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PARLIAMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME



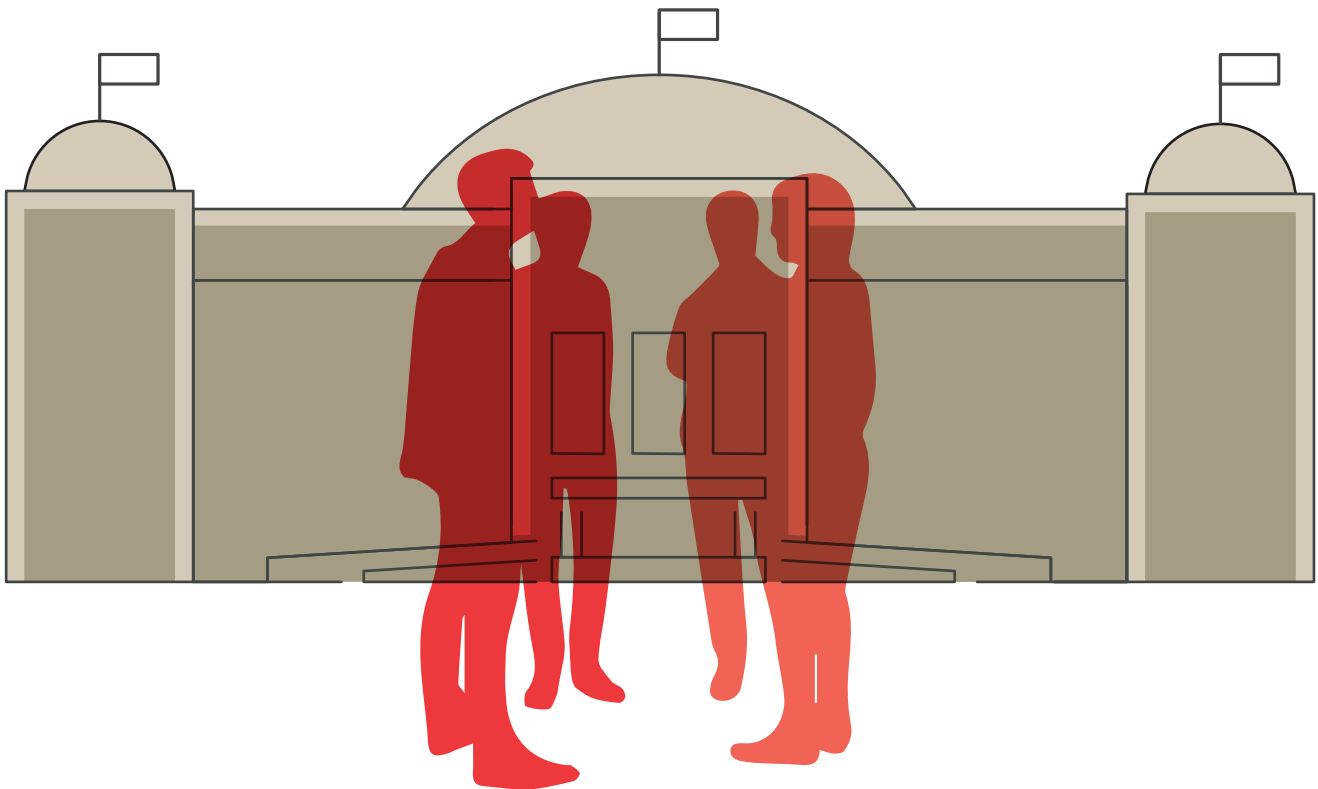
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Public Opinion Analysis No. 2/2026

PARLIAMENT WATCH: CITIZENS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA (2026)

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IMPLEMENTED BY:



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I. METHODOLOGY

Between February 27 and March 10, 2026, the Institute for Democracy «Societas Civilis» - Skopje, within the framework of the Parliamentary Support Programme (PSP), **conducted a field survey in order to better analyse the public perception about the work of the Parliament, the quality of life and the trust in the institutions of North Macedonia.** The field survey was conducted using a sample of 1,002 respondents over the age of 18 throughout the country, using face-to-face interviews. The questionnaire used for the survey is available as Annex I of the Analysis, while the statistical error is $\pm 3\%$.

II. POLITICAL CONTEXT

In line with the Constitution, the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia has legislative power, and comprises 120 MPs elected in direct and proportional parliamentary elections for a four-year term. The current parliament was elected in the eleventh parliamentary elections, held on 8 May 2024, together with the second round of the presidential elections.

The elections were the result of an agreement reached on December 4, 2023, at the initiative of the President of the Parliament, Talat Xhaferi. The agreement was reached in an environment of strong political polarization caused by the proposed constitutional amendments, related to the inclusion of the Bulgarian people in the Preamble and the amendments to Articles 49 and 78 of the Constitution – a condition for the continuation of negotiations with the European Union. The then parliamentary majority and the Albanian opposition bloc supported these amendments, while other opposition parties strongly opposed and called for early elections in the fall of 2023.

The May 2024 elections were conducted in a peaceful and fair atmosphere, without significant irregularities. A total of 17 political entities participated in the elections – 11 parties, 5 coalitions and one independent list, with a total of 84 candidate lists. VMRO-DPMNE won the most seats together with the «Your Macedonia» coalition – a total of 58 MPs, which is an increase of 14 seats compared to the previous composition. SDSM and the «For a European Future» coalition won 18 seats (a decrease of 28), while the «European Front» coalition led by DUI also won 18 seats (a loss of 3 seats). The joint Albanian opposition «Vlen» won 14 seats, Levica won 6 (an increase from 4 seats), and the ZNAM Movement – “For Our Macedonia” entered the Parliament as a new political entity with 6 seats. The remaining runners in the elections did not secure parliamentary representation.

The constitutive session of the new composition of the Parliament was held on May 28, 2024, in accordance with the new Rules of Procedure adopted on November 20, 2023 by the previous parliamentary composition. These Rules of Procedure are the outcome of an inclusive dialogue between the government and the opposition, carried out within the «Jean Monnet» process. The new parliamentary majority had 78 MPs, consisting of the «Your Macedonia» coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE (58), the «Vredi (Vlen)» coalition (14) and the ZNAM Movement (6). The opposition consists of 42 MPs – the «For a European Future» coalition led by SDSM (18), the «European Front» led by DUI (18) and the Levica party (6).

During 2025, significant changes occurred within the parliamentary majority. The parliamentary majority decreased from 78 to 73 MPs following the withdrawal of five Alliance for Albanian MPs, led by Arben Taravari. After the local elections held in October 2025, three MPs from the parliamentary majority left their parliamentary office after being elected mayors. Their seats in the Parliament were filled by the candidates that were next on the lists of candidates, in accordance with the legal procedures.

III. SUMMARY

The 2026 survey shows that citizens' overall assessment of the work of the Assembly has recorded a slight improvement compared with the previous three years. Satisfaction with the work of the Assembly received an average score of 2.7 (on a scale from 1 – worst to 5 – best), which represents a continuation of the gradual upward trend observed over the past three years, although the rating still remains below the mid-point.

■ INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT

Citizens found the oversight hearing in the Standing Inquiry Committee for Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms regarding the tragedy in Kochani and the debate on the Draft Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2026 to be particularly memorable, which indicates that these topics had the greatest public visibility. Citizens continue to get their information primarily via private television stations, but the prevalence of these media channels is declining as the Internet and social networks' increases, especially among younger generations. The official channels of the Parliament – the Parliamentary TV channel and the website – still have a relatively limited reach and familiarity with new content remains low, but they have stable visibility and positive ratings among those who use them.

■ PARLIAMENT CONTROL AND OVERSIGHT OVER THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

There is a prevailing perception among citizens that the Government has greater influence on the Parliament than the Parliament has over the executive branch. Citizens pay limited attention to parliamentary questions, but the dominant view among the citizens who follow these sessions is that they are important for overseeing ministers, ensuring accountability and informing the public. That said, recognition of other oversight mechanisms of the Parliament is low, although the public is able to recall individual cases like the oversight hearing in the Standing Inquiry Committee into the Kochani tragedy. The prevailing assessment among the citizens who can identify a specific oversight case is that the Parliament has partially fulfilled its oversight role, indicating a perception that an oversight function exists, but with limited efficiency.

■ **FUNCTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT**

Citizens view the adoption of quality laws, oversight of the Government, and monitoring the implementation of laws and policies as the most important functions of the Parliament, but perceive them to be implemented with only moderate success. In contrast, they believe that the main activity the Parliament actually does is the adoption of as many laws and legal amendments as possible, although they consider this to be its least important role. This indicates a gap between citizens' expectations and their perception of how the Parliament performs its core functions in practice.

■ **PUBLIC IN THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT**

Citizens' perceptions of the public presence in the work of the Parliament refer to limited openness, a low level of direct communication with MPs and insufficient information about the existing mechanisms for participation. The majority of citizens believe that the Parliament is not sufficiently open to the public, and a large part of them do not know who their MP is, have never contacted an MP and are not familiar with the MP offices or the Parliamentary Caravan. Those who have made contact or visited the local office, however, have a positive experience, which shows that the existing mechanisms have potential but are not sufficiently visible and utilized. Citizens clearly express expectations for more direct, accessible and active communication with MPs, especially through meetings in public locations and public appearances, indicating the need for the Parliament to be closer to citizens.

■ **WHO DO THE MPS IN THE PARLIAMENT REPRESENT?**

There is a persistent perception that MPs mainly represent their personal interests and the interests of parties, while the interests of citizens are on the margins. MPs are perceived as insufficiently active in representing local or personal issues that are in the interest of citizens. The business community is often mentioned as a group whose interests are represented, but the perceptions on how efficiently the Parliament takes into account the needs of the private sector are usually moderate.

■ **THE DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT**

Citizens perceive debate between government and opposition MPs in the Parliament to be confrontational rather than cooperative. A small percentage of respondents believe that the arguments of the opposing camp are taken into account, and there is also a perception that the willingness to compromise between parties is limited, especially among ethnic Macedonians. Citizens continue to have the impression that MPs often use derogatory and degrading speech in parliamentary debates.

■ REFORMS

Citizens overwhelmingly support the idea of establishment of multi-party groups in the Parliament, especially on issues related to youth, anti-corruption, unemployed people, people with disabilities and single parents. There is also notable interest in topics such as environmental protection, social assistance and support for women, which suggests that there is expectation that reform initiatives will be focused on issues that are of broader public and social interest.

■ POLITICAL CONTEXT AND TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Although there is a slight improvement in the perception of the citizens about the direction in which the country is moving, dissatisfaction still prevails, and trust in institutions remains moderate. Citizens who have low trust in the Parliament often express perceptions of lack of professionalism, dishonesty, corruption, and insufficient focus on the public interest, while citizens' expectations continue to be focused on greater accountability, honesty, transparency, and work that will be in the interests of citizens. At the same time, citizens perceive the opposition as relatively weak, the role of the Parliament in European integration as insufficiently clear, and its ability to respond to challenges related to national security was mostly assessed as moderate.

IV.

