

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE

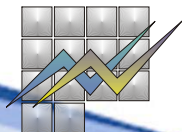
STATISTICAL MEASUREMENT OF CORRUPTION: EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

BLAGICA NOVKOVSKA

STATE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

2nd International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice
Statistics

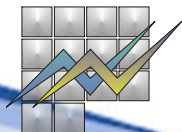
Mexico City, June 2014



BACKGROUND

In 2010 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) initiated project for assessment of corruption experienced by population in Western Balkans

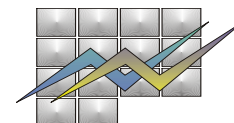
In 2012 UNODC initiated second project in the Western Balkan countries for assessment of corruption and Crime affecting the Business Sector



PROJECT PARTNERS

Household survey on experience of corruption 2010

State Statistical Office



United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime



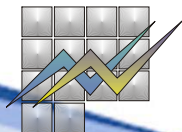
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European Commission



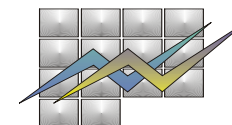
Government of Norway





PROJECT PARTNERS, Corruption and Crime affecting the Business Sector 2012

State Statistical Office



United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime



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European Commission – IPA 2011



Government of Norway

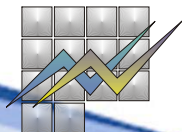


Government of Germany



Government of Sweden





OVERVIEW OF THE TWO SURVEYS

**Household survey on
experience of corruption**

**Survey conducted in the period
August – September 2010**

**Promotional stakeholders meeting
on March, 31st 2010**

**Pilot survey May, 20th – May, 30th
2010**

**Survey conducted as personal
interview (face-to-face)**

Response rate is 74%.

**Corruption and Crime affecting
the Business Sector**

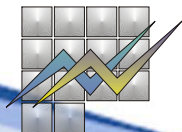
**Survey conducted in the period
October - November 2012**

**Promotional stakeholders
meeting on June, 18th 2012**

**Pilot survey July, 16th – July, 20th
2012**

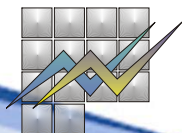
**Survey conducted as personal
interview (face-to-face)**

