

Corruption in Albania

Perception and Experience

SURVEY 2010

Summary of findings

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Executive Summary

Corruption Perception

- The perception of corruption in Albania remains high. The average corruption perception of 20 institutions and groups evaluated in 2010 is 62.4 points on a 0-100 scale, where 0 means “Very honest” and 100 means “Very corrupt”.
- Religious leaders, the President, the military, the media, public school teachers and NGO leaders continue to be perceived as the least corrupt institutions and groups among the 20 evaluated. On the other hand, custom officials, tax officials and doctors are perceived as the most corrupt institutions/groups evaluated.
- According to the general public, corruption among public officials is common. 91.8% of the respondents think that corruption among public officials is either “Widespread” or “Somewhat widespread”.

Fight against Corruption, Trust and Transparency

- Overall, the Albanian public has a negative perception of the contribution that different institutions have made in the fight against corruption. The average score for the 9 institutions/groups evaluated is 42.4 points, which is below the mid-point scale from 0-100 where 0 means “Does not help at all” and 100 means “Helps a lot”. As in previous years, media is the only institution that is perceived to help in the fight against cor-

ruption. It scores 61 points in 2010. All the other institutions and groups are evaluated below the mid-point scale.

- High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets, religious leaders and courts are seen as the least helpful in the fight against corruption.
- Albanian citizens’ trust in institutions continues to be very low. On average, the trust score for all institutions evaluated is 43.8 points, on a 0-100 scale where 0 means “Do not trust at all” and 100 means “Trust a lot”. Only the military is rated with a score above 50 points. The Property Restitution and Compensation Agency (28), trade unions (32) and political parties (32) are the least trusted institutions in 2010.
- Both the general public and public sector employees perceive that transparency in institutions is low overall. The average score of nine institutions considered is below the midpoint in the 0-100 scale where 0 means “Not at all transparent” and 100 means “Fully transparent”, 38.7 points by the general public and 48.9 points by public sector employees. The most transparent institutions in the eyes of the general public are considered to be local government and Ministry of Education, both with 44 points, while the least transparent is considered to be the Property Restitution and Compensation Agency (PRCA) with 26 points.

Summary of findings

Corruption Experience

- In 2010 survey, respondents report to have been victimized on average 1.31 ways out of 10 ways surveyed. The corruption victimization index has not changed from 2009. Still, the index is lower than in 2005 where the reported direct experience with corruption was 1.7 ways out of 10. In almost all of scenarios provided in the questionnaire, the percentage of respondents who declare to have been a victim of corruption in the respective scenario has decreased from 2005.
- The health sector still remains the one most quoted for bribery. In 2010, 33.5% of respondents declared to have offered a bribe to a doctor or a nurse.

Judicial System

- Trust toward the judicial system has declined from 2009, having increased steadily from 2005. In this year's survey, only 35.9% of the respondents declared that they trust the judicial system either "A lot" or to "Some" degree. This is 10.7 percentage points lower than 2009. The percentage of respondents who trust the judiciary "A little" or "Not at all" remains high at 64.1%.
- Treatment by the courts has deteriorated from 2009. 38% of respondents who have dealt with the courts believe they have been treated "Poorly" or "Very poorly". This is 11.3 percentage points

worse than 2009. According to the general public, 79.7% of them declare that it is difficult to get information from the courts; a deterioration of 10.2 points from 2009.

Economic Evaluation

- General public perception of the overall economic situation is the same as last year and has not changed much from that of 2005. Slightly more than half of the respondents (53.9%) think the country's economic situation is "Bad" or "Very bad". There are slightly fewer respondents who think that the economy will be better in the coming year. Those who expect an economic stagnation have increased from 35.3% in 2009 to 39.8% in 2010. 23.3% of the respondents declared that they expect the economy to worsen in the coming year. This percentage has not changed from 2009.

Summary of findings

Introduction

This report presents the findings of the 2010 general public, public sector employees and judges surveys on corruption issues. This is the sixth report following the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009 reports. The main objective of these surveys is to measure the perception, attitude and experiences of corruption over time in Albania.

The set of surveys consists of:

- **General Public sample**
 - **Targeted** - National sample of 1,200 respondents, 18+ years old
 - **Actual** - 1,194 respondents
- **Public Sector sample**
 - **Targeted** - A sample of 600 public sector employees divided into four strata each with 150 respondents:
 - i) Central Administration
 - ii) Local Administration
 - iii) Education Sector
 - iv) Health Sector

- **Actual** - 600 respondents

- **Judges Survey**

- **Targeted** - A sample of 300 judges of the Albanian courts in all levels.
- **Actual** - 254 respondents

Timing

The survey was conducted during the period of January-February 2010.

Method

Face-to-face interviews



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The survey was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by the Institute for Development and Research Alternatives (IDRA) under the framework of the Rule of Law Program in Albania. The authors' views do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Summary of findings

Sample Structure and Demographics

General Public Sample

The general public sample was based on a multi-stage, random probability sampling drawn from a list of voting centers from the last local elections. Voting centers for sampling purposes represent the primary sampling units. The 100 primary sampling units were selected using a formula that randomly generated numbers, taking into account the number of voters for each voting center and urban vs. rural voting centers. Within the geographical area designated by these units, the respondents were selected based on random-route sampling (every third door was selected and the person with the latest birthday in that household was then interviewed).

Tab.1 Geographic distribution of the sample

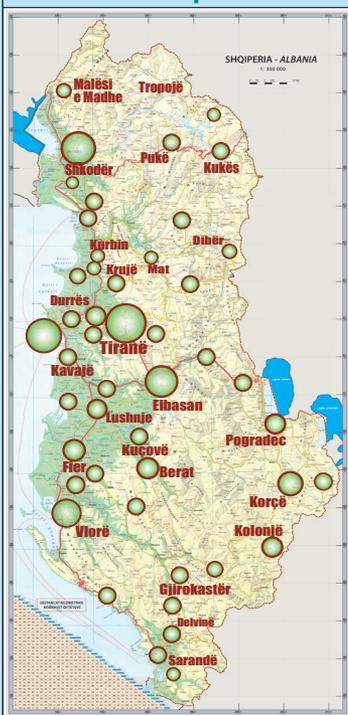
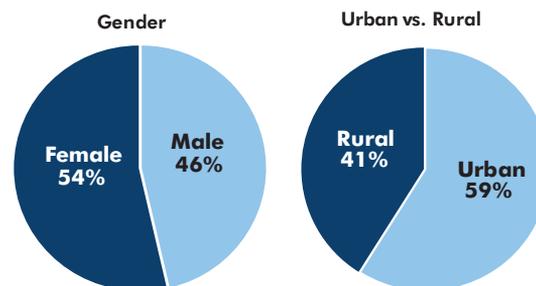


Fig 1. Sample structure
General Public 2010



Public Sector Employees Sample

A quota sampling based on four major strata was used for the Public Sector sample. Each of these strata contained around 150 respondents.

The strata of the sample were:

1. Central Administration

- All ministries
- All other central institutions besides ministries
- The Fiscal System (Customs and Tax Department)
- Budgetary independent institutions

2. Local Administration

- Communes
- Municipalities

3. Education Sector

Geographically distributed sample of employees in:

- Pre-primary (Kindergartens)
- Compulsory (Elementary Schools – 9 years)
- Secondary Schools
- Universities

4. Health Sector

Geographically distributed sample of:

- Doctors
- Nurses
- Dentists and Pharmacists (public service)

Margin of Error

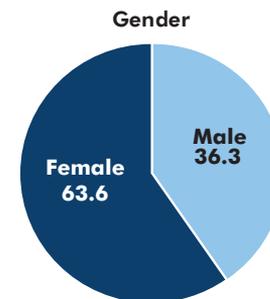
The margin of error for the General Public sample is $\pm 2.8\%$ and for the Public Sector sample is $\pm 4\%$, both with a confidence interval of 95%. Technically speaking a sampling error of $\pm 2.8\%$ means that, if repeated samples of this size were conducted, 95% of them would reflect the views of the population with no greater inaccuracy than $\pm 2.8\%$. The testing of statistical significance, which takes into account the margin of error, is important especially when comparing historical data or when presenting subgroup analysis of results. These statistical significance tests are applied to the results presented throughout the report.

