



# Transatlantic Trends

Key Findings 2013

**G | M | F**

The German Marshall Fund  
of the United States

STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

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FUNDAÇÃO  
**LUSO-AMERICANA**

Fundación **BBVA**



## Methodology

This is the twelfth annual *Transatlantic Trends* survey of public opinion in the United States and Europe. TNS Opinion was commissioned to conduct the survey in 13 countries: the U.S., Turkey, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The surveys were conducted as Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews in all countries except Poland, Slovakia, Romania, and Turkey, where lower telephone penetration necessitated the use of face-to-face interviews.

In all countries, a random sample of approximately 1,000 men and women, 18 years of age and older, were interviewed. Interviews were conducted primarily between June 3 and June 27, 2013; they were suspended for a week in Turkey, then resumed and completed by July 2.

For results based on the national samples in each of the 13 countries surveyed, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of error attributable to sampling and other random effects is +/- 3%.

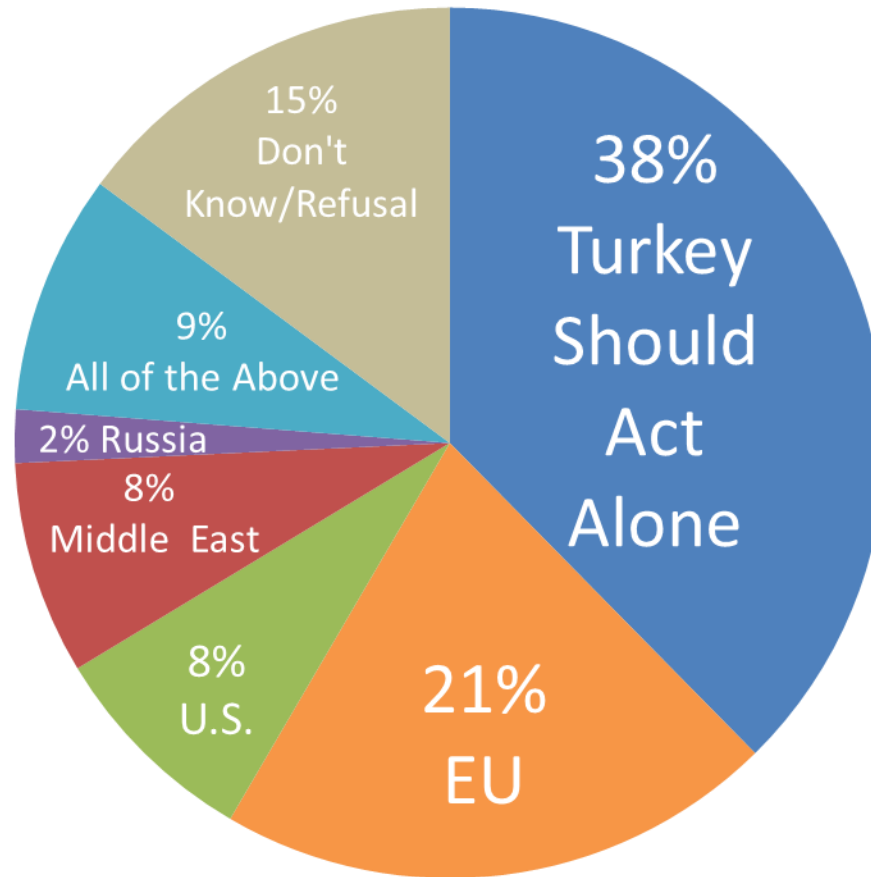


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*#trends13*



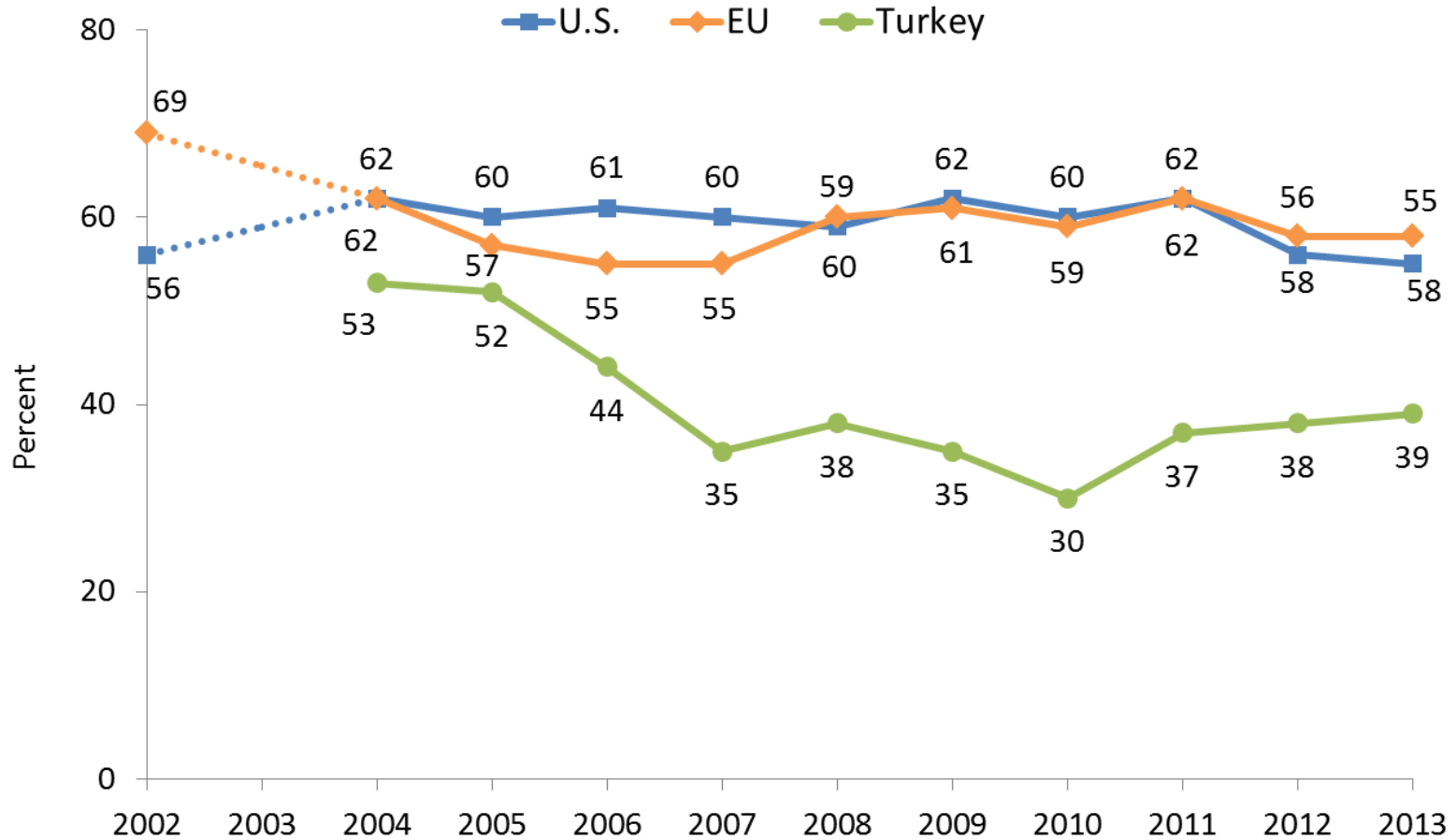
## With Whom should Turkey Cooperate?



Q33: On international matters, with which one of the following do you think Turkey should cooperate most closely?



## NATO Still Viewed as Essential

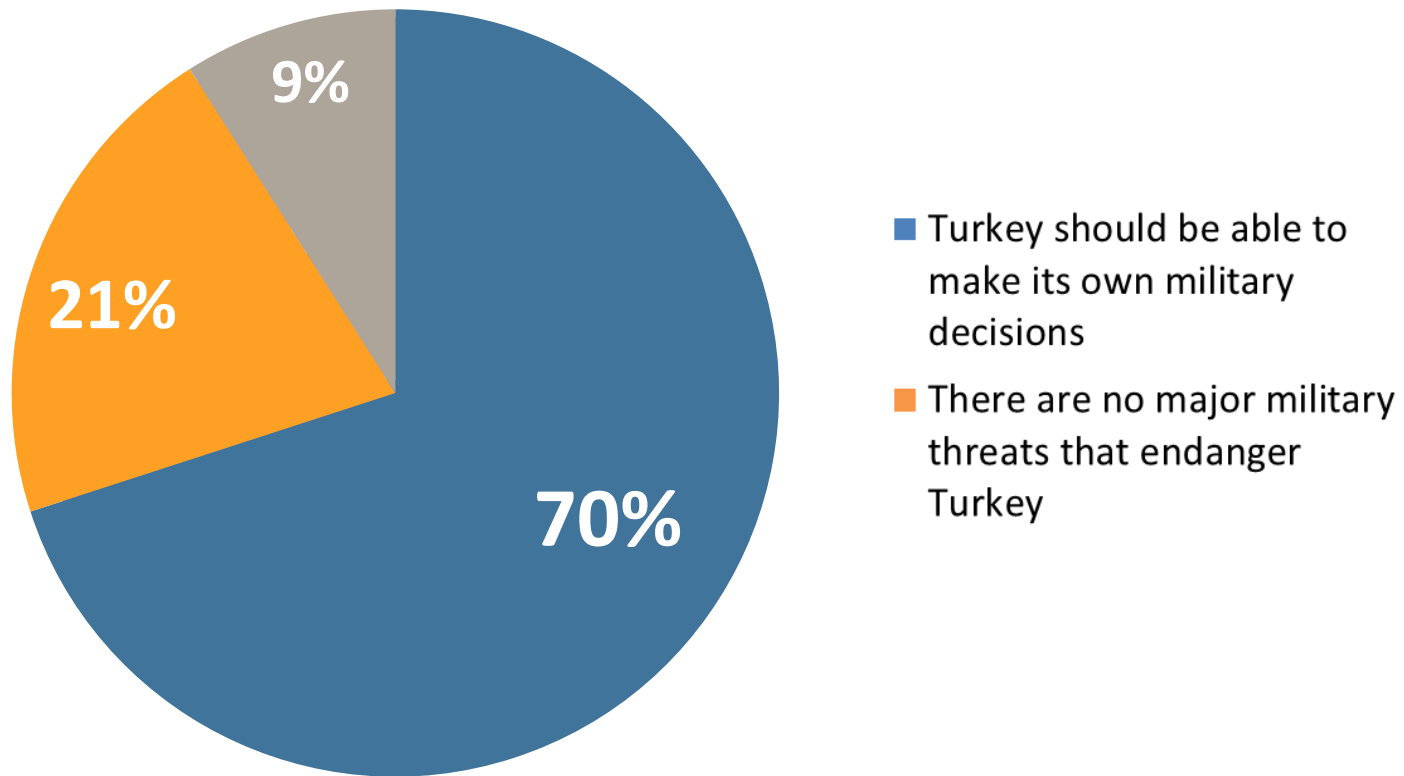


Q6: Some people say that NATO is still essential to our country's security. Others say it is no longer essential. Which of these views is closer to your own?



