



OCP Policy Center Seminar series

# Transatlantic trends

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Fundación **BBVA**



# Methodology

This is the thirteenth annual *Transatlantic Trends* survey of public opinion in the United States and Europe. TNS Opinion was commissioned to conduct the survey in 13 countries: the U.S., Turkey, Russia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The surveys were conducted as Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews in all countries except Poland, Russia, and Turkey, where lower telephone penetration necessitated the use of face-to-face interviews.

In all countries, a random sample of approximately 1,000 men and women (Russia: 1,500), 18 years of age and older, were interviewed. Interviews were conducted between June 2 and June 26, 2014.

For results based on the national samples in each of the 13 countries surveyed, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of error attributable to sampling and other random effects is +/- 3%.

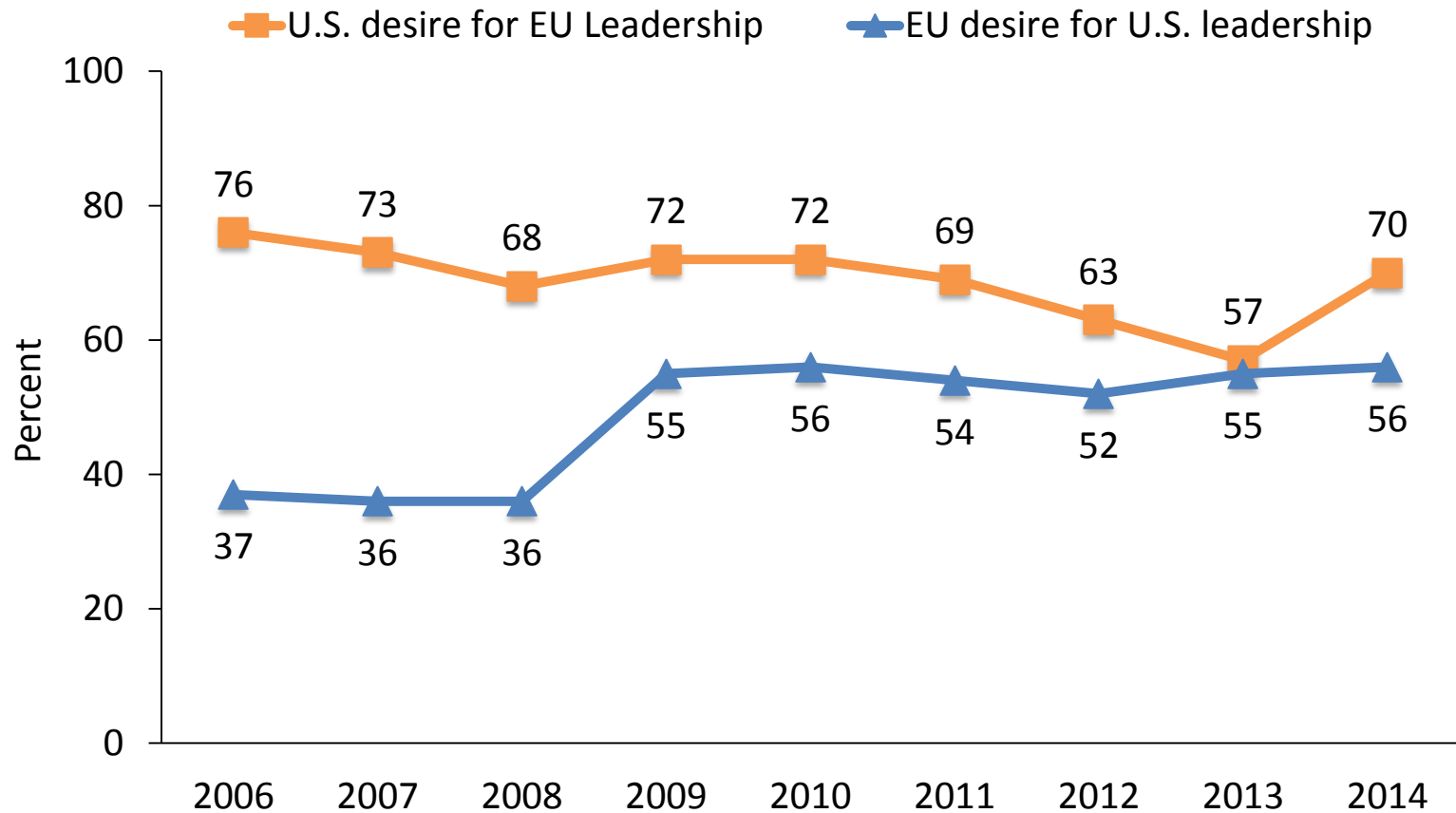


# Overview

- 1: The Transatlantic Relationship
- 2: The Economy, the EU, and Immigration
- 3: Foreign & Security Policy Cooperation
- 4: Russia



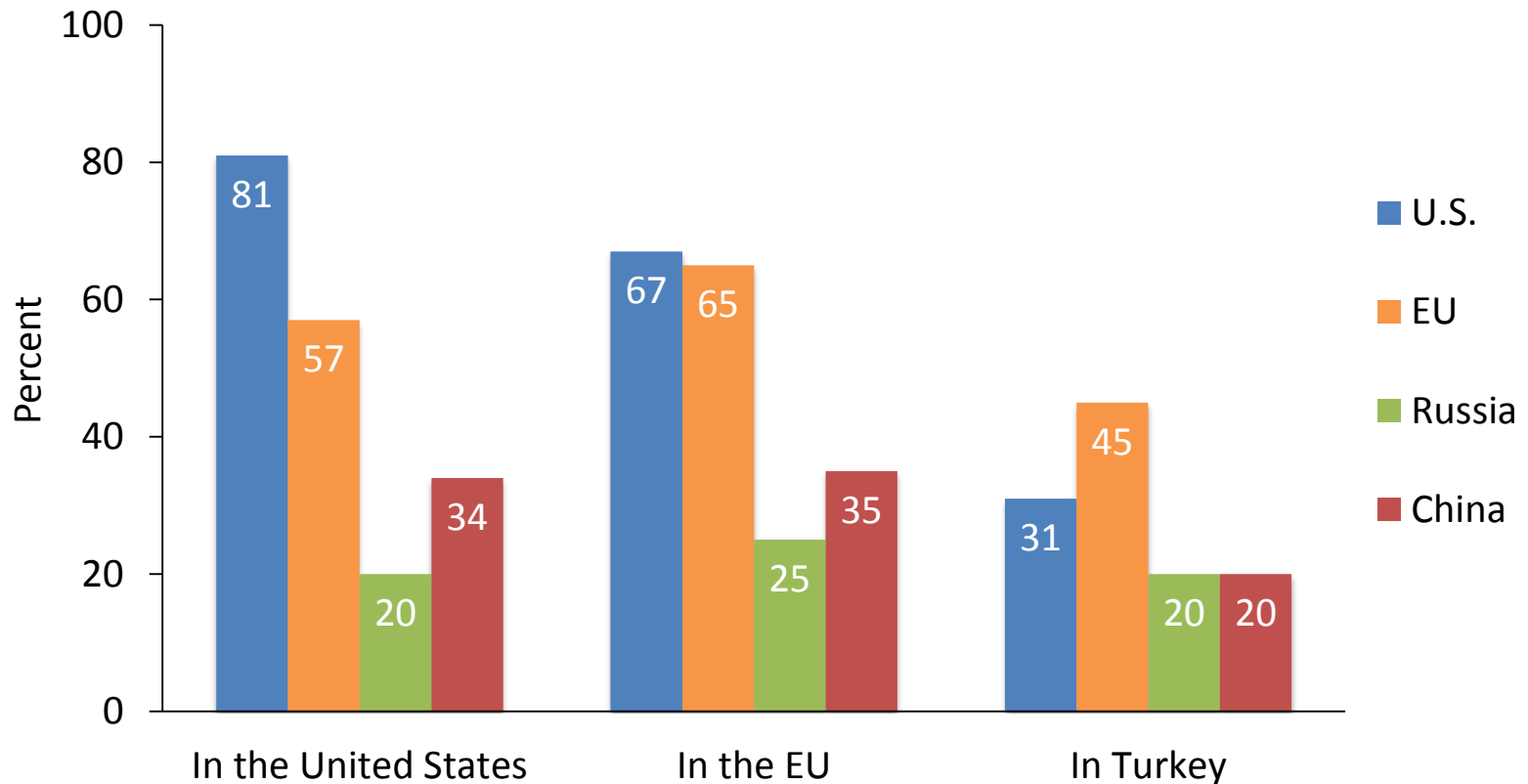
### Majorities Support Burden Sharing in Leadership



Q1a-b: How desirable is it that the United States/European Union exert strong leadership in world affairs? Very desirable, somewhat desirable, somewhat undesirable, or very undesirable?



