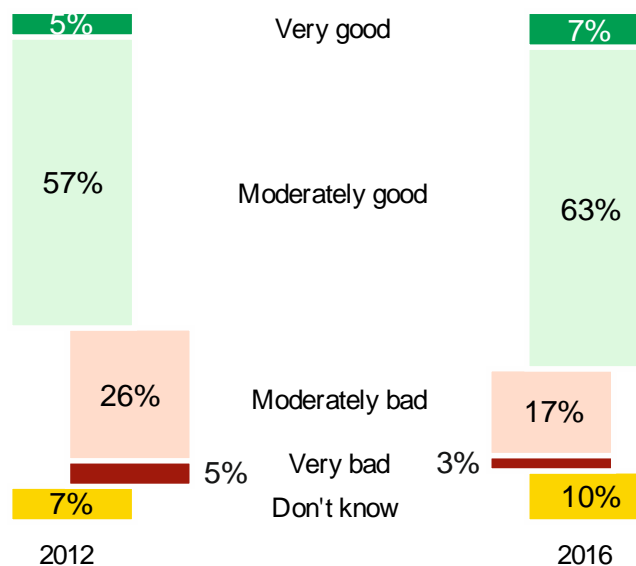


Public evaluation of the use of European funds

In public opinion Poland is doing a good job using European Union funds: 70% of respondents share this opinion. This conviction is now more widespread than before.

Is Poland doing a good job using European Union funds?

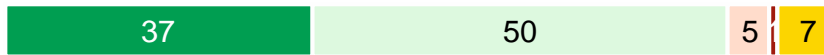


A vast majority of respondents believe that the inflow of EU funds is beneficial for Poland. There is widespread opinion that they allow for the positive changes that we would not be able to finance ourselves (87%) and stimulate the economy (84%). Three-quarters of respondents (74%) indicate that a lot of people have found employment thanks to European funds, slightly fewer believe that they fund investments needed for the country (62%) and their locality (59%). The majority (58%) do not agree with the opinion that EU funds are wasted. Many people, however, see administrative irregularities in the allocation of resources. More than half of respondents (56%) fear that corruption or nepotism often accompany the distribution of EU money. More than one-third (38%) also believe that spending of European funds is not adequately controlled. Another issue is the complexity of regulations: the majority of respondents (62%) consider them to be too restrictive. Four out of five (79%) say that the benefits of EU funds accrue mainly to individuals directly involved in writing proposals and projects. The most difficult aspect to evaluate was the effect of EU funds on the financial situation of local governments, in the context of the need to raise their own contribution to match the investment financed from European funds. As many as one-third of respondents could not take a position on this issue, and the rest are divided almost equally between those claiming that spending EU funds contributes to excessive debt of local governments (36%) and disagreeing with such an opinion (31%).

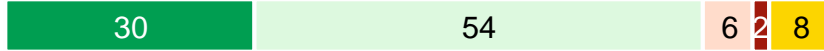
In the public perception, EU money is spent primarily on investments in transport infrastructure and subsidies for agriculture and rural areas. About a quarter of respondents noted financing of projects for urban infrastructure, environmental protection and support for companies and entrepreneurs. More than one-tenth list goals such as: combating unemployment, investment in education, science and innovation, and telecommunications and increasing access to the internet.

Do you agree with the following statement?

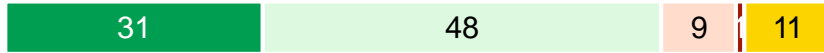
Money from the EU helped bring many positive changes in Poland that we could not finance ourselves (%)



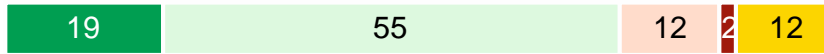
EU money stimulates the Polish economy



EU money primarily benefits those who effectively write applications and participate in the implementation of projects



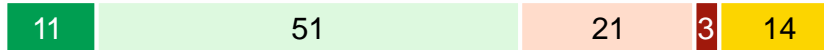
Many people have employment thanks to money from the EU



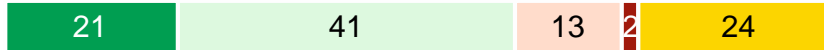
Money from the EU has brought many positive changes to my locality, which could not be financed in a different way



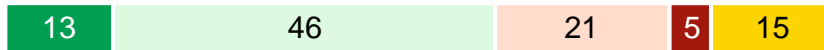
Money from the EU is used for investments which are the most necessary for Poland



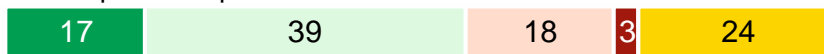
The rules that govern the preparation or implementation of projects financed from EU funds are too complex and restrictive, making it difficult to use them



