



PERITIA

Policy, Expertise and Trust

Public perceptions on institutions tackling climate change



PERITIA

Policy, Expertise and Trust



This survey is part of the EU-funded PERITIA project which reviews the role of science in policy decision-making and the conditions under which people should trust and rely on expert opinion that shapes public policy.

The survey was conducted in the UK, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Italy and Germany, drawing on the proprietary online panel of Savanta in the UK and similar panels in their network in the other countries. See the technical note at the end of this report for more details.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 870883.



The motivations of government and scientists on climate change

People in the UK are least likely to think that the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations, and the lives of people like them, when it comes to tackling climate change.

45% of people in the UK think that, when it comes to tackling climate change, the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations – below the average of 53%.

The groups with the most positive view of the UK government in this regard are younger people, Conservative voters, and ethnic minorities.



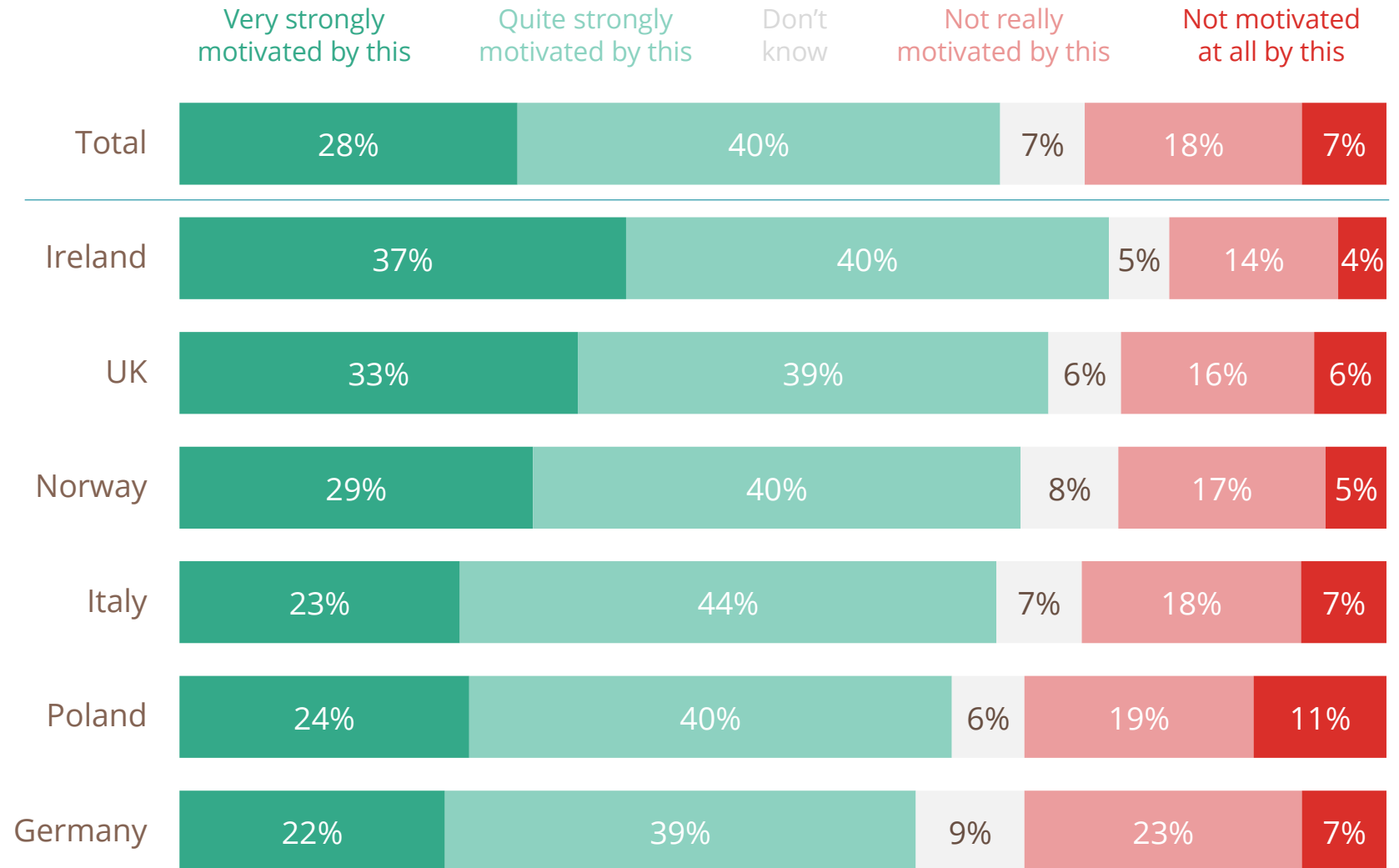
Most people in the UK and Ireland think that the government is motivated by building or protecting its own reputation when it comes to climate change.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Building or protecting their own reputation**

72% of people in the UK think that, when it comes to climate change, the government is motivated by building or protecting its own reputation.

The only country where this view is more widely held is in Ireland where 77% of people think this.

The least likely to think that the government is motivated by building or protecting its own reputation is in Germany where 61% of people think this.

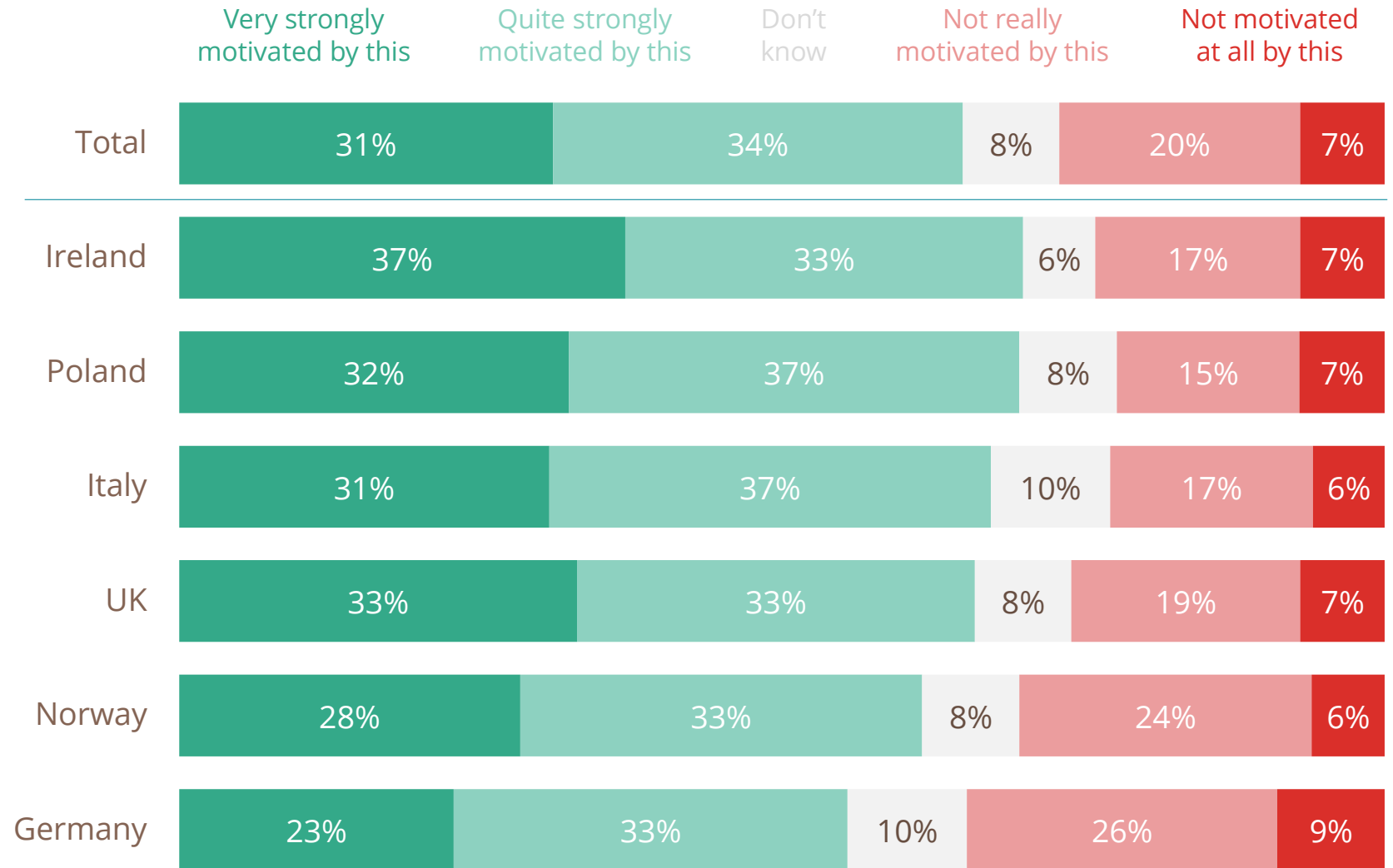


Two thirds of people on average think that the government is motivated by making lots of money when it comes to climate change.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Making a lot of money**

On average, 65% of people think that their government is motivated by making lots of money when it comes to climate change. The countries where this view is most prevalent are Ireland and Poland, where, respectively, 70% and 69% of people think this.

In the UK, 66% of people think that the government are motivated in this way. The country with the lowest proportion of people who think the government is motivated by making lots of money is Germany where 56% of people think this.



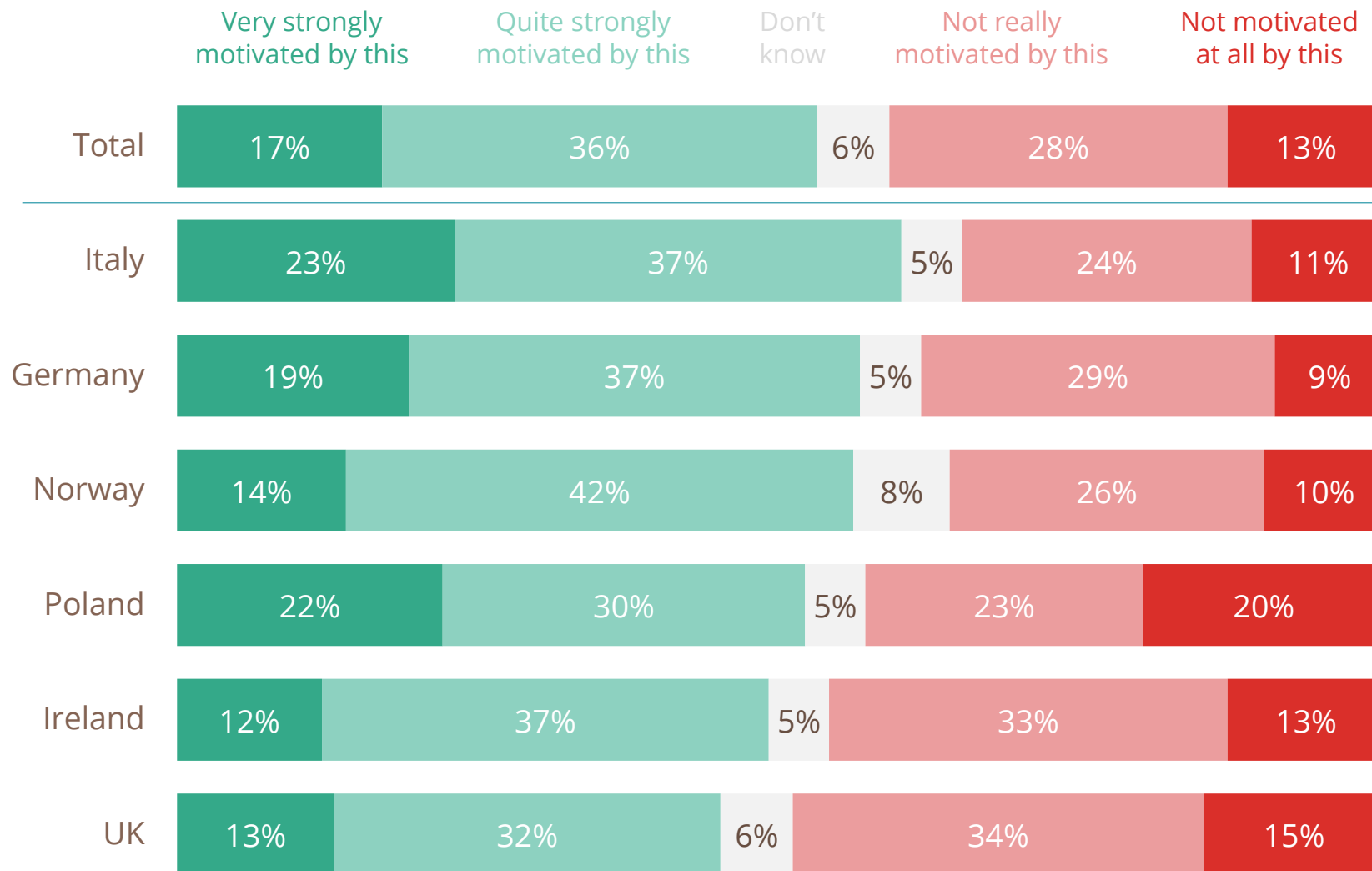
Less than half of people in the UK think that, when it comes to climate change, the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Improving the lives of future generations**

45% of people in the UK think that, when it comes to climate change, the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations.

This is the lowest figure out of all of the countries – below the average of 53%.

The country where people are most likely to think that the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations is Italy, where 60% think this. Similar figures are true of Germany and Norway with 56%, and Poland with 52%.



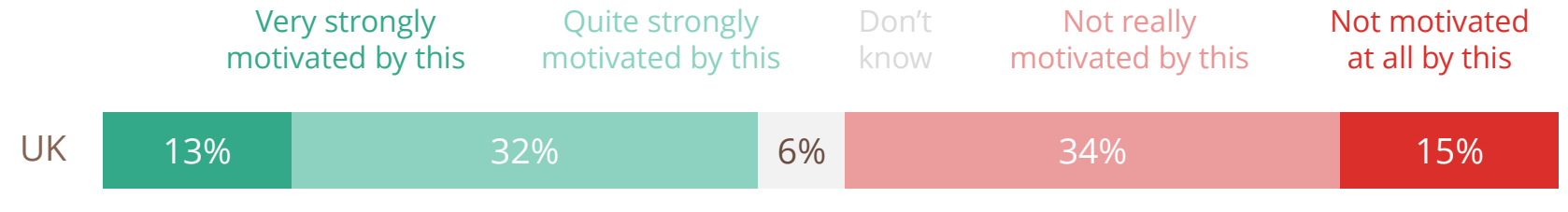
In the UK, younger people, ethnic minorities and Conservative voters are more likely to think the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Improving the lives of future generations**

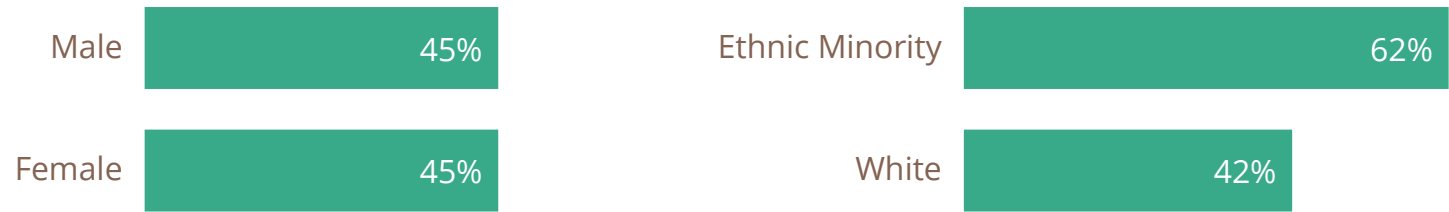
52% people in the UK aged 18-34 think that, when it comes to climate change, the government is motivated by improving the lives of future generations. This is compared with 43% of people aged 55+.

62% of people who are ethnic minorities agree with this – higher than the 42% of people who are white.

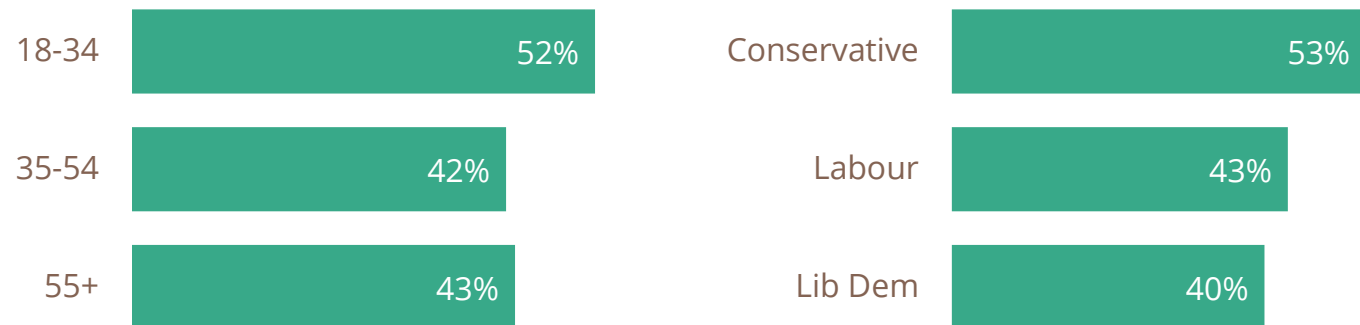
53% of Conservative voters think that the government is motivated in this way compared with 43% of Labour and 40% of Liberal Democrat voters.



% of those who think government is motivated by this



2019 General Election Vote

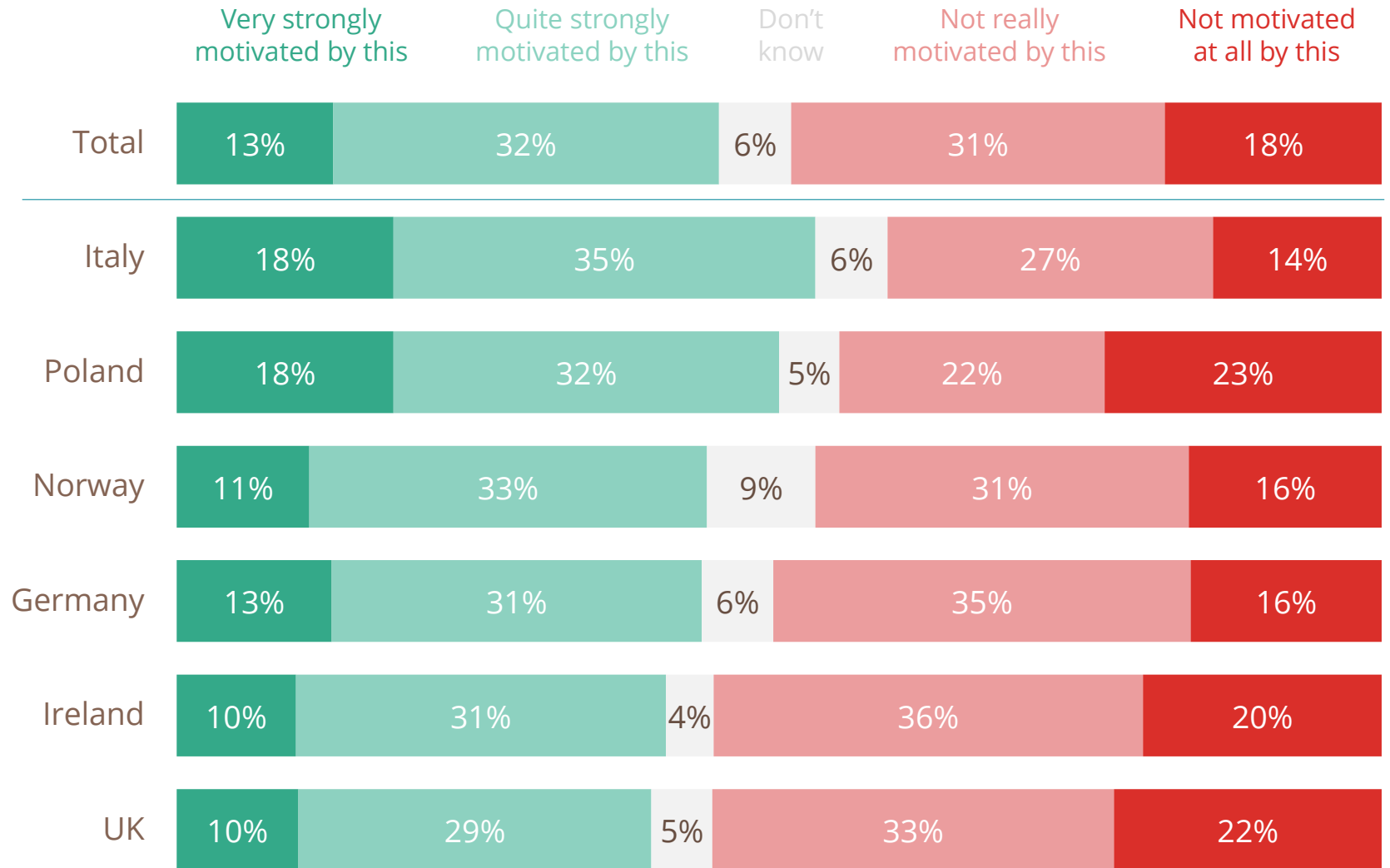


People in the UK are the least likely to think that, when it comes to climate change, the government is motivated by improving the lives of people like them.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Improving the lives of people like me**

Only 39% of people in the UK think that the government is motivated by improving the lives of people like them with respect to climate change. Just 10% of people in the UK think the government is very strongly motivated by this. This is slightly behind Ireland, where 40% of people think the government is motivated in this way.

This figure is much higher in other countries. In Italy, 53% of people, and in Poland 50% of people, think that their governments are motivated by improving the lives of people like them.



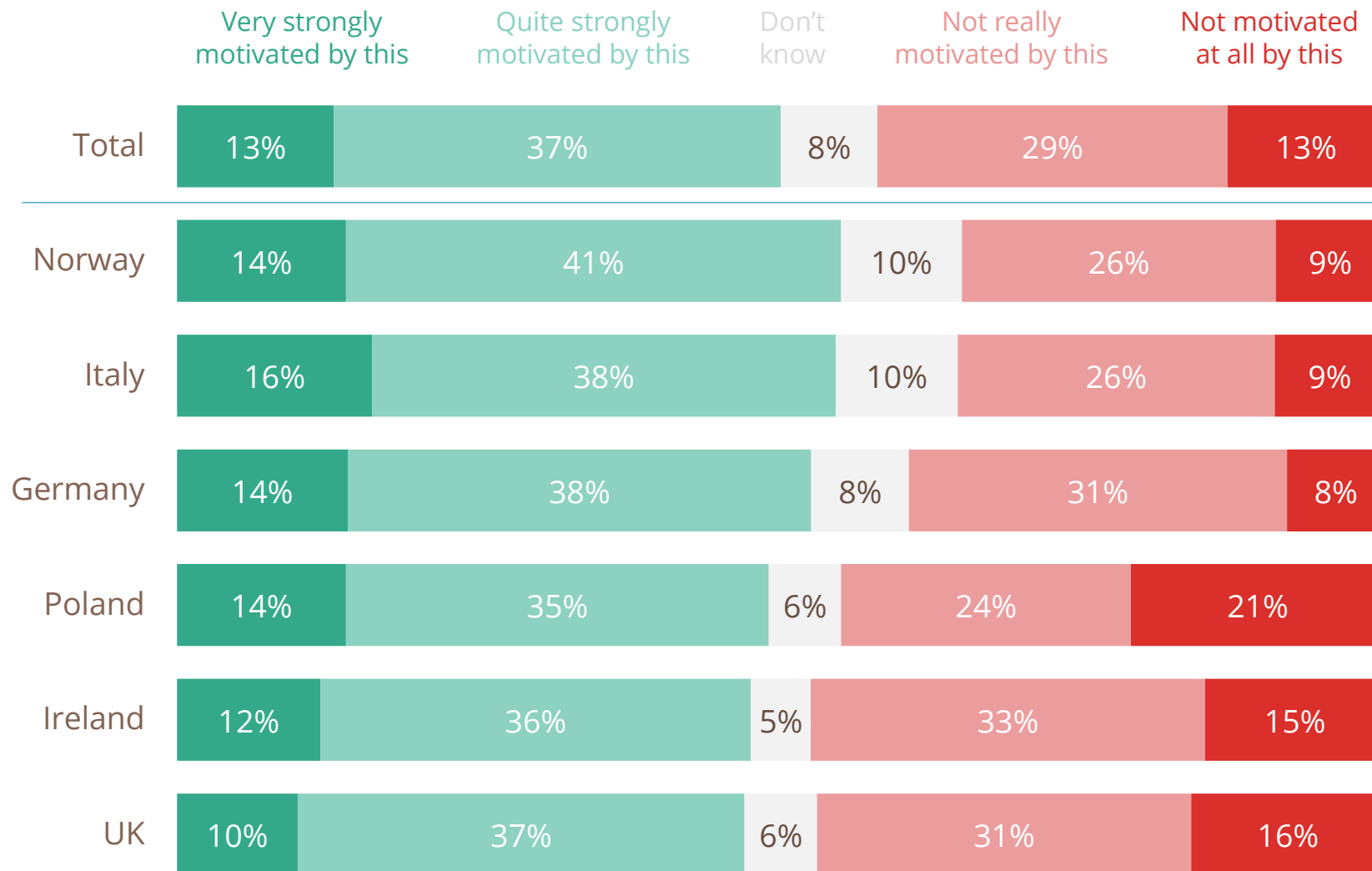
Less than half of people in the UK think that, when it comes to climate change, the government is motivated by the thought that the public are counting on them.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **The thought that the public are counting on them**

When it comes to climate change, 46% of people in the UK think that the government is motivated by the thought that the public are counting on them.

