

CORRUPTION THROUGH

THE PERSPECTIVE

OF YOUTH IN

NORTH MACEDONIA

The image features three raised fists in a circle, symbolizing solidarity and protest. The fists are rendered in a vibrant, glowing blue and purple color against a background of a warm, orange and yellow gradient. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the strength of the gesture.

Perceptions, Experiences and Implications for
Public Policies

CORRUPTION THROUGH THE PERSPECTIVE OF YOUTH IN NORTH MACEDONIA

**Perceptions, Experiences and Implications for
Public Policies**

Analytical Report Based on a Survey of Youth

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of a survey on the perceptions, experiences and attitudes of young people in North Macedonia regarding corruption, as well as its effects on their lives, trust in institutions and readiness for engagement. The survey covered young people from different age categories, genders and regions, with the high school and university population dominating – a group that is in a key phase of forming values and social attitudes.

The results show that young people have a developed awareness of corruption as a social problem, but their knowledge is most often at an intermediate level, with limited understanding of institutional mechanisms for prevention and sanctioning. Corruption is most often associated with abuse of power, political influence, and unfair employment and educational practices, which indicates that young people perceive it as a systemic and structural phenomenon rather than an isolated individual act.

As the main causes of corruption, young people identify partisanship of institutions, an inefficient judiciary, and weak control and accountability. At the same time, corruption is perceived as most prevalent in sectors with high discretionary power and direct contact with citizens, especially the judiciary, executive branch, healthcare, education and employment. These findings are complemented by a pronounced deficit of institutional trust, with a significant proportion of young people stating that they do not trust any institution responsible for fighting corruption.

The research shows that corruption has a strong negative impact on the life decisions of young people. It is most often associated with emigration, reduced motivation, a sense of injustice and erosion of trust in democracy. Of particular concern is the finding that some young people accept corruption as a normal phenomenon, which indicates a risk of its long-term normalization.

Despite such perceptions, the results show a high potential for engagement. More than half of young people express a willingness to actively engage in anti-corruption activities, which indicates that young people are not apathetic but critical and ready for change if there are real conditions, support and visible results.

Based on the findings, the report provides a set of recommendations aimed at institutions, the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, educational institutions,

youth and youth organizations, the civil sector, the media and international partners. The recommendations emphasize the need for institutional reforms, depoliticization, prevention, education and the active involvement of young people as key actors in the fight against corruption.

In conclusion, the report shows that corruption, from the perspective of young people, represents a serious obstacle to personal and social development, but also that there is significant potential for change. Harnessing youth readiness for engagement, combined with systemic and coordinated institutional interventions, is key to preventing the normalization of corruption and building a more inclusive and just society.



INTRODUCTION AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Corruption is one of the most complex and deeply rooted social problems in North Macedonia, undermining trust in institutions, weakening the rule of law, and limiting economic and democratic development. In a broader sense, corruption acts as a regressive factor that threatens the very essence of a meritocratic society. However, its effects are not limited to the institutional sphere; they also directly affect young generations, who face corruption in everyday life: in employment, education, the use of public services, and even in interpersonal relationships.

Researching young people's perceptions and experiences of corruption is a key step in understanding their position, values and level of readiness to engage in anti-corruption activities. Young people are not just observers but potential agents of change who, if properly informed and supported, can contribute to building a more accountable and inclusive society.

According to the latest Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2024 by Transparency International, the country is experiencing a worrying downward trend. Namely, within just one calendar year, North Macedonia fell from 76th place (in 2023) to 88th place in 2024, out of a total of 180 ranked countries. This decline is a clear indicator of the absence of effective reforms in penal policy and the institutional fight against corruption.

In its 2024 Report, the European Commission (EC) again notes a “lack of progress” in key chapters related to the rule of law and the fight against corruption. Despite the declarative commitments of all executive authorities, key recommendations – which mainly focus on harmonizing legislation with EU law, implementing national strategies and fully implementing the recommendations of GRECO (Group of States against Corruption) – remain incompletely fulfilled.

1.2. Corruption in everyday life: “Entry ticket” instead of legal right

For the citizens of North Macedonia, corruption is not an abstract political concept but a reality they face in every sphere: from education and healthcare to public administration and the labor market. Often, corrupt practices are imposed as an “entry ticket” to the realization of basic, legally guaranteed rights, and even as a prerequisite for survival within the system.

In North Macedonia, several studies show that young people have a strong awareness of the presence of corruption, but at the same time feel powerless and distrustful that the system can change. This phenomenon creates a vicious circle of apathy, in which corruption becomes “normalized” – part of everyday reality rather than a moral deviation.

Such a constellation has a particularly destructive impact on young people (16–26 years old). The awareness that knowledge, effort and competencies are often suppressed by nepotism, clientelism and party influence generates deep apathy and disillusionment. The end result of this deficit of trust in the system is the mass emigration of the most productive part of the population (brain drain).

1.3. Regional context and youth perceptions

The problem of corruption in North Macedonia corresponds to broader regional trends in the Western Balkans. Findings from the *Youth Study Southeast Europe 2024* indicate that young people in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria and North Macedonia perceive corruption as an endemic phenomenon. The study notes that the education sector is seriously contaminated by practices such as illegal payments for obtaining grades or diplomas. These similarities impose the need for a common regional approach and the sharing of good practices in reforming youth policies.

1.4. Definition of corruption: Pluralism of approaches

In international theory and legislation, there is no single universal definition of corruption, but it is defined through its manifestations:

1. Transparency International uses the simplest but most comprehensive definition: “Abuse of entrusted power for private gain.”
2. The United Nations (UNCAC) views corruption as a complex socio-economic phenomenon involving the abuse of public office for direct or indirect profit. The Convention focuses on identifying specific corrupt acts (bribery, embezzlement, money laundering) that should be criminalized in national systems.
3. National legislation: According to the Law on the Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest (2019), corruption is defined as the abuse of office, authority or official position for the purpose of obtaining a benefit for oneself or for another.

1.5. Key international instruments

- UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC): Adopted in 2003, it is the only binding global instrument. North Macedonia ratified it in 2007, committing to strict criminalization and prevention.

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- GRECO (Group of States against Corruption): Established by the Council of Europe, it monitors compliance through cyclical evaluations. North Macedonia, as a member since 2000, is subject to constant supervision for compliance with European anti-corruption standards.

1.6. Institutional framework: The role of the SCPC

The State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) occupies a central place in the country's anti-corruption architecture. As an autonomous and independent body, its competencies include anti-corruption review of laws, monitoring the property status of officials, and education to raise public awareness. The main strategic document, the National Strategy for the Prevention of Corruption 2021–2025, is aimed at strengthening integrity and transparency.



RESEARCH PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

2.1. Research Purpose

The primary objective of this research is to conduct a detailed analysis of the level of knowledge, personal experiences and value attitudes of young people in North Macedonia regarding the phenomenon of corruption. The research is designed to offer an empirical basis for creating future anti-corruption policies that would be closer to the young population.

The specific objectives of the research are:

- a) **Mapping contact points:** Identifying the sectors (education, health, public administration) where young people most often face corrupt pressures or where they perceive the highest level of abuse;
- b) **Evaluation of institutional trust:** Analyzing perceptions of the efficiency of bodies such as the SCPC, the judiciary and the police, as well as the readiness of institutions to protect young people in the event of actual reporting;
- c) **Examining the potential for activism:** Assessing the readiness of young people to actively resist corruption through civic engagement, volunteerism or the use of digital tools for accountability;
- d) **Analysis of social factors:** Determining the influence of social status (student, employee, unemployed) on attitudes toward the “normalization” of corruption in society;
- e) **Creating recommendations:** Formulating specific guidelines for educational institutions and the civil society sector in order to foster a culture of integrity.

2.2. Research methodology

The research was conducted using a quantitative data collection method, adapted to the needs of descriptive and comparative analysis.

• **Research instrument:** A structured anonymous survey questionnaire was used, distributed via the Google Forms platform. The questionnaire was carefully constructed to cover 15 key thematic questions, divided into three segments:

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1. Demographic profile: age, gender, place of residence and current status;
 2. Perceptions and knowledge: recognition of forms of corruption and assessment of personal awareness;
 3. Experiences and solutions: encountering corruption in everyday life and attitudes toward future reforms.

• **Types of questions:**

1. Closed questions with one or more answer options;
2. Likert scale (1–5) to measure the degree of agreement;
3. Open-ended questions for comments and explanations.

• **Target group and sample:** The survey included a total of 304 respondents (N = 304). The sample predominantly consists of young people aged 16 to 26, with a strong representation of high school students (61.1%), followed by students (8.5%) and young employees (19.1%).

• **Geographical coverage and distribution:** The survey was conducted nationwide, with a focus on urban centers (Skopje, Gostivar, Strumica, etc.), using digital communication channels, youth organizations and educational networks.

• **Time frame:** The questionnaire was open during October 2025, while data analysis was conducted in November 2025.

• **Ethical standards and data processing:** All data were collected on a voluntary basis, with guaranteed anonymity of respondents. Data processing was conducted using statistical software tools (Excel/Google Sheets), including cross-tabulation to compare attitudes among different social groups (e.g., employees vs. students).

