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European Offender's Perceptions on Society Acceptance regarding Reintegration Process

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Project

MOBi – Mobilizing Society Towards (ex) Offenders Reintegration

MOBi Partners

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The Baia Mare Penitentiary (Romania)

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Hoppenbank e.V. and Genepi were supported in this work stream by Bremen Ministry of Justice, which has extensive experience of developing assessment and training analysis tools, and benefits from close links with Bremen Prison and local criminal justice third sector organisations.

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Executive Summary

Despite limitations and setbacks, all partners collaborated on this MOBi Intellectual Output to successfully gathered quantitative data on offenders' fears and preconceptions about (re)integration from four of the five MOBi partner countries, and qualitative case studies from every partner country. Whilst limited to specific prisons in partner countries, the resulting qualitative data still provides an interesting snapshot of how stigma is felt and experienced within the context of six custodial pathways identified to reduce reoffending, in these prisons and at this time. Given high levels of complexity in generating comparable data across European prisons, MOBi's contribution to our knowledge in this area is uncommon.

MOBi IO2 assessment tool collected 100 questionnaire responses from (ex) offenders in each MOBi partner country, filled out in Bremen and Vechta Prisons in Germany, Baia Mare Prison in Romania, Linhó, Lisboa, Sintra and Carregueira Prisons in Portugal and Milan Prison in Italy. This resulted in responses to 150 Likert Scale questions and 10 open questions. As such the data is not a representative sample but a snapshot used to anchor MOBi project outcomes.

Quotes from two interview-based case studies from each of the five partner countries bring contextualised and more emotive support for quantitative MOBi findings, and was developed into booklets.

Results fulfil MOBi's stated aims to support a training course which the project will go on to develop to deepen the public's understanding of and engagement in successful reintegration. In fact, the data developed is extensive enough to develop a variety of different reports tailored to audiences - such as employers, prison governors or the NGO sector – as well as speaking to specific country policy. This report contains examples of some of these possibilities.

Data generated is available to download for other projects to explore, who need the prisoner perspective of the effect stigma has upon successful rehabilitation. It can be accessed from the MOBi Initiative website: mobi-initiative.org.

Are we giving people a real chance to turn away from crime?



71% Prisoners think **people fear** ex-prisoners.



60% Think we will **never fully accept** that their debt has been fully repaid.

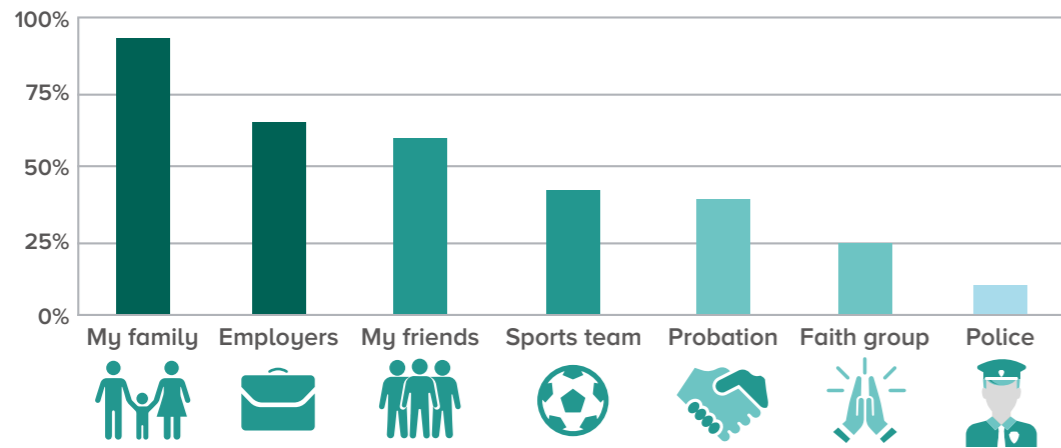


64% Believe we think **prison is the only place** for criminals.



68% Think we are more likely to accept people who have been on **community service** than in prison.

On release, prisoners rely most on family, employers and friends.



51% Believe we think it's **not worth giving them an opportunity**.



70% Believe that society thinks that **all offenders are the same**.

Having a job is key to successful Reintegration. But do former prisoners have a realistic chance to work after release?



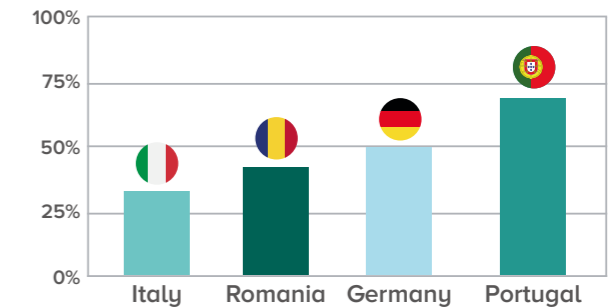
89% Prisoners think finding a job on release **is important to stop** reoffending.



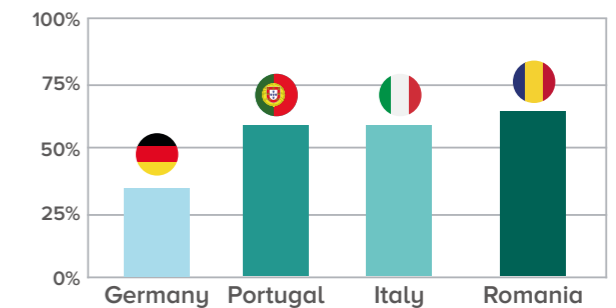
62% Think that their criminal record will **stop employers from giving them a job**.



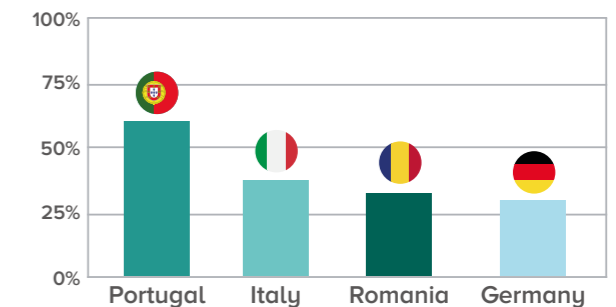
In which countries do prisoners expect **support** from their **local job center**?



In which countries are prisoners most confident about getting their **old jobs back**?



In which countries do prisoners expect the support of **volunteers and mentors** to get them back to work?



35% Worry that even if they find a job, **they won't be able to keep it**.

Introduction

The MOBi project is a partnership of eight organizations present in five different EU countries. The project is led by CPIP and aims to:

- Understand the European contemporary punishment and reintegration picture in terms of society's perception, participation, offenders labelling, return to work or to community, building an assessment tool to measure society 'culture' towards punishment and reintegration;
- To create new, innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to respond to (ex) offenders' reintegration process
- To develop a community engagement methodology to support Criminal Justice System (CJS) organisations, practitioners, and closest stakeholders' efforts on reinforcing existent community (society) based approaches
- To design one transnational training programme, to be executed by key-organisations, aimed at civil society, to ensure that all citizens have access to knowledge of the rehabilitation model at work in their own criminal justice system, and are therefore able to review their own, individual role in the reintegration process
- To deliver a Handbook, to support different organisations from Public, Private and Third Sector developing their social responsibility and participation on CJS and offender's reintegration.

The eight organizations partners are Genepi (France), Bremen Senate of Justice and Constitution and Hoppenbank e.V. (Germany), Associazione Antigone (Italy), Direção-Geral de Reinserção e Serviços Prisionais and Aproximar, Cooperativa de Solidariedade Social (Portugal), Center for Promoting Lifelong Learning - CPIP and The Baia Mare Penitentiary (Romania).

MOBi aims to deliver a multi-modal approach that brings together the CJS, civil society, and (ex) offenders. It's an innovative project that proposes a looking glass: **how we, civil society, are contributing to be the turning point in each (ex) offender life? What are society's perception on (ex) offenders and the CJS? And moreover, about its role on reintegration?**

MOBi proposes a re-thinking on the role of civil society in the process, claiming for the corporate social responsibility (public, private & NGOs) as a strategy to train people on their role in helping to break the cycle of re-arrest.

During the project partners have been developing a set of Intellectual Outputs (IO), namely:

- **IO1: Assessment Tool to screen society's perceptions on (ex) offenders needs and CJS function**
- **IO2: Assessment Tool to screen offender's perceptions on society acceptance regarding reintegration process**
- **IO3: Methodology on Community engagement in CJS**
- **IO4: Training course on community awareness on CJS, (ex)offenders' rehabilitation & reintegration processes**
- **IO5: Handbook on community awareness of (ex)offenders' rehabilitation & reintegration processes.**

This report is designed to be read in conjunction with other outputs of the Erasmus+ funded project MOBi: Mobilizing Society Towards (Ex)Offenders' Reintegration (2017-2020).

More information and further outputs can be found at: mobi-initiative.org.

The present document reports to **Intellectual Output 2 – Assessment Tool to screen offender's perceptions on society acceptance regarding reintegration process.**

This Intellectual Output (IO) is focus on creating a critical channel to (ex)offender communicate their concerns, perceptions of society acceptance regarding reintegration path.

As IO1, this IO is focus on developing one tool flexible enough to provide key inputs how (ex)offenders perceives the reintegration processes. The assessment tool will include a survey to collect perceptions from (ex) offenders, namely on society acceptance regarding reintegration process. Also, this IO will supply a set of case studies in which by using a storytelling approach, offenders will have the opportunity to voice their perceptions.



Literature Review Summary

Literature Review Summary

This MOBi workstream came about partially due to a widely acknowledged lack of original data from criminal justice service users comparing the perspectives of different European Member States (EUMS) (Minke et al., 2016). Two reasons for this might be that prison administrations do not standardly collect data on the views of individuals (or where this is collected, it is not published), and original data from (ex) offenders requires the permission of prison administrations and can be time consuming to acquire.

MOBi partners therefore decided to widen our literature review from traditional peer reviewed articles to include regional, national and European prison and probation reports, and reports conducted by voluntary institutes working in the criminal justice system.

Where possible, we leaned towards meta-analyses or literature which drew together multiple perspectives in order both to learn from their methodologies but ensure we did not replicate past studies.

Where this was not possible, a submission might offer a unique perspective on and methodology used with a particular group (such as the Scottish general public, or Dutch prisons) in one place and time.

This joint OI1 and OI2 literature review is annexed in **Annex 1 of this report**.

1.1. Major Relevant Themes

Bias

Any survey conducted on public perception is quick to note both the researcher bias in preparing the question and the respondent tendency to deliver a socially desirable answer. In our methodology section, we note how we took steps in both what the question was and how we asked it, in order to counter this. However,

since it was unlikely we could eradicate all preconceptions, we also structured our analysis so that this bias was acknowledged at the final stage. As such, the nature of all forms of bias have been regularly discussed within MOBi, and have been the subject of our short term joint staff training events.

Focus on areas of concern for effective rehabilitation

Complex and dynamic variables effect an individual's chances of a successful rehabilitation during prison and on release. MOBi wanted to see how prisoners' fears and perceptions were reflected in their remembered experience of these critical areas. As reflected in a range of research and articles (notably Graffam et al., 2004), we broke our literature review and eventually our questions down into six key themes: personal conditions of the ex-offender, social network and social environment, accommodation, the criminal justice system, rehabilitation and support.

Deeper understanding leads to more constructive debate

Right across the literature we noted that certain areas of the criminal justice system (such as 'prison sentence') were widely understood by the public, whereas others (such as 'community sentencing') either were not understood at all or were understood differently by different respondents. Since awareness and understanding of what is the responsibility of prison and probation in terms of rehabilitation (and what is not) falls within the remit of this project, through our literature review we developed a keener sense of how to promote a more informed public debate. We noted that where this more informed debate is taking place, there is evidence to suggest a dramatic drop in the levels of public punitiveness (Gelb et al 2006.).



Methodology

Methodology

In Intellectual Output 2 (IO2), our aim was to develop an accessible assessment tool to collect quantitative and qualitative data on offenders' fears and perceptions of stigma during the reintegration process. With this data, the MOBi project would have a sound basis upon which to convince the public that the successful integration of (ex) offenders depends as much on their attitude as much as it does on the practice of the prison and probation services in each member state.

MOBi's desk research took in papers initially from the preceding ten years, then extended to the preceding twenty years to draw in more relevant literature. Perception of crime and punishment are strongly linked to cultural and ideological changes so this time period was considered most relevant.

2.1. How we shared our literature

On the MOBi Project Teamwork Platform, we developed a literature review list, where each partner logged the title, language and date of publication, type of publication (peer reviewed/ report), keywords of topics addressed, level of scope (national/ transnational) and webgraphy or bibliographic reference. Where the literature was submitted in a different language, a short abstract was translated into English to share.

Criminal justice service user voice

MOBi did not aim to simply promote social inclusion, we built it into our practice, too. IO2 is an entire work stream dedicated to making sure the training we develop would include the perspective of people with experience in the criminal justice system. We knew, however, that all the prisons we had access to within MOBi would be housing adult male prisoners, meaning that the female service user voice - which represents on average 6% of (ex) offender sacross our partner EUMS - would not be represented.

European activity and added value

In designing and researching for MOBi, research we read supported partner's own experience that regardless of their socio-geographic circumstances, negative attitudes held by members of the public tended to correlate in the areas of prison, (ex)offender, rehabilitation (Rade, 2016). Also, despite a variety of structural approaches to prison, probation and voluntary justice services, no partner European Member States (EUMS) was markedly further ahead in acknowledging the public's role in reducing the factors which lead to reoffending, nor in reducing recidivism. This entrenched attitude – and its consequences - is what led us to look simultaneously at both prisoners' and society's perceptions, in order to clarify those areas where community-based approaches would be most effective.

In some MOBi regions, up to 40% of people in prison are foreign nationals, so that

undertaking this work on a European level was a direct reflection of our target group. We designed both assessment tools so that we are able to aggregate and disaggregate the data presented, drawing out similarities and differences within and between partner country prisons. We aimed for all data to afterwards be openly available for third party analysis.

'Mirrored' responses giving public and service user perspectives

With one work stream looking at the service user voice, and one looking at the public's perspective, it was MOBi's aim to draw out the similarities and differences within and between these two groups in different countries on specific reflections on stigma, such as asking 'Society is afraid of ex-prisoners' to the service users, and 'I am afraid of ex prisoners' to the public. Prior to developing tool, our aim was simply to see if the two groups gave similar responses, but – as we will go on to discuss – once the responses were in, our aim developed into using these mirrored responses to state quite concretely that the people MOBi surveyed held sometimes conflicting interpretations of each other's views which could contribute to the effectiveness of reintegration. This will in turn prove a very useful and novel basis to our training course.

Case studies

In addition to the more quantitative assessment, each partner country pledged to undertake a more detailed, qualitative interview with prisoners, delivering case studies (Annex 5 & Annex 6). The aim with these was to flesh out the bulk responses from the survey tool, as well as to provide direct quotes from service users which supported our findings to use in training, awareness raising and dissemination.

Dissemination and awareness

Our aim within MOBi IO2 was to deliver the responses from the assessment of MOBi partner (ex) offenders in such a way that these could be understood quickly and easily by someone with no prior background in criminal justice. We aimed to make our results visually engaging and in formats which could easily be picked up and spread on blog posts and social media.

2.2. Data collection methodology

Through our literature review, we note that our methodology, the tools and questions we used, researcher/respondent bias and our limited reach and resources all result in limitations to the conclusions we are able to draw from the IO2 responses.

Scope and sample

In prison we were only able to commit to a limited number (100) of respondents from the jurisdictions (or indeed precise prisons) where MOBi had prison administration commitment. The sample can only be considered to be indicative of this sample – not significant enough to be representative of those prison administrations or EUMS as a whole - so the following preface was agreed by MOBi partners to be inserted with any use of the data (regardless of whether articles or visualizations):

We collected 100 questionnaire responses from each MOBi partner, filled out in Bremen and Vechta Prisons in Germany, Baia Mare Prison in Romania, Linhó, Lisboa, Sintra and Carregueira Prisons in Portugal and Milan Prison in Italy. As such the data is not a representative sample but a snapshot used to anchor MOBi project outcomes.

Reintegration themes

The IO2 survey was designed to capture the fears and preconceptions of prisoners in relation to their reintegration, and specifically society's response to their return. MOBi partners considered it just as important to try to ascertain reactions to certain common but slightly abstract preconceptions (e.g. 'people on the outside think all criminals are the same') as to preconceived ideas about specific situations which we know could adversely affect their reintegration (e.g. 'employers won't give a job to people who have been in prison'). We therefore used the grouping of six key areas crucial for successful reintegration and grouped around 10 Likert scale questions under one general opener, and by theme. For example, asking about service users' perception of the criminal justice system, we opened with 'In general I feel I have had good support from...' and continued to list each group along the criminal justice pathway – 'Prison Staff', 'Police' or 'Religious Support Staff' for example - under a separate Likert Scale.

'Grounding' each question in prevalent research

MOBi partners found such a depth of constructive analysis of methodologies and approaches of other researchers that we favoured anchoring each of our questions in previous research, in an effort to show that what we asked in IO2 is relevant to this field of research. The list of questions and corresponding 'anchor' in our literature review can be viewed as Annex 2 of this report.

Restricted questions

Certain aspects of perceived stigma we knew to be relevant from the literature were, however, not possible for us to explore. For example, MOBi's research and collective experience tells us that ethnicity has a strong bearing on how you are treated in the criminal justice system, as a prisoner. However, it is not legally possible to ask for this data in the French prison system, and since we wanted our results to be comparable we refrained from asking this at all. Likewise, the religious status of prisoners in Germany. Both religion and ethnicity were, however, explored in a more indirect way by respondents in the case studies.

Bias and anonymity

From our research, we were aware that whilst it is impossible to avoid bias in developing, posing and analysing surveys, it is possible to mitigate the effect. Fortunately, MOBi partners come from a wide range of voluntary, statutory and human rights institutions so were able to bring the wide range of practical perspectives to bear which are recommended by researchers. We devised the survey so that it could be completed anonymously, and although the first section collected individual data, it would not be possible to use this as an identifier within this group. Each respondent had a verbal clarification that none of their data could or would be used to identify them as individuals. Nevertheless, where respondents in certain prisons were familiar with the person who gave them the questionnaire, we saw evidence that they tailored their responses to favourably towards them.

Question type

Likert scale was selected as this is both a common survey tool to garner responsive attitudes, and satisfied our need for the questions to be easy to understand and quick to complete. An additional note must be made here on prisoner's use of no-response: since this did not require breaking down into 'don't know' or 'rather not say' we cannot differentiate between these. This becomes relevant when we look at the reasons why – for example – a very high proportion of Italian and Romanian prisoners did not answer questions on their perception of the police.

Translation of terms into different criminal justice systems

The IO2 assessment tool was developed in English with input from partners in

all partner EUMSs, and proof read by a native English speaker, then translated into partner country languages by native speakers (French, German, Portuguese, Romanian and Italian). We do not consider therefore translation per se to be an issue, rather a particular term might not exist or be differently understood in a different system and/or cultural context. One of the most discussed examples of this in MOBi was the use of the division of working groups into ‘volunteers’ and ‘religious support staff’ which in some country are distinct categories and in others are understood as one and the same. Where we could, we changed or amended the original question wording to accommodate this, but in the example cited, no satisfactory alternative could be found.

Types and number of questions

We used a variety of direct, indirect and open questions, as recommended to deliver a more nuanced analysis of prisoners’ true fears and misconceptions. Whilst we worked hard to stay within our six custodial areas of successful reintegration, numerous sub-questions came under each heading, so that our final version of the questionnaire had 75 individual Likert Scale points, and 3 open questions.

Consent, awareness of use of data and follow up for respondents

Respondents in prison were made verbally and in written format aware of the purposes of MOBi and this survey. We informed them of how we would use and store the data, their rights to refuse to answer and their guaranteed anonymity. Again, IO2 brings us the service user perspective with every attempt at inclusion, so that partners are producing leaflets and presentations for prisoners on their own responses and to compare responses between different European prisons.

Analysing the data

The data has been imported into statistical software SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), where means, outliers and comparatives are easier to capture and analyse. Indeed, with the amount of data we have collected, partners have only scratched the surface of possible ways to present findings to different audiences, so that this will now be an ongoing activity even beyond the life of the MOBi project. Where relevant and possible, we have engaged with university students keen to use real data in their student research, so as to increase our capacity for analysis.

Table 1. IO1 and IO2 Gantt implementation

	YEAR	MONTH	IO1	IO2	IO3	IO4	IO5
1	2017	November	■	■			
2		December	■	■			
3	2018	January	■	■			
4		February	■	■			
5		March	■	■			
6		April	■	■	■		
7		May	■	■	■		
8		June	■	■	■		
9		July			■		
10		August			■		
11		September			■		
12		October			■		
13		November			■		
14		December			■		
15	2019	January				■	
16		February				■	
17		March				■	
18		April				■	
19		May				■	
20		June				■	
21		July				■	
22		August				■	
23		September				■	
24		October				■	■
25		November					■
26		December					■
27	2020	January					■
28		February					■
29		March					
30		April					

2.3. The Survey

The survey was applied in all the countries involved in the project

France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Romania (see Annex 3). The aim was to collect the opinions and perceptions of offender's perceptions on society acceptance regarding reintegration process.

Participants

Large, multi-perspective or meta-analyses of public opinion we looked at benefited from a far better resourced approach than MOBi could commit to. Likewise, many of the prison surveys reviewed had a minimum of 500 responses and often from within prisons of a similar category within a similar geographical spread (e.g. low-security prisons in Scotland).

Length, media and complexity of survey tool

Looking at other methodologies, we found that questionnaires undertaken in prison under little or no supervision (for reasons of bias as well as resources) had to be very succinctly worded using a low level of vocabulary. They should also take no more than 20 minutes to complete, and be supplied on pen and paper due to limited digital access in prison/ restrictions in taking digital tools into prisons.

Question type and analysis

Across public opinion and prisoner perception surveys we reviewed were a spread of limited multiple choice, rated open- and closed- ended questions. We noted that Likert scale questions were frequently used in measuring a respondent's opinion or attitude towards a given subject. Likert Scales we reviewed were typically a five, seven, or nine-point agreement scale used to measure respondents' agreement with a variety of statements, with a null-value (or "no response"). Depending on the number of questions and required results, a range of analysis was applied to resulting data from basic comparative responses to T-Testing and Mann-Whitney evaluations. Researchers noted similar limitations to this method as we will go on to discuss in the next section.



102 Findings

IO2 Findings

3.1. Results of quantitative assessment tool

MOBi collected 100 questionnaire responses from four partners, filled out in Bremen and Vechta Prisons in Germany, Baia Mare Prison in Romania, Linhó, Lisboa, Sintra and Carregueira Prisons in Portugal, and Milan Prison in Italy. As such the data is not a representative sample but a snapshot used to anchor MOBi project outcomes. This summary of preliminary findings is the data as we have collected it.

These findings are detailed in full in Annex 4 of this report. Each of the 150 questions are visualized separately in SPSS as data by respondent country, and aggregated responses:

Question 2: Whilst I was being sentenced and while in prison, I felt I had good support from...

Prison Staff

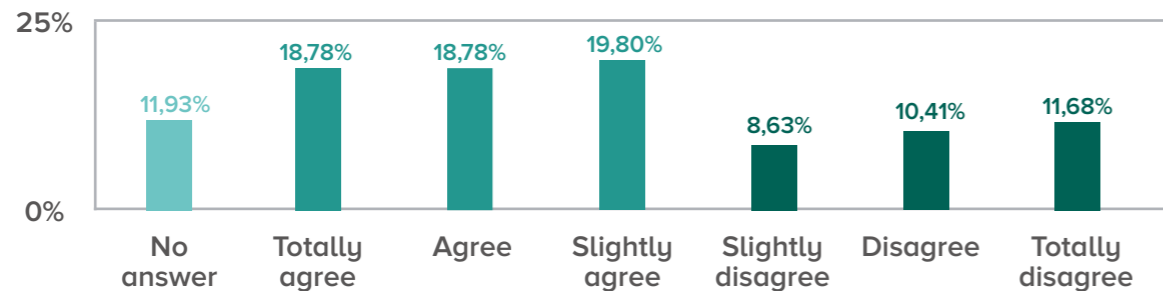


Figure 1. SPSS Aggregated responses to MOBi IO2 Assessment tool, question (2), from prisoners in Germany, Italy, Portugal and Romania

Prison Staff

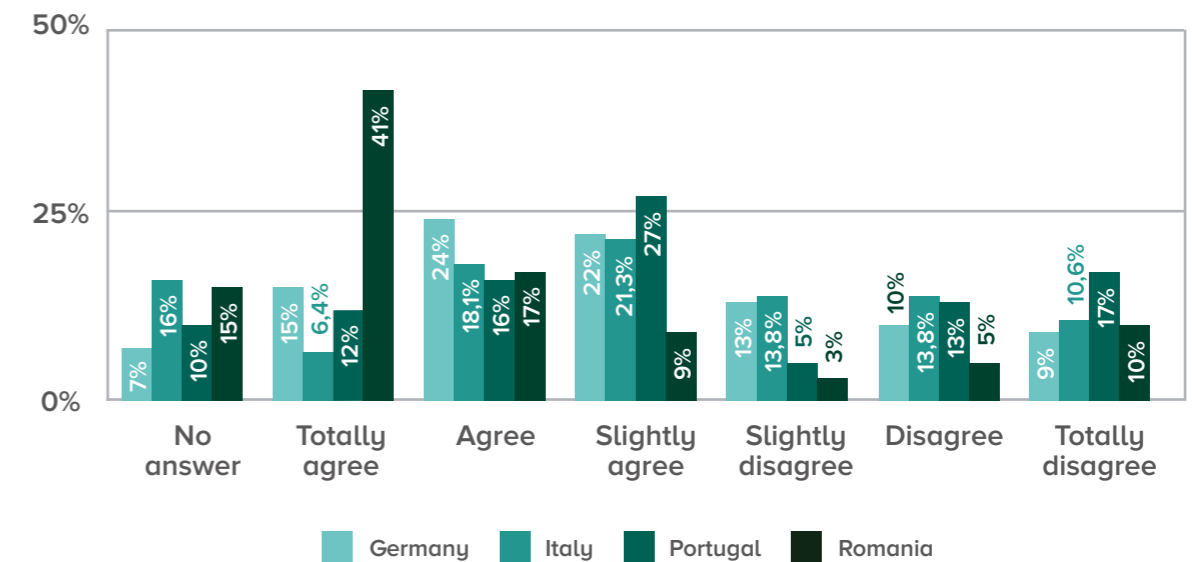
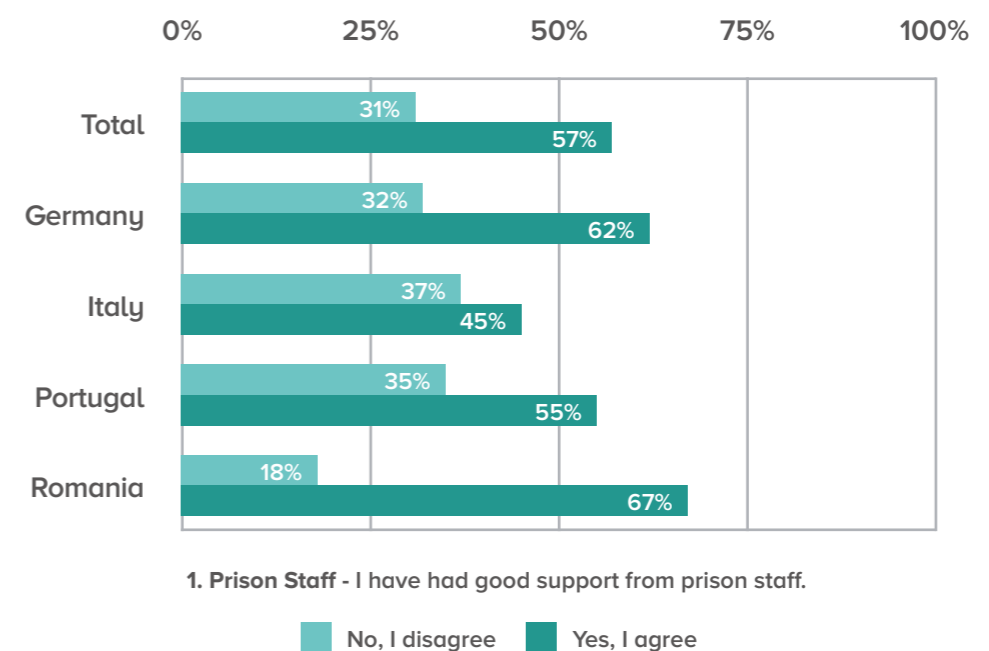


Figure 2. The same responses to the same question in SPSS, but disaggregated by country

Do prisoners perceive people around them as supportive?



1. Prison Staff - I have had good support from prison staff.

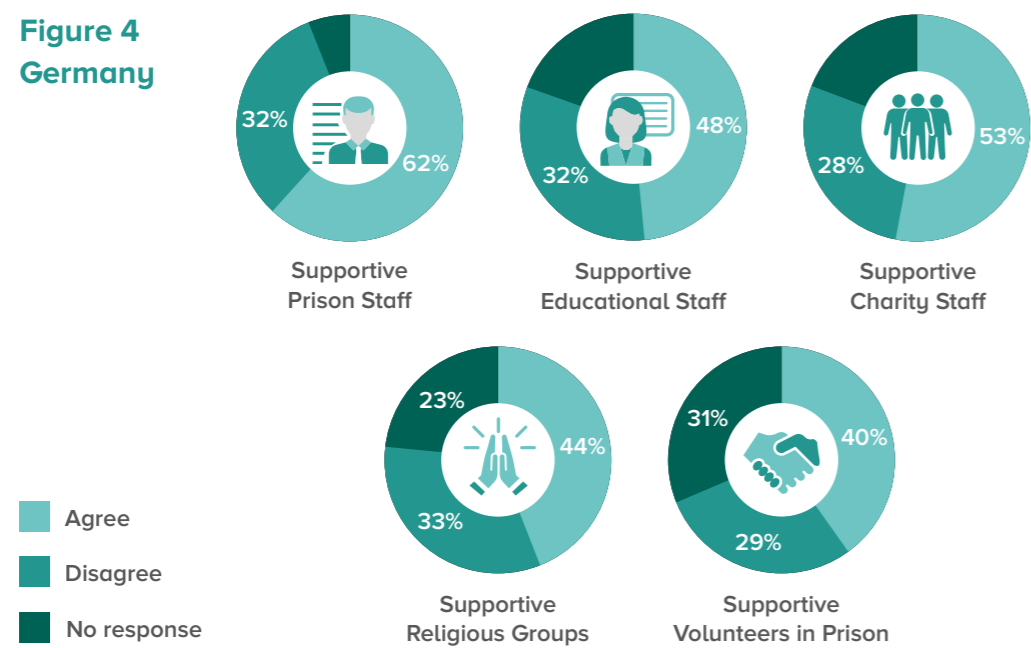
Figure 3. Using this same set of responses as an example, here a sample visualization, aggregated by country

Question 2: Whilst I was being sentenced and while in prison, I felt I had good support from...

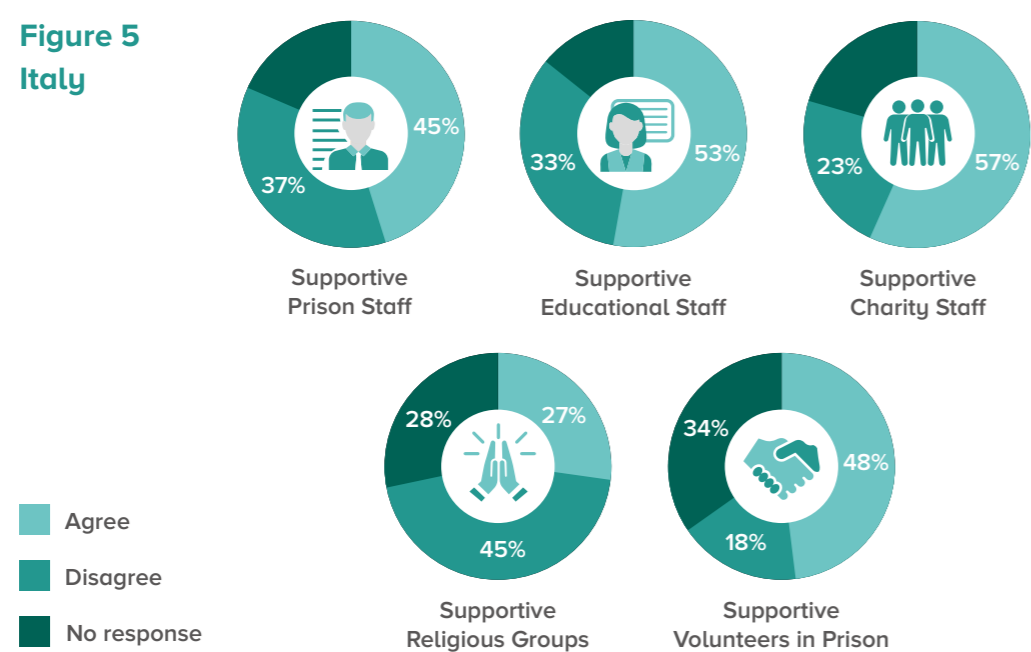
Focus on Prisoner Perceptions on a Country-by-Country Basis

Four responses to the same question, disaggregated by country

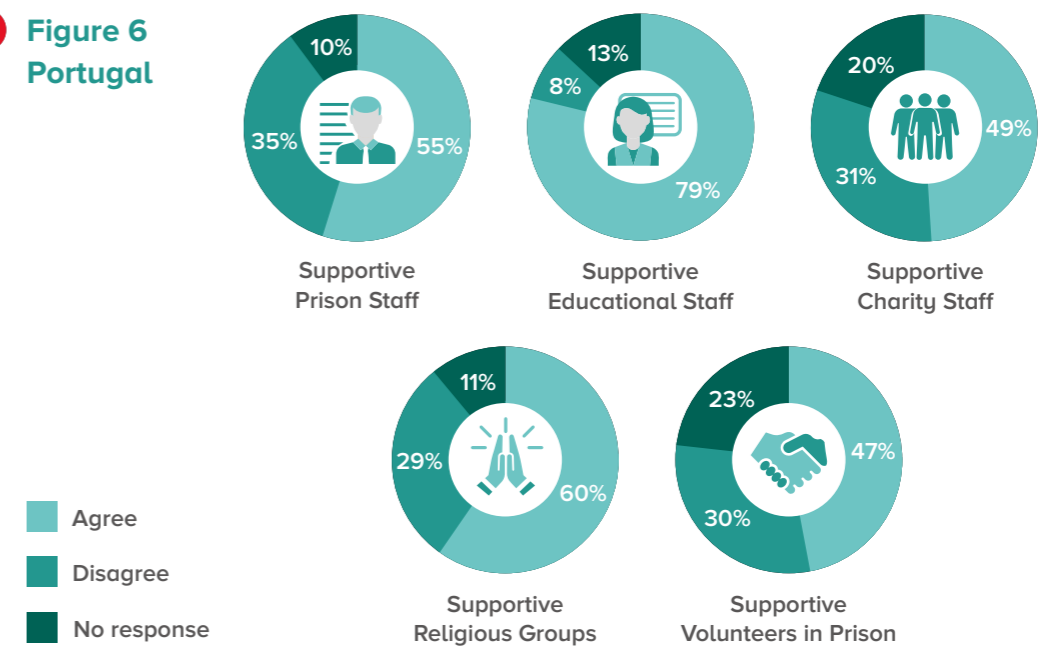
**Figure 4
Germany**



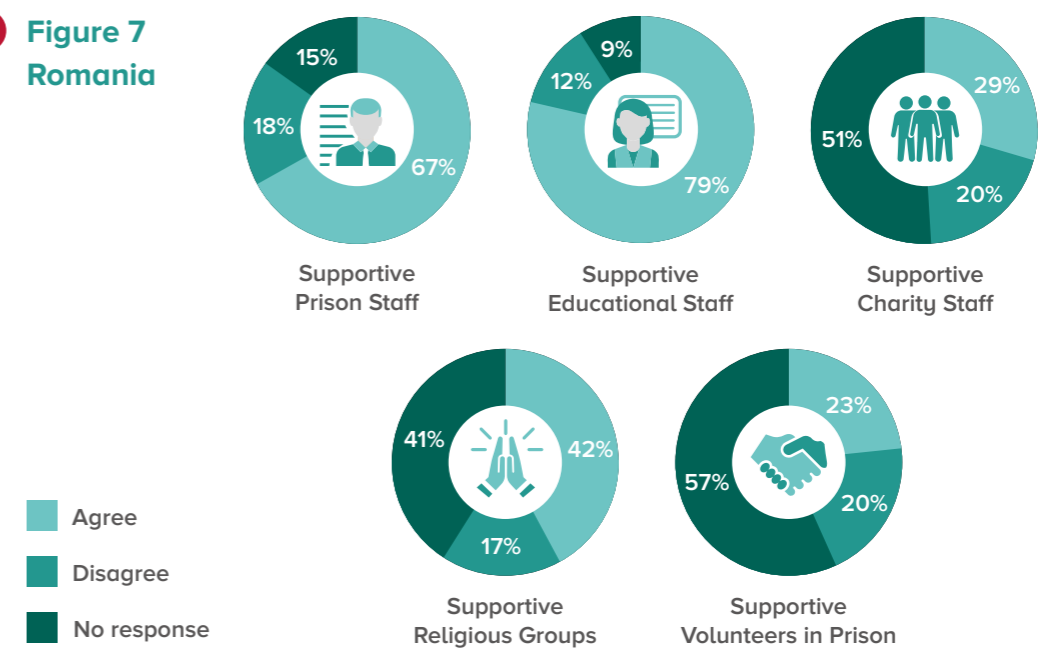
**Figure 5
Italy**



**Figure 6
Portugal**



**Figure 7
Romania**



Prison is not only supposed to punish offenders but should also be a place where they can learn how to reintegrate into society. Therefore, one of our questions was to assess how offenders perceive support during their prison sentence. The disaggregated data in the figures above allows us to differentiate between the countries:

1. Prison staff: Most prisoners felt they had good support from the prison staff. The aggregated responses show that across the countries 57% of offenders perceive prison staff as supportive. Disaggregating the answers by country shows that especially in Romania offenders agreed that prison staff is supportive. Of the 67% that agreed 41% “totally agreed”. In Germany more than 60% agreed as well. Other than in Romania most of the responses ranged between “agree” and “slightly agree” and almost a third of the German offenders disagreed. Of the 55% Portuguese offenders that agreed most offenders (27%) only “slightly agreed”. One third of the Portuguese offenders did not perceive the prison staff as supportive. In Italy less than half the respondents perceived prison staff as supportive during their sentence and almost 40% disagreed.

2. Educational staff: Also, the support of educational staff is perceived differently across the countries. In Romania as well as in Portugal almost 80% of the respondents perceived educational staff as supportive. In Italy and Germany only about half of the respondents agreed they perceive educational staff as supportive. Almost a third of the respondents in Italy and Germany disagreed. Feedback from the interviewers suggest that limited access to education in some prisons can influence the answers. Offenders in a prison with good access to educational programmes would therefore be more likely to perceive educational staff as supportive than those who have only limited or no access to education in prison.

3. Charity staff: If we disaggregate the perception of support from charity staff the responses of Romanian offenders differ a lot from the other countries. More than half of the respondents did not answer the question. We found out that there are very little charity organisations in prisons in Romania and if there are, it's mostly religious groups.

4. Religious groups: Regarding support of religious groups results differ a lot within the countries: In Portugal 60% of the respondents feel supported by religious groups. Of the participating countries Germany has the highest rate of people without denomination. Still 44% of German respondents feel well supported by religious groups. In Romania 42% agreed but also 41% didn't respond. In Italy with 45% most respondents did not feel supported by religious groups.

5. Volunteers: The responses to the question about support from volunteers

reflects the lack of volunteers in prison. For all four countries, but especially for Romania, the high number of nonresponses is most likely a result of lack of experience with volunteers. Also, it is not visible for an offender whether a person helps them voluntarily or belongs to paid charity staff. Still in Italy and Portugal almost half of the respondents agreed to feel supported by volunteers during their sentence and in Germany 40% perceived volunteers as supportive. One of the main aims of the MOBi-Project is to encourage more volunteers to help prisoners. Volunteers can be very important as an informal source of support and as link to the civil society.

It is also useful here to visualize one of the limitations we found to the methodology we used, as we see the consequences of not differentiating in our Likert Scale between ‘don't know’ or ‘rather not say’. In the following Figure 8 (aggregated responses) and Figure 9 (disaggregated by country), we see a reluctance to comment on support offered by police during sentencing and in prison, but cannot conclusively state potential reasons, such as lack of contact with the police, or reluctance to make a judgement for fear of retribution.

Whilst I was being sentenced and while in prison, I felt I had good support from...

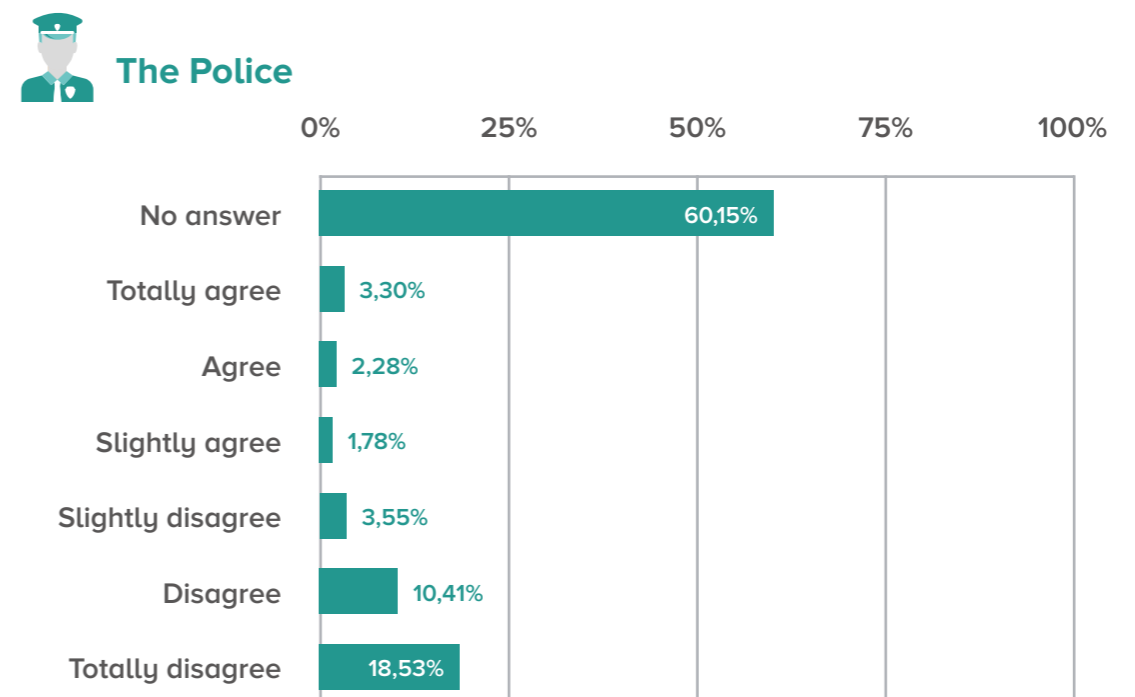


Figure 8. Illustrating the impact of not giving respondents the opportunity to differentiate between ‘don't know’ and ‘rather not say’

 **The Police**

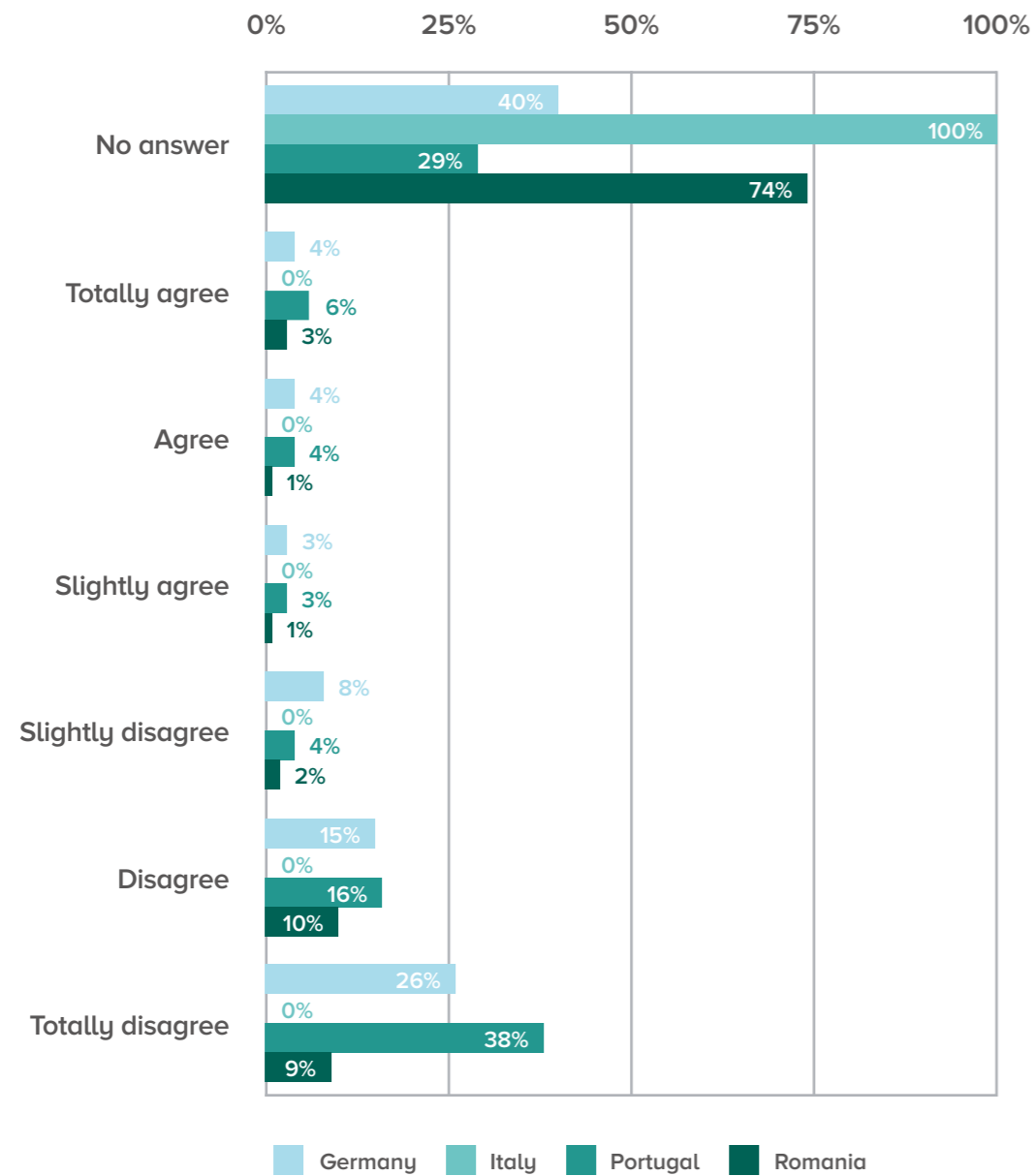


Figure 9. Illustrating the impact of not giving respondents the opportunity to differentiate between ‘don’t know’ and ‘rather not say’

3.2. Responses from french prisoners via Genepi

Unfortunately, due to extensive changes in Genepi’s relationship with the French prison administration, they were unable to gain the access required to 100 prisoners who could complete the IO2 questionnaire.

3.3. ‘Mirrored’ responses from IO1 and IO2

As stated, MOBi partners are keen to compare responses from the public and from prisoners to the same question. These mirrored responses state quite concretely that the people MOBi surveyed held sometimes conflicting interpretations of each other’s views which could contribute to the effectiveness of reintegration. Here we show one example of the nine comparable/‘mirror’ questions:

Comparable or ‘mirrored’ responses to the same question, from members of the general public in France, Romania, Portugal, Germany and Italy (Figures 10) and from prisoners in identified prisons in Romania, Portugal, Germany and Italy (Figures 11).



All criminals are the same

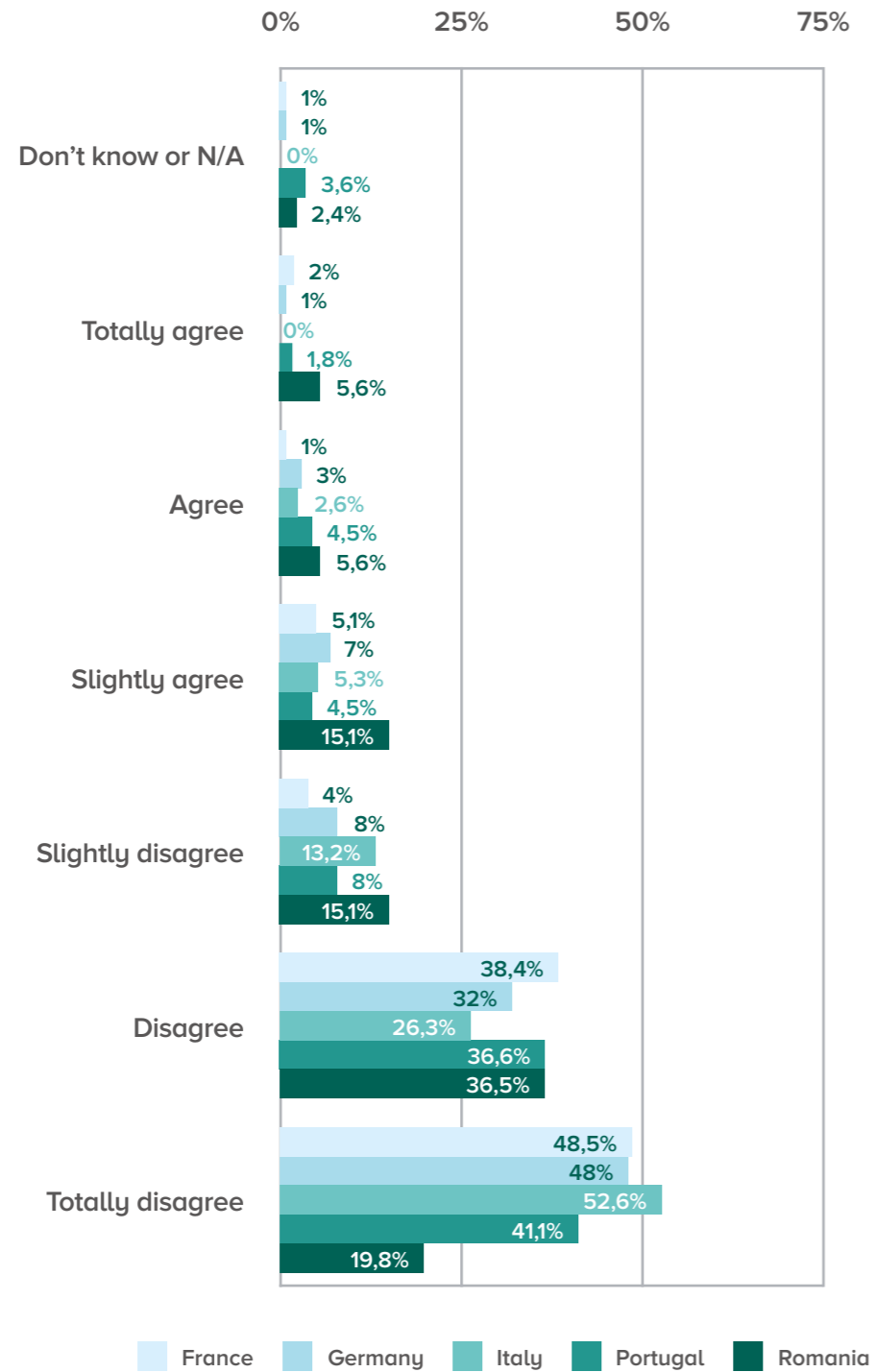


Figure 10. Comparable or 'mirrored' responses to the same question, from members of the general public in France, Romania, Portugal, Germany and Italy

People on the outside think all criminals are the same

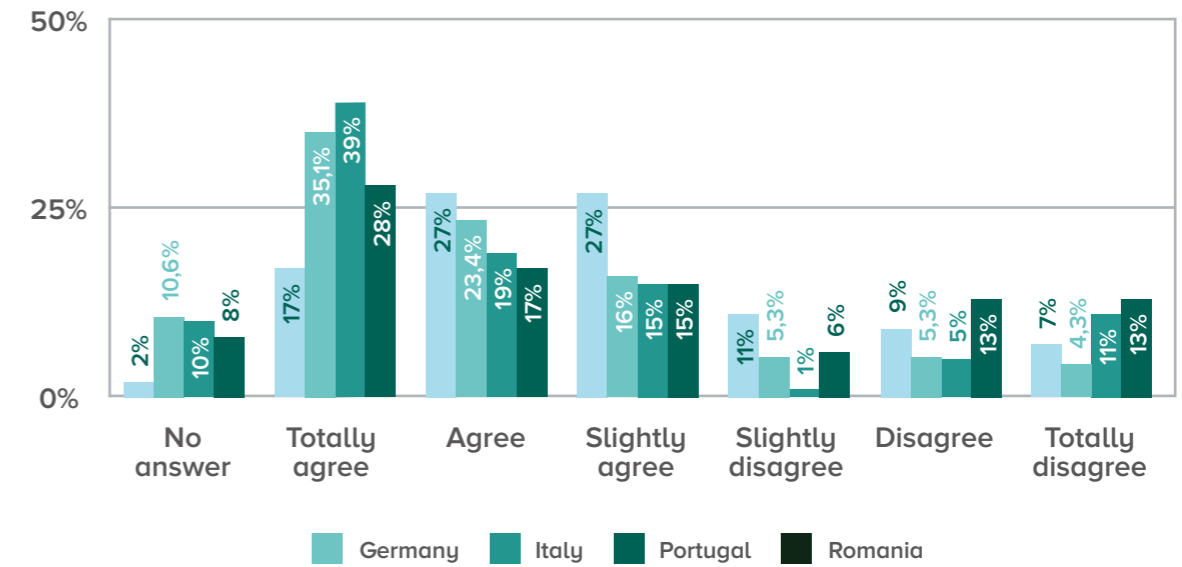


Figure 11. Comparable or 'mirrored' responses to the same question, from prisoners in identified prisons in Romania, Portugal, Germany and Italy

While offenders across the countries mostly agreed that people on the outside consider all criminals as the same, the answers collected in the society showed a different picture. People rather tended to strongly disagree with the phrase: "All criminals are the same". The mirrored responses help us on the one hand to understand about the worries and anticipated stigma of offenders. On the other hand, we can compare them to the answers of society and see they not always match society attitudes towards (ex-)offenders.



IV

Case Study Responses

Case study responses

IO2 also undertook a short case study, with interview style questions also based on our research but which required response which could not be adapted into Likert Scale format. These questions were developed during partnership meetings and via the Teamwork platform, again anchored in our six identified custodial pathways which impact upon reintegration.

With only two responses per country (in fact, France undertook to deliver 8 responses), we acknowledged that there would be no statistical relevance to the case study responses. However, the statements given by offenders in these case study are effective and authentic quotes which support findings in the quantitative assessment. These both contextualize an individual's fears and perceptions, and have a more emotive impact on the reader.

MOBi undertook to publish these quotes in two separate publications, disaggregated by country and by thematic custodial pathway. The former of these is available in Annex 6 of this report.

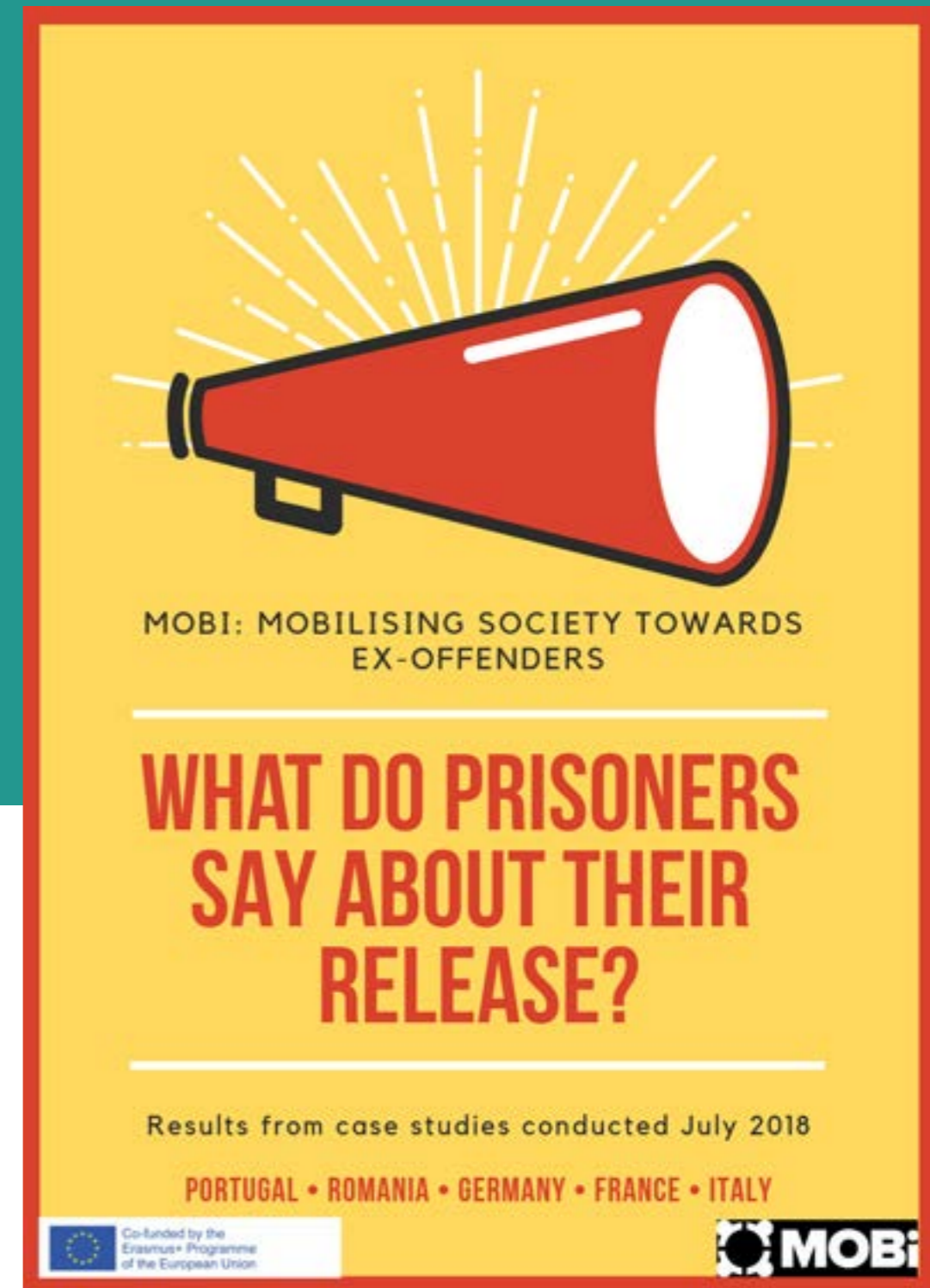


Figure 12. Sample cover of one MOBi booklet showing quotes from IO2 case studies disaggregated by country



V

Discussion

Discussion

How prisoners perceive support within prison and on release

In 2018, Erasmus+ project Mobilizing Society Towards (x) Offenders (MOBi) surveyed both prisoners and members of the public across European member states to gain insight into how stigma of being an (ex)offender is perceived and experienced. We want to know how the preconceptions within both camps impacts upon key areas of reintegration, so that we can produce effective training for civil society organisations working to reduce reoffending and support victims of crime.

In a survey developed by prison and probation practitioners, MOBi asked adult male prisoners how they perceive stigma from different people and in specific situations, with reference to critical points impacting on repeat offending. MOBi collected 100 questionnaire responses from each MOBi partner, filled out in Bremen and Vechta Prisons in Germany; Baia Mare Prison in Romania; Linhó, Lisboa, Sintra and Carregueira Prisons in Portugal, and Milan Prison in Italy. As such the data is not a representative sample, but this snapshot used to anchor MOBi training outcomes could also be of some interest to probation workers in these countries.

How Europe's probation officers help break down barriers to social and vocational inclusion

MOBi asked prisoners whether they had kept contact with different groups of people on the outside who are known to be instrumental in their effective reintegration. An aggregated 25% of respondents across all four member state prisons agreed they had been able to keep contact with probation services during their time in prison, skewed significantly by Romanian (74%) and Italian (53%) respondents who did not respond to this question, which partners suggest is because their probation services comparatively younger and/or less resourced. Contact with probation officers reports as comparatively lower than with other groups, such as with family (92% agreed), friends (64%), local religious groups (29%), but greater than contact with police (7%). This brings up interesting questions around contact with police, particularly as this question had an aggregated 60% of respondents who chose not to answer the question, which constituted 100% of Italian and


74% of Romanian respondents. However, MOBi also found existing practice in Romania where police do come regularly into Baia Mare prison with a positive profile or integrate with probation services. This practice has had a positive effect on rehabilitation and has helped police officers to understand the experience in prison. Consequently, our training recommendations to civil society organizations will include practical, tried and tested models to involve the police at different stages of an individual's pathway.

MOBi wanted to find out specific situations in which former prisoners anticipate experiencing stigma once they leave prison, so that we can train volunteers who support probation and prison to recognise and respond at critical points. Respondents said they expect to be looked down on most by the police (a total of 56% agreed), when they go for job interviews (53%), and when they want to rent an apartment (44%). At the other end of the scale, this sort of depreciation was not expected, however, from their probation officers (a total of 23% agreed) nor from their place of worship (15%). Again, part of our research is to find practice which counters these findings, and we heard how some religious support groups accompany ex-offenders to job interviews, or when they have to go the police station, as a positive influence.

There is more to say on MOBi's research, potentially relevant to a wide range of sectors. However, one final area seems important in this short summary directed at probation practitioners: We asked prisoners to prioritize their worries about their release. 48% of total respondents agreed that being recognised as an ex-offender was one of their key concerns on release, with 43% agreeing that finding a job was very worrying, and 34% concerned generally about being able to keep up with paperwork. In comparison, problems with drugs and alcohol and finding accommodation – which we know are key issues in reoffending - were each flagged as worrying for less than 20% of the respondents. Alongside these known worries, we think it is interesting to also say who respondents from MOBi partner countries will look to for support them once they walk out the prison gates. The majority across all countries agree that family and friends will be their mainstay of support. However, it is clear that in Portugal (60%) and Germany (53%), respondents are more inclined to agree that their probation officer will be there to support them. Fewer respondents in Romania (26%) and Italy (18%) agreed that support would come from probation, again with a high number of respondents in these countries who did not answer this question.

How Europe's prison staff help break down barriers to social and vocational inclusion


Prison is not only supposed to punish offenders but should also be a place where they can learn how to reintegrate into society. We wanted to gauge how offenders perceive support during their prison sentence. The disaggregated data allows us to differentiate between the countries.

..... 

“Any activity in prison is important. Even if it's short, there's the exchange of a few smiles, some small-talk between prisoners and guards... This is how you stay a person, stop being just a number.”

..... (Case study quote)

Within our survey most respondents felt they had good support from the prison staff. The aggregated responses show that across the countries 57% of offenders perceive prison staff as supportive. Disaggregating the answers by country shows that especially in Romania offenders agreed that prison staff is supportive (67%). During the MOBi-project we learned that in Romania establishing a good relationship between inmates and prison-staff is seen as an important base to prepare prisoners for their return to society and could be one explanation for the positive results. In Germany more than 60% agreed as well, also 55% Portuguese offenders agreed. In Italy 46% perceived prison staff as supportive during their sentence but also almost 40% did not.

..... 

“I think that education and vocational training help prisoners a lot.”

..... (Case study quote)


Training and education provide prisoners with an opportunity to improve their skills and prepare for release. So, we asked how support by educational staff in prison is perceived. In Romania as well as in Portugal almost 80% of the respondents perceived educational staff as supportive. In Italy (53%) and Germany (48%) about half of the respondents agreed they perceive educational staff as supportive. Almost a third of the respondents in Italy (33%) and Germany (32%) disagreed. Feedback from the interviewers suggest that limited access to education in some prisons can influence the answers. Offenders in a prison with good access to education would therefore be more likely to perceive educational staff as supportive than those who have only limited or no access to education in prison. Nevertheless, the results from Portugal and Romania suggest that educational staff can be a valuable source of support for inmates.

