



# PERITIA

Policy, Expertise and Trust

## Public attitudes towards institutions involved in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic



# PERITIA

Policy, Expertise and Trust

This survey is part of the EU-funded PERITIA project which reviews the role of science in policy decision-making and the conditions under which people should trust and rely on expert opinion that shapes public policy.

The survey was conducted in the UK, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Italy and Germany, drawing on the proprietary online panel of Savanta in the UK and similar panels in their network in the other countries. See the technical note at the end of this report for more details.

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# The motivations of government and scientists on COVID-19

When tackling coronavirus, people in the UK are among the least likely to say that the government is motivated by improving the lives of people like them, the lives of future generations, and ensuring government actions do not harm them.

By contrast, scientists addressing coronavirus are viewed more positively across all countries. For instance, seven in ten people on average say that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by improving the lives of future generations – five in ten say this of government.



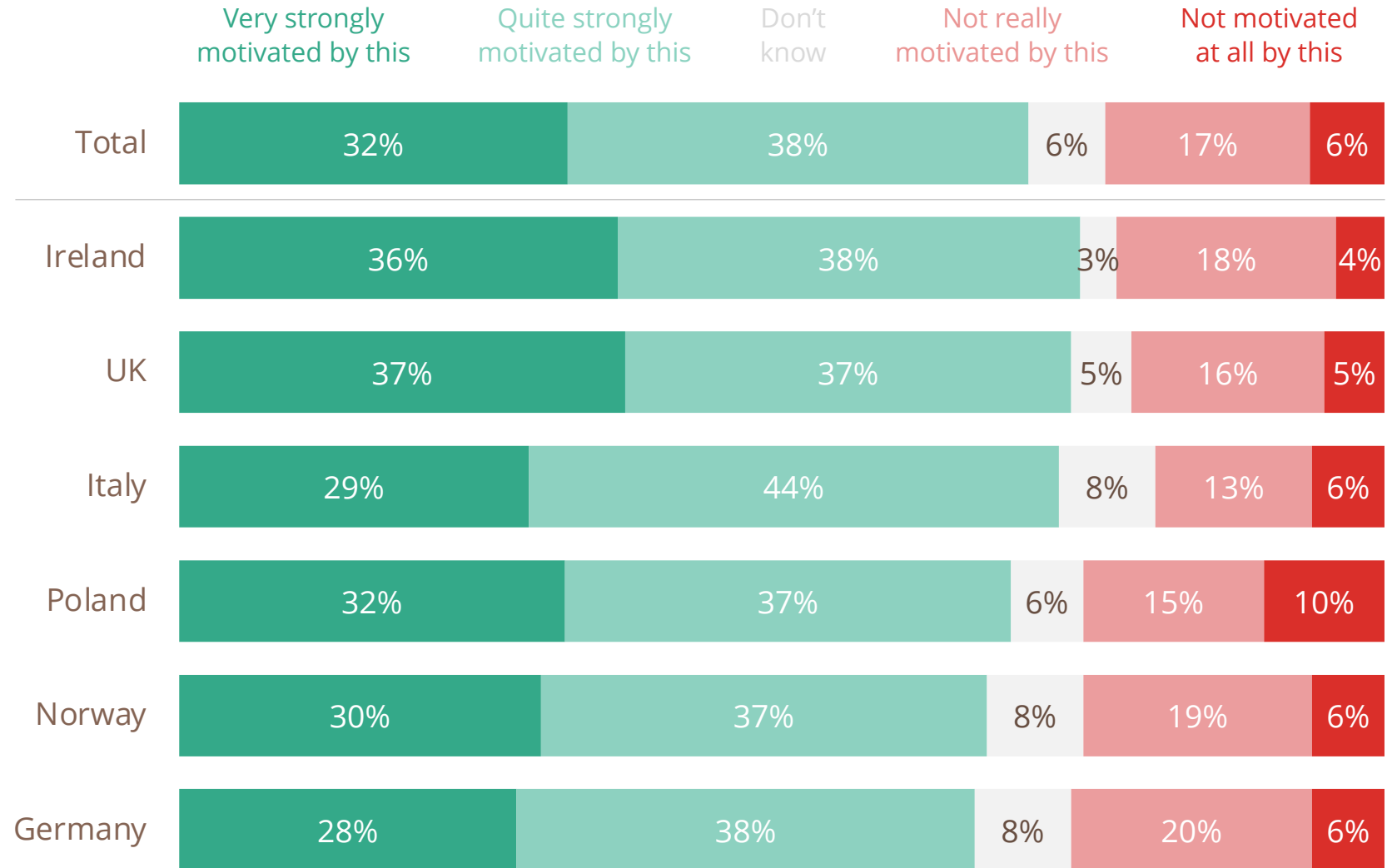
# Three in four people in the UK think that, when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, the government is motivated by building or protecting its own reputation.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Building or protecting their own reputation**

Most people in the countries surveyed think their government is motivated by building or protecting its own reputation when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, the proportion is one of the highest in the UK, where 74% feel the government is motivated by this.

In contrast, this figure is 65% in Germany and 67% in Norway, where there is a slightly more positive view of their government's motivations.



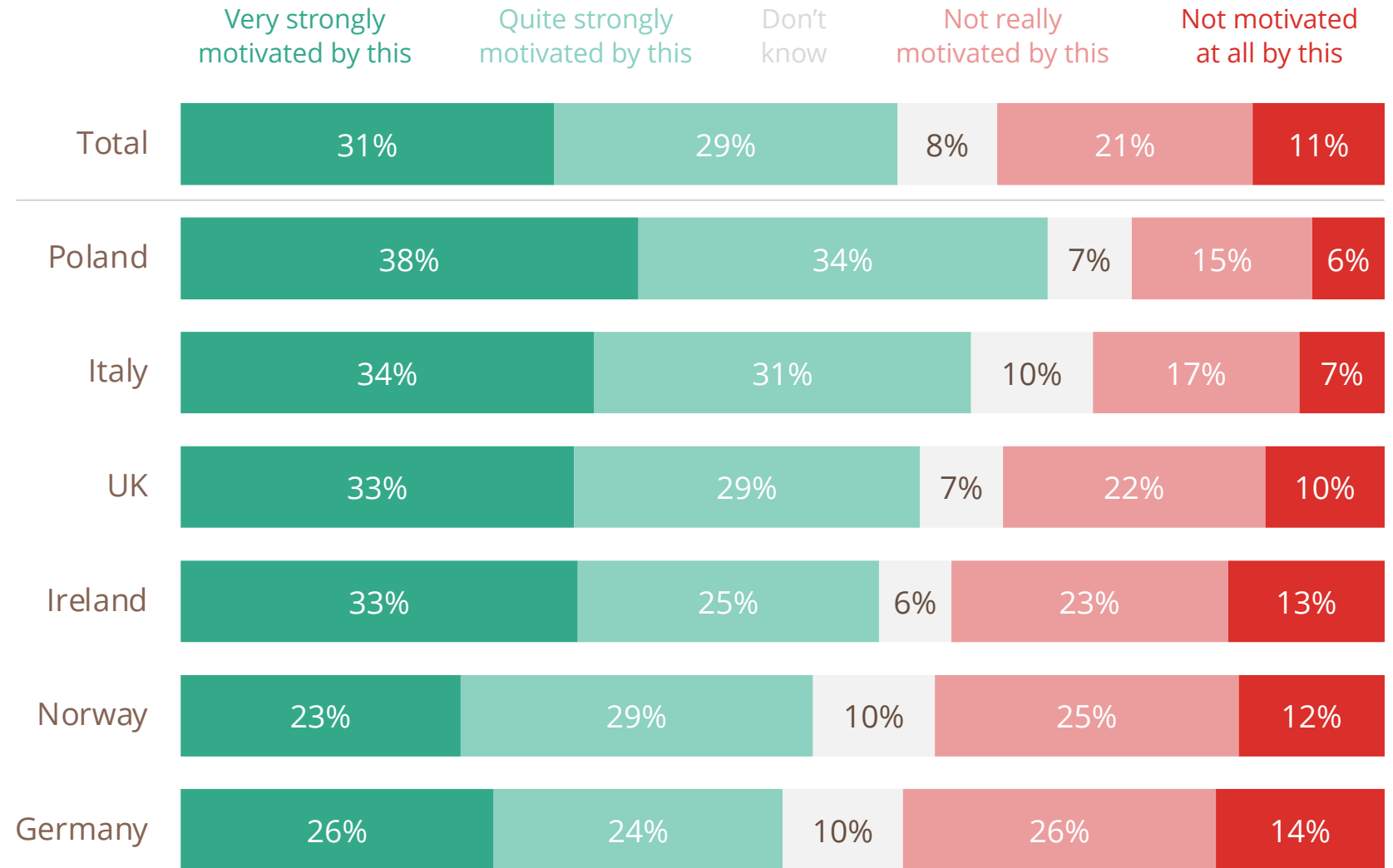
# Seven in ten people in Poland think that, when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, the government is motivated by making lots of money.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Making a lot of money**

71% of people in Poland believe that, when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, the government is motivated by making lots of money. This is 11% above the average of 60%.

People in Germany have the most positive view of their government in this regard, when 50% of people think that the government is motivated by this.

The UK is slightly above average for this view, where 61% of people say that the government is motivated by making lots of money when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic.



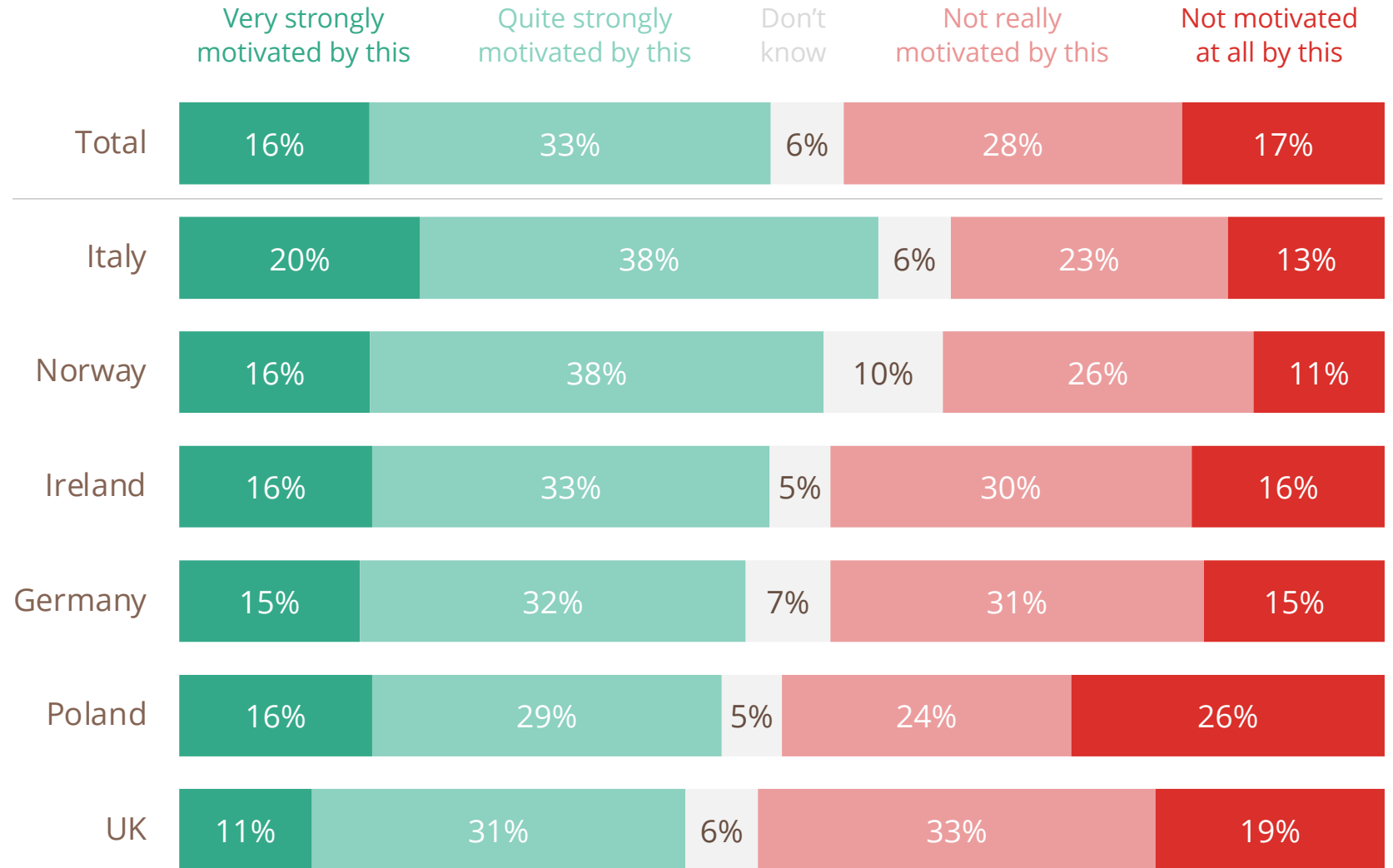
# People in the UK are among the least likely to think their government is motivated by improving the lives of people like them.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Improving the lives of people like me**

42% of people in the UK think that, when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, the Government is motivated by improving the lives of people like them.

The UK has one of the lowest rankings on this question across all countries. In Italy, the number is significantly higher at 57%, and in Norway it stands at 54%.

At the same time, 52% of people in the UK think that the government is not motivated by improving the lives of people like them.



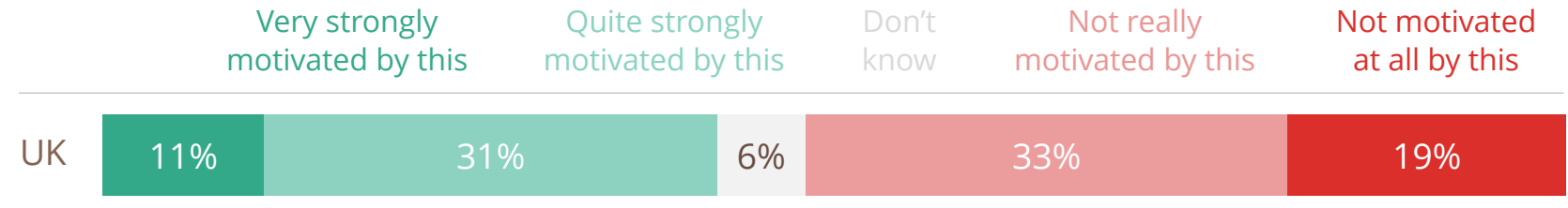
# In the UK, people who are older, white, and who vote Labour, are more likely to say that the government is not motivated by improving the lives of people like them.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Improving the lives of people like me**

People in the UK who are white are more likely (55%) to say that the government is not motivated by improving the lives of people like them than are people who are ethnic minorities (36%).

Liberal Democrat (56%) and Labour (57%) voters are also more likely to say this than are Conservative voters (43%).

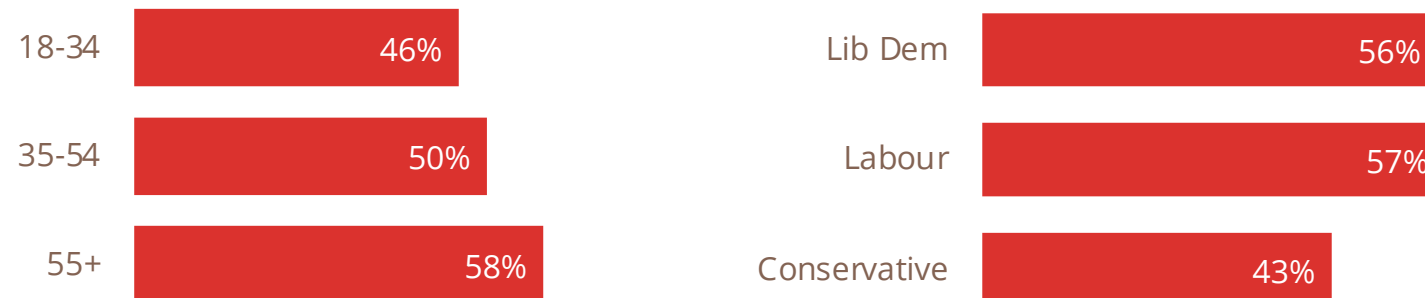
Females (56%) are also more likely to say this than males (47%). And this view is also more prevalent amongst older people, where people aged 55+ (58%) say this more than 18-34 year olds (46%).



## % of those who think the the government is not motivated by this



## 2019 General Election Vote



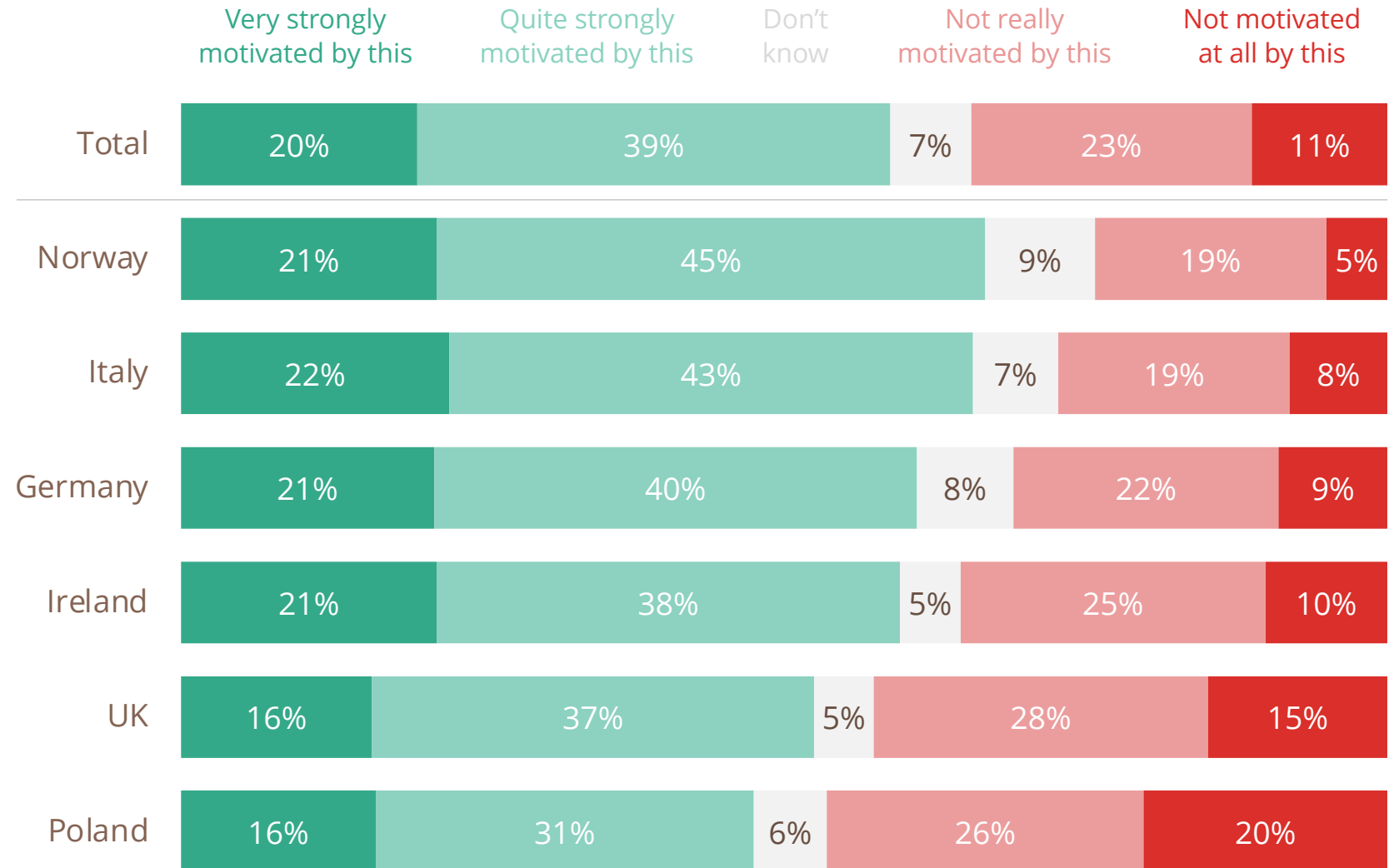
# One in two people in the UK think the government is motivated by the thought that the public are counting on them.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **The thought that the public are counting on them**

A key indicator of trust – the perception that someone is motivated by the thought that you are counting on them – is endorsed by a majority of people, where 59% agreed with this on average.

In the UK, 53% of people think that the government is motivated by this when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, the UK has one of the lowest rankings on this trust measure. Only Poland have a lower ranking, where 47% of people agree with it, whereas in Norway, the figure is 66%.



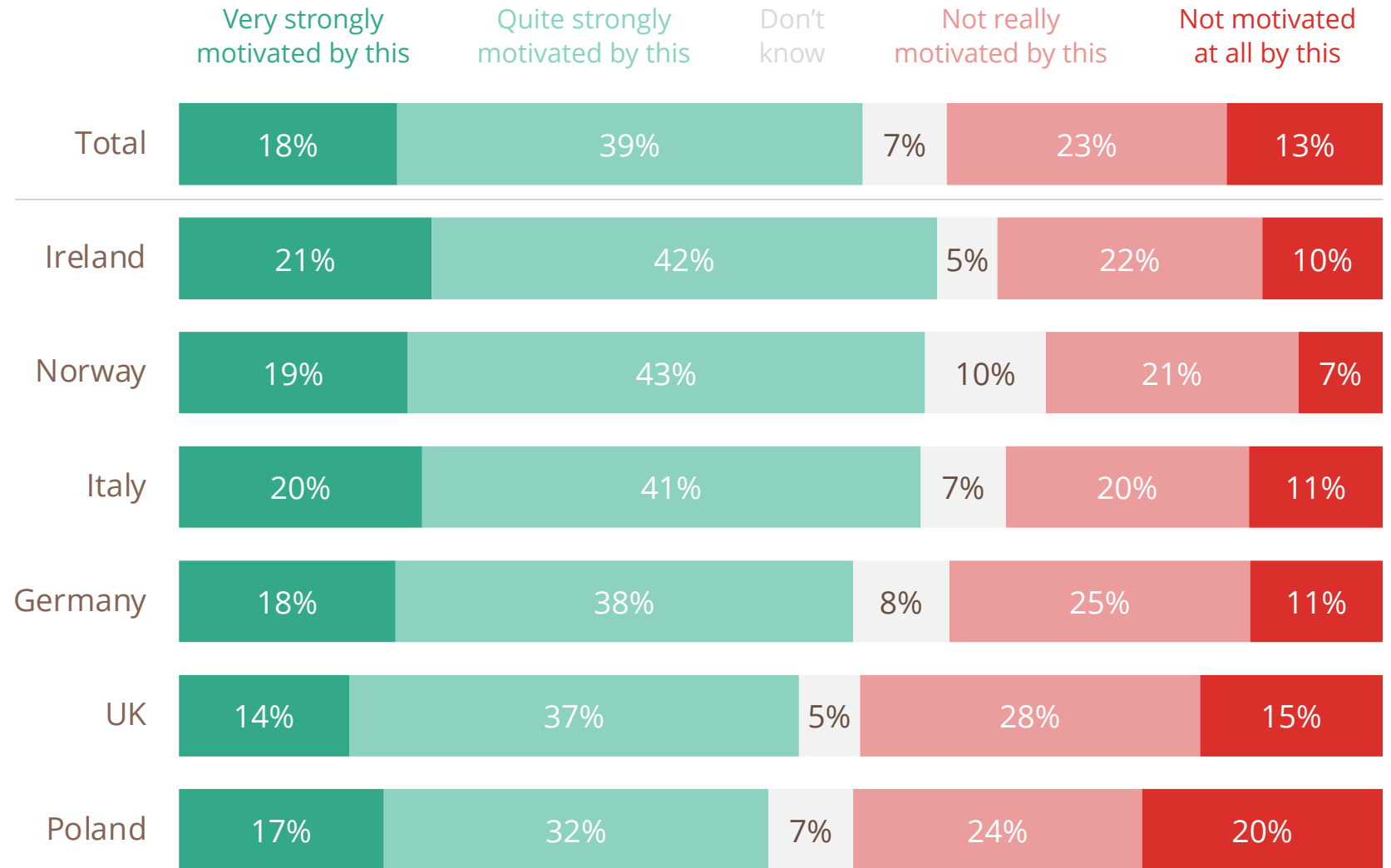


# Six in ten people in Ireland, Italy and Norway think that the government is motivated by concern for those most likely to be harmed by the coronavirus pandemic.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Concern for those most likely to be harmed by the coronavirus pandemic or actions taken to address it**

A majority of people think that the government is motivated by concern for those most likely to be harmed by the coronavirus pandemic. In Ireland, 63% agree with this, and similarly, 62% in Italy and 62% in Norway agree with it.

This view is less prevalent in the UK and Poland where, respectively, 51% and 49% agree that the government is motivated by concern for those most likely to be harmed by the coronavirus pandemic.