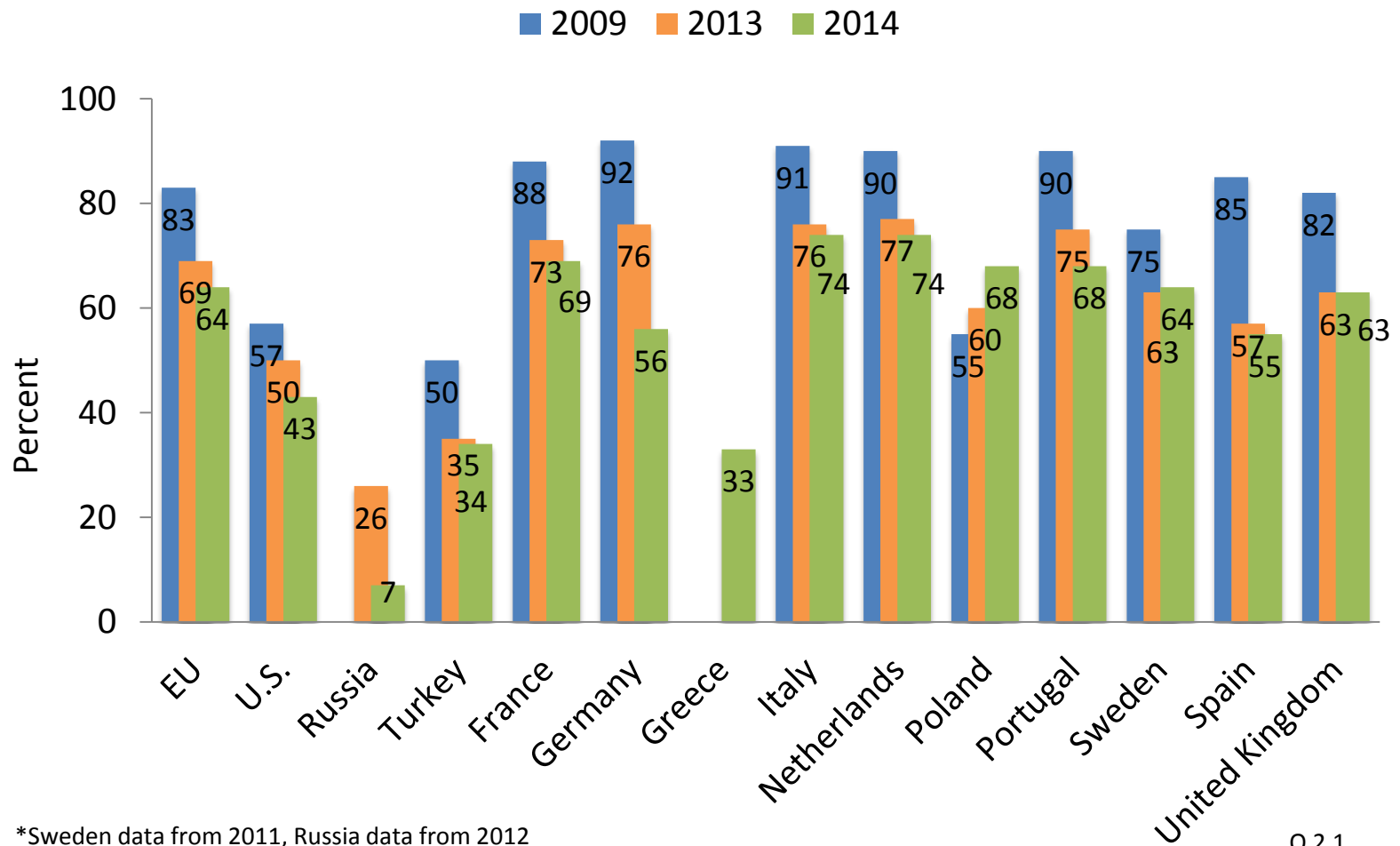
### Partners Seen Favorably, Except in Turkey



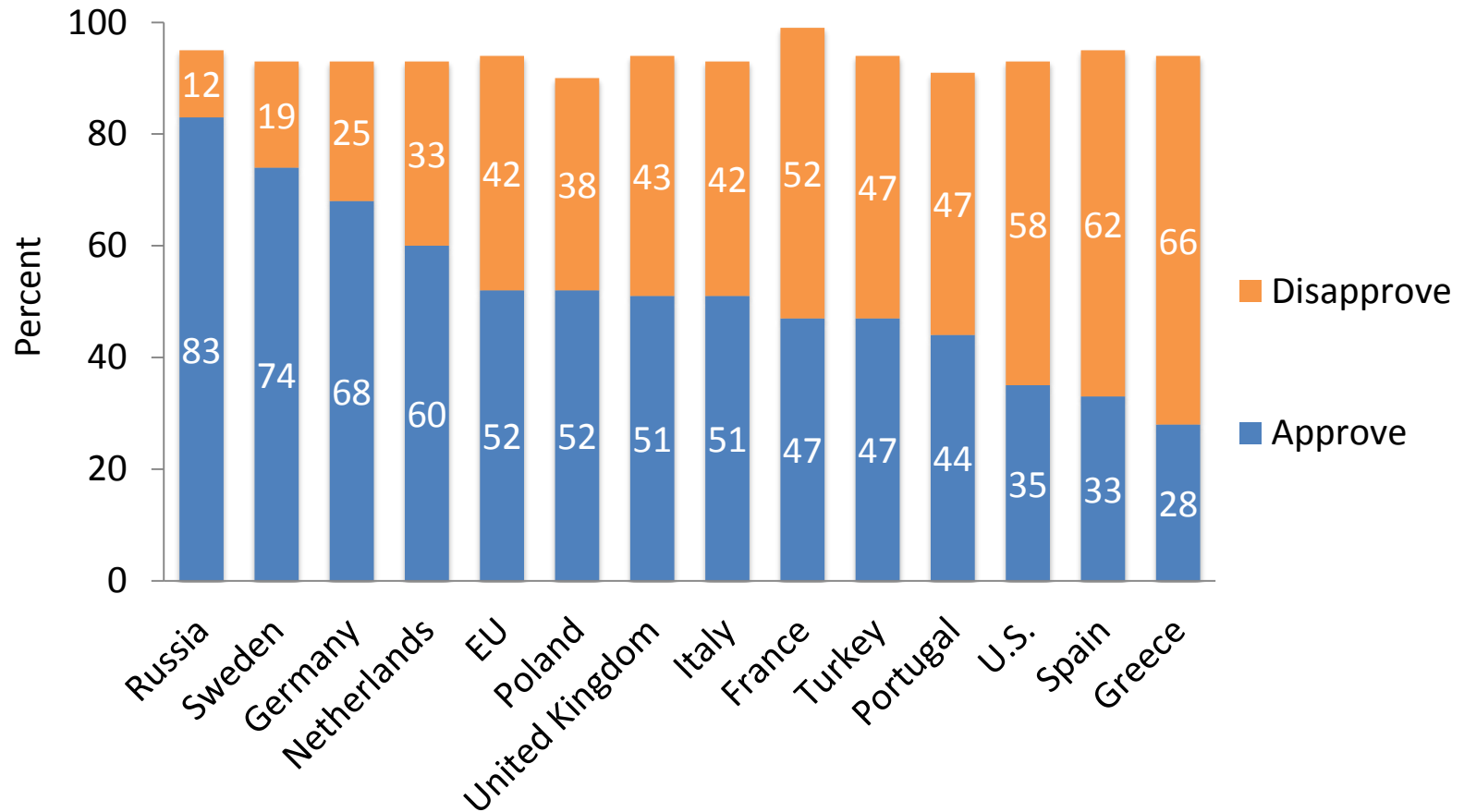
Q4.1-4: Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of the United States/the European Union/Russia/China?



## Obama's Approval Drops, Dramatically in Germany



### Views on Foreign Policy Performance

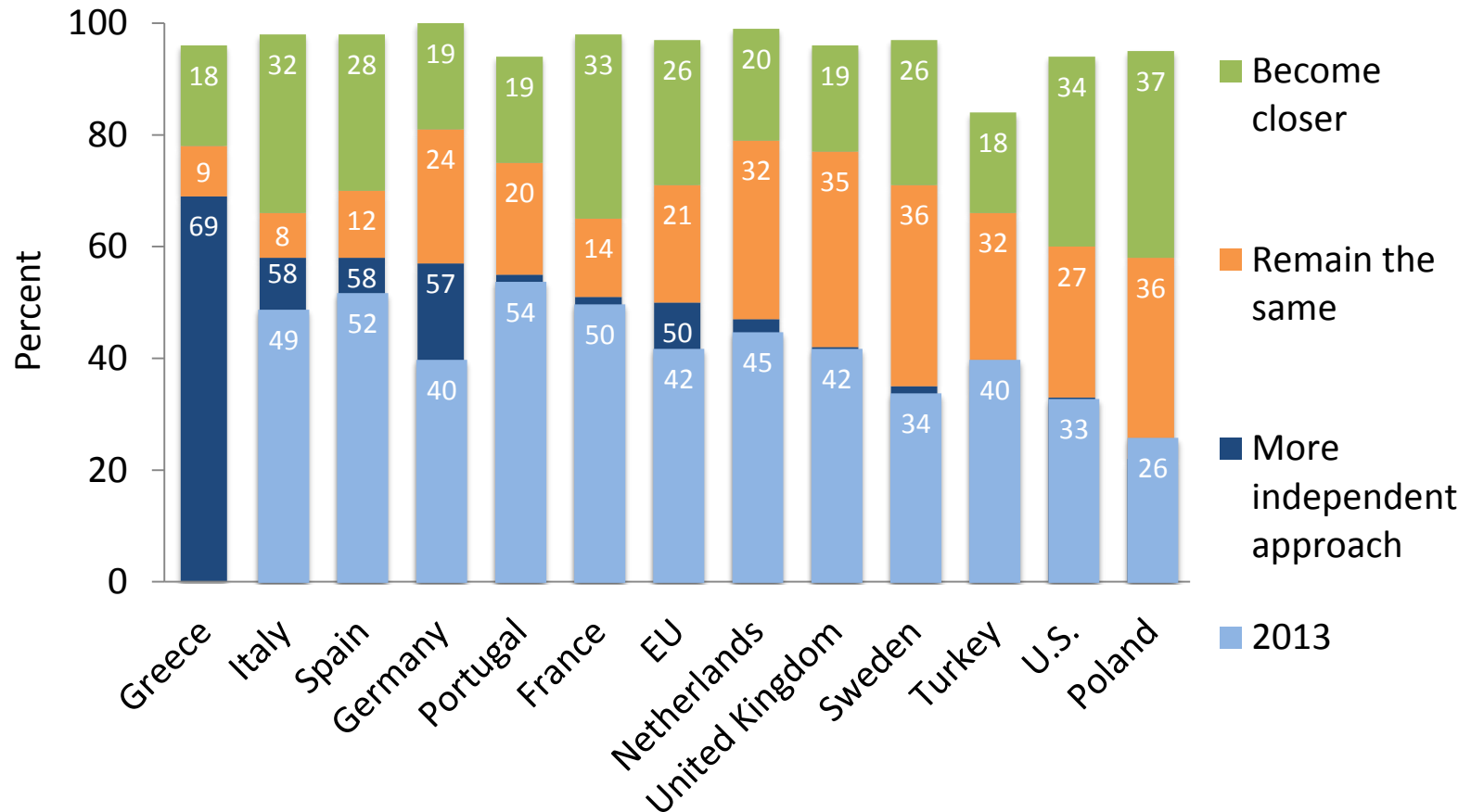


Q3.1: Do you approve or disapprove of how [COUNTRY]'s government is handling international policies?





