



"Celebrating Europe
Day: Bridging
Generations through
Participation in
Society"
An Italian Perspective



Co-funded by
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Importance of Political Participation:

- Political participation is essential for any functioning democracy. It ensures that government actions are controlled, prevents arbitrariness, and provides external checks and balances on decision-makers.
- Participation allows citizens to articulate their interests, affects life satisfaction, and directly influences government responsiveness.





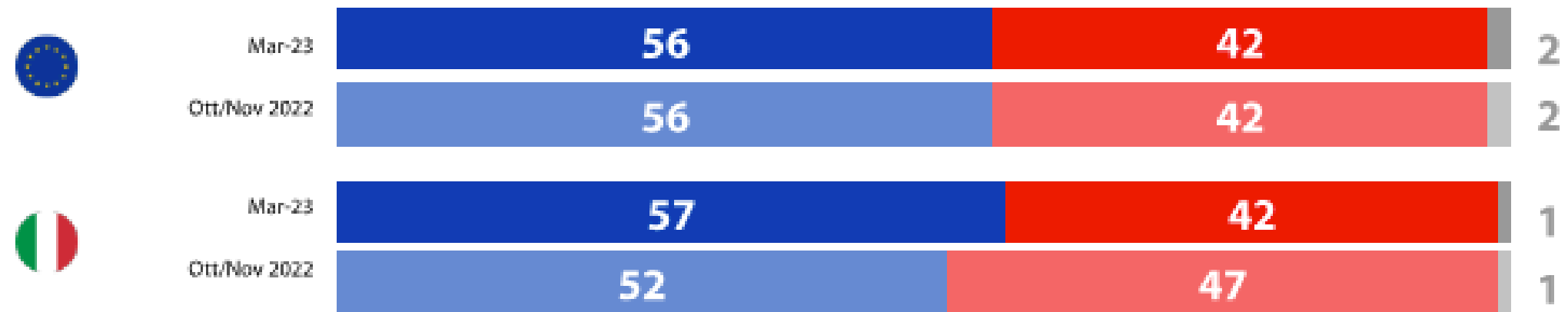
Democratic life in Italy

- Italy is a parliamentary republic with a multi-party system. It has been a democratic republic since June 2, 1946, when the monarchy was abolished by popular referendum, and a constituent assembly drafted a constitution, which was promulgated on January 1, 1948.
- Executive power is exercised by the Council of Ministers, led by the Prime Minister (officially referred to as ‘President of the Council’).
- Legislative power primarily resides in the two houses of Parliament, and secondarily in the Council of Ministers, which can introduce bills and hold the majority in both houses.
- The judiciary is independent of the executive and legislative branches, headed by the High Council of the Judiciary