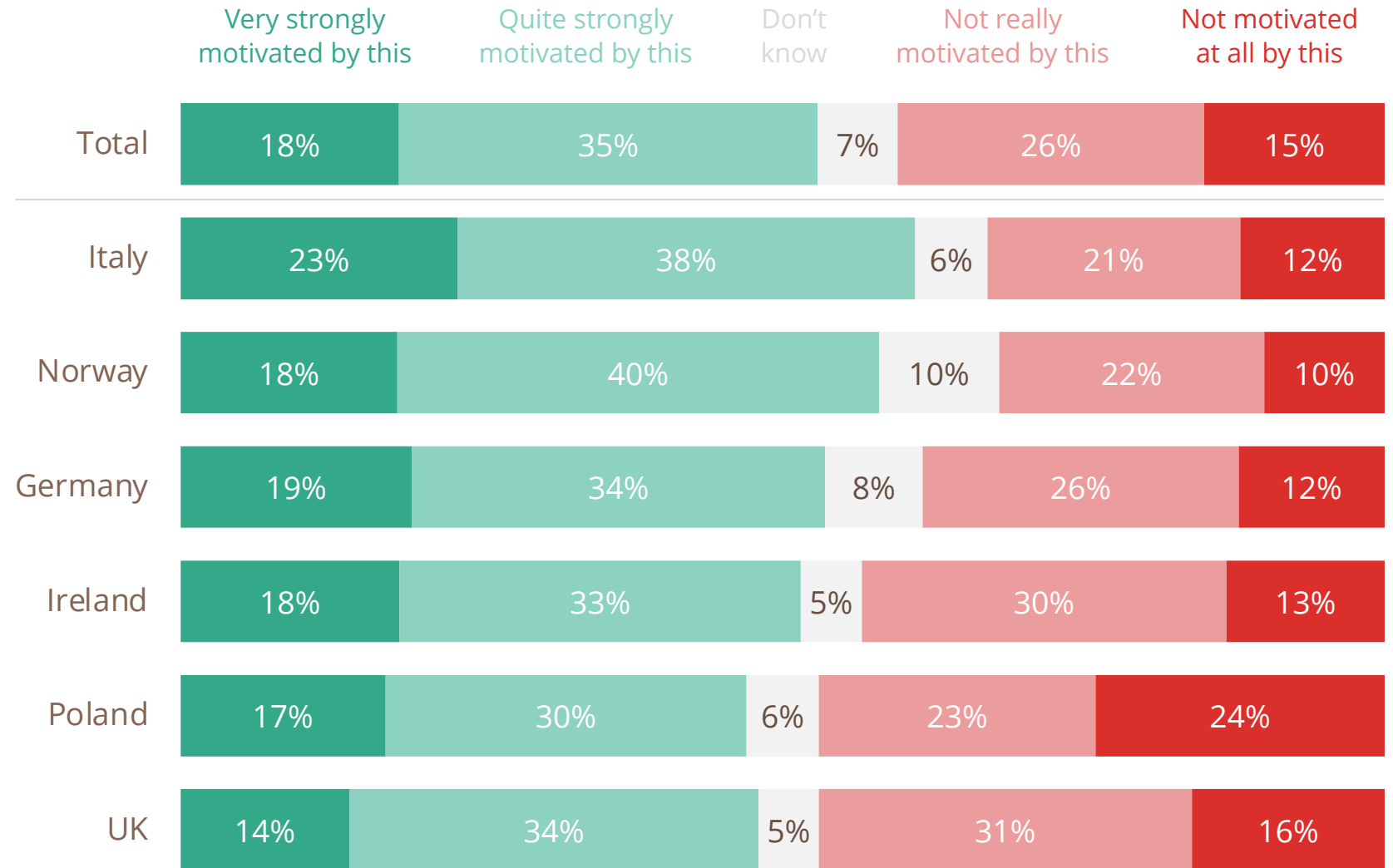
# The UK has one of the least positive views on whether the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Improving the lives of future generations**

47% of people in the UK think that the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations. This is the second-lowest figure out of all countries – just above Poland with 46%.

In Italy this figure is much higher, where 61% of people think that their government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations.

However, other countries have a fairly close view on this issue, with 54% of people in Germany and 52% in Ireland thinking that their government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations.



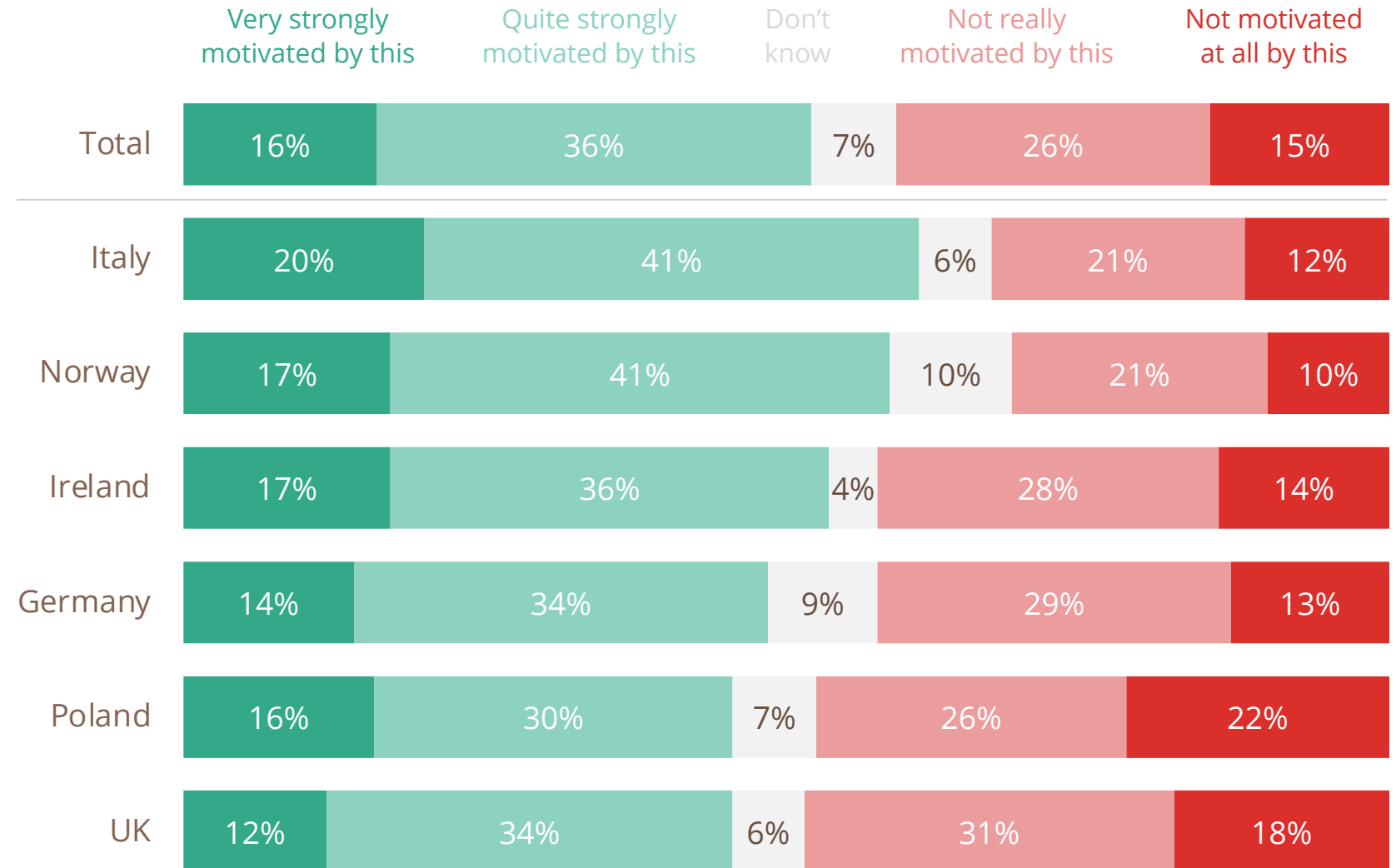
## Six out of ten people in Italy think that their government is motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like me**

61% of people in Italy think that their government is motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them.

A similarly high view on this was found in Norway where 58% of people agree with this.

The UK has the lowest view on this trust measure, with 46% of people agreeing with it, and 49% saying that their government is not motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them.

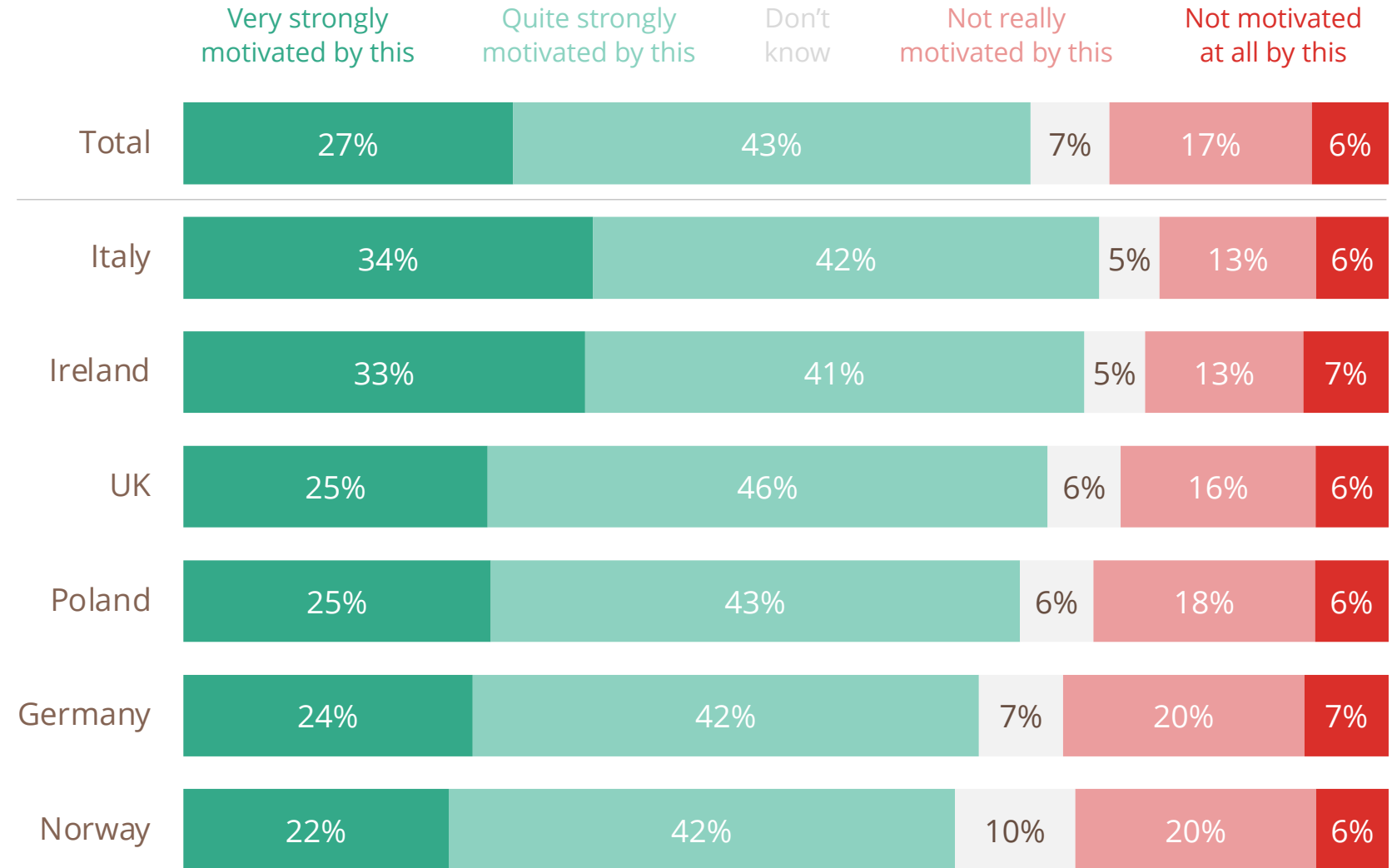


# Three in four people in Italy agree that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by improving the lives of future generations.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by...  
**Improving the lives of future generations**

76% of people in Italy think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by improving the lives of future generations. Similarly, 74% of people in Ireland say this.

More scepticism towards these scientists is expressed in Norway. However, it is still the case that 64% of Norwegians say that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by improving the lives of future generations.



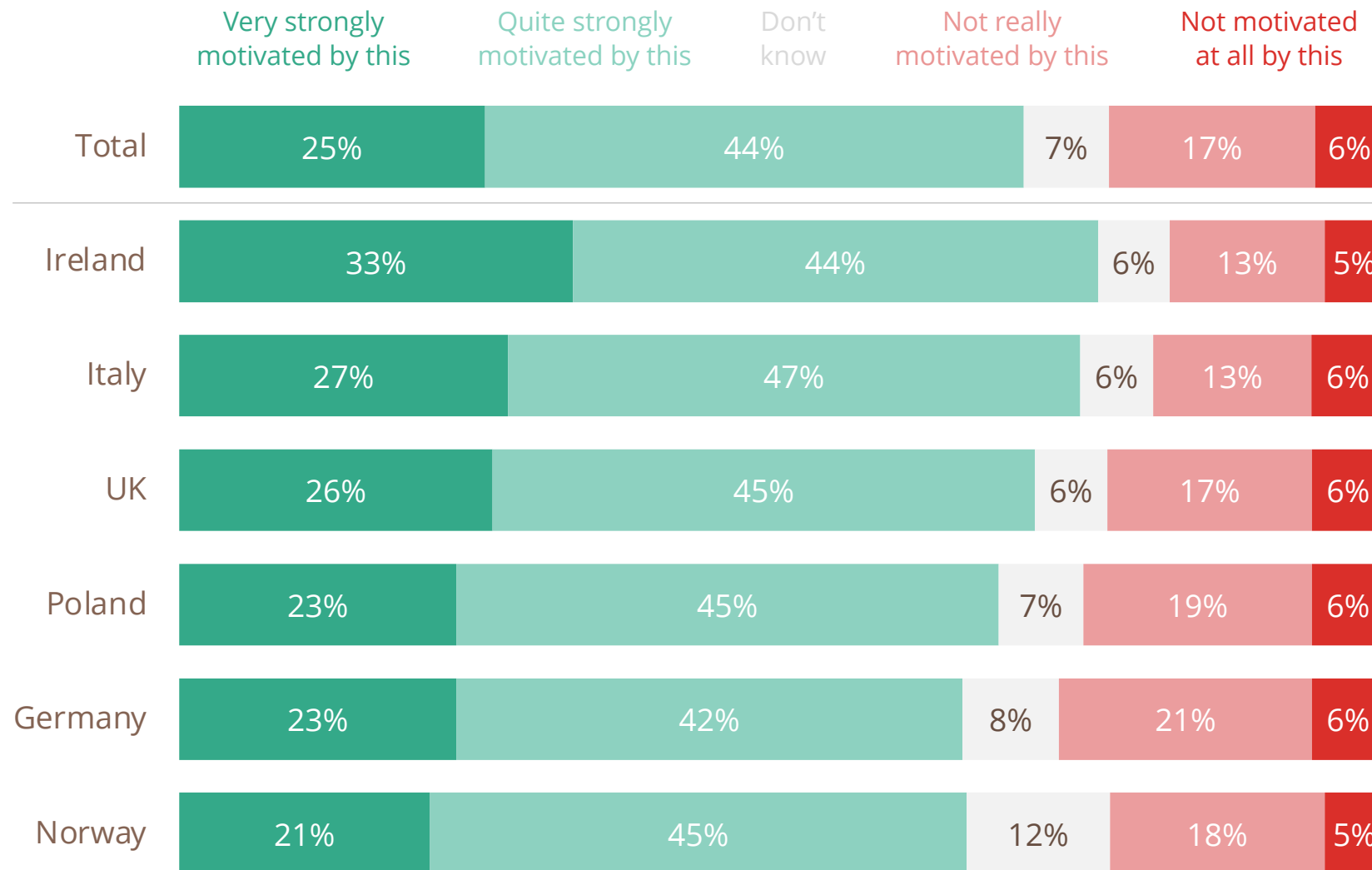
# On average, seven in ten people think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by concern for those most likely to be harmed by the pandemic.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by...  
**Concern for those most likely to be harmed by the coronavirus pandemic or actions taken to address it**

70% of all people think that the scientists who are involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by a concern for those most likely to be harmed by the pandemic.

The country with the highest ranking on this trust measure is Ireland, where 76% agree with this view.

The lowest rank is in Norway, where 66% think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by concern for those most likely to be harmed by the pandemic.

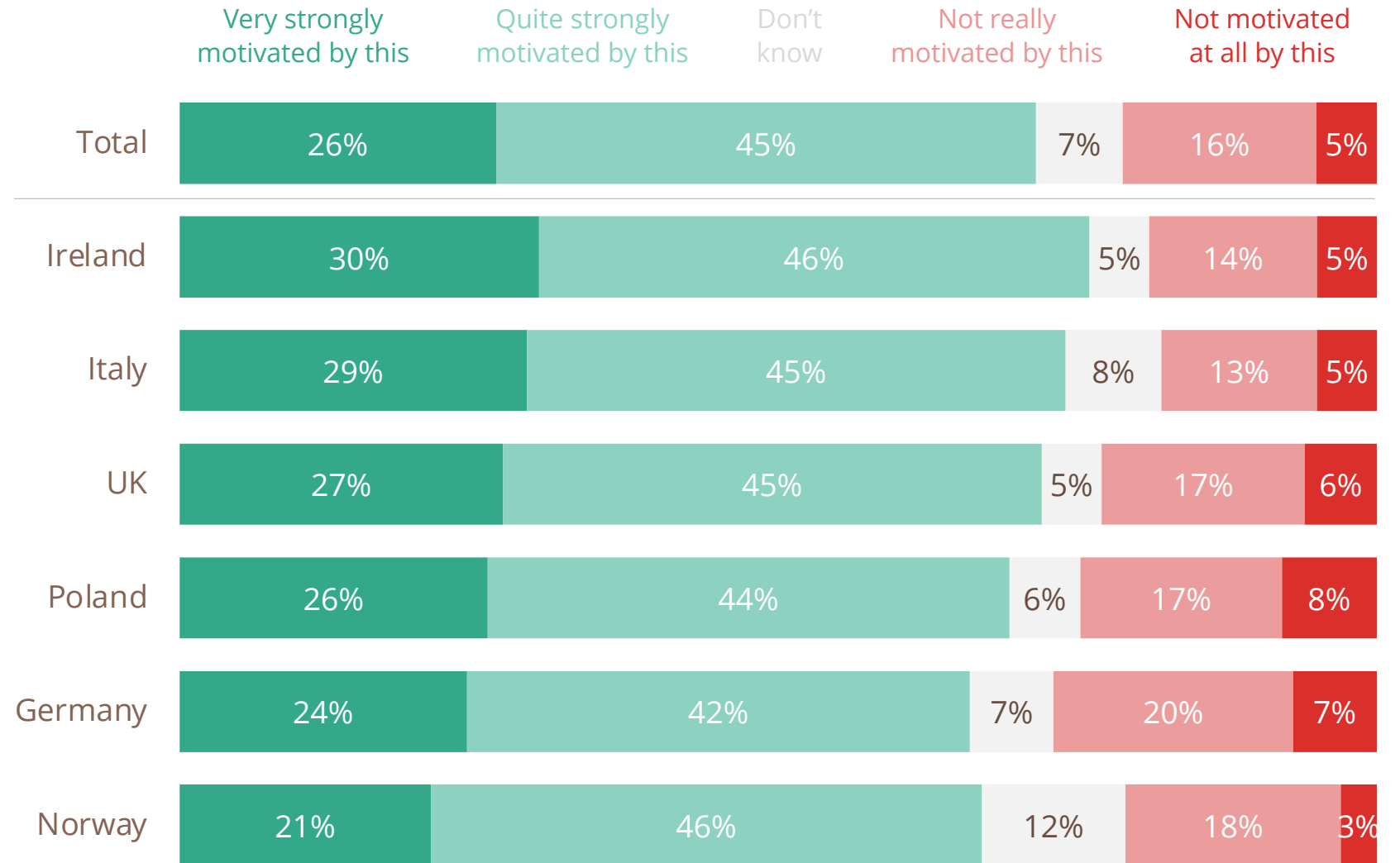


# Three in four people in Ireland agree that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by the thought that the public are counting on them.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by...  
**The thought that the public are counting on them**

77% of people in Ireland think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by The thought that the public are counting on them. Similarly, 74% of people in Italy and 72% of people in the UK say this.

The most sceptical of scientists' motivations are Norwegians. But, it is still the case that 68% of people in Norway say that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by the thought that the public are counting on them.



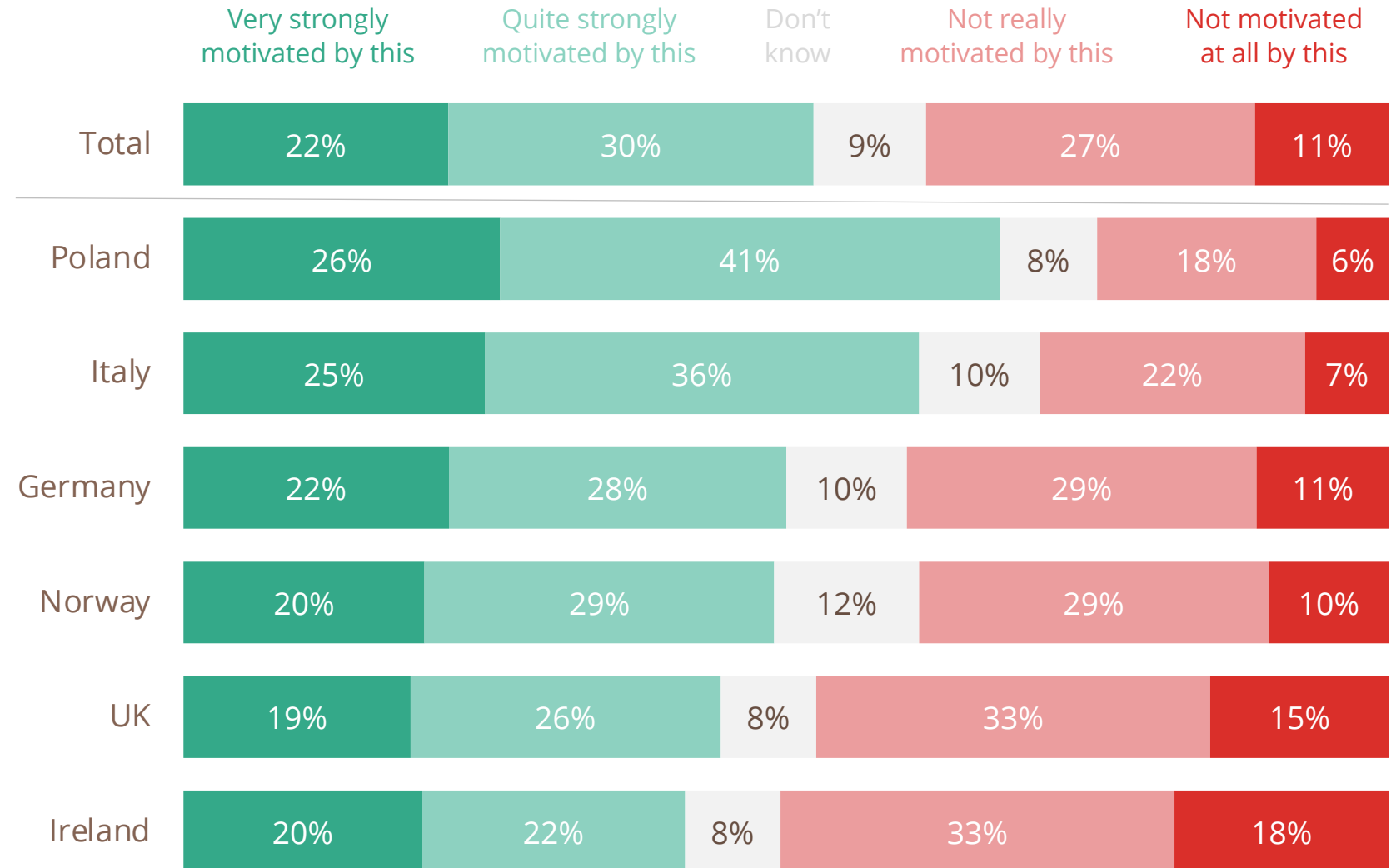
## Two thirds of people in Poland think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by making a lot of money.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by...  
**Making a lot of money**

67% of people in Poland think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by making a lot of money.

A similarly high figure was reported in Italy, where 61% of people think this of scientists tackling coronavirus.

This figure is much lower in Ireland, where just 41% of people think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by making a lot of money. Similarly, 45% of people in the UK think that scientists are motivated in this way.



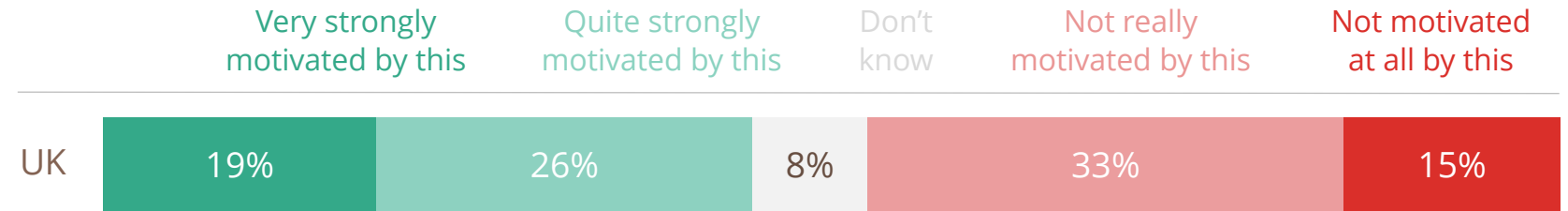
# In the UK, people who are younger, are ethnic minorities and belong to non-Christian religions, are more likely to think scientists are motivated by making money.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by...  
**Making a lot of money**

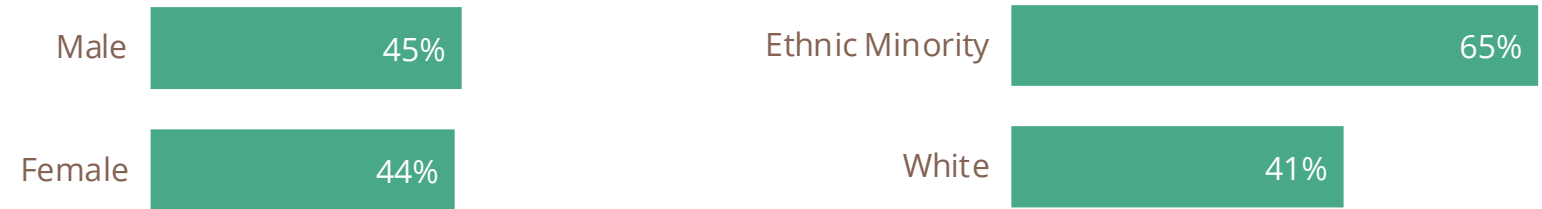
58% of people aged 18-34 think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by making a lot of money. This view drops to 32% for people aged 55+.

