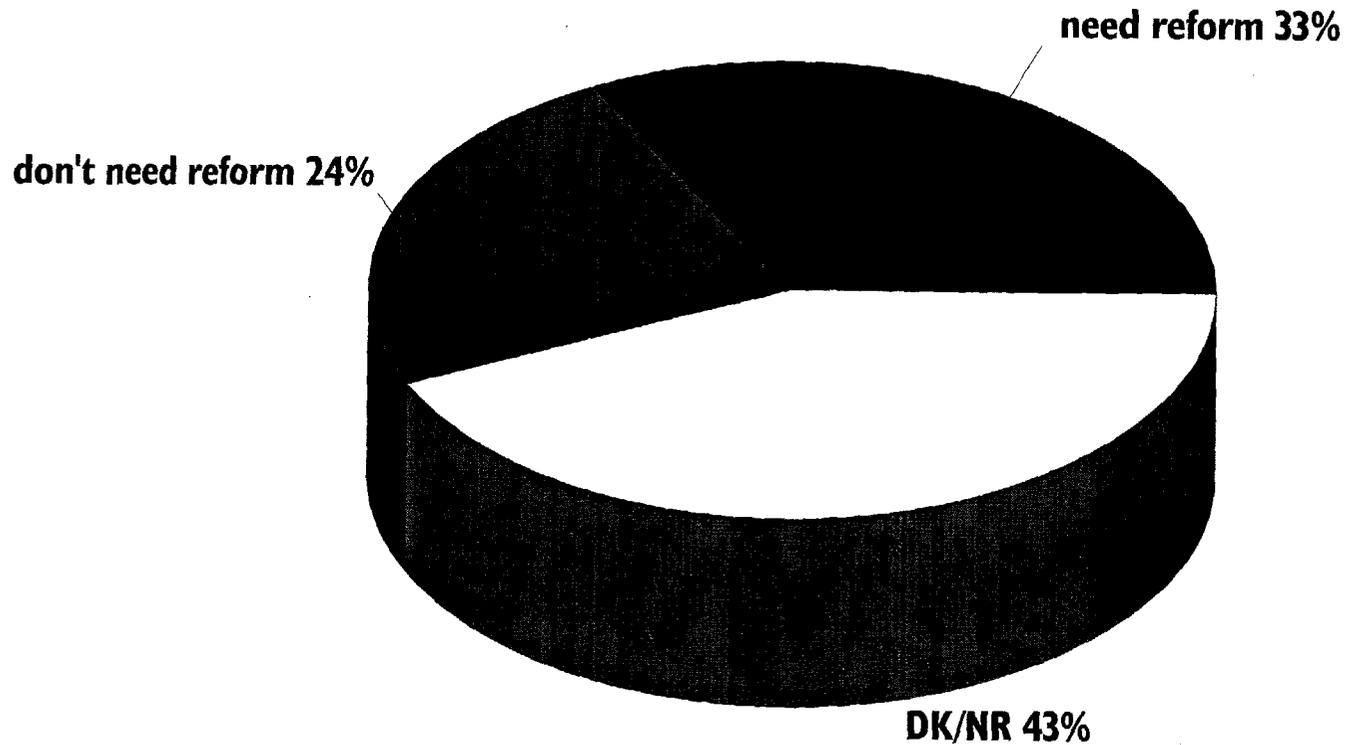
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Are election laws in need of reform?

Responses vary on the need for electoral reform



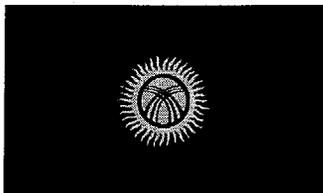
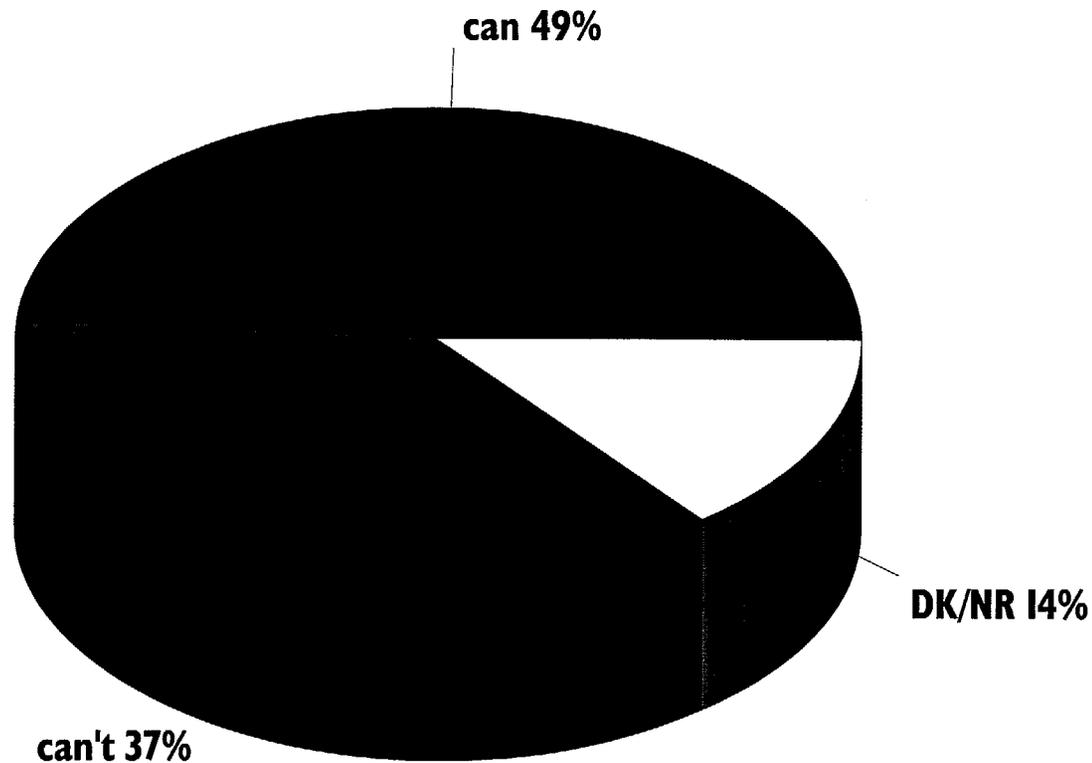
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Positive attitude towards elections

