

The COMPASS Survey

Attitudes on Serbia's Foreign Policy - 2025

The COMPASS Survey: Attitudes on Serbia's Foreign Policy – 2025

Political, Security, and Economic Domains

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We welcome feedback, inquiries, and collaborations from users interested in utilizing the dataset or contributing to the ongoing research efforts within the COMPASS Project

COMPASS Project official website:

www.serbiacompass.com

Suggest data or report incorrect data to:

compass@diplomacy.bg.ac.rs



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Executive Summary

„The Contributing to Modern Partnerships: Assessments of Sino-EU- Serbian Relations project (hereafter referred to as COMPASS) aims to identify, analyse, and provide recommendations regarding the risks associated with Serbia’s political, security and economic cooperation with the EU and China. The main objective and outcome of the project is to give recommendations on how to reduce or mitigate these identified risks.

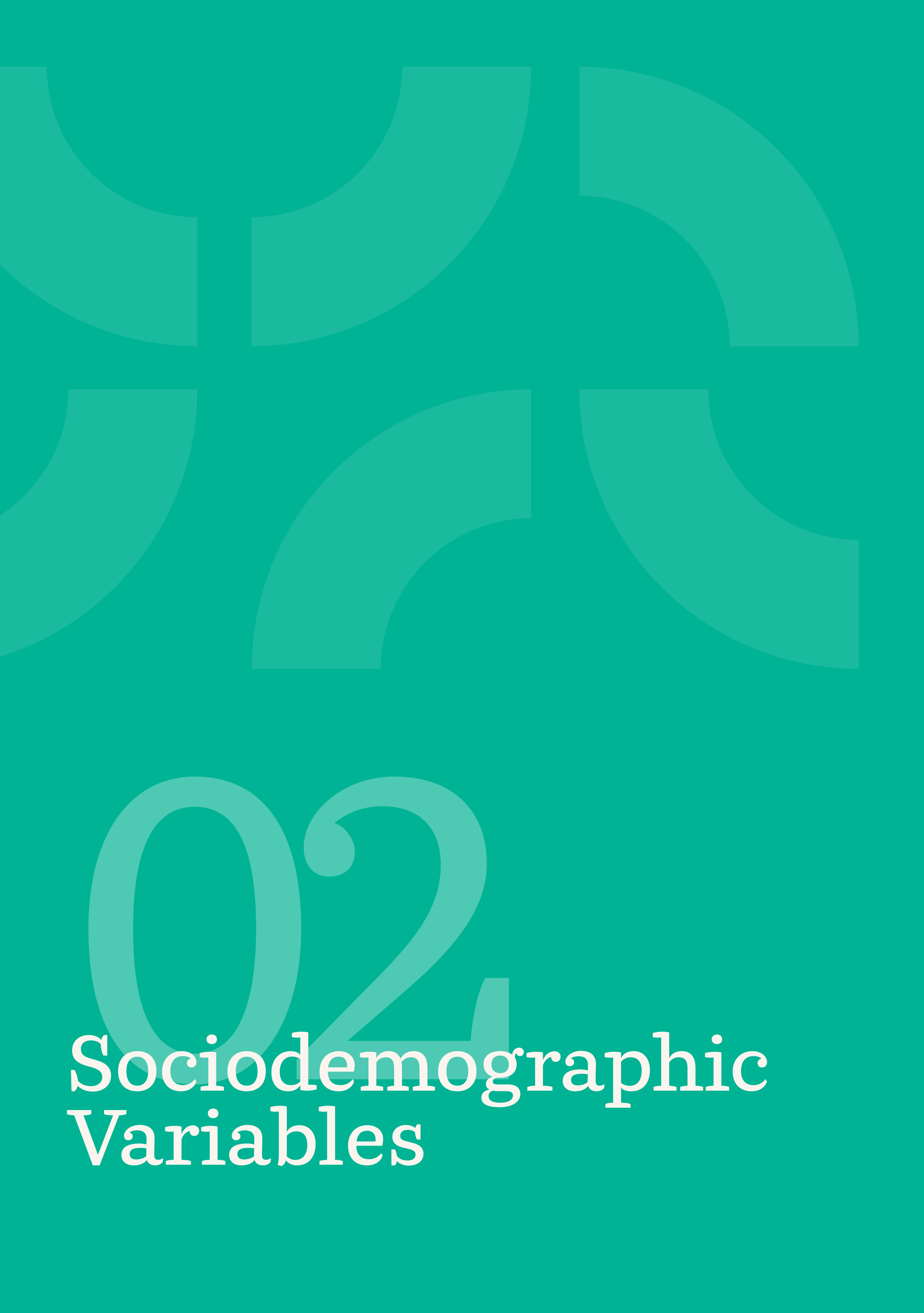
The initial phase of this project, part of Work Package 1, involved conducting a literature review and gathering relevant data about the research topic. The second phase entailed assessing potential risks in multilateral cooperation, followed by the third phase, which included conducting a public opinion survey to gather wider attitudes and stances of the general public on the main directions and aspects of Serbia’s foreign policy relations.

The survey was conducted from April 23, 2025 to July 3, 2025. It had 1104 responses.

The survey was conducted online using a structured questionnaire format. The sample was randomly selected, yet the sociodemographic variables demonstrated a significant level of representativeness compared to the general population. The questionnaire was completed by citizens of the Republic of Serbia. It was administered in Serbian and ensured complete anonymity for all respondents. In addition to generally required info regarding respondents’ age, level of education, sex, place of living and overall assessment of their knowledge of the topic, the survey consisted of 20 questions, of which several had multiple aspects.

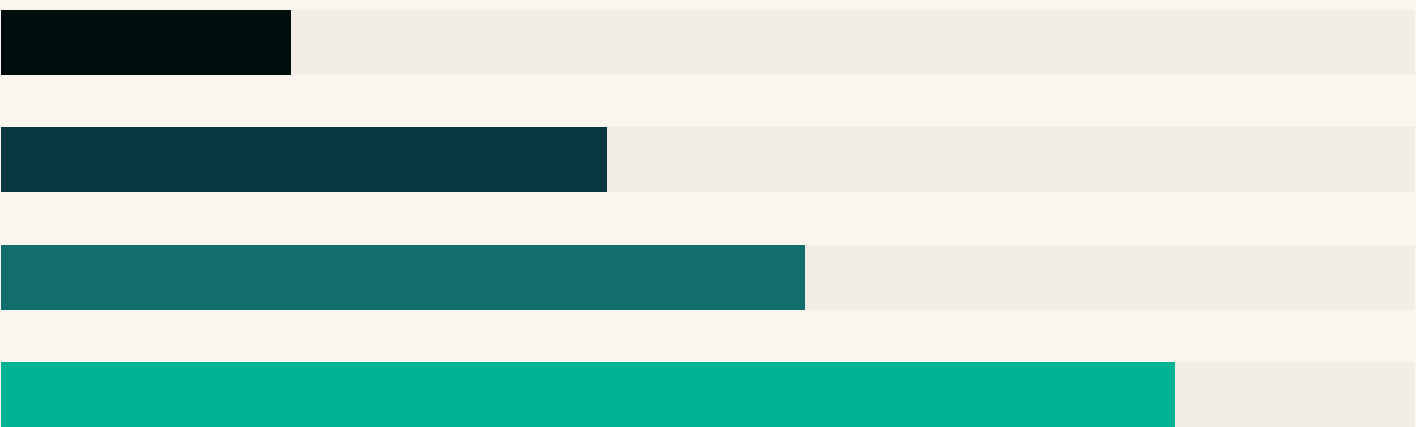
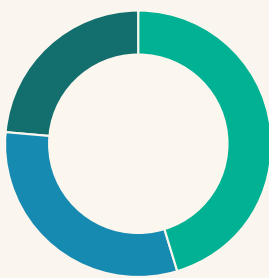
The respondents were informed about the purpose of the research, anonymity, and usage of gathered data.

The following represents the gathered results.



Sociodemographic Variables

How old are you?



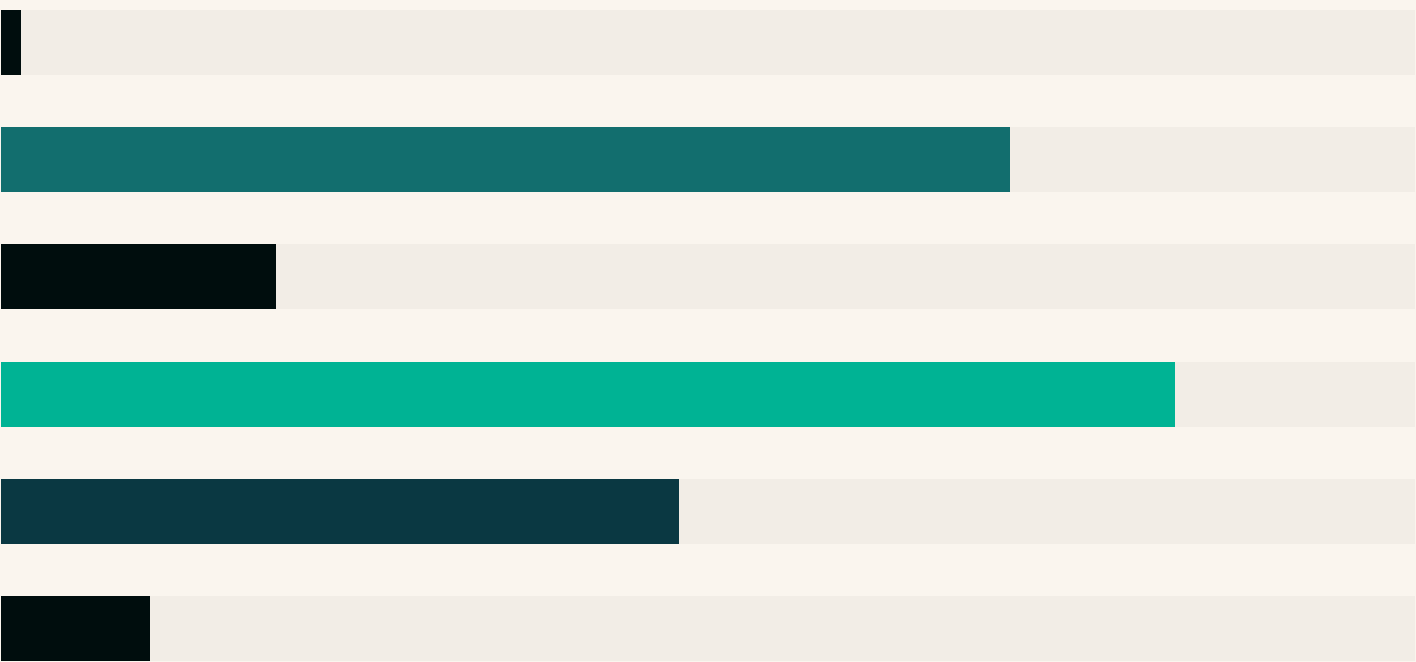
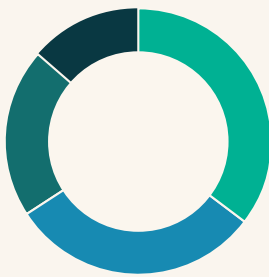
18 - 25 | 10.1%

26 - 35 | 21.1%

36 - 50 | 28.0%

50 and more | 40.9%

What is your level of education??