Response rate is 84.82%

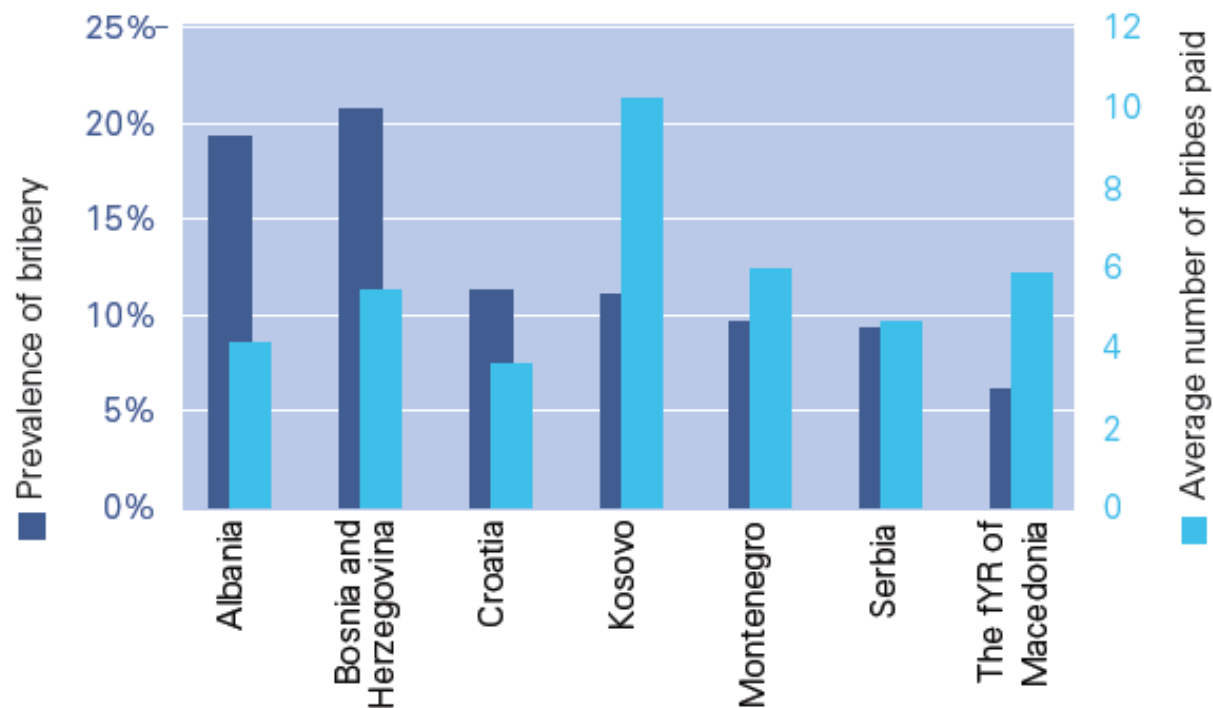


Household Survey (2010)

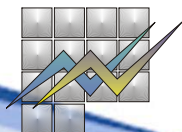
- All the surveys in the Region were based on the same methodology and survey instruments that ensure comparability among countries
- Very well accepted by the population surveyed
- One of the key findings in this survey was that the level of corruption in the Republic of Macedonia based on the real experience is very low



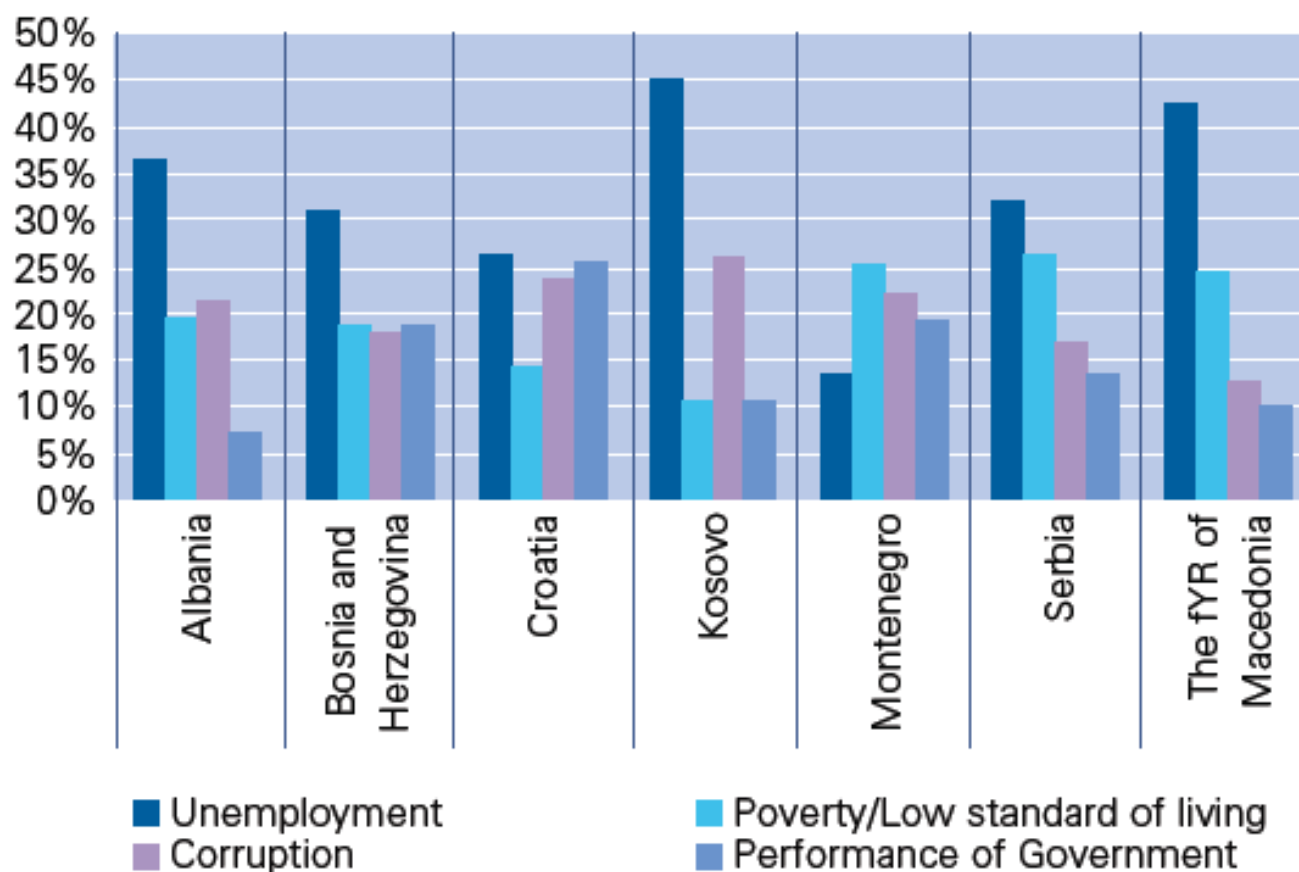
Prevalence of bribery and average number of bribes paid, by country/area (2010)

