

EUROSKEPTICISM IN TURKEY

**COMPARATIVE FINDINGS
FROM TWO NATIONAL SURVEYS**

2003-2012

Project Director:

Prof. Dr. Hakan Yılmaz

Boğaziçi University

*Department of Political Science and International
Relations*

Center for European Studies

Web: www.hakanyilmaz.info

Email: yilmazh@boun.edu.tr

Twitter: [@yilmaz_hakan](https://twitter.com/yilmaz_hakan)

Project Funding

**: Boğaziçi University and
Open Society Foundation**

Opinion Surveys Conducted by

**: Infakto Research
Workshop**

Consultants

**: Dr. Emre Erdoğan,
Güçlü Atılgan**

Research Assistants

: Merve İnce, Murat Can

Opinion Surveys Conducted

: March-April, 2012

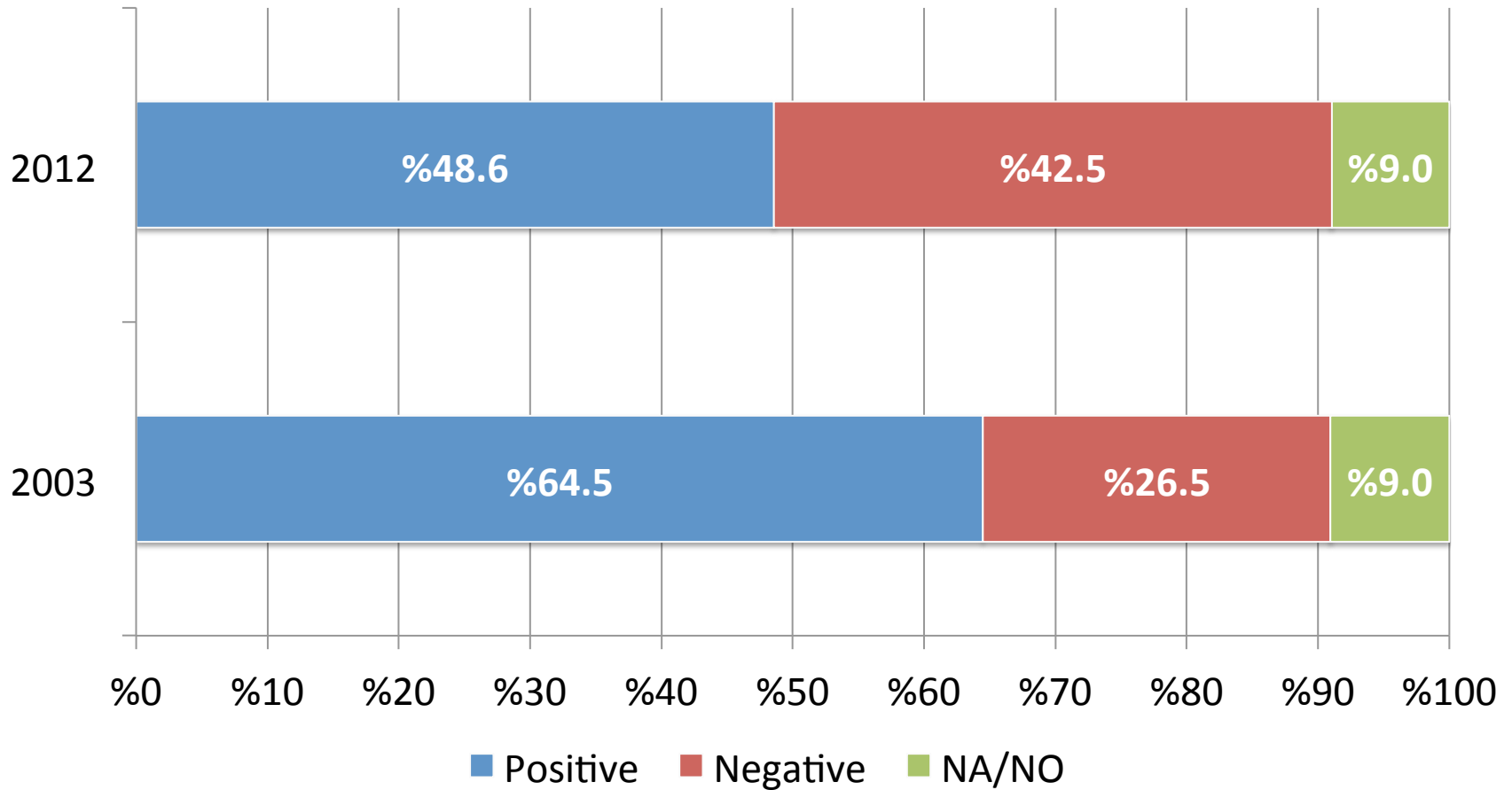
Brief information on the 2012 survey

- Data was collected from the urban and rural settlements of 16 provinces during March and April, 2012.
- A random sample of 1200 persons, representing the Turkish population on and over the age of 18, were face-to-face interviewed in their private residences.

4

GENERAL PERCEPTIONS REGARDING THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE

«Do you have a generally positive or negative opinion for the European people?»



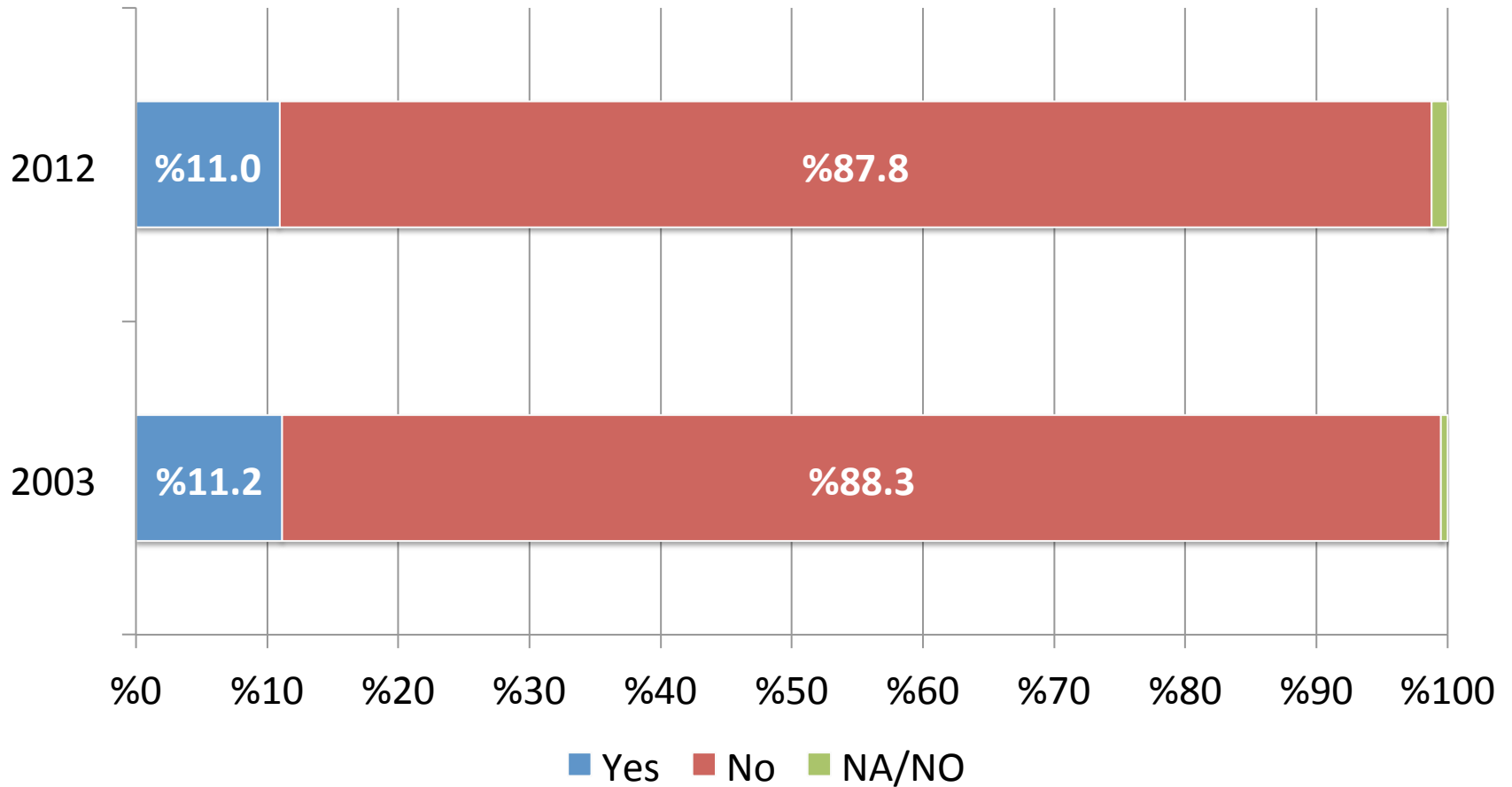
«Are the characteristics below applicable more to the Turkish people, European people, both or neither?»

