

European Social Survey
and Ronnie Cowan MP

THE FUTURE OF WELFARE: BASIC INCOME?

Part of the Economic and Social
Research Council (ESRC)
Festival of Social Science 2017



16 NOVEMBER 2017

Boothroyd Room
Portcullis House
Westminster

Professor Rory Fitzgerald, Director
Gianmaria Bottoni, Research Fellow
Stefan Swift, Media Officer

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY

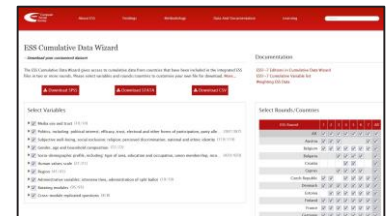
- First funded in 2001
- Won Descartes Prize for Research (2005)
- Included on ESFRI Roadmap (2006, 2008, 2010)
- Groves Review (2008)
- Became European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) (November 2013)
- Named as ESFRI Landmark (March 2016)



"The European Social Survey is a great project of incredible value. The huge amount of scientific data collected on public attitudes and behaviour, enabling comparisons across European nations and also over time, makes it a very useful tool for effective policy-making, including in reducing social inequalities in health."

Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), February 2017

- Academic cross-national survey measuring attitudes
- Face-to-face interviews every two years (since 2002)
- Over 350,000 interviews completed
- Probability sample residents aged 15+
- 8 rounds completed in 36 countries
- Data for 18 Round 8 countries now available
- All data free for non commercial use
- Over 110,000 registered users
- 3,138 academic publications used data (2003-15)



Participating Countries

8 ROUNDS

- 1 Belgium
- 2 Finland
- 3 France
- 4 Germany
- 5 Hungary
- 6 Ireland
- 7 Netherlands
- 8 Norway
- 9 Poland
- 10 Portugal
- 11 Slovenia
- 12 Spain
- 13 Sweden
- 14 Switzerland
- 15 UK

7 ROUNDS

- 16 Austria
- 17 Czech Republic
- 18 Denmark
- 19 Estonia

6 ROUNDS

- 20 Israel
- 21 Slovakia

5 ROUNDS

- 22 Lithuania
- 23 Russia
- 24 Ukraine

4 ROUNDS

- 25 Bulgaria
- 26 Cyprus
- 27 Greece
- 28 Italy

3 ROUNDS

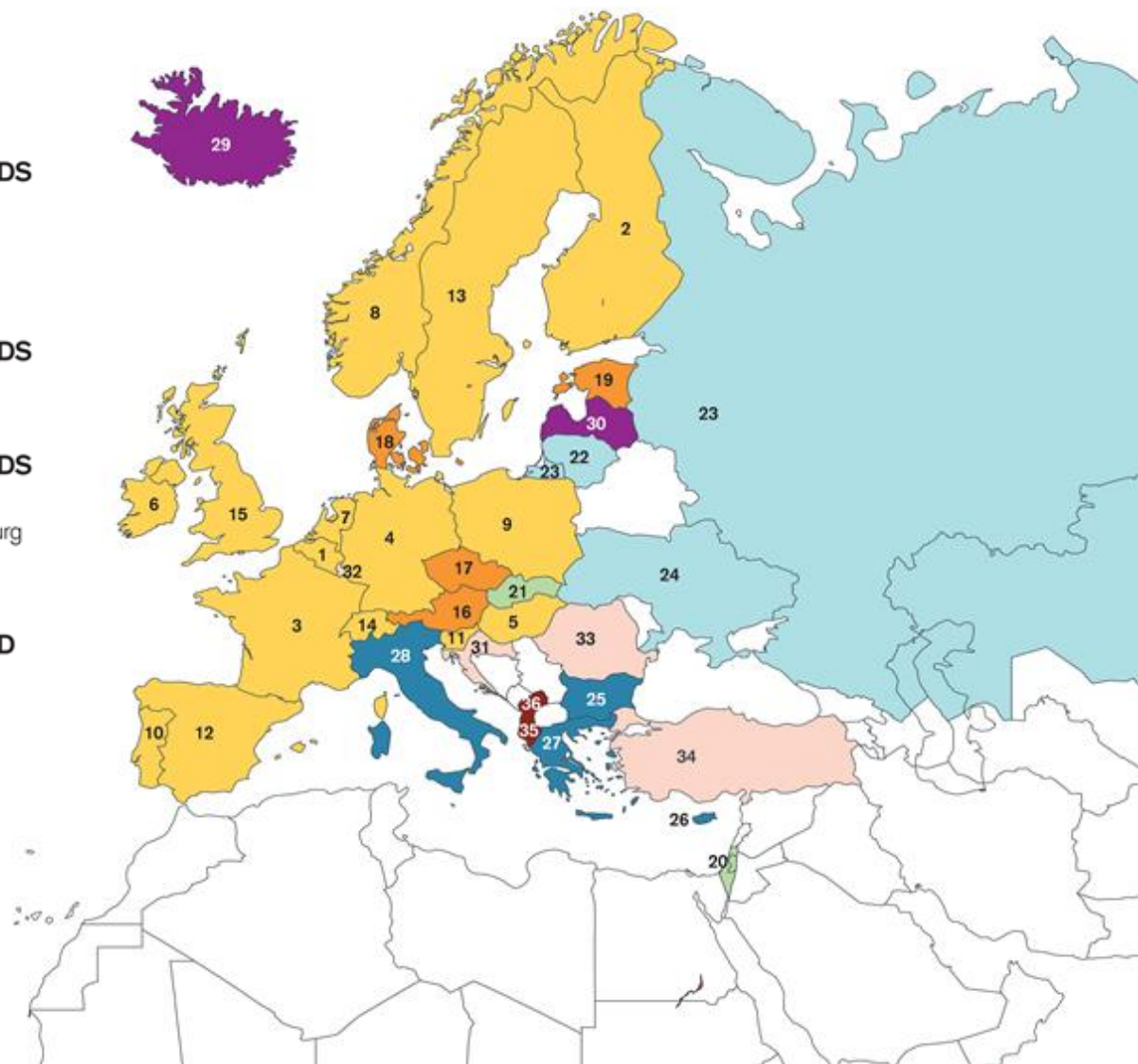
- 29 Iceland
- 30 Latvia

2 ROUNDS

- 31 Croatia
- 32 Luxembourg
- 33 Romania
- 34 Turkey

1 ROUND

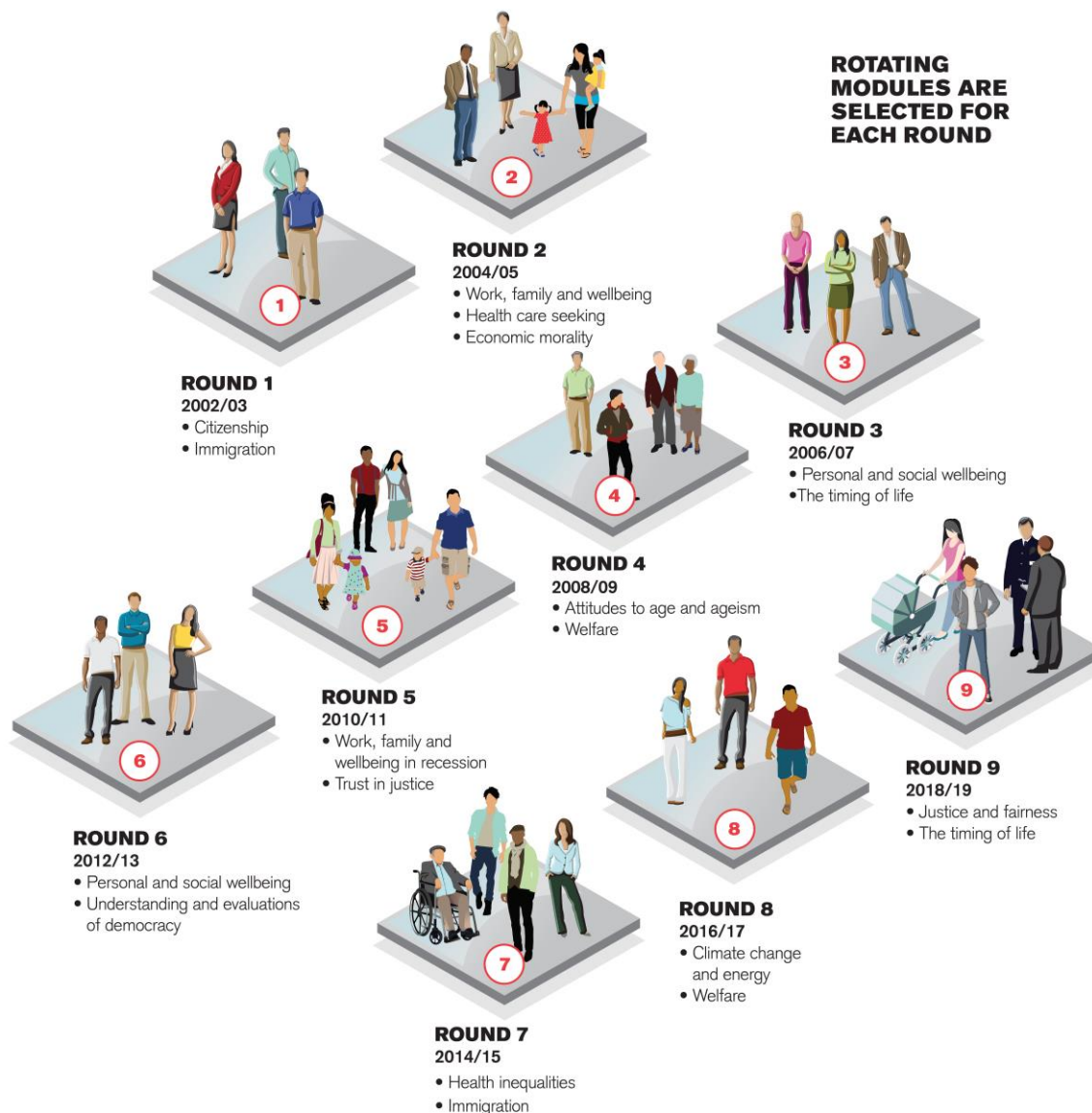
- 35 Albania
- 36 Kosovo



CORE TOPICS IN ALL ROUNDS

- Crime
- Democracy and politics
- Human values
- Immigration
- Media use
- National and ethnic identity
- Perceived discrimination
- Religion
- Social exclusion
- Social trust/trust in institutions
- Subjective wellbeing
- Socio-demographics

ROTATING MODULES ARE SELECTED FOR EACH ROUND



Round 8 Rotating Module: Welfare

- Welfare module first included in Round 4 (2008)
- Module repeated (with some modifications) in Round 8 (2016)
- 30 questions asked during hour-long face-to-face interview
- Basic Income Scheme question fielded in Round 8 for the first time
- Module developed by multi-national team of academics with support from the ESS Core Scientific Team
- Round 8 Welfare Module Authors: Wim van Oorschot and Bart Meuleman, University of Leuven; Christian Staerkle, University of Lausanne; Staffan Kumlin, University of Gothenburg; Tim Reeskens, Tilburg University
- Round 8 ESS team: Rory Fitzgerald, Sarah Butt, Elena Sommer, Brita Dorer, Diana Zavala Rojas

EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY ON WELFARE

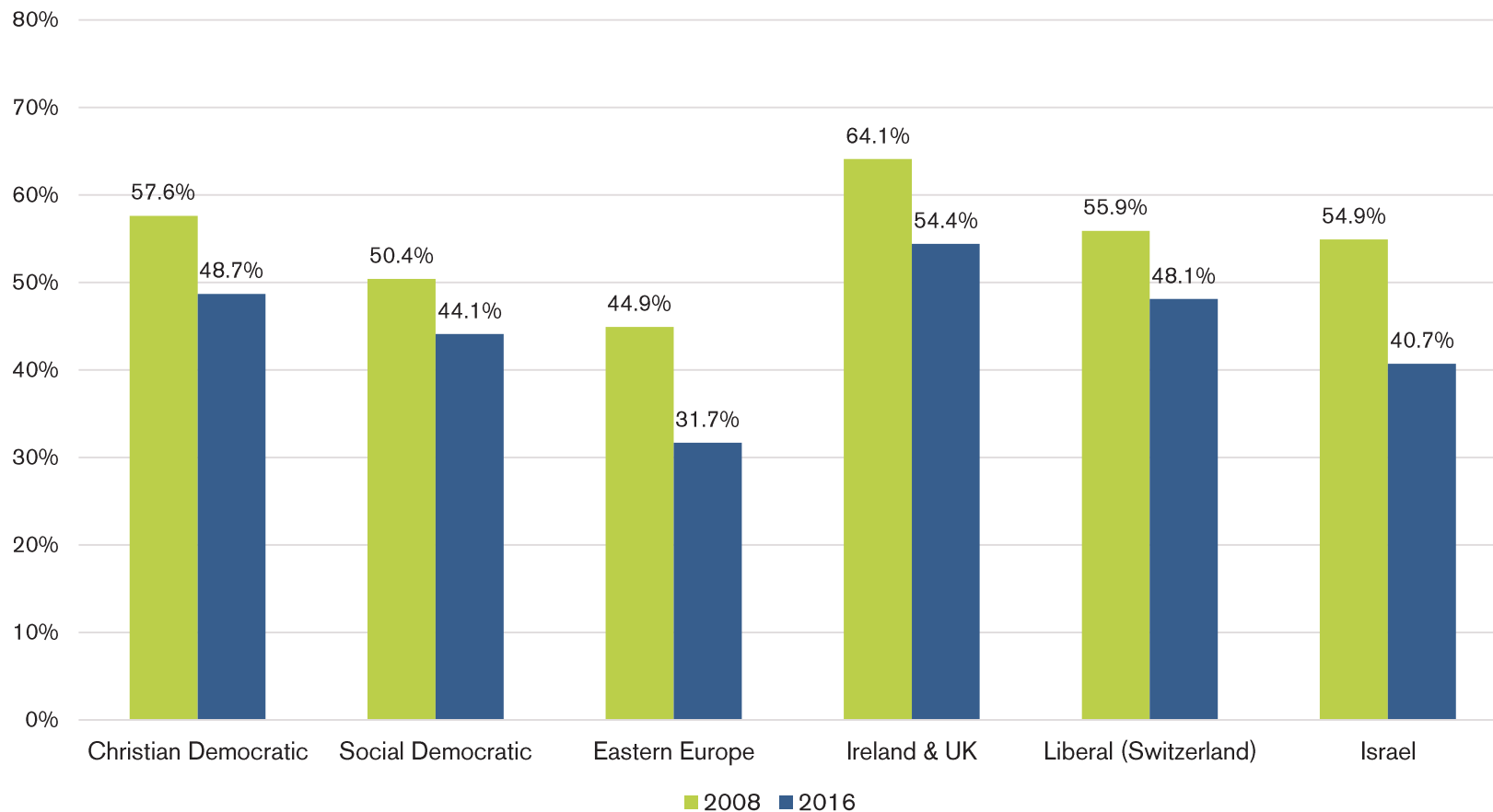
Esping-Anderson Welfare State Regimes (1990):

Adapted version used here:

- **Christian Democratic (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany)**
- **Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia)**
- **Ireland and the UK**
- **Social Democratic (Finland, Iceland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden)**
- **Israel**
- **Liberal (Switzerland)**

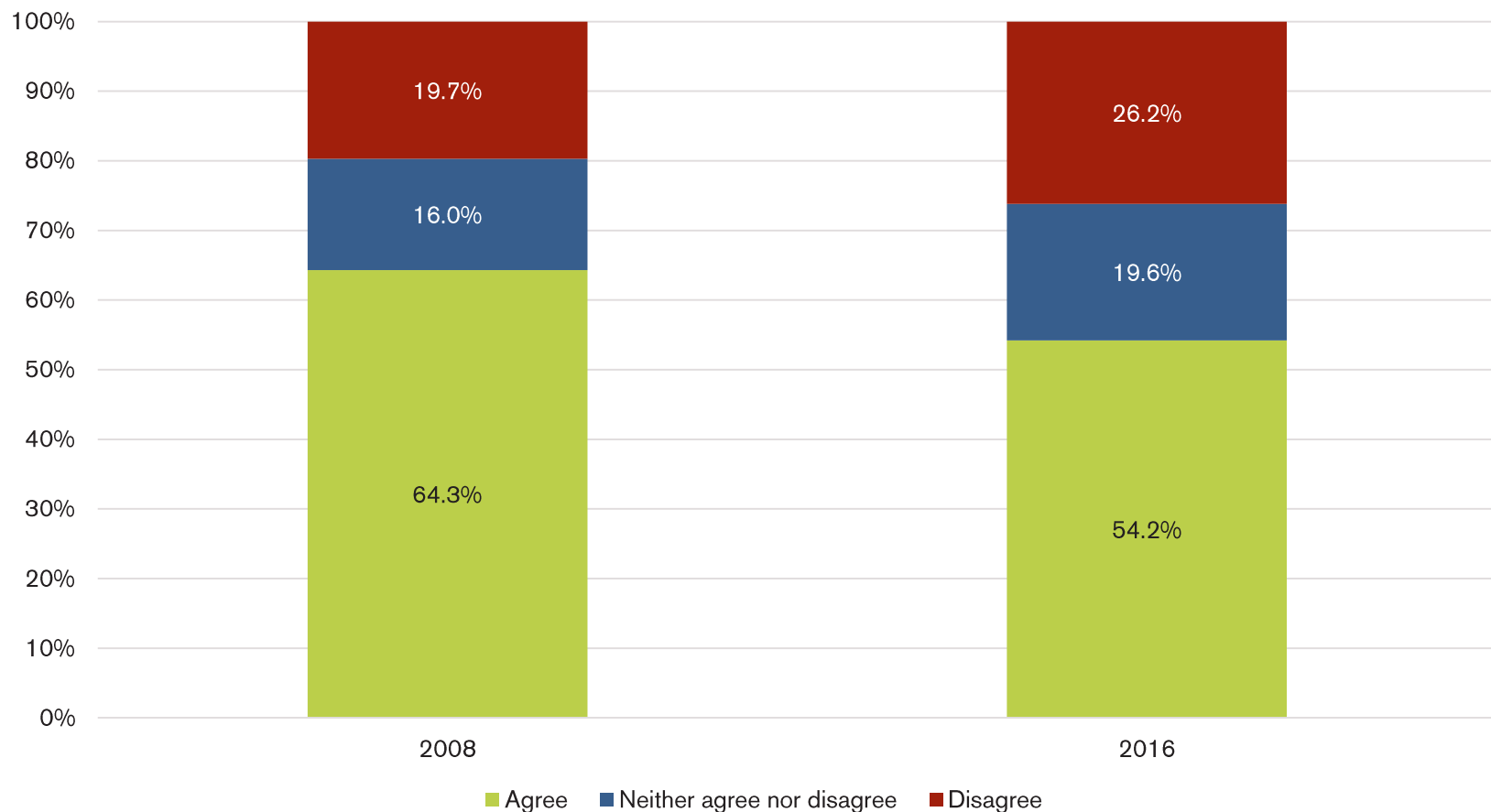
Welfare attitudes in Europe (2008/2016)

Large differences in income are acceptable to reward talents and efforts (support)
(Round 4, 2008 and Round 8, 2016)