• **Limitations:** Although the sample of 304 respondents provides strong indicative findings on youth attitudes, the research does not claim full national representativeness. It serves primarily as a diagnostic tool for identifying prevailing trends among the target group. Due to the online methodology, greater participation of urban and digitally active youth is possible. Nevertheless, the diversity of responses allows for reliable conclusions and policy-oriented recommendations.



PROJECT CONTEXT AND SUPPORT

The research was conducted within the framework of the project “**New Partnership – New Fight Against Corruption!**”, supported by the Embassy of Canada to Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro. The project focuses on strengthening youth and civic participation in the fight against corruption and organized crime at the local level.

The project is based on several pillars:

- **Empirical research:** Mapping the real situation through a survey of 304 young people;
- **Education and capacity building:** Organizing trainings and youth forums to familiarize young people with anti-corruption mechanisms;
- **Public dialogue:** Conducting public debates and creative guerrilla actions to raise public awareness.

The project’s message is clear and unambiguous: **youth are not a link in the chain of corruption, but a key factor in breaking it.** Through cooperation with relevant institutions and local organizations, the project aims to build a more responsible, transparent and active community in which integrity is a core value.

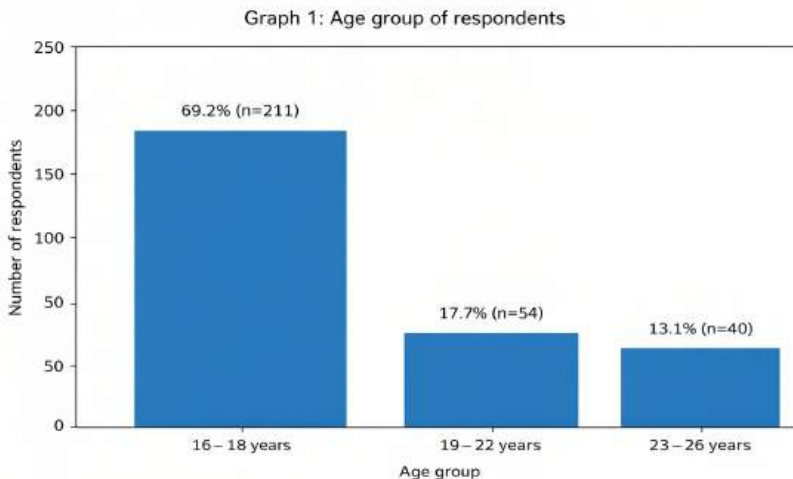


ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The analysis processes the results of all 15 survey questions, grouped into thematic units. Data are interpreted using percentage values, graphical presentations and analytical explanations that contextualize the responses.

4.1. Demographic characteristics of respondents

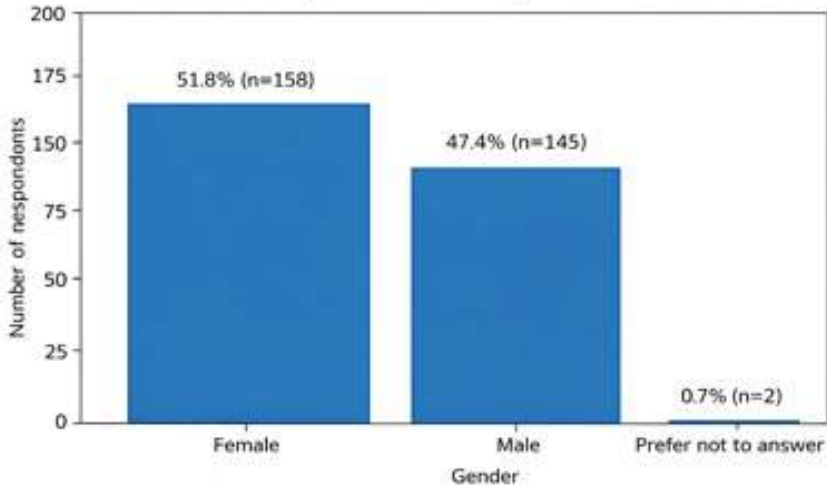
The results show that the research primarily covered high school-aged youth (16–18 years), representing 69% of respondents. The second-largest group is the 19–22 age category (almost 18%), while 13% are aged 23–26. This distribution confirms the focus on young people who are still in education and actively forming value-based attitudes toward social processes, including corruption.



Gender representation is balanced, with 51.8% women and 47.5% men, allowing for gender-sensitive analysis without systemic distortion.

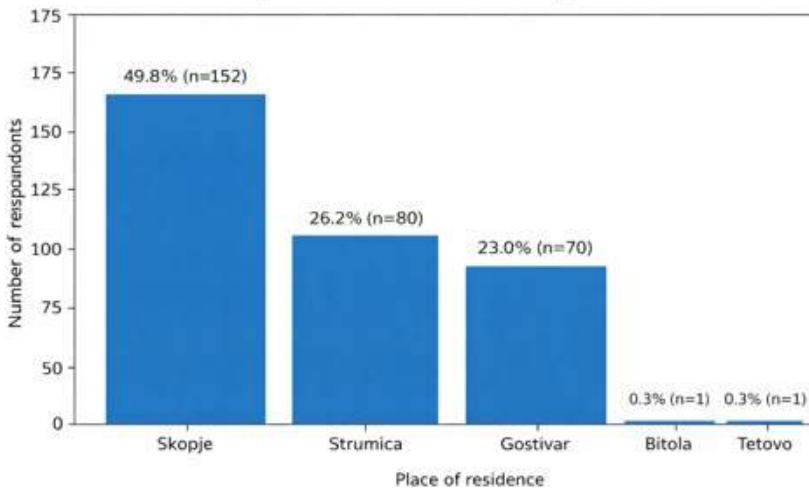
Regionally, half of respondents are from Skopje (50%), followed by Strumica (26%) and Gostivar (23%). Although not all planning regions are included, the distribution provides an indicative insight into differences between the capital and smaller urban environments.

Graph 2: Gender of respondents



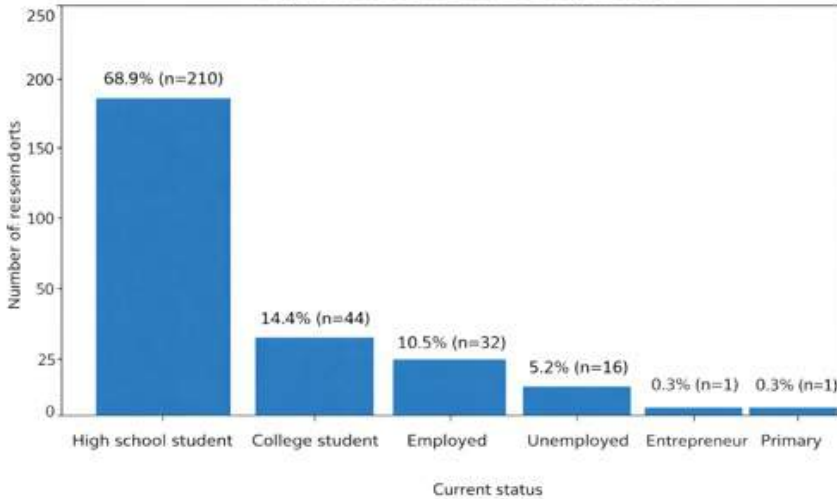
Regarding current status, 68.9% are high school students, 14.4% are university students and 10.5% are employed. This confirms that the majority of respondents are directly exposed to the education system, where corruption may appear through nepotism, favoritism, gift-giving or grade manipulation.

Graph 3: Place of residence of respondents



Overall, the sample reflects an active youth profile with exposure to social processes, allowing for a relevant assessment of youth perceptions of corruption.

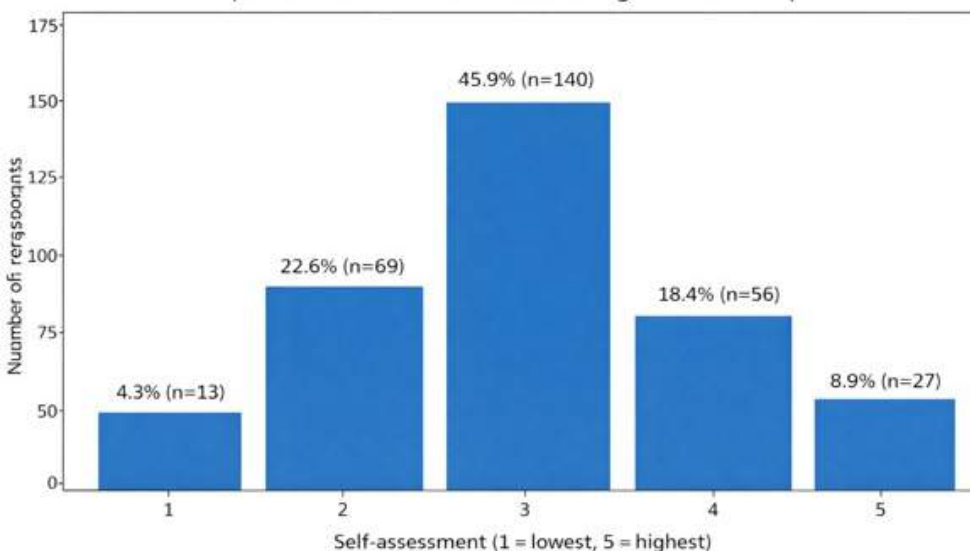
Graph 4: Current status of respondents



4.2. Self-assessment of knowledge about corruption

In response to the question “How would you rate your knowledge about corruption?”, the majority of respondents selected a value of 3 out of 5 (45.9%), which represents an average level of awareness. The average score is 3.04, indicating that young people are generally aware of corruption as a phenomenon and have basic knowledge of its forms, but lack deeper understanding of its mechanisms and institutional responses. Notably, 22.6% of respondents rated their level of knowledge as low (score 2), while only 26 respondents (8.9%) assessed themselves as highly informed (score 5). This suggests that although corruption is a visible topic in public discourse, young people do not receive systematic education on corruption-related issues. This finding

Graph 5: Self-assessment of knowledge about corruption



also points to a gap between recognizing corruption as a social problem and understanding institutional mechanisms, consequences and reporting procedures. It highlights the need for targeted educational interventions and the inclusion of anti-corruption topics in both formal and informal youth education.

