2019

ALBANIAN SECURITY BAROMETER
NATIONAL SURVEY

Albanian Security Barometer National Survey 2019

Author

Arjan Dyrmishi

Methodologist

Eduard Zaloshnja

Foreword

Stine Klapper, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Tirana Office

Graphic Design

Ergys Temali

Field Surveyors

Acknowledgements

Copyright

Disclaimer

List of Abbreviations

ASB   **Albanian Security Barometer**

CSDG   **Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance**

EU   **European Union**

FES   **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung**

INSTAT   **Institute of Statistics, is the statistical agency of Albania**

ISIS   **Islamic State in Iraq and Syria**

MoD   **Ministry of Defence**

MoI   **Ministry of Interior**

NATO   **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation**

NGO   **Non-governmental organizations**

SHISH   **Albania's State Intelligence Service**

Table of contents

List of Graphs

Graph no.42: Results of perception on number of people employed in public administration on merit/skills basis

Graph no.43: Results of perception on number of people employed in security institutions on merit/skills basis

Graph no.44; Results of perception on spread of corruption on tenders/procurement in security institutions

Graph no.45: Results of perception on independence of security institutions from political influence

Graph no.46: Results of perception on independence of judiciary institutions from political influence

Graph no.47: Results of perception on strengthening the fight against corruption/organized crime after establishment of SPAK

Graph no.48: Results of expectations on improvement of effectiveness of courts against crime after justice reform

Graph no.49: Results of perception on parliamentary overseeing of security institutions

Graph no.50: Results of judgement on necessary strengthening of parliamentary overseeing of security institutions

Graph no.51: Results of trust on government and ministries of security

Graph no.52: Results of trust on SHISH, Fire Brigade, State Police and Armed Forces

Graph no.53: Results of trust on private security police

Graph no.54: Results of trust on judiciary institutions

Graph no.55: Results of perception on level of corruption in agencies responsible for security provisions

Graph no.56: Results of perception on corruption of judiciary institutions

Foreword

There is hardly a policy field in which perceptions play a more crucial role than in the field of security policy. Citizens' perceptions of security threats and of the provision of security as one of the fundamental functions of the state have a decisive impact on societies and their development. They affect economic and social progress, the support for redistribution measures, the readiness of citizens to take over responsibility in their community and many more aspects that define the very basis of any society's social contract.

Importantly, the development of perceptions does not necessarily correspond with the dynamics of actual risks. For instance, selective acts of violence can have a strong impact on the perception of individual security, much stronger than what would correspond to the actual threat to a citizen's day to day life. Yet, it is in particular the perception which need to be taken into account when debating appropriate policy solutions due to their effect on society and its development.

At the same time, security policy needs to allow for a delicate balance of providing security (and creating an adequate perception thereof) and guaranteeing fundamental democratic rights and liberties. Even basic legitimate security measures restrict citizens' freedom to some extent. Yet if they are misused, they can even become a vehicle to stabilize power structures curtailing democratic processes. Finding this balance between satisfying the security needs of societies on the one hand and guaranteeing fundamental rights on the other hand, requires deliberation involving both political decision-makers and societal actors.

This deliberation on security policy needs to be an ongoing exercise. Perceptions change along with the dynamic development of risks and actors. Security questions lie on different levels – from the local to the global level. They change under a complex set of conditions and actions. Issues range from organized crime and effects of corruption in the national context to international terrorism and an increasingly hostile global environment. All these issues factor into the perceptions of citizens and are recorded in this Albanian Security Barometer. Data and information have been collected and analyzed to serve as a resource for security policy dialogue and facilitate the development of comprehensive policies with the involvement of a broader range of societal actors. Civil society ought to have a strong role in this dialogue insisting on a careful consideration of both security needs and fundamental liberties.

For Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Tirana Office this publication is part of our broader aim to support peace and social development worldwide, in this region and in Albania. We see importance in this support especially due to the nexus between security and social and economic development. As Willy Brandt, former German Chancellor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, said: "Development policy is the peace policy of the 21st century.", describing the understanding of the mutual effect of both policy areas that our work is based on.

We are grateful to Arjan Dyrmishi and his team at the Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance for their important and exceptional work. We hope the comprehensive information this Barometer provides will further a policy debate for a sustainable security policy allowing for stronger social development in Albania.

Stine Klapper

Head of Office FES Tirana

Introduction

Security is one of the defining aspects of any rule of law society and a fundamental function of the state. The EU Security Strategy has defined security as a crucial aspect and precondition for economic and social development.[1]

Over the years, security has remerged as a greater issue of concern at many levels and areas.

At individual and community levels, a variety of security concerns shape people's perceptions and influence their everyday decision making in relation to their family and work activities.

At national level, security concerns related to organized crime, corruption, radicalization and terrorism have spurred a number of governmental policies, decisions and actions. Failures to effectively tackle the threat from the growing issues of corruption and organized crime, led to a sweeping justice reform. The emergence of ISIS, which was joined by some 144 Albanian citizens, prompted the government to take actions and policies aiming at addressing this problem. With ISIS being disbanded, security concerns have stemmed from the returned and returning fighters with regard to their potential involvement in terrorist and/or radicalization activities.

At the regional level, the difficult and slow NATO and EU integration, defined as the cornerstone of security, democratization and economic development for the region, have prevented the Western Balkans emerge as a security community. Outstanding disputes and unresolved issues have slowed down the reconciliation processes and are contributing to maintaining a low level of trust among the countries, thus increasing the security concerns in the relations between these countries.

The security concerns and developments at the European level and beyond, have reverberated into the regional and national realms. The effects and response on the recent terrorist attacks in the main European capitals, the crisis in the transatlantic relations and the uncertainties from emerging powers such as China and Russia have all contributed to how security is understood, perceived and acted upon.

As communities, countries, and regions are faced with new and complex security threats, delivering security timely, efficiently and effectively, while maintaining the right balance between security and human rights and adhering to the democratic principles of transparency and accountability, has become more and more challenging.

In order to deliver on meeting those challenges, governments and security

---

[1] European Commission. "A Secure Europe in a Better World European Security Strategy". Brussels, 8 December 2003. http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15895-2003-INIT/en/pdf

institutions are provided with substantial financial and human resources, as well as wide-ranging powers.

While such measures remain a necessary precondition to fulfil their missions, such substantial allocation of resources and powers exposes security institutions to a number of risks such as corruption and abuse of fundamental rights, undermining thus security itself and ultimately the legitimacy of the democratic system.

These challenges require constant and informed involvement of the citizens and societal actors in order to ensure that security and justice are delivered by adhering to the above-mentioned democratic principles.

Yet, despite the relevance of security, as a policy field, and the significance of the public opinion on both security policy formulation and security delivery, no systematic measuring of citizens' perceptions on these aspects has been conducted in Albania.

This has made it difficult for the societal actors and public at large to gauge the extent to which Albania's policy formulation and responses to delivering security have adequately reflected the citizens' concerns and expectations, as well as the extent to which the undertaken policies, measures and actions have been adequately and effectively implemented and produced the stated results and goals.

In this context, the Albanian Security Barometer (ASB) aims to bridge the divide between security policymaking and delivery and the concerns and expectations of the citizens through the systematic measuring of public attitudes and perceptions.

As such, the ASB is a contribution by the civil society to the overall efforts towards improving the systems of democratic governance in Albania. The ASB will be produced periodically, and it will focus on a broad range of security issues and concerns that in the long term will contribute to an improved policy dialogue on security.

The Barometer seeks to capture the public opinion's attitudes and perceptions towards internal and external security threats, the performance of security and justice institutions, the relevance and effectiveness of security policies, measures and actions.

By informing the public opinion, policymakers, the media and NGOs, and the broader public on these matters, the ASB will contribute to an improved policy debate on security issues in Albania as well as a greater involvement of societal stakeholders.

Reflecting on the above stated context, this first edition of the ASB has been guided by the following policy questions:

1) What do the citizens perceive as the main security threats at different levels?

2) How much are they satisfied with the performance of Albania's security and justice institutions in addressing the identified security threats and risks?

3) To what extent the security policies and measures have met the citizens' concerns and expectations?

4) What are the policies and approaches that the citizens think would improve security?

5) What is the citizens' perception of the integrity of security institutions?

6) How much do citizens think that security and justice institutions are corrupt and how much do they trust them?

7) What are the perceptions towards NATO, EU in relation to Albania's security?

8) What are the citizens' perceptions towards the influence on Albania's security of friendly countries and towards those countries that are vying for influence in the Balkans region?

9) How much do they support the establishment of new institutions to fight organised crime and what are their expectations from them?

10) What do citizens think of the control and overseeing of security institutions?

11) What do citizens think of the EU membership perspective and how is Albania performing in meeting the EU conditions, particularly with regard to building a professional and independent public administration and fighting corruption and organised crime.

The policy questions and data collected through the ASB are intended to strengthen the linkage between the citizens' attitudes and concerns and the security policy and delivery as well as to stimulate new research and policy advocacy in the area of security.

Methodology

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire used for this survey is comprised of 80 multiple choice questions, of which 8 are demographic/geographic, and 1 administrative.

Several questions are related to each other in sequential order in the range of 2 to 3 (10 and 11; 12 and 13; 14 and 15; 16 and 17; and 19, 20 and 21). In answering these questions, the respondents have to exclude the first choice made in the previous question (and the first and second choice in the questions with three sequences). The sequential questions are chosen for those topics on which collecting more data is necessary for a more in-depth analysis.

For instance, in questions 19, 20 and 21, interviewees are asked to provide the first, the second and the third friendliest countries to Albania. By combining the data collected through these questions, we are able to observe the most common choices provided by the respondents (Full questionnaire in Annex 1).

THE SAMPLE

A multi-layered random sample of 1115 adults are used for this survey. In the first layer, observations are proportionally distributed among 61 municipalities of Albania based on their adult population. In the second one, observations are proportionately distributed among urban, suburban and rural areas within each municipality (Annex 2). Then, proportional gender and age quotas are developed for each sublayer. In the end, geographic points are randomly predetermined in the map of Albania for the interviews to take place according to the above sampling scheme (Figure 1).

The objective of this multi-layered sampling scheme is to have a perfect geographic and demographic representation of the adult population of the country, while maintaining a sampling error lower than +/- 2.9% for the whole sample and no more than +/- 4.1% for any subsample.

This random sampling ensures that each resident in Albania has an equal probability of being chosen for participating in the survey. With this sampling method, the results of the survey reflect attitudes and perceptions of the entire adult population in Albania.

The error margin for the overall statistical sample is +/- 2.9%

The error margin for the female subsample is +/- 4%

The error margin for the male subsample is +/- 4%

The error margin for the cities subsample is +/- 3. 9%

The error margin for the rural and suburban subsample is +/- 4.1%

The error margin for the lower and secondary education subsample is +/- 3.4%

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

This survey has been conducted through face-to-face interviews, according to the above sampling scheme. Before starting work in the field, 28 interviewers were trained by the project managing team in September 2019. Mock interviews were conducted during the training to test the questionnaire and see the reactions of interviewers in real-like interviewing situations.

The field work for collecting the data started on September 27 and ended on October 7, 2019. The answers of the interviewees were entered directly by the interviewers on smartphones and were transmitted instantly to the central server through a special software program designed for the purpose of this project by the project's IT specialist. The time and location of each interview was recorded automatically through a software specially designed for the purpose of this project. This information was used daily by the statistical director and 13 field supervisors to ensure that interviewers were conducting the interviews in accordance with the predetermined sampling scheme and methodological instructions. The supervisor conducted daily random quality checks for the interviews completed in the areas under their supervision.

At the end of the field work, a general quality control of the data collected to the server from the interviews was conducted. Prior to conducting data analysis, the sample was reweighted to represent the exact age distribution reported by the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT). Then, the data were processed and analysed by using the statistical software STATA 11.

In addition to the analysis of data generated form the overall sample, data generated based on gender, education and geographical distribution (rural/urban) subsamples have been also analysed when deemed necessary.
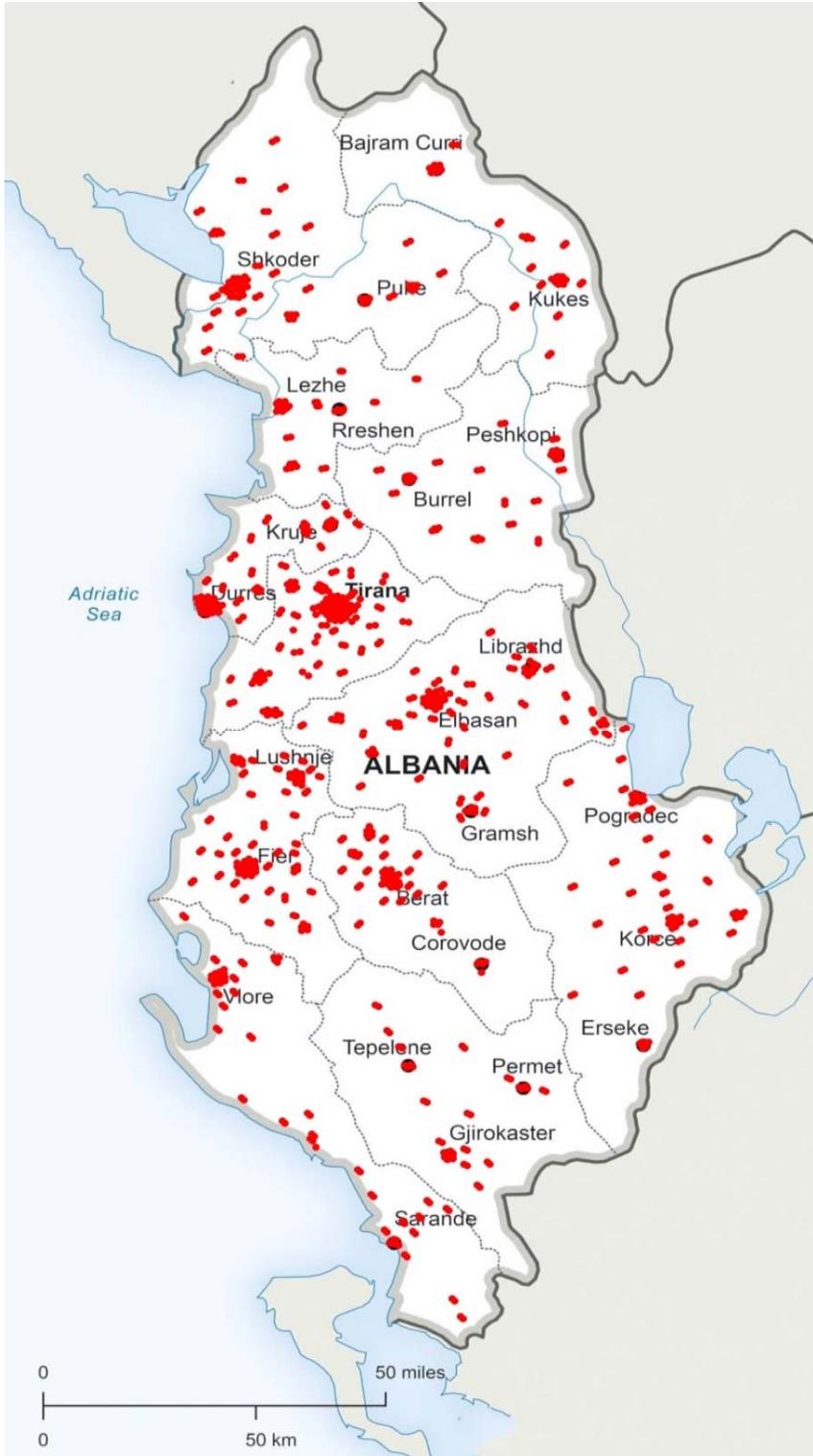
Figure 1: The geographic distribution of the sample

KEY FINDINGS

- The large majority of citizens feel secure at home and at work. However, insecurity at work is higher than insecurity at the place of residence.

- Theft, looting, conflicts over property and homicide are perceived as the main threat to personal security. However, theft is perceived as a threat by a larger majority of citizens. Residents in rural and suburban areas feel less secure than those in urban areas.

- Overall satisfaction with security delivered by responsible institutions remains generally high. State Police is considered as the main security provider, but a large number of citizens identify themselves as taking care of their own security. A large number of citizens are more satisfied with the contribution of the Armed Forces to security than with the intelligence services.

- More than half of the citizens expect the overall security situation to be the same or worse in the next 12 months.

- Citizens identify a correlation between police presence and security provision, but the majority of citizens are not in favour of increasing the number of police as a means to improve security. On the other hand, security improvement through modernisation of police is regarded as a favourable option by the majority of citizens. Both, i.e., increased number of police and modernisation of police are favoured more by citizens living in rural and suburban areas.

- Corruption, organised crime and unemployment are perceived as the three main security threats to Albania. For the Balkan region, the main security threats perceived, are war among nations, terrorism, organised crime and corruption. At global level, terrorism, war among nations and global warming are perceived as the three most important security threats.

- More than half of the citizens think that the relations among the Balkan countries have not improved during the last year.

- Albanian citizens consider that both NATO and the EU contribute positively to Albania's security and they think that Albania's security will improve after its membership in the EU. Albanian citizens remain optimistic about the EU membership with more than 90% thinking that the country will reach this objective within 20 years, at the latest. Only a small percentage think that this will never happen.

- The USA, Germany and Italy were identified as the three friendliest countries to Albania. However, Albanian citizens appear to be inadequately informed about the so called threat from the influence of the third countries on security. A large percentage of citizens think that the influence of Russia, China,

Turkey, Iran and the Arab countries is neutral or even positively influencing the security of Albania.

- Corruption and organized crime are regarded as the main obstacles to EU integration by a very large percentage/majority of 86.55% of citizens. Half of the citizens think that the fight against organised crime will never be won. The younger citizens are more sceptical about the success of the fight against organised crime.

- A large percentage/majority of citizens think that the police doesn't treat all citizens equally and that only a minority of people in the state administration and security institutions are solely employed on merit and skills bases.

- Citizens think that the political influence over security institutions is generally high, the Customs being perceived as the most politically influenced followed by the State Police, SHISH and the Armed Forces. The judiciary institutions of the Prosecution and the Courts are perceived as the most politically influenced.

- Citizens' trust in government, ministries and security institutions is moderate; while the perception on the spread of corruption is high. Customs are perceived as the most corrupt and less trusted; while the Armed Forces are perceived as the least corrupt and enjoy more trust than the State Police and SHISH.

- The Judiciary, the Persecution and the Courts are perceived as the most corrupt and enjoy a lower level of trust than the security institutions. However, the level of trust in the Special Persecution and Special Courts against corruption and crime is very high, and citizens think that the fight against corruption and organized crime will be strengthened once such institutions become fully operational.

1. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Of the 1115 respondents surveyed, 50.13% consist of females and 49%.87% of males. The age distribution is almost equal for four age groups as in the table below.

Age

Age group	Percentage
18-34	24.48%
35-49	25.02%
50-64	25.92%
65+	24.57%
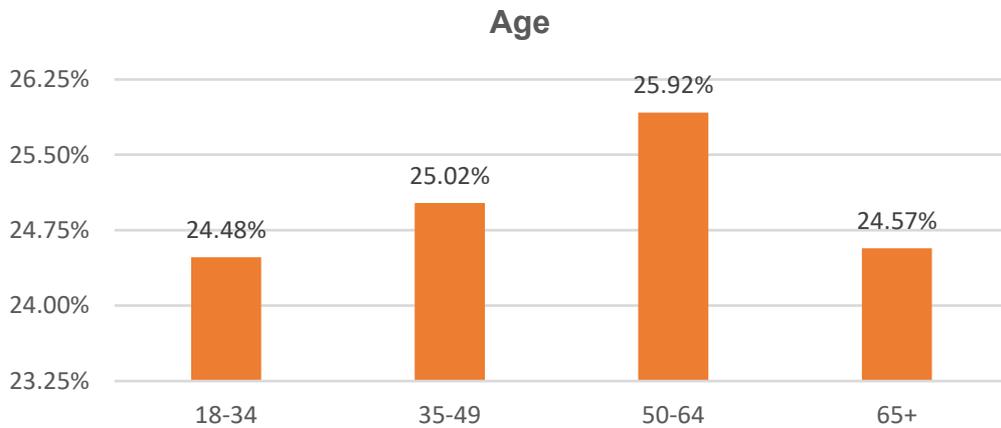
Graph no.1: Respondents' Age groups

The majority of the surveyed population resides in urban areas, 56.68%, and 9.60% in suburban area. Nearly one third of the respondents live in rural areas, 33.72%. Regarding ethnicity, 97.67% of the surveyed are Albanian, 1.35% Greek, 0.45% Aromanian, 0.45% Macedonians (North) and 0.45% belong to other ethnicities.

Nearly 23.8 % of the surveyed hold Bachelor's degree/undergraduate degree, 2.24% hold Master's degree/graduate degree; while the largest portion of the surveyed, 47.71%, have completed the 12-year high school education and 26.46% have completed the compulsory level of education.