How Europe's community and third sector organisations help break down barriers to social and vocational inclusion

Safer communities are the key beneficiaries of prison and probation work, and in many countries, this pathway through criminal justice is supported by community and third sector organisations. Therefore, we also asked about more informal sources that offer support in prison such as staff from charity organisations. In Italy (57%), Germany (53%) and Portugal (49%) many of the respondents do perceive them as supportive. The responses of Romanian offenders differ a lot from the other countries. More than half of the respondents did not answer the question.

We found out that there are very little charity organisations in prisons in Romania and if there are, it's mostly religious groups.


Religious groups are another informal source of support. In Portugal 60% of the respondents feel supported by religious groups. Of the participating countries Germany has the highest rate of people without denomination. Still many of the respondents from Germany feel well supported by religious groups (44%). In Romania 42% agreed but also 41% didn't respond. In Italy a high number of respondents (45%) did not feel supported by religious groups. When it comes to getting a second chance many rely on their religion:

..... 

“I’m a Christian and the church has no prejudice. We’re all just people, everyone has made mistakes.”

..... (Case study quote)

For all four countries, but especially for Romania, the high number of people not answering the question regarding support of volunteers is most likely a result of lack of contact with third sector organisations. This view is supported by the open answer responses. In addition, whilst filling out the questionnaires, respondents told us that it is often not obvious to an offender whether a person helps them voluntarily or belongs to paid charity staff. Still, in Italy and Portugal almost half of the respondents agreed to feel supported by volunteers during their sentence and in Germany 40% perceived volunteers as supportive. One of the main aims of the MOBi-Project is to encourage more volunteers to help prisoners. Volunteers are and can be very important as an informal source of support and as link to the civil society. They also bring in a welcome ‘outsiders’ perspective’ to everyday prison regime practice.

..... 

“I don’t think I’d get anywhere if I expected anything [from a volunteer]. Just someone to talk to.”

..... (Case study quote)

Where this analysis leads MOBi

The findings reveal how support during the prison sentence comes from different sources depending on the country. Whereas in some countries, prisoners feel more supported by prison staff others rely more on informal sources of support. This summary of the findings is just one small part of the MOBi-survey, that also assessed needs and anticipated stigma. MOBi-partners can use the results from the survey to learn from each other’s practices and consider them in the training course, which is under development. Once the training course is finished we hope it will be a useful tool to raise awareness of the specific circumstances under which offenders have to reintegrate into society, but perhaps more importantly, a bank of practical tips to counter or improve cross sectoral work. If you would like to contribute to our good practice examples, or just want to know more about the training course we’re developing, stay in touch via mobi-initiative.org



VI

Conclusions

Conclusions

Reporting the data (and its limitations) in an engaging but accurate way: Taking account of the concerns and limitations we have discussed, the data we have collected can still be of some interest in providing a snapshot of qualitative data on prisoners' fears and perceptions of stigma during the reintegration process in these prisons and under these circumstances. Our stated aims are to use this data to support the training course which MOBi will develop to deepen the public's understanding of and engagement in successful reintegration. However, probation and prison partners within MOBi have already expressed an interest in receiving data for use in internal staff training, and snapshot data is being generated in memes and infographics to share and raise awareness on social media. Generating visibly accessible data means our results speak to a much wider audience and will be easily tailored to say something meaningful to policy makers, to NGO volunteers, to prison governors or to employers.

Further exploitation of data Analysis has begun and will be ongoing throughout the course of the project and beyond. Within MOBi, partners will use these findings as a basis for training courses and mapping. Each partner will also take a responsive approach to producing analyses for their own audiences, such as the regional prison administration in North Germany who has requested a presentation of specifically areas which . Data will be available online in open source format on the MOBi project website <http://mobi-initiative.org/> for anyone to use.

MOBi will keep track of the exploitation of data in our Dissemination Report, which will be delivered as one of project outputs.

Using responses as a basis for future projects Analysing findings, IO2 gives us a hugely important perspective from which to reconsider interventions which respond to the complex issues of former prisoner social and vocational inclusion.

References

Dirkzwager, J.E.; Nieuwbeerta, P.; Laan, P.H. van der (2015), The Prison project: A longitudinal study on the effects of imprisonment in the Netherlands. Europris Newsletter November 2015.

Gelb, K. (July 2006). Myths and Misconceptions: Public Opinion versus Public Judgement about Sentencing, Sentencing Advisory Council Melbourne Victoria, Australia.

Joe Graffam, Alison Shinkfield, Barbara Lavelle & Wenda McPherson (2004). Variables Affecting Successful Reintegration as Perceived by Offenders and Professionals, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 40:1-2, 147-171.

Minke, L. K., Schinkel, M., Beijersbergen, K., Damboeanu, K., Dirga, L., Dirkzwager, A., Jewkes, Y., Knight, V., Moran, D., Palmen, H., Pricopie, V., Tartarini, F., Tomczak, P., Turner, J., Vanhouche, A. S., Wahidin, A. (2016). Multiple perspectives on imprisonment in Europe. *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Kriminalvidenskab (Nordic Journal of Criminology)*.

Rade, C.B. Desmarais, S.L. and Mitchell, R.E. (2016). A Meta-Analysis of Public Attitudes Toward Ex-Offenders. *Criminal Justice and Behaviour*, 43 (9), 1260-1280.

Annexes

Annex 1. MOBi IO1 and IO2 joint literature review

	REFERENCE 1	REFERENCE 2
Partner (who have found the source)	Aproximar	Aproximar
Language of Publication (example: FR; EN; RO)	ENG	ENG
Date of Publication (YYYY)	2016	2016
Title	Multiple perspectives on imprisonment in Europe	A Meta-Analysis of Public Attitudes Toward Ex-Offenders
Type of Publication (projects, articles, publications, case series, reports, studies, ...)	PUBLICATION	ARTICLE
Topics Addressed (List of Main Concepts)	- Multifaceted perspective on current and past imprisonment in Europe. - European overview about prison population. - Some European countries conditions: e.g. Romania.	- Prejudice, Stigma, and Social Distance concepts introduction. - inclusion criteria in a study related with public attitudes toward ex-offenders.
Main Conclusions (Abstract - 1 paragraph if possible)	It can be a helpful document to prepare like an introduction module for the training / workshops.	Results revealed small associations between correlate variables and attitudes, suggesting that people are more similar than different in their attitudes toward ex-offenders. Indeed, only political ideology, interpersonal contact, and sexual offense history emerged as significant correlates. (can be helpful to analyse the data...)
Level of Scope (EU; Transnational; National)	Transnational Level	USA
Webgraphy or Bibliography Reference	Minke, L. K., Schinkel, M., Beijersbergen, K., Damboeanu, K., Dirga, L., Dirkzwager, A., Jewkes, Y., Knight, V., Moran, D., Palmen, H., Pricopie, V., Tartarini, F., Tomczak, P., Turner, J., Vanhouche, A. S., Wahidin, A. (2016). Multiple perspectives on imprisonment in Europe.	

	REFERENCE 3	REFERENCE 4
Partner (who have found the source)	Aproximar	Aproximar
Language of Publication (example: FR; EN; RO)	ENG	ENG
Date of Publication (YYYY)	2013	2003
Title	Are the misinformed more punitive? Beliefs and misconceptions in forensic psychology	What do the Scottish public think about sentencing and punishment?
Type of Publication (projects, articles, publications, case series, reports, studies, ...)	ARTICLE	Article
Topics Addressed (List of Main Concepts)	Sentencing and tough-on crime beliefs (see p.691); some ideas for the questions (p.697).	We can find questions about: - Level of interest vs knowledge about crime and justice. - Knowledge and views of the Criminal Justice. - System knowledge of Sentencing Decisions. - Attitudes towards sentencing - Punishment.
Main Conclusions (Abstract - 1 paragraph if possible)	This present article seeks to understand the prevalence of misconceptions related to forensic psychology, how they translate into (legal) decision making, and how amenable they are to change after exposure to empirical information (a forensic psychology course).	The article answer to these questions: is the Scottish public as punitive as politicians seem to think? Is there any evidence of support for a more rational and less punitive approach to penal policy? How much do the Scottish public know about crime and punishment and how accurate is their knowledge? There are also some questions that can be adapted to the MOBi questionnaire (p.41 and ss).
Level of Scope (EU; Transnational; National)	Canada	Scotland
Webgraphy or Bibliography Reference	Julia Shaw & Michael Woodworth (2013) Are the misinformed more punitive? Beliefs and misconceptions in forensic psychology. Psychology, Crime & Law, 19:8. 687-706.	

	REFERENCE 5	REFERENCE 6
Partner (who have found the source)	Aproximar	DE (BMJ/Hoppenbank)
Language of Publication (example: FR; EN; RO)	ENG	ENG
Date of Publication (YYYY)	2008	1985
Title	Variables Affecting Successful Reintegration as Perceived by Offenders and Professionals	A scale to measure attitudes toward prisoners
Type of Publication (projects, articles, publications, case series, reports, studies, ...)	Article	Article
Topics Addressed (List of Main Concepts)	Barriers to community reintegration for ex-offenders including personal conditions of the ex-offender, social network and social environment.	Since it has been found that the attitudes towards (ex)offenders by those who are involved in their reintegration process play an important role, the article is testing a scale to measure attitudes towards prisoners.
Main Conclusions (Abstract - 1 paragraph if possible)	An analysis of relevant literature was conducted by the authors and six categories or domains were identified into which fit virtually all of the issues raised by researchers as relevant to offender rehabilitation. An interview discussion sheet was developed based on those six domains. The discussion sheet comprised an initial description of the six domains followed by a section that listed the domains.	A 36-item Likert scale to assess attitudes towards prisoners is developed and tested. The scale has also been used in the norwegian study (2007) and could be useful for the questions regarding societies perceptions (p.251f).
Level of Scope (EU; Transnational; National)	USA	USA
Webgraphy or Bibliography Reference	http://dx.doi.org/10.1300/J076v40n01_08	Kenneth B. Melvin, Lorraine K. Gramling, William M. Gardner 1985: A scale to measure attitudes toward prisoners. in Criminal Justice and Behavior, Vol. 12 No. 2

	REFERENCE 7	REFERENCE 8
Partner (who have found the source)	DE (BMJ/Hoppenbank)	DE (BMJ/Hoppenbank)
Language of Publication (example: FR; EN; RO)	ENG	ENG
Date of Publication (YYYY)	2007	2007
Title	Attitudes towards prisoners, as reported by prison inmates, prison employees and college students	Community Sentencing: Public Perceptions & Attitudes Summary Research Report
Type of Publication (projects, articles, publications, case series, reports, studies, ...)	Article	Scottish executive social research
Topics Addressed (List of Main Concepts)	Positive attitudes towards prisoners are important in securing the effectiveness of various correctional rehabilitation programs and the successful reintegration of prisoners after release. We wanted to investigate the attitudes towards prisoners among prison inmates, prison employees and college students.	Broadly, the research sought to provide insight into public understanding and perceptions of, and attitudes towards, community sentencing. More specifically, the following objectives were also highlighted: - Understand perceived effectiveness of community sentencing vs. prison. - Explore attitudes towards rehabilitation vs. punishment in sentencing. - Identify aspects of community sentencing which might help to persuade the public of its value / effectiveness - Provide guidance for future communications strategies, aimed at promoting a more informed public debate on the subject.
Main Conclusions (Abstract - 1 paragraph if possible)	The attitudes towards prisoners differed markedly among the groups investigated. The findings could have important implications, particularly for the preventive work carried out in our prisons. Whether attitudes toward prisoners can be influenced by educational programs and the dispersion of factual information needs to be investigated.	The current lack of awareness and understanding of the scope of community sentencing should be addressed. Firstly, the current dearth of information means it is not operating effectively as a deterrent to crime; secondly, a lack of tangible evidence of the benefits of community sentencing results in, at best, indifference and, at worst, cynicism and suspicion that it is not sufficiently punitive. The key issue is one of communication: - On a more general level, an educative element is required to inform the public as to what community sentencing is, when and why it is used and what it aims to achieve. This is especially so for the community service element, with which the public identify most. - On a more local level, communities need to be informed that community sentencing is taking place and is yielding the desired results - not just in terms of the long term impact on re-offending and crime, but also the short term community and societal benefits.
Level of Scope (EU; Transnational; National)	Norway, Authors: Ellen Kjelsberg, Tom Hilding Skoglund and Aase-Bente Rustad	Scotland
Webgraphy or Bibliography Reference	http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/7/71	http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2007/11/15102229/0

	REFERENCE 9	REFERENCE 10
Partner (who have found the source)	DE (BMJ/Hoppenbank)	DE (BMJ/Hoppenbank)
Language of Publication (example: FR; EN; RO)	ENG	DE
Date of Publication (YYYY)	2017	2016
Title	Early attempts at distance from crime: Prisoner's prerelease expectations and their postrelease criminal behavior	Freiwilligenarbeit
Type of Publication (projects, articles, publications, case series, reports, studies, ...)	Article	Article
Topics Addressed (List of Main Concepts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The article examines prisoner's expectations regarding future offending before they are released and why these expectations come true or not after release. They were asked about the future outlook on criminal activities, social capital and agency factors and current criminal activities. Interviews were conducted at the end of the sentence and three months after the release. - They use a longitudinal and qualitative approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The article is presenting findings of JIVE (Justice Involving Volunteers in Europe). It provides information about the function of voluntary work in CJS. - Motivation of volunteers. - Recruitment and selection of volunteers. - Qualification and training of volunteers. - Assistance and supervision of volunteers. - Appreciation of volunteers.
Main Conclusions (Abstract - 1 paragraph if possible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Findings suggest a strong link between criminal and non-criminal expectations and post-release criminal behavior. Identity, agency, social capital and supervision proved to have an important impact on expectations and post-release behavior. - These findings can be helpful regarding (ex)offenders' expectations and needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a trend towards more training and qualifications of volunteers. - Organizations engaged in the process of reintegration, voluntary or professional, need to network stronger. - Voluntary work is a crucial part of reintegration of offenders. As they represent the society, volunteers play an important role in addition to the professionals working with (ex)offenders. - The article presents a broad picture about the current structure of voluntary work in CJS context and how it could develop in the future.
Level of Scope (EU; Transnational; National)	Netherland	Europe
Webgraphy or Bibliography Reference	http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10509674.2017.1359223	Eduard Matt

	REFERENCE 11	REFERENCE 12
Partner (who have found the source)	DE (BMJ/Hoppenbank)	DE (BMJ/Hoppenbank)
Language of Publication (example: FR; EN; RO)	DE	ENG
Date of Publication (YYYY)	2014	2002
Title	Handbuch Ehrenamtliche Straffällige in Sachsen	Measuring Public Perceptions of Appropriate Prison Sentences, Executive Summary US
Type of Publication (projects, articles, publications, case series, reports, studies, ...)	Federal state working manual	Report
Topics Addressed (List of Main Concepts)	Introducing volunteers - amongst other things - to the attitudes and stereotypes prisoners might have about their release, and their reception in society.	<p>Public input on criminal justice policy regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate sentence for convicted offenders. - Parole decision. - Allocation of government funds towards crime prevention programs. - Public's willingness to pay to reduce crime. - Participants attitudes were asked by giving them different examples of crime scenarios they had to judge.
Main Conclusions (Abstract - 1 paragraph if possible)	Open dialogue and communication is encouraged at every stage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The public largely concurs with current sentencing decisions about incarceration and sentence length. - Exception for certain crimes e.g. drug offenses should be treated less harsh, white collar crimes are not dealt harshly enough. - Strong support for spending more money to reduce crime, this money should be invested in prevention programs, more police on the street and for drug treatment programs for nonviolent offenders rather than more money for prison.
Level of Scope (EU; Transnational; National)	Federal State of Saxony, DE	USA
Webgraphy or Bibliography Reference	http://www.ehrenamtsbibliothek.de/literatur/pdf_1366.pdf	Mark A. Cohen, Roland T. Rust, Sara Stehen http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/199364.pdf

Annex 2. List of questions and corresponding 'anchor' in research

	REFERENCE 13	REFERENCE 14
Partner (who have found the source)	DE (BMJ/Hoppenbank)	DE (BMJ/Hoppenbank)
Language of Publication (example: FR; EN; RO)	ENG	ENG
Date of Publication (YYYY)	2006	1997
Title	Myths and Misconceptions: Public Opinion versus Public Judgment about Sentencing	Public Perceptions of Race and Crime: The Role of Racial Stereotypes*
Type of Publication (projects, articles, publications, case series, reports, studies, ...)	Publication	Article
Topics Addressed (List of Main Concepts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measuring public opinion using media polls, representative studies, focus groups, deliberative polls. - Summaries of knowledge about public opinion internationally, in Australia and in the state of Victoria. - This Publication provides a profound insight regarding public attitudes towards crime and CJS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Influence of racial stereotypes against Afro-Americans on the view of crime and punishment. - Questions for measurement of stereotypes (p.396). - They also considered attitudes toward crime in general using punitiveness index and civil liberties index (397). - Participants had to answer to a set of cases regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Race and Crime. - Prison Furlough. - Rehabilitation. - Carjacking. - Preventive Anticrime Policy (p.397).
Main Conclusions (Abstract - 1 paragraph if possible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the abstract, people tend to think about violent and repeat offenders when reporting that sentencing is too lenient. - People have very little accurate knowledge of crime and the criminal justice system, the mass media is the primary source of information on crime and justice issues. - When people are given more information, their levels of punitiveness drop dramatically. - People with previous experiences of crime victimization are no more punitive than the general community. - The public favors increasing the use of alternatives to imprisonment. They also believe the most effective way to control crime is via programs such as education and parental support, rather than via criminal justice interventions. - Public sentencing preferences are actually very similar to those expressed by the judiciary or actually used by the courts. - The public favors rehabilitation over punishment as the primary purpose of sentencing for young offenders, first-time offenders and property offenders. - Public support for imprisonment declines when the offender makes restorative gestures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a strong link between stereotypes of Afro-Americans and judgement of crime and punishment, if the crime is violent and the policy punitive. Stereotypes do not influence attitudes to nonviolent crimes or preventive policies. - These surveys experiments could also be used for stereotypes in general and may help with the questions of societies perceptions of (ex)offenders (p.397f).
Level of Scope (EU; Transnational; National)	Australia, UK, USA, Canada	USA
Webgraphy or Bibliography Reference	http://www.sentencingcouncil.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication-documents/Myths%20and%20Misconceptions%20Public%20Opinion%20Versus%20Public%20Judgment%20about%20Sentencing.doc	http://www.researchgate.net/publication/271674754_Public_Perceptions_of_Race_and_Crime_The_Role_of_Racial_Stereotypes

	QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2
B+B4:G13Bibliography reference (article and page)	Graffam et al. 2008: Variables affecting successful reintegration perceived by offenders and professionals p. 148f.; 155	Graffam et al. 2008: Variables affecting successful reintegration perceived by offenders and professionals p. 160f.
Dimension	Needs to not reoffend after release	Perceived support by the CJS
Intellectual Output	Intellectual Output 1 Intellectual Output 2	Intellectual Output 2
Question	1) If I were released tomorrow, I feel this is important, to help me not to re-offend... A) My own motivation B) Getting off drugs C) Stop drinking alcohol D) Support of my friends E) Support of my family F) Financial stability G) A stable home H) A steady job I) Other, please tell us what that is	2) Whilst I was being sentenced and while in prison, I felt I had good support from... A) The Police B) My lawyer/ legal representatives C) Prison staff D) Educational staff in prison E) Support staff working for charities F) Support staff from religious groups G) Volunteers, in different roles H) Someone else, please tell us who that is
Type of question	Likert 1 (strongly disagree) - 6 (totally agree) and N/A. If we forgot something important, it is possible to fill in what or who is missing.	Likert 1 (strongly disagree) - 6 (totally agree) and N/A. If we forgot an important group, it is possible to fill in who is missing.
Goal / Scientific Evidence to justify the question	<p>Many people reoffend after release. Literature review shows, that there are certain variables that affect successful reintegration (Graham et al. 2008: 148f.). The question is to show to what extent offenders think these variables are important to not reoffend. Are they more of personal conditions, social support, housing, employment or financial stability. Are all variables equally important or are there some viewed as more important than others?</p> <p>This question is to be mirrored to find out what society thinks is important to (ex-) offenders to not reoffend</p>	<p>Within prison offenders meet several people in different roles. Literature review suggests positive as well as negative experiences (Graham et al. 2008:160f.). This question will collect information from whom and to what extent offenders feel supported whilst being in prison.</p>

	QUESTION 3	QUESTION 4
B+B4:G13ibliography reference (article and page)	Graffam et al. 2008: Variables affecting successful reintegration perceived by offenders and professionals p. 156f.	Graffam et al. 2008: Variables affecting successful reintegration perceived by offenders and professionals S. 149
Dimention	Social connections to people on the outside	Support in reintegration-process
Intellectual Output	Intellectual Output 2	Intellectual Output 2
Question	3) During my time in prison, I have been able to keep contact with these people on the outside... A) My Family B) My Kids C) Probation officers D) Local sports groups E) Religious groups F) Friends and peers G) The police H) Former colleagues I) Someone else, please tell us who that is	4) Once I am released I think the following people are important to help me get back on track... A) My Family B) My Kids C) Local sports groups D) Religious groups E) Friends and peers F) The police G) Former colleagues H) Probation officers I) Employers J) Volunteers in different roles K) Civil society in general L) Other, please tell us what that is
Type of question	Likert 1 (strongly disagree) - 6 (totally agree) and N/A. If we forgot someone important, it is possible to fill in who is missing.	Likert 1 (strongly disagree) - 6 (totally agree) and N/A. If we forgot someone important it is possible to fill in who is missing.
Goal / Scientific Evidence to justify the question	People on the outside play a key role in successful reintegration into society. Literature review suggests, that many offenders loose most of their friendships due to criminal activity. Whether there is contact with family members differs amongst the offenders (Graffam et al. 2008: 156f.). This question is to collect information about to what extend offenders keep contact to people on the outside and if they do, to find out who those people are.	To what extend do offenders think people will be important in their reintegration process. Do they rely more on closer social networks as family and friends or on local groups? How important are employment-related contacts, volunteers and the CJS considered in the reintegration process?

	QUESTION 5	QUESTION 6
B+B4:G13ibliography reference (article and page)	Graffam et al. 2008: Variables affecting successful reintegration perceived by offenders and professionals p. 163f.	Benson et al. 2011: Reintegration or stigmatization? Offenders' expectations of community re-entry p. 388
Dimention	Employment/role of education and training	Perceptions on reintegration and stereotypes in general
Intellectual Output	Intellectual Output 2	Intellectual Output 1 Intellectual Output 2
Question	5) In terms of getting work once I am out of prison, I think that... A) Finding a job is really important to me. B) I will get support from the jobcentre C) I feel more confident because I have had work experience in prison D) I could go back to my old job. E) I have had training in prison, so now I am qualified to work. F) My friends will help me get a job G) I might get support from voluntary mentors or local charity H) Having a criminal record might stop employers giving me a job I) I could only get occasional work, not a steady job. J) Other, please tell us what that is	6) In general, I think that... A) People on the outside think all criminals are the same B) People are afraid of ex-prisoners C) For society, it is not worth giving ex-prisoners an opportunity D) People on the outside think all criminals should be punished with a prison sentence E) Society will never fully accept that former prisoners have paid their debt to society F) Society believes that if an offender is not in prison, he will continue committing crimes G) Because I have been in prison people will look down on me H) Society accepts better those under community service, than those that are in prison I) I feel resentment towards society for putting me in prison J) Once I get out of here, if I straighten up my life, society will give me a second chance K) Society welcomes ex-prisoners. L) People on the outside help ex-prisoners to reintegrate M) Being threatened by a prison sentence deters crime
Type of question	Likert 1 (strongly disagree) - 6 (totally agree) and N/A. If we forgot something important it is possible to fill in what is missing.	Likert 1 (strongly disagree) - 6 (totally agree) and N/A
Goal / Scientific Evidence to justify the question	On the one hand finding a job is viewed as essential to the reintegration-process. On the other hand it is difficult to find a stable job due to the criminal record, lack of experience or qualification (Graffam et al. 2008: 163f.). This question is to find out how offenders feel about finding a job after their release. Do they feel confident because of work-training/-experience in prison or do they think they will be discriminated against because of their criminal past?	This question deals with general expectations regarding discrimination and reintegration. What kind of stereotypes offenders think are linked to prisoners, how punitive do they perceive society and how willing to participate in the reintegration process of (ex-)offenders. The statements are adapted from several studies that deal with societies attitudes towards offenders. This question will be mirrored to find out what stereotypes society has and how they feel about reintegration.

	QUESTION 7	QUESTION 8
B+B4:G13ibliography reference (article and page)	Benson et al. 2011: Reintegration or stigmatization? Offenders' expectations of community re-entry p. 388	Graffam et al. 2008: Variables affecting successful reintegration perceived by offenders and professionals S. 155;158
Dimention	Perceptions regarding discrimination by certain people/groups or in certain situations	Worries regarding accommodation, employment, own behaviour, stigmatisation
Intellectual Output	Intellectual Output 2	Intellectual Output 2
Question	7) I worry that people will look down on me because I have been in prison. I am afraid this will happen... A) With my kids B) With my family C) With my friends D) With other people in my community E) At my local place of worship F) With my probation officer G) When I go to job interviews H) When I am in contact with the local police I) When I want to rent an apartment J) Other, please tell us what that is	8) Once I get out of prison, I worry that I will.. A) Not find anywhere to live B) Falling behind with the rent C) Getting kicked out of my home D) Take things out on the people I care for E) Be recognised as an ex-offender F) Not find a job G) Not be able to keep a job H) Will have problems with general paperwork I) Go back to taking drugs/ drinking heavily J) Get back in with the same friends as before K) Have to go back to crime to get money L) Only being able to afford to live in bad neighbourhoods M) Other, please tell us what that is
Type of question	Likert 1 (strongly disagree) - 6 (totally agree) and N/A. If we forgot someone important it is possible to fill in who is missing.	Likert 1 (strongly disagree) - 6 (totally agree) and N/A. If we forgot something important it is possible to fill in what is missing.
Goal / Scientific Evidence to justify the question	Being stigmatized can be an impediment to successful reintegration. By who do offenders fear do be looked down on and in what situations. Do they generally expect to be looked down on or are there certain people or certain situations they are worried about.	Taking in account the variables affecting successful reintegration, this question provides information about what offenders worry about when they think about their release. Are they generally worried or are they worried about specific variables like own behaviour, employment, accommodation or stigmatisation. Information gathered here can help support offenders better and make them look more positive towards reintegration.

	QUESTION 9	QUESTION 10	QUESTION 11
B+B4:G13ibliography reference (article and page)			
Dimention	Gathering information on how offenders think volunteers can support them on their release	Information about experience with volunteers	Information about what hinders social contacts to people on the outside
Intellectual Output			
Question	9) Sometimes, volunteers help support prisoners on their release. If you had someone supporting you, what would you expect them to be like? And what would they help you with?	10) If you have already had experience with volunteers, please tell us about it.	11) Are there people on the outside you would like to have kept contact with during your time in prison? Who are they and why have you not been able to keep contact with them
Type of question	open question	open question	open question
Goal / Scientific Evidence to justify the question	This question aims to find out in what matters (ex-)offenders feel they could be supported by volunteers.	If (ex-)offenders have already had contact with volunteers they can tell about positive or negative experiences	Since the social bonds play an important role in successful reintegration, we would not only like to know to whom offenders have kept contact whilst being in prison (as asked in Q. 3). We would also like to know, who they would have liked to keep contact with and why that did not work. Testing of the questionnaire suggests that reasons differ amongst the respondents. Some mentioned personal reasons like: "no kid should visit their parent in prison", to others the circumstances were the decisive factor: "I did not have money for stamps to write to my mother"

Annex 3. Questionnaire (english version)



(Name of the partner/s) is taking part in Mobilizing Society Towards (ex)Offenders Reintegration (MOBi), an EU-wide survey to see how people in prison feel about leaving, and about how society will accept them. We are also asking communities questions about how they feel they could support more effective rehabilitation. With the results, we will begin to develop a training programme to get more volunteers involved in working with people getting out of prison, to help them with their release. Getting your view is vital to this process. All questions are voluntary, but we want your voice to be heard.

We would appreciate your taking the time to complete the following survey.

It should take about 15-20 minutes of your time and our assistant is standing by to help with any questions.

Your responses are voluntary and will be confidential. Responses will not be identified by individual and you must NOT give your name. All responses from across the European Union will be compiled together and analysed as a group. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact (name and contact of the country's project manager).

If you would like to find out more about the project, take a look at the leaflet you should receive with this questionnaire.

About you:

Age:

- 18-24 years old 25-34 years old 35-44 years old
 45-54 years old 55-64 years old 65-74 years old
 75 years or older

Family:

Do you have children? Yes No

Education and Training:

- Left school early
 Attended elementary school
 Some high school, no diploma/ certificate of leaving
 High school graduate, diploma or the equivalent
 Vocational training (trade, technical), completed
 Vocational training (trade, technical), not completed
 Attended higher education, no degree
 Completed higher education (university)
 Other: _____
 Is education and/or training part of your sentence plan?
 Is this your first prison sentence? Yes No
 If no: how many sentences? 2-3 4-6 More than 6

Perceptions regarding support and needs:

1) If I were released tomorrow, I feel this is important, to help me not to re-offend...

		Totally agree	Agree	Slightly agree	Slightly disagree	Disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know or N/A
A	My own motivation							
B	Getting off drugs							
C	Stop drinking alcohol							
D	Support of my friends							
E	Support of my family							
F	Financial stability							
G	A stable home							
H	A steady job							
I	Other, please tell us what that is							

2) Whilst I was being sentenced and while in prison, I felt I had good support from...

		Totally agree	Agree	Slightly agree	Slightly disagree	Disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know or N/A
A	The Police							
B	My lawyer / legal representatives							
C	Prison staff							
D	Educational staff in prison							
E	Support staff working for charities							
F	Support staff from religious groups							
G	Volunteers, in different roles							
H	Someone else, please tell us who that is							

3) During my time in prison, I have been able to keep contact with these people on the outside...

		Totally agree	Agree	Slightly agree	Slightly disagree	Disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know or N/A
A	My Family							
B	My Kids							
C	Probation officers							
D	Local sports groups							
E	Religious groups							
F	Friends and peers							
G	The police							
H	Former colleagues							
I	Someone else, please tell us who that is							

4) Once I am released I think the following people are important to help me get back on track...

		Totally agree	Agree	Slightly agree	Slightly disagree	Disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know or N/A
A	My Family							
B	My Kids							
C	Local sports groups							
D	Religious groups							
E	Friends and peers							
F	The police							
G	Former colleagues							
H	Probation officers							
I	Employers							
J	Volunteers in different roles							
K	Civil society in general							
L	Other, please tell us what that is							

5) In terms of getting work once I am out of prison, I think that...

		Totally agree	Agree	Slightly agree	Slightly disagree	Disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know or N/A
A	Finding a job is really important to me.							
B	I will get support from the job centre.							
C	I feel more confident because I have had work experience in prison.							
D	I could go back to my old job.							
E	I have had training in prison, so now I am qualified to work.							
F	My friends will help me get a job.							
G	I might get support from voluntary mentors or local charity.							
H	Having a criminal record might stop employers giving me a job.							
I	I could only get occasional work, not a steady job.							
J	Other, please tell us what that is.							

Perceptions regarding stereotypes and worries:

6) In general, I think that...

		Totally agree	Agree	Slightly agree	Slightly disagree	Disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know or N/A
A	People on the outside think all criminals are the same.							
B	People are afraid of ex-prisoners.							
C	For society, it is not worth giving ex-prisoners an opportunity.							
D	People on the outside think all criminals should be punished with a prison sentence.							
E	Society will never fully accept that former prisoners have paid their debt to society.							
F	Society believes that if an offender is not in prison, he will continue committing crimes.							
G	Because I have been in prison people will look down on me.							
H	Society accepts better those under community service, than those that are in prison.							
I	I feel resentment towards society for putting me in prison.							
J	Once I get out of here, if I straighten up my life, society will give me a second chance.							
K	Society welcomes ex-prisoners.							
L	People on the outside help ex-prisoners to reintegrate.							
M	Being threatened by a prison sentence deters crime.							

7) I worry that people will look down on me because I have been in prison. I am afraid this will happen...

		Totally agree	Agree	Slightly agree	Slightly disagree	Disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know or N/A
A	With my kids							
B	With my family							
C	With my friends							
D	With other people in my community							
E	At my local place of worship							
F	With my probation officer							
G	When I go to job interviews							
H	When I am in contact with the local police							
I	When I want to rent an apartment							
J	Other, please tell us what that is							

8) Once I get out of prison, I worry that I will...

		Totally agree	Agree	Slightly agree	Slightly disagree	Disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know or N/A
A	Not find anywhere to live							
B	Falling behind with the rent							
C	Getting kicked out of my home							
D	Take things out on the people I care for							
E	Be recognised as an ex-offender							
F	Not find a job							
G	Not be able to keep a job							
H	Will have problems with general paperwork							
I	Go back to taking drugs/ drinking heavily							
J	Get back in with the same friends as before							
K	Have to go back to crime to get money							
L	Only being able to afford to live in bad neighbourhoods							
M	Other, please tell us what that is							

9) Sometimes, volunteers help support prisoners on their release. If you had someone supporting you, what would you expect them to be like? And what would they help you with?

10) If you have already had experience with volunteers, please tell us about it.

11) Are there people on the outside you would like to have kept contact with during your time in prison? Who are they and why have you not been able to keep contact with them?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The MOBi Initiative values the information you have provided. Your responses will contribute to our understanding of your needs and suggest new lines of approach to training volunteers in supporting rehabilitation.

If you have any comments on the survey or the project, please leave a comment below.

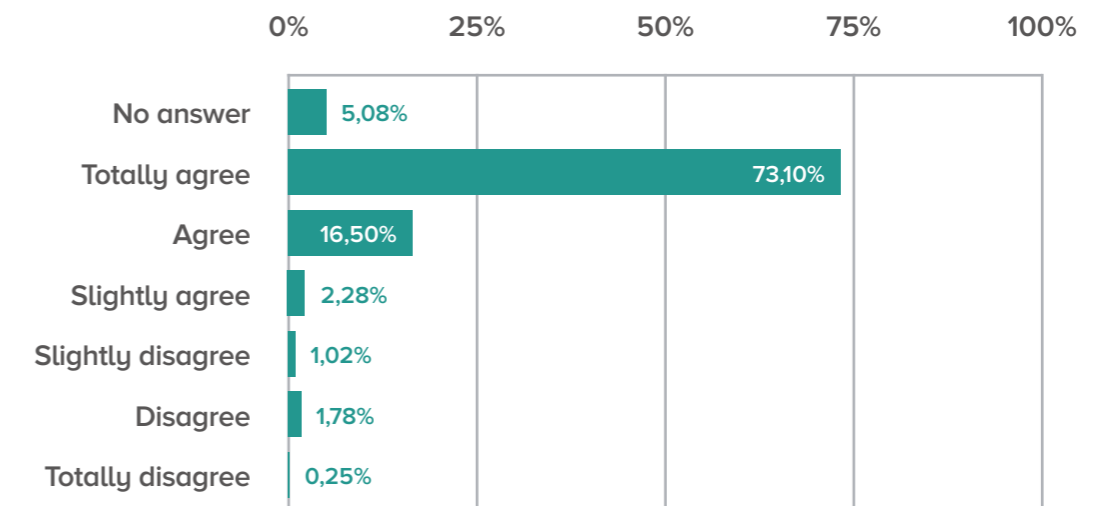
Annex 4. Results of IO2 qualitative assessment tool, visualized through spss

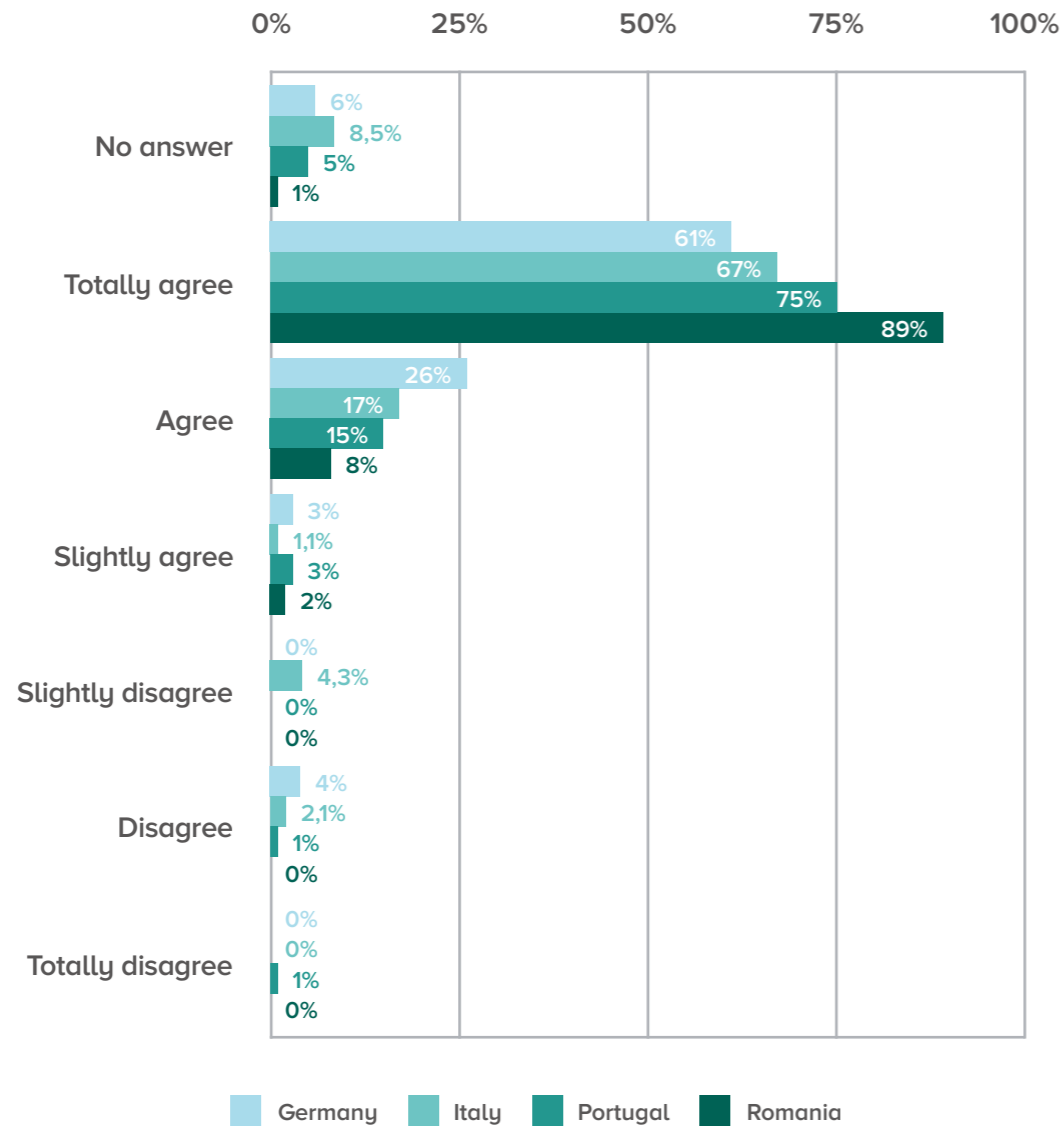
IO2-ANALYSIS: OFFENDERS' PERCEPTIONS

Perceptions regarding support and needs:

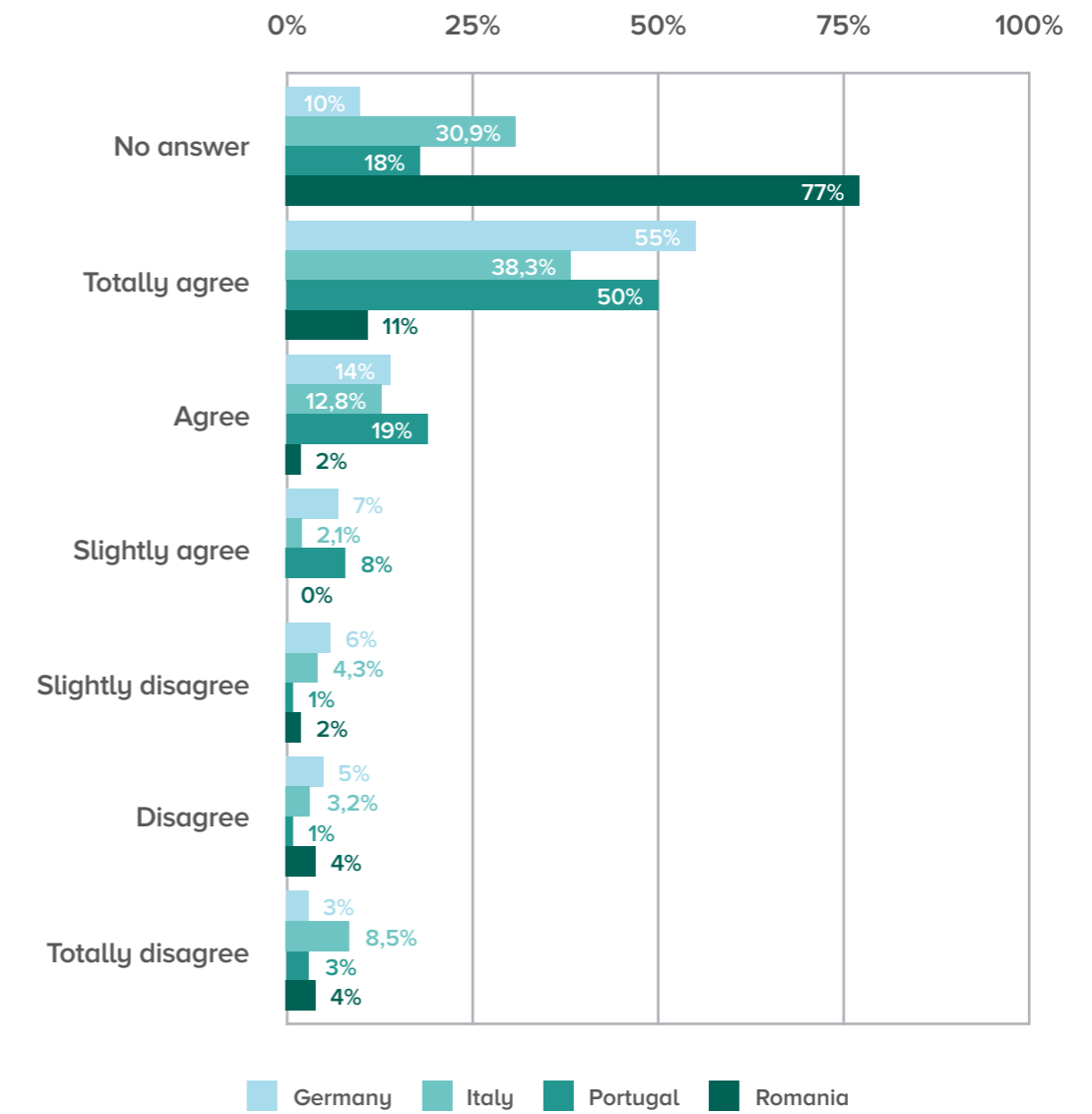
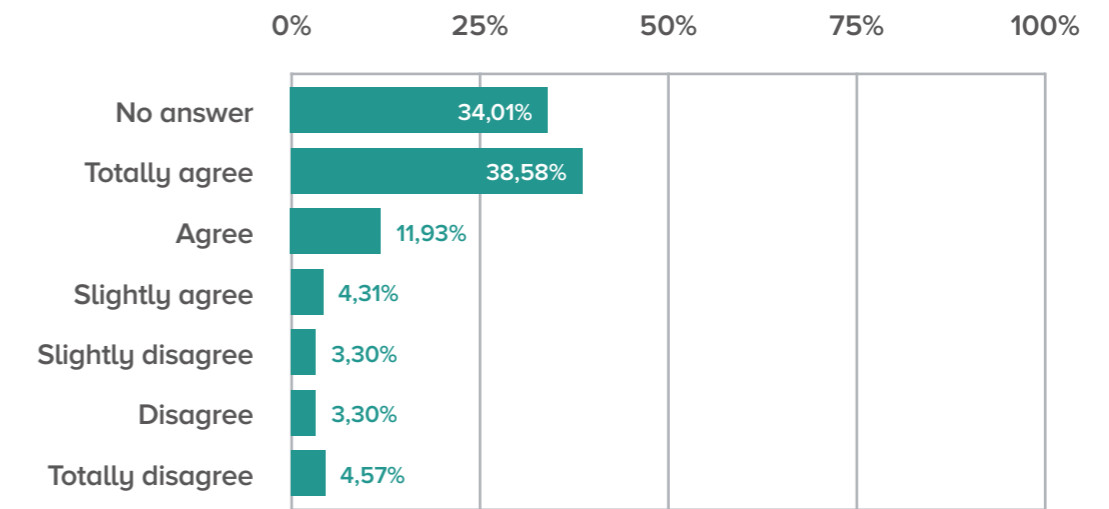
1) If I were released tomorrow, I feel this is important, to help me not to re-offend...

a) Own Motivation

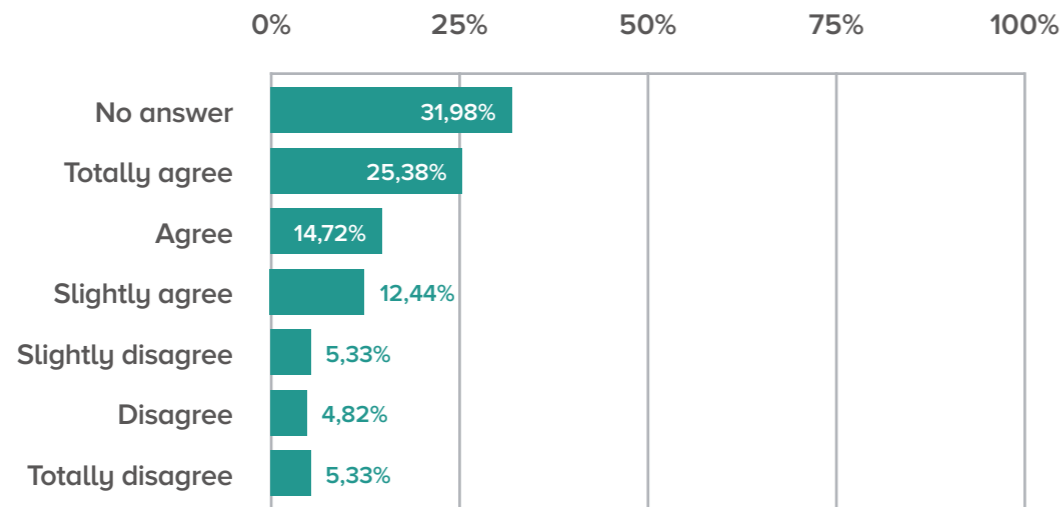




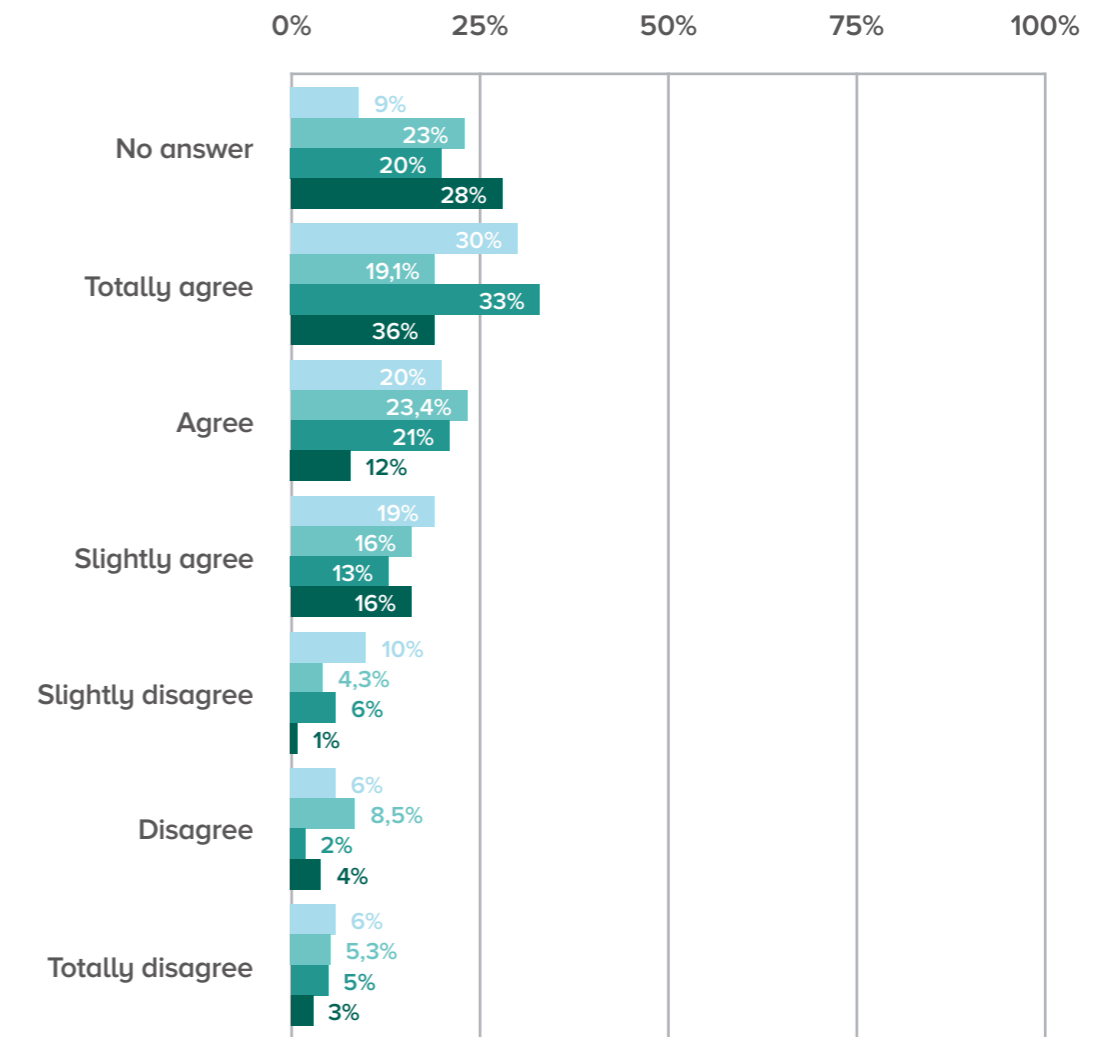
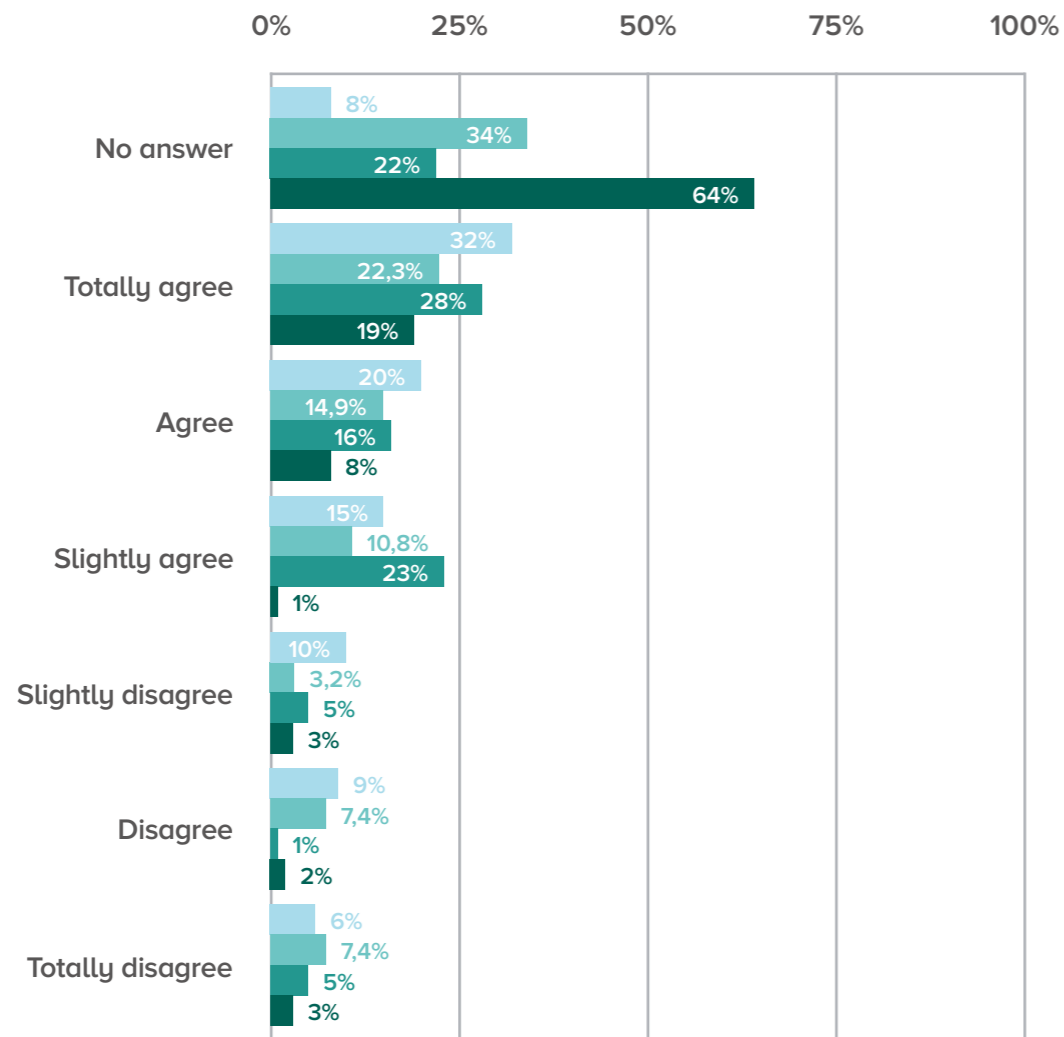
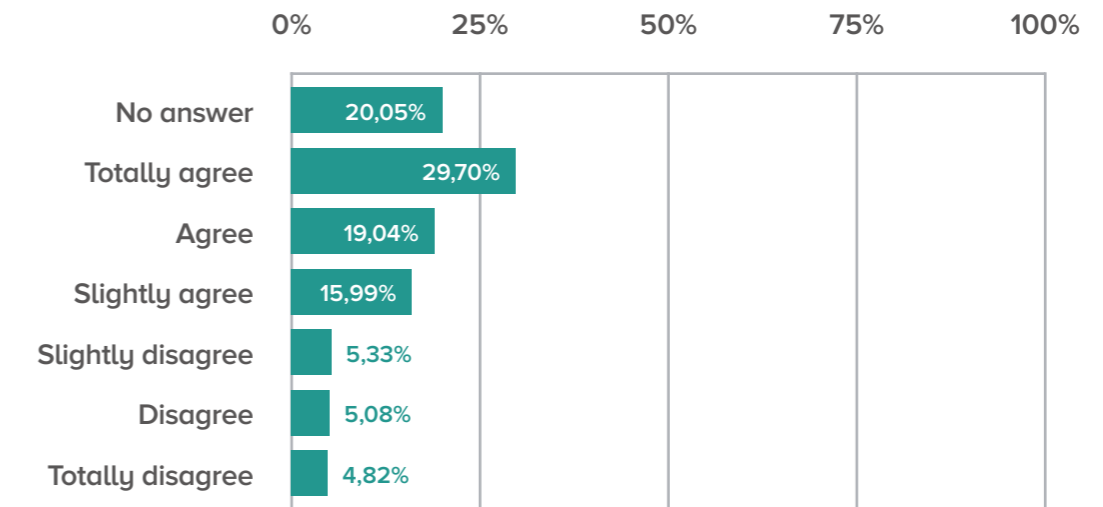
b) Getting off drugs



c) Stop drinking alcohol



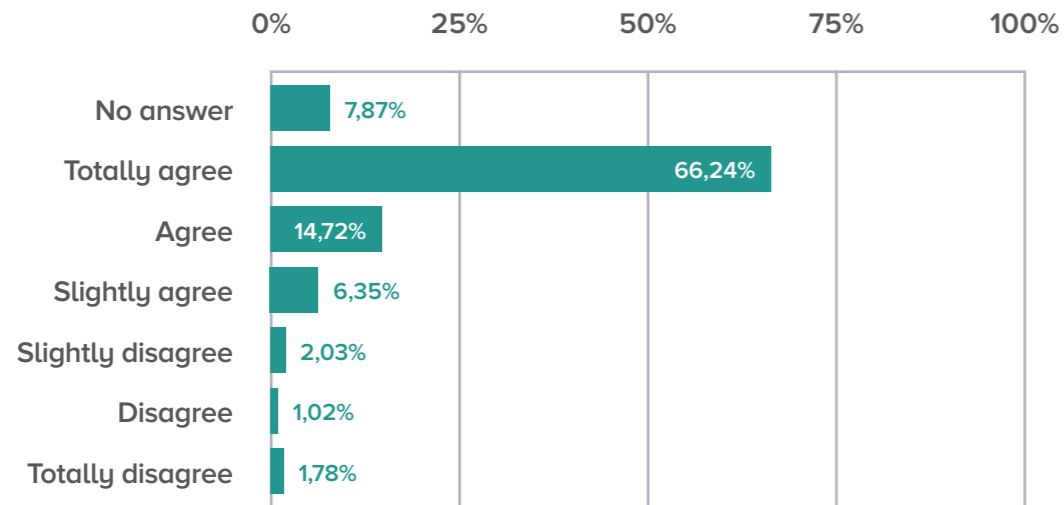
d) Support of my friends



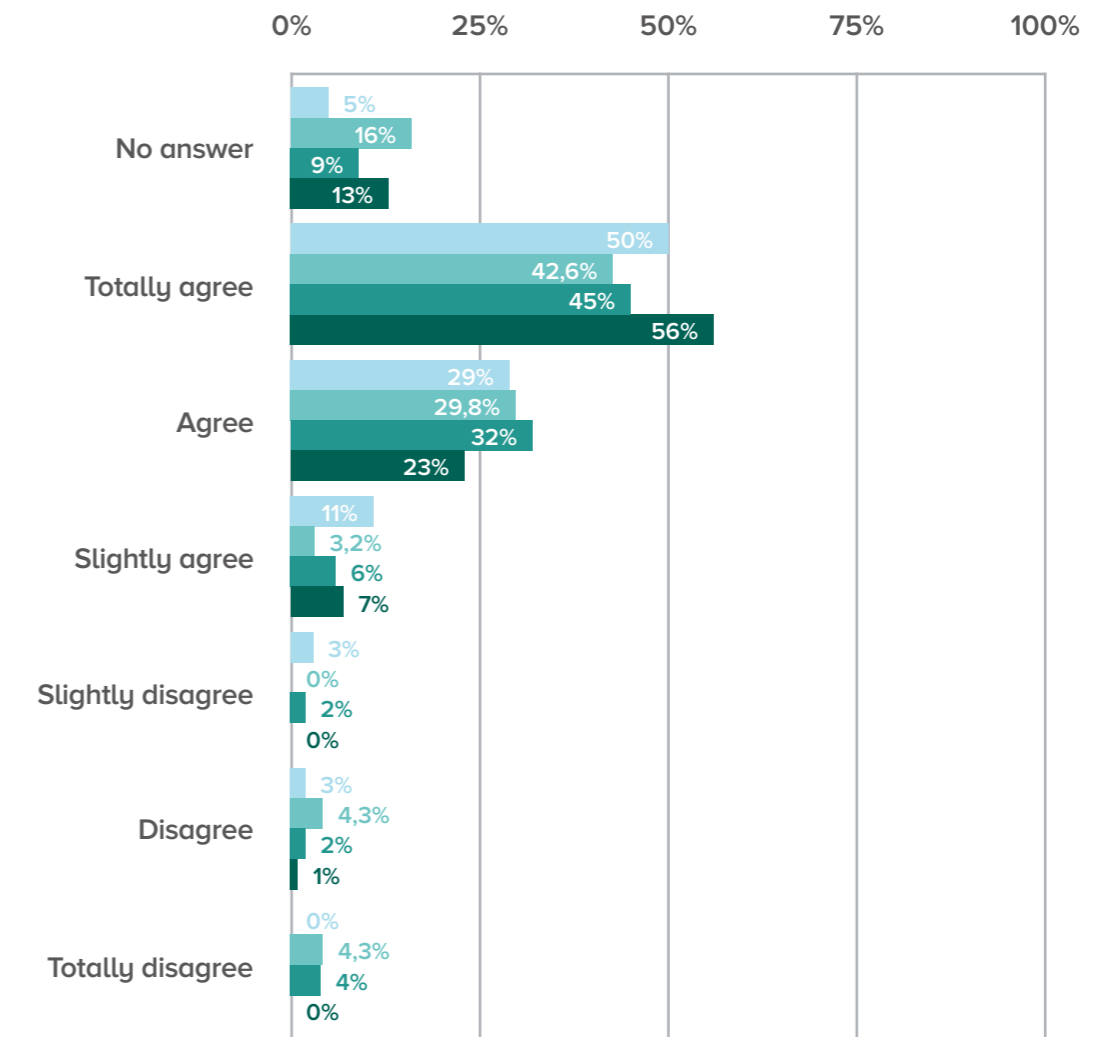
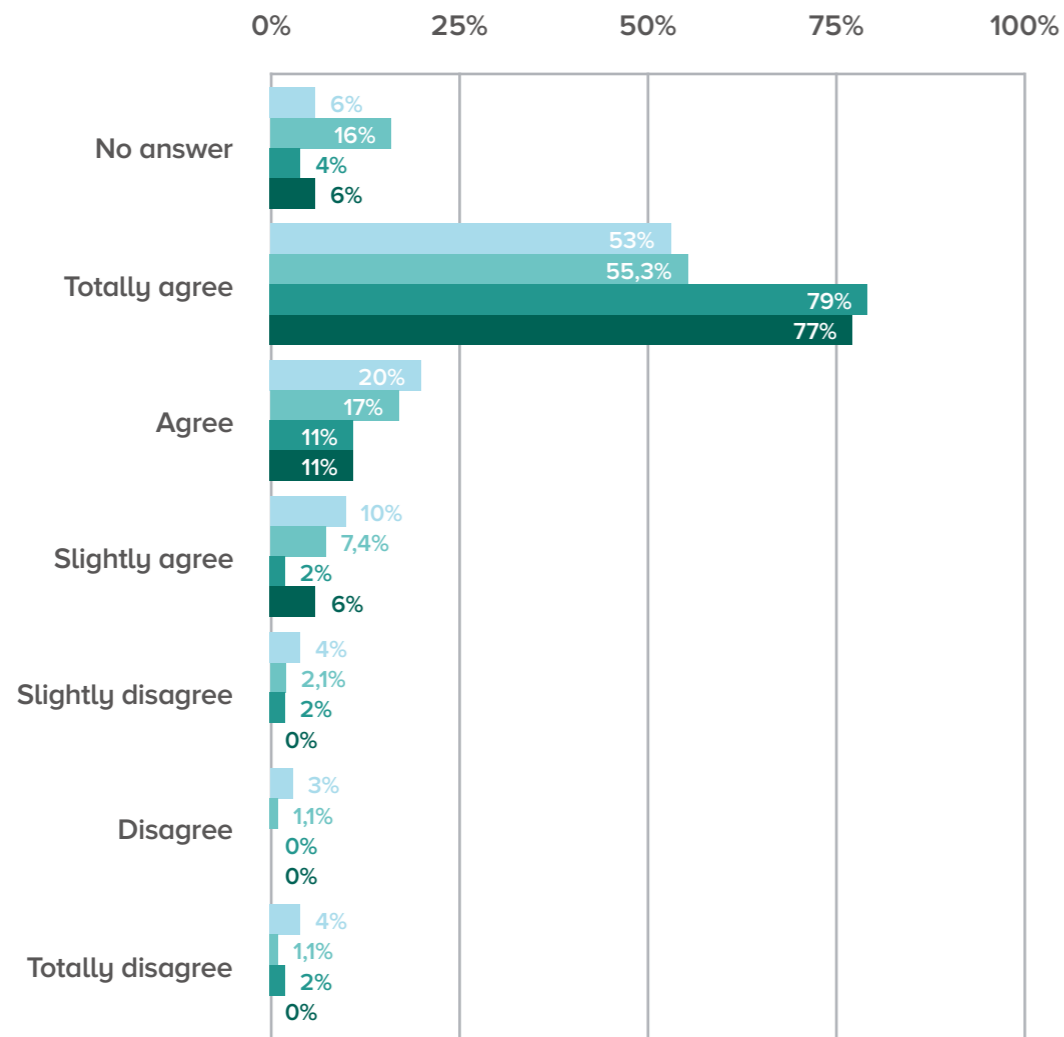
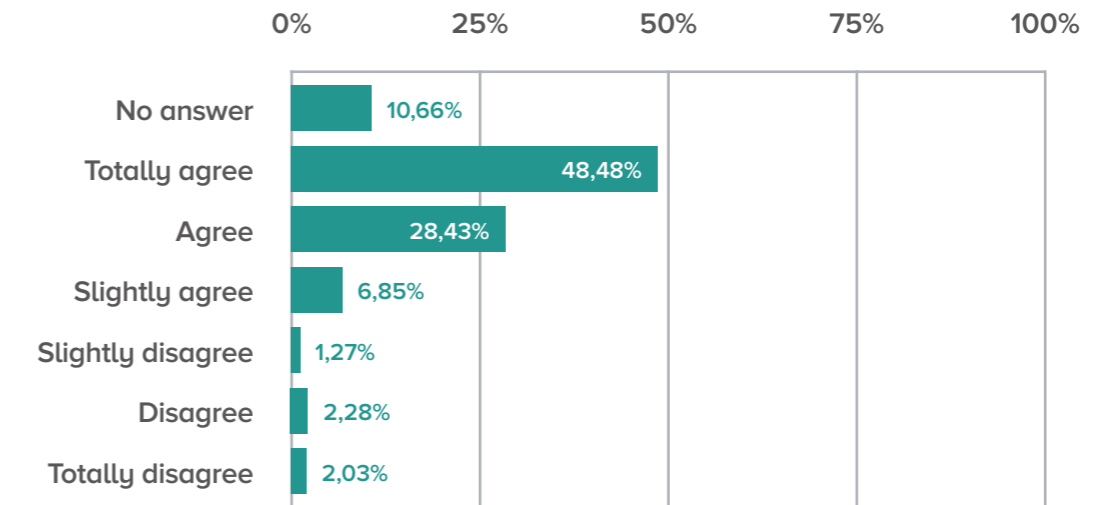
Germany Italy Portugal Romania