Primary School | 0.6%

High School | 30.5%

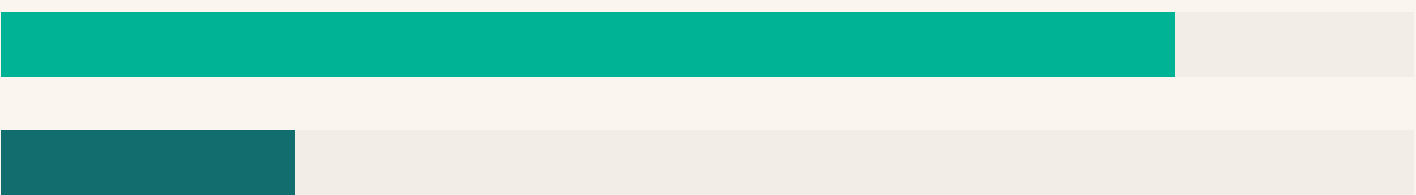
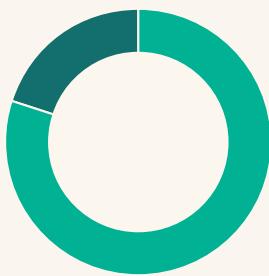
Student | 8.3%

Bachelor's Degree | 35.5%

Master's Degree | 20.5%

PhD | 4.5%

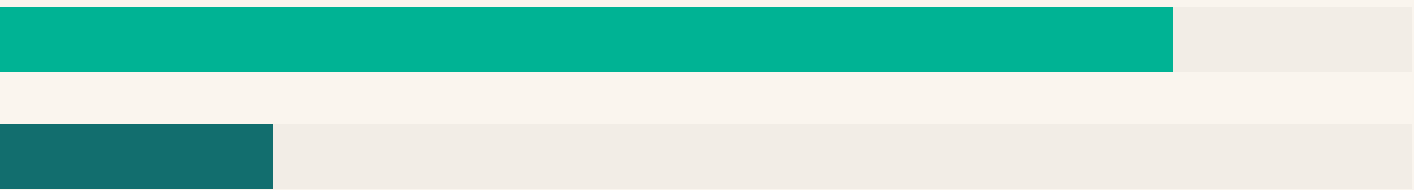
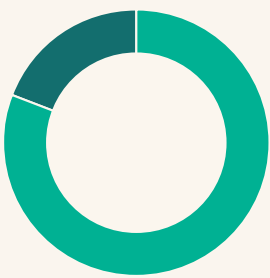
Sex?



Male | 80.0%

Female | 20.0%

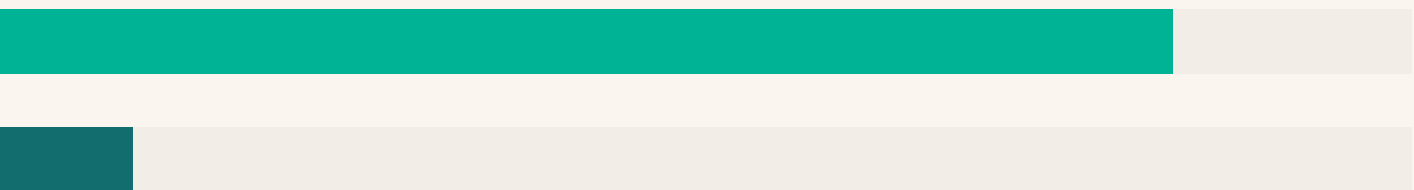
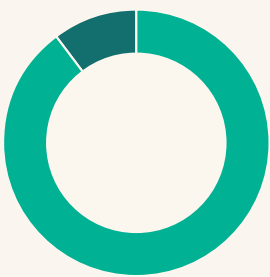
Where do you live?



Urban | 81.1%

Rural | 18.9%

Do you think you are sufficiently informed about current international relations?



Yes | 89.8%

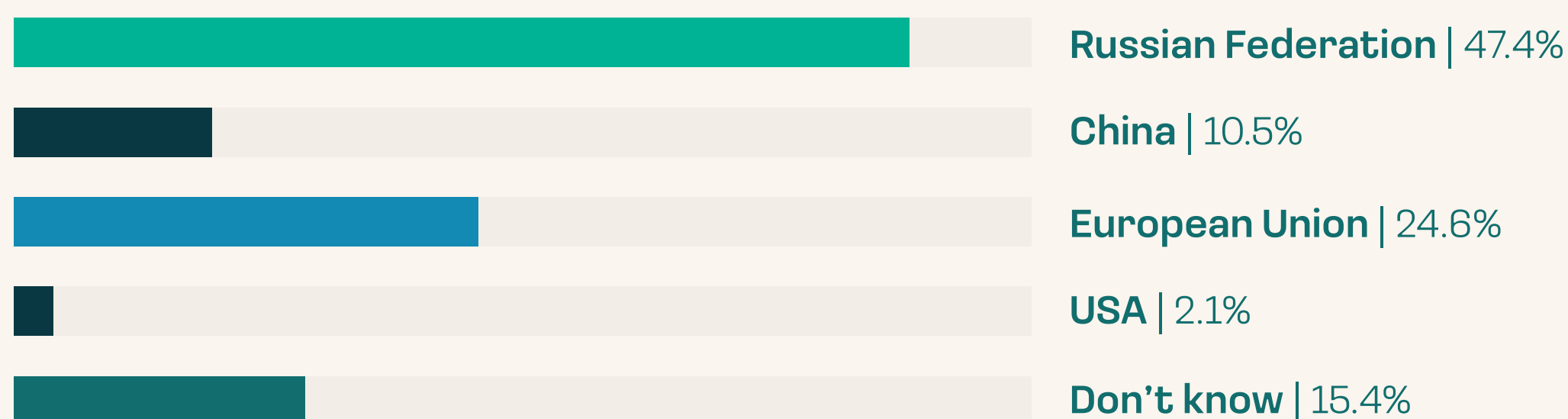
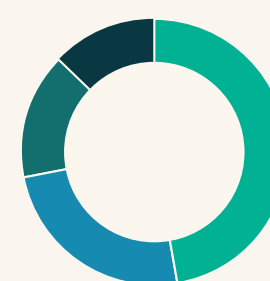
No | 10.2%



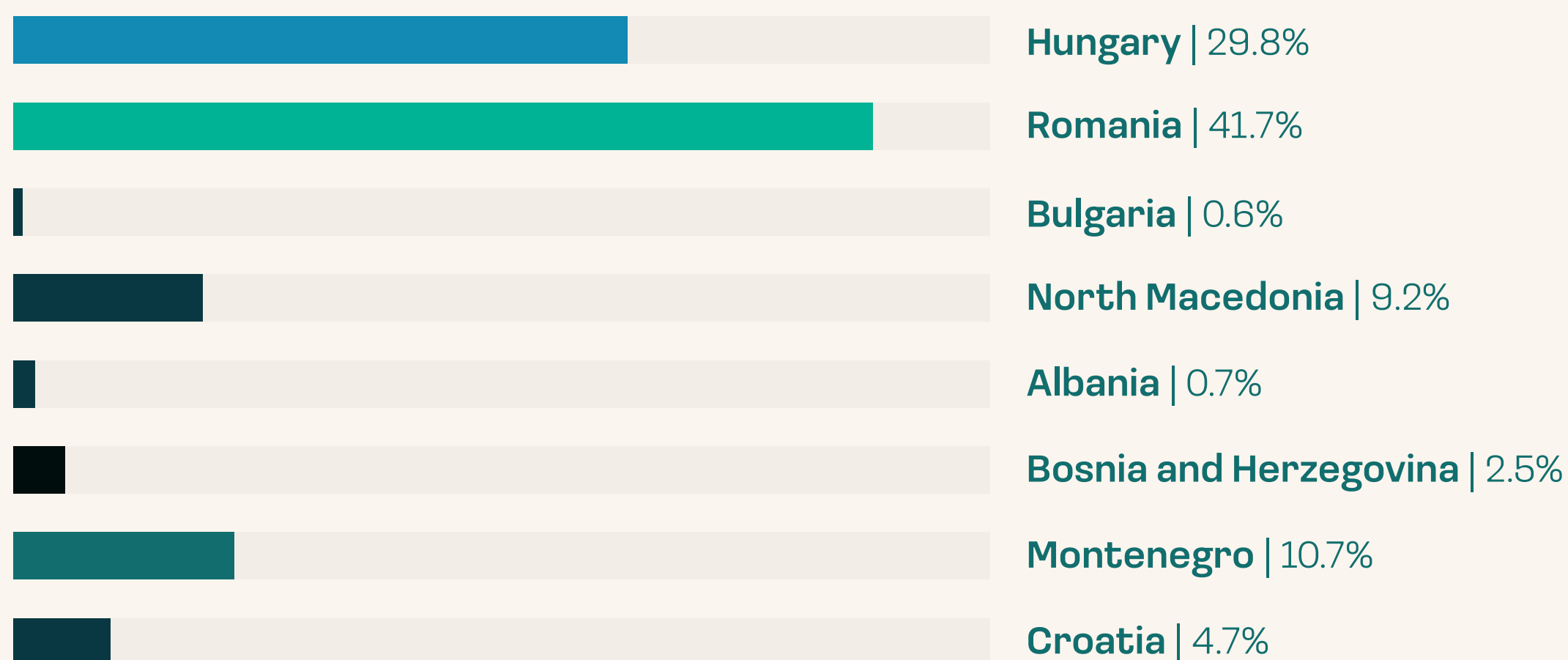
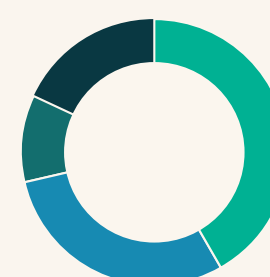
03

