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Public

Opinion

About the
Wiretapping

Affair

Survey of
Public Opinion

March 2015

Skopje



Title:

Public Opinion about the Wiretapping Affair: Survey of Public Opinion

Publishers:

Institute for Democracy ‘Societas Civilis’ Skopje (IDSCS)
Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC)
Telma Television

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Skopje, March 2015

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1. Introduction

The Institute for Democracy ‘Societas Civilis’ Skopje (IDSCS) and the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) in cooperation with Telma Television have begun a series of public opinion surveys on current political issues. The topic of this survey was the public opinion about the publishing of wiretapped recordings of communication between different public figures from the political parties in the majority and opposition, as well as journalists and the judiciary.

2. Methodology

The fieldwork was carried out between the 19th of February and the 2nd of March 2015. The ‘face to face’ survey was conducted on a nationally representative sample of 1000 respondents. The survey has been conducted by the M-prospect polling agency from Skopje.

The sample is representative for the adult population by gender, age, ethnicity and geographical distribution. Additionally, all results have been weighted on the basis of past voting in order to arrive at a politically representative sample. This is a standard practice in order to account for different response rates for different political groups.

The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 3.1\%$.

3. Findings

Endangered Privacy

Having in mind the wiretapping revelations, 43% of the respondents feel that their privacy has been endangered. Contrary to that, 50% do not have this feeling of endangerment. The number of citizens who feel their privacy has been threatened is large, taking into account that 43% of the entire adult population is 680.000.

The demographic analysis shows that the younger generations, and students, feel more threatened, unlike retired persons and those above 60 who the least threatened.

Almost a third of the voters of VMRO-DPMNE¹ feel their privacy is threatened, and the same feeling is present in every other voter of SDSM² and DUI³. A large majority of DPA’s⁴ voters (76%) feel threatened.

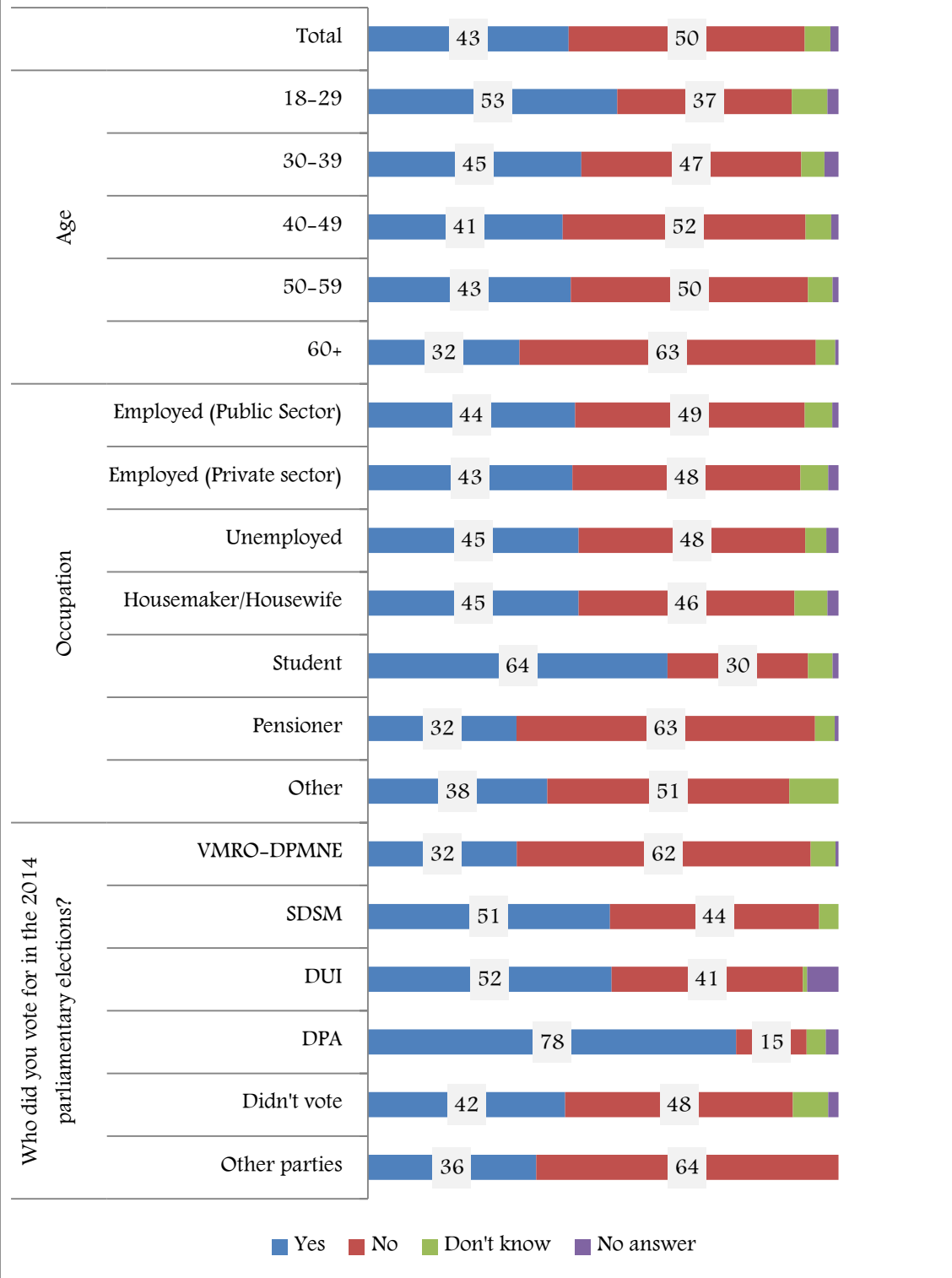
¹ The ruling party in the Macedonian bloc.