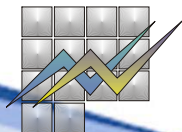


Note: Prevalence of bribery is calculated as the number of adult citizens (aged 18-64) who gave a public official some money, a gift or counter favour on at least one occasion in the 12 months prior to the survey, as a percentage of adult citizens who had at least one contact with a public official in the same period. The average number of bribes refers to average number of bribes given by all bribe-payers, i.e. those who paid at least one bribe in the 12 months prior to the survey.



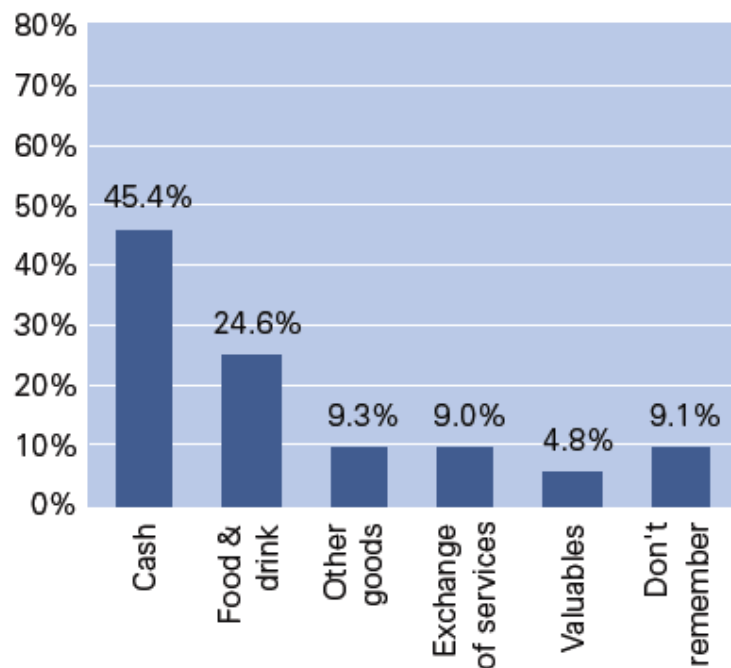
Percentage of adult population considering selected issues as the most important in their country/area, by country/area (2010)





