

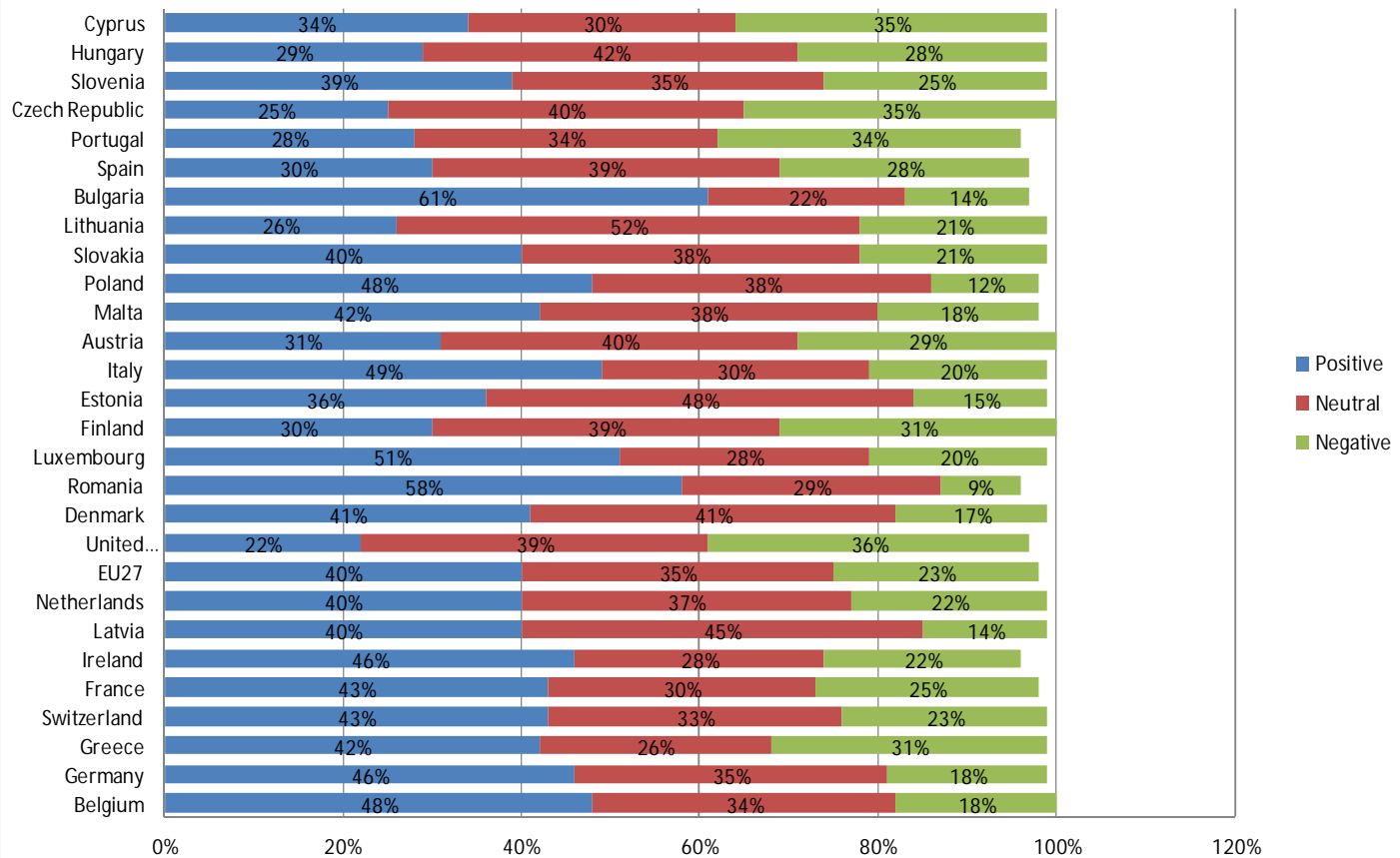
EUROOPTIMISM AND EUROSCEPTICISM

a Central Eastern European Perspective

CSABA TOTH

Rising Euroskepticism: question marks...

In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (June 2012)



Methodological framework

- Eurobarometer 78.1 (November 2012) – countries and factors influencing euroscepticism
- Eurobarometer 79 (May 2013) – general findings
- The grouping used for the analysis was prepared with 7 questions.

Indicators

1. Is your general view about the EU very positive, rather positive, neutral, rather negative or very negative?

2. Regarding the future of the EU are you very optimistic, sufficiently optimistic, rather pessimistic or very pessimistic?

3. I would like to ask you at what extent do you trust the following institutions? Please tell in case of each listed institution whether you trust them or not:

European Union

4. What is your opinion in connection with the following statements? Please tell which statements are you supporting and in which case are you against?

