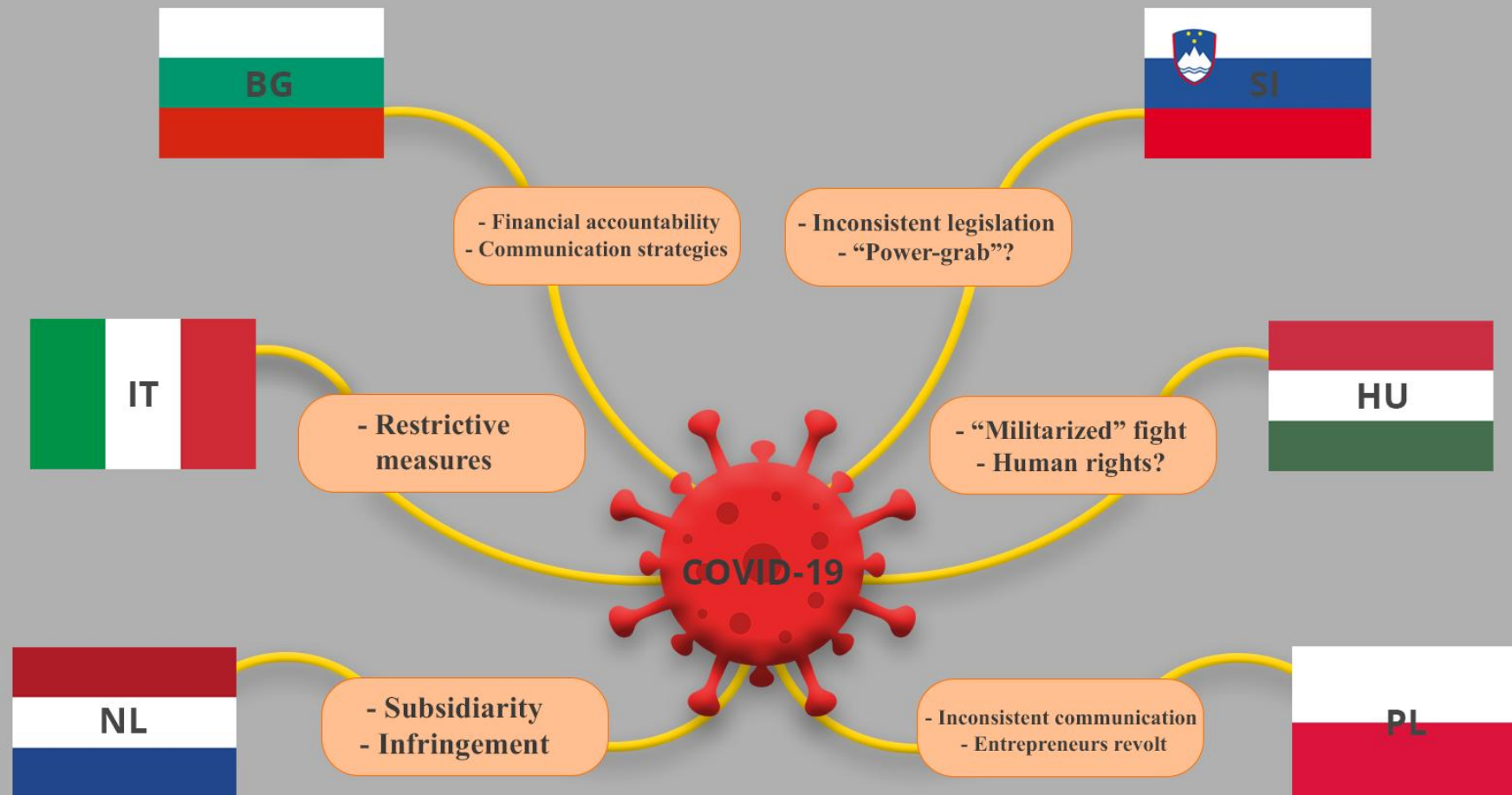


## NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Some features of six given countries highlighting how the government infringed upon the rights to transparency and fairness of the public administration, when adopting measures countering Covid-19 pandemic



