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GLOBSEC
IDEAS SHAPING THE WORLD

GLOBSEC-HarrisX Trends 2026

“Europe Awakened”

GLOBSEC Forum, Prague

May 22, 2026





Study Scope and Method Overview

SCOPE



METHOD

Quantitative survey



FIELDWORK

May 11-19, 2026



n = 13,730

Professional web panel interviews



14

Countries



+/- 0.84 pts

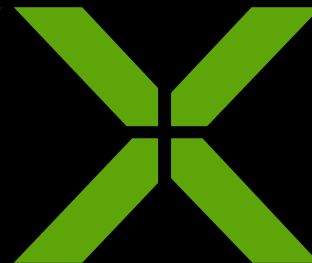
Margin of error

	Country	Sample Size	Margin of Error	Language
CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE	Ukraine	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	Ukrainian, Russian
	Czechia	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	Czech
	Hungary	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	Hungarian
	Poland	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	Polish
	Slovakia	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	Slovak
	Bulgaria	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	Bulgarian
	Romania	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	Romanian
BALTICS	Estonia	n=600	+/- 4.0pts	Estonian, Russian
	Latvia	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	Latvian, Russian
	Lithuania	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	Lithuanian
COMPARISON	Germany	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	German
	France	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	French
	United States	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	English
	United Kingdom	n=1,010	+/- 3.1pts	English

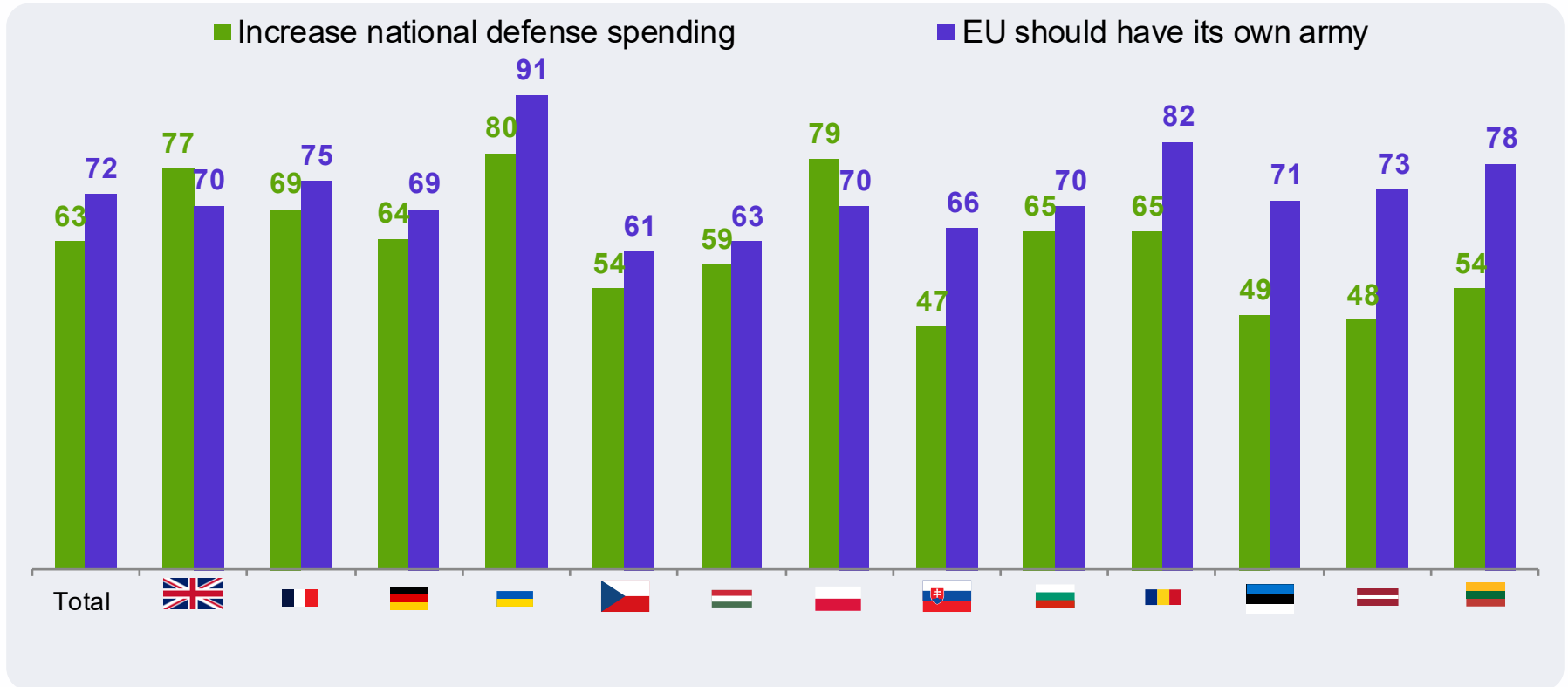


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European Defense: Aspiration and Reality