² The main opposition party in the Macedonian bloc.

³ The ruling party in the Albanian bloc and part of the governing coalition.

⁴ The main opposition party in the Albanian bloc.

Figure 1. Do you feel that in the wiretapping affair revealed by the opposition your privacy is endangered?



Who did the wiretapping?

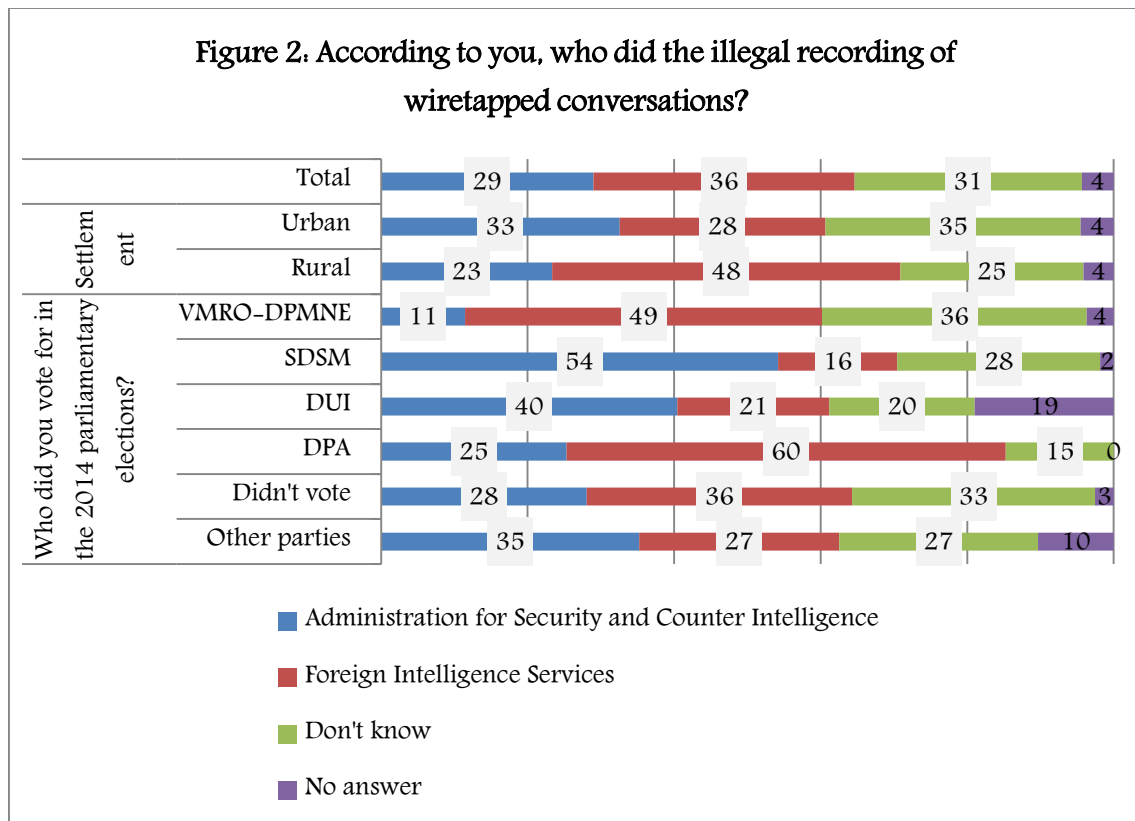
More than a third of the respondents still do not have an opinion about who did the wiretapping. According to 29% of the respondents, the Administration for Security and Counter-Intelligence (ASC) while 36% think it were foreign intelligence agencies.

