



Civil and political engagement of women with a migrant background

Empirical results and policy implications

Jan Schneider

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Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) | European Migration Network (EMN)

National EMN Conference | Participation of migrant women: language, work and political involvement

Empirical evidence from the SVR-Integration Barometer (results from two studies)



Part of the game or just onlookers? Political participation and social engagement among people with migrations backgrounds in Germany

Study | December 2020

svr-migration.de/en/publications/political-participation/



In touch with politics? How people with and without a migration background perceive their political self-efficacy

Policy Brief | April 2019

svr-migration.de/en/publications/political_self-efficacy/

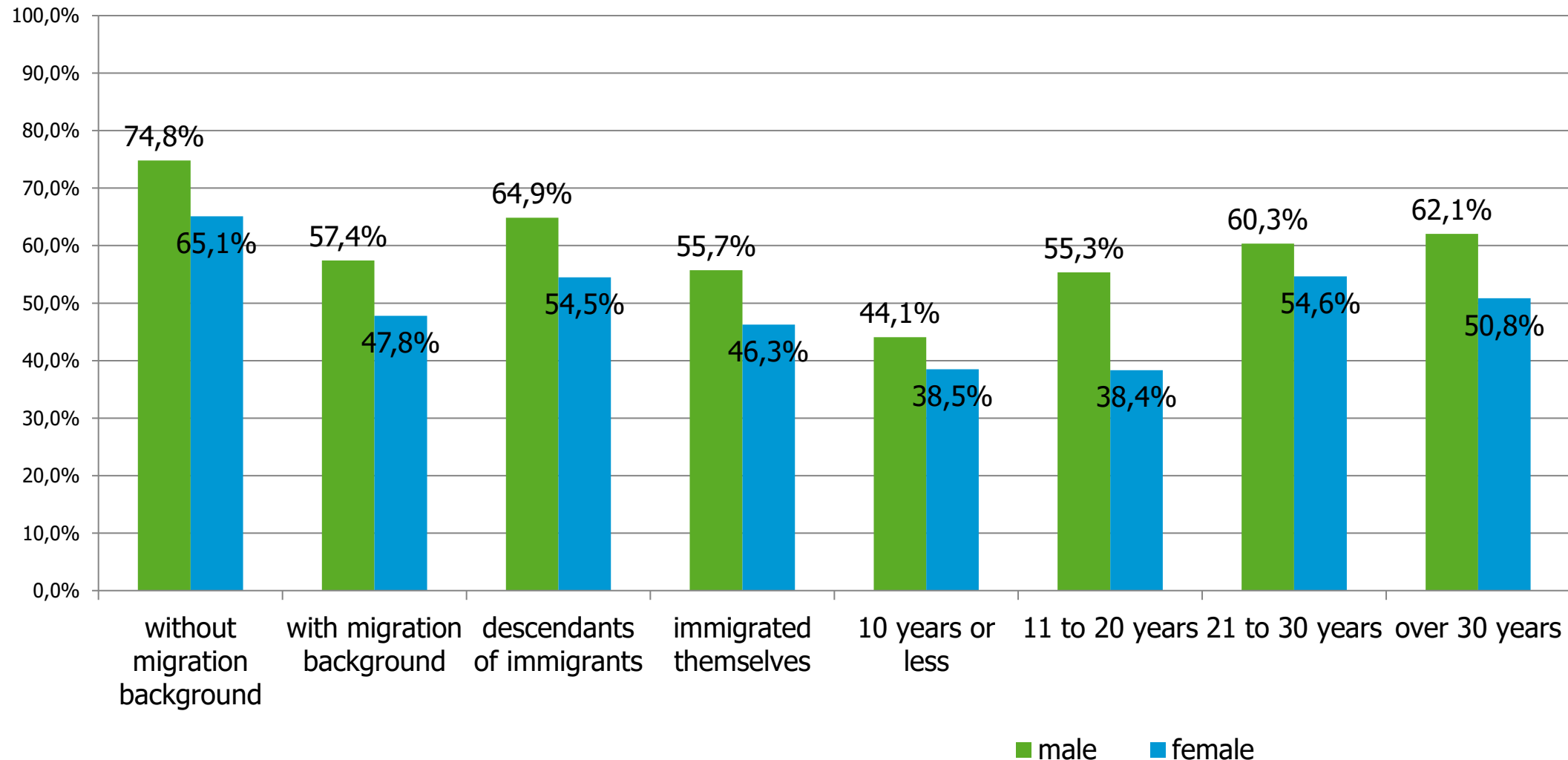
The SVR-Integration Barometer

- Population without and with migration background in Germany aged 15 and over
- Type of survey: computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI)
- Realized sample: 15,095 cases
- Funding: Federal Ministry of the Interior and 16 Federal States
- Survey period: 25.11.2019 – 03.08.2020
- Sample design: dual-frame; disproportionate stratification by Federal States
- Multilingual survey: German, English, Turkish, Arabic, Russian, Farsi (2018 and 2020).

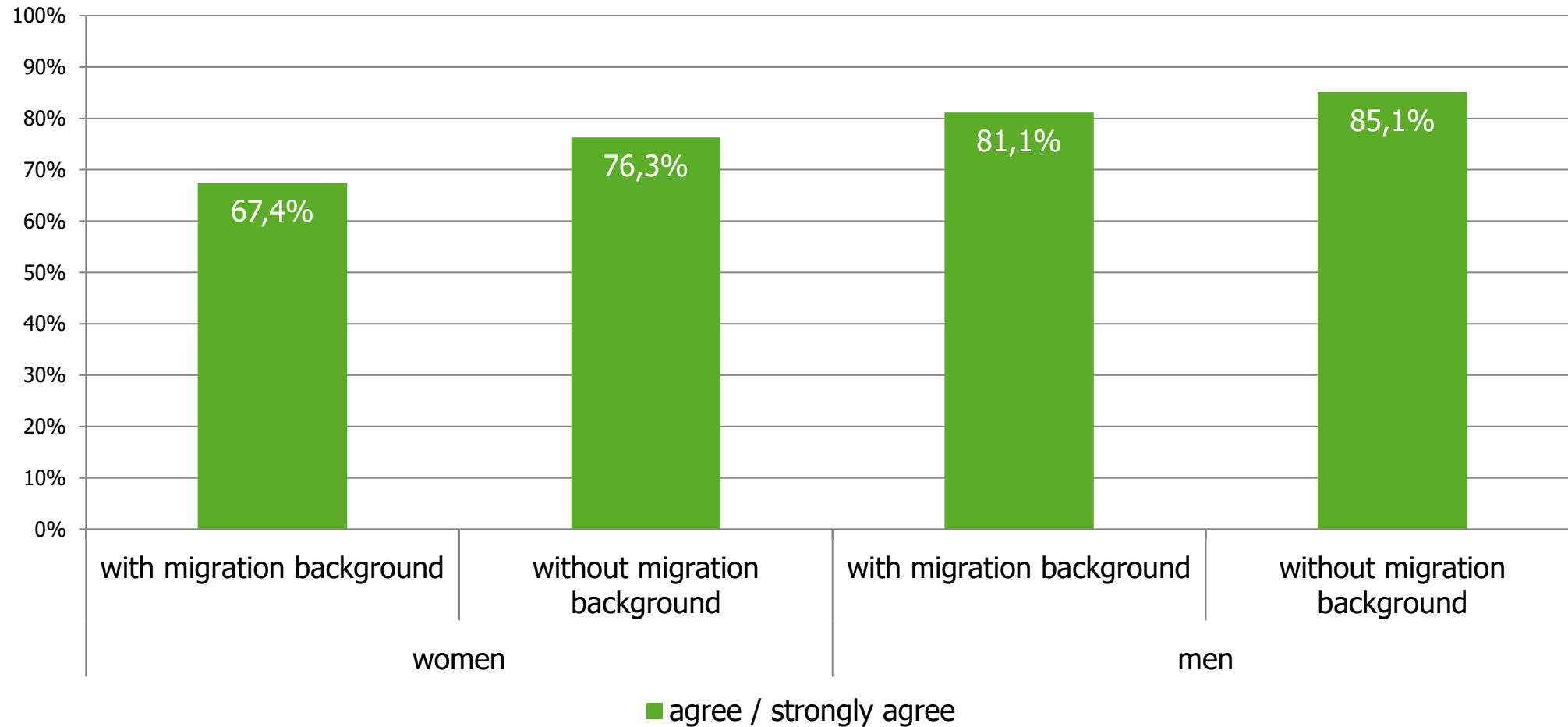


"How strong is your interest in German politics in general?"