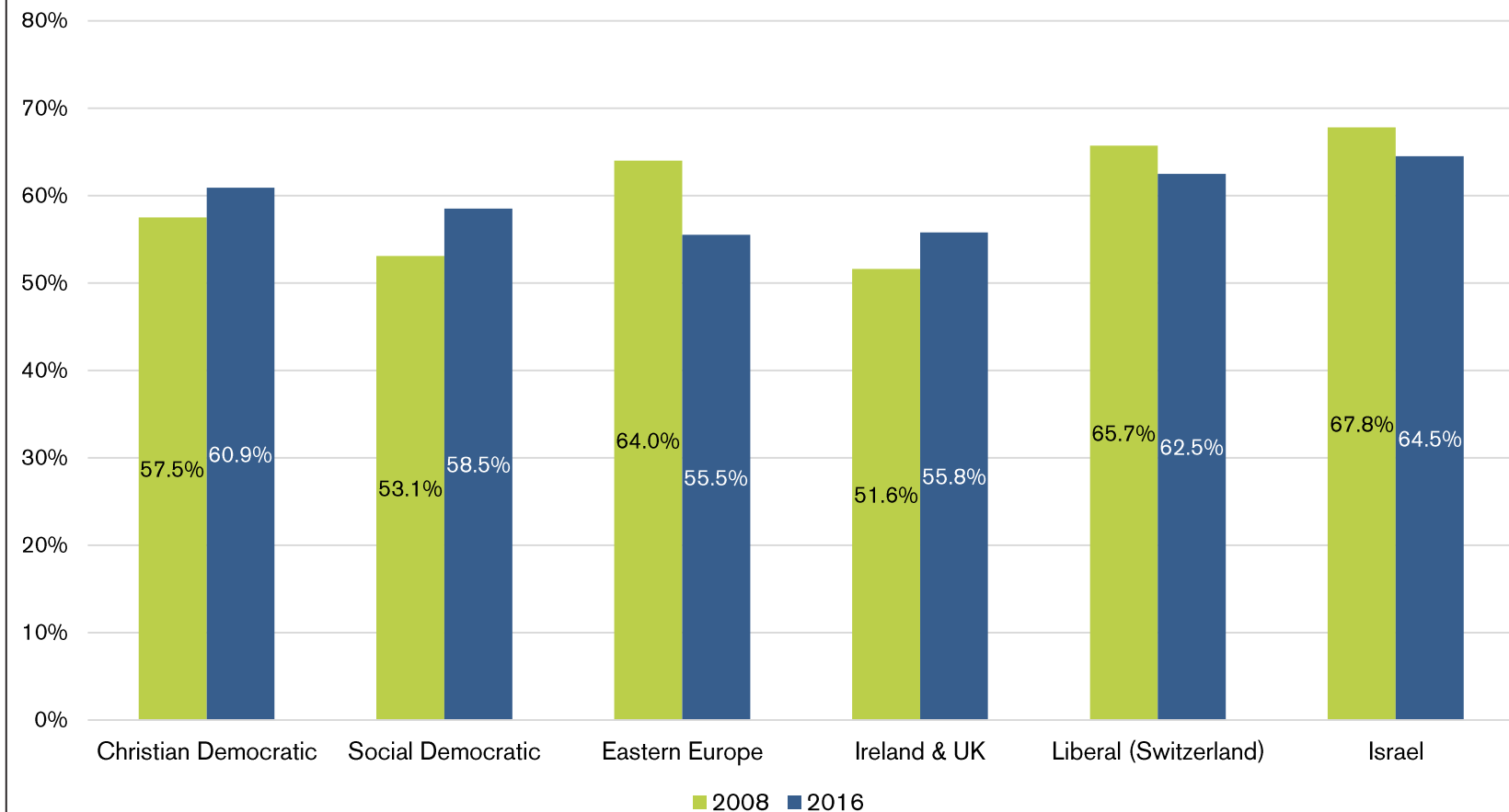
Welfare attitudes in the UK (2008/2016)

Large differences in income acceptable to reward talents and efforts - UK only
(Round 4, 2008 and Round 8, 2016)



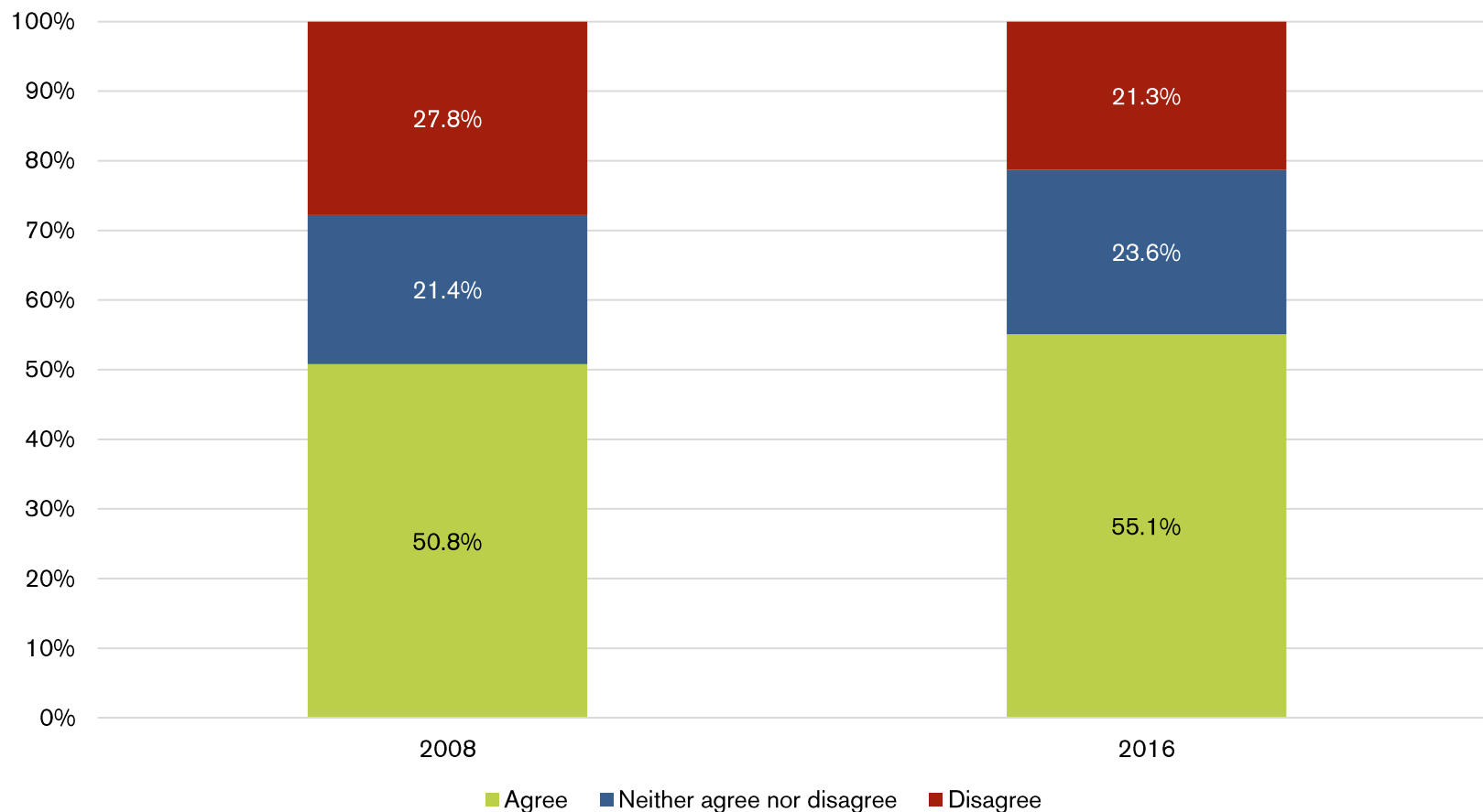
Welfare attitudes in Europe (2008/2016)

For fair society, differences in standard of living should be small (support)
(Round 4, 2008 and Round 8, 2016)

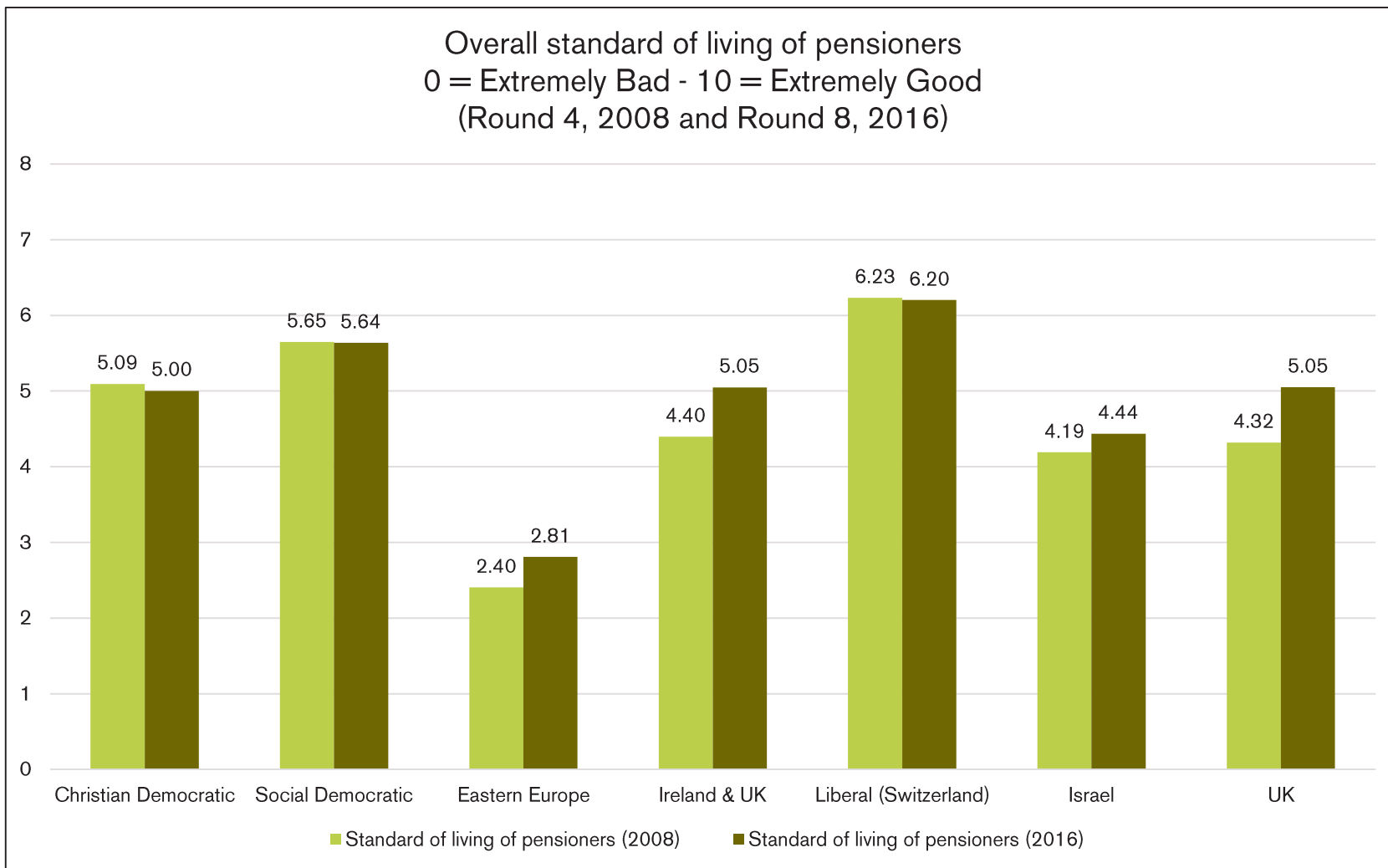


Welfare attitudes in the UK (2008/2016)

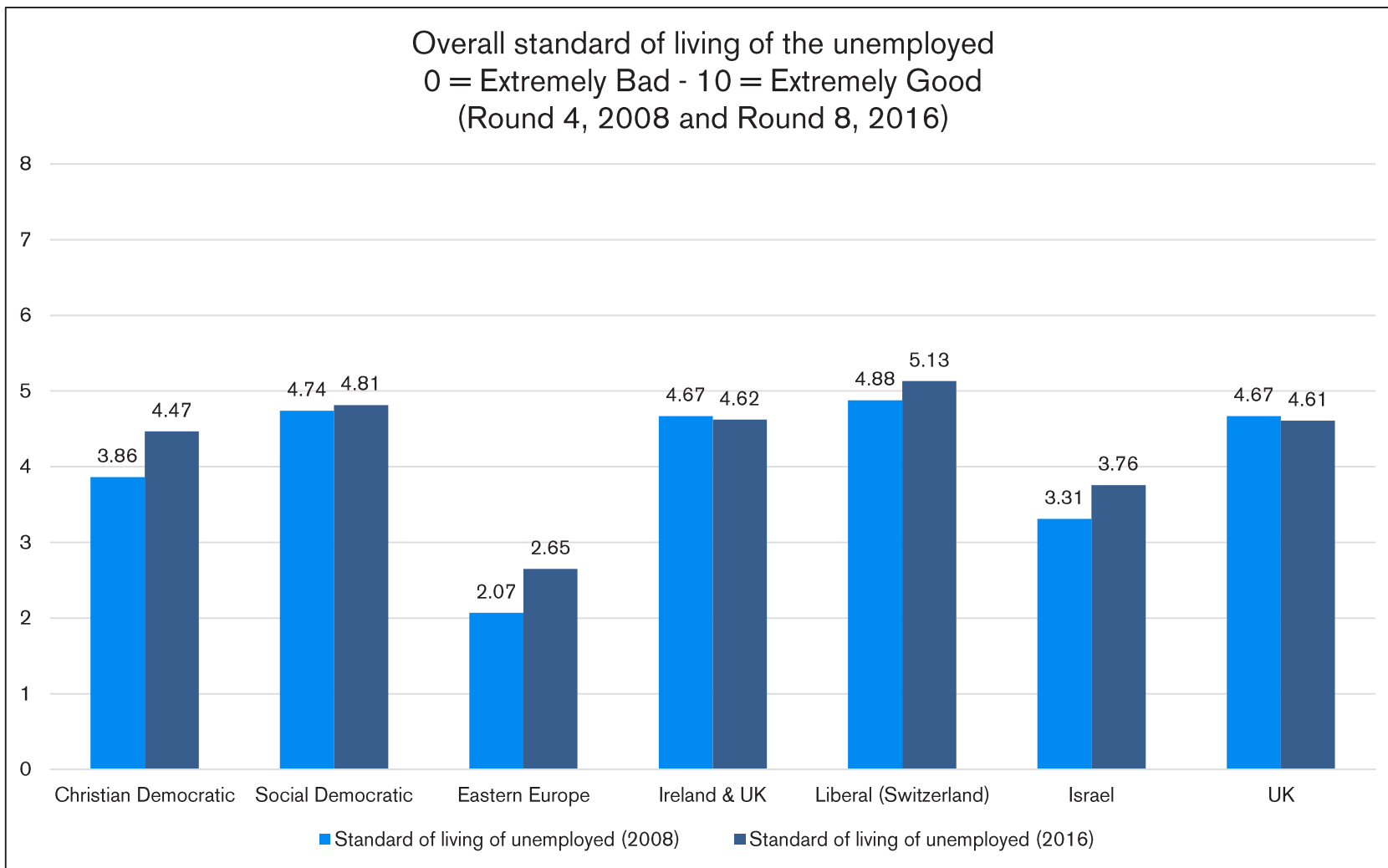
For fair society, differences in standard of living should be small - UK only
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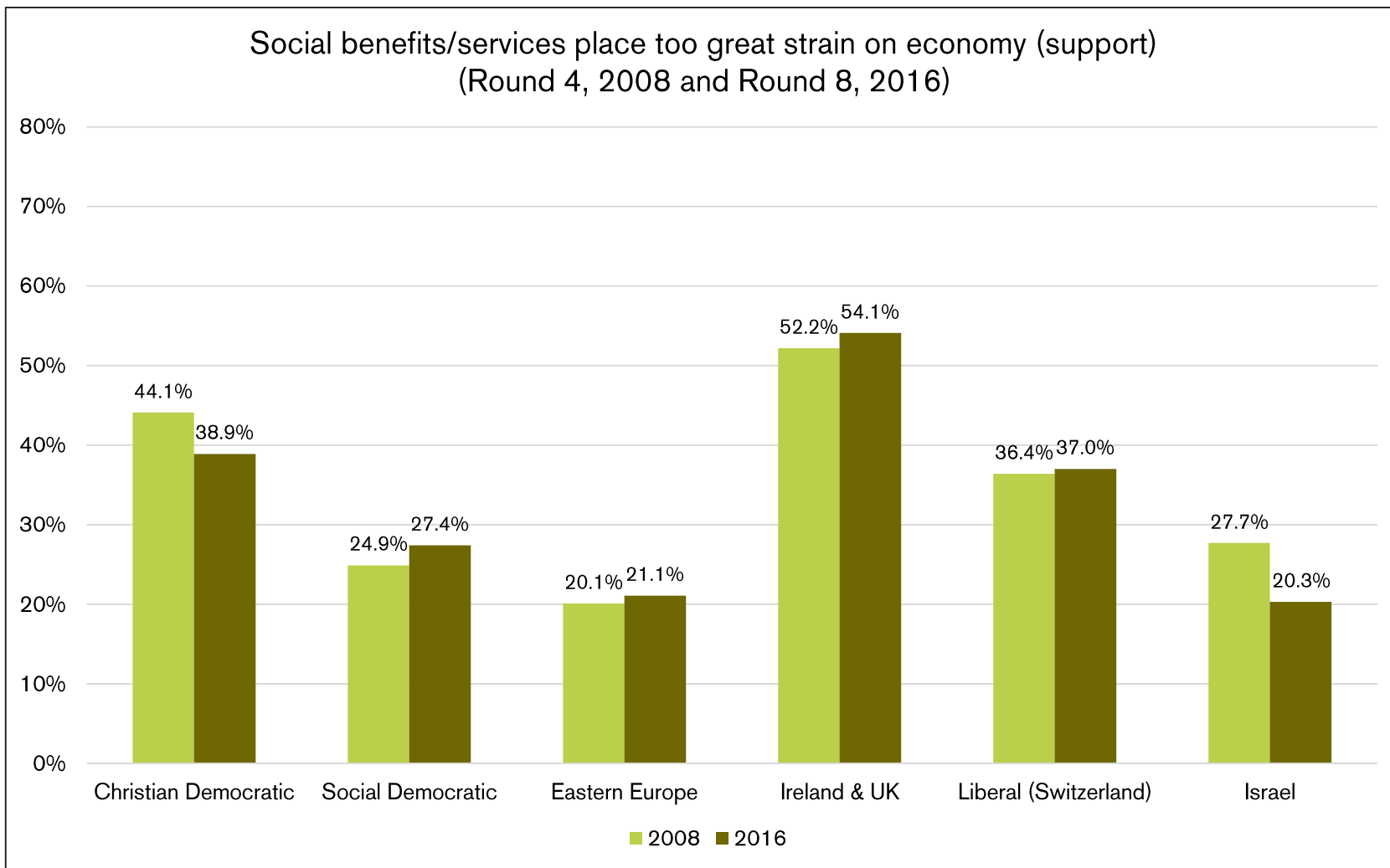
Welfare attitudes in Europe (2008/2016)