However, this perception is an important measure of trust,¹ and the UK are the least likely to trust their government in this respect.

In Norway, 55% of people, and in Italy, 54% of people, think that their government are motivated by the thought that the public are counting on them.



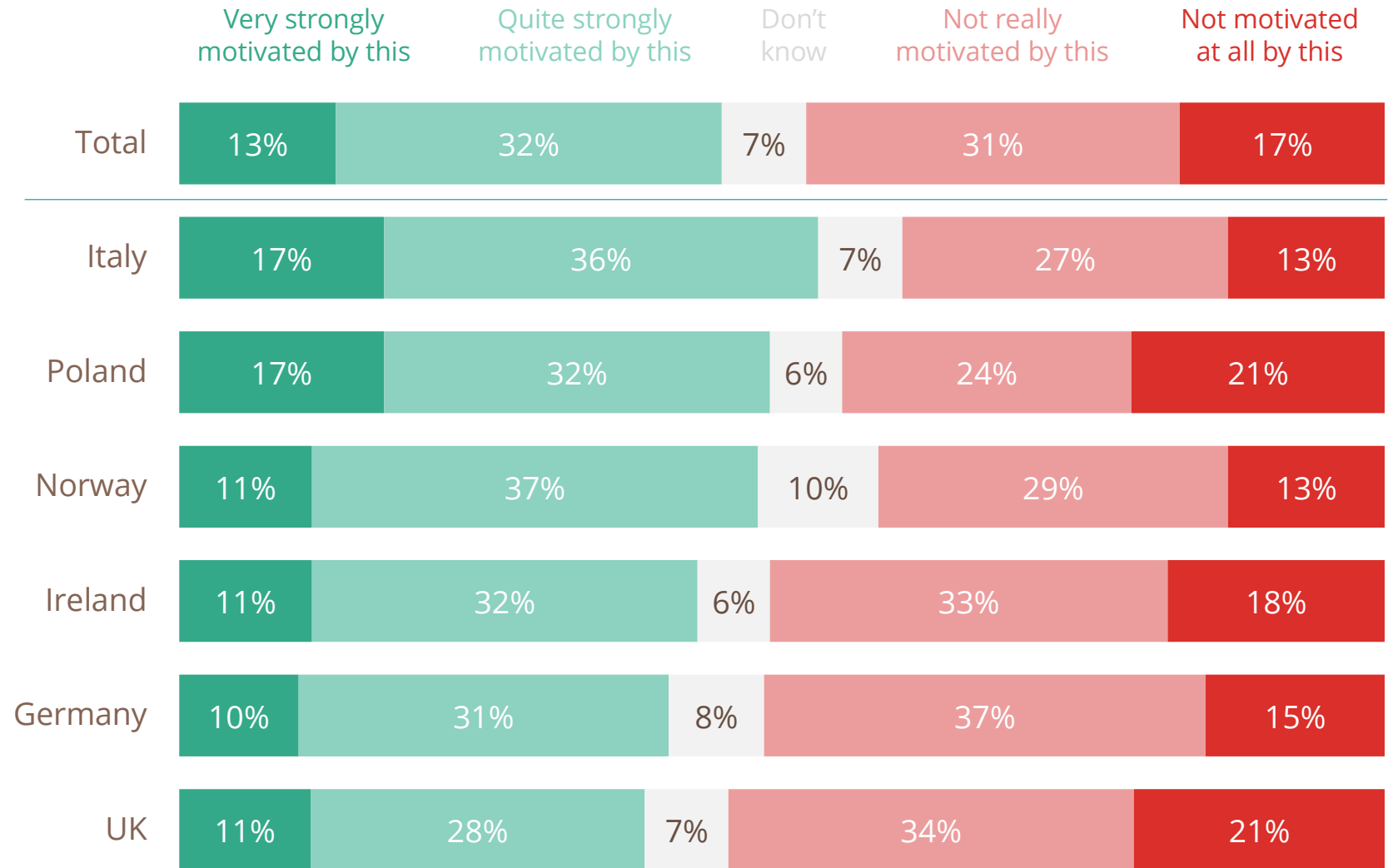
[1] Jones, Karen (1996) 'Trust as an Affective Attitude,' *Ethics* 107(1): 4-25.

A majority of people in the UK say that the government is not motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them when it comes to climate change.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like me**

In the UK, 38% of people say that the government is motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them when it comes to climate change. This is lower than in any other country. More than half of people in the UK (55%) say that the government are not motivated by this.

Ireland is the only other country where a majority (51%) say that their government is not motivated by this. In contrast, 53% of people in Italy, and 49% in Poland, believe that their government is motivated by this.

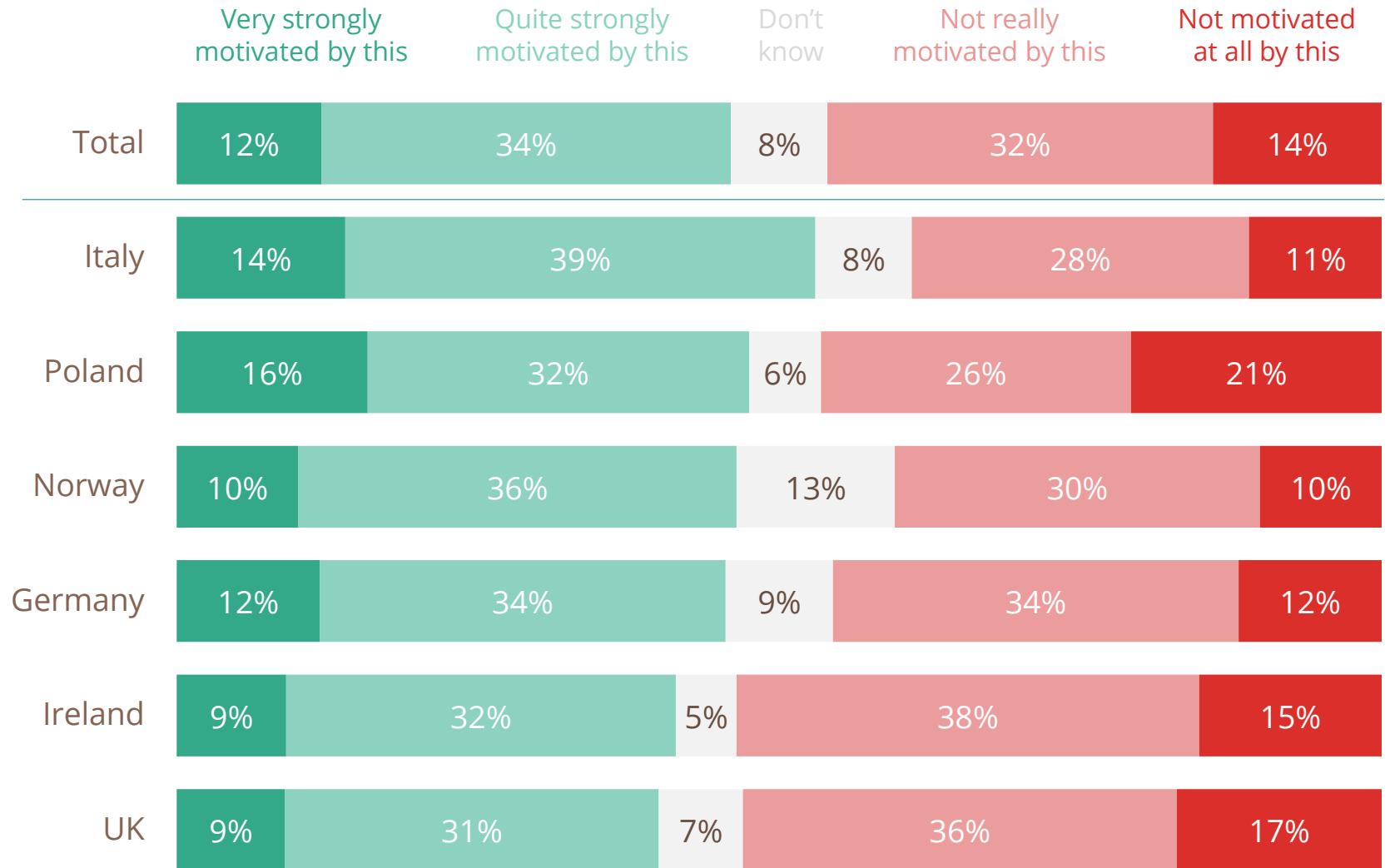


The UK is least likely to say that the government is motivated by concern for those most likely to be harmed by climate change or actions taken to address it.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say the [national] Government is motivated by... **Concern for those most likely to be harmed by climate change or actions taken to address it**

In the UK, 41% of people say that the government is motivated by concern for those most likely to be harmed by climate change or actions taken to address it. This is less than any other country surveyed. A further 52% say that the government is not motivated in this way. There is a similar perception in Ireland.

Italy is the most likely to say that the government is motivated in this way (53%). It is the only country in which a majority of people say this.

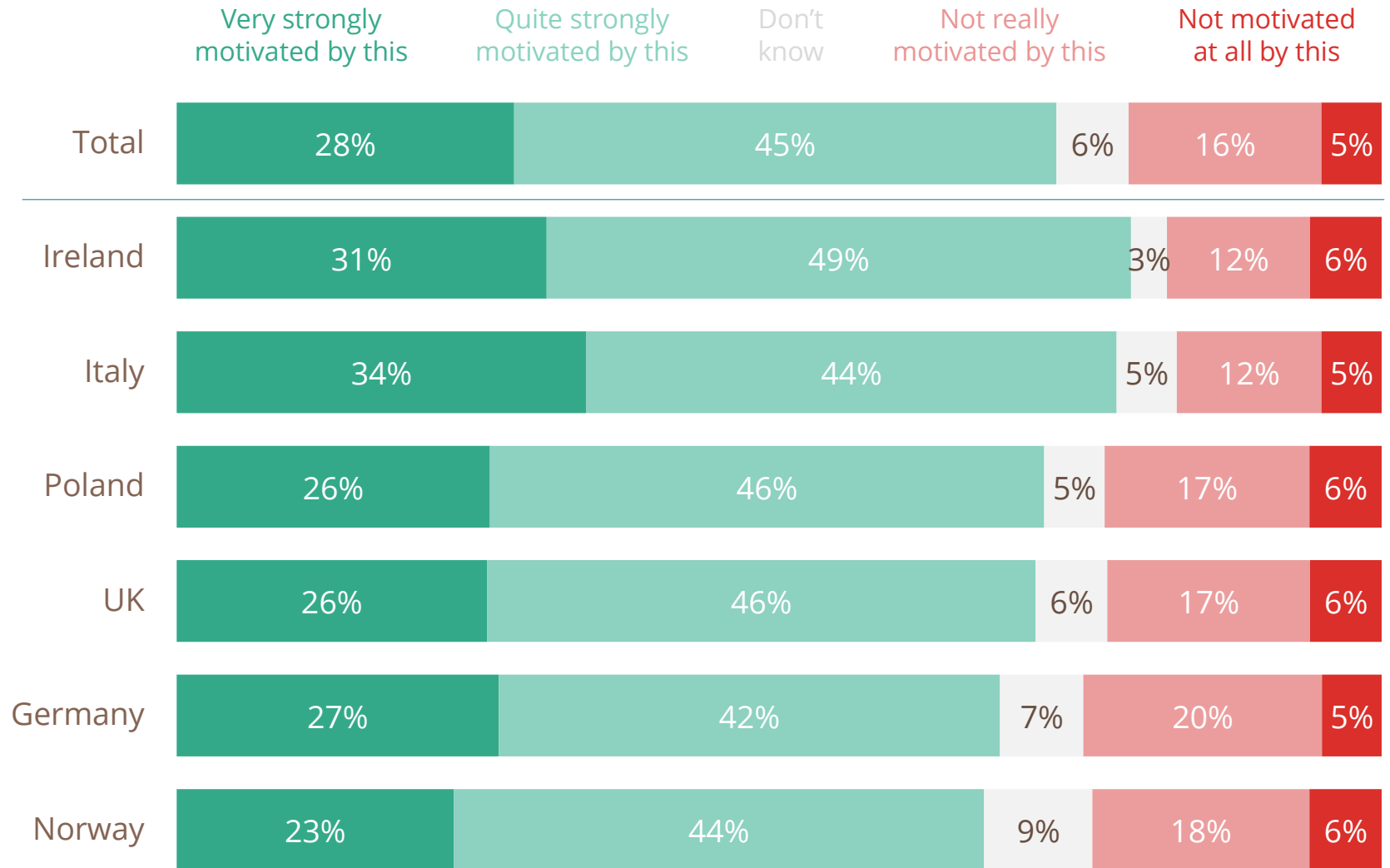


A majority of people in the UK think that climate scientists are motivated by improving the lives of future generations – but a quarter do not.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say climate scientists are motivated by... **Improving the lives of future generations**

A majority of people across all countries surveyed say that climate scientists are motivated by improving the lives of future generations. In the UK, 72% of people think this. However, 23% of people in the UK say that climate scientists are not motivated by this.

Ireland and Italy have the most positive views of climate scientists, with 79% and 78% respectively saying that climate scientists are motivated by improving the lives of future generations. In Italy, 34% say that climate scientists are very strongly motivated by this.

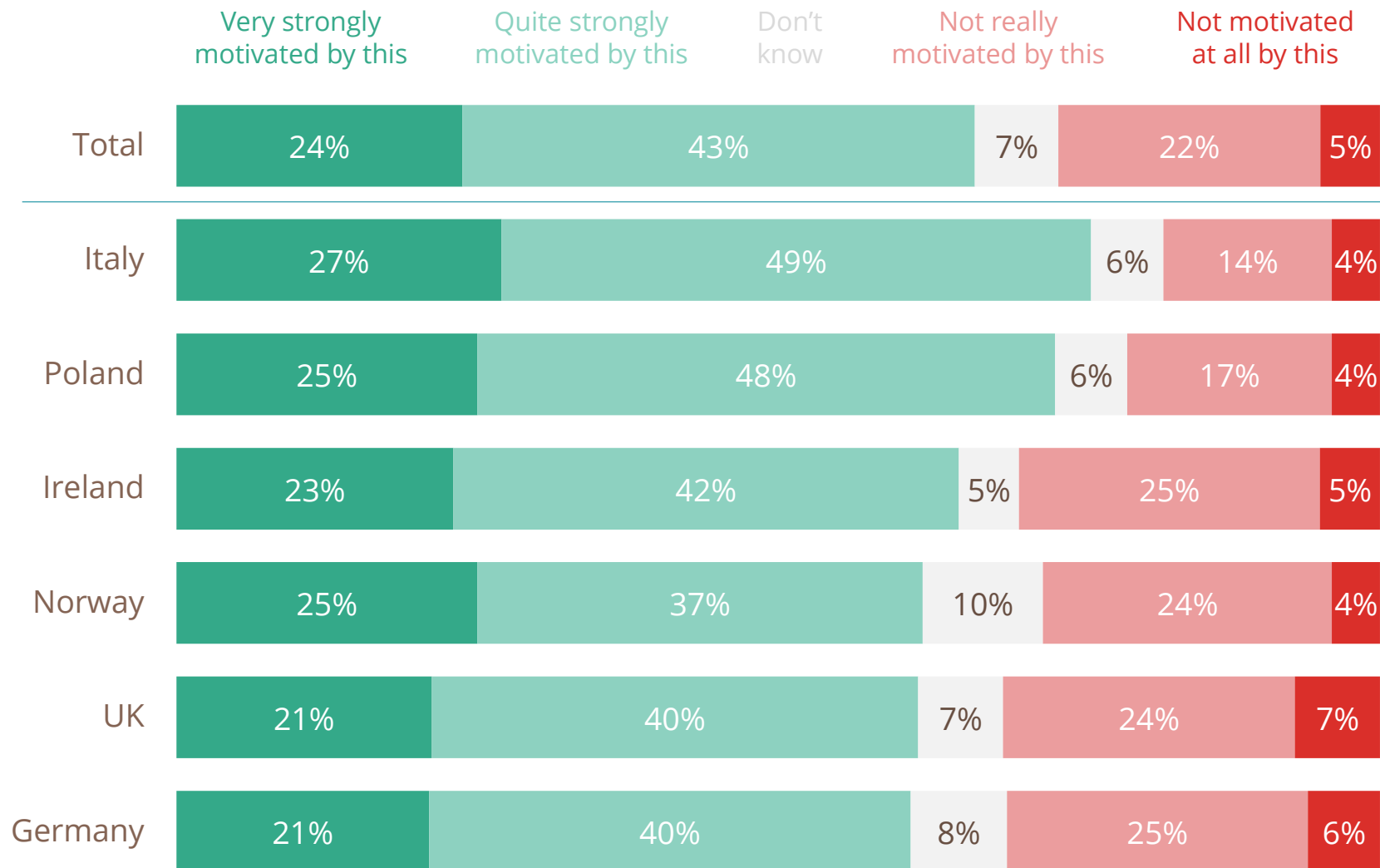


Italians are most likely to say that climate scientists are motivated by protecting their own reputation.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say climate scientists are motivated by... **Building or protecting their own reputation**

A majority of people across all countries surveyed say that climate scientists are motivated by building or protecting their own reputation. People in Italy are most likely to think this, with 76% of Italians saying this. This is followed by Poland, where 73% of people say this.

Germany and the UK are least likely to think this. In both countries, 62% of people think climate scientists are motivated in this way, whilst a further 31% think they are not.

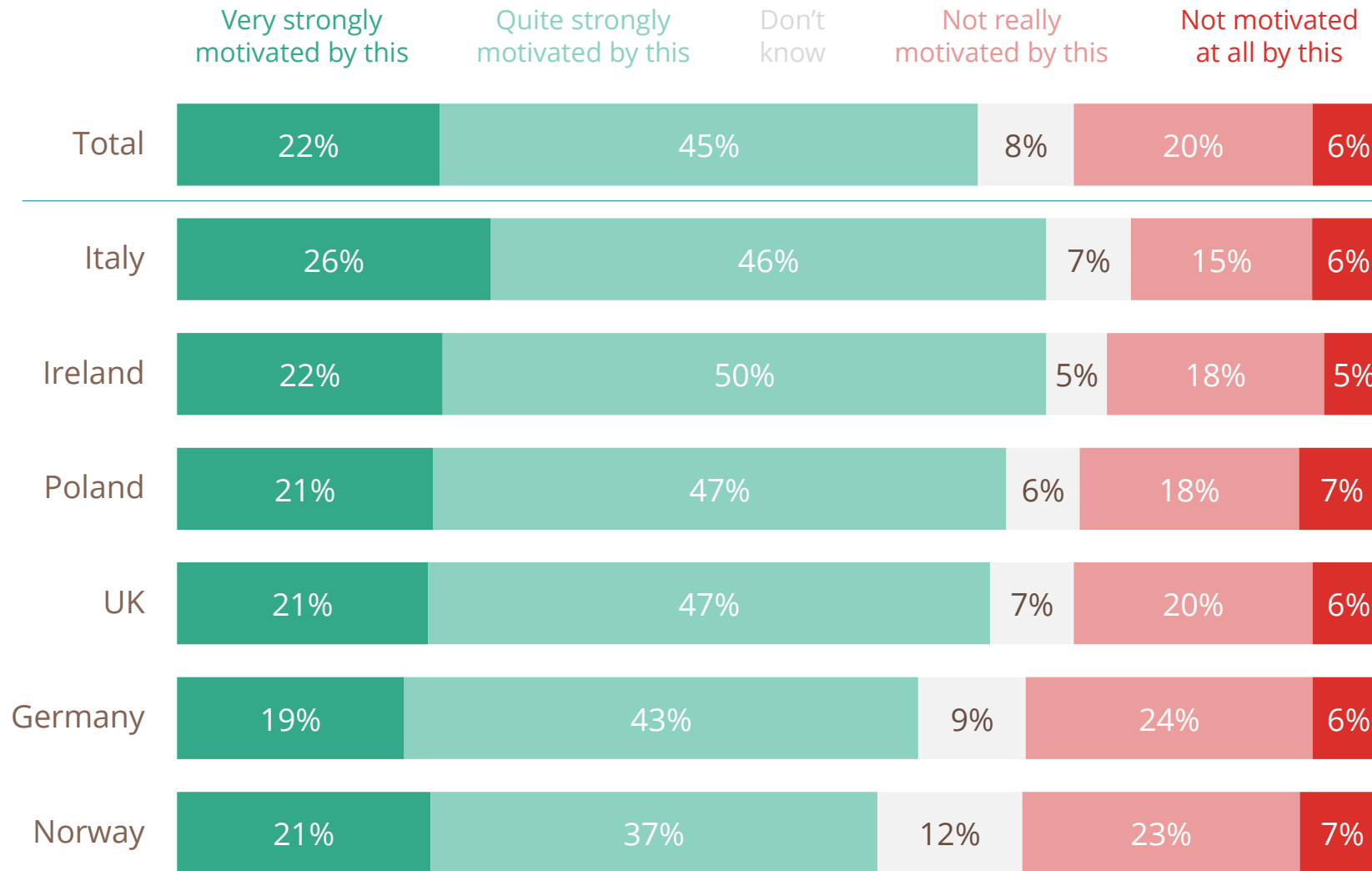


Italians are the most likely to think that climate scientists are motivated by concern for those most likely to be harmed by climate change.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say climate scientists are motivated by... **Concern for those most likely to be harmed by climate change or actions taken to address it**

A majority of people across all countries surveyed say that climate scientists are motivated by concern for those most likely to be harmed by climate change or actions taken to address it. Italy is the country where most people are likely to think this, with 72% of people saying this.

Norway is the country where people are least likely to think this, with 58% of people in Norway saying they are motivated in this way. A further 30% of Norwegians think that climate scientists are not motivated in this way.

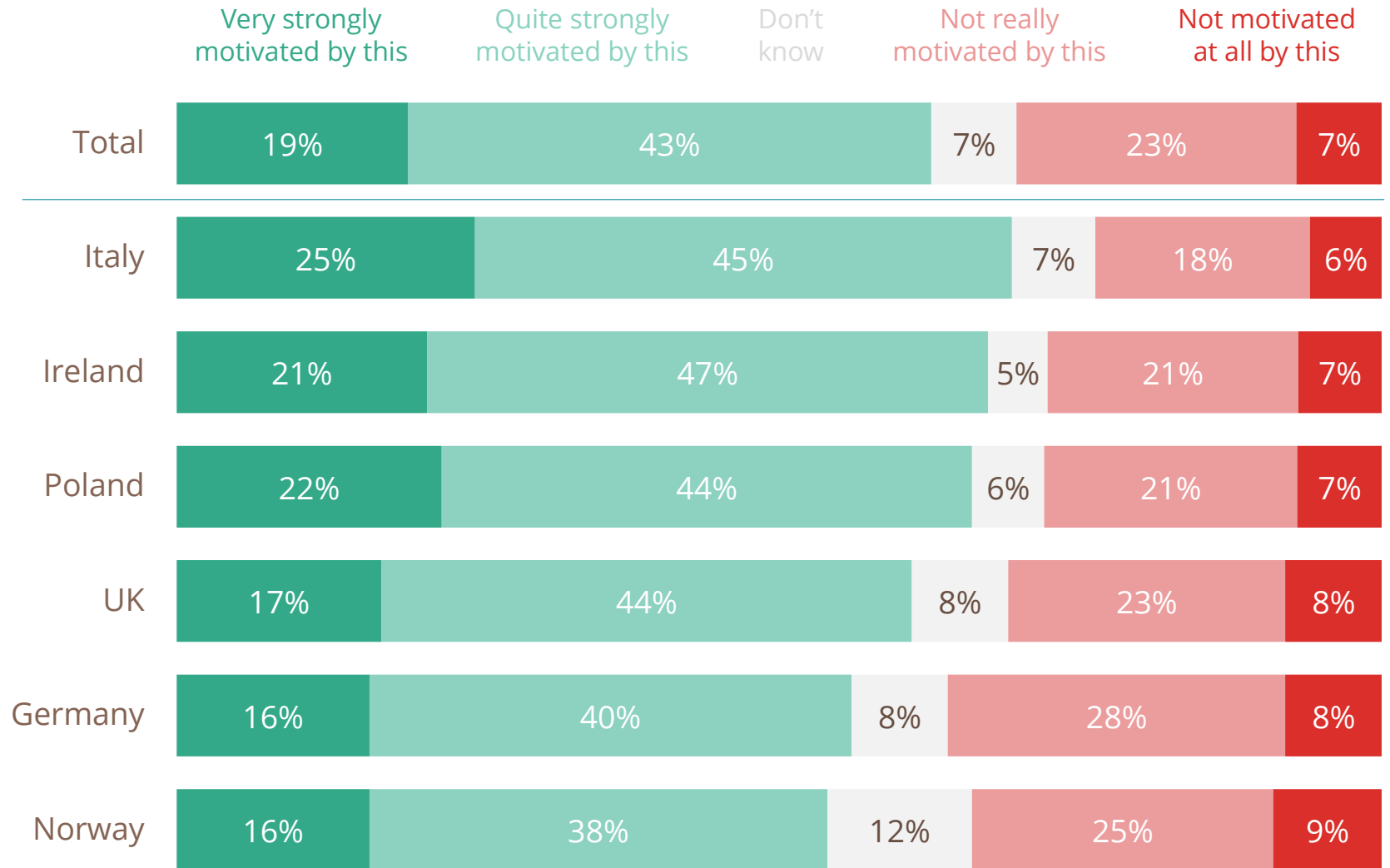


People in Germany are least likely to think that climate scientists are motivated by improving the lives of people like them.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say climate scientists are motivated by... **Improving the lives of people like me**

A majority of people across all countries say that climate scientists are motivated by improving the lives of people like them. Italy is the country where most people are likely to think this, with 70% of people in Italy saying that climate scientists are motivated in this way.