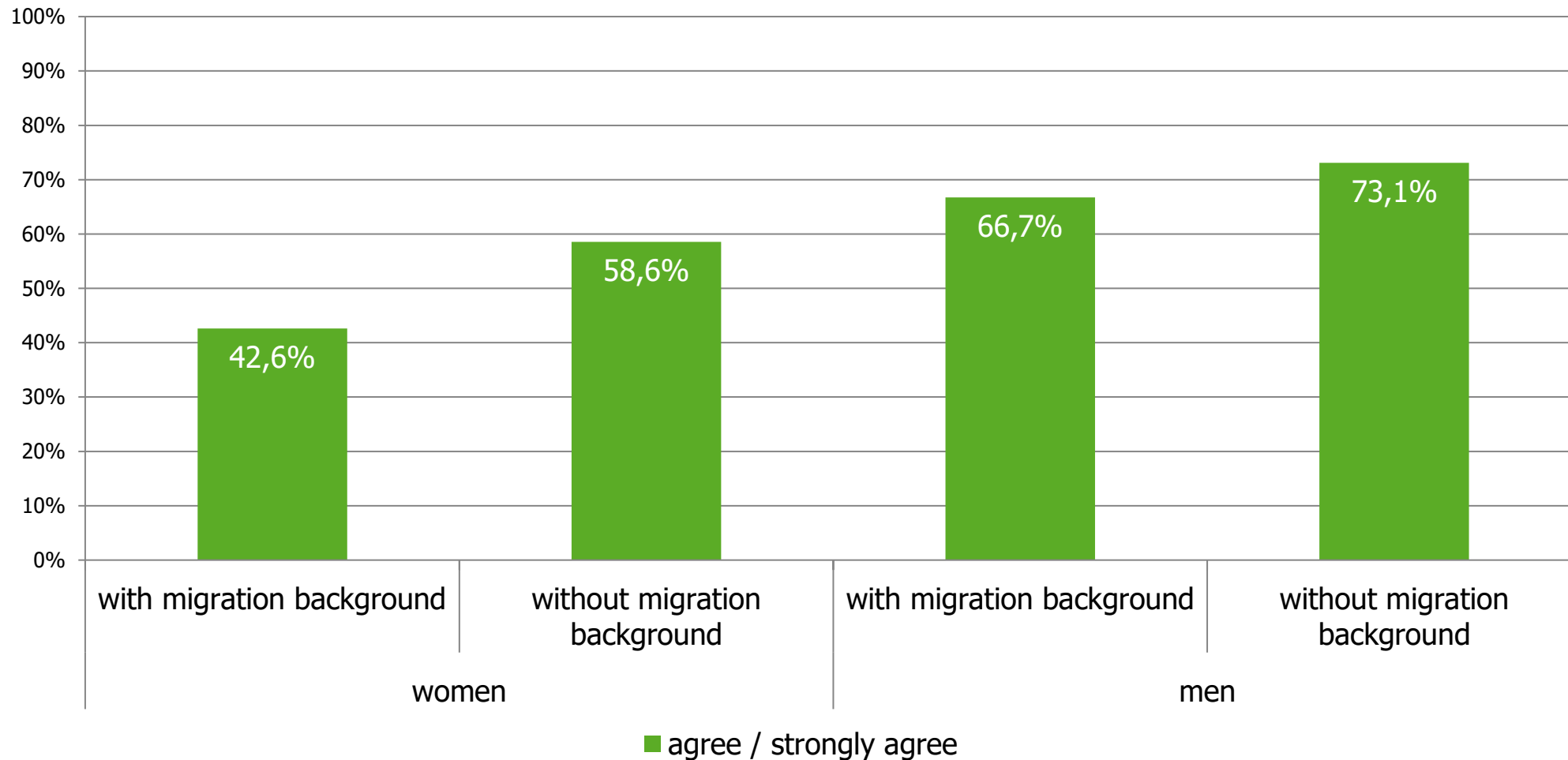
(percentage rather strong / very strong vs. rather weak / not interested at all)