## Turks Prefer to Act Unilaterally

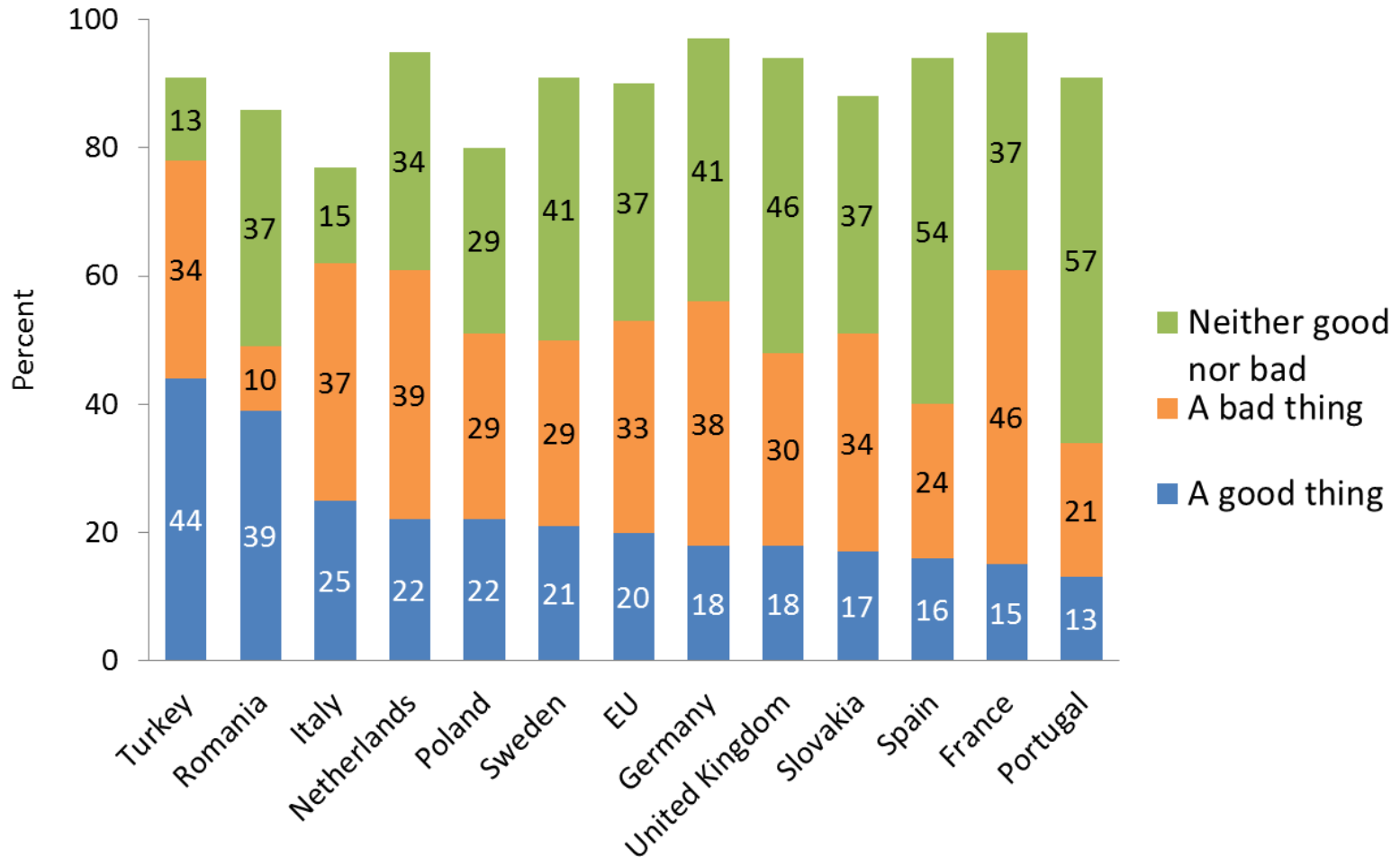
Out of the 39% of respondents in Turkey who believe NATO is no longer essential:



Q8: From the following list of statements, which best explains why you think NATO is no longer essential?



## Pluralities Ambivalent to Turkish Membership in EU

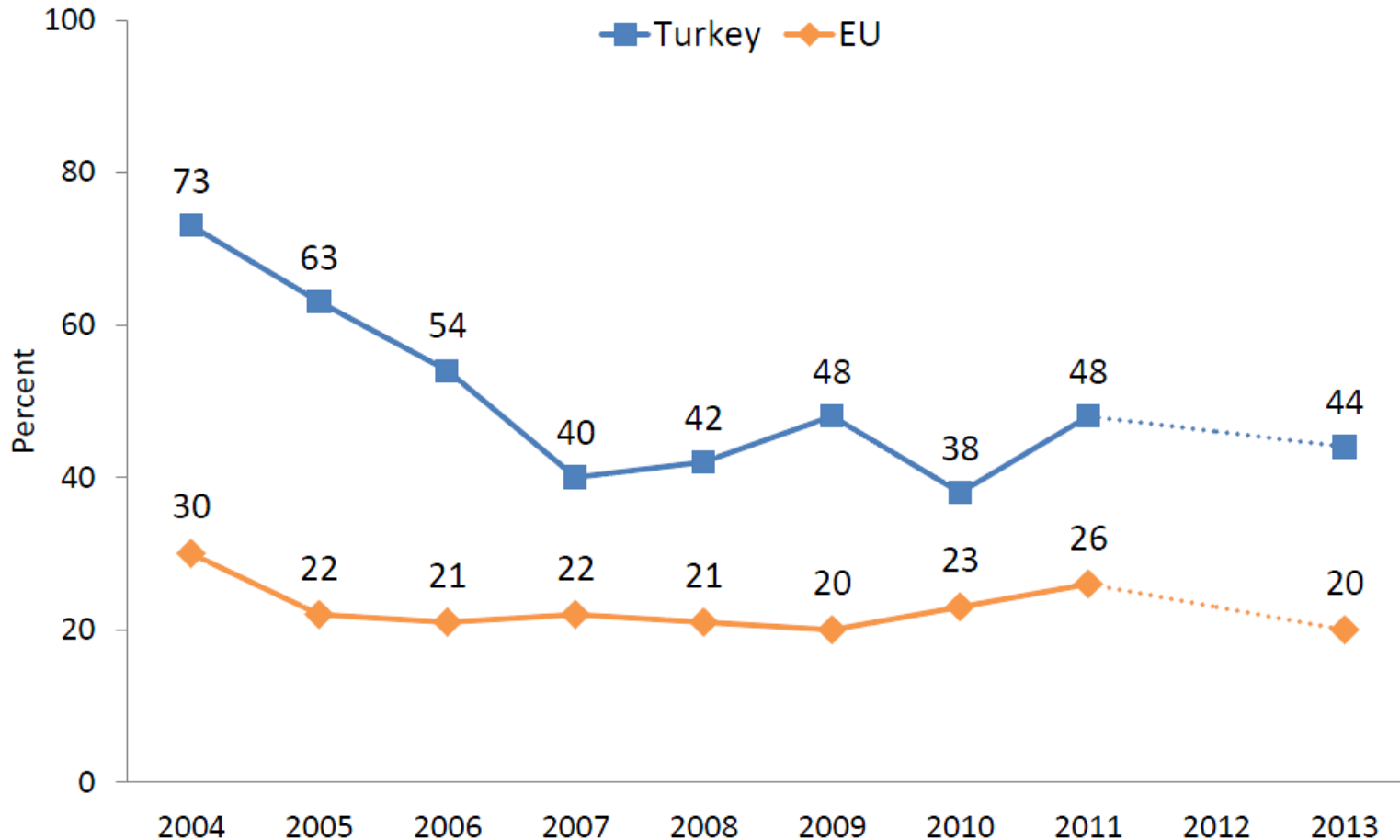


Q28: Generally speaking, do you think that Turkey's membership in the European Union would be a good thing, a bad thing or neither good nor bad?





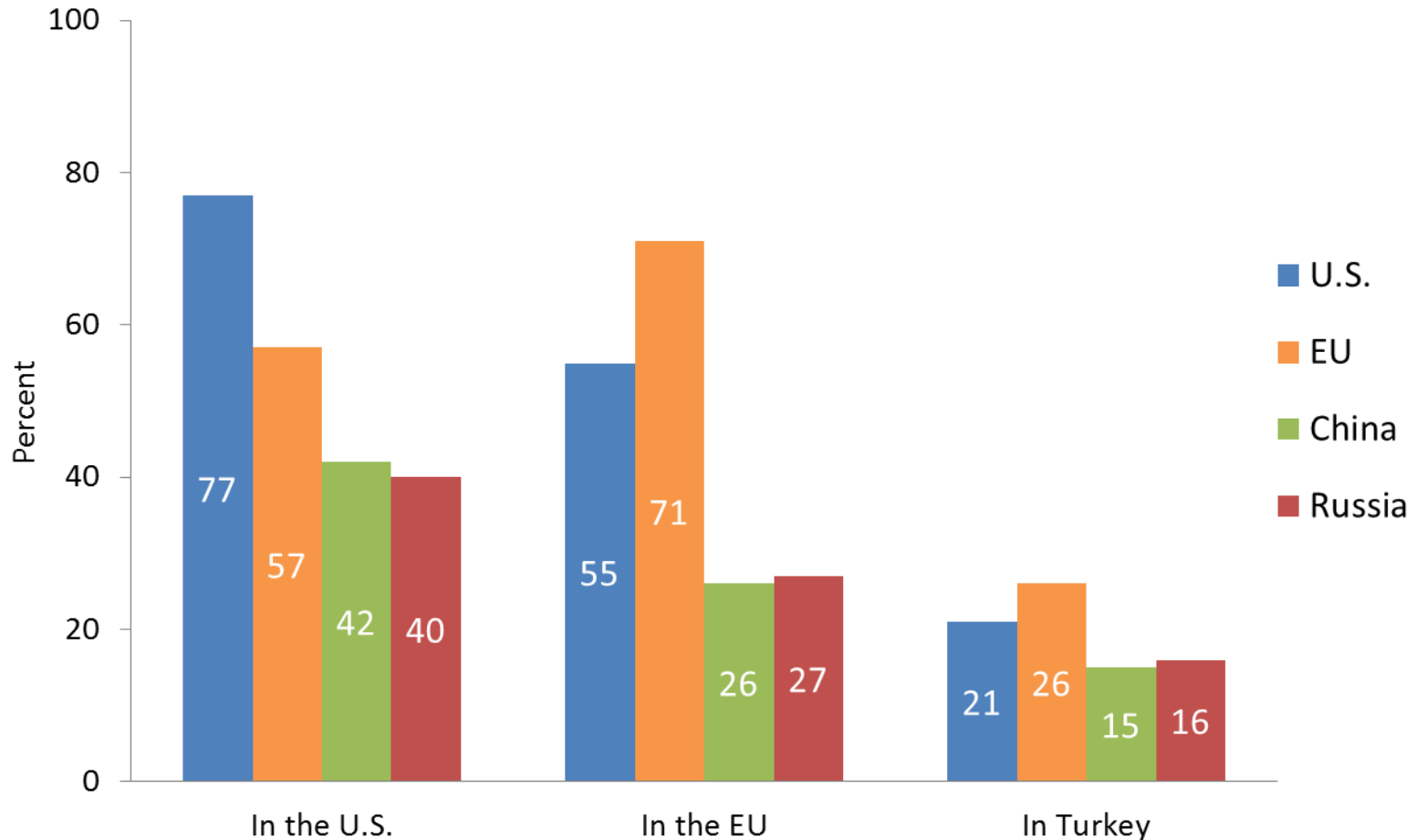
## Declining Interest in Turkish Membership in EU



Q28: Generally speaking, do you think that Turkey's membership in the European Union would be a good thing, a bad thing or neither good nor bad?