Norway is the country where people are least likely to think this, with 54% of people in Norway saying that climate scientists are motivated in this way. A further 34% of people in Norway think that climate scientists are not motivated by improving the lives of people like them.

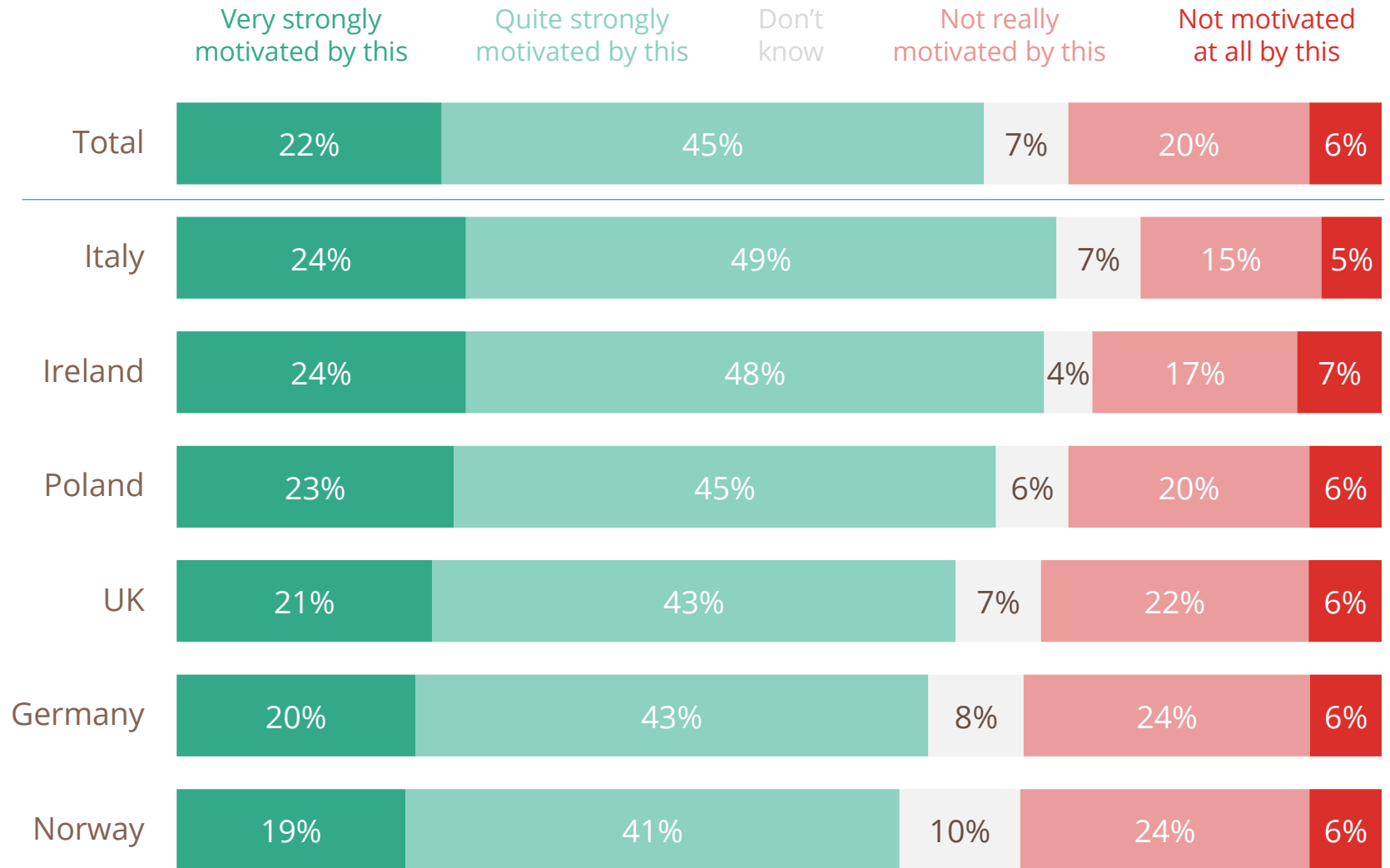


A majority of people think climate scientists are motivated by the thought that the public are counting on them.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say climate scientists are motivated by... **The thought that the public are counting on them**

67% of people on averaged say that climate scientists are motivated by the thought that the public are counting on them. Italy is the country where people are most likely to think this, with 73% of people in Italy saying this.

In contrast, Norway is the country where people are least likely to agree with this view, with 60% of people in Norway saying it. A further 30% of people in Norway say that climate scientists are not motivated in this way.

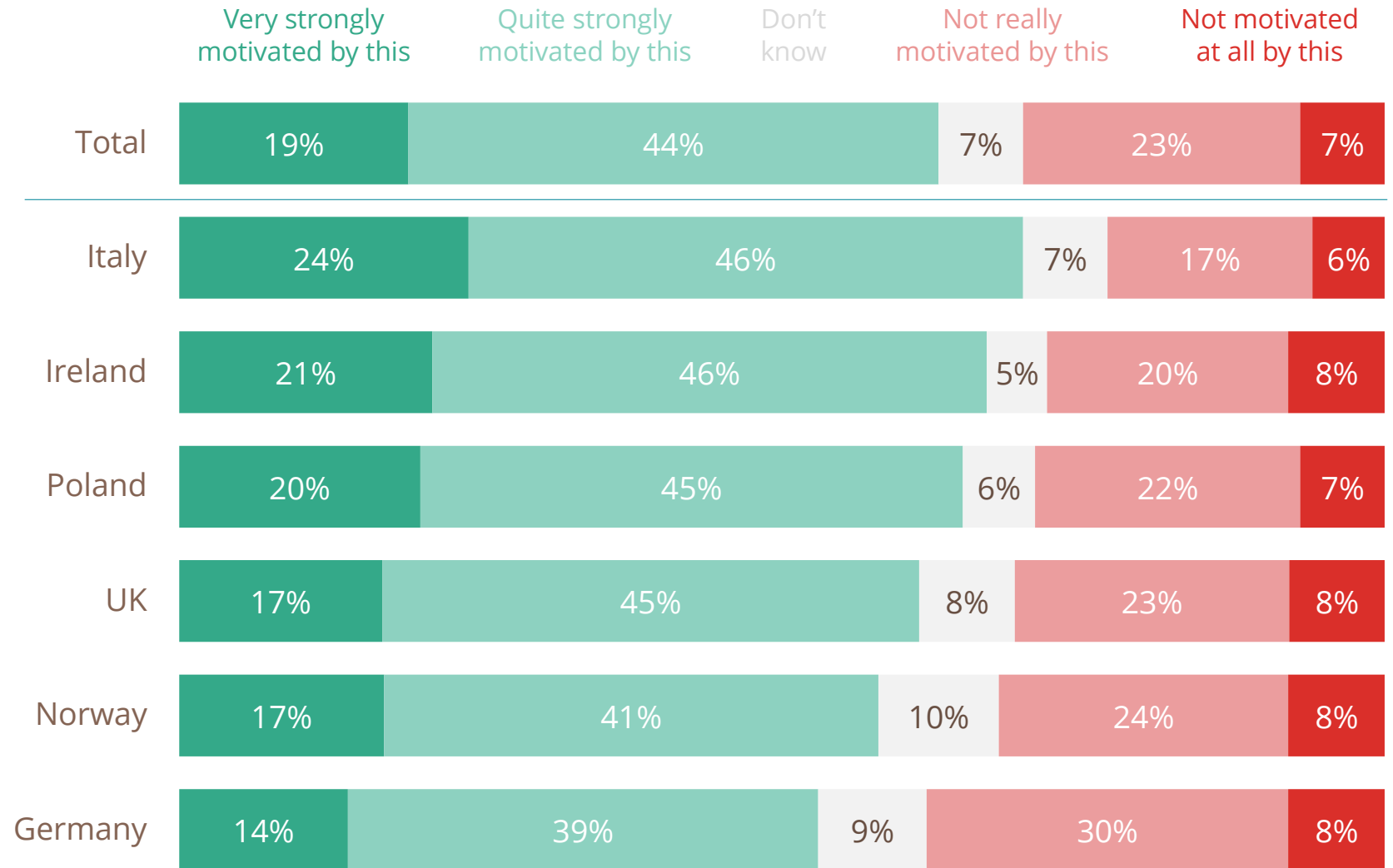


People in Germany are least likely to think that climate scientists are motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say climate scientists are motivated by... **Ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like me**

A majority of people across all countries say that climate scientists are motivated by ensuring their actions do not harm the lives of people like them. Italy is the country where people are most likely to think this, with 70% of Italians saying it.

Germany is the country where people are least likely to think this, with 53% of people in Germany saying they are motivated in this way. A further 39% of people in Germany think that climate scientists are not motivated in this way.



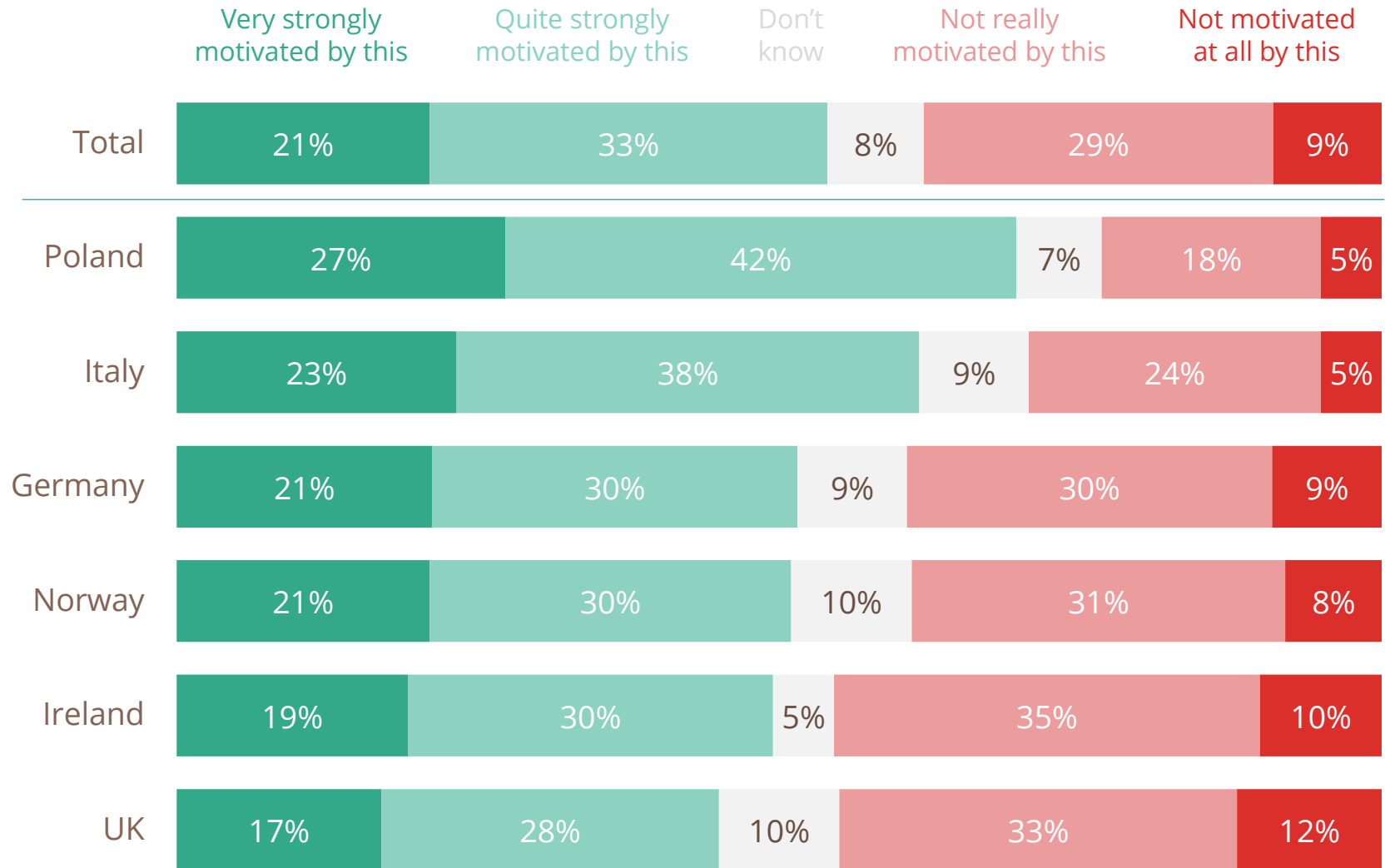
People in the UK are divided over whether they think climate scientists are motivated by money.

When it comes to climate change, how strongly would you say climate scientists are motivated by... **Making a lot of money**

People in Poland are the most likely to think that climate scientists are motivated by making a lot of money, with 70% of people saying this. This is followed by 61% of people in Italy.

The UK and Ireland are the only countries without a majority that think this. Instead, perceptions are split relatively equally.

In the UK, 45% of people think that climate scientists are motivated by making a lot of money. However, another 45% think that climate scientists are not motivated by money.



Ratings of national governments, scientists and the EC on climate change

46% of people on average say the the government is incompetent when it comes to dealing with climate change. This negative view is held most prominently in Poland (65%), and least prominently in Norway (35%).

In contrast, just 15% of people on average say that climate scientists are incompetent at dealing with climate change. In addition, in all countries surveyed, climate scientists are deemed more honest, motivated to do the right thing, open to new ideas and knowledgeable, than either the government or European Commission, when it comes to tackling climate change.



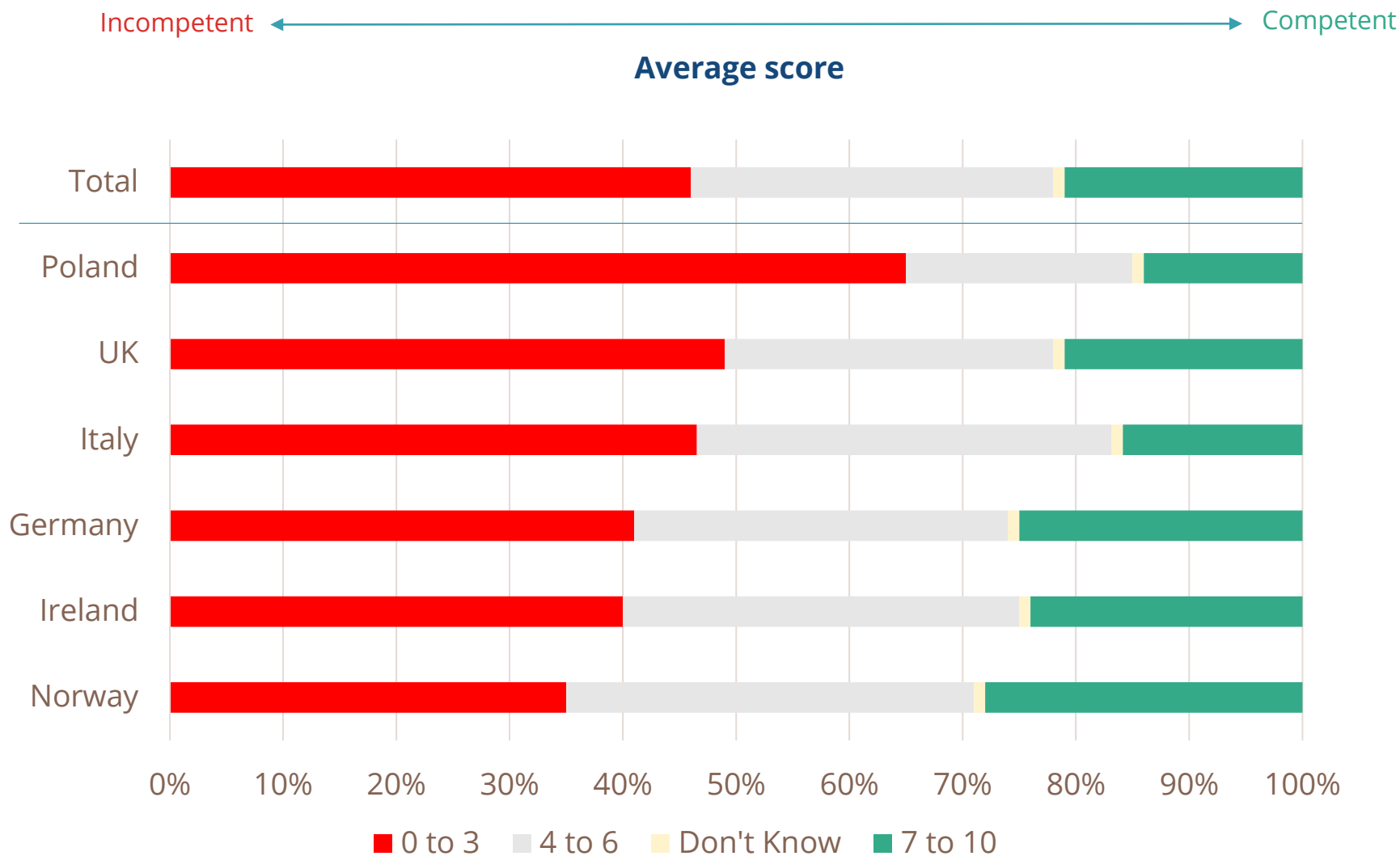
Half of people in the UK think that the government is incompetent when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Incompetent” and 10 means “Competent”? **National Government**

In Poland, 65% of people think that the government is incompetent when it comes to dealing with climate change. This is more than in any other country.

This is followed by the UK, where 49% of people think that the government is incompetent when it comes to dealing with climate change.

Norway has the most positive perceptions of its government, with only 35% thinking that the government is incompetent when it comes to dealing with climate change. However, only 28% of Norwegians think that the government is competent in this respect.



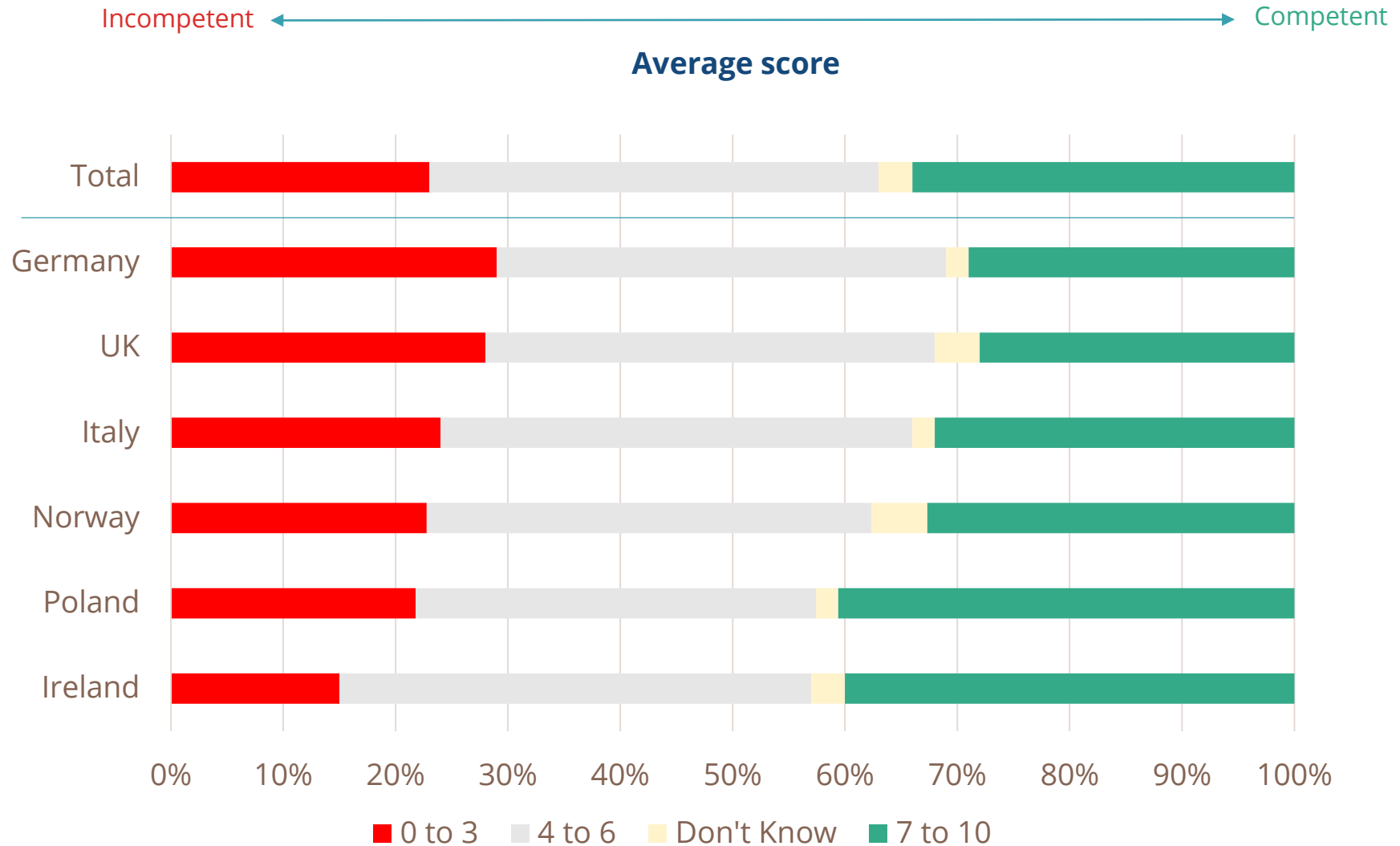
People in Ireland are the most likely to think that the European Commission is competent at dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Incompetent” and 10 means “Competent”? **European Commission**

Ireland is the country where people are most likely to think that the European Commission is competent when it comes to dealing with climate change, with 40% of the Irish thinking this.

In contrast, Germany is the country where people are least likely to think that the European Commission is competent at dealing with climate change. Only 29% of Germans think this, whilst a further 29% think that the European Commission is incompetent at dealing with climate change.

Across all countries surveyed, people are relatively uncertain. 40% of people think that the European Commission is neither competent nor incompetent.

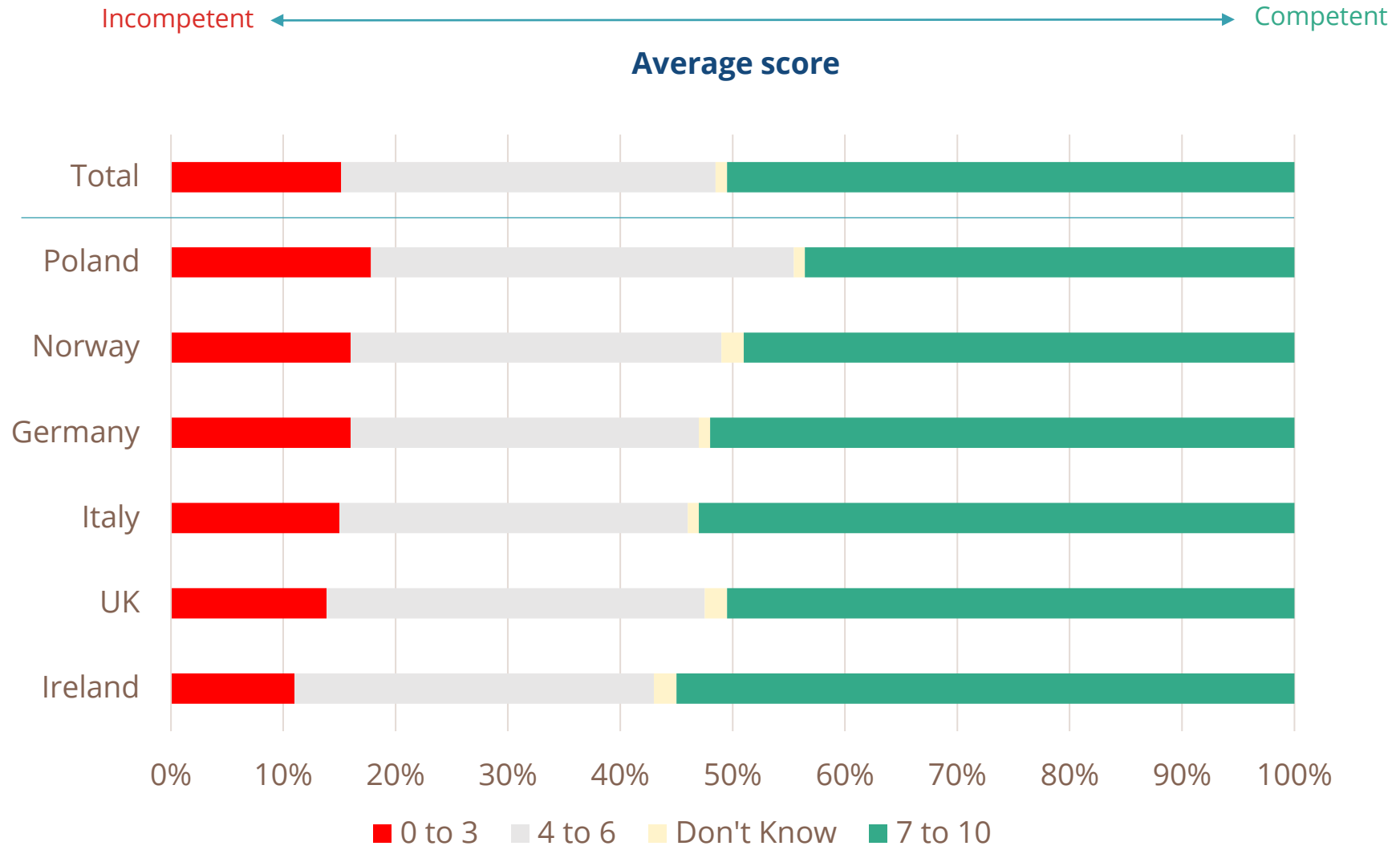


Half of people in the UK think that climate scientists are competent at dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Incompetent” and 10 means “Competent”? **Climate scientists**

Ireland and the UK are the countries where people have the most confidence in climate scientists. In Ireland, 55% of people think that climate scientists are competent when it comes to climate change, whilst 51% of people in the UK think this.

