

Young people's attitudes towards education and leisure

Research report from Czechia with international comparison

Czech National Agency for International Education and Research

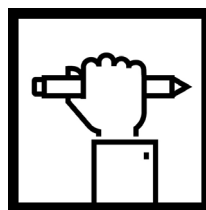




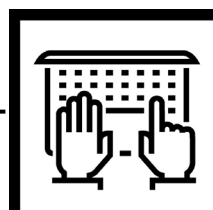
Chapters



1. Research parameters and main findings



2. Participation in institutional activities



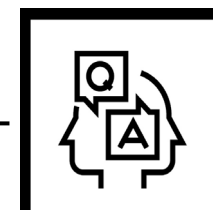
3. Information about further education and the use of social media



6. Societal attitudes



5. Knowledge and use of foreign languages



4. Mobility experience

1

Research parameters and main findings



Research parameters



Research objectives

Young people's attitudes towards leisure and education
Comparison of results with V4 countries (SK, PL, HU)



Target group

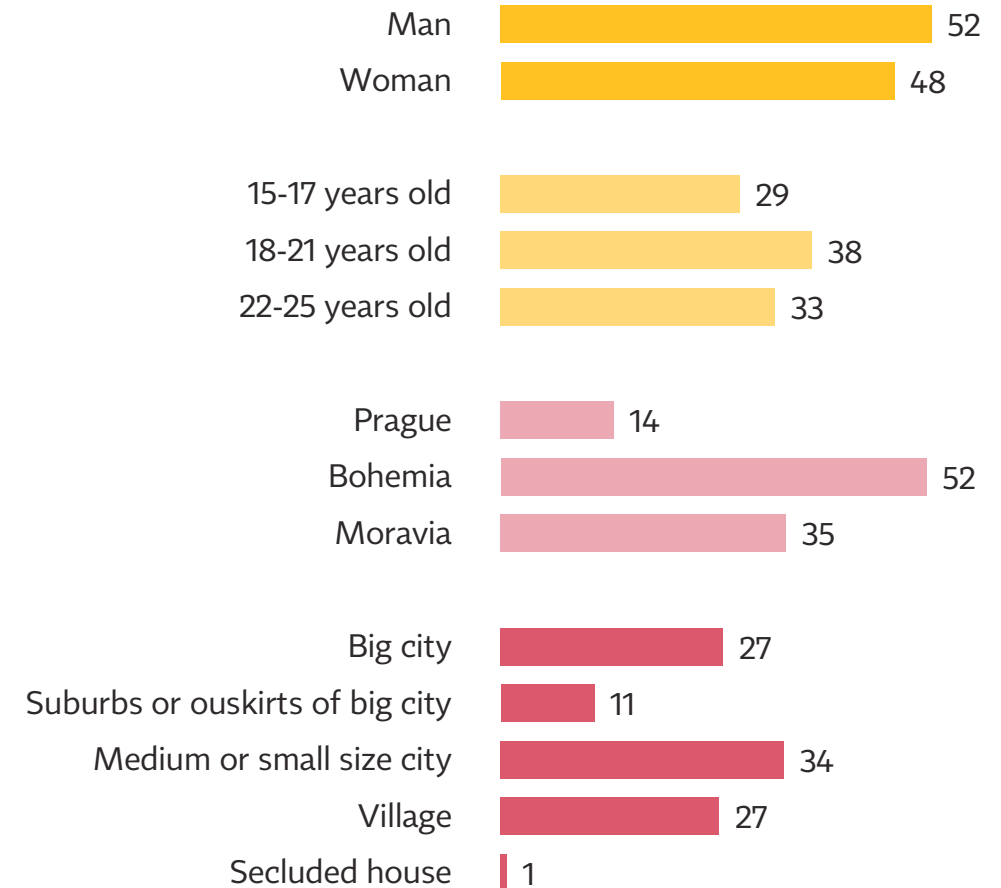
Young people from Czechia aged 15-25
Representative sample by gender, age and region
Secondary target group: young people from Slovakia, Poland and Hungary



Data collection in detail

Interviewed on STEM/MARK's online panel
Inquiry: online (CAWI)
Number of interviews: N=1400 (CZ 800, SK 200, PL 200, HU 200)
Data collection: 6.12.-15.12.2024
Weighting: SK/PL/HU data weighted by gender and age for direct comparability
with results for Czechia (CZ data unweighted)

Czech sample structure (n=800)



Main findings

Participation in institutional activities

Young people in Czechia typically participate in festivals, events of cultural, artistic or volunteer organizations, and non-profit projects throughout the year.

Men participate more in political and outdoor activities, women in library programs and cultural or artistic organizations.

Lack of time, along with a general lack of interest in the events offered, are two biggest barriers to low participation in institutional activities.

Information about further education and the use of social media

Instagram and YouTube dominate among young Czechs, followed by Facebook and TikTok.

The primary source of information about further education are social media or websites - specifically Instagram, Google, YouTube and Facebook.

Text format is preferred when searching for information about further education, followed by the video format. The audio format is preferred by only a fraction of the target group.

Knowledge of European educational programs

About 7 out of 10 young people from Czechia know about the existence of the Erasmus+ program, awareness is higher among women and young people from Slovakia, lower among the 15-17 age group and among Hungarians.

The primary source of knowledge are schools and social media.

8% of young people from Czechia know about the existence of the European Solidarity Corps program. There is slightly higher awareness among young people from Slovakia and Poland.

Main findings

Mobility experience

35% of young people from Czechia participated in one of the programs, most often Erasmus+ for secondary schools. They usually spent less than 2 weeks on the trip.

The desire to get to know another country and the desire to improve foreign language skills were two key motivators for their first trip.

The ability to cooperate and communicate; independence and language proficiency in a foreign language are among the TOP 3 competencies acquired during mobilities.

Knowledge and use of foreign languages

Almost every young Czech person today can speak a foreign language, regardless of the level of their knowledge. English dominates, followed by German.

About 44% of young Czechs rate their knowledge of a foreign language as advanced. Young people from Slovakia perceive their own language knowledge as better, while those from Hungary and Poland perceive it as worse.

Watching movies, tv shows, videos; learning at school and speaking on vacation are three typical circumstances for using a foreign language.

Societal attitudes

7 out of 10 young Czechs feel like they are "citizens of both Europe and Czechia."

According to the respondents, young people should be gaining experience with life abroad; follow trends and educate themselves in the field of digitalization, and promote equality in education for all.

Young people in Czechia most often face obstacles in the area of finances. The youngest of them more often mentioned obstacles in social interaction and relationships.

2

Participation in institutional activities



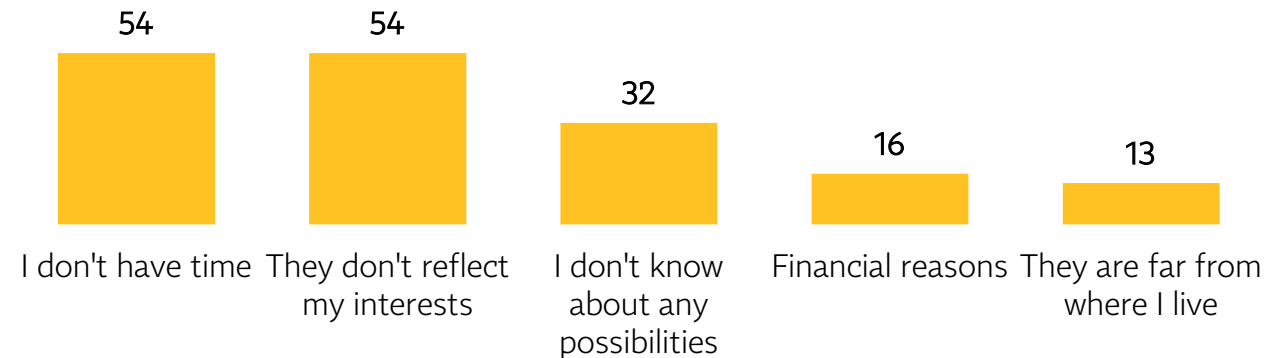
Topic Summary:

Participation in Institutional Activities

- Young people in Czechia typically participate in festivals, events of cultural or artistic organizations, volunteer organizations, and nonprofit projects throughout the year.
- Men participate relatively more in political and outdoor activities, women in library programs and cultural or artistic organizations.
- Lack of time, along with a general lack of interest in the events offered, are two major barriers to low participation in institutional activities.

Why don't you engage in more of these activities?