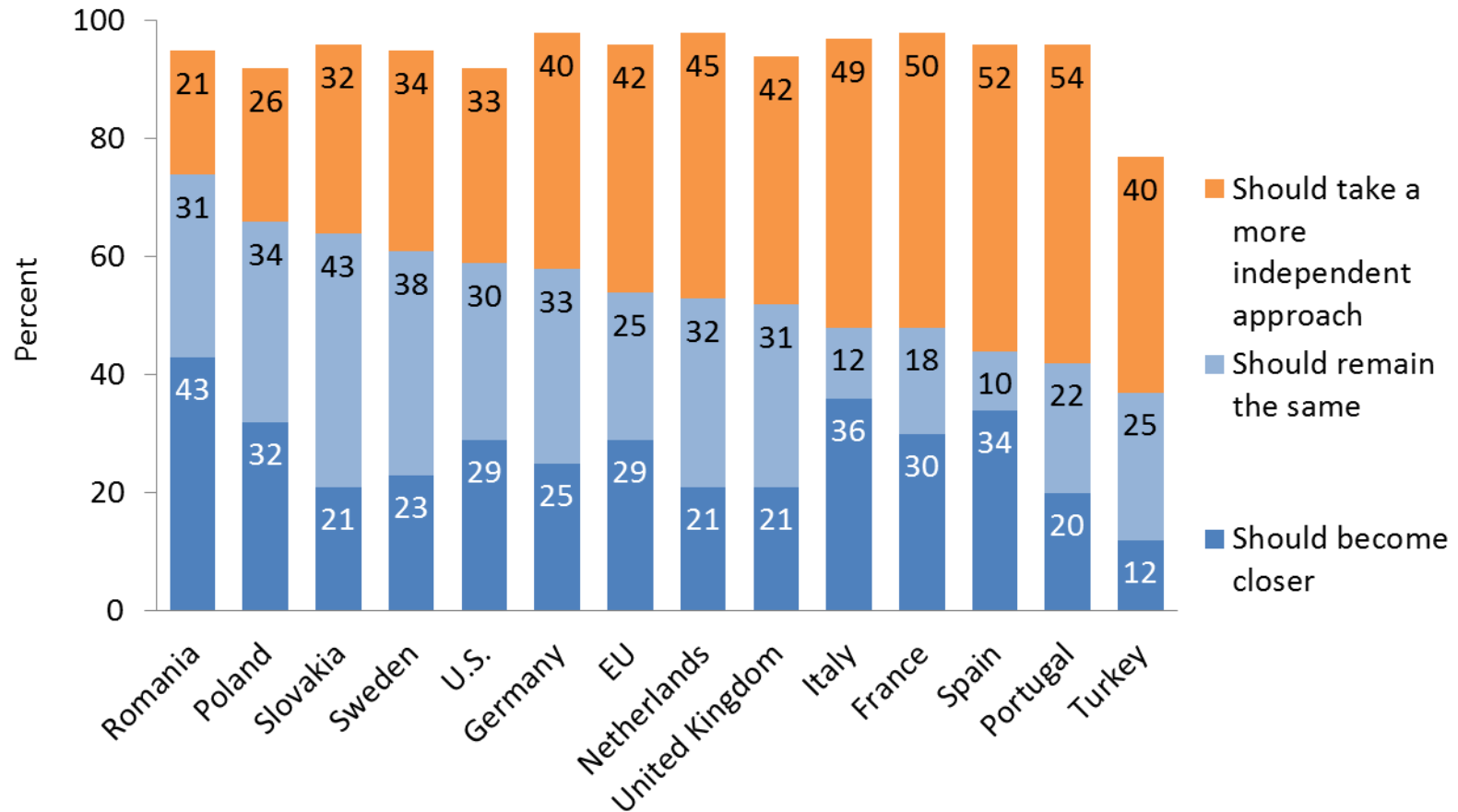
## Desire for U.S., EU Leadership



Q1a-d: How desirable is it that the United States/ the European Union/Russia/China exert strong leadership in world affairs? Very desirable, somewhat desirable, somewhat undesirable, or very undesirable?



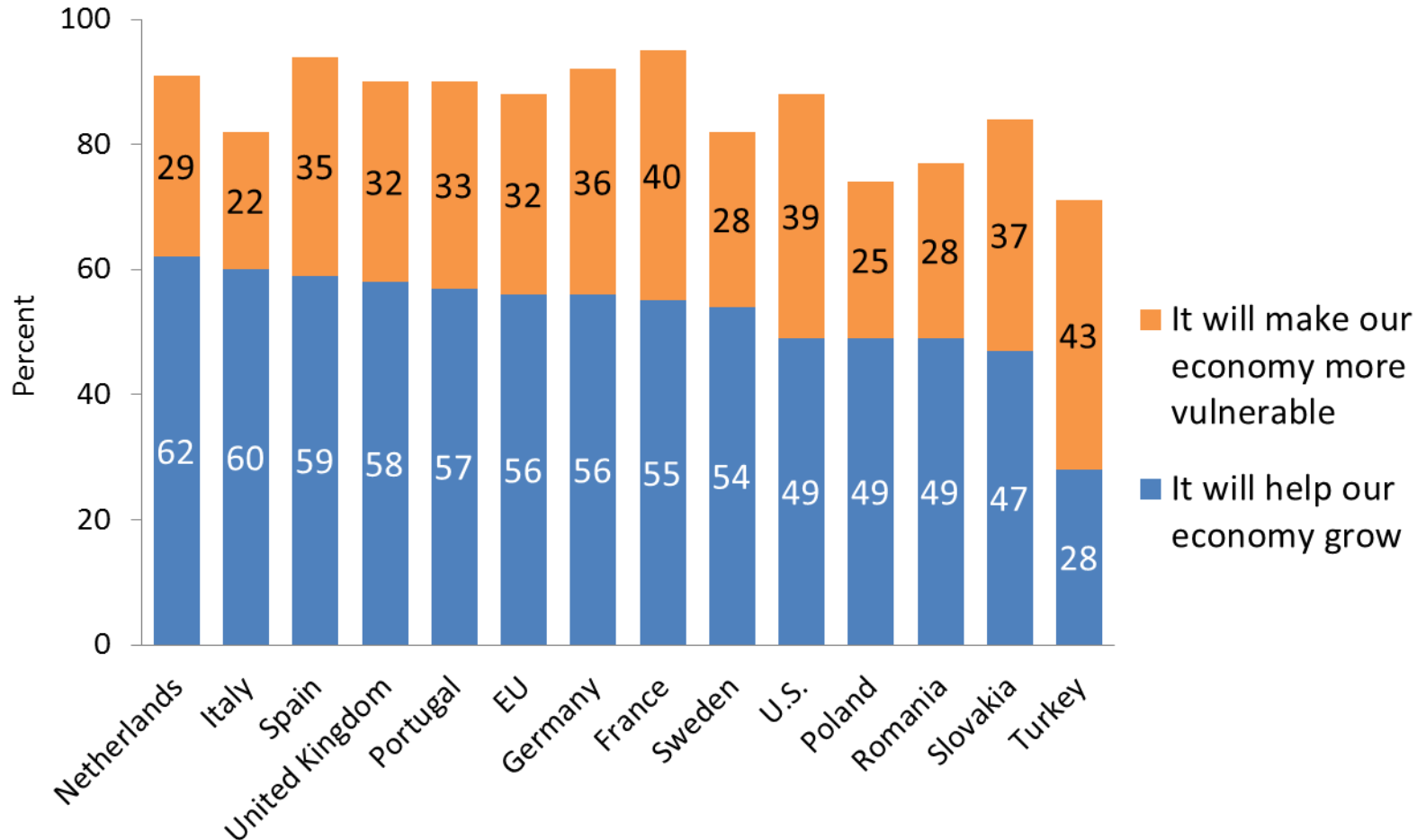
## Future of U.S.-EU Partnership



Q5: Do you think that the partnership in security and diplomatic affairs between the United States and the European Union should become closer, should remain about the same, or should the [IN EUROPE: European Union / IN THE US: United States,] take a more independent approach from the [IN EUROPE: United States / IN US: European Union]?



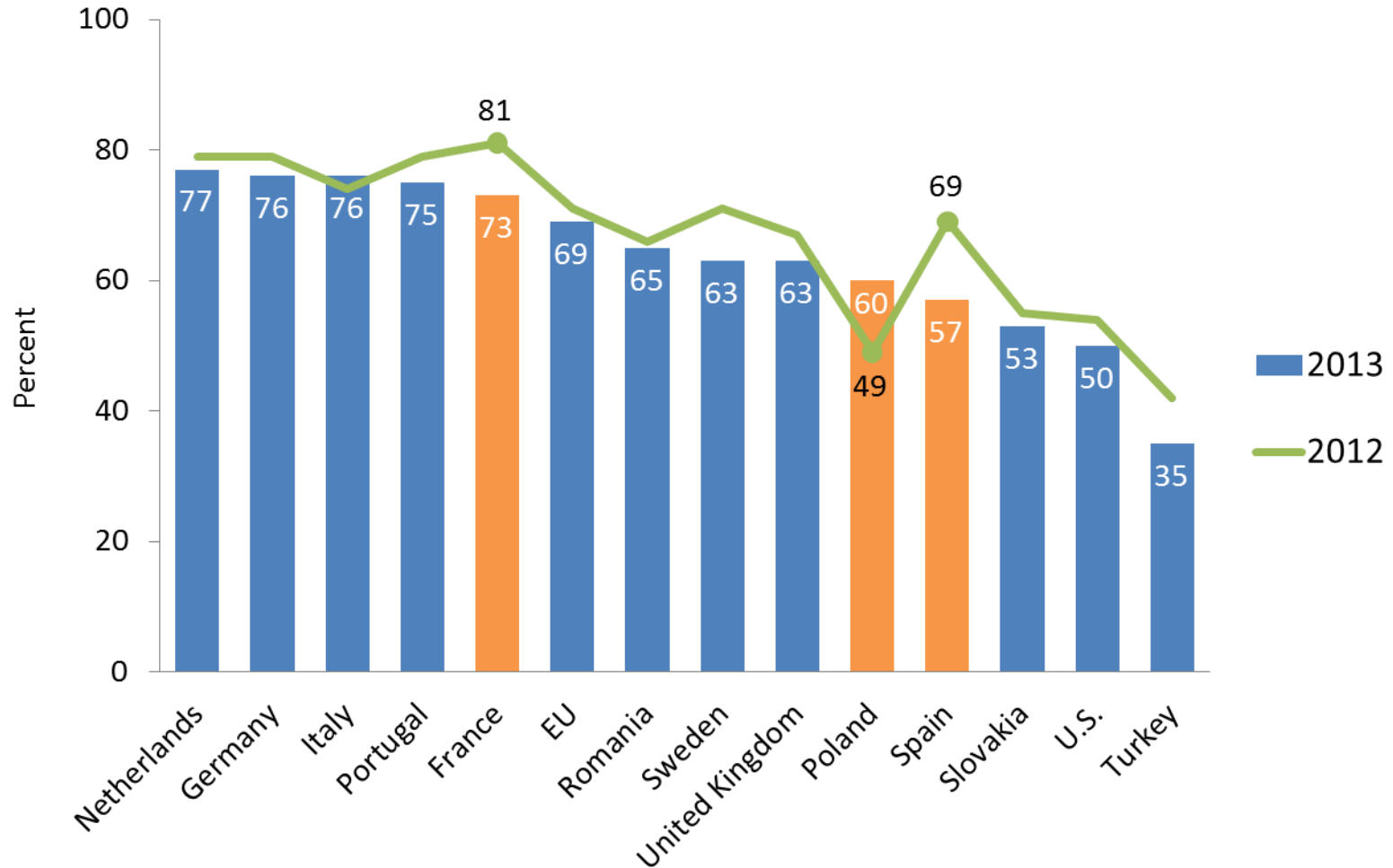
## Broad Support for Transatlantic Trade



Q32: European and American leaders are negotiating proposals to increase trade and investment between the United States and the European Union. Some people say that this will help our economy grow, while others say that this will make our country's economy more vulnerable. Which statement is closer to your own opinion?