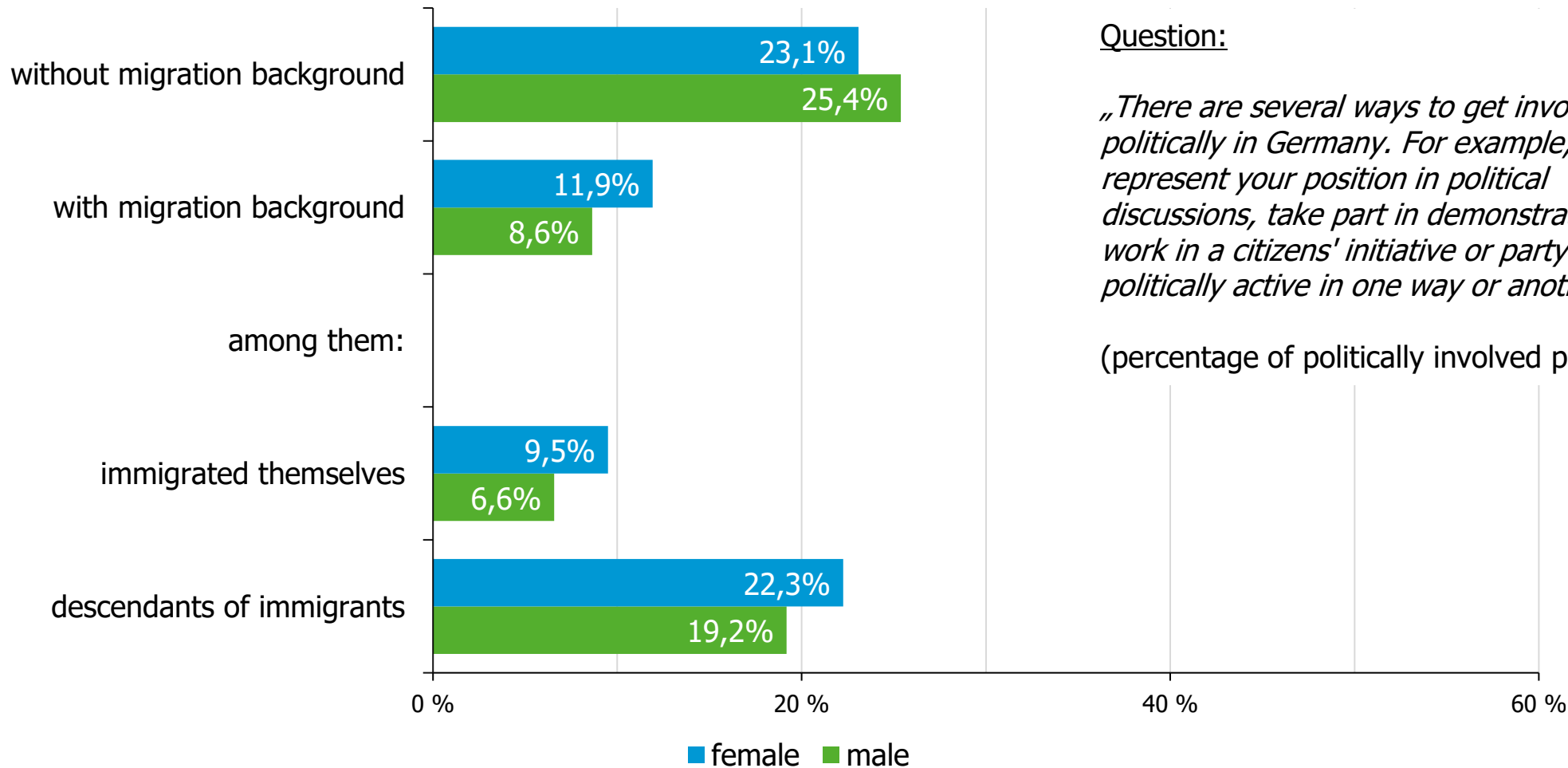
Internal political efficacy (I): "I am able to understand and assess important political questions"



Internal political efficacy (II): "I feel confident to participate actively in a conversation about issues of German politics"



Non-electoral political participation: Women with migration background are slightly more active than men



