



Green Transition and Energy Security. The Czech Republic, European Green Deal and Russian Invasion of Ukraine

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Our Research



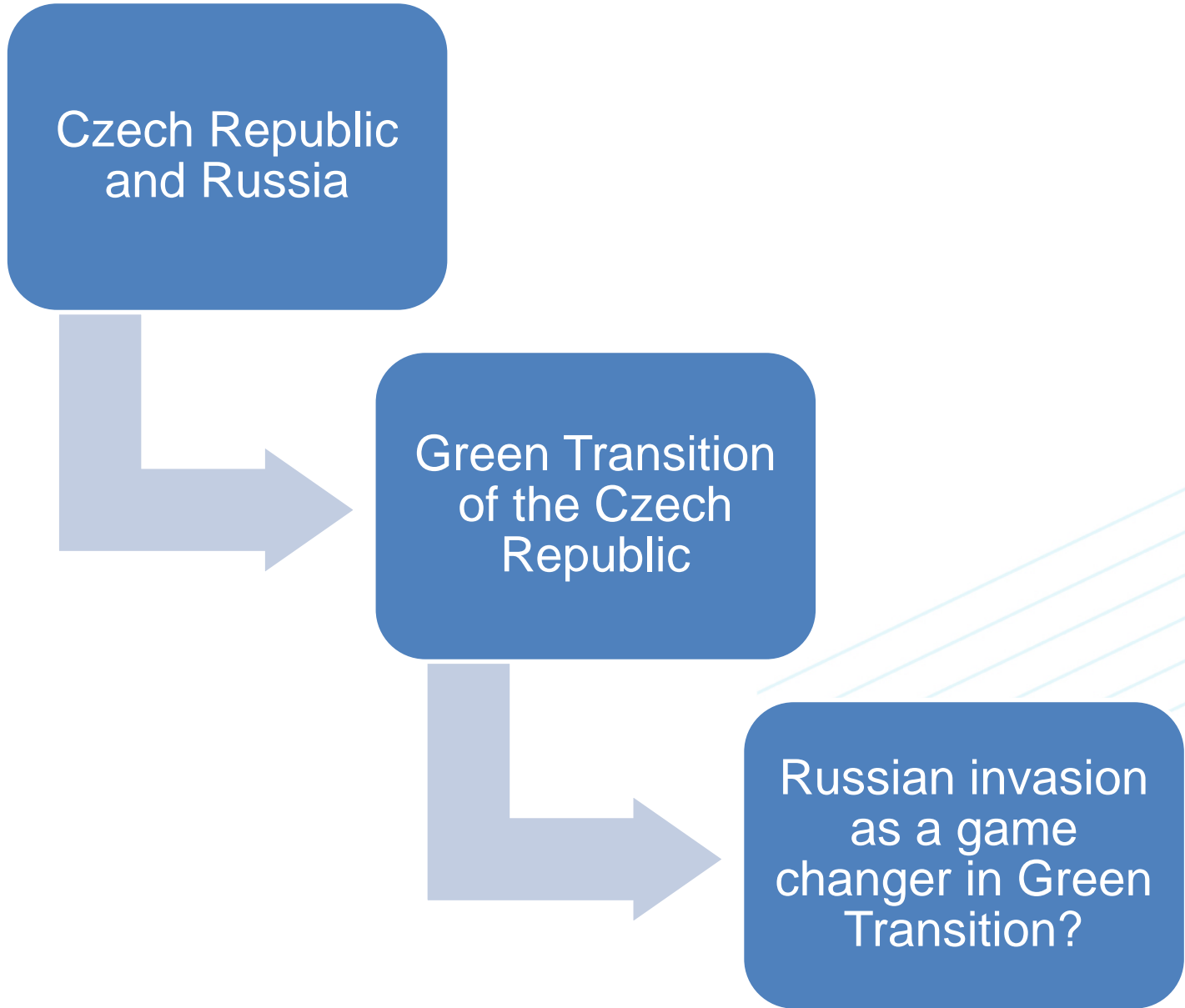
E-ADAPT research project (Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence)

- adaptation of national policies on EU policies (esp. environmental policy) = **policy change in multilevel polity**
- research focus: normative, institutional and social adaptation exhibited by policy change at national level
- scope: longitudinal research (2004–2022), Central Europe
- main aim: developing innovative methodology – combining research methods in the field of policy change and Europeanization/adaptation of public policy

Our Presentation

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- **asses the impact of Russian invasion of Ukraine on ongoing Green Transition of the Czech Republic**
- Q1: What impact Russian invasion of Ukraine has on Czech position on Green Transition?
- Q2: Is green transition becoming the accepted way how to ensure the energy security of the Czech Republic?