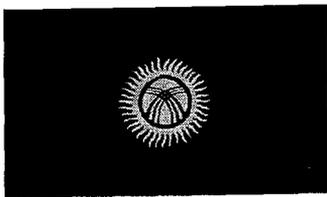
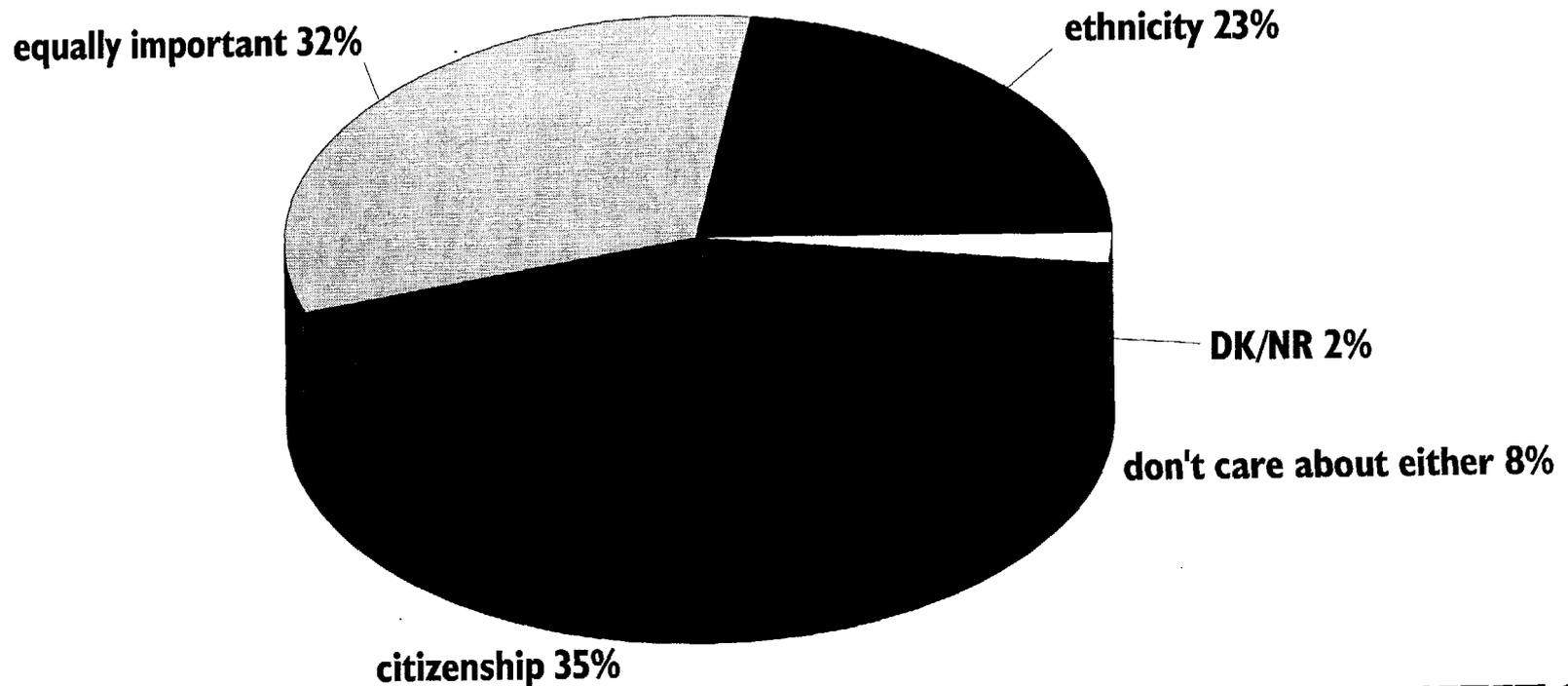
Half believe that they can change the situation in the country by participating in elections.



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Ethnicity vs. citizenship

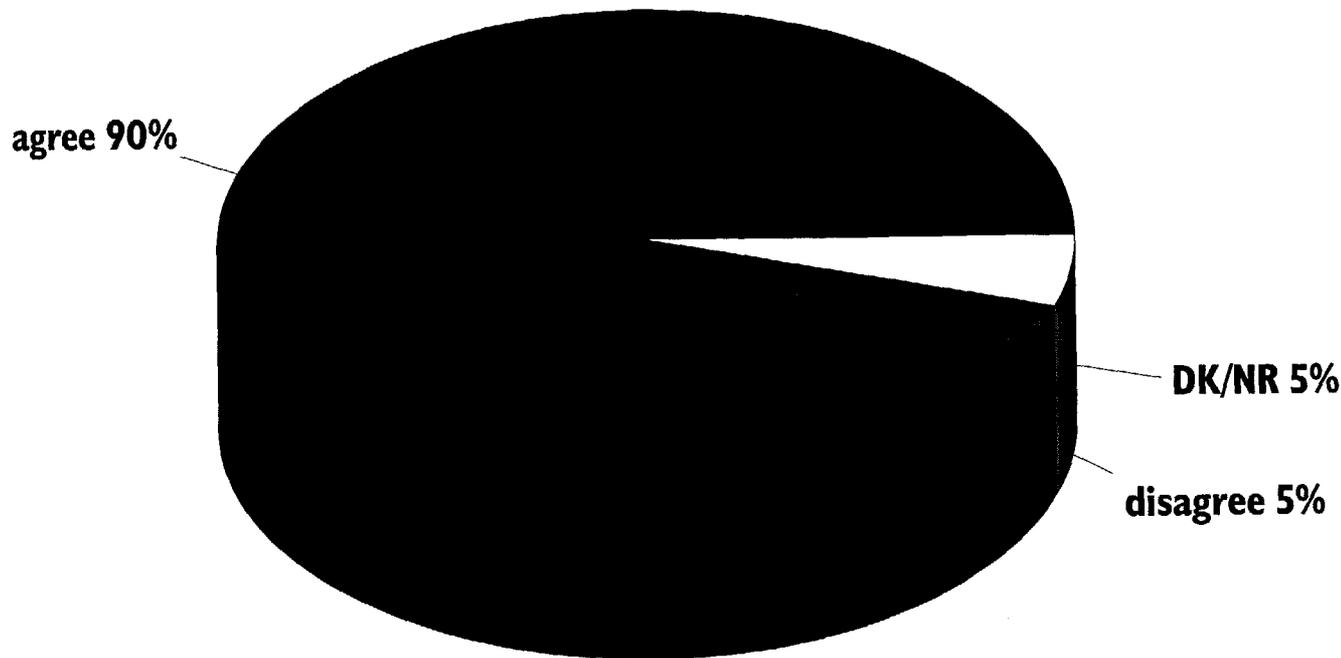
Responses vary, however 67% value their personal citizenship as equal or more important than their ethnicity, and 55% view their personal ethnicity as equal or more important than their citizenship.



