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CZS55

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Czech media discourse on migration

Content of the lecture

- Introduction to the securitization theory
- The media discourse and construction of reality
- Exercise 1
- Agenda setting function of the media
- Migration in ČR
- Exercise 2
- The coverage of the European migration crisis in the Czech online news media
- Discussion

Theory of securitization

- **security problem** – a situation, in which an event, a course of action or an actor is **evaluated as a threat** to the particular object of reference (person, nation, value system etc.) and thus **requires safety measures** to be taken in order to ensure the safety of the object of reference.

- **constructivist approach** to security – an issue becomes a security threat not because it essentially is one, but because it is presented and perceived as such (Buzan, Weaver, de Wilde, 1998: 24; Balzacq, 2011: 1).

Theory of securitization

- **securitization** is a process in which "the the issue is presented as an **existential threat**, requiring emergency measures and justifying action outside bounds of normal political procedure" (Buzan, Weaver, de Wilde 1998: 23-24).

- Security sectors: Political, Military, Societal, Environmental, Economic (Buzan, Weaver, de Wilde 1998: 21-23)

Securitization theory and the media
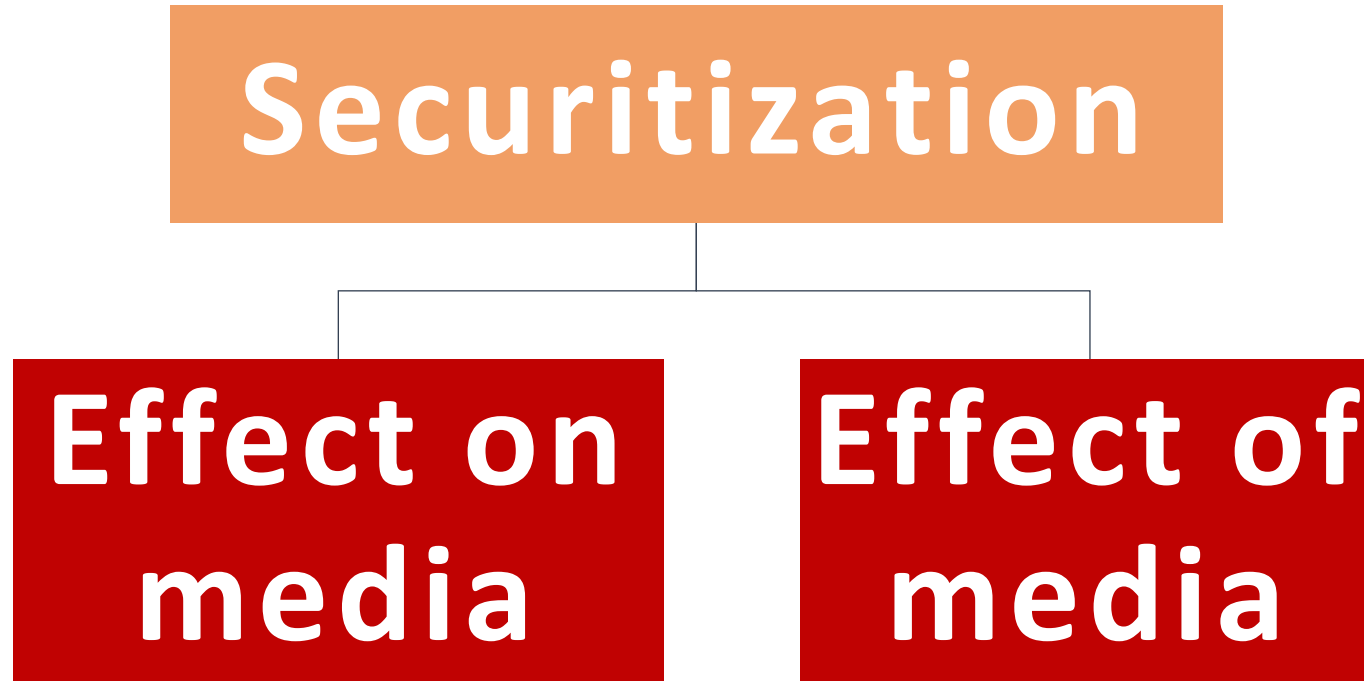
(Vutlee, 2011)