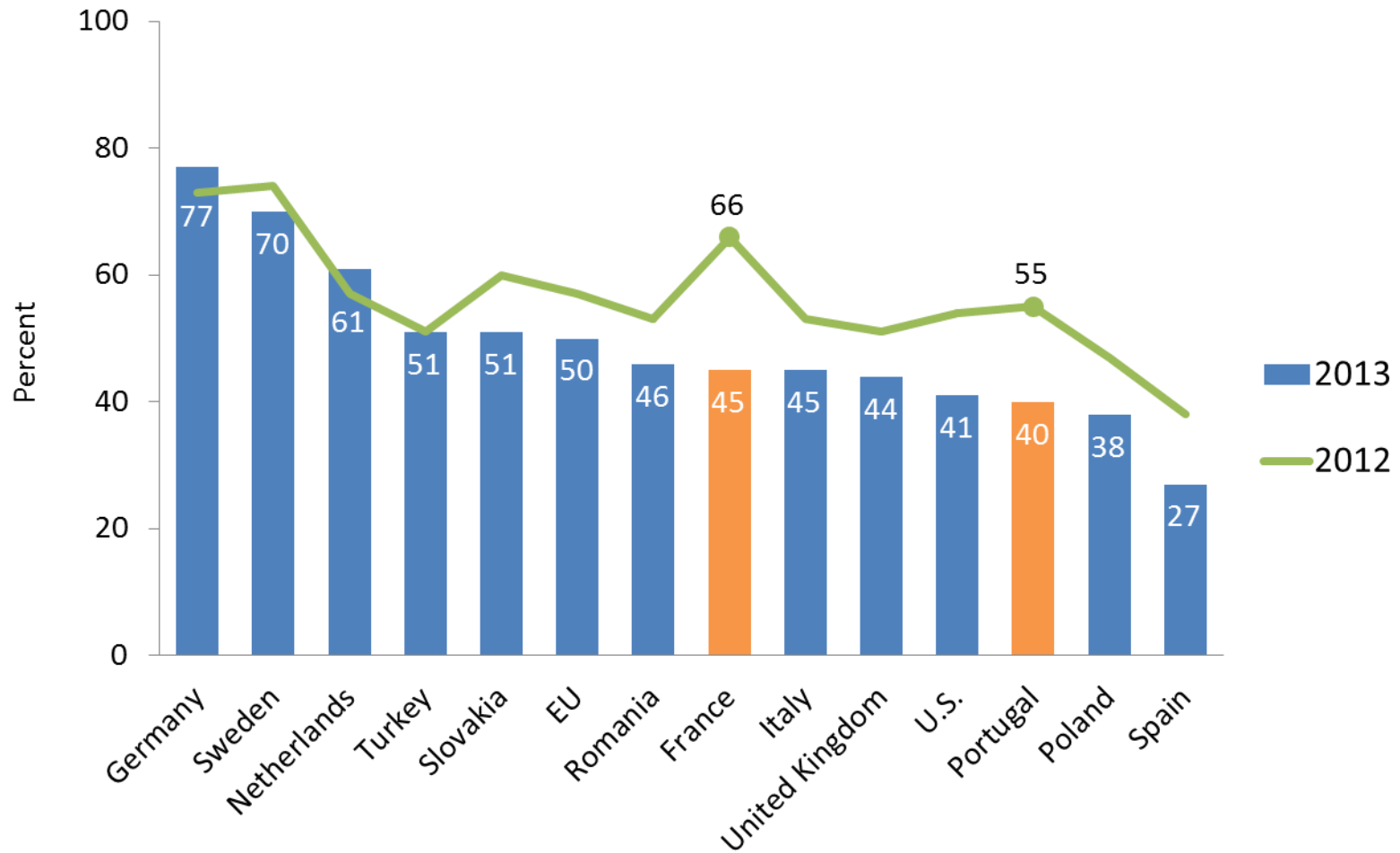
## President Obama's Approval Declines



Q2: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the President of the United States Barack Obama is handling international policies?



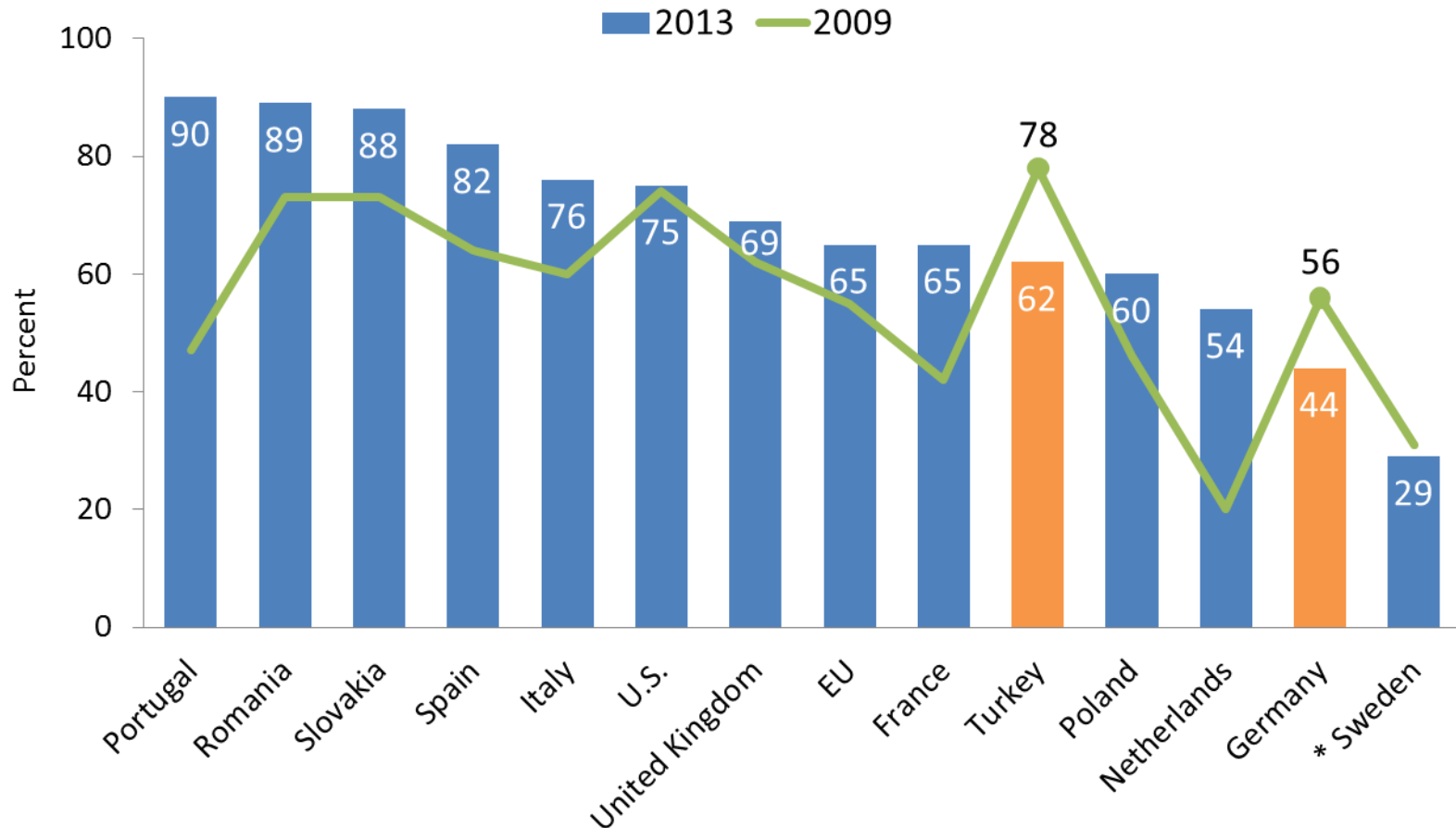
## ... As Does Own Government's



Q3: Do you approve or disapprove of the way [COUNTRY'S] government is handling international policies?



## Impact of Economic Crisis Broadens

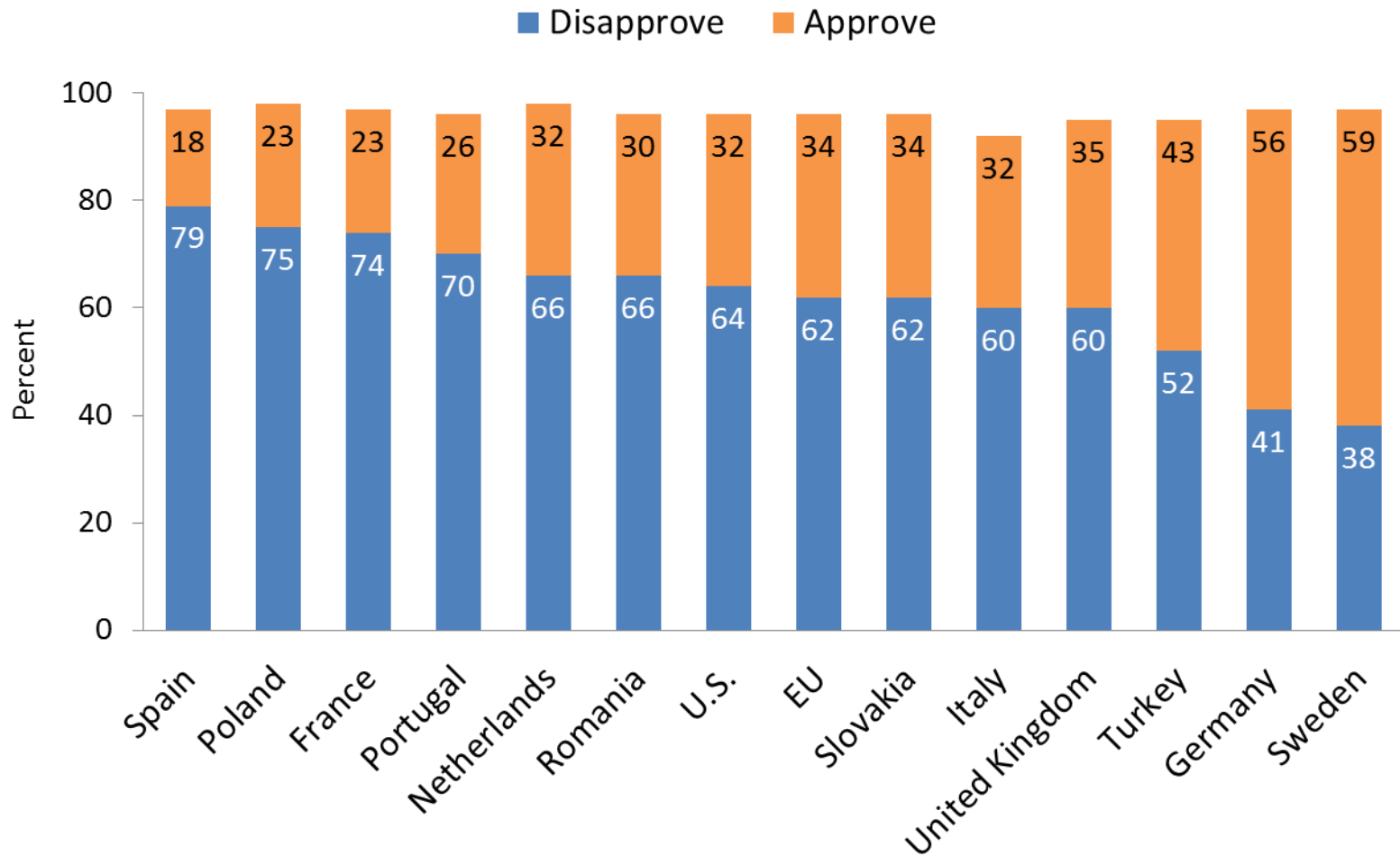


Q21: And regarding the extent to which you or your family has been personally affected by the current economic crisis, would you say that your family's financial situation has been greatly affected, somewhat affected, not really affected, or not affected at all?

