

# INSIGHTS FROM THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY SURVEY

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# BACKGROUND

*“Most near-future fictions are boring. It’s always dark and always raining, and people are so unhappy.”*

*- Haruki Murakami*



# OVERVIEW

## What we Did

- A global survey of Center for International Private Enterprise (**CIPE**), National Democratic Institute (**NDI**), International Republican Institute (**IRI**), and National Endowment for Democracy (**NED**)'s global partners and other democratic reformers conducted by **Ipsos**

## What it Means for You

- **Inform**: Broaden understanding of what a positive future of democracy could look like in the digital age.
- **Inspire**: Use insights to inspire tangible action locally and provide ideas for the global internet governance and development community to collectively strengthen democracy.

# SURVEY METHODOLOGY



## RESPONDENTS

**518** democratic reformers from **97** countries were interviewed who are part of the CIPE, NDI, IRI, and NED network.

*Note: All results are expressed as a percentage (%)*  
*Significance level: 95% significance*



## COLLECTION DATES

**May 3 to June 22, 2022**



## METHODOLOGY

**Online** surveys in **6 languages** (English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian, and Mandarin)

Survey link was sent by CIPE, NDI, IRI, and NED staff to their community of democratic reformers.

Ipsos sent reminders to the respondents.

# PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

# 518 DEMOCRATIC REFORMERS REACHED\*\*



\* RESPONDENTS FROM EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN, LIBYA, MAURITANIA, PALESTINE, SYRIA, TUNISIA

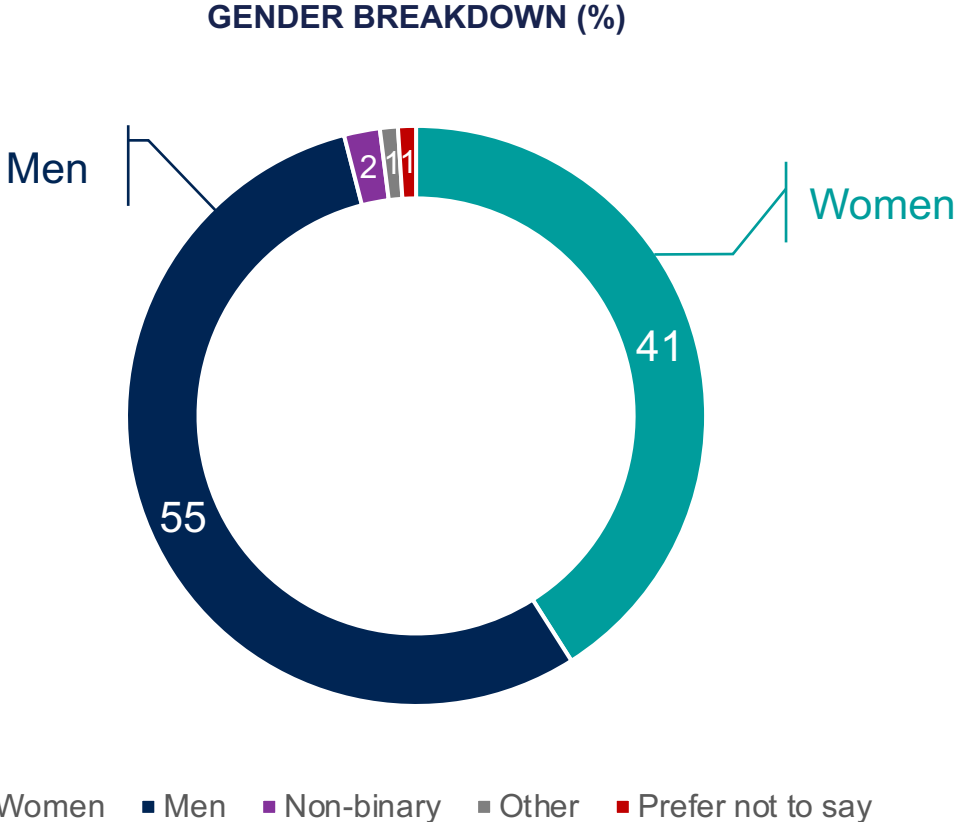
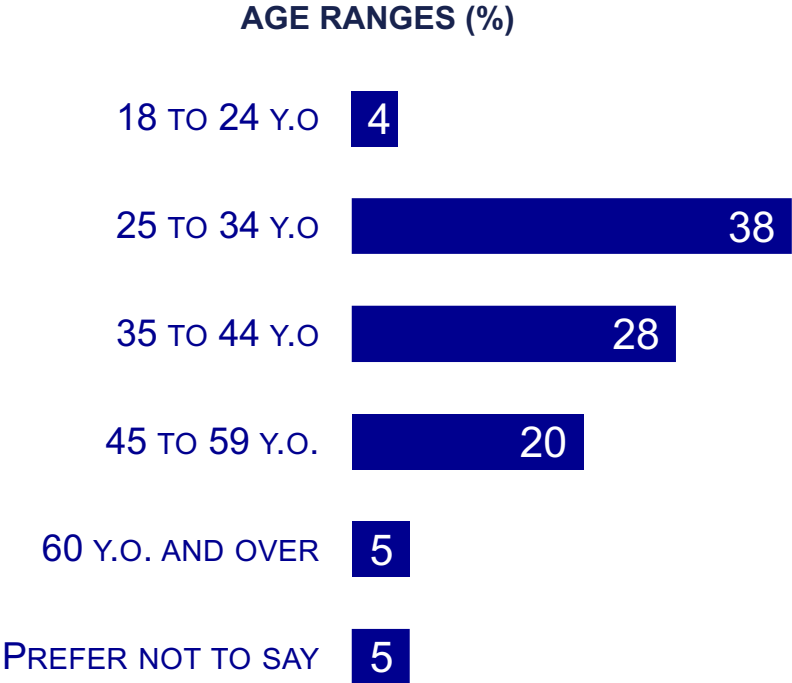
\*\* TOTAL IS SUPERIOR TO 518 BECAUSE MENA REGION RESPONDENTS ARE COUNTED IN AFRICA AND ASIA PACIFIC



# AGE AND GENDER OF THE RESPONDENTS

Question "What is your age?" / "How would you describe your gender identity?"