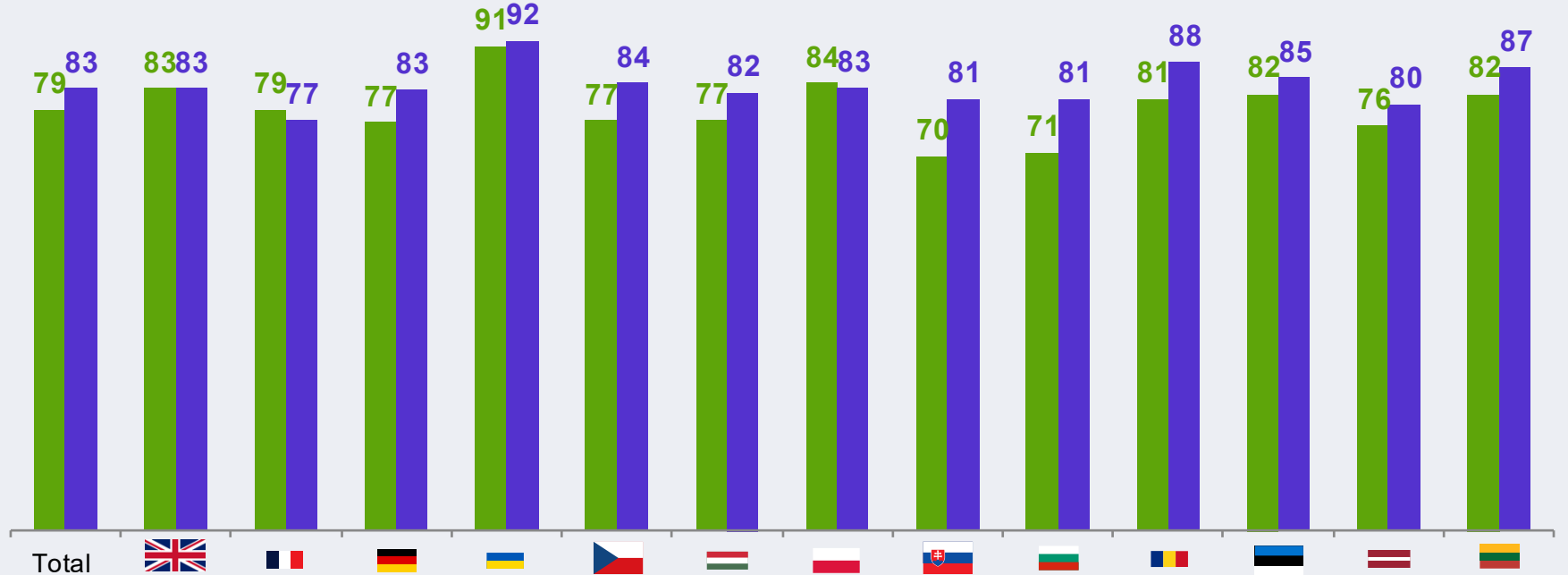
EUROPEANS SUPPORT HIGHER DEFENSE SPENDING AND THE CREATION OF AN EU ARMY



Q12r1. My country should increase its current defense spending
Q12r6. The EU should have its own army

MOST SUPPORT THE EU DEVELOPING ITS OWN DEFENSE CAPABILITIES ALONGSIDE NATO, AND INCREASING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IF THE U.S. PULLS BACK

■ EU should develop own defense capabilities ■ Europe should increase own responsibility if U.S. pulls back



Q12r5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the way European nations approach defense and security matters? – The European Union should develop its own defense capabilities alongside NATO
 INT5: If the United States were to reduce its role in European security, to what extent do you think European countries should increase or decrease their own responsibility?

EUROPEANS ARE WILLING TO DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY, BUT FEW FEEL THEY ARE PREPARED FOR A MAJOR CRISIS

62%

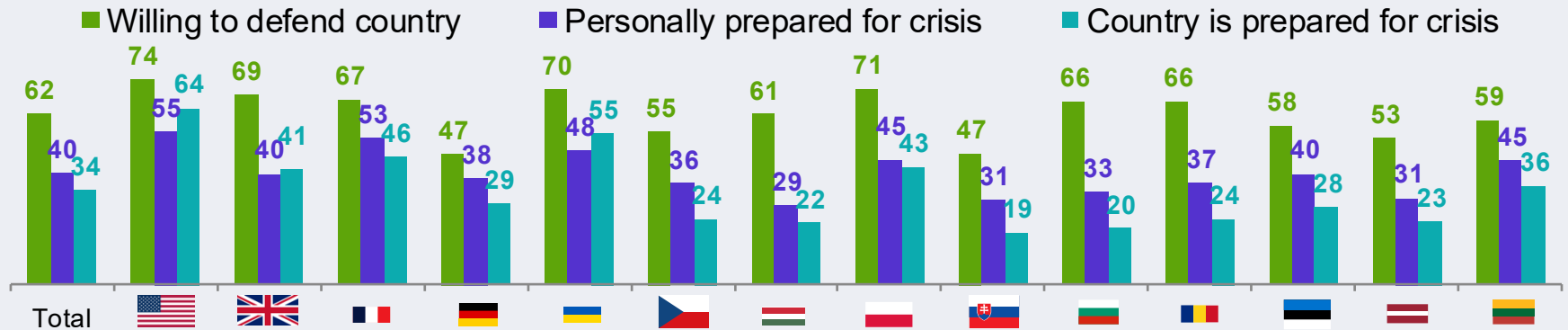
Willing to defend their country in a foreign attack

40%

Feel personally prepared for a major crisis or security emergency

34%

Feel their country is prepared for a major security crisis or war



Q10Br1. If a NATO country is attacked, [COUNTRY] should help defend it together with other NATO members

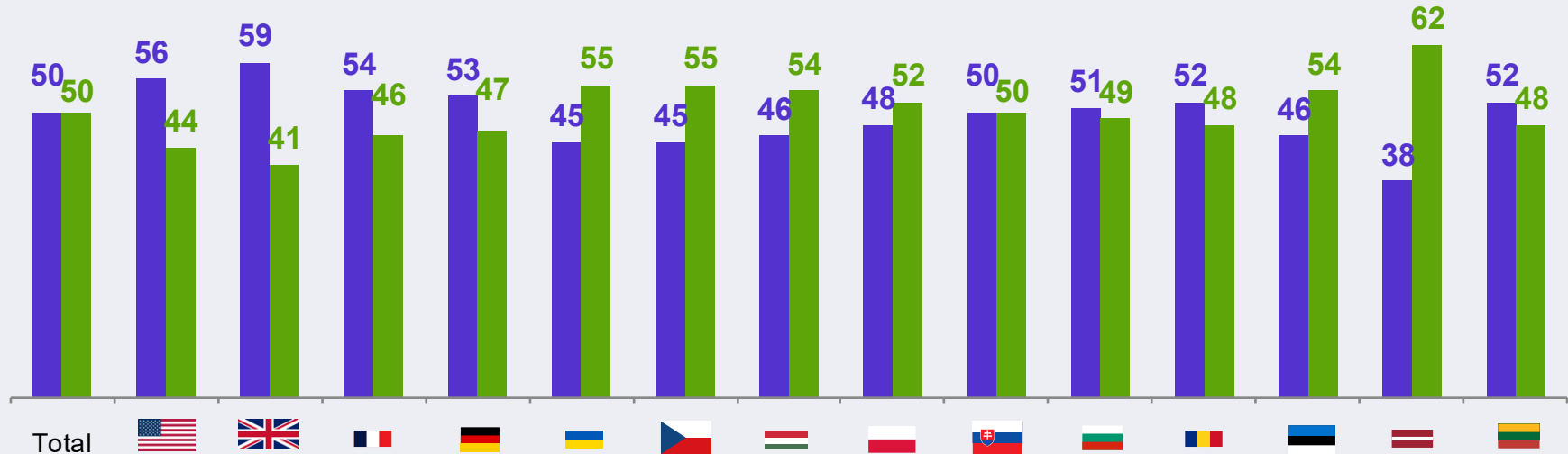
Q10Br2. I would be willing to defend [COUNTRY] in the event of an attack