**The health emergency caused by Covid-19 outbreak required the governments of EU Member States to adopt several urgent measures to contain and manage the spread of the virus throughout the whole EU territory.**

**Such measures have inexorably posed restrictions on the citizens' basic civil liberties.**



## WHAT IS TRANSPARENCY?



**Promoting transparency about the government activity is one of the policies undertaken in contemporary democracies to monitor the integrity and performance of public officials, improve policy effectiveness and enhance government accountability.**



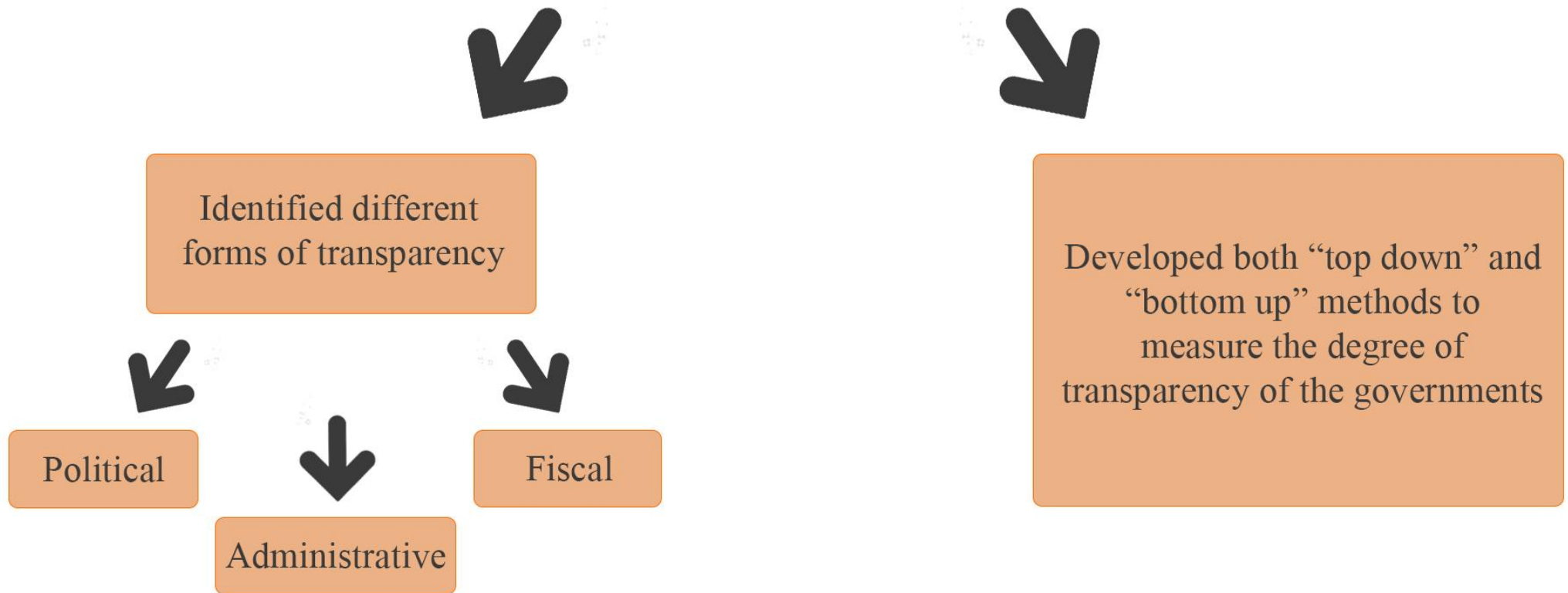
**When the public administration acts in a “transparent” way, this ensures its accountability and the safeguard of the citizens’ basic rights.**