Education
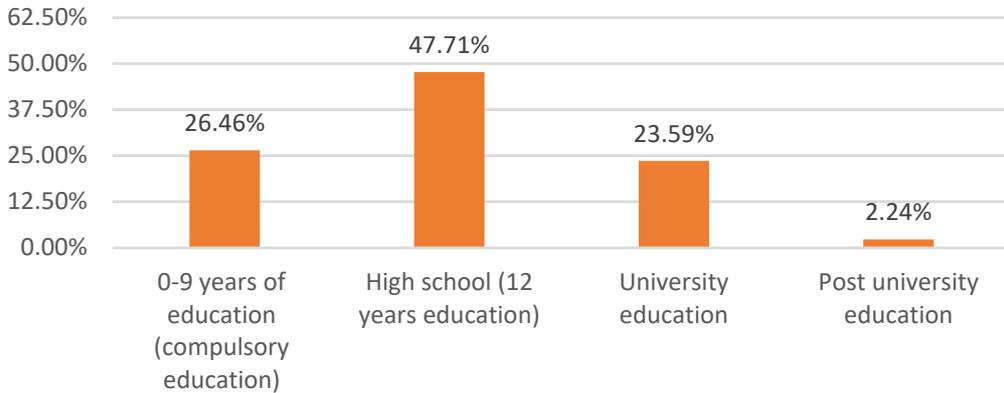
Graph no.2: Level of education of the respondents

In terms of occupation, 24.22% of the surveyed are declared to be self-employed and the same percentage are declared to be retired; 17.31% are declared unemployed (Albania's unemployment rate was reported by INSTAT to be 11.40% in September 2019).[2]
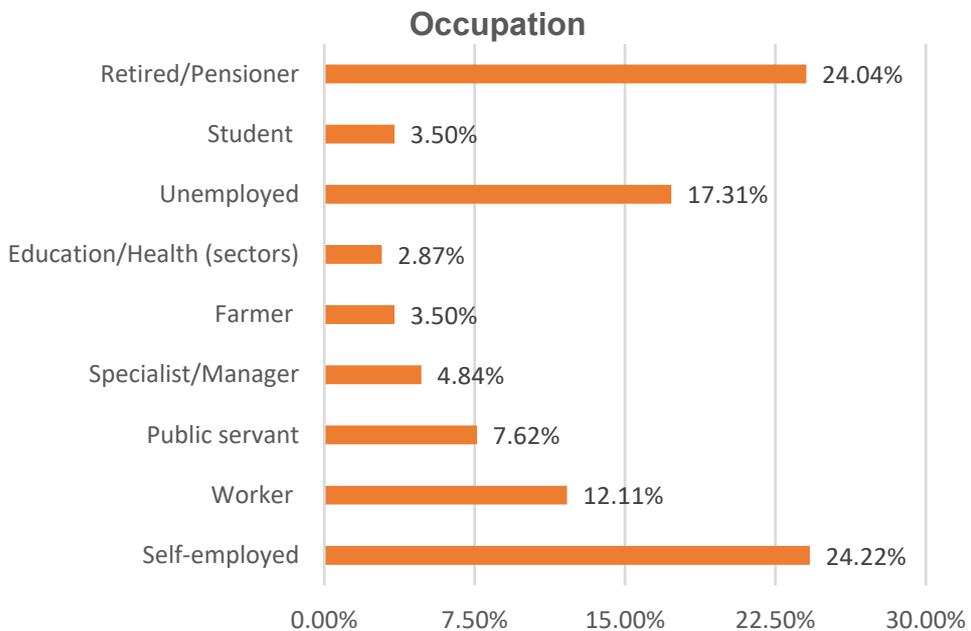
Occupation

Graph no.3: Occupation of the respondents

---

[2] http://www.instat.gov.al/media/6551/lfs-q3-2019.pdf

2. PERCEPTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY SECURITY THREATS

In order to learn about the level of security perceived at individual and community level, citizens were asked to provide an overall perception of security at home and at the work place assuming that there will be differences between the two.

Although the largest majority of respondents declare that they feel secure (67,35%), about 9% of them, declare that they feel "very unsafe" or "not safe", with another 24.13% feeling "somewhat safe" where they live.

How secure do you feel in the neighborhood/village where you reside?
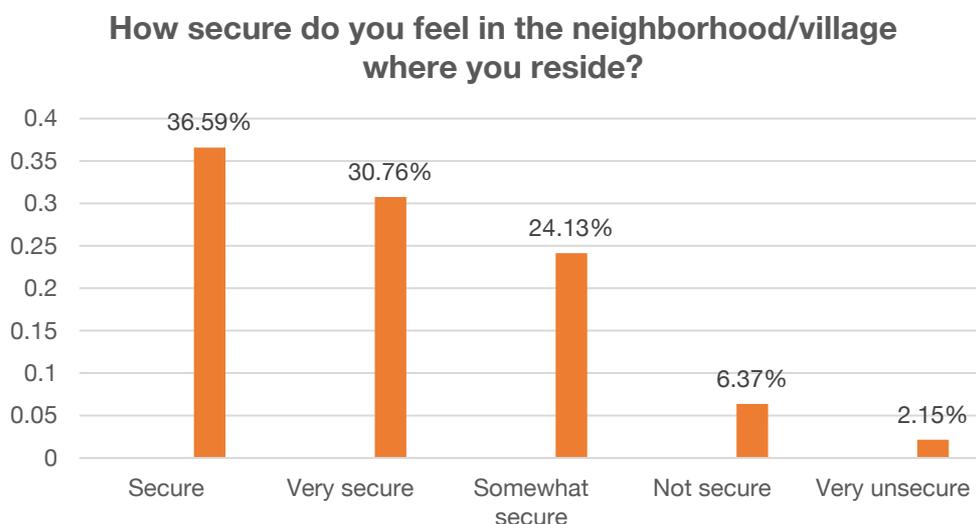
Graph no.4: Results on the perception of security in neighbourhoods/villages of residence

Similar trends appear with regard to the work place, although in terms of figures, the results are different as 37.85% of respondents declare that they don't work.

How safe do you feel in the neighborhood/village where you work?

Bar chart showing:
- Secure: 21.79%
- Very secure: 18.30%
- Somewhat secure: 15.25%
- Not secure: 4.75%
- Very unsecure: 2.06%
- Donít work: 37.85%
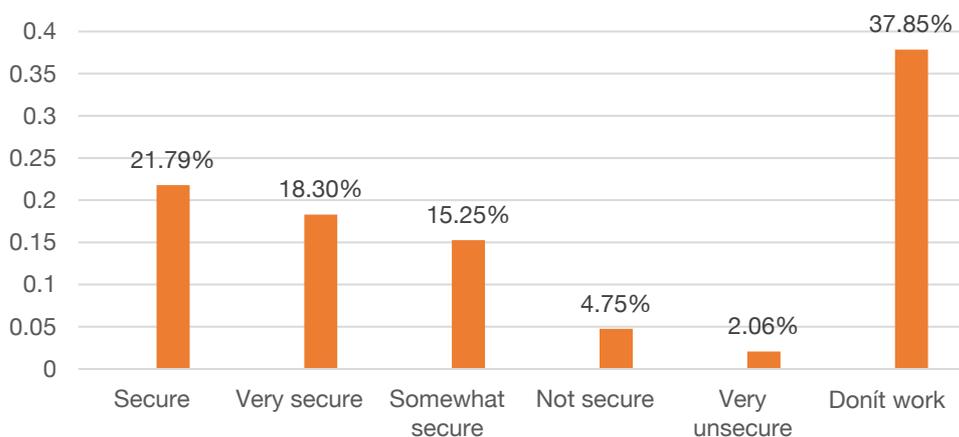
Graph no.5: Results on the perception of security in workplaces in neighbourhoods/villages

Generally, insecurity appears to be slightly higher among male citizens; while insecurity at work is higher than the one at the place of residence for both sexes.

4.65% of female respondents say they don't feel secure at the work place compared with 3.4% at the place of residence.

Similarly, a considerable portion of male respondents (8.09%), say that they don't feel secure at work compared with 2.7% who feel so at the place of residence.

Security perception at the areas of work and residence for females and males
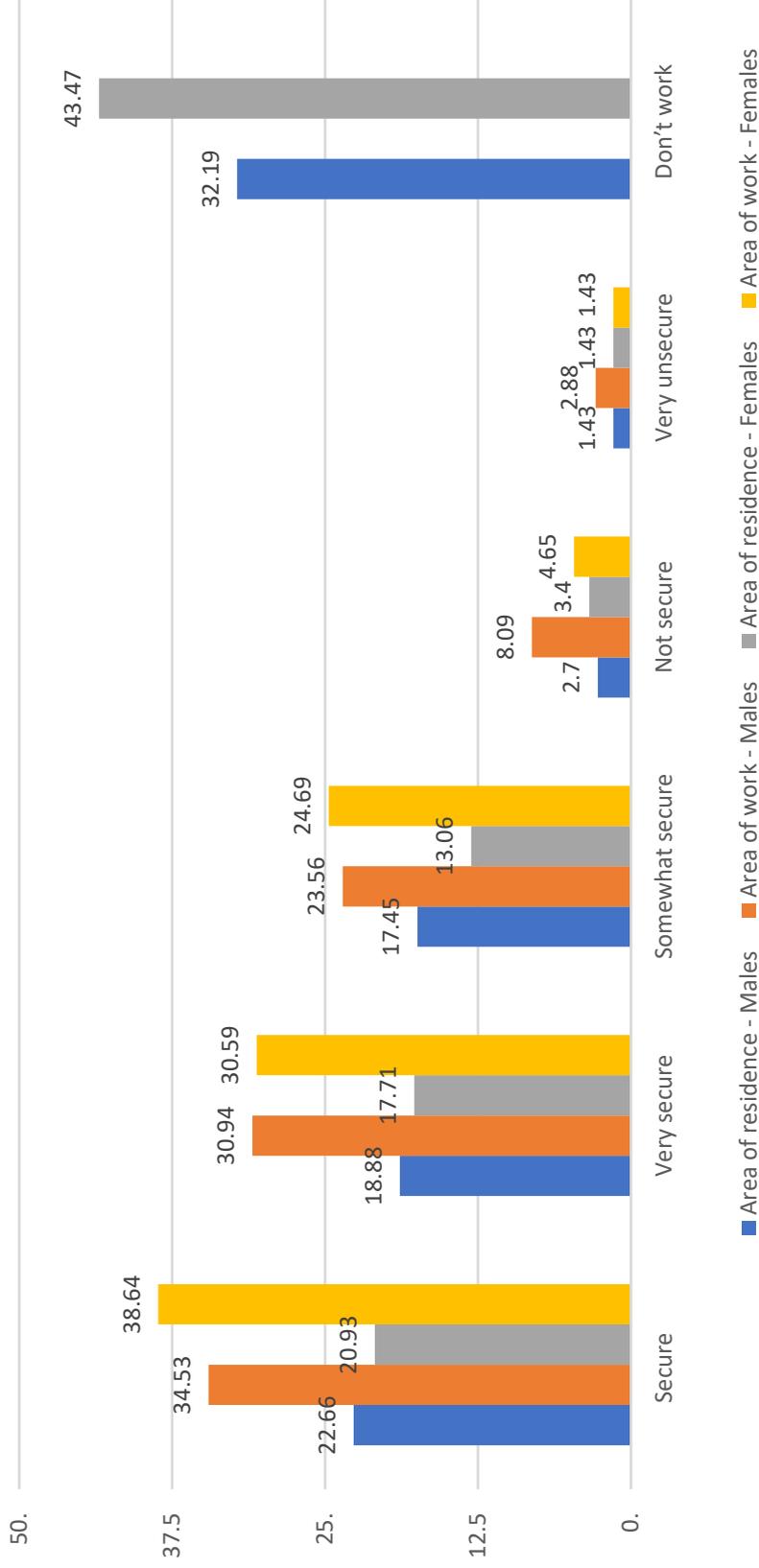
Graph no.6: Results on the perception of security in workplaces in neighbourhoods/villages for both genders

Legend:
- Area of residence - Males
- Area of work - Males
- Area of residence - Females
- Area of work - Females

Data values:

Secure
- 22.66
- 34.53
- 20.93
- 38.64

Very secure
- 18.88
- 30.94
- 17.71
- 30.59

Somewhat secure
- 17.45
- 23.56
- 13.06
- 24.69

Not secure
- 2.7
- 8.09
- 3.4
- 4.65

Very unsecure
- 1.43
- 1.43
- 2.88
- 1.43

Don't work
- 32.19
- 43.47

Y-axis: 50. / 37.5 / 25. / 12.5 / 0.

25

Theft, looting, conflicts over property, and homicide, are perceived as threat number one to personal security.

However, theft is perceived as the number one threat by the largest percentage of respondents, 39.55% of them; while looting comes next with 7.71%; conflicts over property count for 7.98%, and homicide for 7%.

Organised crime, vandalism and domestic violence are perceived as threats to personal security by a smaller percentage of respondents.

Number 1 and 2 threats to personal security

Category	Number 1 threat	Number 2 threat
None	25.02%	35.25%
Theft	39.55%	20.36%
Looting	7.71%	13.99%
Conflicts over property	7.98%	7.98%
Homicide	7.00%	7.62%
Organized crime activity	4.66%	5.02%
Vandalism	2.69%	3.68%
Domestic violence	1.61%	3.41%
Other	3.77%	2.69%
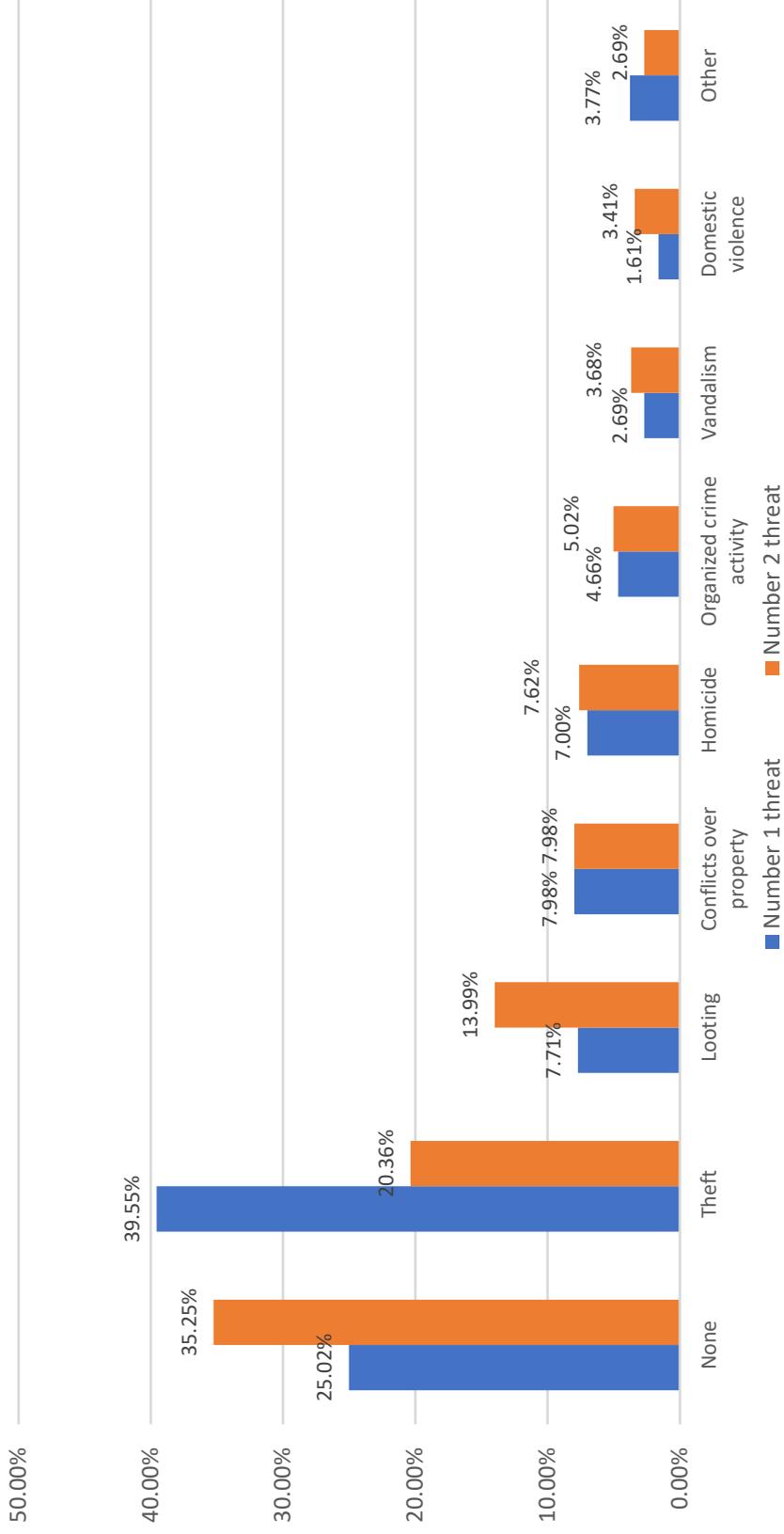
Graph no.7: Results on the perception of number one and number two threats to personal security

27

Security is perceived to be lower at rural and suburban areas, with only 22.41% declaring that they perceive no threat at all, while theft is perceived as number one security threat for 45.4% of rural and suburban population, 8.5% more than the respondents in urban areas.

Looting is also perceived as a much higher threat in rural and suburban population: 18.51% vs. 8.34% in urban areas. Similar trend applies for this category with regard to the second most important threat as well.

Twice as many of the respondents in rural and suburban areas regard security threats from conflict over property as number one compared to respondents in urban areas, respectively 12.07% in rural/suburban areas vs. 6.13% in urban ones.

These trends are reversed on organised crime which appears to be more of a security concern in the urban areas, respectively 5.48% in urban areas vs. 2.87% in rural/suburban ones.

Perception on domestic violence is higher than the second most important security threat for both urban and rural/suburban residents.

Number 1 and 2 security threats in urban and rural/suburban areas

	None	Theft	Looting	Conflicts over property	Murders	Organized crime activity	Vandalism	Domestic violence	Other
Number 1 threat - Urban	26.21	36.9	8.34	6.13	7.95	5.48	3.26	1.56	4.17
Number 2 threat - Urban	35.85	14.73	18.51	7.17	7.69	5.61	4.17	3.13	3.13
Number 1 threat - Rural/Suburban	22.41	45.4	6.32	12.07	4.89	2.87	1.44	1.72	2.87
Number 2 threat - Rural/Suburban	33.91	12.36	24.43	9.77	7.47	3.74	2.59	4.02	1.72
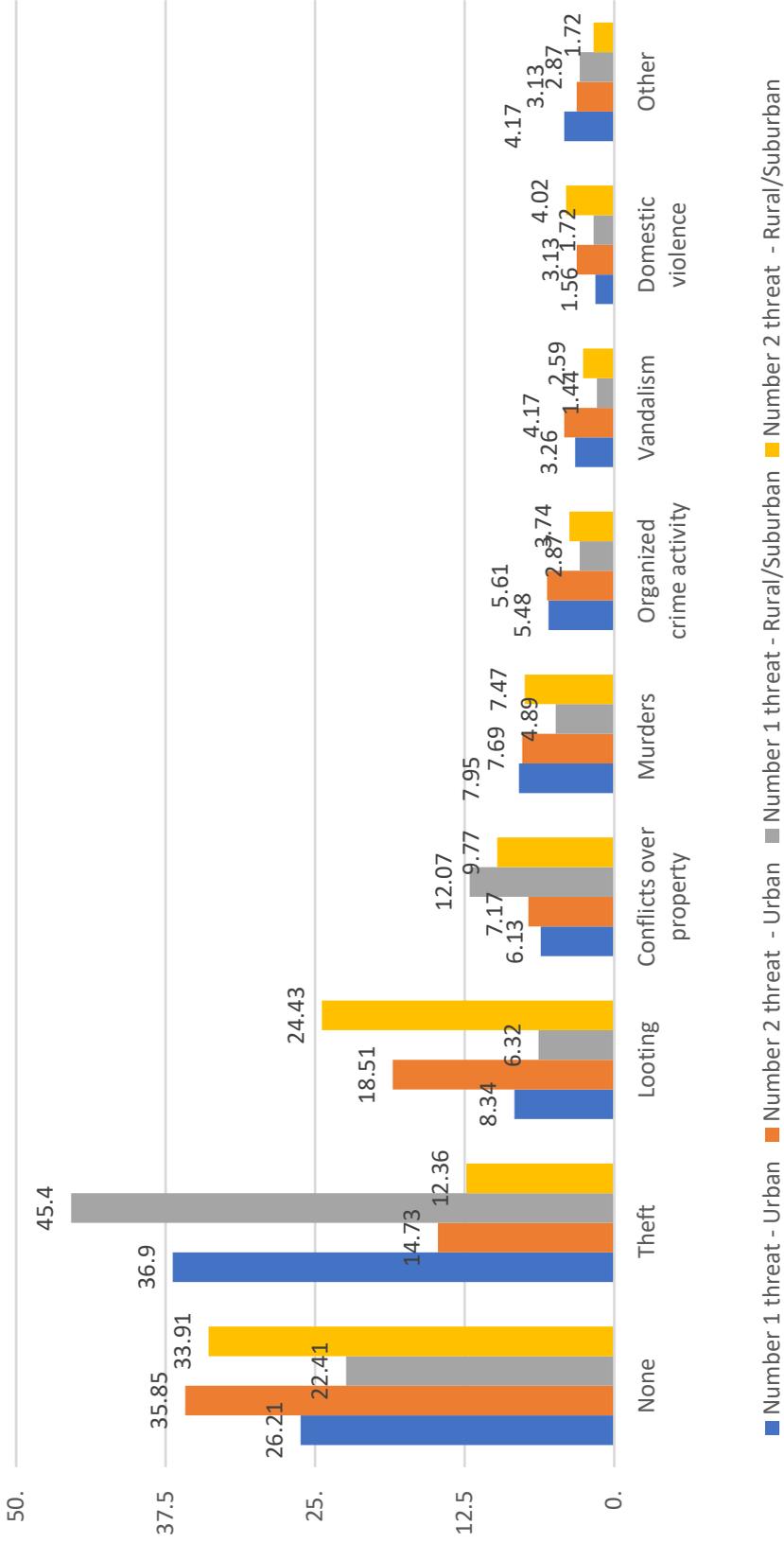
Graph no.8: Results on the perception of number one and number two threats to personal security according to two types of places of residence

While both sexes perceive theft as number one threat to security, the percentage of women with the same perception is slightly higher.

Domestic violence is identified as a security threat by 0.54% of males; whereas for women this figure is five times higher counting for 2.68%.

4.47% of women perceive domestic violence as the second most important threat vs. 2.34% of men.

