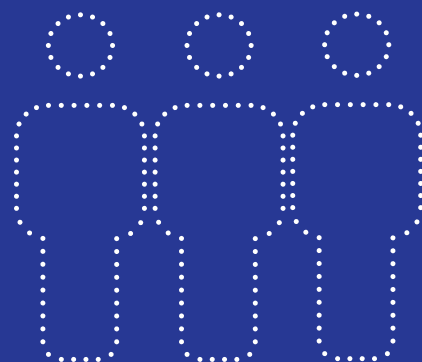
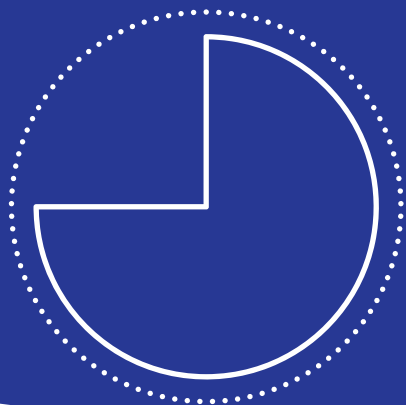
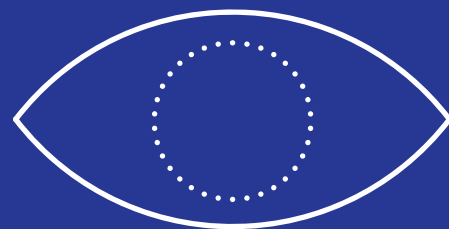
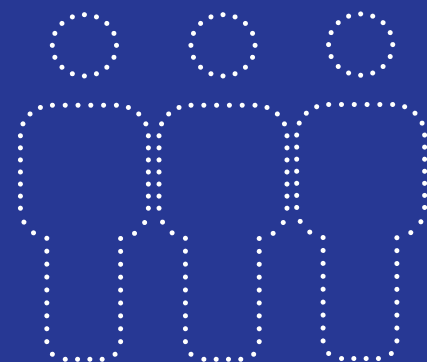


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TURKISH CYPRIOT SOCIETY'S PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS CIVIL SOCIETY, VOLUNTEERING, AND DONATIONS



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OCTOBER 2025

PREPARED BY

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The Civic Space is a Technical Assistance Project funded by the European Union. It aims at contributing to build in the Turkish Cypriot community, a stronger civil society, which supports democratic changes and confidence-building measures.

Within this context, Civic Space aims at ensuring that:

- The public and the Turkish Cypriot community are better informed about CSOs' actions and are more involved in CSOs' actions and management,
- CSOs improve their capacities in general and adopt a rights-based approach to advocate for democratic changes, confidence-building measures, and a more enabling environment for civil society,
- Local bodies are better informed about CSOs' roles and activities and are supported in promoting a fully enabling environment for civil society,
- Exchanges and joint actions between Greek and Turkish Cypriot CSOs are mainstreamed throughout the project's activities.

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METHODOLOGY

This research has been conducted by Statica Research and Consulting Center, which operates in Cyprus, to reveal the perceptions and attitudes of the Turkish Cypriot community towards civil society, volunteering, and donations. The survey used in the research was specifically designed by the Statica team and implemented using the CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) method.

The main purpose of the survey is to measure society's perceptions of civic participation and trust, understand its relationship with civil society organizations (CSOs), and identify tendencies regarding volunteering and donations. In this context, information has been collected on the topics listed below.

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

GENERAL APPROACHES TO CIVIC PARTICIPATION

TRUST LEVEL WITHIN SOCIETY

TRUST IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES REGARDING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS DRIVING VOLUNTEER WORK IN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

REASONS FOR NOT PARTICIPATING IN VOLUNTEER WORK

DONATION HABITS

EVALUATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION'S PERFORMANCE

IMPORTANCE ATTRIBUTED TO SOCIETAL ISSUES AND EXPECTATIONS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

CHANNELS FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

RESEARCH APPLICATION

The survey was conducted between June 27 and July 14, 2025, in six districts in northern part of Cyprus by STATICA's trained interviewers. The number of interviews in each district was determined according to population proportions, with a total of 1000 people interviewed. The district-based distribution is as follows:

NICOSIA	322 PEOPLE
FAMAGUSTA	248 PEOPLE
KYRENIA	219 PEOPLE
ISKELE	103 PEOPLE
MORPHOU	74 PEOPLE
LEFKA	34 PEOPLE

The sampling process has been planned with care to ensure representativeness. In each district, neighborhoods were randomly selected proportional to their sizes, and then four streets were randomly determined from the lists in each neighborhood. Households were selected using the cross-household system; after determining the starting address, interviews were conducted by progressing at specific intervals along the streets. In each household, the survey was administered to only one adult in accordance with the field protocol. Interviews were conducted only in households, and no surveys were conducted in public or commercial spaces.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS

The reliability of the research has been ensured by monitoring the entire data collection process simultaneously through online systems. Data from the electronic devices used by interviewers was transmitted to the center instantly, and automatic checks were performed with skip and consistency rules.

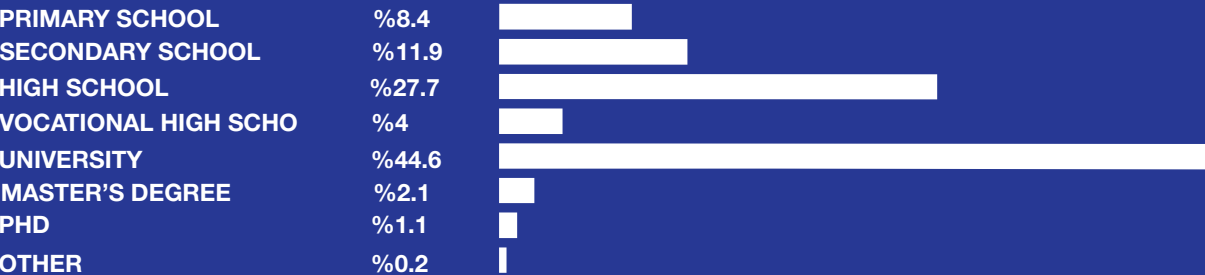
Field supervisors have monitored interviews on-site to regularly check compliance with the sample preservation, adherence to survey duration, and correct application of question texts. All forms have undergone consistency checks, and interviews have been re-evaluated by supervisors when necessary.

SAMPLE INFORMATION

GENDER DISTRIBUTION



EDUCATIONAL STATUS



AGE DISTRIBUTION





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

When asked to compare the current social and economic situation in northern part of Cyprus with five years ago, 76.3% of participants stated that the situation has worsened. Only 10.7% responded 'better,' while 13% indicated that the situation has remained the same.

Regarding future expectations, 75.9% of participants believe it 'will get even worse.' Optimists account for only 4.8%, while 19.3% think the situation will remain the same.

TYPES OF CSO AND MEMBERSHIP

Only 14% of participants reported being actively involved in a civil society organization as active members, 18.4% as passive members, while the vast majority, 67.6%, indicated they are not members of any CSO.

When looking at membership types, professional organizations and associations receive the most interest (13.7%). This is followed by charitable organizations (8.3%). Additionally, 10.6% of participants stated they are members of multiple CSOs.

SOCIETAL PARTICIPATION AND RISK PERCEPTION

Participation in social movements among participants is at a low level. The most frequently mentioned type of participation is petition signing. Although participation rates are low, the risk factor stands out as a prominent element limiting participation in social movements.

VOLUNTEERING

27.3% of participants stated that they had previously volunteered in a civil society organization. However, the majority of volunteers indicated that they do not dedicate more than 2 hours per week (60.4%).

When examining volunteering motivation, 71.6% of participants stated that they volunteered to support a concrete purpose, project, or activity. Among non-volunteers, approximately half (49.2%) cited 'lack of time' as the reason.

TRUST LEVELS

Trust in Others: Only 2.8% of participants stated that they can trust most people. The vast majority (96.7%) adopt a cautious approach.

Institutional Trust: Trust levels show significant variation among institutions. The most trusted institutions are the armed forces (69%) and police (67%), while religious organizations (16%) and political parties (24%) have the lowest trust levels. Trust in civil society organizations is extremely high at 63%.

Perceptions Towards CSOs: Participants most strongly associate civil society organizations with the concepts of 'aid' (29%) and 'solidarity' (23.3%). Overall attitudes towards CSOs are positive; a significant portion of participants expressed trust in these organizations.

Donations: 45.5% of participants stated that they have donated clothing, books, or similar items to a foundation, association, or aid organization.

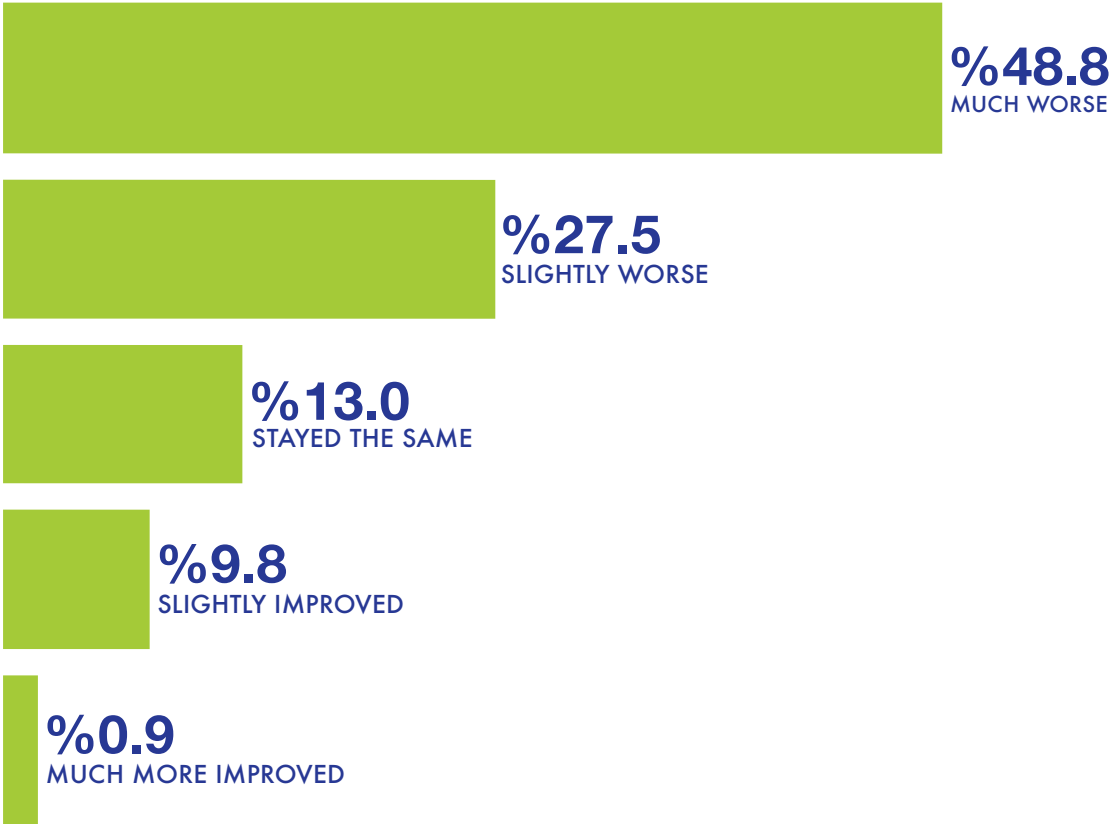
Information Sources: Television is the most common source for accessing information about CSOs has been social circles. Among participants, friends or acquaintances working in civil society organizations stand out as the most trusted information source, while news on TV channels is the least trusted source.

FINDINGS

3

1. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OPTIMISM

FIGURE 1. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY



Participants were asked to compare the current social and economic situation in northern part of Cyprus with that of five years ago. 76.3% of participants believe that northern part of Cyprus is socially and economically worse off than five years ago. Only 10.7% think it has improved, while 13% believe the social and economic situation has remained the same.

