

The “Green” Political Proposal in Greece

Public Opinion Survey

November 2021

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ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ
Ελλάδα

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Survey Details

Qualitative Research - Focus groups

- ▶ **Data collection method:** Focus groups of 8-10 individuals. The discussion was coordinated by an experienced professional of Kapa Research in a tele-conference format through the Zoom platform.
- ▶ **Groups' Characteristics (synthesis):**
- ▶ Group A: 9 individuals aged 17-39 (gen Z and Millennials)
- ▶ Group B: 10 individuals aged 40-49 (productive ages)
- ▶ Group C: 9 individuals inhabitants of semi-urban and agricultural regions
- ▶ **Discussion Duration:** The average duration of every discussion was 1,5-2 hours.

Quantitative Research

- ▶ **Sample size and characteristics:** 1605 interviews on a representative sample of the Greek population aged 17 and above.
- ▶ **Timeframe for collecting data:** 10 - 23 November 2021
- ▶ **Method for collecting data:** Data collection implemented as follows: 81% (1291 interviews) via telephone interviews (CATI) and 19% (314 interviews) through a digital questionnaire (CAWI) addressed to members of Kapa Research inhouse online panel.
- ▶ **Sampling:** Multistage sampling using quotas with respect to geographical distribution, gender, and age of the population based on the 2011 census of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT). Data are weighted by the 2019 national election results
- ▶ **Error and rounding:** Standard error of 3% with a confidence interval of 95%. Results (%) are rounded to 1% and answers may not add up to 100%

The Green platform in Greece

Perceptions and attitudes

Report of findings



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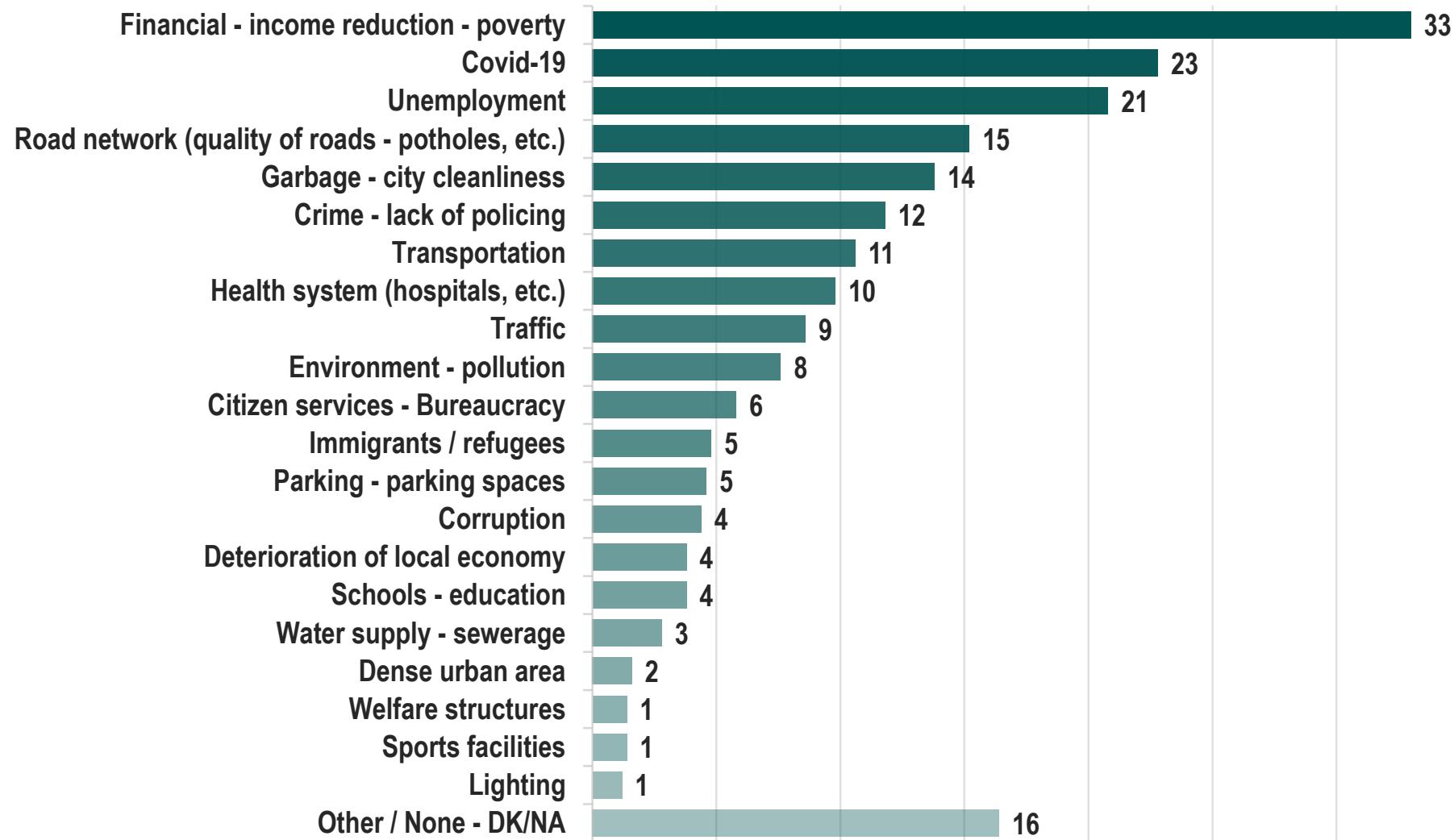


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TOP DAILY PROBLEMS

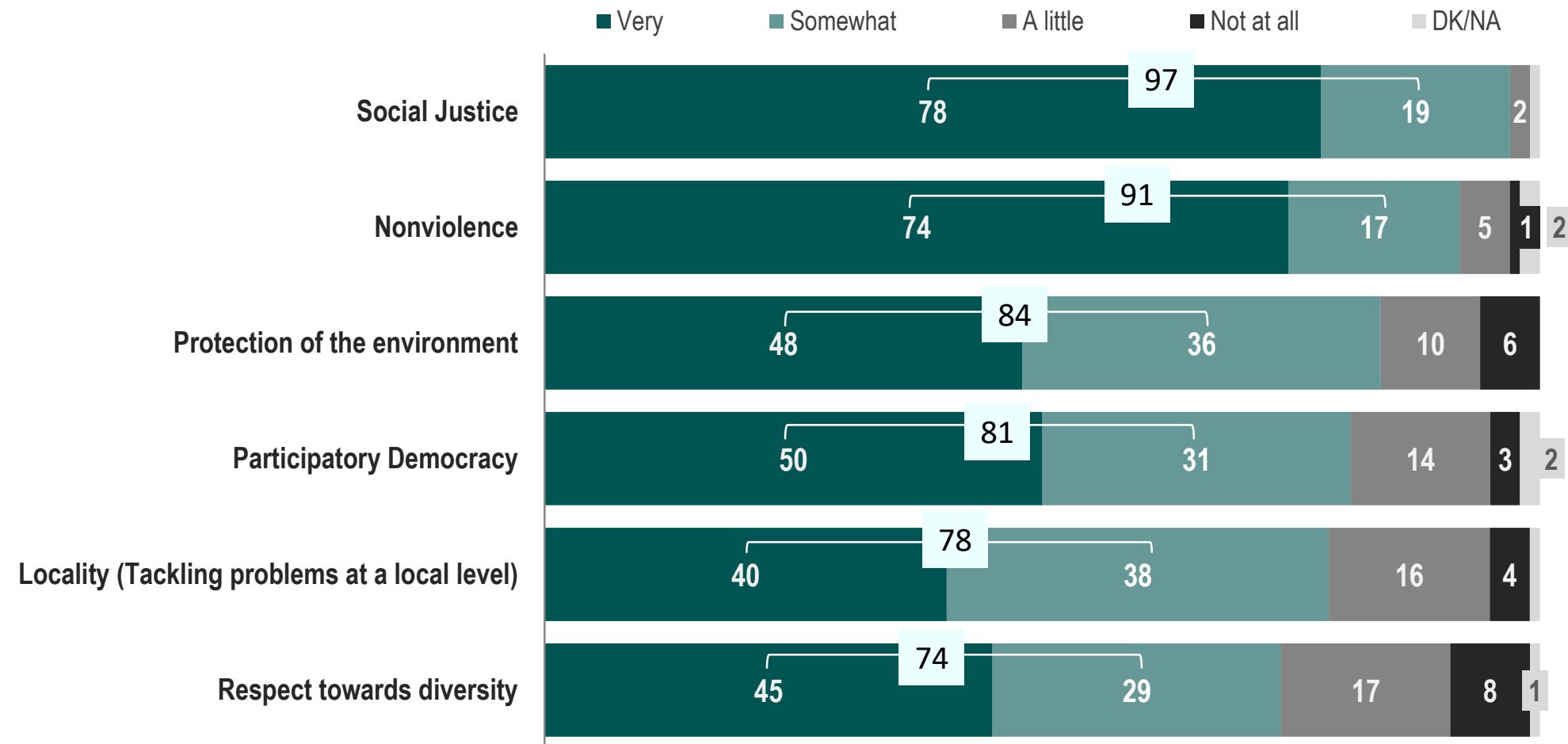
What are the most important problems you face in your daily life in your area of residence?

