



# Obs'COP 2020

## PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AND PUBLIC OPINION OBSERVATORY

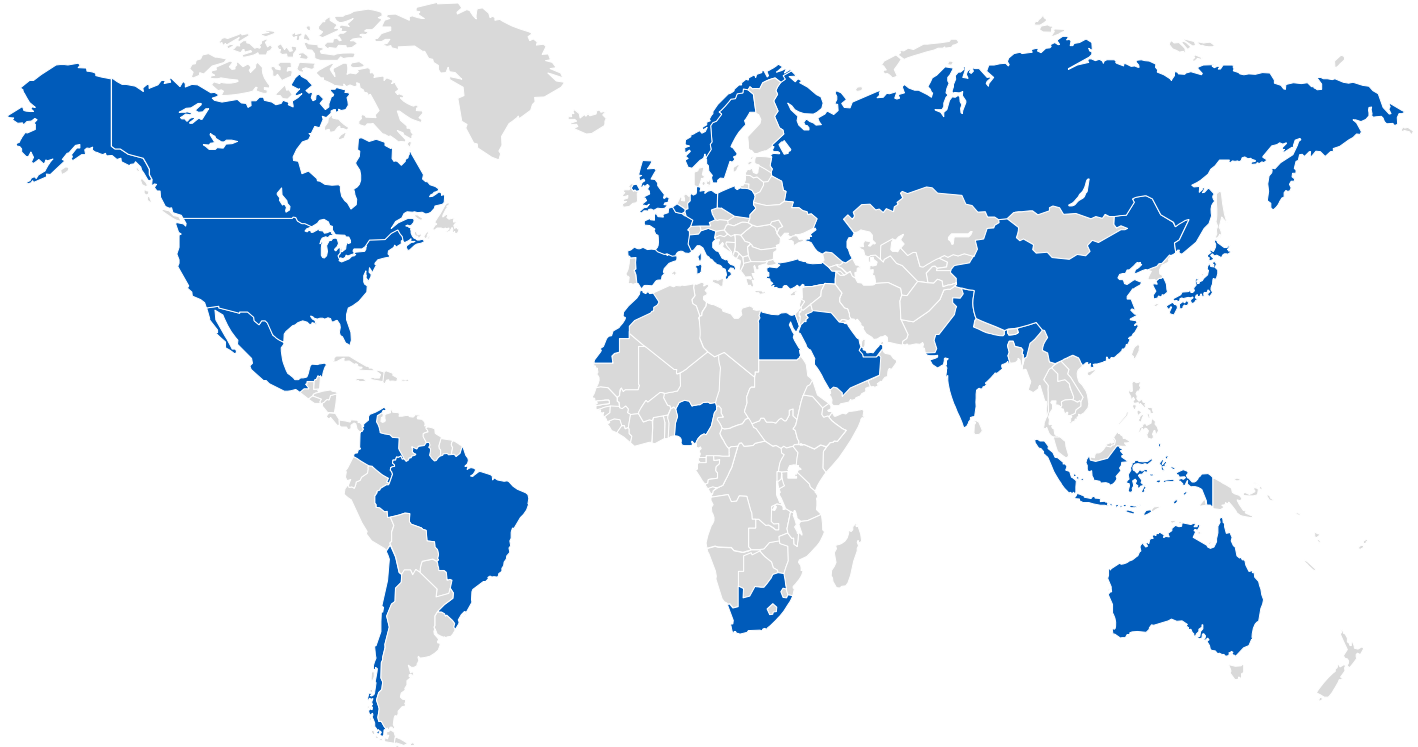
*Mobilization, concern or indifference:  
how do the citizens of 30 countries view climate  
change ?*

# Methodology

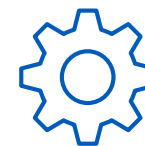
## 30 countries questioned on all 5 continents, representing 2/3 of the world population

*Selection of countries based on their CO2 emissions, their geographic location or their exemplariness in fighting climate change*

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Australia | Mexico               |
| Belgium   | Nigeria              |
| Brazil    | Norway               |
| Canada    | Poland               |
| Chile     | Russia               |
| China     | Saudi Arabia         |
| Colombia  | Singapore            |
| Egypt     | South Africa         |
| France    | South Korea          |
| Germany   | Spain                |
| India     | Sweden               |
| Indonesia | Turkey               |
| Italy     | UK                   |
| Japan     | United Arab Emirates |
| Morocco   | USA                  |



- **24,004 individuals** (500 or 1000 according to countries)
- Representative of the population aged **16 and over** (quota method)



Research fieldwork carried out online from **9 to 29 September 2020**



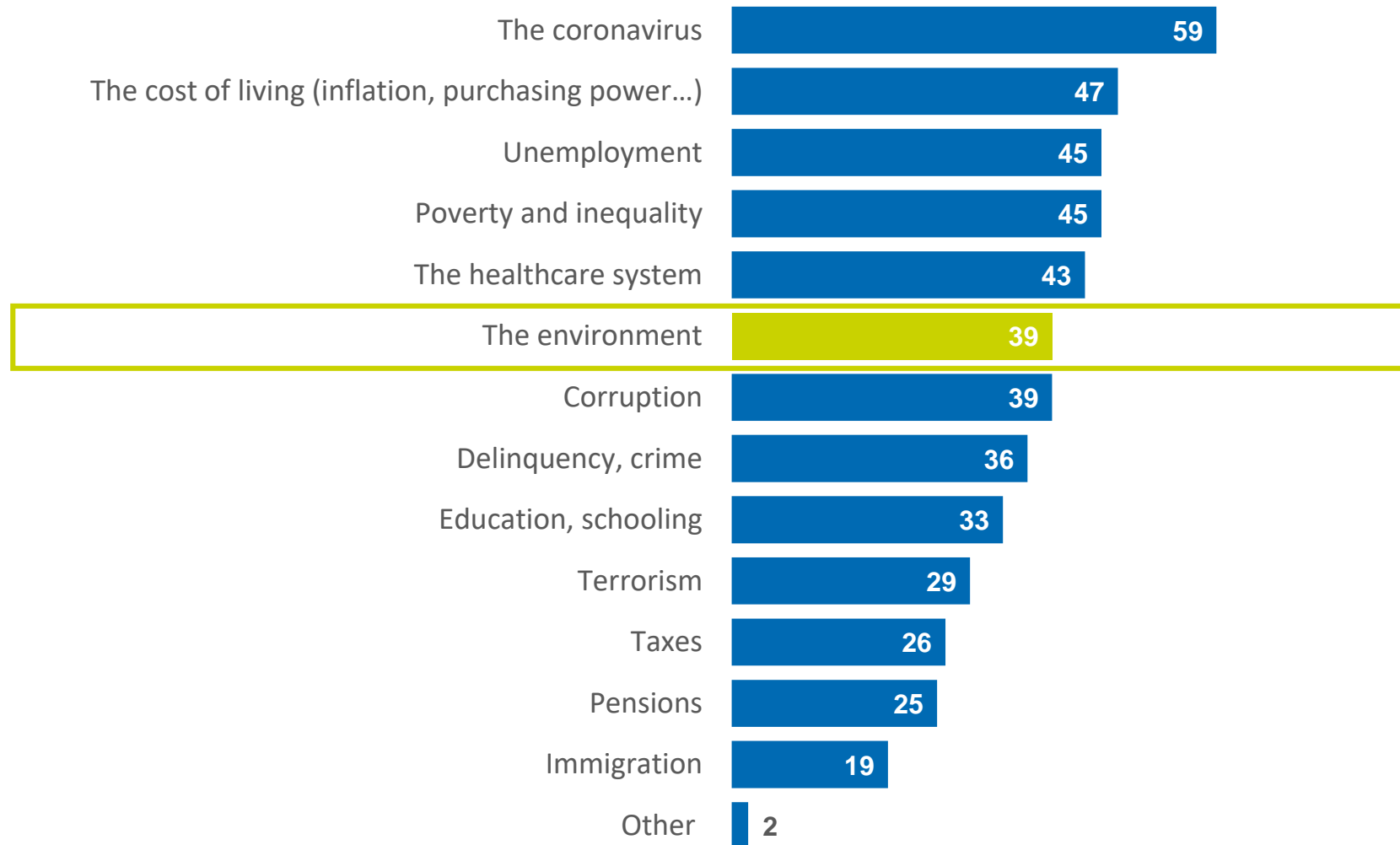
A dramatic landscape featuring large icebergs floating in a dark body of water. In the background, snow-capped mountains rise under a heavy, dark, and cloudy sky. The scene is somber and evocative of climate change.

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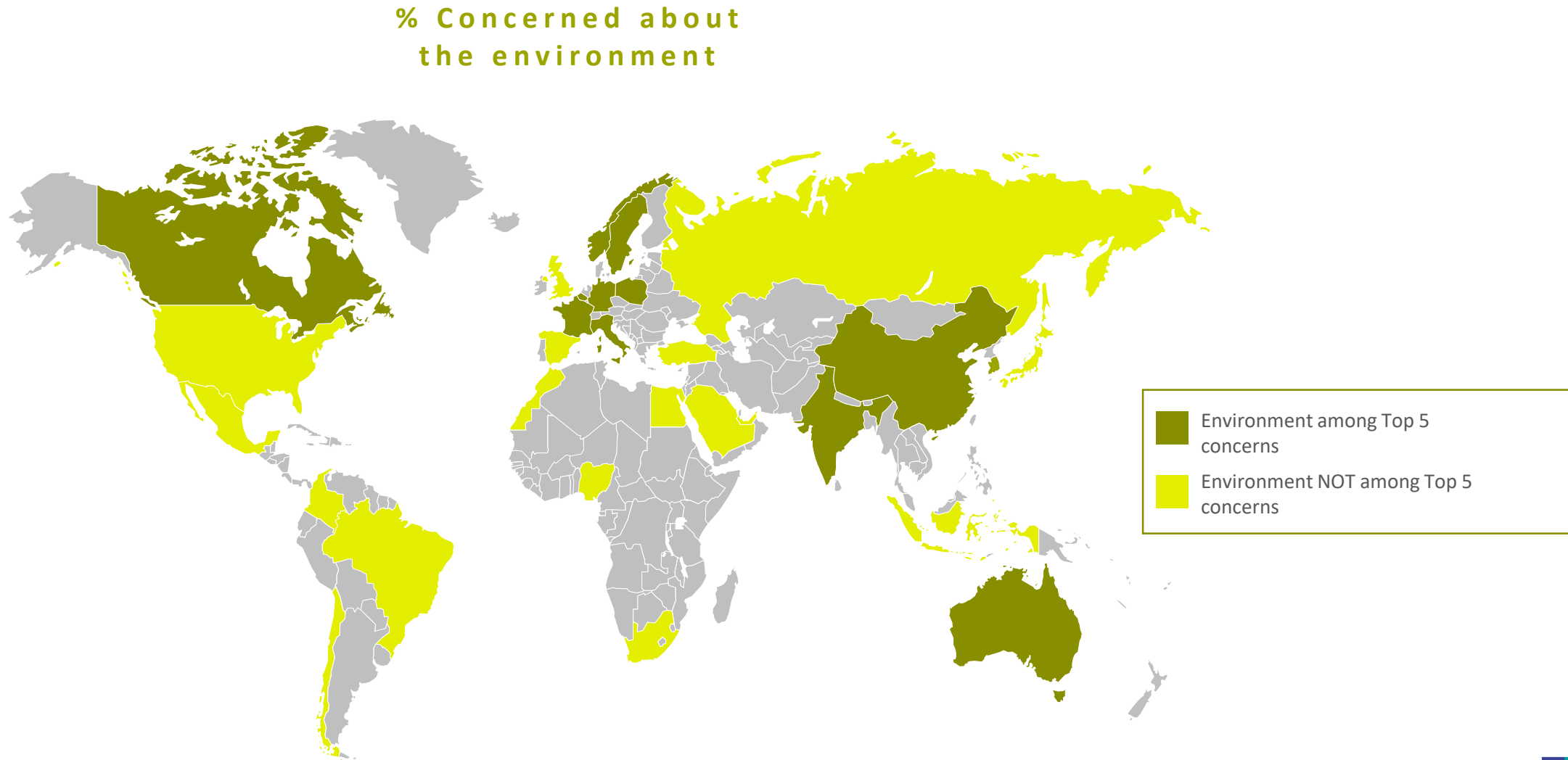
THE COVID CRISIS HAS NOT ECLIPSED  
CONCERN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND HAS EVEN STRENGTHENED IT IN  
THE SOUTHERN COUNTRIES

# Today, public opinion places the Coronavirus at the top of their list of concerns. The environment ranks 6<sup>th</sup> .