FIGURE 2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OPTIMISM IN THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY



%46
SLIGHTLY WORSE

%29.9
MUCH WORSE

%4.3
SLIGHTLY BETTER

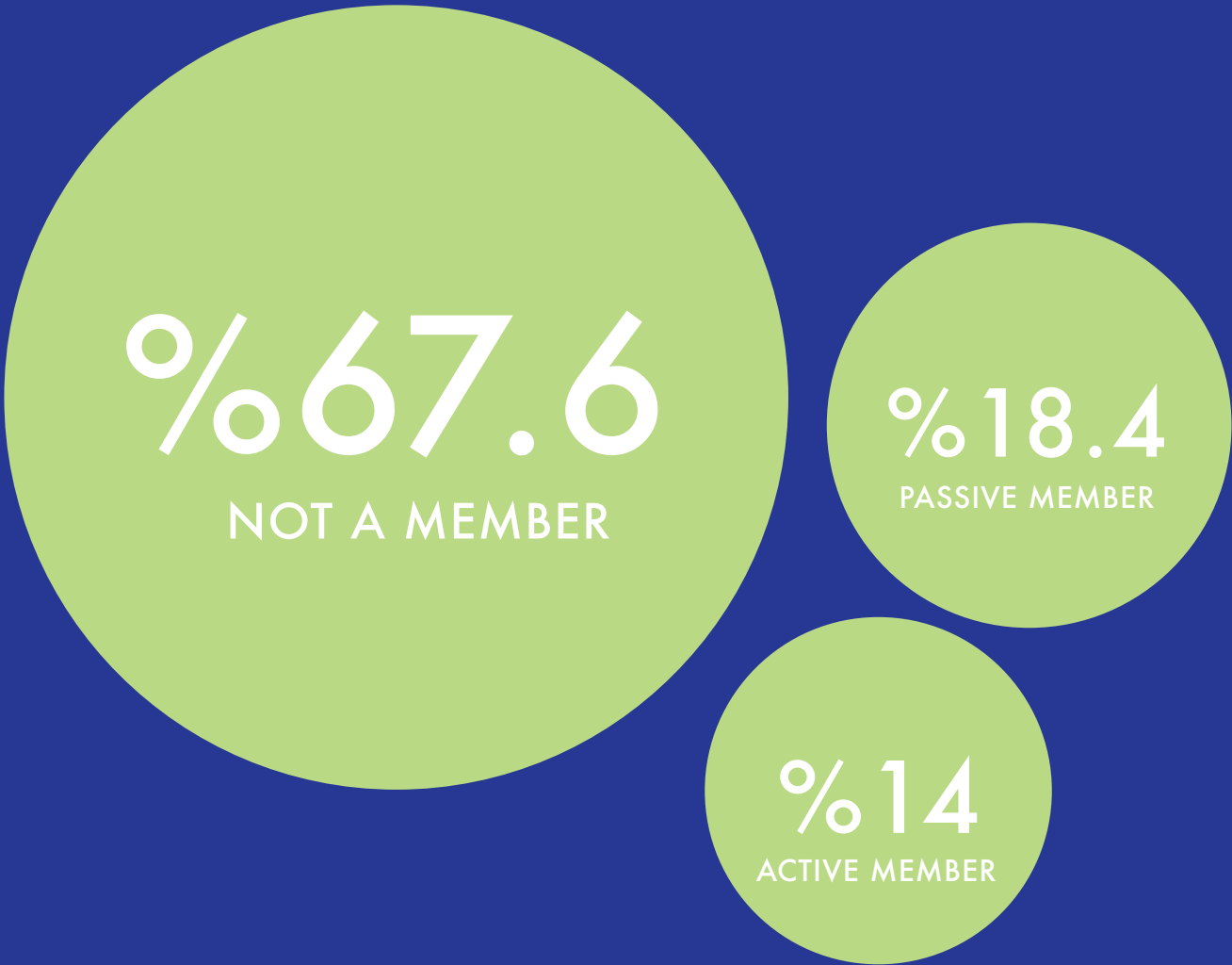
%19.3
STAYS THE SAME

%0.5
MUCH BETTER

75.9% of participants believe that northern part of Cyprus will be socially and economically worse off in 12 months, while only 4.8% believe the social and economic situation will improve. 19.3% of participants think the current social and economic situation will remain the same.

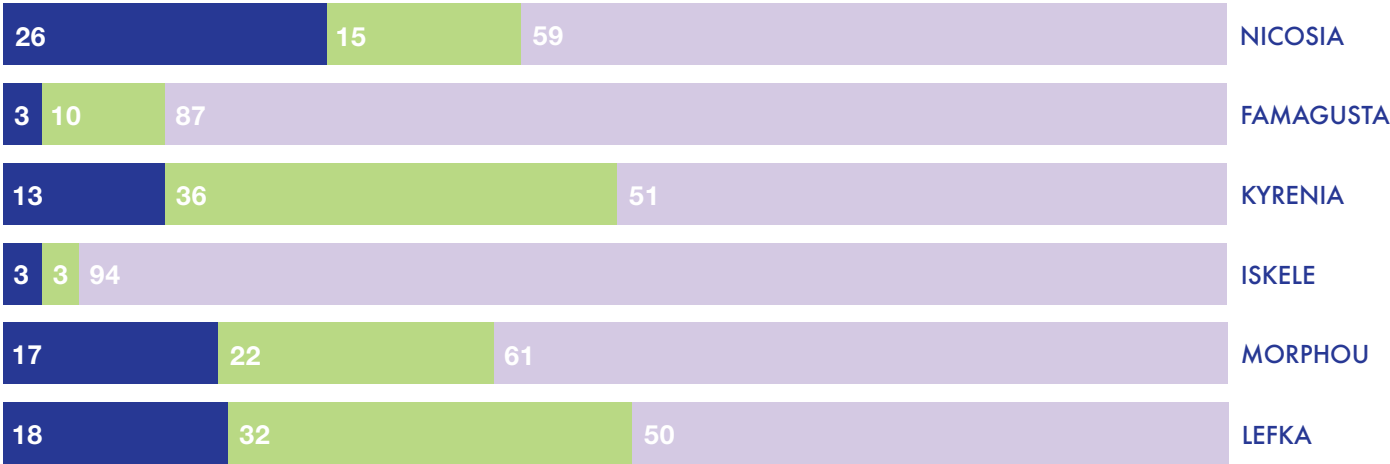
3.2 CIVIL PARTICIPATION

FIGURE 3. MEMBERSHIP IN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



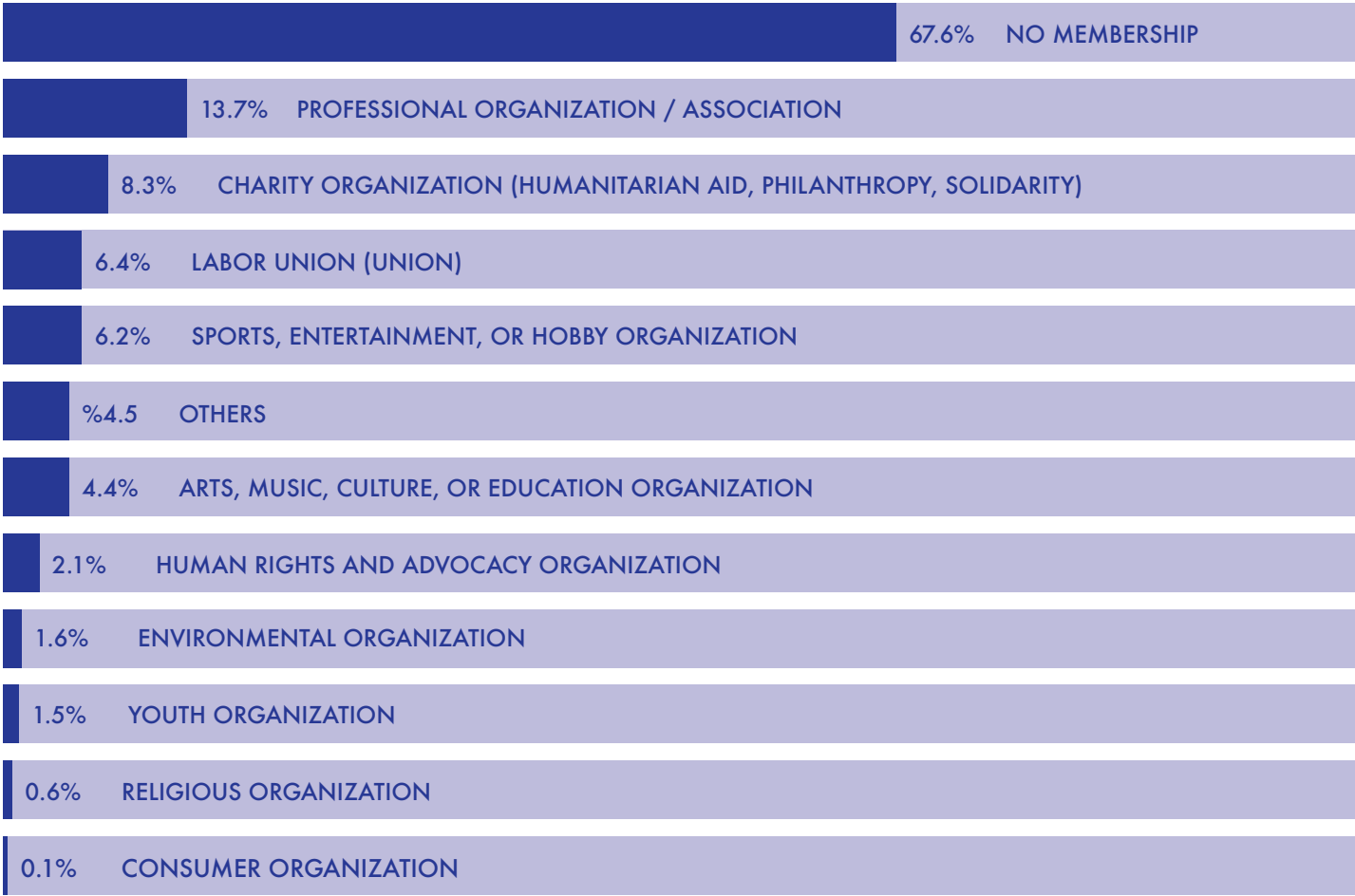
In this question, participants were first asked whether they are members of any civil society organization, and if so, whether their membership is active or passive. According to the results, only 14% of participants are actively involved in the civil society organization they are members of, while 18.4% describe themselves as passive members. The vast majority of participants (67.6%) stated that they are not members of any civil society organization.

DISTRIBUTION BY DISTRICT



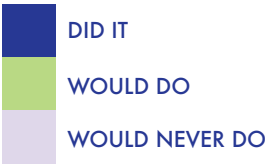
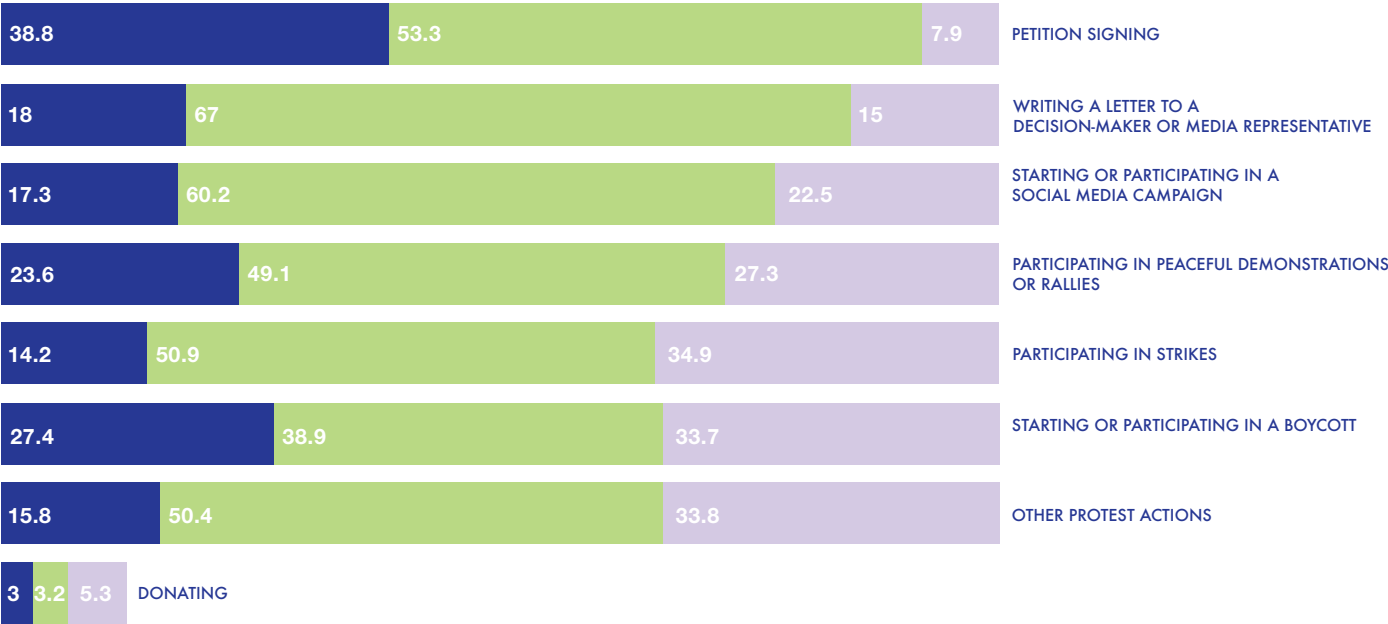
When examining the distribution of active and passive members by district, the highest active member rate is in Nicosia (26%), the highest passive member rate is in Kyrenia (36%), and the highest rate of participants who are not members of any civil society organization is in Iskele (94%).

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE YOU A MEMBER OF?