Germany Italy Portugal Romania

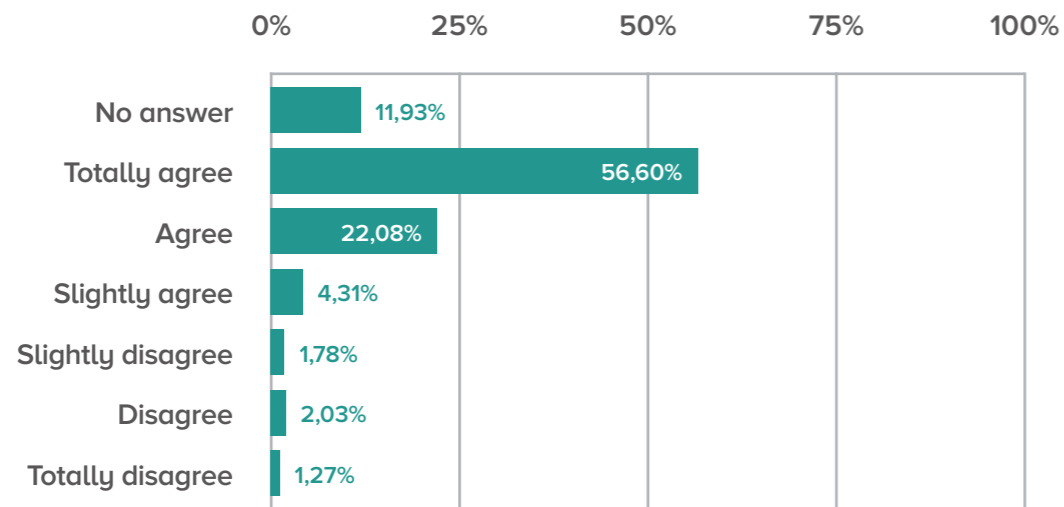
e) Support of my family



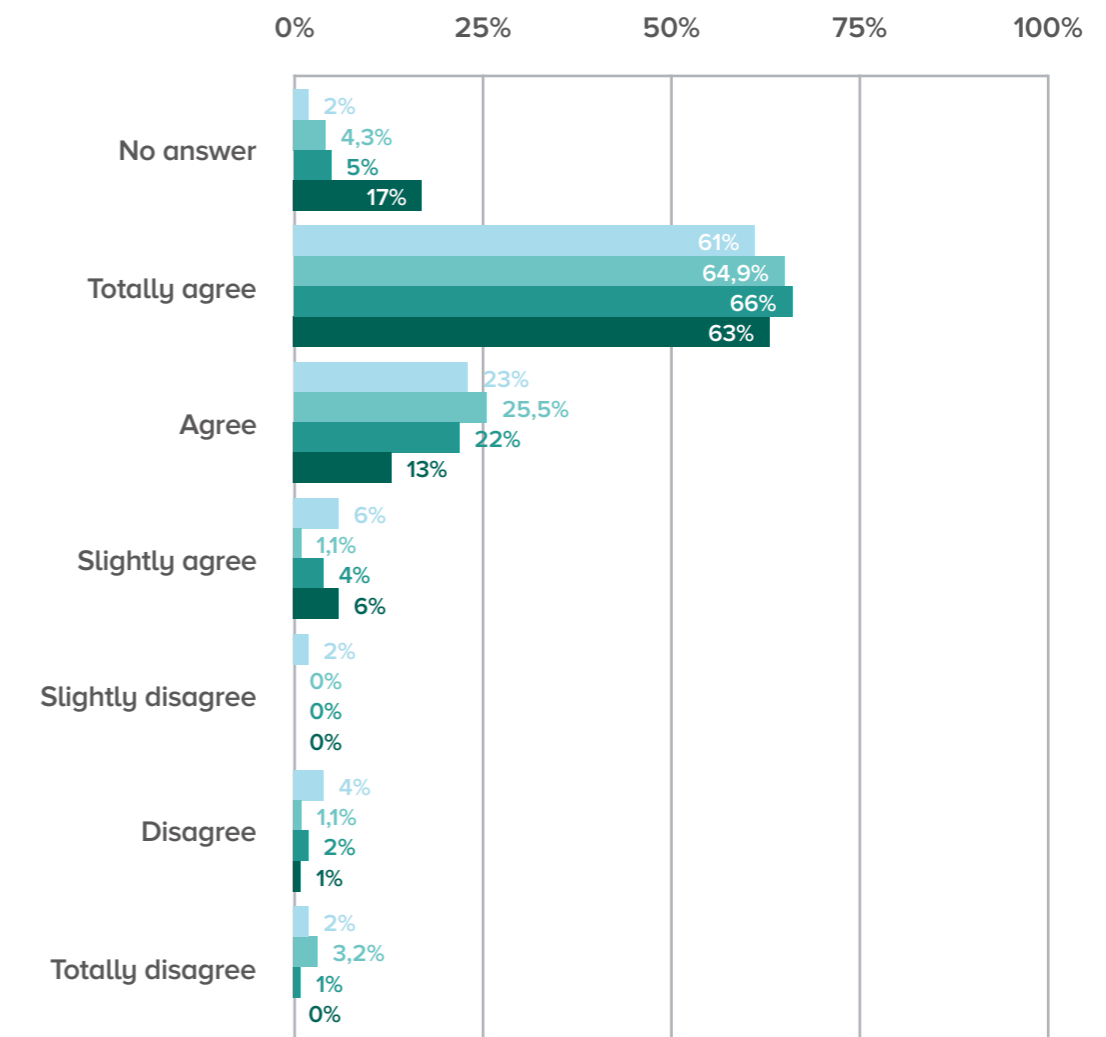
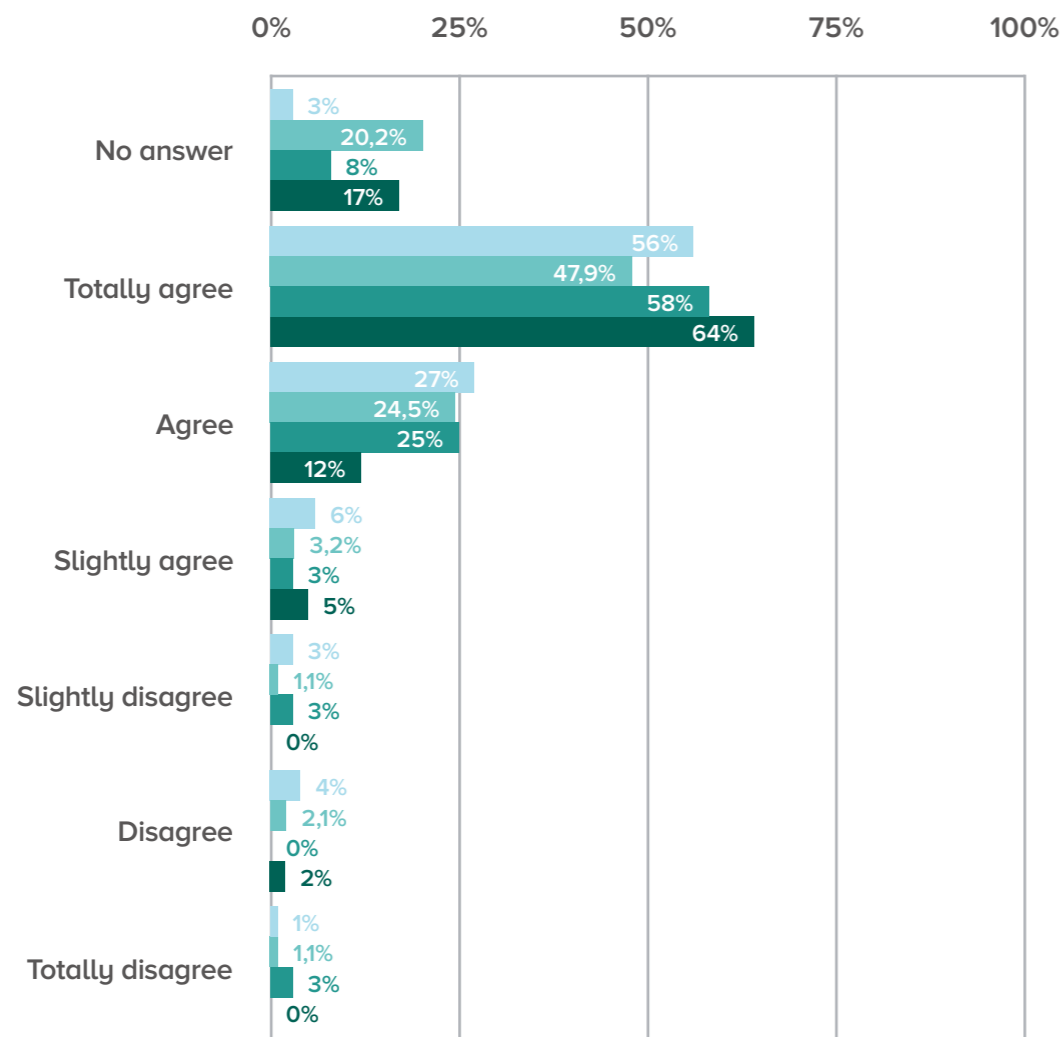
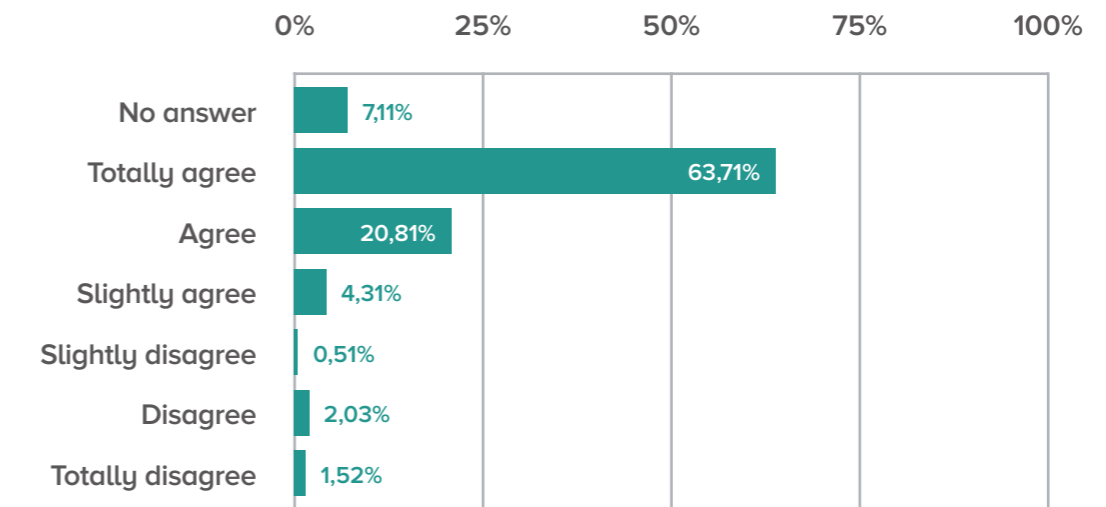
f) Financial stability



g) A stable home

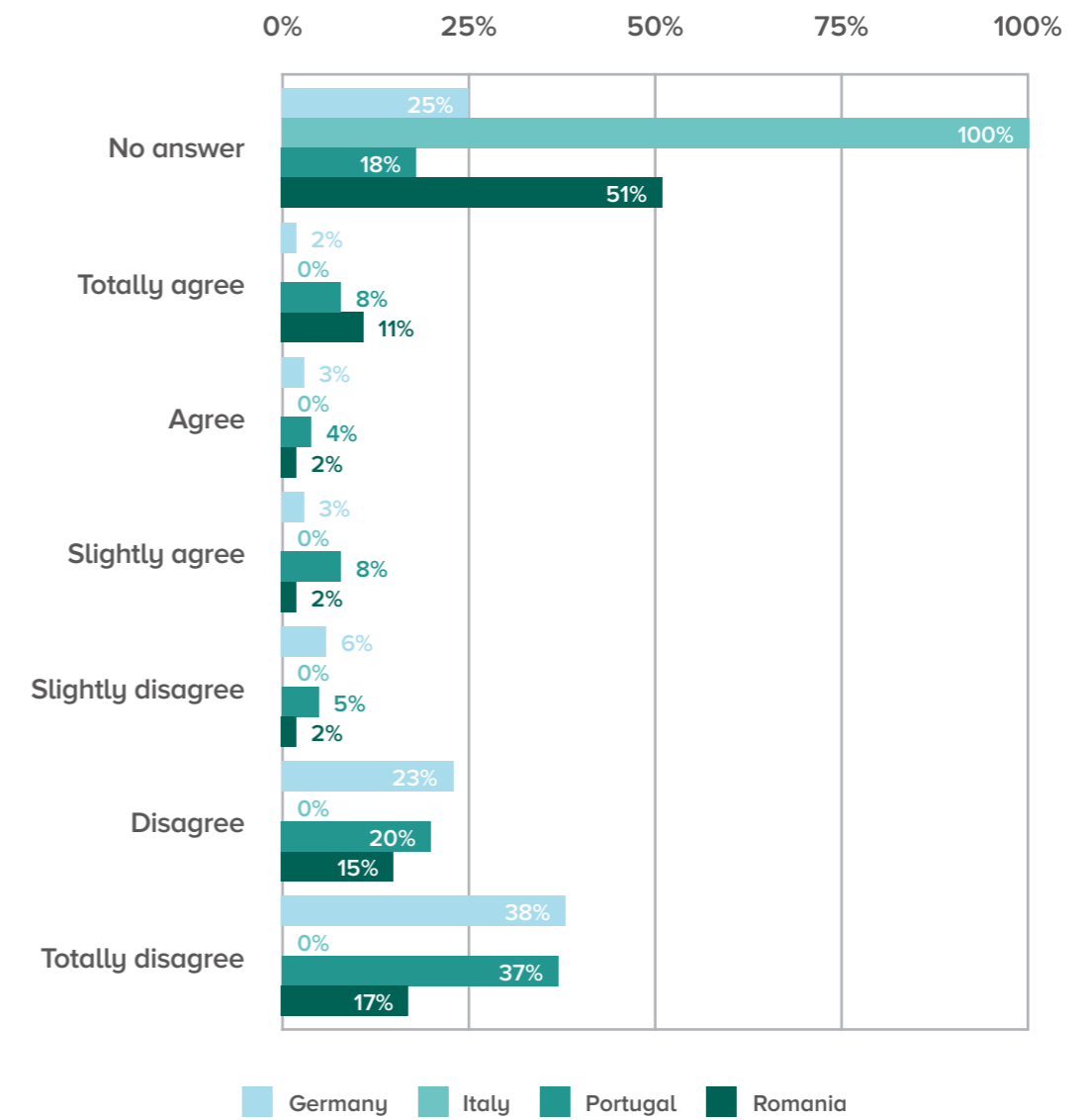
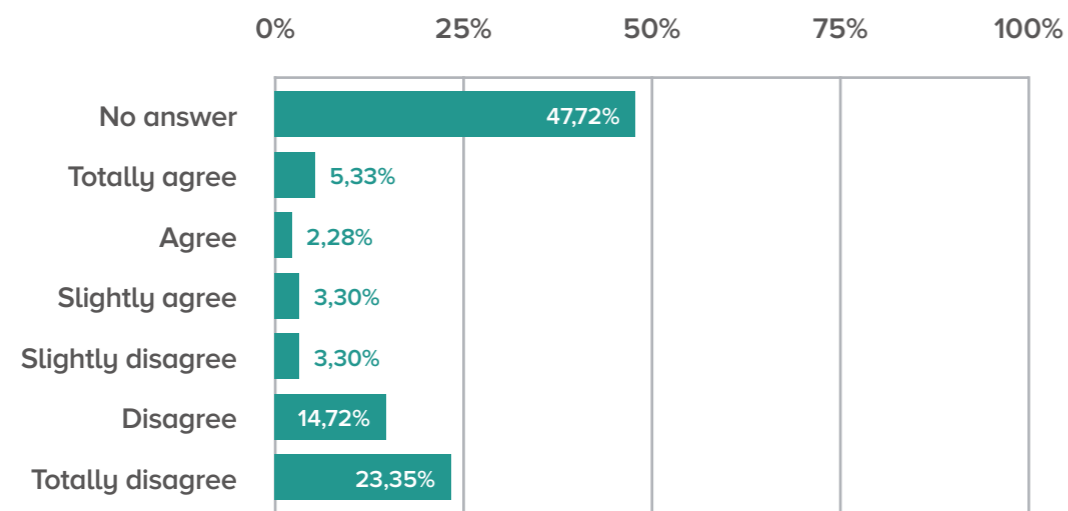


h) A steady job

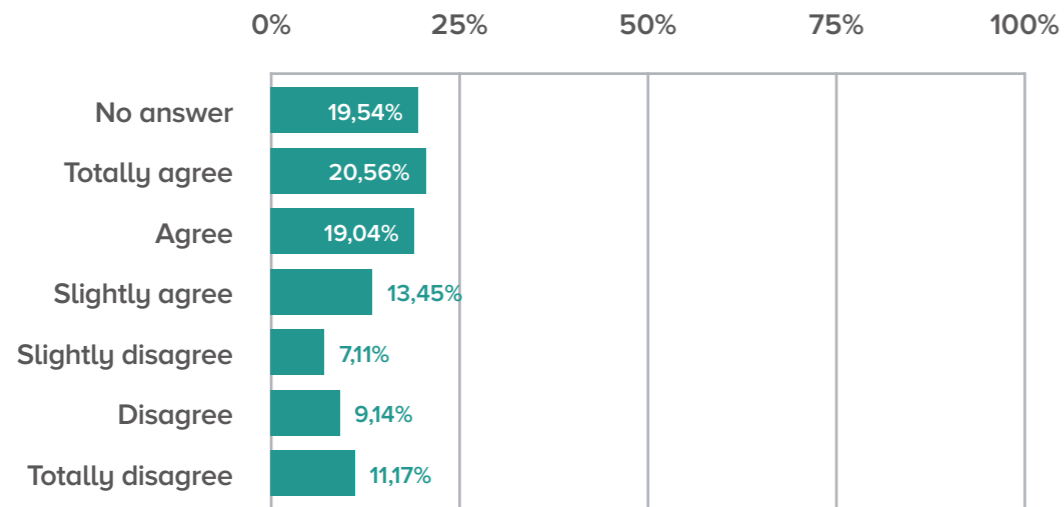


2) Whilst I was being sentenced and while in prison, I felt I had good support from...

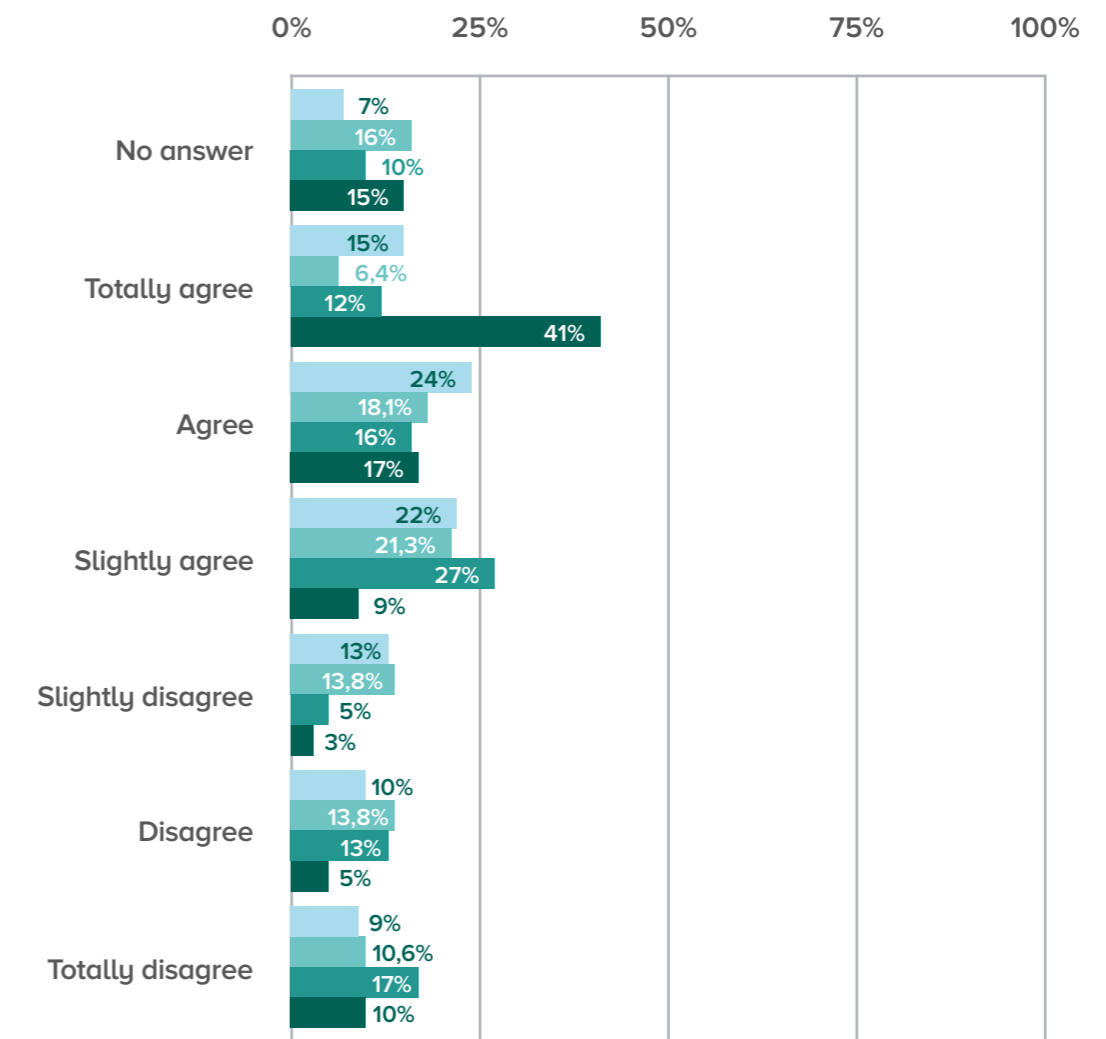
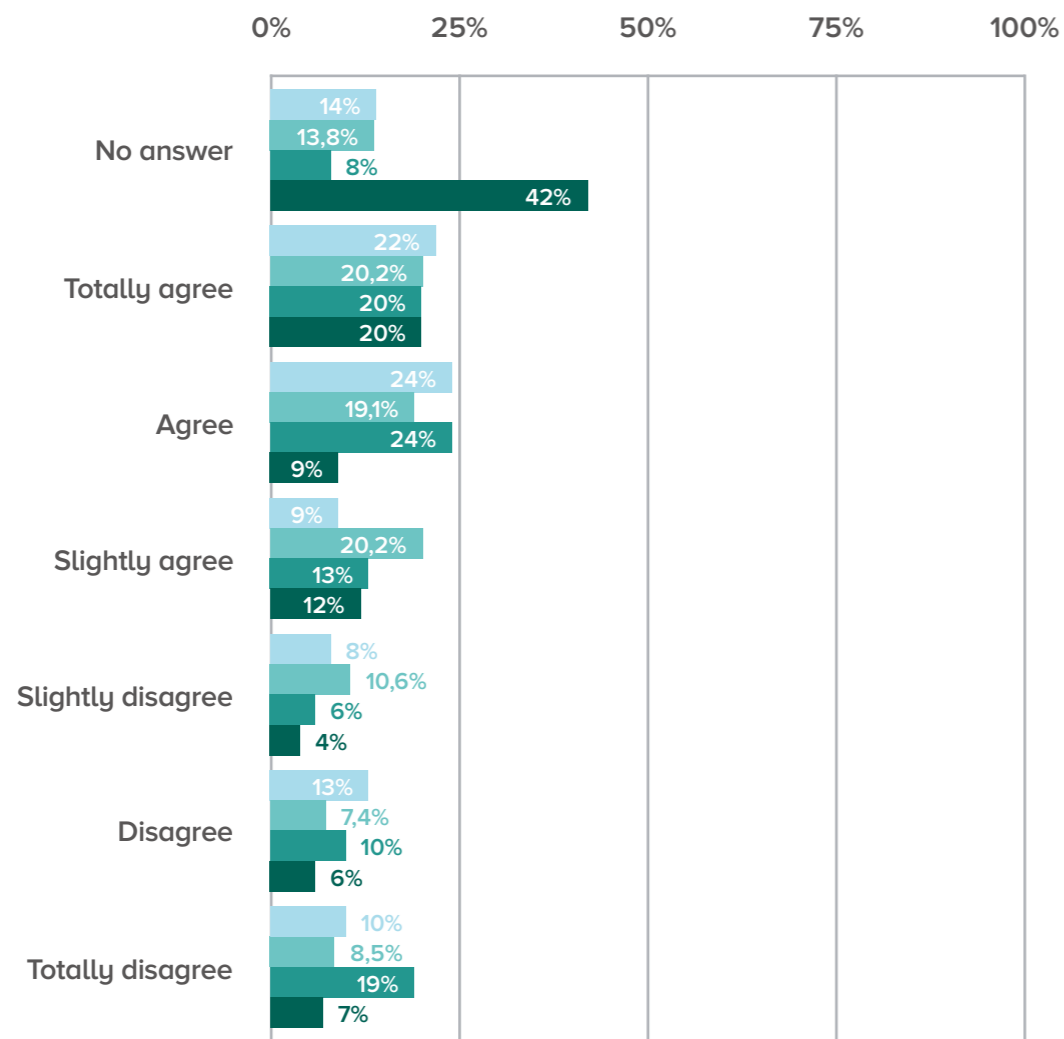
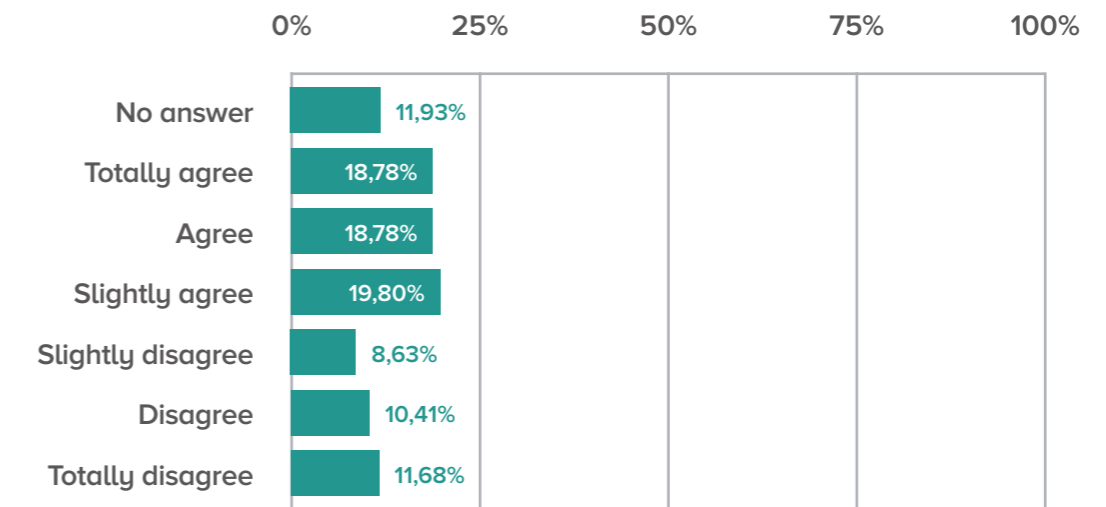
a) The Police



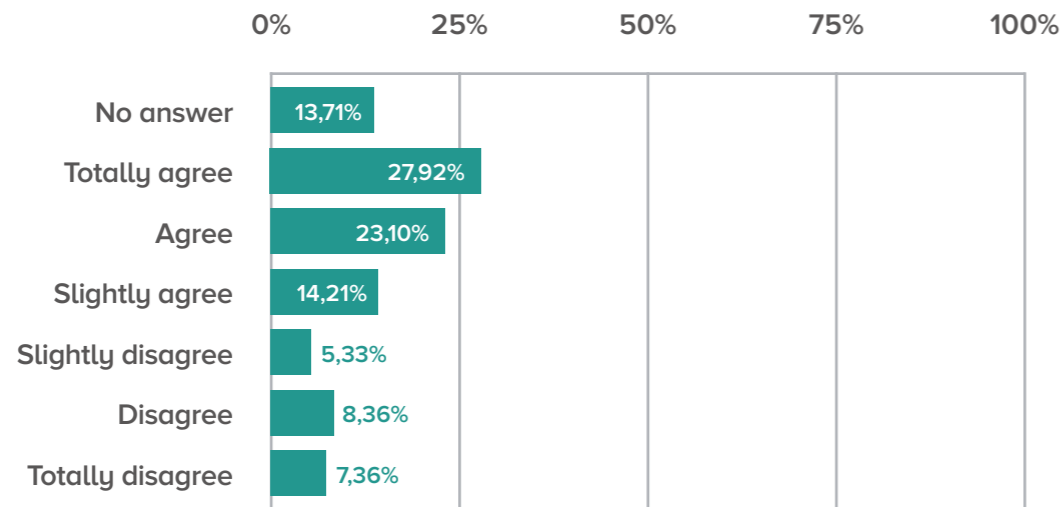
b) My lawyer / legal representatives



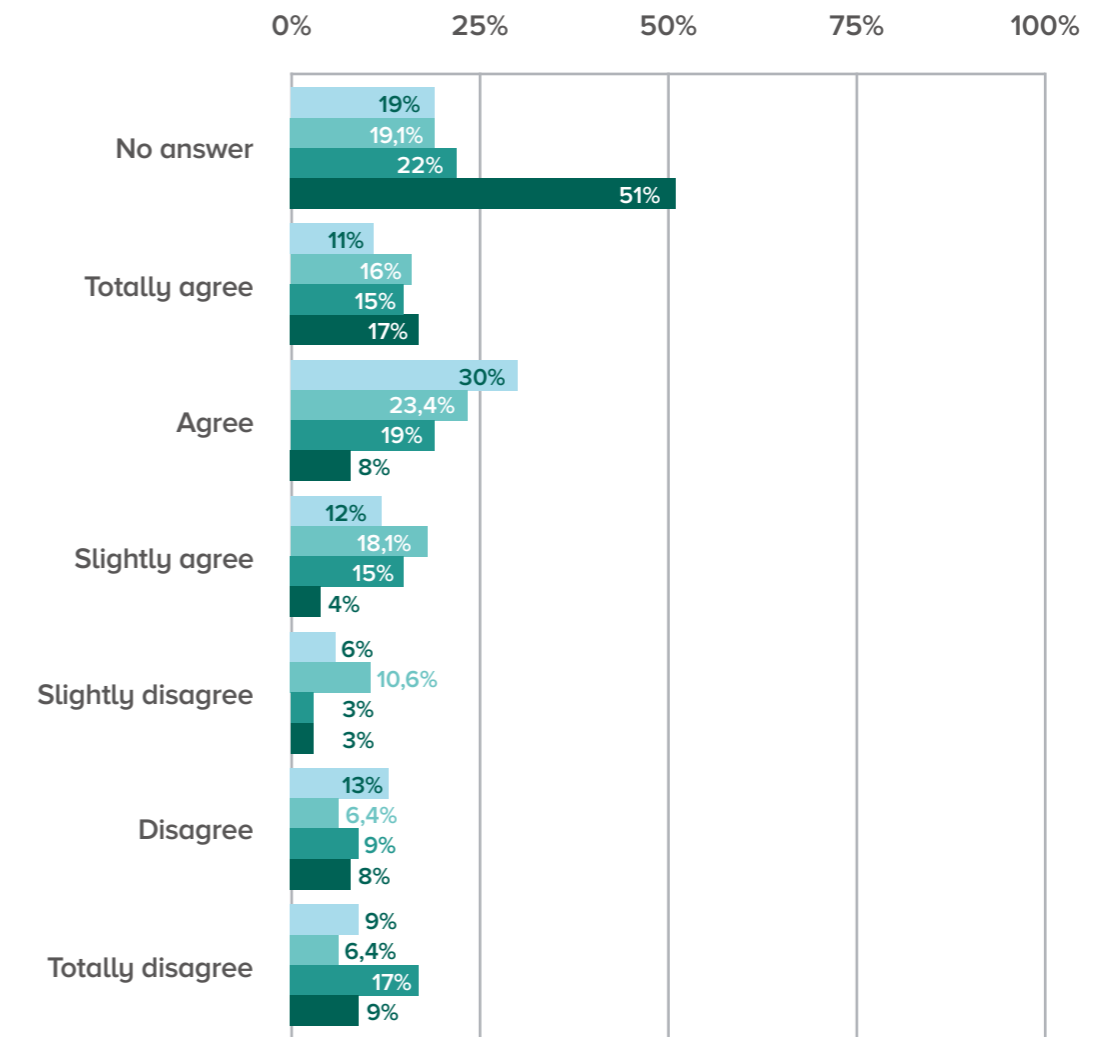
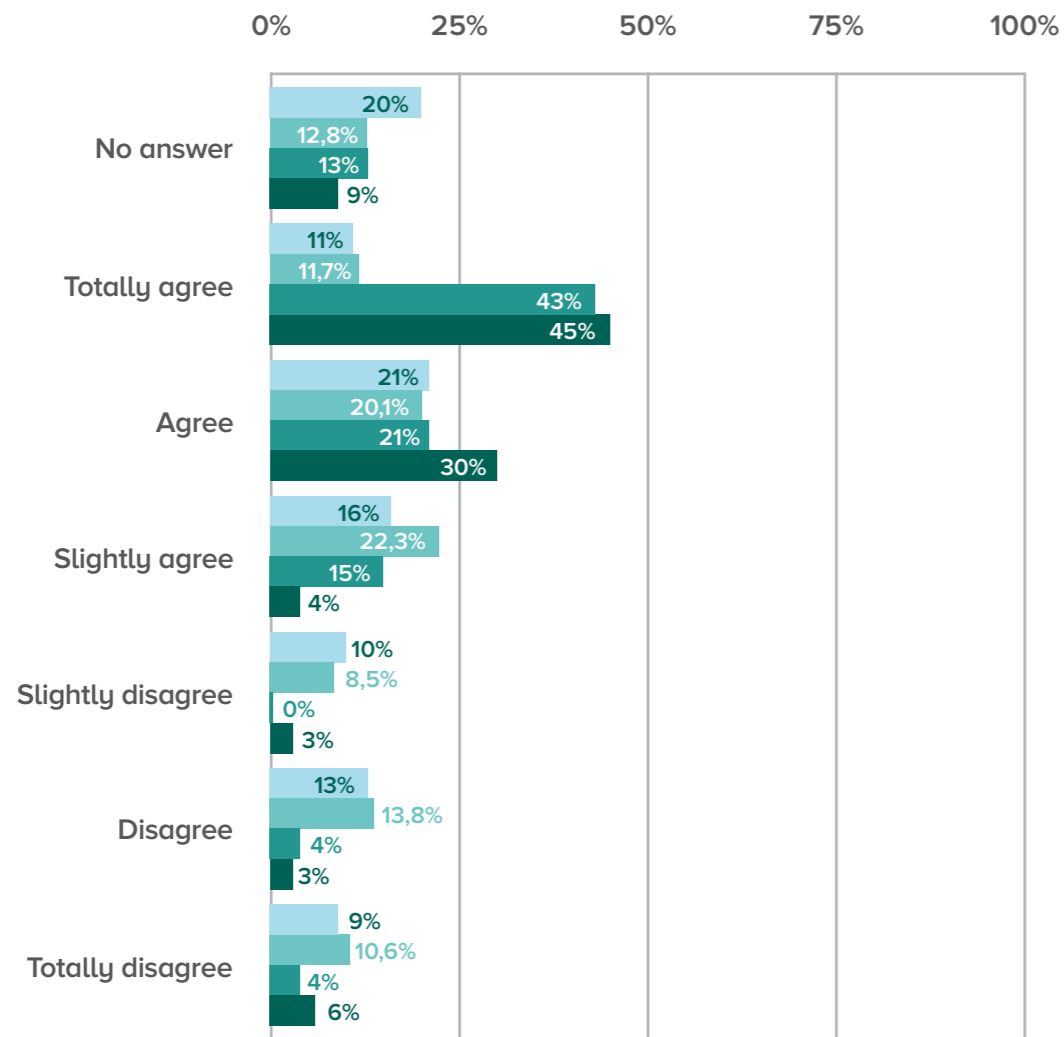
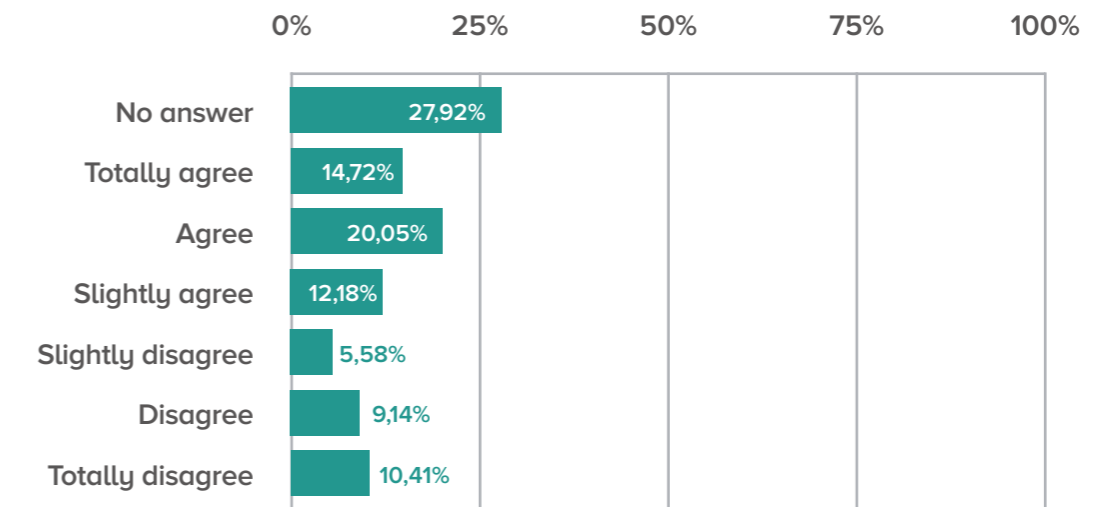
c) Prison staff



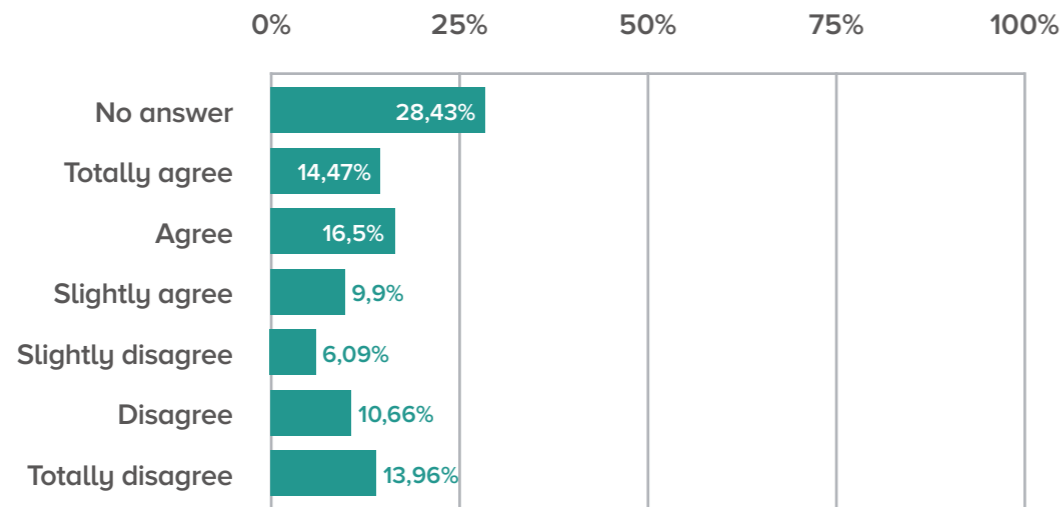
d) Educational staff in prison



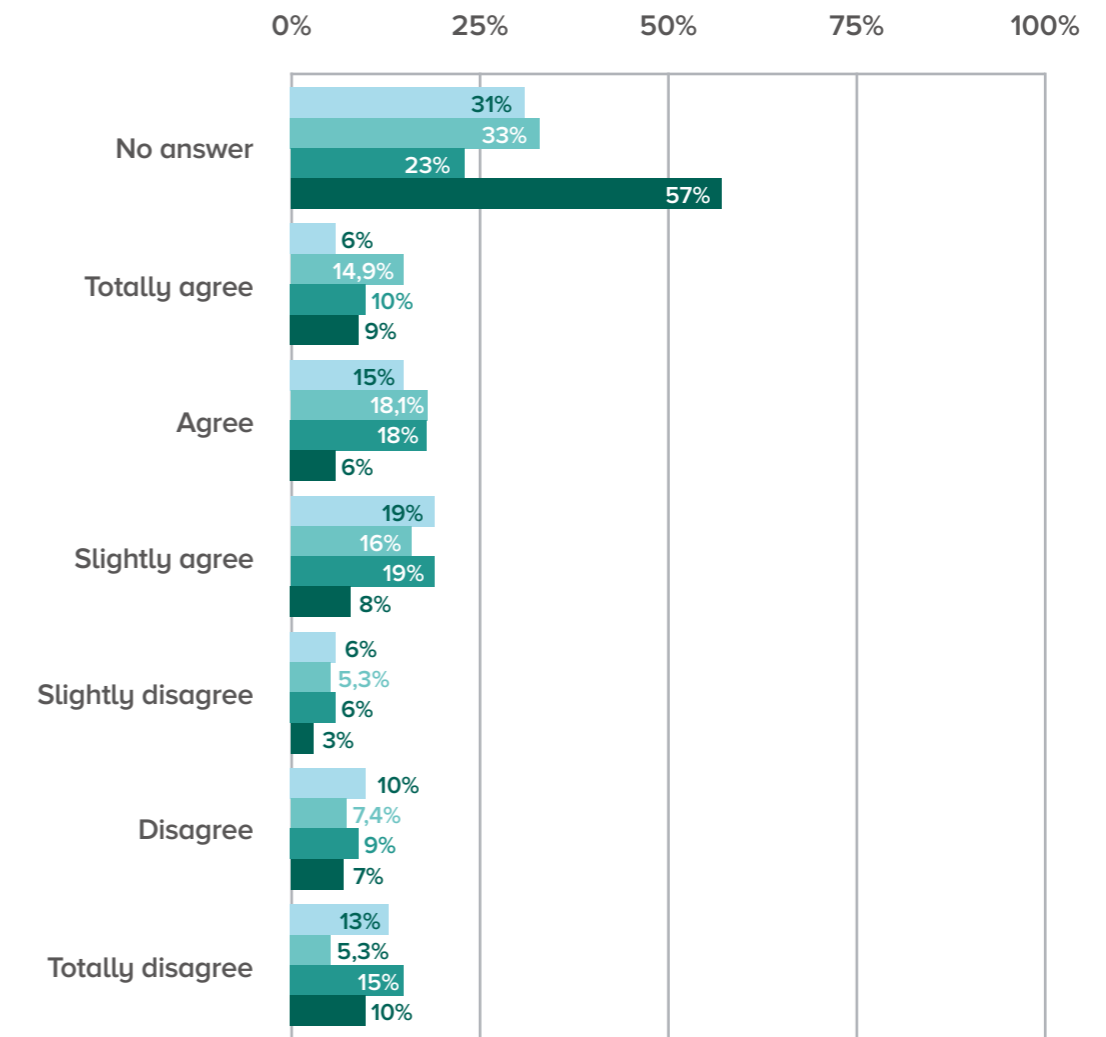
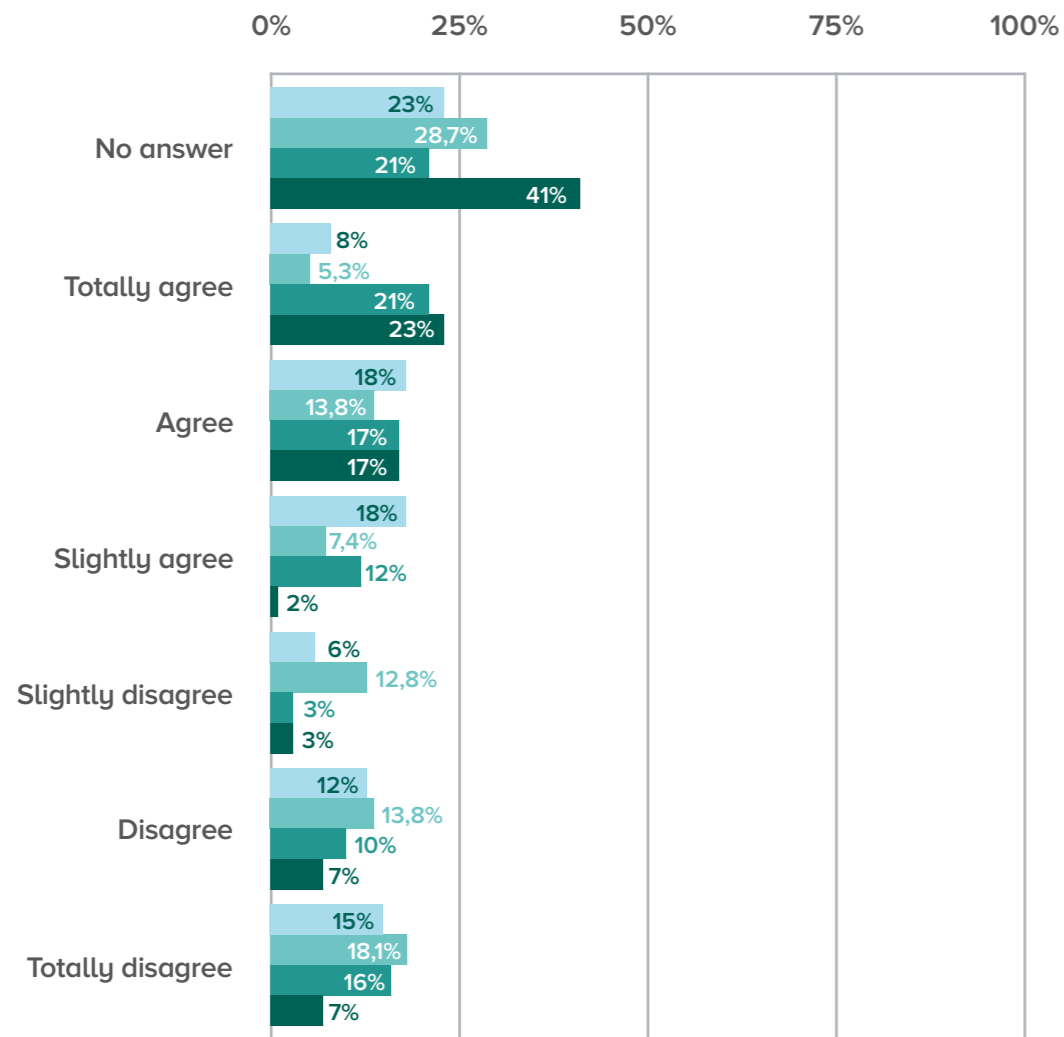
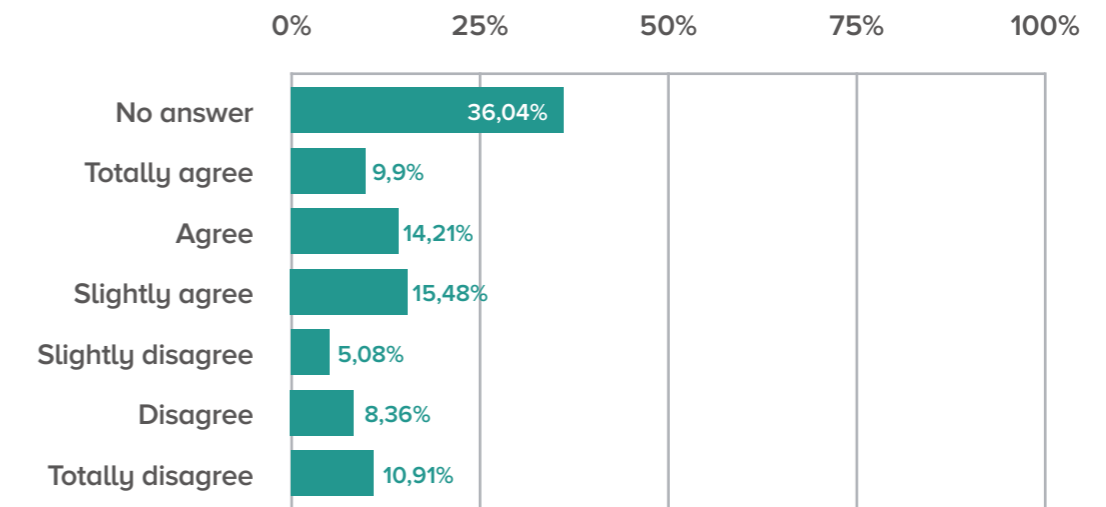
e) Support staff working for charities



f) Support staff from religious groups

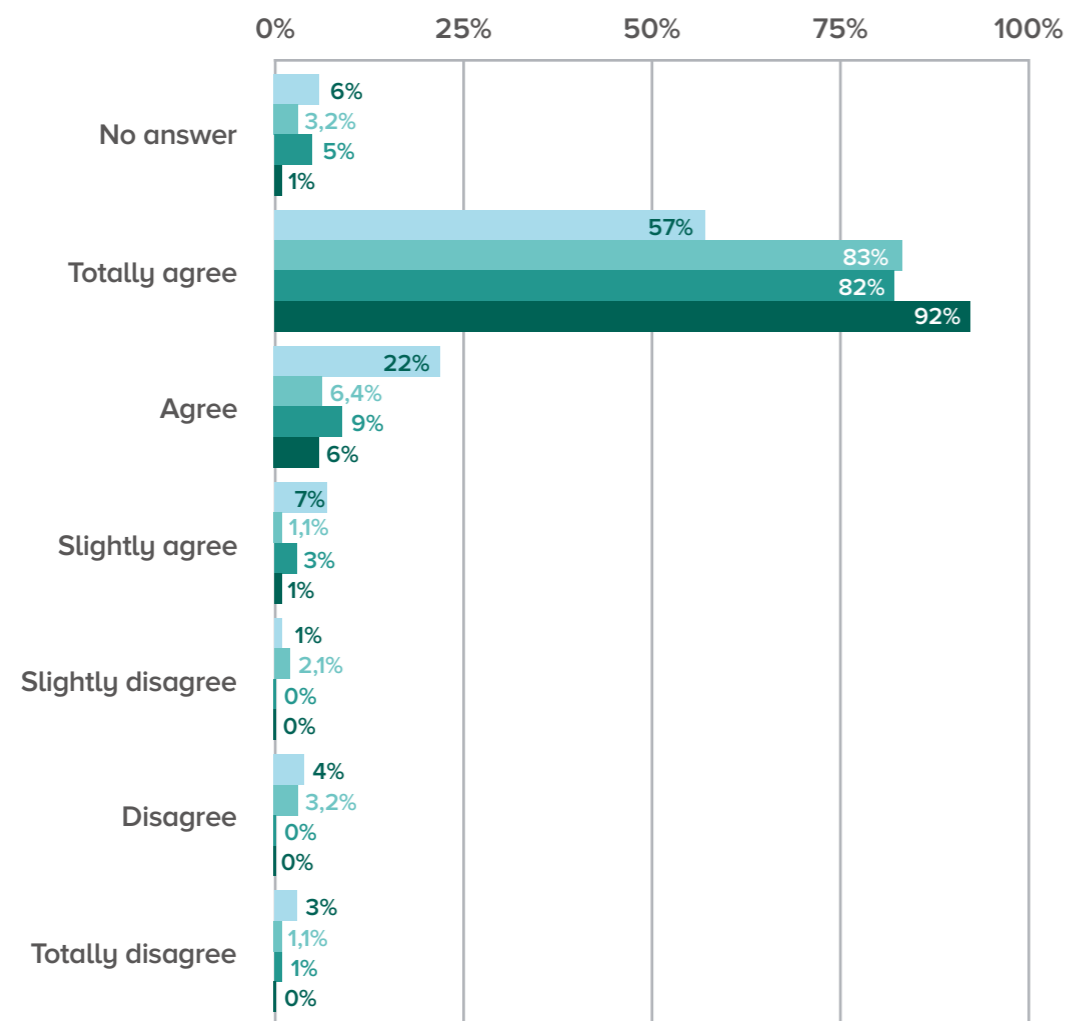
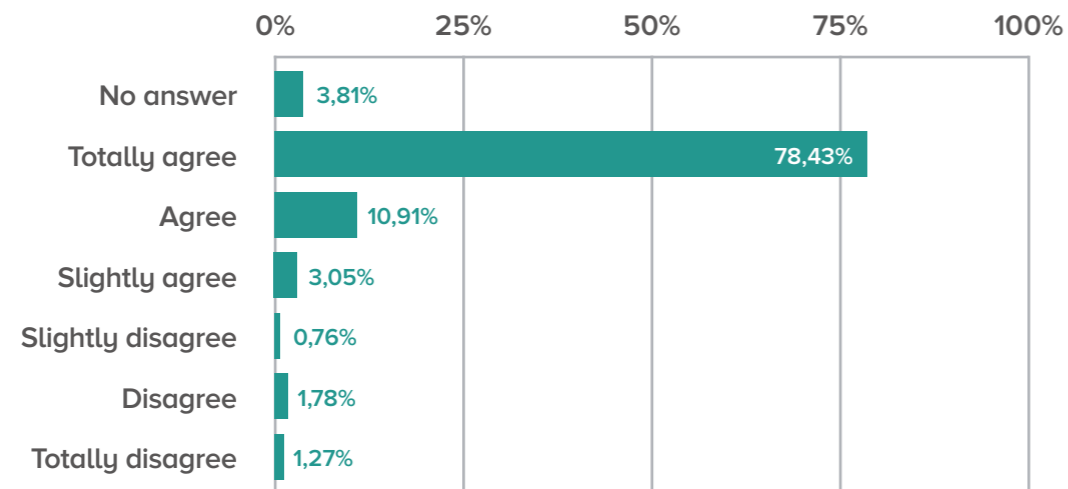


g) Volunteers, in different roles



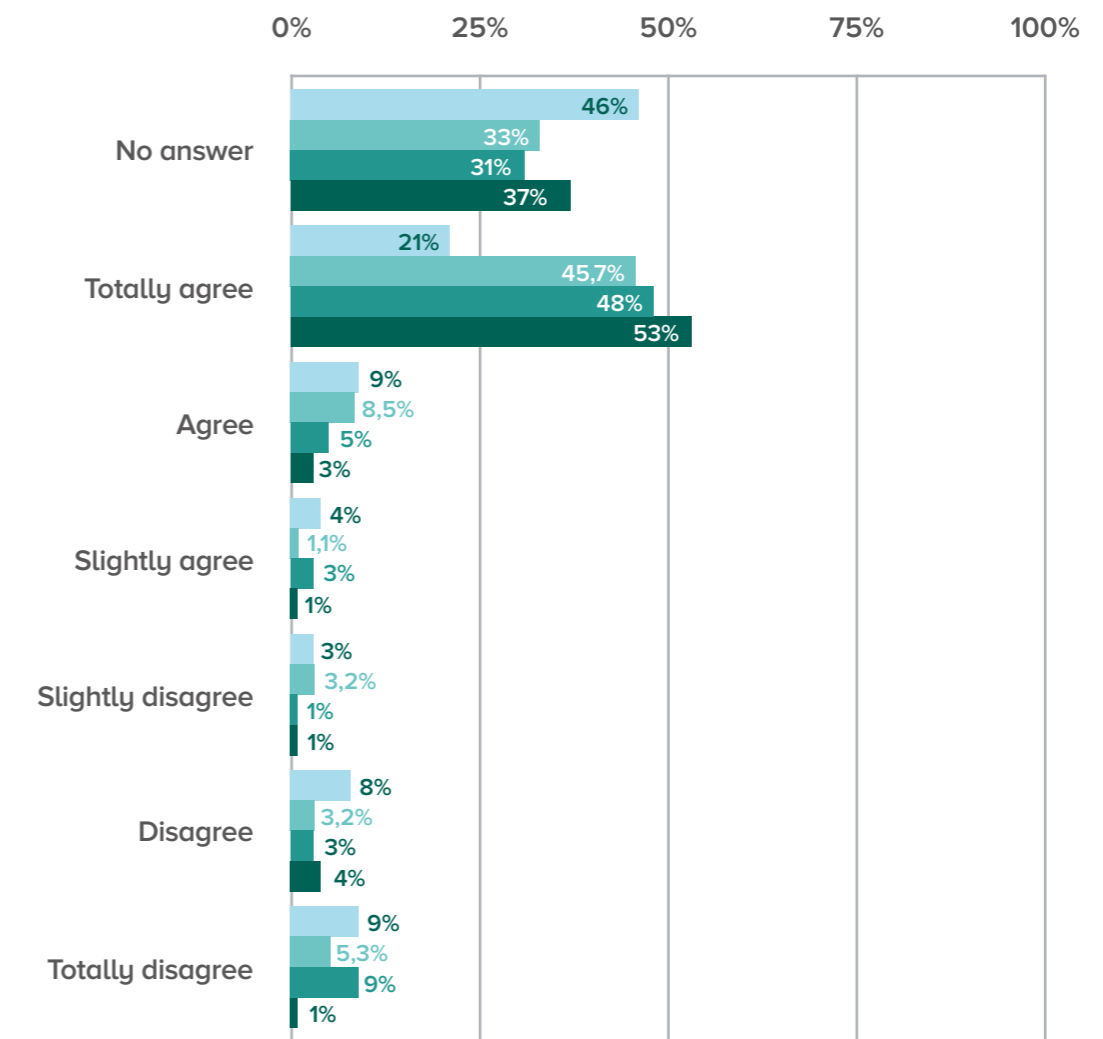
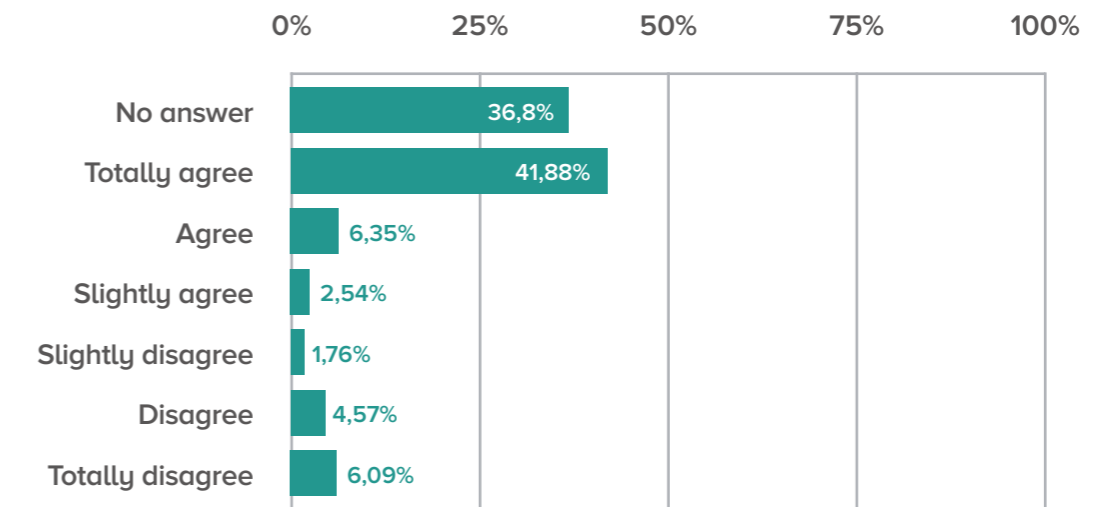
3) During my time in prison, I have been able to keep contact with these people on the outside...

