



Институт за демократија
Социетас цивилис - Скопје



Promoting social inclusion through effective use of the EU funds
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Social care receivers experience and perceptions about the living conditions and opportunities

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Title:

Social care receivers experience and perceptions about the living conditions and opportunities

Publisher:

Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje IDSCS

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Skopje, September, 2016



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Introduction

Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” – Skopje as part of the project “Promoting social inclusion through effective use of the EU funding” has conducted a field survey on social care receivers. The survey is consisted of questions focused on information about the help that social welfare recipients receive, general questions about their living conditions, job possibilities and working experiences, as well as evaluation of the social care and protection they receive from state institutions. In the following sections of this report the methodology and the main findings from the research are presented.

Methodology

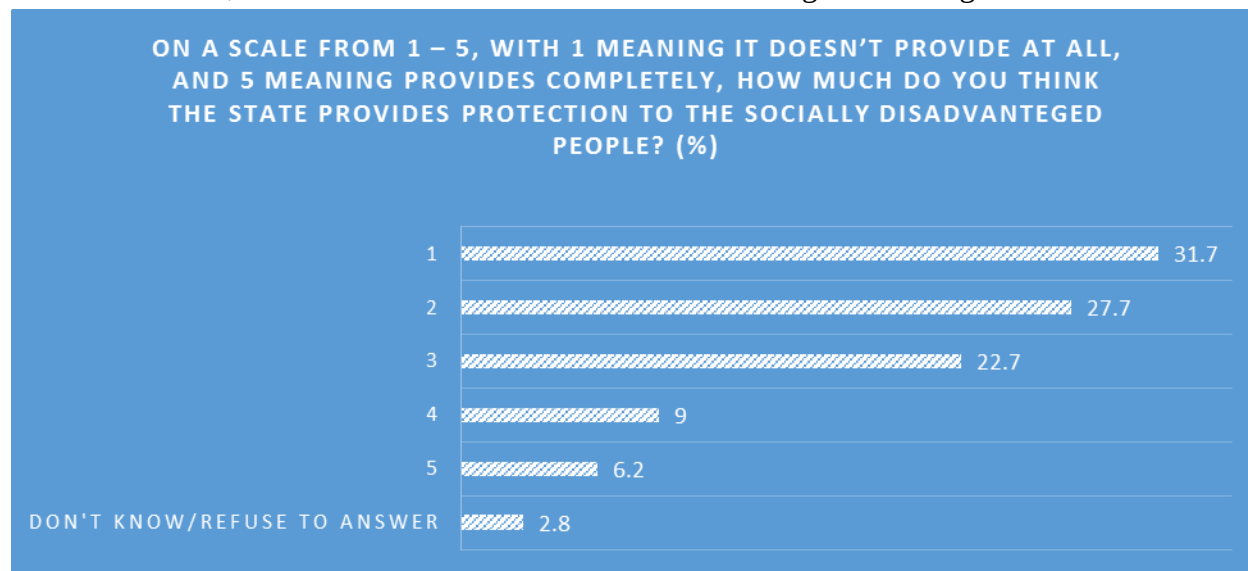
The field survey was conducted in two periods. The first period, from 1st to 15 July 2016, and the second from the 1st to the 3rd August 2016. The survey was conducted in two periods because the social care receivers are obliged to register in the Social work centers in the first fifteen days of the month. Thus, the social welfare recipients are more available to be interviewed in that period. The survey is conducted on a sample of 1121 interviewees, and it is representative by sex, age and has a representative geographical distribution. All results are a subject of $\pm 3\%$ mistake.