## Support for Independent Approach to Transatlantic Relationship



Q5: Do you think that the partnership in security and diplomatic affairs between the United States and the European Union should become closer, should remain about the same, or should the [IN EUROPE: European Union / IN THE US: United States] take a more independent approach from the [IN EUROPE: United States / IN US: European Union]?

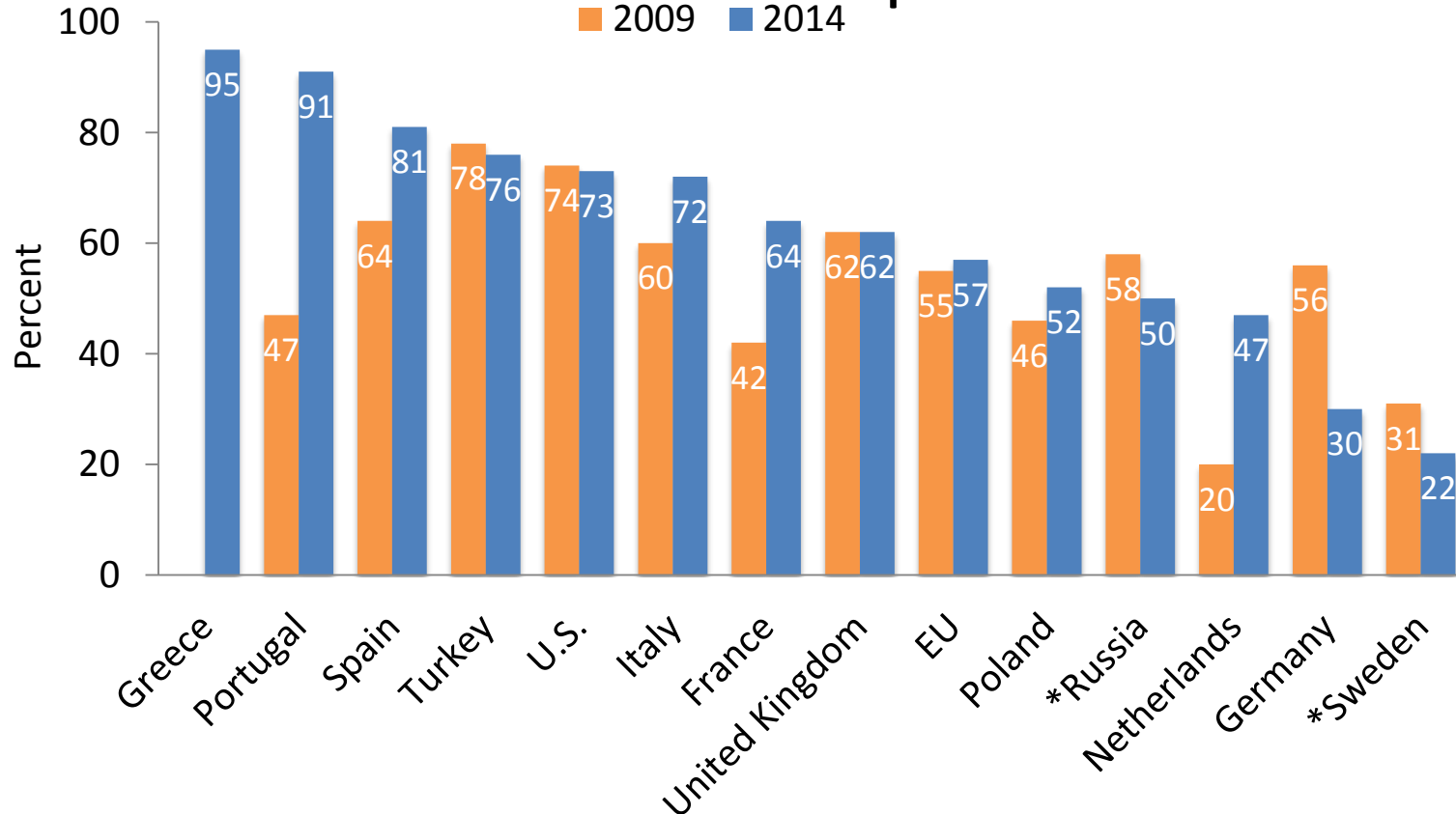


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## Widespread Effect of Economic Crisis, Especially in Southern Europe

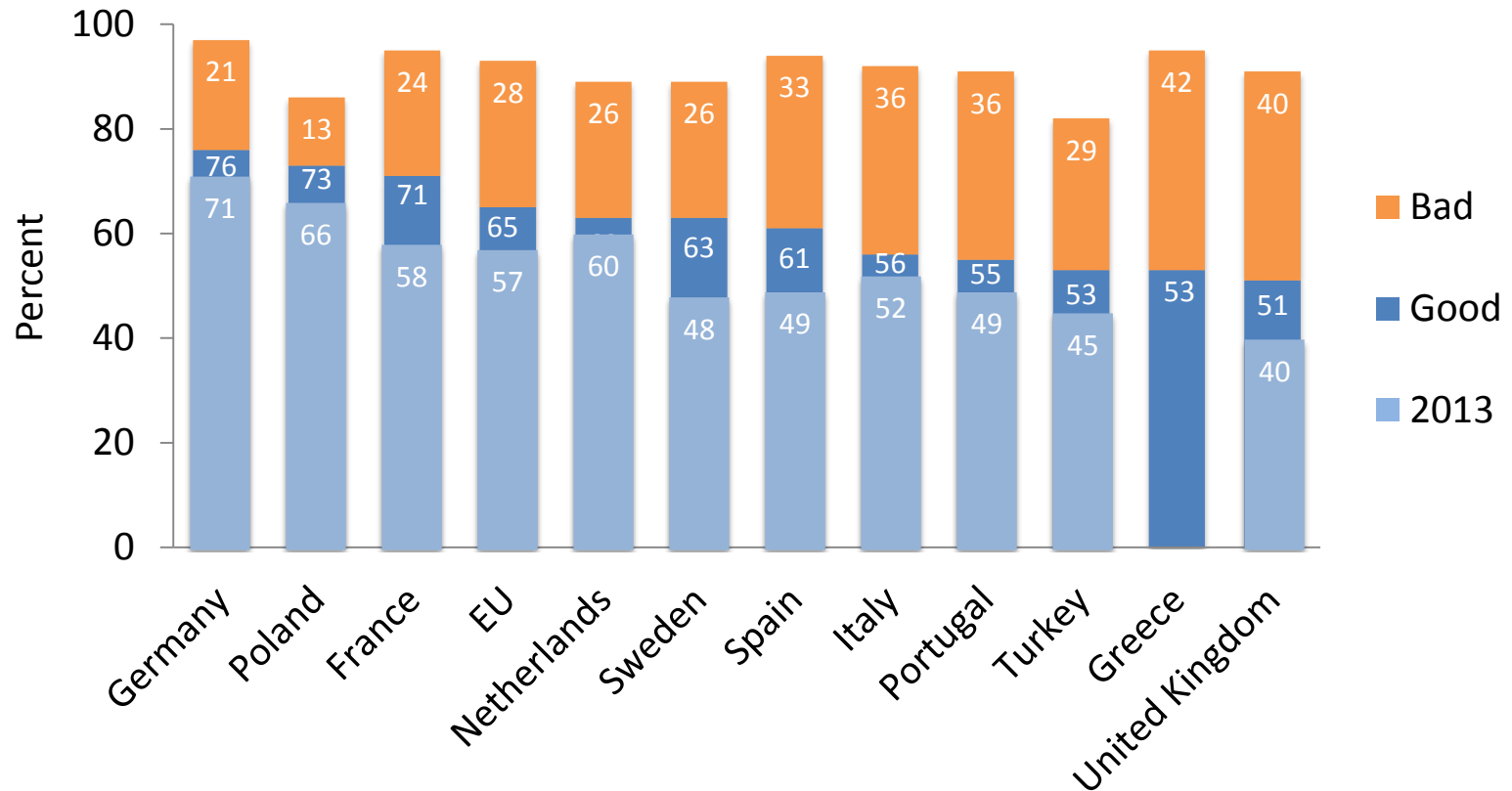


Q18: Regarding the extent to which you or your family has been personally affect by the current economic crisis, would you say that your family's financial situation has been greatly affected, somewhat affected, not really affected, or not affected at all?

\* Sweden data from 2011, Russian data from 2012



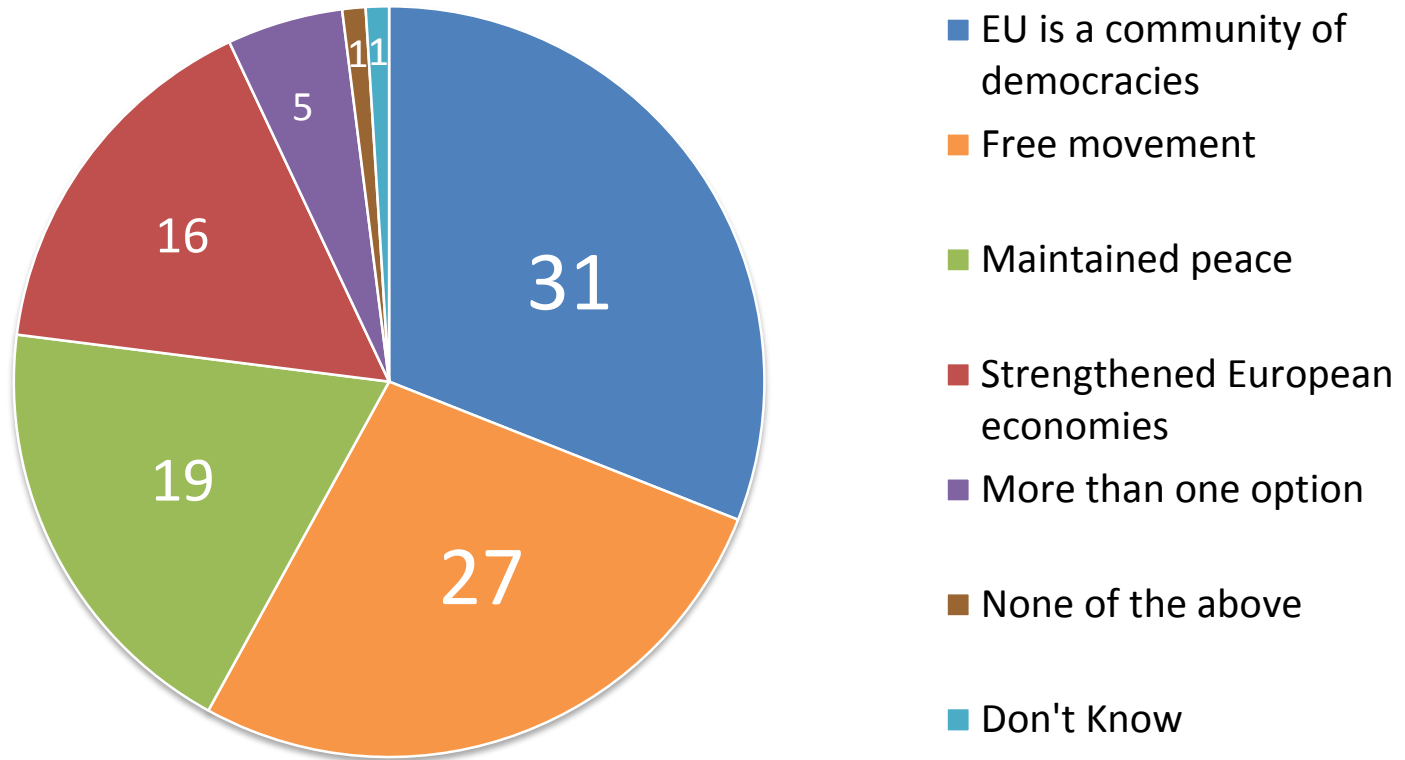
### Majorities See EU Membership as Beneficial