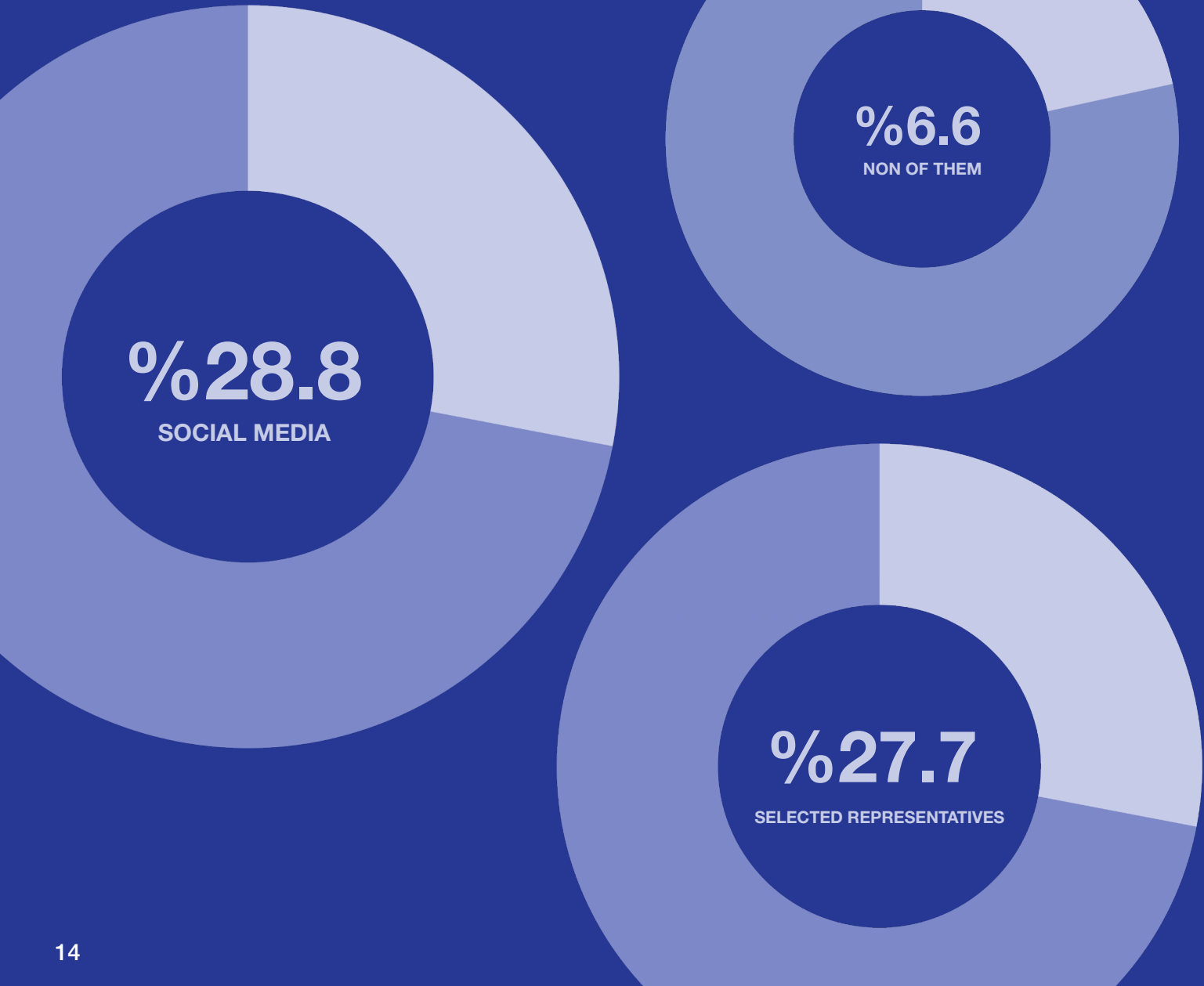
In response to question 7, individuals who are members of any civil society organization were asked what type of organization they are members of. In this context, participants reported the highest membership rate at 13.7% in professional organizations and associations, followed by charity organizations at 8.3%. Additionally, 10.6% of participants were found to be members of multiple civil society organizations.

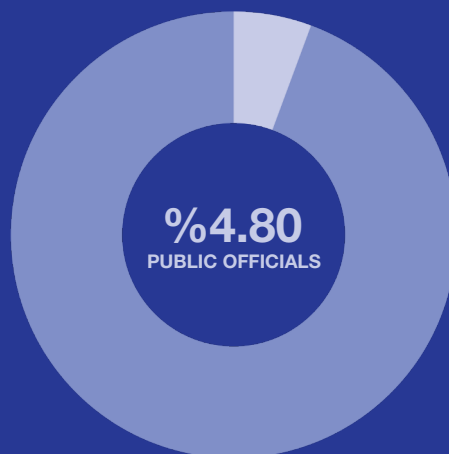
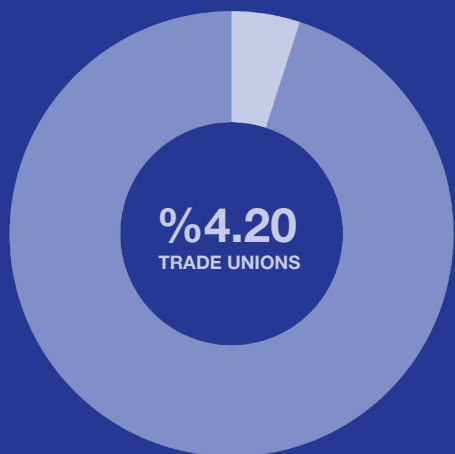
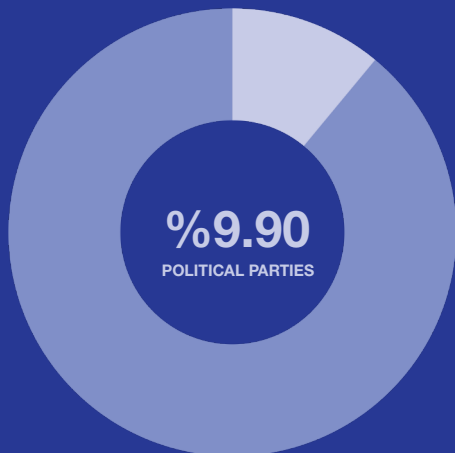
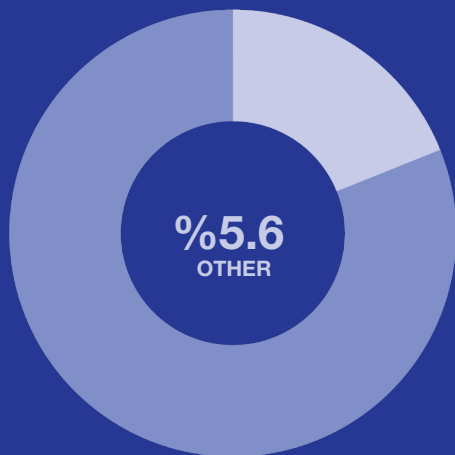
FIGURE 4. PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS



MOST DONE PETITION SIGNING
LEAST DONE PARTICIPATING IN STRIKES
LEAST UNWILLING DONATING
MOST UNWILLING PARTICIPATING IN STRIKES

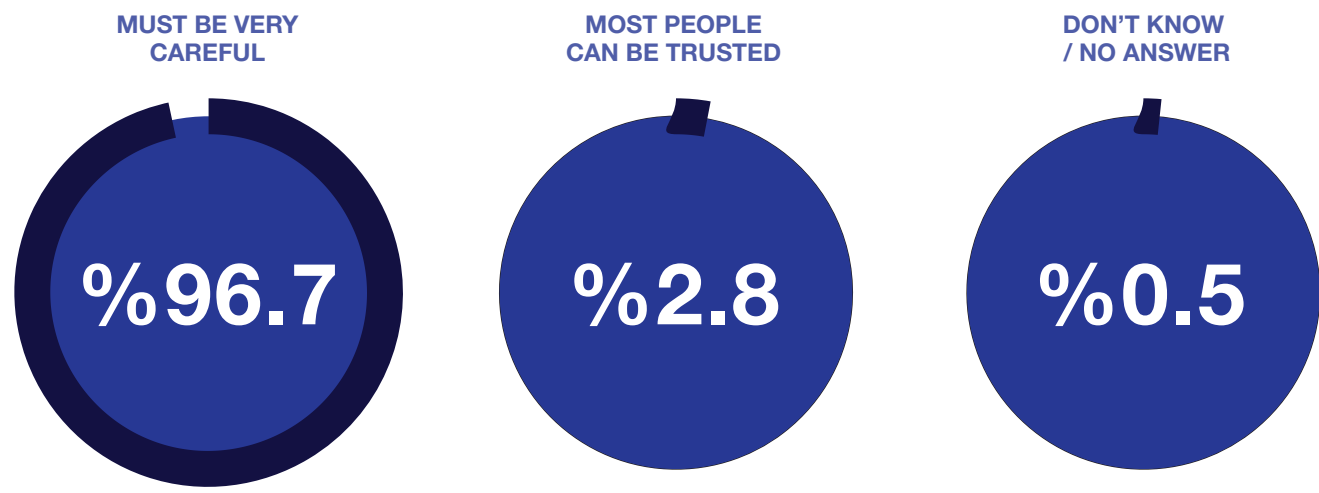
FIGURE 5. BEST CHANNEL FOR EXPRESSING CONCERNS REGARDING A PUBLIC POLICY





Participants were asked in which channel they express their concerns regarding a public policy, and they were required to select only one option from the given choices. In this context, the most preferred channels were Social Media (28.2%) and Elected Representatives (27.7%). 43.7% of the participants did not prefer the specified options, indicated another channel, or did not respond to the relevant question.

FIGURE 6. TRUST IN OTHERS



A vast majority of participants (96.70%) approached trust in people with caution. Only 2.8% of participants believed that most people can be trusted, while 0.5% did not respond to the question. The graph above indicates that generalized trust levels in northern part of Cyprus are very low, which is one of the key indicators of the civil environment.

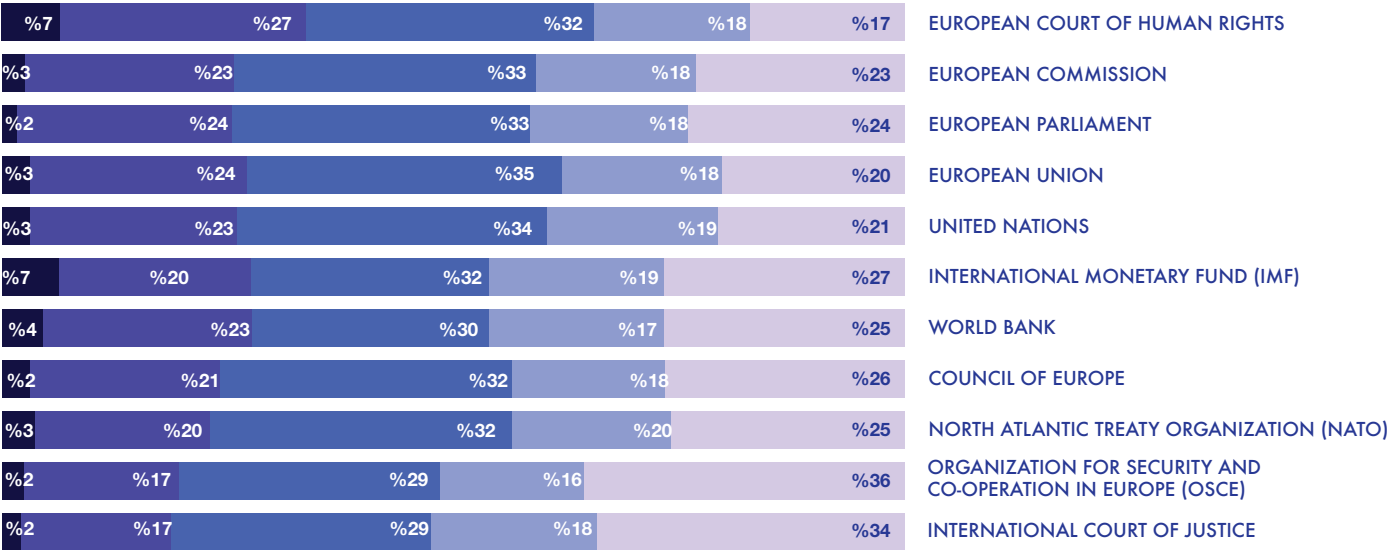
FIGURE 7. TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS



MOST TRUSTED "armed forces"
LEAST TRUSTED Religious Institutions



FIGURE 8. TRUST IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



MOST TRUSTED EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
LEAST TRUSTED INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

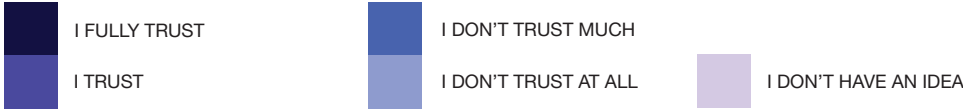
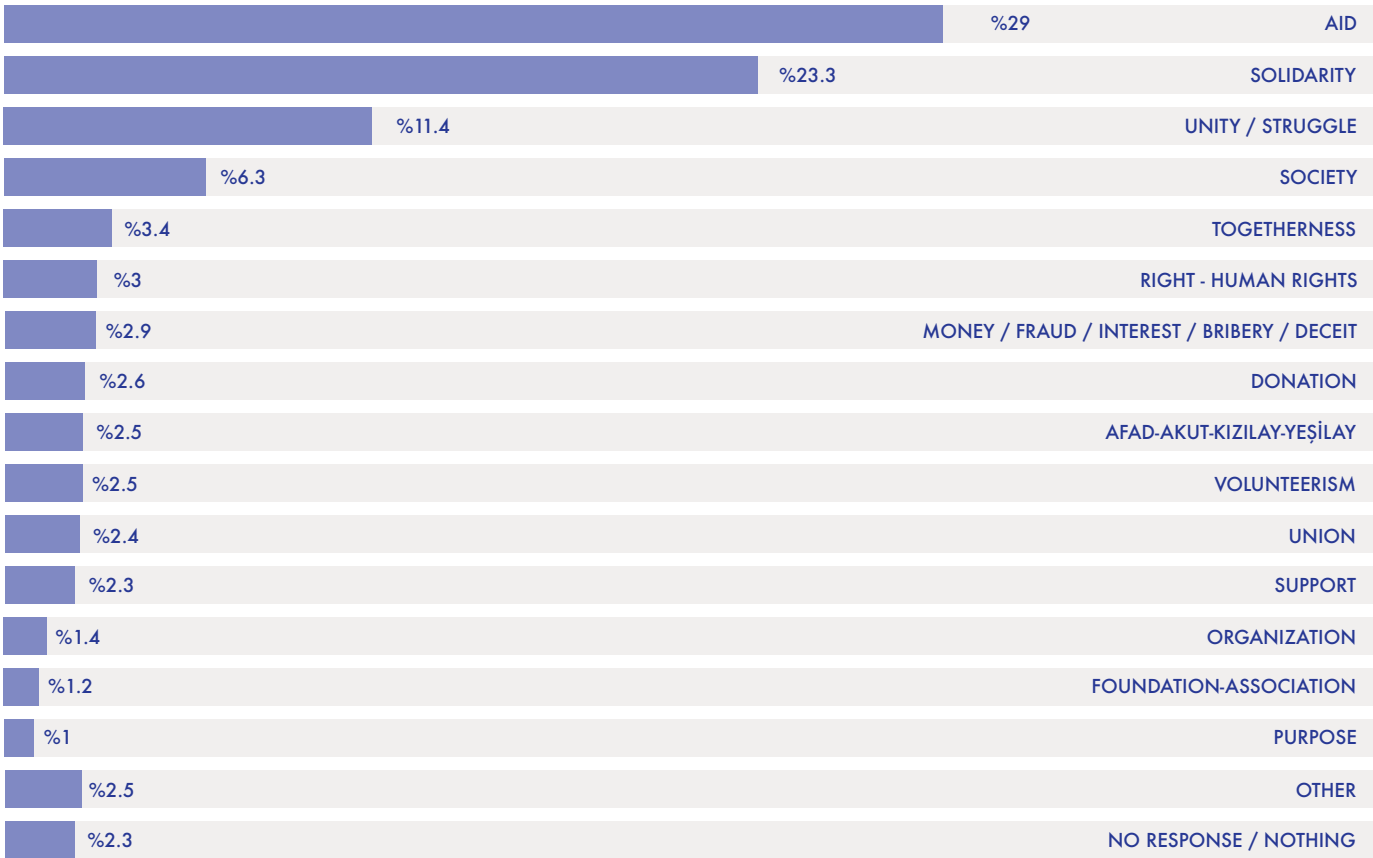