Summary of findings

Tab. 2 Distribution of sample according to public sector structures:

Structure	No. of Interviewees	Percentage
Central Administration	149	24.8
Local Administration	151	25.2
Education Sector	149	24.8
Health Sector	151	25.2
Total	600	100

Fig. 2 Gender of respondents
Public Sector 2010



Presentation of Findings

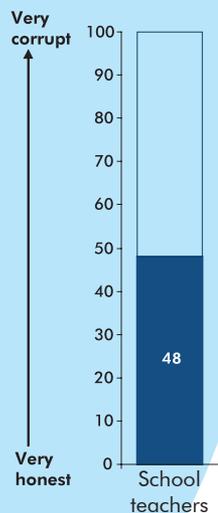
All of the survey findings are presented on a 0-100 scale for better understanding and presentation.

The following is an example of a question included in the questionnaire:

[Use card "D"] Now, I will name various public and private institutions. I am interested to know how corrupt or honest do you think the representatives of these institutions are. Please, rate each one of them from 1 to 10, 1 being very honest and 10 very corrupt.

INSTITUTIONS	Levels of Corruption										DK/NR		
	Very honest									Very corrupt			
PC19. School teachers	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(88)	PC19	

A conversion is required to facilitate accurate statistical analysis. It is achieved by subtracting 1 from each point on the 1-10 scale so that the questions are scored on a 0-9 scale. The scale is then divided by 9, so that it ranges from 0-1, and multiplied by 100 to obtain a 0-100 range. In this scale, 0 means "Very honest" and 100 means "Very corrupt". An illustrative graph is presented on the right in which the category "School Teachers" received a score of "48." The score does NOT mean that 48 percent of the public reported that school teachers are corrupt; it represents the perception of how corrupt an institution is on a scale of 0 to 100. In other words, "School teachers" received an average score of 48 points on a 0-100 scale as perceived by the public.



There are also three other 0-100 scales presented in the report. Those scales are:

- **Trust** - A scale that shows the evaluation of respondents for different institutions regarding trust. In this scale 0 means "Do not trust at all" and 100 means "Trust a lot".
- **Contribution to the fight against corruption** - A scale that shows how respondents perceive different institutions regarding their contribution to the fight against corruption. In this scale 0 means "Does not help at all" and 100 means "Helps a lot".
- **Transparency** - A scale that shows the respondents' perception about the transparency of different institutions. In this scale 0 means "Not at all transparent" and 100 means "Fully transparent".

As a norm, the graphs including yearly comparisons only present the institutions that have experienced statistically significant changes. Results from institutions that do not show considerable change are presented only if deemed important.

Note: Some of the percentages presented in the graph may not add up to 100.0 per cent. This is because of rounding.

Summary of findings

Perception of Corruption¹

General Public

The average perception of the 20 institutions and groups evaluated is 62.4 points² indicating a high level of corruption perception overall (Fig. 3).

Religious leaders, the President, the military, the media, public school teachers and NGO leaders continue to be perceived as the least corrupt institutions among the 20 evaluated. The evaluation is below the midpoint scale of the corruption perception scale, meaning that they are perceived by the general public as more honest than corrupt.

On the other hand, custom officials, tax officials and doctors are perceived as the most corrupt institutions/groups considered.

Public Sector

Public sector employees, in aggregate, perceive the institutions/groups as more honest than the general public does. The average score of 21 institutions/groups⁴ is 51 points on the 0-100 corruption perception scale (Fig.4).

Custom officials and tax officials are also perceived by public sector employees as the most corrupt institutions/groups.

Fig. 3 Honesty vs. Corruption
General Public 2010

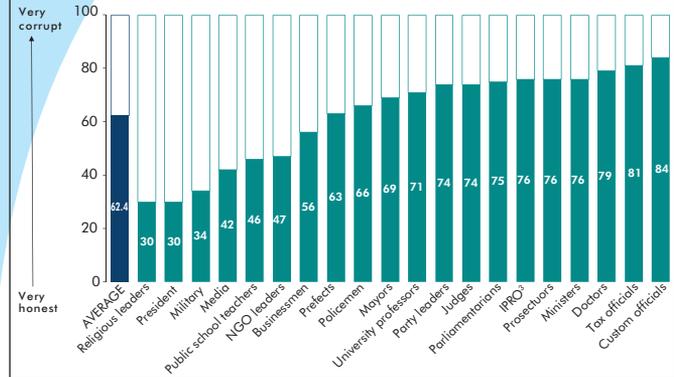
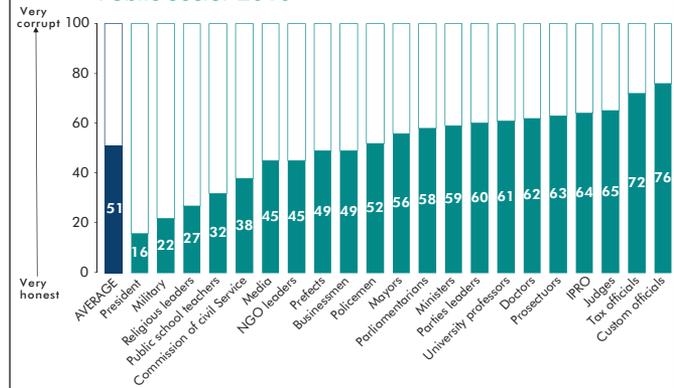


Fig. 4 Honesty vs. Corruption
Public Sector 2010



Comparison in years

The corruption perception of the President has decreased from 34 points in 2009 to 30 points in 2010. Still, this perception is higher than that of the base-line year of 2005 where the President evaluation was 21 points.

Media in 2010 is perceived by the general public as more corrupt than in 2009 and in 2005. The perception of corruption of media in 2010 is 42 points, meaning that although having increased, it is still perceived as more honest than corrupt.

Perception of corruption of policemen has increased to 66 points, 3 points more than in 2009 and the same as 2005.

Perceived corruption of university professors is the highest in five years at 71 points, an increase of 8 points from 2009.

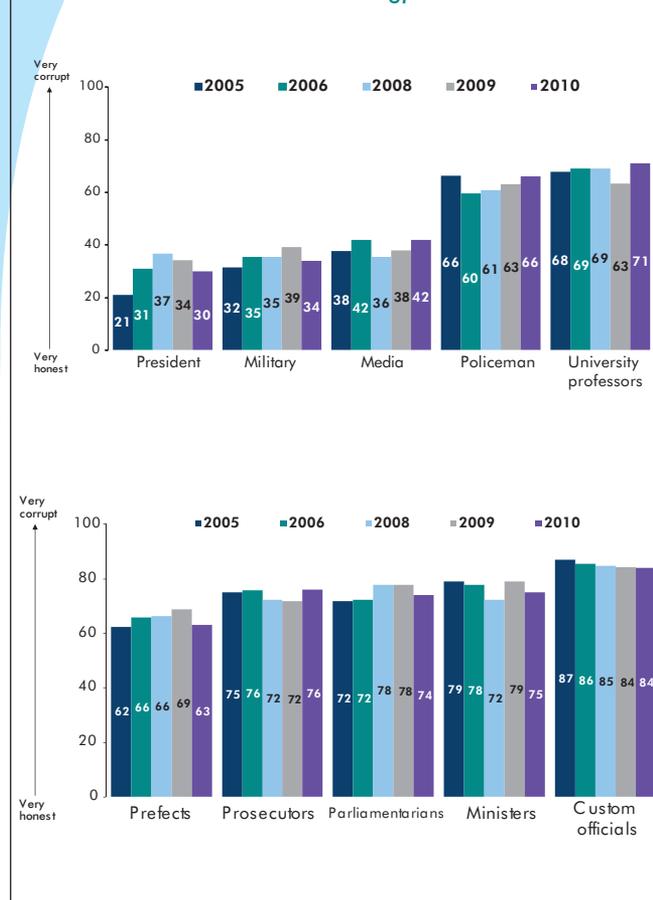
On the other hand, prefects are perceived as less corrupt in 2010 compared to 2009, a decrease of 6 points on the corruption perception scale. This perception is about the same as 2005.