Q 22: Generally speaking, do you think that [COUNTRY]'s membership in the European Union [EU COUNTRIES: has been]/[TURKEY: would be] a good thing or a bad thing for [COUNTRY]?



## EU Membership Good because of Democracy, Free Movement

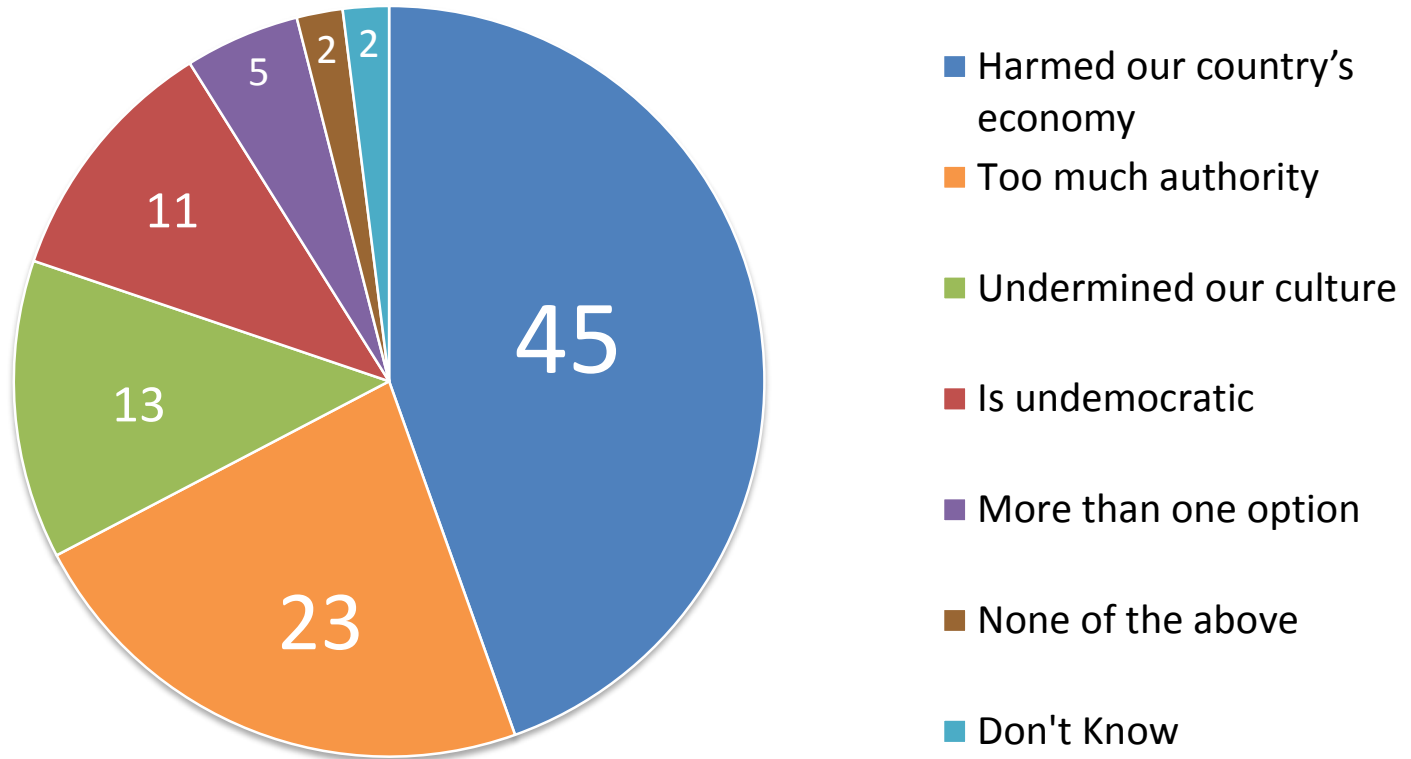


Q23a: What is the most important reason EU membership has been a good thing?

\* Asked of the 65% of Europeans who said EU membership has been a good thing for their country



### ...But Bad Because of its Effect on National Economies

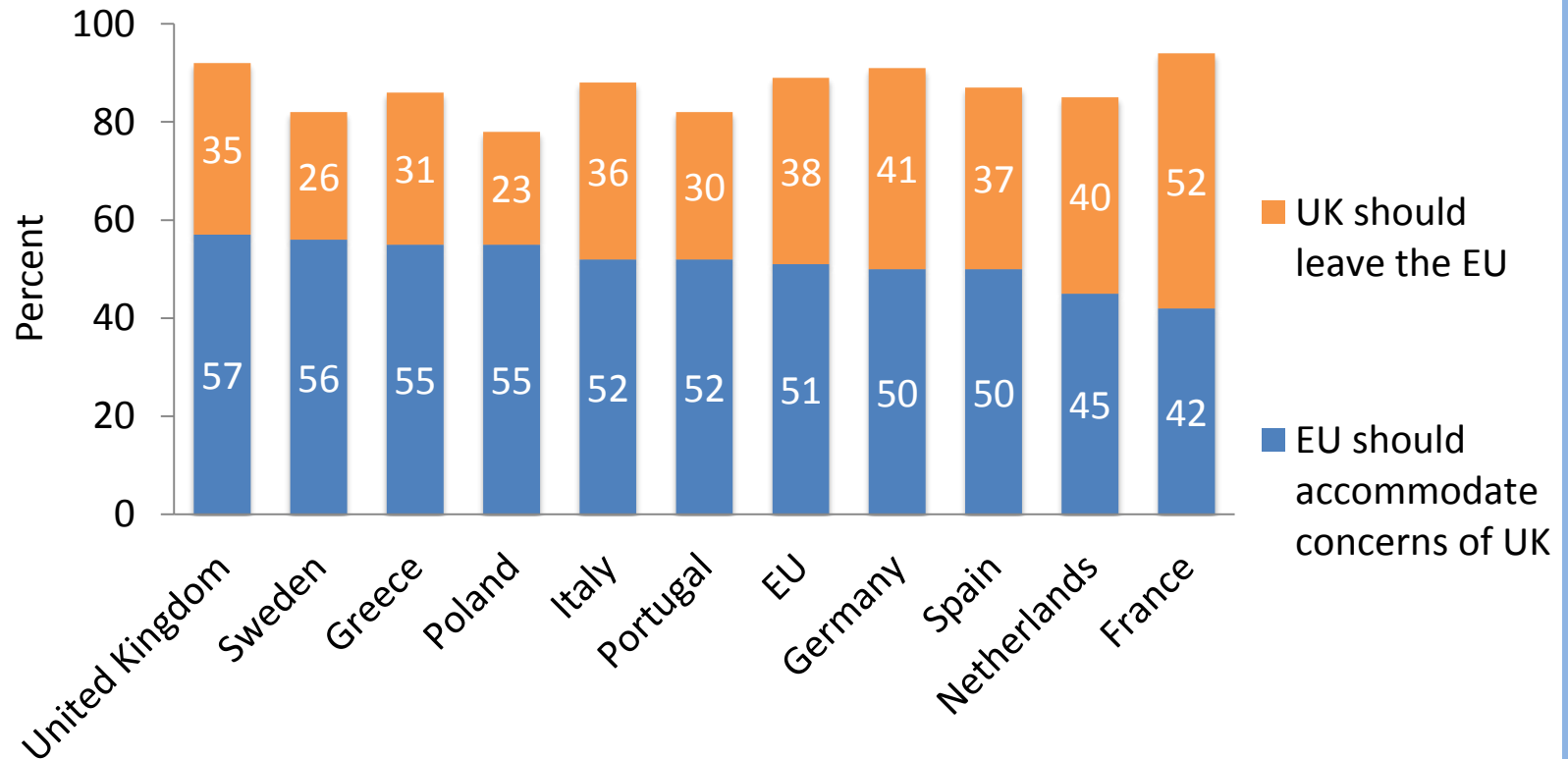


Q23b: What is the most important reason EU membership has been a bad thing?