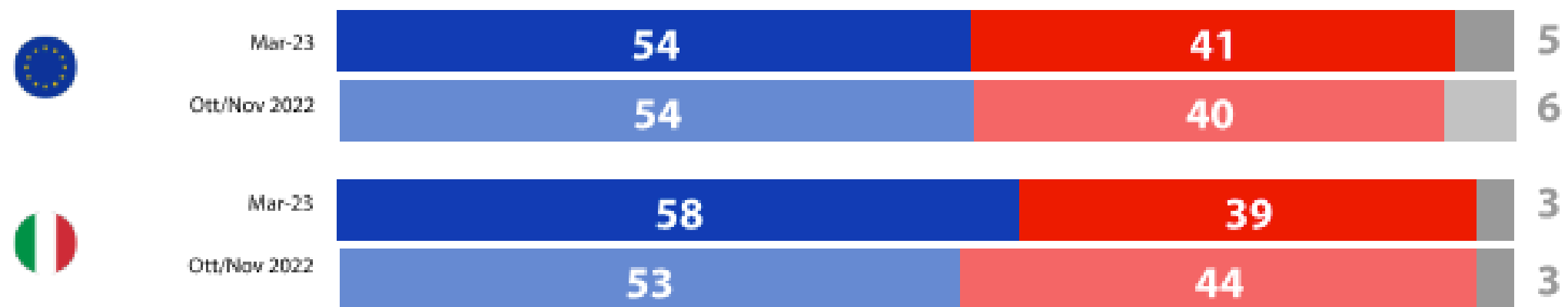


Democratic life in Italy

NOSTRO STATO



La UE



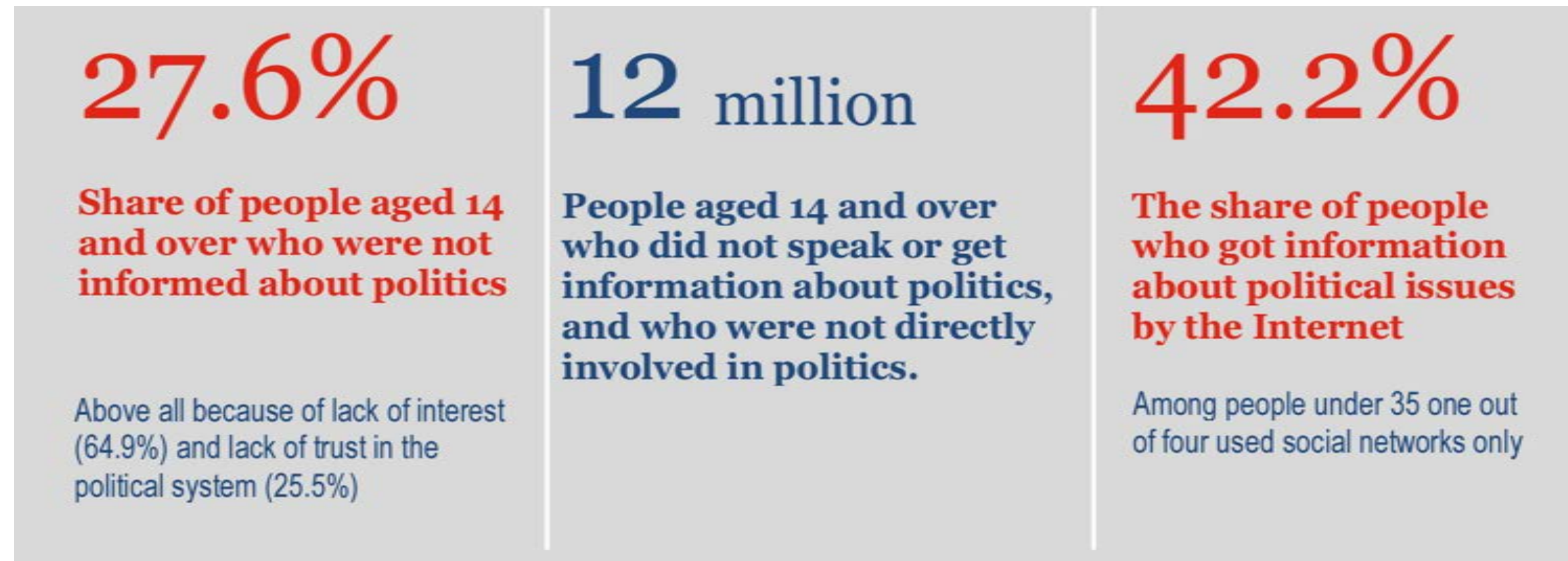
● Totale 'Soddifatto/a' ● Totale 'Non soddifatto/a' ● Non sa

Overall, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in ...?



Italian Citizens Political Participation

Between 2014 and 2019, the percentage of people aged 14 and over not engaged in politics increased from 18.9% to 23.2%. Most political participation was indirect, primarily through sources like newspapers, magazines, or discussions (74.8%), with only a minority being personally involved (8.0%).