Perception of corruption of prosecutors is the highest in five years at 76 points, a 4 point increase from 2009.

There is a decrease of 4 points in corruption perception of parliamentarians and ministers from 2009.

Although custom officials are perceived as the most corrupt, overall, the trend of corruption perception has steadily declined over the years to 84 points.

Fig. 5 Ndershmëria kundrejt korrupsionit
Krahasim në vite - Publiku i gjerë



Summary of findings

According to the general public, corruption among public officials is common. 91.8% of the respondents think of corruption among public officials as either “Widespread” or “Somewhat widespread” (Fig. 6). This perception has changed little since 2005, remaining over 90%. However, the percentage of respondents who think this problem is “Widespread” has decreased by 14.8 percentage points since 2005.

Approximately four out of five respondents from the public sector employees’ group think that corruption among public officials is either “widespread” or “somewhat widespread”. For all five years this percentage has been over 80%. The percentage of public sector employees who see “widespread” corruption among public officials has decreased by 12.0 percentage points since 2005.

When asked whether corruption among public officials has increased, remained the same or decreased during the last year, general public opinion differs from that of public sector employees. While 45.1% of the general public perceives increased corruption among public officials, only 19.8% of the public sector employees think the same. Differences exist also on the percentage of those that perceive a decrease in corruption among public officials during the last twelve months, 12.2% for the general public and 29.6% for public sector employ-

Fig. 6 Corruption among public officials
General Public

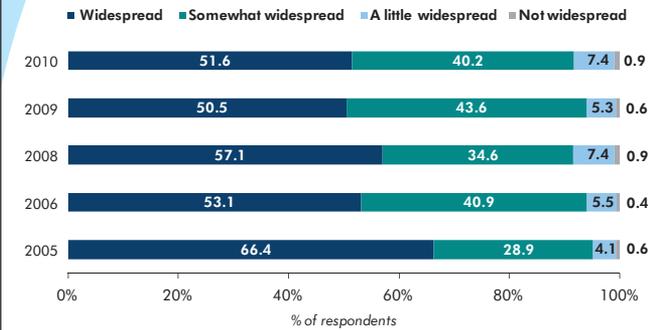
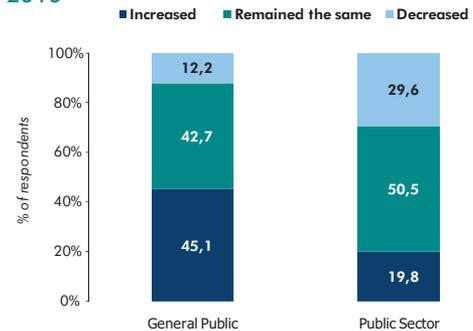


Fig. 7 Corruption among public officials compared to last year
2010



Contribution of Institutions in the Fight against Corruption

Overall the Albanian public has a negative perception of the contribution that different institutions have made in the fight against corruption. The average score for the 9 institutions/groups evaluated is 42.4 points.⁵ The only institution that is evaluated as “helpful in fighting corruption” continues to be the media which scored 61 points. All other institutions scored less than 50 points. Police scored 47 points and civil society scored 43 points (Fig. 8).

The institutions reported as least helpful in the fight against corruption are:

- High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Audit of Assets (HIDAA) with 32 points,
- Religious leaders with 35 points,
- Courts with 40 points.

Civil society is the group that scores the largest decrease from 2009, 5 points (from 48 to 43 points) and in 2010 scores 3 points less than in 2005 (Fig. 9).

Media, although evaluated above the midpoint scale, scores 3 points less than in 2009 (from 64 to 61 points).

HIDAA is the institution that shows the largest decrease in score through the years, from 39 points in 2005 to 32 points in 2010.

In 2010, courts and General Prosecutor’s Office continue to show improvement from 2005 with 4 points more than in 2005.

Fig. 8 Extent to which institutions help fight corruption
General Public 2010

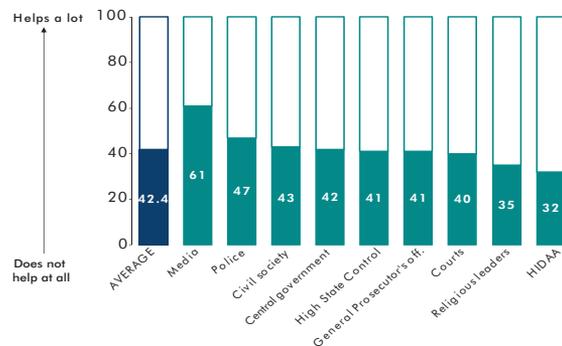
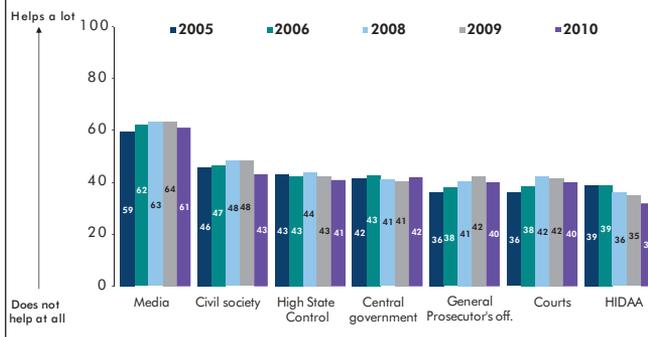


Fig. 9 Extent to which institutions help fight corruption
General Public

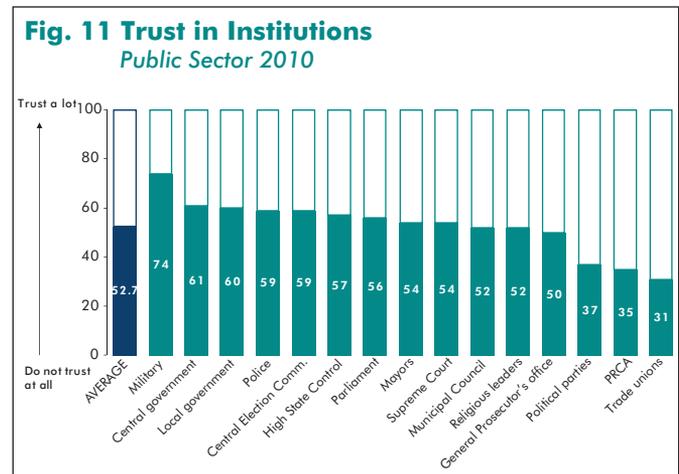
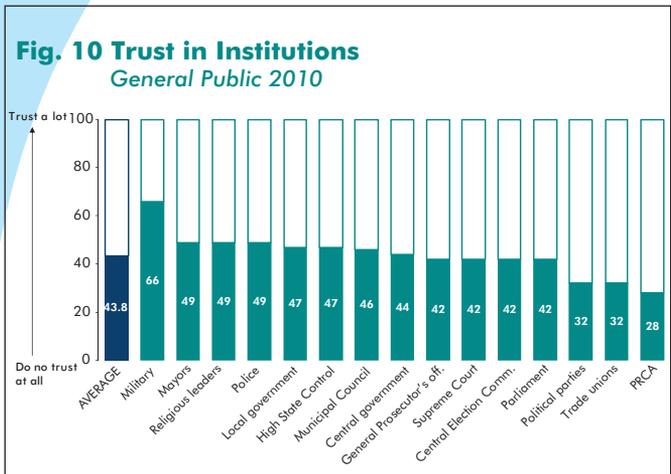


Trust in Institutions

Albanian citizens' trust in institutions continues to be very low. On average, the trust score for all institutions evaluated is 43.8 points.⁶ Only the military is valued with a score above 50 points. The Property Restitution and Compensation Agency (28), trade unions (32) and political parties (32) are the least trusted institutions in 2010 (Fig.10).