Survey Results

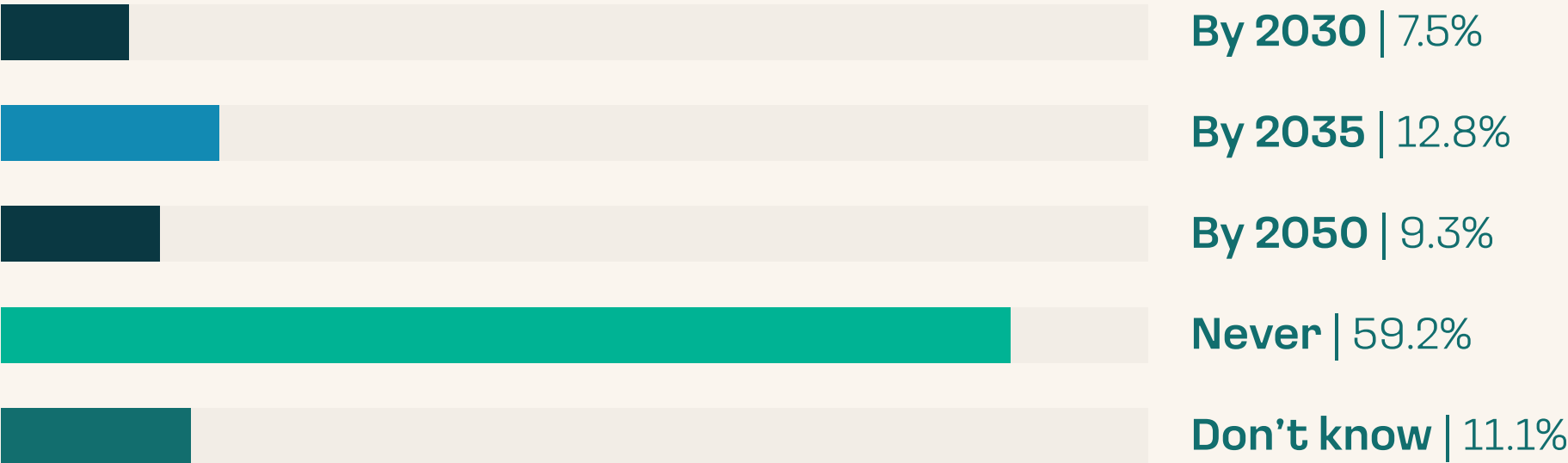
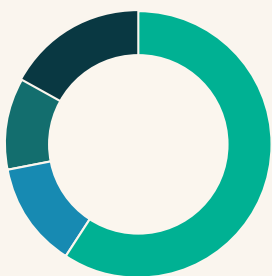
1. In your opinion, which international partner contributes the most to the protection of the national interests and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia?



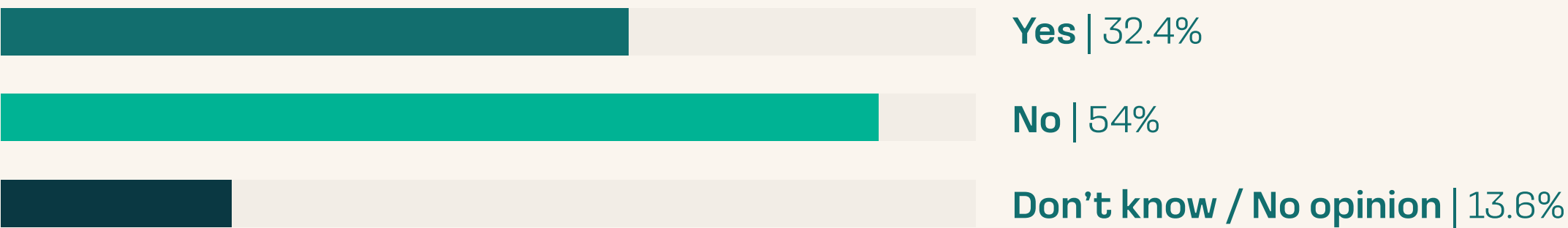
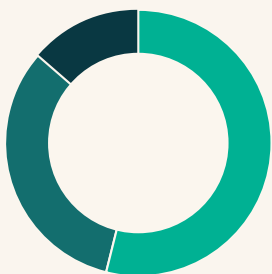
2. Which country in the region do you see as Serbia's greatest friend?



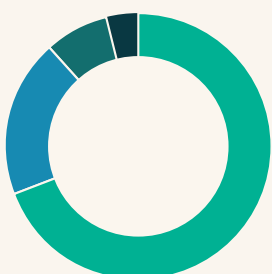
3. When do you expect Republic of Serbia to join the European Union?



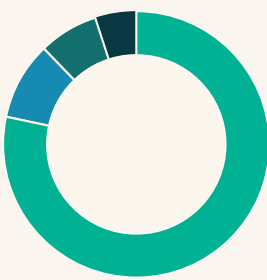
4. Do you expect Serbia to one day join the BRICS group (Brasil, China, Russia, India, South Africa)?



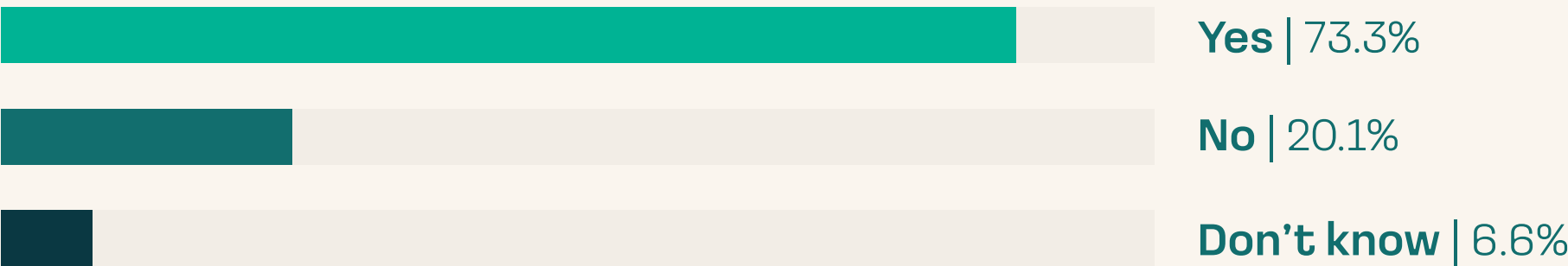
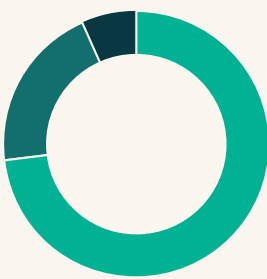
5. Who was the largest investor in Serbia during the period 2013-2023?



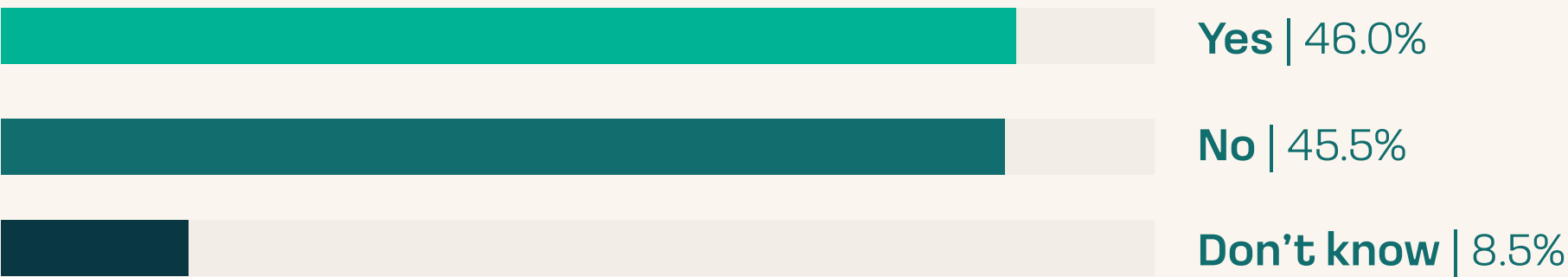
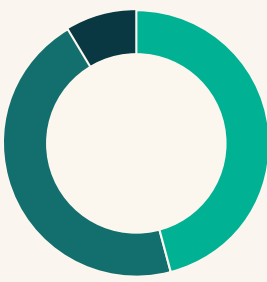
6. Who was Serbia's largest foreign trade partner during the period 2013-2023?



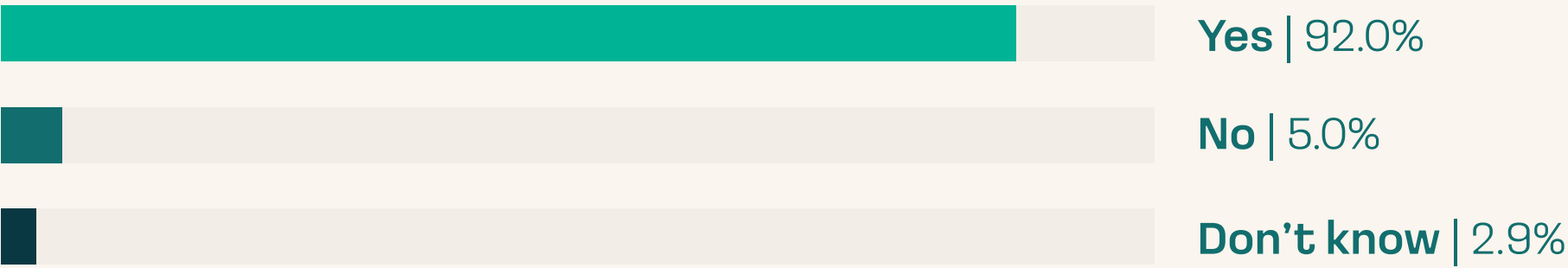
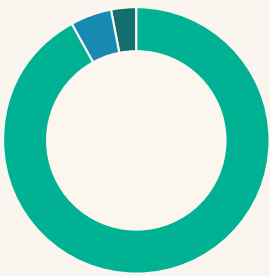
7. Do you think Serbia is accumulating too much debt with China for infrastructure projects?



