

# SURVEY OF 5 MUNICIPALITIES IN BULGARIA

September - October 2023



A PROJECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

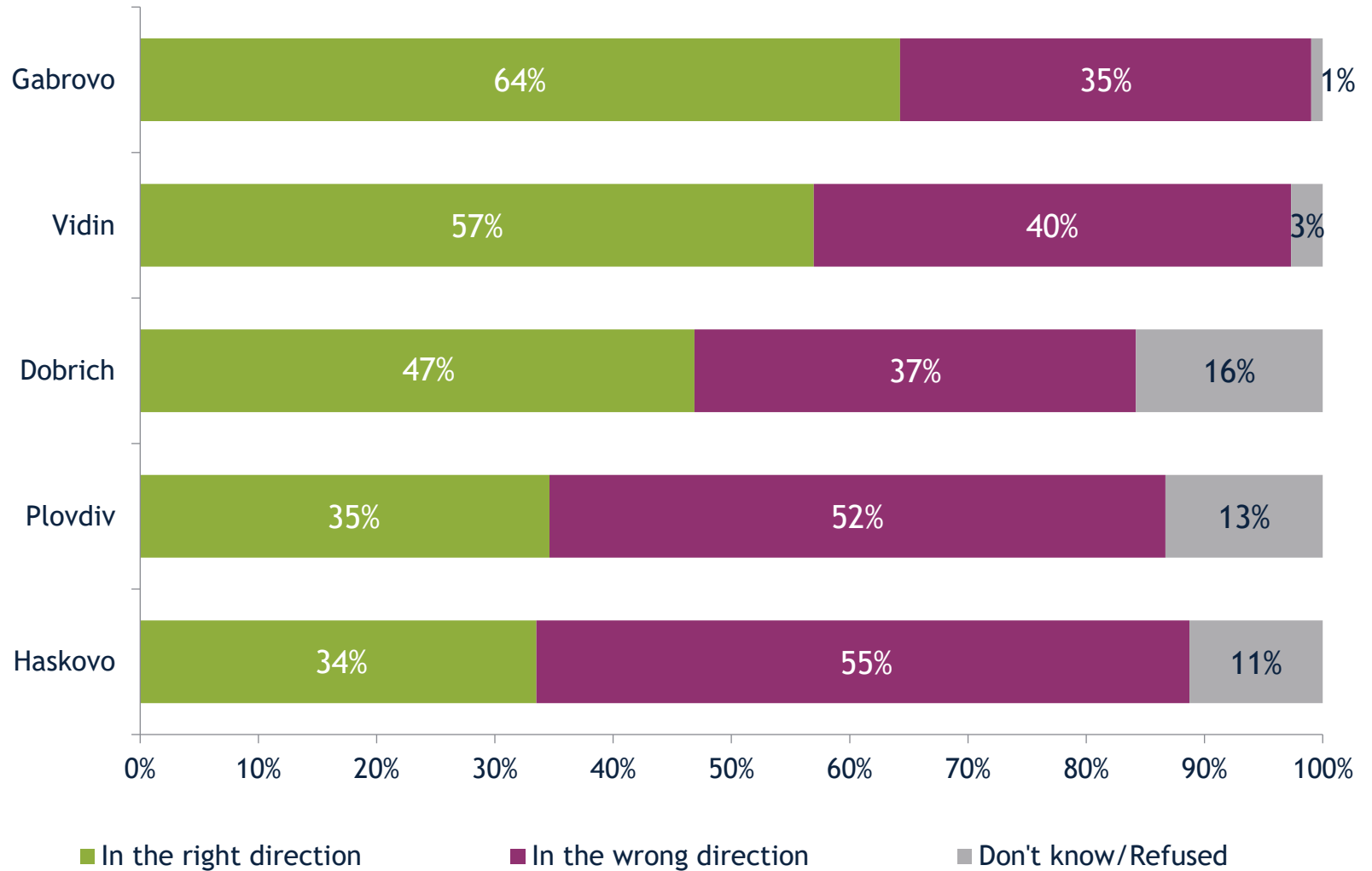
## Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the International Republican Institute's [Center for Insights in Survey Research](#) by research and consulting company [ESTAT Ltd.](#)
- Data was collected between September 21 - October 11, 2023 through CAPI administered face-to-face interviews in respondents' homes.
- The sample consisted of n=1,500 adults, ages 18 and older, distributed across five municipalities in Bulgaria: Vidin (n=300), Dobrich-City (n=300), Haskovo (n=300), Plovdiv (n=300), and Gabrovo (n=300).
- A multi-stage probability sampling method was used to design a representative sample for each municipality. The sample for each municipality was stratified by urban/rural residency, followed by random selection of primary sampling units (PSUs) within each stratum. Households were selected by random walk in each of the PSUs, and respondents were selected by the last birthday method. The sampling frame was based on the 2021 Population and Housing census.
- The achieved sample was weighted for gender, age group, and type of settlement for each municipality.
- The overall response rate was 45 percent.
- The margin of error for the mid-range of the full sample in each municipality does not exceed  $\pm 5.7$  points. The confidence level is 95%.
- Charts and graphs may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. Cited bases are weighted.
- A subset of questions have been included in this comparative PowerPoint. The complete list of questions are included in each municipality-specific PowerPoint.

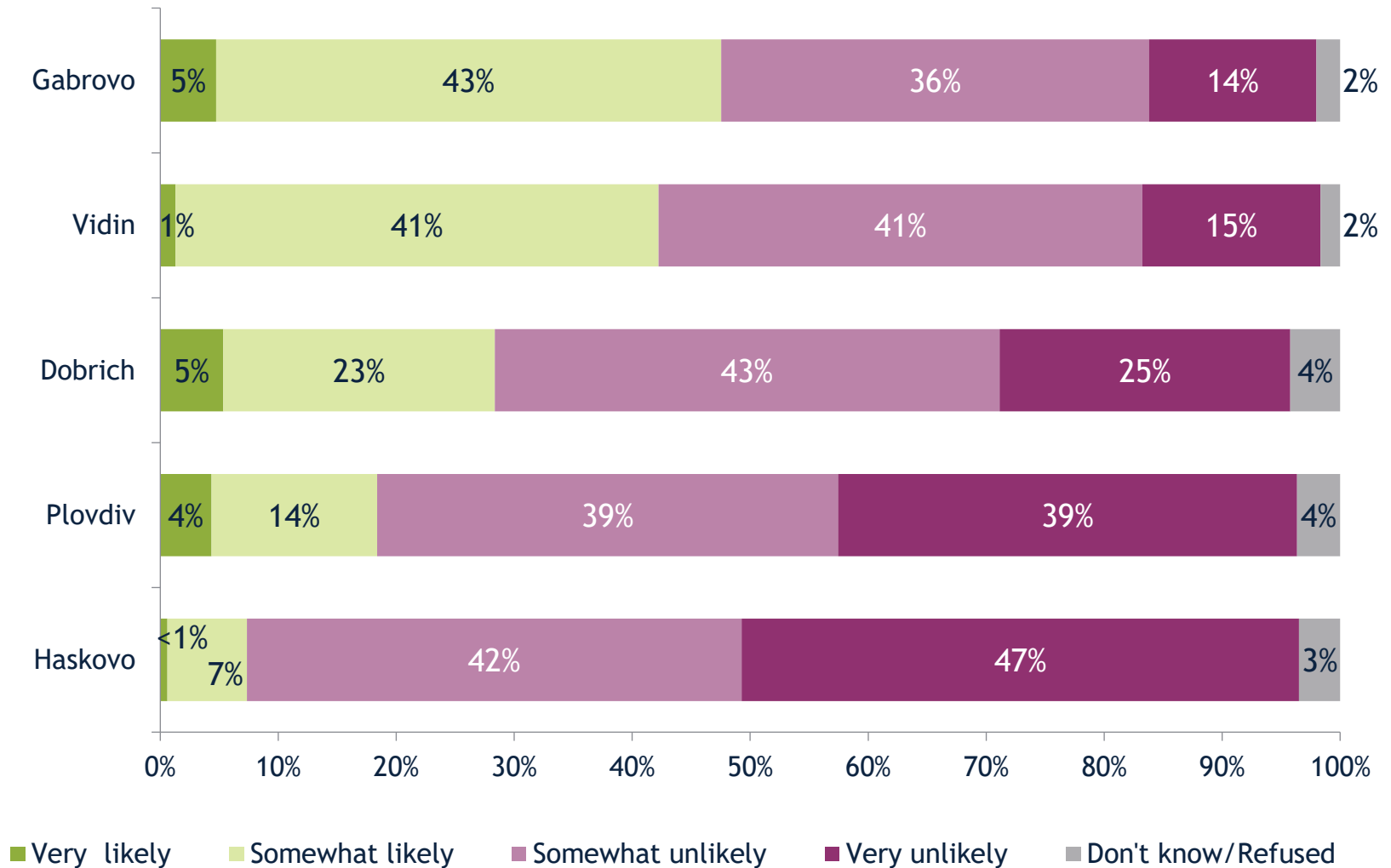
# Comparisons Among 5 Municipalities



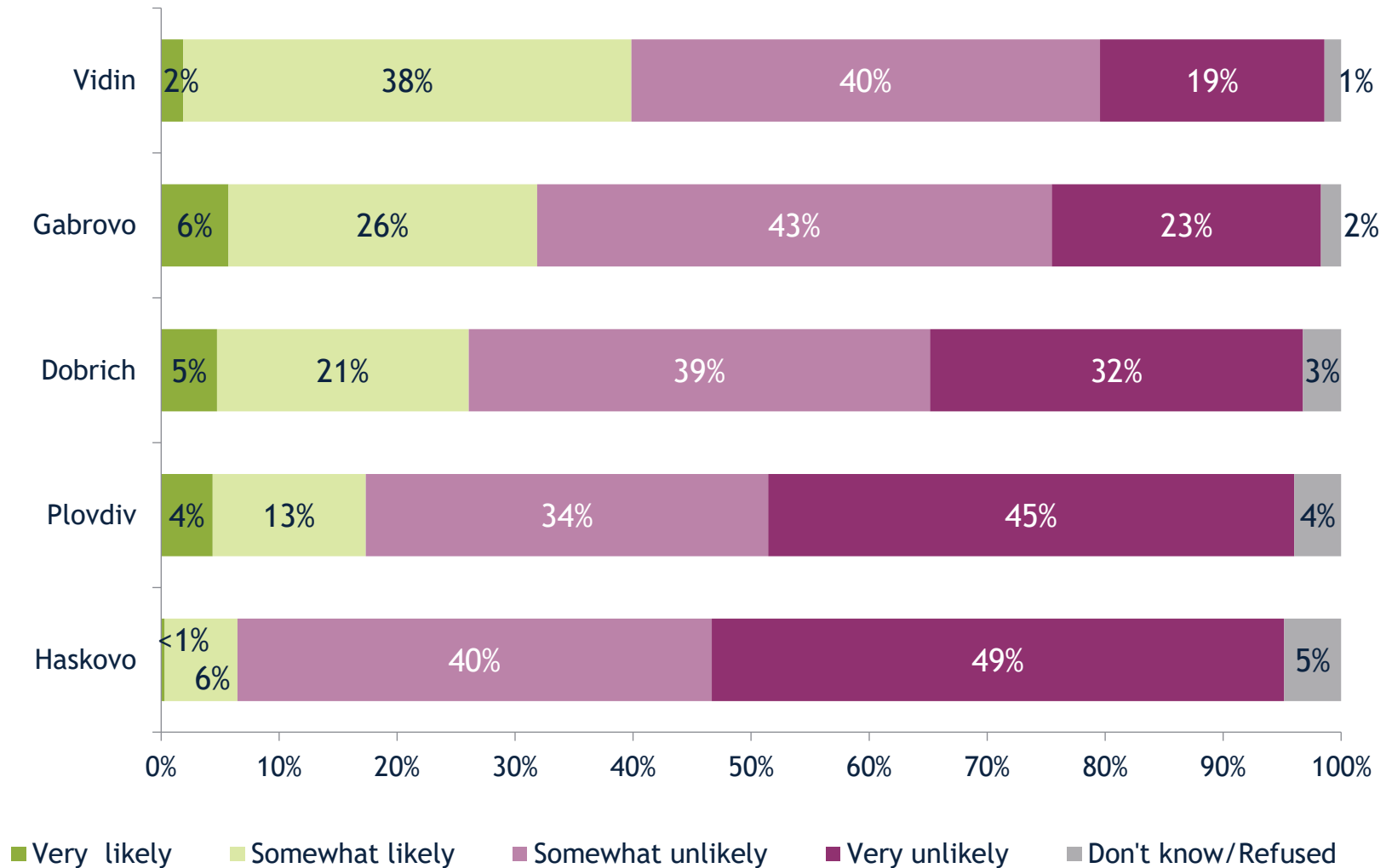
# In general, would you say that [name of municipality] is heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?



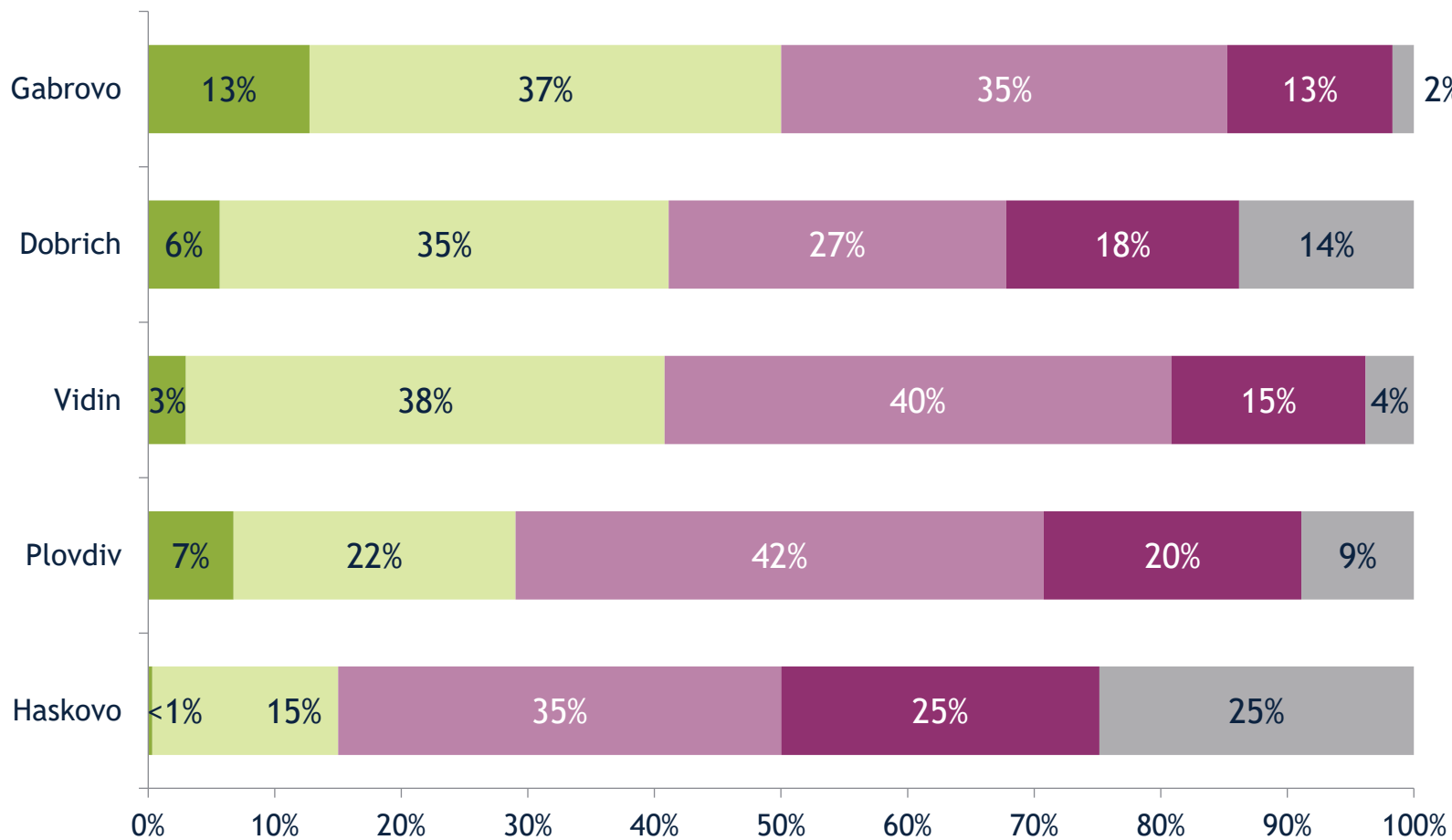
# How likely or unlikely are ordinary people able to influence decisions made by your mayor and municipal administration?



# How likely or unlikely are ordinary people able to influence decisions made by your **municipal council**?



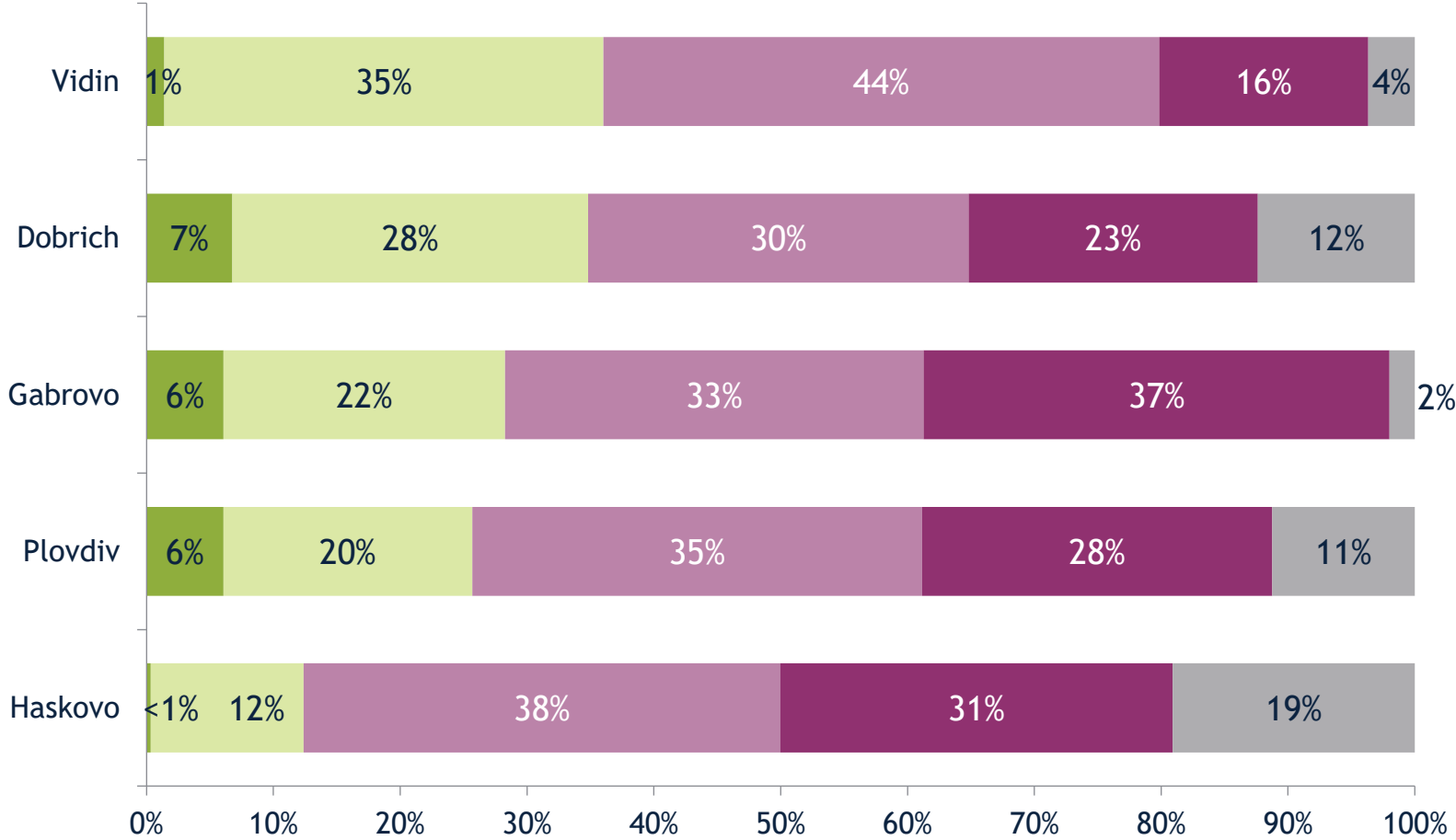
# To what extent do civil society organizations (CSOs) impact municipal administration policy in [name of municipality]?