Public sector employees, in general, have more trust in the evaluated institutions than does the general public. The average score for all institutions is 52.7 points, which is still above the median score. Out of 15 institutions, public sector employees show a positive level of trust in 12. Similar to the general public sample, the least trusted institutions are the trade unions, Property Restitution and Compensation Agency (PRCA) and political parties (Fig. 11).

When comparing general public perception with public sector perception, the two institutions that show the biggest difference in the level of trust, 17 points respectively, are the central government (44 points vs. 61 points) and Central Election Commission (42 points vs. 59 points) (Fig. 11).

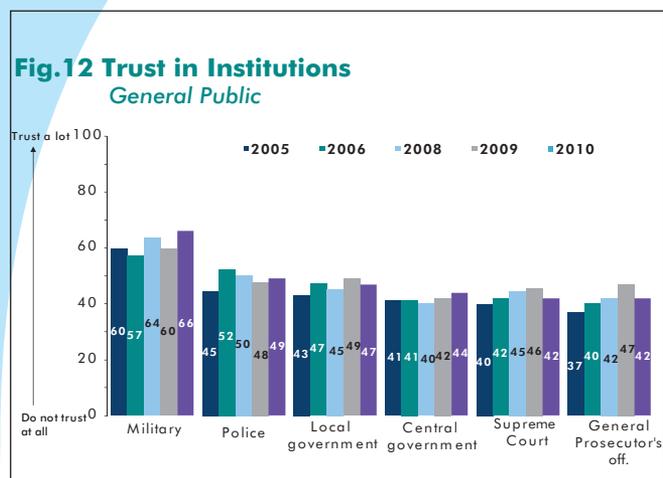


Comparing the general public perception since 2005, there is an increase of almost 6 points in trust of the military.

Trust of the General Prosecutor's Office has decreased by 5 points from 2009, but it is still above the base line of 2005.

Also, trust of the Supreme Court has fallen by 4 points since 2009 but remains higher than 2005.

Police, local and central government show no significant difference from 2009 but are still evaluated higher than the base line of 2005 with 4, 4 and 3 points more, respectively (Fig.12).

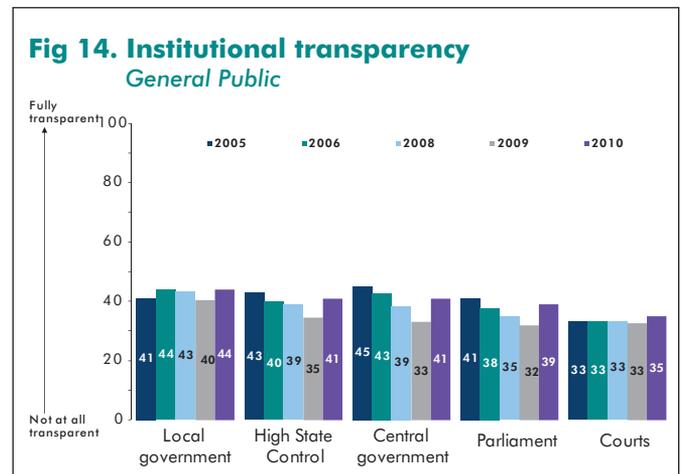
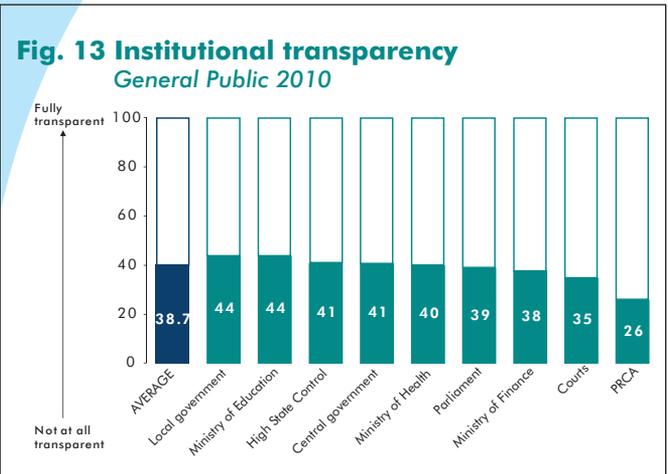


Transparency of Institutions

Both the general public and public sector employees perceive that overall transparency in institutions is low. The average score of nine institutions considered is below the midpoint; 38.7 points⁷ for the general public and 48.9 points for public sector employees. (Fig. 13 & Fig. 15).

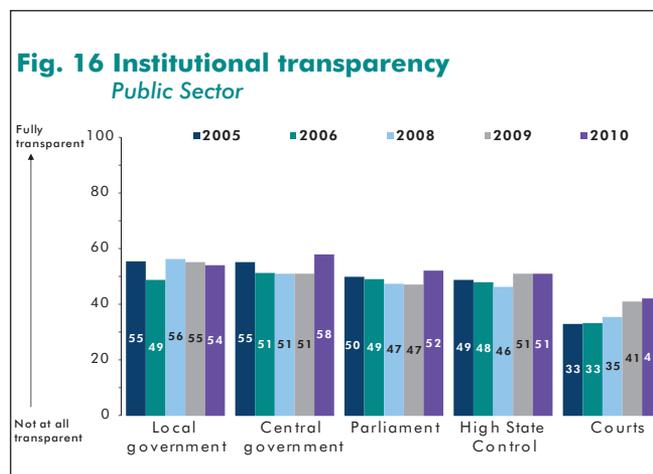
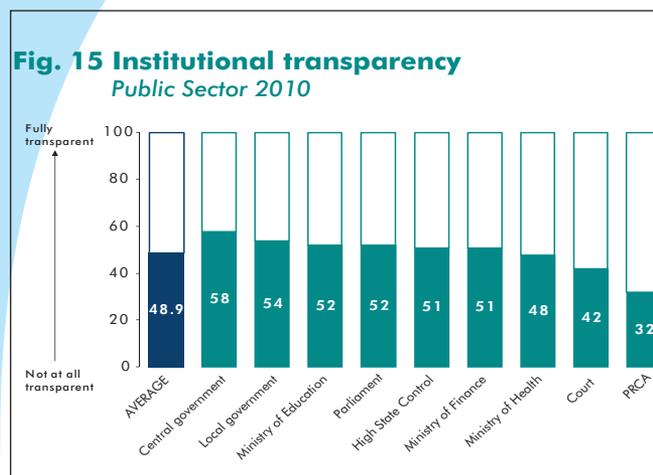
The most transparent institutions in the eyes of the general public are considered to be local government and Ministry of Education with 44 points each, while the least transparent is considered to be the Property Restitution and Compensation Agency (PRCA) with 26 points.

