



Public perception about effects of PTAs and their contribution to inclusive and equitable trade

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Outline

- Public perception on PTAs: literature review
- Results of the ARTNeT Survey





Public perception

- Definition: “opinion of the public”
- Might not be unanimous
- Importance:
 - It serves as the basis of national policies
 - It serves on identifying and prioritising policy needs
 - It is the agent of social change





Public perception towards PTAs

- Method: Interview, focus group and survey
- Academic literature is predominantly on developed country public: better research infrastructure
- Cross time comparison
- Measure general attitudes towards free trade
- Sometimes do not go as specific as PTA: general public have limited knowledge about what is PTA





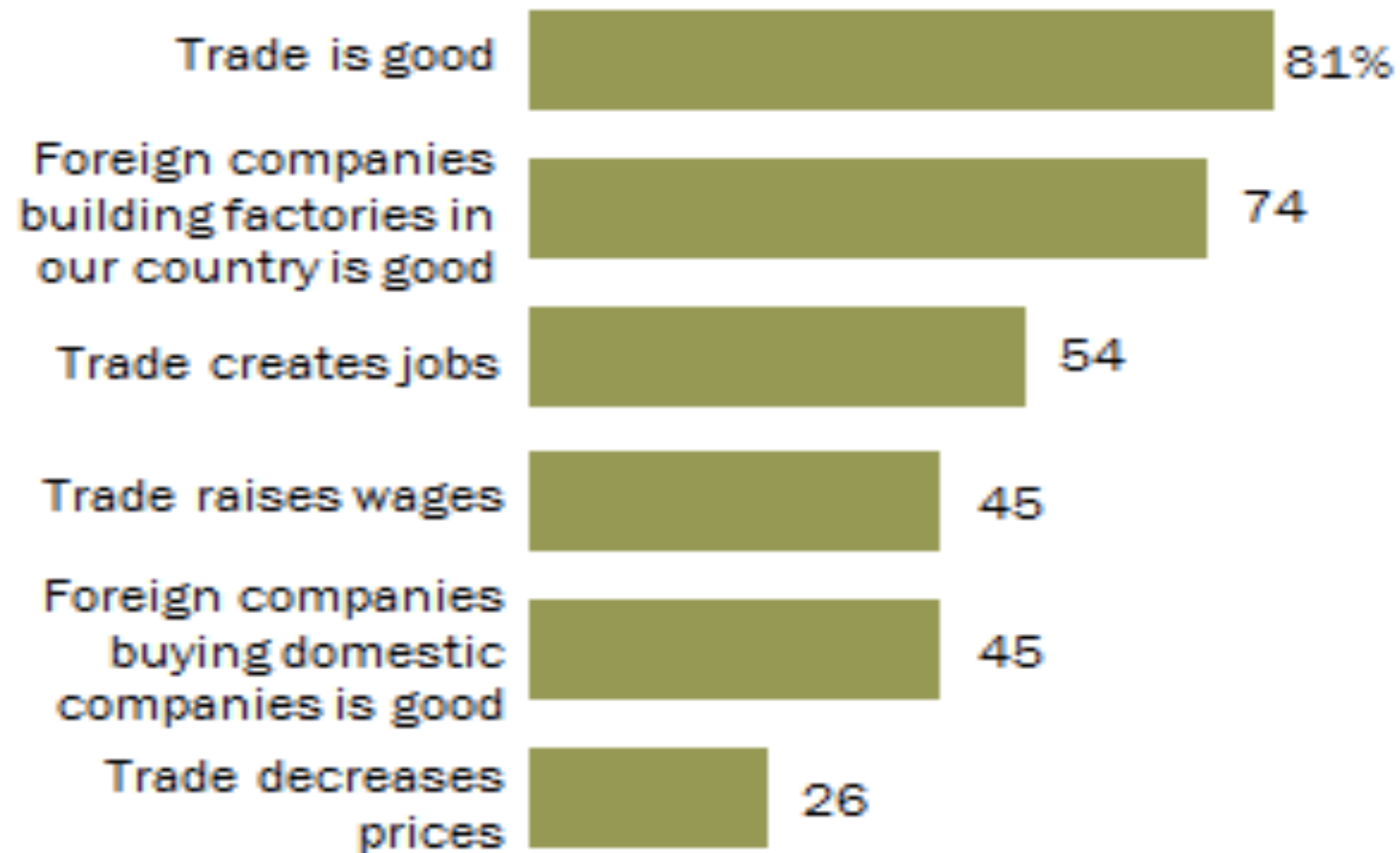
Global perception to trade

- Spring 2014, survey of 44 nations (n=48,643) by Pew research center

- <http://www.pewglobal.org/2014/09/16/faith-and-skepticism-about-trade-foreign-investment/>

Mixed Views on Trade and Investment

Median view that...



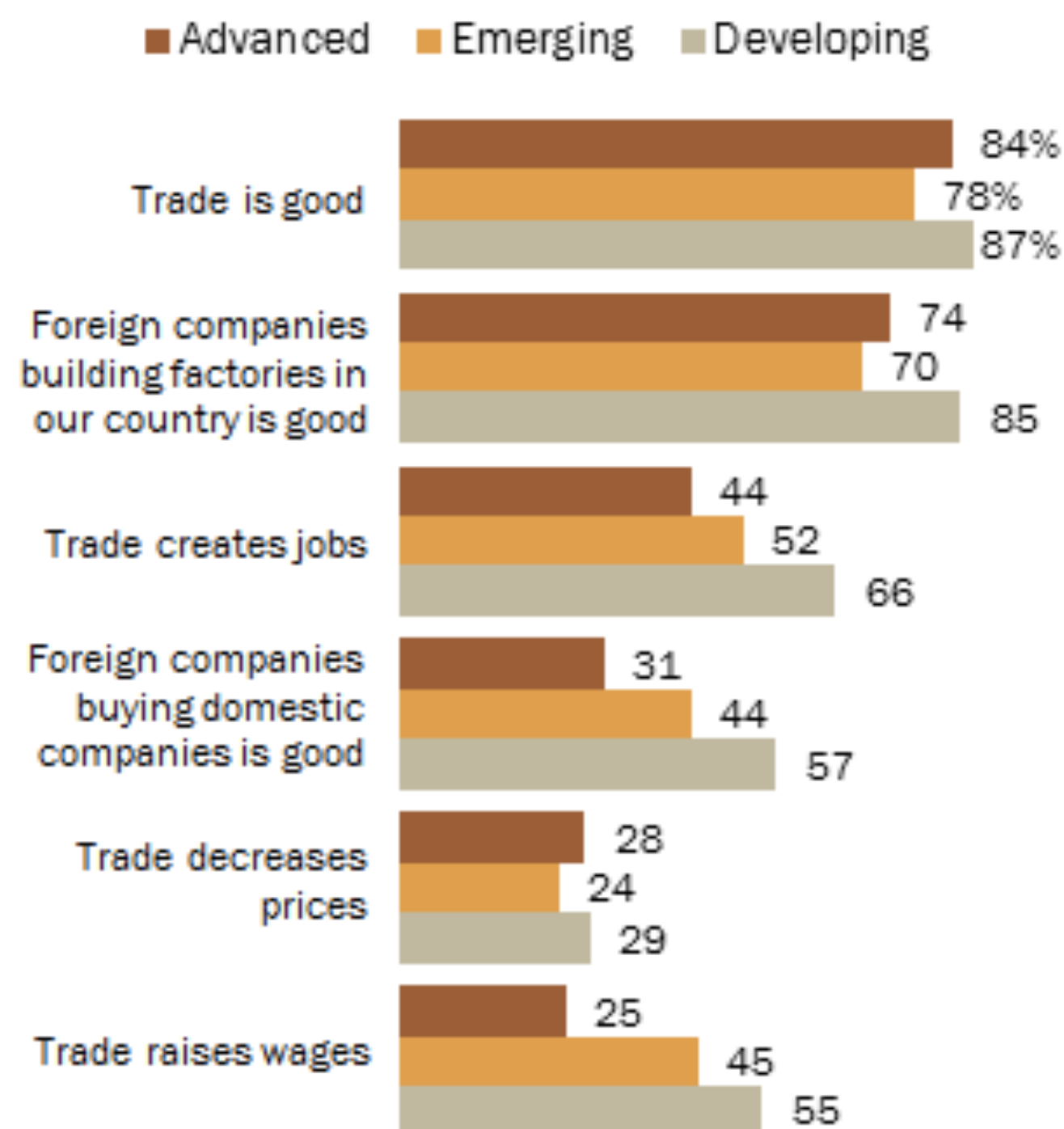
Note: Global medians across 44 countries surveyed.