Q10Br3. I feel personally prepared for a major crisis or security emergency

Q10Br4. I feel that [COUNTRY] is prepared for a major security crisis or war

RESPONDENTS ARE DIVIDED ON EUROPEAN COUNTRIES' ABILITY TO ENSURE THEIR OWN SECURITY WITHOUT U.S. SUPPORT

- Confident European countries could ensure their own security without support from the United States
- Not confident European countries could ensure their own security without support from the United States

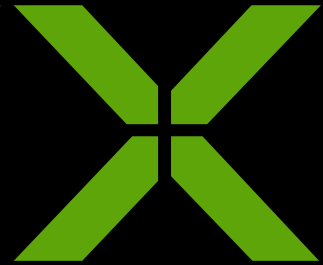


Q7r5: How confident are you that European countries could ensure their own security without strong support from the United States?



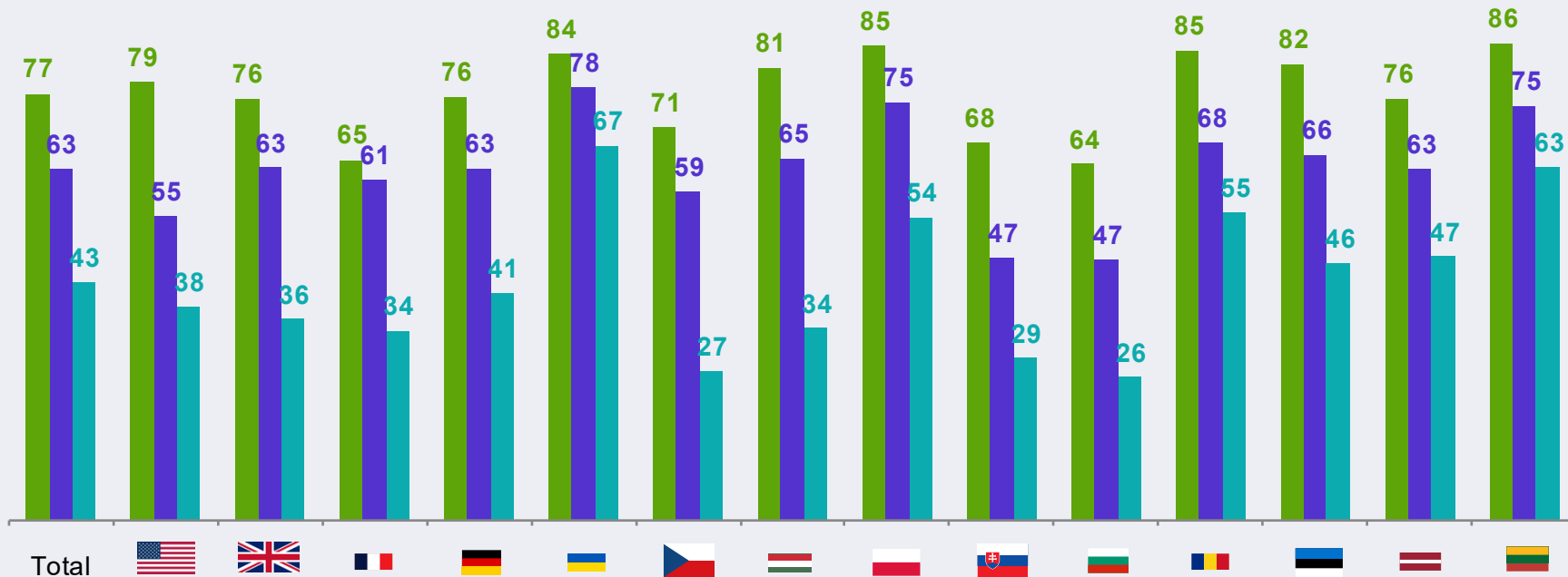
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Evolving Views on the United States & Europe



MOST EUROPEANS BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES' ROLE IN EUROPEAN SECURITY IS IMPORTANT

■ U.S. role important ■ U.S. should stay engaged in international organizations ■ U.S. should be more involved in European security