# TRANSPARENCY AT STAKE

## SEVERAL ISSUES

*In twenty-five years of transparency research scholars have:*

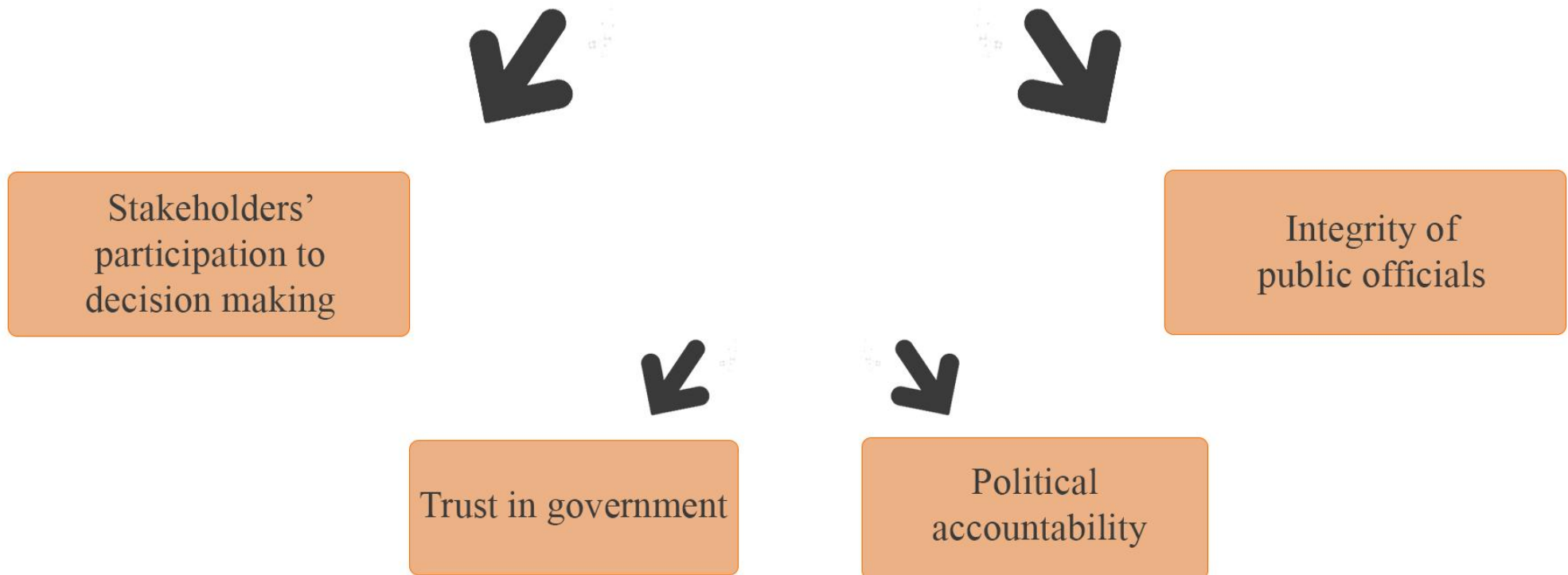


*Socio-economic and political factors that affect the demand of transparency have been analysed, and namely:*

- 1) *age*
- 2) *gender*
- 3) *digitalization*
- 4) *education*
- 5) *income*
- 6) *party competition*
- 7) *voter turnout*

## TRANSPARENCY AT STAKE

*There is also a positive impact of transparency on the policy outcomes, i.e.:*







# HUNGARY

*In order to assess the public perception of the COVID-19 pandemic-related lockdown measures, the paper analyzes the opinion survey data of the Republikon Institute.*

*The data collection was conducted by interviewing 1,000 people by telephone between the 19th and 25th of September, 2020. The sample is representative of the adult population of the country by age, gender, education, and type of settlement.*

<i>How important are the following measures?</i>	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
wearing facemasks	1.6907	993	1.16687
limiting the number of participants at events	2.0997	975	1.3083
travel restrictions	2.8042	980	1.46429
closing restaurants, cafes	2.9313	958	1.36743
shutting down institutes of education	3.1528	960	1.31743
curfew	3.5063	980	1.41187
introducing the shopping time limit for senior citizens	3.5951	981	1.47064
closing shops	4.197	986	1,02098