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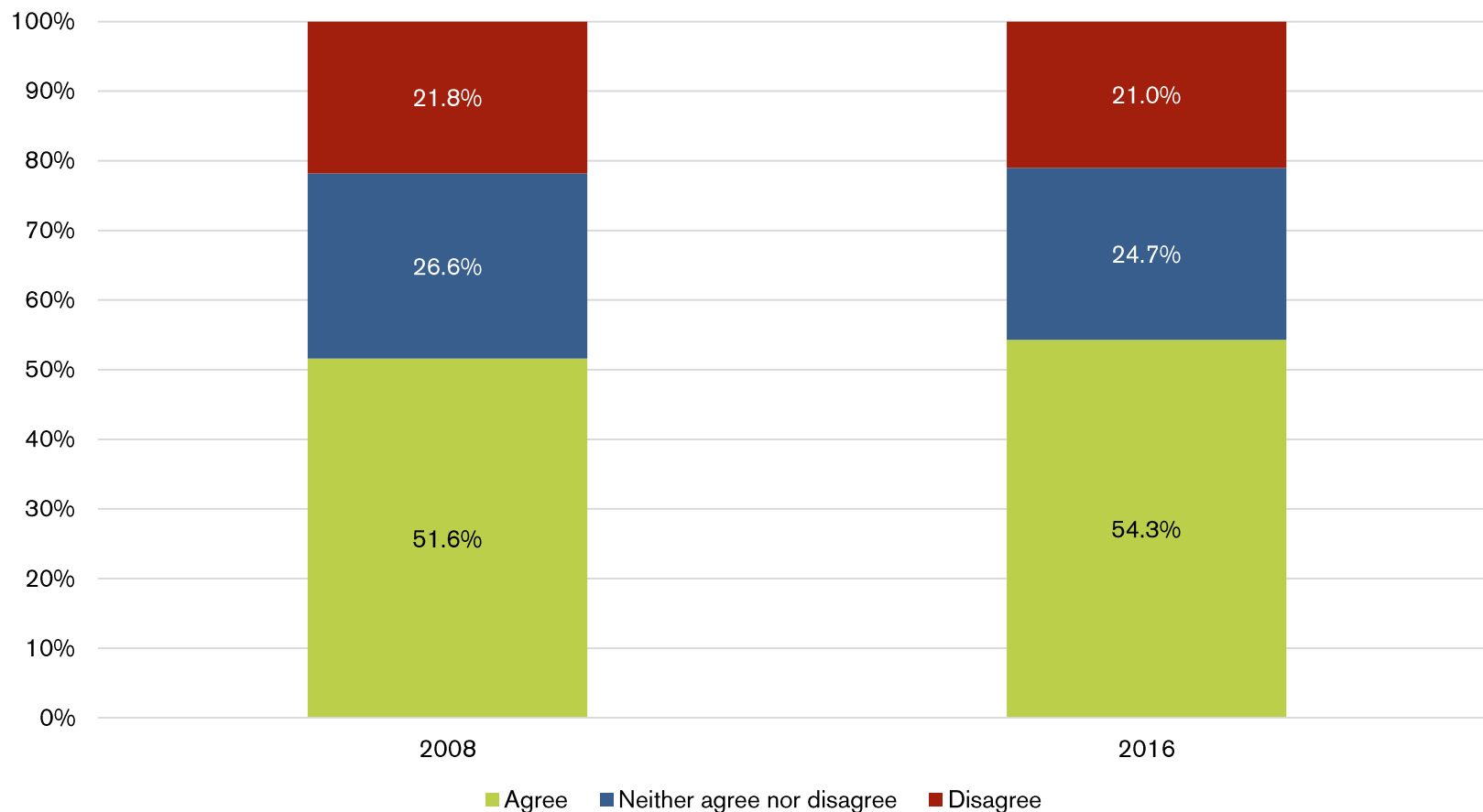


Welfare attitudes in Europe (2008/2016)

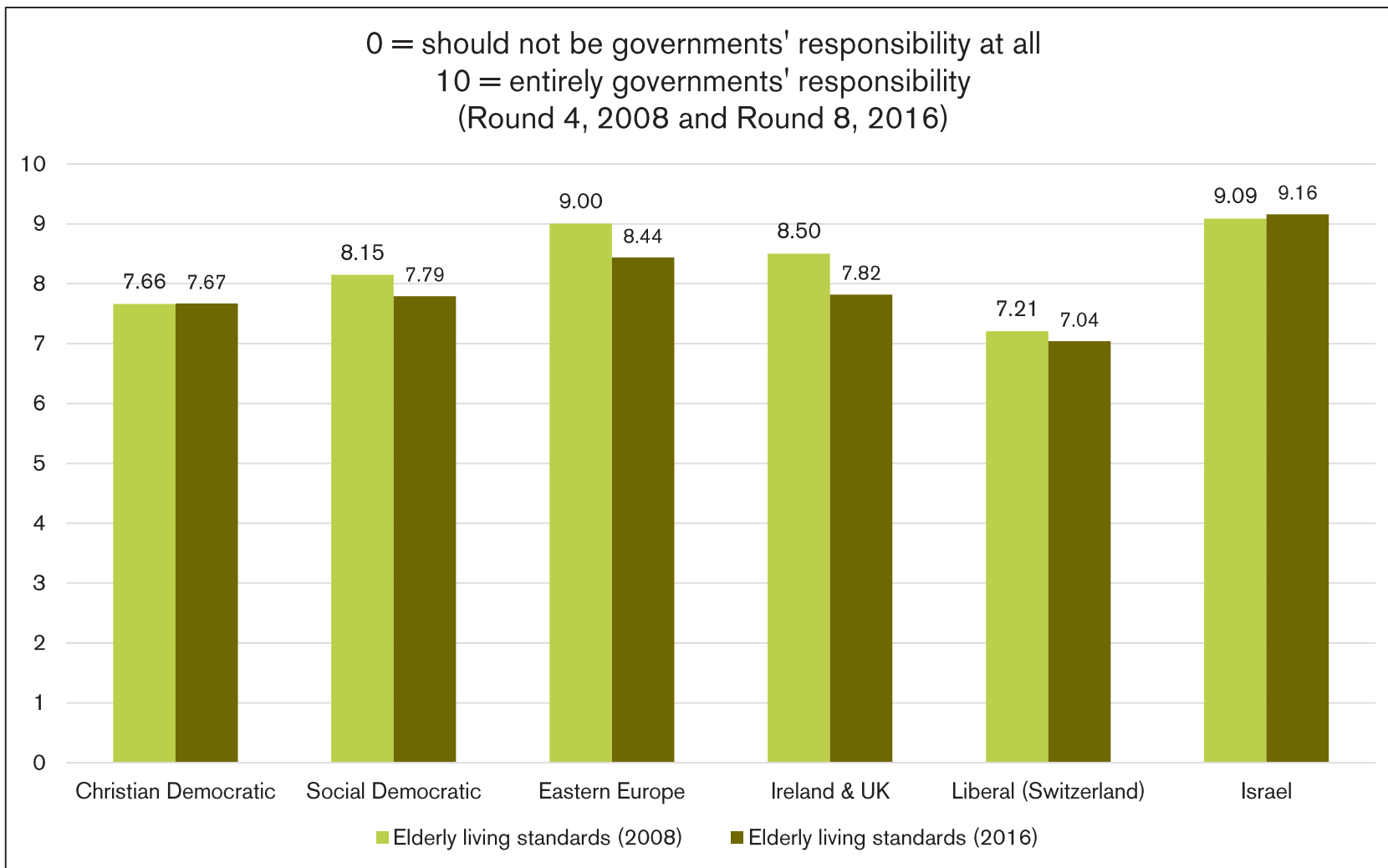


Welfare attitudes in the UK (2008/2016)

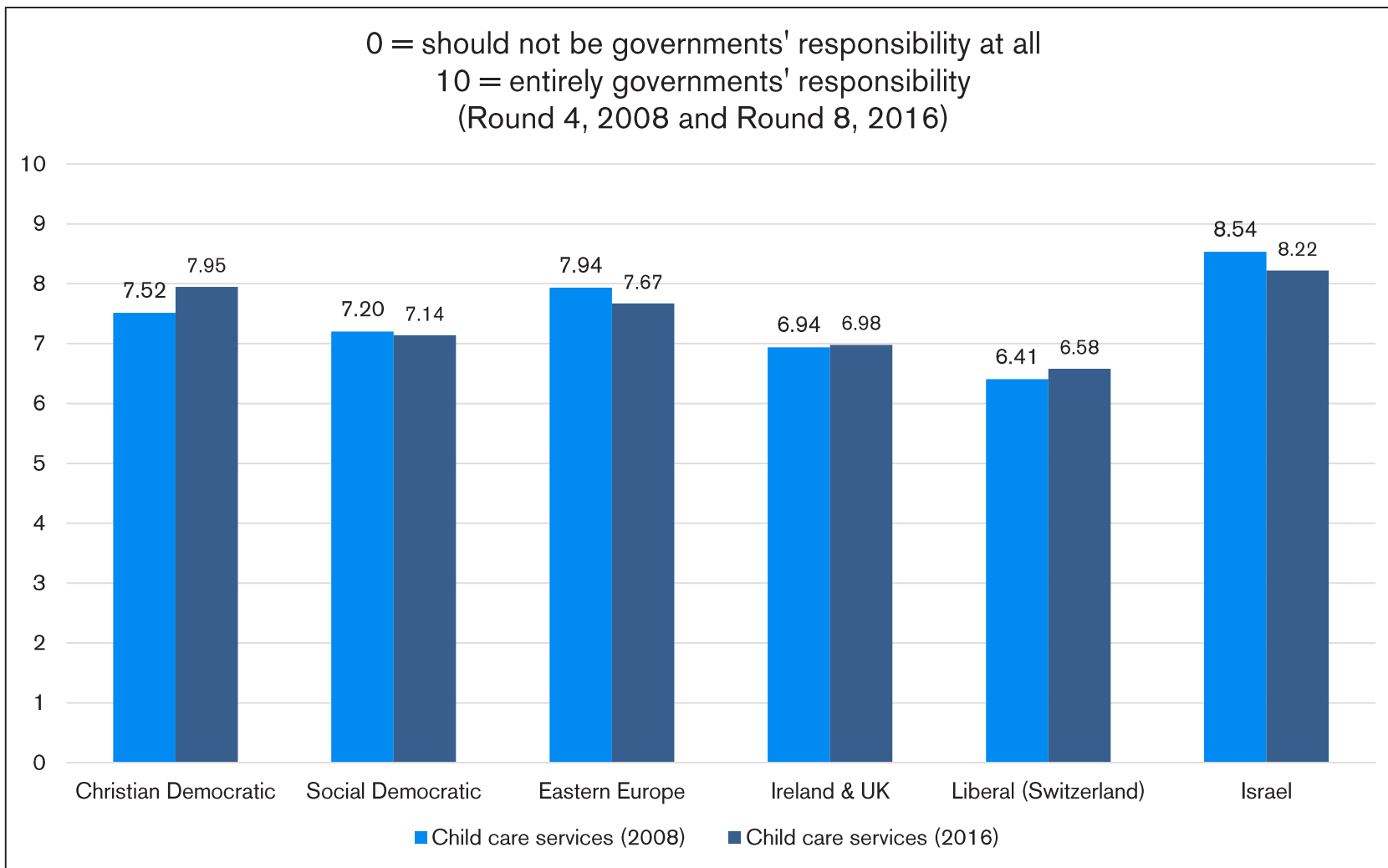
Social benefits/services place too great strain on economy - UK only
(Round 4, 2008 and Round 8, 2016)



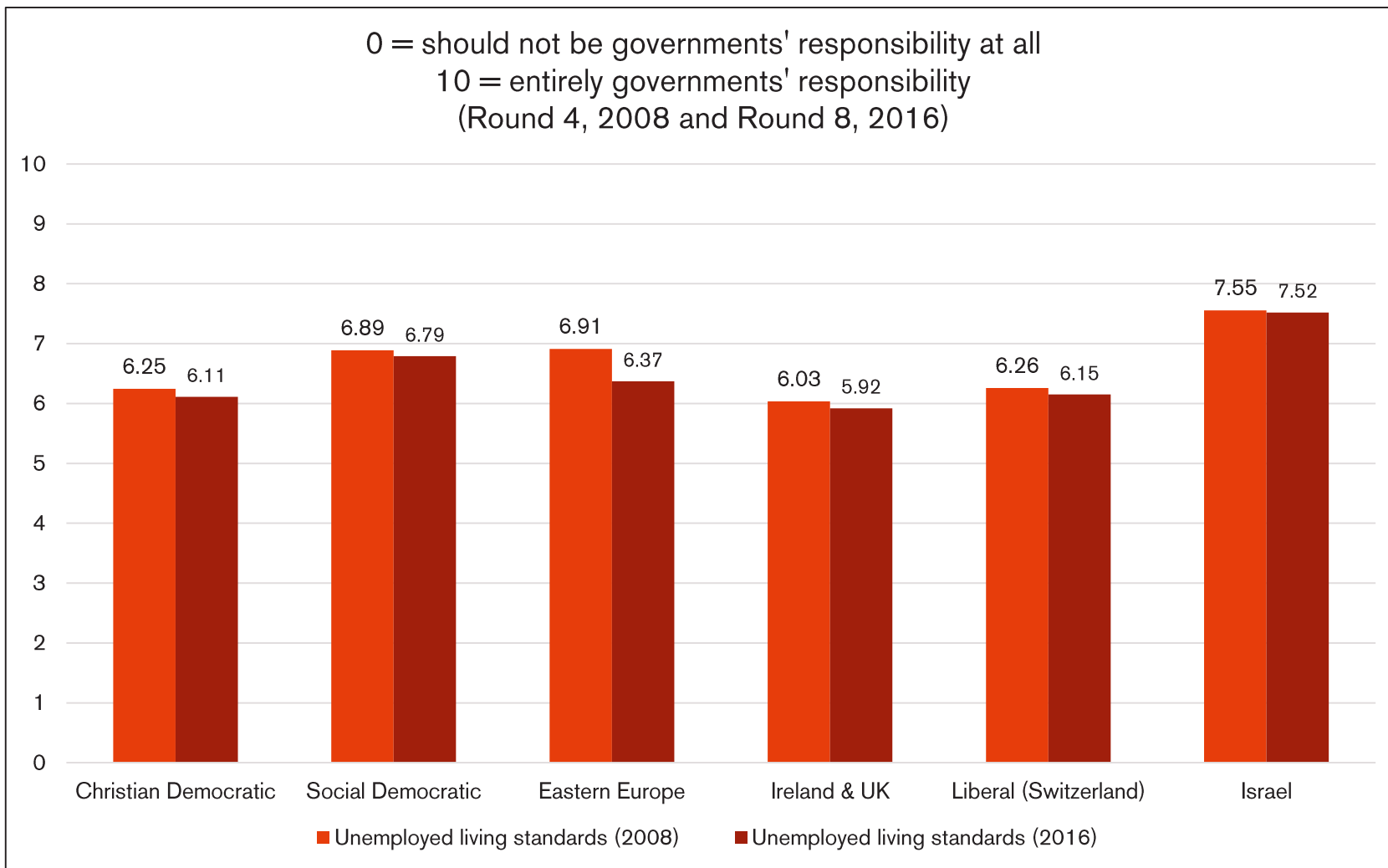
Welfare attitudes in Europe (2008/2016)



Welfare attitudes in Europe (2008/2016)



Welfare attitudes in Europe (2008/2016)



EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME SCHEME

ESS Question:

Some countries are currently talking about introducing a basic income scheme. In a moment I will ask you to tell me whether you are against or in favor of this scheme. First, I will give you some more details. The highlighted box at the top of this card shows the main features of the scheme. A basic income scheme includes all of the following:

- The government pays everyone a monthly income to cover essential living costs.
- It replaces many other social benefits.
- The purpose is to guarantee everyone a minimum standard of living.
- Everyone receives the same amount regardless of whether or not they are working.
- People also keep the money they earn from work or other sources.
- This scheme is paid for by taxes.

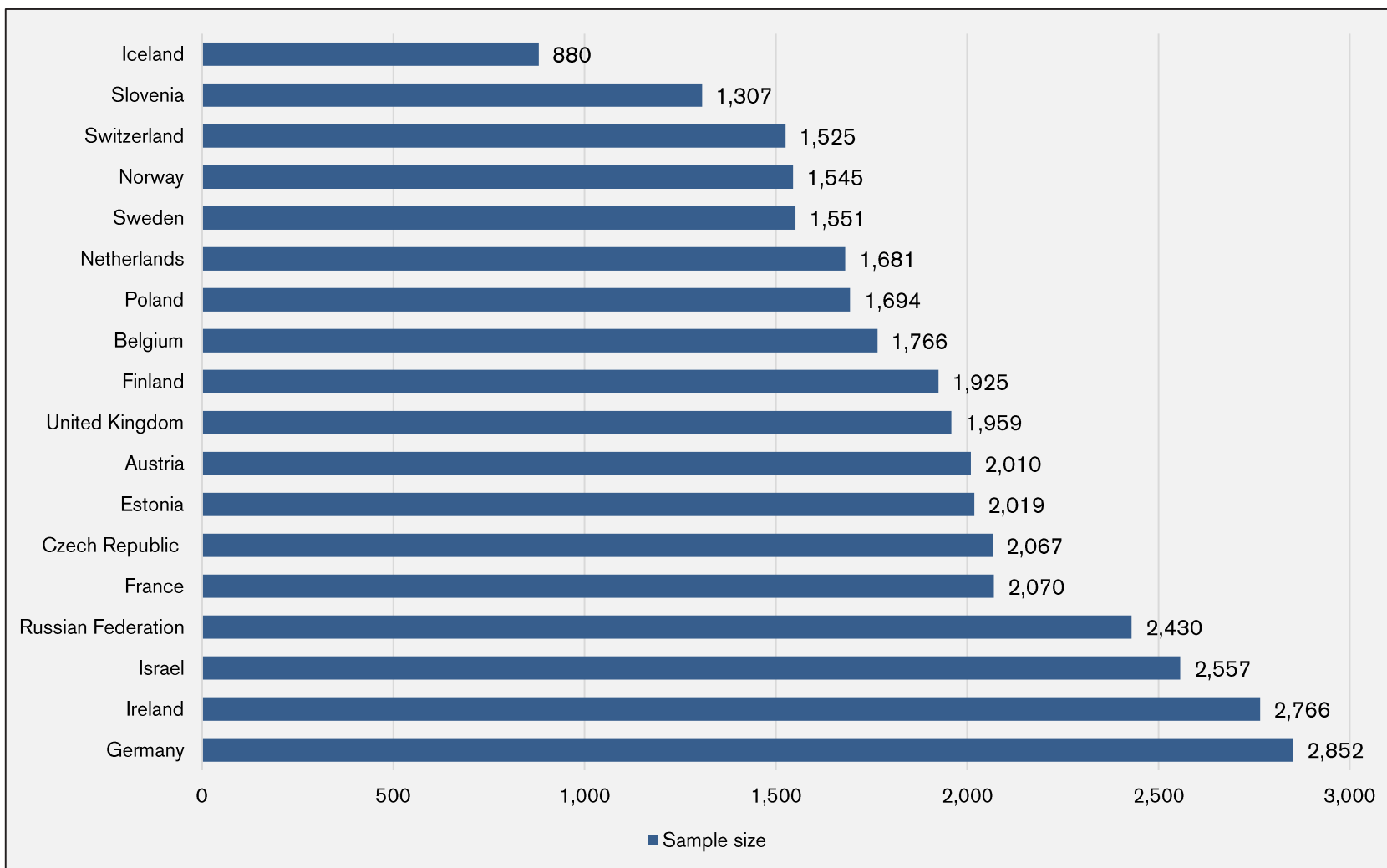
ESS Question:

Overall, would you be against or in favor of having this scheme in [country]?

