

# European public opinion on Mercosur, deforestation and climate financing

A YouGov survey for Rainforest Foundation Norway



Results and analysis from YouGov:

# European public opinion on Mercosur, rainforest and climate financing

Rainforest Foundation Norway commissioned YouGov to conduct a poll in 12 European countries, to study attitudes towards rainforest protection.

The survey was conducted by the YouGov analysis institute. A total of 12073 CAWI (computer-assisted web interviews) took place in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal, Germany, UK, and Austria, among respondents aged 18+ during the period of 12 - 21 January 2021.

This presentation gives a summary of the findings linked to questions about tropical deforestation and the Mercosur Trade Agreement and attitudes towards climate and biodiversity financing. It also contains background demographic variables including political preferences in all the countries.

## The poll questions were:

1 - The EU and a number of European countries recently negotiated a major trade agreement with Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay – the so-called 'Mercosur agreement'. The agreement paves the way for increased trade between Europe and South America. It also includes goals for reducing deforestation in the Amazon, though without any sanctions. Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon is now accelerating. **To what extent do you agree or disagree that [your country] should demand a halt to deforestation in the Amazon before the agreement can be ratified (approved), even if this would reduce European exports to the South American countries?** Alternatives were presented in 6-point scale, plus Don't know.

2- International environmental agreements state that all wealthy countries must increase their financial contributions in order to help poor countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity. **Which of these measures do you think [your country] should prioritize supporting?** You can choose up to 2 answers. Alternatives were: (1) support renewable energy, (2) support rainforest protection, (3) support climate adaptation, or (4) disagree with this approach, in addition to Don't know.

3- **Where would you place yourself on a traditional political scale from right to left?** Alternatives were: (1) Right-leaning – (2) Moderately right-leaning – (3) Centre – (4) Moderately left-leaning – (5) Left-leaning, and (6) Don't know.

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## Method description

Interview period & data collection method: The survey was carried out during the period from 12 - 21 January 2021 via the Internet, on the basis of the YouGov Panel.

### Target group:

The survey involved respondents from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal, Germany, UK, and Austria, aged 18+. E-mail invitations were sent to the people in the YouGov Panel that met these requirements. Data was collected in order to provide a representative cross-section of the population, on the basis of the target group.

### Weighting of data and composition of the material:

Data was weighted according to the dimensions of gender, age and geography on the basis of an ideal weighting, so that the results are representative of the population in relation to the aforementioned target group.

### Publication - of results:

On any publication of the results of the survey, YouGov must be stated clearly as the source. Prior to the publication of the results of the survey, YouGov must have the opportunity to approve the press release or other use of the results. The purpose is solely to ensure that we can vouch for the use of the results in technical analysis terms.

Press releases must be drafted in accordance with the ESOMAR rules, so that a text such as the following must be included:

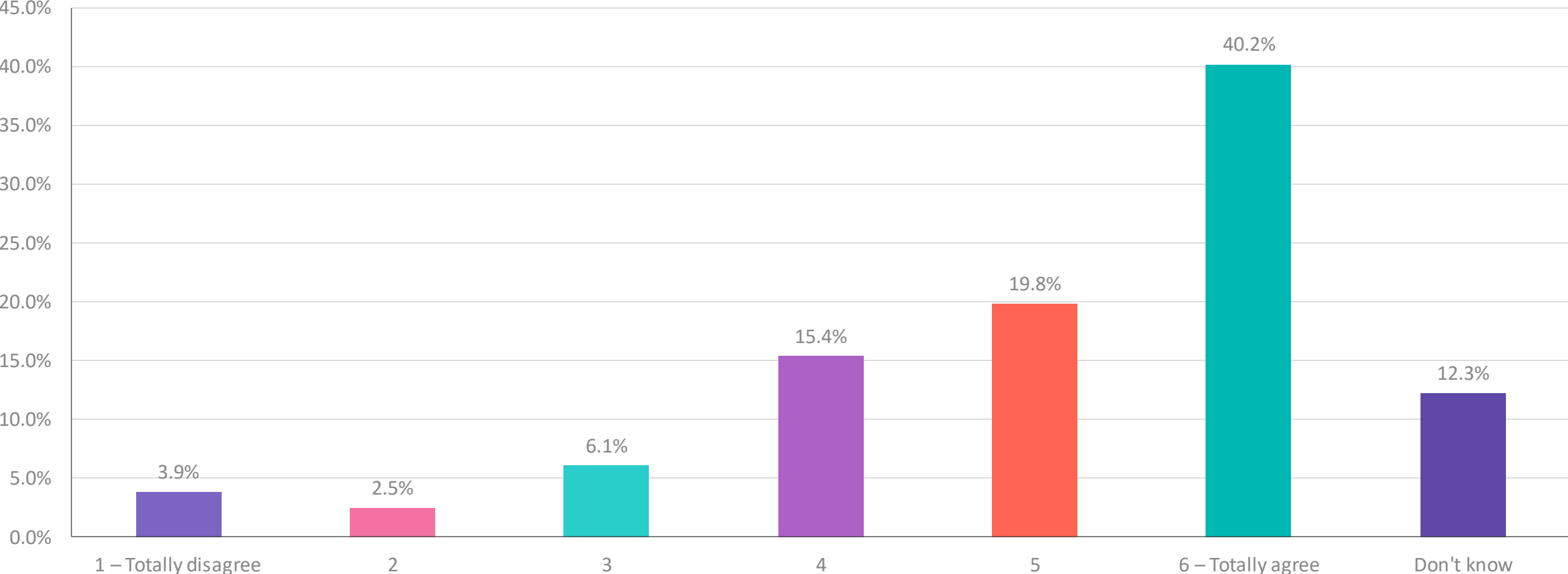
**"The survey was conducted by the YouGov analysis institute. A total of 12073 CAWI interviews took place in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, France, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal, Germany, UK, and Austria, among respondents aged 18+ during the period of 12 - 21 January 2021."**

### Interpreting the tables

The table figures have been tested for significance with a T test. A confidence interval of 95% has also been selected for this test. This test is marked with capital letters in the Excel tables. If a capital letter is shown in the tables, the result deviates significantly from the column to which the capital letter refers. The T test is also marked in the tables with red and green arrows. If a green arrow is shown in the tables, the result is significantly higher than the total. If a red arrow is shown in the tables, the result is significantly lower than the total. **In the power-point tables, significance levels are indicated with shades of red and green, compared with the base (total).**

# Degree of agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped

A clear majority in all polled countries agree that their countries should demand a halt to deforestation in the Amazon before the agreement can be ratified (approved), even if this would reduce European exports to the South American countries. Overall, 40% agree totally, 60% a lot and 75% agree mostly with this position.

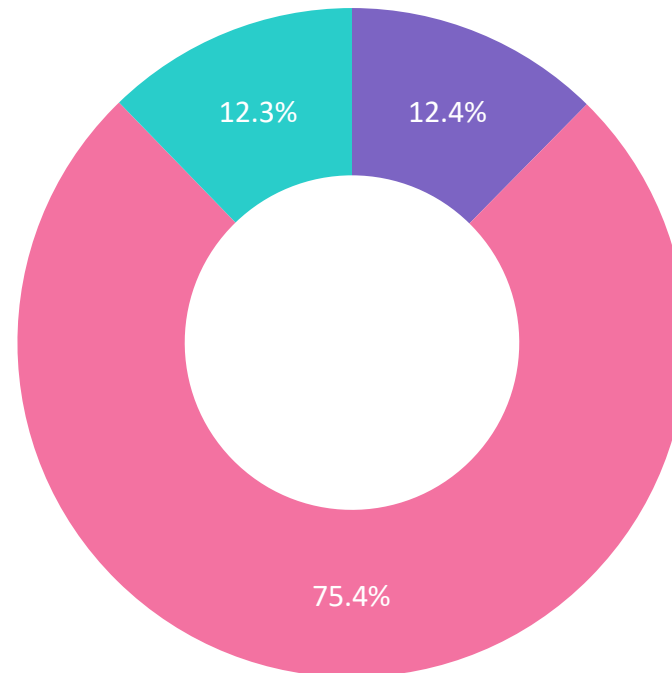


## Yes/No: Agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped

Merging the three top/bottom categories into simple yes and no shows the same pattern even more clearly:

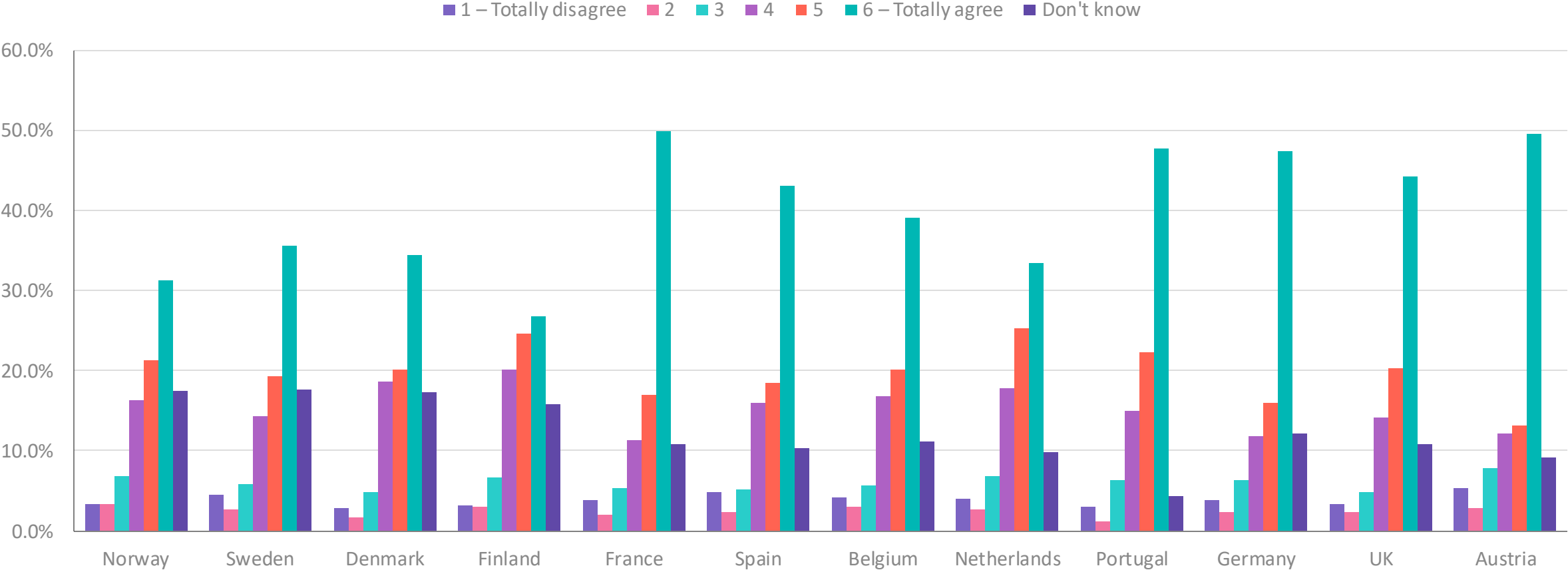
3 out of 4 polled individuals across 12 European countries agree that their country should demand a halt to deforestation in the Amazon before the agreement can be ratified (approved), even if this would reduce European exports to the South American countries.

■ 2, 3, 1 – Net disagree   ■ 5, 4, 6 – Net agree   ■ Don't know



# Degree of agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped, by country

This figure shows the full distribution of polled alternatives along a 6 point scale from totally disagree to totally agree. Note the high share of 6 in France, Portugal but also Germany and Austria. Table on next slide shows the same data and the significance of the differences marked with red/green.



# Degree of agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped

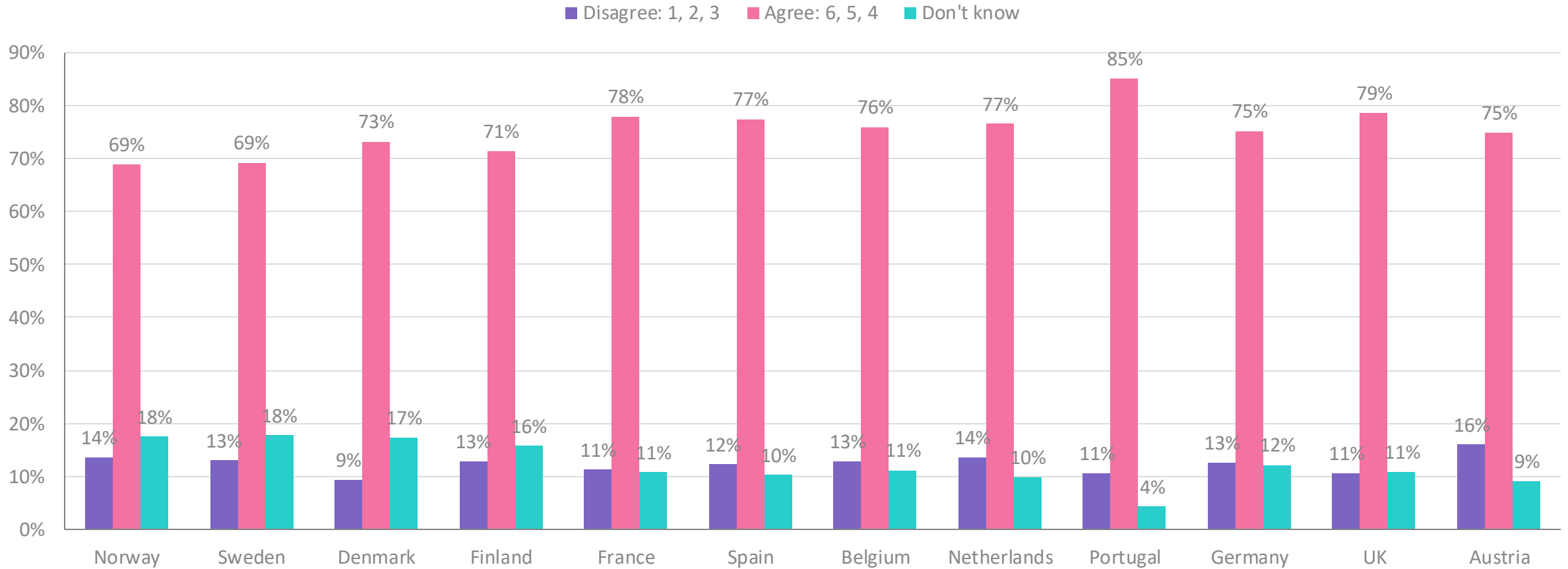
A deeper national breakdown shows that the support to ensure deforestation in the Amazon is halted before the agreement can be ratified (approved) is particularly strong in Portugal, France, Germany, Austria and the UK. The Nordic population seem less concerned or informed. However, the overall support is strong in each polled country.

	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Finland	France	Spain	Belgium	Netherland	Portugal	Germany	UK	Austria	All
1 – Totally disagree	3.4%	4.5%	2.8%	3.1%	3.9%	4.8%	4.2%	4.0%	3.1%	3.9%	3.4%	5.3%	3.9%
2	3.4%	2.7%	1.7%	3.1%	2.1%	2.4%	3.0%	2.7%	1.1%	2.4%	2.3%	2.8%	2.5%
3	6.9%	5.8%	4.9%	6.7%	5.3%	5.1%	5.6%	6.8%	6.4%	6.3%	4.9%	7.9%	6.1%
4	16.3%	14.4%	18.7%	20.1%	11.2%	15.9%	16.8%	17.8%	15.1%	11.8%	14.1%	12.2%	15.4%
5	21.3%	19.3%	20.2%	24.5%	16.9%	18.5%	20.1%	25.3%	22.2%	16.0%	20.3%	13.2%	19.8%
6 – Totally agree	31.3%	35.6%	34.4%	26.8%	49.8%	43.0%	39.0%	33.5%	47.8%	47.4%	44.2%	49.5%	40.2%
Don't know	17.5%	17.7%	17.4%	15.7%	10.8%	10.3%	11.2%	9.9%	4.3%	12.2%	10.9%	9.1%	12.3%
Net: [1-2]	6.8%	7.2%	4.5%	6.2%	6.0%	7.2%	7.2%	6.7%	4.2%	6.3%	5.7%	8.1%	6.3%
Net: [5-6]	52.6%	54.9%	54.6%	51.3%	66.7%	61.5%	59.1%	58.8%	70.0%	63.4%	64.4%	62.7%	60.0%
Unweighted N	1010	1011	1016	1004	1006	1004	1000	1000	1011	1000	1002	1001	12065
Mean	4.73	4.80	4.88	4.66	5.07	4.90	4.83	4.75	5.04	5.00	5.00	4.91	4.88



# Yes/No: Degree of agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped

Merging the three top/bottom categories shows the same pattern also on individual country level, but the German and Austrian signal becomes less significant, stemming from the large shares given to the “totally agree” category in those countries.





## Yes/No: Degree of agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped

The data table confirms the above finding and marks the significant differences between countries compared with polled average. Portugal, UK and France are particularly strong, while Nordics have significantly higher shares of don't know. All countries have strong majorities against signing the agreement now.