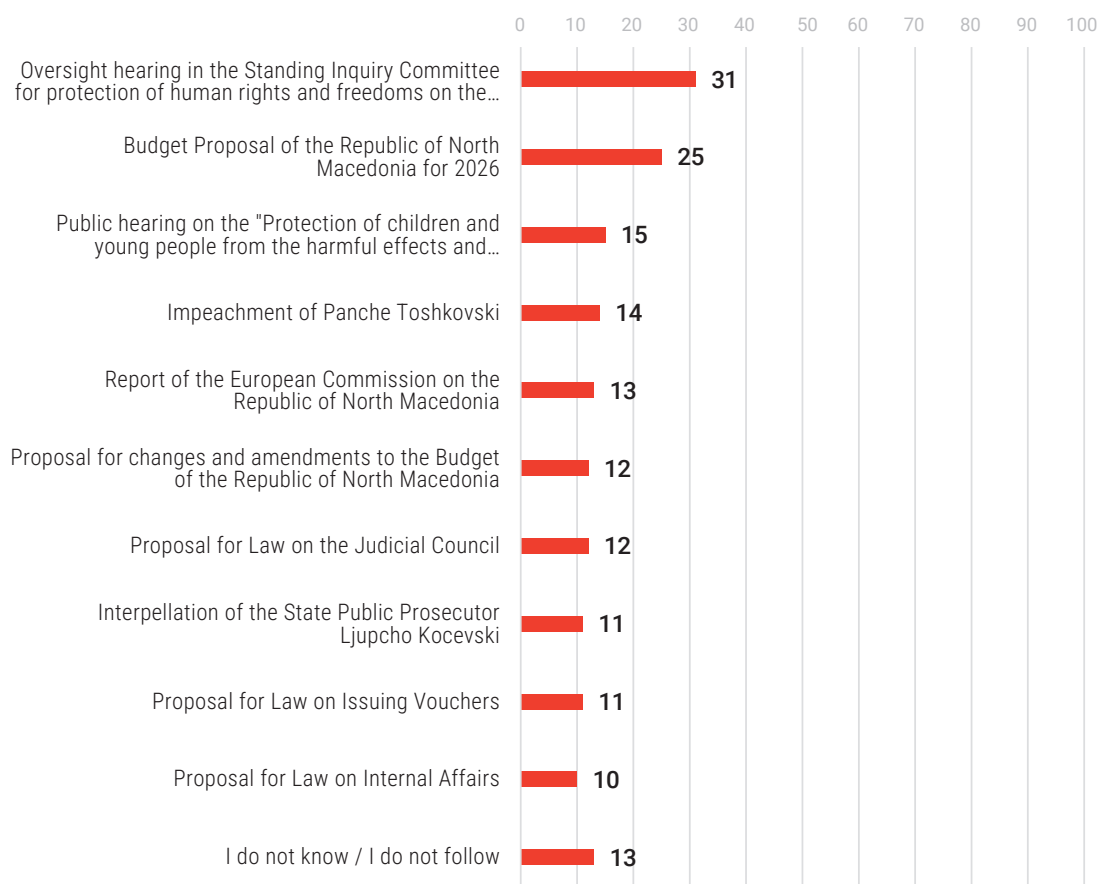
INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT



IV. INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT

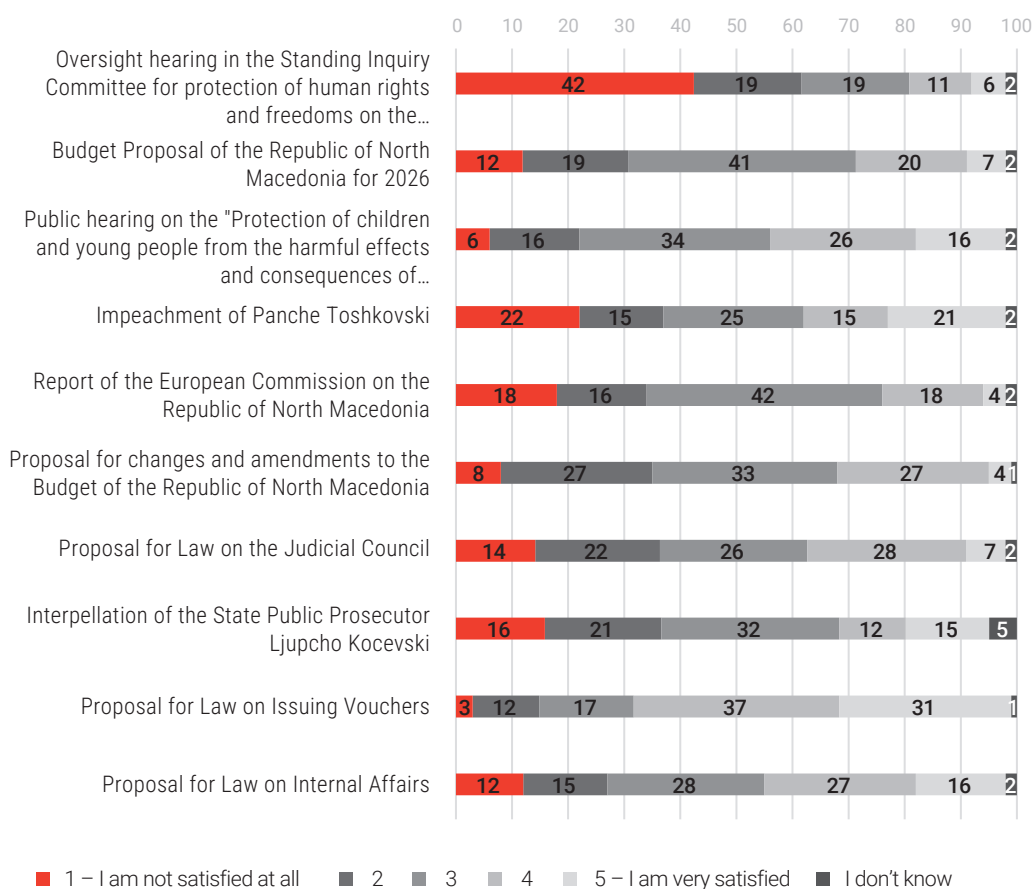
When asked «What will you remember 2025 for in the Parliament?», citizens consistently singled out the oversight hearing in the Standing Inquiry Committee for protection of human freedoms and rights regarding the tragedy in Kochani, which was indicated by 31% of the respondents. This demonstrates that citizens followed the work of the Parliament regarding this issue and identified it as one of its most visible moments in 2025. This is followed by the debate on the Draft Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2026, mentioned by 25% of the respondents; the public debate regarding «Protection of children and young people from harmful effects and consequences of smoking», mentioned by 15% of the citizens; the impeachment for Panche Toshkovski, mentioned by 14% of respondents; the debate regarding the European Commission Report on the Republic of North Macedonia, mentioned by 13% of respondents; and the proposal for amendments to the Budget for 2025 and the Draft Law on the Judicial Council, mentioned by 12% of respondents, respectively (Chart 1). These responses indicate that the public is most engaged and invested in topics directly related to accountability from the executive branch and the adoption of the Budget, which are key elements of how the democratic system works.

Chart 1. How will you remember 2025 in the Parliament? (%)



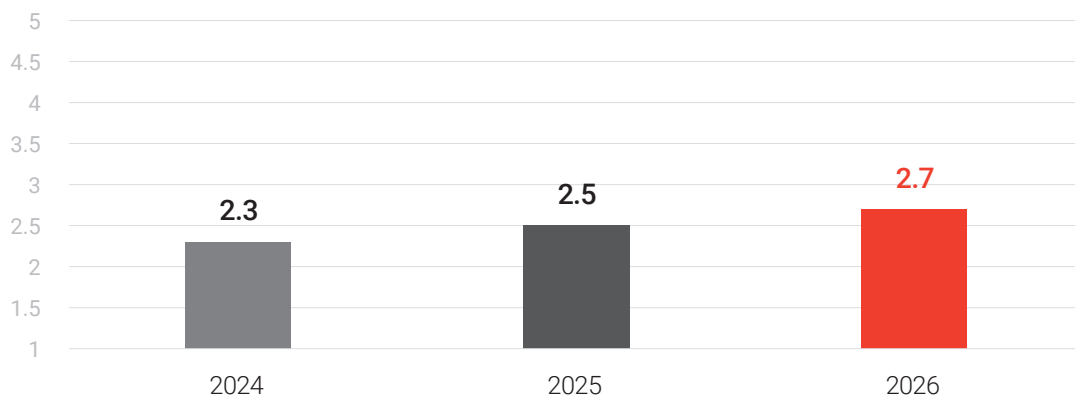
Those citizens who gave a specific answer were asked how satisfied they were with how the Parliament fulfilled its function in that specific case. Here it can be noted that the perception differs depending on the topic, but in some of the most visible cases there is a prevalence of moderate or low levels of satisfaction. The highest dissatisfaction is observed towards the oversight hearing in the Standing Inquiry Committee for the protection of human rights and freedoms regarding the tragedy in Kochani, where 42% of the respondents gave a score of 1, which indicates a critical perception of the Parliament's actions in this case. On the other hand, the highest satisfaction was expressed with the Draft Law on Issuing Vouchers, where most of the respondents gave high scores. In other cases, such as the debate on the 2026 Budget Proposal, the public debate on protection of children and youth from the harmful effects of smoking, and the debate on the European Commission Report on the Republic of North Macedonia, the rating is mainly average, indicating a more restrained and moderate assessment of citizens about the work of the Parliament (Chart 1.1).

Chart 1.1 (Citizens who responded with a specific case to the previous question). On a scale from 1 – I am not satisfied at all to 5 – I am very satisfied, how satisfied are you with the manner in which the Parliament fulfilled its function in this particular case? (%)



Respondents were also asked about their general satisfaction with the work of the Parliament in the past year. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning not satisfied at all and 5 meaning very satisfied, citizens rated the work of the Parliament with an average score of 2.7. This represents a slight improvement in perception compared to previous surveys, considering that in the survey conducted the previous year the average score was 2.5, while in 2024 it was 2.3. Despite this gradual increase, the score given for the work of the Parliament still remains below the mean value of the scale, indicating that the general satisfaction among citizens is still relatively low (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Average rating of citizens' satisfaction with the work of the Parliament, on a scale of 1 meaning you are not satisfied at all, and 5 meaning you are very satisfied



If we take a closer look at the respondents' perceptions about the work of the Parliament in the last three years, we see a gradual shift towards more moderate and more positive assessments. The percentage of citizens who are «not satisfied at all» decreases from 34% in 2024, to 25% in 2025 and to 18% in 2026. At the same time, the share of those who gave higher scores (4 and 5) increased from a total of 15% in 2024, to 20% in 2025 and 23% in 2026. However, despite this shift, a large proportion of respondents are still concentrated around the median score of 3, which indicates a moderate, rather than a strongly positive perception of the work of the Parliament (Chart 2.1).

**ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT
JUNE – DECEMBER 2026,
ON A SCALE FROM 1 TO 5**

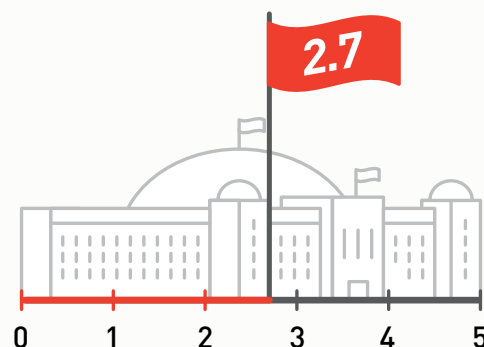
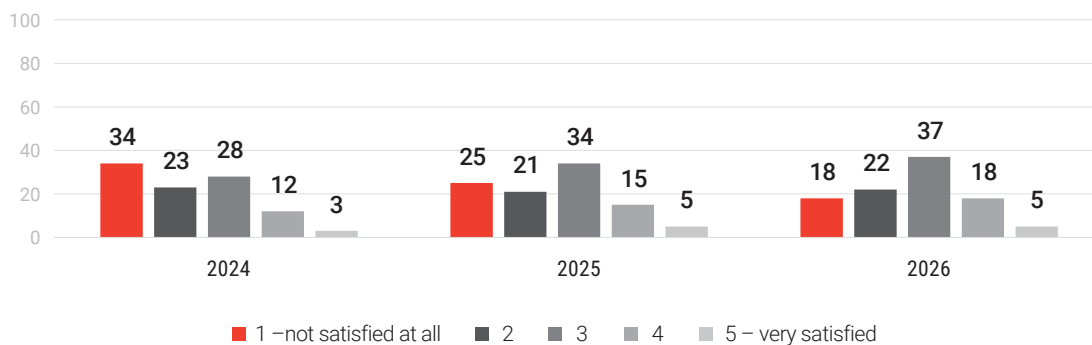
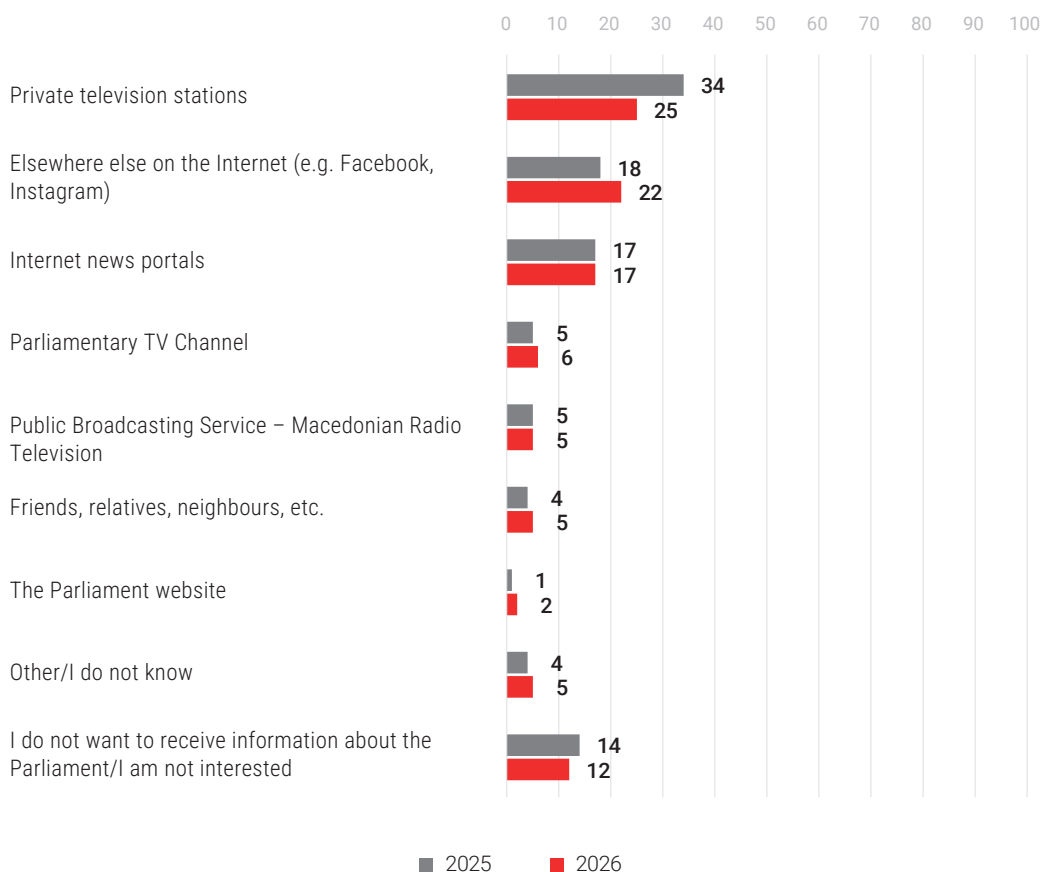


