



# RESEARCH ON TRUST IN JOURNALISM

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Targeted survey of the journalistic community  
**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2022**

The survey was conducted by the Public Opinion and Market Research Unit of the University Research Institute of the University of Macedonia on behalf of iMEDD

# Survey ID

**Research Conducted by:** Public Opinion Research Unit ([poru.eu](http://poru.eu)) of the University of Macedonia Research Institute

**Research Commissioned by:** iMEDD - incubator for Media Education and Development

**Type and Method:** Quantitative online survey using a structured questionnaire

**Population:** Greek journalistic community

**Coverage:** Nationwide

**Planned Sample Size:** 1,300

**Participating Sample Size:** 1,300

**Period of Conduct:** December 23, 2021 - June 1, 2022

**Method of Sampling:** Combined sampling, aiming to identify journalists with the use of convenience and snowball sampling methods through targeting journalists by sending a hyperlink to complete the questionnaire, an informative banner on the website, and targeted Facebook posts

## Chief Scientific Officers:

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**Web Development:** Dimitris Macris

**Translation into English:** Evita Lykou



Executive summary of the survey is published at [trustinjournalism.imedd.org](http://trustinjournalism.imedd.org)

iMEDD, 2022

[imedd.org](http://imedd.org)



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This research report does not constitute a recommendation or advice for specific action and should not be taken as such. This report reflects the journalistic environment at the time of the research, as it reflects the attitudes and beliefs of the journalistic community on the specific issues covered by the respective research. All data analyses and visualizations should not be considered predictions for the future as, should the environment change, the attitudes and beliefs of the community surveyed will be affected.

# Foreward & Key Findings

Kelly Kiki

*Data Journalist - Project Manager iMEDD Lab*

The question of whether journalism is a vocation can be awkward for some professionals in the field –first of all, because it is often debatable what exactly qualifies as a “vocation” in general. If we are to agree that a vocation is a profession with a broad and serious social role, which one practices without being coerced and without aiming only at the size of compensation corresponding to the social commodity provided, then it may become clearer what the value basis of the question is.

Then again, what can they really say, when in reality they are practicing journalism under conditions that put their country last in the European Union in terms of press freedom and 108th in the world ([rsf.org/en/index](http://rsf.org/en/index)), out of 180 countries around the globe? Which is the response of those who work in journalism at a time it is generally acknowledged that there is a loss of trust in information and that the characterization of the media as the “fourth estate” is often used in public discourse, not to remind us that the press checks the authorities on behalf of the public, but to denounce its interdependence with them?

It would be difficult to predict with certainty the response of the journalistic community. Perhaps one could hardly expect a collective response that takes us back to our core values. And yet, the majority (71.5%) of the journalists surveyed answered positively that journalism is a vocation. In comparison, women (79%) believe it more than men (67.5%), as do younger people compared to older people, since 80% of the 17-34 age group responded positively.

The position of the sample on this question seems to be in line with the respondents’ motives for practicing the profession, since the most popular responses to this question are “I consider it to be a profession that requires responsibility and moral integrity, and I can make a great contribution to it”, “I like to inform people” and “I am motivated by the fact that I am practicing a profession with an increased social impact”.

However, a divide between values and daily practice begins to emerge when participants answer more specific questions, taking into account the way the profession is practiced. Although the vast majority (87%) trust their sources, almost six out of ten journalists (58.5%) do not trust journalism as practiced. In fact, this is a view shared by all age groups and all pay scales. However, it should be noted that while the percentage of distrust is

55% among those earning more than 2,000 euros per month, it increases among the low paid: 67.5% of those earning less than 500 euros per month and 60% of professionals with a net monthly income between 501 and 800 euros do not trust journalism as practiced.

Although, of all respondents, 59% say they are satisfied with their job's subject in their daily life, this percentage rises to 64.5% for reporters and 67% for those in staff positions (including editor-in-chief and editorial director), while it decreases to 55% for those working in a newsroom. Accordingly, 65.5% of newspaper employees say they are satisfied with their job's subject, while this percentage decreases to 60.5% when it comes to employees of both websites and TV/radio stations.

Although the respondents are generally satisfied with the outcome of their own journalistic work (82.5%), more than half of them believe that the work produced by colleagues is not commendable (57.5%), and that their superiors are not competent (54%) and/or trustworthy (56%). At the same time, nine out of ten respondents (91.5%) believe that the public does not trust journalists.

And then one has to wonder: those who practice this journalism, which does not seem to be driven by the principle of trust on any front, how do they practice it, how faithful are they (allowed to be) to the principles of journalistic ethics and how often do they face situations contrary to their journalistic ethics?

According to responses given by survey participants, 35% do not always use sources to confirm an initial piece of information. 66% do not always check information contained in press releases before publishing it. 24% "sometimes" publishes, signed or unsigned, stories or information by colleagues in other media, without first reporting on it –and 10.5% do so regularly.

In fact, while 65.5% of those working in newspapers and 62.5% of those working in broadcasting respond that they "never" engage in this practice, the corresponding percentage decreases to 54.5% when it comes exclusively to employees of websites. At the same time, while 72.5% of reporters answer "never" to the same question, the corresponding figure drops to 49% when it comes exclusively to those working in a newsroom. 22% of journalists say they sometimes (17.5%) or systematically (3.5%) use unfair means to obtain information. 19.5% admit that they distort or withhold information, sometimes (12.5%) or systematically (7%), in order to make their story more appealing to the public. Although 91% state that they "never" deliberately publish fake news, only 65% also answer "never" when asked about the unintentional transmission of fake news.

At the same time, six out of ten participants estimate that their hierarchical superiors "sometimes" (40.5%) or all the time (22.5%) distort their journalistic work and, therefore, the journalists themselves come into conflict with them. The majority of journalists (65%) say that they are being censored by their superiors, "sometimes" (36%) or all the time (29%), for issues related to the interests or views of either their superiors or the media outlet. At the same time, 57.5% of the sample respond that they are being censored by their hierarchical superiors "sometimes" (31%) or all the time (26.5%), as a result of political interference –this percentage rises to a total of 63.5% when the analysis focuses on employees of TV and radio stations. The so-called "self-censorship" is also emerging as a major problem for the journalistic community, with 80% responding positively that they do self-censor ("sometimes": 48%, "very often"/"always": 32%), while 39% say they

distort or withhold information because they know that their employers would object to its reporting.

The working conditions image is rounded off by three findings: firstly, 47% say that, sometimes (26.5%) or all the time (20.5%), they are afraid of losing their job because of stories they choose to cover. Secondly, eight out of ten say that, "sometimes" (47%) or all the time (32.5%), due to time pressure, they report stories or information they would have liked to have researched further. Thirdly, 55% of journalists are not always paid on time.

And, of course, it is reasonable to ask how one can defend their professional integrity when compromised: withdrawing one's signature from the report in question, arguing and collegial solidarity/self-organized collective reaction are the most popular responses of the sample when asked about realistic ways of resisting practices of the media outlet or their superiors that are contrary to their journalistic ethics. It should be noted, however, that the percentages of those who say that they have "never" engaged in these reaction practices in the recent past are comparatively higher among younger age groups and the low-paid.

"The media serve interests and people have identified journalists with the media they work for" and "journalists have developed controversial relations with political power" are, among others, the most popular responses of participants when asked what are the factors that have caused the public to lose trust in journalists. Similarly, when asked which factors would contribute to regaining public trust, most of the respondents answer, among others, that the media need, on the one hand, "to stop being interfered with by political power" and, on the other hand, "to be more interested in journalistic content and less interested in profit and/or serving other interests".

Besides, the section on relations between journalism and politics clearly reflects the view of the journalistic community that in our country there is too much dependence, both of journalists and the media outlets, on governments and/or political parties in general (more than 90% responded positively in each case). In fact, almost unanimously (96.5%) the sample responds that precisely this dependence has cost the public confidence, while 70.5% of journalists say that colleagues returning to the profession after having been actively involved in politics is something "problematic".

This study, presented together with the corresponding public survey on trust in journalism, attempts a rare mapping of the opinions, attitudes and experiences of journalists themselves. In other words, it attempts a mapping of the factors that influence (their) trust in journalism –at least, as they themselves perceive, record and (co-)shape them, to the extent that corresponds to each one of them, depending on their role and choices. It would be welcome if this research could serve as a springboard for a broader discussion of (self-)critique and the search for solutions, or even to generate questions for further examination. It was with these thoughts in mind that we at iMEDD decided to undertake this research project, in view of the International Journalism Week 2022 ([forum.imedd.org/en/](http://forum.imedd.org/en/)). We would also like to thank the Public Opinion and Market Research Unit ([poru.eu](http://poru.eu)) of the University Research Institute of the University of Macedonia, which undertook the research and, of course, the analysis of the data presented in the following pages.

# What journalists themselves say

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**58.5%**

do not trust journalism as practiced

**56%**

believe their superiors are not trustworthy

**55%**

are not always paid on time



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**57.5%**

are being censored by their superiors “sometimes” or all the time, as a result of political interference

**32%**

do self-censor all the time

**91%**

believe there is too much dependence of journalists on governments and/or political parties





# General Views and Perceptions

The majority of the journalists who participated in the survey consider journalism a vocation: specifically, 71.5% of the respondents answered positively to the question whether journalism is a vocation –with 50.5% stating “definitely yes” and 21% responding “probably yes”. On the contrary, 23.5% do not believe that journalism is a vocation (“definitely not” say 12%, “probably not” say 11.5%), while 5% did not answer the question.

To the –multiple-choice– question “why are you a journalist?”, the most predominant responses chosen by the respondent sample are: “I consider it to be a profession that requires responsibility and moral integrity, and I can make a great contribution to it” (52.5%), “I like to inform people” (46.5%), “I am motivated by the fact that I am practicing a profession with an increased social impact” (42%). At the same time, 26% of the survey respondents said that they practice the profession, among other reasons because they like to have access to information earlier than the rest of the world.

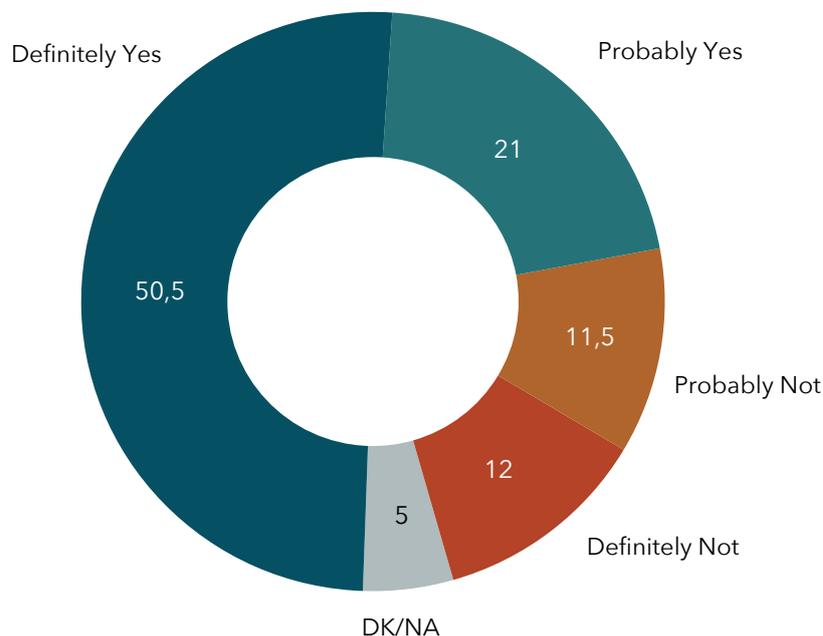
A significantly smaller percentage state that they practice journalism because it is their only professional skill and/or by chance, as each of the options “it is the only thing I know how to do” and “I happened to find a job in a media outlet and stayed in the field” was selected by 8.5% of the sample.

Personal benefits are reasons for pursuing the profession for 6% or less of the survey participants: “I benefit from the connections and public relations that the profession offers to me” say 6%, “I like the personal exposure that journalism offers” say 5.5%, “it serves my other interests” respond 2%. The level of journalism salaries is a factor for practicing the profession for only 1% of the participants.

## >Is journalism a vocation?

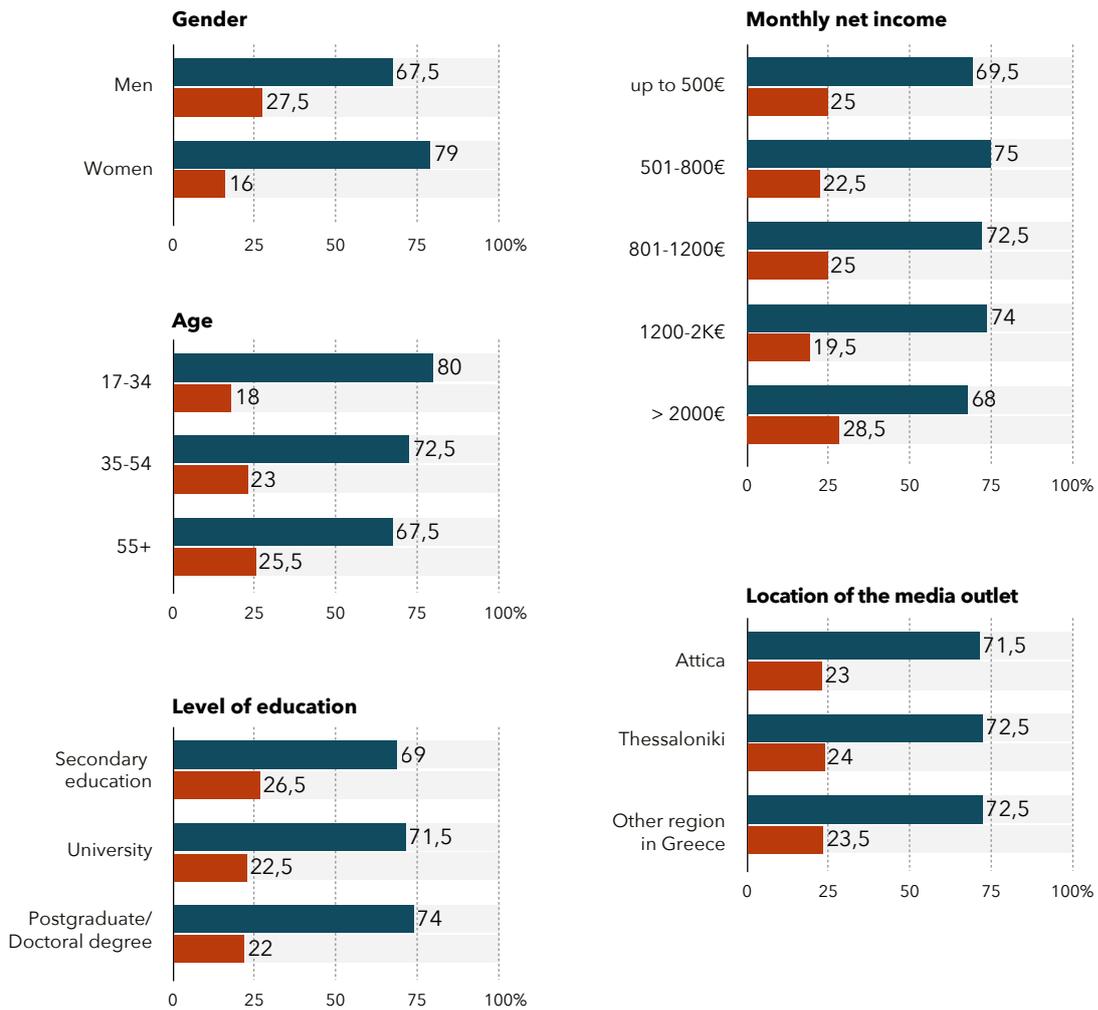
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71.5% answer “Definitely Yes”/”Probably Yes”



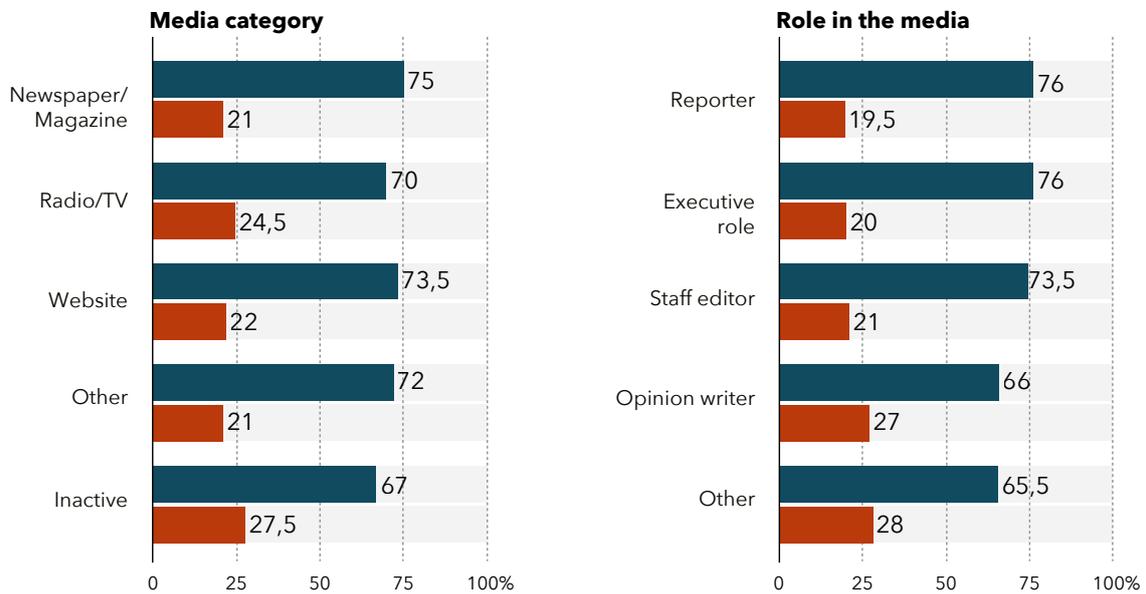
## By demographic category

■ Yes ■ No



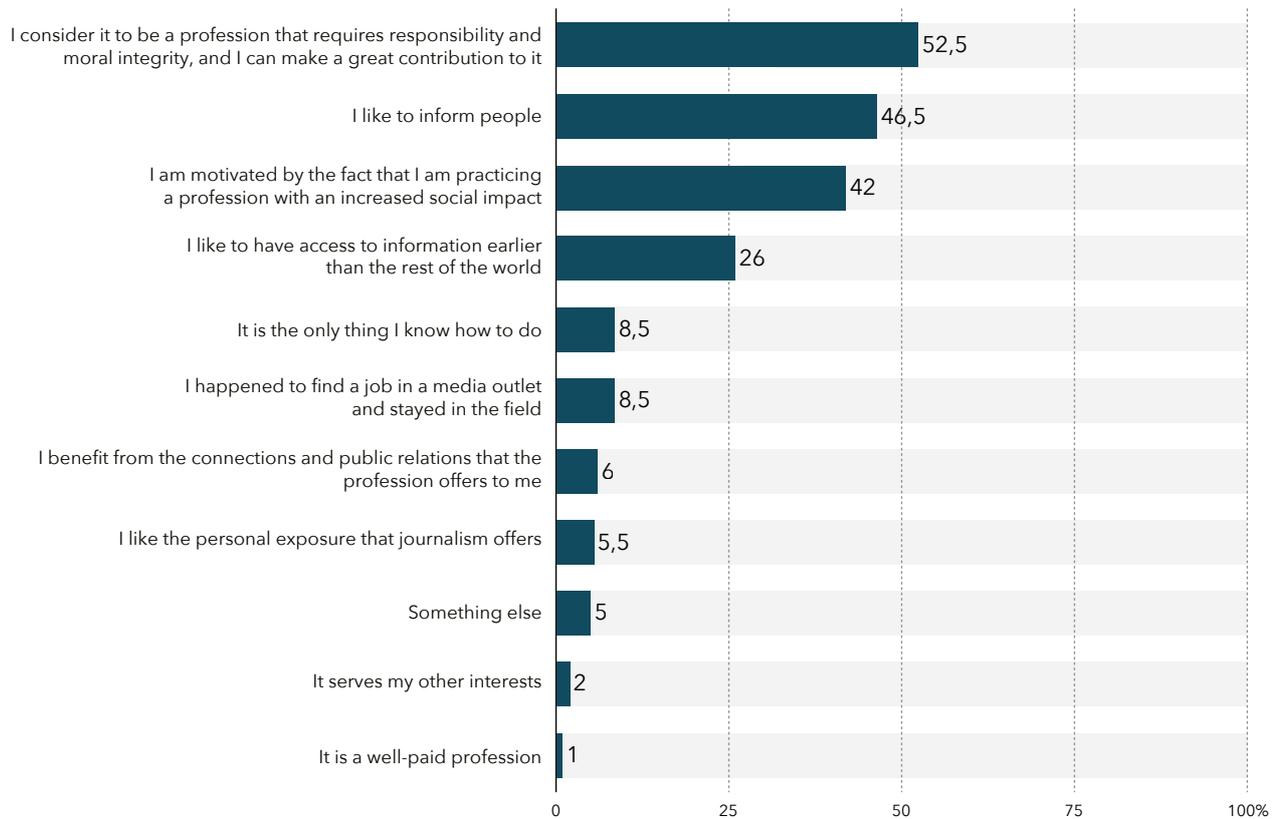
## By type of media and role

■ Yes ■ No



## >Why are you a journalist?

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Note: The graph is presented ordered by the percentage of responses each of the options gathered by respondents –not by the original order in which they were listed in the questionnaire. The question was multiple-choice, allowing for more than one answer. Therefore, each percentage indicates the percentage of respondents who chose that particular response as the reason for practicing journalism.

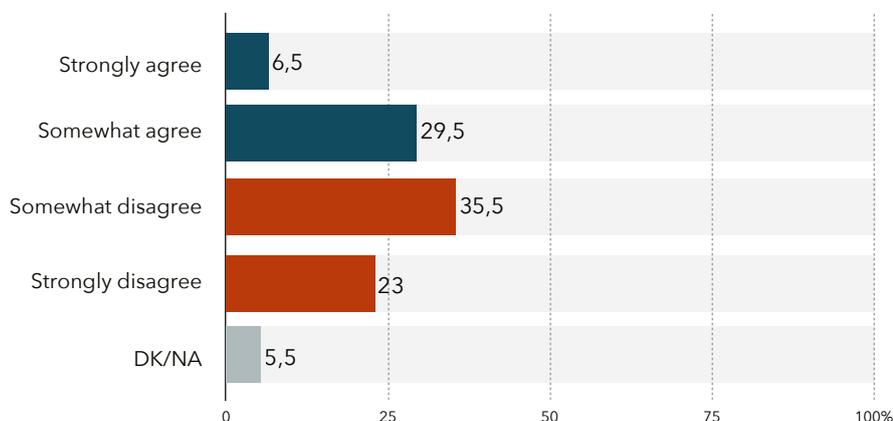
# Specific Views on Practicing Journalism

58.5% of journalists do not trust journalism, as shown by the survey in which 35.5% and 29.5% of the participants answered respectively “somewhat disagree” and “strongly disagree” to the statement “I trust journalism as practiced”. However, the majority of journalists (87%) say they trust their sources, while almost six out of ten say they are satisfied with their job’s subject in their daily life.

To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

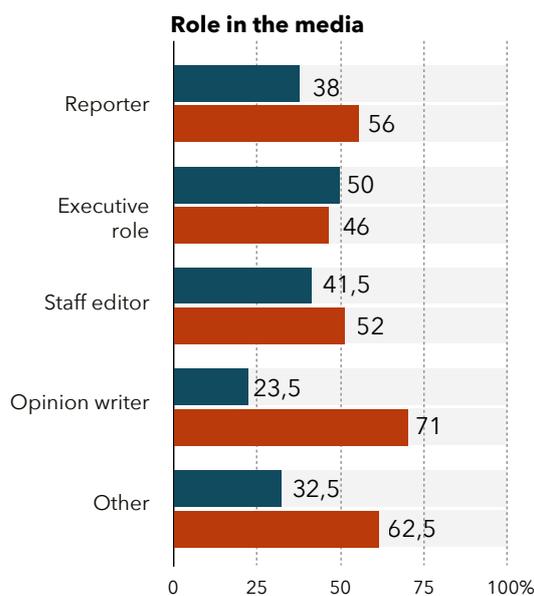
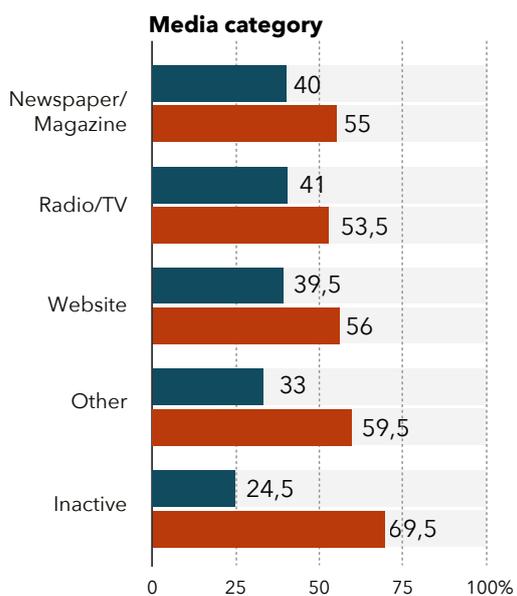
## >I trust journalism as practiced

58.5% of the journalists surveyed disagree with the statement



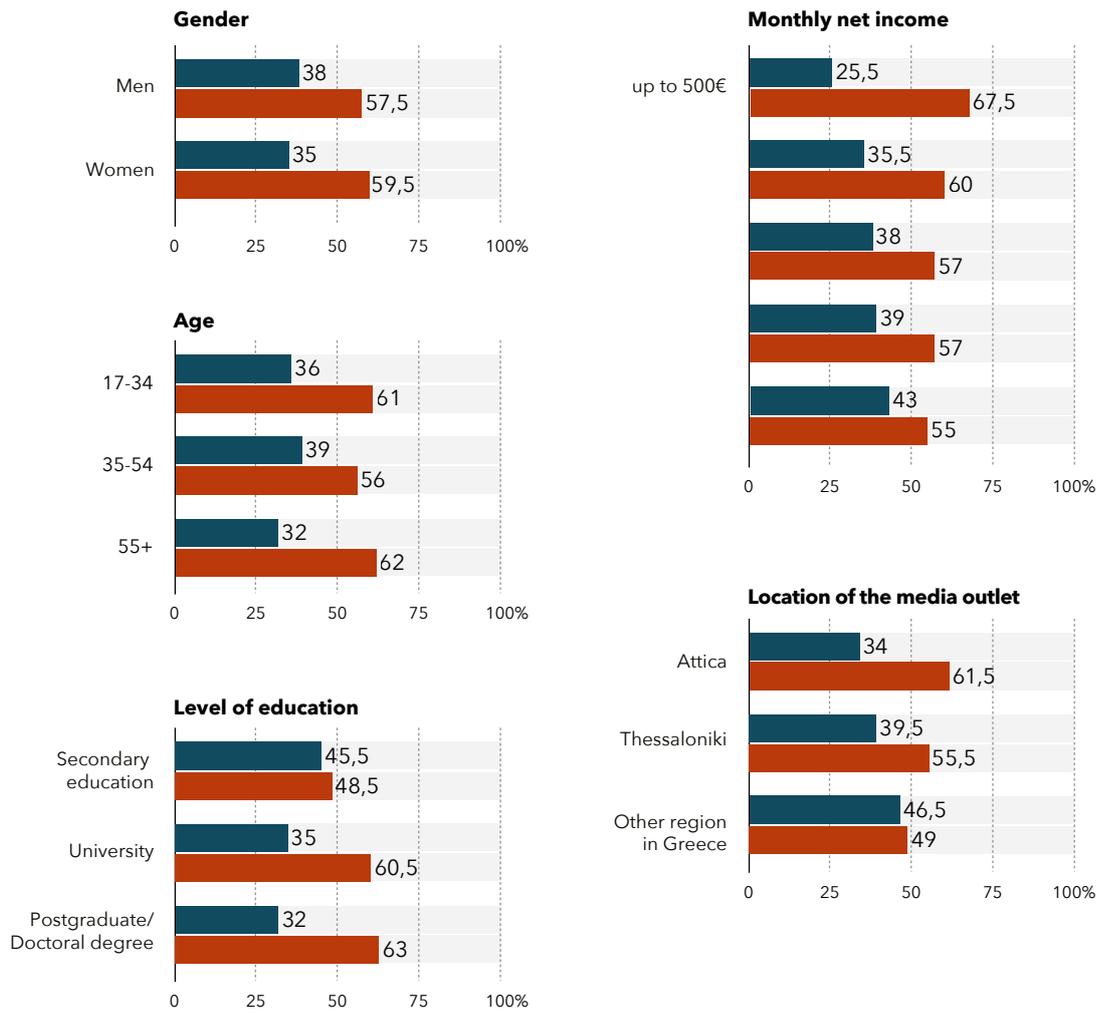
## By type of media and role

■ Agree ■ Disagree



## By demographic category

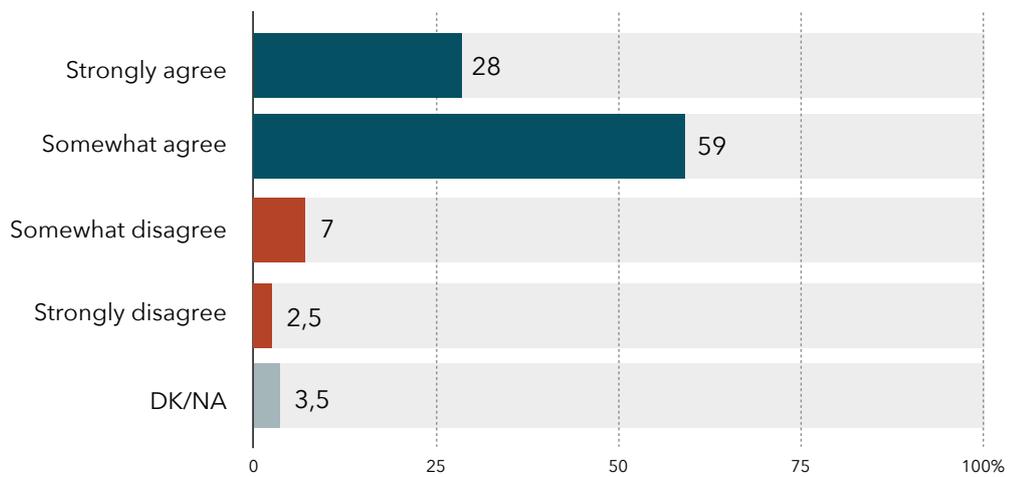
Agree Diagree



To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

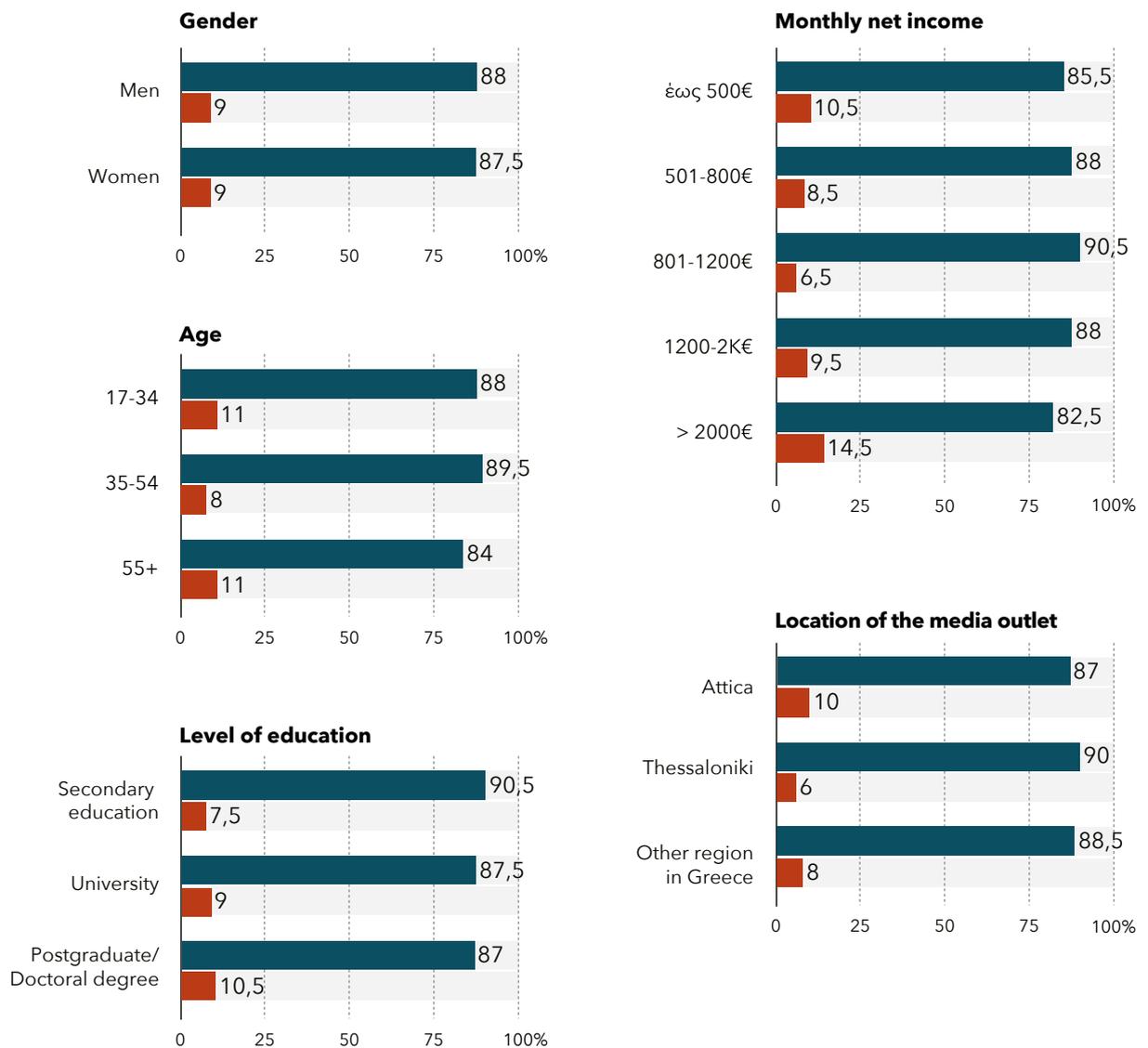
## >I trust my sources

87% of the journalists surveyed agree with the statement



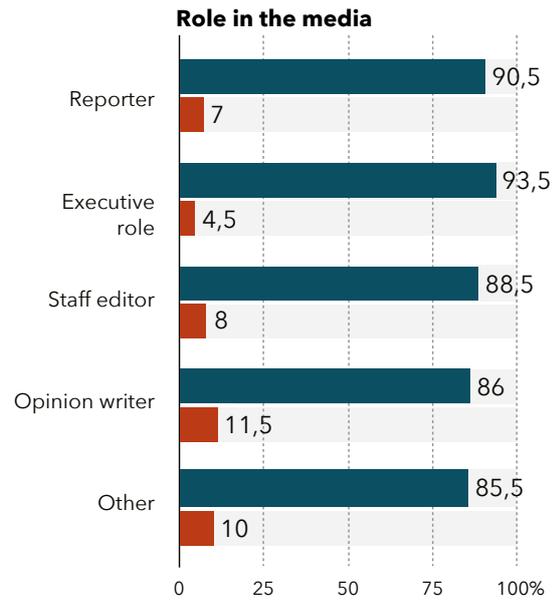
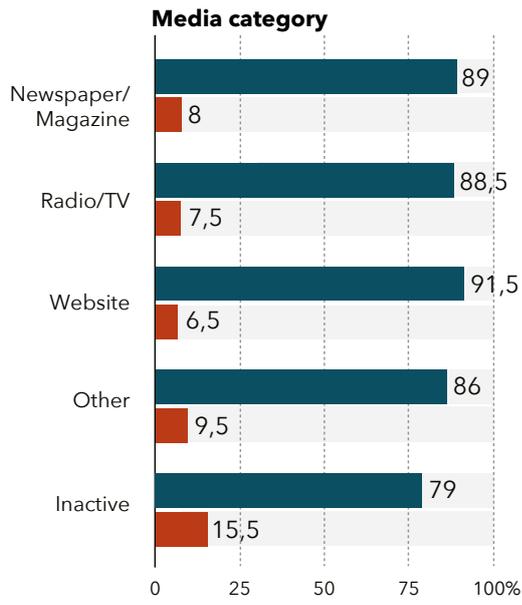
### By demographic category

Agree Disagree



# By type of media and role

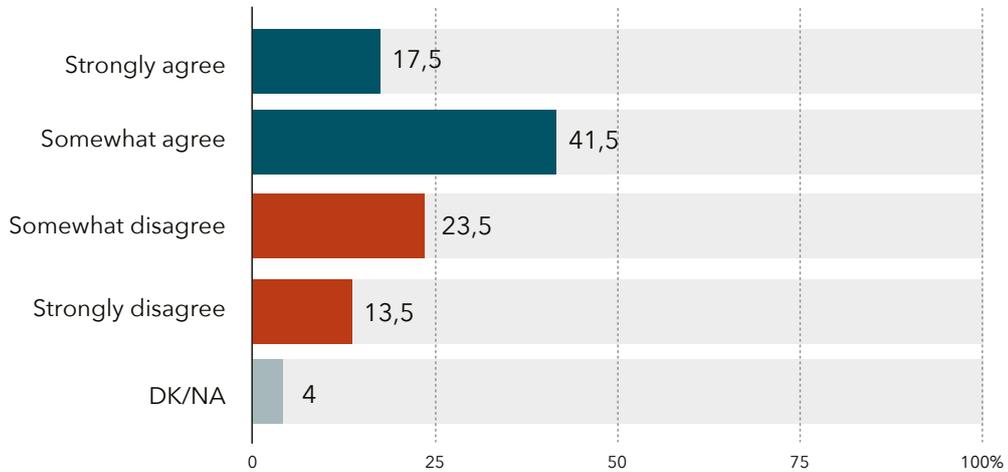
Agree Diagree



To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

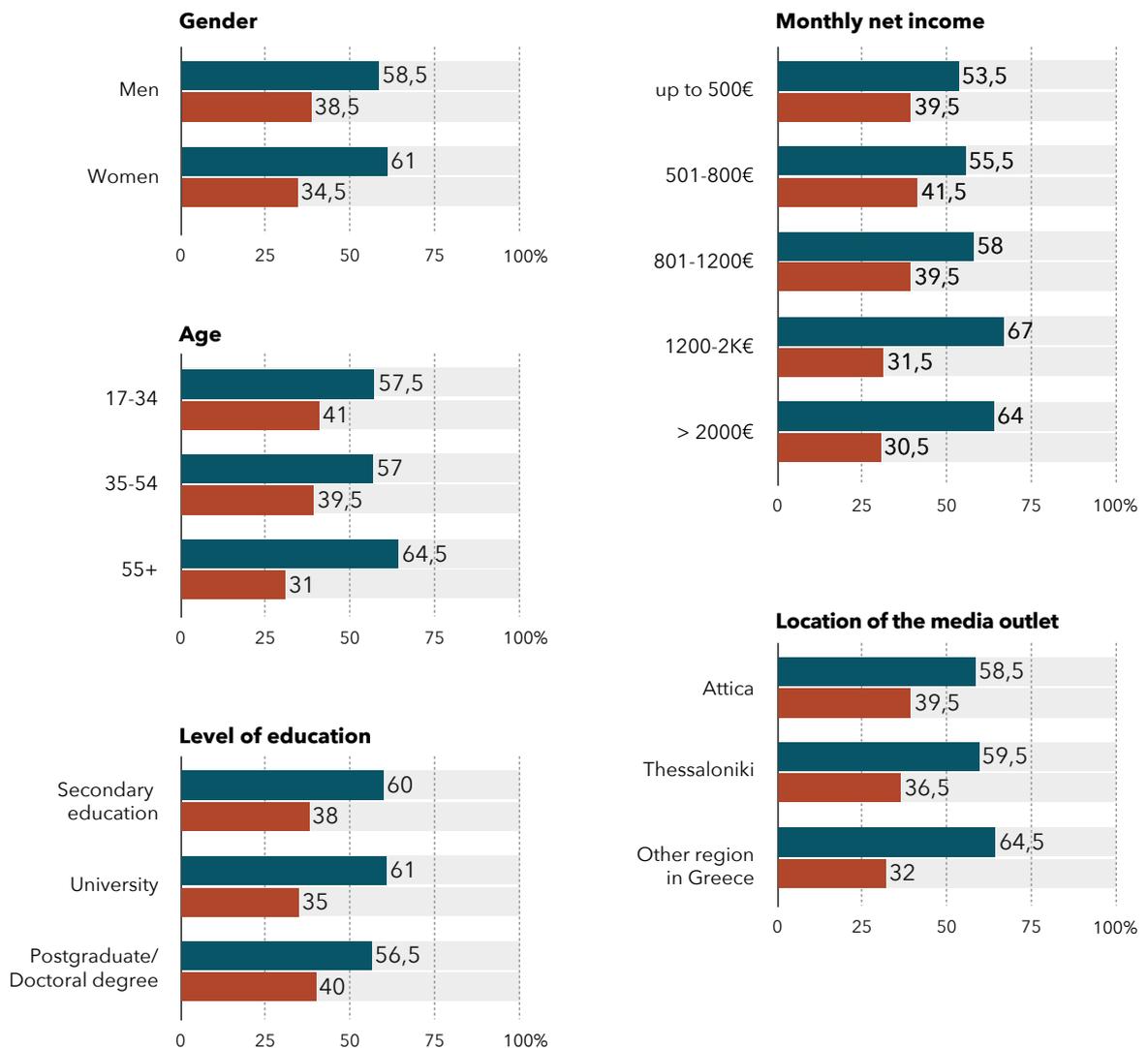
## >I am satisfied with my job's subject in my daily life

37% of the journalists surveyed disagree with the statement



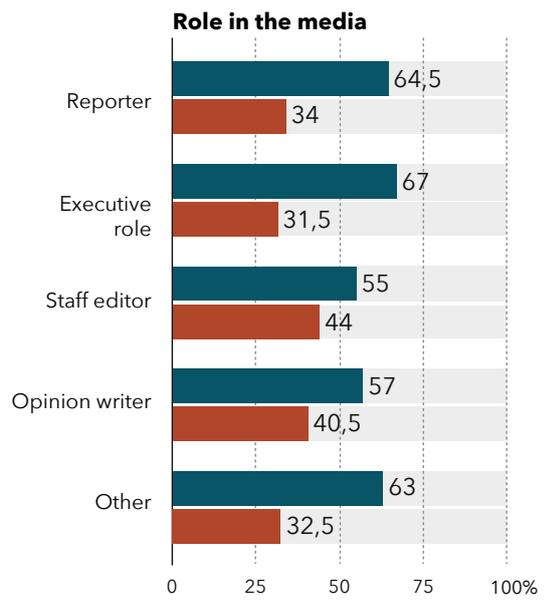
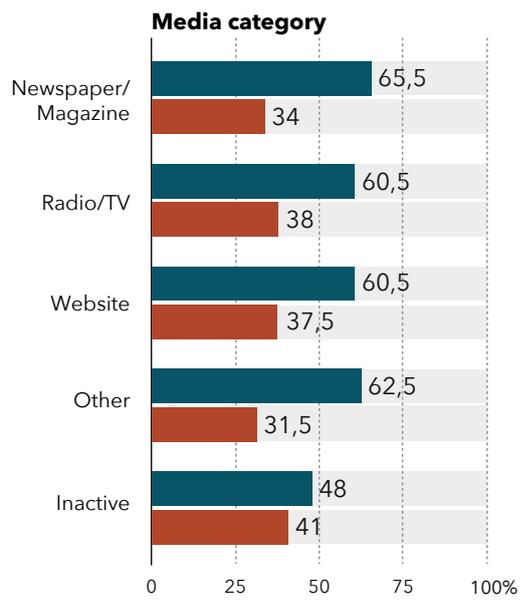
### By demographic category

■ Agree ■ Disagree



## By type of media and role

Agree Diagree

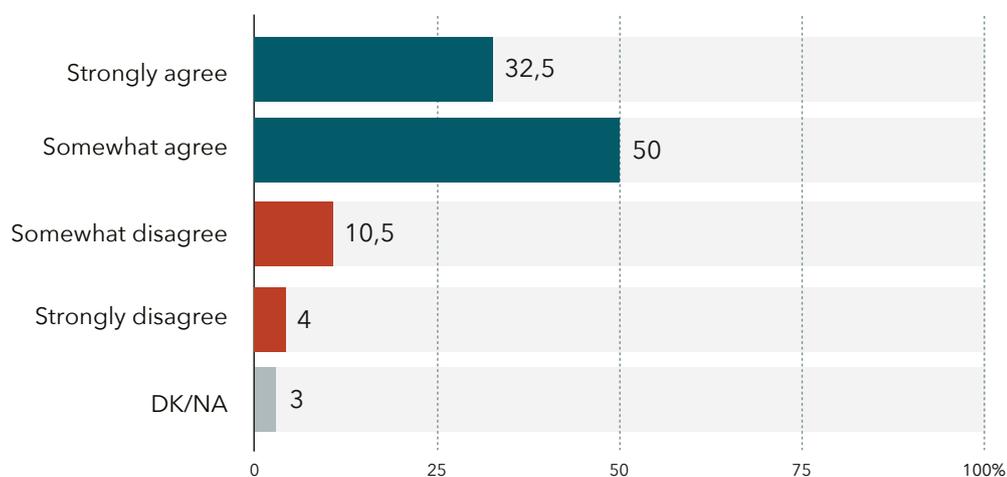


The majority (82.5%) of survey participants are satisfied with the outcome of their own journalistic work, but only 36.5% of the sample find the journalistic work of their colleagues commendable. At the same time, more than half of journalists seem to consider their hierarchical superiors in the workplace neither competent nor trustworthy: in particular, 23% respond “strongly disagree” and 31% respond “somewhat disagree” to the statement “my superiors are competent”. Likewise, 24.5% and 31.5% of the sample respectively respond “strongly disagree” and “somewhat disagree” to the statement “my superiors are trustworthy”.

