

Corruption and Anti-Corruption Challenges in Turkey

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Three Paramount Problems in Turkey (SELDI Survey 2014)

Unemployment

Corruption

Environmental Pollution

Political instability

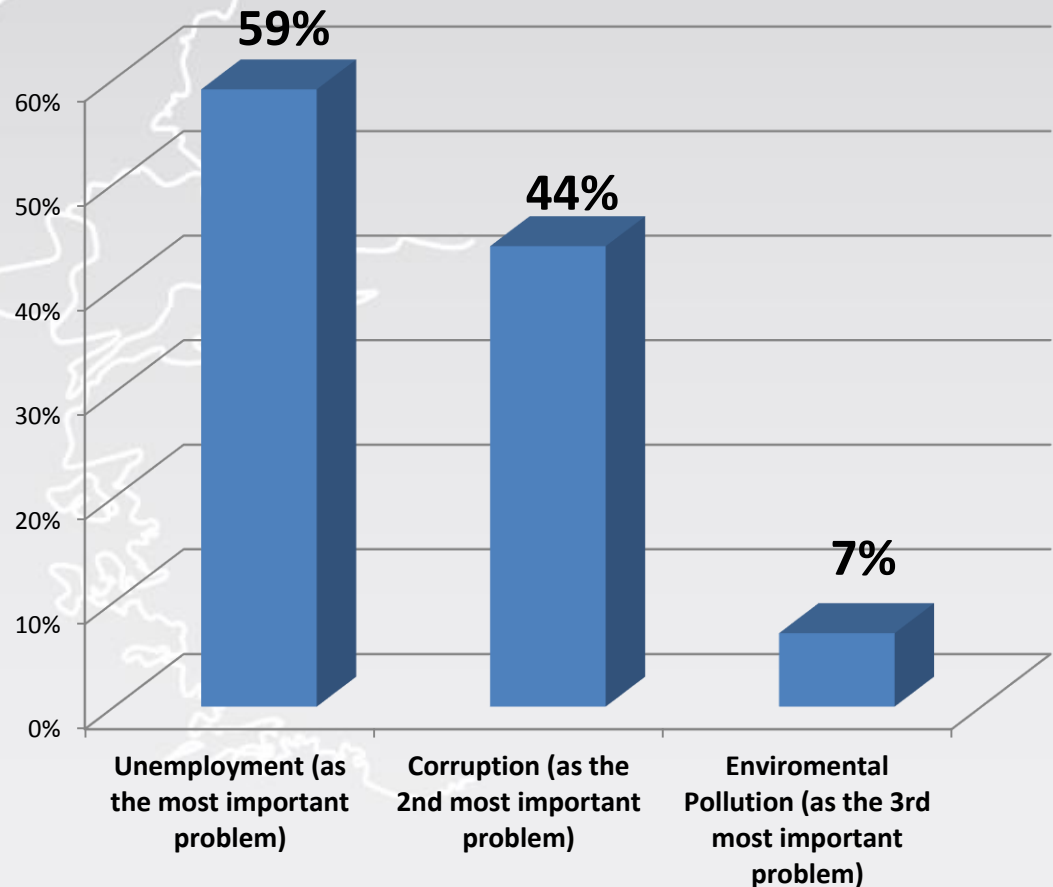
Ethnic problems

High prices

Education

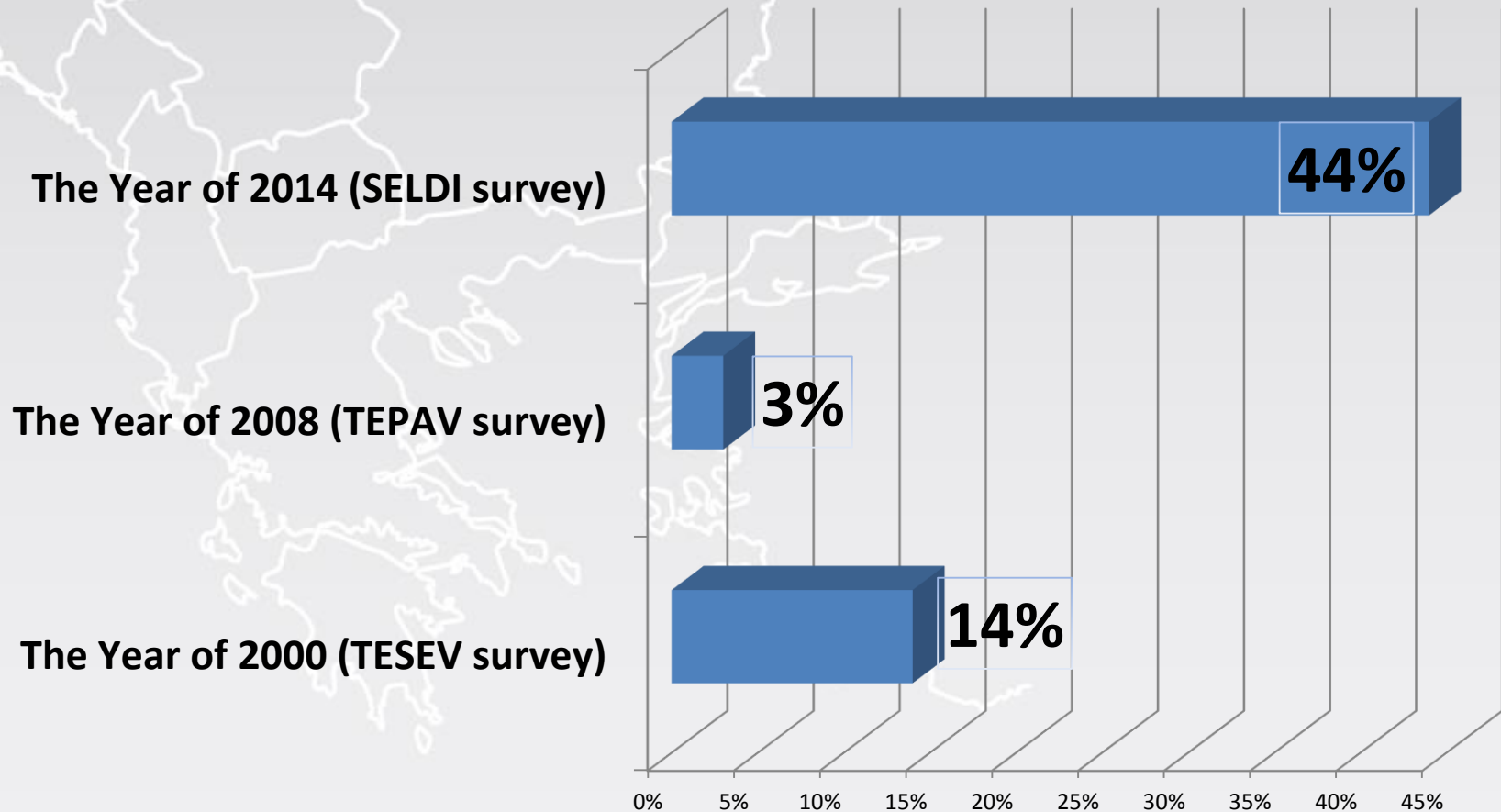
Low incomes

Crime