a) My Family



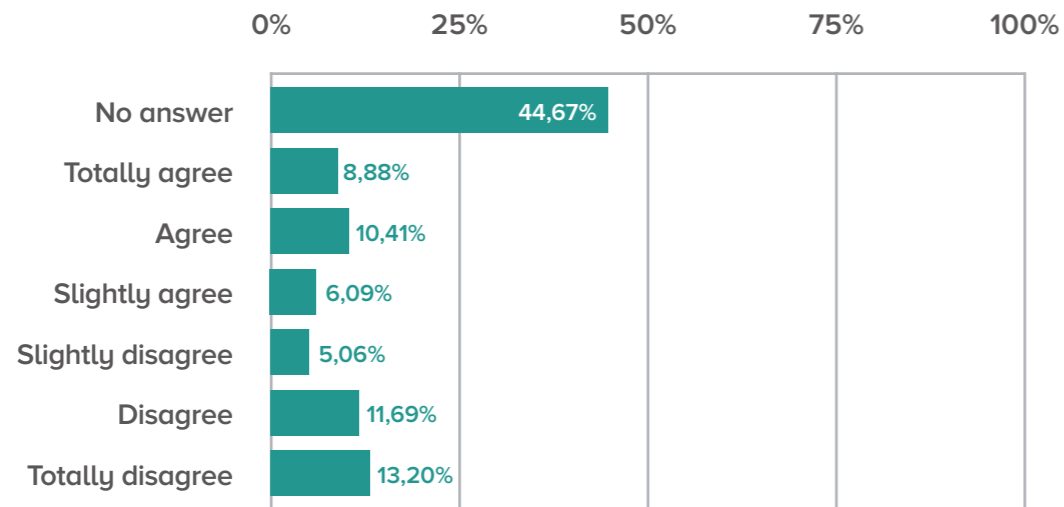
Germany Italy Portugal Romania

b) My kids

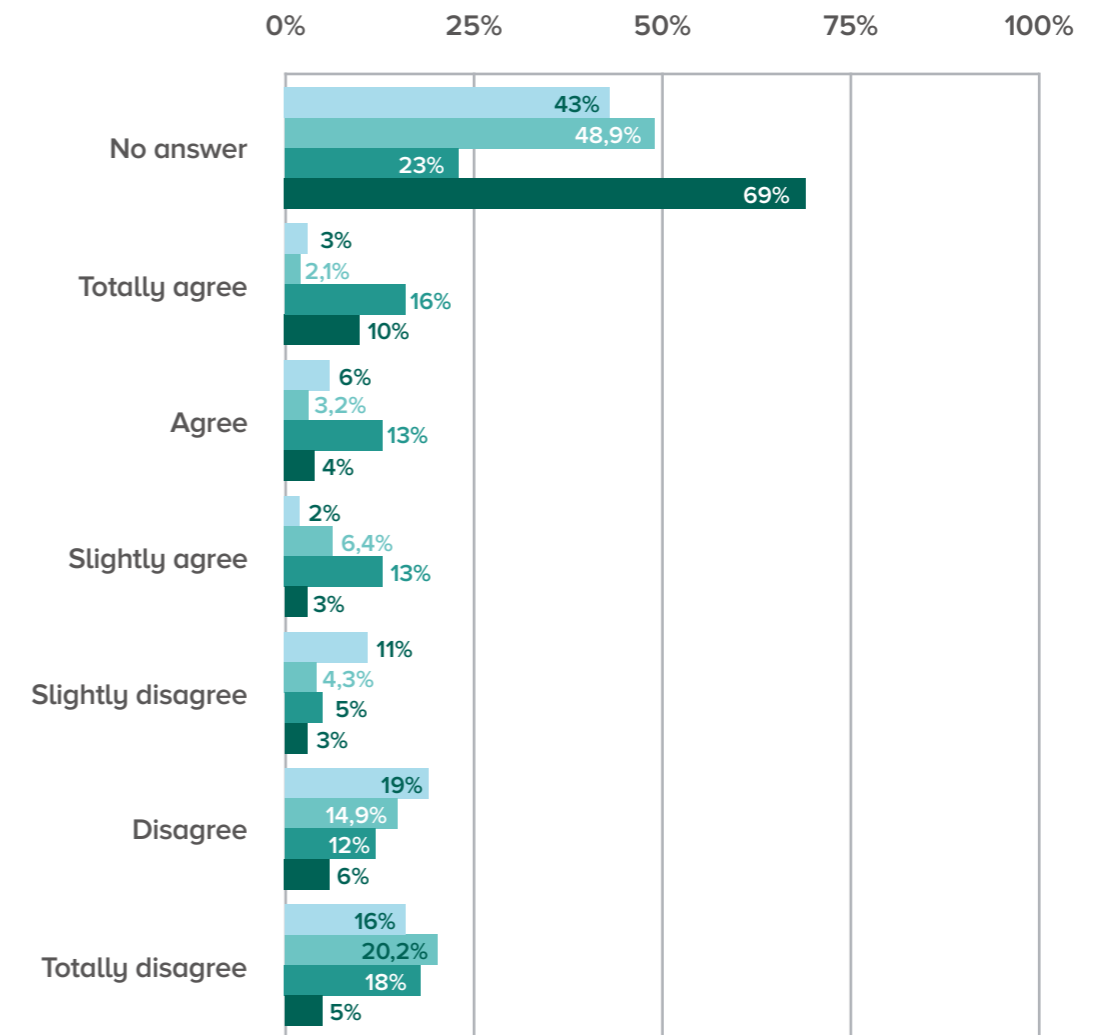
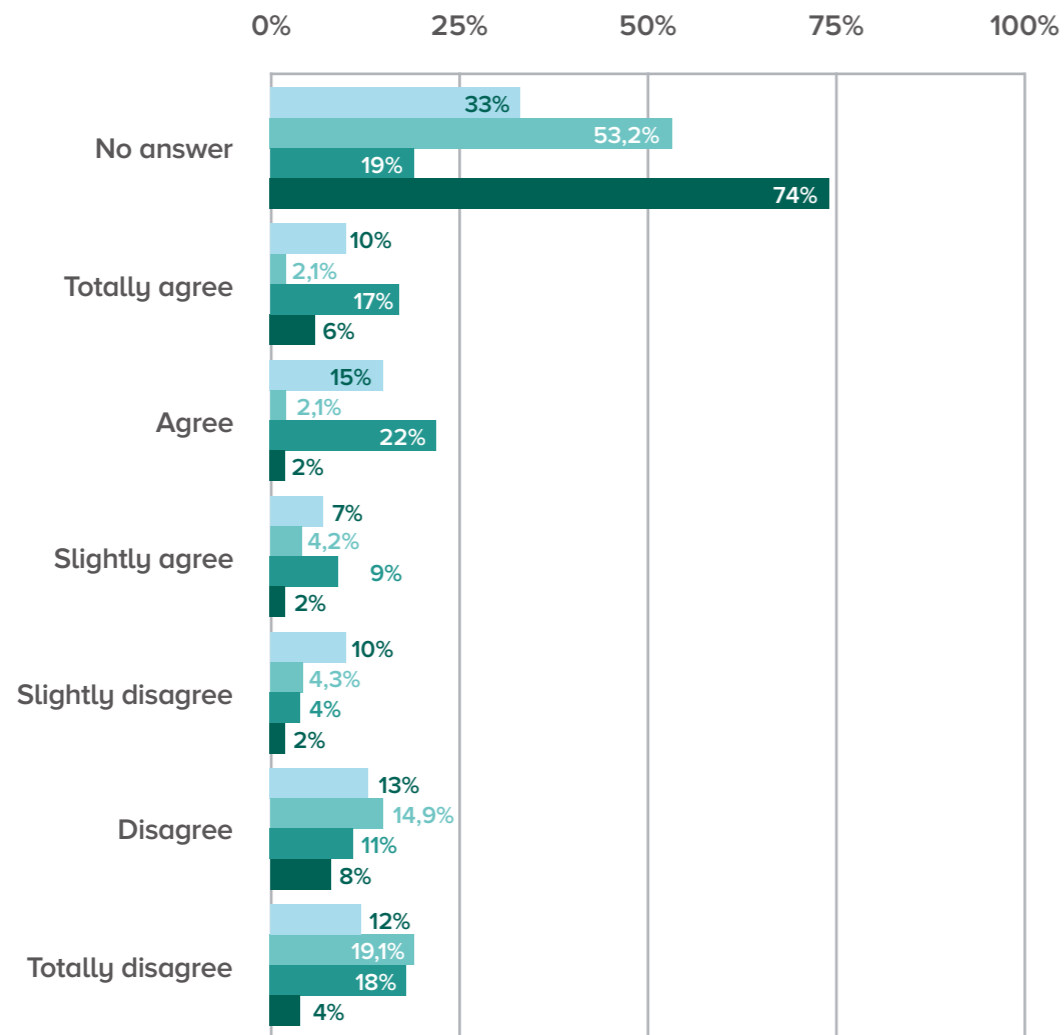
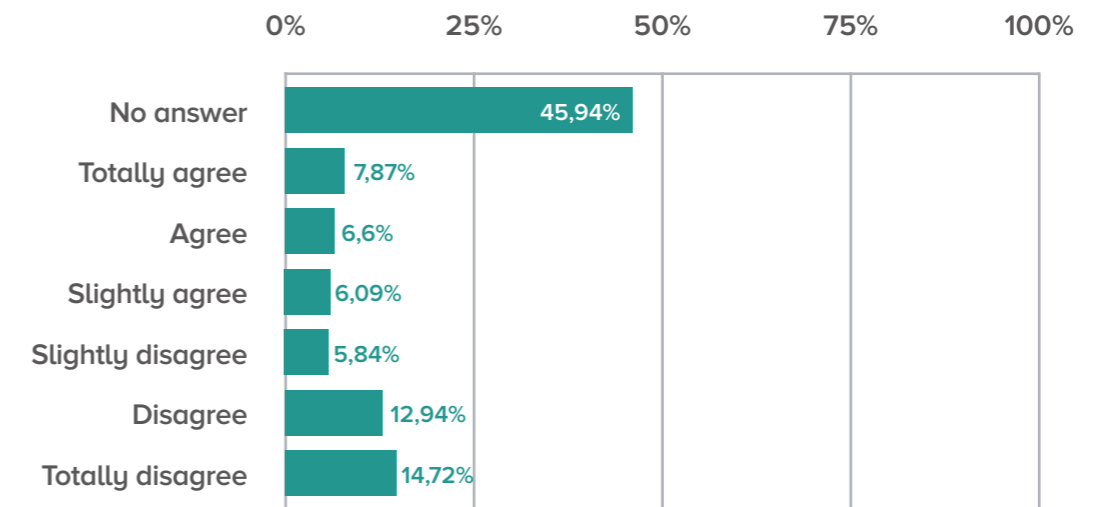


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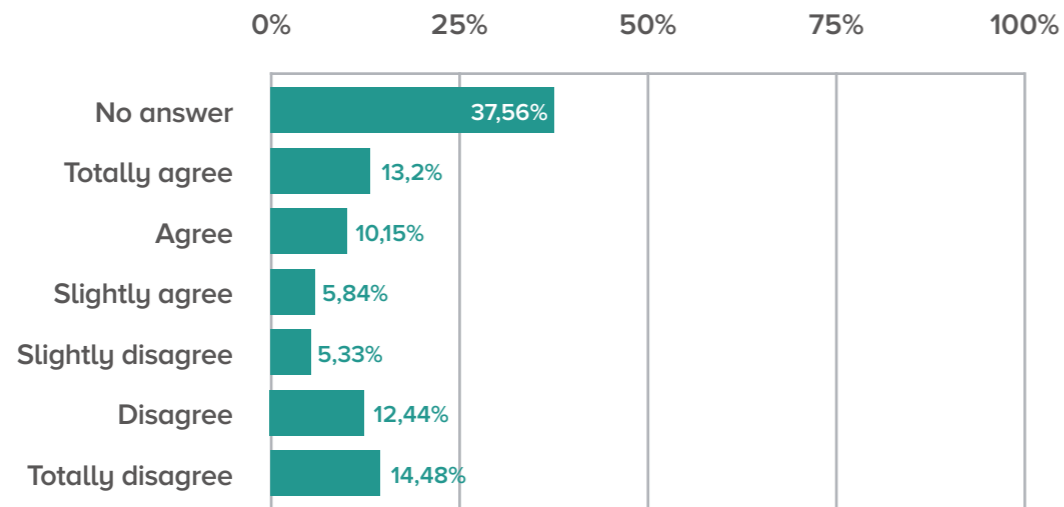
c) Probation officers



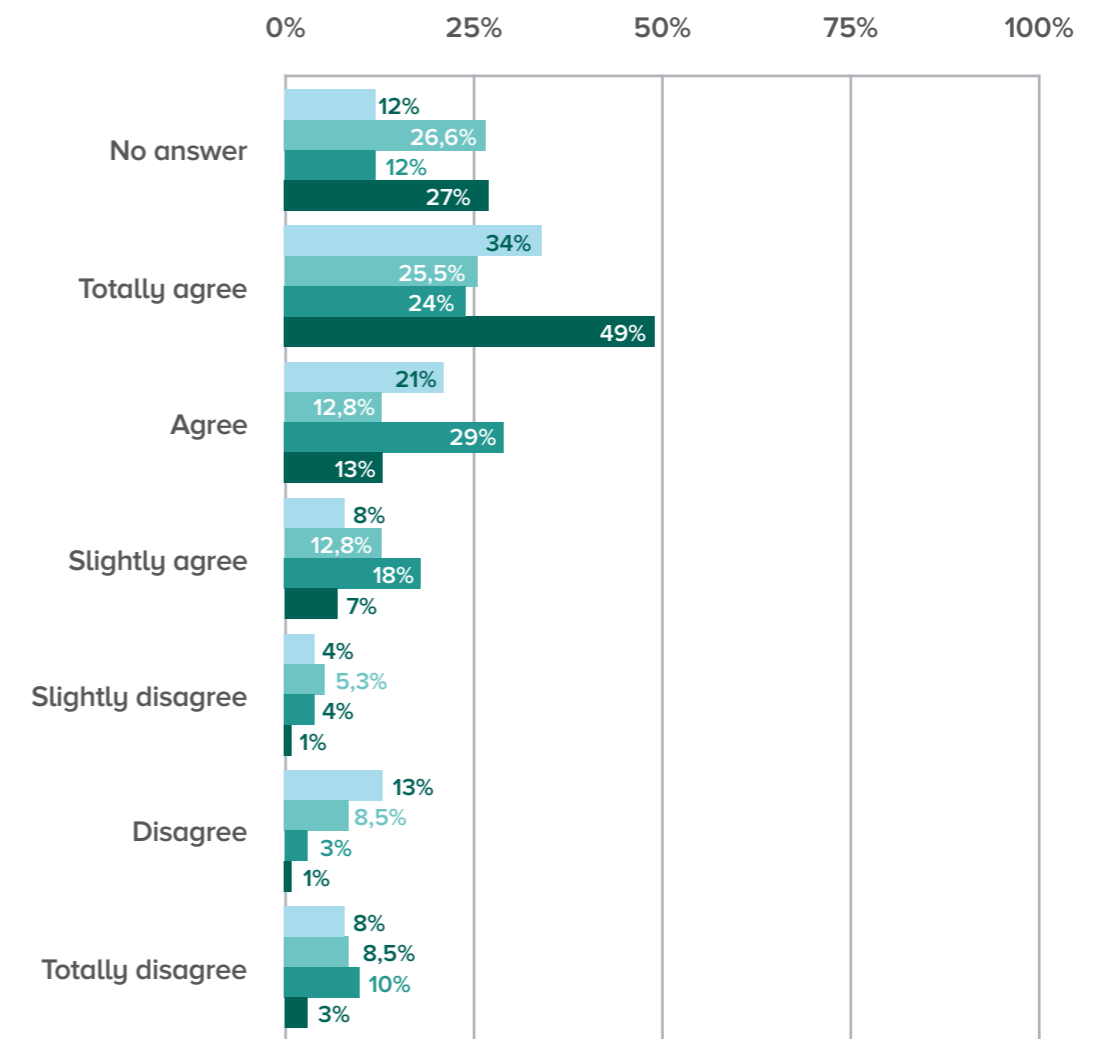
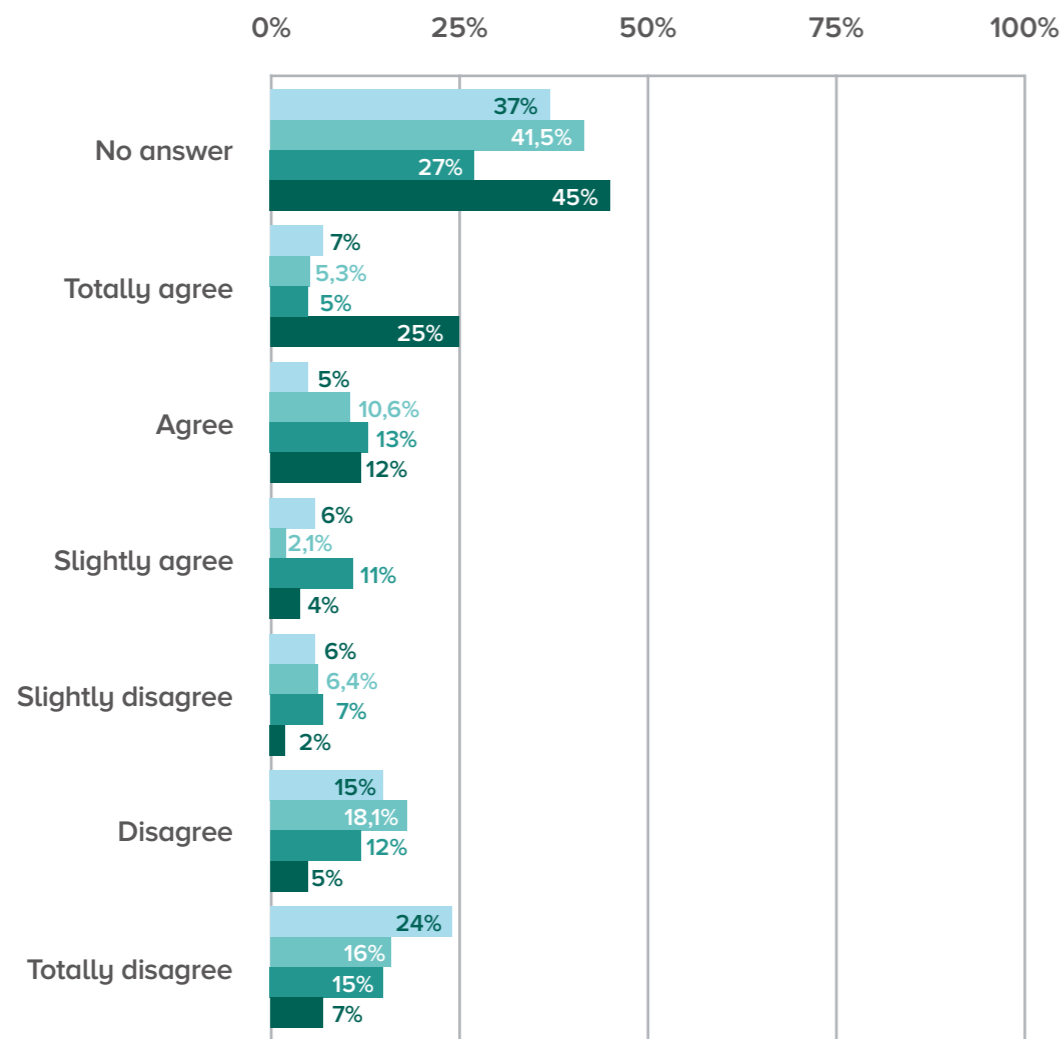
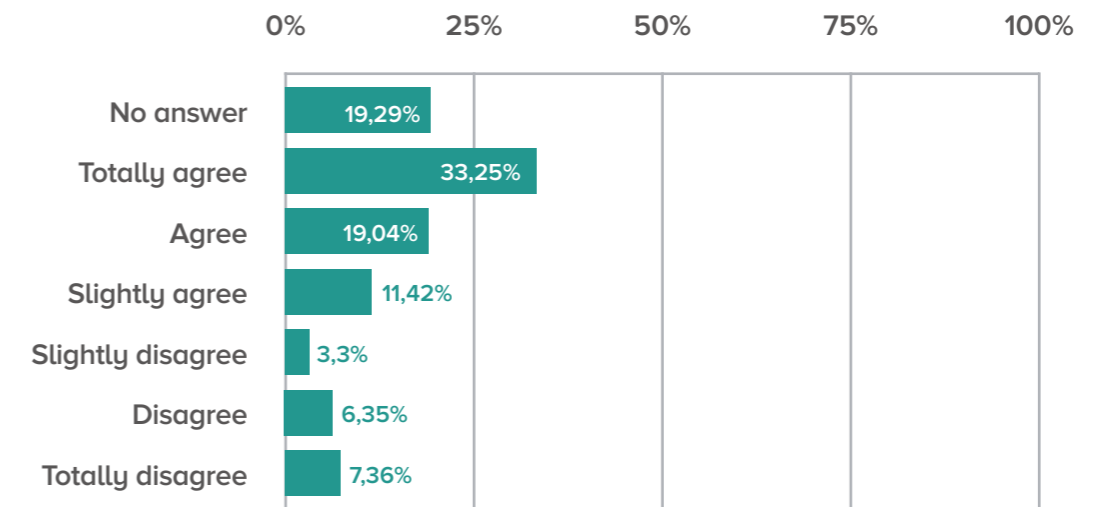
d) Local sports groups



e) Religious groups



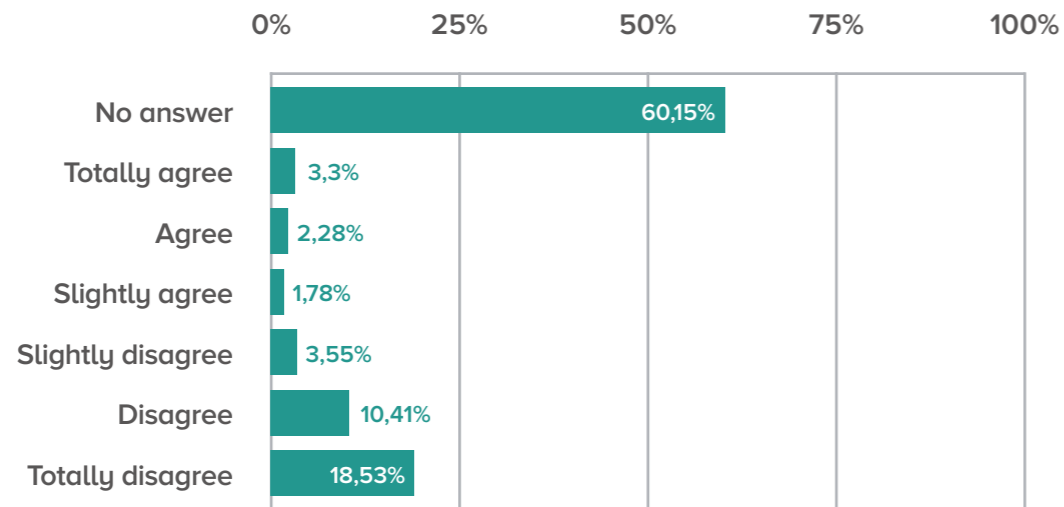
f) Friends and peers



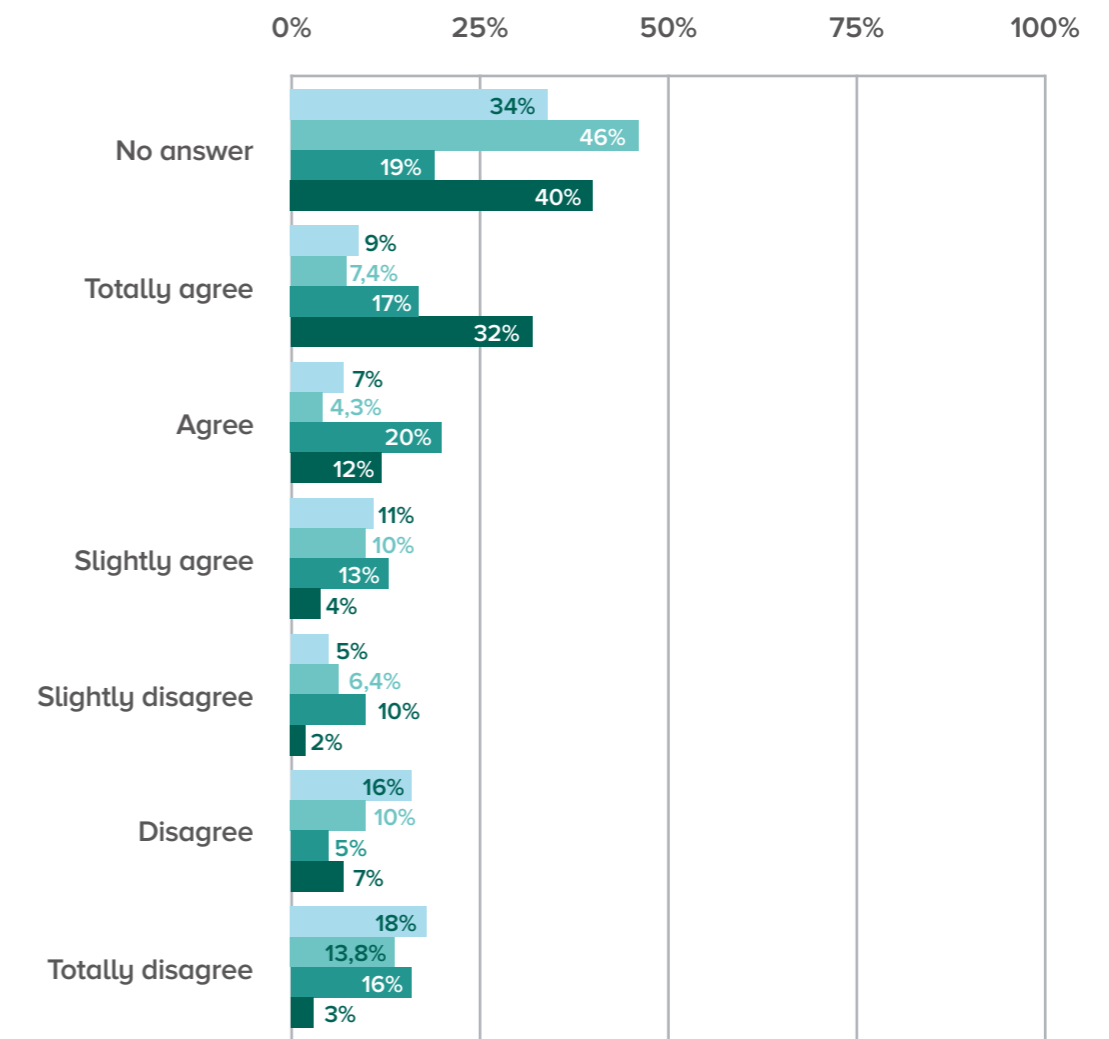
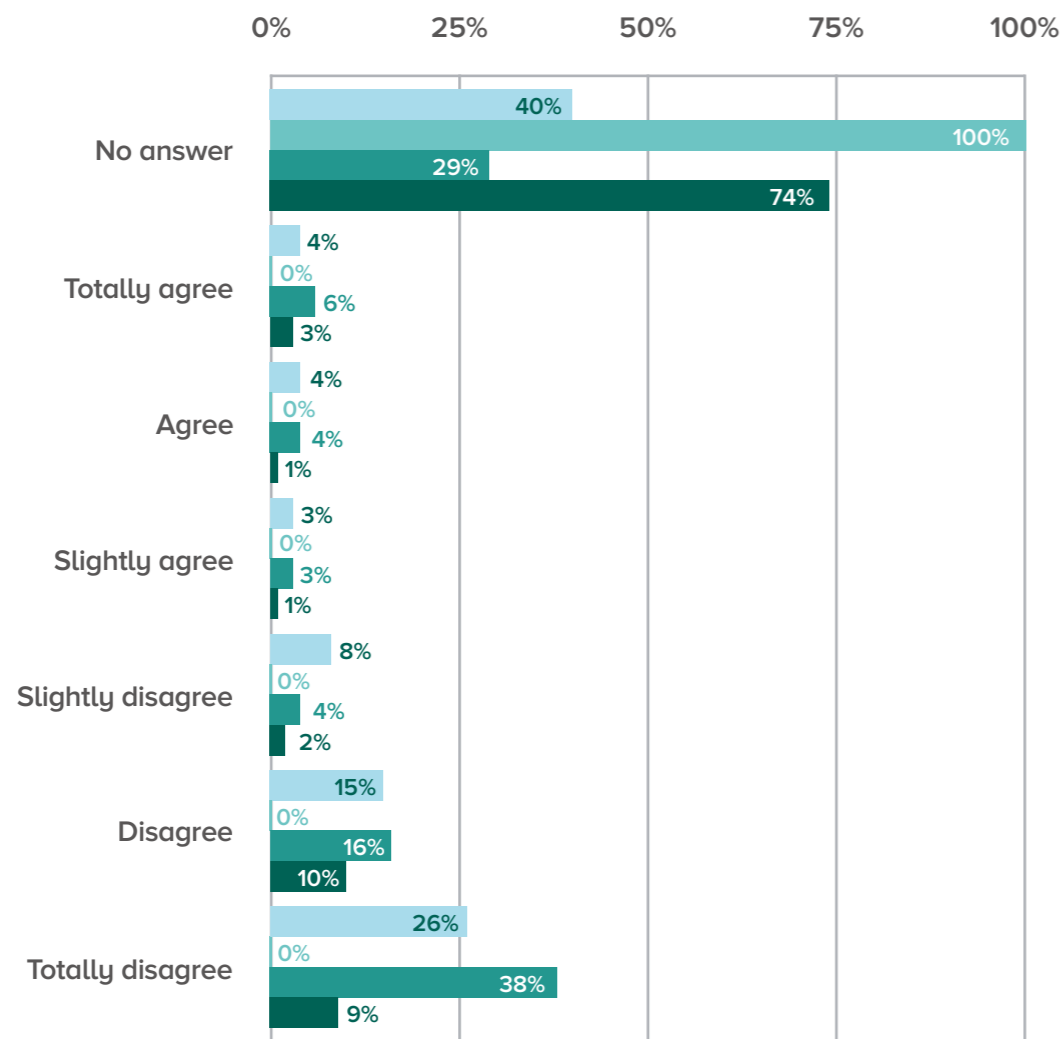
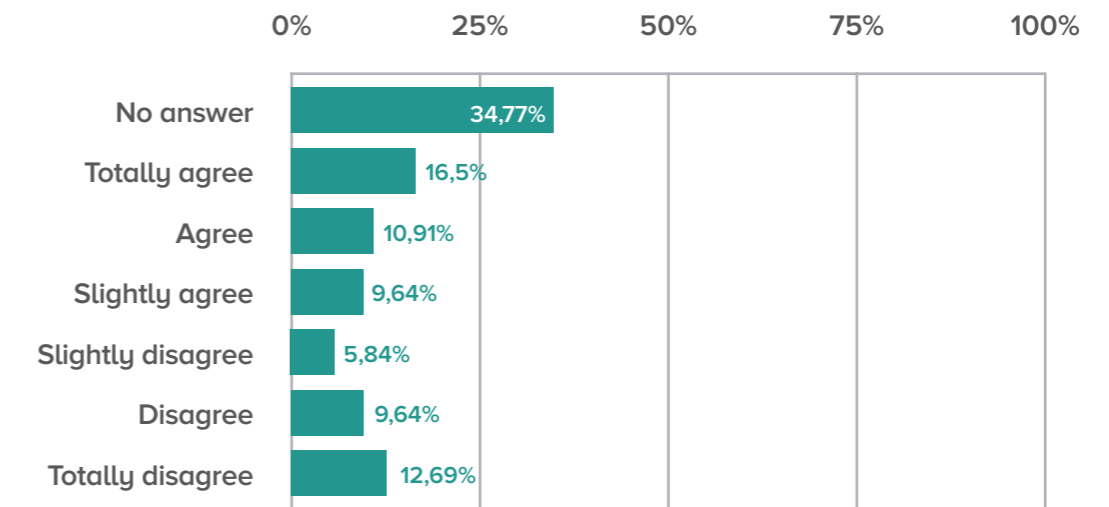
Germany Italy Portugal Romania

Germany Italy Portugal Romania

g) The police

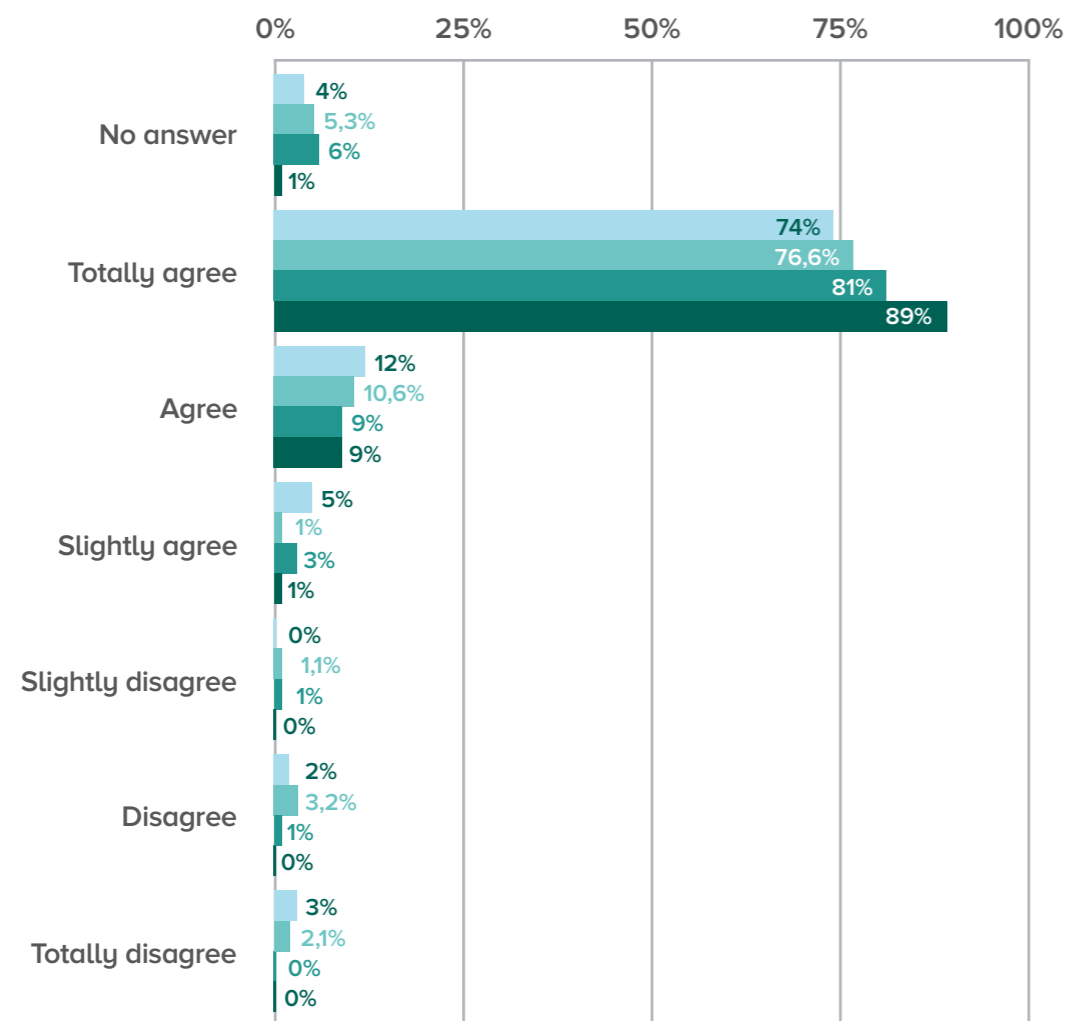
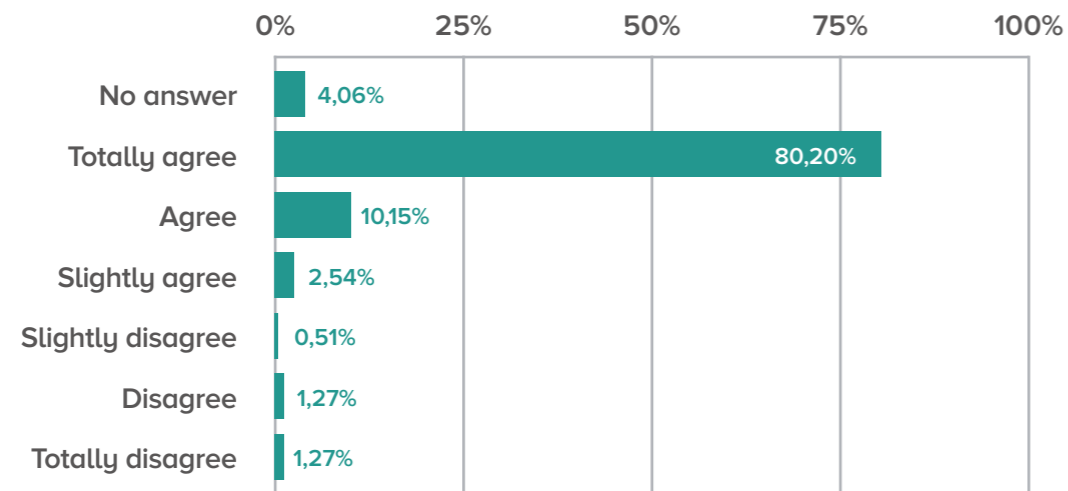


h) Former colleagues



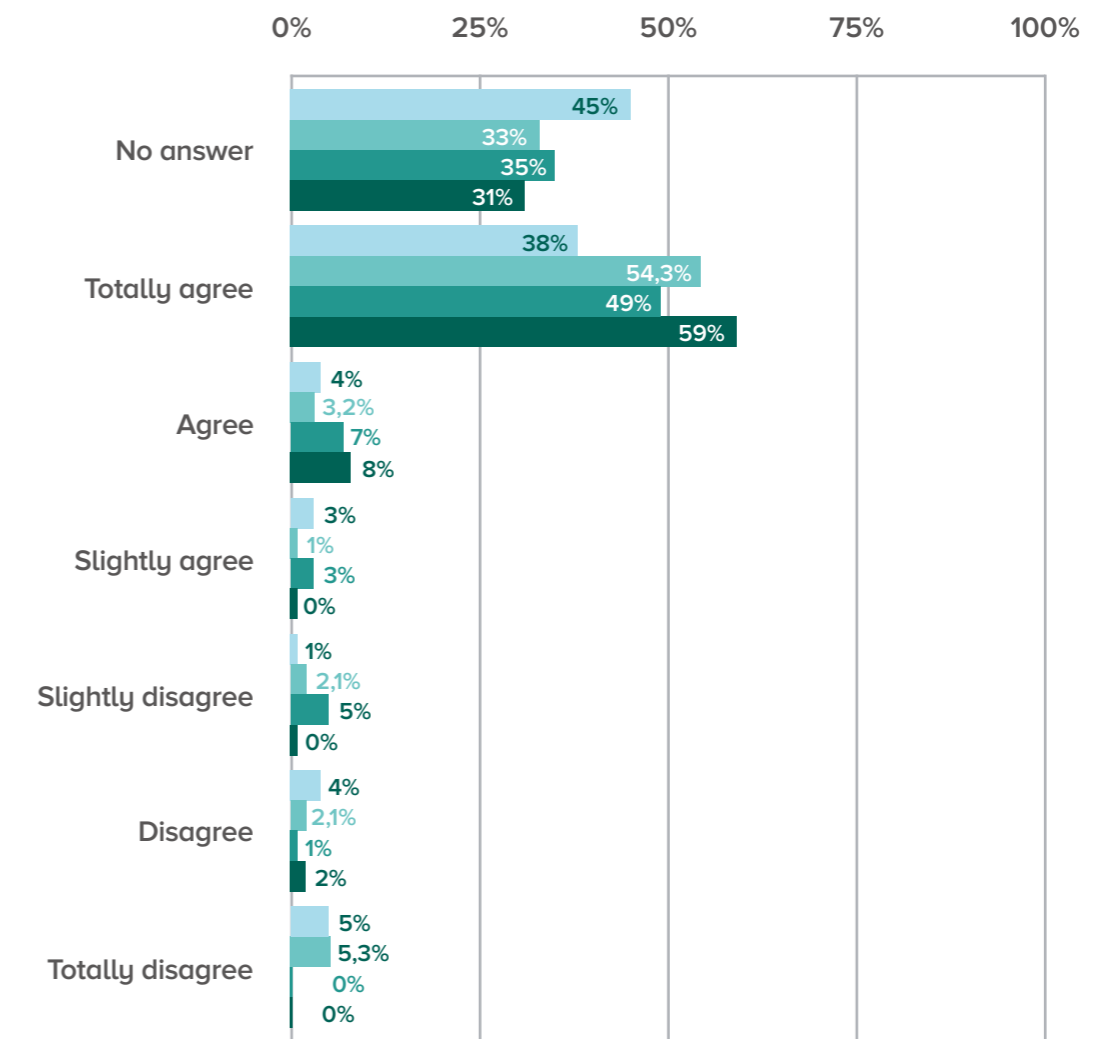
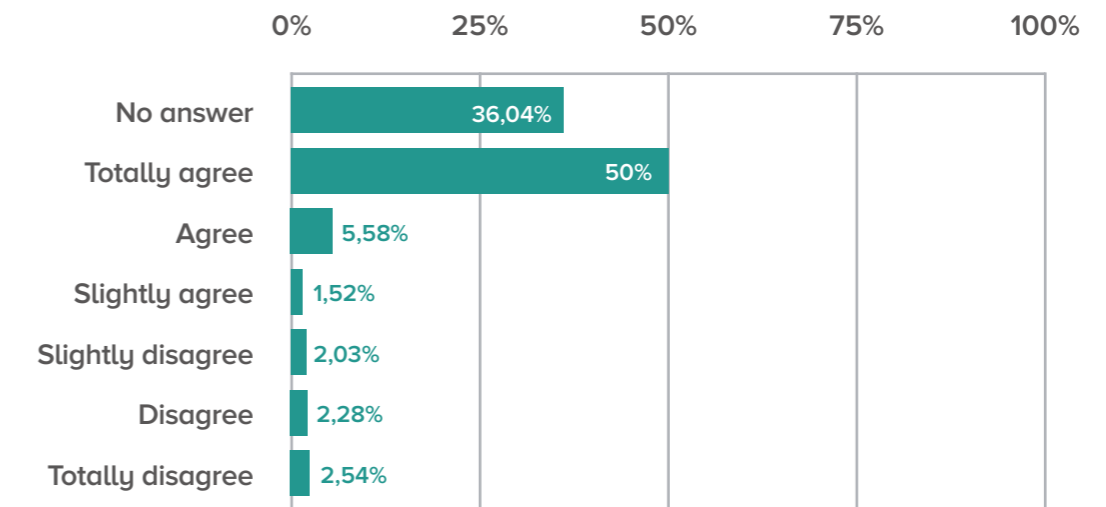
4) Once I am released I think the following people are important to help me get back on track...

a) My Family



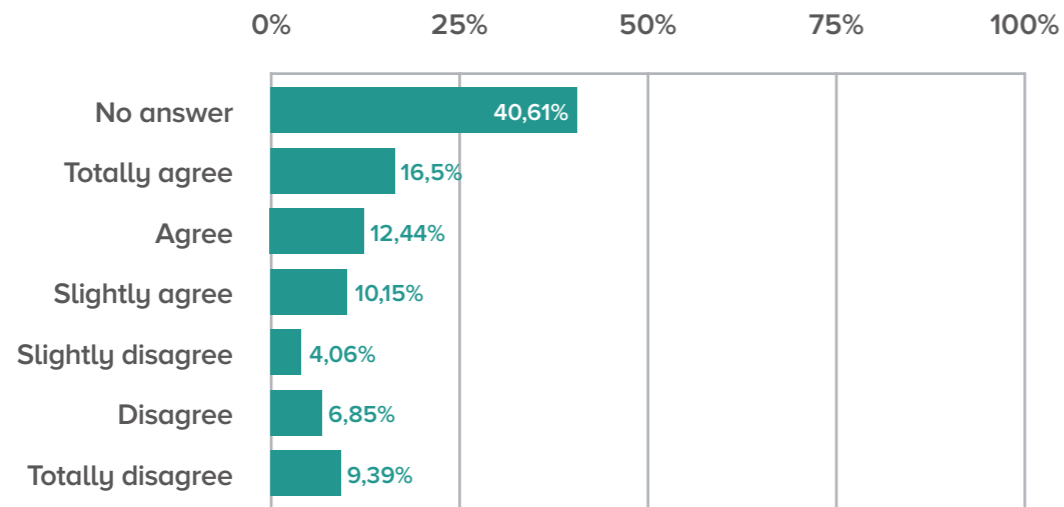
Germany Italy Portugal Romania

b) My kids

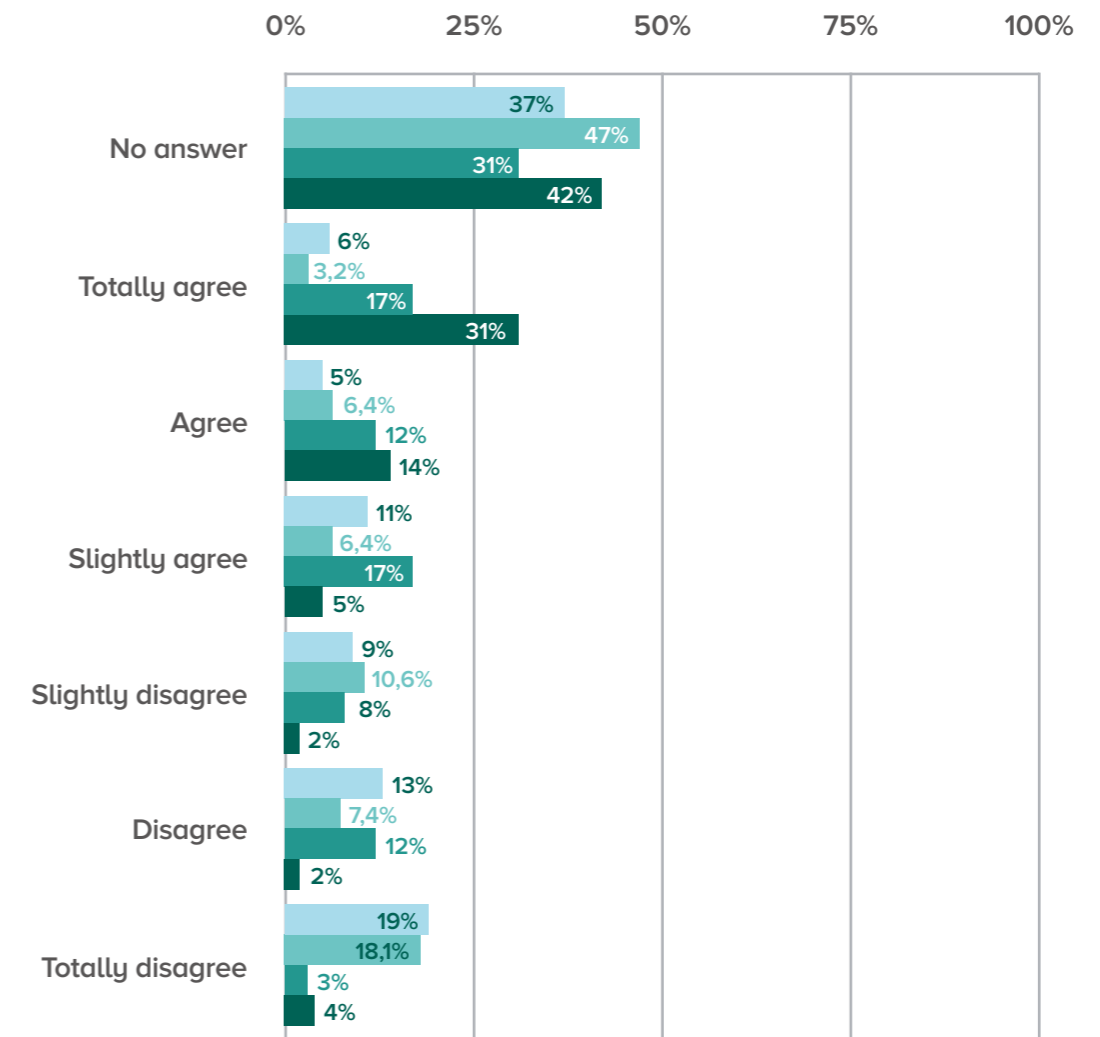
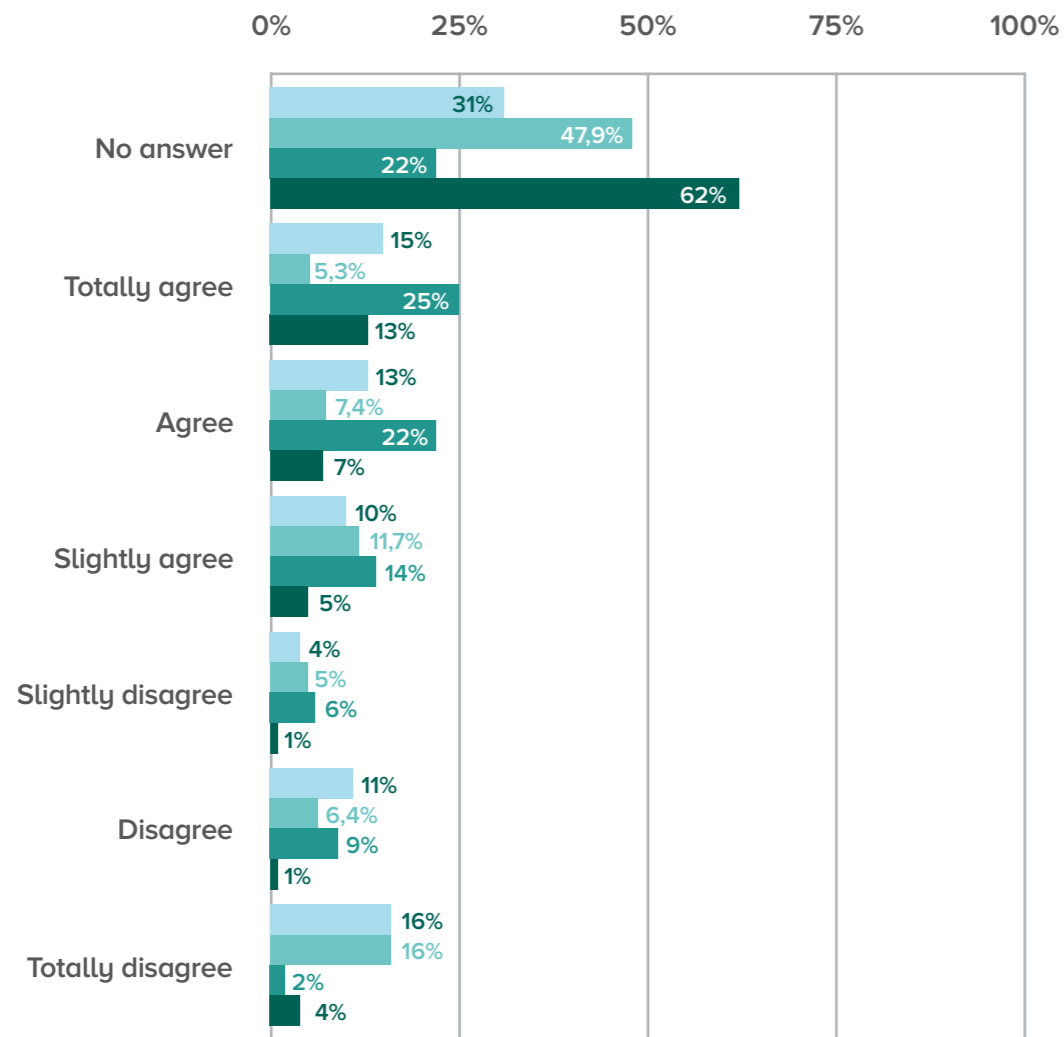
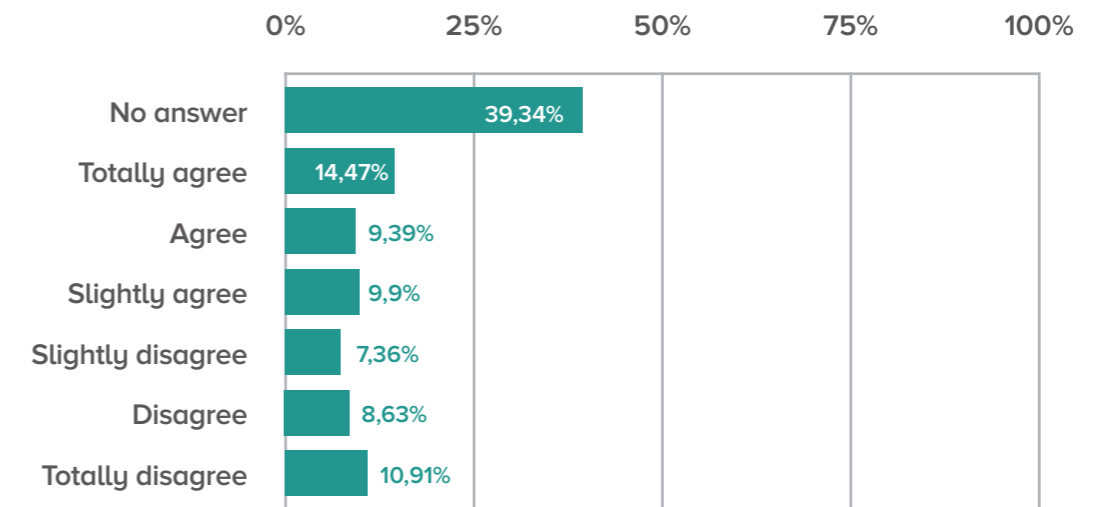


Germany Italy Portugal Romania

c) Local sports groups



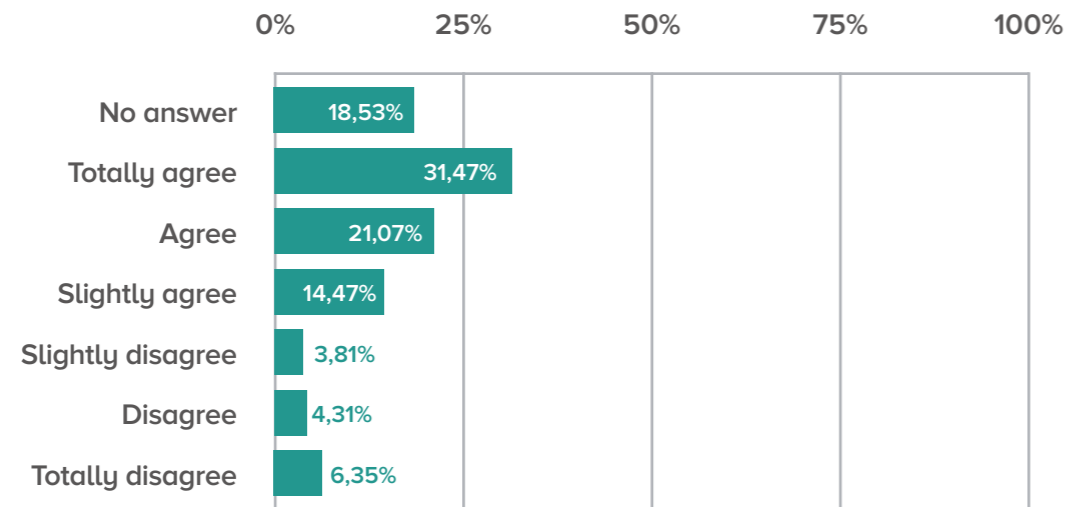
d) Religious groups



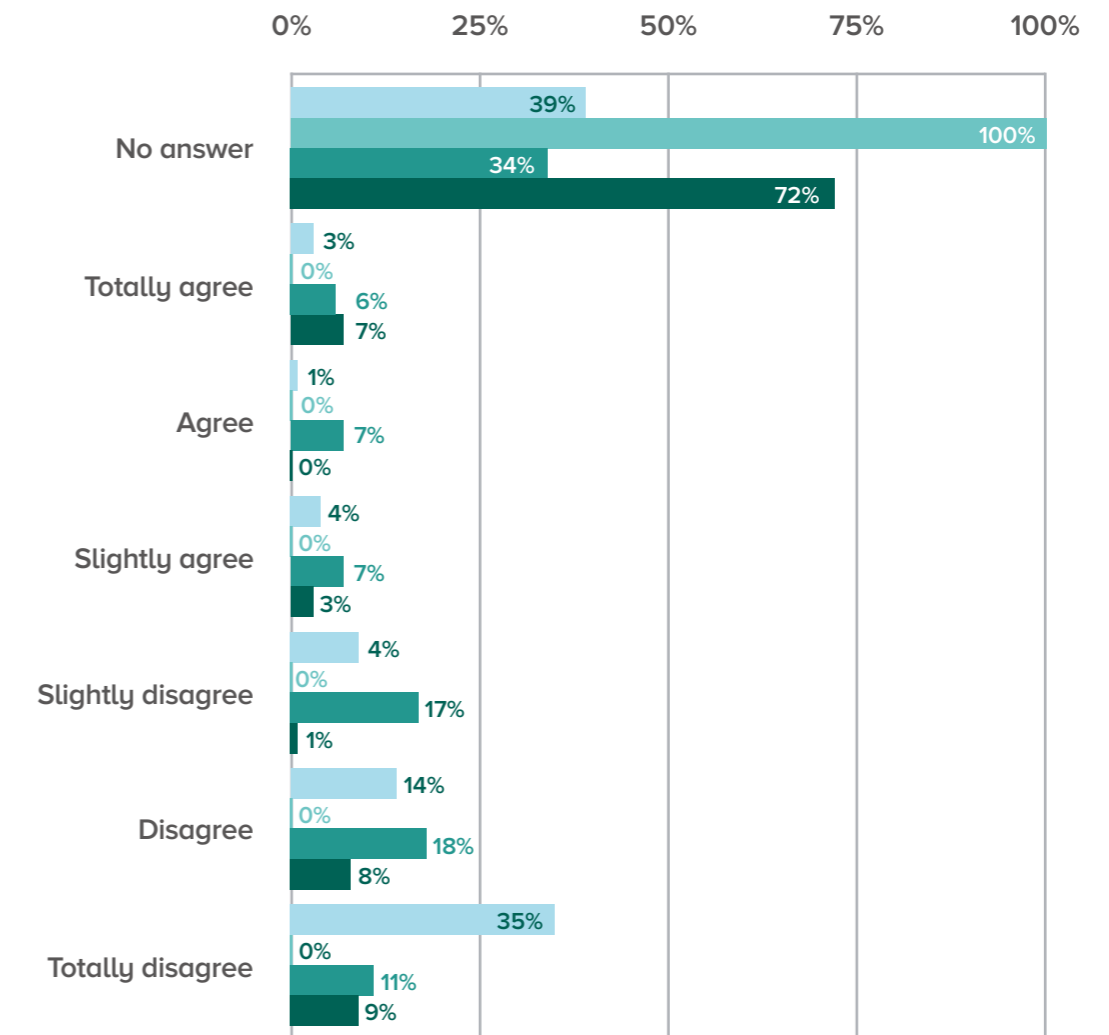
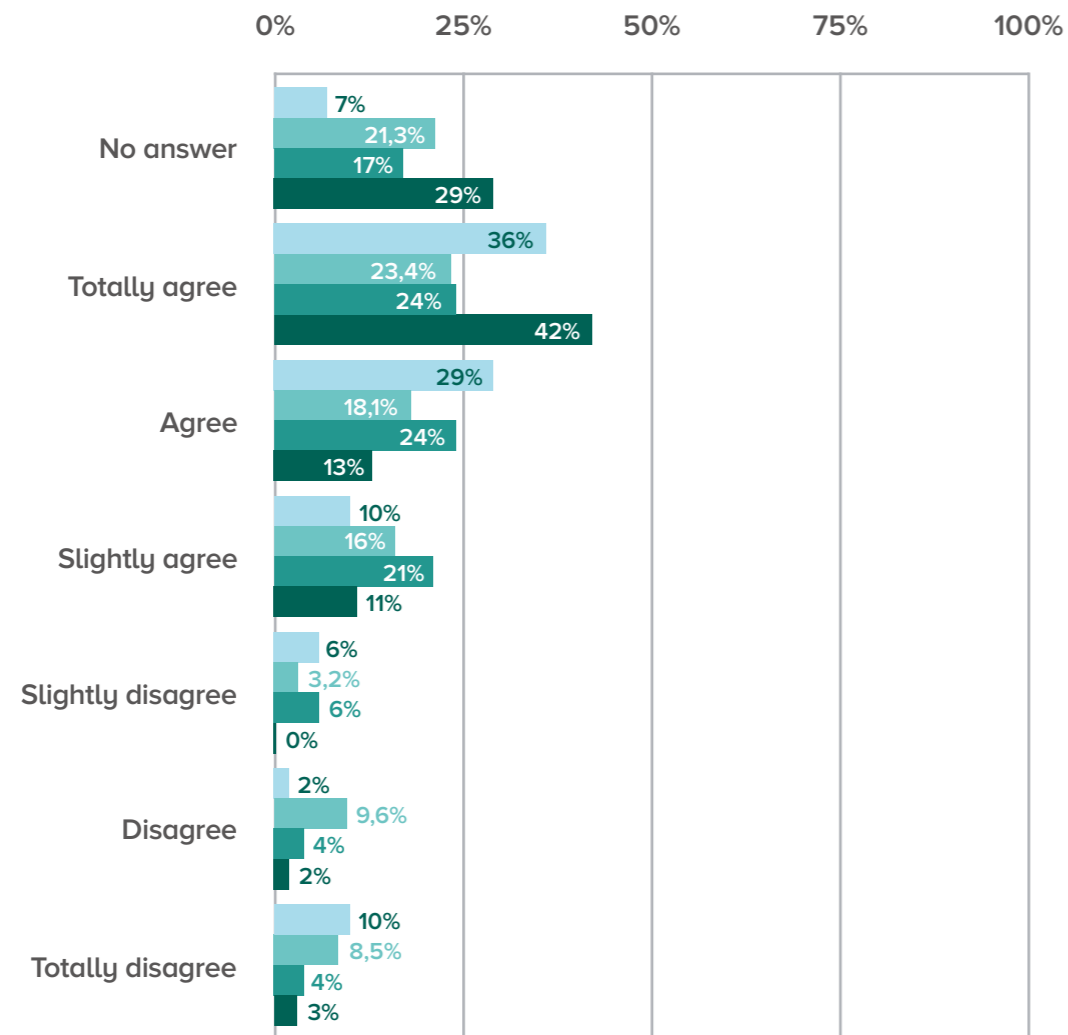
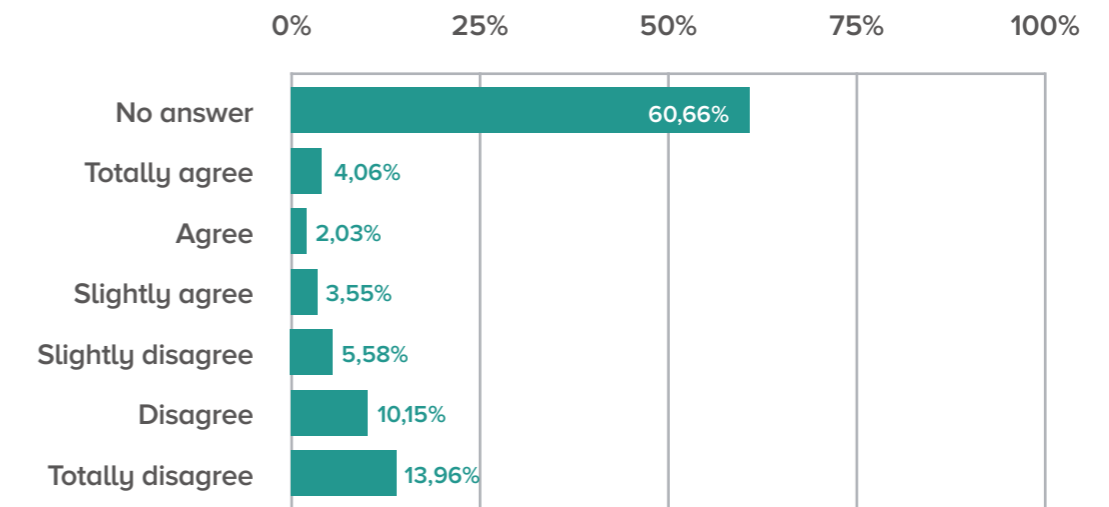
Germany Italy Portugal Romania