	Country												
	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Finland	France	Spain	Belgium	Netherlan	Portugal	Germany	UK	Austria	All
Disagree: 1, 2, 3	14%	13%	9%	13%	11%	12%	13%	14%	11%	13%	11%	16%	12%
Agree: 6, 5, 4	69%	69%	73%	71%	78%	77%	76%	77%	85%	75%	79%	75%	75%
Don't know	18%	18%	17%	16%	11%	10%	11%	10%	4%	12%	11%	9%	12%
Unweight ed N	1010	1011	1016	1004	1006	1004	1000	1000	1011	1000	1002	1001	12065



## Analysis based on political viewpoints

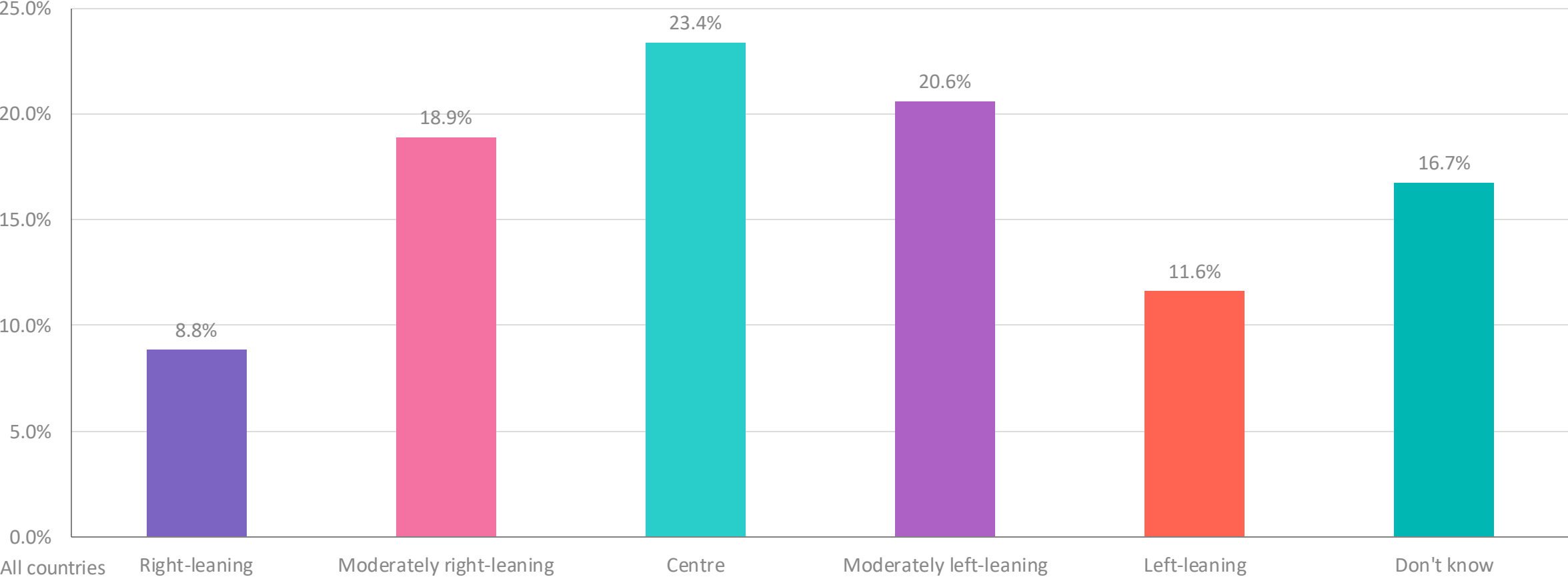
In addition to general demographics and questions about rainforests and attitudes to the Mercosur agreement in that respect, we asked about political standpoint based on a general right-left axis.

The following slides go through the overall findings on the political standpoint distribution, and provides an analysis of willingness to halt the Mercosur trade agreement based on other political stance.

We find it interesting that the overall support for halting ratification of the trade agreement is maintained across all political groups as well as in all countries, although there are clear differences along the right-left axis.

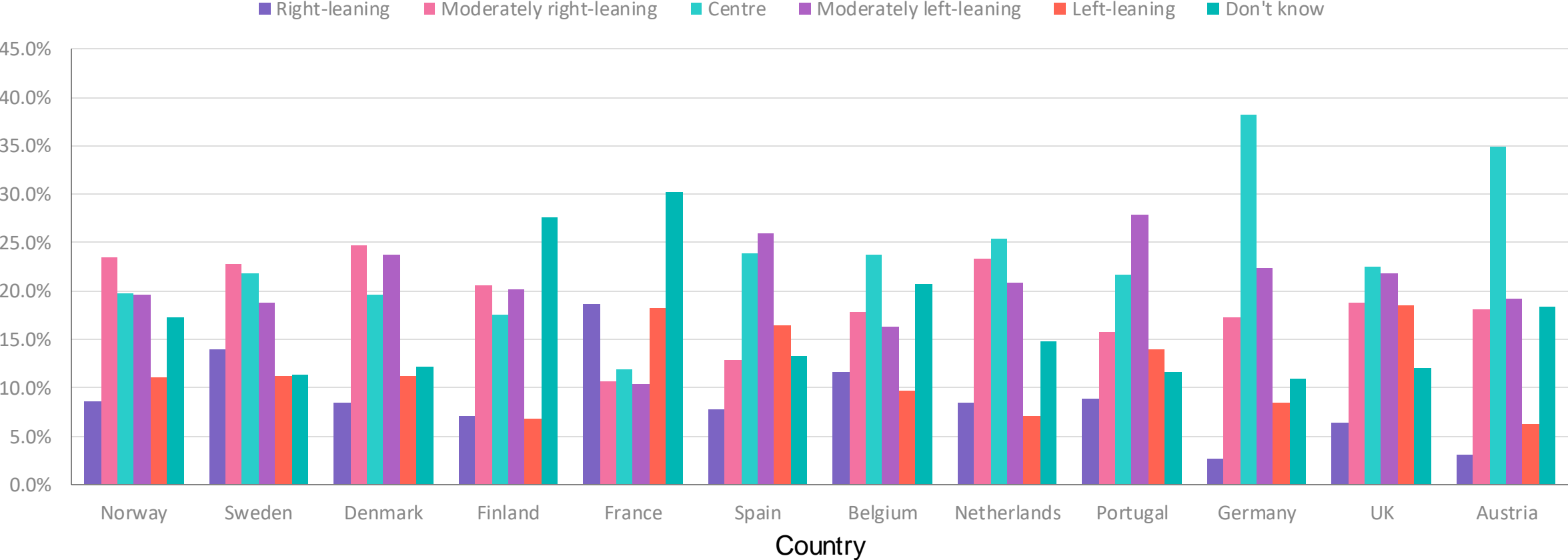
# Political viewpoint: “Placement on a traditional political scale from right to left?”

The overall average across the 12 polled nations shows a centre weighted distribution, but with a significant share of 'don't know'.



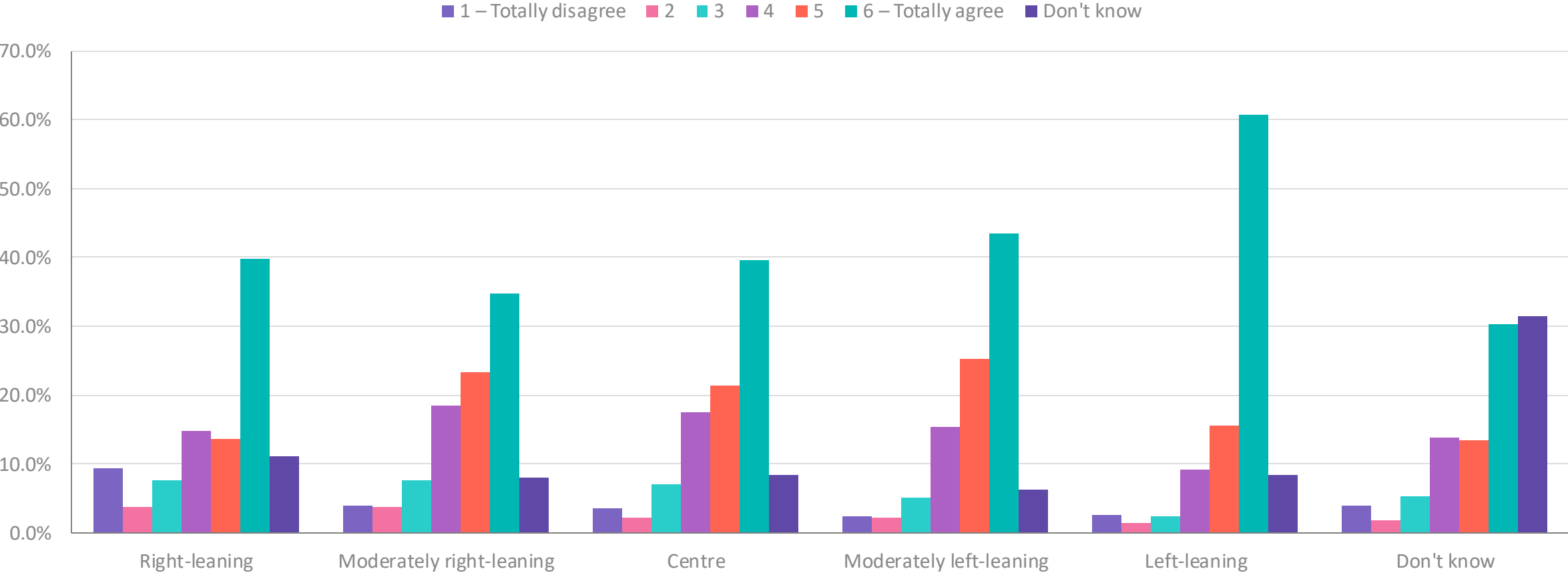
# Political standpoint by country: “Placement on a traditional political scale from right to left?”

The political realities are different in each country. Interesting to note a relatively high «right-leaning» tendency in Sweden and France, and that the proportion of «don't know» are above 25% in both Finland and France. There is also very small «right-leaning» in Germany and Austria, which have a much higher «centre» standpoint.



