



**DRAGOSTE**  
*pe bune*♥

# STUDY ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF RISKS

## ONLINE

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# General objective of the research

Identifying young people's perceptions about the main advantages, but also the potential risks that occur online.





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# Qualitative research objectives

The qualitative research aims **at exploring and identifying** different types of attitudes, perceptions and behaviors and **an in-depth understanding** of the underlying reasons for these.

## FOCUS GROUPS

- ▶▶ Exploring perceptions and attitudes about adolescence, by identifying the main positive experiences but also the main challenges faced – both from the perspective of adolescents and parents;
- ▶▶ Identifying perceptions and attitudes about internet usage;
- ▶▶ Identify perceptions and attitudes related to human trafficking
- ▶▶ Identifying the level of understanding of concepts such as: Online sexual exploitation, forced labor / exploitation through labor, forced crime, begging

## INTERVIEWS

- ▶▶ Understanding **lessons from survivors of human trafficking** – in order to **identify steps and methods used by abusers**



# Qualitative research methodology

- ▶▶ The focus groups had an average duration of 90 minutes and took place online on Zoom (November, 2022)

- ▶▶ Interviews with victims of human trafficking were moderated by the team from eLiberare, and the analysis was made by the IZI data team.
- ▶▶ The support of experts from eLiberare in interviewing aimed both to understand the complexity of the trauma and to reduce the risk of revictimization.

FGD	Location	Gen*	Age
1	Bucharest	F	14-17 years
2	Cluj & Iasi & Timisoara	F	18-20 years
3	Cluj & Iasi & Timisoara	F	14-17 years
4	Bucharest	F+B	Parents of girls 14-17 years

IDI	IDI Details	Gen*	Age
1	Interview with C.	F	NA
2	Interview with D	F	NA

# Quantitative study methodology

Targeted study among young people aged 15 to 25 years old, internet users

Sample weighted by residence area to obtain national representativities by residence area, according to the national structure in the interval 15 – 25 years of INS 2022 (52% rural, 48% urban)



**TARGET:** Young people between 15 and 25 years old, inhabitants of urban and rural areas, all regions of Romania, internet users



**SAMPLE:** N = 502 young people 15 to 25 years distributed as follows:

N = 294 girls    N = 203 boys    N = 4 nonbinary/  
without answer



**METHODOLOGY:** Self-administered online questionnaire (CAWI), randomized data collection

Collection period:

**January 2023**

Average completion time:

**7 minutes**



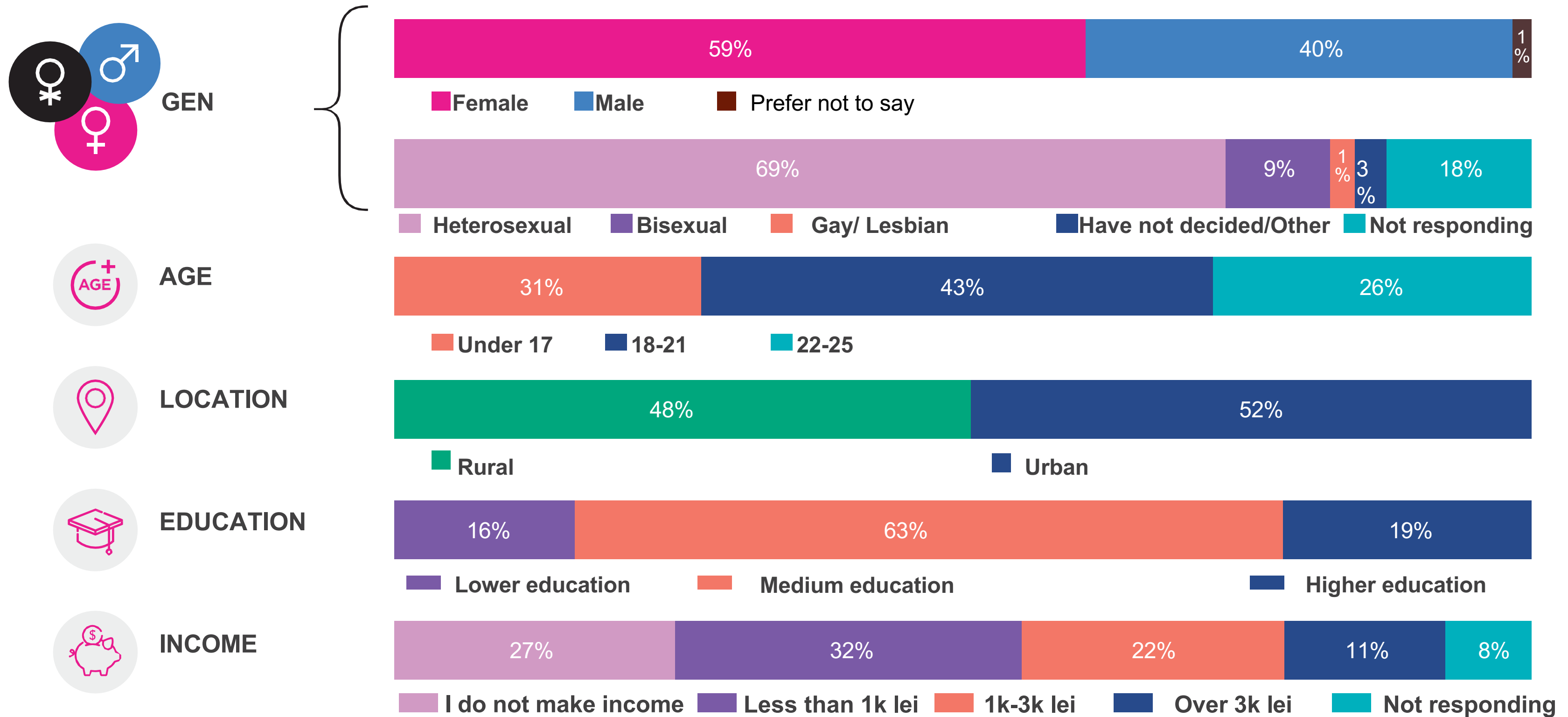
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# Sample profile : Socio-demographic





# Total socio-demographic sample



All respondents N= 502

**THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED**



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# Qualitative stage conclusions



# Internet usage requires guidance

## Teenagers want:

- **Psycho-emotional support !**
- Significant adults as dialogue partners
- Advice without judgment

## Internet = necessary evil

- ▲ quick access to information
- ▲ the ability to socialize and connect with loved ones,
- ▲ a continuous source of inspiration,
- ▲ promotion platform and possible source of income.
  
- ▼ it can become an addiction
- ▼ time spent unproductively,
- ▼ exposure to cyber-bullying
- ▼ the risk of developing superficial relationships ,
- ▼ the risk of getting in touch with strangers who have hidden plans . !

## Parents want:

- Handbooks to keep up with challenges
- Info for managing the relationship with their children
- They feel like they are losing control – especially in relation to internet usage and the associated risks

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# Background: Teenage life satisfactions and challenges



# Teenage life – between satisfactions and challenges

## CHALLENGES

### THE NEED FOR EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

- ◆ the multitude of experiences they experience can become overwhelming and they feel a strong need for guidance;
- ◆ they feel the pressure to face strong emotions that they don't know how to manage on their own
- ◆ they feel that they are not understood and find it difficult to find an effective way to communicate with the adults around them.

### THE NEED FOR BELONGING

- ◆ it is a time when young people identify with their group of friends rather than with their family
- ◆ peer-pressure, the need to be accepted are sometimes challenging, putting pressure on issues such as:
  - Addressing sensitive topics from very early ages
  - Doing as many things as possible, being involved in as many activities as possible – which is based on the fear of losing out on something important, of being excluded

### “EVERYTHING HAPPENS ONLINE.”

- ◆ there are some rather superficial standards by which a person is evaluated in their group (e.g. number of followers, filters, etc.)
- ◆ bullying / hate

## SATISFACTIONS

- ◆ **CURIOSITY**
- ◆ **EXPLORATION**
- ◆ **EXPERIMENTING**
- ◆ **DISCOVERING** your own identity and the world in general.
- ◆ **FUN**
- ◆ Development of some **DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS**

# Teenage life – satisfactions and challenges

“Adolescence is the age at which you are allowed to make mistakes; you can make bad choices because there are no serious consequences for now.”

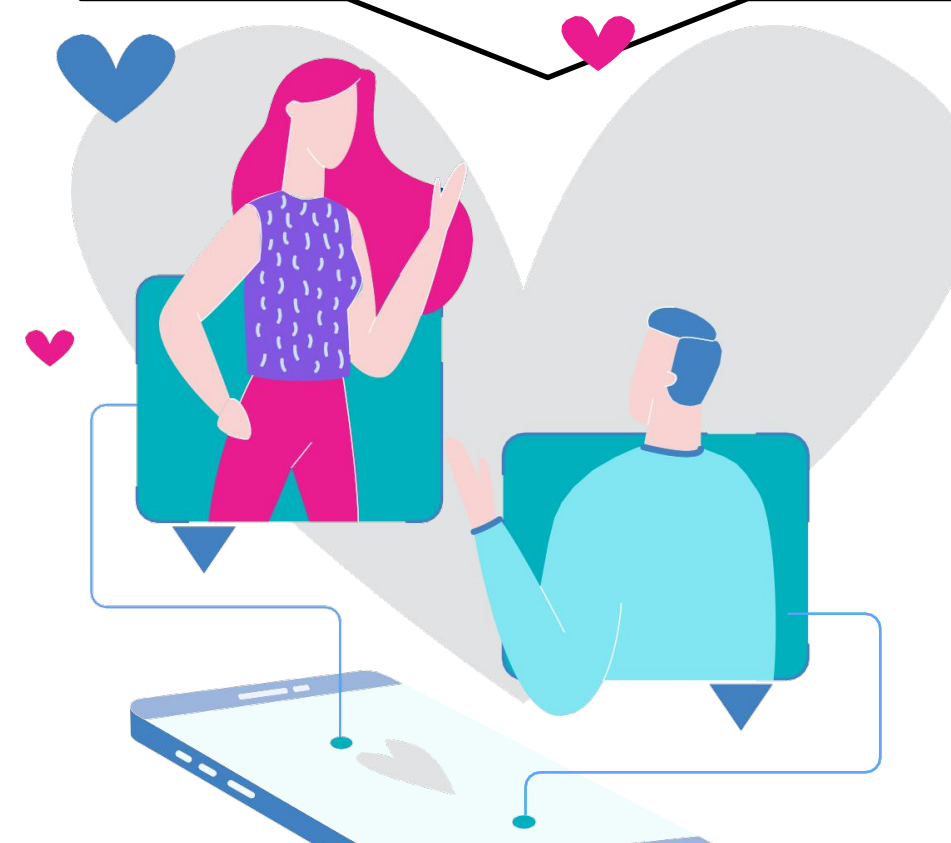
**FG, 14-17 years**

“Adolescence is like a kinder surprise – everything is uncertain, you don’t know what’s going to happen, it’s hard to make choices, you don’t know what risks you are taking.”

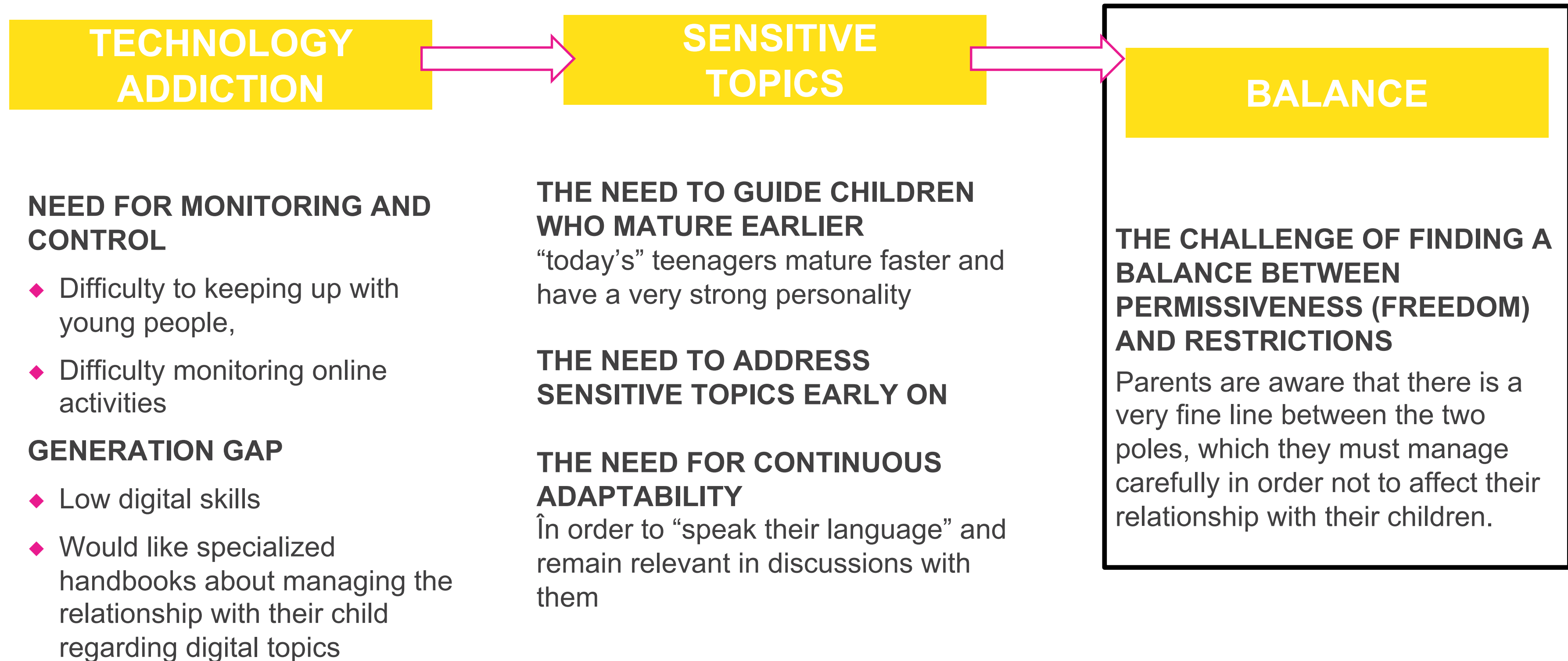
**FG, 14-17 years**

“My teenage life was tumultuous, I was very curious and I wanted to try as many of the things I saw around me as I could.”

**IDI, Victim**



# Adolescence, a challenge for parents



# Adolescence seen by parents

“What is typical of today’s teenagers is their speed; they experience everything at a much faster pace, and that’s because of technology. I admit it’s hard for me to keep up with them. I taught them when they were younger how to use the internet, to avoid giving out their personal information to avoid being defrauded – but honestly i don’t know what can happen now because they are much more advanced than me in this regard.”

“Today’s teenagers no longer identify with the Romanian society and many of them dream of going abroad.”

“It’s a time when young people no longer identify with their parents, they start to develop a personality of their own and need to be part of different groups. It becomes important for them to be accepted, to be part of a group – be it friends or classmates.”



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# Quantitative stage conclusions



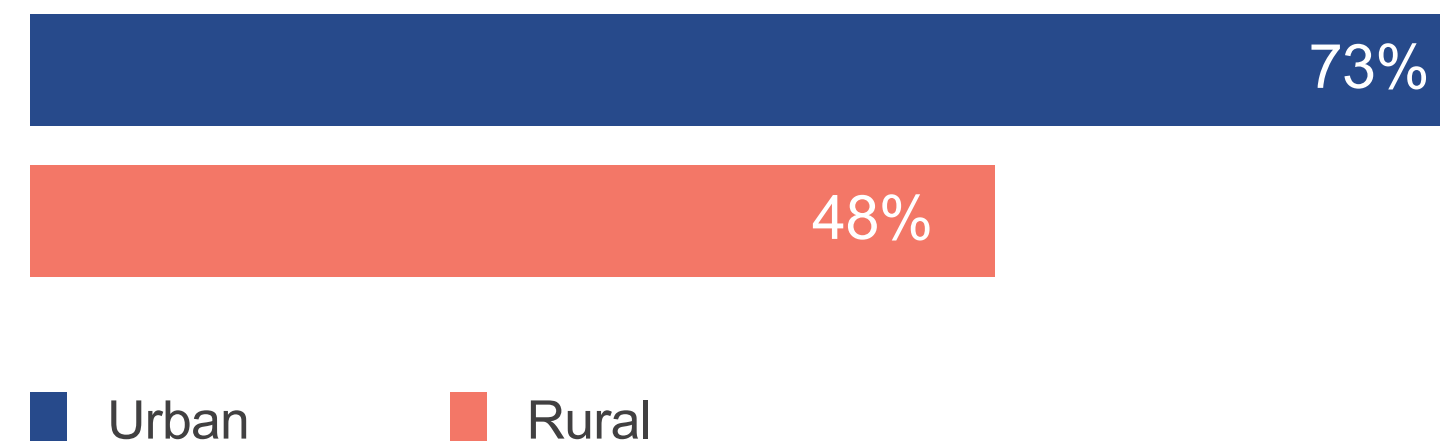
# Internet usage

- ▶▶ **The personal phone** is the main device used when it comes to internet usage, being mentioned by **97%** of respondents, followed by **personal laptop/PC**, mentioned by **60%** of them, but significantly more among those in **urban (73%)** vs **rural (48%)** areas.
- ▶▶ On average, respondents spend **4.4 hours online every day**. In terms of age ranges, it is noticed that those between 15 and 17 years spend an average of 4.3 hours, similar to those between 22 and 25 years, and the 18 – 21 segment is the most active online, with an average of 4.4 hours/day.