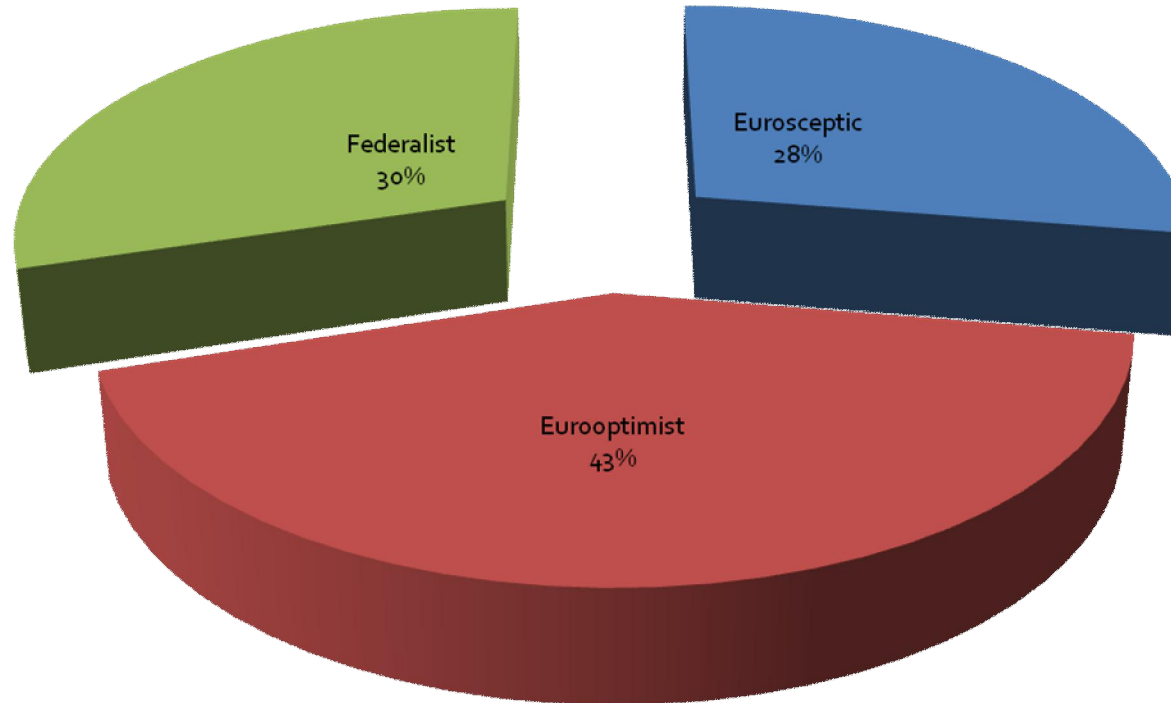
a. The European Economic Community and the Monetary Union with one common currency, the Euro

b. The joint foreign politics of the 27 member states of the European Union

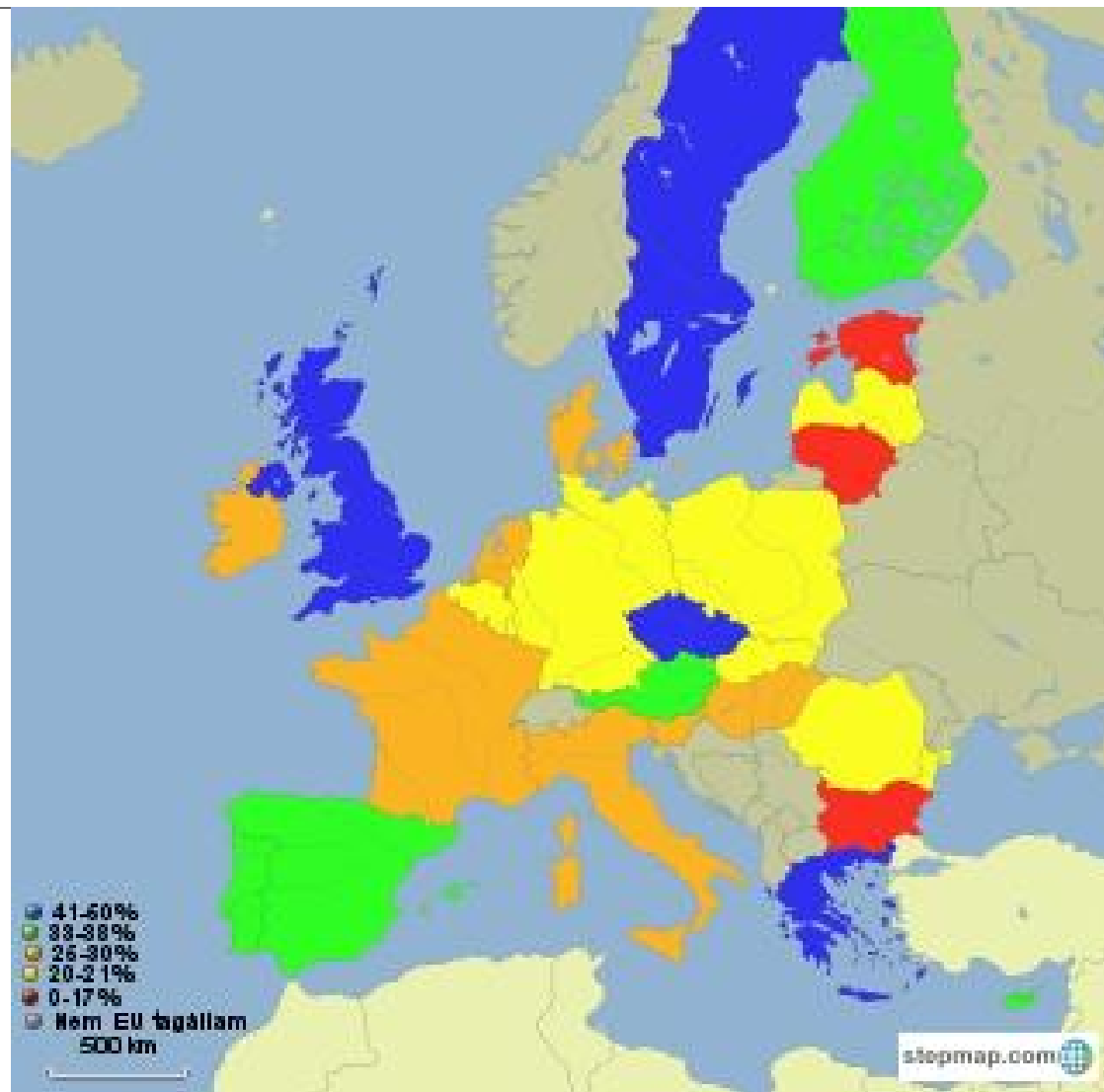
c. Common defence and security policy of the European Union's members states

d. The European parties present their candidates for the President position of the European Commission at the next European Parliament elections