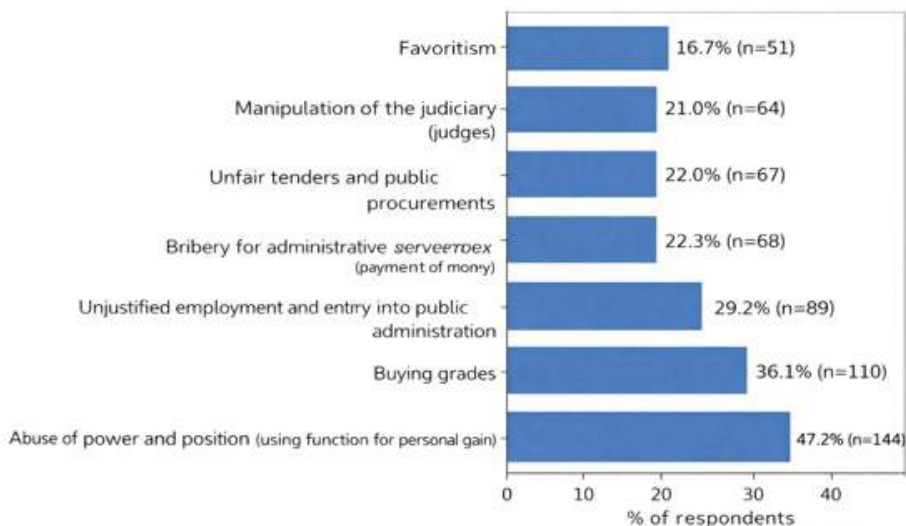
Overall, corruption is recognized as a phenomenon, but critical and functional knowledge of how it operates, how it is sanctioned and what role citizens play in prevention remains limited.

4.3. Associations with the term “corruption”

The data presented in Chart 6 show that the majority of young people associate corruption with abuse of power and position, identified by 47.2% of respondents. This association clearly dominates over others. The second most common association is buying grades, cited by 36.1% of respondents, followed by unfair employment and entry into public administration (29.2%). Additionally, 22.3% associate corruption with bribery for administrative services, while 22.0% mention unfair tenders and public procurement. Manipulation within the judiciary is identified by 21.0% of respondents. The smallest proportion of respondents associate corruption with favoritism and nepotism (16.7%).

These results indicate that young people primarily associate corruption with the misuse of power and illegal personal gain. Such associations suggest that corruption is perceived as a consequence of power asymmetries between institutions and citizens rather than as isolated individual behavior. The high prevalence of associations related to unfair employment and buying grades further reinforces the perception that corruption undermines equal opportunities and social justice. Furthermore, a significant share of respondents associate corruption with bribery, nepotism and political influ-

Graph 6: Associations with the term “corruption”



ence, reinforcing the perception of corruption as a systemic and structural problem. Young people demonstrate a clear understanding of the link between corruption and the functioning of public administration, employment practices and resource allocation.

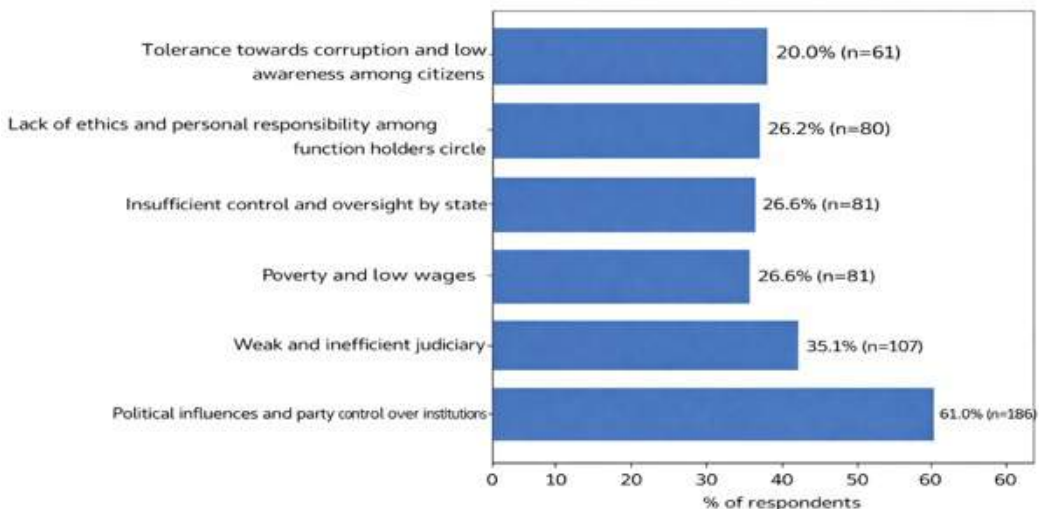
This indicates that corruption is experienced primarily through everyday interactions with institutions and the education system. The distribution of responses suggests that young people do not view corruption solely as a legal offense, but as a broad social phenomenon that violates fairness, equality of opportunity and institutional trust. This finding is particularly relevant for the design of anti-corruption policies and educational programs, as it shows a strong intuitive understanding of the essence of corruption among young people.

Overall, young people hold a broad definition of corruption, reflecting moral sensitivity, but also indicating that corruption is perceived as widespread and normalized.

4.4. Causes of corruption

Data from Chart 7 show that the majority of young people identify political influence and partisanship of institutions as the main cause of corruption, cited by 61.0% of respondents. The second most frequently mentioned cause is a weak and inefficient judiciary, selected by 35.1% of respondents. Approximately one quarter of respondents cite insufficient state control and supervision (26.6%), poverty and low incomes (26.6%), and lack of ethics and personal responsibility among function holders circle (26.2%) as contributing factors. The smallest proportion of respondents (20.0%) believe that corruption stems from tolerance toward corruption and low public awareness.

Graph 7: Reasons for the emergence of corruption



These results indicate that young people primarily perceive corruption as a systemic and politically driven problem rather than a consequence of individual moral failure. The dominance of political influence and institutional partisanship reflects strong distrust in the autonomy and professionalism of public institutions. The high share of responses related to judicial inefficiency further reinforces this perception, as young people recognize weak accountability and impunity as mechanisms that sustain and reproduce corruption. This suggests that, from the perspective of young people, the core issue lies not only in the existence of corruption, but in the absence of effective institutional responses. Economic and individual factors such as poverty or personal ethics are less emphasized, indicating that young people do not primarily justify corruption through personal or economic hardship. Instead, corruption is understood as a result of structural weaknesses, political control and ineffective oversight mechanisms, underscoring the importance of institutional reform and depoliticization as prerequisites for its reduction.

Taken together, the findings from Charts 6 and 7 show that young people experience corruption as an institutional and political phenomenon rather than an individual moral issue. The corrupt practices most frequently identified in Chart 6 correspond directly with the causes identified in Chart 7, particularly political partisanship and weak institutional control. This reinforces the perception that corruption is structurally embedded in institutional functioning, limiting the effectiveness of individual-level preventive measures.

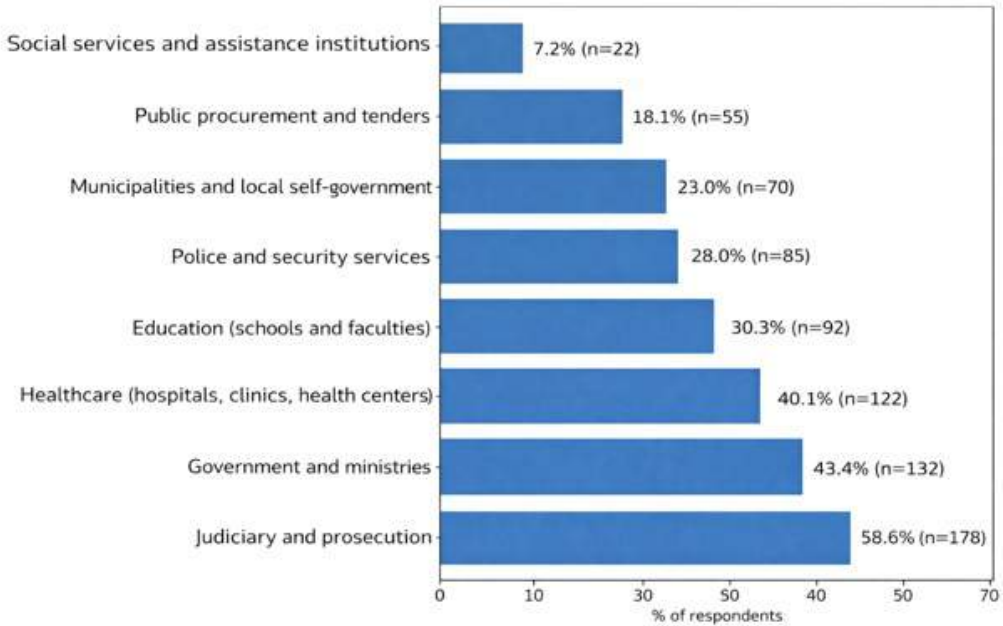
4.5. Areas where corruption is most prevalent

Data from Chart 8 show that young people perceive corruption as most prevalent in the judiciary and prosecution, cited by 58.7% of respondents. This is followed by government and ministries (43.3%) and healthcare (40.3%). A significant proportion of respondents also identify education (30.2%) and police and security services (27.9%) as areas with pronounced corruption. Smaller but still relevant shares associate corruption with municipalities and local self-government (23.0%) and with public procurement and tenders (18.0%). The lowest share of responses refers to social services and assistance institutions (7.5%).