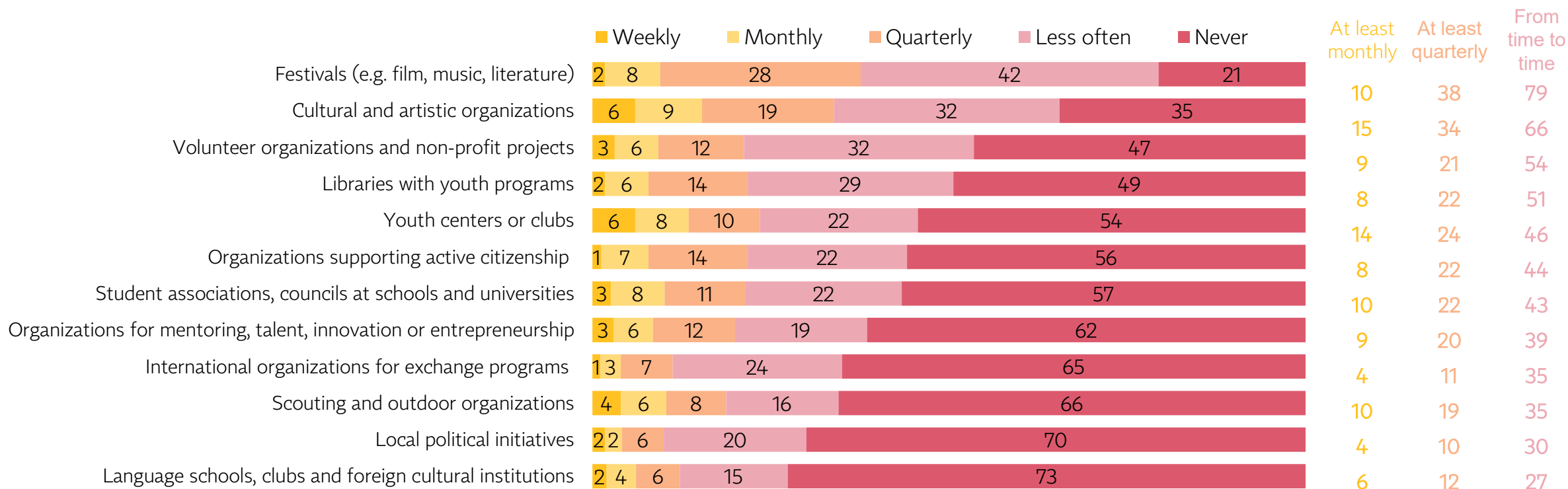
n=274 (values in percentages)



Frequency of participation in institutional activities

Young people in Czechia (aged 15-25) typically participate in 1. Festivals, 2. Events of cultural or artistic organizations, or 3. Volunteer organizations and non-profit projects during the year. Men participate relatively more in political initiatives or outdoor activities, women in library programs and cultural or artistic organizations. Young people in Czechia, compared to SK/ PL/HU, are less involved in political initiatives and language schools/ institutions, on the contrary, they are more involved in outdoor activities.

A1. How often do you participate in activities carried out by the following institutions or organizations?

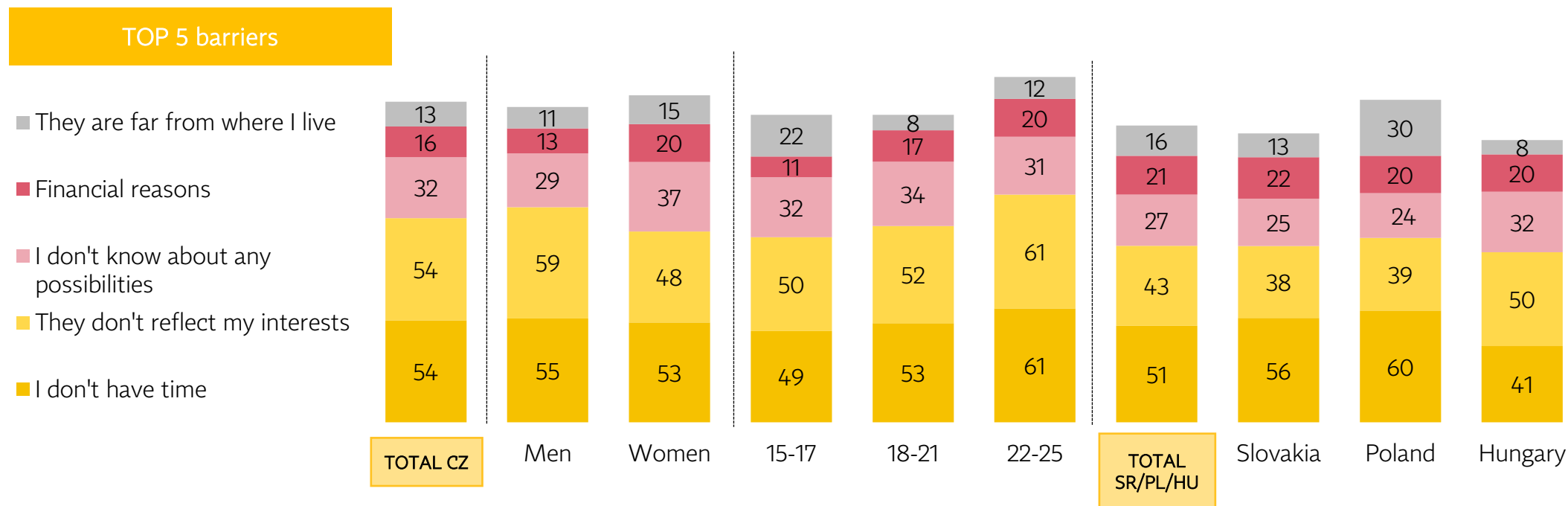


Young people in Czechia, n=800 [values in %; captions abbreviated in the graph]

Barriers to participation in institutional activities

Lack of time (54%) along with general lack of interest in the events offered (54%) are the two major barriers to low participation in institutional activities of various types among young Czechs. Other more frequently occurring reasons are low awareness of the possibilities, finances and distance of events from home. Time and general lack of interest are more often mentioned by the age cohort 22-25 years, while Poles more often mentioned distance from home as a barrier.

A2. Why don't you engage in more of these activities?

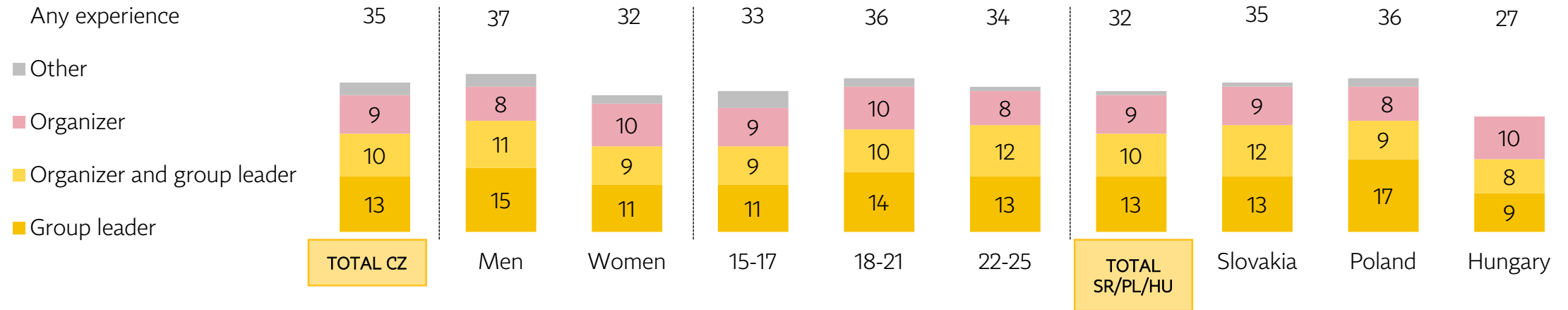


Young people who do not engage in activities, n(CZ)=274, n(SK)=76, n(PL)=70, n(HU)=82 [values in %, labels abbreviated in the graph]

Experience with organizational or leadership positions

More than a third of young Czechs have some experience with an organizational or leadership position within institutional activities. Differences between target groups or countries are not significant.

A3. Do you have experience with any of the aforementioned activities in an organizational or leadership position?



All respondents, n(CZ)=800, n(SK)=200, n(PL)=200, n(HU)=200 [values in %]

3

Information about further education and the use of social media

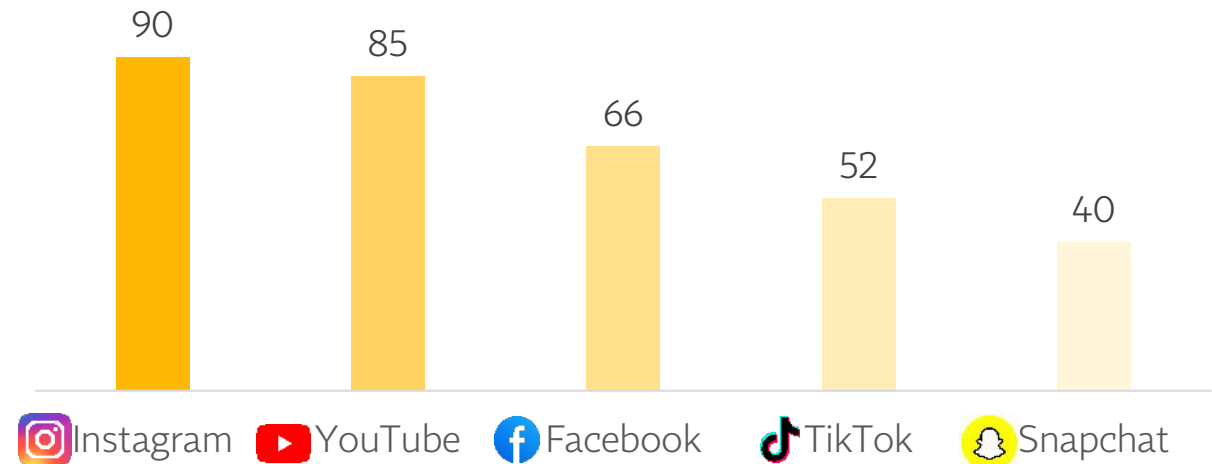


Topic summary: Information about further education and the use of social media

- Instagram and YouTube clearly dominate among young people from Czechia, followed by Facebook and TikTok platforms.
- The primary source of information about further education are social media or websites – specifically Instagram, Google, YouTube and Facebook.
- Text format is preferred when searching for information about further education, followed by video format. On the contrary, audio format is preferred by only 14% of the target group.