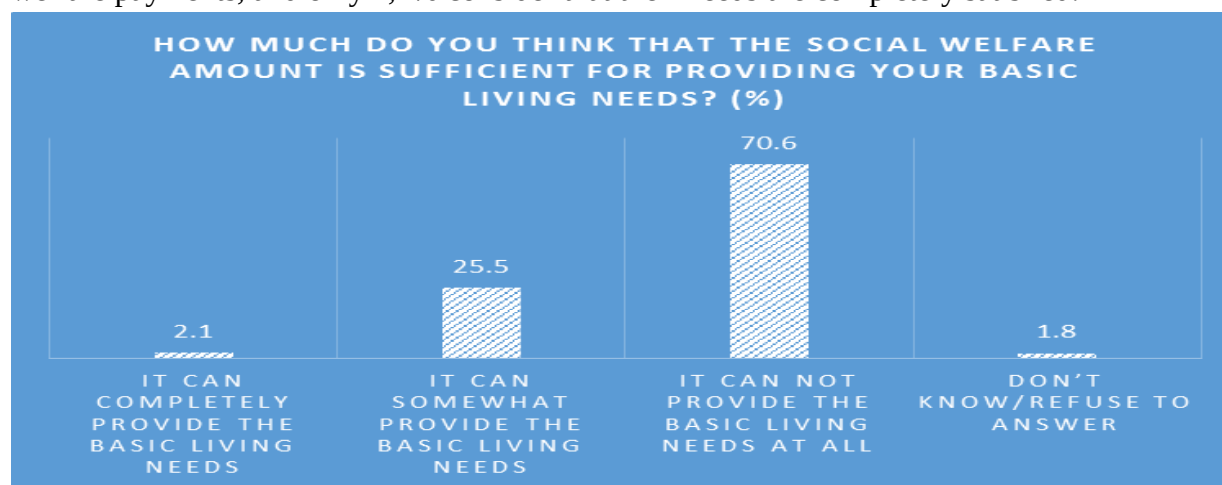
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Findings of the research

Nearly one third (31,7%) of the social care receivers evaluate the extent of provided protection for socially disadvantaged citizens by the state with the lowest score – 1. For 27,7% the state deserves a score of 2 for this issue. The state is evaluated with the middle score – 3 by 22,7% of the interviewees, while in total 15.2% of the interviews gave the highest scores 4 and 5.



More than two thirds (70,6%) of the social care receivers believe that the incomes they receive as social protection rights are not enough to satisfy their basic needs. A quarter (25,5%) consider that they can somewhat satisfy the basic living needs with the amount they receive as social welfare payments, and only 2,1% consider that their needs are completely satisfied.



The social care receivers are almost equally divided in their opinion on the question of delay in the social welfare payments in the last 12 months, 46,9% answered that there was a delay in the payments, while 49,2% claim that there wasn't. Out of those who answered positively, 29%