■ Very impactful 
 ■ Somewhat impactful 
 ■ Somewhat unimpactful 
 ■ Very unimpactful 
 ■ Don't know/Refused



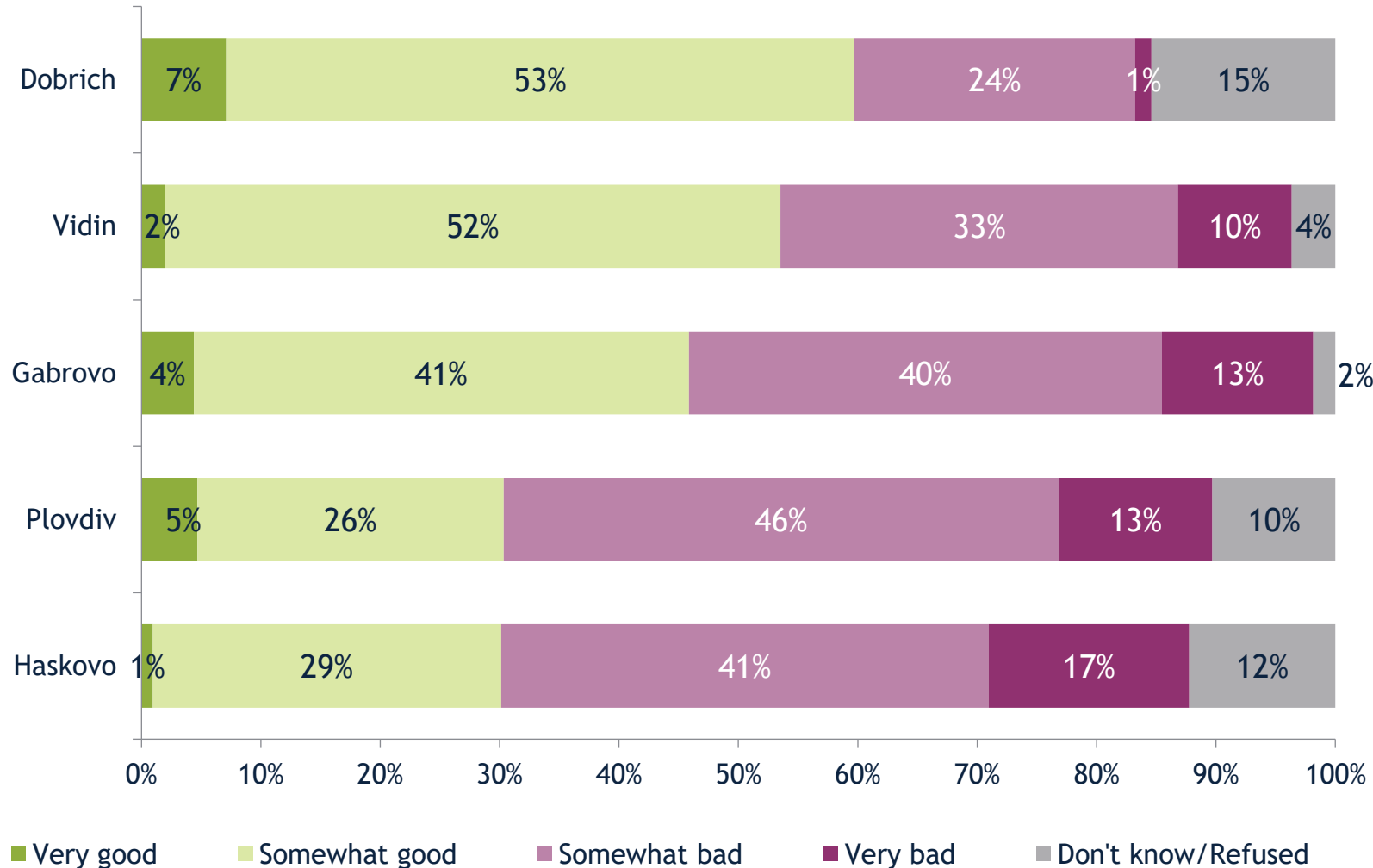
# To what extent do CSOs impact **municipal council policy** in [name of municipality]?



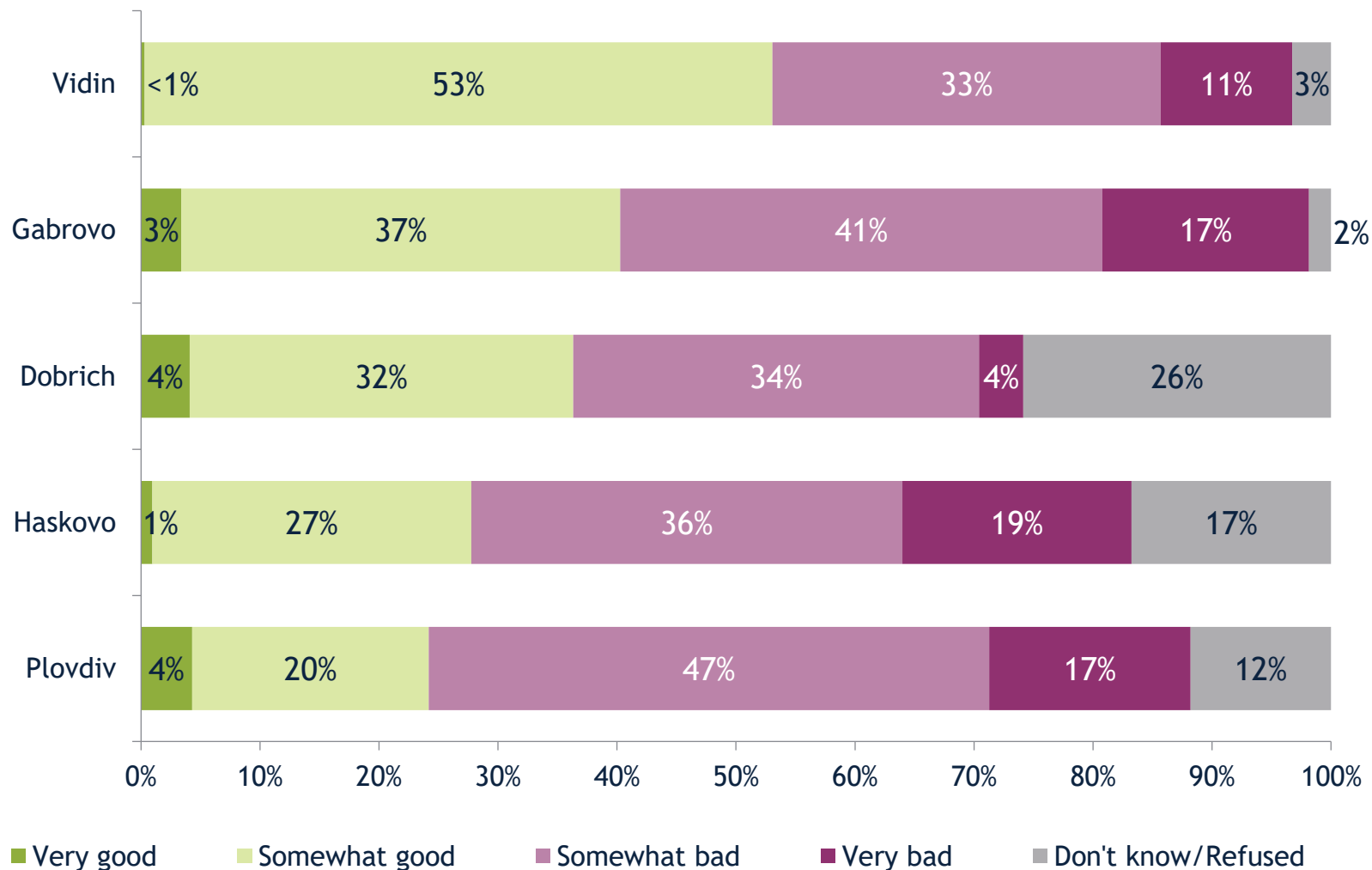
Very impactful   Somewhat impactful   Somewhat unimpacted   Very unimpacted   Don't know/Refused



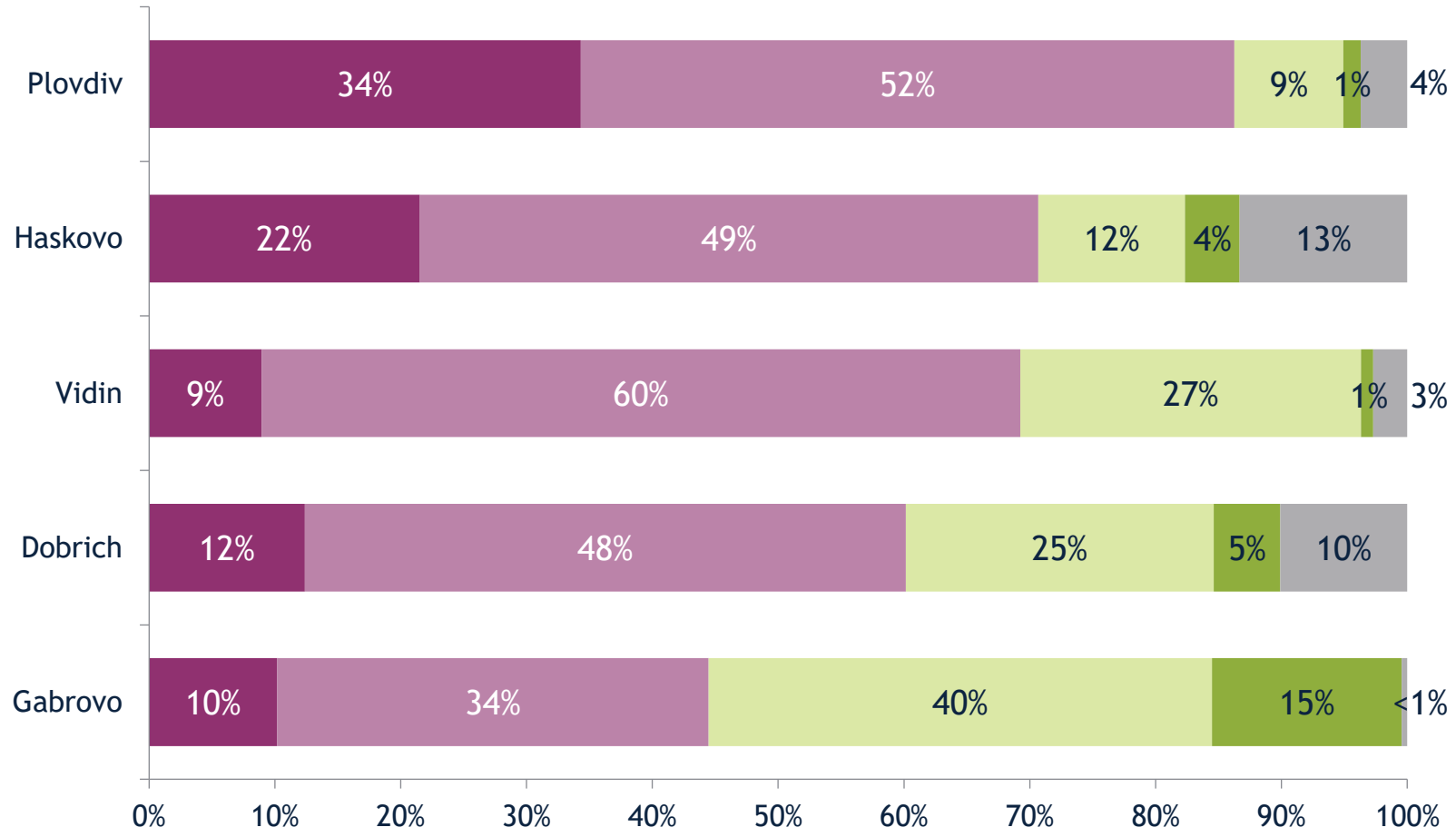
# How would you rate the performance of the **municipal administration** in communicating with the public about the decisions they take?



# How would you rate the performance of the **municipal council** in communicating with the public about the decisions they take?



# Do you believe that corruption in [name of municipality] is a serious problem or not?



■ Very serious   
 ■ Somewhat serious   
 ■ Somewhat not serious   
 ■ Not at all serious   
 ■ Don't know/Refused

## In your experience, what type of corruption is most common in your municipality?

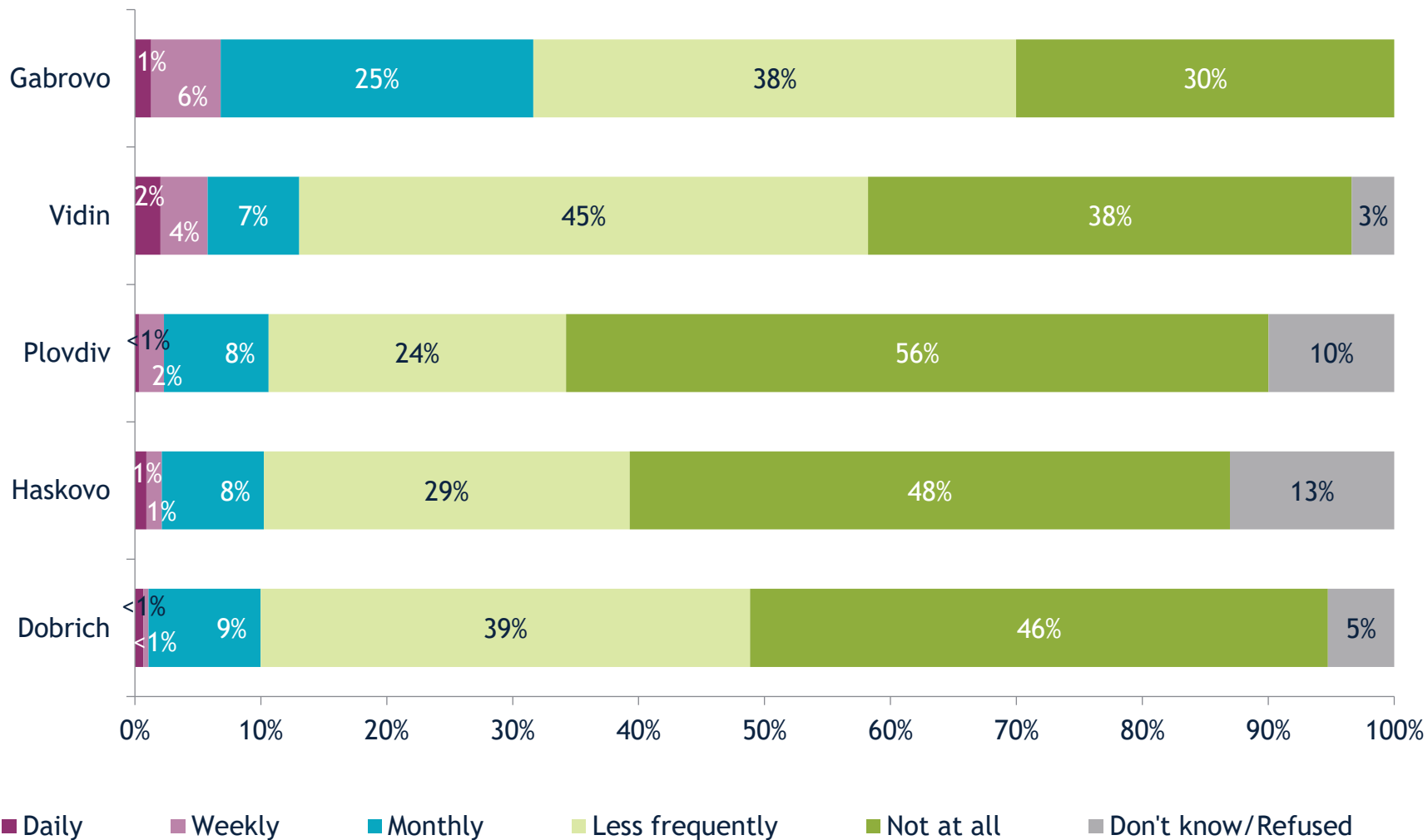
(Top three most common types across each municipality; spontaneous response)

Municipality	Most common	Second most common	Third most common
Vidin	Acting in self-interest instead of in the interest of citizens (30%)	Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (16%)	Extortion (16%)
Gabrovo	Acting in self-interest instead of in the interest of citizens (22%)	Failure to investigate or prosecute wrongdoing (15%)	Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (14%)
Dobrich	Acting in self-interest instead of in the interest of citizens (21%)	Extortion (18%)	Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (13%)
Plovdiv	Acting in self-interest instead of in the interest of citizens (21%)	Extortion (15%)	Stealing or deliberately mismanaging funds (15%)
Haskovo	Acting in self-interest instead of in the interest of citizens (25%)	Soliciting bribes or gifts (18%)	Making decisions based on connections as opposed to merit (17%)

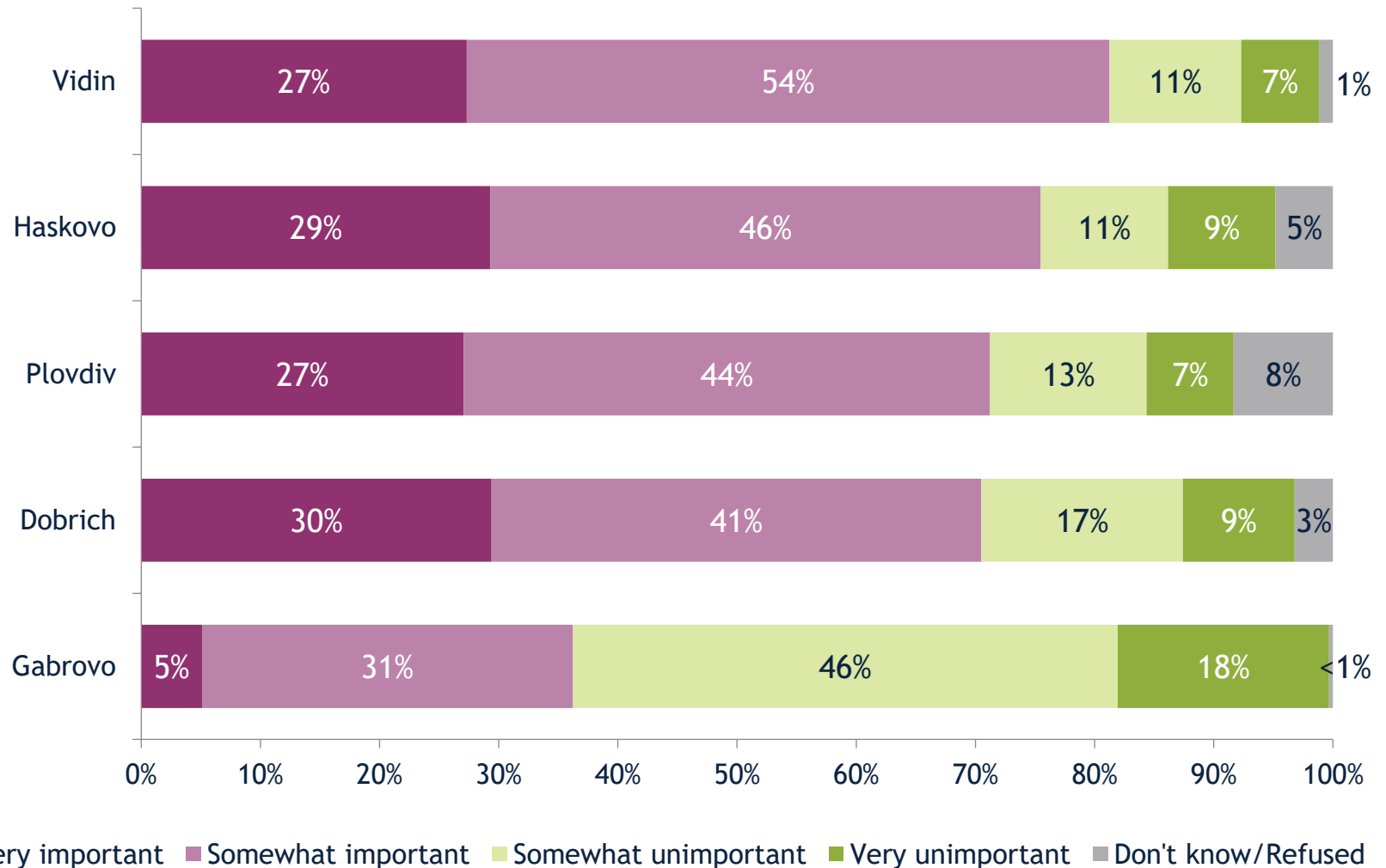
# To what extent do you think corruption can be reduced in your municipality?