## AVERAGE AGE: 38.3 YEARS OLD



# RESPONDENTS' AFFILIATION

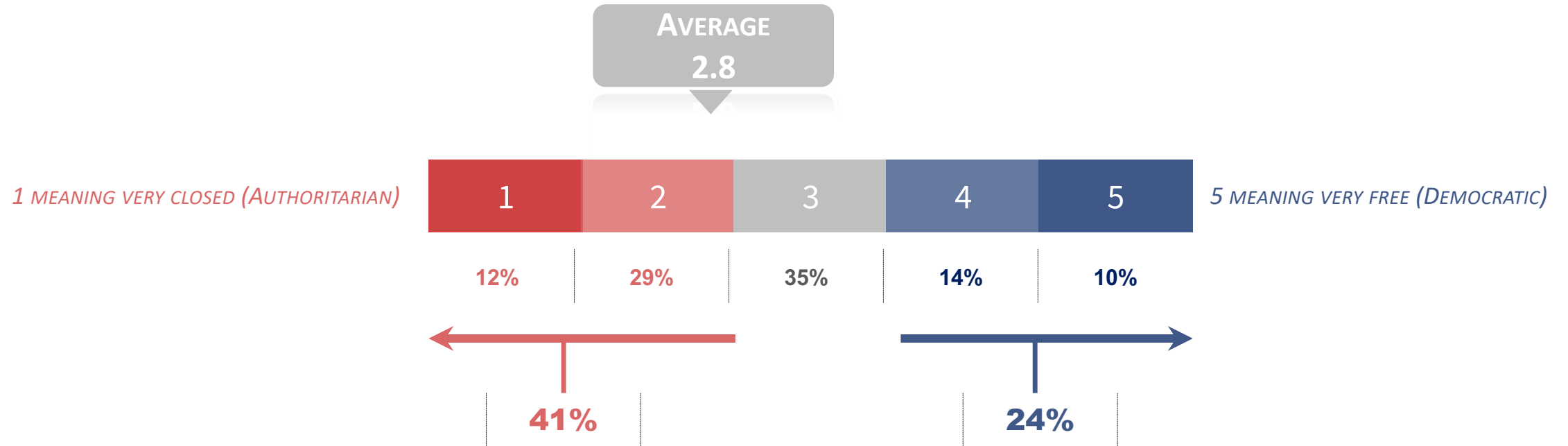
Question "What type of organization do you work for?"





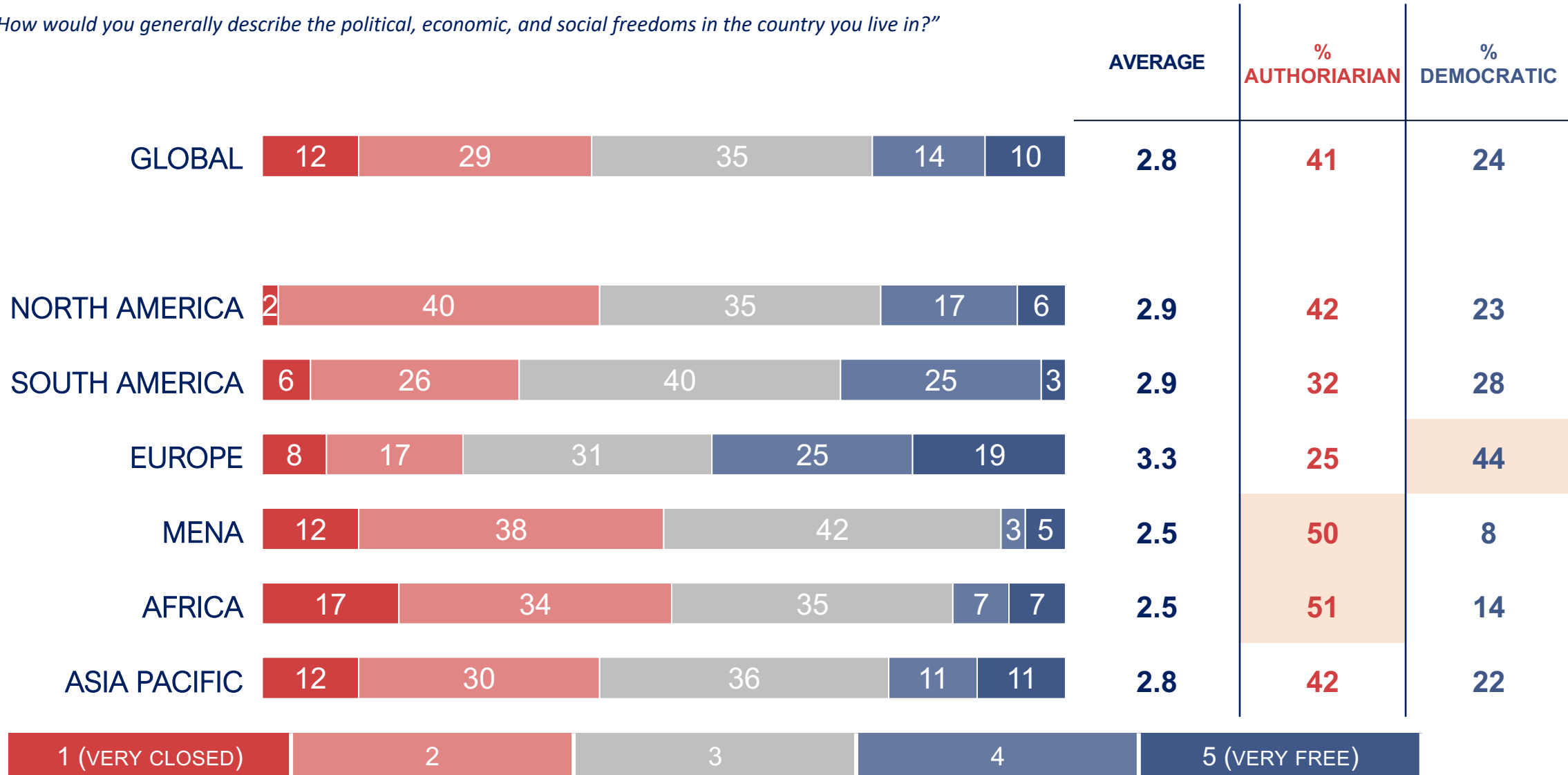
# RESPONDENTS' LEVEL OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FREEDOMS