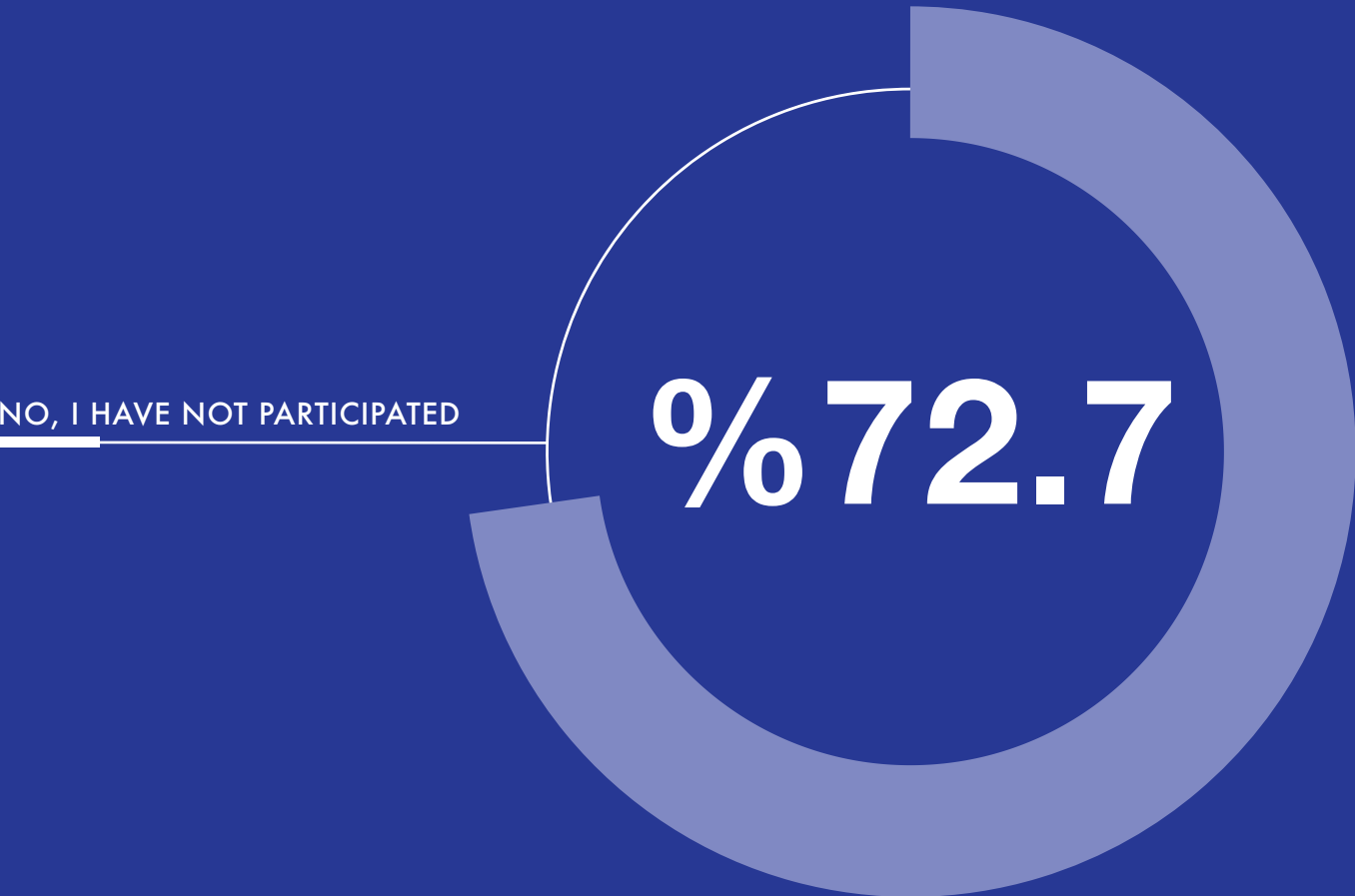
FIGURE 9. CONCEPTS ASSOCIATED WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

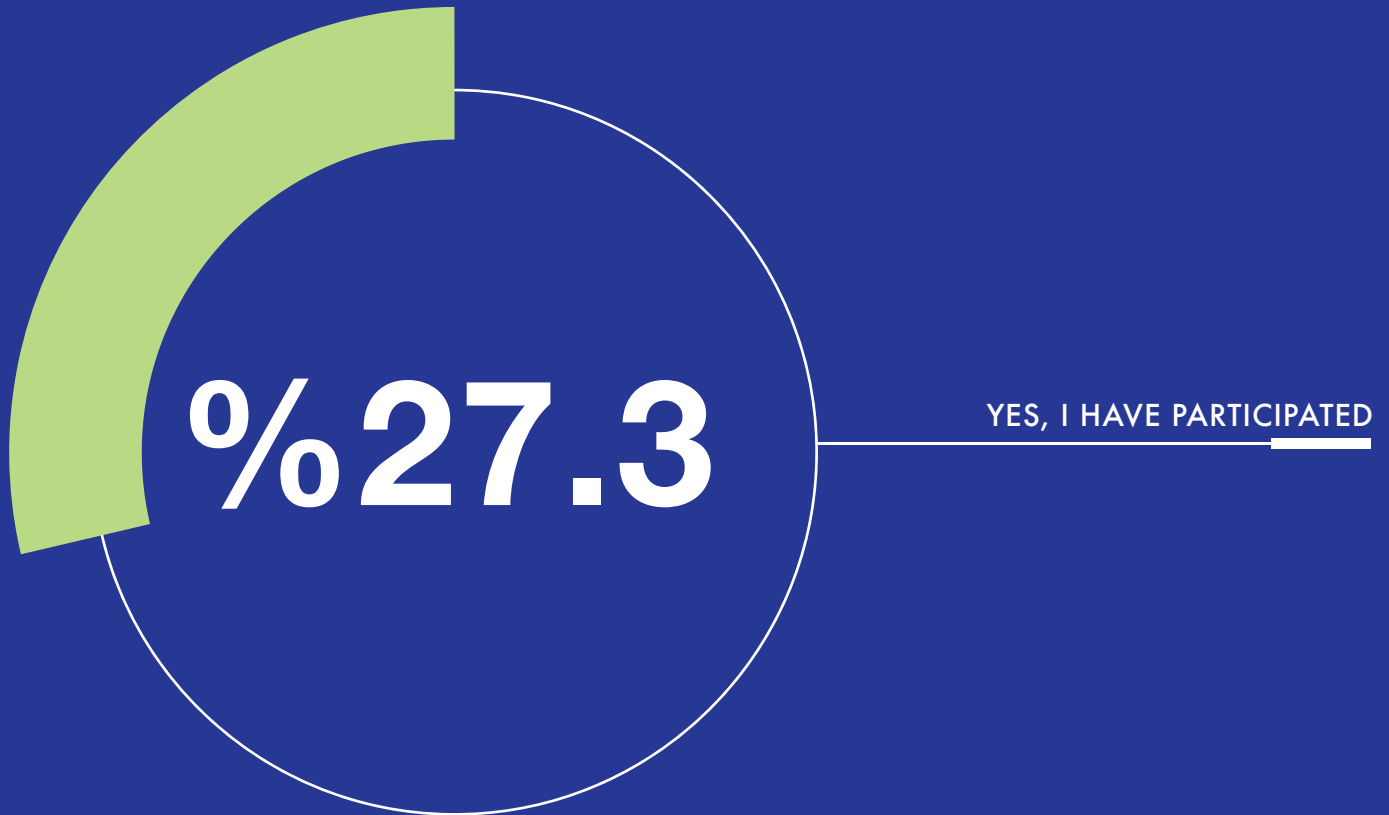


The question was asked as an open-ended one, and key words were selected from the expressions that come to mind when thinking of civil society organizations. Words expressed by 10 or more participants are indicated, while the remaining expressions are presented as "other." In the context of the responses given, the most prominent key words were "aid" (29%) and "solidarity" (23.3%).

3.3 EXPERIENCES RELATED TO / ACQUIRED WITHIN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

FIGURE 10. ENGAGEMENT IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

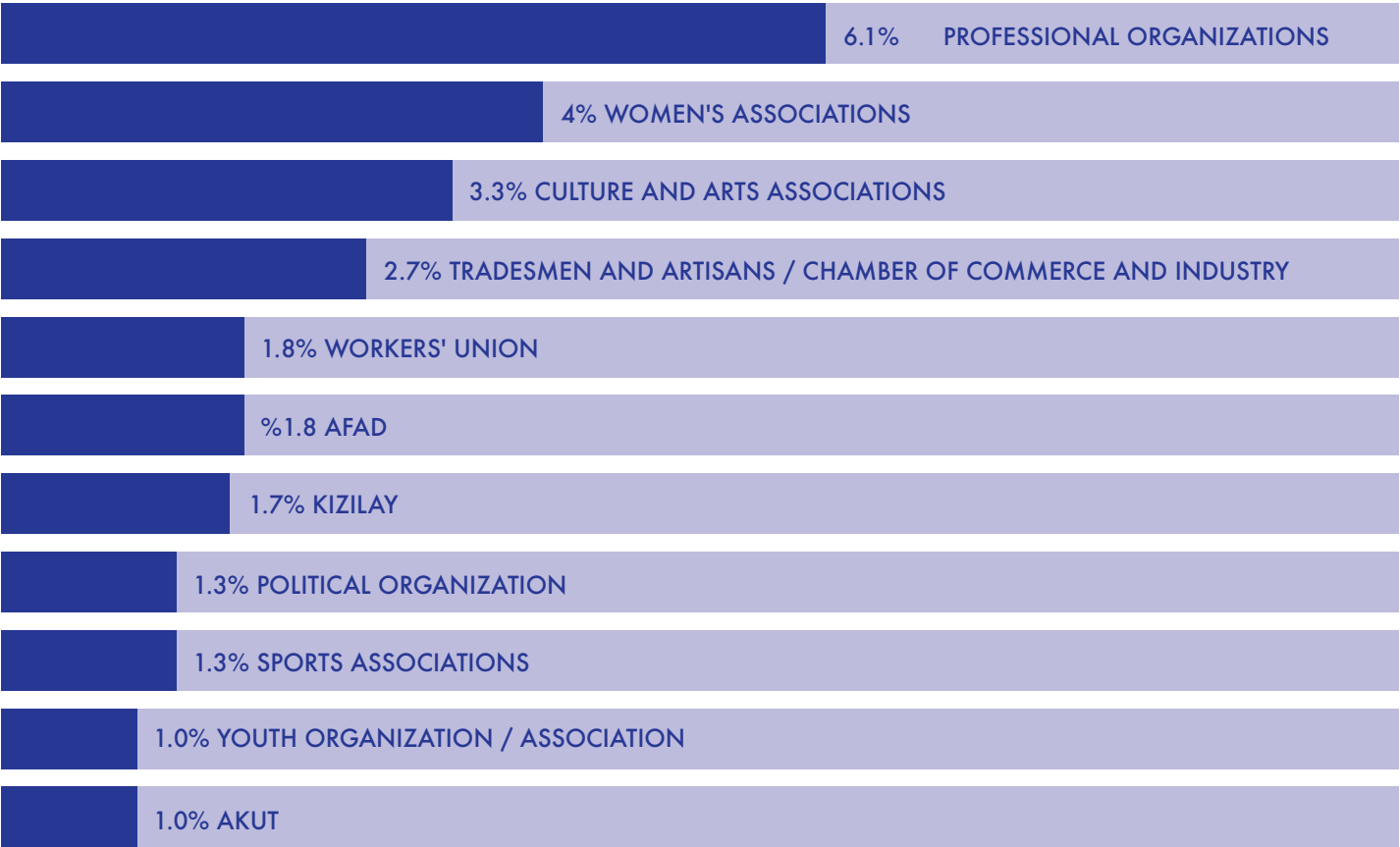




A large portion of participants (72.7%) stated that they have not worked as volunteers in any civil society organization in the past. This result indicates that the volunteering rate remains low in the Turkish Cypriot society.