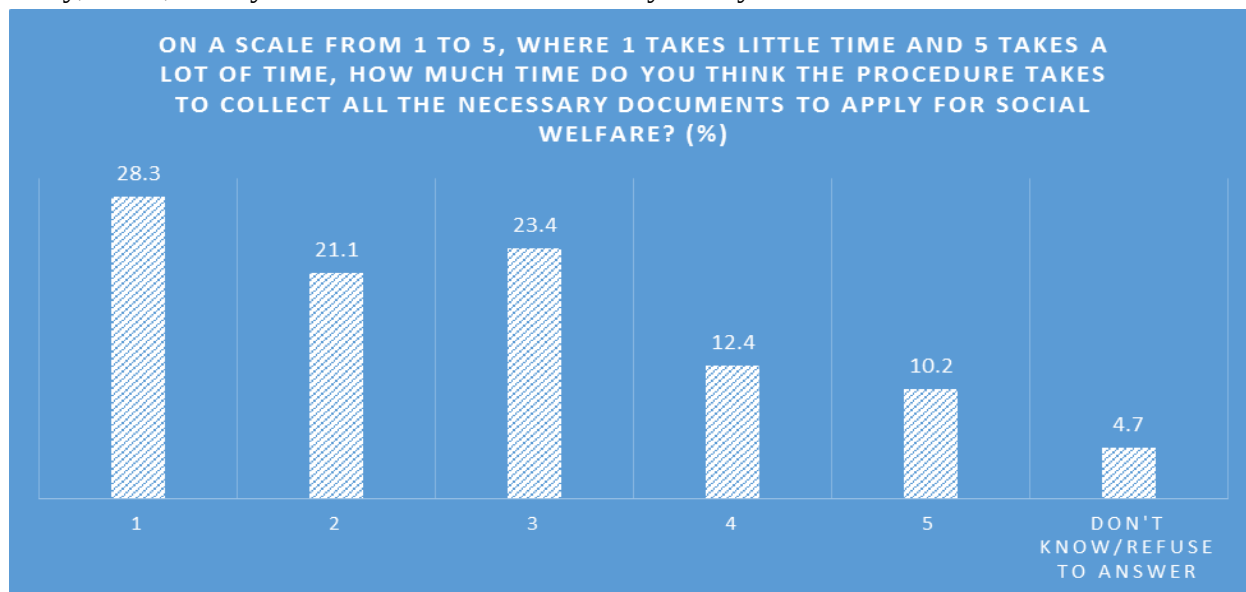


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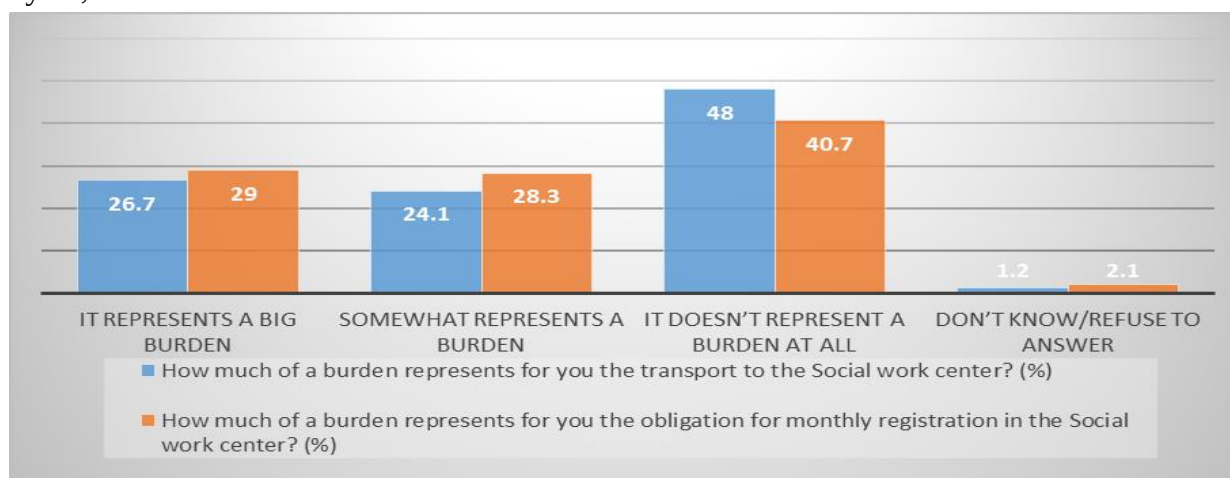


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point out that the payment came with a 5 days delay, 9,6% claim that it came with 6 to 10 days delay, and 6,9% say it came with more than 10 days delay.



More than one quarter (28,3%) of the social welfare recipients evaluate the procedure length with the lowest score, which means the procedure to collect all the documentation required for applying for social welfare payments takes little time according to them. Next most frequent scores are 2 and 3, with 21,1% and 23,4% respectively. While 12,4% gave a 4, which means they are close to the statement that the procedure takes a lot of time. The highest score, 5 was chosen by 10,2% of the interviewees.