	2003	2012	2003	2012
	Applies to Turkish People	Applies to Turkish People	Applies to European People	Applies to European People
Hospitable	%92,2	%94,5	%1,7	%0,9
Rational	%42,4	%56,3	%42,0	%27,9
Racist	%28,7	%21,9	%58,7	%65,8
Clean	%57,7	%73,0	%24,8	%13,6
Respectful of others' rights	%35,8	%58,5	%55,6	%28,0
Tolerant	%64,3	%76,0	%25,3	%12,6
Individualist	%39,2	%46,9	%49,6	%40,1
Rule-abiding and disciplined	%23,3	%38,0	%70,0	%49,4
Having good neighbourly relations	%84,4	%86,3	%9,8	%6,8
Having strong family ties	%93,9	%93,8	%3,2	%2,3
Respectful of the elders	%92,5	%94,0	%4,1	%1,9
Sexually free	%3,8	%8,2	%93,0	%84,9
Dirty	%24,7	%20,5	%59,4	%64,3

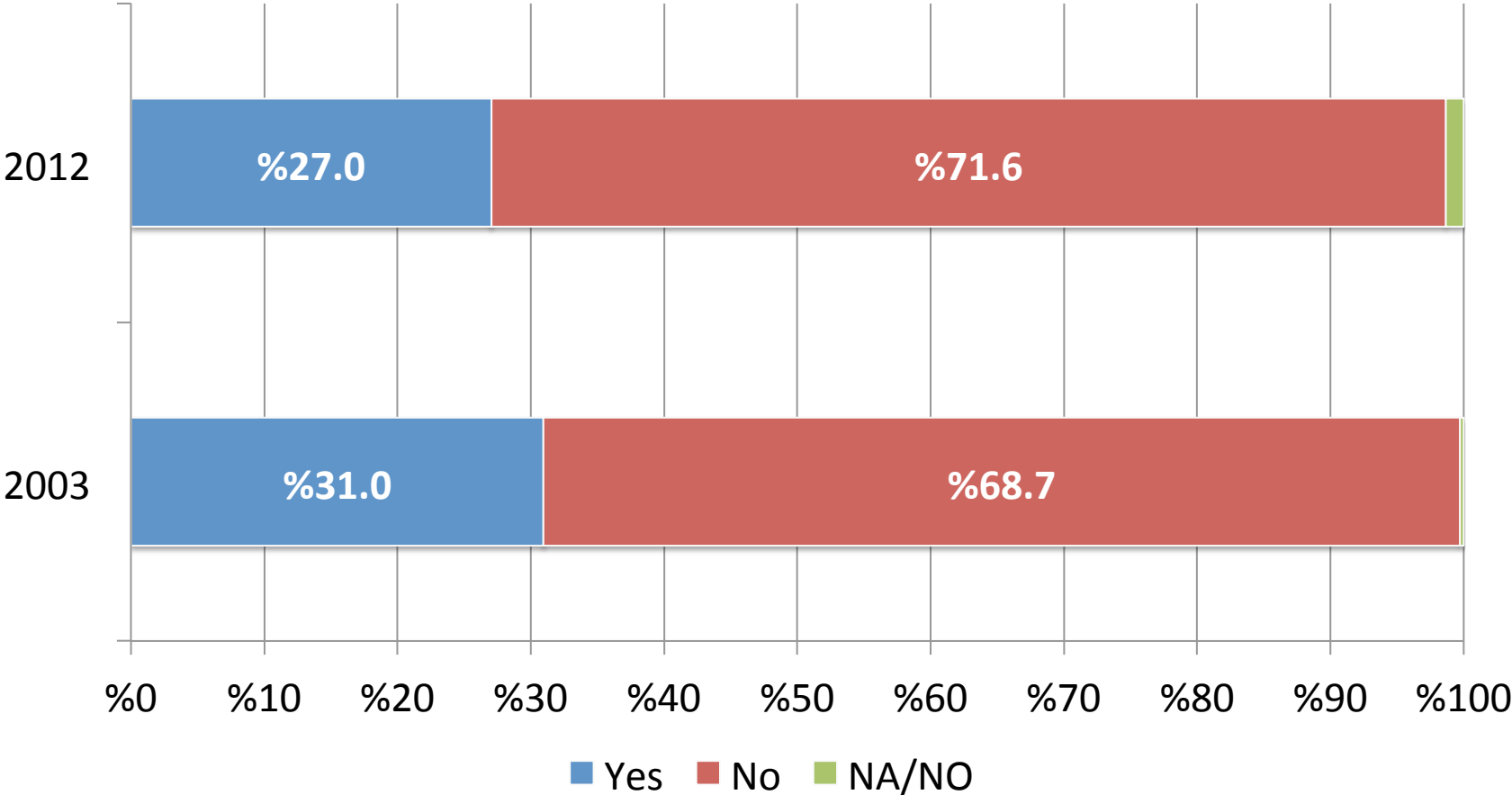
7

SOCIETY TO SOCIETY RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE

«Have you ever visited a European country?»