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION - UP TO 3 ANSWERS



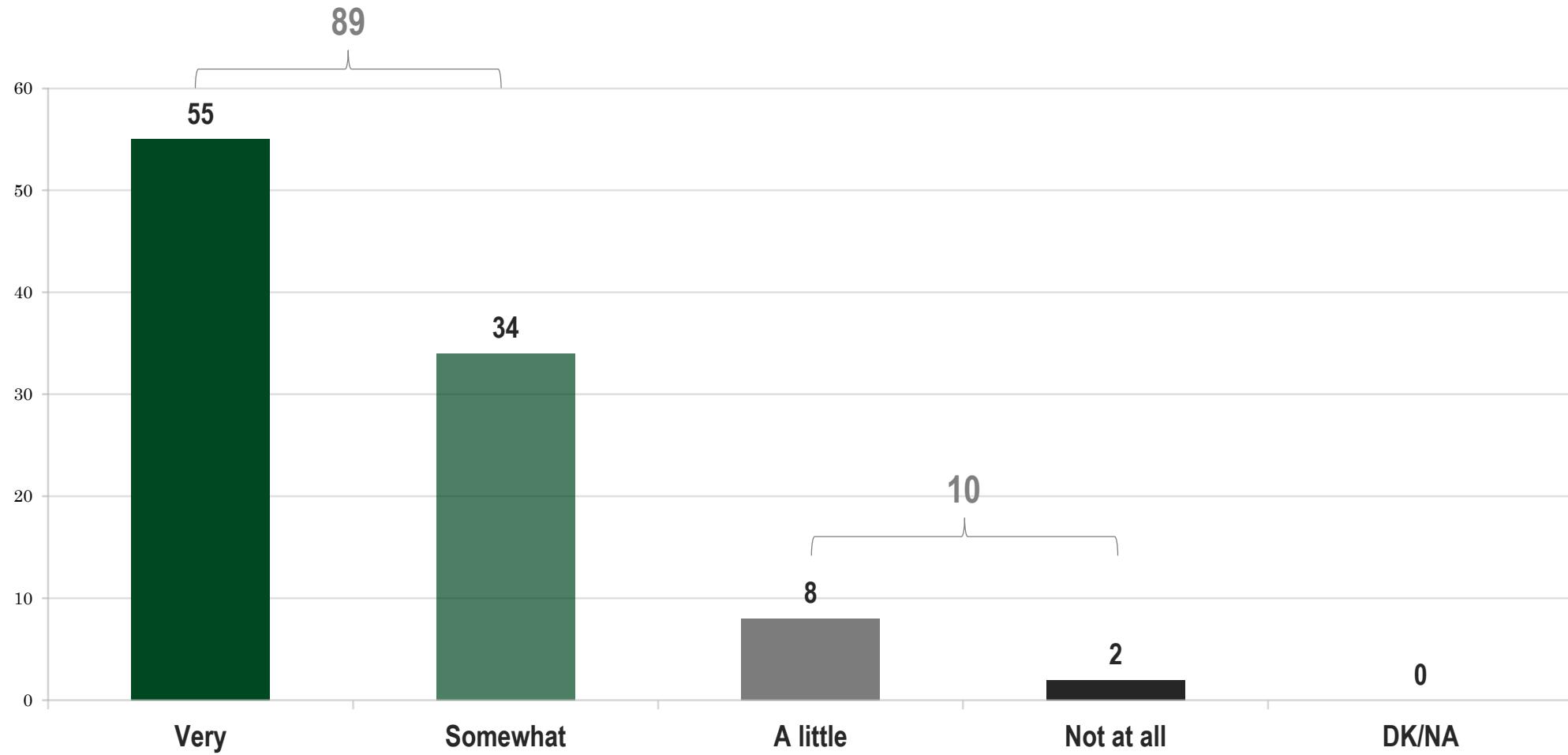
IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL & POLITICAL PROPOSALS

How important is each of the following to you?



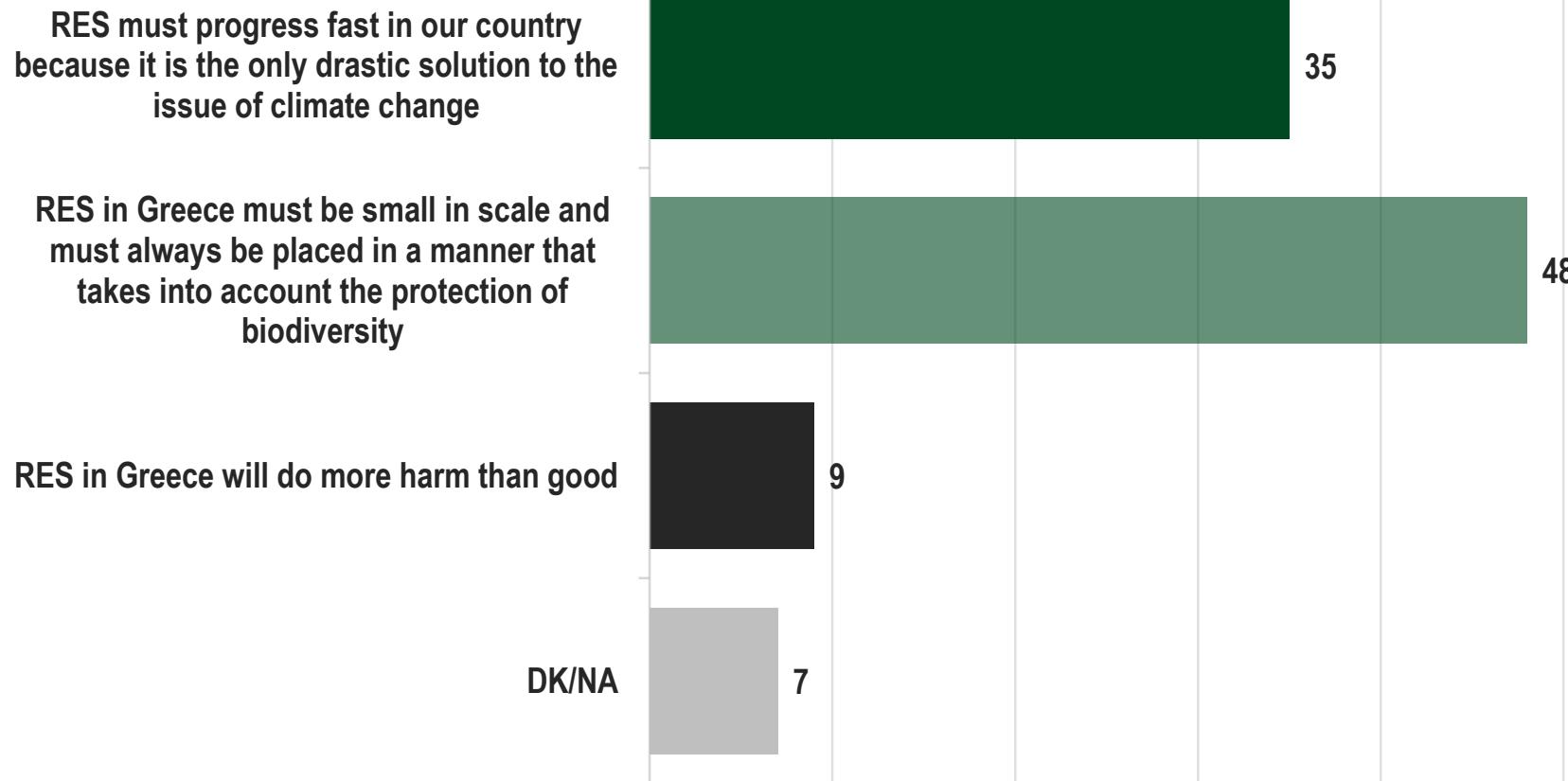
CONCERN REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

How concerned are you about environmental issues in Greece and the world?