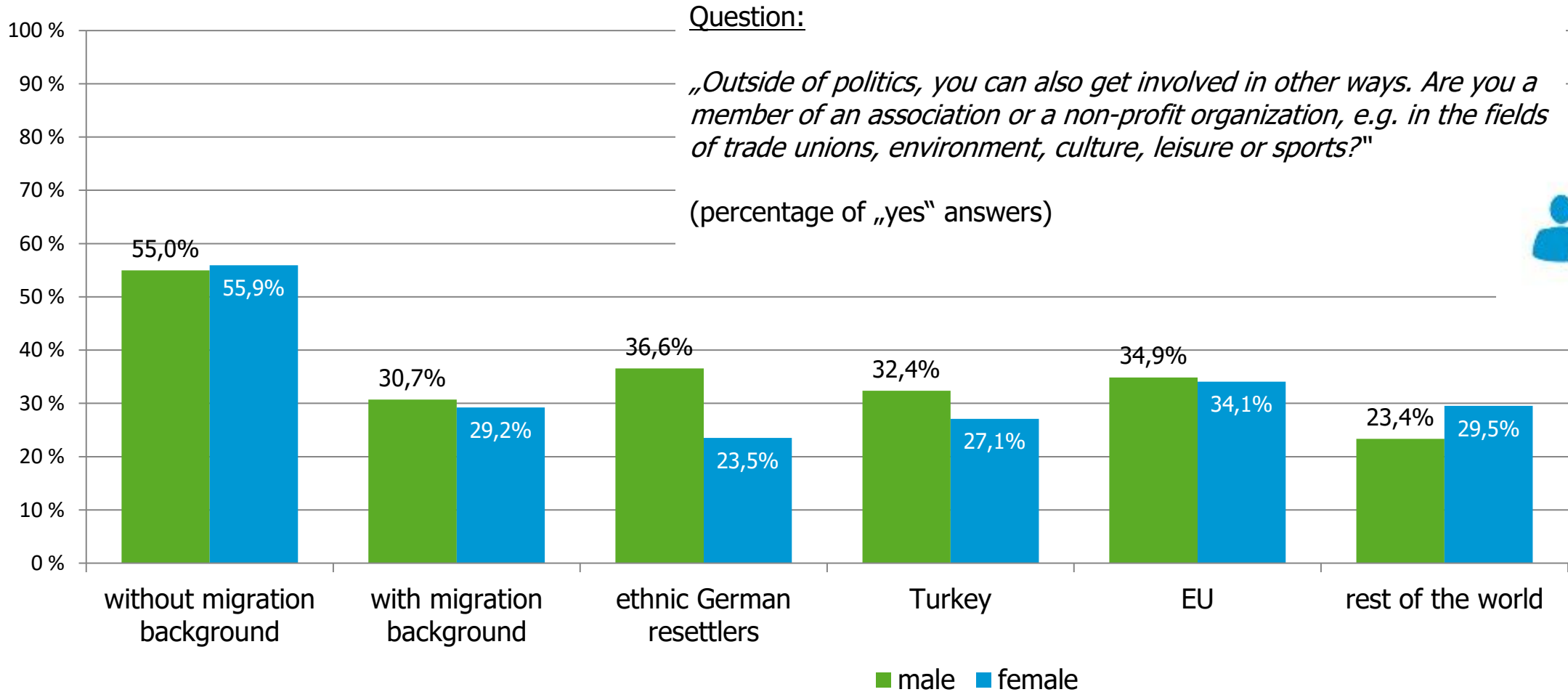
Question:

„There are several ways to get involved politically in Germany. For example, you can represent your position in political discussions, take part in demonstrations or work in a citizens' initiative or party. Are you politically active in one way or another?"