Question "How would you generally describe the political, economic, and social freedoms in the country you live in?"



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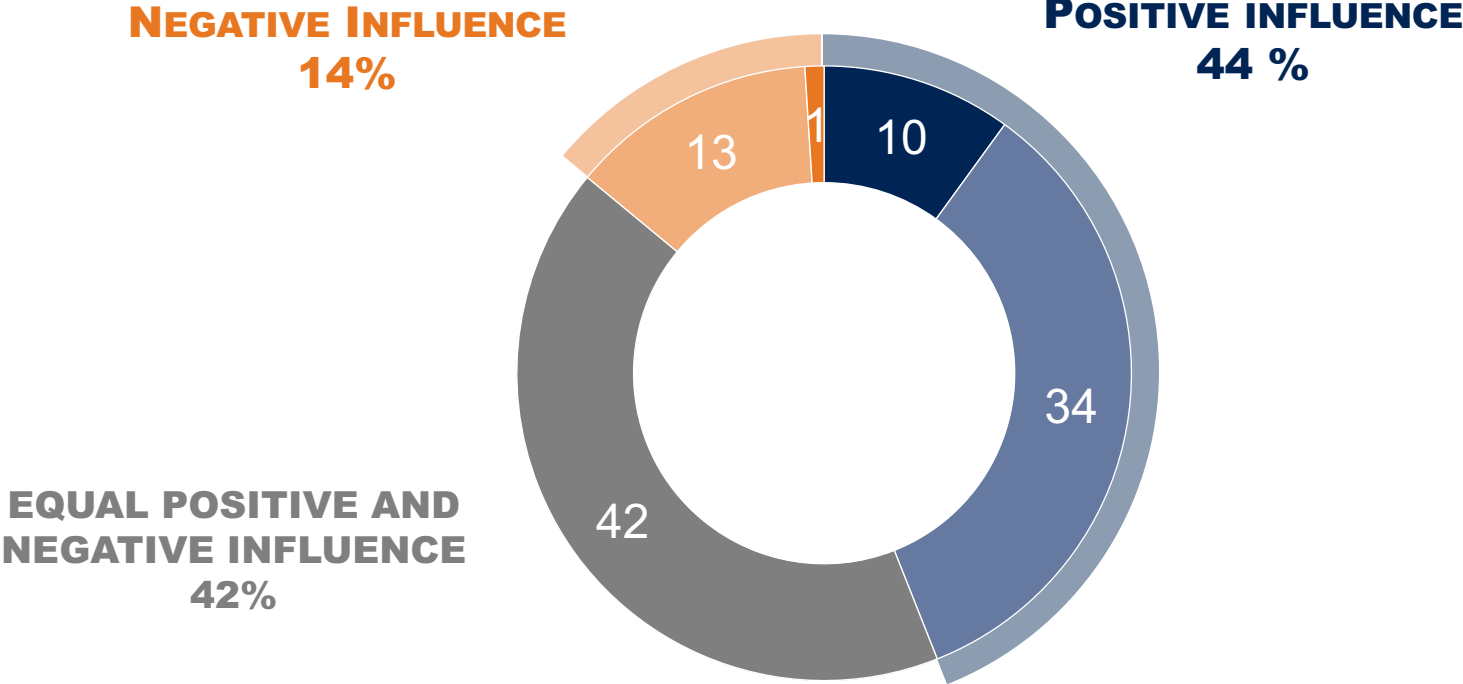
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# SURVEY RESULTS

# THE INFLUENCE OF THE INTERNET ON DEMOCRACY AND RIGHTS IN THEIR COUNTRY

Question "How would you rate the influence of the Internet on democracy and rights in your country?"