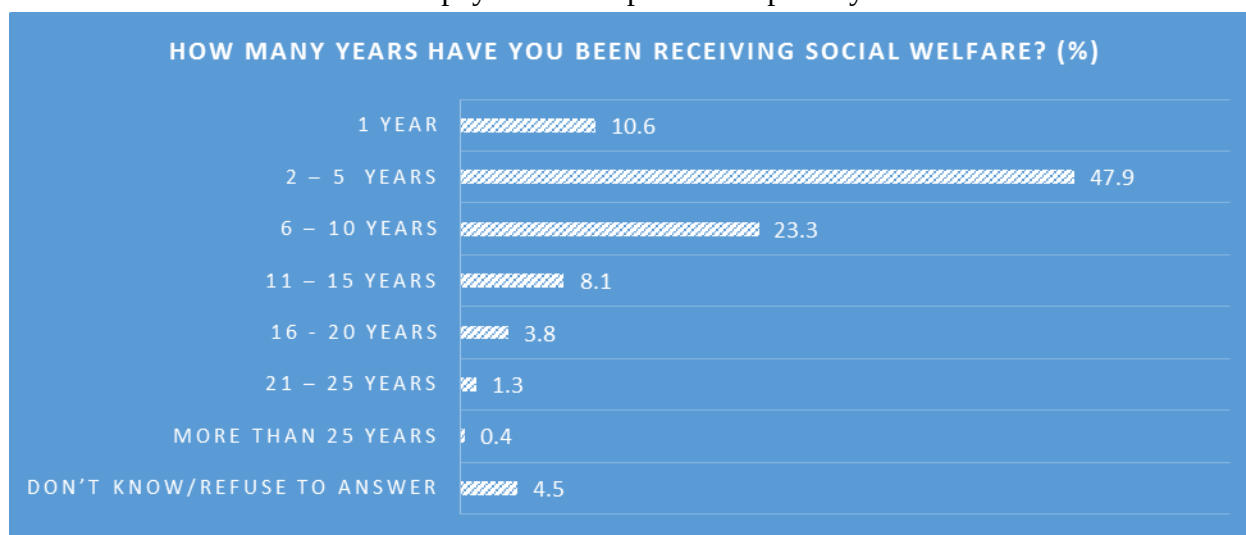
Majority of the social care receivers (57,3%) believe that the obligation for monthly registration in the Social work center represents a certain kind of burden, for 29% this obligation represents a big burden, while for 28,3% it represents somewhat of a burden. Opposite to this, 40,7% of the interviewees point out that this obligation doesn't represent a burden for them. Moreover, the social care receivers are almost equally divided in their opinion about whether the



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transport to the Social work center represents a burden. Half (50,8%) consider it represents somewhat of a burden, out of which 26,7% point out that it represents a big burden, and for 24,1% represents somewhat of a burden. On the other hand, 48% consider that the transport doesn't represent a burden at all.

Almost half (47,9%) of the social care receivers stated that they receive some type of a social welfare payment in a period of 2 to 5 years. More than one third (36,9%) of the interviewees – social care receivers - stated that they receive social welfare payments for more than 6 years, while 11% receive social welfare payments in a period of up to 1 year.