Czech Republic and Russia

Attitude of the Czech Republic towards Russia after 1989/1993

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- Czech foreign policy was oriented towards the West – priorities: joining NATO and EU
- Opposition: part of society that was negatively affected by the political and economic transformation (rejection of liberal democracy and market economy)
- Russia (Putin's Russia) gradually became an alternative to the internal political development and foreign policy. And to Western civilization
- Reasons: stable and powerful (illiberal) regime with decisive leader, nostalgia for the communist period, the myth of the third way...
- Pro-Russian attitudes are clearly related, among other things, to the rejection of European integration and European policies

Attitude of the Czech Republic towards Russia after invasion of Ukraine

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- The Czech government condemned the invasion and expressed support for Ukraine
- Attitudes of the Czech public
 - Strong support for Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees
 - Russia is to blame for the aggression in Ukraine (78%), USA (18 %)
 - Support for membership in EU and NATO increased
 - Support for solving the problem of Czech dependence on Russian natural gas
- Despite this, the traditionally pro-Russian part of society adopted Russian rhetoric and de facto repeating Russian propaganda (including anti-system parties)
- Strongest parliamentary party behaves in a populist manner, rejecting the Russian aggression, but emphasizing the need to help „ordinary Czech people“

Current situation in the Czech Republic

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- Unprecedented rise in energy prices, cost of living, rising inflation...
- Support for Ukraine is still high, however, the economic situation has become a major social issue. Above all, energy prices (natural gas, electricity, etc.)
- Positive evaluation of Russia is largely connected with opposition to the pro-Western orientation of the country, disagreement with the government, distrust in the establishment, standard media, etc.
- Pro-Russian positions appear at the anti-government demonstrations (summer and autumn 2022), which are primarily motivated by price increase

Green Transition of the Czech Republic



What does Green Transition Mean?

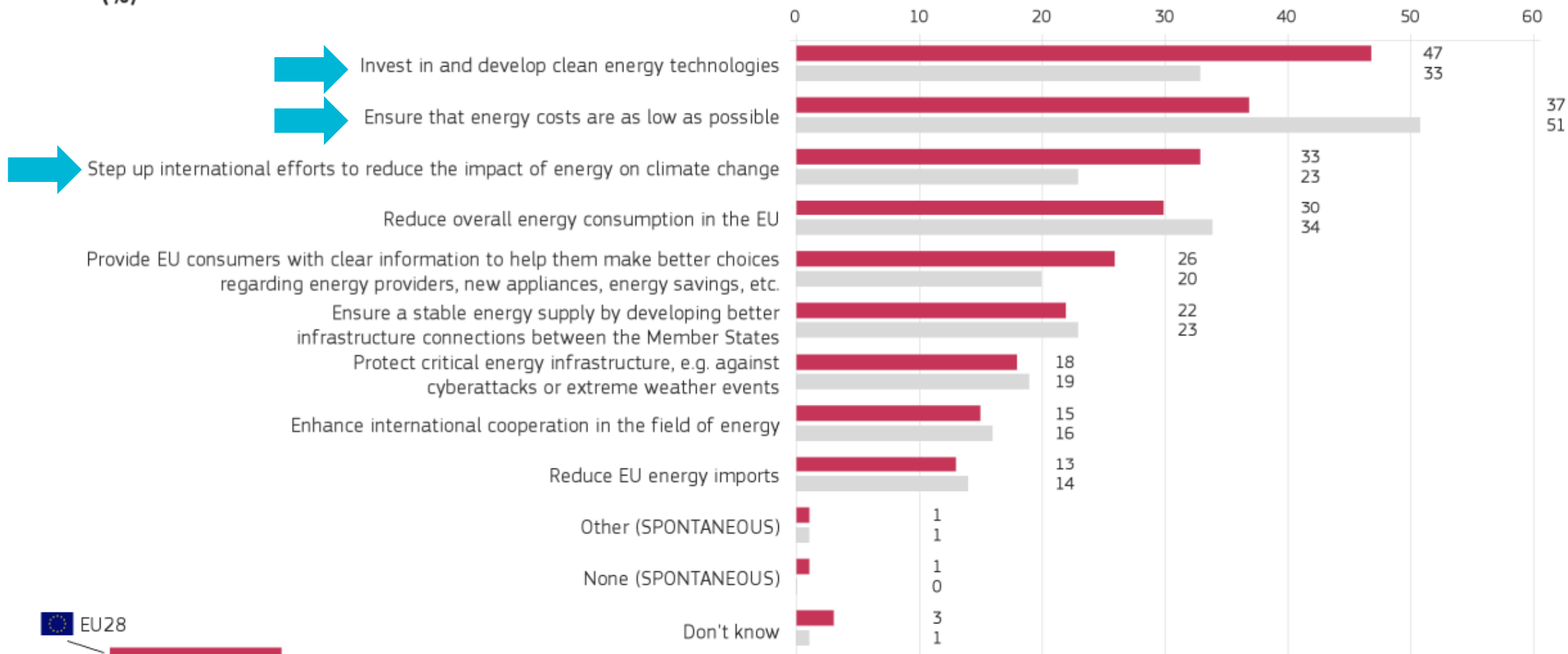
- currently defined by **European Green Deal**
- *„transforming the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy“*
 - climate neutrality by 2050
 - relying on green technology
 - sustainable industry and transport
 - cut pollution
- **energy security** achieved by using **renewable sources of energy** and **energy efficiency**
- policy process of Green Transition:
 - EU level of governance sets the goals
 - Member States implement reforms