These perceptions align with public opinion trends regularly recorded by Transparency International and the European Commission, where the judiciary consistently ranks as the sector perceived as most affected by corruption. This perception further undermines young people's sense of justice and confidence in the state. The high ranking of healthcare among the top three sectors indicates a strong sensitivity of young people to corruption in public services that directly affect everyday life.

The perception that corruption is most prevalent in the judiciary, executive branch and healthcare corresponds with findings and recommendations in the annual reports of the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption. The Commission repeatedly highlights high corruption risks related to political influence, conflicts of interest and

Graph 8: Areas where corruption is most prevalent



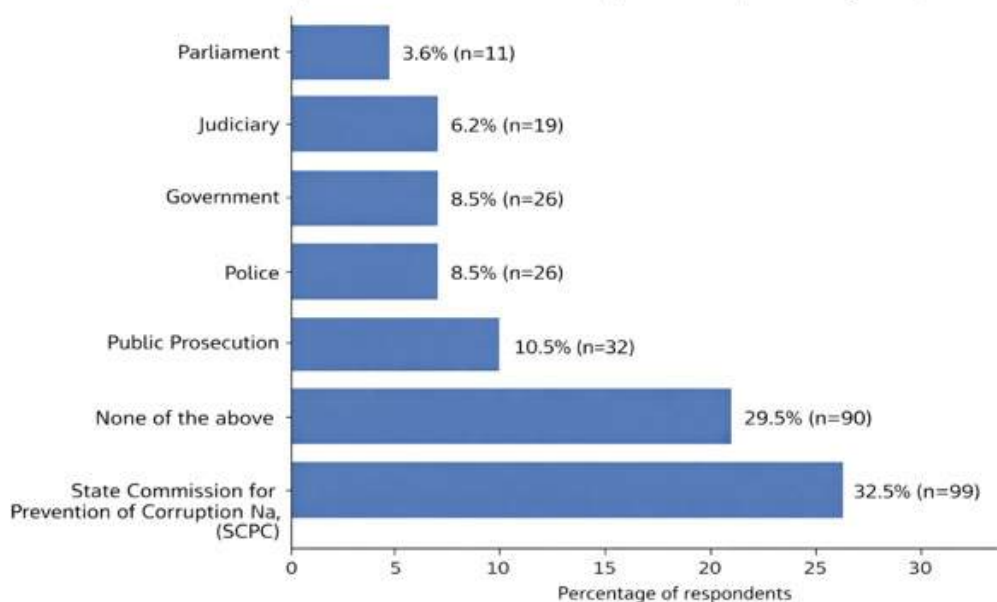
weak accountability mechanisms in these sectors. These perceptions are further supported by findings of the State Audit Office, which regularly identifies systemic weaknesses in the management of public funds, particularly in healthcare, public administration and institutions with significant discretionary power. Observations related to insufficient control, ineffective internal mechanisms and limited implementation of recommendations directly correspond to the areas that young people identify as the most problematic. In this context, youth perceptions presented in Chart 8 do not represent isolated views but are aligned with institutional assessments of national oversight bodies, reinforcing the validity of the findings.

4.6. Trust in institutions

When asked which institution they trust the most in the fight against corruption, respondents provided the following answers:

- The State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) is trusted the most – 32.5%;
- A significant proportion of respondents (29.5%) stated that they do not trust any of the listed institutions;
- Lower levels of trust are recorded for the Public Prosecutor’s Office (10.5%);
- The lowest trust is expressed toward the Police and the Government (8.5% each);
- None of the institutions stands out with a dominant level of trust.

Graph 9: Trust in institutions responsible for preventing corruption



These results reveal a pronounced deficit of institutional trust among young people, particularly toward institutions with direct responsibility for sanctioning corruption. The fact that nearly one third of respondents do not trust any institution suggests a perception of an ineffective and insufficiently credible anti-corruption system. Although the SCPC ranks highest in relative terms, this does not imply strong institutional legitimacy in absolute terms. Rather, it reflects comparative trust vis-à-vis other institutions. Young people appear to perceive the Commission as more autonomous or accessible, yet insufficiently powerful to deliver visible and systemic results without the cooperation of other institutions.

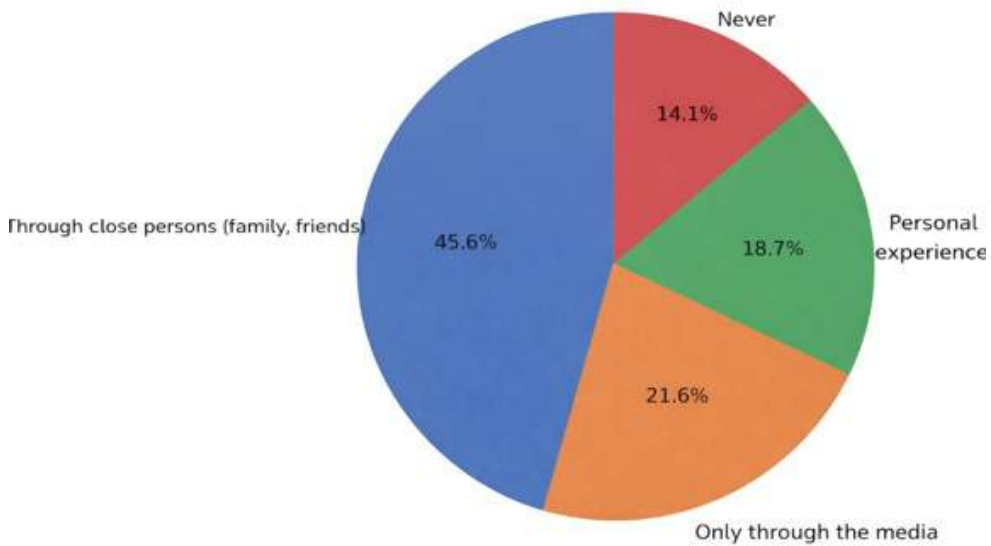
The combined findings from Charts 6 to 9 indicate that young people perceive corruption as a systemic issue linked to institutional functioning rather than as individual deviant behavior. High perceived corruption in key sectors alongside low institutional trust reinforces feelings of inefficiency and limited accountability, suggesting that meaningful anti-corruption efforts require structural and institutional interventions rather than symbolic measures.

4.7. Ways of encountering corruption

Data from Chart 10 show that the most common way young people encounter corruption is indirectly, through close people such as family members or friends, reported by 45.6% of respondents. Additionally, 21.6% state that they have encountered corruption only through the media, while 18.7% report personal experience with corruption. At the same time, 14.1% of respondents state that they have never encountered corruption.

The predominance of indirect experiences indicates that corruption is perceived as a widespread social phenomenon even when it is not personally experienced. This suggests that corruption forms part of collective narratives and shared experiences rather than being limited to individual incidents. The relatively high proportion of respondents with personal experience confirms that corruption is not an abstract or distant issue but one that directly affects some young people. The significant role of the media highlights its importance as a key source of information shaping perceptions, but may also reflect limited trust in institutional reporting mechanisms. The group reporting no experience with corruption indicates that exposure is not uniform, opening space for further analysis of factors influencing exposure, such as age, institutional contact or socio-economic context.