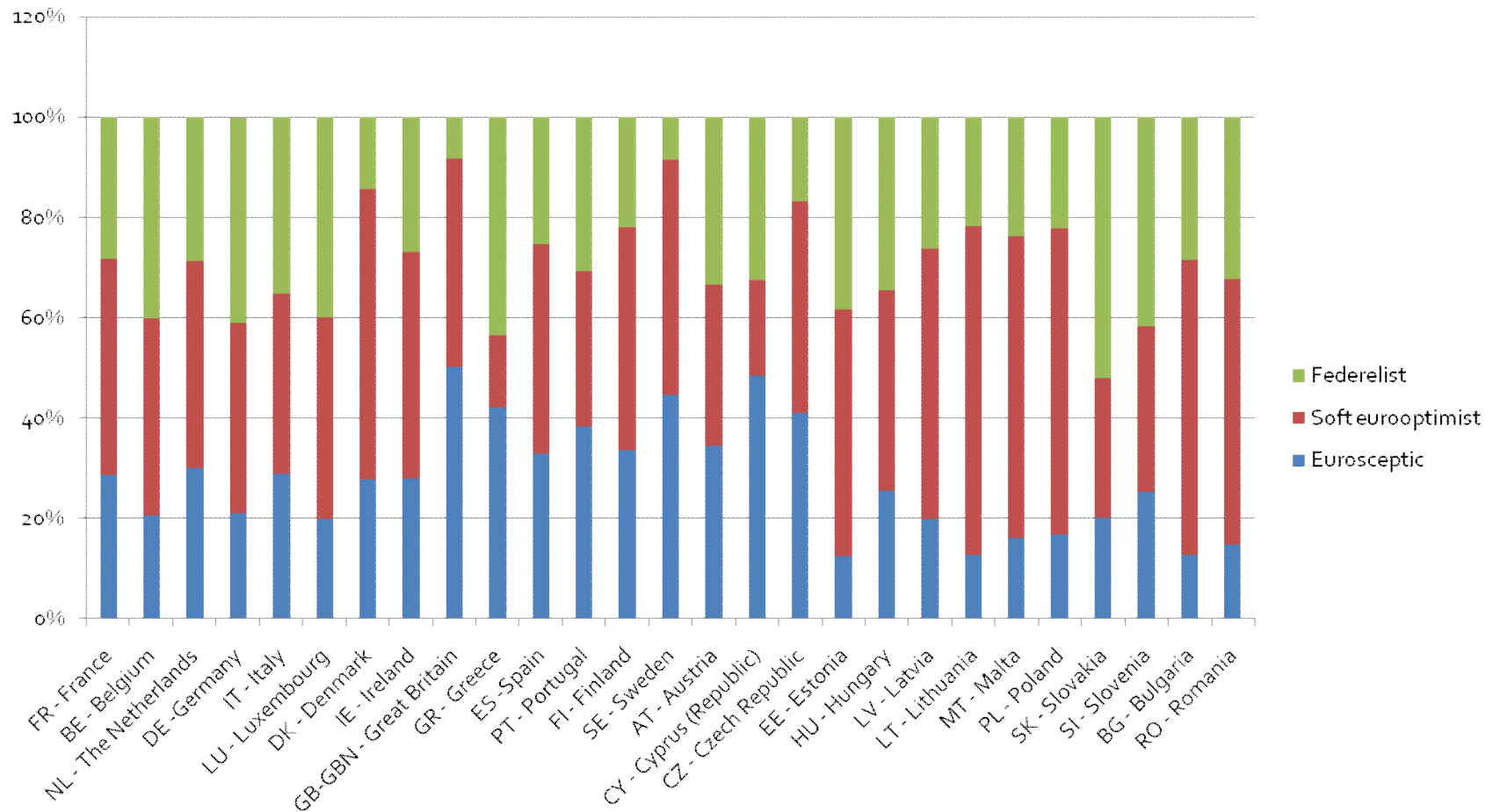
Attitudes towards Europe in 2013



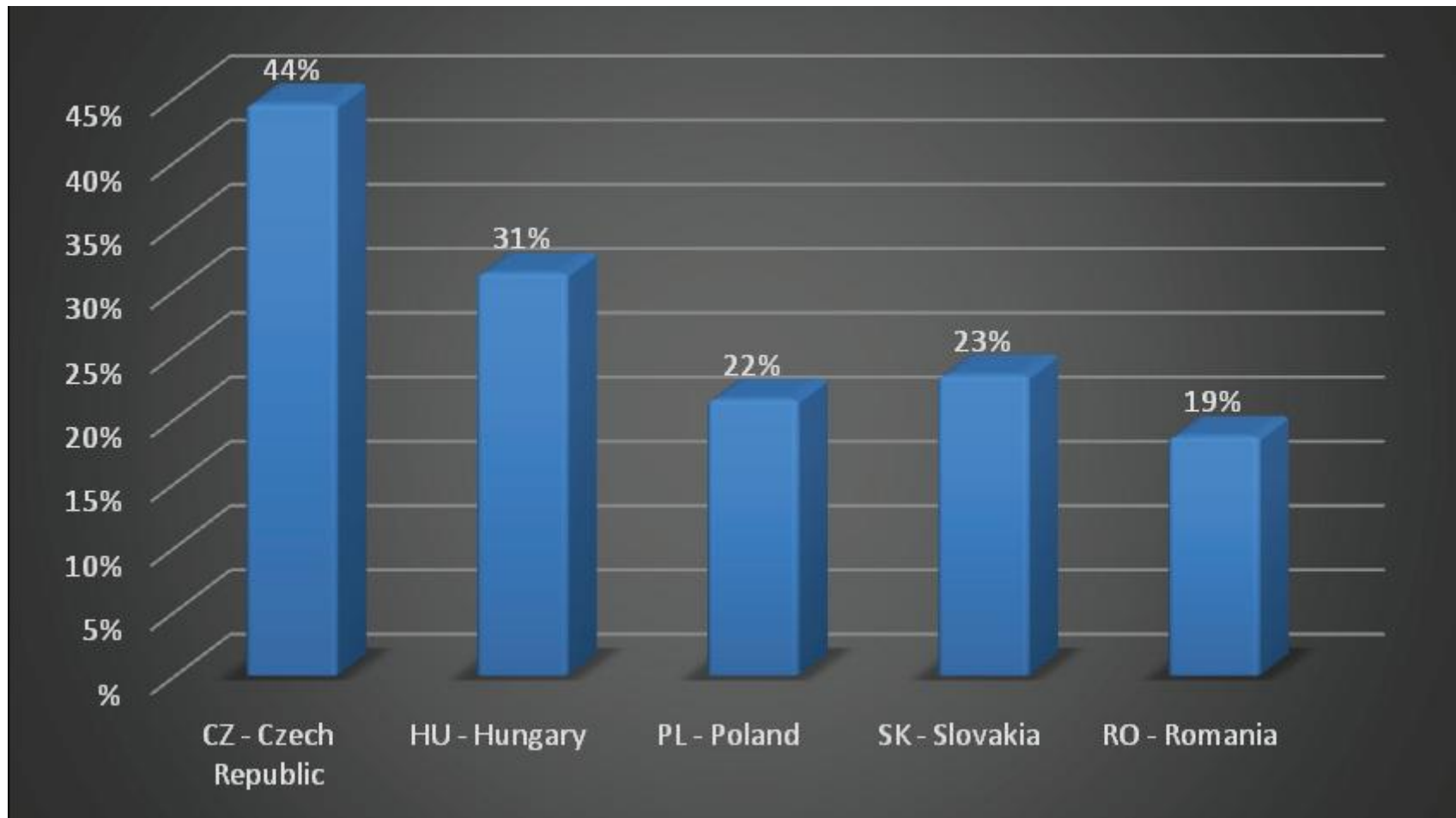