# In the past two years, how often, if at all, have you witnessed or experienced corruption?

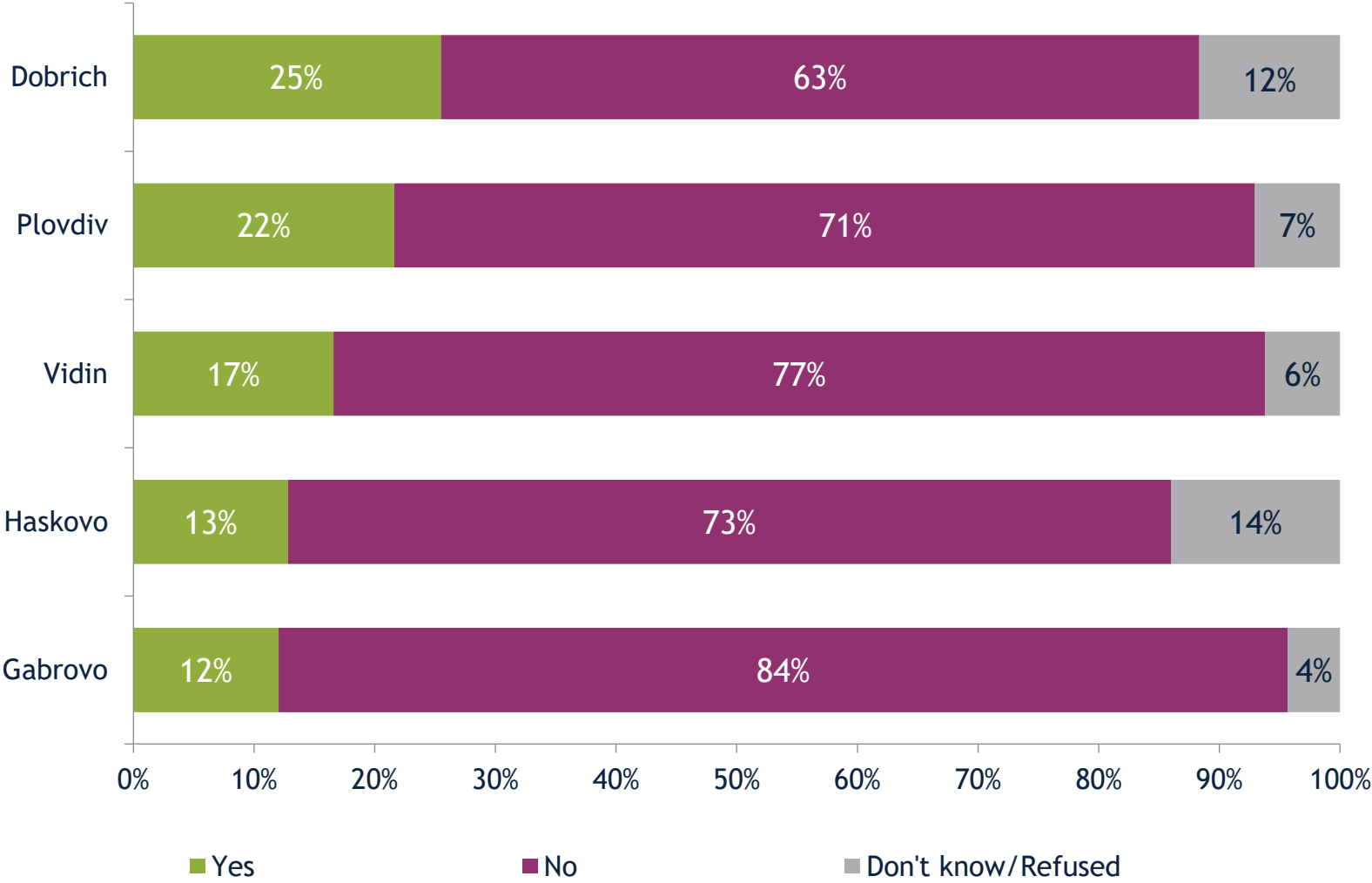


# In your dealings with the municipal government, how important are personal contacts and relationships to get things done?



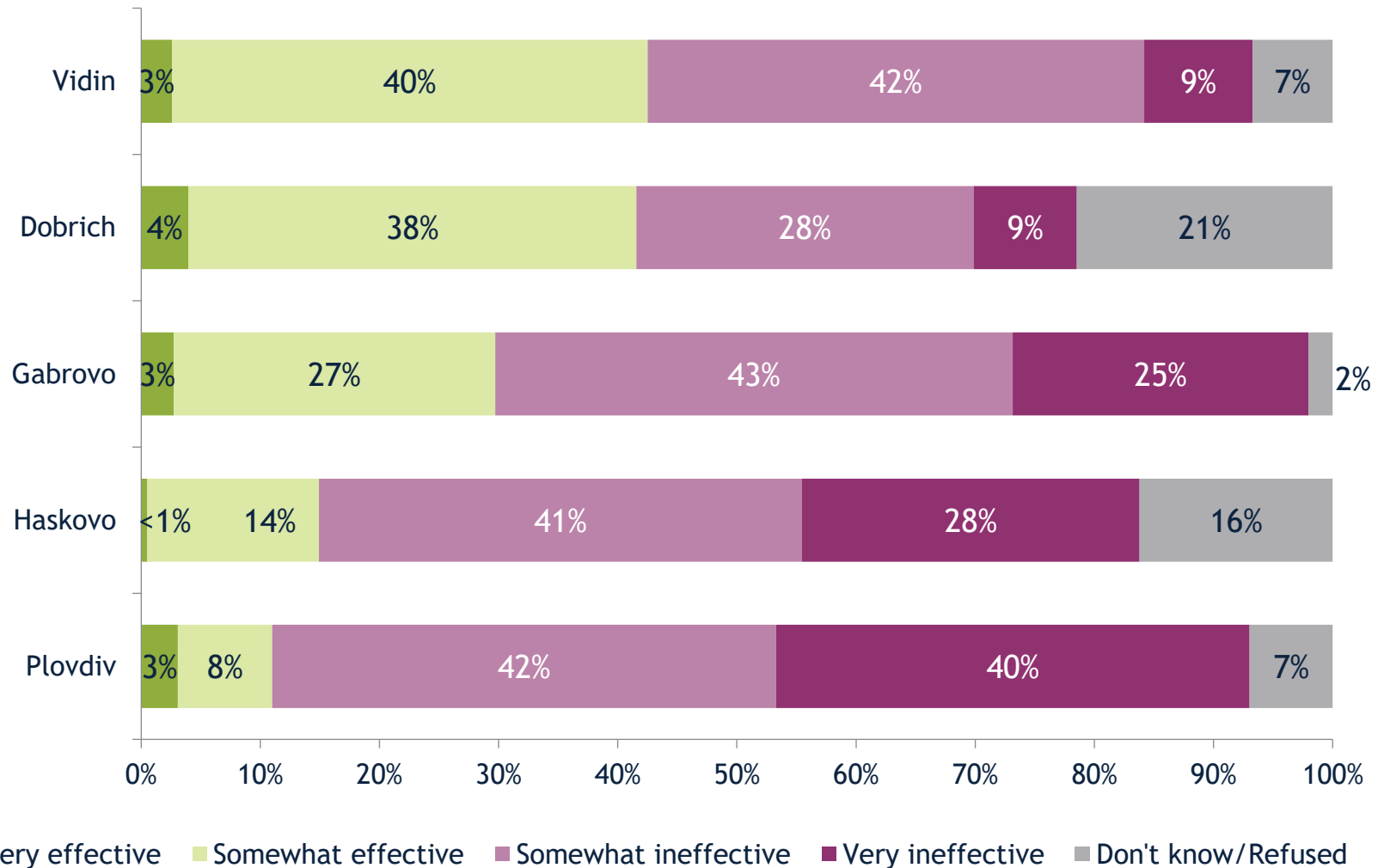


# Are you aware of any anti-corruption initiatives by the municipal authorities?

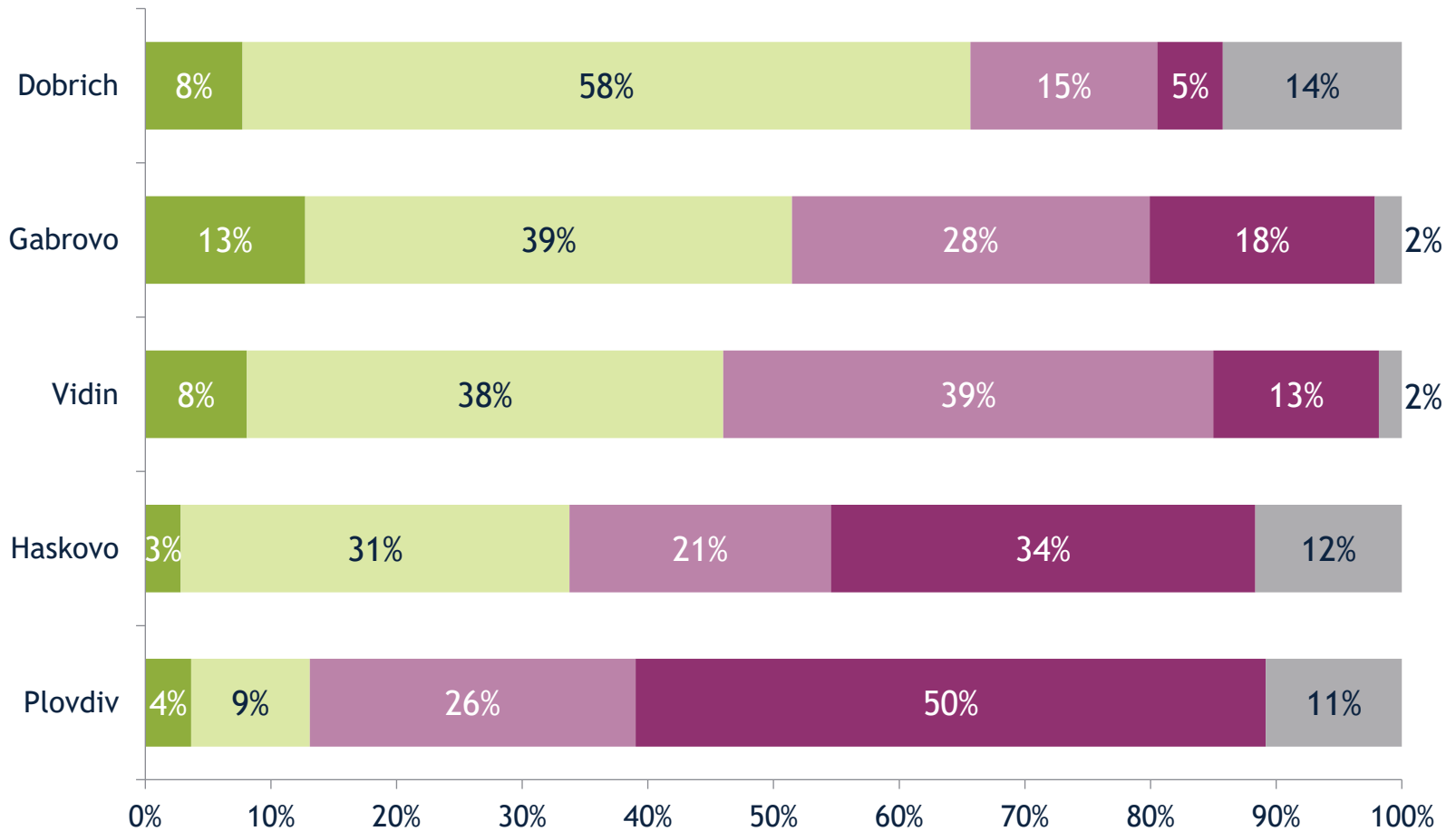




## How effective or ineffective are the municipal authorities in addressing corruption?

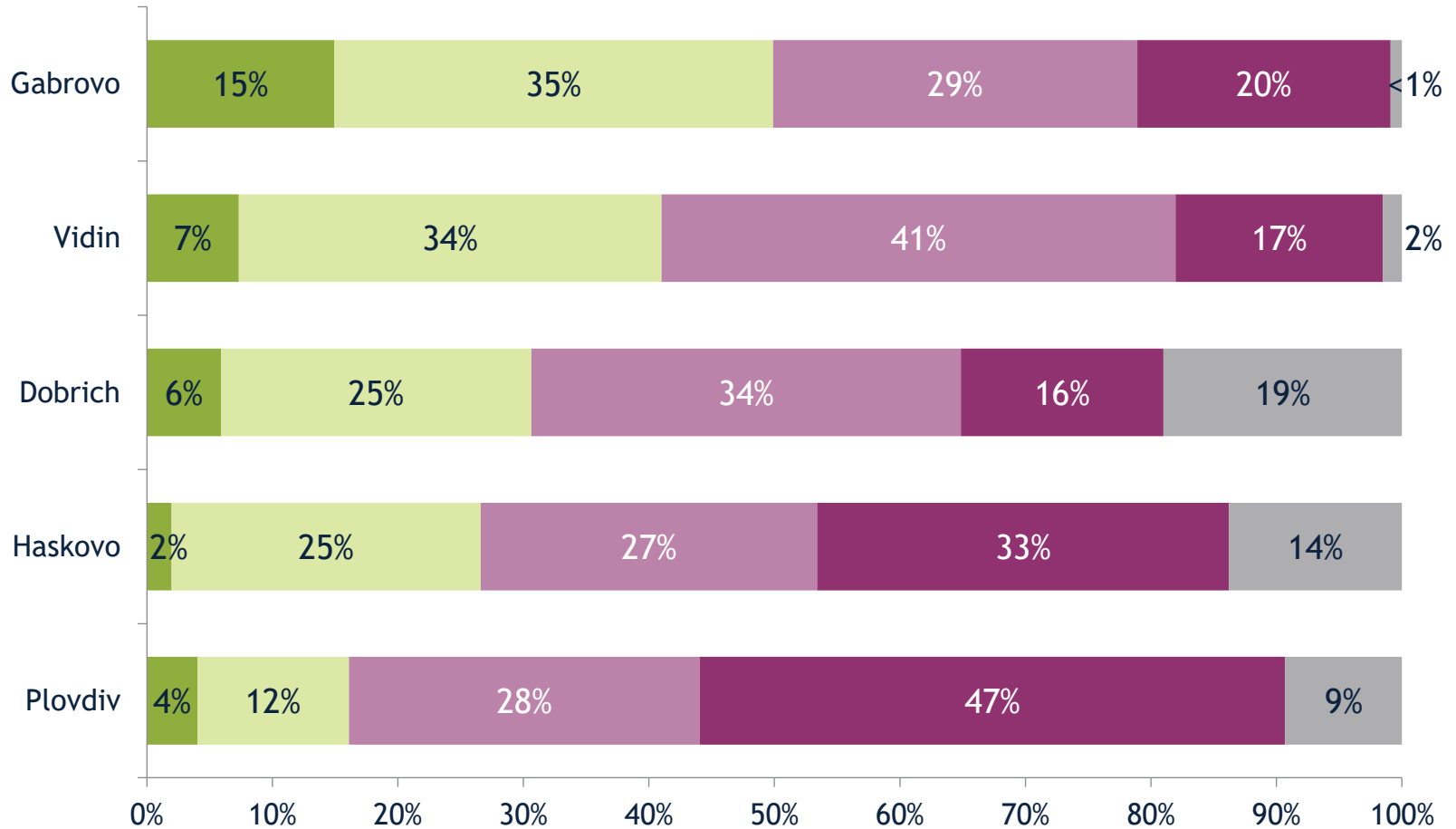


Based on your experience, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement:  
 “The **mayor** has a sincere desire and will to combat corruption in your municipality.”