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Educate youth about Democracy

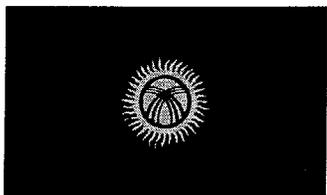
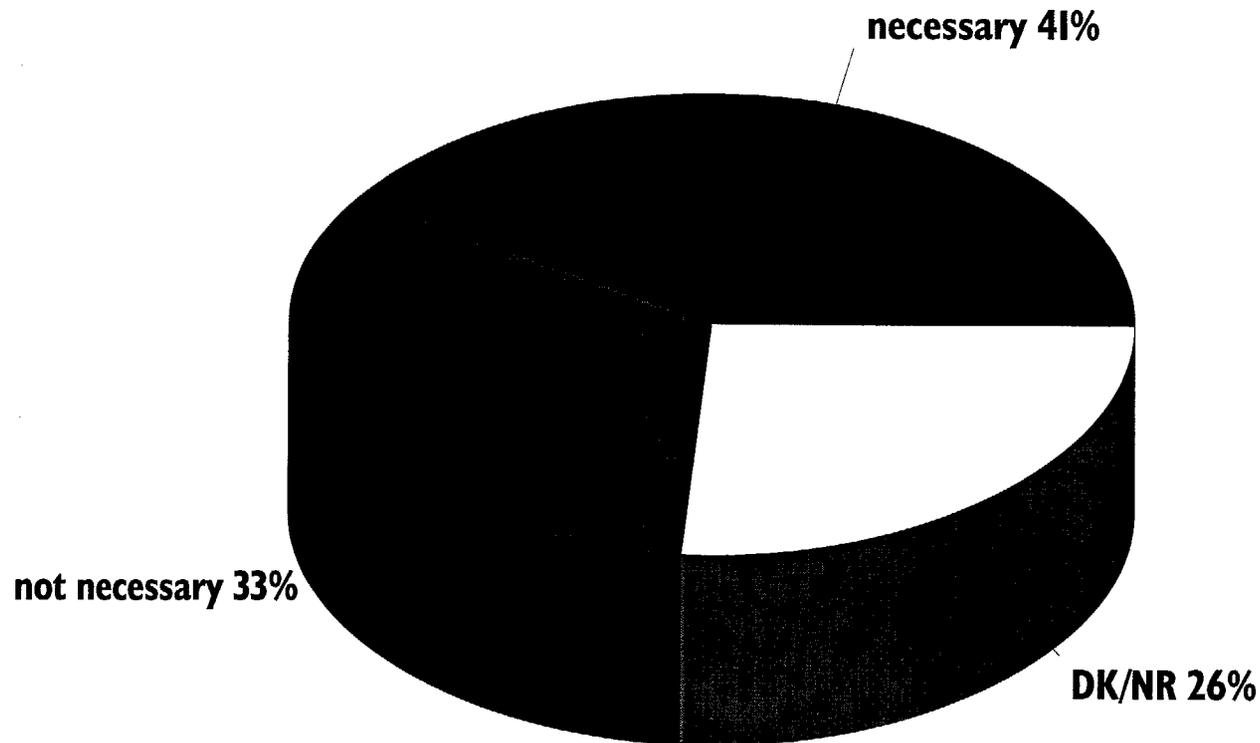
9 out of 10 agree: "We must educate our young people about the democratic process so that they can help make good decisions about our future."



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Necessity of citizen groups

4 out of 10 believe “it is necessary for citizens to form groups to improve their communities without government involvement.”

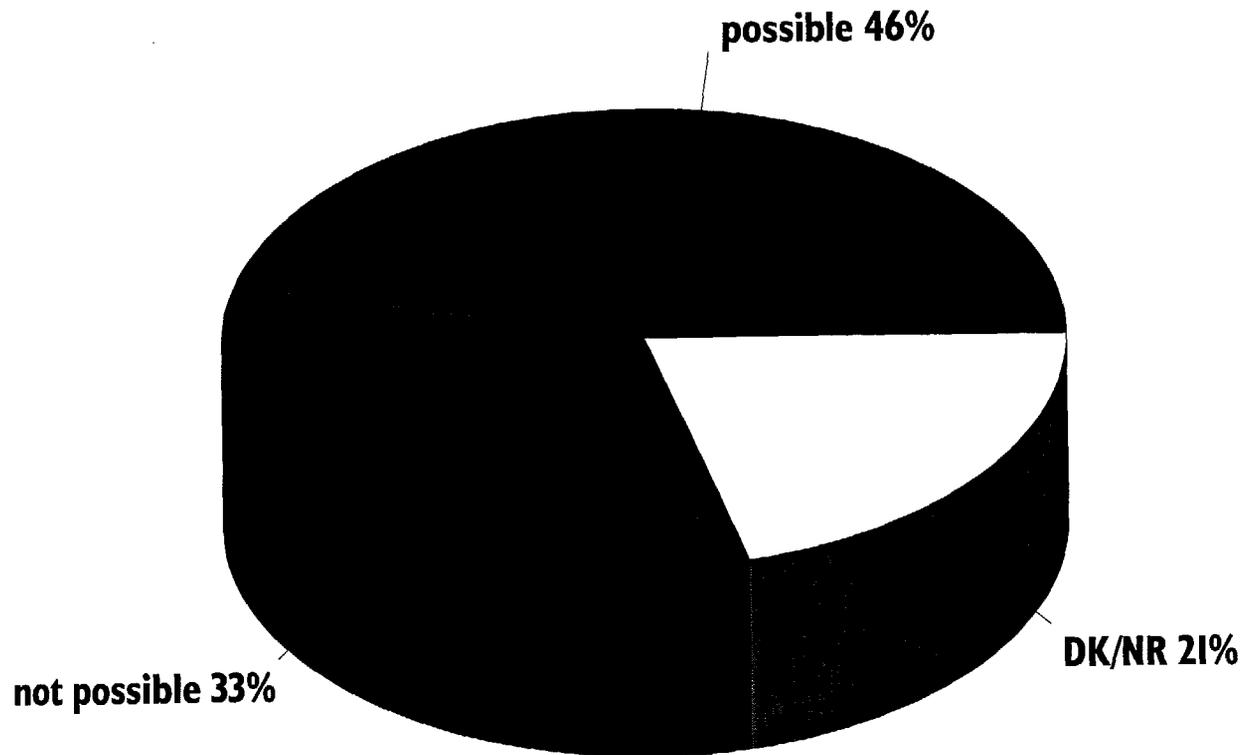


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Citizen groups and government involvement

Nearly half believe it is: “possible for citizens to form groups to improve their communities without government involvement.”



