

PROBLEMS OF CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN BULGARIA

17 OCTOBER 2013

1

THE TWO LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

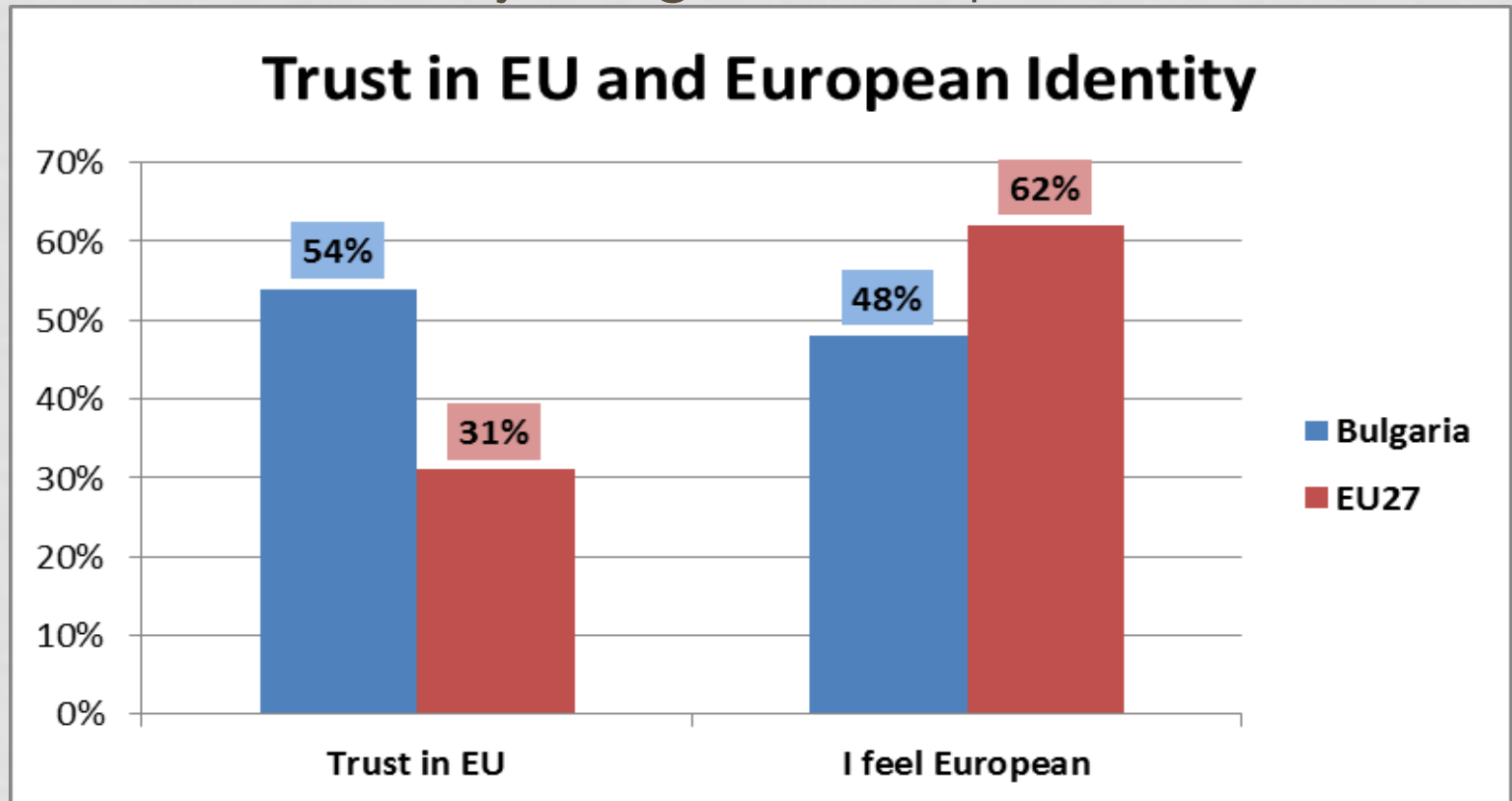
- **Issues at the European level from Bulgarian perspective**
- **Civil society and participation at the national level**

