

DISINFORMATION AND ELECTORAL PREFERENCES

WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 2022



GAME CHANGERS



MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Voters of the governing coalition are in sharp contrast to the SPD voters when it comes to disinformation. The two blocs hold completely opposite views on most issues. **Voters of ANO and the extra-parliamentary opposition stand between these two poles.**

More than 70% of the voters of the ruling coalition think that the Czech Republic is part of the information warfare waged by the Russian Federation against Western countries, albeit with a decreasing tendency across the periods under review. **However, the biggest difference over time took place among the SPD voters.** At the beginning of the crisis, a third of them said that the Czech Republic was part of the information warfare, however, in the last survey conducted only 16% of them said so. In contrast, their belief that the information warfare is just an excuse for the Czech government to restrict freedom of speech has remained stable over time (around 40%).

A correlation analysis revealed **a negative relationship between the regional gains of the anti-system parties (KSČM and SPD) in the 2022 local elections and the number of people who said that the Czech Republic is part of the information warfare led by Russia.** In regions where anti-system parties gained more votes, people were less likely to say that the Czech Republic is part of the information warfare waged by Russia.

The blocking of disinformation websites at the beginning of this year was mainly supported by voters of the governing coalition. 68% said it was the right thing to do, but over time that share has dropped to 56%. **Support for the move was the lowest among the SPD voters.** Over time, the number of people who could not decide whether it was the right, questionable or unacceptable step has increased.

A third of the SPD voters share news that they think might be disinformation at least occasionally. More than a half of the ruling coalition's voters check such information. More than a half do not receive chain e-mails. **8% of ANO and SPD voters forward chain e-mails** – the highest proportion of all subjects. SPD voters are also the most likely to report that they find it difficult to spot disinformation – almost half of them.

More than 60% of the governing coalition voters think that disinformation occurs primarily on social media. More than a half of them think that disinformation is spread by tabloids or alternative websites. Almost half of the SPD voters associate the Czech Television broadcasting with disinformation. **By contrast, only 15% of them suggest it is the alternative news websites disseminating disinformation.**

INFORMATION WARFARE

DISINFORMATION AND WAR IN UKRAINE

It is mainly the voters of the governing coalition who think that the Czech Republic is part of the information warfare waged by the Russian Federation. However, this conviction is decreasing over time. SPD voters most often think that the information warfare is a pretext for Western governments.

Czechia is part of the information warfare waged by the Russian Federation against Western countries.

Czechia is not involved in the information warfare because the current conflict is limited to UA and RU, including various disinformation campaigns.

The information warfare is just an excuse for Western governments, including the Czech government, to restrict freedom of speech and inconvenient media.