Euroskepticism in Europe



Federalist and Eurosceptic views: a comparison

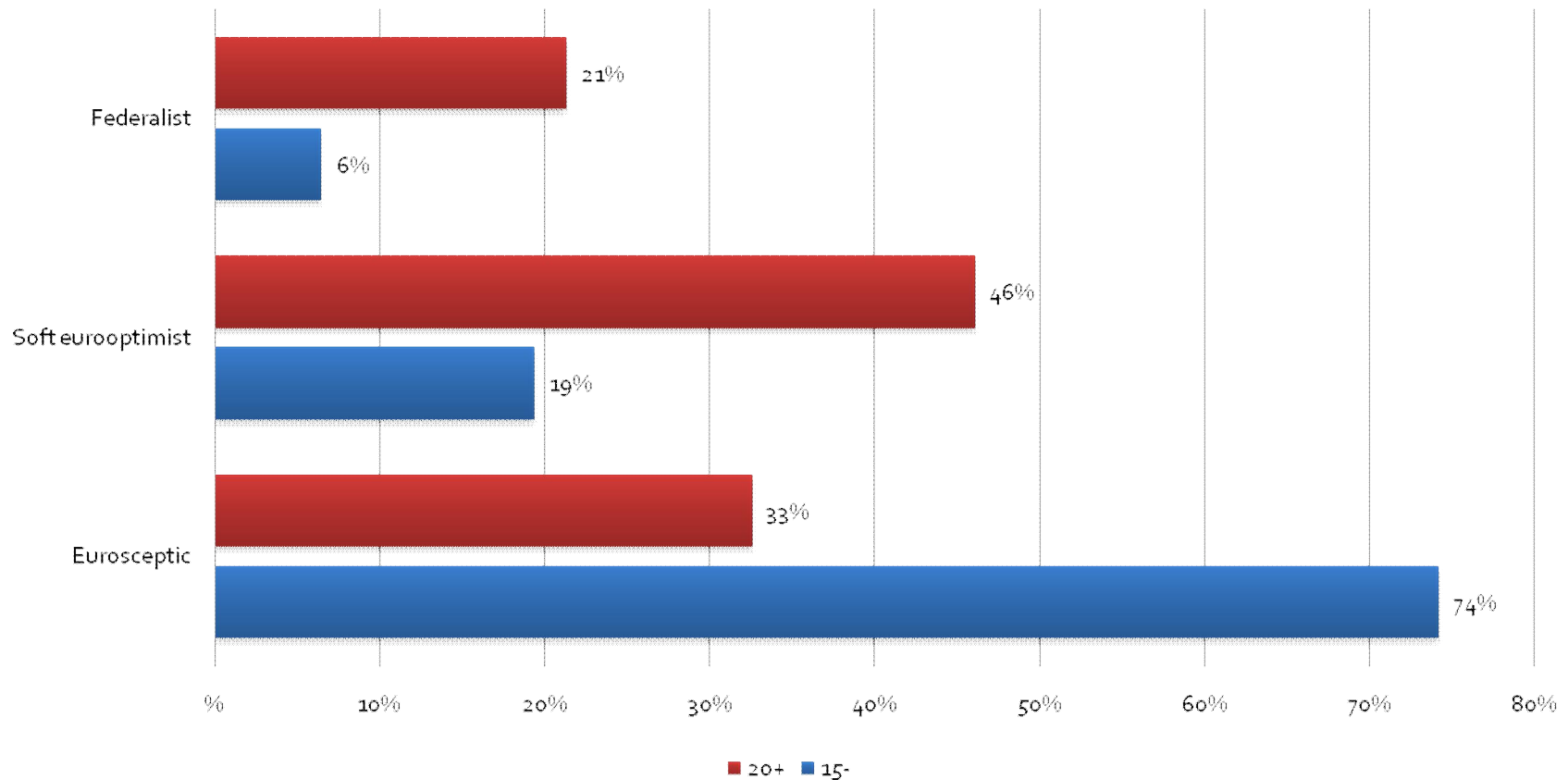