B1. What social networks or platforms do you visit at least once a week?

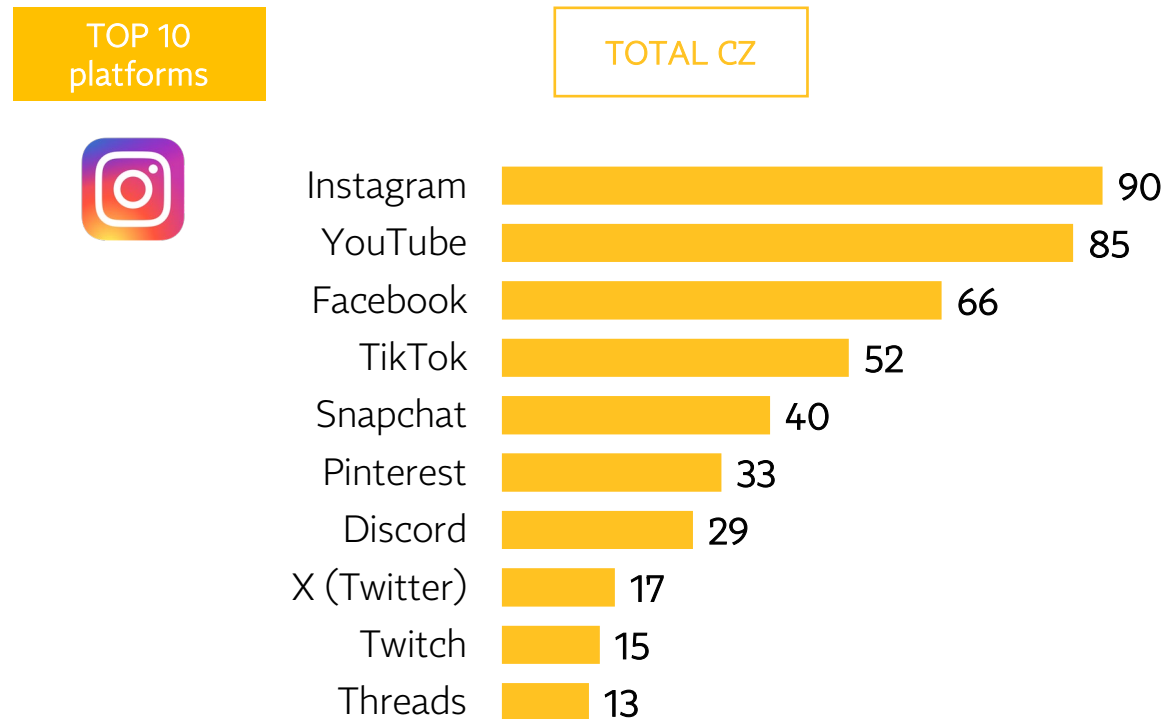
n(CZ)=800 [values in %]



Social media or platforms visited at least once a week

Instagram (90%) and YouTube (85%) still clearly dominate among young Czechs, followed by the platforms Facebook and TikTok. There are significant differences in the use of specific networks by gender, age cohort, and also between countries (see detailed table on the right).

B1. What social networks or platforms do you visit at least once a week?



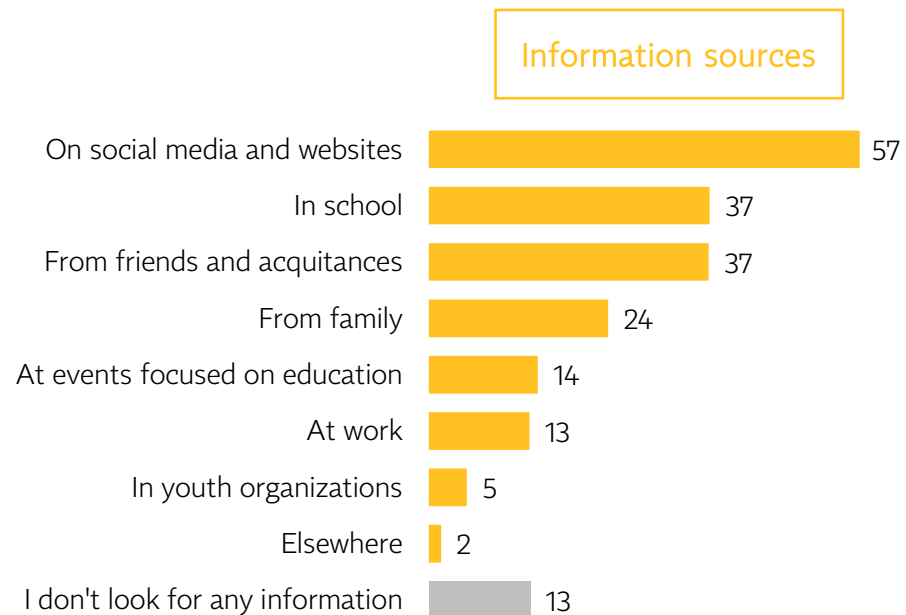
TOTAL CZ	Men	Women	15-17	18-21	22-25	TOTAL SK/PL/HU	Slovakia	Poland	Hungary
90	87	92	94	90	85	80	88	76	77
85	88	82	89	87	80	76	80	76	72
66	61	70	44	67	83	75	69	76	80
52	43	61	60	55	41	56	47	56	67
40	35	45	53	49	19	38	41	40	35
33	13	54	45	31	24	33	37	33	30
29	41	14	36	28	22	23	20	28	21
17	21	12	14	21	15	21	12	37	14
15	21	8	14	18	12	12	10	12	13
13	13	13	9	15	15	10	9	12	9

All respondents, n(CZ)=800, n(SK)=200, n(PL)=200, n(HU)=200 [values in %]

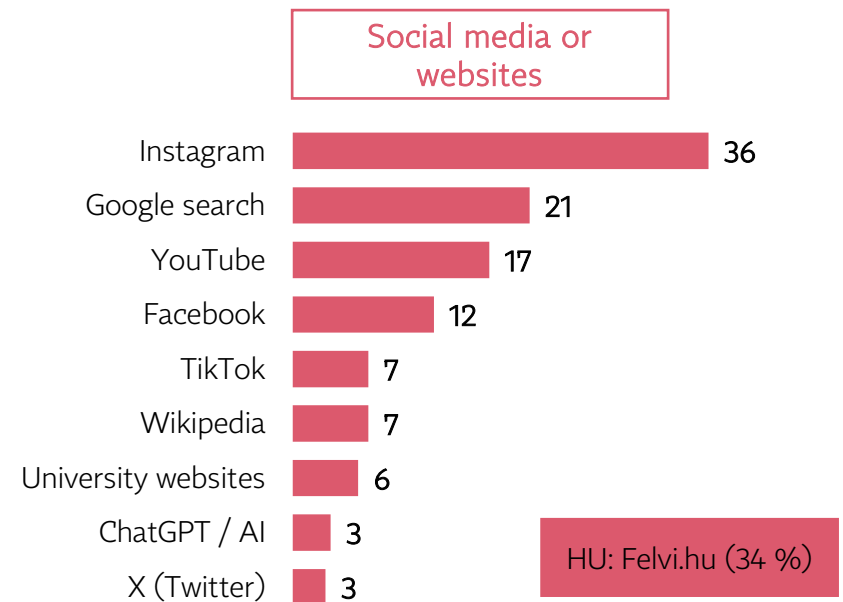
Sources of information about further education

The primary source of information for young people in Czechia are social media or websites (57%) – specifically Instagram, Google, YouTube and Facebook. Surprisingly, men use YouTube relatively more, women rather Google and TikTok. Slovaks strongly prefer Instagram, Poles Facebook and young people from Hungary their national website Felvi.hu.

B2. Do you ever look for information about further education that is beyond your usual responsibilities (e.g. school, work)? If so, where?



B3. On which specific social media or websites do you look for information about further education beyond your usual duties?



Czech respondents, n(CZ)=800 [values in %]

Czech respondents looking for information on social media and websites, n(CZ)=454, [values in %]

4

Mobility experience



Topic summary: Mobility experience

- 35% of young Czechs participated in one of the programs, most often Erasmus+ for secondary schools. They usually spent less than 2 weeks on the trip.
- The desire to get to know another country and the effort to improve their foreign language skills were two key motivations for the first trip among young people from Czechia.
- The ability to cooperate and communicate, independence and language proficiency in a foreign language are among the TOP 3 competencies acquired during trips abroad.

