

# **Corruption and Anti-Corruption In SEE countries: National Corruption Assessment Report 2014 [Macedonia]**

*Monitoring Corruption and Anti-Corruption in Southeast Europe: Policy  
Challenges and the Role of Civil Society*

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# Presentation Overview

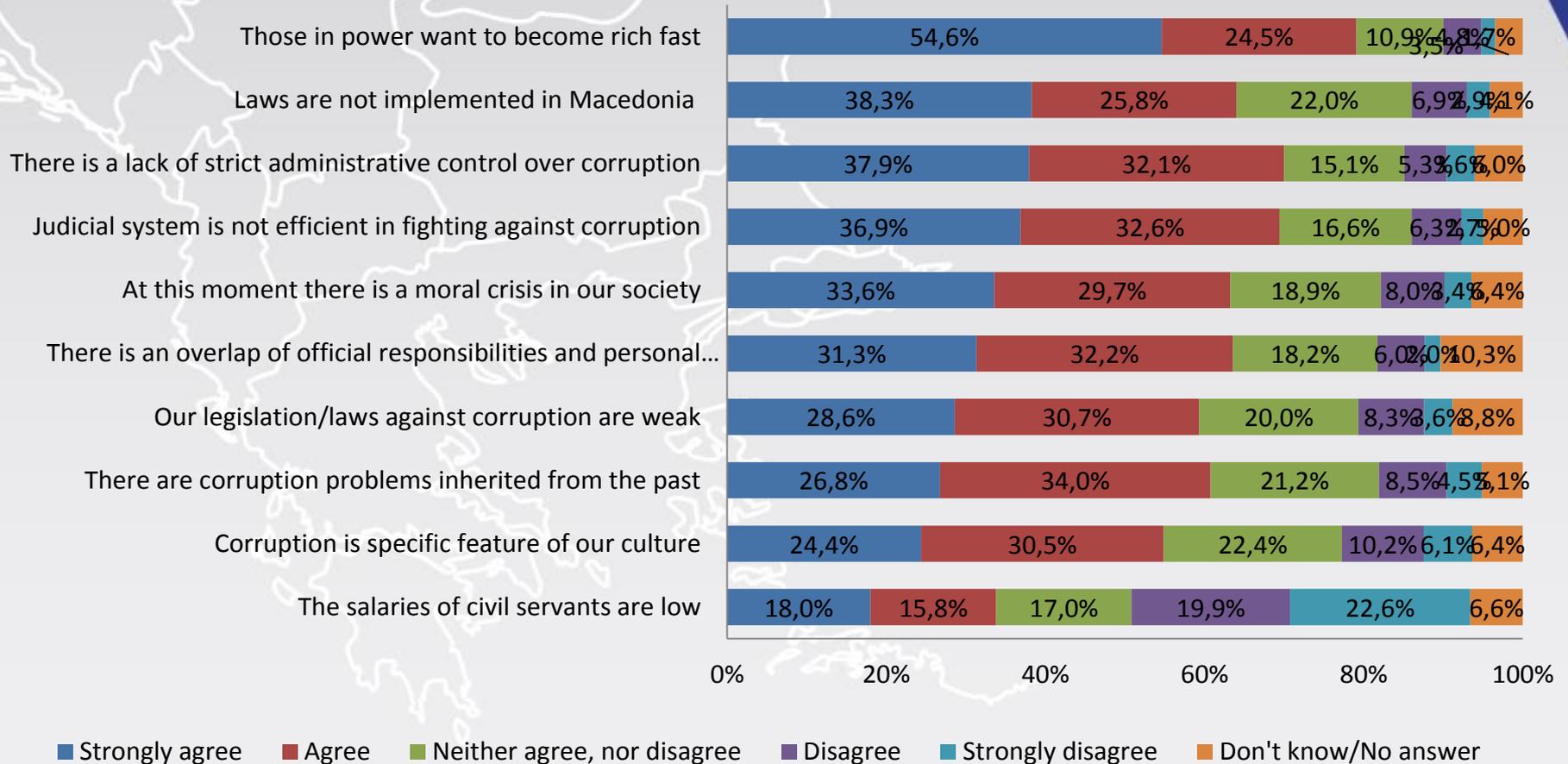
- I) Corruption levels and survey results
- II) Anticorruption Policies and Regulatory Environment
- III) Institutional Practice and Enforcement of the Law
- IV) The Judiciary in Anticorruption
- V) Corruption and the Economy
- VI) Civil Society and Anti-Corruption
- VII) International Monitoring and Cooperation