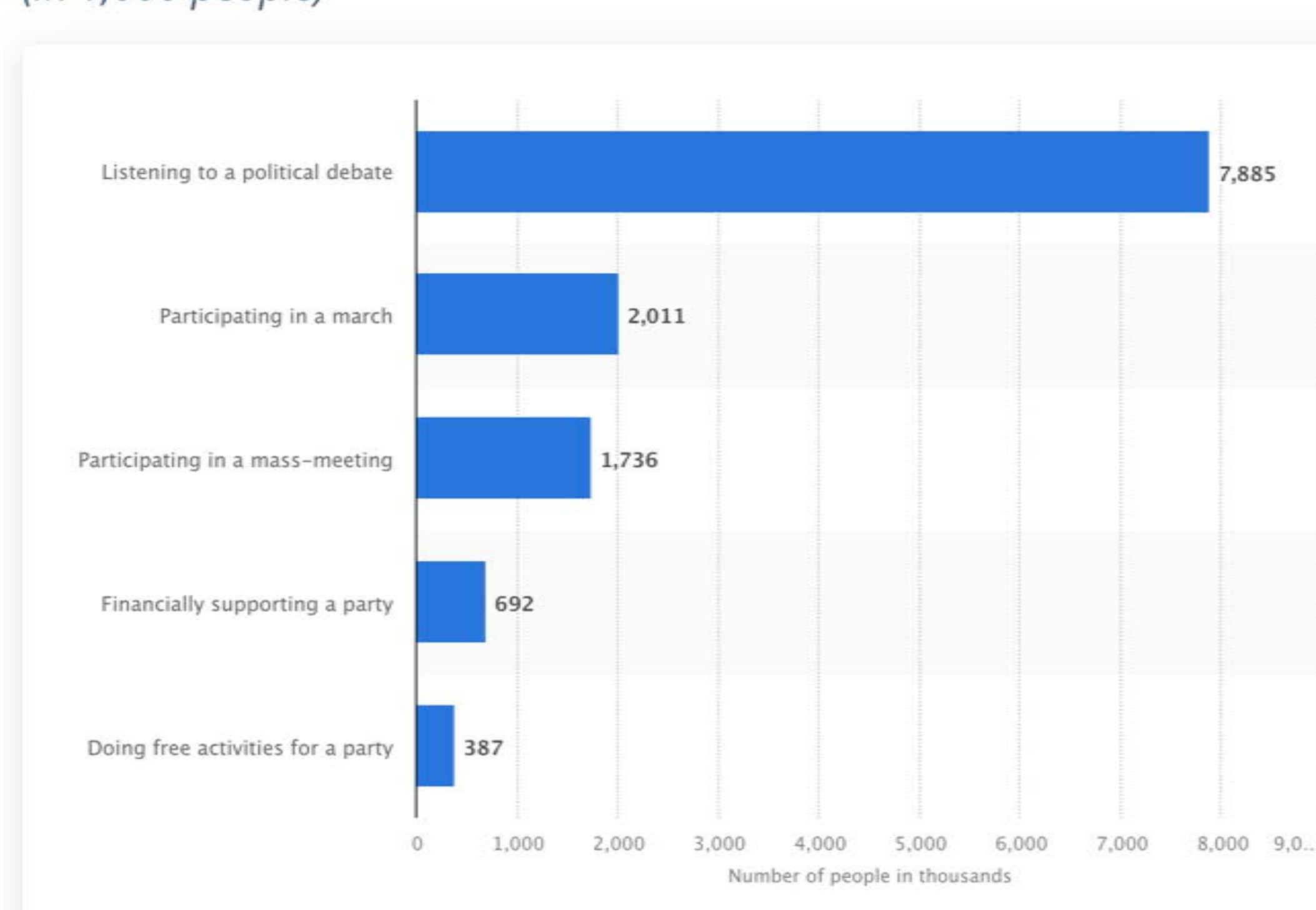
Young people, aged 14-24, were more actively engaged in politics, with 14% participating actively, particularly through demonstrations and marches (12.8%). In 2019, approximately 16 million people used the Internet to access political information, while only one-third relied on daily newspapers (42.2% in 2014).