Media discourse and construction of reality

- signifying power of media: power to influence knowledge, beliefs, values, social identities, social relations

- media discourse is necessarily selective
  - on the side of production: limited range of media formats and products, limited sources
  - on the side of reception: selective exposure, selective perception, and selective retention

- such selection helps to organize social reality into meaningful blocks and patterns (Berger – Luckmann: semantic fields)

- on the other hand, these same selection simplify social reality (stereotypes, prejudices, labels)

News values as rules for selection

- concept of newsworthiness and news values (Lippmann, 1960, Galtung and Ruge, 1965)
- different aspects of the news process (Bednarek, 2016)
  - News writing objectives: general goals associated with news writing, such as clarity of expression, brevity, colour, accuracy and so on;
  - Selection factors: any factor or criterion impacting whether or not a story becomes published, not necessarily values, for example, commercial pressures, availability of reporters, deadlines and so on;
  - **News values**: the 'newsworthy' aspects of actors, happenings and issues as established by a set of recognised values such as Negativity, Timeliness, Proximity, Superlativeness, Eliteness, Impact, Novelty, Personalisation, Consonance, Aesthetic Appeal

Exercise (in small groups)

- How are events represented? Is value of security relevant in here? How – security of whom is emphasized? At expense of who?

- What identities are set up for migrants? What activities and characteristics are attributed to them?

- What identities sare set up for Czech people? Who represents them?

- What relationships are set up between migrants and Czech people? What about journalists-politicians relationship?

The migration crisis in news photography

- Source: https://www.novinky.cz/stalo-se/377433-eu-musi-posilit-ochranu-hranic-shodl-se-zeman-se-stechem-a-hamackem.html

The migration crisis in news photography

Zdroj: Reuters   Autor: Yves Herman

- Source: http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ct24/domaci/1618867-svet-zvysuje-bezpecnostni-opatreni-cesku-pry-nebezpeci-nehrozi

The migration crisis in news photography

The migration crisis in news photography

The migration crisis in news photography

- Source:

The migration crisis in news photography

Media agenda setting

- media discourse could be crucial when reporting affairs or events of which their recipient has no or only little experience
  - „migration crisis" in Czech Republic

- media agenda
- political agenda
- public agenda

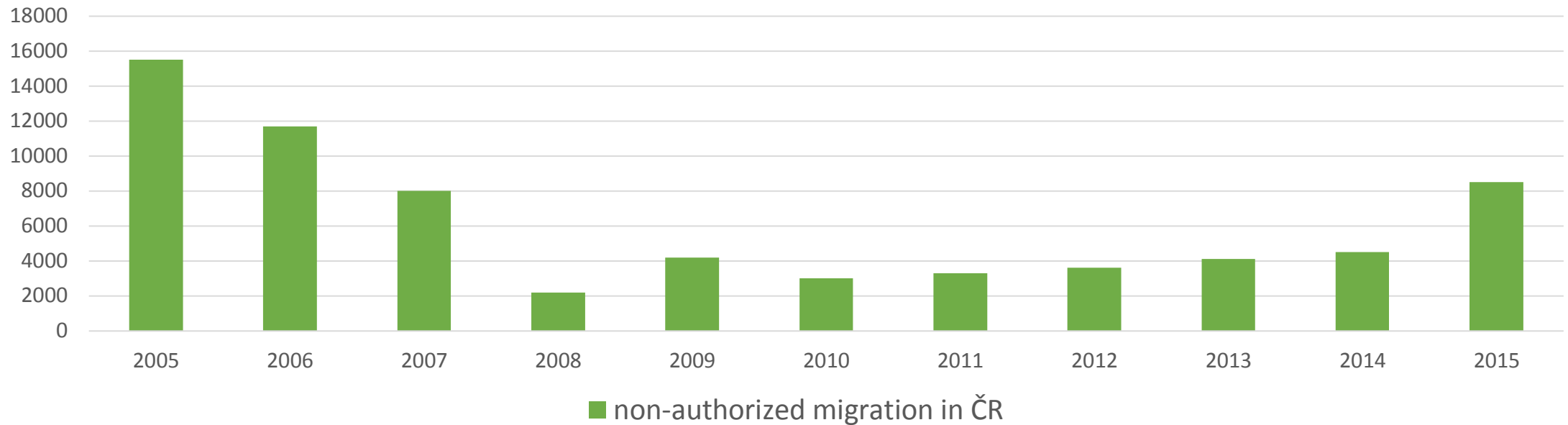- media bias and concept of journalistic objectivity