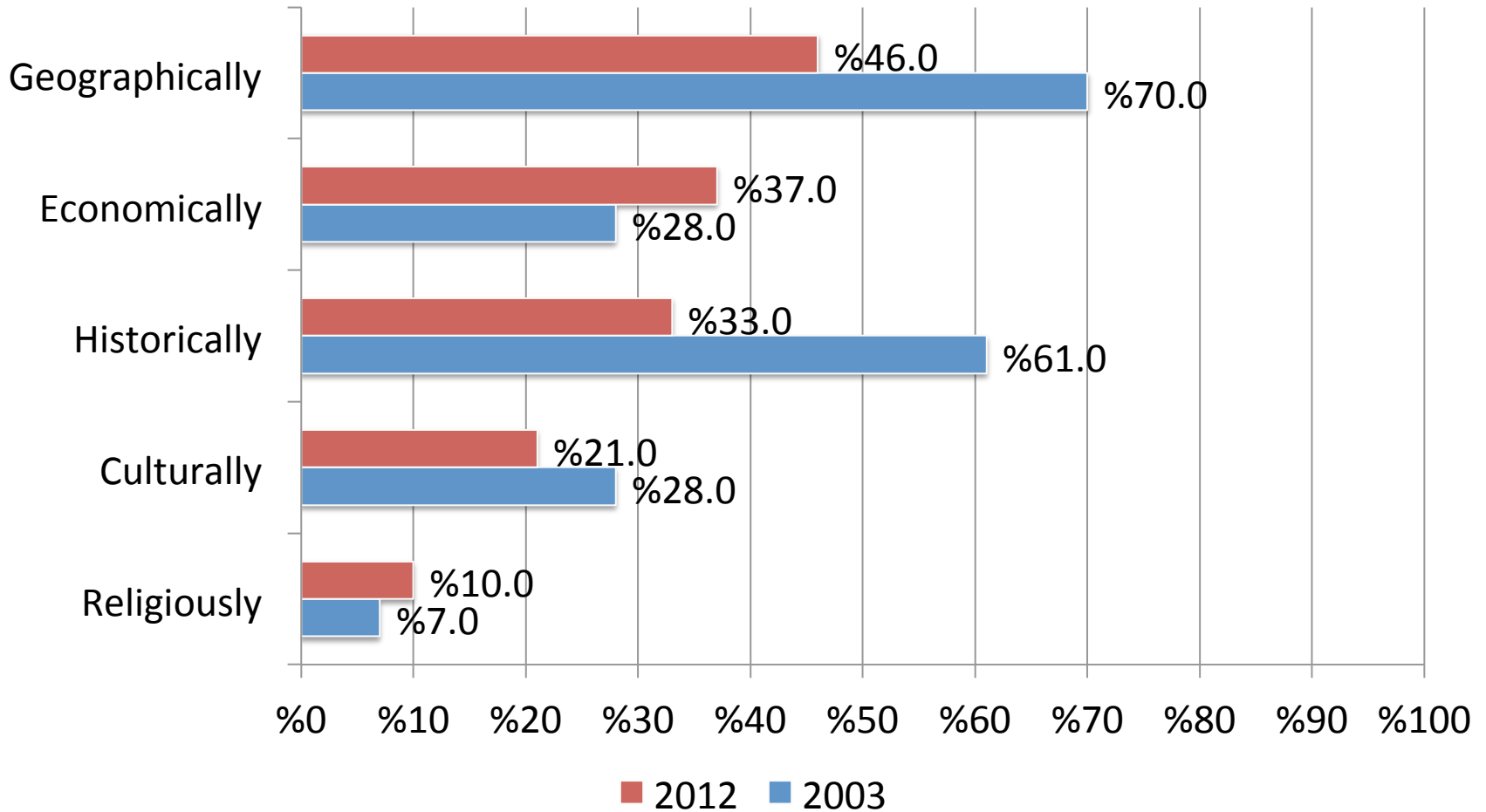
«Have you ever had a friend from Europe?»



10

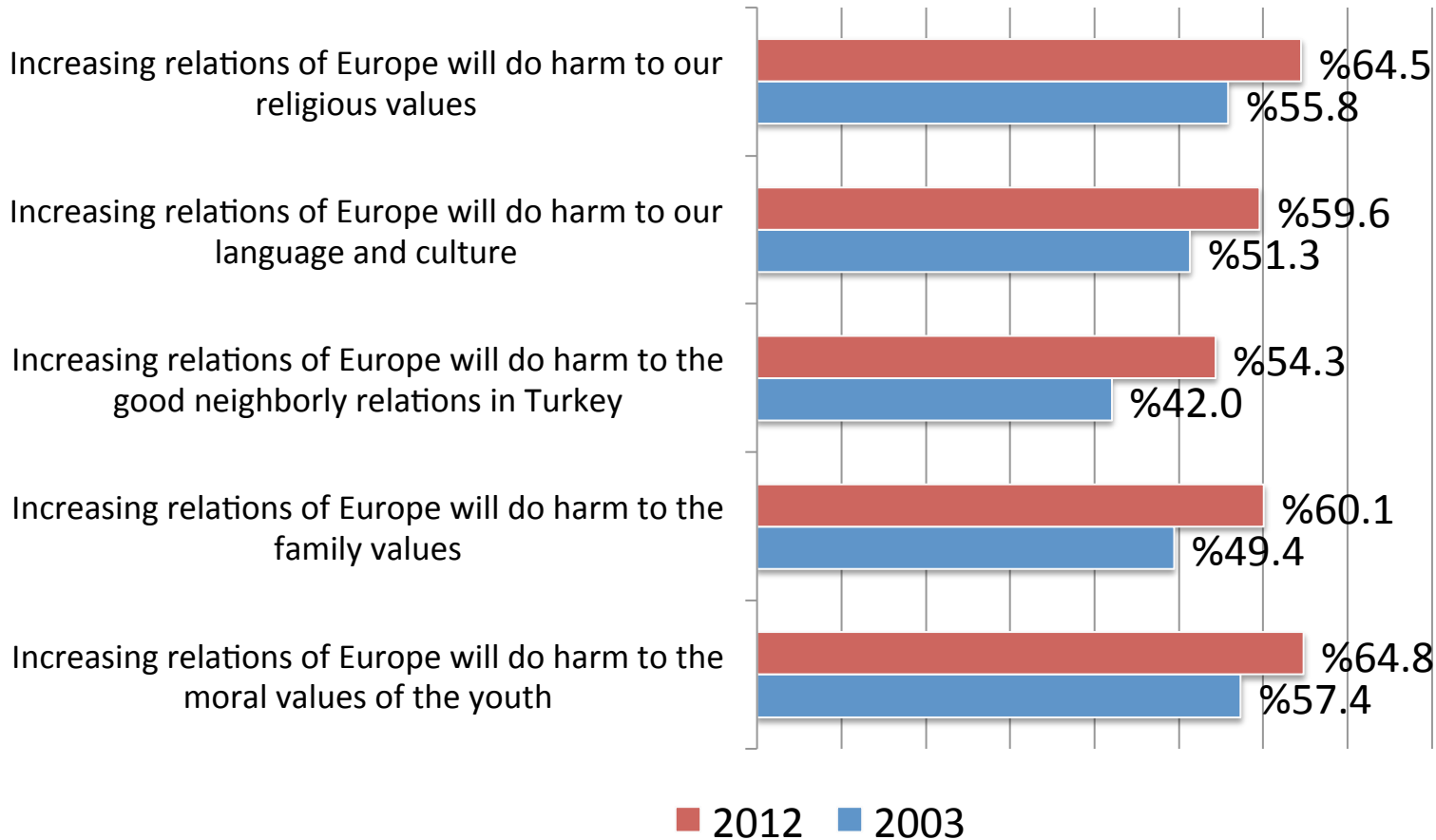
DOUBTS, WORRIES AND FEARS OF EUROPE...