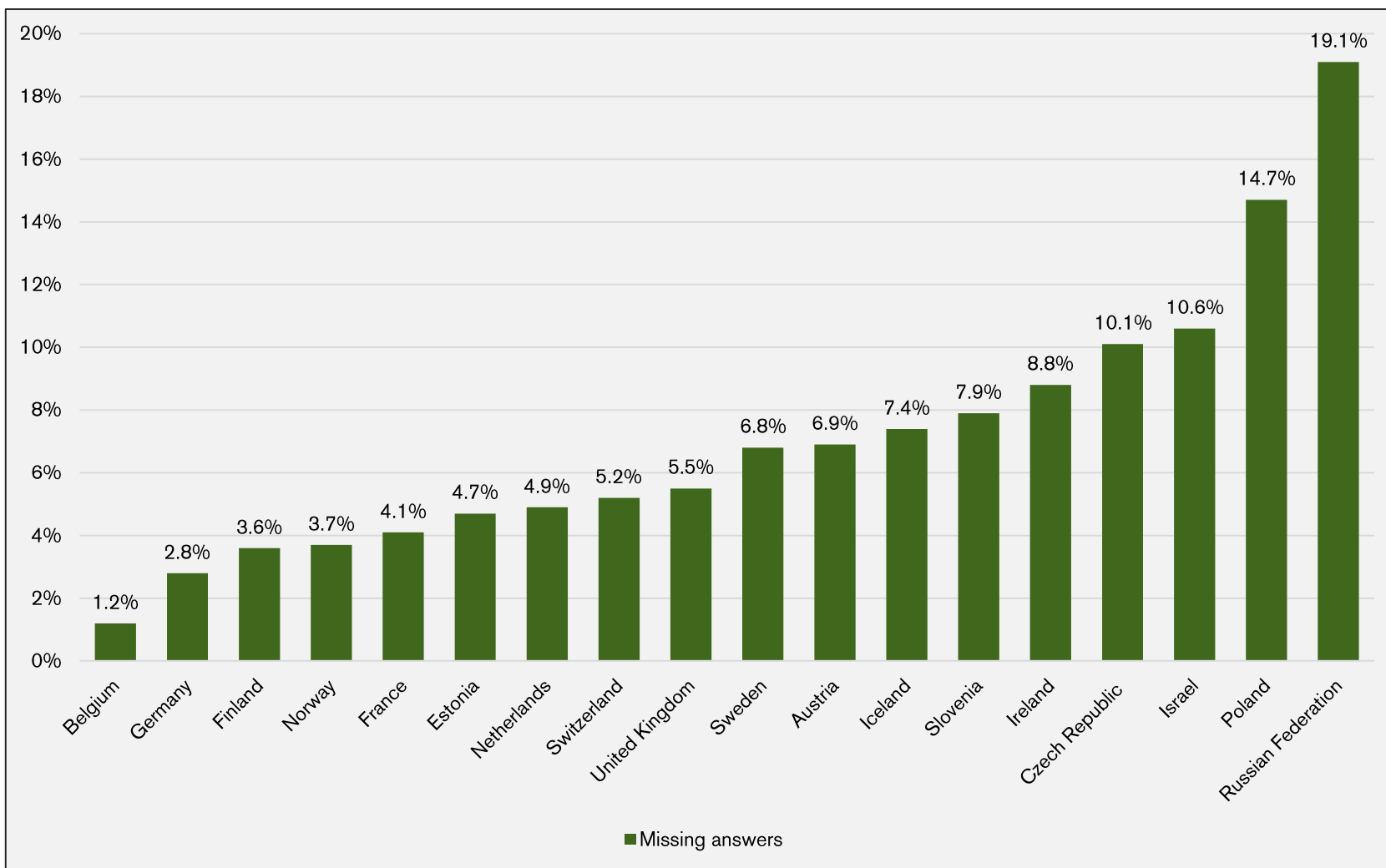
Please choose your answer from the options at the bottom of the card.

- Strongly against
- Against
- In favour
- Strongly in favour

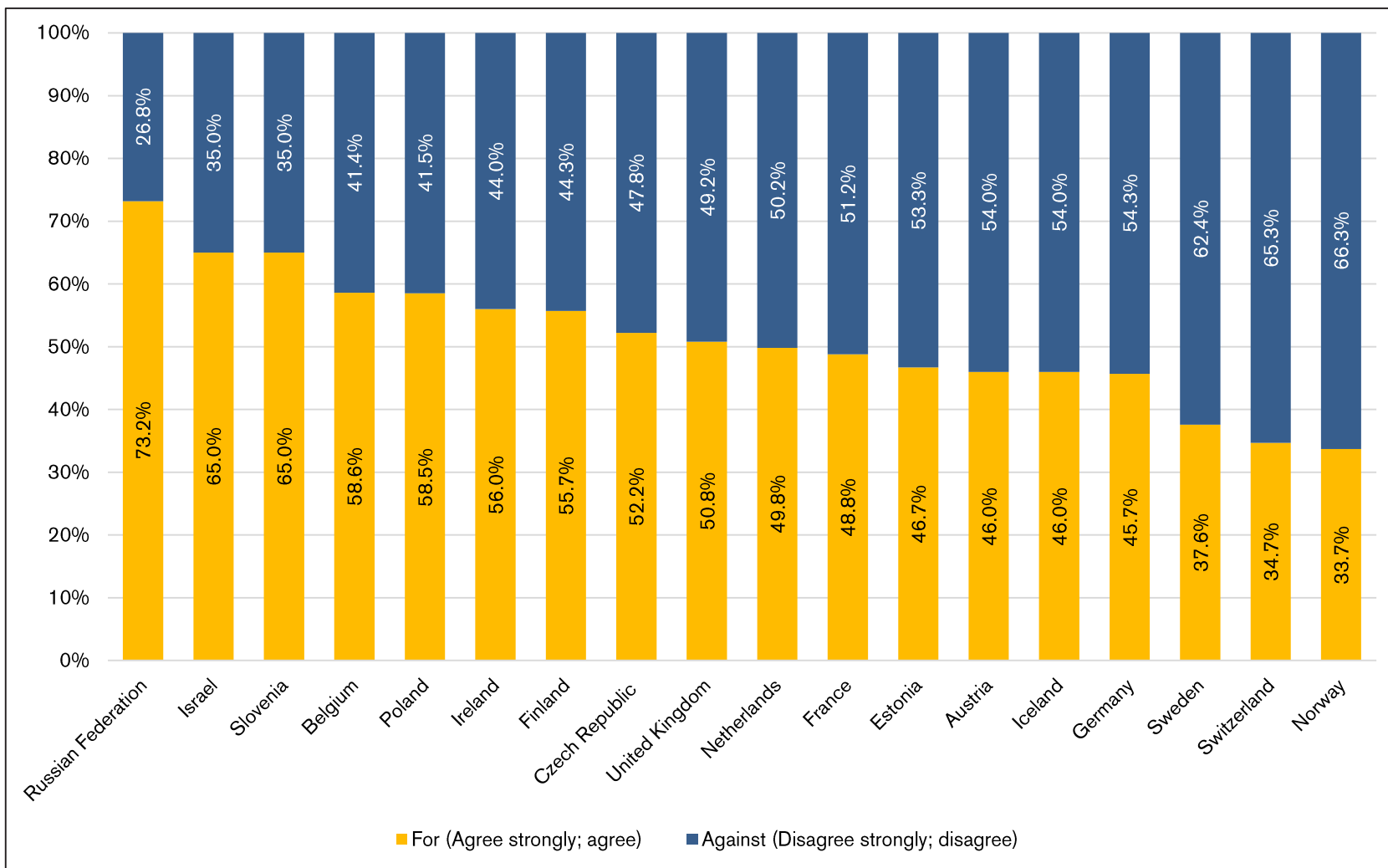
Basic Income: Sample sizes



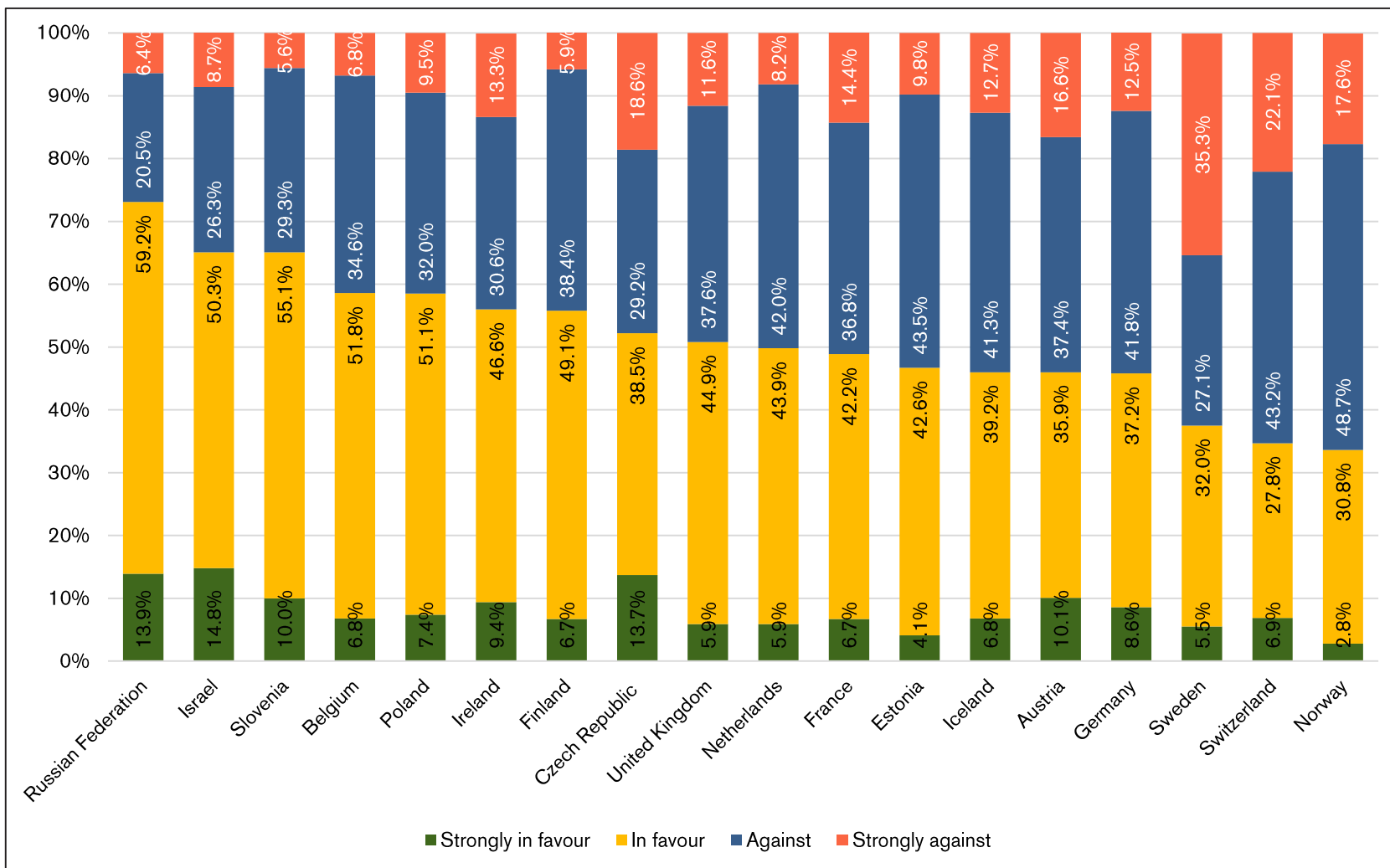
Basic Income: Missing answers



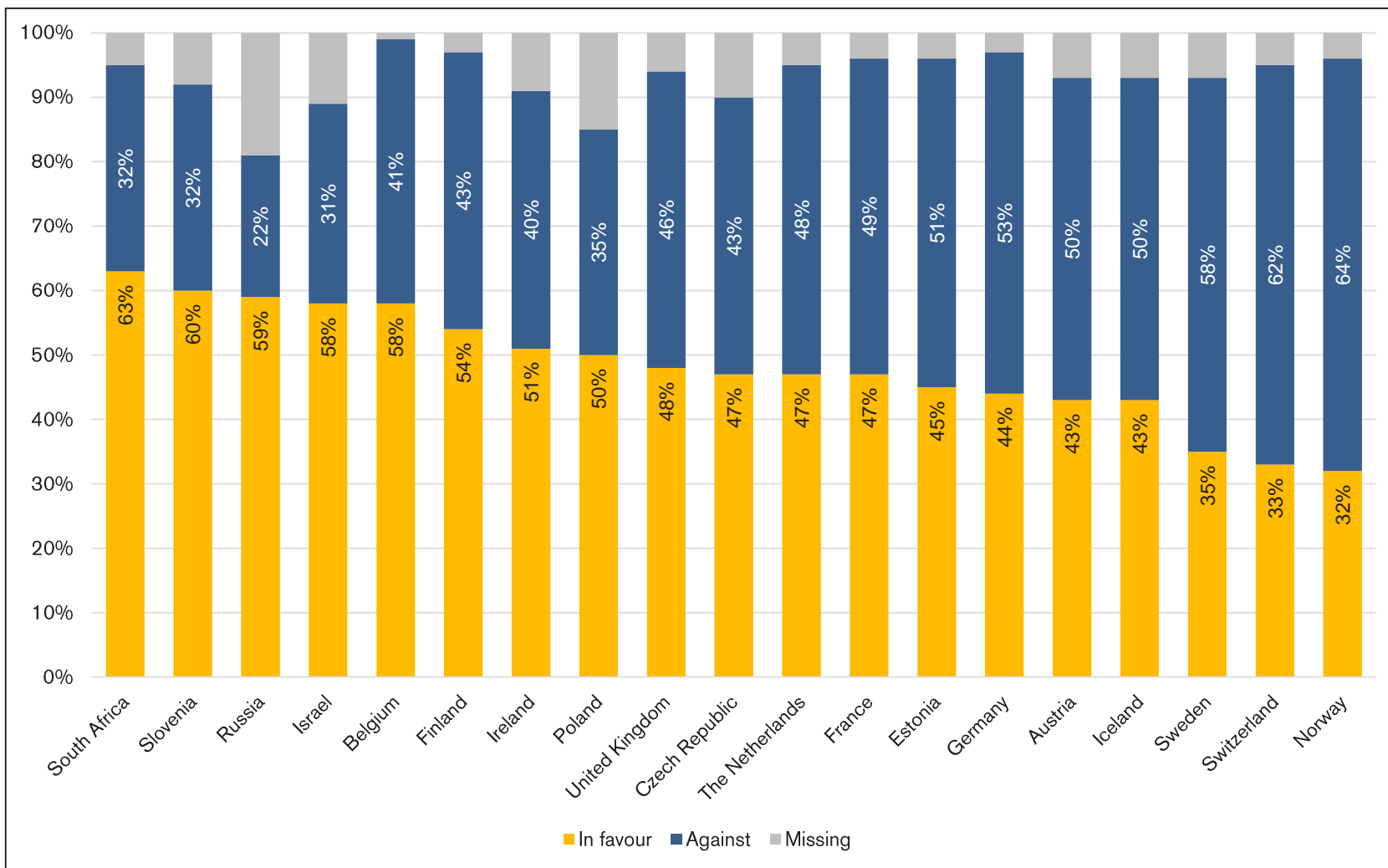
Basic Income: attitudes in 18 countries



Basic Income: attitudes in 18 countries



Basic Income: including South Africa



**IPSOS MORI SURVEY
OF UK ADULTS 2017
(INSTITUTE FOR
POLICY RESEARCH,
UNIVERSITY OF BATH)**

As you may be aware, some countries are considering introducing a basic income.

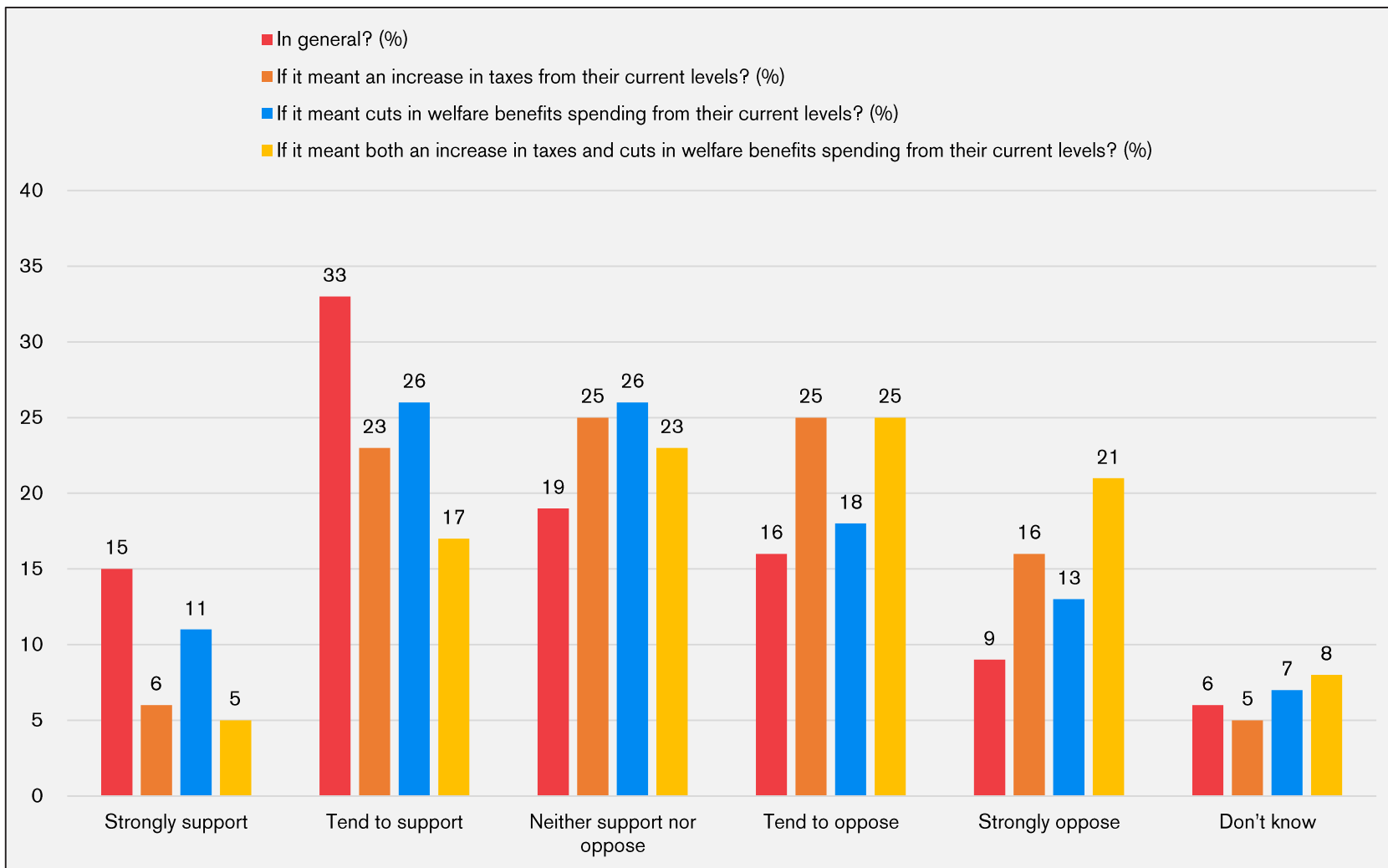
If introduced in the United Kingdom, this would provide a regular income paid in cash to every individual adult in the UK, regardless of their working status and income from other sources.