Intersubjective

Subjective

Reference object

Heuristic artefacts (media content)

frames, image repertoires, stereotypes, emotional appeals

Relevant audience (volume/calibre)

metaphors, policy tools, image repertoires, analogies, stereotypes, emotions

Heuristic artefacts (securitization speech acts)

News media organizations

professional routines
new values
professional ideology
political profile of media outlet

Securitization actor
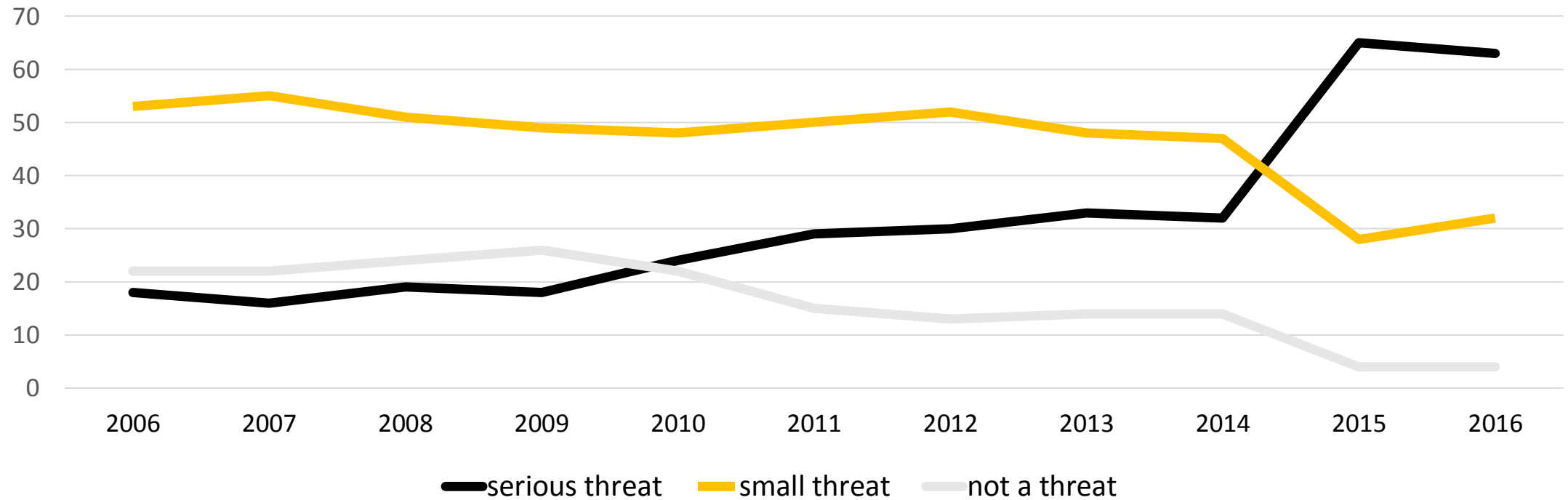
Tkaczyk (own processing)

Salience of the issue

Migration in Czech Republic

- In **2015** only **134** citizens of Syria, **38** citizens of Iraq and a few people from Afghanistan applied for **asylum** in the Czech Republic.