FIGURE 11. MAIN ACTIVITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
WHERE PARTICIPANTS WORKED AS VOLUNTEERS

IF YOU WORKED, IN WHICH CSO DID YOU WORK?



Participants who had previously worked in any civil society organization (27.3%) were asked what type of civil society organization they worked in. The question was open-ended, and responses of 10 or more are reflected in the graph above.

WHAT WAS THE MAIN FIELD OF ACTIVITY?

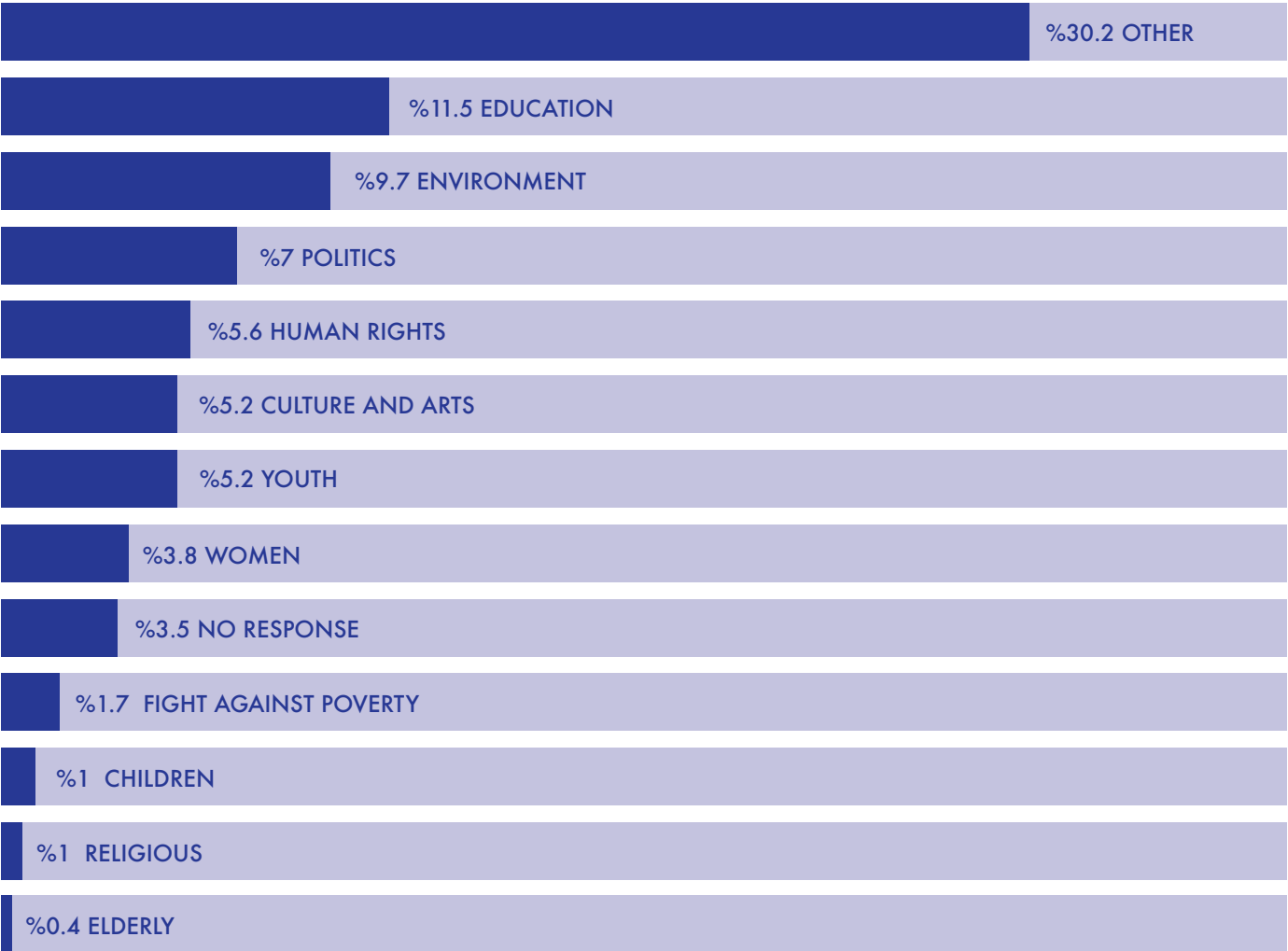


FIGURE 12. TIME SPENT ON VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES



Participants who had previously worked as volunteers in any civil society organization were asked how many hours they volunteered, and 60.43% of participants stated that they did not work more than 2 hours per week.

FIGURE 13. MOTIVATION FACTORS FOR WORKING
IN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



A large majority of participants who stated they worked in any CSO (71.6%) indicated that their primary motivation was supporting a concrete purpose, project, or activity. The options were presented to participants as shown in the graph.

FIGURE 14. REASONS FOR NOT ENGAGING IN VOLUNTEER WORK

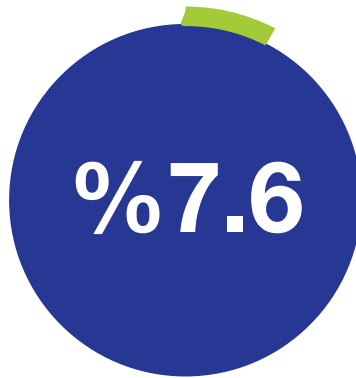


Nearly half of the participants who have not worked in any CSO (49.2%) stated that they do not have time as the reason for not volunteering.



%9.8

**I DON'T HAVE A CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATION I WANT TO WORK WITH**



%7.6

**I DON'T HAVE MONEY TO
ALLOCATE FOR VOLUNTEER WORK**



%0.6

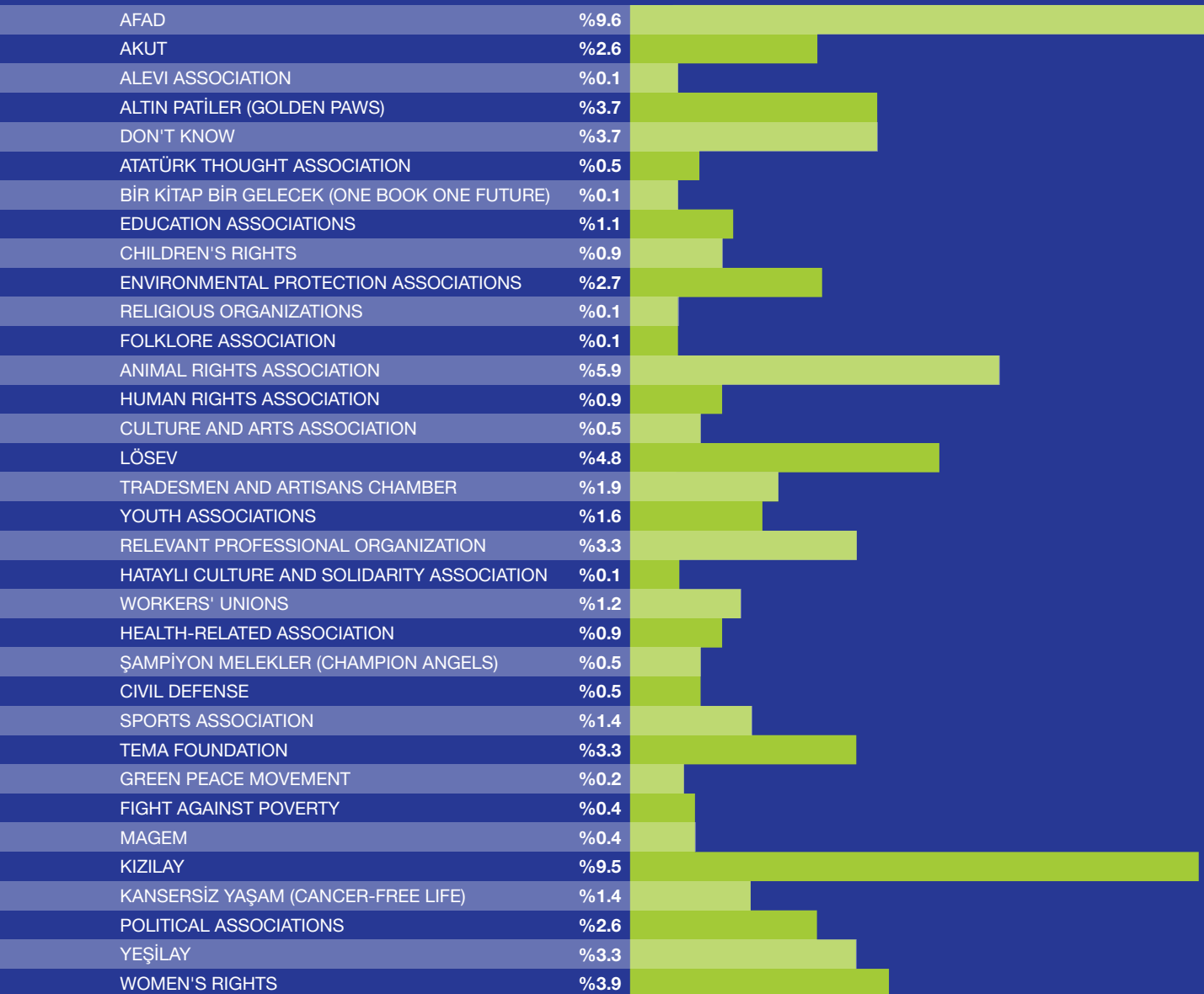
**MY FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS
DO NOT ALLOW IT**

FIGURE 15. TYPES OF DONATIONS MADE



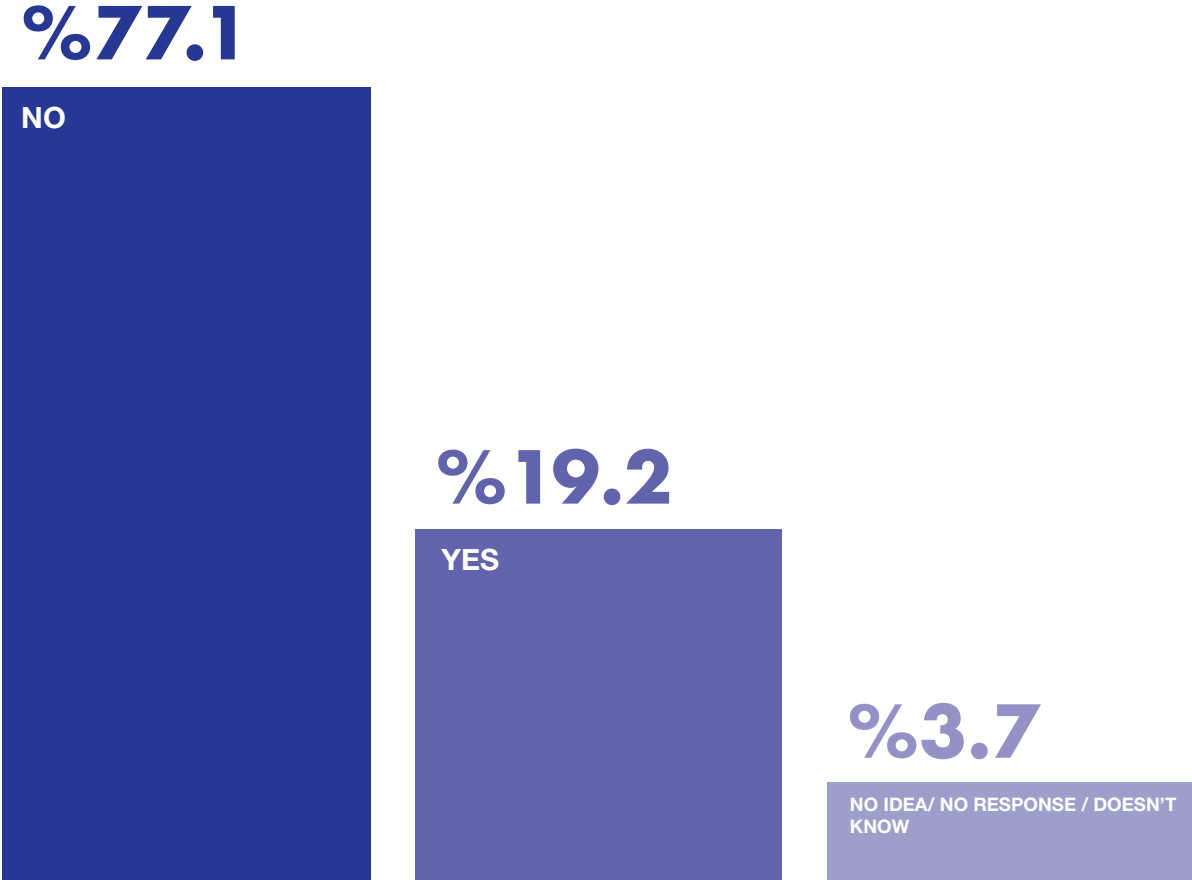
Participants were asked about their preferred type of donation, with the options shown in the graph provided. A large portion of participants (45.5%) stated that they donated clothes, books, or similar items to a foundation, association, or similar charity organization.

