



Flash Eurobarometer 401

YOUNG PEOPLE AND DRUGS

**Survey requested by the Directorate-General for Justice (DG JUST)
and co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit).
Flash Eurobarometer 401 / June 2014 – TNS Political & Social**

Methodology

FLASH EUROBAROMETER 401

- Survey conducted by telephone (fixed-line and mobile phone)
- Fieldwork: 3rd to 23rd of June 2014
- Population: representative sample of population between 15 and 24 years old
- Coverage: 28 Member States of the EU
- Number of interviews: 13,128 (n=500 respondents in all the Member States, with the exception of Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta, where n=200)
- This survey was carried out for the European Commission, requested by the Directorate-General for Justice (DG JUST) and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication - "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit

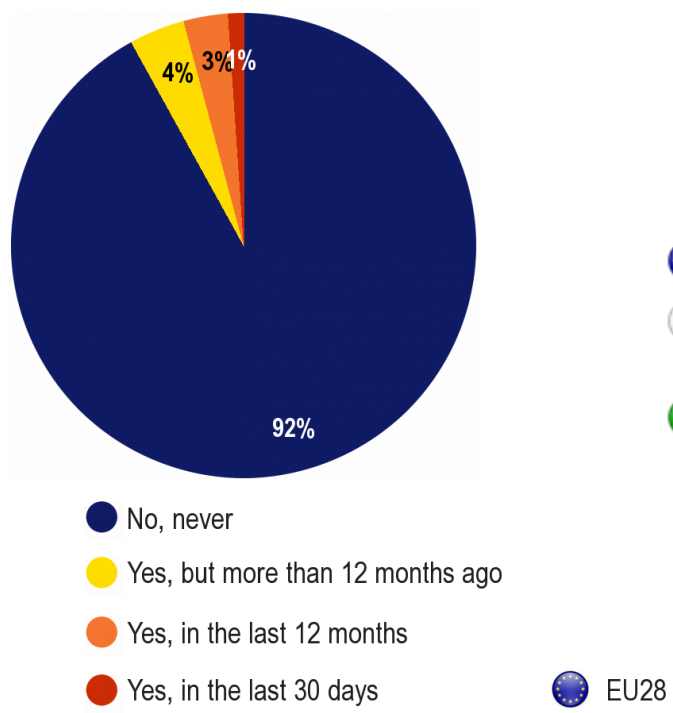
Key findings

- Most respondents (92%) have never used any new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs. 17% of respondents have used cannabis in the last 12 months (+3 points since the previous survey in 2011).
- Around a quarter of respondents believe it would be easy to obtain cocaine, new substances and ecstasy, and over half believe it would be easy to obtain cannabis.
- More than half of respondents think that using cocaine, ecstasy and new substances once or twice may pose a high risk to a person's health.
- Heroin, cocaine and ecstasy should be banned in the opinion of most respondents, while, for cannabis, a little more than half of them say so. 35% of respondents say that new substances should be banned under any circumstances, while 47% say this only if they pose a risk to health.
- The Internet is by far the most-used source of information about illicit drugs and drug use (59%). The role of media campaigns (-12 points) and school prevention programmes (-9 points) in informing young people about illicit drugs has sharply decreased since 2011.

I. ACCESS TO AND USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES THAT IMITATE THE EFFECTS OF ILLICIT DRUGS

Most respondents (92%) have never used any new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs

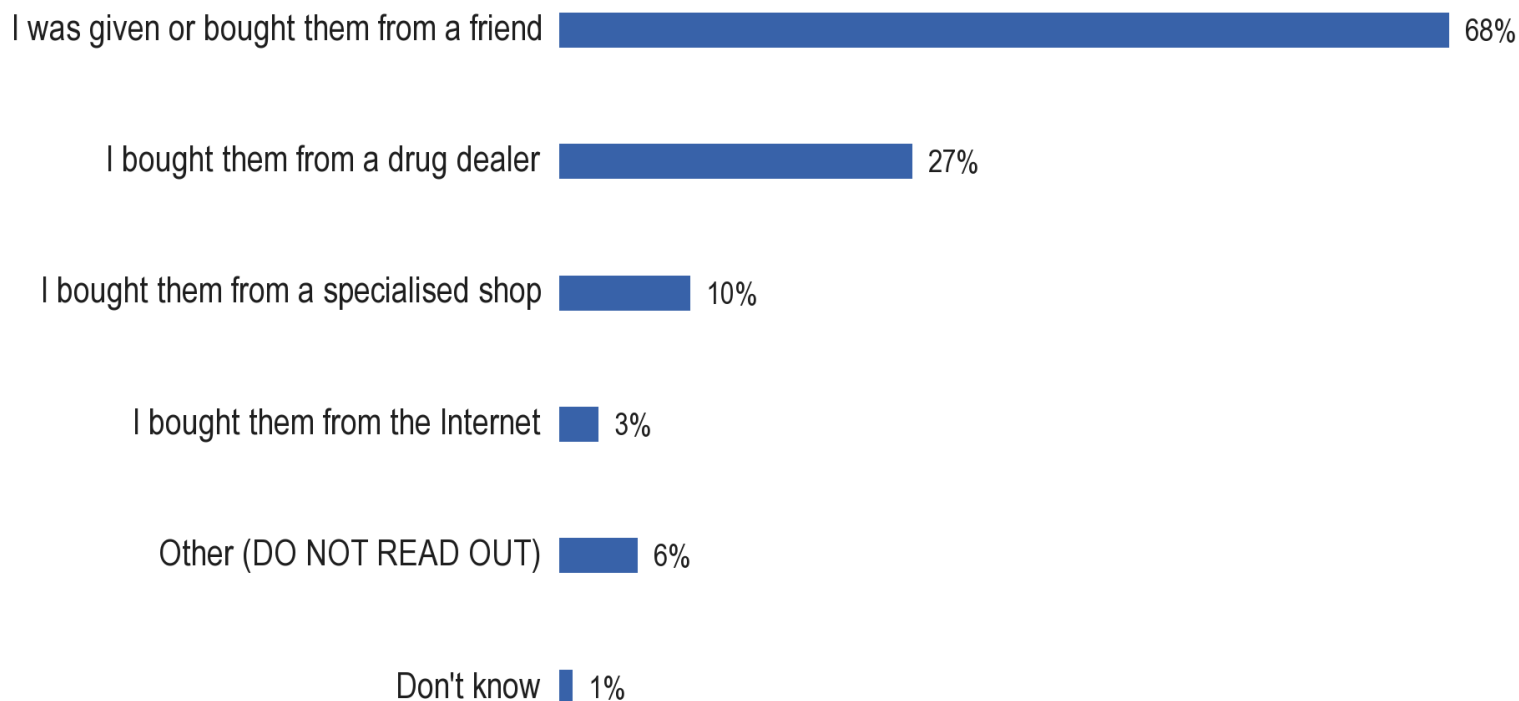
Q3. New substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, etc. may now sometimes be available. They are sometimes called [INSERT 'local name' such as, 'legal highs', 'research chemicals'] and can come in different form, for example herbal mixtures, powders, crystals or tablets. Have you ever used such substances?