65% of people who are ethnic minorities agree with this view compared with 41% of those who are white.

Religion is also a factor in this public perception. 59% of people who belong to non-Christian religions agree that scientists are motivated in this way, compared with 44% of Christians and 42% of people who are not religious.



**% of those who think scientists are motivated by this**



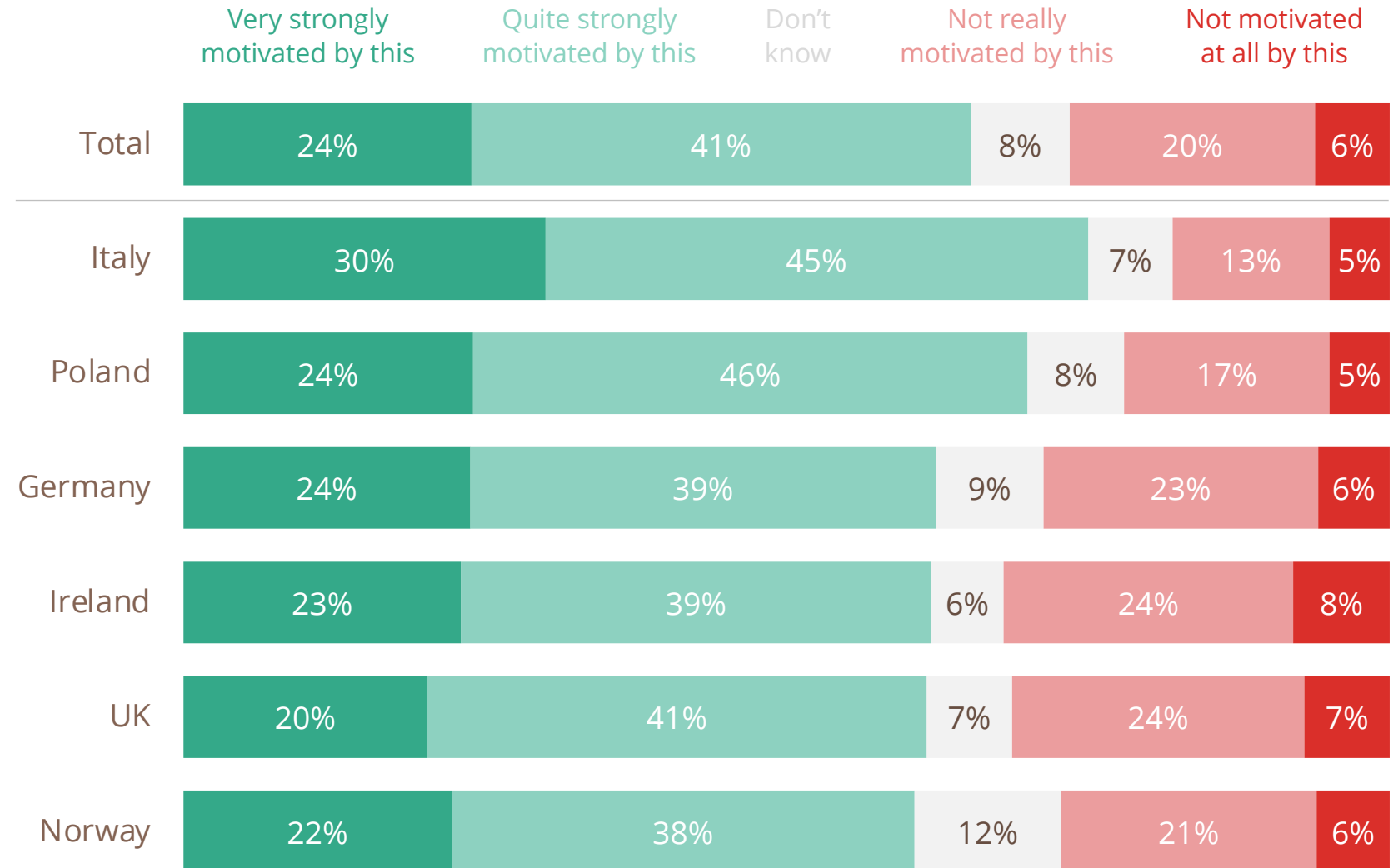


## Three quarters of people in Italy agree that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by building or protecting their own reputation.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by...  
**Building or protecting their own reputation**

75% of people in Italy say that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by building or protecting their own reputation. A similar figure was found in Poland, where 70% agreed with this view.

A slightly lower, similar figure was reported in each of the other countries. In Germany, Ireland, the UK and Norway, between 60-63% of people agree that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by building or protecting their own reputation.



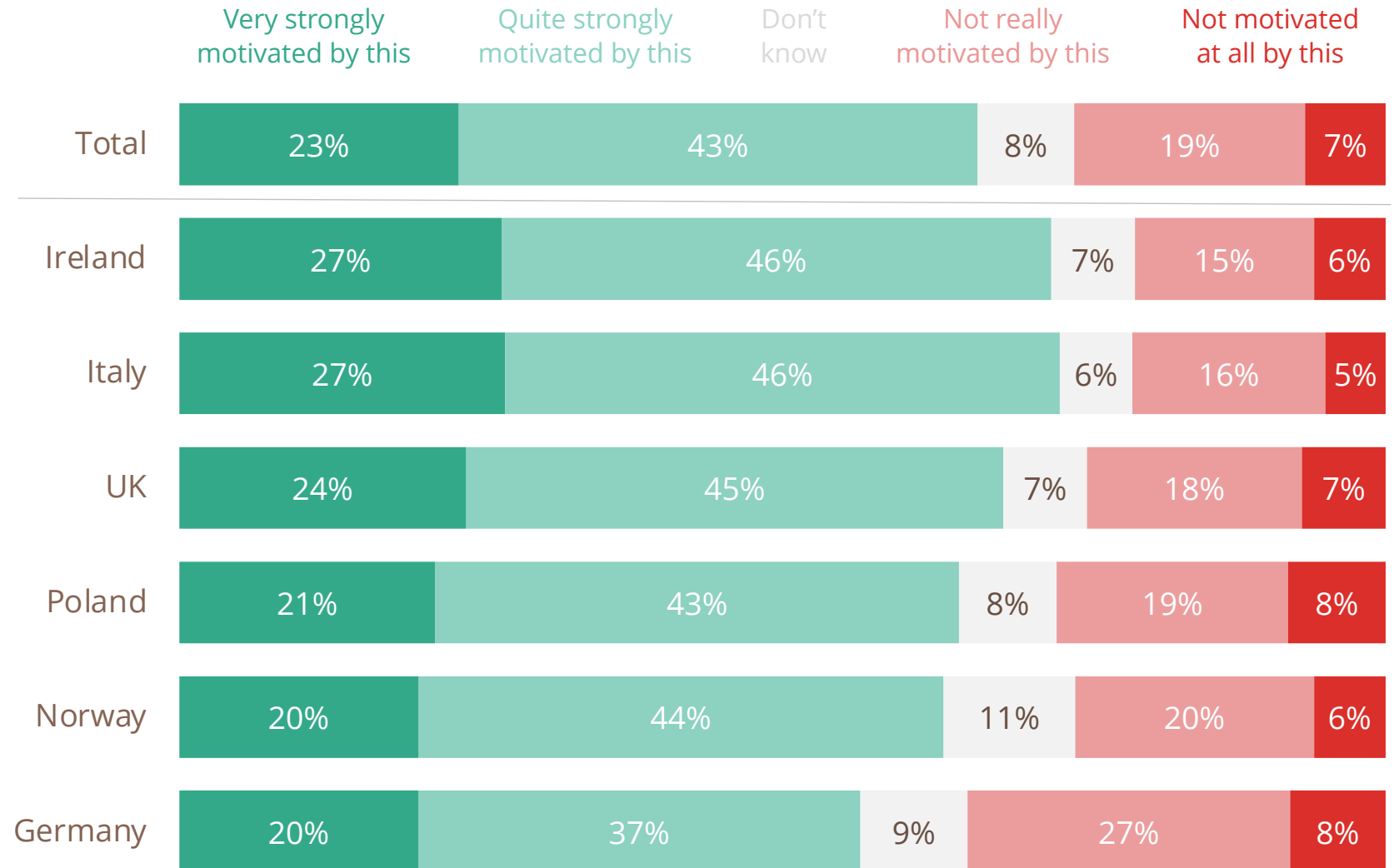
# Seven in ten people in the UK think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by...  
**Ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like me**

68% of people in the UK think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them.

This figure is quite a bit lower in Germany, where 57% of people agree with this view.

The country where most people agree with it is Ireland, where 72% of people think that scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them.

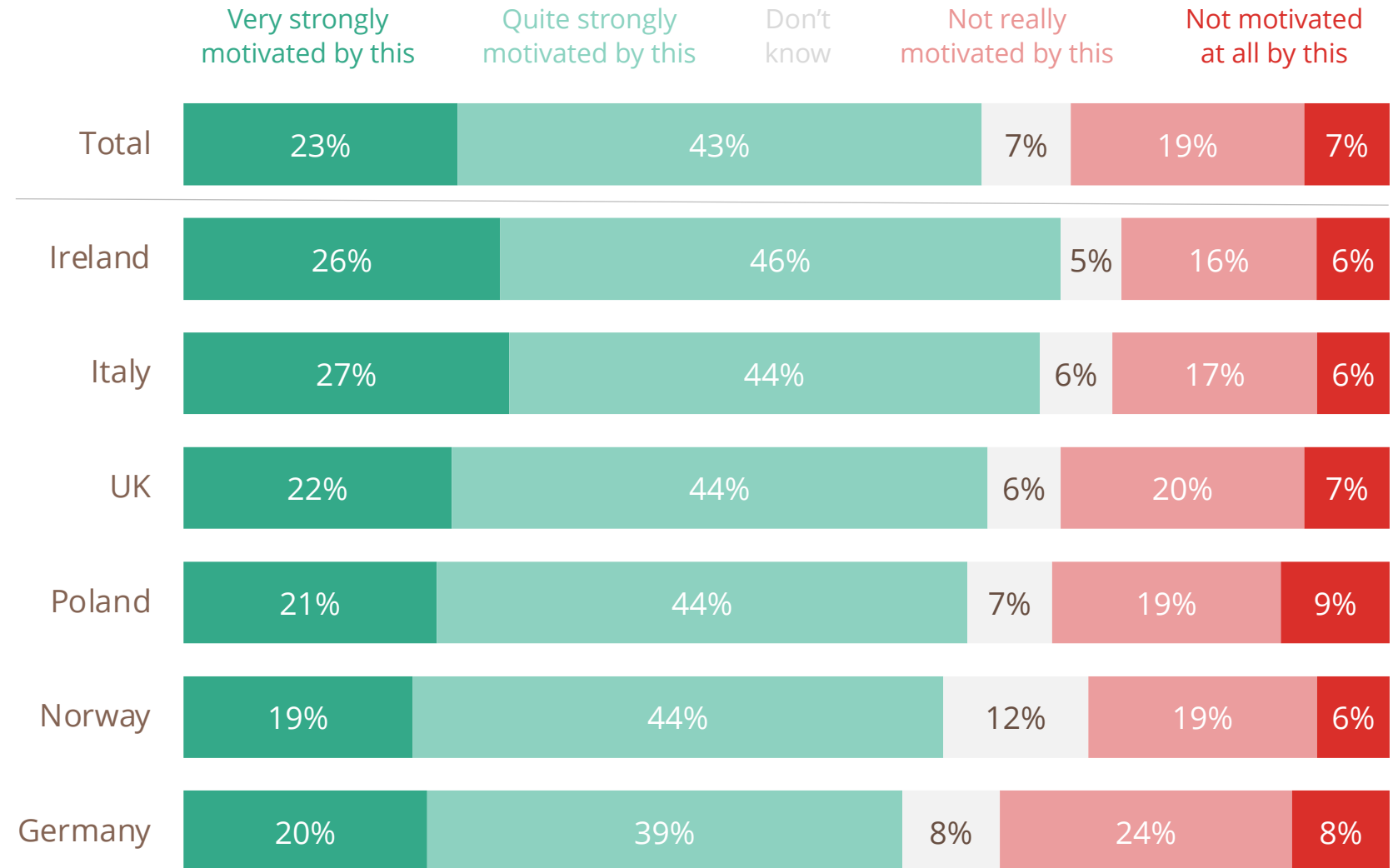


## Two thirds of people in the UK think that, with respect to the coronavirus pandemic, scientists are motivated by improving the lives of people like them.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic, how strongly would you say the scientists involved in tackling coronavirus are motivated by...  
**Improving the lives of people like me**

66% of people in the UK think that scientists tackling coronavirus are motivated by improving the lives of people like them. In contrast, 42% thought that the Government is motivated by this.

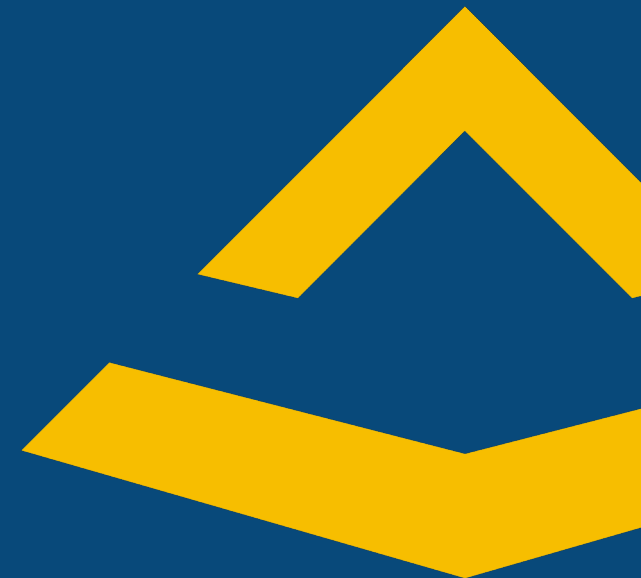
Similarly, only 27% of people in the UK thought that scientists are not really, or not at all, motivated by improving the lives of people like them, whilst 52% of people thought this when asked about the UK government.



# Ratings of national governments, scientists and the EC on COVID-19

When it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, people across all countries consistently rank the government most negatively, followed by the European Commission in the middle, and then scientists most positively, on all measures, including being competent, knowledgeable and honest.

People also tend to describe national government in more negative terms than they do scientists. For instance, 30% of people in the UK say that scientists tackling coronavirus ignore rules and procedures. However, twice as many (62%) people say this about the government.



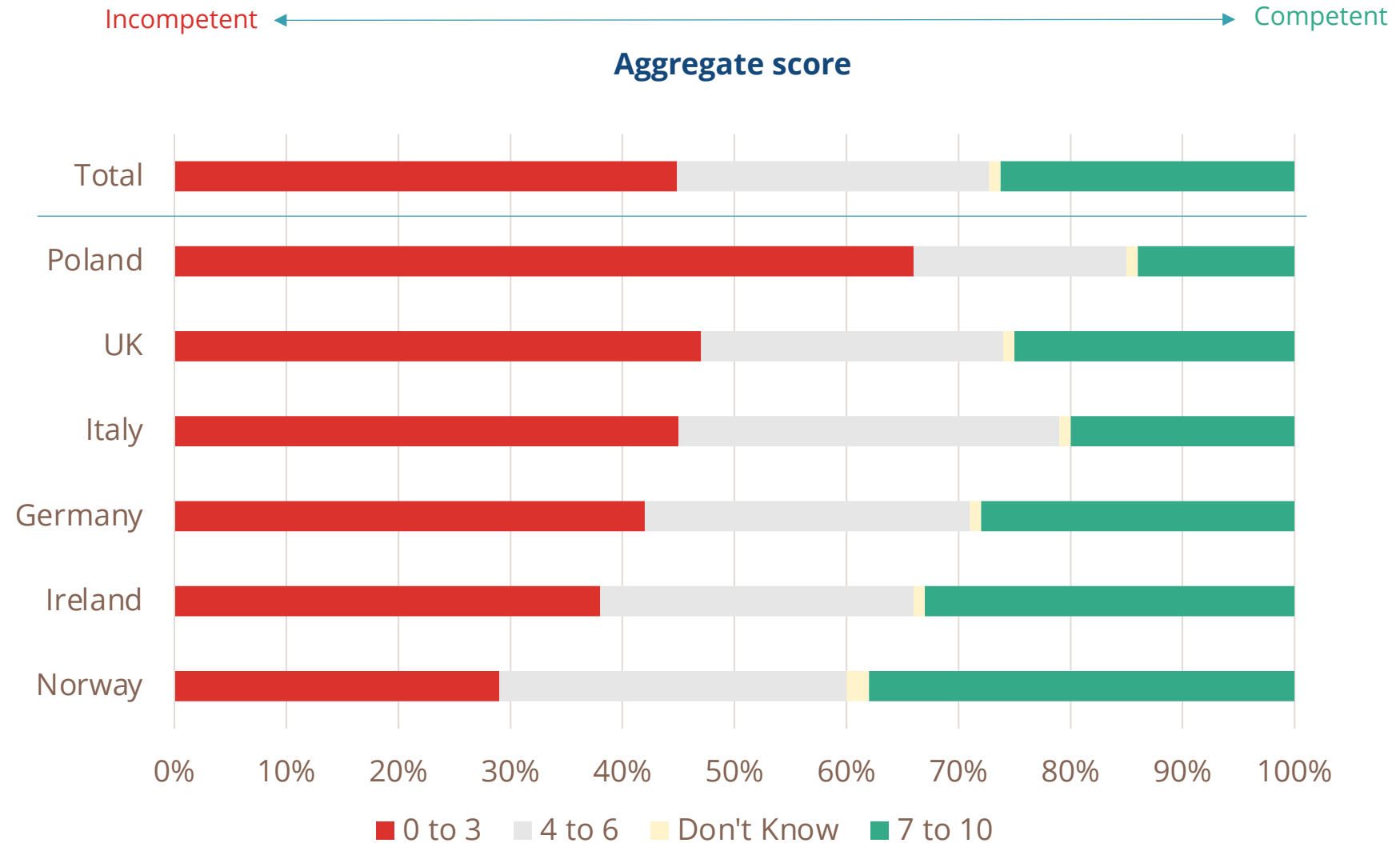
## Two thirds of Polish people rank their government less than three out of ten for their competence in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Incompetent” and 10 means “Competent”? **National Government**

66% of people in Poland rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their level of competence in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

Behind Poland are the UK and Italy where, respectively, 47% and 45% of people rank their governments at this level. However, this is significantly behind Poland, and around the average of 45%.

The least negative view was in Norway, where 29% of people rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their level of competence in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.



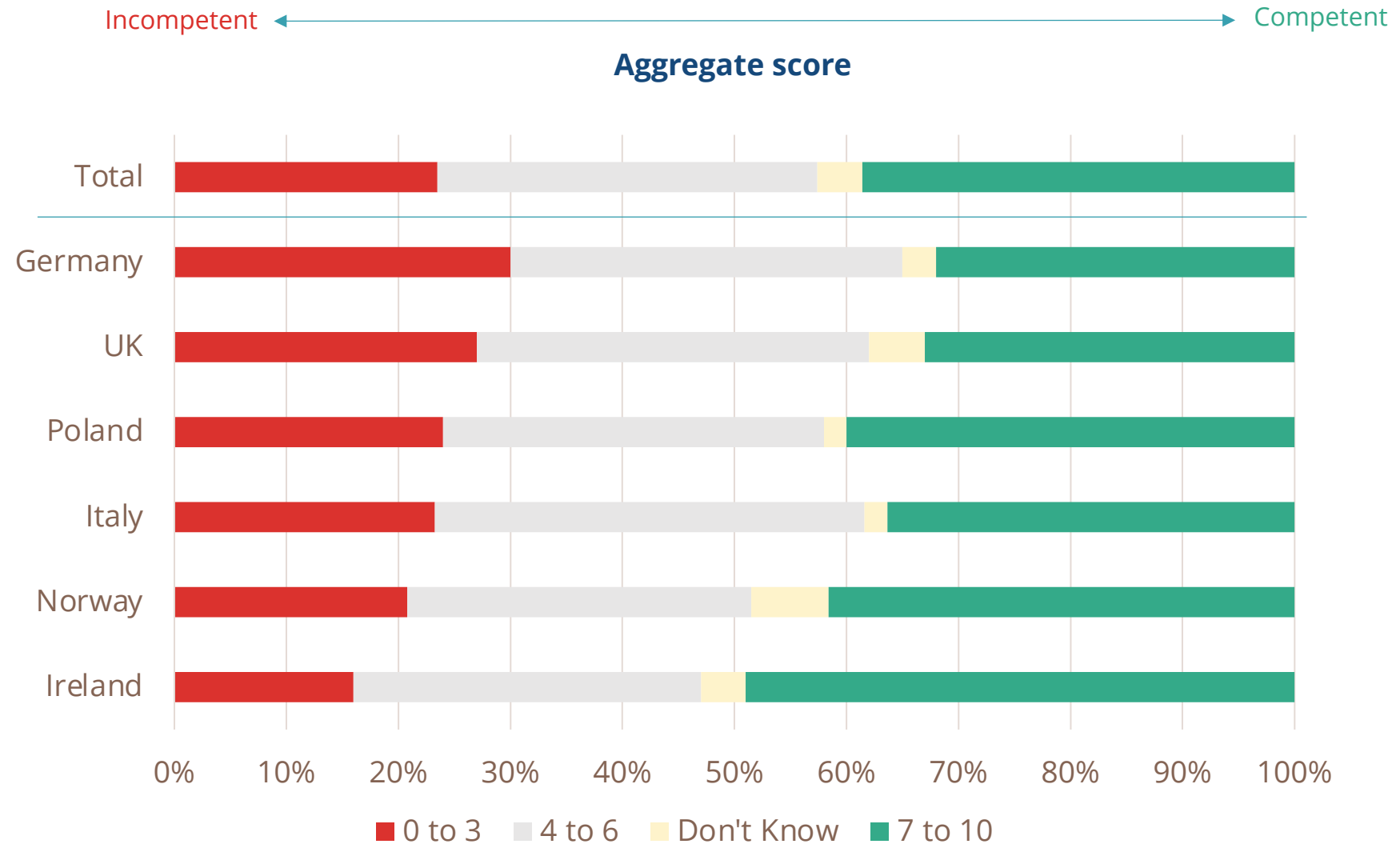
# Half the people in Ireland rank the European Commission above seven out of ten for their competence in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Incompetent” and 10 means “Competent”? **European Commission**

49% of people in Ireland rank the European Commission between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their competence in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. This is well above the overall average of 39%.

In Germany, this figure stands at 32%, whilst 30% of people rank the European Commission between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their competence in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

This is only slightly above the UK where 27% of people rank the European Commission between 0 and 3 out of 10.



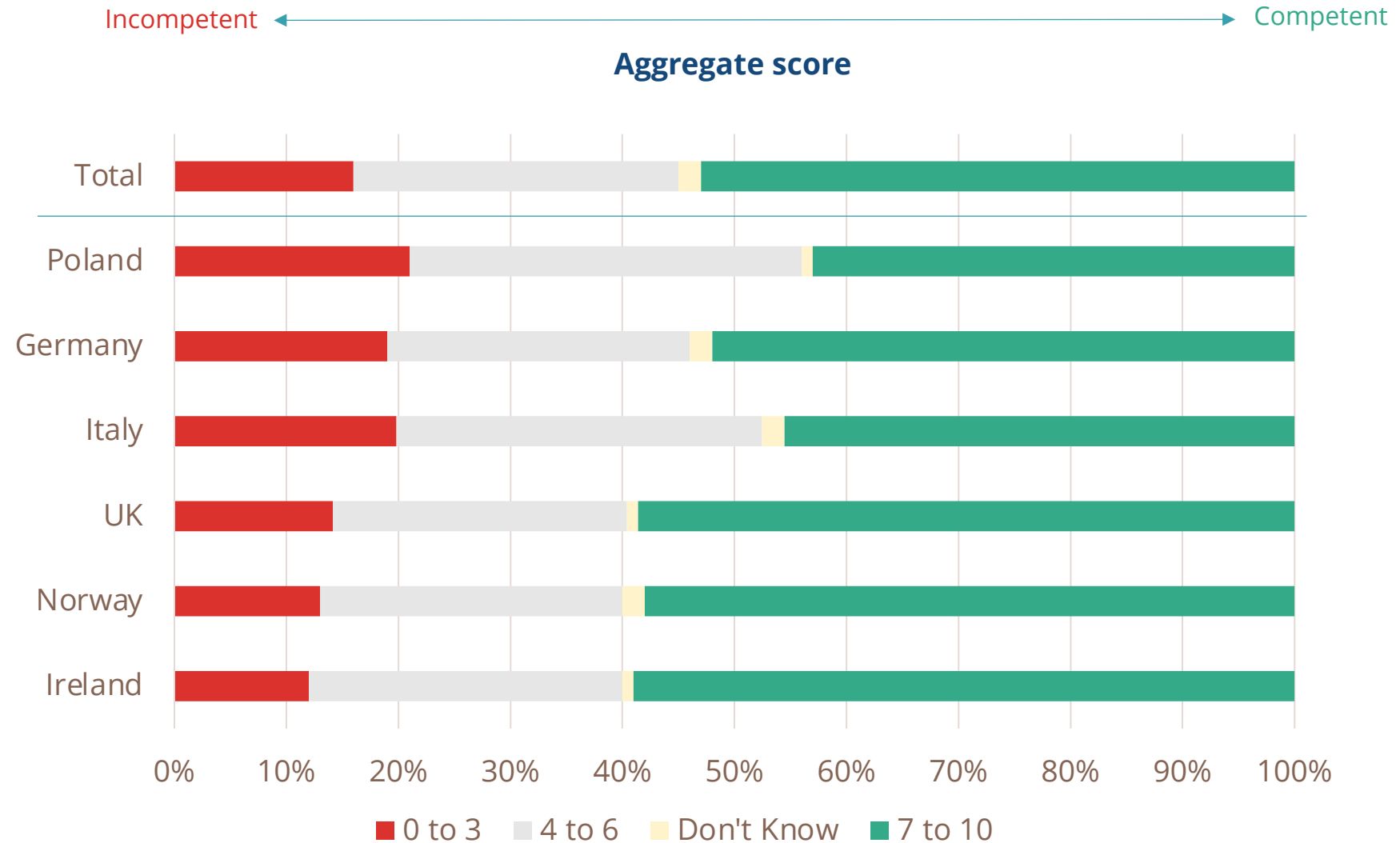
# One in two people on average rank scientists above seven out of ten for their competence in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Incompetent” and 10 means “Competent”? **Scientists involved in tackling coronavirus**

53% of people on average rank scientists between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their competence in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

In Ireland, this figure stands at 59%, and in Norway and the UK, it is 58%, indicating a strong degree of trust in scientists involved in tackling coronavirus.