Direct Forms of Political Participation in Italy

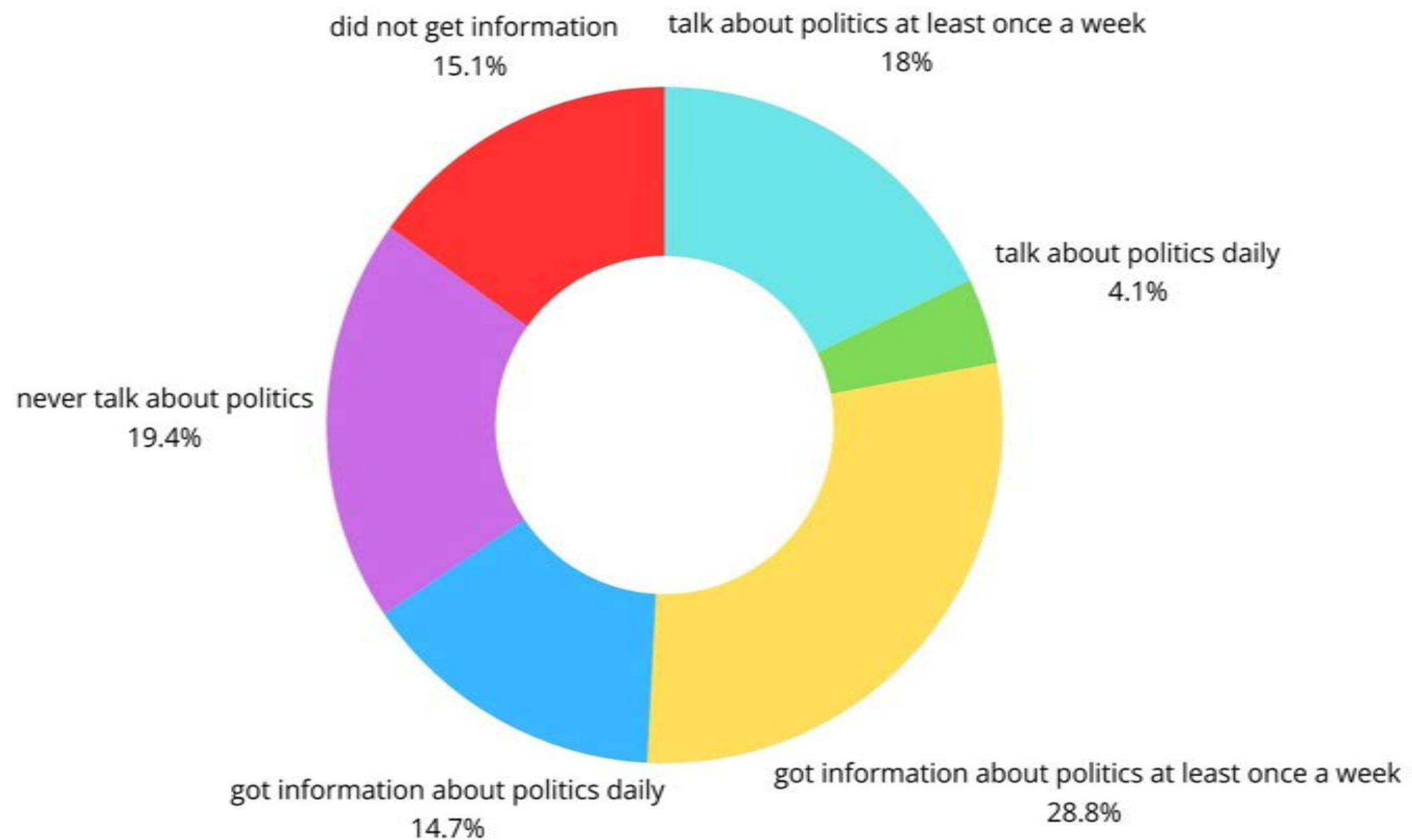
Engagement in political activities in Italy in 2020

(in 1,000 people)





Indirect Forms of Political Participation in Italy



A much larger share of citizens aged 14 and over, 74.8% (over 39 million), participated in political life through invisible or indirect forms.



Youth Participation and Democracy: Challenges and Solutions in Italy:

- Italy ranks 23rd globally in the Global Youth Development Index, with a score of 0.816.
 - Critical performance in political and civic participation (125th place, 0.24%).
- Next Generation EU emphasizes policies for the next generation, making improvement in youth conditions a priority in Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR).



Youth Participation and Democracy: Challenges and Solutions in Italy:

Italian youth face significant challenges in political and civic participation, reflected in low voter turnout and limited representation.