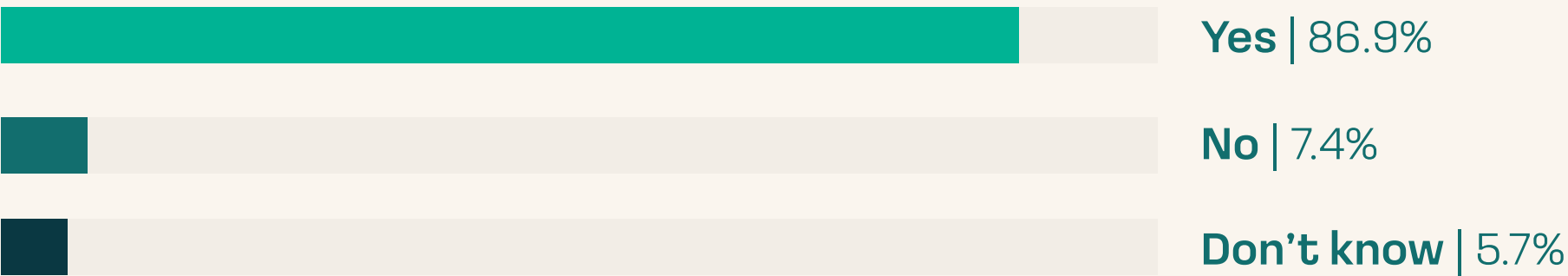
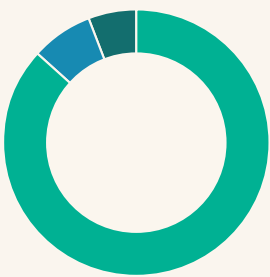
8. Do infrastructure projects financed by China contribute to the economic development of Serbia?



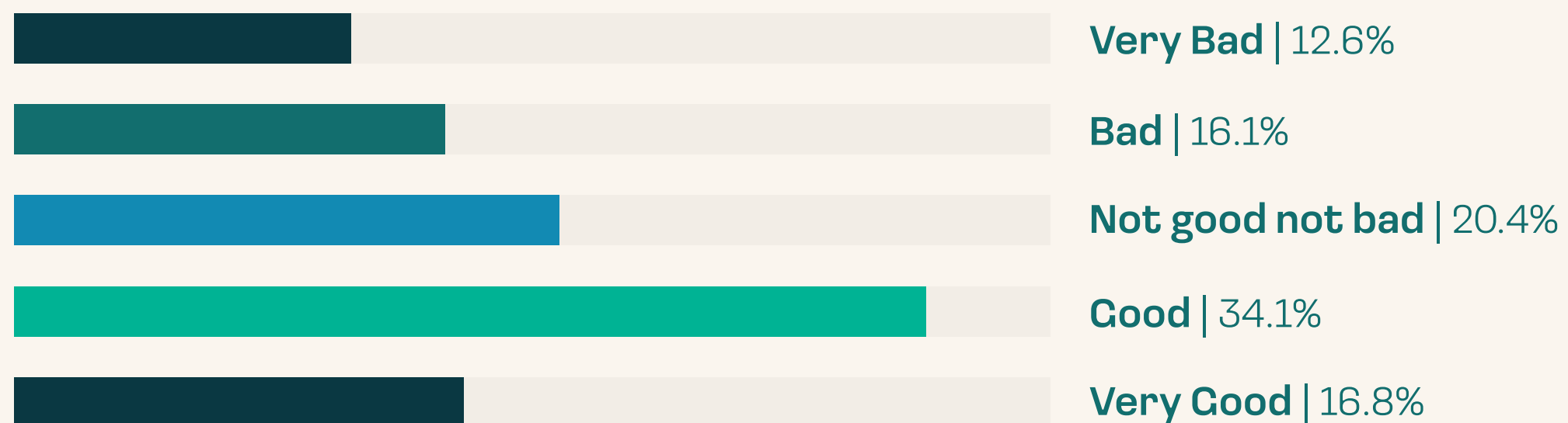
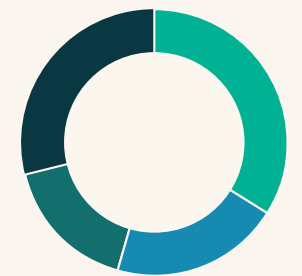
9a. Should the Republic of Serbia require companies from the People’s Republic of China to comply more strictly with environmental protection standards?



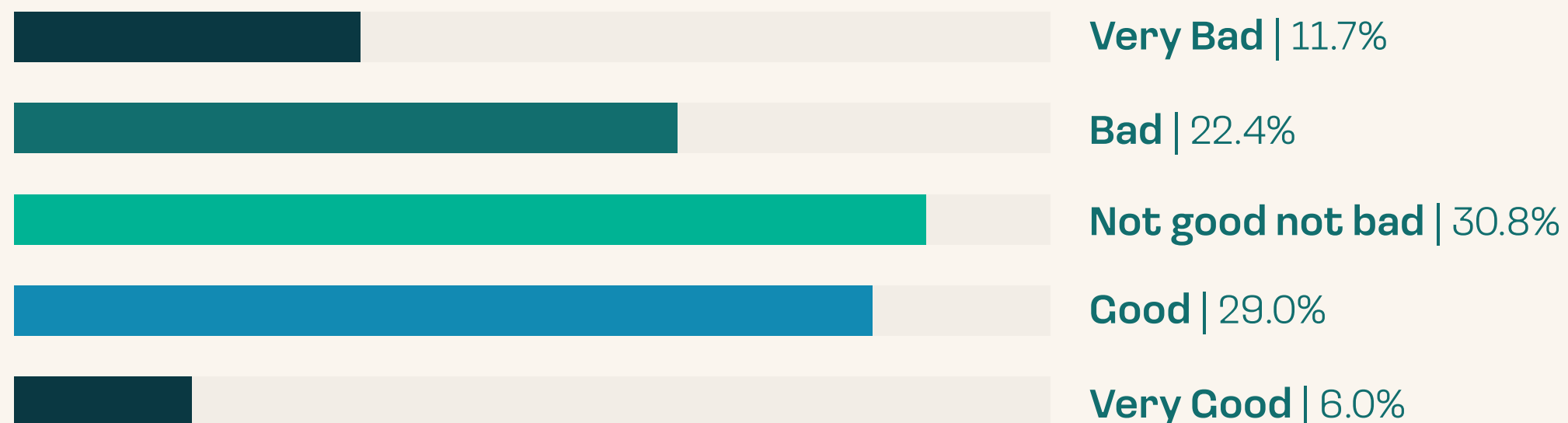
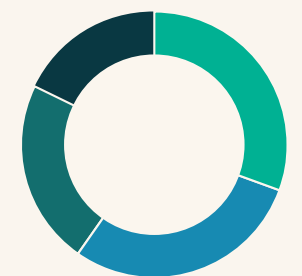
9b. Should the Republic of Serbia request stronger guarantees from the EU regarding the Memorandum on Strategic Raw Materials (lithium)?



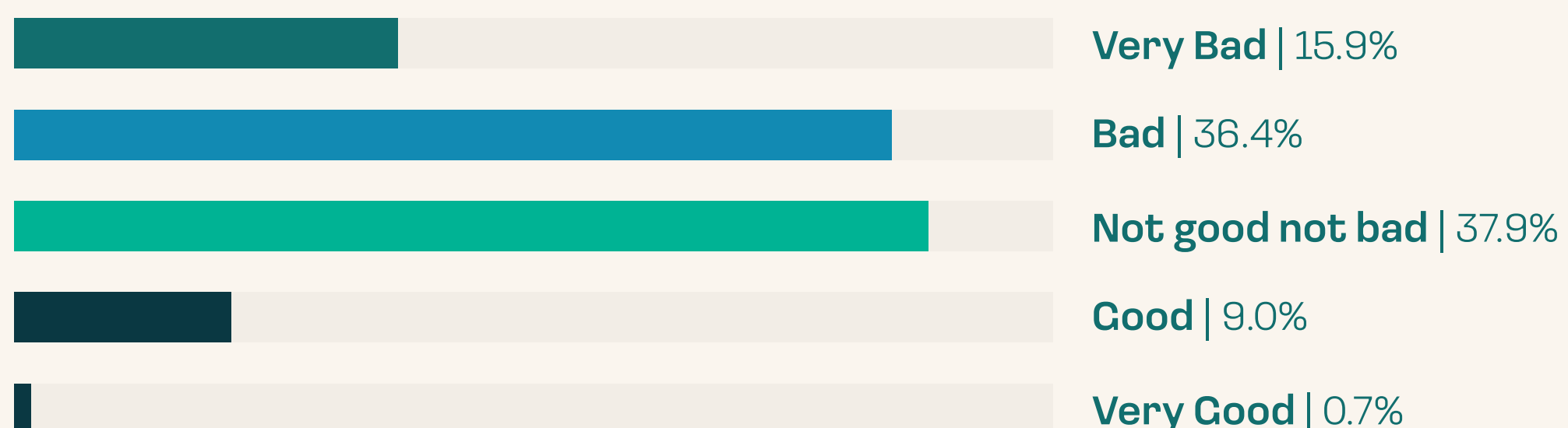
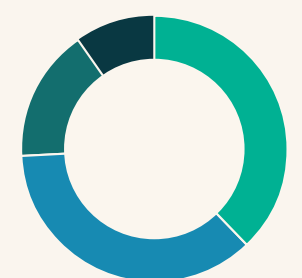
10a. How would you assess the political and economic cooperation of the Republic of Serbia with China in the last 10 years?