Primary devices



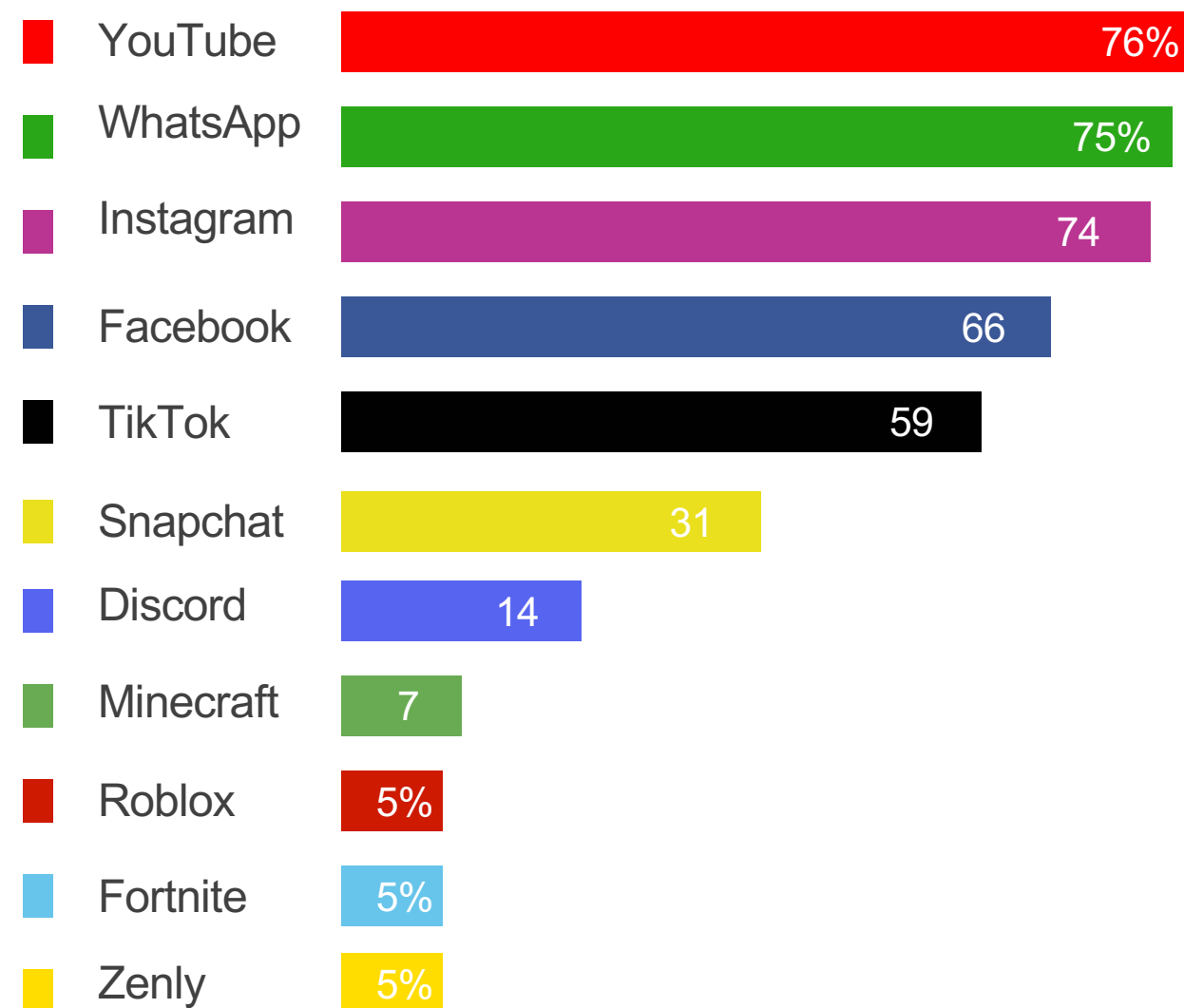
Residence of those who use it  
Personal laptop/PC



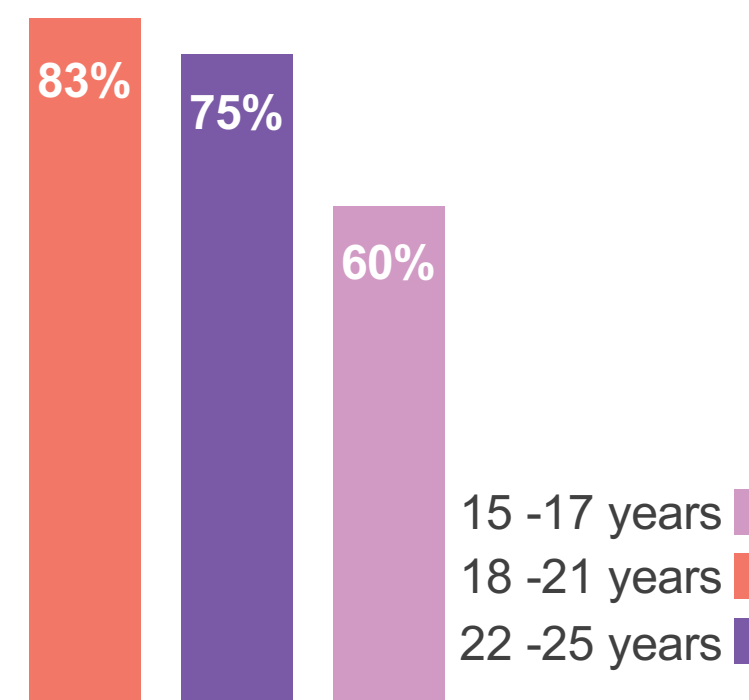
# Internet usage

▶▶ YouTube is the most widely used app among young people (76%), followed immediately by WhatsApp (75%), Instagram (74%), Facebook (66%) and Tiktok (59%).

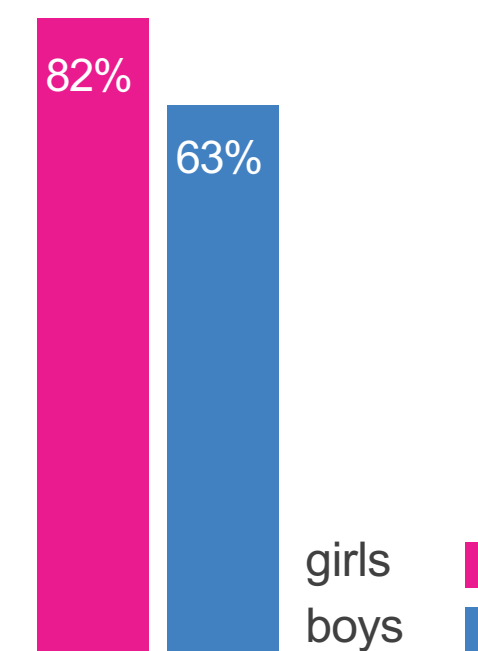
However, the apps that stand out among the young segment are also the most niche, namely 14% for Discord, 7% Minecraft, 7% Roblox, 5% Fortnite, 5% Zenly; all except the latter being more used among boys than girls.



Users by age Instagram



Users by gender Instagram





# Understanding perceptions about the benefits of access to the internet

## SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

The Internet is a source of inspiration for both practical/pragmatic issues and for the discovery and development of passions

## ENTERTAINMENT

The Internet provides access to entertainment and many ways to spend your free time

## PROMOTION/SOURCE OF INCOME

Young people discover that the Internet can offer various platforms for promoting talent, which implicitly means (in the future) the opportunity to earn an income from online activity and they try to exploit such possibilities.

## QUICK ACCESS TO INFORMATION

It gives you the opportunity to stay up to date with the newest developments  
It facilitates access to education by being able to take courses online

## SOCIALIZING/ CONNECTING

The Internet facilitates socialization, the ability to keep in touch with friends/family regardless of distance.

! Teenagers are more used to developing online relationships than in person relationships (especially in the opinion of parents – which is also perceived as a disadvantage).



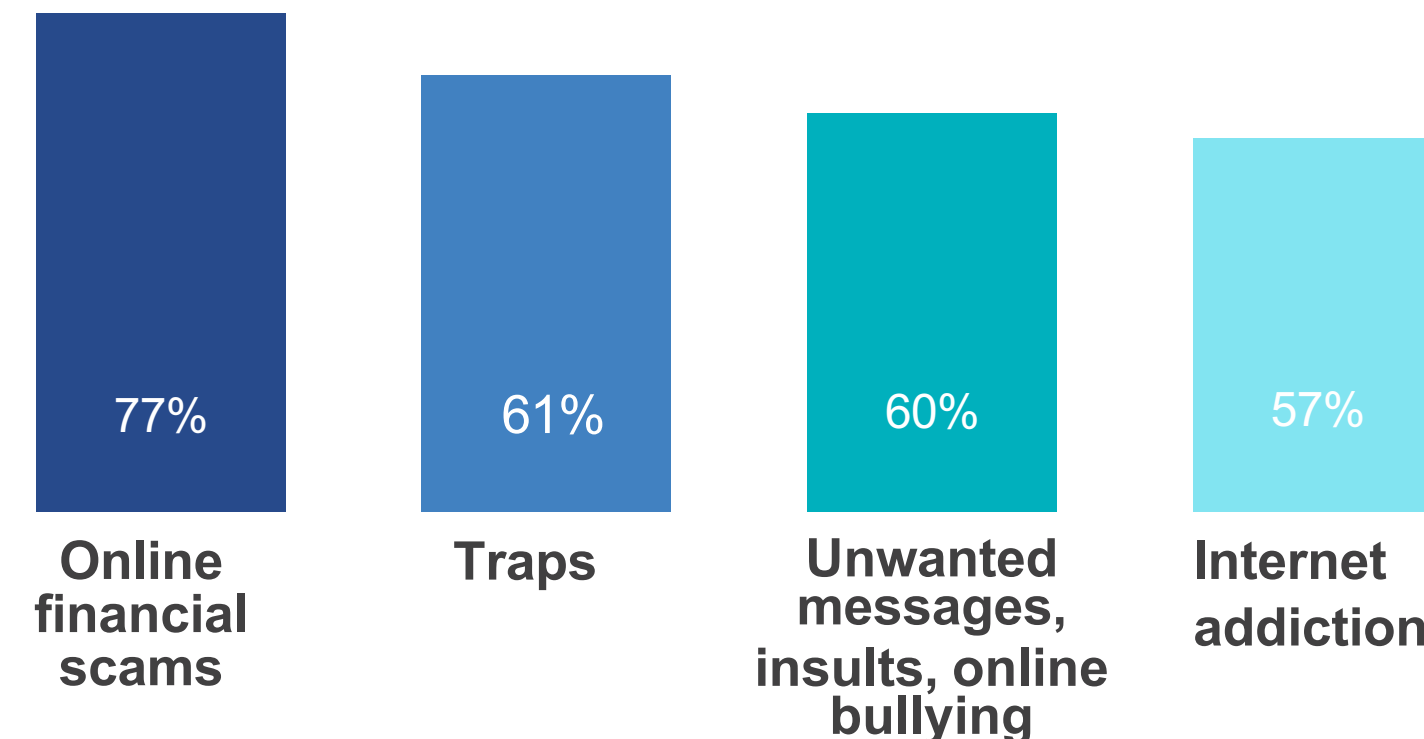
# Advantages and disadvantages of Internet usage

- ▶▶ 8 out of 10 young people consider the internet to be a fast source of information, and 77% believe it keeps you connected to friends/classmates.

52% think it is also a source of entertainment, this is mainly mentioned by boys (61%) rather than girls (45%).

Only 5% mention that on the internet you can find a partner, without significant differences between gender or age segments.

- ▶▶ Online financial scams (77%) are the main concern when it comes to disadvantages of the online realm, followed by the traps set by strangers (61%) and the ease of sending insults online (60%).



- ▶▶ 1 out of 2 respondents believe that the online environment is unsafe for girls, 56% of them consider this as opposed to 40% of the boys.

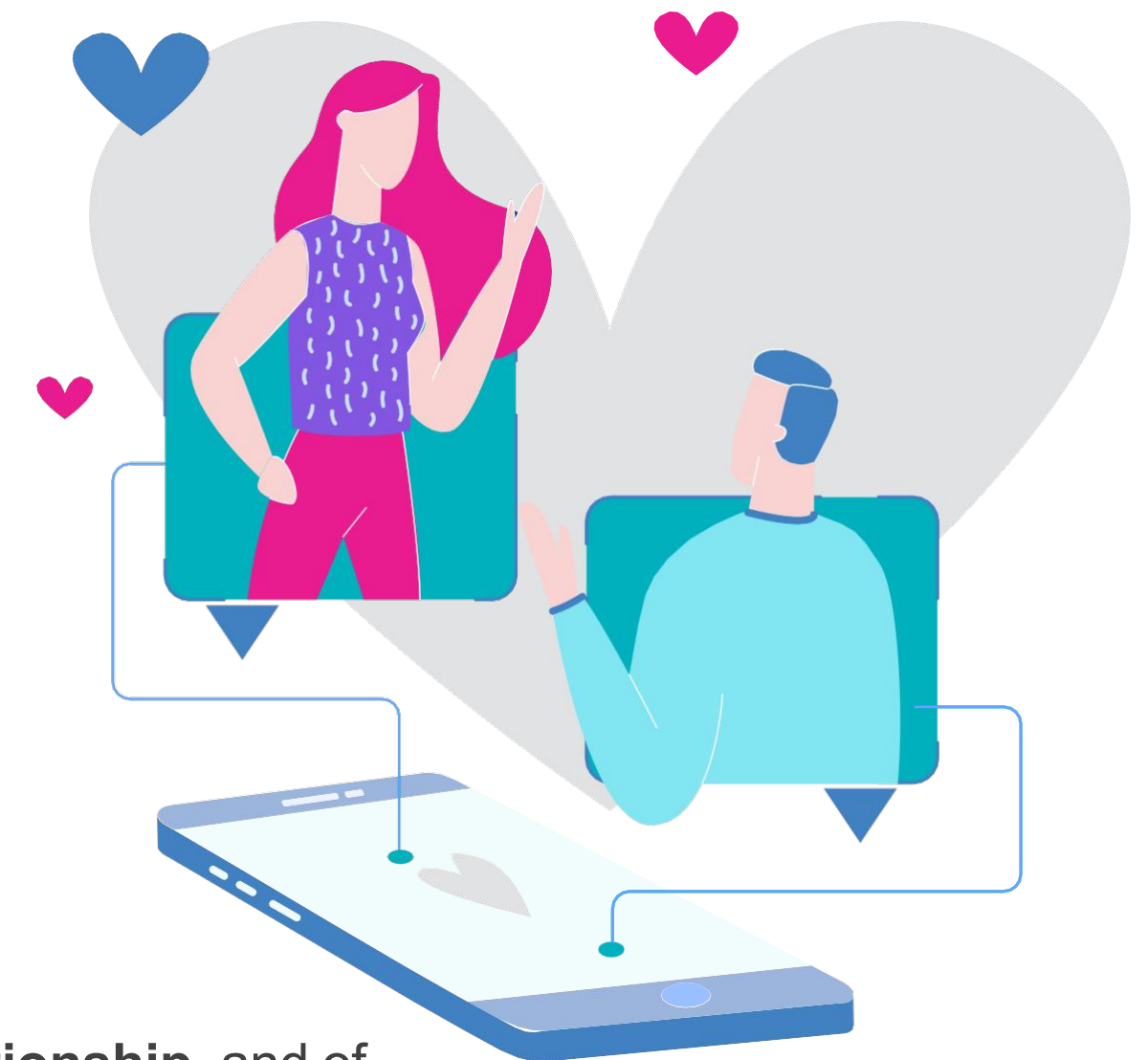
The percentage drops to 24% when it comes to the internet being unsafe for boys.

Anyway, 56% of respondents believe that the internet is unsafe for adolescents, and the percentage increases with age groups (57% among those between 18 and 21 years and 63% among those between 22 and 25 years).

56% say that the online environment is unsafe for the elderly.