A STRONG POSITIVE INFLUENCE

A MOSTLY POSITIVE INFLUENCE  
*(THOUGH IT HAS HAD SOME NEGATIVE EFFECTS)*

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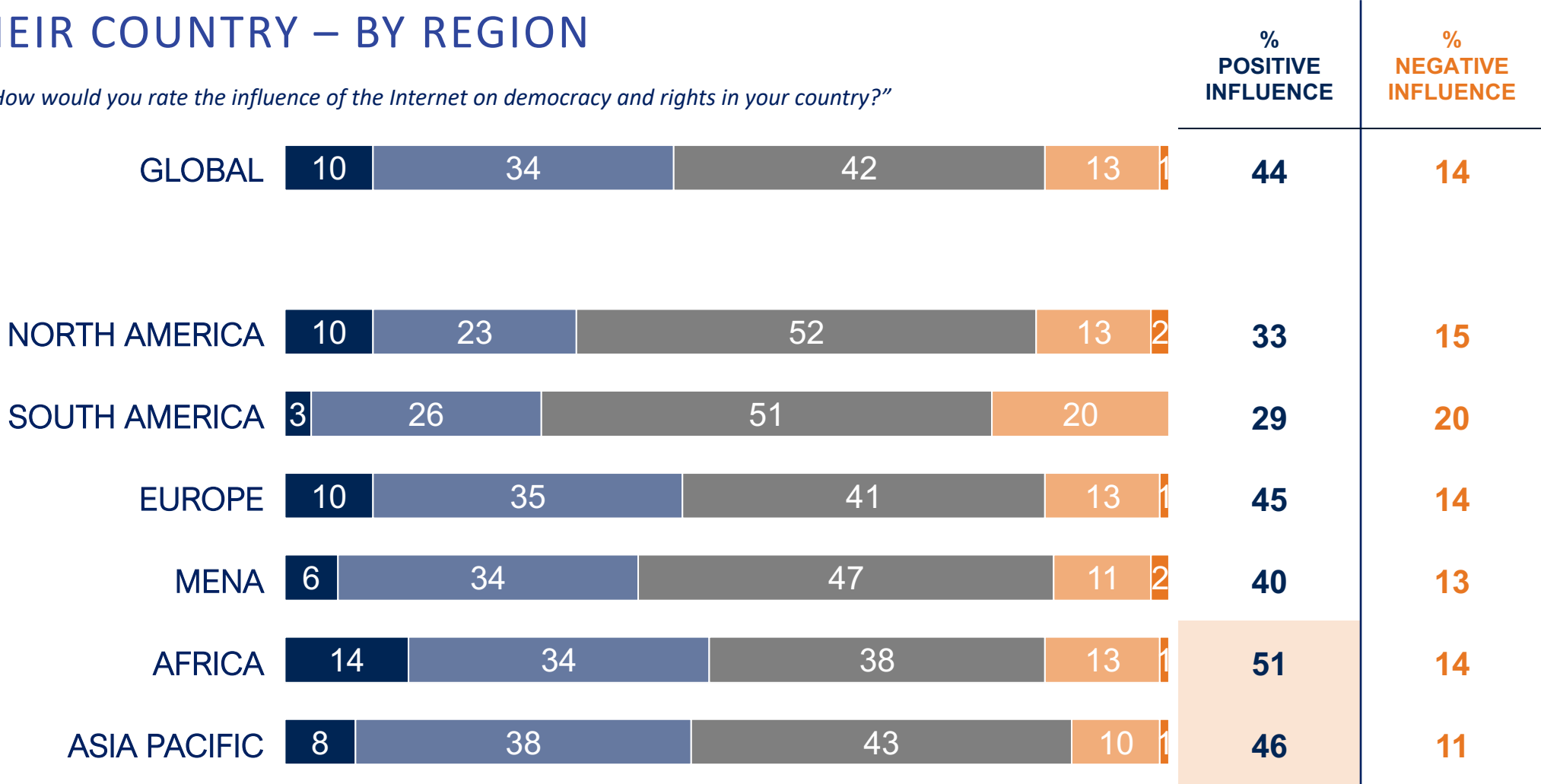
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# THE INFLUENCE OF THE INTERNET ON DEMOCRACY AND RIGHTS IN THEIR COUNTRY – BY REGION

Question “How would you rate the influence of the Internet on democracy and rights in your country?”

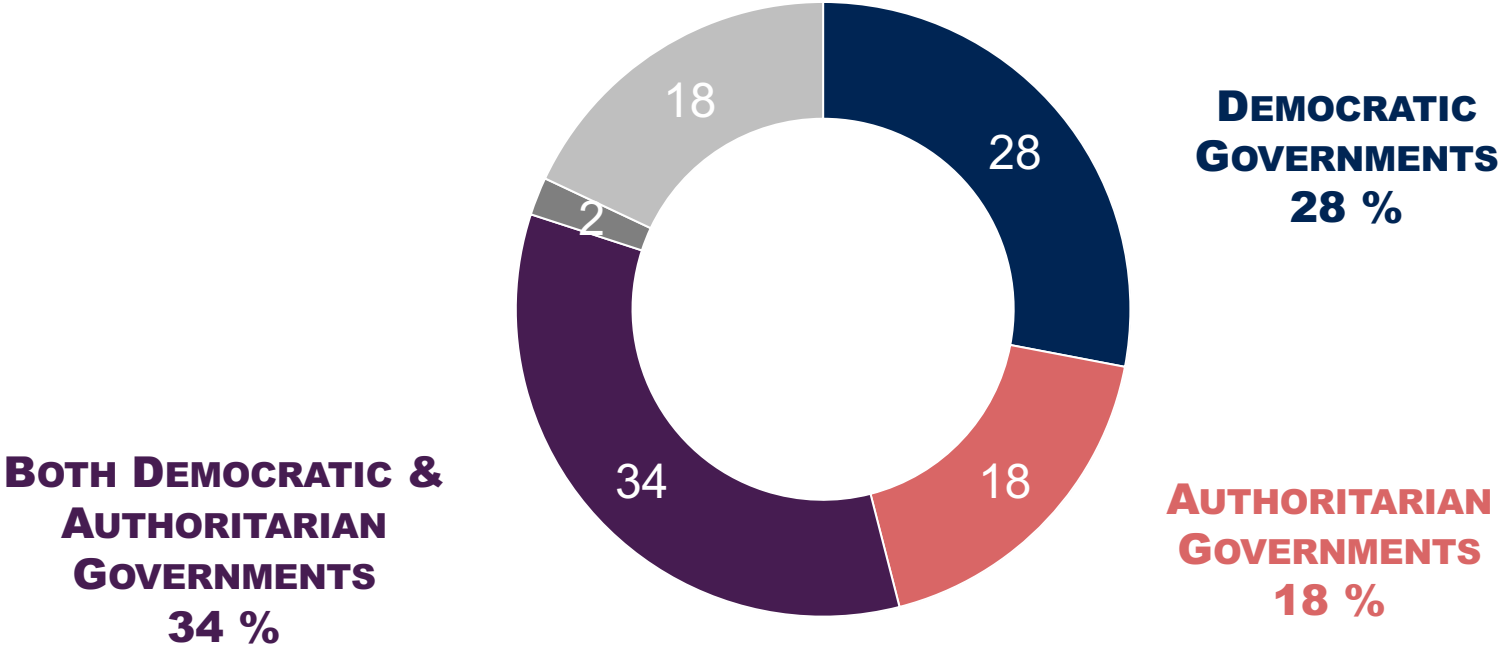


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# THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT THAT HAS BENEFITED MORE FROM THE INTERNET AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Question “Which type of government has, in general, benefited more from the Internet and digital technologies and used them more effectively to increase its strength and justify its system of governance?”