Don't know, can't say

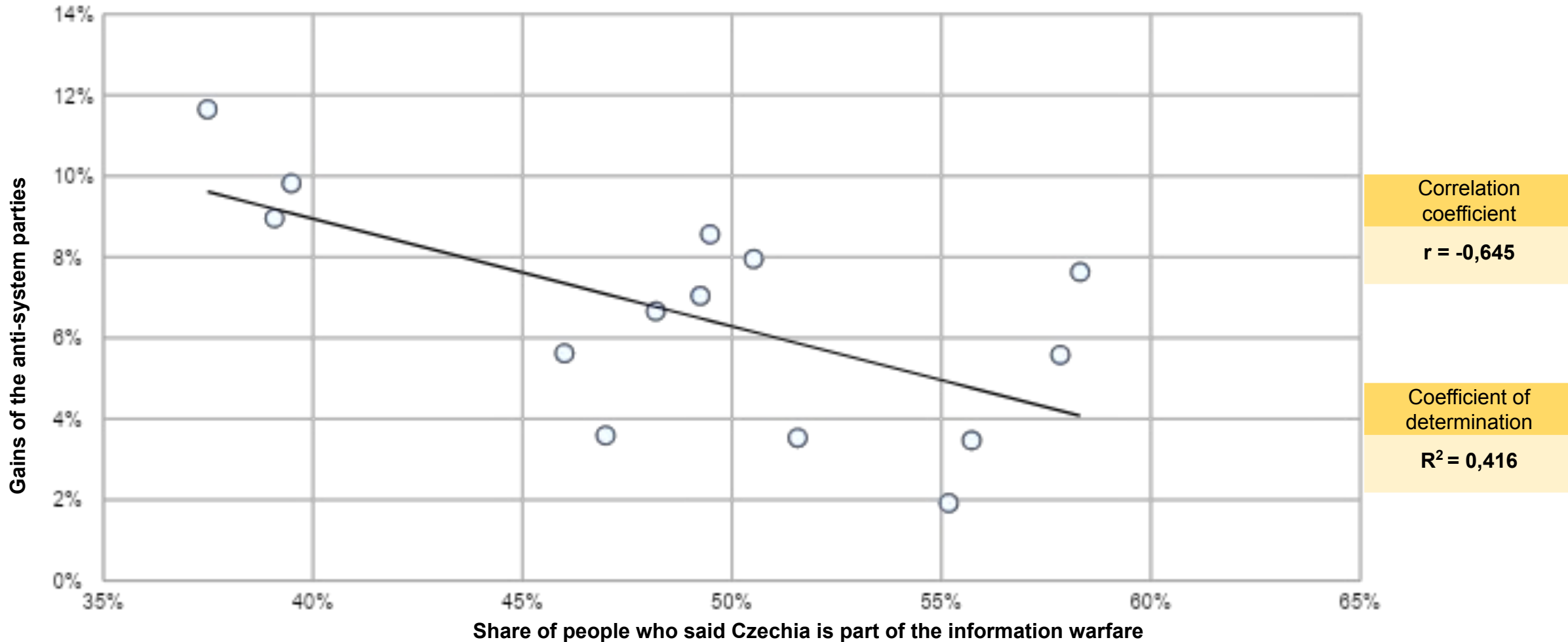


Question: Q1 Which of the following statements best describes your view on the war conflict in Ukraine or its impact on the Czech Republic?

Base: 1. wave n=1031, 2. wave n=1026, 3. wave n=1003, 4. wave n=1003

CORRELATION OF THE GAINS OF ANTI-SYSTEM PARTIES AND PEOPLE WHO SAID THAT THE CZECH REPUBLIC IS PART OF THE INFORMATION WARFARE

There is a relatively strong negative correlation between the regional gains of anti-system parties (KSČM, SPD) in local elections and the proportion of people who said that Czechia is part of the information war waged by Russia.