Number 1 and 2 threat to security for females and males

	None	Theft	Looting	Conflicts over property	Murders	Organized crime activity	Vandalism	Domestic violence	Other
Number 1 threat - Females	24.69	41.32	7.87	6.26	6.26	4.11	2.68	2.68	3.04
Number 2 threat - Females	33.81	13.77	22.36	8.77	6.62	4.47	2.68	0.54	2.68
Number 1 threat - Males	25.36	37.77	7.55	9.77	6.65	5.22	3.04	4.47	4.5
Number 2 threat - Males	36.69	14.21	18.35	7.19	8.63	5.58	4.32	2.34	2.7
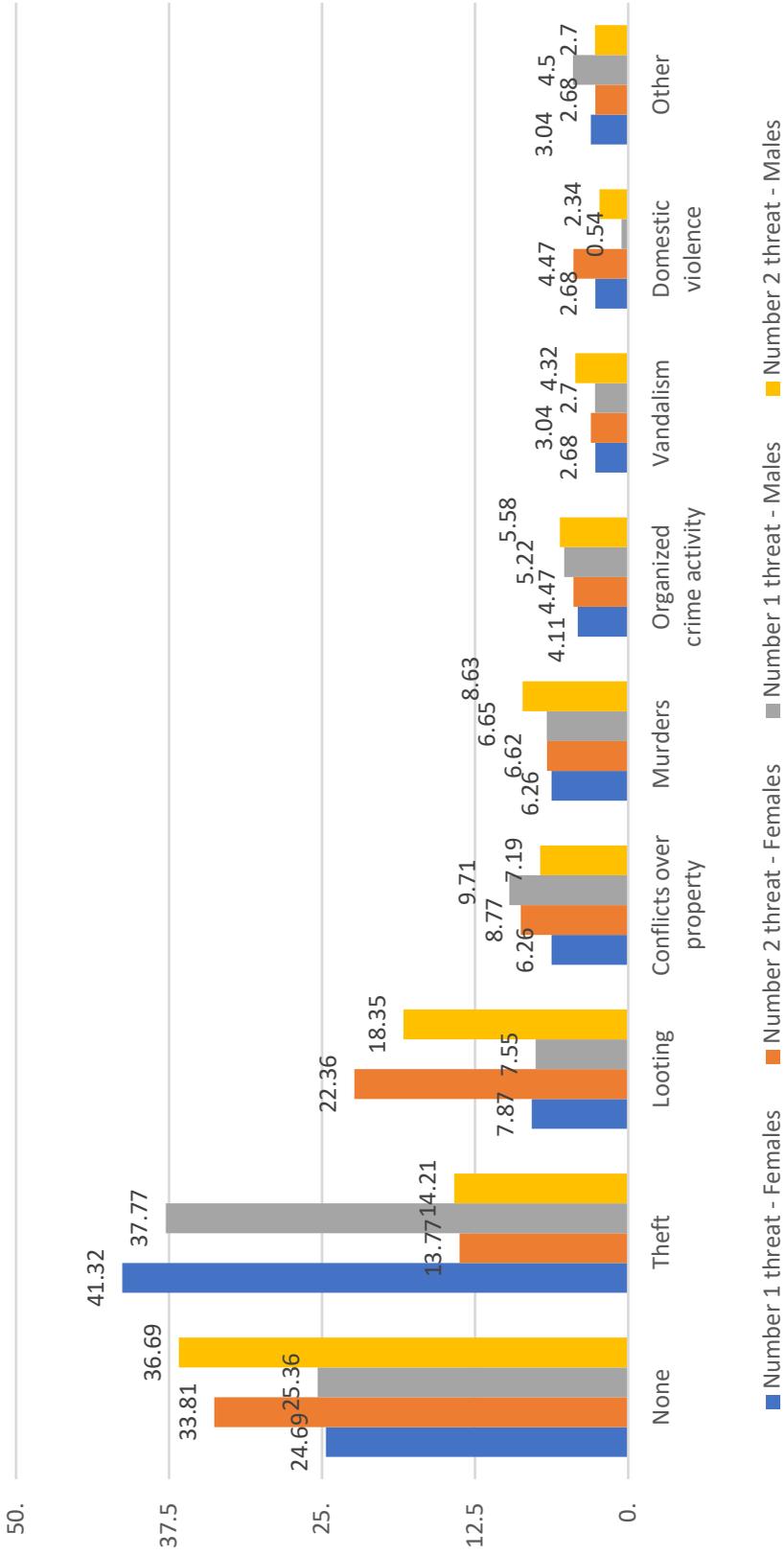
Graph no.9: Results on the perception of number one and number two security threats according to gender

31

2. SATISFACTION REGARDING SECURITY AND ATTITUDES RELATED TO APPROACHES ABOUT SECURITY IMPROVEMENT

Generally, the percentage of citizens, who are satisfied with security situation, remains much higher than the percentage of respondents who are not.

35.34% of citizens responded to be very satisfied with security situation in their neighbourhoods; while only 8.07% responded that they are not at all satisfied.

However, the largest percentage of the population has moderate perceptions on security situation, with 44.57% being somewhat satisfied and only 11.84% being little satisfied.

How satisfied are you with the security situation in your neighborhood/village?
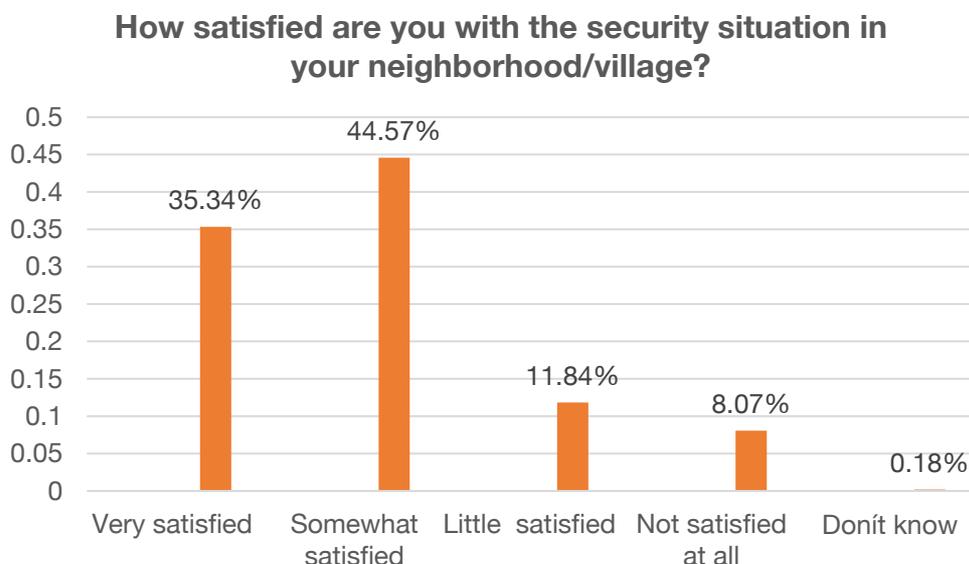
Graph no.10: Results on the level of satisfaction with security situation in their villages/neighbourhoods

Two thirds of the respondents (62.78%) provide generally positive views on the cooperation between the police and the local government in delivering security followed by "somewhat satisfied (43.50%) and " very satisfied" (19.28%).

This generally positive trend may be explained with the intensified efforts made over the recent years to strengthen the cooperation at local level in the framework of community policing approach.

However, one third of the respondents (33.82%) think that this cooperation is not satisfactory.

How satisfied are you with the cooperation between the local government and the police to ensure public safety?
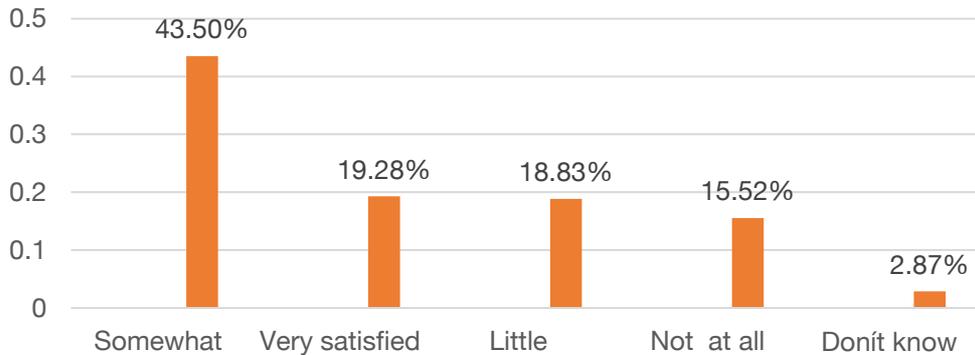
Graph no.11: Results on level of satisfaction with cooperation between local government and police on issues of public safety

In order to understand the share of contribution to the perceived security, citizens are asked about various security institutions and providers.

In terms of security provision on day-to-day basis, the State Police was identified as the most important security provider with 59.46% of respondents regarding it as so. A very large portion of the surveyed (28.88%), identified themselves as the main contributors to their everyday security.

Private security companies are regarded as the least important contributors, but even the municipal police is also viewed as a minor contributor with only 4.04% of the respondents regarding the latter as a contributor.

Which of the following plays the most important role in your day-to-day security?

Category	Value
Private police	0.54%
Other	0.90%
The Condominium Administrator	1.08%
Headman	1.97%
Community representative	3.14%
The municipal police	4.04%
Yourself	28.88%
State police	59.46%
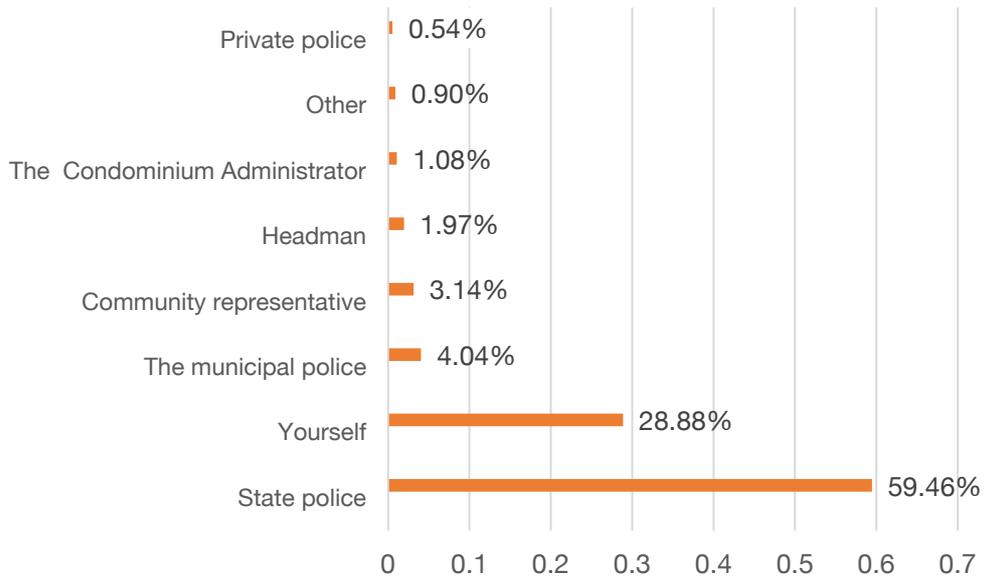
Graph no.12: Results on the most important institution for ensuring security

The reliance on police for security provision is evident also when citizens are asked about the police presence at community level.

Only 47.98% of the surveyed think that police are sufficiently present, even though the percentage of citizens that think that such a presence is entirely insufficient accounts for only 17.85%.

Is the police in your neighborhood / village sufficiently present?

Category	Value
Yes	47.98%
Somewhat	33.81%
No	17.85%
Donít know	0.36%
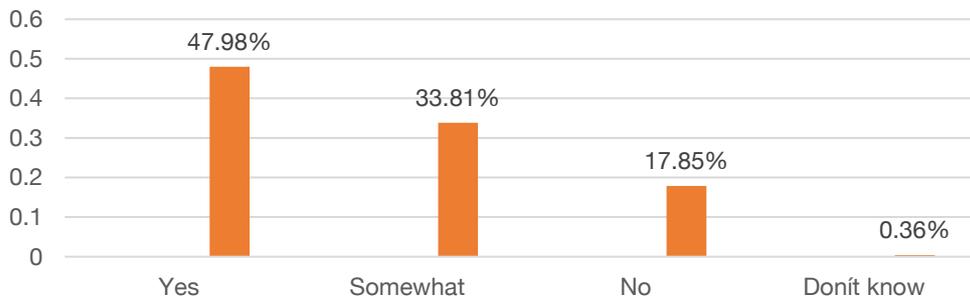
Graph no.13: Results on the level of satisfaction on the presence of police in neighbourhoods/villages

However, there are some slight differences depending on where the respondents reside: urban or rural/suburban areas.

The number of citizens residing in the rural/suburban areas think that police presence is smaller in those areas.

Opinion on police presence in urban vs. rural/suburban areas

	Somewhat	No	Yes	Don't know
Suburban/Rural	35.92	18.97	45.11	
Urban	32.86	17.34	49.28	0.52
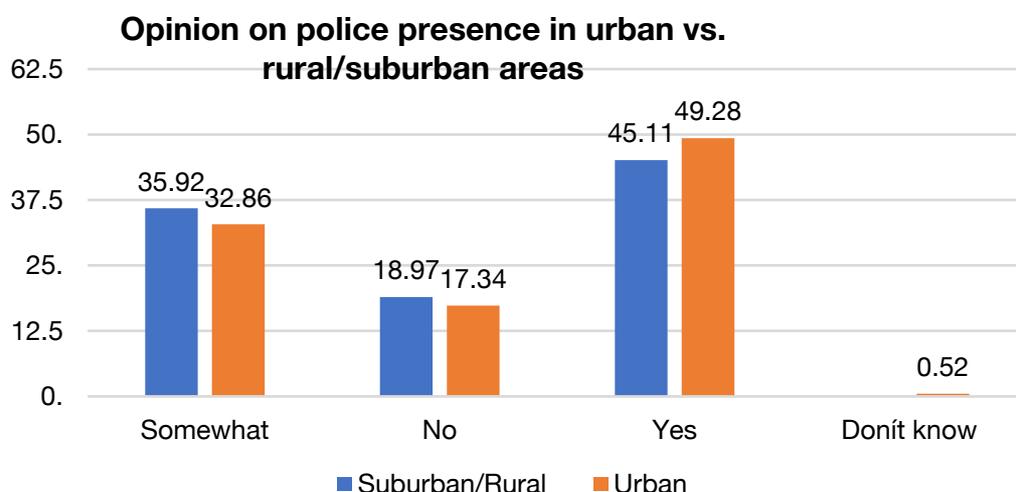
Graph no.14: Results on the level of satisfaction on police presence in urban areas in comparison to rural/suburban ones.

In order to find out about the citizens' perceptions and expectations with regard to the relationship between security and police presence, citizens are asked two questions: "How much does the presence of police on the ground affect security?" and "How much do you think increasing the number of police would increase security?".

Regarding the relationship between police presence and security, the responses are in line with previous responses; whereas, when it comes to the possibility of improving security by deploying more police the answers differ.

Although 47.17% of the respondents think that police presence contributes "a lot" to security improvement, only 40.72% think that increasing the number of police would improve security "a lot". Similarly, 11.66% respond that doing so would not improve security at all.

Perception on relation between security and number of police deployed

Legend:
- ■ Presence of police on the ground affects security
- ■ Increasing the number of police increases security

Category	Presence of police on the ground affects security	Increasing the number of police increases security
A lot	47.17%	40.72%
Somewhat	32.83%	30.40%
Little	12.74%	16.50%
Not at all	6.91%	11.66%
Don't know	0.36%	0.72%

Graph no.15: Results on perception of relationship between security and numbers of police deployed.

As a matter of fact, modernization of police force as a factor for further improvement of security is regarded by citizens as the most favourable option than the increase of their numbers: 63.68% of the respondents think that modernisation would increase security "a lot", while 24.13% think that this option would "somewhat" contribute to security improvement.

Only 11,56 % think that this choice/modernisation, would contribute "little" or "not at all" to security improvement.

How much do you think further modernization of the police would increase security?

Category	Percentage
A lot	63.68%
Somewhat	24.13%
Little	7.17%
Not at all	4.39%
Don't know	0.63%
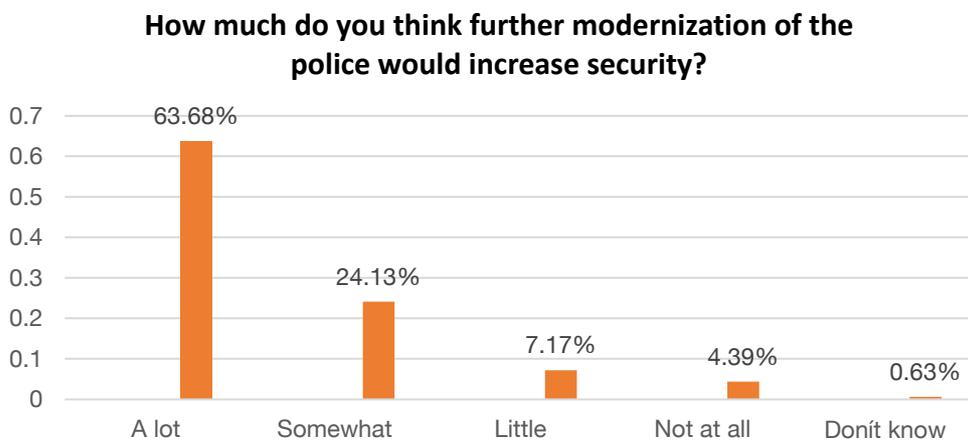
Graph no.16: Results on perception of security improvement through police modernization of police.

The percentage of respondents in suburban and rural areas that think of security improvement by means of more police on the ground and further modernisation is higher highlighting lack of security provision generally observed in such areas as compared to the urban ones.

Increased police presence and security improvement urban vs suburban/rural
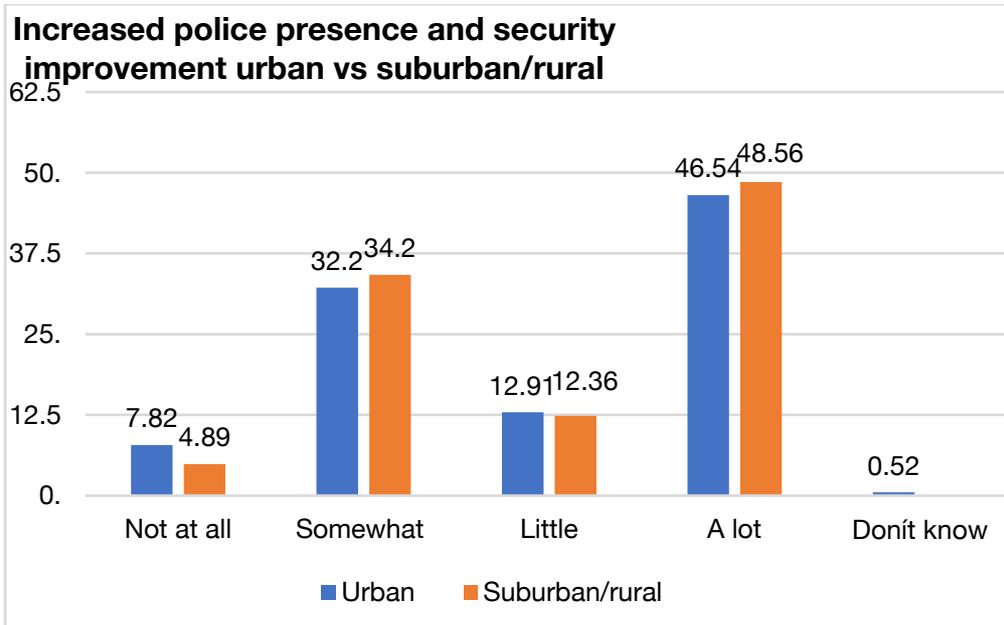
Graph no.17: Results on perception of relationship between security and number of deployed police according to urban and suburban/rural areas.

67.82% of citizens residing in suburban and rural areas are in favour of improving security through modernization of police as compared to 61.8% of residents in urban areas.

Modernization of police and security improvement urban vs suburban/rural
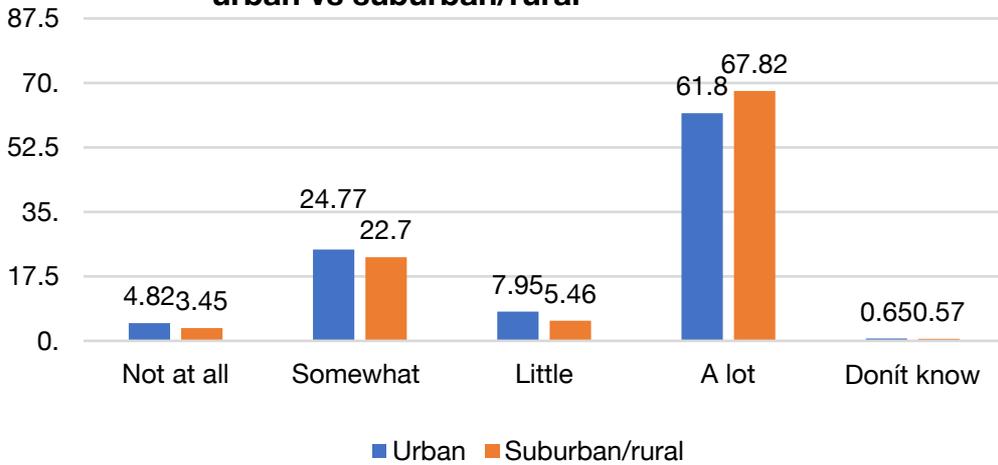
Graph no.18: Results on perception of security improvement through modernization of police according to urban and suburban/rural areas.

When offered the options of security improvement through better community organisation, deployment of more police force on the ground or building a stronger army, the first option the most favourable: 58.74% the respondents favoured better community organisation as a security approach, while 19.73% favour putting more police on the ground followed by 18.21% favouring the establishment of a stronger army.

What would make you feel more secure?
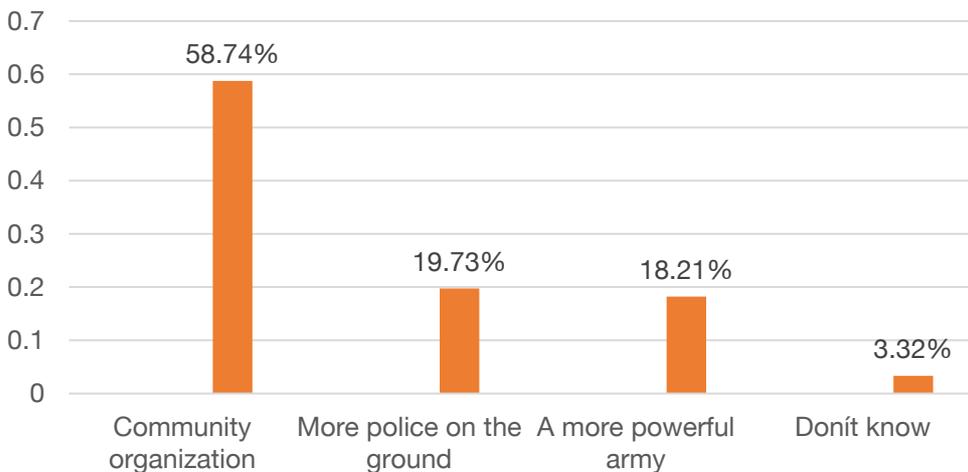
Graph no.19: Results on the perception of measures that would improve security

Citizens were also asked about their level of satisfaction with regard to military contribution to security provision.

Only 28.79% responded that they are "very satisfied" with the contribution of the Albanian military to the security of Albania, a figure equal to the aggregate/total of those who responded to be "little" or "no satisfied at all" (28,43%). The largest percentage, 40.36% respond as being "somewhat satisfied".