	No, never	Yes, in the last 30 days	Yes, in the last 12 months	Yes, but more than 12 months ago	Refusal (DO NOT READ OUT)	Don't know
EU28	92%	1%	3%	4%	0%	0%
CY	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
⋮						
IE	78%	4%	5%	13%	0%	0%

Among those who have used such substances, more than two out of three got them from a friend...

Q4. Thinking about your use of new substances in the last 12 months, how did you get them?



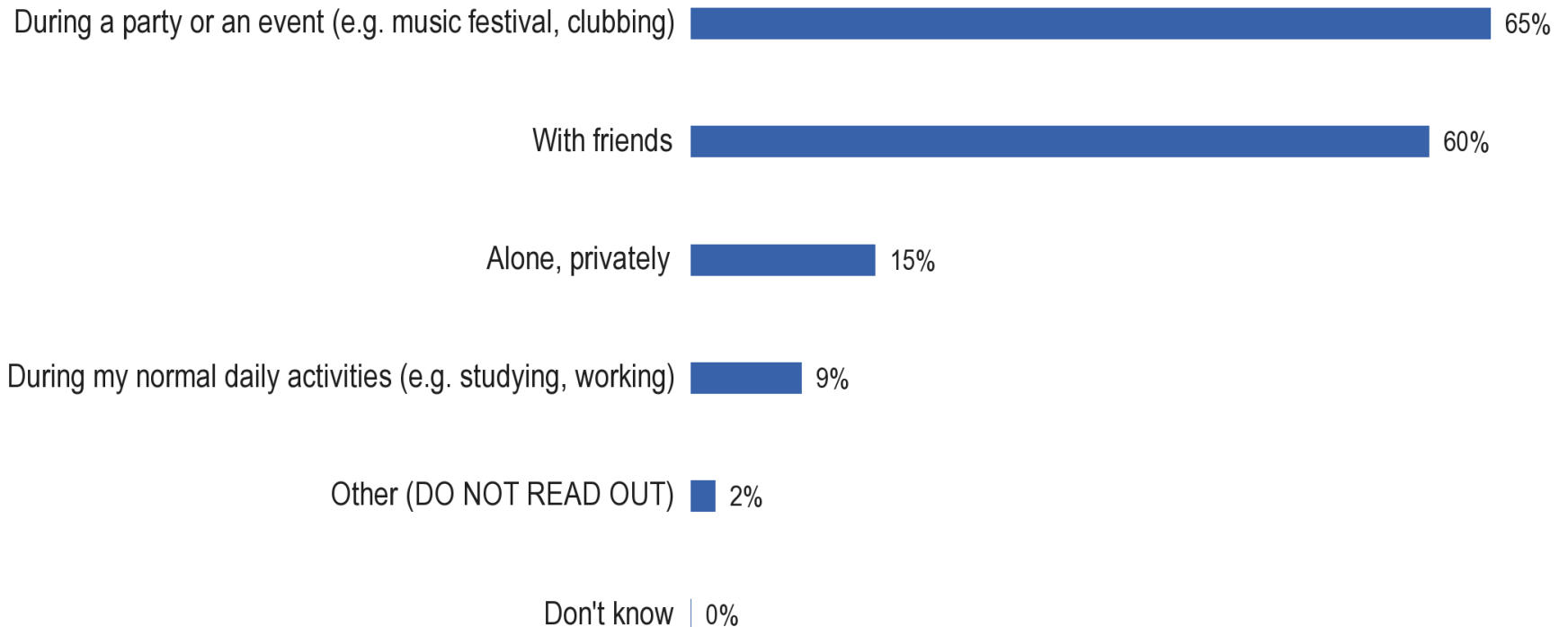
EU28

*Base: those who have used such substances in the last 12 months
(=4%)*

Multiple answers possible

...and six out of ten or more used them during a party (65%) or with friends (60%)

Q5. Thinking about your use of new substances in the last 12 months, under what circumstances did you use them?



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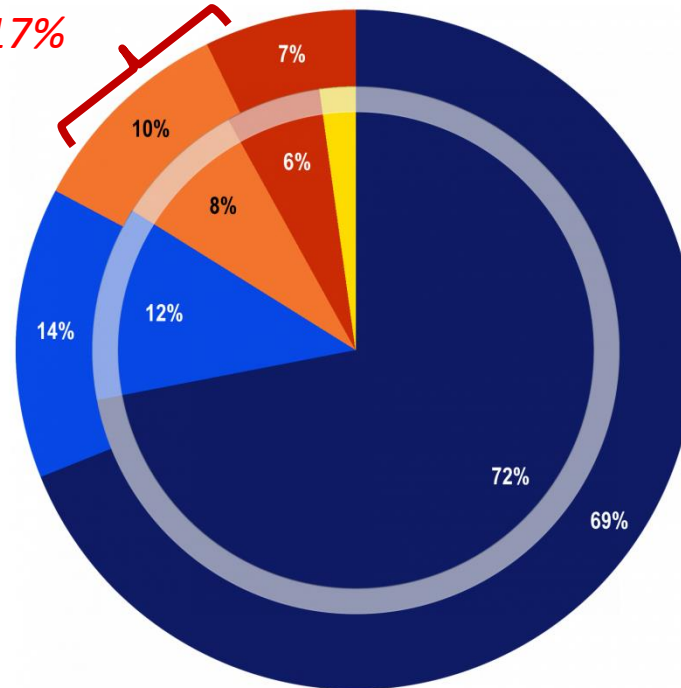
*Base: those who have used such substances in the last 12 months
(=4%)*

Multiple answers possible

17% (+3 points since 2011) of respondents have used cannabis in the last 12 months

Q12. Have you used cannabis yourself?