Chart 2.1 On a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 means you are not satisfied at all, and 5 means you are very satisfied), how satisfied are you with the work of the Parliament in the last year? (%)



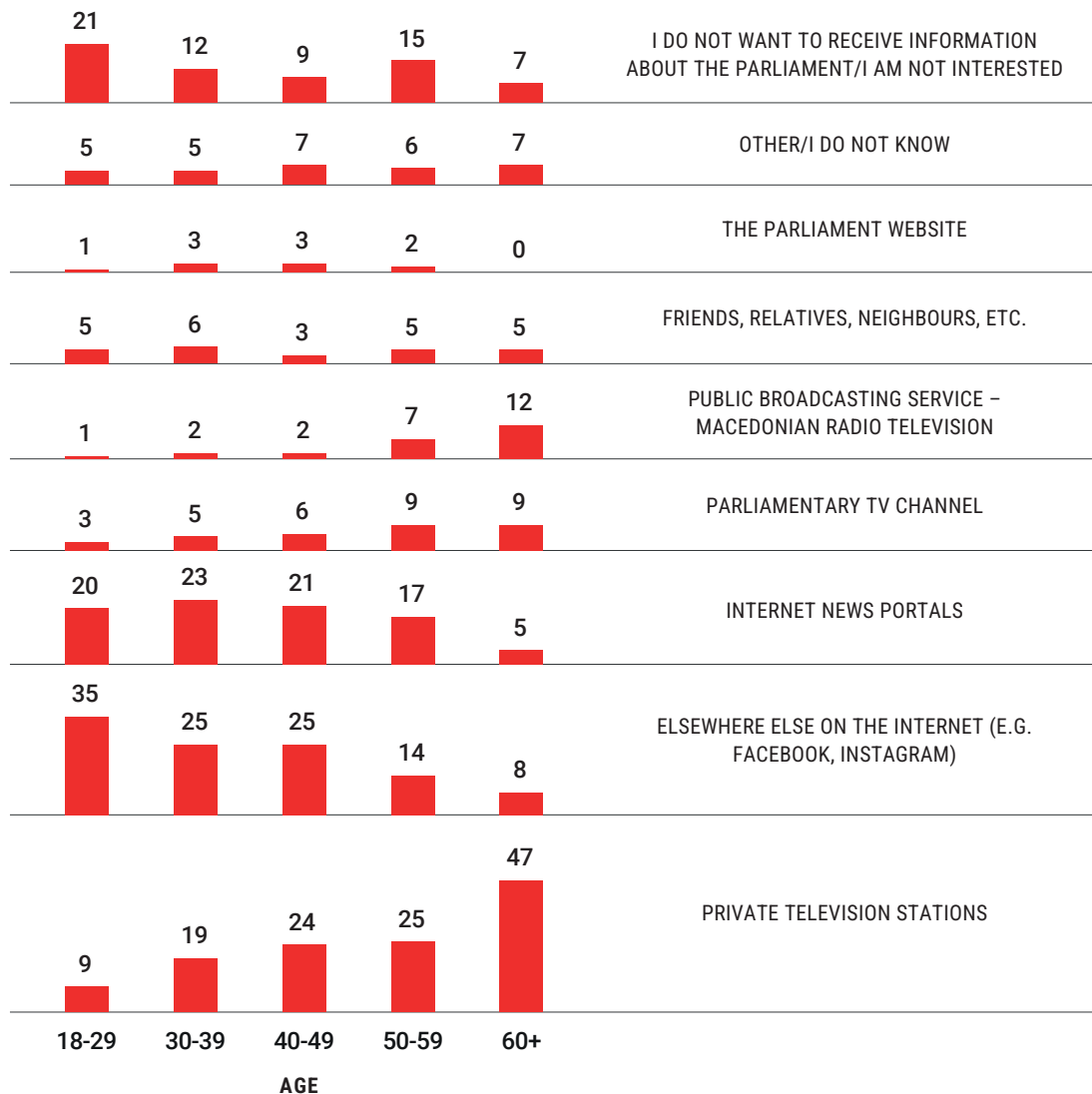
Private television stations are most common source of information on the work of the Parliament, although their prevalence has decreased from 34% in 2025 to 25% in 2026. At the same time, there is an increase in the prevalence of the Internet and social networks, which rose from 18% in 2025 to 22% in 2026. Online news portals remain at the same level of 17%. While usage of official sources like the Parliamentary TV channel and the Parliament website remains relatively low, there is a stability in the use of these mechanisms and a slight progress. The Parliamentary TV channel was indicated as the main source of information by 6% of citizens in 2026, consistent with the 5% of citizens in 2025. The same goes for the Parliament’s website – from 1% in 2025 to 2% in 2026. Although these channels are not the main sources of information, the data indicate stable visibility with a potential for their further improvement as direct sources of information about the work of the Parliament. These findings demonstrate that television and online media has a wider reach in informing about the work of the Parliament, while the official parliamentary channels have a more modest, but still quite important role. Their value is in the fact that they provide direct and unfiltered information about parliamentary work, which is important for transparency and direct insight into institutional processes. In this context, maintaining stable visibility and the slight increase in some of these channels is a positive basis for their further improvement and for gradually building greater trust and interest among the public, despite their limited reach. At the same time, a slight decrease is also observed in the share of citizens who do not want to receive information about the work of the Parliament – from 14% to 12% - which can be interpreted as a positive signal in terms of moderate increase in the interest in parliamentary activities (Chart 3).

Chart 3. If you want to receive information about the work of the Parliament, which source for information do you use the most? (%)



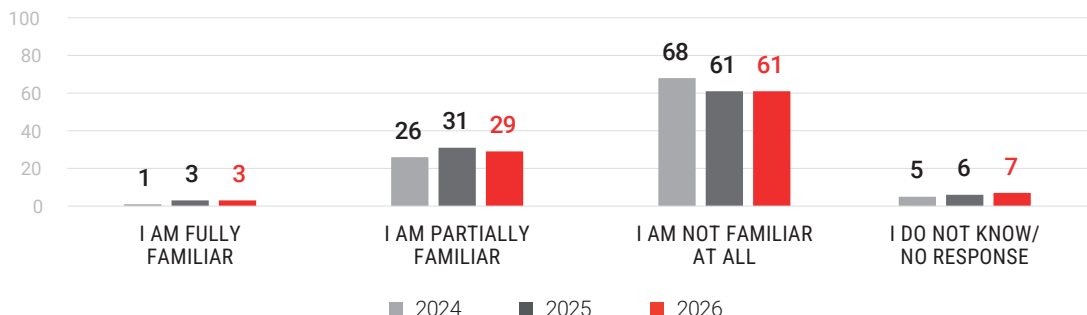
When it comes to sources of information about the work of the Parliament, the data show clear differences depending on the age of the citizens. The most common sources for respondents ages 18 to 29 are the Internet and the social networks(35%) and online news portals (20%), while private television stations were indicated by only 9%. With the increase in age, the role of television is also increasing significantly, so private television stations are by far the most dominant source of information for citizens aged 60 and over, which was indicated by 47% of the respondents. In this age group, the national broadcasting service presence is also higher and is used by 12% of the citizens. On the other hand, digital sources are most strongly present among younger and middle-aged citizens, and their use gradually decreases among older age groups. The Parliamentary TV channel is somewhat more popular among older age groups, especially among respondents over 50, which may indicate a greater willingness among this audience to follow live parliamentary content. It is also interesting that the lack of interest in information about the Parliament is most obvious among the youngest people – 21% of these respondents stated that they do not want to receive information or that the topic does not interest them, while this percentage is lowest among the oldest respondents (7%) (Chart 3.1).

Chart 3.1 Sources of information about the work of the Parliament by age group (%)



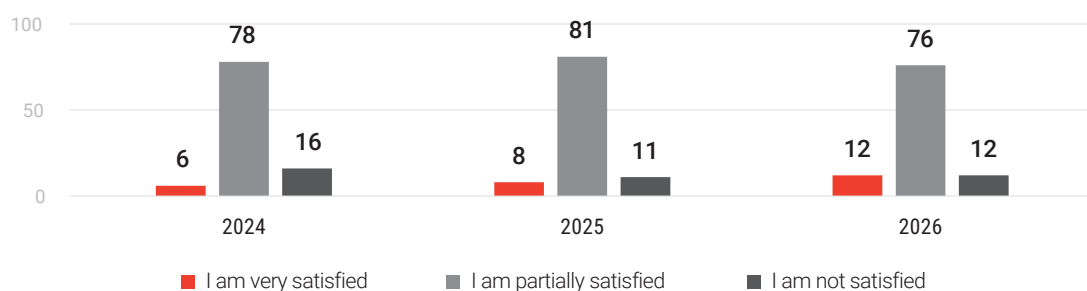
Since January 2024, the Parliamentary TV channel has been broadcasting improved content with a new programme and shows that are produced in the Parliamentary TV studio. We asked the citizens whether they are familiar with the new programme, content and shows that are broadcasted on the Parliamentary TV channel, in addition to the broadcasts of Parliament sessions. The findings show that familiarity remains relatively low at 32%, in line with familiar in 2025 and maintaining improvement from 2024.. In 2024 a total of 68% of the respondents stated that they were not familiar with these contents, while in 2025 and 2026 that percentage was 61%. At the same time, the share of those who are fully or partially familiar is somewhat higher than in 2024, which indicates a gradual increase in the visibility of this offer. However, considering that the majority of citizens are still not familiar with this content, there is a room for additional promotion of these programmes and outreach to the wider public (Chart 4).

Chart 4. Are you familiar with the new programme, content and shows that is broadcasted on the Parliamentary TV channel since January 2024, in addition to the broadcast of parliamentary sessions? (%)



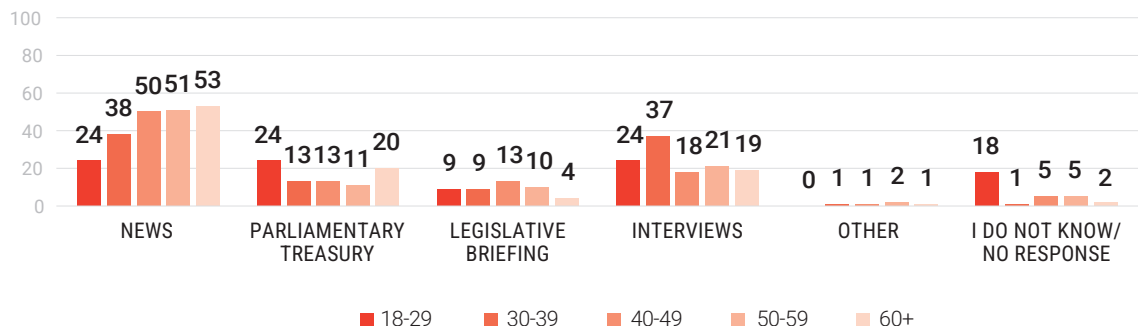
Citizens who said that they were entirely or partially familiar with the new programme of the Parliamentary TV channel were also asked whether they were satisfied with the content offered by this channel. The findings show that a positive perception prevails, with the majority of respondents expressing that they are somewhat satisfied with the content. At the same time, there is an increase in the share of citizens who are very satisfied – from 6% in 2024, 8% in 2025 to 12% in 2026, which indicates an improvement in the positive assessments given by the audience that follows this content. The percentage of those who are not satisfied (12%) is lower compared to 2024 (16%) which further indicates a more favourable perception about the programme offered by the Parliamentary TV channel among those citizens who are familiar with it (Chart 5).