Euroscepticism in the region



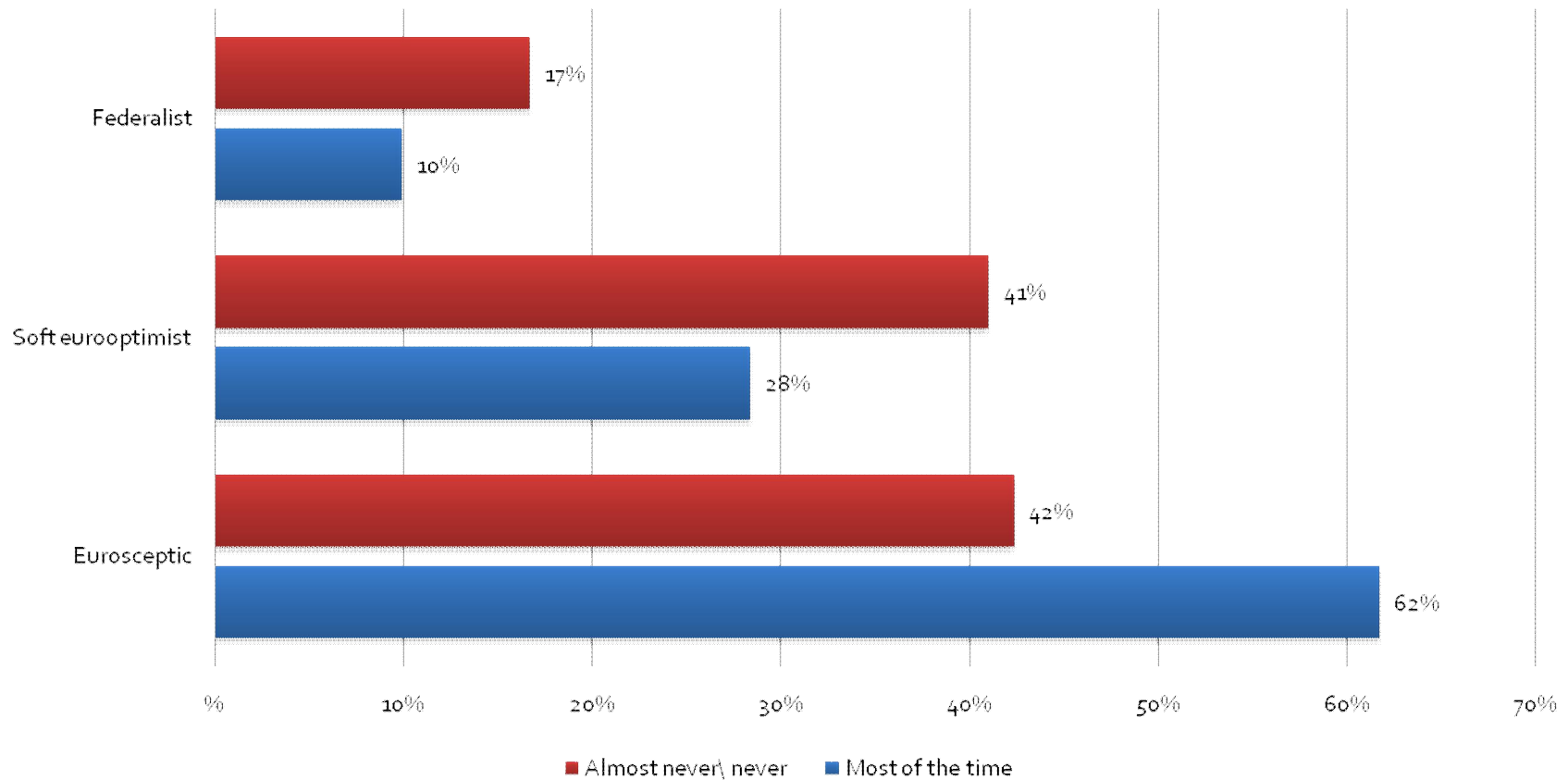
Influences on Euroscepticism – education: significant impact