# Attitude toward relationships and long distance relationships

- ▶▶ **6 in 10 young people believe that a relationship that started online can have a chance** - more boys (65%) believe this, than girls (57%).
- ▶▶ **Most respondents say they have never had a long-distance relationship**, preferring a relationship where they can see their partner constantly (37%), and 24% say that although they have not had such a relationship, they would not mind (33% boys vs 18% girls).  
Also, 17% of boys say they have had such a relationship but no longer have it, as do 3 out of 10 girls.
- ▶▶ Out of all heterosexual girls and bisexual or homosexual boys, **39% say they would go on holiday abroad to meet their partner in the first 6 months of their relationship**, and of the girls, 41% say so.  
**6% of them would go on vacation in the first month of their relationship, and 10% would go in the first 2-3 months of their relationship.**



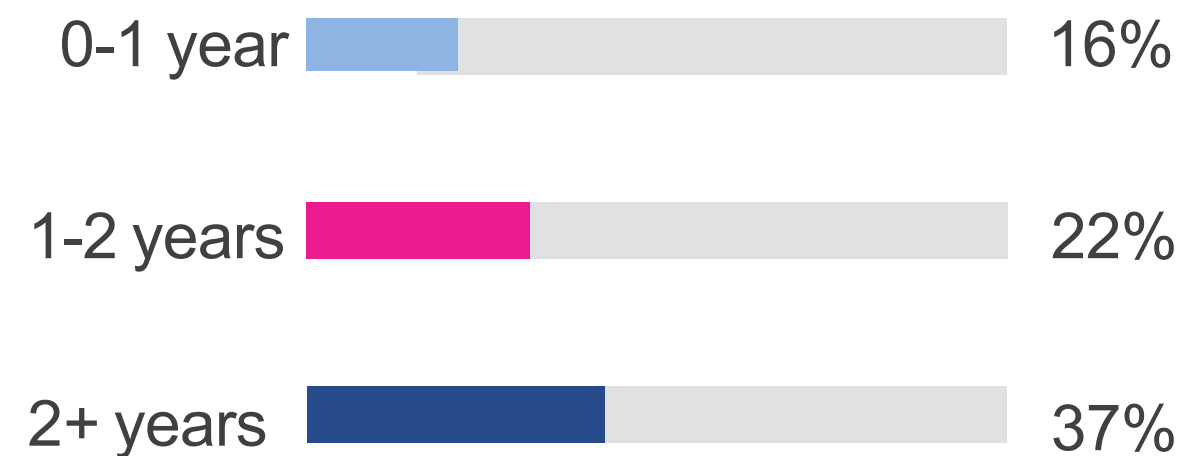
# Attitude toward relationships and long distance relationships

▶▶ Of those who would move to another country to live with their partner,

**16% would move during the first year of the relationship**

**22% would do so after a year or two into their relationship**

**37% after 2 years of relationship.**



# Attitude toward relationships and long distance relationships

- ▶▶ The main reason they would agree to move abroad with their love interest is a rational one, if the love interest found a job opportunity for them in that country (64%), followed by an emotional one, namely if they were in love (57%). At the same time, half of this group mentions a third reason, if the love interest would already have a job in that country .
- ▶▶ The acceptance of the partner, especially by the family (73%) and best friend (56%) is considered to be very/quite important. Significantly more boys believe it is quite important + very important that the partner be accepted by their classmates.

Acceptance by the family

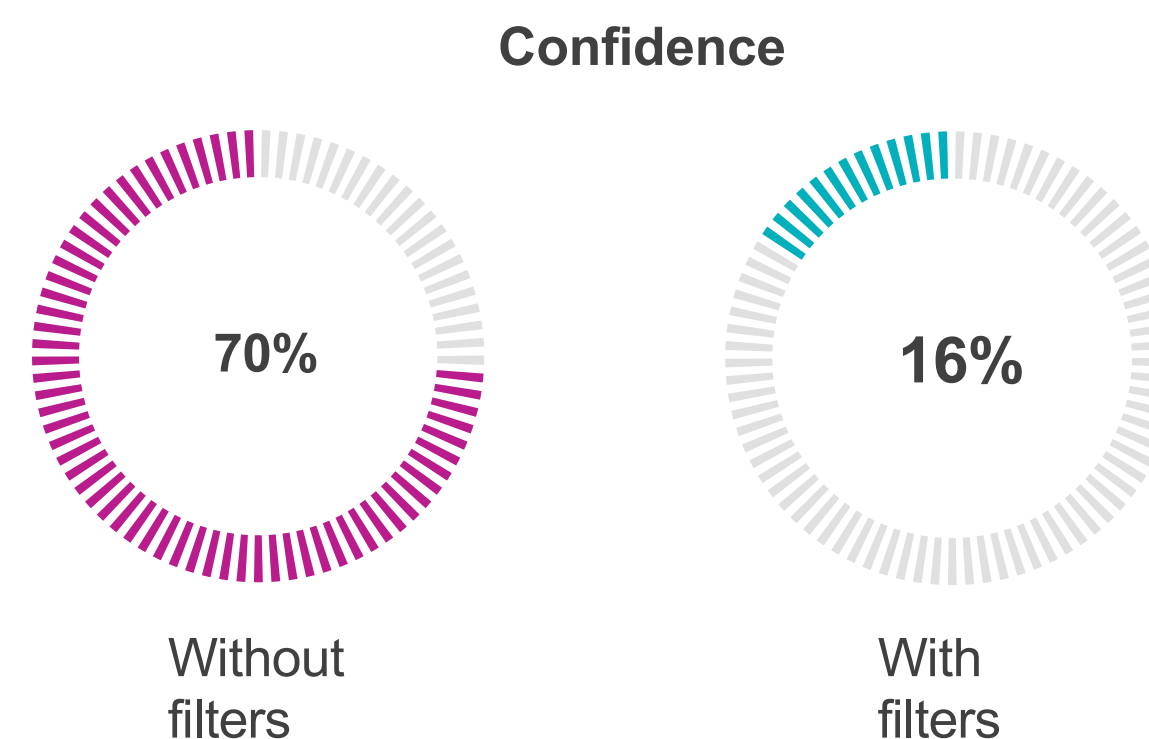
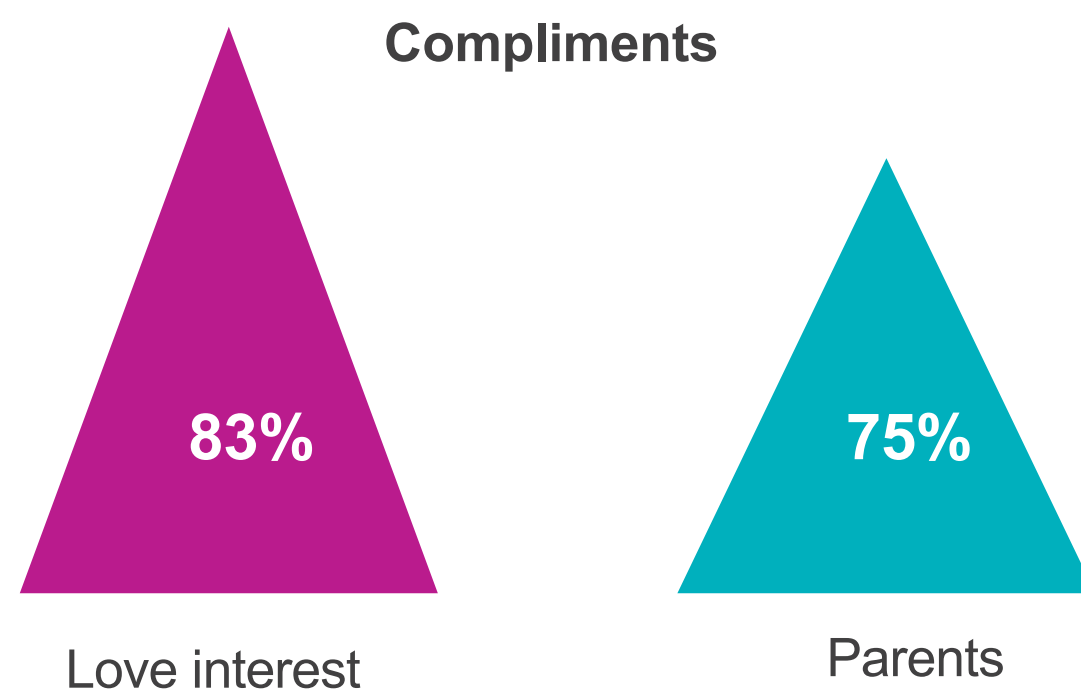


Acceptance by the best friend



# Self-esteem, risky behaviors and notorious online pitfalls

- ▶▶ Looking at the perceived number of admirers, the sample is divided into **63% - those who think they have few or very few admirers** and **37% who think they have quite a lot or a lot of admirers**. The number of people who think they have quite a lot or a lot admirers is smaller among boys (30%) than girls (42%).
- ▶▶ For most young people, **the most important people who they like to receive compliments from are their love interest (83%), followed by their parents (75%)**. According to their answers, **79% feel good in their own skin and only 16% prefer to use beauty filters on social media**.





# Self-esteem, risky behaviors and notorious online pitfalls

- ▶▶ **37% of respondents believe that online conversations with strangers are ok**, many people do it, and 46% say they don't find it ok, although many people do it.  
**29%** said they would talk to strangers online
- ▶▶ As for **Only Fans**, **54% say it's not okay**, but many people do it, and 81% say they don't feel comfortable with it at all and wouldn't use it  
**20%** of respondents think it's okay and many people do it.
- ▶▶ **41% of respondents heard and know about the Loverboy method**, without significant differences between gender or age groups, and a similar percentage (36%) have heard and know about those who ask for sexy photos online to sell them.



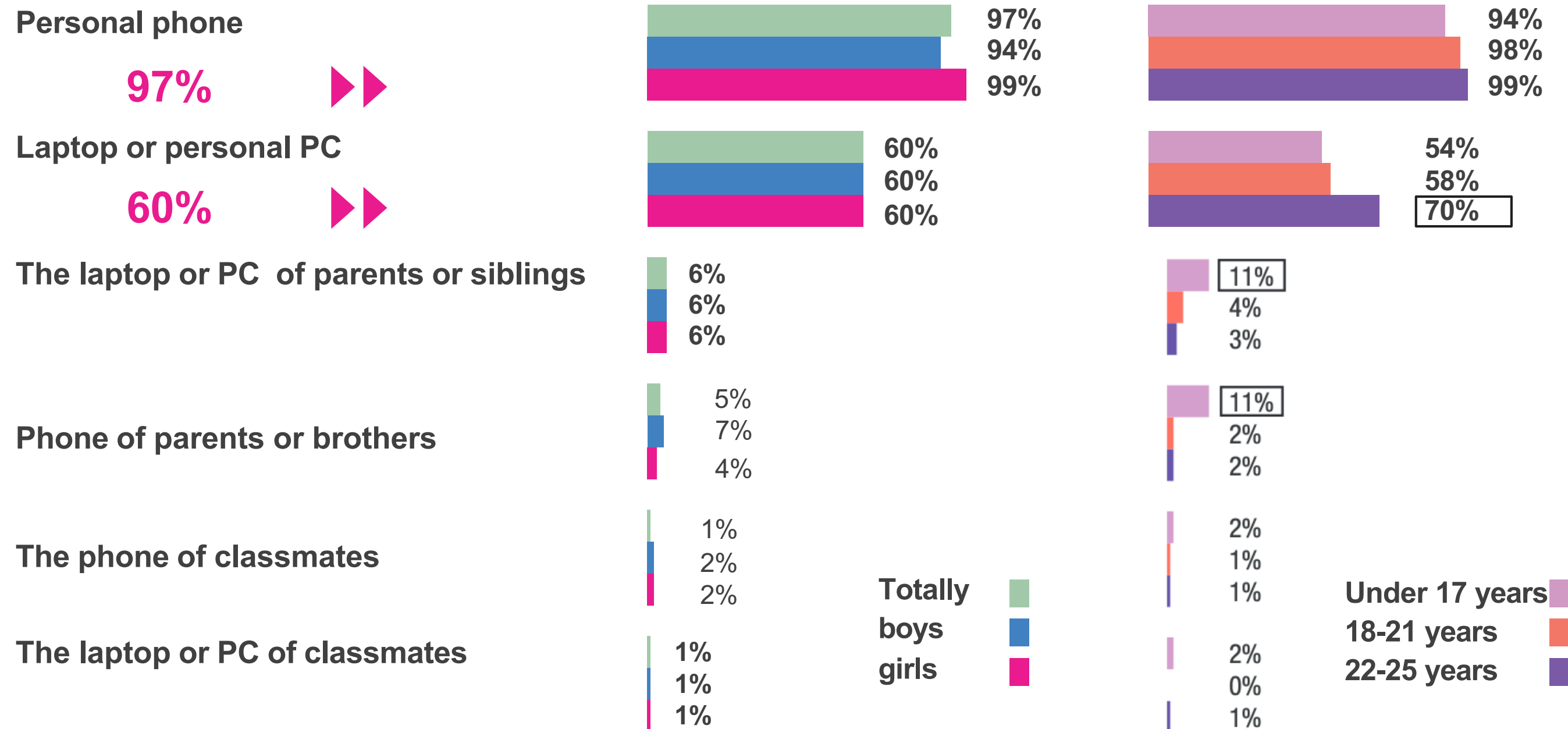
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# Internet usage



# Devices used for online activities

Q: What do you use for online interactions  
Multiple choice

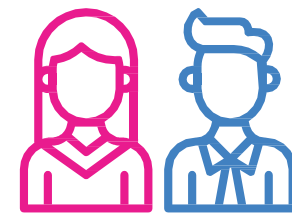


All respondents N=502

Higher than the other target (gender/age) at 95% confidence level

# Daily activity online

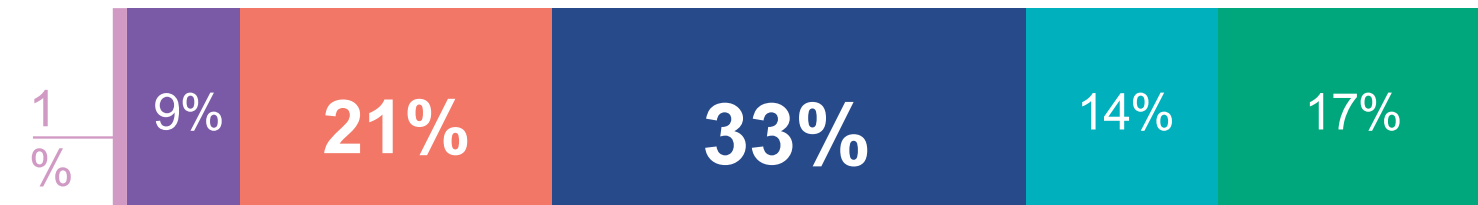
Q:  
How much time do you spend online on an ordinary day?



Total

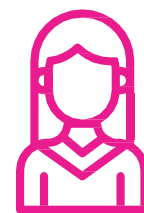
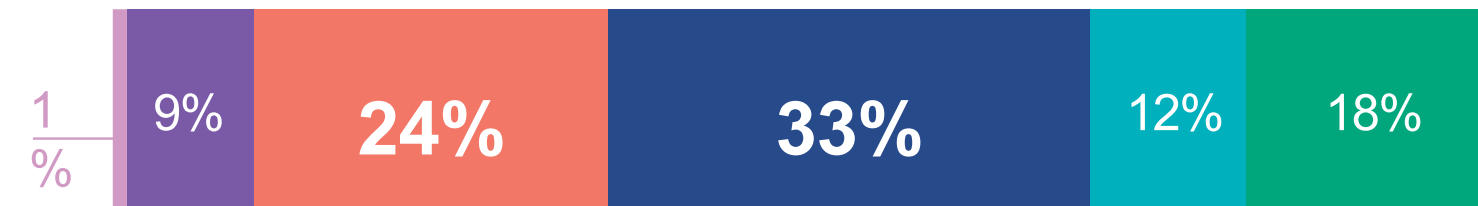
Average/day

4.36 hours/day



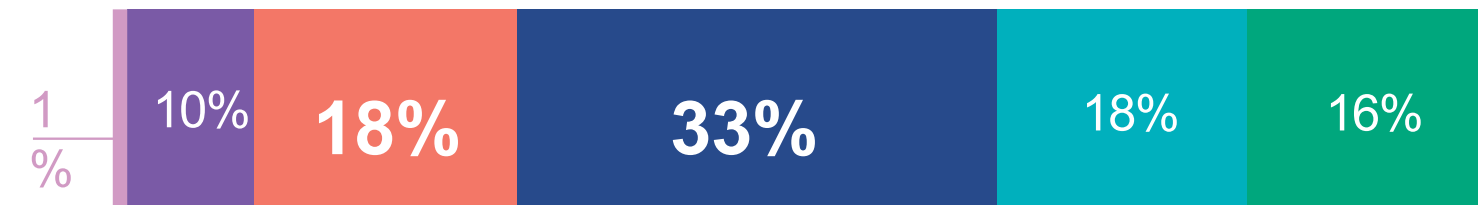
Boys

4.38 hours/day



Girls

4.35 hours/day



Less than an hour
  1-2 hours
  2-3 hours
  4-5 hours
  5-6 hours
  Over 6 hours

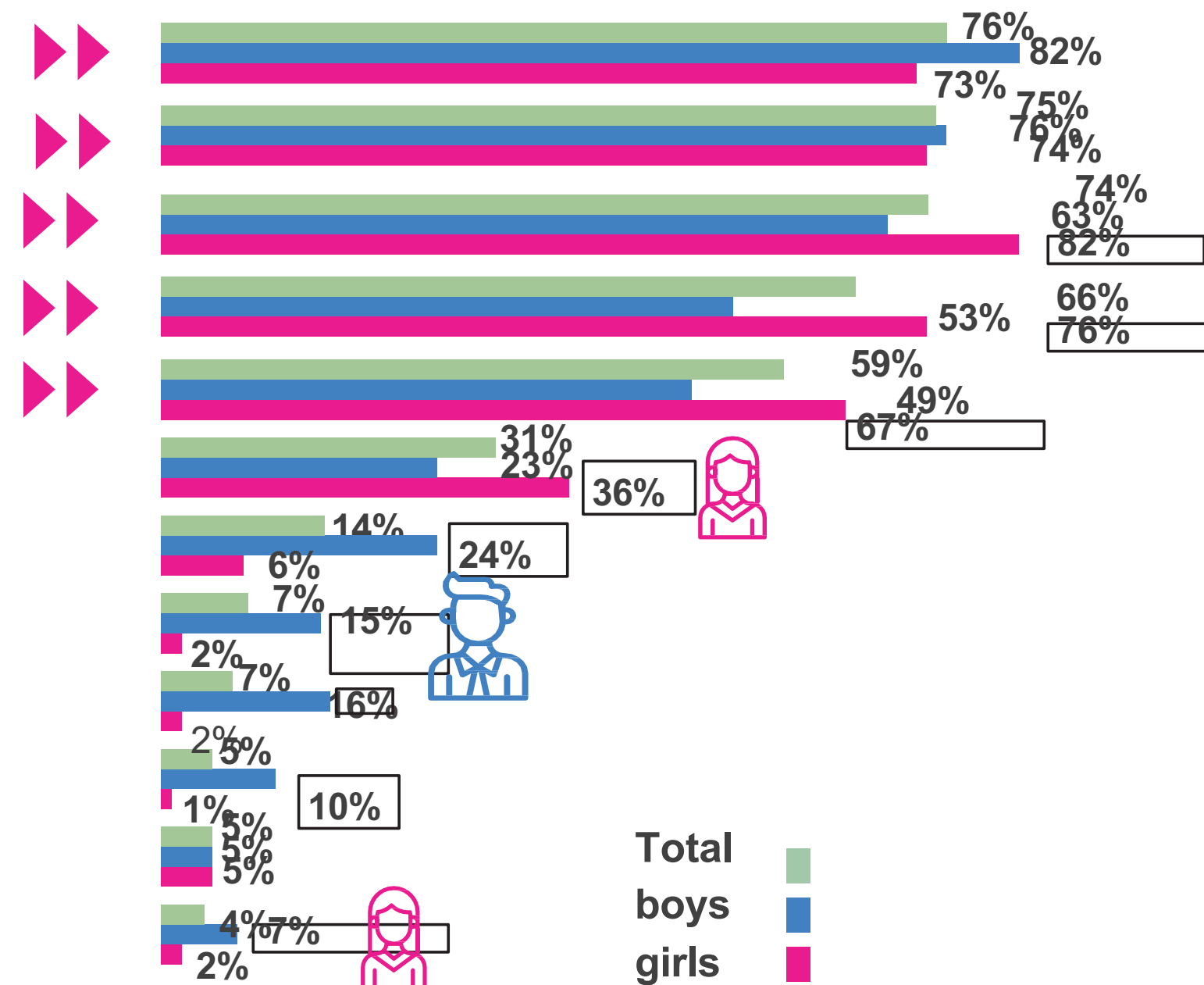
All respondents N=502

Higher than the other target (gender/age) at 95% confidence level

# The most used apps

**Q:** Which of the following apps do you use at least once a day regardless of the time you spend on each?

YouTube	76%
WhatsApp	75%
Instagram	74%
Facebook & Messenger	66%
TikTok	59%
Snapchat	
Discord	
Minecraft	
Roblox	
Fortnite	
Zenly	
Tinder	



