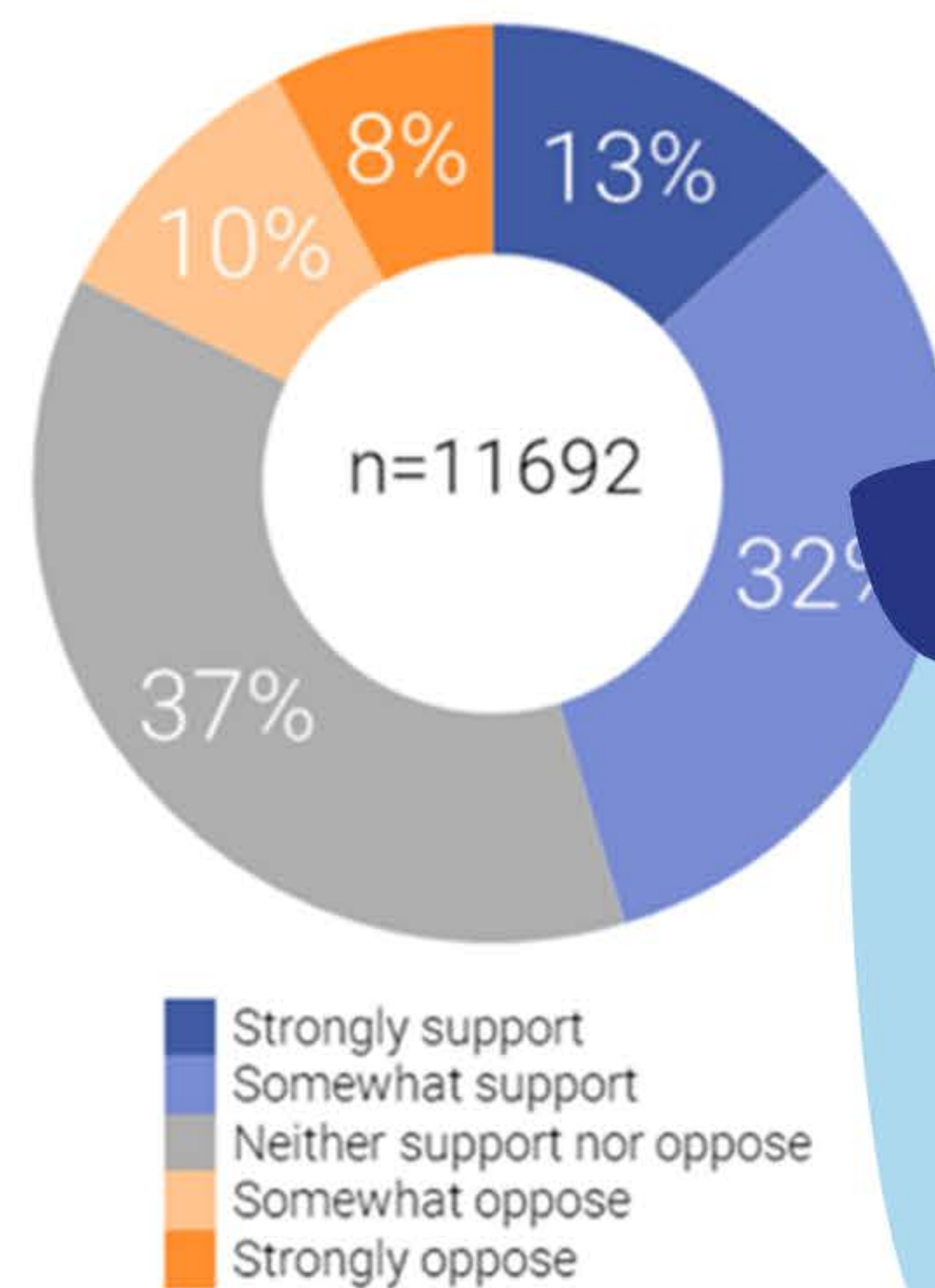


Based on the Policy Paper by **Anna Stahl**, Jacques Delors Institute

Discussion on differentiated integration of the EU

- To deal with the EU's unprecedented internal and external challenges, as well as the complex EU machinery, differentiation is needed
- Differentiation = "coalition of the willing" through which certain European member states work closely together on specific policy areas
- Current political and academic debate on differentiated integration addresses two forms:
 - internal differentiation: the differentiation among EU member states
 - external differentiation: the selective policy integration of non-EU states



Finding 1: Deficient public understanding of differentiation

Question:

To what extent do you support, or oppose, the following statement: "Instead of a European Union where all 27 member states decide on policies together, there should be the option to form "coalitions of the willing", through which certain member states would choose to work closely together on specific policy areas."

Figure 1 - Public support of differentiated integration

Public opinion and differentiation

Little attention to public opinion in the debate on a differentiated EU: We carried out an Opinion poll, here our Main findings:

1. Deficient public understanding of differentiation
2. European integration and differentiation do not necessarily contrast
3. Public opinion of differentiation is not independent from governmental choices
4. North-South divide regarding the support for deeper economic integration and the eurozone
5. Lack of public support for Schengen
6. EU citizens are sceptical of differentiation as a response to major challenges (e.g. economic crises, international conflicts, migration)
7. Citizens from non-EU states diverge regarding their preferences on the scope and content of cooperation with the EU
8. Regarding the content, trade is generally considered to be the most beneficial area of cooperation

Policy recommendations

1. Foster knowledge of differentiated integration among European citizens
2. Promote and reform the Schengen area
3. Adopt a tailor-made approach to external differentiation