Yes, in the past year = 17%



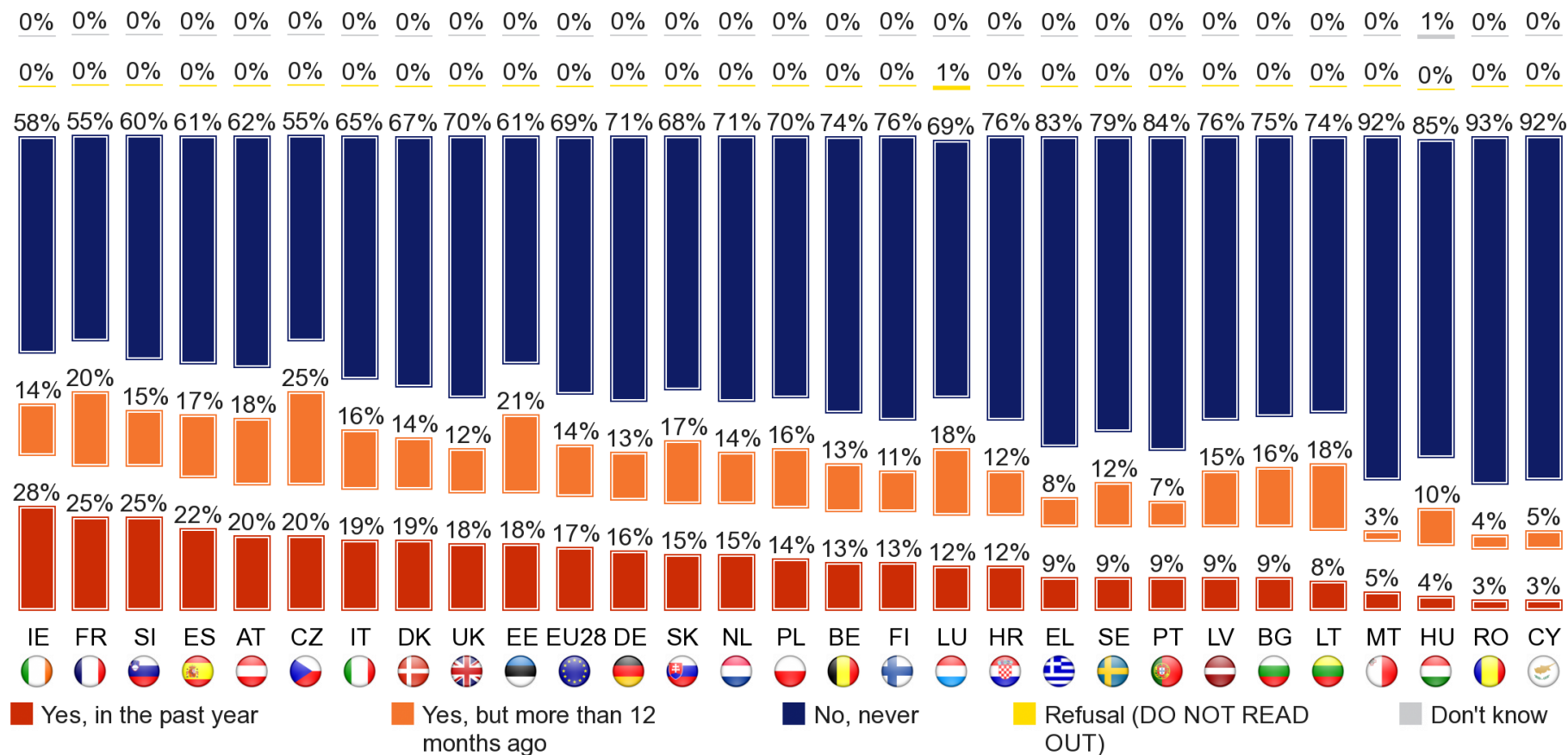
- No, never
- Yes, but more than 12 months ago
- Yes, in the last 12 months
- Yes, in the last 30 days
- Refusal (DO NOT READ OUT)
- Don't know