(percentage of politically involved people)



Formalised civil society engagement: Membership in NGOs, clubs, associations

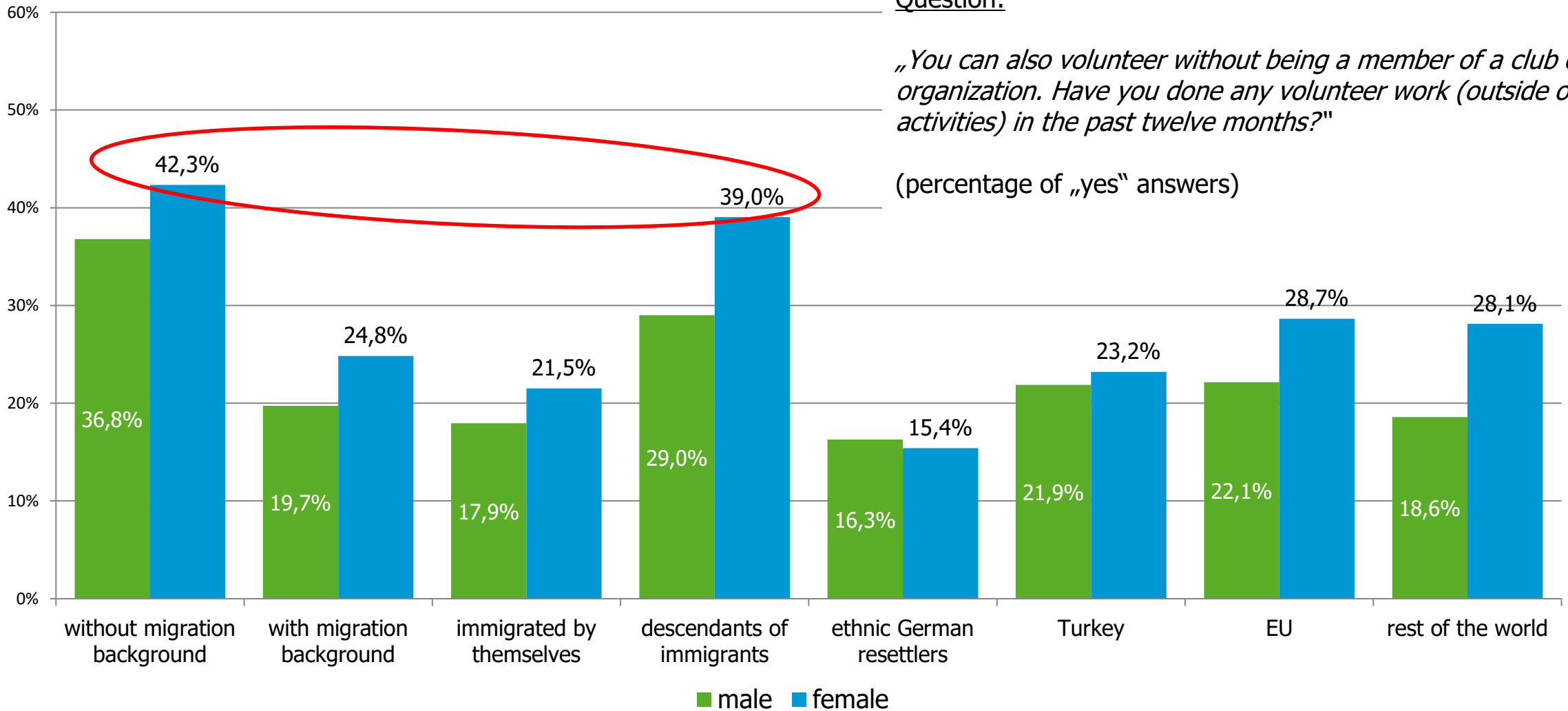


Non-formalised civil society engagement: A female domain?

Question:

„You can also volunteer without being a member of a club or an organization. Have you done any volunteer work (outside of club activities) in the past twelve months?“

(percentage of „yes“ answers)



Key factors for political engagement and civil society involvement

1

Resources (socio-economic, cognitive, educational, organisational), incl. networks

2

Motives and motivation (norms, values, political efficacy)

3

Migration-related: Language competency

4

Migration-related: Length of time spent in Germany

5

External: Create opportunity structures, engage women, support networking

Implications for policy-making and programming

- Volunteering and engaging in civil society are closely linked to political activity and electoral participation.
- Civil engagement in itself has a positive effect on social cohesion and integration – but in the longer term it is also likely to lead to more participation at the political level.
- Involvement in civic associations and initiatives can act as a "school of democracy" – by imparting skills, strengthening resilience and generating effectiveness. There is a particular role for (women) migrant organisations to play in building bridges.
- Promising approach: Low-threshold engagement programmes at local level, geared at womens' needs and harnessing their political and civil society potential.



Thank you for your kind attention.