\* Asked of the 28% of Europeans who said EU membership has been a bad thing for their country



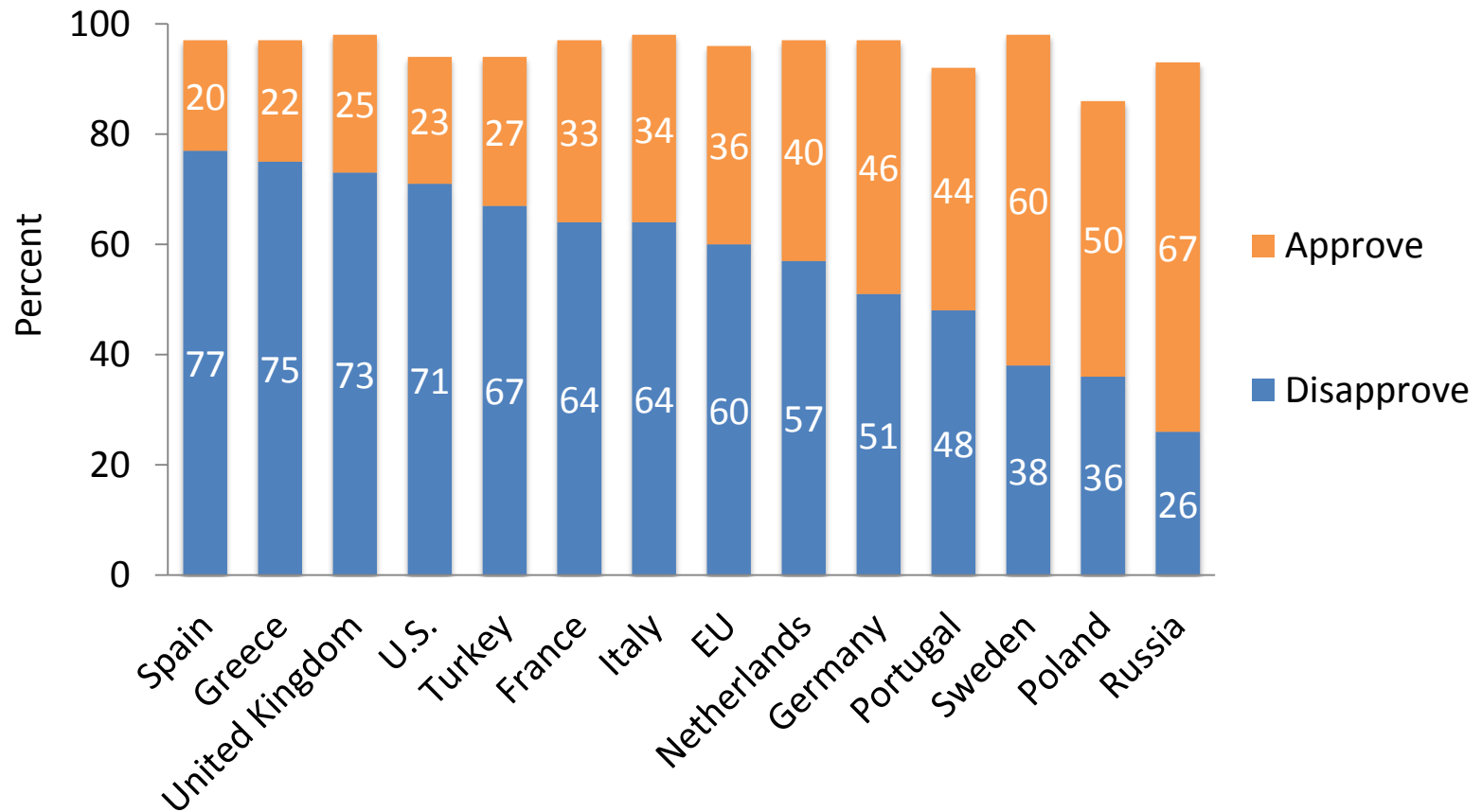
## Most Prefer to Accommodate UK's Concerns, Except French



Q25: As you may know, the UK has raised concerns about the terms of its membership in the European Union, and there has been some discussion of the UK leaving the European Union. Do you think the other EU Member States should do more to accommodate the concerns of the UK, or would it be better if the UK leaves the EU?



### Dissatisfaction with Government's Handling of Immigration



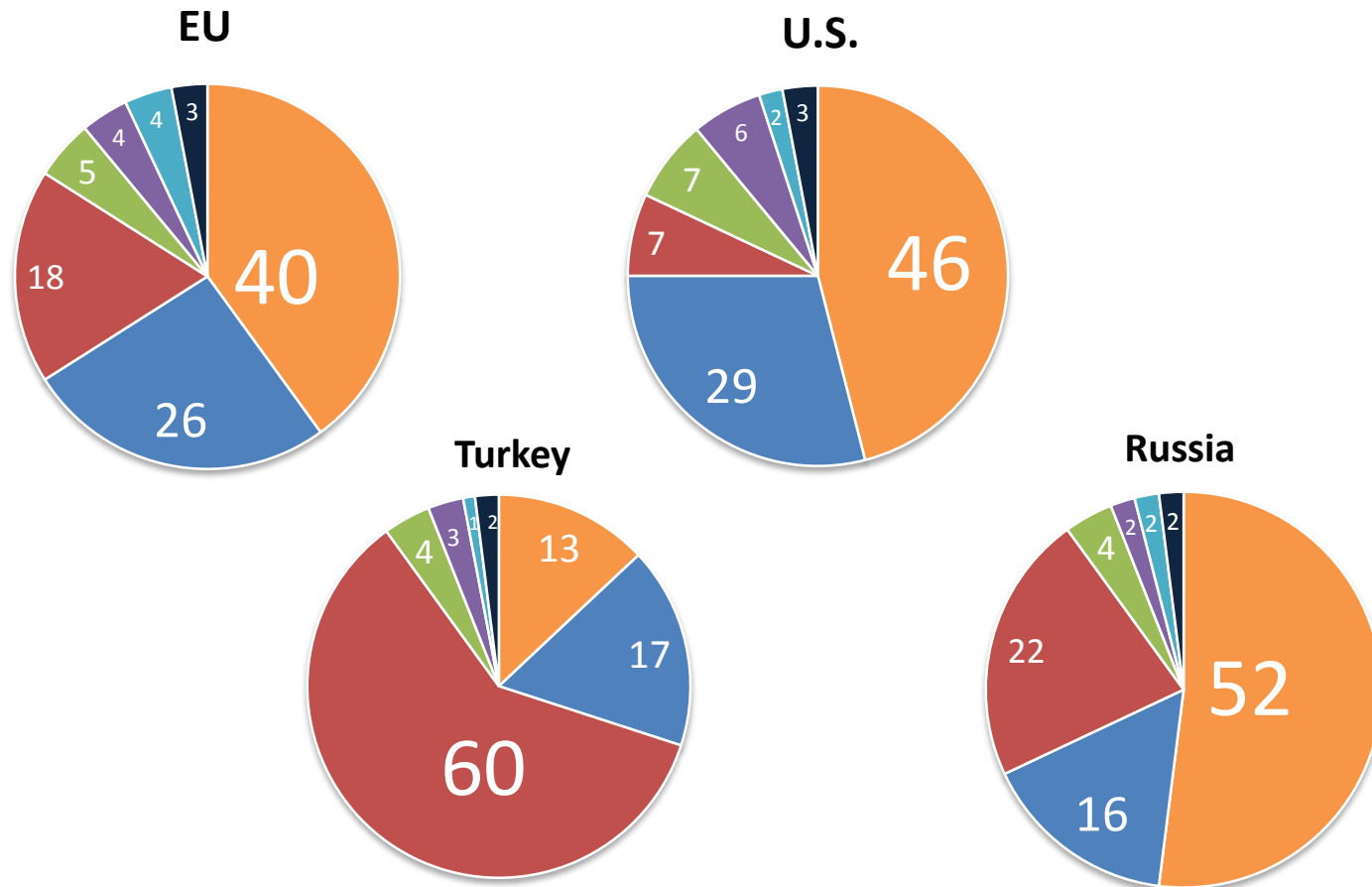
Q3.3: Do you approve or disapprove of how [COUNTRY]'s government is handling immigration from other countries?





## What Do We Think Motivates Immigrants?

■ Work 
 ■ Seek social benefits 
 ■ Seek asylum 
 ■ United with family members 
 ■ Study 
 ■ None of the above 
 ■ Don't know



Q26a: In your opinion, what do you think is the most common reason for immigrants (from other countries) to come to [COUNTRY]?