- Not-authorized stay in ČR: Syria (**2 016**), Afghanistan (**585**), Iraq (**404**), all (**8563**)

Legend: non-authorized migration in ČR

Report on migration and integration of foreigners, Ministry of Interior (2015)

Czech public on refugees as a threat
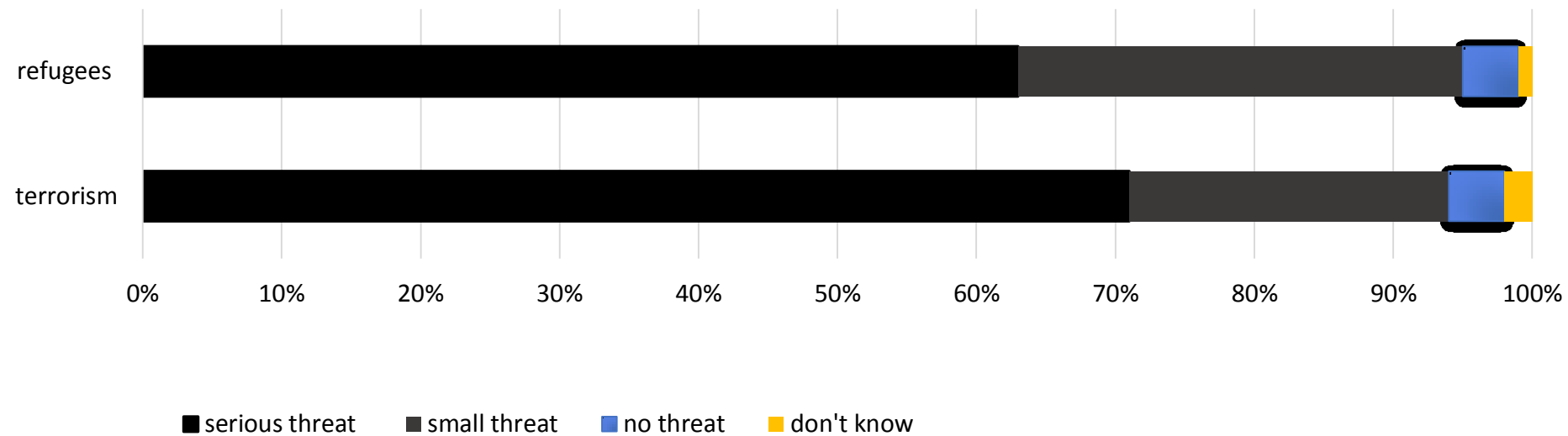