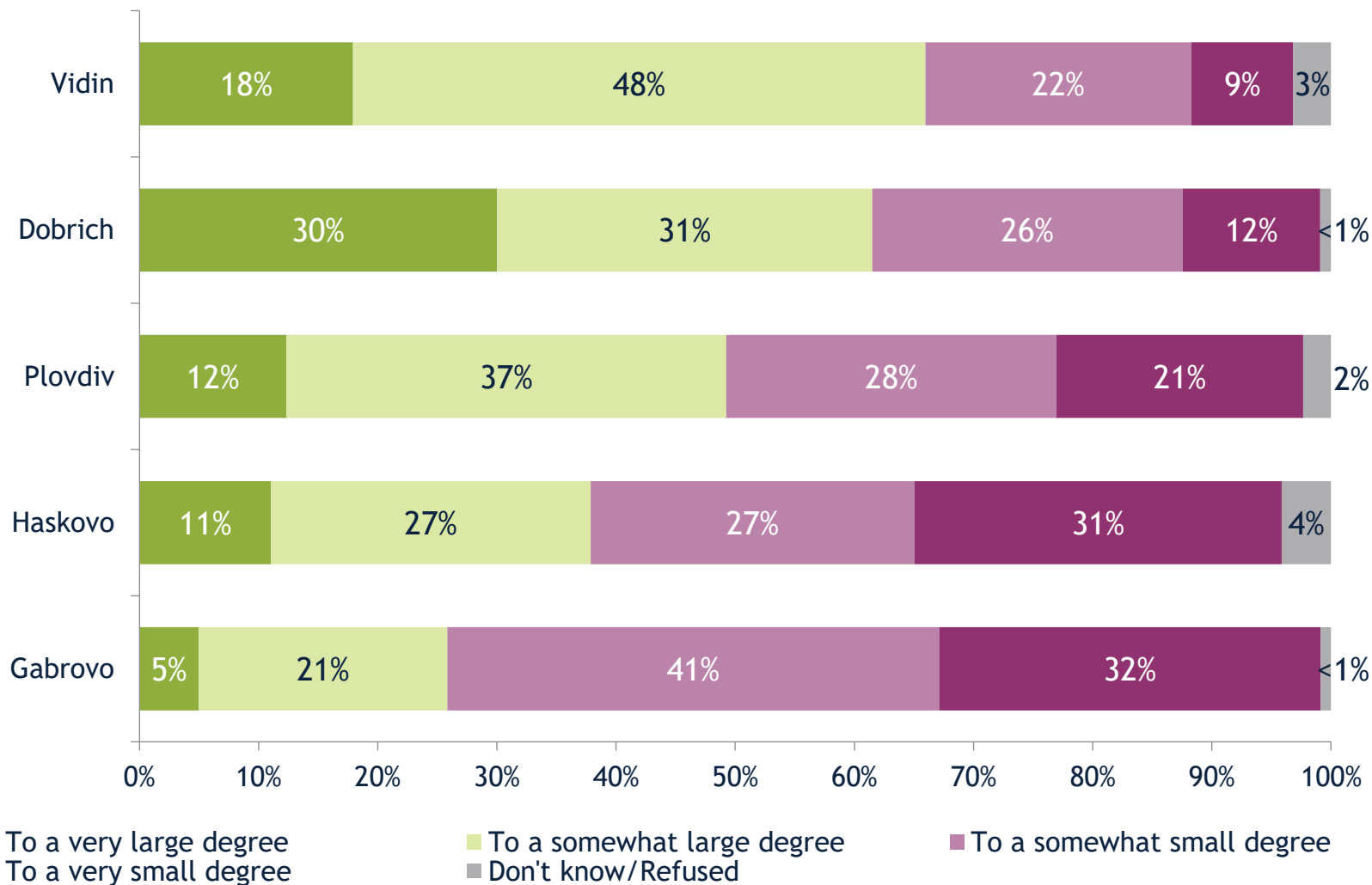
■ Strongly agree   
 ■ Somewhat agree   
 ■ Somewhat disagree   
 ■ Strongly disagree   
 ■ Don't know/Refused

Based on your experience, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement:  
 “The **municipal council** has a sincere desire and will to combat corruption in your municipality.”

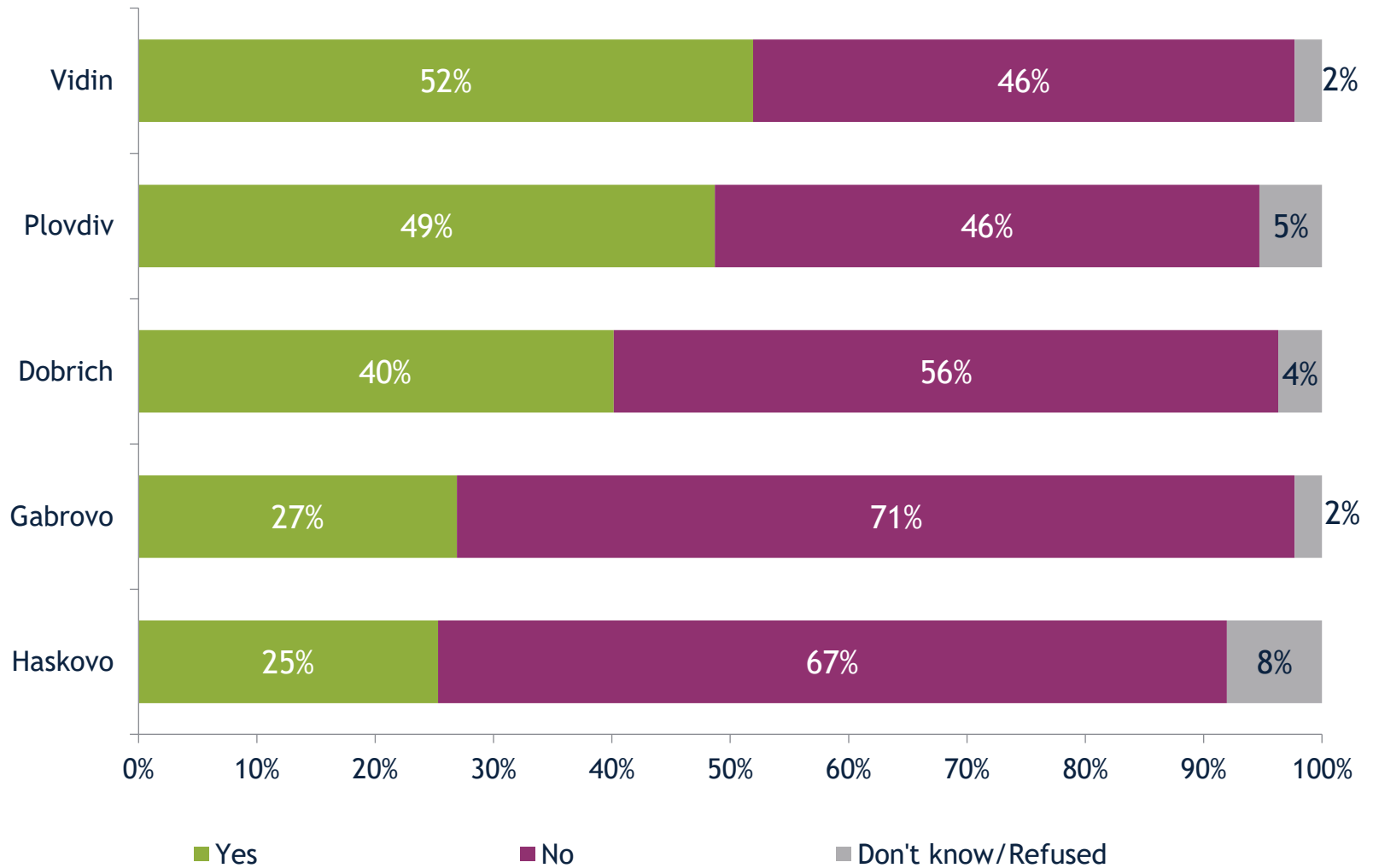


■ Strongly agree   
 ■ Somewhat agree   
 ■ Somewhat disagree   
 ■ Strongly disagree   
 ■ Don't know/Refused

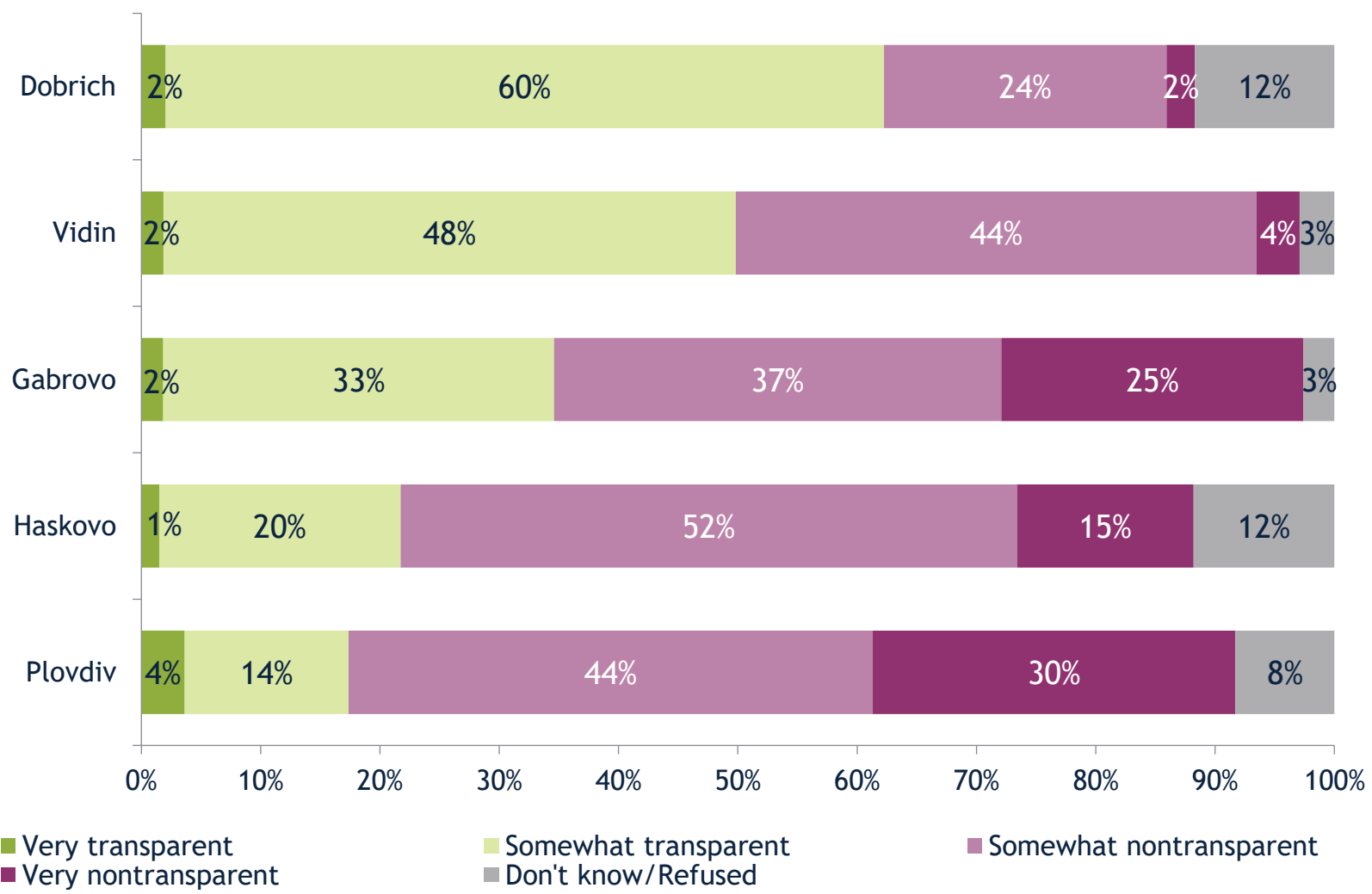
# To what degree, if at all, is it the responsibility of citizens to address corruption?