- In the last general election, voter turnout among Italian youth (aged 18-24) was only 53.4%, far below the national average of 75.7%.
- Representation of youth in political institutions remains low, with only 5.3% of members of the Italian Parliament aged under 35.





Youth Participation and Democracy: Challenges and Solutions in Italy:

To address these challenges, Italy is implementing strategies to enhance youth participation:

- Youth councils and platforms for direct engagement have been established in municipalities, resulting in a 20% increase in youth engagement in local decision-making processes.
- Funding and support are provided for youth-led initiatives and projects through programs like the Youth Fund for Civic Engagement, which has supported over 200 projects since 2018.
- Educational and employment barriers hindering youth involvement are being tackled, with a focus on reducing youth unemployment and promoting skill development opportunities.





Specific Areas of Engagement



- Environmental activism: Not able increase, e.g., Fridays for Future movement.
- 4.4% of youth (18- 19 years) engaged in environmental, civil rights, and peace organizations.



Elderly people's participation in democratic life in Italy

Elderly citizens in Italy face various challenges, including social isolation, digital exclusion, and limited access to public services.

- Over one-third of elderly Italians report feeling socially isolated, a concern particularly prevalent in rural areas.
- Additionally, 41% of elderly citizens lack basic digital skills, limiting their access to online services and information.