Q. From this list, which topics worry you the most?

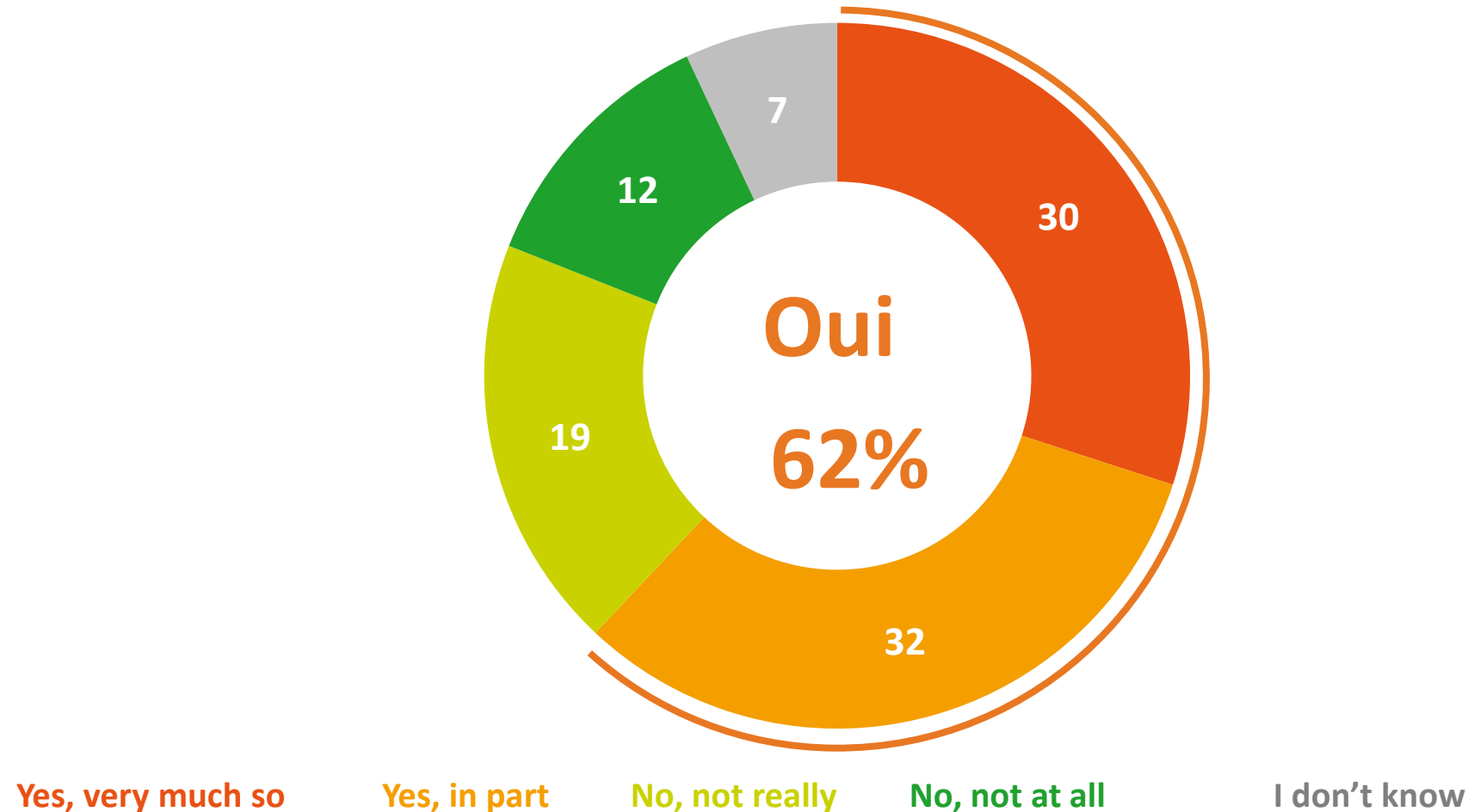


# The countries most concerned about the environment: a large number of European states, but also big countries like Canada, Australia, India and China



# The epidemic is generally viewed as linked to the negative impact of human activity on the environment...

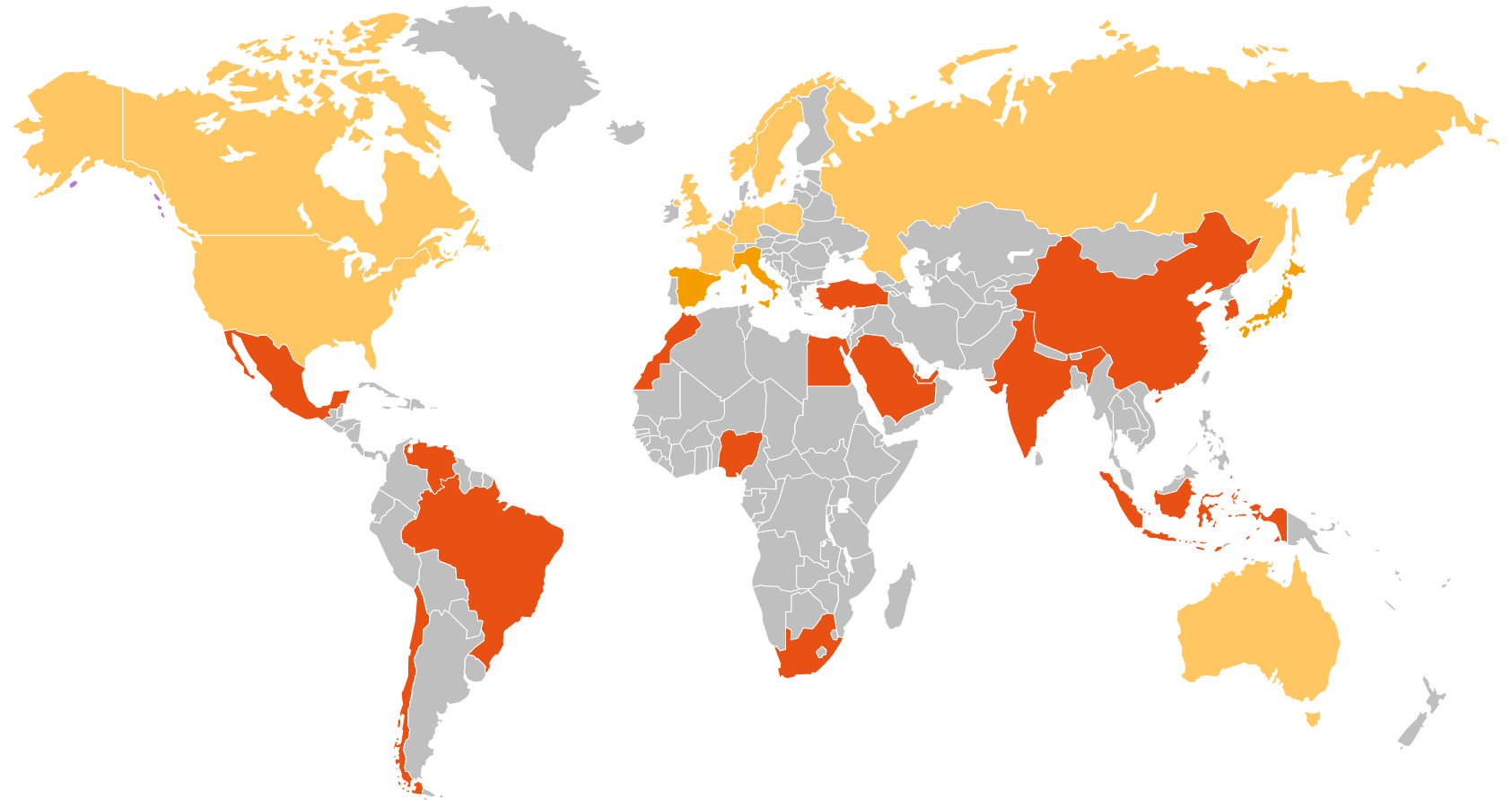
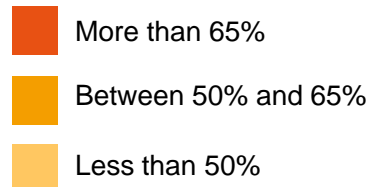
Q. Do you think that the Coronavirus pandemic is linked to the negative effects of human activity on nature and the environment?



## ...but a vision that contrasts greatly between countries of the North and South

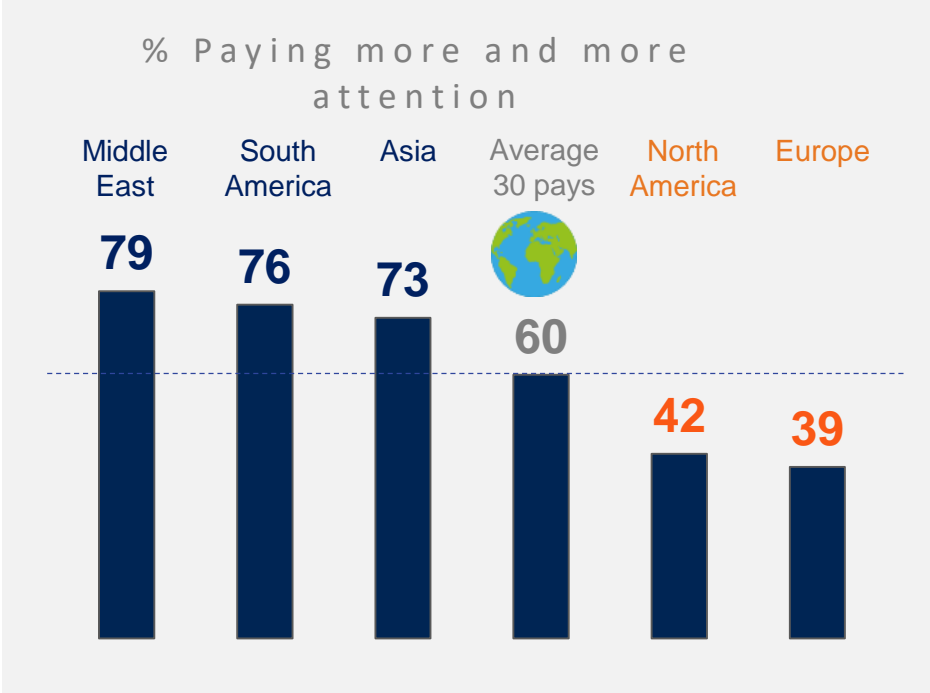
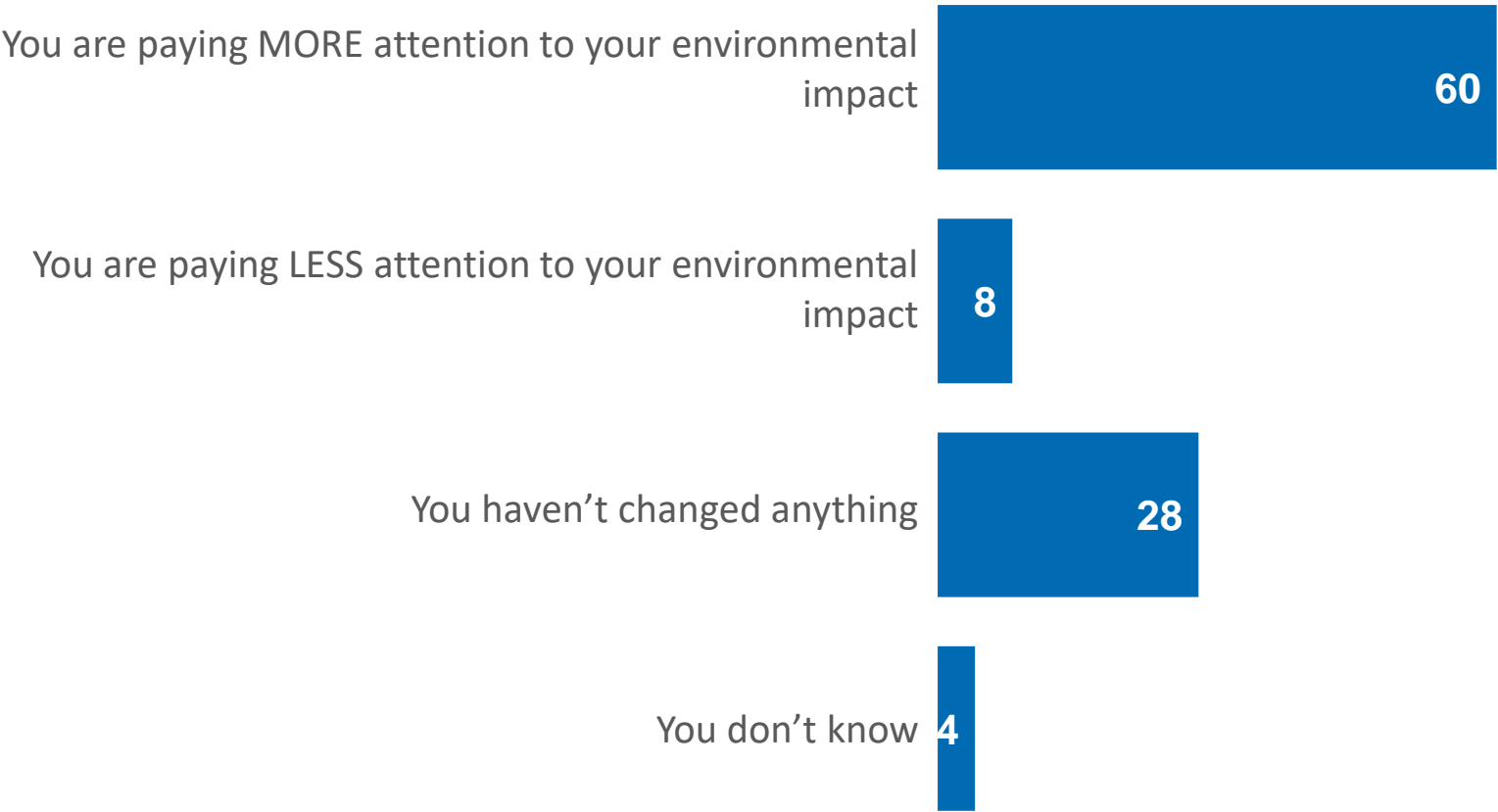
Q. Do you think that the Coronavirus pandemic is linked to the negative effects of human activity on nature and the environment?