In other words, it would be:

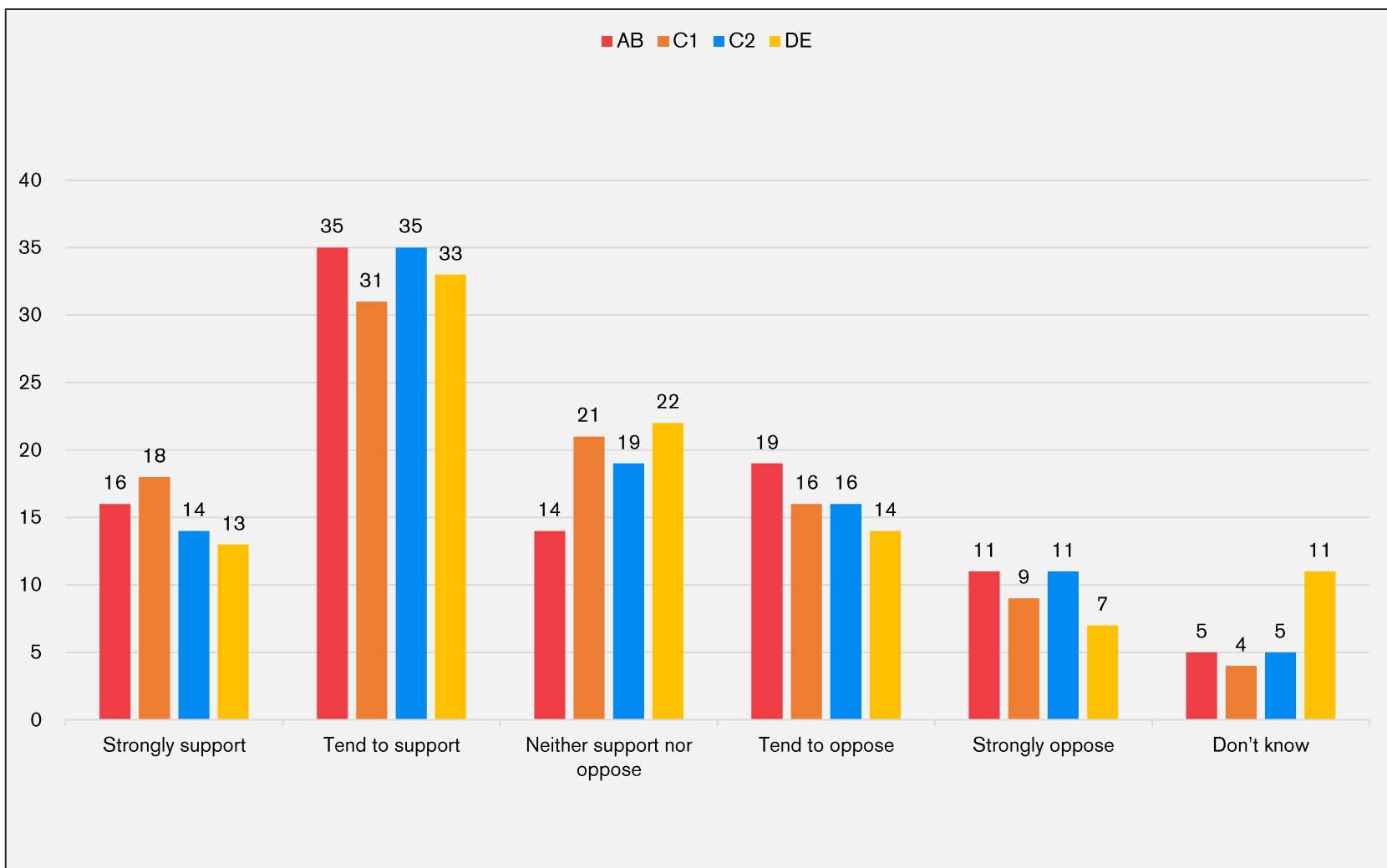
- Universal (i.e. paid to all),
- Unconditional (i.e. paid without a requirement to work); and
- Paid to individuals (rather than to a household)

Assuming the level would be set roughly at the amount the UK government judged to be necessary to cover basic needs, e.g. food and clothing (but not housing costs), to what extent would you support or oppose the UK Government introducing a basic income...

Basic Income: Ipsos Mori Survey (UK)

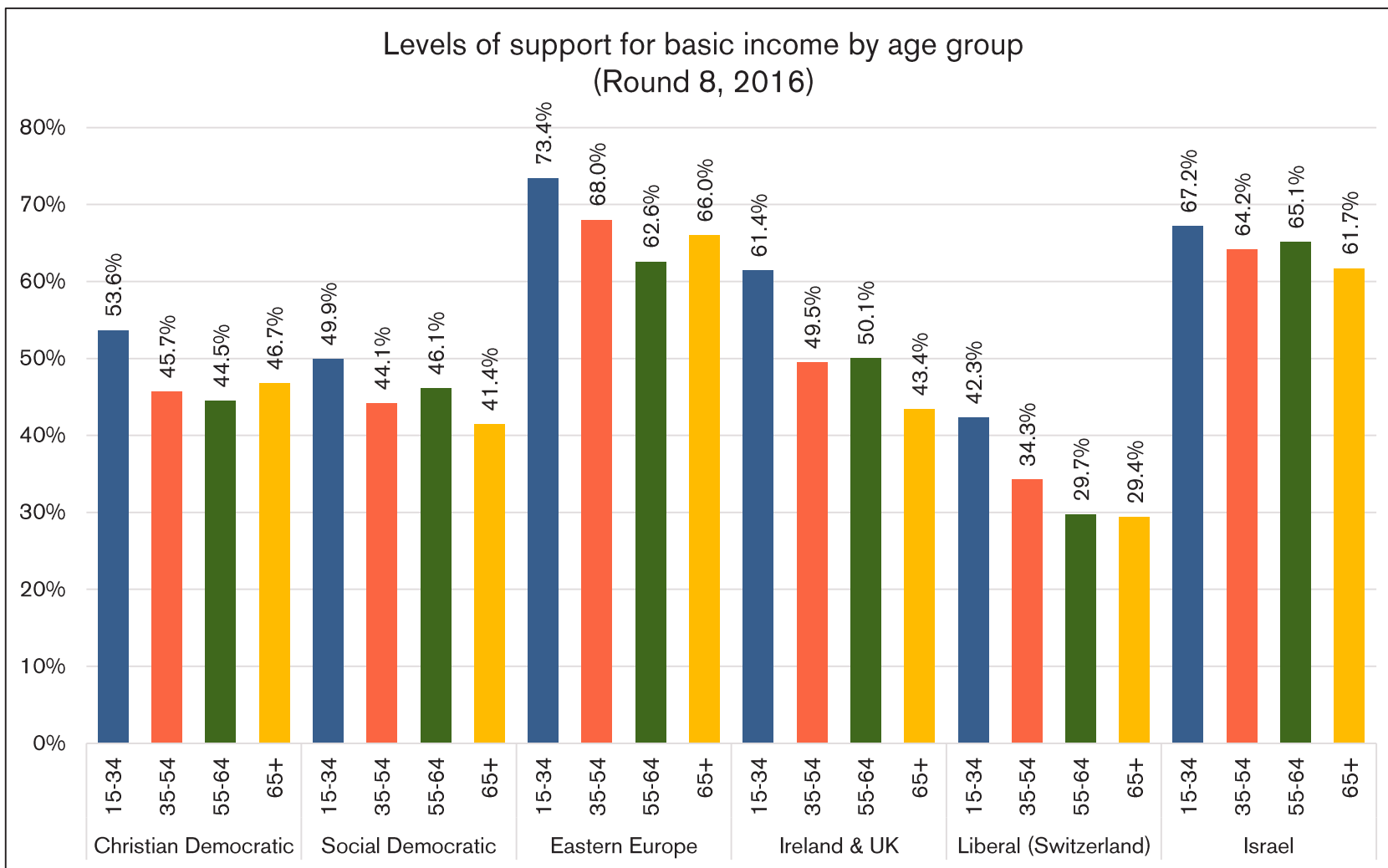


Basic Income: Ipsos Social Class

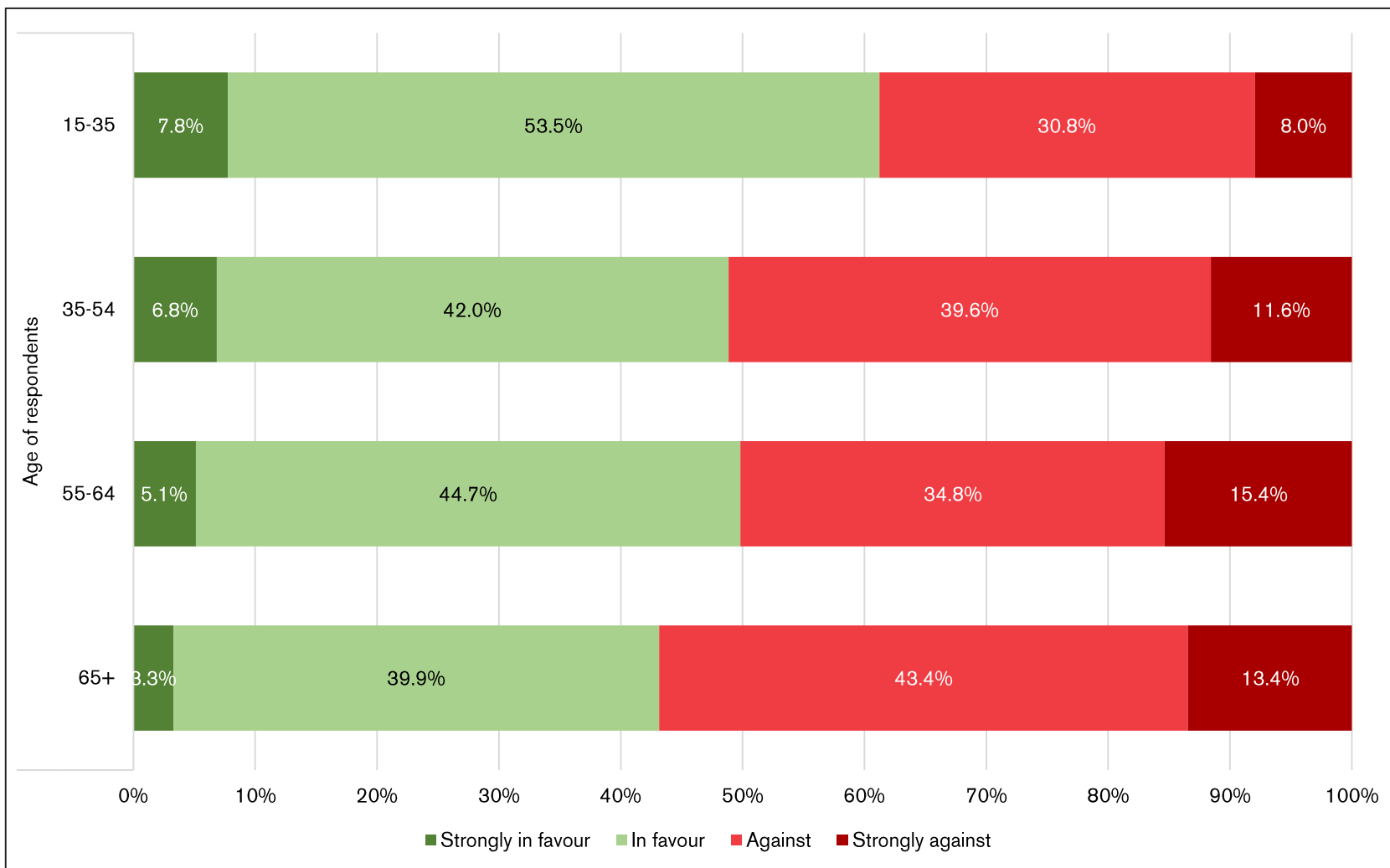


EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY ON BASIC INCOME: DEMOGRAPHICS

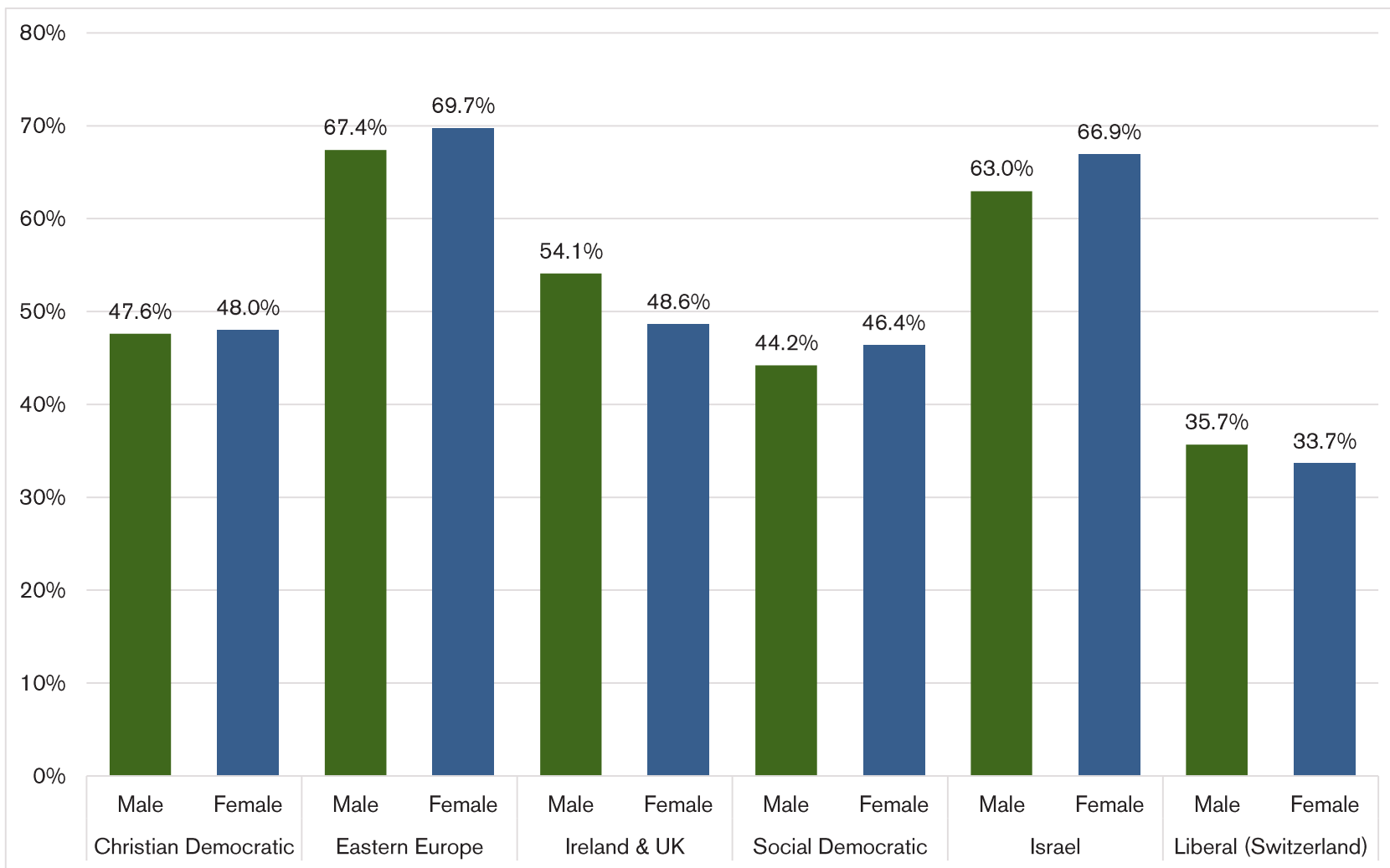
Basic Income: support by age



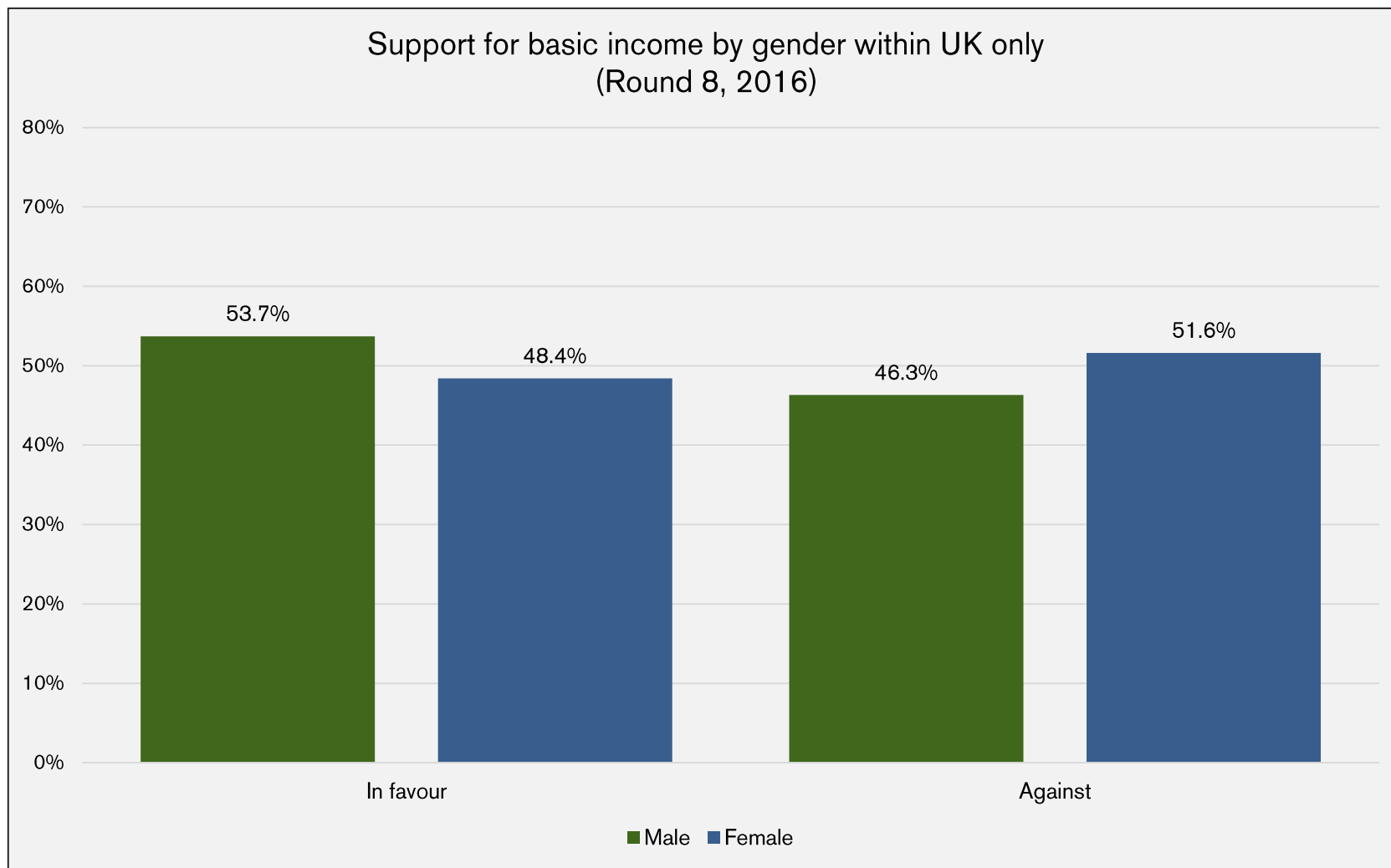
Basic Income: support by age (UK)