Inner pie : FL330 May 2011

Outer pie : FL401 June 2014

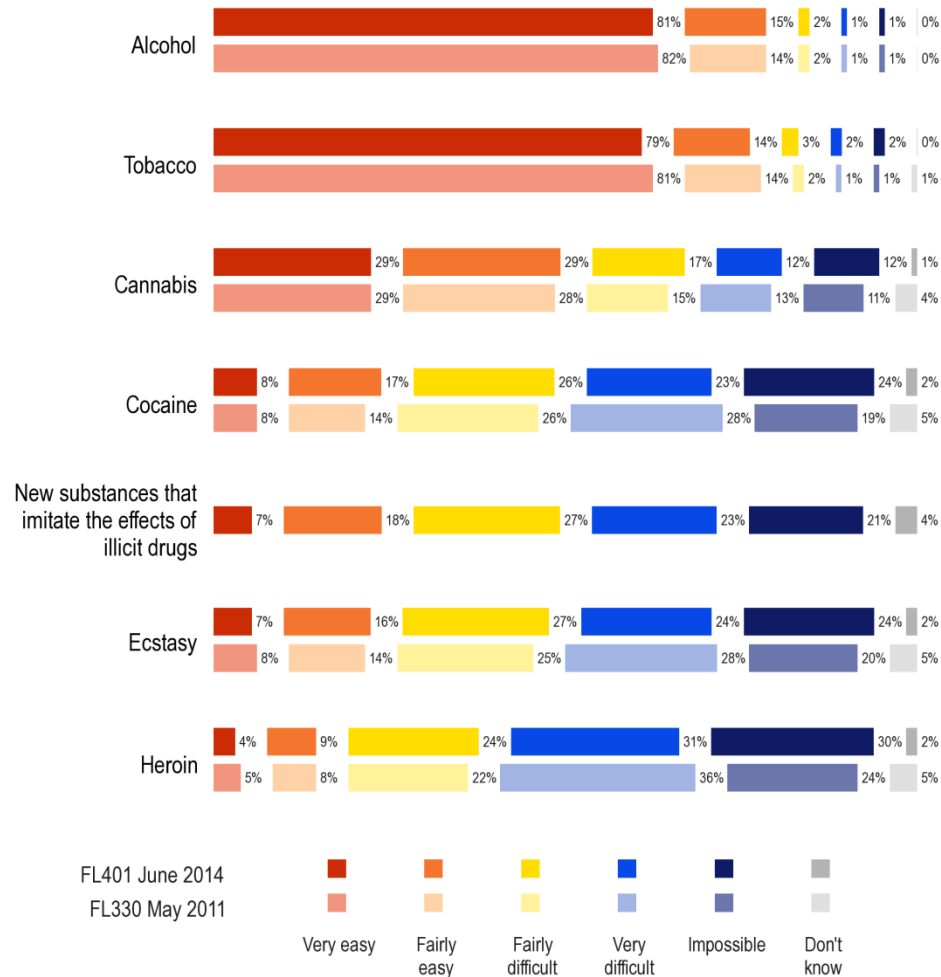
At least a quarter of respondents have used cannabis in the past year in Ireland, France and Slovenia

Q12. Have you used cannabis yourself?



A quarter of respondents believe cocaine, new substances and ecstasy would be easy to obtain, while more than half believe it would be easy to obtain cannabis

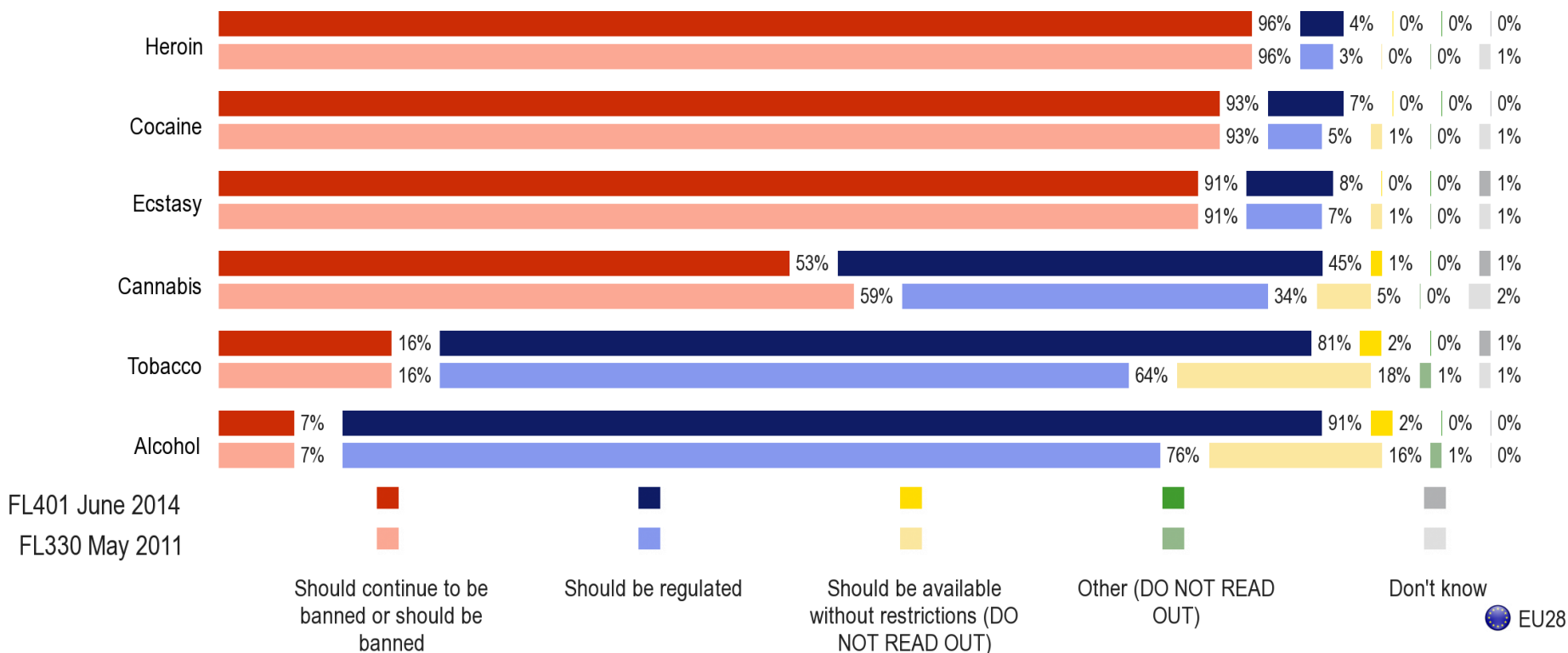
Q11. How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours?