There is slightly less trust in Poland and Italy where, respectively, 43% and 46% of people rank scientists between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their level of competence.



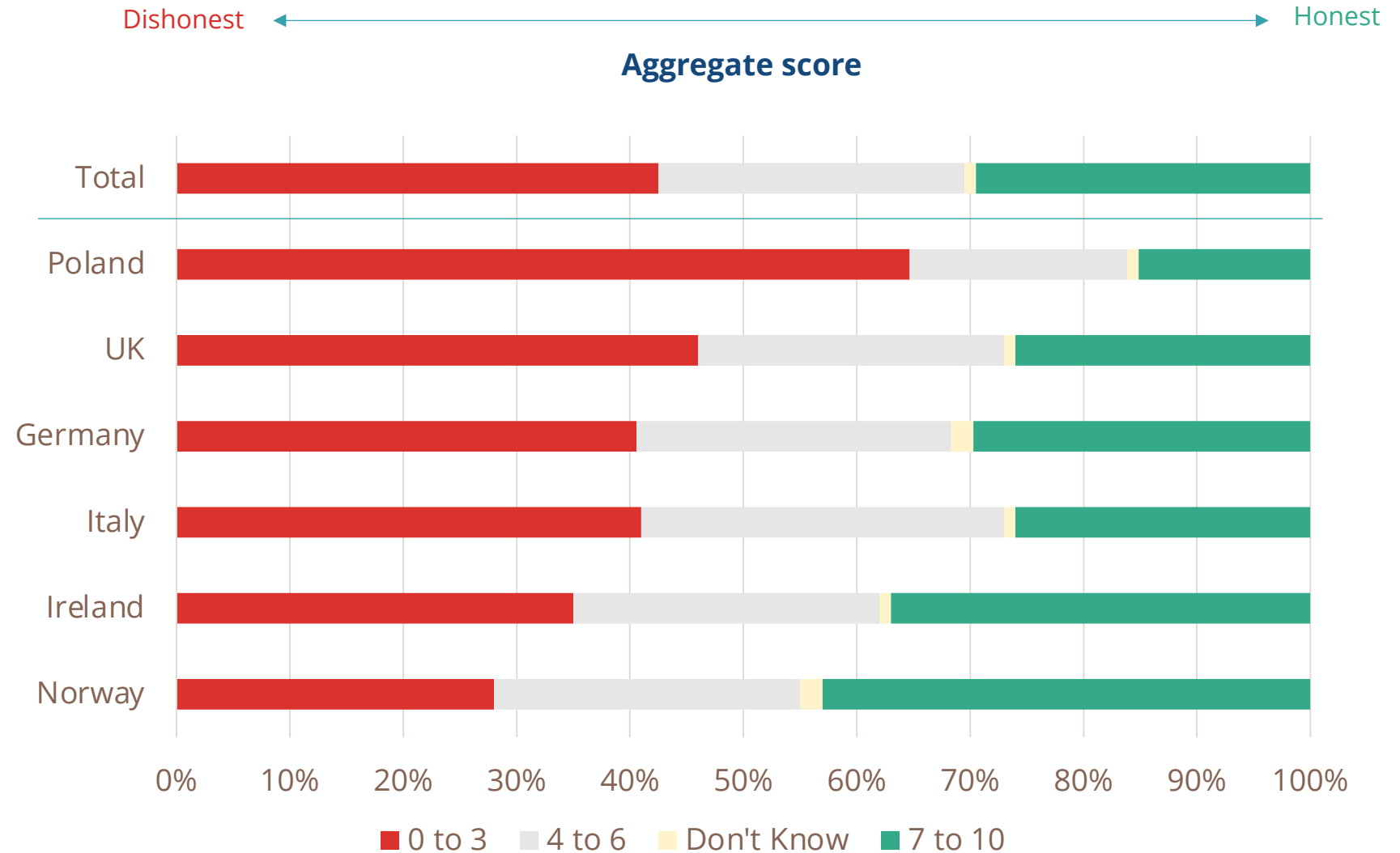
## Two thirds of Polish people rank their government less than three out of ten for their honesty in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Dishonest” and 10 means “Honest”? **National Government**

64% of people in Poland rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their level of honesty in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

Behind Poland is the UK, where 46% of people rank their governments at this level. This is above the overall average of 43%, and indicates a low public view of the honesty of the UK government.

The least negative view was in Norway, where 28% of people rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their level of honesty in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.





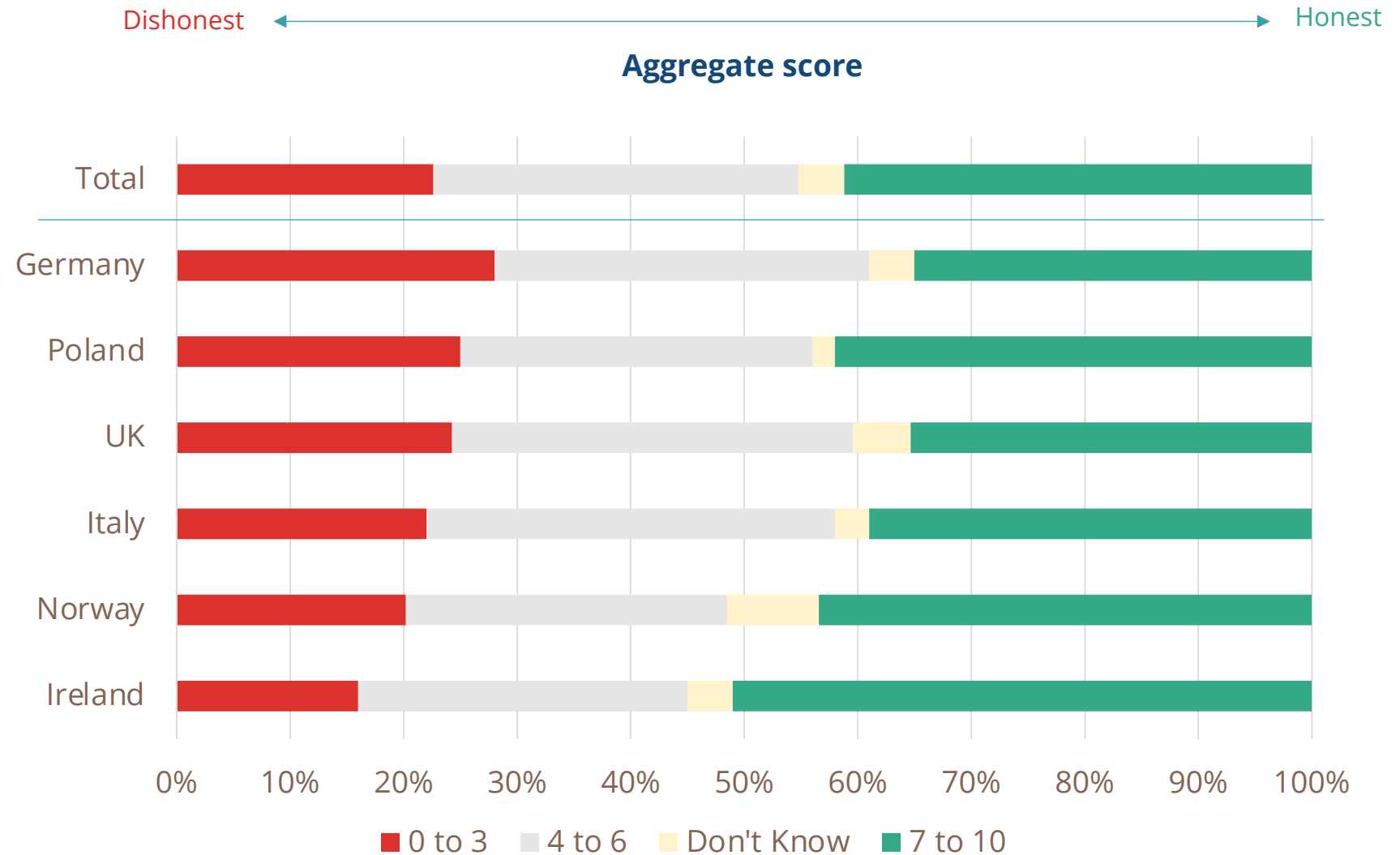
# One in three people in Germany rank the European Commission less than three out of ten for their honesty in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Dishonest” and 10 means “Honest”? **European Commission**

28% of people in Germany rank the European Commission between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their level of honesty in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

Behind Germany are the UK and Poland where, respectively, 24% and 25% of people rank the European Commission at this level.

The least negative view was in Ireland, just 16% of people rank the European Commission between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their level of honesty in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.



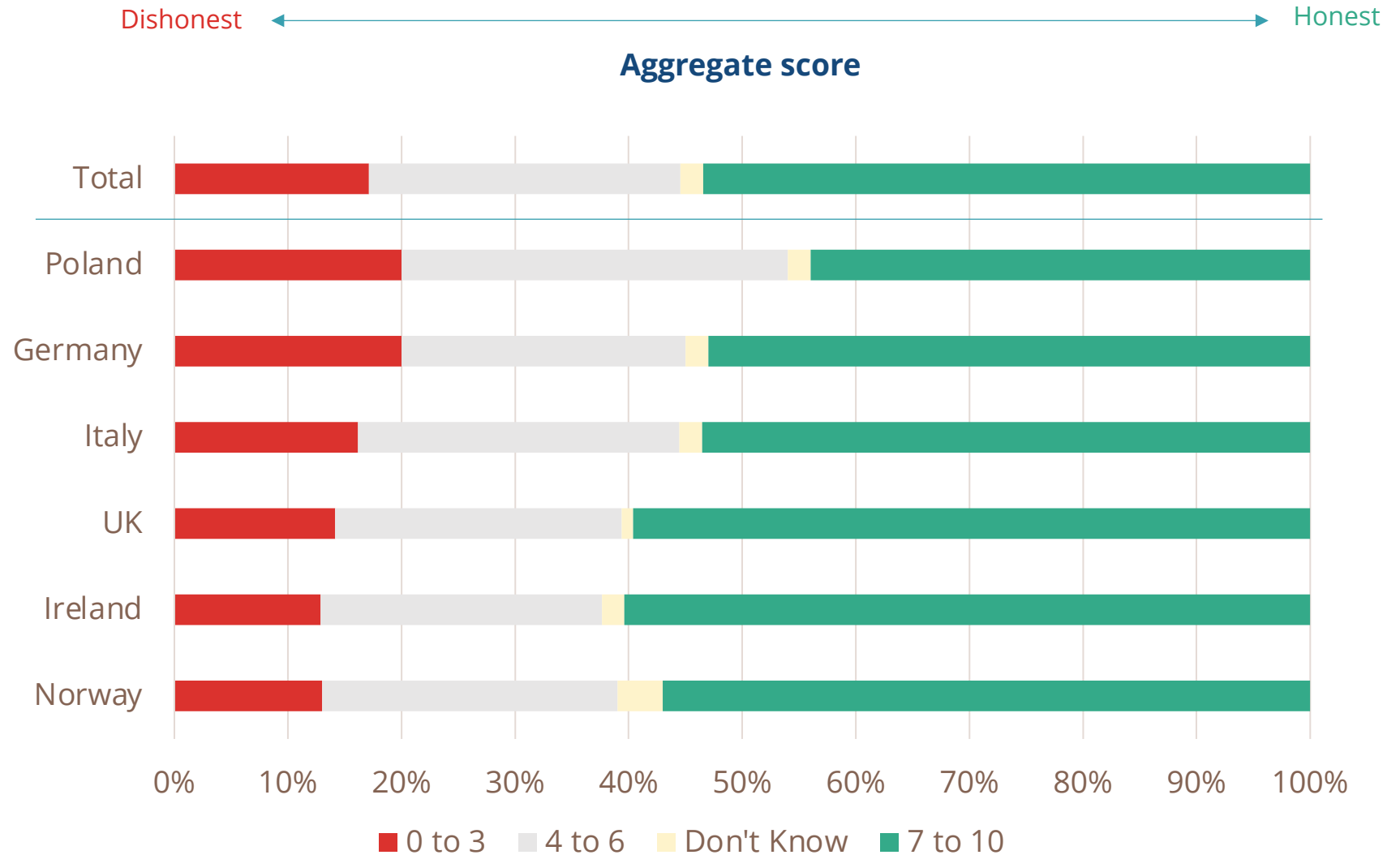
# Six out of ten people in the UK and Ireland rank scientists above seven out of ten for their honesty in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Dishonest” and 10 means “Honest”? **Scientists involved in tackling coronavirus**

61% of people in Ireland and 59% of people in the UK rank scientists between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their honesty in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

The overall average for this view is 55%, and it is consistently positive across most countries, with 57% of people in Norway and 53% in Italy also agreeing with it.

There is a slightly lower view of scientists’ honesty in Poland, where 44% of people rank scientists between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their level of honesty.



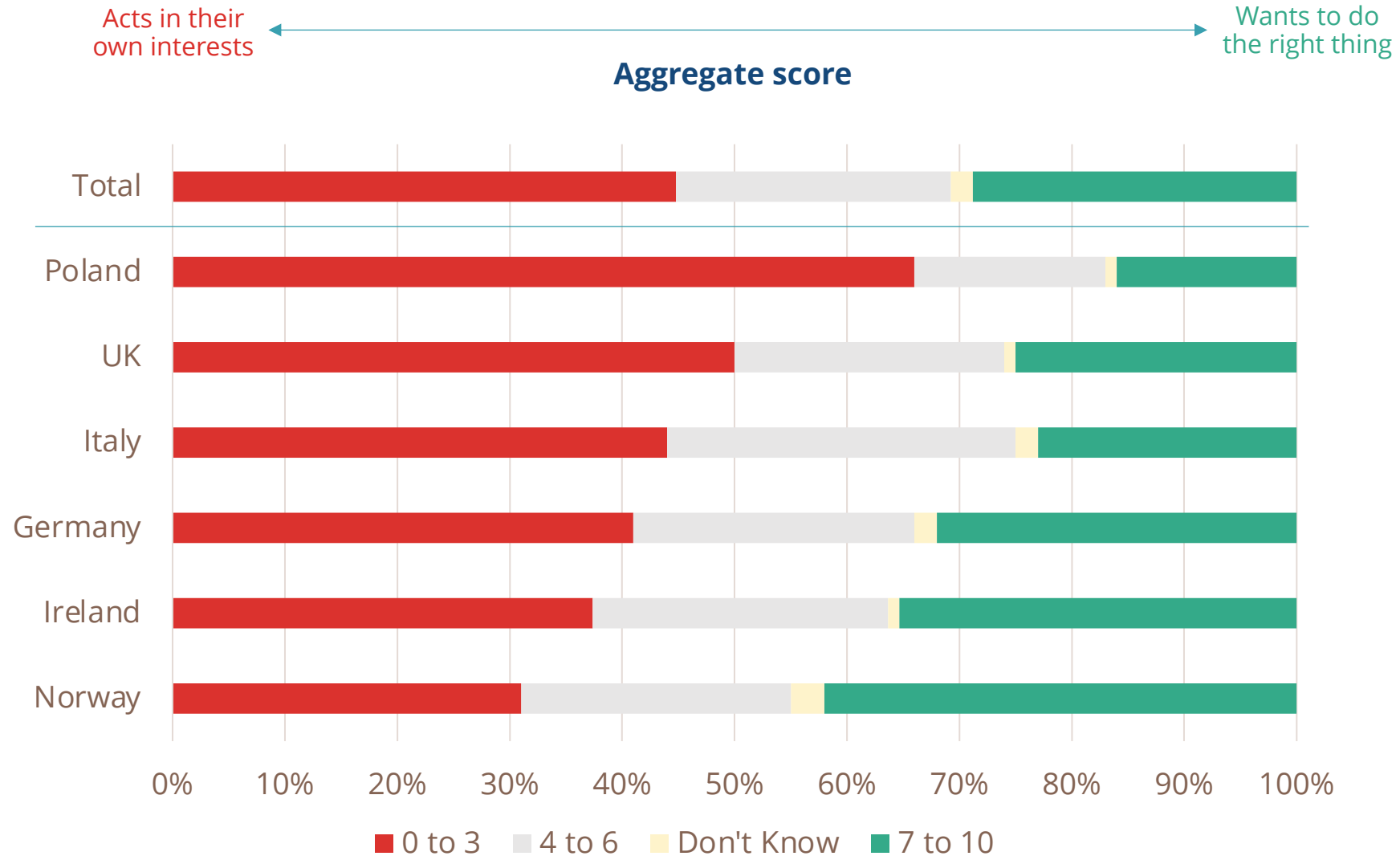
# Half of people in the UK rank their government less than three out of ten for their desire to do the right thing in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Acts in their own interests” and 10 means “Wants to do the right thing”? **National Government**

50% of people in the UK rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their desire to do the right thing in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

The only country with a more negative attitude was in Poland where 66% of people rank their government at this level. This is well above the overall average of 45%.

The least negative view was in Norway, where 32% of people rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their desire to do the right thing in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.



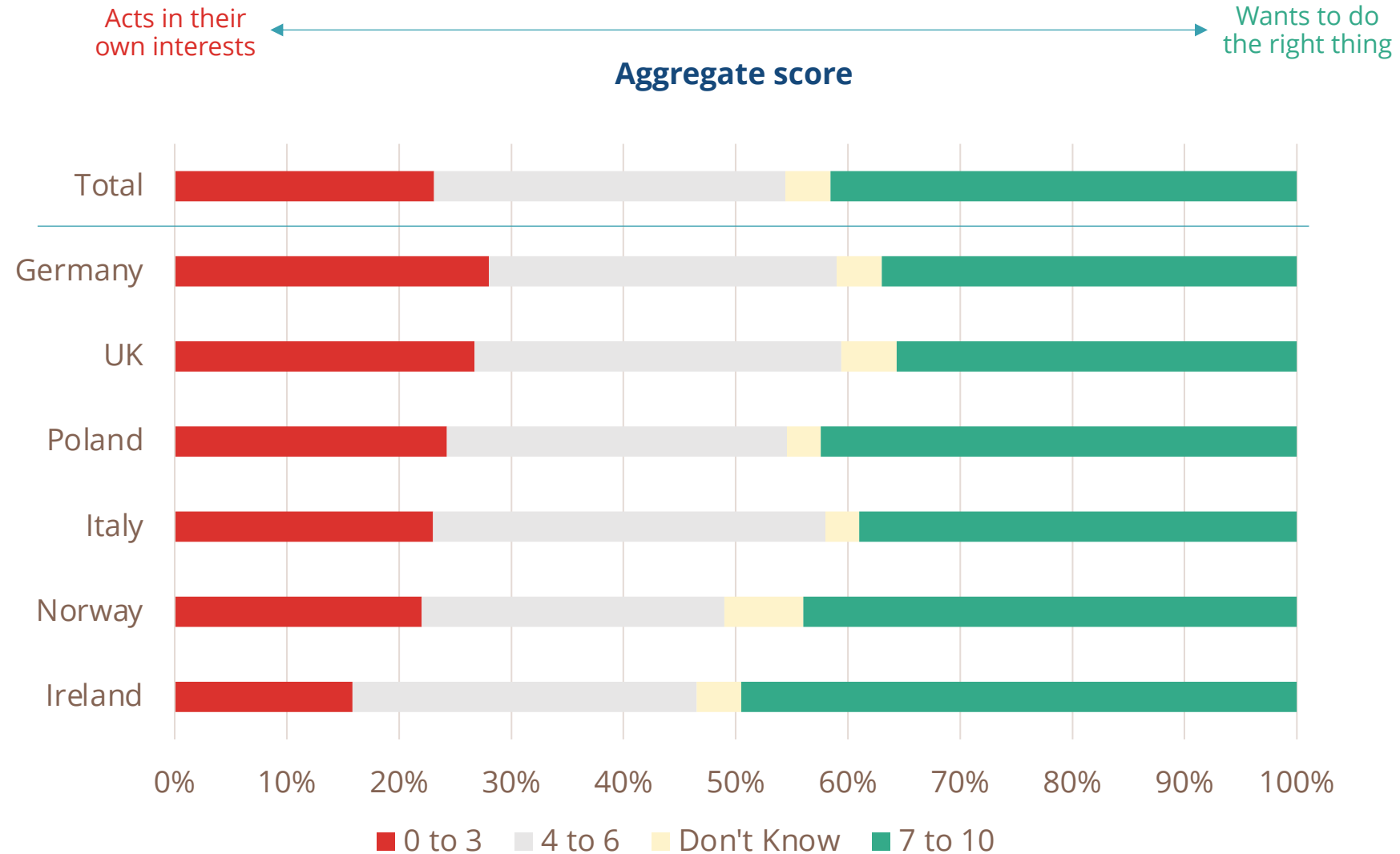
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And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Acts in their own interests” and 10 means “Wants to do the right thing”? **European Commission**

28% of people in Germany, and 27% of people in the UK, rank the European Commission between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their desire to do the right thing in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

The least negative view was in Ireland, where just 16% of people rank the European Commission between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their level of honesty in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

In Ireland, 50% of people rank the European Commission between 7 and 10 out of 10 on this measure of trust.



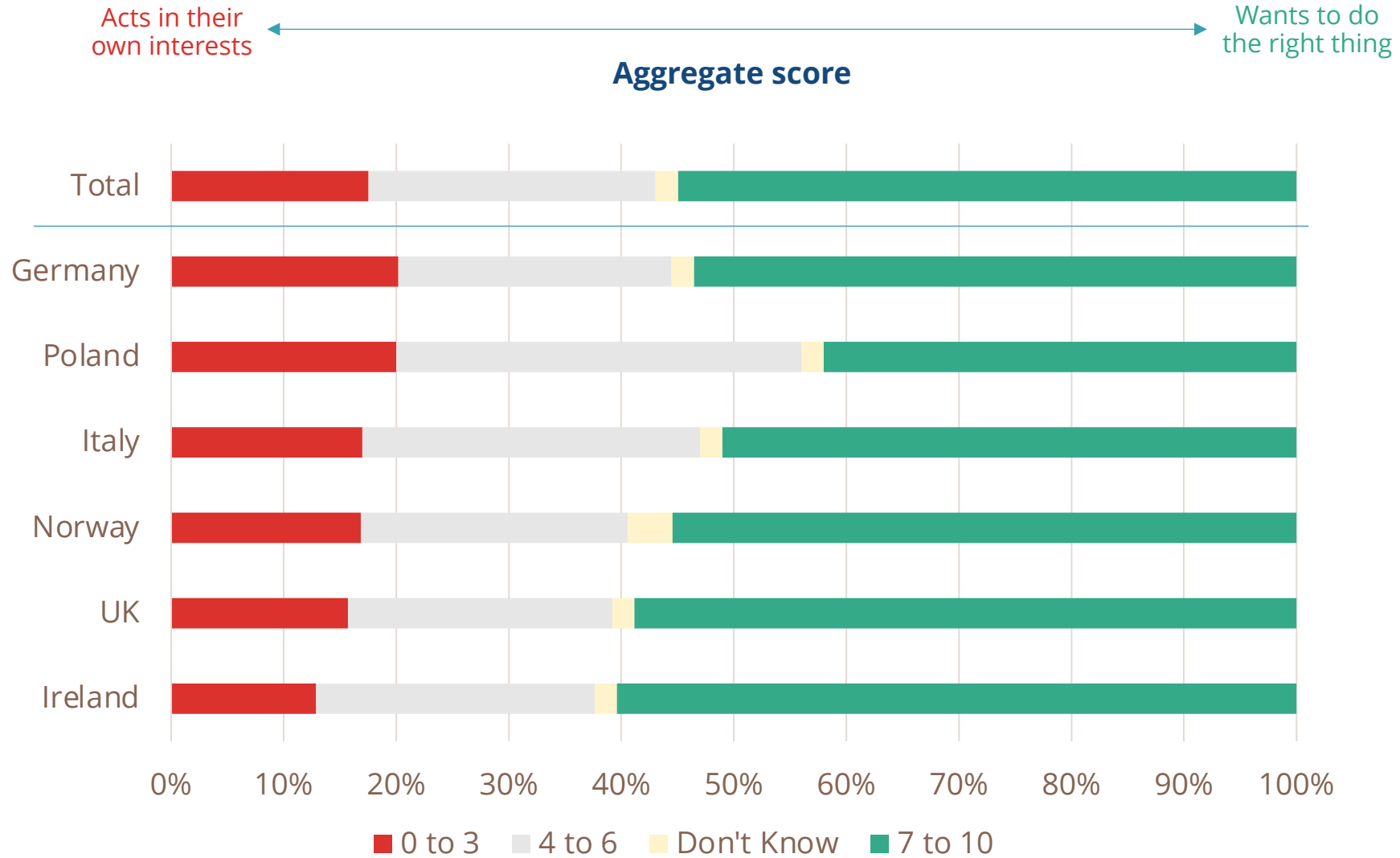
# Four in ten people in Poland rank scientists above seven out of ten for their desire to do the right thing in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means "Acts in their own interests" and 10 means "Wants to do the right thing"? **Scientists involved in tackling coronavirus**

42% of people in Poland rank scientists between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their desire to do the right thing in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

This figure is below the overall average for this view is, which stands at 54%. Far more positive about scientists are people in the UK and Ireland, where, respectively, 60% and 61% of people rank scientists between 7 and 10 out of 10.