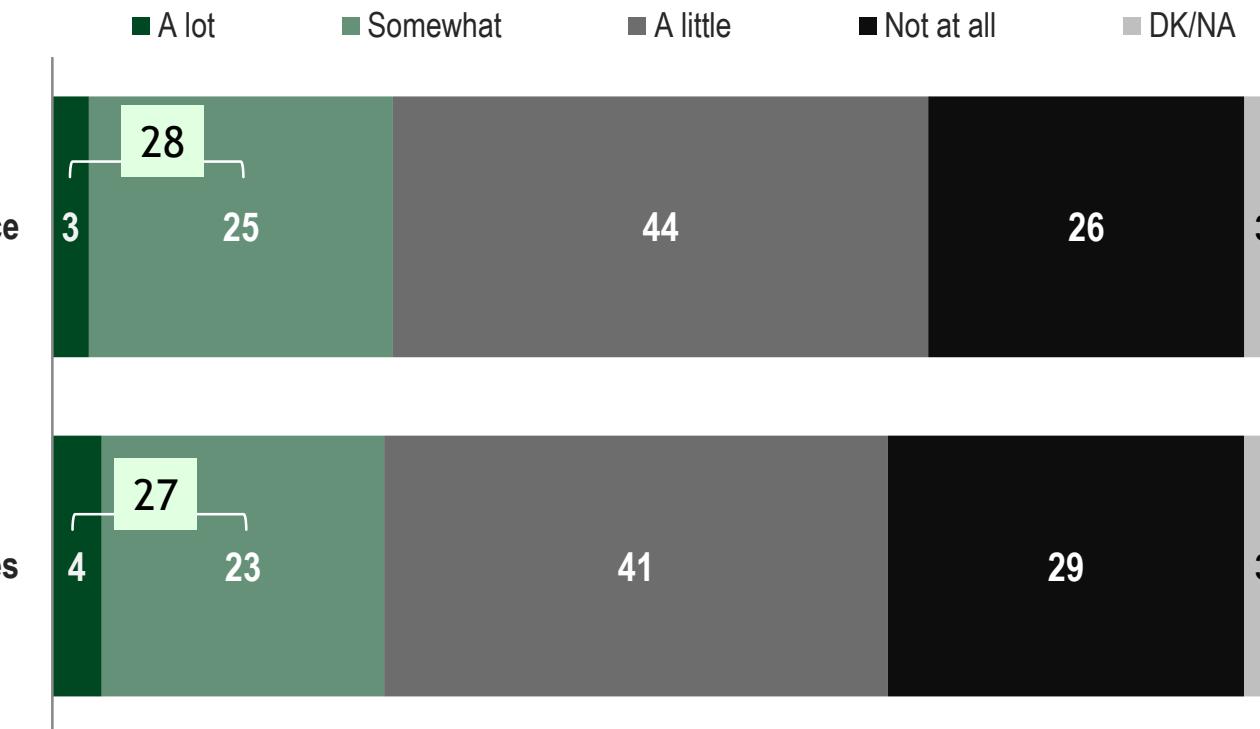
OPINION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Regarding renewable energy sources (RES), with which of the following views would you agree more?



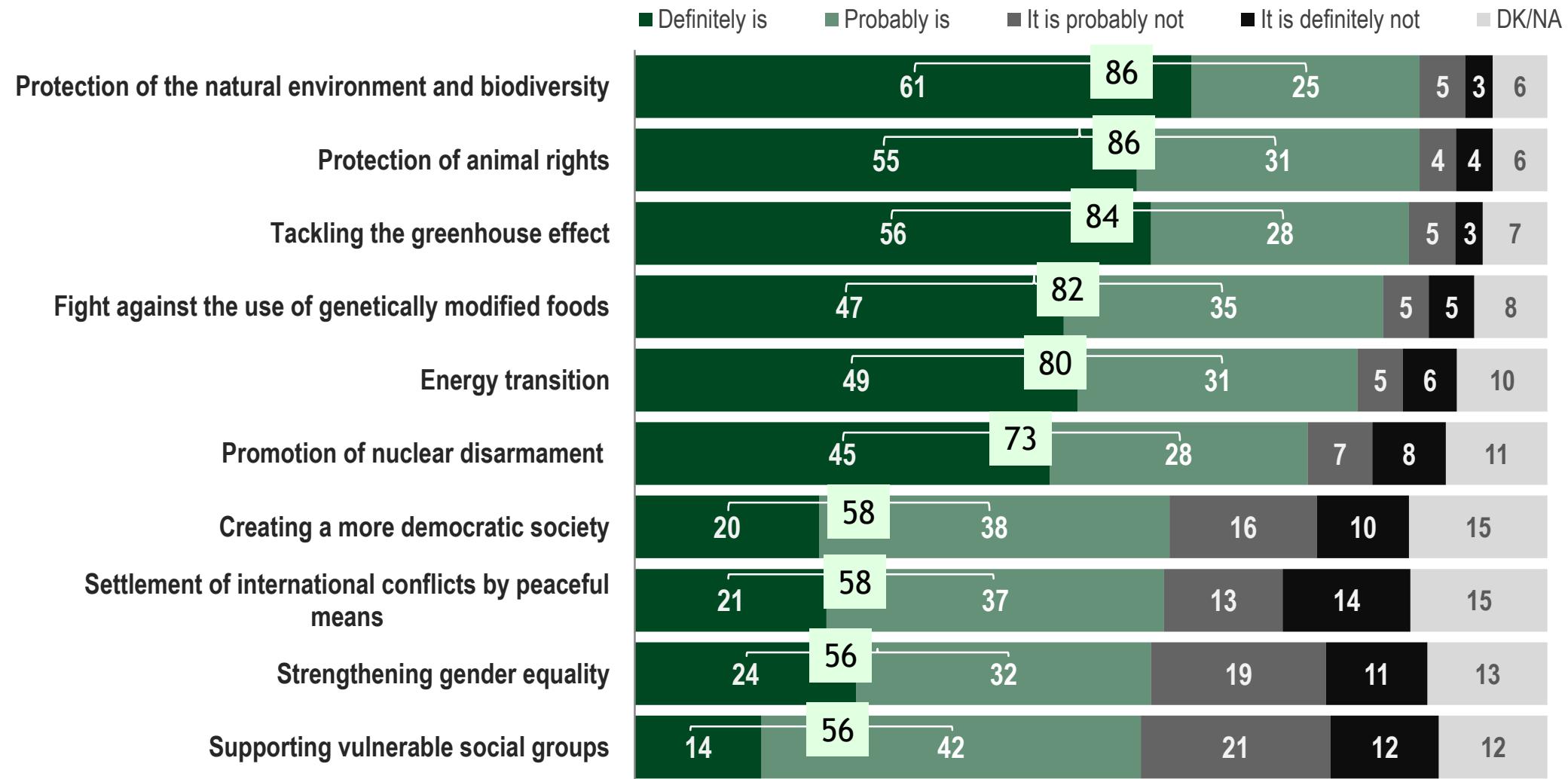
AWARENESS OF GREEN POLICY PROPOSALS

How familiar are you with the proposals of the greens...:



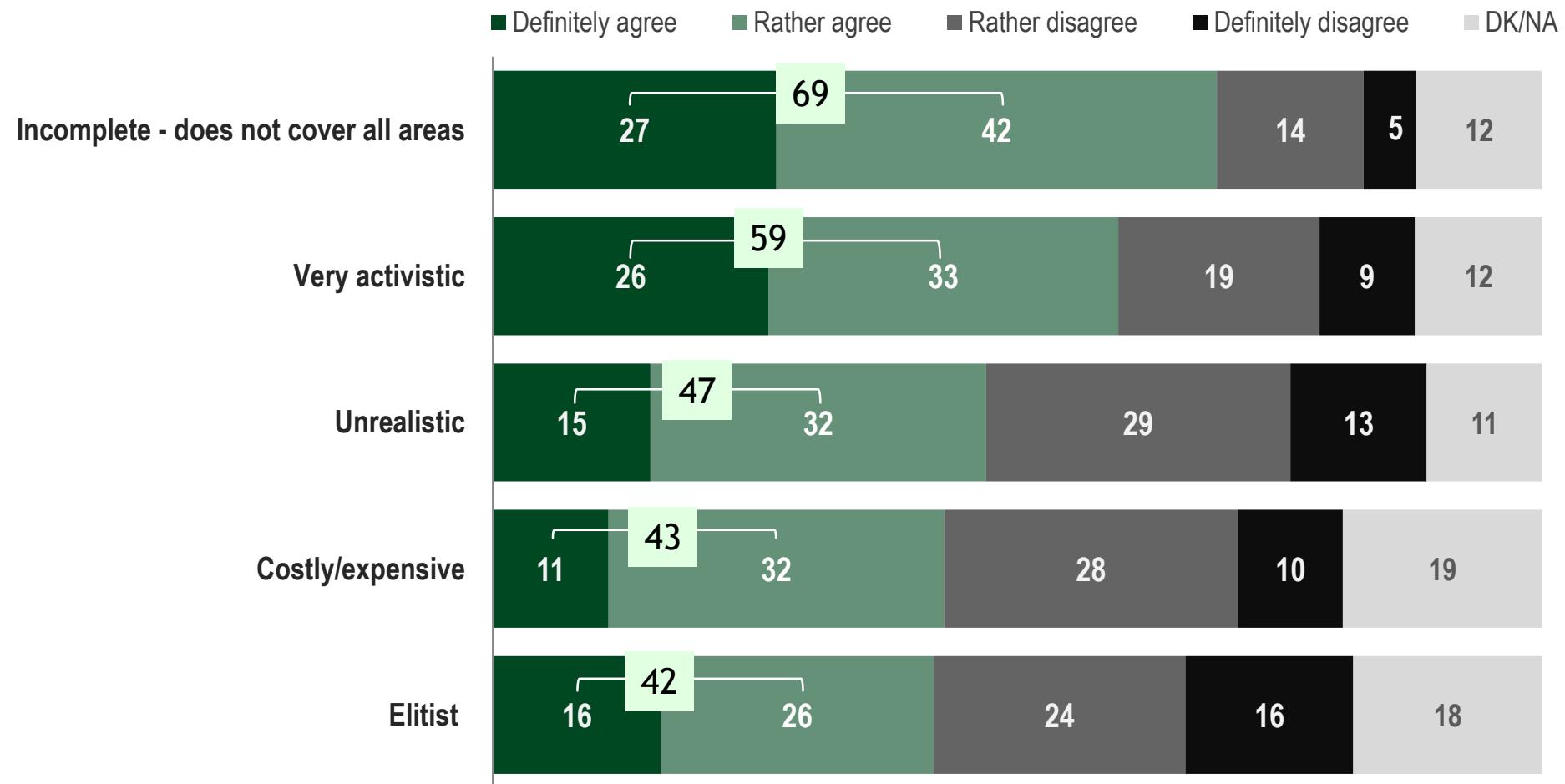
AWARENESS OF SPECIFIC GREEN POLICY PROPOSALS (1/2)

For each of the following proposals, do you think that they are part of the broader green policy proposal, or not?