Green Transition and Czech Republic

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- CZ belongs to Member States with **cautious and pessimistic approach to Green Transition** (society as well as political elite)
- especially reluctant to promote the use of renewable energy sources
 - tradition of using coal and nuclear sources
 - tradition of low energy prices
 - policy of supporting the installations of photovoltaics (2009) resulted in policy fiasco = bad label for renewables
- CZ formally accepts EGD, but without proper implementation
 - **formal adaptation** of norms x **lack of internalization** of norms

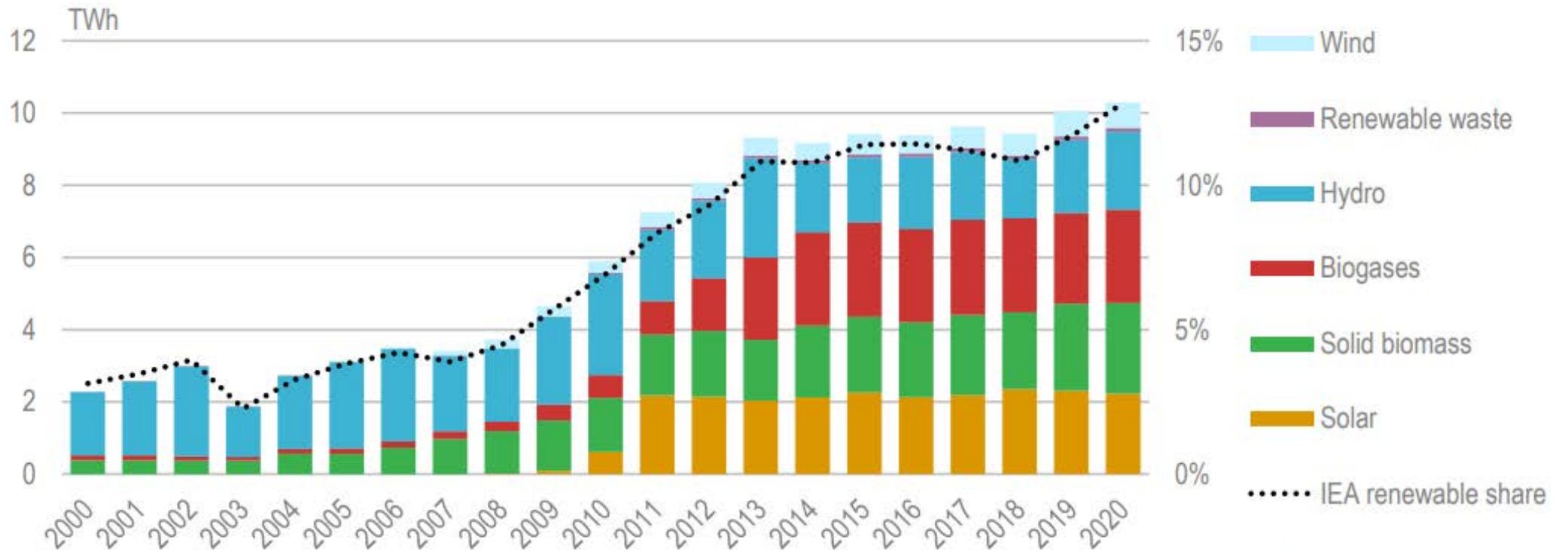
QB9 In your opinion, which of the following energy issues should the European Union tackle as a priority over the next 10 years? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)



Source: Eurobarometer on Energy 2019

Renewable Energy in Electricity Generation in the Czech Republic

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Source: IEA Czech Republic 2021 Policy Review

Russian invasion as a game changer in Green Transition?