FIGURE 16. INTENTION TO JOIN SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONS



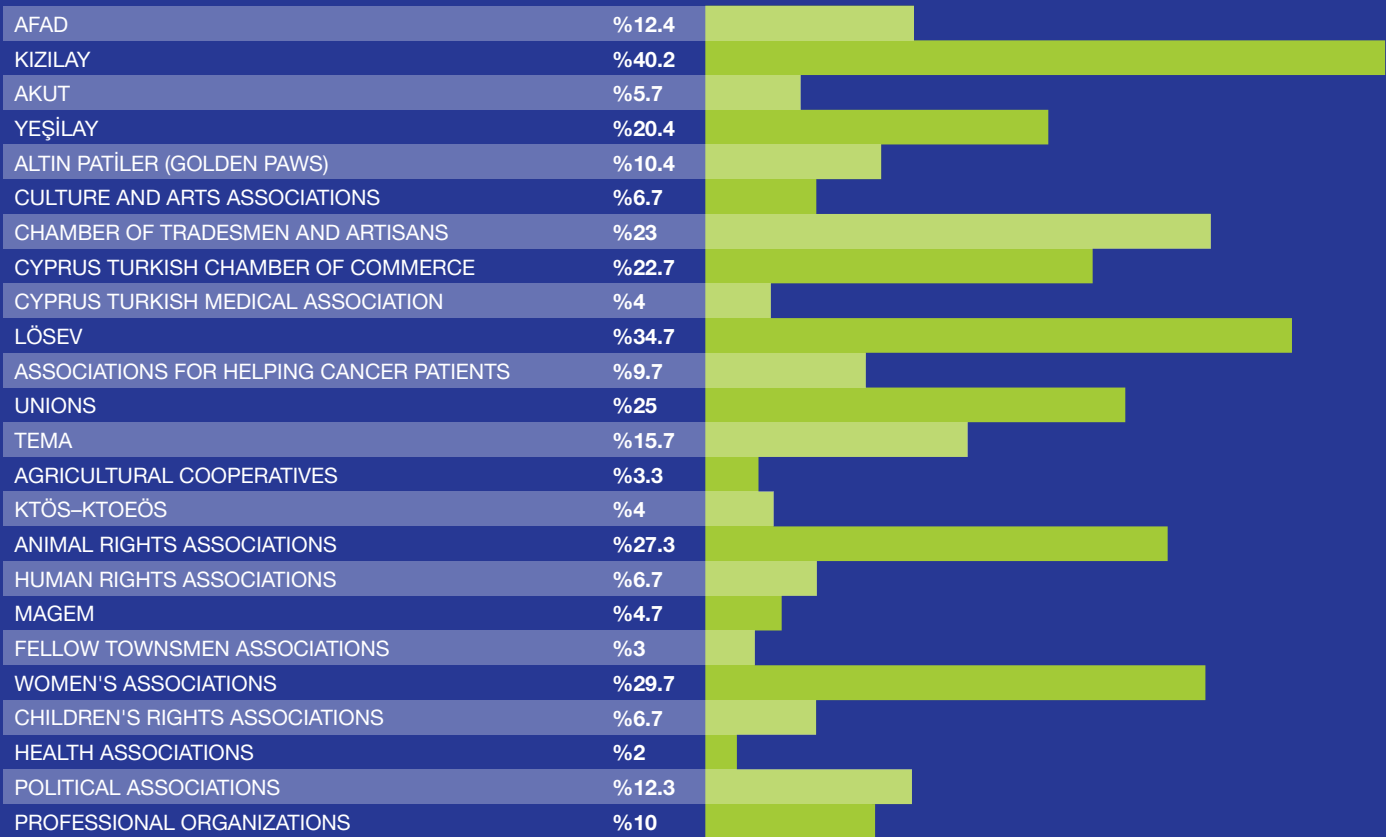
Participants were asked which organization they would join if they were to participate in one. Participants preferred AFAD and Kızılay the most, while 26.7% of participants did not respond to the relevant question.

FIGURE 17. PARTICIPATION IN COLLECTIVE SOCIAL ACTIONS



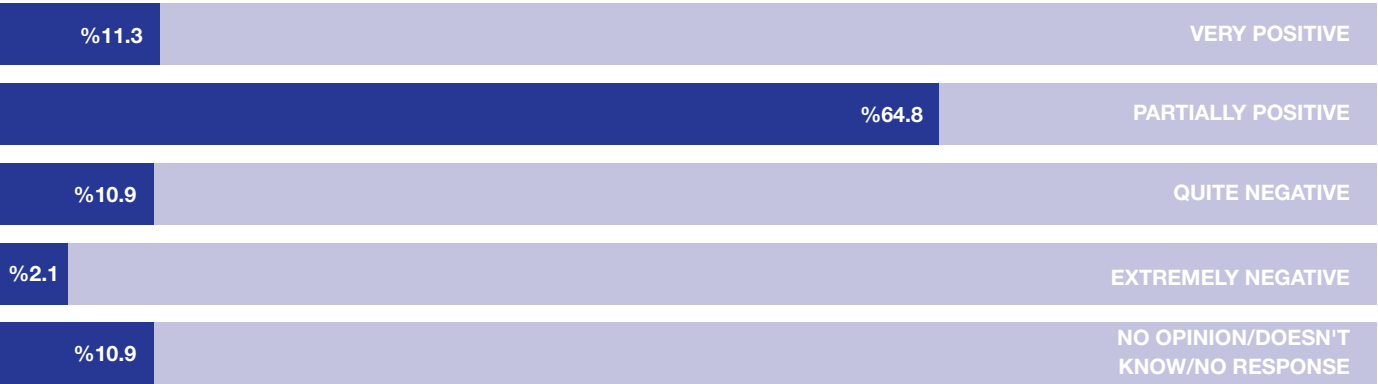
A large majority of participants (77.1%) have not participated in any collective action in the last two years.

FIGURE 18. AWARENESS IN THE CONTEXT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



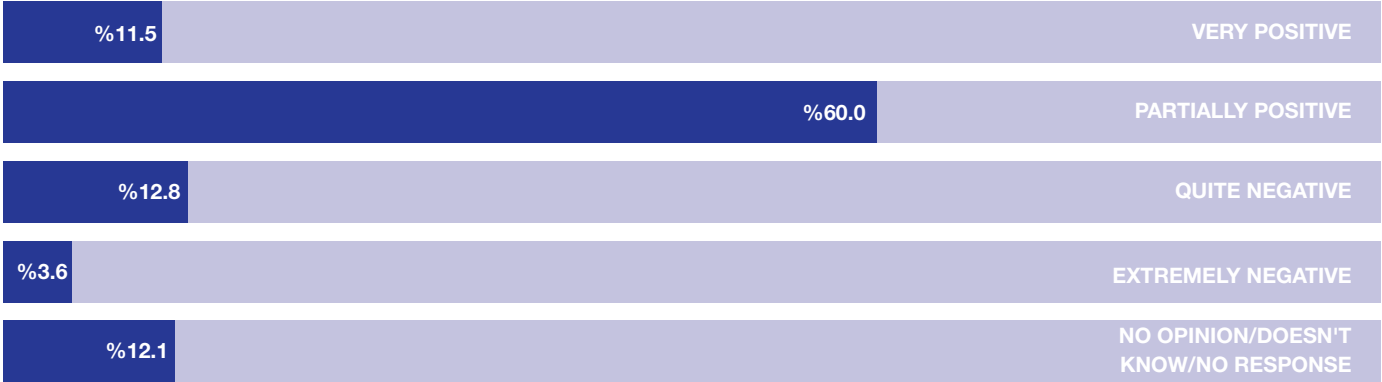
Participants mentioned multiple organization names, with LÖSEV and women's associations being the most frequently recalled.

FIGURE 19. ATTITUDES TOWARD CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTHERN PART OF CYPRUS



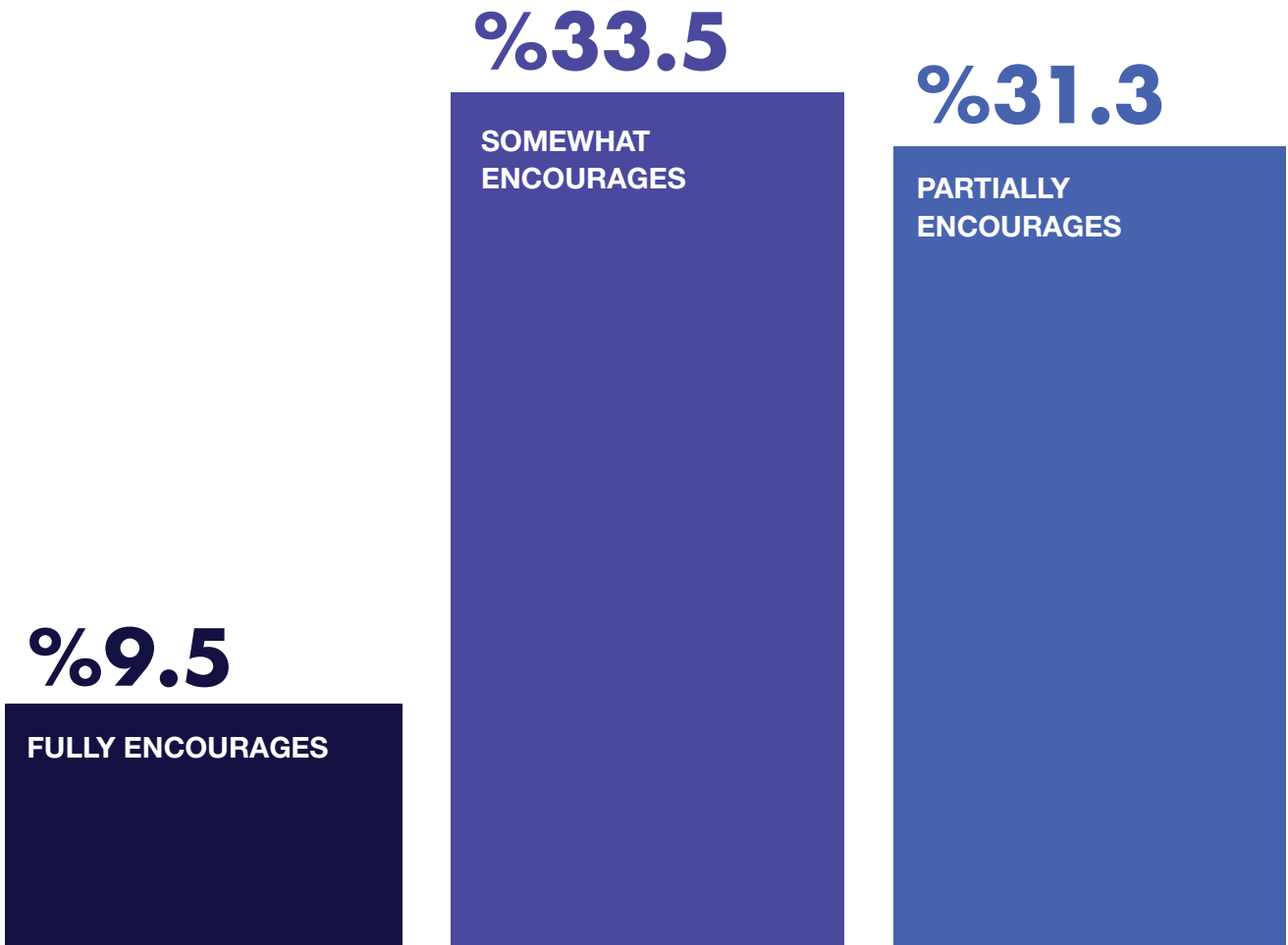
64.8% of participants expressed partially positive views on Civil society organizations.11.3% indicated very positive, 10.9% quite negative, and 2.1% extremely negative attitudes.An additional 10.9% provided no response.

FIGURE 20. IMPACT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS



60% of participants rated the impact of civil society organizations as partially positive. The remaining participants responded as follows: 11.5% very positive, 12.8% quite negative, 3.6% extremely negative. Additionally, 12.1% did not respond to this question.