**Table 1: Mean value of the approval of lockdown measures on a five point scale (1=very important, 5=not important at all)**

<i>How did the following matters changed during the pandemic in Hungary?</i>	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
freedom of assembly	2.3996	876	0.96017
access to education	2.4314	930	1.11052
freedom of press	2.5357	906	1.00685
state of freedom of speech	2.5605	935	0.94921
free access to information	2.6291	931	1.00018
freedom of religion	2.8359	853	0,72389

**Table 2: Mean value of subjective assessment of change of freedoms during the COVID-19 pandemic (1=it became much worse, 5=it became much better)**


**HUNGARY**

*In order to assess the public perception of the COVID-19 pandemic-related lockdown measures, the paper analyzes the opinion survey data of the Republikon Institute.*

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**Table 3: Mean value of satisfaction with the Hungarian government strategy against coronavirus (1=very satisfied, 5=very unsatisfied)**

<i>Are you satisfied with the Hungarian government's strategy against the coronavirus?</i>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
<i>Fidesz voters</i>	1.9374	424	0.88616
<i>voters of the united opposition</i>	3.6933	299	1.00173
<i>undecided voters</i>	3.1137	88	1.16746
<i>no answer</i>	2.8335	71	1.18606
<i>total</i>	2.7218	882	1,26317

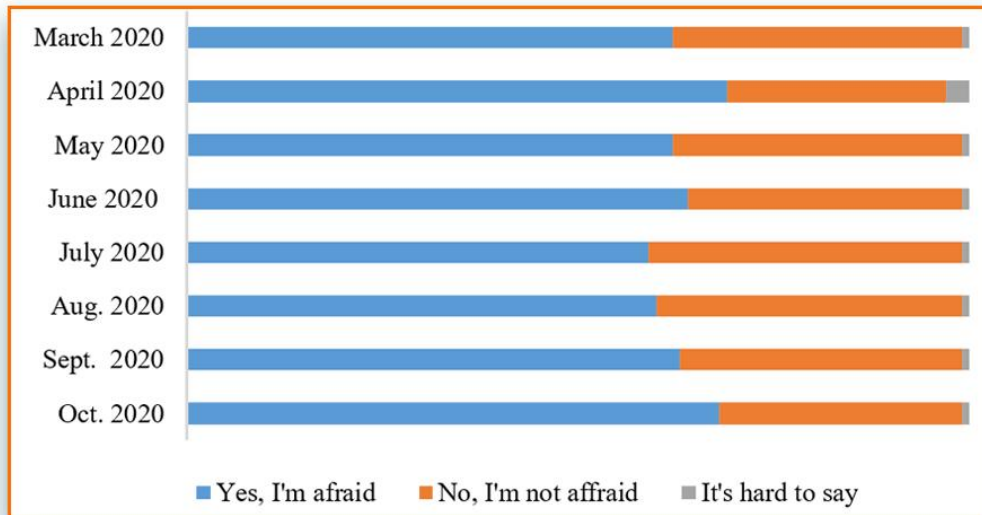
<i>Do you think that the Hungarian government misuses its power?</i>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
<i>Fidesz voters</i>	4.2778	412	1.01374
<i>voters of the united opposition</i>	2.4358	292	1.14863
<i>undecided voters</i>	3.3094	73	1.19943
<i>no answer</i>	3.6286	62	1.158
<i>total</i>	<b>3.5037</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>1.37132</b>

**Table 4: Mean value of opinions if the Hungarian government misuses its power during the pandemic (1=totally, 5=absolutely not)**