Czech Republic - Time spent in education

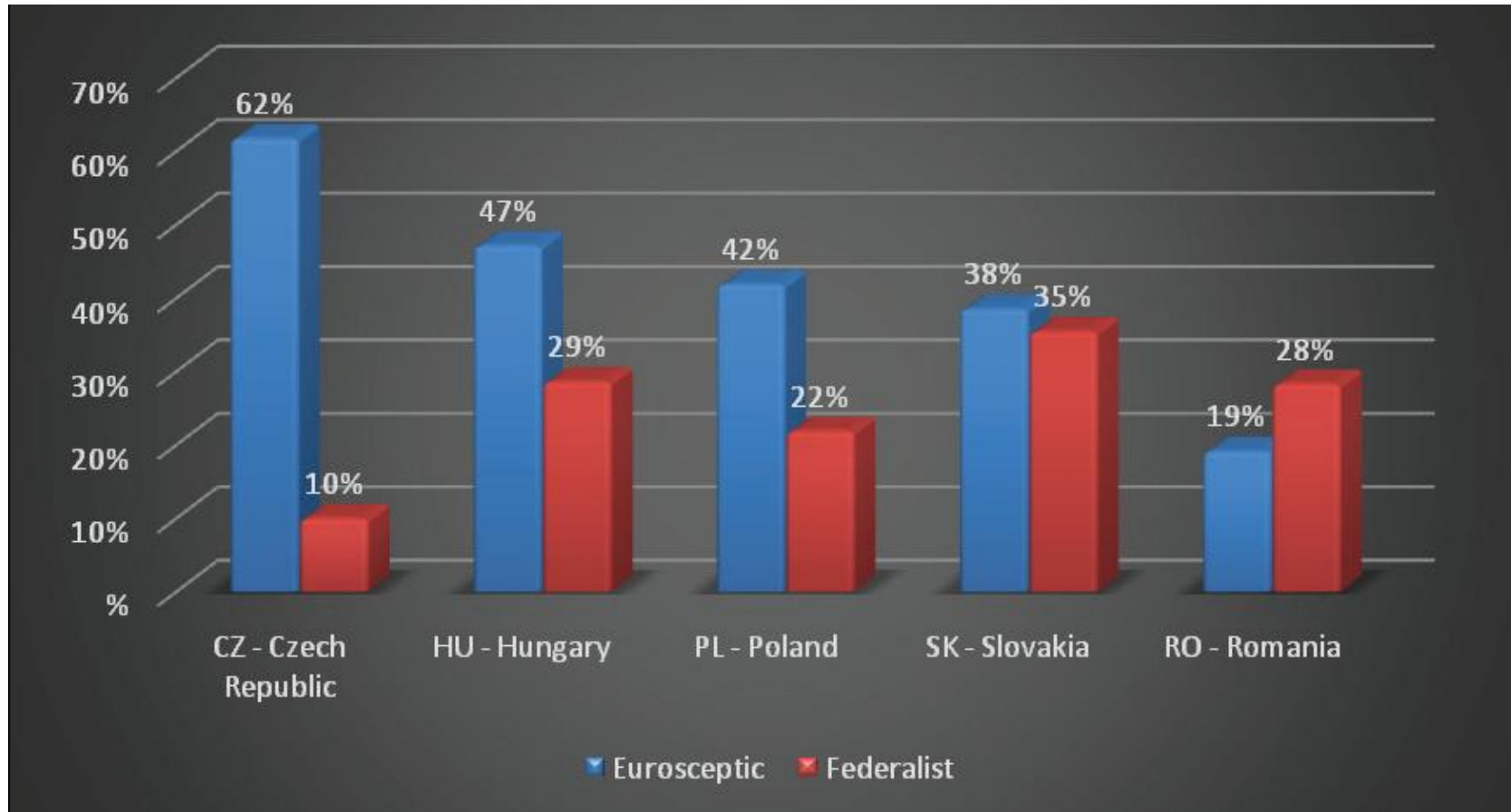


Influences on Euroscepticism – income – little influence

Czech Republic - Difficulties paying bills

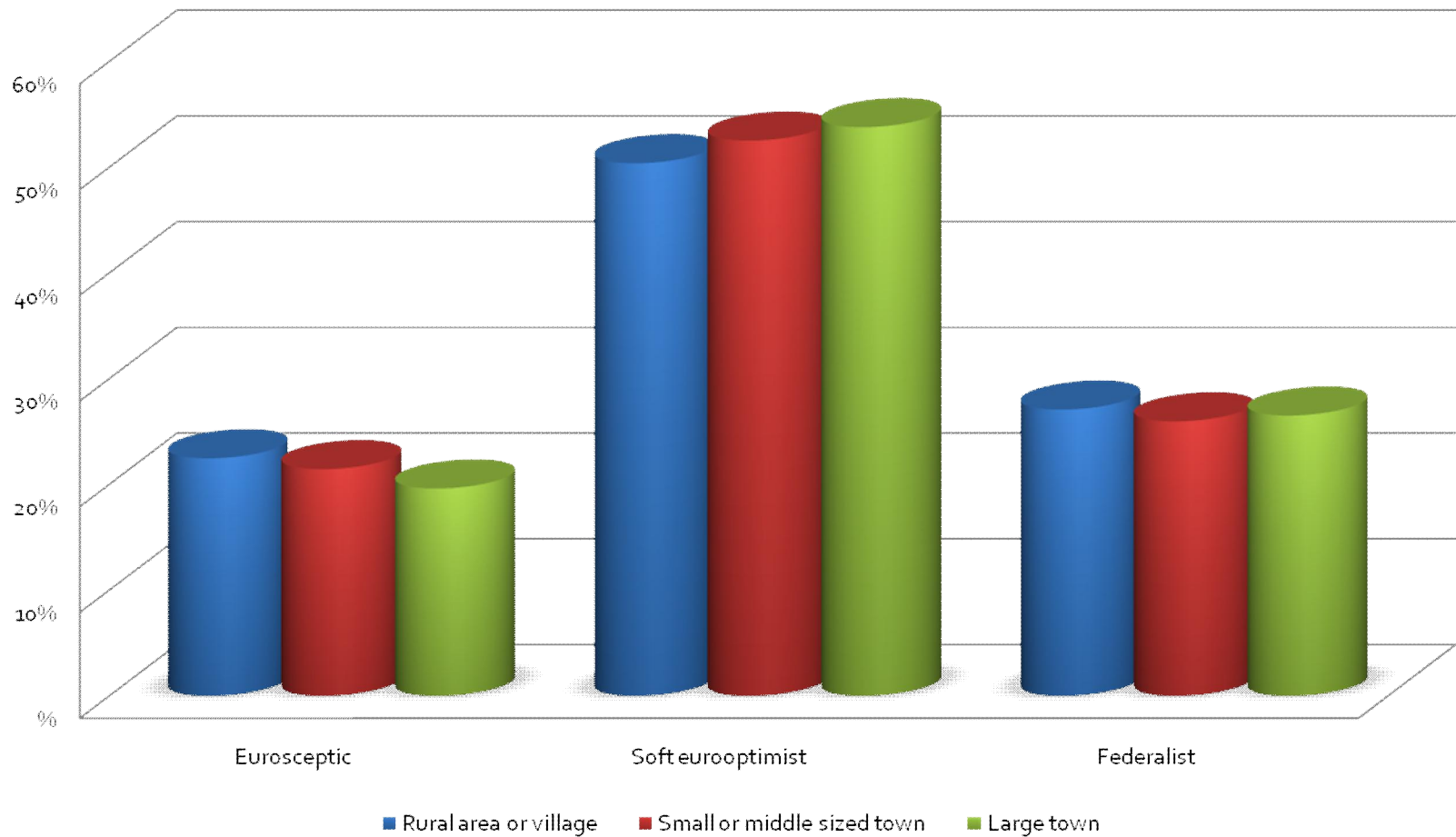