How satisfied are you with the contribution of the Albanian military to the security of the country?
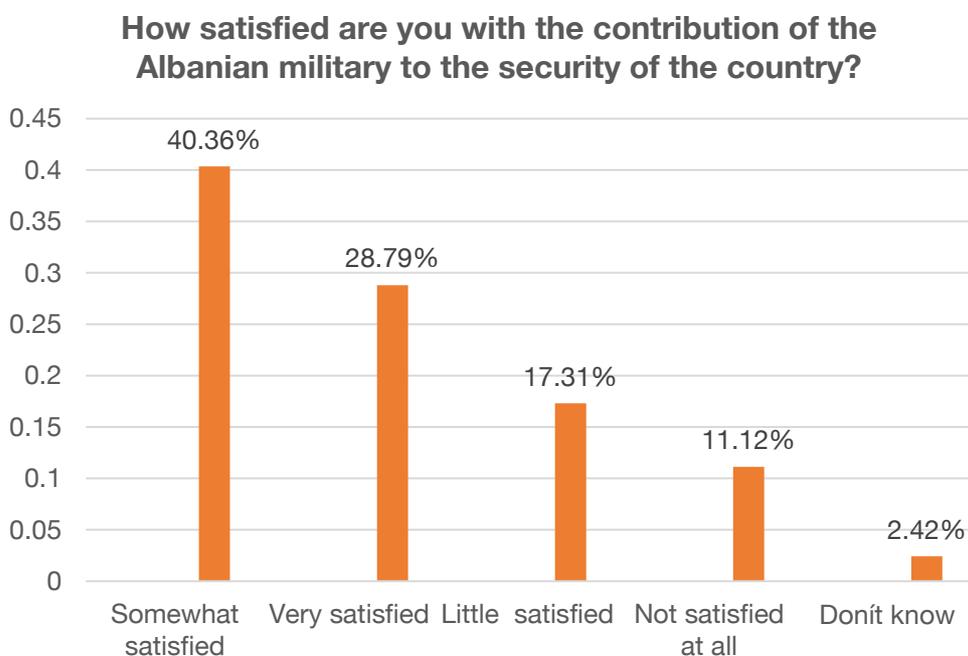
Graph no.20: Results on perception of contribution of military to country security

Given that intelligence services also play an important role in the provision of security, particularly by dealing with sophisticated and new threats, questions were asked about these institutions too.

The answers show that compared with the police and the military, the level of satisfaction is much lower with the intelligence services. Only 16.41% say that they are "very satisfied" as opposed to 28.79% of the respondents that say so about the armed forces.

A relatively large number of citizens, 12.91% answered "don't know", showing the insufficient information provided to the public on the intelligence services in the current security context.

How much do Albanian intelligence services contribute to the security of the country?
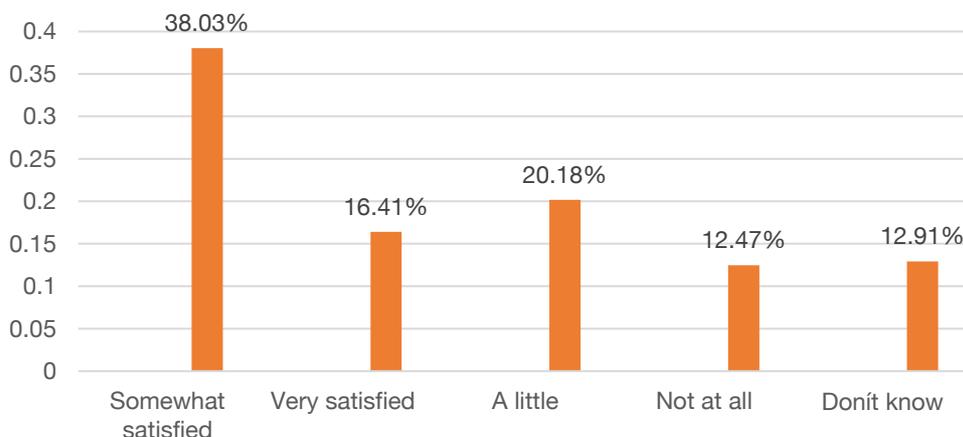
Graph no.21: Results on perception of contribution of intelligence services to country's security.

Citizens were also asked to provide their opinion about their expectations on security during the upcoming year.

Only 45.65% of the respondents have a positive view and think that security will improve in the upcoming year.

44.30% think that security will remain the same, while 8.25% think that the security situation in the country will deteriorate.

How will the overall security situation be in the next 12 months?
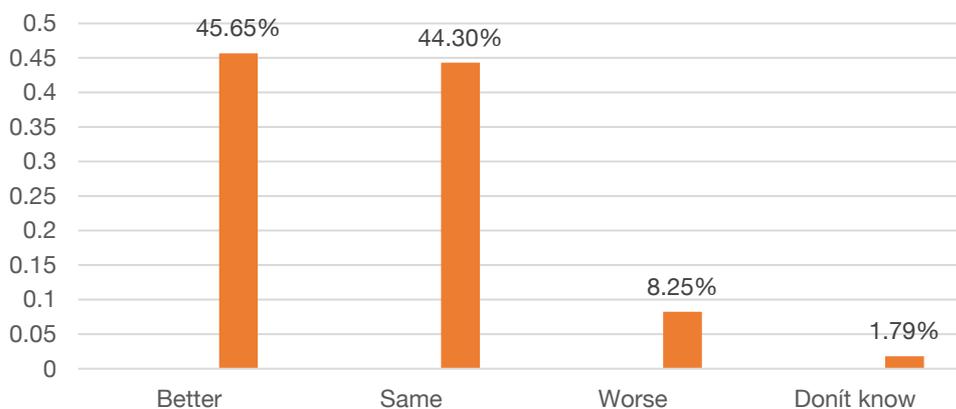
Graph no.22: Results on expectations of security situation in the next 12 months

3. PERCEPTIONS ABOUT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

In addition to obtaining perceptions on security at individual and community levels, citizens were asked about their perceptions on security threats at national, regional and world levels. In order to get a deeper insight on such perceptions, citizens were asked in two separate questions to identify the number one and number two security threats in all those three levels.

Citizens were asked in two separate questions to identify the first and the second most important threat to Albania's security.

Regarding security threats to Albania, respondents identified corruption, organised crime and unemployment,[3] as the three most important threats: 36.95% think that corruption is number one security threat, while 27.09% identified it as the second most important security threat.

On the other hand, 18.74% of the citizens identify organised crime as number one threat to security but, unlike corruption, those who identify it/organised crime as the second most important threat increases to 24.04%.

War with neighbouring countries was not excluded and is previewed as number 1 security threat by 7.62% of the surveyed and as number 2 security threat by a slightly higher number, 8.07%.

Terrorism is also perceived as number one security threat by 10.67%, while another 12.20% perceive it as number two threat.

Violent extremism is perceived as number one threat by 3.23% of the surveyed and as number two by 3.50%.

---

[3] In order not to confuse unemployment as an individual problem, the interviewers ensured that the respondents give their answers on unemployment as a socio-economic problem.

Number 1 and 2 security threat to Albania

	Number 1 security threat	Number 2 security threat
Immigrantion	0.81%	1.52%
Violent extremism	3.23%	3.50%
Environmental pollution	3.95%	5.92%
War with neighbouring countries	8.07%	7.62%
Terrorism	10.67%	12.20%
Unemplyement	18.03%	17.67%
Organised crime	18.74%	24.04%
Corruption	36.95%	27.09%

■ Number 1 security threat ■ Number 2 security threat
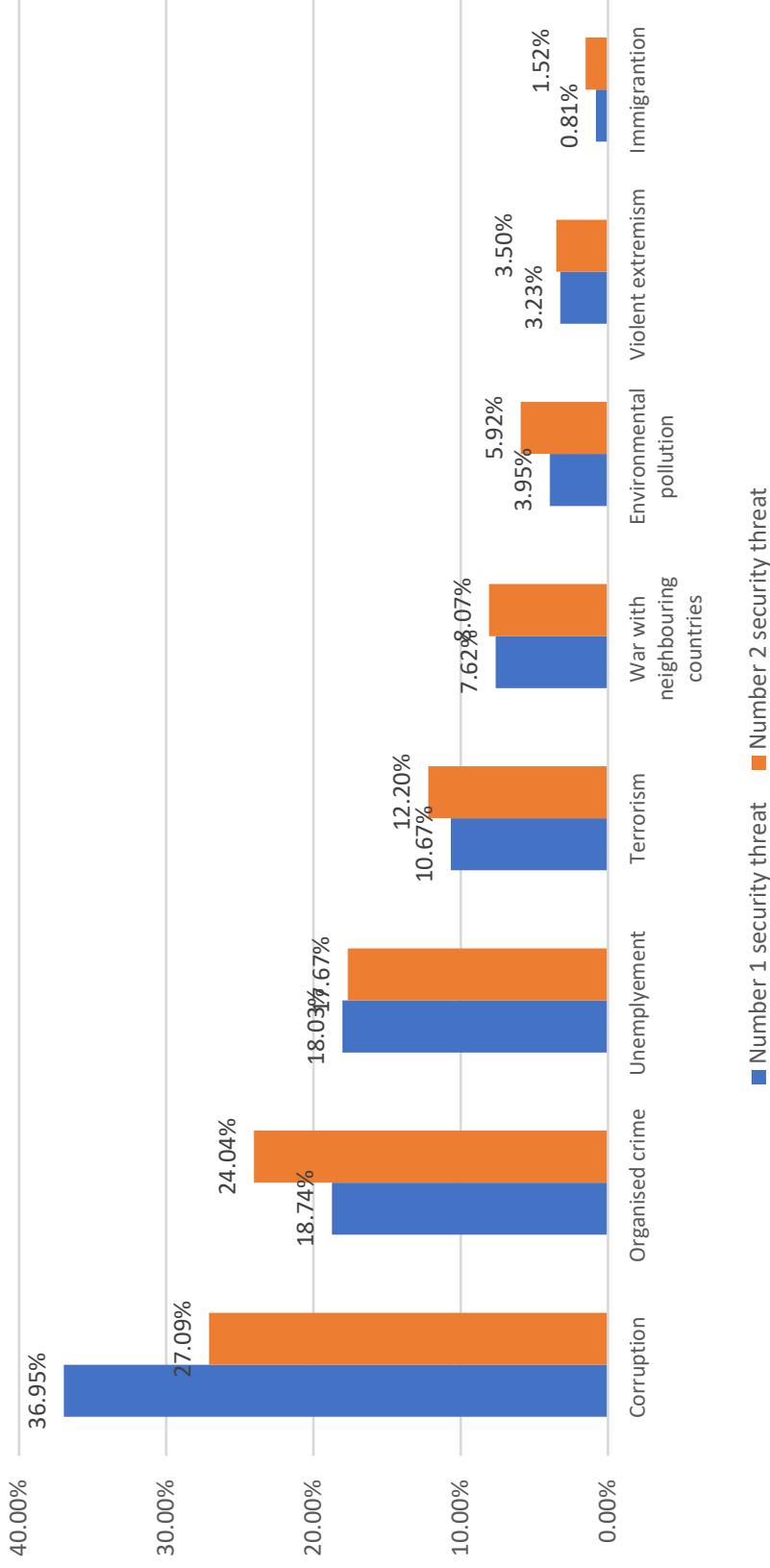
Graph no.23: Results on perception of number one and number two threats to Albania

42

Regarding security threats to the Balkan region, there is a more balanced distribution of seven security threats identified, even though war among nations, terrorism and organised crime and corruption, are identified as the four most important ones and as threats number one and number two.

Threat from war is regarded as number one, with 28.52% of the citizens thinking so, while 20.27% regard it as the second most important.

Terrorism comes next, as both number one (24.48%) and number two (18.57%) threat, but if aggregated with violent extremism, as they are related, it would come out as top security threat.

Unlike the general perception on immigration as a low security threat at national level, for the region, immigration is perceived as a threat by a higher number of citizens: 5.29% rank it as number one security threat, while a higher number 7.53% rank it as number two threat to the region.

Number 1 and 2 security threats to Balkan region
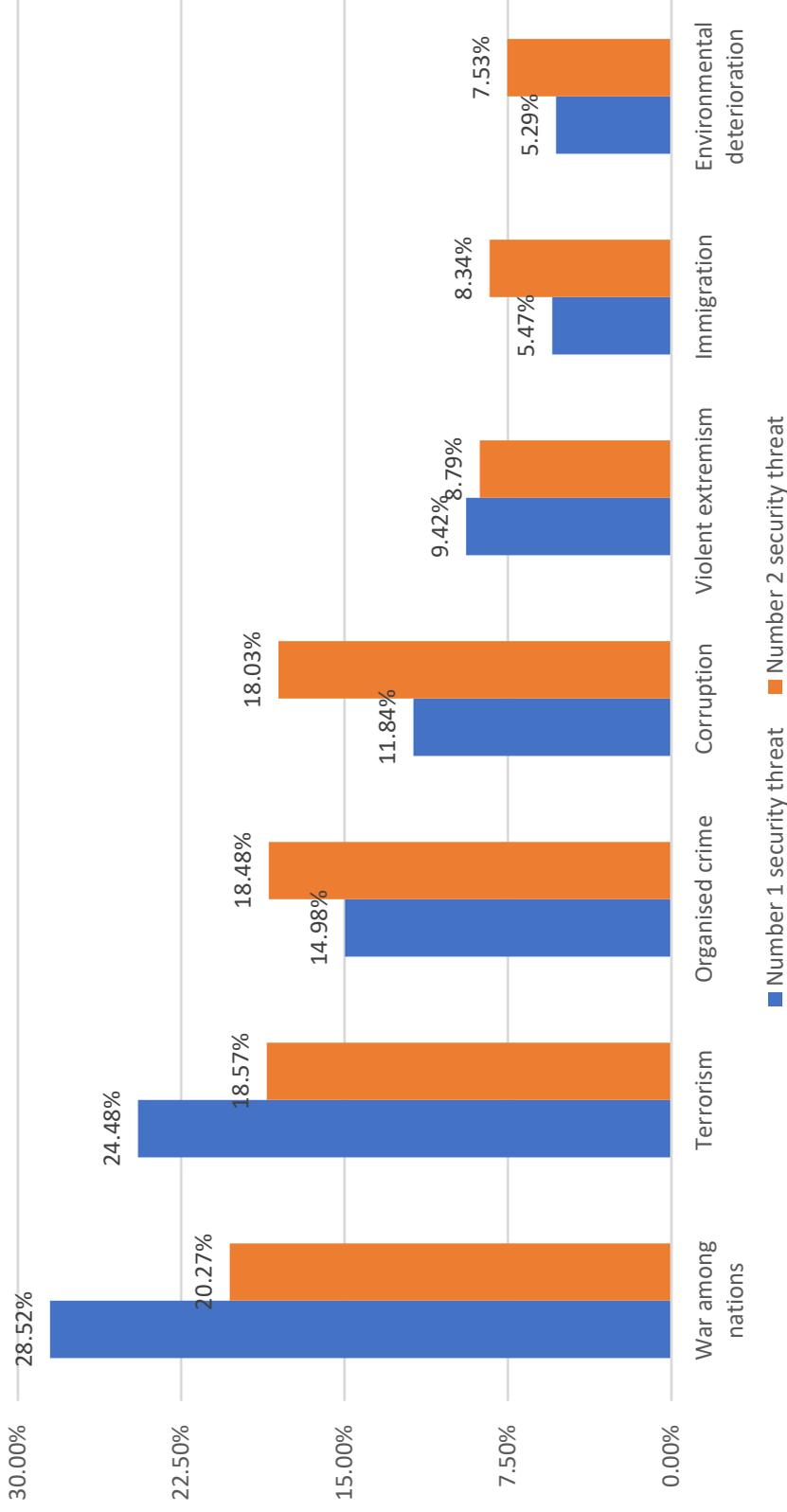
Graph no.24: Results on perception of number one and number two threats to Balkan region.

44

Citizens were also asked to provide their opinion on how they viewed security in the region in relation to a year ago.

More than half of the respondents think that the relations among the Balkan countries are stagnant: 16.95% of the surveyed think that the relations have not improved; while 34.53% think that relations are the same as 1 year ago.

However, there is a sizable percentage of 22.24% who think that the countries of the region have better relations than a year ago and another 16.50% who are not sure and think that relations may have been improved.

39
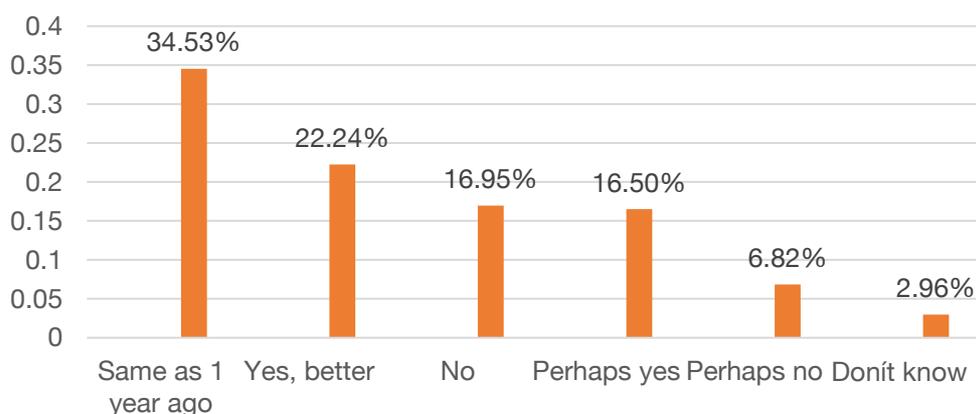
Graph no.25: Results on the perception of relations among Balkan countries compared to one year ago

Regarding world security, terrorism, war among nations and global warming are perceived as three most important security threats. Mass migration, violent extremism and organised crime come next, but they are commonly regarded as the second most important threat.

Cybercrime has been identified as a main threat to security by only 5.20%, which may indicate that knowledge by Albanian citizens on this rising security threat is not adequate.

Threats to world security
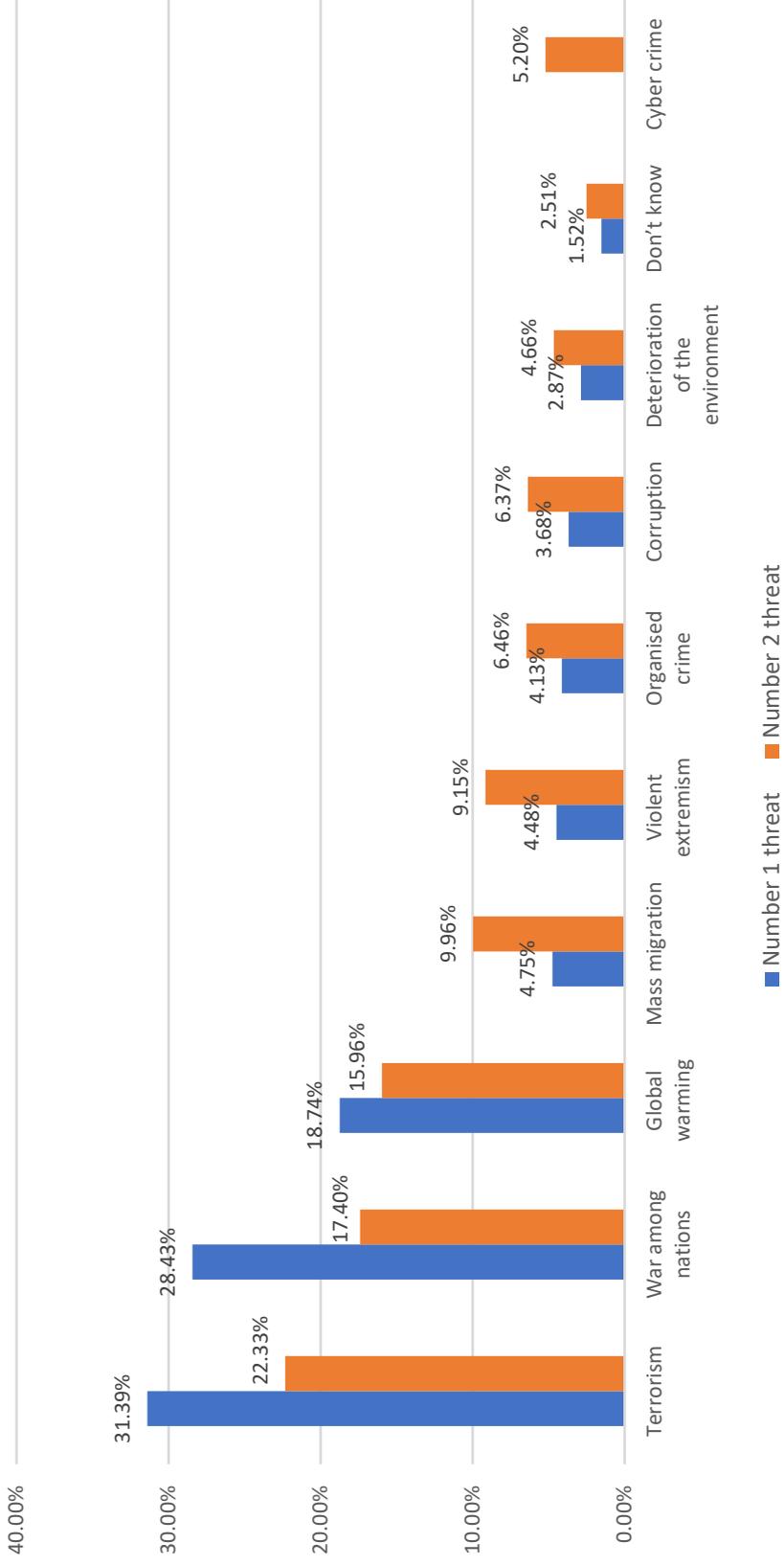
Graph no.26: Results on perception of number one and number two threats to world security

	Number 1 threat	Number 2 threat
Terrorism	31.39%	22.33%
War among nations	28.43%	17.40%
Global warming	18.74%	15.96%
Mass migration	4.75%	9.96%
Violent extremism	4.48%	9.15%
Organised crime	4.13%	6.46%
Corruption	3.68%	6.37%
Deterioration of the environment	2.87%	4.66%
Don't know	1.52%	2.51%
Cyber crime		5.20%

46

4. PERCEPTIONS ON SECURITY INFLUENCE FROM EXTERNAL ACTORS

Given that security at international level is defined by the behaviour of states in the international security system, the citizens were asked about which country they consider as the most friendly to Albania, the role of NATO and the EU to country's security, as well as the influence of individual countries to Albania's security.

MOST FRIENDLY COUNTRIES

Citizens were asked in three different questions to identify among nine given options which country they identified as being the friendliest, the second and third most friendly to Albania.

The USA, Germany and Italy are identified as the three friendliest countries in the three answers.