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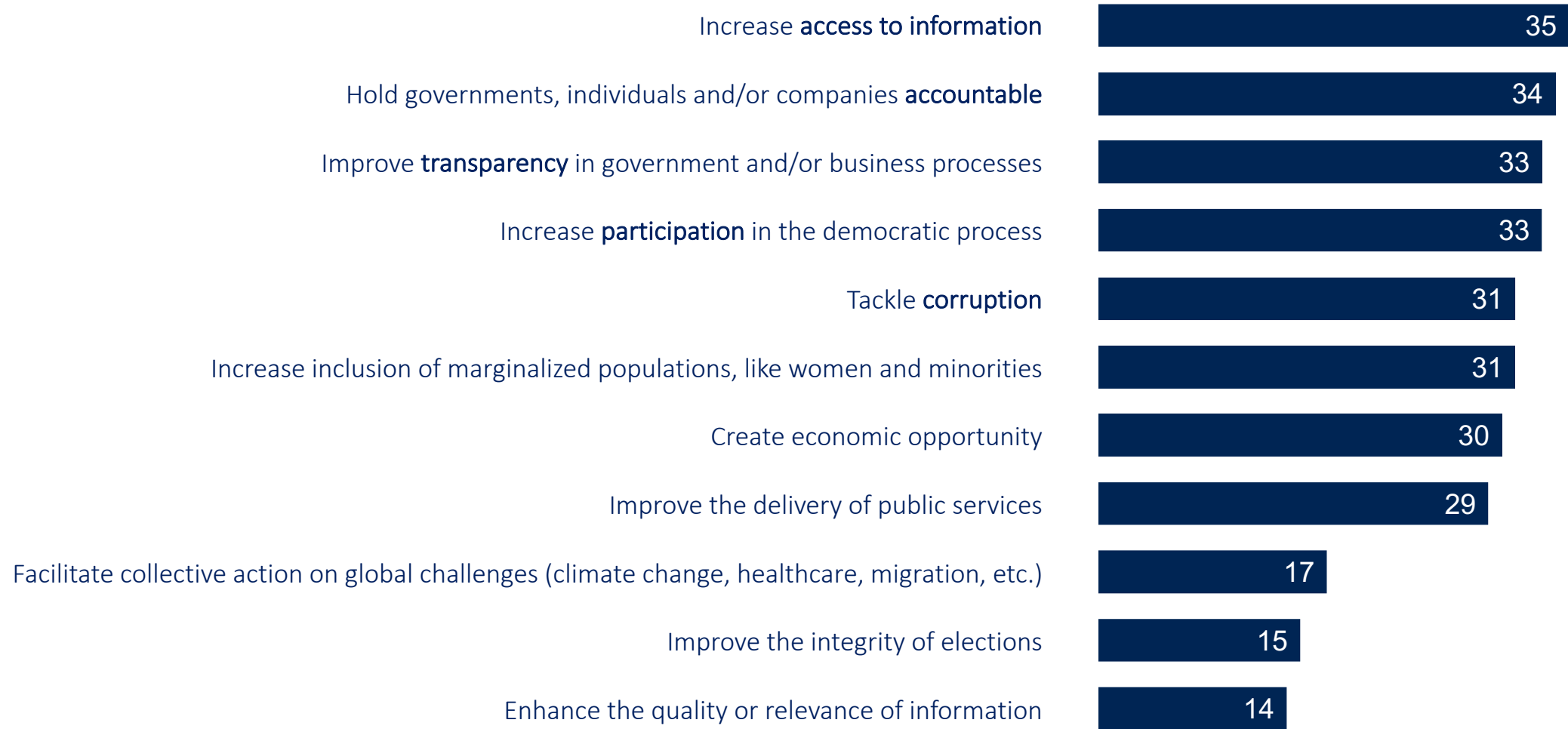
In %	GLOBAL	NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
Democratic governments	<b>28</b>	17	14	19	27	35	33
Authoritarian governments	<b>18</b>	29	34	25	10	12	14
Both types of governments have benefited equally	<b>34</b>	44	40	35	31	32	32
Neither type of government has benefited	<b>2</b>	-	-	2	5	2	2
I don't know	<b>18</b>	10	12	19	27	19	19



# THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS IN WHICH TECHNOLOGY CAN BE USED AS A FORCE FOR GOOD

Question “In your opinion, what are the most important ways in which technology can be used as a force for good?”