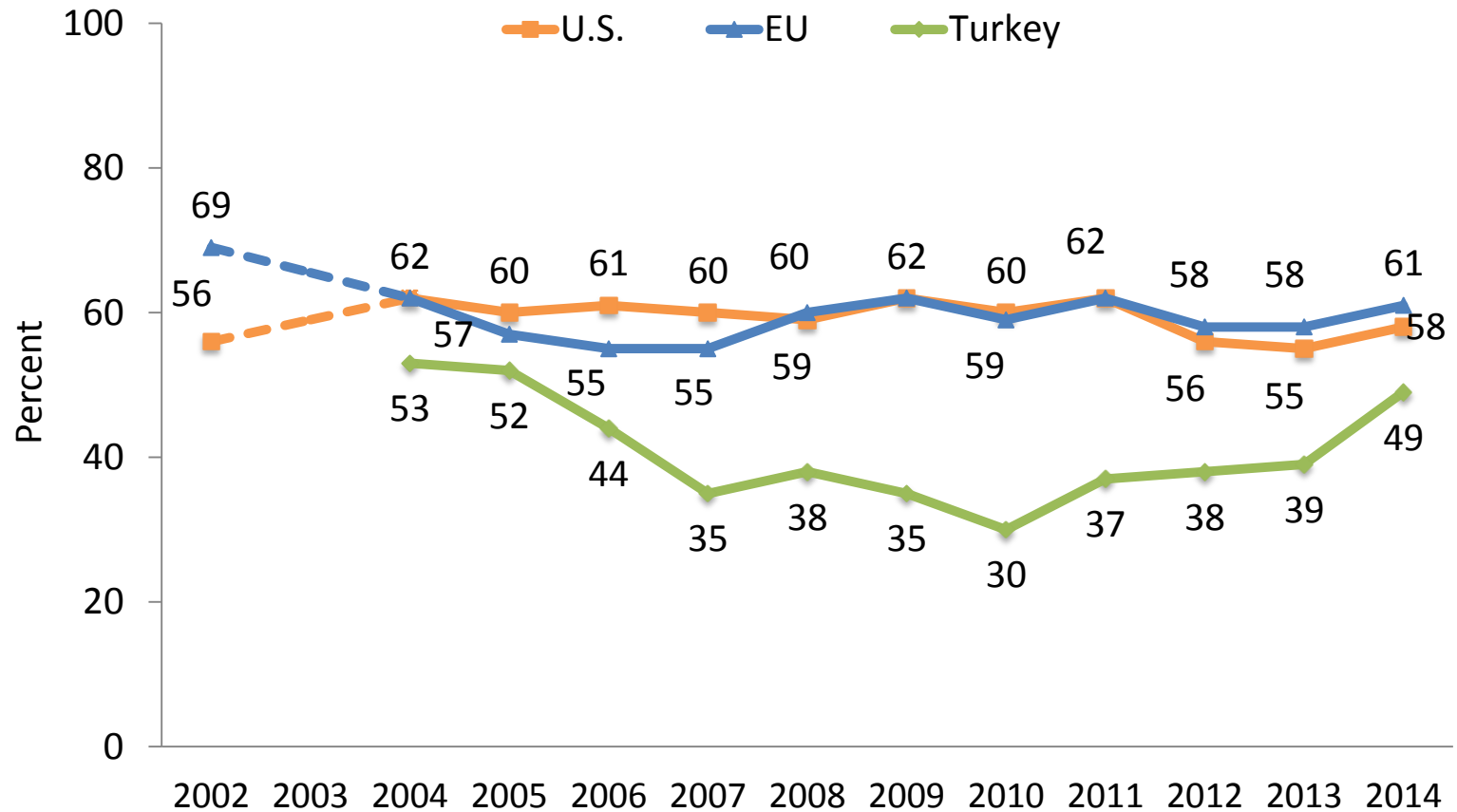


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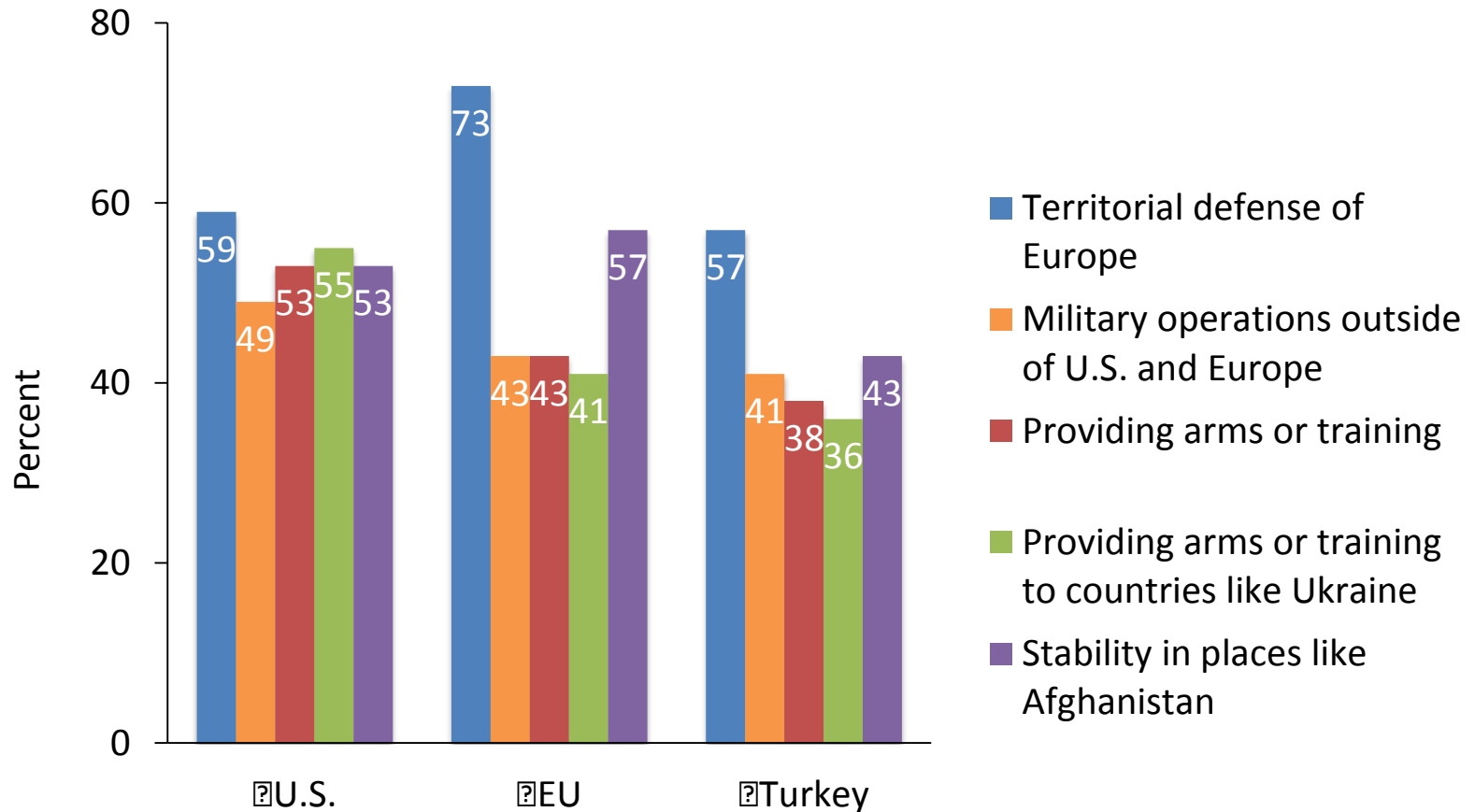
### NATO Still Essential



Q10: Some people say that NATO is still essential to our country's security. Others say it is no longer essential. Which of these views is closer to your own? [if respondent asks: 'NATO is the Alliance among the USA, Canada, and many European states']



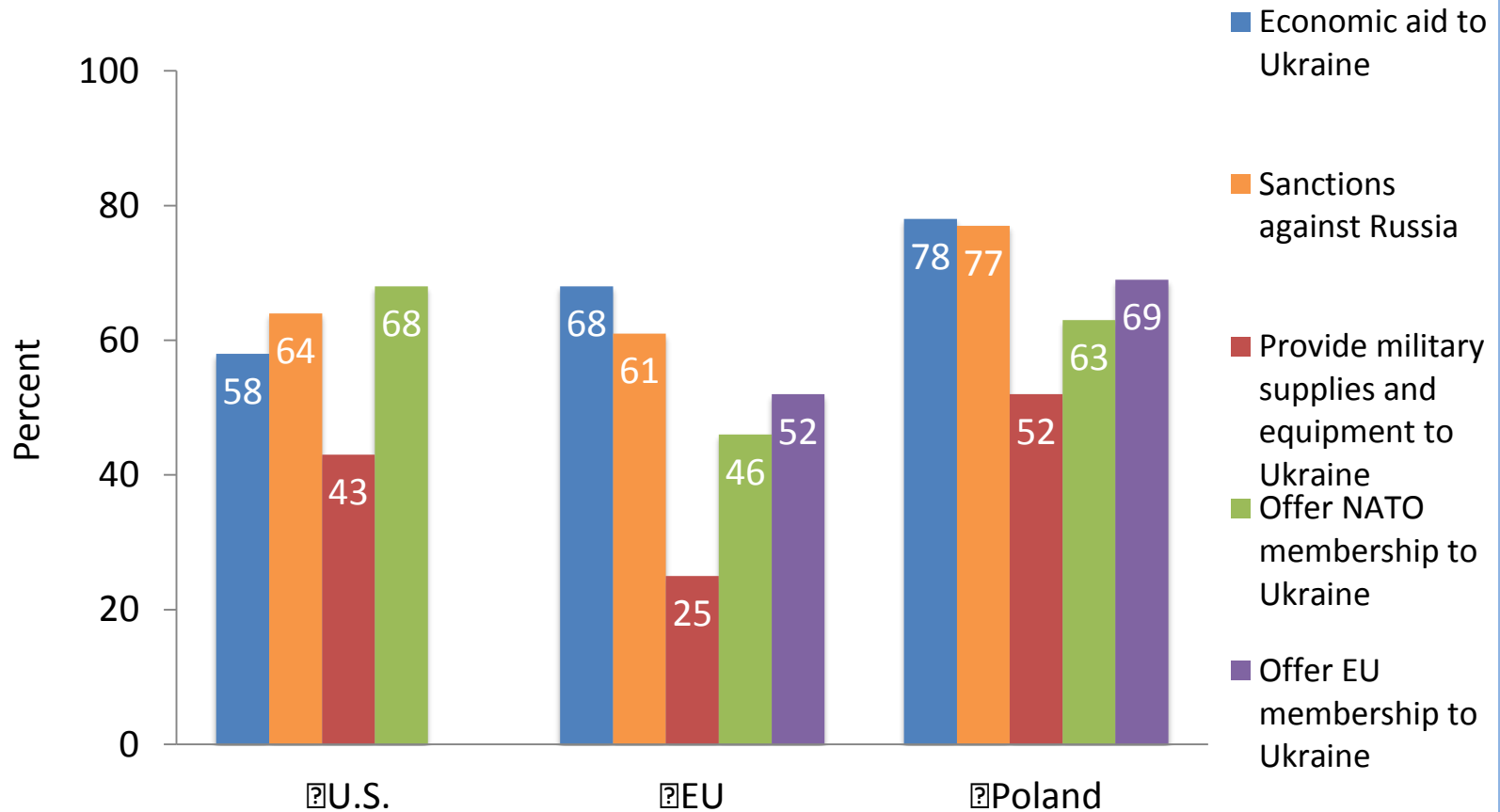
### Traditional NATO Missions Favored



Q11.1-5: Should NATO be engaged in the following missions? 1. Territorial defense of Europe 2. Military operations outside of U.S. and Europe 3. Providing arms or training 4. Providing arms or training to countries like Ukraine 5. Stability in places like Afghanistan