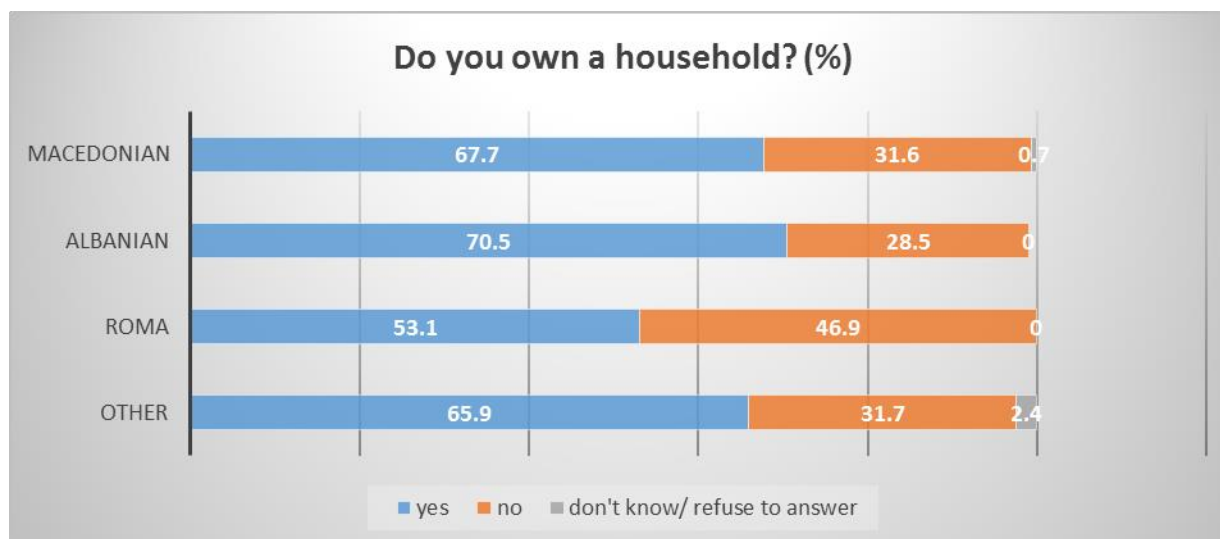


Only 9,5% of the social care receivers stated that they receive more than one type of social welfare payment, against 90,2% who answered that they don't receive other social welfare payments. The most common type of social welfare payments is the financial social welfare, next is the constant financial help, while the other types of social welfare, as the one time financial help, social housing help, etc. are less common. The total incomes in the household of the interviewees' families (43,3%) are mostly between 1 and 3 thousand denars, less common are those with incomes between 3 and 6 thousand denars (33,1%). There is a smaller percentage of interviewees who answered that the incomes in their household pass the amount of 6 thousand denars (14,2%). The number of interviewees which refused to answer this question is also considerable (9,5%).

On the question "do you own a house", 63,5% of the interviewees answered positively, compared to 35,8% that answered negatively. If we analyze according to the ethnicity of the interviewees, there is a difference if the Roma population is compared to other ethnic communities. Almost half (46,9%) of the Roma interviewees answered that they don't own a house, compared to 28% of the Albanians, 31,6% of the Macedonians and 31,7% in the case of the other communities.

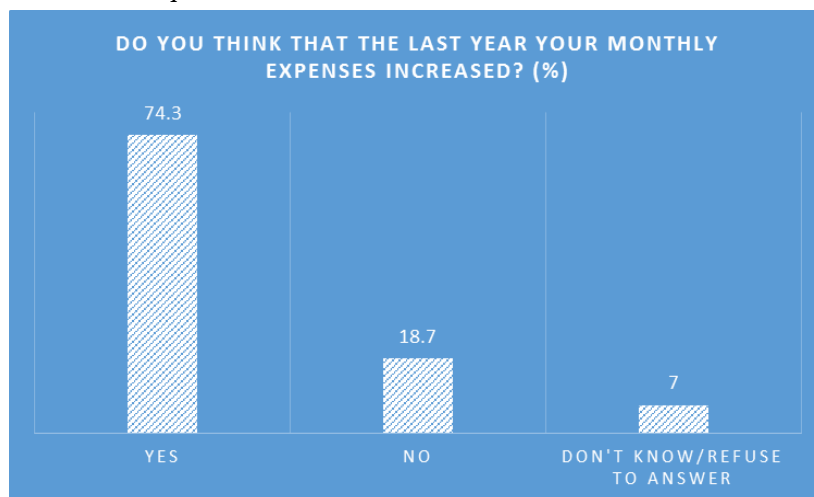


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Regarding farmlands ownership, only 12,7% of the interviewees answered positively, of which 73,3% answered that they use the farmland to produce agricultural products.

Most (75,4%) of the social welfare receivers use wood to heat their houses. Much less are those (18,1%) who use electricity for heating, only 2,9% answered they use gas, and 3,9% refused to answer this question.



Almost three fourths (74,3%) of the social care receivers consider that during the last year their monthly expenses increased. On the other hand, 18,7% of the social care receivers consider that the expenses didn't increased and 7% didn't answer this question. Most of the social care receivers are pessimistic about the future, 21,1% expect that in