# Introduction: Corruption Environment in the Country

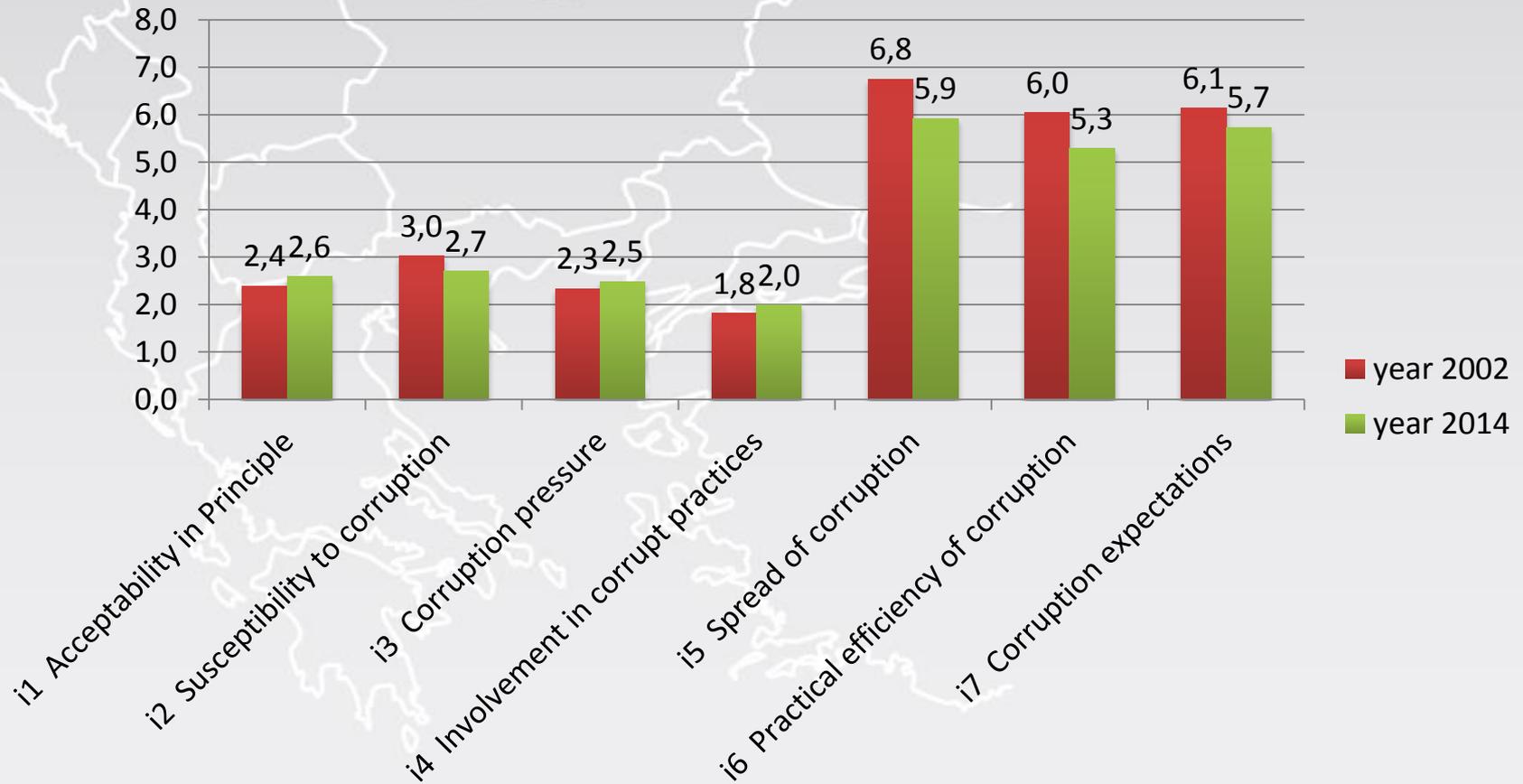
	Category/Problems	%
1	Unemployment	69,2
2	Poverty	47,1
3	Low incomes	37,4
4	High prices	32,5
5	Corruption	27,9
6	Political instability	18,7