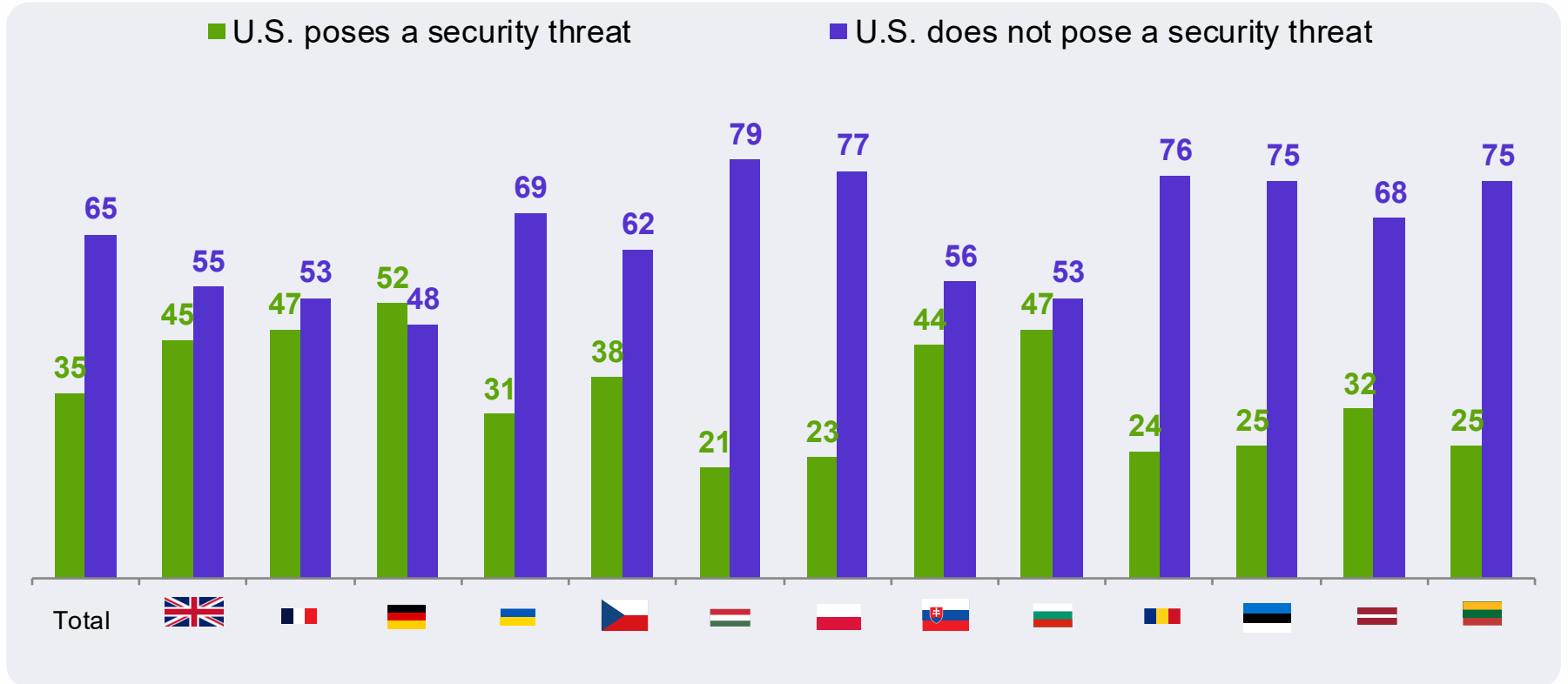
INT1: How important do you think the United States' role is in maintaining security in Europe?

INT3: Do you think the United States should remain actively engaged in international organizations (such as the UN, NATO, or global agreements), or reduce its involvement and focus more on national interests?

INT2: To what extent do you think the United States should be involved in European security in the future?

NEVERTHELESS, A RUPTURE IN TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS HAS OPENED: MORE THAN ONE-IN-THREE NOW SAY THE U.S. POSES A SECURITY THREAT – INCLUDING NEARLY HALF IN WESTERN EUROPE

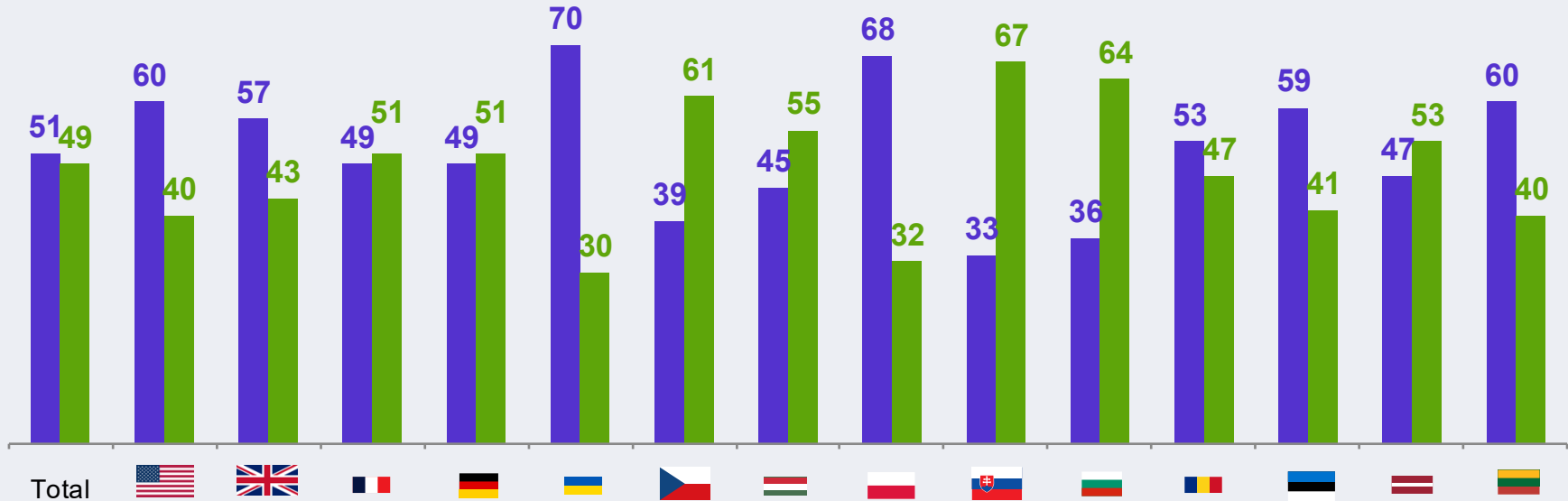
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Q4r5: Do you believe the following countries currently pose a security threat to your country? – United States

EUROPEANS ARE DIVIDED ON THE U.S. DEMAND TO INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING TO 5% OF GDP

- U.S. demanding NATO countries increase defense spending is positive
- U.S. demanding NATO countries increase defense spending is negative



Q7r5: How do you view the following recent actions and approaches by the United States? – Demanding NATO member countries increase their national defense spending to 5% of GDP

ON THE OTHER HAND AMERICANS SAY THE U.S. PAYS AN UNFAIR SHARE FOR EUROPEAN DEFENSE AND GLOBAL ORDER, DESPITE POSITIVE VIEWS ON NATO

65%

U.S. pays an unfair share of the burden for European defense

51%

Say European countries are taking advantage of the U.S.