**% YES, “the Coronavirus is linked to the negative impact of human activity on nature and the environment”**



# The Coronavirus epidemic has accelerated environmental awareness, particularly in the Southern countries

Q. Would you say that with the Coronavirus crisis...?





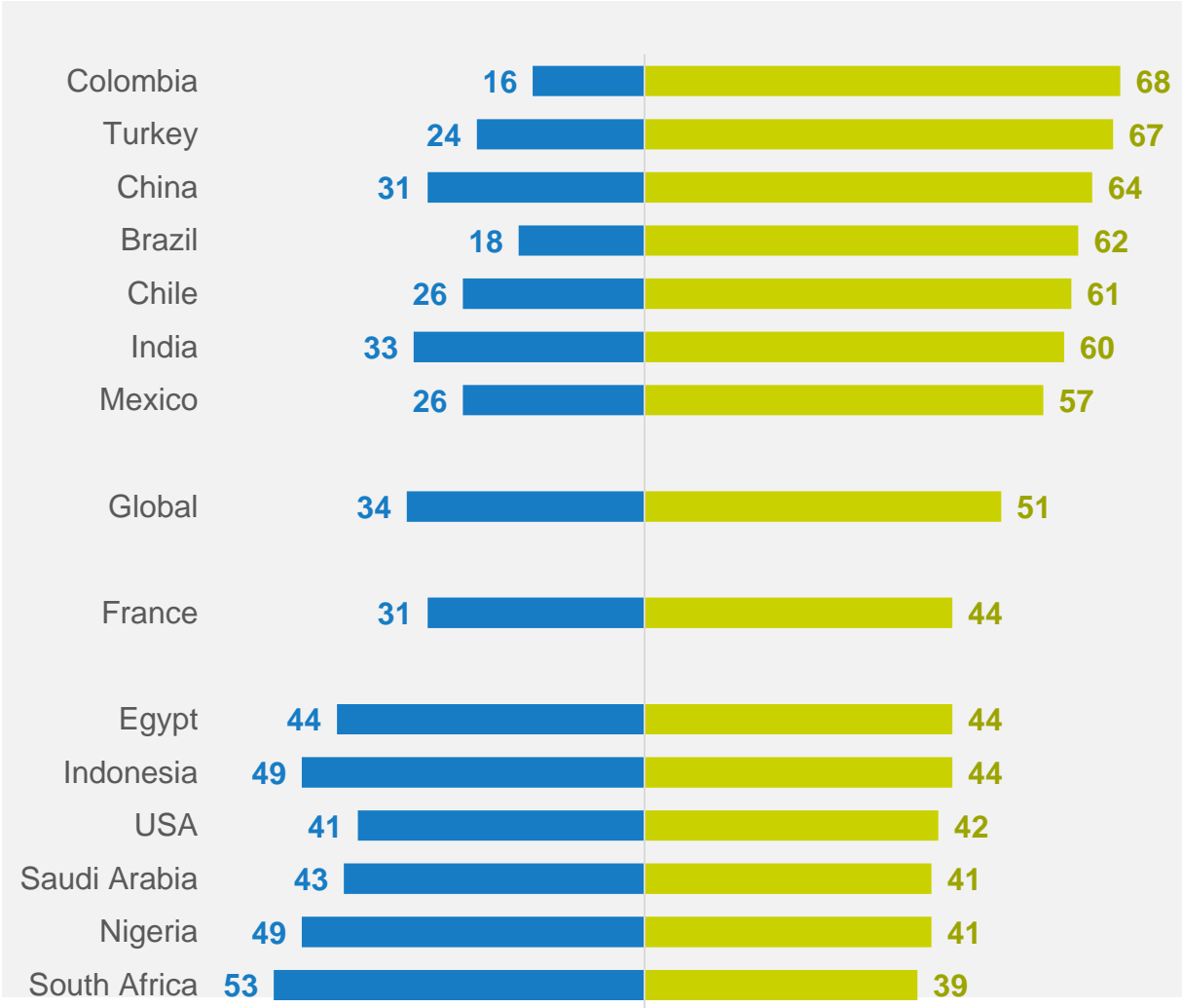
# Despite the health crisis and a much-worsened economic situation, priority should be given to the environment, according to a small majority

Q. Which of the following two statements do you agree with most?

Priority should be given...

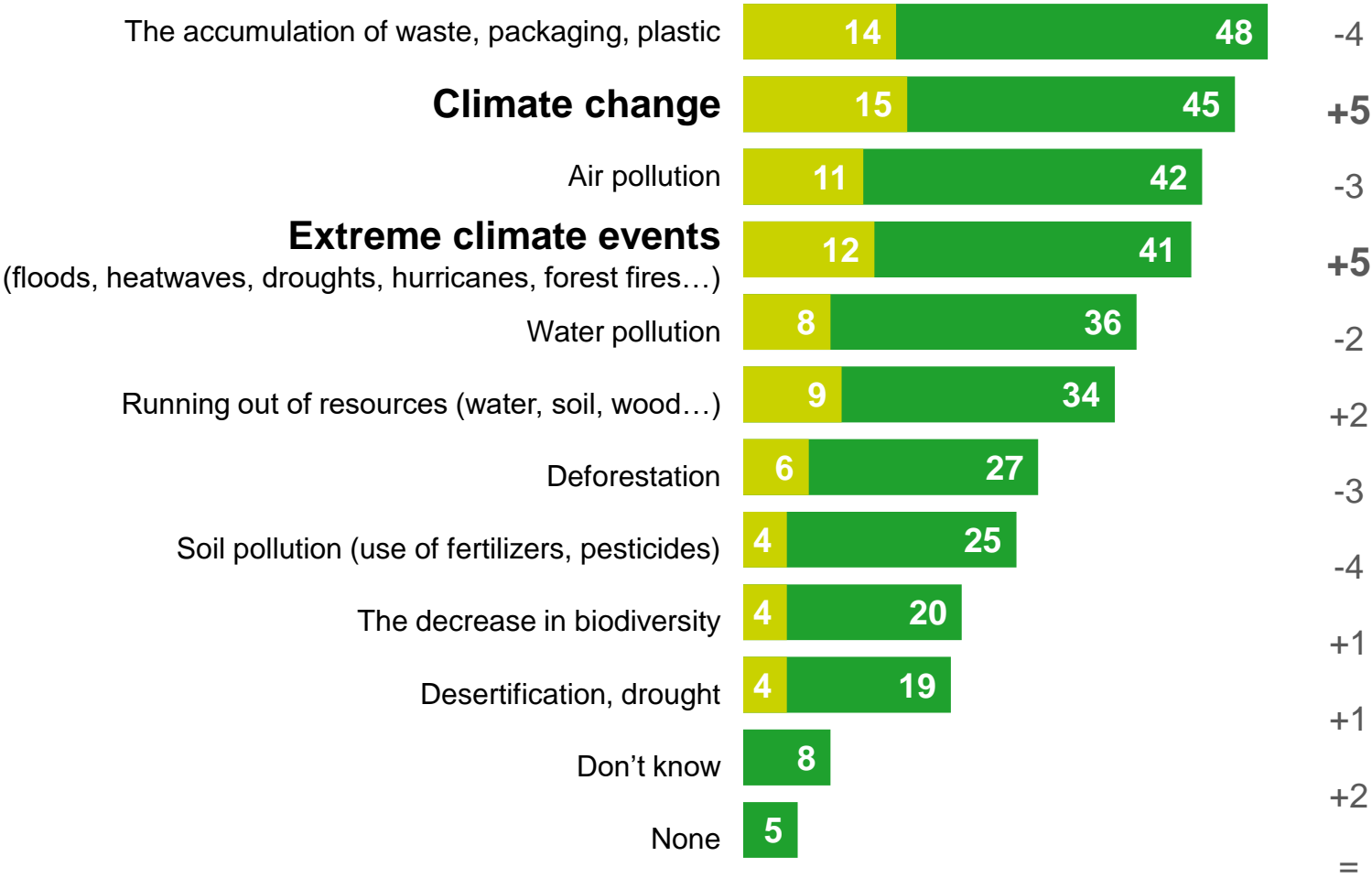


Great disparities



# Among the problems linked to the environment, climate change is an increasing concern, as is its clearest expression, extreme climate events

Q. From the following list, which environmental problems do you think are the most concerning in your country?



Countries with the biggest changes in relation to these problems



Turkey (46%, +13)  
Indonesia (43%, +12)  
Sweden (59%, +9)  
Belgium (50%, +8)



South Korea (46%, +18)  
Egypt (28%, +15)  
France (50%, +12)  
Belgium (43%, +10)  
Mexico (45%, +10)