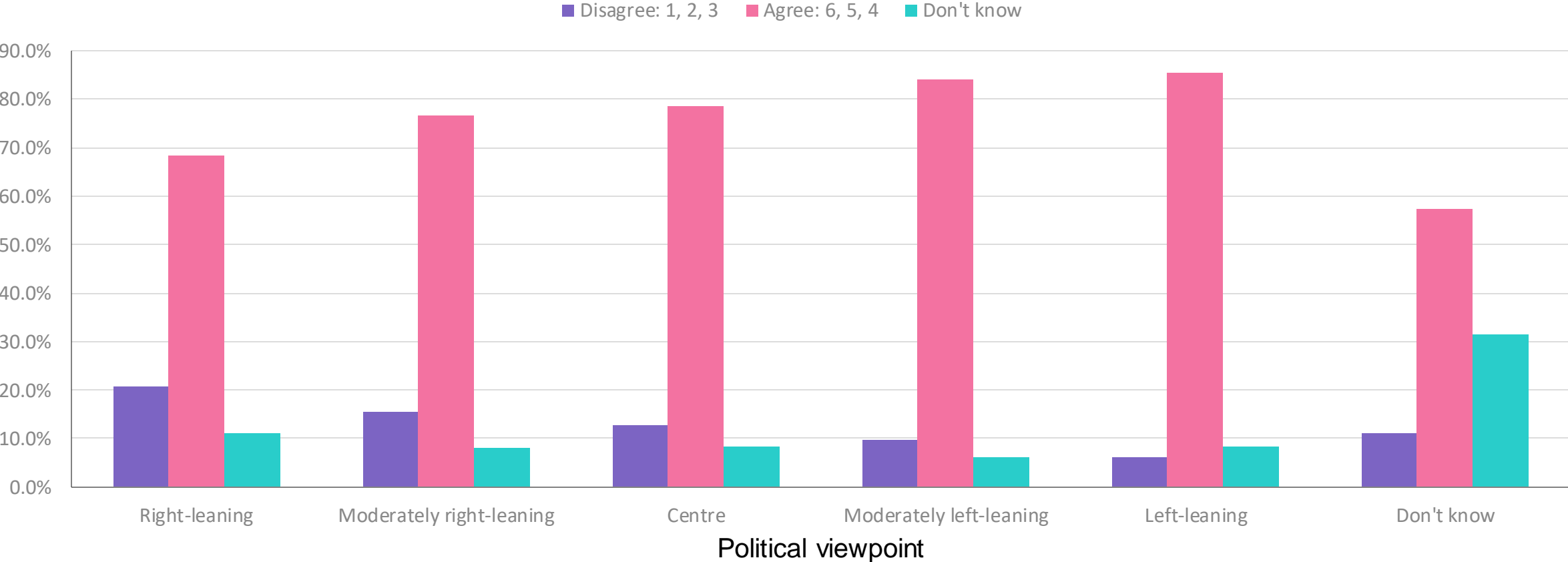
# Degree of agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped, by political standpoint

Analysis of attitudes towards deforestation and the Mercosur agreement based on political views shows a clear tendency to agree more to the halting of the Mercosur Trade Agreement for politically left leaning respondents, but even «totally agree» has a clear majority across all political groups on aggregate level. Detailed national analysis shows this to be true also in each respective country.



# Yes/No to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped, by political standpoint

In spite of differences, the overall agreement across political viewpoints is even clearer when the «agrees» and «disagrees» are bundled into yes and no.



# Yes/No to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped, by political standpoint

This table shows the statistical significant variation between the political groups, as shown on the former slide.

	Political viewpoint						All
	Right-leaning	Moderately right-leaning	Centre	Moderately left-leaning	Left-leaning	Don't know	
Disagree: 1, 2, 3	20.7%	15.4%	12.9%	9.7%	6.2%	11.1%	12.3%
Agree: 6, 5, 4	68.3%	76.6%	78.7%	84.1%	85.4%	57.5%	75.7%
Don't know	11.0%	8.0%	8.4%	6.2%	8.3%	31.4%	12.0%
Unweighted N	1049	2242	2763	2428	1362	1984	11828



## Other demographic variables: Age, Education, Gender

The study also included other demographic variables like age, gender and education. In most countries data on income, employment, regions and family lifecycle were also collected, but the latter are not comparable across all countries, so only included in the national datasets.

The dataset shows stronger variation based on political viewpoints than any of the other variables regarding the deforestation/mercosur issue.

In short, age and education showed only limited variation towards the deforestation/mercosur question, generally with a bit more support with increasing age and education, and a little more unawareness with reduced age and education.

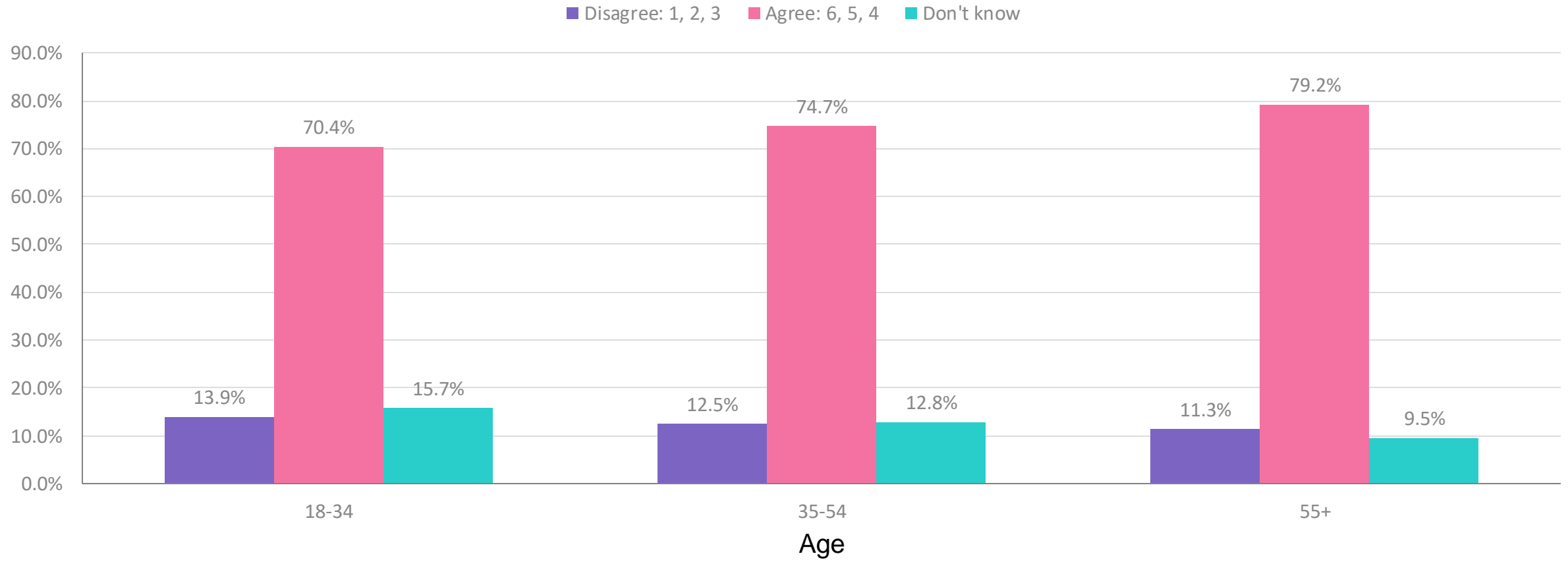
On the overall level, there were no significant differences based on gender towards this question, although gender caused some differences on the national levels.

Some of the demographic analyses are included below for consistency.



# Yes/No to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped, by age

Overall very small differences, but older age tend to agree more.