Local government, the High State Control, central government, and parliament are perceived as more transparent by the general public compared to 2009. There is an increase of 4, 6, 8, and 7 points, respectively, from last year's evaluation by the general public. Only local government and courts have scored higher in 2010 than any previous year (Fig. 14).



Public sector employees' views of institutional transparency are better than those of the general public. Central and local government scored 58 and 54 points, respectively, meaning that they are seen as slightly more transparent. PRCA is considered as the least transparent institution (32 points) by public sector employees (Fig. 15).

When comparing the perceptions of public sector employees on institutional transparency through the years, it can be observed that perceptions about central government have improved by 7 points from 2009, scoring 58 points in 2010. Perceptions of transparency of Parliament have also improved from 2009 by 5 points, reaching 52 points in 2010. On the other hand, perceptions of the other evaluated institutions show no significant change from 2009 (Fig.16).



Awareness of Anti-corruption Activities

General public awareness of anti-corruption initiatives in Albania is very low. Only 15.7% of the respondents were aware of at least one anti-corruption initiative in the country. This percentage is the lowest in five years and there is a decreasing trend of general public awareness since 2008 (Fig. 17).

Public sector employees are more aware of anti-corruption activities than the general public. 42.8% of public sector employees have heard of such initiatives. Still, this percentage is the lowest in five years, a decrease of 14.9 percentage points from 2009 and 25.0 percentage points from 2005 (Fig. 18).

Fig. 17 Awareness of any anti-corruption initiatives
General Public

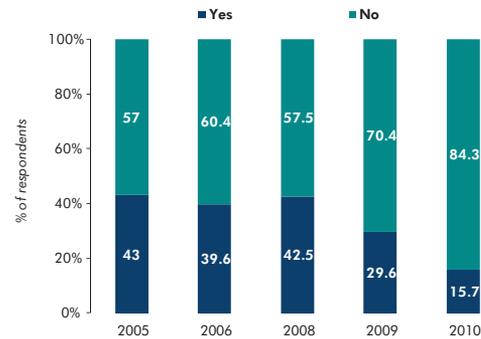
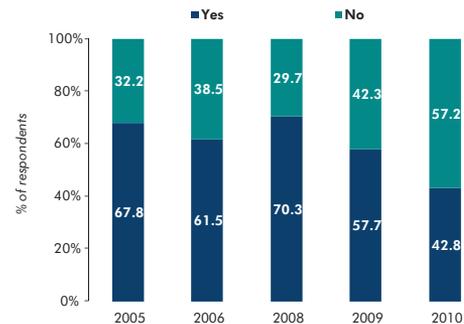


Fig. 18 Awareness of any anti-corruption initiatives
Public Sector



Corruption Experience

The surveys also explore direct and indirect experiences with corruption. Respondents were asked whether they paid bribes to obtain public services during their interaction with public institutions in the last twelve months. They were also asked whether they have ever been asked by public officials to pay bribes. Indirect experiences were obtained by asking the respondents if they were witness to a corrupt transaction.⁸

In addition, ten direct experience questions⁹ were used to create an index entitled "Corruption Victimization." This is a count index used to measure the number of ways a person has been victimized by corruption. The score is based on the average number of ways in which respondents claim to have been victimized.

In 2010, respondents report to have been victimized on average 1.31 ways out of 10 ways surveyed. The corruption victimization index has remained about the same as 2009. Still, the index is less than that of 2005, where the reported direct experience with corruption was 1.70 ways out of 10 (Fig.19).

Compared to the 2005 survey, there is a decline in the corruption experience. In most of the scenarios provided in the questionnaire (five of which are presented in Fig. 20), the percentage of the respondents who declared they were a victim of corruption in the respective scenario has decreased when compared to that of the 2005 survey.

Visiting a doctor/nurse and processing of documents remain the two instances where the general public has been most victimized. 33.5% of the general public declared to have paid a bribe to a doctor or nurse during the last year (Fig. 20). This percentage is the lowest in five years. Compared to the 2009 survey, there is a decrease

of 3.5 percentage points of respondents who have paid a bribe to a doctor or nurse. 20.4% of the general public declared to have paid a bribe in order to speed up processing procedures or receive documents such as certificates, business licenses, etc.

Fig. 19 Corruption victimization index
General Public

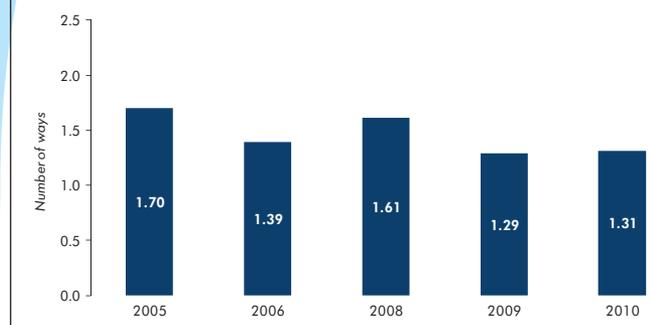
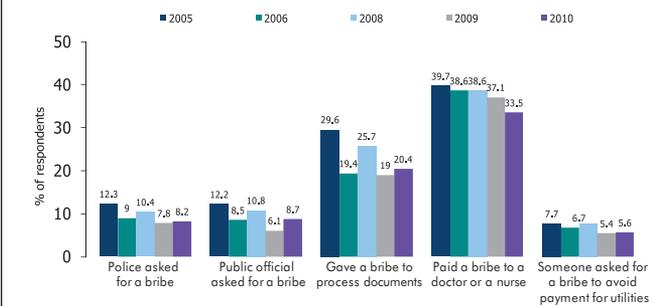


Fig.20 Corruption victimization – those who answered yes
General Public



Summary of findings

Indirect corruption experience is higher than direct experience. 28.4% of the general public declared to have been a witness to a corrupt transaction involving a policeman (e.g., have seen someone pay a bribe to a policeman) during the last year, compared to 8.2% of the general public who has been asked by a policeman to pay a bribe. As well, 14.8% of the respondents have had an indirect corruption experience involving a public official during the last twelve months (e.g., have seen someone paying a bribe to a public official), compared to 8.7% of the general public who have been victimized by corruption involving a public official (Fig.21).

Indirect experience is lower compared to the 2005 survey. There is a decrease of 4.8 and 3.9 percentage points, respectively, with indirect corruption experiences involving a policeman or a public official compared to the 2005 survey.

Further analysis of the corruption victimization scenarios shows that of the interviewed respondents, 56.6% reported at least one direct experience with corruption in the past 12 months. There is no decrease in the percentage of respondents who have been victimized by corruption compared to the 2009 survey. Compared to 2005 there is a decrease of 9.9 percentage points (Fig.22).

Fig. 21 Indirect corruption experience
General Public

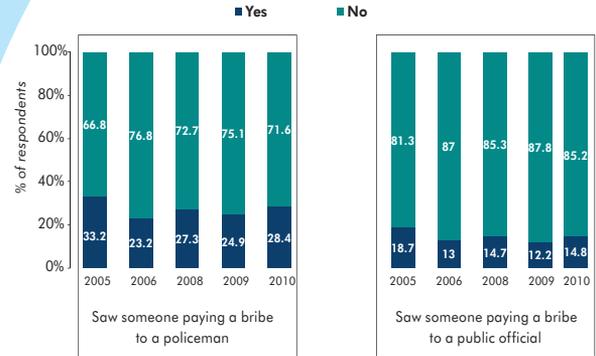
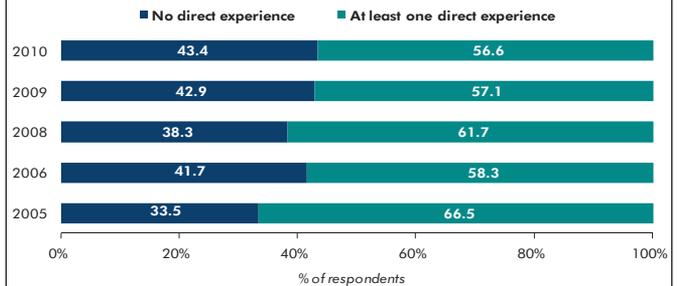


Fig. 22 Direct experience with corruption
General Public



The impact of the health sector on corruption experience is very significant. If the dimension of the health sector is excluded from the calculations, the percentage of respondents declaring to have been a victim of corruption at least once in the past twelve months drops to 38.3% (Fig.23).