Basic Income: support by gender

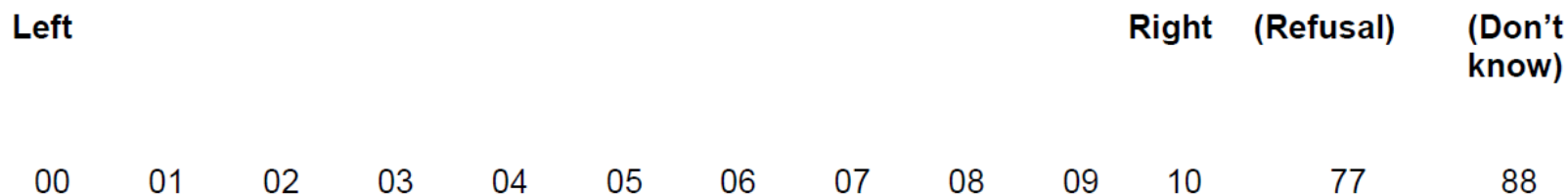


Basic Income: support by gender (UK)

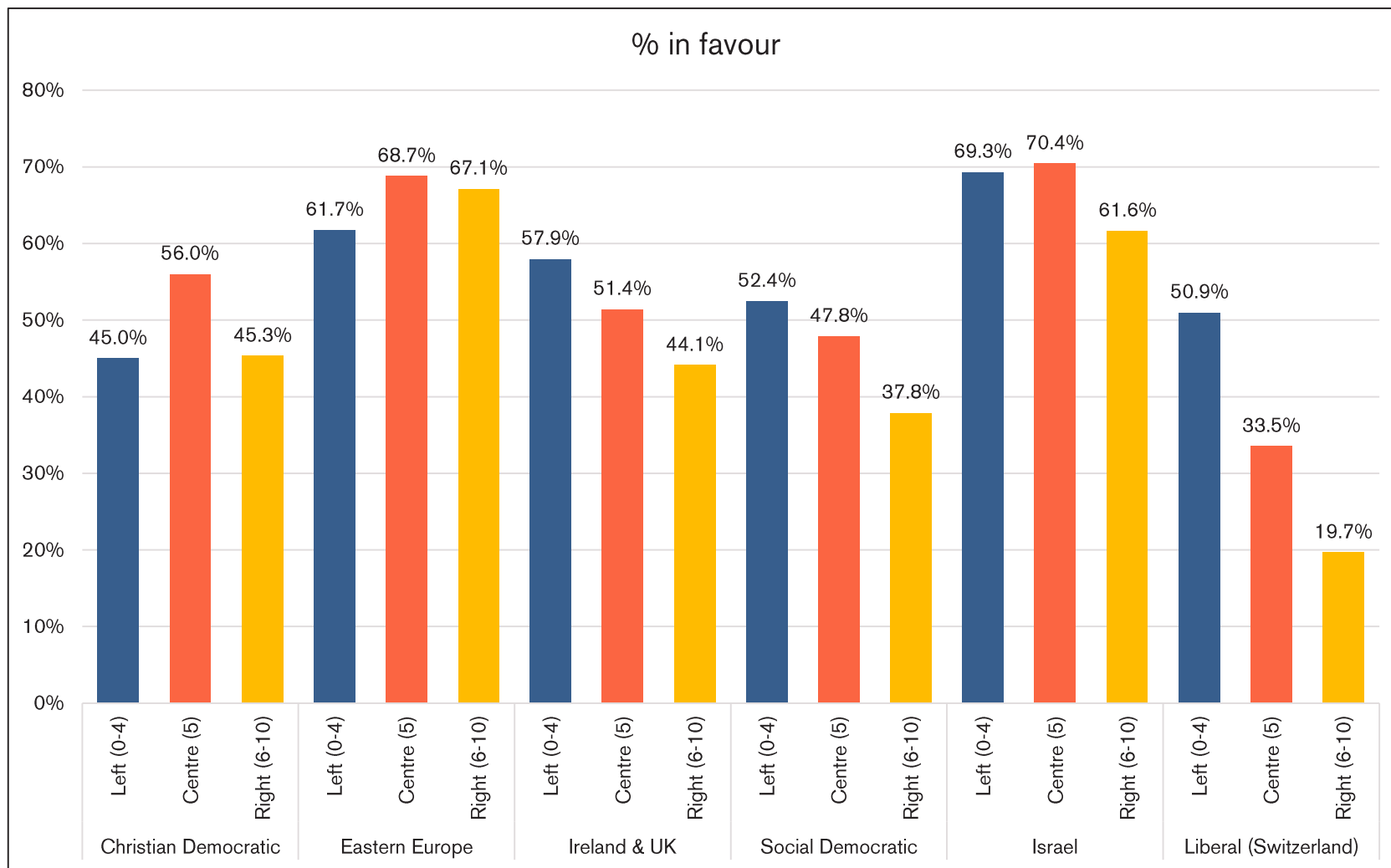


Basic Income: left-right scale

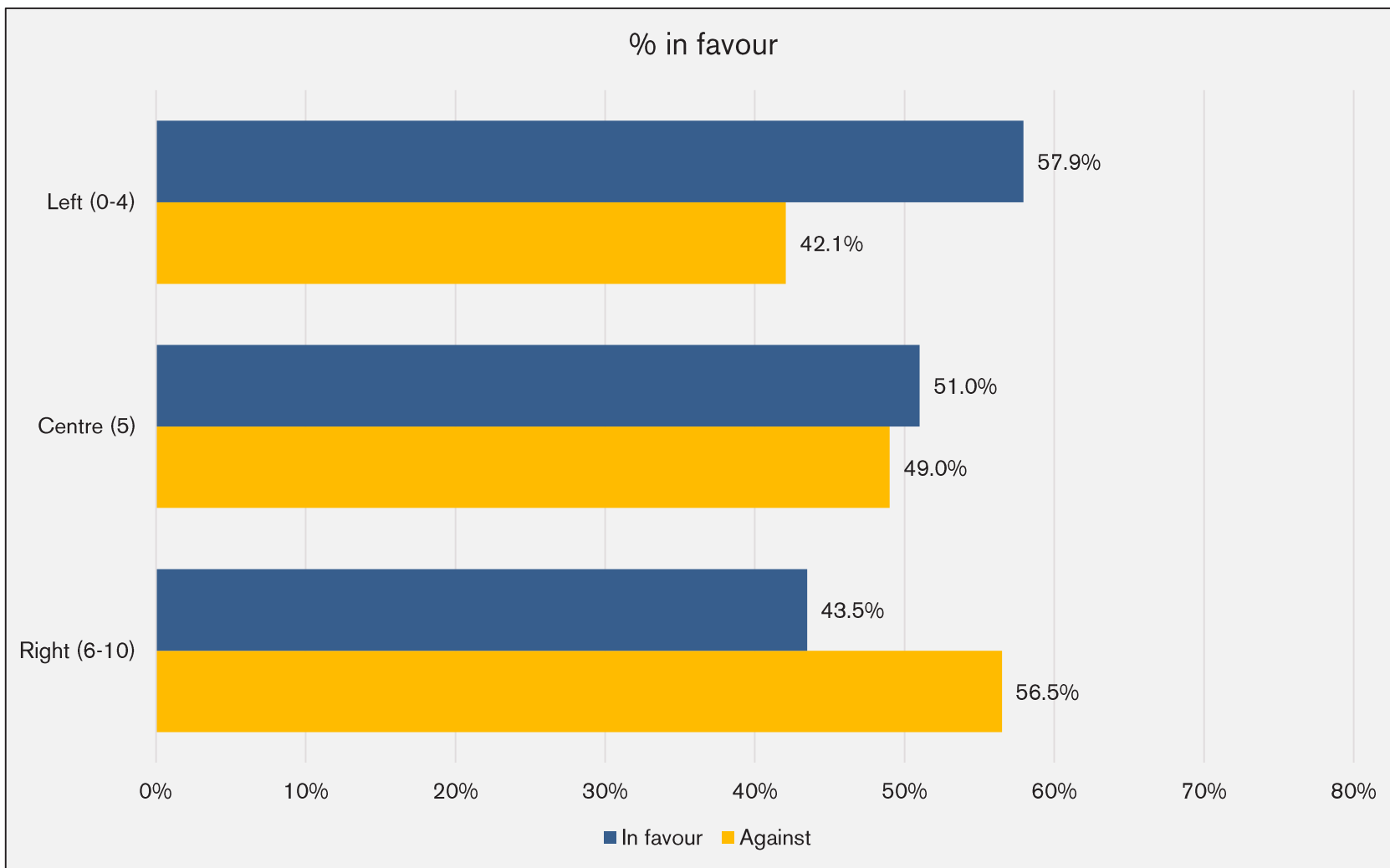
In politics people sometimes talk of “left” and “right”. Using this card, where would you place yourself on this scale, where 0 means the left and 10 means the right?



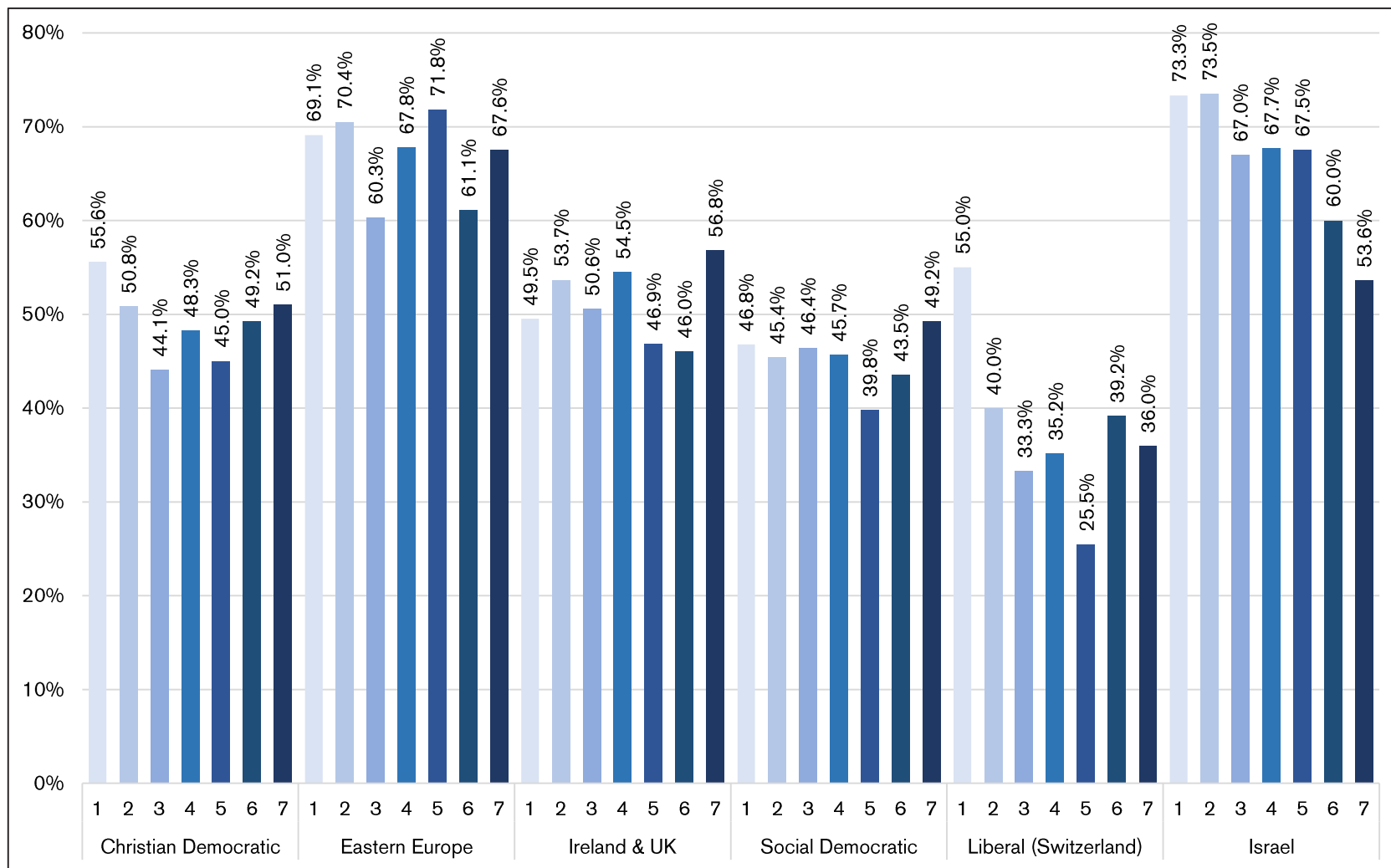
Basic Income: left-right scale



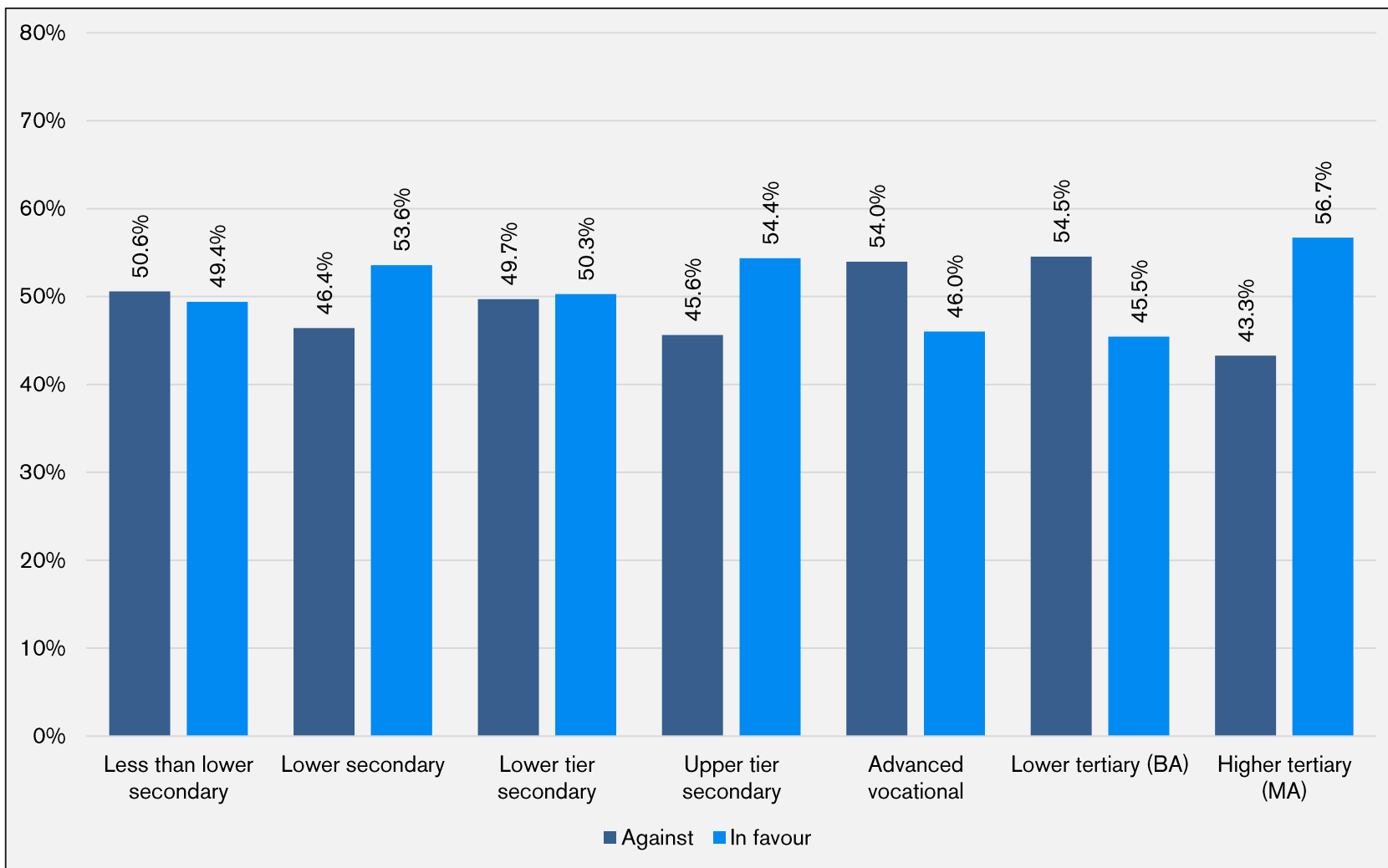
Basic Income: left-right scale (UK)



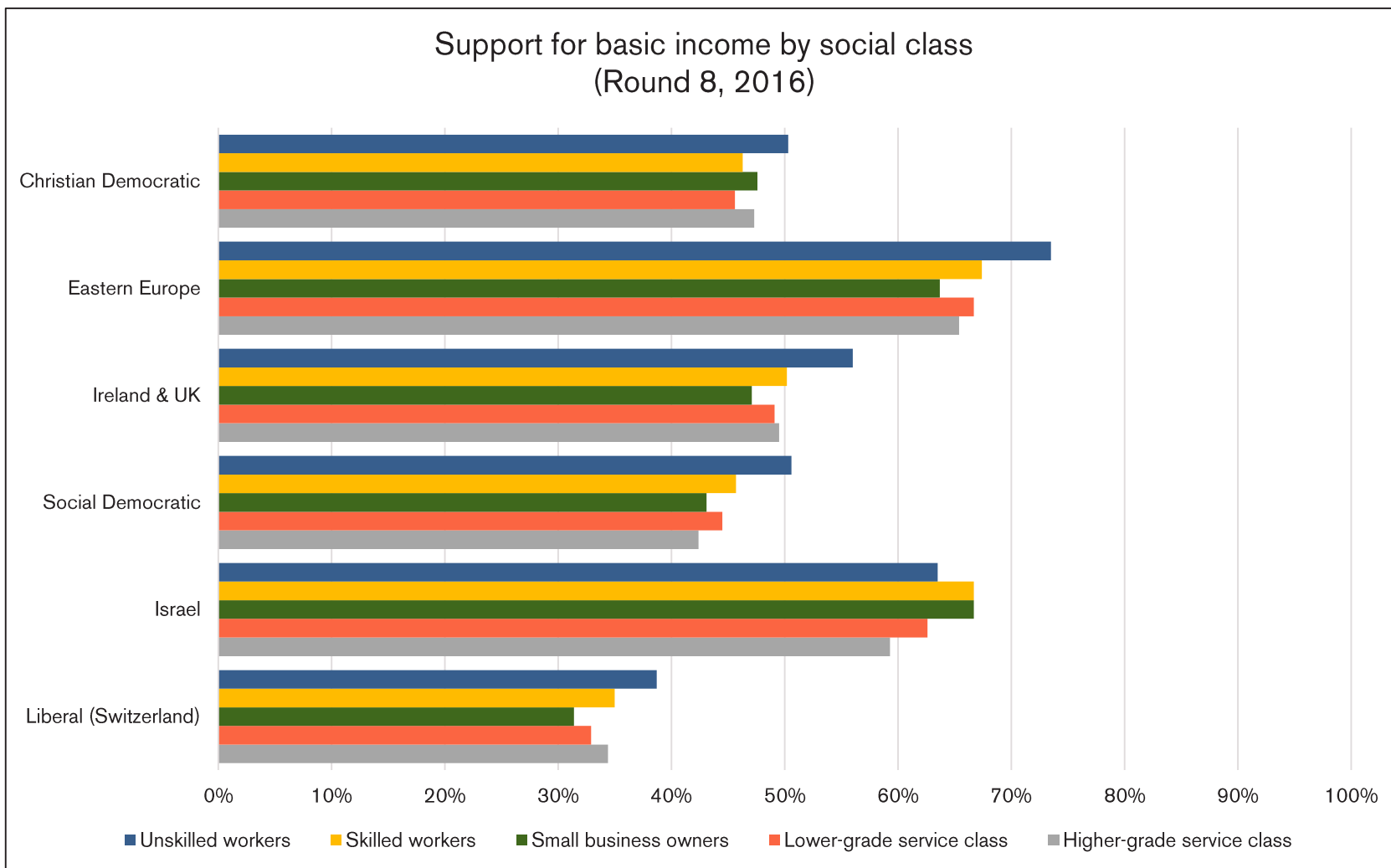
Basic Income: support by education level