Poland is the country where people are least likely to think this, but 44% of Poles still think that climate scientists are competent at dealing with climate change. In contrast, 18% of Poles think that climate scientists are incompetent at dealing with climate change.



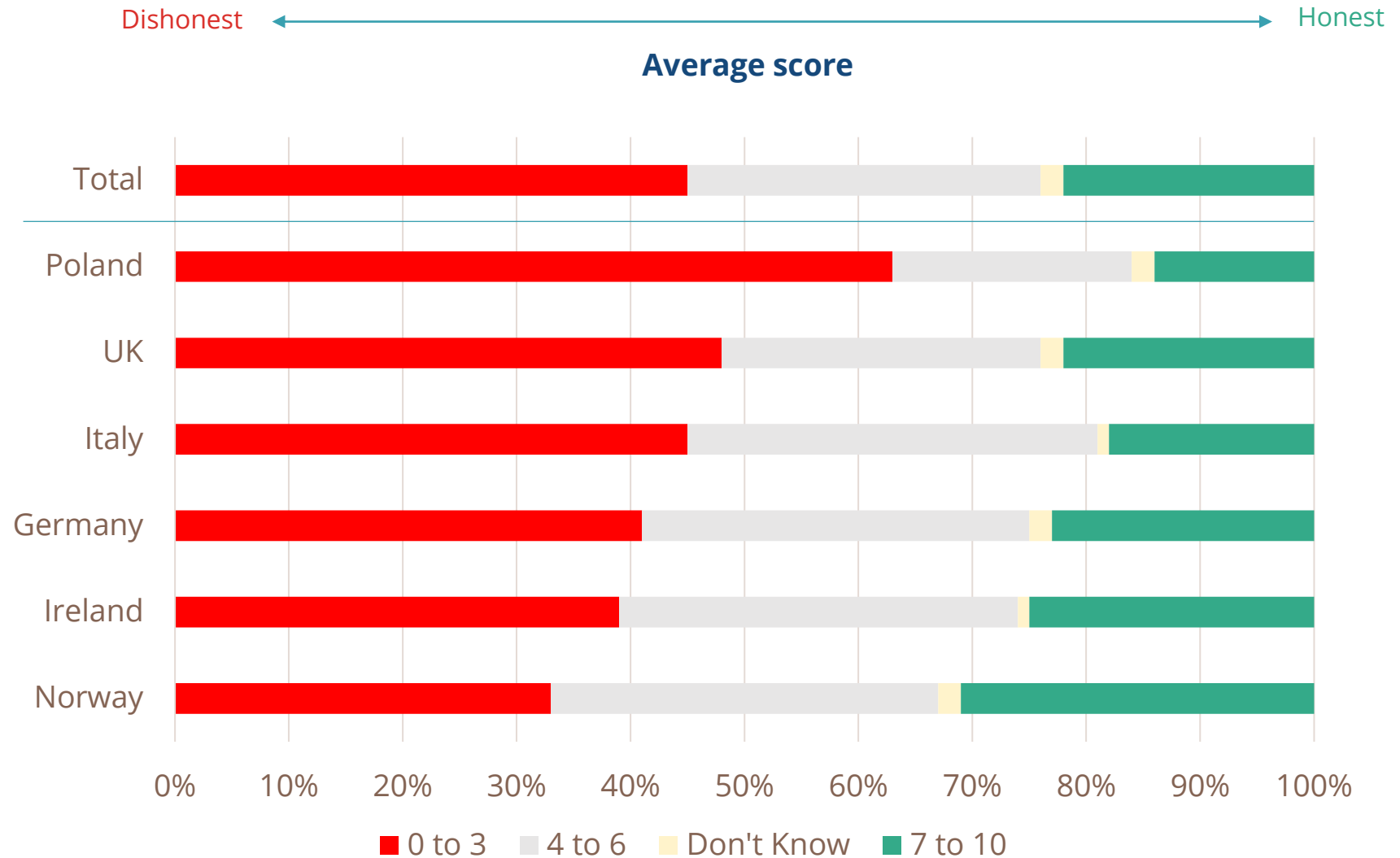
Six in 10 people in Poland think the government is dishonest when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Dishonest” and 10 means “Honest”? **National Government**

Poland is the country where most people are likely to think that the government is dishonest when it comes to dealing with climate change. In Poland, 63% of people think this, compared to only 14% who think the government is honest about climate change.

In the UK, almost half of people (48%) think the government is dishonest when it comes to dealing with climate change.

In Norway, people are least likely to think that the government is dishonest when it comes to dealing with climate change, with only 33% of Norwegians saying this. Norway is relatively split over the honesty of its government, with 31% of people thinking that the government is honest about climate change, and a further 34% falling somewhere in the middle.



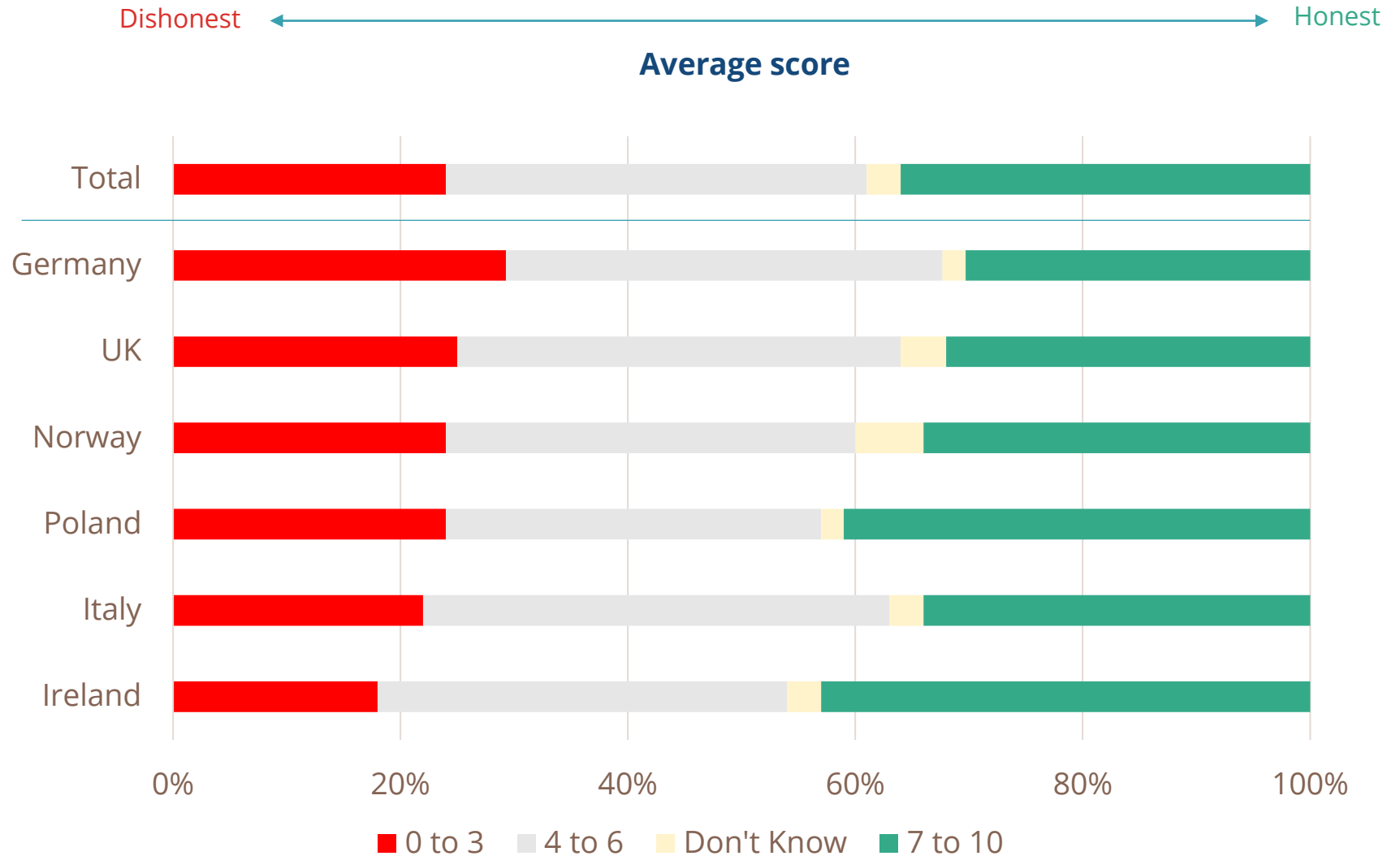
Germans are most likely to think that the European Commission is dishonest when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Dishonest” and 10 means “Honest”? **European Commission**

All countries surveyed are relatively split over whether people think the European Commission is honest or dishonest when it comes to dealing with climate change.

Germany is the country where people are most likely to think the European Commission is dishonest when it comes to dealing with climate change, with 29% of Germans thinking this.

In contrast, Ireland is the country where people are least likely to think the European Commission is dishonest when it comes to dealing with climate change, with only 18% of the Irish thinking this. A further 43% think the European Commission is honest, whilst 36% of people think it is neither honest nor dishonest.



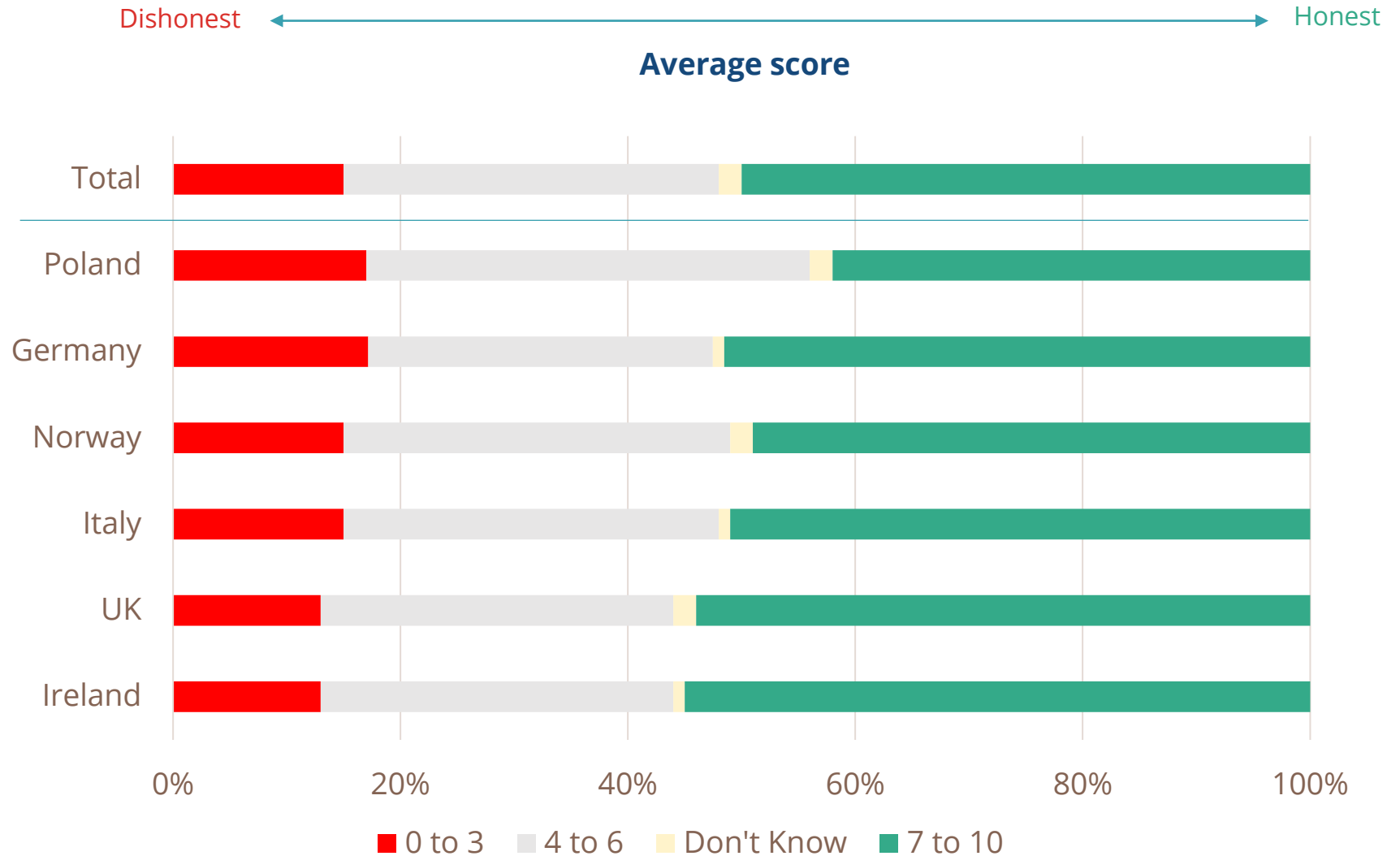
On average, 50% of people think that climate scientists are honest when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Dishonest” and 10 means “Honest”? **Climate scientists**

On average, half of people think that climate scientists are honest when it comes to dealing with climate change.

Ireland and the UK are the countries with the most faith in climate scientists, with 55% and 54% of people respectively thinking that climate scientists are honest when it comes to dealing with climate change. In both countries, only 13% of people think climate scientists are dishonest.

Poland is the country where people are least likely to think that climate scientists are honest, with only 42% of people thinking this. A further 17% of Poles think that climate scientists are dishonest.



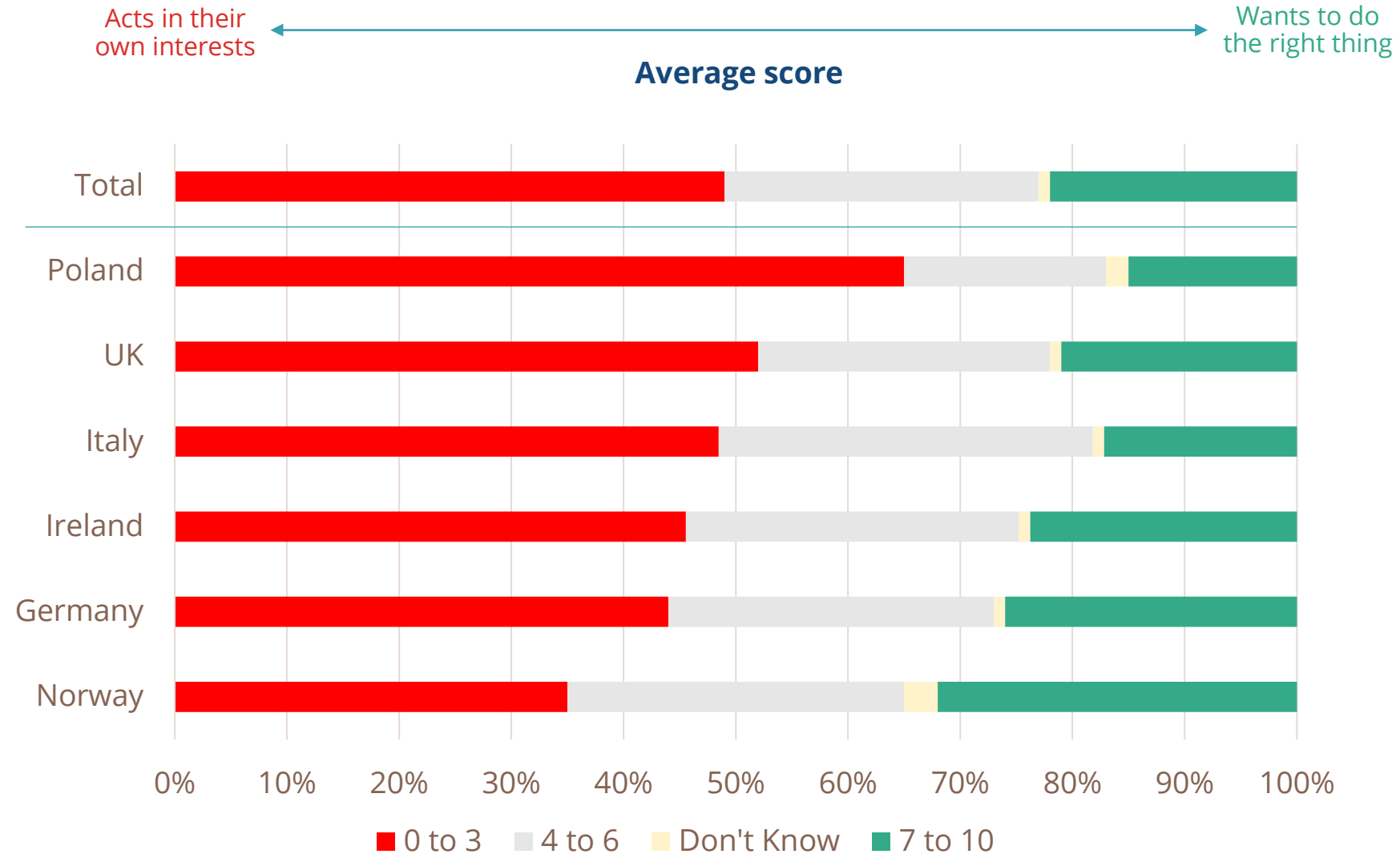
A majority of people in the UK think that the government acts in their own interests when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means "Acts in their own interests" and 10 means "Wants to do the right thing"? **National Government**

A majority of people in Poland and the UK think that their national government acts in its own interests when it comes to dealing with climate change.

Poland is the country where people are most likely to think this, with 65% of Poles thinking this. This is followed by the UK, where 52% of people think this.

People in Norway are least likely to think its government acts in its own interests when it comes to climate change, with only 35% of people thinking this. A further 32% of Norwegians think that the government wants to do the right thing when it comes to climate change.



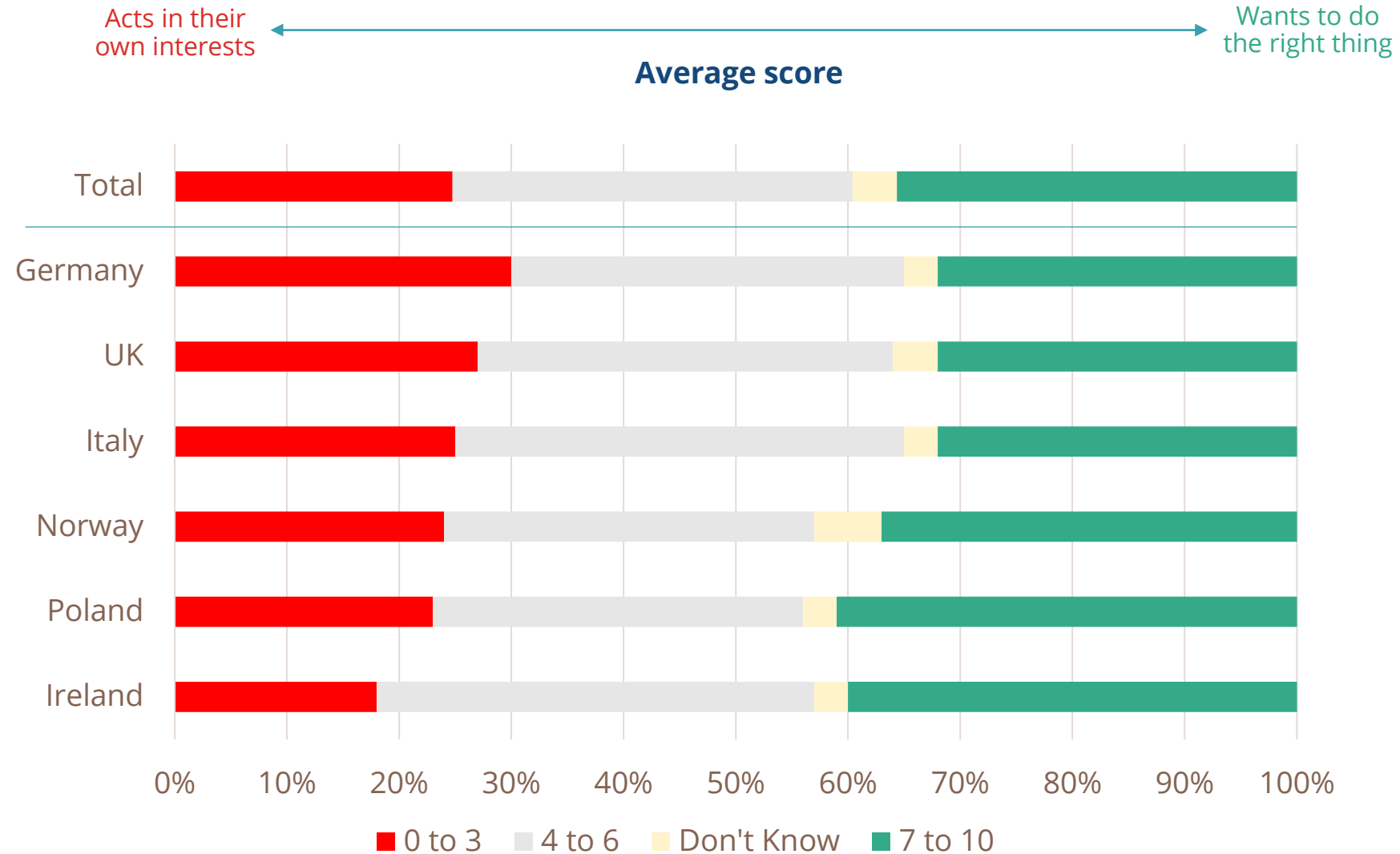
Germans are most likely to think the European Commission acts in its own interests when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Acts in their own interests” and 10 means “Wants to do the right thing”? **European Commission**

Across all countries surveyed, people are relatively mixed over whether they think the European Commission acts in its own interests or does the right thing when it comes to dealing with climate change.

Germany is the country where people are most likely to think the European Commission acts in its own interests when it comes to dealing with climate change, with 30% of Germans saying this. A further 32% of Germans think that the European Commission does the right think when it comes to dealing with climate change.

Ireland is the country where people are least likely to think the European Commission acts in its own interests, with only 18% of people thinking this.



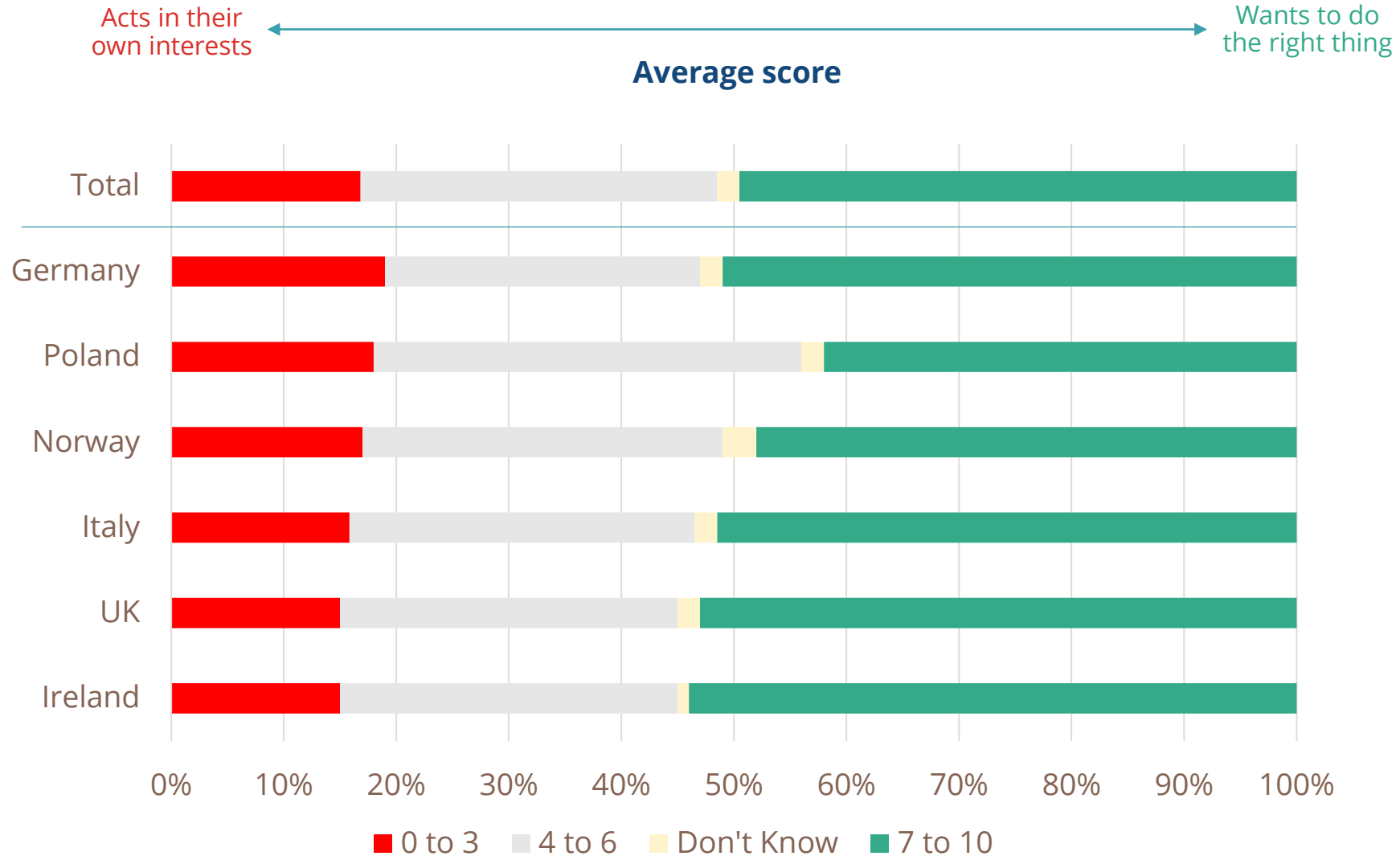
On average, 50% of people think that climate change scientists want to do the right thing when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Acts in their own interests” and 10 means “Wants to do the right thing”? **Climate scientists**

Across all countries surveyed, more people think that climate scientists want to do the right thing when it comes to dealing with climate change, than act in their own interests.