First, second and third most friendly country to Albania
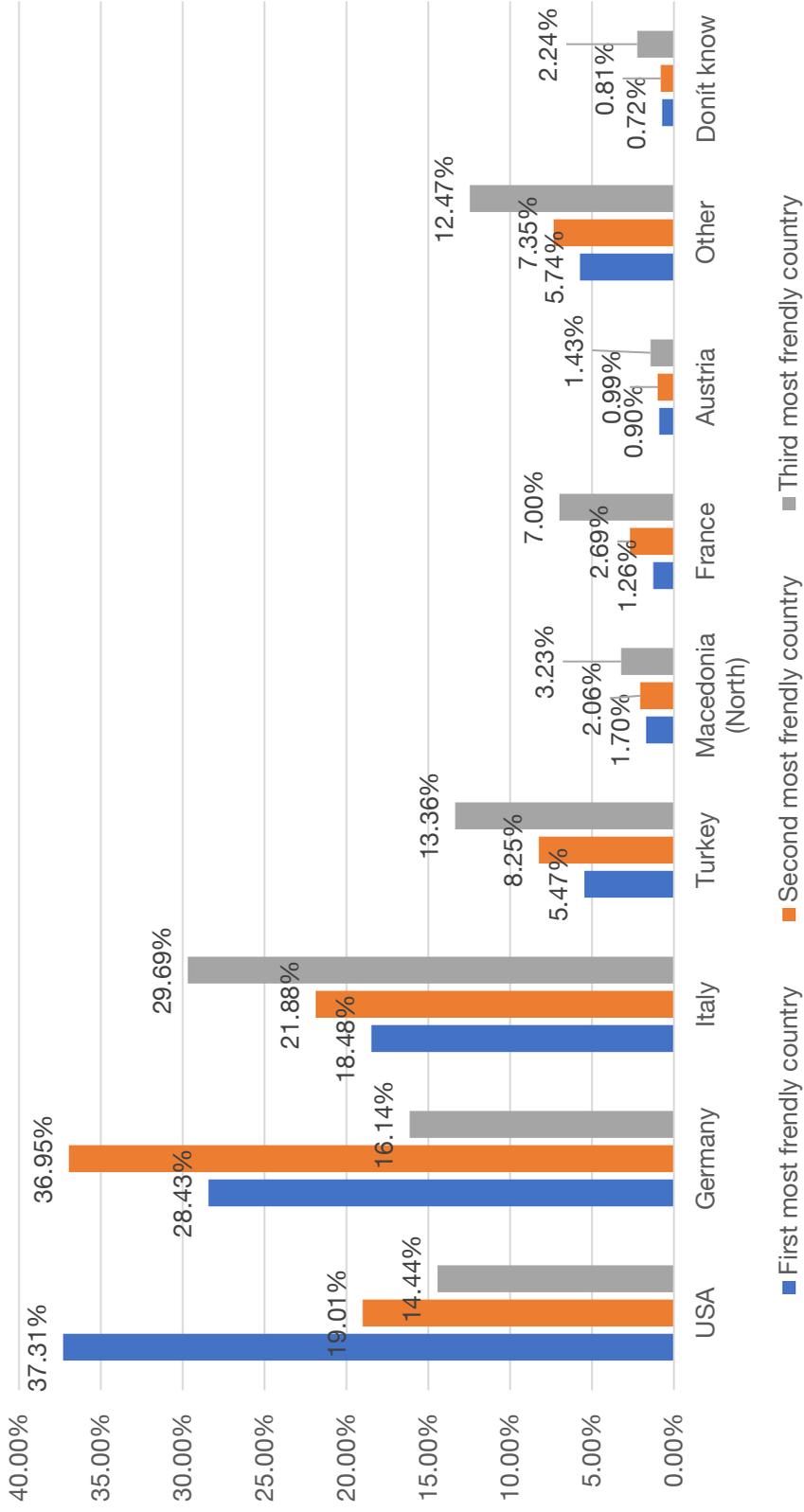
Graph no.27: Results on perception of the first, second and third friendliest countries to Albania

Legend:
- ■ First most frendly country
- ■ Second most frendly country
- ■ Third most frendly country

USA: 37.31% / 19.01% / 14.44%
Germany: 28.43% / 36.95% / 16.14%
Italy: 18.48% / 21.88% / 29.69%
Turkey: 5.47% / 8.25% / 13.36%
Macedonia (North): 1.70% / 2.06% / 3.23%
France: 1.26% / 2.69% / 7.00%
Austria: 0.90% / 0.99% / 1.43%
Other: 5.74% / 7.35% / 12.47%
Donit know: 0.72% / 0.81% / 2.24%

48

It is interesting to note that while the USA is perceived as number one country that is the friendliest to Albania, Germany and Italy are identified as the second and third friendliest countries by a large percentage of respondents.

So, in aggregate, Germany has been identified as the friendliest country with 81.52%, USA with 70.76% and Italy with 70.05%. Turkey comes forth followed by France and North Macedonia.

On the other hand, it should be noted that 25.56% of the respondents identified "other" as an option, meaning that a considerable number of citizens identify also other countries friendly to Albania apart from the options provided.

The aggregate results on the most friendly country
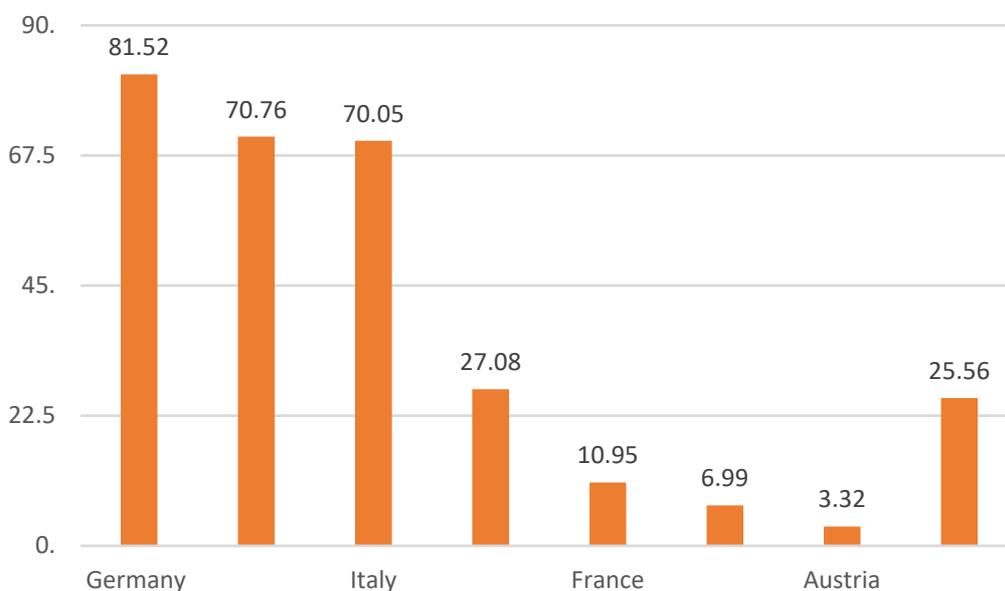
Graph no.28: Aggregate results on the friendliest country to Albania

INFLUENCE ON SECURITY FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND ACTORS

Citizens were also asked about their perceptions on the influence of various international players on Albania's security.

Most of Albanian citizens consider that both NATO and the EU contribute positively to Albania's security, although the percentage of those who think that NATO plays a bigger role is slightly higher.

Influence of NATO and the EU on country's security
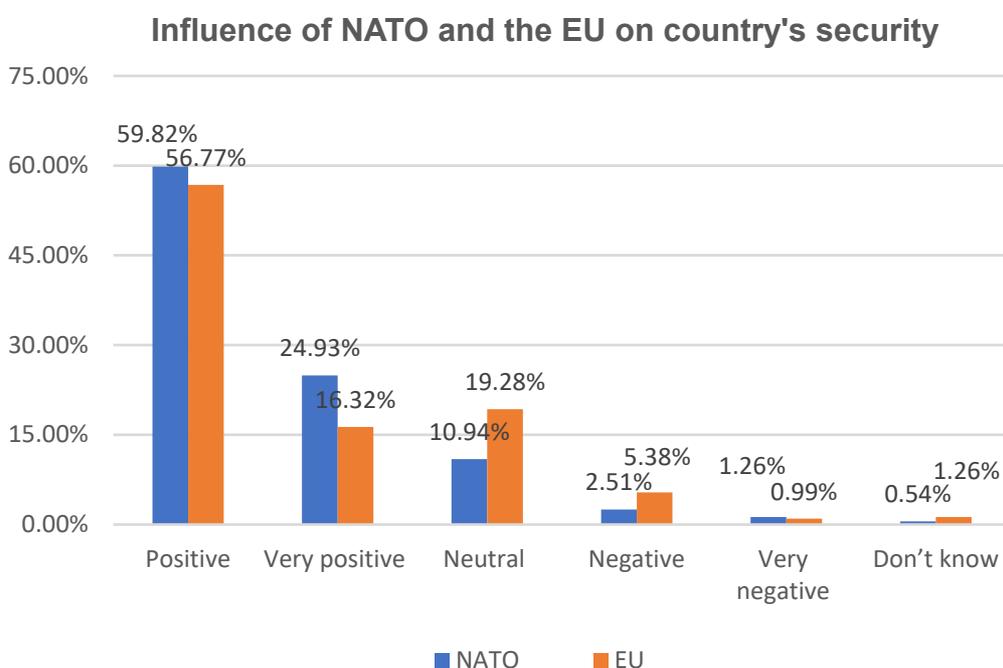
Graph no.29: Results on perception of NATO influence on country's security

The perception about the EU as a positive contributor to security is reflected also in the question about the influence of the EU on Albania's security after joining the Union: 59.1% of citizens think that the security situation in Albania will improve very much after its EU membership; while the percentage of respondents who think the opposite is 2.33%.

This may be well related to the fact that the EU has set as a top priority to combat corruption and organised crime, which Albanians perceive as the two main security threats.

How much will the security situation in Albania improve after EU membership?
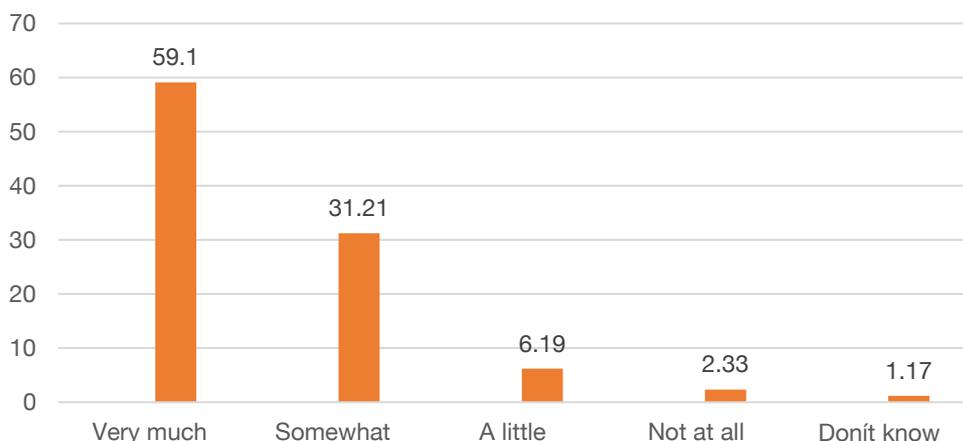
Graph no.30: Results on expectations on security after EU membership

In addition to NATO and EU, citizens are also asked to tell their perception on the influence of various countries on Albania's security.

Apart from the USA and Germany, as the major western powers within NATO and the EU, citizens are also asked to tell their perceptions on the influence of the so called "third actors" or "external powers", which include those countries that are arguably vying for influence in the Balkan region with the former, that is, the EU and NATO.

Both the USA and German are perceived as having a positive influence on the security of the country. However, while the number of citizens who think that the USA influence is very positive is high, the sum of those who think that USA exerts "a positive" or "a very positive" influence is slightly lower than the total sum of Germany: 84,3% of the surveyed think that the USA exerts "a positive" or "a very positive" influence while 88.61% think so about Germany.

Given that the USA has been traditionally perceived as the most influential actor for Albania's security, this slightly higher perception about Germany's influence is noteworthy. Factors such as the Berlin Process and the role of Germany in support of opening the EU accession negotiations with Albania may have influenced the public opinion. The poll was conducted 2 weeks before the EU summit of 17-18 October 2019, during which, the decision on the opening of the accession negotiations was expected to be taken.

Influence of USA and Germany on Albania's security

	Positive	Very positive	Neutral	Negative	Very negative	Don't know
USA	55.87%	28.43%	11.12%	2.87%	0.63%	1.08%
Germany	61.88%	26.73%	7.98%	1.97%	0.2...	1.17%
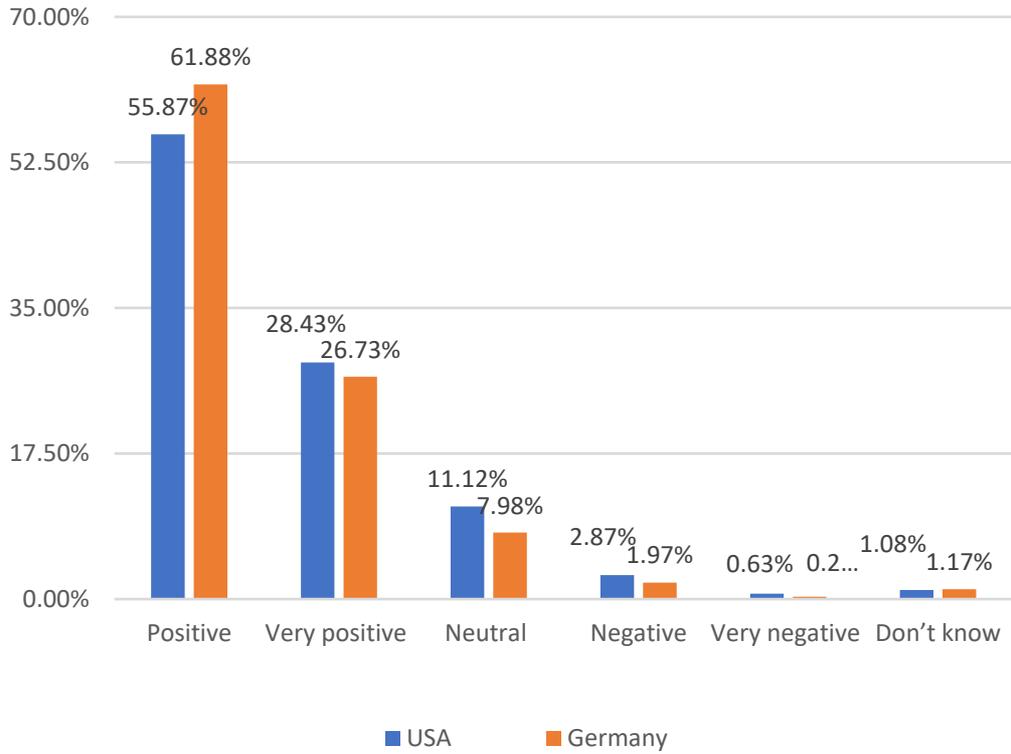
Graph no.31: Results on perception of influence of the USA and Germany on Albania's security

INFLUENCE OF "THIRD ACTORS"

Over the last years, as the EU integration process has been sluggish and the region has been exposed to the risk of becoming a geostrategic chessboard for external actors, the citizens were asked about their perceptions on the influence of the "external actors", or the so-called "third actors", on Albania's security.

The citizens were asked the same question: "What is the influence of a certain country on your country's security" referring to Russia, China, Turkey, Iran and the Arab countries.

Albeit with some variations, the answers indicate a generally low level of concern on Albania's security deriving from those countries: 60.81% of the citizens think that Turkey's influence on Albania's security is "positive" or "very positive", while 30.22% think that its influence is neutral; only 6,55% think that Turkey's influence is "negative" or "very negative".

Similar views are held about China and Arab (Gulf) countries, on which nearly 25% of the citizens think their influence on Albania's security is "positive" or "very positive". A larger number think their influence is neutral: China 56.23% and Arab countries 49.98%; only about 12% think that China's influence is "negative" or "very negative" and 17.76% think the same about the Arab countries; 6.82% cannot identify the nature of China's influence. As for the Arab countries, the figure for this category is 9.78%.

Perceptions about Russia and Iran are somewhat more nuanced, but it does not match the levels of concern presented in the current security discourse about those countries. Only 51.84% think that Russia's influence on Albania's security is "negative" or "very negative", while 33.72% think Russia's influence is "neutral" and another 7.62% think it is "positive"; 6.10% cannot identify at all the nature of its influence.

Regarding Iran, the number of those who cannot identify at all the nature of its influence is the highest, 14.89%, compared with the other countries in this category of questions: 30.22% think that Iran's influence on Albania's security is "negative" or "very negative", while 45.56% think its influence is "neutral". After Russia, Iran comes second in terms of its negative or very negative perception. However, 9.06% think that Iran's influence is "positive".

Influence of Arab countries, Turkey, China, Russia and Iran on Albania's security

Legend: Positive ■ Very positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative ■ Very negative ■ Don't know ■

Turkey: 48.79%, 12.02%, 30.22%, 6.10%, 0.45%, 2.42%

Russia: 7.62%, 0.72%, 33.72%, 46.91%, 4.93%, 6.10%

China: 23.50%, 1.52%, 56.23%, 10.85%, 1.08%, 6.82%

Iran: 9.06%, 0.27%, 45.56%, 27.89%, 2.33%, 14.89%

Arab countries: 23.05%, 1.43%, 47.98%, 15.07%, 2.69%, 9.78%
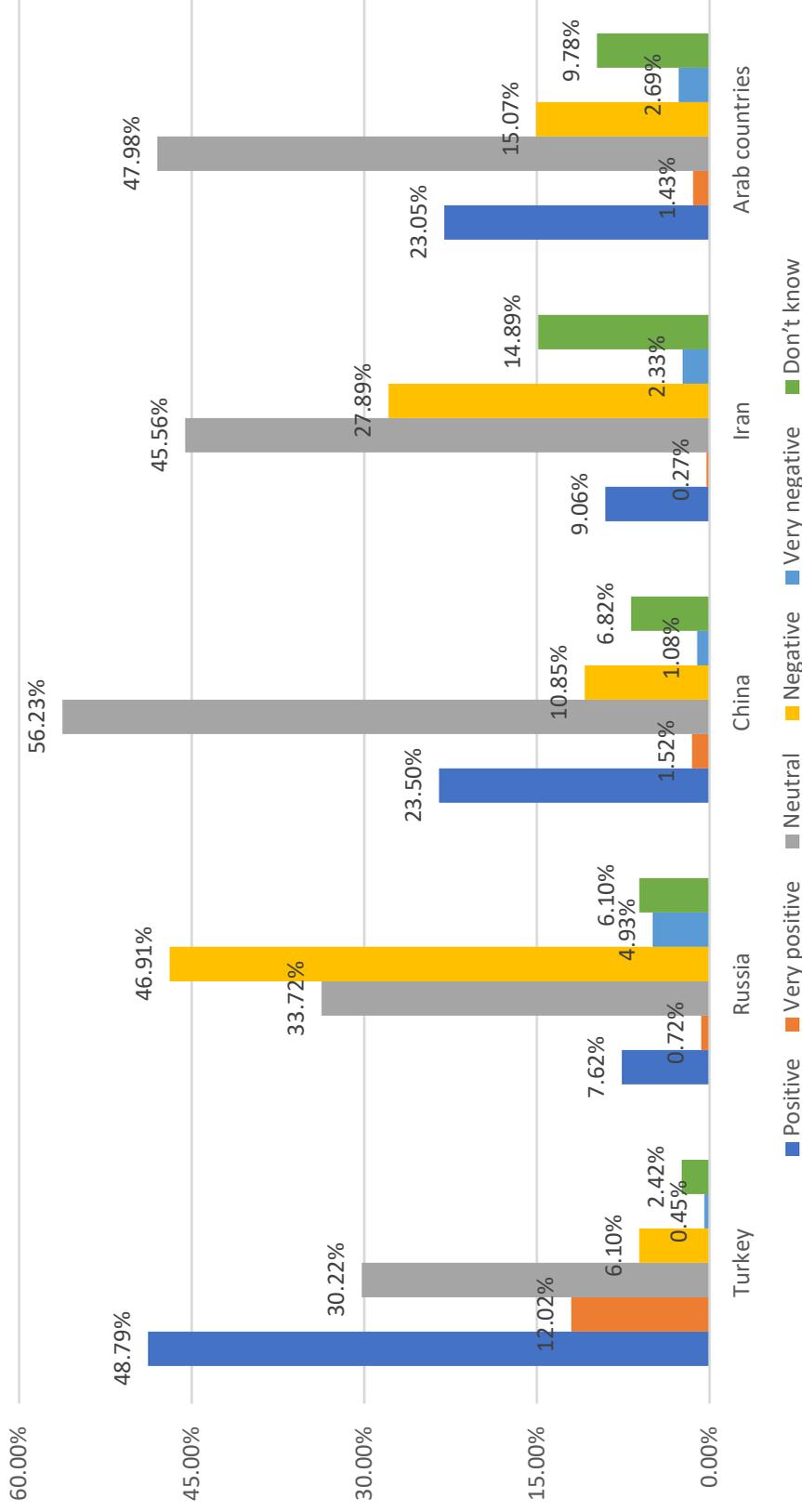
Graph no.32: Results on perception of the influence of Turkey, Russia, China, Iran and Arab Countries

5. EU integration and perception on key priorities

In terms of EU membership perspective, more than half of the citizens (58.3%) think that it will take place within five to ten years; while 34.44% put this in longer term perspective of 15 -20 years.

In how many years can Albania become a full member of the EU?
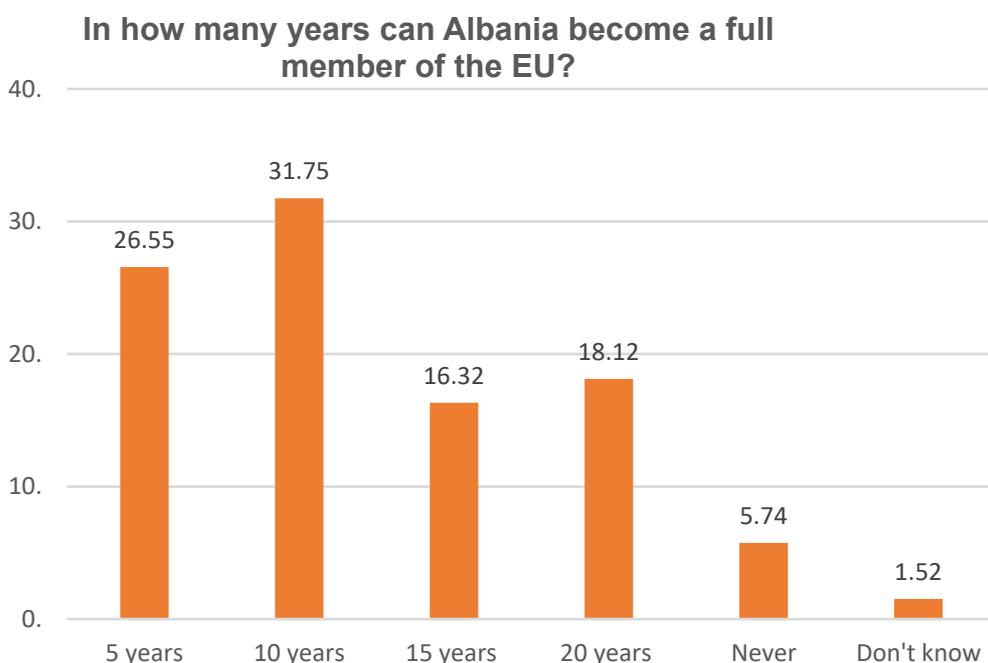
Graph no.33: Results on the expectation of the time needed for achieving membership

The citizens were asked a number of questions that are related to the fulfilment of the five key priorities for opening accession negotiation: (1) reform of the public administration in order to enhance its professionalism and de-politicisation, (2) reinforcement of the independence, efficiency and accountability of judicial institutions, (3) the fight against corruption, (4) fight against organised crime, (5) reinforcement of the protection of human rights, anti-discrimination policies and implementation of property rights.