Chart 5. (Citizens who are fully or partially familiar with the new content broadcasted on the Parliamentary TV channel were asked) Are you satisfied with the content offered by the Parliamentary TV channel? (%)



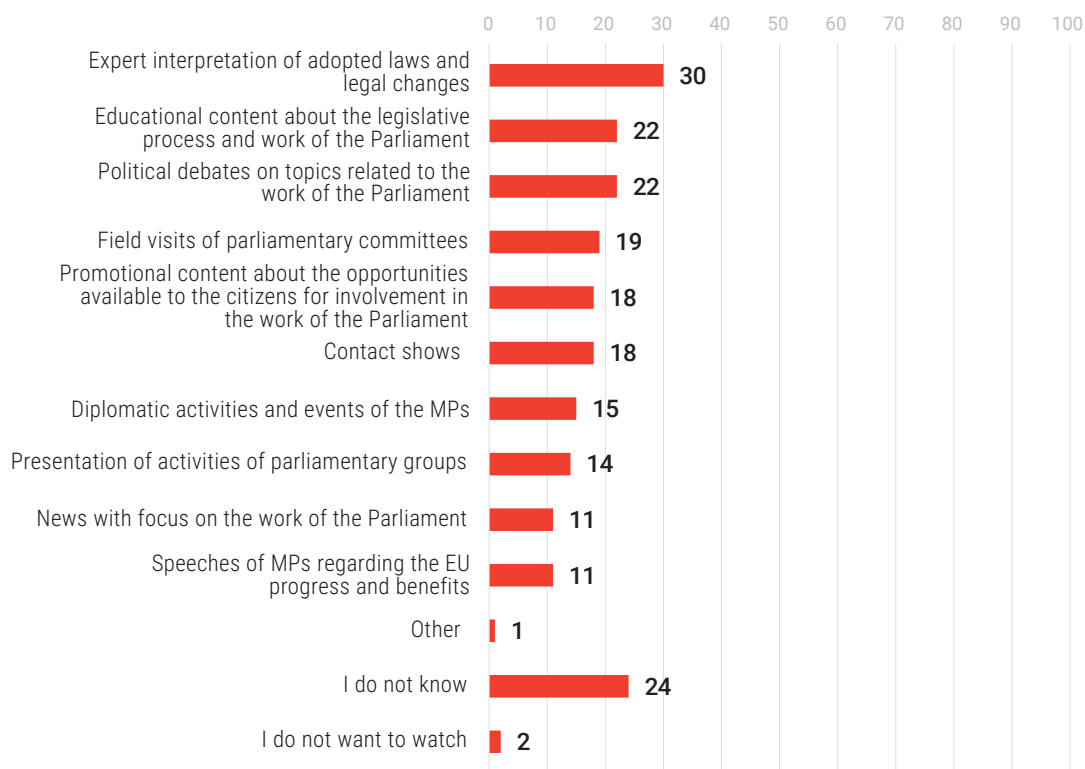
If the viewership of the Parliamentary TV channel content is considered by age groups, the most frequently watched content in general is news. Older respondents most often watch news content, with 51% of respondents ages 50-59 and 53% of respondents ages 60+ selecting that as their most watched content. Younger respondents most often watch news and interview content, with 24% of respondents ages 18-29 each selecting news, parliamentary treasury, and interviews as their most watched content and 37% and 38% of respondents ages 30-39 selecting news and interviews, respectively(Chart 6). Such responses indicate differences in the interests and habits of following the programme content on the Parliamentary TV channel depending on age.

Chart 6. (Citizens who are fully or partially familiar with the new content broadcasted on the Parliamentary TV channel were asked) Which of the new content aired on the Parliamentary channel do you follow most often? (%)



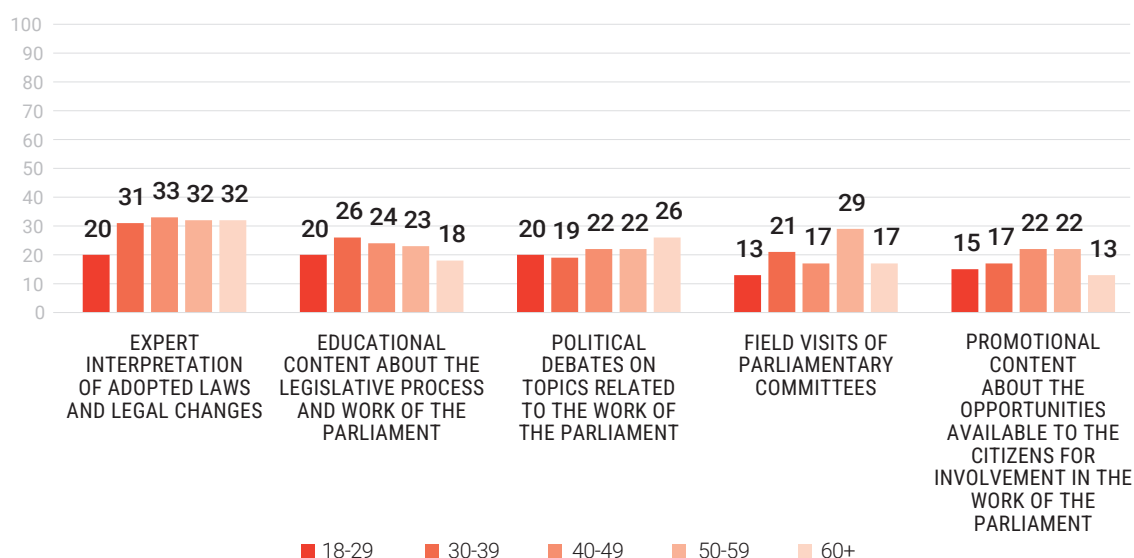
In terms of the content that citizens would like to watch on the Parliamentary Channel, the greatest interest was shown in expert interpretations of adopted laws and legal amendments, indicated by almost one third of the respondents (30%). This is followed by educational content on the legislative process and the work of the Parliament and political debates on topics from the parliamentary work, with 22% each, and field visits to the parliamentary committees with 19%. There is also interest in promotional content on the opportunities for citizens to be involved in the work of the Parliament and contact shows, which were highlighted by 18% of the respondents. These responses indicate that citizens are most interested in content that will help them better understand parliamentary work, the legislative process and the opportunities for their direct information and involvement (Chart 7).

Chart 7. What content would you like to watch on the Parliamentary channel? (%)



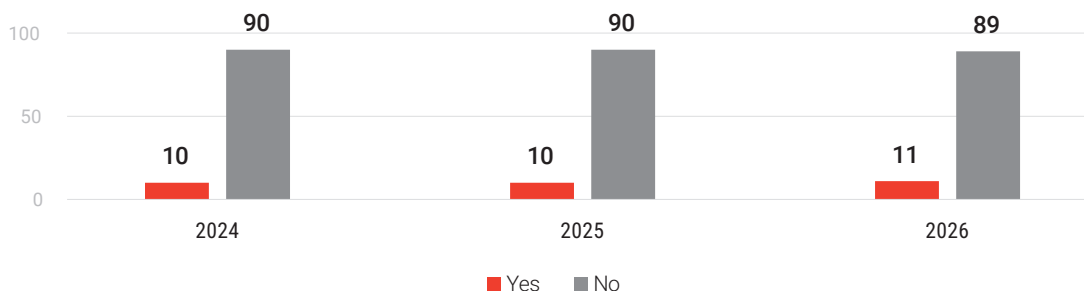
If we consider the content preferences that citizens would like to watch on the Parliament Channel by age groups, it can be noted that expert interpretations of adopted laws and legal amendments are the most sought-after content among almost all age categories, especially among respondents aged 30 and over. Educational content about the legislative process and the work of the Parliament also ranks highly among all groups, with somewhat greater interest among younger people and people aged 30 to 39. Political debates on topics related to parliamentary work are relatively evenly represented, but particularly attractive to the oldest group of respondents. Field visits of parliamentary committees are of greatest interest to citizens aged 50 to 59, while promotional content about the opportunities for citizen involvement in the work of the Parliament is most interesting to respondents aged 40 to 59. These responses indicate that, despite certain age differences, citizens in all age groups show interest in content that offers explanation, context, and greater understanding of parliamentary work (Chart 7.1).

Chart 7.1 What content would you like to watch on the Parliamentary channel: Five most popular types of content by age group. (%)



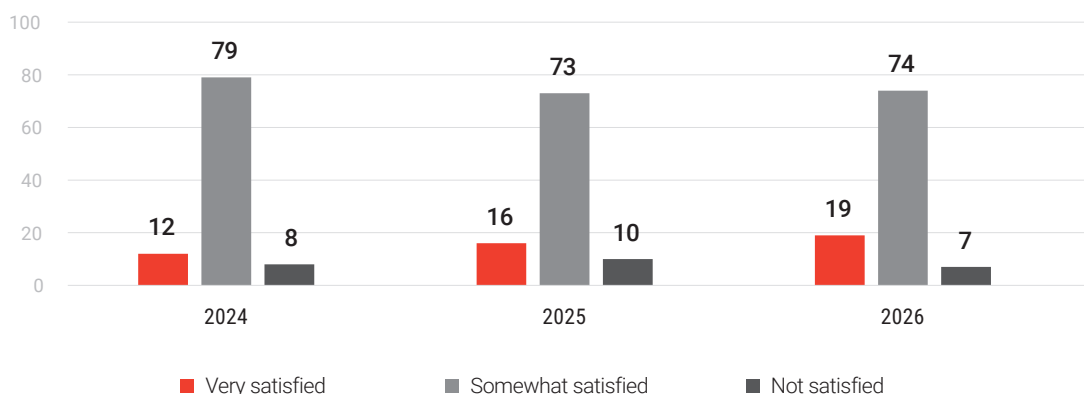
In terms of the use of the Parliament’s website for obtaining information, no significant changes were observed in 2026 compared to the previous period. Namely, 11% of citizens stated that they had sometimes used the Parliament’s website, while 89% responded that they had never used it. Compared to 2024 and 2025, when this percentage was 10%, a relative stable audience size in the use of this official channel can be observed. This indicates that the Parliament’s website still has a limited reach among the general public, and that there is also room for its further improvement and greater promotion as a relevant source of information about the parliamentary work (Chart 8).

Chart 8. Have you ever used the official website of the Parliament to obtain information? (%)



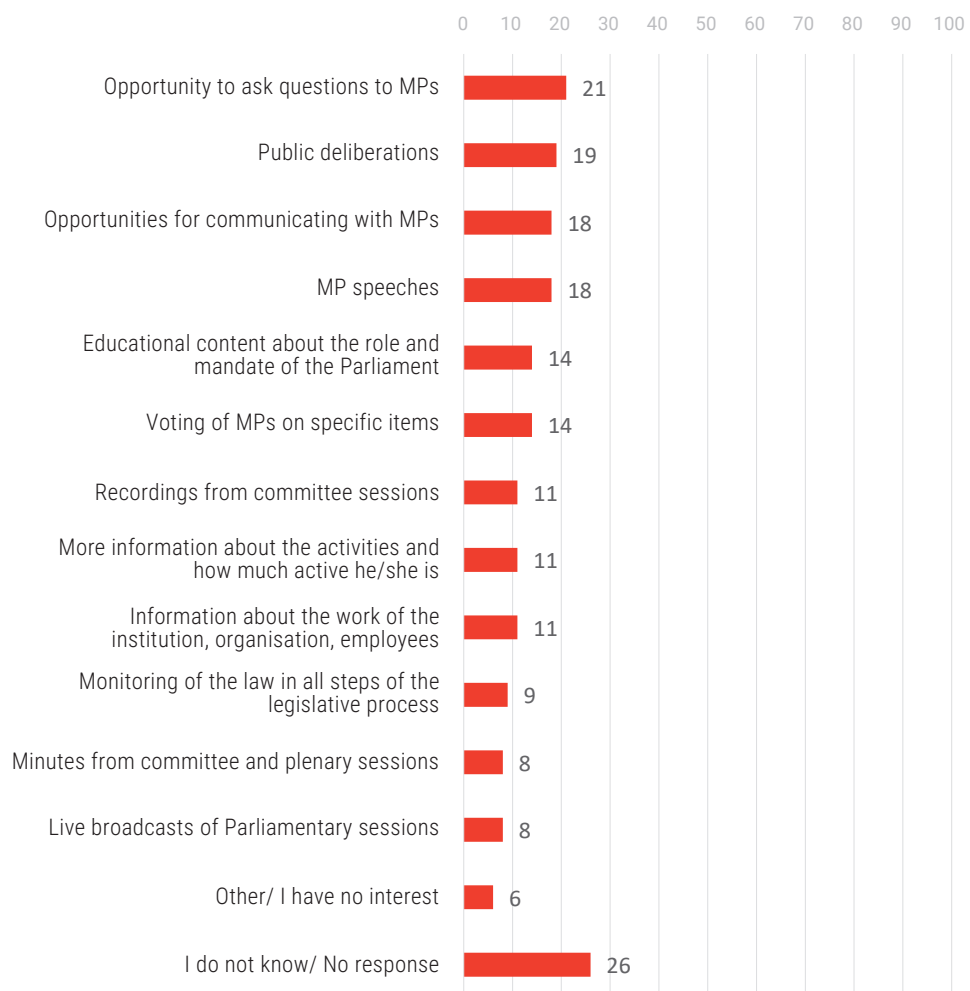
The majority of citizens who used the Parliament website in 2026 stated that they were somewhat satisfied with its usefulness and functionality (74%). At the same time, a further increase in the percentage of those who are very satisfied is also noted – from 12% in 2024, to 16% in 2025 and 19% in 2026. The share of those who are dissatisfied is the lowest compared to the previous two years at 7%. These findings indicate a predominantly positive user experience among citizens who visited the website, as well as a gradual improvement in the perception of its usefulness and functionality (Chart 9).