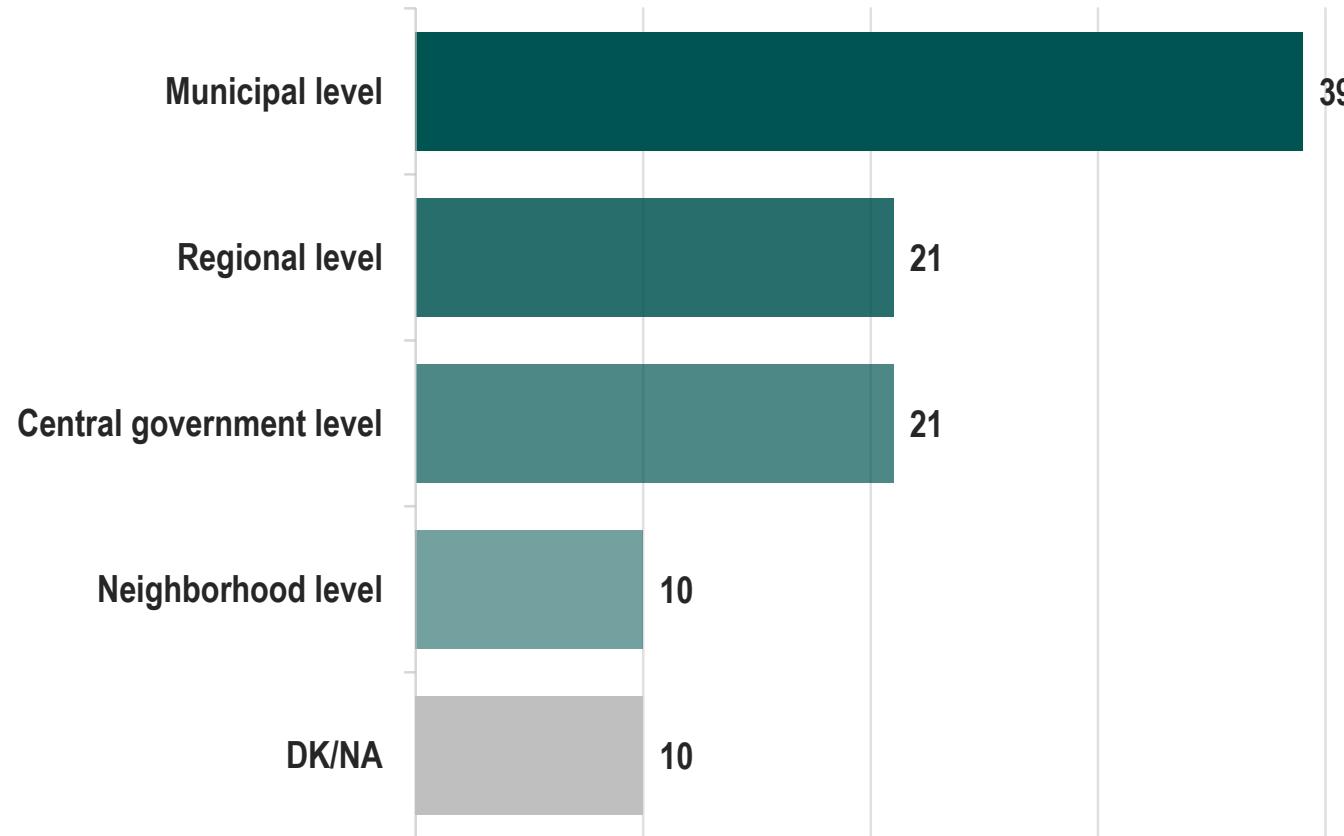
POINTS OF CRITISIM TOWARDS THE GREEN POLITICAL PROPOSAL

From time to time, various criticisms of the green parties and the green political proposal have been heard.
Do you agree or disagree that the green policy proposal is...:



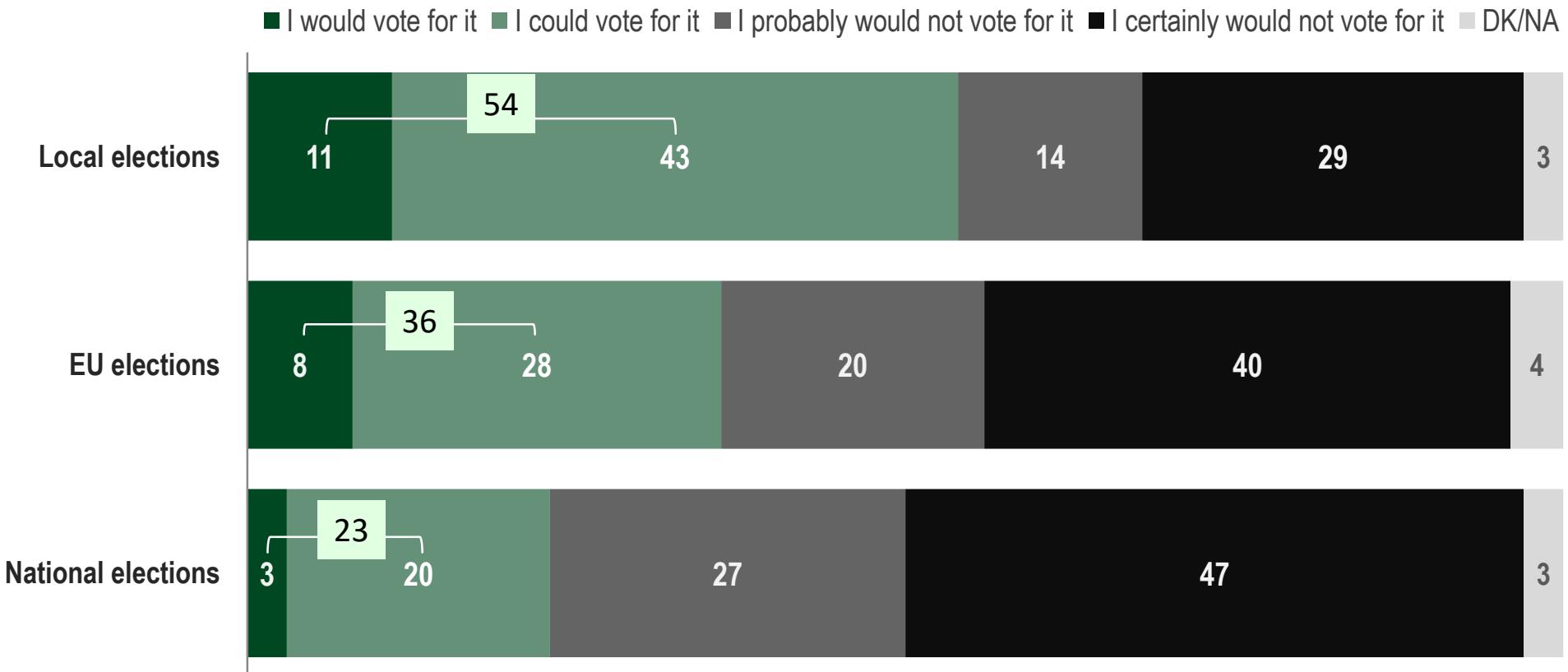
LEVEL OF GOVERNANCE AT WHICH THE GREEN POLICY PROPOSAL IS MORE EFFECTIVE

In your opinion, at what level of governance could the green policy proposal be implemented more effectively?