Corruption experience affects perception of corruption. Respondents who have had at least one direct experience in the last twelve months tend to perceive institutions/groups as slightly more corrupt than respondents who have not been victimized. However, the gap between these perceptions is not so large as to change the overall perception of corruption (Fig.24).

Fig. 23 Impact of health sector on corruption
General Public

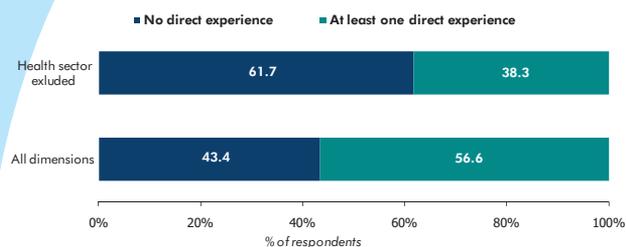
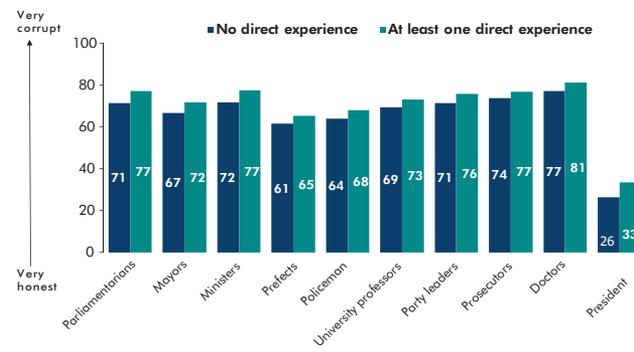


Fig. 24 Honest vs. Corrupt

Experience vs. non experience with corruption
General Public 2010



Attitudes Towards Corruption

The survey also explores the attitudes of the Albanian public towards different dimensions of corruption. Several scenarios of corrupt transactions were presented to respondents for their judgment of the different parties involved.

The following scenarios were presented:

- A student who gives a shirt to a teacher with the hope of receiving a better grade.
- A mother who gives 500 LEK to avoid a queue for birth certificates for her children.
- A businessman who pays a bribe of USD 10,000 to a minister.
- A politician who uses his/her influence to get his/her relative a public sector job.
- A public official who uses a government vehicle for personal use.

In the case of a mother who gives 500 LEK to avoid a queue for birth certificates for her children and of a student who gives a shirt to a teacher hoping to improve his grading, the respondents tend to be benevolent toward these “givers” and opinion on whether they are taking part in a corrupt transaction is divided. In all other cases, opinion shifts toward punishing both parties to the transaction; more than 70% of the general public judged both parties as “Corrupt and must be punished” (Fig. 25).

Attitudes toward corruption over the years show little change. In the scenario where a student gives a shirt to a teacher hoping to receive a better grade, empathy for the ‘giver’ is less strong than for the mother’s scenario. The percentage of respondents who think of the student as “Corrupt and must be punished” has not differed significantly over the years. In 2010, there is a significant increase in those who justify corruption as well as a sig-

Summary of findings

Fig 25. Attitudes towards corruption
General Public 2010

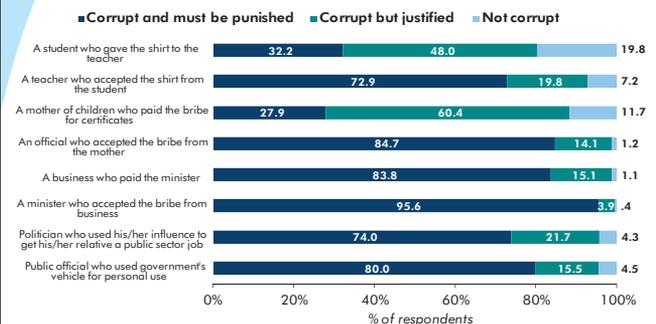
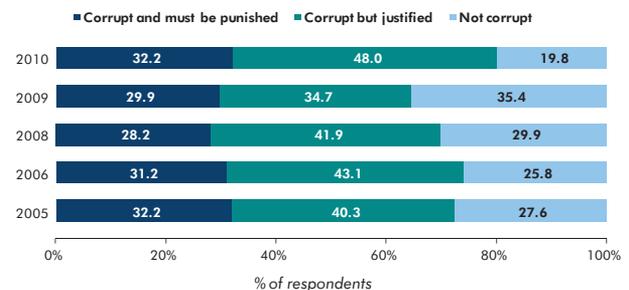


Fig 26. Attitudes towards corruption
A student who gives a shirt to the teacher
General Public 2010



The Albanian public perceives businesses that inflate prices during periods of higher demand as engaging in corrupt practices.

When asked about a flower vendor who increases prices during holidays, approximately one in two respondents judged the flower vendor as “Corrupt and must be punished”. 33.8% of the respondents said the vendor was “Corrupt but justified” while only 17.5% said the vendor was “Not corrupt”. From 2009 to 2010, more respondents consider the vendor corrupt but also more consider the vendor justified (Fig. 27).

Also, in the case of a lawyer who charges too high a fee for the services provided, the general public (71.5%) considers that the lawyer is engaging in a corrupt practice (Fig. 28).

Fig. 27 Attitudes toward corruption

Flower vendor
General Public

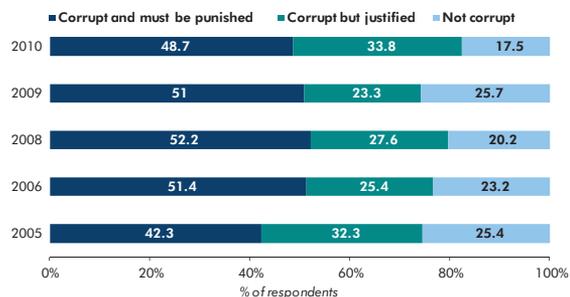
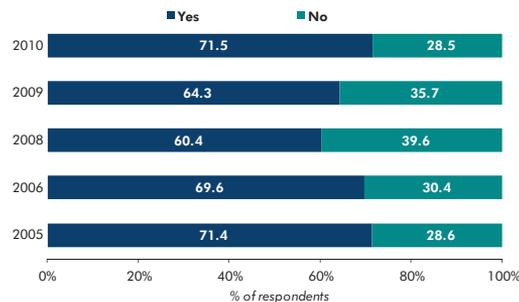


Fig. 28 Do you think that a lawyer is corrupt when s/he charges too high a fee?

General Public 2010



Judicial System

Trust toward the judicial system has declined from 2009, having increased steadily from 2005. In this year’s survey, only 35.9% of the respondents declared that they trust the judicial system either “A lot” or to “Some” degree. This is 10.7 percentage points lower than 2009. The percentage of respondents who trust the judiciary “A little” or “Not at all” remains high, at 64.1% (Fig. 29).

