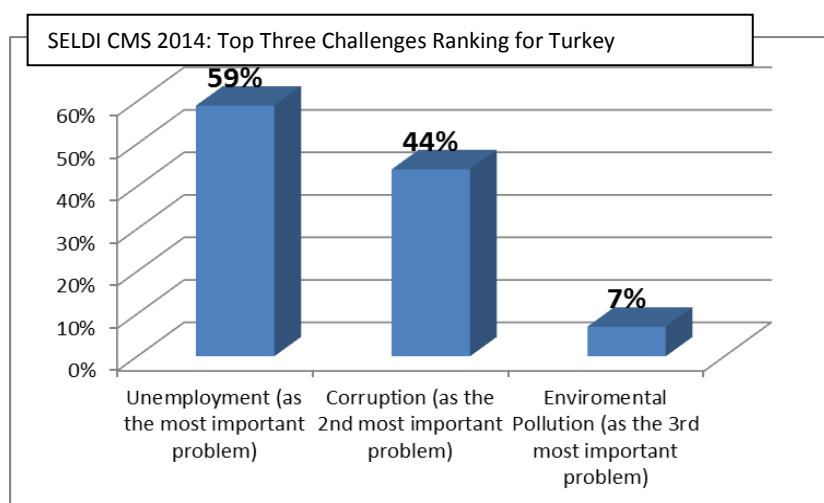


PRESS RELEASE

Istanbul, June 20, 2014

SELDI Policy Advocacy Workshop: Improving Governance in Southeast Europe: a Civil Society Update and New Public-Private Partnership Solutions



On **20th of June, 2014**, the city of **Istanbul**, Turkey, hosted a Policy Advocacy Workshop dedicated to the issue of **anti-corruption and good governance** in Southeast Europe. TESEV, the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation, organized the event within the framework of the **SELDI** (South-East Europe Leadership for Development and Integrity) network. The workshop focused on the preliminary **findings of the Corruption Monitoring System (CMS) and the national Corruption Assessment Reports** for the nine SELDI countries in

Southeast Europe. TESEV presented the Corruption Monitoring System results for Turkey, which are based on a survey among the population from April 2014.

The citizens in Turkey have ranked corruption as a significant challenge for the country. According to **44%** of participants of the survey, **corruption is the second most pressing challenge in Turkey** today, which indicates a substantial increase in citizens' perception and sensitivity towards corruption compared to previous years. The results have most probably been affected by the recent corruption charges of December 2013.

The Corruption Assessment Report of Turkey, prepared by TESEV within the SELDI project, identifies the main shortcomings of the legislative and institutional framework regarding anticorruption and provides the following recommendations:

- Adopting urgently a specific law that addresses issues of conflict of interest in the public administration;
- The Law No. 3628 concerning asset declaration by public servants should be amended in order to maintain higher levels of transparency among public administration.
- The Law No. 5726 concerning whistleblower protection needs to be updated and further developed.

A project implemented by a consortium lead by the Center for the Study of Democracy

Address:
5 Alexander Zhendov str.
1113 Sofia, Bulgaria
Tel: +359 2 971 3000
Fax: +359 2 971 2233

This project is funded by the European Union

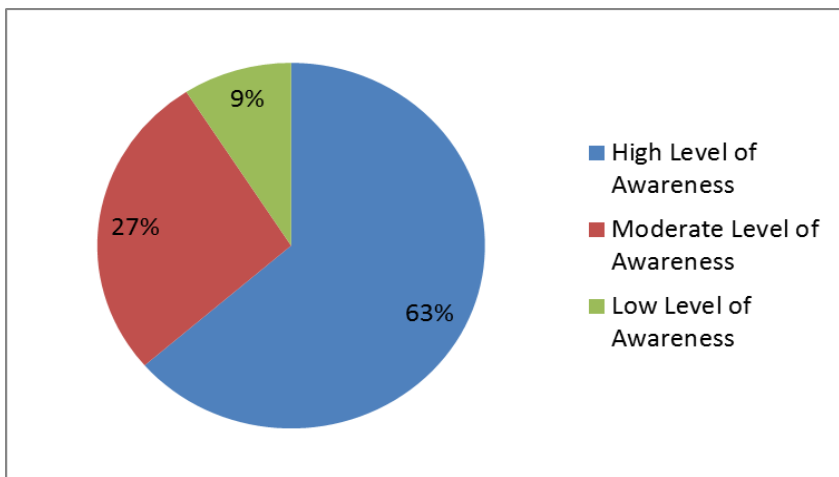
The views expressed in this press release do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission



The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".