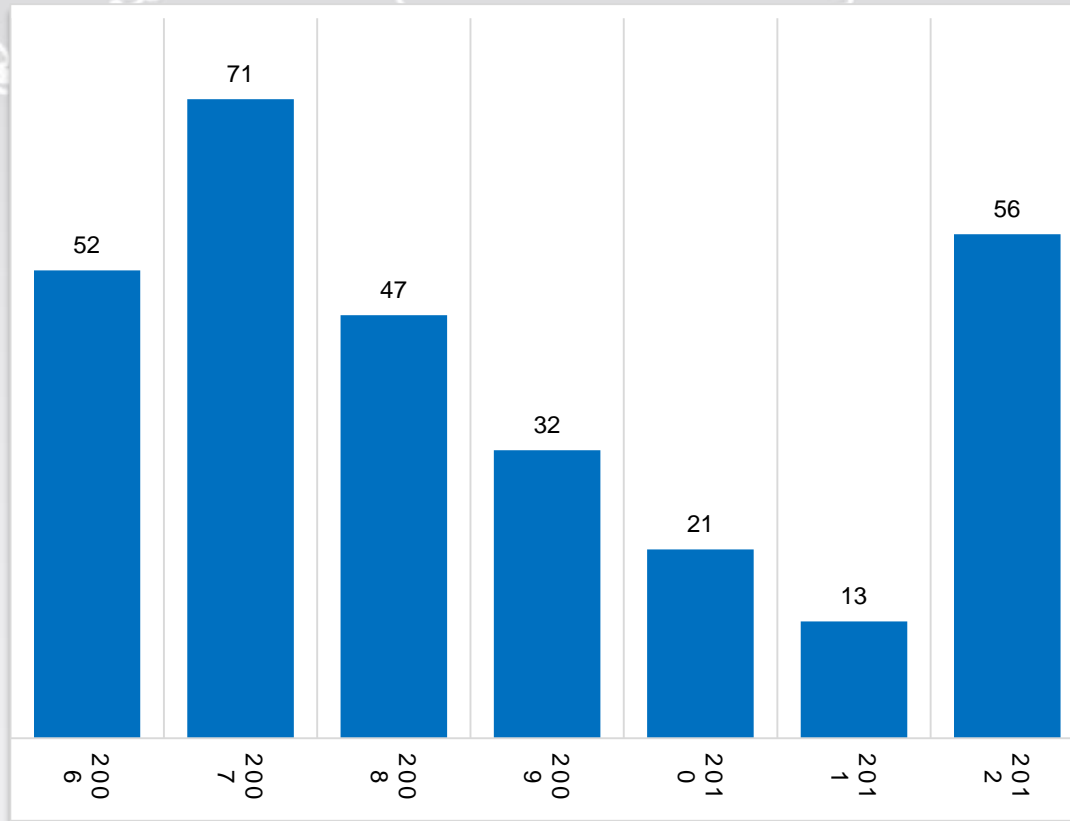


Comparison over time

(corruption as the most important problem)



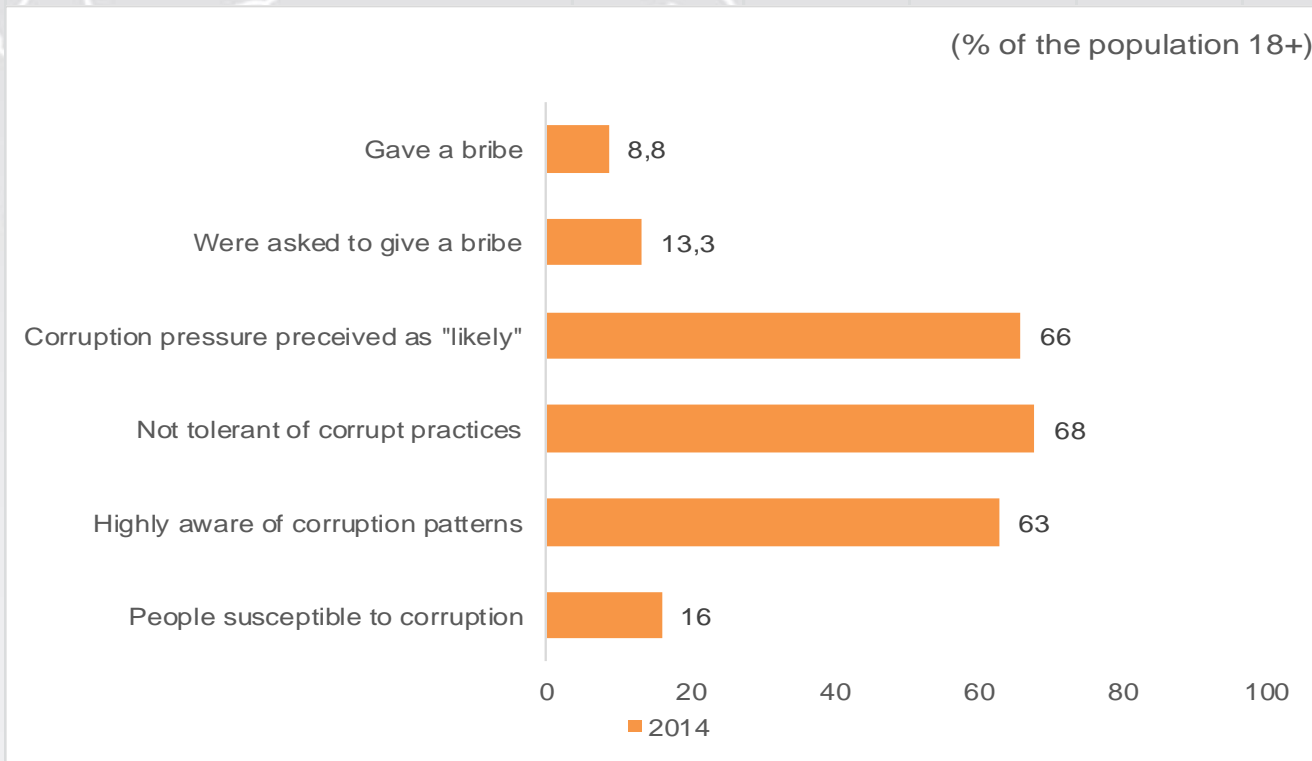
Number of convictions for bribery – TUIK Statistics (2006-2012)