54%

U.S. should maintain the post-WWII global order with strong alliances and multilateralism

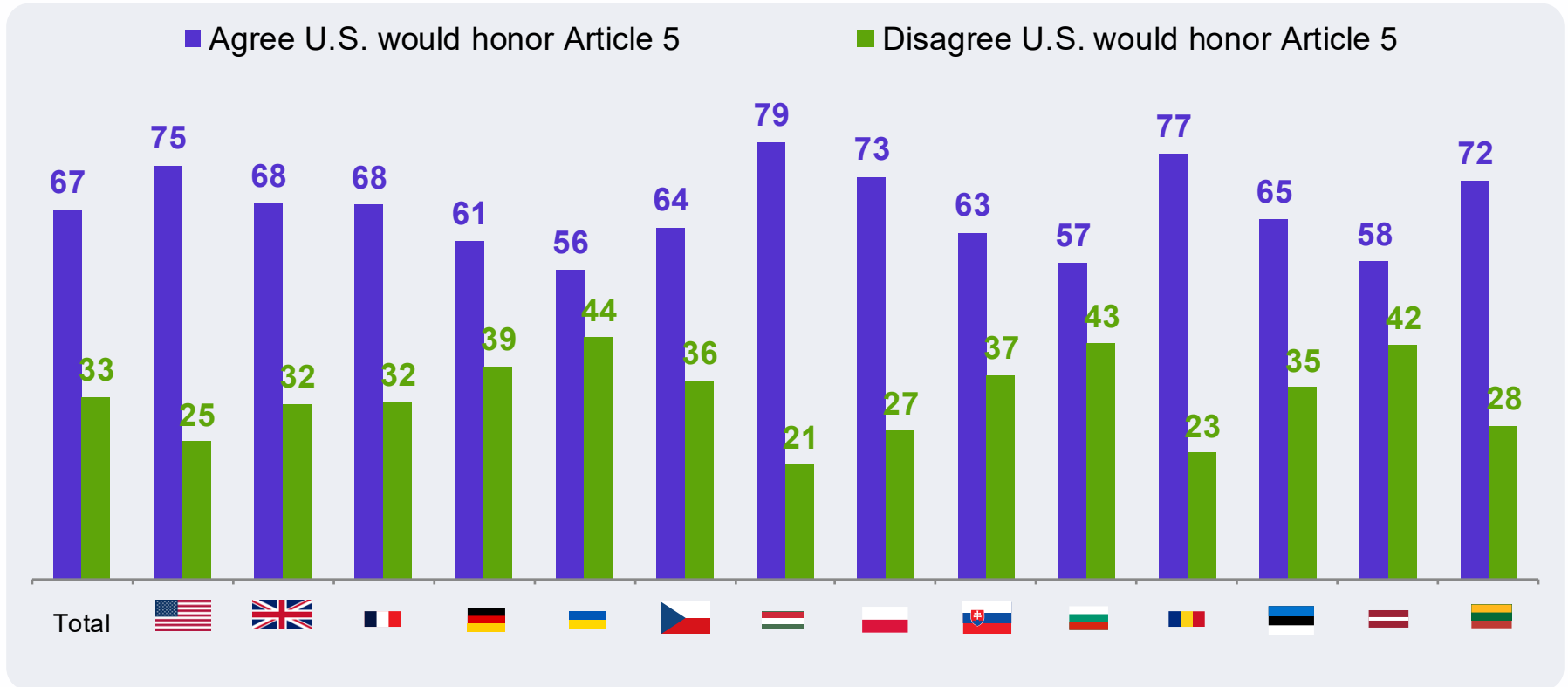
69%

U.S. is stronger because of its participation in NATO

69%

For maintaining NATO as a guarantor of security in Europe vs. strategic acquisition of Greenland

