

# **THE PUBLIC IN SERBIA ON POLICE**

Results of the 2018 Public Opinion Survey



Published with the support of the European Union within the program “Civil Society Facility” for networks of civil society organizations.

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### **Publisher**

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## SUMMARY

Trust in the police has been growing in parallel with the perception of corruption and the impression that the work of the police is politicised. Six out of ten citizens trust the police (61%), which positions this Serbian institution at the world average: between 60 and 90 percent. At the same time, seven out of ten citizens believe that police officers are corrupt (69%), while three quarters are convinced that their interests are subordinated to those of politics (72%). The high level of politicisation and perception of corruption in the police obviously does not affect the population's trust in this institution, which indicates that citizens are either accustomed to the general presence of corruption or that they do not view trust as something that should exclude the presence of corruption and the influence of politics on the operational work of the police.

A part of the population perceives the police as a service of the citizens, while twice as many respondents believe that they operate in this capacity the least. For the third year in a row, and without any fluctuation, one third of the respondents stated the view that the police operate as a service of the citizens (37%), while this year was marked by a slight increase in the percentage of those that believe that the police act the most to protect the interests of the Government and the political parties. Such a view was expressed by every fourth citizen of Serbia. Six out of ten respondents (60%) believe that the police operate as a service to the citizens the least, which represents an increase of six percent compared to the year 2017.

In Serbia, the dominant perception is that of widespread corruption. Only three of the twelve offered institutions have recorded a perception of corruption that is below 50 percent, while the health services, police, judiciary and media are at the top of the list when it comes to how corrupt they are perceived to be. In such an environment, corruption – which is clearly a negative phenomenon – becomes transformed into something that is considered normal, and the prevailing justification seems to be that “the system has forced me into corruption”. The consequence of such a view is the absence of liability for corruptive behaviour, which affects the sense of safety of more than two thirds of the citizens. Therefore, it should not be surprising that, when it comes to safety, citizens depend on themselves more than they do on state institutions. Only one in four would rely on the police to protect him/her.

Citizens of Central Serbia trust the police more, are more confident that the police would protect them, and feel much safer than the population of the city of Belgrade and the province of Vojvodina. Gender differences almost do not exist, and only minimal differences can be noted in answers provided to a few questions. Men feel safer than women, which is common for many countries in the world. In terms of security, women rely on themselves more than men do, while men believe that the police are politicised more than women do.

Traditionally, and for the fourth year in a row, traffic policemen are perceived as the most corrupt segment of the force. Three out of four citizens believe that members of the traffic police are corrupt. In the last four years there has been a negative trend in the growth of perception of corruption in the traffic and criminal police, while corruption in the border police, administrative affairs and special units has experienced a positive tendency, i.e. reduction in perception.

Citizens still do not see concrete and tangible results of the fight against corruption in the police, but they are nevertheless slightly optimistic. Every other citizen of Serbia believes that the state is fighting corruption in the police, but that it is not doing it the right way, while a

quarter of the population is convinced that the state is not doing anything at all to fight this form of corruption. Nevertheless, one third of the citizens still believe that, in the future, the fight will proceed somewhat better in comparison with the current state of affairs. According to the citizens, the winning formula would include strict sanctioning of corruption and the leadership by the internal control of the police.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

The fourth round of public opinion polls dealing with the citizens' views on safety, police and corruption has been conducted in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo.

The questionnaire on the basis of which the survey was carried out was designed by the POINTPULSE regional network, with the aim to offer replies that would show the citizens' opinions concerning six groups of questions:

1. Their sense of safety;
2. Their level of confidence in twelve anti-corruption institutions;
3. Their perception of the police as an institution;
4. Their perception of corruption in the society and the police;
5. Their views on the fight against corruption in the police;
6. The demographics.

Field research in Serbia was performed in August 2018 by IPSOS Strategic Marketing, on a representative sample of 1008 adults – male and female citizens of Serbia.

A questionnaire was used as a research instrument. Citizens were interviewed face-to-face, which implies direct contact with the respondent.

## SENSE OF SAFETY / SECURITY

At the beginning of the report, it will be discussed the subjective sense of safety among the citizens and the contribution of the police to the impression. A sense of security is the result of the interpretation of immediate experiences of individuals and groups, as well as the interpretation of messages that individuals receive from the police and other security sector institutions and their leaders.<sup>1</sup> The sense of safety is researched because it is one of the basic human needs, which has been sought in different places throughout history – from the family and the local community, to the state.

### Citizens are self-confident and therefore feel safe

The majority of the citizens of Serbia do feel safe, but believe that the police and other state authorities have not significantly contributed to that impression. Such an opinion is not a positive thing, because citizens are paying the police and other security sector institutions to maintain and improve their safety and security. Additionally, the sense of safety has increased by only five percent over the past six years, which is not a trend that shows any great progress.<sup>2</sup>

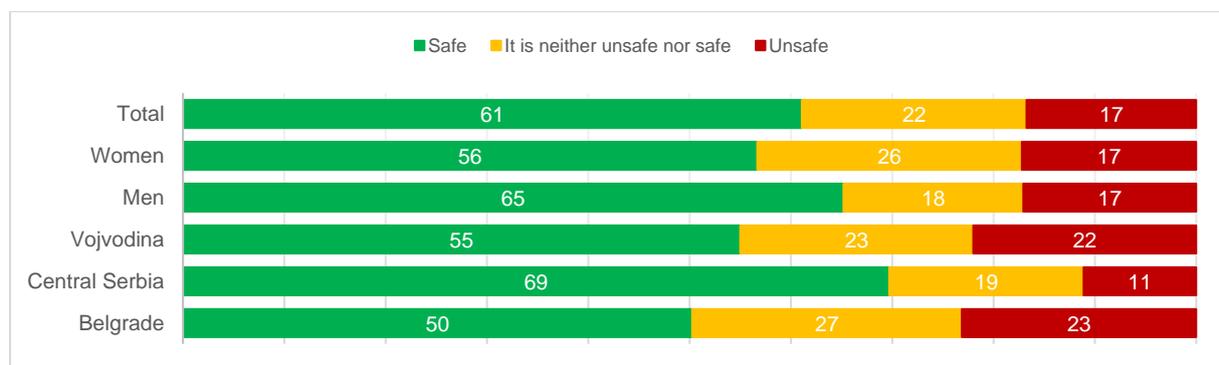
Chart 1: Comparative presentation of the sense of safety in Serbia, by year (%)



A little over 60% of Serbian citizens feel safe in their country, almost every fifth (19%) citizen feels completely safe, while 41% of them believe that they are mostly safe. Close to a quarter of the respondents (22%) had no clear position about their own sense of safety/security, finding Serbia to be “neither safe nor unsafe”.

Nearly one fifth of the respondents feel unsafe in Serbia – seven percent feel highly unsafe, while ten percent feel mostly unsafe.

Chart 2: Sense of safety in Serbia, by gender and regions (%)



<sup>1</sup> Hartley, Ian (2006). The importance of public opinion in creating a security and defence policy. In Hadžić, Miroslav and Timotić, Milorad, *The Public and the Army* (pp. 11-22). Belgrade: Centre for Civil-Military Relations.

<sup>2</sup> Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (2012, October 30). What are we afraid of and who is protecting us?

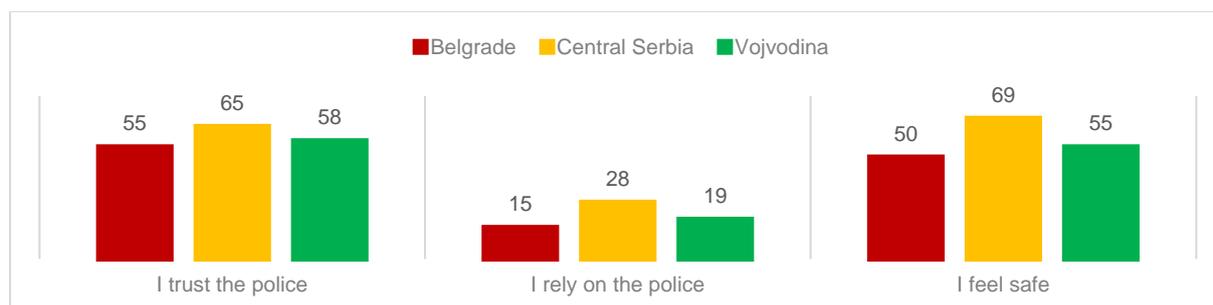
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[http://www.bezbednost.org/upload/document/cega\\_se\\_plasimo\\_i\\_ko\\_nas\\_stiti.pdf](http://www.bezbednost.org/upload/document/cega_se_plasimo_i_ko_nas_stiti.pdf)

Men feel safer than women do, which is a common occurrence in a significant number of countries in the world. Additionally, eight percent more women believe that Serbia is “neither safe nor unsafe”, which may be interpreted to mean that safety of women in the country is somewhat more precarious than that of the opposite gender.

The perceptions of trust and confidence in the police, reliance on the police, and the sense of safety in Serbia coincide when the issue is viewed from the standpoint of geographic regions. Hence, the level of trust and confidence in the police, reliance on the police to provide protection, and the sense of safety is the highest in Central Serbia, and the lowest in Belgrade.

Chart 3: Trust in the police, reliance on the police, and the sense of safety, by region (%)

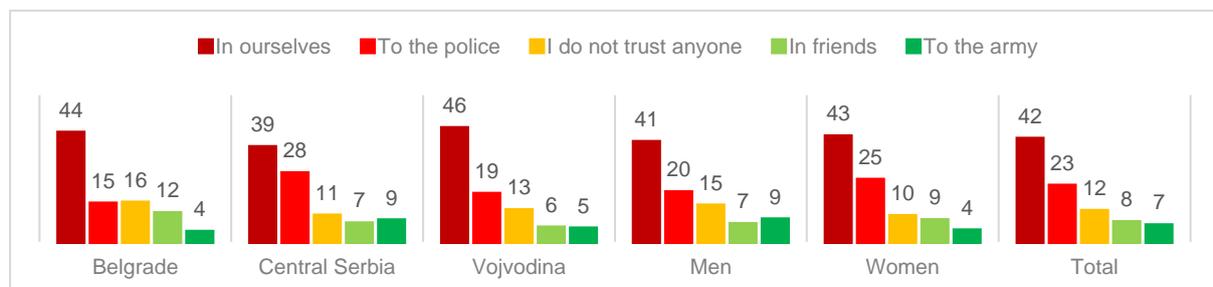


Four out of ten citizens (42%) believe that they themselves would have to protect their own safety and the safety of their families. The police are in the second place – a quarter of the citizens (23%) would rely on their assistance in case of need. It is interesting that only 7% of citizens rely on the army for protection, especially in view of the fact that it is quite often communicated to the public that the armed forces of Serbia are the guarantor of the security of the state.

Women rely on themselves more than men do, but they also rely on the police force influencing their safety. Every fifth woman and every fourth man expects the police to protect him/her. Men are somewhat less trusting when it comes to safety than women – 15 percent of men, as well as 10 percent of women, do not believe that anyone would protect their safety.

Six years ago, citizens shared similar views. Most citizens did feel safe, but only 5 percent thought that the feeling was the result of the good work of state authorities. Six years ago, citizens also relied primarily on themselves for safety.<sup>3</sup>

Chart 4: Who is perceived as the protector of the citizens’ safety, by gender and region (%)



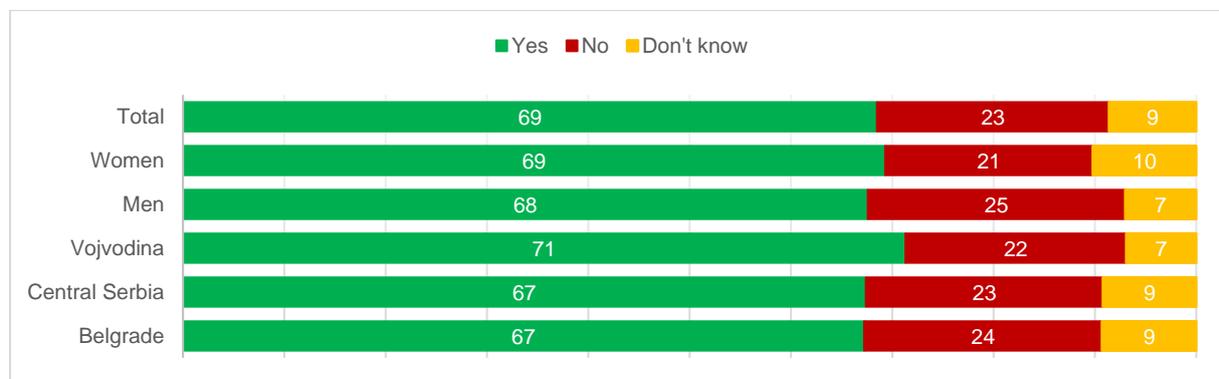
<sup>3</sup> Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (2012, October 30). What are we afraid of and who is protecting us? Accessed on 24 October 2018 at: [http://www.bezbednost.org/upload/document/cega\\_se\\_plasimo\\_i\\_ko\\_nas\\_stiti.pdf](http://www.bezbednost.org/upload/document/cega_se_plasimo_i_ko_nas_stiti.pdf)

## Corruption significantly influences the sense of safety

According to more than two thirds of Serbia's citizens (69%), corruptive behaviour affects their sense of security. Men and women share this opinion equally, as do the citizens of Belgrade, Vojvodina and those living in Central Serbia. The differences are minimal.

The described view shows that citizens are aware of the fact that the abuse of public resources can negatively impact their safety, which is good. However, all things considered, corruptive behaviour does not significantly affect their trust in institutions and perception of satisfaction with their work. The impression is that citizens tend to see the influence of corruptive behaviour on institutions as a separate issue, and that they view it as a completely separate phenomenon; they know it is harmful, but they see it as an integral part of life, which is not good. Additional research needs to be carried out to determine why this is the case, and to establish the level of tolerance for corruptive behaviour.

Chart 5: Impact of corruption on the sense of safety, by gender and region (%)



## TRUST IN ANTI-CORRUPTION INSTITUTIONS

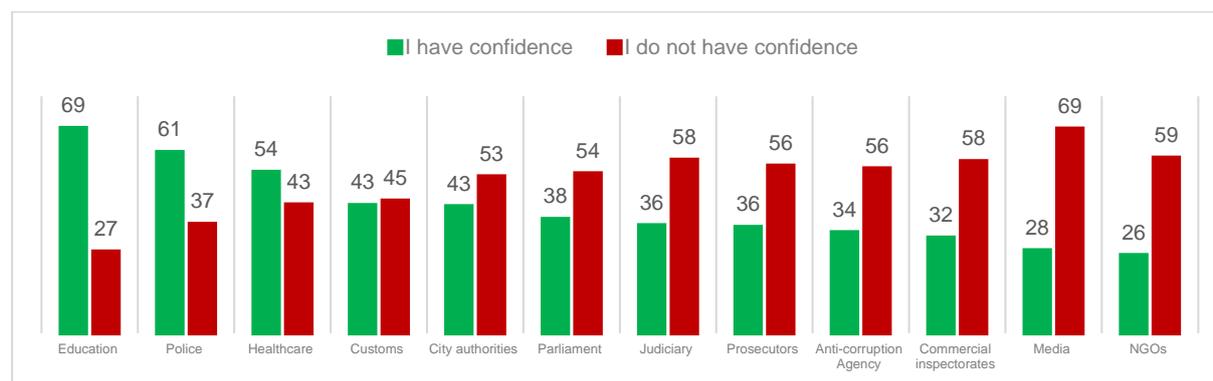
Research into the level of trust and confidence of the population in the twelve anti-corruption actors is the focus of the second segment of the report. Trust in institutions is measured to assess what the citizens expect from anti-corruption institutions and the success of public policies to prevent abuse of public resources and funds for personal interests<sup>4</sup>.

### Traditionally, citizens trust the education system the most

Of the twelve institutions that have been offered, the only ones that are trusted by most citizens are the educational institutions, the police and the health services. Since 2015, education has been at the forefront of the list of institutions with the highest level of trust. On average, six out of ten citizens of Serbia trust the education system.

Most citizens lack confidence in the media, non-governmental organisations, the judiciary, the market inspection, the prosecutor's offices, the Anti-Corruption Agency, the Parliament and their respective municipalities. In the last four years citizens have trusted the media the least, which is not good for the fight against corruption in Serbia as media reports and investigations are essential for the detection of cases, especially those involving corruption at the "high level".<sup>5</sup>

Chart 6: Trust and confidence in the twelve selected institutions (%)



The police, the public prosecutor's office, the judiciary and the Anti-Corruption Agency are the main state institutions in Serbia charged with combating corruption. With the exception of the police, trust in these anti-corruption institutions is not satisfactory, and the situation has been the same for four years. The police are placed best, while the public prosecutor's office and judiciary are worst. The Anti-Corruption Agency is somewhere in the middle.

One of the possible reasons that could explain this situation is the increased visibility of police work in the media as a result of the "aggressive" promotion of the police, primarily on

<sup>4</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2017). *OECD Guidelines on Measuring Trust*. Paris: OECD. Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264278219-en>

<sup>5</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2017). *The Role of the Media and Investigative Journalism in Combating Corruption*. Paris: OECD. Retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/daf/anti-bribery/The-role-of-media-and-investigative-journalism-in-combating-corruption.pdf>

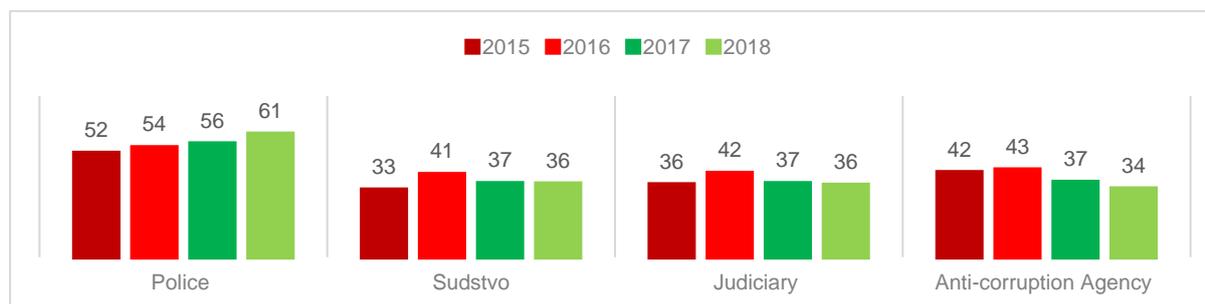
television, where citizens most often get their information about the current events.<sup>6</sup> Political leaders in the Ministry of the Interior often speak to the public of the successes of the police in the fight against corruption and crime, and arrests are shown, in the form of attractive and dramatic footage, as the most important aspect of police work.<sup>7</sup>

By contrast, Madam Republic Public Prosecutor has almost never appeared in the media since the end of 2015, when she took the oath for the second time.<sup>8</sup> That is when confidence in the prosecution began to fall.

The situation with the Anti-Corruption Agency and the judicial system is quite similar. Media reports on the adoption and implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy (whose implementation coordination is the responsibility of the Anti-Corruption Agency) have been few and far between.<sup>9</sup> Election of the new Director of the Agency was covered in the media mostly through reports focusing on his relationship with the ruling Serbian Progressive Party, of which he was also a donor.<sup>10</sup>

The dialogue between the media and the judiciary is being avoided,<sup>11</sup> which also affects the citizens' trust in judges who are already perceived as inefficient. The opinion of the vast majority of citizens about the judiciary is extremely negative – they see it as inefficient (84%), dependent on political and other interest groups (83%), biased (82%), and unprofessional (72%).<sup>12</sup>

Chart 7: Overall trust and confidence in the main anti-corruption institutions, by year (%)



<sup>6</sup> Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, Centre for Free Elections and Democracy. (2013). *The view of Serbian citizens of their personal safety and the national security of the state of Serbia in the context of relations between Belgrade and Pristina-Tirana*. Belgrade: Belgrade Centre for Security Policy.

<sup>7</sup> Vukasović, Marija. (2018). *Media and the police in the Western Balkans*. Belgrade: Belgrade Centre for Security Policy. Available at: <http://bezbednost.org/Sve-publikacije/6803/Mediji-i-policija-na-Zapadnom-Balkanu.shtml>

<sup>8</sup> Istinomer. (10 May 2018). Why did Zagorka Dolovac fall silent? Accessed on 24 October 2018, at: <https://www.istinomer.rs/clanak/2327/Kako-je-zacutala-Zagorka-Dolovac>

<sup>9</sup> Maksić, Tanja. (2016). Media polygraph. In Djordjevic, Saša, *Alternative report on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Fight against Corruption* (p. 55). Belgrade: Belgrade Centre for Security Policy.

<sup>10</sup> Kostić, Vladimir. (18 January 2018). The new Director of the Agency is one of Vučić's campaign donors. Accessed on 26 October 2018, at: <http://javno.rs/vest/novi-direktor-agencije-jedan-od-donatora-vuciceve-kampanje>

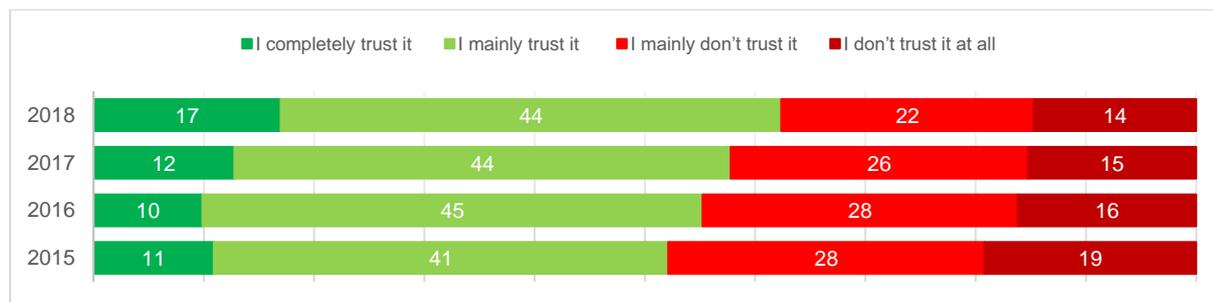
<sup>11</sup> Association of independent electronic media. (11 July 2014). ANEM's round table on "Media and Judicial Relations". Accessed on 24 October 2018, at: <http://www.anem.org.rs/sr/aktivnostiAnema/monitoring/story/16989/ODR%C5%BDAN+ANEMOV+OKRUG+LI+STO+%E2%80%9EODNOS+MEDIJA+I+PRAVOSU%C3%90A%E2%80%9C.html>

<sup>12</sup> IPSOS, Beta news agency. (2014). Perception of the contents of Chapters 23 and 24 of the negotiations for Serbia's EU accession. Accessed on 26 October 2018, at: [http://docs.euractiv.rs/gradjani-ne-veruju-pravosudju/Percepcija\\_sadrzaja\\_poglavlja\\_23\\_i\\_24\\_pregovora\\_za\\_pristup\\_Srbije\\_EU.pdf](http://docs.euractiv.rs/gradjani-ne-veruju-pravosudju/Percepcija_sadrzaja_poglavlja_23_i_24_pregovora_za_pristup_Srbije_EU.pdf)

## Trust in the police is increasing

Trust in the police has been growing continually for four years now, which is encouraging. For the first time since 2015, this institution is trusted by more than 60% of the population (61%). This placed the Serbian police force in the zone of the world's average, which ranges from 60 to 90 percent but is still far from the level recorded in developed democratic countries. For example, three out of four Dutch citizens (75%) have confidence in the police.<sup>13</sup> Despite the increases level of trust, more than a third of the Serbian citizens (36%) still do not trust the police at all.

Chart 8: Trust and confidence in the police, by year (%)



Men and women trust the police almost equally. Only the citizens of Belgrade differ from the rest of Serbia. The police are trusted by a little more than a half the population of Belgrade (55%).

However, the problem that is even greater than the situation where one out of three citizens does not trust the police is that the level of confidence in the police is not affected by the fact that most citizens believe that the institution is politicised (72%) and corrupted (69%),<sup>14</sup> which are the two main phenomena that negatively affect both the performance of the police and their democratic development.

<sup>13</sup> Central Bureau voor de Statistiek (NL). (28 May 2018). Meer vertrouwen in elkaar en instituties. Accessed on 24 October 2018, at: <https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/nieuws/2018/22/meer-vertouwen-in-elkaar-en-instituties>

<sup>14</sup> For additional information see the next two sections of the report.

## PERCEPTION OF THE POLICE

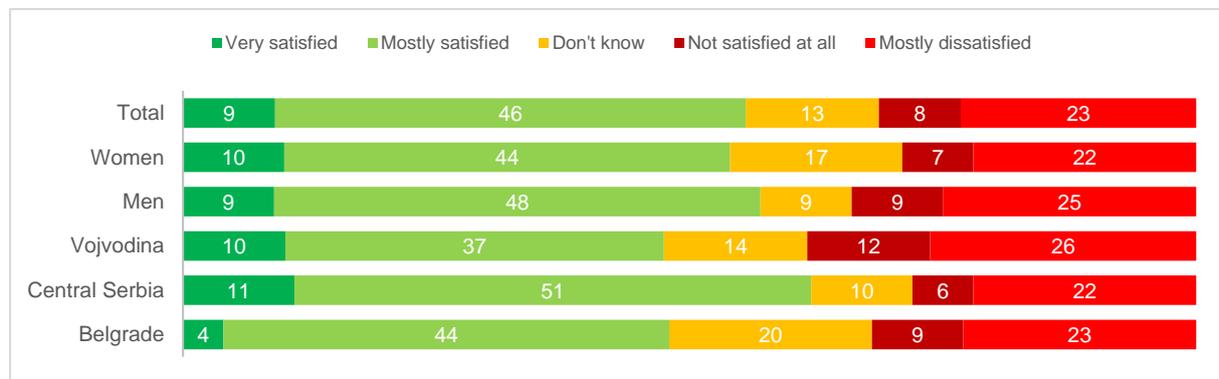
The third section of the report presents the citizens' satisfaction with the police and the capacity in which the police operate the most and least. The analysis of the perception of the police serves to examine the attitude of citizens toward formal social control reflected in the police as an executive authority. Perception of the police is a product of individual assessment of a citizen's direct contact with a police officer, the individual's specific opinions, and the general viewpoints that exist within the society concerning the police.<sup>15</sup> Based on such an assessment, citizens determine and verify the level of their satisfaction with the police and the origin of police legitimacy.<sup>16</sup>

### Citizens of Central Serbia are satisfied with the police the most

The majority of the Serbian citizens (55%) are satisfied with the work of the police, and there are no significant differences in the opinions of men and women. The population of Central Serbia is satisfied with the police the most. Interestingly, only four percent of the citizens of Belgrade are *highly* satisfied with the police, i.e. very few citizens have decided to grant the work of the police the highest mark.

Dissatisfaction with police work is shared by almost one third of the respondents (31%), which is not an insignificant percentage. The majority of those that are dissatisfied are from Vojvodina.

Chart 9: Satisfaction with police work, by gender and region (%)



To obtain a completely clear picture of citizens' satisfaction with the police there is a need to carry out additional research, for several reasons that – put together – render the overall picture quite complex.

More than 10 percent of the citizens have no clear view on whether they are happy or unhappy with the work of the police, which is another issue that should be examined further. The level of trust in the police is higher than the level of satisfaction with its work, which can be interpreted as a consequence of citizens' dissatisfaction with contact with police officers and employees, although they are simultaneously aware of the role that the police play in the society. In addition, citizens have confidence in the state and institutions as guarantors of

<sup>15</sup> Frank, J., Smith, B. and Novak, K. (2005). Exploring the Grounds of Individuals' Views of the Police. *Police Quarterly*, 8(2), pp. 206-228.

<sup>16</sup> Maguire, E., and Johnson, D. (2010). Measuring public perceptions of the police. *International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*, 33(4), pp. 703-730.

security, which is how it should be, but do not believe that the existing institutions are good enough. Essentially, the above result indicates that citizens offer “blank” support because they believe in the rule of law. There are more citizens that believe that the police act as a service to them *the least* than those that are satisfied with their work, which is contradictory.

There is no dominant opinion of citizens when it comes to capacity in which the police operate *the most*. For three years in a row now, and without any fluctuations, a little over a third of the respondents (37%) believe that the police operate the most as a service to the citizens, which could be worrying since this year there was a slight increase in the opinion that the police operate the most to protect the interests of the Government and those of political parties.

Differences in replies provided by men and women are insignificant, while the number of citizens of Central Serbia who perceive the police as a citizen service is considerably higher than that in Belgrade and Vojvodina. It is alarming that only a quarter of the population of Belgrade thinks that the police operate as a citizen service the most.

Chart 10: Capacity in which the police operates “the most”, by year (%)



Citizens were more decisive when answering the question about the capacity in which the police operate the least. The percentage of respondents who believe that the police operate as a citizen service the least has been growing for three successive years. This year’s survey shows that six out of ten citizens of Serbia currently share such an opinion.

There are no differences between men and women, while the majority of those who believe that the police operate as a service to the citizens the least live in Vojvodina.

Chart 11: Capacity in which the police operates “the least”, by year (%)



## The police are still not immune to politicians

The topic of politicisation of the police has been present in Serbia since the democratic changes that took place on 5 October 2000. Various interior ministers have been aware of this problem for the past nearly 20 years, but no one truly wanted to depoliticise the police, that is, to create

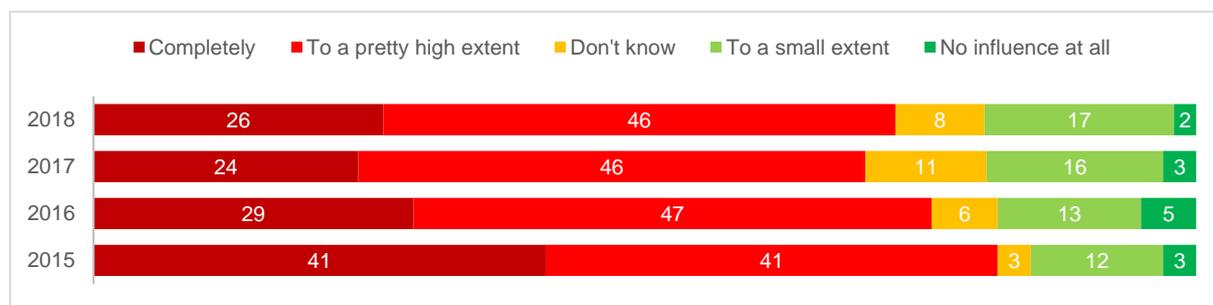
an environment in which police officers would be truly immune to political influence – for example, in deciding whether or not to launch an investigation.

Citizens are convinced that politicians exert excessive influence on police work, even in the area of finding employment in the police force.

For the first time in three years, a slight increase has been noted in the percentage of citizens who believe that politicians impact the operational work of the police. Even without this minimal increase, the perception of politicisation is alarmingly high. Three out of four citizens (72%) believe that the police are subordinated to political interests. One in four respondents (26%) thinks that the police are completely subordinated to politicians, while 46 percent believe that politics has a significant influence on the operational work of the police.

Men believe that the police are politicised more than women do, and so do the citizens of Vojvodina in relation to Belgraders and the citizens of Central Serbia. A fifth of the citizens are convinced that politics does not affect police work.

Chart 12: The influence of politicians on the operational work of the police, by year (%)



Citizens also notice the impact of politics on employment in the police.

Almost every other respondent (46%) –which represents an increase of six percent compared to last year – believes that candidates are selected through political connections. At the same time, in comparison with the year 2017 the number of respondents who believe that employment in the police is gained through a public competition has decreased by 5%.

Chart 13: Perception of the method of employment in the police, by year (%)



It is important to note that a significant number of respondents (12%) does not know how police personnel is employed, which leaves room for better communication of personnel changes in the police, since the satisfaction and confidence of citizens in this institution depends on them to a considerable extent.

The described situation can be interpreted as a result of a series of bad human resources management moves in the Ministry of the Interior, which were largely covered in the media.

Amendments to the Law on Police of April 2018 enabled employment outside the competition procedure. The head of the Belgrade Police and the Commander of the Gendarmerie were assigned to new duties under unclear circumstances. Compared to the years 2016 and 2017, communication by leaders of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police Directorate contains less information on merit-based career advancement and employment.

## PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION

The fourth section of the report examines the perception of corruption in the police, which needs to be distinguished from the occurrence of corruption, i.e. concrete cases of abuse of office of civil servants or persons holding public office for personal or material gain. The perception of corruption is the opinion of individuals about the prevalence of corruption in the society, and its examination is an indispensable element of the analysis of corruptive behaviour as a social problem. It is also important to measure the perception of corruption because the results show how individuals understand the rules, values and moral principles, and to what extent they deviate from them in real, everyday life.<sup>17</sup>

### Serbian citizens perceive the police as deeply corrupt

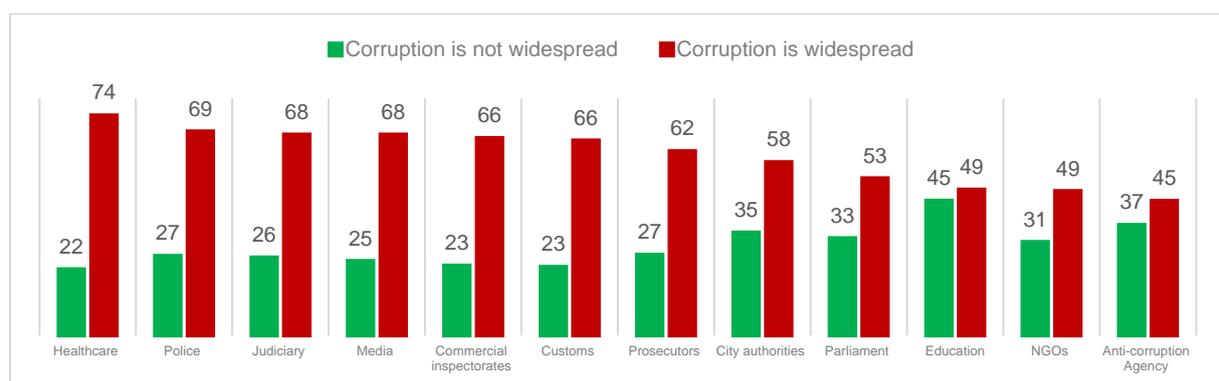
In Serbia, there is a strong impression that both the society and the state apparatus are corrupt – only three of the twelve offered institutions show the perception of corruption that is below 50 percent.

Same as last year, the health services are the “champion” when it comes to the perception of prevalence of corruption – three out of four citizens of Serbia believe that the health system is corrupt.

This year too, the police ended up high on the list of institutions perceived as widely corrupt. Moreover, a slight increase has been noted in comparison with the previous year, and seven out of ten citizens currently believe that the police are corrupt. In addition, very few citizens (only four percent) are convinced that there is no corruption in the police at all.

Two out of three respondents believe that several of the main anti-corruption actors (the public prosecutor’s office, the judiciary and the media) are corrupt. In such an environment of highly perceived corruption, the Anti-Corruption Agency is an exception – almost every other citizen believes it to be corrupt.

Chart 14: Prevalence of corruption in the twelve selected institutions (%)

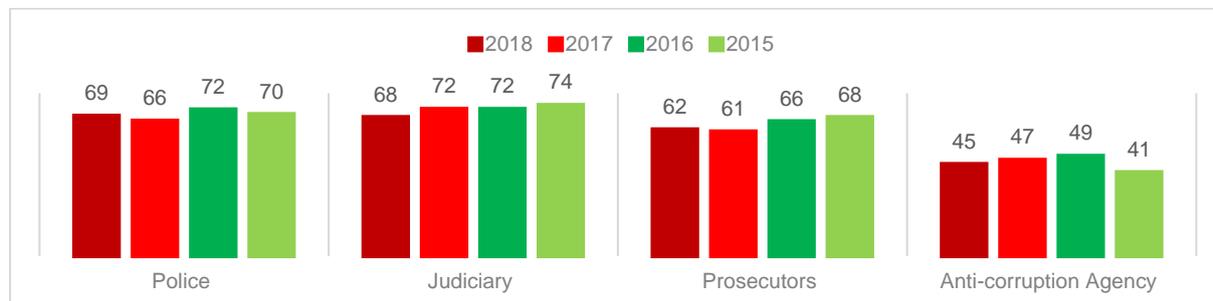


A high perception of corruption in a society creates an environment in which this negative phenomenon is actually becoming something that is normal, and where appropriate explanations are used to justify the behaviour of people caught in corrupt practice. Such a

<sup>17</sup> Melgar, N. and Rossi, M. (2010). The Perception of Corruption. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 22(1), pp. 120-131.

situation is symptomatic for post-Communist and transitional countries plagued by the syndrome of “the system has forced me to do it”. Because of this, there is no responsibility for corruptive behaviour.<sup>18</sup>

Chart 15: Prevalence of corruption in the main state anti-corruption institutions (%)

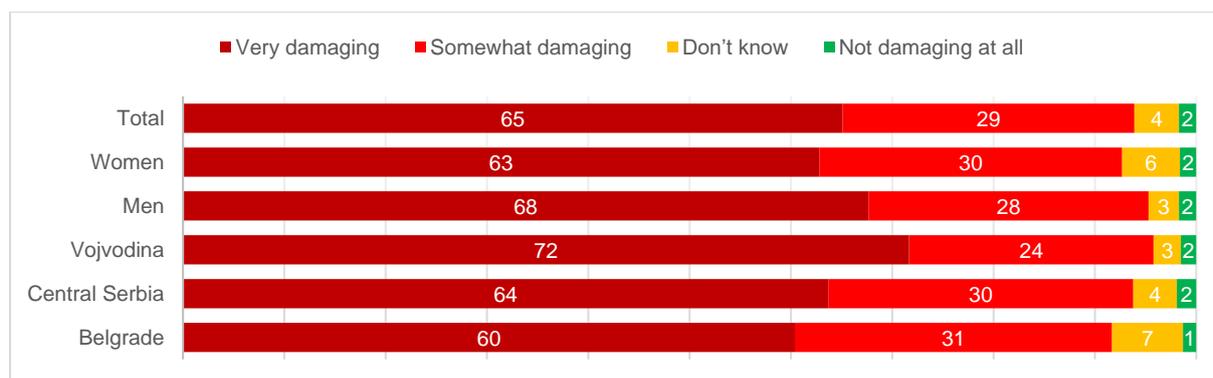


Women perceive the police as less corrupt than men do.

In Vojvodina, more than 80 percent of the citizens – all of 11 percent more than the republic average – believe that police officers are corrupt, which is very worrying. The lowest impression of police corruption is present in Central Serbia, where 62% of the respondents share this opinion.

An absolute majority of citizens (94%) believe that corruption is to a certain extent harmful to the police, which is important because it is the starting point for successful reduction of corruption. The other possibility is that the citizens have responded *en masse* in a socially acceptable manner. Gender differences almost do not exist, while the citizens of Vojvodina believe that corruption is harmful to the police more than others do.

Chart 16: Corruption damage to police work, by gender and region (%)



### Traffic policemen dominate when it comes to perception of corruption

Citizens come into contact with certain segments of the police more than others – such as the traffic police or administrative affairs; officers from other “lines of work”, such as the criminal police, are encountered more seldom. That is why people perceive corruption in different parts of the police in different ways. Citizens thus tend to perceive the segments of the police with whom they most often get in contact as the most corrupt.

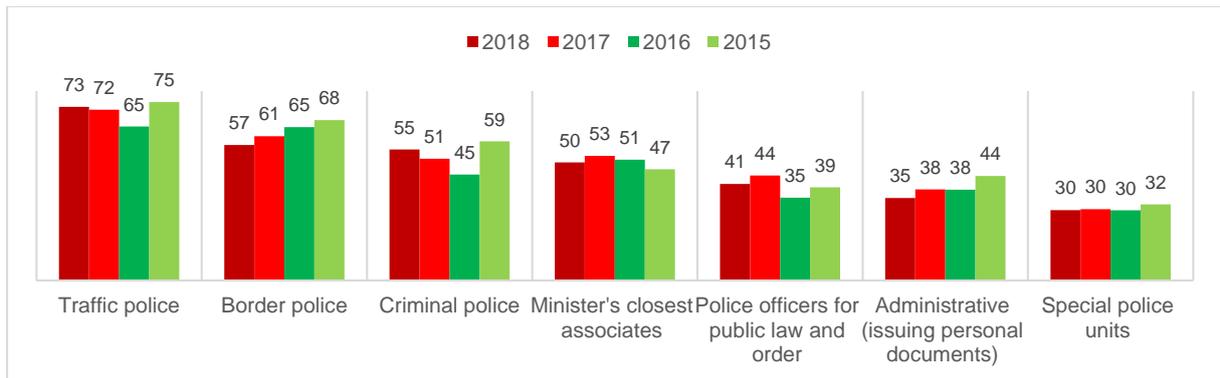
<sup>18</sup> Karklins, R. (2005). *The System Made Me Do it: Corruption in Post-communist Societies*. New York: Routledge.

This year, as in the previous three, the traffic police are perceived as the most corrupt part of the police force. Three out of four citizens (73%) believe that traffic officers are corrupt.

In contrast, special police units are now traditionally perceived as least corrupt. Just under a third of citizens believe in the existence of corruption in the special units.

In the last four years there has been a negative trend in the growth of perception of corruption in the traffic and criminal police, as well as a positive trend in the reduction of perception of corruption involving the border police, the administrative affairs and special units.

Chart 17: Perception of the corruption in seven different segments of the police, by year (%)



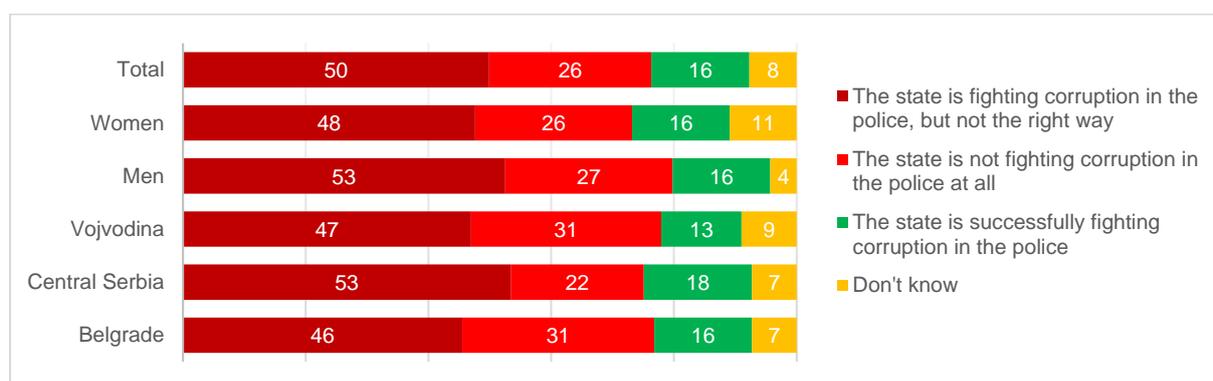
## FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

The last part of the report presents the measurement of the state's efforts to counter corruption in the police, as well as the citizens' views on what is most needed to reduce corruption. The fight against corruption is a process in which preventive and repressive anti-corruption measures eliminate corruption or reduce it to a level that does not jeopardise the security and progress of a given society. Citizens may also get involved in suppression, by reporting corruption or unprofessional conduct of public officials.

### Citizens are still waiting for the fight against corruption in the police

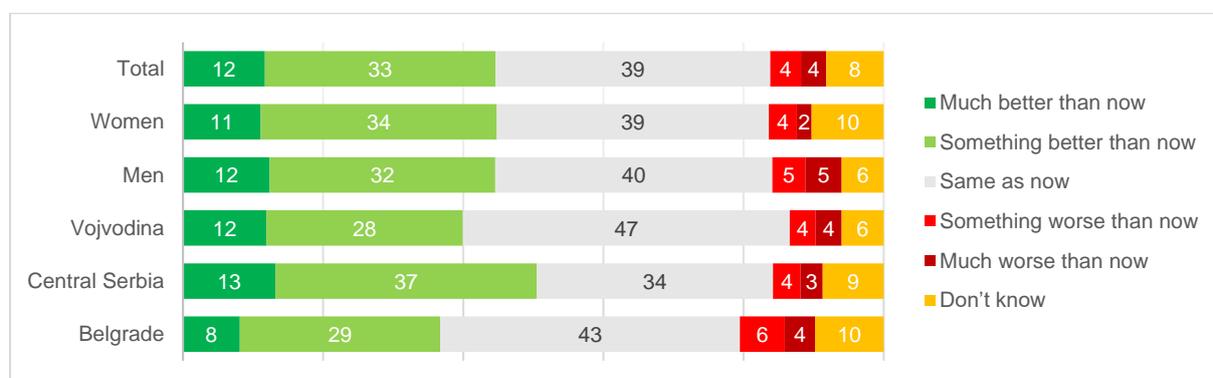
Every other citizen of Serbia (50%) believes that the state is fighting corruption in the police, but that it is not doing it the right way. Every fourth citizen (26%) is convinced that the state is not fighting corruption in the police at all. Only 16% of the respondents believe that the state is successfully suppressing corruption in the police ranks. Differences between men and women are minimal, as well as those encountered in the various regions of the country.

Chart 18: The success of the country's fight against police corruption, by gender and region (%)



Impressions concerning the future of the fight against corruption in the police are quite similar. More than a third of the respondents (39%) believe that combating corruption in the police will continue the same as before, while every third citizen (33%) believes that the fight will proceed somewhat better in the future than now. There are no significant differences in relation to gender, or regions in which the surveyed respondents live.

Chart 19: Prognosis concerning the fight against police corruption, by gender and region (%)



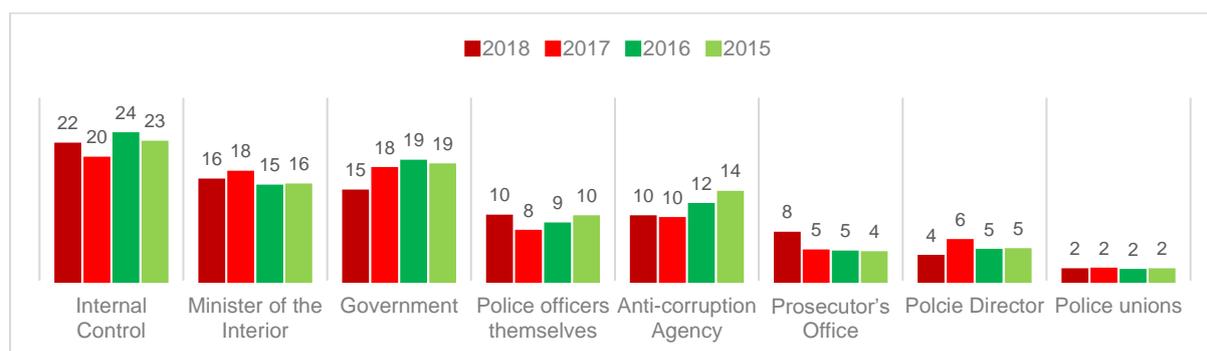
Essentially, all these data on the effectiveness of the fight against corruption indicate that citizens are still not seeing concrete and tangible results, but are nevertheless slightly optimistic.

### Less corruption, with strict sanctioning and the leadership role of internal police control

The fight against corruption in the police should be carried out by the internal control of the police (22%), which has been the citizens' first choice for four years in a row. Minister of the Interior holds the second place (16%), followed by the Government (15%). Bearing in mind that the Minister of the Interior is also a member of the Government, there is the impression that the Government should actually be the "leader" in the fight against corruption in the police, instead of the Internal Control Sector. When we view all the results together, we can conclude that 31 percent of the citizens believe that the fight should be carried out by the Government.

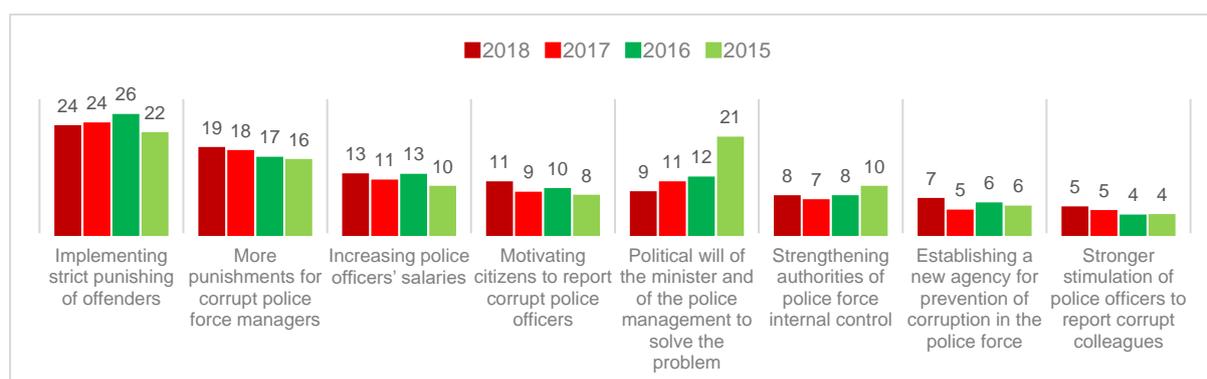
Only eight percent of the citizens see the public prosecutor's office as a leader in the fight against corruption, regardless of the fact that it is the institution that conducts anti-corruption criminal investigations by operation of law.

Chart 20: Leader in the fight against corruption in the police, by year (%)



Citizens have different opinions about the steps that are necessary to reduce corruption in the police. Repressive methods are predominant, implying severe sanctioning of perpetrators. Every fourth respondent (24%) believes that strict punishment of perpetrators is what is needed the most to reduce corruption in the police, while 19% are convinced that the same should be applied to corrupt police officials. It is interesting that the political will of the Minister is no longer dominant when it comes to what the citizens believe is crucial in the fight against corruption.

Chart 21: Steps that are necessary to combat corruption, by year (%)



## METHODOLOGY FRAMEWORK

<b>Location</b>	Serbia
<b>Period</b>	August 2018
<b>Data collection method</b>	Face to face interview
<b>Sample framework</b>	Male and female citizens of Serbia 18 years of age and older, permanently residing in the territory of Serbia at the time of the survey.
<b>Size of sample</b>	1,008
<b>Type of sample</b>	Three-phase random representative stratified sample
<b>Stratification</b>	Conducted by region, type of settlement, gender, age and level of education
<b>Sampling error</b>	$\pm 3,31\%$