To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

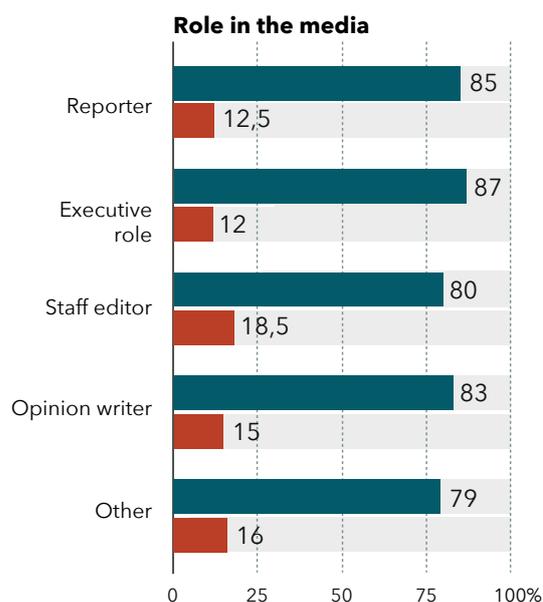
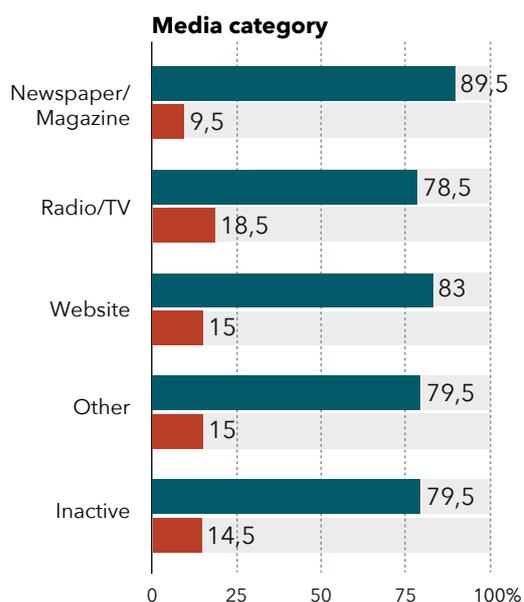
## >I am satisfied with the outcome of my own journalistic work

82.5% of the journalists surveyed agree with the statement



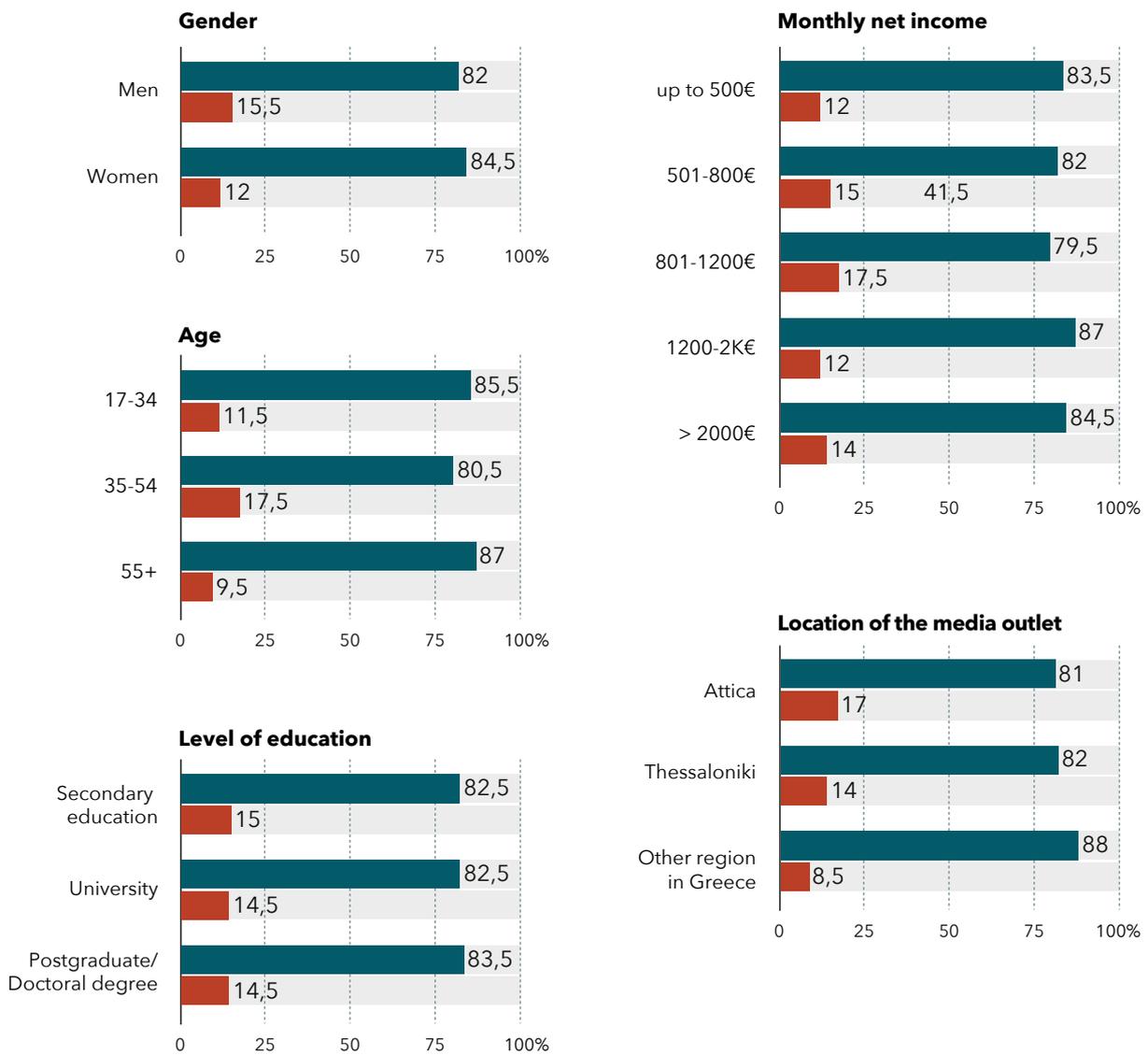
### By type of media and role

■ Agree ■ Disagree



## By demographic category

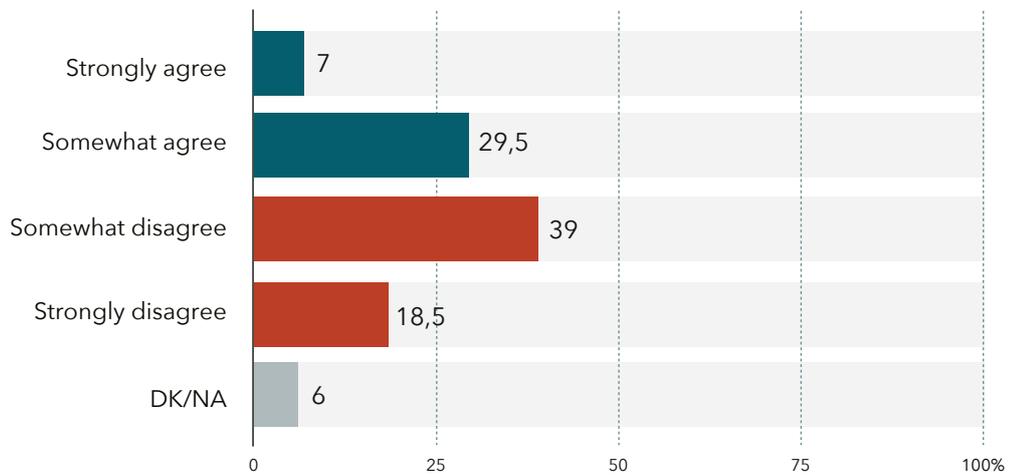
Agree Diagree



To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

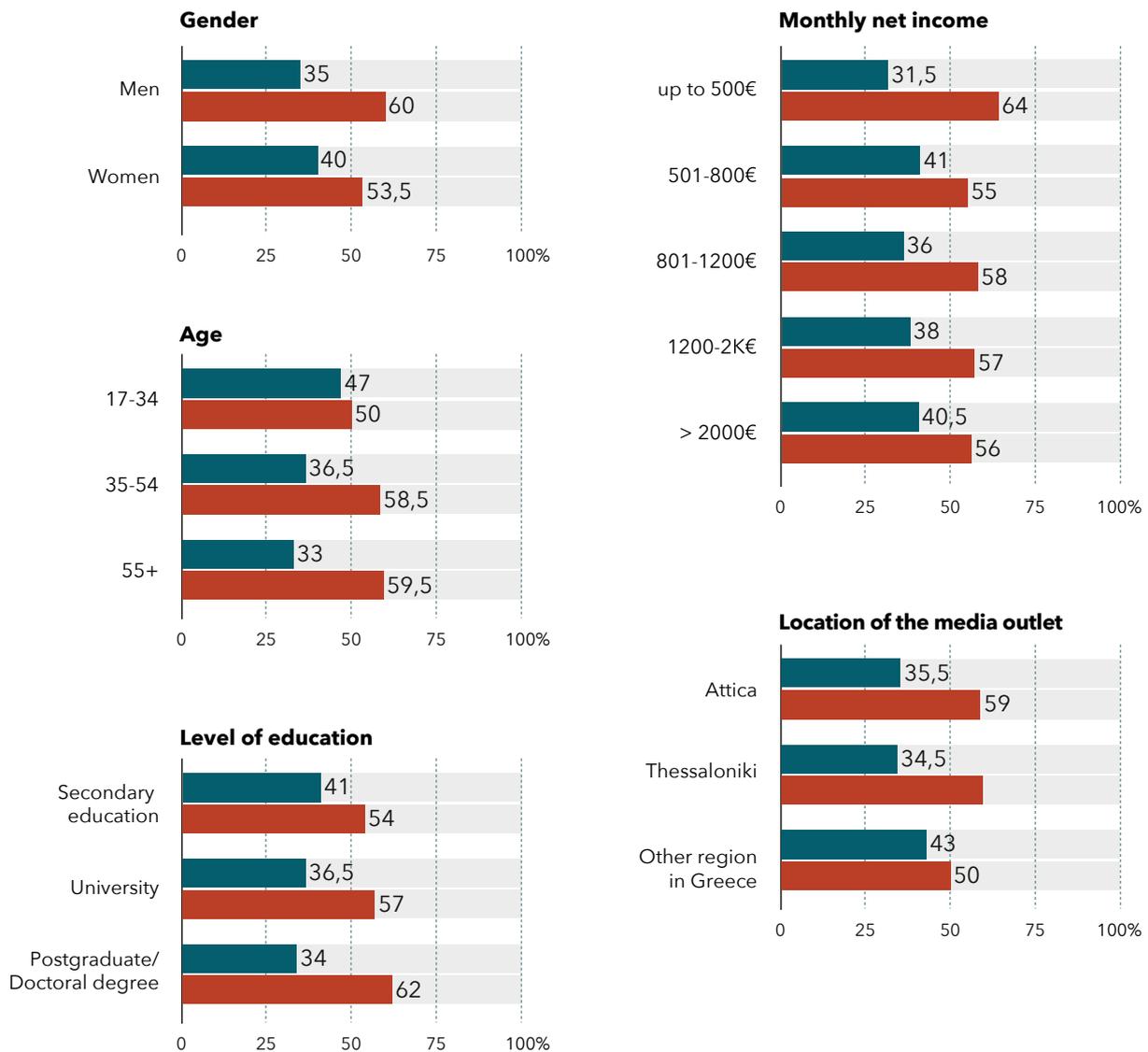
## >The journalistic work produced by my colleagues is commendable

57.5% of the journalists surveyed disagree with the statement



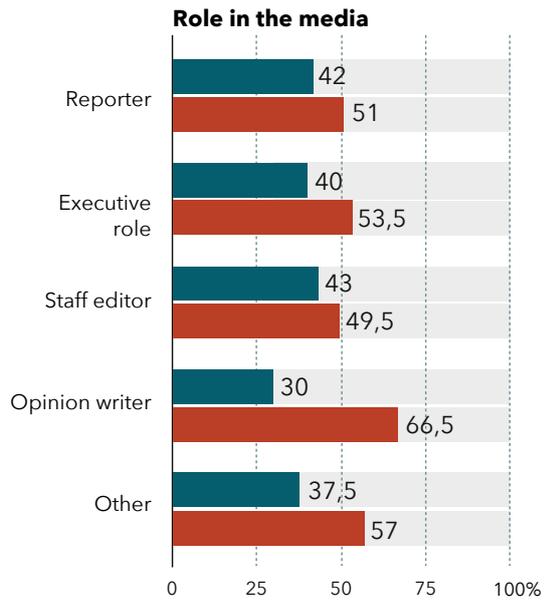
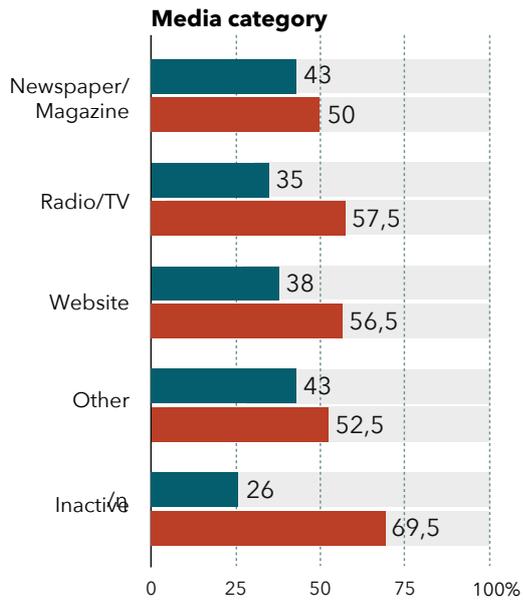
### By demographic category

■ Agree ■ Disagree



# By type of media and role

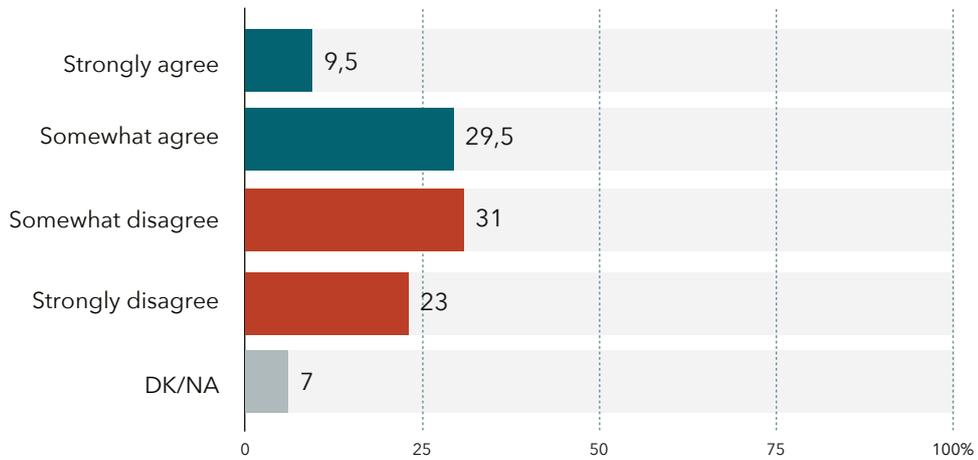
Agree Diagree



To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

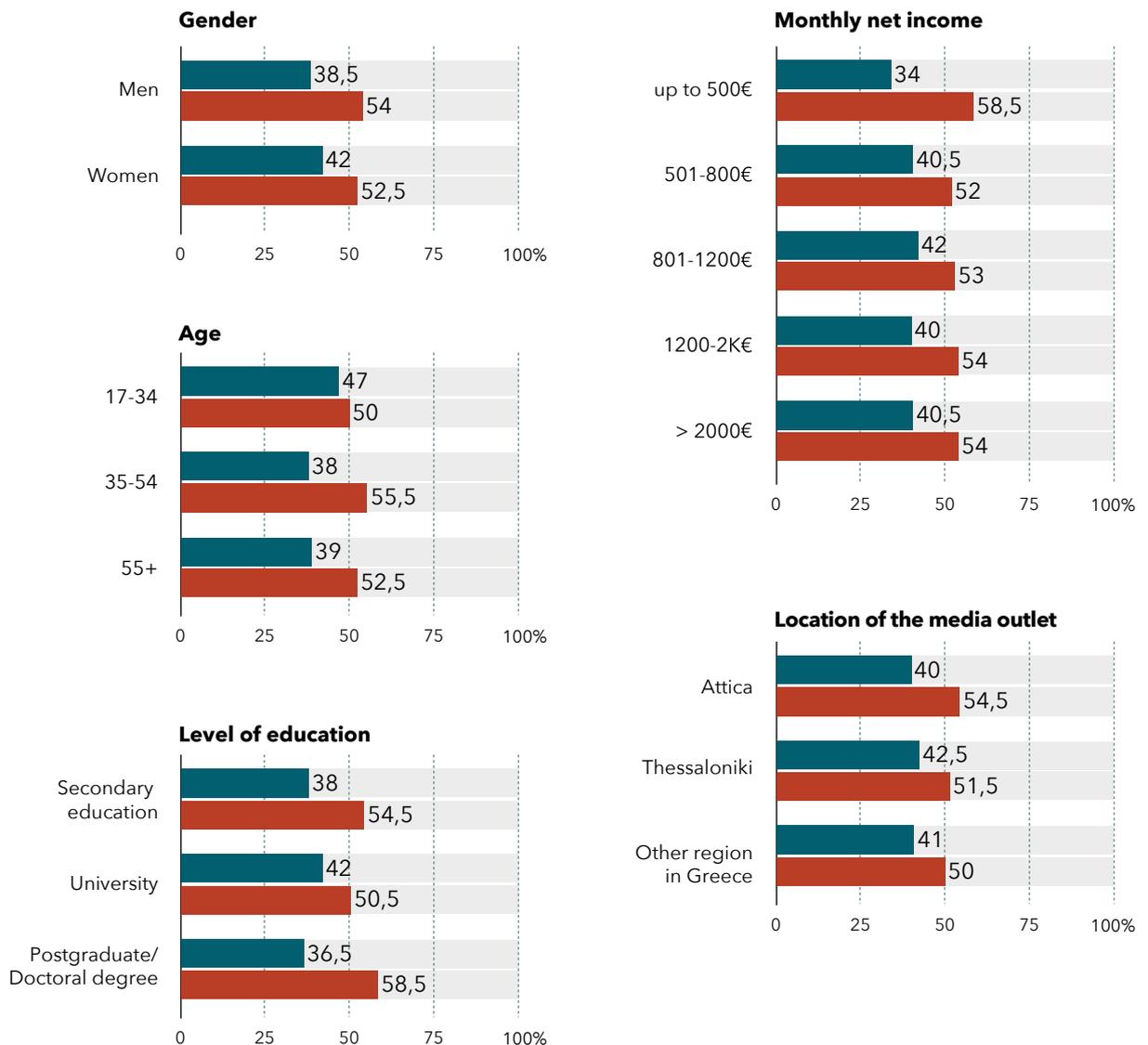
## >My superiors are competent

54% of the journalists surveyed disagree with the statement



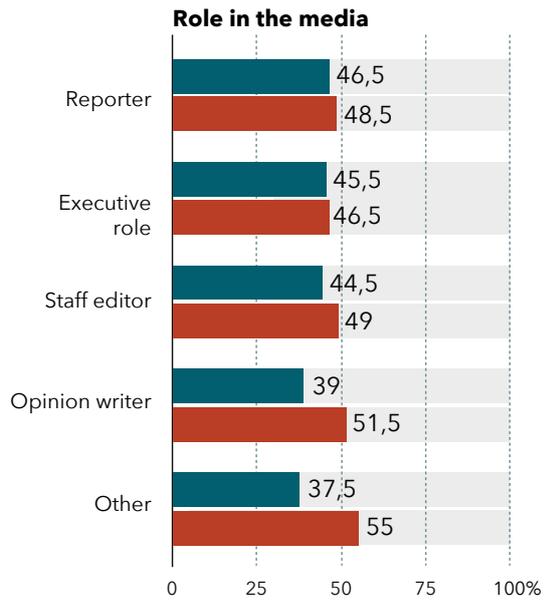
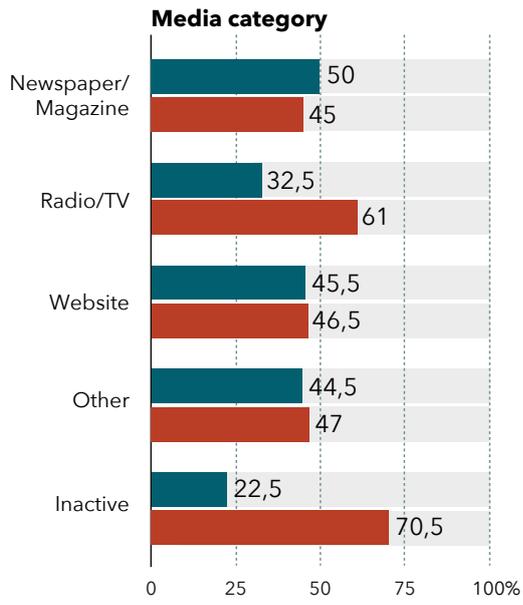
### By demographic category

■ Agree ■ Disagree



# By type of media and role

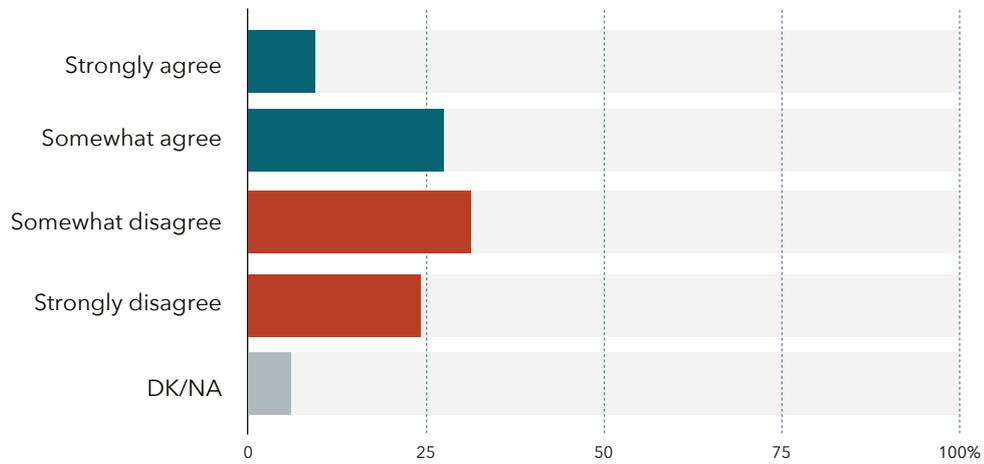
■ Agree
 ■ Disagree



To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

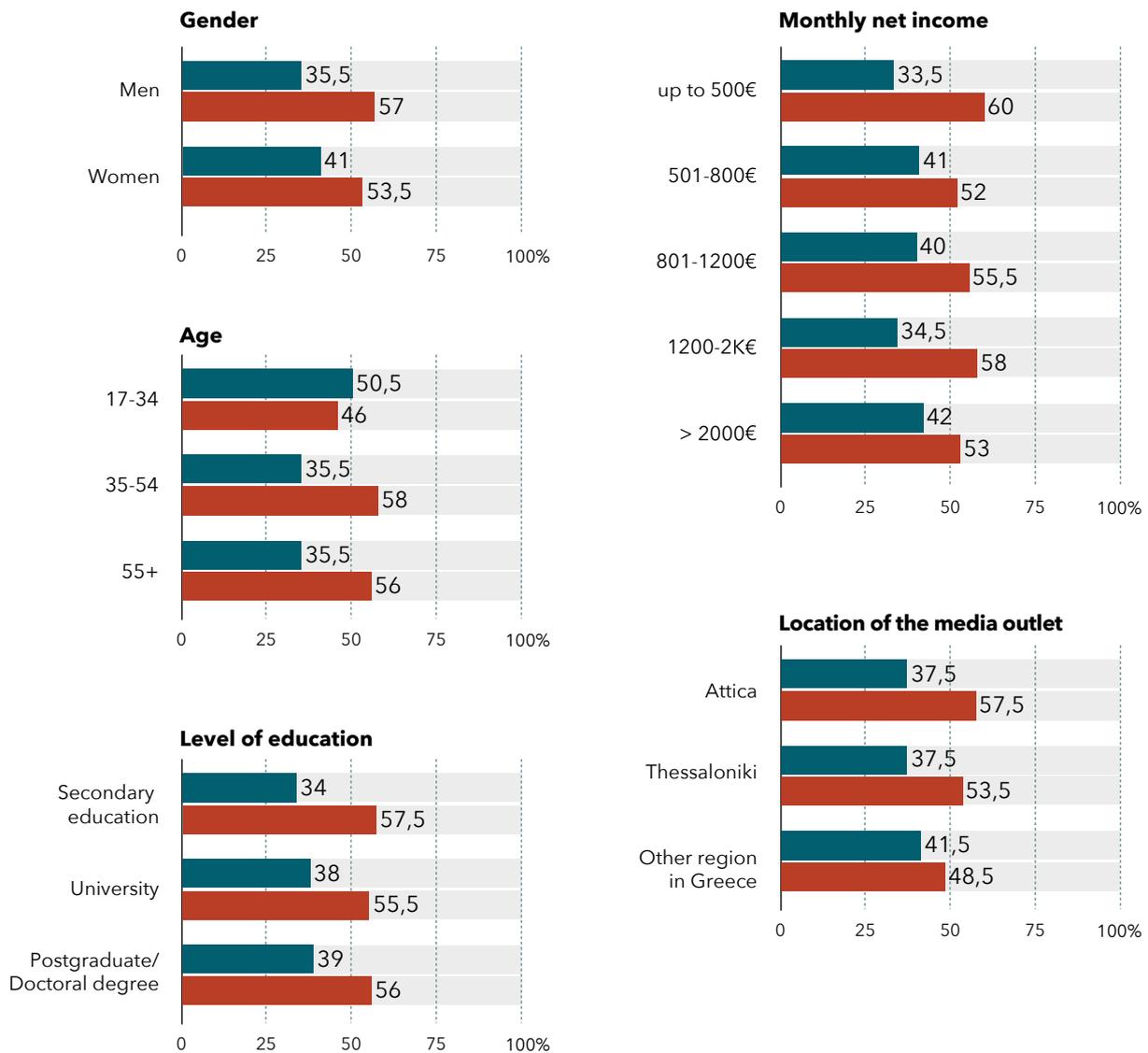
## >My superiors are trustworthy

56% of the journalists surveyed disagree with the statement



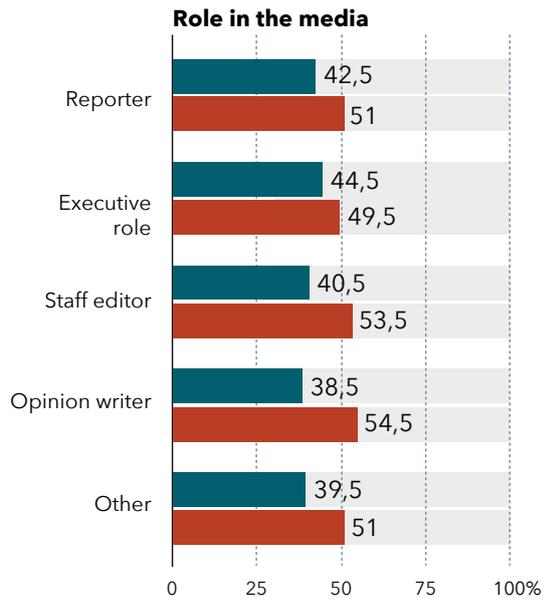
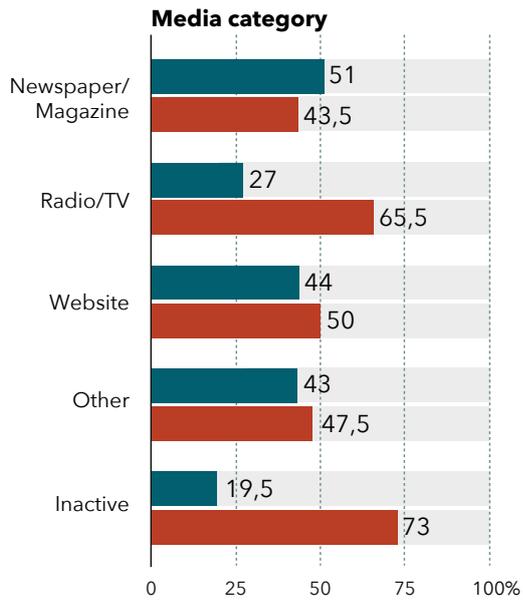
### By demographic category

Agree Disagree



# By type of media and role

Agree Diagree

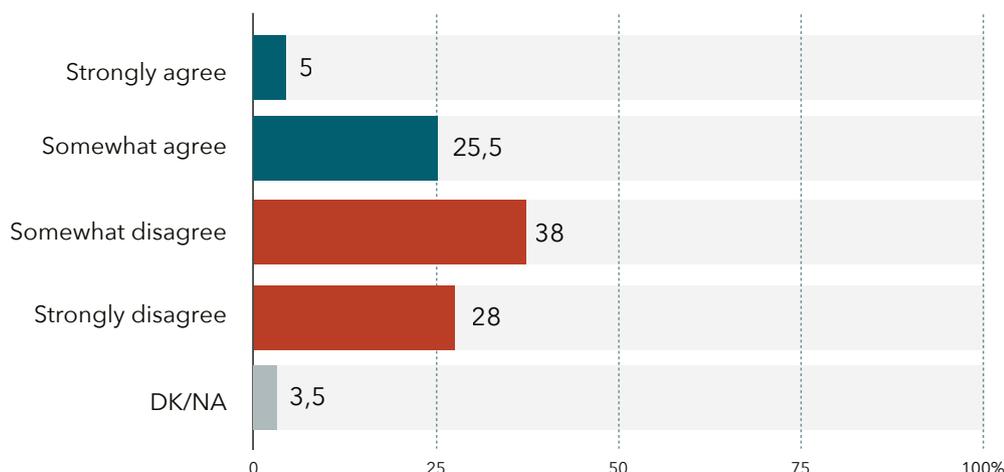


There is no collegial solidarity among journalists say 66% of the survey participants. At the same time, the vast majority of the sample (91.5%) agree with the commonly held perception that the public does not trust journalists, while one in two respondents note that they hold the same opinion as (they believe) the public has about journalists. The majority (83.5%) of journalists surveyed note, however, that the public is distrustful of information that is not in line with their views.

To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

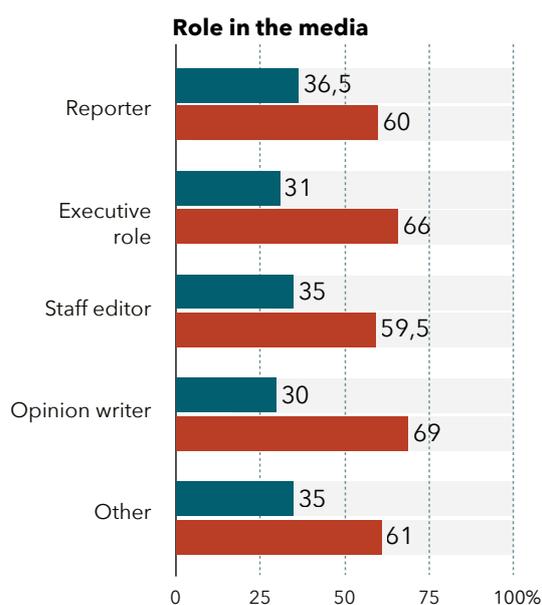
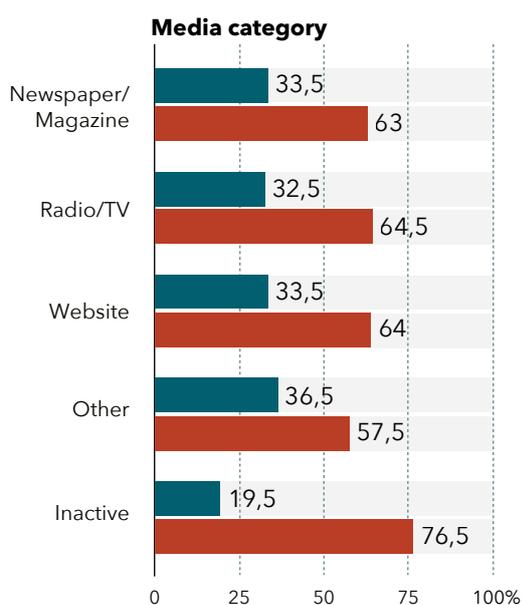
## >There is such thing as collegial solidarity between journalists

66% of the journalists surveyed disagree with the statement



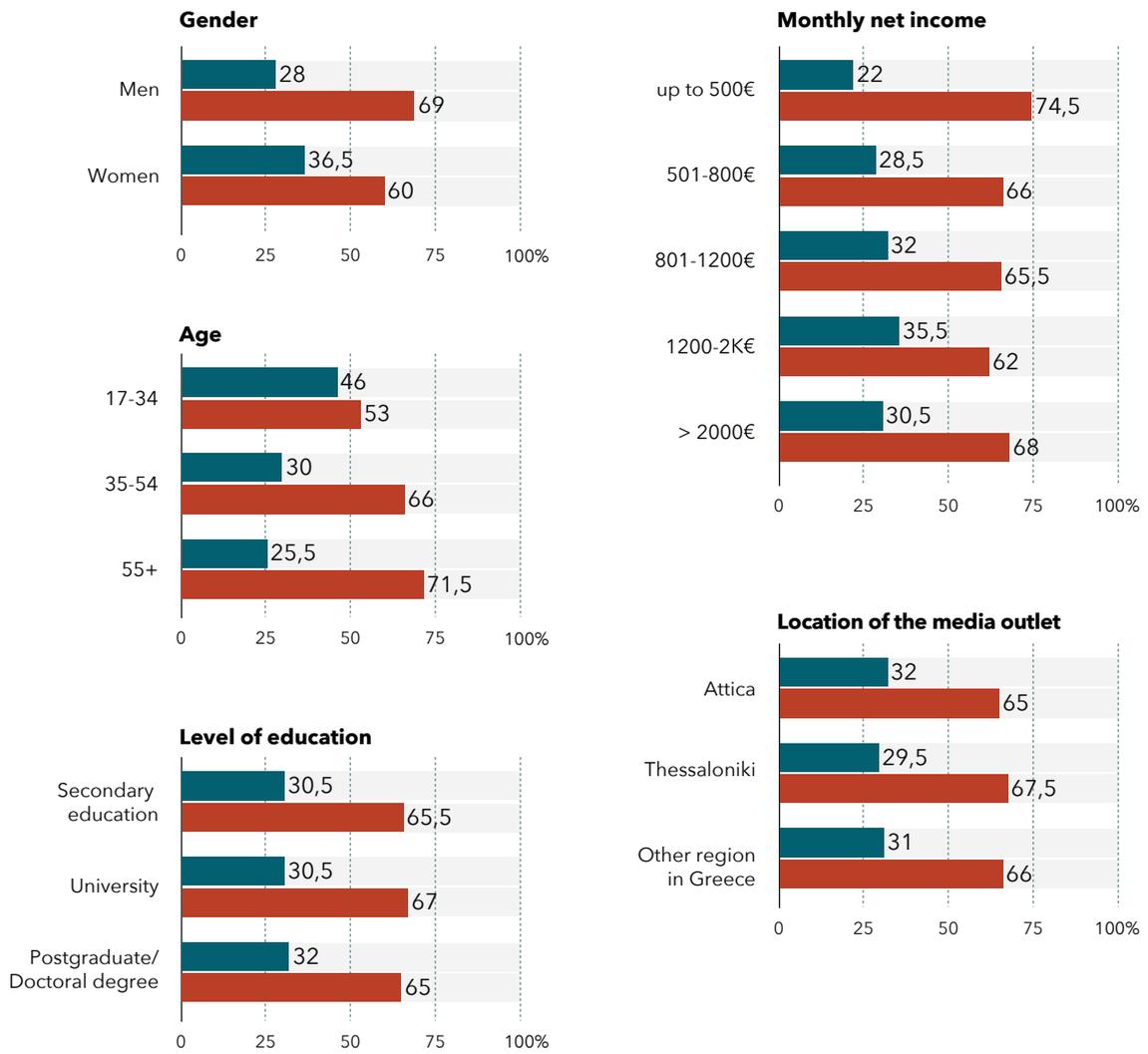
### By type of media and role

■ Agree ■ Disagree



## By demographic category

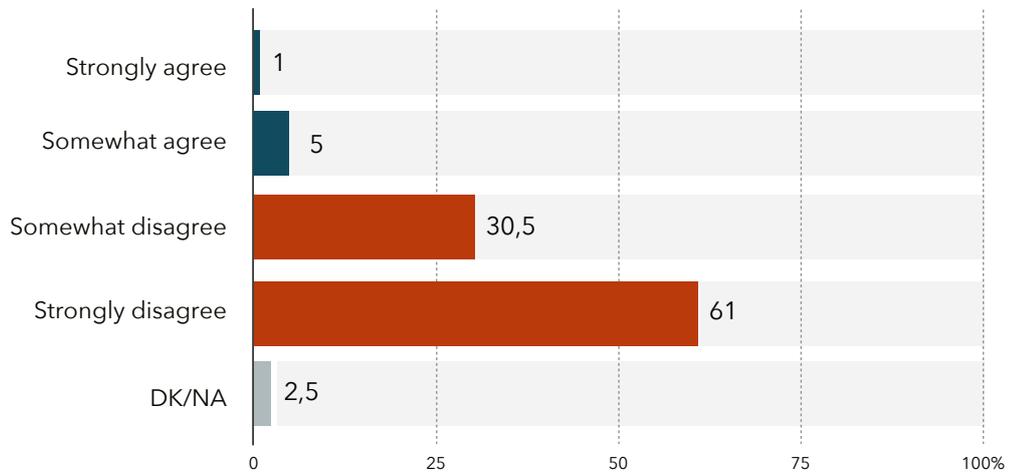
■ Agree ■ Diagree



To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

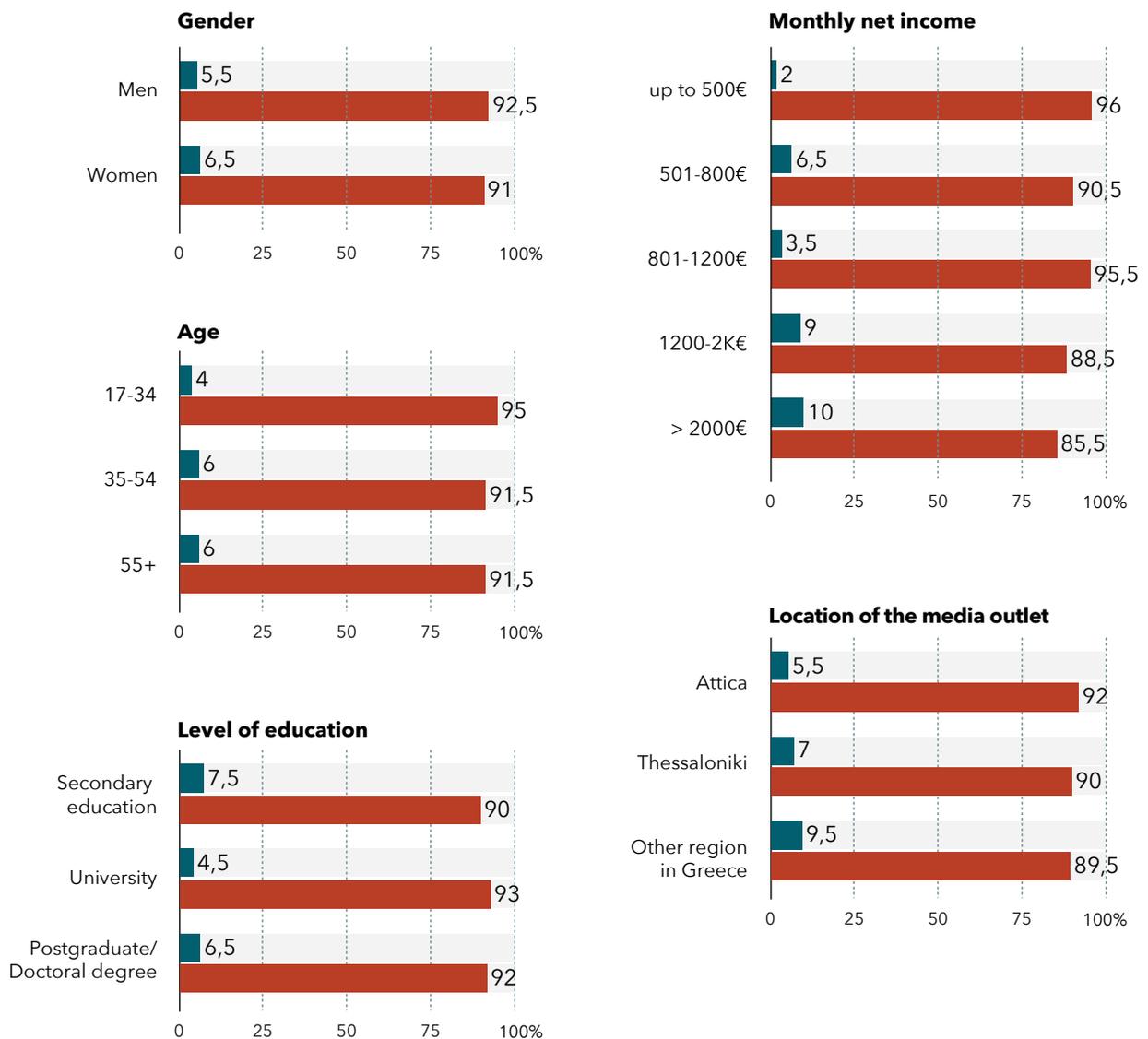
## >Today the public trusts journalists

The vast majority (91.5%) of the journalists surveyed disagree with the statement