\* Survey not conducted in Sweden in 2009, data from 2011



## National Economic Policies Find Little Favor

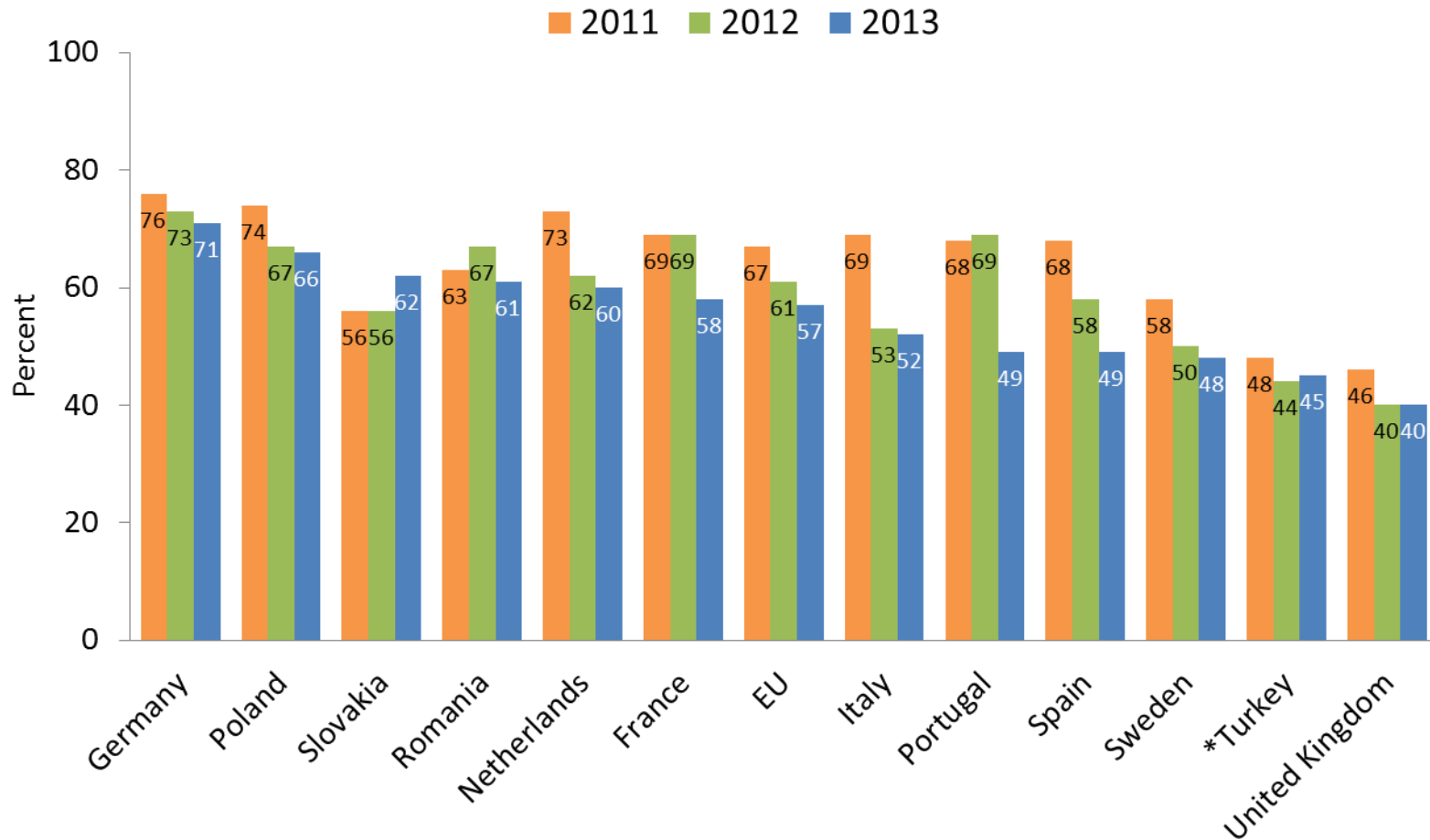


Q23: Do you approve or disapprove of the way [COUNTRY'S] government has been dealing with [COUNTRY'S] economy?





## EU Still Seen as Good for Economies...

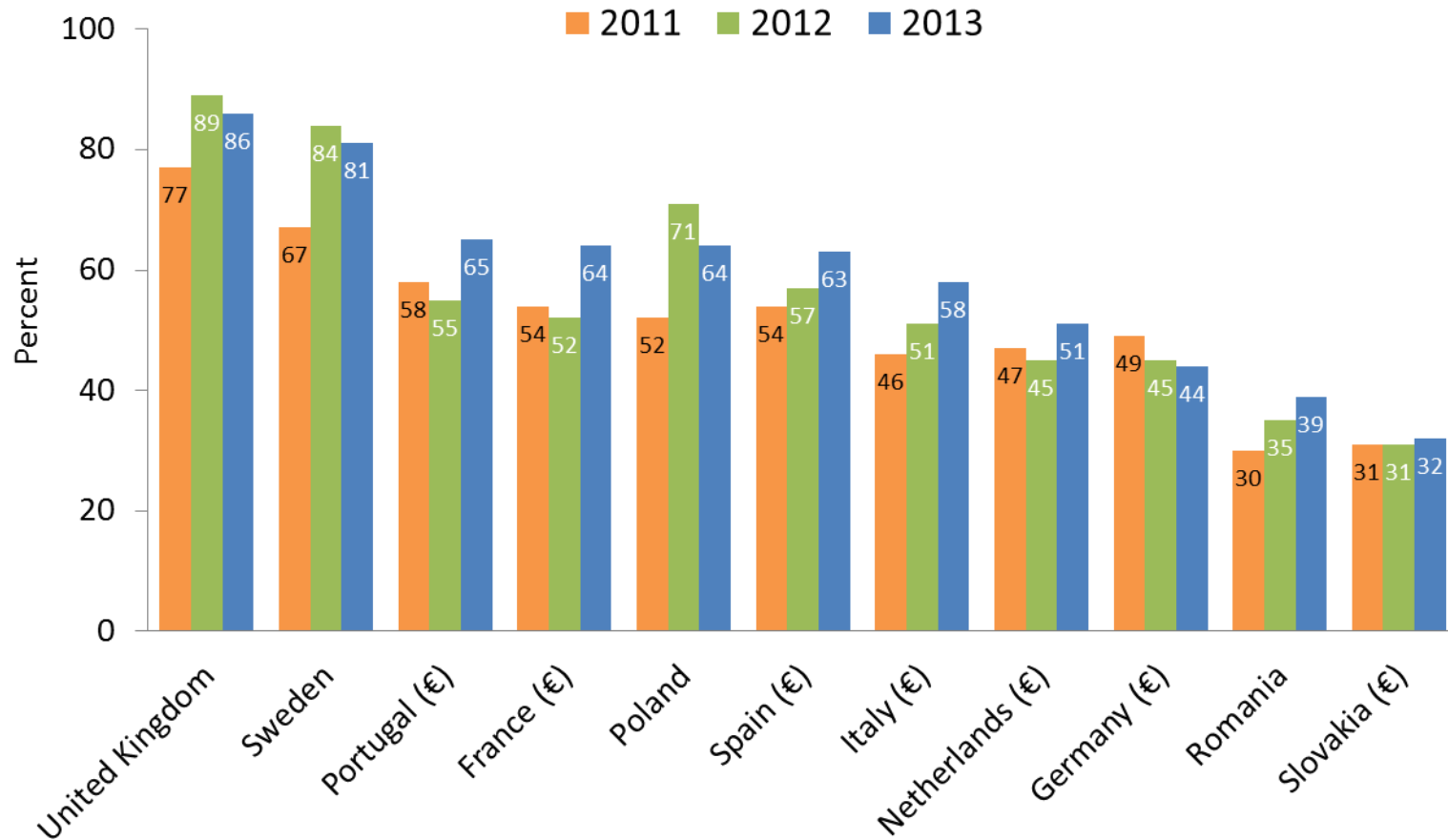


Q27: Generally speaking, do you think that [COUNTRY]'s membership in the European Union [IN EU COUNTRIES: has been / IN TURKEY: would be] a good thing or a bad thing for the [COUNTRY] economy?

\* Question was asked in Turkey whether EU membership would be a good thing or a bad thing for their country's economy



## ...While Euro Is Increasingly Seen as Bad

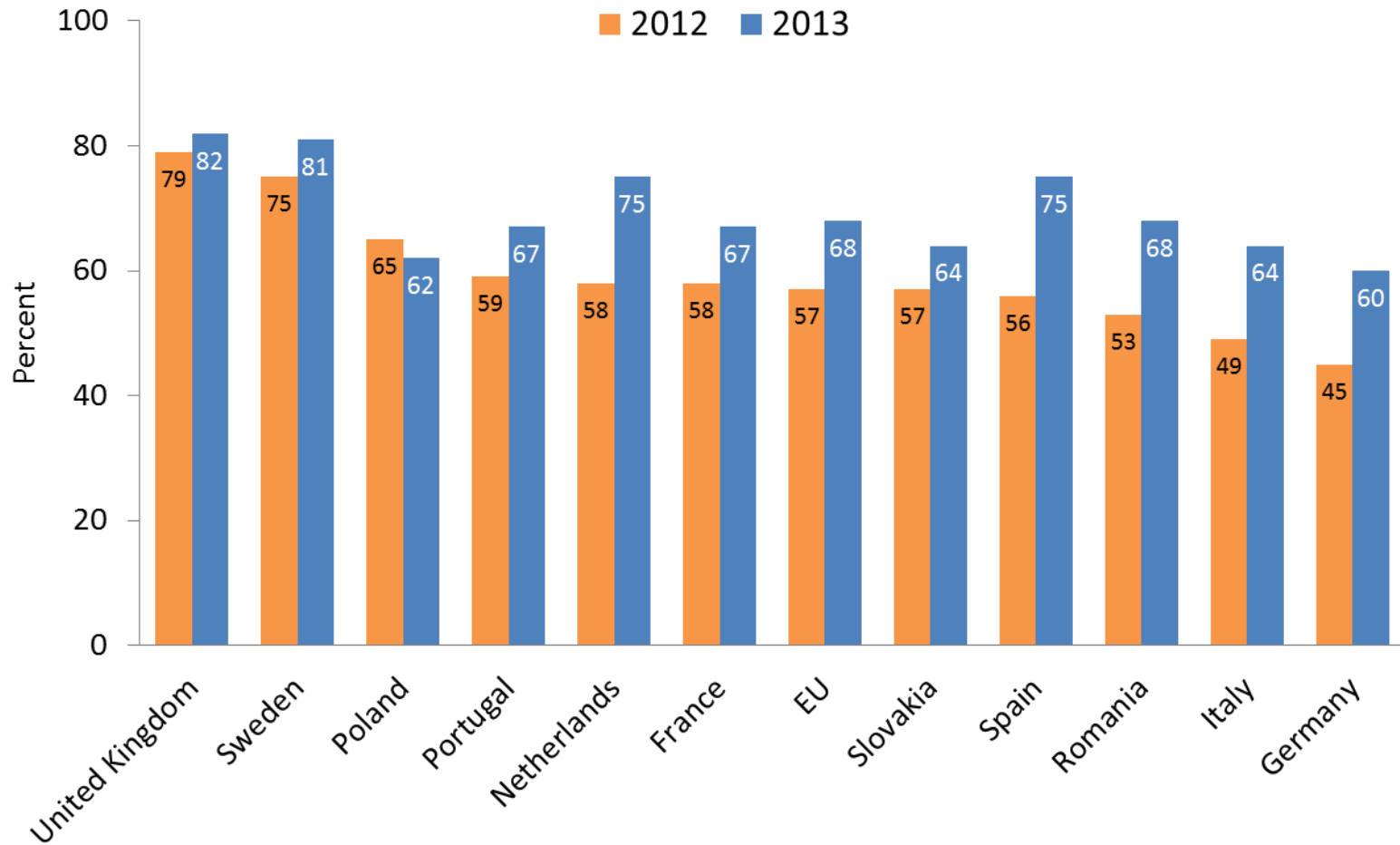


Q29: And how about the euro? Generally speaking, do you think that using the euro in [COUNTRY] [WITHIN THE EUROZONE: has been / OUTSIDE THE EUROZONE: would be] a good thing or a bad thing for the [COUNTRY] economy?