Source: Spring 2014 Global Attitudes survey. Q27-Q32.

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Developing Nations Are Generally More Positive about Certain Trade Benefits



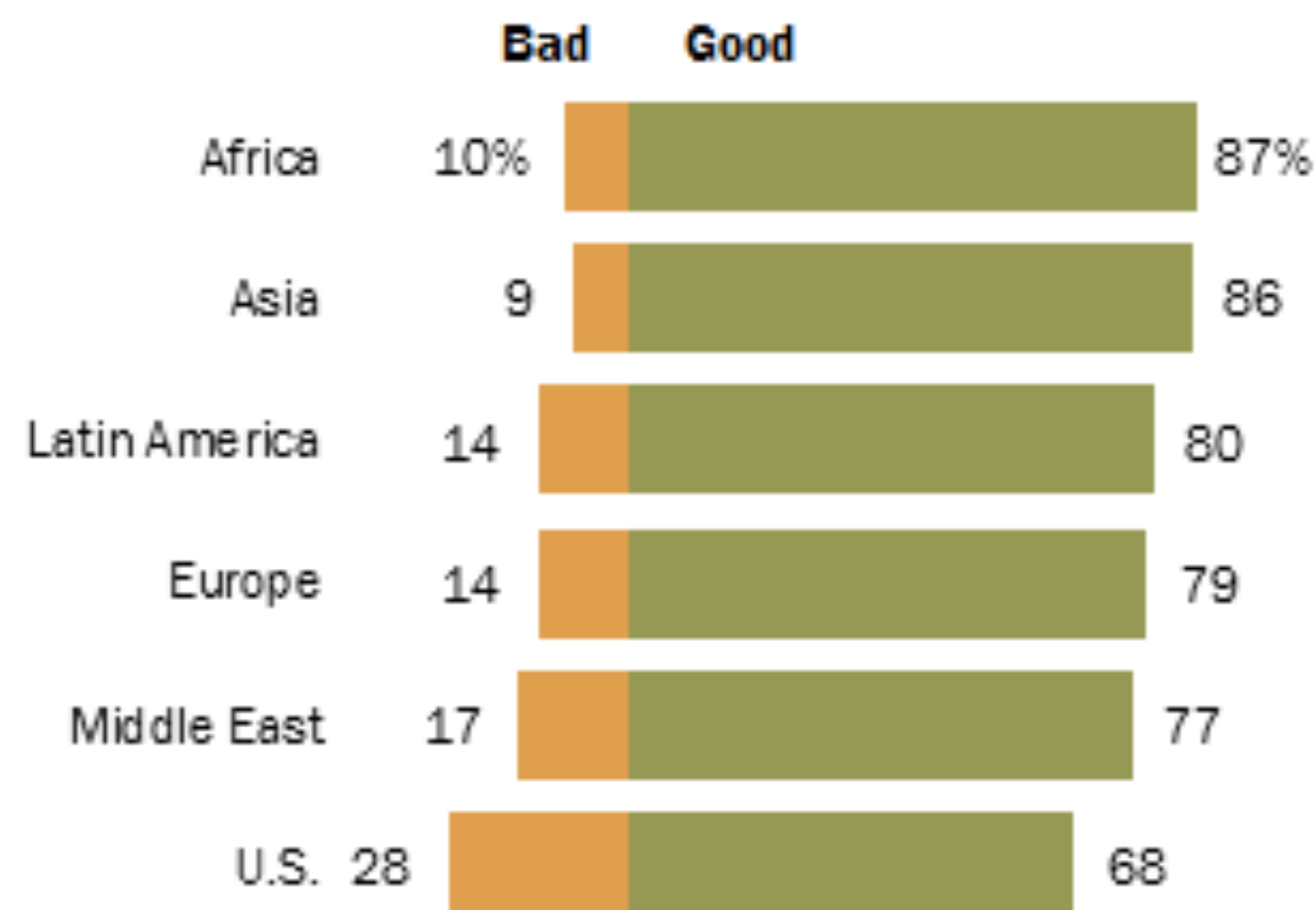
Note: Medians by country economic categorization.

Source: Spring 2014 Global Attitudes survey. Q27-Q32.

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Growing Trade Seen Positively

Growing trade and business ties with other countries is ___ for our country



Note: Median percentages by region. Russia and Ukraine not included in Europe median.

Source: Spring 2014 Global Attitudes survey. Q27.

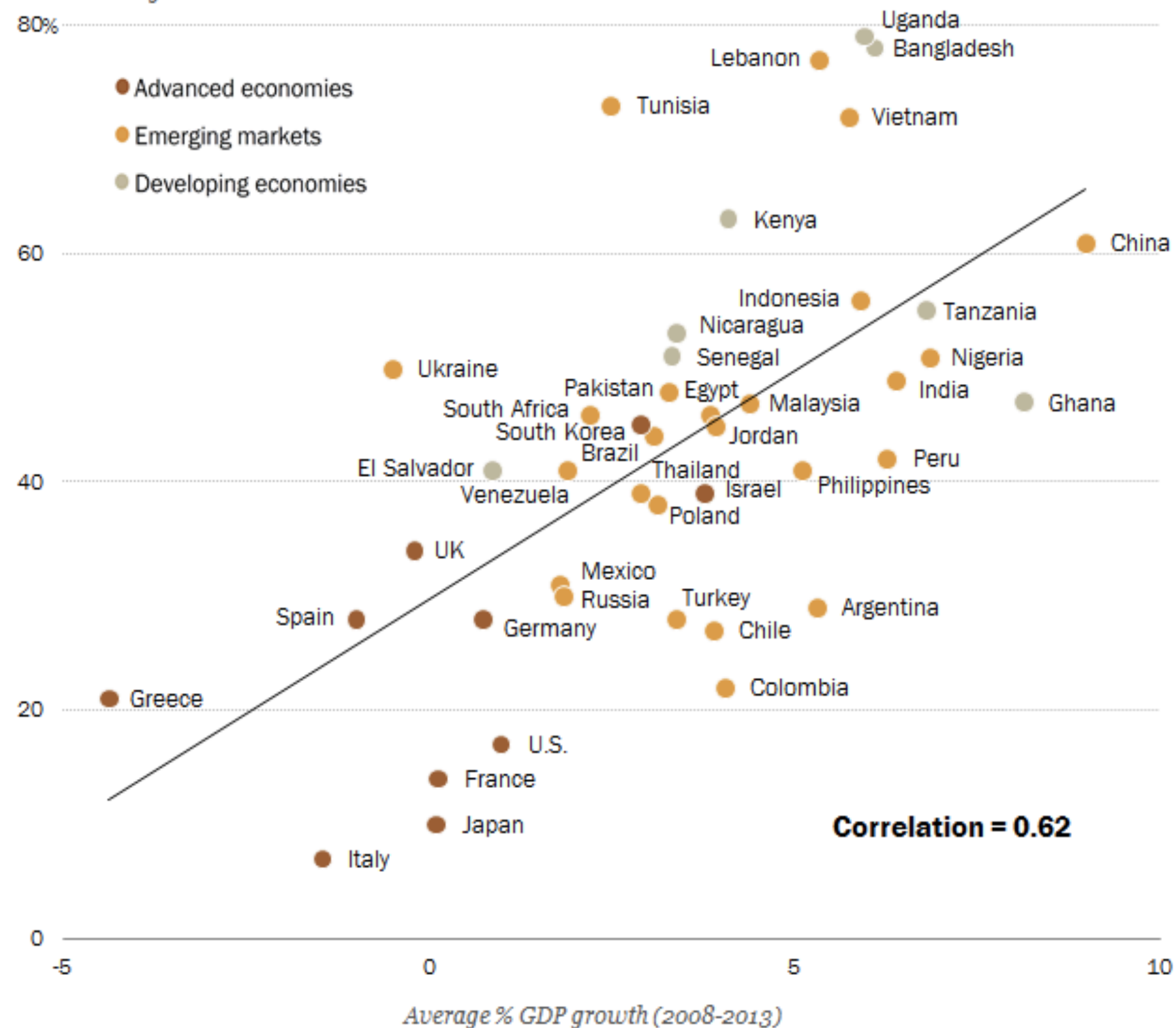
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- The faster an economy grew on average between 2008 and 2013, the greater likelihood that the public holds the view that trade boosts wages.