The most negative view is in Germany where 20% of people rank scientists between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their desire to do the right thing.



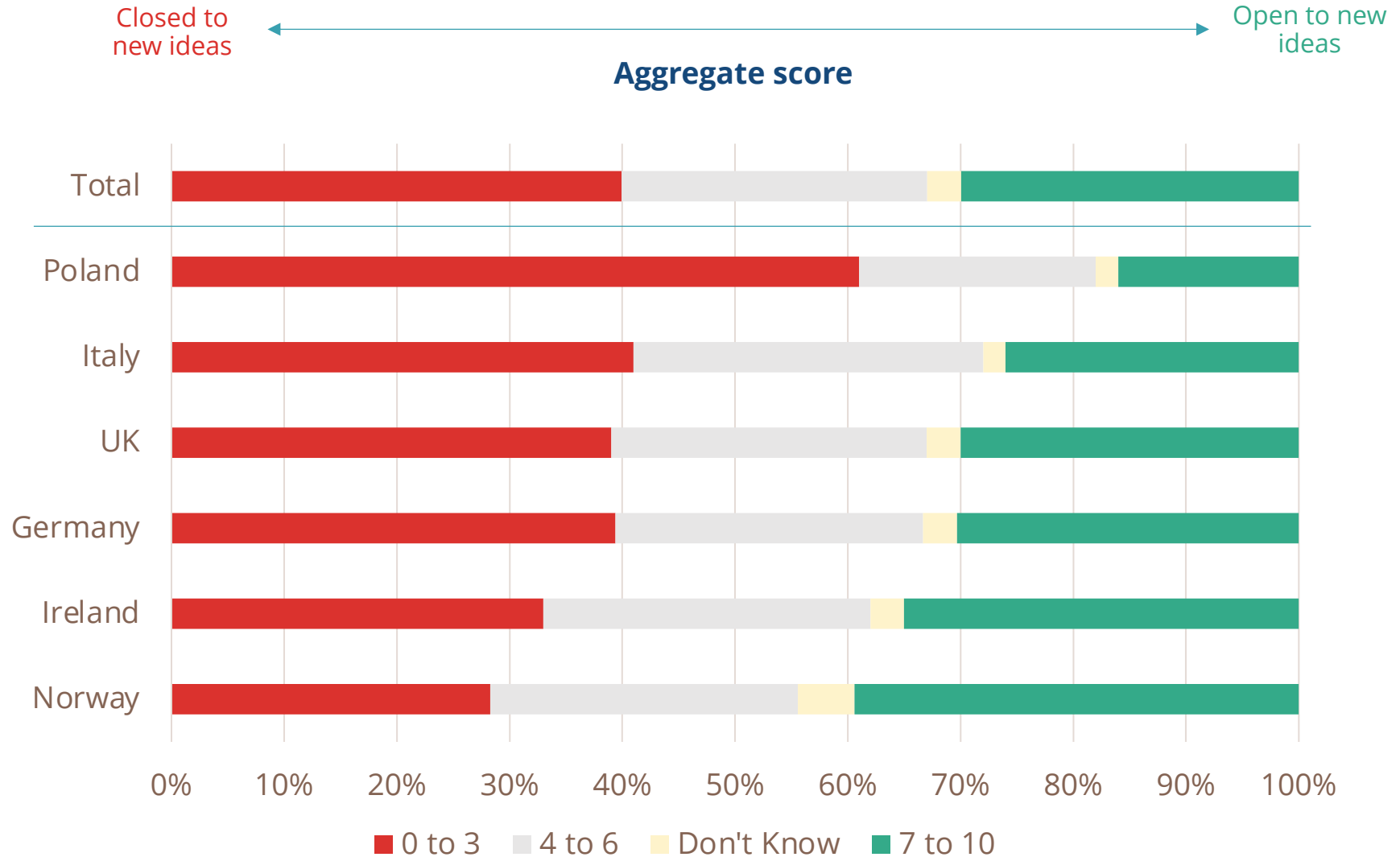
# One in six people in Poland rank their government less than three out of ten for their openness to new ideas in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means "Closed to new ideas" and 10 means "Open to new ideas"? **National Government**

61% of people in Poland rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their openness to new ideas in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

This is significantly above the average of 40%. In line with the average are Italy, the UK and Germany where, respectively, 40%, 39% and 39% of people rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10.

As with other government trust measures, the least negative view was in Norway, where 28% of people rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their openness to new ideas .



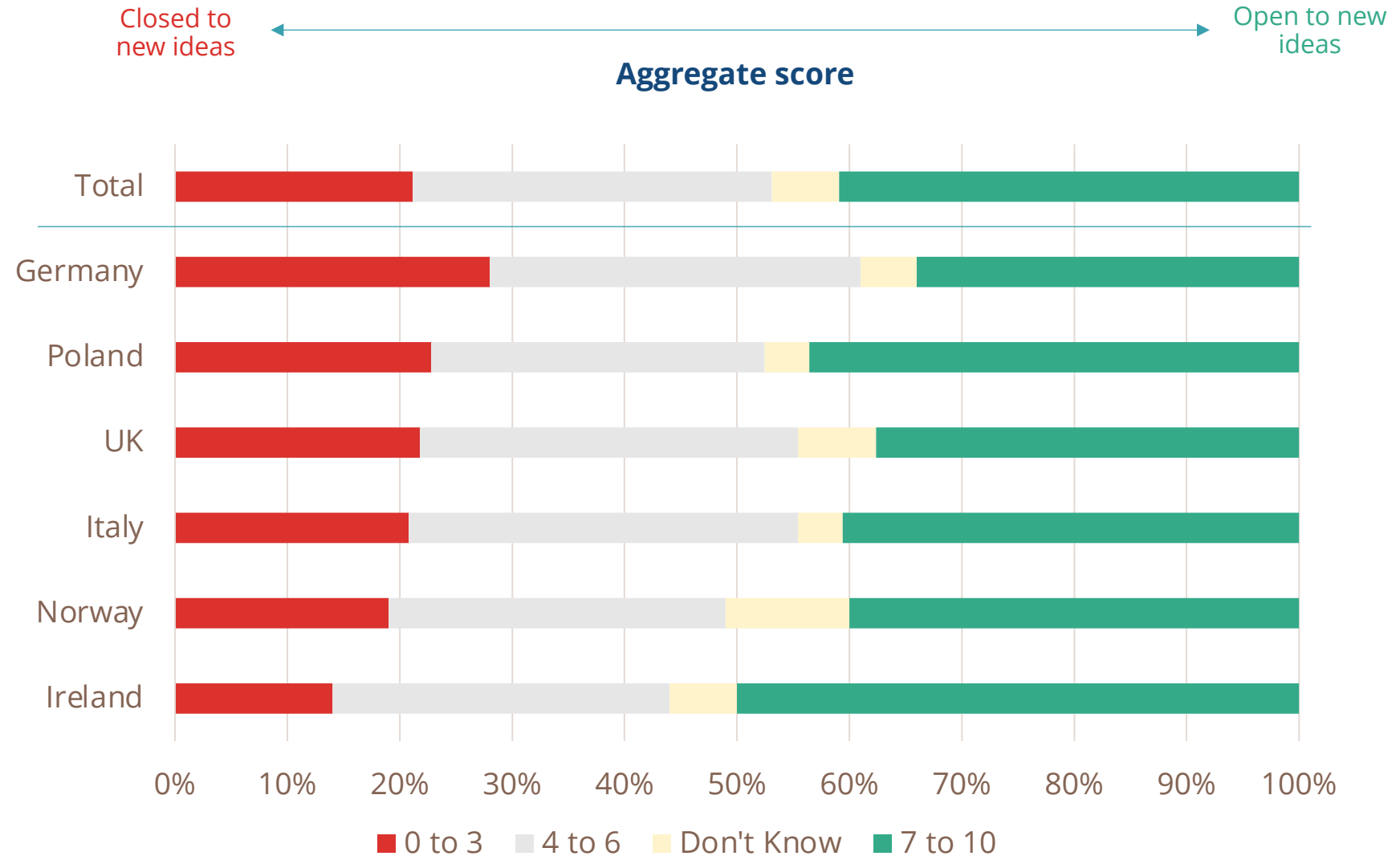
# Half the people in Ireland rank the European Commission above seven out of ten for their openness to new ideas in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means "Closed to new ideas" and 10 means "Open to new ideas"? **European Commission**

50% of people in Ireland rank the European Commission between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their openness to new ideas in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. This is above the overall average of 41%.

In Poland, this figure stands at 45%, indicating a quite positive view of the European Commission on this issue in Poland.

This view is lowest in Germany where 34% of people rank the European Commission between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their openness to new ideas in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.



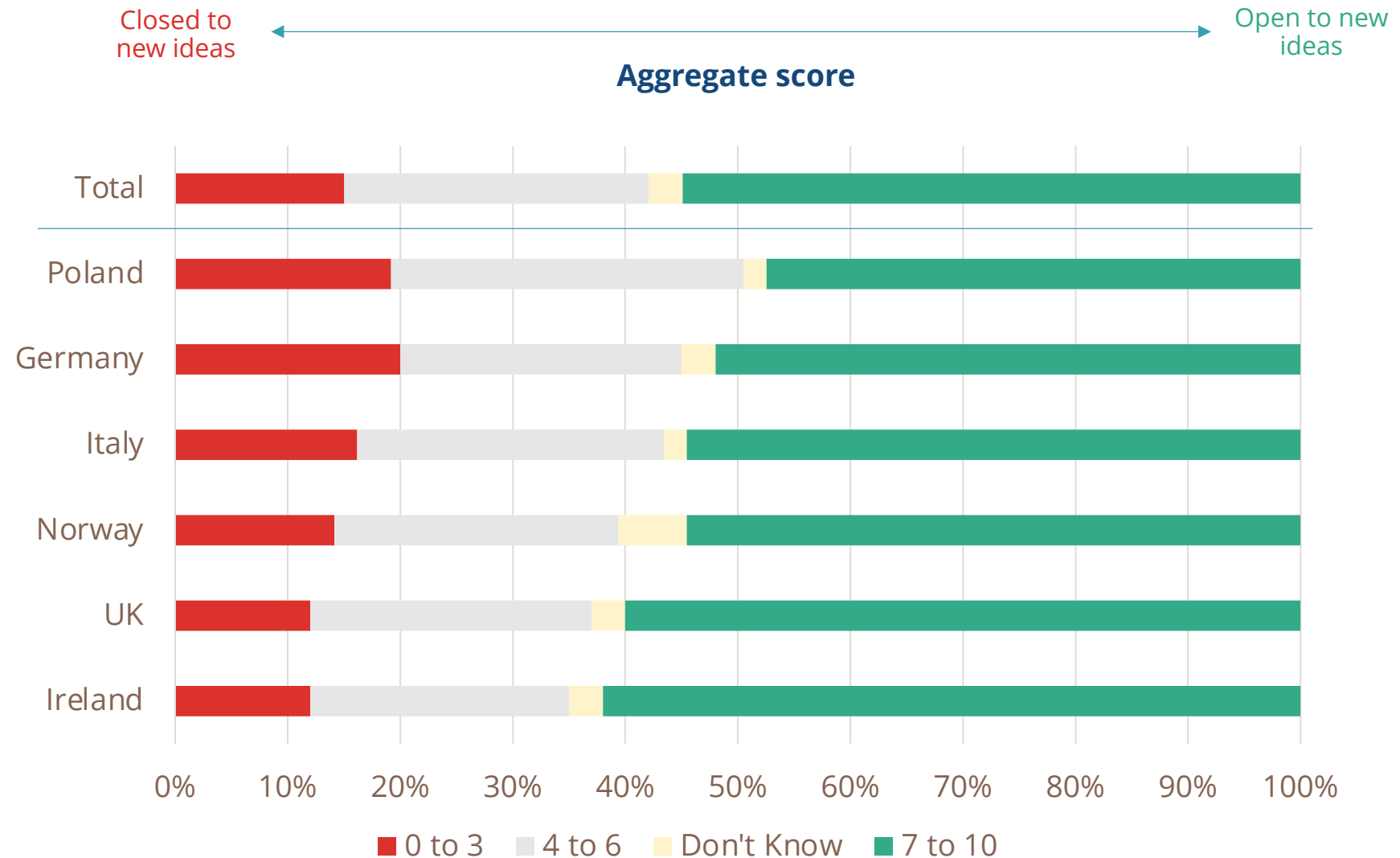
# Six in ten people in the UK and Ireland rank scientists above seven out of ten for their openness to new ideas in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means "Closed to new ideas" and 10 means "Open to new ideas"? **Scientists involved in tackling coronavirus**

62% of people in Ireland and 60% in the UK rank scientists between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their openness to new ideas in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

This positive perception is shared across all of the countries, with the overall average sitting at 55%.

In the UK and Ireland, just 12% of people rank scientists between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their openness to new ideas in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.





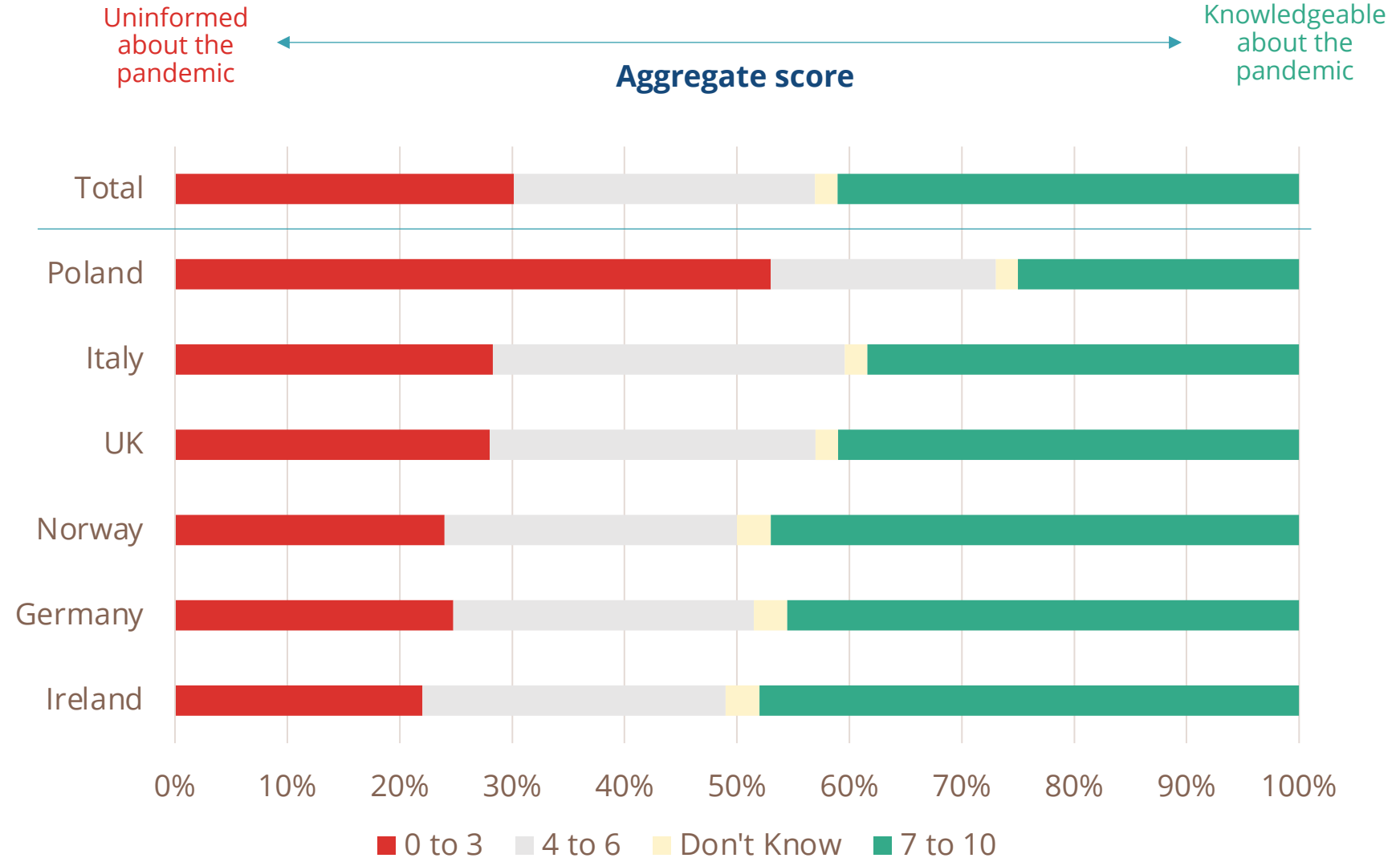
# On average, three in ten people in all countries rank their national government below three out of ten for their level of knowledge about the pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Uninformed about the pandemic” and 10 means “Knowledgeable about the pandemic”? **National Government**

30% of people on average rank their national government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their level of knowledge about the pandemic.

However, significantly above this average are people in Poland, where 53% of people hold this view of their government.

The least negative view is held by people in Ireland, where 22% of people rank their national government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their level of knowledge about the pandemic.



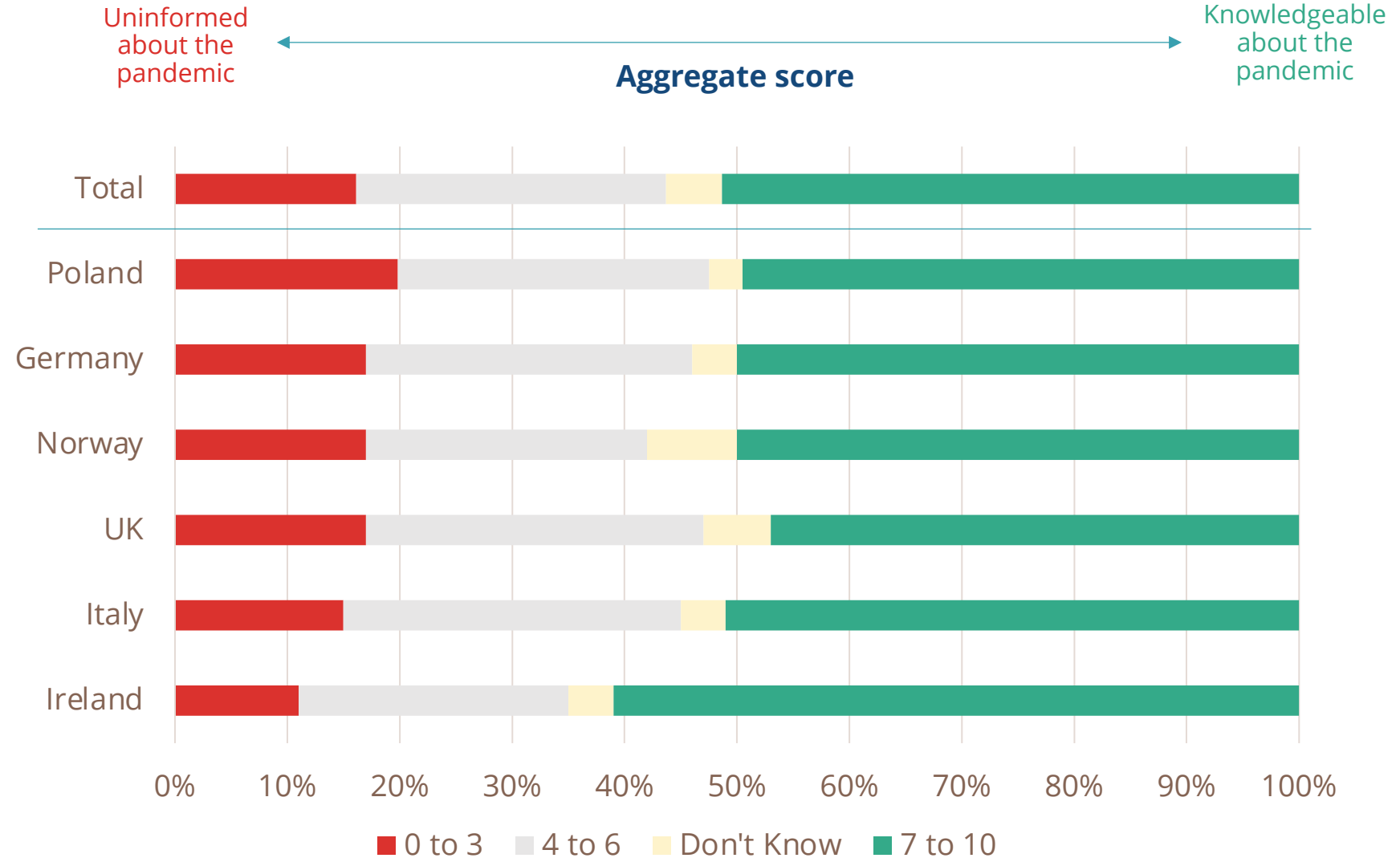
# Half of people on average rank the European Commission above seven out of ten for their level of knowledge about the pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Uninformed about the pandemic” and 10 means “Knowledgeable about the pandemic”? **European Commission**

51% of people in all countries on average rank the European Commission between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their level of knowledge about the pandemic.

The most positive view on this matter is in Ireland, where 61% of people rank the European Commission in this way.

The least positive view is in the UK, where 47% of people rank the European Commission between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their level of knowledge about the pandemic.



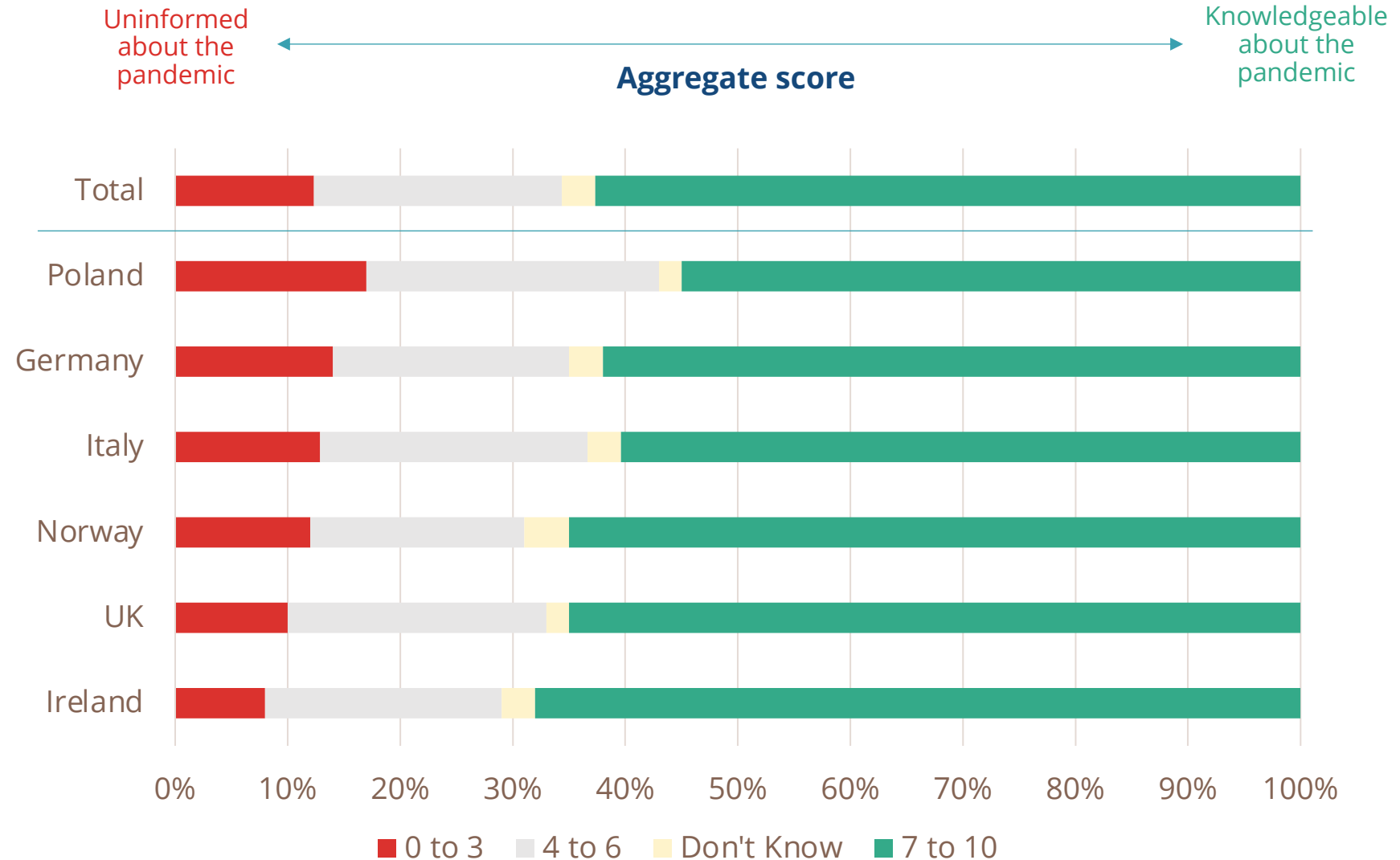
# Seven in ten people in Ireland rank scientists above seven out of ten for their level of knowledge about the pandemic.