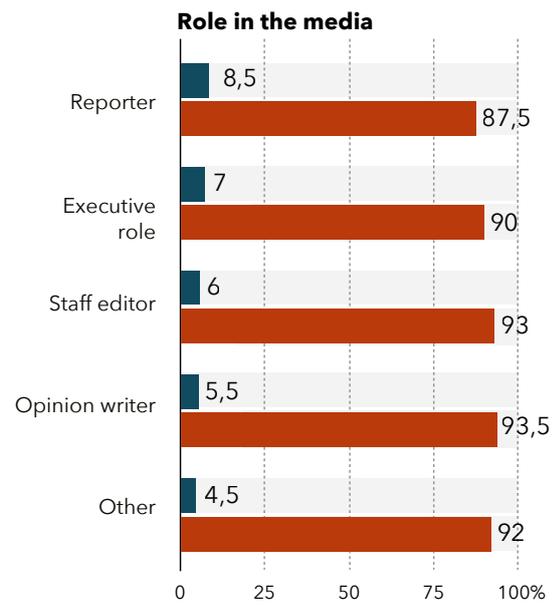
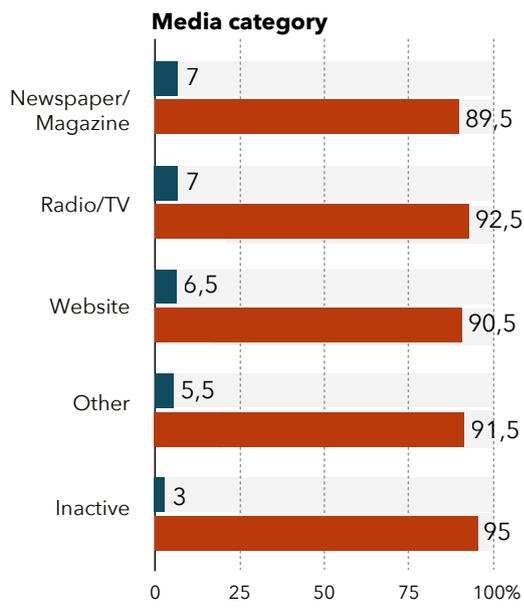
### By demographic category

■ Agree ■ Disagree



## By type of media and role

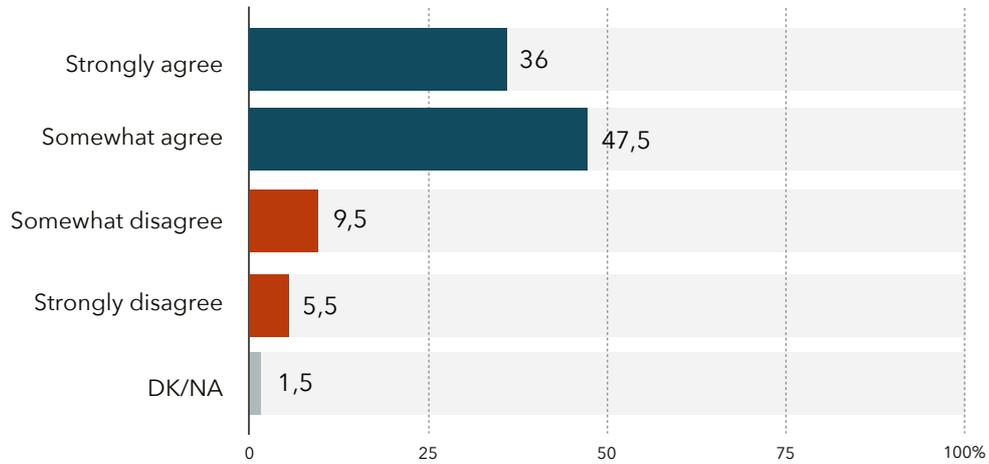
■ Agree ■ Disagree



To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

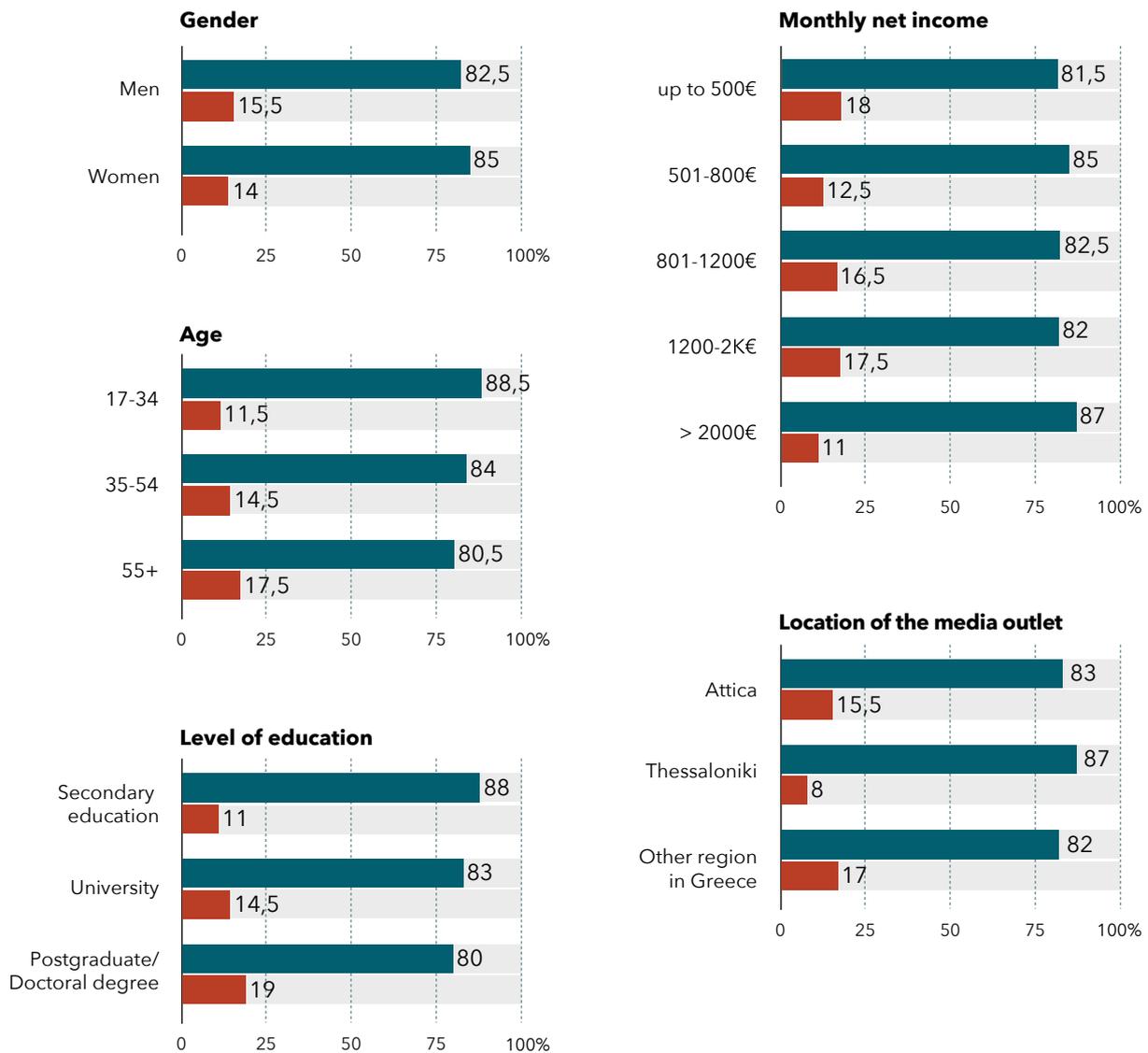
## >The public is distrustful of information that is not in line with their views

83.5% of the journalists surveyed agree with the statement



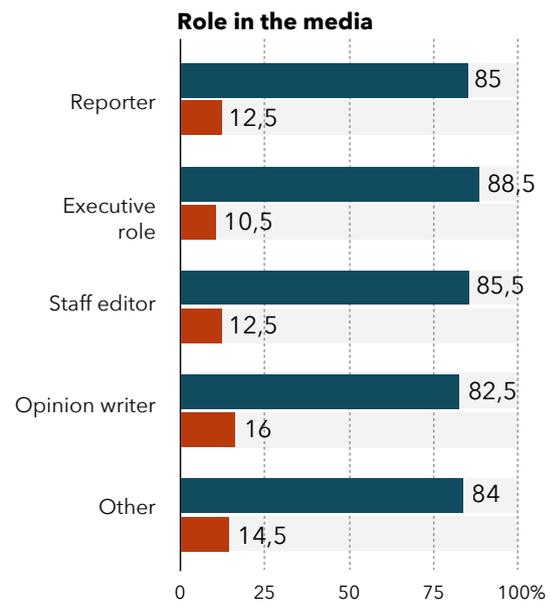
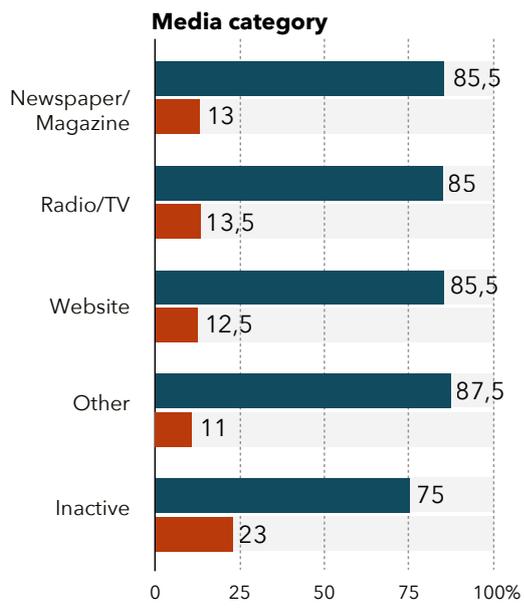
### By demographic category

■ Agree ■ Disagree



## By type of media and role

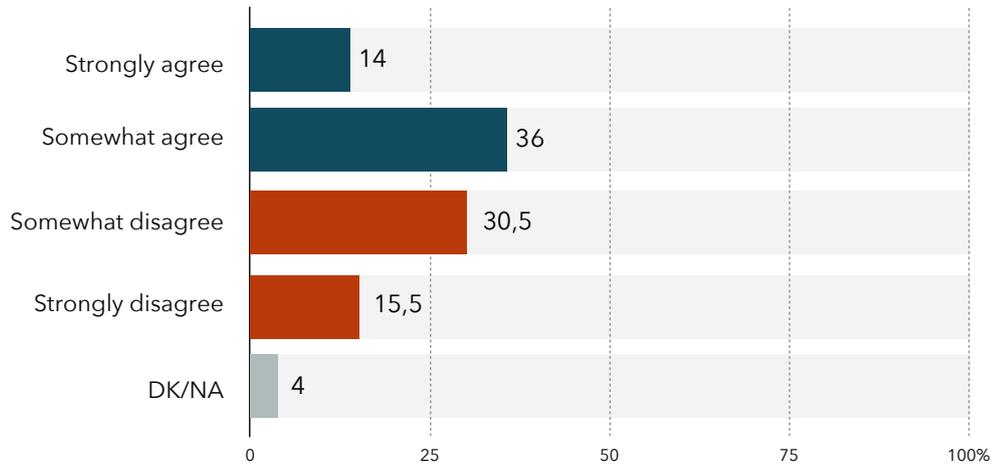
■ Agree ■ Disagree



To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

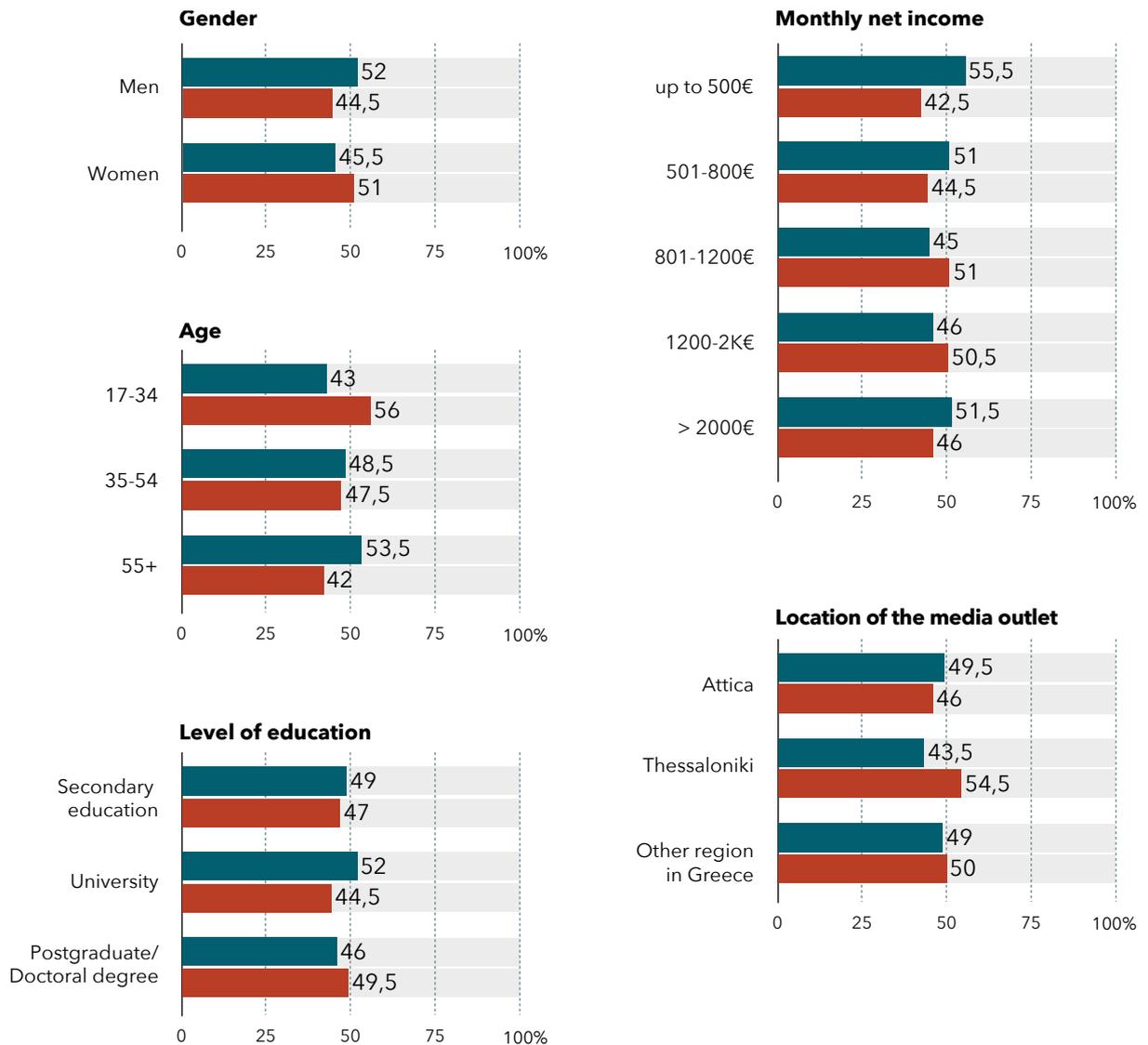
## >The public's view of journalists is the same as mine

50% of the journalists surveyed agree with the statement



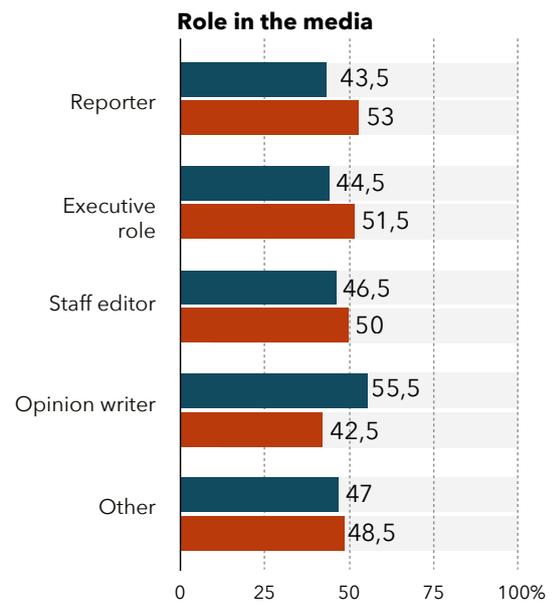
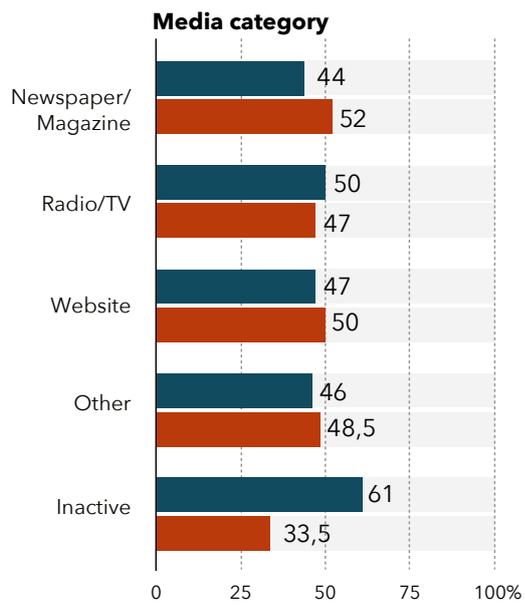
### By demographic category

Agree Disagree



## By type of media and role

Agree Diagree



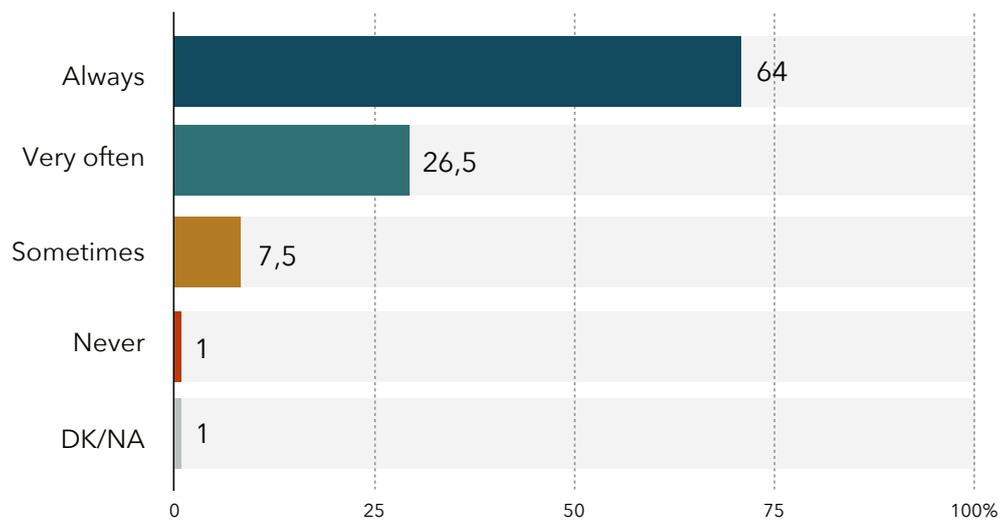
# Behaviors in the Practice of Journalistic Work

"Always" answer 64% of journalists when asked how often they use sources to confirm an initial piece of information –"very often" answer 26.5%, while 7.5% respond "sometimes".

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

## >I use sources to confirm an initial piece of information

"Always" reply 64% of the journalists



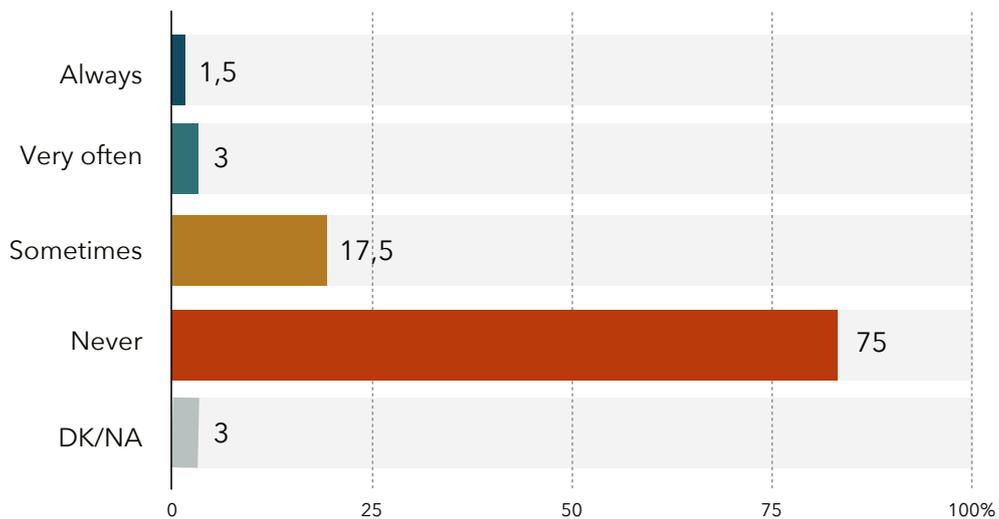
Regarding the use of unfair and controversial means to obtain information, although the majority of the sample state that they never use such practices, 22% and 35% of the journalists, respectively, respond positively that they do use such means with a significantly different frequency.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

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### >I use unfair means to obtain information

"Sometimes" reply 17.5% of the journalists

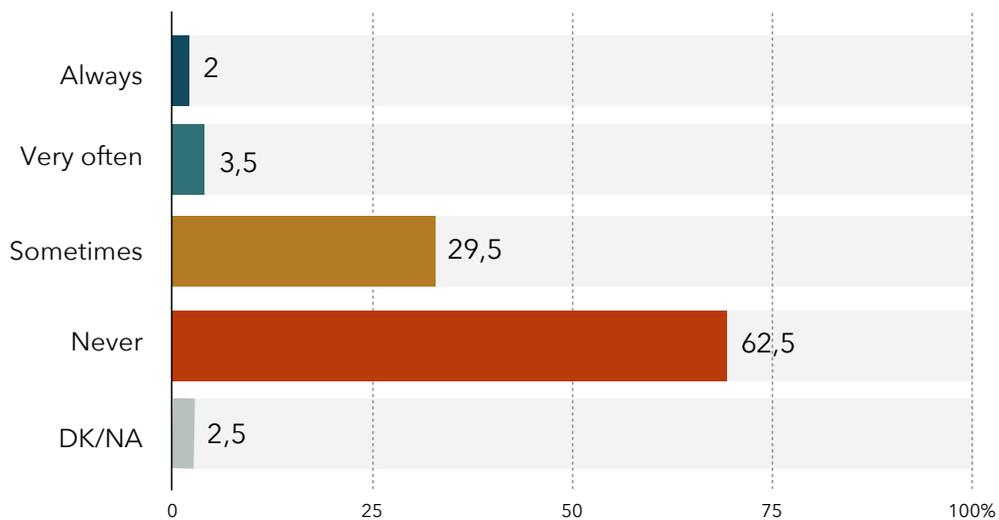


How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

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### >I use controversial means to obtain information

"Sometimes" reply 29.5% of the journalists

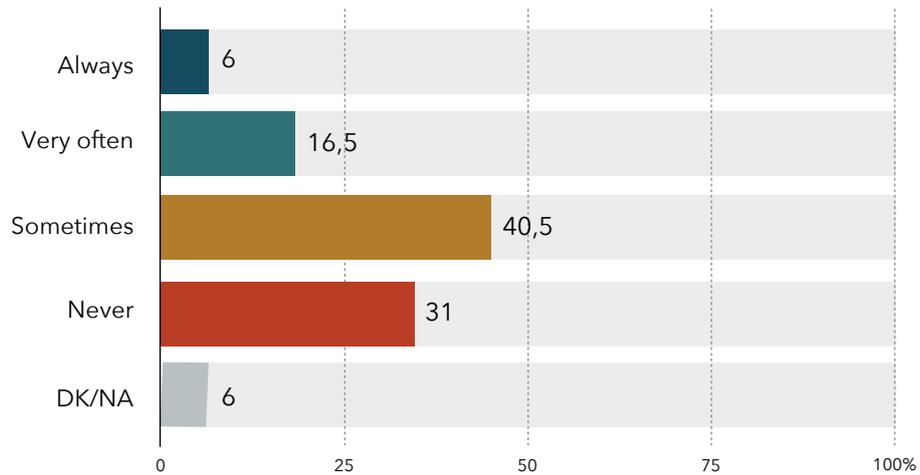


For a total of 63% of journalists, their hierarchical superiors sometimes or systematically interfere with and distort their journalistic work – “sometimes” answer 40.5% of the sample, “very often” say 16.5%, “always” say 6%. Only three out of ten journalists surveyed say that their superiors never distort their work.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

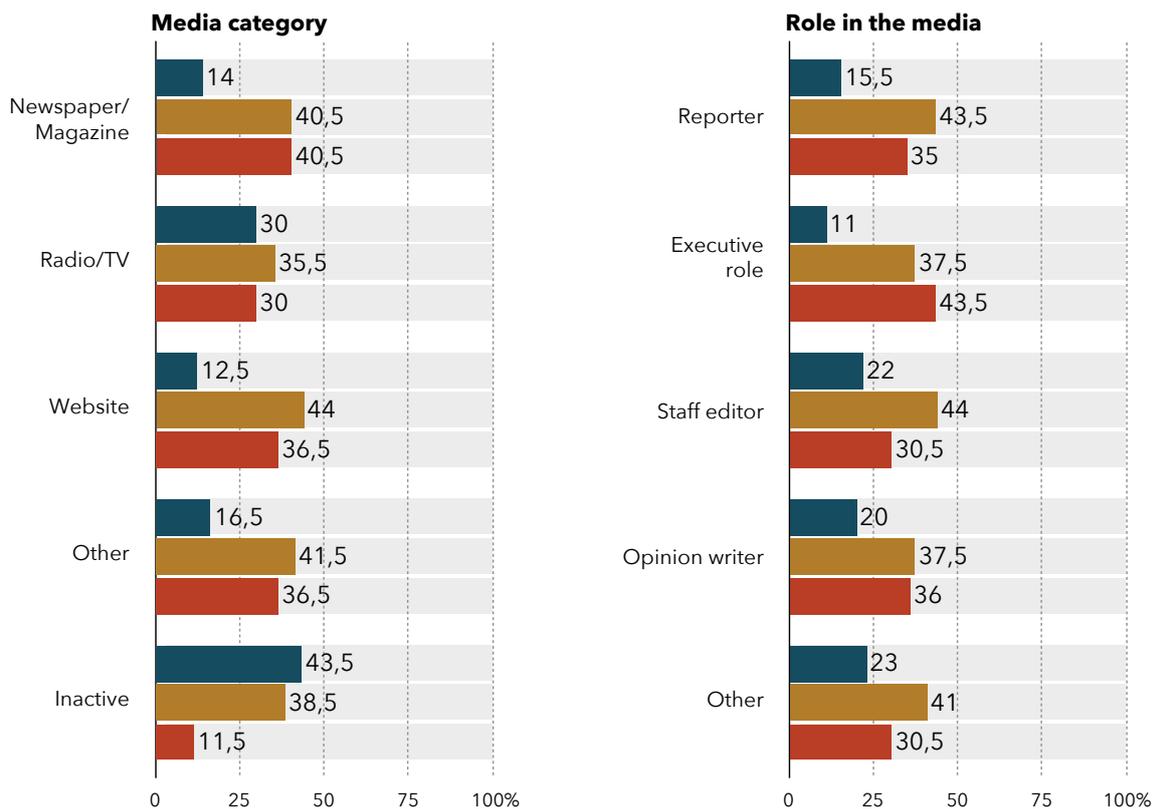
## >My superiors distort my journalistic work

“Sometimes” reply 40.5% of journalists, “very often” or “always” say 22.5%



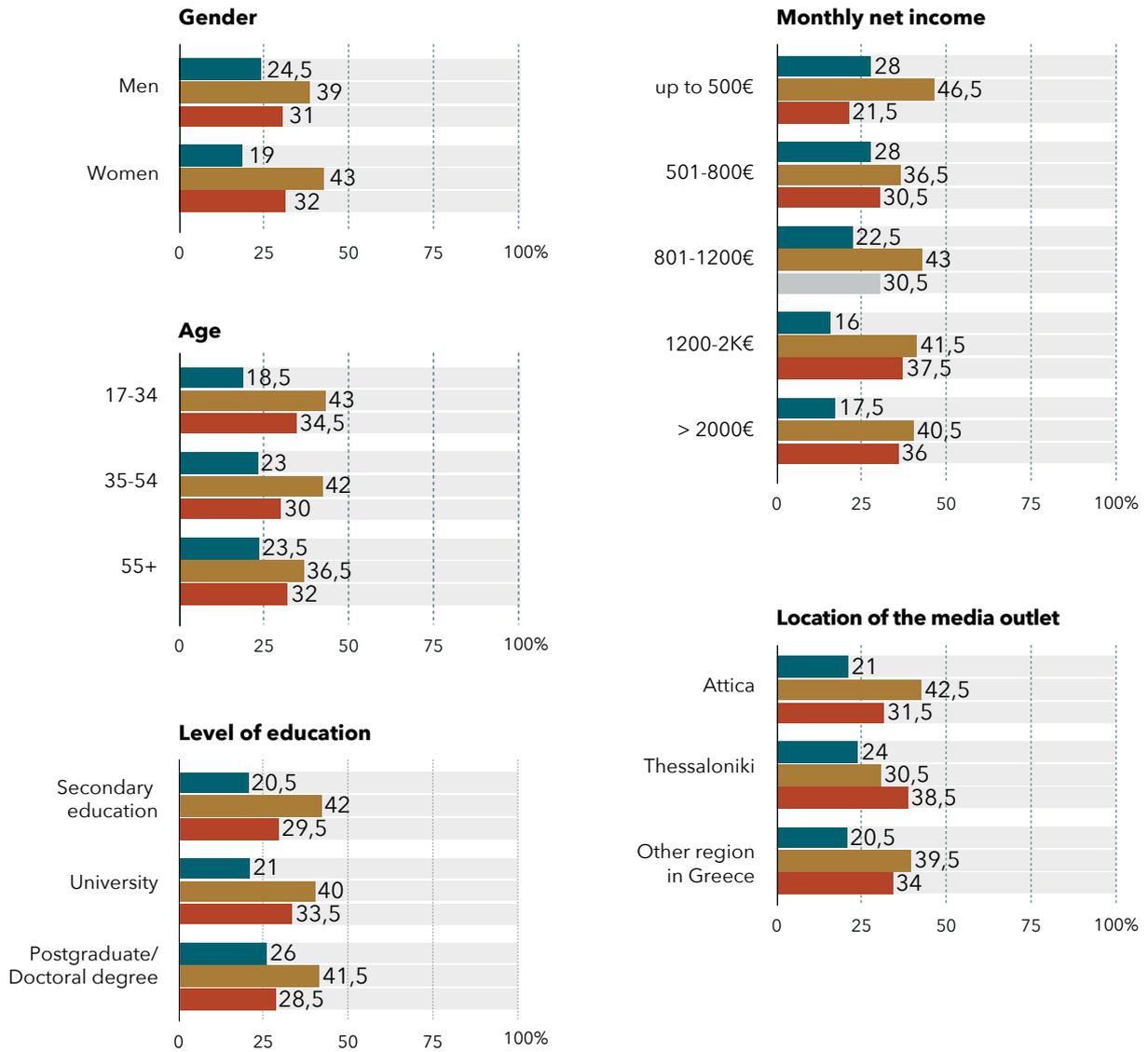
## By type of media and role

Always & Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Always & Very Often Sometimes Never

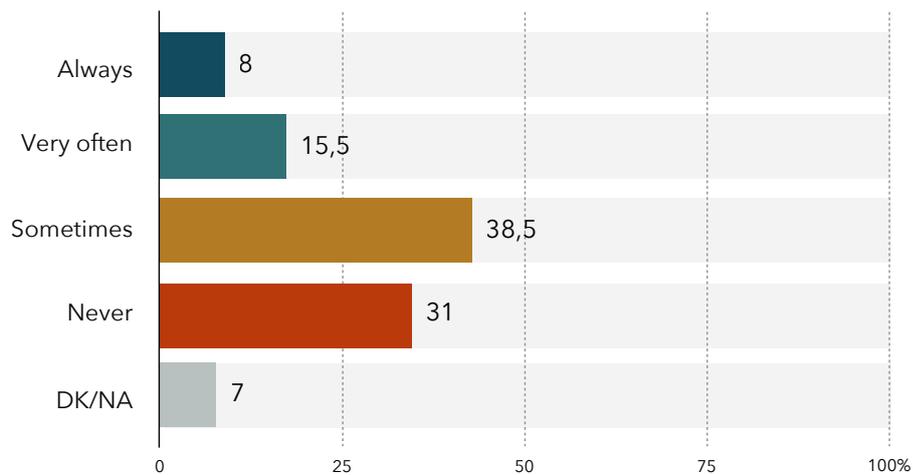


Overall, 62% of journalists state that they come, with varying frequency, into conflict with their hierarchical superiors in the work environment because of how the latter distort the journalistic work produced (“sometimes”: 38.5%, “very often”: 15.5%, “always”: 8%). On the other hand, the overall percentage of employees who note that they are constantly or sometimes in conflict with their superiors about the quality of their work amounts to 48.5% (“sometimes”: 35%, “very often”: 10%, “always”: 3.5%).

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

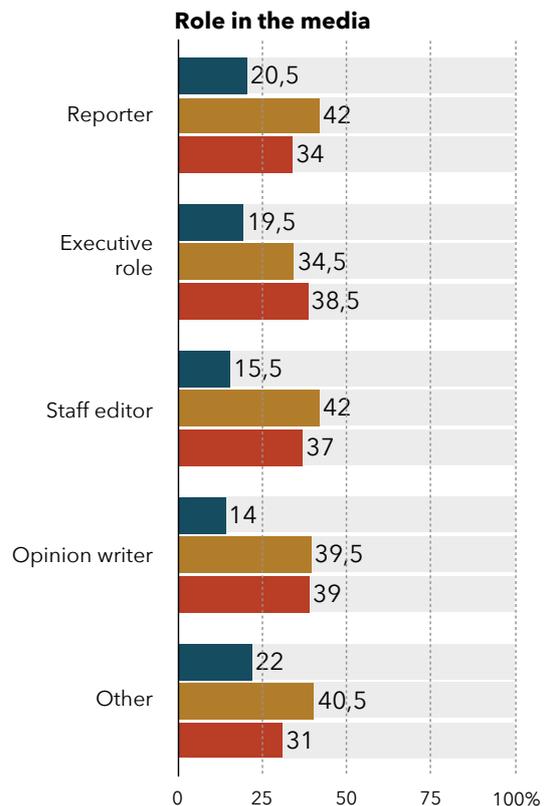
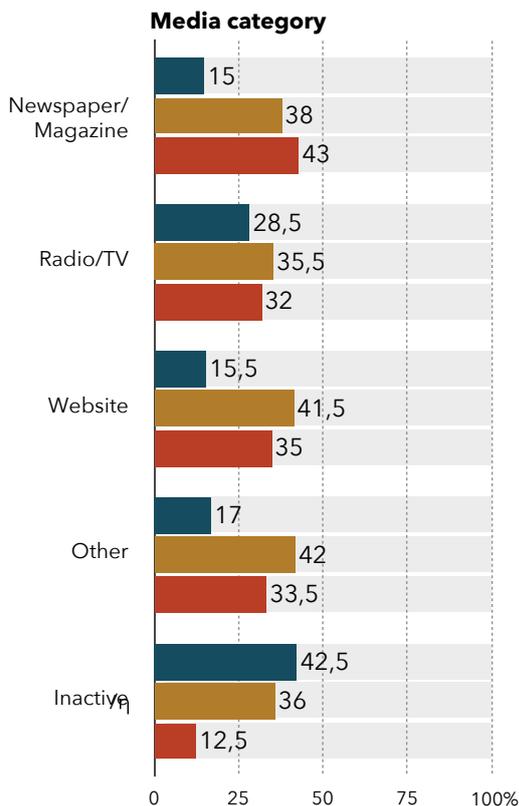
### >I come into conflict with my superiors because they distort my journalistic work

“Sometimes” reply 38.5% of the journalists



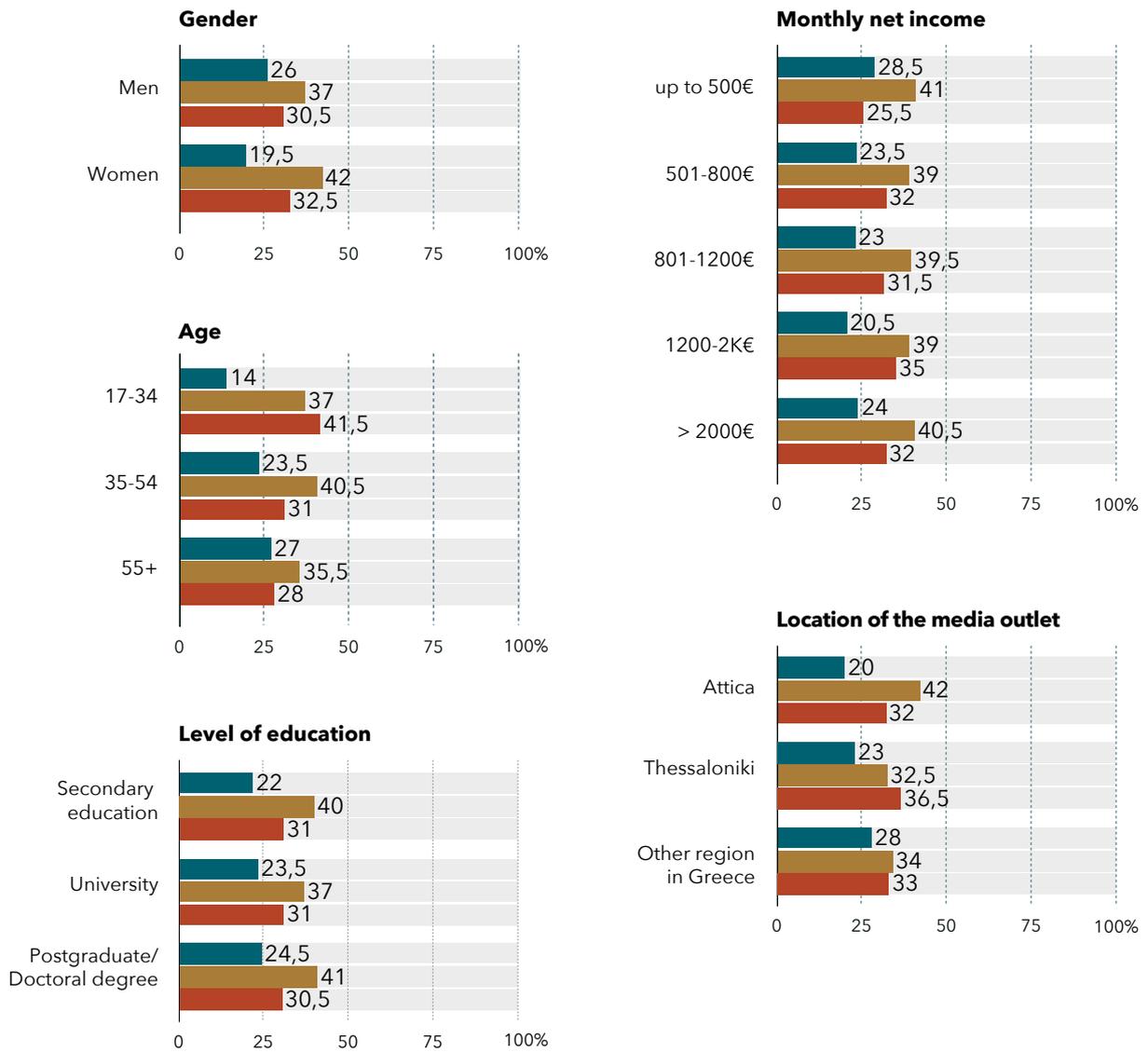
### By type of media and role

Always & Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

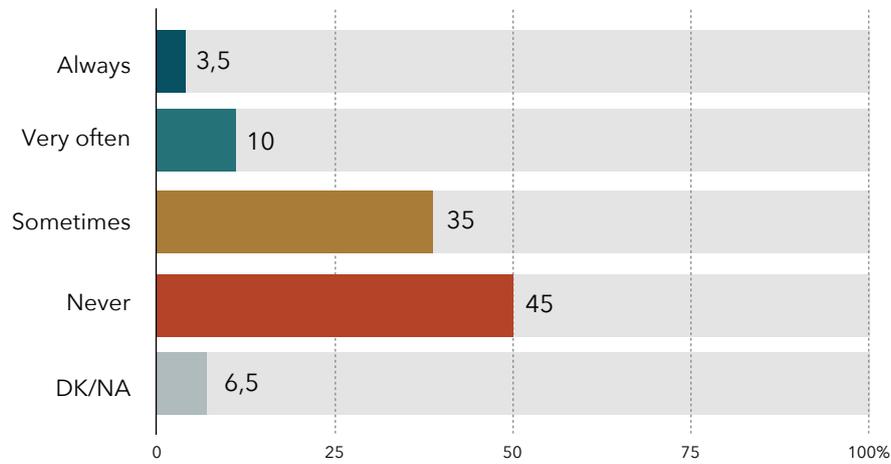
Always & Very Often Sometimes Never



How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

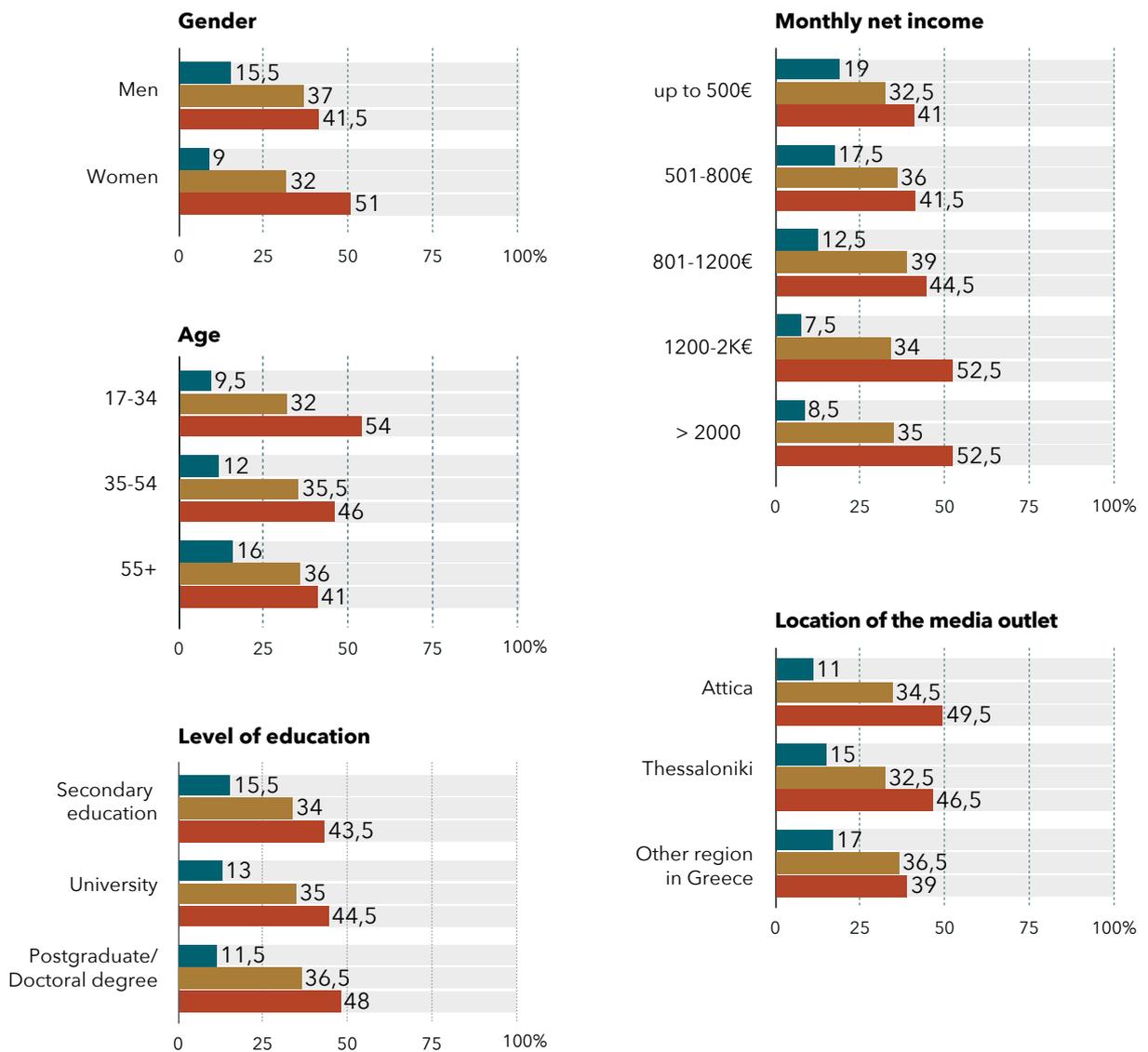
**>I come into conflict with my superiors because they think I am not doing my job properly**