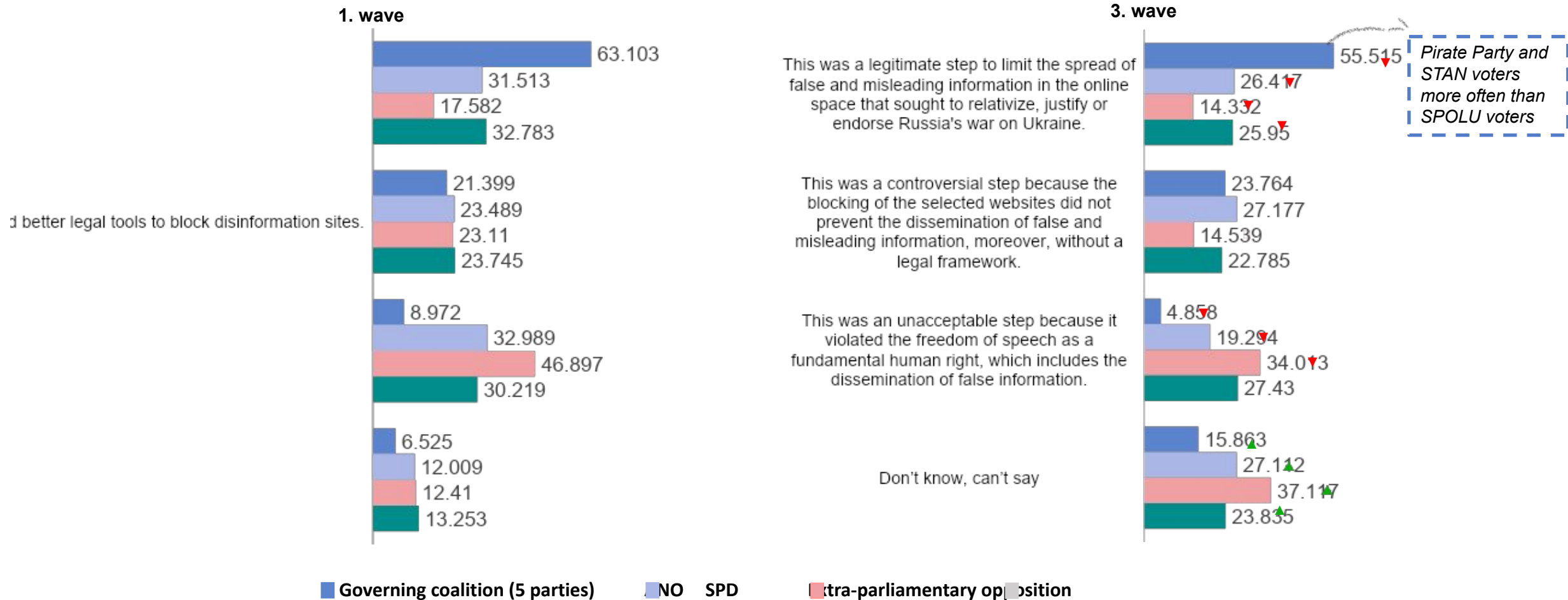


Note: Anti-system party gains = combination of regional gains of all groups where KSČM and SPD parties appeared
Question: Q1. Which of the following statements best describes your view on the war conflict in Ukraine and its impact on the Czech Republic?
Weighted average of responses for waves 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Base: n=4059 (cumulative sample of all 4 waves)

BLOCKING DISINFORMATION WEBSITES AND CHAIN E-MAILS

OPINION ON BLOCKING WEBSITES

Voters for the governing coalition were more likely to say that blocking disinformation websites was the right thing to do. Immediately after the blocking was introduced almost 50% of the SPD voters opposed the move. Over time, they stopped having such a clear opinion.



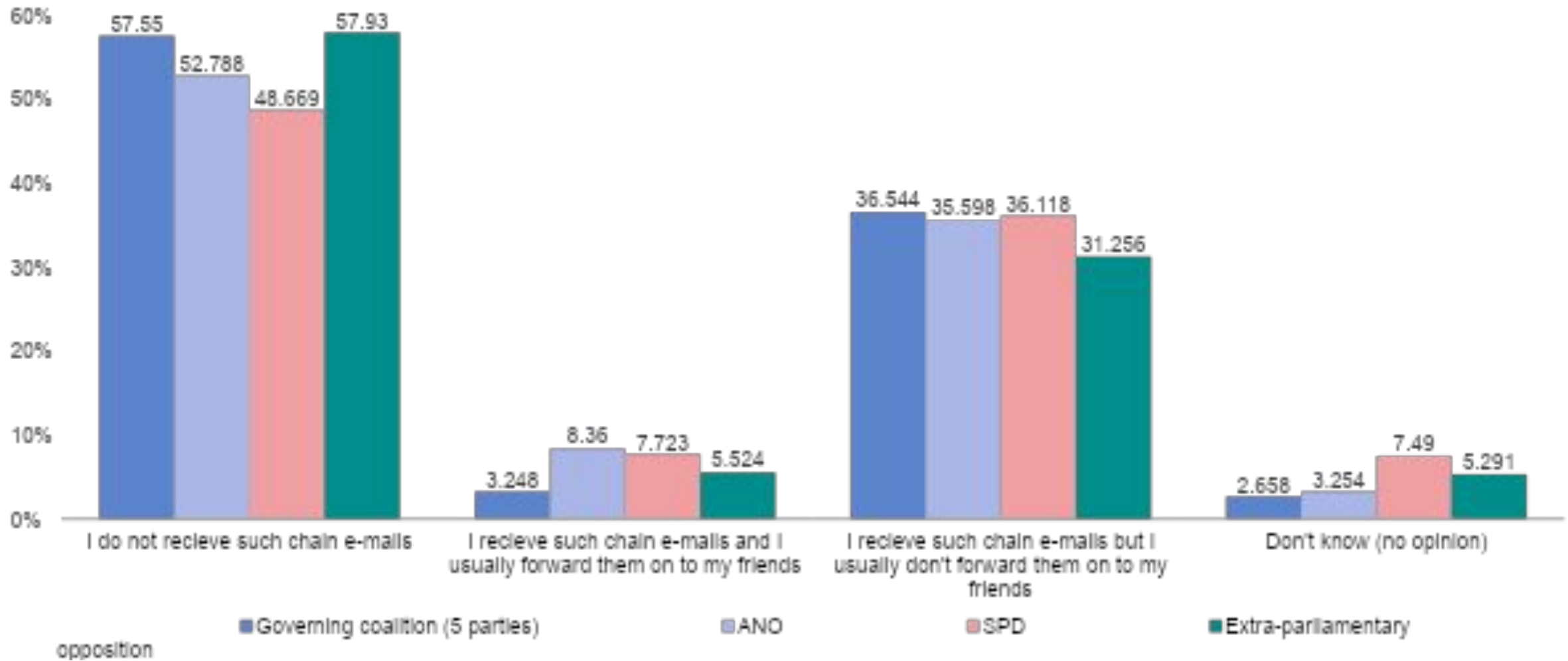
Significance: ▲ ▼ Larger/smaller than the previous wave