Germany Italy Portugal Romania

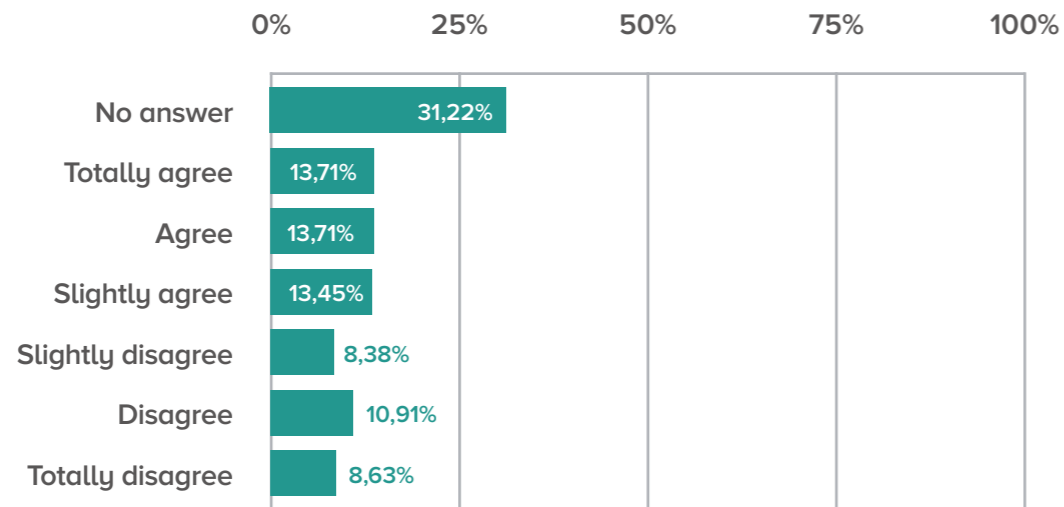
e) Friends and peers



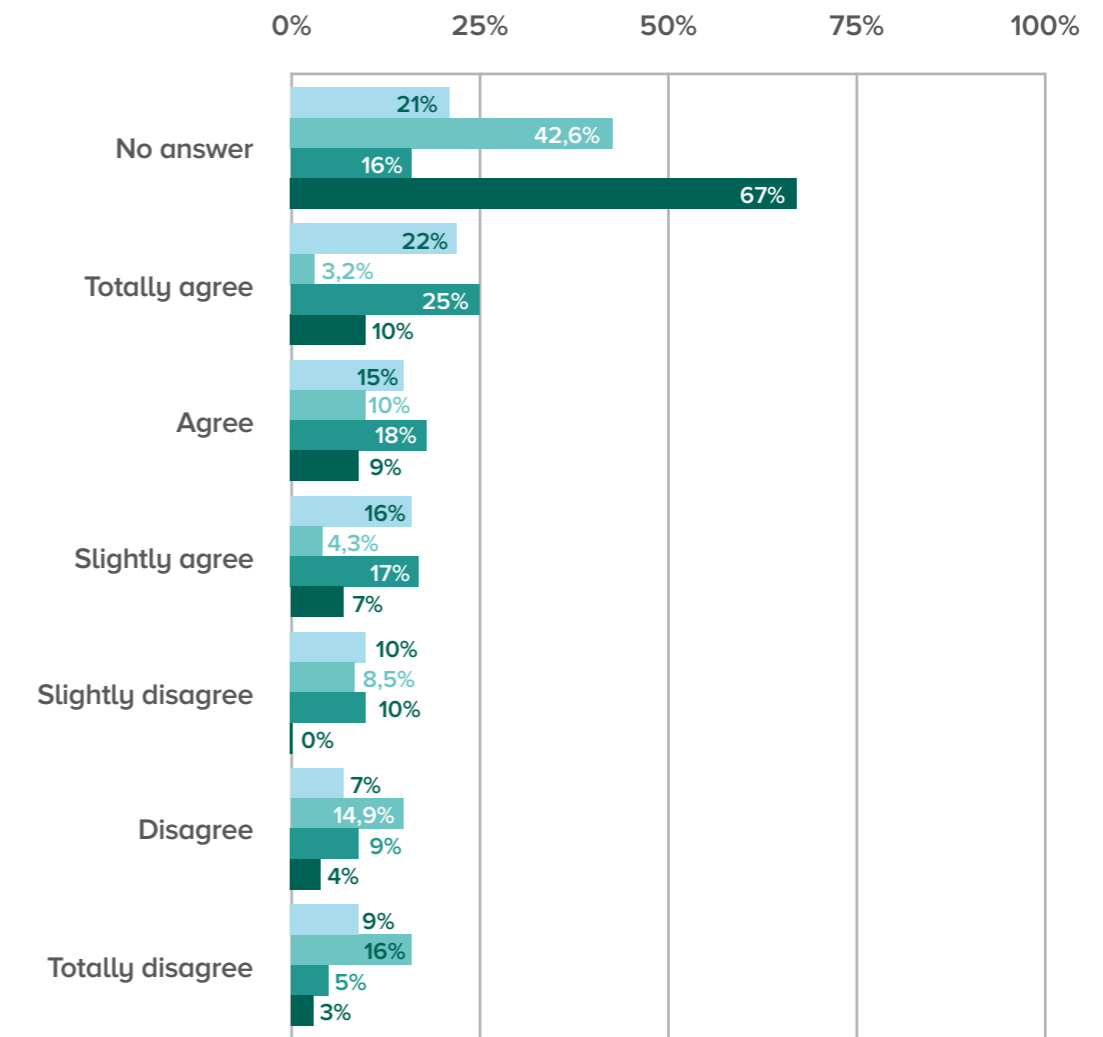
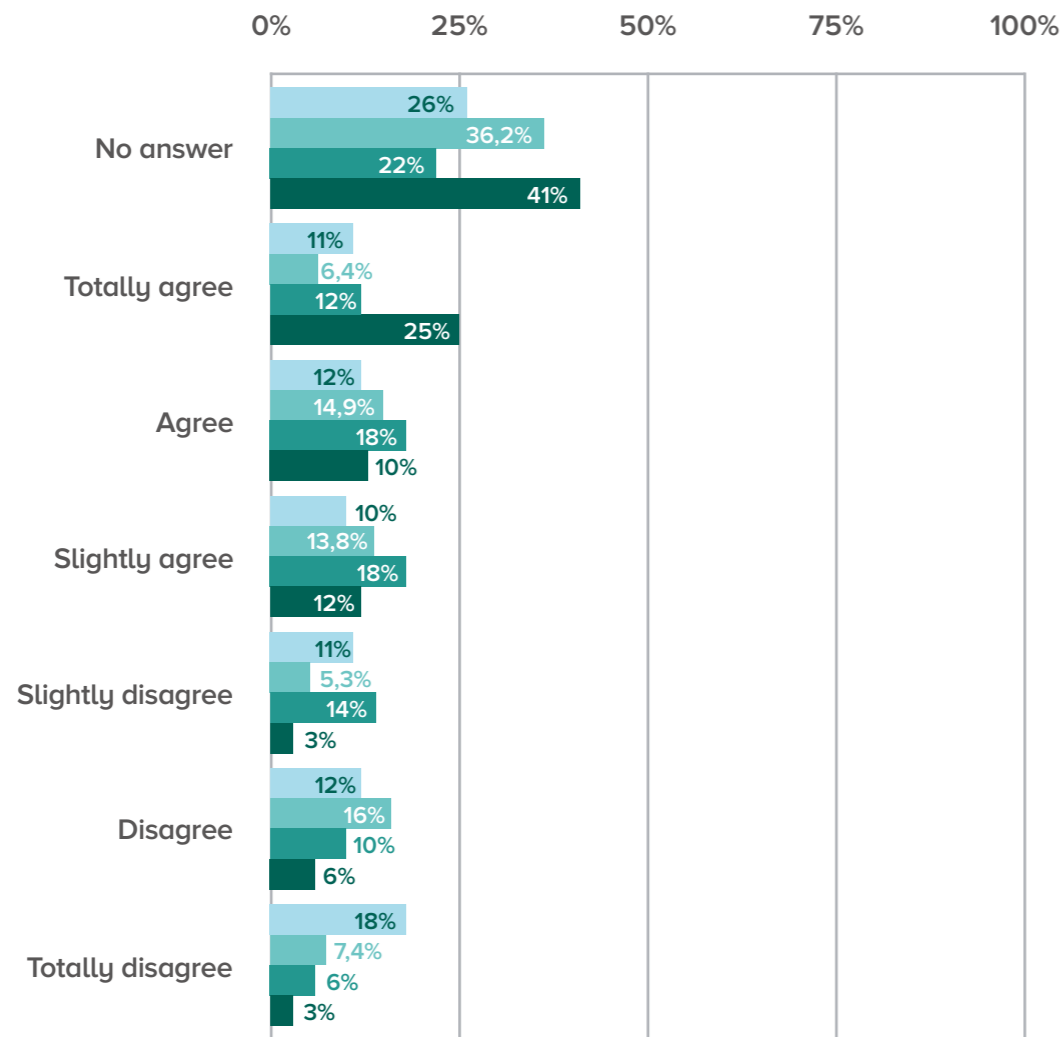
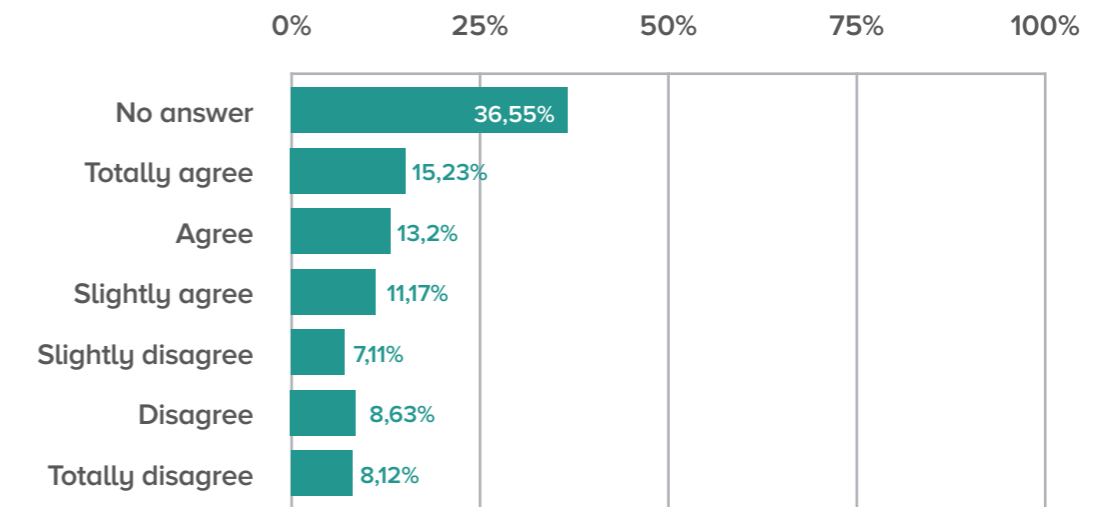
f) The police



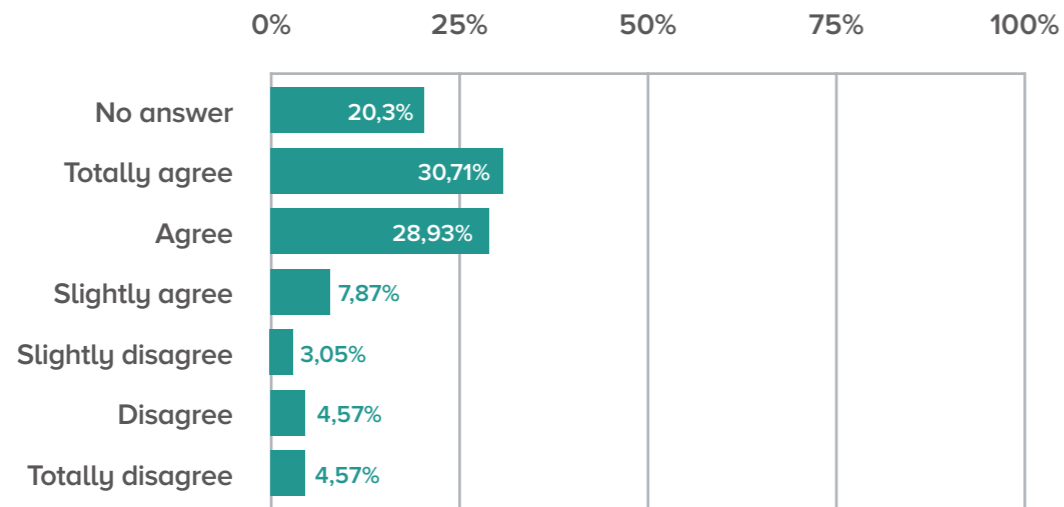
g) Former colleagues



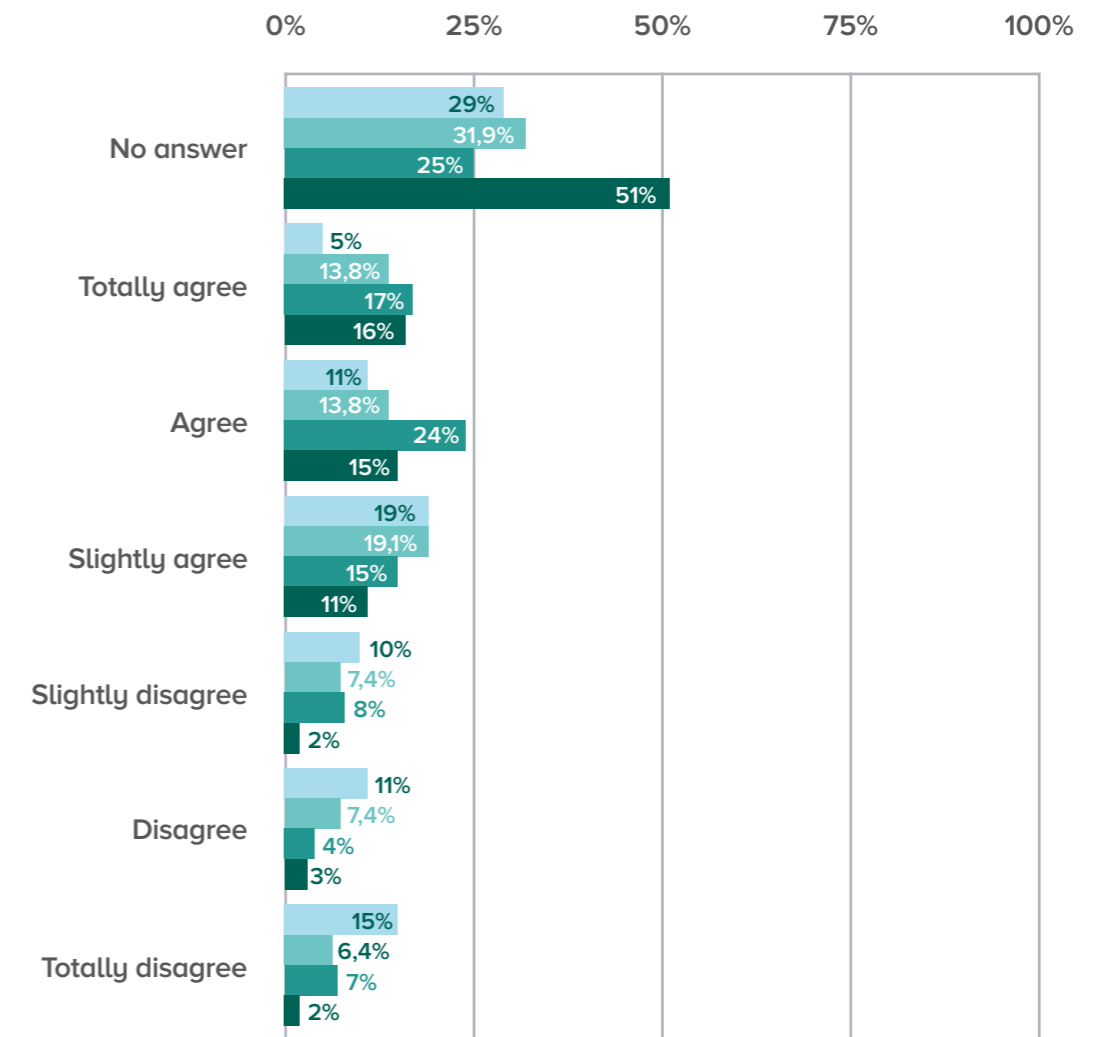
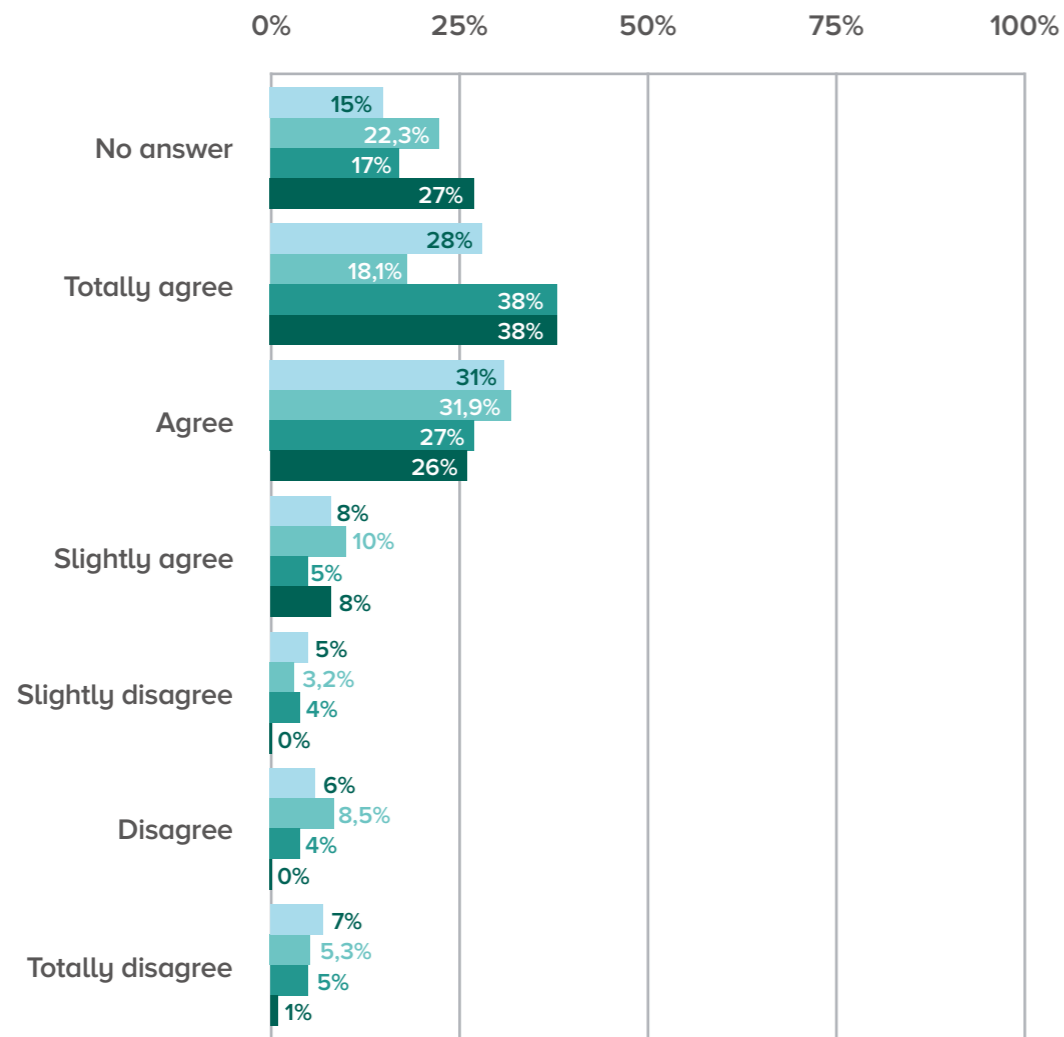
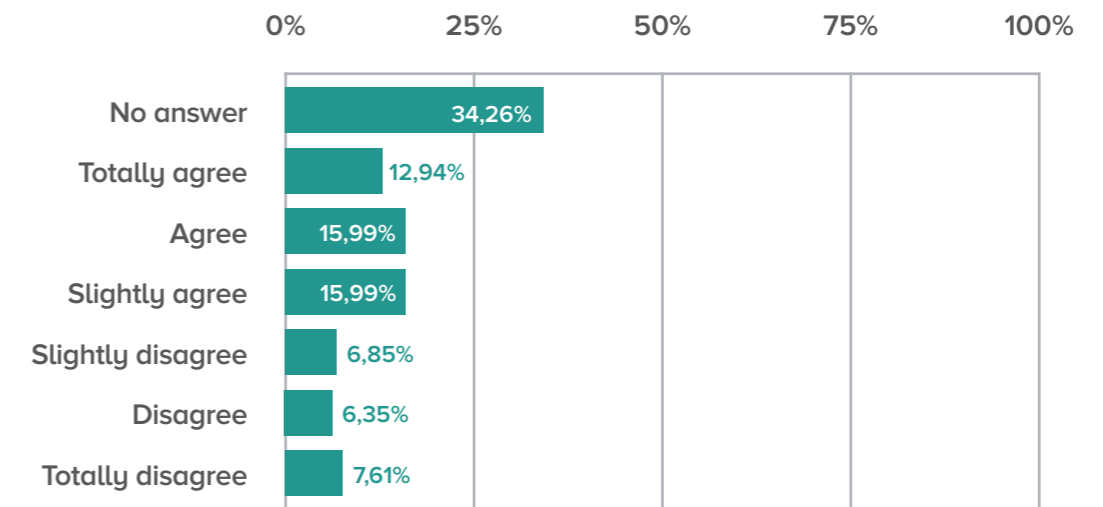
h) Probation officers



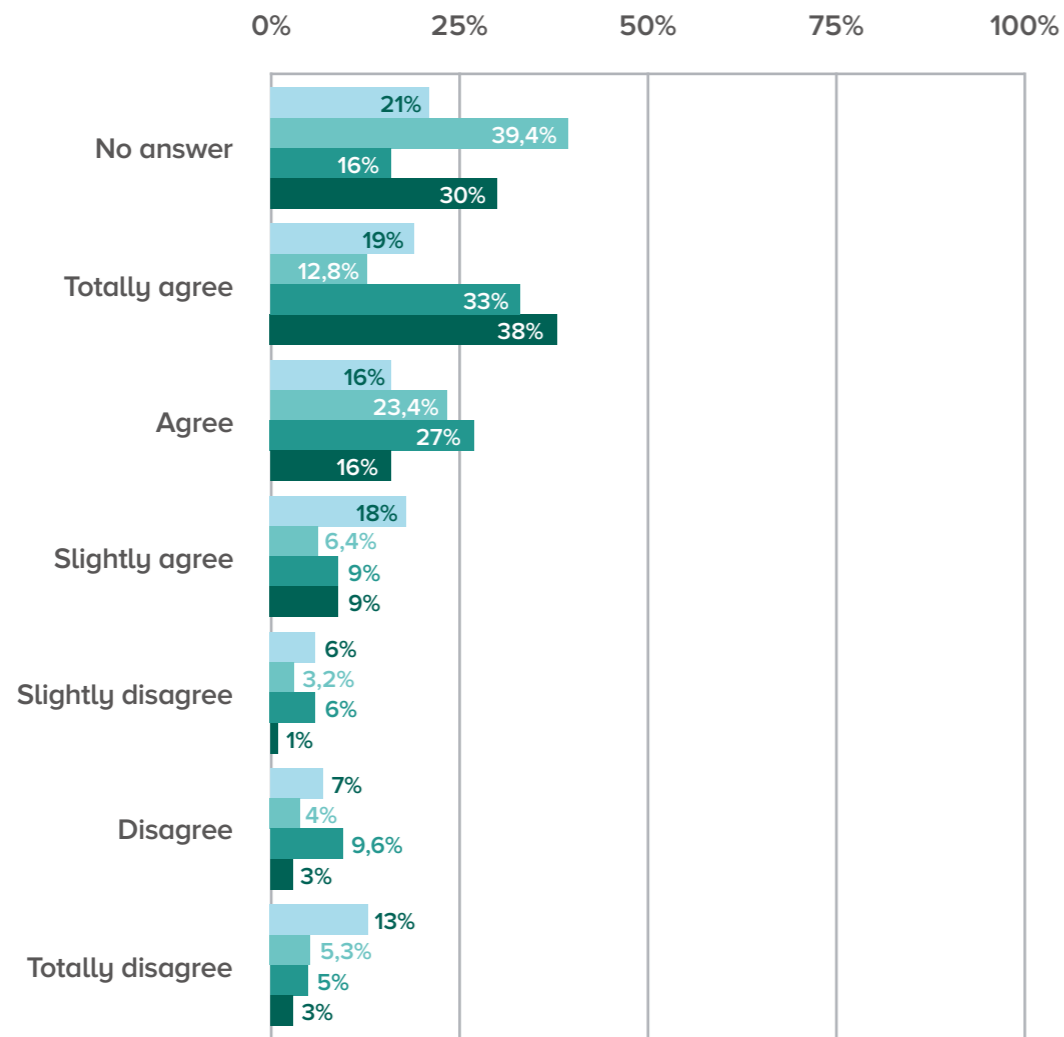
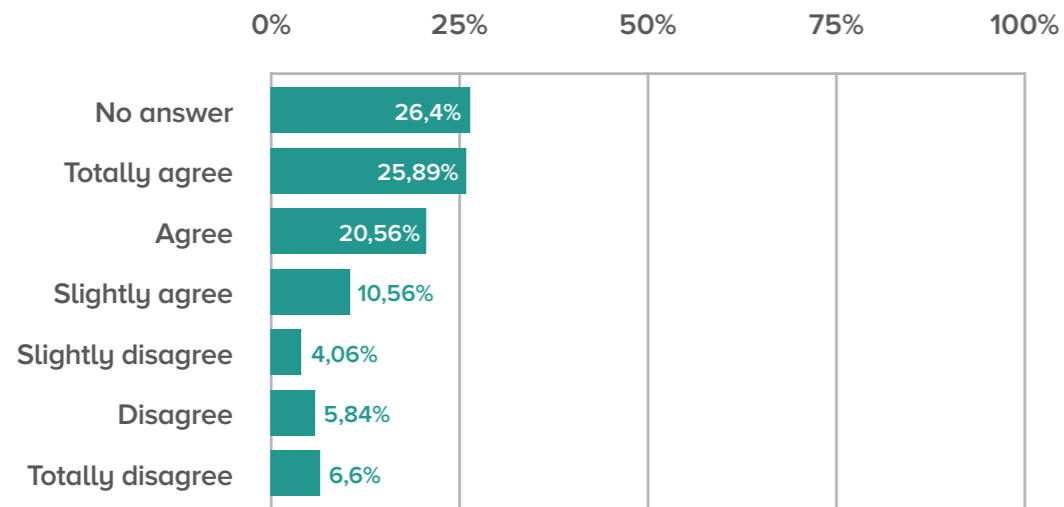
i) Employers



j) Volunteers in different roles



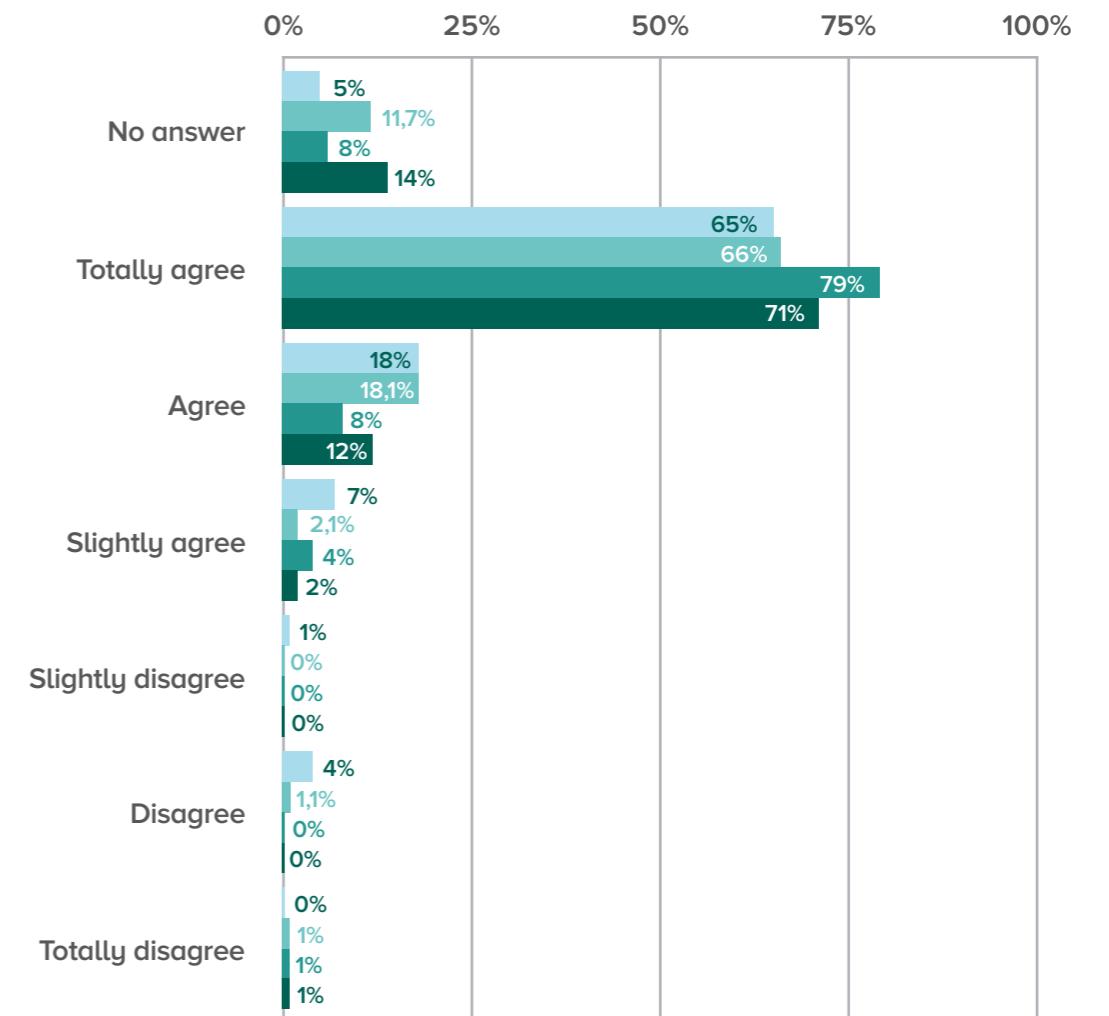
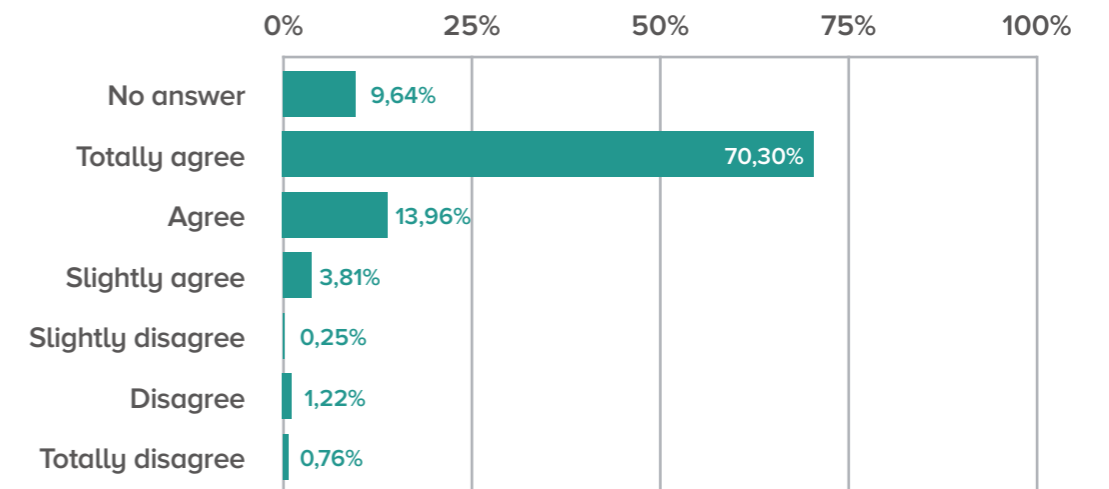
k) Civil society in general



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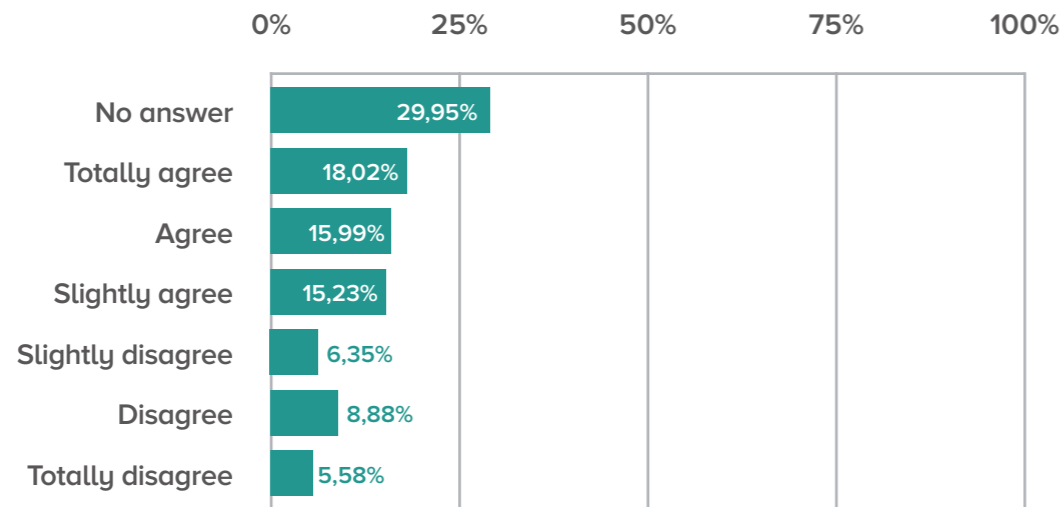
5) In terms of getting work once I am out of prison, I think that...

a) Finding a job is really important to me.

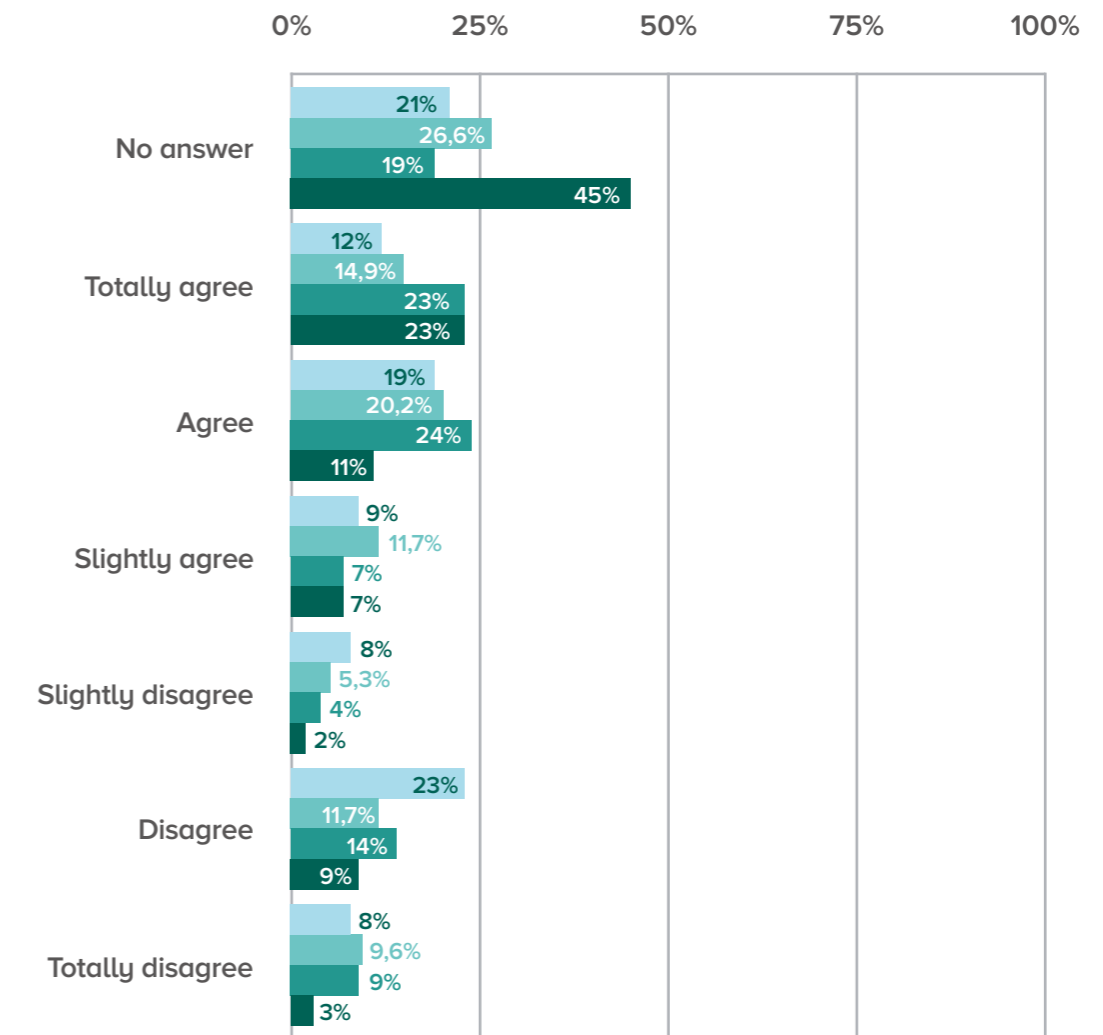
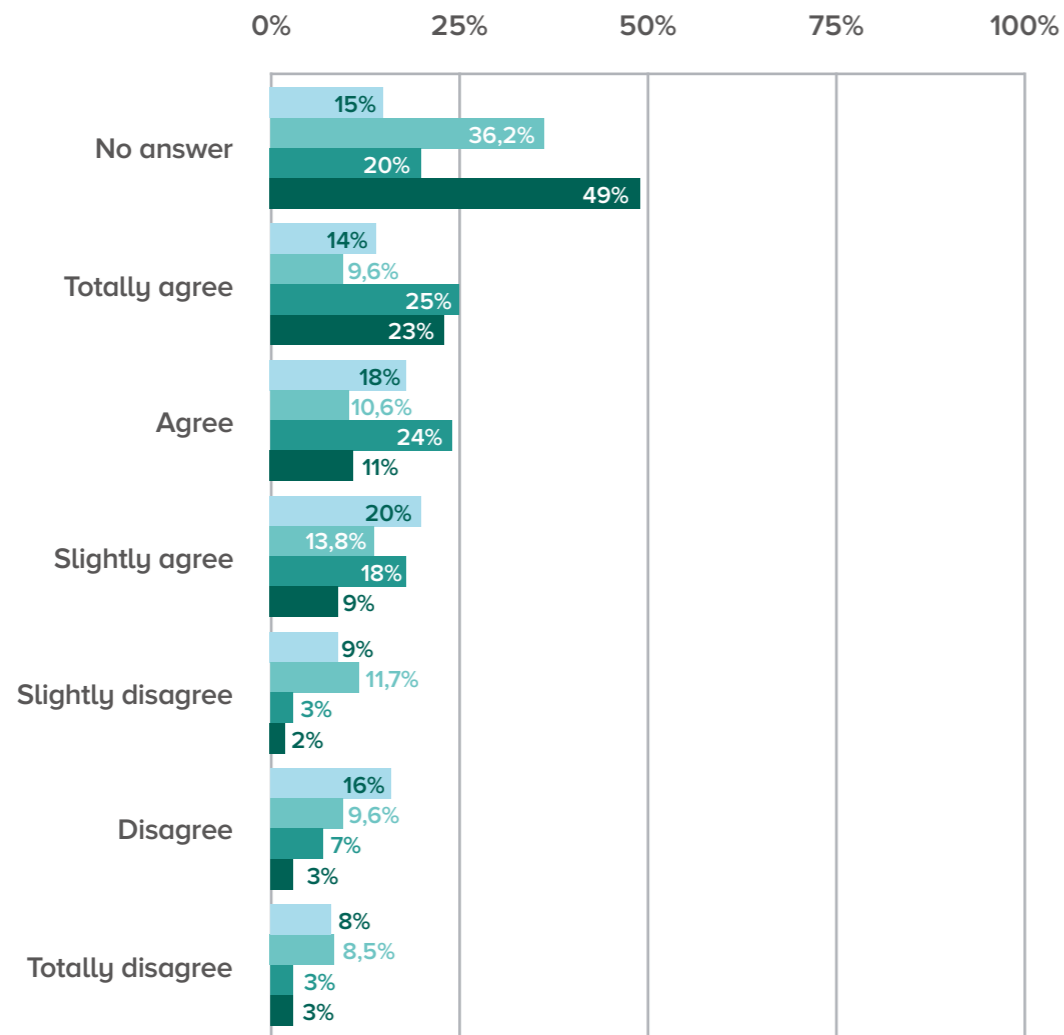
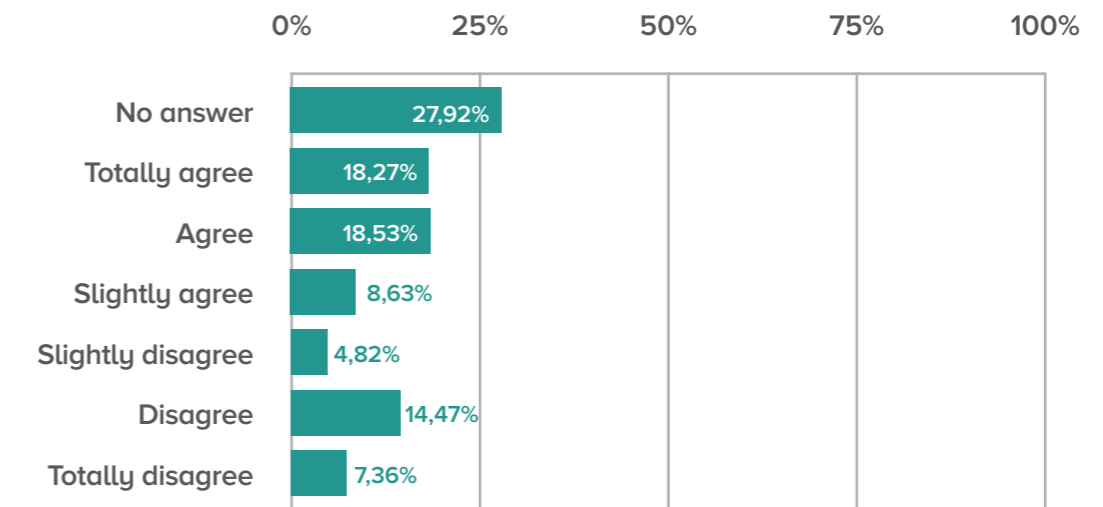


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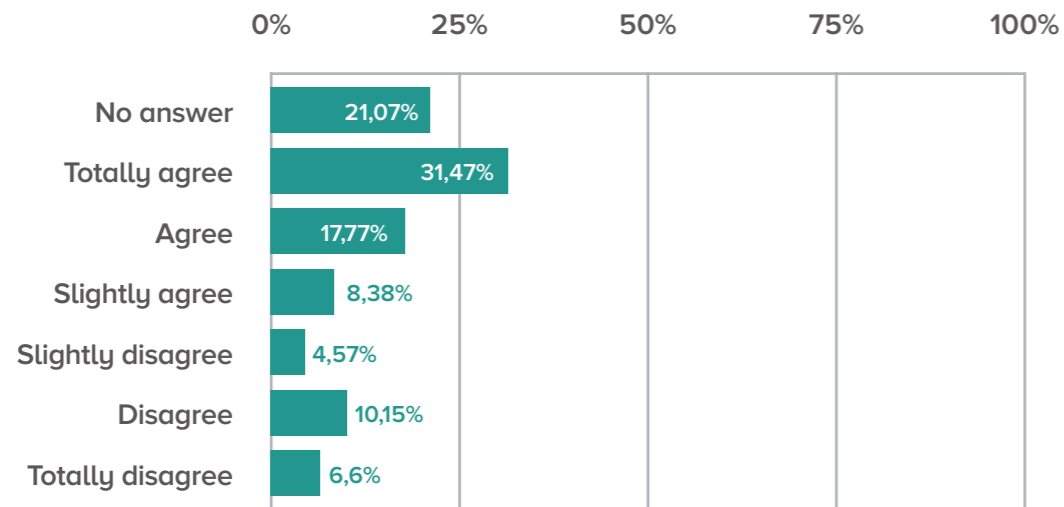
b) I will get support from the job centre.



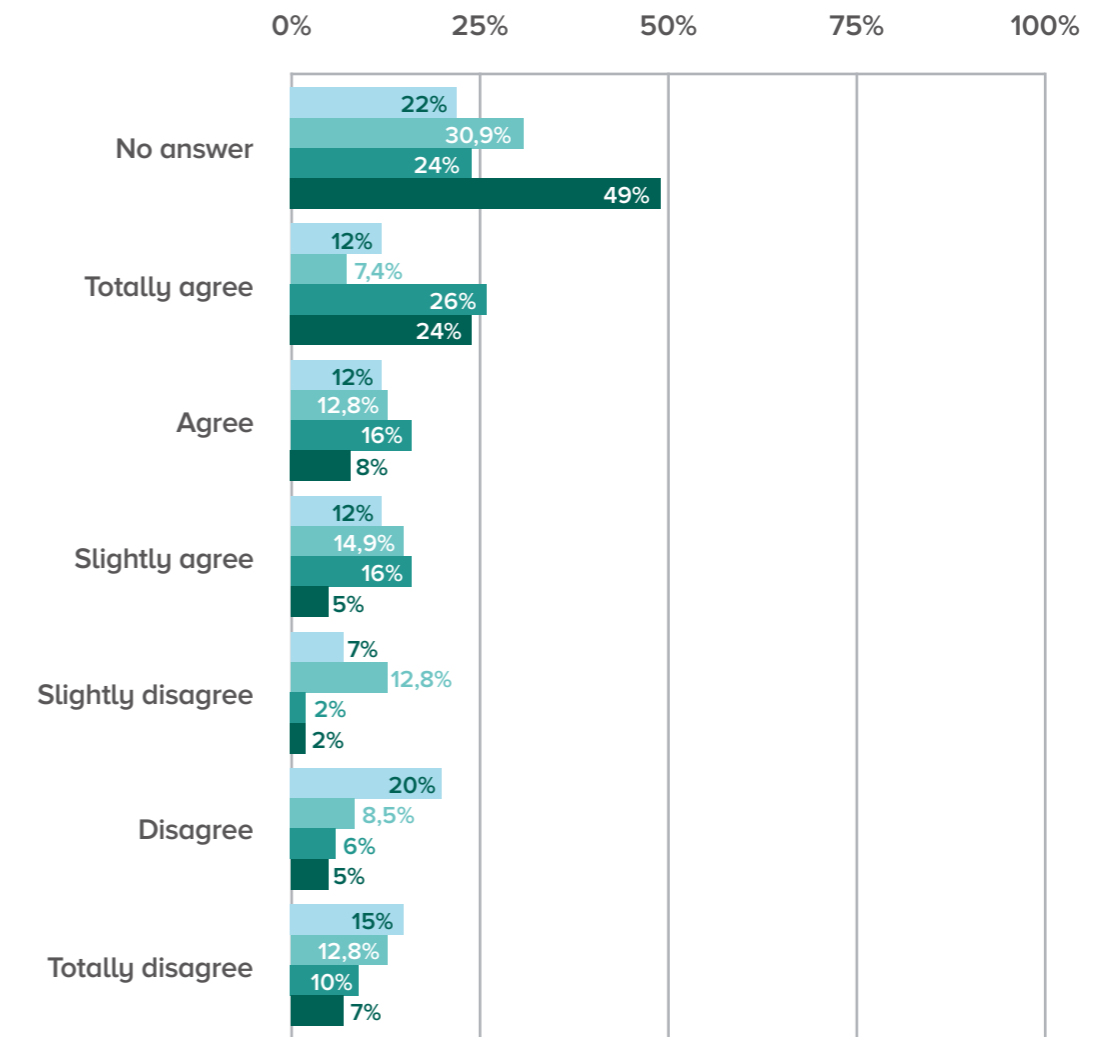
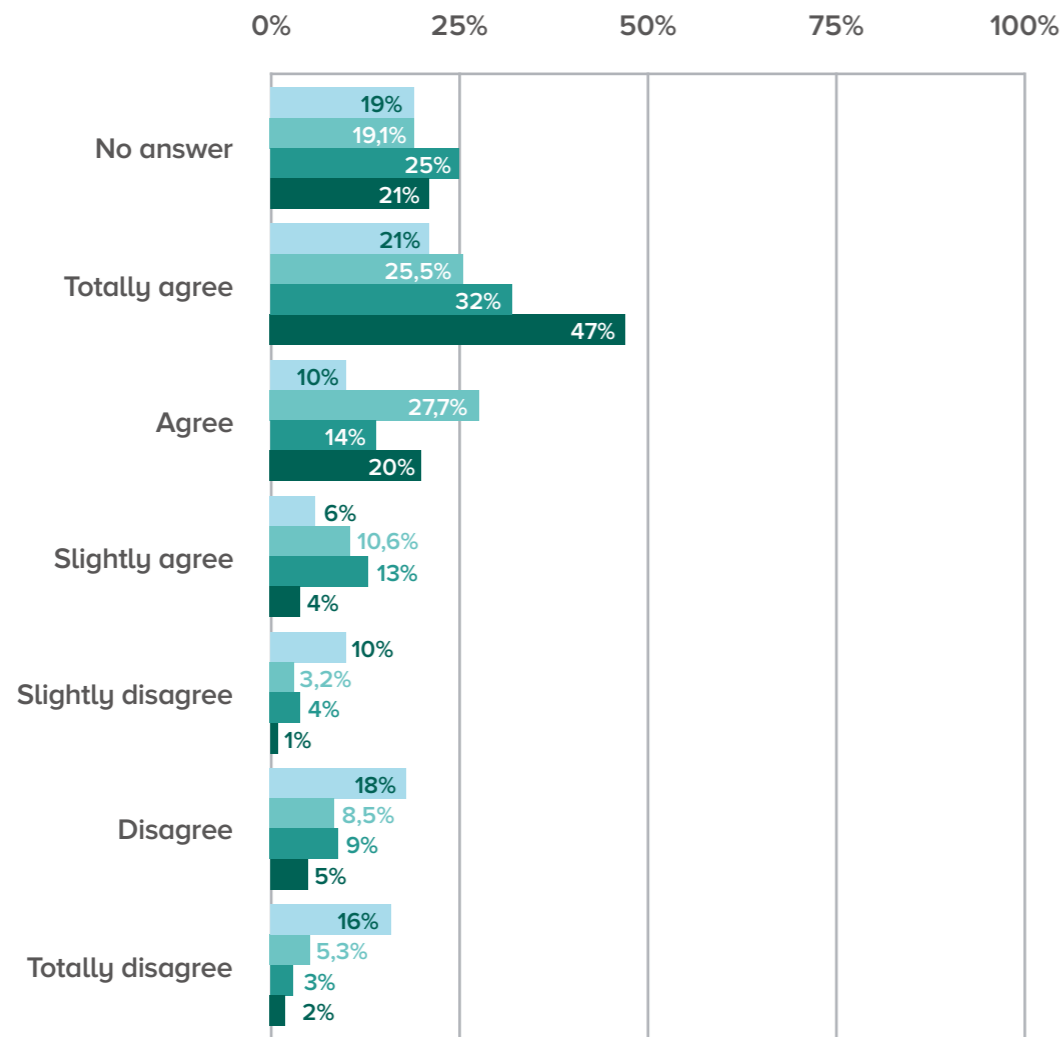
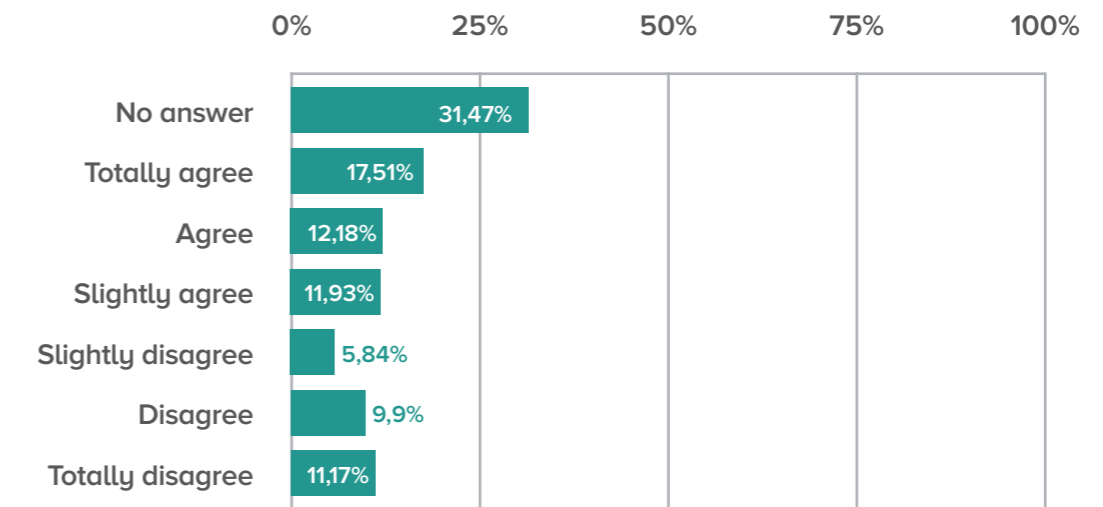
c) I feel more confident because I have had work experience in prison.



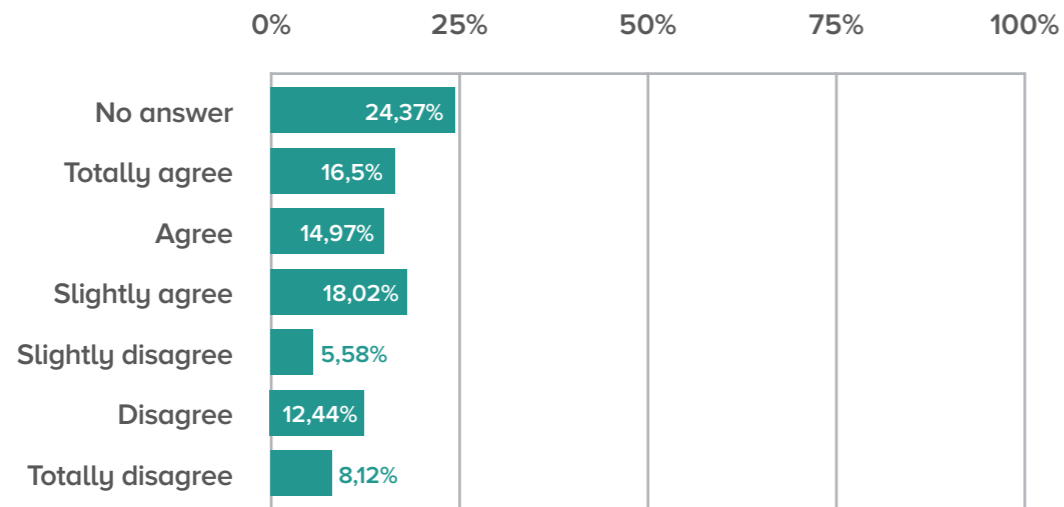
d) I could go back to my old job.



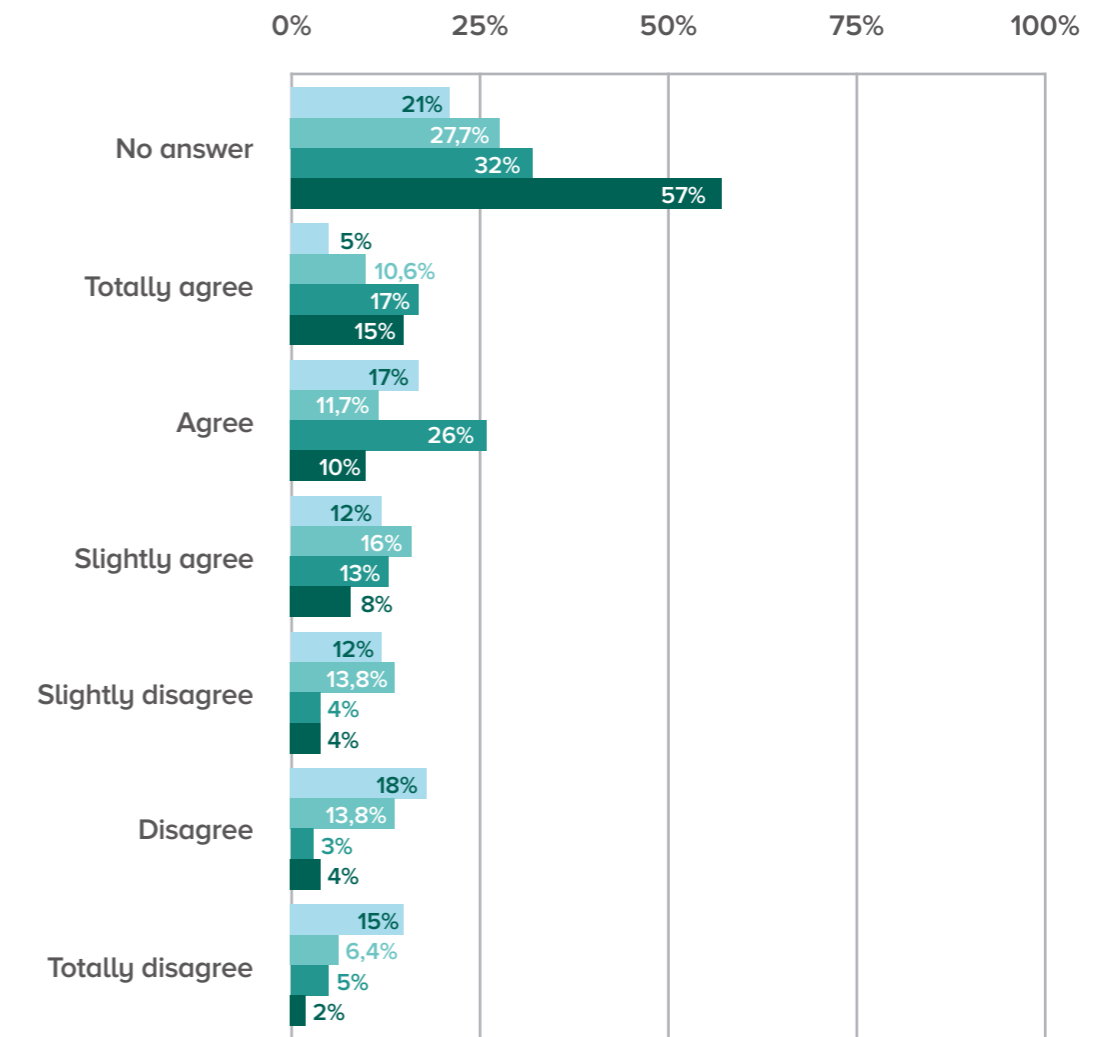
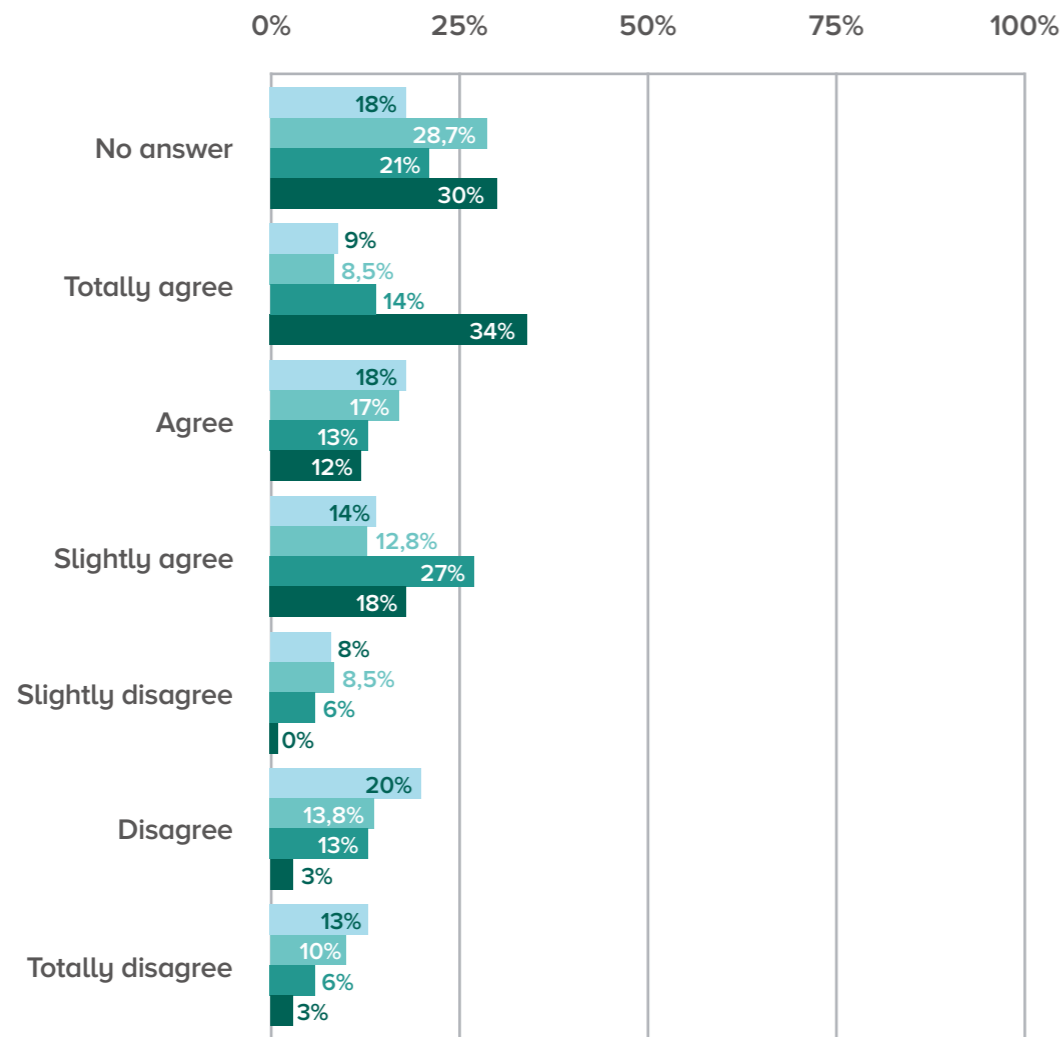
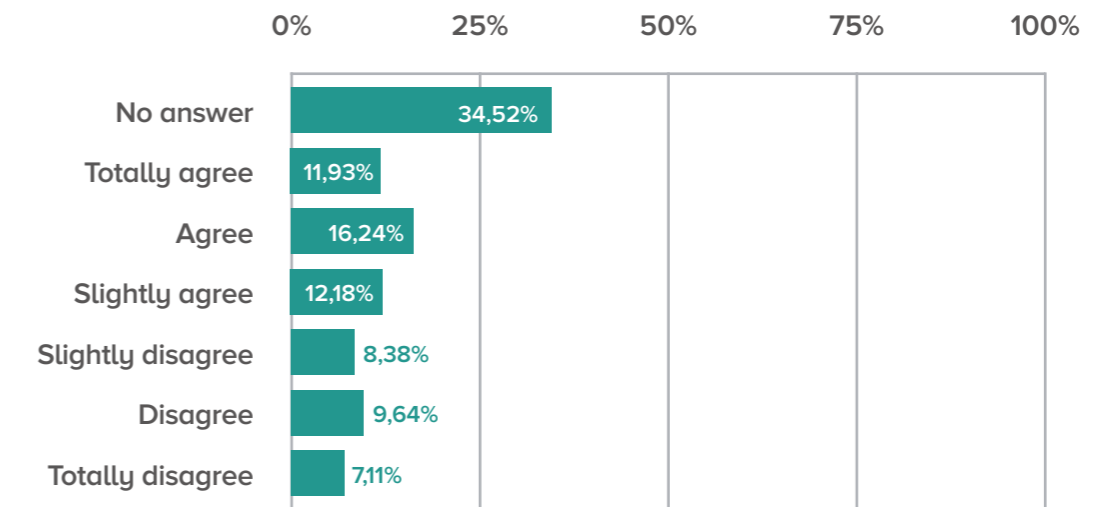
e) I have had training in prison, so now I am qualified to work.



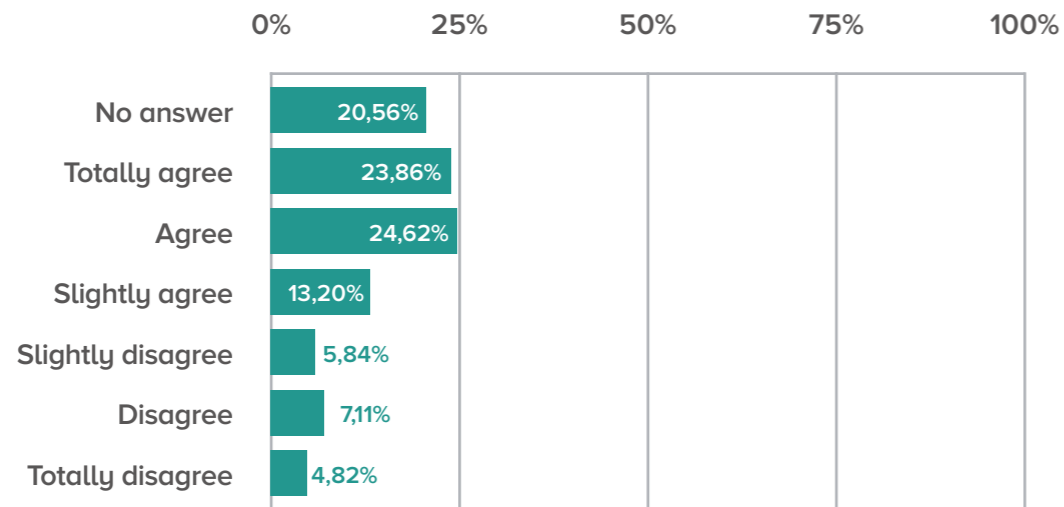
f) My friends will help me get a job.