E3. What were your main motivators for participating in your first mobility?

n=276 [values in %]

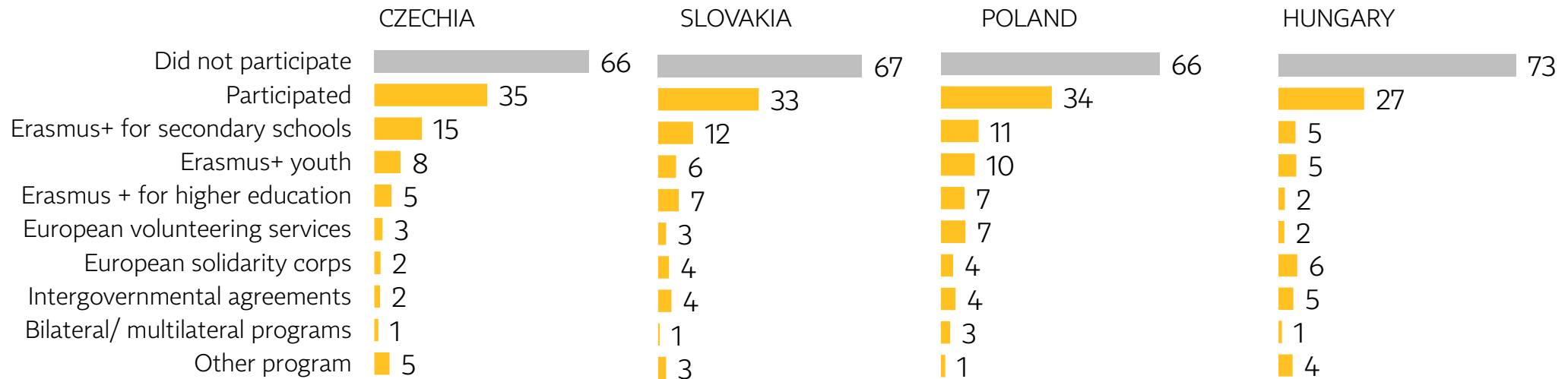


Mobility experiences of young people (15-25)

About 35% of young Czechs have participated in one of the programs, most often Erasmus+ for secondary schools (15%). Compared to other countries, young people from Czechia are at the same level, only Hungarians are slightly behind in this activity.

E1. Have you ever participated in a foreign educational trip, a volunteer project or an internship as part of some program?

SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

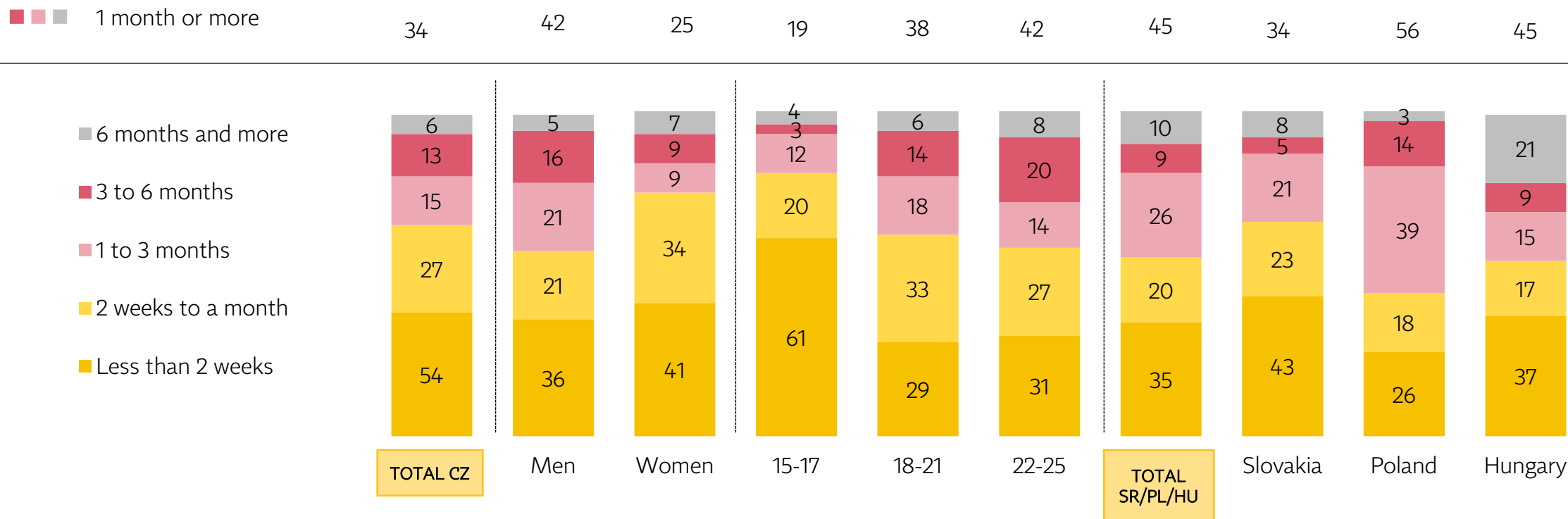


All respondents, n(CZ)=800, n(SK)=200, n(PL)=200, n(HU)=200 [values in %]

Total time spent on mobilities

Young people from Czechia usually spent less than 2 weeks on a trip (38%). 42% of men and 43% of Czechs aged 22-25 typically spent more than 1 month on a mobility. The share of those who were away for more than 1 month is higher among young people from Poland and Hungary.

E2. How much time did you spend on these activities abroad in total?



Those who participated in mobilities, n(CZ)=276, n(SK)=66, n(PL)=67, n(HU)=53 [values in %]

Motivation for first mobility

The desire to discover another country (51%) and the desire to improve their language skills (45%) were two key motivations for a first mobility among young Czechs. Other decisive factors included the need to experience something new, personal development, greater independence and making new contacts.

E3. What were your main motivators for participating in your first mobility?

TOP 15 motivators



Young Czechs who participated in a mobility, n=276 [values in %]

Reasons for not participating in the mentioned programs

Lack of interest or reluctance (28%), along with insufficient offer of activities (27%) and lack of finances (27%) were the main reasons for not participating in the programs. Another frequently mentioned barrier is a lack of time (24%). The youngest age group most often mentioned no offer (42%) and being too young (25%).

E5. Why didn't you participate in such activities?

TOP 10 reasons

TOTAL CZ



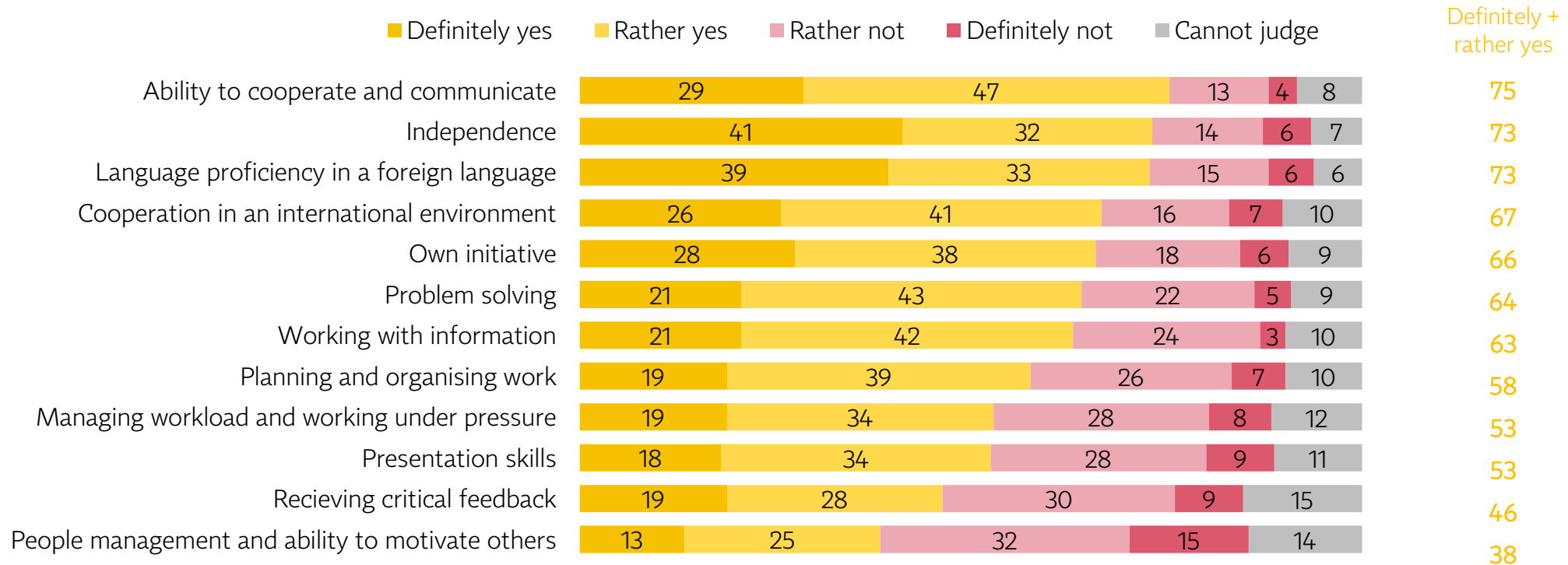
TOTAL CZ	Men	Women	15-17	18-21	22-25	TOTAL SK/PL/HU	Slovakia	Poland	Hungary
28	32	23	27	28	29	27	34	22	26
27	28	27	42	23	20	23	19	27	22
27	21	33	17	28	34	27	30	29	23
24	26	21	16	27	26	20	19	23	19
16	12	21	10	17	21	14	13	18	12
12	9	16	9	12	15	7	8	8	6
11	12	10	15	10	10	12	14	14	10
11	11	11	25	7	3	8	11	4	9
7	8	6	7	7	8	6	4	10	4
7	7	7	6	12	3	8	11	10	4

Those who did not participate in a mobility, n(CZ)=446, n(SK)=120, n(PL)=133, n(HU)=147 [values in %]

Perception of development of key competencies as a result of the mobility

1. Ability to cooperate and communicate, 2. Independence, 3. Language proficiency in a foreign language, 4. Cooperation in an international environment, and 5. Own initiative are among the TOP 5 competencies "acquired or better developed" as a result of experiences from international mobilities.