# Do you know where to report a corrupt act of a municipal official?

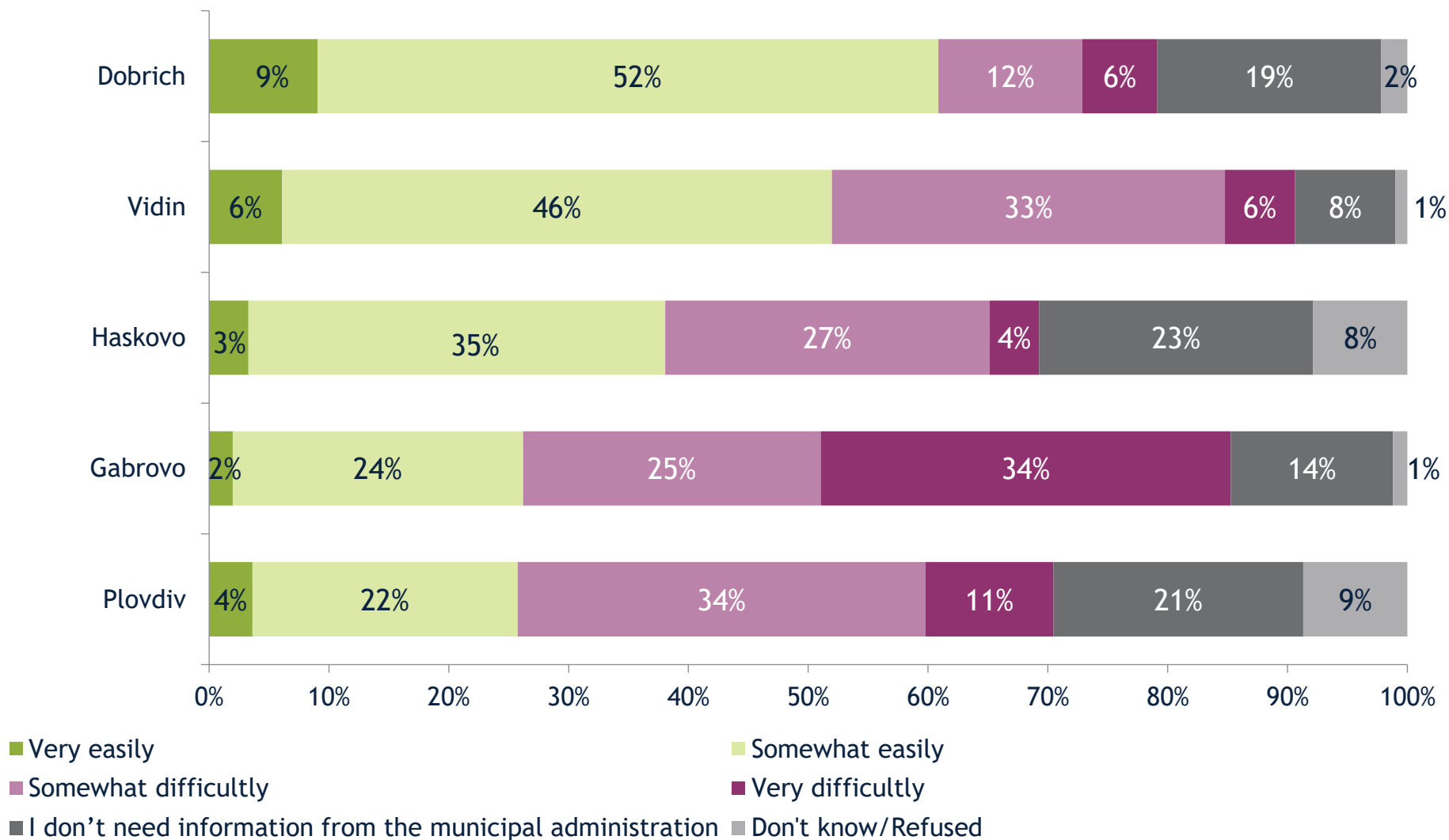


# How transparent or nontransparent is the work of the mayor and the municipal administration?



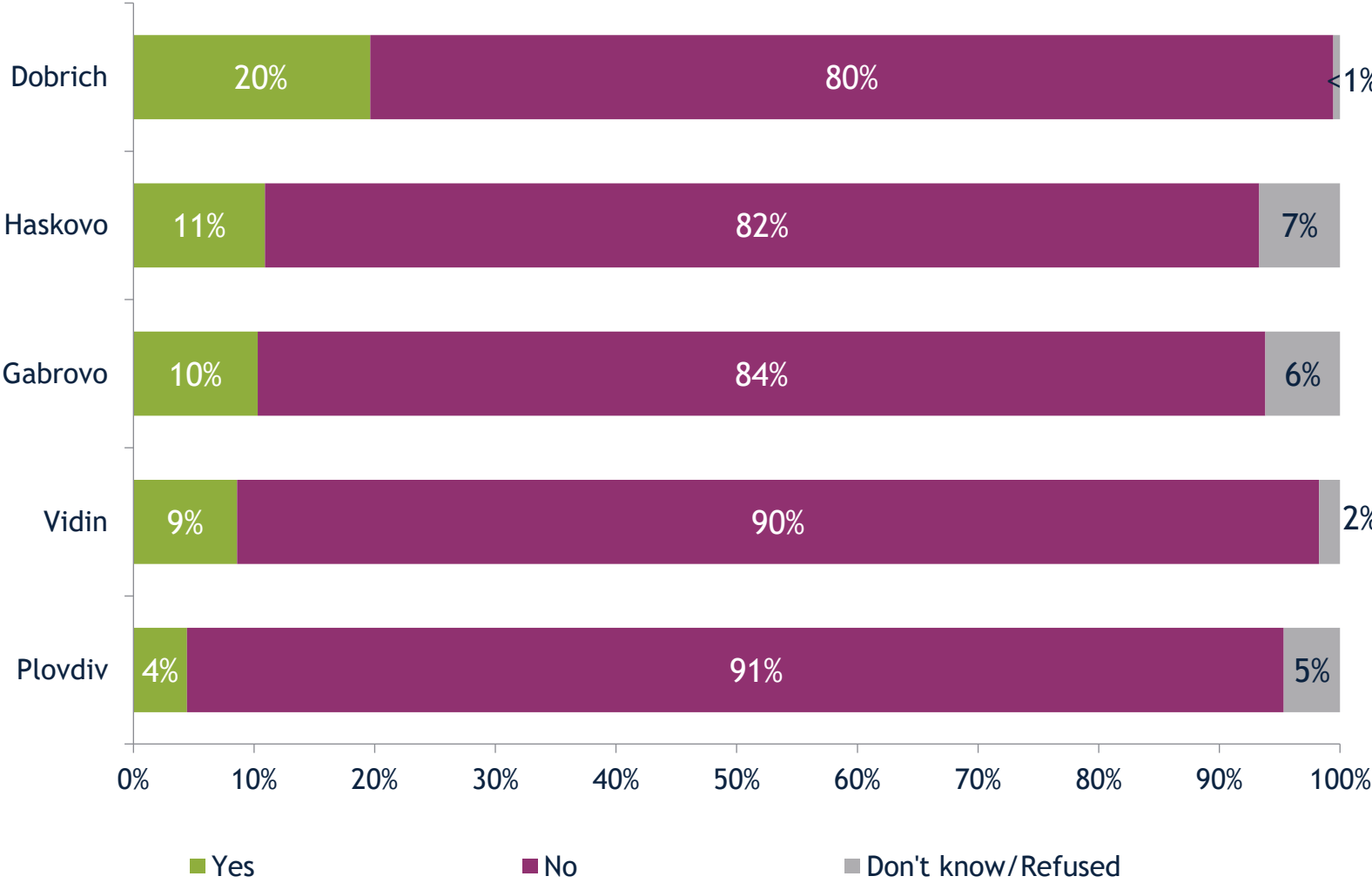


## Do you find the information you need from the municipal administration easily or not?





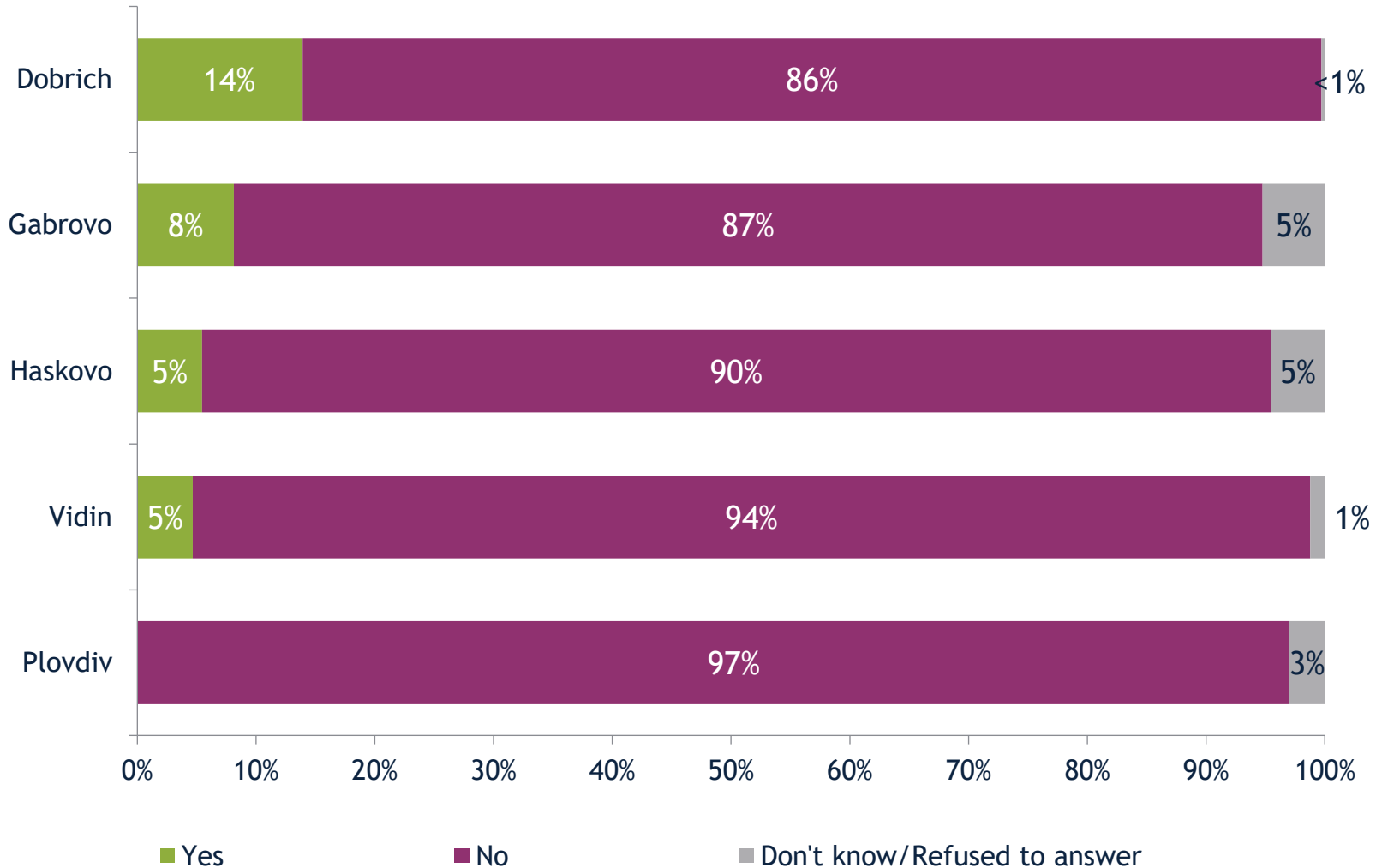
# Are you aware of when municipal government public discussion meetings take place?