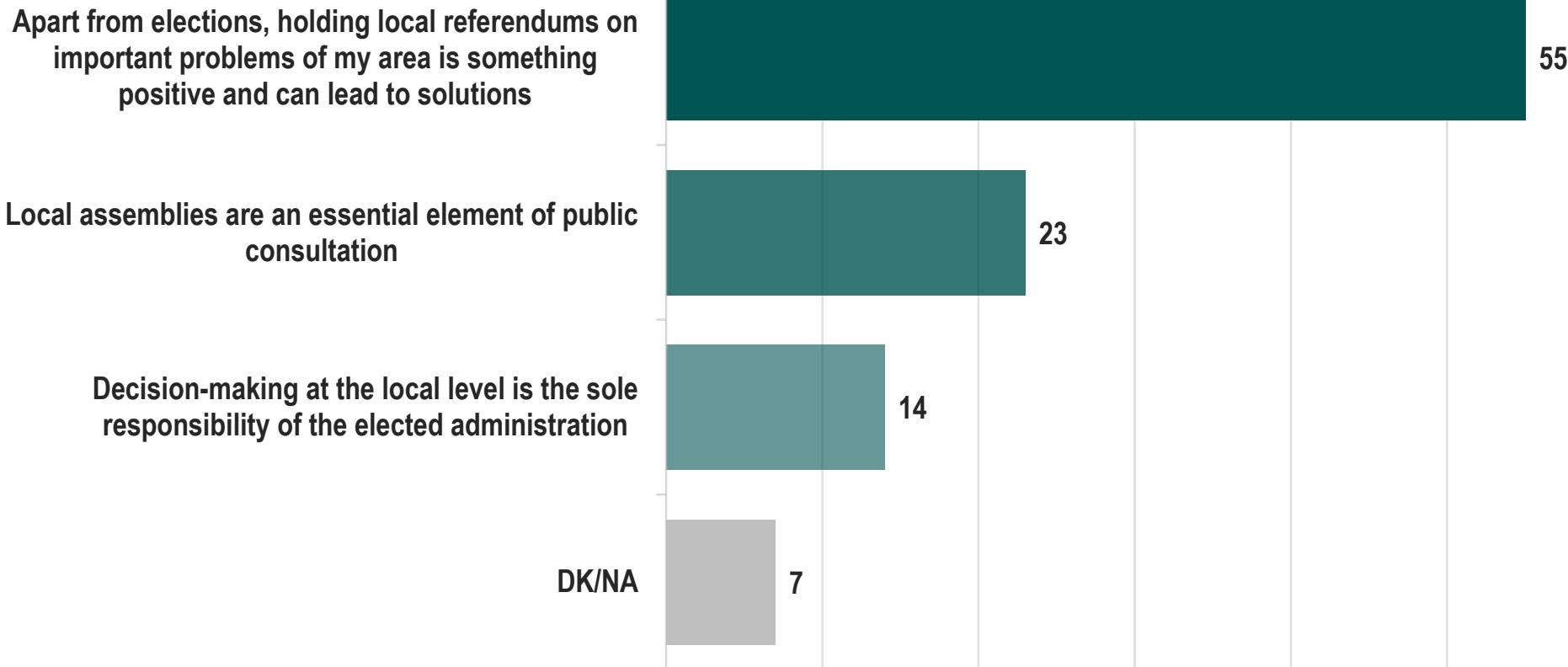
POTENTIAL VOTE FOR A GREEN/ECOLOGICAL PARTY: PER ELECTION CONTEST

In what kind of electoral contest could you personally vote for a green ecological party or a green coalition?



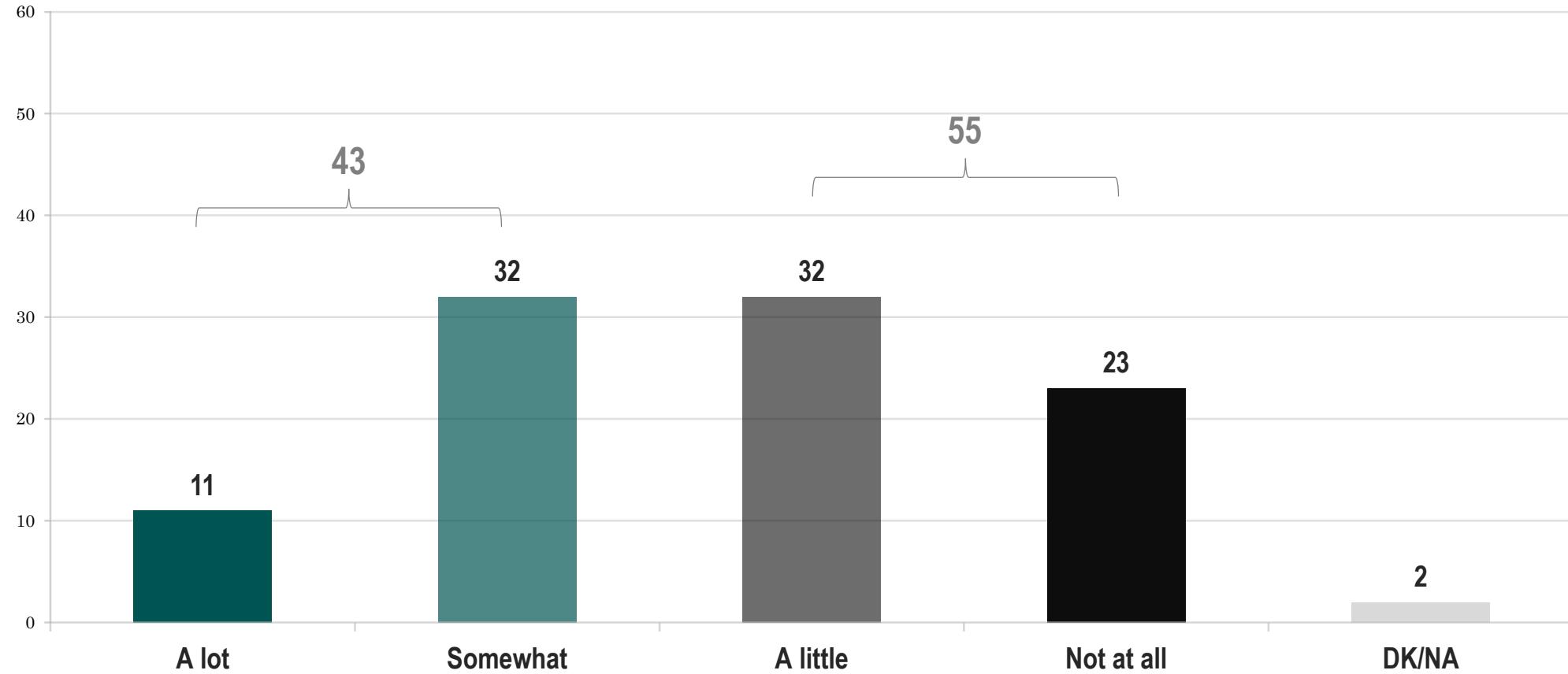
OPINION ON HOW DECISIONS SHOULD BE MADE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

With which of the following views do you agree with the most?



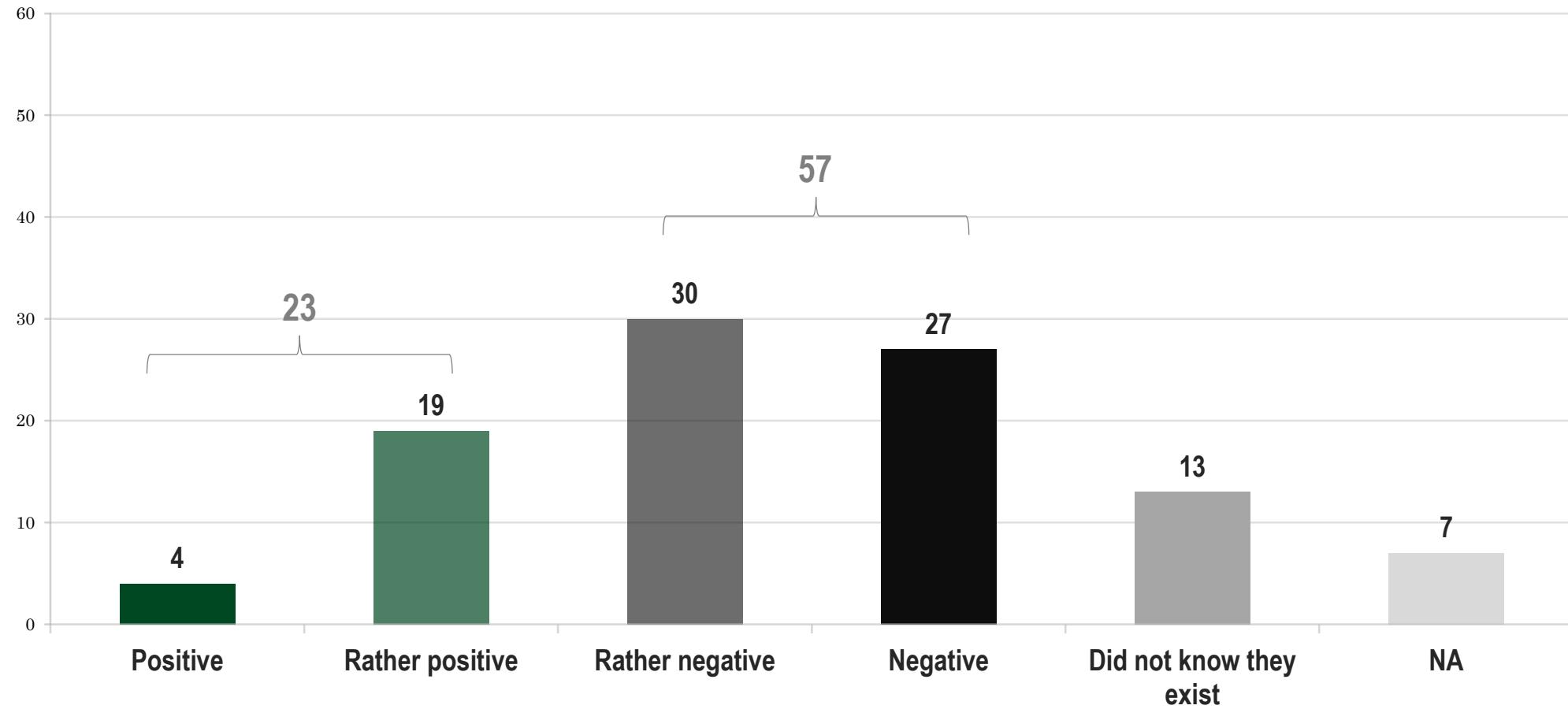
GENERAL INTEREST IN GREEN POLITICS IN GREECE

How much would you say you are interested in the politics of ecology and green ideology in Greece today?