Chart 9. If you have ever used the official website of the Parliament, how satisfied are you with its usefulness and functionality? (%)



In terms of what kind of content citizens follow or would follow on the website of the Parliament, the greatest interest is in the possibility of asking questions to MPs, which was indicated by 21% of respondents. This is followed by public debates (19%), opportunities for communication with MPs (18%), and speeches by MPs (18%). There is also a noticeable interest in educational content about the role and work of the Parliament and information about MPs' votes on certain items, which were highlighted by 14% of respondents. These responses indicate that citizens are most interested in content that allows for greater interaction with their representatives, insight into the work of MPs and a better understanding of parliamentary processes (Chart 10).

Chart 10. For what content do you most often visit or would you visit the website of the Parliament? (%)





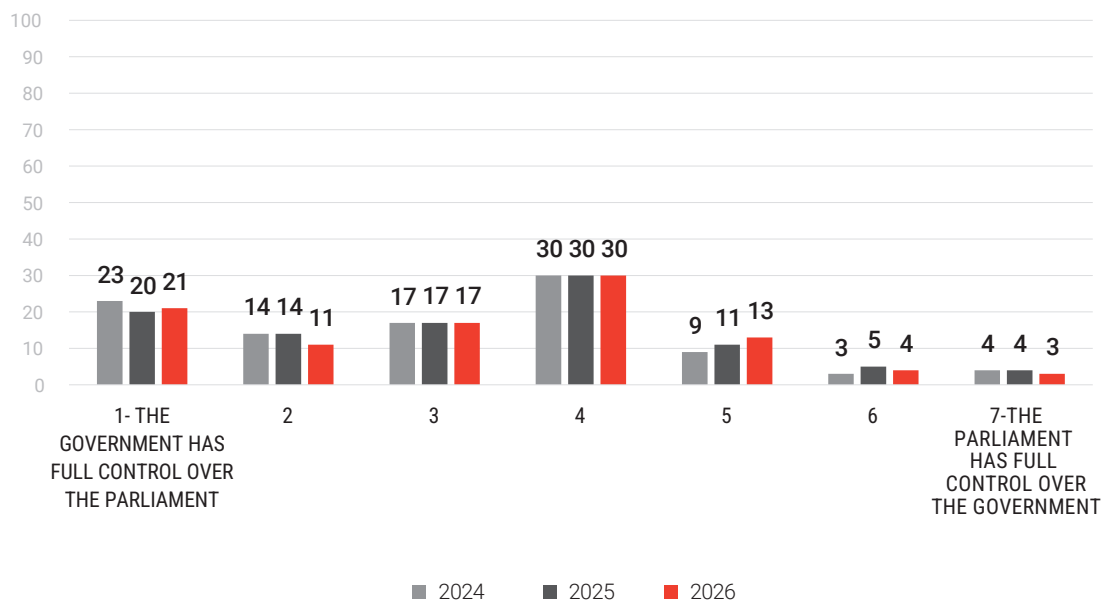
**CONTROL AND OVERSIGHT
OF THE PARLIAMENT OVER
THE GOVERNMENT**



V. CONTROL AND OVERSIGHT OF THE PARLIAMENT OVER THE GOVERNMENT

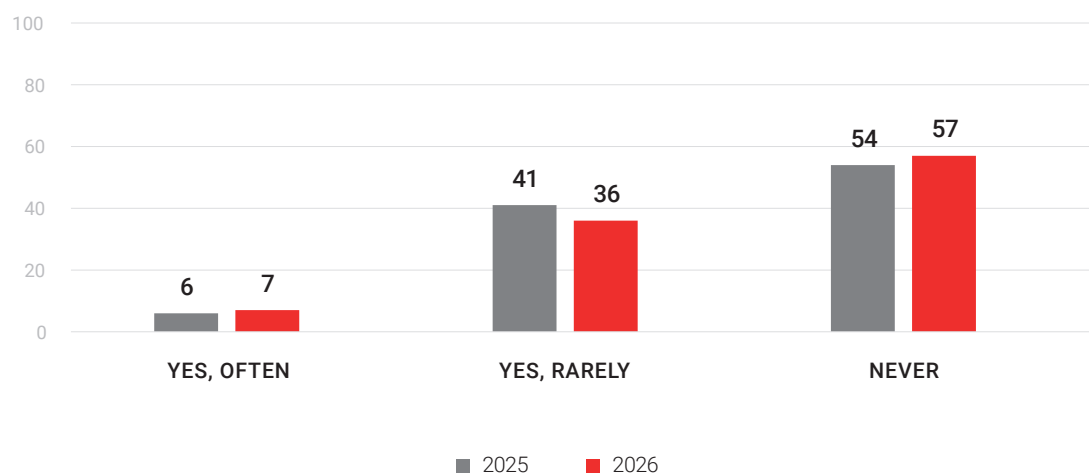
The perception of citizens is that the executive government has greater control over the Parliament than the Parliament has over the Government, in line with its constitutional authority. On a scale from 1, which means that the Government has full control over the Parliament to 7, which means that the Parliament has full control over the Government, most of the respondents position themselves towards the lower values of the scale. For example, 21% of respondents believe that the Government has full control over the Parliament, and an additional 11% opted for the score 2. In contrast, only 3% of the respondents believe that the Parliament has full control over the Government, and 4% chose the score 6. The most frequently chosen answer is the score 4, indicated by 30% of the citizens. This indicates that a significant part of the citizens do not perceive a clear dominance of one of the two institutions, although the distribution of the answers is still more inclined towards the perception that the Government has a greater influence. Compared to the previous two years, no major changes in citizens' attitudes are observed, which indicates a relatively stable perception that the Parliament is still not perceived as an institution that has stronger control over the executive branch (Chart 11).

Chart 11. To what extent does the Parliament have control over the Government, that is the Government over the Parliament? (%)



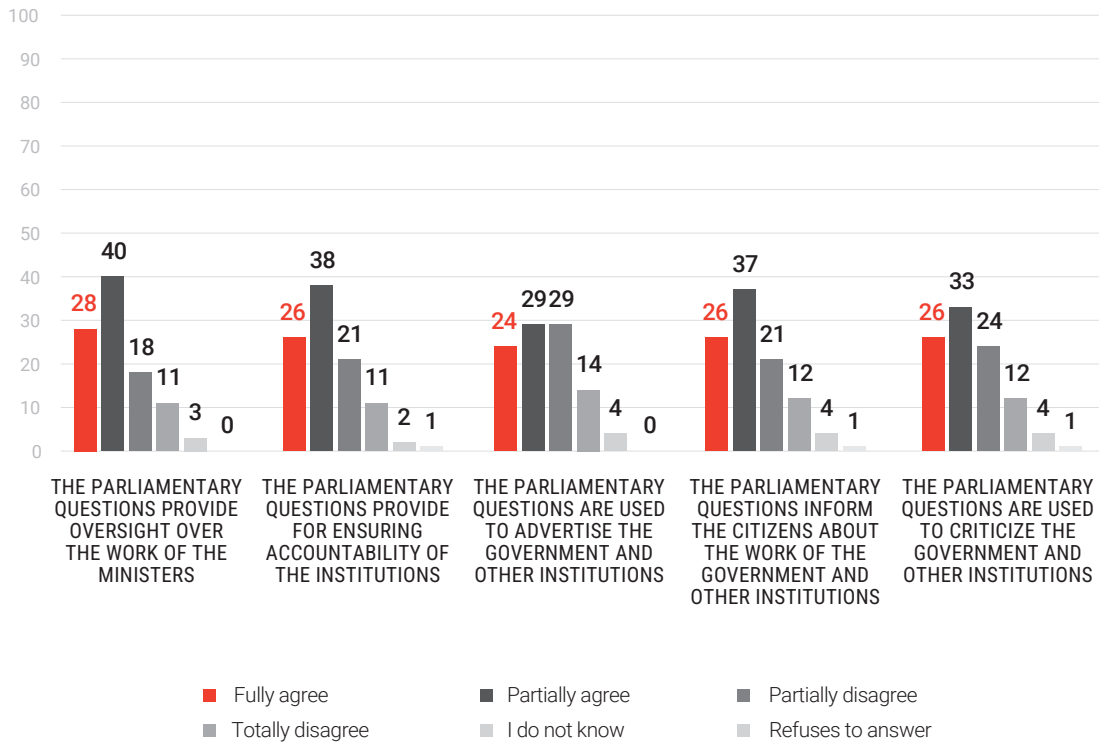
In terms of parliamentary questions, which are one of the Parliament's instruments of control over the work of the Ministries and of the executive branch in general, 7% of respondents stated that they often follow them, while 36% said that they do so rarely. However, more than half (57%) stated that they never follow parliamentary questions sessions. Compared to 2025, there is a slight increase in those who often follow these sessions, but the low level of regular following is still prevalent (Chart 12).

Chart 12. Do you follow the parliamentary question sessions in the Parliament? (%)



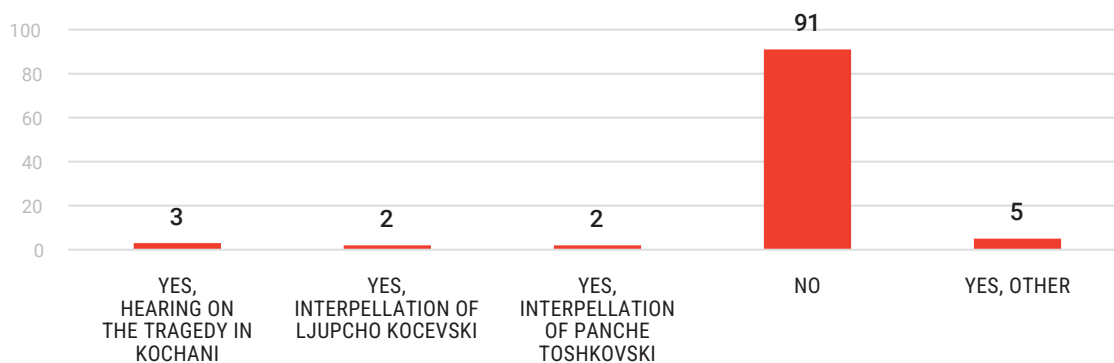
Citizens who frequently or occasionally follow parliamentary question sessions were additionally asked about their perception of how much this instrument is functional for exercising oversight over the executive branch. Most of them, fully or partially, agree that parliamentary questions provide oversight of the work of ministers (68%), have an impact on ensuring the accountability of institutions (64%) and inform citizens about the work of the Government and other institutions (63%). A majority of respondents believe that parliamentary questions are also used to criticise the Government and other institutions (59%). The only statement where opinions are divided is that the parliamentary questions are used to advertise the Government and other institutions – there is an equal share of respondents partially agreeing and partially disagreeing (29% each). These findings indicate that citizens who follow parliamentary questions primarily recognize them as a mechanism for performing oversight, ensuring accountability and information, and less unambiguously as a means of promotion (Chart 13).

Chart 13. (For citizens who answered that they often or rarely follow the parliamentary questions) To what extent do you agree with each of the statements related to parliamentary questions, as an instrument for oversight over the executive branch. (%)



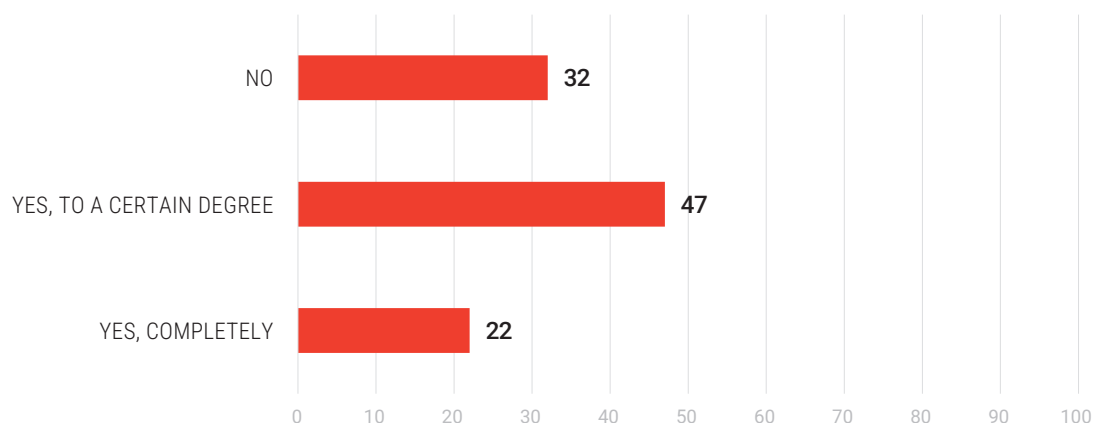
Respondents were also asked whether they remembered any oversight other than parliamentary that the Parliament undertook in the last year to control the Government and other institutions. The majority of citizens (91%) responded that they did not remember such a case. A small number of respondents, however, indicated specific examples, and the most frequently mentioned was the debate on the tragedy in Kochani (3%), the impeachment of Ljupcho Kocevski (2%) and the impeachment of Panche Toshkovski (2%), while 5% mentioned another type of oversight (Chart 14). Given that the interpellation of Ljupcho Kocevski was announced and present in the public and media space, it remained in the memory of some citizens as an attempt at parliamentary oversight even though the procedure was not carried through to completion. This indicates that citizens’ perceptions of parliamentary oversight are shaped not only by formally implemented procedures and their institutional outcome, but also by the public and media visibility of certain initiatives. The findings further indicate that, despite the presence of individual recognizable cases, other oversight mechanisms of the Parliament have limited recognition in the public, which may mean that citizens are either not sufficiently informed about them, or do not recognize the specific debates and procedures as an integral part of the oversight function of the Parliament. This is especially evident when considering that, previously, as many as 31% of the respondents indicated the oversight hearing in the Standing Inquiry Committee for protection of human rights and freedoms, related to the tragedy in Kochani, as an event by which they will remember the year of 2025 in the Parliament, while only a small proportion of them spontaneously cite it as an example of an oversight mechanism. This indicates that certain cases remain remembered by the public, but are not always clearly recognized as part of the oversight function of the Parliament.