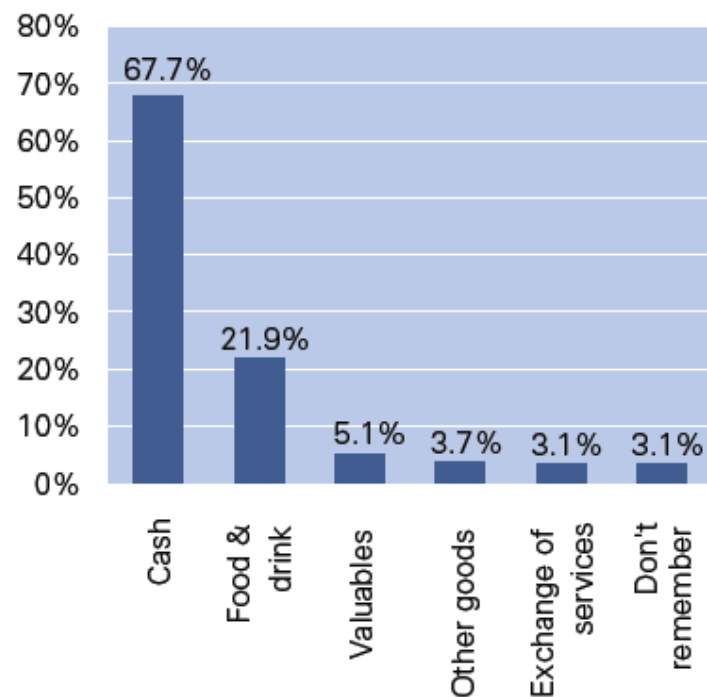
Republic of Macedonia

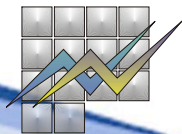
Percentage distribution of bribes paid by type of payment



Western Balkan Region

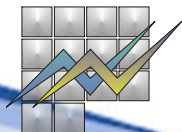
Percentage distribution of bribes paid by type of payment





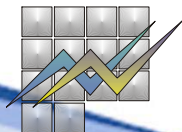
Business Sector Survey (2012)

- Benefits from the knowledge and experience gained in the first survey were valuable
- The idea for organizing introductory methodological workshop for the business survey was very good, many useful suggestions were collected
- The survey was much more difficult in the part of the field work
- Respondents in business reporting were difficult to be located in a unique way, as it was in the households