Question: (1st wave), Q3 (3rd wave). Which of the following statements best describes your perspective?

Base: n=1031 (wave 1), n=1000 (wave 3)

CHAIN E-MAILS

More than half of the voters say they do not receive chain e-mails but if they do 8% of ANO and SPD voters forward them most often.



Question: Q5. Do you receive mass forwarded e-mails from your friends, warning of dangers related to e.g. migration, the war in Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic, the current political situation, the EU or NATO? If so, how do you most often respond?

Base: n=1003 (4. wave)

DISINFORMATION

AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS CONCERNING DISINFORMATION

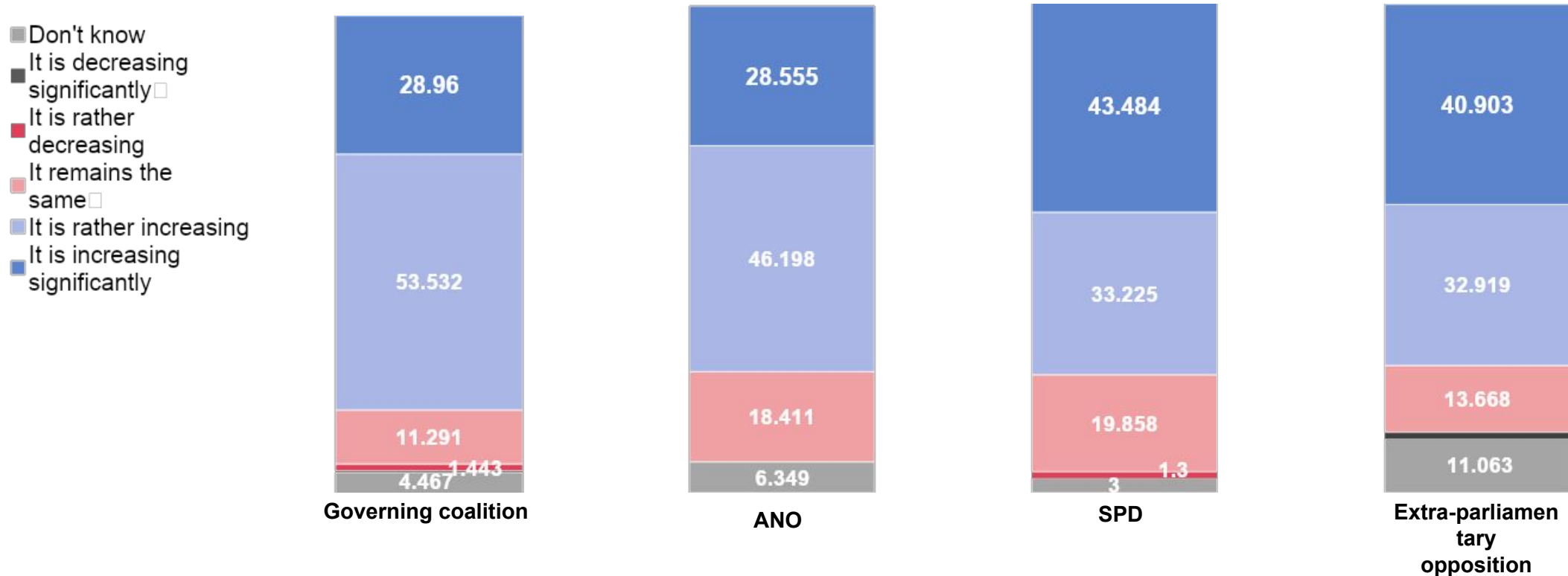
The voters of the ruling five-party coalition are in stark contrast to the voters of the SPD in all of their statements. Both parties hold opposite views, while the voters of ANO and the extra-parliamentary parties copy the society-wide mood.