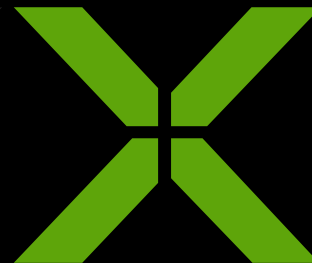
NONETHELESS, RESPONDENTS BELIEVE THE U.S. WILL HONOR ITS ARTICLE 5 COMMITMENTS



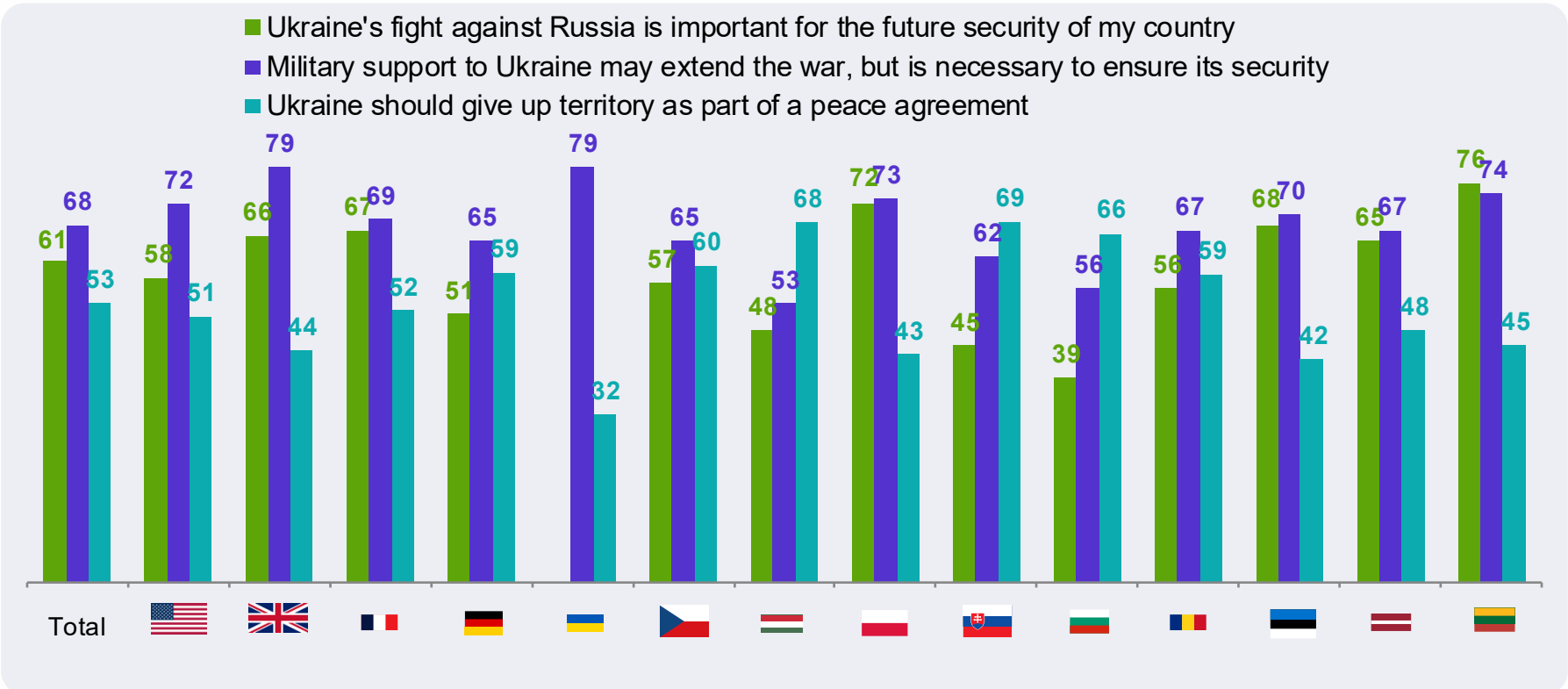
Q7Z: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The United States would honor its Article 5 obligations in case a NATO member country is attacked."



Ukraine Stalemate



POPULAR SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE COEXISTS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC WITH PRAGMATISM ABOUT A POSSIBLE PEACE AGREEMENT

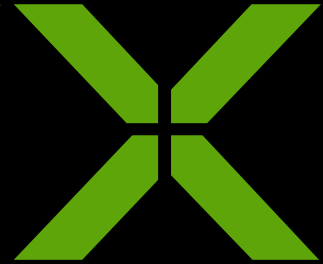


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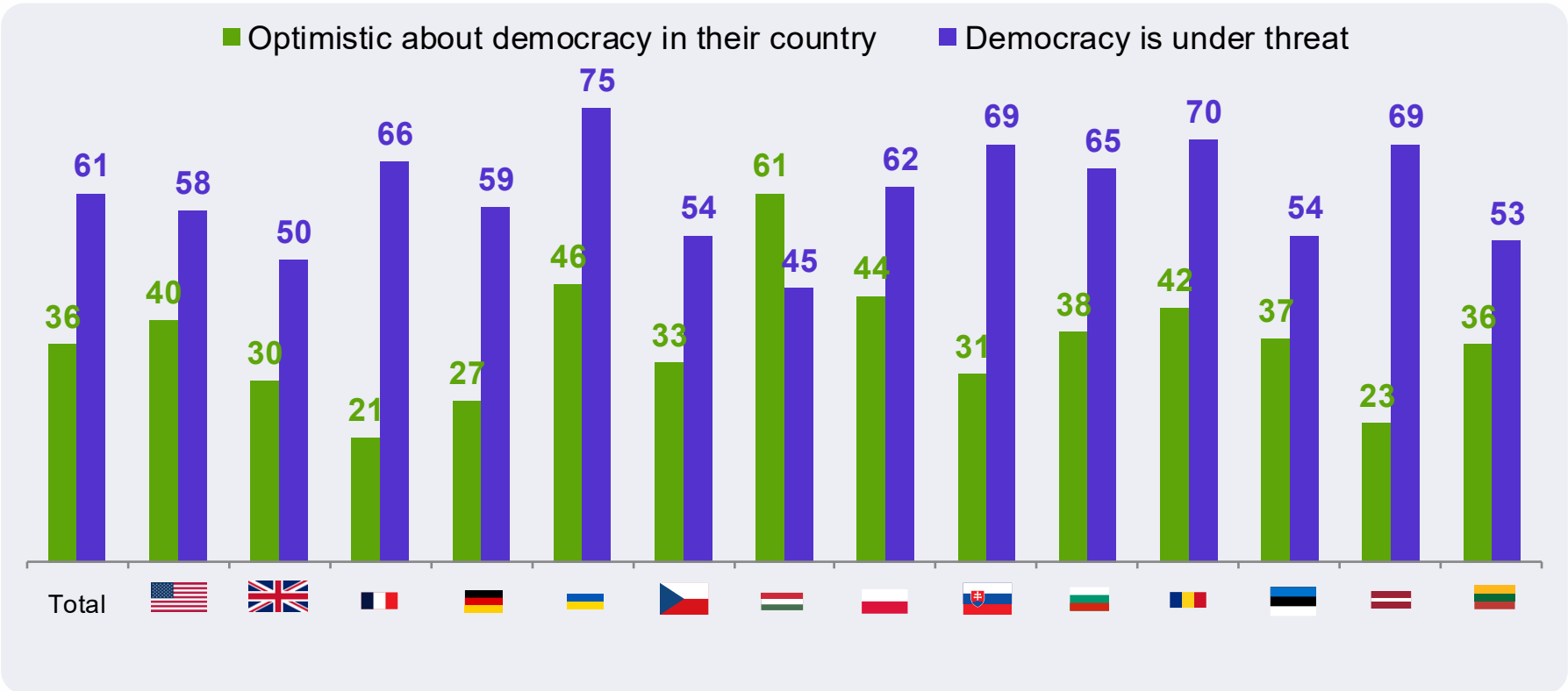