Money from the EU is used for investments which are the most necessary for my locality



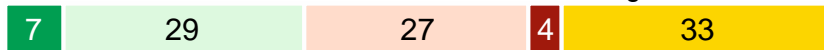
Spending EU funds is often accompanied by irregularities such as corruption or nepotism



Spending of EU funds in Poland is adequately controlled



Use of EU funds contributes to excessive debt of local governments

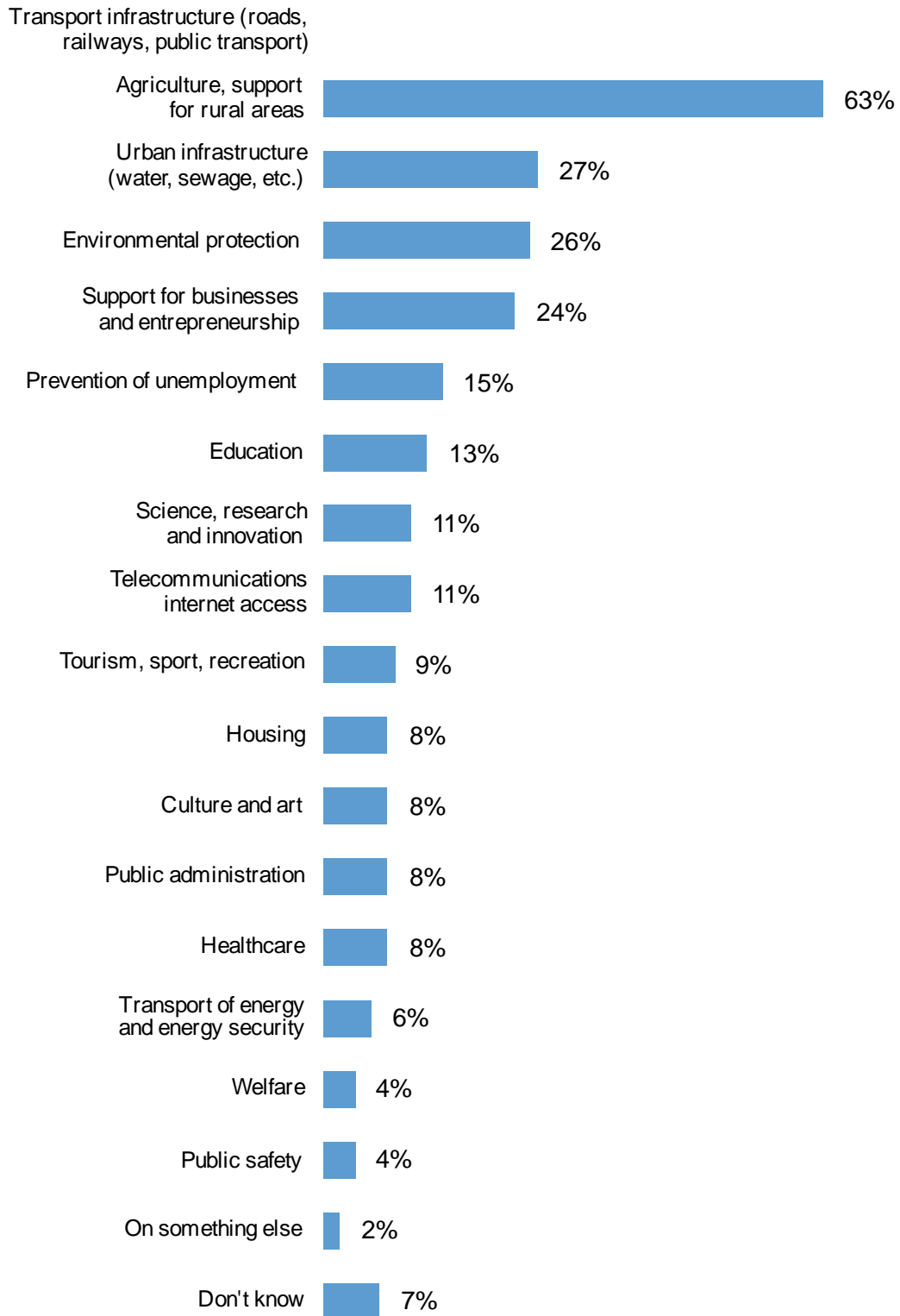


EU funds are mostly wasted



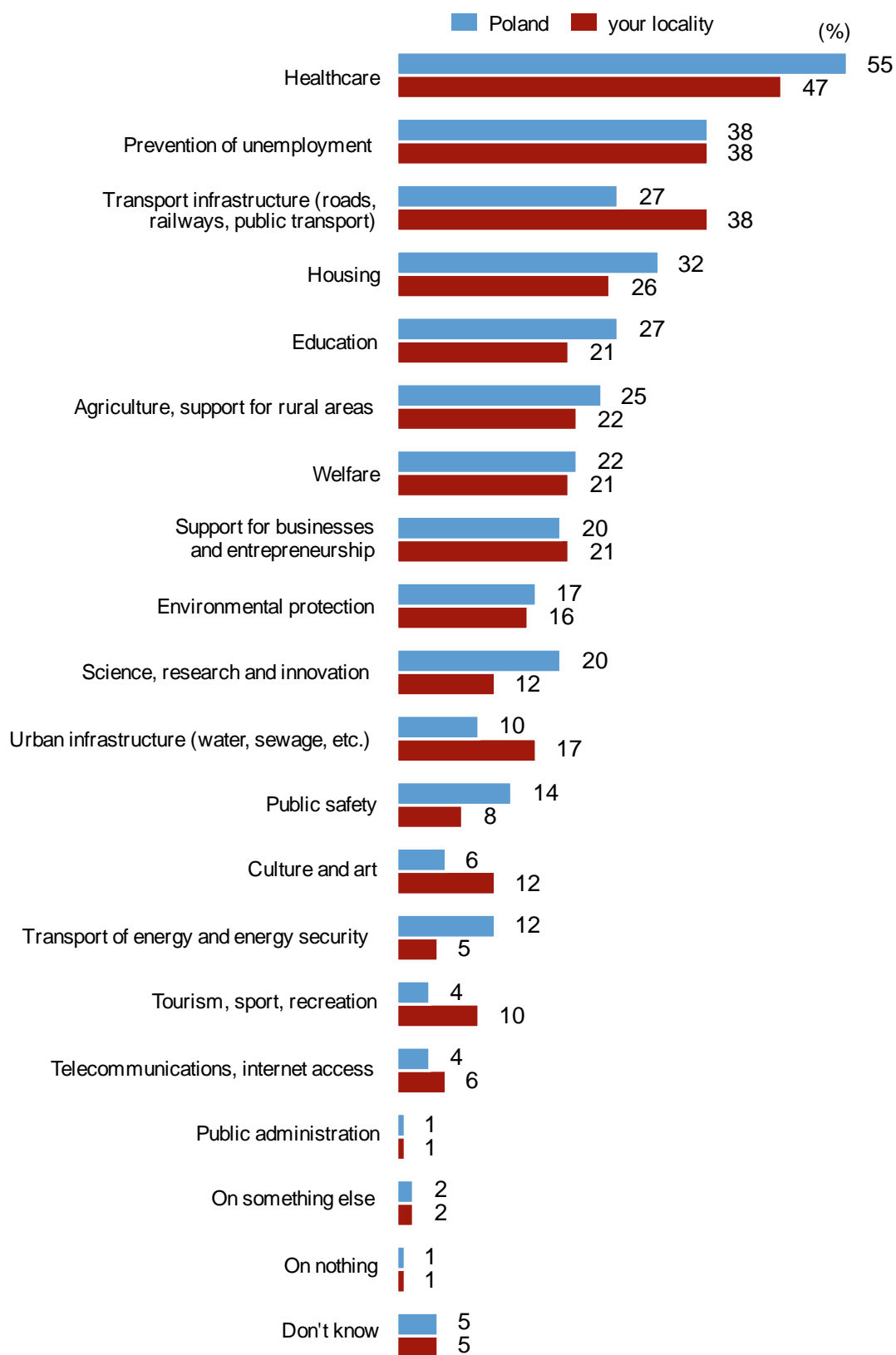
■ Strongly agree
 ■ Moderately agree
 ■ Moderately disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Don't know

Based on your experience and observation, where has European Union money been primarily allocated?



** Percentages do not add up to 100 because respondents could choose up to four answers*

Where should EU funds be allocated to a greater extent than so far in ...



* Percentages do not add up to 100 because respondents could choose up to four answers

In public opinion EU funds should be used to finance national healthcare to a greater extent than so far. Almost two out of five respondents believe that insufficient resources are allocated to combating unemployment. It may be surprising to note the high rank of transport investments, which have already benefited from EU aid. It should be noted, however, that these were primarily national projects, and the current preference focuses on local infrastructure. A significant part of respondents would like to see European funds to be allocated to a greater extent to housing, education, agriculture, welfare and entrepreneurship.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Public Opinion about Use of European Funds", November 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2016, N=937. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.