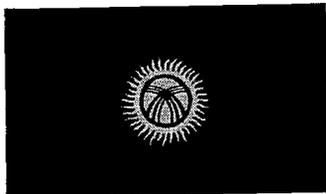
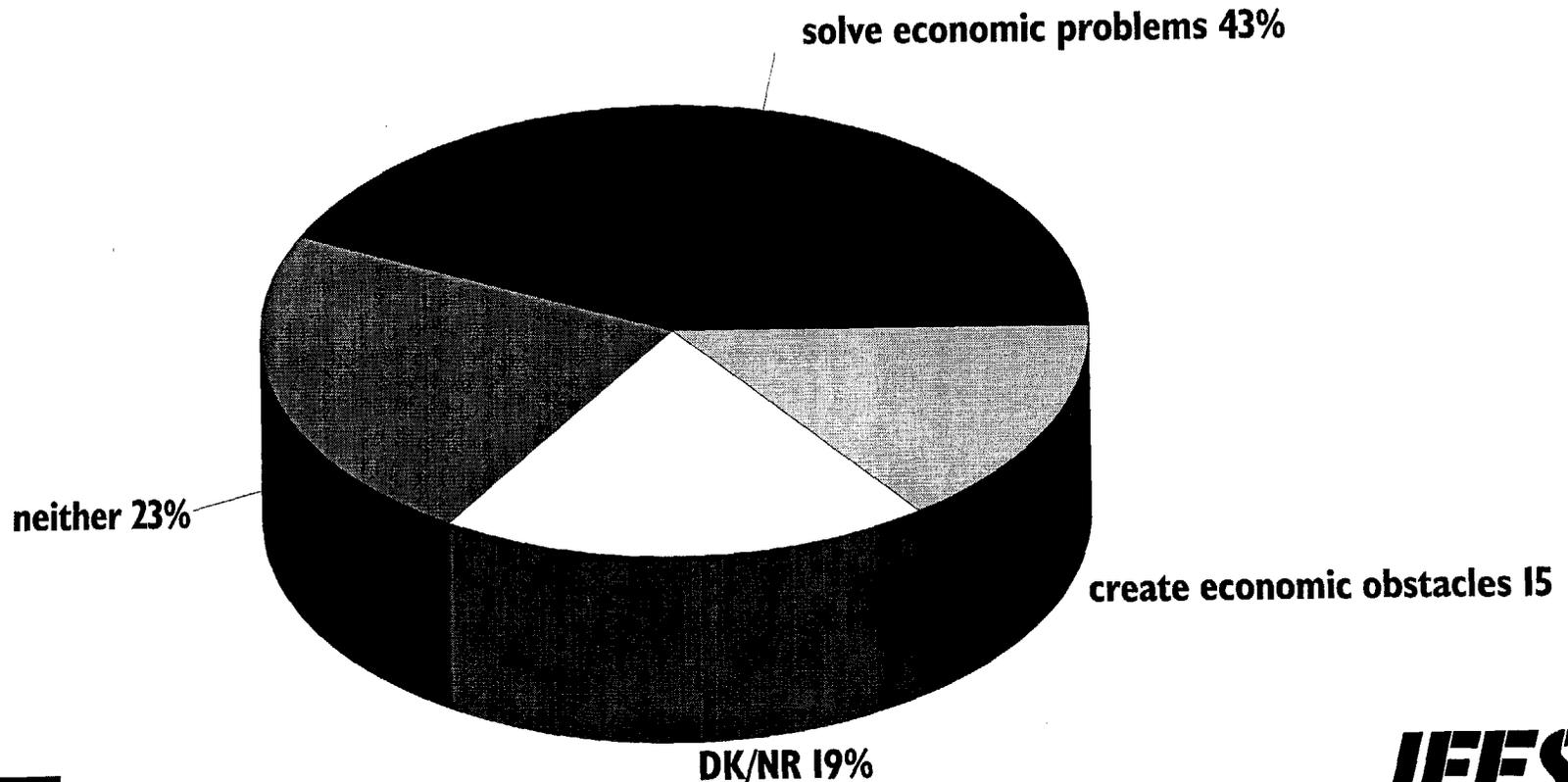
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Economic impact of democracy

4 out of 10 believe "being a democracy would solve economic problems."

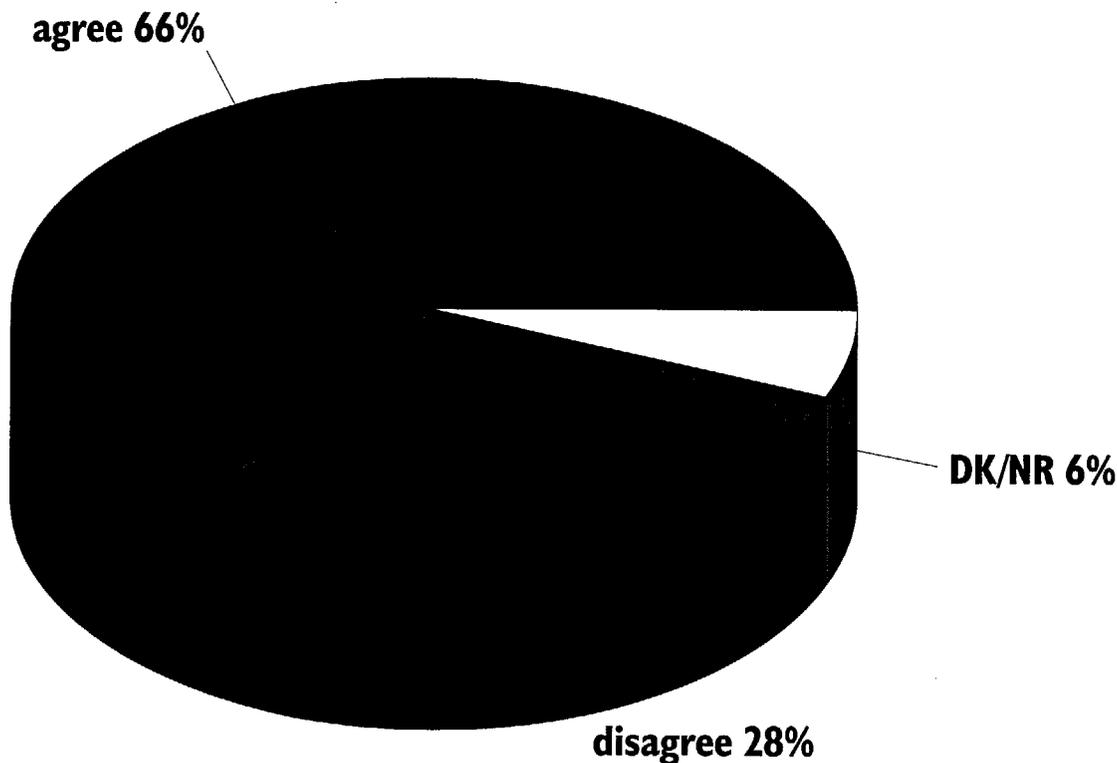


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Preservation of Kyrgyzstan's Culture

2 out of 3 agree that "the people of Kyrgyzstan have a culture and a way of life which deserves to be protected against foreign influences."