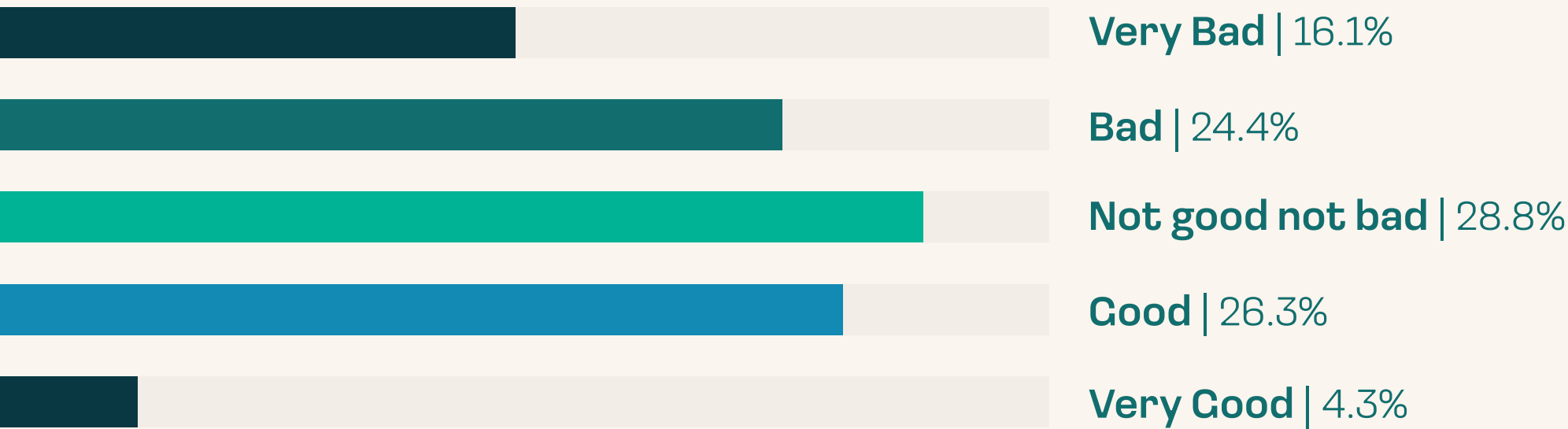
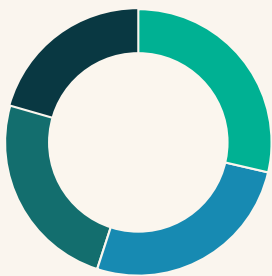
10b. How would you assess the political and economic cooperation of the Republic of Serbia with Russia in the last 10 years?



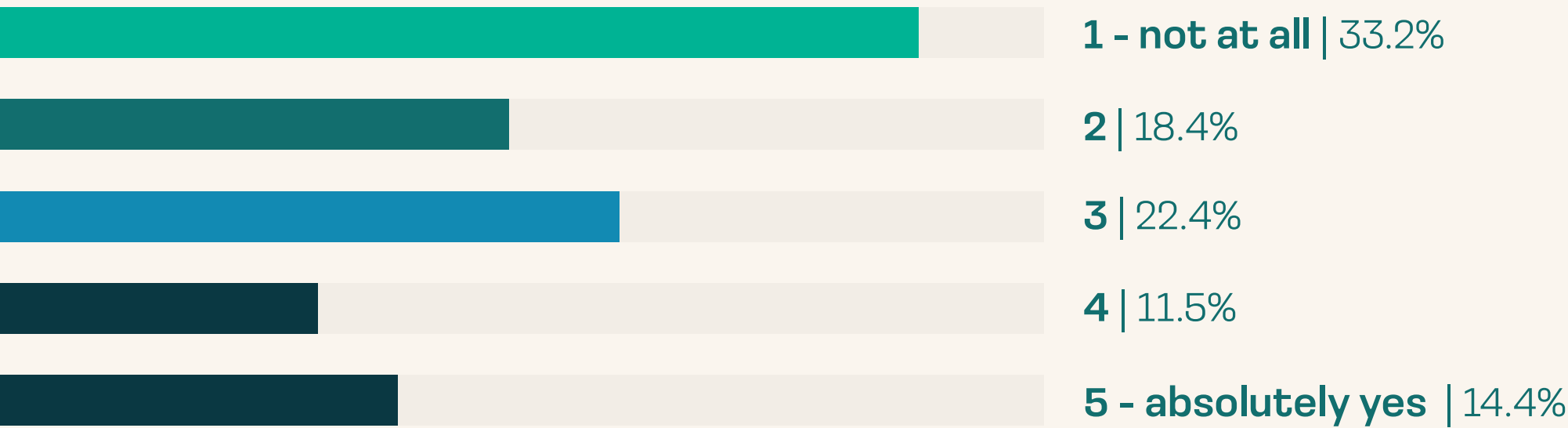
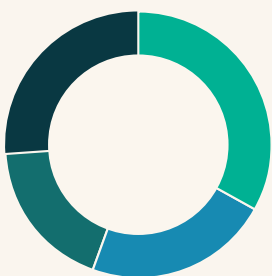
10c. How would you assess the political and economic cooperation of the Republic of Serbia with USA in the last 10 years?



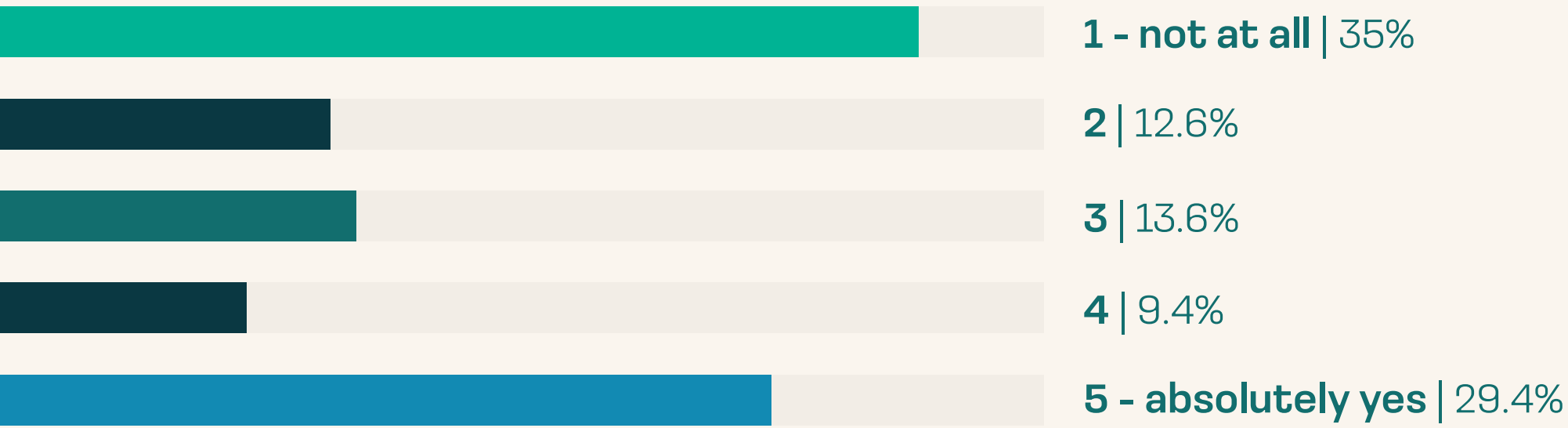
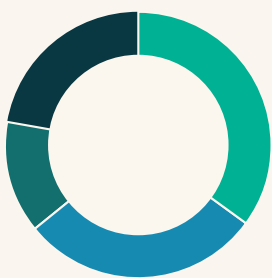
10d. How would you assess the political and economic cooperation of the Republic of Serbia with European Union in the last 10 years?



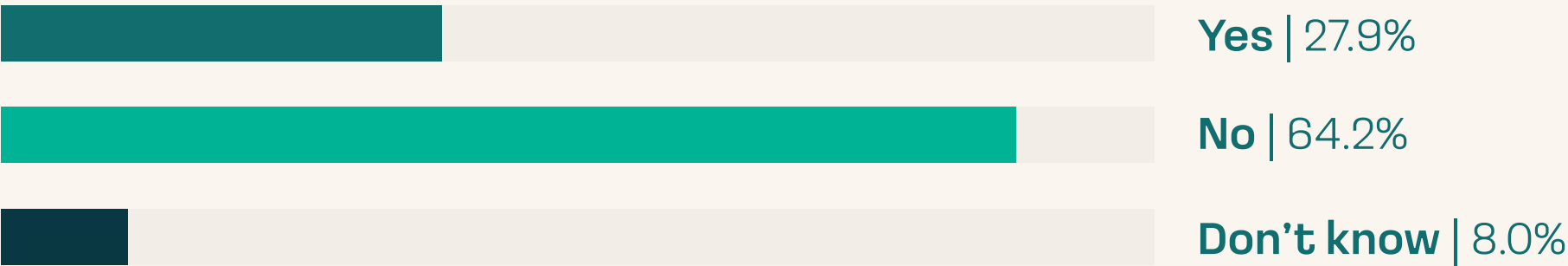
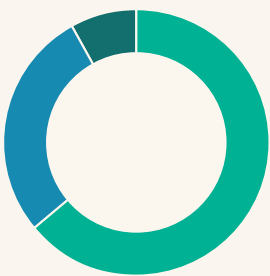
11. Do Serbia and China have a “steel friendship”?



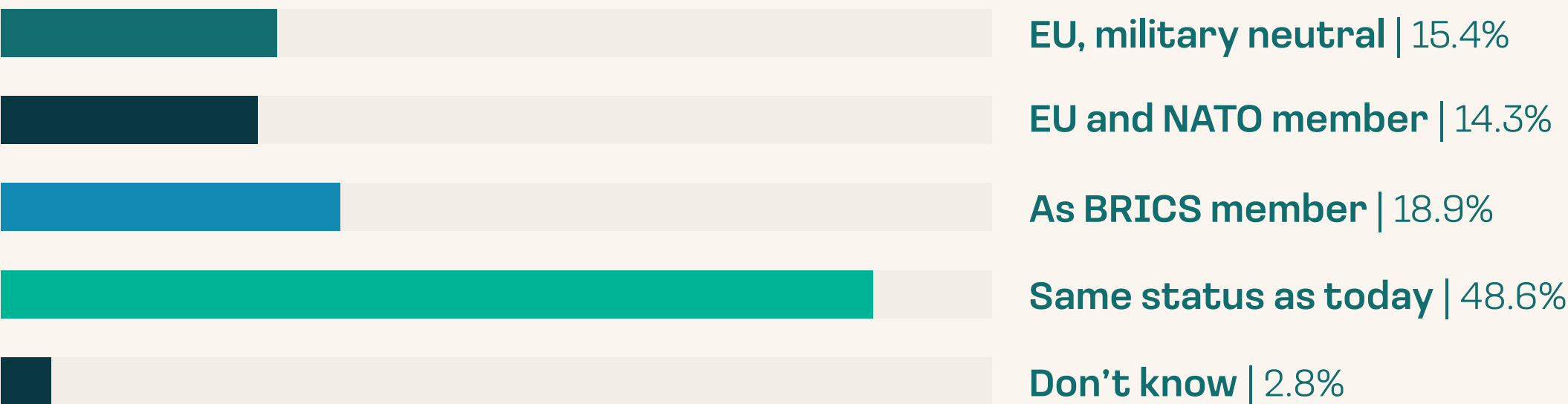
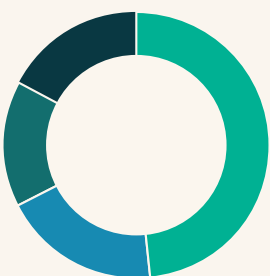
12. Is EU membership a “strategic foreign policy goal” for Serbia?