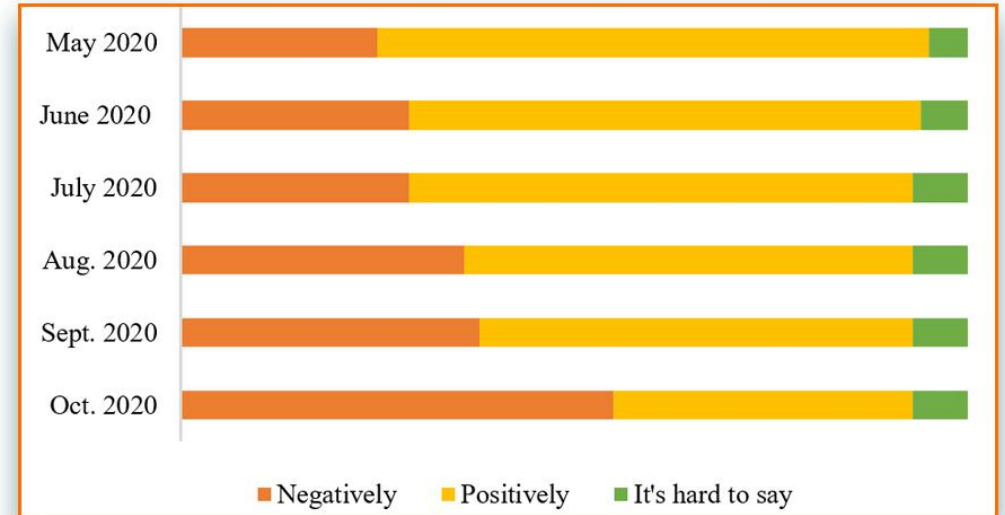


*Let us consider the example of Poland, regarding the fear of coronavirus and the increasing negative perception of the governmental action*

Are you personally afraid of being infected with coronavirus?



How, in general, do you see the government's efforts to deal with Poland's coronavirus epidemic?