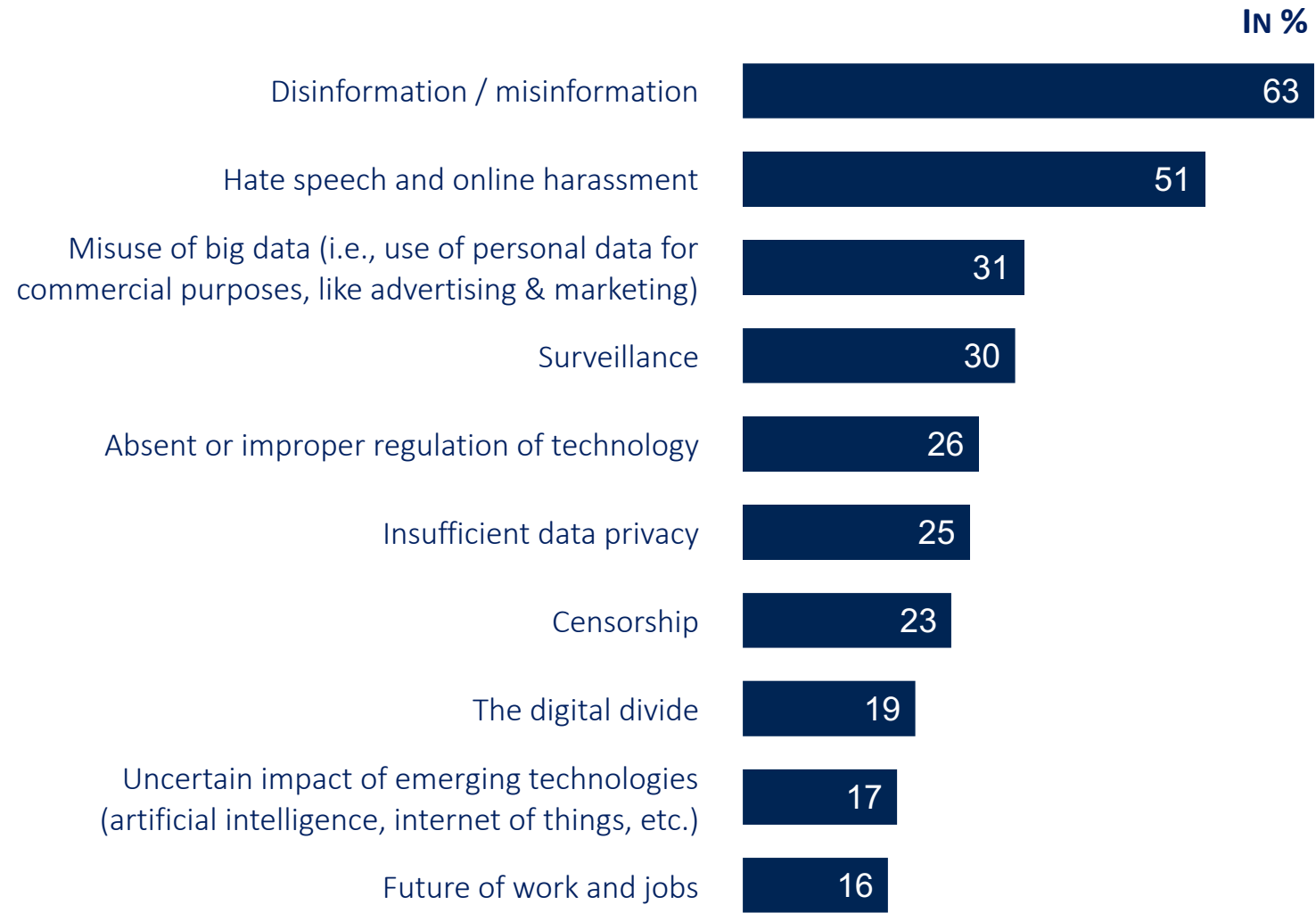
IN %





# WORRIES ABOUT THE INTERSECTION OF DEMOCRACY AND TECHNOLOGY

Question “What worries you most about the intersection of democracy and technology, currently and in envisioning the next decade?”



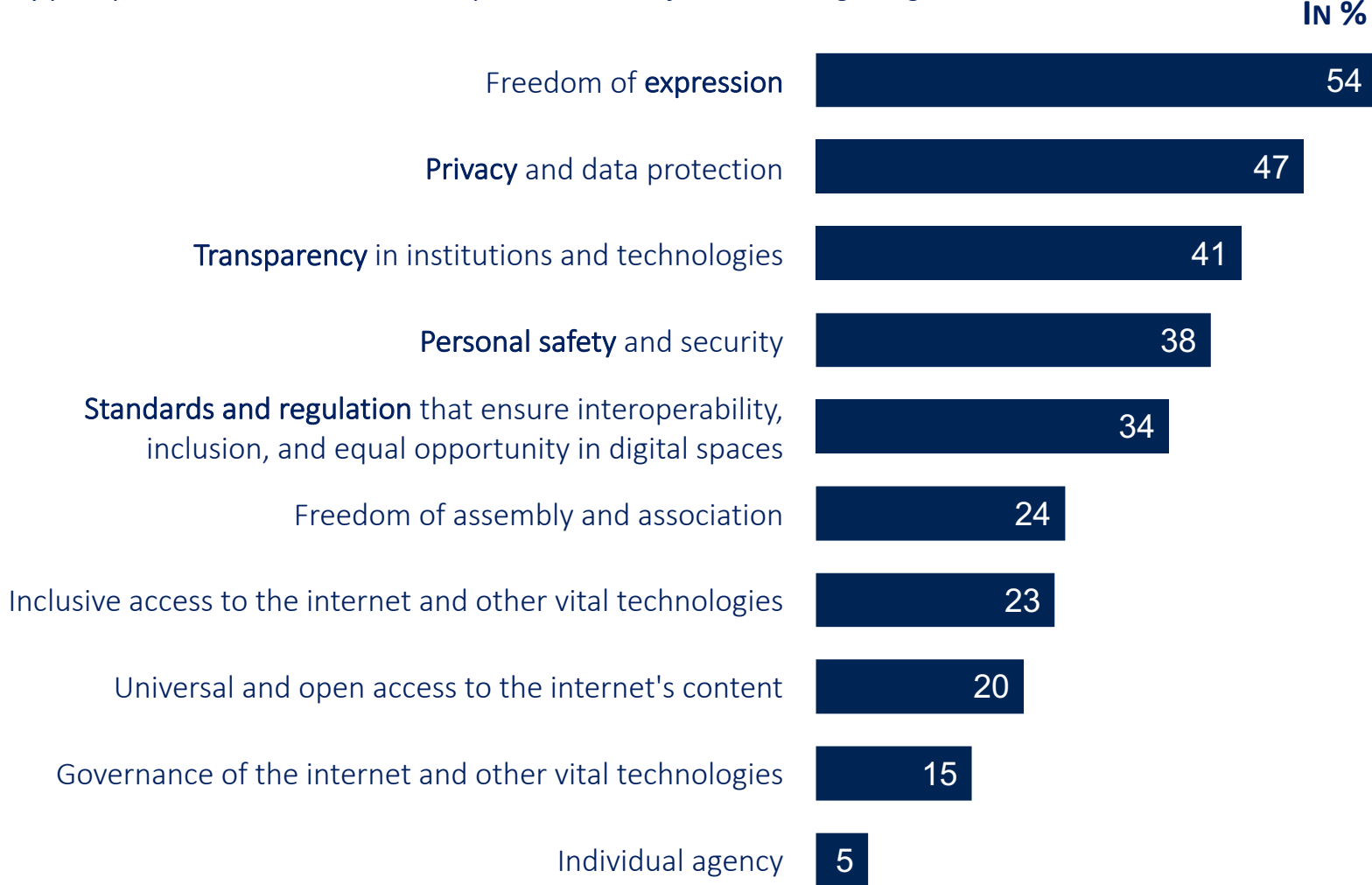
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IN %	GLOBAL						
		NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
Disinformation / misinformation	<b>63</b>	65	66	73	59	68	51
Hate speech and online harassment	<b>51</b>	50	54	47	59	52	51
Misuse of big data (i.e., use of personal data for commercial purposes, like advertising & marketing)	<b>31</b>	25	40	38	29	29	28
Surveillance	<b>30</b>	44	34	38	16	24	27
Absent or improper regulation of technology	<b>26</b>	27	17	26	29	25	28