13. The European Commission holds the position that the Republic of Serbia, as a candidate for full EU membership, should align with the Union’s policies. Should Serbia impose sanctions on Russia?



14. How do you see Serbia’s foreign policy position in 10 years?



15a. What is the EU for Serbia today?



An absolute strategic goal, a key economic and political partner, we share the same values | 29.6%



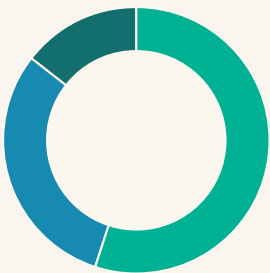
An important economic partner but imposes unacceptable political conditions, while some of the values promoted by the EU are problematic | 36.4%



A necessary economic partner due to geographical reasons, absolutely unacceptable politically, I disagree that we share values with the EU | 34.1%



15b. What is China for Serbia today?



The main investor, a key partner for the protection of territorial integrity, we have a “steel friendship” | 14.3%



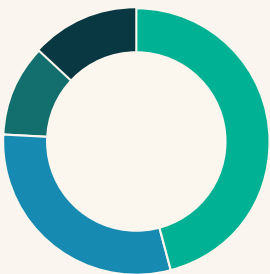
An important economic partner, but insufficiently politically engaged, culturally not close enough | 55.1%



An unacceptable economic and political partner, we do not share any common values | 30.6%



16. Which of the listed countries do you see as the dominant global superpower in 2030?



USA | 29.8%



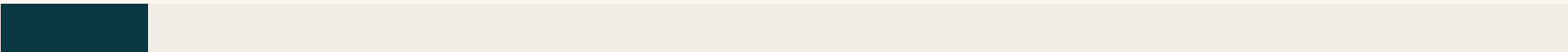
China | 46.1%



Russia | 11.2%



EU | 4.9%



India | 3.7%



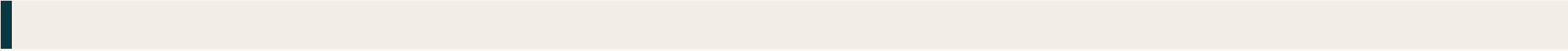
United Kingdom | 0.4%



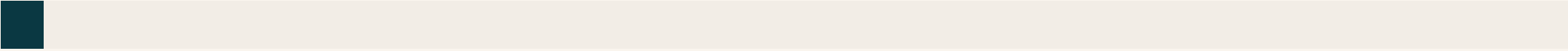
Brazil | 0.2%



Iran | 0.3%

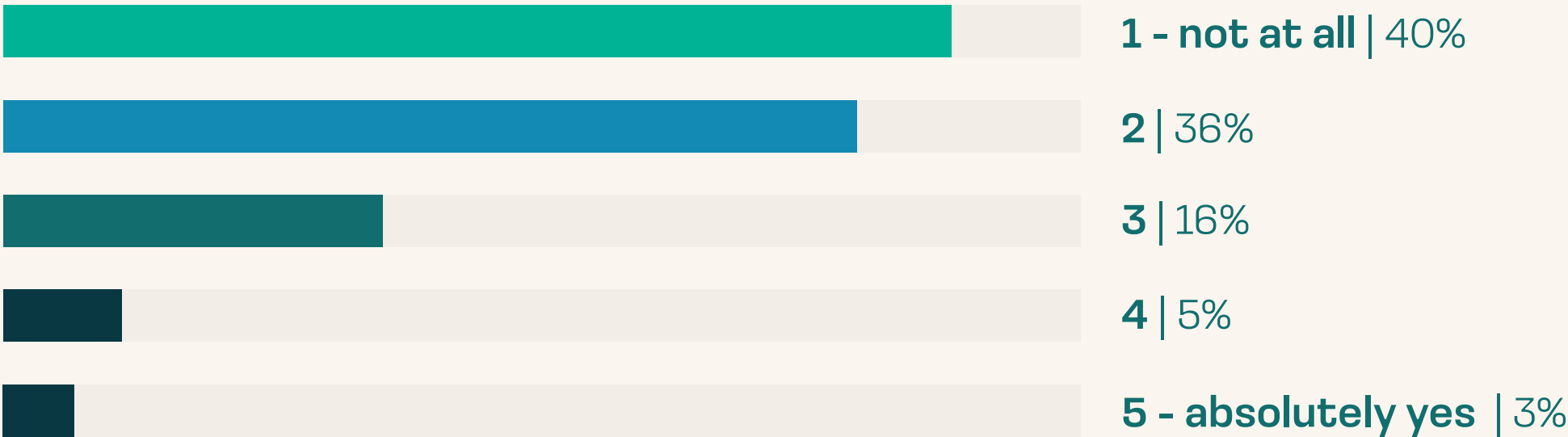
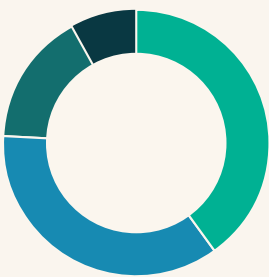


None of the listed – another one | 3.4%

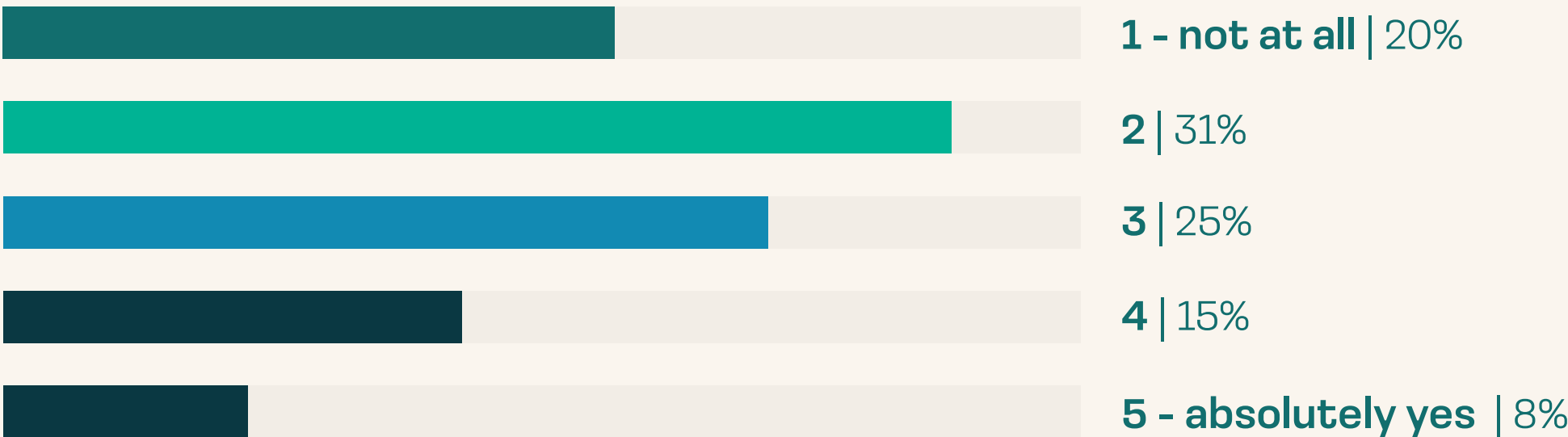
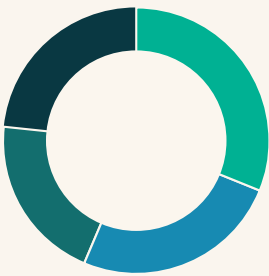


17. To what extent do the following questions influence the foreign policy orientation of the Republic of Serbia?

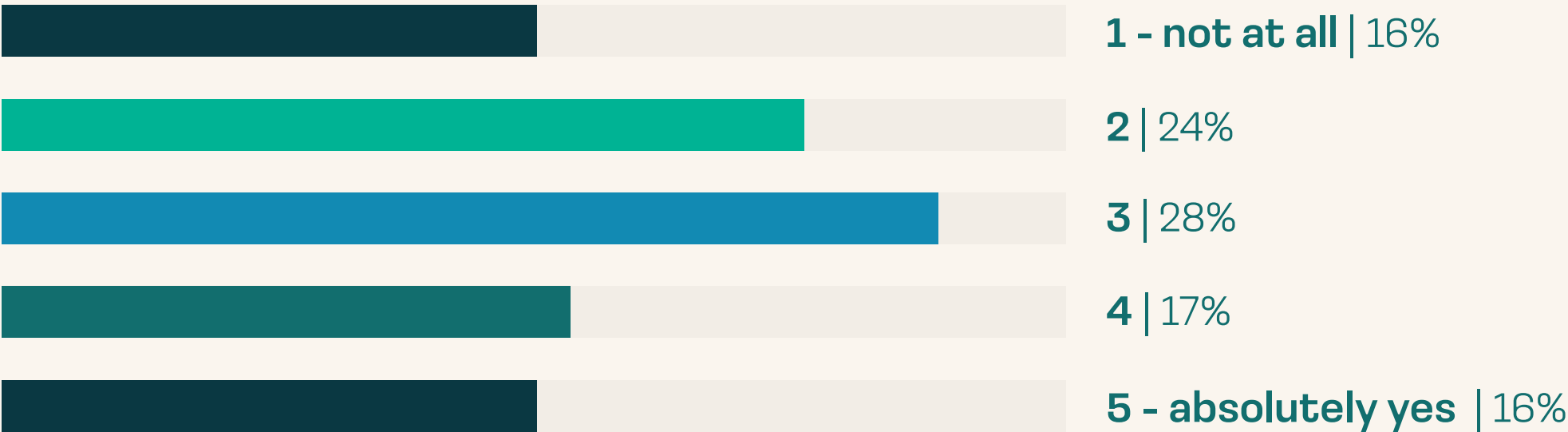
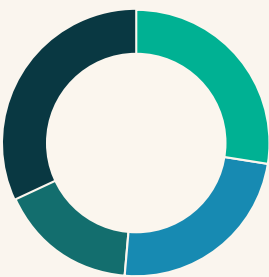
The conflict in the Middle East (Israel, Gaza, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Iran)