\* (€) indicates Eurozone members



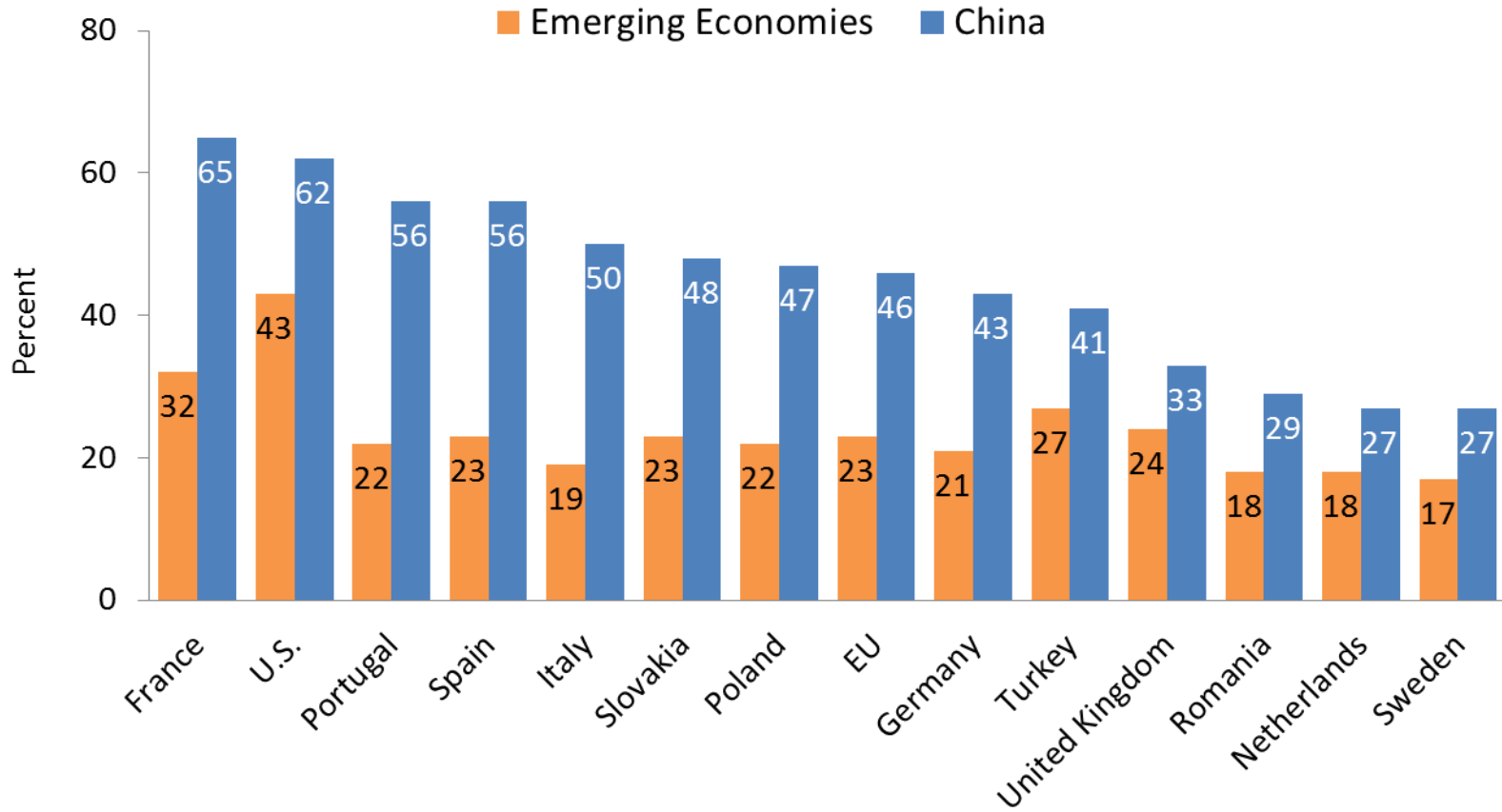
## Europeans Want National Control over Budgets



Q26: Some people say that because of recent economic difficulties, the EU should have more authority over member states' economic and budgetary policies. Other people say that each member state should retain this authority for itself. Which view is closer to your own?



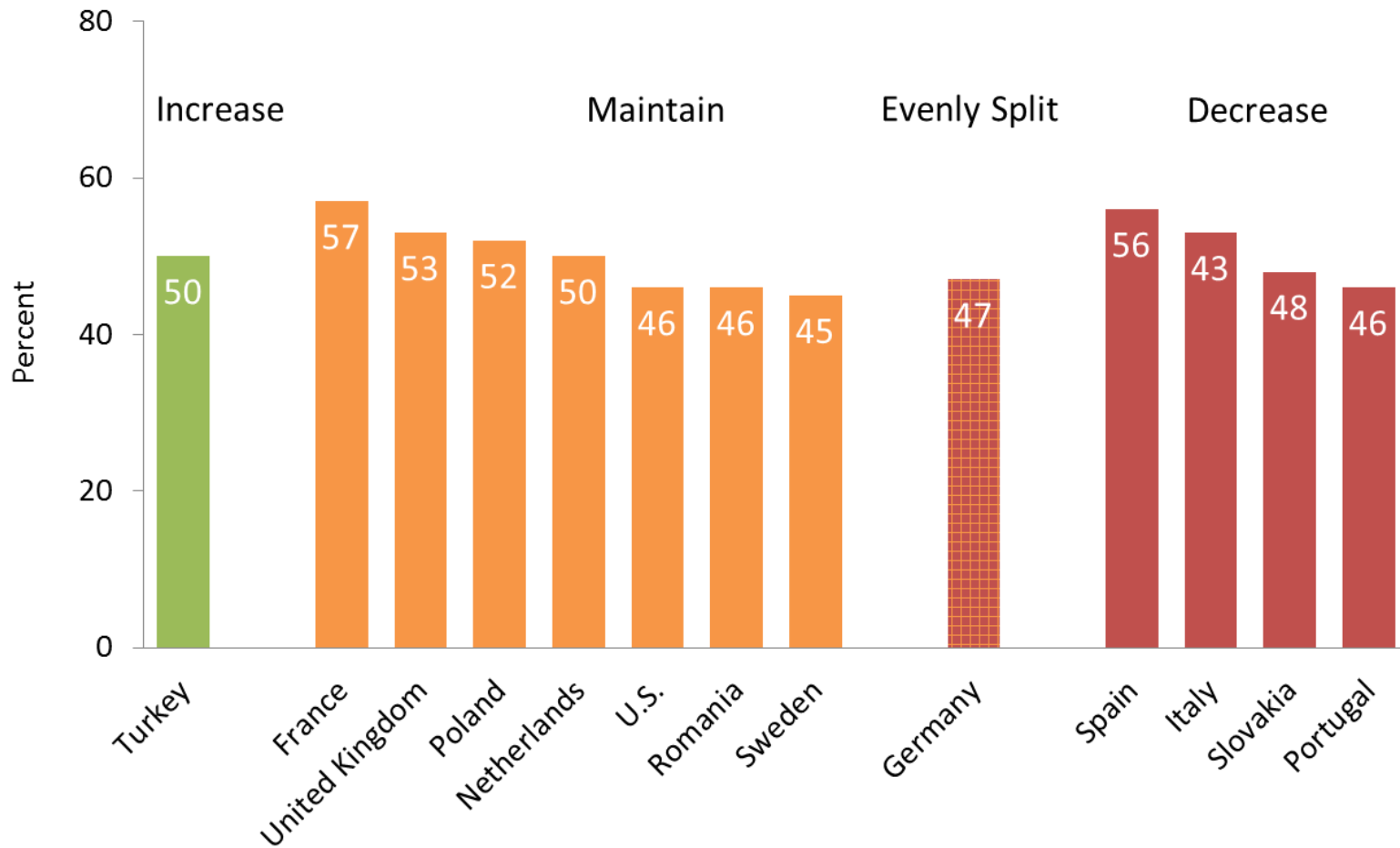
## Emerging Economies Not Seen as Threat; China Is



Q12, Q14: There are different views about the rise of China/countries like India, Brazil, and Indonesia. In economic terms, some people see China/countries like India, Brazil and Indonesia as more of an opportunity for new markets and investment, while others see it as a threat to our jobs and economic security. Which view is closer to your own?



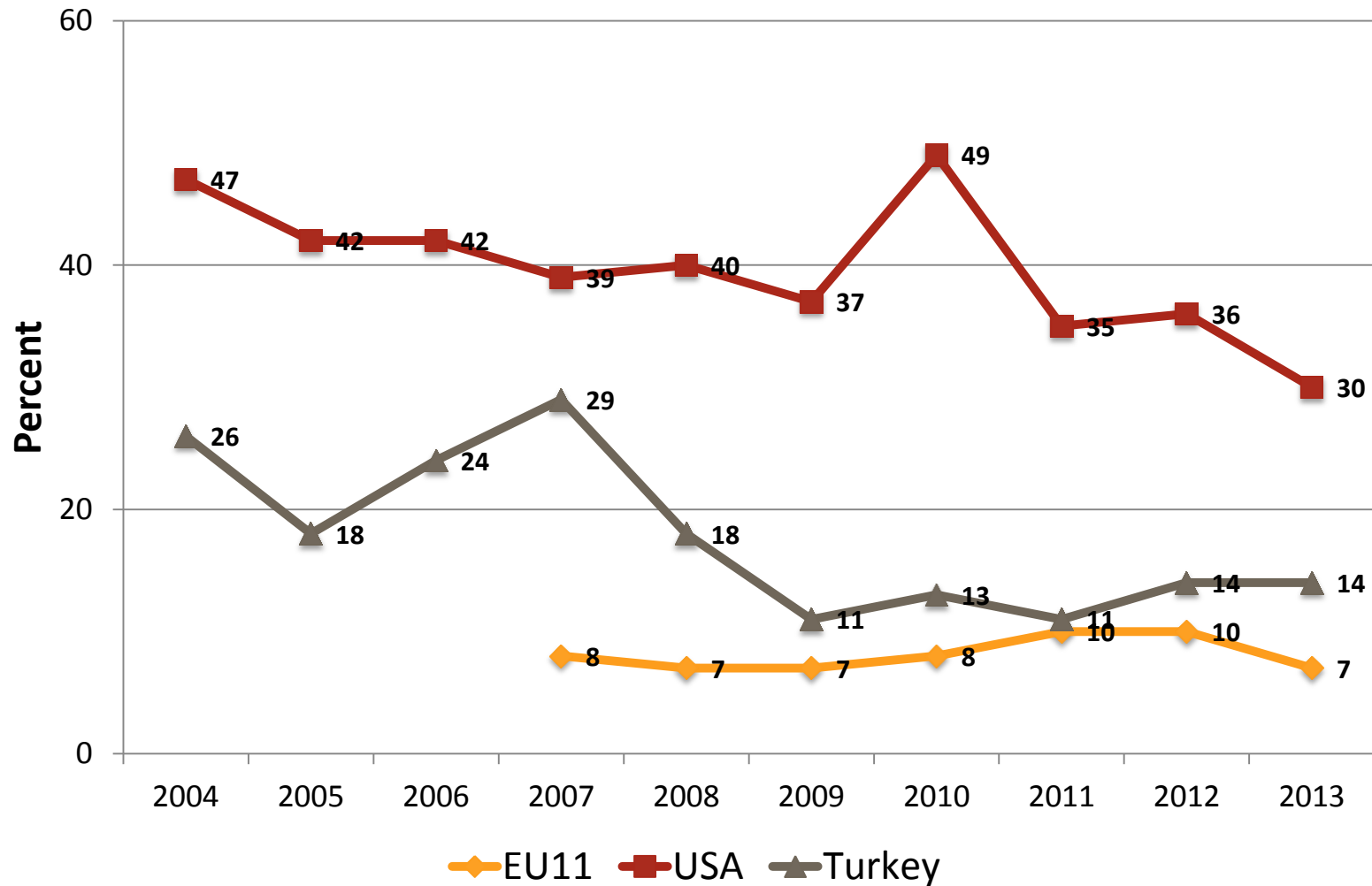
## Increase, Maintain or Decrease Defense Spending?



Q25.1: Do you think [COUNTRY]'s government should increase, maintain, or decrease spending on defense?