		Governing coalition	ANO	SPD	Extra-parliamentary opposition
It is easy for me to spot disinformation	Agree	59 %	52 %	39 %	53 %
	Disagree	30 %	38 %	47 %	33 %
Someone in my neighborhood has changed their attitudes or behavior under the influence of disinformation	Agree	69 %	52 %	38 %	57 %
	Disagree	17 %	29 %	43 %	22 %
Disinformation is often deliberately spread by undemocratic states to influence public opinion in our country	Agree	75 %	60 %	42 %	53 %
	Disagree	16 %	21 %	45 %	30 %

Note: Agree = combination of "Strongly Agree" and „Rather Agree" responses; Disagree = combination of "Strongly Disagree" and „Rather Disagree" responses
 Significance: Larger/smaller than the population of the Czech Republic
 Question: Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning disinformation (e.g. false information spread on purpose)?
 Base: n=1003 (4. wave)

INTENSITY AND AMOUNT OF DISINFORMATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

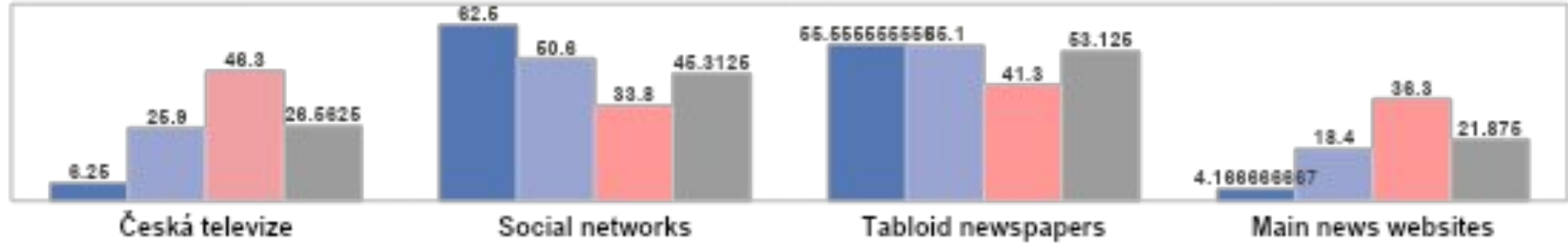
More than a half of the voters in the governing coalition think that the intensity and amount of disinformation in the Czech Republic is increasing. Most SPD voters think it is increasing significantly. At the same time, a fifth of them think that the amount of disinformation remains the same.



Question: Q5. What do you think is the development of the intensity and amount of misinformation in the Czech Republic?
 Base: n=1026 (2nd wave)

SPREADING DISINFORMATION

According to the voters of the governing coalition disinformation occurs primarily on social media. More than a half of them think that disinformation is spread by tabloids or alternative websites. Almost half of the SPD voters associate the Czech Television broadcasting with disinformation.