Graph 10: Ways of encountering corruption



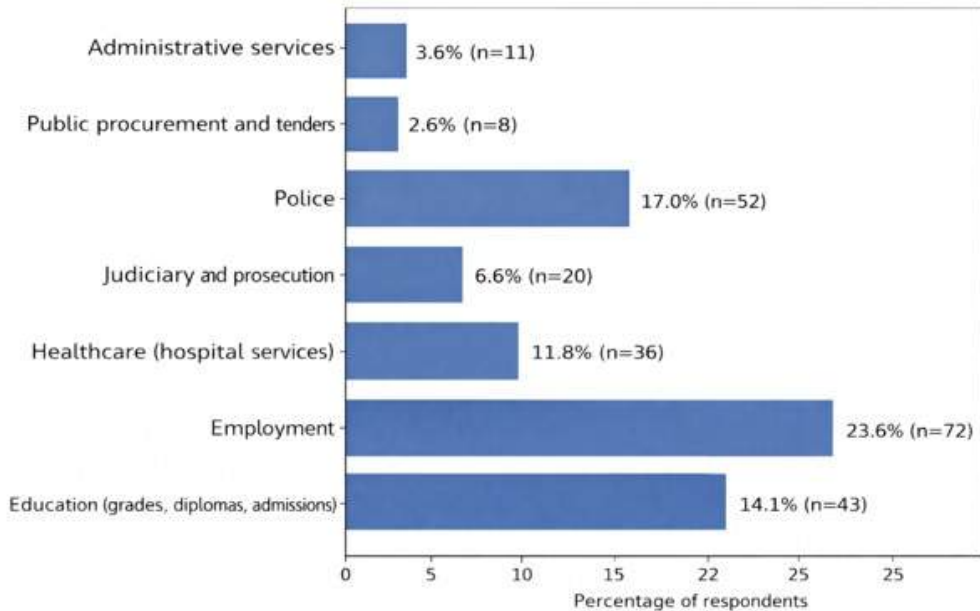
These findings are consistent with broader research trends, where corruption is often perceived as omnipresent even when not personally encountered. Indirect exposure contributes to normalization, while media coverage reinforces awareness of corruption as a pervasive social issue. This underlines the importance of prevention, trust-building and reporting mechanisms alongside sanctioning measures.

4.8. Areas in which young people have personally encountered corruption

According to data from Chart 11, young people most frequently report personal encounters with corruption in employment-related contexts, cited by 23.6% of respondents. This is followed by police interactions (17.0%), education-related corruption such as grades, diplomas and enrollment (14.1%), and healthcare services (11.8%). Ap-

proximately 9–10% of respondents report experience with corruption in the judiciary and prosecution, while public procurement, tenders and administrative services are cited by fewer than 10% of respondents.

Graph 11: Areas where youth encountered corruption



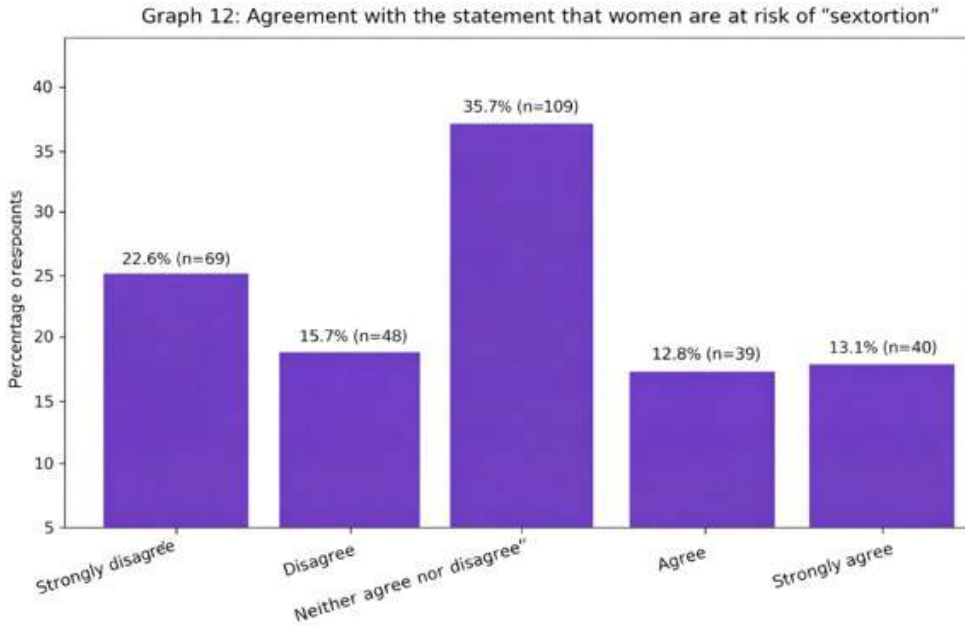
These findings indicate that young people most often encounter corruption in areas directly affecting their educational, professional and social trajectories. The dominance of employment and education underscores corruption as a barrier to equal access to opportunities and fair treatment. Corruption in healthcare, policing and the judiciary further points to risks in sectors characterized by discretionary authority and direct citizen interaction. These results confirm that corruption is experienced not only as a high-level institutional issue but as an everyday obstacle in essential services. In relation to the findings from Chart 10, Chart 11 demonstrates that personal experiences with corruption are concentrated in specific life-relevant sectors, while indirect experiences shape broader systemic perceptions. This emphasizes the need for targeted anti-corruption measures focusing on high-risk areas with direct implications for youth life chances.

4.9. Gender perspective: “Sextortion”

In response to the question “*To what extent do you agree with the following statement: ‘Women are more often exposed to the risk of so-called sexual corruption (demanding intimate services instead of money or resources)’*”, the largest proportion of respondents (35.7%) selected a neutral position, stating that they neither agree nor disagree with the statement.

At the same time, 25.9% of respondents expressed agreement with the statement, including 12.8% who agree and 13.1% who strongly agree, indicating that a notable share of young people recognize the risk of this form of corruption.

Conversely, 38.3% of respondents expressed disagreement, with 22.6% strongly disagreeing and 15.7% disagreeing, pointing to a clear division of attitudes on this issue.



These results reveal ambivalence and limited conceptual clarity regarding the phenomenon of so-called sexual corruption among young people. The high share of neutral responses suggests that many respondents have not formed a clear position on whether women are more frequently exposed to such risks, which may be linked to limited public visibility of the phenomenon and insufficient institutional recognition.

At the same time, the fact that approximately one quarter of respondents agree with the statement indicates that "sextortion" is perceived as a real risk by a significant segment of youth. This is particularly relevant given that such practices typically occur in contexts of power imbalance, where victims face substantial barriers to reporting, including fear of stigmatization, distrust in institutions and secondary victimization. The relatively high proportion of respondents who disagree may indicate that some young people primarily associate corruption with financial or material transactions, while non-material forms of abuse of power remain less recognized. This points to a conceptual gap in understanding corruption and its diverse manifestations.

The findings align with conclusions from international and regional studies identifying "sextortion" as an under-recognized and underreported form of corruption. Transparency International defines sexual corruption as the abuse of entrusted pow-

er for the purpose of obtaining sexual favors and highlights its prevalence in sectors with high discretionary authority, such as education, healthcare, policing and public administration.

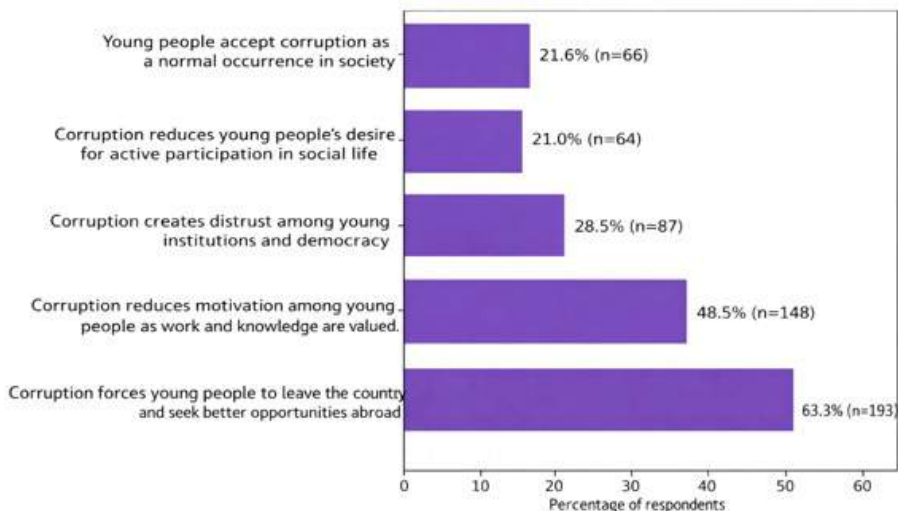
UNDP and UNODC reports further emphasize that such practices are rarely reflected in official statistics due to unclear legal definitions, weak victim protection mechanisms and low institutional trust. In this context, the divided views among young people in North Macedonia reflect broader structural challenges rather than the absence of the phenomenon itself.

Gender-sensitive analyses within rule of law and anti-corruption frameworks also indicate that women are more frequently exposed to non-material forms of abuse, particularly in situations of economic dependence or limited institutional protection. Accordingly, these findings highlight the need for systematic integration of a gender perspective into anti-corruption policies and for explicit institutional recognition of sexual corruption as a distinct risk.

4.10. Perceived effects of corruption on youth

Respondents overwhelmingly agree that corruption has a strong negative impact on young people's life decisions. The highest share of respondents (63.3%) state that corruption forces young people to leave the country in search of better opportunities abroad. Additionally, 48.5% believe corruption reduces motivation among young people because work and knowledge are not sufficiently valued. Furthermore, 28.5% of respondents indicate that corruption creates distrust in institutions and democracy, while 21.0% believe it reduces young people's willingness to actively participate in social life. A similar proportion (21.6%) state that young people accept corruption as a normal phenomenon in society.

Graph 13: Perceived effects of corruption on young people (n = 305, up to two answers possible)



These results indicate that corruption is perceived as a key structural factor shaping young people's decisions and attitudes. Emigration as the most frequently cited consequence reflects the perception of corruption as a systemic barrier to personal and professional advancement rather than a localized institutional issue.

Reduced motivation further illustrates the erosion of merit-based principles, where effort and knowledge are no longer seen as sufficient for success. This fosters a sense of injustice and weakens young people's connection to the institutional system.