All respondents N=502

Higher than the other target (gender/age) at 95% confidence level



# Advantages of Internet use

**Q:**  
What do you think are the most important advantages of using the internet among those of your age?

It is a quick source of information

8 of 10 ▶▶

It keeps you connected with friends/classmates

77% ▶▶

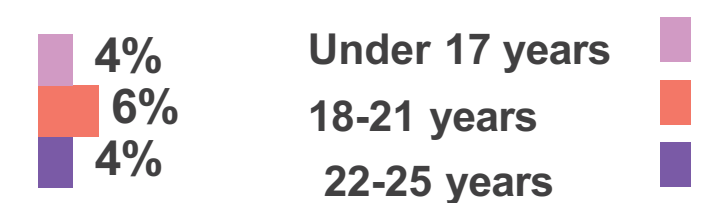
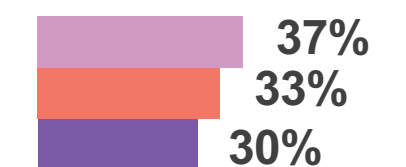
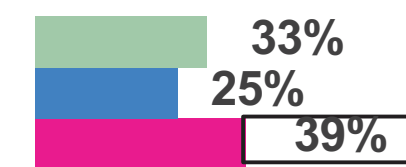
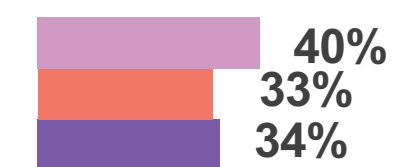
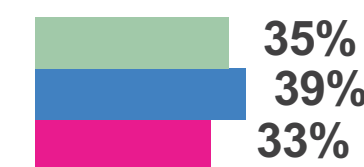
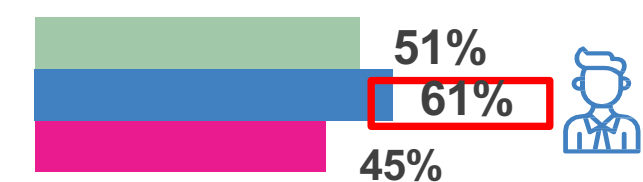
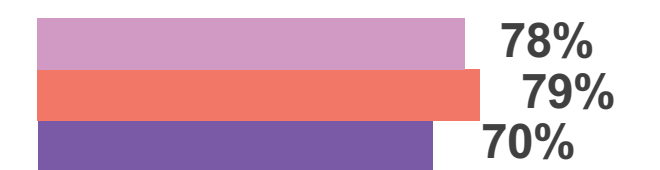
It is a source of entertainment

52% ▶▶

It offers more enjoyable learning methods

It can be a source of income even for the very young (e.g. by micro-influencing)

You can find a partner  
5% ▶▶



All respondents N=502

Higher than the other target (gender/age) at 95% confidence level

THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED



# Perceived safety online

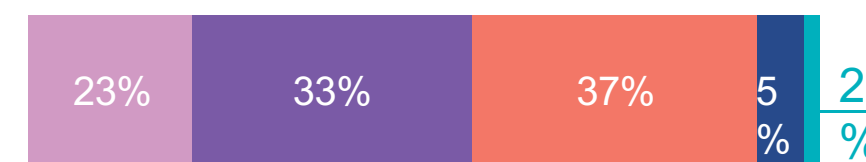
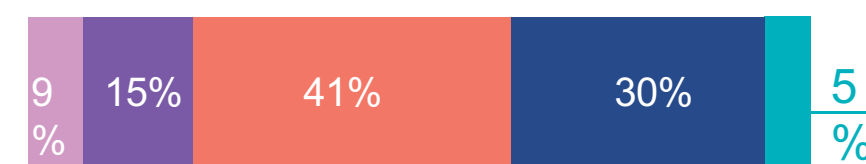
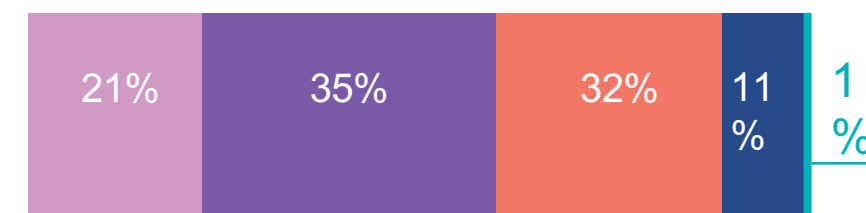
**Q:**  
Regardless of how much time you spend online, how safe or not do you find the internet for each of the following groups of people:

**For the elderly**  
**12%**

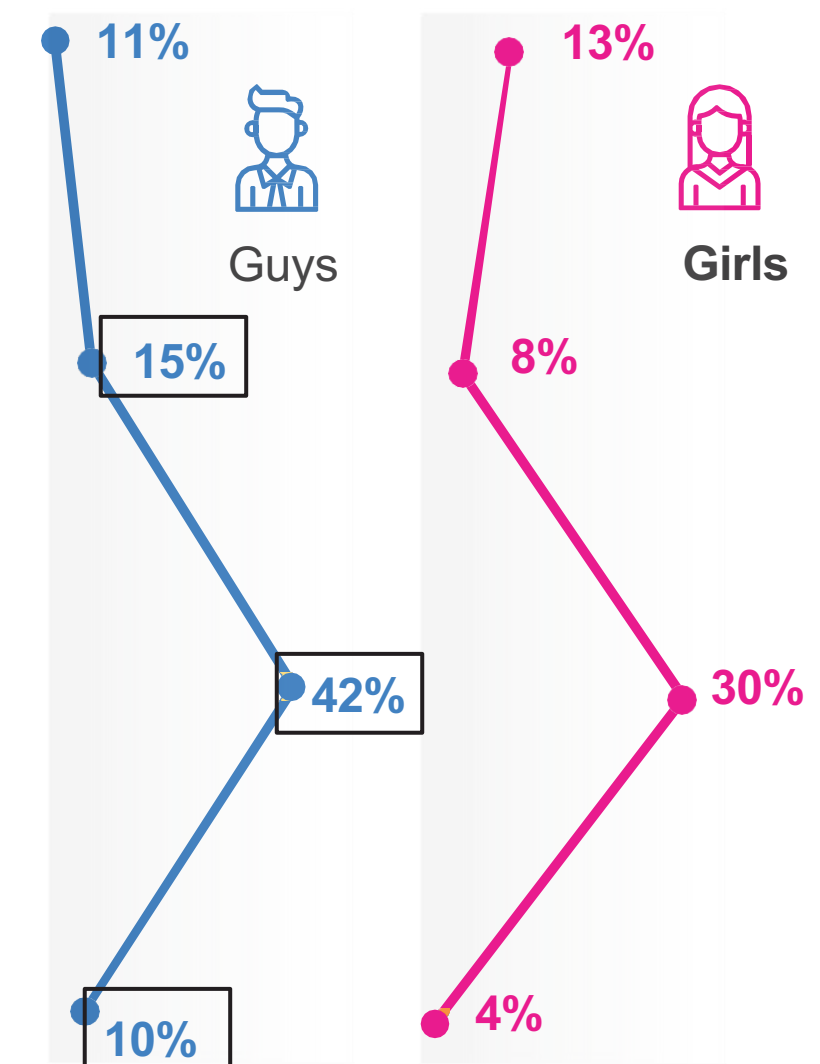
**For girls**  
**11%**

**For boys**  
**35%**

**For adolescents between 14 and 18**



■ Very unsafe      ■ Neither safe nor unsafe  
■ Fairly unsafe      ■ Very safe  
■ Fairly safe



Scores displayed **fairly safe + Very safe**

All respondents N=502

   Higher than the other target (gender/) at 95% confidence level

# Understanding perceptions about the disadvantages of internet access

## PERSONAL DATA

! Online exposure (real-time location, photos, etc.) can pose a real-life danger

*The main risk perceived by parents*

## LACK OF A HANDBOOK

## ADDICTION

## DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

## ! THE DESIRE TO BUY VARIOUS ITEMS

## SUPERFICIALITY

### LESS AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

- ◆ Pressure regarding the image: The need to look perfect
- ◆ Evaluation by things that can be manipulated (#followers)

## CYBER-BULLYING / HATE

### ! CYBER-BULLYING CAN AFFECT SELF-ESTEEM

especially when young people do not have psycho-emotional support, when they feel that they have no one to share such problems with

## FALSE INFORMATION

### ! DIFFICULTY FILTERING INFORMATION ONLINE

Adolescents are aware that not all information is real online, but at the same time they have difficulty filtering information, discerning between credible and less credible sources.

*dating apps are perceived as the riskiest, including by victims*

## STRANGERS

### POSSIBILITY OF CONTACT WITH STRANGERS PEOPLE

- ◆ it is tempting for young people, especially taking into account their desire for experimentation

### ONLINE RISKS:

- ▼ Lack of control over the person “on the other side of the screen”
- ▼ blackmail (e.g.: request for nude photos with a threat of abuse)
- ▼ Stalking, threats, recruitment
- ▼ Scams/phishing and others

# Quotes about the disadvantages of the internet

“No one teaches you how to use the internet, you have to catch on yourself, about what is the right path and what is not. That means you can have less enjoyable experiences to learn from them later on.”

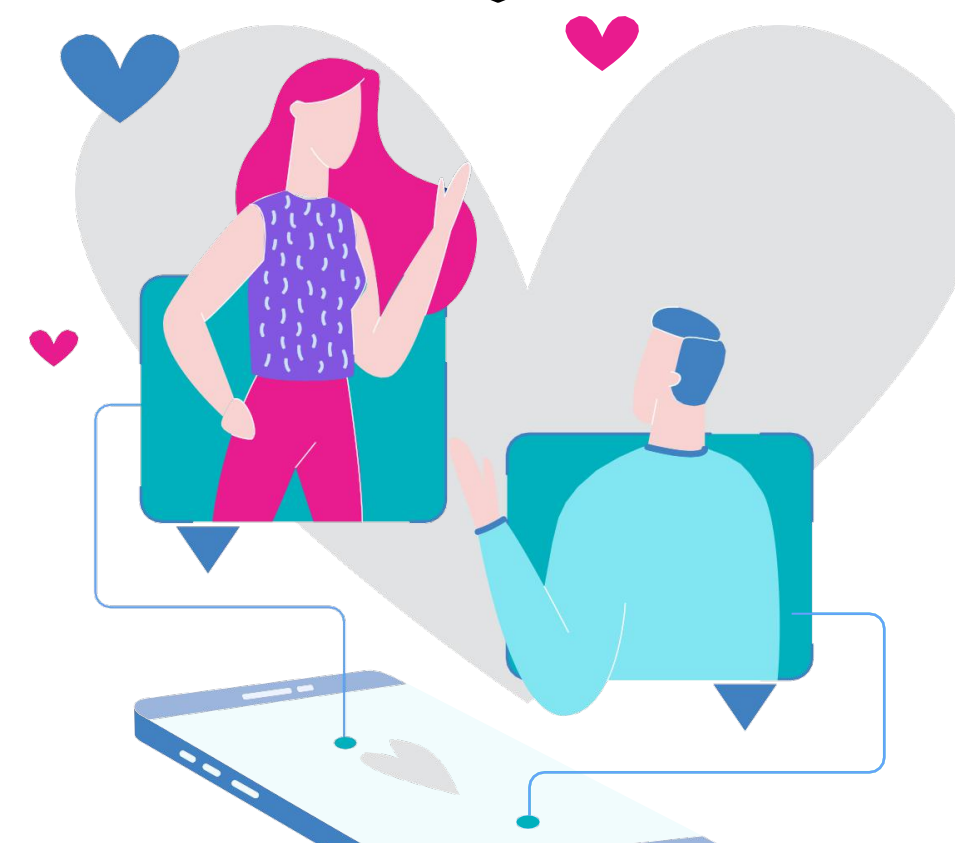
**FG, 14-17 years**

“Unfortunately, the internet can greatly lower your self-esteem – whether you see other people’s posts and compare yourself to them, or you get unwarranted hate. That’s why it’s very important to talk to someone about how you feel, because otherwise it can affect you in the long run.”

**FG, 14-17 years**

“I try to put a lot of limitations on them and stop them from using the internet so much, but the reality is that they are more skilled than me and it doesn’t always work.”

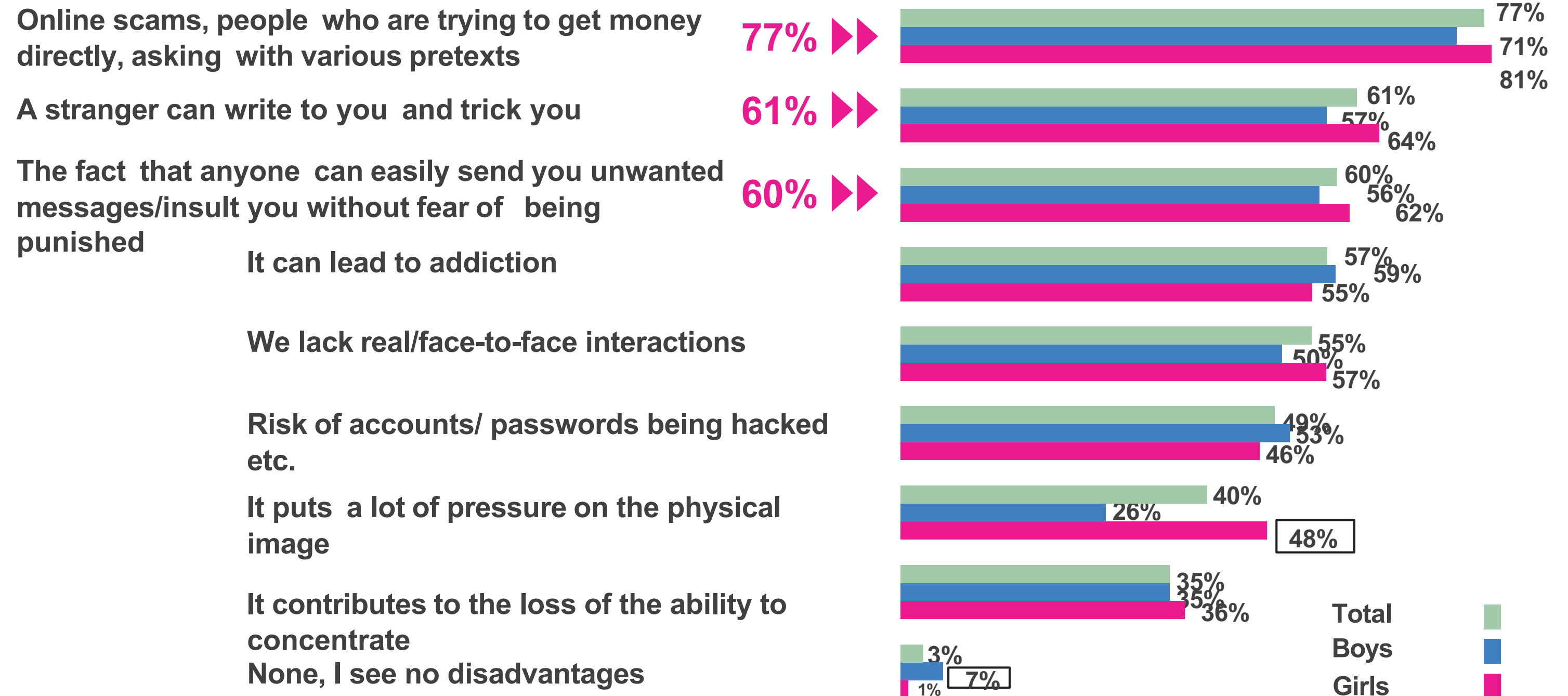
**FG, parents**





# Disadvantages of the Internet

**Q:**  
What do you think are the biggest disadvantages of using the internet?



All respondents N=502

Higher than the total at 95% confidence level

THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED



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# Attitudes toward relationships