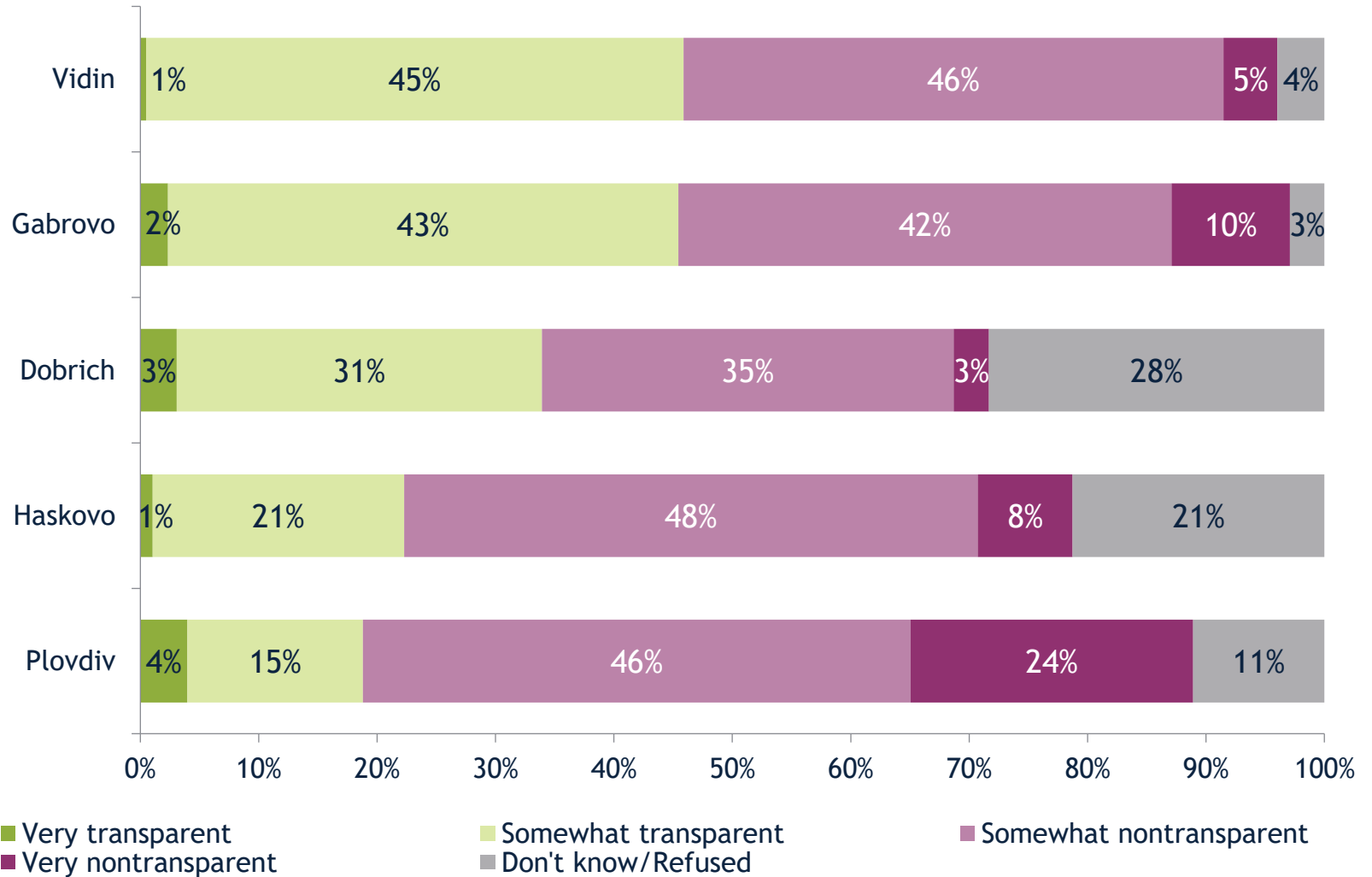




# Have you ever attended a municipal government public discussion meeting?

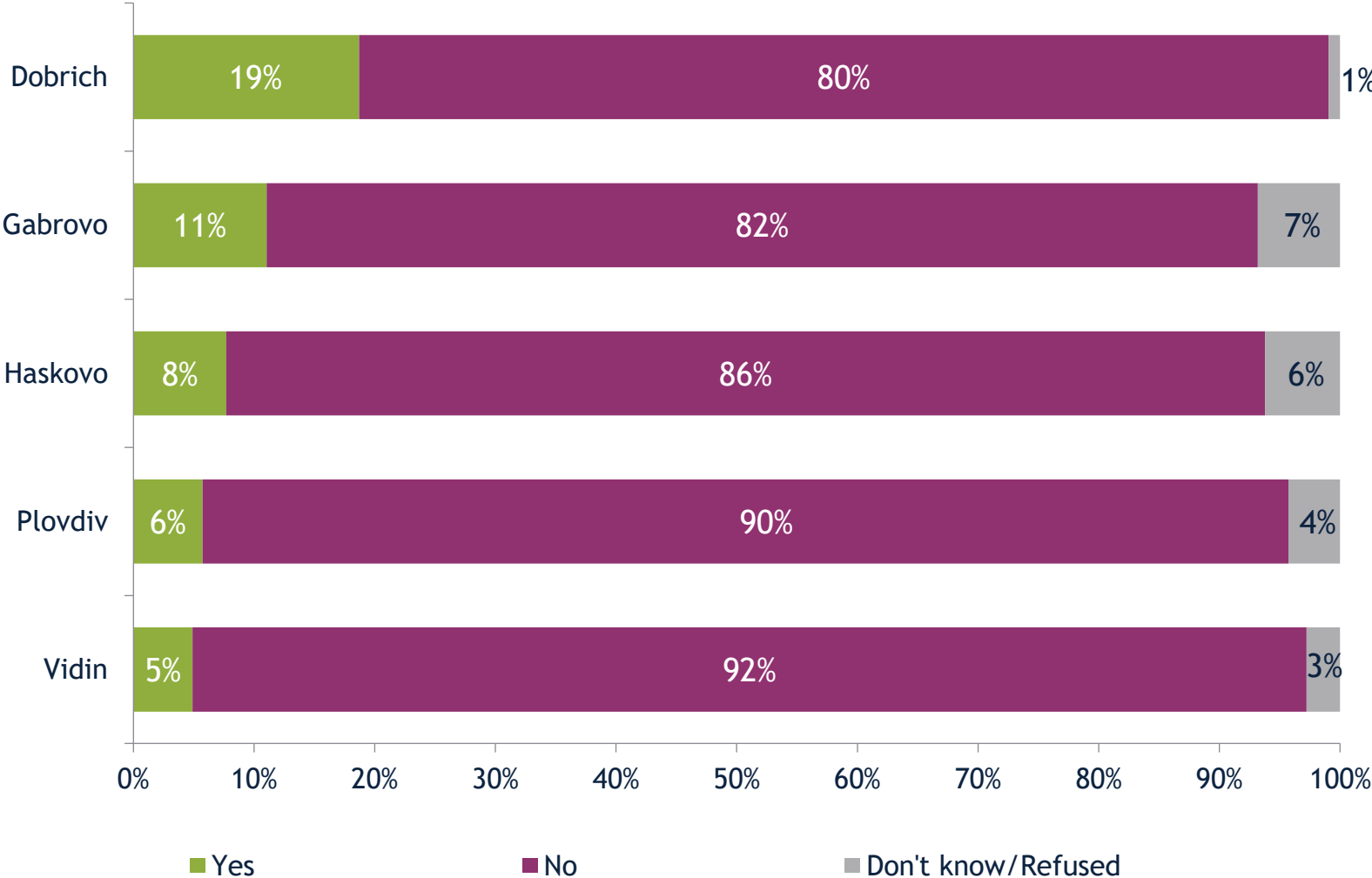


# How transparent or nontransparent is the work of the municipal council?



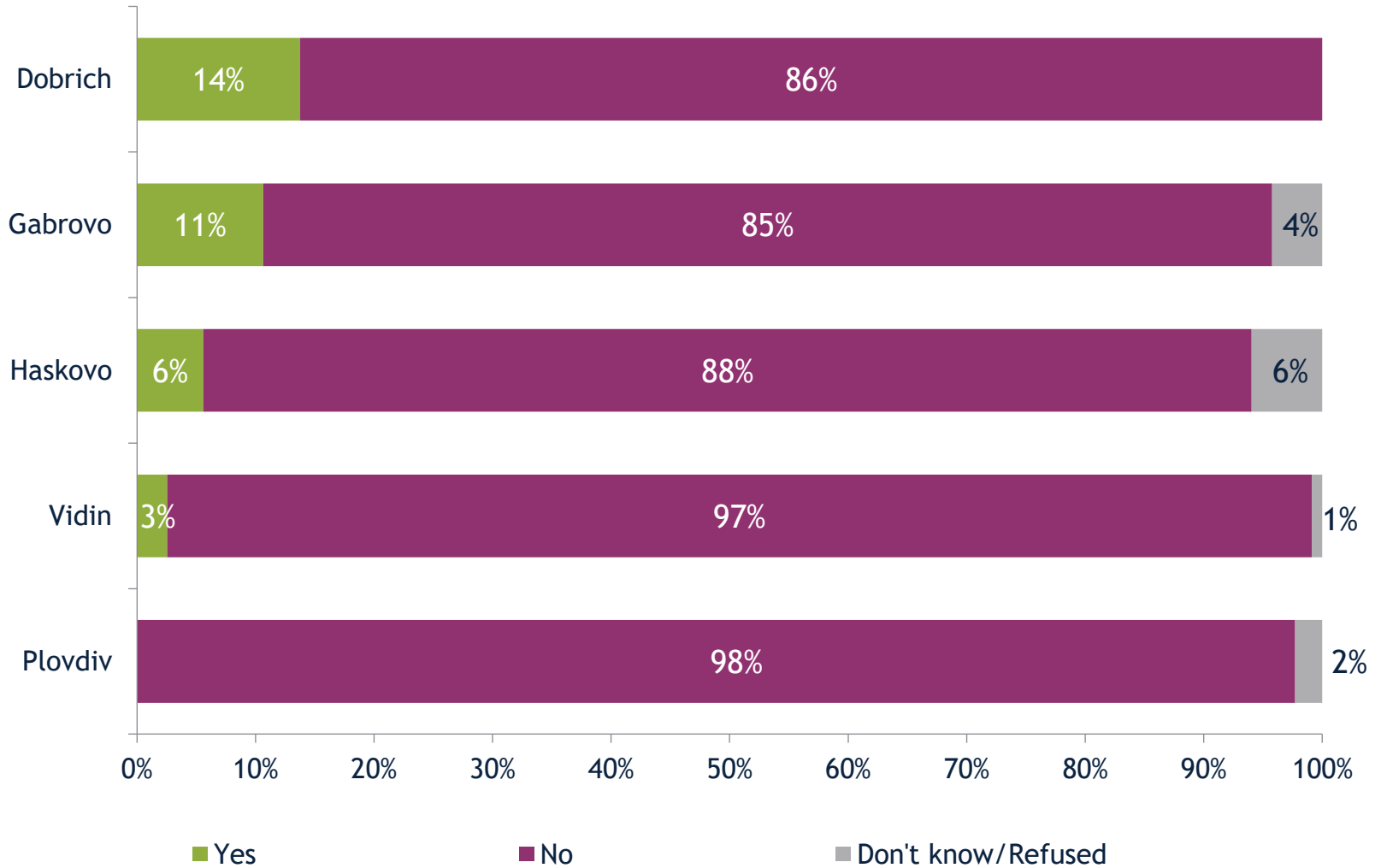


# Are you aware of when municipal council meetings take place?



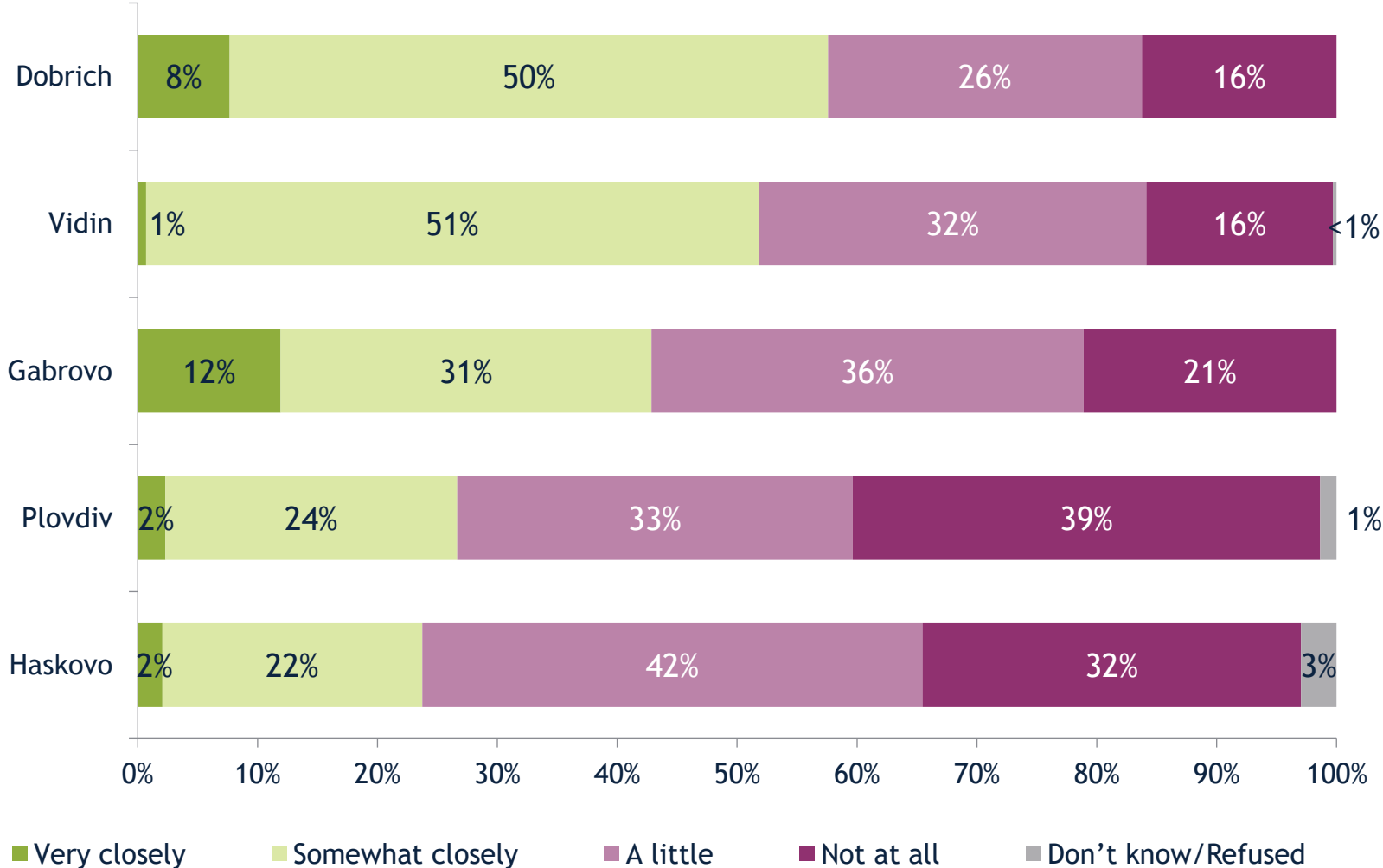


## Have you attended any municipal council meetings?

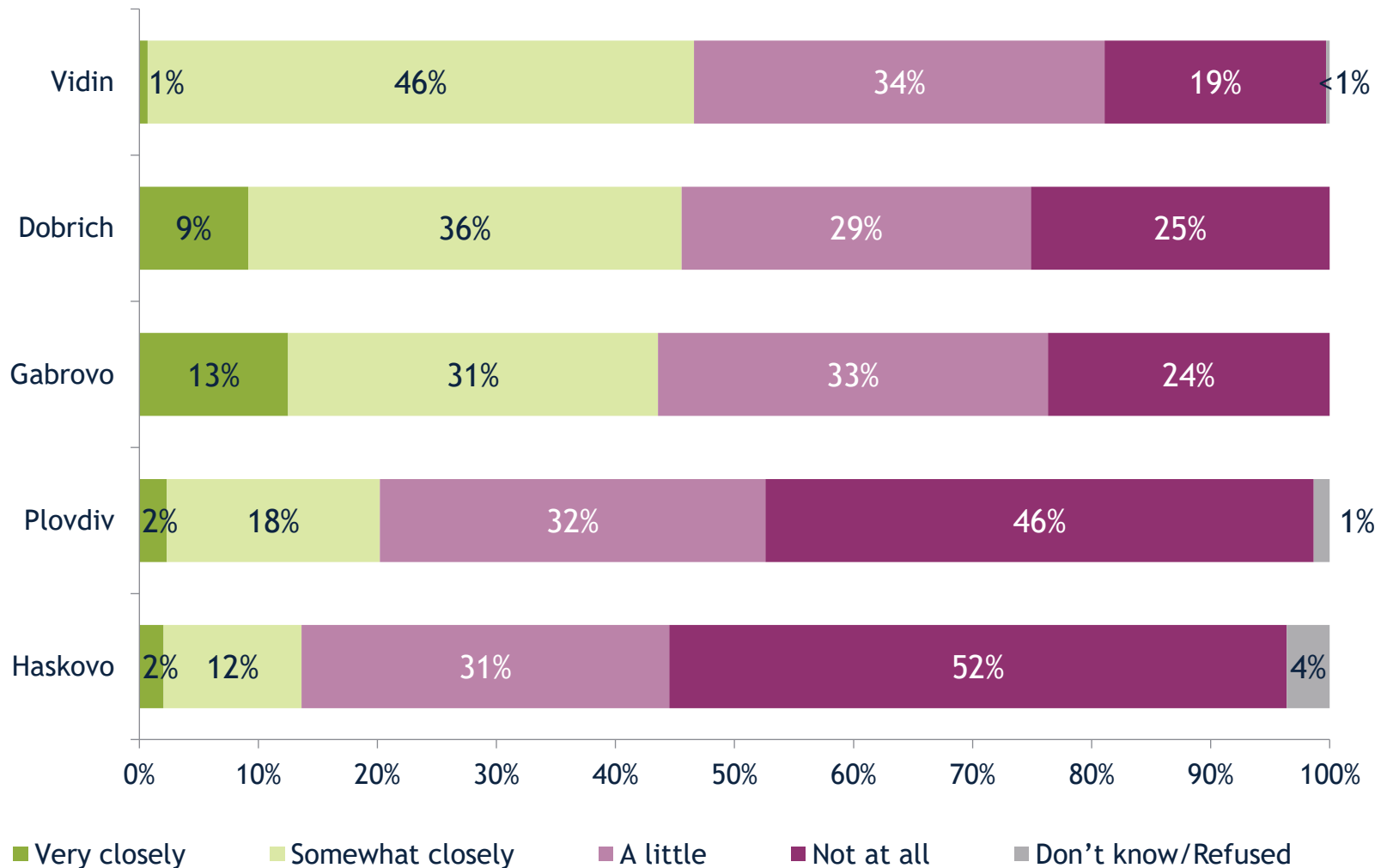




# How closely do you follow the decisions and actions taken by the mayor?

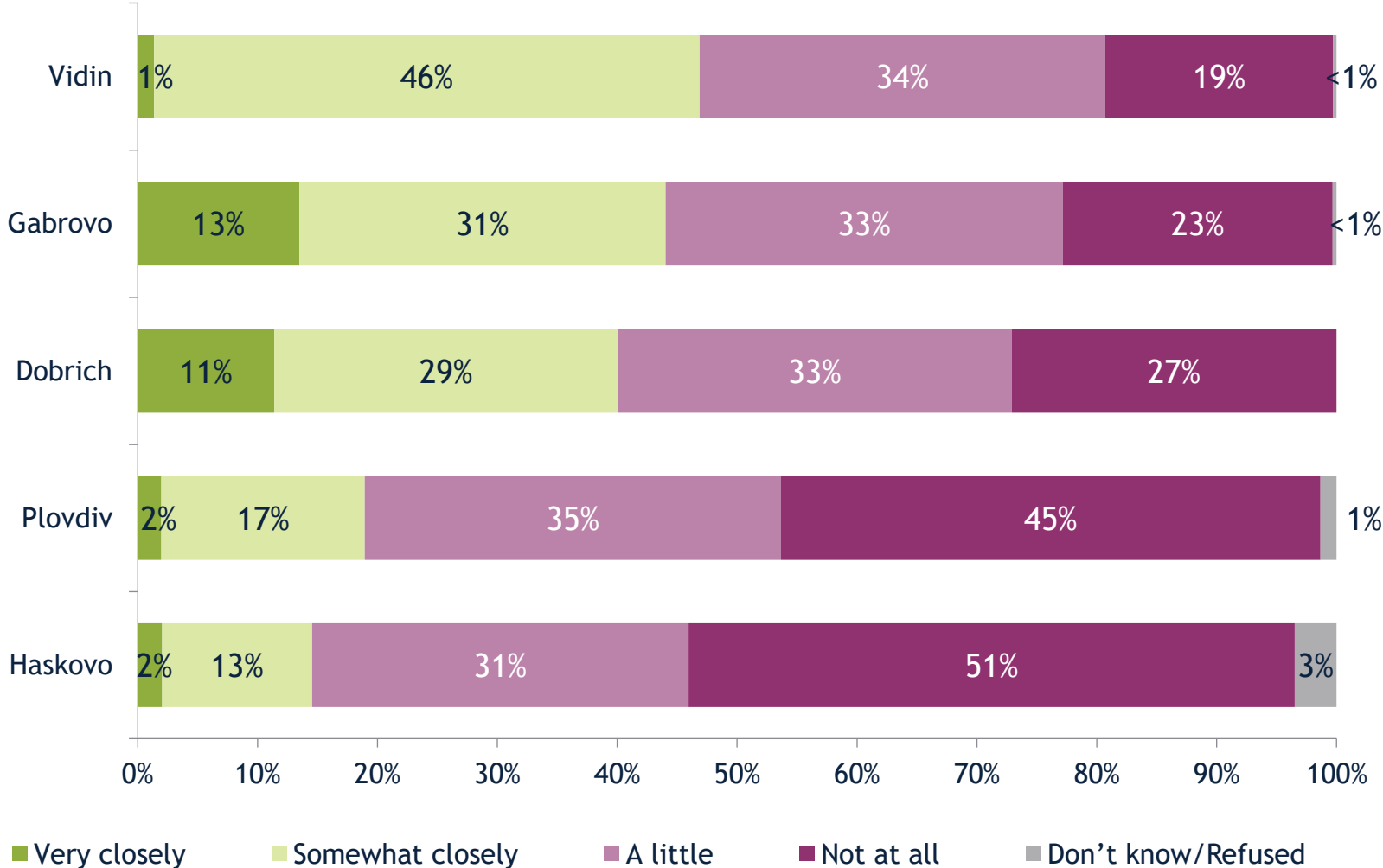


# How closely do you follow the decisions and actions taken by the municipal administration?

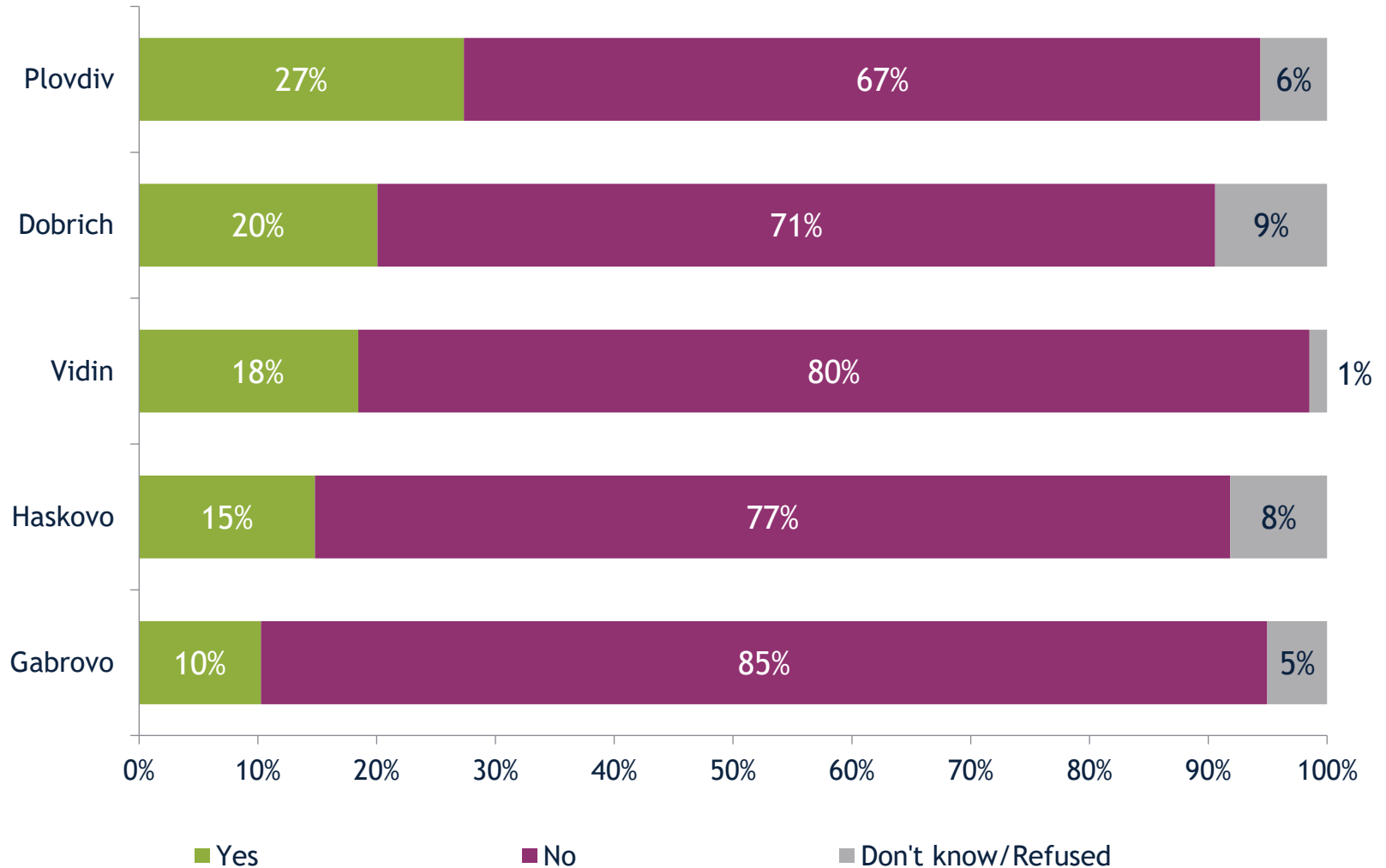




# How closely do you follow the decisions and actions taken by the municipal council?

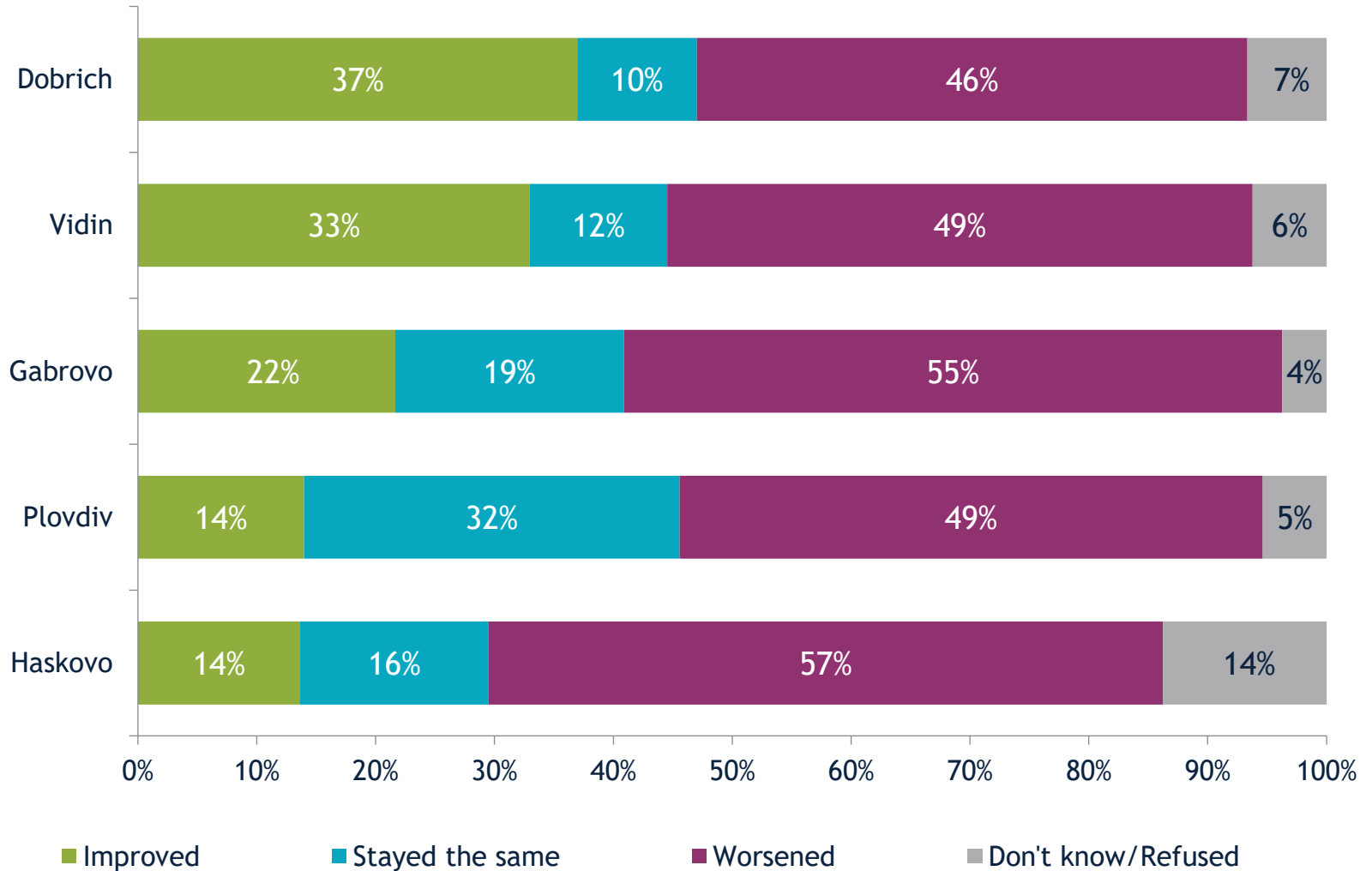


Are you aware of any local CSOs, which means a local group that forms around a common goal and is not associated with the government, that work for more transparency in the municipal administration and the council?