“NEEDS AND ROLES GAP”

- The EU is perceived differently in Bulgaria;
 - E.g. EU’s “democracy gap” is not a major issue in Bulgaria, instead:
 - The EU is perceived as an arbiter and institution of resort to compensate for dysfunctional state;
- The citizens’ “hierarchy of needs” (e.g. Maslow’s pyramid) still seems to differ in Bulgaria;

THE IDENTITY GAP

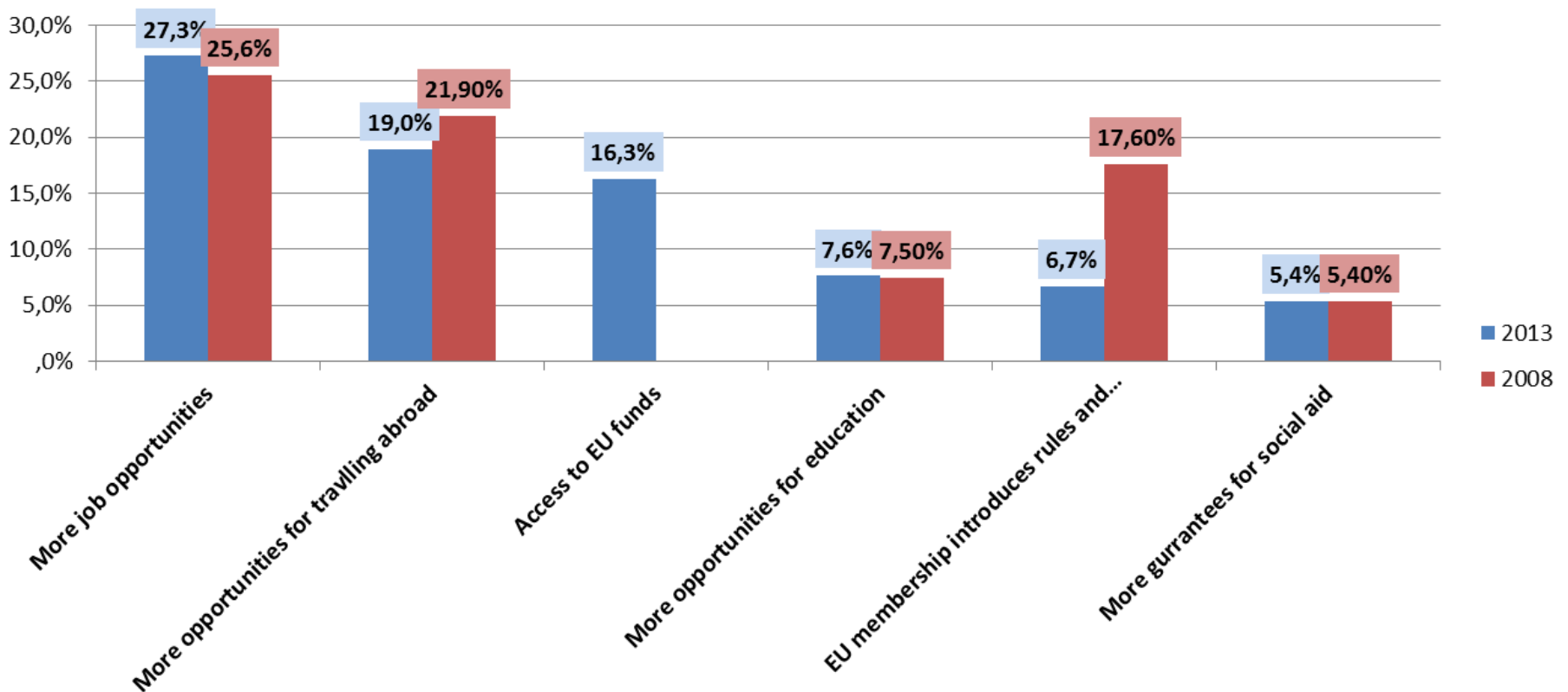
- Bulgarians are the most avid fans of the EU but do not feel European;
- This is an issue for joining an “European demos”