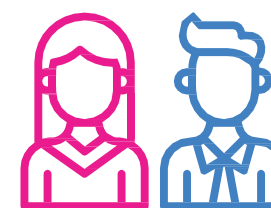
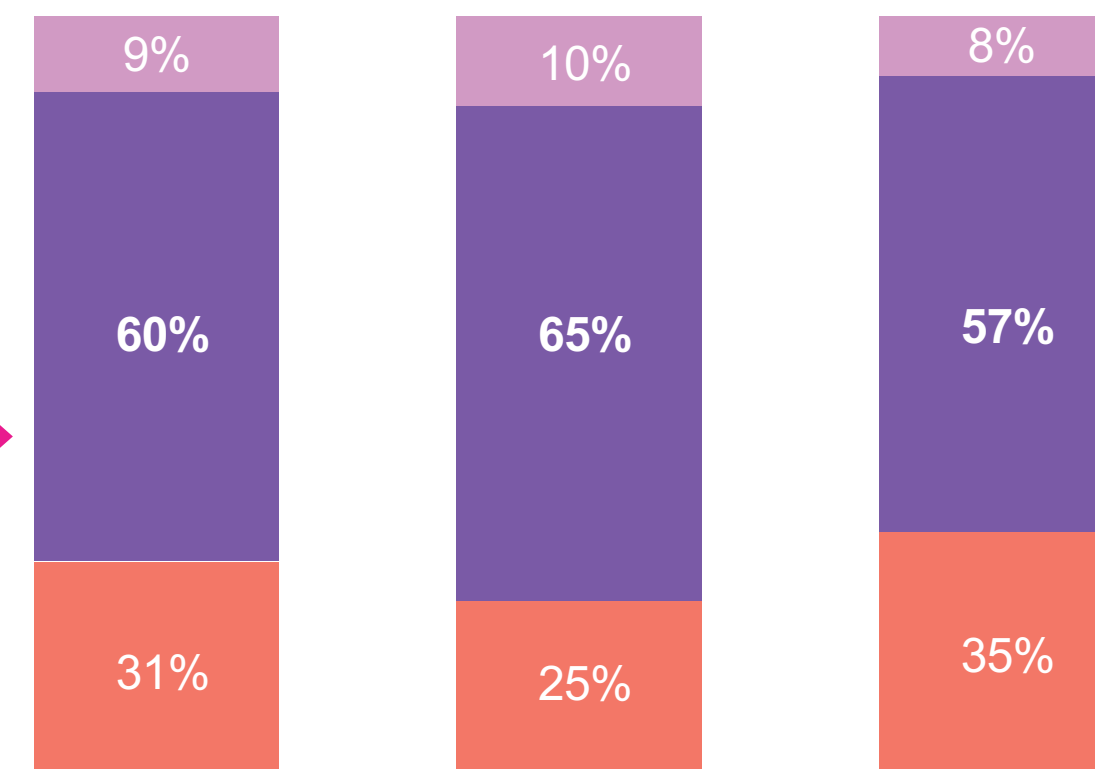
# Attitudes toward long distance relationships

Most young people believe that an online/long distance relationship can have chances of success, with more boys believing this (65%) compared to girls (57%).

Q: What do you think about relationships that start online/long-distance?

- I think that a relationship formed on the internet has even more chances than one in which the two meet
- I think that a relationship formed on the internet can be successful
- I think a relationship that started on the internet will NOT last

60% ▶▶



Total



Boys



Girls

All respondents N=502

Higher than the total at 95% confidence level

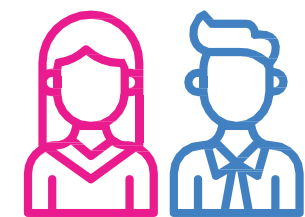
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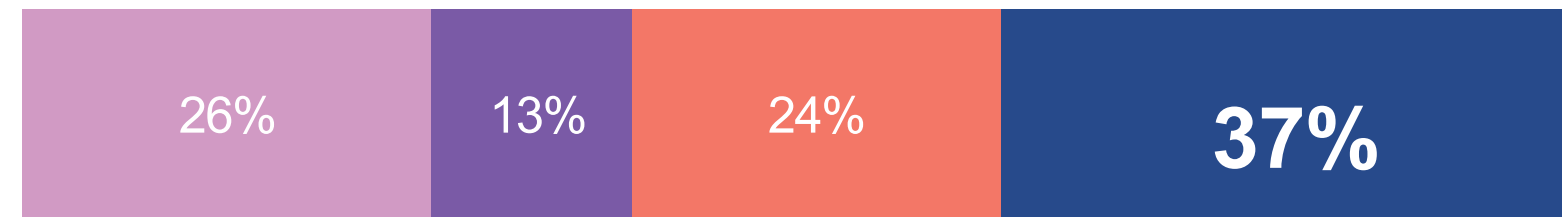
# History with long distance relationships by gender

I didn't have one and prefer a relationship where we see each other constantly

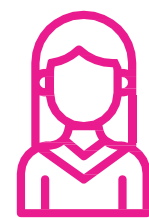
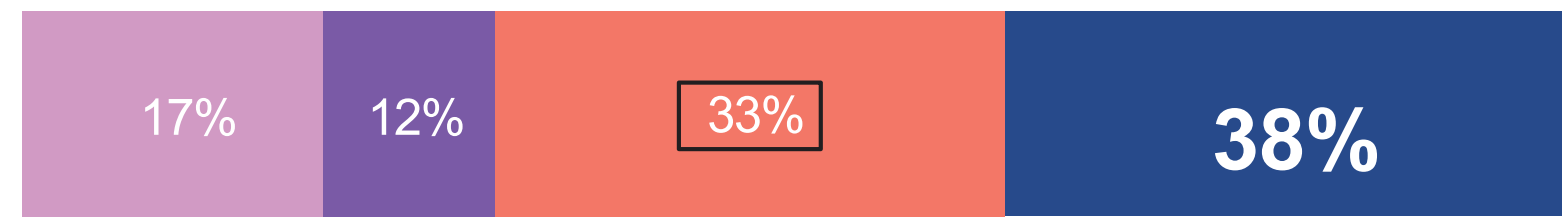
**Q:**  
Have you ever had or would you agree to have a long-distance relationship?



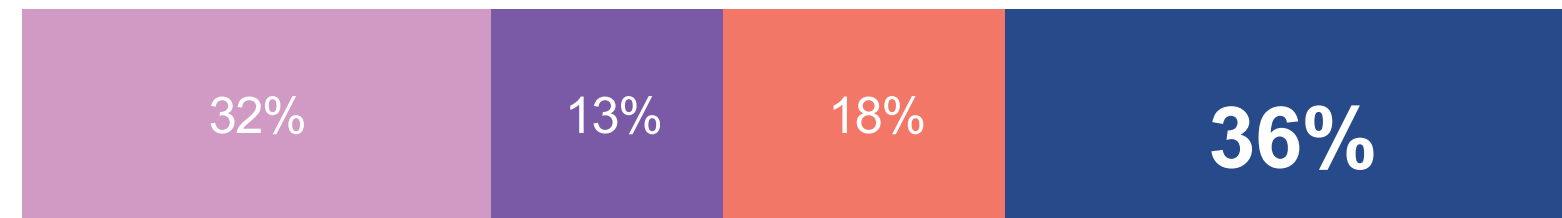
Total



Guys



Girls



Higher than the total at 95% confidence level

**THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED**

All respondents  
N=502



I had, but I no longer have

I had and am in a relationship like this

I didn't have one, but it wouldn't bother me

I didn't have one and prefer a relationship where we see each other constantly

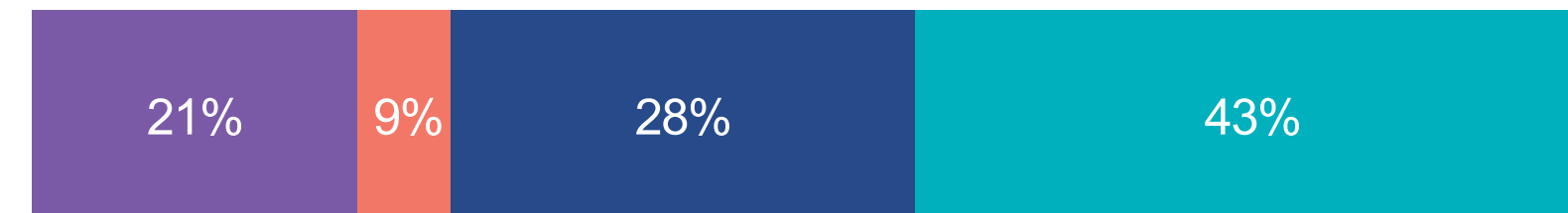


# History with long distance relationships by age

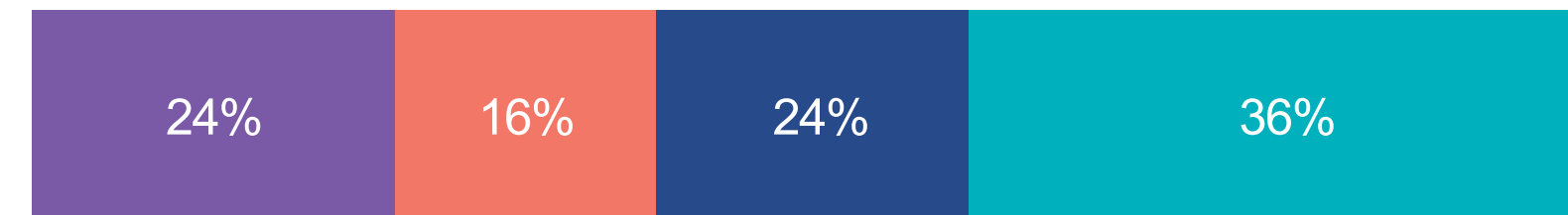
Q:

Have you ever had or would agree to have a long distance relationship?

> 17 years

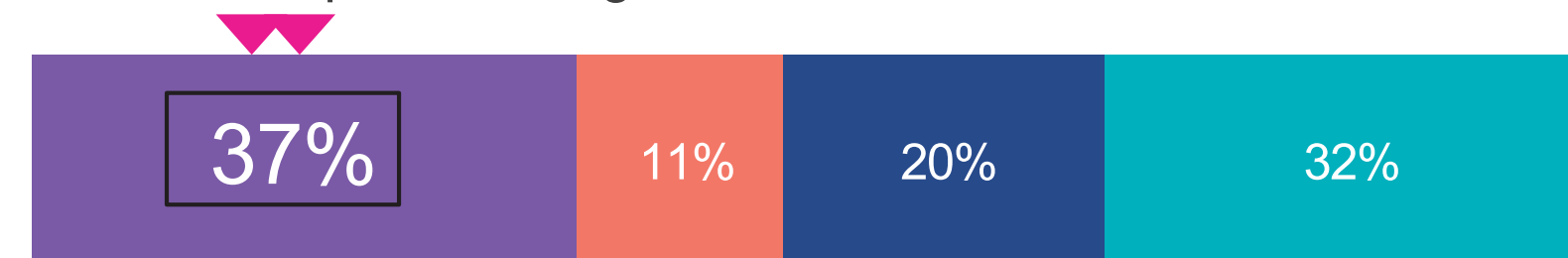


18-21 years



Significantly more young people in the 22-25 range report that they have had a long-distance relationship but no longer have it

22-25 years



All respondents N=502

Higher than the total at 95% level of confidence

**THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED**



I had, but I no longer have

I had and am in a relationship like this

I didn't have one, but it wouldn't bother me

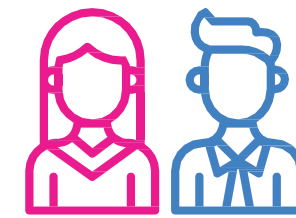
I didn't have one and prefer a relationship where we see each other constantly

# Availability for in-person meeting

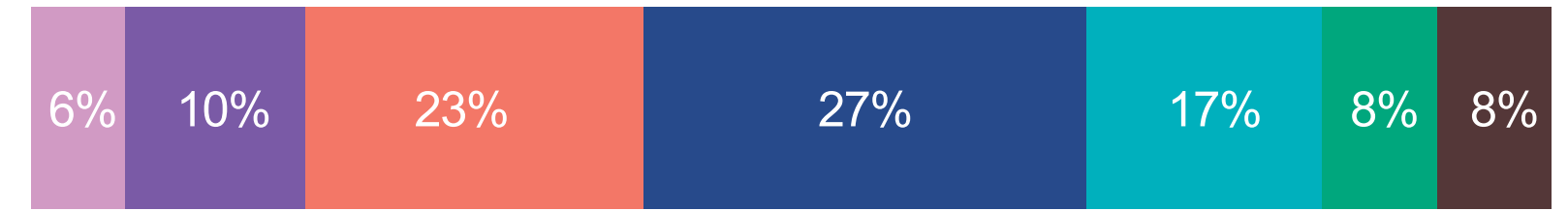
Of all heterosexual girls and with bisexual or homosexual boys, **39% say they would go on holiday abroad to meet with their partner after 6 months of being in a relationship**, and of the girls, 41% say so.

**Q:**  
Supposing you had a long distance relationship and your partner suggested you meet. After how long would you be willing to:

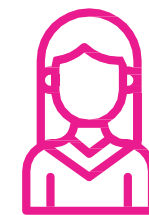
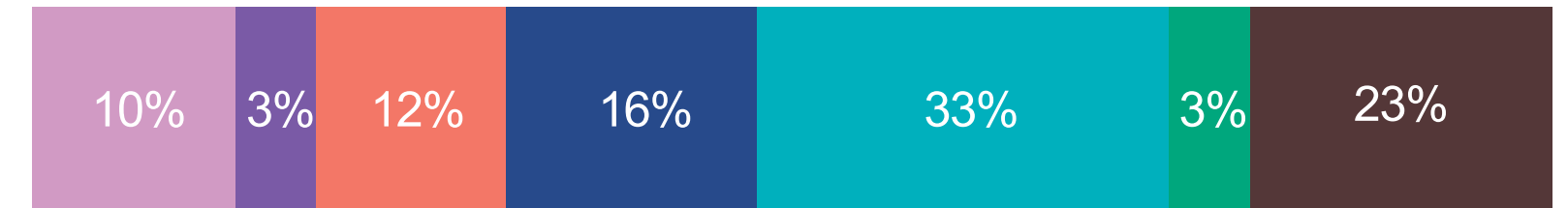
**Go on a vacation to another country...**



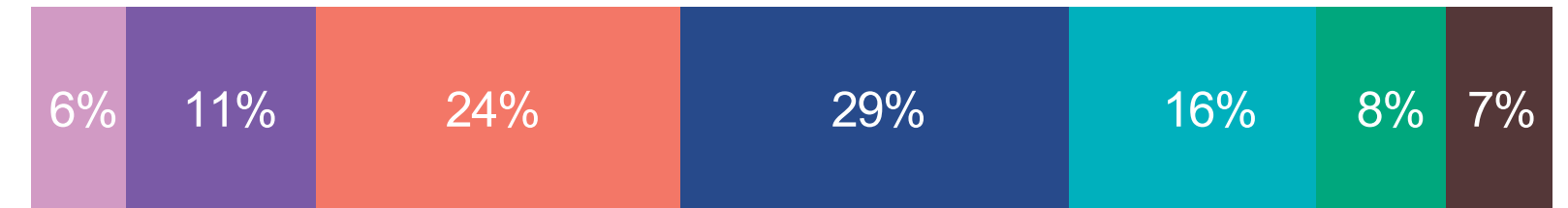
Total



Boys



Girls



- In the first month of the relationship
- Between 2 and 3 months of relationship
- Between 3 and 6 months of relationship
- 6 months – 1 year of relationship
- Between one year and two years of relationship
- Over 2 years of relationship
- Never

Higher than the total at 95% confidence level

**THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED**

All respondents  
N=250

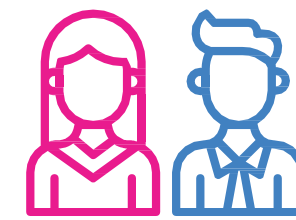


# Availability to move to partner

Of those who would move to another country to live with their partner, **16% would move in with their partner in the first year of the relationship!**

**Q:**  
Supposing you had a long distance relationship and your partner would suggest you meet. After how long you would be willing to:

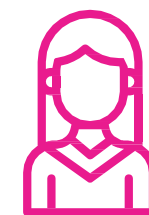
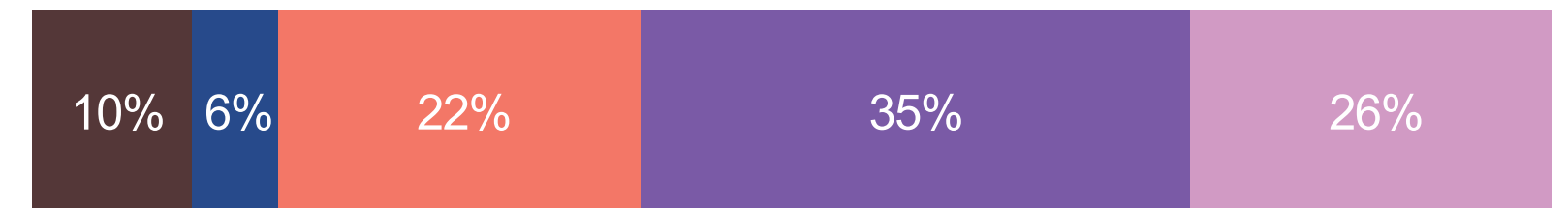
Move to their country...