E4. Would you say that your trip abroad helped you develop the following key competencies?

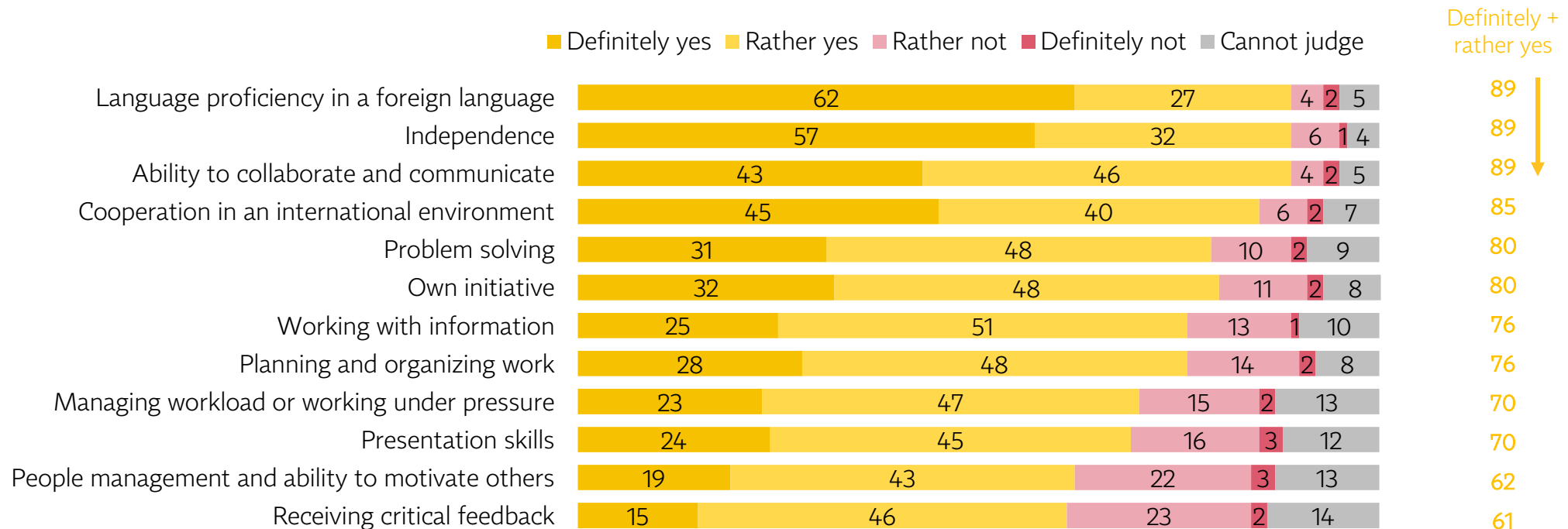


Czech youths who participated in a mobility/ program, n=276 [values in %]

Potential for developing key competencies when going on a mobility

1. Language proficiency in a foreign language, 2. Independence, 3. Ability to cooperate and communicate, 4. Cooperation in an international environment, and 5. Problem solving are the "expected TOP 5 competencies" to which the next experience of going abroad can potentially contribute.

E6. In your opinion, does the experience of a foreign educational trip, volunteering or participation in a project contribute to the development of these key competences?

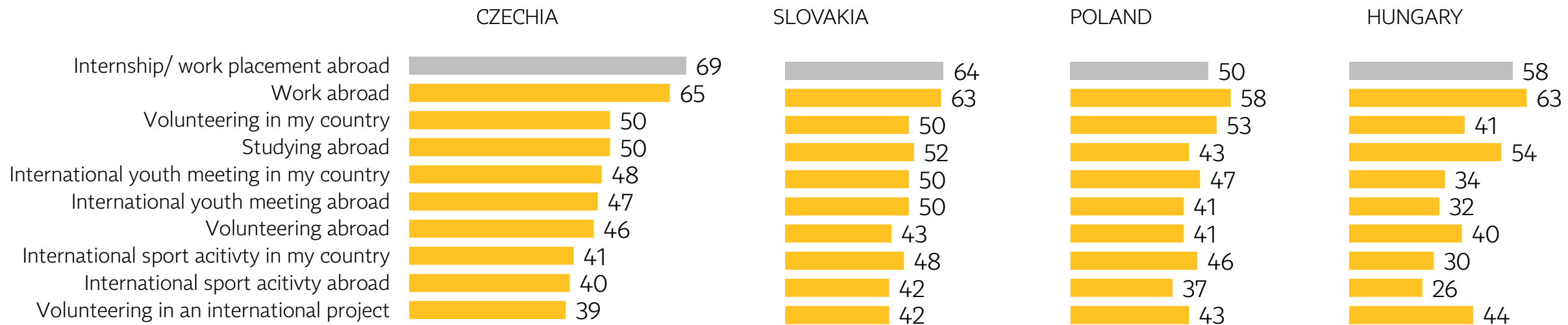


Czech youths who didn't participate in a mobility/ program, n=446 [values in %]

Interest in future participation in some of the activities (in Czechia)

Young people across countries are most often interested in participating in an internship or a work placement abroad, or directly in getting a job abroad. There is less interest in volunteering within an international group or in sports activities. Young people from Slovakia would most likely be interested in "experiencing" these activities in Czechia, but attitudes in Poland or Hungary are also not negative.

E7. Would you be interested in participating in any of the following activities in the future?



All respondents, n(CZ)=800, n(SK)=200, n(PL)=200, n(HU)=200 [values in %]

E8. Would you consider participating in these activities in Czechia?

Would you consider participating in Czechia?	Definitely yes	30	Definitely yes	13	Definitely yes	15
	Definitely + rather yes	82	Definitely + rather yes	73	Definitely + rather yes	58

Foreigners considering participating in activities, n(SK)=166, n(PL)=155, n(HU)=162 [values in %]

5

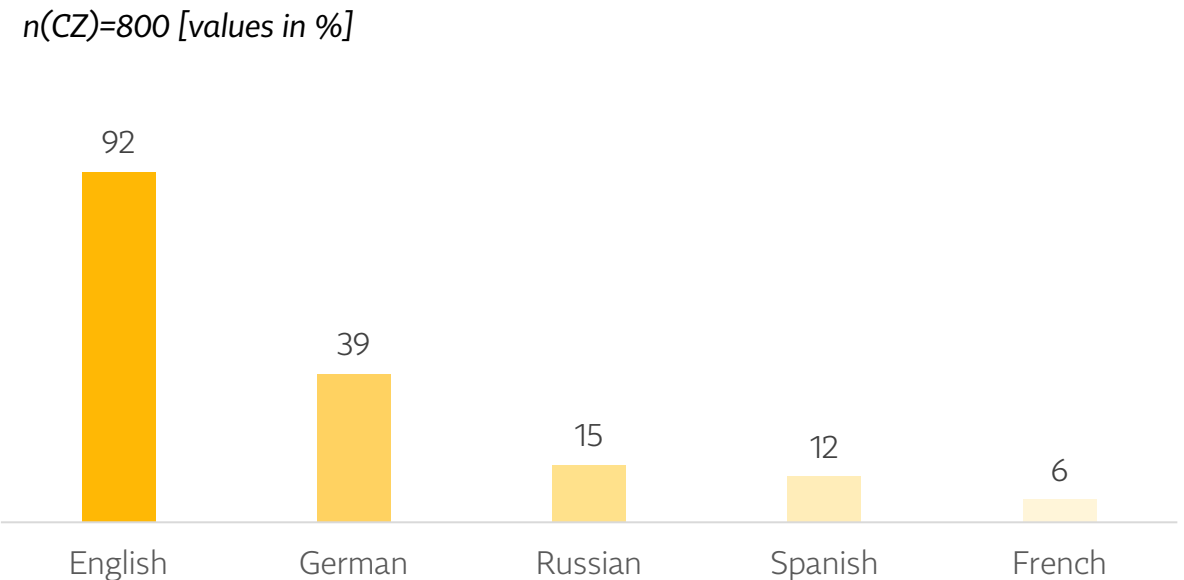
Knowledge and use of foreign languages



Topic summary: Knowledge and use of foreign languages

- Almost every young Czech can speak a foreign language, regardless of the level. English dominates, but German was also chosen in 4 out of 10 cases.
- About 44% of young Czechs rate their knowledge of a foreign language (the one they know best) as advanced. Young people from Slovakia perceive their own language skills as slightly better, while those from Hungary and Poland perceive it as worse.
- Watching movies, series, videos, learning at school and speaking on vacation are three typical circumstances for using a foreign language.