Chart 14. Apart from parliamentary questions, do you remember any other oversight that the Parliament implemented last year to control the Government and the institutions? (%)



In terms of citizens who cited a specific case of oversight by the Parliament, 22% believe that the Parliament has entirely fulfilled its oversight role, while almost half of the respondents (47%) believe that it has been done to some extent. On the other hand, 32% are of the opinion that the Parliament has not fulfilled its role of control over the Government and institutions. These findings indicate that the prevailing perception among the citizens who recognize specific oversight cases is that the Parliament had a partial, but not always fully effective, oversight role (Chart 15).

Chart 15. (Citizens who mentioned a specific case of oversight that the Parliament implemented over the executive branch) Do you think that the Parliament fulfilled its oversight role in controlling the Government and the institutions in the particular case?



VI.

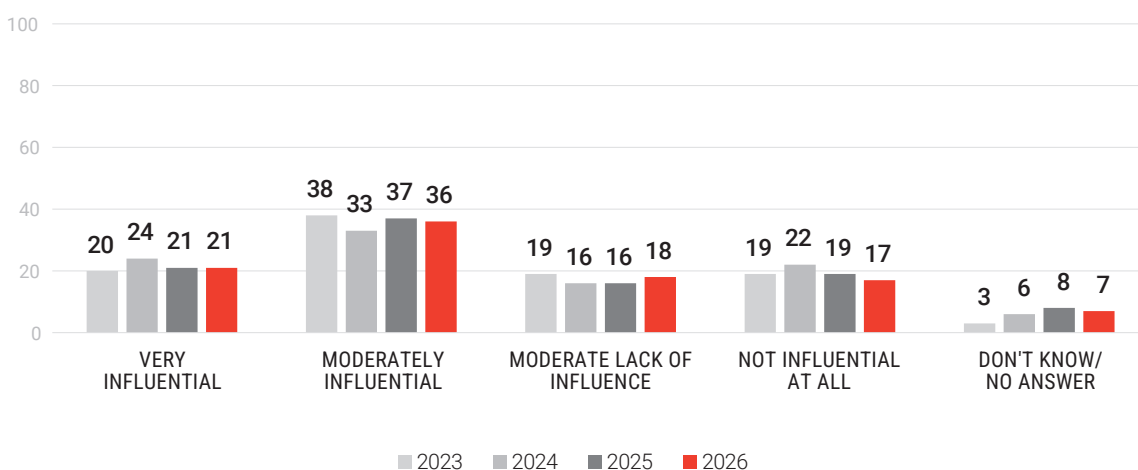
FUNCTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT



VI. FUNCTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT

More than half (57%) of the citizens believe that MPs have a moderate or significant influence on the quality of laws. On the other hand, 35% of respondents believe that MPs have a moderate or no influence on the quality of laws. This perception of how much the MPs contribute to the adaptation and amendment of the proposed legal solutions submitted by the Government remains at a relatively constant level compared to previous years (Chart 16).

Chart 16. To what extent do the MPs influence the quality of laws in our country? (%)

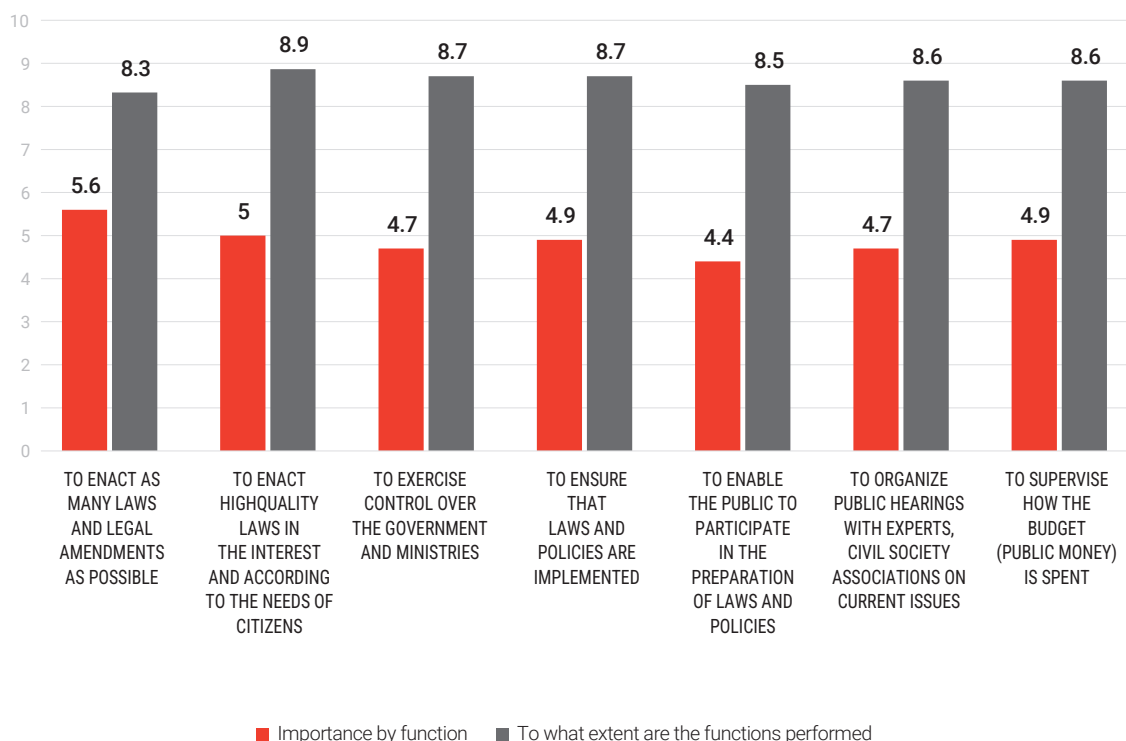


On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 meaning not at all important and 10 meaning very important, respondents rated the importance of individual functions of the Parliament according to their perception. Respondents were also asked, on a scale of 1 to 10, to determine to what extent they believe that the MPs fulfil these functions. Hence, the most important functions of the Parliament were enacting of highest quality laws in the best interest and in accordance with the needs of the citizens, rated at 8.9; exercising control over the Government and ministries, rated at 8.7; and ensuring that laws and policies are implemented, rated at 8.7. Although the respondents consider these functions to be the most important, their perception is that the MPs fulfil these functions with moderate success; the oversight over the Government and the implementation of laws received an average score of 4.7, while the adoption of higher quality laws received a score of 5.

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Citizens rated the adoption of as many laws and legal amendments as possible as the least important function of the Parliament, with an average score of 8.3. The respondents believe that, although this, in their opinion, is the least important function compared to the other listed functions of the Parliament, the MPs were implementing this the most. Respondents rated it at 5.6, the highest average score in terms of the extent to which the Parliament fulfils its basic functions (Chart 17).

Chart 17. An average score on a scale from 1 to 10 in regards to the importance of the functions of the Parliament and the extent to which they are fulfilled by the MPs



VII.

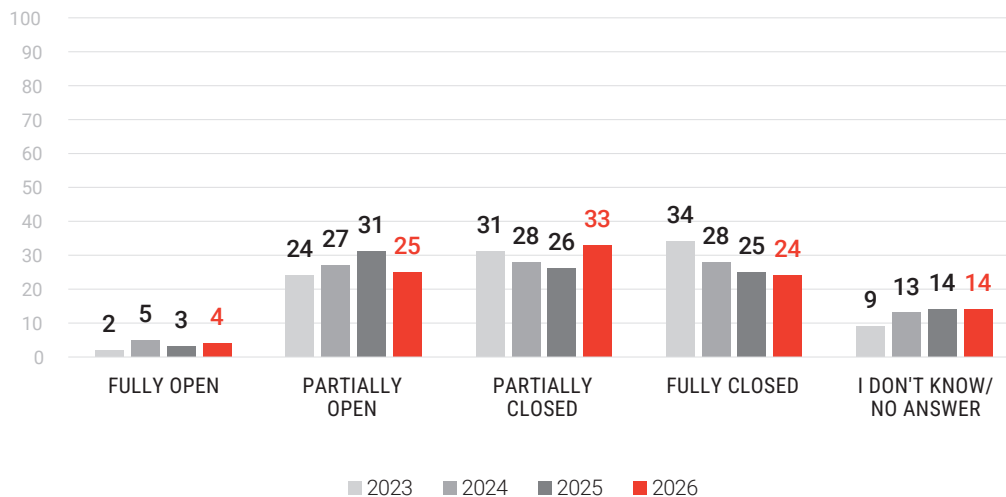
**PUBLIC IN THE WORK
OF THE PARLIAMENT**



VII. PUBLIC IN THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT

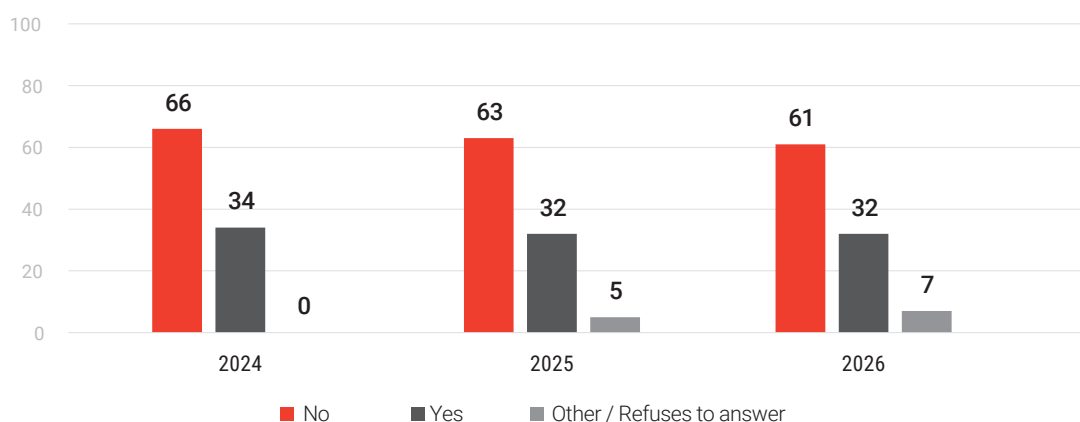
In terms of the openness of the Parliament to the public, half of the respondents (57%) believe that the Parliament is fully or partially closed to the public, representing an increase of six percentage points compared to 2025 (51%). On the other hand, less than a third (29%) of the respondents believe that the Parliament is fully or partially open to public participation, representing a decrease of 5 percentage points compared to 2025 (34%). Overall, the results indicate a less favourable perception of the openness of the Parliament compared to last year, with the majority of citizens having the impression that the institution is still not sufficiently open to the public. (Chart 18).