EU AS AGENT OF CHANGE

- Bulgarians tend to perceive more realistically EU's role as external agent of change

Benefits of EU membership: 2008 vs 2013

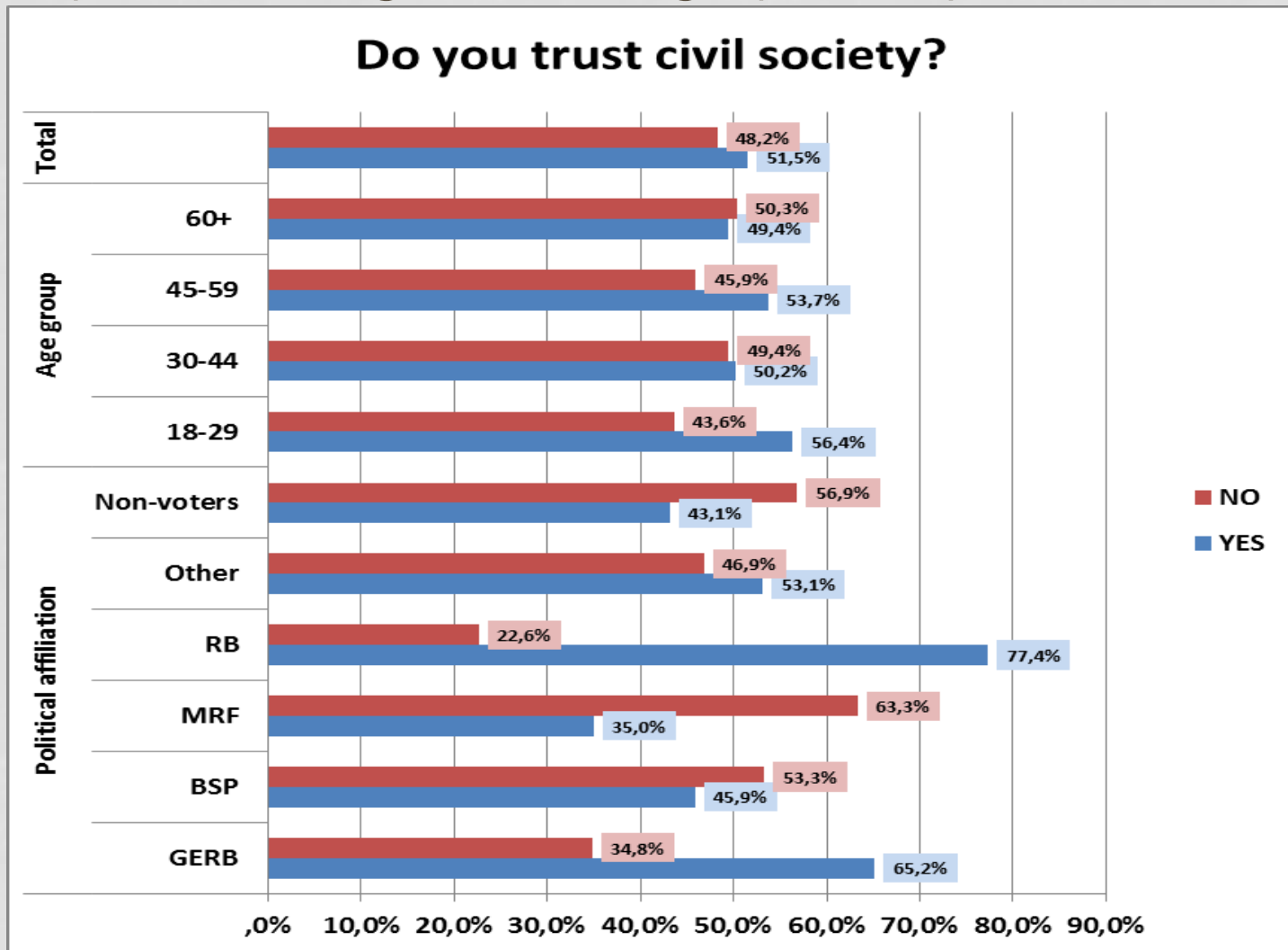


ISSUES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- The QUALITY OF INSTITUTIONS GAP
- Close correlation between the quality of institutions in a country and the development of civil society
- Issues of trust
- Forms of engagement