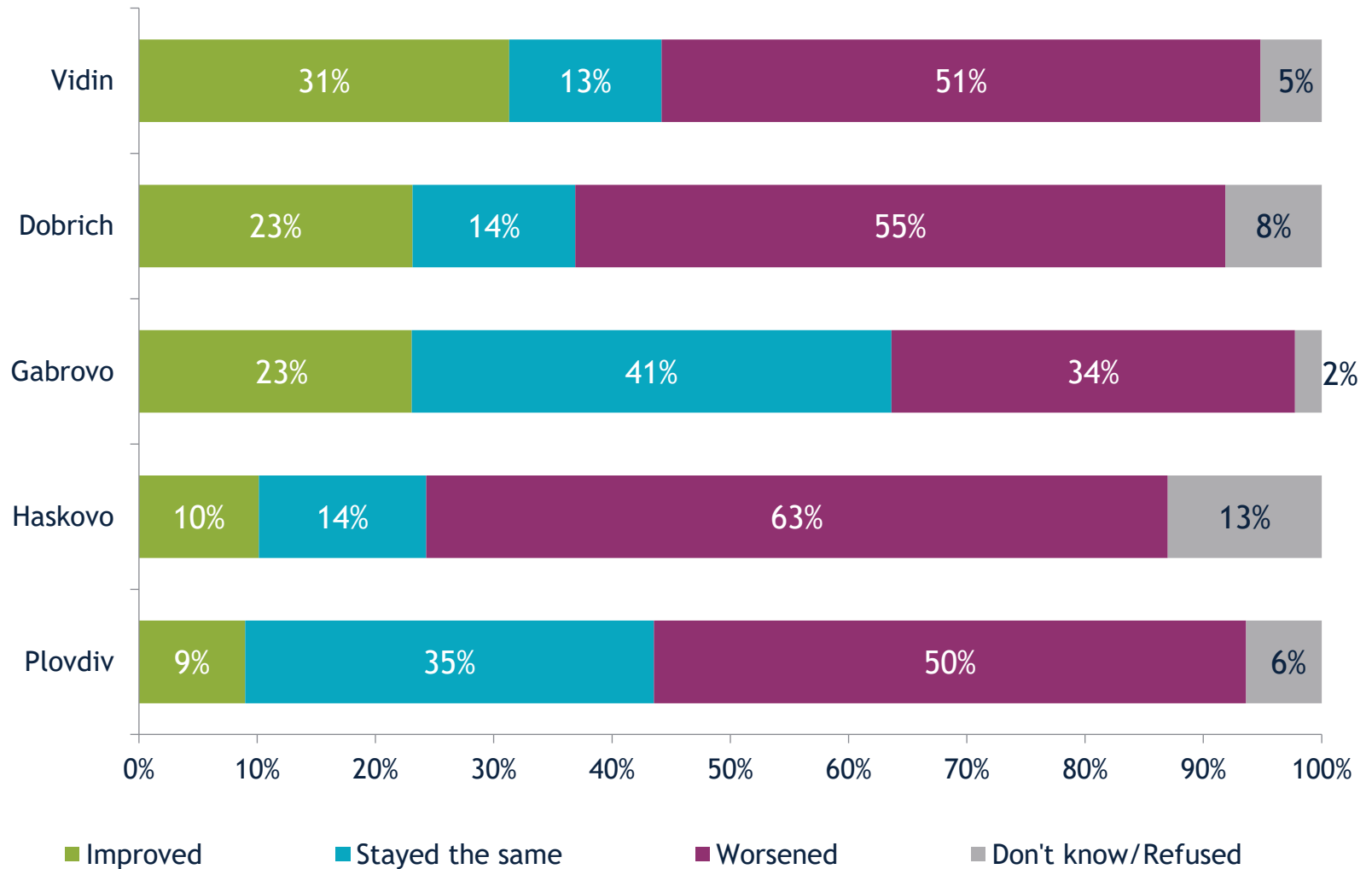




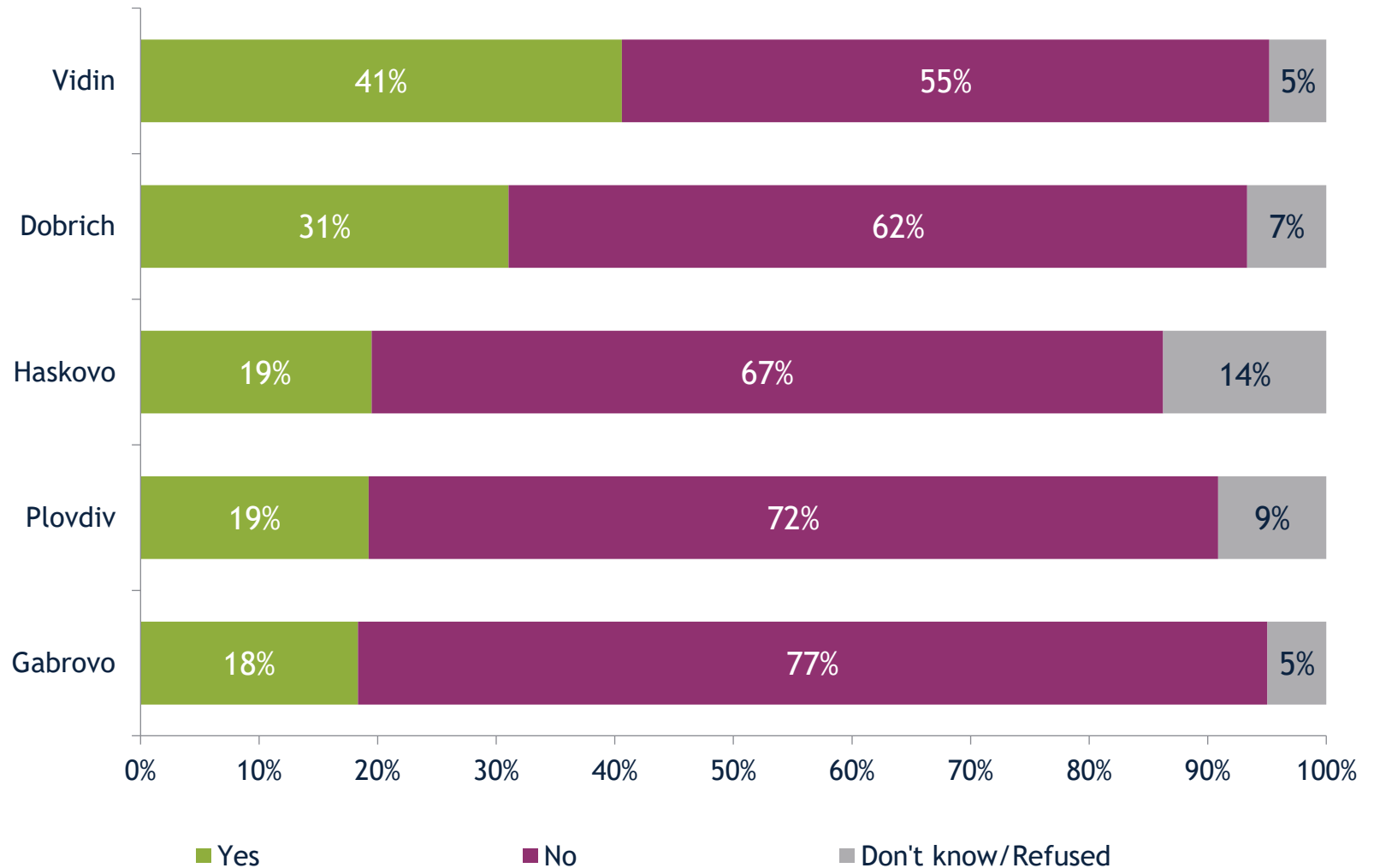
# Do you think that the transparency of the **municipal administration** has improved or worsened, or stayed the same over the last 10 years?



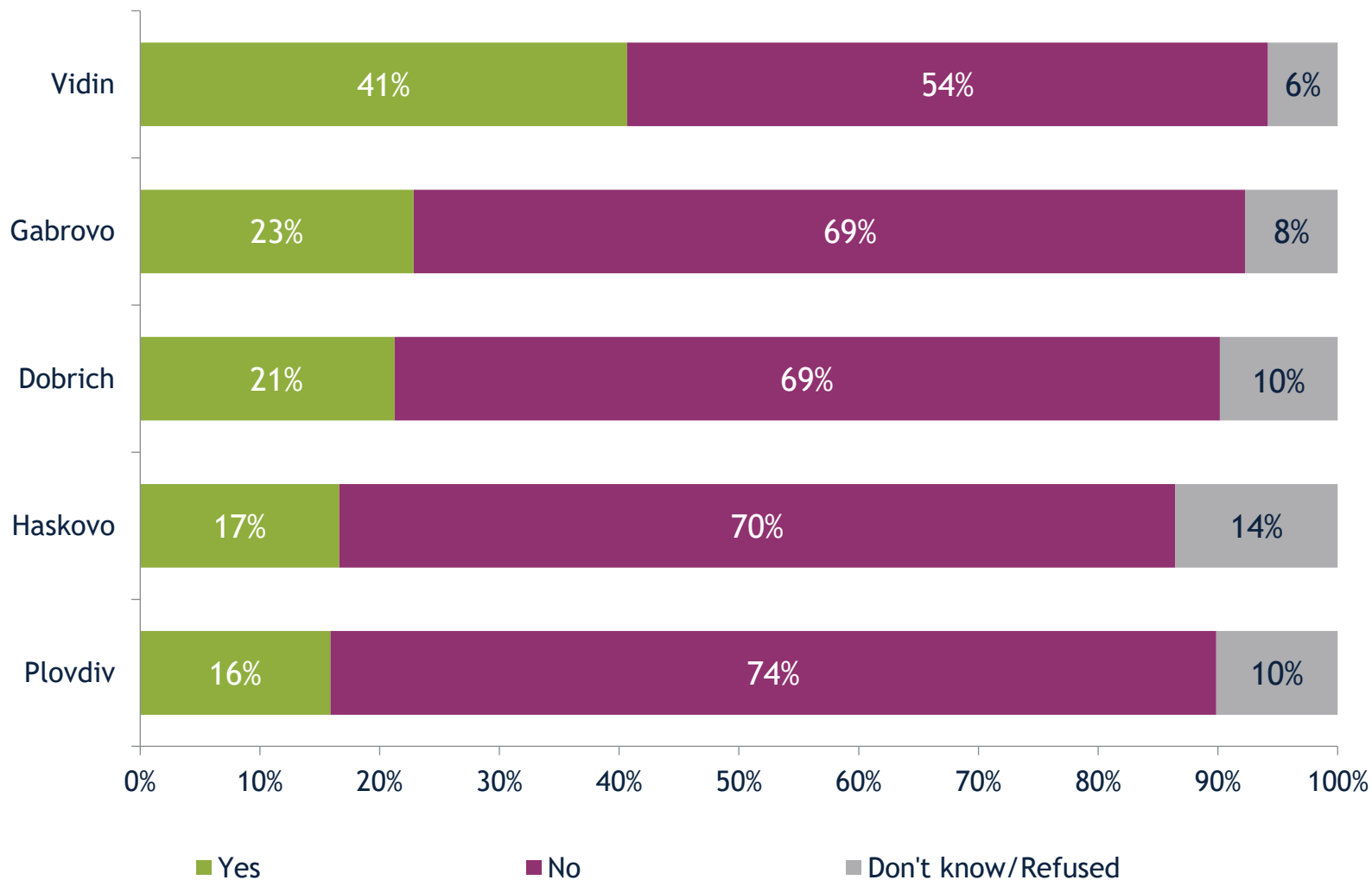
# Do you think that the transparency of the **municipal council** has improved or worsened, or stayed the same over the last 10 years?



# Do you see political will for improvement of transparency in the municipal administration?

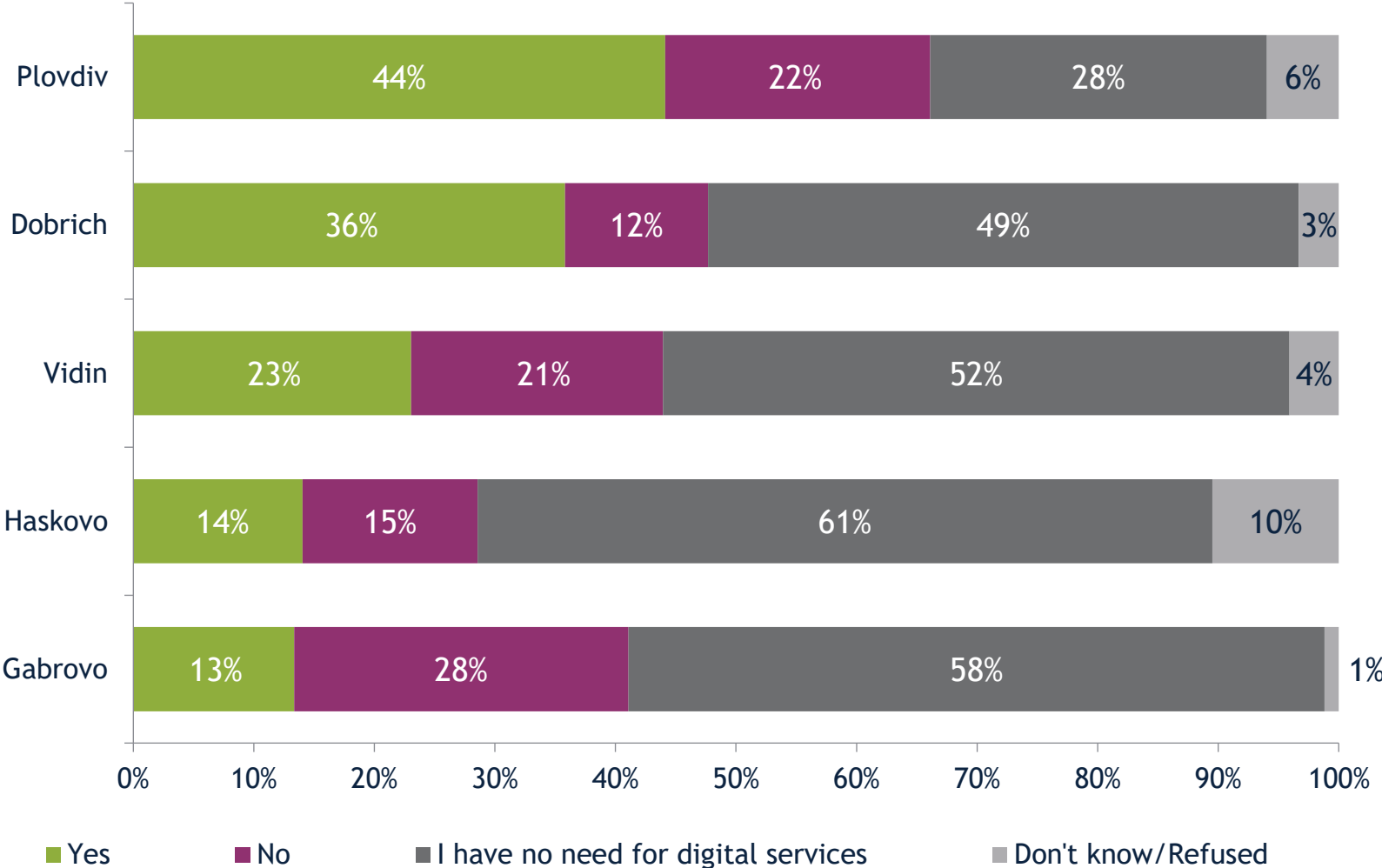


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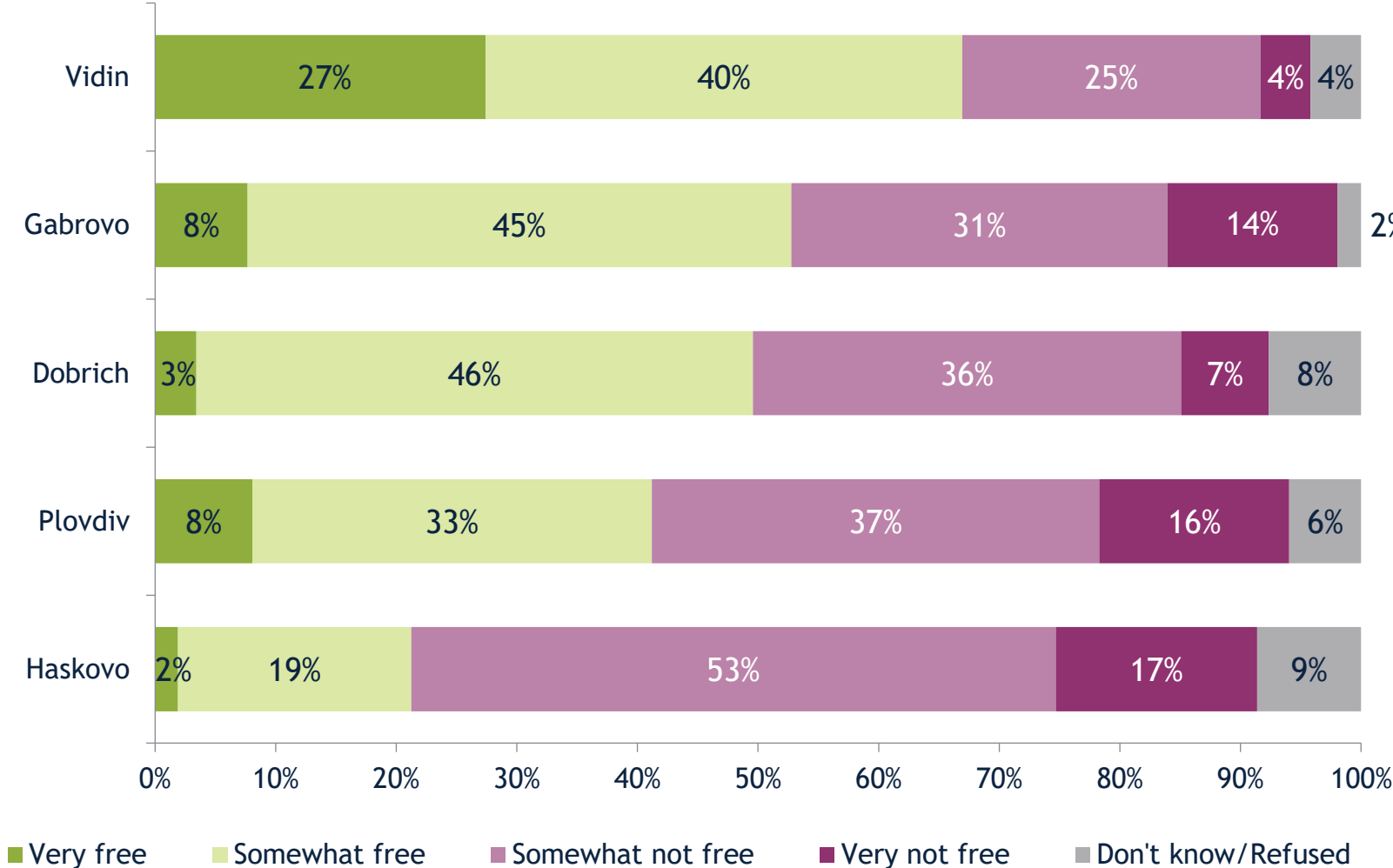