"Sometimes" reply 35% of the journalists



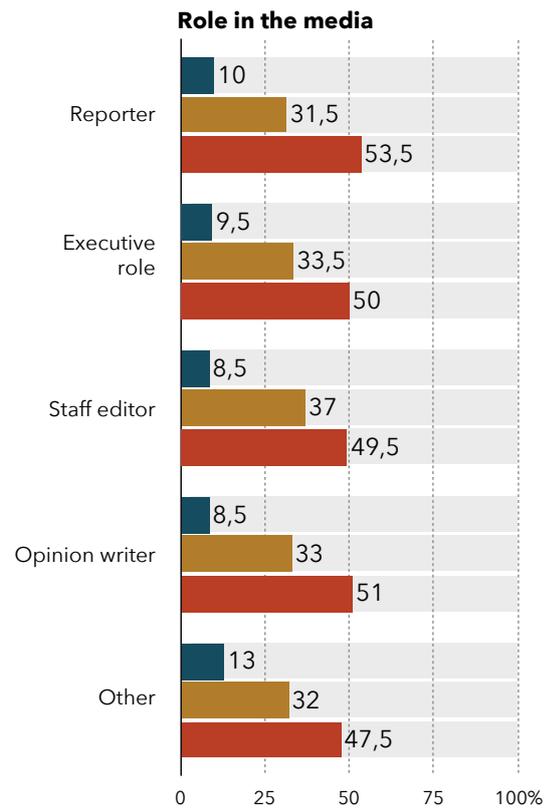
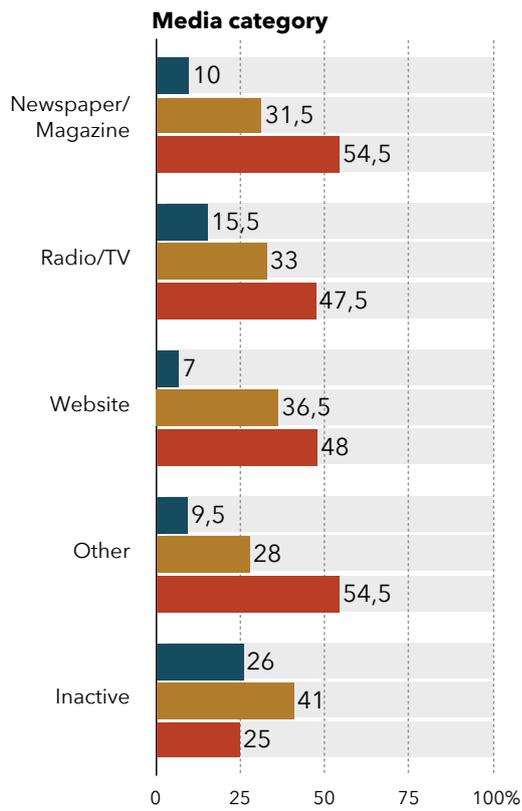
**By demographic category**

Always & Very Often Sometimes Never



## By type of media and role

Always & Very Often Sometimes Never

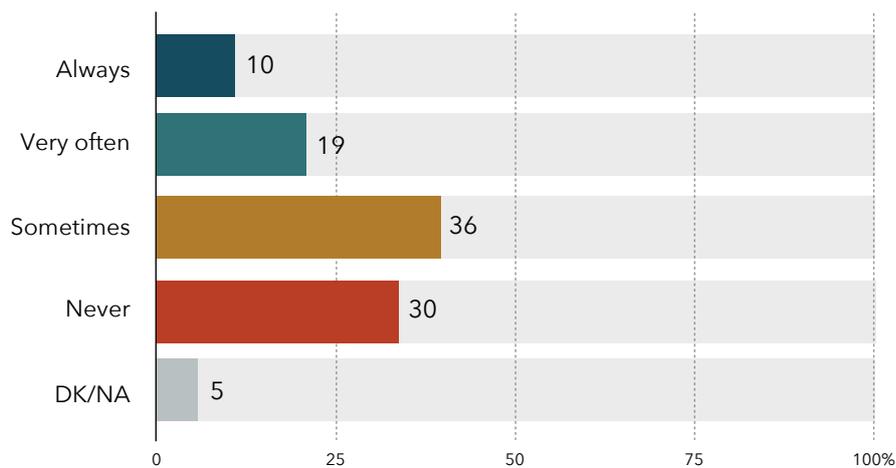


Only three out of ten journalists say that they are never censored by their superiors for issues that affect the interests of either their superiors or the media outlet. Overall, 65% of journalists respond that they are censored for this reason, with varying frequency –the majority (36%) responding “sometimes”.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

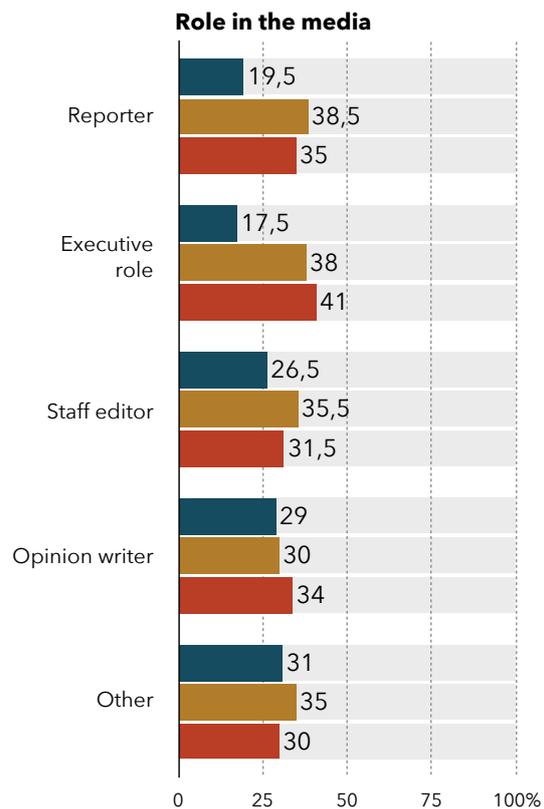
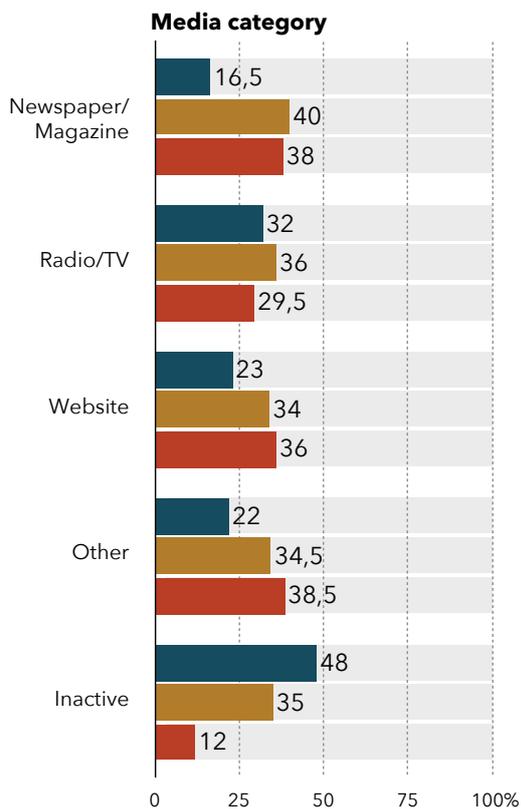
**>I am being censored by my superiors on matters concerning their own interests or ideas or those of the media outlet where I work**

“Sometimes” reply 36% of journalists, “very often” or “always” say 29%



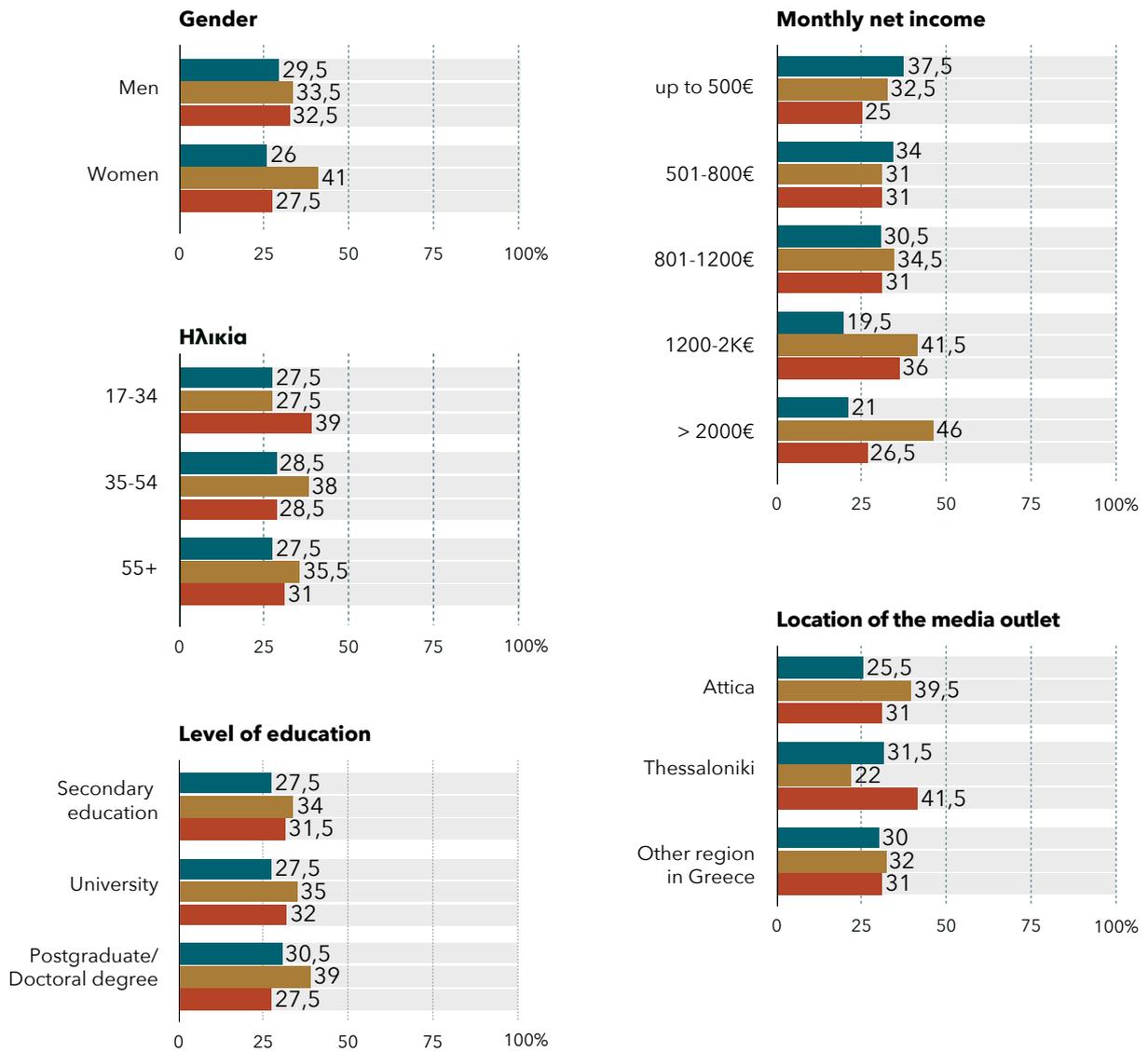
**By type of media and role**

Always & Very Often   Sometimes   Never



## By demographic category

Always & Very Often Sometimes Never

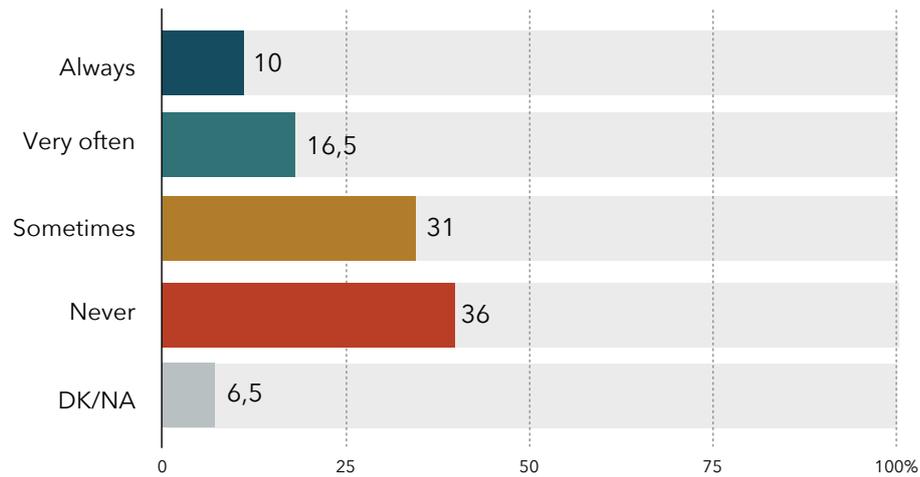


Overall, 57.5% of journalists respond that they are being censored by their superiors as a result of political interference, with varying degrees of frequency: "sometimes" say 31%, "very often" 16.5% and "always" 10%.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

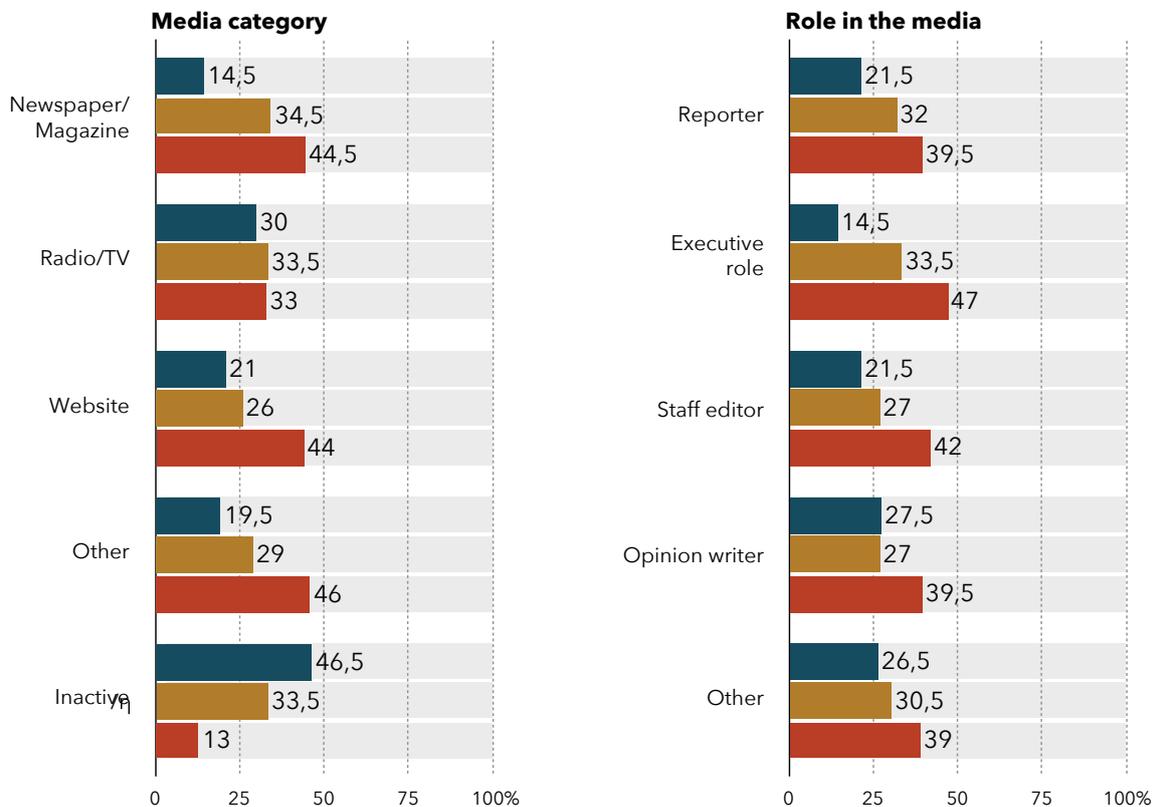
## >I am being censored by my superiors as a result of political interference

"Sometimes" reply 31% of journalists, "very often" or "always" say 26.5%



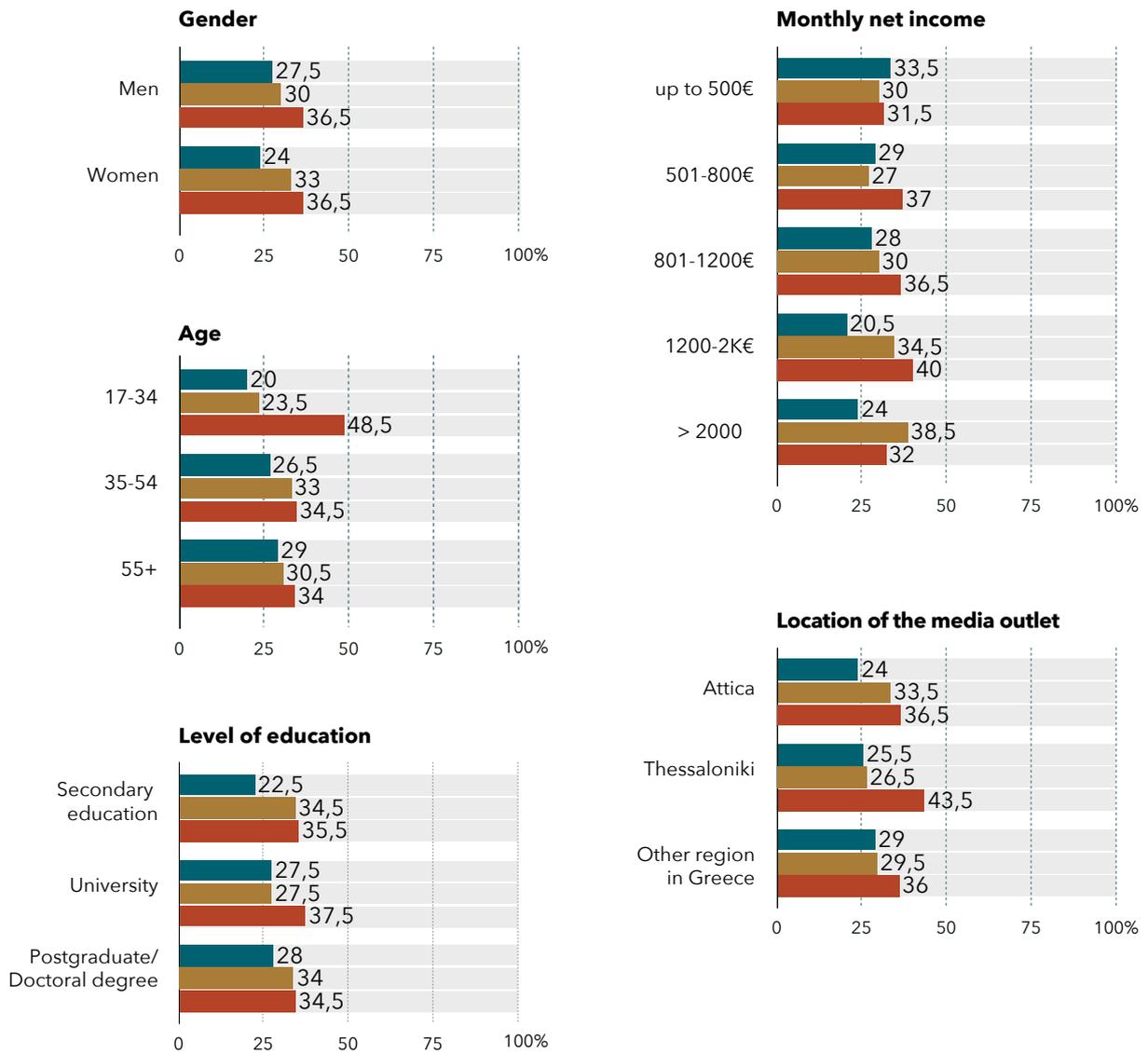
### By type of media and role

Always & Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Always & Very Often Sometimes Never

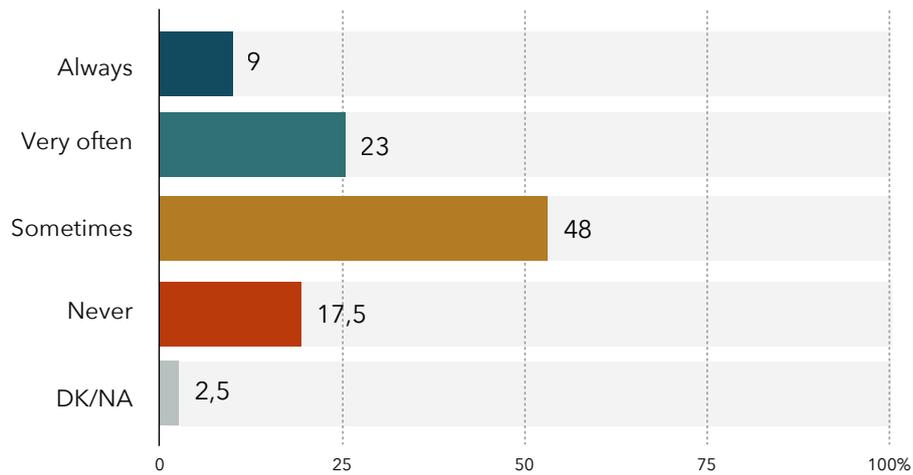


The majority of journalists (81%) admit to self-censoring with varying frequency: “sometimes” 48%, “very often” 23% and “always” 9%. 17.5% of the sample say they “never” self-censor. 2.5% of the sample chose “do not know/no answer”, while the same answer to the questions on censorship by the hierarchical superiors was 6%.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

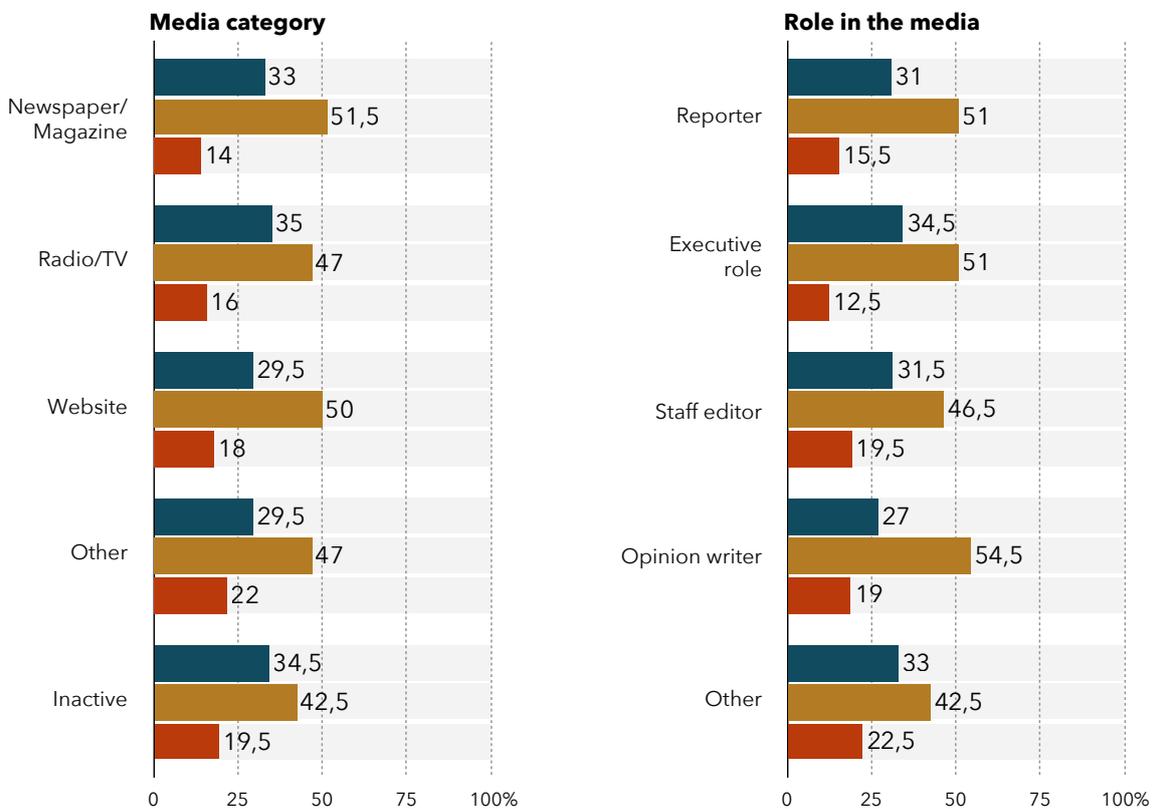
## >I self-censor

“Sometimes” reply 48% of journalists, “very often” or “always” say 32%



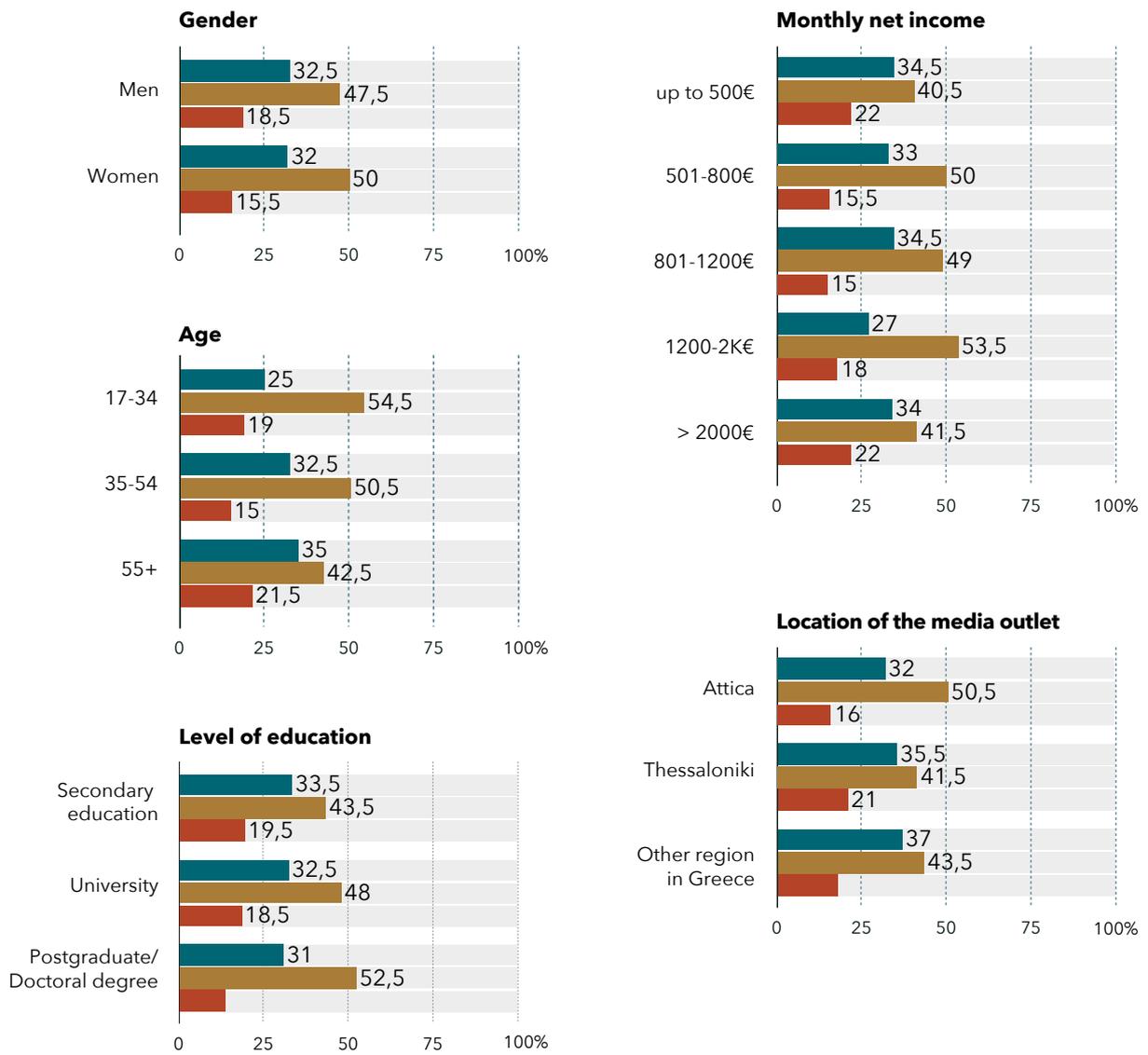
## By type of media and role

Always & Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Always & Very Often   Sometimes   Never

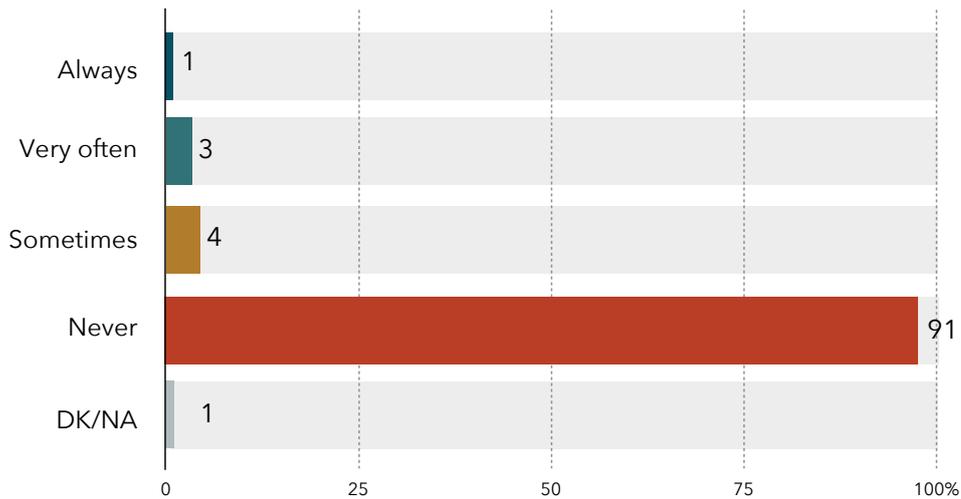


“Never” is the answer given by the vast majority of the sample when asked if they deliberately report fake news. This percentage drops to 65% when the sample is asked about the unintentional reporting of fake news: in this case, 26.5% say that they “sometimes” do it.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

### >I deliberately report fake news

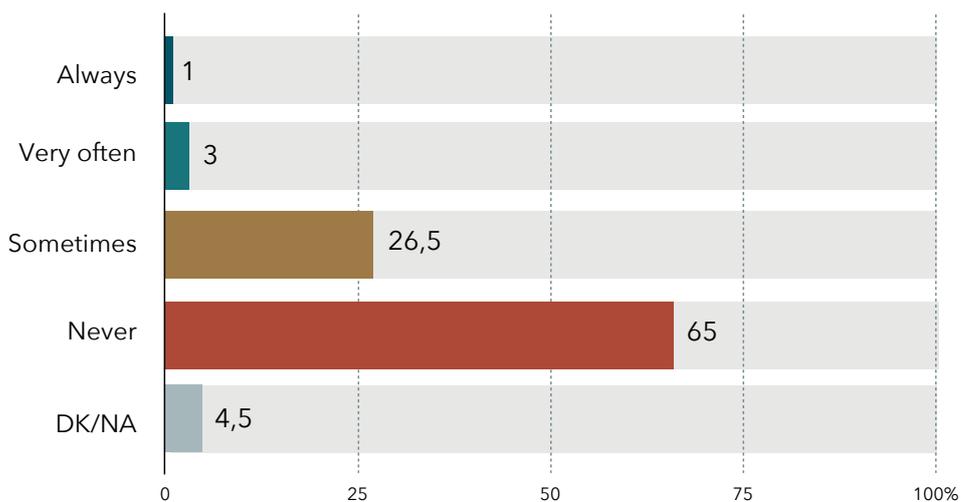
8% of journalists respond positively: 4% do it “sometimes”, 4% “very often” or “always”



How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

### >I unintentionally report fake news

“Sometimes” reply 26.5% of journalists, “very often” or “always” say 4%



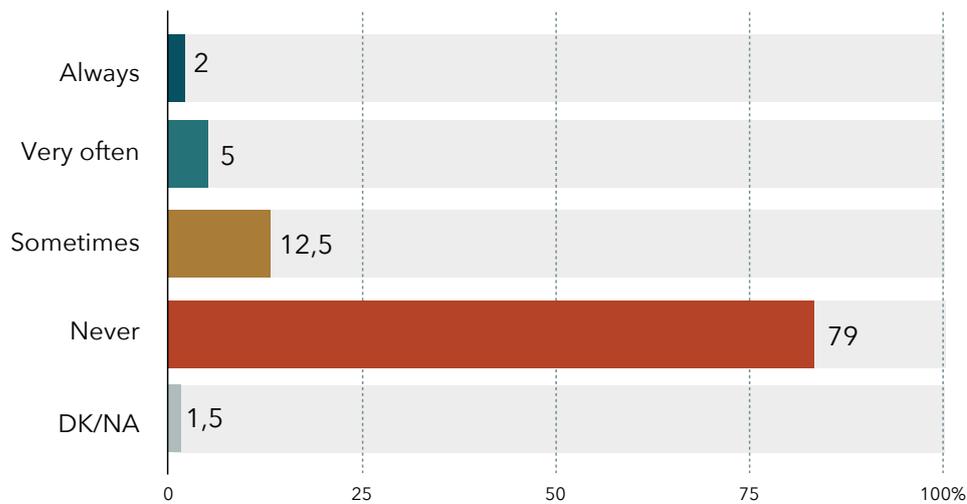
Overall, 19.5% of journalists admit that, with varying degrees of frequency, they distort or withhold information in order to make their stories more appealing to the public. Eight out of ten respondents reply "never".

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

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### >I am distorting or withholding information in order to make my stories more appealing to the public

19.5% of journalists respond positively: 12.5% of the sample do so "sometimes", 7% "very often" or "always"

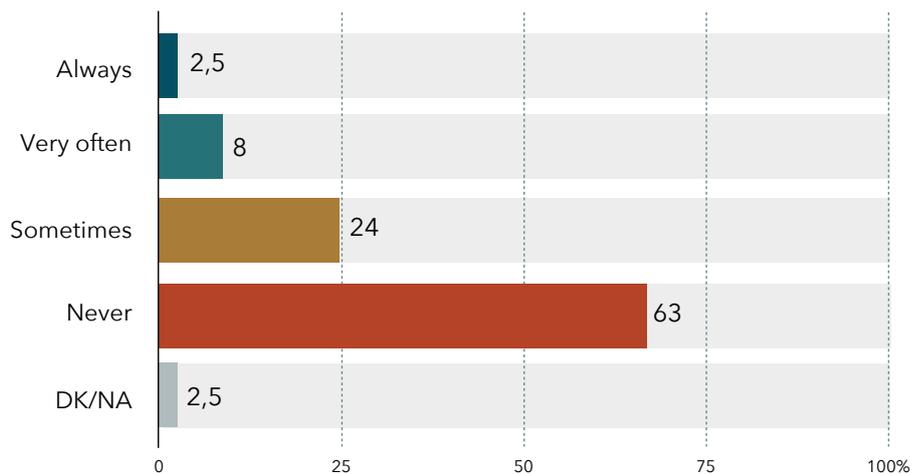


A total of 34.5% of journalists responded that they publish stories or information from other's reporting, without prior personal research to confirm them. Of the total sample, 10.5% admit that they rather regularly ("always"/"very often") engage in this practice, while 24% answer "sometimes".

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

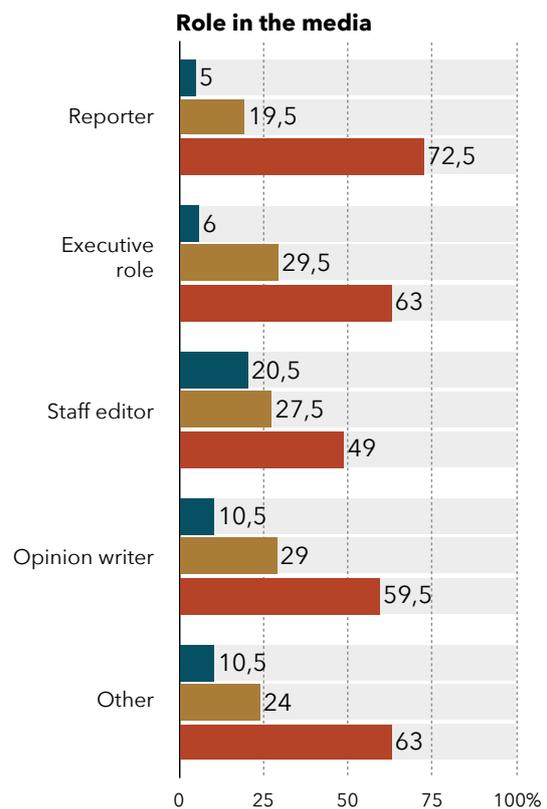
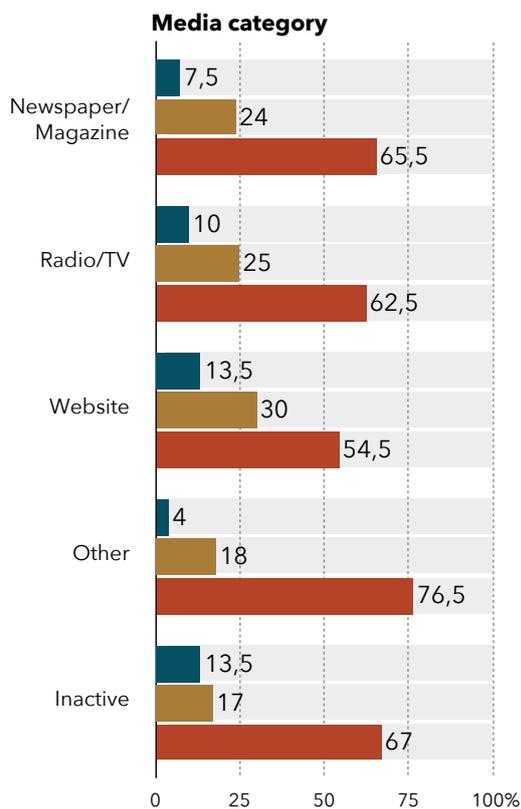
**>I publish, signed or unsigned, stories or information by colleagues from other media, without my own reporting or confirmation of the information**

"Sometimes" reply 24% of journalists, "very often" or "always" say 10.5%



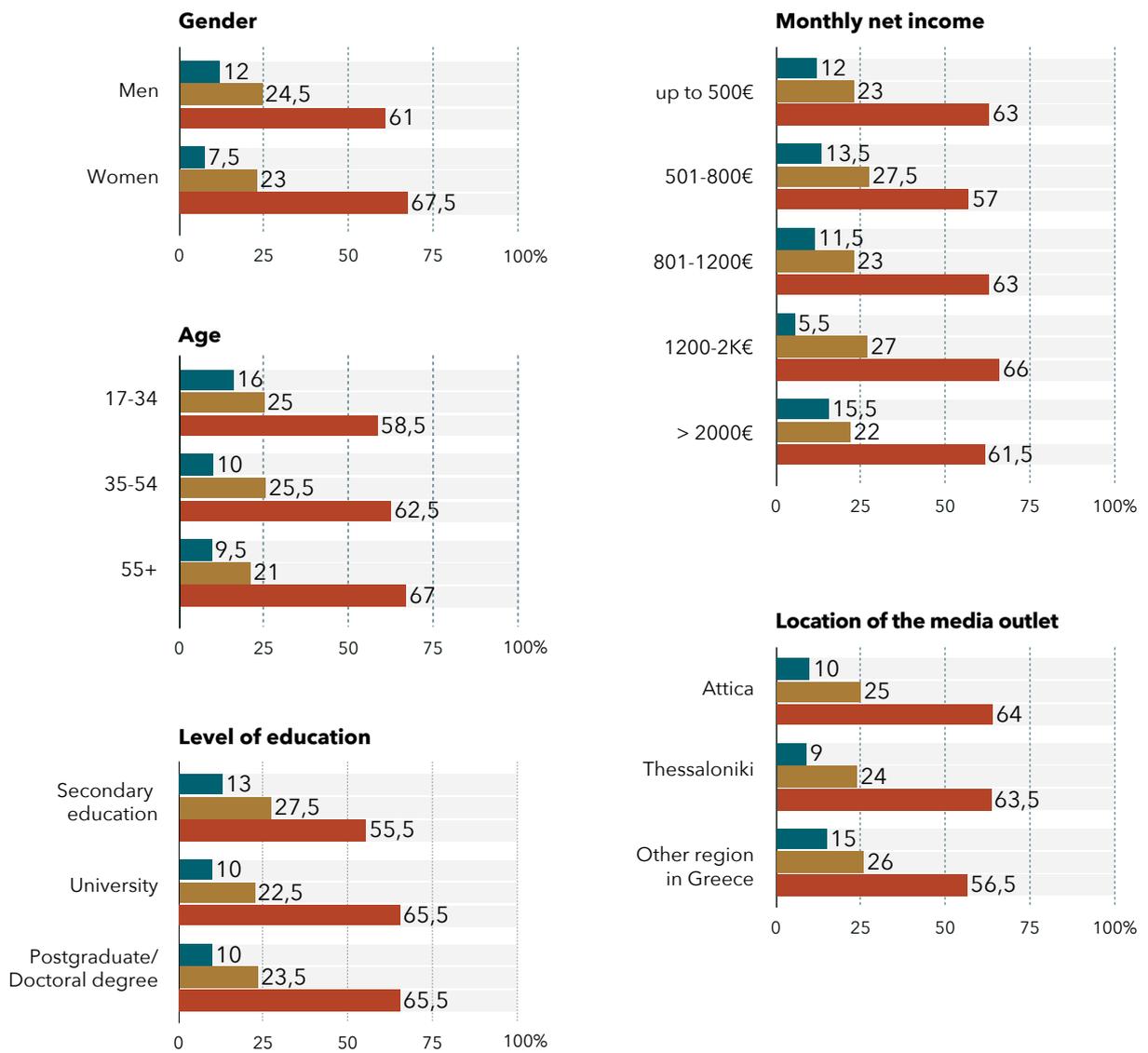
**By type of media and role**

Always & often    Sometimes    Never



## By demographic category

Always & often   Sometimes   Never

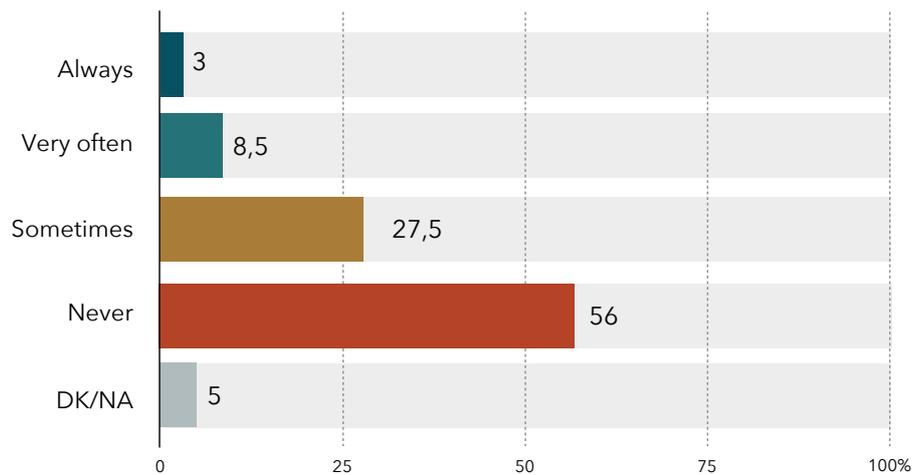


Due to the given opposition of their employers to the publication of certain information on a case-by-case basis, a total of four out of ten journalists, either constantly or occasionally, distort or withhold information when publishing stories: "sometimes" answer 27.5%, "very often" 8.5%, "always" 3%.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