Total



Guys



Girls



- In the first month of the relationship
- Between 2 and 3 months of relationship
- Between 3 and 6 months of relationship
- 6 months – a year of relationship
- Between 1 year and 2 years of relationship
- Over 2 years of relationship
- Never

Higher than the total at 95% confidence level

**THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED**

All respondents  
N=250





# Conditions to move in with their partner

Q:

And under what conditions would you be willing to move with your partner abroad?

If they found a job opportunity for me



If we were in love



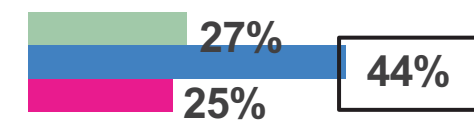
If they had a job abroad



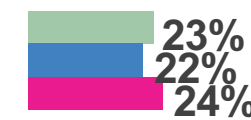
If our parents knew each other



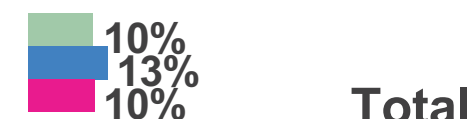
If they have family/family's support abroad



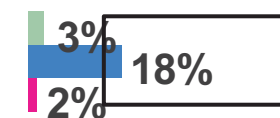
If they had a serious health issue



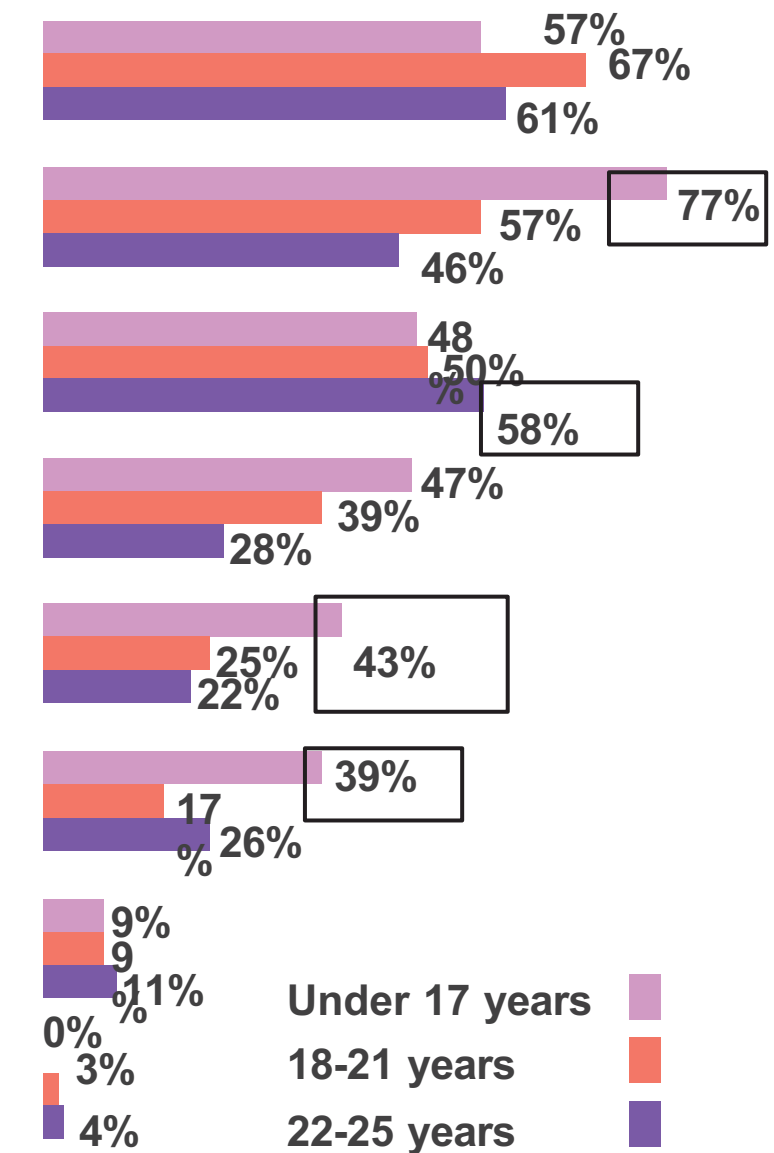
If I could bring my whole family with me



I wouldn't move, no matter what



Total  
boys  
girls



All respondents N=186

Higher than the total at 95% confidence level

THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED



# Approval of the partner by relatives/friends

The acceptance of the partner is considered to be very/fairly important especially by the family and the best friend. !

Significantly more boys consider it quite important + very important that the partner is accepted by classmates.

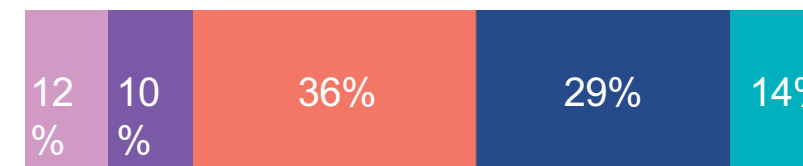
**Q:**  
To what extent is it important for you that your partner is liked by each of the following people?

All respondents N=502

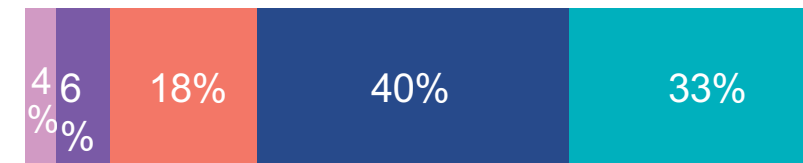
   Higher than the other target at 95% confidence level

THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED

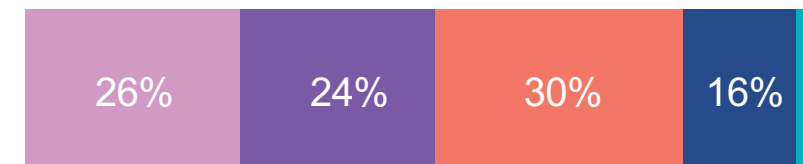
Group of friends



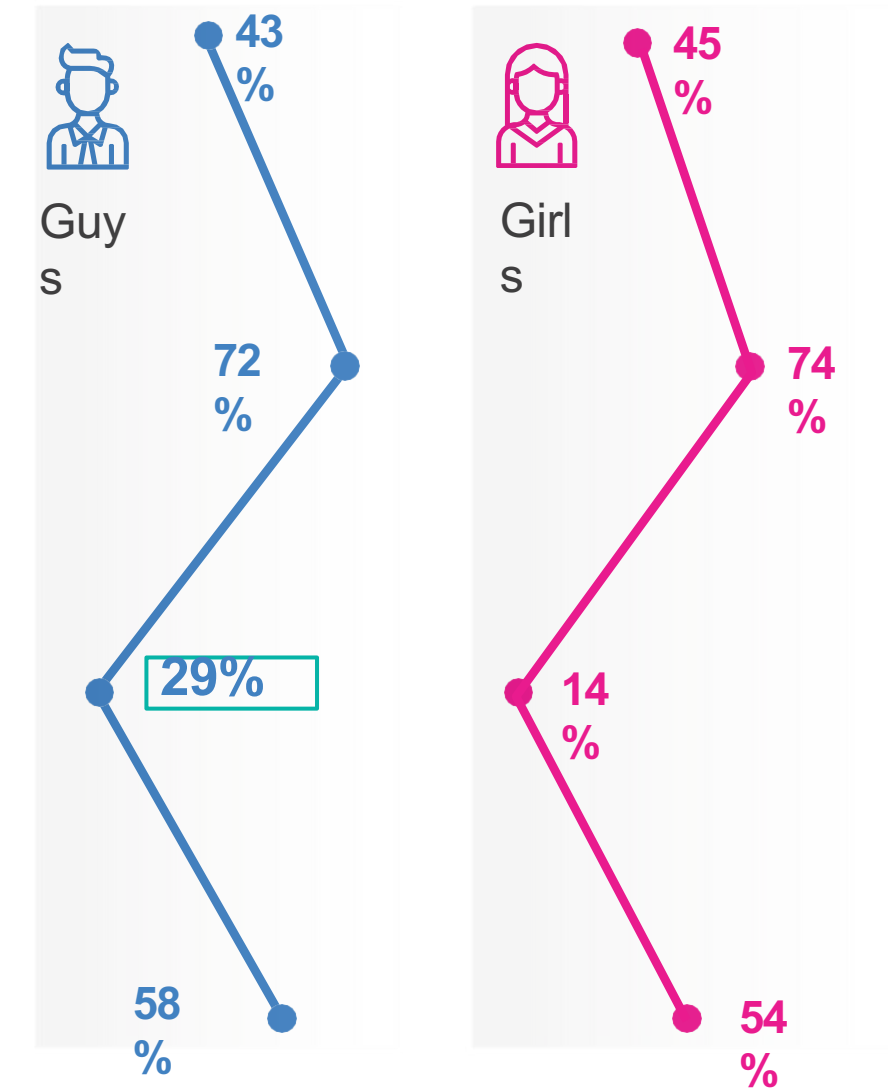
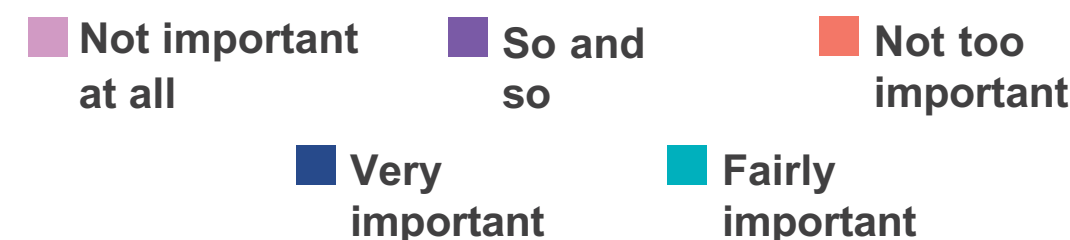
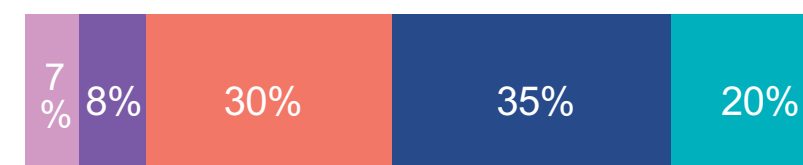
Parents/ family



Classmates



Best friend



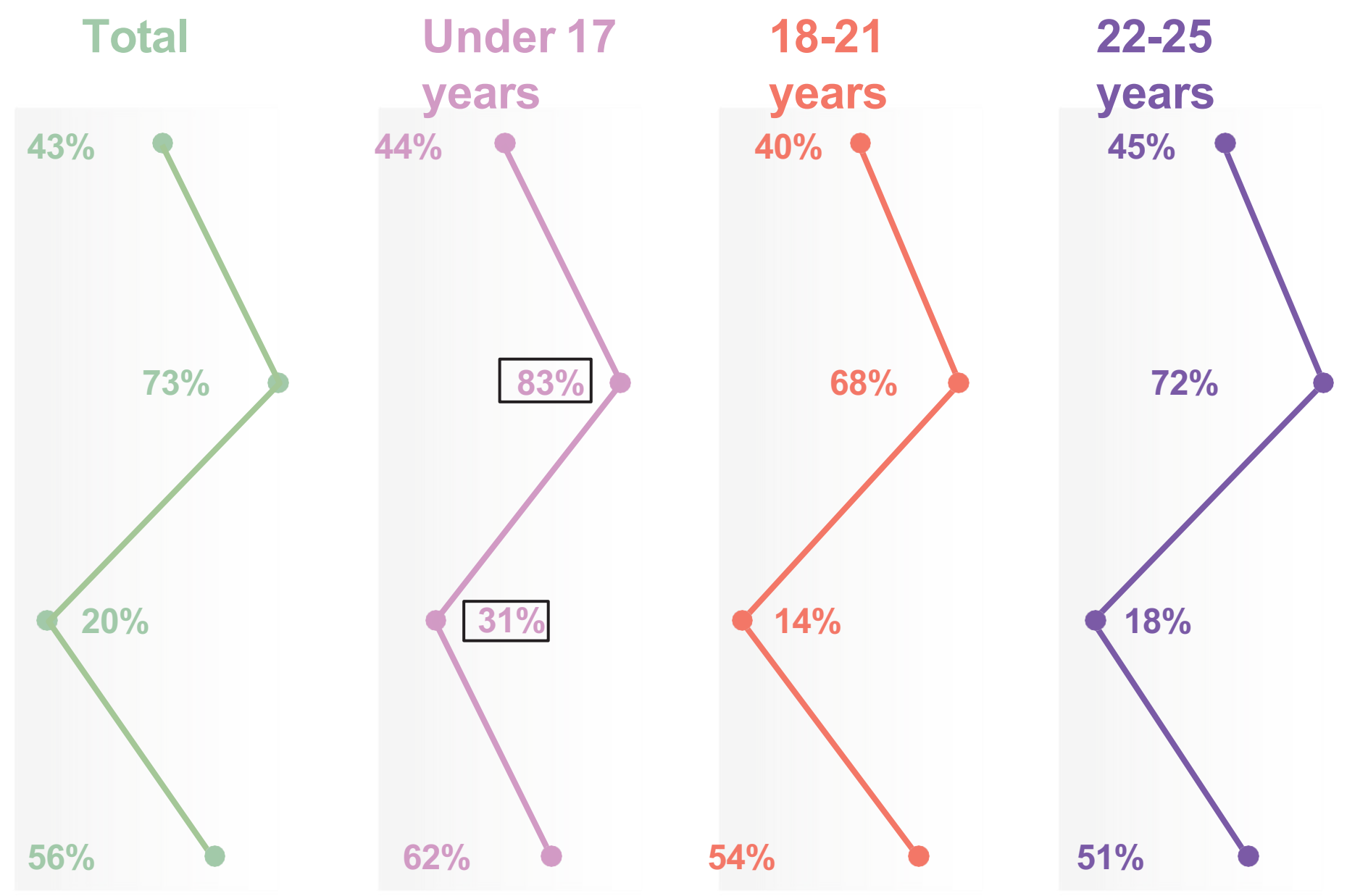
Scores displayed  
Very important + very important



# Approval of the partner by relatives/friends

**Q:**  
To what extent is it important for you that your partner is liked by each of the following people?

- Group of friends
- Parents/ family
- Classmates
- Best friend



All respondents N=502

Higher than the total at 95% confidence level

**THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED**



Scores displayed quite important + very important

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# Self-esteem and Approach to potentially risky activities



# Perception of the number of admirers

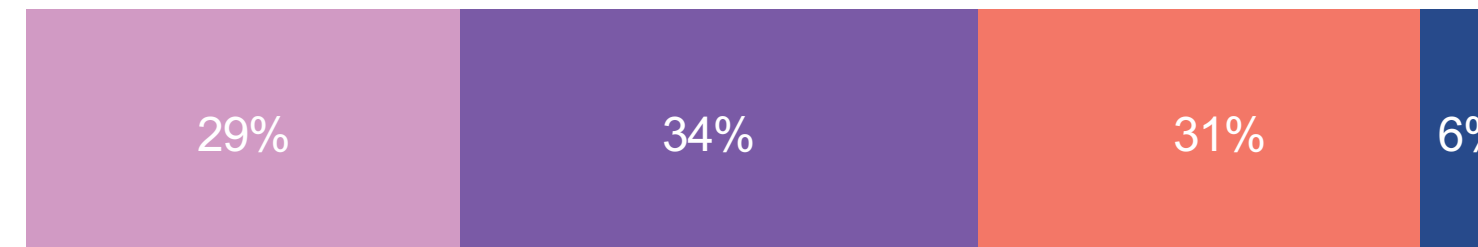
The sample is divided into **63% who think they have few or very few admirers** and **37% who think they have quite a lot or a lot of admirers**.

The number of people who think they have quite a lot or a lot of admirers is smaller among boys (30%) vs girls (42%).

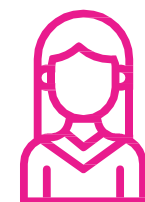
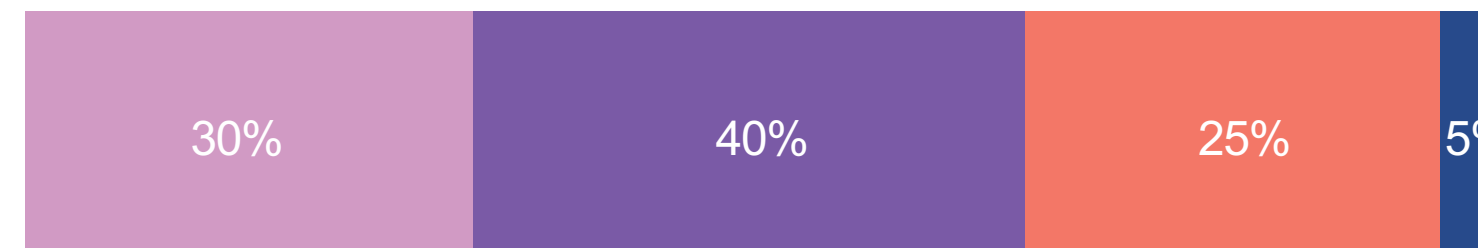
**Q:**  
Thinking about forming a relationship, which of the following is right for you?  
Single answer.