Treatment by the courts has deteriorated from 2009. 38% of respondents who have dealt with the courts believe they have been treated “Poorly” or “Very poorly”. This is 11.3 percentage points higher than 2009. In 2010, the percentage of respondents who have been treated “Very well” or “Well” by the courts has decreased from 2009 (Fig. 30).

Fig. 29 Trust in judicial system
General Public

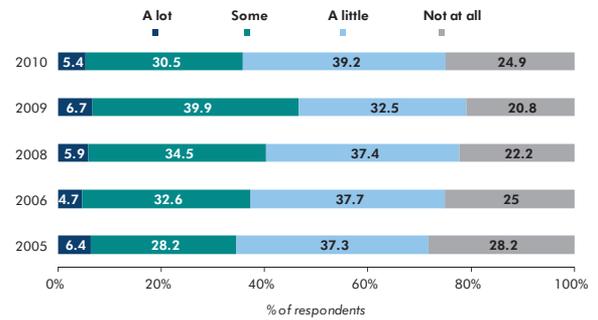
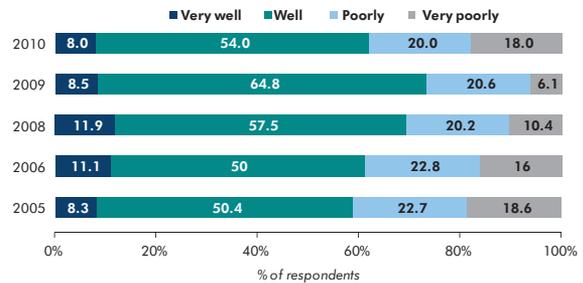


Fig. 30 Attitudes toward corruption

Only those who have dealt with the courts during the last twelve months
General Public



According to the general public (79.7%), it is difficult to get information from the courts. The percentage of respondents who think that obtaining information from the courts is either “Very difficult” or “Difficult” has deteriorated by 10.2 points from 2009 (Fig. 31).

Treatment by the police has not changed from 2009 according to general public experience. Of those who have dealt with the police, 71.9% declared they were treated either “Very well” or “Well”. According to general public experience, the improving trend in treatment by the police from 2005 to 2009 stopped in 2010 (Fig. 32).

Fig. 31 Ease of obtaining information from the courts
General Public

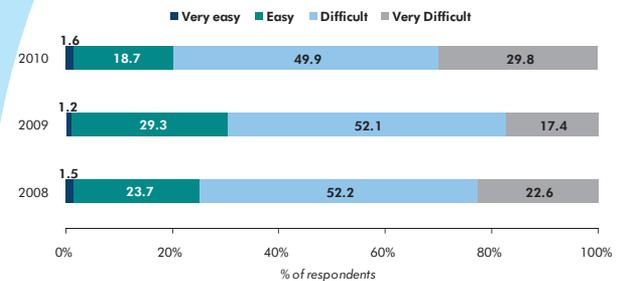
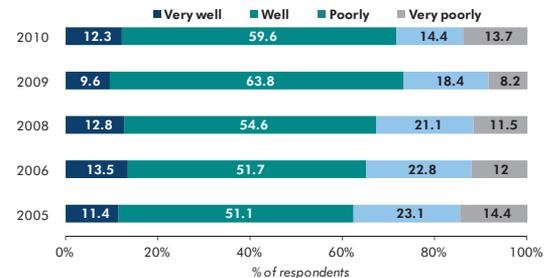


Fig. 32 Treatment by the police

Only those respondents who have dealt with police during the last twelve months
General Public



Reversing the trend from 2005 to 2009, the percentage of those who have dealt with prosecutors' offices and who have been treated well has decreased from 2009. 61.9% of the respondents who have interacted with the prosecutors' offices declared that they received good treatment (Fig. 33).

Approximately half of the judges (48.8%) confirmed that they were approached by lawyers outside the court in an attempt to influence their decision. This percentage is 11.6 percentage points higher than 2009. However, the percentage of judges being approached by the litigants with bribes has not changed from 2009 and is significantly lower than 2008 (Fig. 34).

Fig. 33 Treatment by prosecutors' offices

Only those respondents who have dealt with prosecutors' offices during the last twelve months
General Public

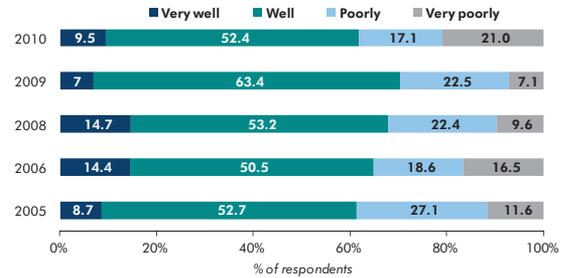
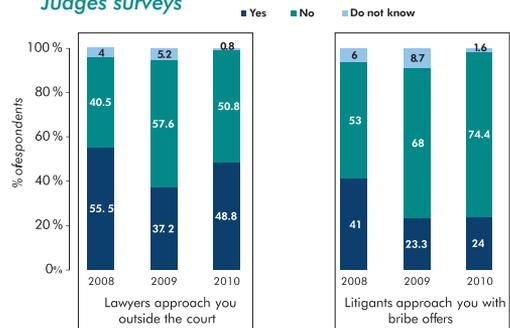


Fig. 34 Approach of lawyers and litigants to judges

Judges surveys



According to 33.9% of the interviewed judges, corruption in the Albanian court system is a serious problem. This percentage is 6.6 percentage points higher than the 2009 survey but still significantly lower than the 2008 survey when 50.5% of the interviewed judges shared the same opinion (Fig. 35).

In 2010 only 21.7% of the general public think that judges are impartial when conducting trials. Although there is a 5.7 percentage points increase from 2009, still this proportion is small. Public sector employees' opinion on judges impartiality in conducting trials remains the same as the previous year while 87.9% of the interviewed judges think of themselves or their colleagues as impartial. (Fig.36).

Fig. 35 Corruption in the Albanian court system is a serious problem
Judges surveys

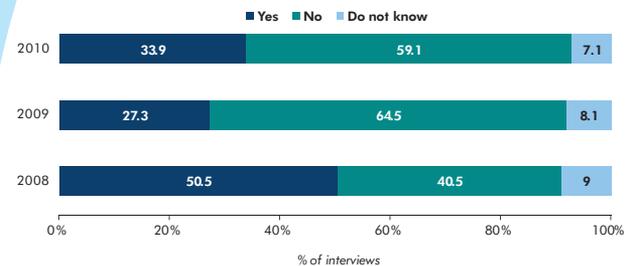
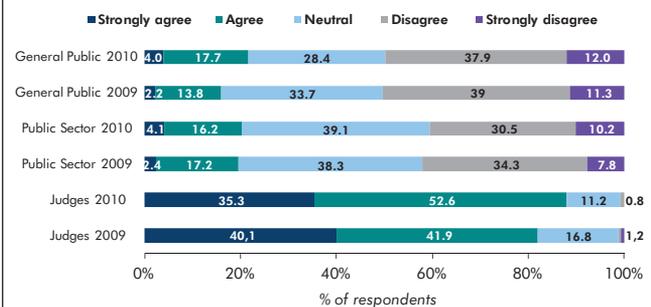


Fig 36. Judges are impartial in conducting trials 2009, 2010



Economic Evaluation

General public perception of the overall economic situation is the same as last year and has not changed much from that of 2005. Slightly more than half of the respondents (53.9%) think the country's economic situation is "Bad" or "Very Bad". 34.3% of the general public perceives a 'Fair' economy and only 11.8% think that the economy is "Good" or "Very Good" (Fig. 37).