GDP Growth & Views of Trade's Impact on Wages

Percent who say trade increases wages



Source: Spring 2014 Global Attitudes survey. Q28. GDP annual growth from IMF, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2014, accessed 4 September 2014. Data not available for Palestinian territories.

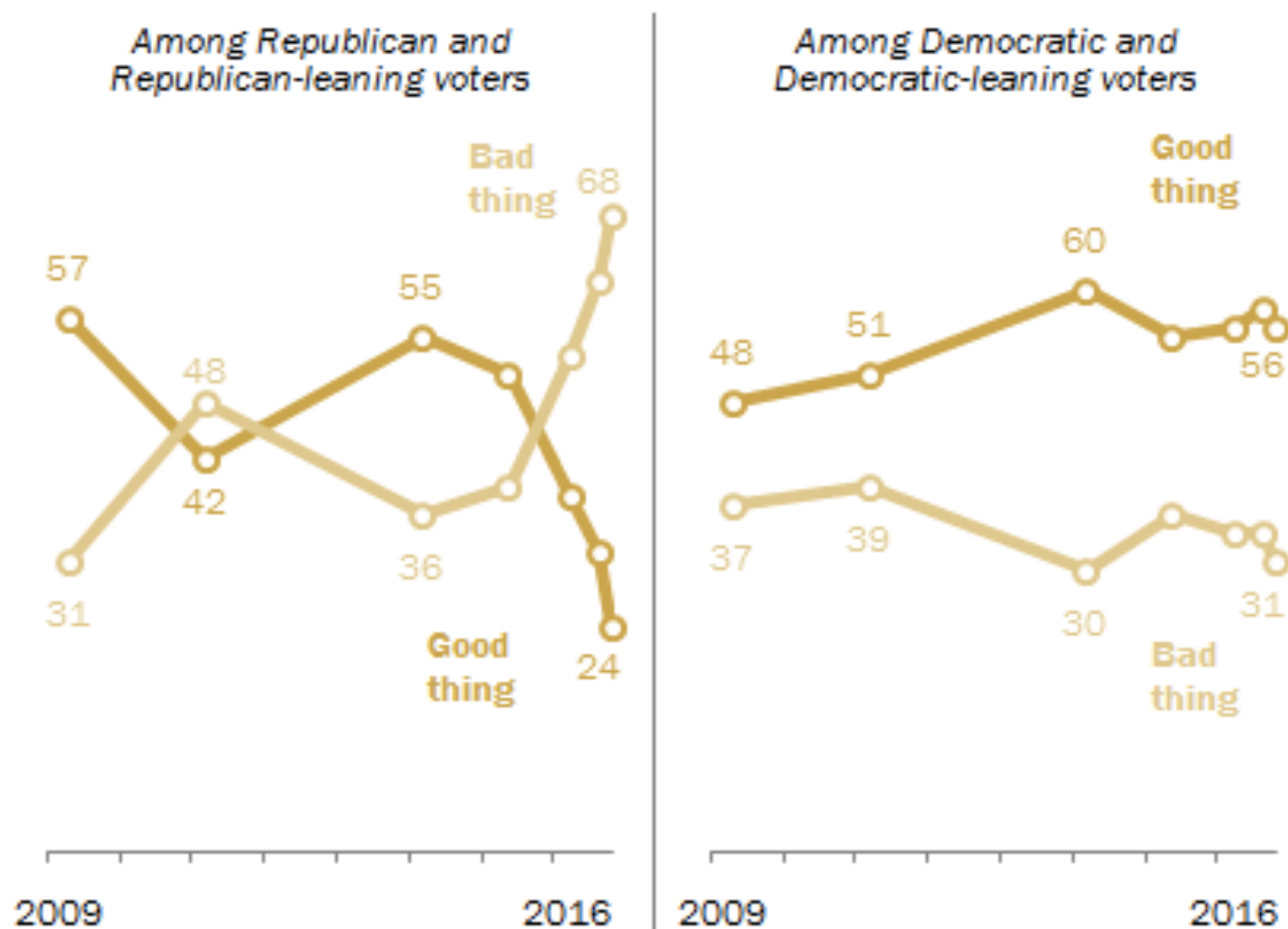
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US Case

Share of GOP voters saying free trade agreements are good for the U.S. continues to fall

% of voters saying free trade agreements have been a ____ for the U.S.



Notes: Based on registered voters. Don't know responses not shown. Q95F1.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 20-25, 2016.

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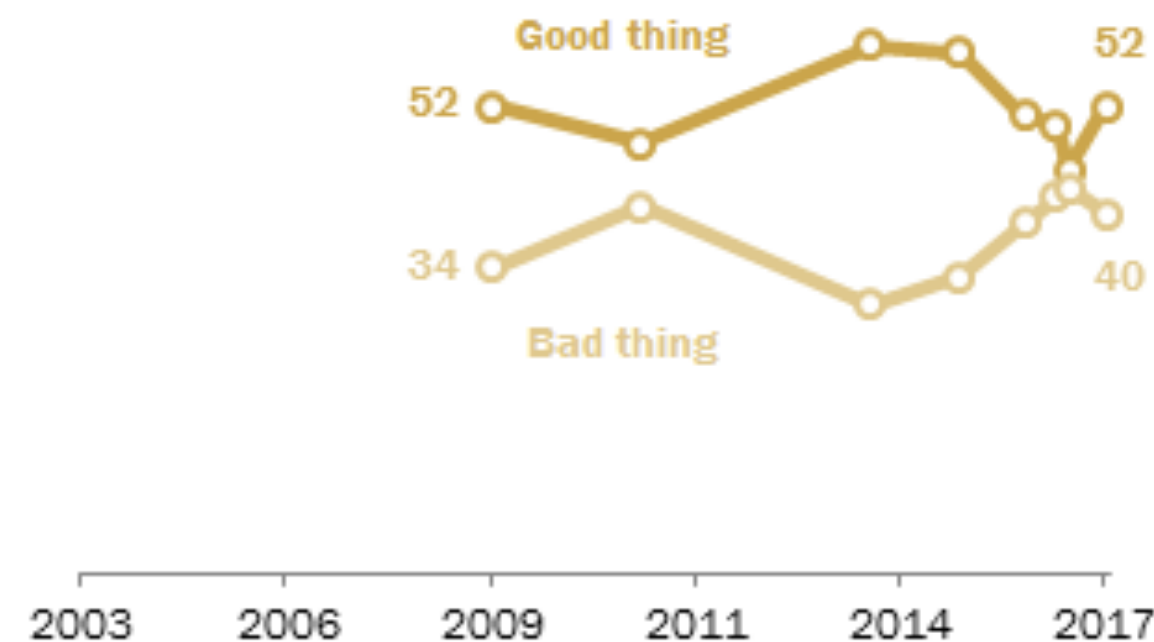
Oct 2016