The analysis shows that the highest difference appears between respondents from different settlement types. Every third inhabitant of an urban area thinks that the ASC is responsible, while almost half of the respondents living in rural areas think the responsibility lies in foreign agencies.

More than one in every 10 voters of VMRO-DPMNE think that ASC has made the recordings while almost 5 in 10 think it was a foreign service. The situation is significantly different among the voters of SDSM where more than half believe the recording was done by the ASC.

Among the ethnic Albanian voters the results are also different. Four out of 10 DUI voters think that the ASC is responsible, while six out of 10 DPA voters believe the recording was done by foreign intelligence agencies.

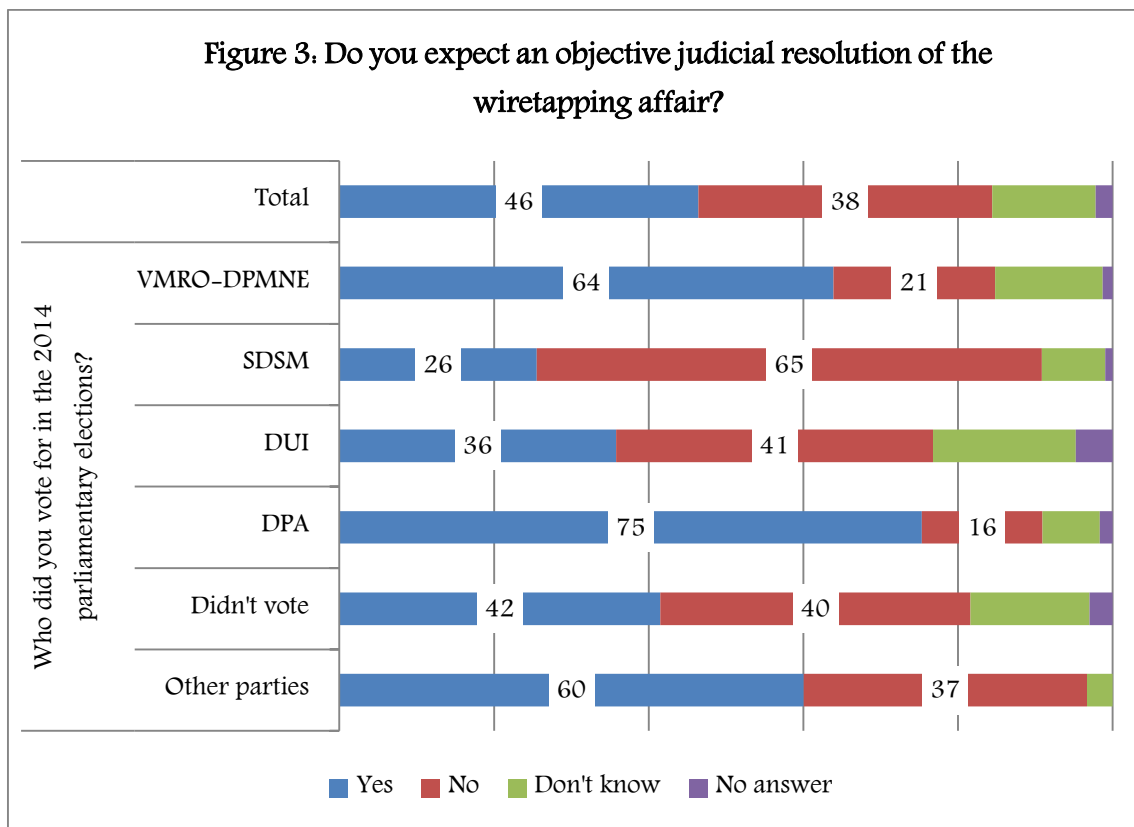
The voters of DUI and DPA are much more decided about this question than those who voted for VMRO-DPMNE and SDSM, as well as the non-voters. On average, about 17% of the DUI and DPA voters were not decided, while this is the case with 32% of the remaining groups. Despite this, the VMRO-DPMNE voters more frequently answered that they did not know (36%) compared to the voters of SDSM (28%).