II. TO BAN OR REGULATE ILLICIT DRUGS AND NEW SUBSTANCES THAT IMITATE THE EFFECTS OF ILLICIT DRUGS

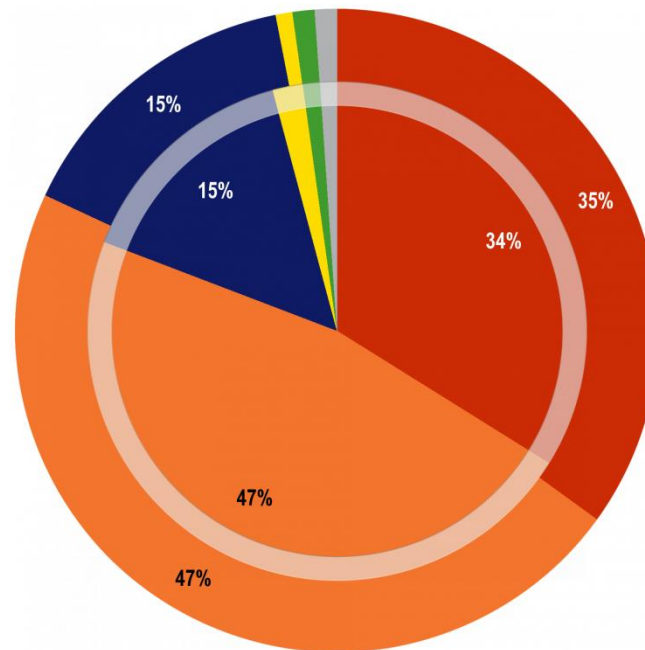
Heroin, cocaine and ecstasy should be banned in the opinion of almost all respondents, but only around half of respondents say that cannabis should be banned

Q9. The sale of drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and heroin is officially banned in all EU Member States. The sale of legal substances such as alcohol and tobacco is not prohibited but is regulated in all EU countries, which means for example that there is a minimum age limit for buying, limits in the concentration of active components or licensed sales through specialised shops and pharmacies. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should be banned, or should they be regulated?



35% of respondents think that new substances should be banned under any circumstances, while 47% think this should be done only if they pose a risk to health

Q10. What would be an appropriate way to handle new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs and that are sold as legal substances?



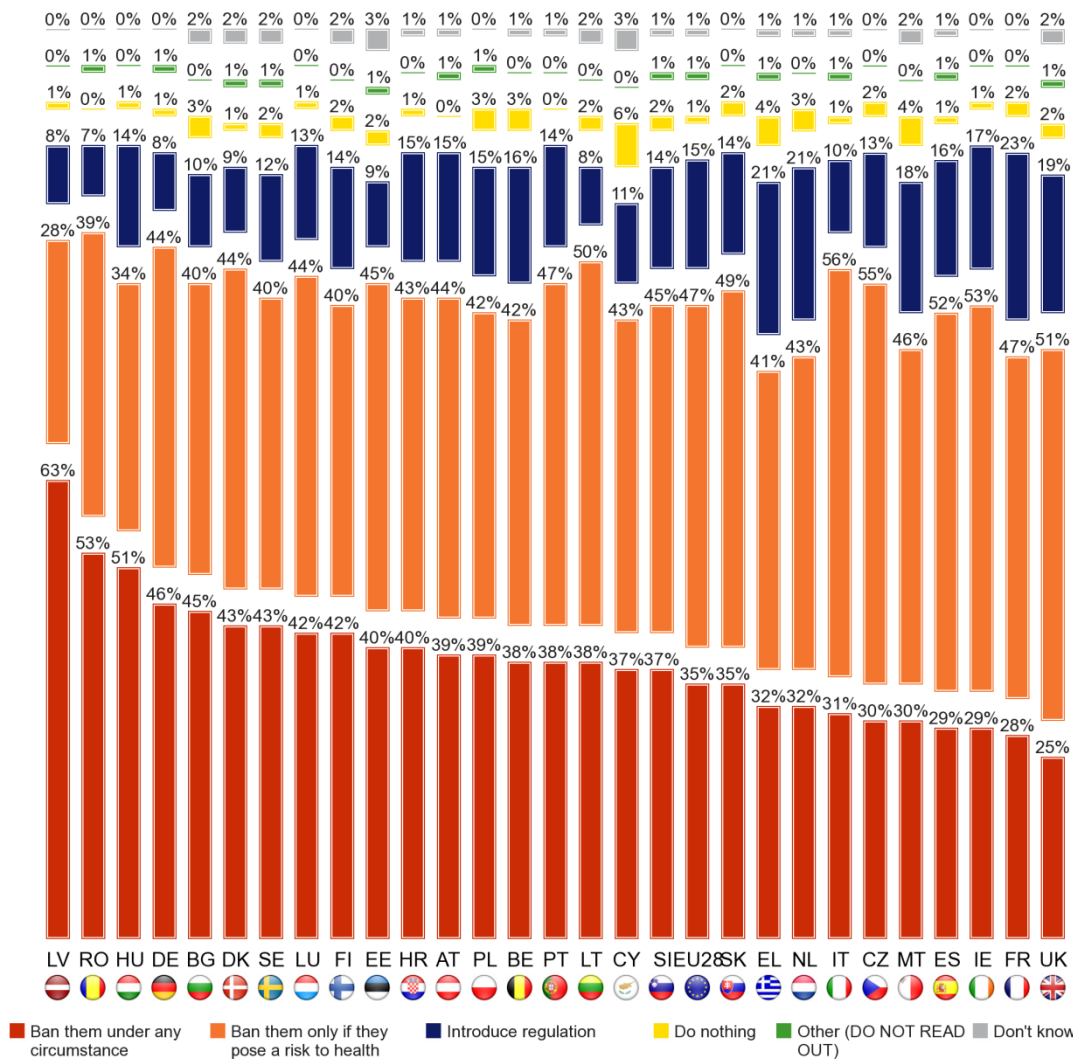
- Ban them under any circumstance
- Ban them only if they pose a risk to health
- Introduce regulation
- Do nothing
- Other (DO NOT READ OUT)
- Don't know

Inner pie : FL330 May 2011
Outer pie : FL401 June 2014

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In Latvia, Romania and Hungary, half of respondents would prefer to ban new substances under any circumstance