Ireland and the UK are the countries where people have the most faith in climate scientists, with 54% and 53% of people respectively thinking that climate scientists want to do the right thing when it comes to dealing with climate change.

Poland is the country where people are least likely to think this (42%), whilst 18% of Poles think that climate scientists act in their own interests.

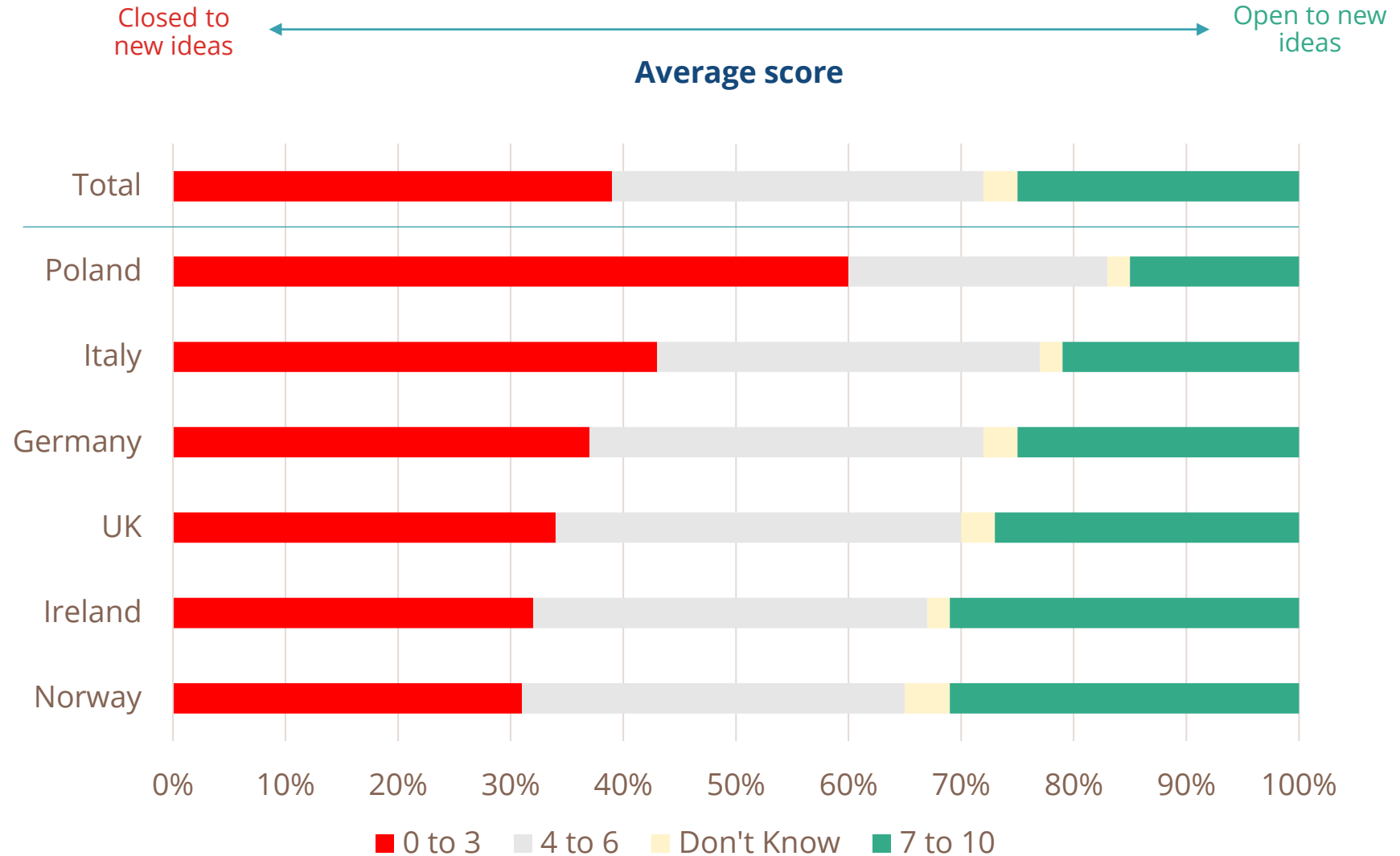


In Poland, three out of five people think the government is closed to new ideas when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Closed to new ideas” and 10 means “Open to new ideas”? **National Government**

Poland is the country where most people think the government is closed to new ideas when it comes to dealing with climate change, with 60% of Poles thinking this. Only 15% of Poles think that the government is open to new ideas.

Norway is the country where people are least likely to think this, with 31% thinking that the government is closed to new ideas. Norwegians are relatively split over the matter, with a further 31% thinking the government is open to new ideas, and 34% thinking the government is neither open nor closed to new ideas.



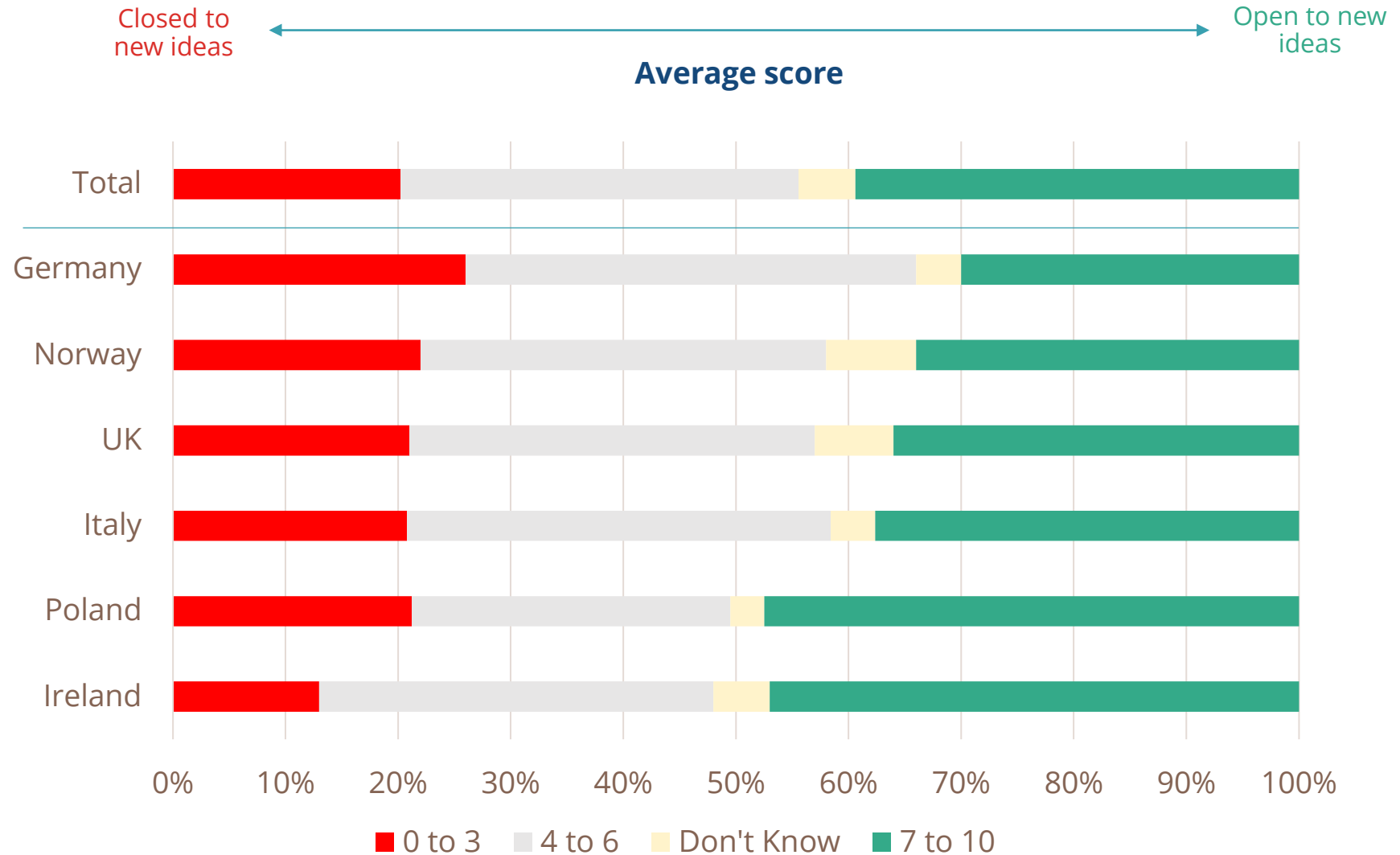
People in Ireland are most likely to think that the European Commission is open to new ideas when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Closed to new ideas” and 10 means “Open to new ideas”? **European Commission**

Ireland and Poland are the countries where people are most likely to think that the European Commission is open to new ideas when it comes to dealing with climate change, with 47% of people who think this. Only 13% of people in Ireland think that the European Commission is closed to new ideas.

In Germany, a quarter of people (26%) think that the European Commission is closed to new ideas when it comes to dealing with climate change. Only 30% think the European Commission is open to new ideas.

Many people are uncertain about the matter. On average, 35% of people think the European Commission is neither open nor closed to new ideas when it comes to dealing with climate change.



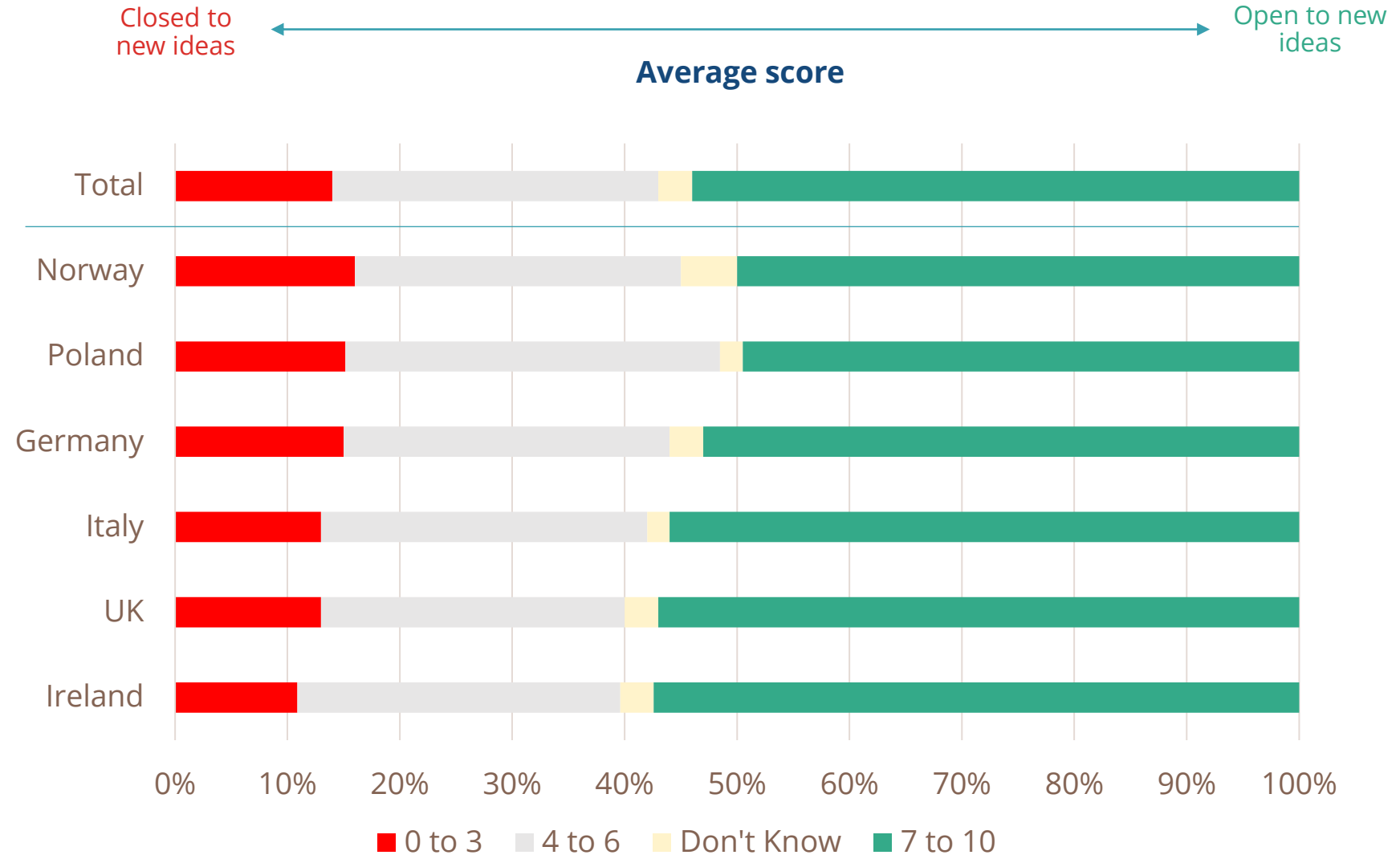
A majority of people think that climate scientists are open to new ideas when it comes to dealing with climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Closed to new ideas” and 10 means “Open to new ideas”? **Climate scientists**

Across all countries surveyed, a majority of people think that climate scientists are open to new ideas when it comes to dealing with climate change.

Ireland and the UK are the countries where people are most likely to think climate scientists are open to new ideas, with 58% and 57% of people respectively thinking this.

Poland is the country where people are least likely to think this, with 49% of people thinking this. A further 15% of Poles think that climate scientists are closed to new ideas.



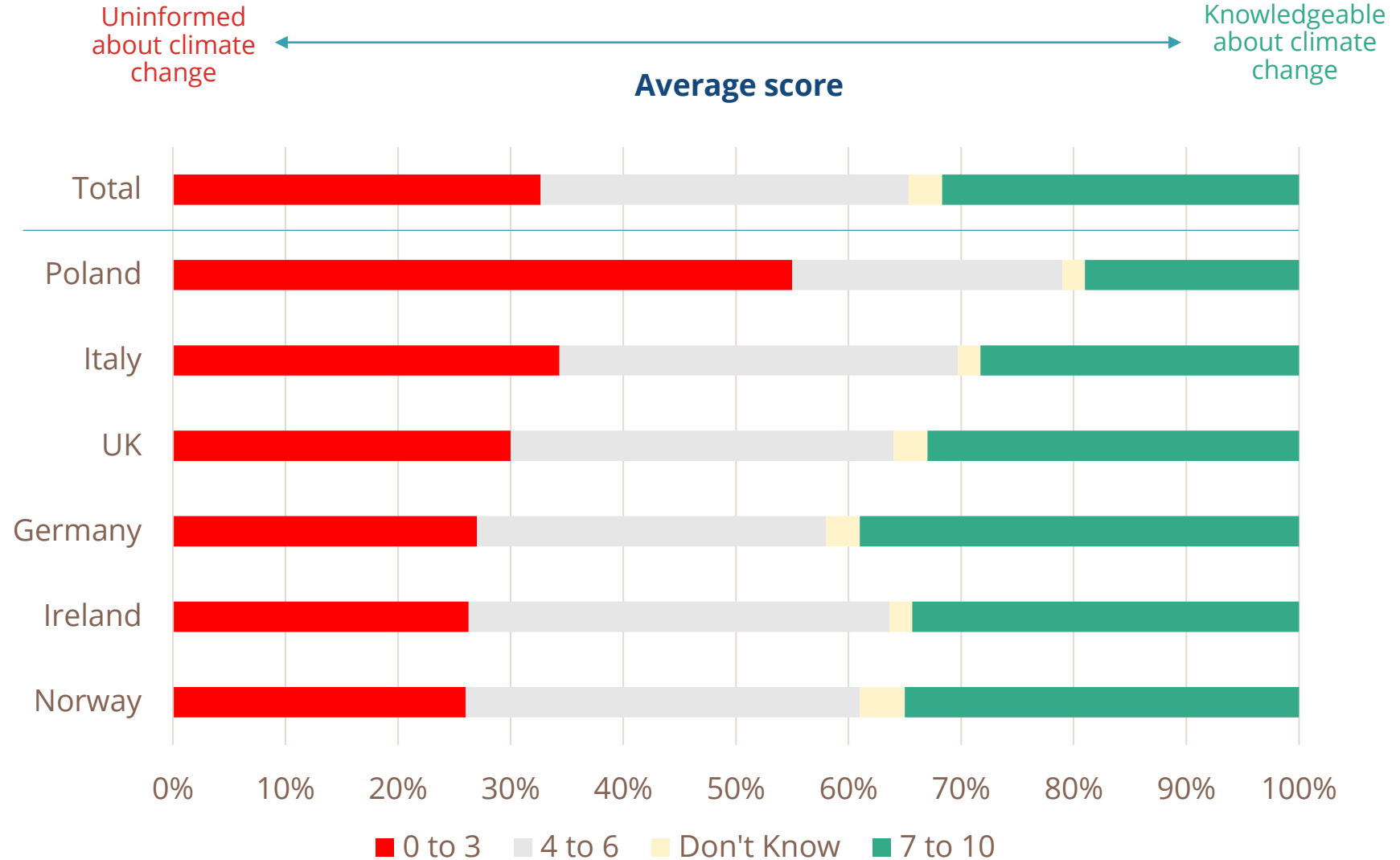
A majority of people in Poland think the government is uninformed about climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Uninformed about climate change” and 10 means “Knowledgeable about climate change”? **National Government**

In Poland, 55% of people think that the government is uninformed about climate change. It is the only country where a majority of people think this. Only 19% of Poles think that the government is knowledgeable about climate change.

Amongst all other countries surveyed, people are relatively split on the matter. In the UK, 30% of people think the government are uninformed about climate change, whilst 33% think the government is knowledgeable, and a further 34% fall somewhere in the middle.

Norway is the country where most people are likely to think the government is knowledgeable about climate change, with 35% of people who say this. However, a further 26% think the government is uninformed about climate change.



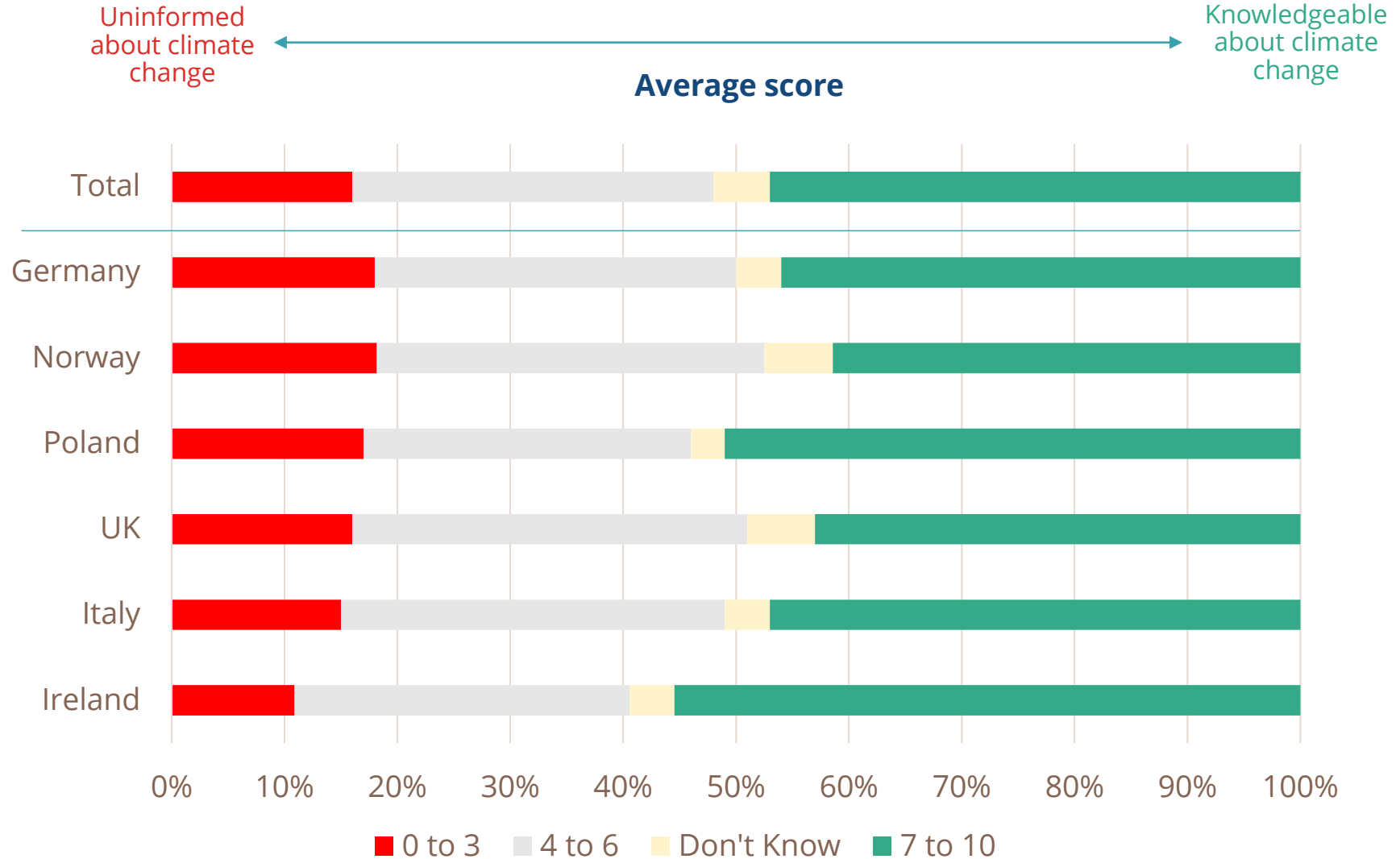
People in Ireland are the most likely to think the European Commission is knowledgeable about climate change.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Uninformed about climate change” and 10 means “Knowledgeable about climate change”? **European Commission**

Across all countries surveyed, more people think that the European Commission is knowledgeable about climate change, than those who think it is uninformed.

Ireland is the country where people are most likely to think that the European Commission is knowledgeable about climate change, with 56% of people who think this. Only 11% of people in Ireland think the government is uninformed about climate change.

People in Germany and Norway have the least positive view of the European Commission, with 18% thinking that the European Commission is uninformed about climate change.