Graph for point 1. Young people from Czechia (h2)



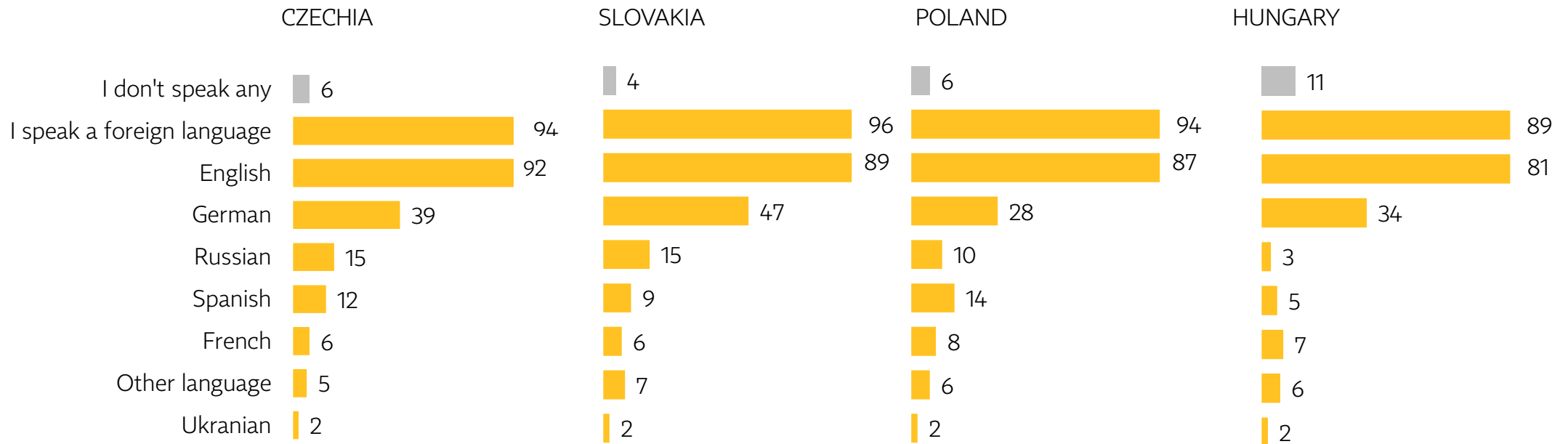
Knowledge of foreign languages (at least at a basic level)

Almost every young Czech person today speaks a foreign language, regardless of their level of proficiency. English dominates, but German was also chosen as one of the languages in 4 out of 10 cases.

H1. Do you speak – even if only at a minimal level – any foreign language?

H2. What foreign languages do you speak at least at a basic communication level (e.g. to make yourself understood on vacation)?

SPECIFIC LANGUAGE

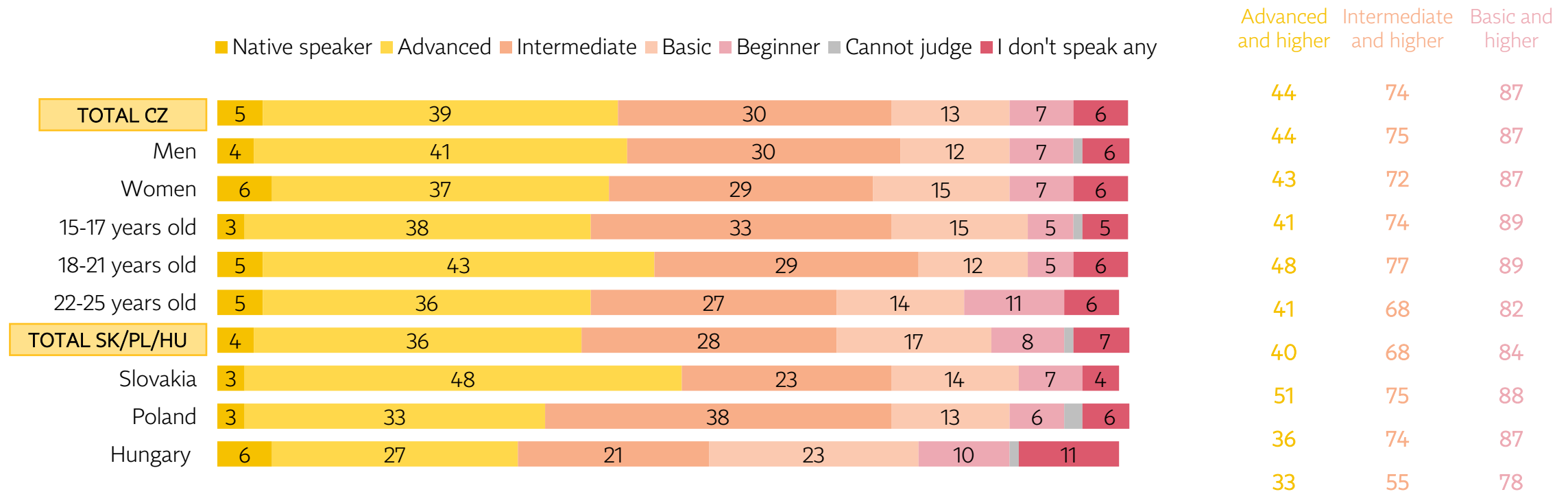


All respondents, $n(CZ)=800$, $n(SK)=200$, $n(PL)=200$, $n(HU)=200$ [values in %]

Subjective level of foreign language proficiency

About 44% of young Czechs rate their knowledge of a foreign language (the one they know best) as advanced. Young Slovaks perceive their own language knowledge as somewhat better, while those from Hungary and Poland subjectively perceive it as worse.

H3. How do you personally assess your current knowledge of the foreign language you speak best?

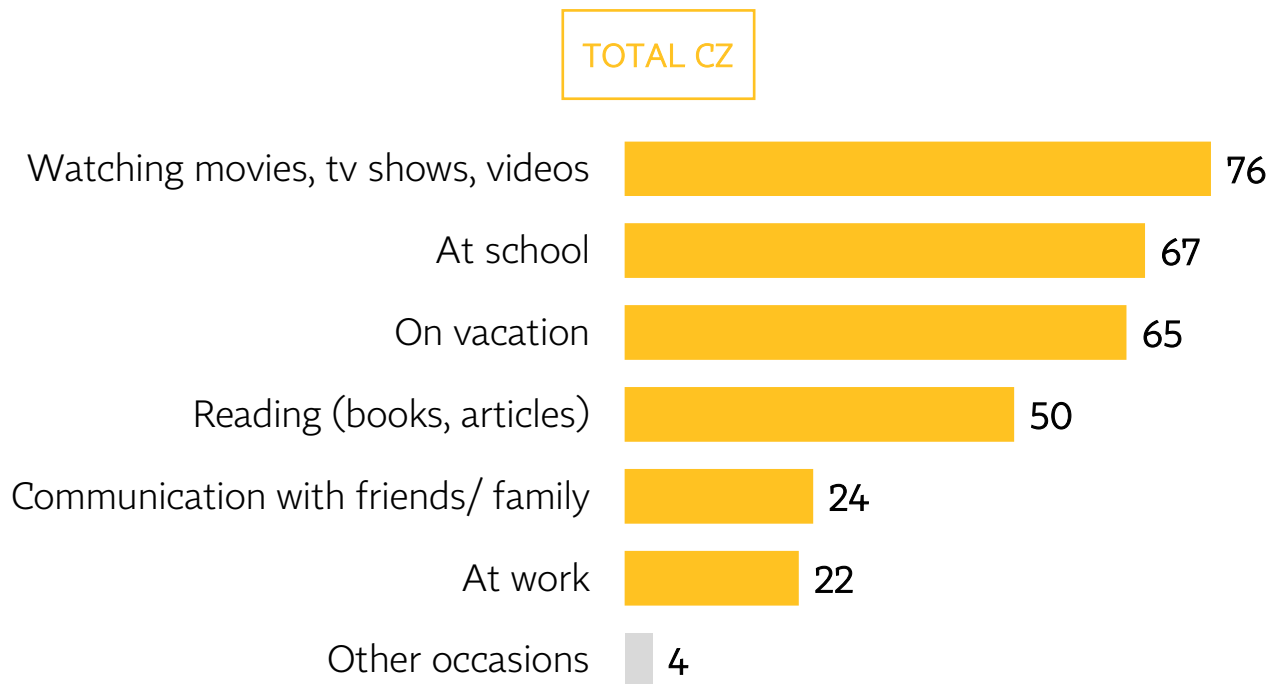


All respondents, n(CZ)=800, n(SK)=200, n(PL)=200, n(HU)=200 [values in %]

Typical opportunities for using a foreign language

Watching films, series, videos (76%), learning at school and speaking on vacation are three typical circumstances in which young people from Czechia use their knowledge of a foreign language. In the 22-25 age group, use at work is more common (41%), while the youngest target group uses the language mainly at school (87%).