The citizens are very well aware of the obstacles to EU integration posed by corruption and organised crime: 86.55% of the surveyed answered that corruption and organized crime are very much responsible for the lack of progress towards EU integration and another 9.42% think that they do so to some extent. In total this makes 95.97% of the surveyed.

To what extent does the situation of corruption and organized crime hinder Albania's EU integration?

Very much: 86.55
Somewhat: 9.42
A little: 2.51
Not at all: 0.9
Donít know: 0.63
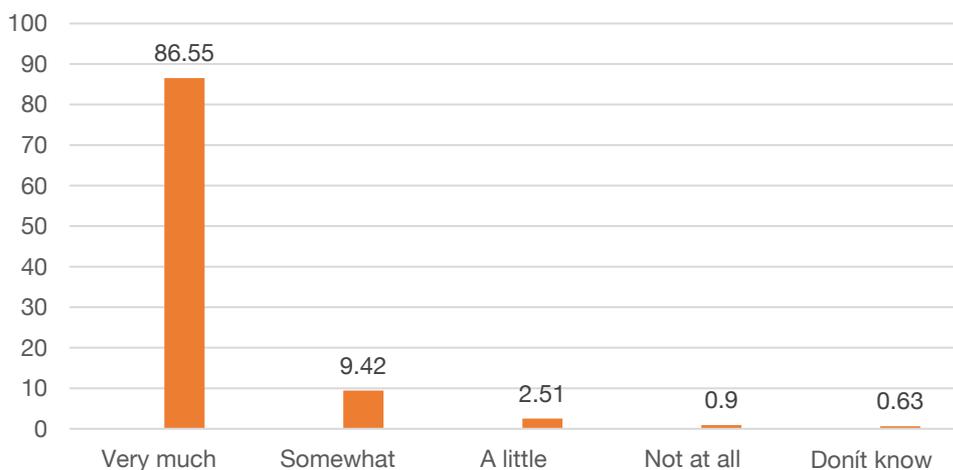
Graph no.34: Results on the perception of the negative influence of corruption and organized crime on EU integration

However, they are sceptical about the prospect of winning the fight against these phenomena: 50.4% of the respondents think that the fight against organized crime will never be won as compared to 46.37% who think the opposite.

Do you think the state will win the fight against organized crime?

No: 50.04%
Yes: 46.37%
Don't know: 3.59%
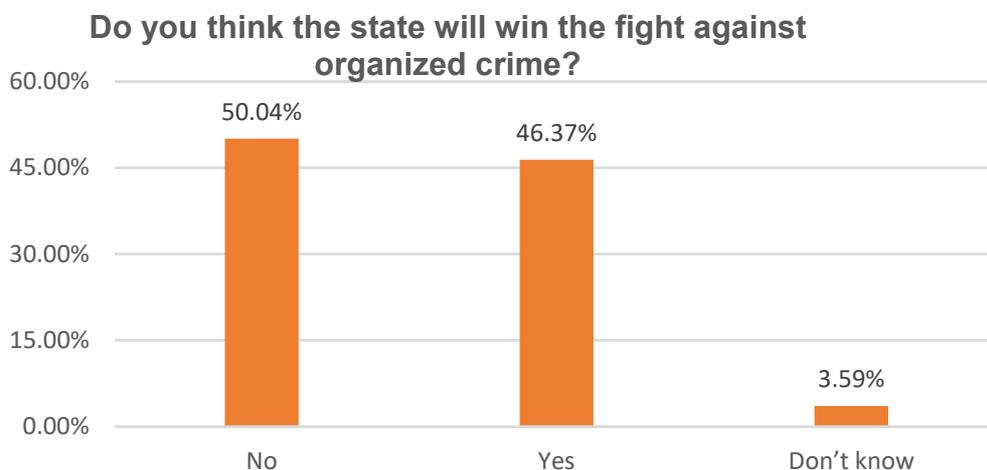
Graph no.35: Results on expectations of winning the war on organized crime

It is worth noting that female respondents are more sceptical than males on the perspective of winning the fight against organized crime.

Do you think the state will win the fight against organized crime?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Females	44.06	52.34	3.6
Males	48.66	47.76	3.58

■ Females   ■ Males
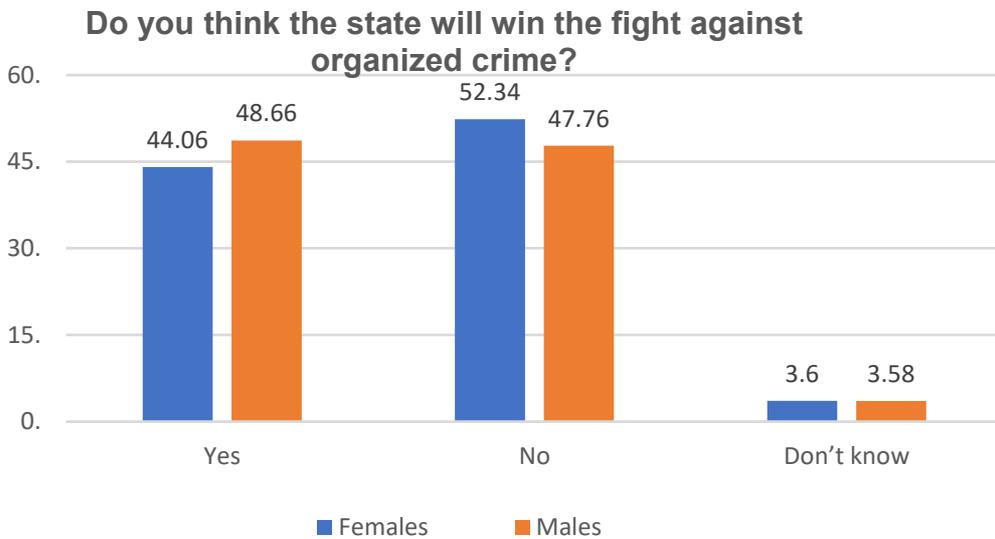
Graph no.36: Results on expectations of winning the war on organized crime according to gender

This divide is reflected even in the timeline of the expected progress towards dealing with the matter. When asked to provide a timeline on when they think the fight against organized crime will be won, 35.34% responded that the state will never win the fight against organized crime; 24.45% have a more optimistic perspective by saying that the fight against organised crime will be won in five years; for another 18.39% this will happen in 10 years; while 9.4% think of a longer term of 15 years; 12.38% respond this fight will be won in 20 years.

In how many years can the state win the fight against organized crime?

5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	Never
24.45	18.39	9.4	12.37	35.34
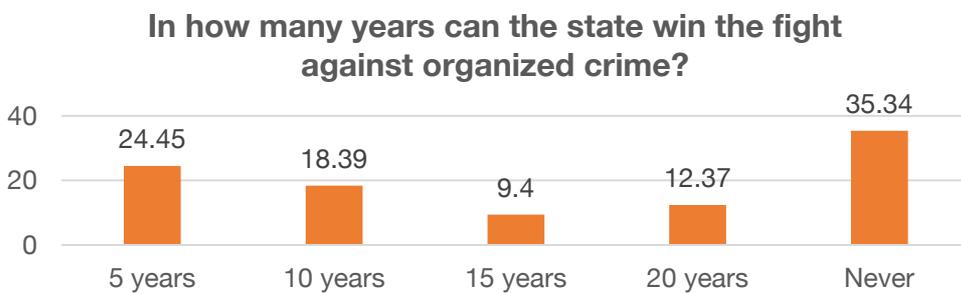
Graph no.37: Results on expectations of the time needed in order to win the war on organized crime

By looking at the responses based on gender and age groups, it comes out that 18-49 age group and males are more sceptical about the possibility of winning the war against the organised crime.

In how many years can the state win the fight against organized crime?
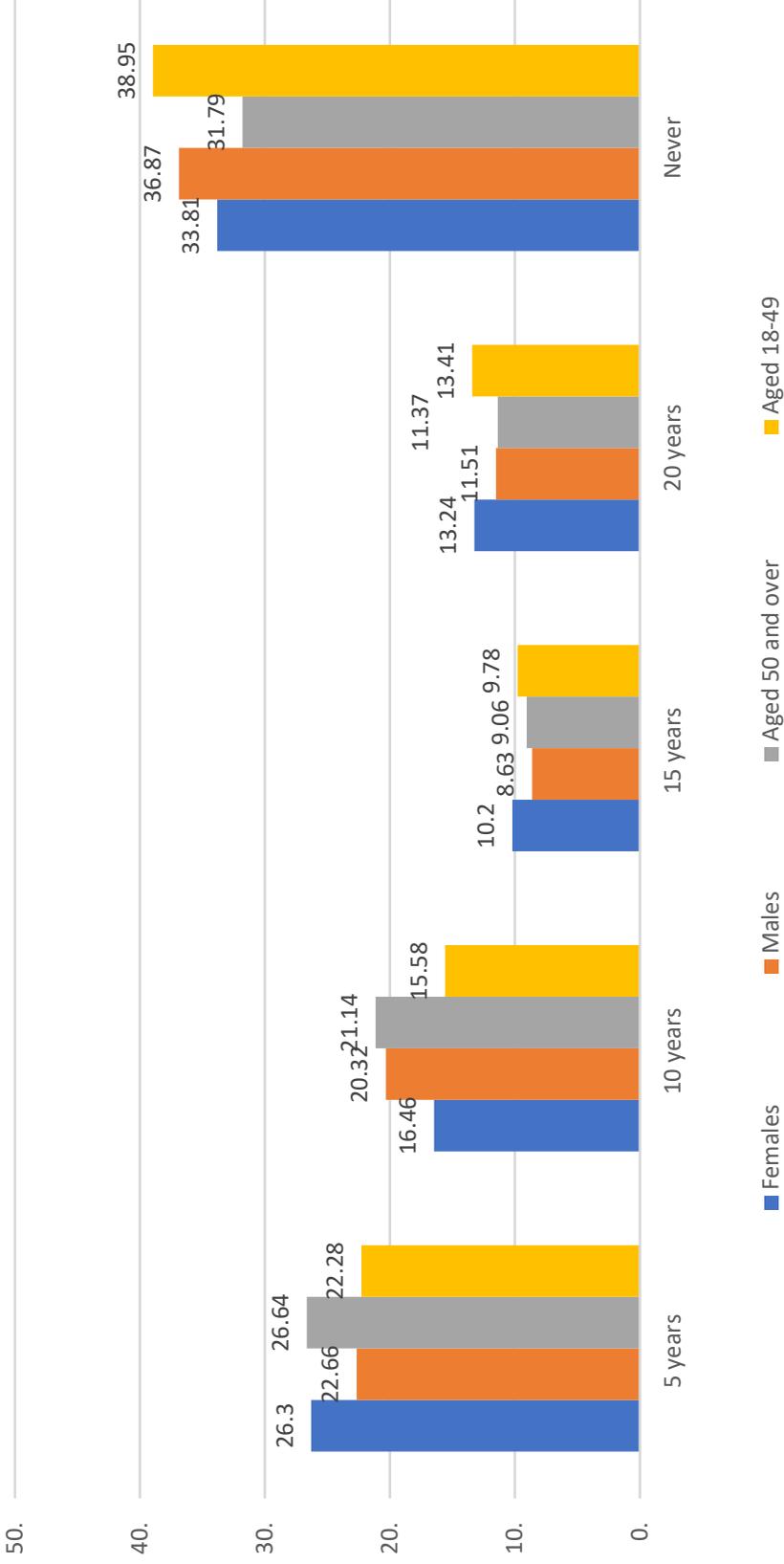
Graph no.38: Results on expectations of winning the war on organized crime according to gender and age group

	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	Never
Females	26.3	16.46	10.2	13.24	33.81
Males	22.66	20.32	8.63	11.51	36.87
Aged 50 and over	26.64	21.14	9.06	11.37	31.79
Aged 18-49	22.28	15.58	9.78	13.41	38.95

58

This split of public opinion on organized crime is reflected also on the satisfaction with institutions' performance in the fight against organised crime: only 10.31% stated that they were very satisfied, while nearly 57% of the respondents are "little", or "not satisfied" with what has been done to tackle this problem.

How satisfied are you with the state's fight against organized crime?
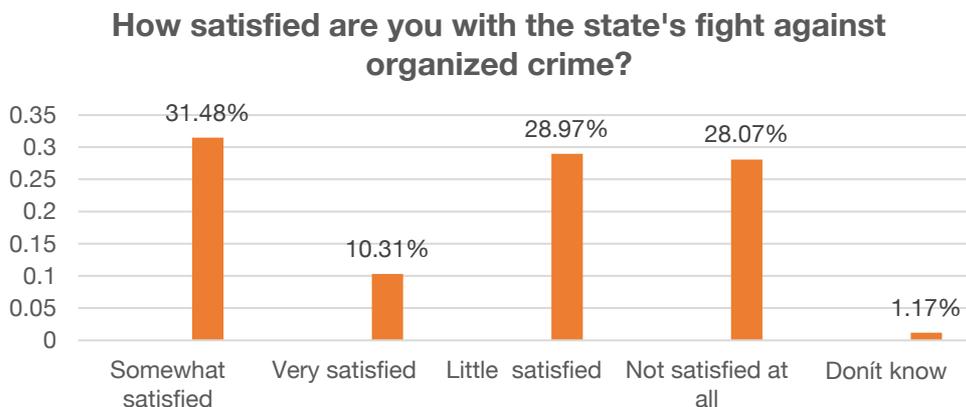
Graph no.39: Results on the level of satisfaction about the war on organized crime

Another key criterion for the opening of EU negotiation is the reinforcement of the protection of human rights. Generally, the citizens' perception on the respect of human rights by police when they perform their duty is mixed. There is an equal split between those who say that police respects human rights a lot, 15.61%, and those who say that police don't respect human rights at all, 14.71%.

Does the police respect human rights in their work?
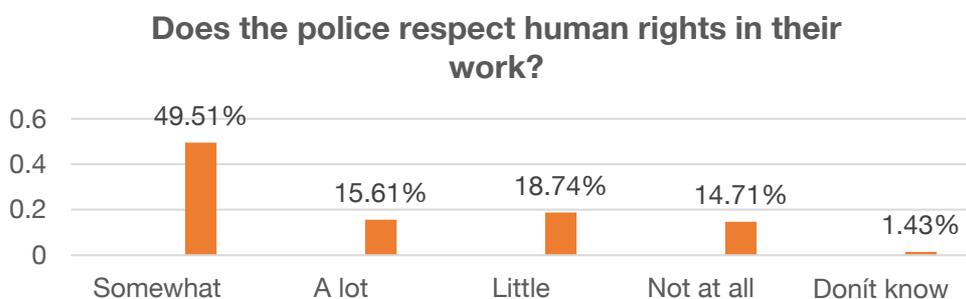
Graph no.40: Results on perception of compliance to human rights by police

However, when asked about equal treatment of citizens by State Police, 74.98% of the respondents say that citizens are not equally treated; only 22.06% think the opposite.

Does the State Police treat all citizens equally?
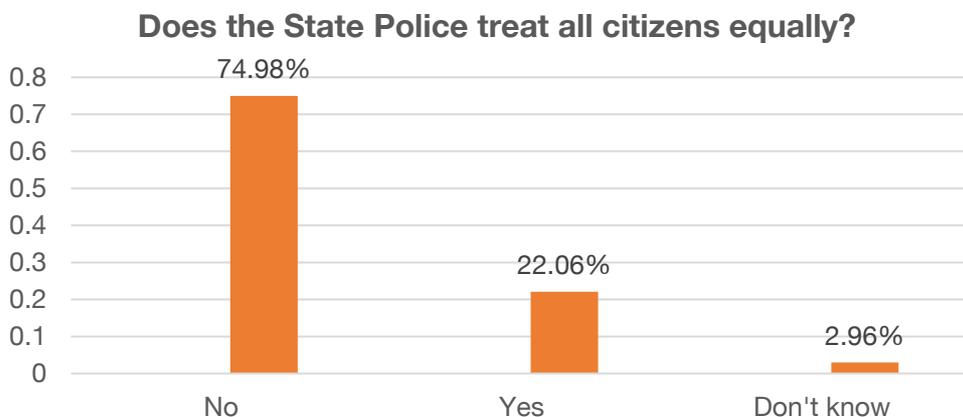
Graph no.41: Results on perception of equal treatment of citizens by police

Given that the reform on public administration, aiming to enhance its professionalism and de-politicisation, is the first key priority to the opening of the EU negotiations, the ASB asked questions related to this priority too.

Regarding merit-based recruitment of public administration, 77.2% of the surveyed citizens say that only a minority of people in the state administration are solely employed on merit and skills bases, while 12.65% say that none is recruited on such bases.

How many people are employed in the state administration solely on the basis of merit and skills?
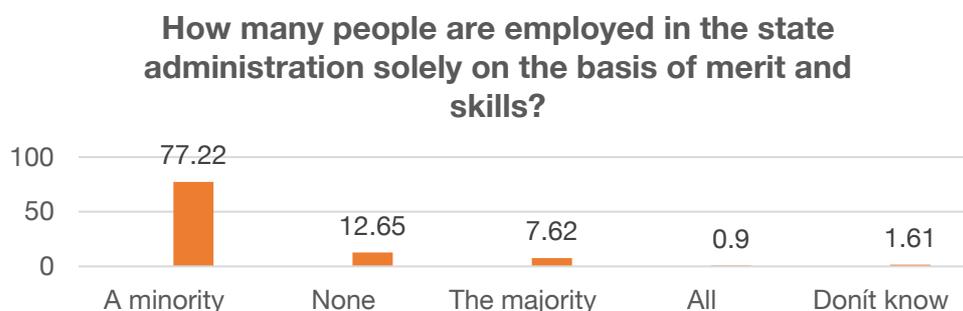
Graph no.42: Results on the perception of number of people employed in public administration based on skill/merits

The same trend applies when citizens are asked the same question about recruitment in security institutions.

However, there is a slightly higher percentage of those who think that the majority of employees are recruited solely on merit and skills basis, 10.85%.

How many people are employed in security institutions solely on merit and skills bases?
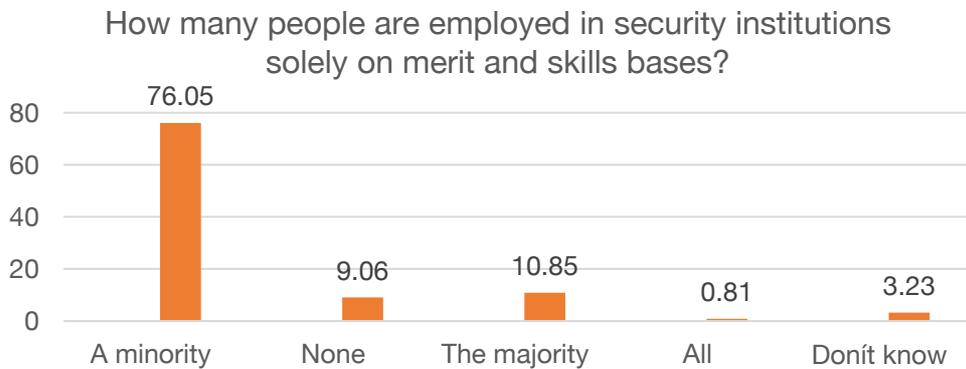
Graph no.43: Results on perception of number of people employed on merit/skills bases in security institutions

Given that the improvement of the procurement system towards making it more open, transparent and competitive is another area related to the country's EU integration process, the ASB asked also a specific question on corruption in procurements in security institutions.

The results show that 70.31% of citizens think that corruption is very widespread in procurement/tenders in security institutions with only a small fraction of 1.79% thinking that this problem doesn't exist at all.

To what extent do you think corruption is widespread in procurement/tenders in the security institutions?
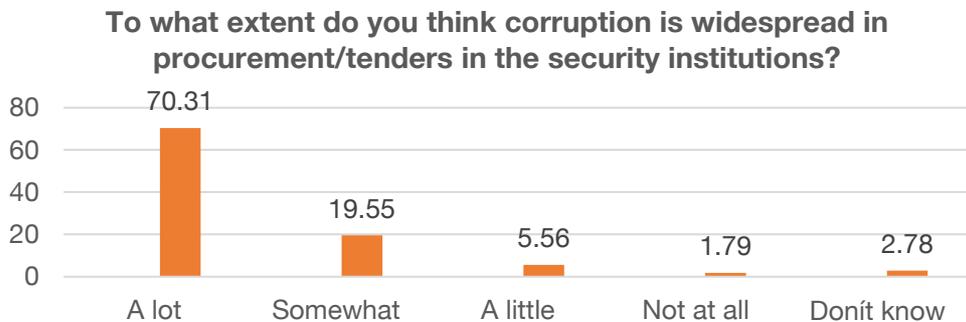
Graph no.44: Results on perception of the spread of corruption on tenders/procurement in security institutions

With regards to de-politicisation, results are mixed, but the general trend show that the citizens think that the political influence of security institutions is generally high.

The customs are perceived to be the most politically influenced institution with 48.34% of the respondents thinking of them as not at all independent followed by the State Police with 38.12%, SHISH with 27.26% and the Armed Forces with 20.09%.