## Yes/No to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped, by age

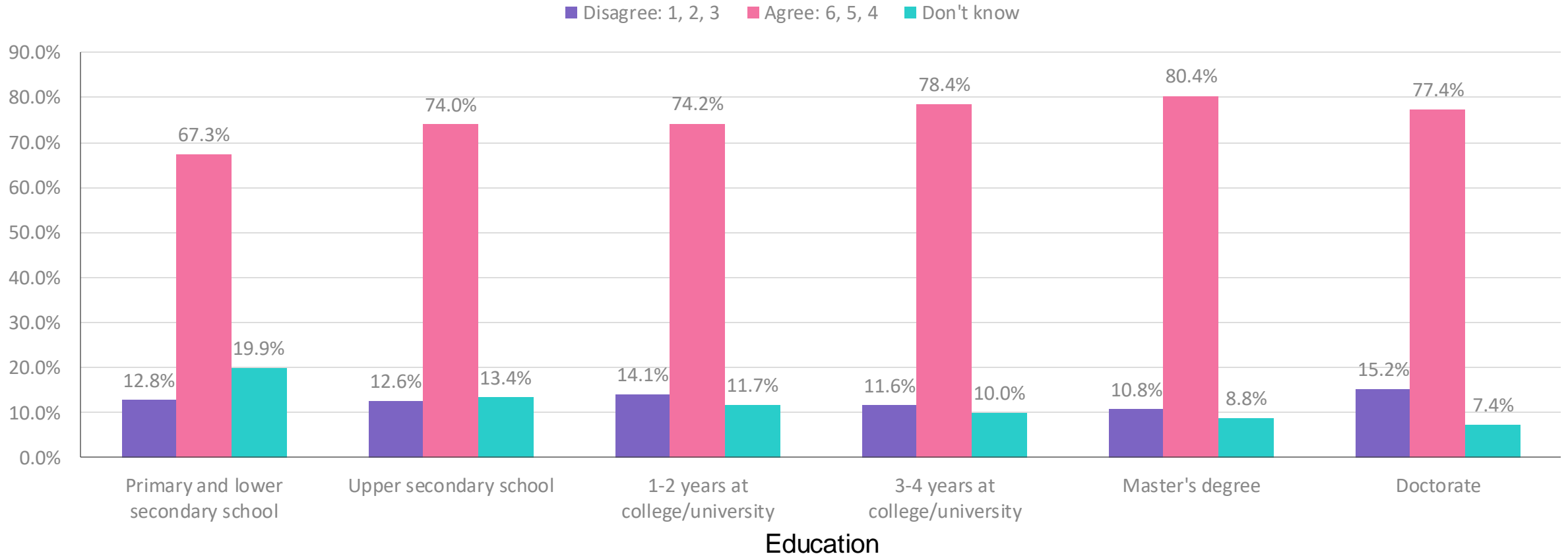
This table shows the statistical significant variation between age groups.

Yes / No Degree of agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped	Age			All
	18-34	35-54	55+	
Disagree: 1, 2, 3	13.9%	12.5%	11.3%	12.4%
Agree: 6, 5, 4	70.4%	74.7%	79.2%	75.4%
Don't know	15.7%	12.8%	9.5%	12.3%
Unweighted N	3134	4055	4876	12065



# Yes/No to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped, by education

There are overall very small differences, but respondents with longer education tends to agree more, and report less «don't know».



## Yes/No to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped, by education

This table shows the statistical significant variation of length of education. There are overall very small differences, but respondents with longer education tends to agree more, and report less «don't know».

Yes / No Degree of agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped	Education						All
	Primary and lower secondary school	Upper secondary school	1-2 years at college/university	3-4 years at college/university	Master's degree	Doctorate	
Disagree: 1, 2, 3	12.8%	12.6%	14.1%	11.6%	10.8%	15.2%	12.4%
Agree: 6, 5, 4	67.3%	74.0%	74.2%	78.4%	80.4%	77.4%	75.4%
Don't know	19.9%	13.4%	11.7%	10.0%	8.8%	7.4%	12.3%
Unweighted N	1228	4382	1578	3015	1610	252	12065



# Yes/No to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped, by gender

Gender does not show significant differences on the aggregate level on this question.

## Gender

Yes / No Degree of agreement to halt the EU-Mercosur trade agreement until Amazon deforestation is stopped	Female	Male	All
Disagree: 1, 2, 3	12.3%	12.4%	12.4%
Agree: 6, 5, 4	75.7%	75.1%	75.4%
Don't know	12.0%	12.5%	12.3%
Unweighted N	6015	6050	12065



## PART 2: Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity

As outlined in the initial slide, the polling also asked about attitudes and preferences towards financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biodiversity. The following slides provide results and analysis based on this question.

Respondents could choose up to 2 answers. The overall finding is that rainforest protection (57%) and renewable energy (47%) came up on top, with climate adaptation receiving less support. Only 10% disagreed with the overall approach of providing financial support to developing countries to reduce climate change and protect biodiversity.

As with the question regarding Mercosur and deforestation, political standpoint was the strongest demographic variable, and most clear regarding disagreement with the approach.

The overall dataset did not show significant differences based on income or gender on this subject, and only to a limited degree based on education and age. Renewable energy and climate adaptation are slightly more popular among younger segments, while rainforest protection is more popular among seniors. Higher age tended to decrease support for such measures slightly, while higher education tended to increase this support.

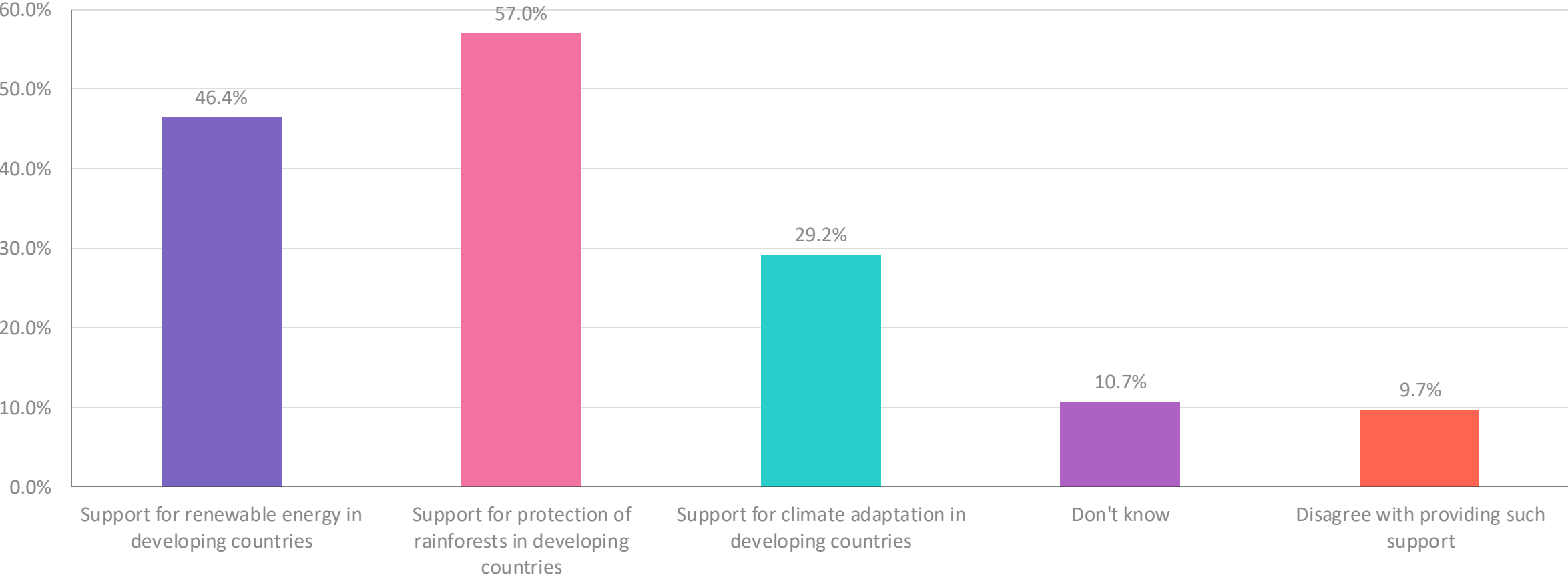
The question posed was the following:

«International environmental agreements state that all wealthy countries must increase their financial contributions in order to help poor countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity. Which of these measures do you think your country should prioritise supporting? You can choose up to 2 answers.»

Alternatives were (1) Support for renewable energy in developing countries, (2) Support for protection of rainforests in developing countries, (3) Support for climate adaptation in developing countries, (4) Disagree with providing such support and (5) Don't know.

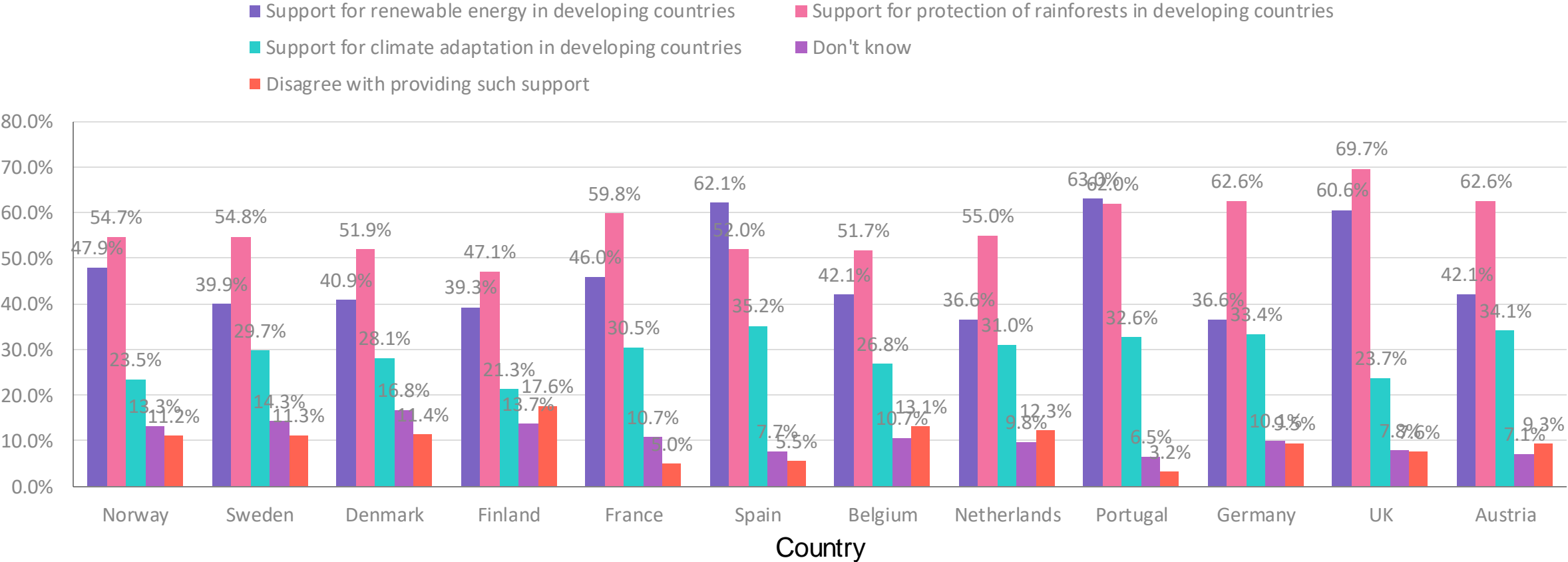
# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity

Respondents were allowed up to two answers. Most respondents favoured rainforest protection, followed by renewable energy over climate adaptation. Only 10% disagreed with providing such financial support from richer countries to help developing countries protect climate and biodiversity.



# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity

The overall pattern is relatively similar across the 12 polled nations, but with Spain and Portugal favouring renewable energy over rainforest protection and Finland scoring lowest on any such support and highest on disagreement with the approach. Germany and the Netherlands favours rainforest far more than renewable energy. The UK supports both measures above average.





# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity

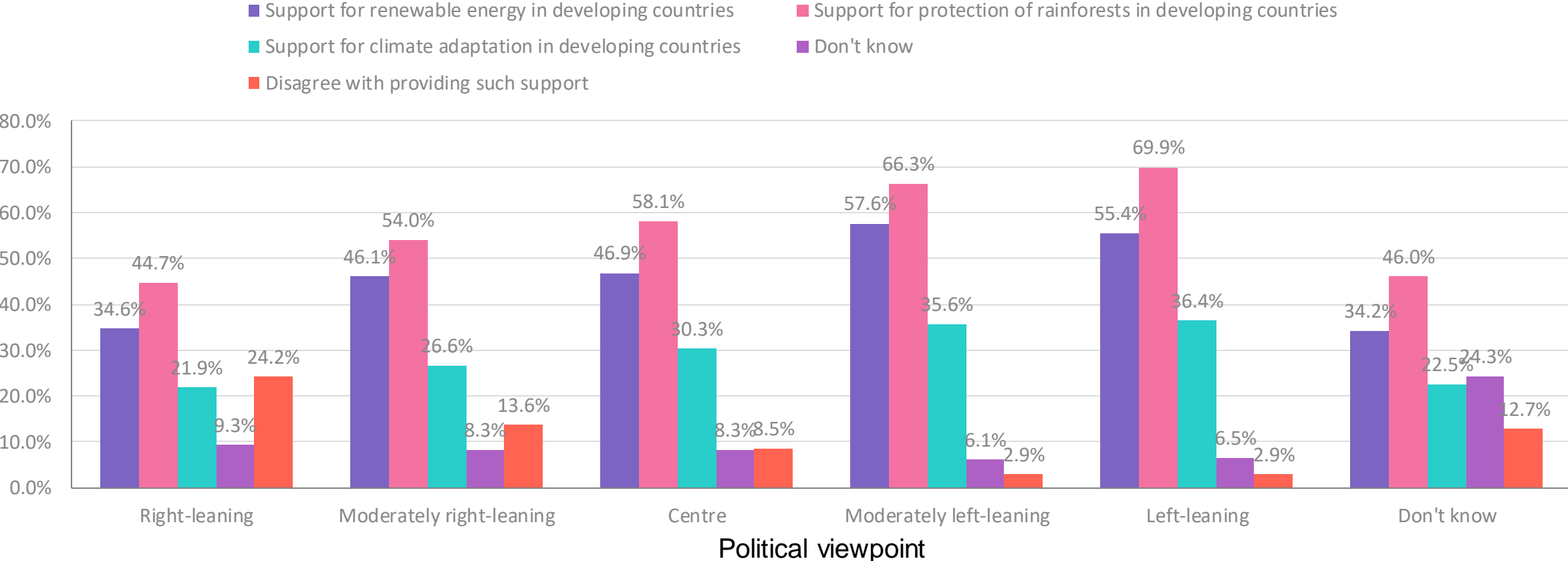
Table confirms findings in the above graph: The overall pattern is relatively similar across the 12 polled nations, but with Spain and Portugal favouring renewable energy over rainforest protection and Finland scoring lowest on any such support and highest on disagreement with the approach. Germany and the Netherlands favours rainforest far more than renewable energy. The UK supports both measures above average.

	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Finland	France	Spain	Belgium	Netherlan	Portugal	Germany	UK	Austria	All
Renewable energy	47.9%	39.9%	40.9%	39.3%	46.0%	62.1%	42.1%	36.6%	63.0%	36.6%	60.6%	42.1%	46.4%
Protection rainforest	54.7%	54.8%	51.9%	47.1%	59.8%	52.0%	51.7%	55.0%	62.0%	62.6%	69.7%	62.6%	57.0%
Climate adaptation	23.5%	29.7%	28.1%	21.3%	30.5%	35.2%	26.8%	31.0%	32.6%	33.4%	23.7%	34.1%	29.2%
Don't know	13.3%	14.3%	16.8%	13.7%	10.7%	7.7%	10.7%	9.8%	6.5%	10.1%	7.8%	7.1%	10.7%
Disagree with providing such support	11.2%	11.3%	11.4%	17.6%	5.0%	5.5%	13.1%	12.3%	3.2%	9.5%	7.6%	9.3%	9.7%
Unweighted N	1010	1011	1016	1004	1006	1004	1000	1000	1011	1000	1002	1001	12065



# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity

Political viewpoint is a fairly strong factor towards agreement with the idea of providing such support, and to a lesser degree between the different alternatives. Still, only 24% of the right-leaning and 14% of the moderately right leaning respondents said they disagreed with such funding. “Don’t know” is also reporting disagreement with the approach on same level as “moderate right”. Rainforest protection enjoys highest scores in all political segments.



# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity

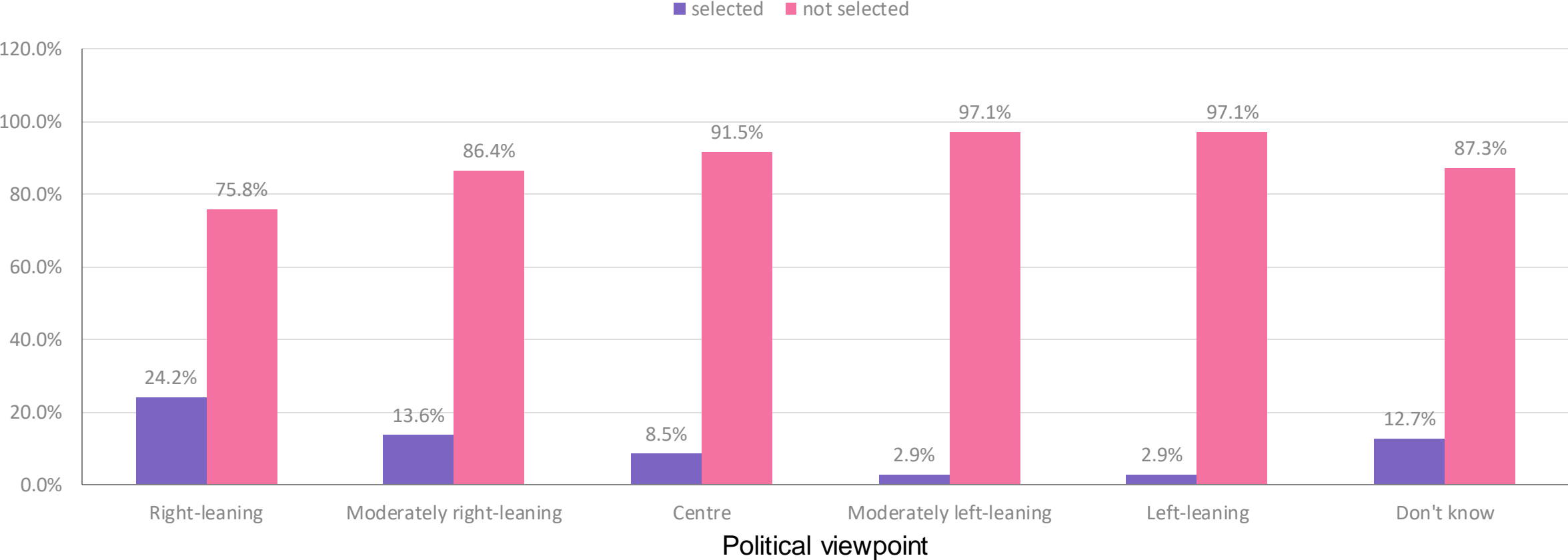
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	Right-leaning	Moderately right-leaning	Centre	Moderately left-leaning	Left-leaning	Don't know	All
Support for renewable energy in developing countries	34.6%	46.1%	46.9%	57.6%	55.4%	34.2%	46.7%
Support for protection of rainforests in developing countries	44.7%	54.0%	58.1%	66.3%	69.9%	46.0%	57.2%
Support for climate adaptation in developing countries	21.9%	26.6%	30.3%	35.6%	36.4%	22.5%	29.4%
Don't know	9.3%	8.3%	8.3%	6.1%	6.5%	24.3%	10.4%
Disagree with providing such support	24.2%	13.6%	8.5%	2.9%	2.9%	12.7%	9.7%
Unweighted N	1049	2242	2763	2428	1362	1984	11828



# Prioritised measures for support | Disagree with providing such support

Among those who stated that they disagree with providing such financial support, this is how they are distributed along the political viewpoint axis. "Don't knows" included in "others", together with those that supports such funding, which is a very clear majority, also within each political segment.