Chart 18. To what extent do you believe that the Parliament is open to public participation in its work? (%)



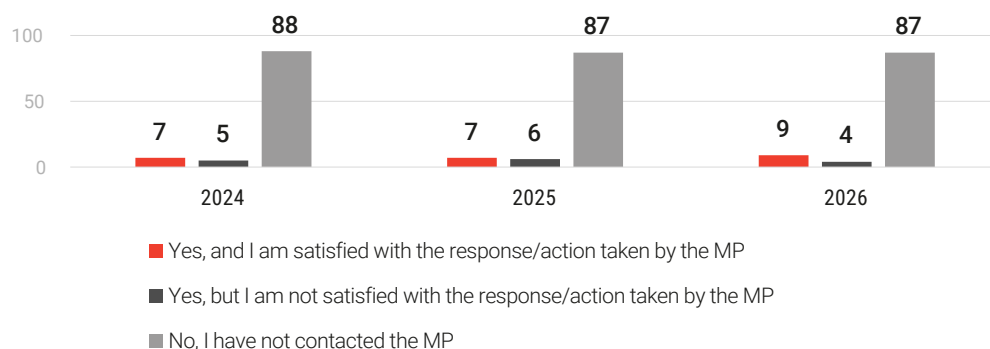
The respondents were read the names of the MPs elected from their constituency, after which they were asked if they knew who their elected representative in the Parliament was. The findings show that this information remains insufficiently known to a majority of citizens; 61% of the respondents answered that they did not know who the MP from their constituency was, while 32% answered in the affirmative. Compared to the previous two years, no significant changes are observed, which indicates a relatively stable, but still low level of recognition of elected representatives among citizens. This data indicates the need for greater visibility and more active communication of MPs with citizens in the constituencies (Chart 19).

Chart 19. Do you know who is the MP from your constituency (%)



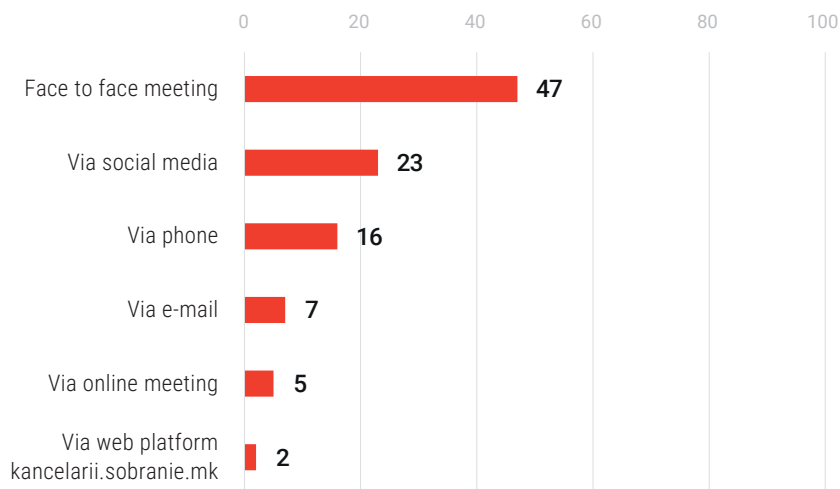
87% of respondents have never contacted an MP on a specific issue. Of the 13% of respondents who have contacted an MP, 9% were satisfied with the MP's response, while 4% were not satisfied. Compared to 2025 and 2024, the total number of citizens who contacted an MP remained unchanged (13%), indicating a continued low level of direct communication between citizens and their elected representatives (Chart 20).

Chart 20. Have you ever contacted an MP from your constituency/municipality regarding a specific issue (face-to-face, via e-mail, social media, etc.)? (%)



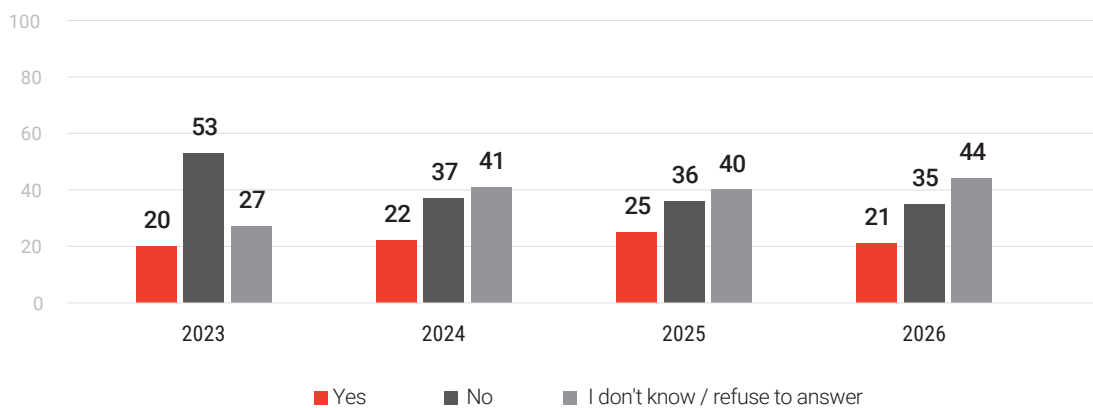
Among respondents who have contacted an MP, the most frequently used means of communication is a face-to-face meeting (47%). This is followed by social media with 23% and telephone communication with 16%, while email and online meetings are significantly less common, with 7% and 5%, respectively. The least used channel is the web platform kancelarii.sobranie.mk, indicated by only 2% of respondents. These findings indicate that direct, personal communication continues to hold the greatest importance in the relationship between citizens and MPs, while digital and institutionalized channels are used to a much lesser extent (Chart 21).

Chart 21. How did you contact the MP? (%)



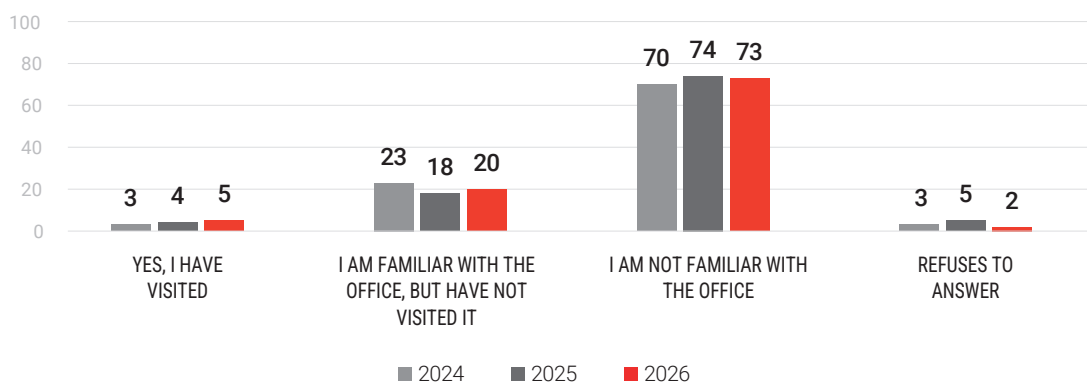
The respondents' perception of the availability of MPs for meetings with citizens remains relatively low in 2026. More specifically, 21% of the respondents believe that the MP from their region is available for meetings, which is a slight decrease compared to 2025, when this share was 25%. At the same time, 35% believe that MPs are not available, which is almost at the same level as the previous year (36%). The largest share, however, is held by citizens who do not know or do not have a defined position on this issue, and their percentage in 2026 is 44%. These findings indicate that, in addition to the relatively limited perceived availability of MPs, a significant portion of citizens still do not have sufficient information or direct experience to be able to assess their openness to meetings (Chart 22).

Chart 22. Is the MP from your region (municipality, constituency) available for meetings with citizens? (%)



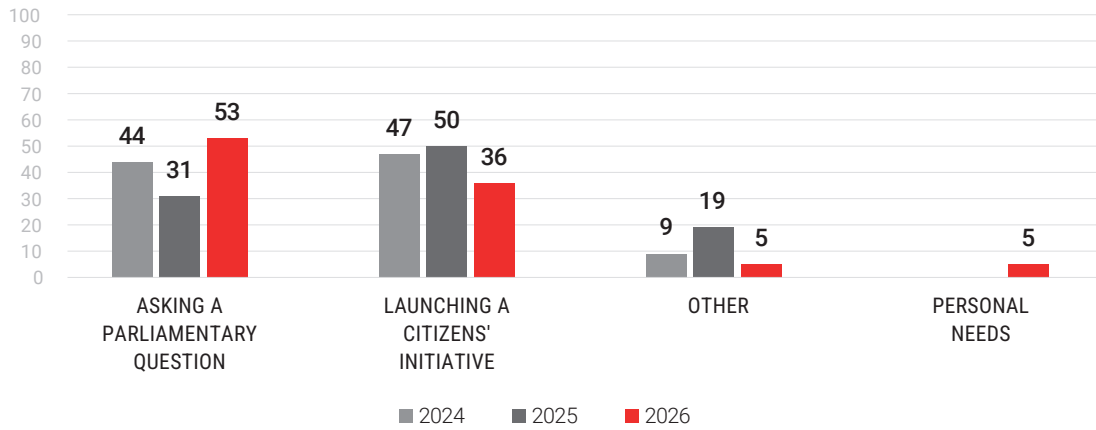
In 2026, 73% of the respondents stated that they were not familiar with the parliamentary offices, which is almost at the same level as in 2025 (74%). At the same time, 20% responded that they were familiar with the office, but had not visited it, while only 5% stated that they had visited it. Overall, there were no major changes compared to previous years, which indicates limited visibility and low use of this mechanism for contact between citizens and MPs. However, the fact that about a quarter of citizens are at least familiar with or have had direct contact through the offices shows that there is a basis for further strengthening of these offices and their greater promotion at the local level (Chart 23).

Chart 23. Are you familiar with the parliamentary offices in your region/municipality and have you visited the parliamentary offices so far? (%)



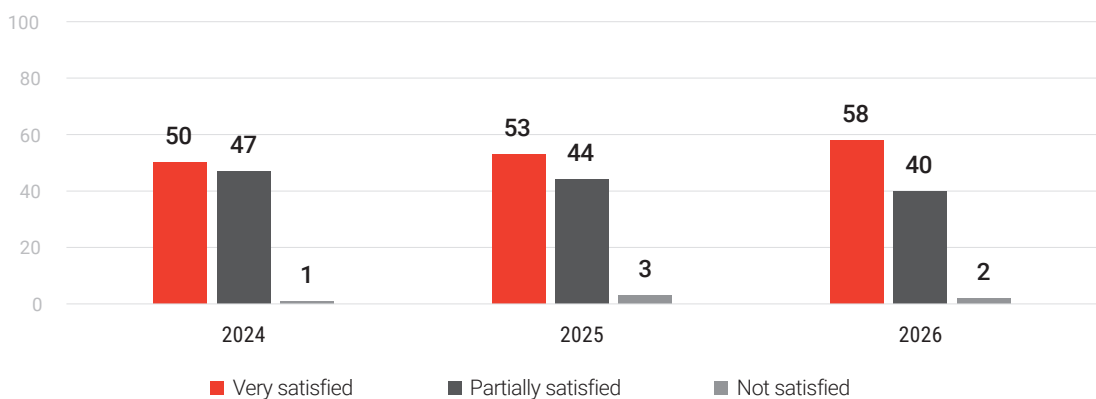
More than half of the respondents who stated that they visited their MP's office reported that they did so in order to ask a parliamentary question (53%). More than a one-third (36%) visited it to raise a citizens' initiative, while 5% did so for "personal needs" (Chart 24). These findings represent a significant change compared to last year, with a marked increase in interest in asking parliamentary questions. This trend may imply that the citizens are increasingly using the MP's office as a mechanism for finding answers and accountability from MPs on specific issues or current developments, rather than as a space for proactively proposing initiatives. At the same time, this trend may also indicate a decrease in trust or awareness of the effectiveness of citizens' initiatives.

Chart 24. (For the citizens who stated that they had visited the local office for contact between MPs and citizens) What was the purpose of your visit? (%)



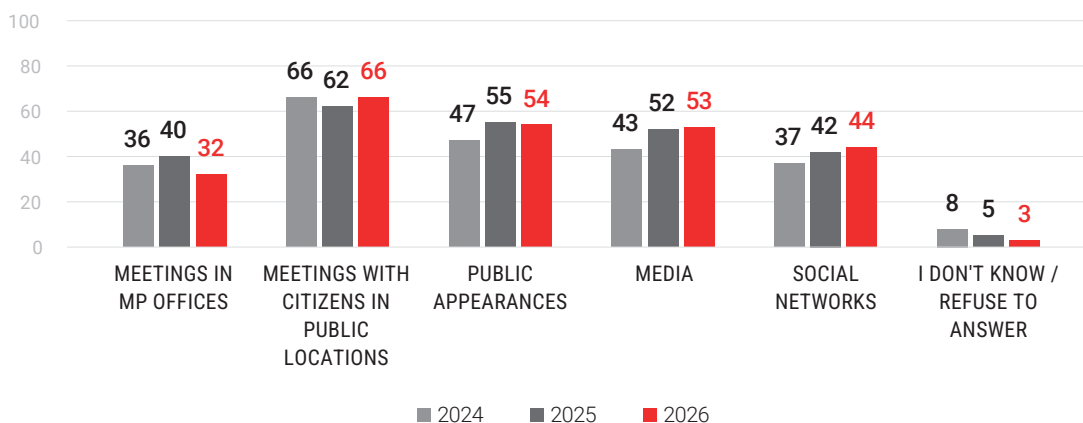
The citizens who said that they have visited the local office for contact with MPs have a positive perception about the response they received. The majority of them (58%) stated that they were very satisfied, which is the highest share compared to the previous two years. An additional 40% responded that they were partially satisfied, while only 2% expressed dissatisfaction. These results indicate that, although the visits to the offices remains low, the experience of the citizens who used this opportunity is predominantly positive and has further improved in 2026 (Chart 25).