■ Governing coalition (5 parties) ANO ■ SPD ■ Extra-parliamentary opposition

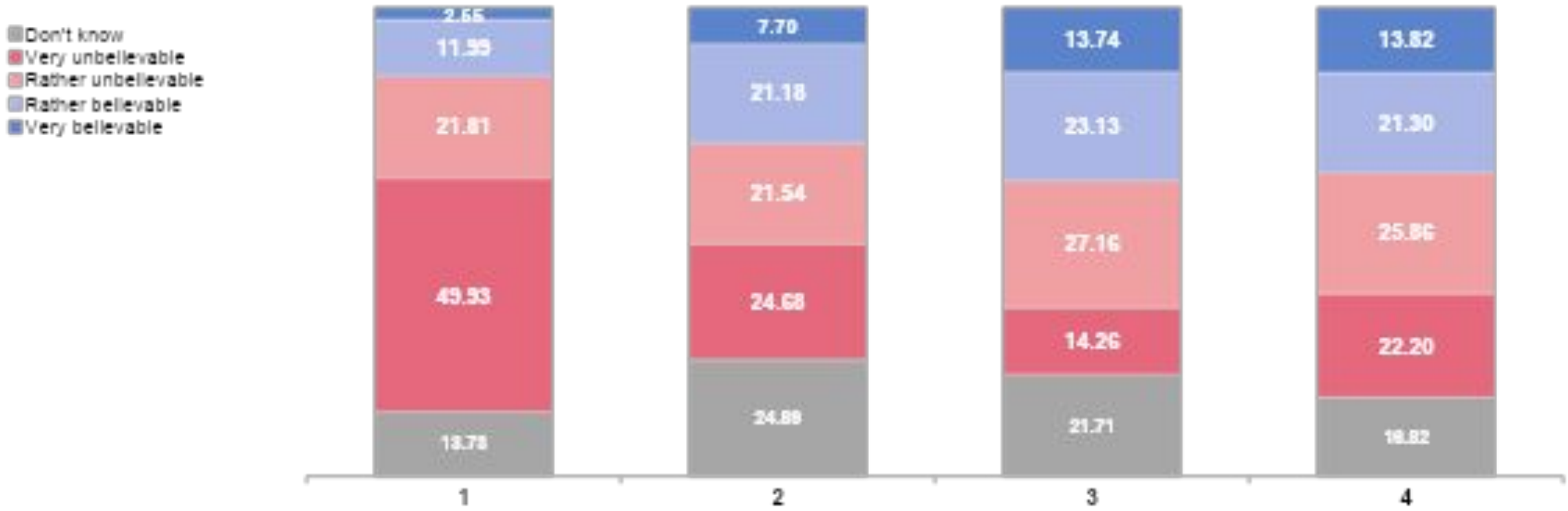
Note: Weighted average for Governing coalition and Extra-parliamentary coalition
 Question: Q. Which media do you think most often spread disinformation?
 Base: n=630

TRUST IN DISINFORMATION 1/2

The fact that bio-labs in Ukraine are researching the bird flu pathogen with the help of US money is believed mainly by the SPD voters and the extra-parliamentary opposition. On the contrary, half of the voters of the ruling coalition consider the news very unbelievable.



The bird flu is harmless to humans, but Bill Gates and Dr. Anthony Fauci have been funding research for many years to develop a bird flu pathogen capable of infecting humans. Some of this research has been conducted in Pentagon-funded bio-labs in Ukraine.