Corruption profile of Turkey

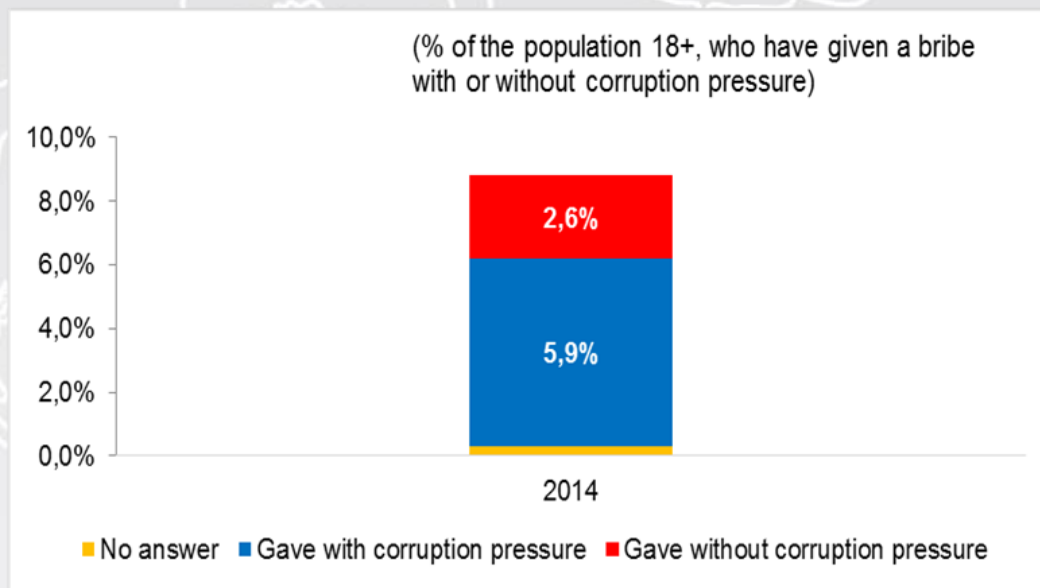
Source: SELDI/CSD Corruption Monitoring System, 2014

	2014
People susceptible to corruption	16
Highly aware of corruption patterns	63
Not tolerant of corrupt practices	68
Corruption pressure perceived as "likely"	66
Were asked to give a bribe	13,3
Gave a bribe	8,8

