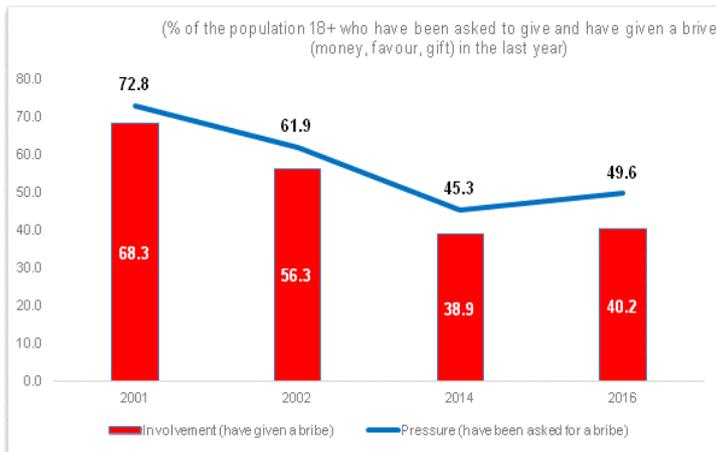




Results of the Corruption Monitoring System, Albania, 2016

In respect to the fourth round of the Corruption Monitoring System (the previous ones were in 2001, 2002, 2014), the Albanian Center for Economic Research (ACER) undertook on January 2016 a study of 1,000 respondents in the entire country where are tracked the pressures of corruption, involvement of citizens in corruption and their perceptions of the level of corruption in the country. The conference brought together representatives of civil society, public sector and European structures, to discuss the presented results and policy recommendations of the report itself.

Figure 1: Corruption pressure and involvement in corruption



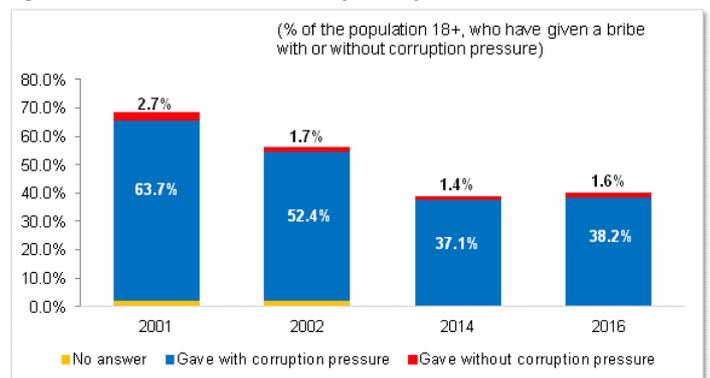
Source: Corruption Monitoring System, ACER, SELDI 20

The larger part of the respondents (38.2%) declared that they have been pressured by public officials to engage in bribery. Only 1.6% of them have initiated themselves a corruption transaction without being pressured from public officials. Giving bribes under pressure has manifested a slight increase compared to 2014. This data shows that anticorruption measures undertaken by the government, civil society, and the international community have not yet taken root, which also calls for reinforcement of efforts in this direction. Data could also reflect temporary factors but still indicate a lack of radical change, which both the Albanian society and the European partners expect.

The Corruption Monitoring System Results for Albania, 2016 indicate that almost 1 in 2 Albanian adult citizens admit to being demanded directly or indirectly to bribe public officials (49.6 %). Respectively, this shows a worsening of around 5 percentage points compared to the study of 2014.

This indicates that there has been a self-admitted increase of the corruption pressure from public officials on citizens. Consequently, the involvement of citizens in corruption has also marginally increased. There is a small increase with 1 percentage point of respondents that admit to giving a bribe to public officials, compared to two years ago.

Figure 2: Resilience to corruption pressure



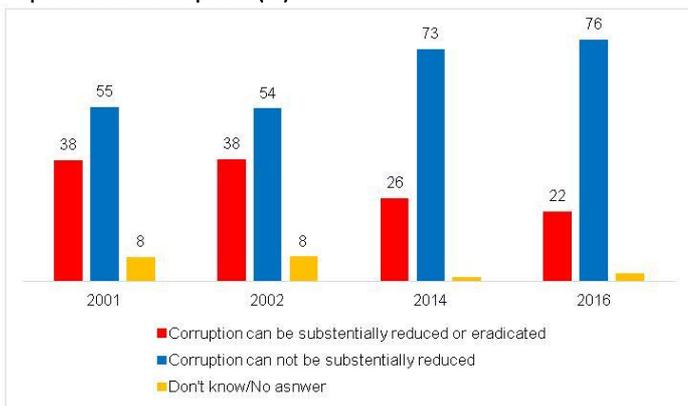
Source: Corruption Monitoring System, ACER, SELDI 2016

The results show that the citizens do provide bribes to public officials even if the latter do not demand such a thing. This means that the citizens increasingly tend to believe that the bribe is on demand by public officials even if it is not specifically and explicitly asked for. One in two Albanians tolerate (or accept) this behavior with regard to corruption. **This level of corruption remains almost the same compared to the year 2014, with a little increase of 3 %.** It should be emphasized that the level of tolerance regarding corruption (acceptance) remains the same since 2001. High susceptibility and acceptability of corruption in the Albanian society further exacerbates efforts to counter its negative influence. For example, asked if they were in the position of a public official, 2/3 of the adults (66%) indicated that they would accept a bribe (in cases where their involvement would have solved a serious problem). This result is supported

and is in line with the index of the involvement in corruption practices undertaken without any pressure. In 2016, the citizens that are susceptible to corruption represent the majority of the population over 18 years old (91 %). From the year 2001 until 2016, the set of the respondents that are totally unsusceptible to corruption (meaning that they declared they would never get involved in corruption practices) has increased by 3 percentage points.

According to the results of the survey of the year 2016, the groups citizens perceive as the most corrupt are judges, customs officials, public officials, political parties and political leaders. The results show that in the last two years there has been no improvement in citizens' trust in these groups. According to public perception, the level of these groups' involvement in corruptive practices remains high. The top negative rank for judges mirrors reality. The judiciary system in Albania suffers from a number of problems from the way it is organized, to the status of the judges, and to the lack of European standards in its functioning. The groups which citizens perceive as the least corrupt are the teachers, journalists, members of the city councils, and the university faculty members.

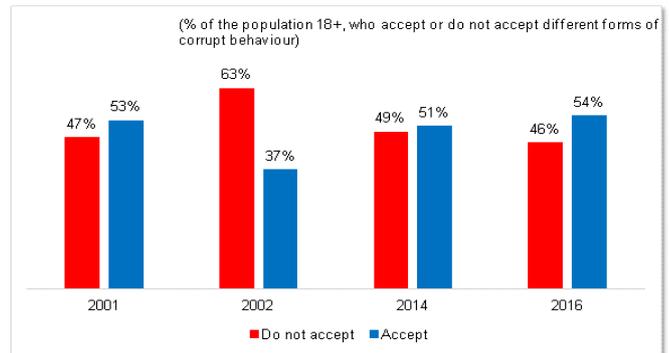
Figure 4: Perceptions of feasibility of policy responses to corruption (%)



Source: Corruption Monitoring System, ACER, SELDI 2016

SELDI is the biggest anti-corruption and good governance civil society network in South-East Europe. At its inception it gathered 17 partners from 9 countries in South East Europe. SELDI works to strengthen civil society participation in finding innovative public-private partnership solutions to governance and corruption challenges in the region. For further information, please visit SELDI.net.

Figure 3: Corruption Pressure Levels



Source: Corruption Monitoring System, ACER, SELDI 2016

This creates an indication where examples of personal integrity might be sought to improve the standing of other systems.

3/4 of the respondents (76 %) think that “Corruption cannot be reduced drastically” whereas less than 1/5 of them (22%) think that “Corruption can be drastically reduced or eradicated”. The increasing distrust of the citizens in the capacity and effectiveness of the Albanian society to confront the problem of corruption seems to indicate a dangerous weariness with the efforts of the state institutions to fight corruption. Furthermore, the number of respondents that think that corruption can be reduced drastically has decreased compared to the findings in the years 2001, 2002, and 2014.

Note: The text in this Press Release can be freely distributed on the condition that the SELDI initiative, the EU funding, the title of the event and name of the organizers are explicitly mentioned.