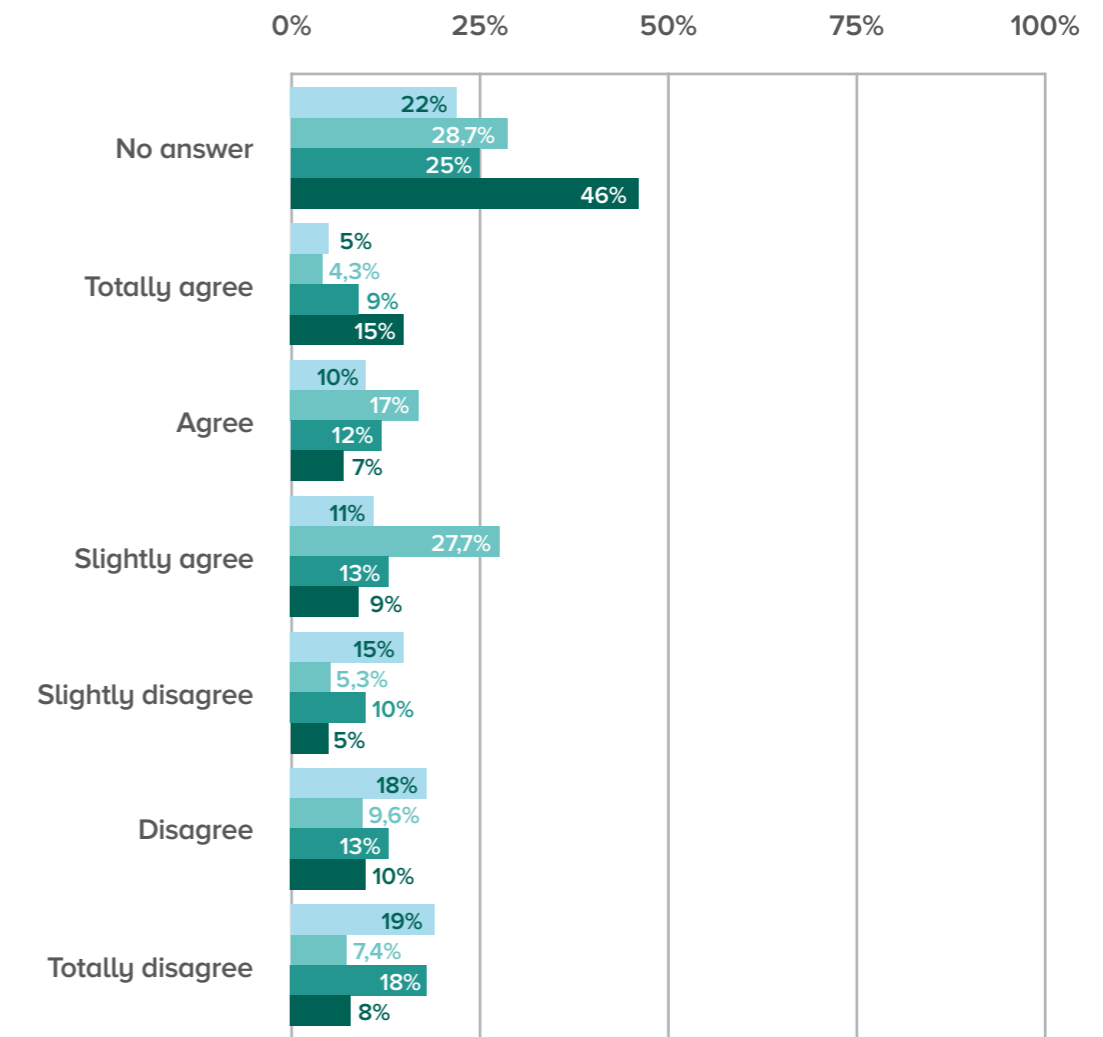
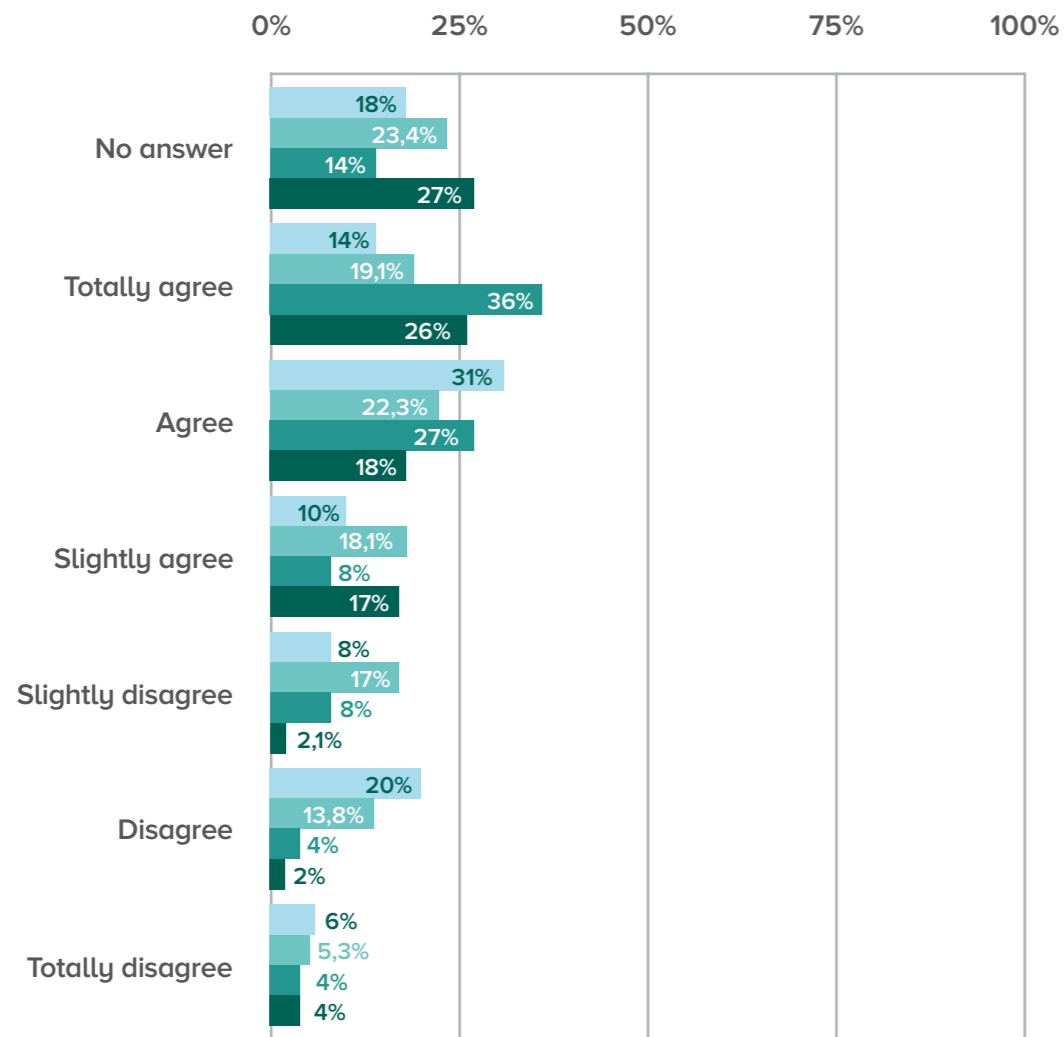
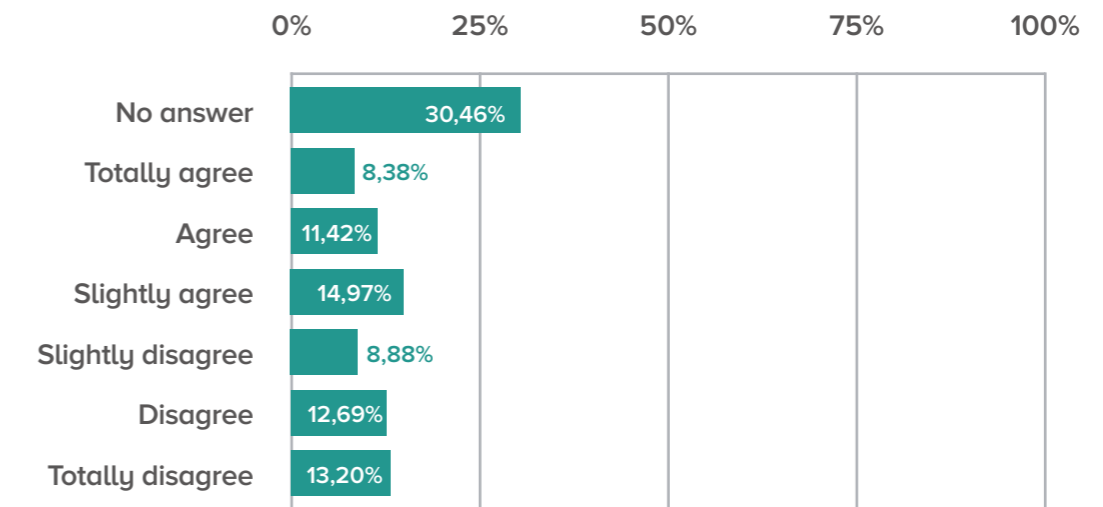
g) I might get support from voluntary mentors or local charity.



h) Having a criminal record might stop employers giving me a job.



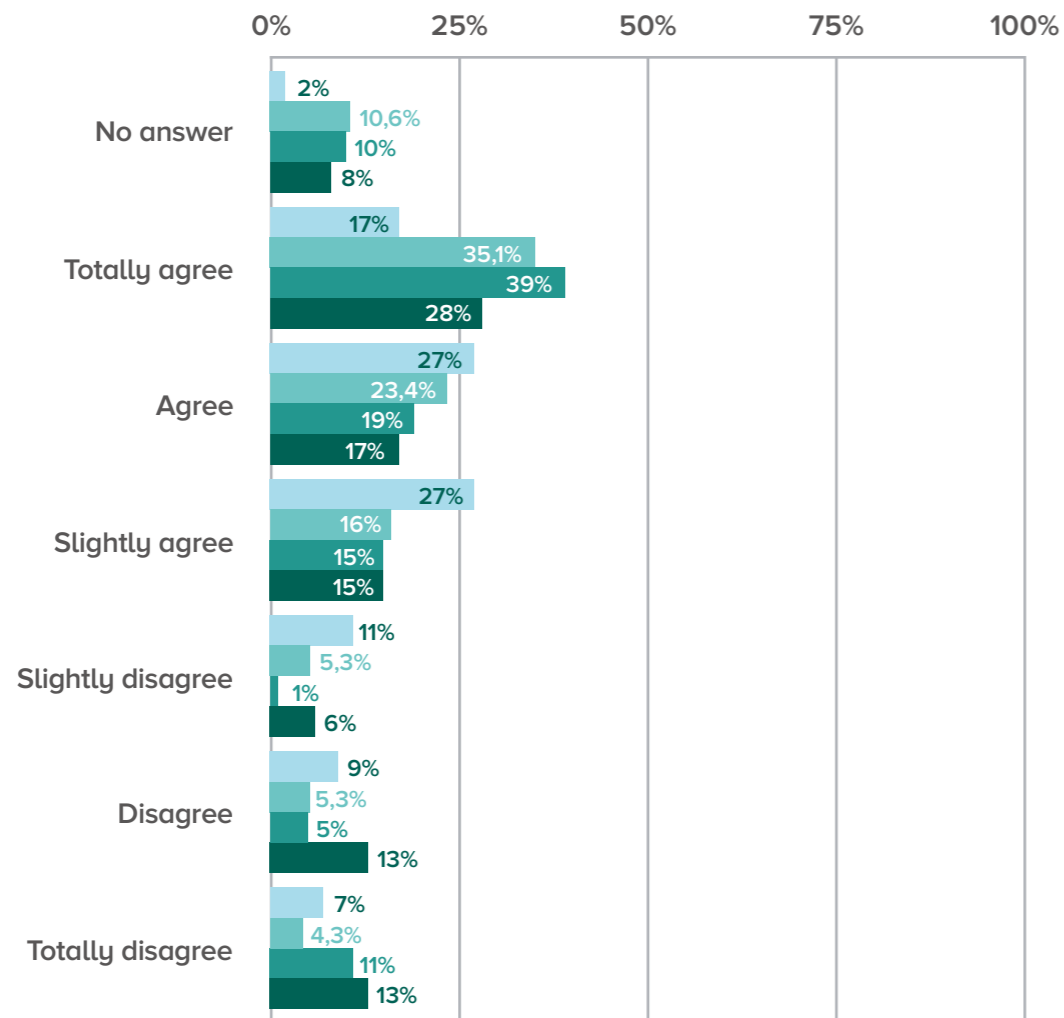
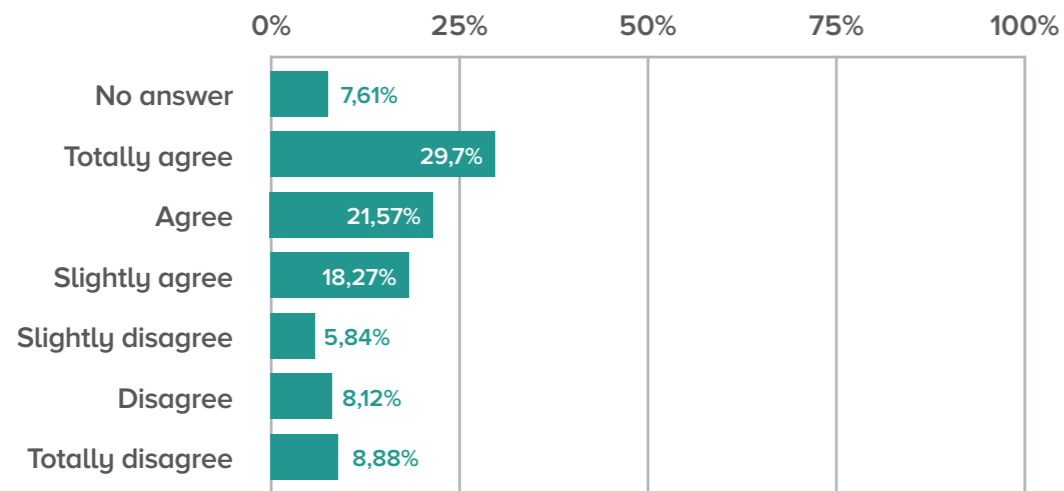
i) I could only get occasional work, not a steady job.



Perceptions regarding stereotypes and worries.

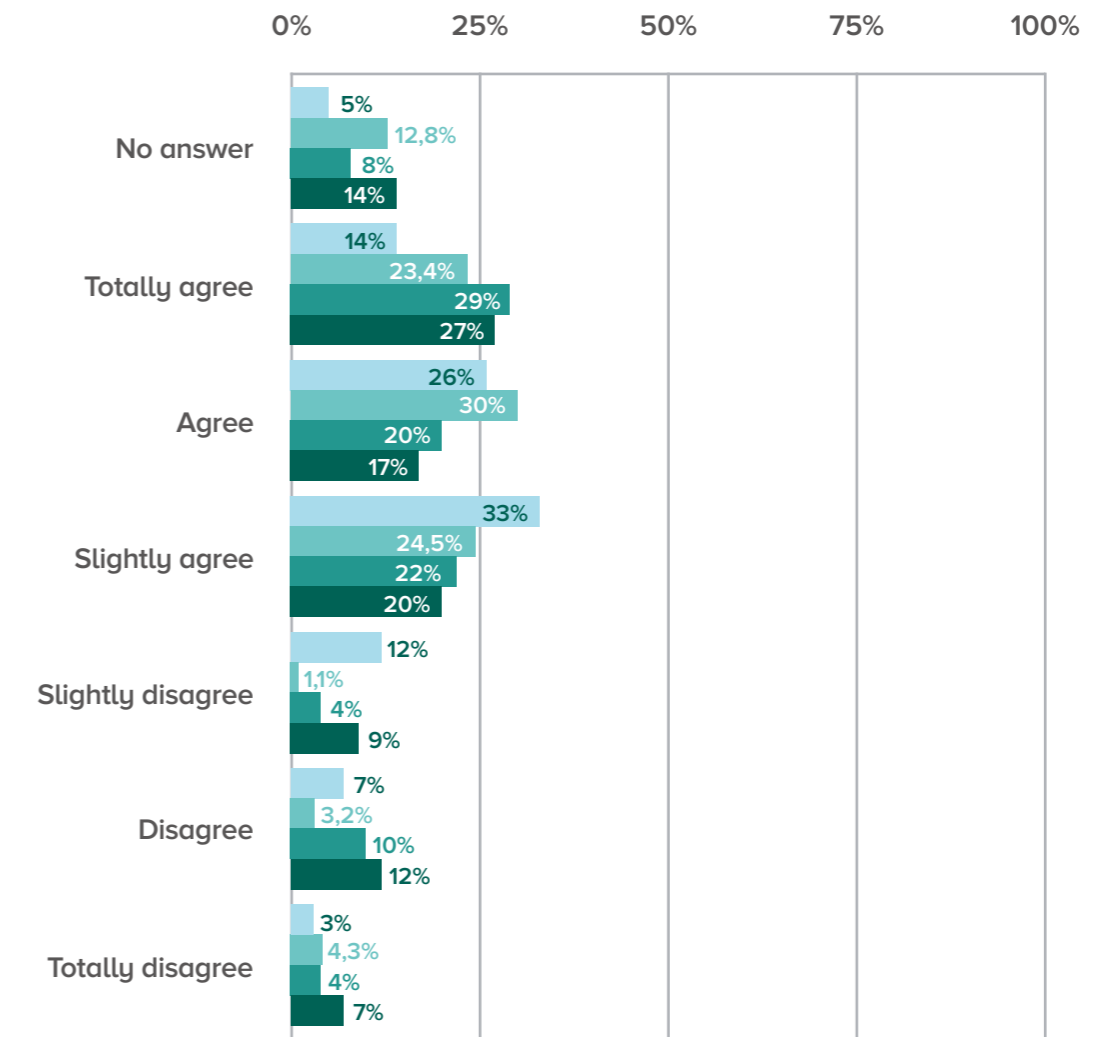
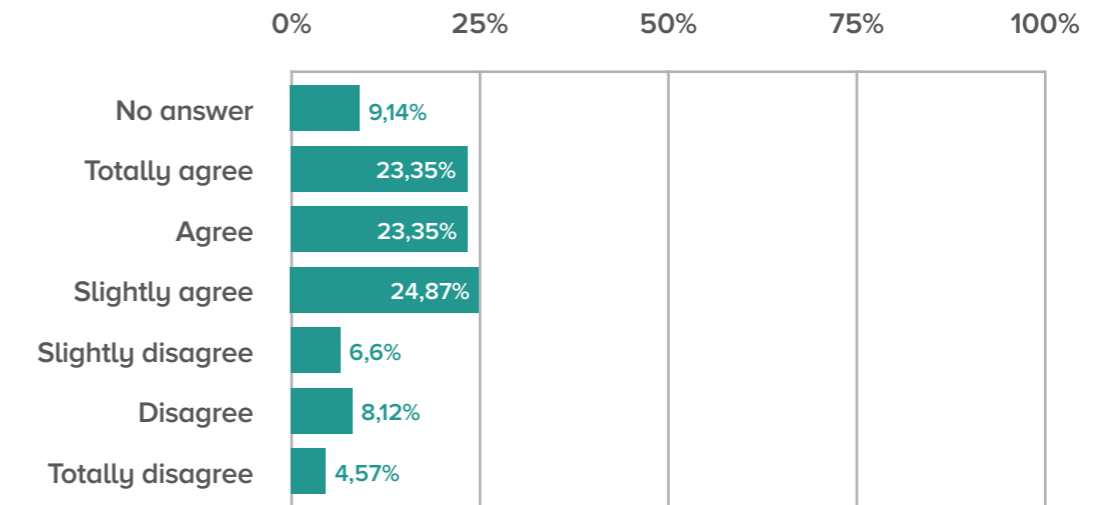
6) In general, I think that...

a) People on the outside think all criminals are the same.



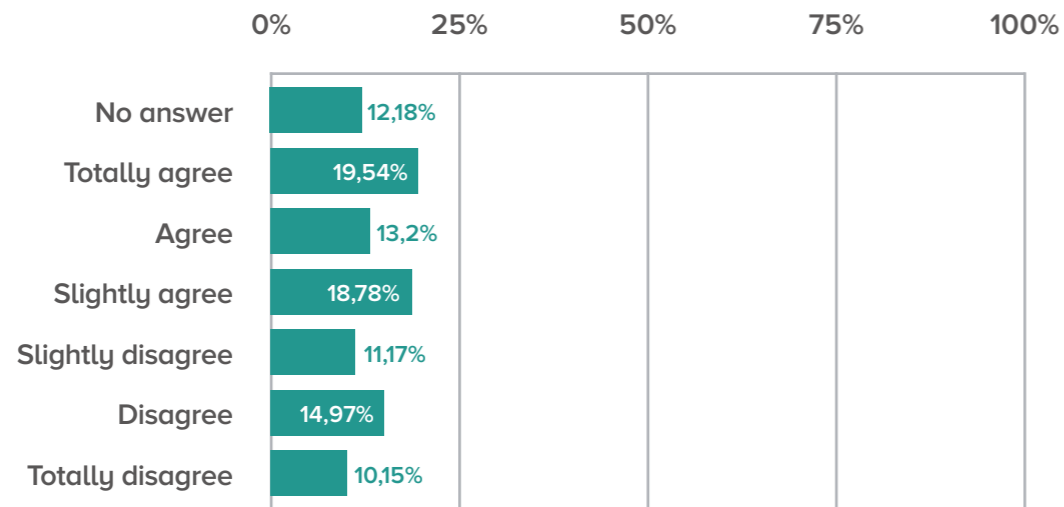
Germany Italy Portugal Romania

b) People are afraid of ex-prisoners.

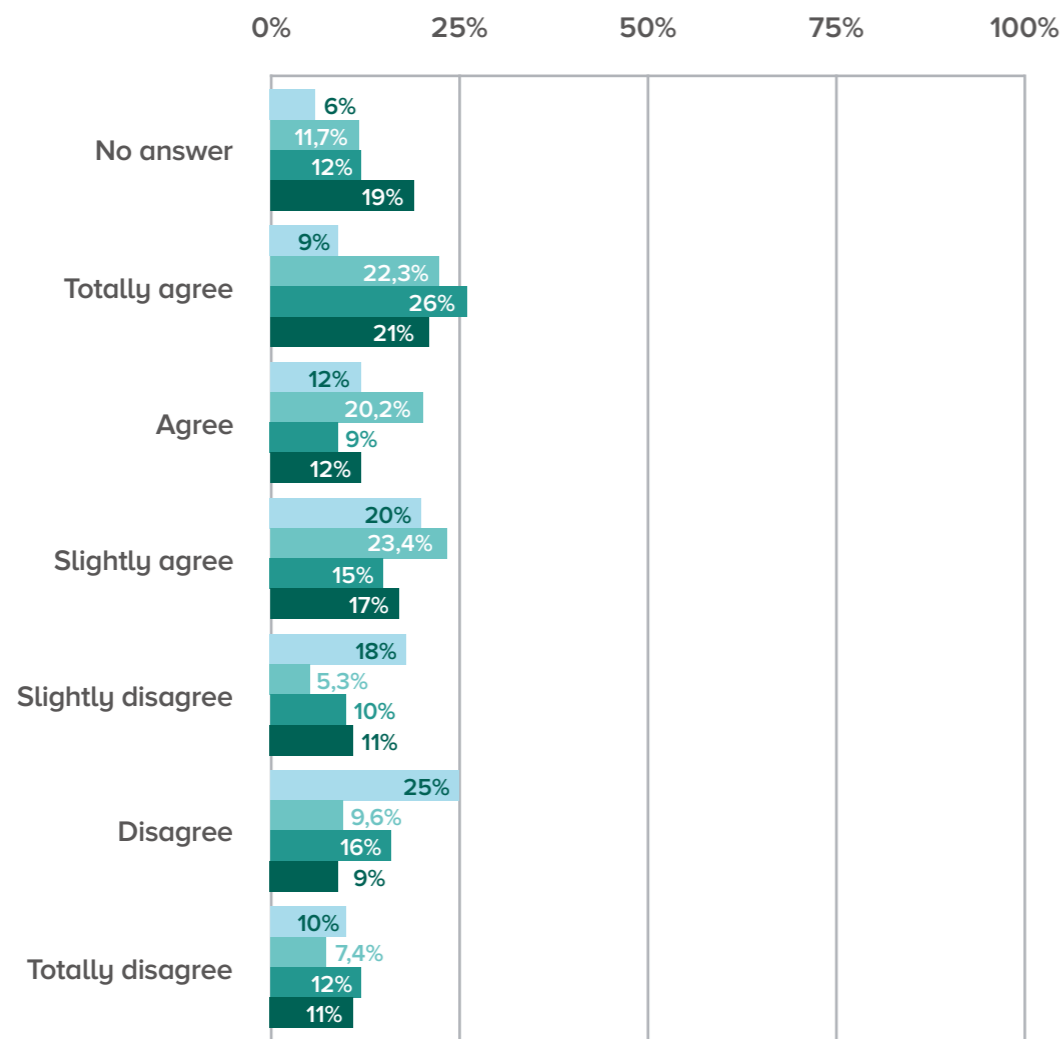
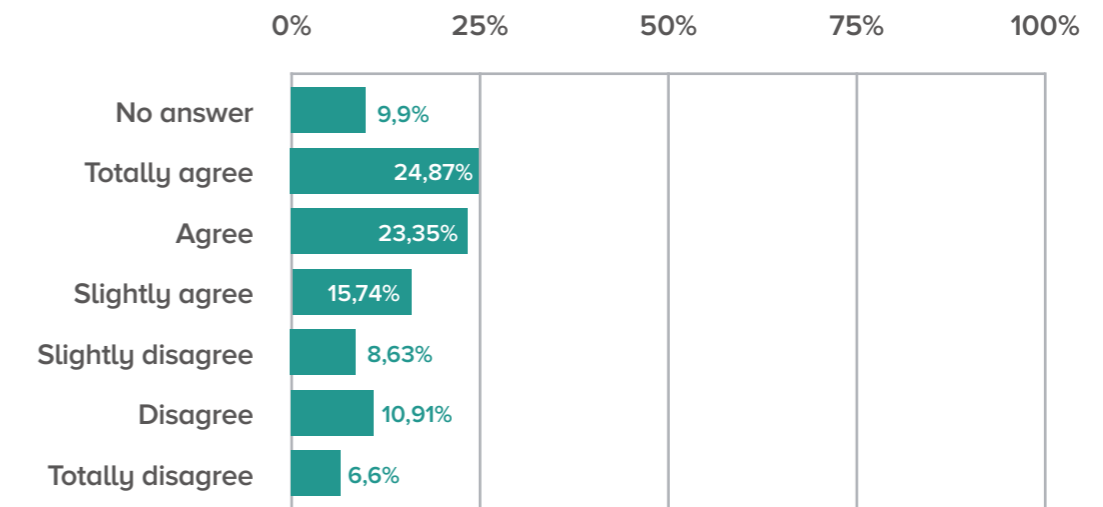


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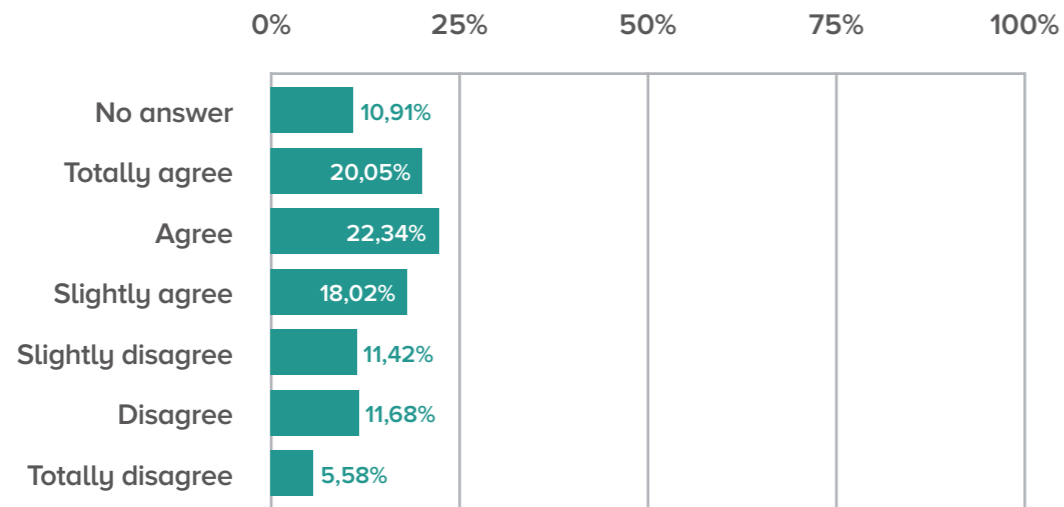
c) For society, it is not worth giving ex-prisoners an opportunity.



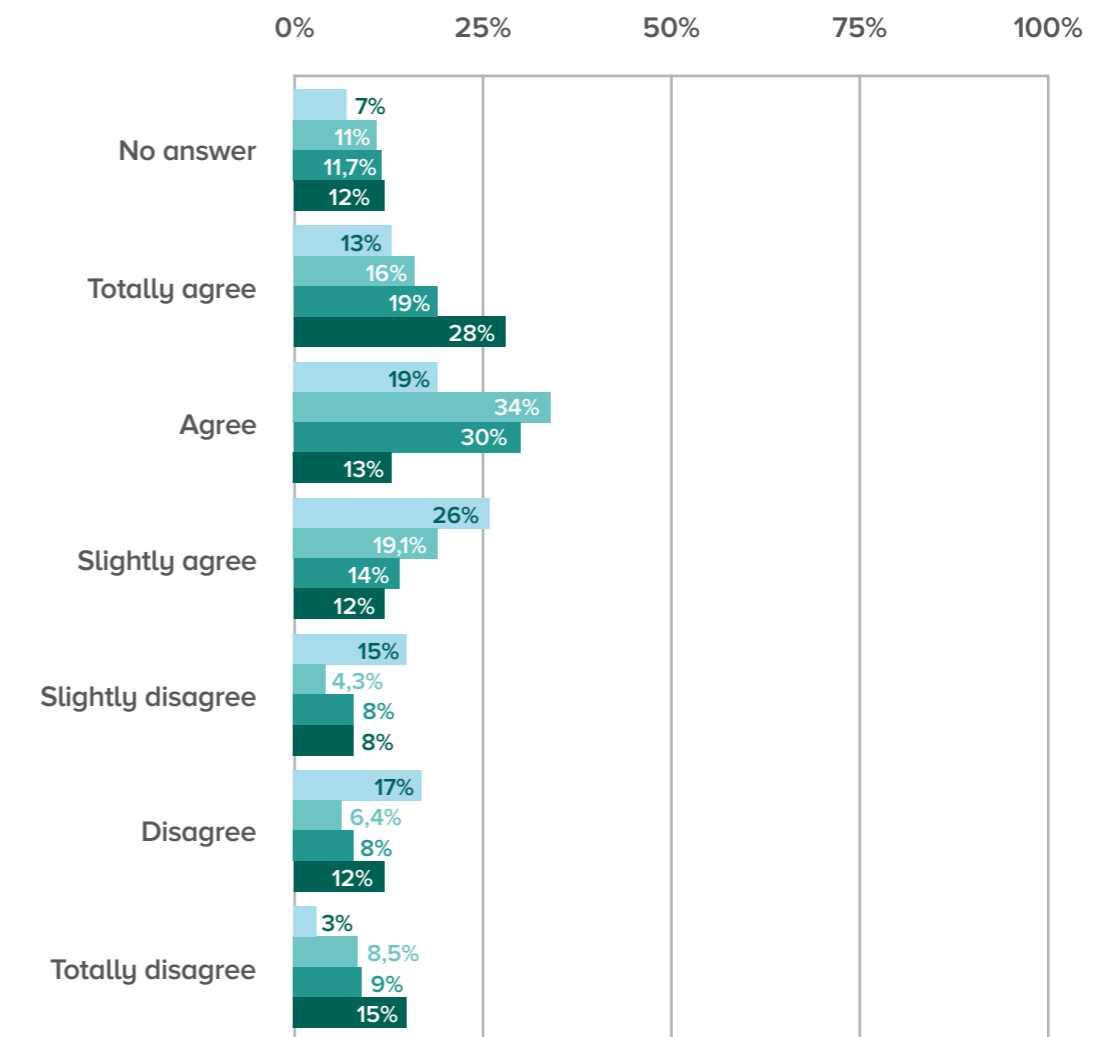
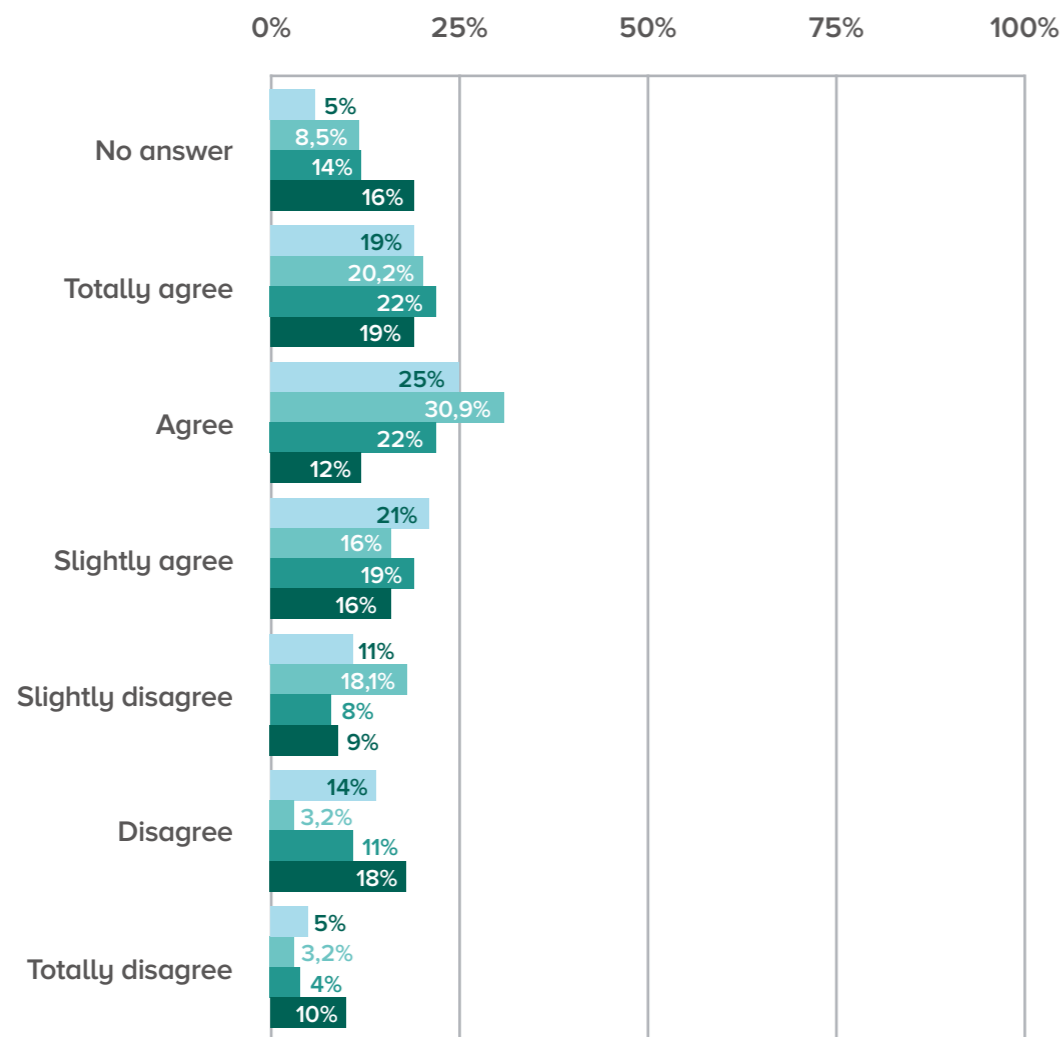
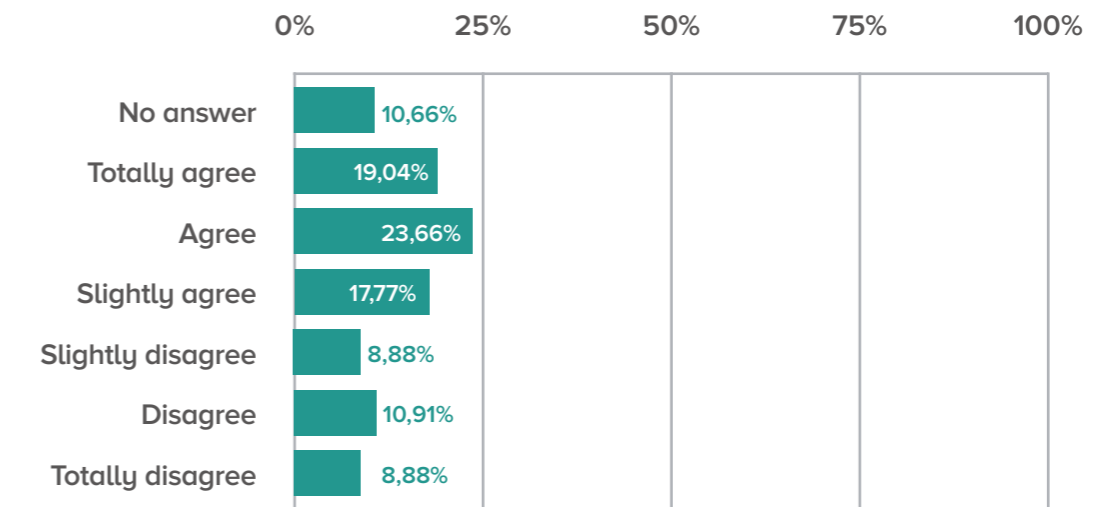
d) People on the outside think all criminals should be punished with a prison sentence.



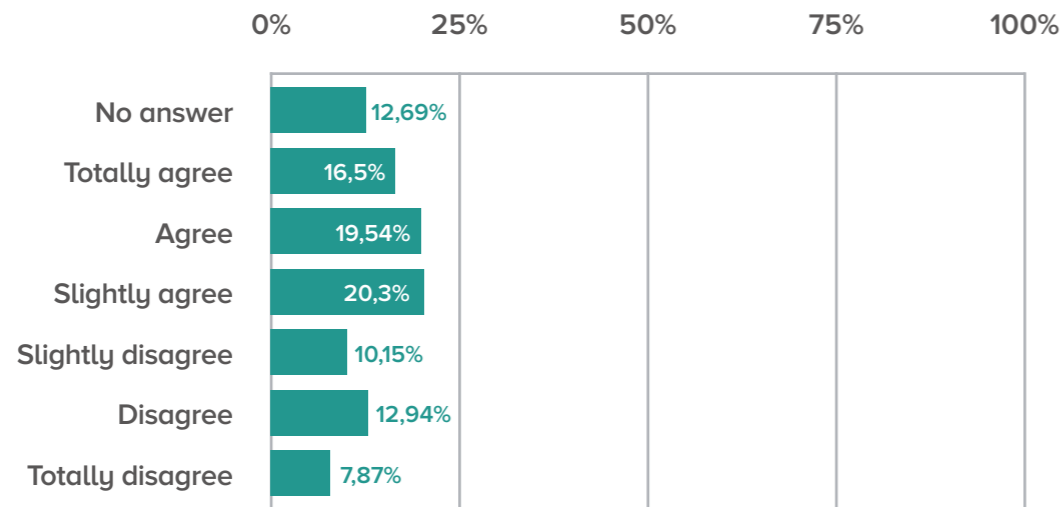
e) Society will never fully accept that former prisoners have paid their debt to society.



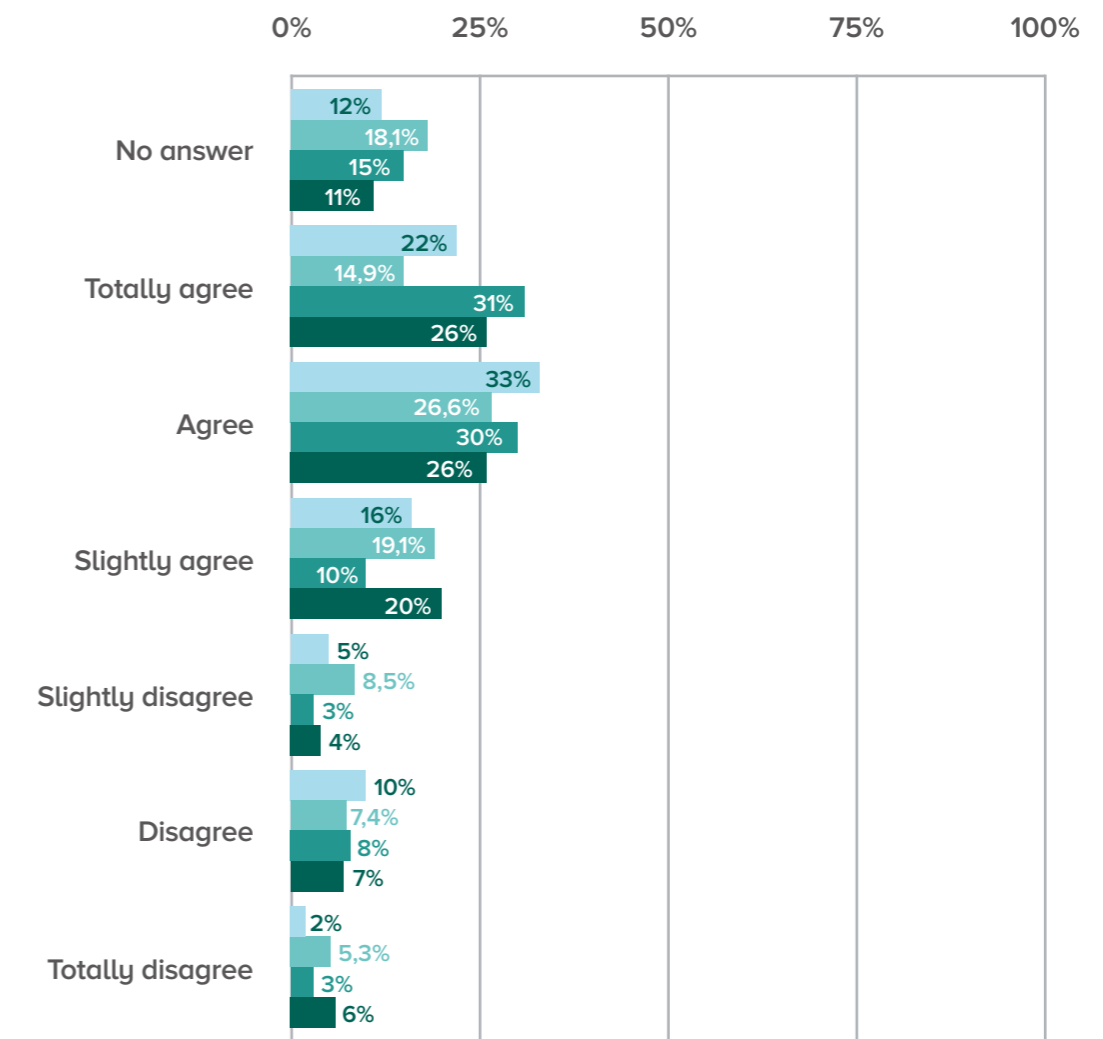
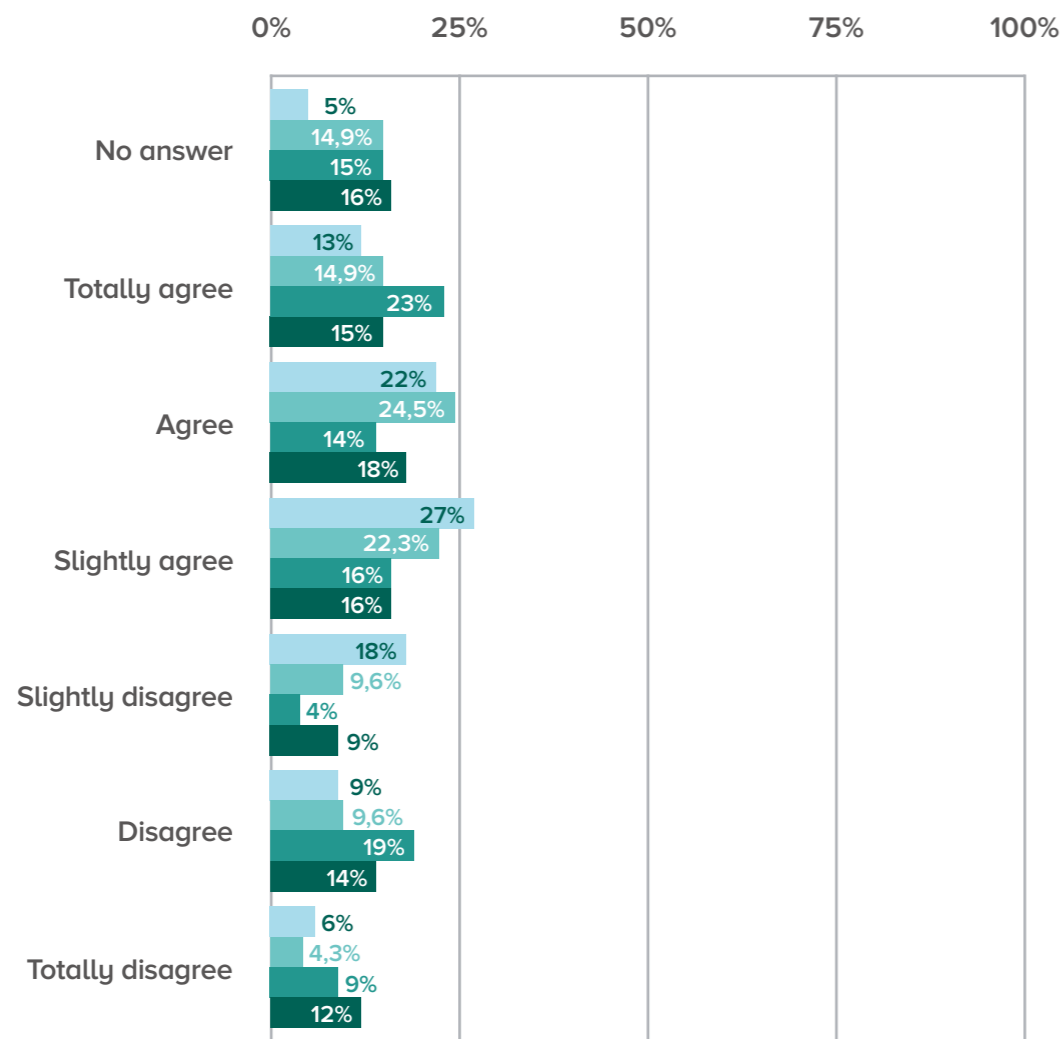
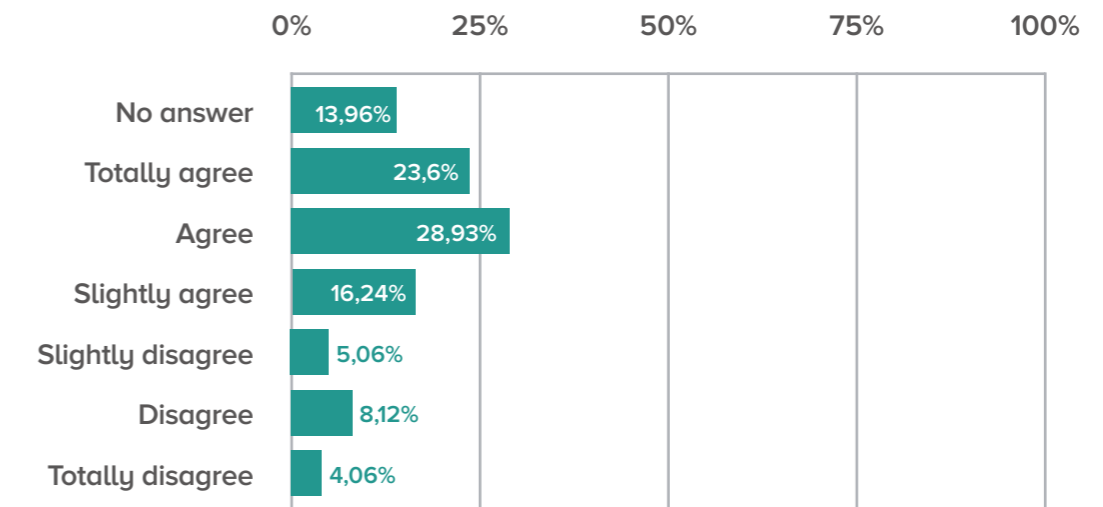
f) Society believes that if an offender is not in prison, he will continue committing crimes.



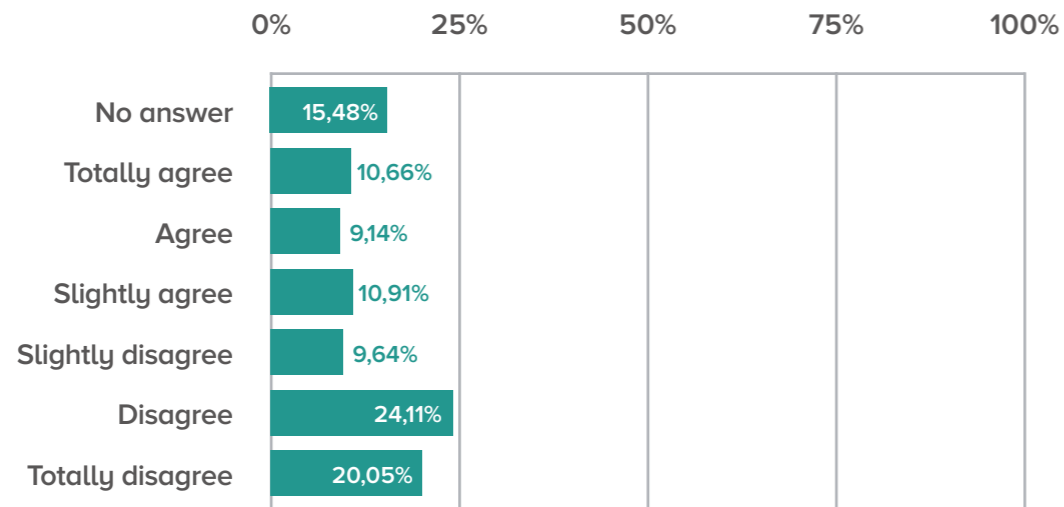
g) Because I have been in prison people will look down on me.



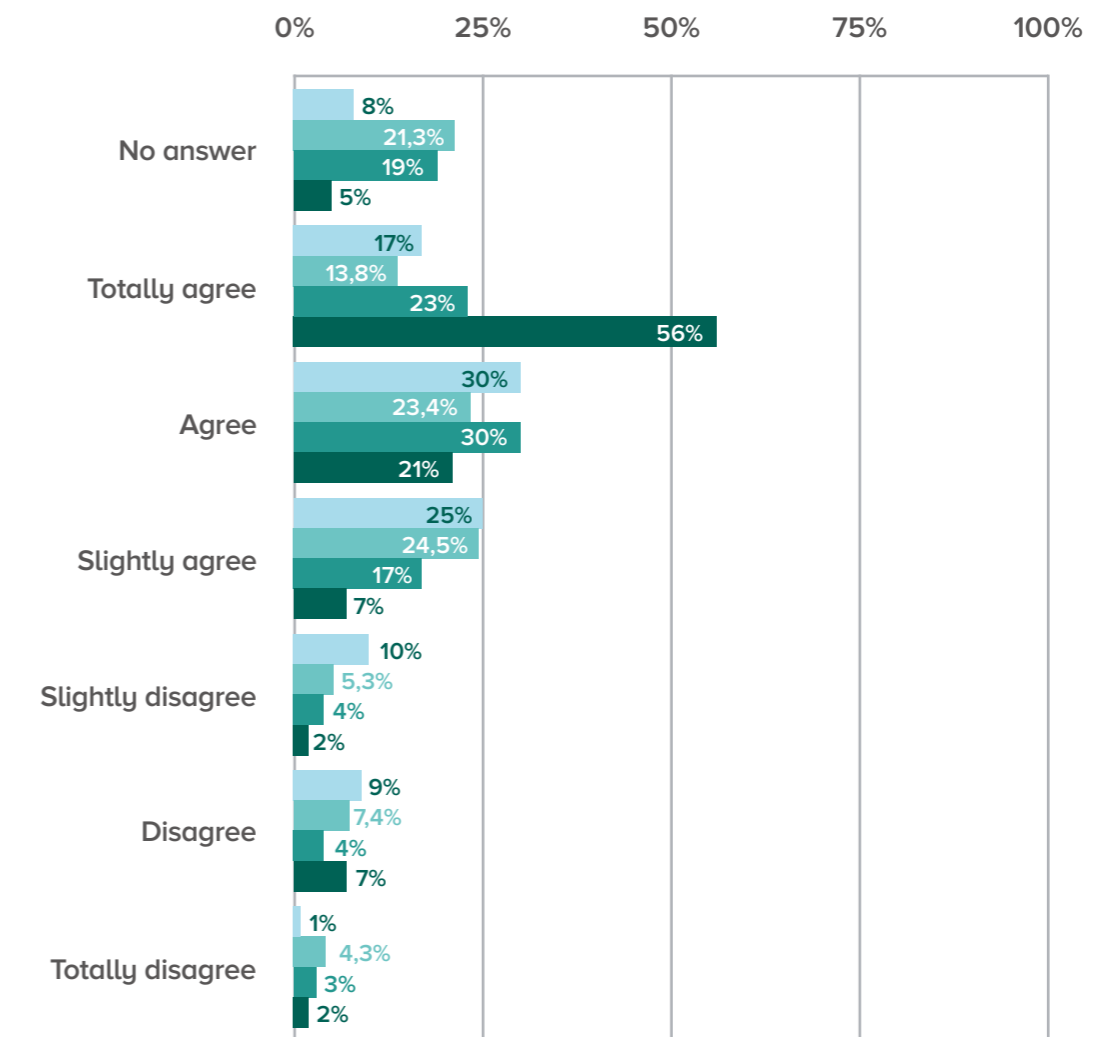
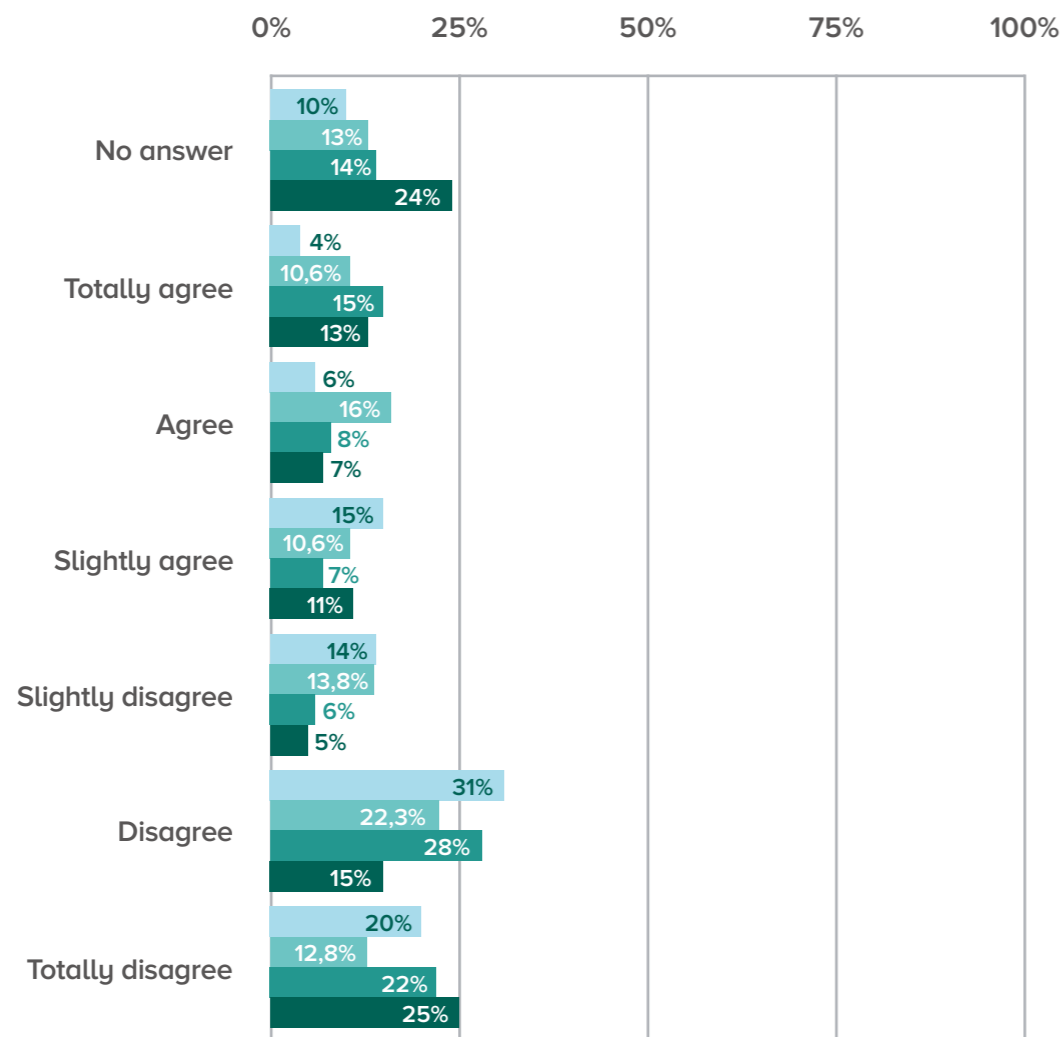
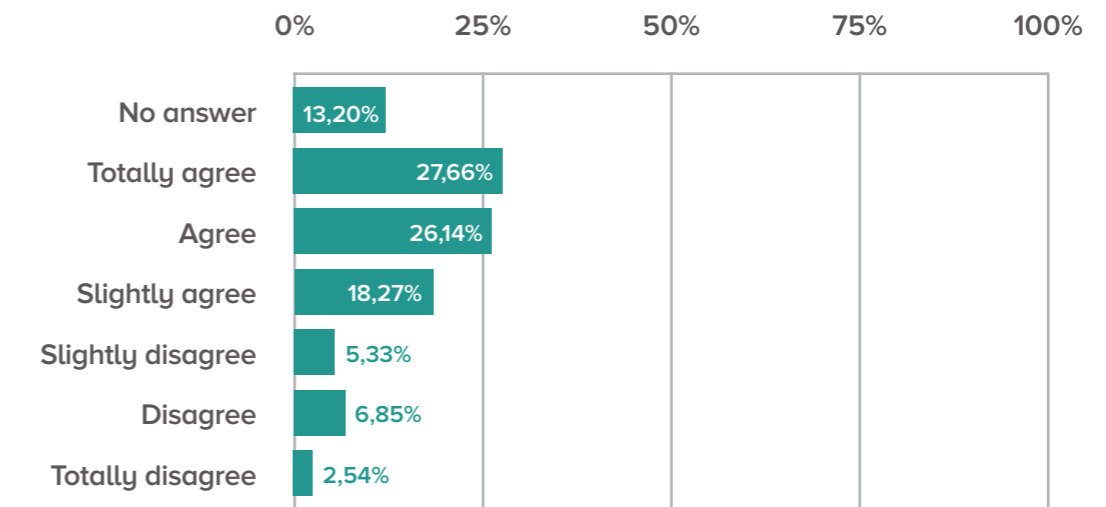
h) Society accepts better those under community service, than those that are in prison.



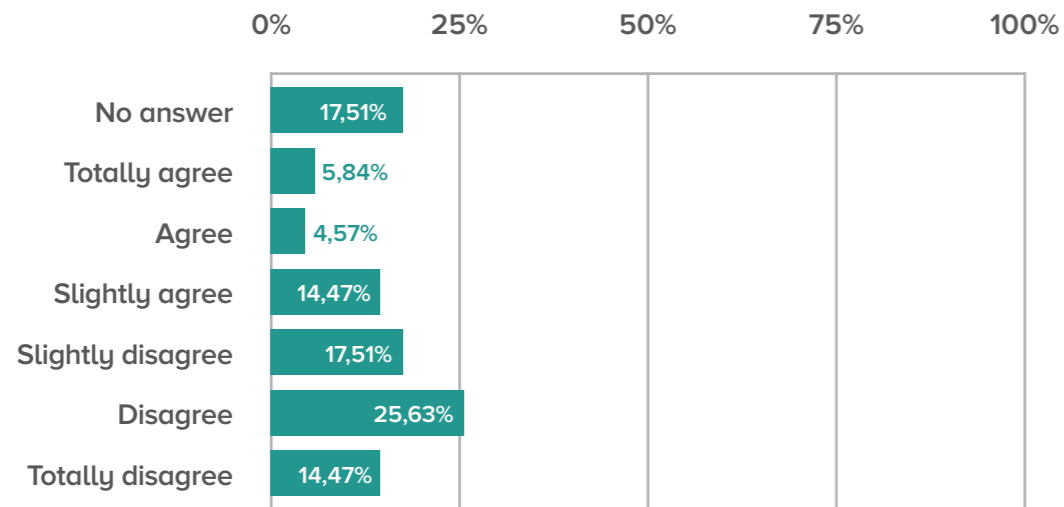
i) I feel resentment towards society for putting me in prison.



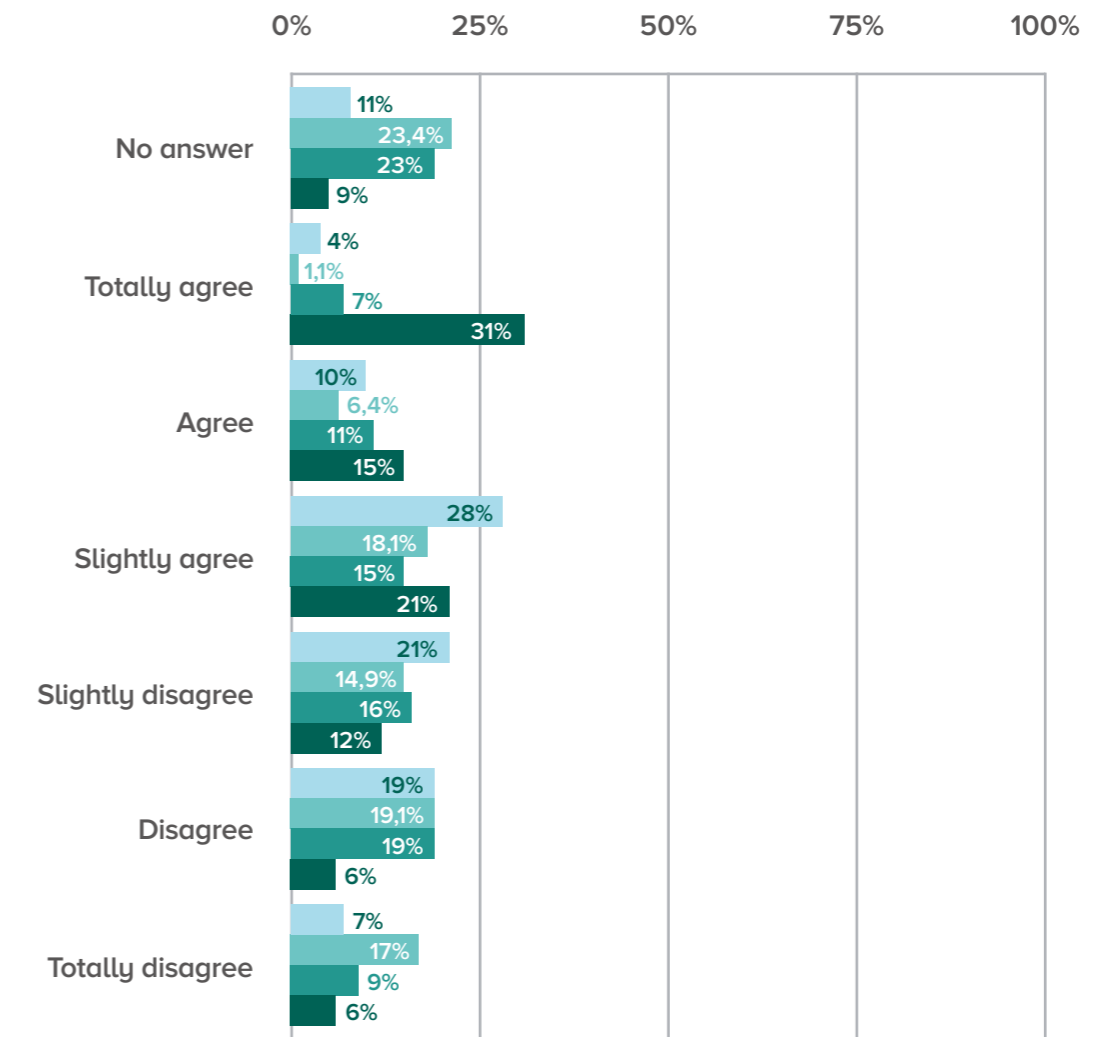
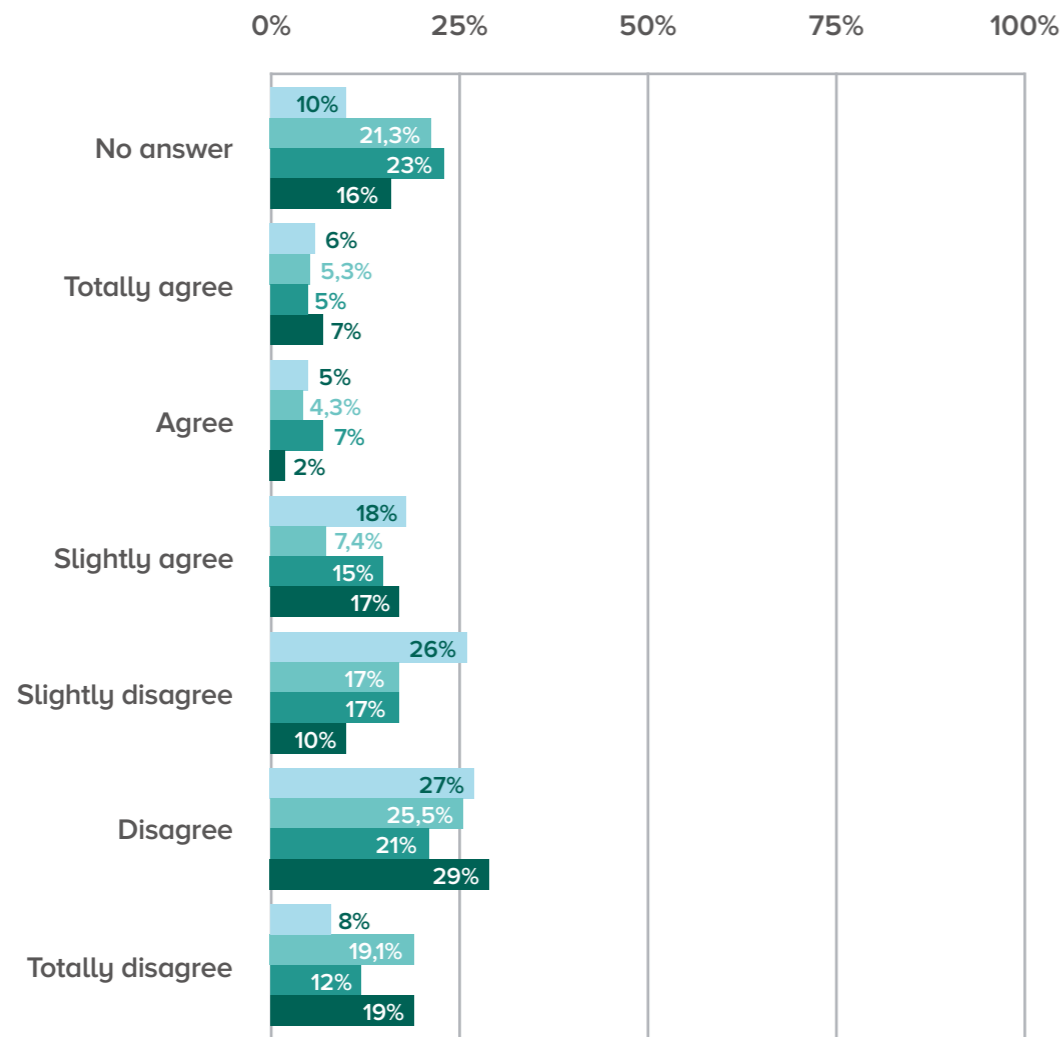
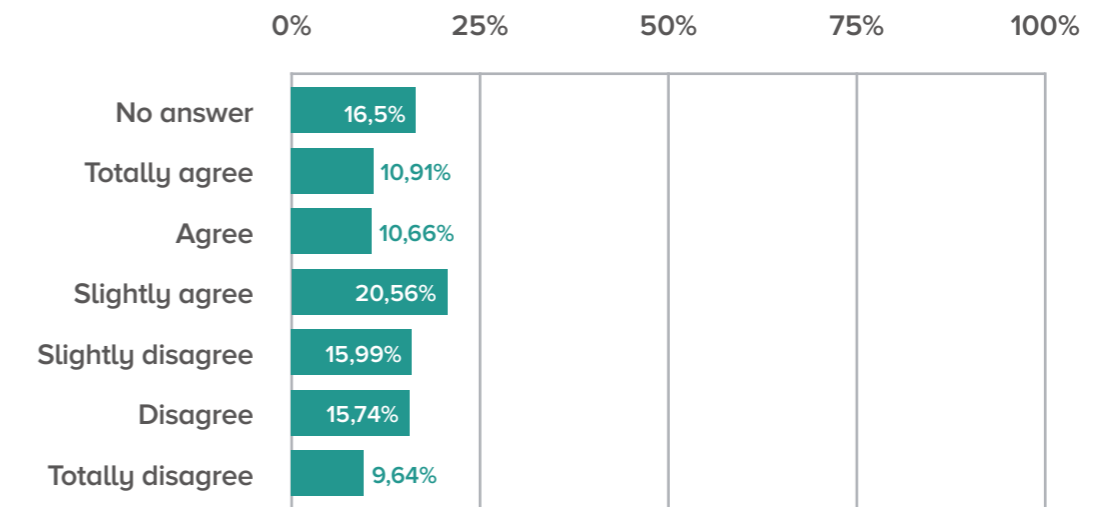
j) Once I get out of here, if I straighten up my life, society will give me a second chance.