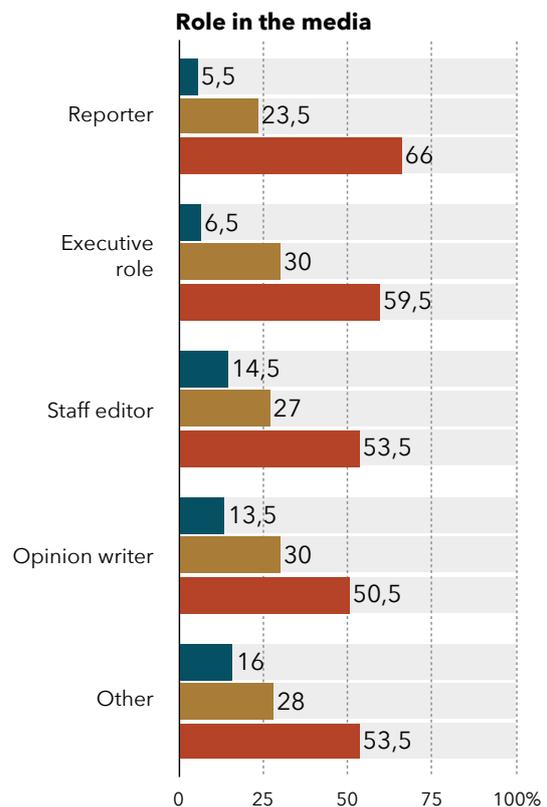
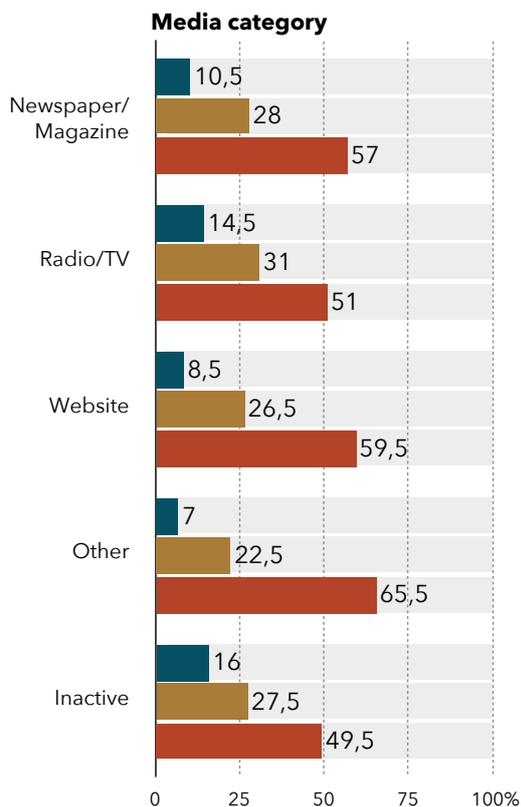
**>I am distorting or withholding information because I know that my employers would be opposed to its reporting**

"Sometimes" reply 27.5% of journalists, "very often" or "always" say 11.5%



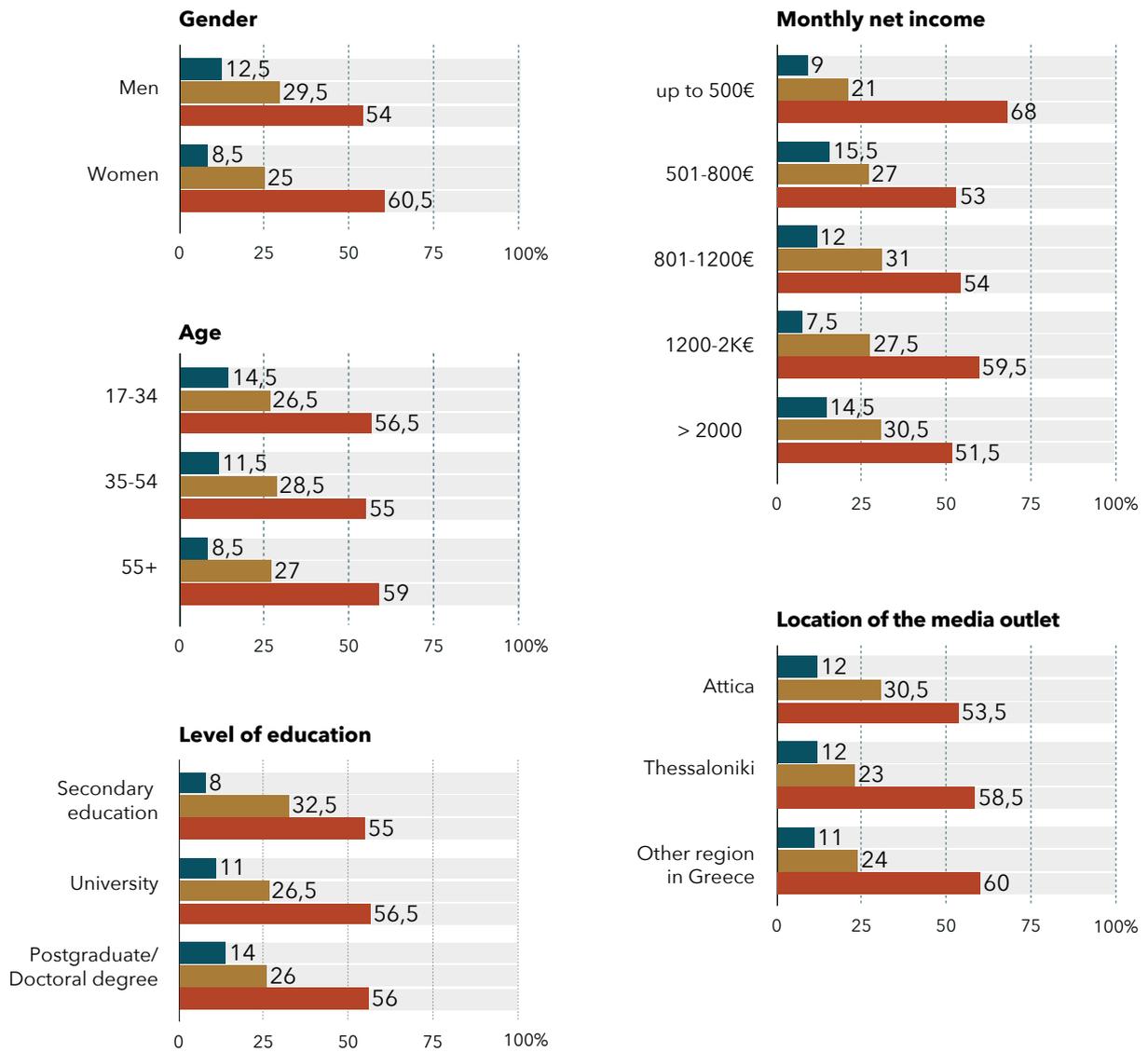
**By type of media and role**

Always & often   Sometimes   Never



## By demographic category

Always & often   Sometimes   Never

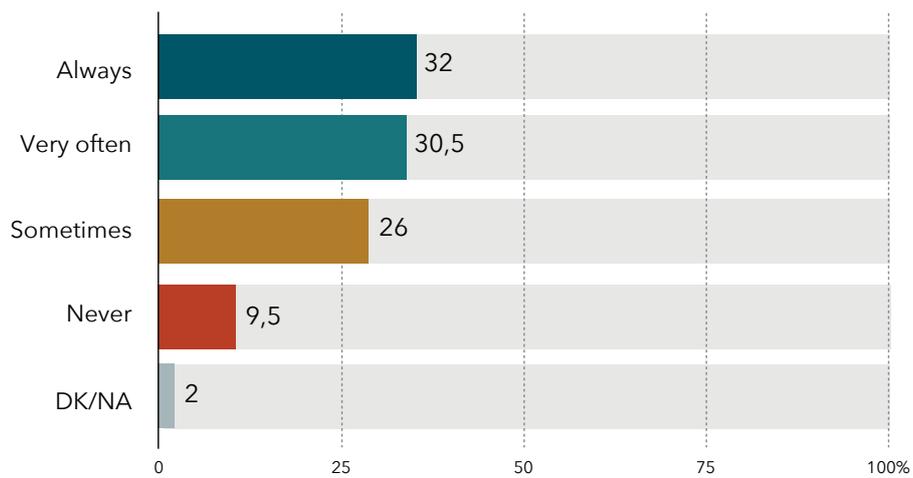


Only three out of ten journalists say they “always” check information contained in press releases before they report it, while 9.5% of the sample say they “never” do so. This kind of confirmation of the information is carried out “sometimes” by 26% and “very often” by 30.5%.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

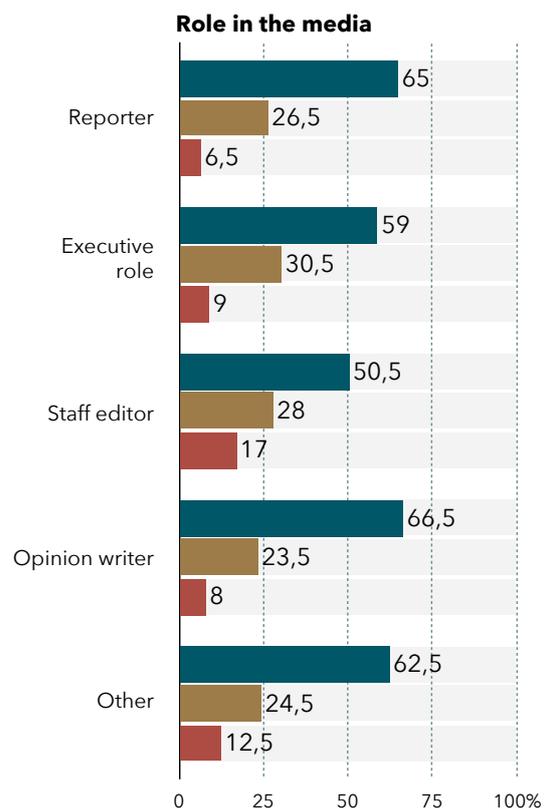
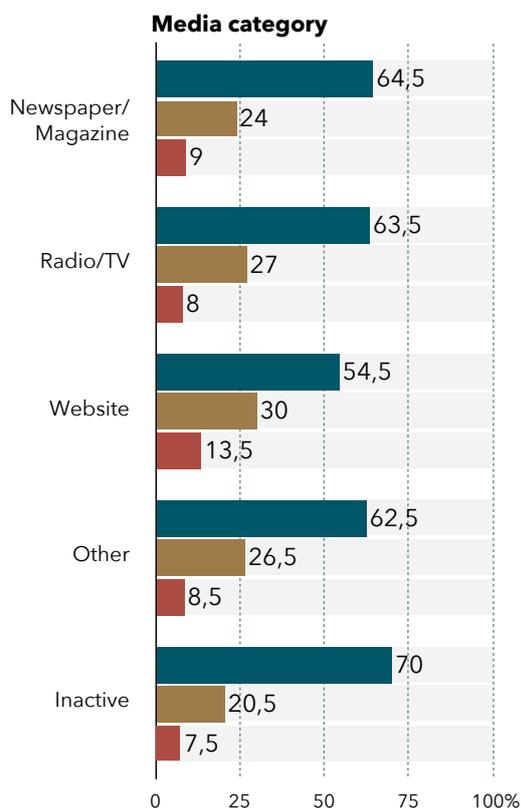
## >I check information contained in press releases before publishing/broadcasting them

“Never” reply 9.5% of journalists, “sometimes” say 26%



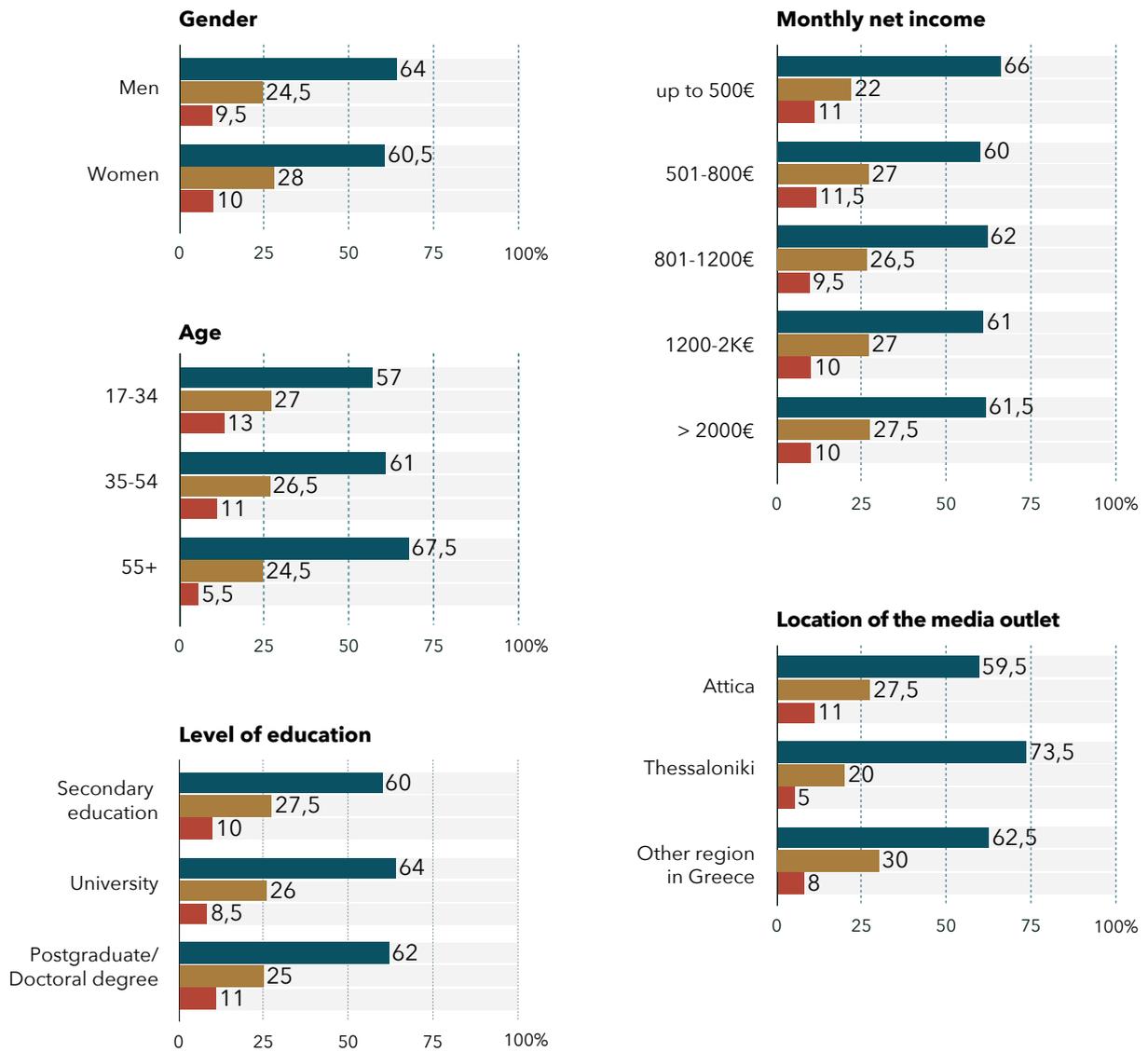
### By type of media and role

Always & often    Sometimes    Never



## By demographic category

Always & often   Sometimes   Never

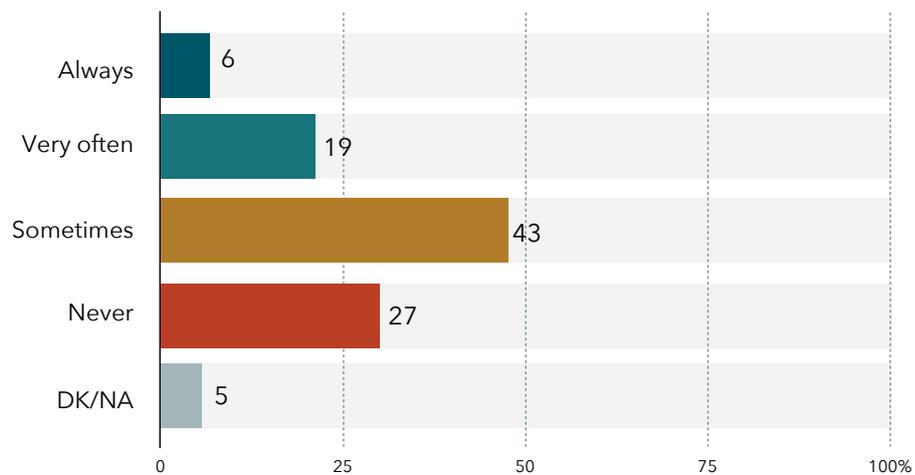


Seven out of ten journalists say “sometimes” (43%) or “very often” (19%) or “always” (6%) they feel that they have not done their utmost to ensure the truth, accuracy and credibility of their journalistic output.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

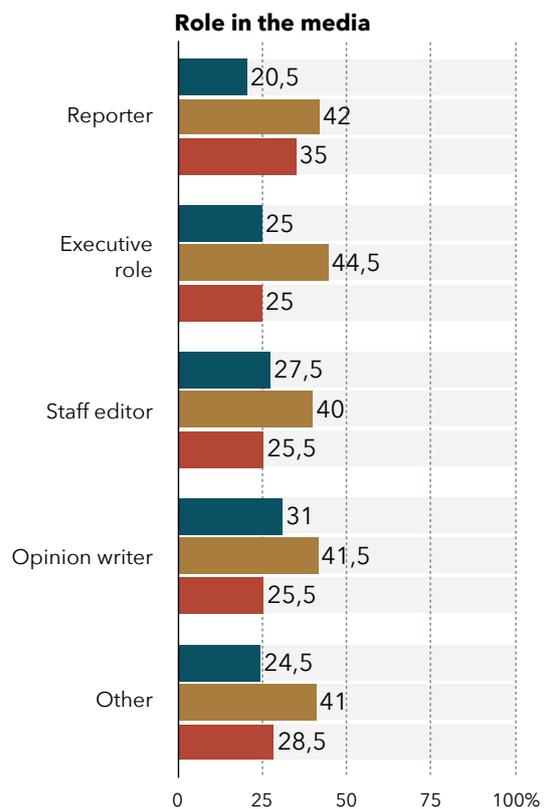
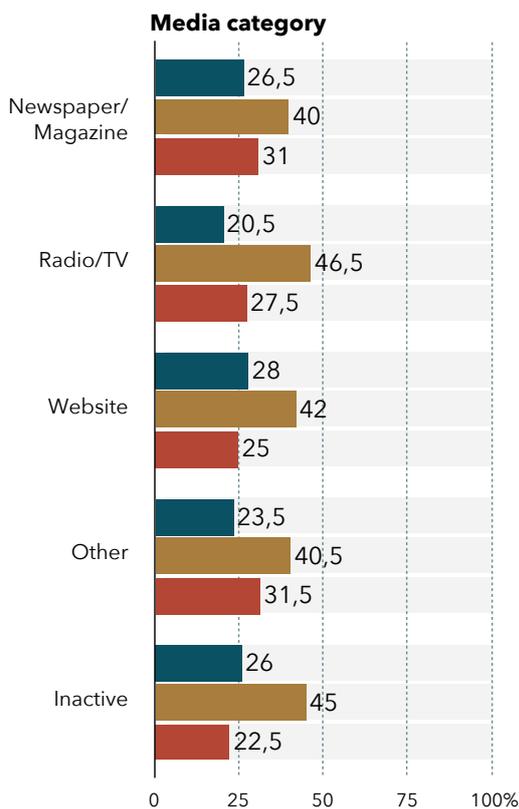
**>I feel that I have not done my utmost to ensure that my journalistic work is true, accurate and credible in its entirety**

“Sometimes” reply 43% of journalists, “very often” or “always” say 25%



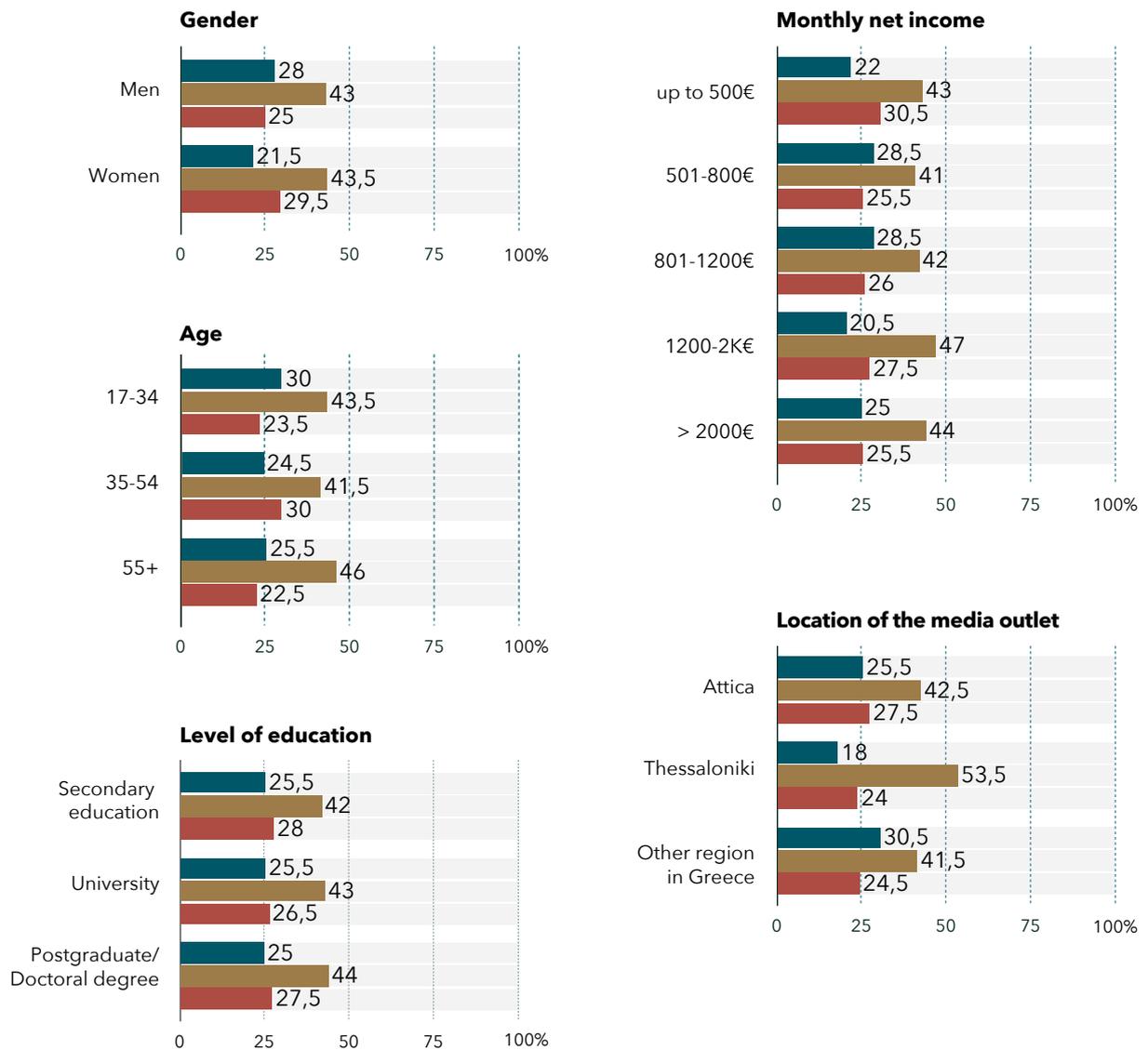
**By type of media and role**

Always & often    Sometimes    Never



## By demographic category

Always & often   Sometimes   Never

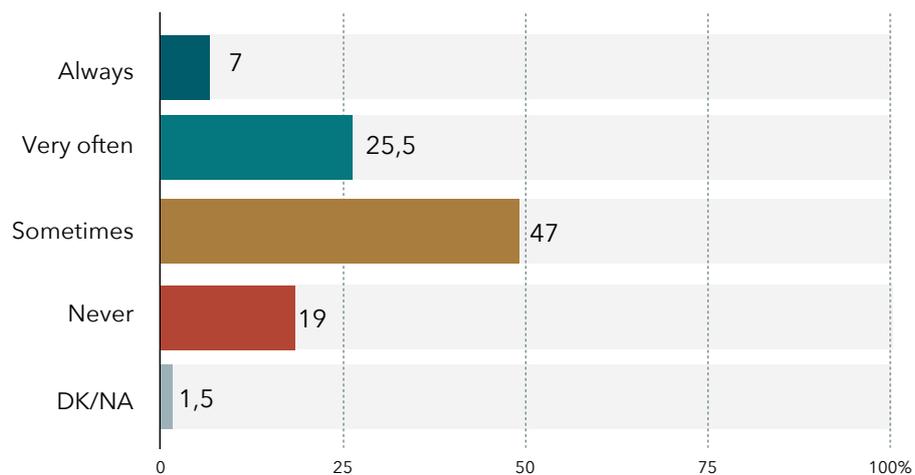


Eight out of ten journalists say they either constantly or occasionally publish stories they wish they had investigated further: 47% do so “sometimes”, 32.5% “very often” or “always”.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

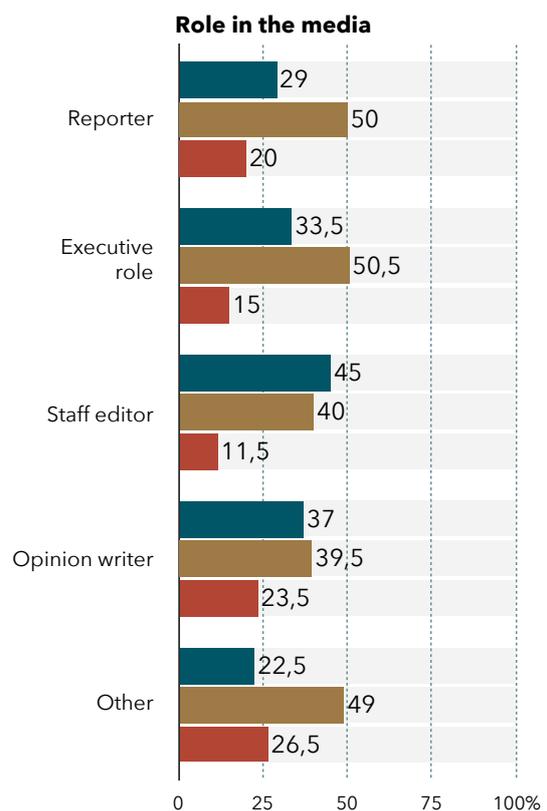
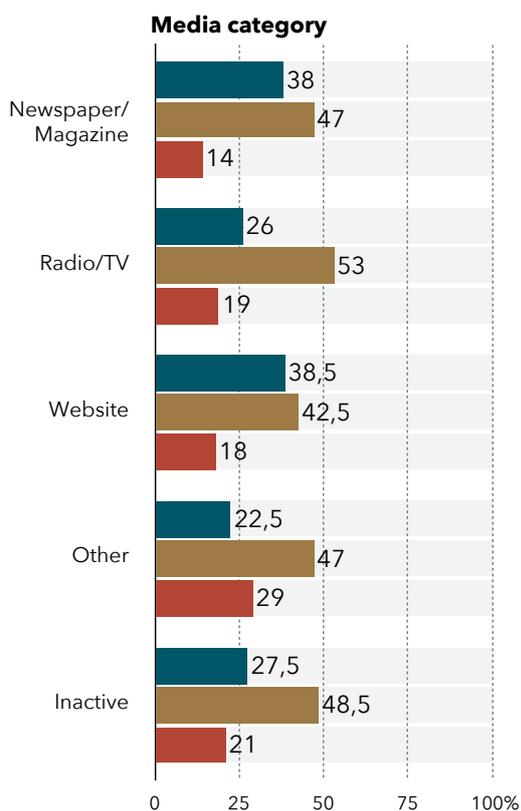
**>Due to time pressure, I am reporting stories or information that I would have liked to have researched more/confirmed better**

79.5% of journalists respond positively: 47% do so “sometimes”, 32.5% “very often” or “always”



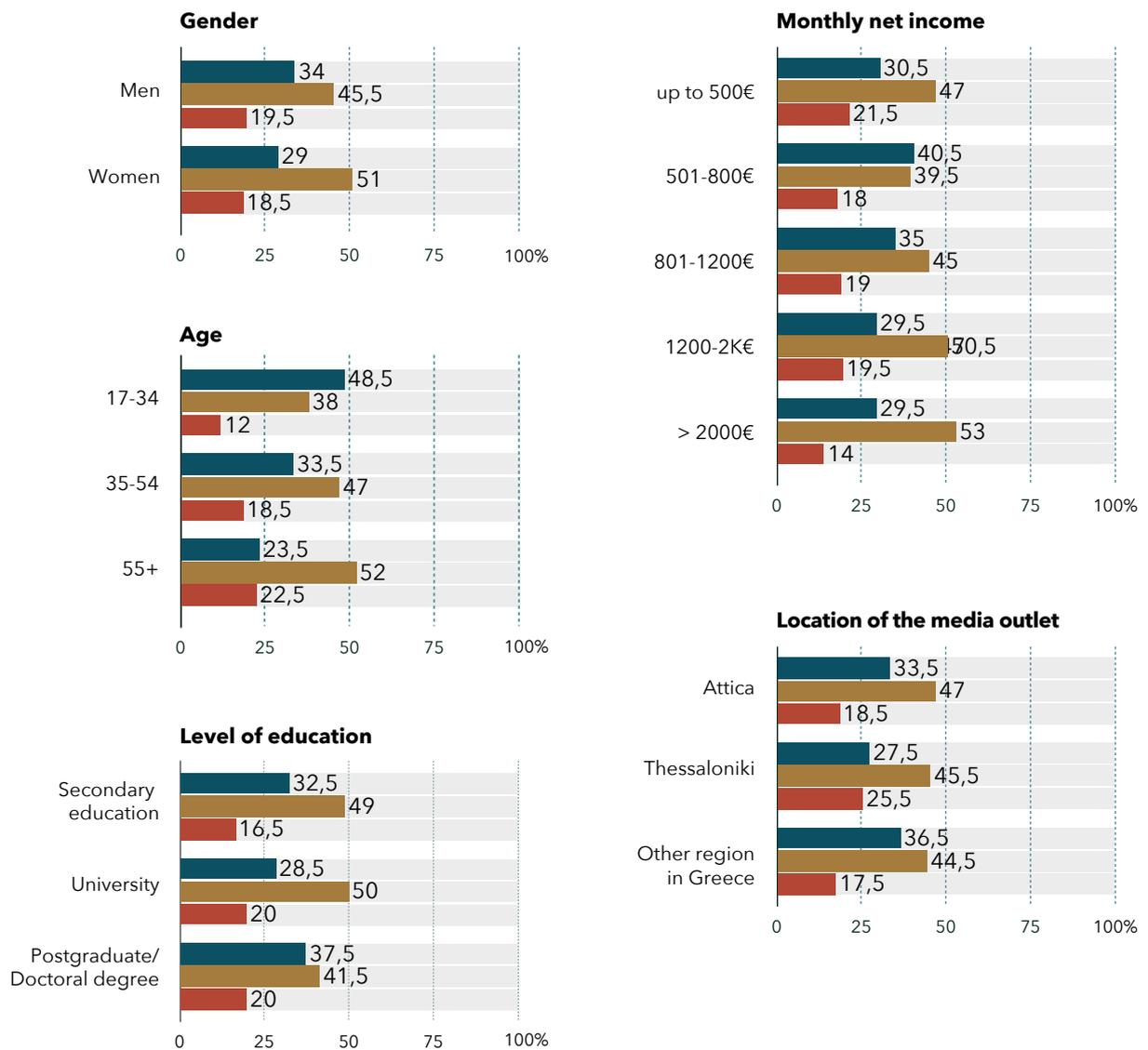
**By type of media and role**

Always & often    Sometimes    Never



## By demographic category

Always & often   Sometimes   Never

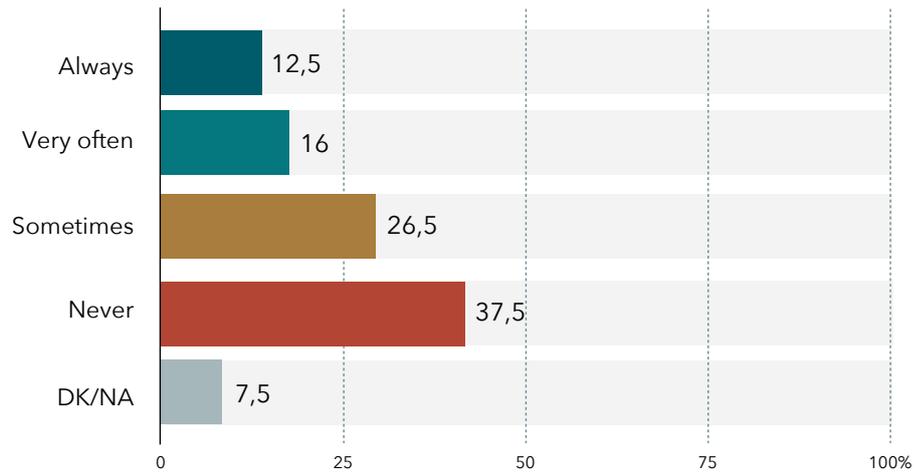


Only 37.5% of journalists respond that they are always paid on time. Overall, 55% say that, all the time or sometimes, they are not paid at the appointed time, while 7.5% of journalists chose not to answer.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

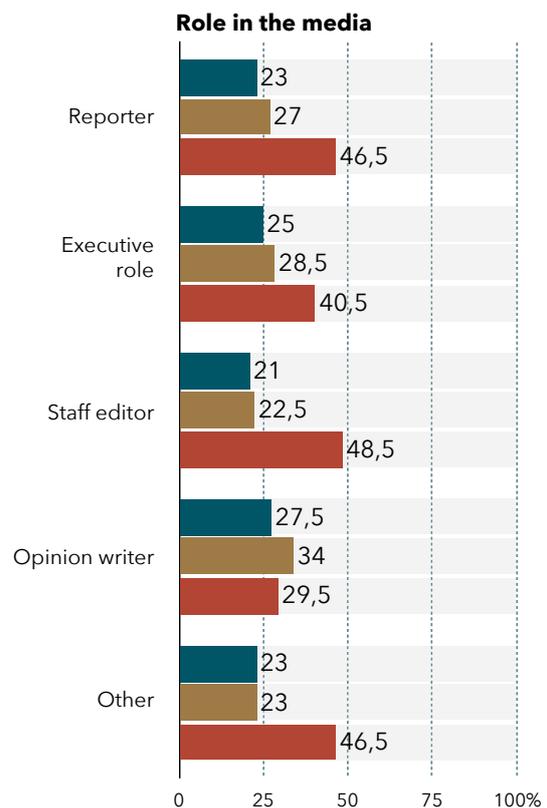
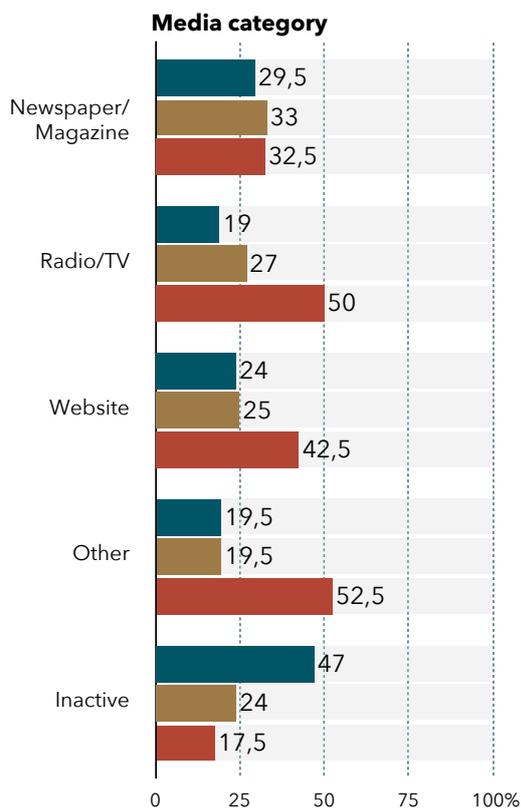
### >I do not get paid on time

"Sometimes" reply 26.5% of journalists, "very often" or "always" say 28.5%



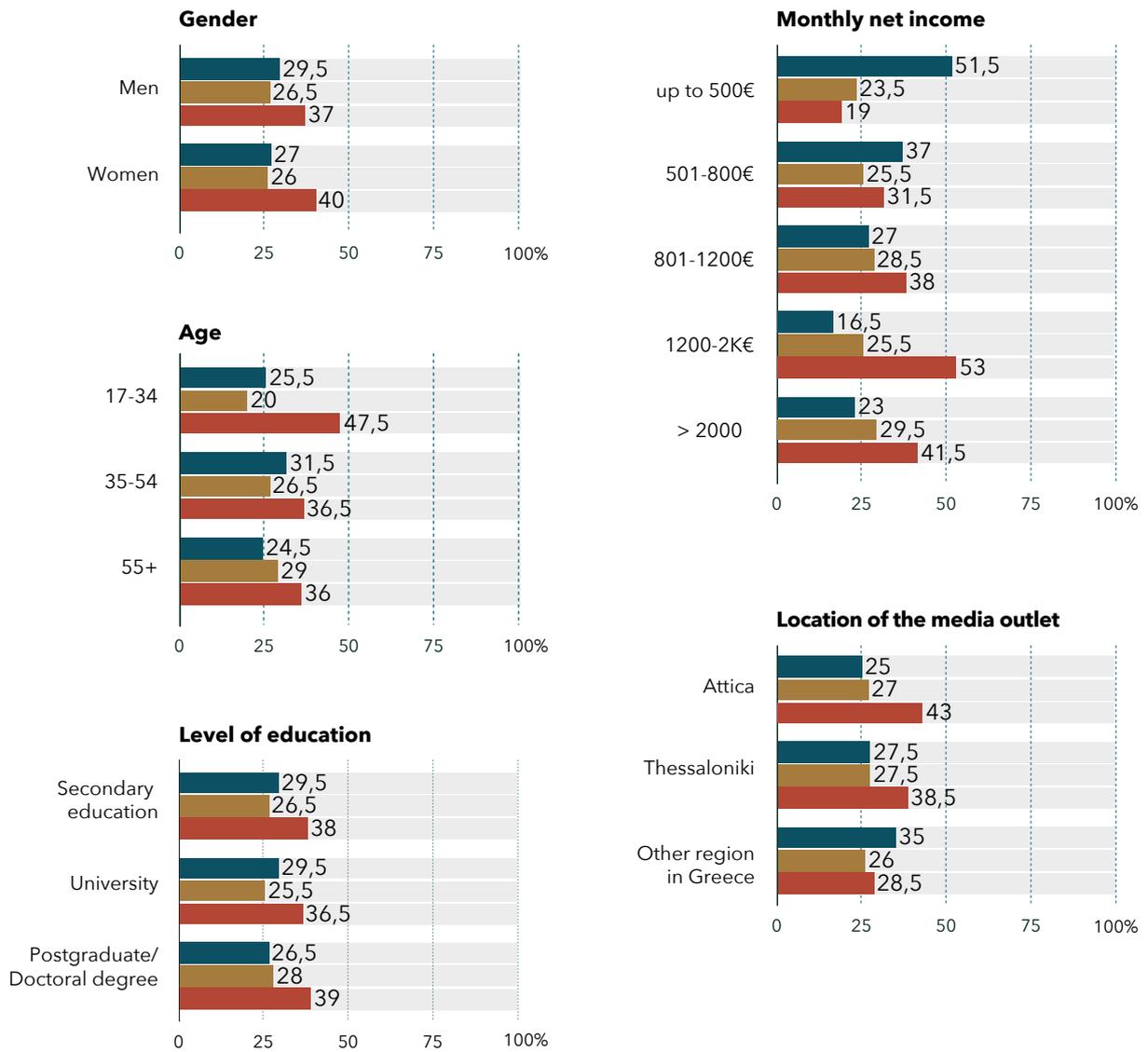
### By type of media and role

Always & often   Sometimes   Never



## By demographic category

Always & often   Sometimes   Never

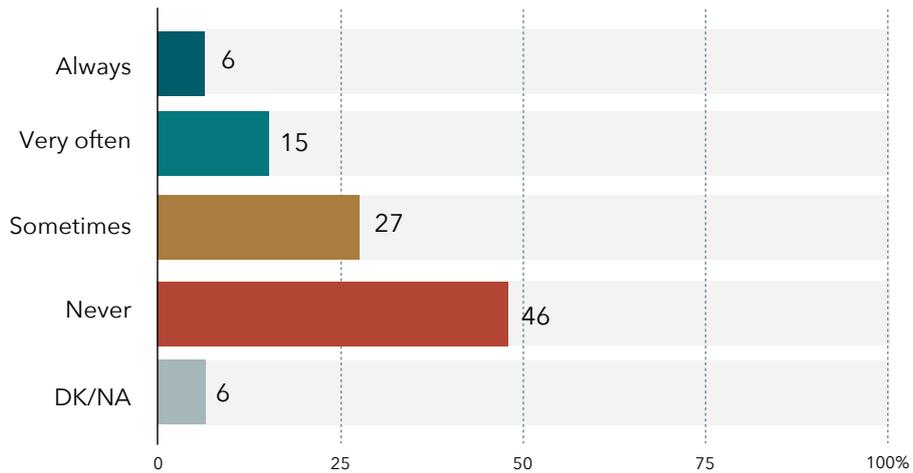


A total of 48% of respondents say that, either all the time (21%) or sometimes (27%), they are afraid of being fired because of the stories they choose to research. 46% say that this “never” happens to them.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

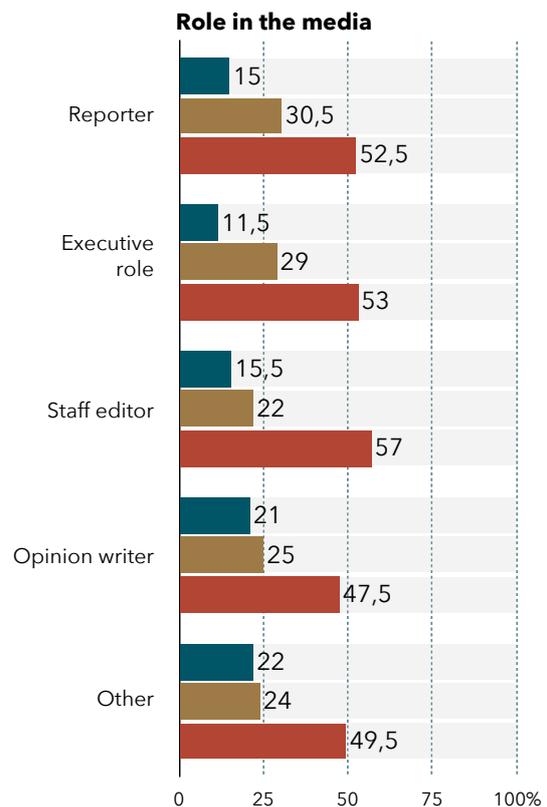
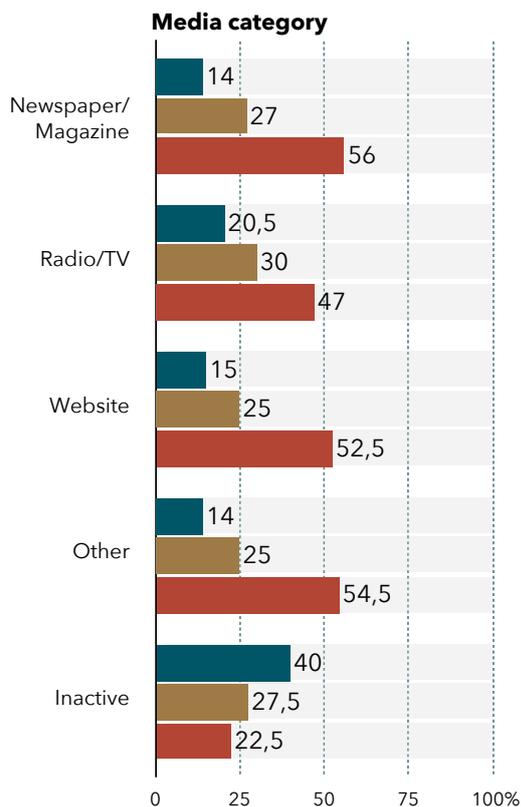
## >I am afraid of losing my job because of stories I choose to cover

A total of 48% of journalists respond positively: “sometimes” 27%, “very often” or “always” 21%



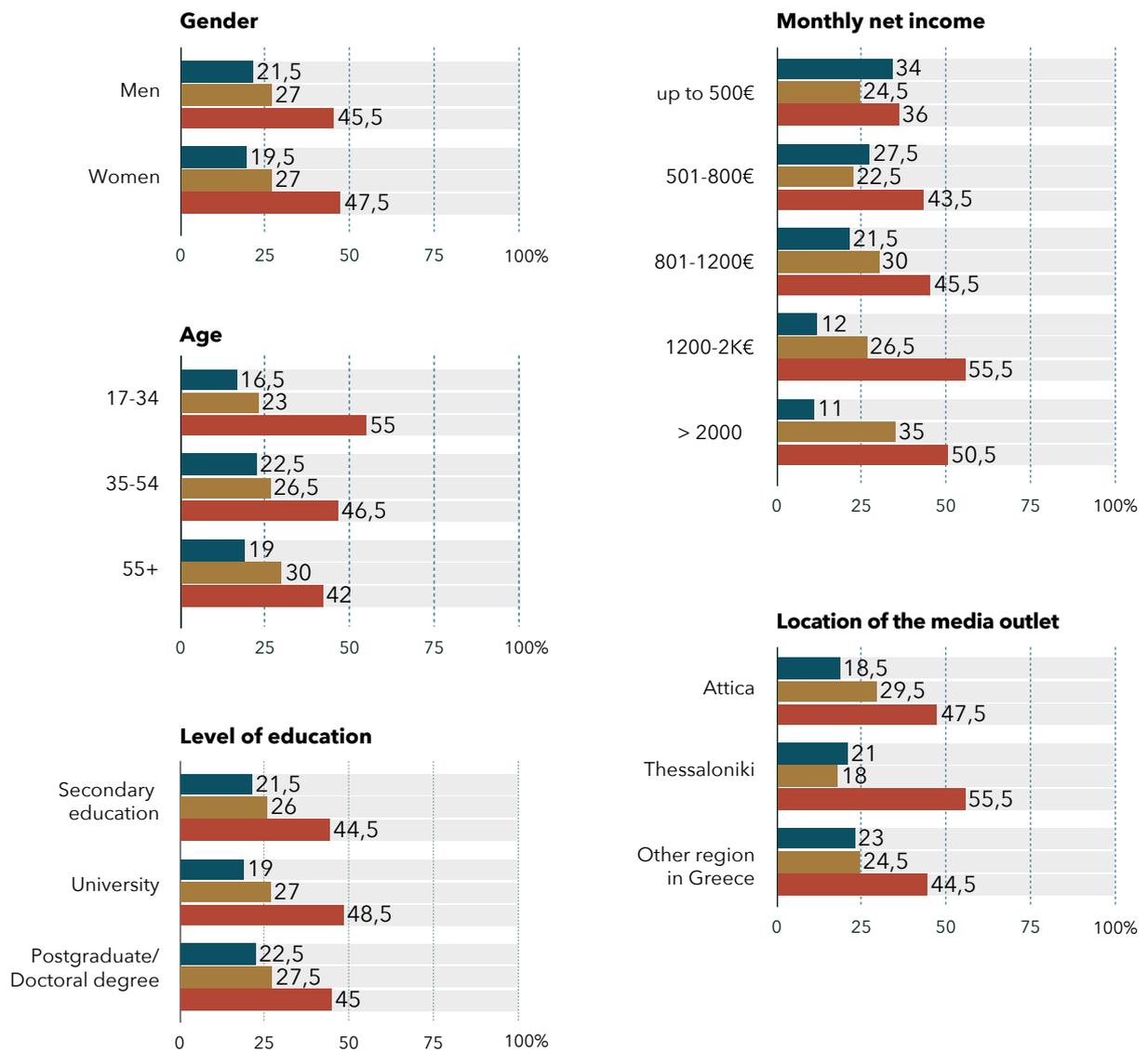
### By type of media and role

Always & often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Always & often   Sometimes   Never

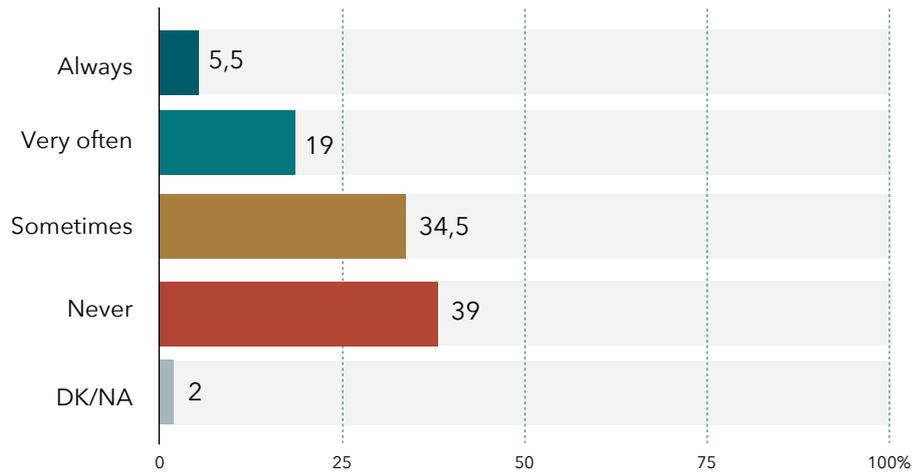


Six out of ten journalists take into account, “sometimes” (34.5%) or systematically (24.5%) the potential popularity of their stories in social media when preparing them.