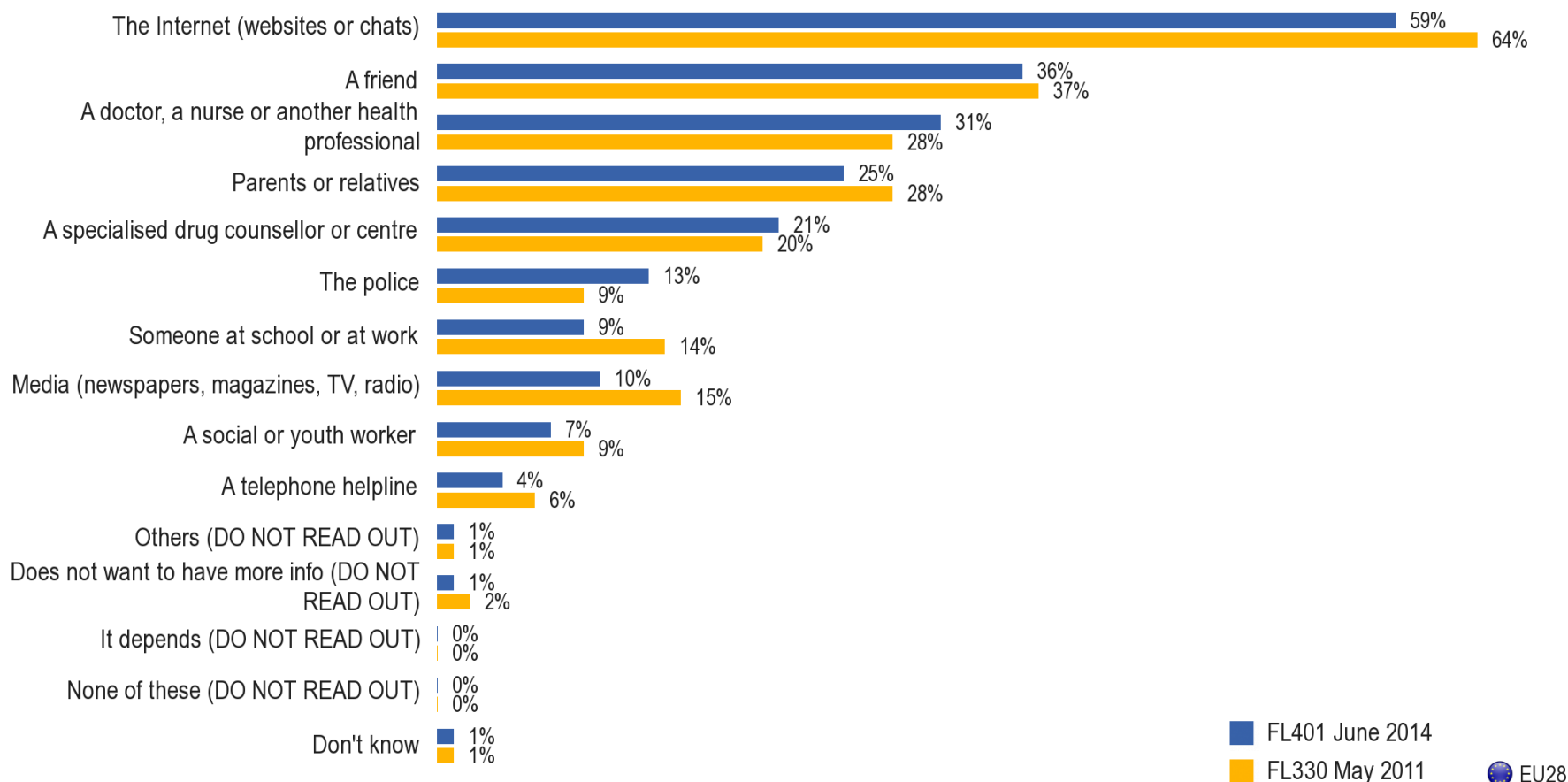
Q10. What would be an appropriate way to handle new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs and that are sold as legal substances?



III. BECOMING BETTER INFORMED ABOUT ILLICIT DRUGS AND DRUG USE

The Internet is by far the most-used source of information about illicit drugs and drug use (59%)

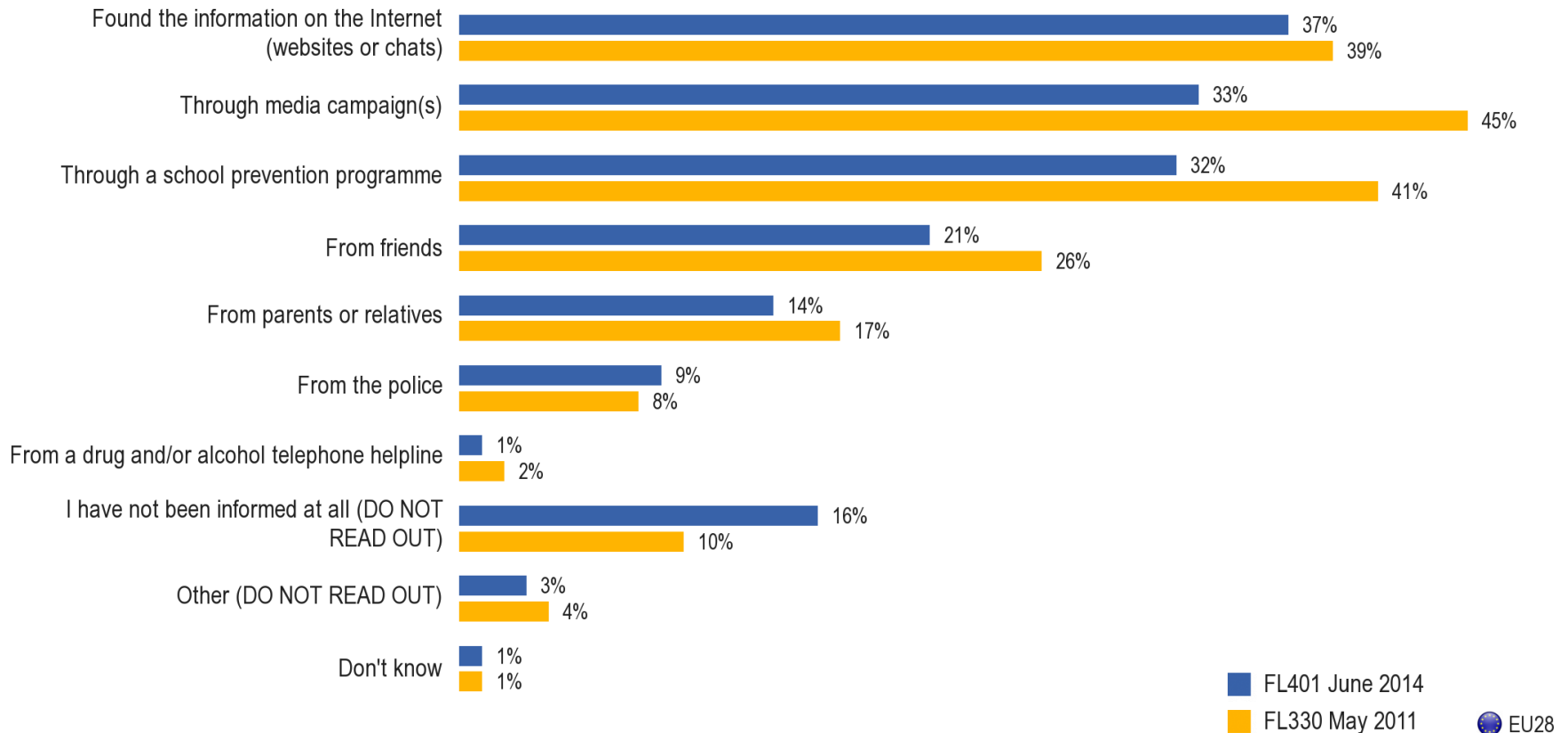
Q1. If you wanted information about illicit drugs and drug use in general, who would you turn to? Please choose up to three.