FIGURE 21. CIVIL SOCIETY PROMOTING SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND DEMOCRACY



%12.6

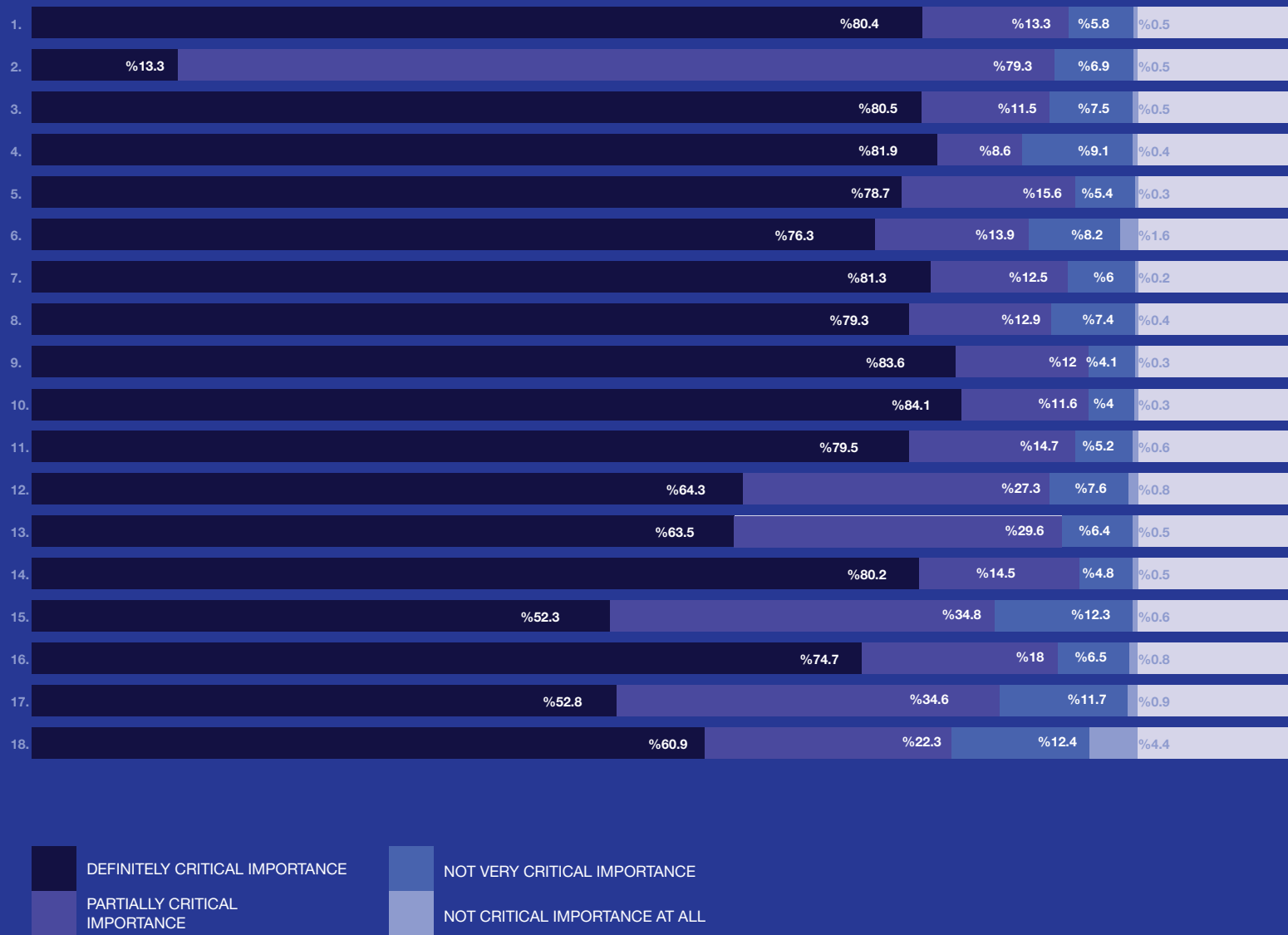
**DOES NOT
ENCOURAGE AT ALL**

%13.1

**NO OPINION /
DOESN'T KNOW / NO
RESPONSE**

33.5% of participants believe civil society somewhat encourages it, while 31.3% see it as partial encouragement. 12.6% stated it does not encourage at all, and 9.5% fully encourages. 14.1% of participants provided no response.

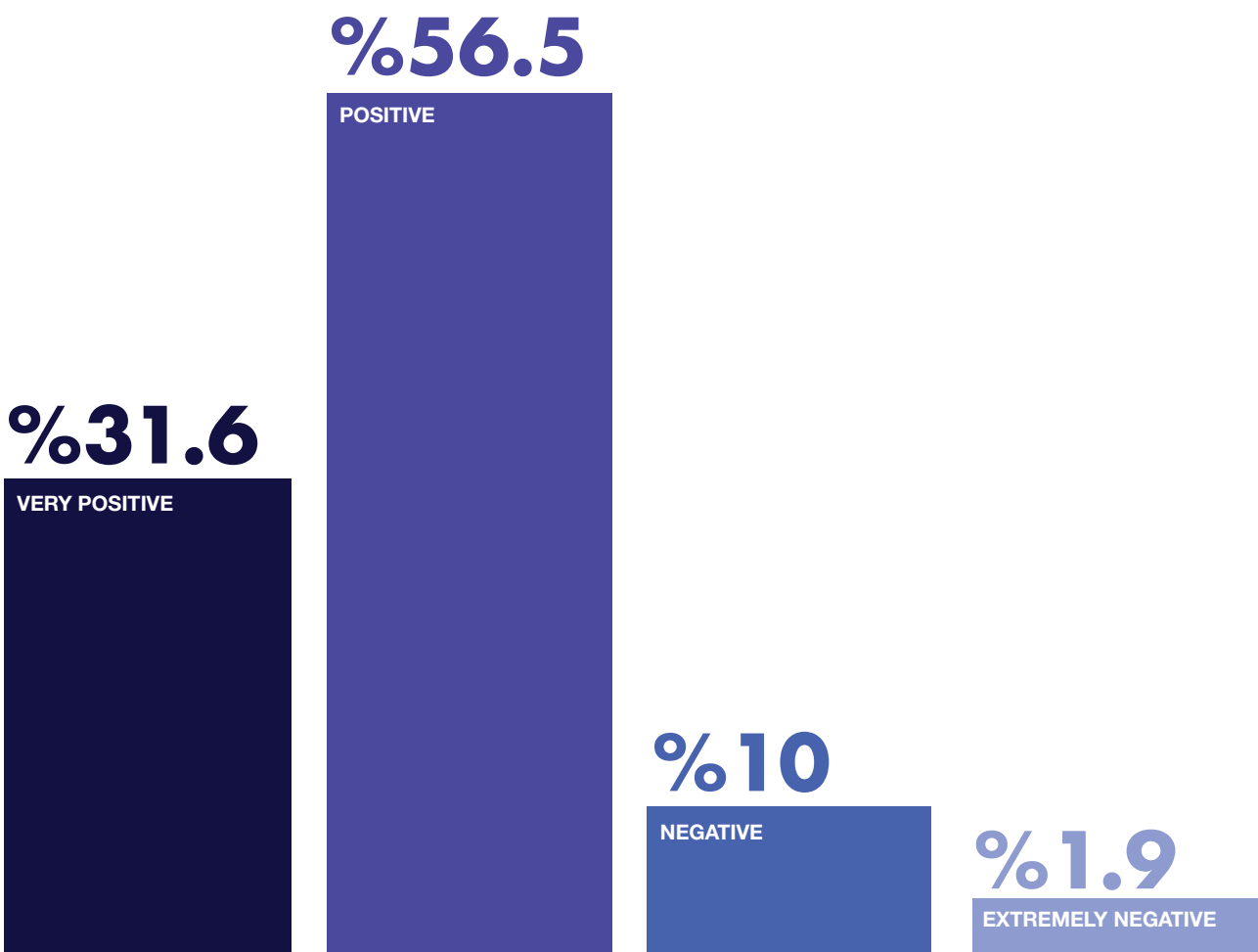
FIGURE 22. IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES



1.	EDUCATION
2.	SOCIAL SERVICES
3.	SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER
4.	HEALTH
5.	ANIMAL PROTECTION
6.	GENDER EQUALITY
7.	HUMAN RIGHTS
8.	YOUTH
9.	POVERTY ALLEVIATION
10.	WORK AND EMPLOYMENT
11.	FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING
12.	SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM COMBAT
13.	ECOLOGY / ENVIRONMENT
14.	ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
15.	CULTURE AND ARTS
16.	RURAL DEVELOPMENT
17.	CULTURAL DIVERSITY
18.	CYPRUS REUNIFICATION

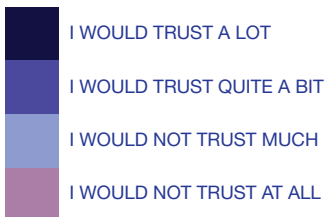
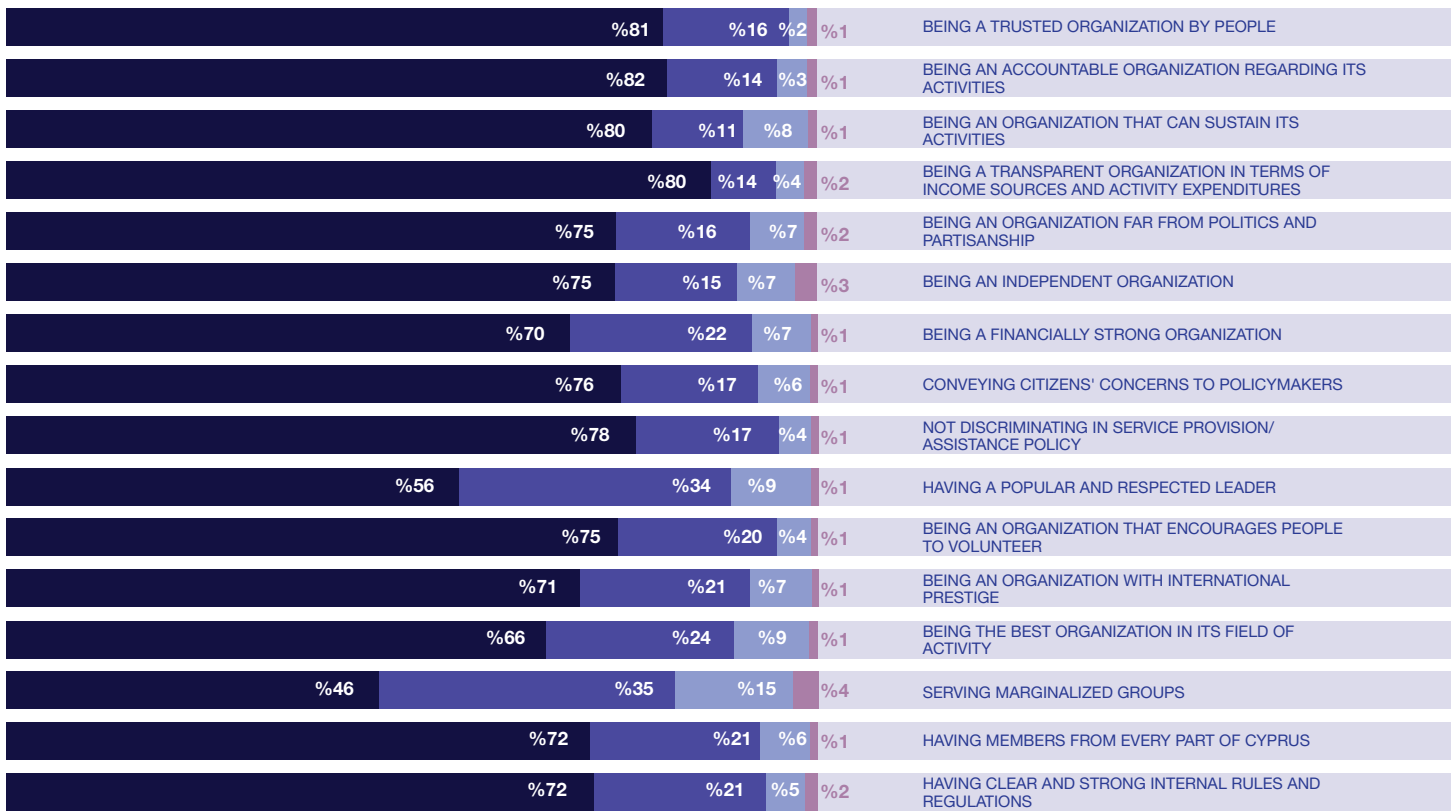
According to participants, the top 3 most important political and social issues are work and employment, fighting corruption, and health.

FIGURE 23. CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES



31.6% of participants found the contributions of civil society organizations in all areas very positive, while 56.5% found them positive, 10% negative, and 1.9% extremely negative.

FIGURE 24. IMPORTANCE OF LISTED QUALITIES REGARDING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



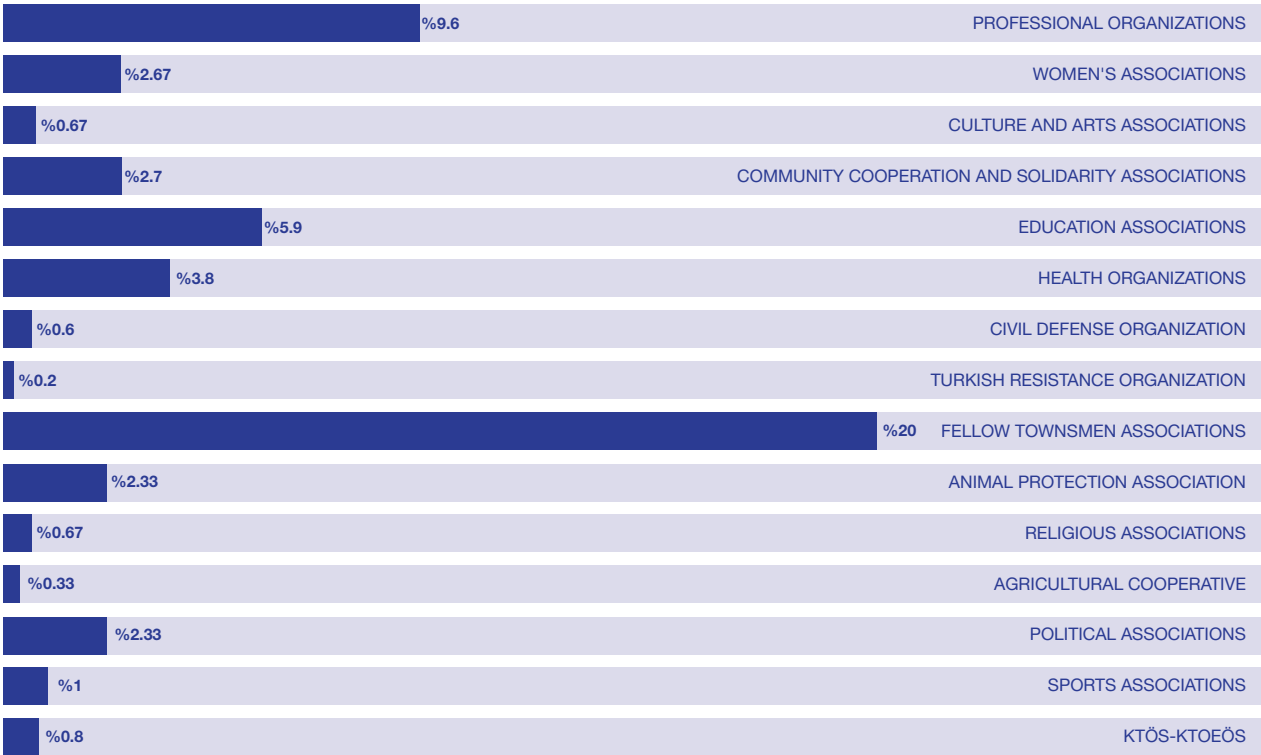
The top three qualities participants value most in civil society organizations are being accountable for activities, being trusted by people, and being transparent regarding income sources and activity expenditures.