# Concern about climate change is not restricted to young people

Q. In relation to climate change, would you say that compared to 1 year ago, you are?

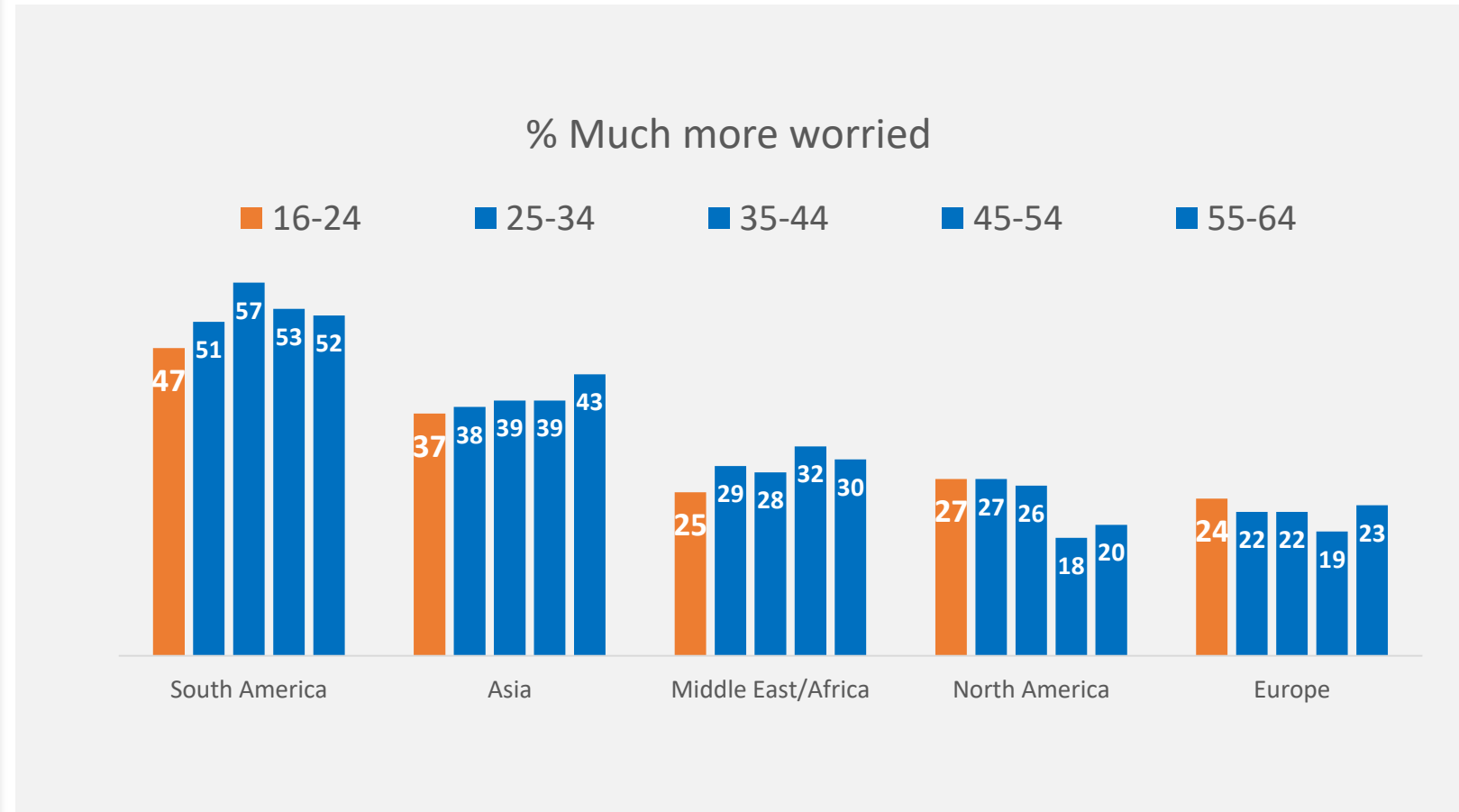


70%

of the world's population claim to be “more worried” than they were a year ago about climate change,

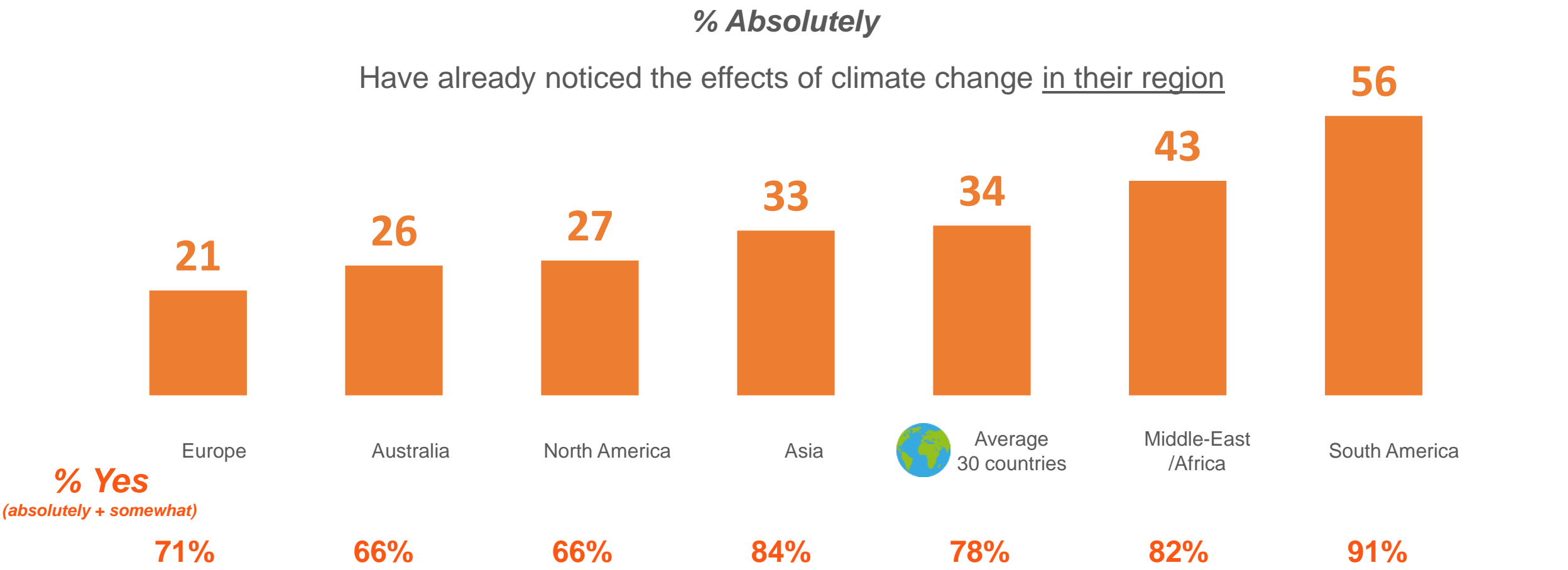
31%

“much more” worried.



# A large majority of populations have already noticed the effects of climate change, particularly in the Southern countries

Q. On the whole, would you say that, in your region, you have already noticed the effects of climate change?





# The most feared risk by far is an increase in extreme climate events

Q. What risks does climate change present for your country?

**61%** An increase in extreme climate events



**44%** Pollution



**43%** Desertification





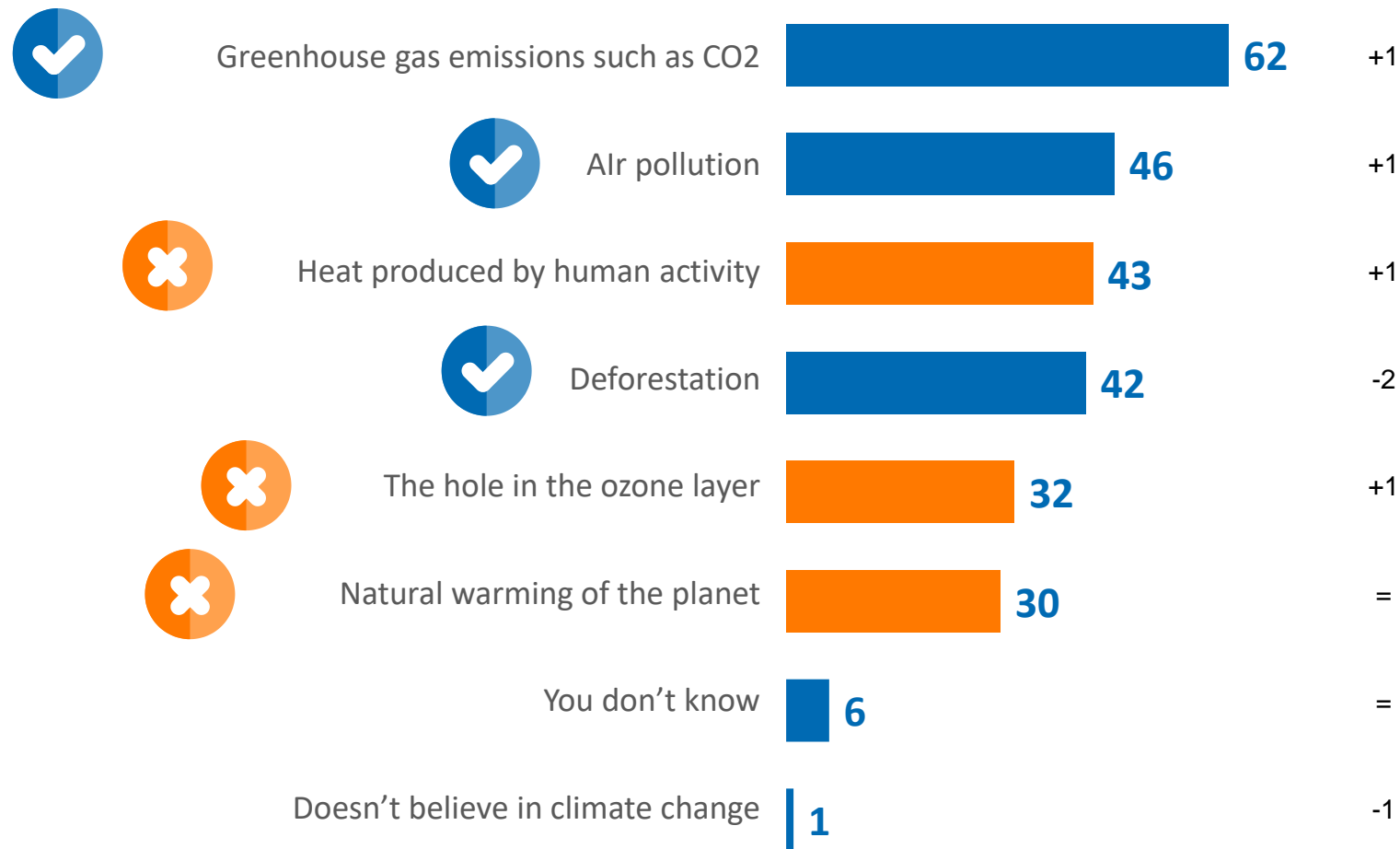
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# CONFUSION AS TO THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND PERSISTENT CLIMATE-SKEPTICISM

# Confusion as to the causes. Greenhouse gases recognized by 6 out of 10 people as a cause of climate change

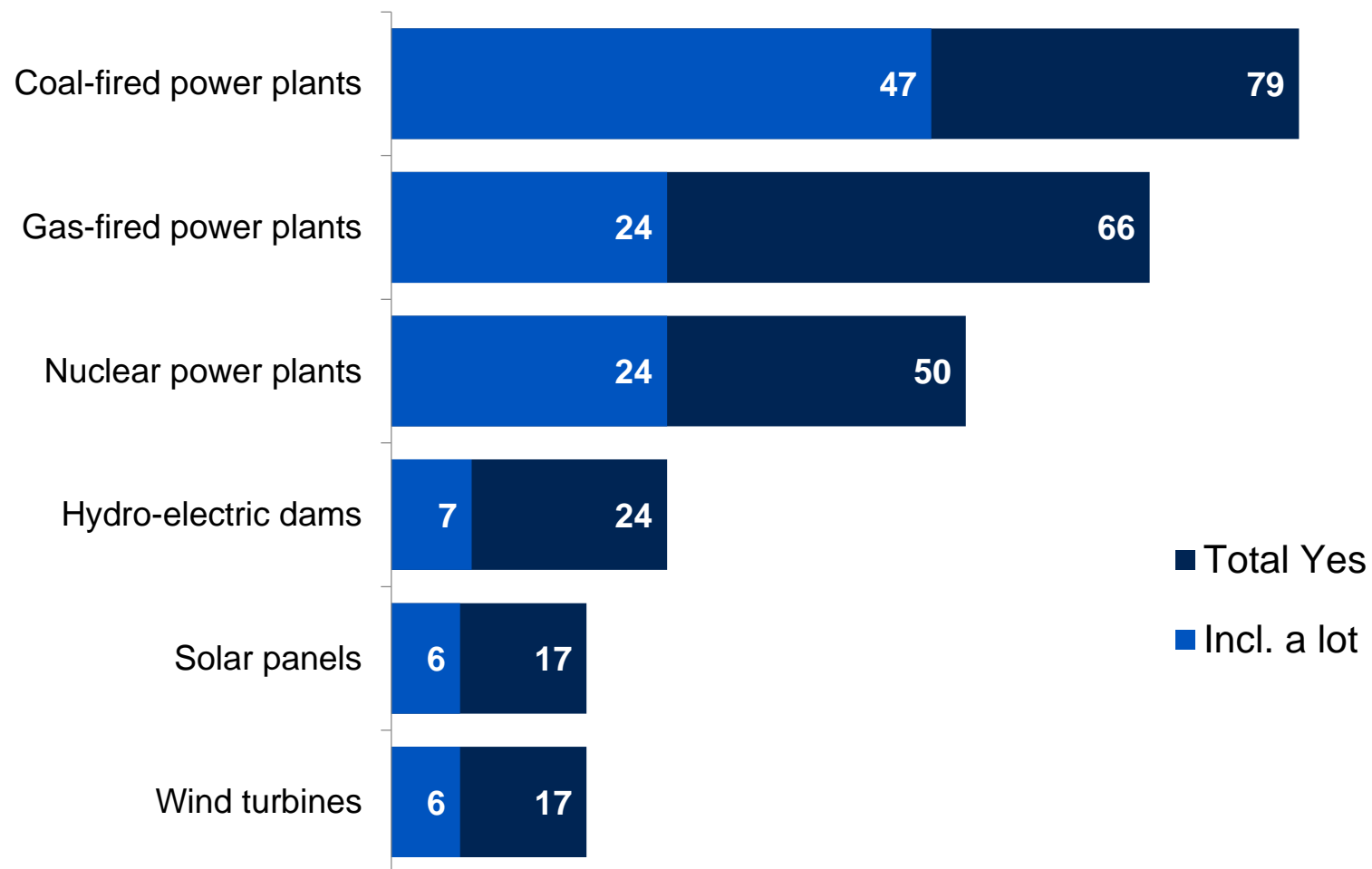
Q. What is or what are the causes of climate change?