Those who agree that «Turkey is Part of Europe»



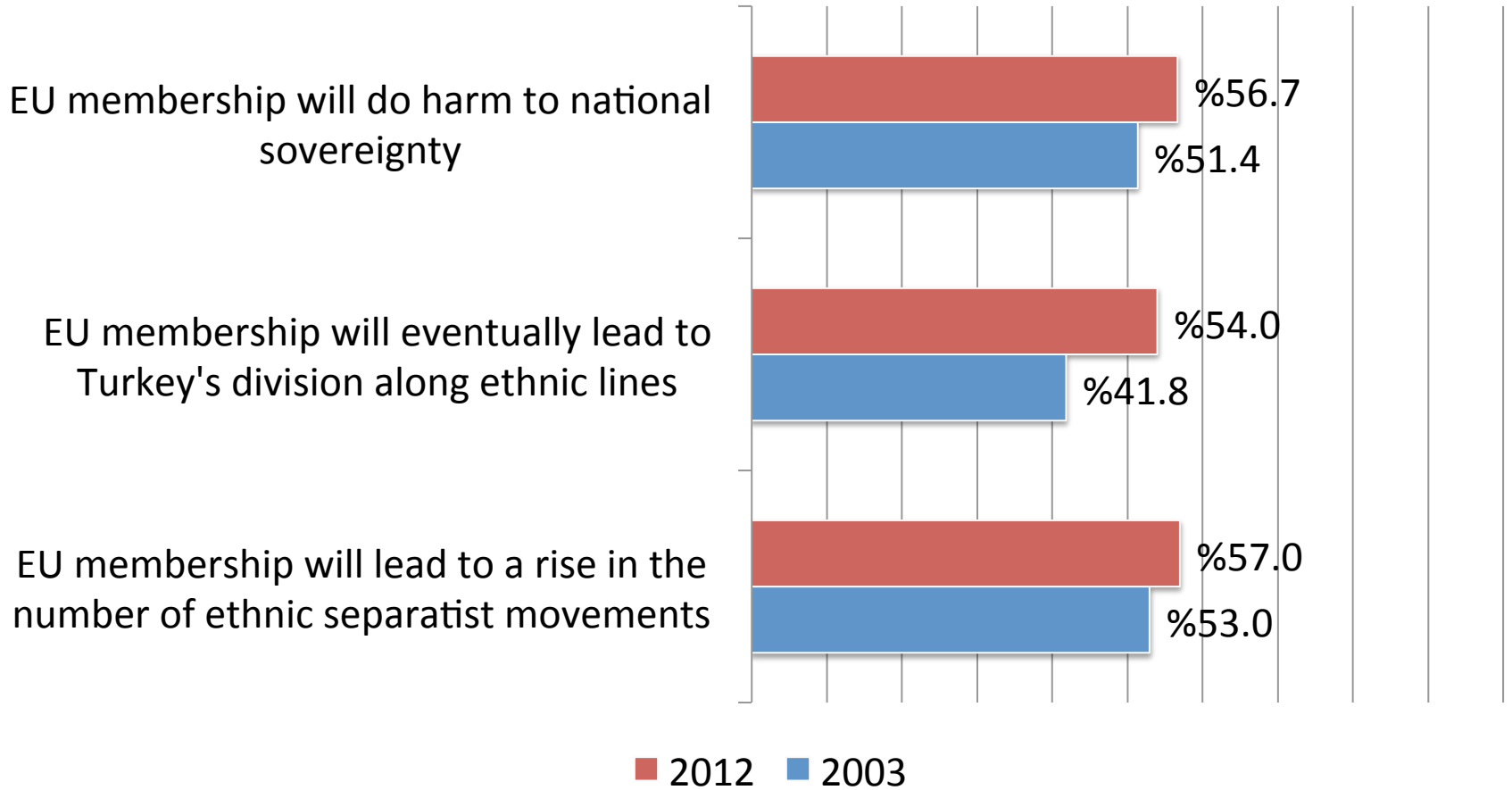
Doubts, Worries and Fears of Europe 1: Fears at the Level of Daily Life

Those who agree that...



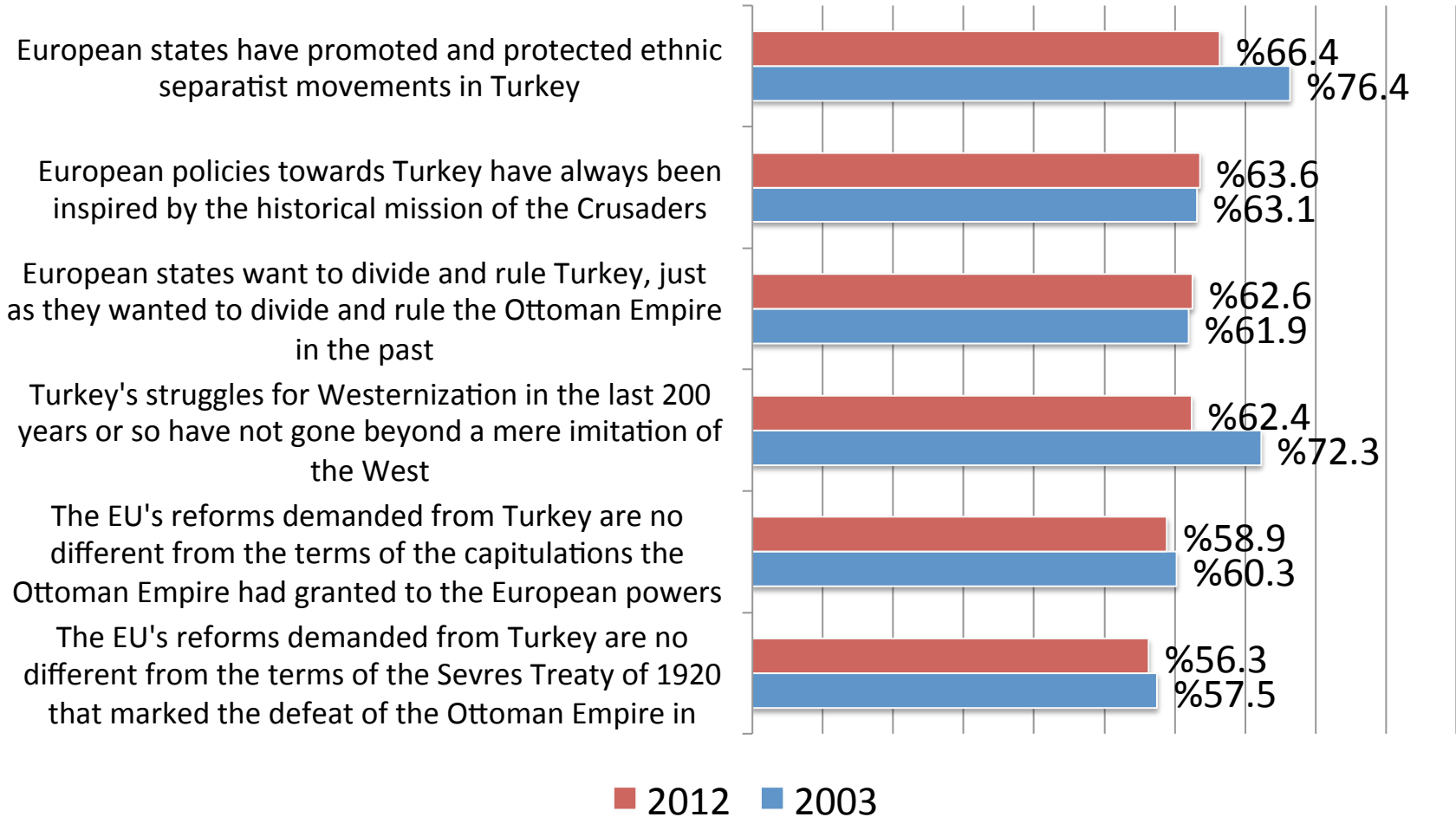
Doubts, Worries and Fears of Europe 2: Fears of Ethnic Separatism and National Partition

Those who agree that...