And when it comes to dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Uninformed about the pandemic” and 10 means “Knowledgeable about the pandemic”? **Scientists involved in tackling coronavirus**

On average, people think that scientists are very knowledgeable about the pandemic. 63% of people in all countries rank scientists between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their level of knowledge on the pandemic.

The country where this view is held most widely is in Ireland where 68% of people think that this is the case.

The least positive view is Poland, where it is still the case that 55% of people rank scientists between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their level of knowledge on the pandemic.



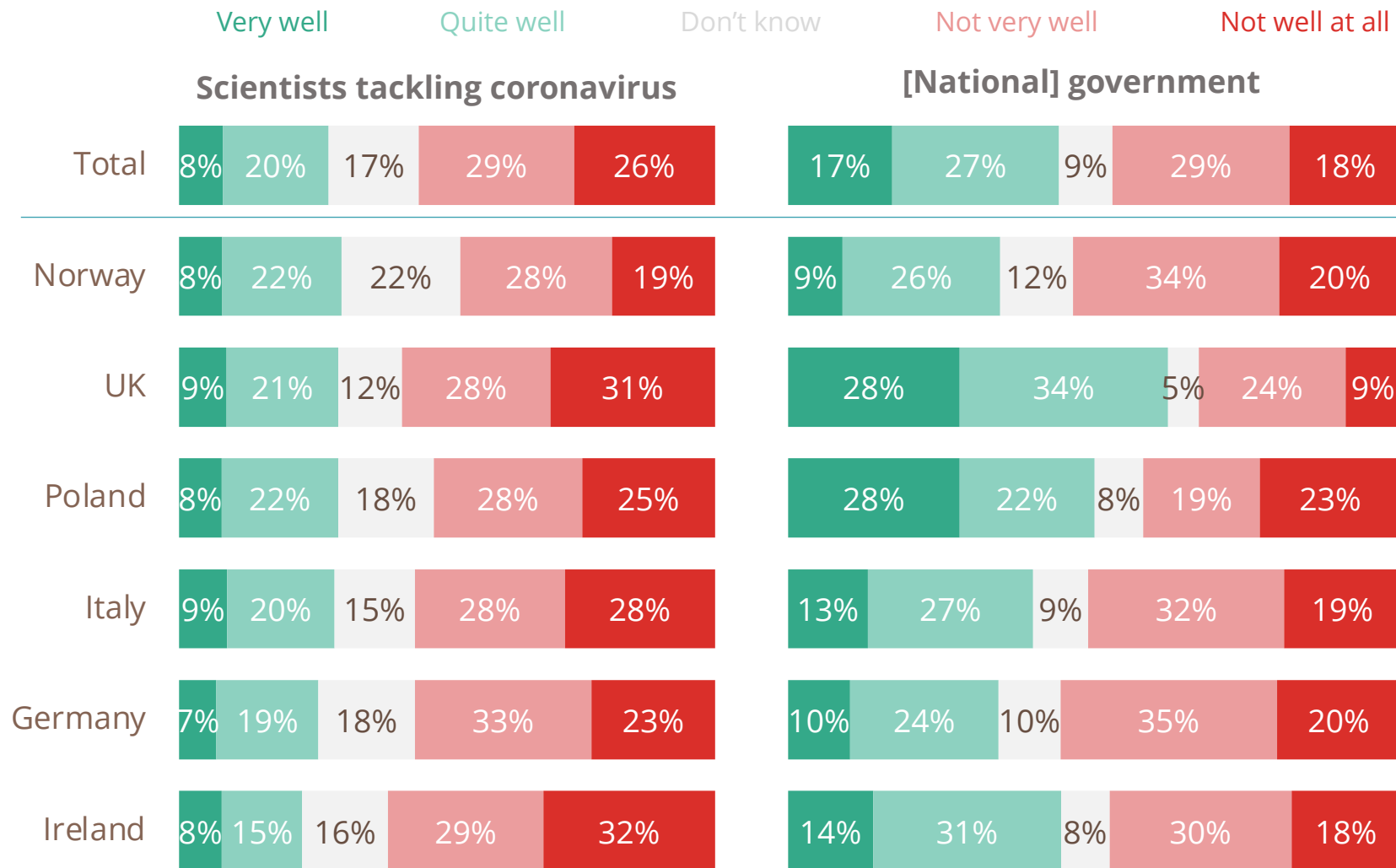
# Three in ten people in the UK say that scientists tackling coronavirus ignore rules and procedures, but six in ten say this about the government.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Ignores rules and procedures**, generally describes the following groups

30% of people in the UK say that scientists tackling coronavirus ignore rules and procedures. However, twice as many (62%) people say this about the government – a difference of 32%.

This disparity is larger than in any other country. The next largest disparity (21%) is in Ireland, where 23% of people say that scientists ignore rules and procedures, whilst 44% say this of the government.

The smallest disparity (8%) is in Germany, where 26% say that scientists ignore rules and procedures, whilst 35% say this of the government.



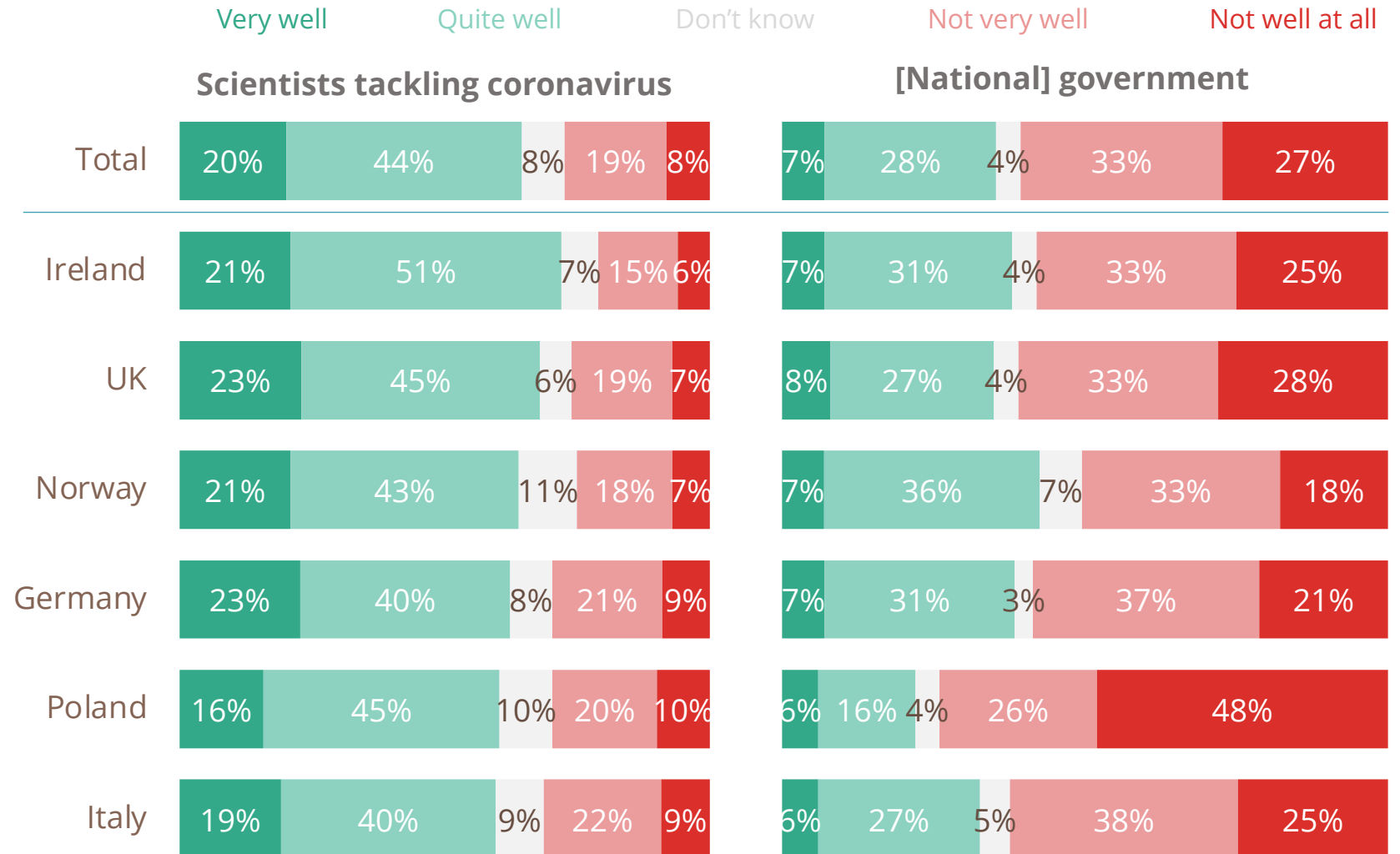
## Two thirds of people on average say scientists tackling coronavirus communicate accurate and unbiased information – one third say this of government.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Communicates accurate and unbiased information**, generally describes the following groups

64% of people on average say that scientists tackling coronavirus communicate accurate and unbiased information. However, this view is held by just 35% of people on average about the government.

People in Ireland have the most positive view of these scientists, where 72% say they communicate accurate and unbiased information, whilst 38% say this of their government.

In Italy, 60% say this of scientists, and 33% say it of their government.



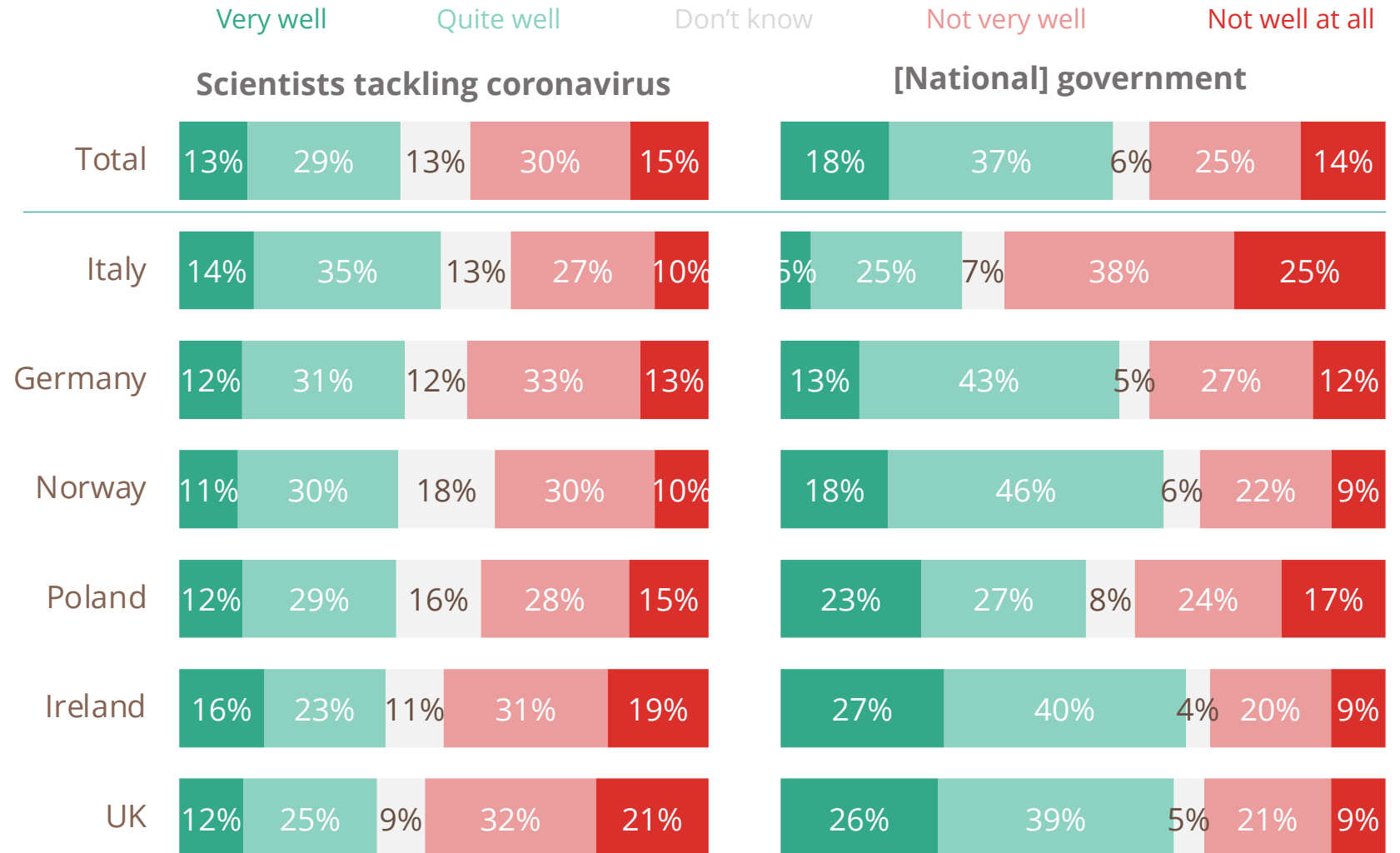
# Half of people in Italy say that scientists tackling coronavirus are politically motivated, whilst three in ten say this about the government.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Politically motivated**, generally describes the following groups

49% of people in Italy say that scientists tackling coronavirus are politically motivated, but 30% of people say this about the government.

In every other country, the government is viewed as being more politically motivated than these scientists.

For instance, in Ireland, 39% of people say this of scientists, whilst 67% say it of the government; and in the UK, 38% say that scientists are politically motivated, compared with 65% who say this of the government.



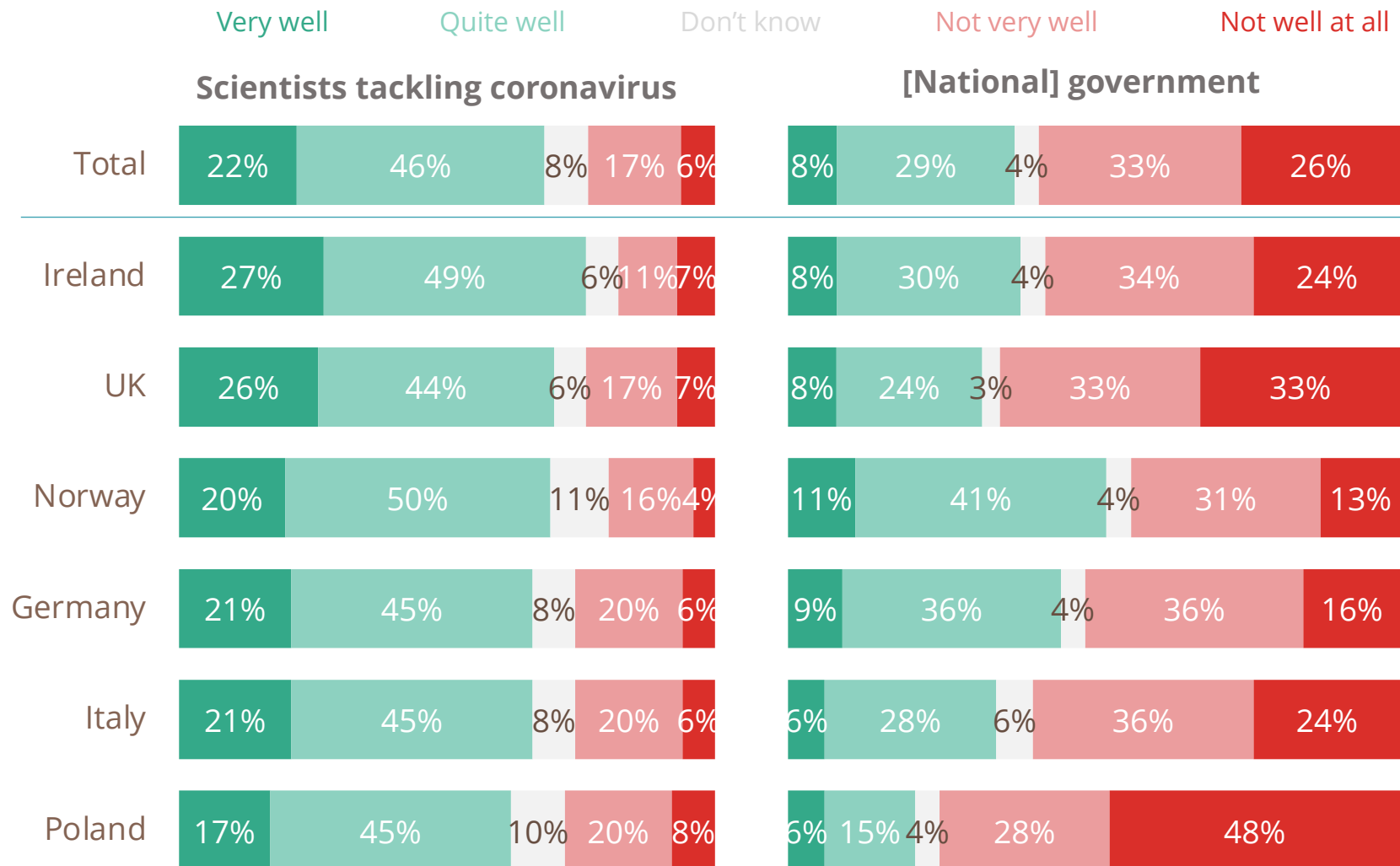
# Seven in ten people in the UK say that scientists tackling coronavirus are well respected, whereas just three in ten say this of the government.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Well respected**, generally describes the following groups

70% of people in the UK say that scientists tackling coronavirus are well respected. But, only 31% say that the government is well respected – a difference of 39%.

The only country with a larger difference between these two evaluations is Poland (41%), where 62% of people say that scientists are well respected compared with 21% who say this about the government.

The country with the smallest difference is Norway (17%) where 69% say that scientists are well respected, whilst 52% say this of the government.

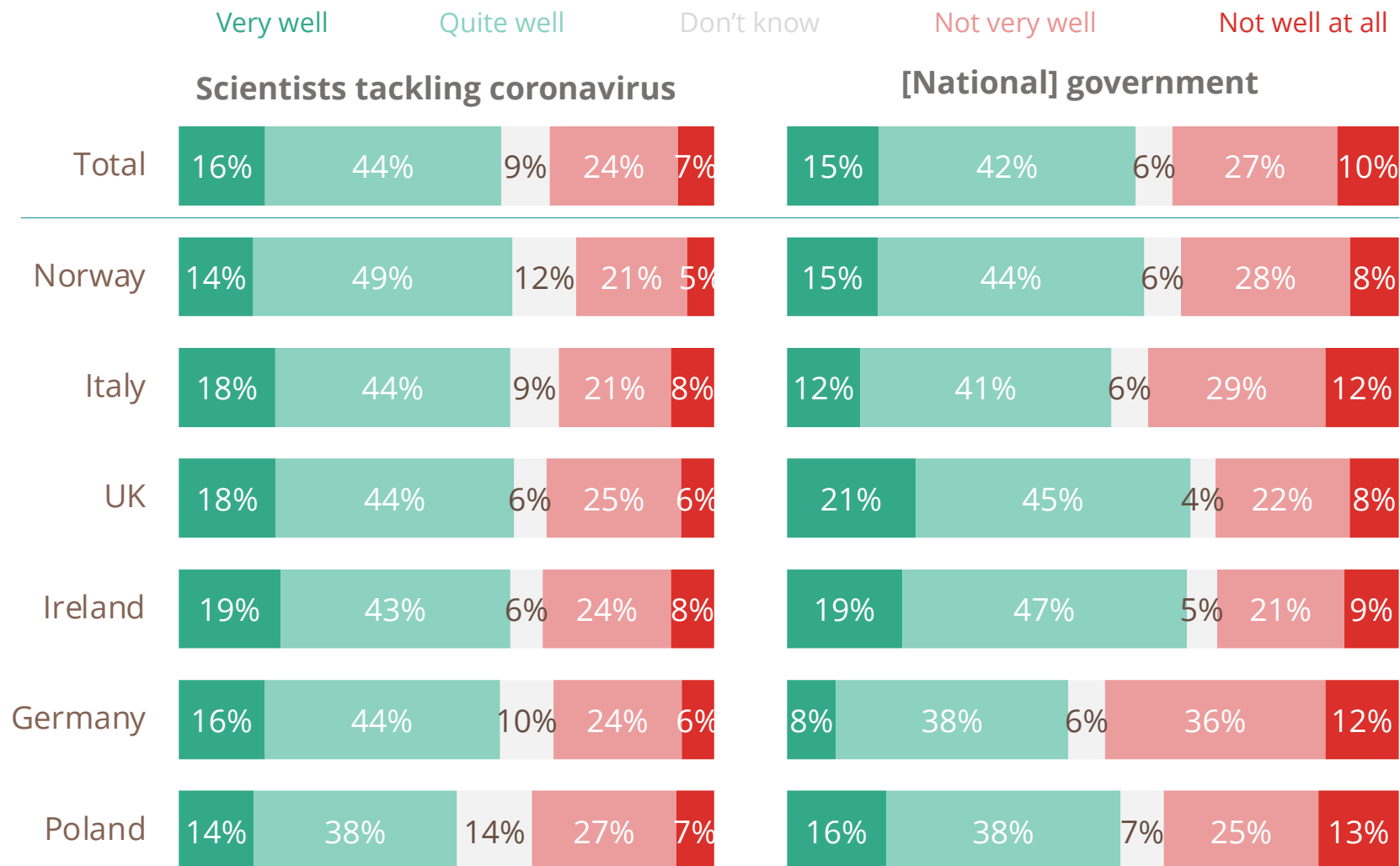


# Six in ten people on average say that both the government and scientists tackling coronavirus are prominent in the public eye.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Prominent in the public eye**, generally describes the following groups

60% of people on average say that scientists tackling coronavirus are prominent in the public eye. A similar amount (57%) say the same thing for their national government, indicating the public visibility of scientists tackling the pandemic.

The people who thought that these scientists were least prominent in the public eye were those in Poland where 52% of people thought this, though this is very similar to the view they had of their own government's prominence in the public eye (55%).





## Six in ten people on average say that they mostly share similar values to scientists involved in tackling coronavirus.

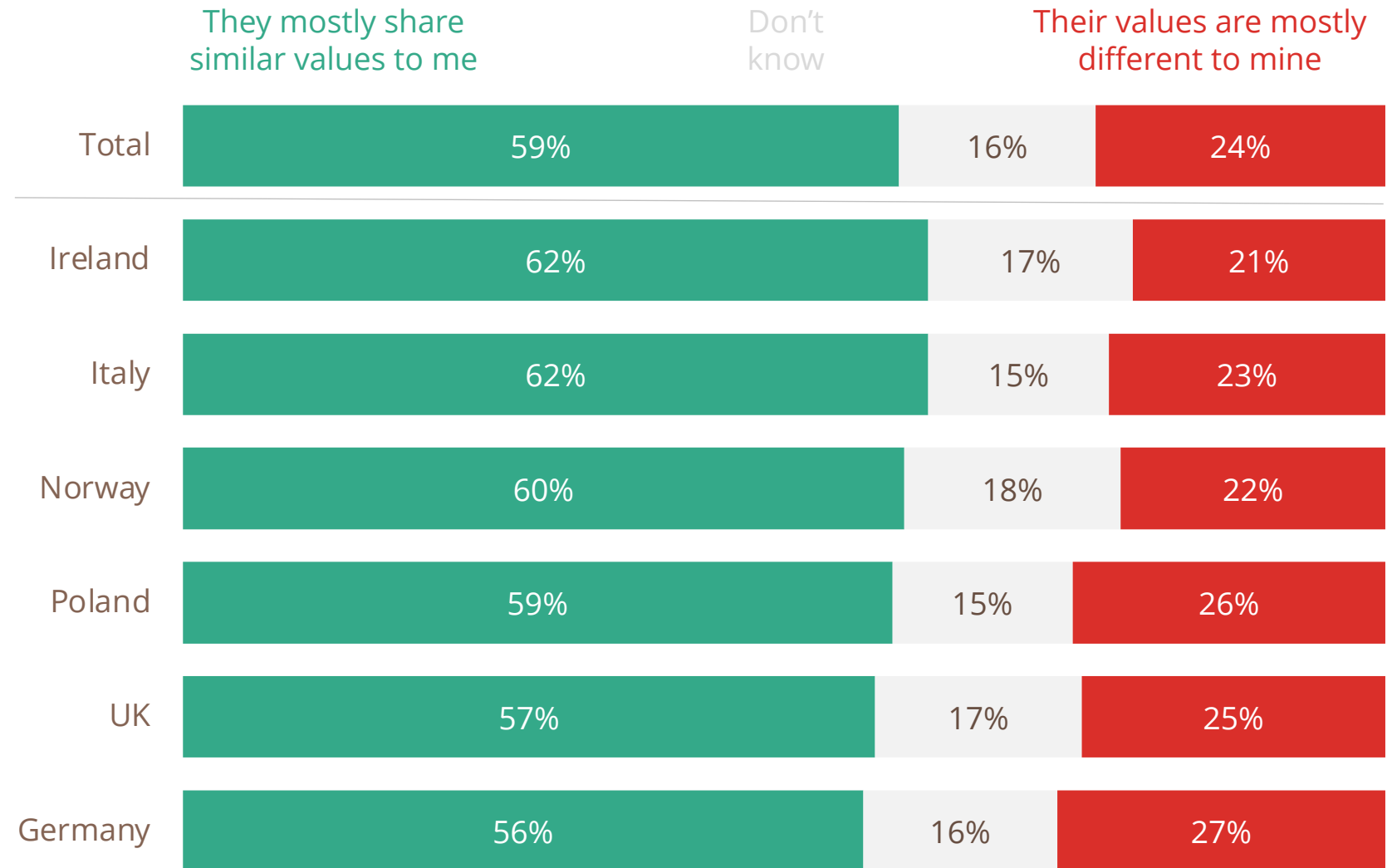
Which of the following two statements comes closest to your view about [Scientists involved in tackling coronavirus]?