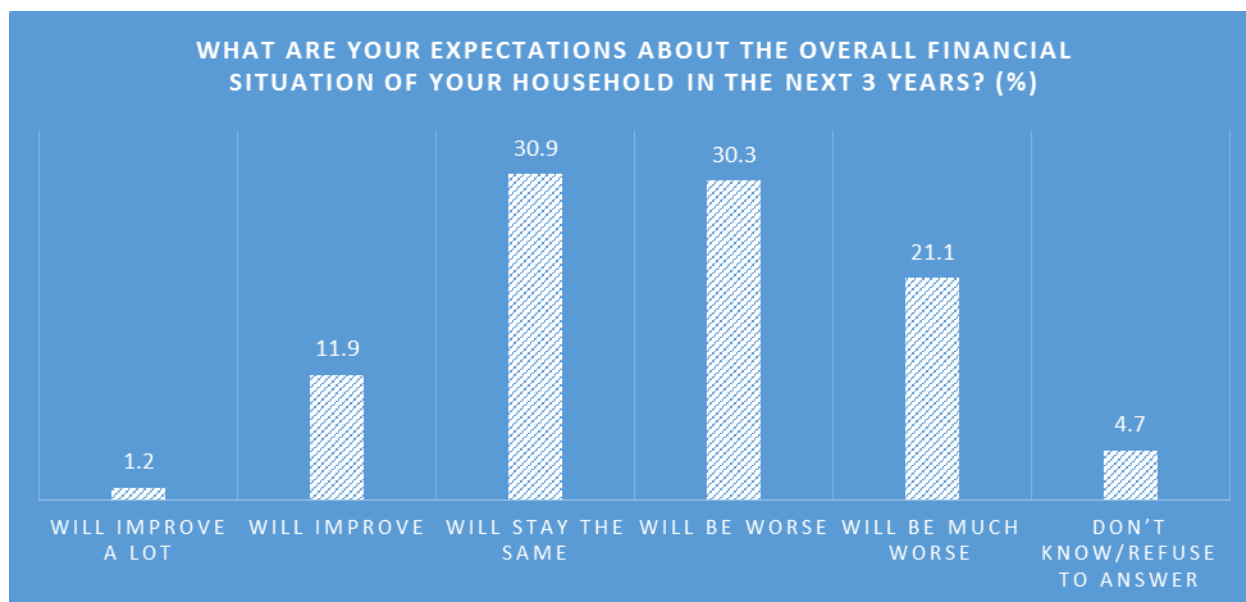
3 years the financial situation of the household will become much worse, and 30,3% consider that it will be worse. 30,9% believe that the situation will stay the same, while only 13,1% are optimistic about the future. If the interviewees are analyzed in categories by age, a higher level of optimism can be noticed at the interviewees at the age of 15 to 24 years, or in other words the youngest. Out of them, only 4,7% expect the situation will be much worse, and 18,6% worse. 53,5% of this category consider that the situation will stay the same, while 18% expect an improvement.



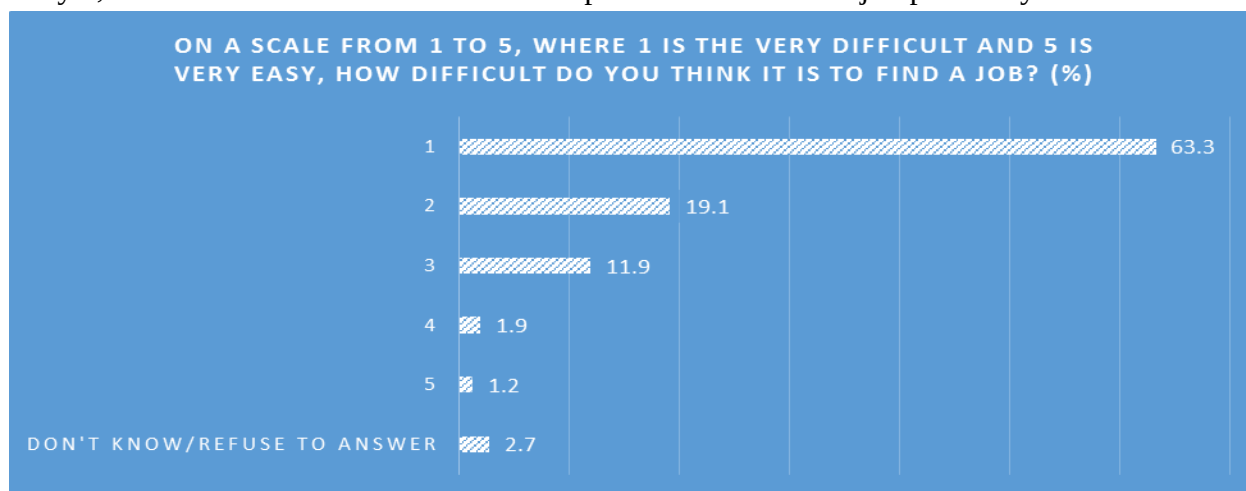
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Almost two thirds of the interviewees consider that it is very difficult to find a job. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 signifies most difficult, 63% of the interviewees answered this question with the lowest score. 19,1% answered with 2, and 11.9% of the interviewees gave the middle score – 3. Only 3,1% of the interviewees evaluated the possibilities to find a job positively with 4 and 5.