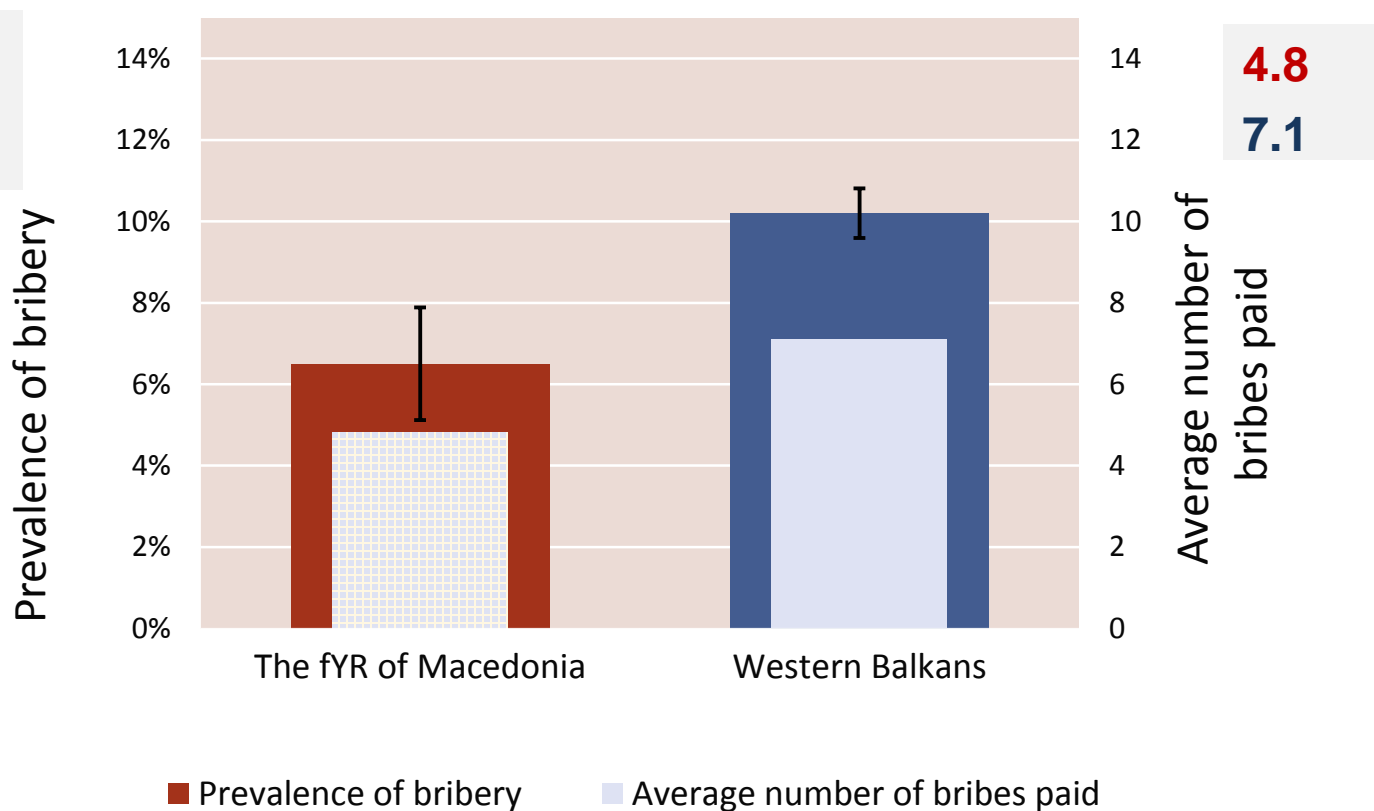


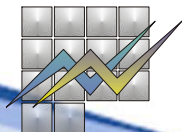
Business Sector Survey (2012)

- The main indicators for business sector were close to those for households
- Questionnaire used for household and for business sector was very similar
- The respondents considered the questionnaire style as much more appropriate for individual persons than for business entities
- The same methodology implemented in the Region again provided comparability