Independence of security institutions from political influence

	A little	Not at all	Somewhat	A lot	Don't know
Armed Forces	31.57	20.09	31.93	12.65	3.77
State Police	28.34	38.12	24.22	7.98	1.35
SHISH	29.51	27.26	24.84	7.44	10.94
Customs	21.35	48.34	20.36	6.37	3.59
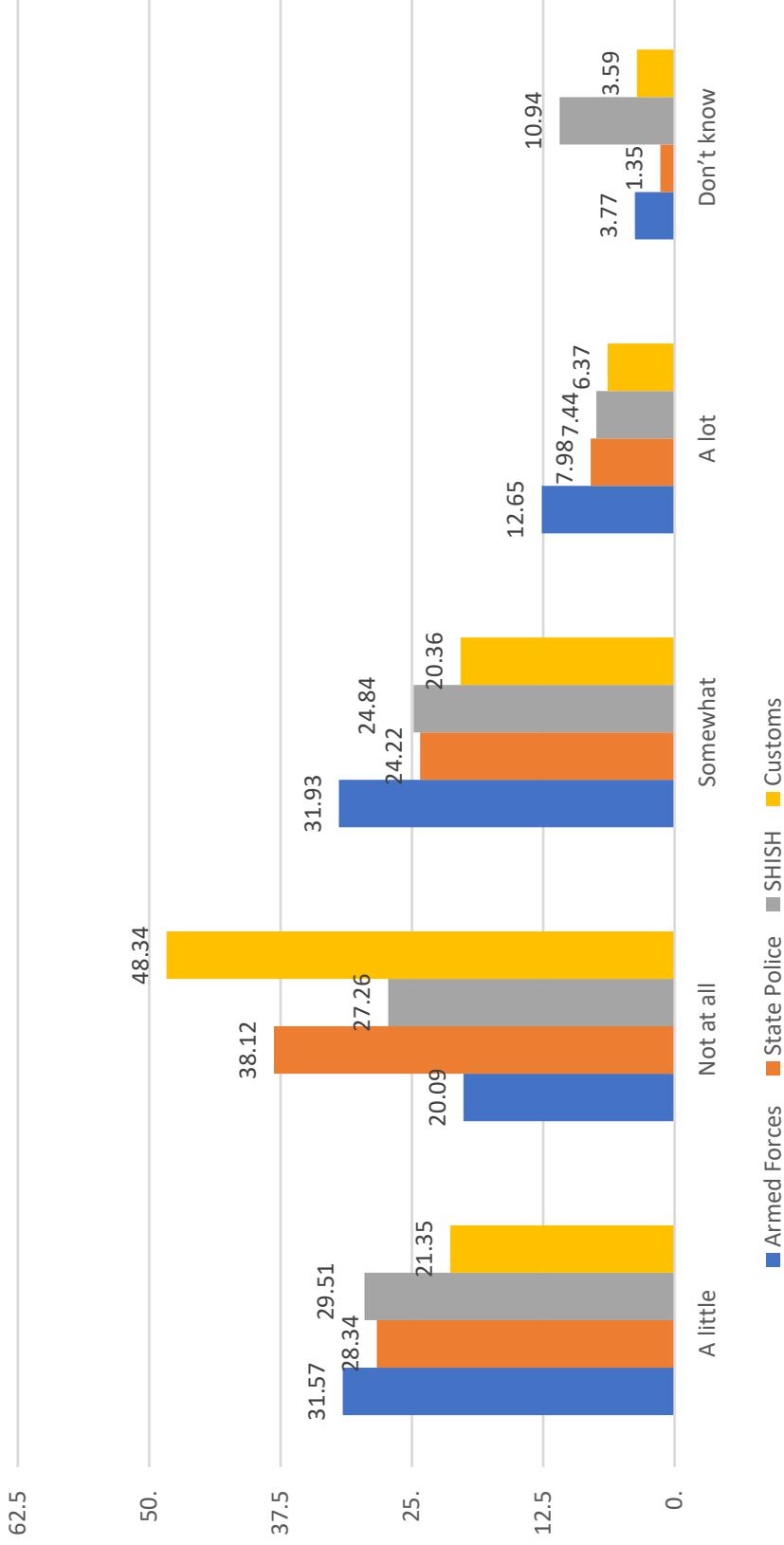
Graph no.45: Results on the perception of independence of security institutions from political influence

62

Regarding the political influence on judiciary institutions, there is a larger share of citizens who think that these institutions are not at all independent: 53.54% of the surveyed say that the Courts are not at all independent and 49.51% provide the same answer for the prosecution.
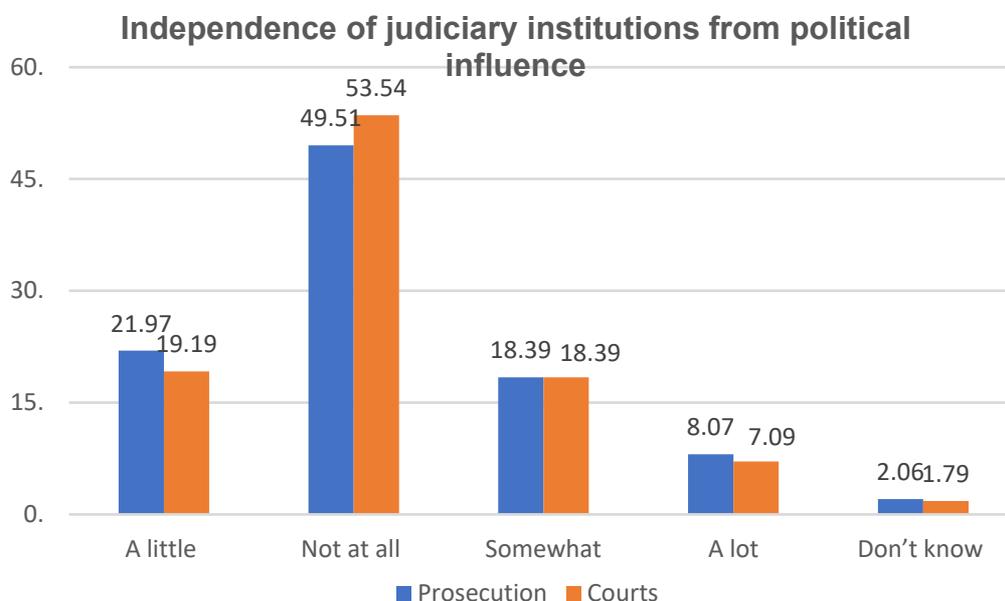
Graph no.46: Results on perception of independence of judiciary institutions from political influence

The survey results show a reversed trend with regard to the expectations from the recently established institutions to fight organised crime and corruption: 43.05% of the surveyed think that the fight against corruption and organized crime will be strengthened after the establishment of SPAK, while those who are more sceptical represent only 8.43%.

How much will the fight against corruption and organized crime be strengthened after the establishment of SPAK?
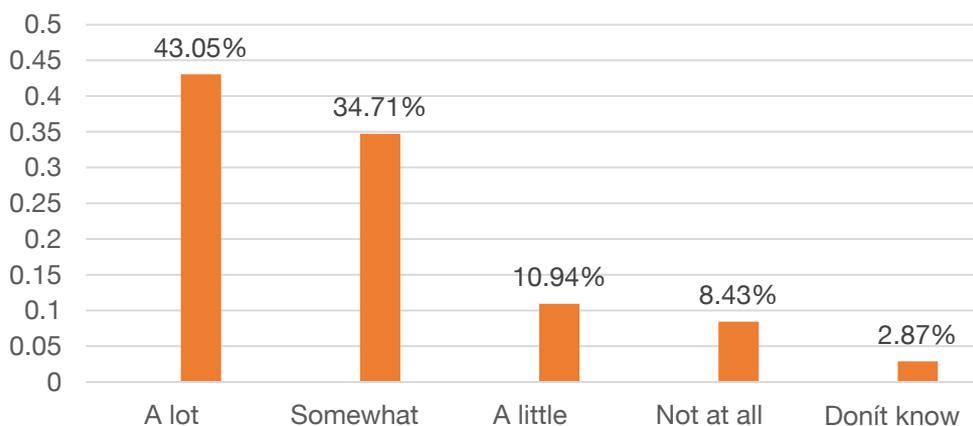
Graph no.47: Results on perception of strengthening of fight against corruption/organized crime after the establishment of SPAK

Similarly, 41.52% of the citizens think that the courts will be a lot more effective against corruption and crime after justice reform, while only 6.01% think the opposite.

How effective will the courts against corruption and crime be after justice reform?
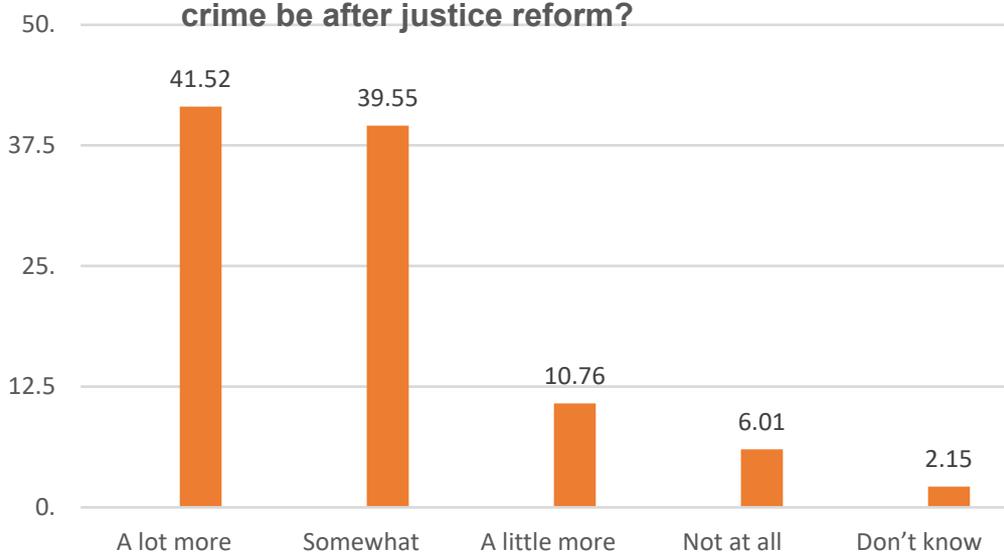
Graph no.48: Results on expectations of improvement of effectiveness of courts against crime after the justice reform

Democratic overseeing is another important benchmark for the progress of the country towards the EU.

In order to find out more about this dimension of security, the citizens were asked to give their opinion on the effectiveness of the parliamentary overseeing of the security institutions: only 13.45% of citizens think that parliamentary overseeing is very effective, while 18.21% think that it is not at all affective. A larger percentage of citizens, 35.34%, think that it is effective to a certain extent.

How effective do you think is the parliament's overseeing of security institutions?
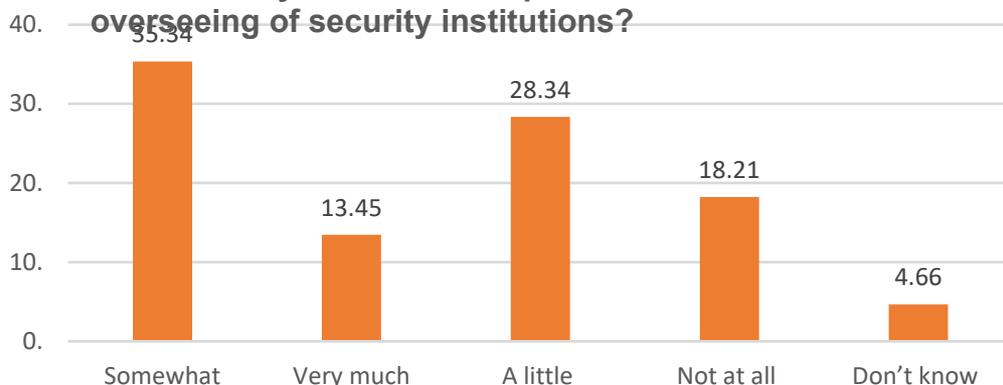
Graph no.49: Results on perception of parliamentary overseeing on security institutions

On the other hand, a large percentage of 73.27% hold the opinion that parliament's overseeing of security institutions needs to be strengthened.

How much do you think parliament's overseeing of security institutions needs to be strengthened?
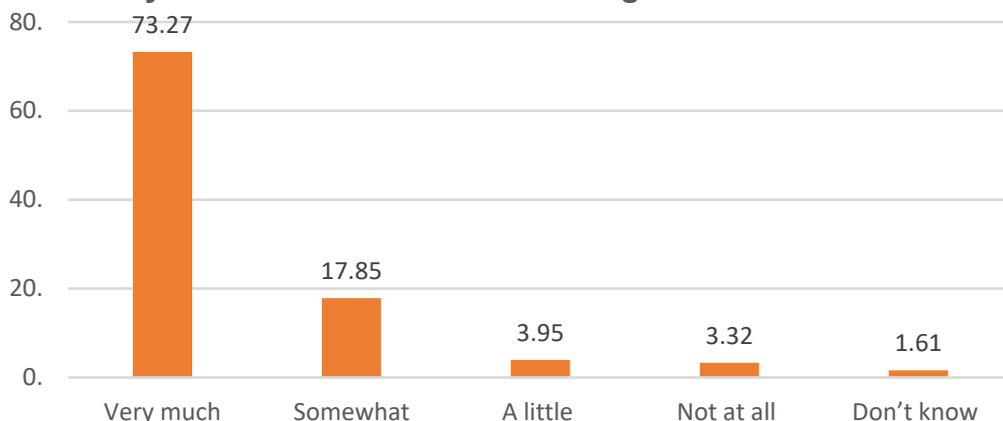
Graph no.50: Results of strengthening of parliamentary overseeing on security institutions

6. PERCEPTIONS ON TRUST AND INTEGRITY OF SECURITY INSTITUTIONS

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS ON SECURITY MATTERS

Trust is one of the most important foundations upon which the legitimacy of institutions is built. In order to perform their missions, institutions need to be trusted and supported by the citizens.

Institutions contribute to maintaining social order and stability, but they do so by restraining the freedom of individuals. The perception on the extent to which the citizens trust the institutions may tell also the extent to which security provision and restriction of freedoms is balanced.

The citizens are asked to provide their opinion on how much trust they have in the improvement of security by the Government, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Ministry of Interior (MoI).

Generally, citizens' trust is moderate and with no major differences among the three. The MoD is slightly more trusted with 27.62% having "a lot" of trust and 31.21% trusting it to some extent; 21.35% have a lot of trust in the Government and almost as many have no trust at all, 21.61%; MoI is trusted a lot by 21.26%, while 24.13% have no trust at all.

Trust in government and ministries on security

	A lot	Somewhat	A little	Not at all	Don't know
Government	21.26%	32.21%	21.70%	24.13%	0.72%
Ministry of Defense	27.62%	31.21%	22.42%	17.76%	0.99%
Ministry of Interior	21.35%	33.45%	23.05%	21.61%	0.54%
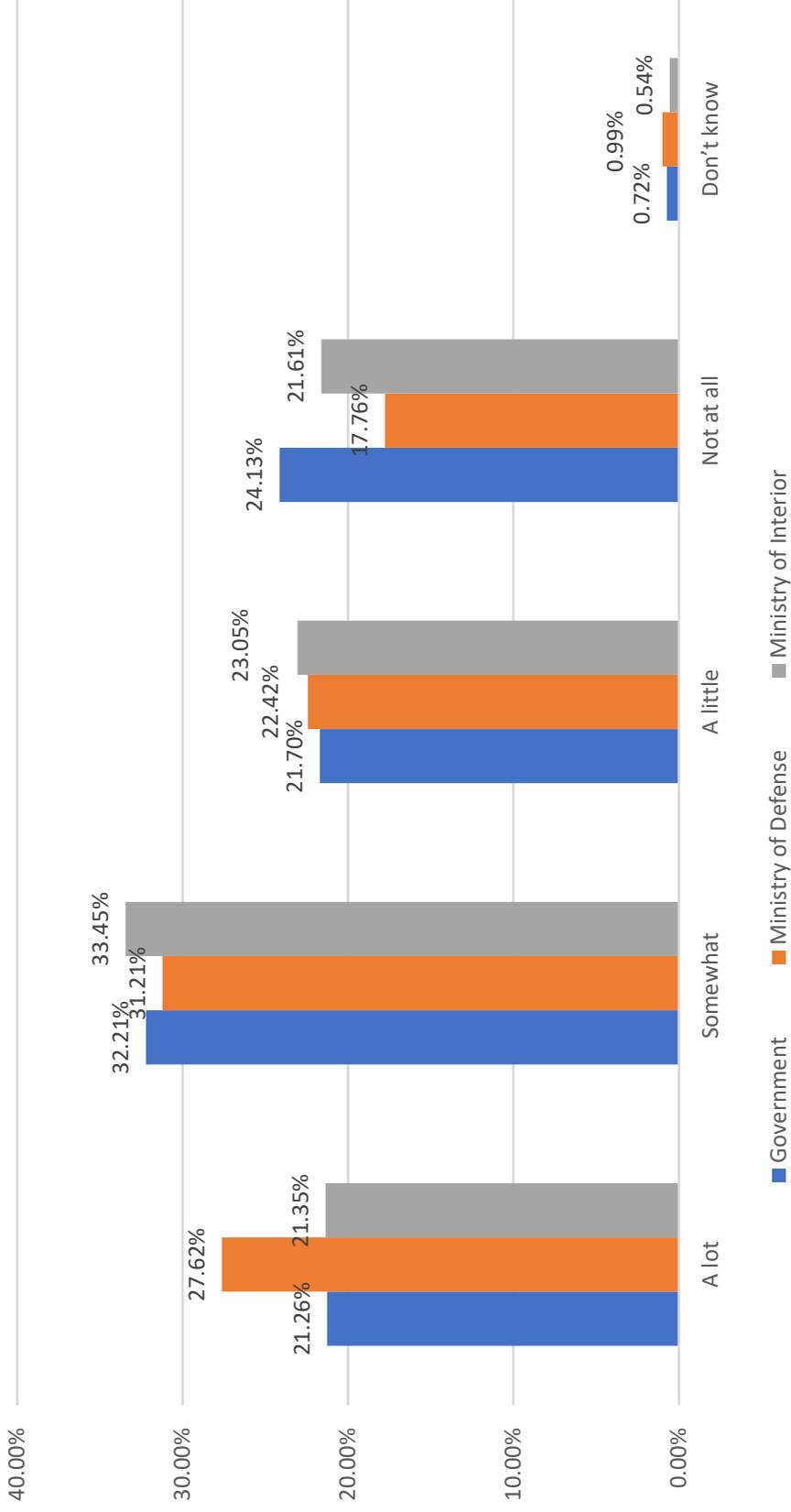
Graph no.51: Results of trust in government and ministries on security

67

Among the agencies charged with various security tasks, the Fire Brigade is perceived as the most trusted institution: 36.59% of citizens have a lot of trust in the Fire Brigade, followed by the Armed Forces with 33%, the State Police with 29.06%, and SHISH with 14.26%. However, as in other responses involving SHISH, a high percentage amounting to 10.49% has responded "don't know" revealing the limited level of information about this institution.

Trust in governmental agencies and institutions on security provision
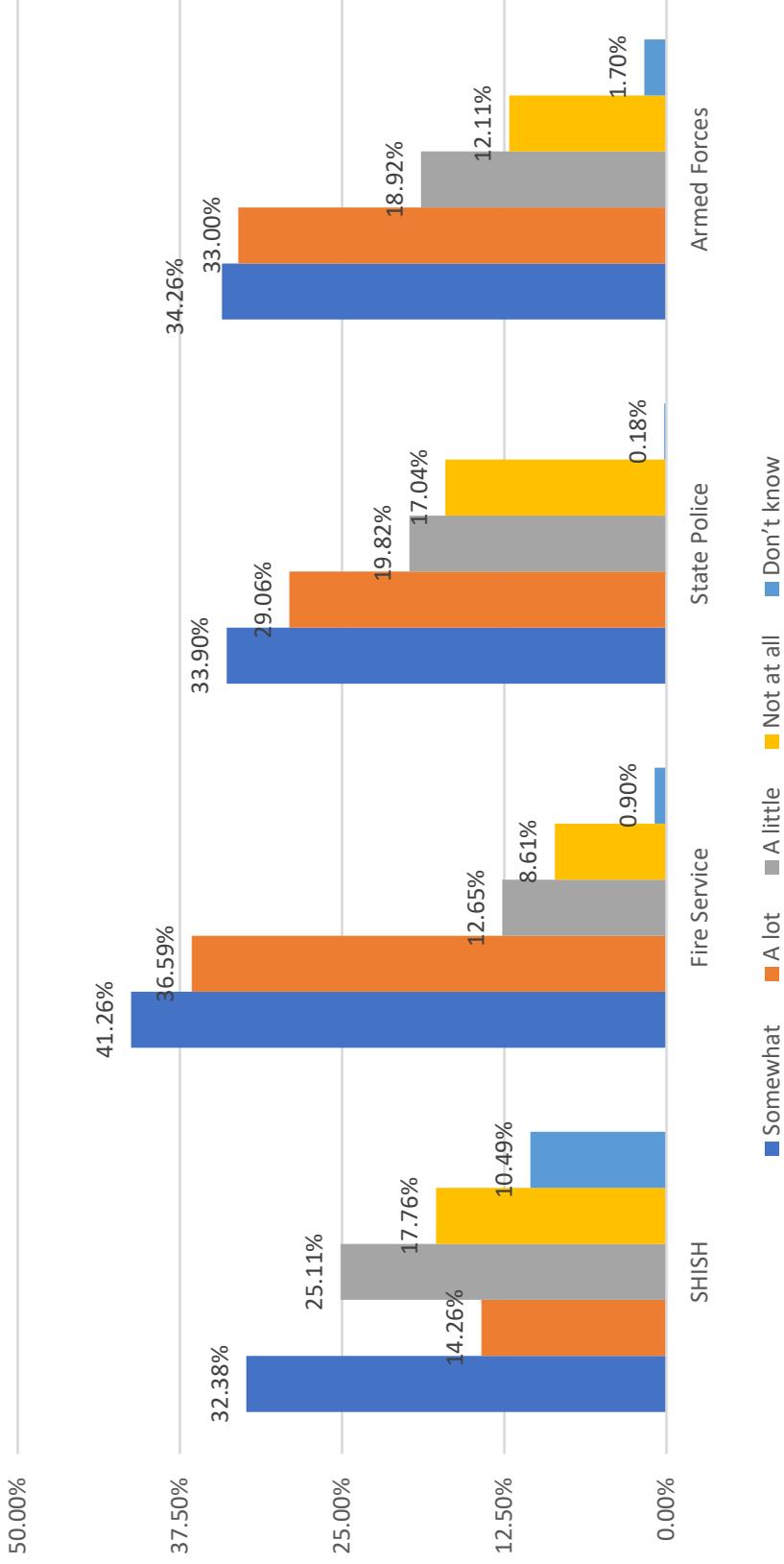
Graph no.52: Results of trust on SHISH, Fire Brigade, State Police and the Armed Forces

Legend: Somewhat, A lot, A little, Not at all, Don't know

SHISH: Somewhat 32.38%, A lot 25.11%, A little 17.76%, Not at all 14.26%, Don't know 10.49%

Fire Service: Somewhat 41.26%, A lot 12.65%, A little 8.61%, Not at all 36.59%, Don't know 0.90%

State Police: Somewhat 33.90%, A lot 19.82%, A little 17.04%, Not at all 29.06%, Don't know 0.18%

Armed Forces: Somewhat 34.26%, A lot 18.92%, A little 12.11%, Not at all 33.00%, Don't know 1.70%

Given that private security companies also have emerged as key security provider, but on the other hand their reputation has been marred by several failures over the last years, the citizens were asked to provide their opinion on this security actor as well.