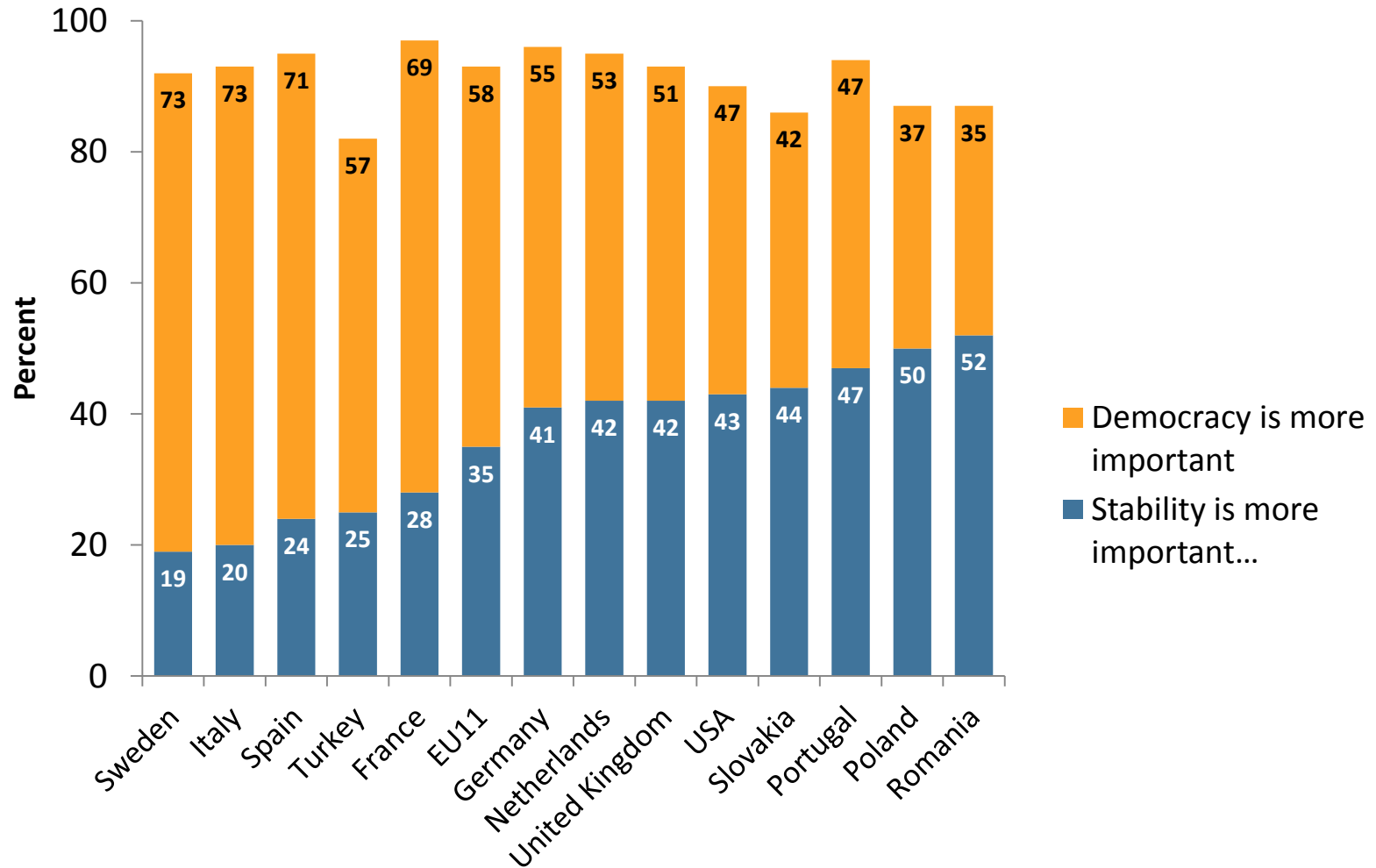
## War is Necessary to Obtain Justice



Q.34.2: Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following: Under some conditions, war is necessary to obtain justice



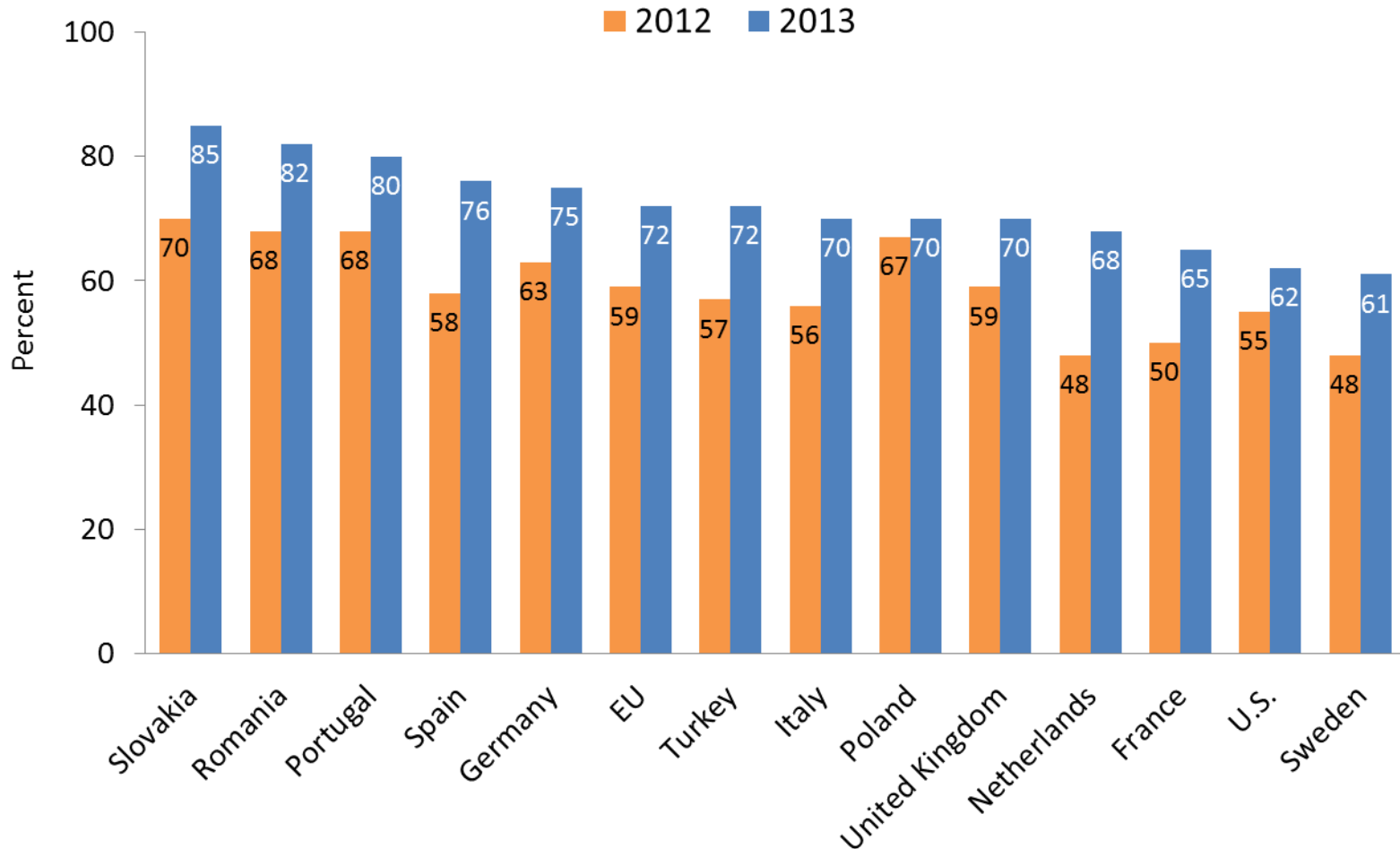
## Democracy or Stability?



Q17. Concerning recent developments in the Middle East and North Africa, some people say that stability is more important even if it means accepting non-democratic governments. Others say that democracy is more important even if it leads to a period of instability. Which view is closer to your own?



## Opposition to Syrian Intervention Rises

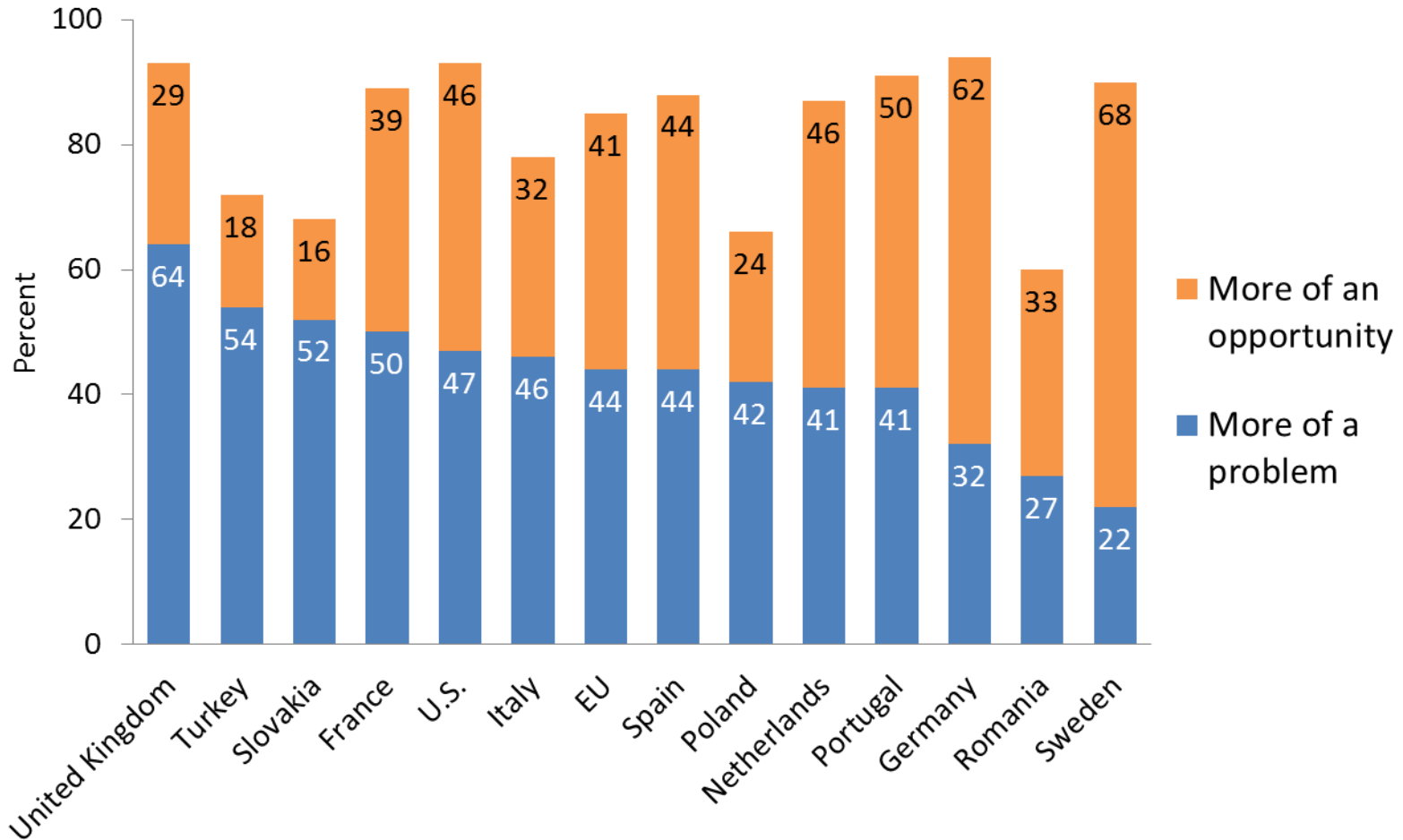


Q18: Recently, there has been discussion of the desirability of intervening in Syria, where the government has been using military force to suppress an opposition movement which is fighting the Syrian government. In this situation, what do you think [COUNTRY] should do?