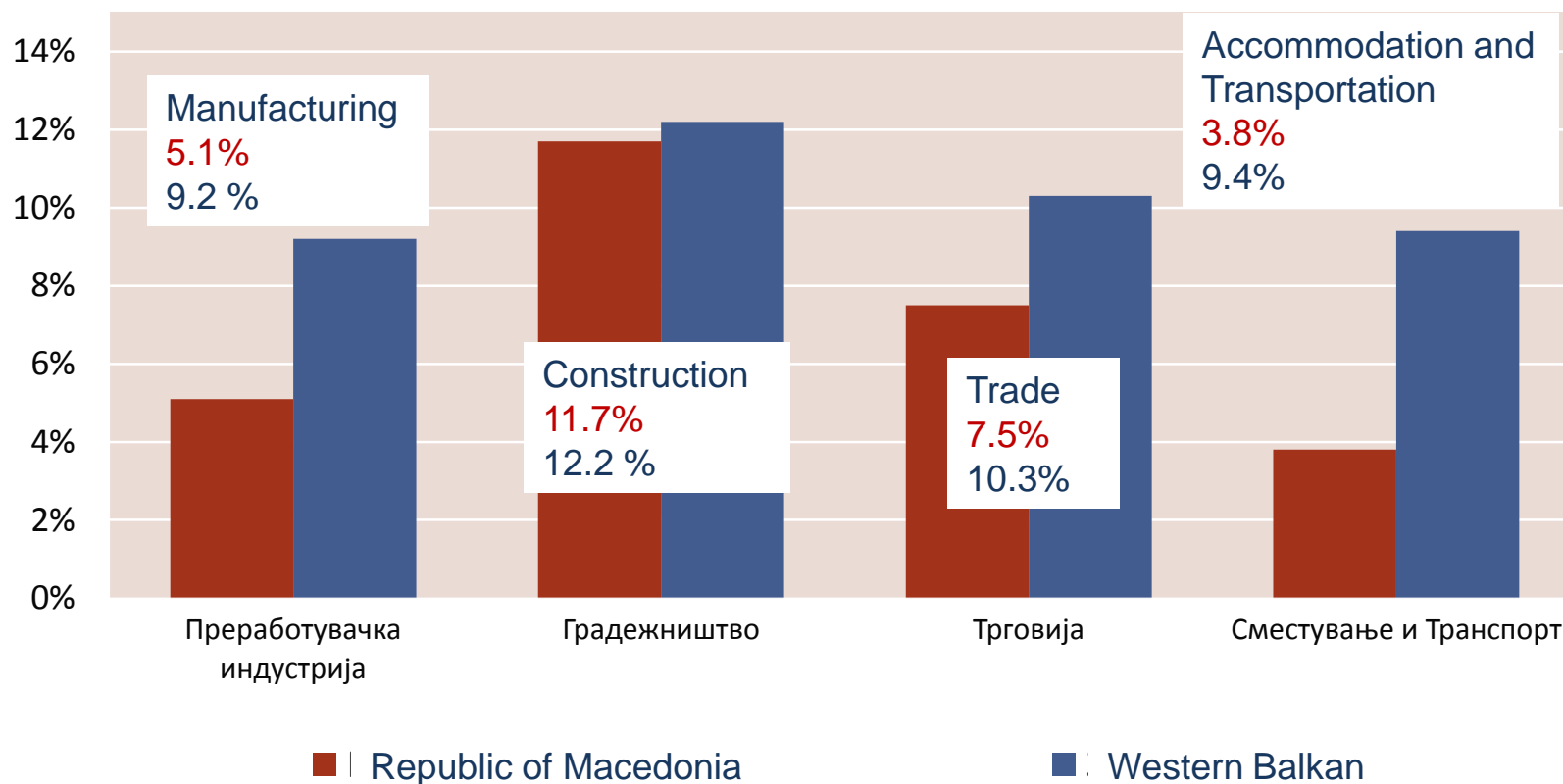


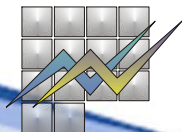
Key findings - bribery prevalence and average number of bribes - bribery in business sector