# And confusion about CO2 emissions from electricity production methods

Q. For each of the following methods of electricity production, state whether you think it produces CO2?

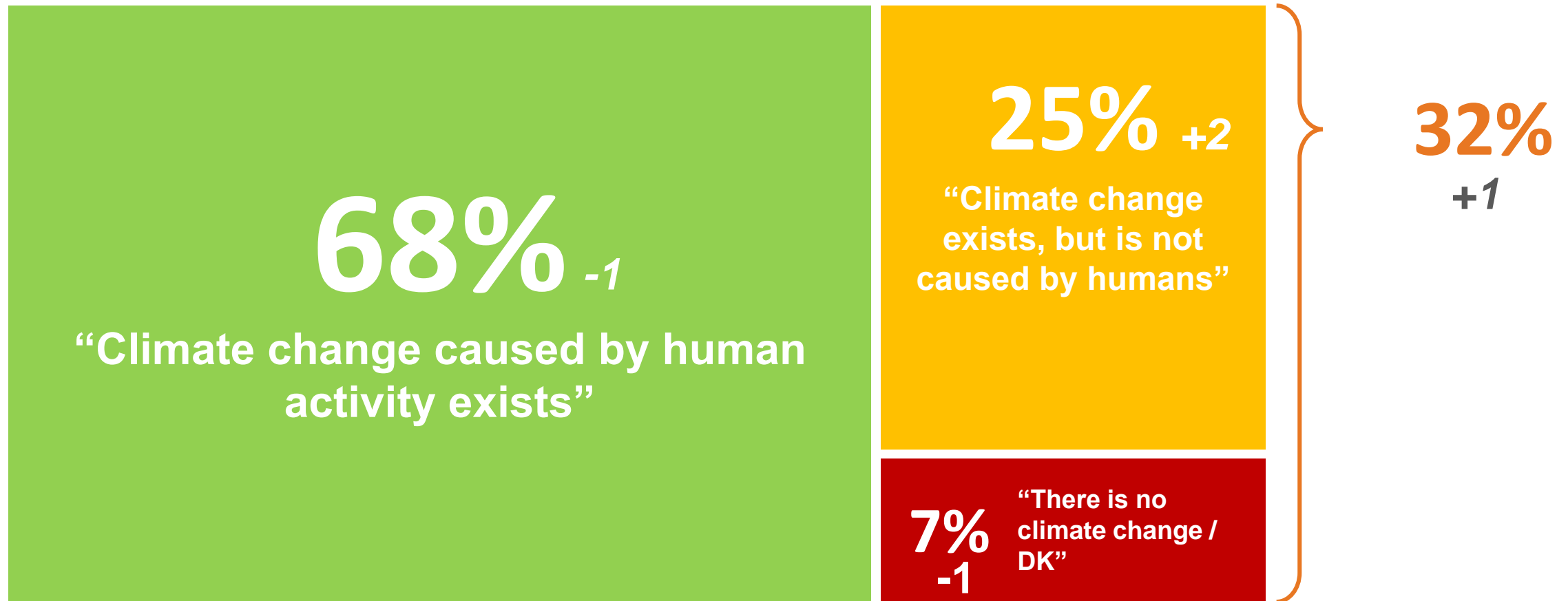




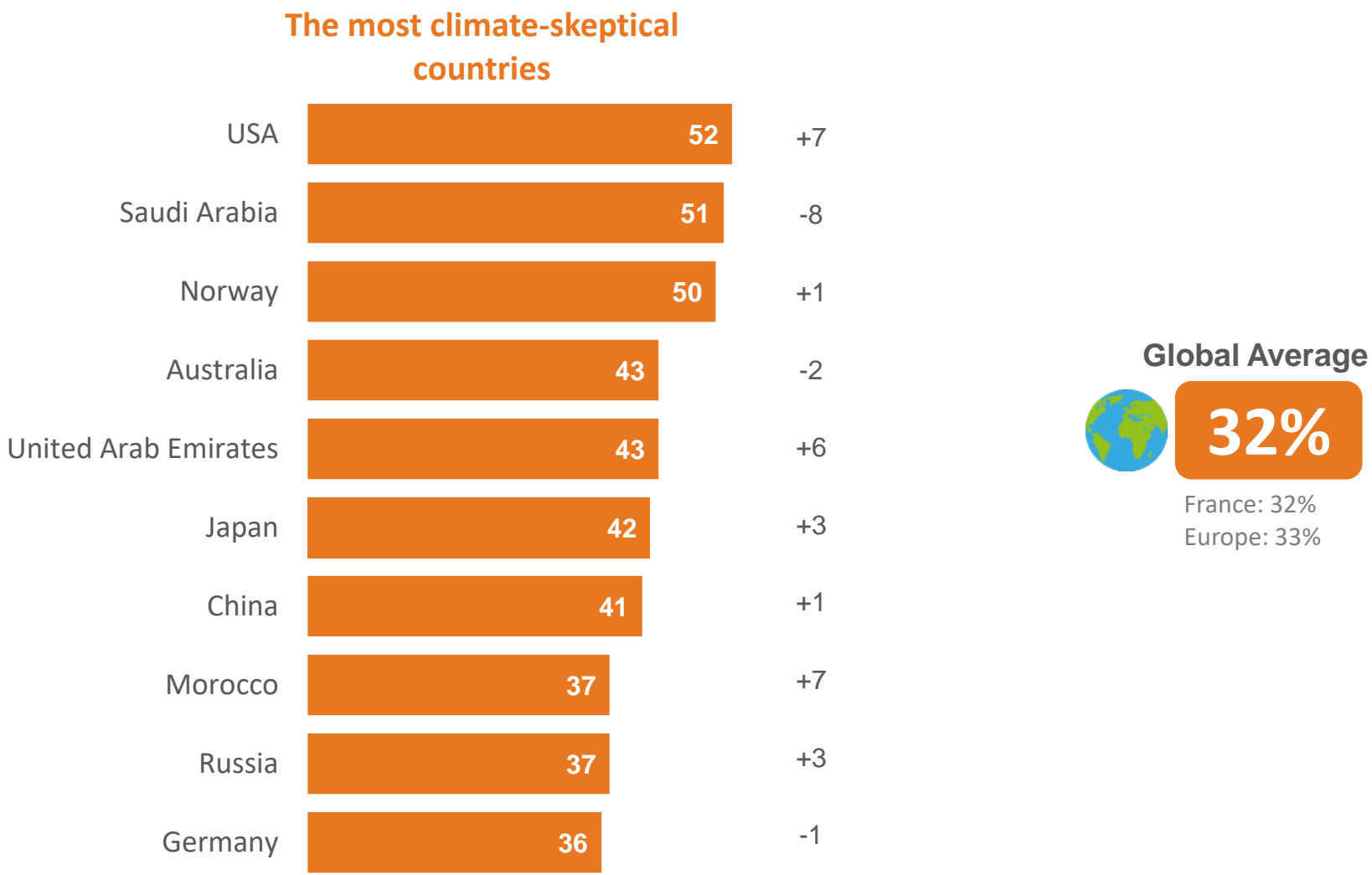
# One third of respondents do not associate climate change with a phenomenon of human origin

Q. Would you say that we are experiencing a change in climate?

Q. And concerning this climate change that we hear about, would you say: that it is mainly due to human activity, that it is mainly due to a natural phenomenon or that there is no way to know?