The decline in trust in institutions and democracy, along with reduced civic participation, highlights broader democratic implications of corruption. Of particular concern is the acceptance of corruption as normal by a segment of young people, signaling a risk of generational normalization and long-term weakening of anti-corruption efforts.

These findings are consistent with regional and international research identifying corruption as a major driver of youth emigration, declining motivation and erosion of institutional trust across the Western Balkans.

According to Transparency International, corruption in the region is often associated with perceptions of a lack of fair opportunities, partisanship and clientelism, which particularly affects young and highly educated groups. In their regional analysis for the Western Balkans (Global Corruption Barometer – Western Balkans), young respondents in several countries state that corruption directly influences their decision to leave the country, due to the feeling that work and knowledge are not valued.

Similar findings have been observed in research on youth in South-Eastern Europe by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), where corruption is identified as a significant “push factor” for brain drain, together with low trust in institutions and limited opportunities for social mobility. These studies indicate that corruption is not perceived only as a legal or moral problem, but as a structural barrier to life progress.

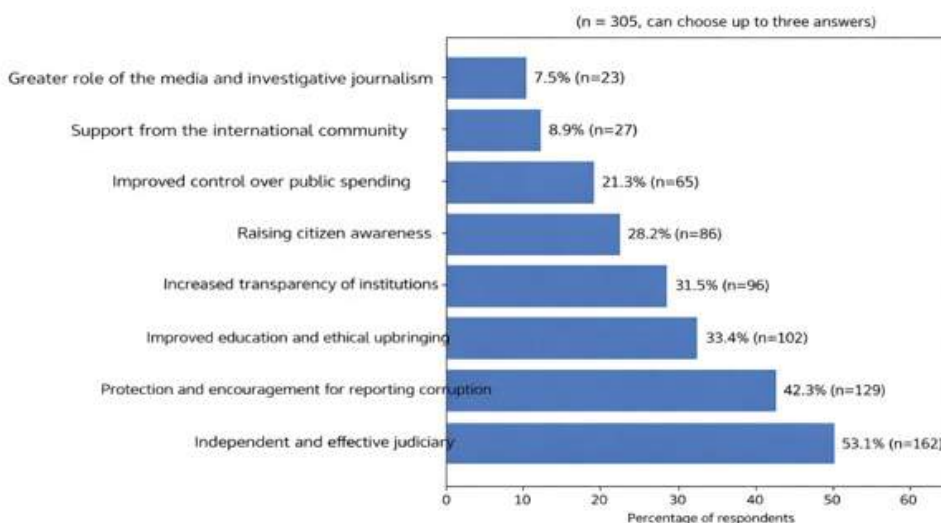
Additionally, the OECD and UNDP, in their reports on the rule of law and youth engagement in the region, emphasize that corruption contributes to reduced civic participation and political apathy among young people, which is consistent with the findings of this research on reduced desire for active participation and acceptance of corruption as a “normal phenomenon.”

In this sense, these results do not represent an isolated case, but fit into a broader regional pattern where corruption acts as a structural factor that simultaneously encourages migration, reduces motivation, and undermines institutional trust among young people.

4.11. Most effective measures to reduce corruption

A majority of respondents (53.1%) identify an independent and efficient judiciary as the most important measure for reducing corruption. This is followed by protection and encouragement of whistleblowers (42.3%), reflecting strong support for reporting mechanisms and safeguards against retaliation. Further, 33.4% of respondents emphasize the importance of education and ethical upbringing, while 31.5% highlight increased institutional transparency. Awareness-raising among citizens is cited by 28.2%, and stronger control over public spending by 21.3% of respondents. The lowest levels of support are recorded for international community involvement (8.9%) and a greater role for media and investigative journalism (7.5%).

Graph 14: Perceived most effective measures for reducing corruption



These findings demonstrate that young people place primary emphasis on internal institutional reforms rather than external support. The central role assigned to judicial independence reflects the perception that corruption persists primarily due to impunity and selective justice.

High support for whistleblower protection underscores awareness of fear of retaliation as a major barrier to exposing corruption. At the same time, the importance attributed to education, transparency and awareness highlights recognition of corruption as a cultural and value-based issue, not solely a legal one. The comparatively low emphasis on media and international actors may indicate skepticism regarding their effectiveness in the absence of genuine domestic political will and institutional reform.

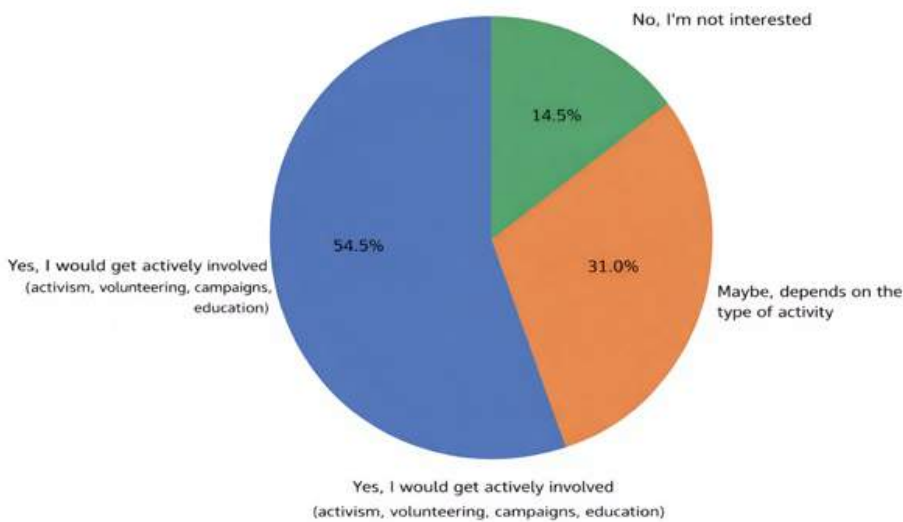
These results align with regional studies showing that citizens in the Western Balkans place greatest expectations on judicial reform and accountability mechanisms, while external support is viewed as secondary unless accompanied by internal change.

4.12. Willingness to engage in activities

The data reveal a high level of willingness among young people to engage in anti-corruption activities. More than half of respondents (54.5%) state that they would actively participate in activities such as activism, volunteering, campaigns or educational initiatives.

An additional 31.0% indicate conditional willingness, depending on the type of activity, while only 14.5% state that they are not interested in such engagement.

Graph 15: Willingness of young people to participate in activities to combat corruption (n = 303)



These results demonstrate that despite low levels of institutional trust and recognition of corruption's negative impacts, **young people exhibit substantial potential for civic engagement and mobilization**. The high proportion of respondents ready to actively participate **indicates a strong foundation for youth-driven anti-corruption initiatives**.

Conditional willingness suggests the **need for activities that are relevant, practical and clearly structured, with visible outcomes and clearly defined roles for participants**. The relatively small share of uninterested respondents confirms that apathy is not predominant; rather, distrust is directed mainly toward institutions, not toward engagement itself.

Overall, the findings from Sections 4.10–4.12 show that young people clearly recognize the consequences of corruption, have defined views on priority measures for its reduction and, most importantly, demonstrate readiness to personally contribute to anti-corruption efforts. This indicates a solid basis for developing sustainable, youth-centered anti-corruption initiatives if they are well designed and adequately supported.

4.13. Connections between key findings

This section presents a selective cross-analysis of survey results in order to examine whether there are observable differences in the perceptions, experiences and attitudes of young people depending on their demographic and status characteristics. The cross-analysis is indicative in nature and serves to deepen interpretation of previously presented findings, without applying statistical tests.

4.13.1. Age and self-assessment of knowledge about corruption

The cross-analysis by age category indicates that older respondents (19–22 and 23–26 years) more frequently assess their knowledge of corruption with higher scores (4 and 5) compared to the youngest group (16–18 years), which is dominated by medium or lower self-assessments. This finding is expected and suggests that increased age, educational experience and institutional exposure contribute to greater awareness and understanding of corruption as a social and institutional problem. At the same time, the results indicate that the youngest age group represents a critical target for early educational interventions.

4.13.2. Gender and attitudes toward “sexual corruption” (sextortion)

The cross-analysis by gender reveals differences in attitudes toward the risk of so-called sexual corruption. Female respondents more frequently agree with the statement that women are more often exposed to such risks, while male respondents show a higher share of disagreement or neutral positions. This suggests that personal and social experiences, as well as gender positioning, influence the perception of non-material forms of corruption. The differences do not indicate polarization, but rather varying levels of sensitivity and recognition, underscoring the need for gender-sensitive approaches in anti-corruption education.

4.13.3. Place of residence and trust in institutions

When responses are compared by place of residence, moderate differences emerge in levels of institutional trust. Respondents from smaller cities (Strumica and Gostivar) more frequently express trust in certain institutions, while respondents from Skopje more often report no trust in any institution. This may be linked to more frequent and direct interaction with central institutions in the capital, potentially leading to heightened criticism and skepticism. The finding suggests that perceptions of institutional efficiency vary across urban contexts.

4.13.4. Personal experience with corruption and areas of exposure

A cross-analysis between modes of experiencing corruption (personal versus indirect) and sectors of exposure shows that personal experience is most commonly linked to employment, policing and education. Respondents who encounter corruption indirectly through close contacts are more likely to cite broader institutional areas such

as the judiciary or public administration. This indicates that direct experience among young people is concentrated in specific, life-relevant situations, while indirect exposure contributes to broader perceptions of systemic prevalence.