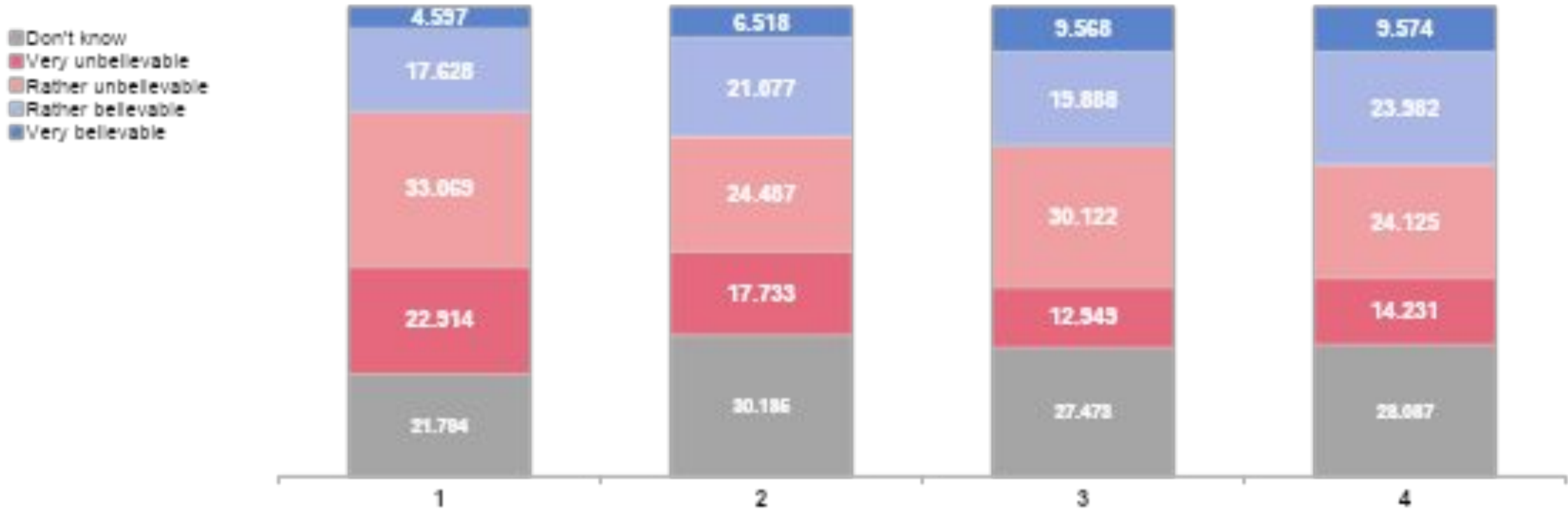
Note: Weighted average for wave 3 and wave 4
 Question: Q2_2. To what extent do you find the following news unbelievable or, on the contrary, believable?
 Base: 3rd wave n=1003 4th wave n=1003

TRUST IN DISINFORMATION 2/2

Voters of the extra-parliamentary opposition find the report about gas tankers more believable than voters of other parties. It is considered least credible by more than a half of the voters of the governing coalition.



In early April, a total of 20 liquefied natural gas tankers, each with a capacity of 140,000 m³, headed from the United States to Europe. These tankers need exactly as much oil to transport gas as all the vehicles in the world use in one year.

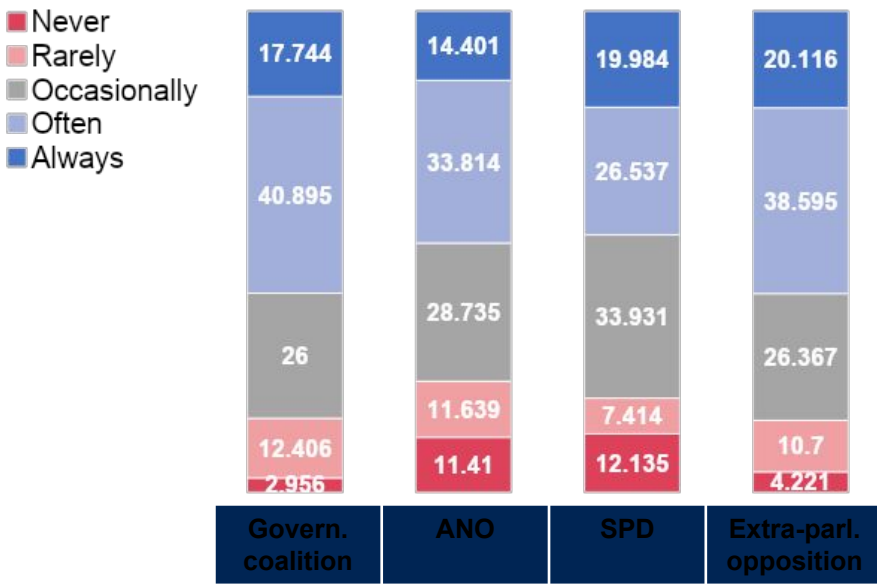


Note: Weighted average for wave 3 and wave 4
Question: Q2_2. To what extent do you find the following news unbelievable or, on the contrary, believable?
Base: 3rd wave n=1003 4th wave n=1003