H4. On what occasions do you commonly use foreign language(s)?



TOTAL CZ	Men	Women	15-17	18-21	22-25	TOTAL SK/PL/HU	Slovakia	Poland	Hungary
76	72	79	76	81	69	66	72	63	61
67	65	69	87	74	42	56	68	46	54
65	61	69	62	65	66	46	58	54	24
50	46	55	50	55	46	44	50	43	38
24	22	27	24	21	29	23	24	28	17
22	23	22	7	19	41	26	22	22	33
4	5	2	2	2	7	3	4	3	2

Those who speak a foreign language, n(CZ)=753, n(SK)=191, n(PL)=188, n(HU)=178 [values in %]

6

Societal attitudes

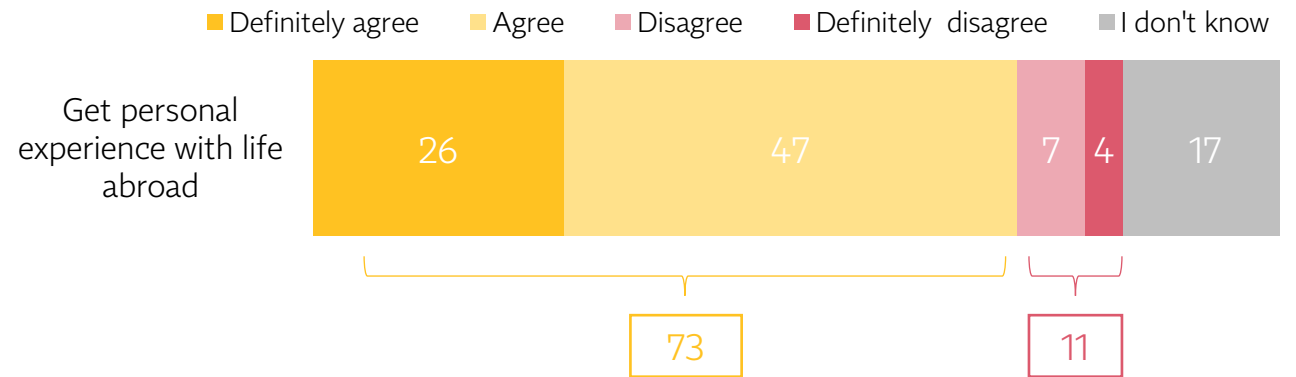


Topic summary: Societal attitudes

- 7 out of 10 young Czechs feel like they are "citizens of both Europe and Czechia". Young people from Slovakia and Hungary identify less with their country.
- According to them, young people should be gaining experience with life abroad, follow trends and educate themselves in the field of digitalization and promote equality in education for all.
- Young people from Czechia most often face obstacles in the areas of finances, work, or employment. The youngest group (15-17 years old) mentioned obstacles in social interaction and relationships more often.

Graph for point 2. Young people from Czechia (g1)

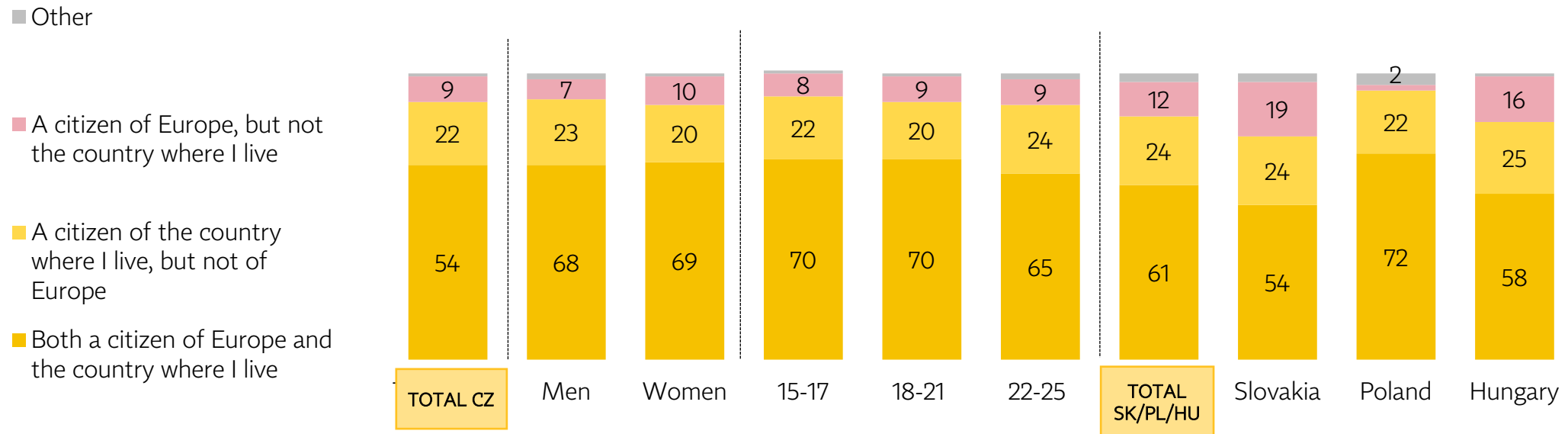
n=800 [values in %]



Relationship to citizenship and Europeanness

7 out of 10 young Czechs feel like they are “citizens of both Europe and Czechia.” Young people from Slovakia and Hungary identify with their country somewhat less.

G3. I feel like...

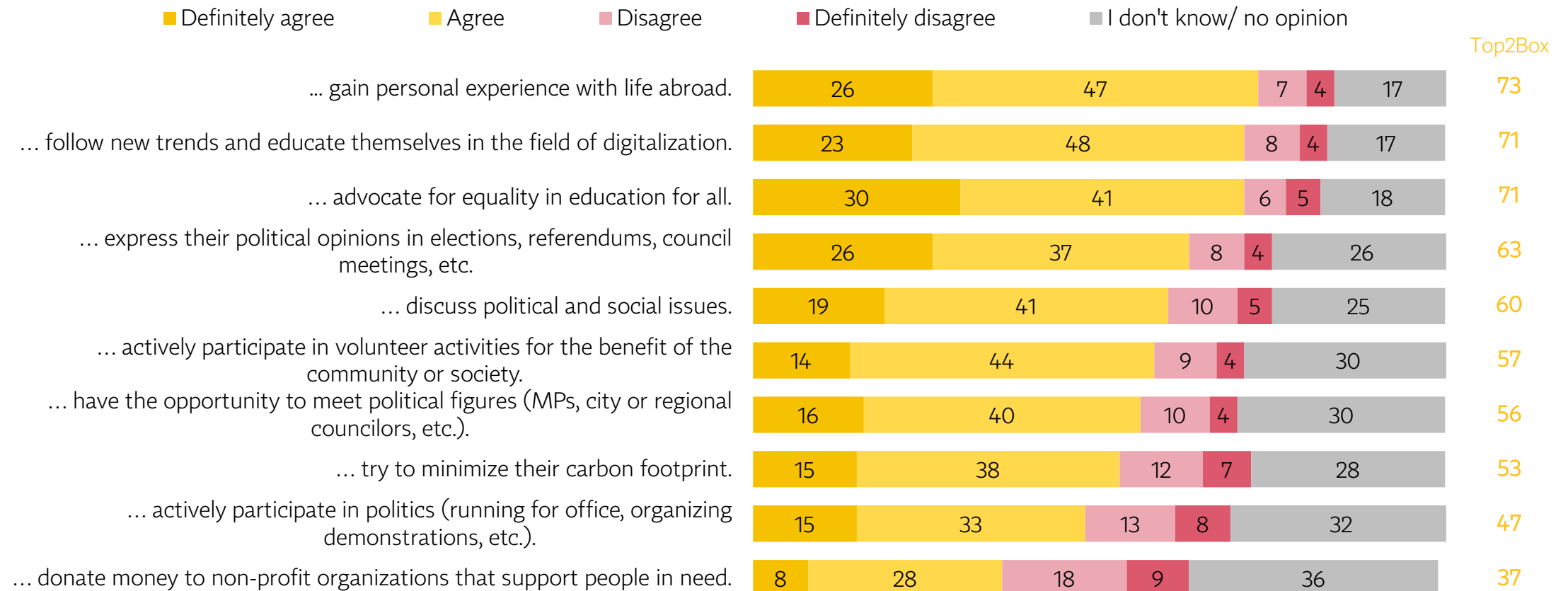


All respondents, n(CZ)=800, n(SK)=200, n(PL)=200, n(HU)=200 [values in %]

Perceived importance of young people's activities and goals

Young people from Czechia most often agree that young people should primarily 1. gain experience of life abroad (73%), 2. follow trends and educate themselves in the field of digitalization, and 3. promote equality in education for all.