# THE KEY PRINCIPLES OR VALUES THAT SHOULD UNDERPIN A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Question “In your opinion, what are the key principles or values that should underpin a democratic future in the digital age?”



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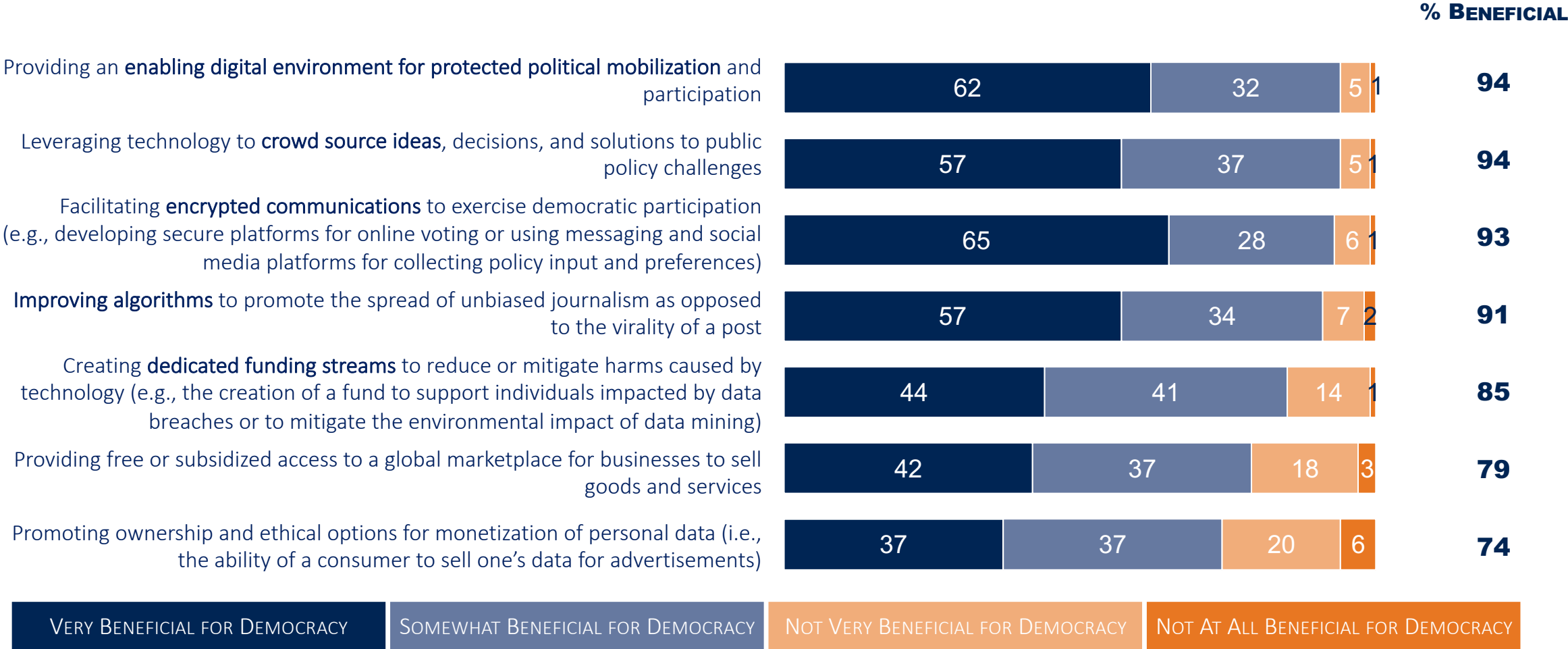
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	IN %	GLOBAL	NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
Freedom of expression		54	44	54	42	65	62	57
Privacy and data protection		47	54	29	55	46	43	49
Transparency in institutions and technologies		41	35	49	45	49	36	46
Personal safety and security		38	25	26	40	44	37	42
Standards and regulation that ensure interoperability, inclusion, and equal opportunity in digital spaces		34	44	57	36	27	30	28



# THE APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE FUTURE

Question “Do you think these potential applications of technology would be beneficial for democracy in the future?”