- CPI (TI):
  - 104 in 2005 with 2,7
  - 67 in 2013 with 44

# Corruption Levels and Survey Results

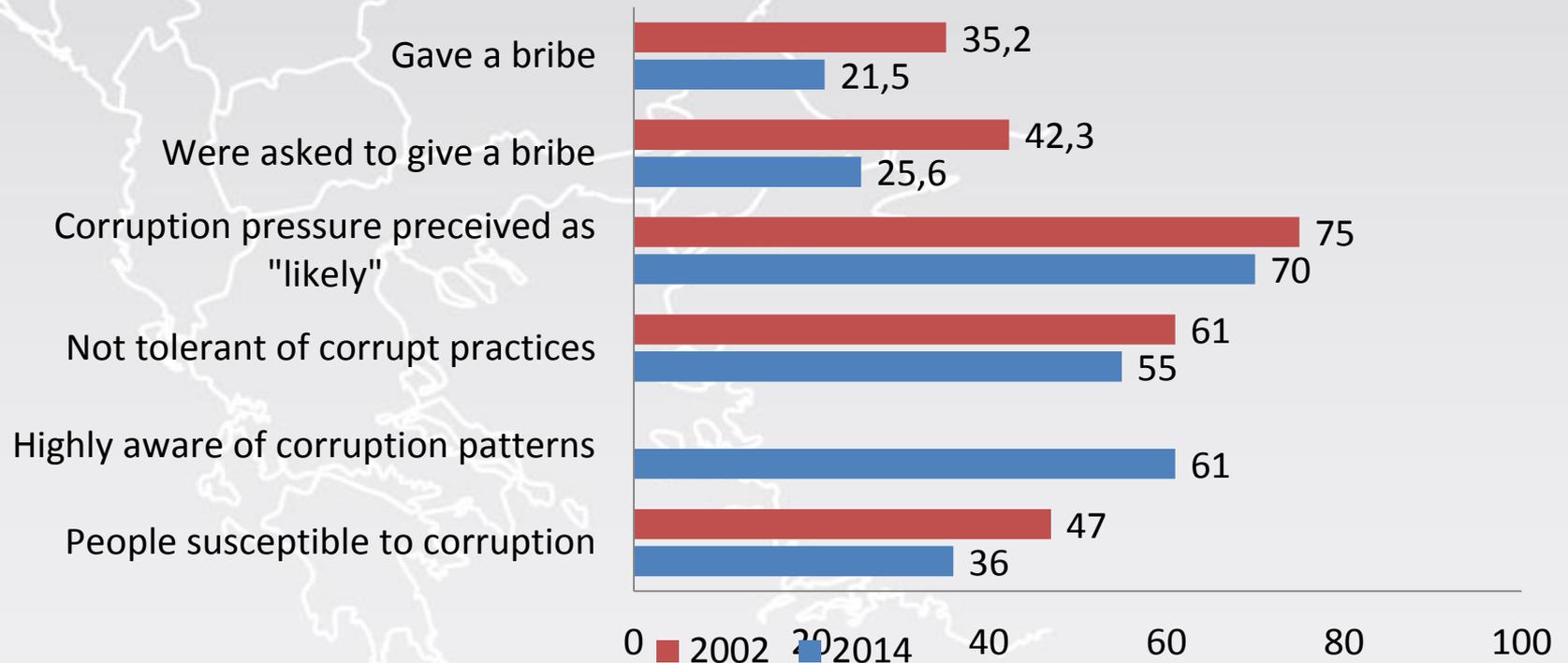


# Corruption Levels and Survey Results



# Corruption Levels and Survey Results (III)

(% of the population 18+)



# Anticorruption Policies and Regulatory Environment

- Fairly well developed legal and regulatory framework for anti-corruption
  - Law on Prevention of Corruption (2002)
  - State Programme for prevention and repression of corruption and conflict of interests (2011-2015)
  - Need for better whistleblower protection and establishment of integrity systems
- Insufficient implementation in practice

# Institutional Practice and Enforcement of the Law

- State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC):
  - Passive and selective, under political influence
  - Limited resources
  - Not present in the public, non-transparent
  - Low trust in the SCPC
  - Limited competences and high expectations
- Need for more involvement and better cooperation between other institutions:
  - Public prosecution
  - Police
  - Courts
  - SAO, PRO, FIO, FPO

# The Judiciary in Anticorruption

- The Judiciary is recognized as one of the most corrupt segments of the society
- Lack of transparency – the public cannot monitor their work
- No information about disciplinary measures against judges
- Need for increased budgetary independence

# Corruption and the Economy

- High percentage of hidden economy: 24 % - 30 % from GDP
- Insufficient transparency of the Budget preparation and execution processes
- Lack of easy for use data for monitoring
- Social subsidies: 6,8% of annual budget
- Public Procurement:
  - In 2013 1/3 of the tenders contracted with the company, appeared as only bidder (no electronic competition, no e-auction for price reduction)
- Misuse of EU funds:
  - Director of Agency for Mobility and European Education assigned projects to organizations leaded by his family
  - No legal resolution of the case

# Civil Society in Anticorruption

- CSOs active in:
  - Monitoring good governance (transparency, accountability, conflict of interest, etc)
  - Monitoring of the judiciary
  - Monitoring of the public procurement
  - Providing free legal aid
- Difficult access to public information and lack of cooperation with the institutions
- Insufficient expertise of the CSOs
- Insufficient transparency of the CSOs
- Need for higher donor support
- Lack of networking and common action

# International Monitoring (EC 2014)

- Corruption remains prevalent in many areas and continues to be a serious problem
- The anti-corruption framework needs to be more effectively implemented.
- The country's high level of legislative and technical advancement in this area is overshadowed by **growing concerns about selectivity of justice.**
- Lack of IT interconnectivity between the courts and the prosecution service and the absence of a central register of public officials, which hampers the supervisory work of the SCPC.

# International Monitoring (EC 2014)

- Public procurement: Irregularities in the ‘Skopje 2014’ project
  - No any state institution has taken any action in response to the suspects of the public.
- Judiciary: The overall capacity of the courts to deal with corruption cases remains weak, in particular as regards high-level cases, where proceedings are lengthy and inefficient.
- Public trust in anti-corruption bodies remains low.

# Policy Recommendations: How towards more effective implementation?

- Political commitment and prosecution of high-level corruption
- More specific national anti-corruption policy documents
- Prioritization of certain sectors and types of corruption
- Independent and pro-active SCPC
- Better inter-institutional cooperation and information sharing
- More independent judiciary in terms of human and financial independency
- Independent and credible civil society monitoring