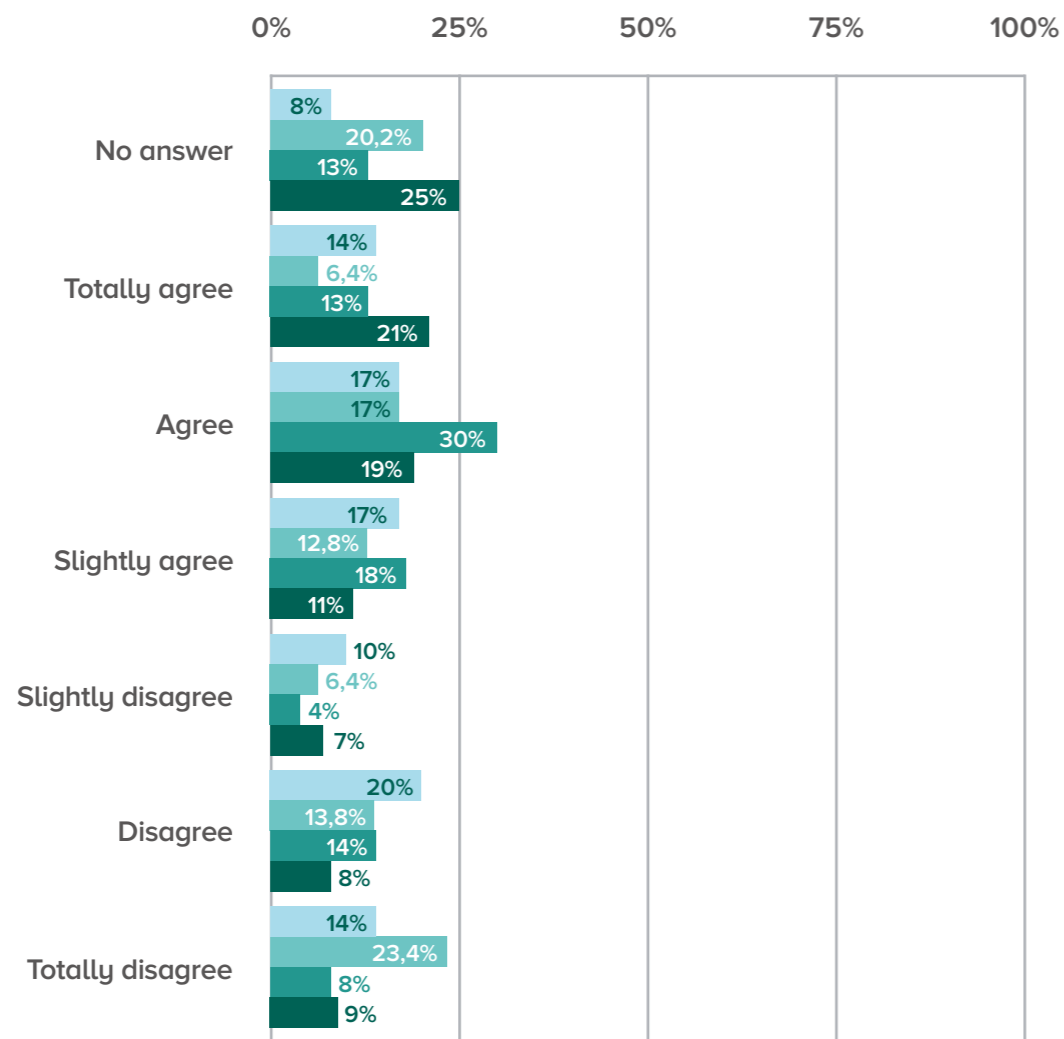
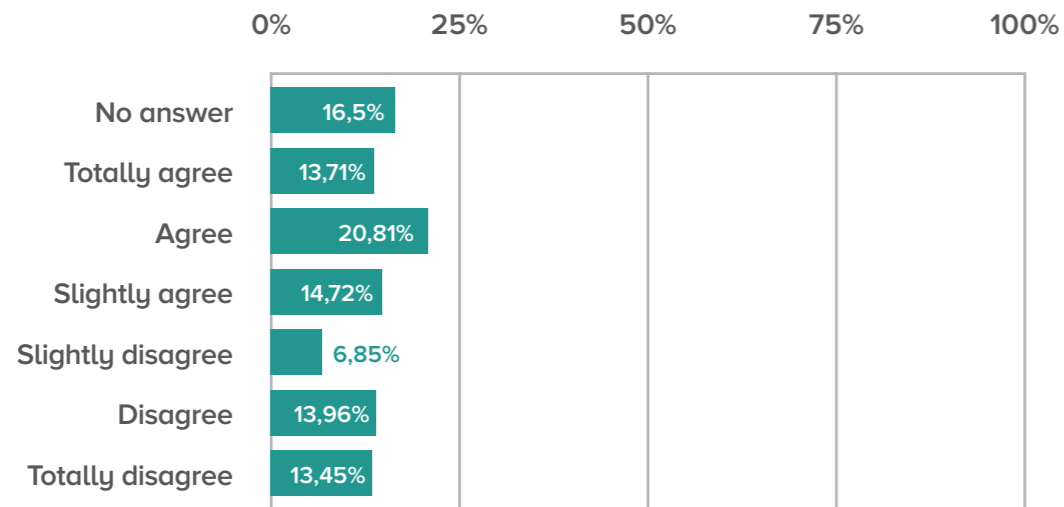
k) Society welcomes ex-prisoners.



l) People on the outside help ex-prisoners to reintegrate.



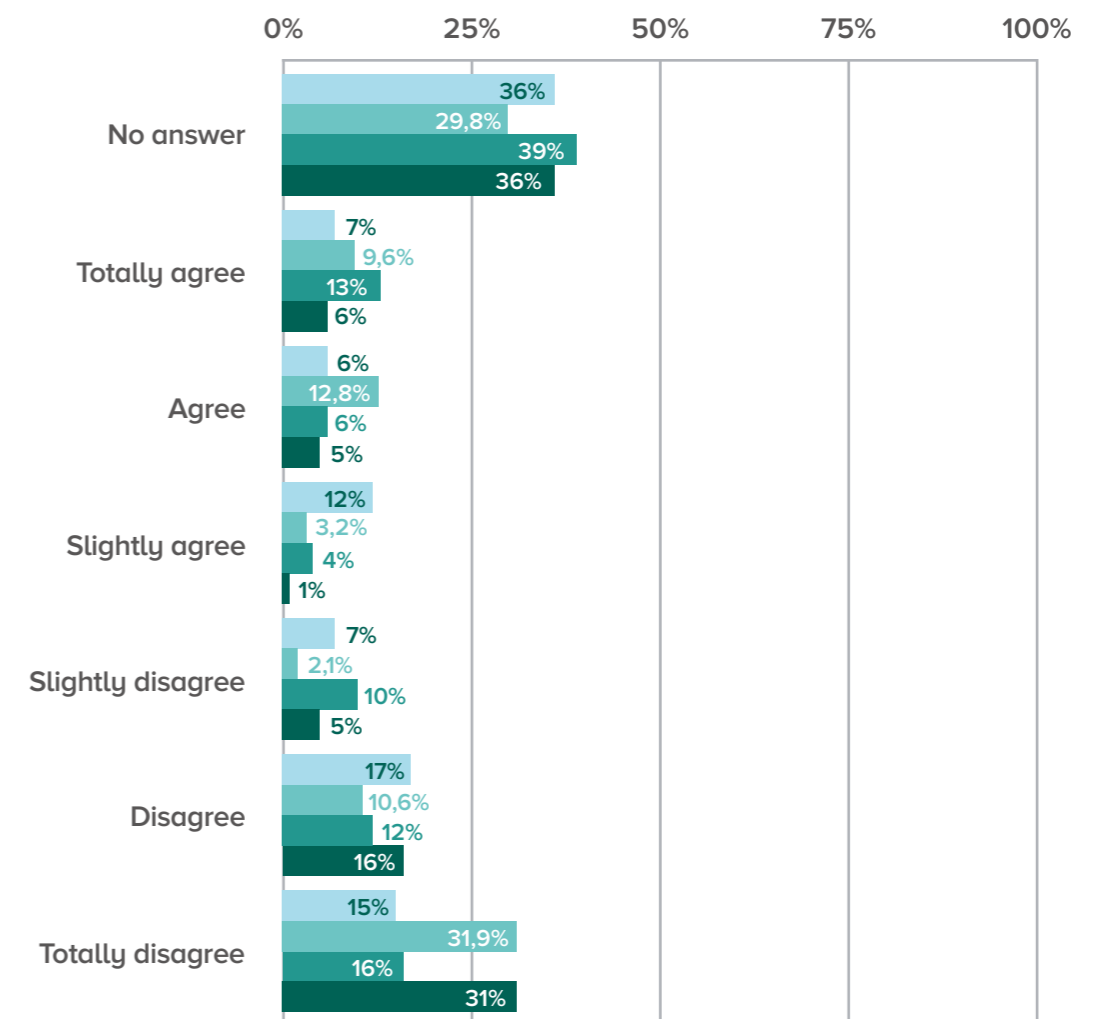
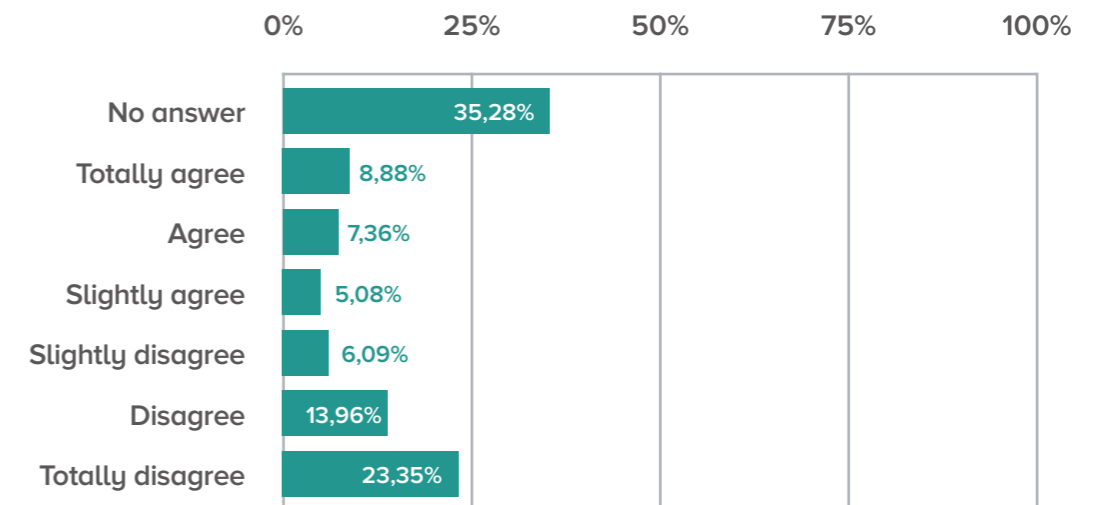
m) Being threatened by a prison sentence deters crime.



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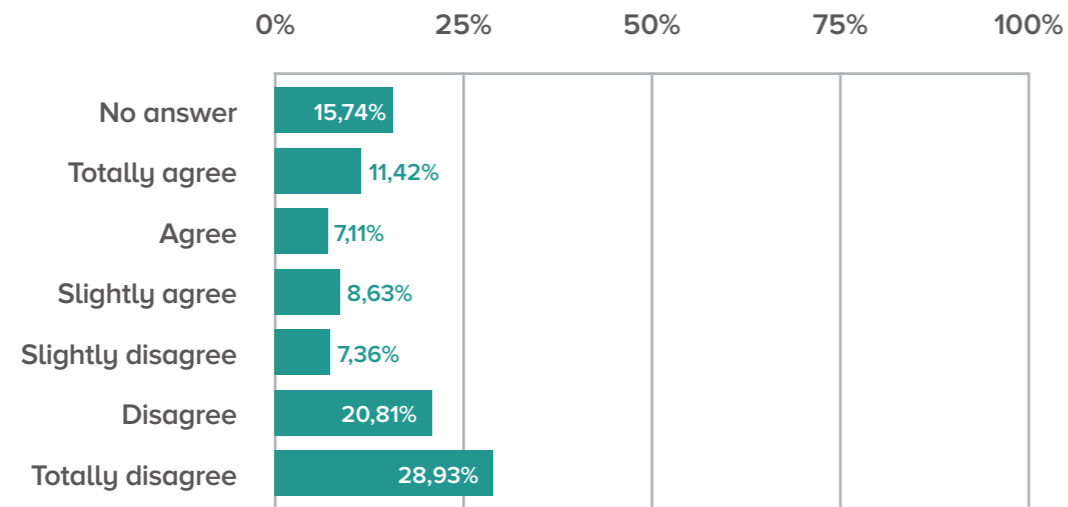
7) I worry that people will look down on me because I have been in prison. I am afraid this will happen...

a) With my kids

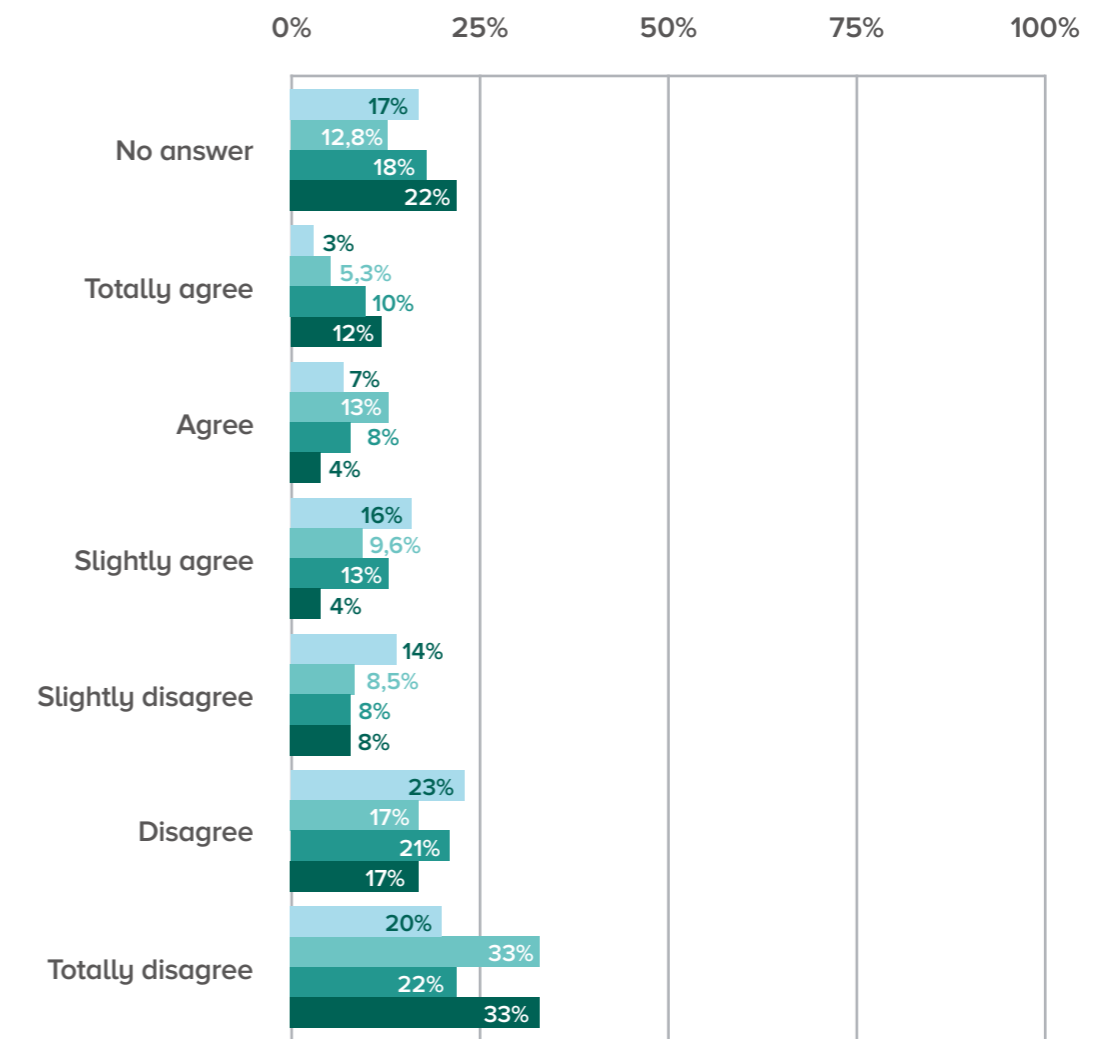
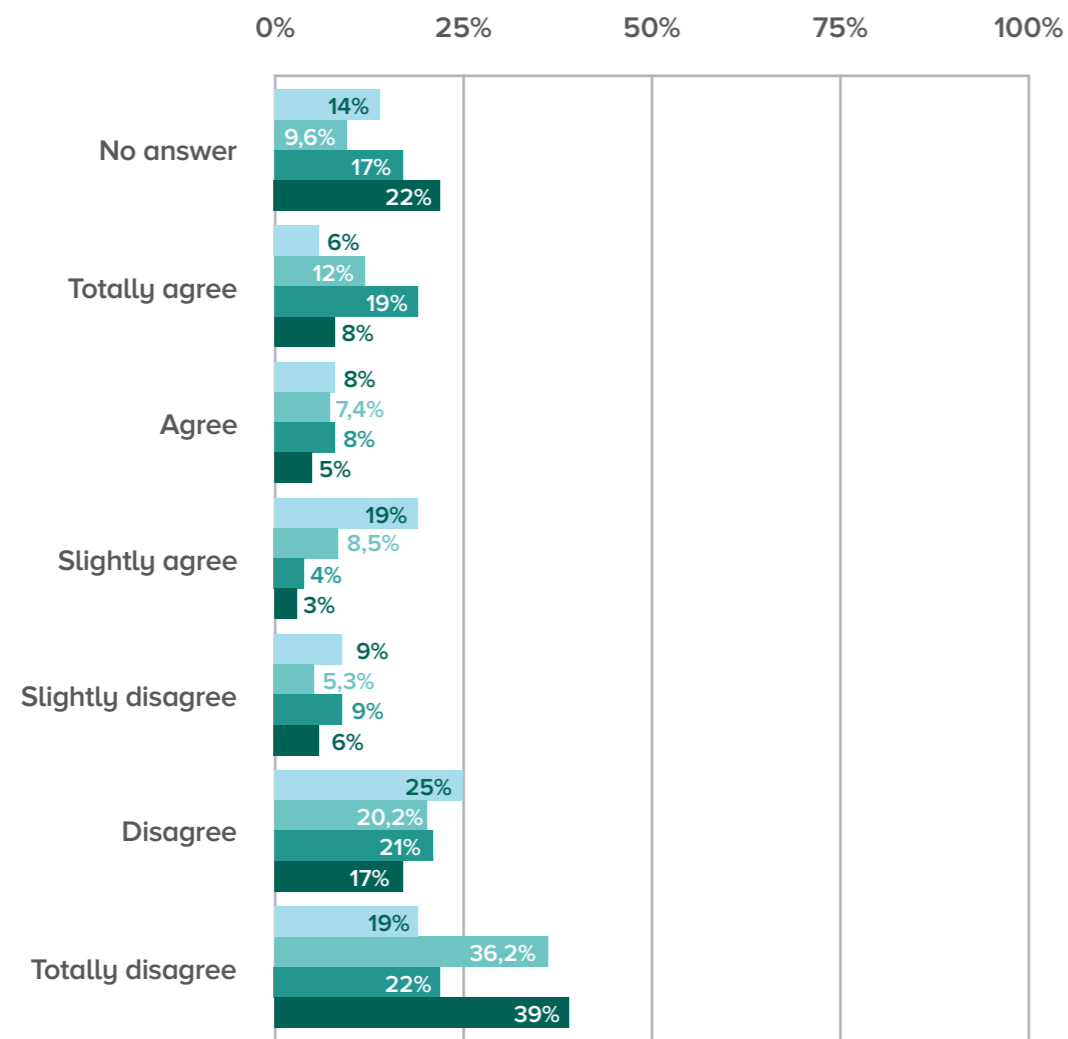
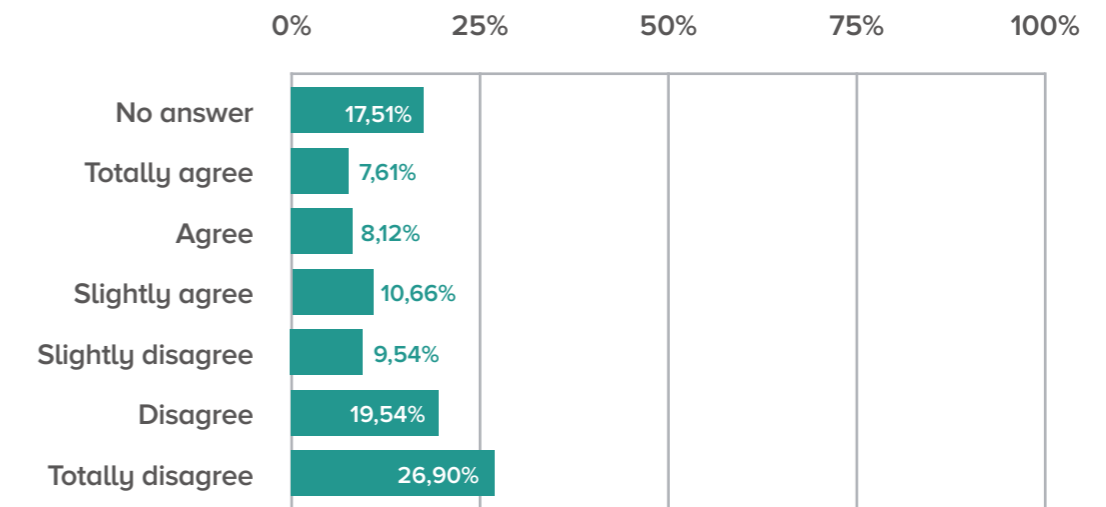


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b) With my family



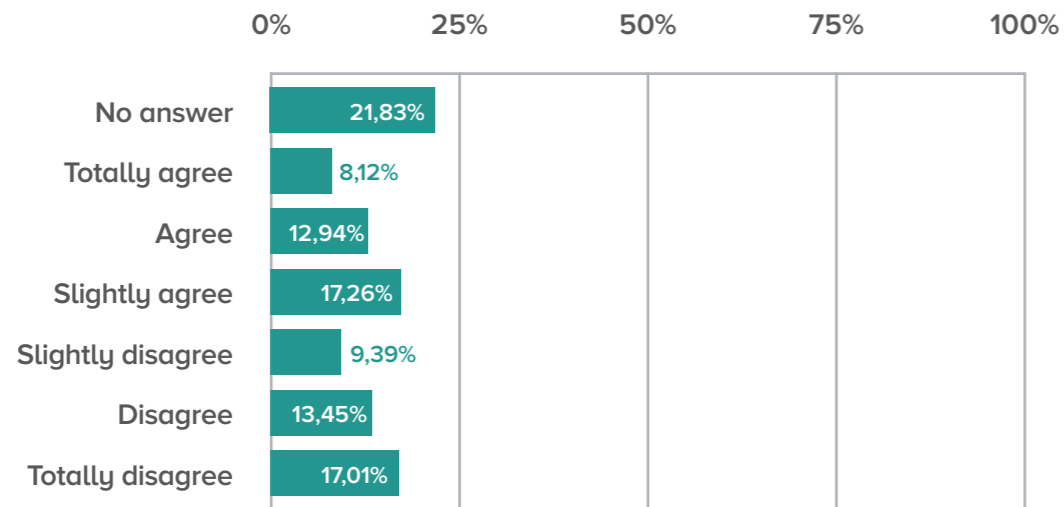
c) With my friends



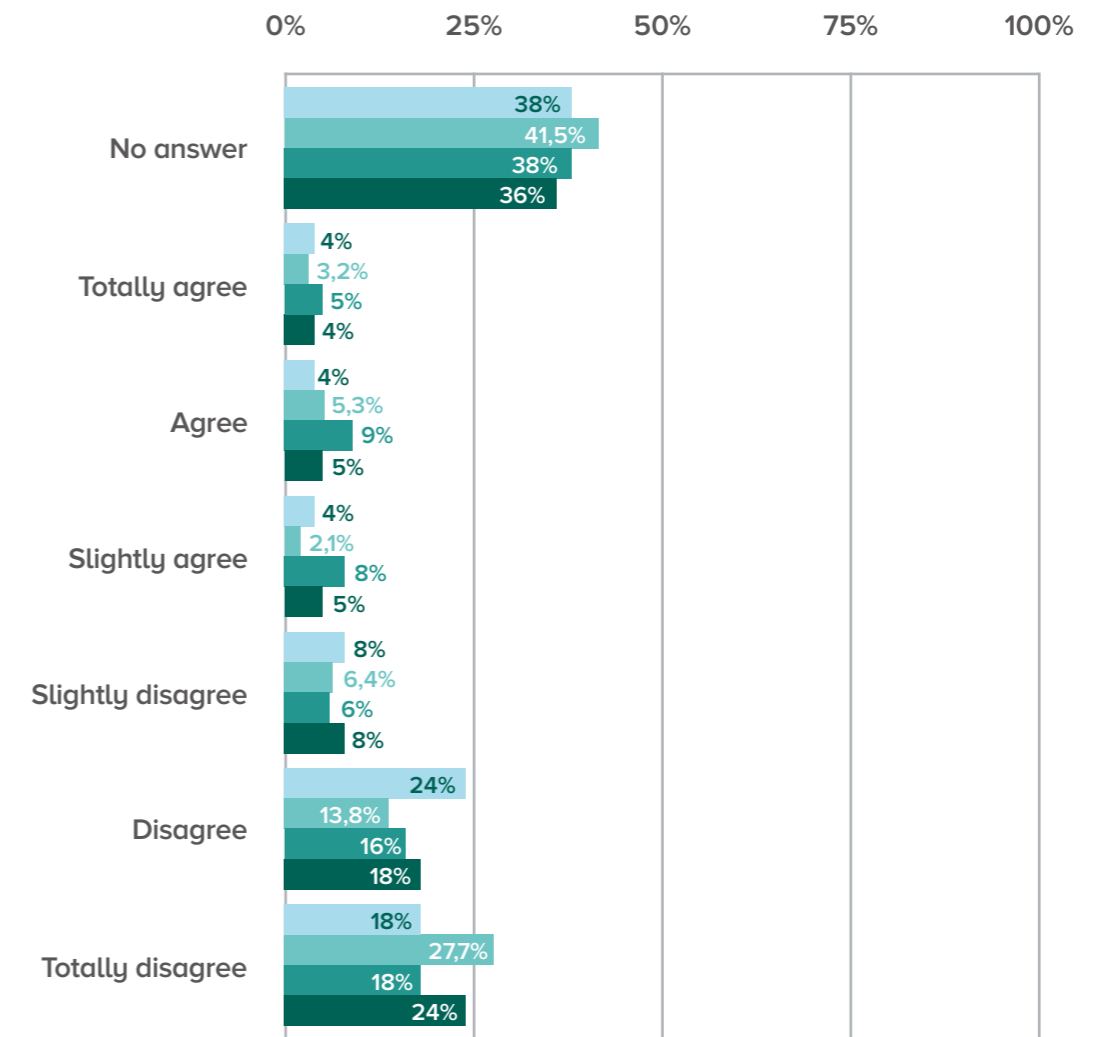
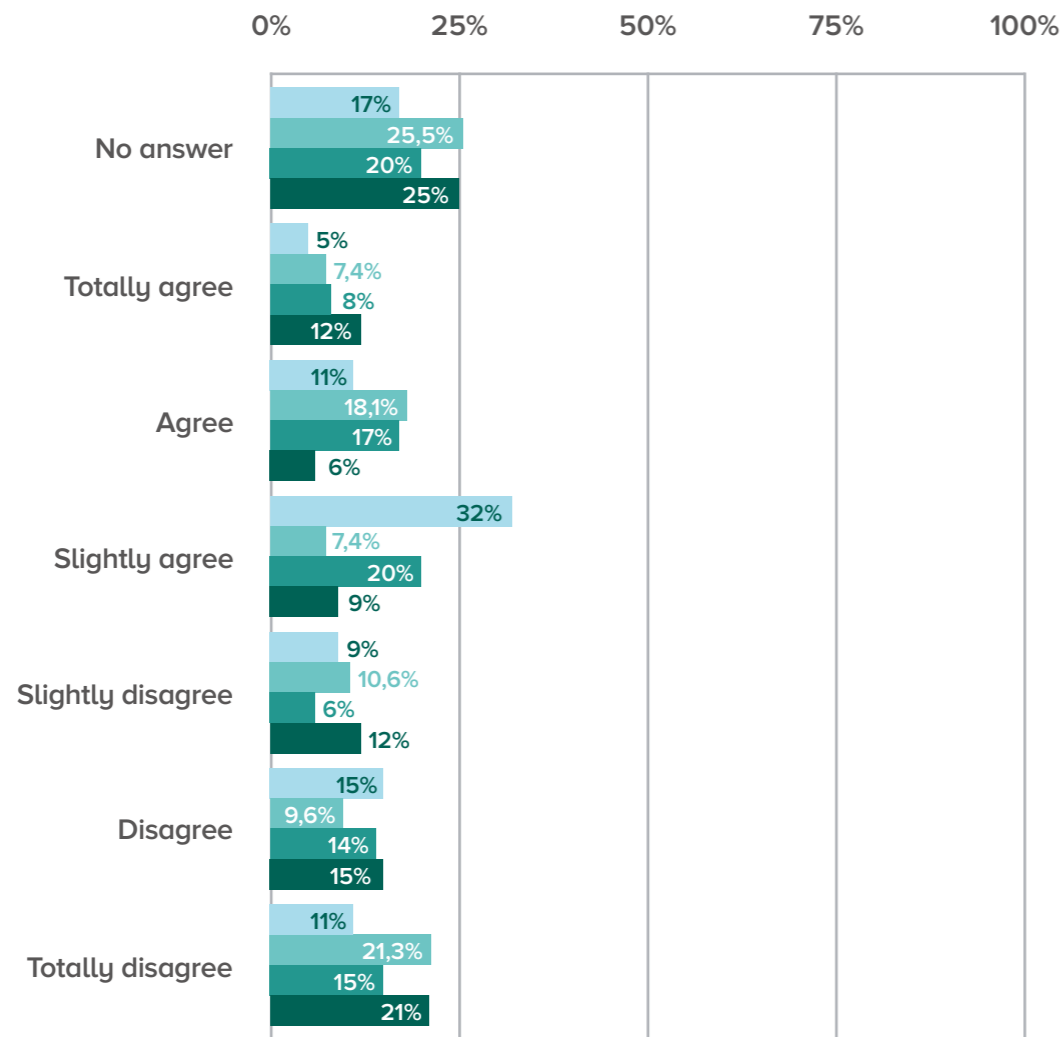
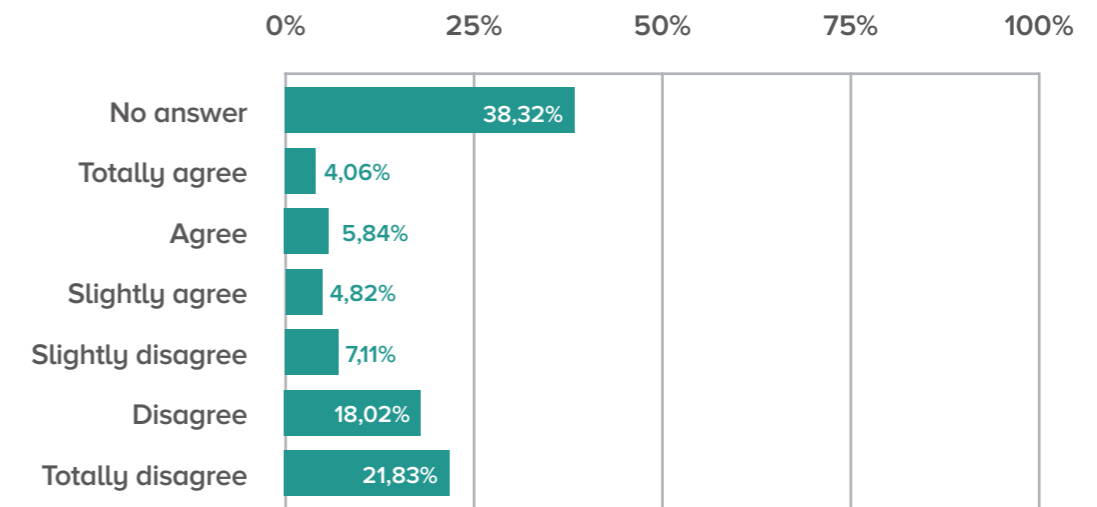
Germany Italy Portugal Romania

Germany Italy Portugal Romania

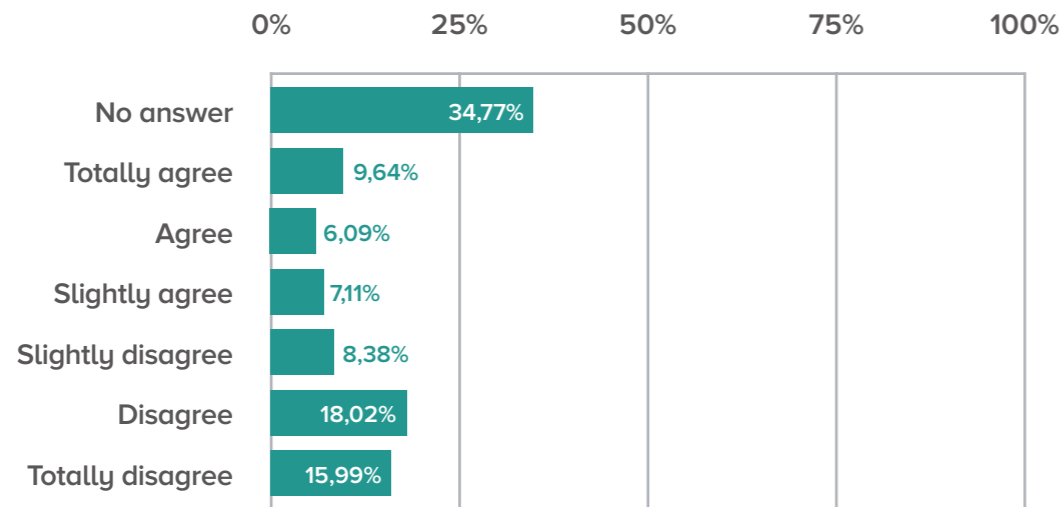
d) With other people in my community



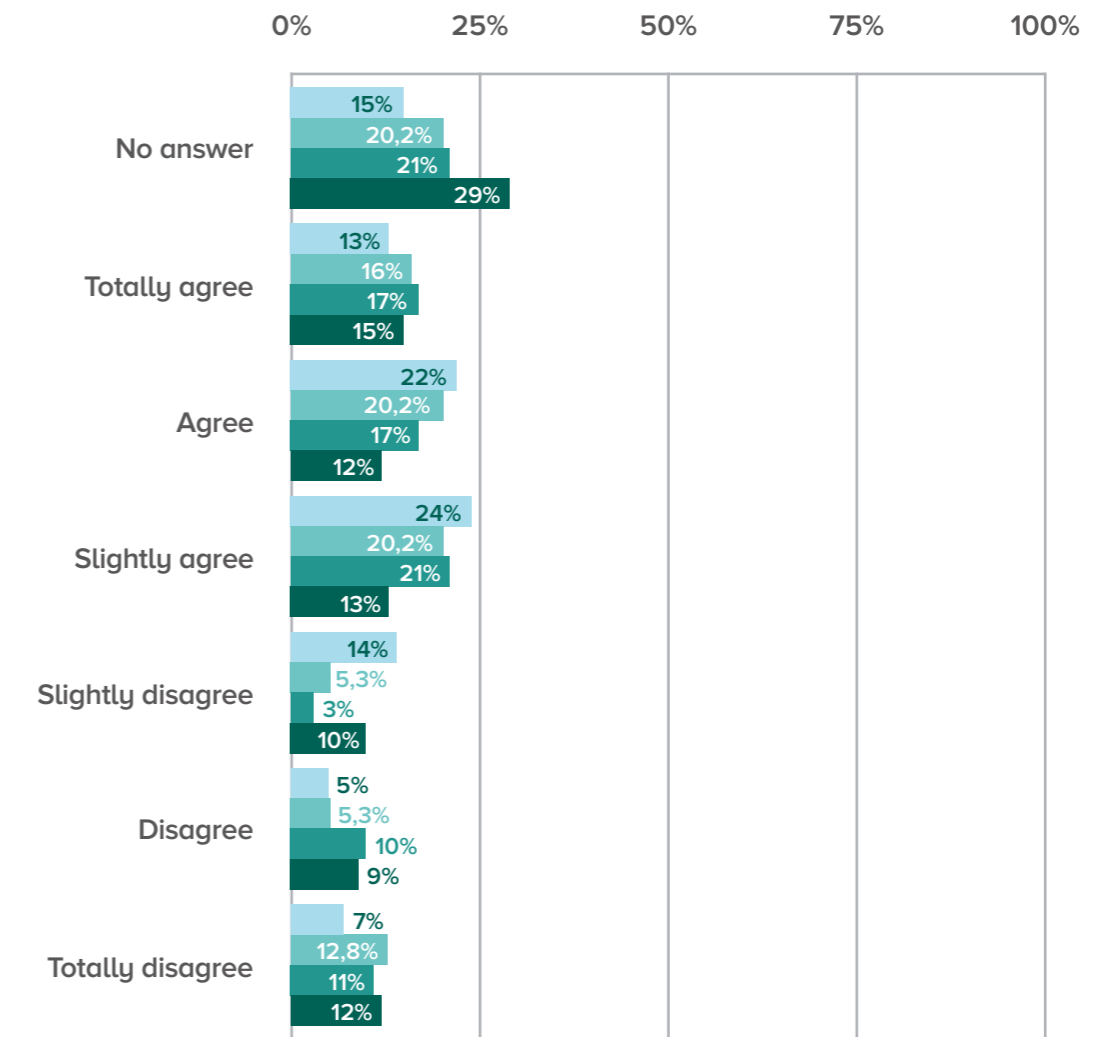
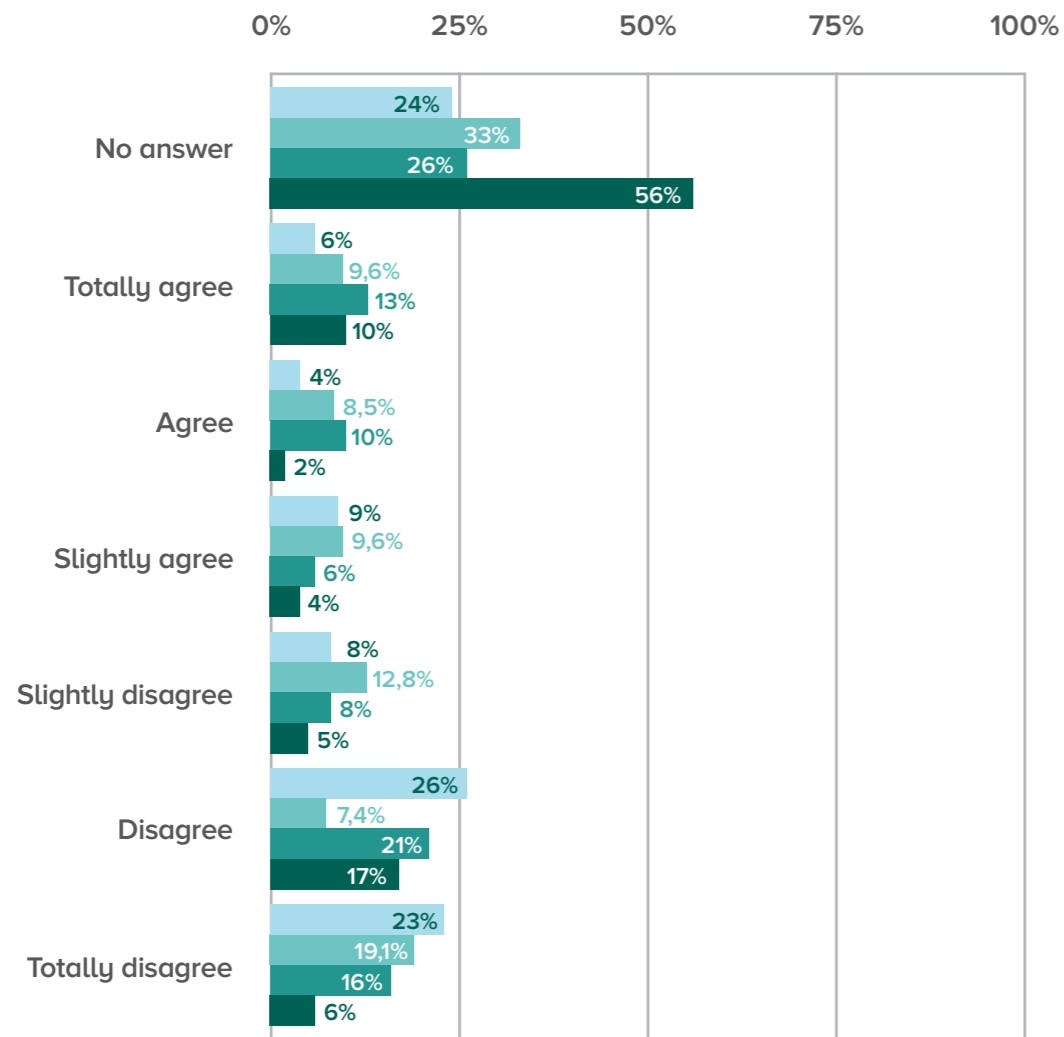
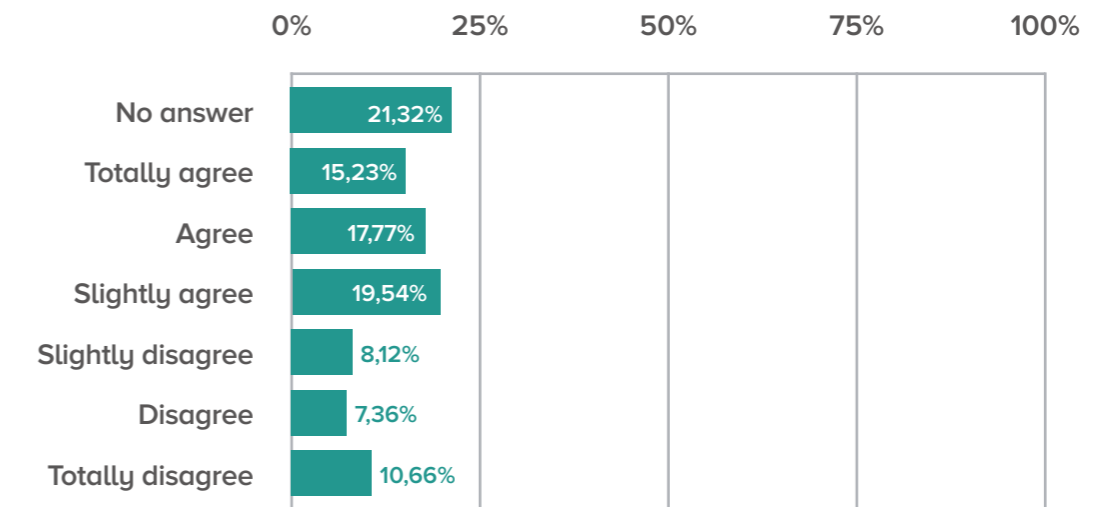
e) At my local place of worship



f) With my probation officer



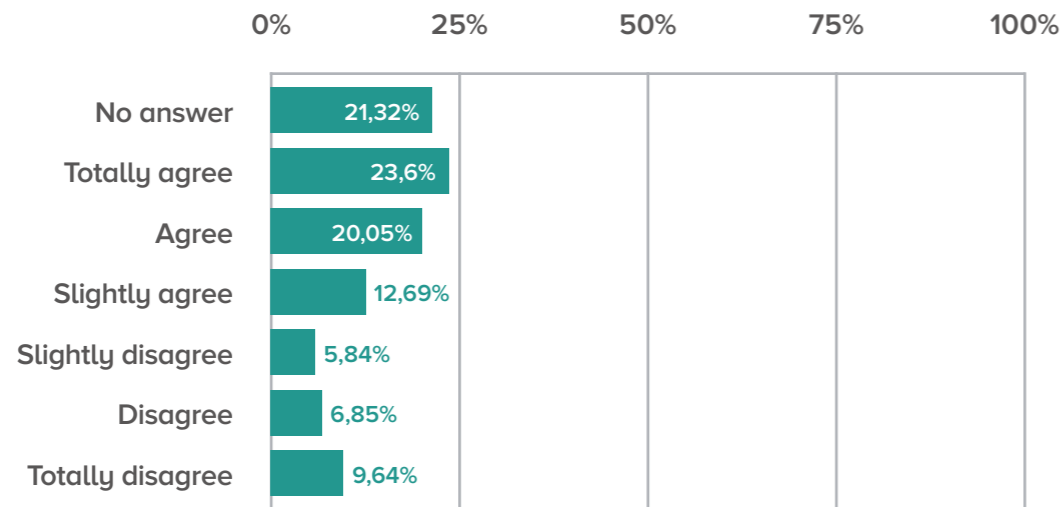
g) When I go to job interviews



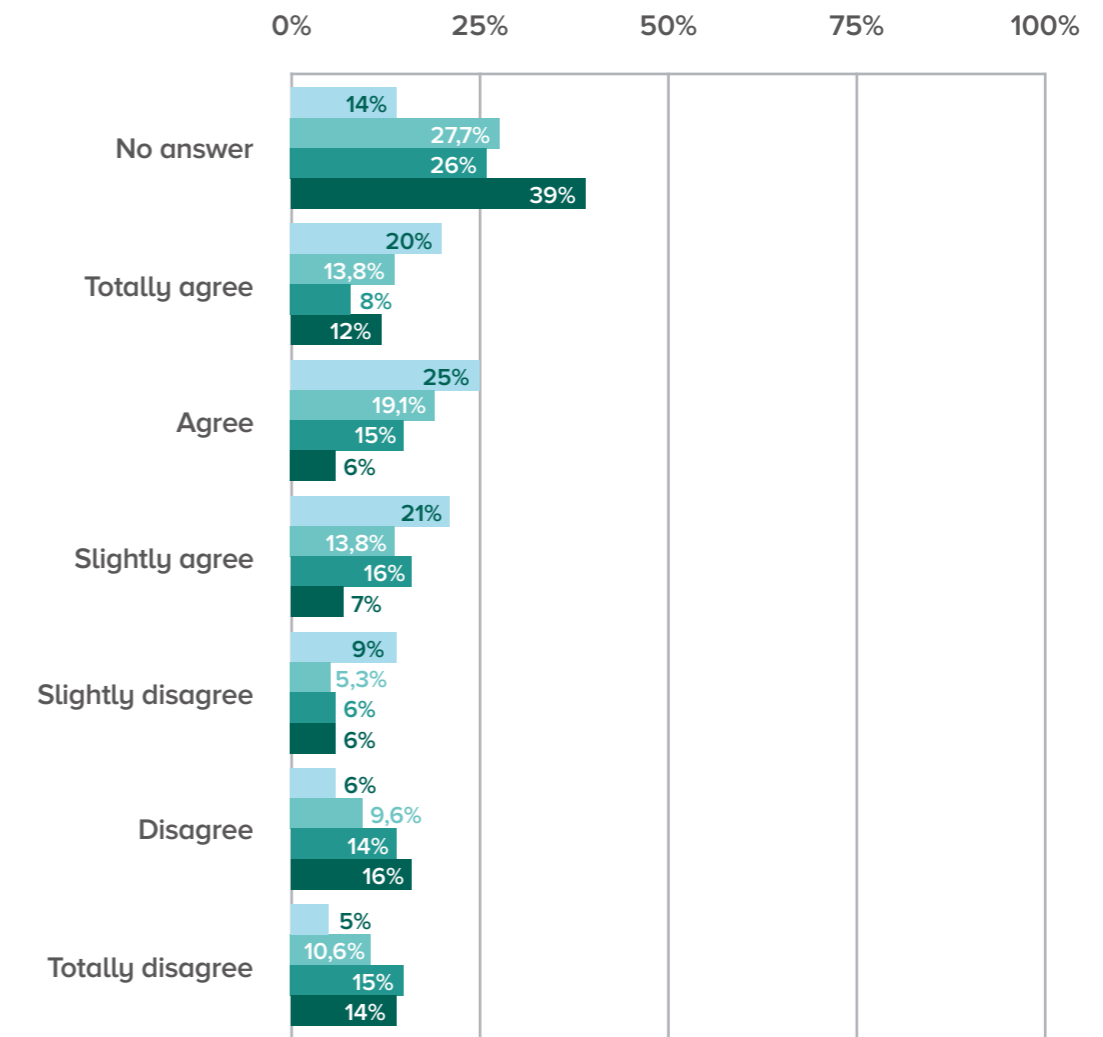
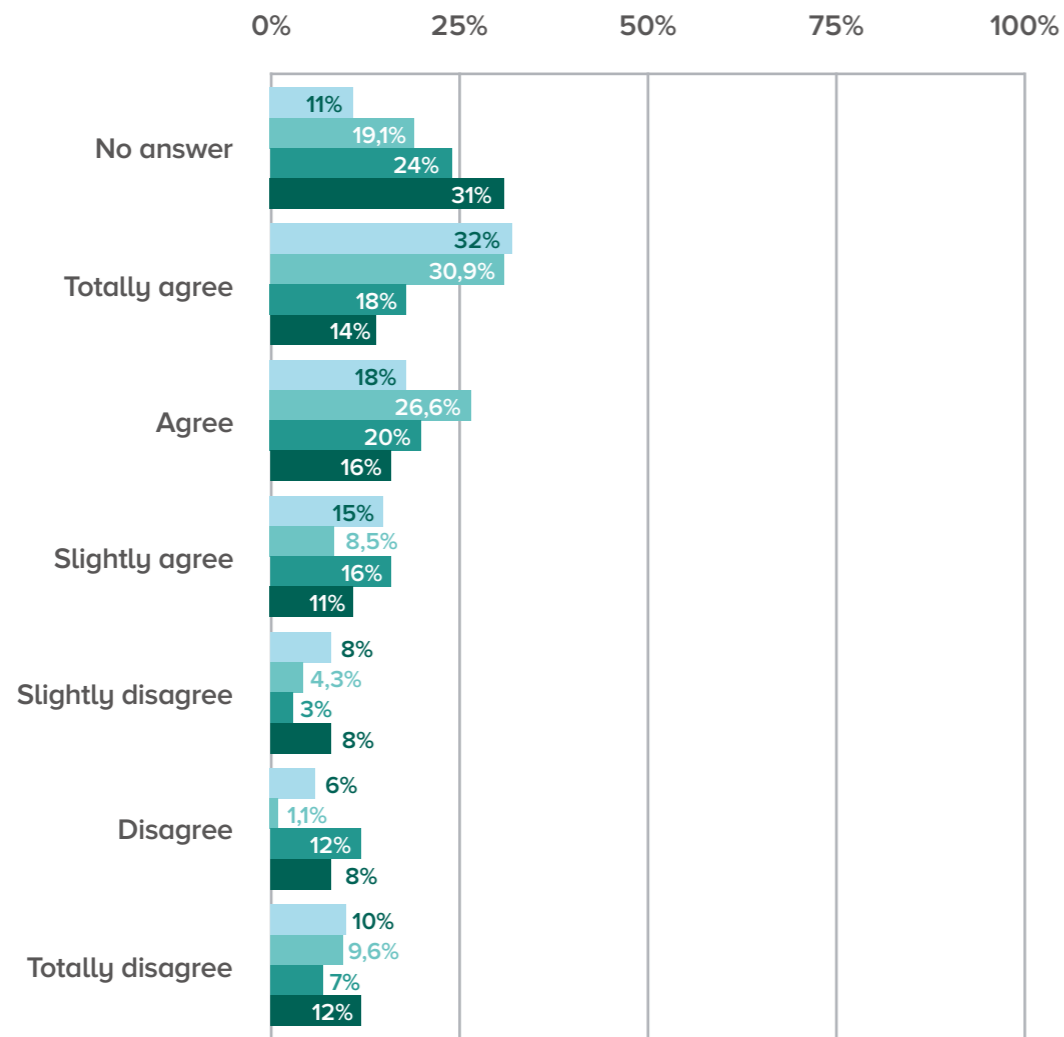
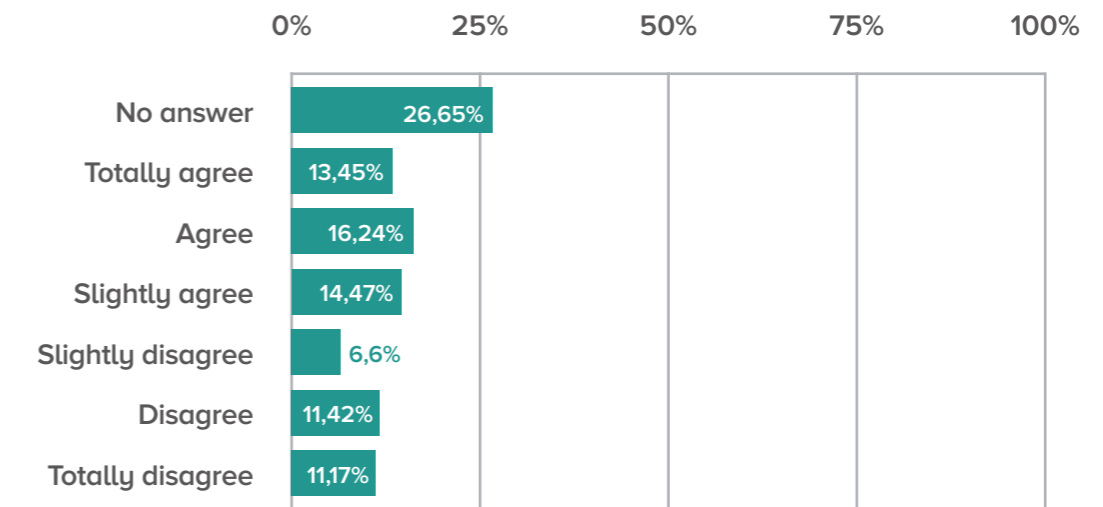
Germany Italy Portugal Romania

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h) When I am in contact with the local police

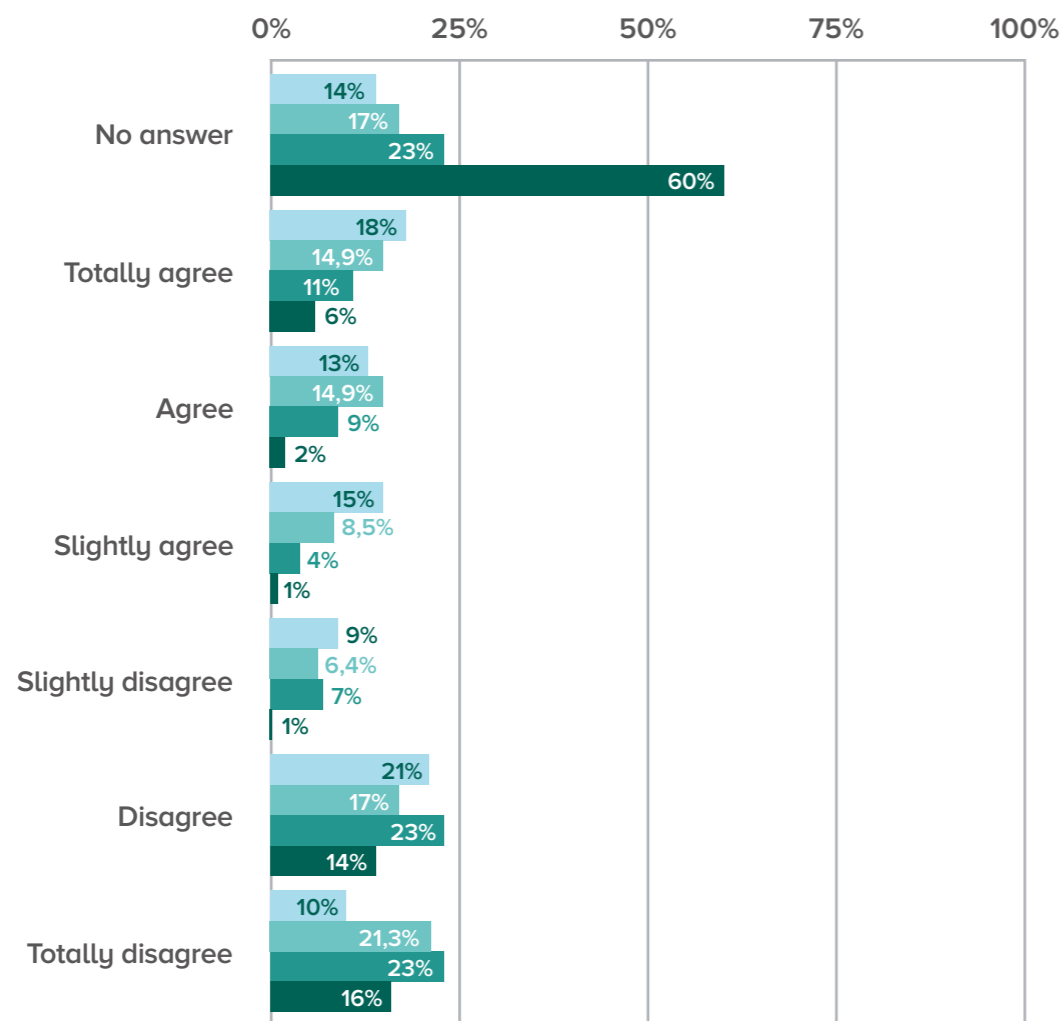
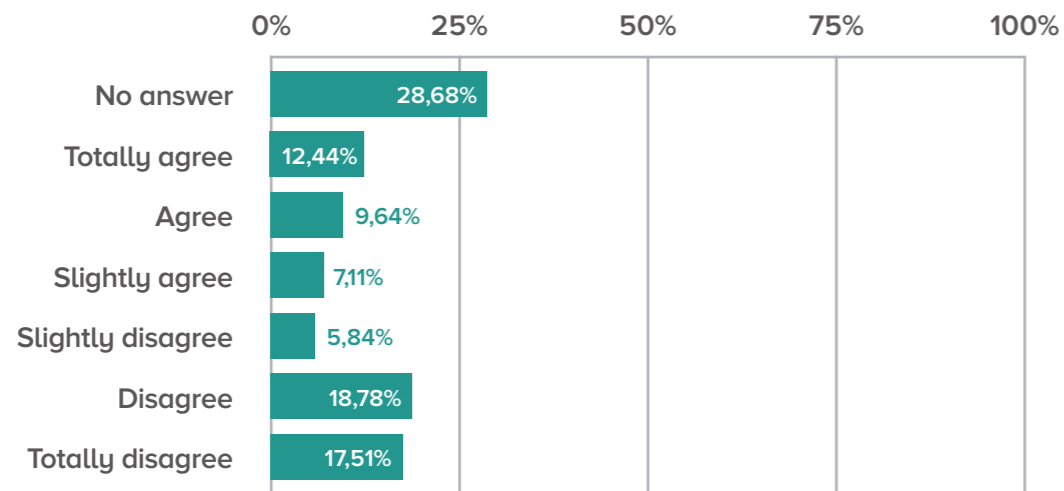


i) When I want to rent an apartment



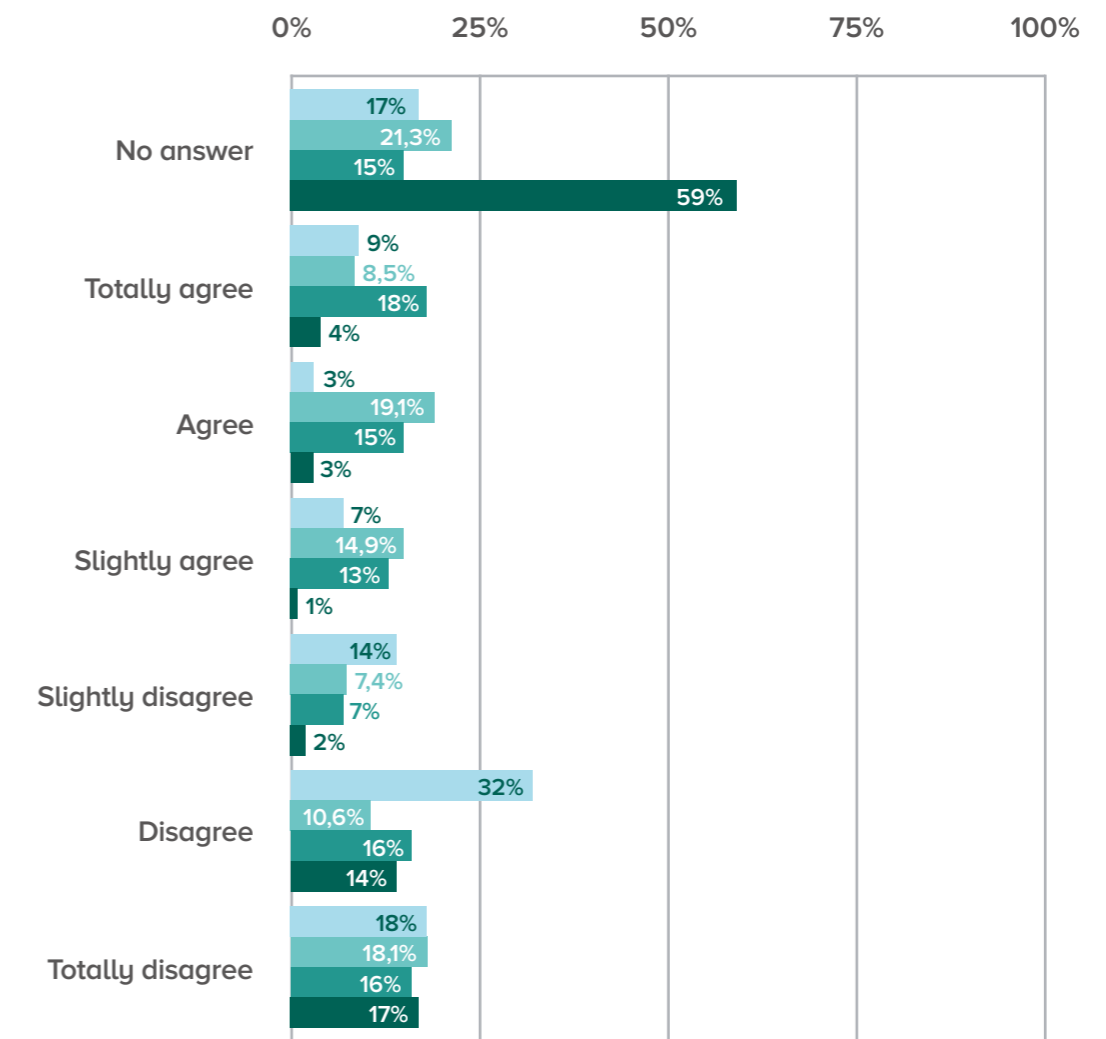
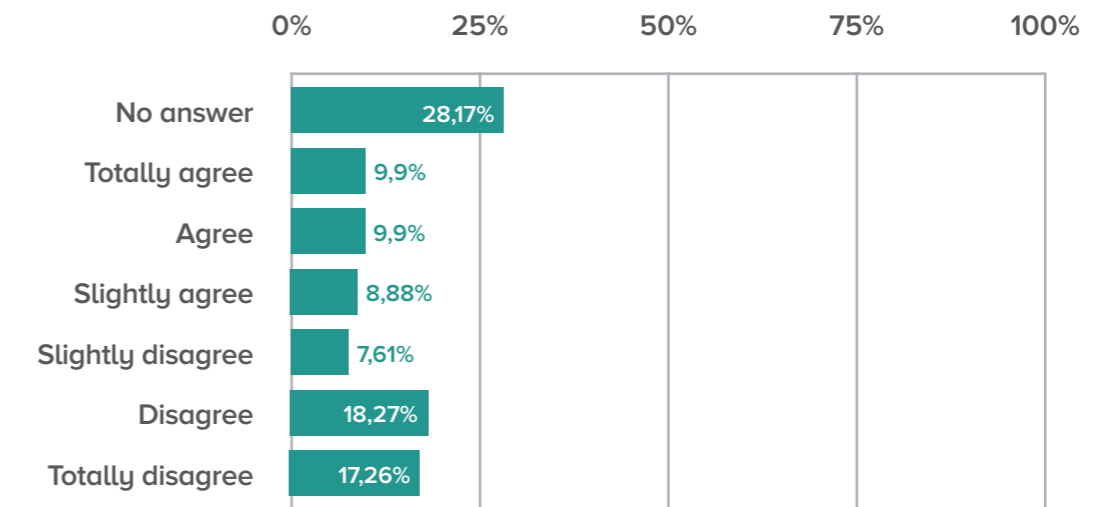
8) Once I get out of prison, I worry that I will...