April 2017

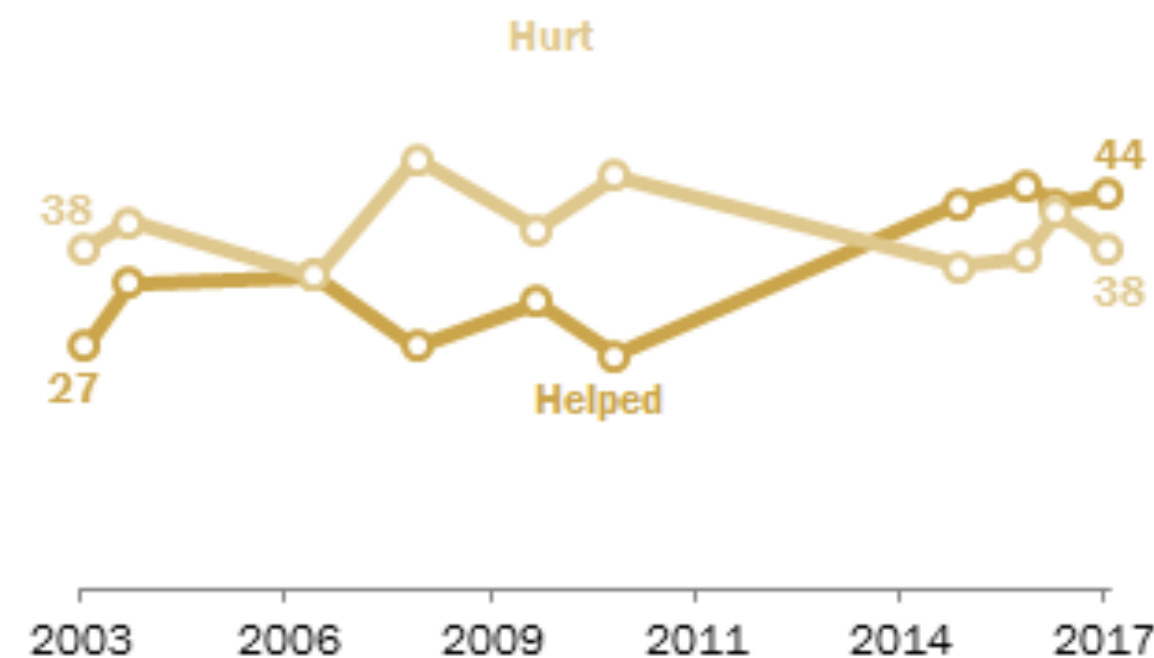
- <http://www.people-press.org/2016/10/27/7-opinions-on-u-s-international-involvement-free-trade-isis-and-syria-russia-and-china/>
- <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/25/support-for-free-trade-agreements-rebounds-modestly-but-wide-partisan-differences-remain/>

Support for free trade agreements recovers from 2016 campaign low

% who say free trade agreements between the U.S. and other countries have been a ____ for the U.S.



% who say free trade agreements have definitely/probably ____ their financial situation



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Case: TPP

- 6-28 April 2015, Pew Research Center

• <http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/06/23/3-asia-in-focus/>

Many Young People More Pro-TPP

TPP trade agreement would be a good thing for country

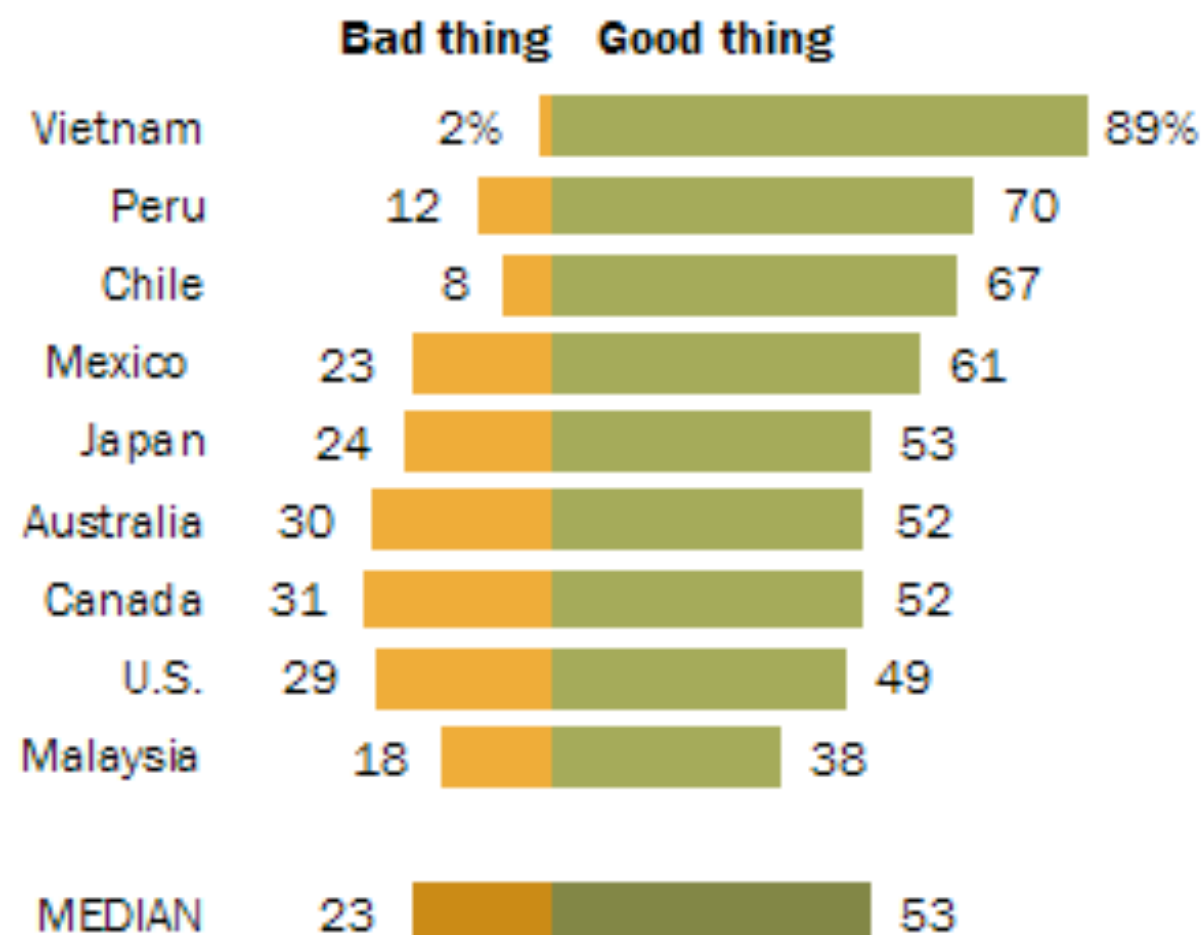
	18-29	30-49	50+	Youngest-oldest gap
	%	%	%	
U.S.	65	49	41	+24
Mexico	69	63	50	+19
Australia	63	52	48	+15
Peru	77	67	67	+10
Vietnam	95	86	87	+8

Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey. Q20a.