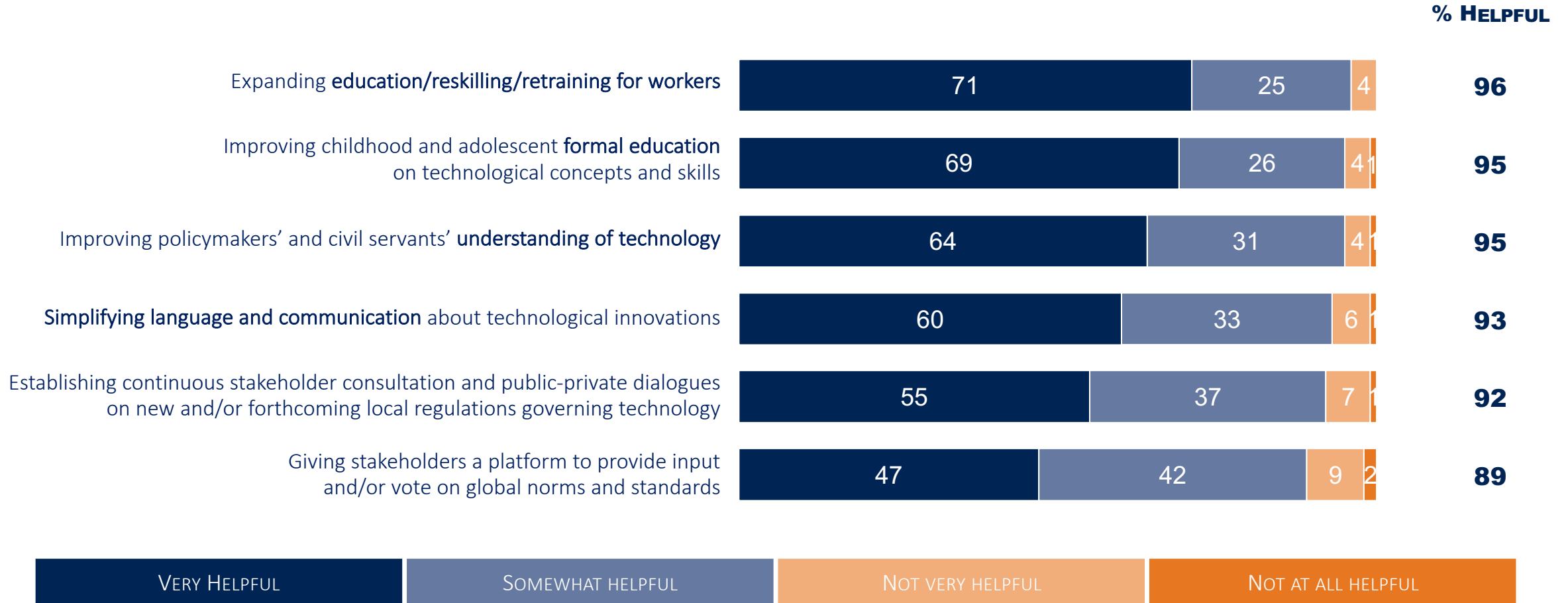
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	% BENEFICIAL	GLOBAL	NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
Providing an enabling digital environment for protected political mobilization and participation		<b>94</b>	98	89	91	93	94	97
Leveraging technology to crowd source ideas, decisions, and solutions to public policy challenges		<b>94</b>	94	97	92	95	95	94
Facilitating encrypted communications to exercise democratic participation (e.g., developing secure platforms for online voting or using messaging and social media platforms for collecting policy input and preferences)		<b>93</b>	92	83	94	92	95	92
Improving algorithms to promote the spread of unbiased journalism as opposed to the virality of a post		<b>91</b>	90	94	89	92	91	93
Creating dedicated funding streams to reduce or mitigate harms caused by technology (e.g., the creation of a fund to support individuals impacted by data breaches or to mitigate the environmental impact of data mining)		<b>85</b>	83	77	82	86	88	87

# MECHANISMS OR CHANNELS THAT COULD BE HELPFUL TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY IN THE FUTURE

Question “Given that technological innovation often outpaces society's understanding of technology as well as the regulations that govern technology, do you think the following mechanisms or channels would be helpful to bridge the gap in the future?”



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	% HELPFUL	GLOBAL	NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
Expanding education/reskilling/retraining for workers		<b>96</b>	96	89	91	100	98	98
Improving childhood and adolescent formal education on technological concepts and skills		<b>95</b>	98	94	95	96	93	97
Improving policymakers’ and civil servants’ understanding of technology		<b>95</b>	87	97	96	97	97	95
Simplifying language and communication about technological innovations		<b>93</b>	98	86	93	96	93	94
Establishing continuous stakeholder consultation and public-private dialogues on new and/or forthcoming local regulations governing technology		<b>92</b>	81	91	87	95	97	94



# EFFECTIVE WAYS TO SHAPE GLOBAL NORMS AND STANDARDS THAT STRENGTHEN TRUST IN FUTURE APPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY

Question “What are effective ways to shape global norms and standards that strengthen trust in future applications of technology?”



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	% IN TOTAL	GLOBAL	NORTH AMERICA	SOUTH AMERICA	EUROPE	MENA	AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC
Improving accessibility of digital education training and curricula, including for decision-makers	<b>59</b>	59	50	51	61	50	61	59
Mandating technology platform transparency and accountability or demonopolizing the tech industry	<b>57</b>	57	75	63	46	64	54	60
Establishing rules and regulations around the application of new and emerging technologies	<b>45</b>	45	58	34	50	44	45	39
Instituting clear processes for meaningful and continuous engagement (e.g., giving citizens a digital voice at the international level through crowd sourced input)	<b>39</b>	39	38	43	31	41	38	44
Promoting alternative online business models that reflect democratic values (e.g., privacy, respect for human rights)	<b>38</b>	38	23	34	43	34	40	39

*“What local, regional, or global initiatives, organizations, or individuals give you hope for a future of democracy that is improved through technology?”*

*How have they used technology to positively enable democracy, and why do they inspire you?”*

# NEXT STEPS

1. Factsheet
2. Global multistakeholder focus group
3. Local consultations in two countries
4. International conferences



**THANK YOU!**