TRUST IN CIVIL SOCIETY

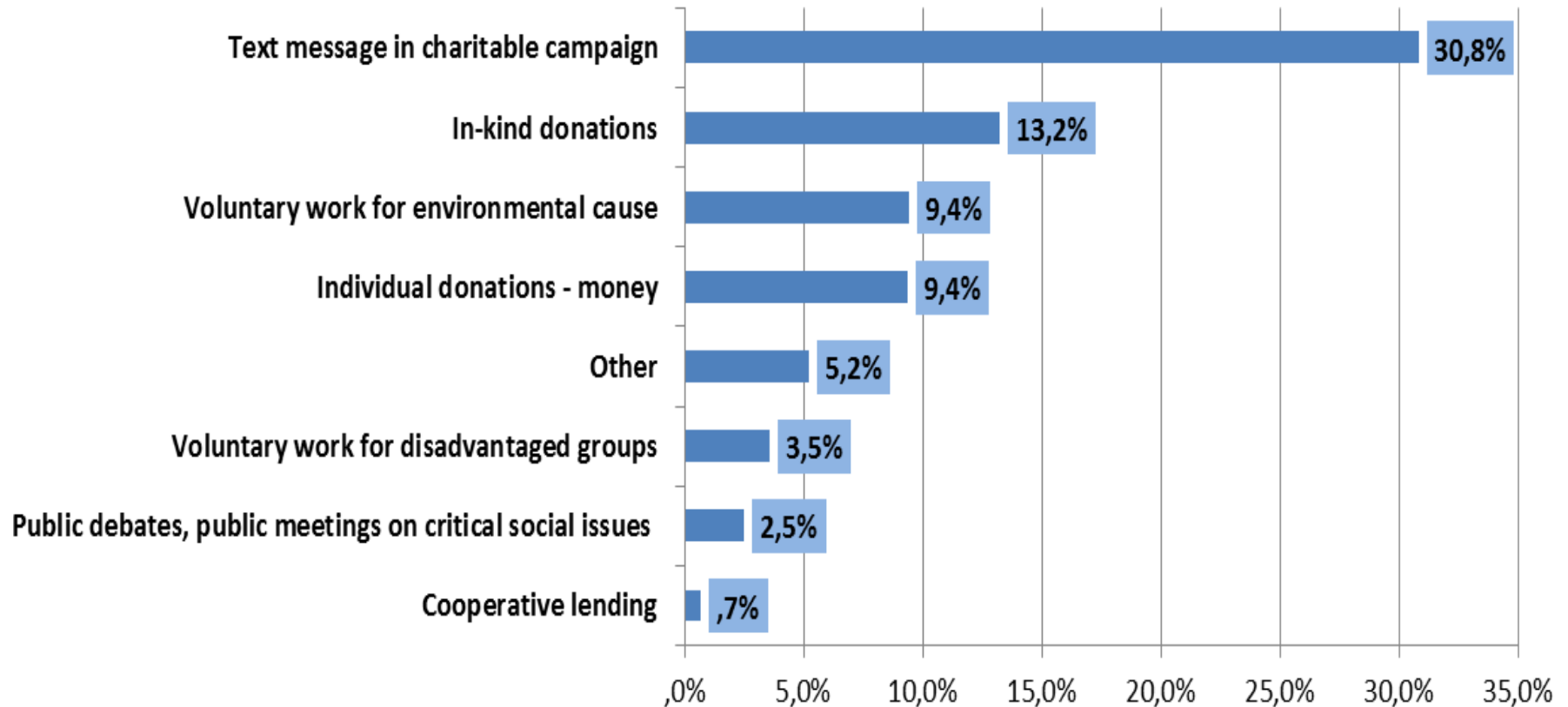
- The proverbial glass is filling up slowly



THE FORMS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Troubling PUBLIC DEBATE GAP

Forms of civic engagement





European
Policies
Initiative

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