4.13.5. Respondents' status and perceived effects of corruption

By current status, students and employed respondents more frequently identify corruption as a factor driving emigration and institutional distrust, while high school students more often emphasize reduced motivation and the perception that work and knowledge are undervalued. This suggests that perceived effects of corruption vary according to life stage and degree of exposure to labor market and institutional procedures. The finding reinforces the link between corruption and youth life decisions, particularly regarding future residence in the country or emigration.



SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

This chapter synthesizes the main findings of the survey conducted among young people in order to provide a clear overview of their awareness, perceptions and personal or indirect experiences related to corruption, as well as their views on institutional trust, effective measures and willingness to engage in anti-corruption activities. The findings are presented through percentage indicators and thematic interpretations, emphasizing their connection to broader institutional and social contexts.

The survey predominantly covers **youth of secondary school age (16–18 years: 69%), with balanced gender representation (51.8% women; 47.5% men)**. Most respondents reside in **Skopje (50%), followed by Strumica (26%) and Gostivar (23%)**. By current status, **high school students dominate (68.9%), followed by university students (14.4%) and employed respondents (10.5%)**. These characteristics indicate that perceptions largely stem from young people who are in the education system and at a formative stage of value development.

Regarding awareness, young people most often assess **their knowledge of corruption at an average level**. The most common **rating is 3 out of 5 (45.9%)**, with an **average score of 3.04**, while high confidence in knowledge remains limited (**score 5: 8.9%**). This suggests that corruption is recognized as a concept and problem, but that systematic understanding of mechanisms, institutional competencies and reporting channels is lacking.

When hearing the term “corruption,” respondents most frequently associate it with **abuse of power and position (47.2%), buying grades (36.1%) and unfair employment or entry into public administration (29.2%)**. These associations frame corruption as an issue of **fairness, merit and equal opportunity**. **Political influence and institutional partisanship (61.0%)** and an **inefficient judiciary (35.1%)** dominate as perceived causes, reinforcing the view of corruption as a **structural and politically driven problem rather than an individual moral failing**.

In terms of sectors, respondents most frequently identify the **judiciary and prosecution (58.7%), government and ministries (43.3%) and healthcare (40.3%)** as areas with the highest prevalence of corruption. **Education (30.2%) and police and security services (27.9%)** are also frequently mentioned. These perceptions are mirrored in institutional trust levels: the **SCPC is trusted the most (32.5%)**, yet nearly the same proportion (**29.5%**) expresses no trust in any institution, **indicating a significant credibility deficit in the anti-corruption system**.

Experience with corruption is most often **indirect**, through close contacts (**45.6%**), though a meaningful share reports **personal experience (18.7%)**, while 21.6% associate corruption primarily with media reporting. Personal encounters most frequently occur in **employment (23.6%)**, **policing (17.0%)**, **education (14.1%)** and **healthcare (11.8%)**, underscoring corruption's impact on areas directly affecting youth life chances.

Gender-related perceptions of “sexual corruption” reveal divided views: most respondents remain **neutral (35.7%)**, while **25.9% agree** and **38.3% disagree**. This reflects limited clarity and visibility of the concept and highlights the need for careful, educational and institutionally sensitive approaches.

Regarding effects, corruption is most strongly associated with **emigration (63.3%)** and **reduced motivation (48.5%)**, while significant shares also recognize its role in **eroding trust in institutions and democracy (28.5%)**, encouraging **normalization (21.6%)** and **reducing civic engagement (21.0%)**. Despite these negative effects, **young people demonstrate strong engagement potential: 54.5%** would actively participate in anti-corruption activities, and **31.0% express conditional willingness**. This indicates substantial scope for practical initiatives if appropriately designed and youth-centered.

With regard to effective measures, respondents prioritize an **independent and efficient judiciary (53.1%)** and **whistleblower protection (42.3%)**, followed by **education and ethical development (33.4%)**, **transparency (31.5%)** and **awareness-raising (28.2%)**. These preferences highlight expectations for **domestic institutional reform and accountability** rather than symbolic or externally driven interventions.

Overall, the findings indicate that young people in North Macedonia possess a developed awareness of corruption as a systemic and institutional problem that directly affects motivation, trust and life decisions. While perceptions and experiences vary by age, gender, residence and status, a shared concern is dissatisfaction with institutional performance and fairness. At the same time, young people are not passive observers; despite distrust and negative impacts, they show strong readiness to engage. This underscores the need for systemic, institutional and educational interventions that strengthen trust, prevent normalization of corruption and harness youth potential as a key resource in sustainable anti-corruption efforts.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of the findings shows that young people perceive corruption as a systemic problem linked to political influence, inefficient institutions and compromised fairness, which directly affects their motivation, trust and life decisions. Corruption is not experienced as an isolated or individual act, but as a structural phenomenon that limits equality of opportunity, undermines institutional legitimacy and contributes to the normalization of unfair practices.

At the same time, the results demonstrate that young people are not indifferent to the problem. Despite expressed distrust in institutions, there is clear readiness for engagement and strong expectations for substantive change, particularly in the areas of judicial independence, whistleblower protection and education. This creates a solid basis for the recommendations presented below, which focus on institutional reform, preventive and educational measures, and activation of youth potential in addressing corruption as a long-term societal challenge rather than through ad hoc or symbolic interventions.

6.1. Recommendations for institutions (central and local government)

6.1.1. Depoliticization and strengthening of institutional autonomy

Given that young people most frequently associate corruption with political influence, partisanship and an inefficient judiciary, institutions should prioritize genuine depoliticization of decision-making processes. This requires clear, transparent and verifiable procedures for recruitment, promotion and allocation of public resources, particularly in public administration, education, healthcare and policing. The perception that institutions operate under political influence directly undermines trust and reinforces the normalization of corruption among young people.

6.1.2. Focus on institutions with direct contact with young people

Findings show that young people most often encounter corruption in areas that directly shape their educational and professional trajectories, such as education, employment, policing and healthcare. Institutions should develop targeted anti-corruption measures in these sectors, including standardized procedures, clear timelines, reduced discretionary power and effective complaint mechanisms.

6.1.3. Restoring trust through visible and understandable results

The fact that a substantial proportion of young people do not trust any institution responsible for fighting corruption indicates that formal institutional existence alone is insufficient. Institutions must produce visible, understandable and publicly communicated results. Clear information on concrete cases, outcomes and sanctions is essential to reduce perceptions of impunity and strengthen institutional credibility.

6.2. Recommendations for the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC)

6.2.1. Strengthening the preventive and educational role

Although the SCPC enjoys the highest level of trust relative to other institutions, this trust remains limited in absolute terms. The Commission should further strengthen its preventive role through systematic education of young people on corruption, its manifestations and reporting mechanisms. Particular emphasis should be placed on non-material and less visible forms of corruption, which young people often find difficult to recognize.

6.2.2. Clear and transparent communication with the public

Distrust among young people often stems from the perception that reports do not lead to tangible outcomes. The SCPC should therefore enhance transparency through regular, clear and youth-friendly communication on its procedures, competencies, limitations and results, explaining its role within the broader institutional framework.

6.3. Recommendations for educational institutions

6.3.1. Systematic anti-corruption education

The average level of self-assessed knowledge among young people highlights a gap between recognition of corruption and understanding of its mechanisms. Educational institutions should systematically integrate anti-corruption education, ethics and civic responsibility into curricula, focusing on real-life situations young people encounter, such as grading, enrollment and employment.

6.3.2. Safe and reliable reporting mechanisms

Since education is one of the areas where young people directly encounter corruption, schools and universities should establish clear, reliable and functional reporting channels that protect students from stigmatization or retaliation.

6.4. Recommendations for young people and youth organizations

6.4.1. Activating young people as actors, not only beneficiaries

While trust in institutions is low, the research demonstrates a high level of readiness among young people to engage in anti-corruption efforts. This gap between distrust and willingness indicates that young people are critical rather than apathetic. Youth policies and programs should therefore treat young people as active actors in anti-corruption processes, not merely as recipients of campaigns or messages.

6.4.2. Development of local youth anti-corruption initiatives

Since corruption experiences are often linked to local institutions, youth organizations should develop locally based initiatives, including debates, youth forums, civic actions and tools for monitoring transparency at the local level, addressing corruption where young people experience it most directly.

6.4.3. Peer-to-peer education and strengthening critical thinking

The average level of knowledge and the prevalence of neutral attitudes on issues such as sexual corruption indicate the need for alternative educational approaches. Youth organizations should invest in peer-to-peer education models using real examples, discussions and simulations to improve recognition of corruption and reduce its normalization.

6.4.4. Creating safe spaces for reporting and discussion

While some young people have personal or indirect experiences with corruption, distrust in institutional reporting remains high. Youth organizations can act as intermediaries by creating safe and confidential spaces for discussion, counseling and referral, enabling young people to share experiences without fear of stigma or repercussions.

6.4.5. Linking corruption to issues relevant to young people

Young people associate corruption with emigration, reduced motivation and unfair opportunities. Anti-corruption activities should therefore connect the topic to employment, education, social justice and the future of the country, rather than treating corruption as an abstract legal concept.