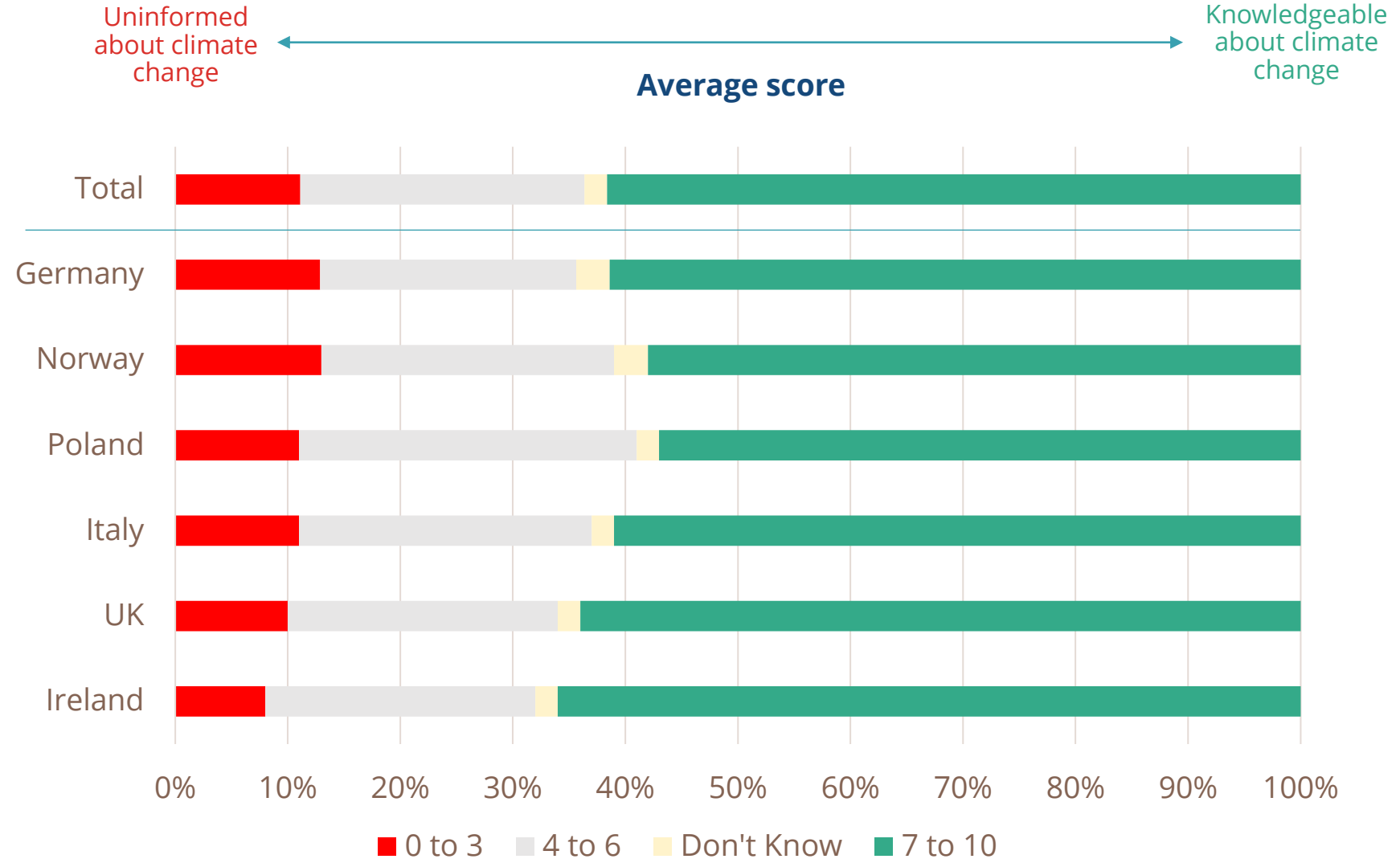


A majority of people think climate scientists are knowledgeable about climate change – though 10% do not.

And when it comes to dealing with climate change, where would you generally place individuals from the following three professional groups on the scale below, where 0 means “Uninformed about climate change” and 10 means “Knowledgeable about climate change”? **Climate scientists**

Across all countries surveyed, a majority of people think that climate scientists are knowledgeable about climate change. However, 10% of people on average think that climate scientists are uninformed about climate change.

People in Ireland and the UK are most likely to think that climate scientists are knowledgeable about climate change, with 66% and 64% of people respectively who think this.



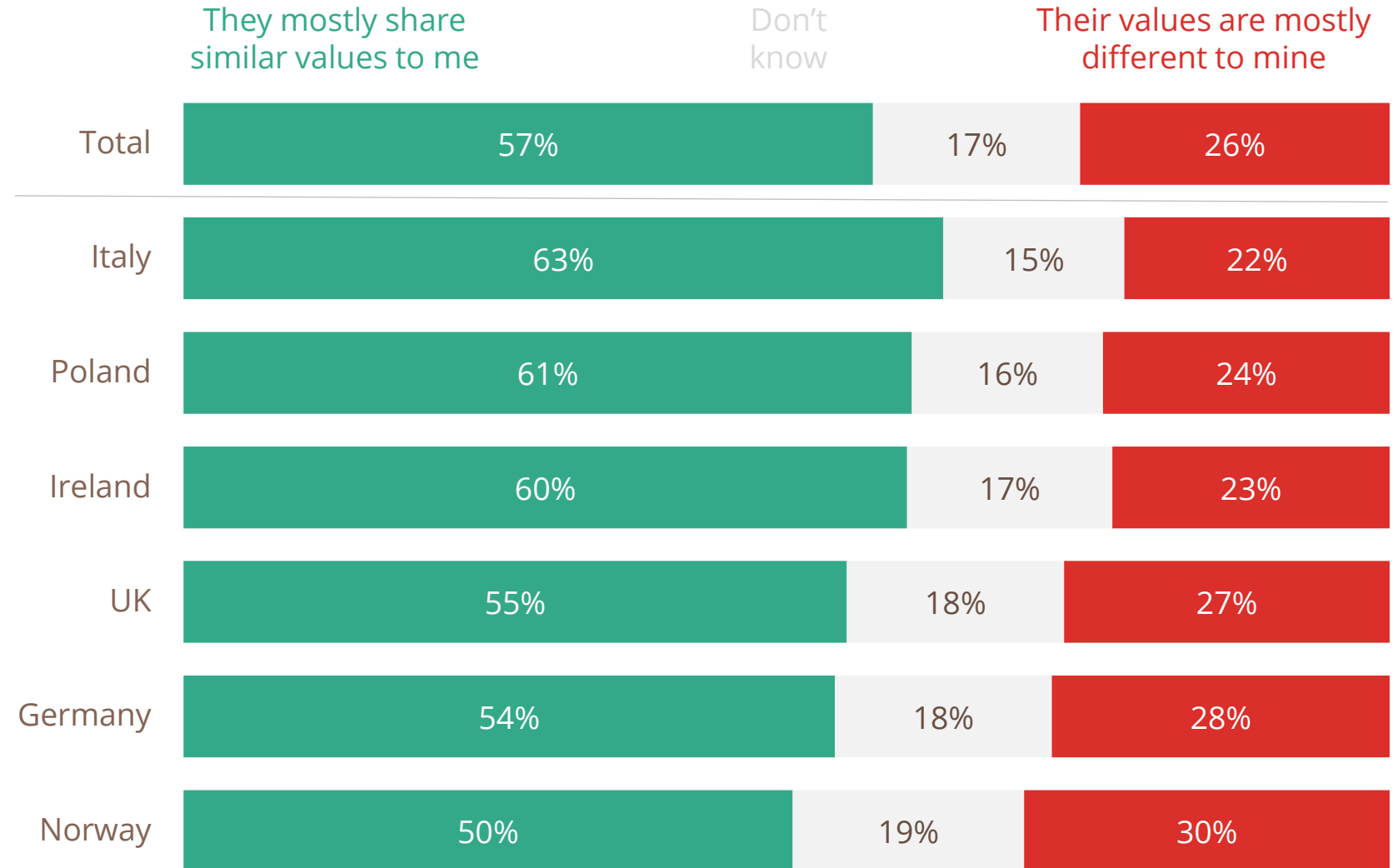
On average, six in ten people say that they mostly share similar values to climate scientists.

Which of the following two statements comes closest to your view about [Climate Scientists]?

57% of people on average say that they mostly share similar values to climate scientists.

The country where this view is held most widely is Italy, where 63% of people agree with it, closely followed by Poland (61%) and Ireland (60%).

This view is held least widely in Norway, where 50% of people hold it, and 30% of people say that climate scientists mostly share different values from their own.



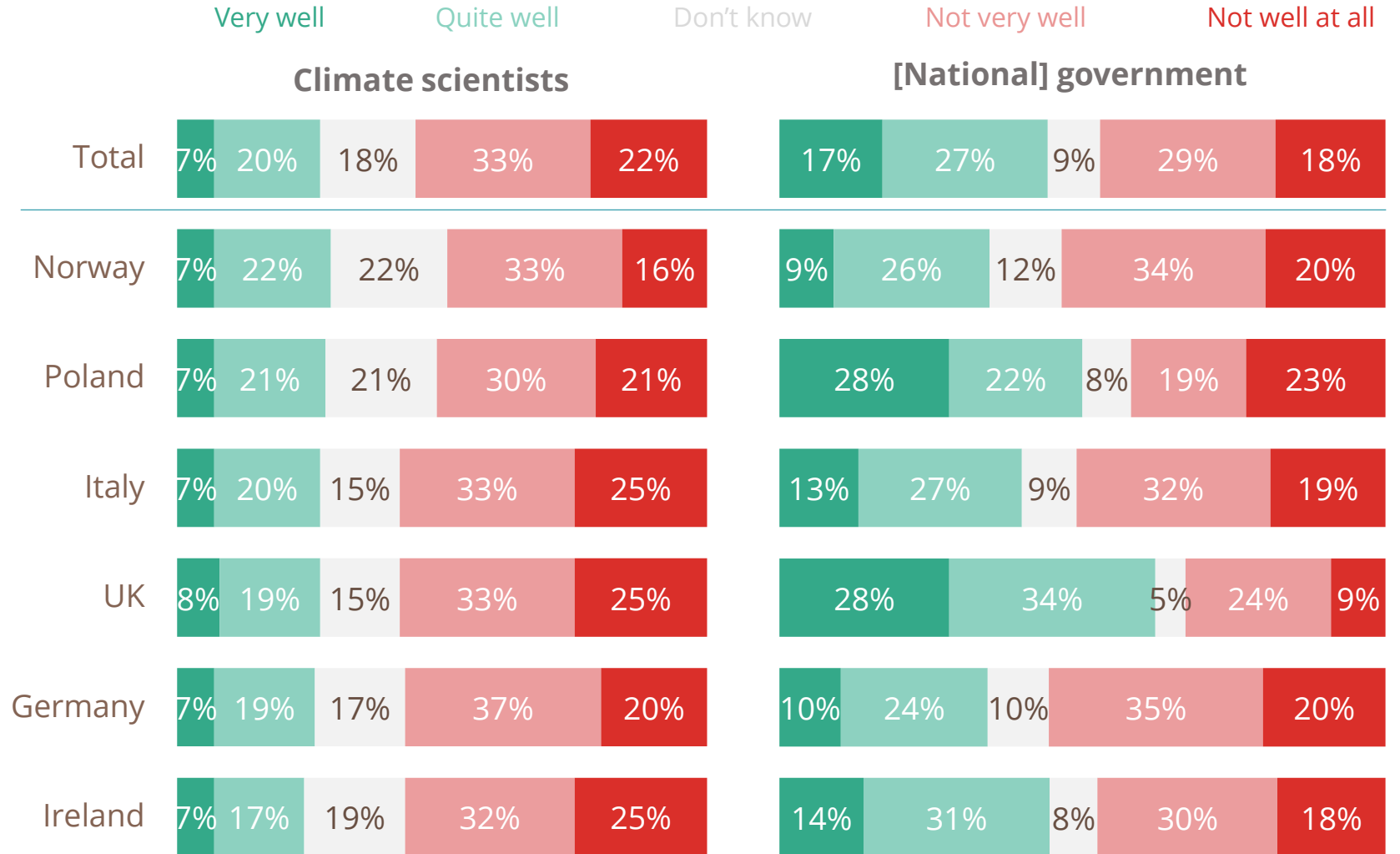
Three in ten people in the UK say that scientists tackling climate change ignore rules and procedures, but six in ten say this about the government.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Ignores rules and procedures**, generally describes the following groups

27% of people in the UK say that climate scientists ignore rules and procedures. However, more than twice as many (62%) people say this about the government – a difference of 35%.

This disparity is larger than in any other country. The next largest disparity (22%) is in Poland, where 28% of people say that scientists ignore rules and procedures, whilst 50% say this of the government.

The smallest disparity (6%) is in Norway, where 29% say that scientists ignore rules and procedures, whilst 34% say this of the government.



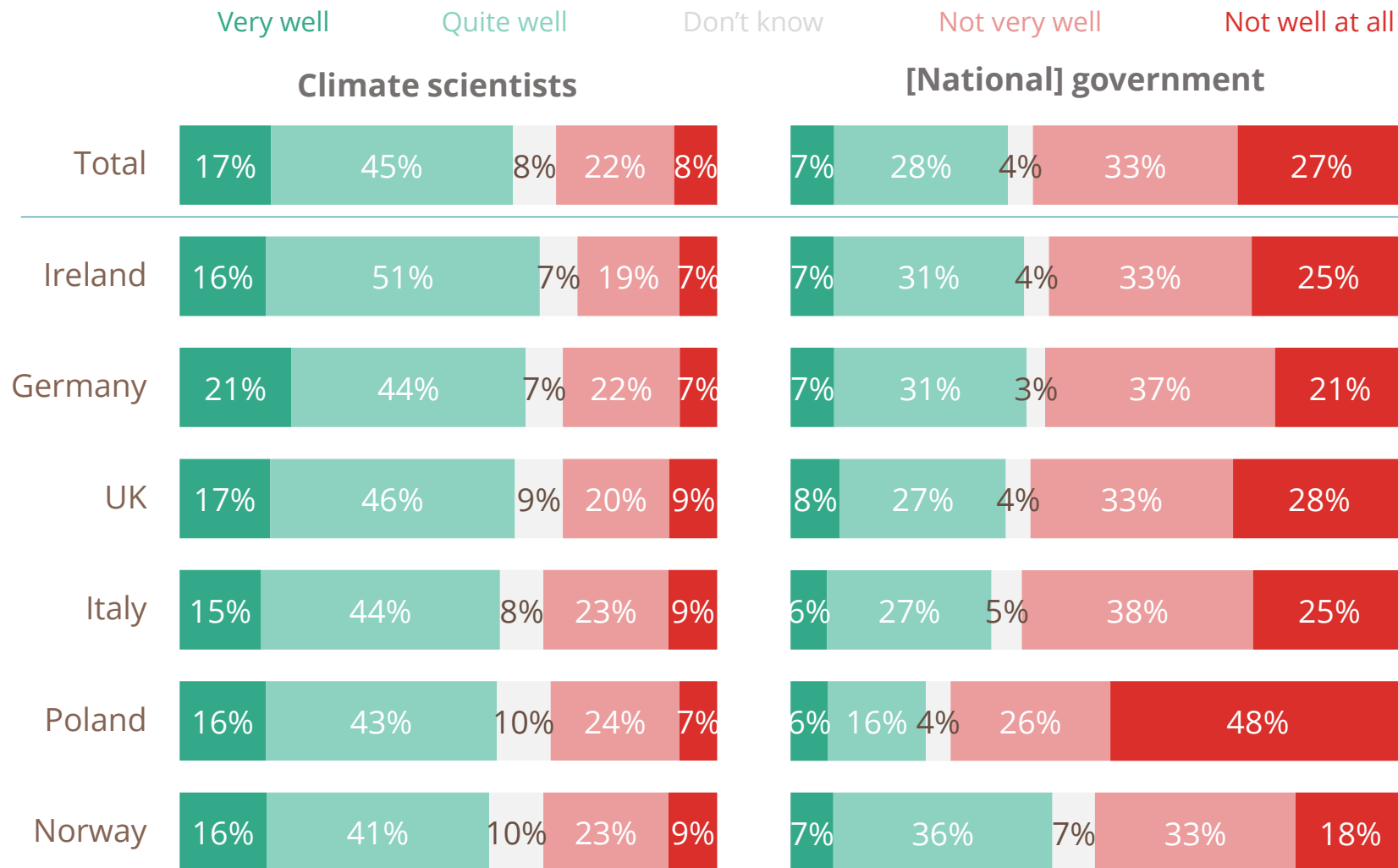
Six in ten people on average say that climate scientists communicate accurate and unbiased information – nearly half say this of government.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Communicates accurate and unbiased information**, generally describes the following groups

On average, 62% of people say that climate scientists communicate accurate and unbiased information. But only 35% of people say this about the government.

The country with the greatest difference in views is in Poland where 59% of people say this of climate scientists, whilst 22% say it of government.

The country with the smallest difference is Norway where 58% say this of climate scientists – the lowest of all countries – but 43% say this of government.



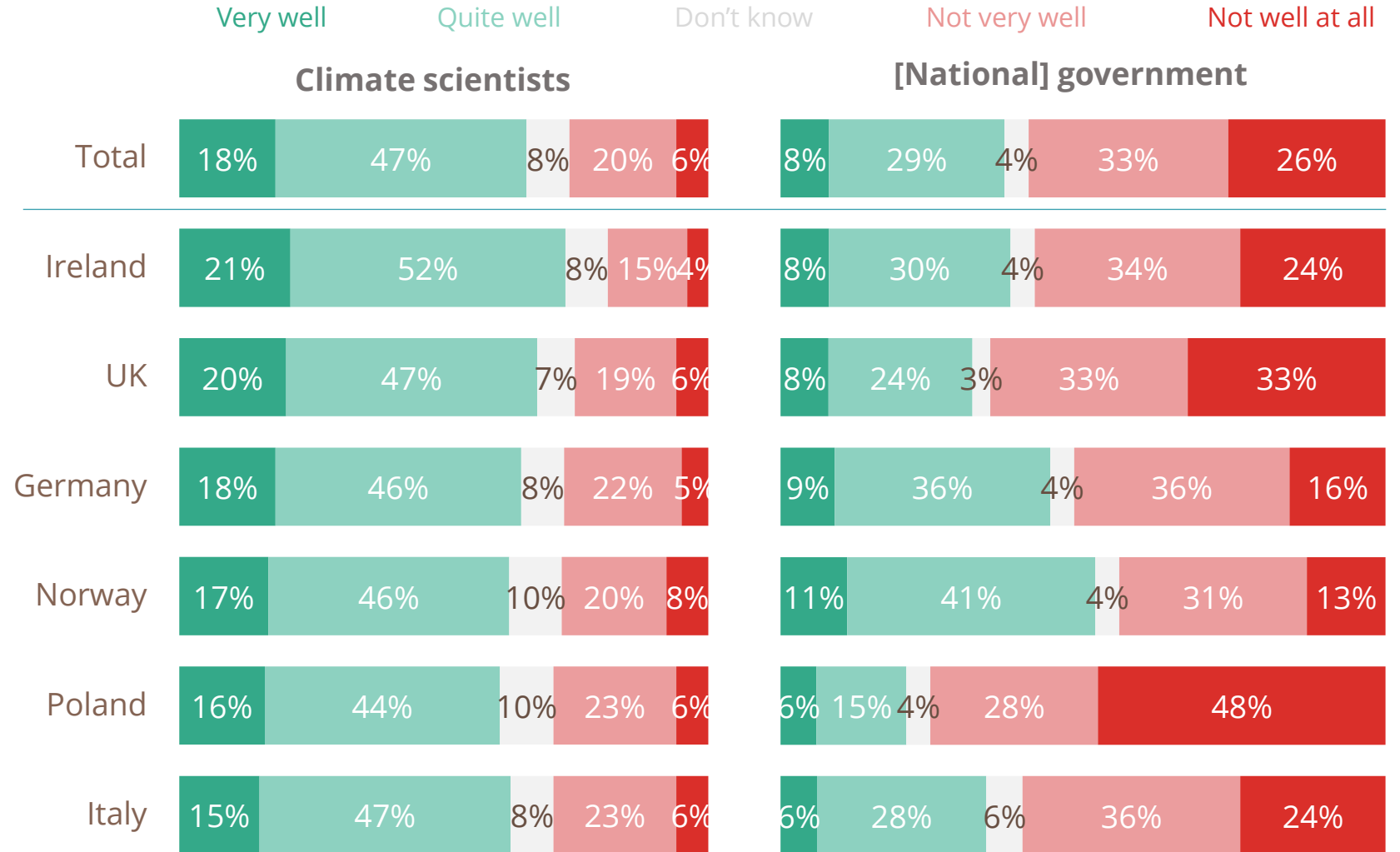
Seven in ten people in the UK say that climate scientists are well respected, whereas just three in ten say this of the government.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Well respected**, generally describes the following groups

67% of people in the UK say that climate scientists are well respected. But, only 31% say that the government is well respected – a difference of 35%.

The only country with a larger difference between these two evaluations is Poland (39%), where 60% of people say that climate scientists are well respected compared with 21% who say this about the government.

The country with the smallest difference is Norway (11%) where 63% say that scientists are well respected, whilst 52% say this of the government.



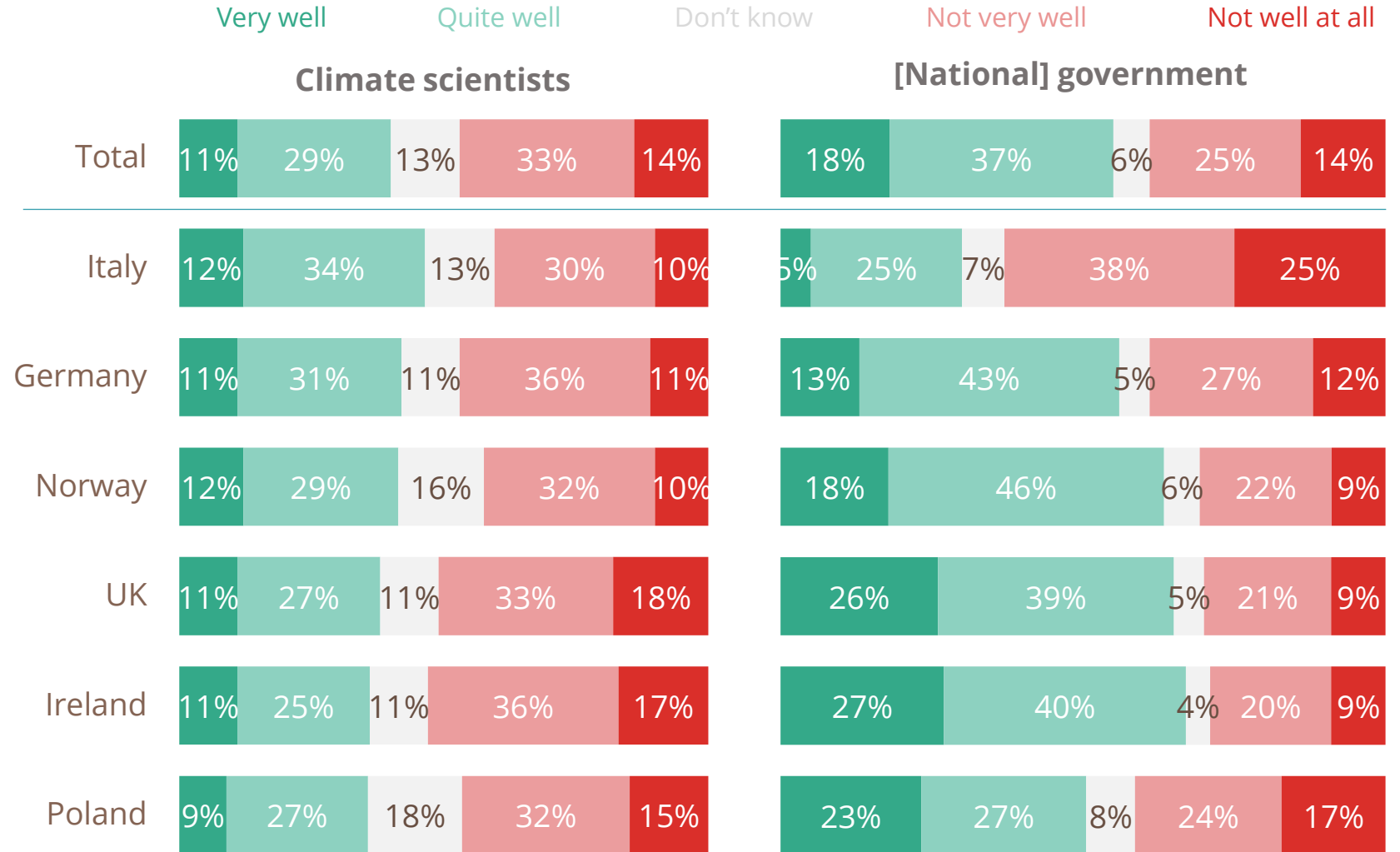
Nearly half of people in Italy say that climate scientists are politically motivated, whilst three in ten say this about the government.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Politically motivated**, generally describes the following groups

46% of people in Italy say that climate scientists are politically motivated, but 30% of people say this about the government.

In every other country, the government is viewed as being more politically motivated than these scientists.

For instance, in Ireland, 36% of people say this of scientists, whilst 67% say it of the government; and in the UK, 37% say that climate scientists are politically motivated, compared with 65% who say this of the government.