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General Support for TPP

Would TPP be a good thing for our country or a bad thing?



Note: Data for volunteer categories "haven't heard enough" and "neither good nor bad" not shown.

Source: Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey. Q20a.

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Results of the ARTNeT Survey





ARTNeT Survey

- Survey on “Contribution of PTAs to inclusive and equitable trade”
- Open from 19 May to 16 June for 4 weeks
- Circulated among all ARTNeT institutional members and partners
- Received 126 responses
- Three parts: perceptions to PTAs and inclusive & equitable trade; PTA information source; personal practice

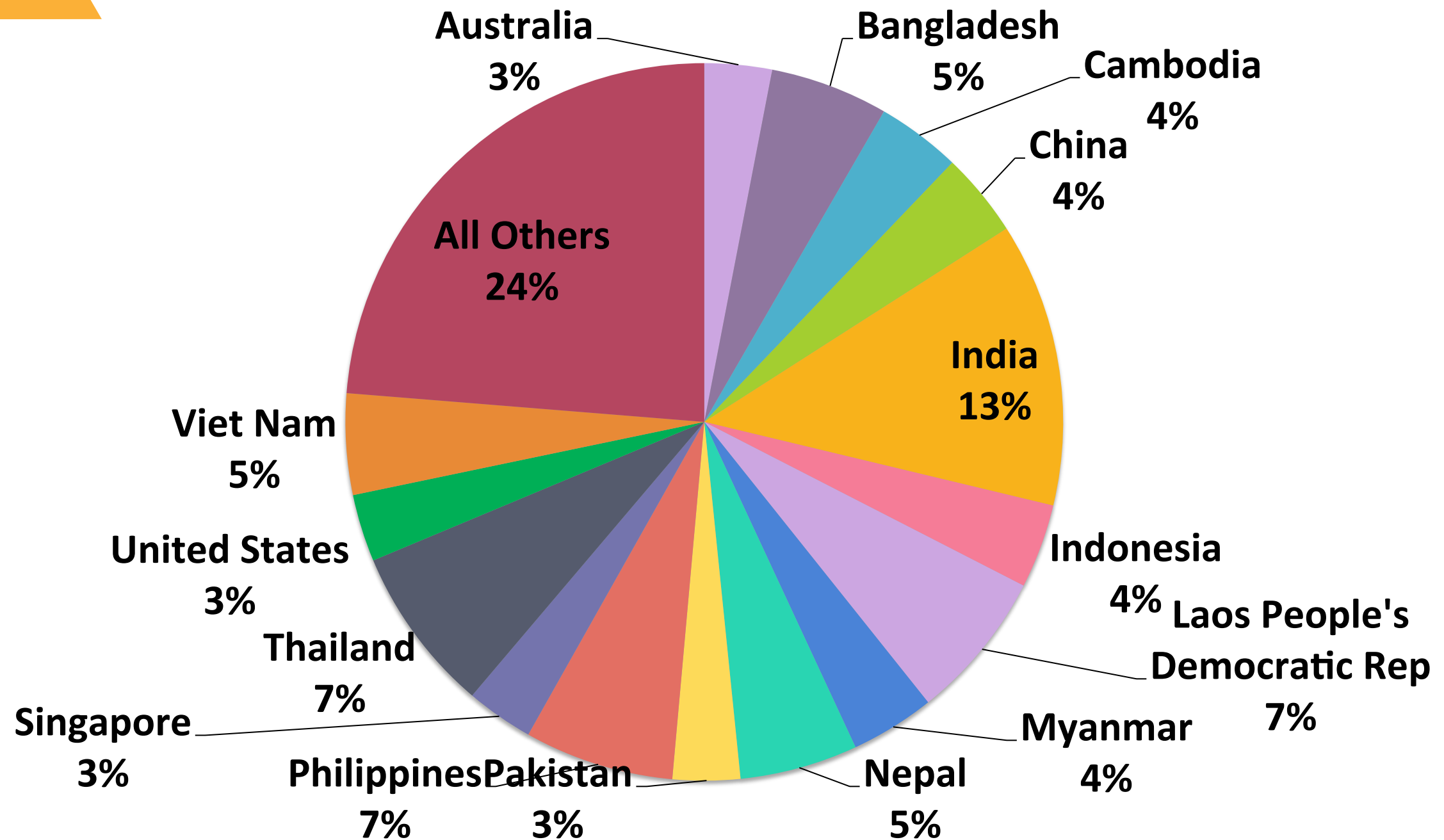




Part.1	1	How much do you know about PTAs
	2	General attitude towards PTAs
	3	PTAs potential impact on inclusive & equitable trade
	4	PTA Policy for inclusive and equitable trade
Part. 2	5	Which sources of information do you use to get informed about PTAs
	6	What source of information do you trust more to tell you the truth about PTA issues?
	7	How do you gather/receive the information on the PTAs by individual media channels?
	8	What channels of information do you trust more to tell you the truth about PTA issues?
Part. 3	9	Do you personally know anyone who benefited because of her/his country engagement in PTAs
	10	What action would you be taking if you want to influence the PTA policy?