The actuality of a threat - refugees

serious threat   small threat   not a threat

CCVM poll on perceived threats and security risks, December 2015

Czech public on refugees as a threat

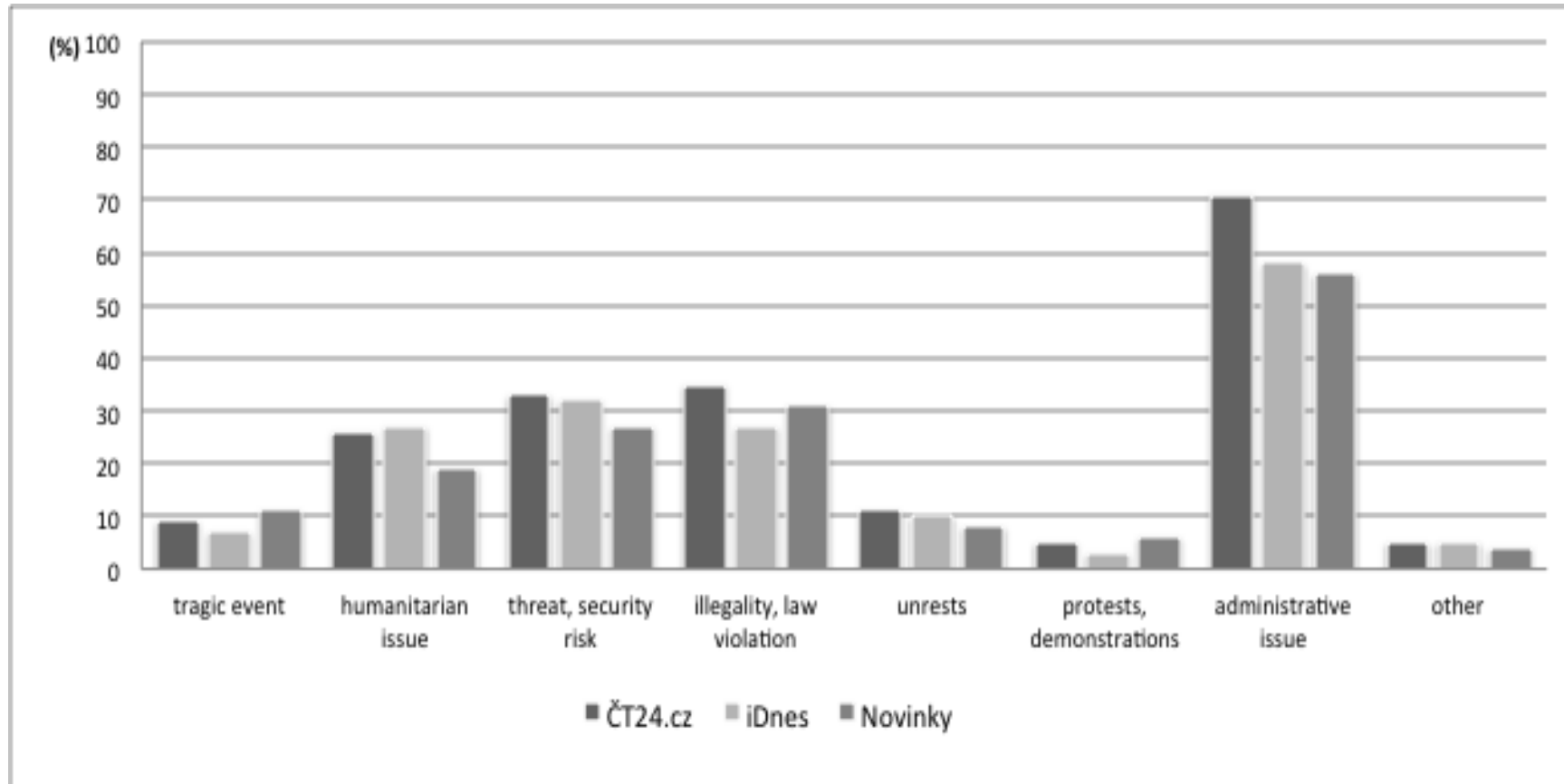Actual threats for the Czech Republic

Legend: serious threat, small threat, no threat, don't know