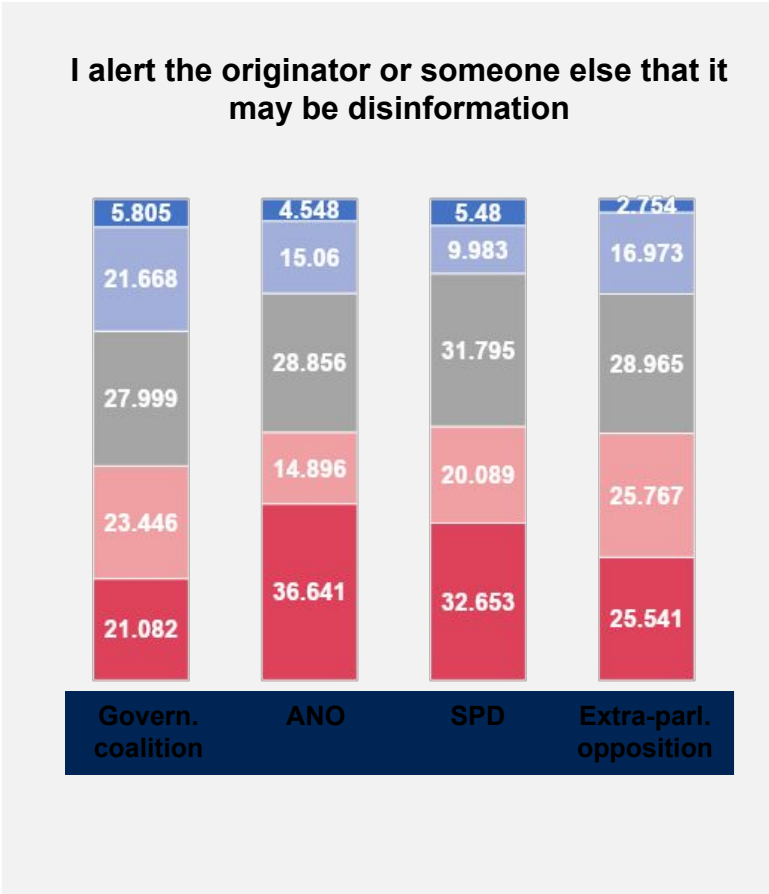
REACTIONS TO DISINFORMATION

A third of the SPD voters at least occasionally share interesting information, even though they know it may be disinformation. In contrast, voters of the governing coalition more often report that they check suspicious information and alert the originators of the disinformation.

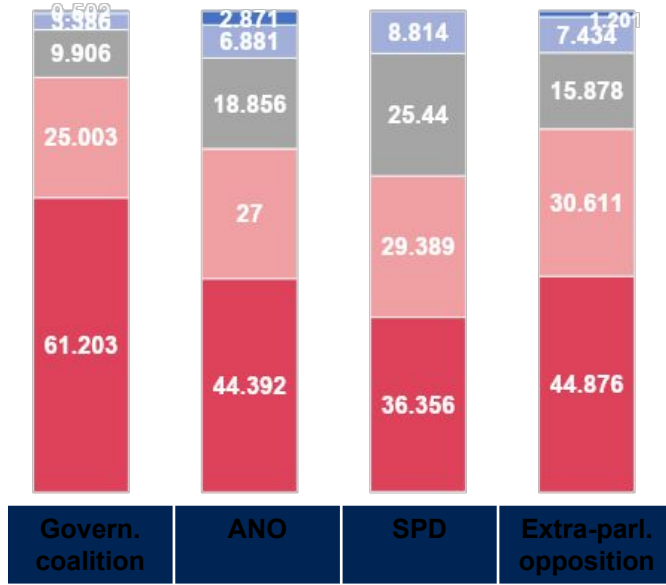
I verify the accuracy of information from other sources



I alert the originator or someone else that it may be disinformation



If I find it interesting or important, I share it, even though it may be disinformation



Question: Q4. What do you usually do with information that you suspect may be disinformation?
 Base: n=1003 (wave 4)

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