# Disagree with providing such support

Political viewpoint – table format based on previous graphic.

Political viewpoint							
Disagree with providing such support	Right-leaning	Moderately right-leaning	Centre	Moderately left-leaning	Left-leaning	Don't know	All
selected	24.2%	13.6%	8.5%	2.9%	2.9%	12.7%	9.7%
not selected	75.8%	86.4%	91.5%	97.1%	97.1%	87.3%	90.3%
Unweighted N	1049	2242	2763	2428	1362	1984	11828
Mean	1.76	1.86	1.92	1.97	1.97	1.87	1.90



# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity, by gender

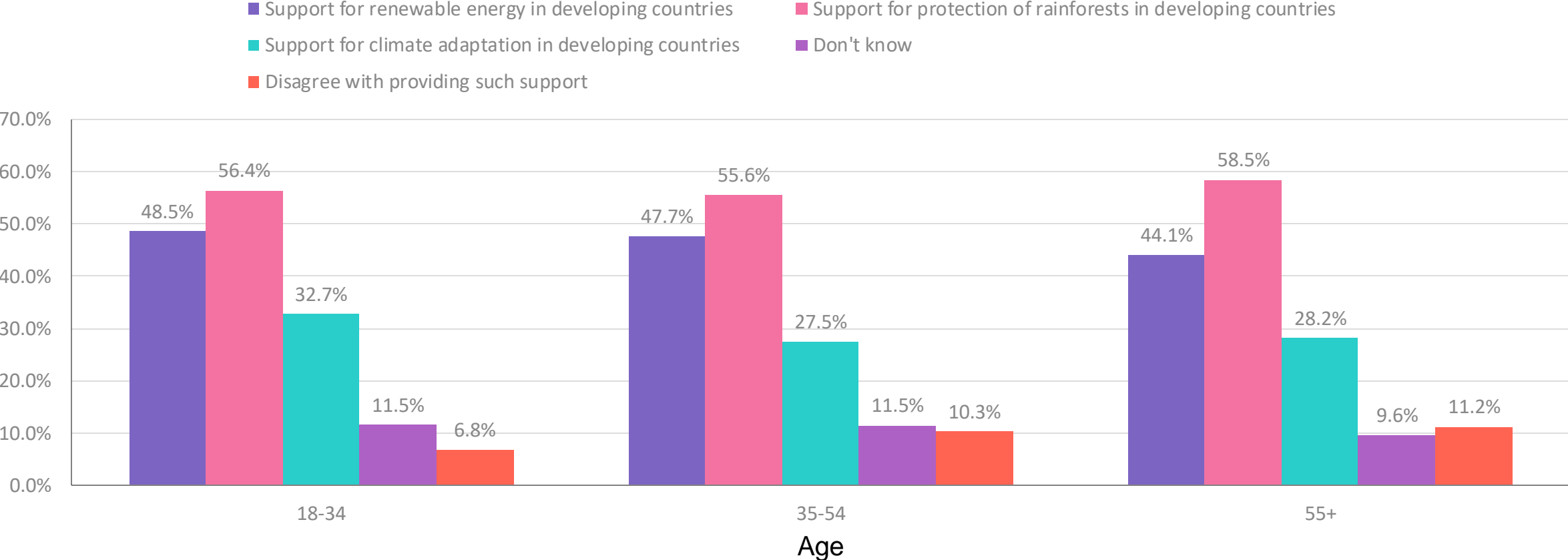
There are no significant gender differences on this issue in the combined dataset.

2. Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity	Gender		All
	Female	Male	
Support for renewable energy in developing countries	47.0%	45.9%	46.4%
Support for protection of rainforests in developing countries	57.7%	56.2%	57.0%
Support for climate adaptation in developing countries	29.2%	29.1%	29.2%
Don't know	10.4%	11.1%	10.7%
Disagree with providing such support	9.4%	10.0%	9.7%
Unweighted N	6015	6050	12065



# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity, by age

Older age corresponds with slightly increased opposition to such financial support, and younger people more open for climate adaptation than average.



# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity – by age

Older age corresponds with slightly increased opposition to such financial support, and younger people more open for climate adaptation than average.

2. Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity	Age			All
	18-34	35-54	55+	
Support for renewable energy in developing countries	48.5%	47.7%	44.1%	46.4%
Support for protection of rainforests in developing countries	56.4%	55.6%	58.5%	57.0%
Support for climate adaptation in developing countries	32.7%	27.5%	28.2%	29.2%
Don't know	11.5%	11.5%	9.6%	10.7%
Disagree with providing such support	6.8%	10.3%	11.2%	9.7%
Unweighted N	3134	4055	4876	12065

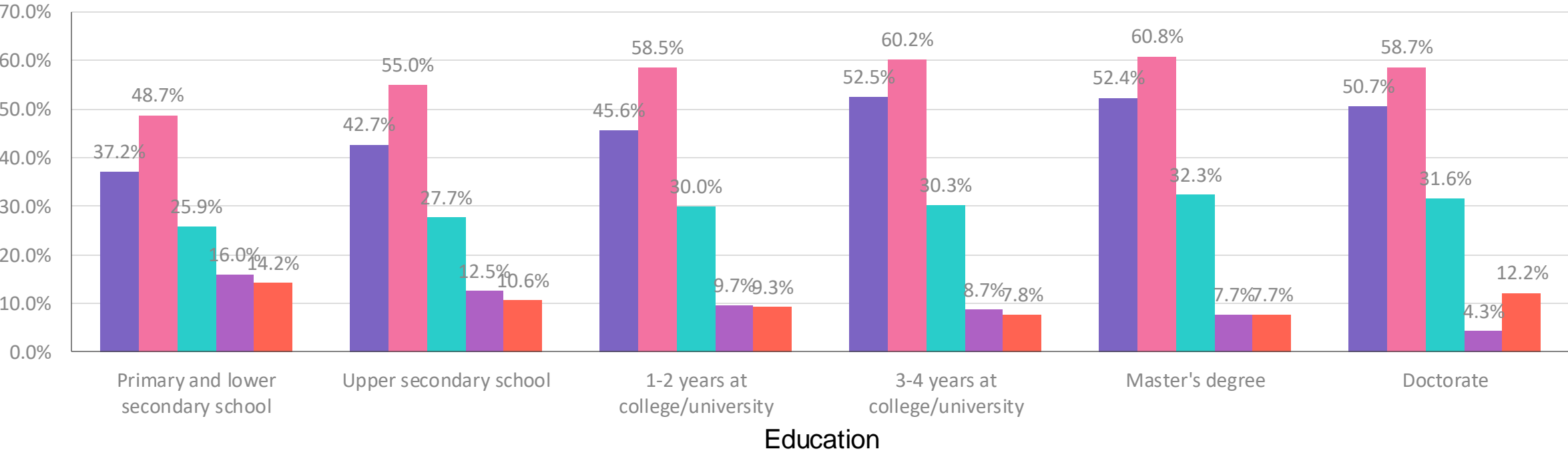




# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity, by education

Higher education seems to give more support for financial support and less insecurity in responses. Doctors land on average or within error margin due to low sample, although it may look different in the graph.

- Support for renewable energy in developing countries
- Support for protection of rainforests in developing countries
- Support for climate adaptation in developing countries
- Don't know
- Disagree with providing such support



# Prioritised financial measures to help developing countries reduce climate change and protect biological diversity - by education

Higher education seems to give more support for financial support and less insecurity in responses. Doctors land on average or within error margin due to low sample.