Doubts, Worries and Fears of Europe 3: Fears at the Level of Historical Memory

Those who agree that...

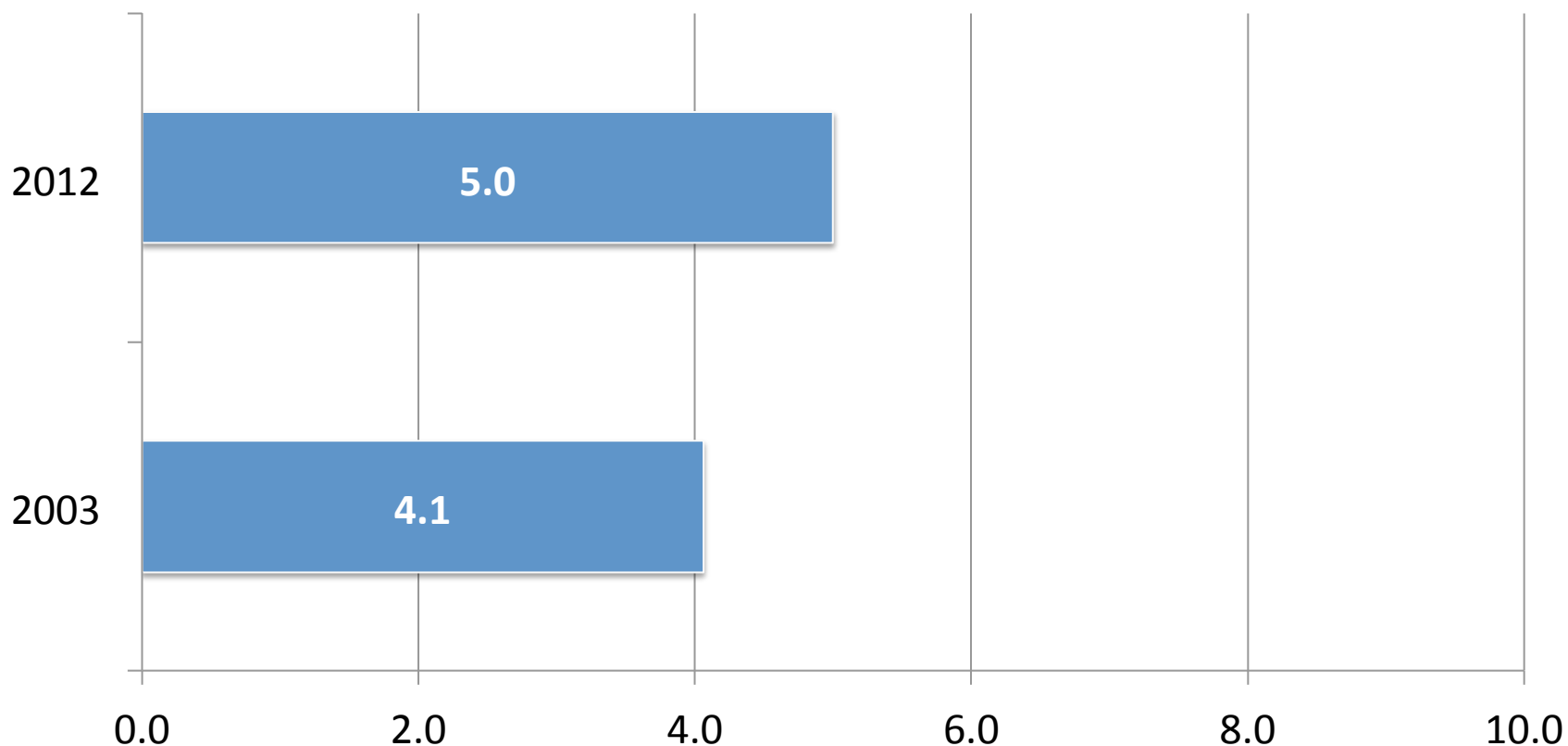


15

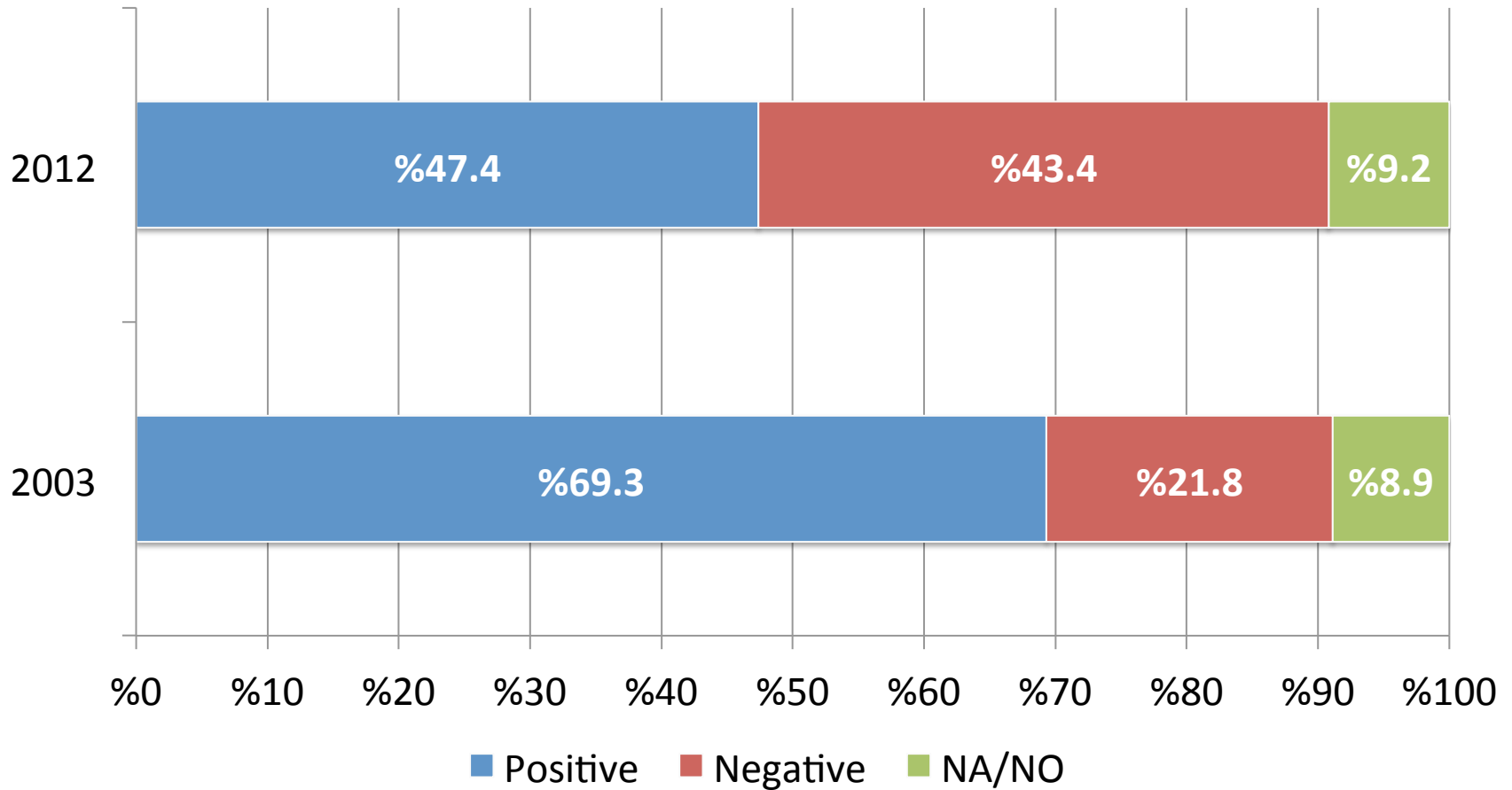
ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE EU