Country where you reside



Education level

**Diploma or
vocational
education
4%**

**Undergraduate
4%**

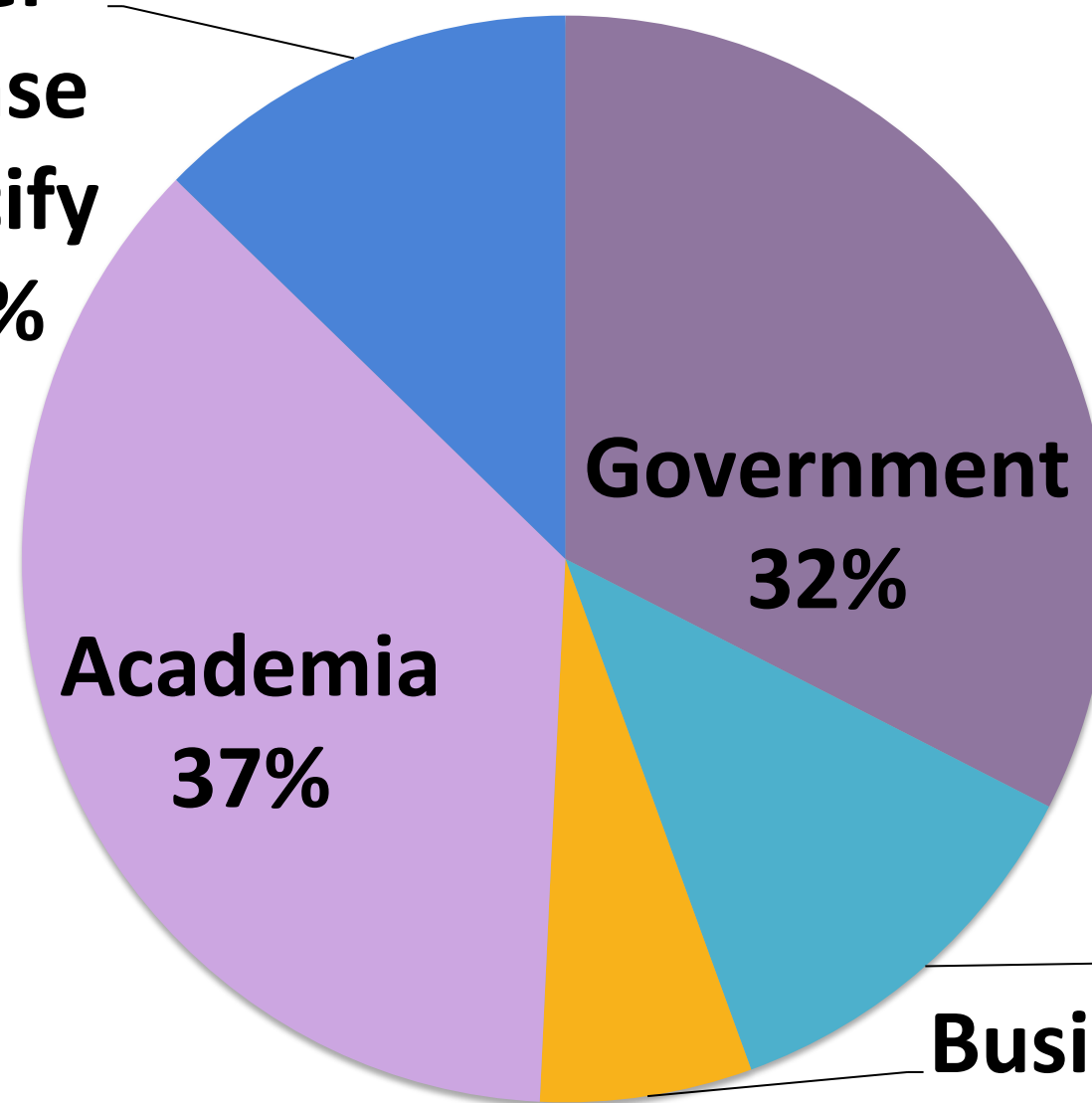
**PhD
43%**

**Post-graduate
degree
49%**



Affiliation

Other -
please
specify
13%



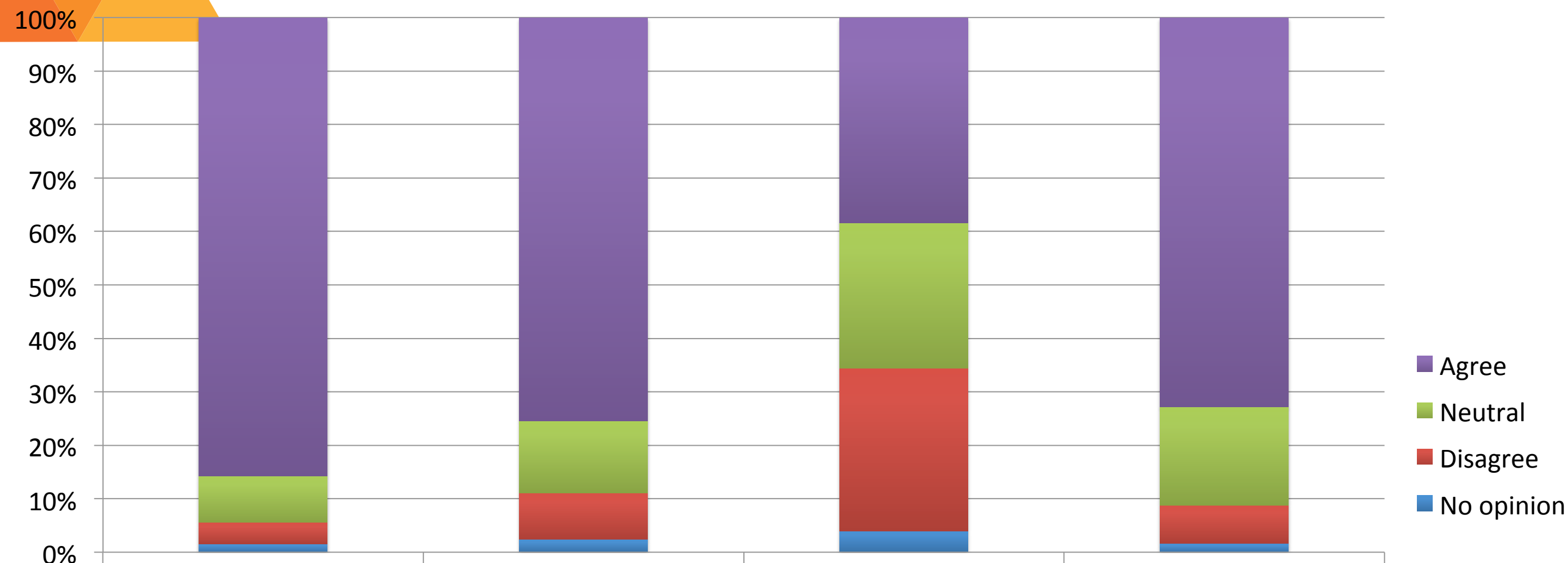
International
Business organization
12%
6%



How much do you know about PTAs?



General attitude towards PTAs



Pursuing PTAs is beneficial to your economy on the whole.

PTA focused policy is a good economic policy in your economy at present.

Your economy is engaged in too many PTAs at the moment.

PTAs can have a significant effect on inclusive and equitable trade.



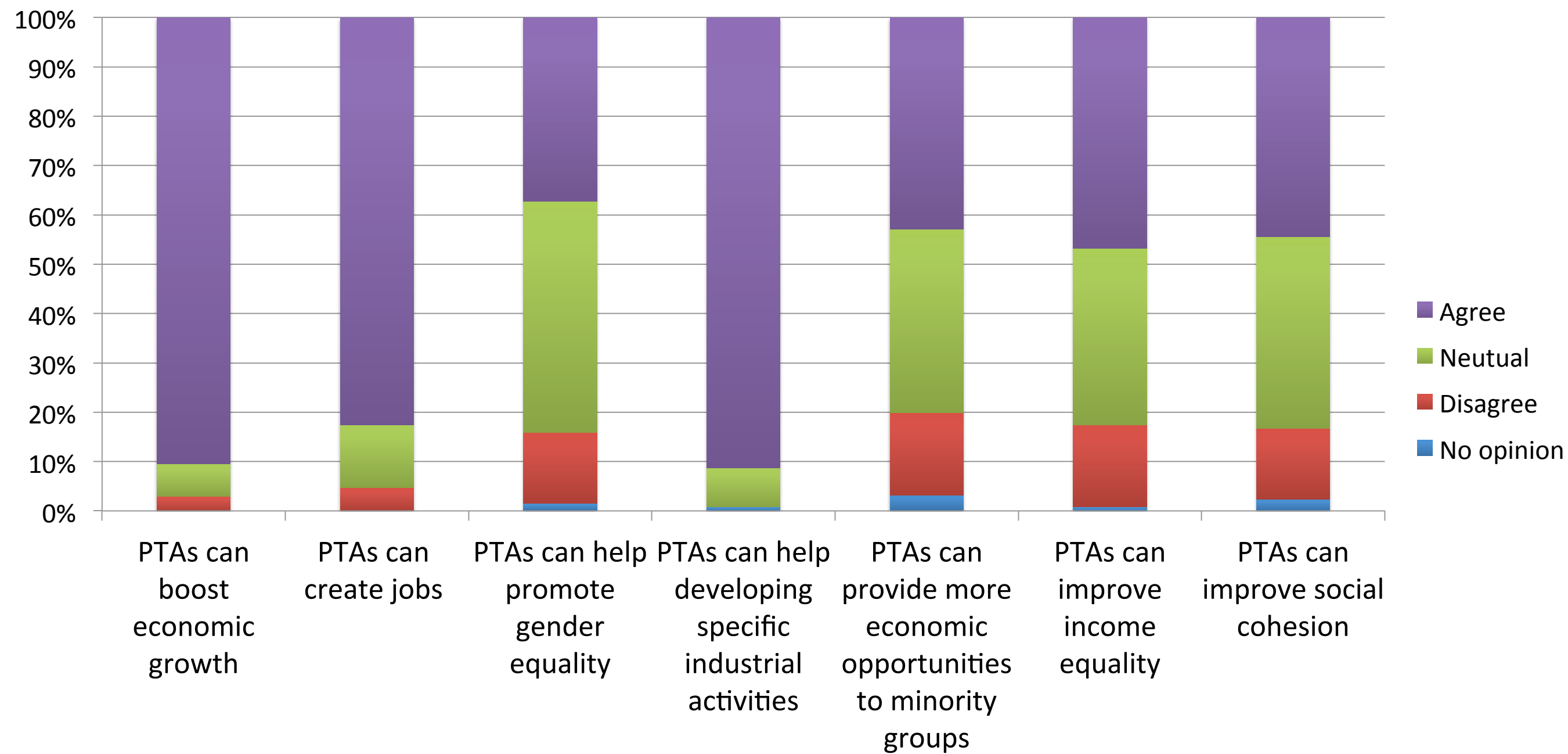


Comments

- Myanmar: needs technical experts and the competent executives in regulatory body for pursuing PTA. Impact analysis for individual products needed.
- India: little evidence about the quantity and quality of jobs creations due to these PTAs/RTAs. not utilize benefit arose out of PTAs because of procedural hassles.
- Cambodia: Preferential scheme such as Everything But Arms (EBA) promotes economic growth of Cambodia.