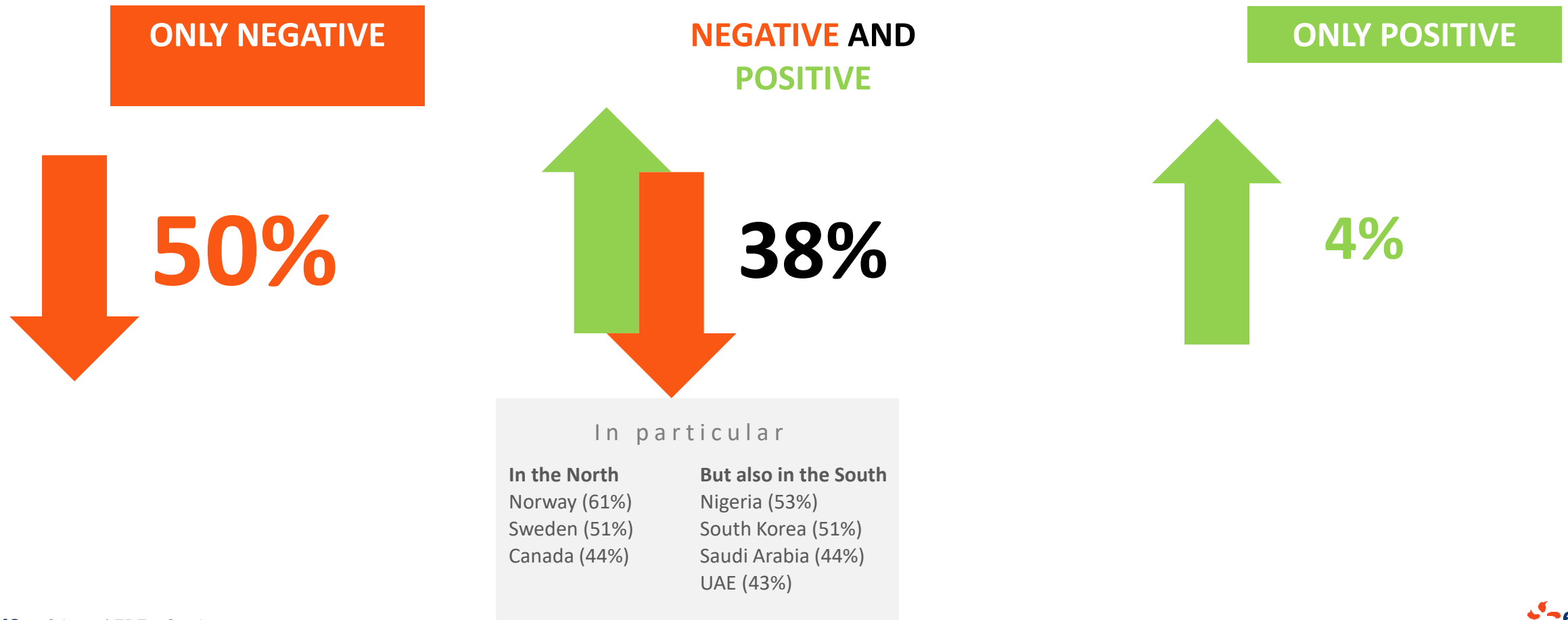


# This climate skepticism remains more localized, with the USA becoming the most climate-skeptical country in the world



# Only half of populations think that climate change has **ONLY** negative consequences

Q. In your opinion, the consequences of climate change will be:







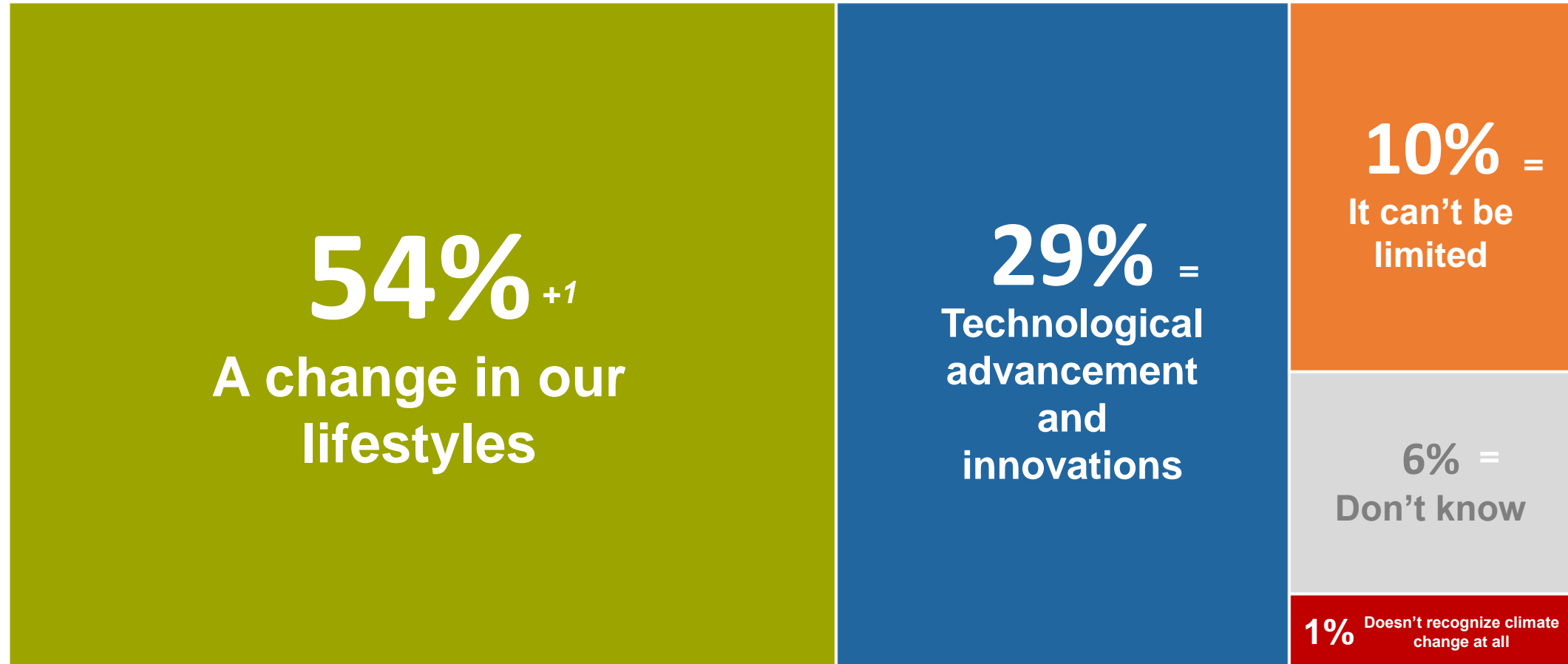
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THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE  
MUST INVOLVE JOINT MOBILIZATION OF  
CITIZENS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT



# While almost one third hope that a solution will come through technological innovation, a majority continue to think that fighting climate change will involve a change in lifestyles

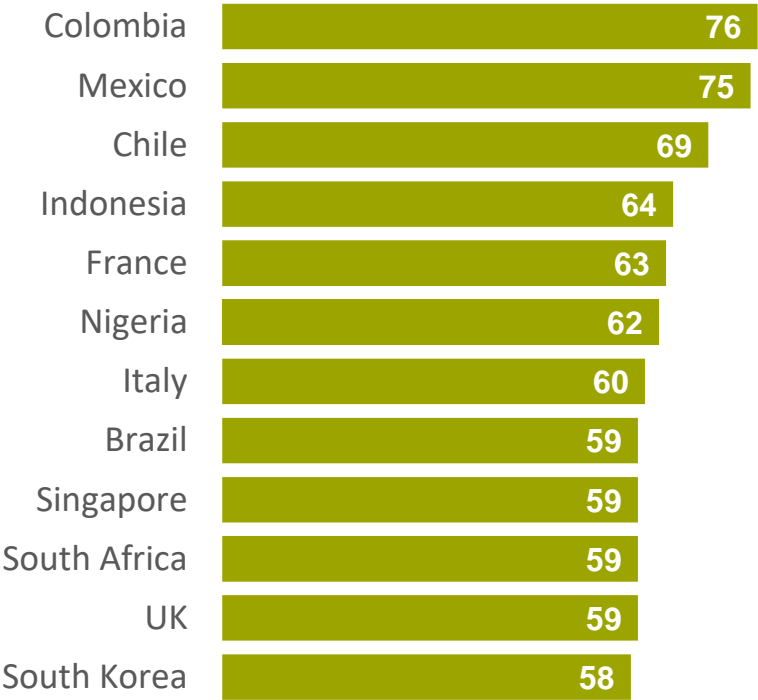
Q. Which of these three opinions is closest to your own?



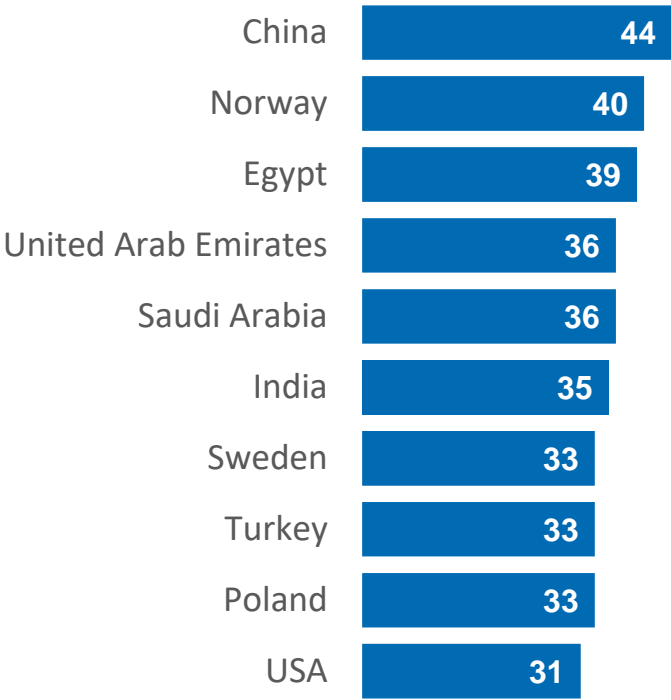
# Contrasts by country: the belief in technological advancement is found more widely in the more climate-skeptical countries

Q. Which of these three opinions is closest to your own?

Countries most likely to think that the solution goes via a **change in our lifestyles**

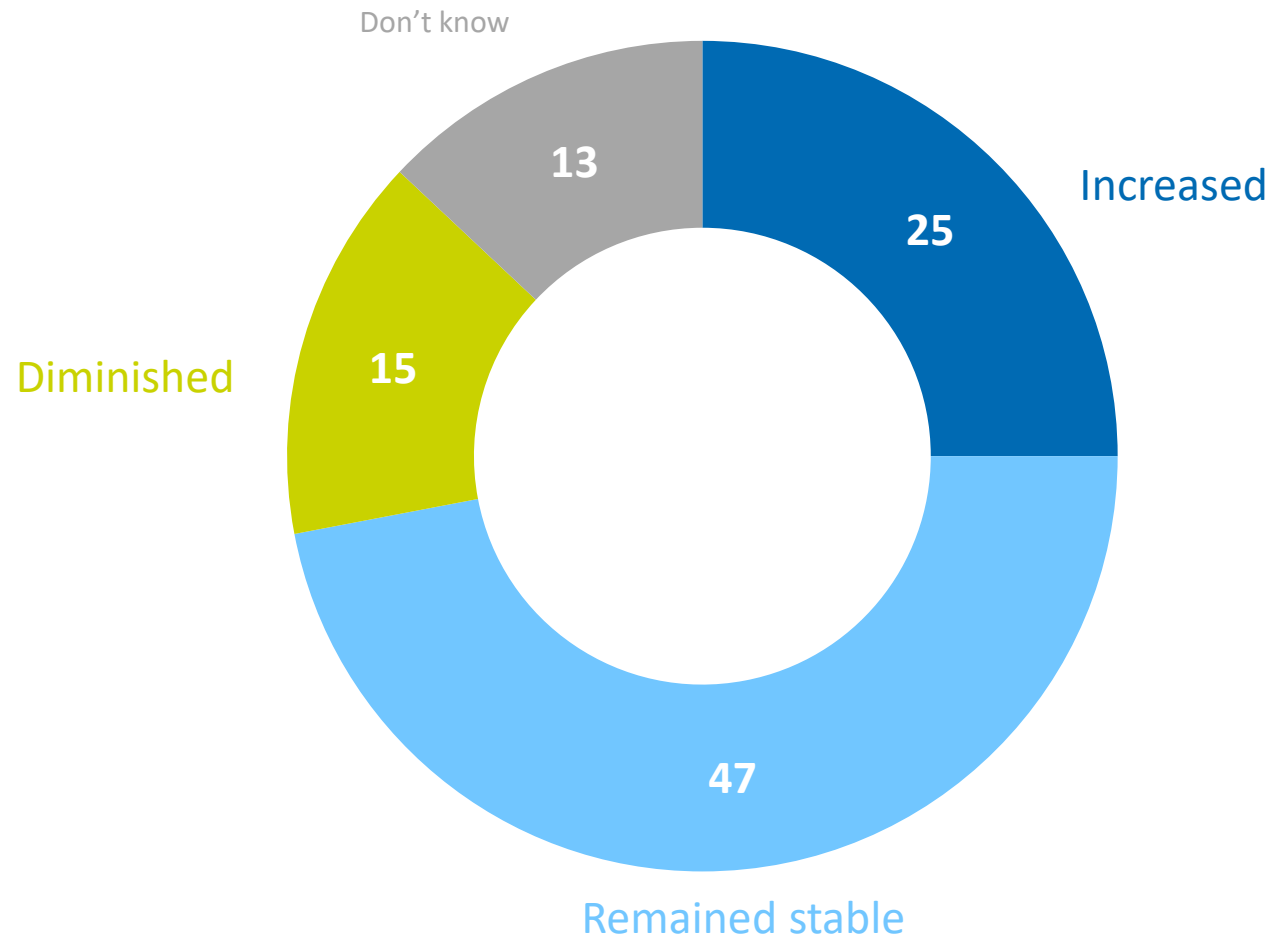


Countries most likely to think that the solution goes via **technological advancement and innovation**

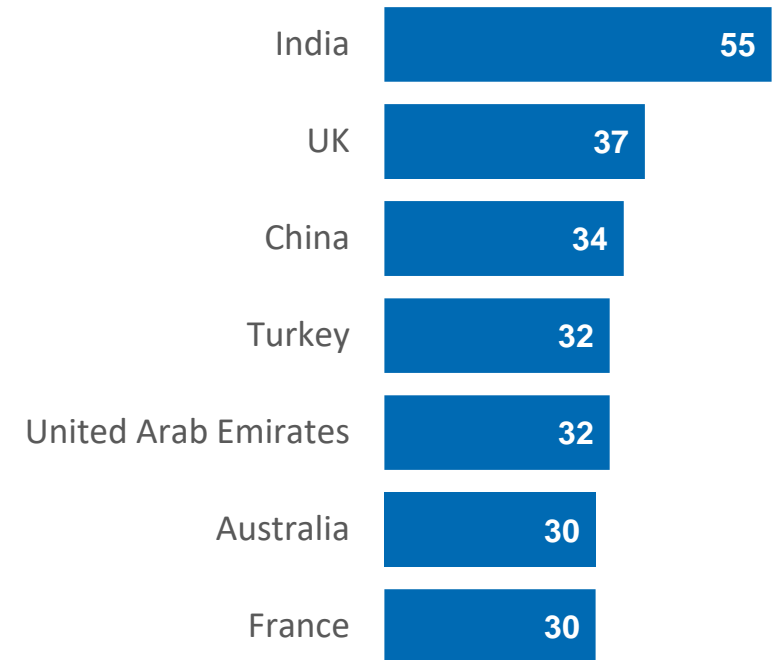


# Citizen mobilization has continued or has even grown despite the period being marked by the health crisis

Q. Would you say that in the past 12 months, the level of action citizens in your country are taking to fight climate change has...