Impact of Russian invasion on Czech Position towards Green Transition

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political elite (government, parliamentary political parties)

- securing the gas supply, slowing down of abandoning coal as an energy sources, approving the construction of new nuclear reactors
- the idea of achieving energy security through renewables still not accepted
- even deeper pessimism towards Green Transition – „bad time for innovations“ – **signs of future policy dismantling**

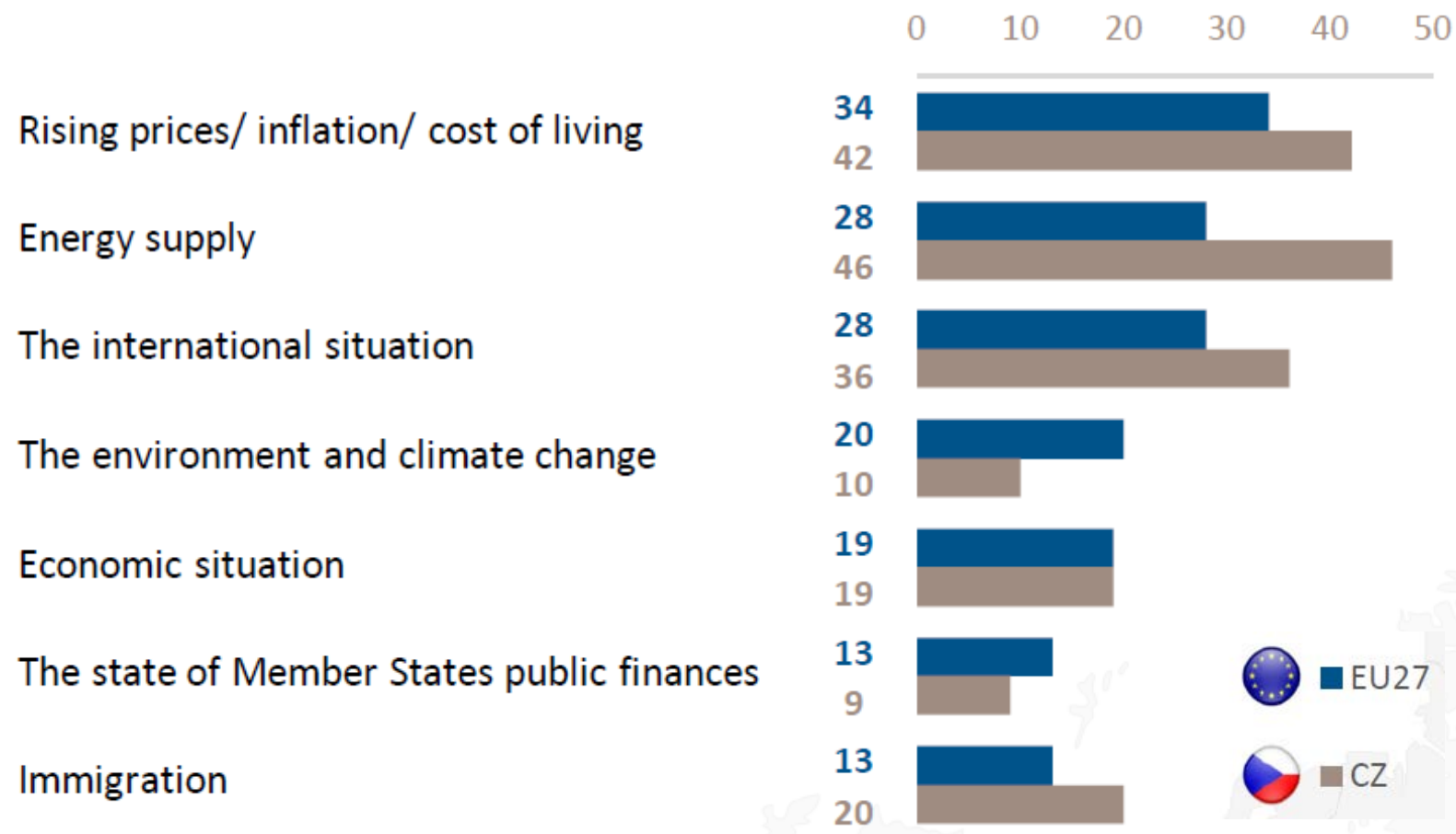
society

- concerns about high energy prices and stable supplies of energy
- considering climate change as an important issue decreased significantly

QA5. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

(%)

16



Source: Standard Eurobarometer 97 (Summer 2022)

Thank you for your attention!

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