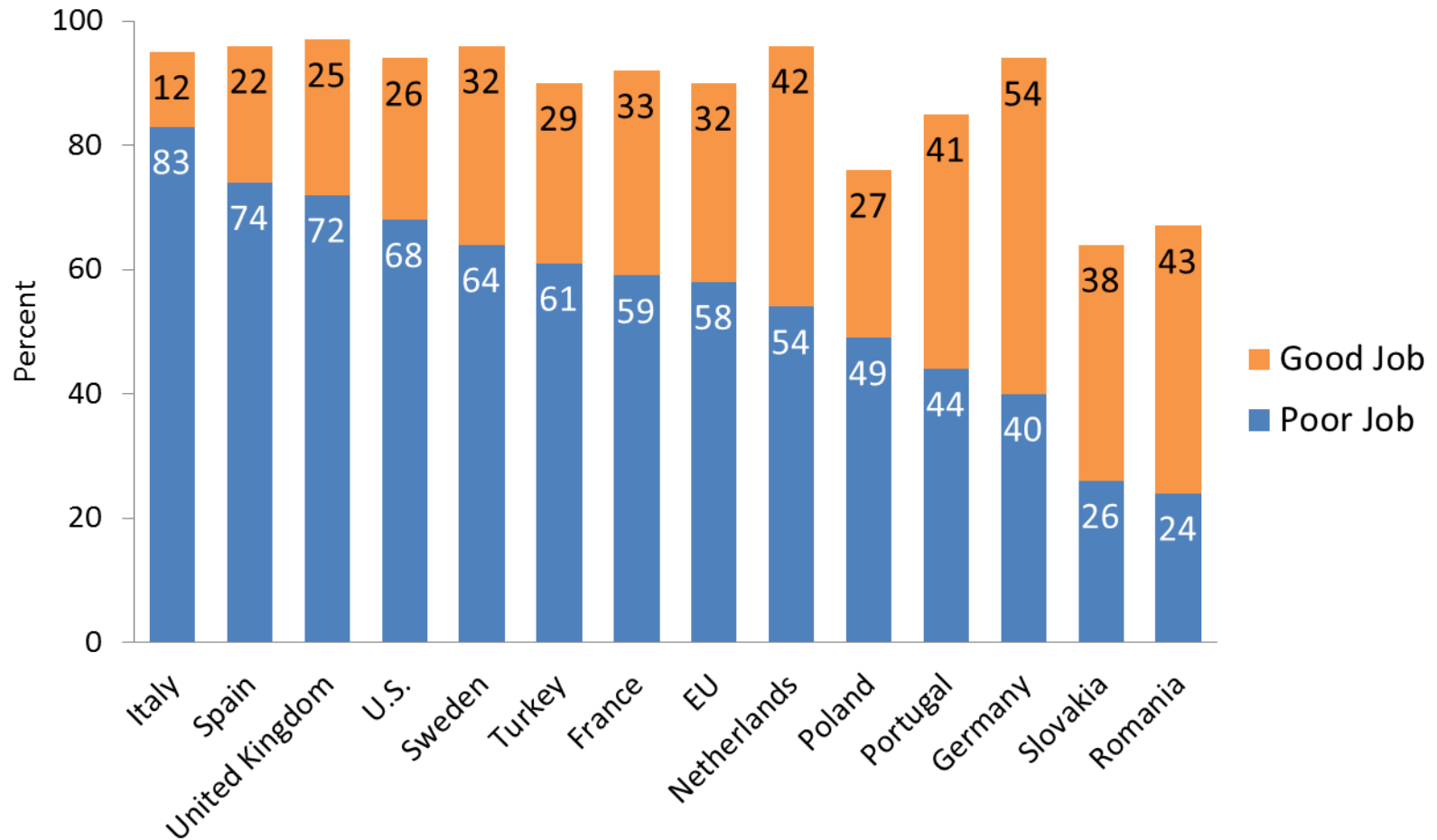
## Immigration Is More of a Problem



Q40: Some people say that immigration is more of a problem for [COUNTRY]. Others see it as more of an opportunity for [COUNTRY]. Which comes closer to your point of view?



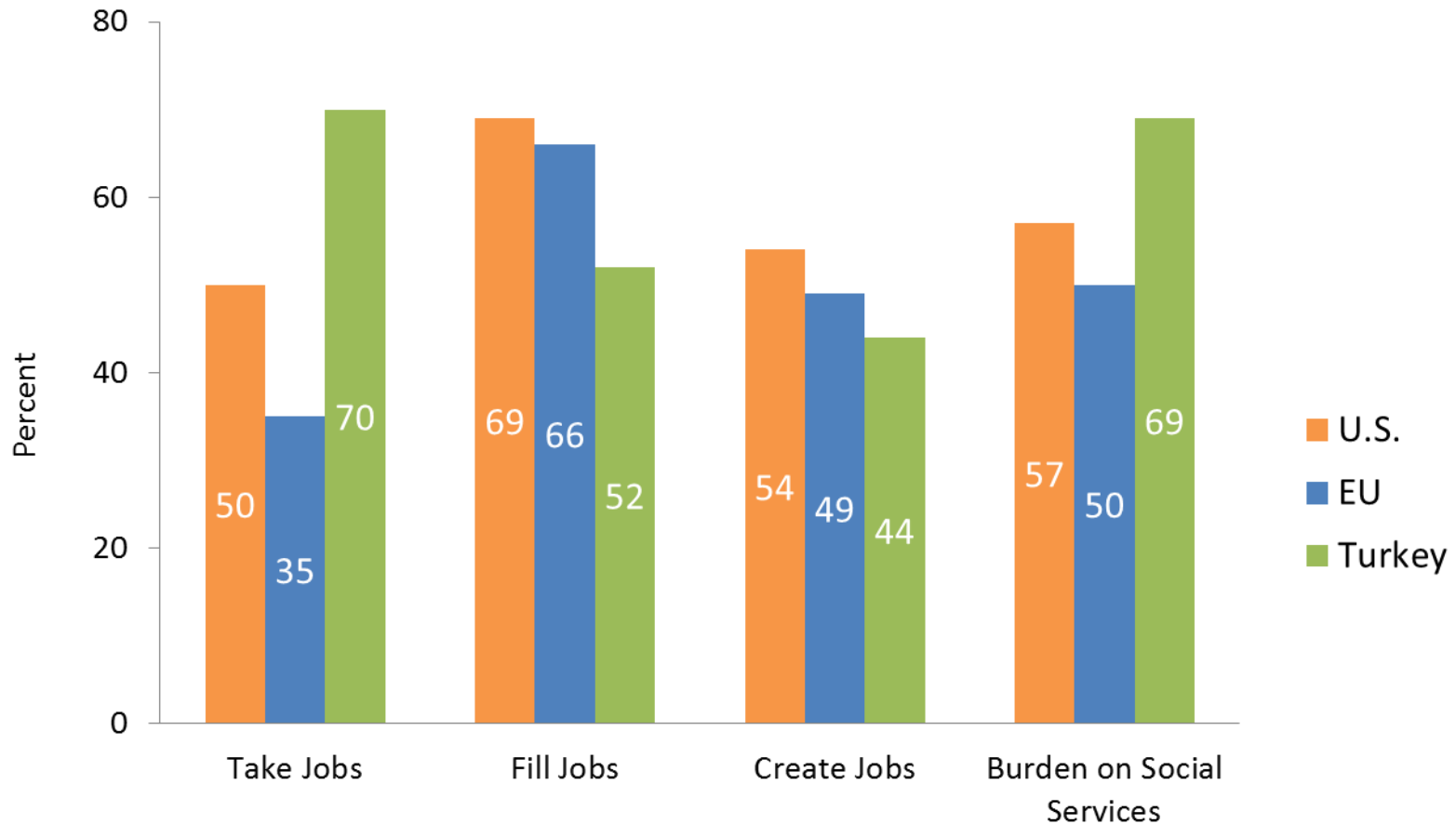
## Governments Managing Immigration Poorly



Q39: Thinking about the steps that have been taken to manage immigration, would you say that the government has been doing a very good job, a good job, a poor job, or a very poor job?



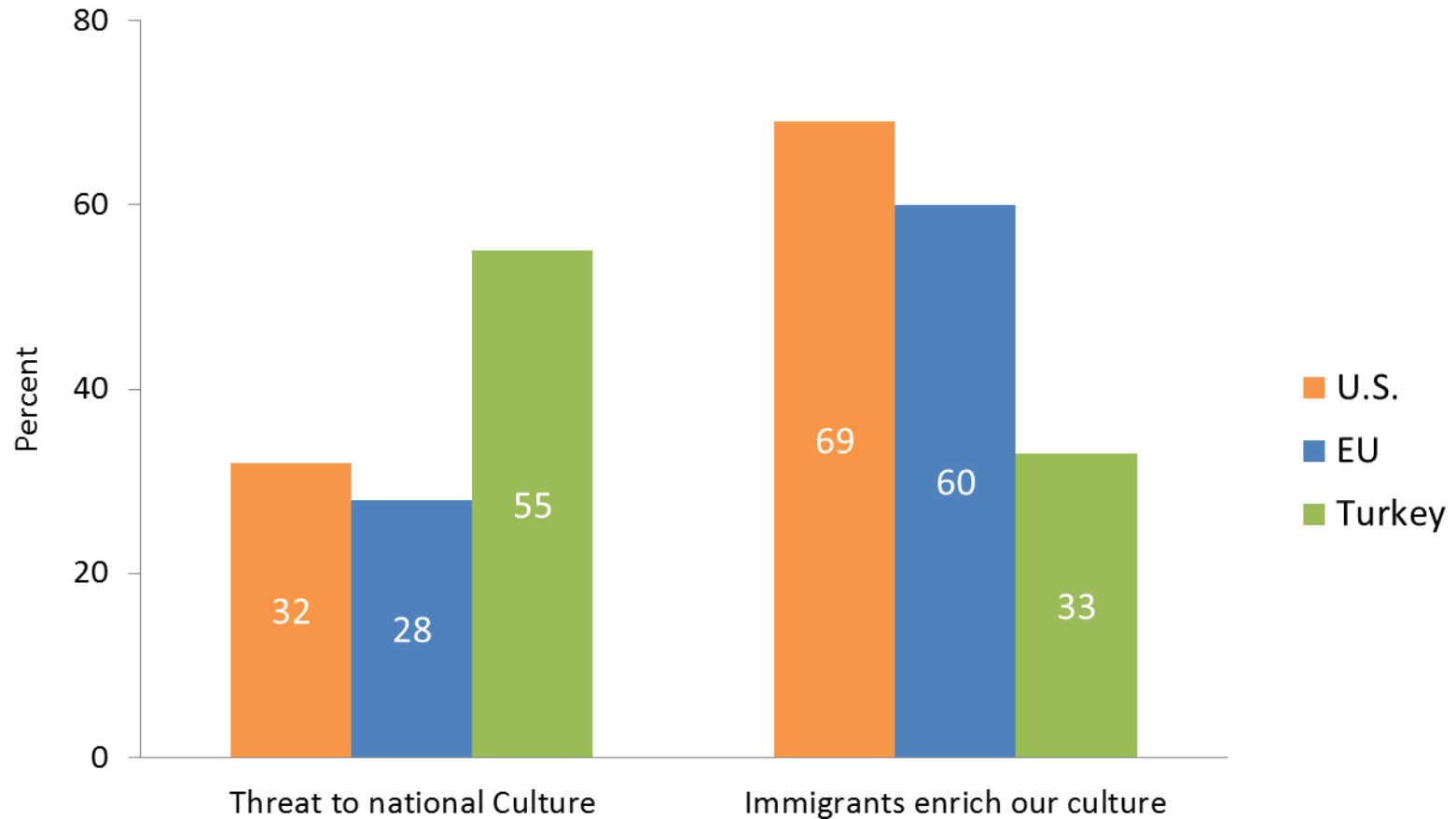
## Economic Impact of Immigration



Q38.1-4: Could you please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of them? 1. Immigrants take jobs away from native born [NATIONALITY]s, 2. Immigrants generally help to fill jobs where there are shortages of workers, 3. Immigrants help create jobs as they set up new businesses, 4. Immigrants are a burden on social services



## Cultural Impact of Immigration



Q38.5-6 Could you please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each statement?: 5. Immigrants are a threat to our national culture, 6. Immigrants enrich our culture.



## Key Findings

- Transatlantic majorities still support global burden sharing, but accept more independent approach
- Deepening negativity about EU governance
- Syrian intervention increasingly undesirable
- NATO essential because it's a community of democracies
- On the whole, majorities see immigration as beneficial
- Turkey divided on NATO, wants freedom to act alone



For more information about methodology, specific countries, and the full top-line dataset please visit:

[www.transatlantictrends.org](http://www.transatlantictrends.org)



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