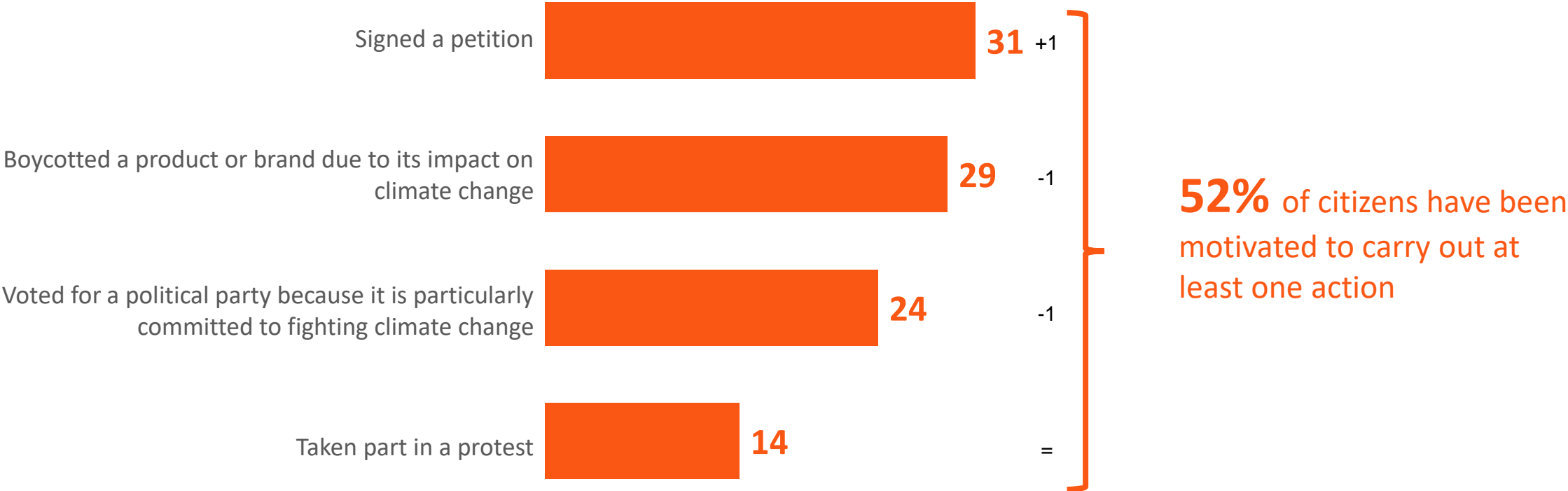


## Countries where citizen mobilization has increased most



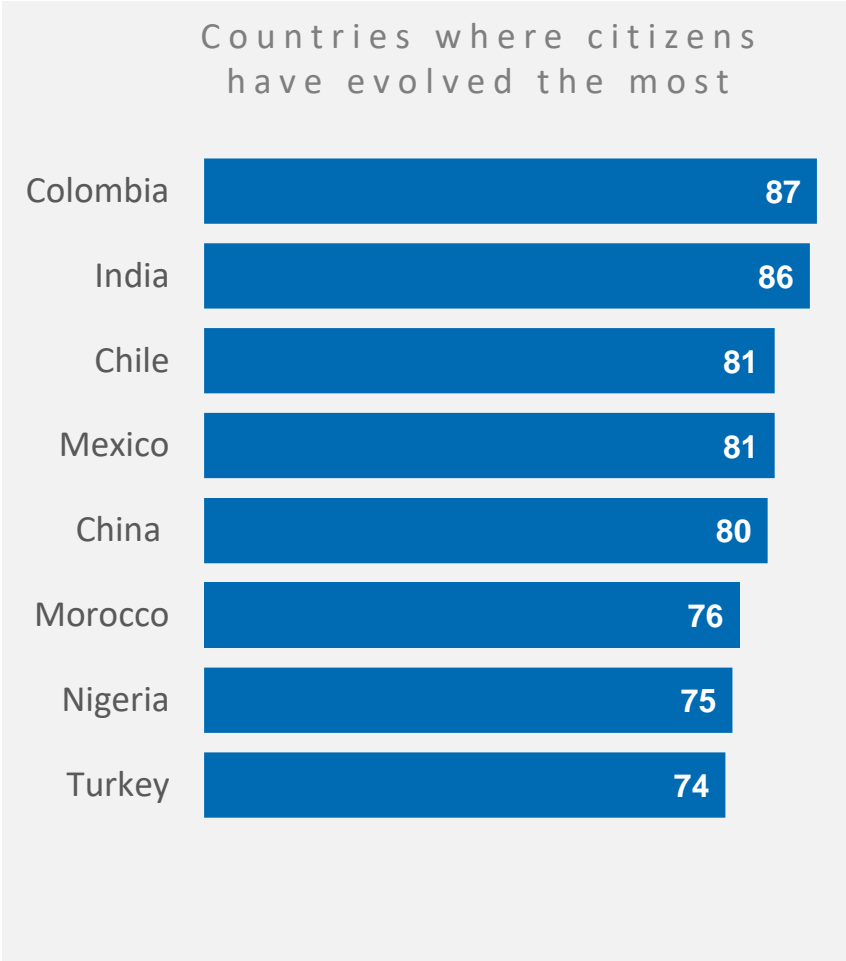
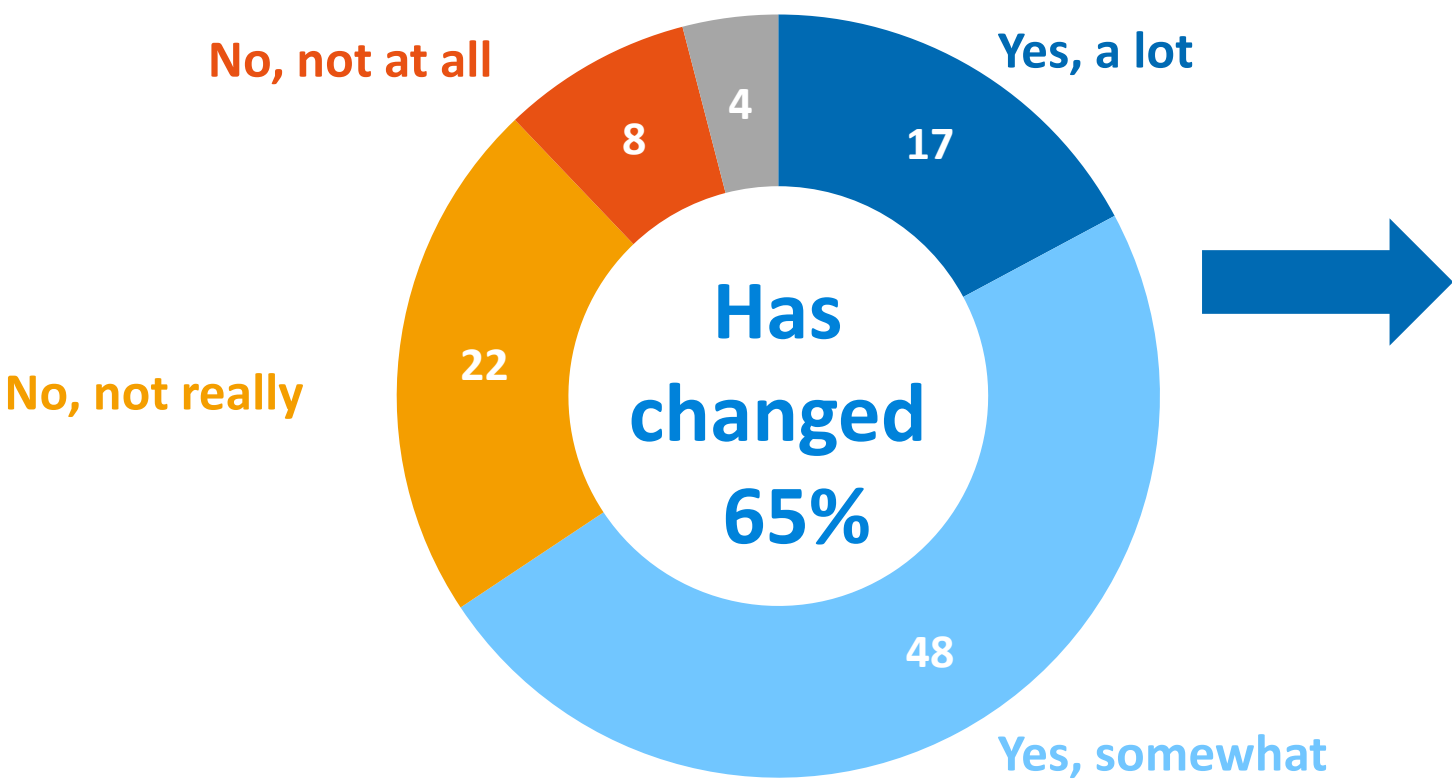
# One out of two people has taken action in their own way: petition, boycott, vote or protest.

Q. When it comes to fighting climate change, have you personally ever: 'Yes' answers



# And two thirds of populations consider that they have changed their behavior to help fight climate change

Q. Over the past 12 months, have you changed anything in your own behavior to help fight climate change?

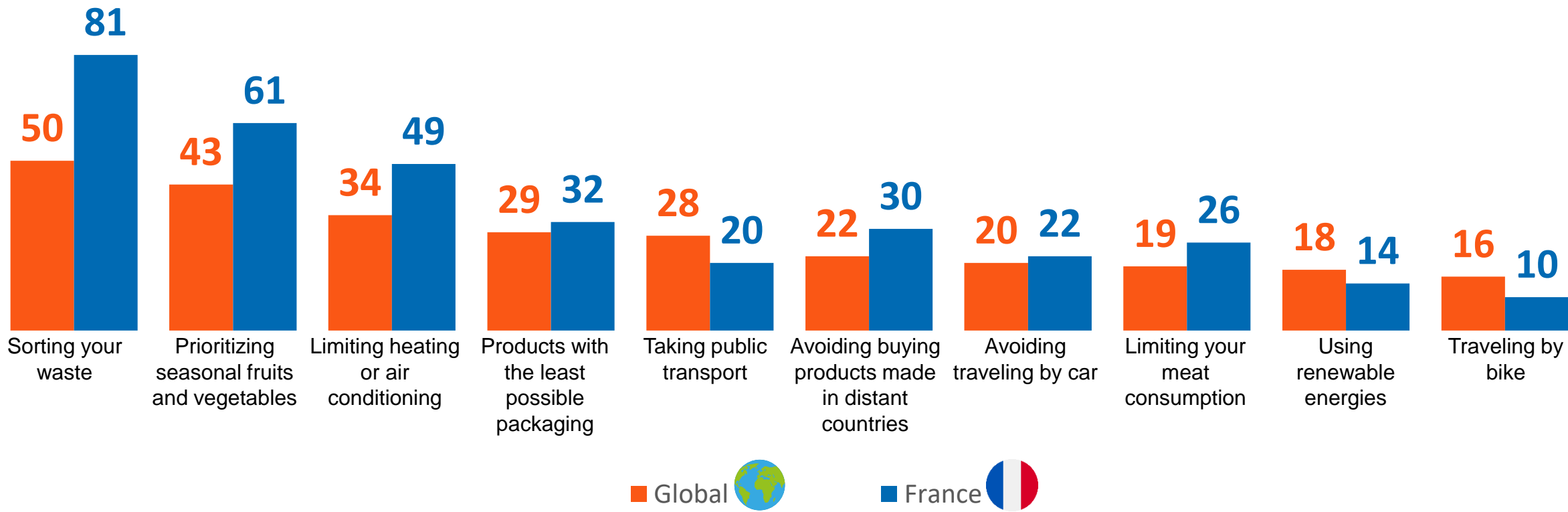




# But generally speaking, actions for fighting climate change are still not very well integrated into everyday life. They are more frequent in France than on average.