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The State of Democracy

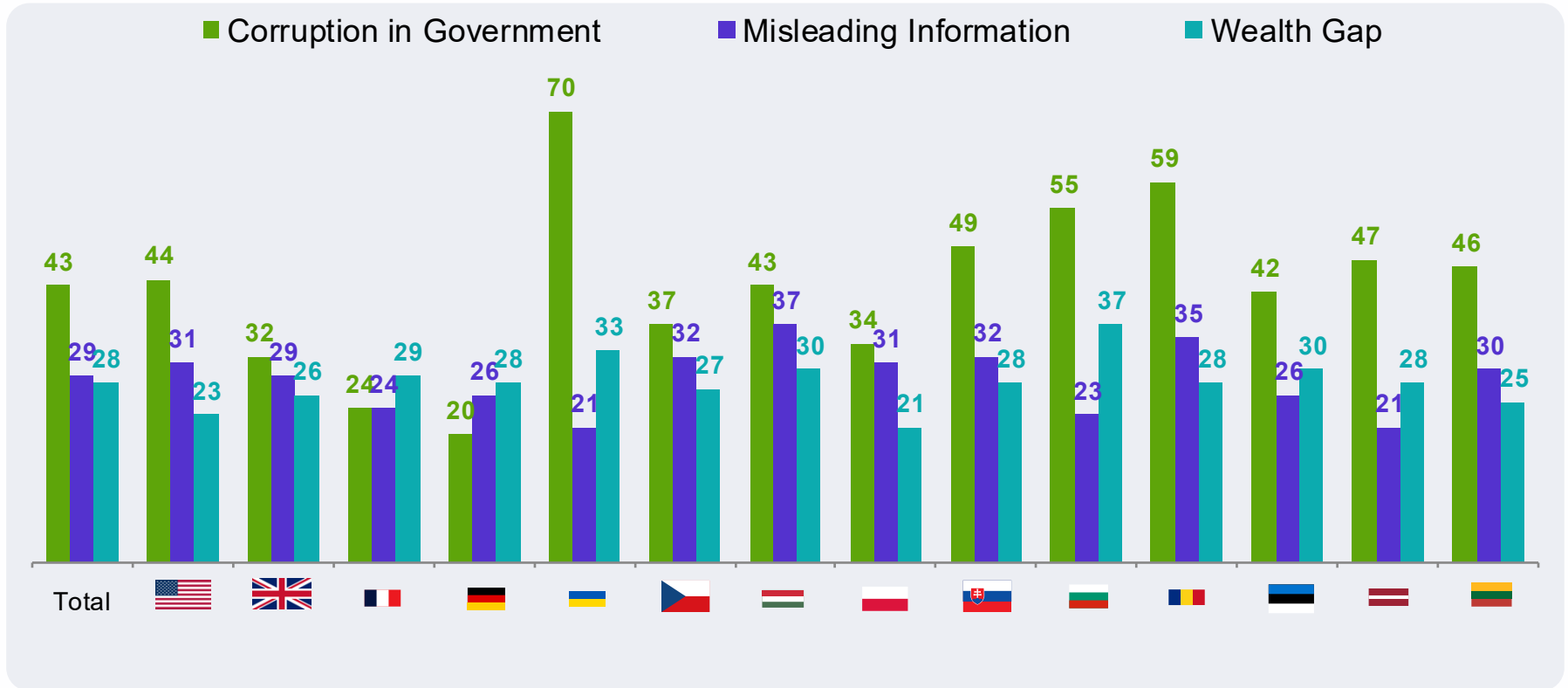


RESPONDENTS BELIEVE DEMOCRACY TO BE UNDER THREAT WHILE THEY REMAIN UNCERTAIN ABOUT ITS FUTURE IN THEIR COUNTRY



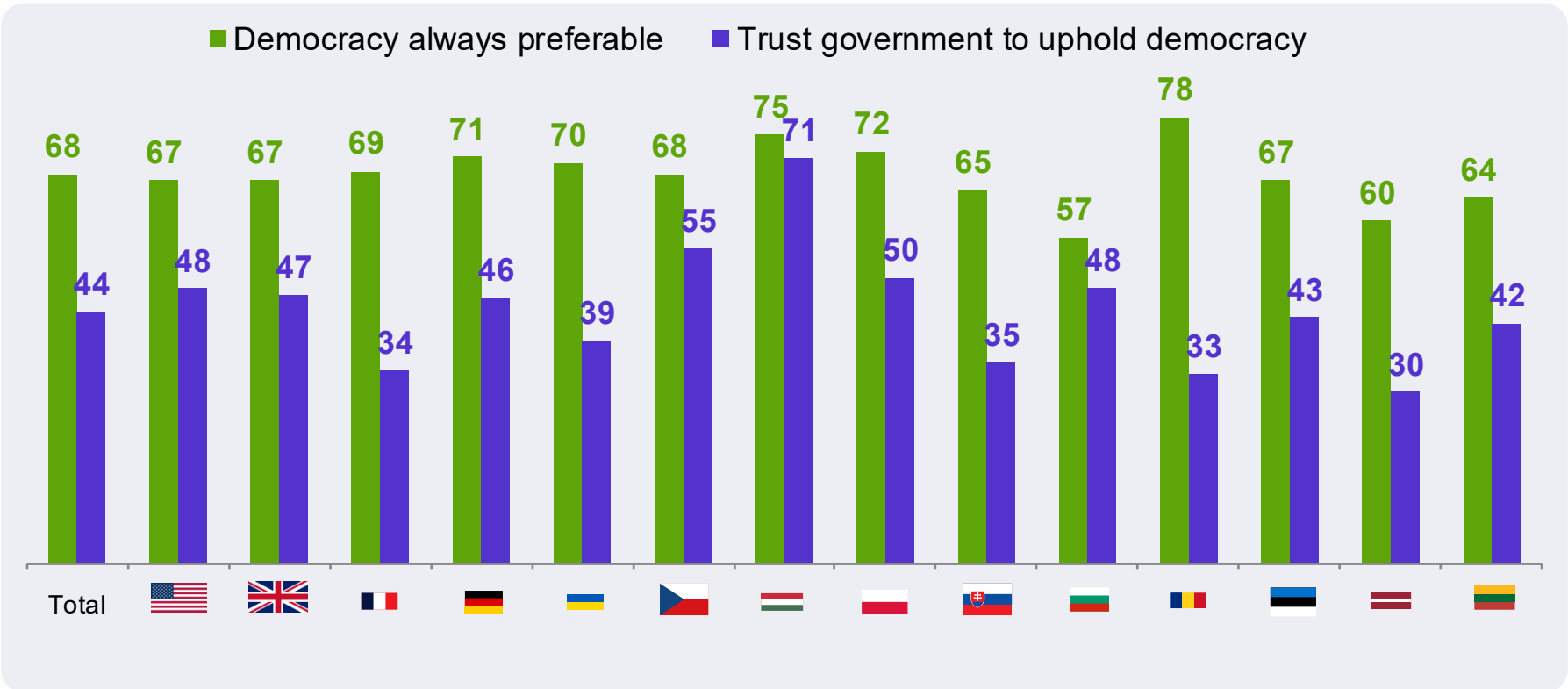
QD1. Overall, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of democracy in [COUNTRY]?
 QD10. Do you believe democracy is under threat or democracy is strong in your country today?