59% of people on average say that they mostly share similar values to scientists involved in tackling coronavirus.

This figure is very similar in most countries.

The country where this view is shared the least is in Germany where 56% of people say that they mostly share similar values to scientists involved in tackling coronavirus.

The countries where the view is shared the most are Ireland and Italy, where 62% say this.



# Trust in information on COVID-19

Scientists working at universities are the most trusted to deliver accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic. Six in ten people on average have a positive view of scientists in this respect, and just 14% have a negative view.

In contrast, four in ten people on average take a negative view of social media for delivering accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic. In the UK, people are more likely to hold this negative view if they are white, older, conservative voters.



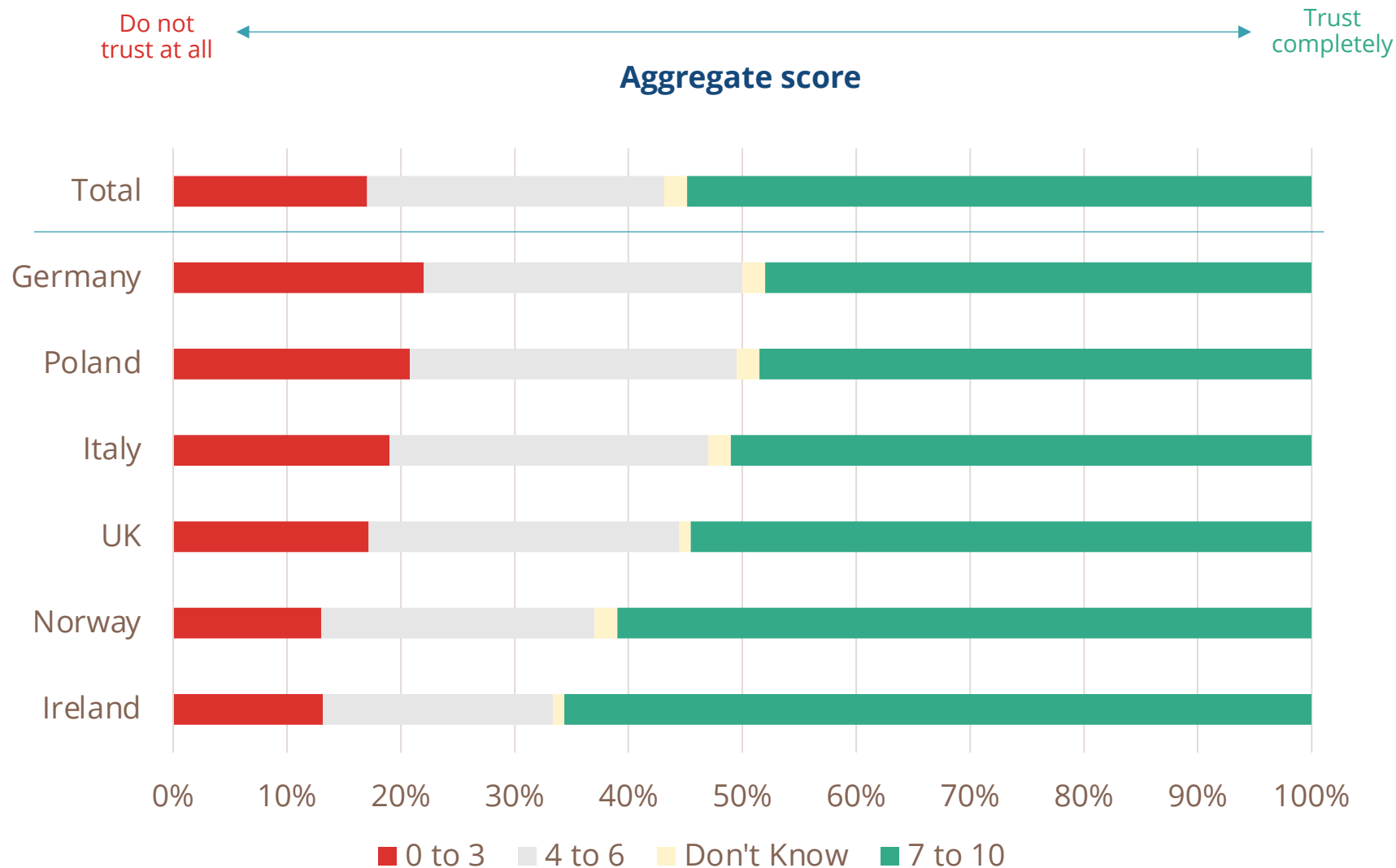
## Two thirds of people in Ireland rank the World Health Organisation above seven out of ten to give them accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **World Health Organization**

65% of people in Ireland rank the World Health Organization between 7 and 10 out of 10 for whether they trust them to give accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.

This figure degree of trust is also high in Norway 61% of people share the same view.

The least positive view for the World Health Organization is in Germany and Poland where, respectively, 48% and 49% of people rank them between 7 and 10 out of 10 for whether they trust them to provide accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.



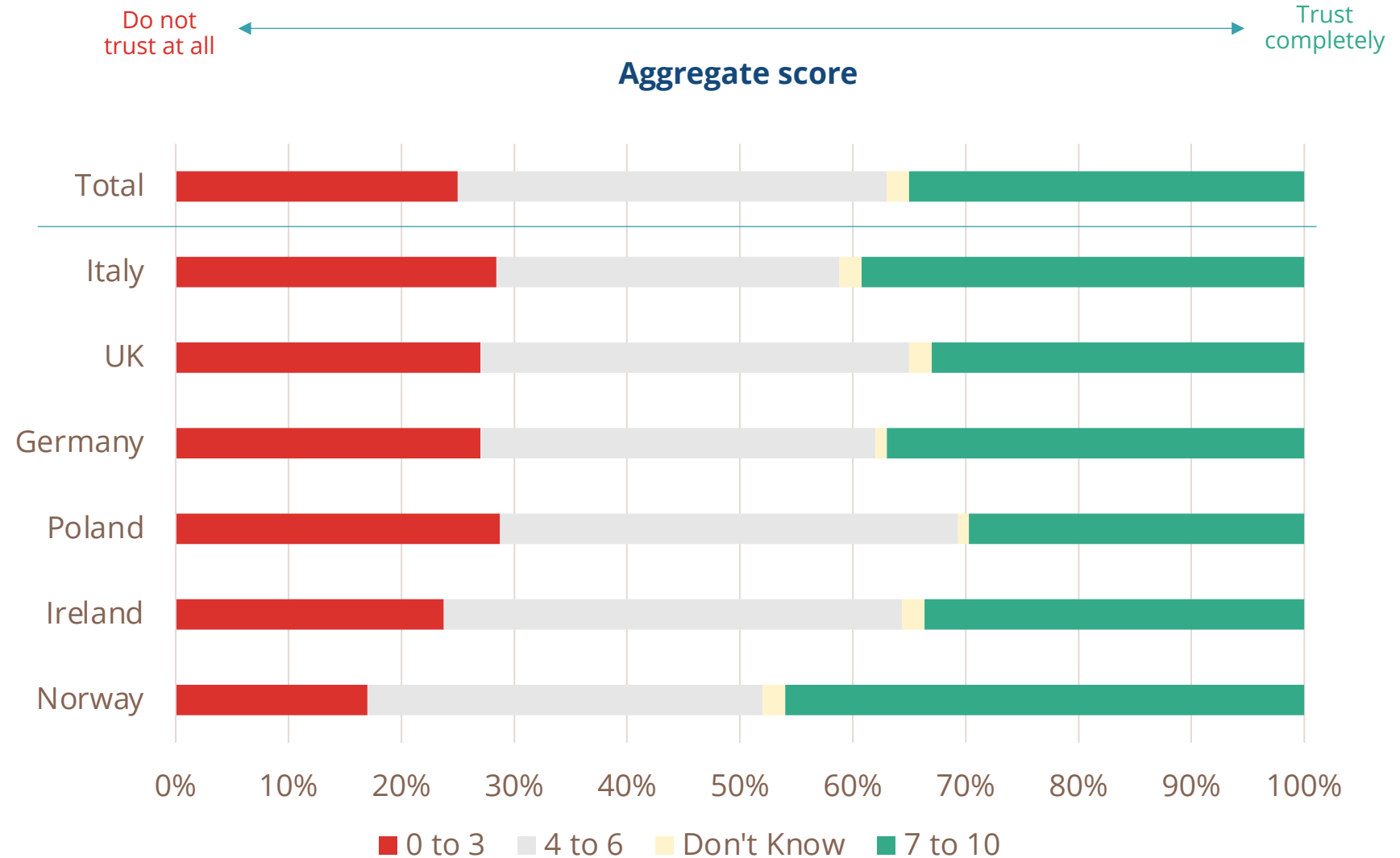
# A third of people on average rank news and media organisations above seven out of ten for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **News and media organisations**

35% of people on average rank news and media organisations between 7 and 10 out of 10 for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

This ranking is as high as 46% in Norway, and 30% in Poland.

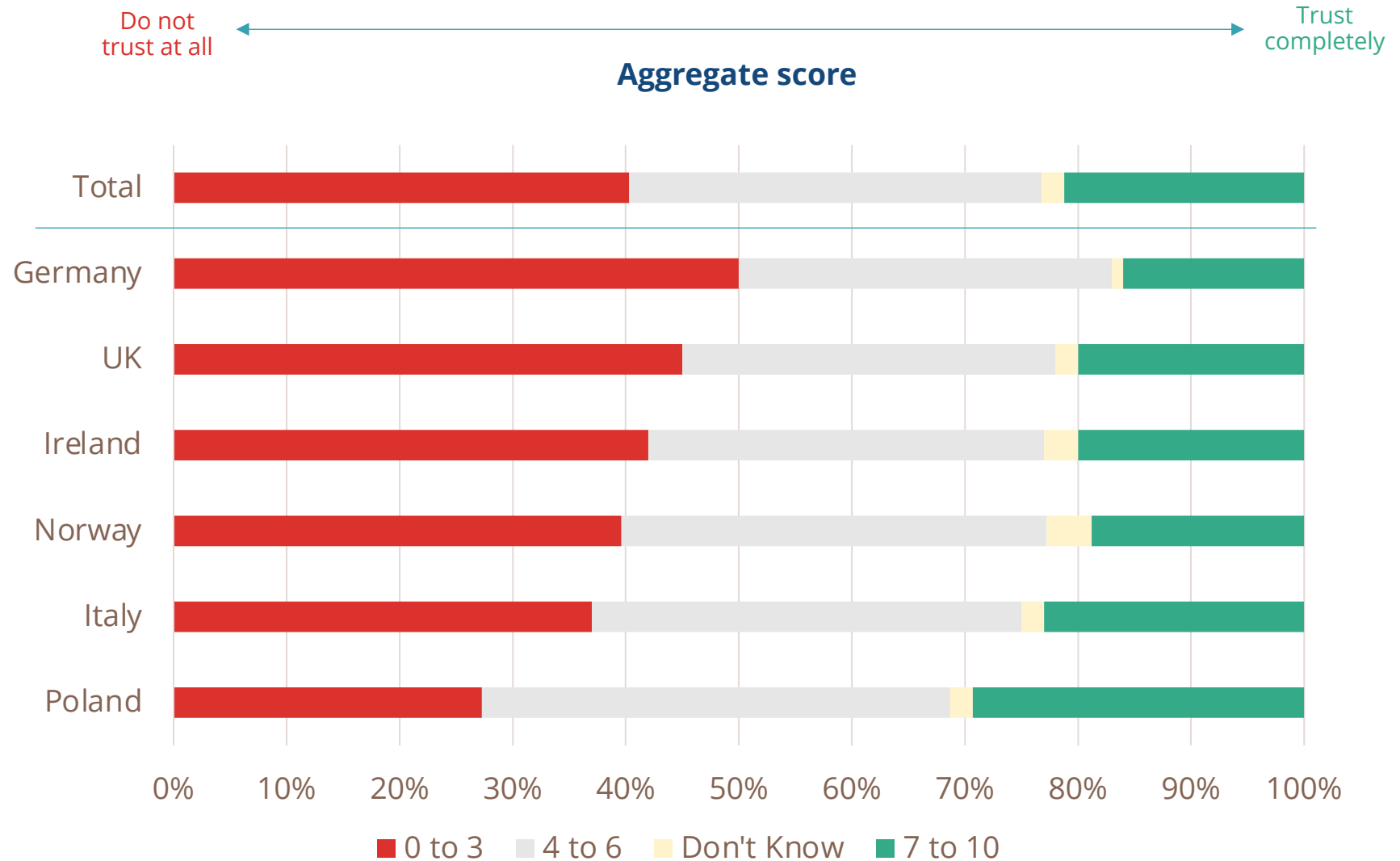
The UK gives the least positive ranking to news and media organisations, where 33% of people rank news and media organisations between 7 and 10 out of 10 for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.



# Four in ten people rank their social media platforms below three out of ten for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **Social media platforms (eg Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter)**

There is a generally low view of the advice and information available through social media platforms. 40% of people on average rank social media between 0 and 3 out of 10 for whether they trust it to give them accurate advice and information on the coronavirus pandemic. This figure is as high as 50% in Germany, and 45% in the UK. Poland has a slightly less negative view of social media platforms, where 27% of people rank social media between 0 and 3 out of 10 for whether they trust it to give them accurate advice and information on the coronavirus pandemic.



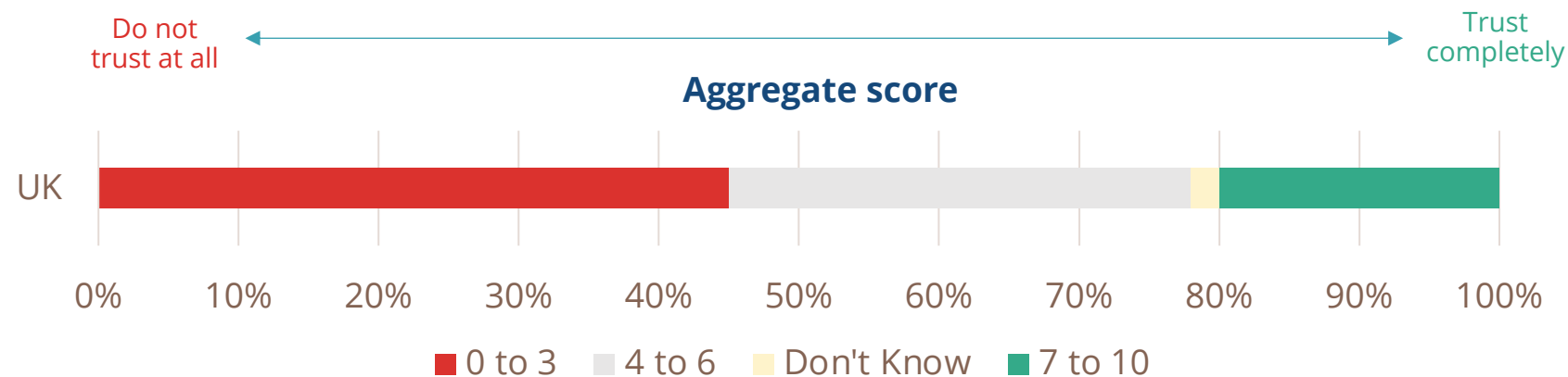
# People in the UK who are white, older, conservative voters are more likely to rank social media lower on whether they trust it to provide information on the pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **Social media platforms (eg Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter)**

In the UK, 49% of people who are white rank social media between 0 and 3 out of 10 for whether they trust it to give them accurate advice and information on the coronavirus pandemic. This figure falls to 23% for people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

This view is also much higher amongst older people, with 62% of people aged 55+ agreeing with it, compared with 29% of 18-34 year olds.

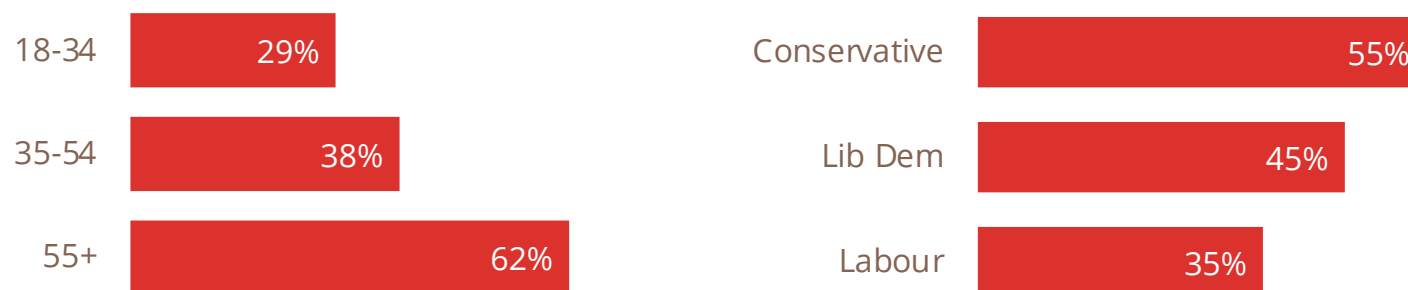
Conservative voters (55%) also hold this view more widely than Labour voters (35%).



## % of those who rank social media 0 to 3



## 2019 General Election Vote



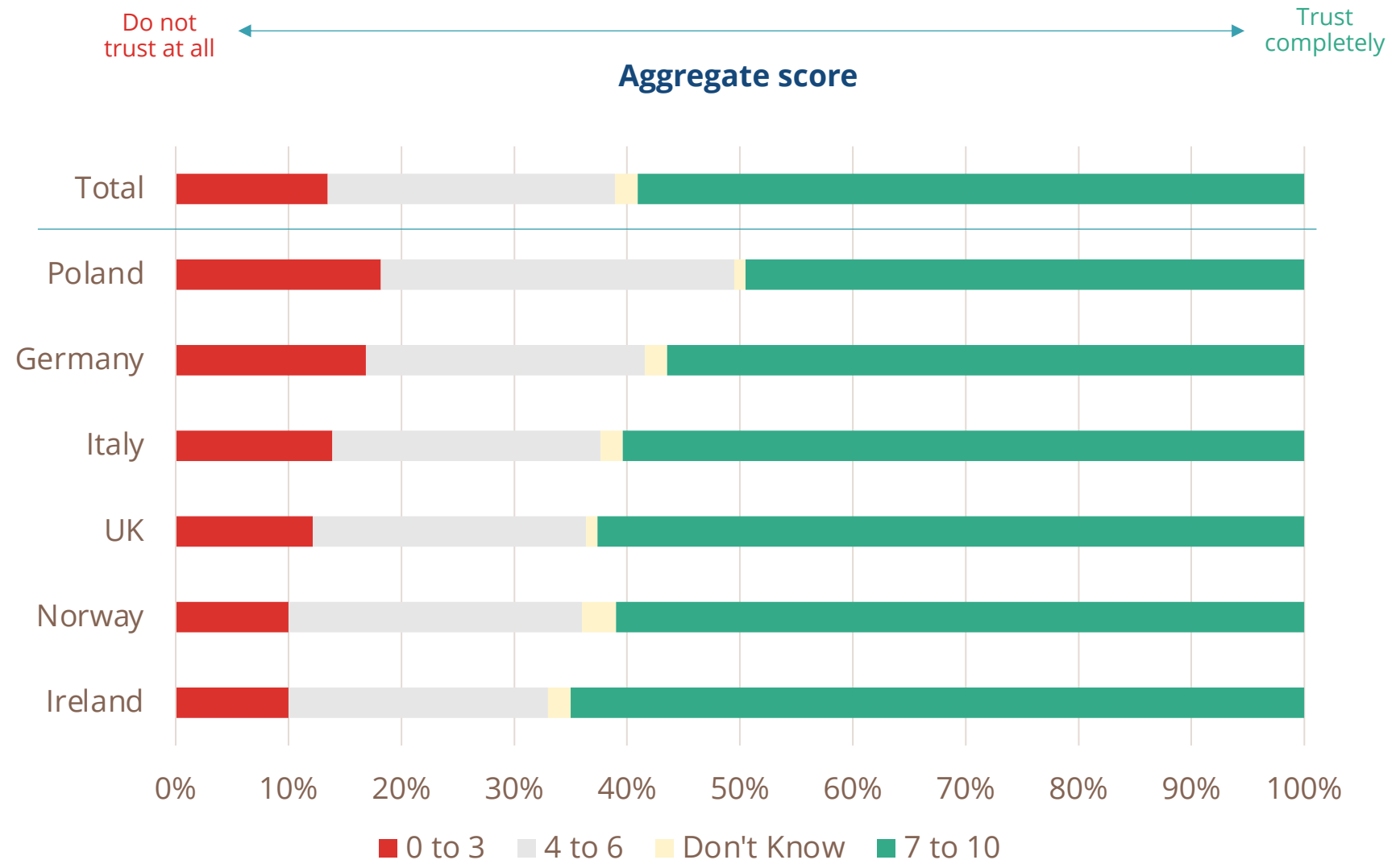
## Six in ten people on average rank scientists working at universities above seven out of ten to provide accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **Scientists involved in tackling coronavirus who work at universities**

On average, 59% of people across all countries rank scientists working at universities between 7 and 10 out of 10 for whether they trust these scientists to give them accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.

This figure is highest in Ireland, where 65% of people trust scientists working at universities in this way.

The country with the least positive view is Poland, where still 49% of people rank scientists working at universities between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their trust to provide accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.



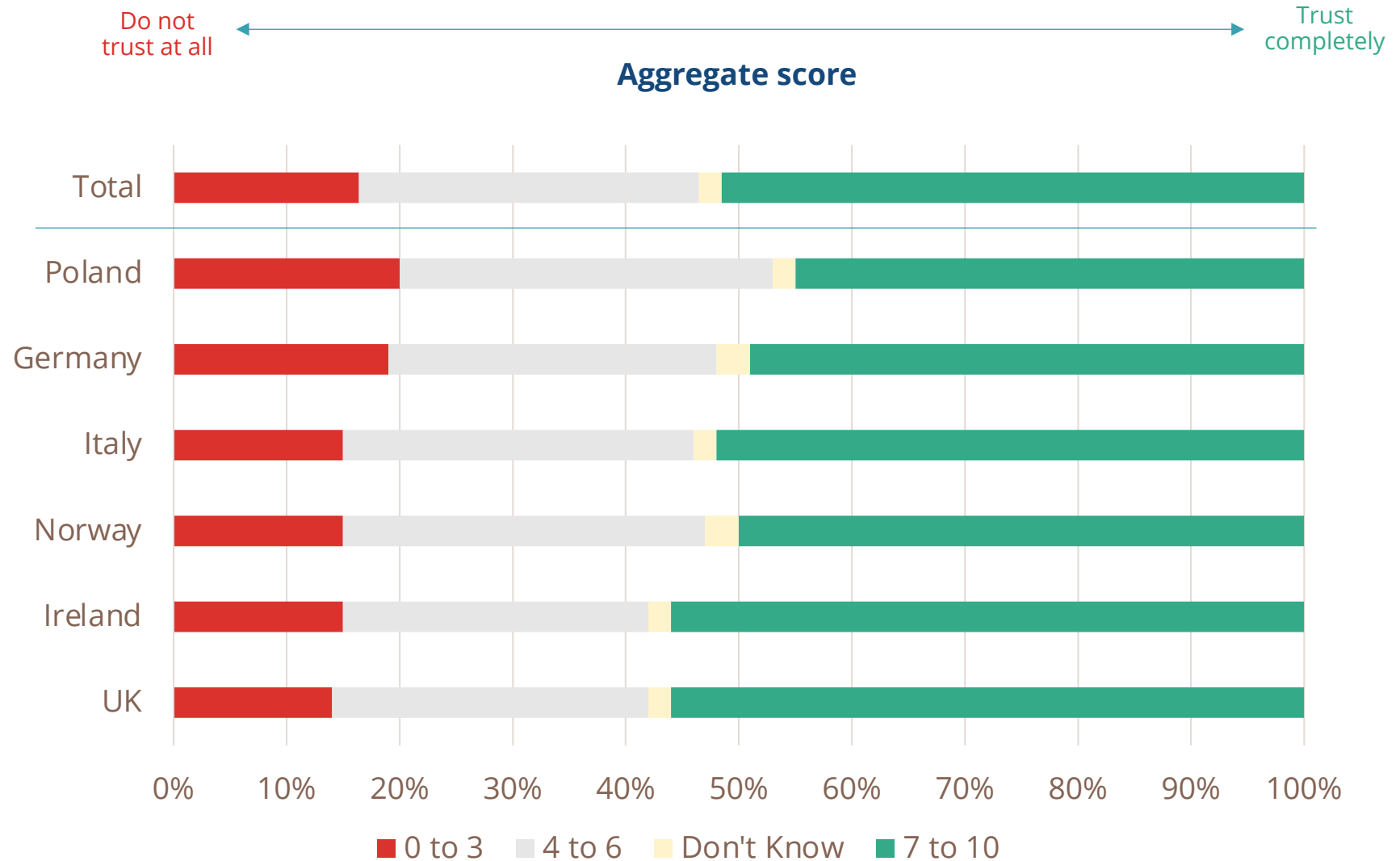
# Half of people on average rank scientists working at private companies above seven out of ten to provide accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **Scientists involved in tackling coronavirus who work at private companies**

On average, 51% of people across all countries rank scientists working at private companies between 7 and 10 out of 10 for whether they trust these scientists to give them accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.