Nearly two thirds (60%) of the social welfare recipients answered that they would accept any kind of job, compared to 32,6% who answered they wouldn't accept any kind of job. If this question is analyzed against to the degree of education of the interviewees, only in the case of the interviewees with higher education a bigger number of negative answers (57%) can be noticed, which means this group would not accept any kind of job. While for 29% of the higher educated every job is welcomed.



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Regarding the question about the amount of salary they would work for, most (36,3%) of the interviewees answered that they would work for a salary between 9000 and 12000, for 20% an adequate salary would be between 12000 and 15000, and 15% point out they would work for a salary from 15000 to 21000, while 18,1% refused to answer this question.



Around one fifth of the interviewees (21,9%) answered that they went for a job interview once or more times in the last year, while 64,4% answered that they haven't been to a job interview.

Regarding the active measures, 41,3% of the social welfare recipients are familiar with the active measures for employment, while 55,2% are not familiar with these measures.

Regarding the active measures for employment, it is evident that the level of familiarity is bigger at the interviewees with higher education, and 81% of this group stated that they are familiar with these types of measures, in contrast to the average of 41,3% for all the social welfare recipients. However, regardless of the level of familiarity with the active measures for employment, the social welfare recipients are not using them, namely only 5,7% stated that they applied for this type of measures. The most common reason for not applying (41,5%) is the fear of losing the social welfare income. The rest stated that they are not familiar with the possibility for applying, or with the application process and procedure.

Besides the weak utilization of the active measures for employment, attending an education/course to gain skills which can help in the process of finding a job is even less practiced. Only 3,6% of the interviewees answered positively on the question of whether they have attended this kind of education or course. In contrast to this, the willingness to participate on a course of this kind is a lot bigger, namely 40,3% of the interviewees stated they would attend that kind of training.



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Sample

sex (%)	
Man	59,2
Woman	40,8

age (%)	
15-24	3,8
25-34	17,3
25-44	26,8
45-55	29,3
55-64	20,2
65+	2,6

ethnicity (%)	
Macedonian	38,4
Albanian	19,1
Turk	6,6
Vlach	,5
Roma	31,2
Serbian	2,1
Other	2,1

education (%)	
Unfinished primary	27,1
Primary education	36,8
Secondary education	32,4
Higher school education	1,8
Higher education	1,9
Master studies	,1

municipality (%)			
Valandovo	1,9	Bitola	5,4
Makedonski brod	,9	Radovish	2,1
Probishtip	1,3	Vinica	1,9
Resen	1,0	Kratovo	,9
Krushevo	1,5	Debar	1,9
Struga	2,2	Demir Hisar	,9
Kriva Palanka	1,4	Gostivar	4,8
Delchevo	,9	Strumica	3,9
Shtip	2,8	Negotino	2,4
Kicevo	1,8	Shuto Orizari	6,9
Berovo	1,6	Aerodrom/Centar	2,1
Prilep	5,7	Karposh	2,1

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Veles	5,5	Chair	2,8
Tetovo	6,0	Gazi Baba	2,9
Kumanovo	11,3	Butel	2,9
Kochani	2,0	Kisela Voda	1,4
Ohrid	2,0	Gevgelija	1,3
Sveti Nikole	1,2	Kavadarci	2,4