



Highest level of corporates
to view startup collaborations as Mission
Critical or Important to strategy

## French corporates judge startup collaboration most crucial in Europe

French corporates place the highest strategic importance on startup collaboration in Europe, with 91% considering it crucial to their success, according to Sopra Steria Next's Open Innovation Report 2025.

This commitment is delivering results, with 71% of collaborations reaching their objectives always or most of the time, making them the third most successful country in Europe.

In cybersecurity, French firms lead the continent, with 59% having launched such startup partnerships – the highest level in Europe. However, their AI collaboration rate remains at the European average (57%), despite strong ambitions. Among those already working with AI startups, 71% view them as integral or key to implementing their AI strategy — one of the highest levels in Europe.

Yet, a critical challenge remains — 48% of French corporates struggle to find the right startups to collaborate with, the only country in Europe to rank this as the most difficult phase of Open Innovation.

To translate ambitions into leadership, French firms must move beyond recognising the value of startups and secure the best partners in an increasingly competitive landscape.

Q: How important is startup collaboration for your organisation's strategy? Companies answering Very Important (Mission Critical) and Important, but not Mission Critical.

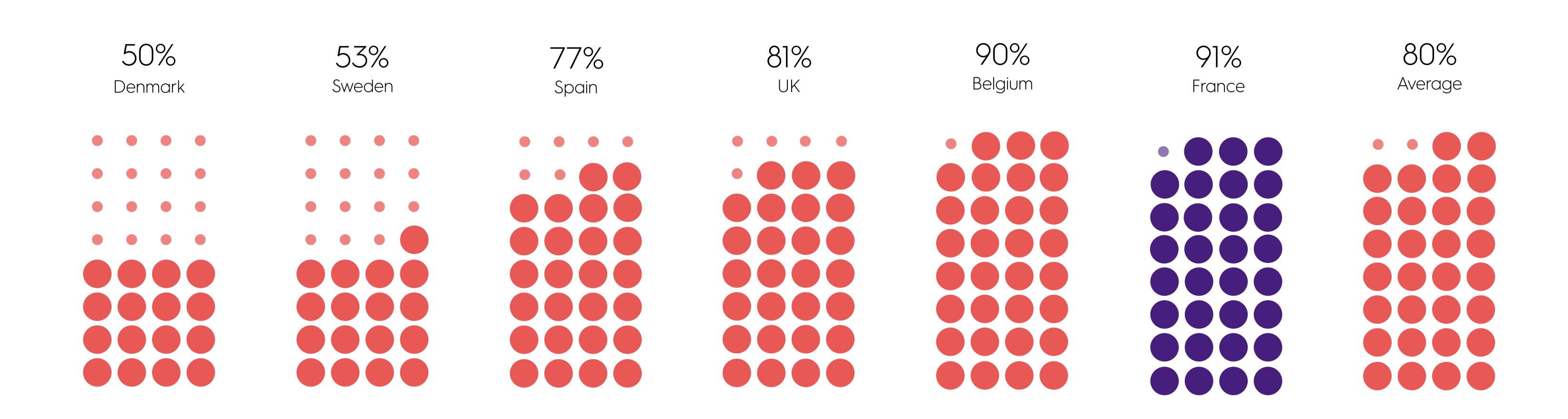
of French corporates view startup collaborations as crucial to their strategy – highest in Europe

48%

of French corporates identify finding the right startup as the most challenging phase of the Open Innovation process - the only country in Europe to rank this as the most difficult phase.

of French corporates judge startups as key partners in development of their Al strategy - Fourth highest in Europe

**FRANCE** 



Highest number of corporates
to identify the Finding the Right Startup phase
to be the greatest challenge

25%	38%	29%
DENMARK	SPAIN	SWITZERLAND
36%	42%	40%

36% 42% 40% NORWAY GERMANY AVERAGE

48% FRANCE

Q: Which phase(s) of startup collaboration do you find the most challenging? Companies selecting Finding the Right startup.