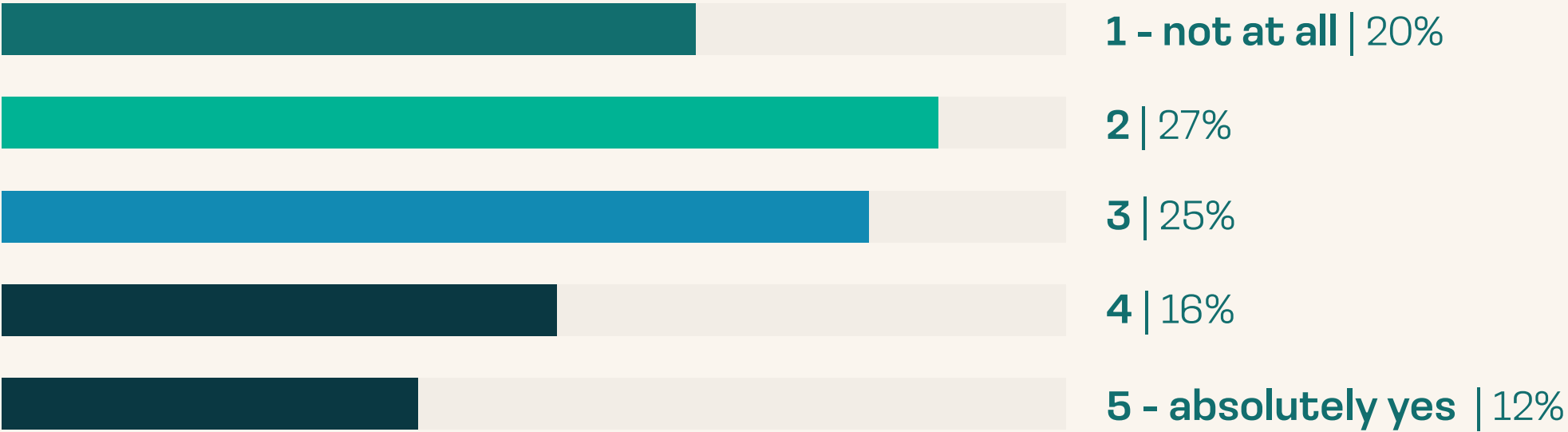
Tariff “wars” (US tariffs and responses from other countries)



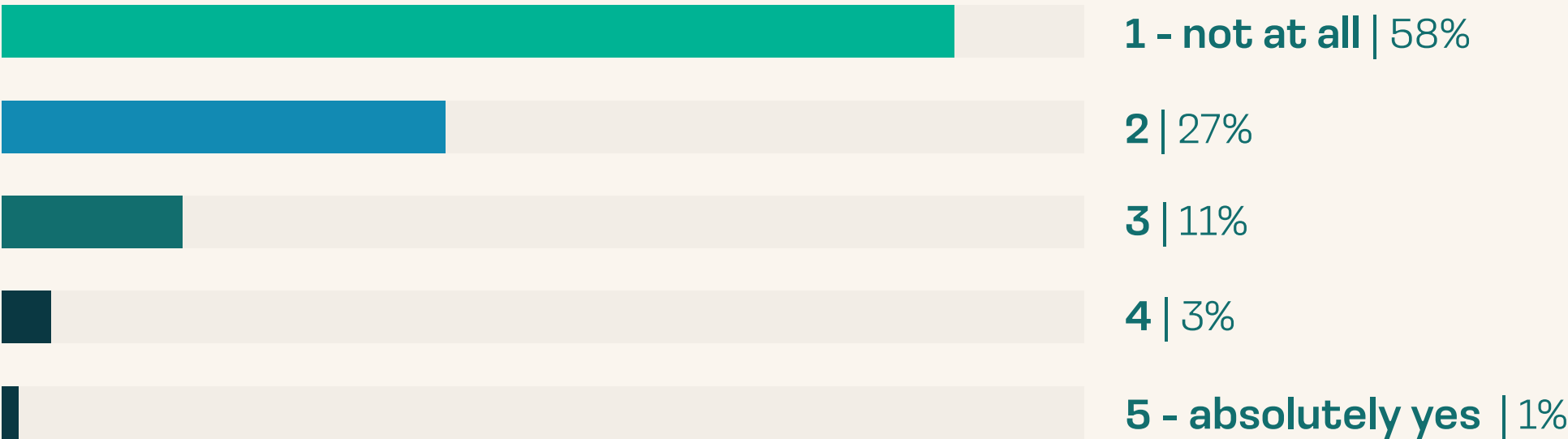
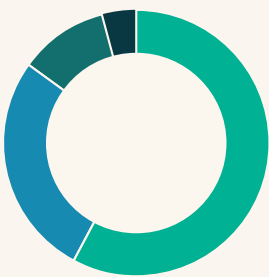
Militarization of the European Union (significant increase in defense spending)



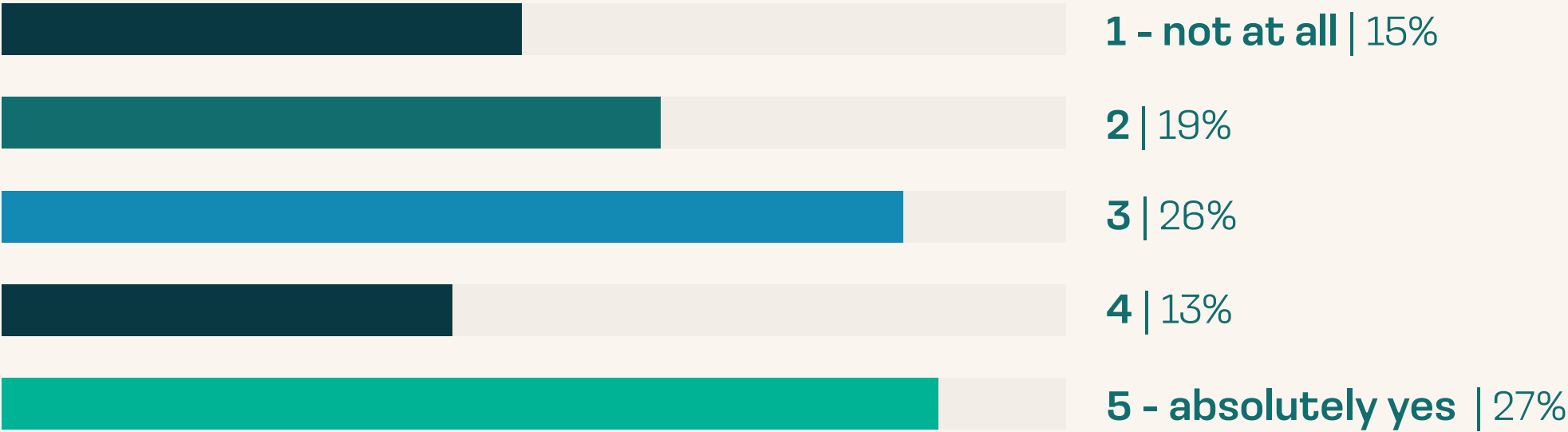
US–Russian Federation negotiations on bilateral relations and the conflict in Ukraine



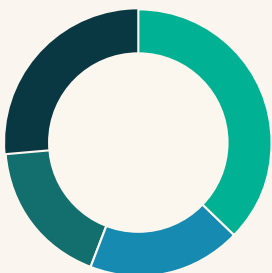
Tensions in the Asia-Pacific (Taiwan, increase in military budgets of China and Japan)



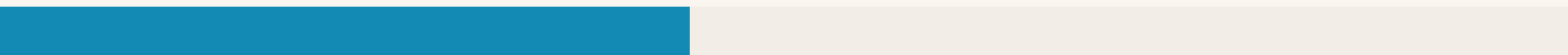
Pressure on the leadership of Republika Srpska (court proceedings, sanctions, and other restrictive measures)



18. If you had to choose, in which of these countries (besides Serbia) would you most like to live?



Russia | 18.6%



China | 2.4%



USA | 7.0%



One of the EU member states | 37.3%



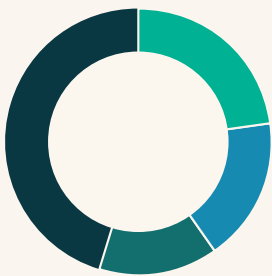
Switzerland | 16.9%



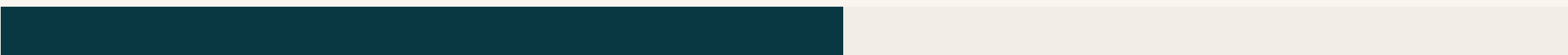
Some other country | 17.8%



19. Select the media outlets that you believe are an adequate source of information on the foreign policy of the Republic of Serbia (multiple selections possible):



RTS | 32.9%



N1 | 54%



Nova S | 40.8%



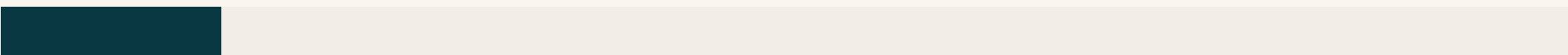
Pink | 6.2%



Prva | 12.4%



B92 | 8.6%



“Politika” daily newspaper | 19.7%



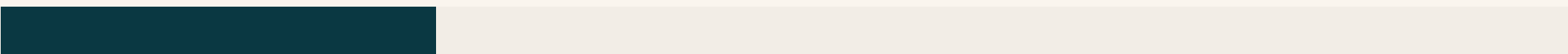
“Danas” daily newspaper | 34%



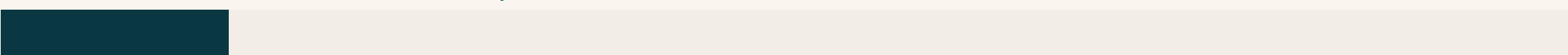
“Radar” daily newspaper | 26.8%



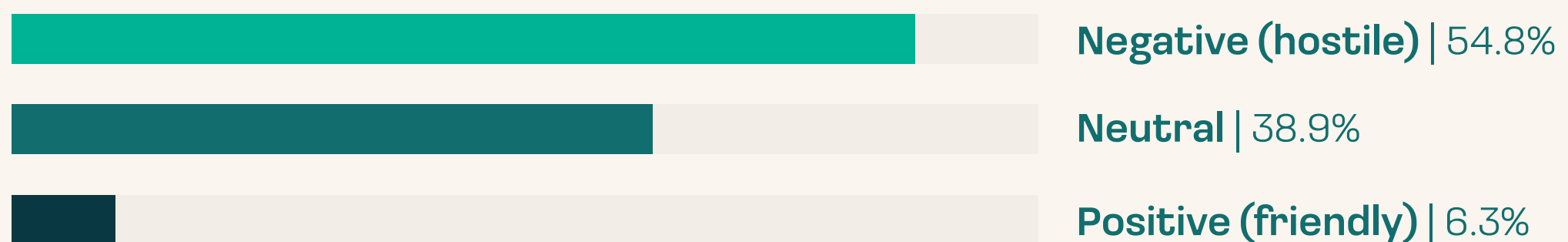
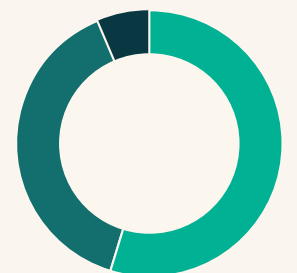
“Nova” daily newspaper | 17%