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

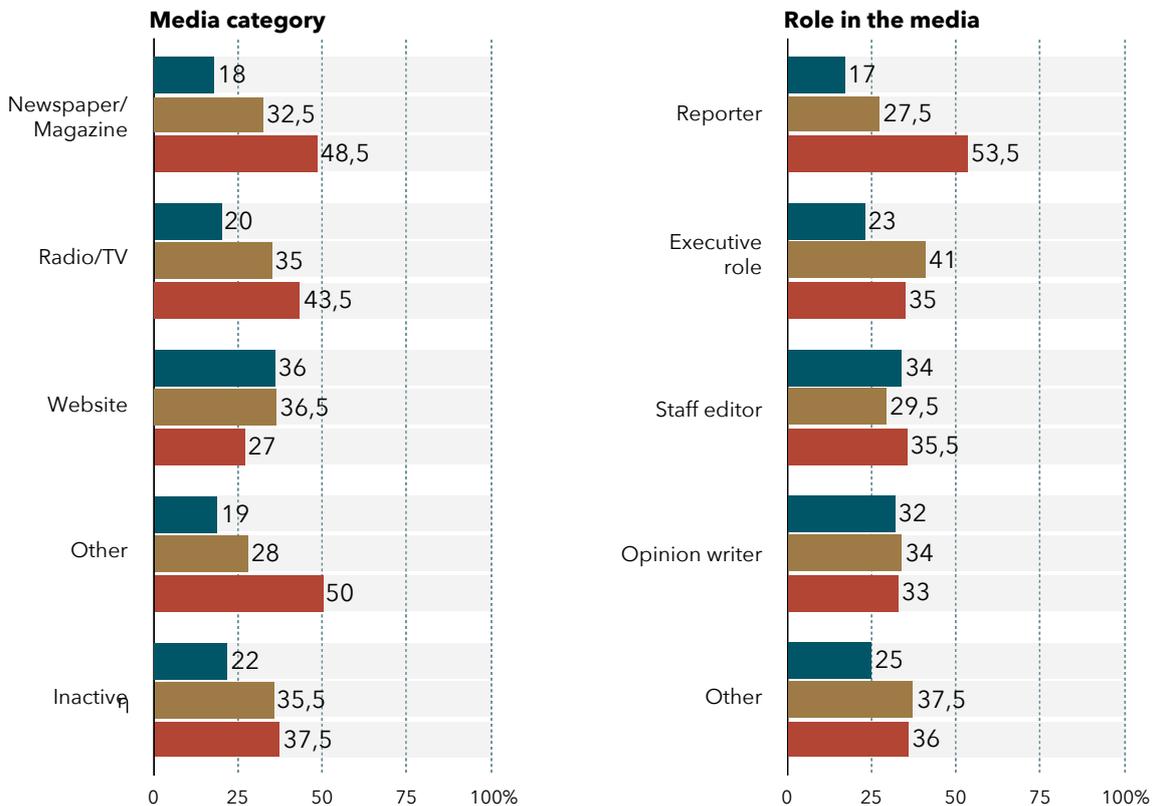
**>When I prepare my stories, I take into account whether the content will be popular on social media**

“Sometimes” reply 34.5% of journalists, “very often” or “always” say 24.5%



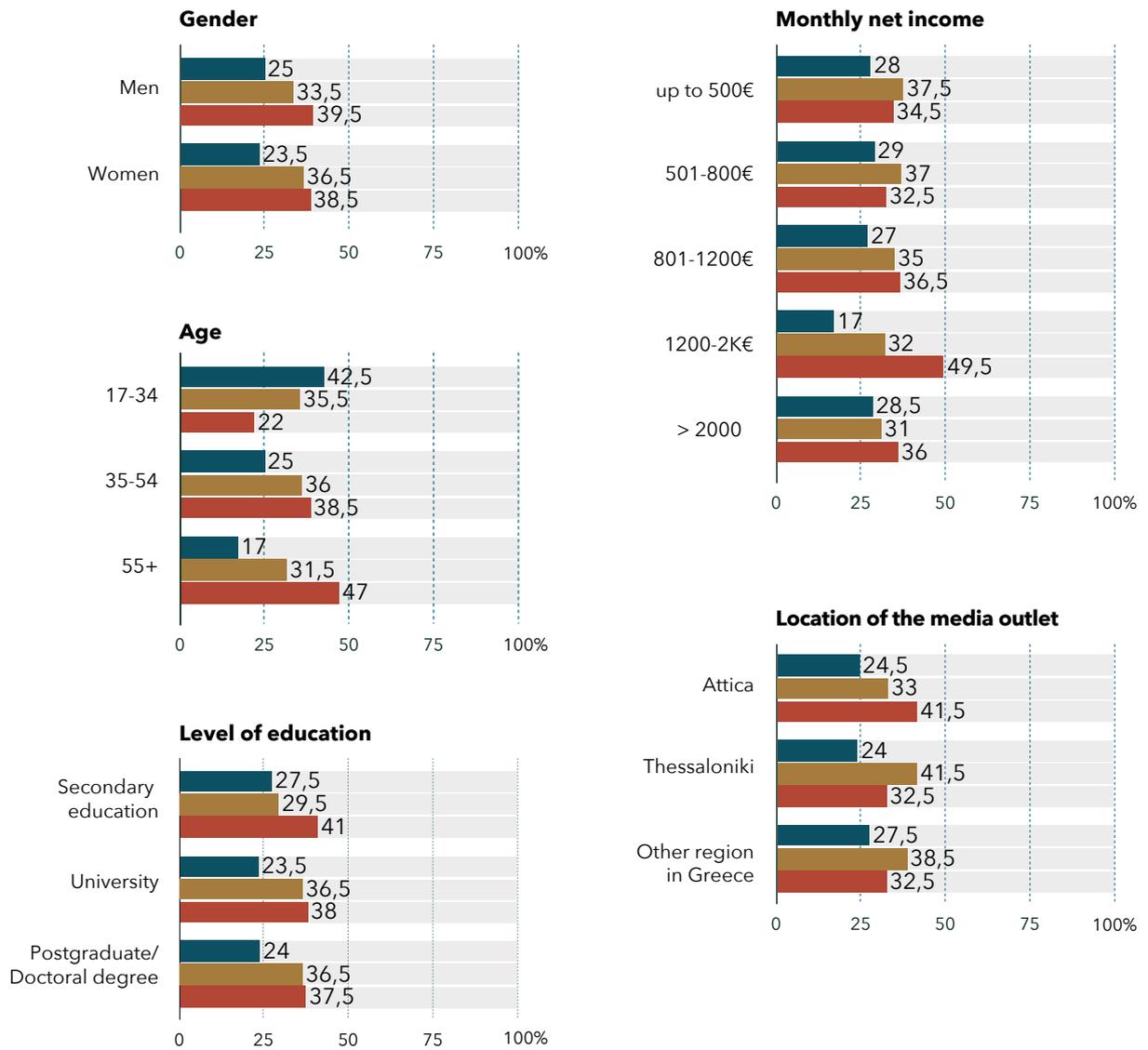
**By type of media and role**

Always & often   Sometimes   Never



## By demographic category

Always & often   Sometimes   Never

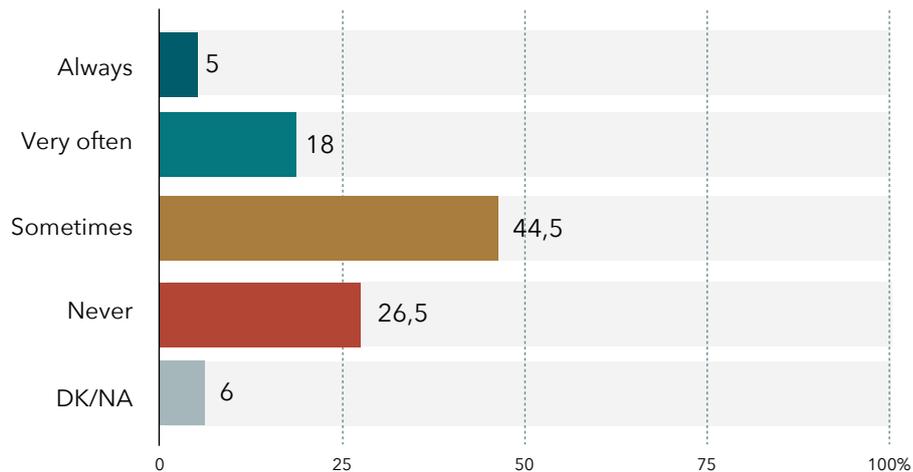


Only 26.5% of journalists say they “never” receive aggressive comments when posting their stories on social media: instead, 44.5% say it happens “sometimes” and 23% note that they face aggression all the time on social media (“very often”/“always”).

How often would you say you do or have the following happen to you?

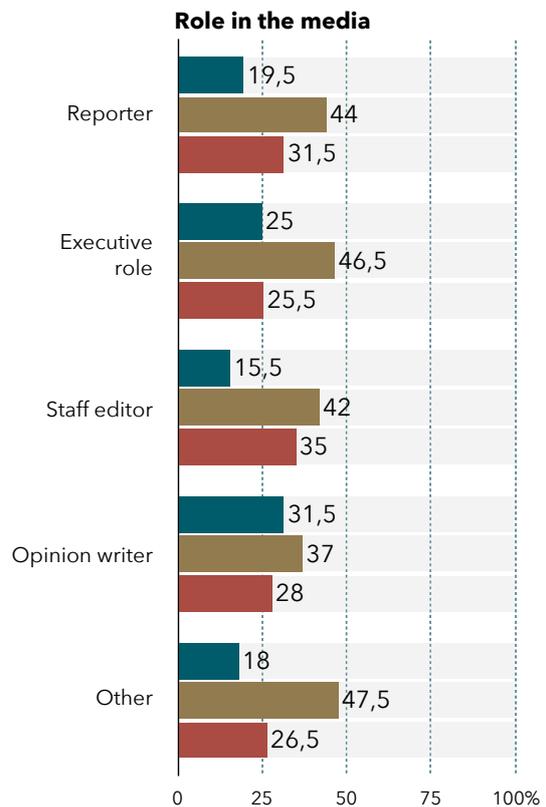
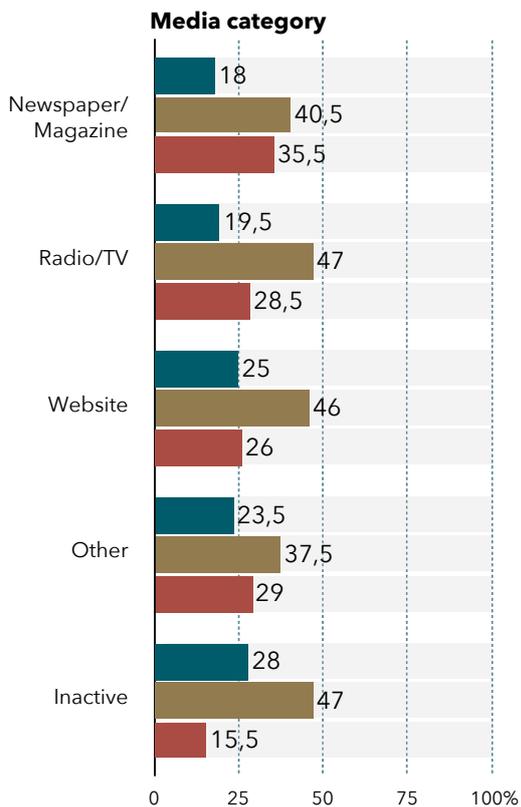
**>I receive offensive comments (public or private) when I post my stories on social media**

“Sometimes” reply 44.5% of journalists, “very often” or “always” say 23%



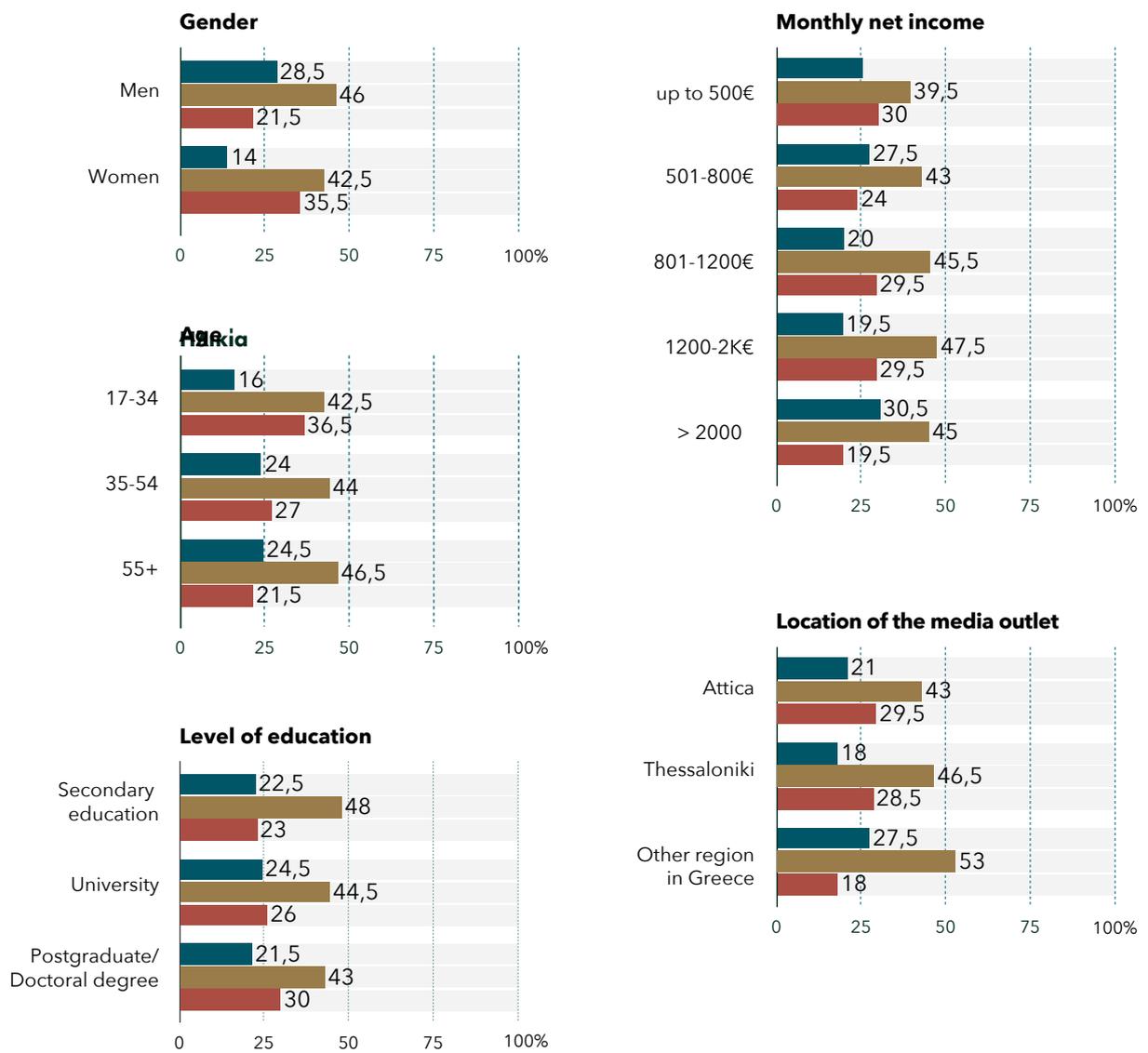
**By type of media and role**

Always & often    Sometimes    Never



## By demographic category

Always & often   Sometimes   Never





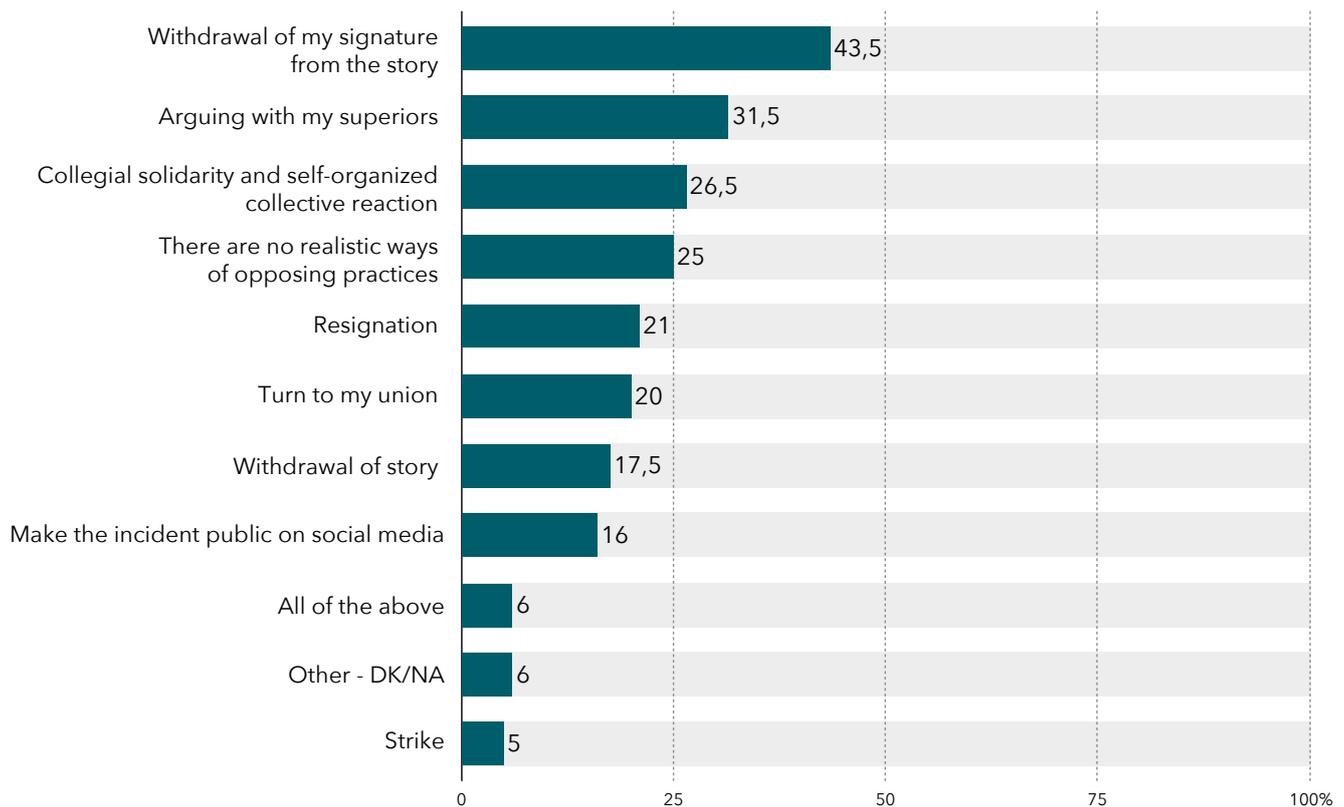
# Opposing Practices Contrary to Journalistic Ethics

When asked what they consider to be realistic ways of opposing the practices of the media where they work or those hierarchically superior in their working environment, journalists mainly answer “withdrawing their signature” (43.5%), “arguing” (31.5%), and “collegial solidarity and self-organized collective resistance” (26.5%). However, ¼ of journalists choose to note that “there are no realistic ways to oppose”.

For the same question, given the option of up to three choices by each participant, lower percentages of choice are “resignation” (21%), “informing the union” (20%), withdrawing the report (17.5%) and publicizing the issue in question on social media (16%).

Multiple choices –up to three

**>Which of the following do you consider realistic ways of opposing practices of your media outlet or superiors that are contrary to your journalistic ethics?**



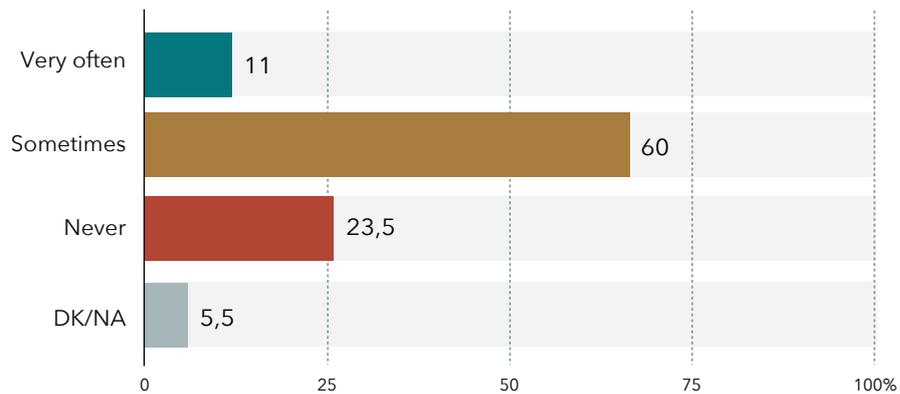
Note: The graph is presented ordered by the percentage of responses each of the options gathered by respondents – not by the original order in which they were listed in the questionnaire.

Asked at a personal level how often they come into conflict with their hierarchical superiors, six out of ten journalists answer "sometimes". 23.5% respond "never", while 11% say "very often".

How often would you personally say that you have done the following during the current period or in the recent past?

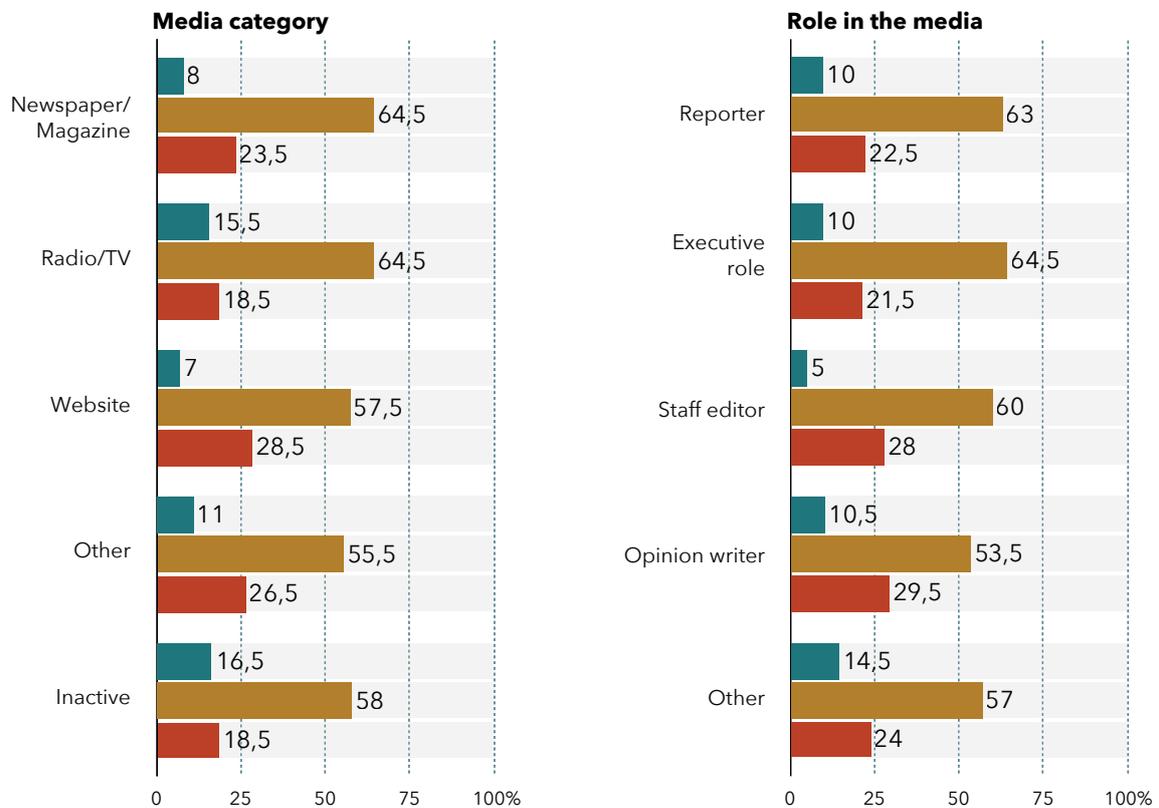
## >Arguing with my superiors

"Sometimes" reply 60% of journalists, "very often" say 11%



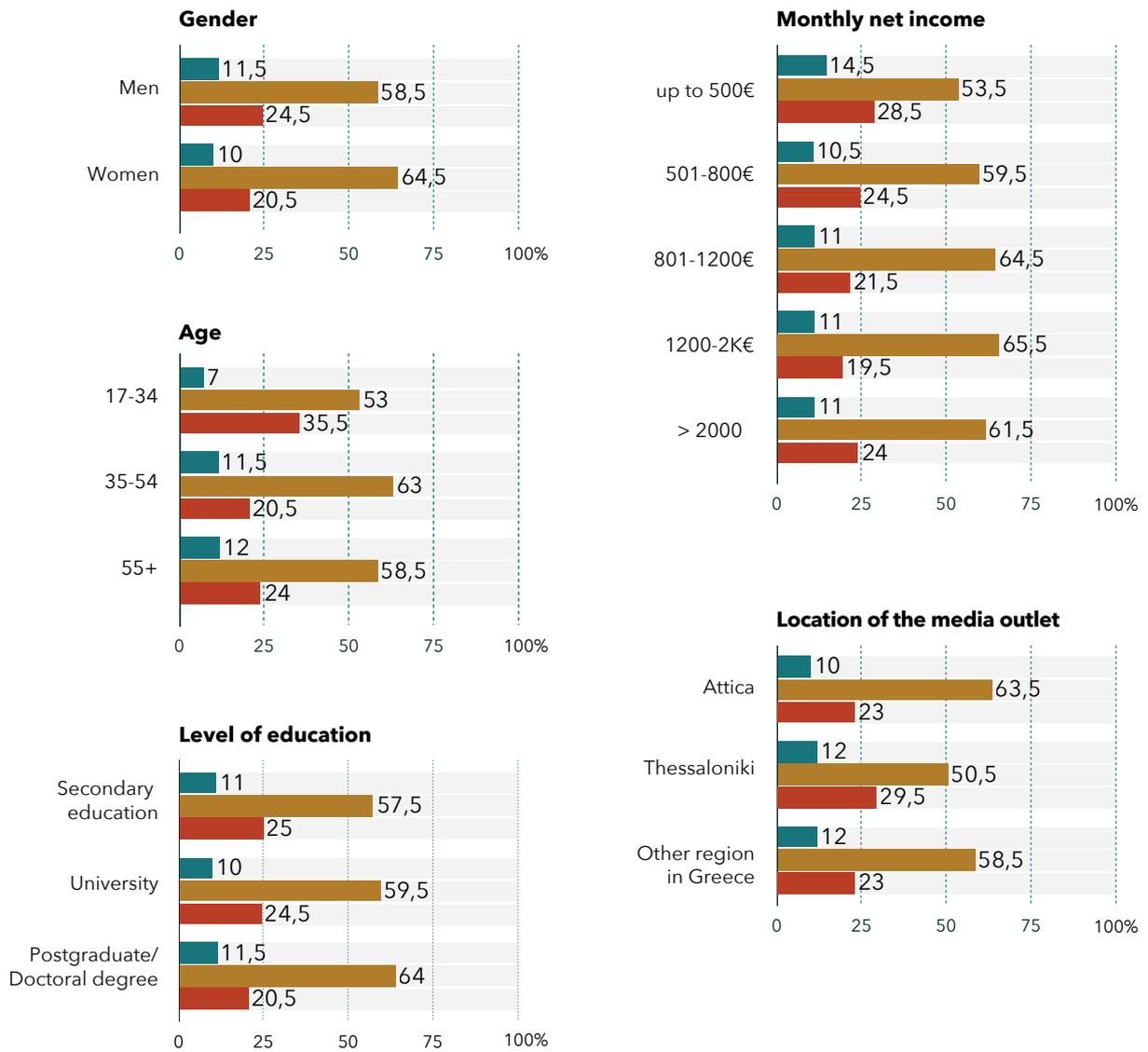
## By type of media and role

Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Very Often Sometimes Never

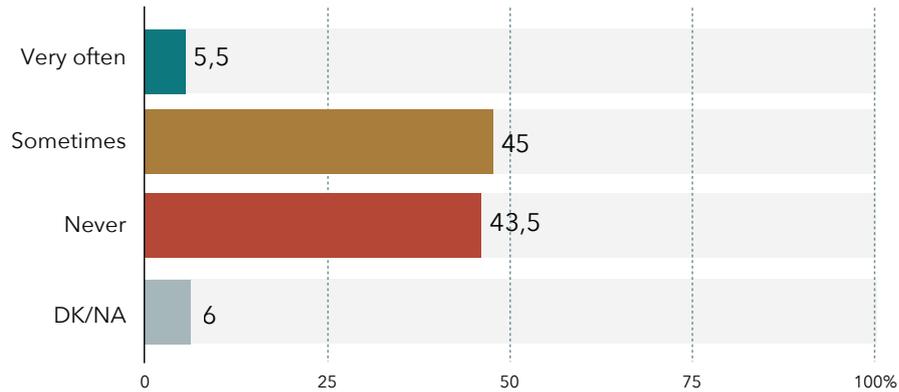


45% of journalists say they “sometimes” withdraw reports, while 5.5% say they “always” do so as a form of opposition. At the same time 43.5% respond that they “never” do so.

How often would you personally say that you have done the following during the current period or in the recent past?

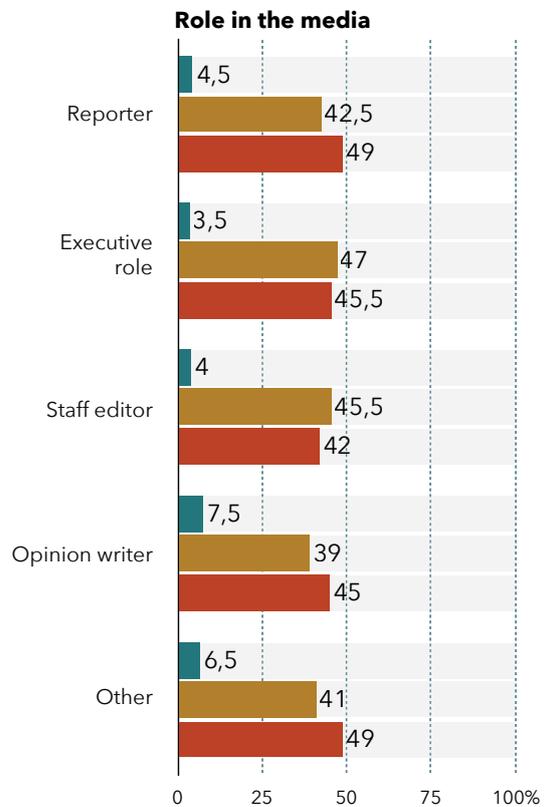
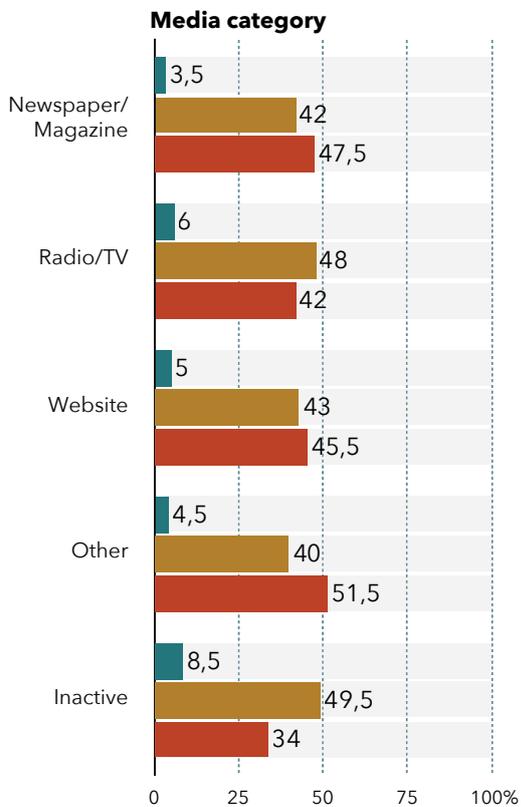
### >Withdrawal of story

“Sometimes” reply 45% of journalists, “very often” say 5.5%



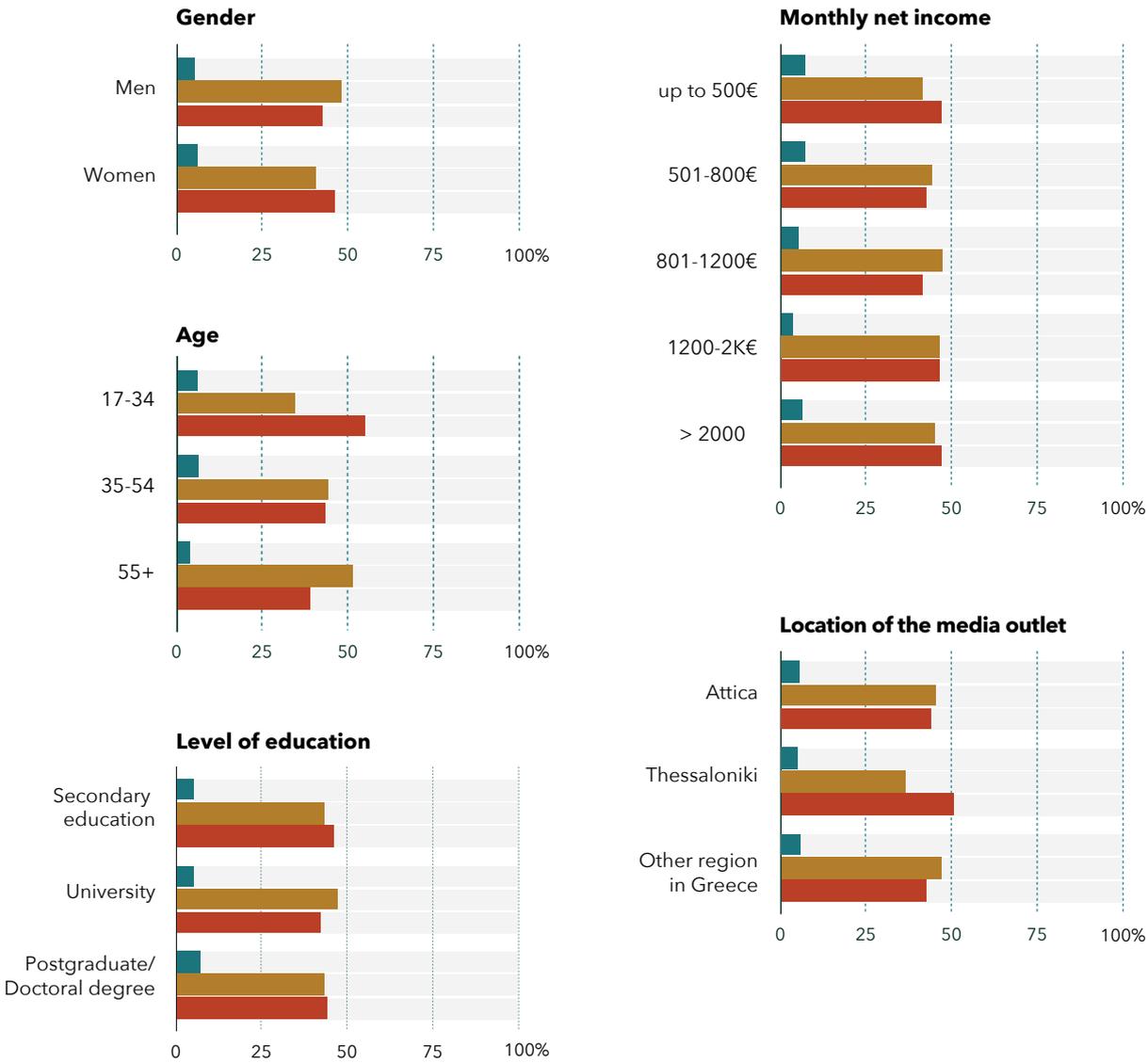
### By type of media and role

Very Often   Sometimes   Never



# By demographic category

Very Often   Sometimes   Never

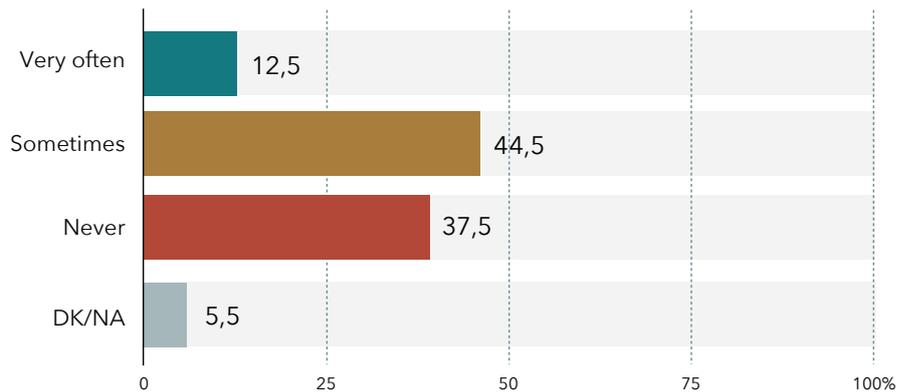


Overall, 57% of journalists say they withdraw their signature from a story when there is a reason to do so, with varying degrees of frequency: "sometimes" say 44.5%, "very often" respond 12.5%. 37.5% choose to "never" withdraw their signature from the story.

How often would you personally say that you have done the following during the current period or in the recent past?