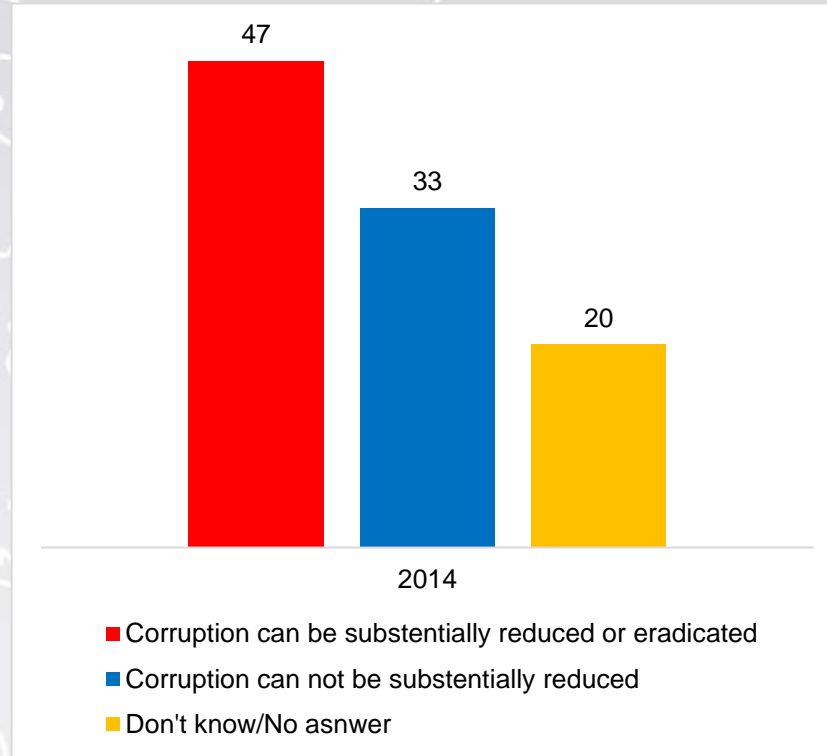


Involvement in corruption with or without corruption pressure

As stated in the SELDI regional report, corruption pressure from officials is the main factor that statistically influences the level of involvement



Perceptions of feasibility of policy responses to corruption (%)



2010-14 National Anti-Corruption Strategy

- Endorsed in 2009, main government instrument dealing with corruption
- Motto 'Enhancing Transparency and Strengthening the Fight against Corruption'.
- Main components are 1. to prevent; 2. to impose sanctions; 3. to raise awareness about corruption.
- Implemented by the Prime Ministry Inspection Board
- Slow implementation / lacks transparency and a participatory approach
- The EU 2013 and 2014 progress reports agree.

Legislative Framework and the Need for Reform

- **Definition of Corruption:** there is no exact definition of corruption. The legislation is fragmented and not coherent.
- **Asset Declaration by public officials:** confidential – no verification mechanism
- **Persecution of public officials:** permission system poses great challenges.
- **Whistleblowers:** no protection
- **Conflict of Interest:** no existent legislation that directly points to the conflict of interest issue.
- **The Public Official Ethical Board:** short of its own budget and personnel thus lacks efficiency and independence since. Its autonomy should be established.

Institutional Practice

- **The Financial Crimes Investigation Board:** provides statistical data on financial crimes and investigation. **Lack of efficiency, lack of technical personnel in providing statistical data.**
- **Turkish Court of Accounts :** Supreme auditing authority. No auditing reports conducted for the years of 2012, 2013 and the next three years as the legislation concerning TCA is currently being revised.
- **Turkish Grand National Assembly – The Parliament**
- **Parliamentary Immunity:** The constitution regulates the Parliamentary immunity of the MPs and according to it, MPs cannot be arrested, interrogated, detained or tried for an alleged offence before or after the election, unless the Assembly decides otherwise.
- **Finances of Political Parties:** Political parties not obliged to publish their financial reporting. Election campaigning not regulated by any legislation.
- **Ombudsman:** not independent, not efficient, no power to impose sanctions

The Judiciary

As stated in the SELDI Regional Report, the judiciary in the region lacks feedback mechanisms which would allow the public and policy makers to evaluate both the integrity of the judiciary and its effectiveness in applying criminal anticorruption laws.

The High Council of Judges and Prosecutors in Turkey is the responsible authority for the appointment, promotion and removal of judges and prosecutors. However the independence of the Council from the executive branch is problematic and this is the biggest challenge.

No written code of ethics for the members of the judiciary. The members of the judiciary fall outside the scope of the Council of Ethics.

Statistical Data of the Impact of Corruption on Turkish Economy

- World Bank → 'control of corruption' stands at 50.8% in 2012 (51.7% in 2005)
- Corruption Perceptions Index (how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be) → Turkey 53rd out of 177 countries in 2013
- The size of the shadow economy in Turkey → 27.7% of GDP in 2012, compared to the OECD average of 19.2%

Corruption Issues raised in EU's 2014 Turkey Progress Report :

1. Involvement of Civil Society
2. Prime Ministry Inspection Board
3. Asset Declaration
4. Ethics Council
5. Elections
5. 17 December Incident
5. Autonomy of HSYK
5. Constitutional Court
9. Immunities
 - Immunity of Public Officers
 - Parliamentary Impunity:
10. Accountability