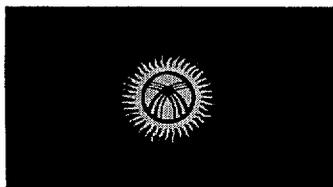
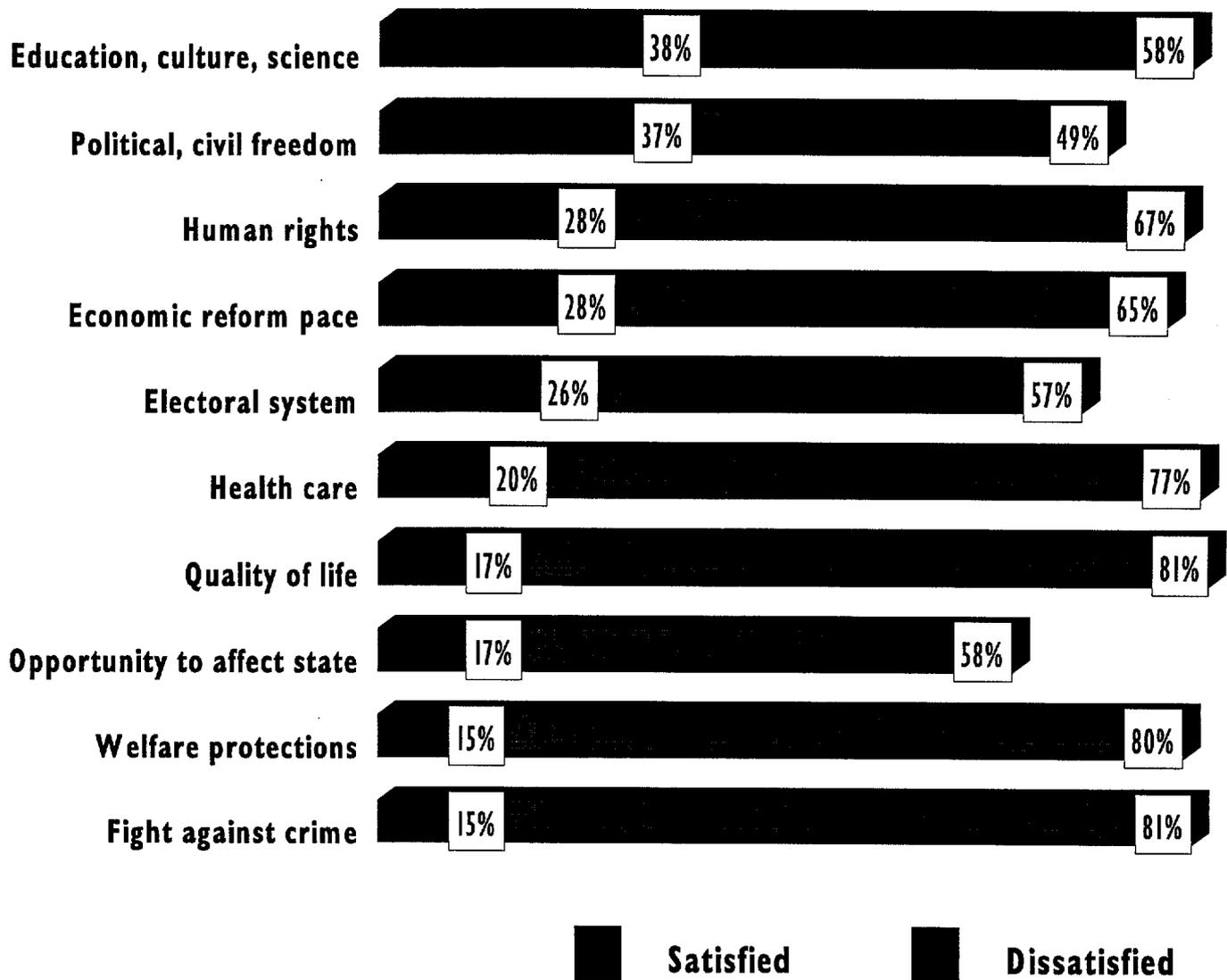


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Satisfaction with...



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Life in a Democracy

Open-ended responses to the question: "What does it mean to live in a democracy?"

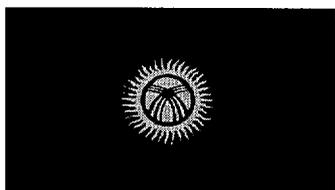
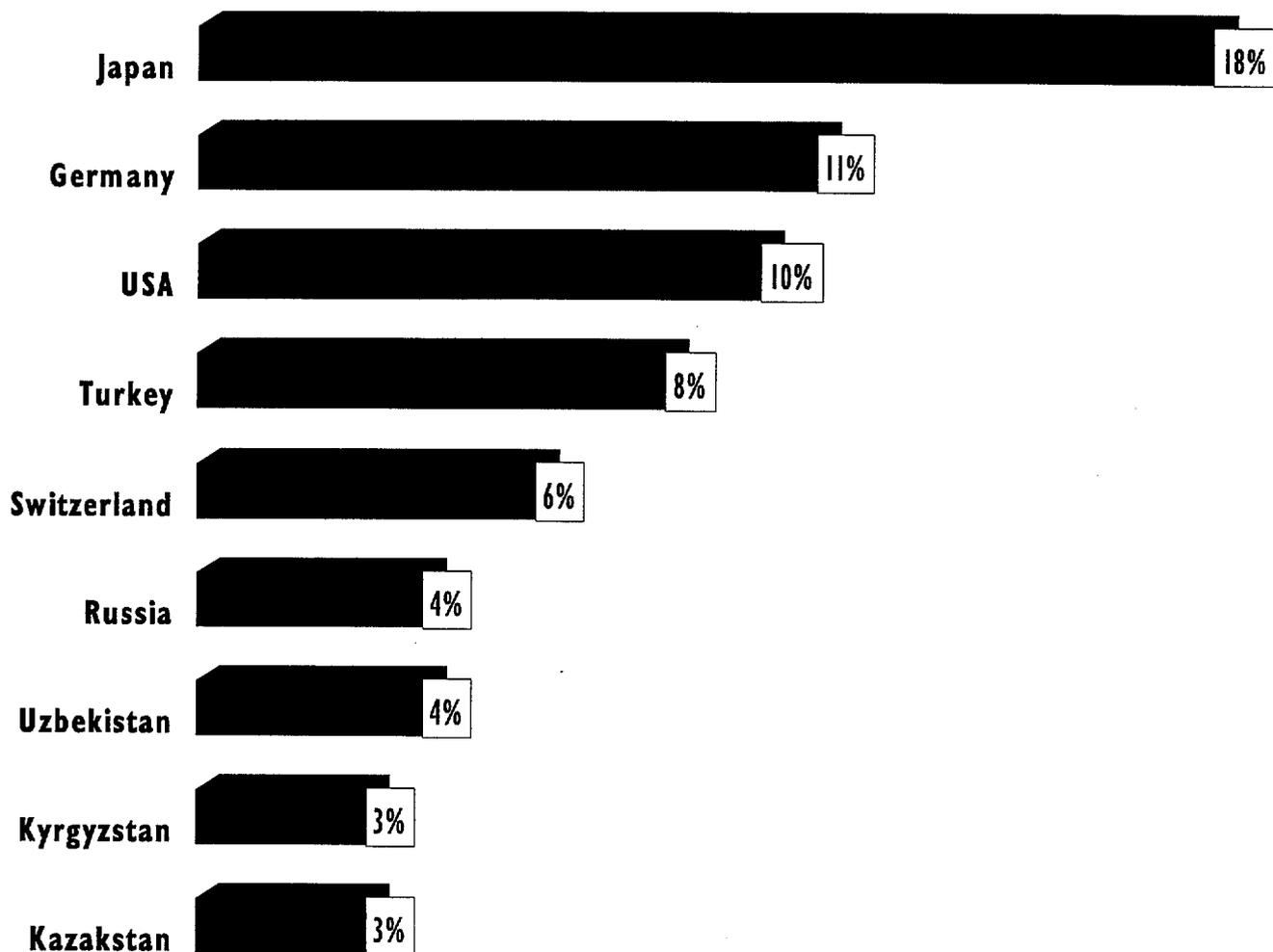


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Models for Development

Responses to the question: "Which country do you think could be a model for Kyrgyzstan's development?"