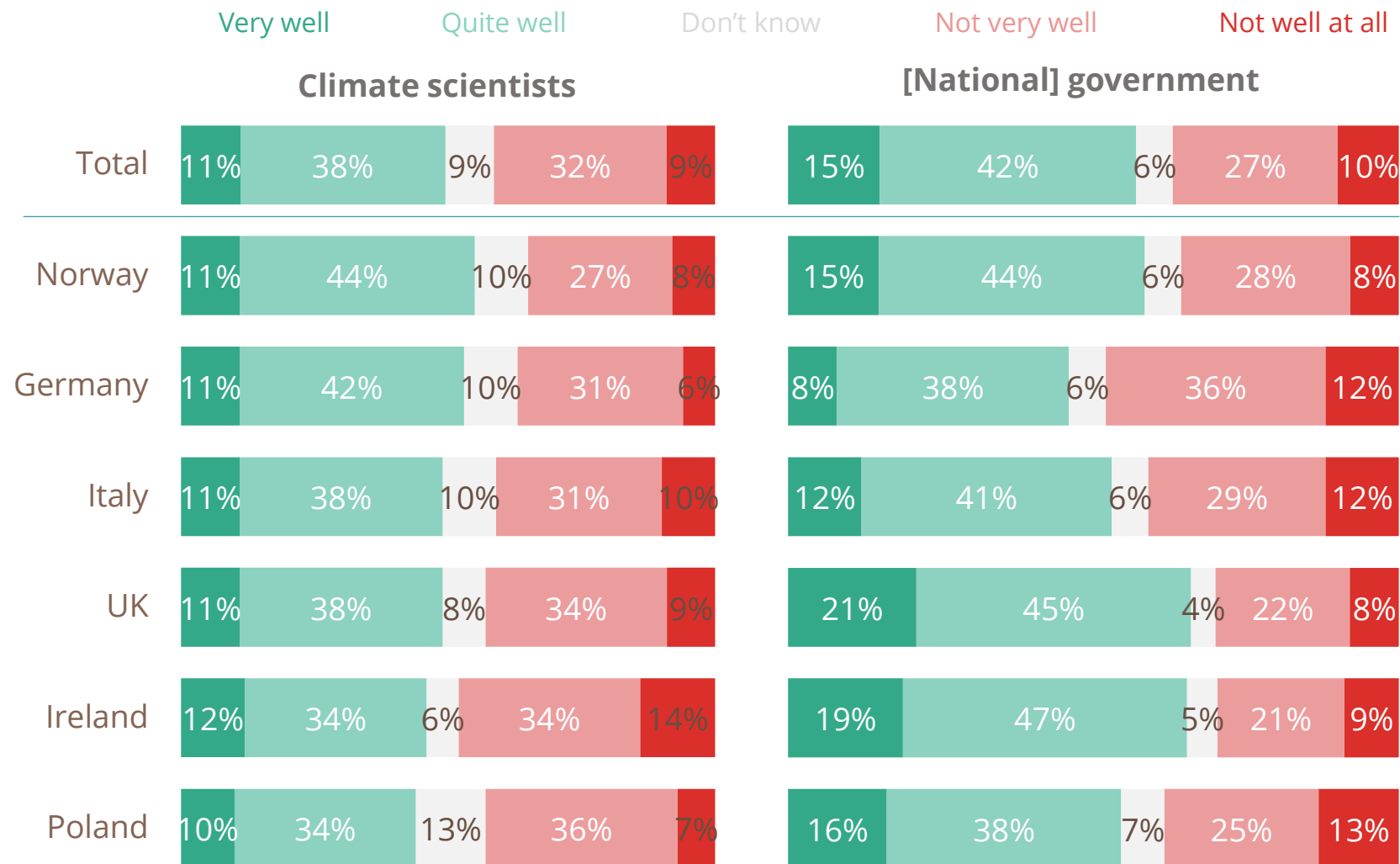


Six in ten people on average say that the government is prominent in the public eye, but five in ten say this about climate scientists.

And how well would you say the following characteristics, **Prominent in the public eye**, generally describes the following groups

49% of people on average say that climate scientists are prominent in the public eye. A similar but slightly higher amount (57%) say the same thing for their national government, indicating a fairly high degree of prominence for climate scientists to the public.

The people who thought that these scientists were least prominent in the public eye were those in Poland where 44% of people thought this, whilst the most was in Norway (55%) and Germany (53%).



Trust in information on climate change

Scientists working at universities are the most trusted to provide advice and accurate information about climate change. 55% of people on average trust scientists to provide this advice and information.

In all countries, except Poland, more people distrust than trust social media platforms to give advice and accurate information about climate change. Only 24% of people in Poland distrust social media, compared with an average of 39%.

Government are also not largely trusted to provide advice and accurate information about climate change. 35% of people on average distrust government on this compared with 30% who trust them.



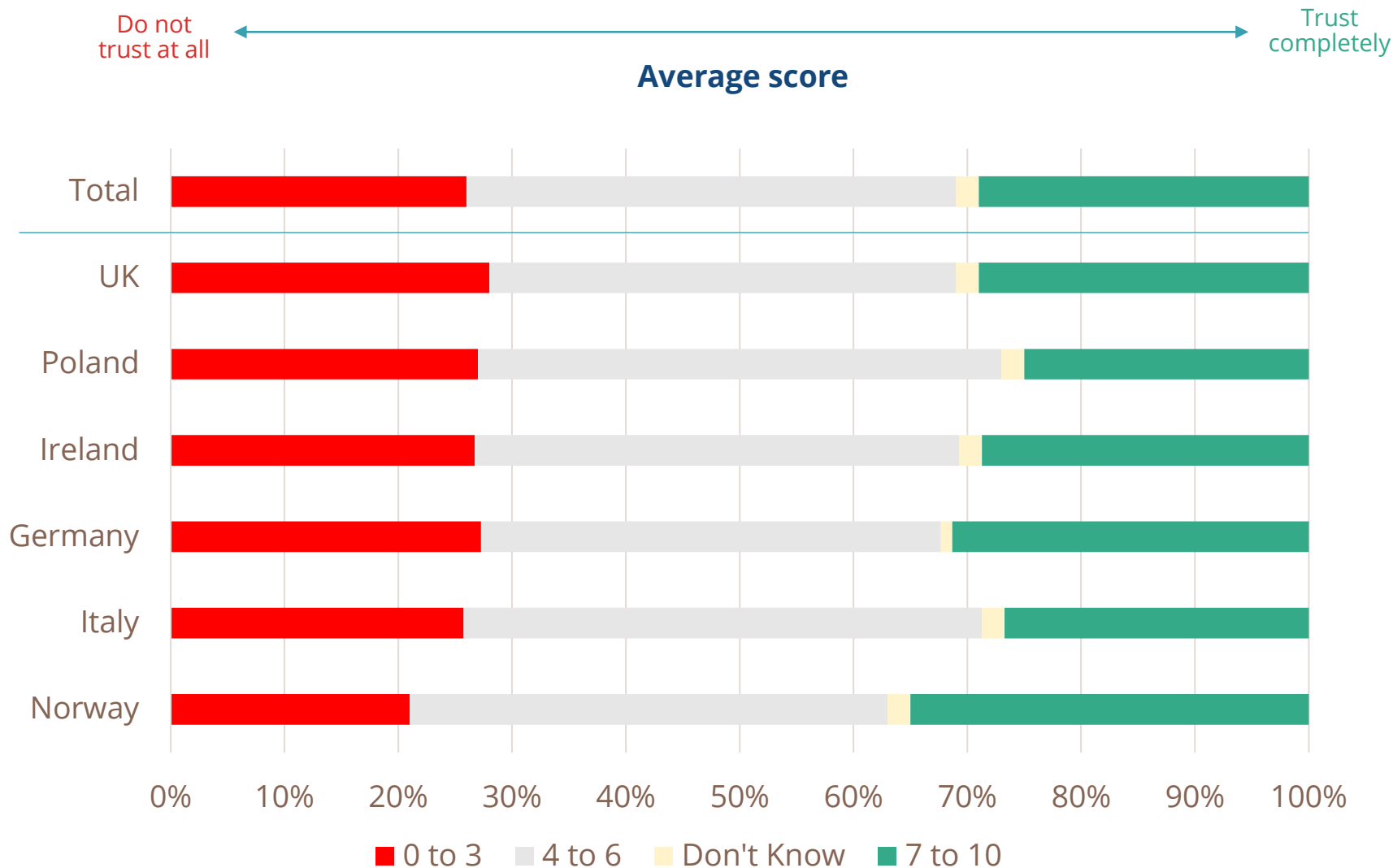
On average, a quarter of people distrust news and media organisations to give accurate information about climate change,

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **News and media organisations**

Across all countries surveyed, there is a high level of uncertainty over whether people trust or distrust news and media organisations to give advice and accurate information about climate change.

On average, 26% of people say they distrust news and media organisations, compared to only 29% who are trusting.

The UK is the least trusting country, whilst Norway is the most likely to trust news and media organisations when it comes to climate change.



Half of Germans distrust social media platforms to give accurate information about climate change.

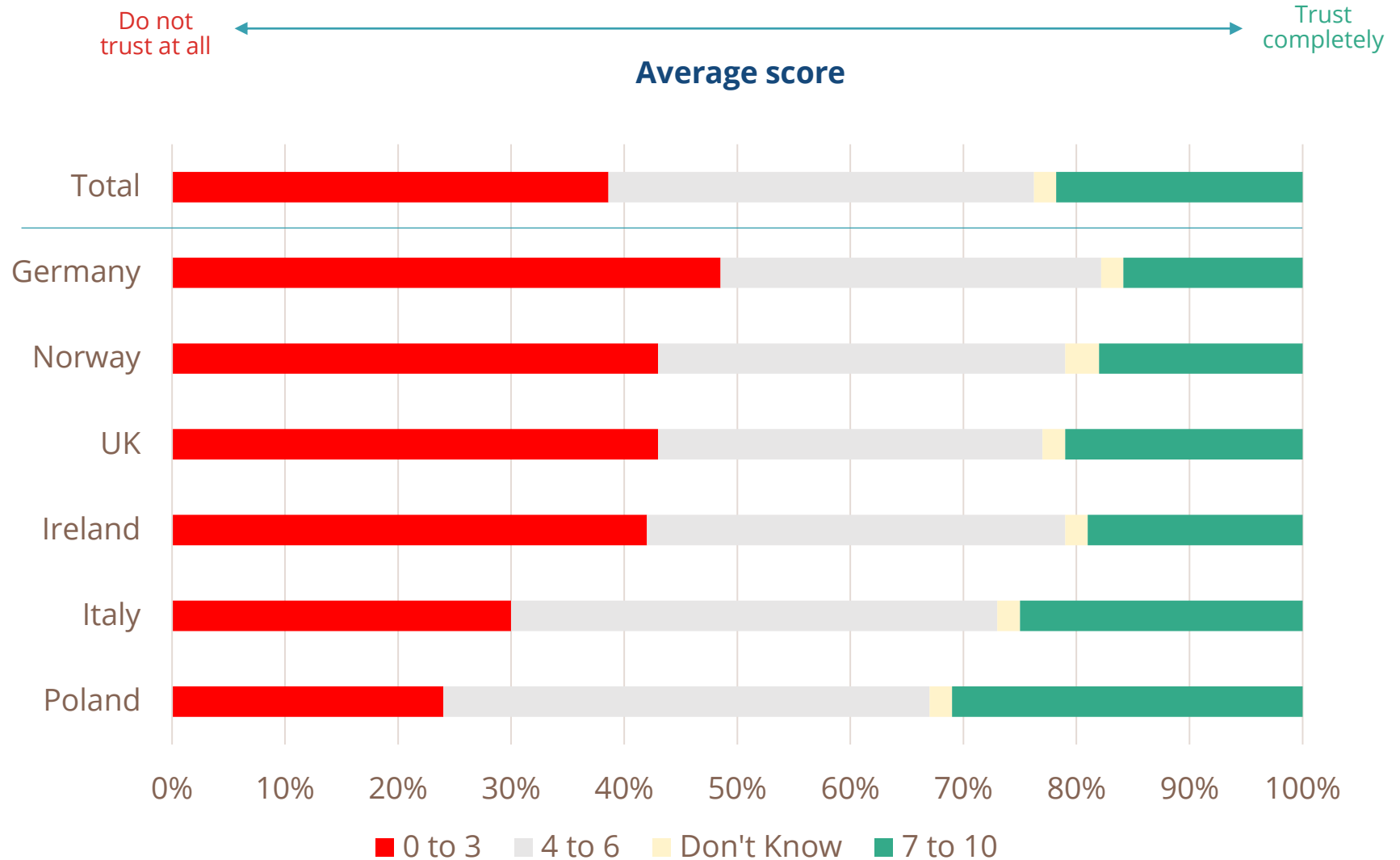
Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **Social media platforms (eg Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter)**

In all countries surveyed, except Poland, more people distrust than trust social media platforms to give advice and accurate information about climate change.

Germany is the country where people are most likely to distrust social media platforms, with 49% of Germans distrusting social media when it comes to climate change.

Poland is the only country where more people trust social media platforms than do not. Only 24% of people in Poland distrust social media when it comes to climate change, compared to 31% who do trust it.

Large numbers of people across all countries are uncertain, saying that they neither trust nor distrust social media when it comes to climate change.

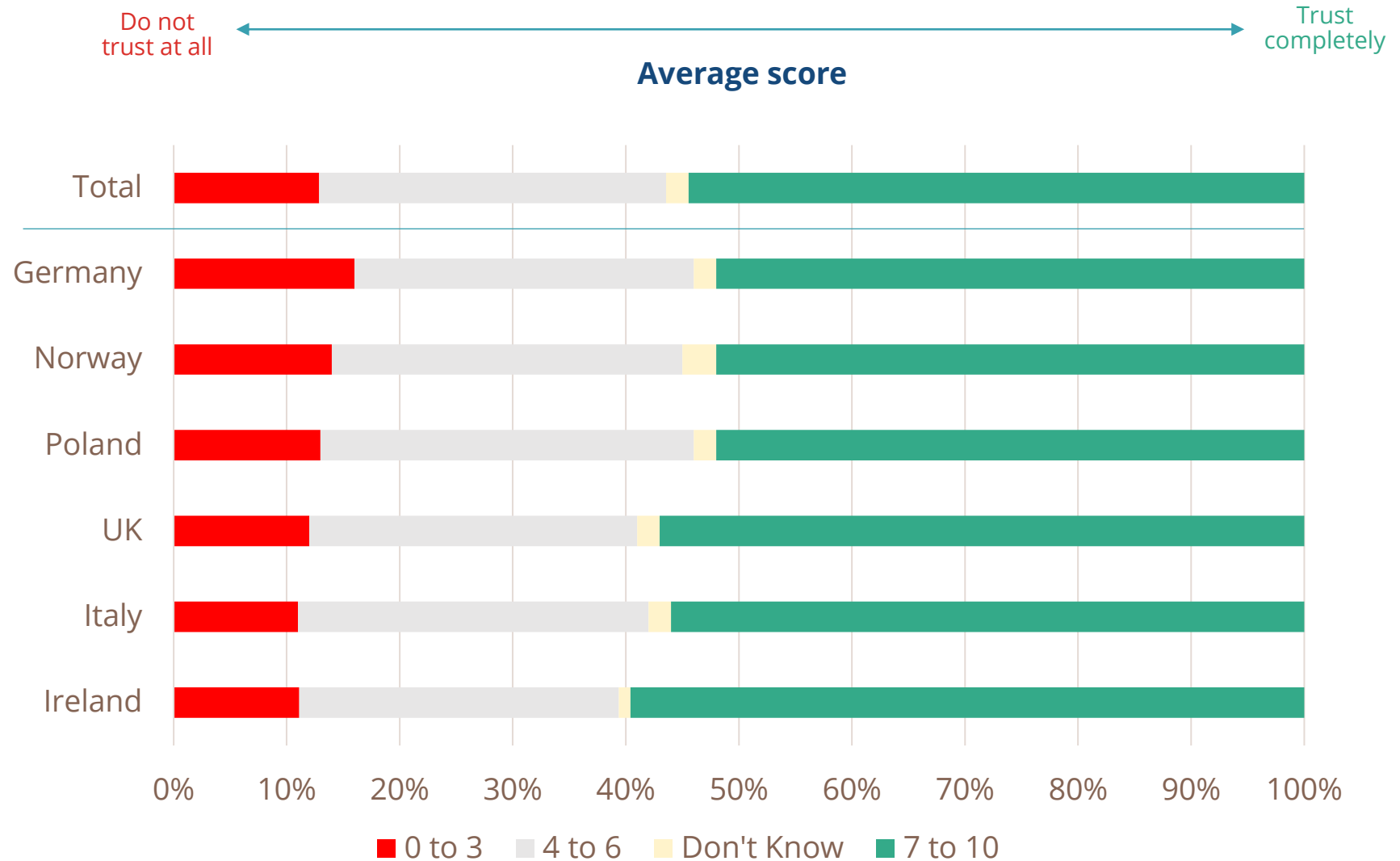


A majority of people trust climate scientists working at universities.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **Climate scientists working at universities**

Across all countries surveyed, a majority of people trust climate scientists working at universities to give them advice and accurate information about climate change.

Ireland is country where people are most likely to trust climate scientists working in universities, with 59% of people saying this. Only 11% of people in Ireland and Italy say that they do not trust climate scientists working in universities.



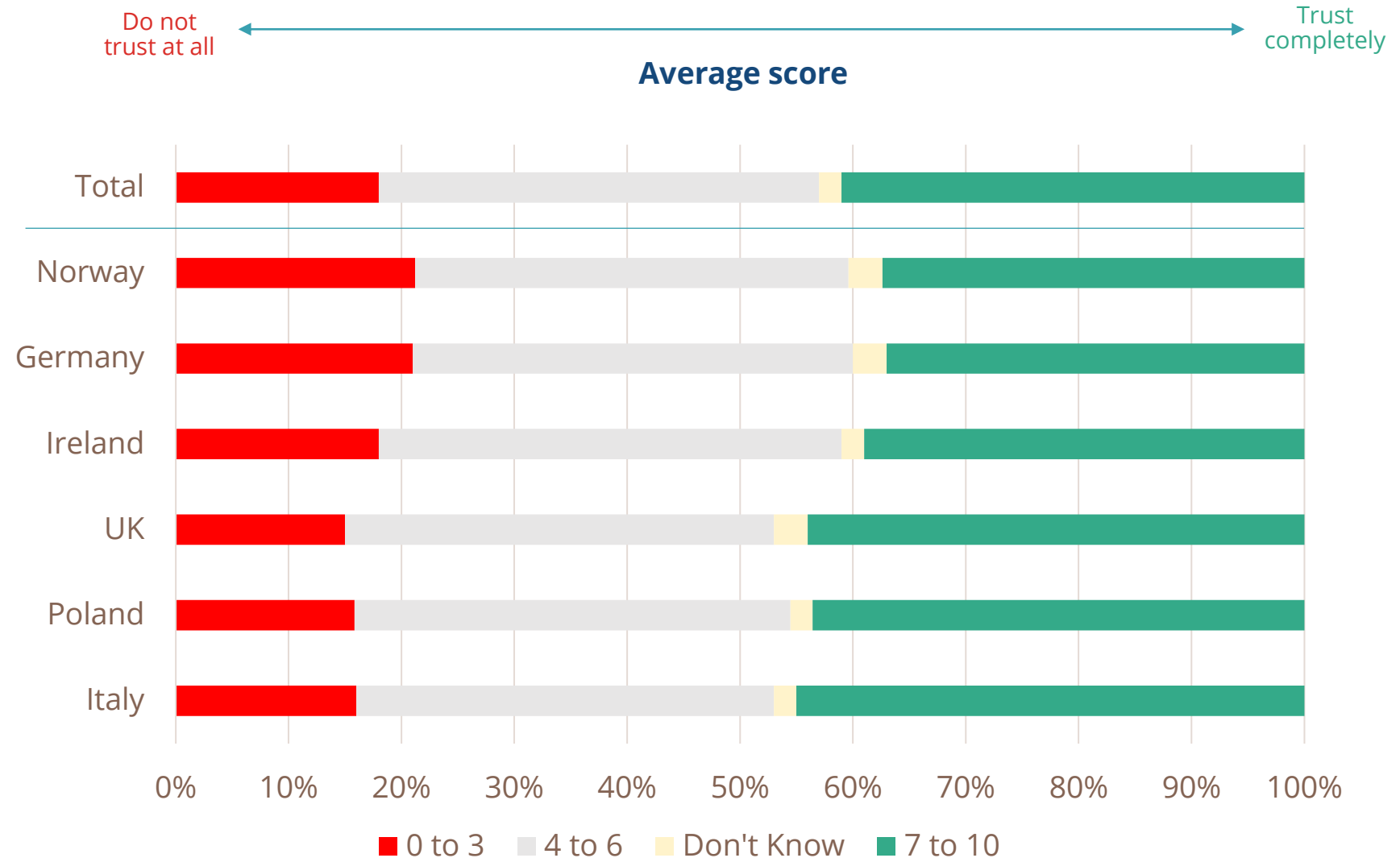
On average, one in five people do not trust climate scientists working at private companies.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **Climate scientists working at private companies**

Across all countries surveyed, more people trust than distrust climate scientists working at private companies to give them advice and accurate information about climate change. However, almost a fifth (18%) do not.

In Norway, 37% of people trust climate scientists working at private companies, whilst 21% do not.

In Italy, 45% of people trust climate scientists working at private companies, whilst 16% do not.



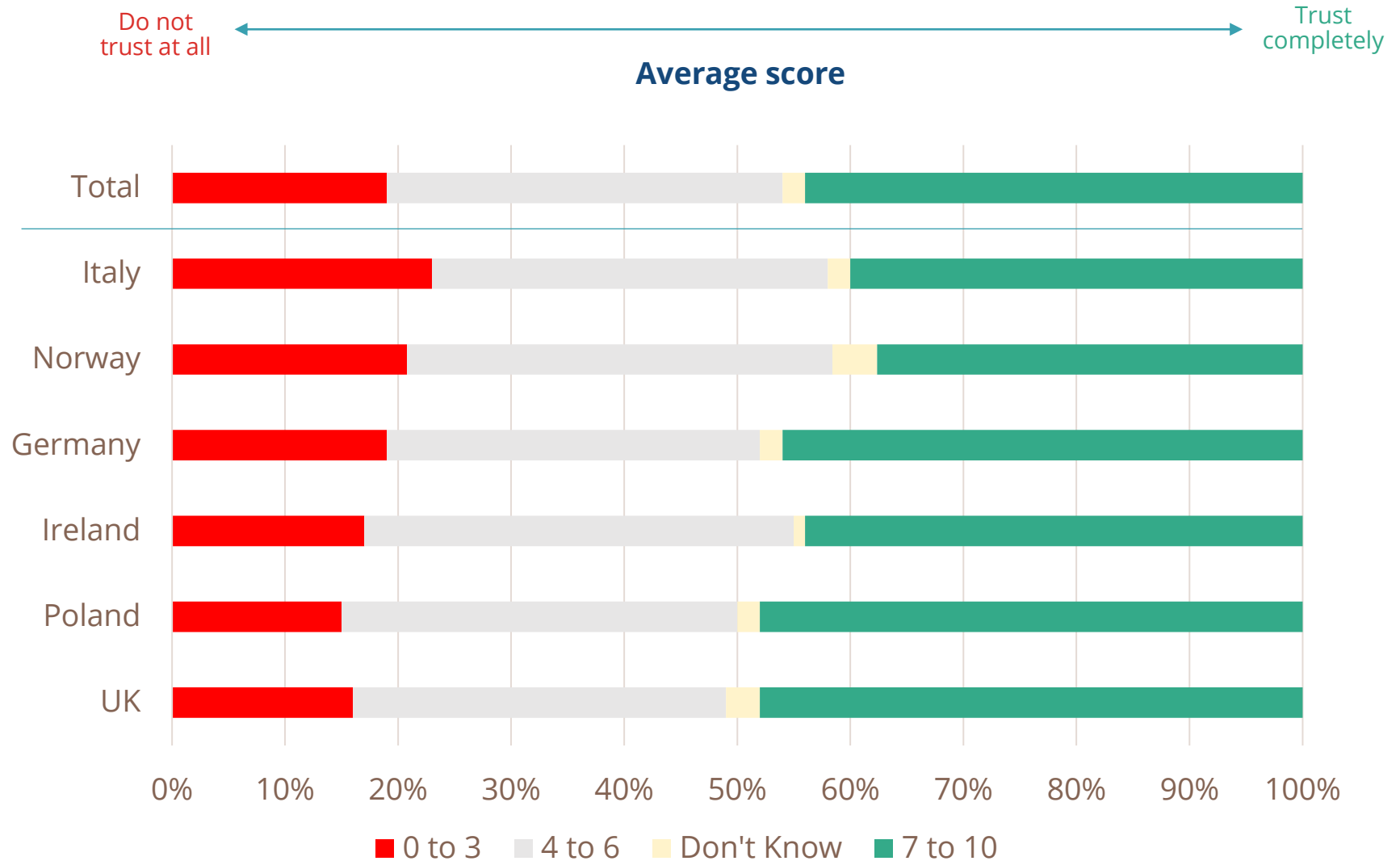
People in the UK are the most likely to trust climate charities and NGOs to give accurate information about climate change.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **Climate charities and NGOs (Non-governmental organisations)**

Across all countries surveyed, more people trust climate charities and NGOs than distrust them, to give people advice and accurate information about climate change.

The UK is the country where people are most likely to trust climate charities and NGOs, with 48% of people who say this, and only 16% who do not.

In contrast, Italians are the least likely to trust climate charities and NGOs. In Italy, 40% of people say that they trust climate charities and NGOs, whilst 23% do not.