a) Not find anywhere to live



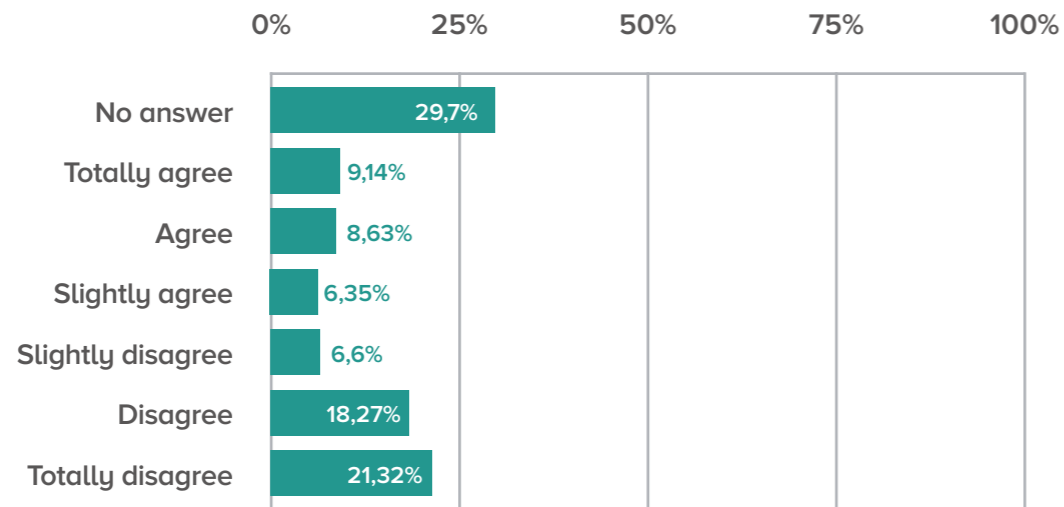
Germany Italy Portugal Romania

b) Falling behind with the rent

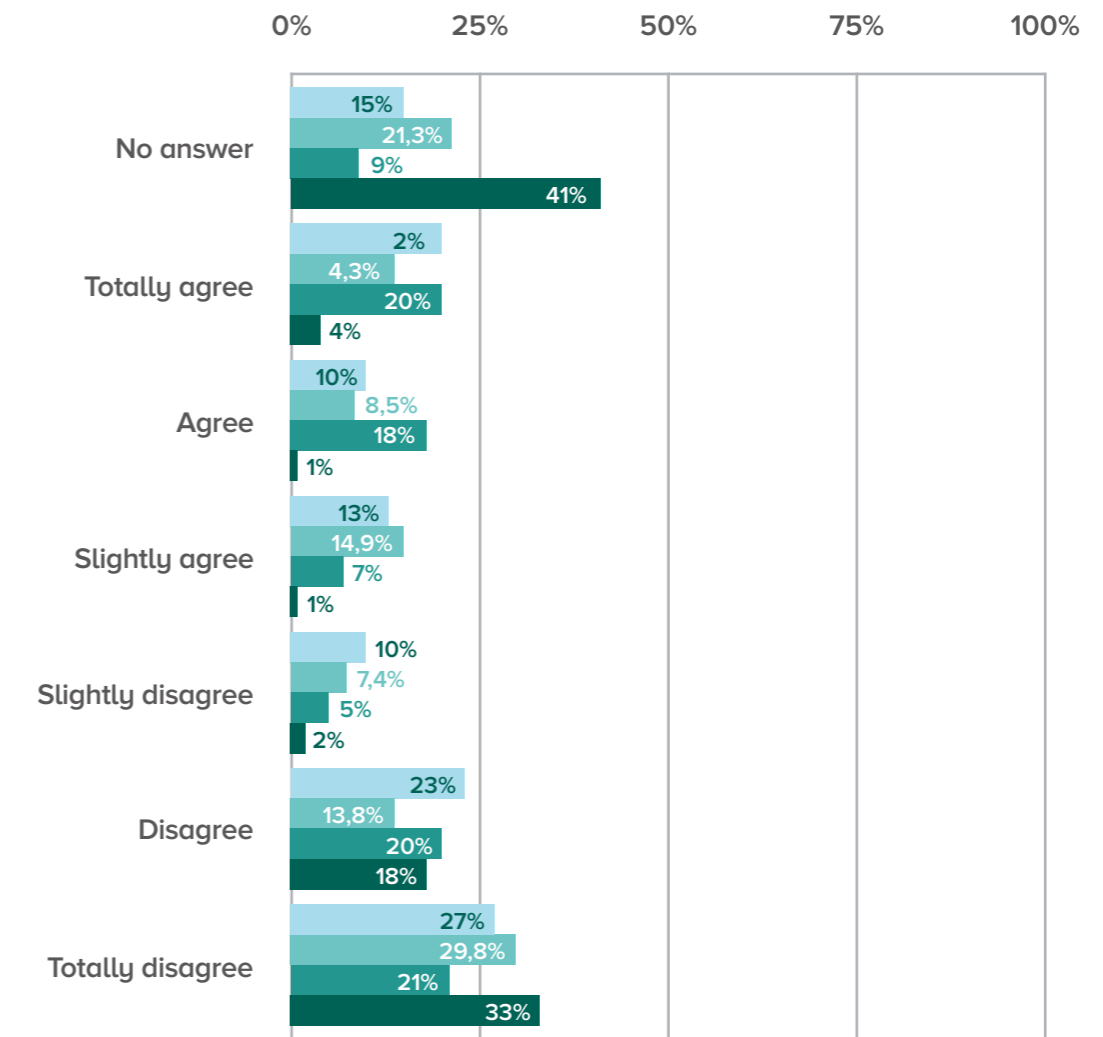
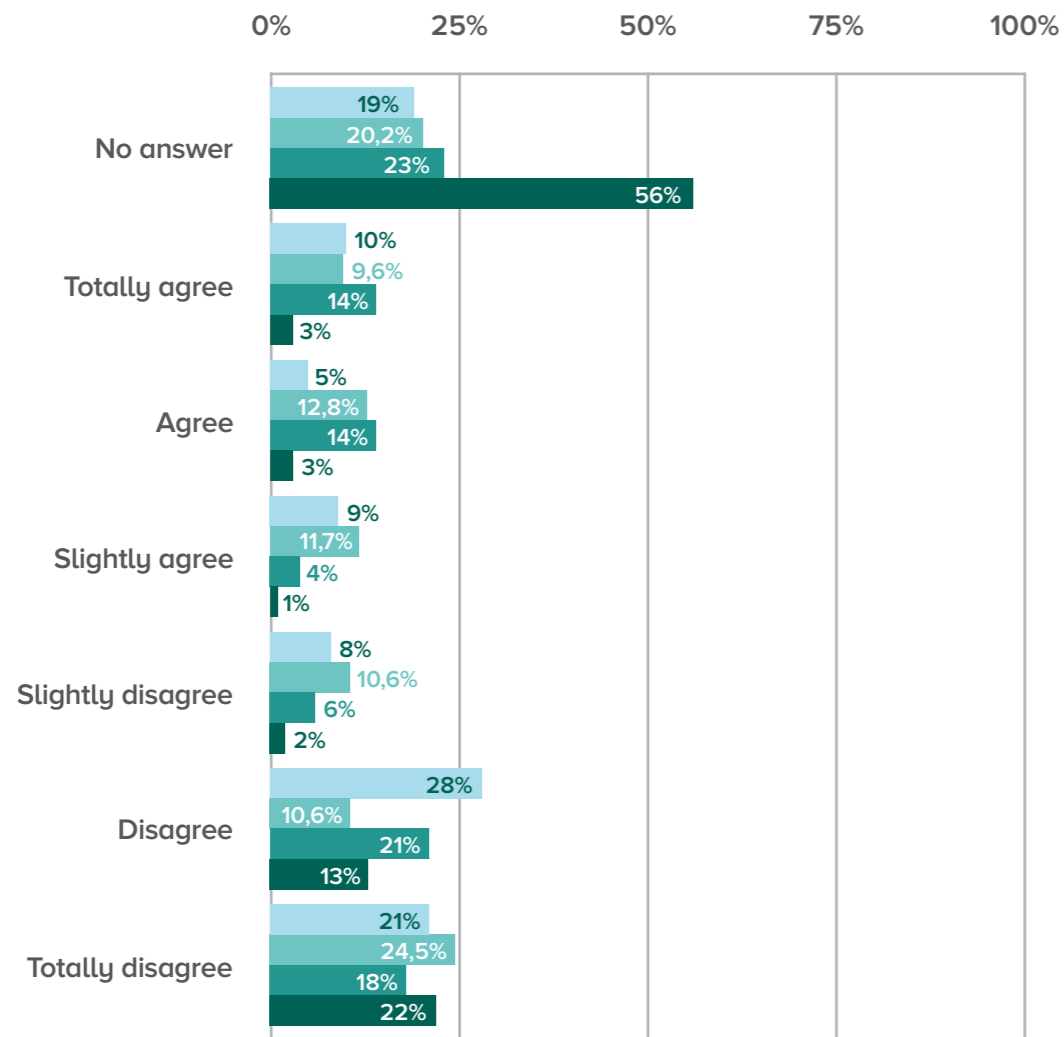
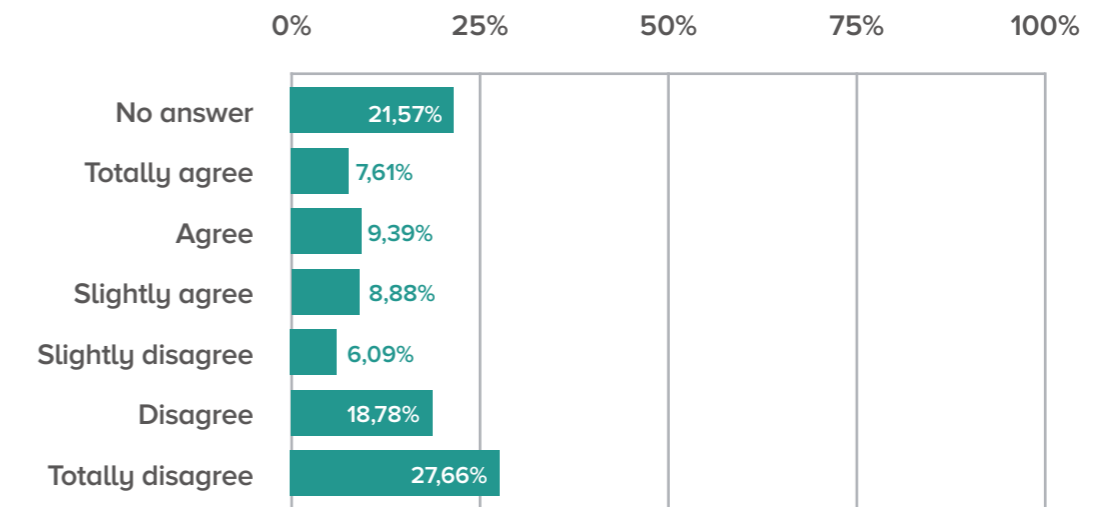


Germany Italy Portugal Romania

c) Getting kicked out of my home



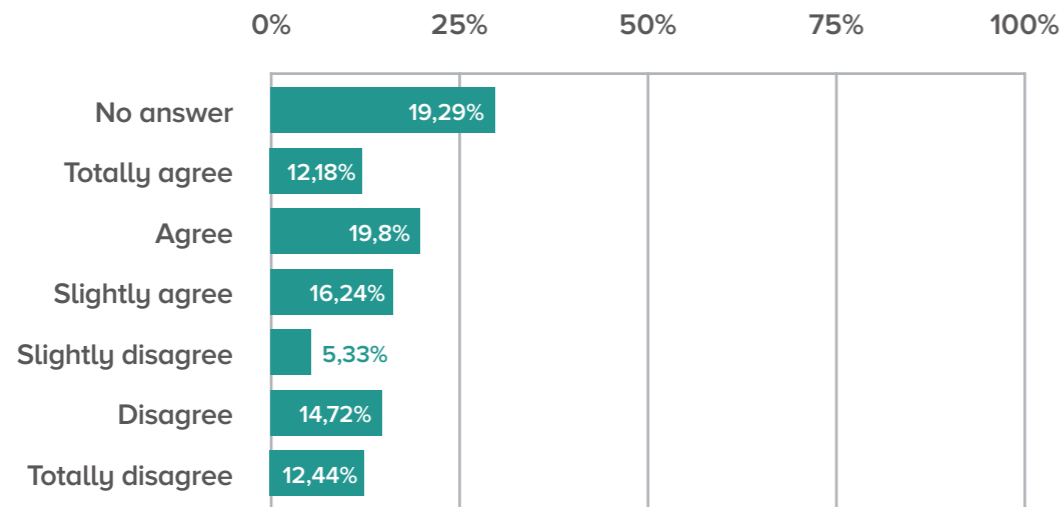
d) Take things out on the people I care for



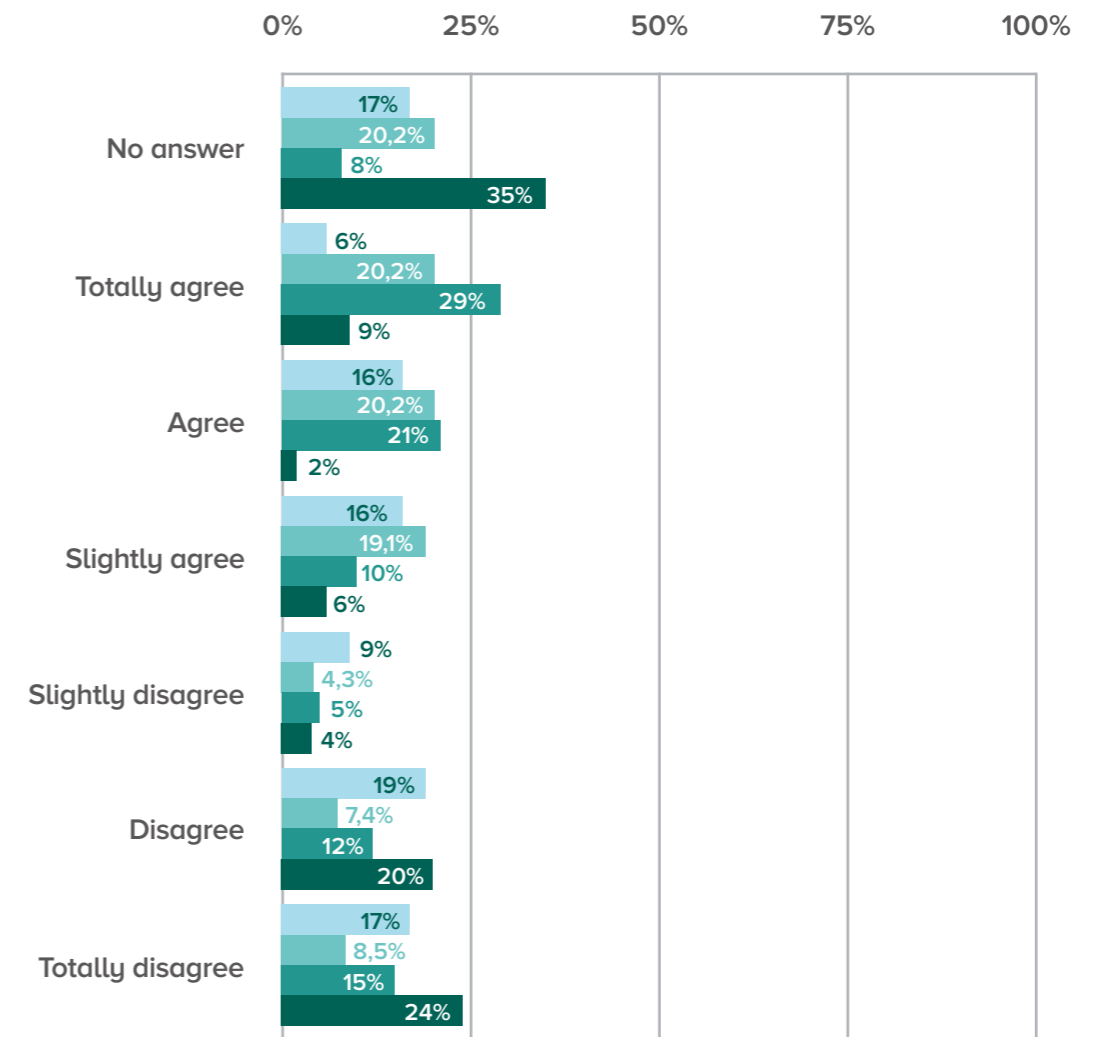
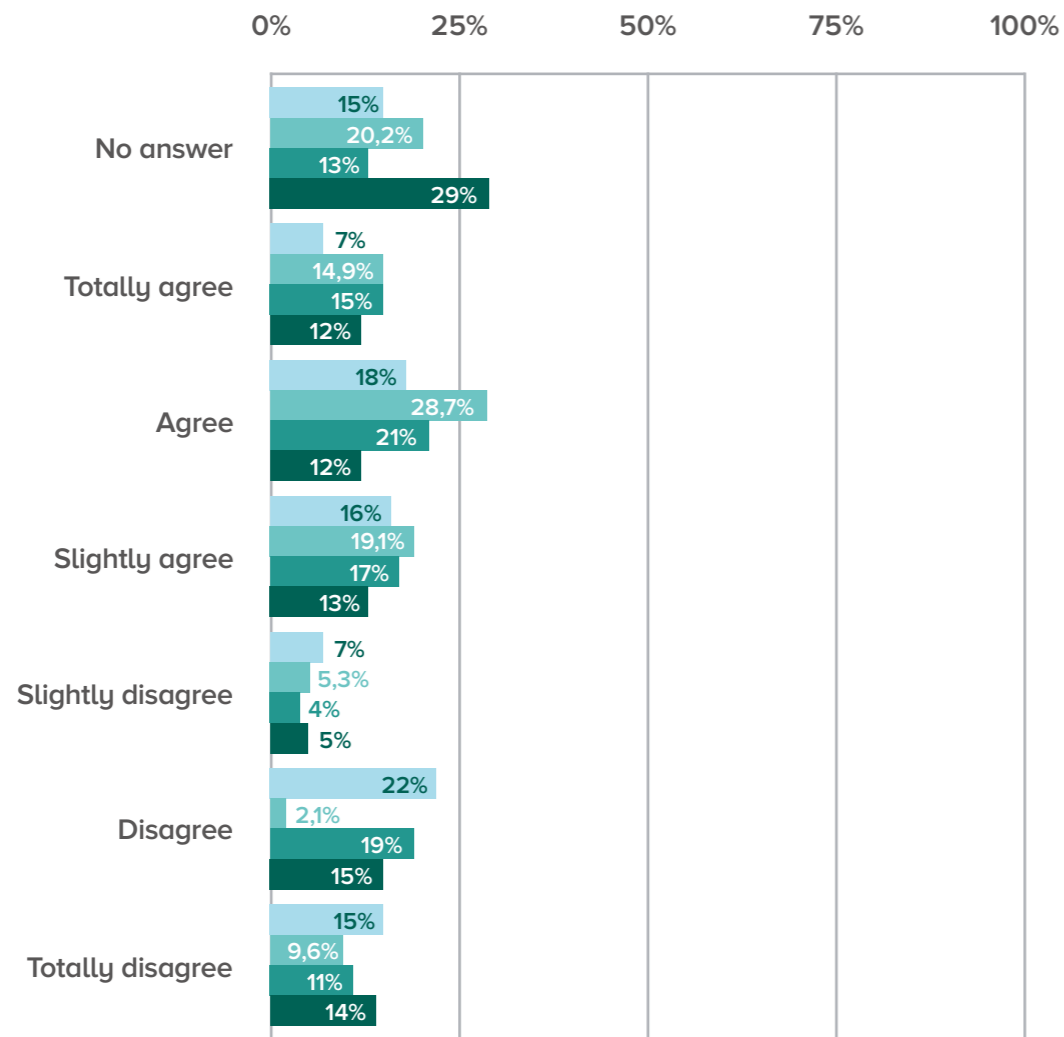
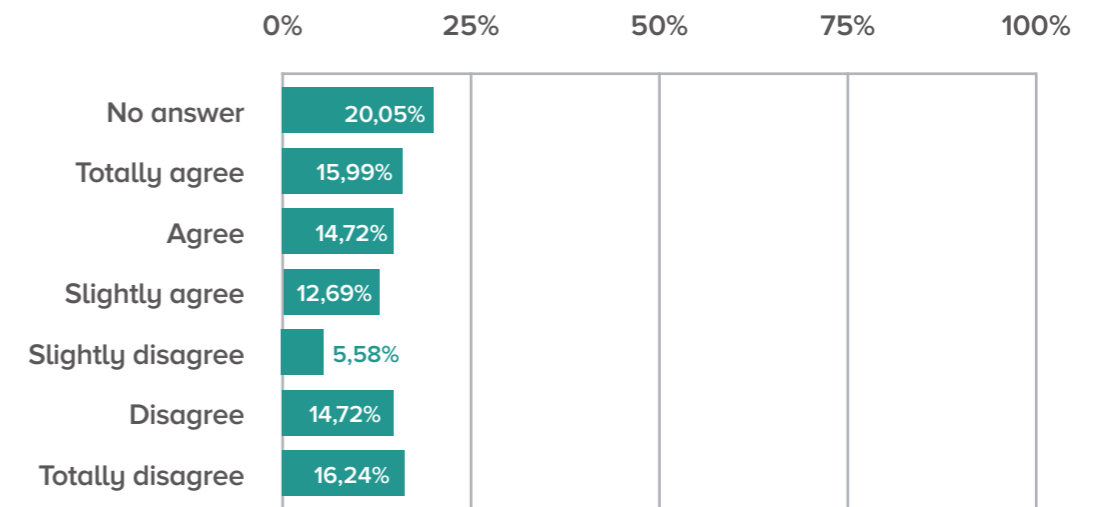
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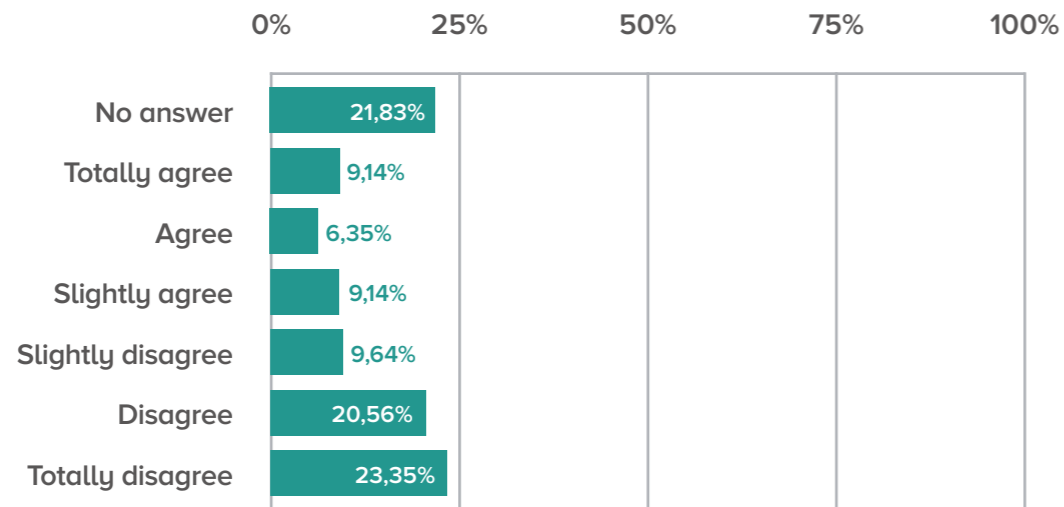
e) Be recognised as an ex-offender



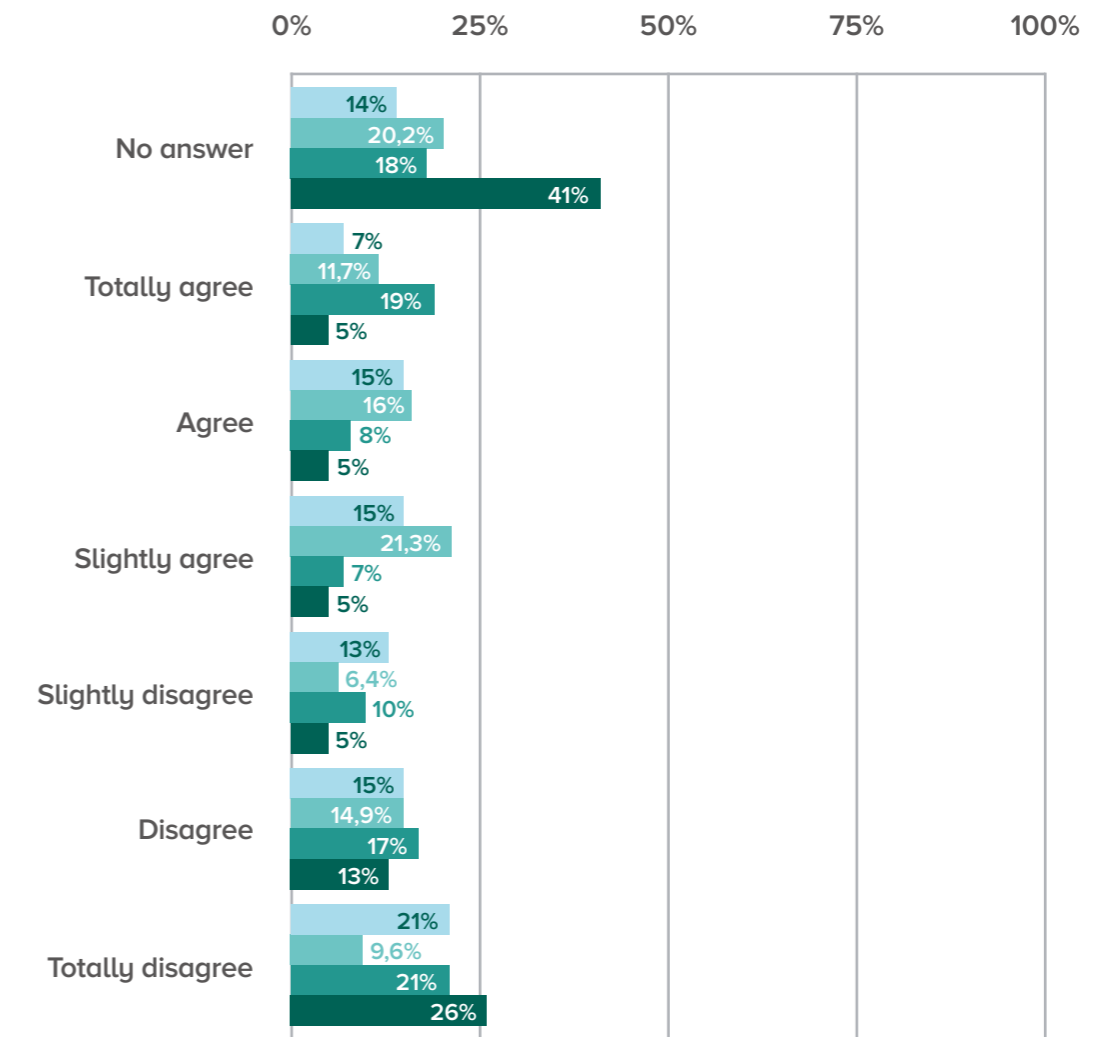
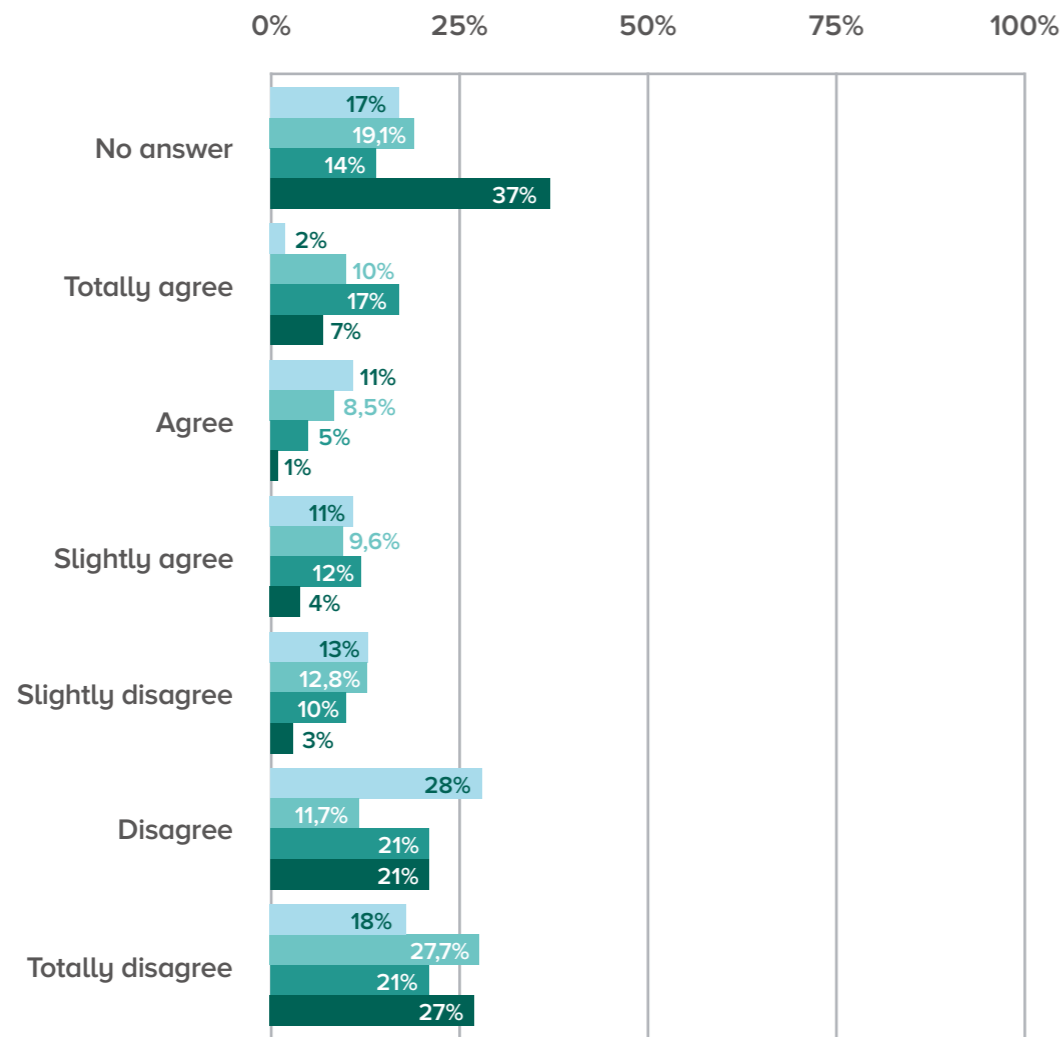
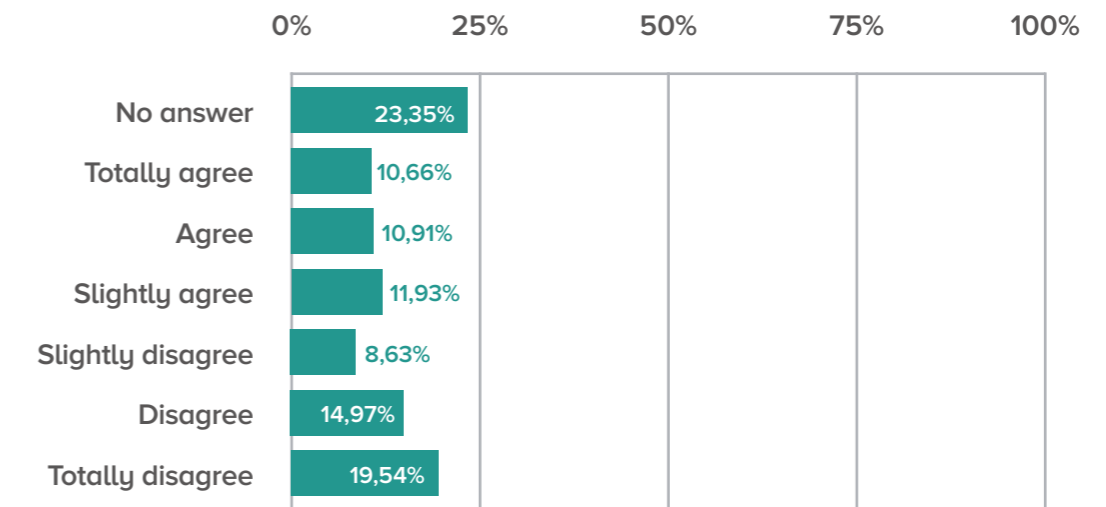
f) Not find a job



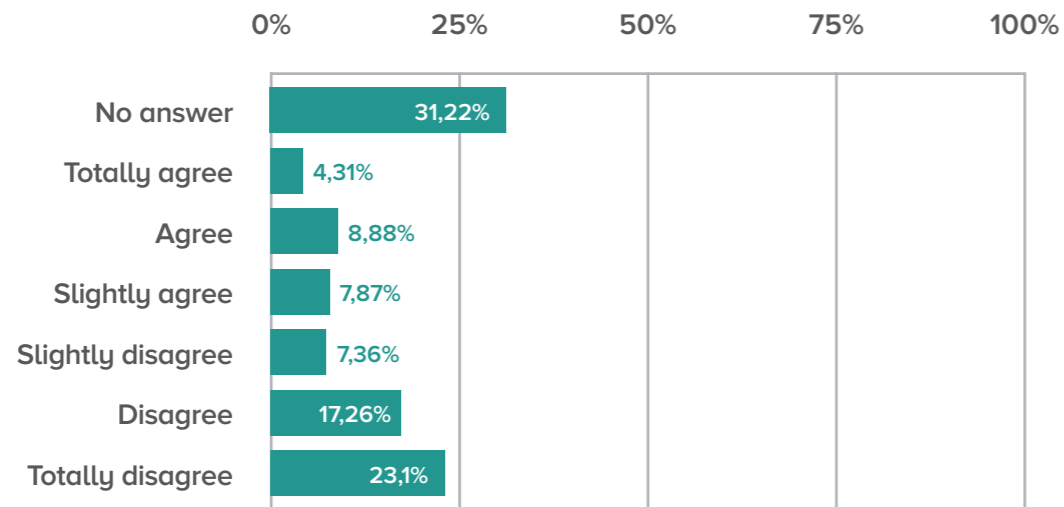
g) Not be able to keep a job



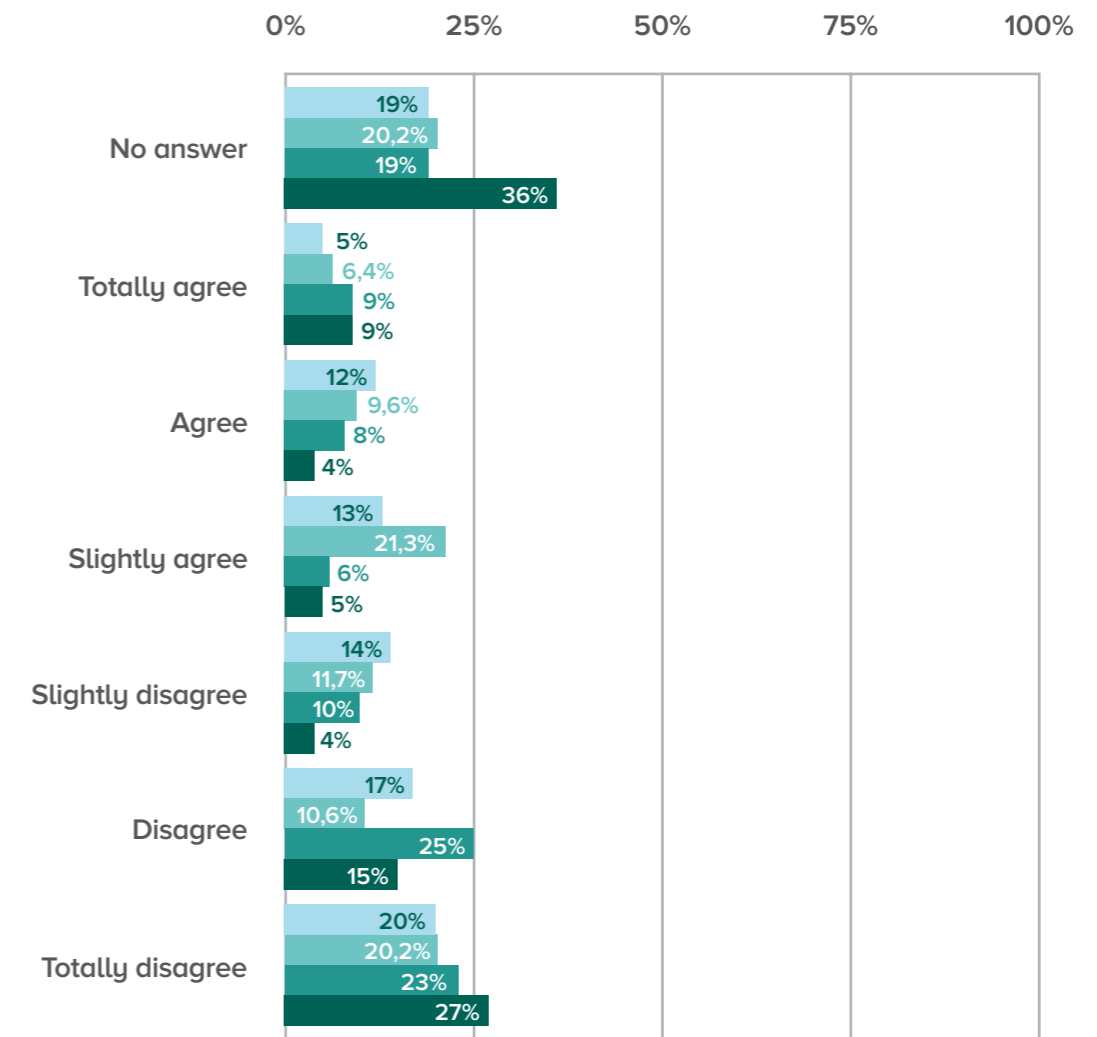
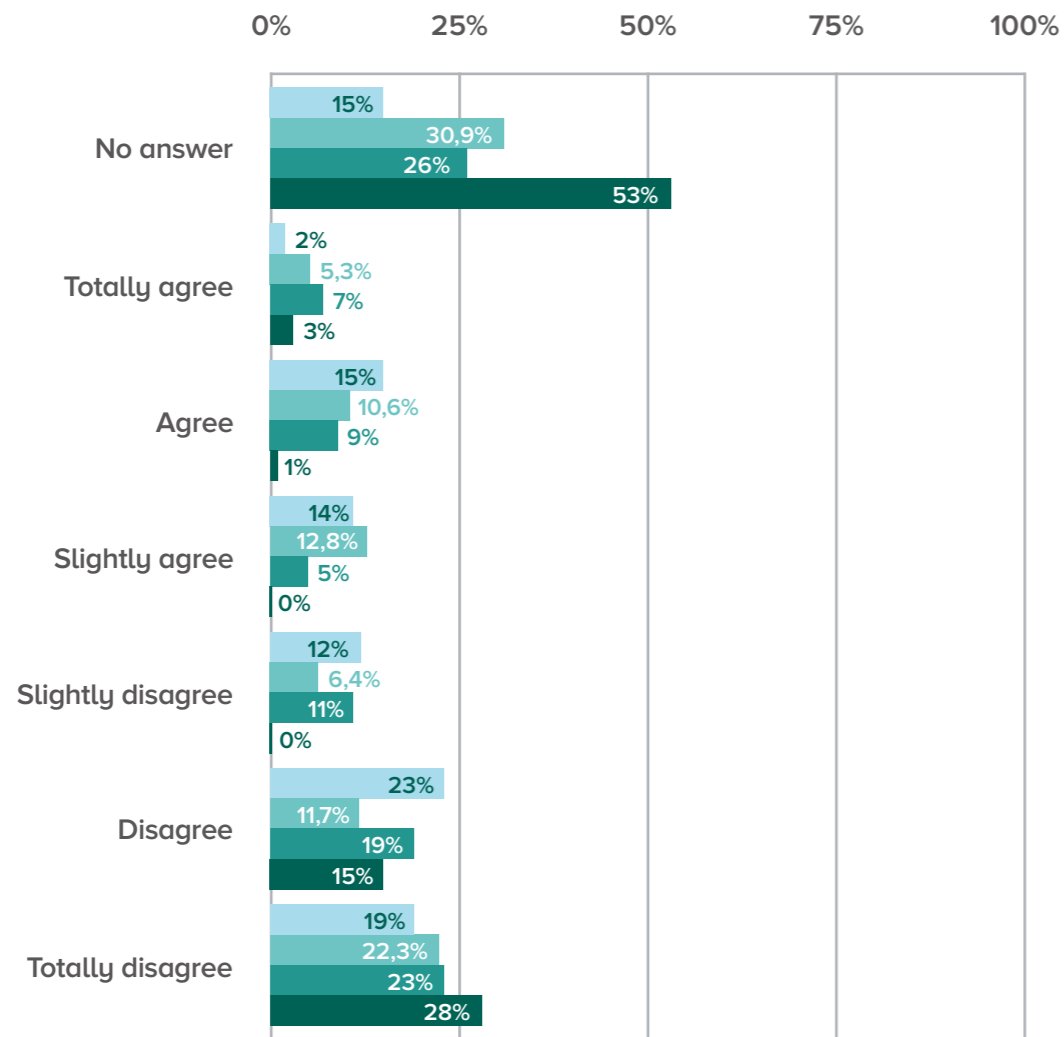
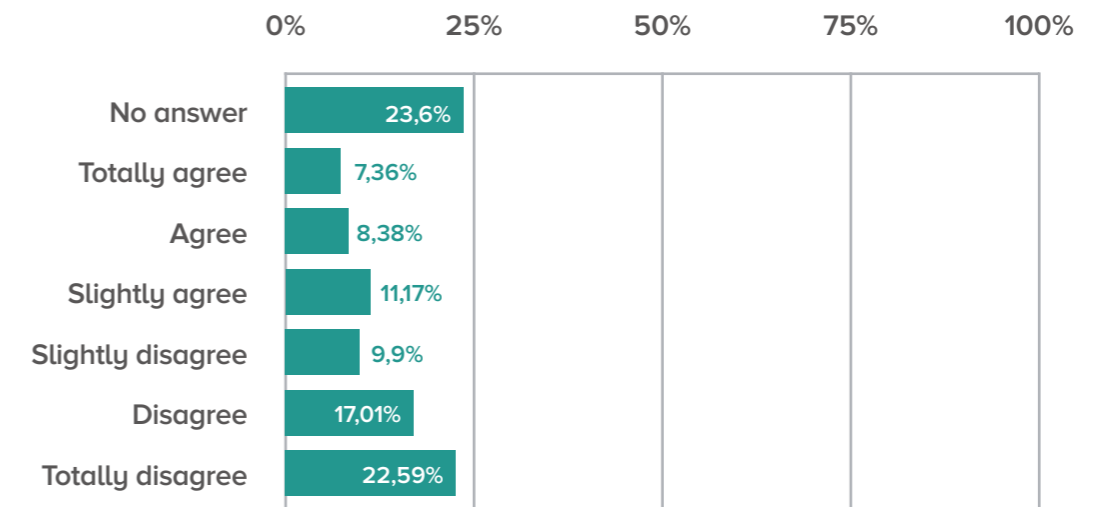
h) Will have problems with general paperwork



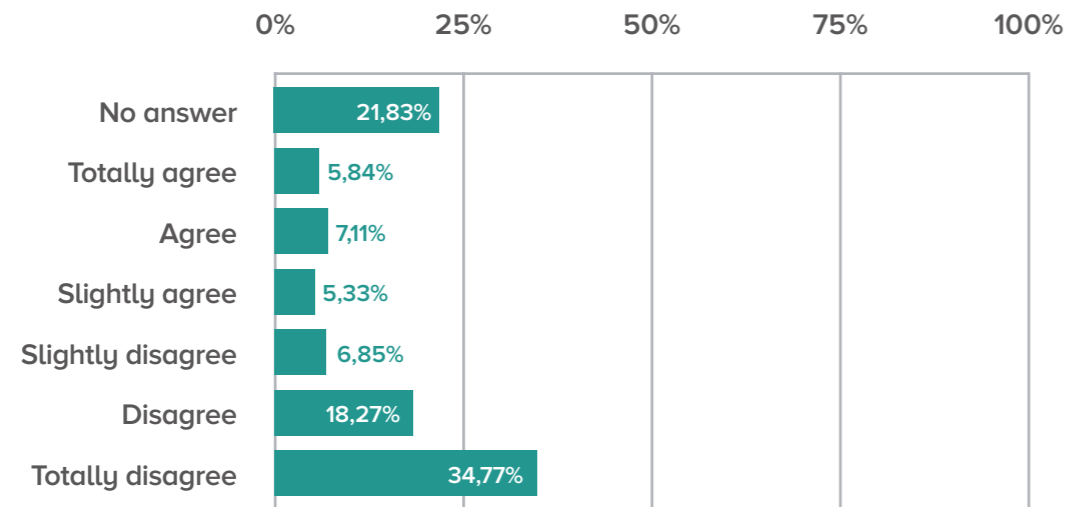
i) Go back to taking drugs/ drinking heavily



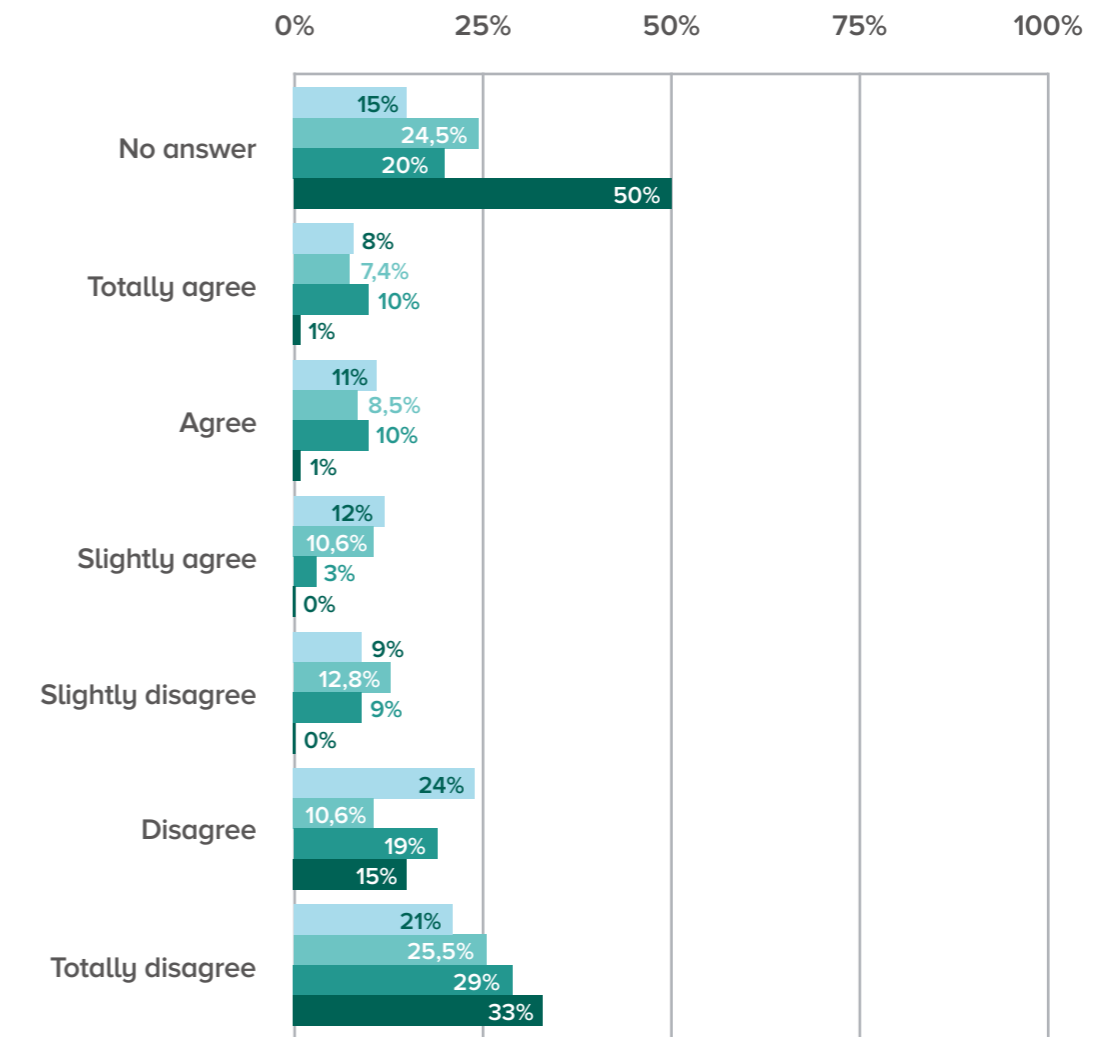
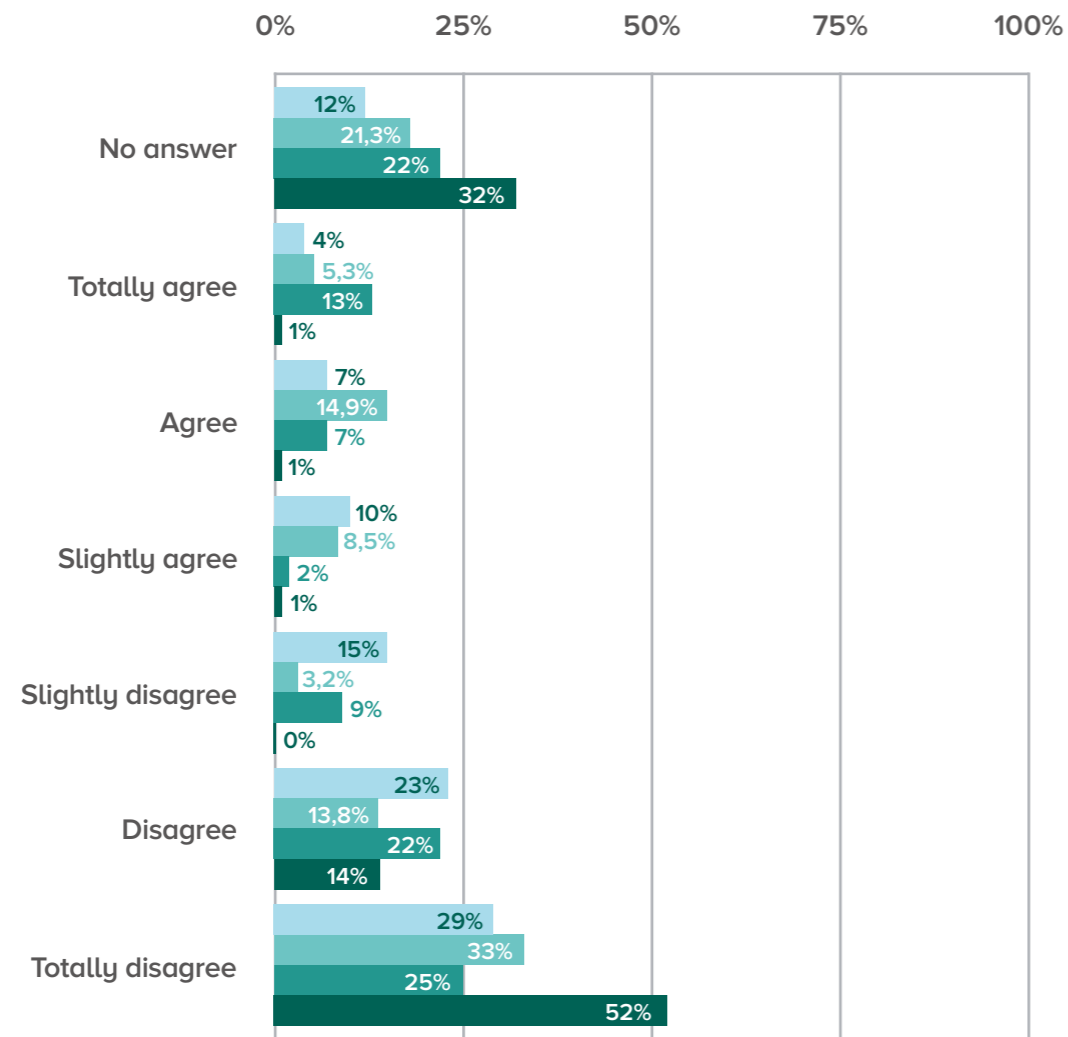
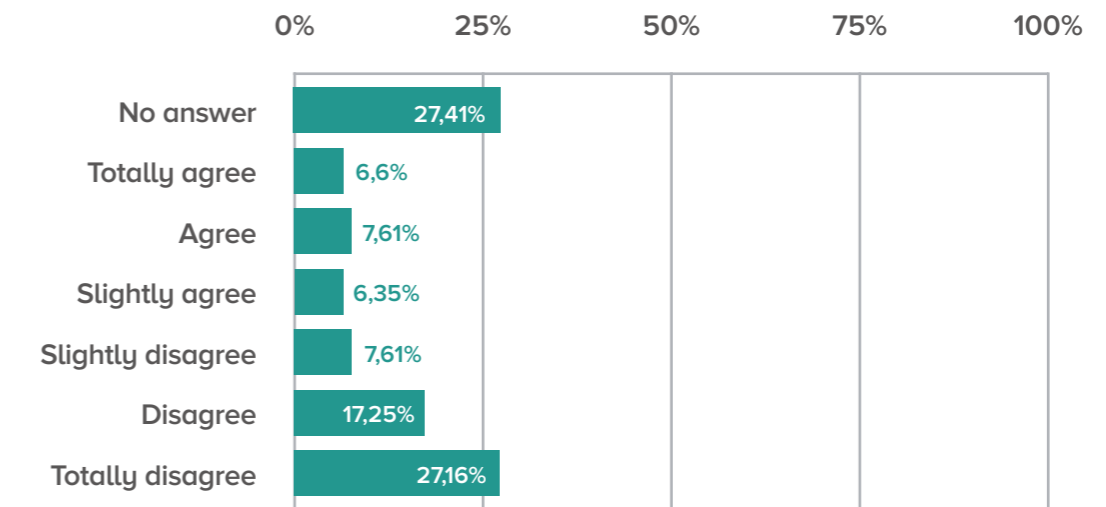
j) Get back in with the same friends as before



k) Have to go back to crime to get money



l) Only being able to afford to live in bad neighbourhoods



Annex 5. MOBi Case Study Interview

Interview Consent Form

Research-project:

MOBILIZING SOCIETY TOWARDS (EX) OFFENDERS REINTEGRATION (MOBI)

Institution: _____

Project management: _____

Interviewer: _____

Date of the Interview: _____

Explanation of the project:

oral explanation

written explanation

The interview will be recorded and put in a written transcript by associates of the MOBi-project.

For further scientific analyses of the interview-texts, all data that might identify a person will be changed or erased from the text. In scientific publications interviews are only cited in cuttings, to ensure against third parties, that the overall context of the events cannot be used to identify a person. The information gathered through this interview will only be used for scientific purposes. We don't see any risks associated with your participation.

You participate voluntary in the interview. You can stop the interview at any time or withdraw your agreement to have the interview recorded or put in a written transcript at any time. There will be no disadvantages for you if you withdraw your permission.

By signing this form, I confirm that I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future. I have read the information sheet, as well as the conditions of the use of my data as stated above. I understand that I will not benefit or receive payment for taking part in this interview.

Yes

No

I agree to take part in an interview in the context of the research project stated above.

Yes

No

Name, surname (Location, date / signature)

MOBi Case Study Interview

(Introduction, to be adapted individually to create a comfortable atmosphere. Where relevant, questions are given in both (a)during- and (b)post-incarceration format, please delete as applicable to the current situation of your interviewee. Please ensure the interviewee is able to share his experience of at least two prison sentences!).

Hello, thank you very much for taking part in this interview. Your information is helping to improve and support the reintegration-process of (ex-)offenders. Everything you think about when being asked a question is important to us, there is no right or wrong answer.

1) (a) Please tell me, what is the first thing you are planning to do after your release?

(b) Please tell me what is the first thing you planned to do once you were released?

2) (a) What three words would you use to describe about your forthcoming release from prison? Why?

(b) What three words would you use to describe your most recent release from prison? Why?

3) (a) Who do you think will support you in your reintegration process?

(b) Who do you think has supported you in your reintegration process?

4) (a) Do you think that people in the community will discriminate against you because you have a criminal record? How do you feel about this?

(b) Now that you are out, do you think people in the community have discriminated against you because you have a criminal record? How do you feel about this?

5) Are there specific examples you can remember, when your criminal record has stopped you from being able to do something? How did that feel? What impact did it have on you?

6) Are there people or places you know will give you a second chance? How do you feel about this?

7) Are there specific times you can remember when people have given you this second chance? How did you feel? What impact did it have on you?

8) Sometimes, volunteers help support prisoners on their release. If you had someone supporting you, what would you expect them to be like? And what would they help you with? If you have already had experience with volunteers please tell us about it.

9) This project has five partners across Europe trying to figure out how to get people to give ex-offenders a second chance. What do you think would help that to happen?

10) Is there something else we did not yet talk about, that you feel will be important in your reintegration process? Is there something else you would like to say?

Thank you very much for taking part in this interview! The MOBi Initiative values the information you have provided. Your responses will contribute to our understanding of your needs and suggest new lines of approach to training volunteers in supporting rehabilitation.

Annex 5. MOBi Case Studies 'What do prisoners say about their release?'





GERMANY

"Like my social worker, he's an open person and said right from the beginning that he might not like everything I tell him, but he accepts it. Then you don't have to worry about being put down."

"Prison sort of deadens you. After your second time I didn't care. I just go in. It's a life-prolonging project. I'm an old-timer as far as this is concerned. But prison mostly saves my life."

"I don't think I'd get anywhere if I expected anything (from volunteer supporters). Just someone to talk to"

"Some people just support giving you a second chance. But I'd say the church. I'm a Christian and the church has no prejudice. We're all just people, everyone has made mistakes."



ROMANIA

"My mother and my sister gave me a second chance by offering their help. This made me more optimistic. And kinder."

"Only people who don't know me (will discriminate against me). So I feel nothing about them. because it's not important to me what people who don't know me think about me."

I have been a volunteer myself. If someone offers me his support, I guess he would have to stay positive and optimistic and come with solutions.

"I think that education and vocational training help prisoners a lot. It would be helpful if there were safe places to stay for ex-prisoners with financial problems and no education, so they could raise some money to sustain themselves."



PORTUGAL

"I was glad when the judge gave me a second chance. I feel that I had already wasted one opportunity, but I didn't know how to take advantage of it."

"People should really go into prisons in order to really understand what prisons and prisoners are like, so prisons should be more open to the community."

"Yes, volunteers could help me handle documents and find a job. I went to a job interview, but gave up because there were too many people ahead of me. I left because of the queue."

"The JobCenter didn't ask for my criminal record but I told them anyway. After I felt strong and motivated because the employer showed even more interest in helping professionally, knowing I'm an ex-prisoner."



ITALY

"I cannot imagine a complex system like prison without volunteers. On the outside I'll be on my own"

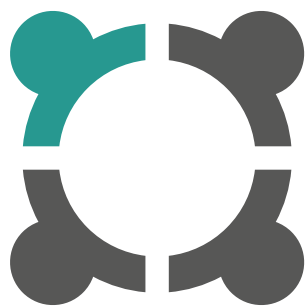
"We have only 6 hours a month to meet our family and phone calls can last only 10 minutes. It's very hard, or actually impossible, to keep relationships going, or professional contacts. Prison sweeps away real life."

"I'd like support for reintegration into society, help finding a job, moral and personal support for this different reality after years of absence."

"I would have liked contact with my daughter. I no longer have a relationship with her I'm so often in prison."



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Erasmus+ Programme
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MOBi

MOBilizing Society Towards
(ex) Offenders Reintegration



DGRSP
DEUTSCHE GEMEINSCHAFT FÜR REINTEGRATION UND SOZIALISATION



hogenbank e.V.



Der Senator für
Justiz und Verfassung

Freie
Hansestadt
Bremen