# Are you satisfied with the level of digital services offered by your municipality?

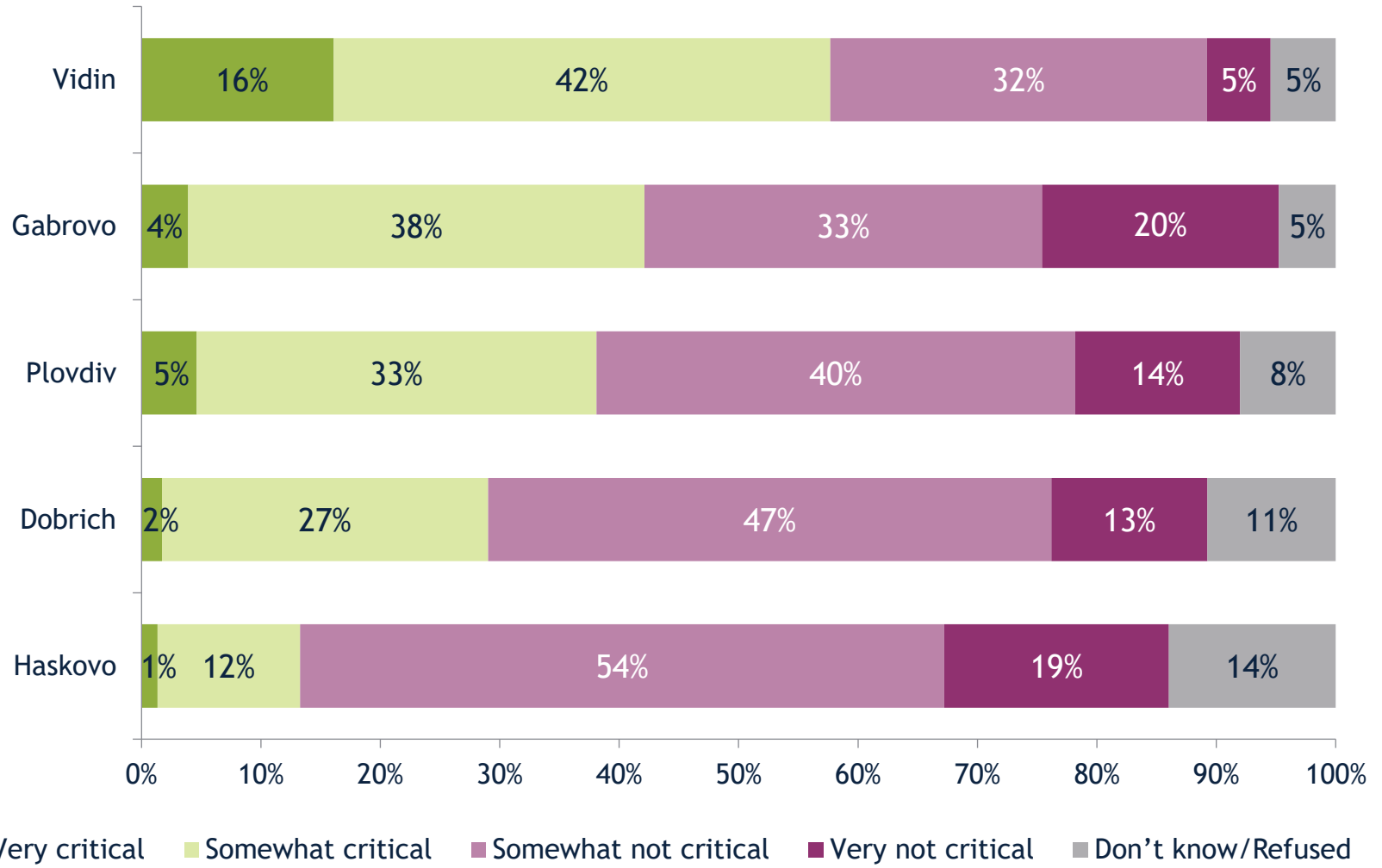




# Are the media in your municipality free to independently cover any issue or not?



# Do you perceive local media as critical or not critical of the municipal administration and the council?

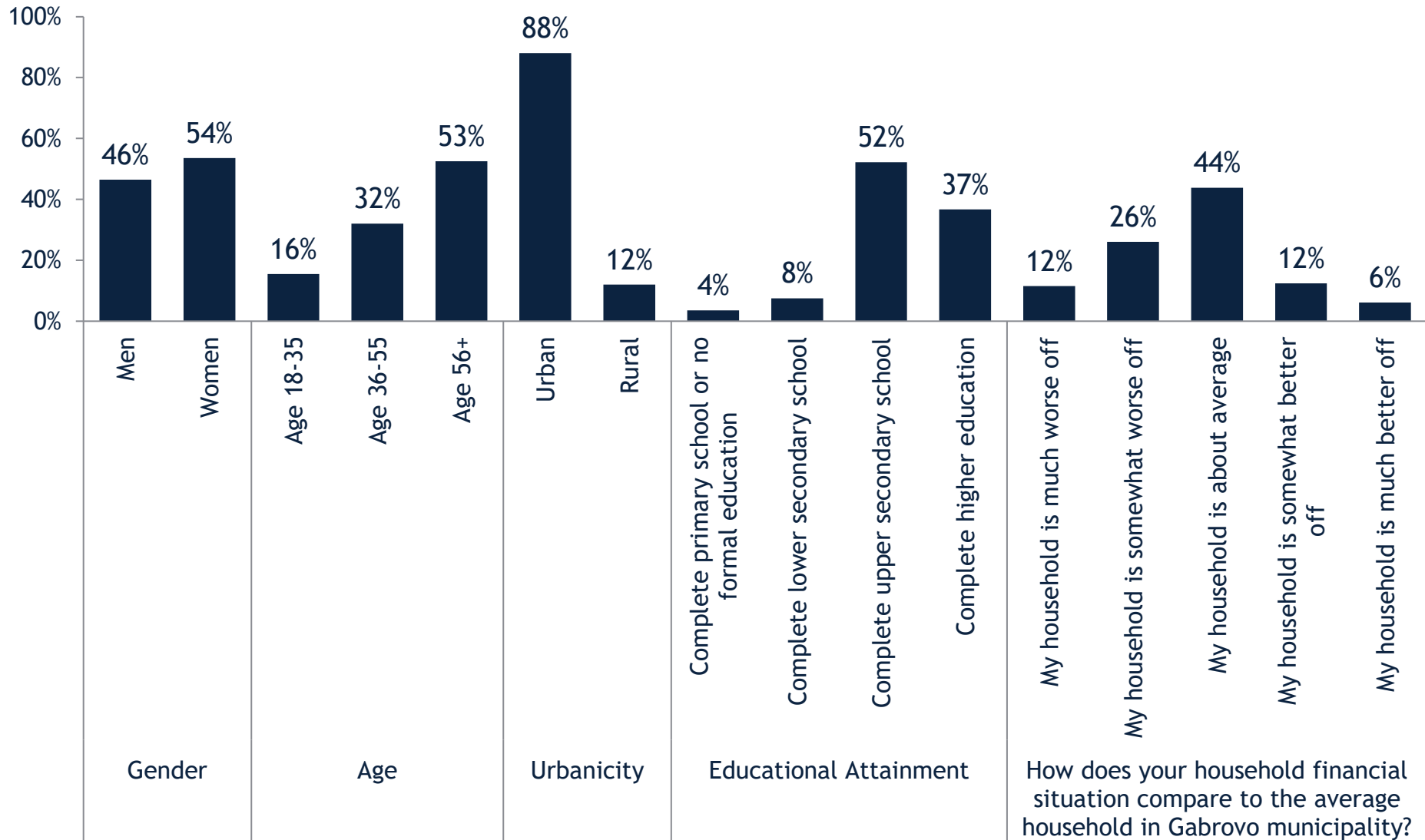


# Demographics

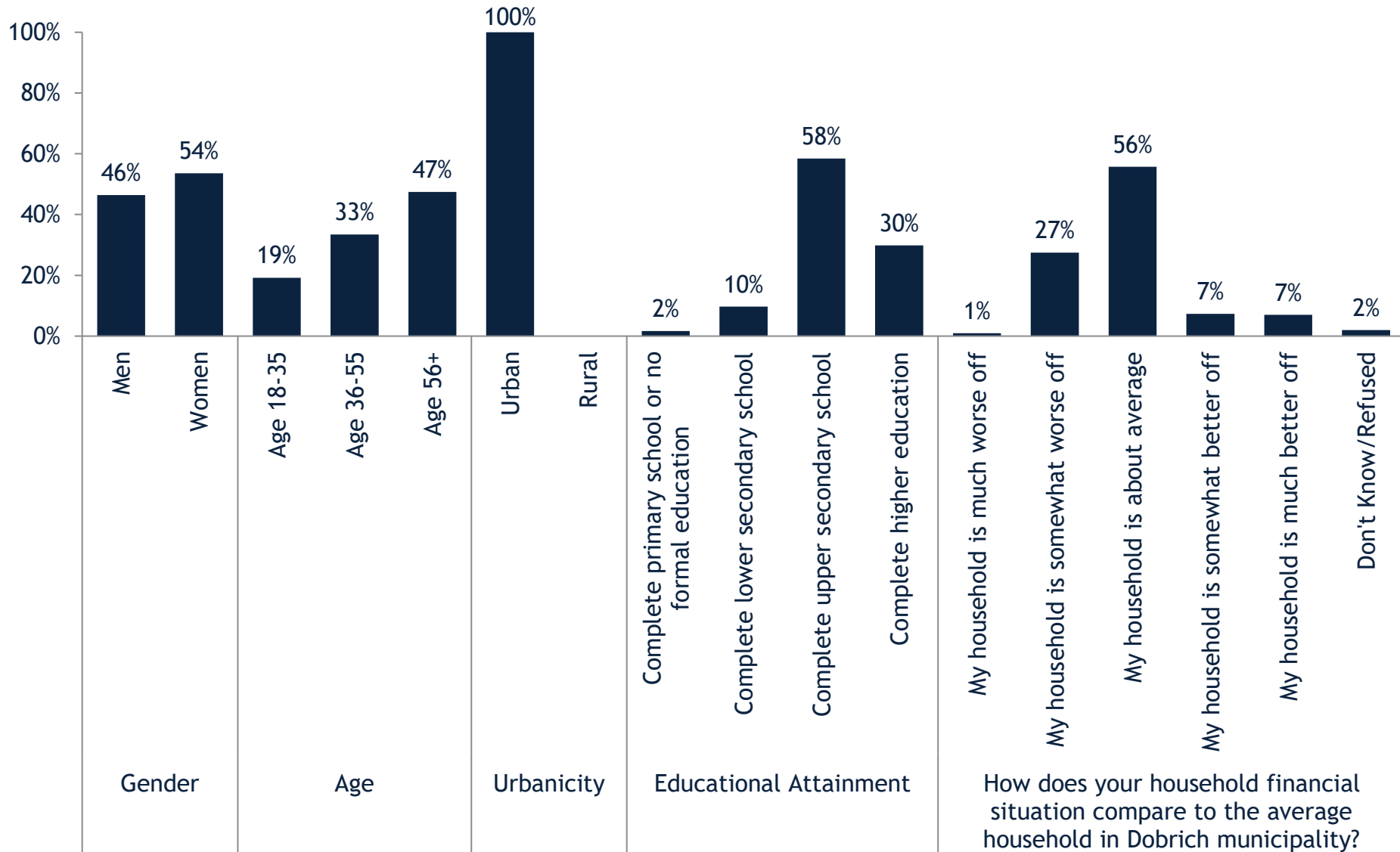




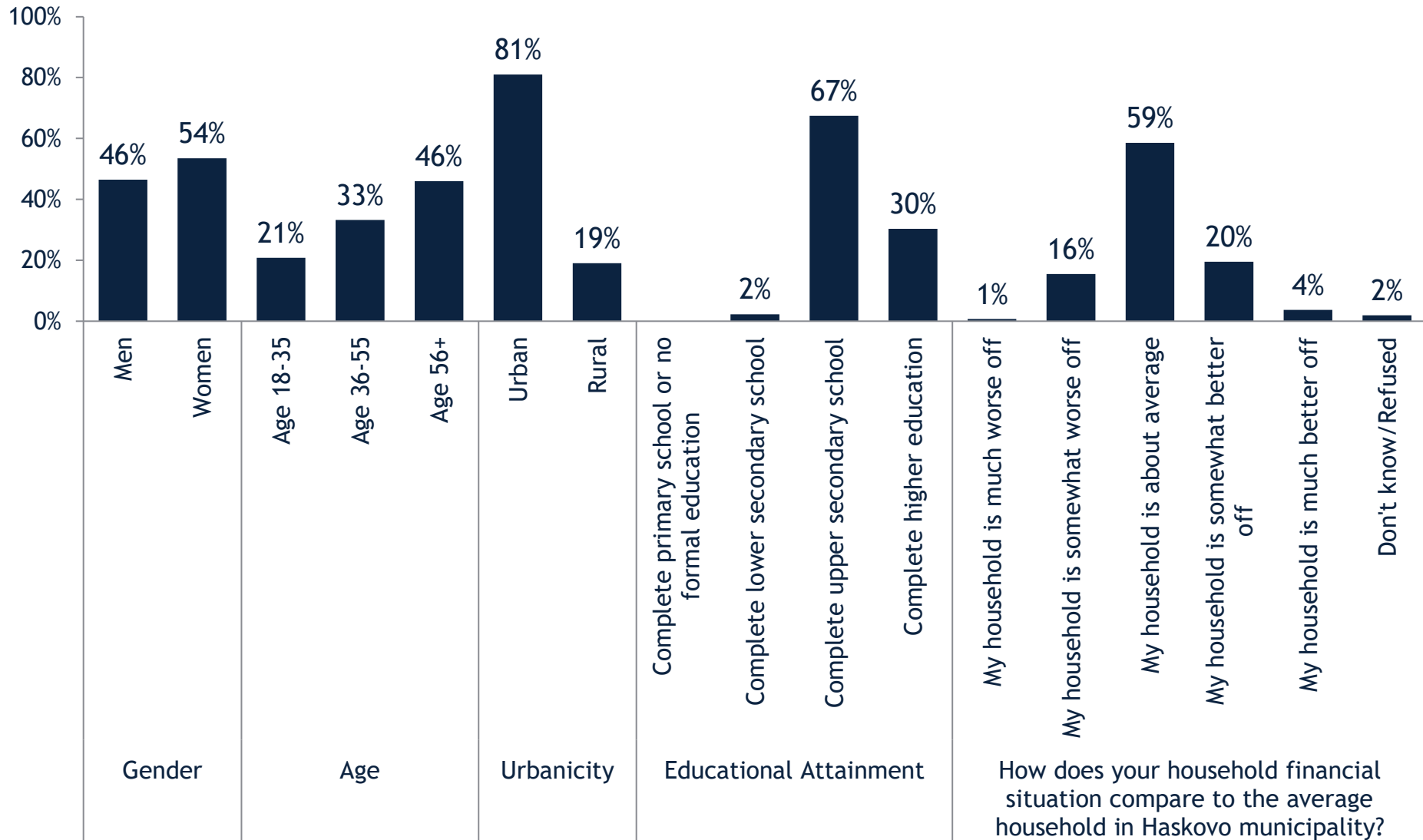
# Demographics



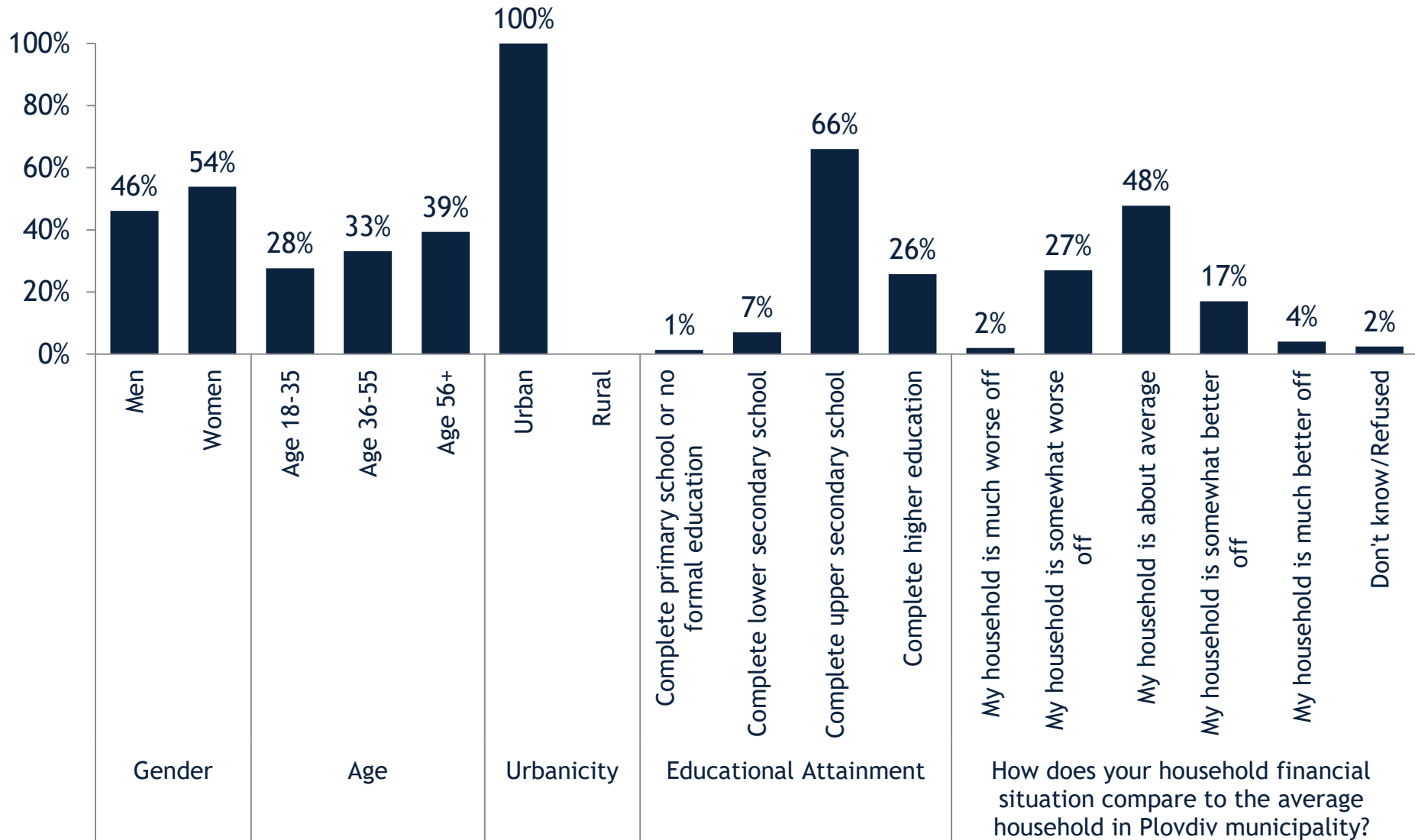
# Demographics



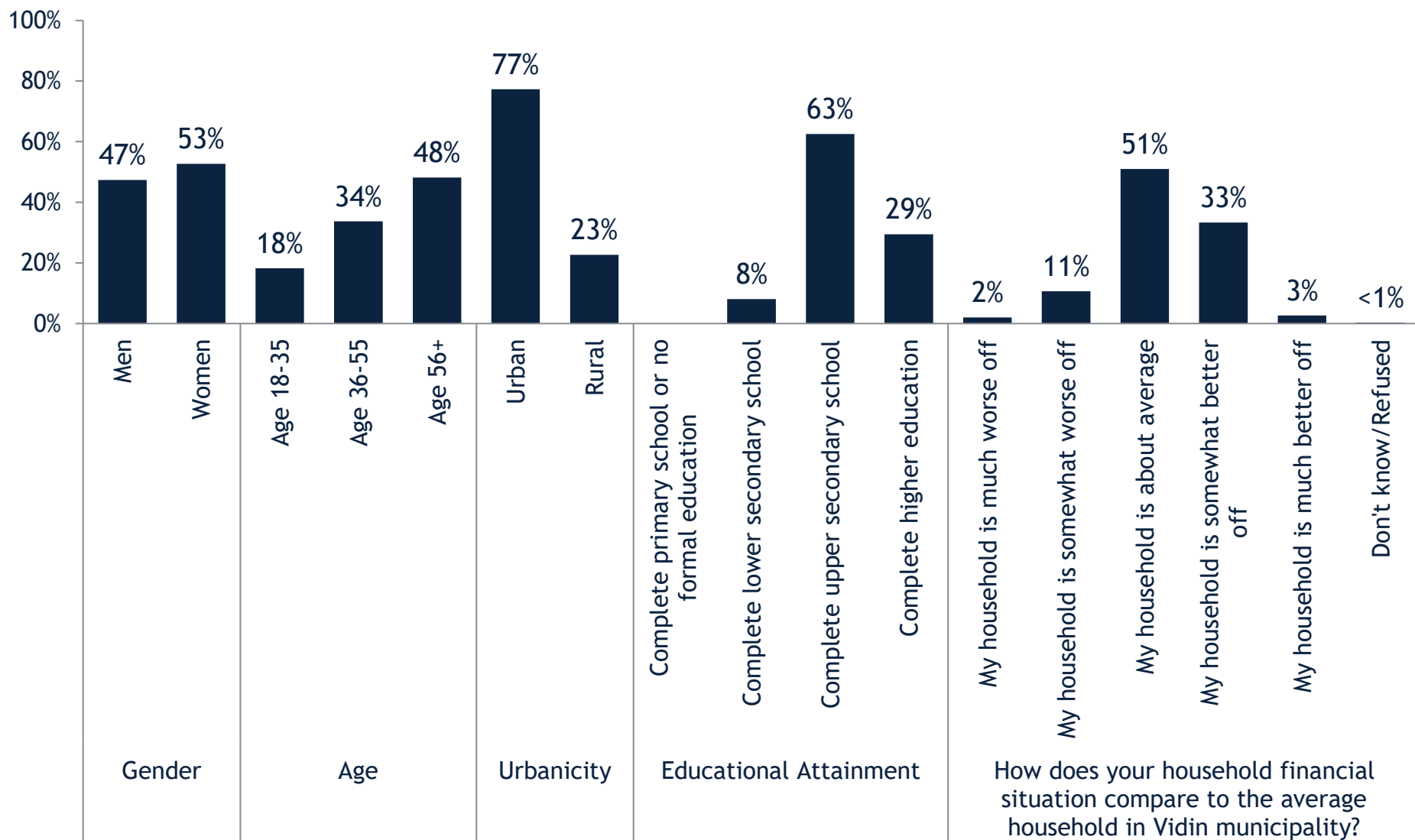
# Demographics



# Demographics



# Demographics



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