Crisis resolution

The survey results show that citizens think that the crisis should be resolved with both judicial and political solution. The majority of the respondents (56%) think that there should be activities in the political stage for resolving the issue (early elections, international mediation, interim/expert Government or Cabinet reconstruction). At the same time, the citizens are divided in their expectations about objective judicial resolution of the wiretapping affair – 46% of the respondents expect objective judicial process, while 38% do not.

Among the voters of the two biggest parties (VMRO-DPMNE and SDSM), the results are quite different. While almost a third of the VMRO-DPMNE's voters thinks that there will be objective court process, one out of every three SDSM voters expect the opposite.

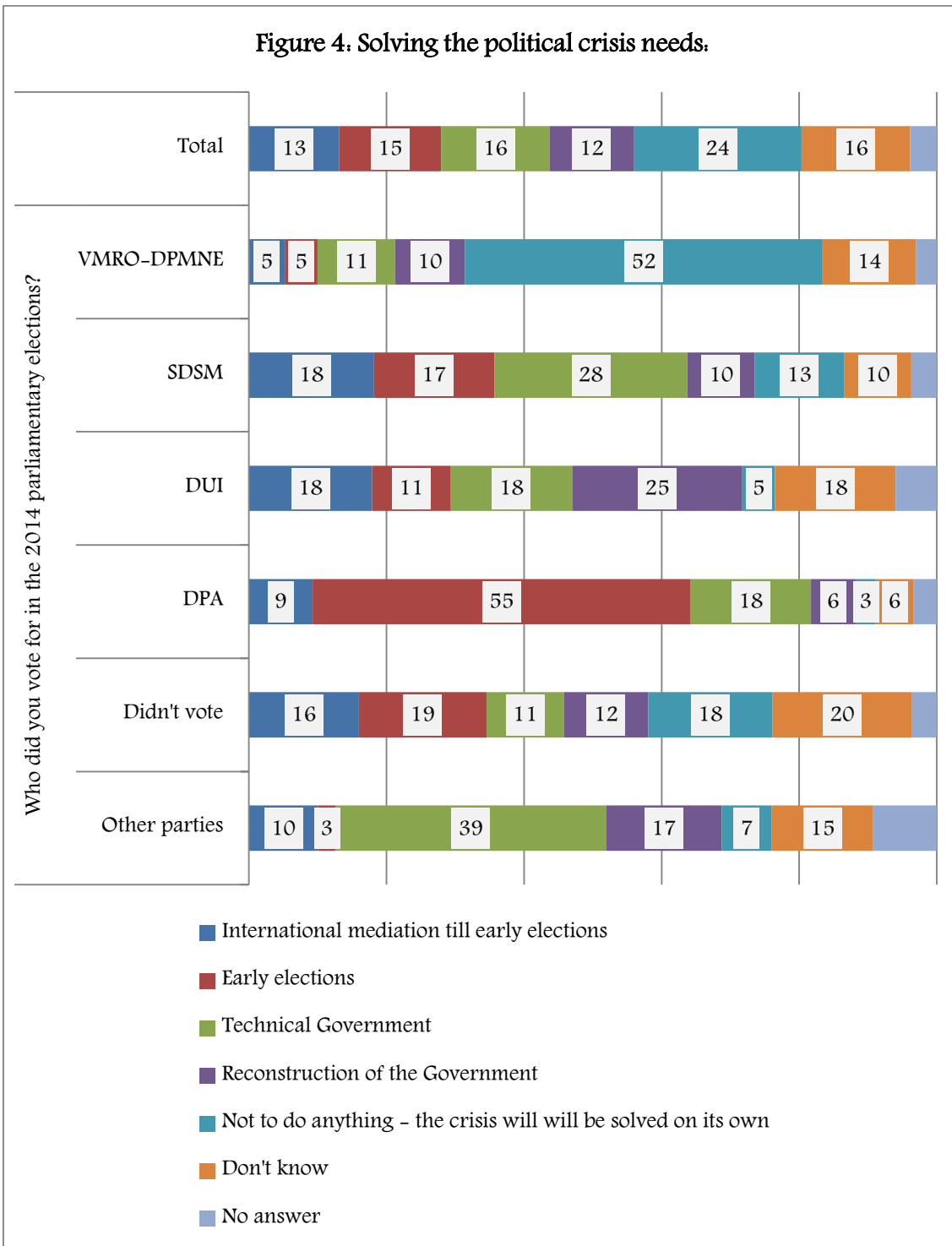