«What mark would you give yourself, between 1-10, that would show your level of knowledge of the EU, its institutions and policies, 1 showing the lowest and 10 showing the highest level of knowledge? »

Average Self-Evaluation between 1-10

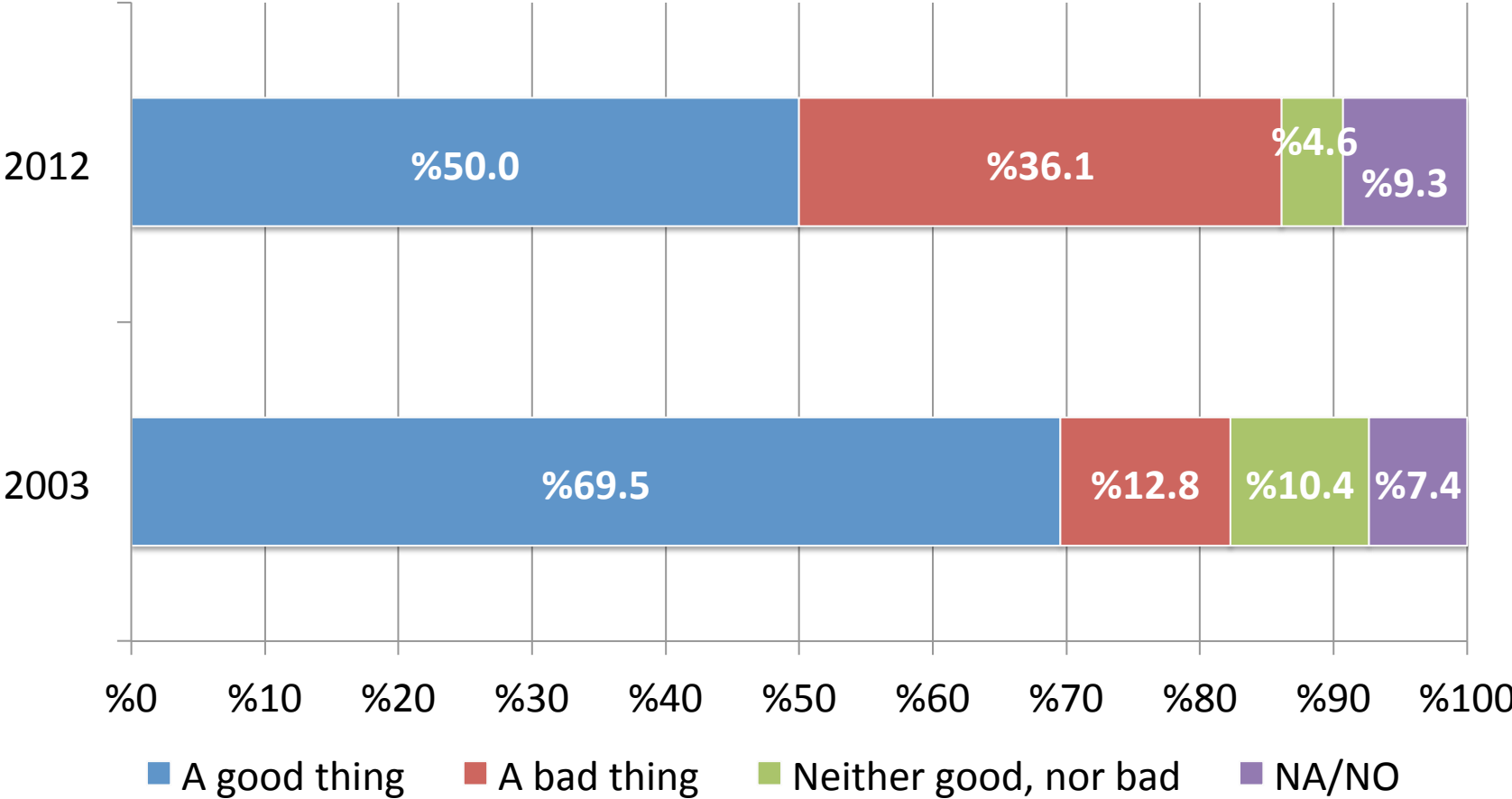


«Do you have a generally positive or negative opinion for the EU?»