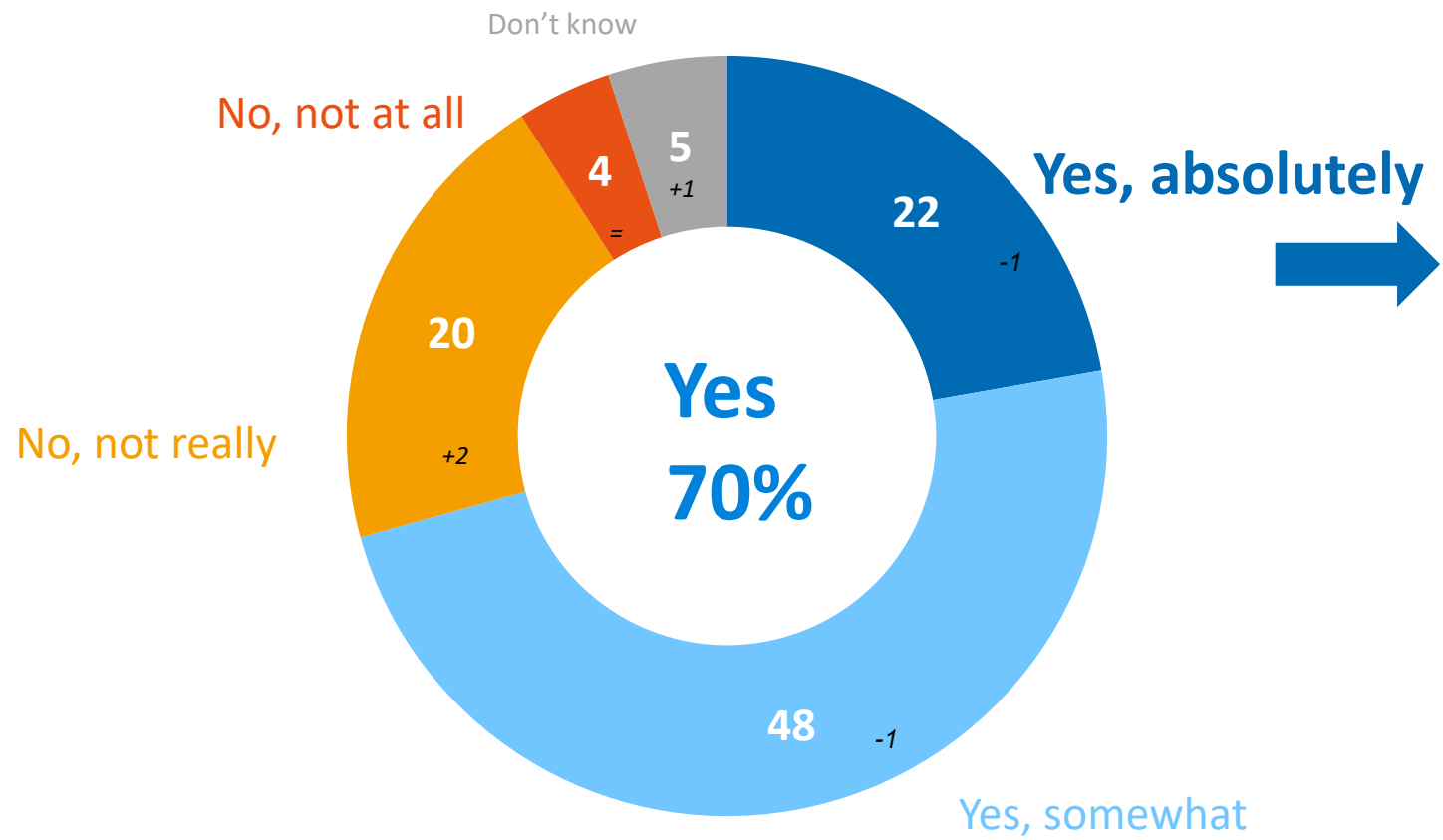
Q. Here are some individual actions that can help fight climate change. For each one, tell me if you do it systematically or almost:

% You do it systematically or almost



# Information plays a crucial role, when only one out of five citizens is sure of the right actions to adopt to fight climate change

Q. Do you feel like you know what you can do on a personal level to fight climate change?

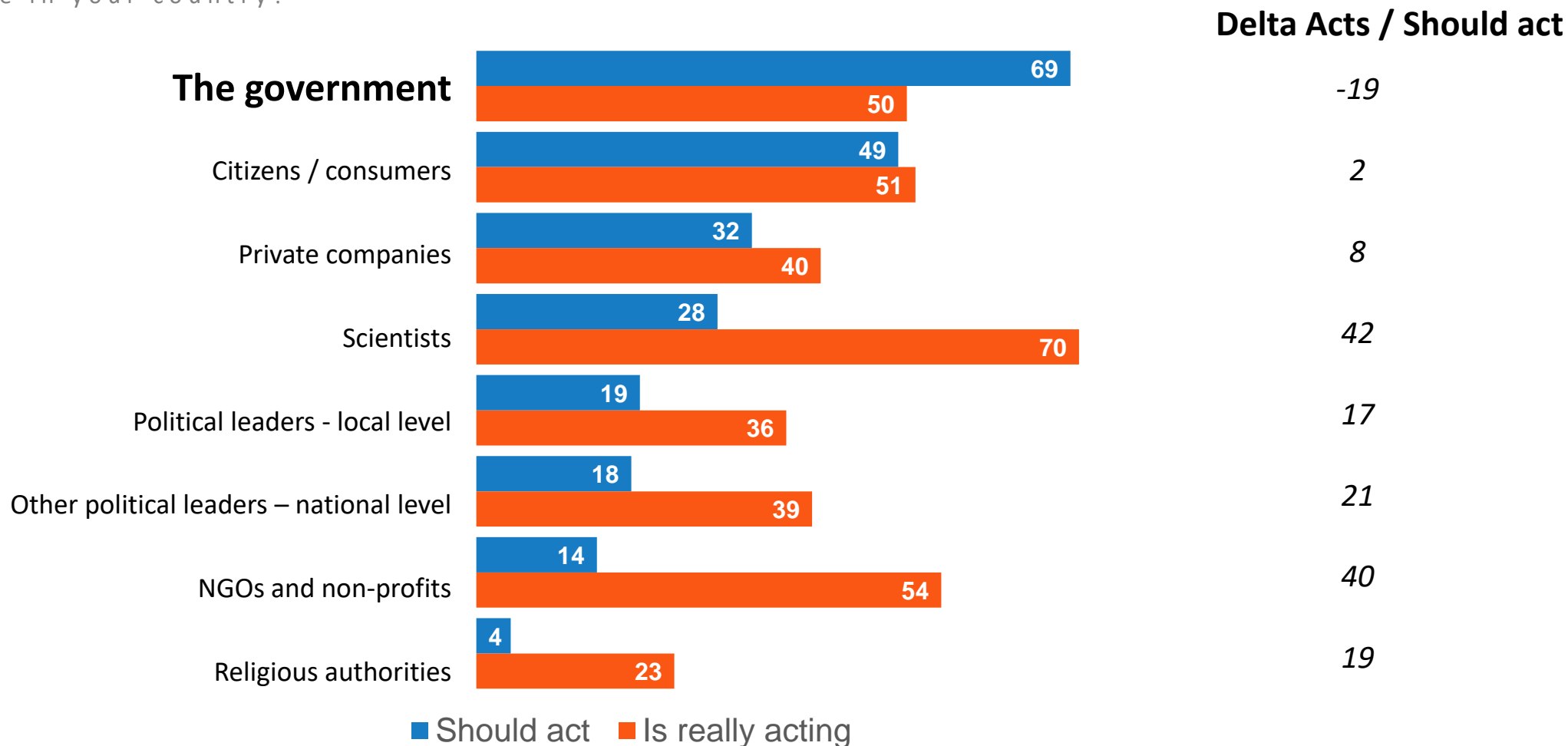


NB: the importance of information

Among these citizens who are sure that they know what to do, actions are more widespread on a day-to-day basis: 55% carry out at least 4 actions, vs only 14% of those who have no idea what to do

# A big gap between what is expected of governments – a lot – and their perceived involvement

Q. In your opinion, which entities in the following list need to take action first and foremost to fight climate change in your country? Q. And for each of the following players, do you think that they are taking action to fight climate change in your country?



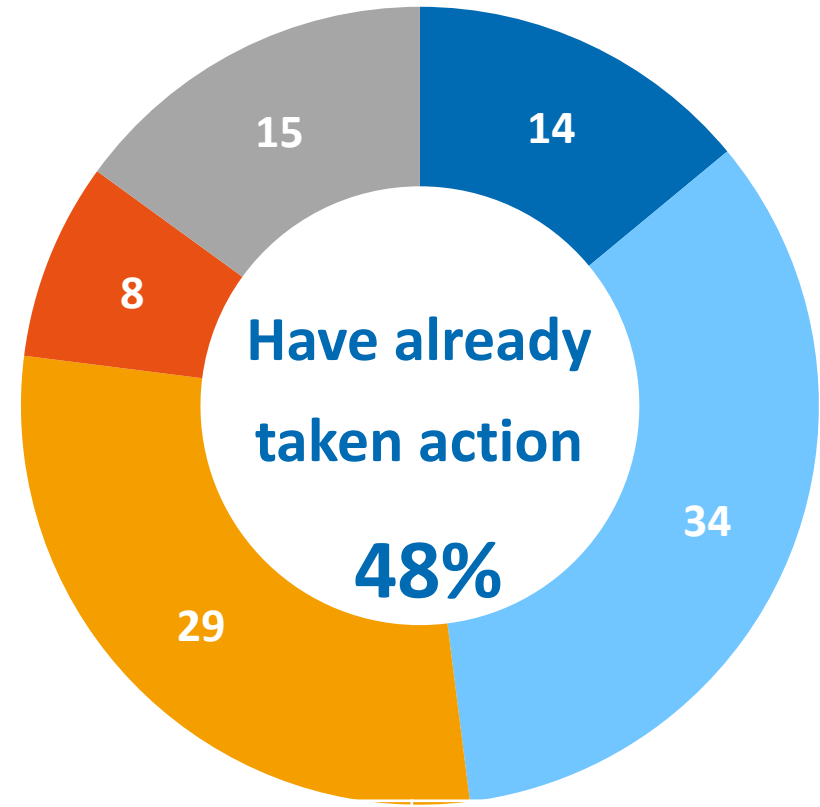
# In this respect, citizens (notably Europeans) are very critical of the action taken by the authorities

Q. To your knowledge, have the public authorities in your country put measures in place to account for climate change and its effects (construction of dams, prohibition of construction in some areas due to the rise in water level, etc.)?

In these countries, the majority of the population think that the authorities **have not** implemented any actions:

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Italy   | 62% |
| Chile   | 52% |
| Spain   | 52% |
| Belgium | 51% |
| France  | 51% |

37% have not implemented actions



Yes, definitely    Yes, somewhat    No, not really    No, not at all    Don't know

# And think that priority will clearly be given to the economy

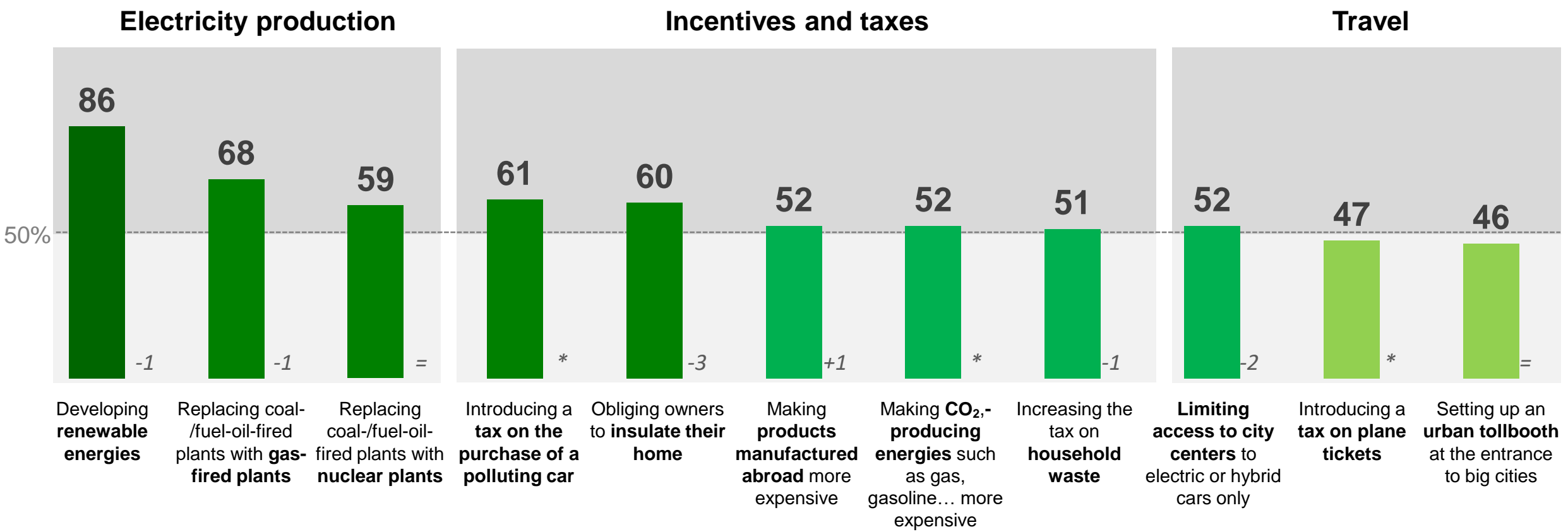
Q. And what do you think will happen over the next few months in your country?





# But the measures that could be introduced are not always well accepted by the public. Acceptability drops sharply with the prospect of taxes and traffic restrictions

Q. Here are some measures that could be adopted in your country to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For each of them, tell me if it seems to you to be: 'Acceptable' answers



+/- change compared to previous wave  
\* New item or item modified compared to previous wave