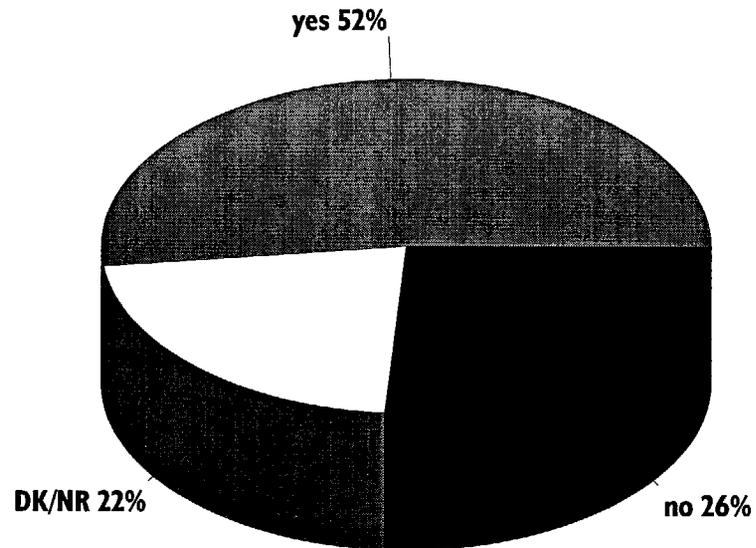


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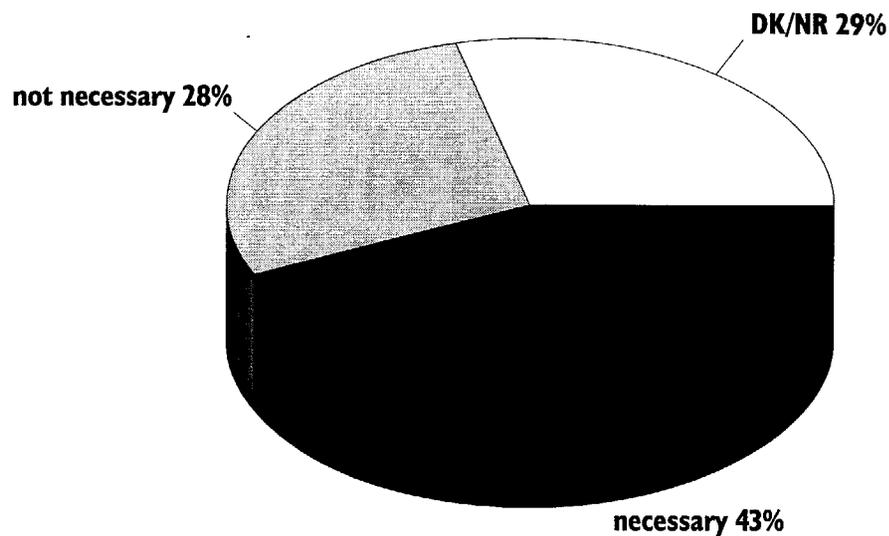
Ability to improve life

Responses to the question: "Is it possible for citizens to form groups to improve their communities without government involvement?"



Necessity of forming citizens' groups

Responses to the question: "Is it necessary for citizens to form groups to improve their communities?"



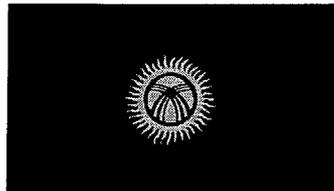
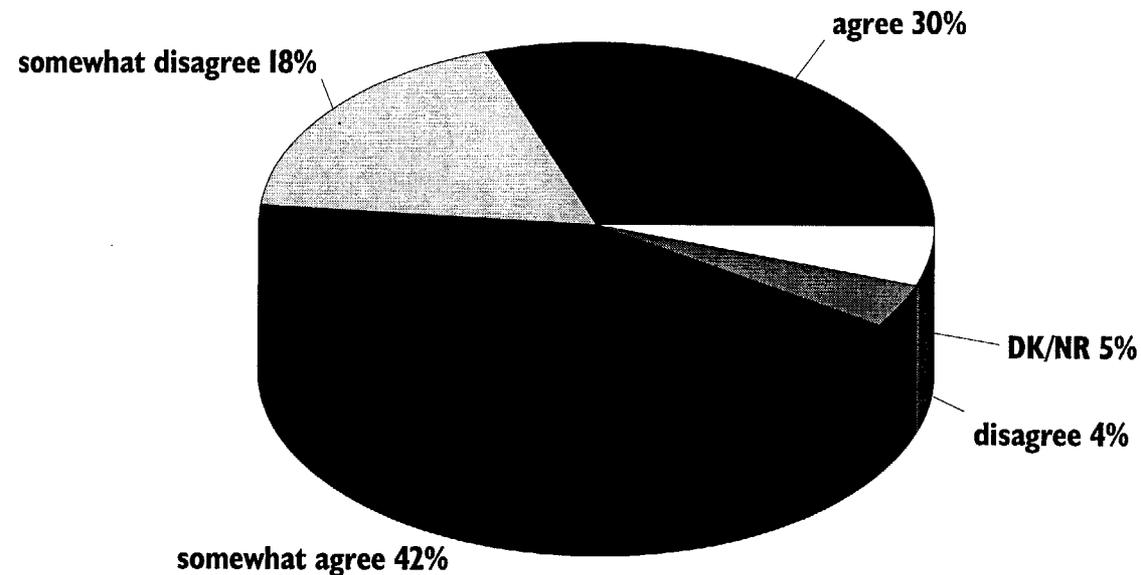
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Information about rights

7 out of 10 said they are not receiving enough information about their rights.



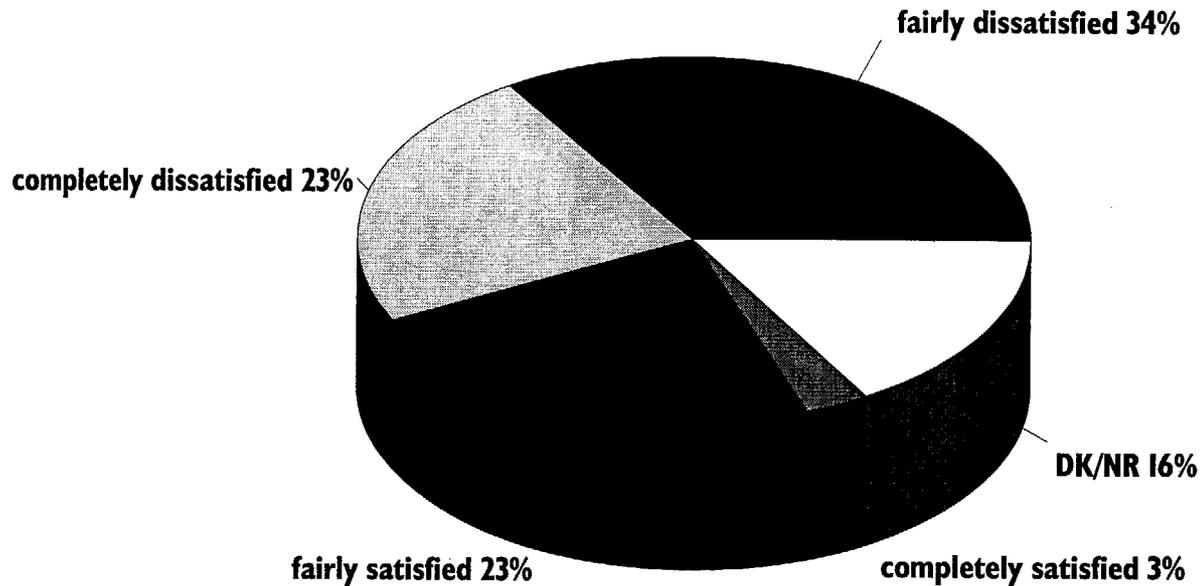
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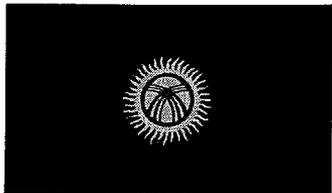
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Unsatisfactory electoral system

Less than half think the electoral system is satisfactory.