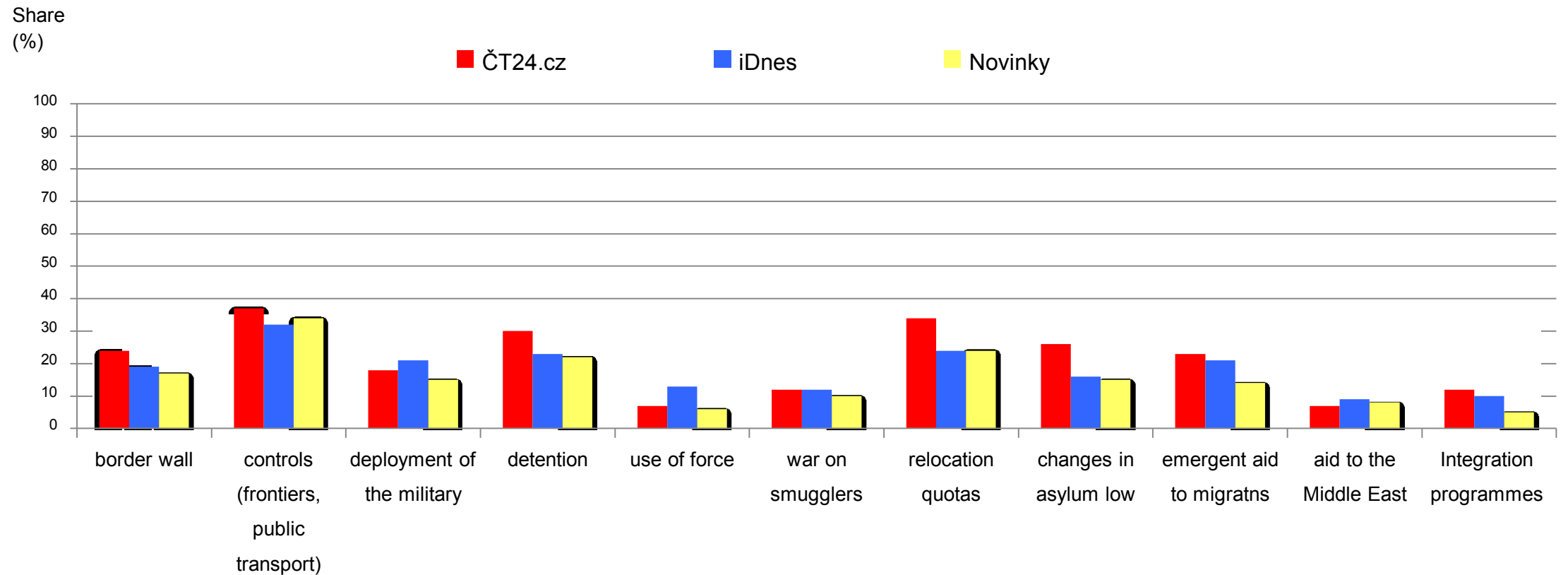CCVM poll on perceived threats and security risks, December 2015

The Czech news coverage on the European migration crisis

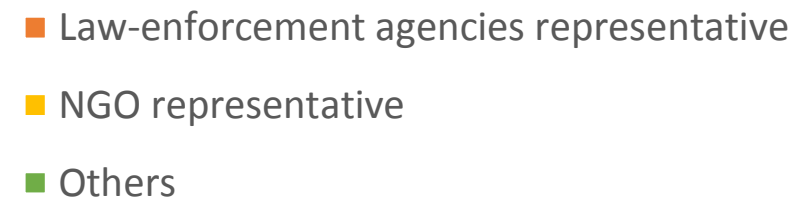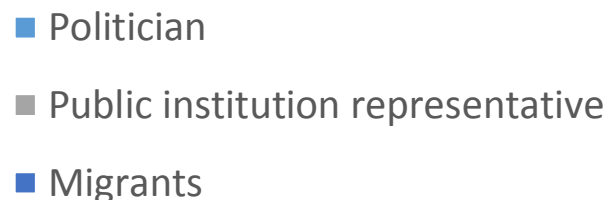Problem definitions in the analysed news items (Tkaczyk 2017)