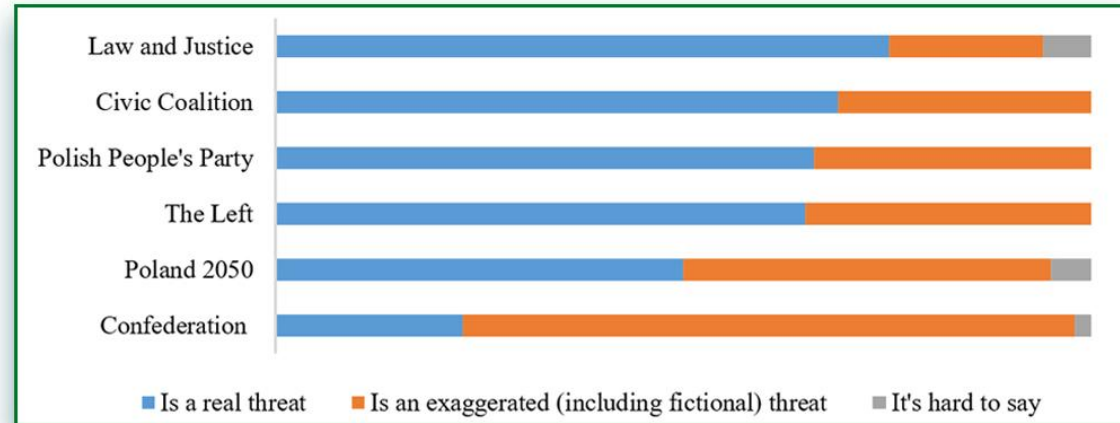


POLAND

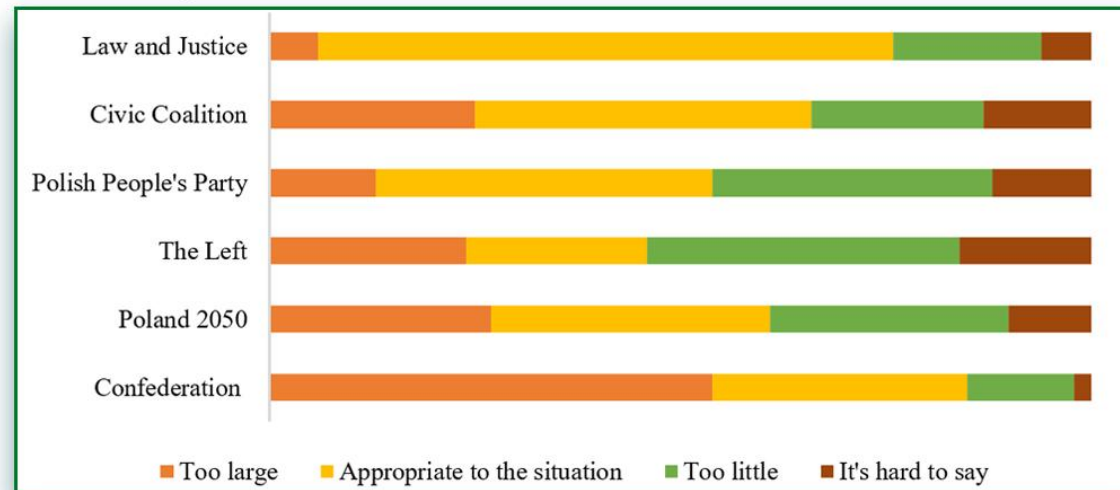
*Let us consider the example of Poland, regarding the fear of coronavirus and the increasing negative perception of the governmental action*



In your opinion, what is the epidemic of coronavirus for the health of Poles?



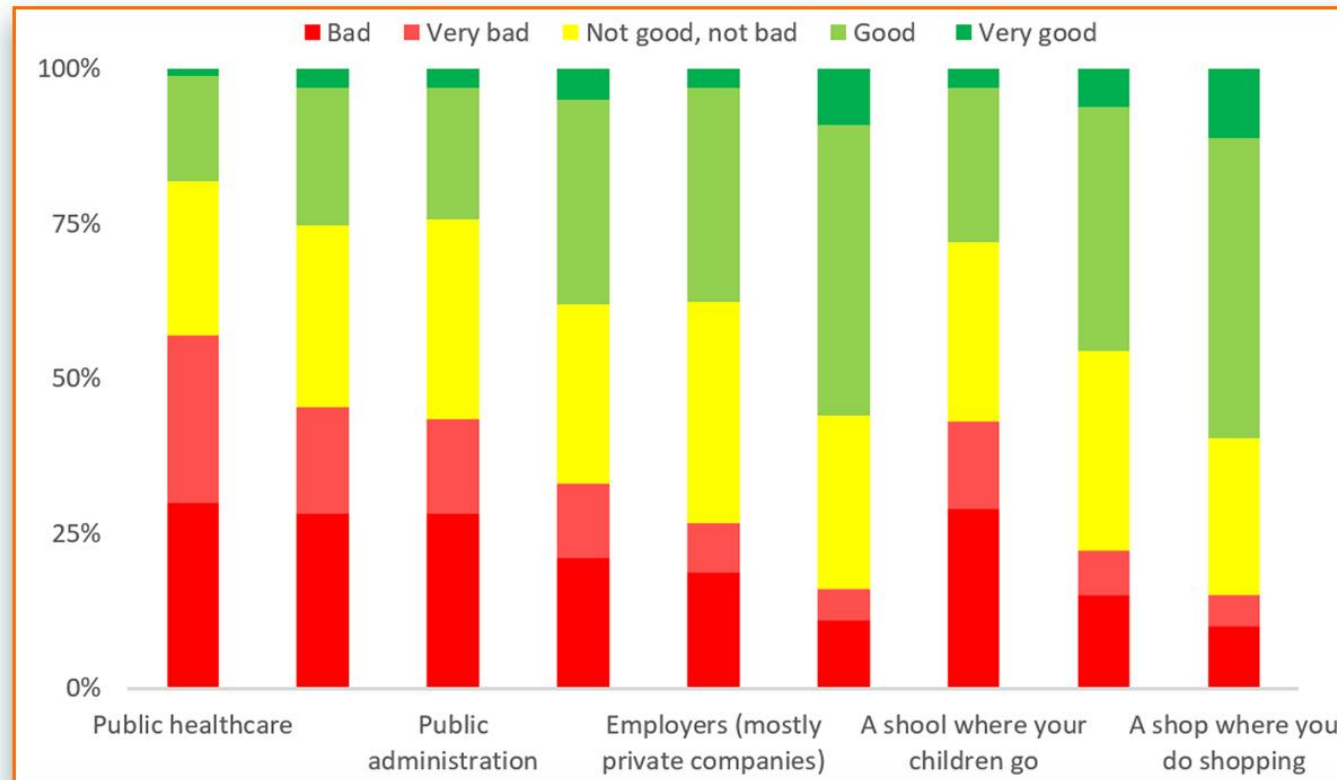
How do you assess current restrictions and limitations?