(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

The role of media campaigns (-12 points) and school prevention programmes (-9 points) in informing young people about illicit drugs has sharply decreased since 2011

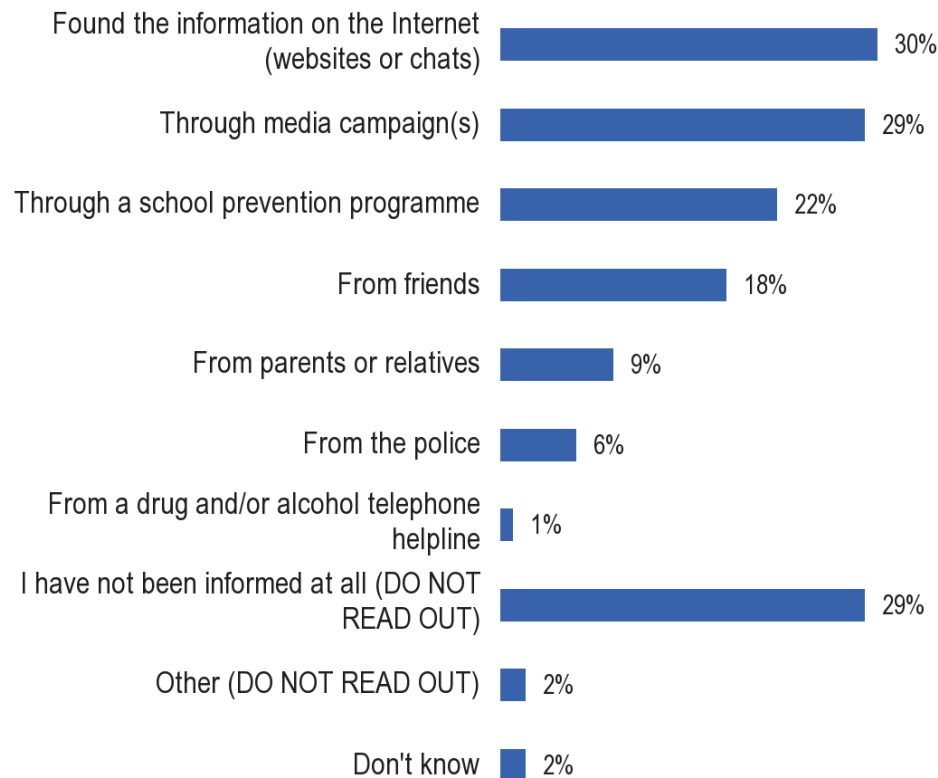
Q2. Have you received information in any of these ways over the past year about the effects and risks of the use of illicit drugs? Please choose up to three.



(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

The Internet and media campaigns are the main providers of information about new substances

Q6. Have you received information in any of these ways over the past year about the effects and risks of the use of new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs? Please choose up to three.



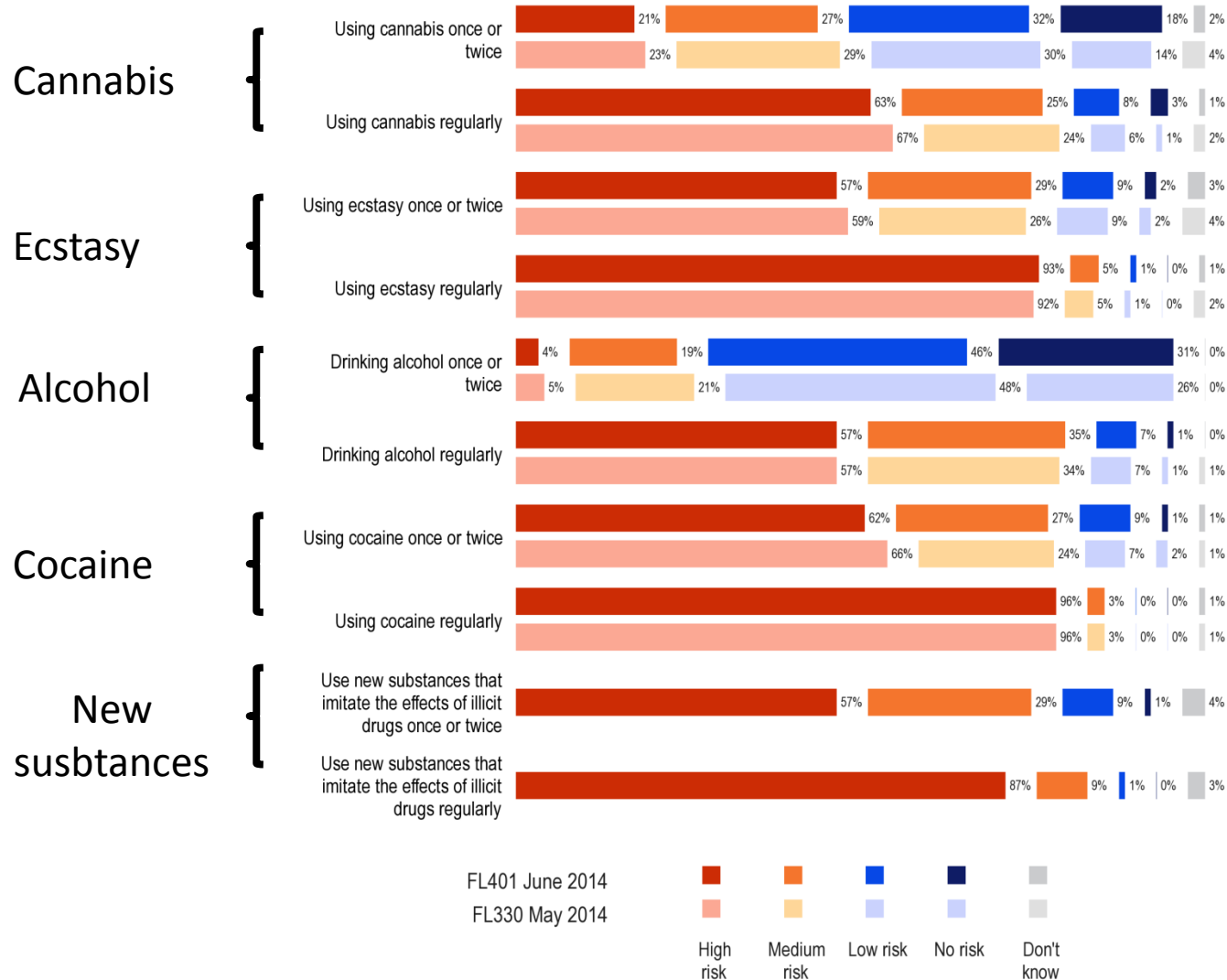
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(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