G1. In my opinion, it is important for young people to...

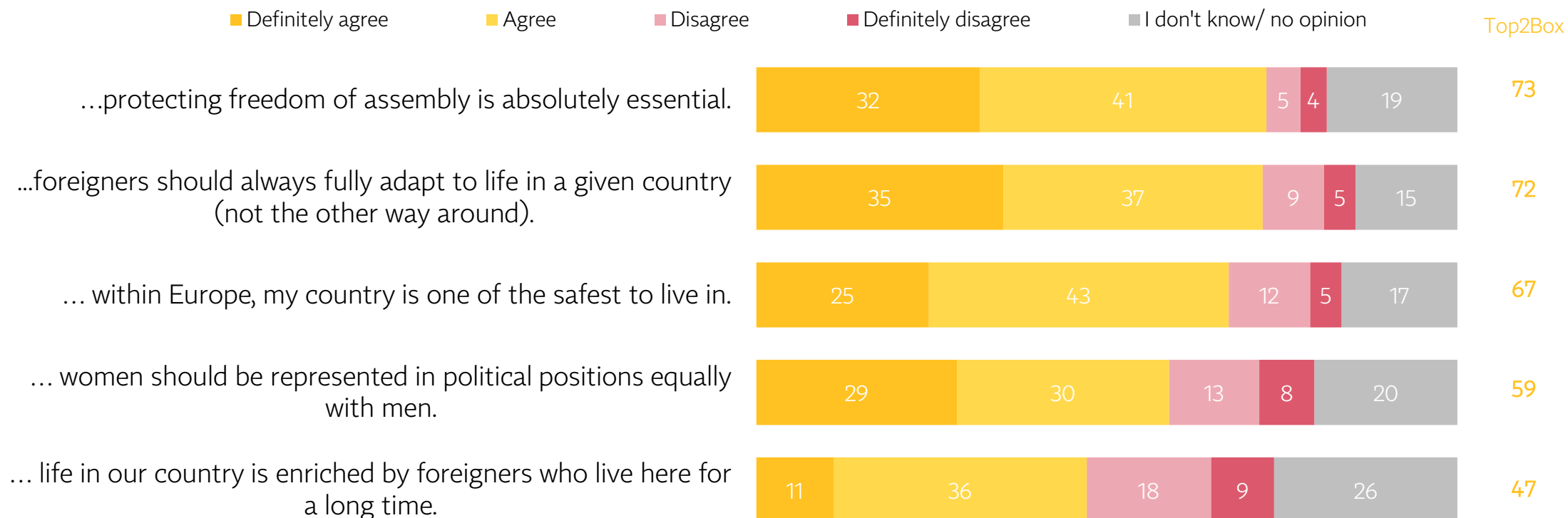


Czech respondents, n=800 [values in %]

Perceived importance of societal attitudes

1. Protecting freedom of assembly is absolutely essential (73%) and 2. Foreigners should always fully adapt to life in a given country (72%) are the two attitudes with which young Czechs were able to identify the most.

G2. I firmly believe that...

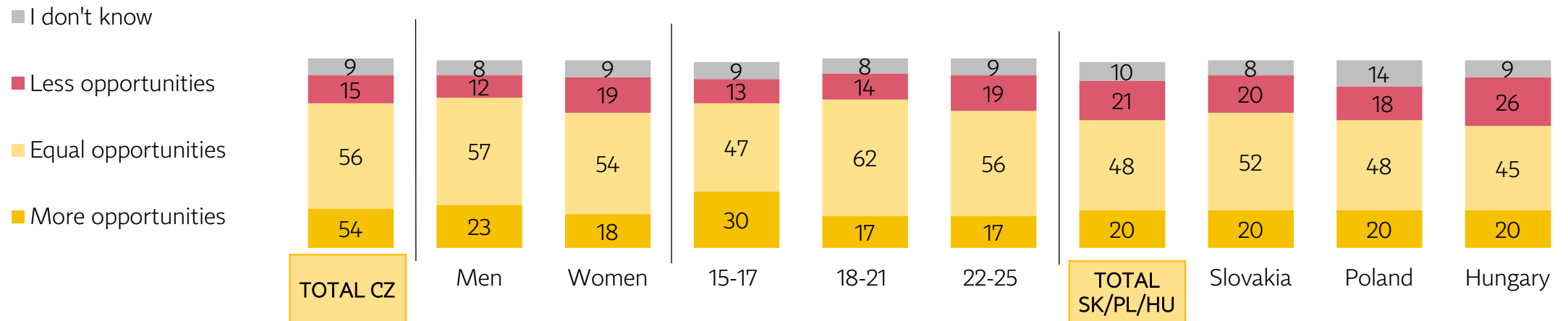


Czech respondents, n=800 [values in %]

Perception of opportunities in life compared to peers

About half of young people from Czechia perceive similar opportunities for themselves as their peers in their country, the share of those who perceive fewer or more opportunities is roughly the same. The youngest age group, 15-17 years, perceives the situation more optimistically, while young people from Hungary are more pessimistic.

K1. Would you say that compared to how your peers in your country live, you have... in your life?

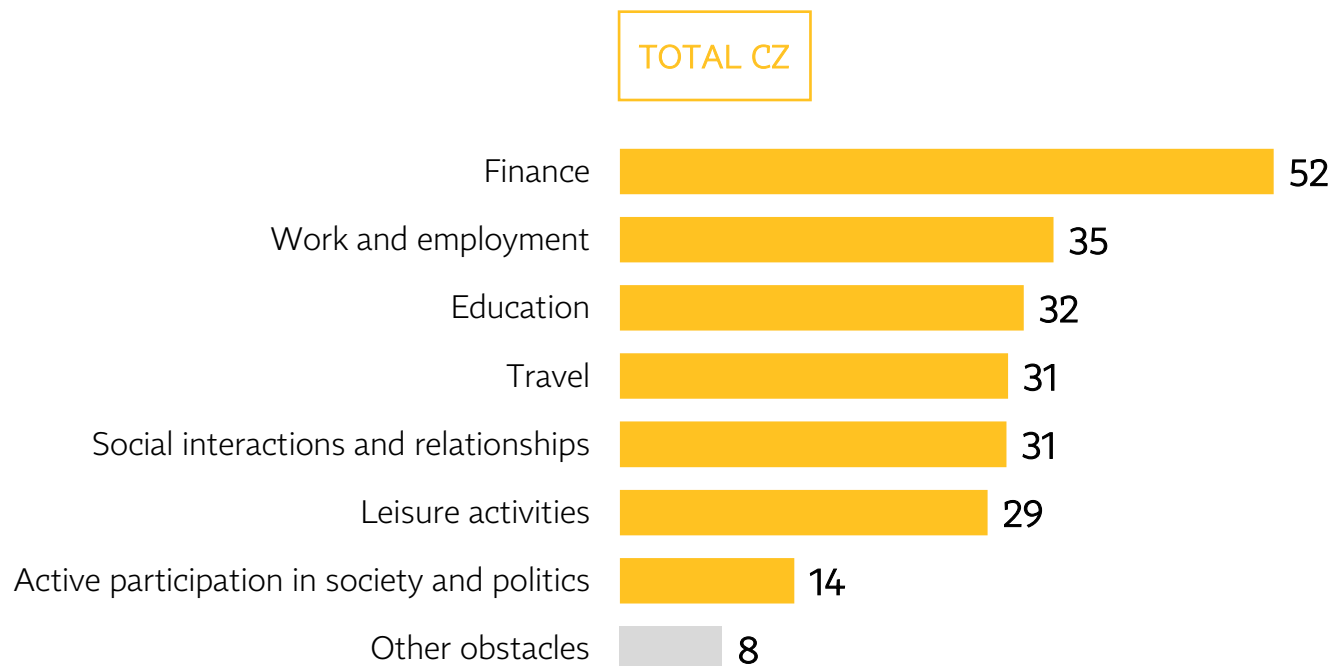


All respondents, $n(\text{CZ})=800$, $n(\text{SK})=200$, $n(\text{PL})=200$, $n(\text{HU})=200$ [values in %]

Current obstacles in life

Young people in Czechia most often face obstacles in the areas of finances, work or employment. The youngest group (15-17 years old) most often mentioned obstacles in social interaction and relationships (39%).

K2. Are you currently facing obstacles in any of these areas?



TOTAL CZ	Men	Women	15-17	18-21	22-25	TOTAL SK/PL/HU	Slovakia	Poland	Hungary
52	49	55	55	50	52	53	55	50	54
35	29	41	32	33	38	41	38	46	39
32	27	37	37	34	26	31	35	30	28
31	28	34	31	30	32	36	37	36	34
31	30	31	39	30	24	31	33	32	28
29	26	33	30	29	29	32	36	25	35
14	16	11	16	12	14	21	20	24	19
8	8	8	6	11	7	14	16	11	16

All respondents, n(CZ)=800, n(SK)=200, n(PL)=200, n(HU)=200 [values in %]



Thank you.

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