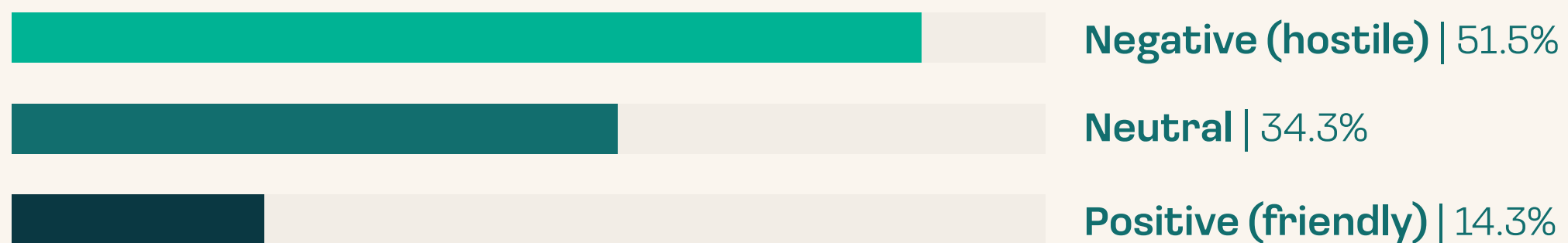
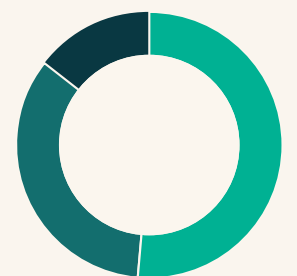
“Novosti” daily newspaper | 8.9%



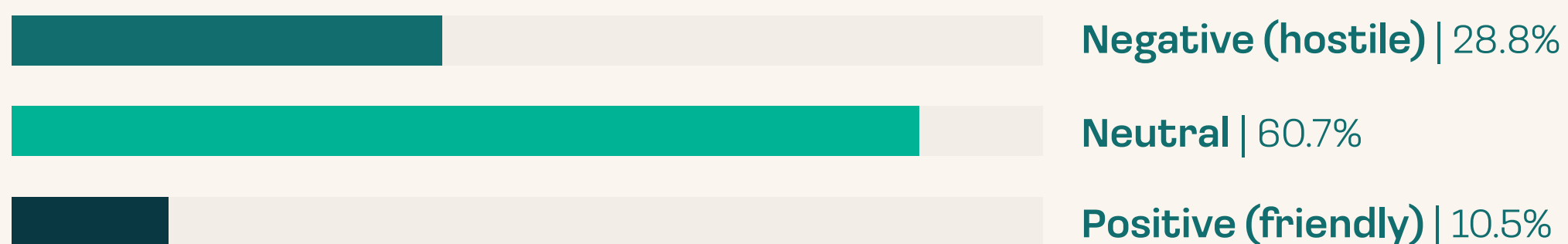
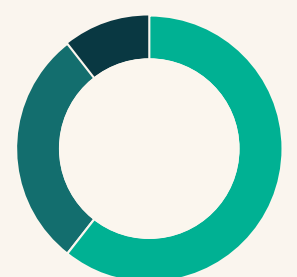
How do you assess the attitude of the following leader towards the Republic of Serbia: Friedrich Merz (Germany)?



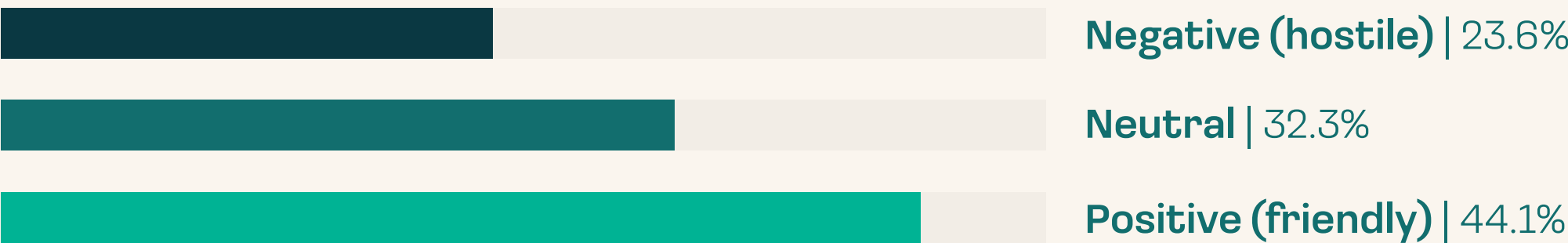
How do you assess the attitude of the following leader towards the Republic of Serbia: Emmanuel Macron (France)?



How do you assess the attitude of the following leader towards the Republic of Serbia: Donald Trump (USA)?



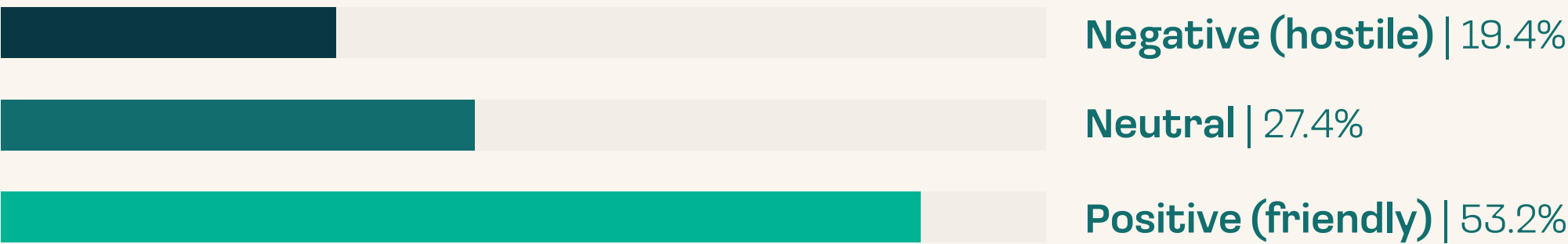
How do you assess the attitude of the following leader towards the Republic of Serbia: Vladimir Putin (Russia)?



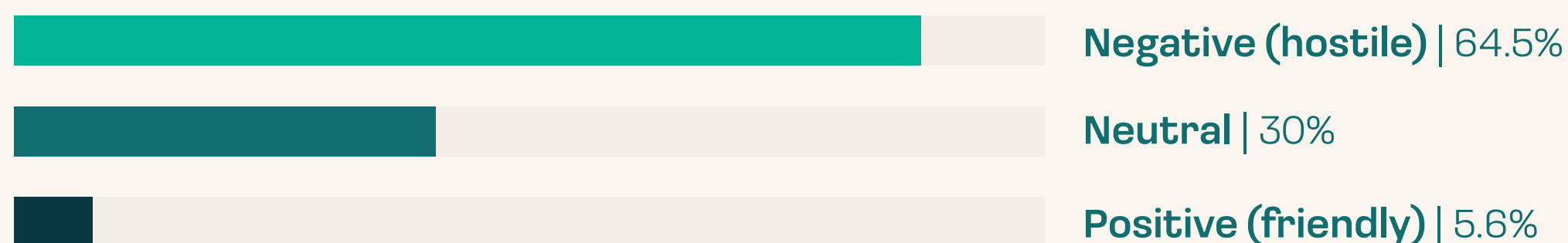
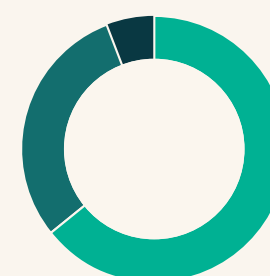
How do you assess the attitude of the following leader towards the Republic of Serbia: Xi Jinping (China)?



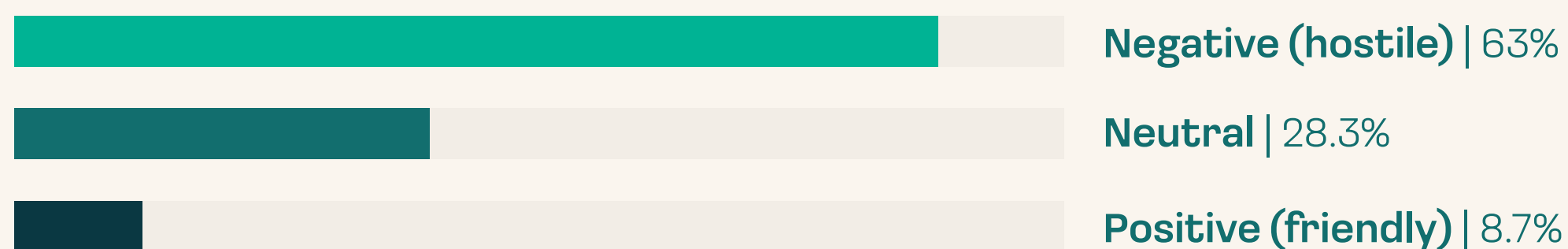
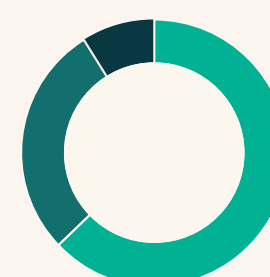
How do you assess the attitude of the following leader towards the Republic of Serbia: Victor Orban (Hungary)?



How do you assess the attitude of the following leader towards the Republic of Serbia: Edi Rama (Albania)?



How do you assess the attitude of the following leader towards the Republic of Serbia: Ursula von der Layen (EU)?



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