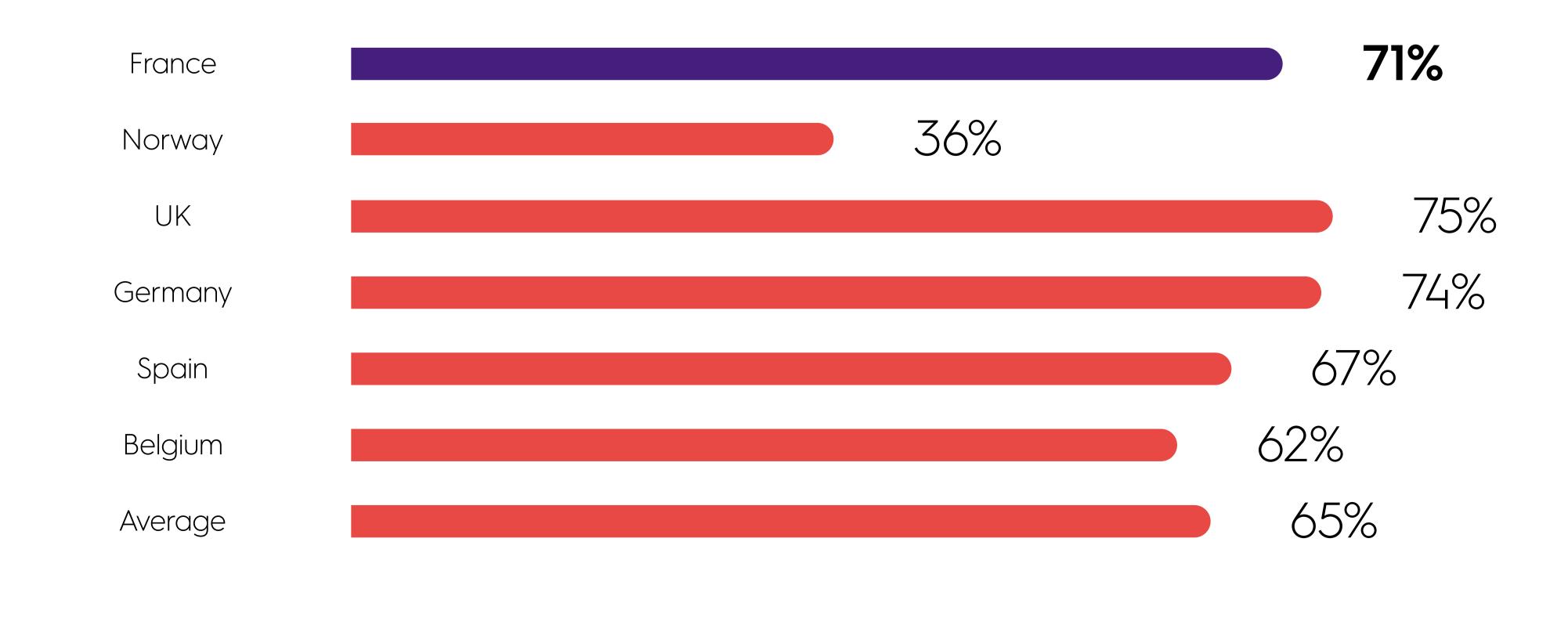
Fourth highest number of corporates to judge startups as key partners for executing their AI strategy

41%	47%	75%
NORWAY	SWITERLAND	GERMANY
74%	81%	70%
ITALY	UK	AVERAGE

Q: What future role do you see for startups in the ongoing development and implementation of your organisation's AI strategy? Companies selecting As Key Partners in Driving Innovation and As Integral to your AI development Process.

## 1 Third highest country to achieve objectives in collaborations

Q: Overall, how often in your collaborations with startups did you achieve your objectives? Companies answering Always or Most of the Time.



## 15. Highest level of corporates who have conducted cyber security collaborations in the past 2 years

Q: In which area(s) have you collaborated with startups within the last 24 months? Companies identifying Cyber security.