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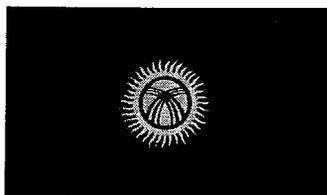
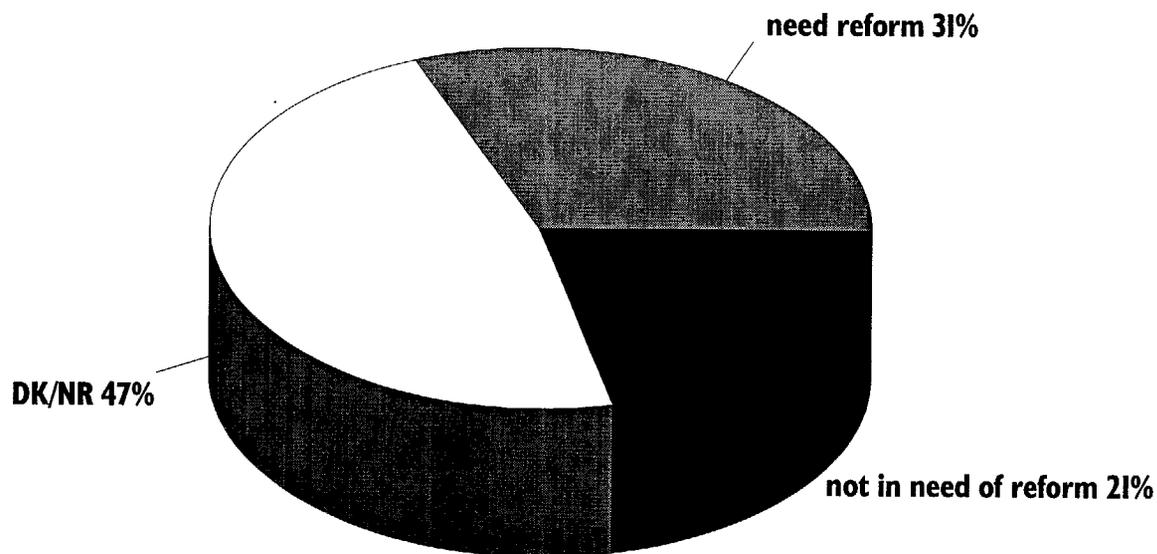


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Kyrgyzstan's election laws

Responses to the question about whether election laws are in need of reform.



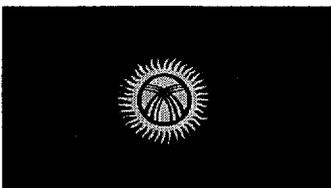
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Groups causing problems in society

Responses to the question: "What groups of people are causing problems in society today?"

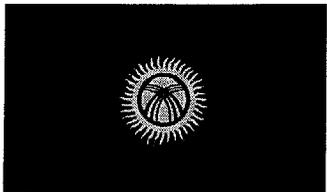
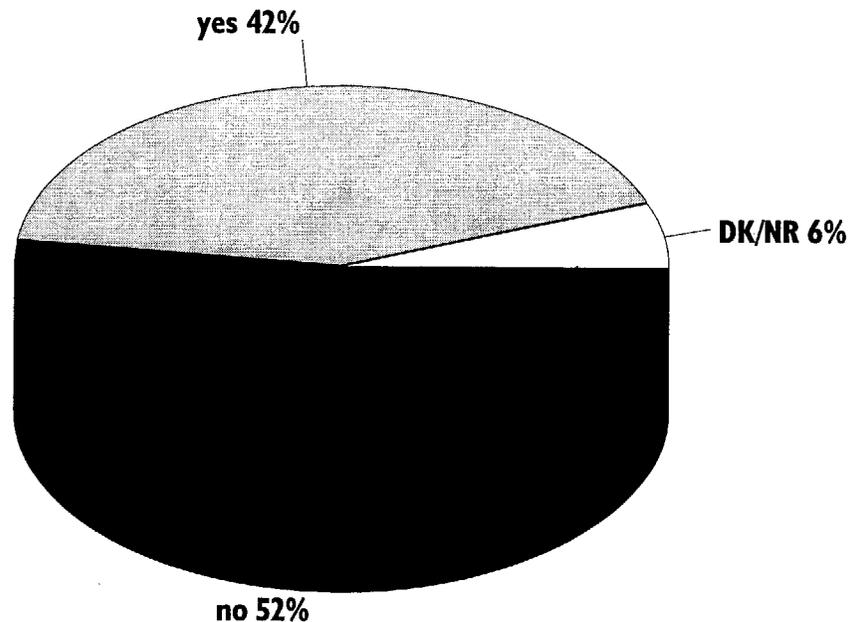


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Family voting

Nearly half witnessed others voting on behalf of a family member.