A total of 28% of the respondents think that there should be early elections for the affair to be resolved. Almost half of the respondents think that there should be international mediation. Every sixth respondent thinks that the political crisis should be resolved by constituting and interim government, while one in every eight citizens thinks that the Cabinet needs reconstruction.

Among the voters of SDSM, 28% think that an interim government will resolve the political crisis. Almost a quarter of DUI's voters (24%) think that Cabinet reconstruction is the solution.

Almost a quarter of the respondents (24%) believes nothing needs to be done and the crisis will solve itself. A majority of the voters of VMRO-DPMNE is of this opinion. A Majority of DPA's voters (56%) think that the solution will come with early elections.

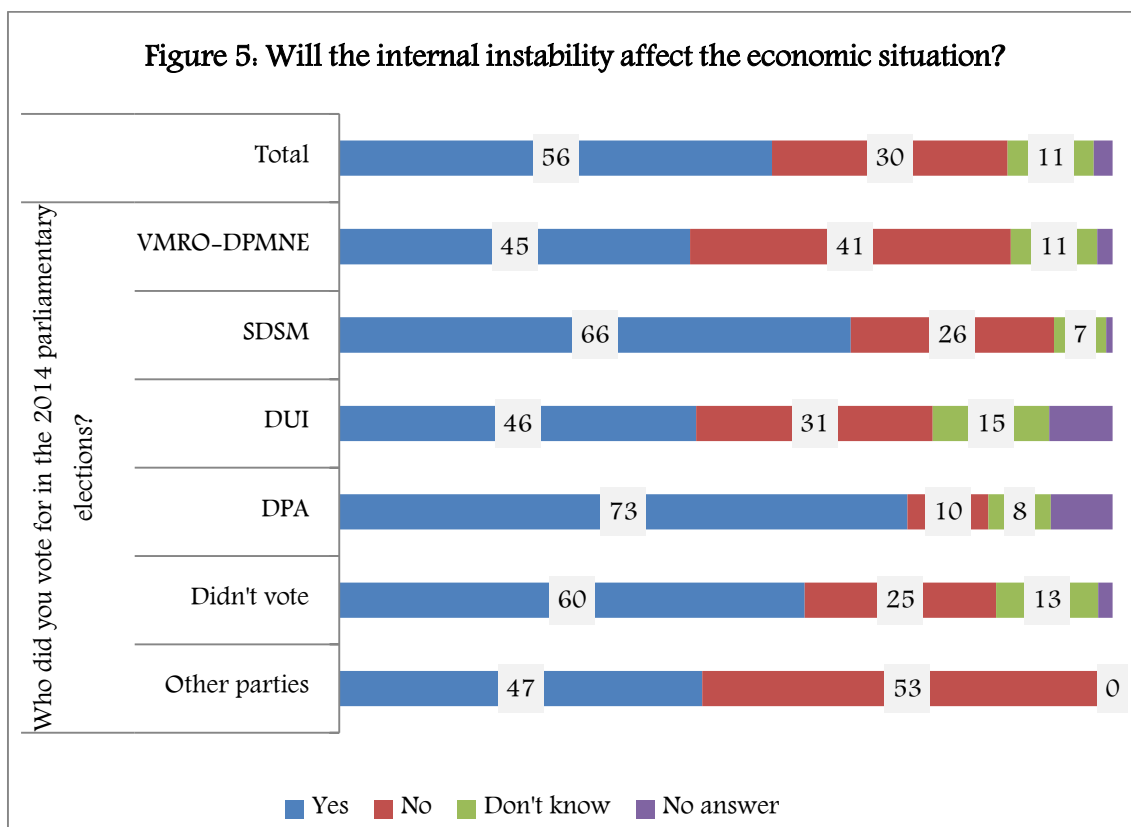
Figure 4. Solving the political crisis needs.