FIGURE 25. BENEFITING FROM A CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION



28.2% of participants have previously benefited from the services of a civil society organization.

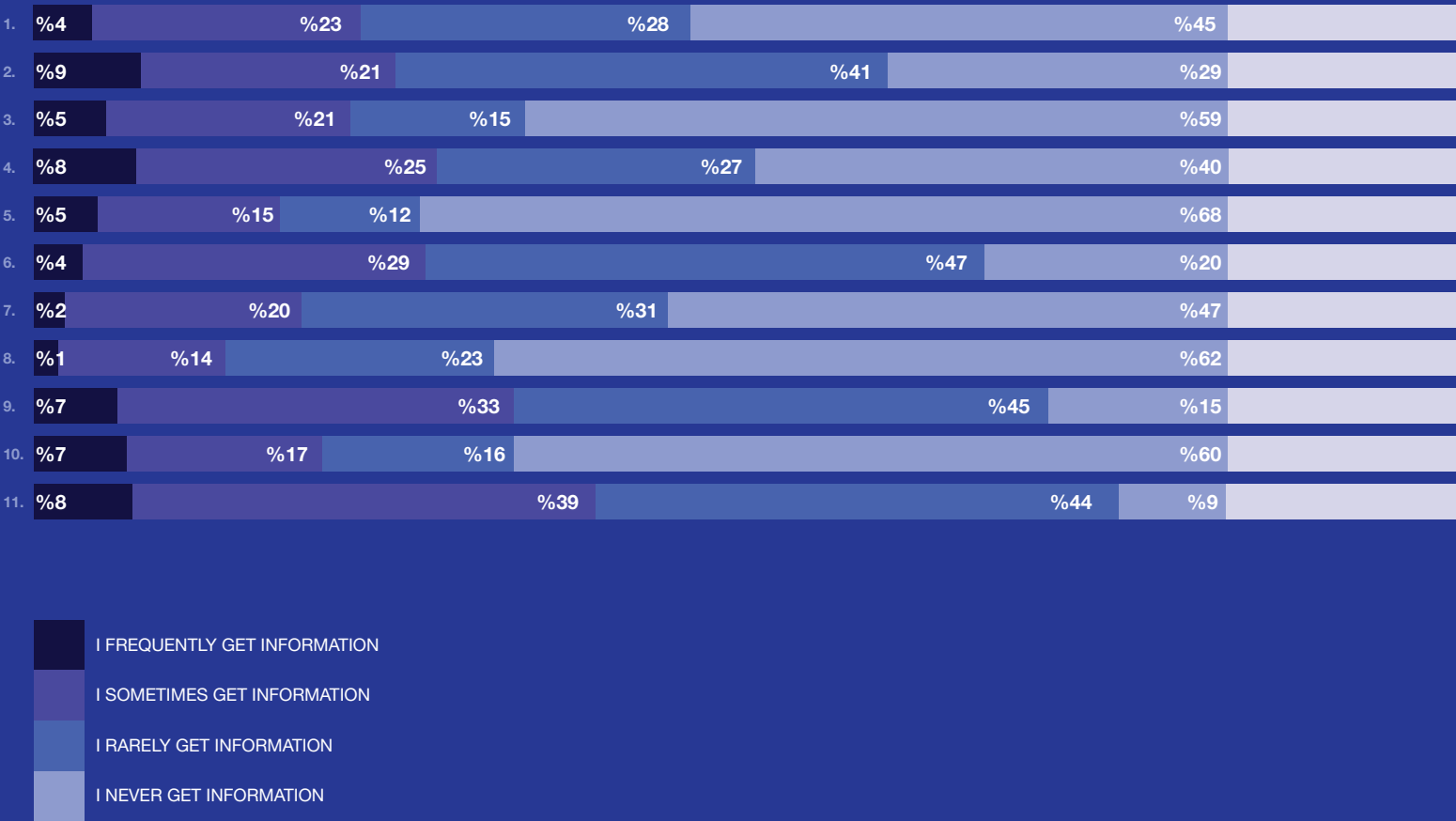
FIGURE 26. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS BENEFITED FROM



32.6% of survey participants indicated which organization they utilized. Among those who specified, 20% used fellow townsmen associations, 9.6% professional organizations, and 5.9% education associations.

3.4 INFORMATION SOURCES AND MEDIA USAGE

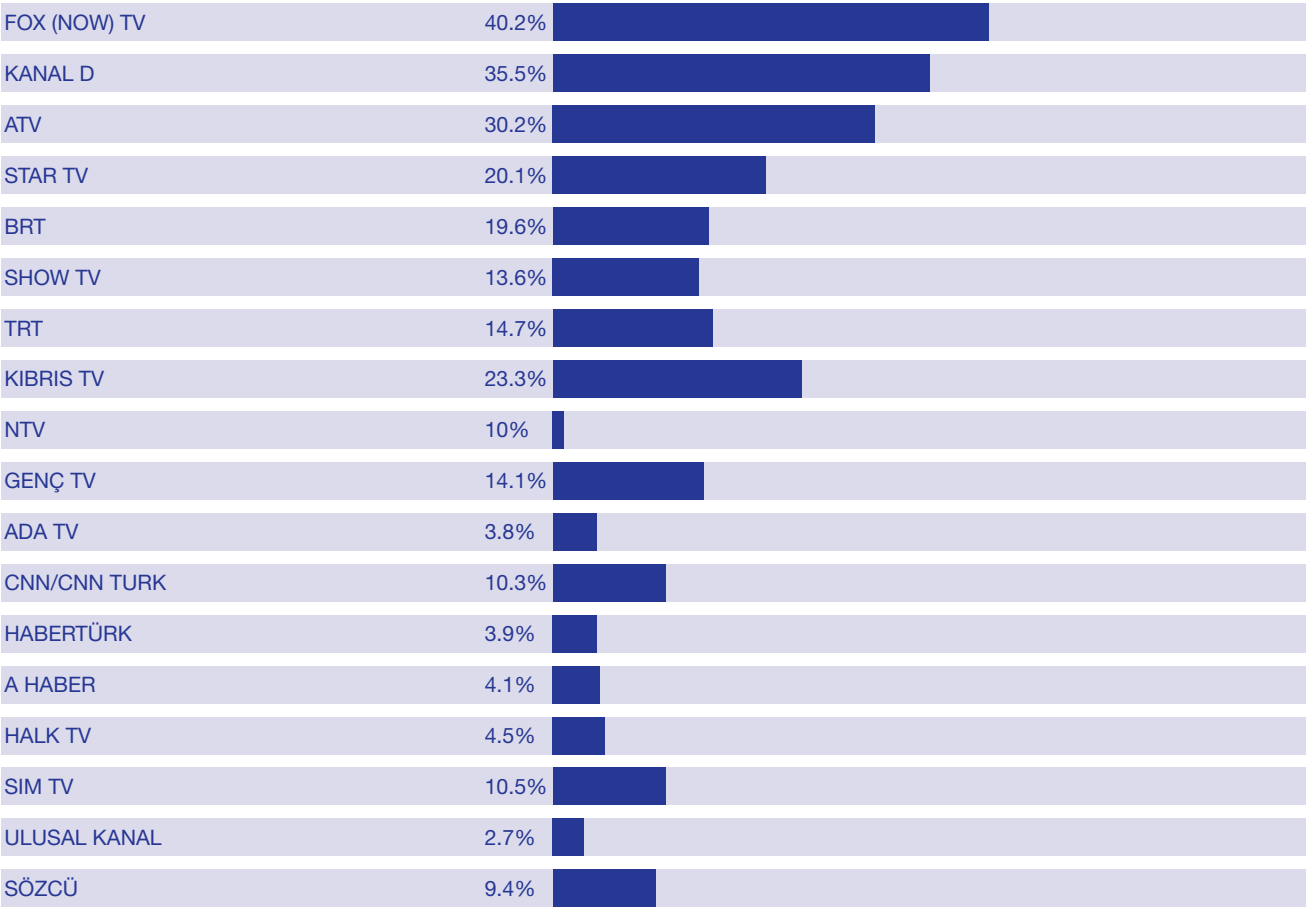
FIGURE 27. INFORMATION SOURCES ON CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



1.	NEWSPAPER NEWS
2.	NEWS ON TV CHANNELS
3.	FACEBOOK
4.	INSTAGRAM
5.	YOUTUBE
6.	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS
7.	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS
8.	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' E-NEWSLETTERS
9.	SMS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
10.	TWITTER
11.	OTHER FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES

Participants most frequently obtain information from TV channels, Instagram, and other (non-civil society related) friends and acquaintances.

FIGURE 28. MOST PREFERRED TV CHANNELS FOR FOLLOWING NEWS



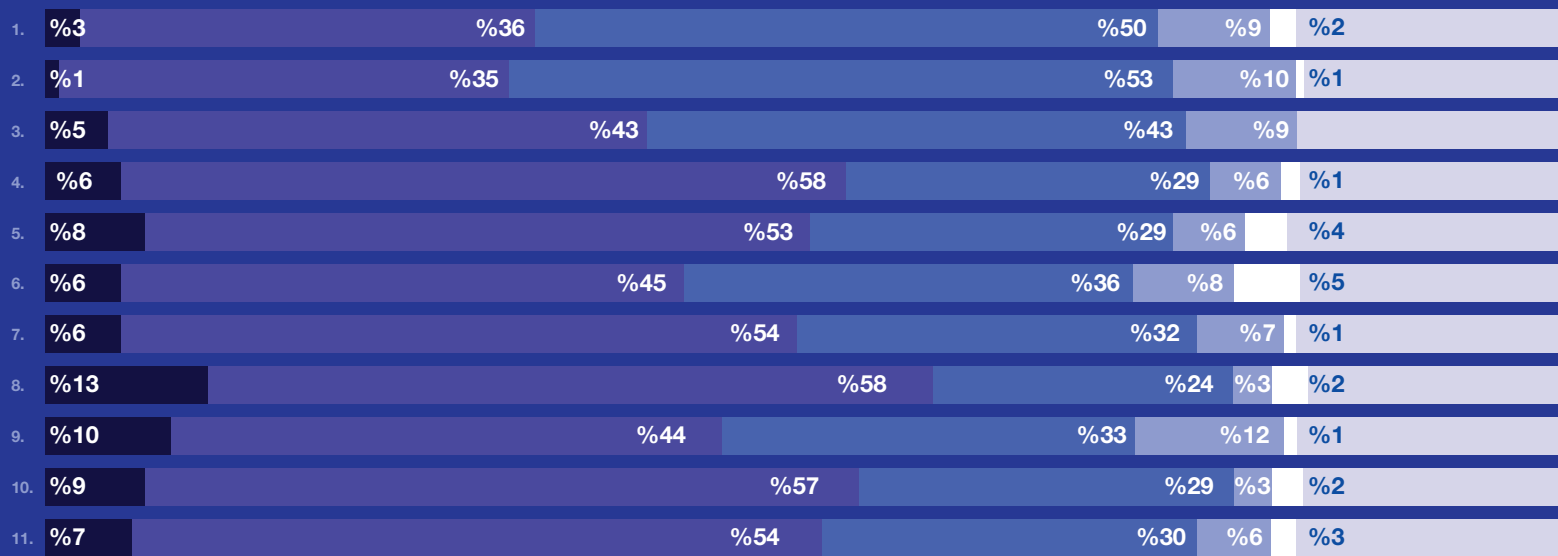
Participants have stated that they obtain information about civil society from FOX (NOW) TV, Kanal D, and from local channels, Kibris TV and BRT.

FIGURE 29. MOST PREFERRED NEWSPAPERS FOR FOLLOWING NEWS



Participants have stated that they follow Haber Kibris, Kibris, and Sabah newspapers. Nearly a quarter of participants do not follow any news, while some follow multiple newspapers.

FIGURE 30. TRUST LEVELS TOWARDS INFORMATION SOURCES



1.	NEWSPAPER NEWS
2.	NEWS ON TV CHANNELS
3.	SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS
4.	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS
5.	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS
6.	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' E-NEWSLETTERS
7.	SMS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
8.	FRIENDS OR ACQUAINTANCES WORKING IN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
9.	SHARES MADE BY ACTIVISTS
10.	OTHER FRIENDS OR ACQUAINTANCES
11.	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' WEBSITES AND/OR SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Participants have stated that they trust their friends or acquaintances working in civil society organizations, shares made by activists, and publications from civil society organizations.