- The immunity rule for the members of the parliament and for judges and prosecutors should be reviewed and the rule that requires a higher authority to give permission for the investigation of public personnel for corruption should be revoked.
- A law for political campaigns should be introduced so that campaigning can be rendered transparent.
- The Ombudsman should be given necessary human and financial resources and its recommendations should be made binding so that it can achieve its goals effectively.
- The incompatibility between the Law on Turkish Court of Accounts (TCA) and Law No. 5018 should be reviewed and resolved so that TCA can start auditing public administration units and publish the audit reports to the public as soon as possible.
- Turkey will benefit from an independent body permanently tasked with anticorruption policy development and implementation.



The SELDI Corruption Monitoring System results show that corruption is one of the most paramount problems in Turkey. As seen from the charts, 63% of the survey participants are highly aware of the issues regarding corruption in Turkey and 44% of the participants see corruption as the second most important challenge in Turkey. Such awareness can be directly related to recent high media coverage of the corruption charges that were carried out on December 2013.

Figure 1. Awareness on Corruption in Turkey – SELDI Survey 2014

were not involved in bribery practices if/when they had contact with public administration, whereas 9% were involved in giving a bribe to a public servant. This data however, can still be questioned and is not indicative of the practice of bribery, because 42% of the participants said that they did not have contact with the administration.

The National Assessment report for Turkey, which presents the survey results in detail along with information on the legislative and institutional framework of anticorruption and policy recommendations, is expected to be published in the fall 2014.

Figure 2 shows that 47% of the survey participants

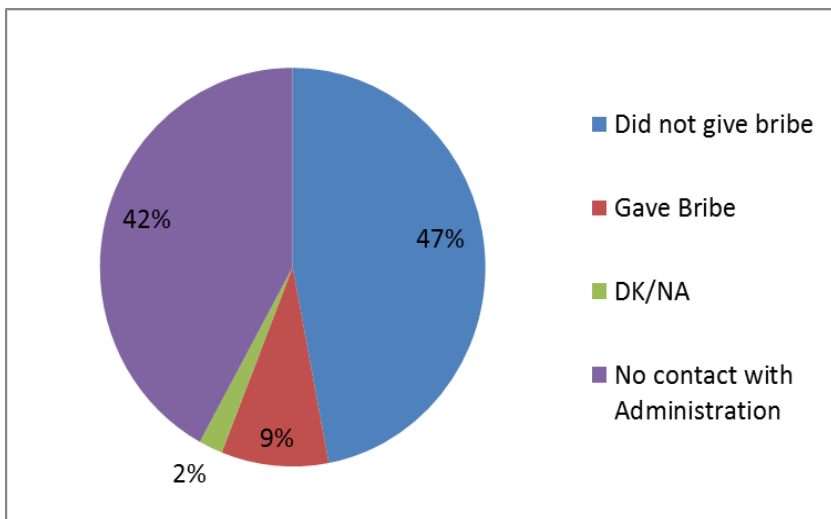


Figure 2. Involvement in Corruption – SELDI Survey 2014

SELDI is the biggest anti-corruption and good governance civil society network in South-East Europe. At its inception it gathered 17 partners from 9 countries in South East Europe. SELDI works to strengthen civil society participation in finding innovative public-private partnership solutions to governance and corruption challenges in the region. For further information, please visit SELDI.net.

Project partners



Associated partners



Note: The text in this Press Release can be freely distributed on the condition that the title of the event and name of the organizers are explicitly mentioned.