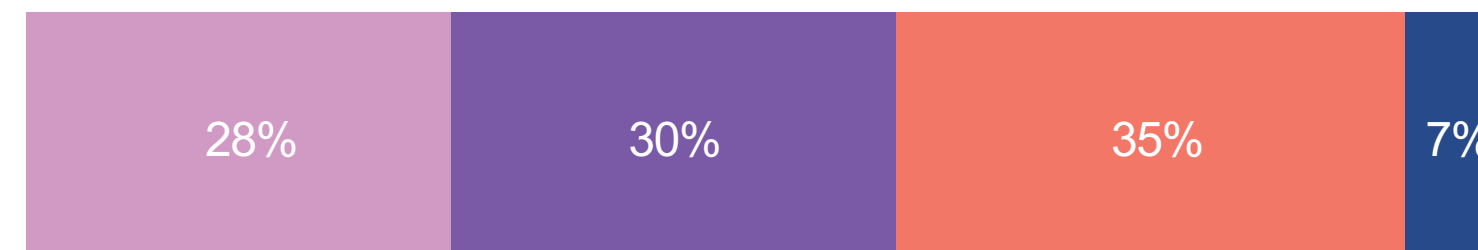
Total



Boys



Girls



I don't have many admirers
  I have a few admirers
  I have quite a lot of admirers
  I have a lot of admirers

All respondents N=502

Higher than the other target at 95% confidence level

# Indirect self-esteem measurement – by gender

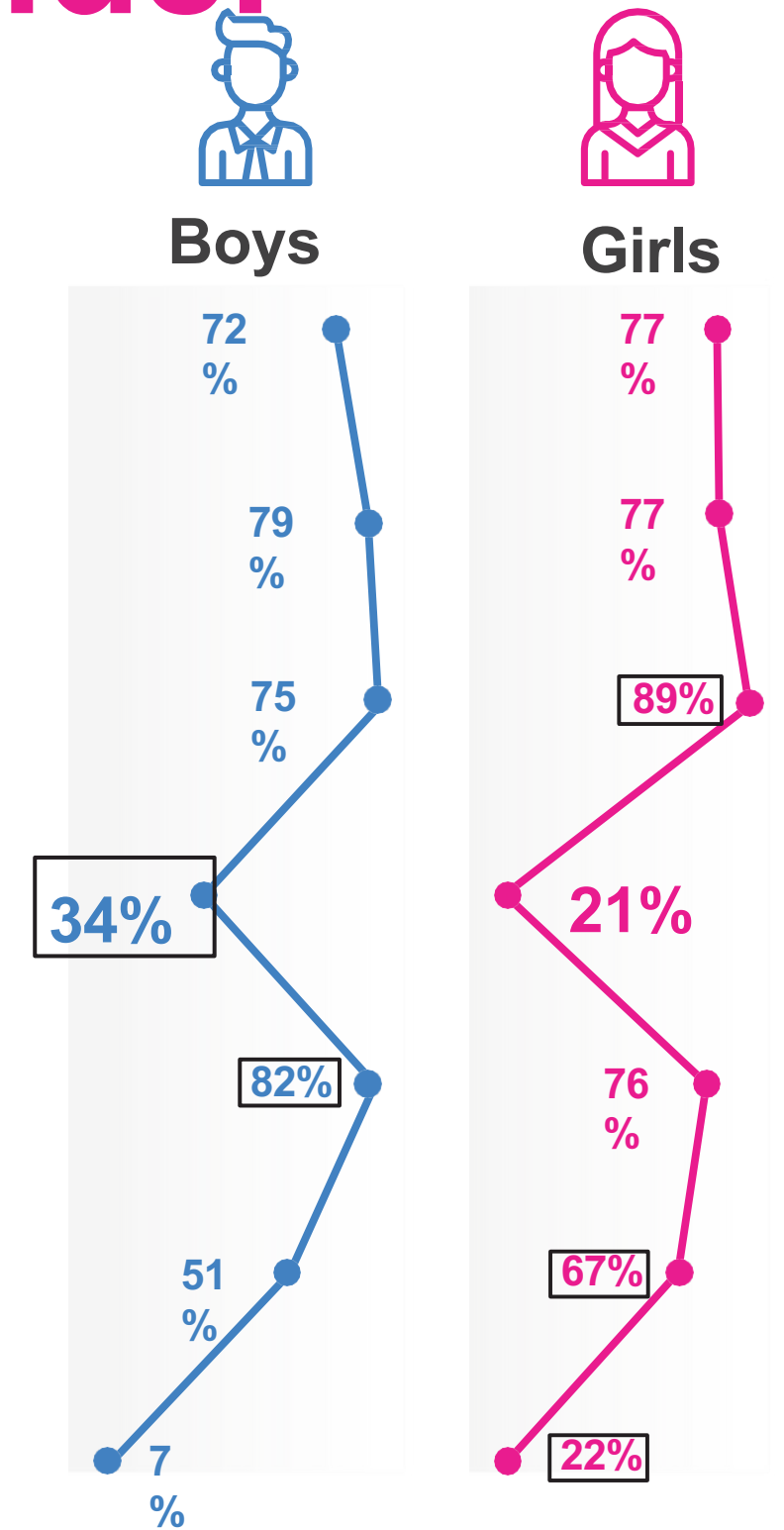
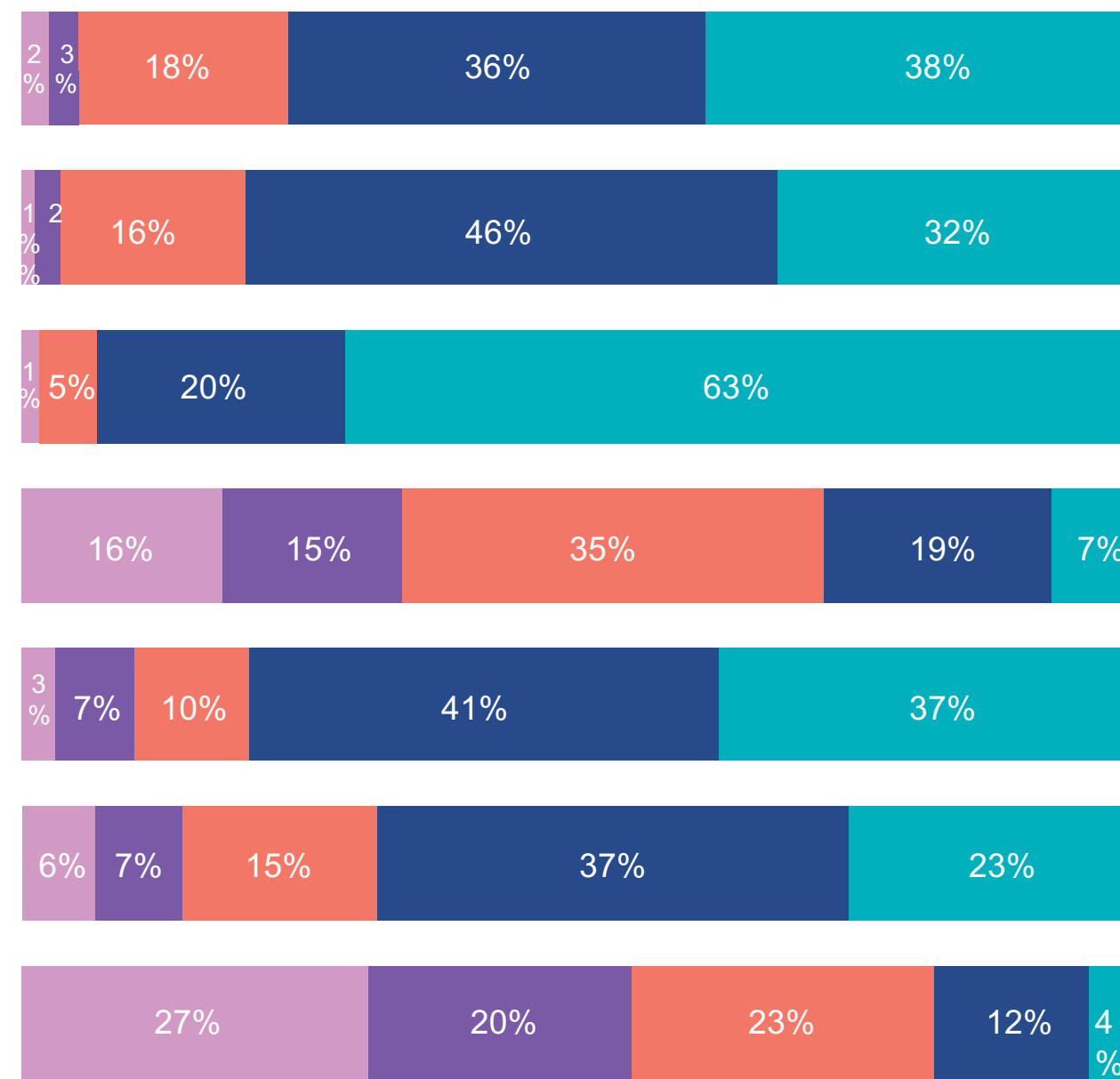
**Q:**  
Next you will read a few statements about yourself, your relationship with others, with yourself and your body.  
To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

- I'm happy to receive compliments from:
- ◆ My parents
  - ◆ Friends/ Classmates
  - ◆ Partner
  - ◆ Strangers on social networks !

I feel good in my skin **75%**

I would like to be thinner/more toned/ to have a better looking body **83%**

I like to use beauty filters on social networks more than to appear without filters **79%**



All respondents N=502

Higher than the other target at 95% confidence level

THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED

Totally disagree  
 Disagree  
 I am indifferent  
 Agree  
 Totally agree

# Indirect self-esteem measurement – by age

**Q:**

Next you will read a few statements about yourself, your relationship with others, with yourself and your body. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

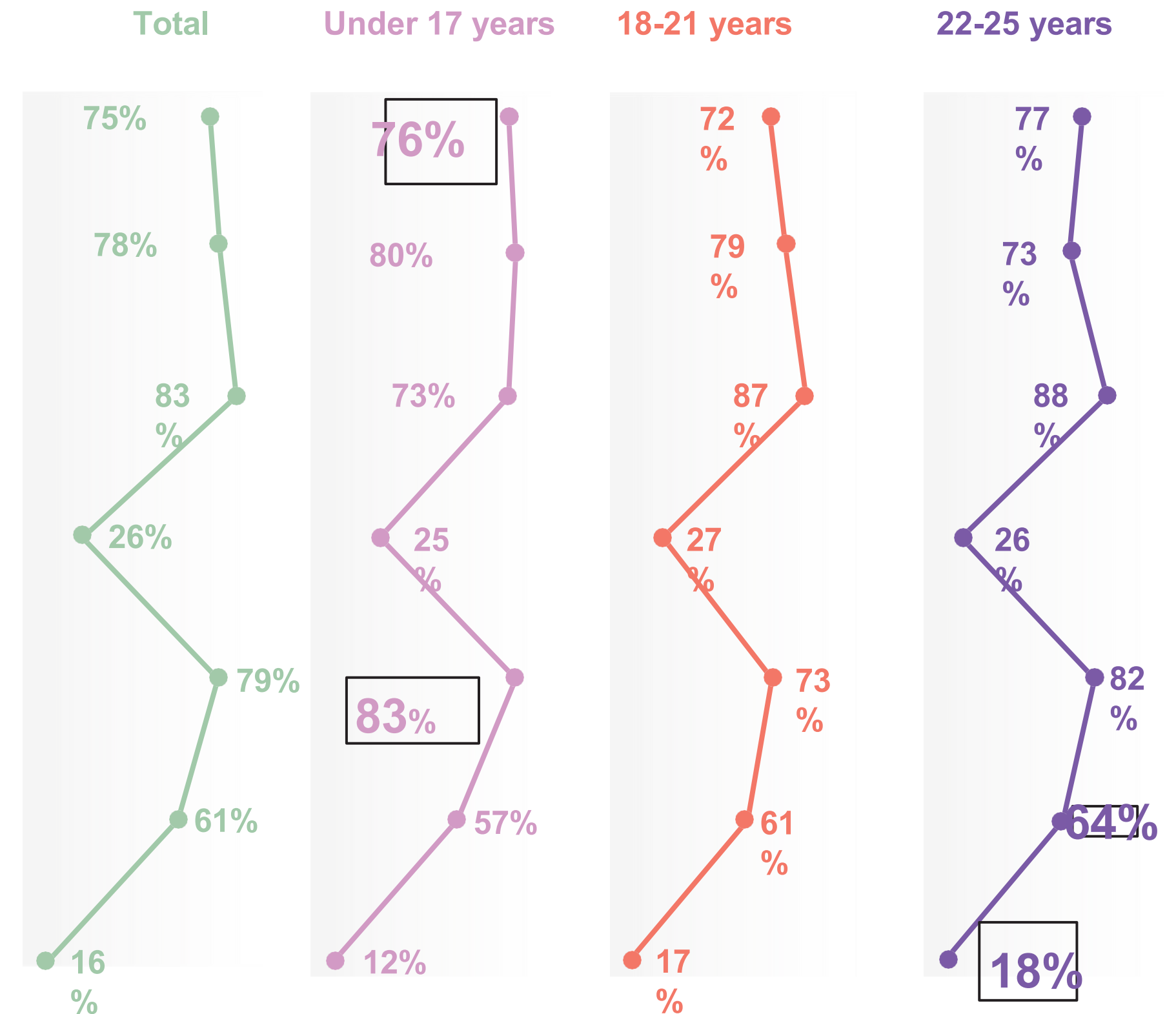
I'm happy to receive compliments from:

- ◆ My parents
- ◆ Friends/classmates
- ◆ Partner
- ◆ Strangers on social networks !

I feel good in my skin

I would like to be thinner/ more toned /to have a better looking body

I like to use beauty filters on social networks more than to appear without filters



All respondents N=502  
Scores displayed quite important + very important

Higher than the total at 95% confidence level

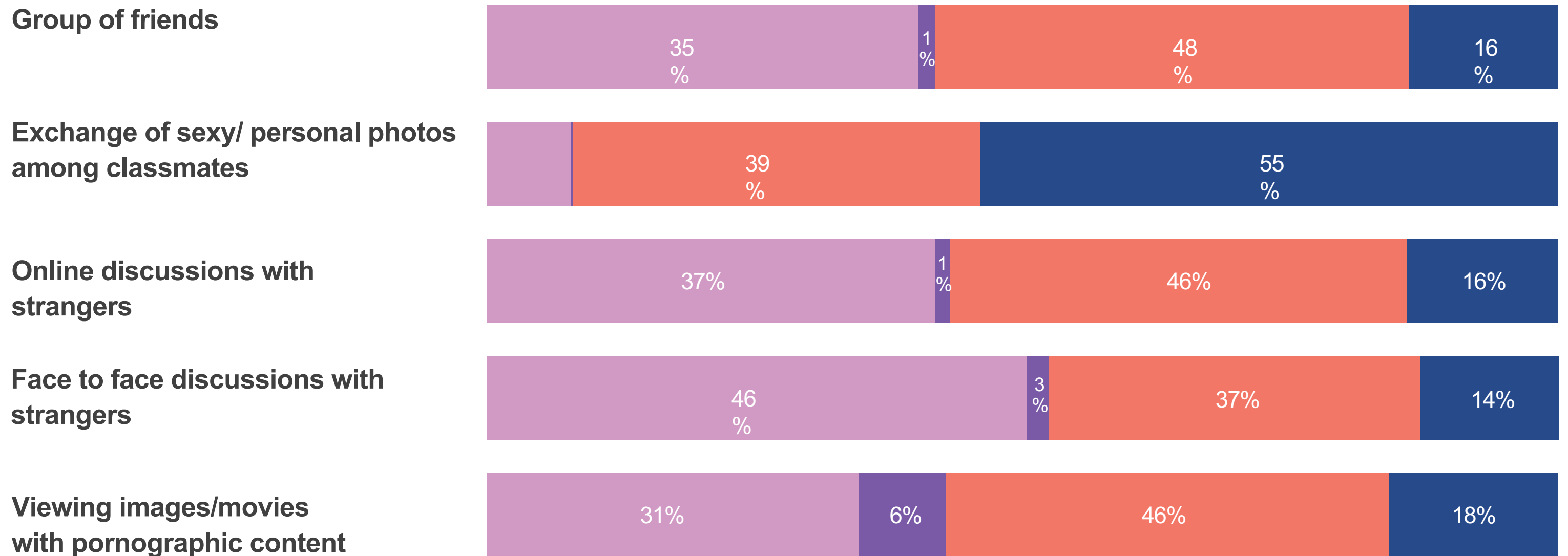
**THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED**



# Potentially risky activities in young people's lives (1/2)

Most young people consider **face-to-face (46%)** or **online (37%) conversations with strangers to be acceptable**. At the opposite end, only 6% consider the exchange of personal sexy photos between classmates acceptable.

**Q:**  
Next, you will read some activities that can take place in the life of young people your age and we will ask you for your opinion about each one.