This figure is highest in the UK and Ireland, where 56% of people trust scientists working at private companies in this way.

The country with the least positive view is Poland, where still 45% of people rank scientists working at private companies between 7 and 10 out of 10 for their trust to provide accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.



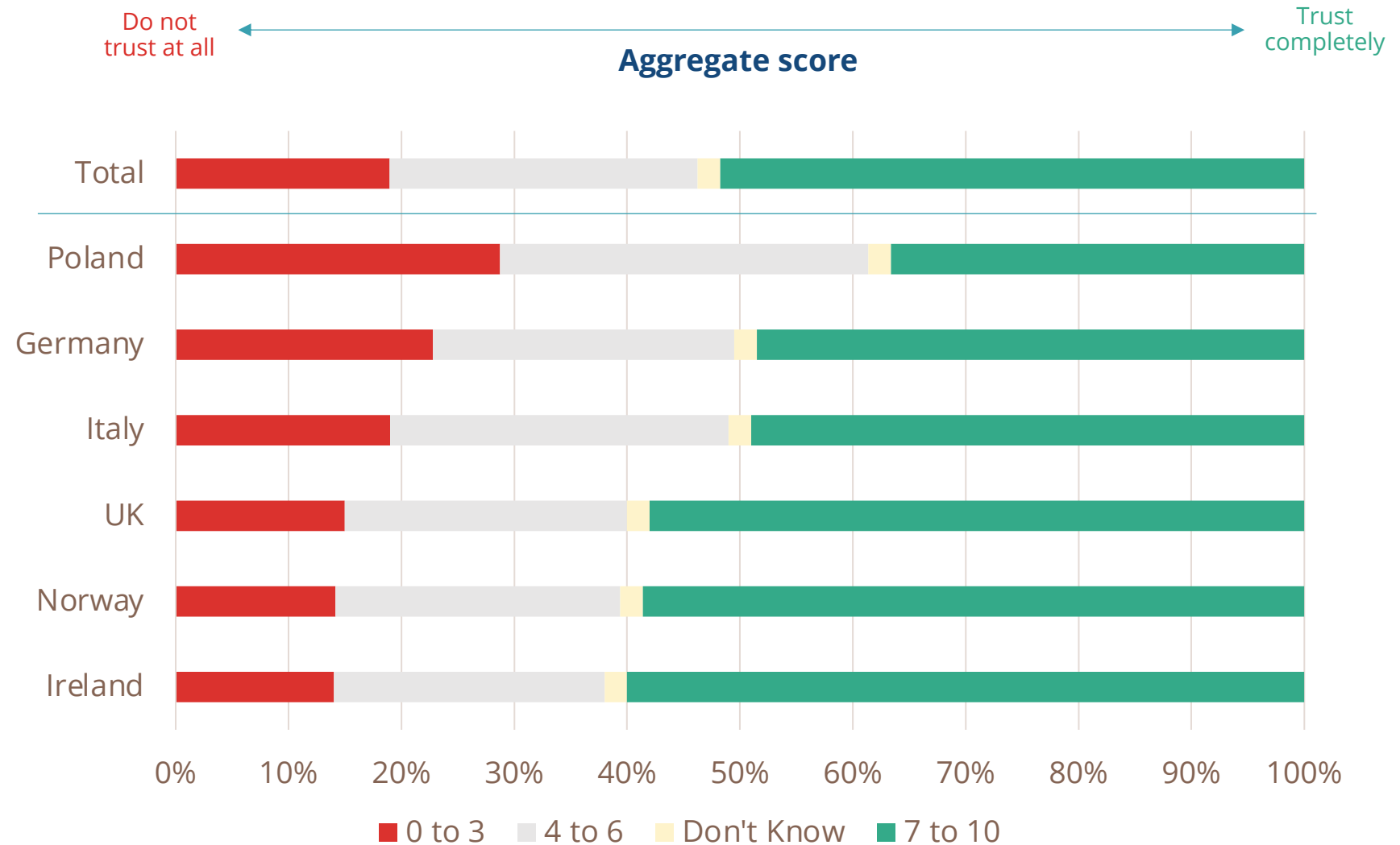


# Three in ten people in Poland rank scientists working for the government below three out of ten for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **Scientists working with the government to tackle coronavirus, including on advisory groups, panels or committees**

29% of people in Poland rank scientists working with the government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for whether they trust these scientists to give them accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic. The overall average for this view is 19%.

The countries with the least negative view are Ireland and Norway, where still 14% of people rank scientists working with the government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for their trust to provide them with accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.

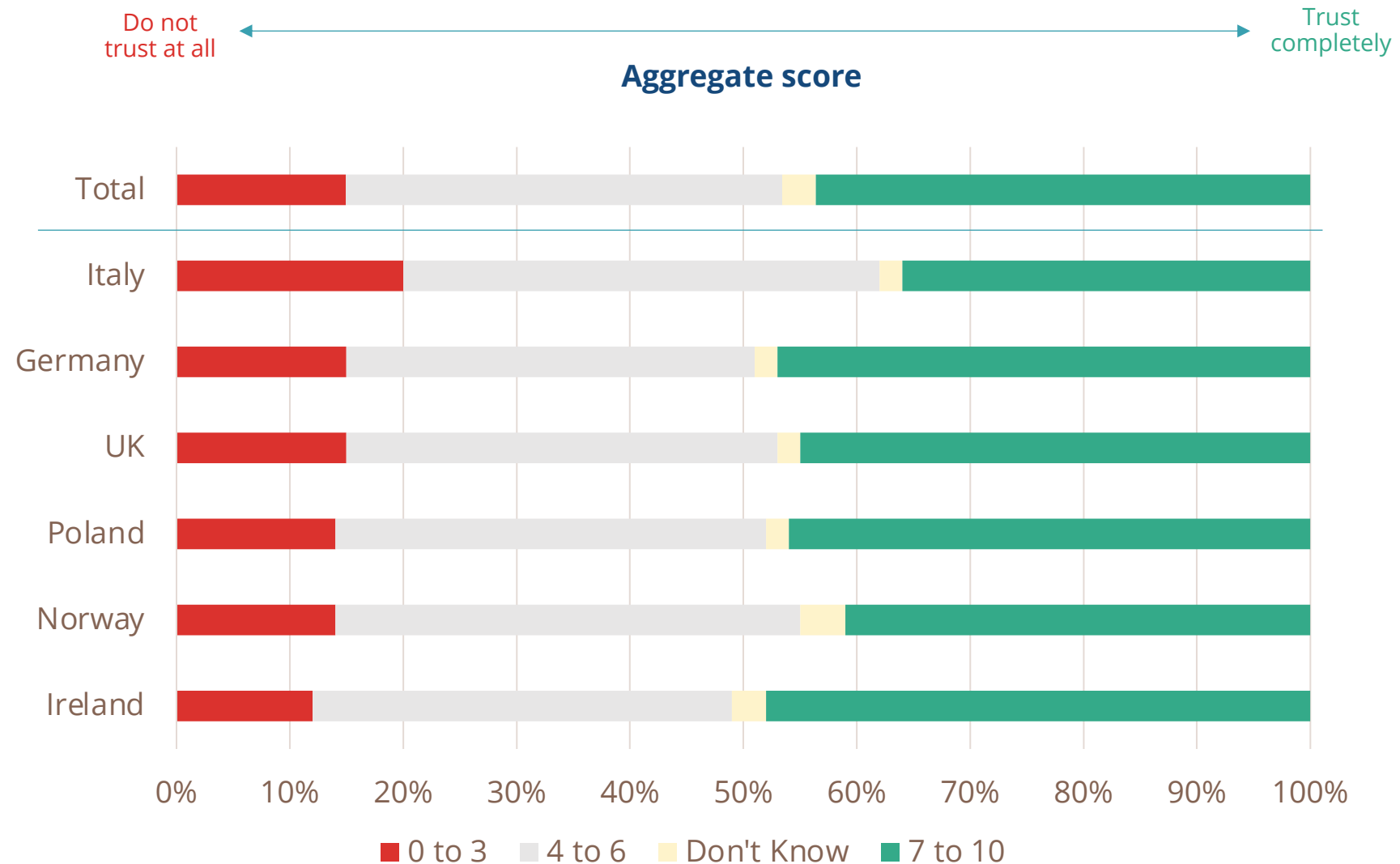


## Two in ten people in Italy rank friends and family below three out of ten for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **Family and friends**

20% of people in Italy rank their friends and family between 0 and 3 out of 10 for providing accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.

In general, most people are fairly positive about the information they receive from friends and family. On average, 15% of people rank their friends and family between 0 and 3 out of 10 for providing accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic, whilst 44% rank them between 7 and 10 out of 10.



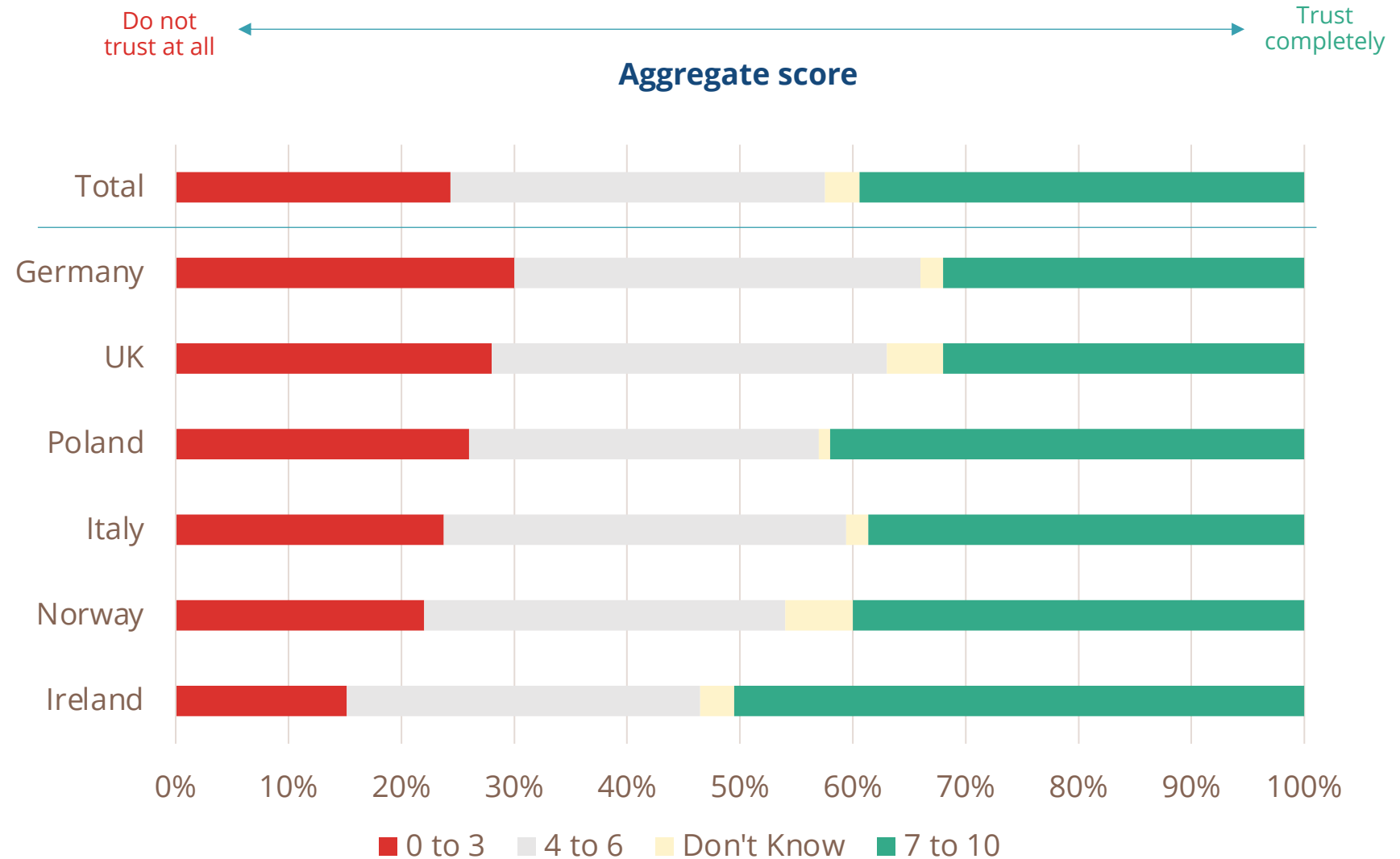
# Three in ten people in Germany and the UK rank the European Commission below three out of ten for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **European Commission**

30% of people in Germany and 28% in the UK rank the European Commission between 0 and 3 out of 10 for whether they trust them to provide accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.

The country with the least negative view is Ireland where just 15% of people rank the European Commission in this way.

In general, most countries take a fairly positive view, with 39% of people on average saying that they rank the European Commission between 7 and 10 out of 10 to provide accurate information on the coronavirus pandemic.



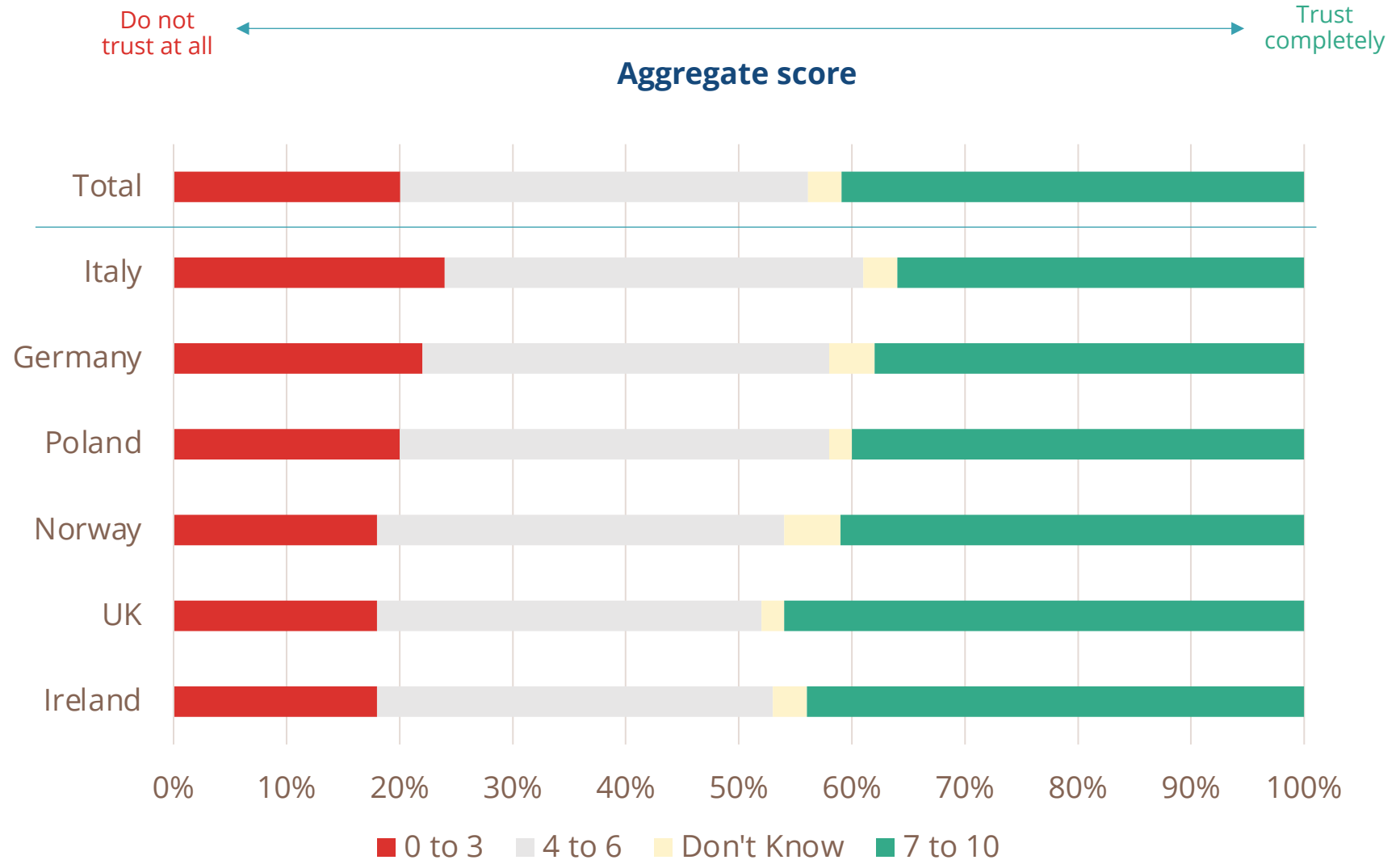
# One in four people on average rank charities and NGOs above seven out of ten for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **Charities and NGOs (non-governmental organisations)**

41% of people on average rank charities and NGOs between 7 and 10 out of 10 for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

This ranking is as high as 46% in the UK where it is highest, just ahead of Ireland where it is 44%.

Italy gives the least positive ranking to charities and NGOs, where 36% of people rank these organisations between 7 and 10 out of 10 for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.



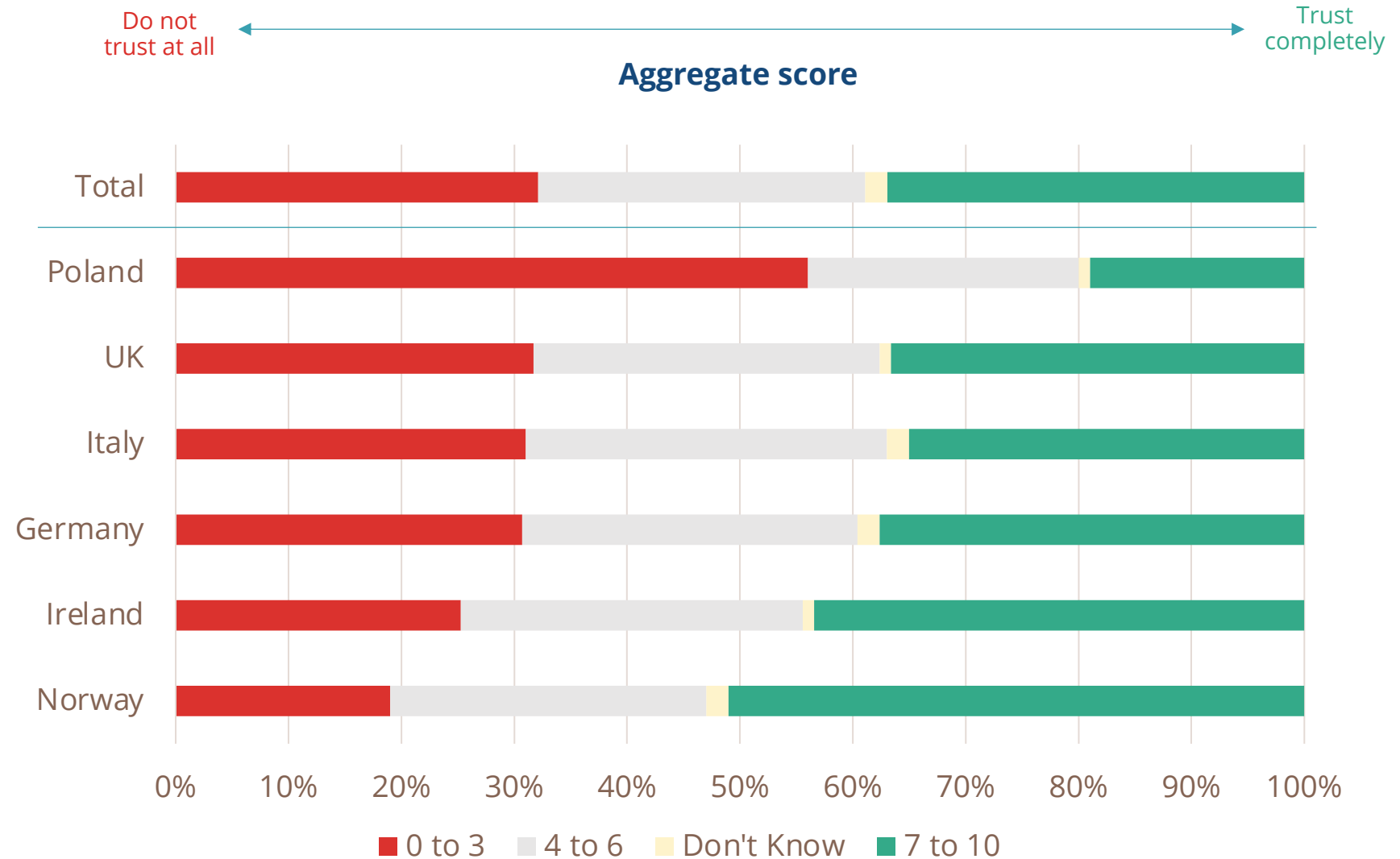
# Half of people in Poland rank their government below three out of ten for providing accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about the coronavirus pandemic in [your country]? **National Government**

56% of people in Poland rank their government between 0 and 3 out of 10 for whether they trust the government to give them accurate advice and information on the coronavirus pandemic.

This figure is well above the average of 32%, and just 19% in Poland rank their government above 7 out of 10 on this measure.

The most positive view was in Norway where 51% of people rank their government between 7 and 10 out of 10 for whether they trust the government to give them accurate advice and information on the coronavirus pandemic.





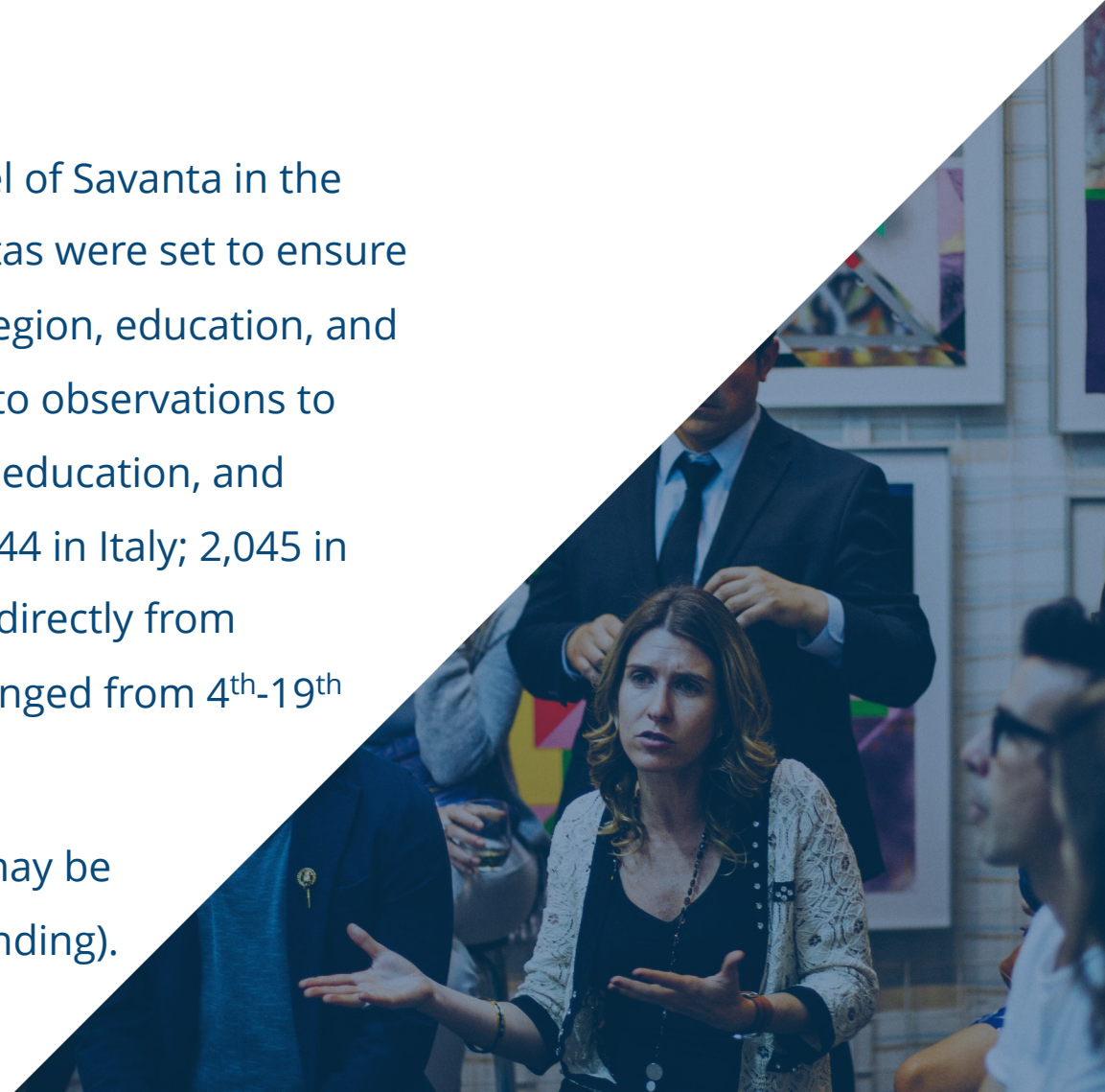
# PERITIA

Policy, Expertise and Trust

## Technical Note

This survey was conducted drawing on the proprietary online panel of Savanta in the UK and similar panels in their network in the other countries. Quotas were set to ensure sufficient responses within each country in terms of age, gender, region, education, and income. Once data collection was complete, weights were applied to observations to create a sample reflective of the population in age, gender, region, education, and income. Sample sizes were: 2,017 in Germany; 2,030 in Ireland; 2,044 in Italy; 2,045 in Norway; 2,168 in Poland; and 2,042 in the UK. Data were collected directly from respondents via a self-completed online survey. Fieldwork dates ranged from 4<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Note: For net figures (e.g. adding 'Very Well' to 'Quite Well'), there may be one percentage point difference on simple aggregation due to rounding).



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