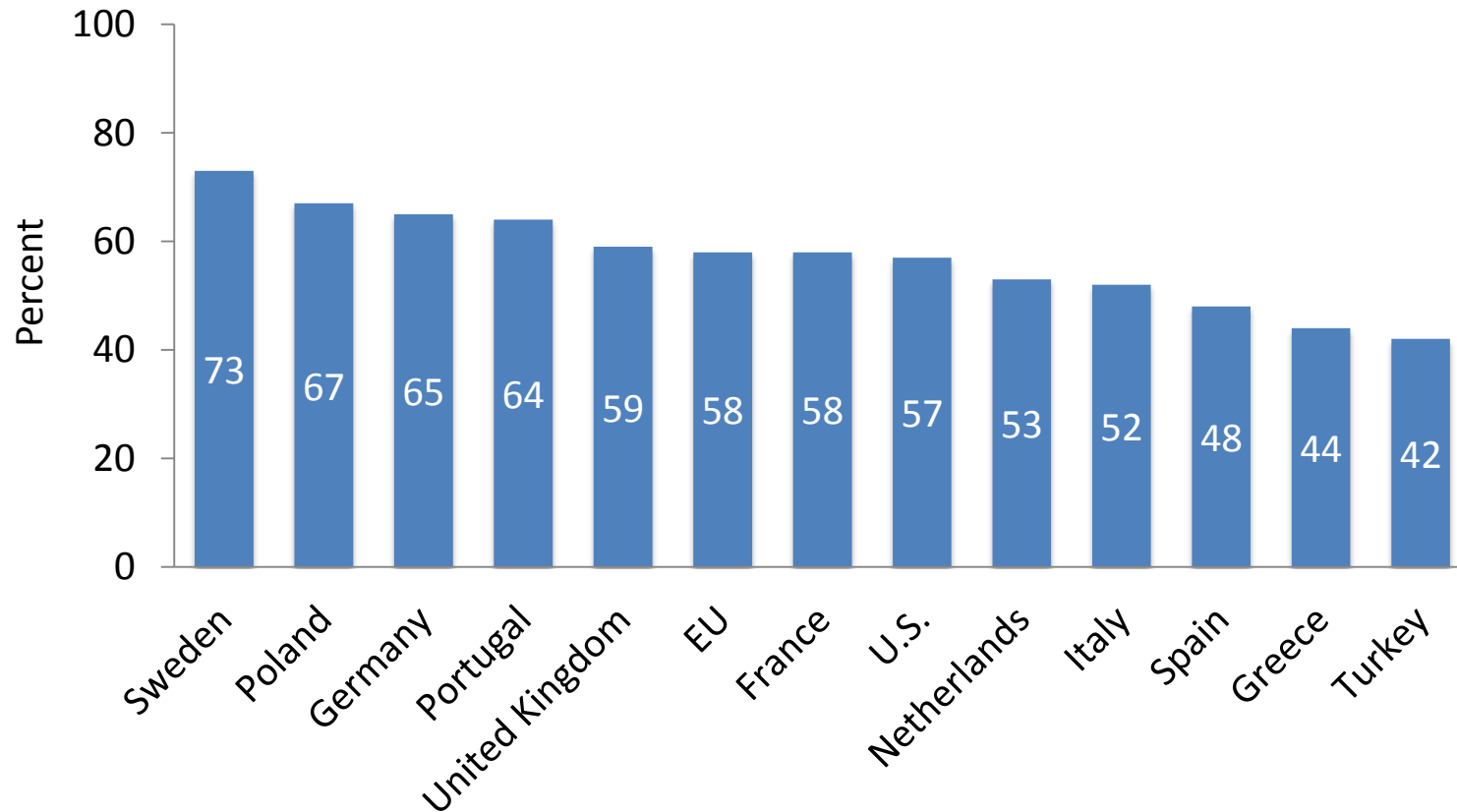
## Measures to Support Ukraine



Q16b.1-5: There have been a number of proposals for how (the EU/USA) should react to Russian actions in Ukraine. For each of the following, please tell me if you agree or disagree with the proposed action. 1. Offer NATO membership to Ukraine 2. Offer EU membership to Ukraine 3. Increase economic assistance to Ukraine 4. Send military supplies and equipment to Ukraine 5. Impose stronger economic sanctions on Russia



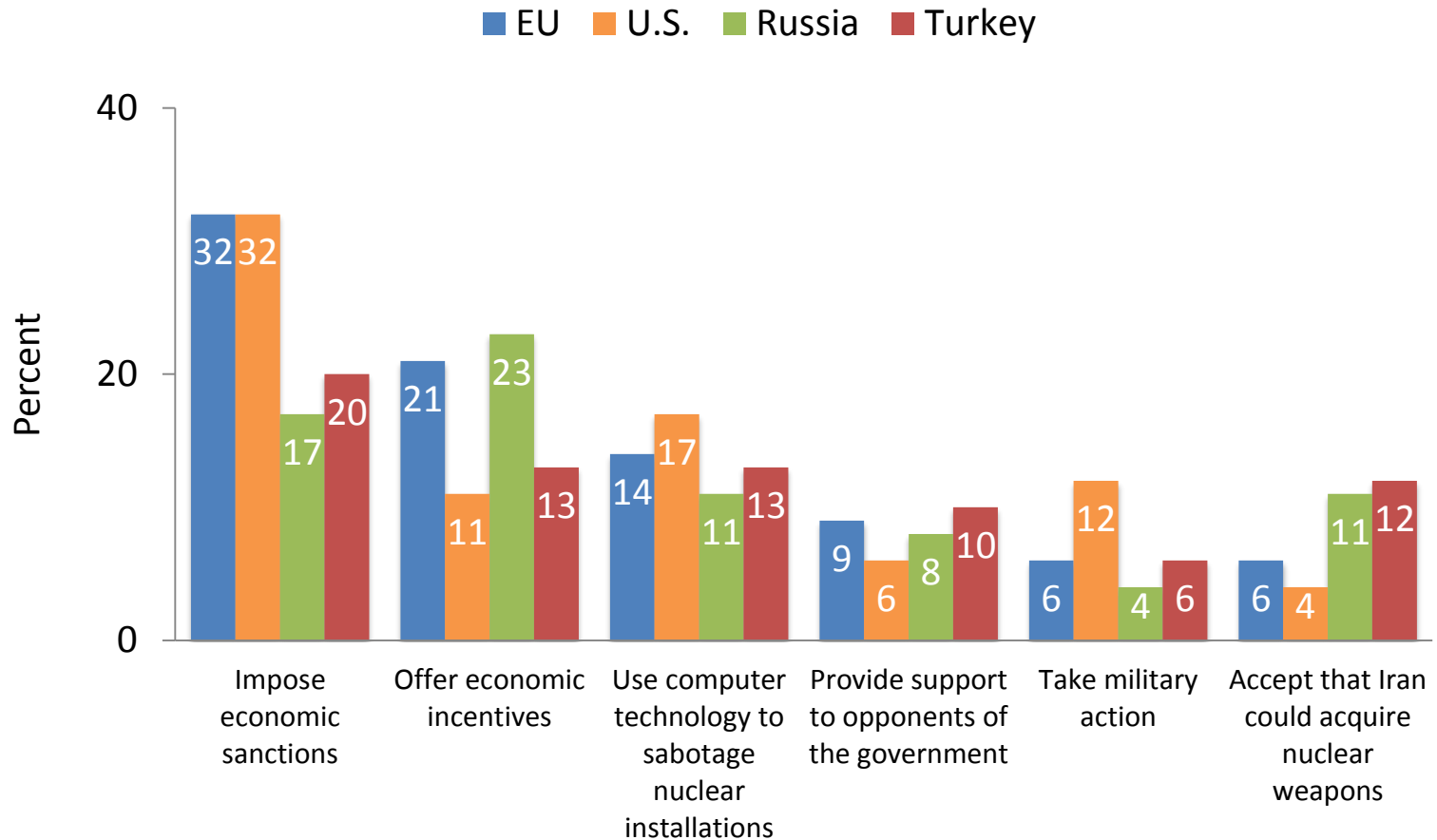
## Most Willing to Risk Conflict with Russia to Support Ukraine



Q16a: Should the European Union (in US: the United States) continue to provide economic and political support to Ukraine, even if there is a risk of increasing conflict with Russia?



## Pluralities in EU, U.S. Support Sanctions Against Iran



Q14: As you may know, efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons are under way. Which of the following do you think is the best option?