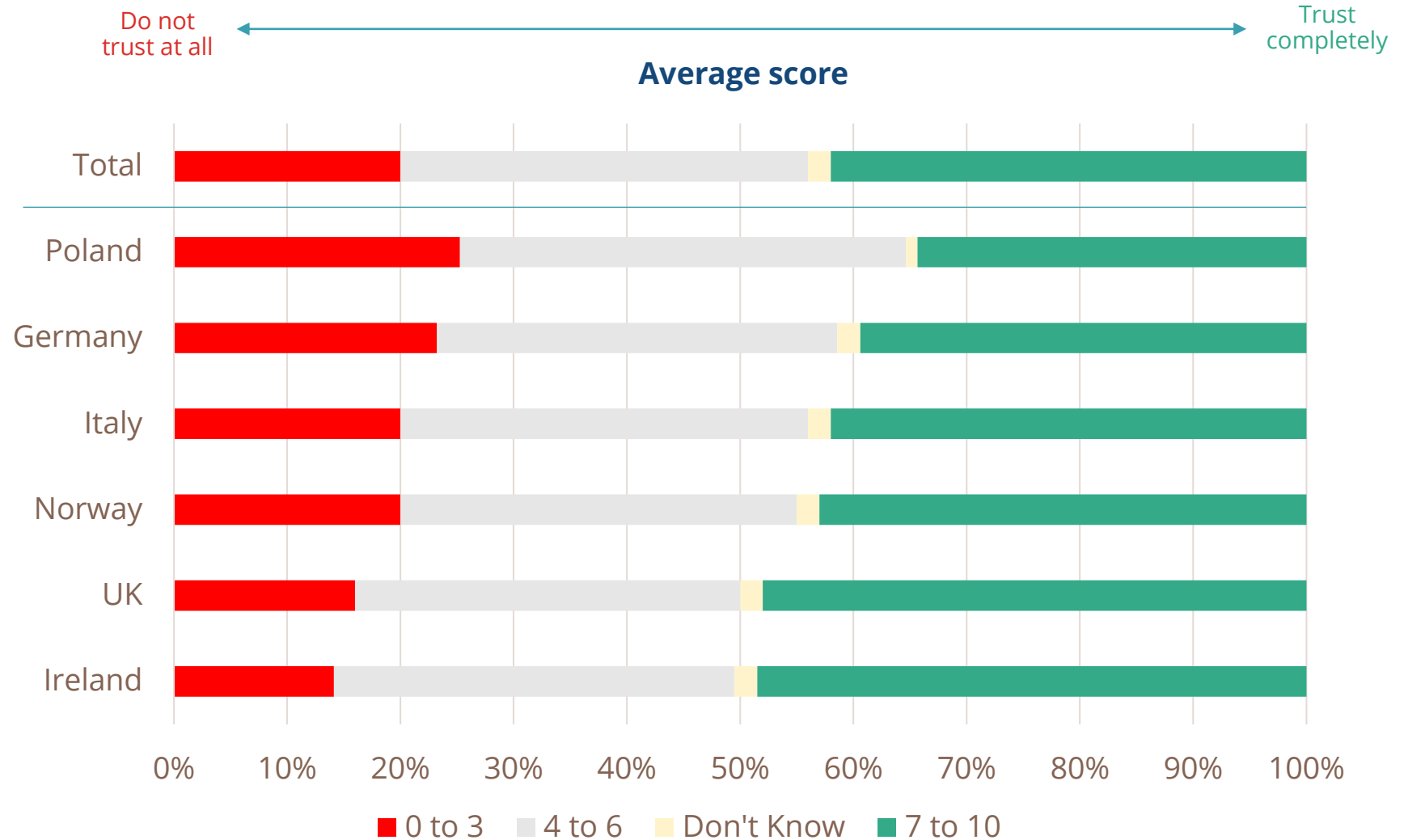
A quarter of people in Poland do not trust climate scientists working with the government.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **Climate scientists working with the government, including on advisory groups, panels or committees**

Across all countries surveyed, more people trust climate scientists working with the government, than do not.

Poland is the country where people are least likely to trust climate scientists working with the government, including on advisory groups, panels or committees. In Poland, 34% of people say they trust climate scientists working with the government, whilst 25% do not.

Ireland and the UK are the countries where people are most likely to trust climate scientists working with the government, with 48% of people in both countries saying this.



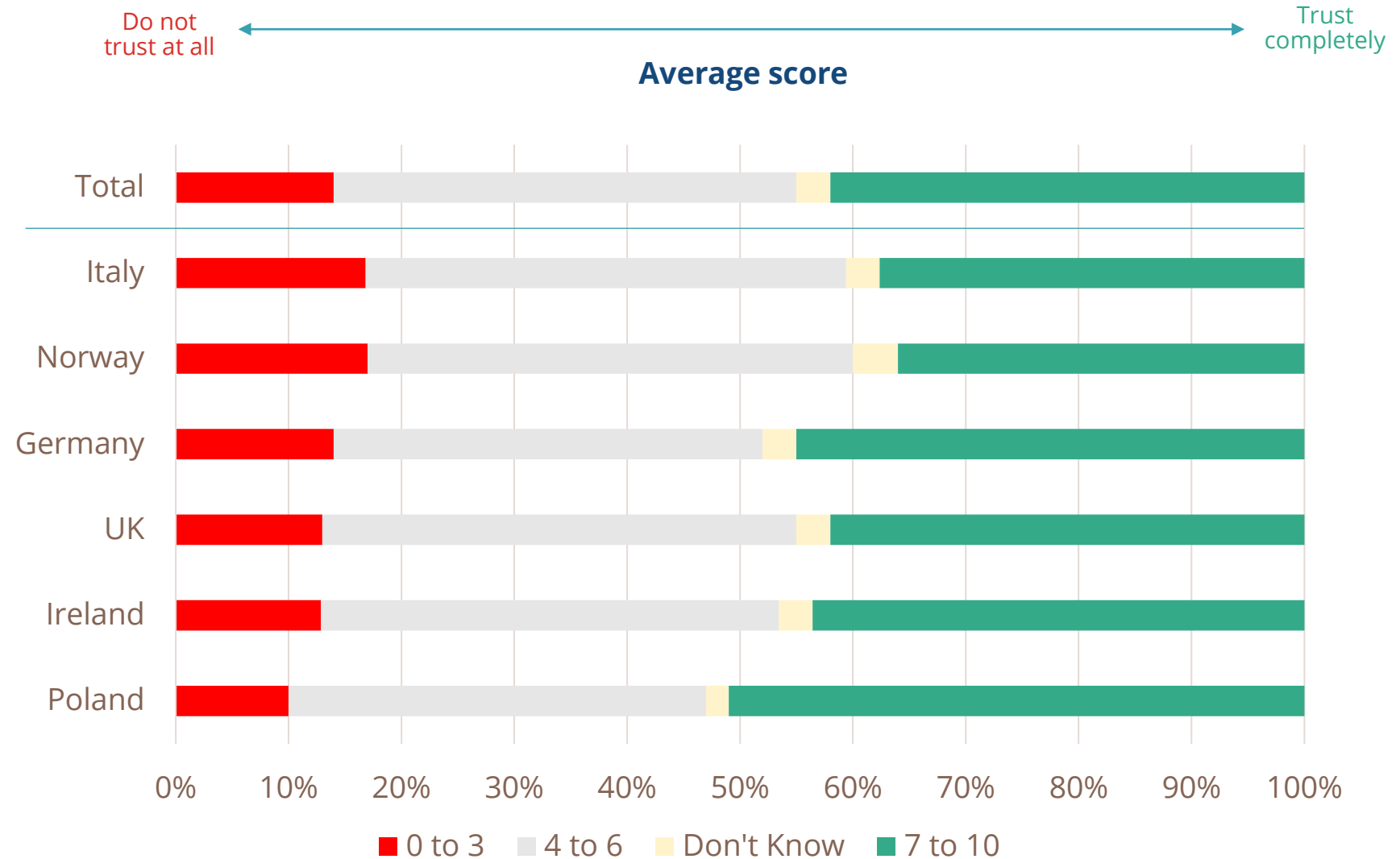
Two out of five people in the UK trust family and friends to give them accurate information about climate change.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **Family and friends**

Large numbers of people across all countries surveyed say they trust family and friends to give them advice and accurate information about climate change.

This is highest in Poland, where 51% of people say this. In the UK, 42% of people say this. People in Italy are least likely to say this, with 38% of Italians trusting family and friends to give them accurate information about climate change, whilst a further 17% of Italians say they do not trust family and friends.

There are also large numbers of people who are uncertain, saying that they neither trust nor distrust family and friends to give them accurate information about climate change.

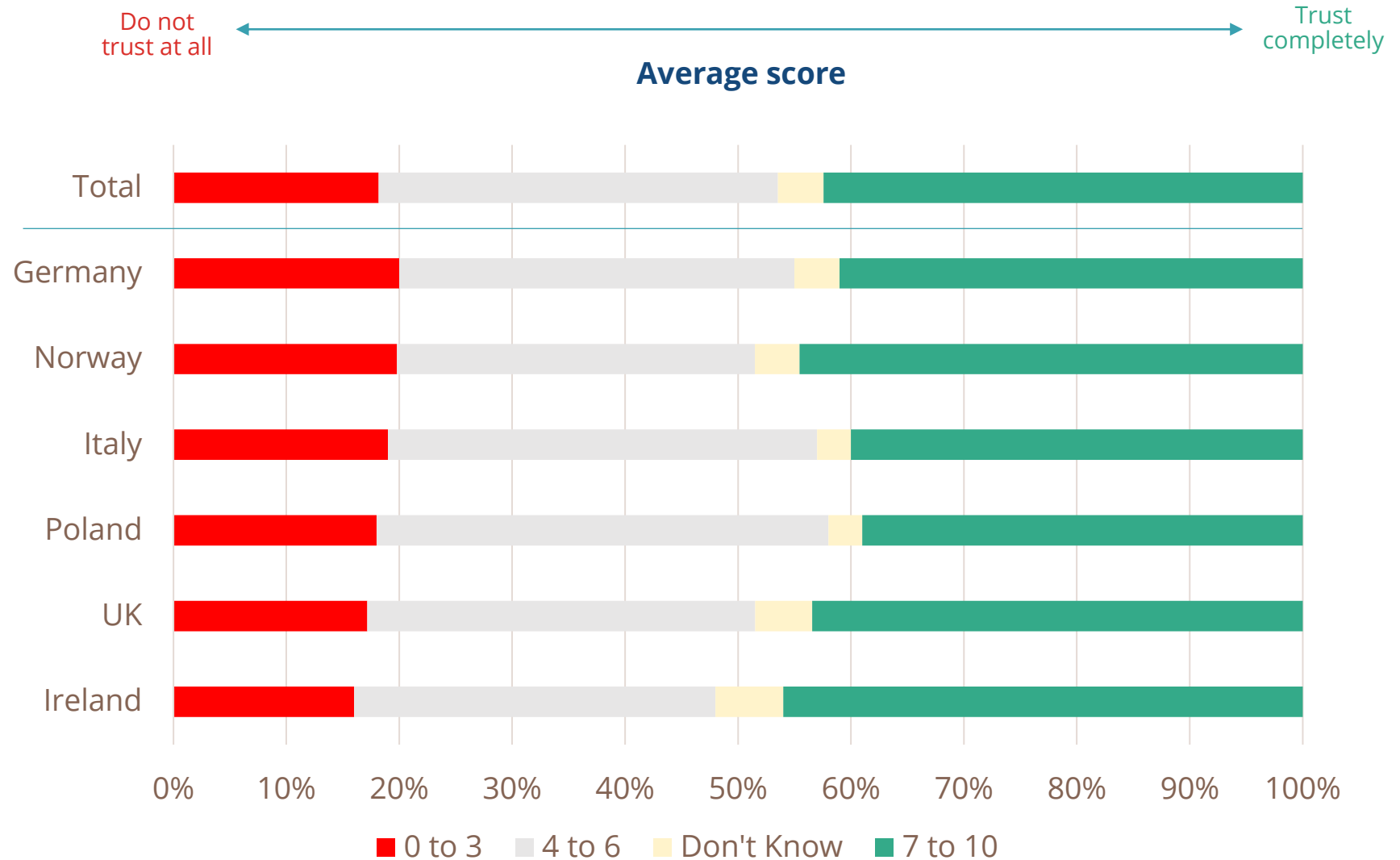


On average, one in five people do not trust the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

Across all countries surveyed, more people trust than distrust the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to give them advice and accurate information about climate change. However, almost a fifth (18%) do not.

In the UK, 43% of people say they trust the IPCC. A further 17% do not, whilst 34% neither trust nor distrust the IPCC. This perception is similar across all countries surveyed.

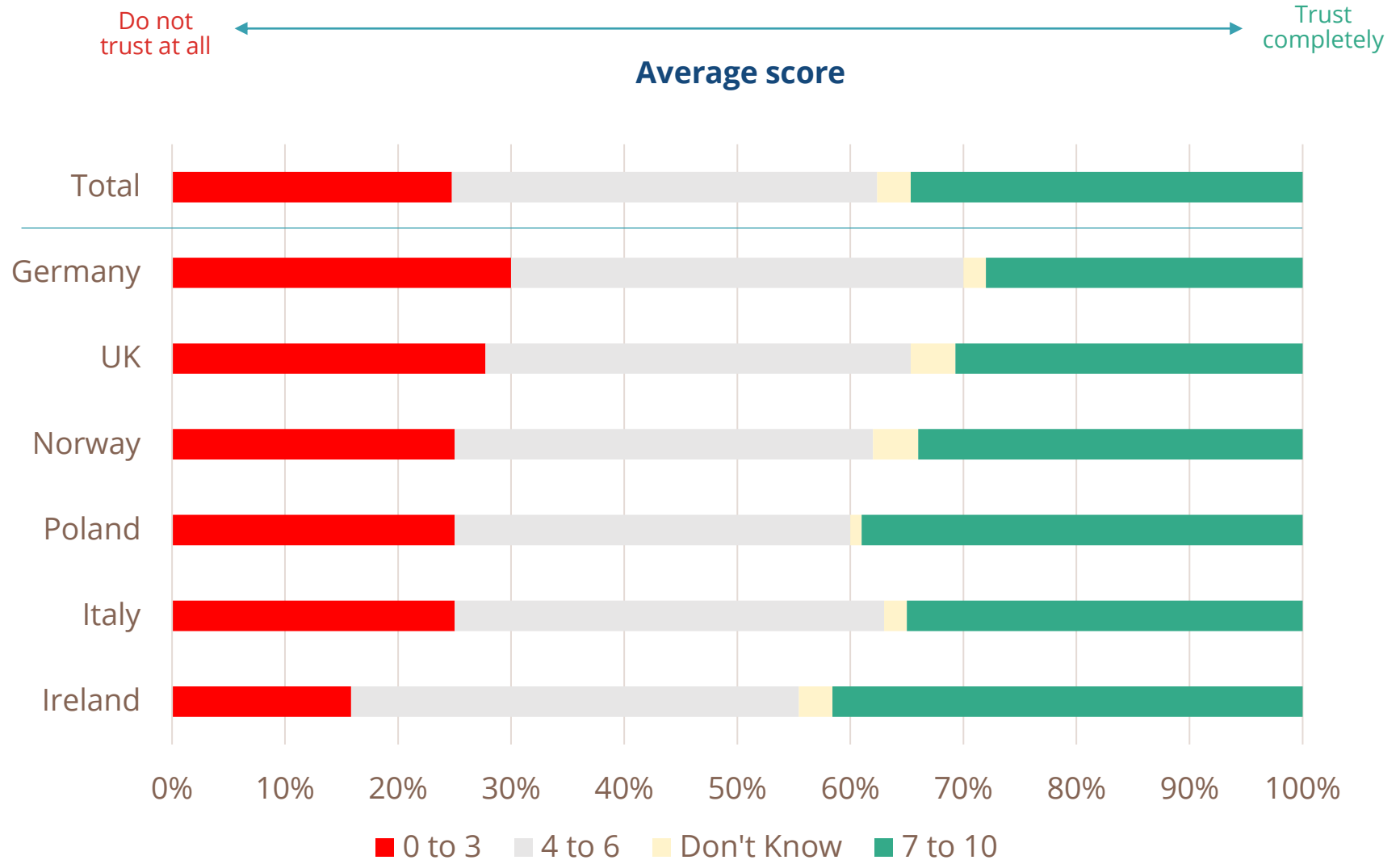


People in Ireland are most likely to trust the European Commission to give accurate information about climate change.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **European Commission**

Across all countries surveyed, except Ireland, people are relatively mixed over whether they trust the European Commission to give them advice and accurate information about climate change. Many people say that they neither trust nor distrust the European Commission when it comes to climate change.

Ireland is the country where people are most likely to trust the European Commission when it comes to climate change. In Ireland, 42% of people trust the European Commission, whilst 16% do not.

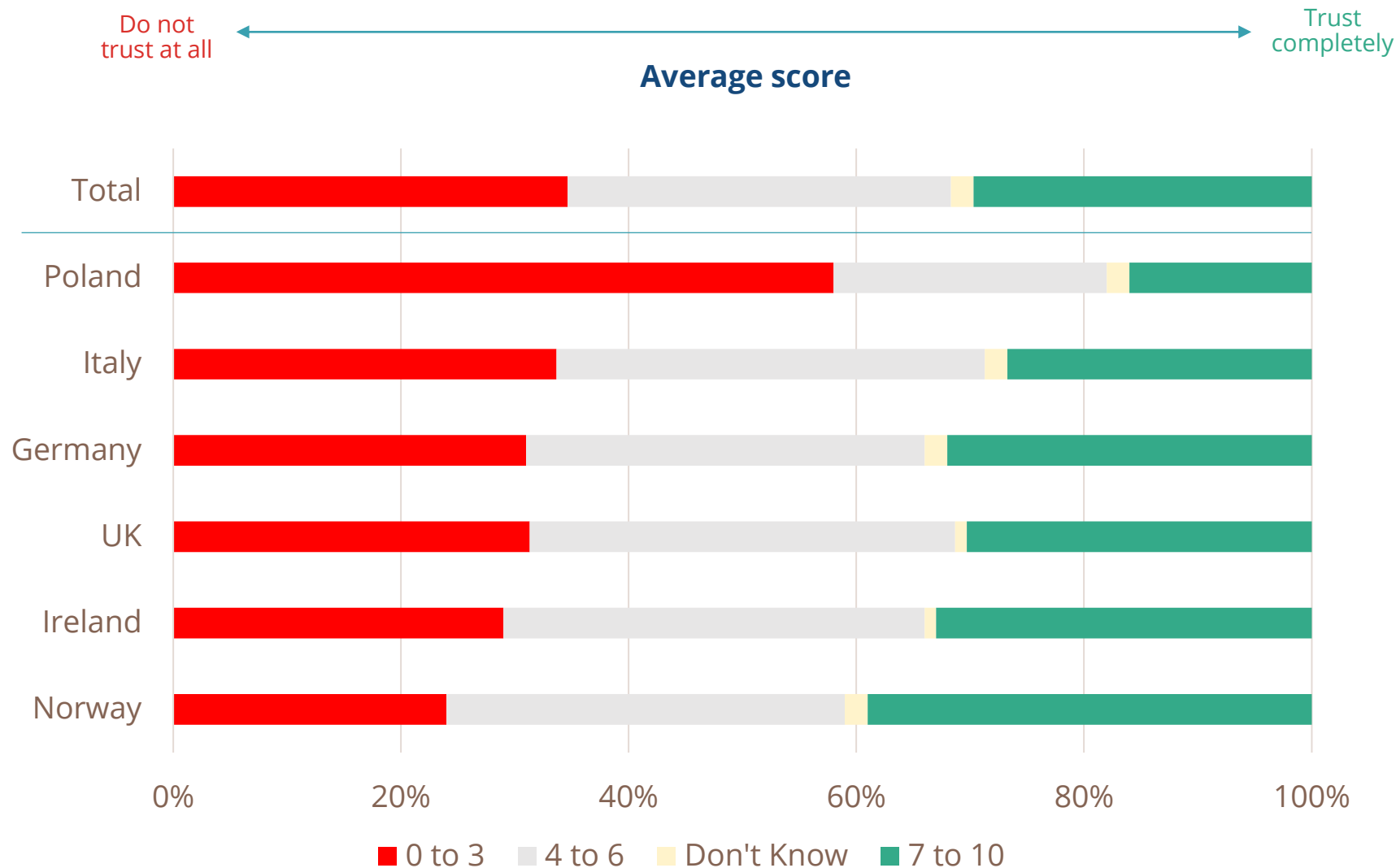


People in Poland are significantly more likely to distrust than trust the government to give accurate information about climate change.

Thinking about the groups of people and institutions mentioned earlier, who, out of the following, would you trust to give you advice and accurate information about climate change in [your country]? **Government**

In Poland, 58% of people distrust the government to give advice and accurate information about climate change. This is substantially more than in any other country. In fact, it is the only country where a majority of people think this. Only 16% of people in Poland trust the government when it comes to climate change.

Norway is the country where people are most likely to trust the government when it comes to climate change. In Norway, 39% of people trust the government, compared to 24% who do not.





PERITIA

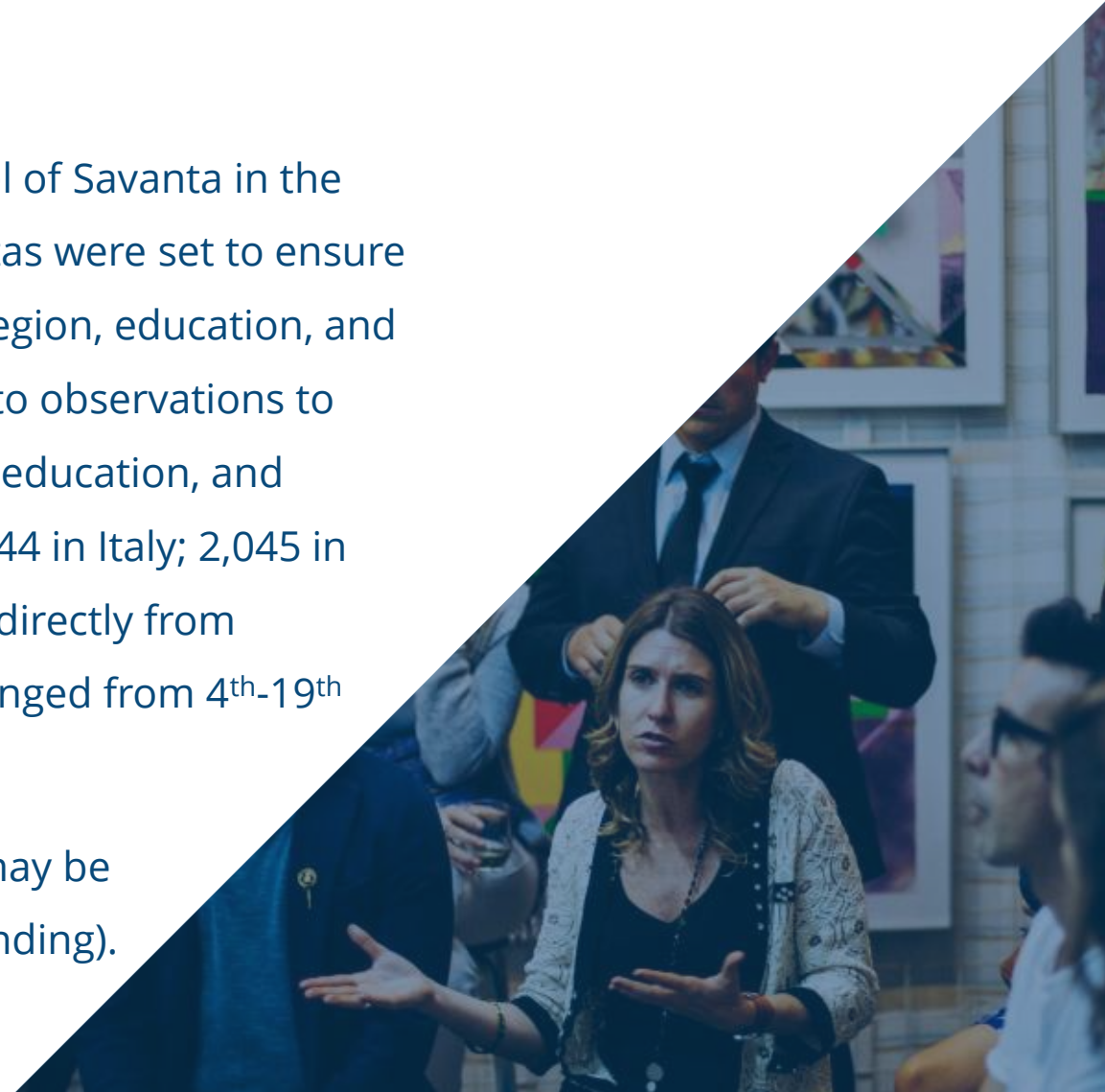
Policy, Expertise and Trust

Technical Note



This survey was conducted drawing on the proprietary online panel of Savanta in the UK and similar panels in their network in the other countries. Quotas were set to ensure sufficient responses within each country in terms of age, gender, region, education, and income. Once data collection was complete, weights were applied to observations to create a sample reflective of the population in age, gender, region, education, and income. Sample sizes were: 2,017 in Germany; 2,030 in Ireland; 2,044 in Italy; 2,045 in Norway; 2,168 in Poland; and 2,042 in the UK. Data were collected directly from respondents via a self-completed online survey. Fieldwork dates ranged from 4th-19th January 2022.

Note: For net figures (e.g. adding 'Very Well' to 'Quite Well'), there may be one percentage point difference on simple aggregation due to rounding).



For further information please contact:

Prof. Bobby Duffy
Director, Policy Institute
bobby.duffy@kcl.ac.uk

Dr Finlay Malcolm
Research Associate,
Policy Institute

George May
Head of Communications,
Policy Institute

Dr Kirstie Hewlett
Research Fellow,
Policy Institute

Tianne Haggart
Research Assistant,
Policy Institute

Connect with us

 [@policyatking](https://twitter.com/policyatking)  kcl.ac.uk/policy-institute