Influences on Euroscepticism – financial situation

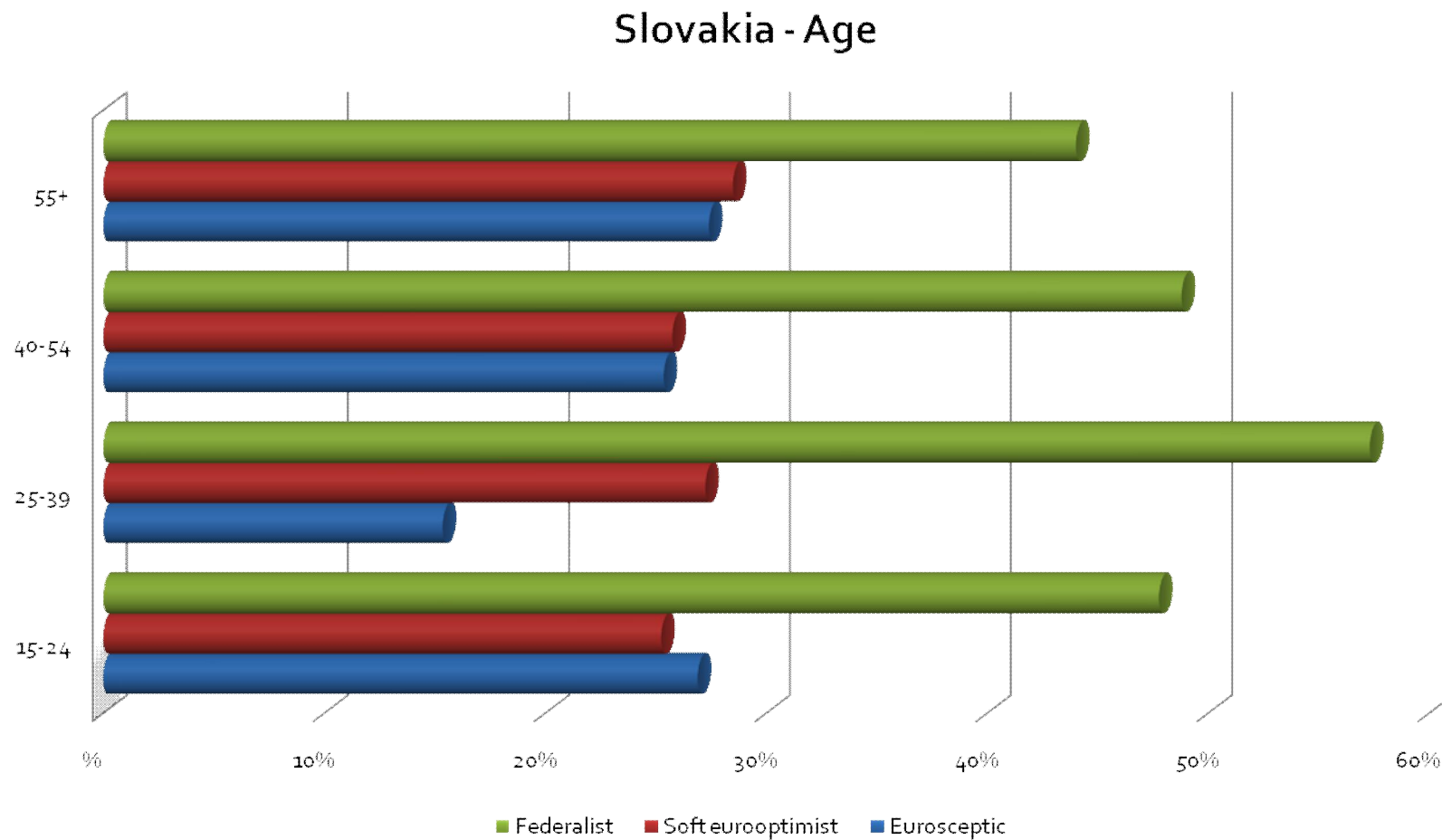


Distribution of eurosceptics and federalists among those living in bad financial conditions