The respondents showed a lower level of trust on private security police than on public security institutions: only 12.38% seem to trust the private police "a lot", while 29.15% say they have "no trust at all".

How much trust do you have in the private security police?
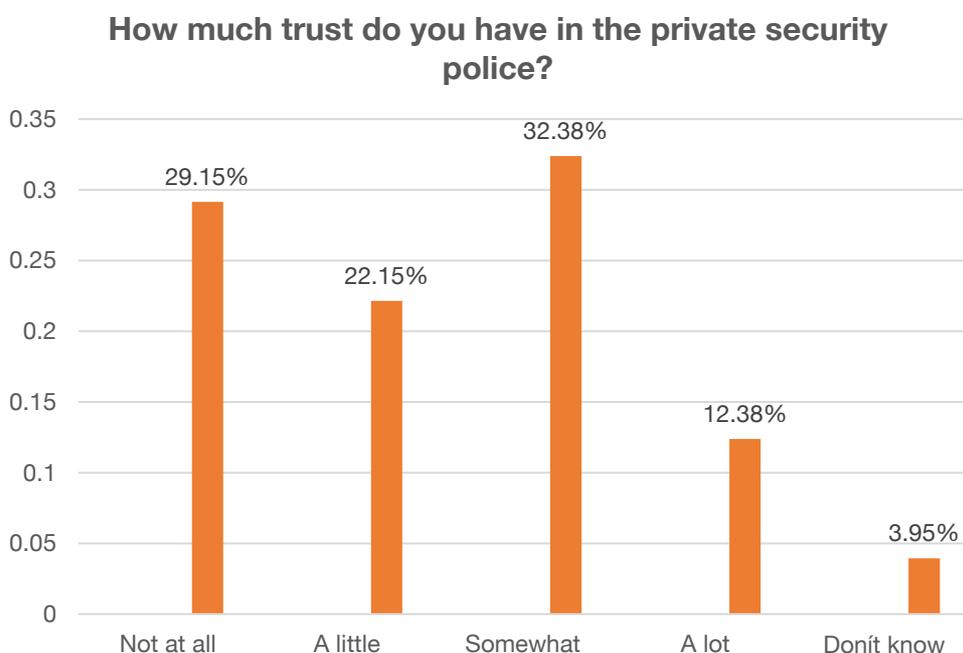
Graph no.53: Results of the trust on private security police

However, the lowest level of trust was shown on the judiciary institutions: 51.93% of the citizens responded that they don't trust the Courts at all, while 50.04% provide the same answer about the Prosecution; only 6.28% say they have a lot of trust in the Courts and 7.09% in the Prosecution.

Trust on judiciary institutions
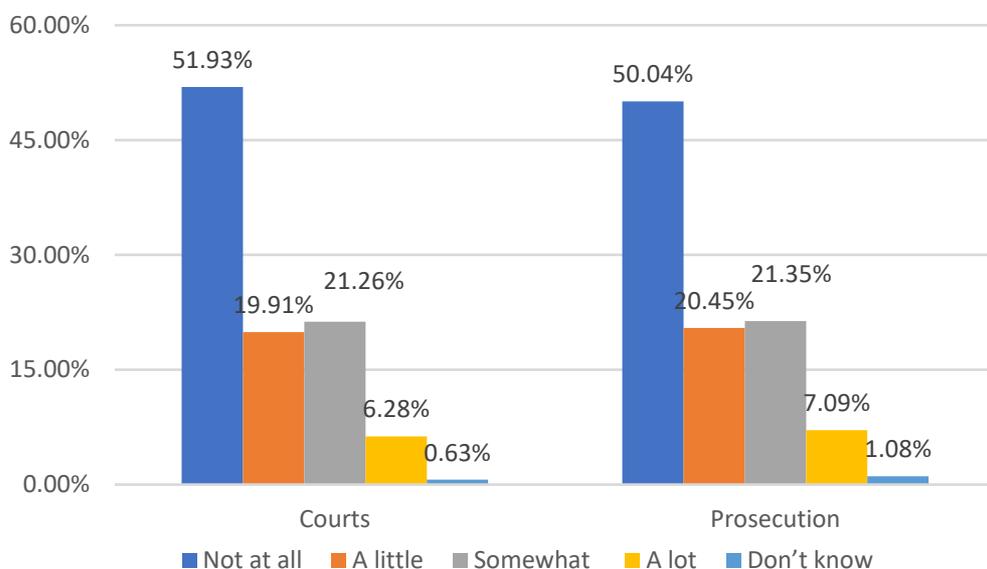
Graph no.54: Results of trust on judiciary institutions

CORRUPTION IN SECURITY SECTOR

The citizens are also asked about the perception on corruption in the security institutions such as the Armed Forces, the State Police, the SHISH and the Customs. The overall moderate or lack of trust can be related to the high levels of corruption in the security and judiciary institutions.

To the question: "How corrupt do you think this institution is", 62.42% of the citizens respond that the Customs are corrupted "a lot", 42.24% said so about the State Police, and 23.59% of the citizens think that SHISH is corrupted "a lot". Regarding the Armed Forces, only 8.88% respond that they are corrupted "a lot".

Corruption of agencies whose duty is security provision
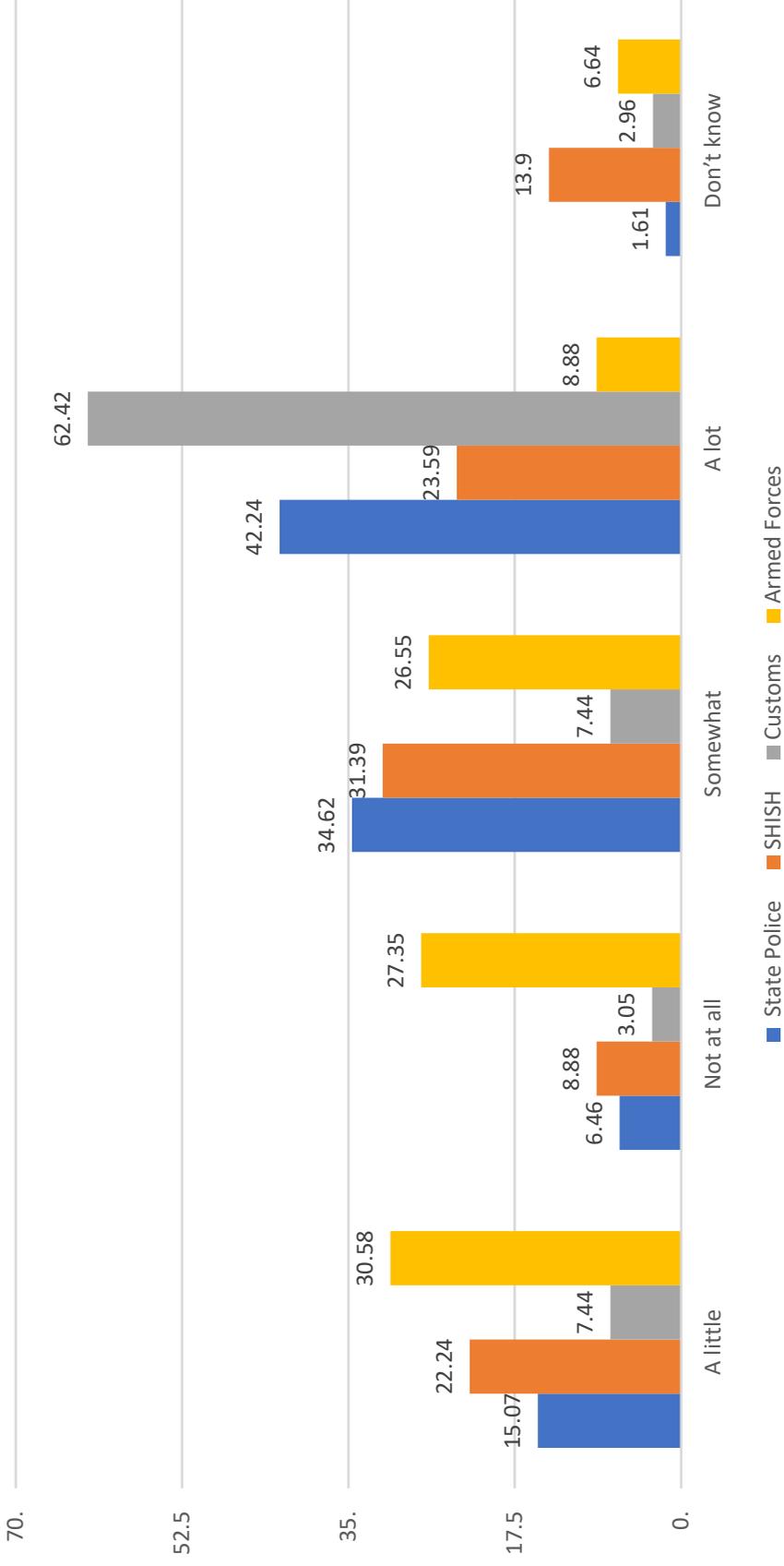
Graph no.55: Results of perception of level of corruption on agencies responsible for security provisions

A little
- 30.58
- 7.44
- 22.24
- 15.07

Not at all
- 27.35
- 3.05
- 8.88
- 6.46

Somewhat
- 26.55
- 7.44
- 31.39
- 34.62

A lot
- 8.88
- 62.42
- 23.59
- 42.24

Don't know
- 6.64
- 2.96
- 13.9
- 1.61

Legend: State Police | SHISH | Customs | Armed Forces

X-axis: 0. | 17.5 | 35. | 52.5 | 70.

72

The citizens identified the institutions of judiciary as the most corrupt of all: 71.21% said that the Courts are corrupted "a lot", while 66.91% provide the same answer about the Prosecution.

Corruption of judiciary

	A lot	Somewhat	A little	Not at all	Don't know
Prosecution	66.91	17.94	9.33	3.86	1.97
Courts	71.21	17.76	6.55	2.96	1.52
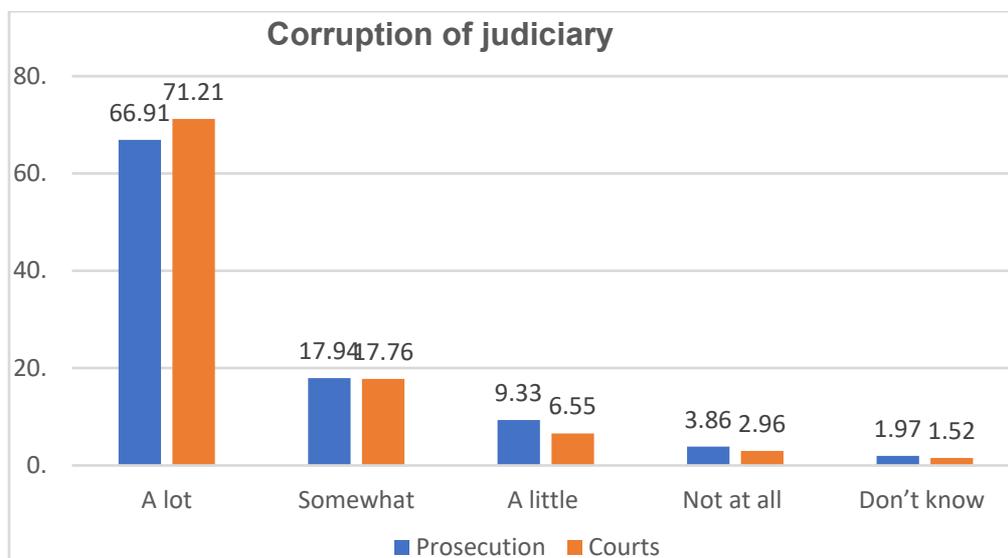
Graph no.56: Results of perception on corruption of judiciary

ANNEX 1 – THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

1- How old are you?
18-34 years
35-49 years
50-64 years
65 and over

2- Your gender?
Male
Female

3- What is your ethnicity?
Albanian
Greek
Macedonian
Aromanian
Other

4- What is your level of education?
0-9 years (compulsory education)
High School
University Education
Post University Education

5- What is your occupation?
Worker
Farmer
Public Servant
Self-employed
Education/Health Sector
Retired/Pensioner
Unemployed
Student

6- Where is the location of your workplace:
City?
Suburban Area?
Village?
Unemployed

7- How secure do you feel in the village/neighborhood WHERE YOU WORK?

    Very Secure
    Secure
    Somewhat Secure
    Not Secure
    Very Unsecure

8- Where is the location of your place of residence?

    City?
    Suburban Area?
    Village?

9- How secure do you feel in the village/neighborhood WHERE YOU RESIDE?

    Very Secure
    Secure
    Somewhat Secure
    Not Secure
    Very Unsecure

10- What is number one threat to your personal security?

    Theft
    Looting
    Vandalism
    Homicide
    Conflicts over property
    Family Violence
    Organized Crime
    None

11- What is number two threat to your personal security?

    Theft
    Looting
    Vandalism
    Homicide
    Conflicts over property
    Family Violence
    Organized Crime
    None

12- What is number one threat to the security of Albania?

    War with neighboring countries
    Terrorism
    Violent Extremism
    Organized Crime

Corruption
Foreign Migrants
Environmental Pollution
Unemployment (as a phenomenon not as a personal problem)

13- What is number two threat to the security of Albania?
War with neighboring countries
Terrorism
Violent Extremism
Organized Crime
Corruption
Foreign Migrants
Environmental Pollution
Unemployment (as a phenomenon not as a personal problem)

14- What is number one threat to the security of the Balkans?
War with neighboring countries
Terrorism
Violent Extremism
Organized Crime
Corruption
Foreign Migrants
Environmental Pollution

15- What is number two threat to the security of the Balkans?
War with neighboring countries
Terrorism
Violent Extremism
Organized Crime
Corruption
Foreign Migrants
Environmental Pollution

16- What is number one threat to world security?
Wars between Nations
Terrorism
Violent Extremism
Organized Crime
Cybernetic Crime
Corruption
Massive Migration
Environmental Pollution
I Don't Know

17- What is number one threat to world security?
Wars between Nations

Terrorism
Violent Extremism
Organized Crime
Cybernetic Crime
Corruption
Massive Migration
Environmental Pollution
I Don't Know

18- Are relations among the Balkan countries better than one year ago?
No
Perhaps No
Perhaps Yes
Yes
I Don't Know

19- What is the friendliest country to Albania?
USA
Germany
Italy
Turkey
France
Austria
North Macedonia
Other
I Don't Know

20- What is the second friendliest country to Albania?
USA
Germany
Italy
Turkey
France
Austria
North Macedonia
Other
I Don't Know

21- What is the third friendliest country to Albania?
USA
Germany
Italy
Turkey
France
Austria
North Macedonia

Other
I Don't Know

22- What is the influence of NATO on our country's security?
Very positive
Positive
Neutral
Negative
Very Negative
I Don't Know

23- What is the influence of the EU on our country's security?
Very positive
Positive
Neutral
Negative
Very Negative
I Don't Know

24- What is the influence of the US on our country's security?
Very positive
Positive
Neutral
Negative
Very Negative
I Don't Know

25- What is the influence of Germany on our country's security?
Very positive
Positive
Neutral
Negative
Very Negative
I Don't Know

26- What is the influence of Turkey on our country's security?
Very positive
Positive
Neutral
Negative
Very Negative
I Don't Know

27- What is the influence of Russia on our country's security?
Very positive
Positive

Neutral
Negative
Very Negative
I Don't Know

28- What is the influence of China on our country's security?
Very positive
Positive
Neutral
Negative
Very Negative
I Don't Know

29- What is the influence of Iran on our country's security?
Very positive
Positive
Neutral
Negative
Very Negative
I Don't Know

30- What is the influence of the Arab Countries on our country's security?
Very positive
Positive
Neutral
Negative
Very Negative
I Don't Know

31- What would make you feel safer?
A stronger army
More deployed policemen
Better Community Organization
I Don't Know

32- Which of the following plays the most important role in your daily security?
State Police
Municipal Police
Private Security
Condominium Administrator
Headman
Community Representative
Yourself
Other

33 - Is the police in your neighborhood/village sufficiently present?
Yes
Somewhat
No
I Don't Know

34- How satisfied are you with the security situation in your neighborhood/village?
Very Satisfied
Somewhat Satisfied
A Little Satisfied
Not at all Satisfied
I Don't Know

35- How satisfied are you with the cooperation between the local government and the police to ensure public safety?
Very Satisfied
Somewhat Satisfied
A Little Satisfied
Not at all Satisfied
I Don't Know

36- Do you think the state will win the war against organized crime?
Yes
No
I Don't Know

37- In how many years can the state win the fight against organized crime?
5 years
10 years
15 years
20 years
Never

38- How satisfied are you with the contribution of the Albanian army to the security of our country?
Very Satisfied
Somewhat Satisfied
A Little Satisfied
Not at all Satisfied
I Don't Know

39- How much do Albanian intelligence services contribute to the security of the country?
A Lot

Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

40- How satisfied are you with the state's fight against organized crime?
Very Satisfied
Somewhat Satisfied
A Little Satisfied
Not at all Satisfied
I Don't Know

41- How much do you think police presence help increase security?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

42- How much do you think further modernization of the police would increase security?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

43- How much do you think increasing the number of police would increase security?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

44- How will the overall security situation be in the next 12 months?
Better
The Same
Worse
I Don't Know

45- Do the police respect human rights in performing their task?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all

I Don't Know

46- How much do you trust the government in the improvement of security?
    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

47- How much do you trust the Ministry of Defense in the improvement of security?
    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

48- How much do you trust the Ministry of the Interior in the improvement of security?
    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

49- How much do you trust the Army in the improvement of security?
    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

50- How much do you trust the Army in the improvement of security?
    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

51- How much do you trust the Firefighters in the improvement of security?
    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

52- How much do you trust the Intelligence Services in the improvement of security?

    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

53- How much do you trust the Prosecution in the improvement of security?

    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

54- How much do you trust the Courts in the improvement of security?

    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

55- How much do you trust the Private Police in the improvement of security?

    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

56- Does the State Police treat all civilians equally?

    Yes
    No
    I Don't Know

57- How much will the fight against corruption and organized crime be strengthened after the establishment of SPAK?

    A Lot
    Somewhat
    A Little
    Not at all
    I Don't Know

58- How corrupt do you think the Army is?

    A Lot

Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

59- How corrupt do you think the State Police is?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

60- How corrupt do you think the Intelligence Services are?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

61- How corrupt do you think the Prosecution is?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

62- How corrupt do you think the Courts are?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

63- How corrupt do you think the Customs are?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

64- How independent do you think the Army is from political influence?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

65- How independent do you think the State Police is from political influence?
> A Lot
> Somewhat
> A Little
> Not at all
> I Don't Know

64- How independent do you think the Intelligence Services are from political influence?
> A Lot
> Somewhat
> A Little
> Not at all
> I Don't Know

67- How independent do you think the Prosecution is from political influence?
> A Lot
> Somewhat
> A Little
> Not at all
> I Don't Know

68- How independent do you think the Courts are from political influence?
> A Lot
> Somewhat
> A Little
> Not at all
> I Don't Know

69- How independent do you think the Customs are from political influence?
> A Lot
> Somewhat
> A Little
> Not at all
> I Don't Know

70- How effective will be the courts against corruption and crime after justice reform?
> A Lot
> Somewhat
> A Little
> Not at all

I Don't Know

71- To what extent do you think corruption is widespread in procurement/tenders in the security institutions?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

72- How many people in the public administration are solely employed on merit and skills bases?
All
The Majority
A Minority
None
I Don't Know

73- How many people in the security institutions are solely employed on merit and skills bases?

All
The Majority
A Minority
None
I Don't Know

74- How effective do you think is the parliament's overseeing of security institutions?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

75- How much do you think parliament's overseing of security institutions needs to be strengthened?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

76- To what extent does the situation of corruption and organized crime hinder Albania's EU integration?
A Lot

Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

77- How much will the security situation in Albania improve after EU membership?
A Lot
Somewhat
A Little
Not at all
I Don't Know

78- In how many years can Albania become a full member of the EU?
5 years
10 years
15 years
20 years
Never
I Don't Know

79- The municipality where the respondent lives

80- The name of the interviewer

ANNEX 2 - DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE AMONG 61 MUNICIPALITIES

	MUNICIPALITY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Belsh	7	0.63
2.	Berat	24	2.15
3.	Bulqizë	11	0.99
4.	Cerrik	11	0.99
5.	Delvinë	4	0.36
6.	Devoll	13	1.17
7.	Divjakë	15	1.35
8.	Dropull	4	0.36
9.	Durrës	67	6.01
10.	Elbasan	54	4.84
11.	Fier	50	4.48
12.	Finiq	6	0.54
13.	Fushë-Arrëz	3	0.27
14.	Gjirokastër	14	1.26
15.	Gramsh	10	0.9
16.	Has	7	0.63
17.	Himarë	5	0.45
18.	Kamëz	32	2.87
19.	Kavajë	17	1.52
20.	Këlcyrë	3	0.27
21.	Klos	6	0.54
22.	Kolonjë	6	0.54
23.	Konispol	3	0.18
24.	Korçë	34	3.05
25.	Krujë	22	1.97
26.	Kuçovë	14	1.26
27.	Kukës	17	1.52
28.	Kurbin	17	1.52
29.	Lezhë	25	2.24
30.	Libohovë	2	0.18
31.	Librazhd	11	0.99
32.	Lushnje	34	3.05
33.	Malësi e Madhe	12	1.08
34.	Maliq	17	1.52
35.	Mallakastër	11	0.99
36.	Mat	11	0.99

37.	Memaliaj	5	0.45
38.	Mirditë	10	0.9
39.	Patos	12	1.08
40.	Peqin	10	0.9
41.	Përmet	5	0.45
42.	Peshkopi	21	1.88
43.	Pogradec	24	2.15
44.	Poliçan	5	0.45
45.	Prrenjas	9	0.81
46.	Pukë	5	0.45
47.	Pustec	2	0.18
48.	Roskovec	9	0.81
49.	Rrogozhinë	9	0.81
50.	Sarandë	10	0.9
51.	Selenicë	8	0.72
52.	Shijak	10	0.9
53.	Shkodër	47	4.22
54.	Skrapar	5	0.45
55.	Tepelenë	4	0.36
56.	Tiranë	221	19.82
57.	Tropojë	8	0.72
58.	Ura Vajgurore	10	0.9
59.	Vau i Dejës	14	1.35
60.	Vlorë	43	3.86
61.	Vorë	10	0.9
	Total	**1,115**	**100**

ALBANIAN SECURITY BAROMETER
NATIONAL SURVEY

CSDG

Center
for the Study
of Democracy
and Governance

FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG