



PRESS RELEASE

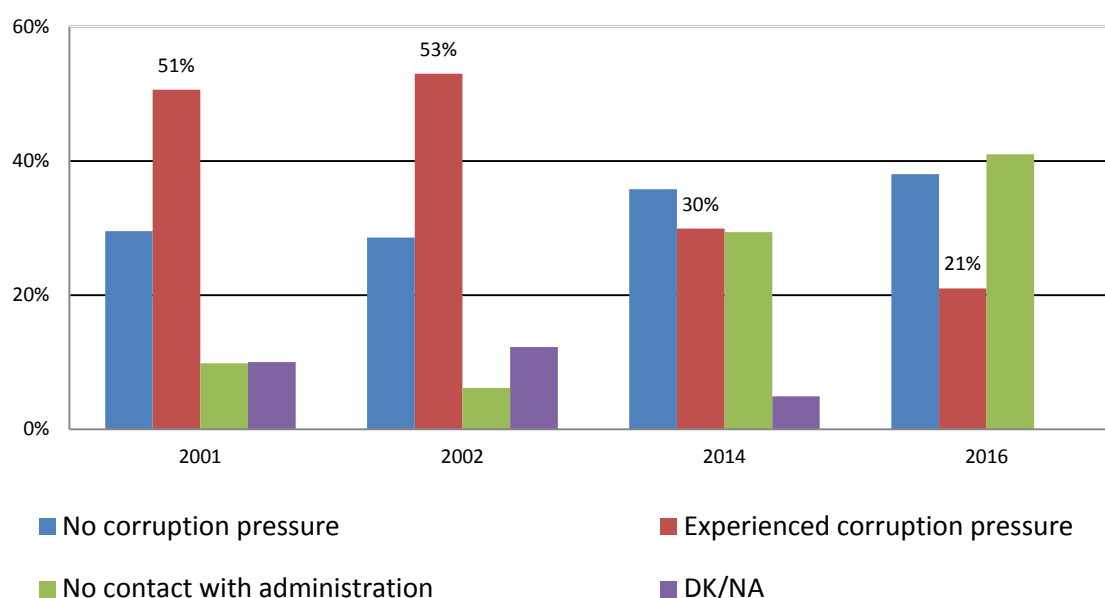
Belgrade, May 12, 2016

Conference on Corruption in Serbia

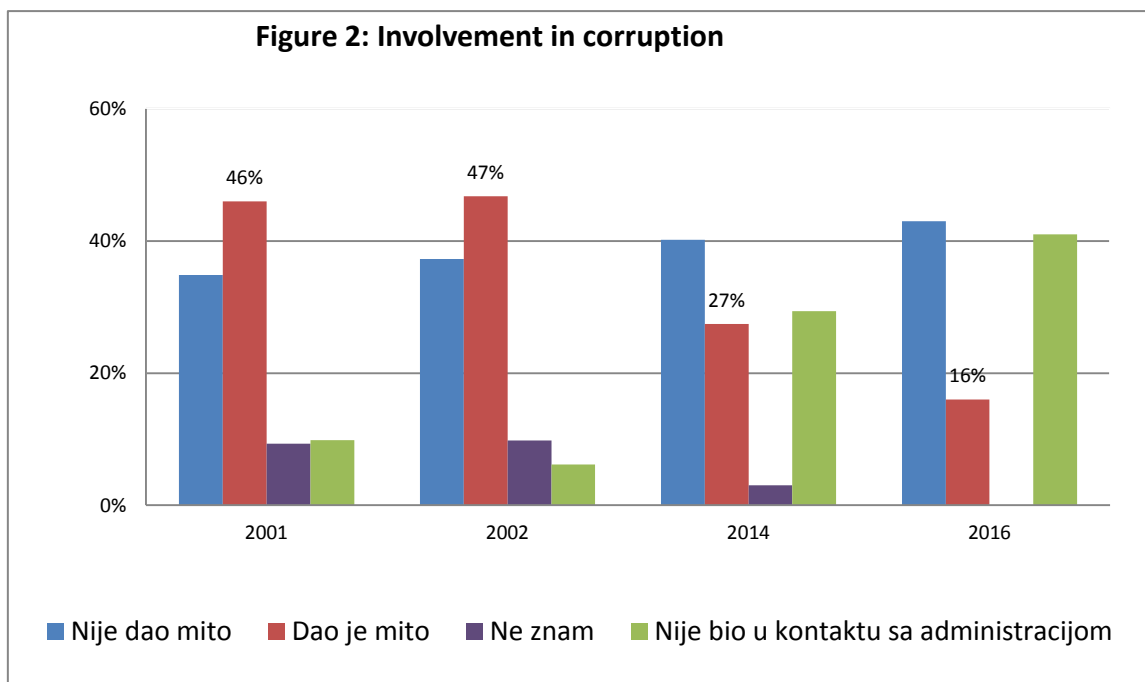
On **May 12, 2016** the Southeast European Leadership for Development and Integrity (SELDI) with local partner the Center for Liberal – Democratic Studies CLDS, in cooperation with the Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria, presented the results of the Corruption Monitoring System in Serbia 2016, in a policy conference, dedicated to the issue of anticorruption and good governance in South-Eastern Europe.

In respect to the fourth **round of the Corruption Monitoring System (CMS)** in Serbia, the Center for Liberal Democratic Studies (CLDS) undertook in January 2016 a study of 1,000 respondents in the entire country. The CMS **tracks the actual corruption pressure, involvement of citizens in corruption, and their perceptions of the level of corruption in the country**. The conference brought together representatives of civil society, the public sector, and European institutions, to discuss the presented results and policy recommendations of the CMS in light of the latest developments in Europe and in the region. It also brought attention to the efforts, work and main issues regarding the future civil society activities in the area of anticorruption in Southeast Europe.

Figure 1: Corruption pressure



The Corruption Monitoring System Results for Serbia, 2016 indicate that almost **20% of Serbian citizens admit being demanded directly or indirectly to bribe public officials (Figure 1)**. Respectively, this shows **an improvement of almost 10 percentage points** compared to the study of 2014. This indicates that there has been a reduction of corruption pressure from public officials on citizens. This is consistent with the longer term trend.



Source: Corruption Monitoring System, CLDS, SELDI 2016

Consequently, the involvement of citizens in corruption has also been reduced. There is **a significant decrease of about 11 percentage points of respondents that admit to have given a bribe to public officials (Figure 2)**, compared to two years ago, and a full 30 percentage point reduction compared to 14 years ago.

This result is a consequence of efforts to curb corruption, as well as a very significant increase in the number of respondents who have not had any contact with the state administration (the result of the survey). In addition, it should be borne in mind that this concern a petty corruption, and that large one remain out of sight of these surveys.

SELDI is the biggest indigenous 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.