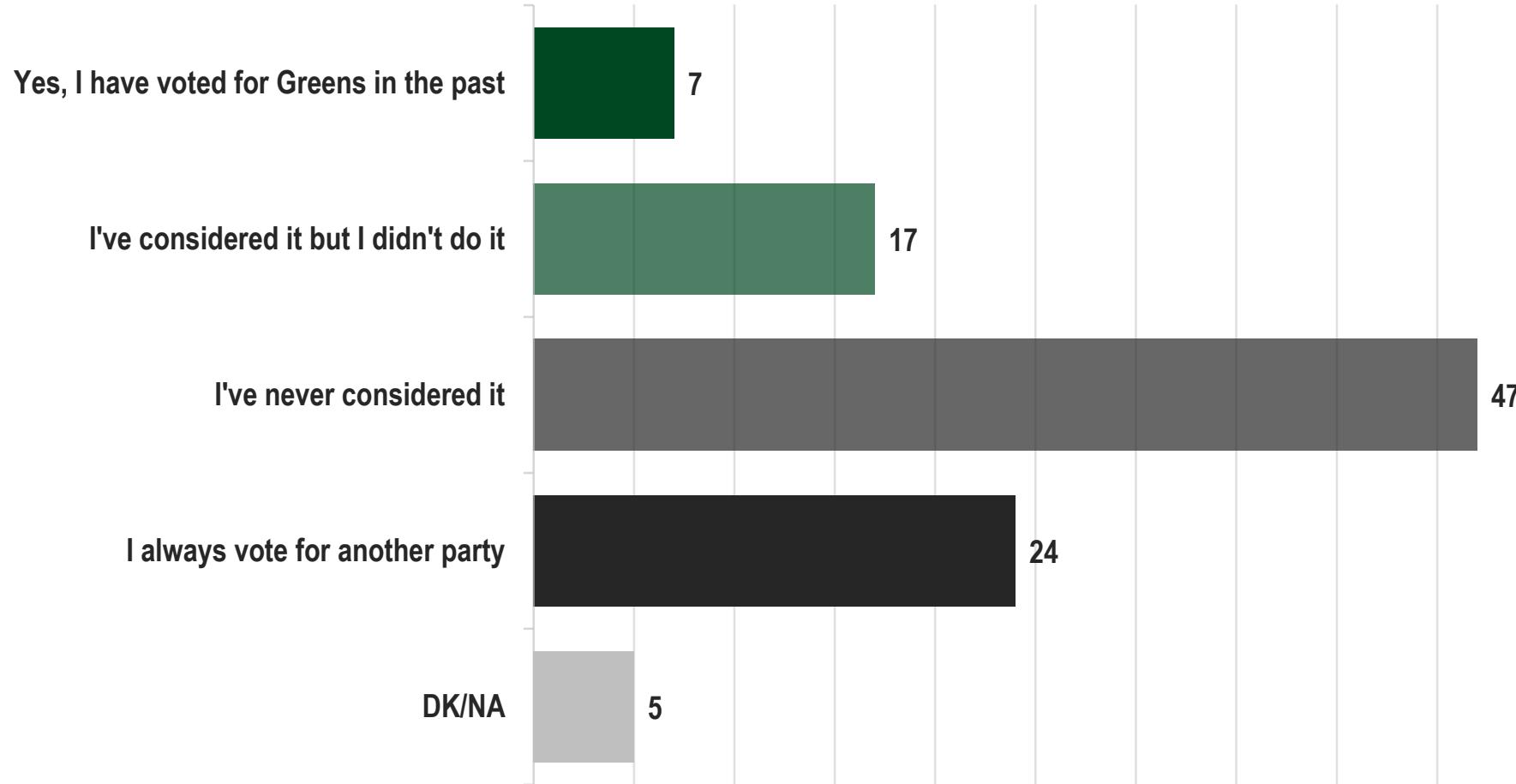
GREEN PARTIES' POPULARITY IN GREECE

More specifically, what is your opinion about the green / ecological parties in Greece?



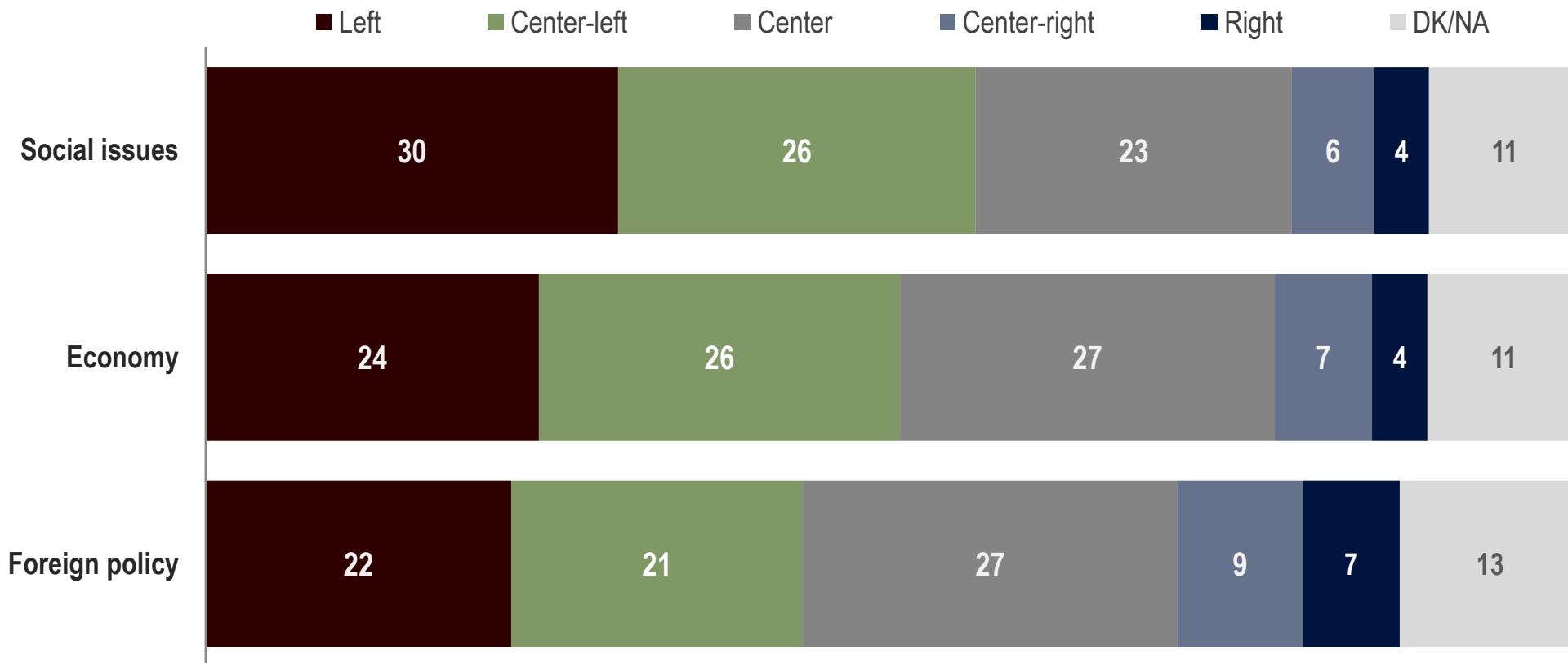
HAVE THEY EVER CONSIDERED VOTING FOR A GREEN/ECOLOGICAL PARTY IN THE PAST?

Have you ever voted or considered voting for a green or ecological party in Greece?