CORRUPTION IS VIEWED AS THE TOP THREAT TO DEMOCRACY, FOLLOWED BY MISLEADING INFORMATION AND THE WEALTH GAP



QD11. What do you believe are the three biggest threats to democracy, if any?

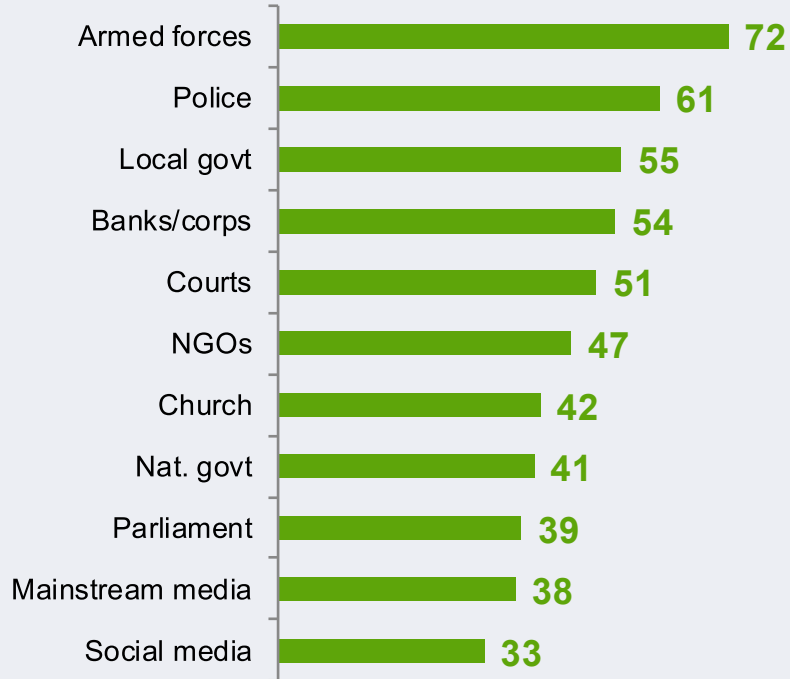
DEMOCRACY RETAINS STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT DESPITE MODERATE TRUST IN GOVERNMENTS TO UPHOLD IT



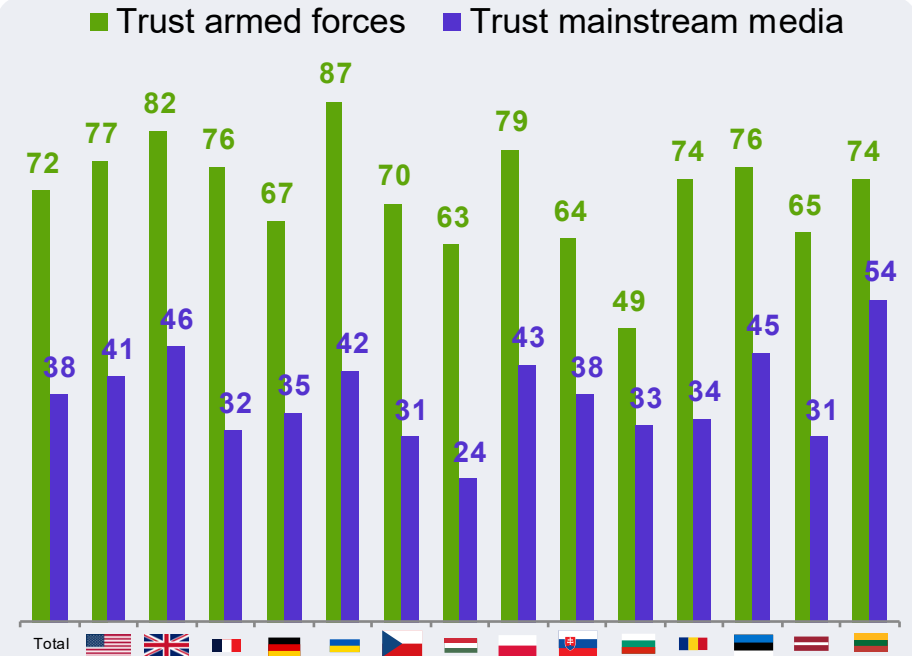
QD4. Which of the following comes closest to your view: Democracy is always preferable to any other form of government
 QD6. How much trust do you have in your current national government to ensure democracy continues to function effectively?

THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE EMERGE AS THE MOST TRUSTED INSTITUTIONS, WHILE TRUST IN TRADITIONAL & SOCIAL MEDIA IS UNDER WATER

Overall trust ranking (% trust, total)



Trust in armed forces & mainstream media by country



Q15. How much do you trust or distrust each of the following institutions in your country?



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