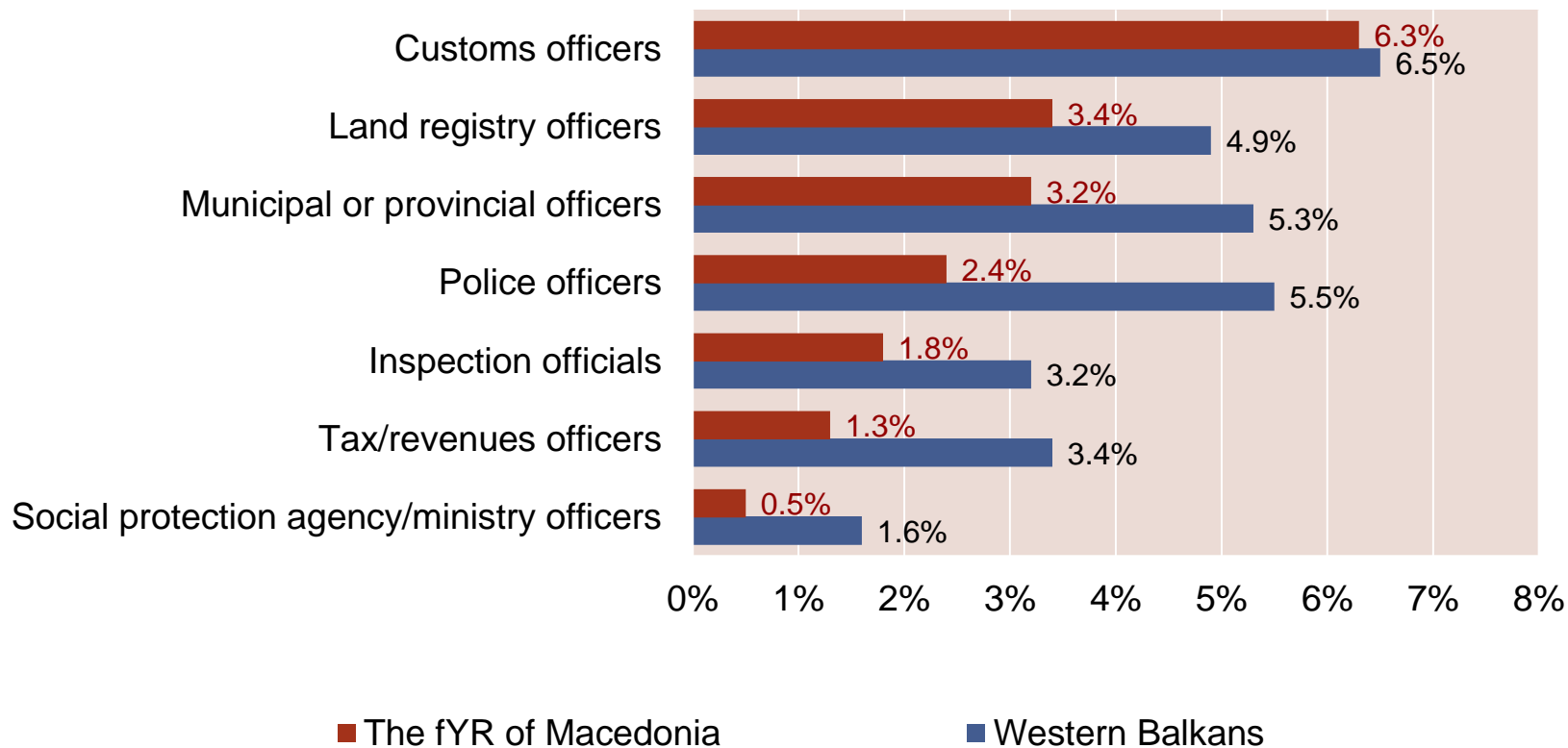


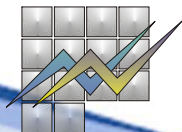
Key findings - Prevalence of bribery across business sectors





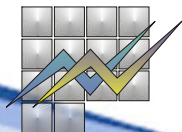
Key findings - prevalence rate by public officials - bribery in business sector





Concluding remarks

- There is very strong understanding shown among all of the respondents surveyed (business or households) what is corruptive behaviour and an attitude that such a behaviour is not acceptable.
- Surveys on the direct experience of corruption can help to draw at least a partial picture as to how, why, when, where and how much corruption affects the population and business sector
- In the Republic of Macedonia there is very well established institutional environment to fight the corruption which is to be developed further

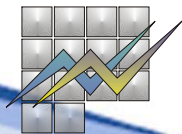


Quality control system

- Both surveys had very well established quality control system

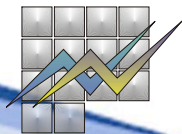
Questions with grading opinion of the respondents are not adequate for checking with repeated interview (for example: rare vs. sometimes) – differences could be expected

- This quality control system is actually the reason for collecting identification data from respondents which has impact on the trust from the business respondents



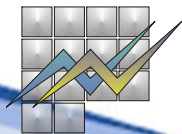
Challenges in the business survey

- Considering the fact that giving a bribe is a criminal act, the same as asking a bribe, data collection process requires a special attention and a careful approach in designing questions
- For the business survey instead of direct question and answers from the respondent, several questions from which implicitly answers will lead to the concluding information could be more appropriate
- Response rate could have been better if identification data have not been requested, for increasing the trust from the respondents



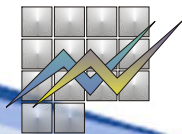
Challenges for the statistical offices

- For the regular statistical surveys from the annual statistical programme it is very clear what is official statistics vs. public opinion surveys or similar
- Besides UNODC corruption surveys there are many more conducted, based on different methodology, not representative sample which could make confusion in the public
- No other surveys measure real experience, but rather perception which is usually higher
- Differences could make questionable the credibility of published indicators by statistical offices



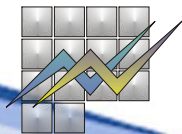
Further challenges - Cost of corruption and cross checking results

- Corruption affects economic growth, the level of GDP per capita, investment activity, international trade and price stability negatively
- Biases the composition of government expenditures
- Corruption is an important factor for encouraging crime
- Systematic approach and methods for cross checking results of the corruption surveys with the main economic and other indicators could justify and increase credibility of the survey results



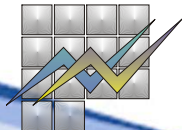
How to go further?

- A biannual regular survey should be established in order to provide valuable information to cope with the corruption
- Regular surveys should be based on sound methodology internationally adopted
- Better involvement and coordination of regional and international organizations could be beneficial
- If there are several international initiatives/projects in parallel they should have been better internationally coordinated, otherwise credibility of results could be compromised
- The survey results have to be visible and International organisations should participate in their promotion on country level, to organize some round tables with the main stakeholders



How to go further?

- There is no single way of bribery and there are rooted practices that should be considered when creating policies and preventive measures to combat corruption
- Sectors that are more susceptible to bribery should be further analyzed in order to identify areas most in need of a concrete support
- To have different type of questionnaires for different sectors or at least part of the questionnaire to be sector dependant because the pattern could be different in different sectors
- A better understanding of the causes of bribery can help in the implementation of specific measures
- Private sector bribery needs more attention and further methodological improvement in order to produce more relevant statistics



Thank you for your attention!
Questions and discussion

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