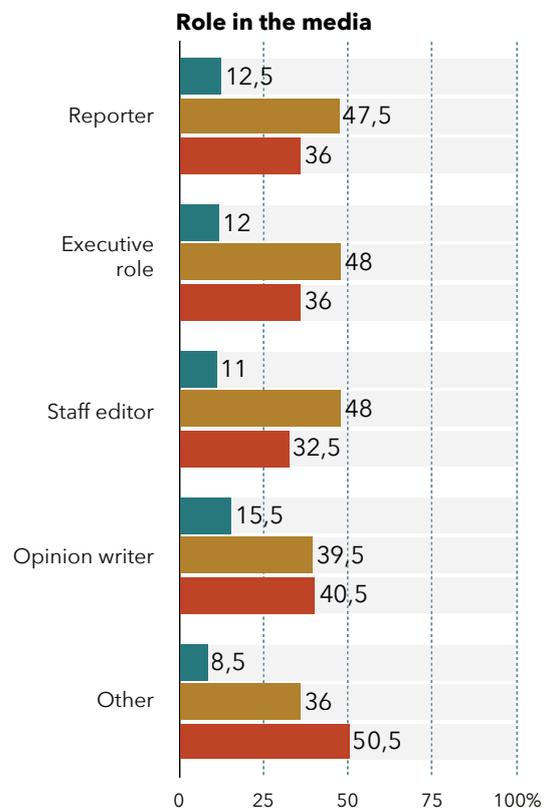
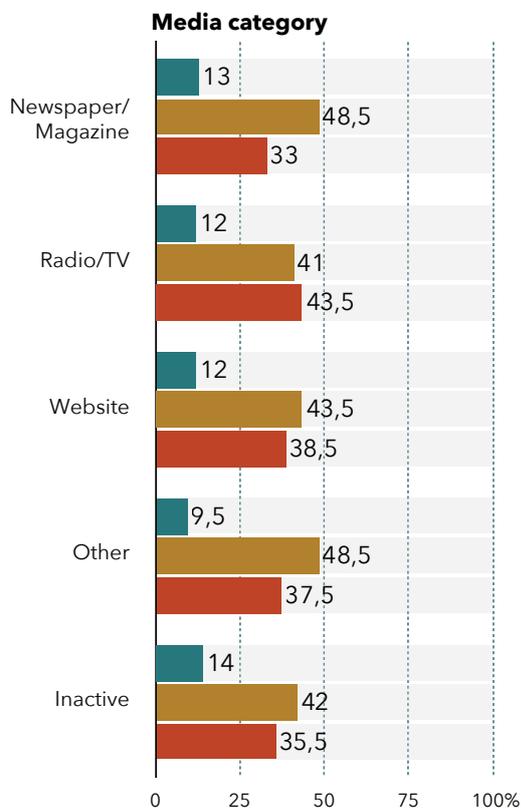
## >Withdrawal of my signature from the story

"Sometimes" reply 44.5% of journalists, "very often" say 12.5%



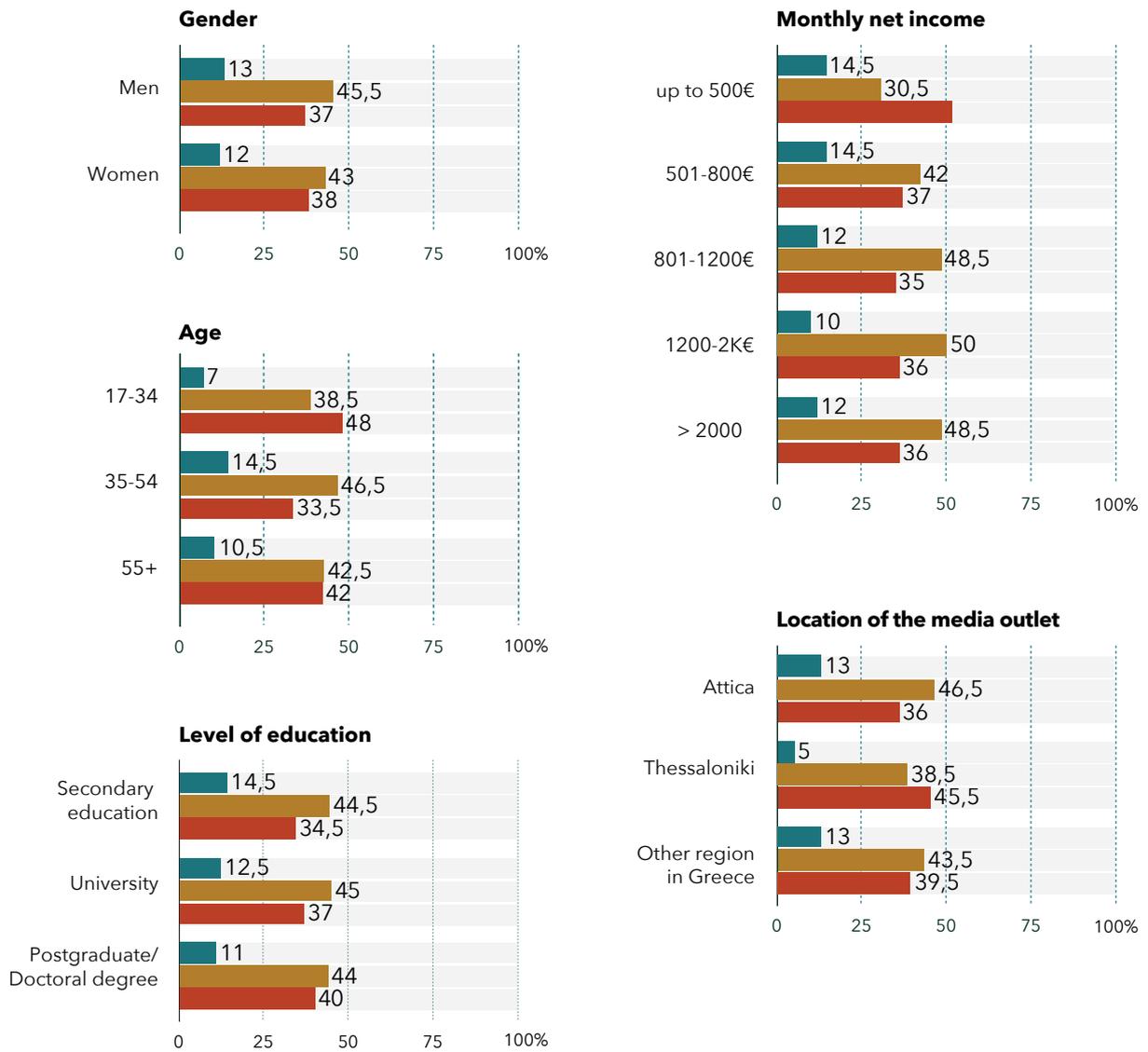
### By type of media and role

Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Very Often   Sometimes   Never

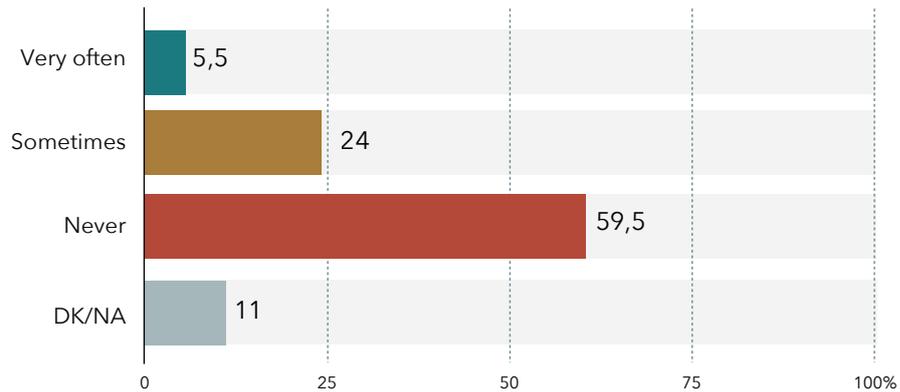


Six out of ten journalists say that, in the current period or in the recent past, they have “never” turned to their union to take action on an issue that needs opposition. “Sometimes” reply 24%, “very often” say 5.5%. 11% of the sample chose not to answer the question.

How often would you personally say that you have done the following during the current period or in the recent past?

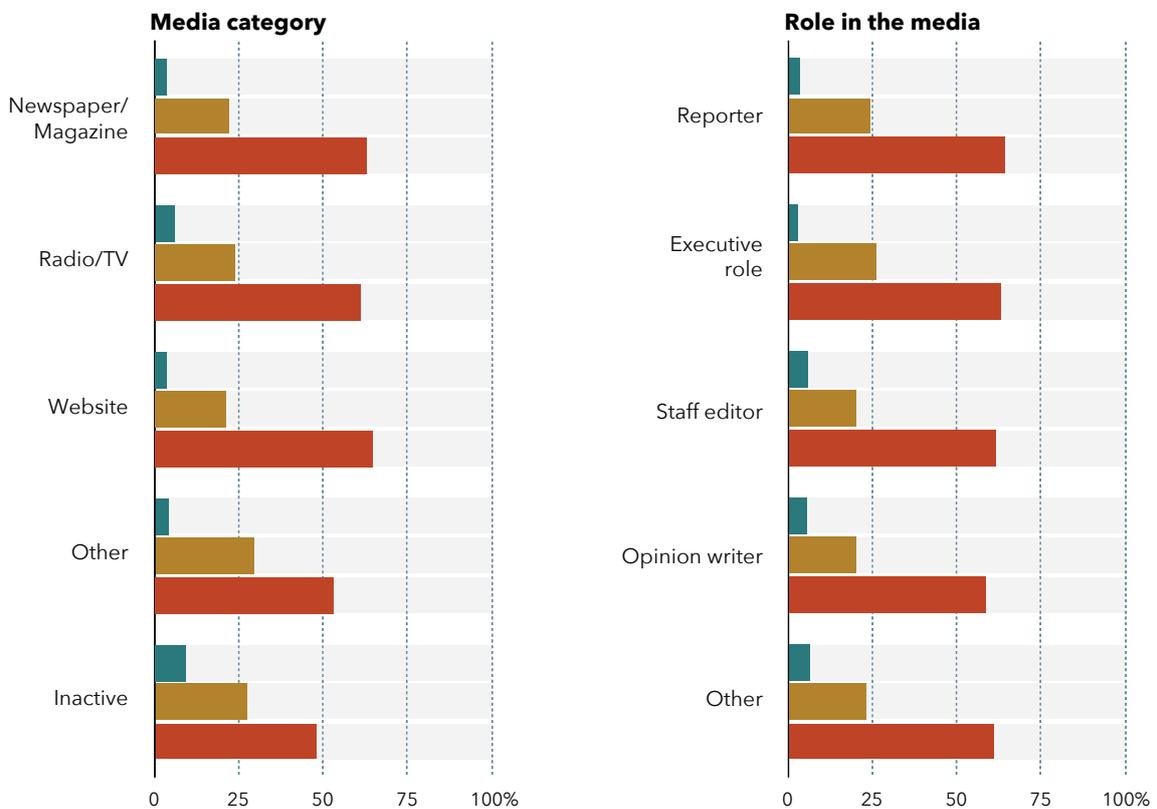
### >Turn to my union and have them take action

“Never” reply 59.5% of journalists



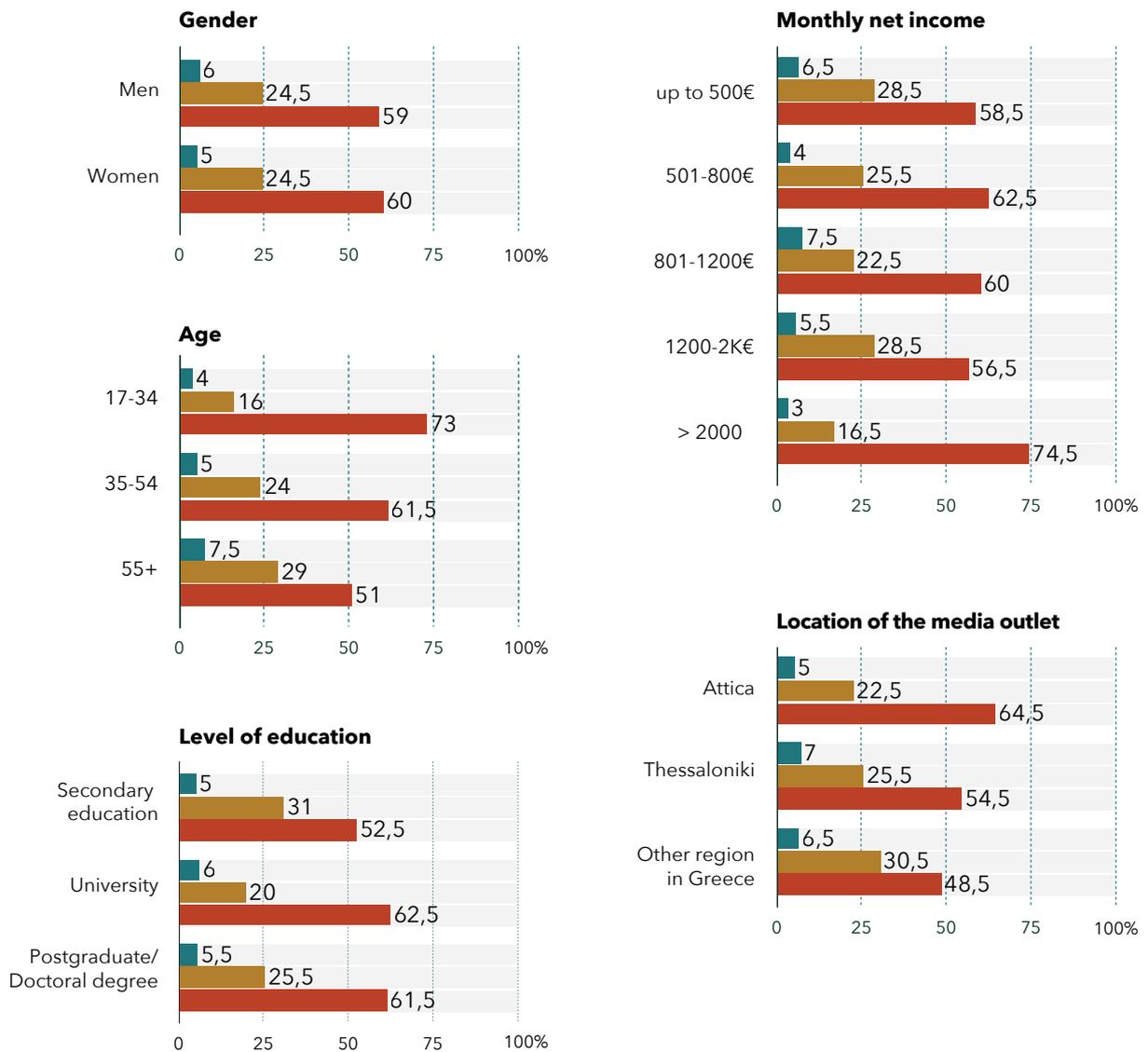
### By type of media and role

Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Very Often Sometimes Never

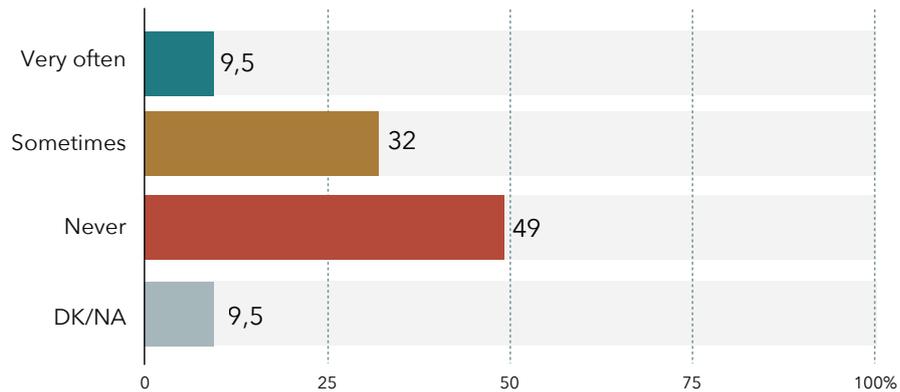


“Never” is the answer of 49% when asked how often they have gone on strike in the current period or in the recent past. “Sometimes” say 32%, “very often” respond 9.5%.

How often would you personally say that you have done the following during the current period or in the recent past?

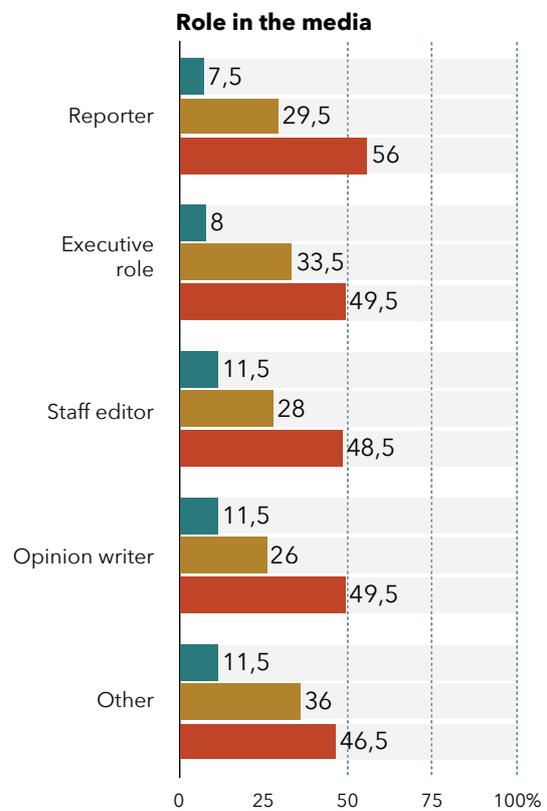
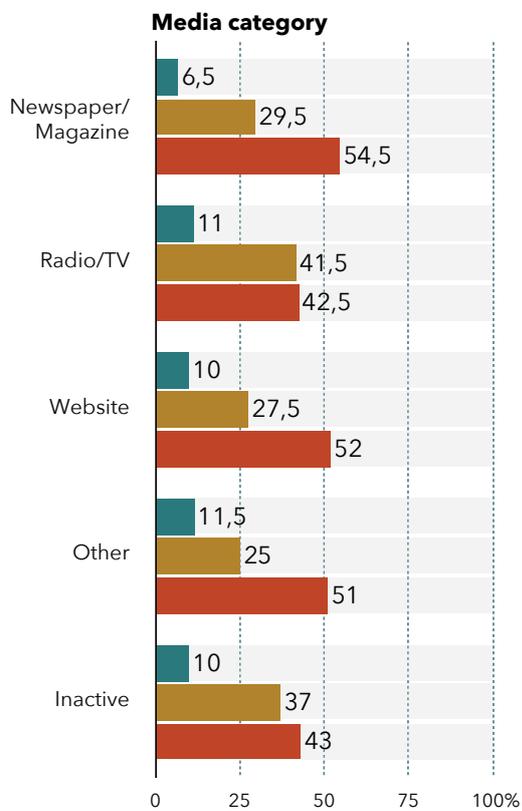
## >Strike

“Never” reply 49% of journalists, “sometimes” or “very often” say 41.5



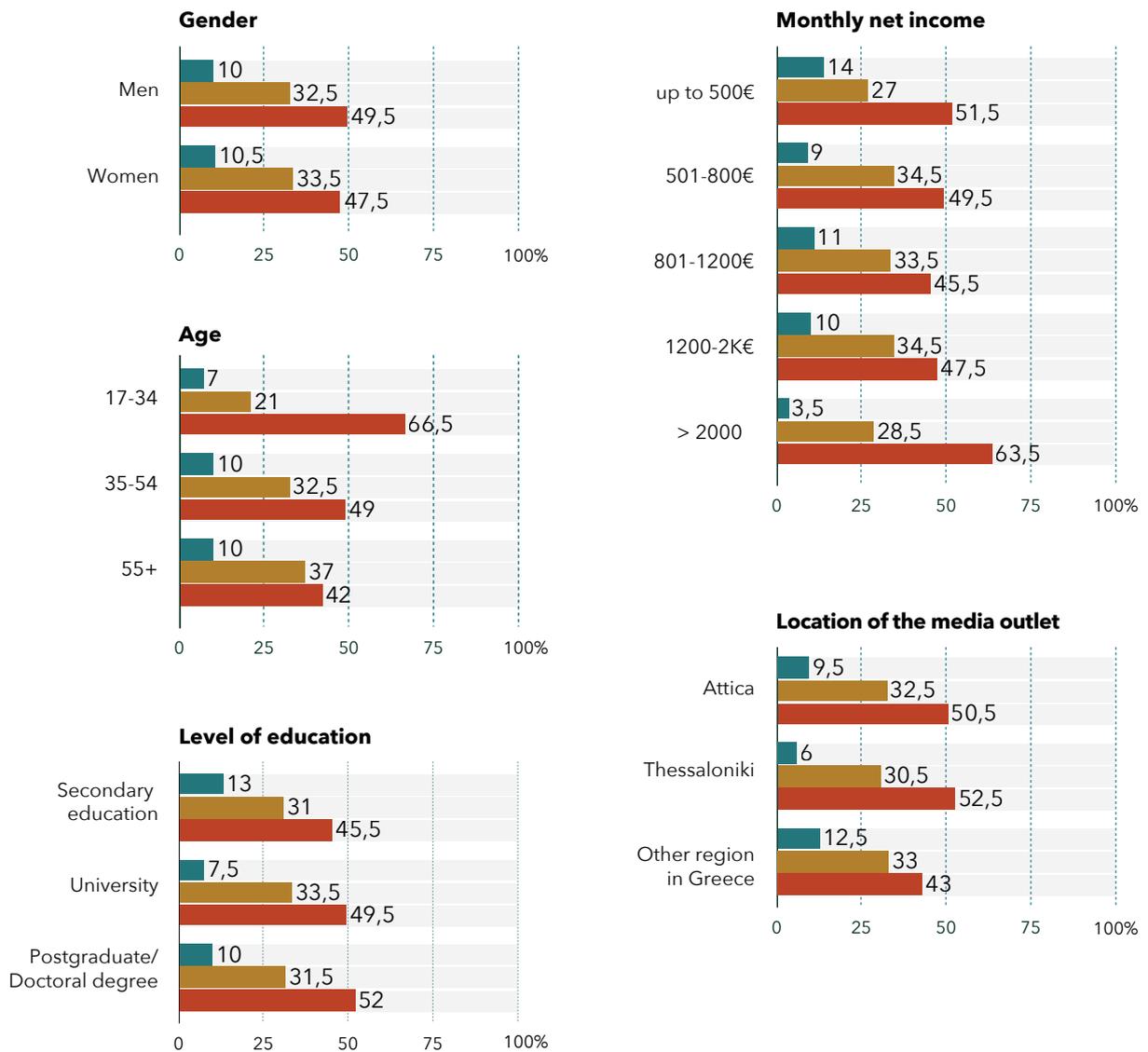
## By type of media and role

Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Very Often Sometimes Never

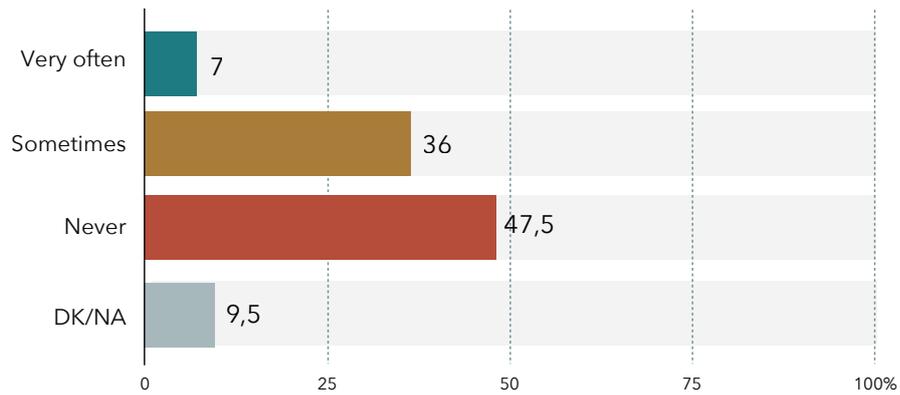


Almost proportionately, 36% say they resign “sometimes” and 7% “very often”. “Never” reply 47.5% of journalists.

How often would you personally say that you have done the following during the current period or in the recent past?

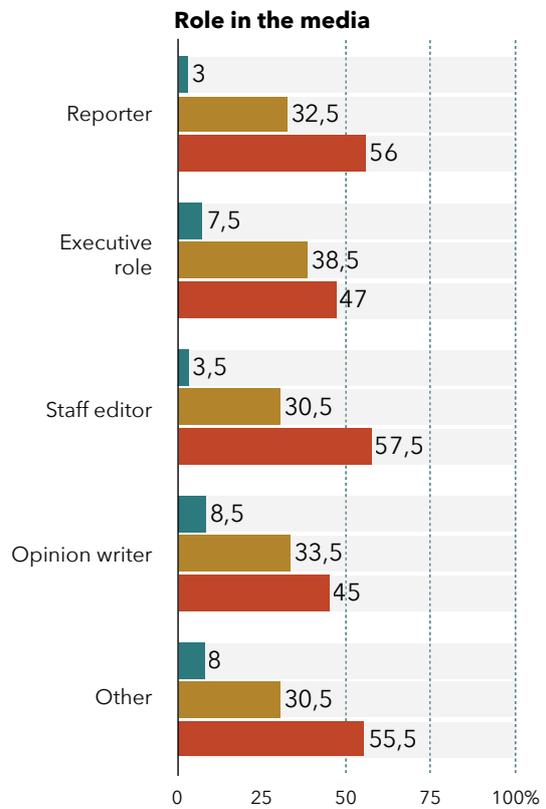
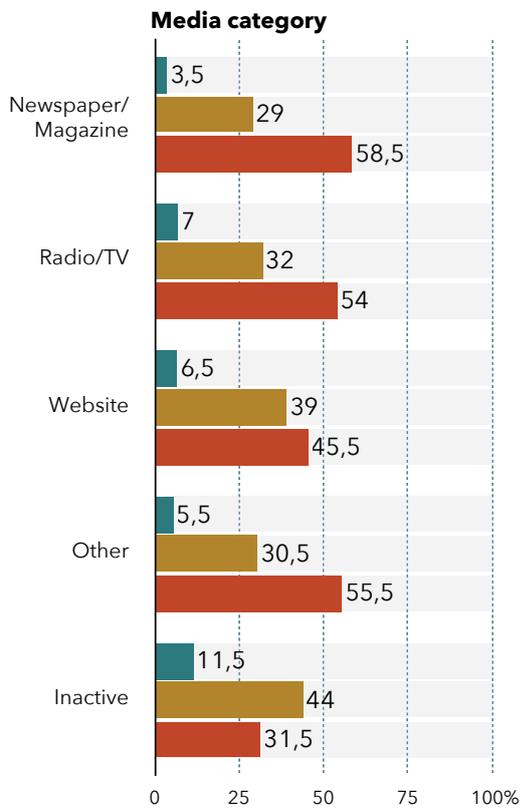
## >Resignation

“Never” reply 47.5% of journalists, “sometimes” or “very often” say 43%



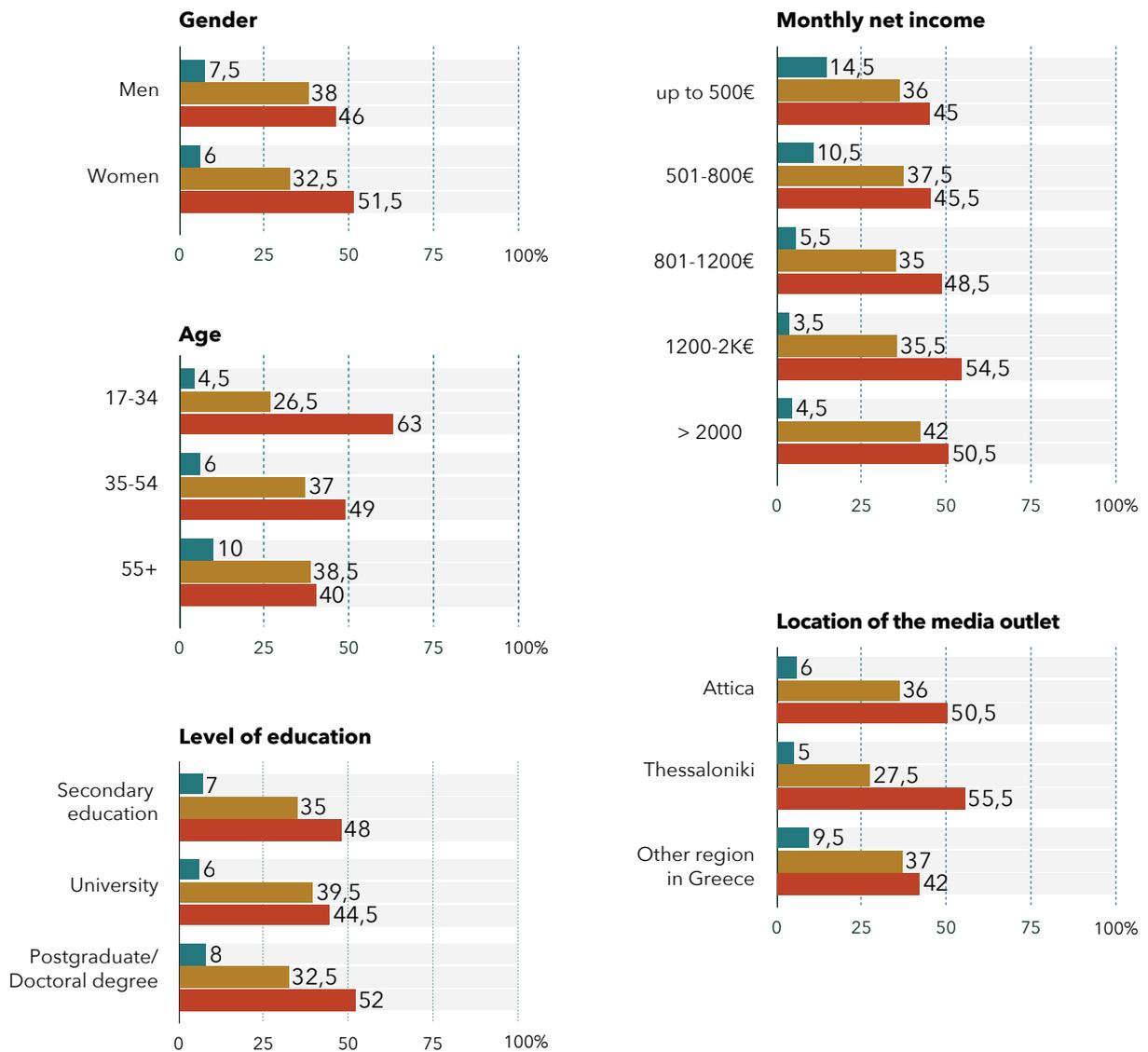
### By type of media and role

Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Very Often   Sometimes   Never

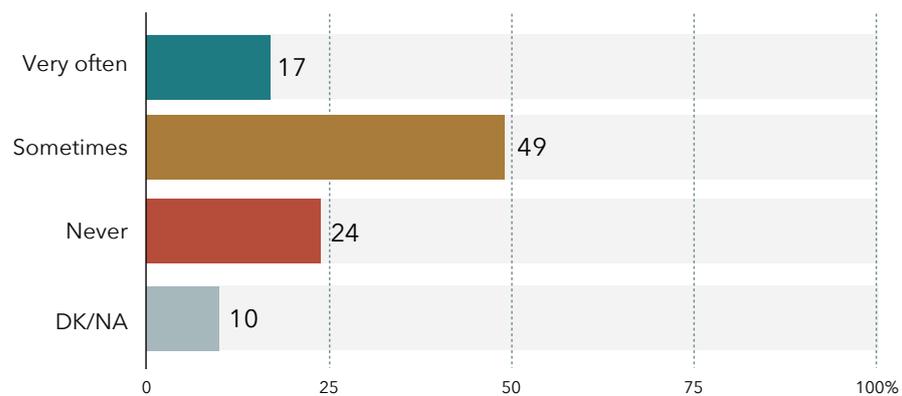


When asked about collegial solidarity, 49% of journalists say that they have personally “sometimes” been involved in acts of collective reaction in the newsroom where they work in support of a colleague or have received such support themselves. 17% chose “very often” but 24% respond “never”.

How often would you personally say that you have done the following during the current period or in the recent past?

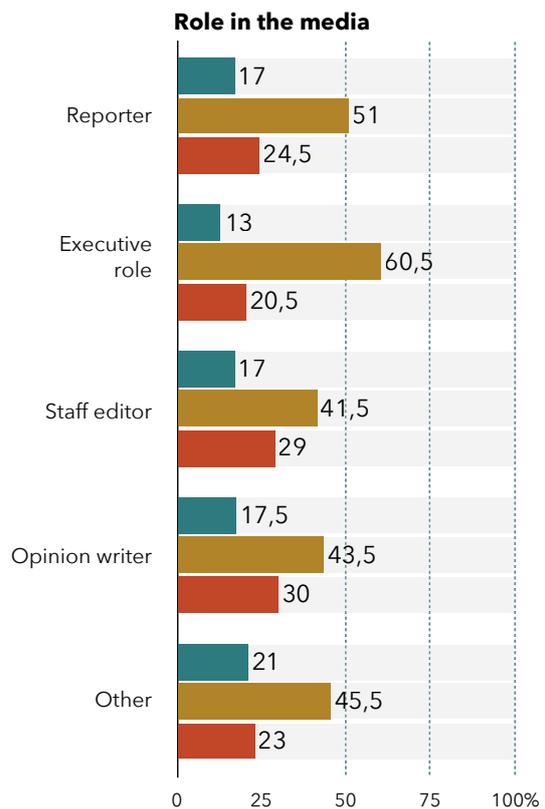
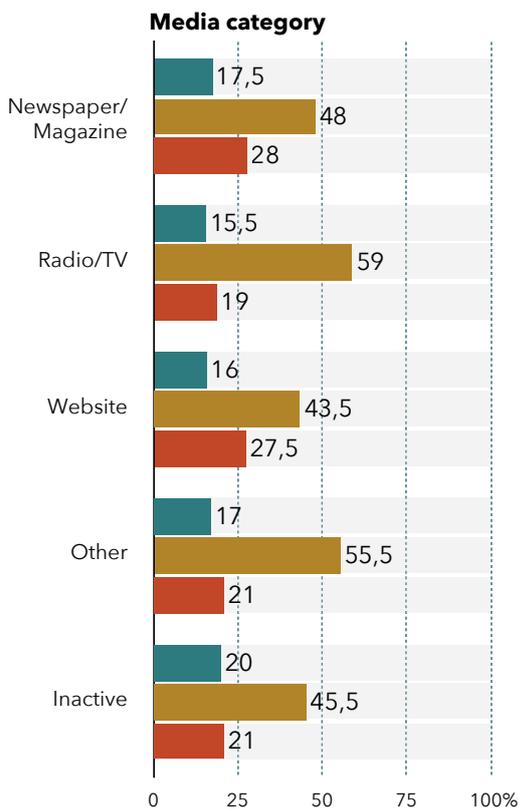
**>I have been involved in acts of collective reaction in my newsroom to support a colleague or have been supported by colleagues who have reacted collectively on a matter that affected me**

“Sometimes” or “very often” reply 66% of journalists, “never” say 24%



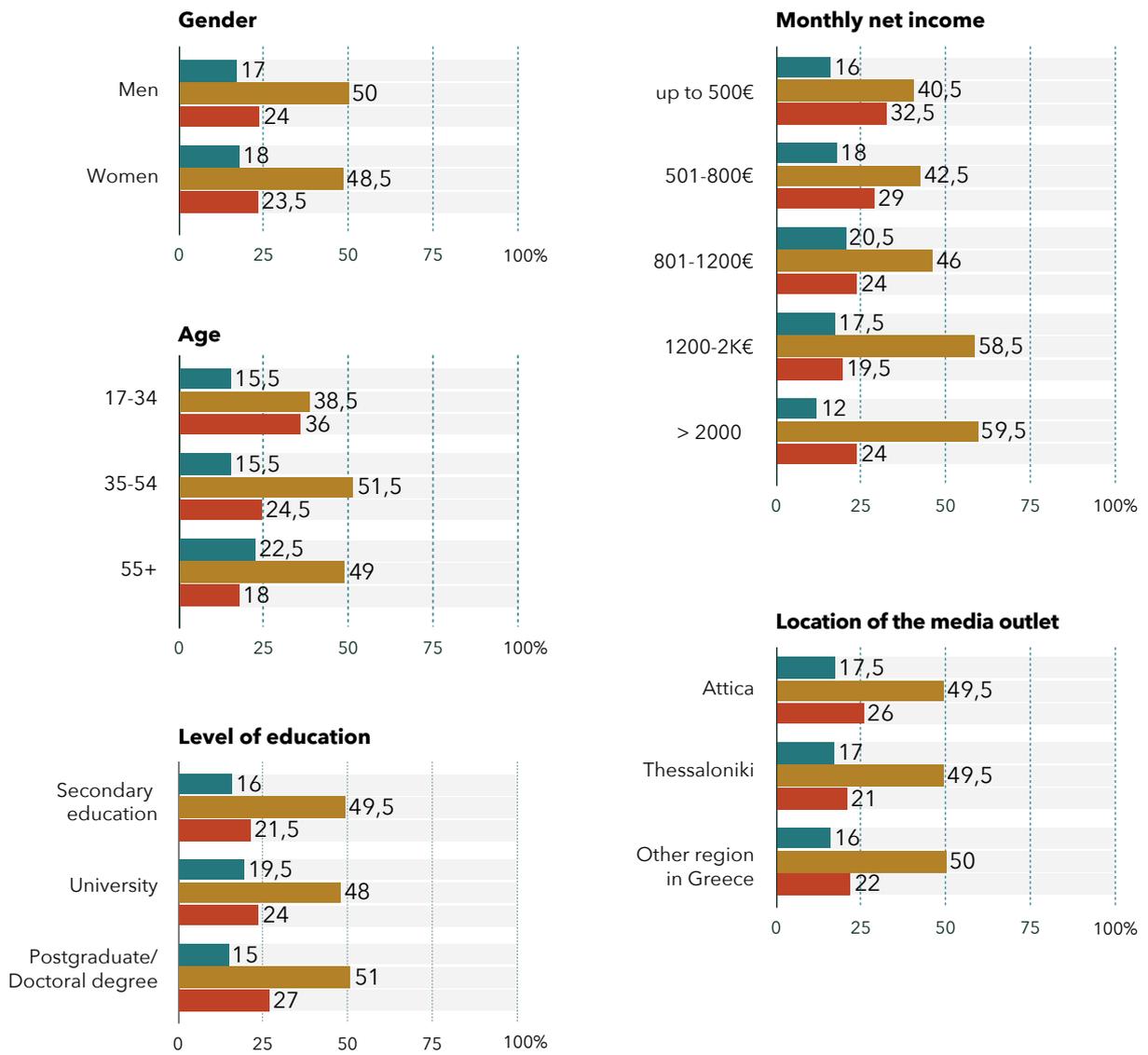
**By type of media and role**

Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Very Often Sometimes Never

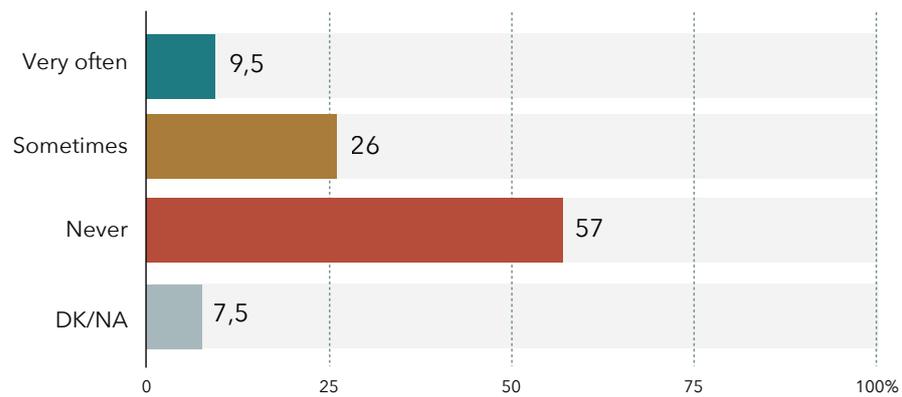


57% of journalists have “never” made public the respective incident in their work environment (Editor’s note: which might go against journalistic ethics). 26% and 9.5% say they do it “sometimes” or “very often” respectively.

How often would you personally say that you have done the following during the current period or in the recent past?

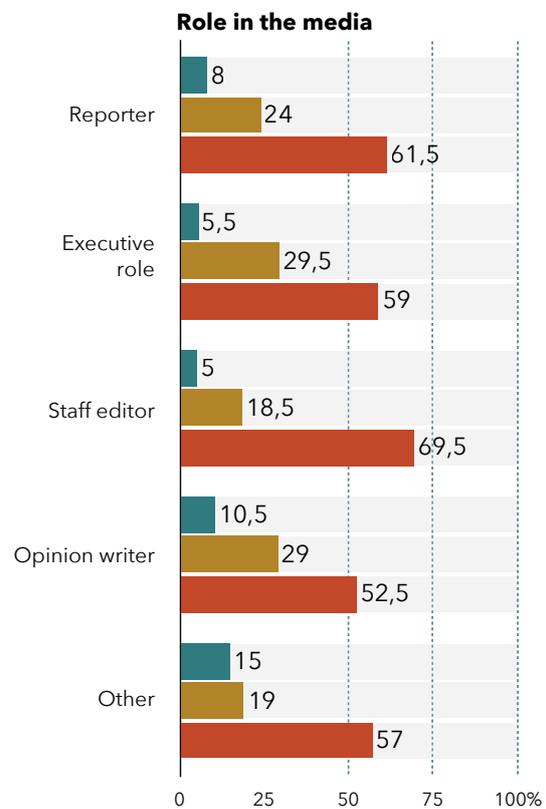
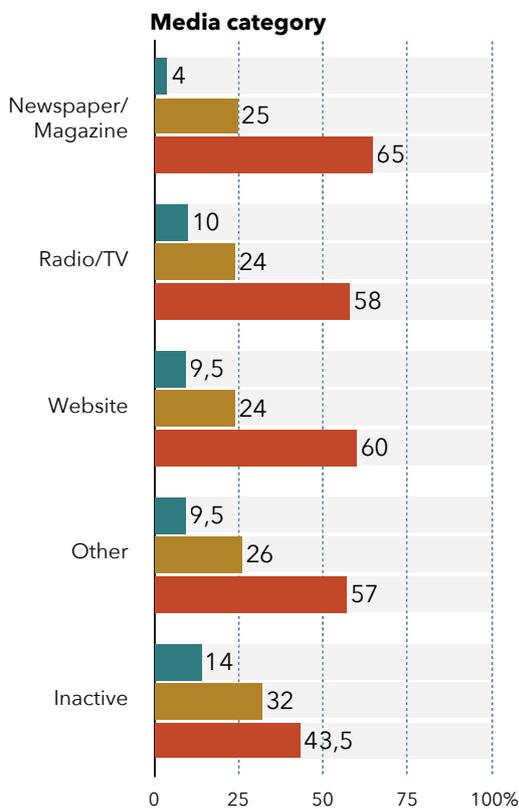
## >I have made the incident public on my social media accounts

“Never” reply 57% of journalists, “very often” or “always” say 35.5%



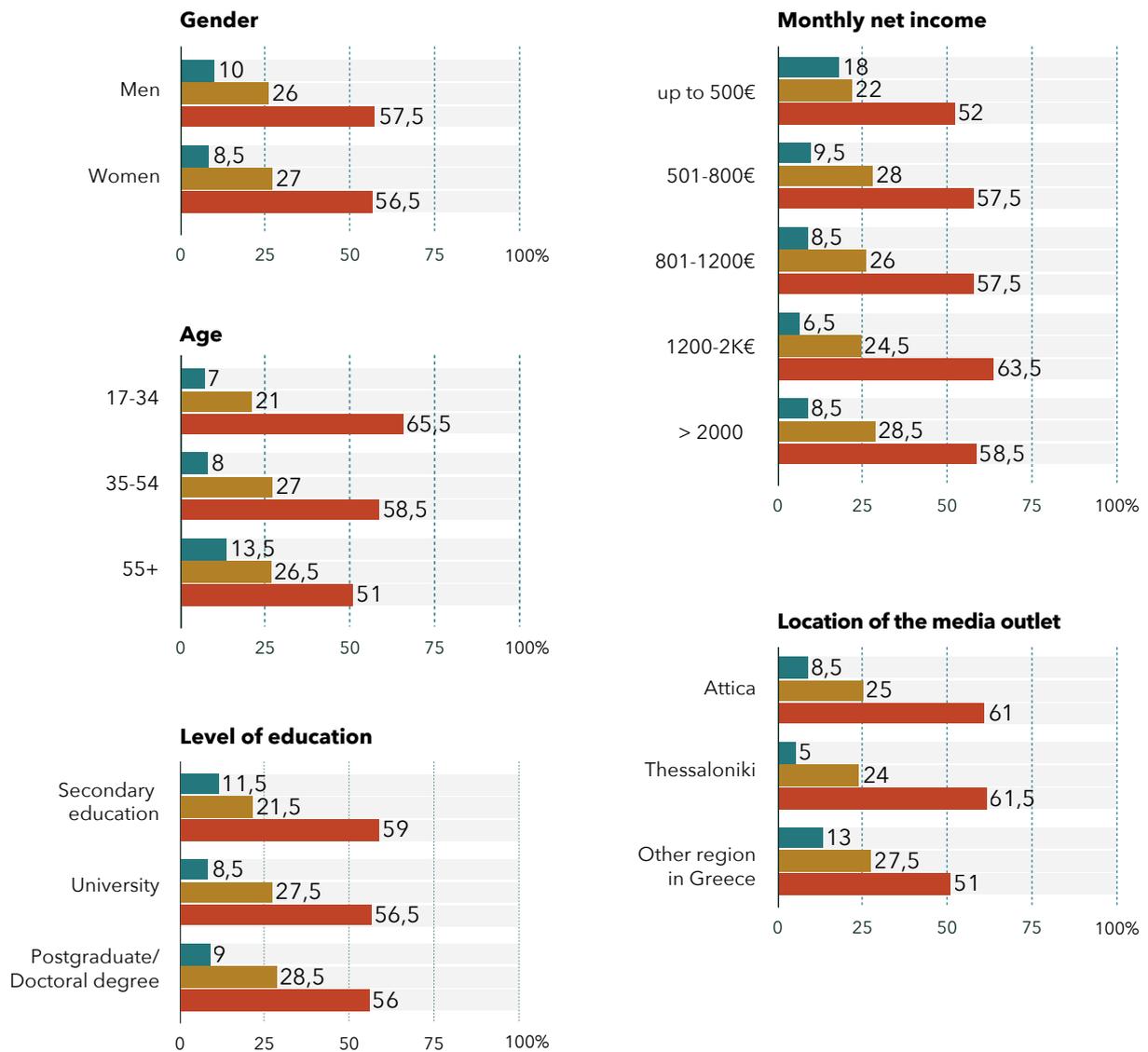
### By type of media and role

Very Often Sometimes Never



## By demographic category

Very Often Sometimes Never



# Matters of Trust in Journalists

To the -multiple-choice- question of what factors have led to the loss of the public's trust in journalists, the majority of respondents answer, on the one hand, that "the media serve interests and people have identified journalists with the media they work for" (78.5%) and, on the other hand, that "journalists have developed controversial relations with political power" (60%).