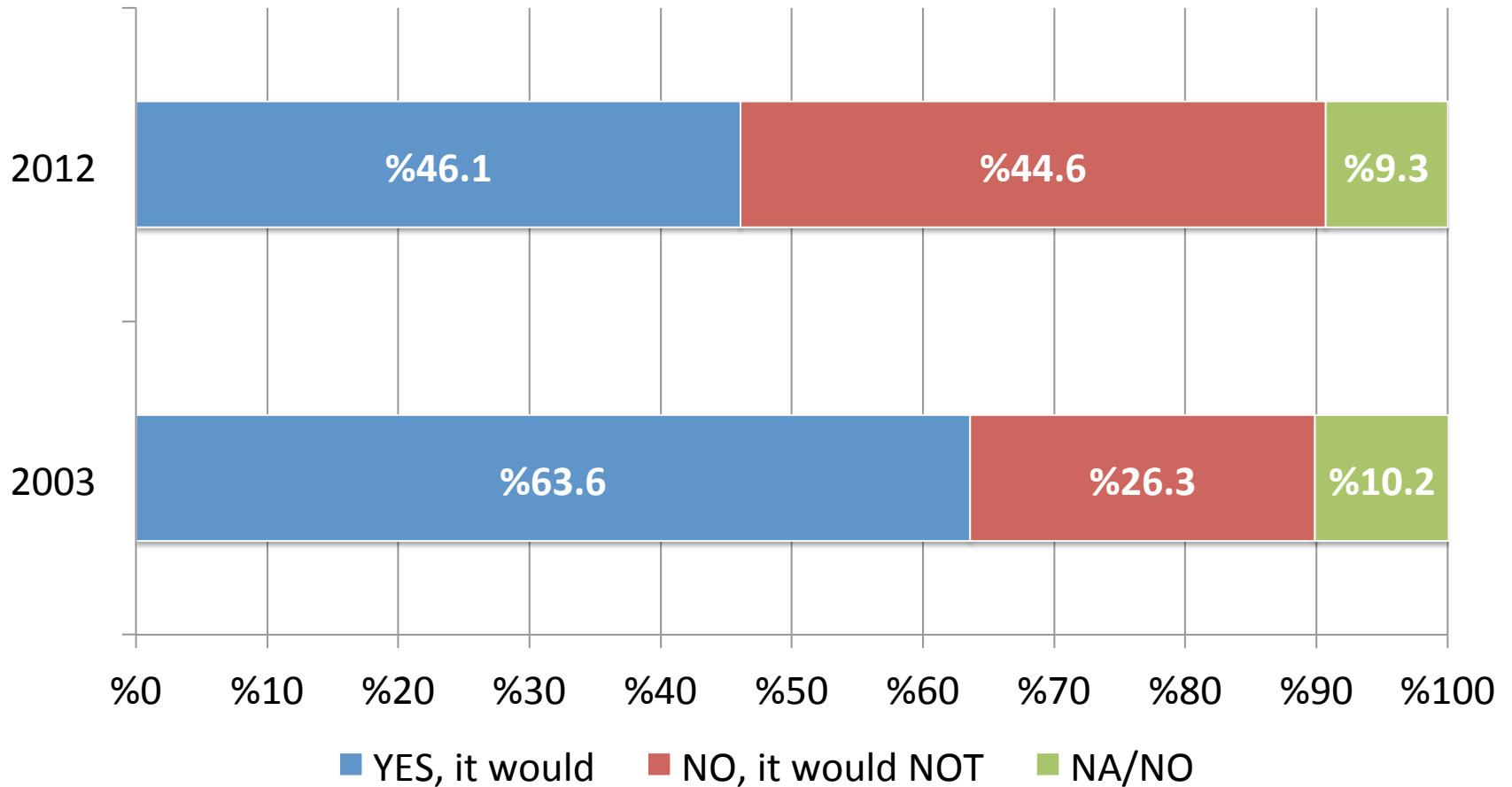


ATTITUDES TOWARDS TURKEY'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EU

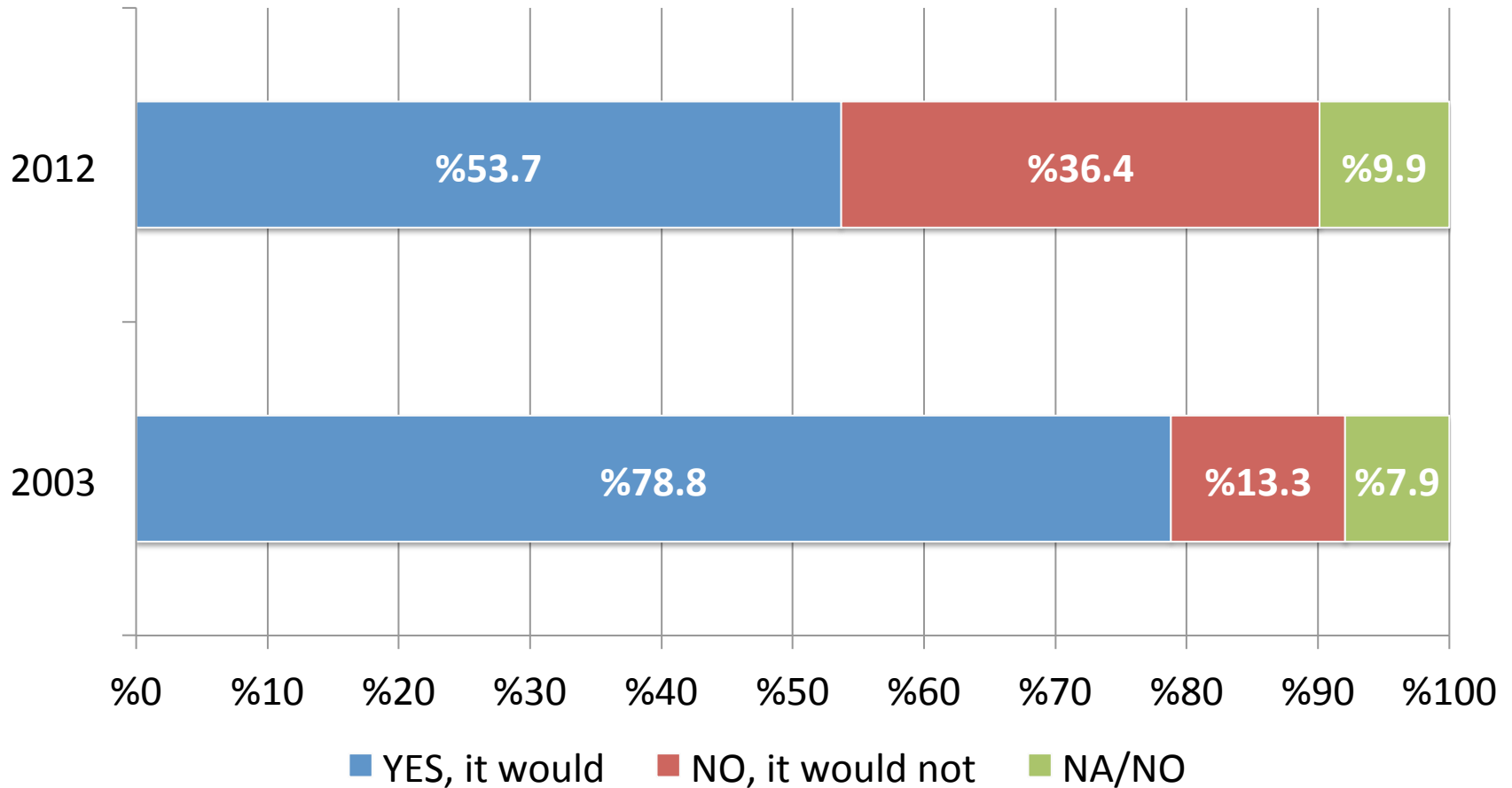
«Is Turkey's membership of the EU a good thing or a bad thing?»



«Would Turkey's EU membership bring benefits to you personally?»



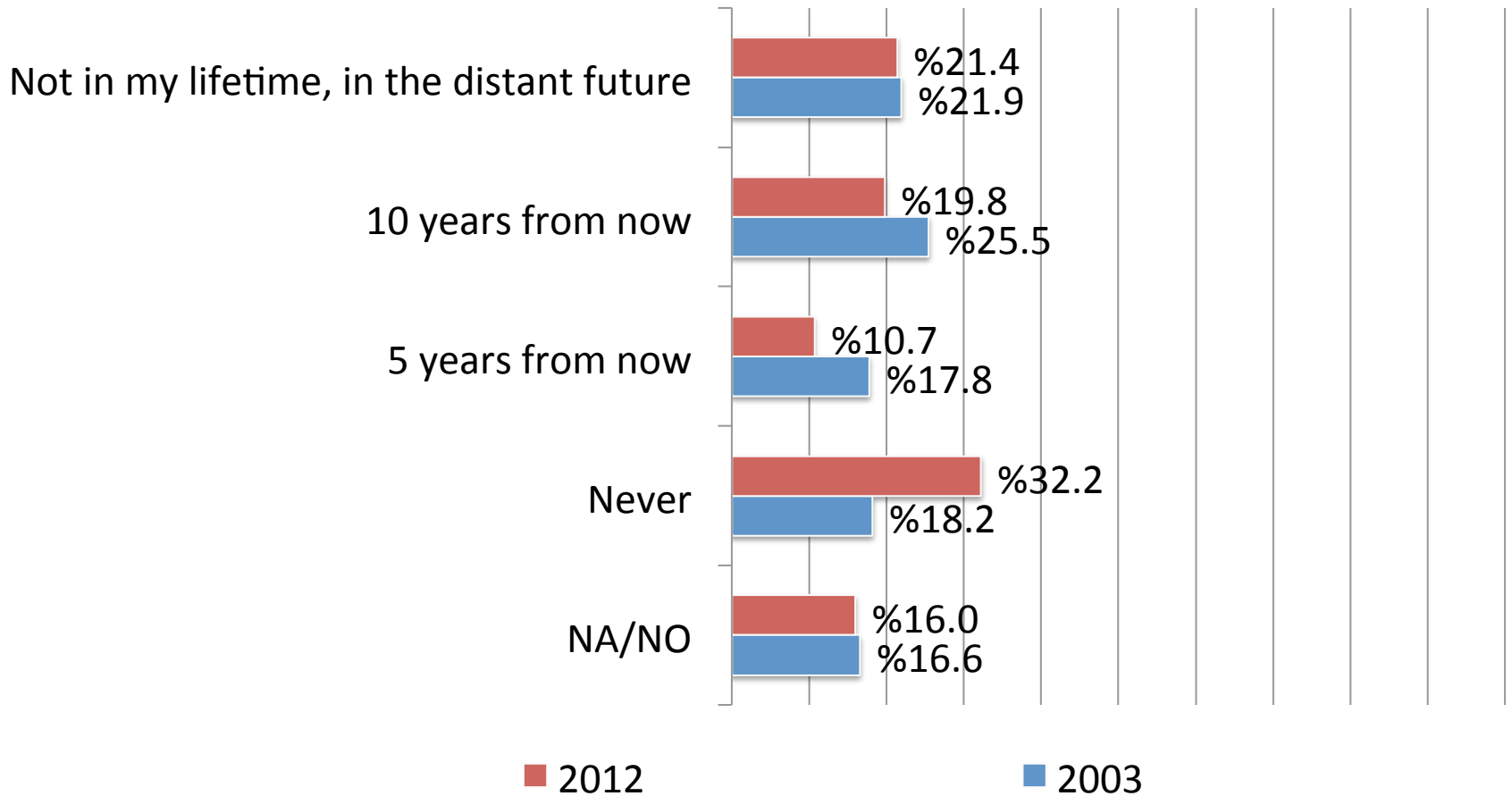
«Would Turkey's EU membership bring benefits to our country in general?»