Poland: widespread support for EU

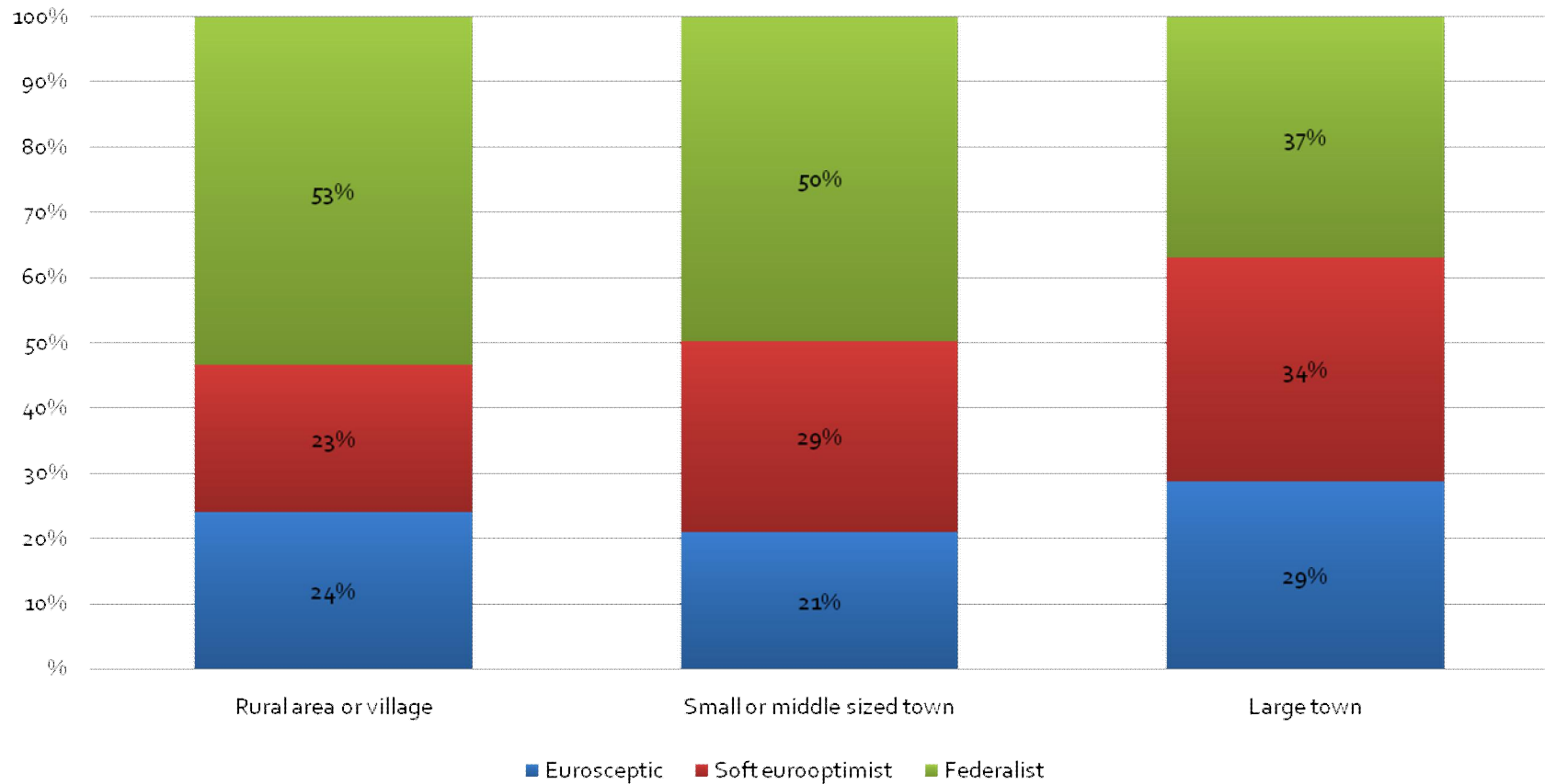


Slovakia: Federalist country – rising Euroscepticism among young people



Slovakia – rural federalism???

Slovakia – Place of living



Free market and populist Euroskepticism: sounds the same, means very different...

	Argument	What Free Market Euroskeptics Mean	What Populist Euroskeptics Mean
Power and legitimacy	Brussels has too much power; national Parliaments should decide	Pluralistic decisions in national Parliaments	Majority rule and single party decisions in national Parliaments
National vs. European solutions	Brussels should not interfere in how nations conduct foreign policy	Open, trade-based, free and peaceful relations between nations; endorsement of globalisation	Nationalistic sentiments, closed nations and opposition to globalisation
Cons-titutional issues	Brussels should not force Franco-German constitutionalism and treaties on nations	Protection of traditional liberties, common law (British case)	Infringement on liberties; archaic and discriminatory constitution
Economy	Brussels trying to interfere in tax policy, competition and „national economic policy“	Low taxes, private property, focus on competition and innovation	Sectoral and high taxes, public or government-friendly „national companies“ supported, focus on redistribution and government autonomy
Contribution to EU budget	„Our nation should not pay for others“	Net contributors	Net beneficiaries

THANK YOU!

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