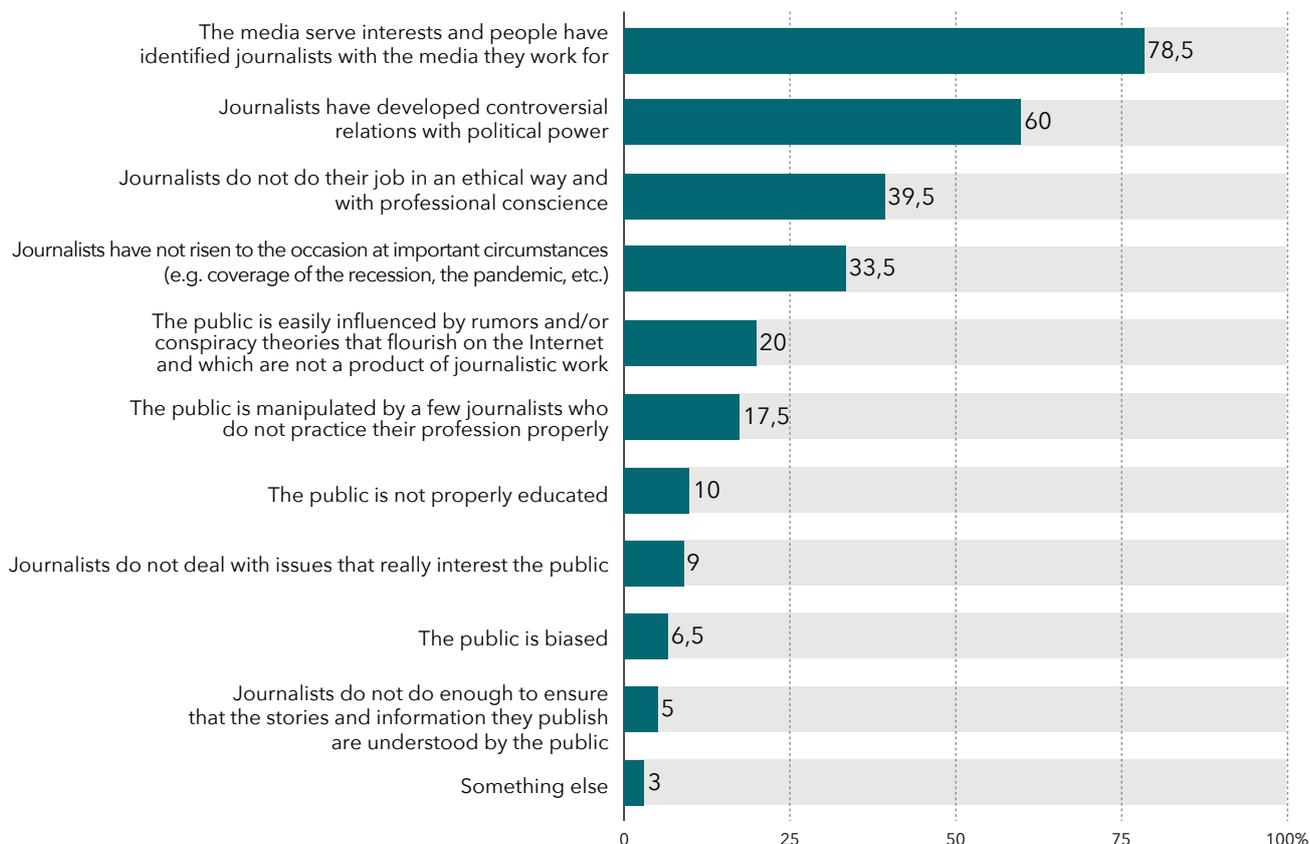
For the same question, they also choose to answer that journalists "do not do their job in an ethical way and with professional conscience" (39.5%) and that they "have not risen to the occasion at important circumstances" (33.5%), such as the coverage of the recession in Greece, the pandemic, etc.

Responses related to the attitude of the public, such as that people are easily influenced by (online) rumors that are not a product of journalistic work (20%), that they are manipulated by a few journalists who do not practice the profession properly (17.5%) or that they are not properly educated (10%), receive lower selection rates.

9% of the respondents noted that "journalists do not deal with issues that really interest the public", while 6.5% consider the public to be biased.

Multiple choices -up to three

## >Factors that have caused the public to lose trust in journalists



Note: The graph is presented ordered by the percentage of responses each of the options gathered by respondents - not by the original order in which they were listed in the questionnaire.

Furthermore, allowing up to three choices, when asked which factors would contribute to regaining public trust in journalists, the majority of respondents answer that the media need, on the one hand, to stop being interfered with by political power (63%) and, on the other hand, to be more interested in journalistic content and less interested in profit and/or serving other interests (42%).

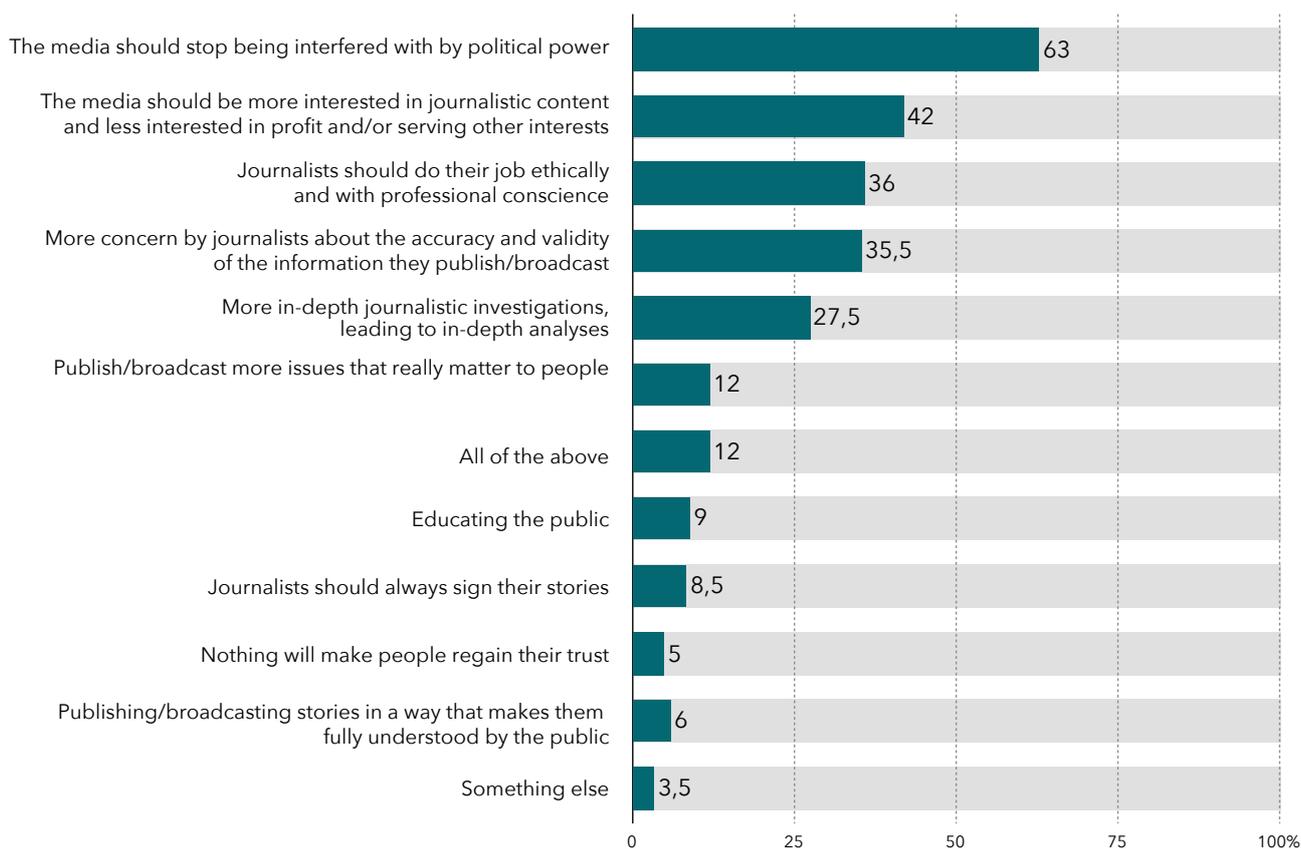
Subsequently, 36% of journalists believe that professionals themselves need, on the one hand, “to do their job ethically and with professional conscience” and, on the other hand, to be more concerned “about the accuracy and validity of the information they publish”.

Factors such as “publishing/broadcasting more stories that really matter to people” (12%), educating the public (9%) and stories always being signed (8.5%) are less popular.

“Nothing will make people regain their trust” note 6% of journalists.

**Multiple choices -up to three**

## Factors that will contribute to regaining public trust in journalists



Note: The graph is presented ordered by the percentage of responses each of the options gathered by respondents – not by the original order in which they were listed in the questionnaire.

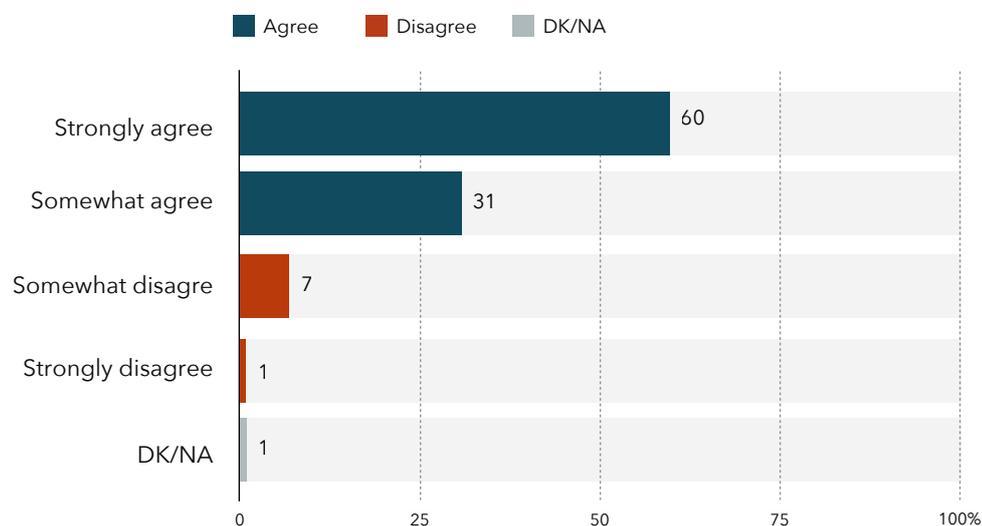
# Relations between Journalism and Politics

The vast majority of the participants in the survey believe that in Greece there is an excessive dependence of both journalists (91%) and the media (96.5%) on governments and political parties. It is characteristic that, especially with regard to the media, only 2.5% do not “see” such dependence.

To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

## >In Greece, journalists are too dependent on governments and/or political parties

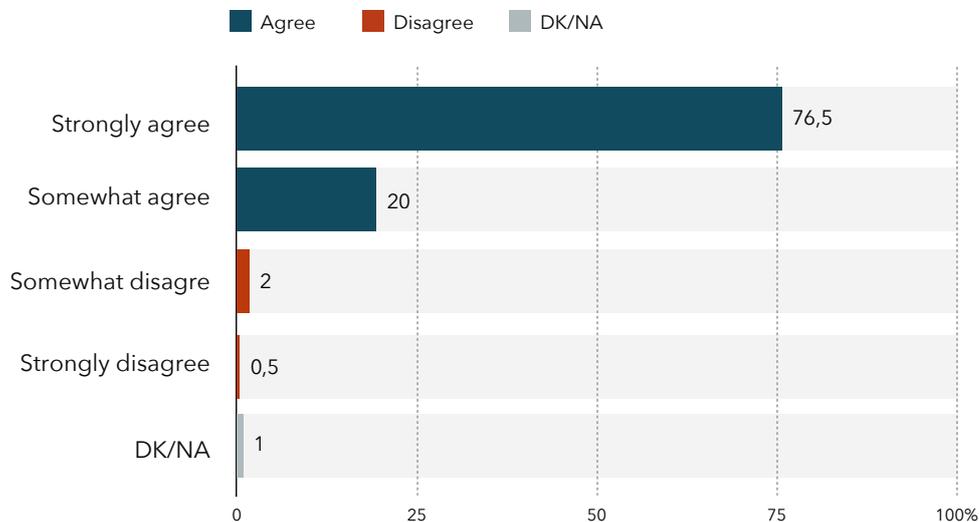
“Agree” reply 91% of the journalists



To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

## >In Greece, the media are too dependent on governments and/or political parties

"Agree" reply 96.5% of journalists

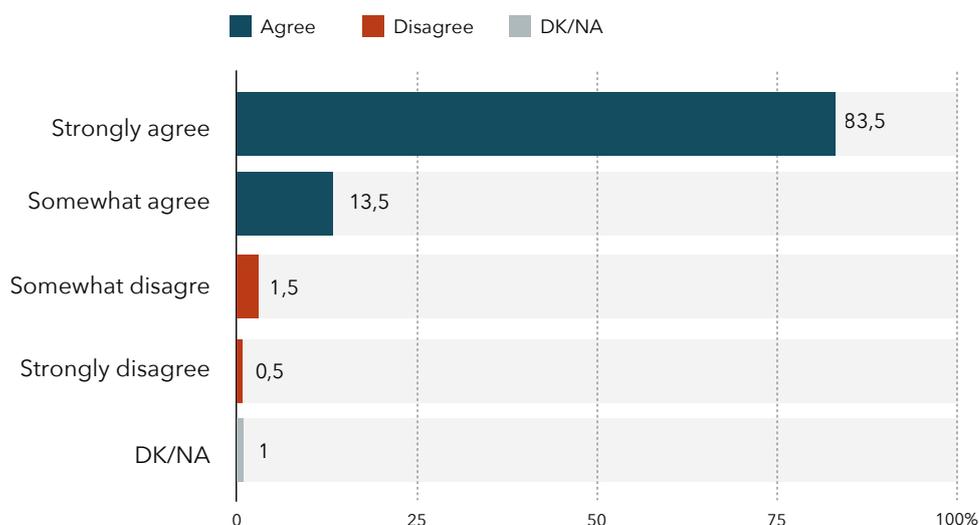


By implication, 97% of journalists state the expected, that the interdependence between media and politics reduces public trust in journalists. Just 2% disagree with this view, while 1% choose not to answer.

To what extent would you say that you agree or disagree with the following statements?

## >Media and political interdependence reduces public trust in journalists

"Agree" reply 97% of the journalists

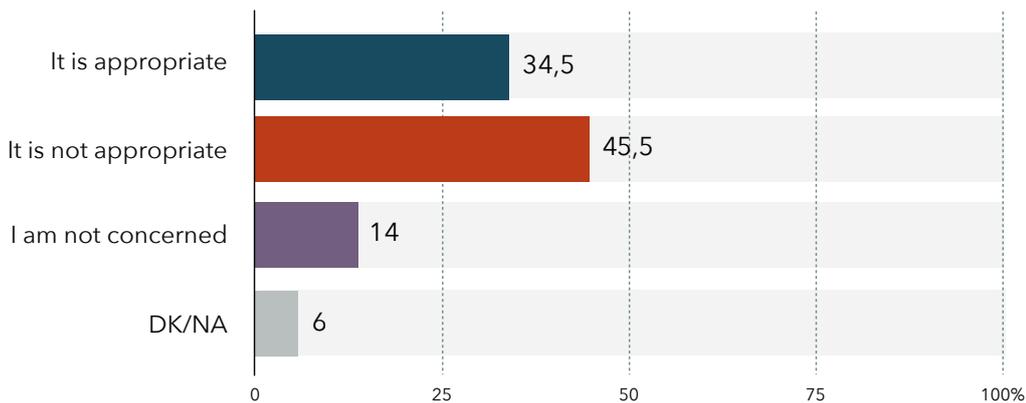


Regarding the involvement of journalists in politics, 45.5% say that it is not appropriate, while 34.5% state the opposite. "I am not concerned", say 14%.

From time to time many journalists have been involved in politics.  
Do you believe that the involvement of journalists in politics...

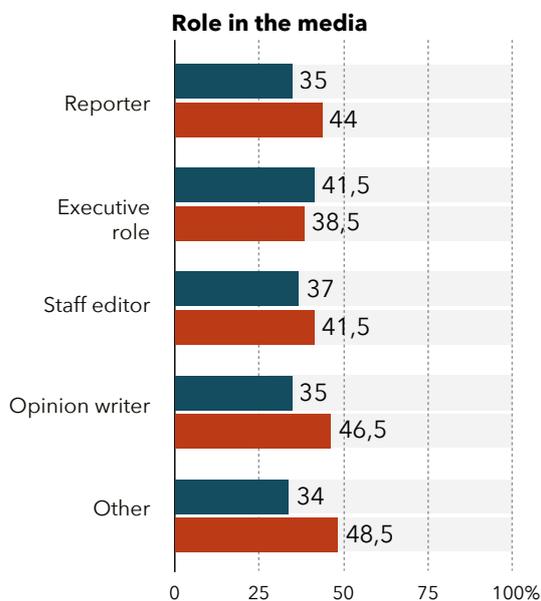
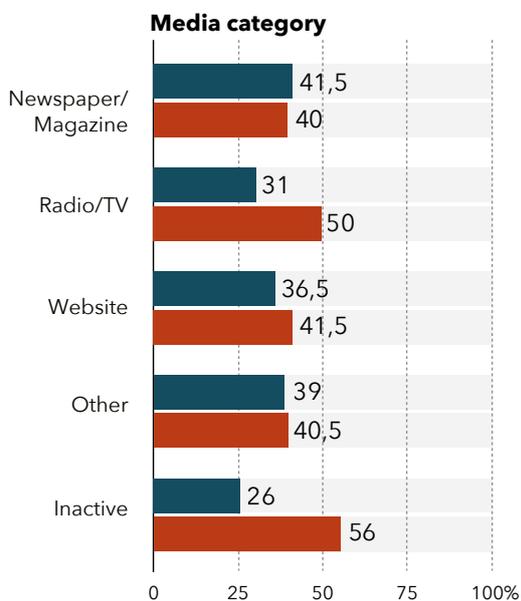
## >Views on the involvement of journalists in politics

45.5% of journalists say "it is not appropriate"



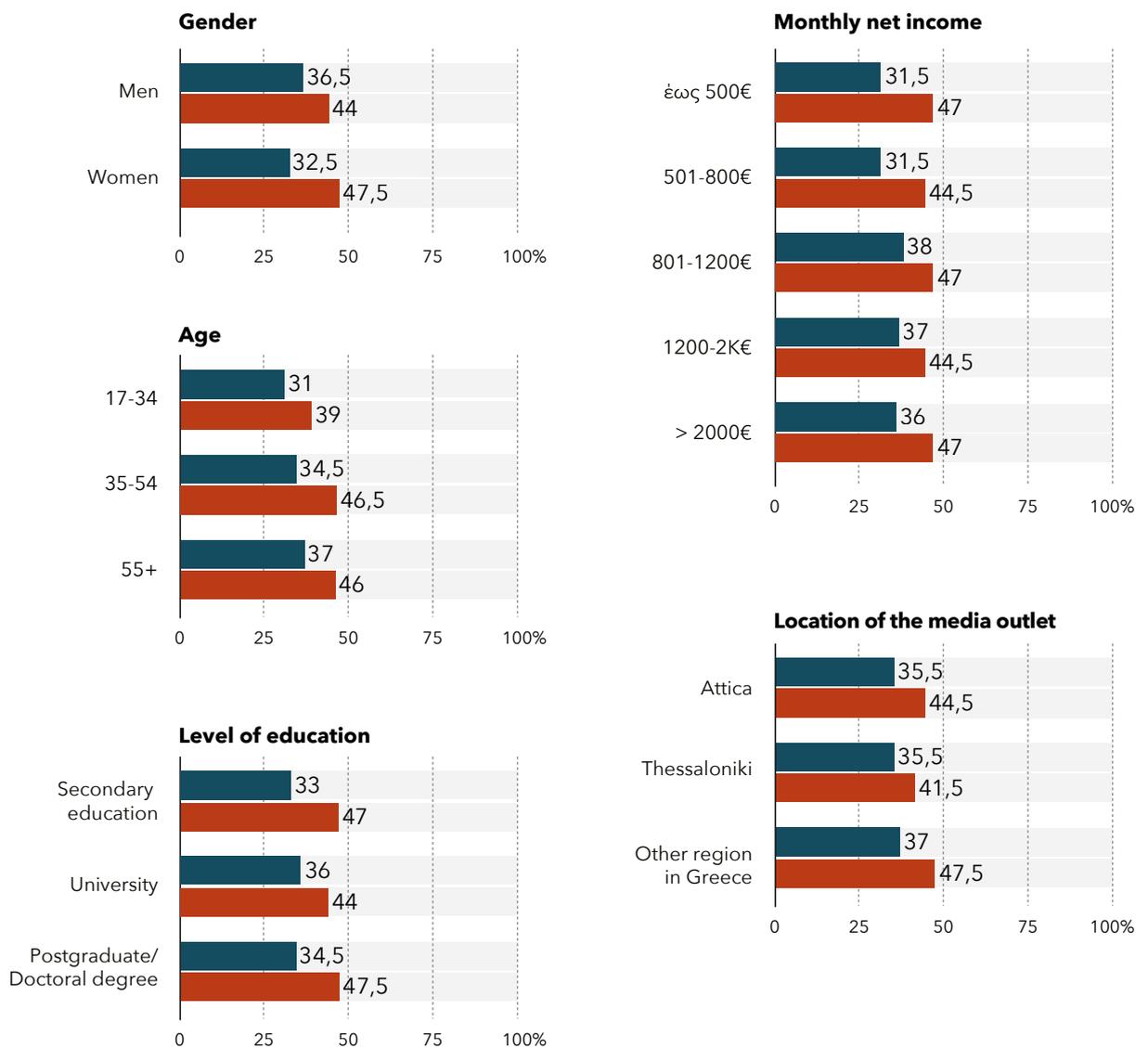
### By type of media and role

■ It is appropriate ■ It is not appropriate



## By demographic category

■ It is appropriate ■ It is not appropriate

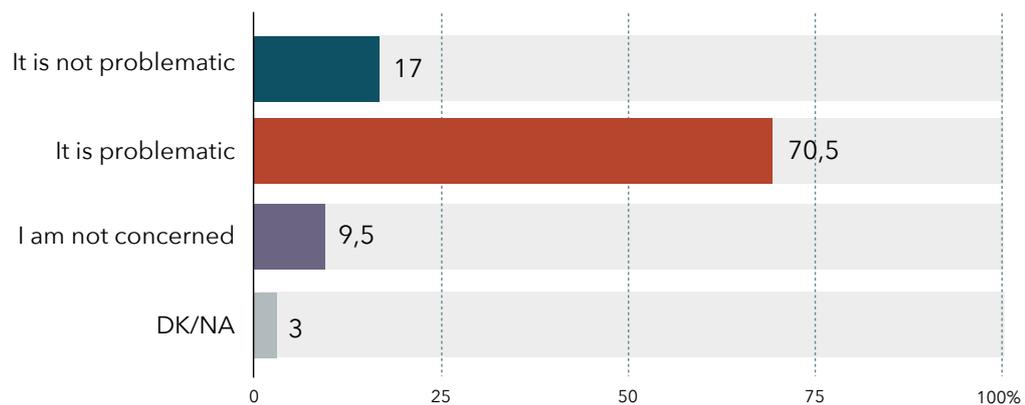


When participants are asked about the return of journalists to the profession after their involvement in active politics, the majority (70.5%) answer that it is a problem, while the percentage of those who do not consider it to be a problem “drops” to 17%. 9.5% of the sample still answer “I am not concerned”.

In the event that a journalist goes into active politics and then returns to active journalism, would you say that...

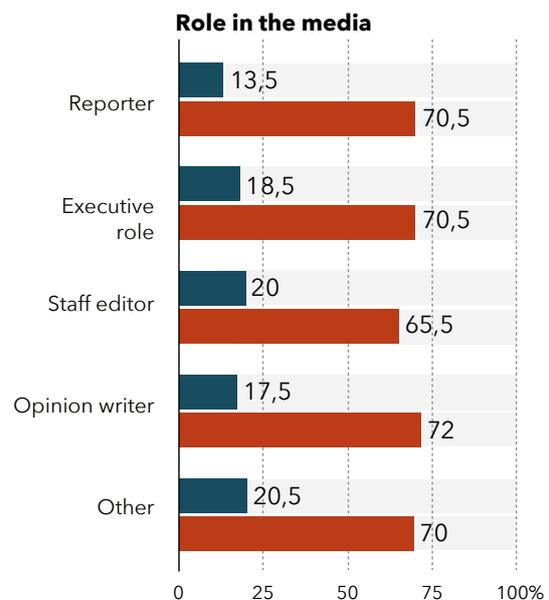
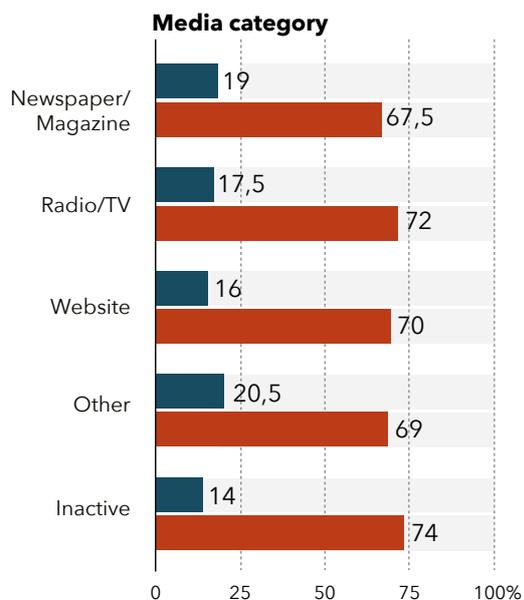
## >Views on the return of journalists to the profession after being actively involved in politics

“It is problematic” respond 70.5% of journalists



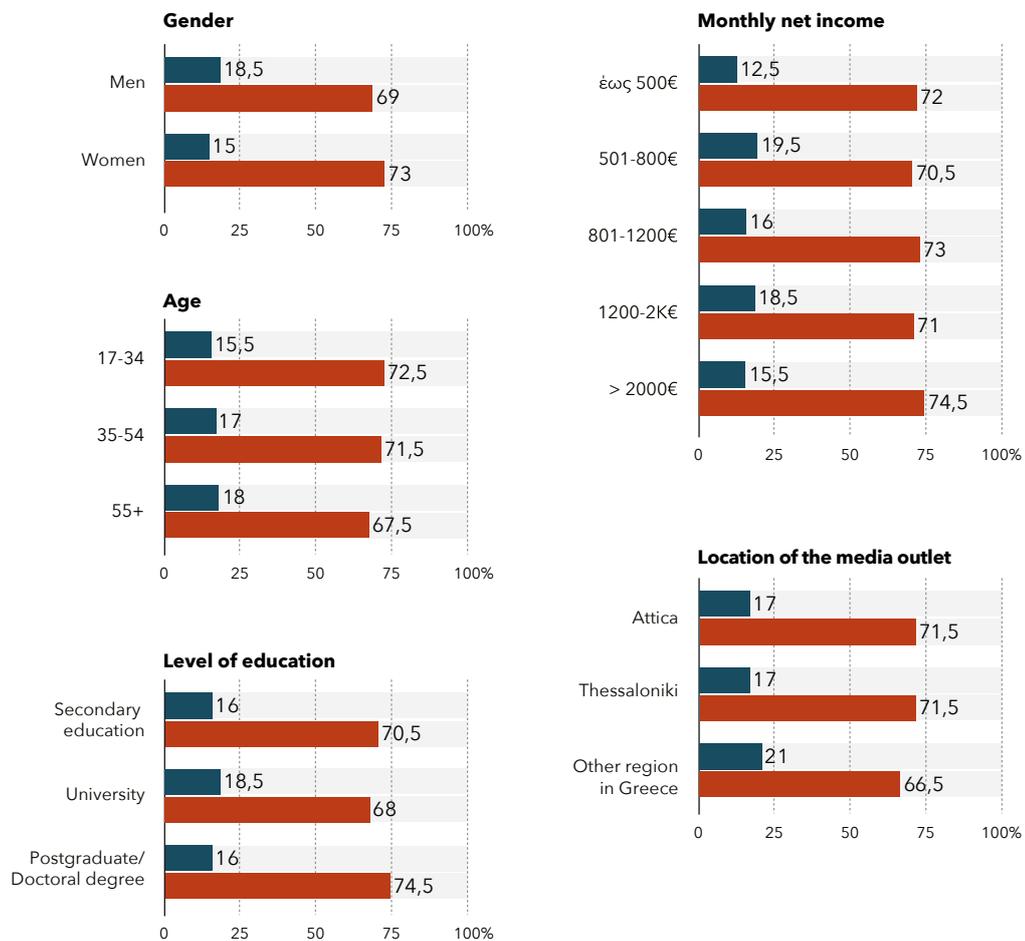
### By type of media and role

■ It is not problematic ■ It is problematic



## By demographic category

■ It is not problematic ■ It is problematic



# Characteristics of the Sample

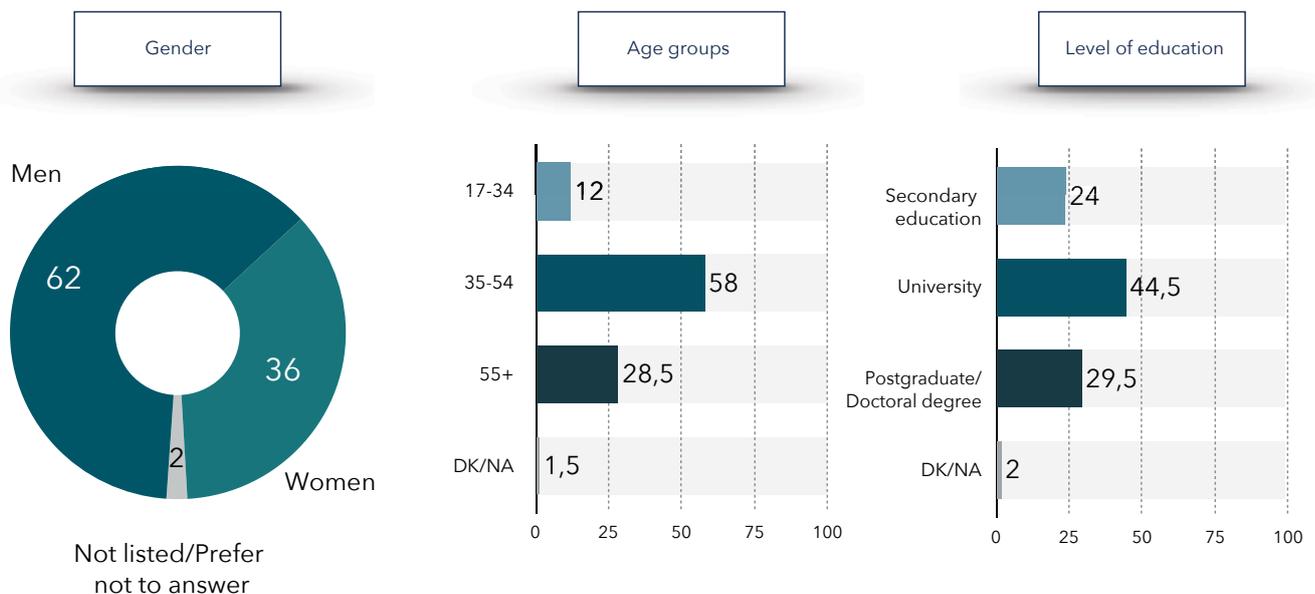
## Demographic characteristics

62% of the participants in the survey are men and 36% are women. "Not listed/Prefer not to answer" respond 2%. The majority of them (58%) are people aged 35 to 54, followed by those aged 55 and over. They are mainly university graduates (74% in total), with 29.5% stating that they hold a postgraduate or doctoral degree. For 24% of the sample, secondary education is the highest level of study.

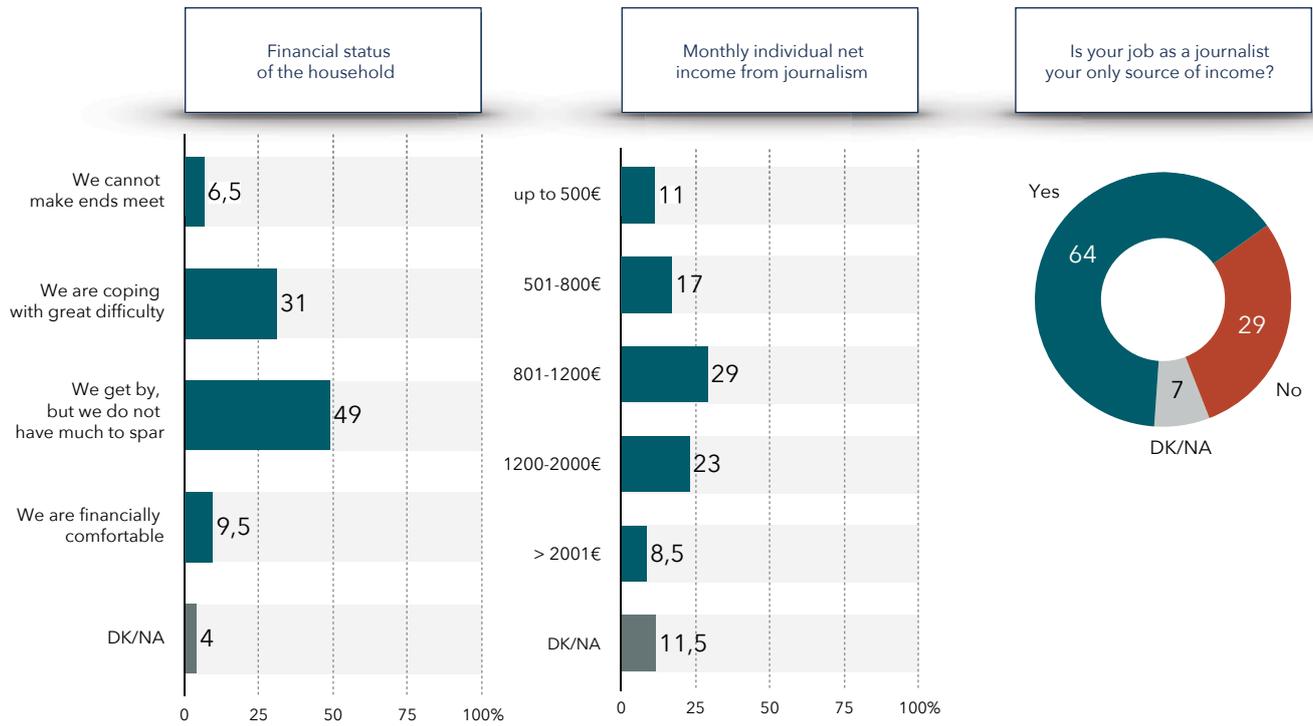
Regarding the financial capacity of the sample, 49% say that in the household they live in "we get by, but we do not have much to spare" and 31% that "we get by with great difficulty". The monthly net income of participants from journalism ranges from 801 to 1,200 euros for 29% and from 1,201 to 2,000 euros for 23%. For 28% of the sample, the monthly net income from their profession does not exceed 800 euros.

However, 29% of survey participants say that their job as a journalist is not their only source of income.

## >Gender, age groups and level of education of the sample



## >Financial status of the household, income, job as a journalist the only source of income



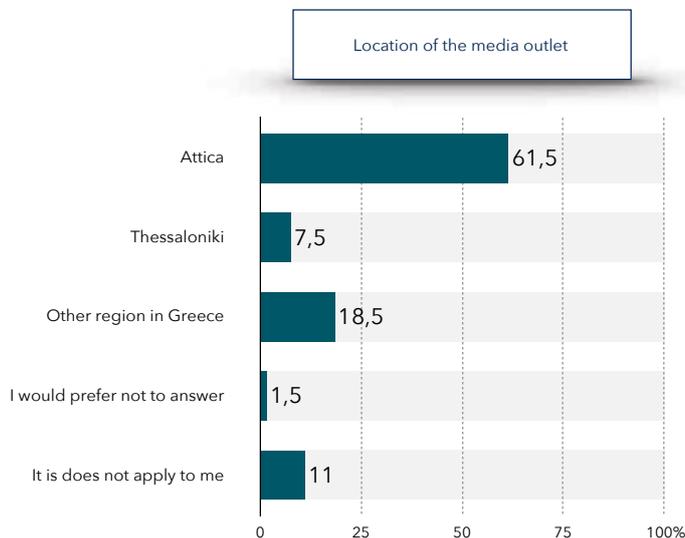
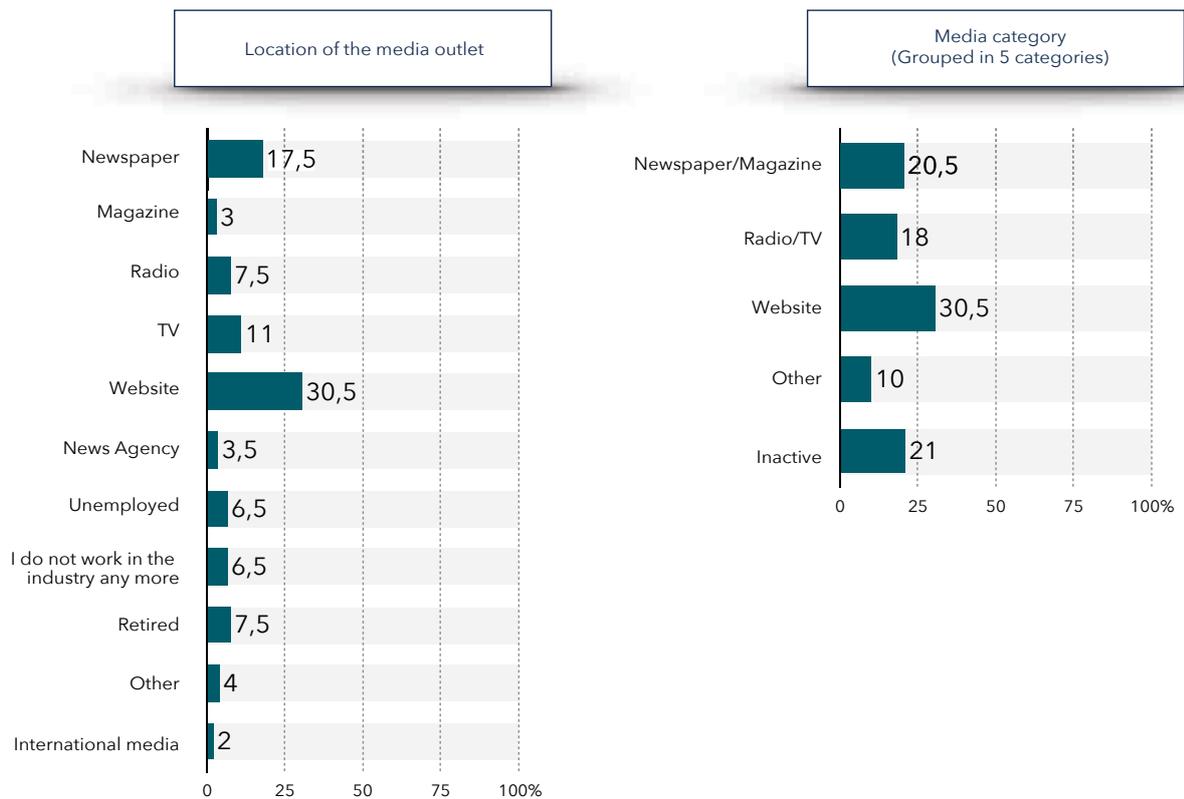
## Professional features

The journalists surveyed work mainly on websites (30.5%), in newspapers (17.5%), on television (11%), and on radio (7.5%). 6.5% of the sample are unemployed, while another 6.5% say they have changed their profession and are no longer working in the sector.

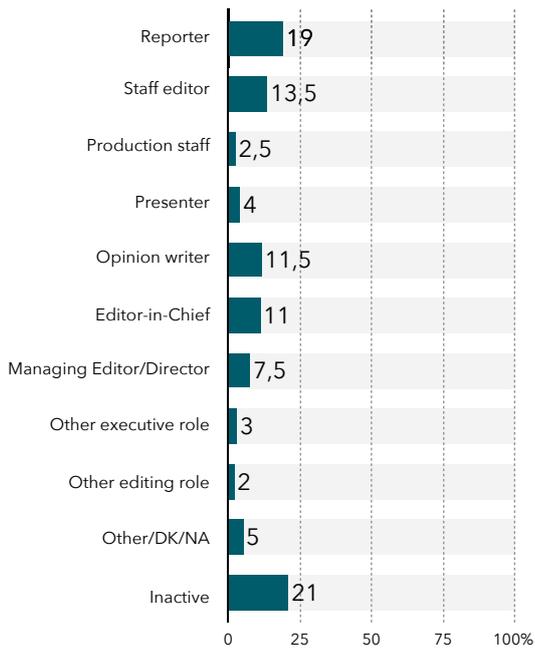
Of those active in journalism, 24% are reporters, 17% work in a newsroom, 14.5% are columnists, while 23% hold a position as editor-in-chief or editorial director.

61.5% of the media outlets where the survey participants work are based in Attica, 7.5% in Thessaloniki, and 18.5% in the rest of the country.

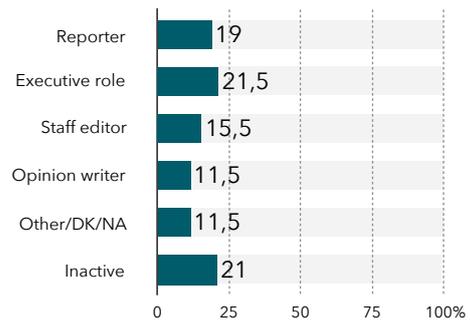
## >Media category and role



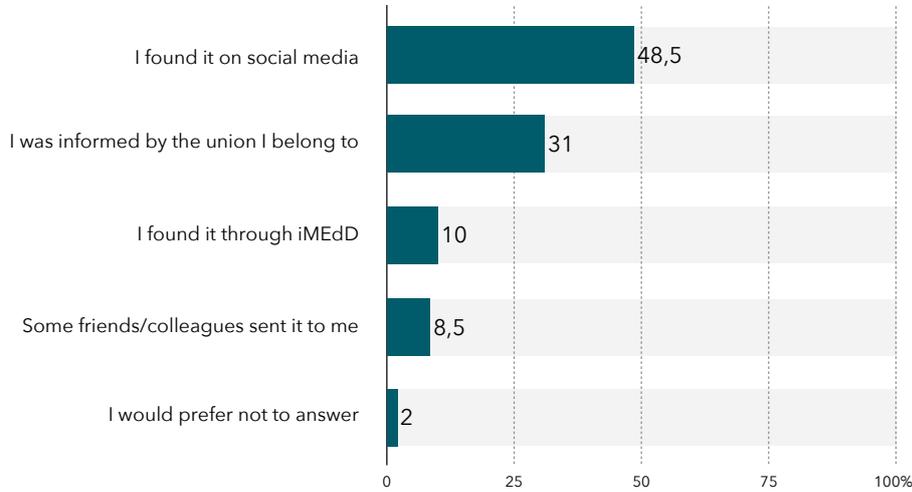
Role in the media



Media category  
(Grouped in 6 categories)



**>How did you find this questionnaire?**



Note: The graph is presented ordered by the percentage of responses each of the options gathered by respondents – not by the original order in which they were listed in the questionnaire.

**Notes for reading the diagrams:**

1. In all analyses, the unit of measurement is the percentage (%) of participants who chose each response out of the total research sample.
2. In the analyses by income scale, income refers to the net monthly earnings from journalism.
3. In the analyses by type of media where the participants work, the media categories are grouped as follows: the category "Newspaper" also includes print magazines, the category "Other" includes news agencies. The category "Inactive" or "Not active" includes unemployed, other employed and retired journalists.
4. In the analyses by role of the participants in the media where they work, the roles are grouped as follows: the category "Executive role" includes the Editor-in-Chief, the Managing Editor/Director and other executive positions. The category "Staff Editor" includes, in addition to News Editors, other editorial positions (e.g. proofreaders). The category "Other" includes the Presenters, members of the Production Teams and other roles of the participants.
5. The questionnaire distributed was in Greek. All questions and responses have been translated for the purposes of this English version of the research report.