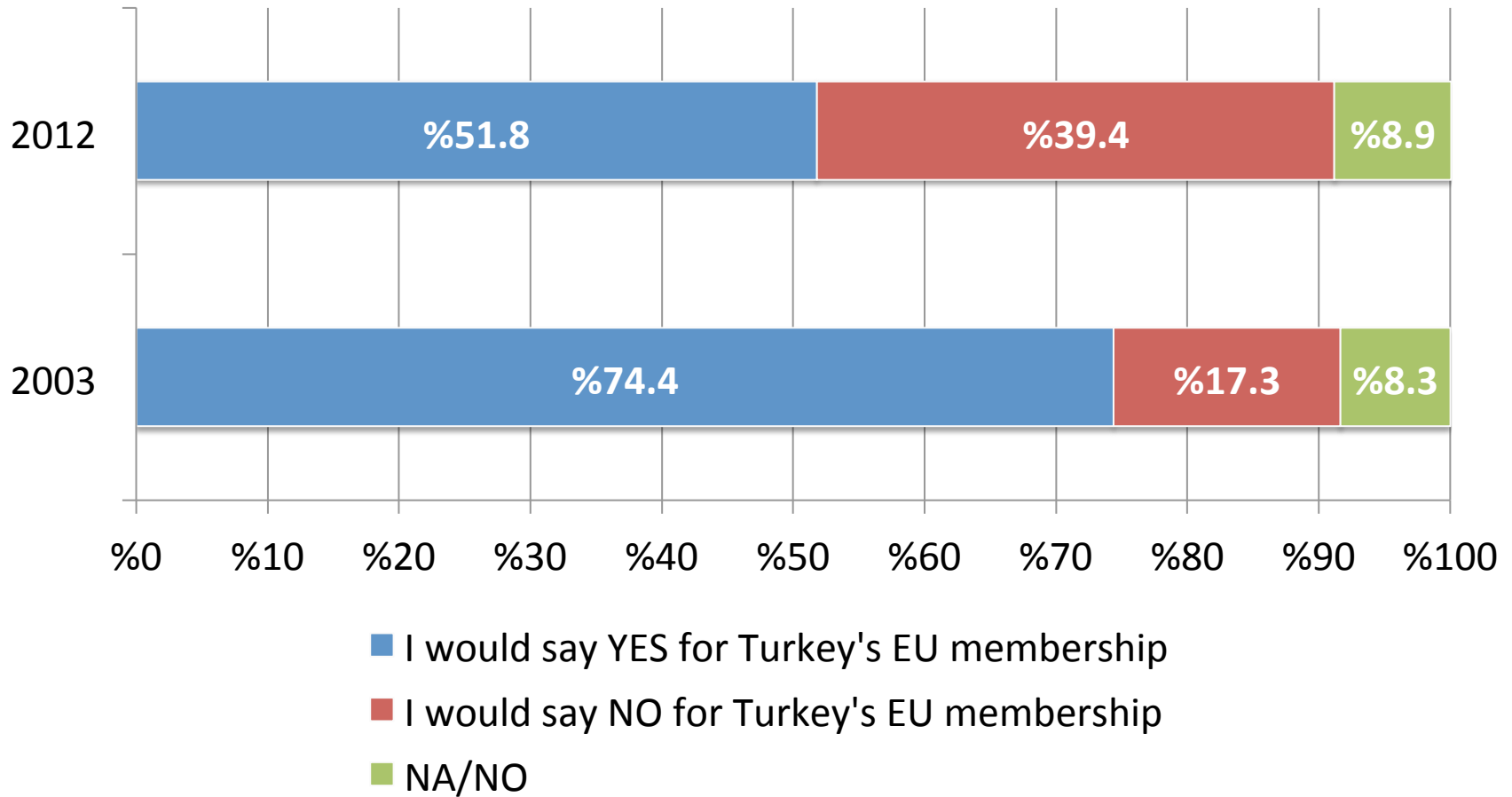
Level of Public Approval for the Political Reforms for Turkey's EU Membership (Marking over 1-10 scale, 1 showing the lowest and 10 the highest level of approval)

	2012	2005	2002
Lifting all the legal and constitutional barriers against freedom of speech	7.2	7.9	8.2
Abolishing the death penalty	5.9	5.8	5.8
Lifting all the legal and constitutional barriers against linguistic minorities' right of using their own mother tongues in education	5.5		
Lifting all the legal and constitutional barriers against linguistic minorities' right of using their own mother tongues in radio and TV broadcasting	5.8	6.1	6.1
Decreasing the army's power and control over the political system	6.0	6.3	6.2
Making the legal changes to ensure freedom of religion for the followers of all Islamic and non-Islamic religions and sects	7.2	7.4	8.3
Resolving the standing problems with Armenia by way of mutual concessions	3.9		
Resolving the standing problems with Cyprus by way of mutual concessions	4.0	5.2	8.1

«When, do you think, Turkey could become an EU member?»



«If there was today a referendum for Turkey's membership in the EU, would you say YES for membership or NO?»



Major Cultural Determinants of Euro-supportiveness in 2003 and 2012

- Higher positive economic expectations from the EU (2003&2012)
- Higher degrees of familiarity with Europe (visits to the EU countries, friendship with people from Europe, knowledge about the EU) (2003&2012)
- Lower degrees of feelings of Sevres syndrome (at the level of historical and contemporary fears of European powers trying to divide and rule Turkey) (2003&2012)
- Lower degrees of feelings of cultural threats from Europe (at the level of daily life, concerning moral values) (2003&2012)
- Higher degrees of feelings of international security of Turkey (2003&2012)
- Higher degrees of sharing a common history with Europe (Only in 2003)
- Lower degrees of feelings of double-standards in the EU policies towards Turkey (Only in 2003)