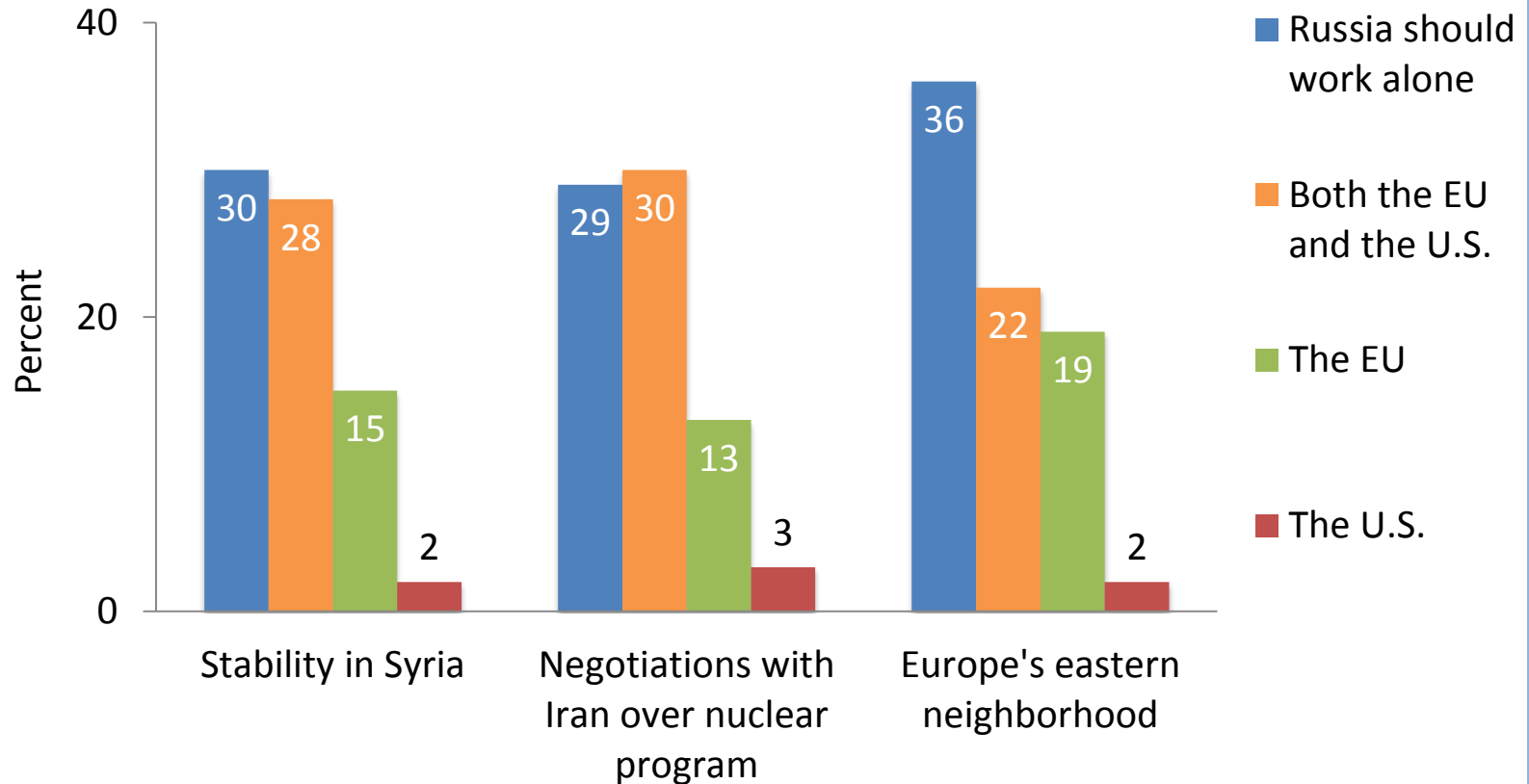
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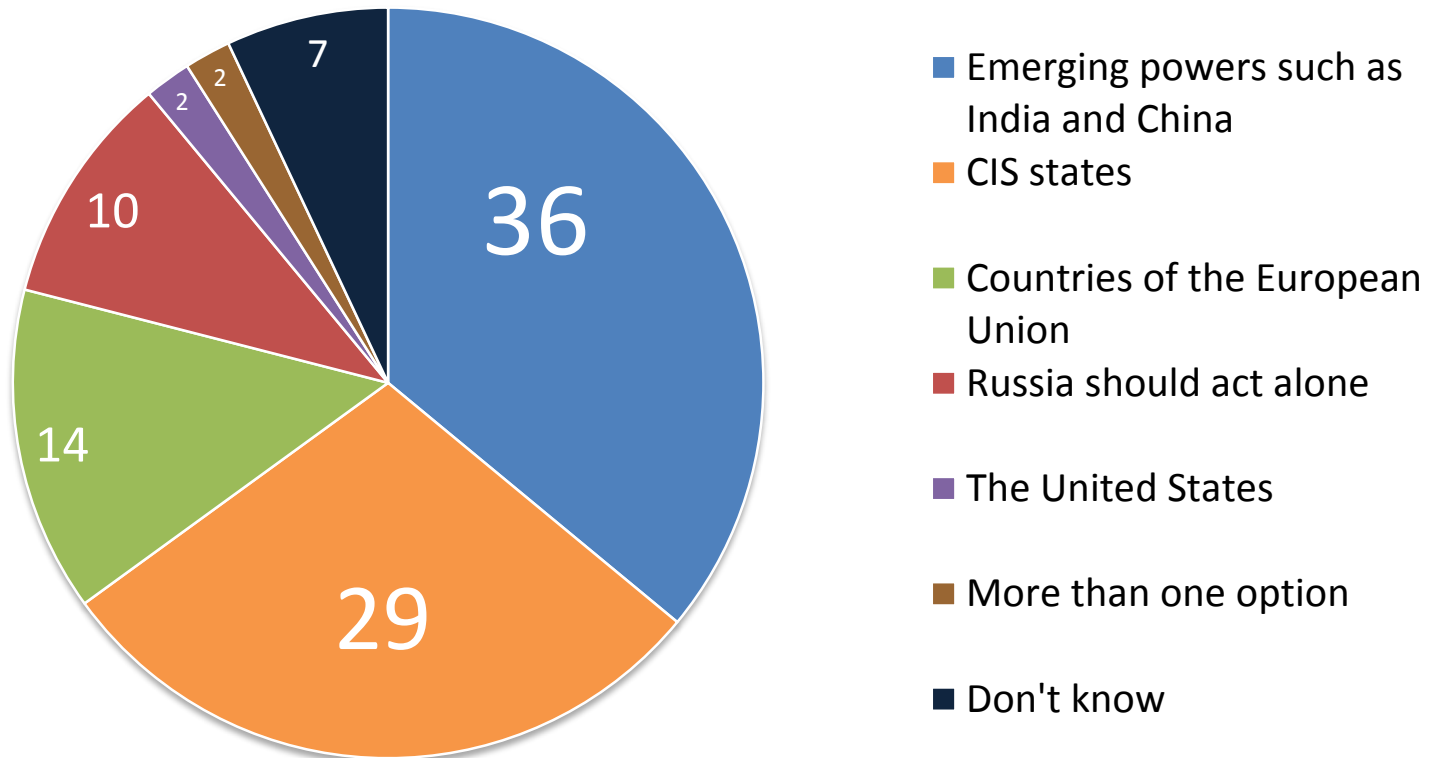
## Russians Prefer to Work Alone in Eastern Neighborhood



Q9.1-3: On the following issues, do you think it would be better for Russia to work together with the EU, the US, both or should Russia work alone? 1. Stability in Syria 2. Negotiations with Iran regarding its nuclear program 3. The future of Europe's eastern neighborhood



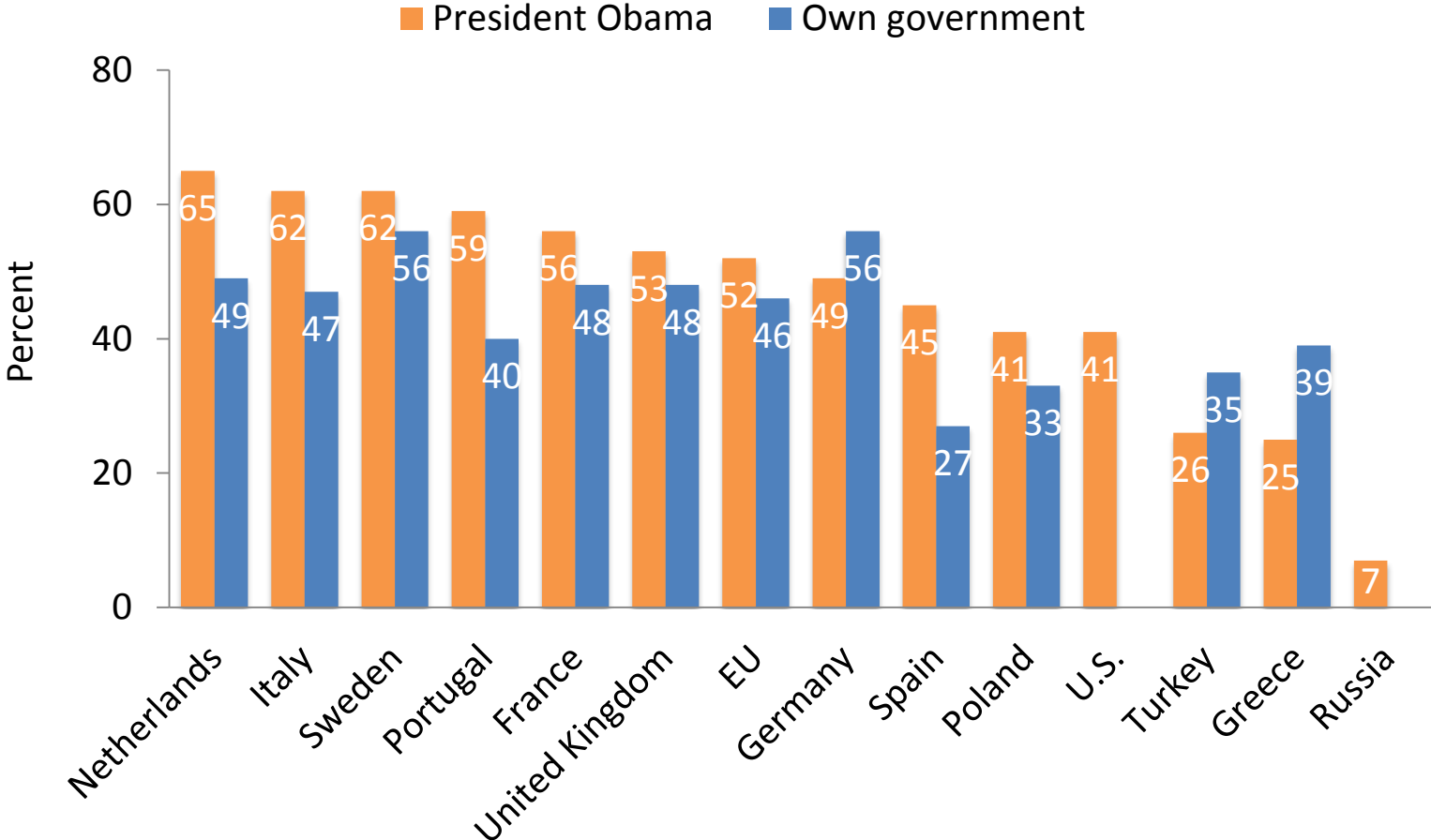
## Russia Prefers Emerging Powers as Partners



Q8: On international matters, with which one of the following do you think Russia should cooperate most closely?



### Limited Approval for Handling of Russia Policy



Q2.2, 3.2: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the President of the United States Barack Obama/[COUNTRY]'s government is managing relations with Russia?



## Key Findings

- Europeans support a more independent transatlantic relationship, U.S. looks for more burden sharing
- Opinion of U.S. leadership drops dramatically in Germany
- Effects of the economic crisis are still felt keenly, especially in Southern Europe -- and the U.S.
- Majorities in the U.S. and EU favor traditional NATO missions
- Majorities support sanctions against Russia and are willing to risk increasing conflict to support Ukraine
- Russians view the U.S. and EU unfavorably, but see opportunity to work with emerging powers



For more information about methodology, specific countries, and the full top-line dataset please visit:

[www.transatlantictrends.org](http://www.transatlantictrends.org)



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