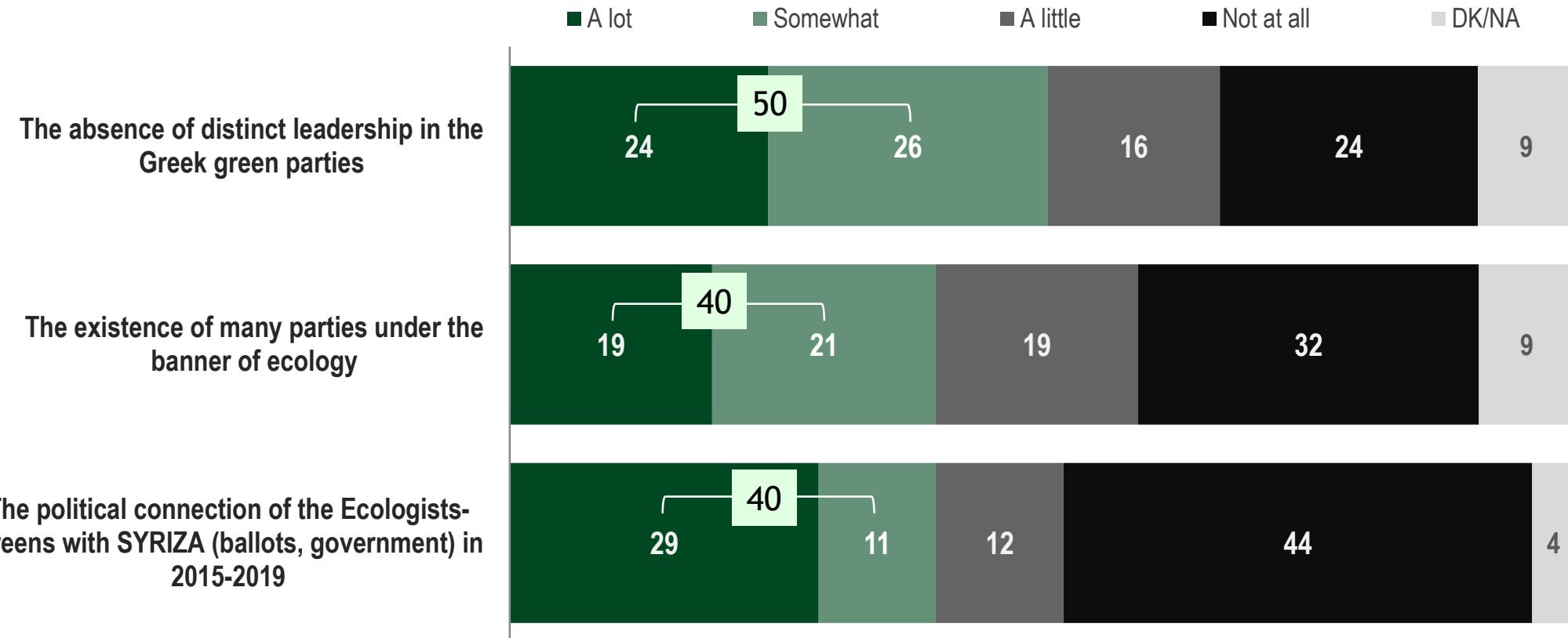
WHERE SHOULD A GREEN PARTY POSITION ITSELF POLITICALLY

In your opinion, on the Left-Right scale, where should a green party position itself in Greece today?



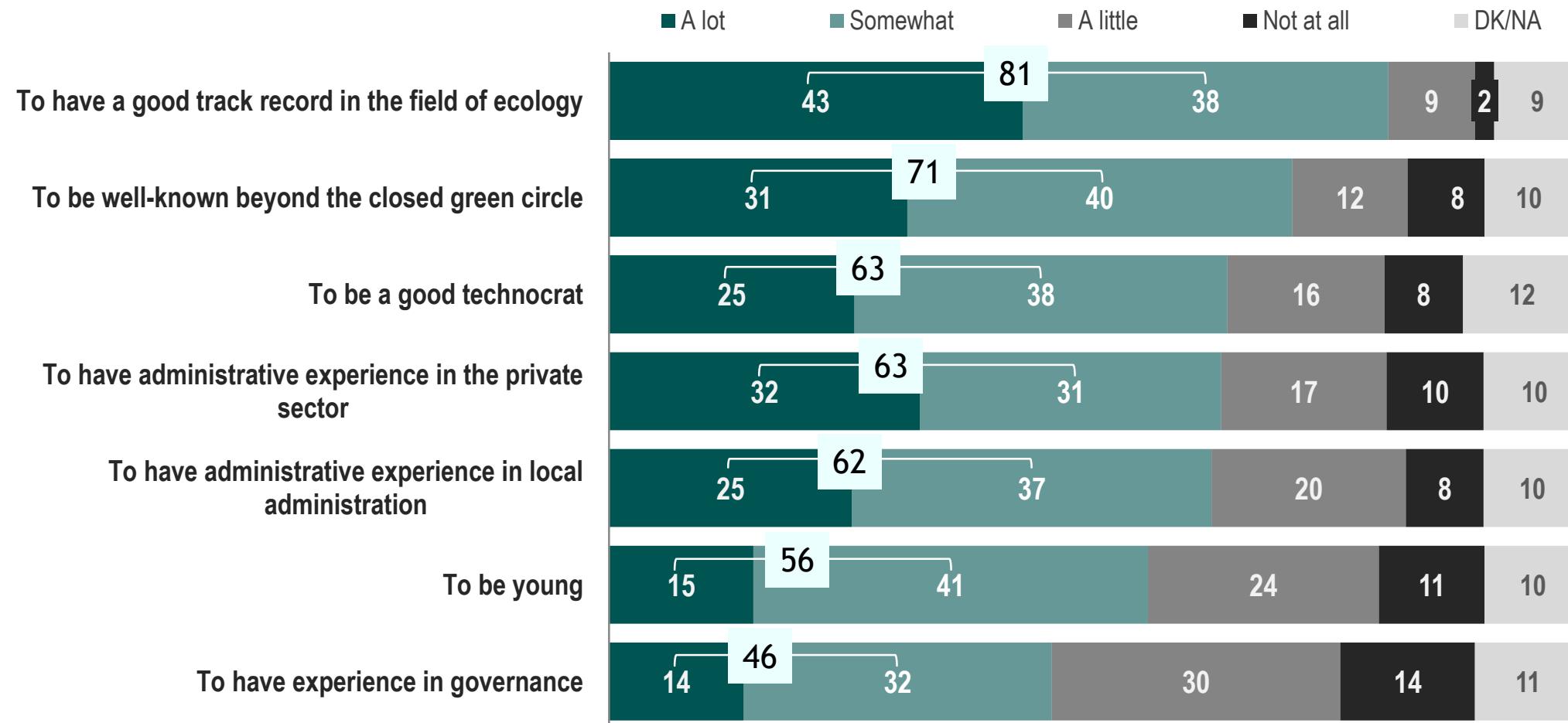
PAIN POINTS IN GREEK GREEN PARTIES

And in the Greek case, how much did each of the following bother you?



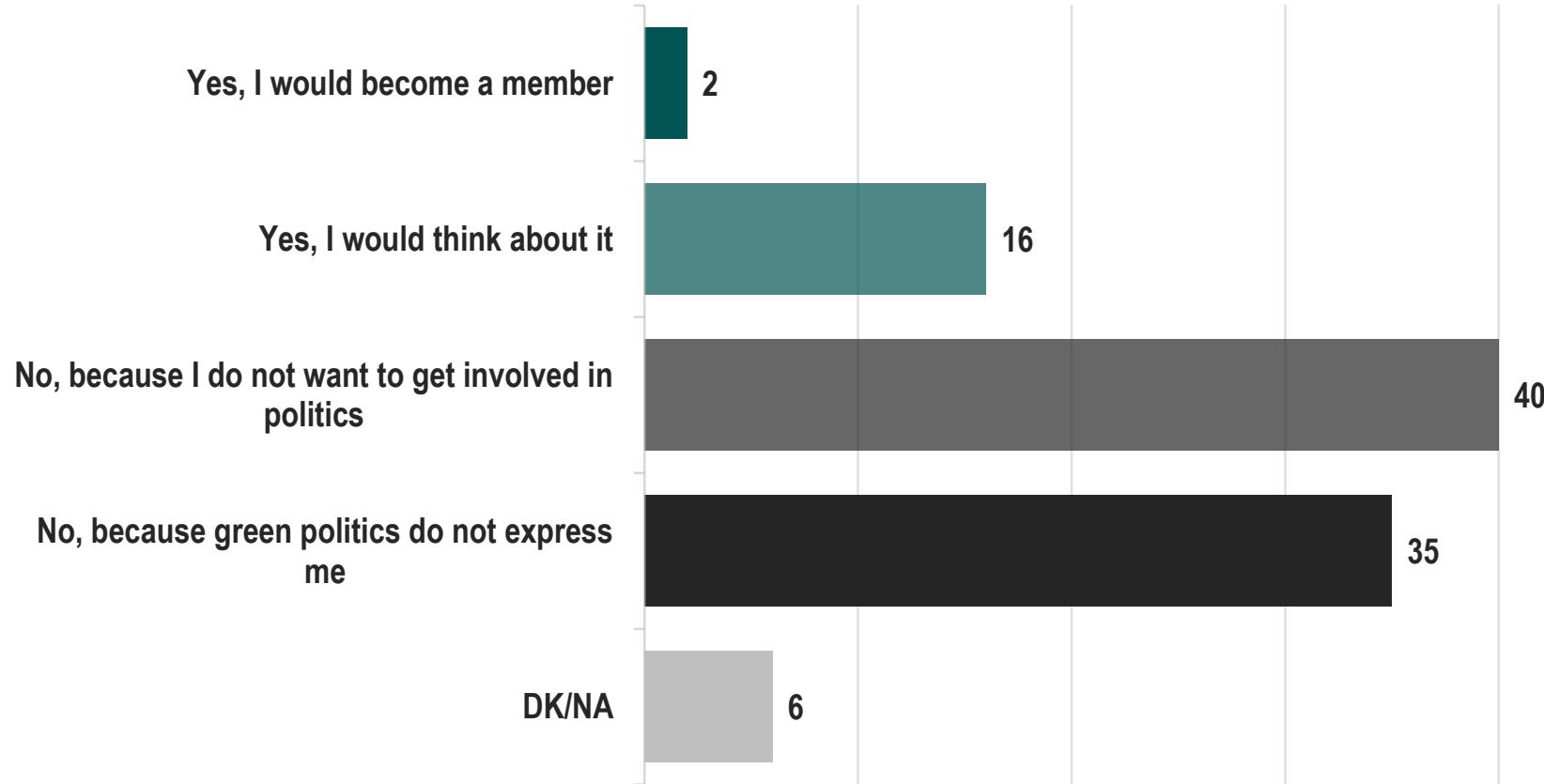
PREFERRED FEATURES FOR A GREEN PARTY LEADER

And in your opinion, how important is each of the following features for a leader of a green party in Greece?