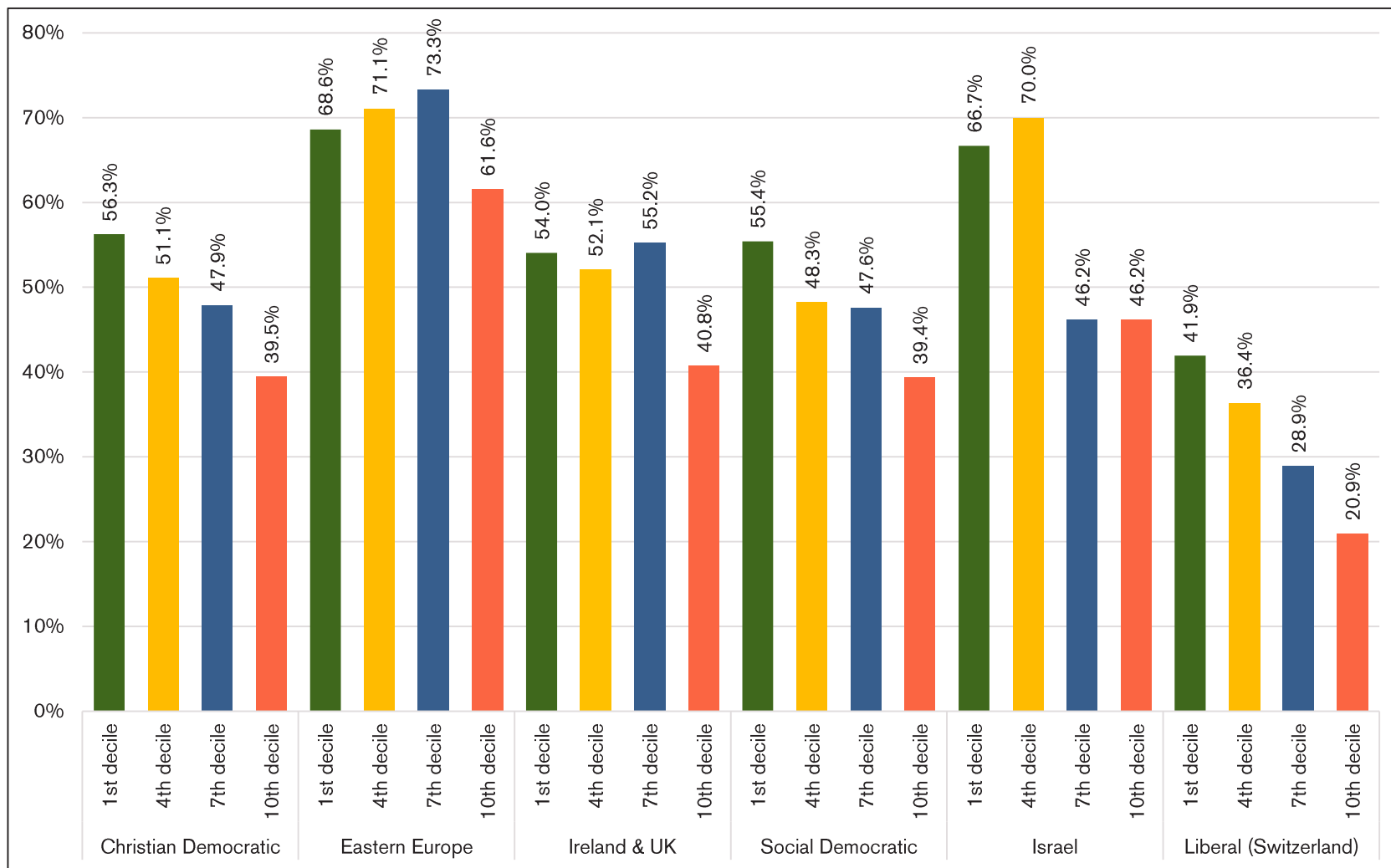
Support by education level (UK)



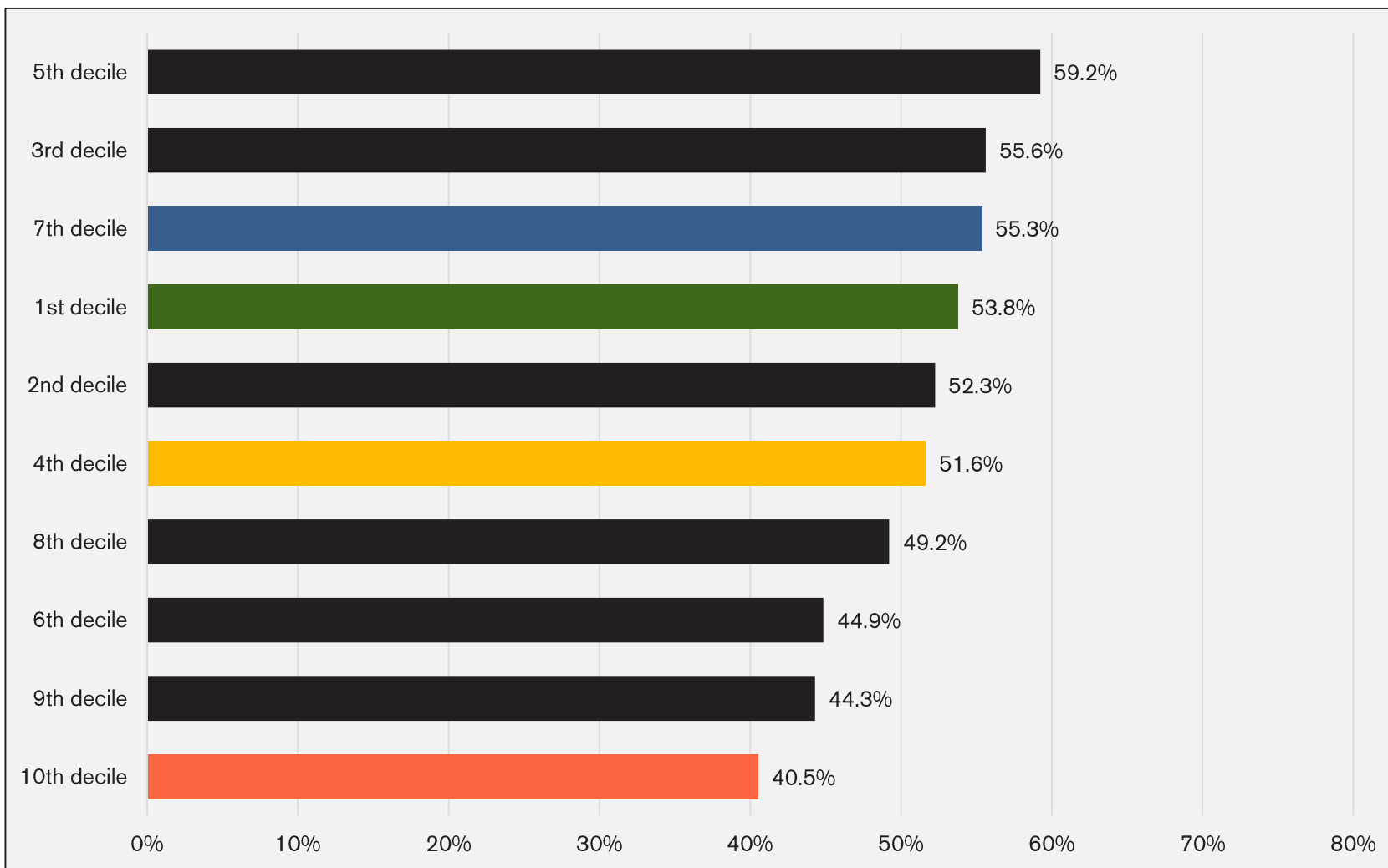
Basic Income: support by social class



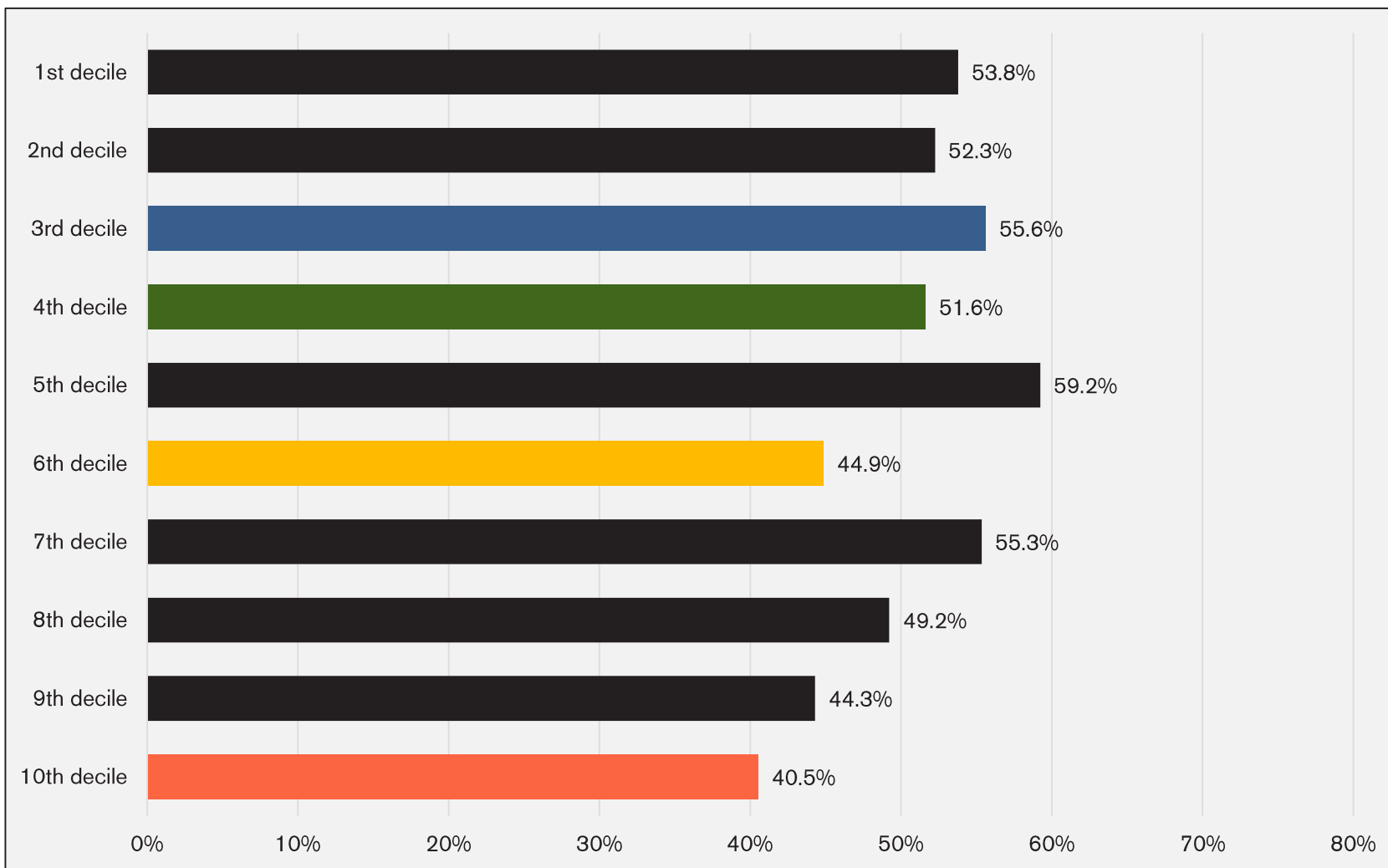
Basic Income: support by income level



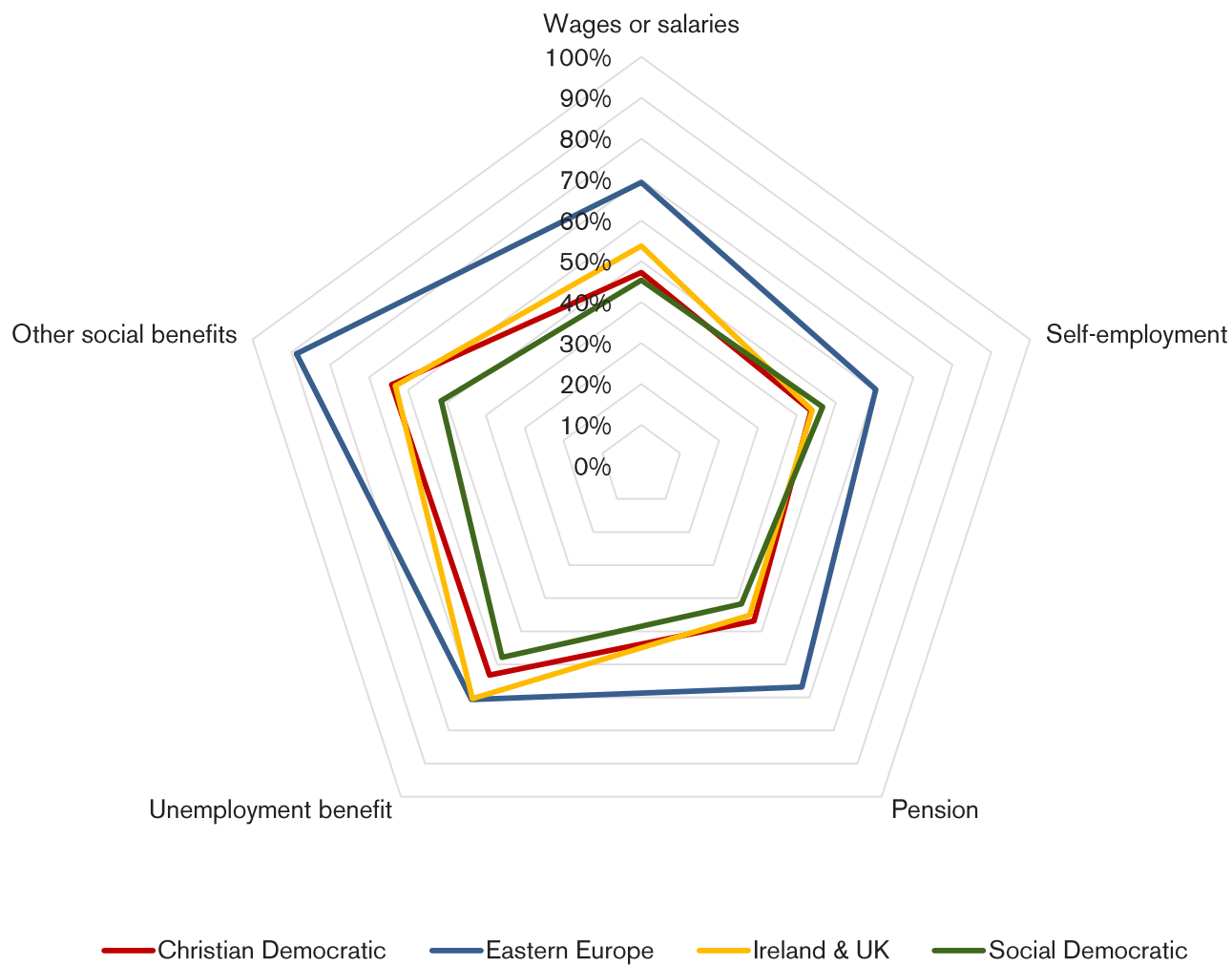
Support by income level (UK)



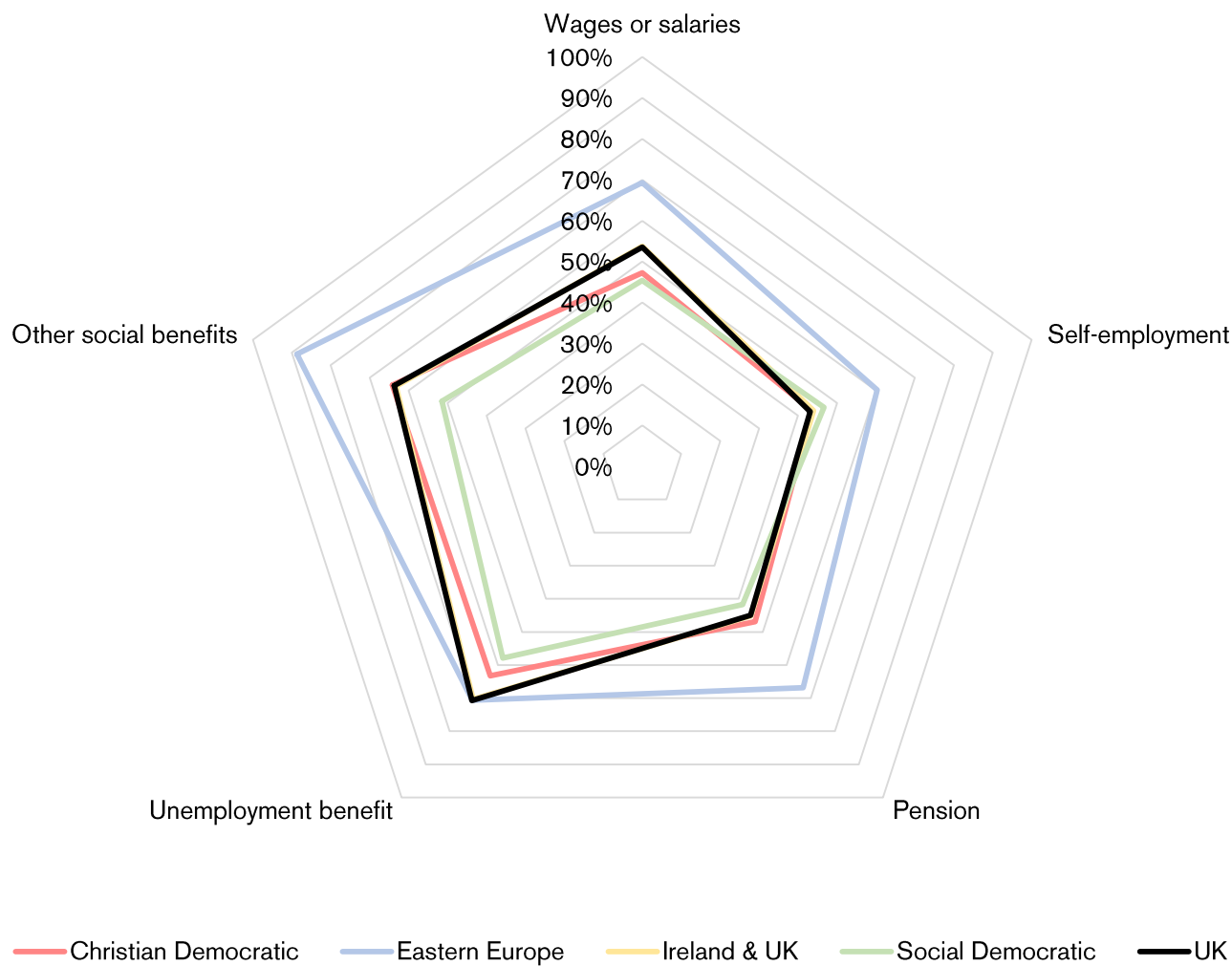
Support by income level (UK)