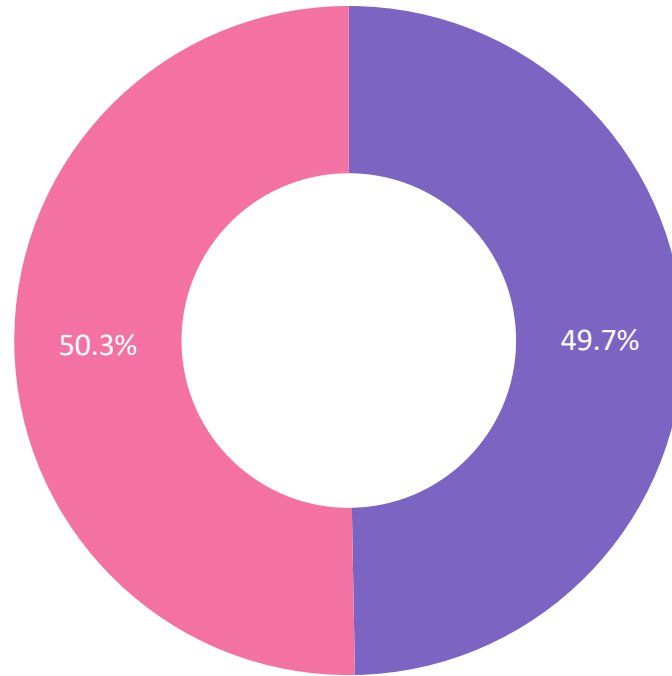
	Primary and lower secondary school	Upper secondary school	1-2 years at college/university	3-4 years at college/university	Master's degree	Doctorate	All
Support for renewable energy in developing countries	37.2%	42.7%	45.6%	52.5%	52.4%	50.7%	46.4%
Support for protection of rainforests in developing countries	48.7%	55.0%	58.5%	60.2%	60.8%	58.7%	57.0%
Support for climate adaptation in developing countries	25.9%	27.7%	30.0%	30.3%	32.3%	31.6%	29.2%
Don't know	16.0%	12.5%	9.7%	8.7%	7.7%	4.3%	10.7%
Disagree with providing such support	14.2%	10.6%	9.3%	7.8%	7.7%	12.2%	9.7%
Unweighted N	1228	4382	1578	3015	1610	252	12065



Gender

Gender

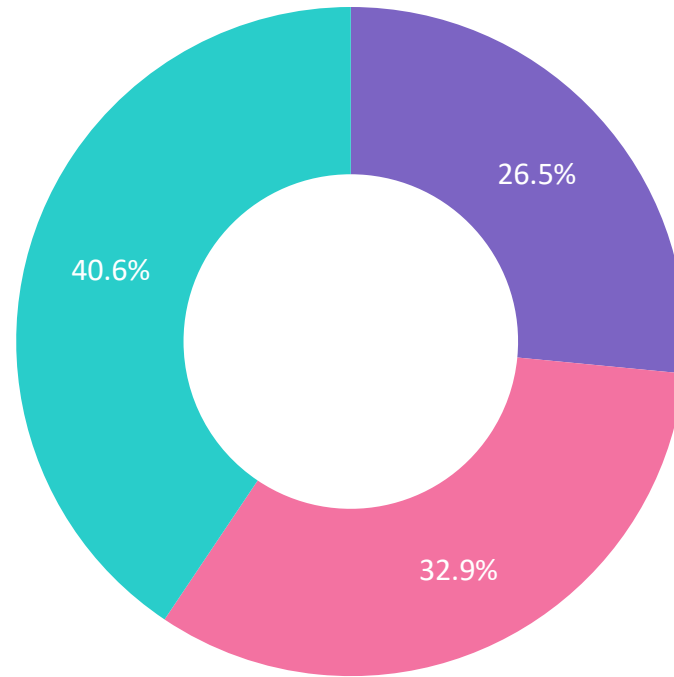
■ Female ■ Male



Age

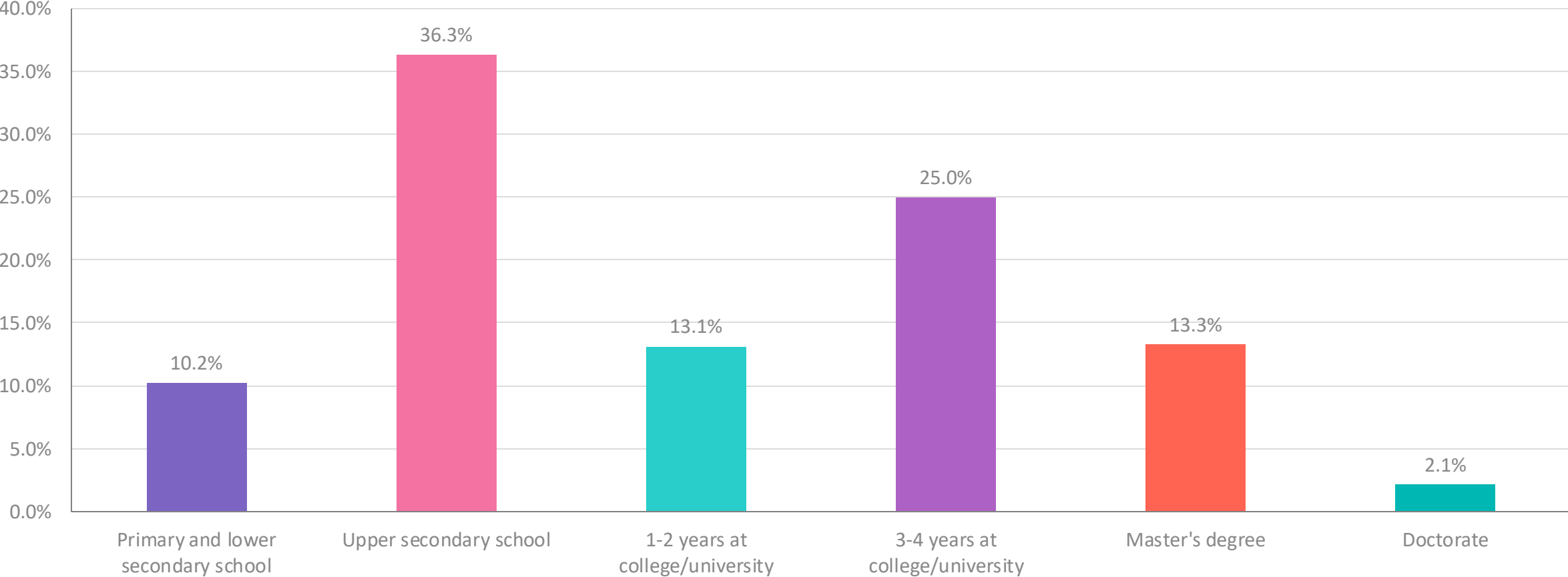
Age

■ 18-34 ■ 35-54 ■ 55+



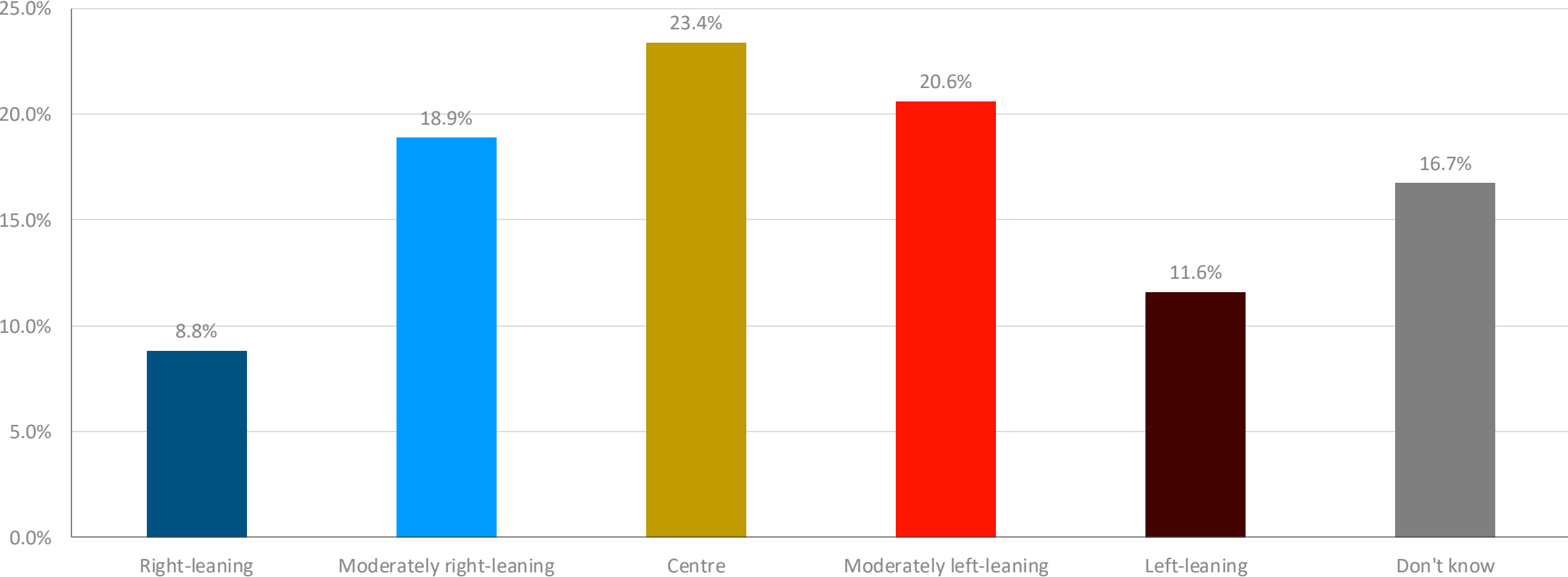
# Education

## Education



# Political viewpoint

Where would you place yourself on a traditional political scale from right to left?



# Country

Country