PTAs and inclusive & equitable trade





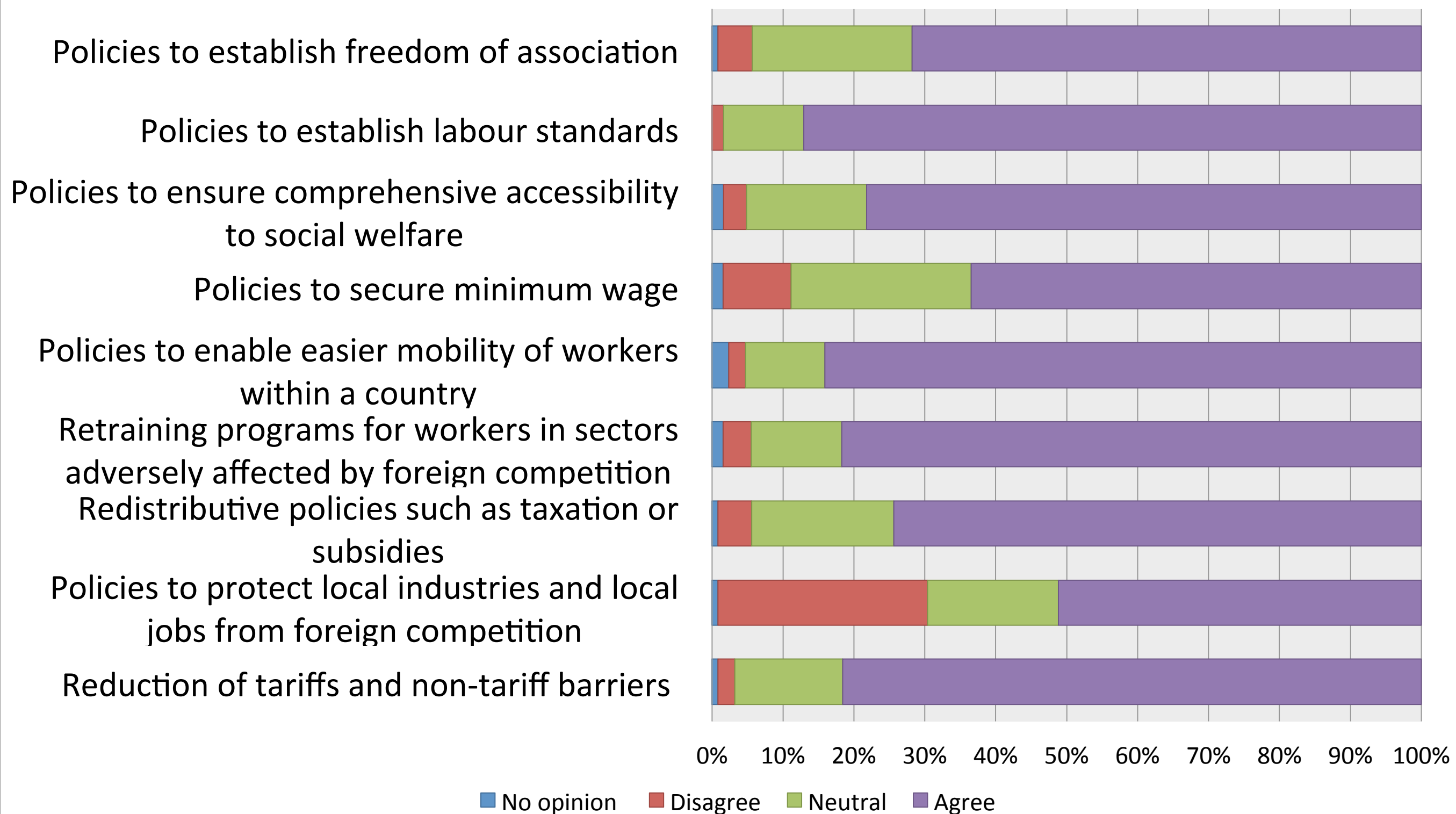
Comments

- Agreements provide public information about potential benefits and costs
- Costs of accreditation and certification procedures (e.g. organic, fair-trade, etc) should be included in the negotiations.
- It can provide more opportunities to SMEs, especially for PTAs that promote trade facilitation and regulatory harmonization
- Preferences in favour of labour intensive industries (eg. textiles, construction) or gender sensitive industries (eg. garments, plantations, handicrafts) can promote more inclusive and equitable employment opportunities.