*Let us consider the example of Poland, regarding the fear of coronavirus and the increasing negative perception of the governmental action*

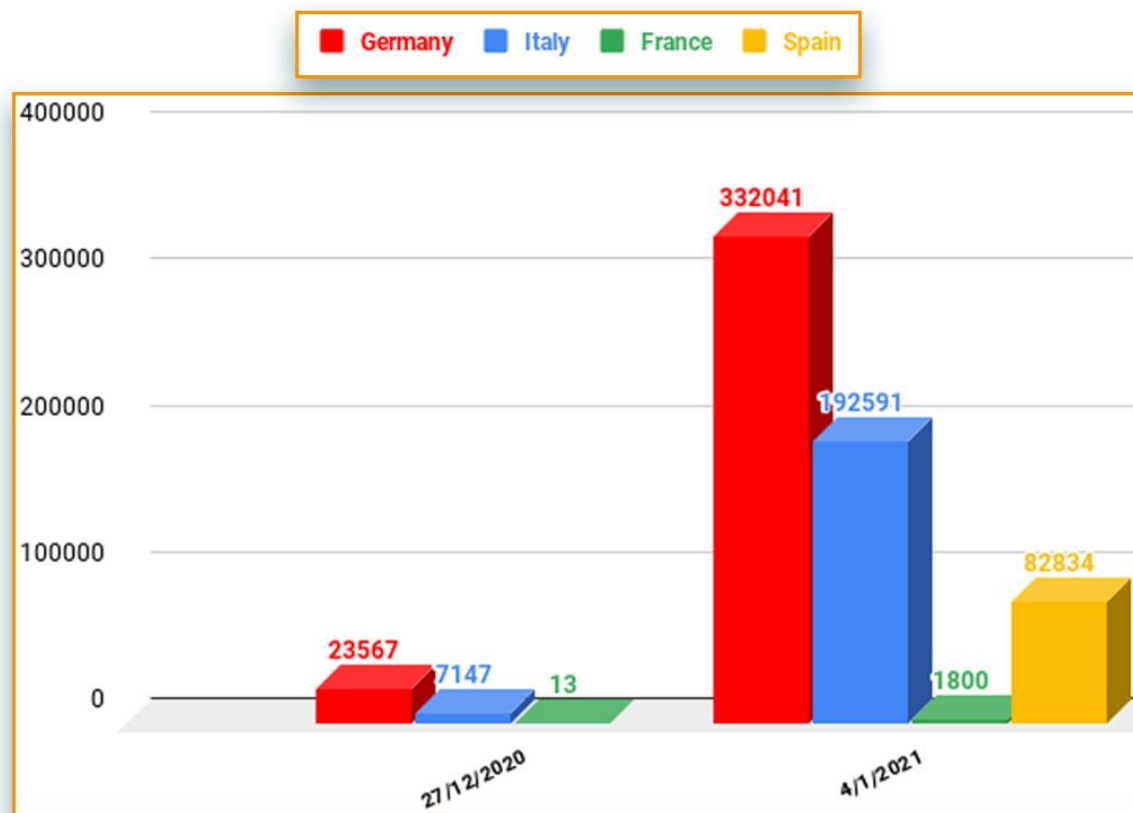
**Readiness of selected institutions for the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, source: own calculations based on Kantar**

*Only people who had an opinion were included. The survey based on direct interviews CAPI was carried out by Kantar on December, 4th-9th using a representative, nationwide sample of 1015 Poles aged 15+*





*First doses of the vaccine timeline in four given countries*



*First and second doses of the vaccine timeline in four given countries*