INTENTION TO JOIN A GREEN PARTY

Closing the section, would you personally consider joining a green party?



Focus groups on the imprint of the “Green” political proposal in Greece

Report of findings



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1.3. Electoral agenda and voting criteria (1/5)

17-44 y.o. GROUP

For the younger generations voting is mostly 'economic'. It is directly related to security in both its concepts, that is job security and citizen safety, and captures the dead end that young people often feel about their future:

- I would choose safety, being able to move around without fear. The economy, also, an issue that is interconnected with the other. When the economy sucks and so many people are out of work, crime rises.*
- I would single out two issues, the economy and security (ie job security). That is, to be able to assure us that we will have a job.*
- Work is a big issue in any case. I work in a human resources company, and we work with short-term contracts (...). They terminate the contracts abruptly and they do not even inform you and you are at the last minute looking for a job from scratch.*
- I too would say what others about about the economy and security. And I would add labor issues as well. There are no opportunities for career development, they ask for young people but also years of experience. How can they ask for experience and be young at the same time?*

2.1. Lack of references to the environment during the discussion (1/4)

17-44 y.o. GROUP

- Greece is facing a serious problem with regards to the environment. We are far behind. All European countries have implemented some plans or will implement them immediately, while we in Greece are still discussing changes.*

This is the only reference to the environment and the climate crisis that is made during the discussion about the important problems of the country and was made by a young student with a subject close to the environment. As reasons for not mentioning the environment among important issues, the other participants cite:

1. The financial situation of households that renders survival their main priority:

- I do not think that it doesn't concern us, but when some problems in everyday life do not allow you to have the basics, to cover, say, the costs of your rent or your family... If you do not have the basics, thinking about the environment is a luxury.*

2. The absence of visible consequences from climate change that downgrades the severity of the problem:

- I believe that we have it in low priority because we have not seen the consequences yet and, since the issue does not touch us, we have other issues as a priority, the economy, health, the problems we face every day.*

3. Scepticism about whether climate change is responsible for natural disasters:

- I find this conversation about climate change a bit funny because it has been happening for the last 30 years and now it has become fashionable. (...) Every sign inability of the Municipality to organize itself is blamed on climate change...*

2.1. Lack of references to the environment during the discussion (2/4)

45+ y.o. GROUP

The group of the older participants in the discussion is divided into two sub-groups: those who believe that there is a climate crisis and those who declare themselves sceptics.

For the first group, the following references are typical:

- I believe that climate change is a global phenomenon and of course it exists*
- It is a burning issue, a burning problem that we face every day in our lives. We all know that in the [next] years it will become huge.*
- We accept that climate change is very important, we understand it from the facts, it is just that finances and work are much more important, and our minds go there first.*
- I do not think that it has become so intense yet (ie the problem of the environment) that we classify it as one of the first problems that concern us. It may become even more intense in the future. It is also used in every natural disaster as the first excuse. Climate change is responsible for fires or floods.*

The issue of survival – the economy and work – monopolizes this group's attention as well. The effects of the ecological crisis do not change the pace of life (it is not so intense yet) as much for them to rank it among the major problems.

2.1. Lack of references to the environment during the discussion (4/4)

PERIPHERY RESIDENTS GROUP

The economic hardship – of the country and of the household – monopolizes thoughts. In addition to the experience of the economic crisis that preceded the health crisis, it should be noted that the economy has dominated the public debate for 12 years and makes it almost single-issue:

- We are so trapped in financial problems that we have all been blurred perhaps. The problems of survival are bigger now [the other participants agree] and we say to ourselves "come on, man... do I need to recycle?"*
- If you are not well-off you may not even own the products you need to recycle.*
- I believe that finances have clearly to do with our psychology, our mood. When you are out of money, you are not even in the mood to cook for your children - as the saying goes.*

Ensuring the quality of the environment is a matter of education and enforcement. In both of these, the country is lagging behind:

- We did not mention it (ie the environment as a problem) because it is not in our education yet, it is not yet in our culture.*
- I went to Paileokastritsa at the end of the summer (...) the whole beach, all the sand was full of cigarette butts. (...) It bothers me a lot because there is no consciousness (...). It does not mean that you have to be a scientist to be educated*
- It is not just a matter of education. Abroad, if you throw down a cigarette, there is local police 20 meters away are waiting for you, they will issue a fine on the spot.*
- No policing - There is no enforcement mechanism at all*

3.1. The concept of a green policy (1/3)

17-44 y.o. GROUP

When asked the question *What is green policy for you?* young people respond with an action-reaction process in mind, which includes:

1. The production process

- These ideas have been around for many years (eg composters). A green proposal should include systems and processes in each production sector*
- I think the circular economy is a glimpse of what can be done*

2. The conservation of resources during production with an obligation to inherit a healthy environment to future generations

- A sustainability model. Whatever you do in the economy should be done in such a way that you do not exhaust the resources you will use [to] have something to give to the next generation*
- Everything we do should have an environmentally friendly footprint*

3. A lifelong pedagogical process

- It's basically how you were taught. If you have not learned to recycle...*
- A green political proposal could also start with education. Children need to learn how to manage resources, the consequences if they do not manage them properly, so that they love [the environment] and are more aware.*
- To start from an early age, to become a life lesson (ie the protection of the environment).*

3.1. The concept of a green policy (2/3)

45+ y.o. GROUP

The first spontaneous reaction of the 45+ group is the criticism on the vagueness of the policy proposal

- it is a bit vague, to tell you the truth, the way they say it (ie green politics and green parties), it refers, in general, to an ecological consciousness, the measures that the authorities will take in relation to the environment, only in theory.*
- Sounds very nice, but theoretical. I am cautious, suspicious, in theory everything sounds nice, practically let's see how such a proposal will work*

Others put emphasis on the "instrumentalization" of the issue by political parties during election periods

- It is more like a slogan. In every election period, parties throw something on green policies. In fact, few things are actually implemented.*
- We do not have a clear picture or information so far, adds someone else*

Thoughts, however, go to the global scale of the issue

- A green party cannot function locally...*
- I agree with that, we should [operate] on a global level, we must somehow organize together, not let every state separately [implement] its own green program*

as well as in its economic implementation

- A green policy is not only the policy for the environment (...) I think it also touches the economy, how we can have a more sustainable economic development.*

3.1. The concept of a green policy (3/3)

PERIPHERY RESIDENTS GROUP

Apart from a reference to Renewable Energy Sources and this without further comment - there are no clear proposals for green policy. The discussion focuses on:

exploring the concept (what is green growth?)

Green growth will not burden the environment so much. To find ways to produce goods without burdening our Earth so much.

the relationship between green policy and economic growth

Green growth assumes reduced production or a productive process that does not burden the environment

That's right, part of green policy is reducing production, fewer factories, less energy consumed, but how can this happen: one produces food, others produce cars, we need them...

the critique that green growth is costly

If I have a factory and I make a product, it costs me 10 euros, and if you want to do it in a more ecological way it will cost me 15 euros, shouldn't you subsidize me? Help me to produce it so that it does not come out too expensive?

Green growth definitely costs money. State aid should be given to the private sector, businesses (...) If the product costs 50% more, very few will be able to buy it to keep this business alive and profitable.

Recent growth measures such as the electric or hybrid car subsidy and the “home-saving” program (*Exikonomo*) are classified as parts of green growth policy. They are considered unrealistic, on the one hand because the cost of an environmentally friendly car is very high and the subsidy is minimal, and on the other hand because *Exikonomo* requires bank borrowing with unfavorable terms for those who do not have the necessary down payment.

4.5. The ideal campaign for a green party

17-44 y.o. GROUP

Highlighting the big issue of their generation, job security in a prosperous economy, a new Green Party campaign should, for young people, mainly include

- A serious economic policy plan.*
- The economy, above all.*
- A focus on job security.*

Also:

- Environment, incentives for ecological actions and ecological consciousness.*
- Health.*
- Infrastructure.*

45+ y.o. GROUP

In the words of one of this group's members...:

- the ideal campaign for such a party would be to show that there are other things besides the ecological issues. That there is another policy, a green policy (...) that says we need sustainable development. How sustainable development could create jobs, adds another participant.*

PERIPHERY RESIDENTS GROUP

The participants in this group go beyond (campaign) communication techniques and focus on the essence of the proposal. They mention:

- Ecology-economy how these two can be combined.*
- Programs like 'Exikonomo' structured to include more people.*
- Creating Renewable Energy Sources for clean energy and job creation.*
- Education: "I would give weight to ecological consciousness and education, especially of young people, for a better tomorrow".*



Thank you for your attention!

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