All respondents N=502

THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED



It's okay, a lot of people do it
  It's okay, but not many people do it
  It doesn't seem ok, but a lot of people do it
  It doesn't seem okay and not many people do it



# Potentially risky activities in young people's lives (2/2)

**Q:**  
Next, you will read some activities that can take place in the life of young people your age and we will ask you for your opinion about each one:

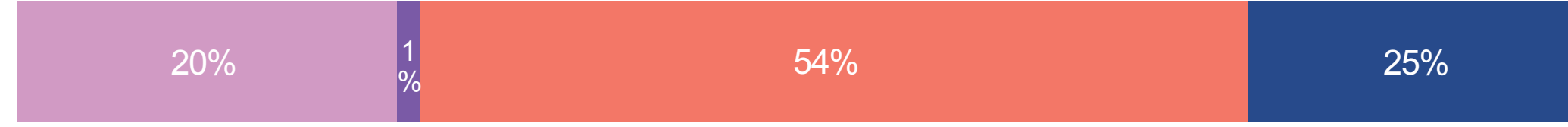
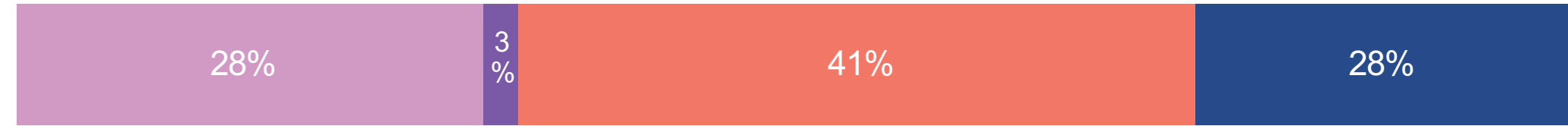
**Getting material benefits or money in a romantic relationship 55%** ▶▶

**Dating mature men**

**Sexual favors in exchange for benefits**

**Activity on online platforms such as Only Fans where sexy content is remunerated 54%** ▶▶

**Sharing pornographic content between friends and acquaintances**



It's okay, a lot of people do it
  It's okay, but not many people do it
  It doesn't seem ok, but a lot of people do it
  It doesn't seem okay and not many people do it

All respondents N=502

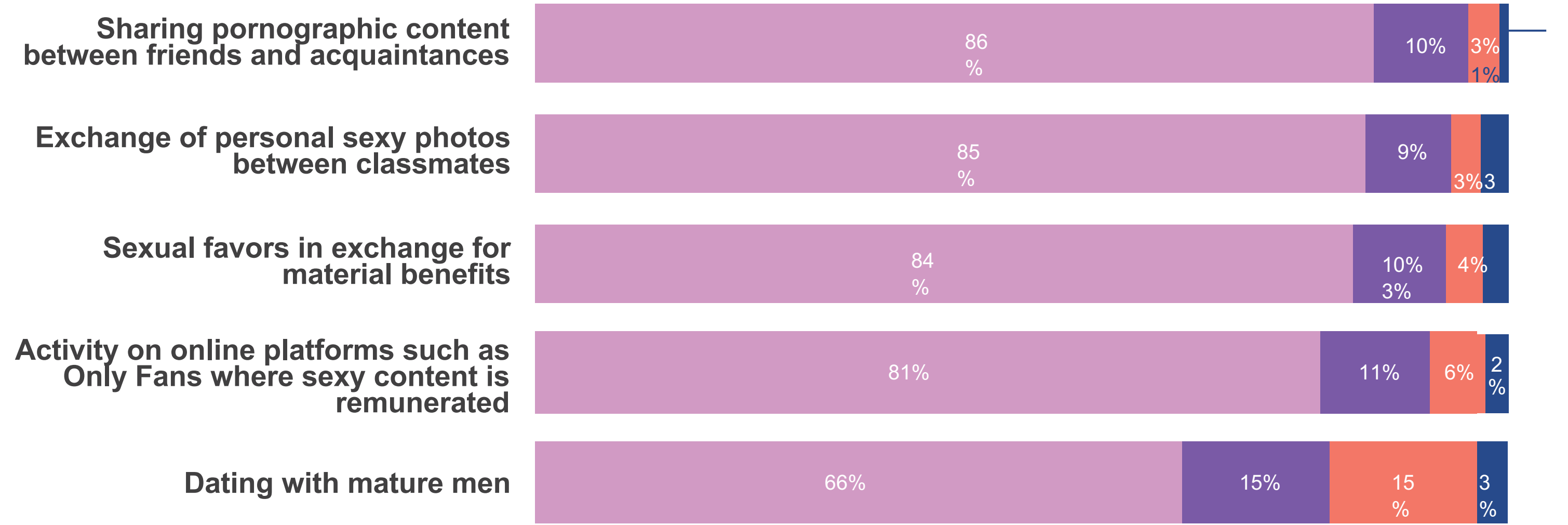
THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED



# Degree of acceptance of different activities (1/2)

Among the top (**over 80%**) situations that young people would not feel comfortable with at all are **the exchange of pornographic content between friends and acquaintances**, followed by the exchange of personal sexy photos between classmates, sexual favors in exchange for material benefits, and activity on platforms such as OnlyFans.

Q:  
And to what extent do you personally feel comfortable with each of the activities we just discussed?



All respondents N=502



# Degree of acceptance of different activities (2/2)

1/3 of them feel comfortable talking face to face with strangers.

**Q:**  
And to what extent do you personally feel comfortable with each of the activities we just discussed?

**Getting material benefits or money in a romantic relationship**



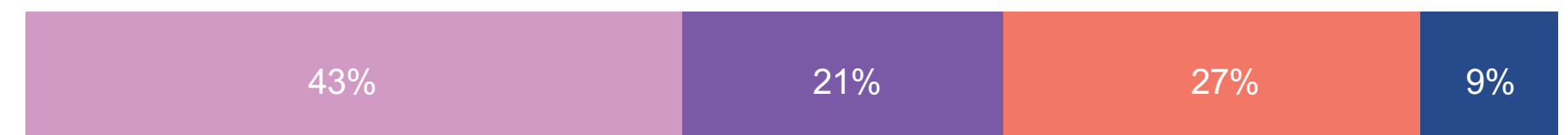
**Viewing images/ movies with pornographic content**



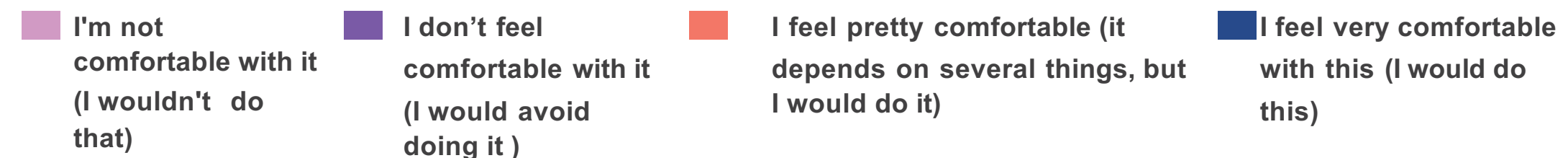
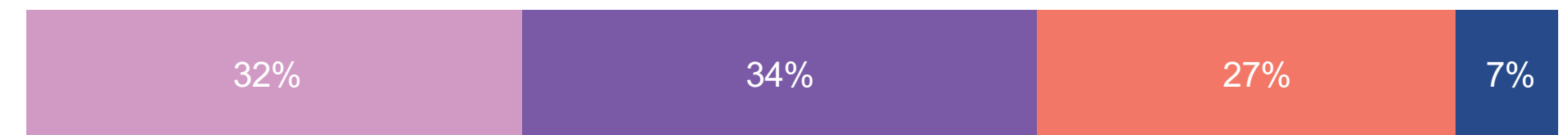
**Online discussions with strangers**



**Exchange of personal sexy photos between partners**



**Face-to-face conversations with strangers**



All respondents N=502

**THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED**



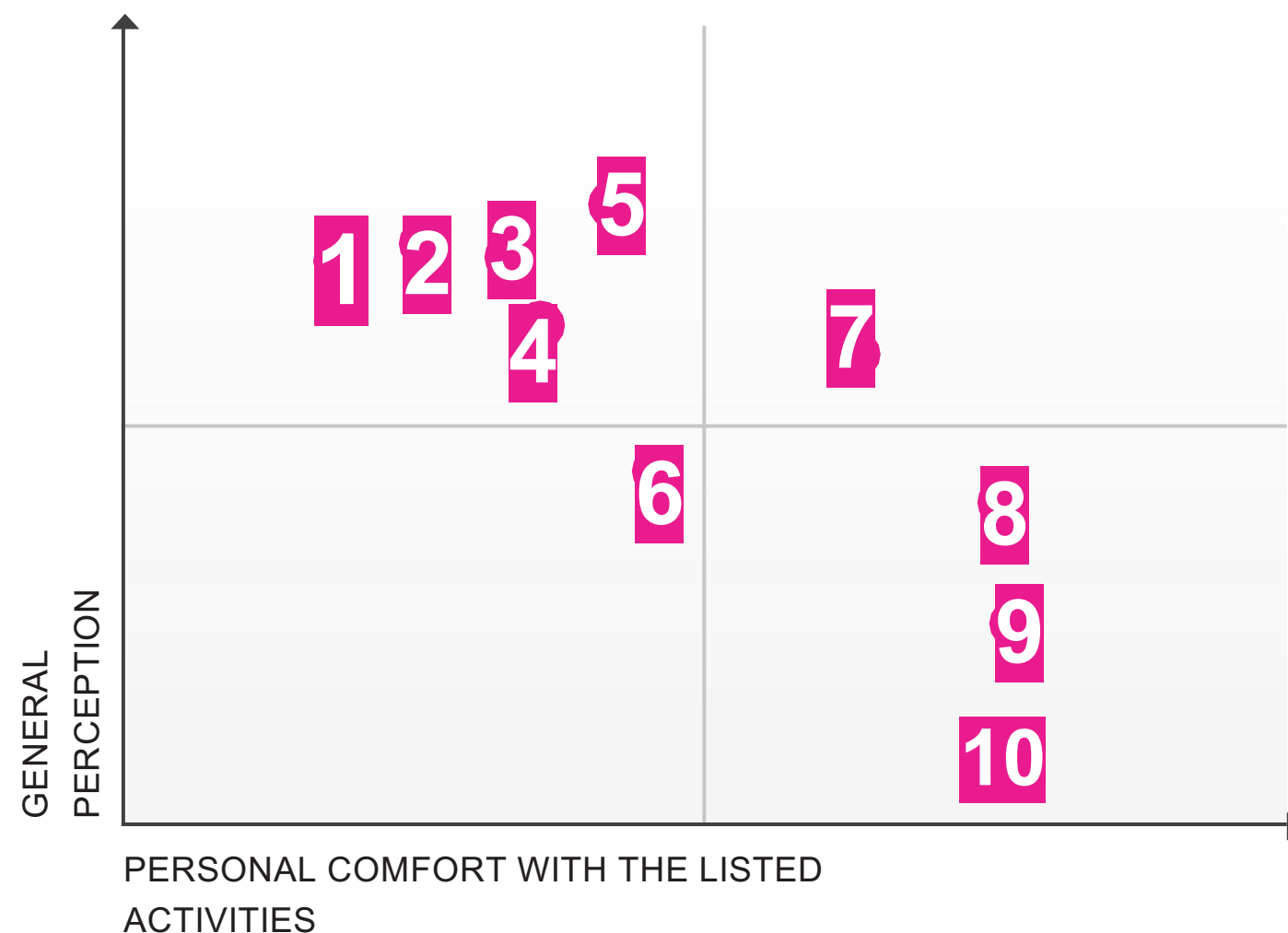
# The degree of acceptance relative to the general perception of different potentially risky behaviors

*The further we advance on the horizontal axis, we can see activities that young people would not do/are not comfortable with, while the vertical axis shows their perception of the frequency with which they happen in everyday life.*

## EXAMPLE OF READING:

- getting material benefits in a romantic relationship is seen as the most common behavior, that many people do.
- Exchange of personal sexy photos and pornographic content among acquaintances are the most unacceptable activities for the respondents (for them to do)

LOTS OF PEOPLE DO IT



- 1 Face-to-face discussions with strangers
- 2 Exchange of personal sexy photos between partners
- 3 Online discussions with strangers
- 4 Viewing images/ videos with pornographic content
- 5 Getting material benefits (various gifts, clothes, cosmetics, phone, tablet) or money in a romantic relationship
- 6 Dating mature men
- 7 Activity on platforms such as Only Fans where sexy content is remunerated
- 8 Sexual favors in exchange for material benefits
- 9 Sharing pornographic content between friends and acquaintances
- 10 Exchange of personal sexy photos between classmates

I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE

# Notoriety of risky approaches/problematic situations

More than half of respondents say they have heard about people asking for sex on the internet (59%), or the **Loverboy method (52%)**

Q:  
Have you heard of the following situations?

People who write about job opportunities abroad offering money for travel, accommodation



The Loverboy method – guys who make you fall in love and then ask you to make money for them, including through sexual services



People who ask for sexy photos online to sell them



People who ask for sexual services on the internet (such as video chat) in exchange for money



All respondents N=502

THIS STUDY WAS CONDUCTED



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# Human trafficking is “more likely to be a risk for vulnerable people”

- ▶▶ Both teenagers and their parents believe that they manage the risks of using the internet alone fairly well, through various strategies of their own, without being aware of the risks they are currently exposed to simply by accepting a friend request from a stranger.

They therefore consider *that human trafficking is more dangerous for vulnerable people, with a poor material situation or a disorganized/dysfunctional family* <sup>1</sup> scenarios in which none of those investigated believe themselves to be.

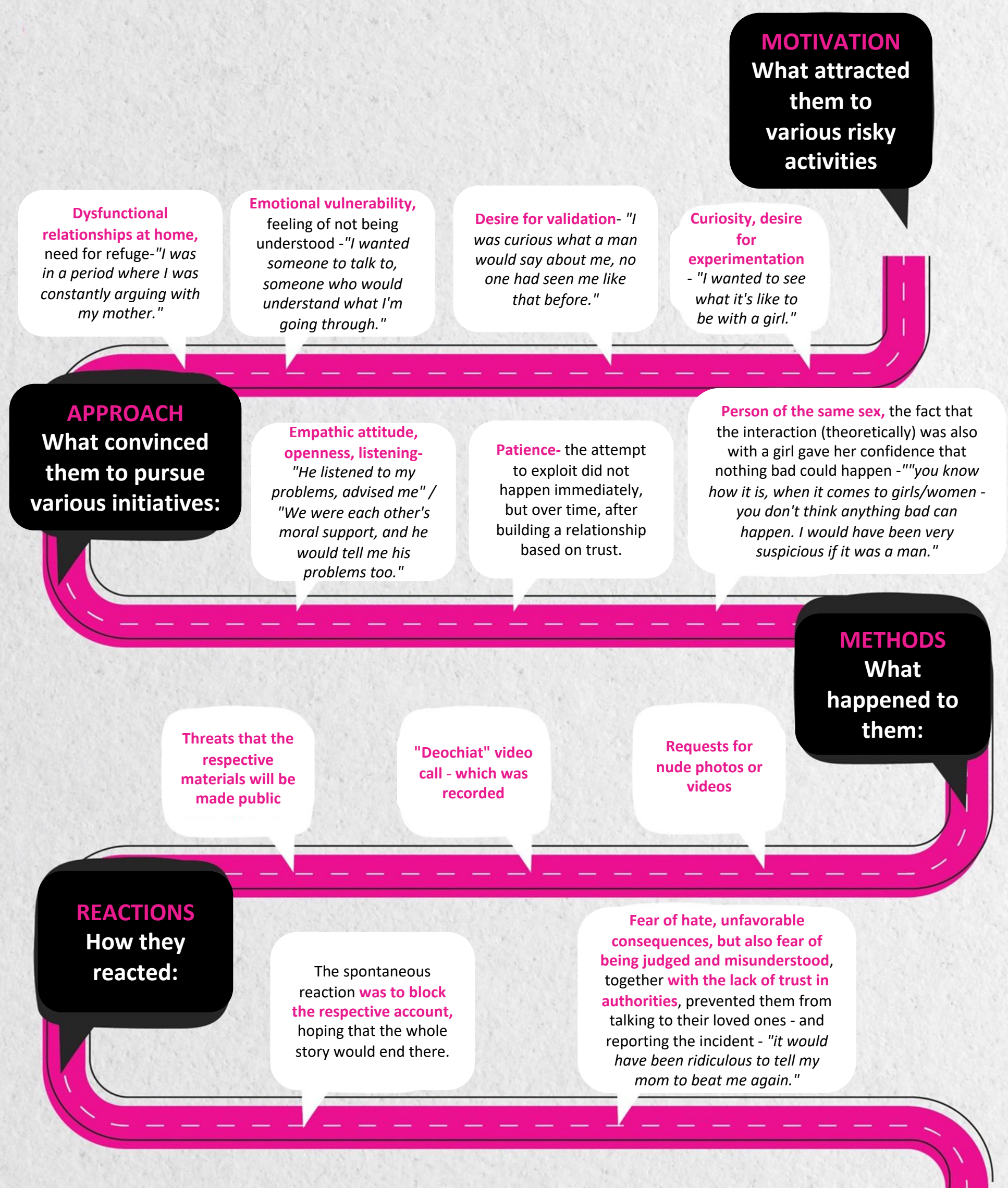
**NEED FOR INFORMATION:** better explanations of the phenomenon in order to increase awareness of the techniques and methods of exploitation, to popularize the means of support and specific cases, not necessarily serious, for raising awareness.

HOW CAN I PREVENT IT

HOW CAN I ACT

SPECIFIC CASES

# LESSONS FROM SURVIVORS



# THANK YOU

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