IV. PERCEIVED HEALTH RISKS OF USING DRUGS

Over half believe that using ecstasy, cocaine and new substances once or twice may pose a high risk to a person's health

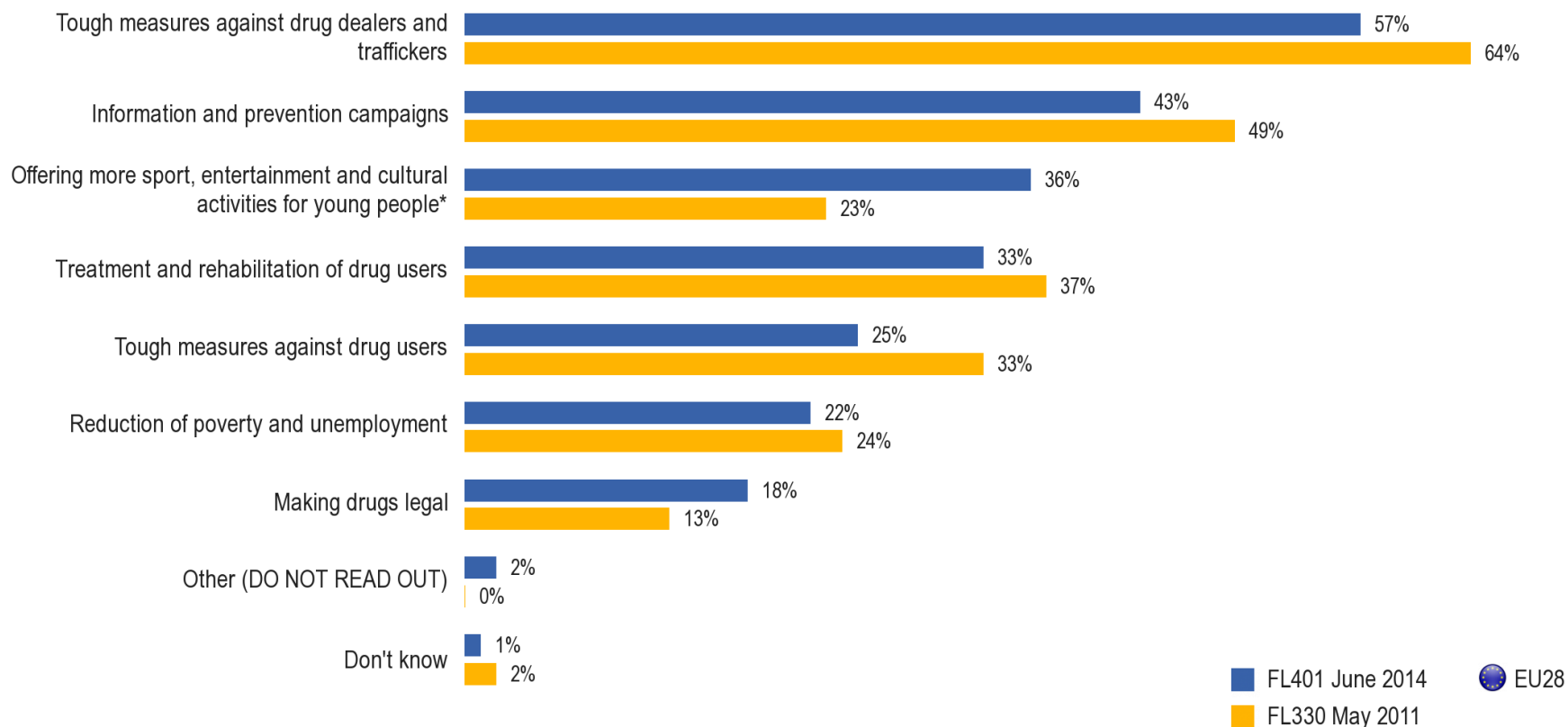
Q7. To what extent do you think the following may pose a risk to a person's health?



V. HOW SHOULD SOCIETY'S DRUG PROBLEMS BE TACKLED

Measures against drug dealers (57%), information campaigns (43%) and more sport, entertainment and cultural activities for young people (36%) are seen as the most effective ways to reduce drugs problems

Q8. What do you think would be the three most effective ways for public authorities to reduce drugs problems?



(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

* This item was previously « More leisure opportunities »