Influence of the crisis over the economic situation

Majority of all respondents (56%) think that the internal instability will affect the economic situation. However, every third respondent says that this will not be the case, i.e. that the political crisis will not affect the economic situation.

The opinion that the internal instability will affect the economic situation is more frequent with the voters of the opposition parties (SDSM and DPA) and with the voters that did not vote in the past elections than with the voters of the position parties (VMRO-DPMNE and DUI).



4. Sample N=1000

Gender	%
Male	50
Female	50
Total	100
Age	%
18-29	20
30-39	20
40-49	19
50-59	18
60+	24
Total	100
Education	%
Primary	20
Secondary	50
High	31
Total	100
Ethnicity	%
Macedonian	70
Albanian	22
Other	8
Total	100
Employment status	%
Employed (public sector)	14
Employed (private sector)	27
Unemployed	20
Home-maker	9
Student	7
Retired	21
Other	2
Total	100
Settlement	%
Urban	61
Rural	39
Total	100

Region	%
Vardar	8
Eastern	10
Southwest	9
Southeast	10
Pelagonija	12
Polog	14
Northeast	8
Skopje	30
Total	100

About the publishers:

IDSCS is a Macedonian based think-tank organisation that is non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit. It was established in 1999 by a group of intellectuals gathered around the idea for democracy, solidarity and civil society. Long term objectives of the Institute are to work on balanced socio economic development, active citizenship and participative political culture. In this direction, we focus our activities on rule of law, good governance and multiethnic and multicultural coexistence. IDSCS work is primarily based on sociometric research and project-based activities. We believe that human capital is a key precondition for positive social change, hence we eagerly undertake capacity building projects based on skills and knowledge transfer. Finally, our society improvement is directly linked to availability of resources for self-reflection. In this sense, we advocate policy recommendations and strive to enrich the public discourse through promotion of evidence based policy, publishing and public events.

MCIC is one of the most important Macedonian and regional civil society organization. The vision of MCIC is peace, harmony and prosperity of the people in Macedonia, the Balkans and globally. The mission of MCIC is to lead social change with new and alternative solutions for social problems. MCIC works in the sectors of social cohesion (employment, education, dialogue and cultural diversity), local and rural development, civil society and good governance. Since 1993, MCIC has implemented more than 65 programs with more than 1500 projects and a total budget of 50 million euros.

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How to cite this work:

Bliznakovski J. and M. Popovikj (2015). *Public opinion about the wiretapping affair: Survey of public opinion*. Institute for democracy 'Societas Civilis' Skopje, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Telma Television. Skopje.