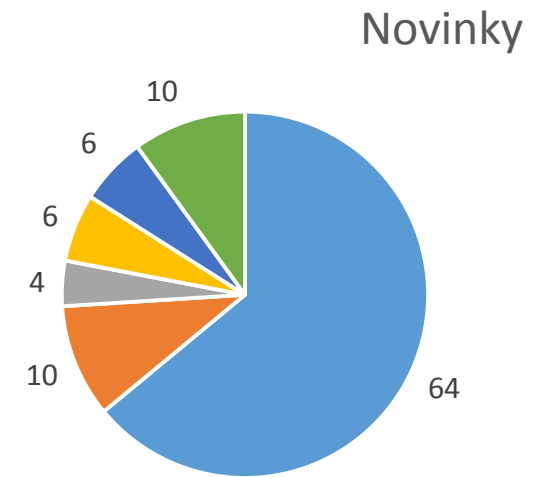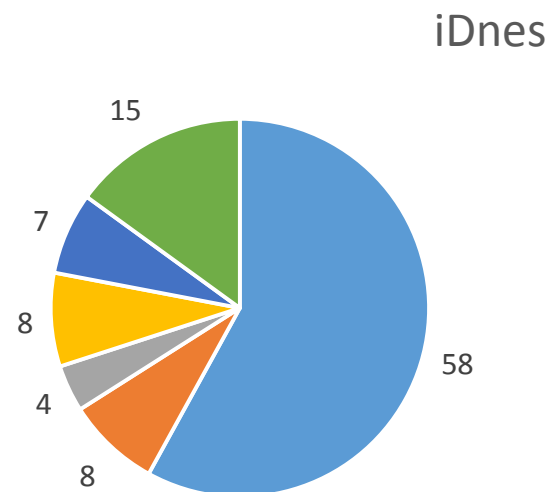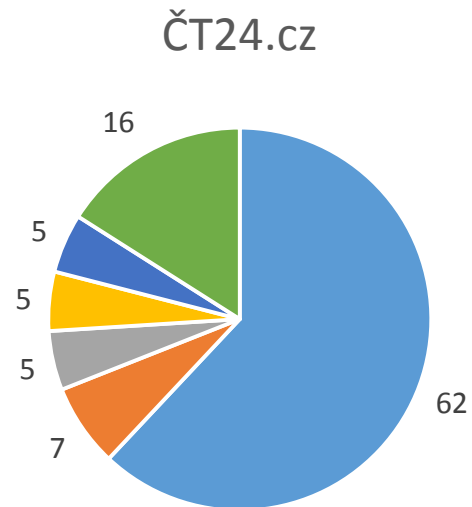# The Czech news coverage on the European migration crisis

Discussed or presented solutions to the crisis (Tkaczyk 2017)

Migration in Czech Republic in Czech news media

- Voices in the news coverage (Tkaczyk 2017)

ČT24.cz

16
5
5
5
7
62

iDnes

15
7
8
4
8
58

Novinky

10
6
6
4
10
64

- Politician
- Public institution representative
- Migrants
- Law-enforcement agencies representative
- NGO representative
- Others

Findings of CDA concerned with <u>legitimization of security measures</u> in the media representations of the European migration crisis in the Czech news media

- News media discourse seems to *echo* political discourse, henceforth helps with legitimation of „army solution".

- Proposed security measures were legitimized by means of personal and impersonal authority, moral evaluation, rationalization and mythopoesis.

- Czech online news media did very little or nothing at all to scrutinize or criticize the government policy.

- Actually, they even failed to explain to citizens the nature of the proposed security measures (what was really pursued was mere personal reinforcement, not the deployment of military).

Findings of CDA concerned with <u>legitimization of security measures</u> in the media representations of the European migration crisis in the Czech news media

- How did it happen?
- At the level of text:
  - Lexical choices: words and phrases borrowed and undistinguishable from official speech
  - Grammar: it portrays politicians as those who actively decide (mental and verbal processes), refugees are presented as connected with material processes and often passivized
  - Cohesion and coherence: it foregrounds politicians actions and decisions and further dramatizes their results (headlines, news structure)
  - Intertextuality: shared presuppositions

At the level of discursive practice:

Significant dependence on government sources which manifest itself in the structure of voices in news stories

Peculiar notion of objectivity: despite or rather because of journalists' endeavour to keep their discourse neutral, it is not – for they allow smooth dispersion of political discourse which is *not* unbiased. Value judgements made by political actors are not confronted with different perspectives and solutions

Us-them dichotomy
- Us: prepared and reasonable
- Them: passivized, unorganized, dangerous (flood)

Discussion

- In general terms, how was the European migration crisis covered by news media in your country of origin?

- Which frames and event definitions prevailed?

- Who could speak in news?

Literature

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