Public sector employees perceive the economy more positively than the general public. 29.2% of public sector employees see the country's economy as either "Very good" or "Good". This percentage is 10.5 percentage points higher than 2009 and 14.8 percentage points higher than 2005. Also, the percentage of public sector employees who perceive the economy as "Bad" or "Very bad" has decreased from 2005 (Fig. 38).

Fig. 37 General economic situation in Albania
General Public

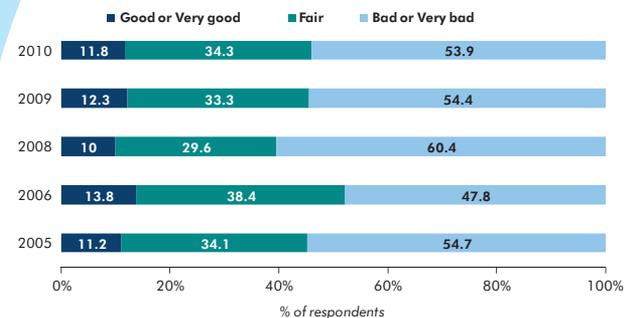
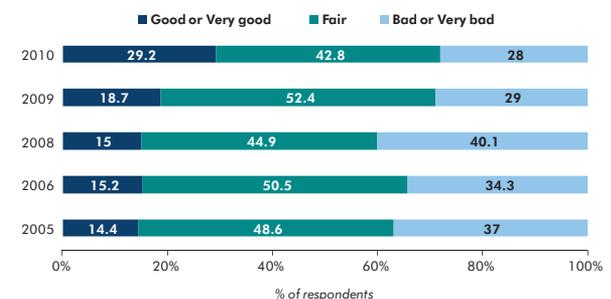


Fig. 38 General economic situation in Albania
Public Sector



Opinion on how the country's economy has changed over the years is divided. 46.0% of the general public think that the economy is worse than a year ago, 42.5% think it is the same and only 11.6% think it has improved. These percentages are almost the same as those in 2009 (Fig. 39).

Expectations of the economy have changed little since 2009. There are slightly fewer respondents who think that the economy will be better in the coming year. Those who expect an economic stagnation have increased from 35.3% in 2009 to 39.8% in 2010. 23.3% of the respondents declared that they expect the economy to worsen in the coming year (Fig. 40).

Fig. 39 General economic situation in Albania compared to a year ago
General Public

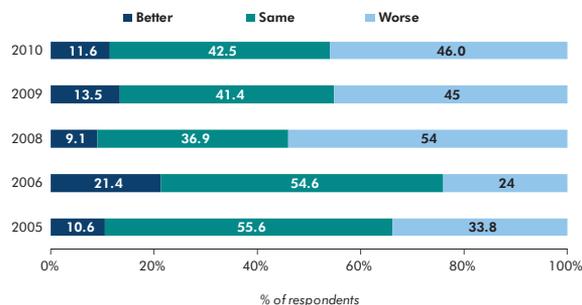
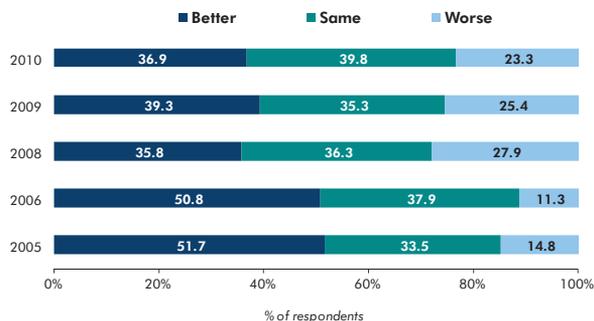


Fig. 40 General economic situation in Albania a year from now
General Public



Impact of Political Orientation on Perceptions

This survey, as in previous years, indicates that perceptions of corruption, trust, transparency and the extent to which institutions fight corruption are highly correlated with the political orientation of respondents.

In general, right-leaning respondents evaluate institutions more positively than left-leaning respondents. The average perception of corruption of the institutions and groups evaluated is 67 points for left-leaning respondents, 11 points higher than the average perception of right-leaning respondents. Consistently, corruption perceptions of different institutions are higher for respondents who identify themselves as left-leaning. Despite these differences, however, even right-leaning respondents think that institutions are, on average, “more corrupt than honest” with a score of 56 points (Fig. 41).

Also, right-leaning respondents trust institutions more than left-leaning ones. The average score for right-leaning respondents is 56 points, above the mid-point of the scale. The average score for the left-leaning respondents is only 34 points, meaning that these respondents have little trust in institutions (Fig. 42).

Perceptions and evaluations of respondents in the center of the political scale are between those of the left-oriented respondents and those of the right-oriented respondents.

Fig. 41 Honesty vs. Corruption - Average
By political orientation
General Public 2010

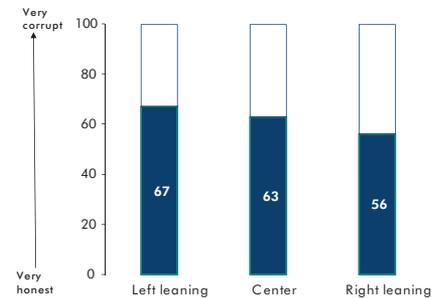
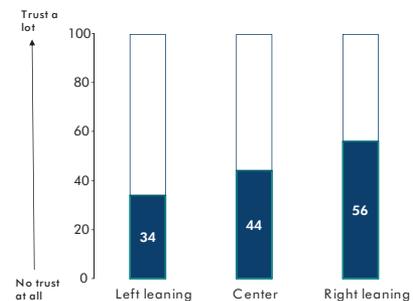


Fig. 42 Trust in institutions
By political orientation
General Public 2010



Endnotes

- ¹ No definition of corruption was provided to respondents. They were asked to evaluate each of the institutions based on their own perception of corruption.
- ² On a 0-100 corruption perception scale where 0 means “Very honest” and 100 means “Very corrupt”
- ³ IPRO is acronym for Immovable Property Registration Office
- ⁴ Public sector employees were presented with a list of 21 institutions and groups for evaluation, one more than the general public. The additional institution is Civil Service Commission.
- ⁵ On a 0-100 scale, where 0 means “Does not help at all” and 100 means “Helps a lot”.
- ⁶ On a 0-100 scale, where 0 means “Do not trust at all” and 100 means “Trust a lot”.
- ⁷ On a 0-100 scale, where 0 means “Not at all transparent” and 100 means “Fully transparent”.
- ⁸ Seligson, M. A. (2005). *The Measurement and Impact of Corruption Victimization: Survey Evidence from Latin America*. Elsevier Ltd
- ⁹ 1) Did any police official ask you to pay a bribe during the last year? 2) During the last year, did any public official ask you for a bribe? 3) During the last year, to process any kind of document (like a business license), did you have to pay any money higher than prescribed by the law? 4) Are you currently employed? If yes, at your workplace, did someone ask you for an inappropriate payment during the last year? 5) In order to obtain your current job, did you have to pay a bribe? 6) During the last year, did you deal with the courts? If yes, did you have to pay any bribe at the courts during the last year? 7) Did you use the public State Health Services during the last year? If yes, to be served at the State Health Service during the last year, did you have to pay any money aside of what was indicated in the receipt? 8) Did you have to pay the doctor or nurse any additional monies beyond those specified in the bill or receipt? 9) Did any of your children go to school during the last year? If yes, at the school, did they ask for any payment besides the established fees? 10) Did someone ask you for a bribe to avoid or reduce the payment of electricity, telephone, or water?
- ¹⁰ Respondents were asked to place their own political orientation on a scale of 1-10 where 1 is far left and 10 is far right. Left-leaning respondents are defined as those who answered 1-4; center are those who answered 5-6; right-leaning are those who answered 7-10