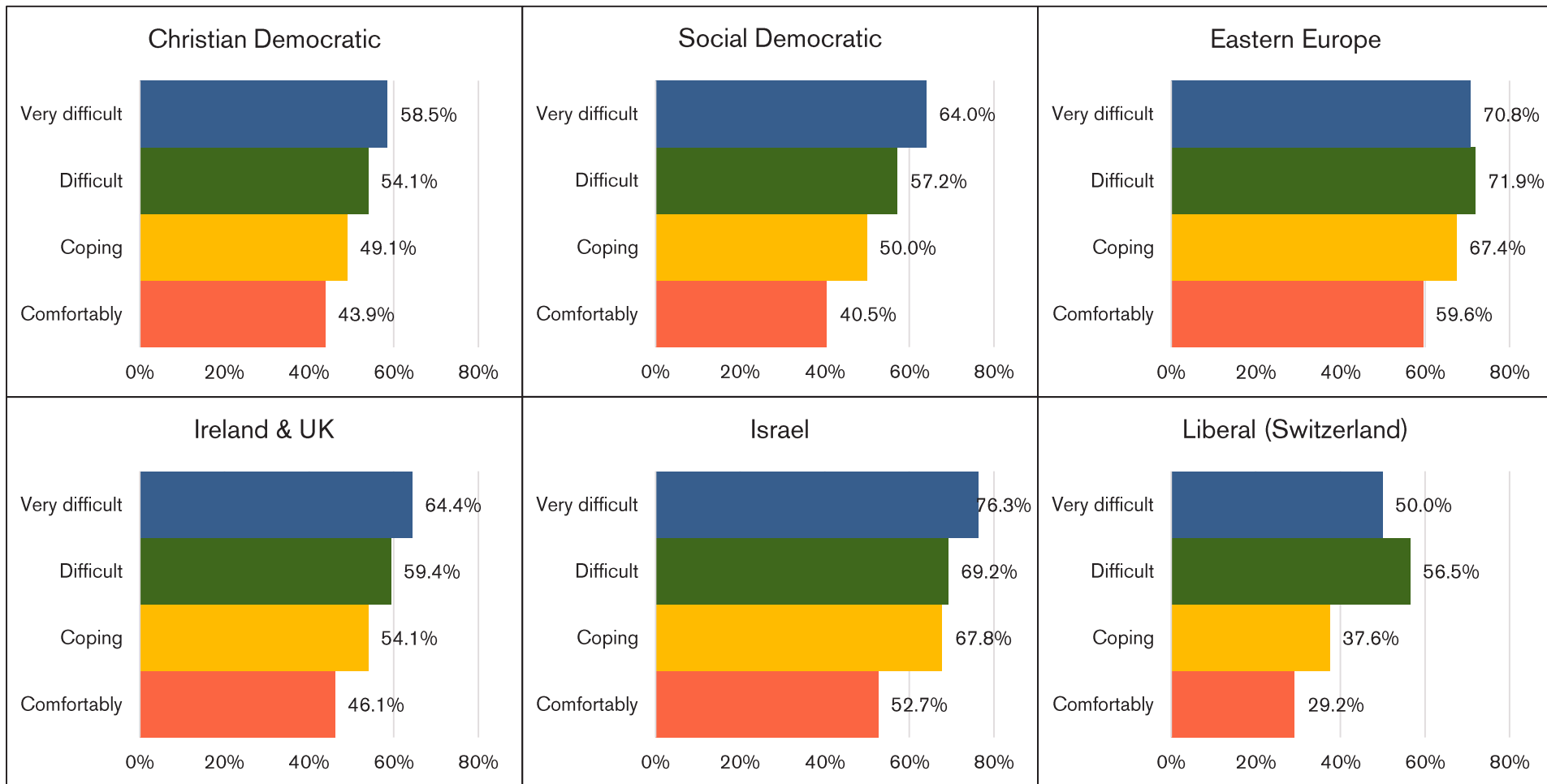
Basic Income: main source of income



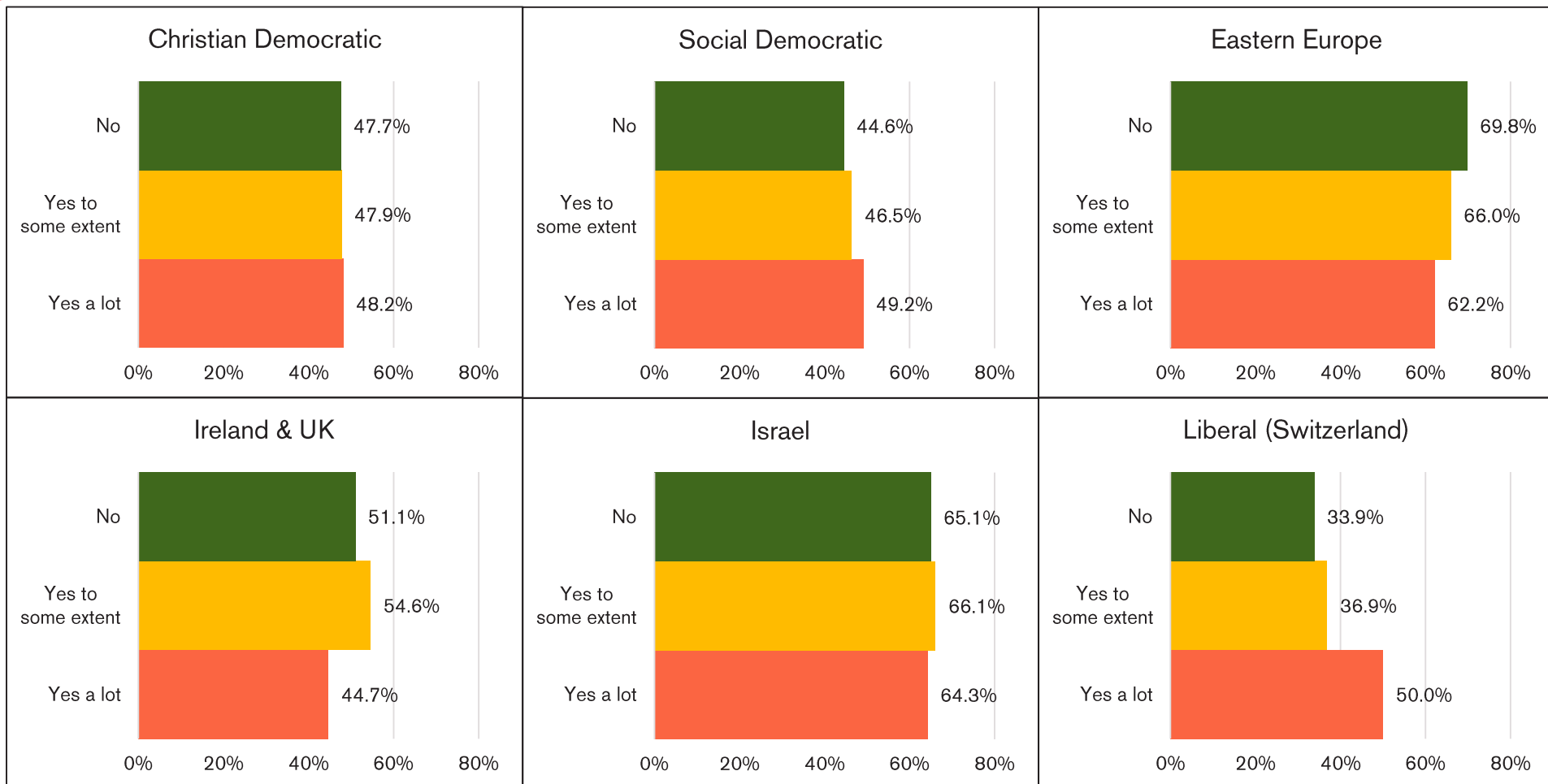
Main source of income (UK)



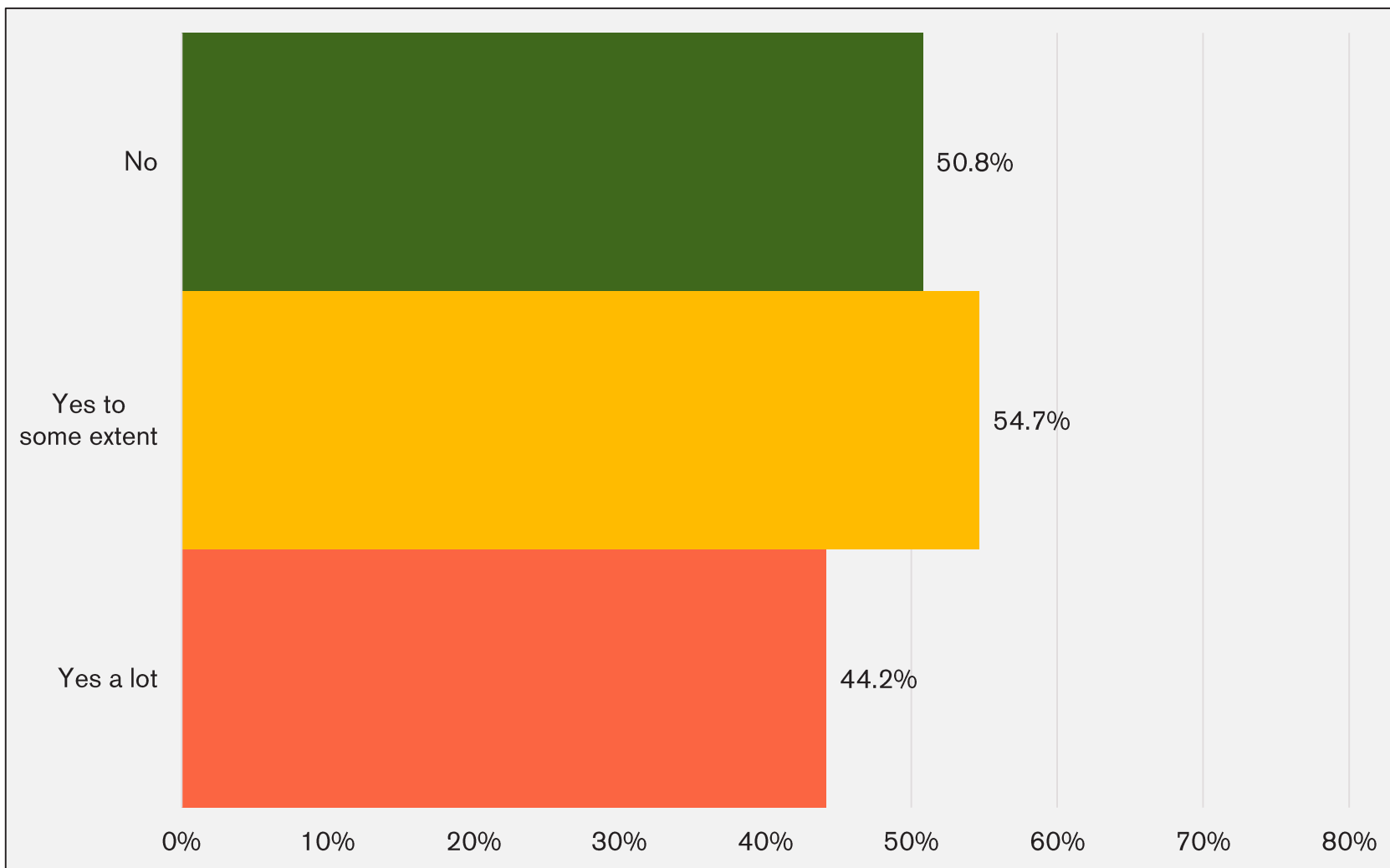
Feeling of household income



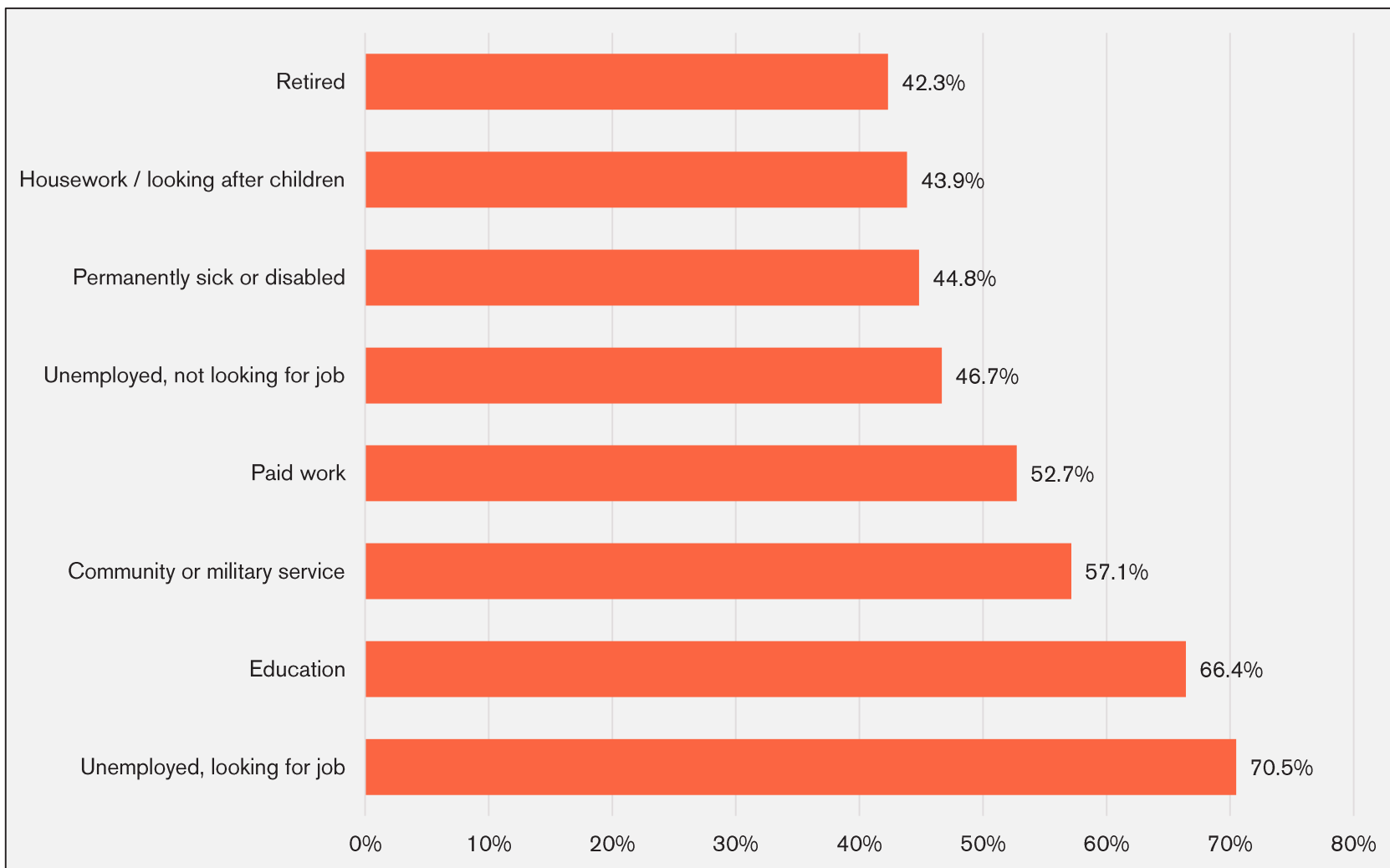
Hampered by illness/disability



Hampered by illness/disability (UK)



Basic Income: support by activity (UK)



CONCLUSION

Basic Income: Logistic Regression

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Female	.007	.026	.064	1	.800	1.007	.956	1.060
Age (0-34)			157.494	3	.000			
35-54	-.355	.034	106.152	1	.000	.701	.656	.750
55-64	-.445	.041	118.003	1	.000	.641	.591	.694
65+	-.357	.041	75.819	1	.000	.699	.645	.758
Education (years)	.006	.004	1.832	1	.176	1.006	.998	1.014
Unemployed	.140	.030	21.846	1	.000	1.150	1.085	1.219
Left-right (left)			102.897	2	.000			
Center	-.203	.032	39.655	1	.000	.816	.766	.869
Right	-.337	.033	101.239	1	.000	.714	.669	.762
Low income (1-5 decile)	.121	.030	16.108	1	.000	1.129	1.064	1.197
Feeling income (living comfortably)			156.113	2	.000			
Coping	.262	.032	68.998	1	.000	1.300	1.222	1.383
Difficult on present income	.571	.046	152.375	1	.000	1.770	1.616	1.937
Disability	-.030	.031	.944	1	.331	.971	.914	1.031
No religion	.150	.027	29.970	1	.000	1.162	1.101	1.226
Domicile (Farm/home in countryside)			30.880	4	.000			
Big city	.028	.070	.165	1	.684	1.029	.897	1.180
Suburbs	-.199	.073	7.479	1	.006	.820	.711	.945
Town/small city	-.147	.066	5.015	1	.025	.863	.758	.982
Country/village	-.108	.066	2.662	1	.103	.897	.788	1.022
Welfare groups (Uk/Ireland)			347.491	5	.000			
Social dem	-.192	.053	12.836	1	.000	.826	.744	.917
Chris dem	-.120	.039	9.585	1	.002	.887	.822	.957
Liberal CH	-.635	.102	38.542	1	.000	.530	.434	.648
E Europe	.497	.047	109.803	1	.000	1.644	1.498	1.804
Israel	.533	.126	17.728	1	.000	1.703	1.329	2.182
Control Variables								
Benefits only low income people	.384	.027	200.585	1	.000	1.469	1.393	1.549
Positive attitude toward immigration	.148	.015	102.839	1	.000	1.159	1.127	1.193
Constant	.010	.103	.009	1	.926	1.010		

- Preliminary analysis only
- Welfare attitudes quite stable between 2008-2016
- Decreases in acceptance of large income differences
- Signs that support for giving financial assistance to elderly declined by 2016
- Respondents generally able to answer question about Basic Income
- Perhaps support of UBI more solid than opposition?
- Main drivers of support: youth, unemployed, students
- Gender, class and education level not generally drivers

CONTACT

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