6.5. Recommendations for the civil society sector

6.5.1. Strengthening analytical and monitoring roles

Civil society organizations should continue systematic monitoring of corruption risks, particularly in sectors identified by young people as most problematic. Evidence-based analysis can complement youth perceptions and strengthen public pressure for reform.

6.5.2. Translating institutional processes into accessible language

A key challenge identified is the perception that institutional processes are complex and inaccessible. Civil society organizations can play an important role in translating laws, procedures and institutional mandates into clear and understandable formats for young audiences.

6.5.3. Strengthening cooperation with educational and youth structures

Closer cooperation with schools, universities and youth organizations is essential to ensure that anti-corruption activities become part of a broader educational and social framework rather than isolated projects.

6.5.4. Protection of public interest and support for whistleblowers

Given strong youth support for whistleblower protection, civil society organizations should continue providing legal, advisory and psychosocial support to individuals reporting corruption, especially young people who often face greater vulnerability.

6.6. Recommendations for the media

6.6.1. Responsible and contextualized reporting

As many young people experience corruption primarily through media coverage, responsible and analytical reporting is crucial. Media outlets should avoid sensationalism and contribute to deeper understanding of systemic corruption, including sensitive issues such as sexual corruption and abuse of power.

6.7. Recommendations for international donors and organizations

6.7.1. Support for long-term and structural interventions

International partners should prioritize long-term and sustainable programs that strengthen domestic institutions, education and youth participation rather than short-term activities. Support should focus on capacity building, institutional coordination and youth inclusion as active actors, not merely beneficiaries.

6.8. General recommendation

From the perspective of young people, corruption is not an isolated or random issue but a systemic phenomenon shaping attitudes, life decisions and trust in society. At the same time, young people demonstrate readiness for engagement and change. Institutional responses should recognize this readiness as a resource and create conditions in which integrity, knowledge and effort are valued and corruption is not perceived as normal or inevitable. A paradigm shift is required – from “fighting corruption” to “building a culture of integrity.” Young people should be not only a target group but also creators and drivers of solutions. Without their active role, reforms will remain institutionally limited.

Action plan for implementation of recommendations

Key finding	Recommendation	Specific activities (sub-actions)	Lead actors	Success indicators	Time frame
Youth associate corruption with political influence and partisanship	Depoliticization and strengthening of institutional autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparent recruitment procedures Public promotion criteria Reduction of discretionary power 	Central and local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly available procedures Reduced number of complaints 	Medium-term
Low trust in institutions and perception of impunity	Visible and communicated results in the fight against corruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public reporting on outcomes Clear explanation of institutional competencies and limitations 	Government, Public Prosecutor's Office, judiciary, SCPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular public reports Improved public awareness 	Continuous
SCPC has relatively the highest trust but limited capacity	Strengthening the preventive and educational role of SCPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth-oriented educational programs Clear and accessible reporting guidelines 	SCPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of educational activities Increased youth awareness 	Short- to medium-term
Average level of knowledge and insufficient understanding of mechanisms	Systematic anti-corruption education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration into curricula Practical examples and simulations 	Educational institutions, Ministry of Education and Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-corruption content included Trained teaching staff 	Medium-term
Education and employment as high-risk areas	Safe reporting mechanisms in education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anonymous reporting channels Clear action protocols 	Schools, universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional reporting mechanisms Protected reporters 	Short-term
High readiness of young people for engagement	Activating youth as stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth clubs Local anti-corruption actions 	Youth organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of initiatives Youth participation rates 	Continuous
Indirect experience and normalization of corruption	Peer-to-peer education and critical thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Youth for youth" workshops Public discussions 	Youth and civil society organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trainings Improved recognition of corruption 	Short-term
Distrust in institutional reporting channels	Safe spaces for dialogue and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counseling services Referral to institutions 	Civil society organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of services Referred cases 	Medium-term
Institutional processes perceived as complex	"Translation" of policies and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplified guides Infographics 	Civil society organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available materials Outreach to youth 	Short-term
Corruption strongly experienced through media	Responsible and analytical media reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contextualized reporting Avoidance of sensationalism 	Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved quality of reporting Public debate 	Continuous
Corruption as a driver of emigration and apathy	Support for long-term structural programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building Institutional coordination 	International donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable programs Local ownership 	Long-term

Call to action

The findings of this research clearly demonstrate that young people in North Macedonia recognize corruption as a systemic problem that directly shapes their life decisions, trust in institutions and sense of belonging to society. At the same time, the results show that young people are not apathetic but ready for engagement and change, provided that real conditions, support and visible outcomes exist.

Therefore, the fight against corruption cannot be reduced to declarative commitments or isolated measures. A coordinated, long-term and inclusive approach is required—one in which institutions demonstrate political will and accountability, the education system invests in values and knowledge, civil society provides oversight and support, the media report responsibly, and international partners invest in sustainable solutions.

Young people should not be treated merely as a target group, but as key partners in anti-corruption processes. Investing in their awareness, integrity and participation is an investment in the democratic future of society. Any delay in essential reforms increases the risk of corruption becoming normalized and of losing valuable youth potential. It is time to translate research findings into concrete, measurable and sustainable action.



ANNEXES

7.1. Survey: Youth perceptions of corruption

This questionnaire is conducted within the framework of the project “**Next Generation Against Corruption: A Youth-Led Response**”, supported by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). The survey aims to assess the knowledge, attitudes, experiences and readiness of young people (15–26 years old) to address corruption in society.

The survey is completely anonymous, and all responses will be processed exclusively as aggregated data. The results will be used to develop recommendations and activities for policymakers, institutions and civil society organizations aimed at preventing corruption.

Your participation is voluntary, and your opinion is of particular importance for strengthening youth participation in building a corruption-free society.

1. What age group do you belong to?

- 16–18 years old
- 19–22 years old
- 23–26 years old

2. Your gender:

- Male
- Female
- I do not want to answer

3. Your place of residence:

- Skopje
- Gostivar
- Strumica
- Other: _____

4. Your current status:

- High school student
- Student
- Employed
- Unemployed
- Other: _____

5. How would you rate your knowledge about corruption? (Rate on a scale of 1 to 5)

- 1 (I have no knowledge at all)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (I have excellent knowledge)

6. When you hear the word “corruption”, what comes to mind the most? (Choose up to 3 answers)

- *Abuse of power and position (using a position for personal gain)*
- *Unfair tenders and public procurement*
- *Unfair employment and entry into public administration*
- *Buying grades, diplomas or certificates*
- *Favoritism / nepotism (privileging friends or relatives)*
- *Manipulations in the judiciary (convictions/acquittals under political or personal influence)*
- *Bribery for administrative services (giving money/services to resolve a matter faster)*
- *All of the above*
- *None of the above*

7. In your opinion, what are the most important causes of corruption? (Choose up to 2 answers)

- *Political influence and partisanship of institutions*
- *Weak and inefficient judiciary / impunity*
- *Poverty and low incomes*
- *Lack of ethics and personal responsibility among office holders*
- *Insufficient state control and supervision*
- *Tolerance toward corruption and low awareness among citizens*
- Other: _____

8. In which areas of society, in your opinion, is corruption most prevalent? (Choose up to 3 answers)

- Judiciary and prosecution
- Government and ministries
- Municipalities and local self-government
- Healthcare (hospitals, clinics, health centers)
- Education (schools, universities)
- Police and security services
- Public procurement and tenders
- Social services and assistance institutions
- Other: _____

9. In which of the following institutions that have a legal obligation to prevent and sanction corruption do you have the most trust?

- Judiciary
- Public Prosecutor's Office
- Police
- State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC)
- Government
- Parliament
- None of the above
- Other: _____

10. In what way have you encountered corruption so far?

- Personal experience
- Through close people (family, friends)
- Only through the media
- Never

11. If you have encountered corruption (personally or through close people), in which area was it?

- Education (grades, diplomas, enrollment)
- Employment (competitions, entry into public administration)
- Healthcare (services in hospitals, clinics)
- Judiciary and prosecution
- Police and security services
- Public procurement and tenders
- Municipal and administrative services
- Other: _____

12. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: “Women are more often exposed to the risk of so-called ‘sexual corruption’ (demanding intimate services instead of money or resources).”

(Rate on a scale of 1 to 5)

- 1 (Strongly disagree)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Strongly agree)

13. Which of the following statements do you agree with the most? *(Choose up to 2 answers)*

- Corruption reduces motivation among young people because work and knowledge are not valued.
- Corruption forces young people to leave the country and seek better opportunities abroad.
- Corruption creates distrust among young people in institutions and democracy.
- Corruption reduces the desire of young people to actively participate in social life.
- Young people accept corruption as a normal occurrence in society.

14. In your opinion, which measures would be most effective for reducing corruption in the country? *(Choose up to 3 answers)*

- Independent and efficient judiciary
- Increased transparency of institutions
- Better control over public spending
- Protection and encouragement of whistleblowers
- Better education and ethical education
- Greater role of the media and investigative journalism
- Support from the international community
- Raising awareness among citizens
- Other: _____

15. Are you interested in getting involved in activities that would contribute to the fight against corruption?

- Yes, I would be actively involved (activism, volunteering, campaigns, education)
- Maybe, it depends on the type of activity
- No, I am not interested

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