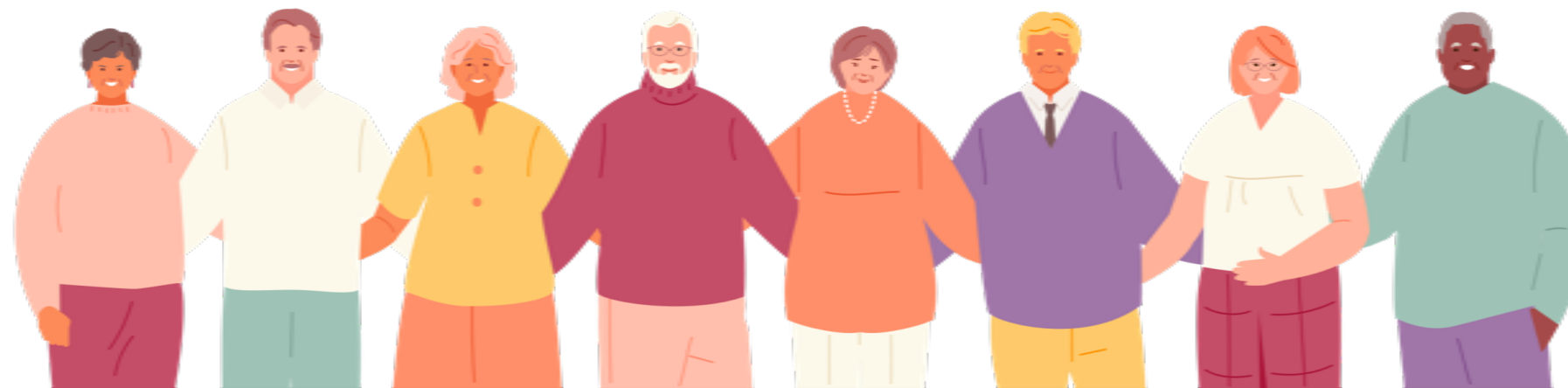




Elderly people's participation in democratic life in Italy

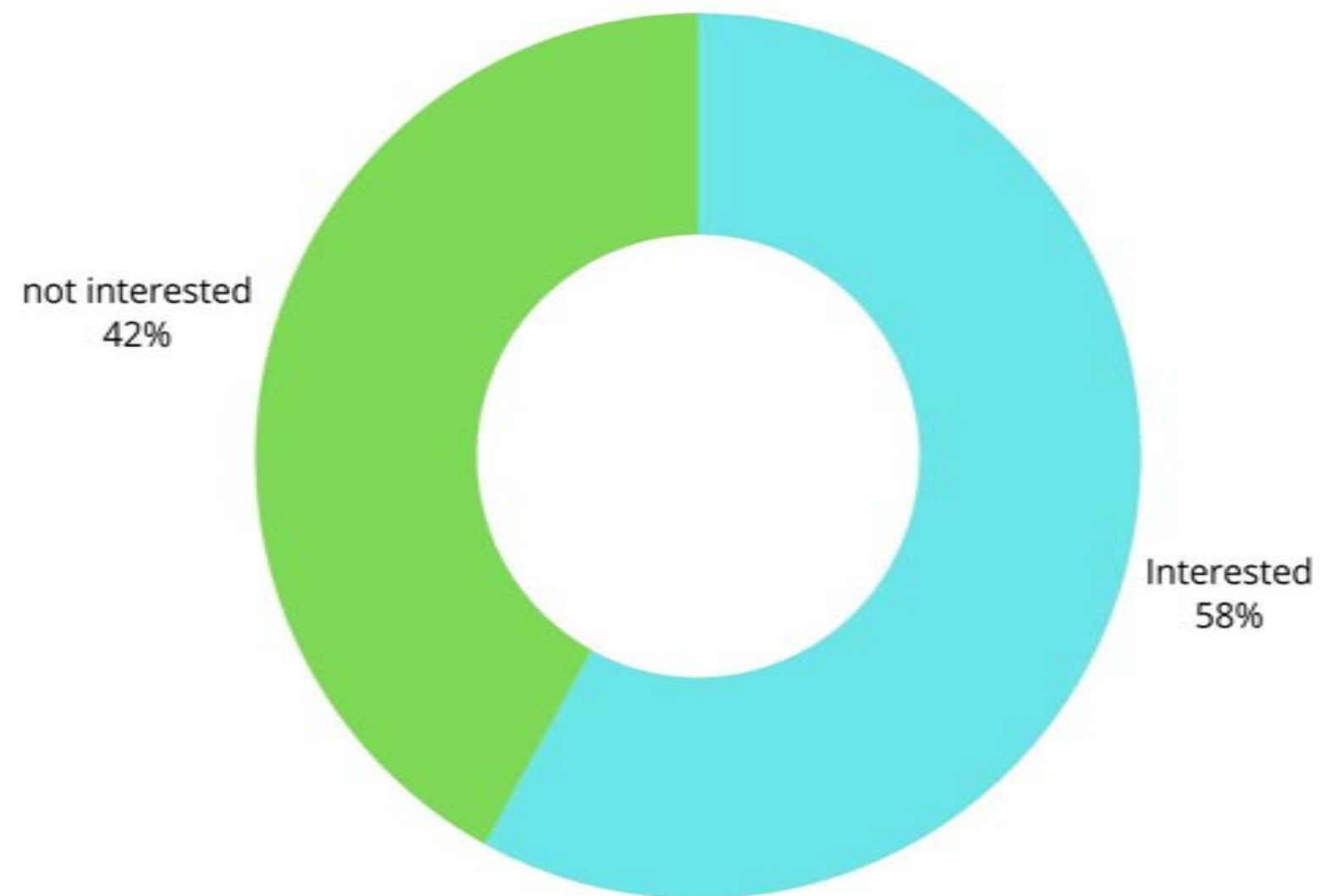
Italy is implementing strategies to enhance elderly participation, recognizing the importance of addressing these challenges:

- Senior centers and community hubs have been established to provide socialization and support, reducing social isolation among participants by 25%.
- The Digital Solidarity project aims to train 100,000 elderly citizens in digital skills by 2025, supported by government and private sector funding.
- The "Città Amica" program has designated 76 municipalities as age-friendly cities, implementing initiatives such as accessible transportation and public spaces to accommodate the needs of older adults.





Next EU Elections.. prevision of Italian's elections turnout



How interested or uninterested would you say you are in these elections? (%)



Next EU Elections.. some prevision of Italian's elections turnout

64% of Italian stated they are ready to vote, compared to 63% in 2018, and a significant 58% expressed interest in the European elections, marking an 11-percentage point increase from five years ago.

However, these data should be carefully weighed because despite the 63% recorded by the survey in 2018, voter turnout in Italy for the 2019 European elections stood at 54.5%, down from 2014.



Thank You!



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