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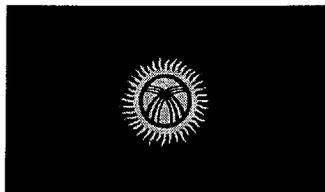
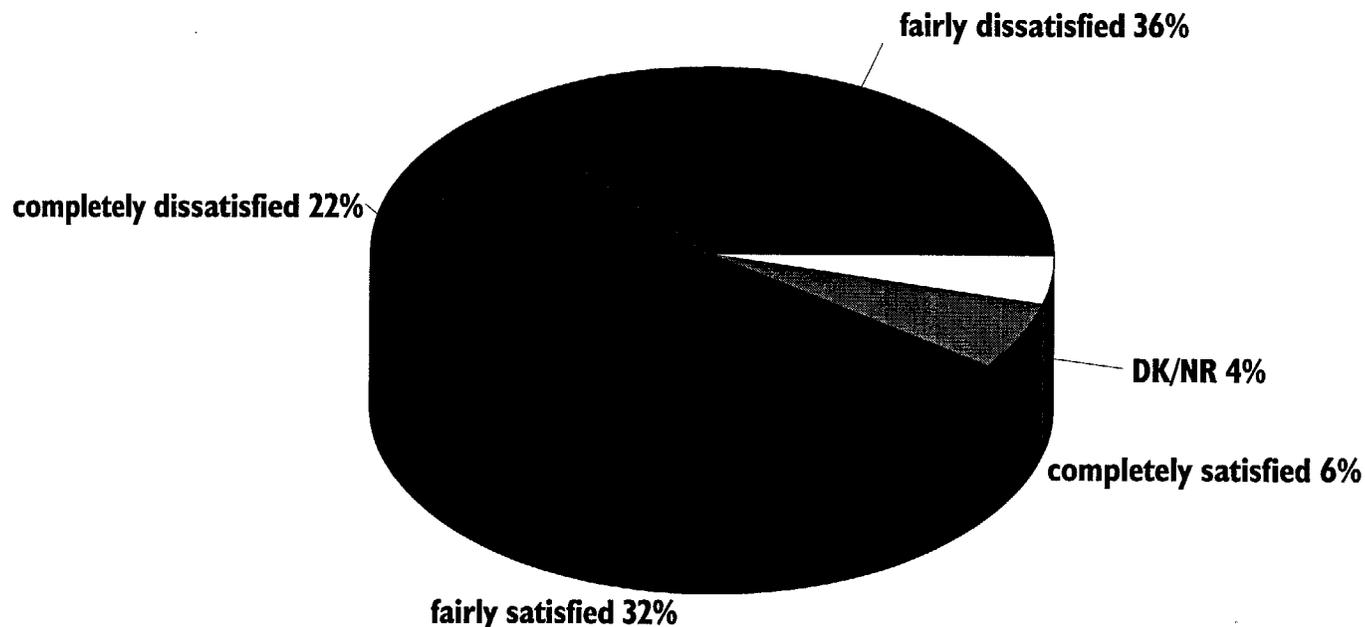


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Education in Kyrgyzstan

More than half are not completely satisfied with the level of education, culture or science in Kyrgyzstan.



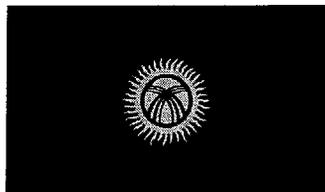
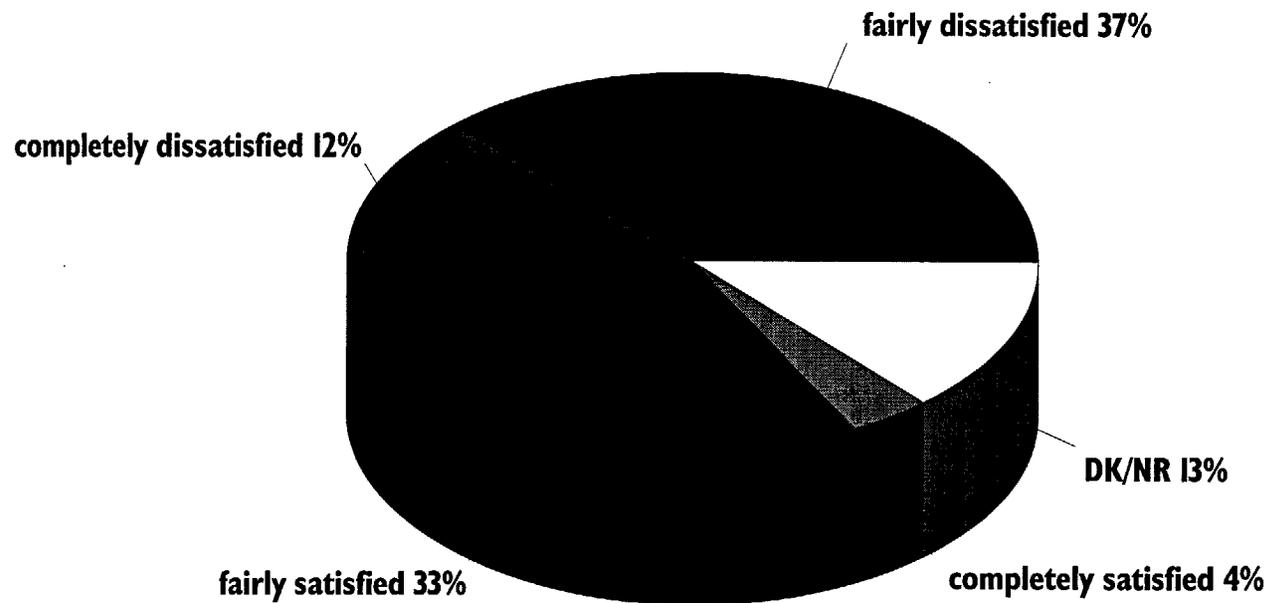
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Political and civil freedom

Less than half of the youth are satisfied with the level of political and civil freedom in Kyrgyzstan.



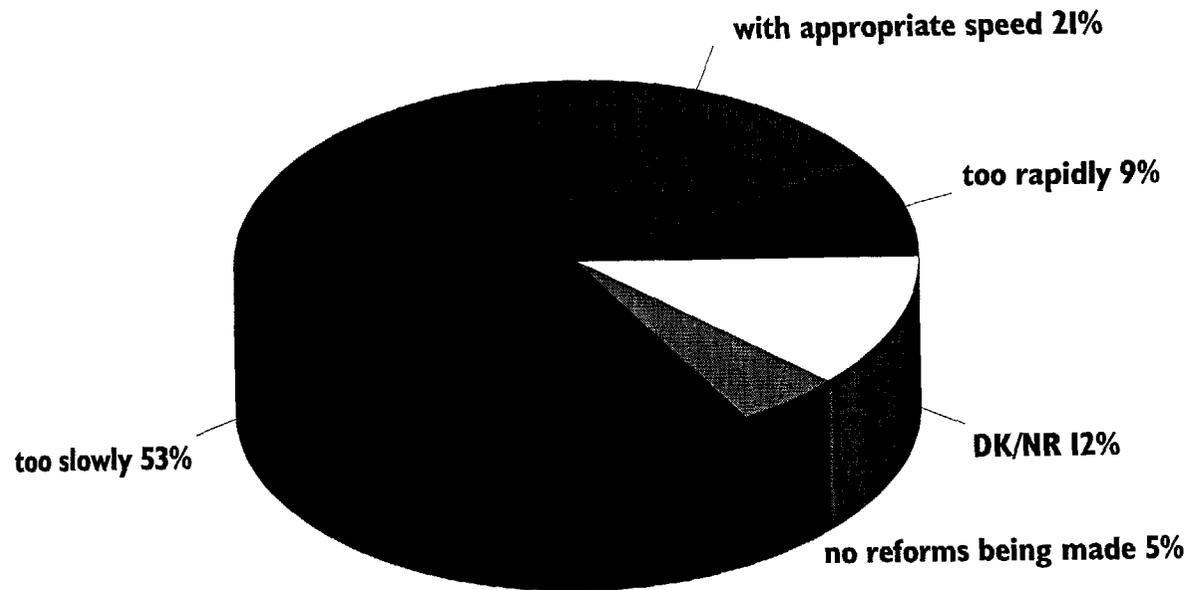
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Pace of economic reform

Half think economic reforms are made too slowly.



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