PTA Policy for inclusive and equitable trade



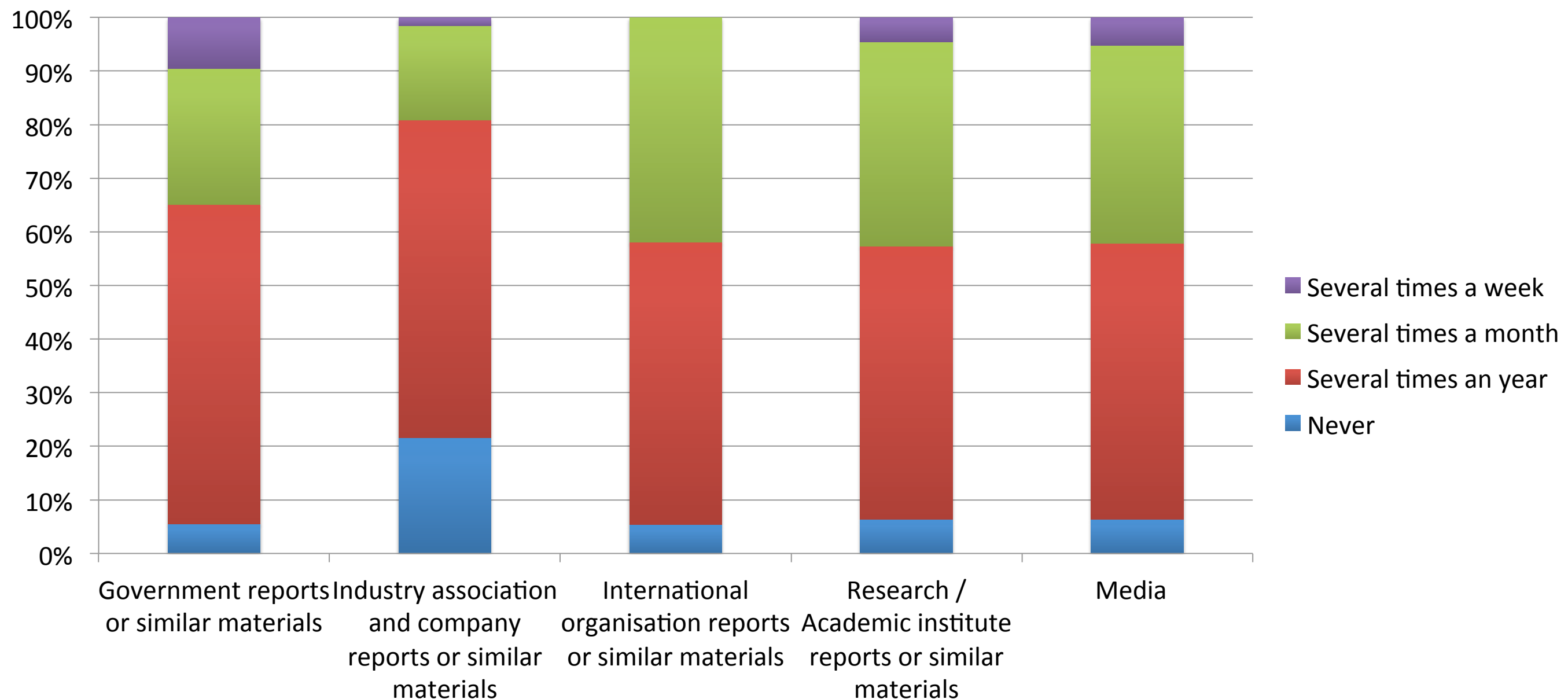


Comments

- Competition policies, property and intellectual property right protection
- PTAs should also ensure sustainability of environment
- Policies for development human resources through vocational training and apprenticeship
- Policies towards freedom of accession to information
- Pro gender equity policies



Which sources of information do you use to get informed about PTAs?





Comments

- Few governments, in particular developing countries, provides information on their PTA, which raises some concerns. Similarly, few industries are aware of PTA or their content.
- Governmental documents aren't updated



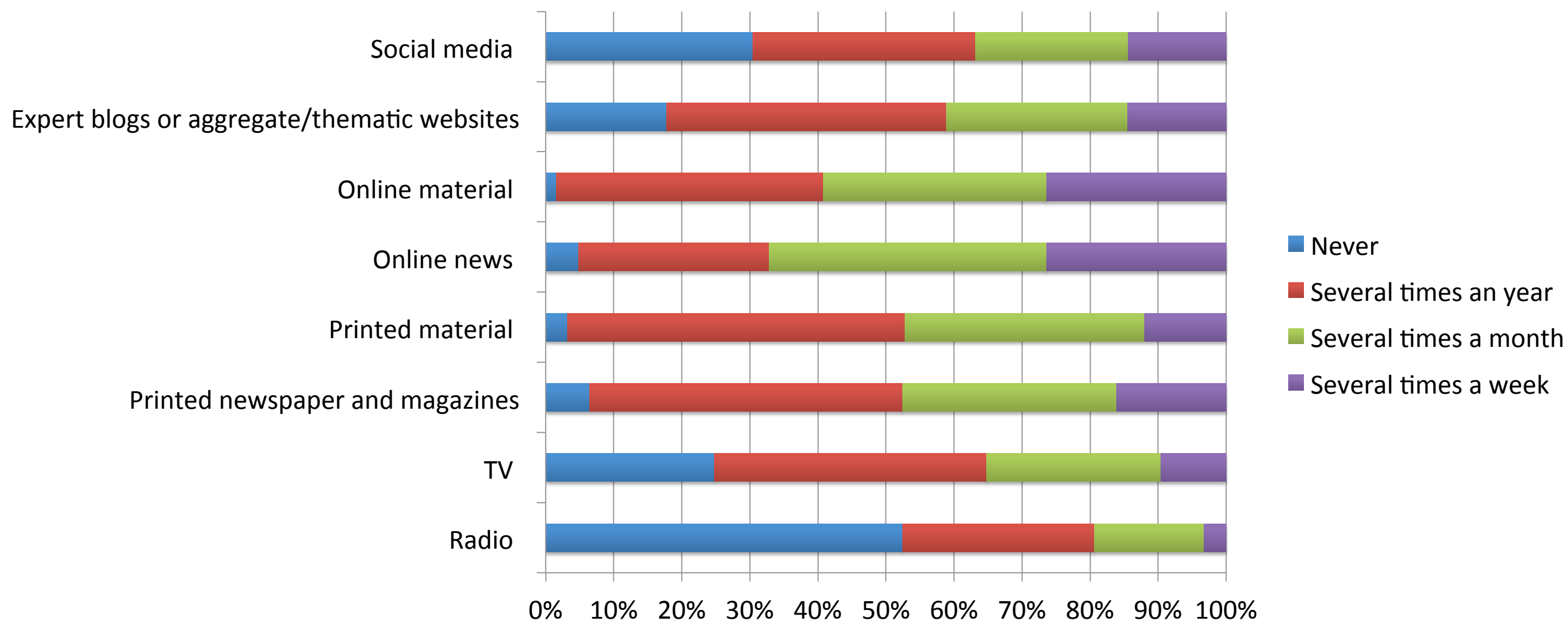


What source of information do you trust more to tell you the truth about PTA issues?

1. International organisation reports or the other materials
2. Research / Academic institute reports or the other materials
3. Government reports or the other materials
4. Industry association and company reports or the other materials
5. Media



How do you gather/receive the information on the PTAs by individual media channels?






Comments

- In Business Media, the discussion and explanations are generally more on macroeconomic concerns (e.g. trade volume and trade deficit). It seems micro-economic discussion (e.g. quantity and quality of employment, issues of inclusiveness and equity) are extremely limited.
- Expert blogs and social media do not have checks and balances and are often incorrect.
- Social media is popular media that people around the world are using and sharing information day by day. News are available on people's hand.






What media channels do you trust more to tell you the truth about PTA issues?

1. Printed material (e.g., books, reports or journals)
2. Online material (e.g., electronic version reports/journals; excluding social media)
3. Printed newspaper and magazines
4. Expert blogs or aggregate/thematic websites (excluding social media)
5. Online news (excluding social media)
6. TV
7. Radio
8. Social media






Do you personally know anyone who benefited because of her/his country engagement in PTAs?

- In Nepal, producers of vegetable fats were mostly benefited under the PTA with India particularly during late nineties and early years of last decade.
- Korean mobile producers benefits Korea-Chile FTA. They are importing cheap refined copper from Chile.




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- ASEAN agreement opens up opportunities to a medium-size company. I know personally that now increase their exports to other ASEAN countries, while their major markets used to be in advanced markets.
 - Rubber Growers of Kerala. India-Thailand Preferential Trade Agreement.
 - Wineries in Australia due to PTAs with China, Japan, Korea and US
 - Export of banana chips made in Indonesia , exported to China under ASEAN-China FTA



- 
- Workers of a tuna processing company were able to remain employed despite the lack or absence of tuna raw material; the company was able import frozen salmon duty-free under AANZFTA duty-free, process the material using the same workers and factory and export the finished products frozen smoked salmon to to other FTA partner economies e.g. under PJEPA, AKFTA, duty-free





What action would you be taking if you want to influence the PTA policy?

Research

- Provide evidence-based policy suggestion
- Write papers, articles to academic communities and public



Advocacy

- Provide more information on FTAs to the community (including social media and traditional media engagement)
- Organize policy dialogue/ forum
- Provide capacity building to policy makers and trade negotiators
- Participate in the government-private sector working group
- Involve enterprises in particular and community in general in FTAs negotiation process
- Talk to governmental officials directly
- Take necessary lobbying in the congress to add more encouraging policies for the equitable interests of all stakeholders in the economic industries





Other thoughts

- The recipient/beneficiary government must ensure that there is massive public campaign to introduce the trade agreements in order to make the information more accessible. Agreements will not translate into inclusive and equitable trade if these are not understood by the target participants.
- Take more actions!



Thank you

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