Chart 25. (For the citizens who stated that they have visited the MPs local office for contact with citizens) How satisfied are you with the response you received from your visit? (%)



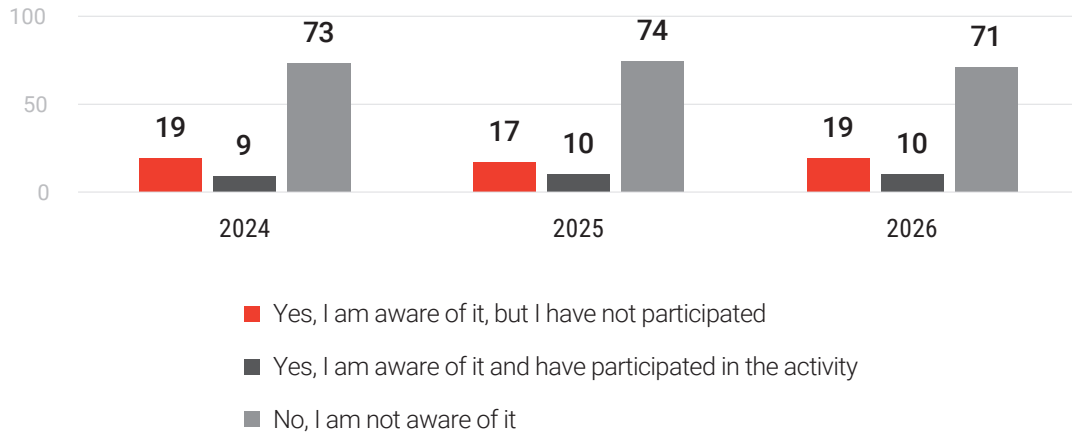
When asked how they think MPs should inform citizens about their work, two-thirds of the respondents (66%) believe that this should be via meetings with citizens in public locations, while 54% believe that they should be informed via public appearances. The media, as the optimal channel for reporting, is listed by 53% of citizens, while 44% indicated social networks (Chart 26). Preference for meetings in MP offices has decreased to 32%, which is the lowest percentage in the last 3 years. These findings indicate that citizens have an increased need for more direct, visible and proactive communication by MPs, outside of formal institutional spaces. The high support for meetings in public locations suggests that greater availability and presence “in the field” is expected, where communication is more accessible and less formal.

Chart 26. In what way, in your view, should your MPs inform citizens about their work? (%)



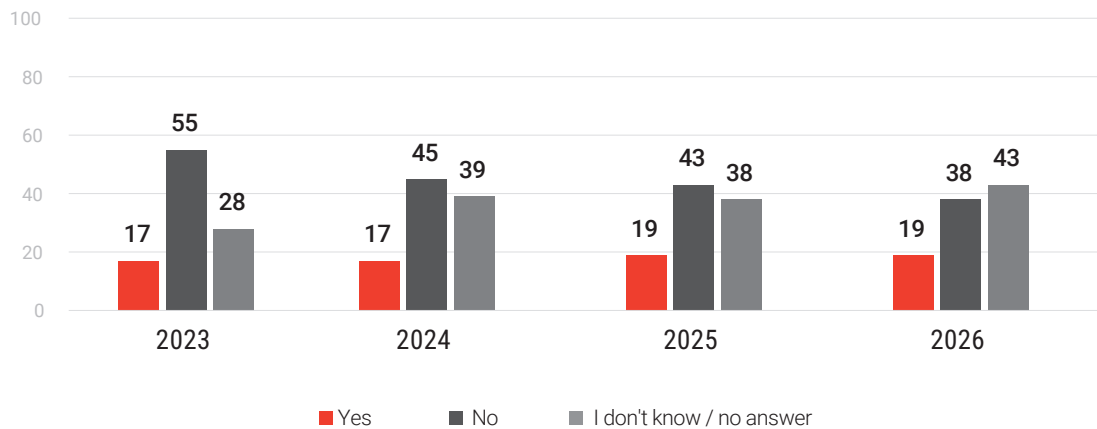
In 2022, the Parliament implemented a new approach to contacting and involving citizens – the Parliamentary Caravan activity. Regional/local MPs, together with some of the parliamentary service, organised event in cities where all citizens can come and meet the MPs. The citizens were asked whether they were familiar with or had participated in this activity. The majority of respondents (71%) were not familiar with the Parliamentary Caravan. On the other hand, 19% stated that they were familiar with this initiative, but did not participate, while 10% said that they were familiar with it and participated in the activity. Compared to 2025, a slight increase in both awareness and participation is noted, which indicates a slight improvement in the visibility of this initiative (Chart 27).

Chart 27. Are you familiar with the Parliamentary Caravan activity, as a way to contact and involve citizens in the work of the Parliament? (%)



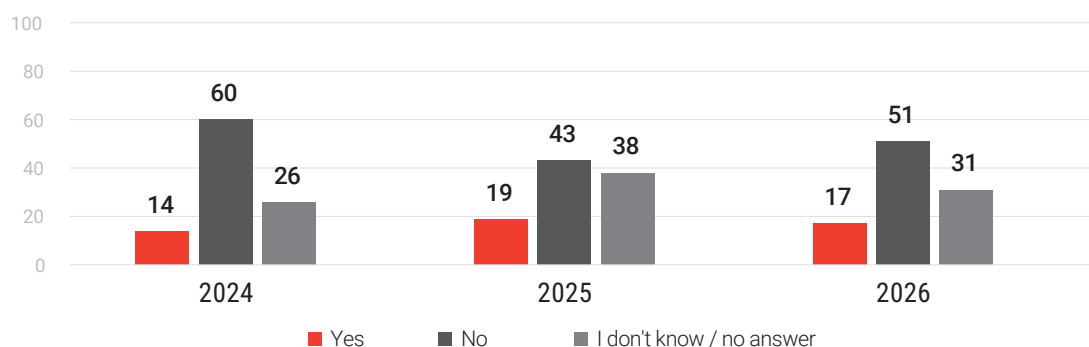
The general perception of the citizens is that the MPs do not sufficiently address the problems of the municipalities and the local communities. Almost half of the respondents (38%) answered that there was never a case that an MP from their region has raised an initiative in the Parliament on local issues, while 19% of the respondents stated that their MP has done so. These results note the same level of perception among citizens compared to 2025, and a slight increase in the percentage of citizens who are neutral, that is, do not have a formed opinion regarding their MP and the process of raising of initiative on a local problem compared to the past three years (Chart 28).

Chart 28. Has it ever happened that an MP from your region raised an initiative in the Parliament about an issue faced by your municipality? (%)



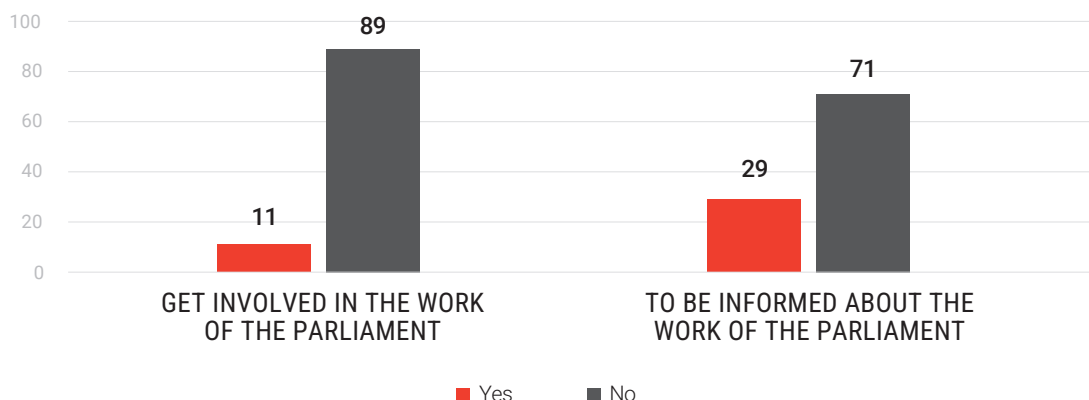
Citizens were also asked whether an MP has ever raised an initiative of interest to the citizen in the Parliament or in their public appearances. Negative perceptions prevailed on this issue: 51% of the respondents in 2026 said that such a thing had not happened, while 17% stated that it had. Compared to 2025, the share of affirmative responses slightly decreased – from 19% to 17% – while the percentage of negative responses increased from 43% to 51%. At the same time, 31% of the respondents said that they did not know or had no opinion on this issue. These results indicate that the majority of citizens still do not perceive that the MPs actively raise initiatives or advocate issues of interest to them (Chart 29).

Chart 29. Has it ever happened that an MP initiated an initiative in the Parliament on an issue in your interest or advocated an issue of your interest in his/her public appearances? (%)



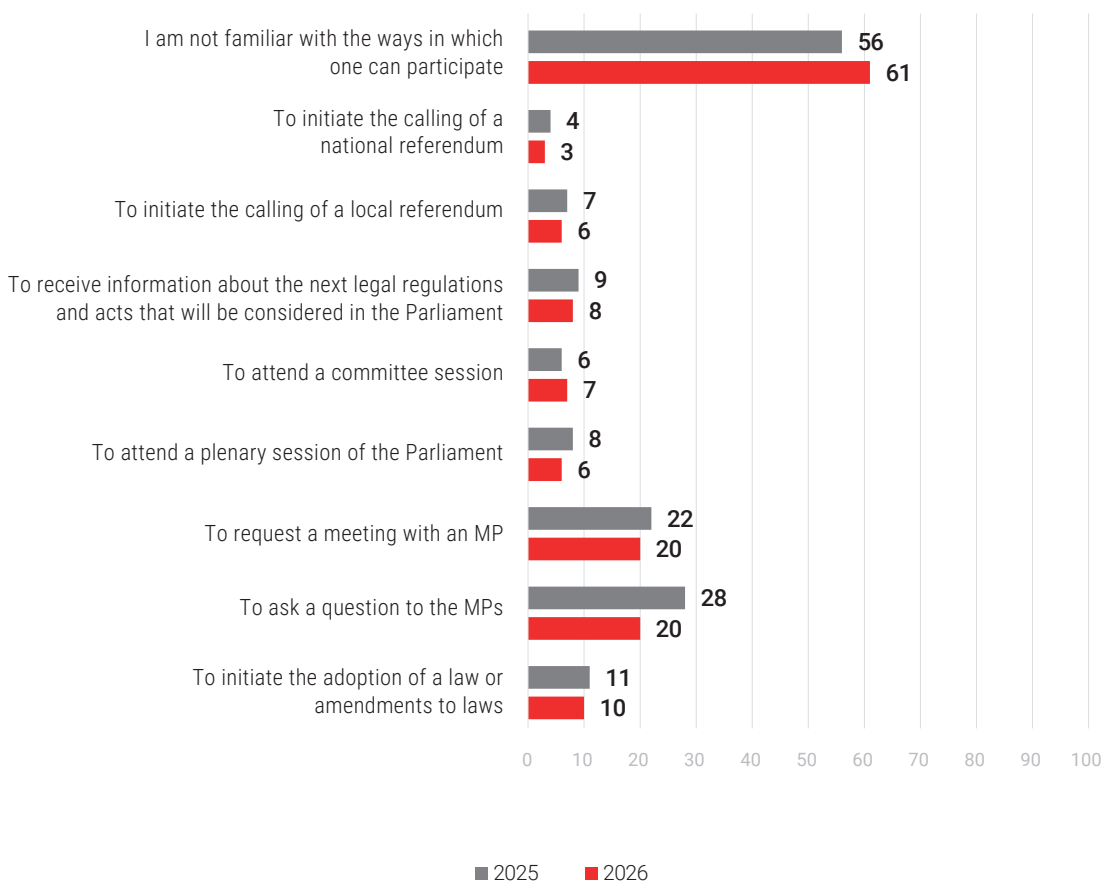
Over two-thirds of the citizens stated that they are not interested in the work of the Parliament (71%), and an even higher percentage of the citizens do not want to get involved in its activities (89%). Being informed about the work of the Parliament is a more passive and achievable goal compared to being involved in its work, which to some extent explains the discrepancy in the percentages between the two questions (Chart 30).

Chart 30. Are you interested in being informed and getting involved in the work of the Parliament? (%)



The respondents were read several mechanisms on how they can participate in the work of the Parliament. From the options offered, the largest percentage of the respondents were aware that they can request a meeting with an MP or ask a question to the MPs (20%). However, the majority of the respondents (61%) were not familiar with any of the mechanisms for participation in the work of the Parliament that were read to them and available. Compared to last year, the trend in the selected methods of participation is generally the same, however, the percentage of citizens who responded that they were not familiar with them has worsened, with an increase by five percentage points (Chart 31).

Chart 31. In what way do you think you can participate in the work of the Parliament? (%)



VIII.

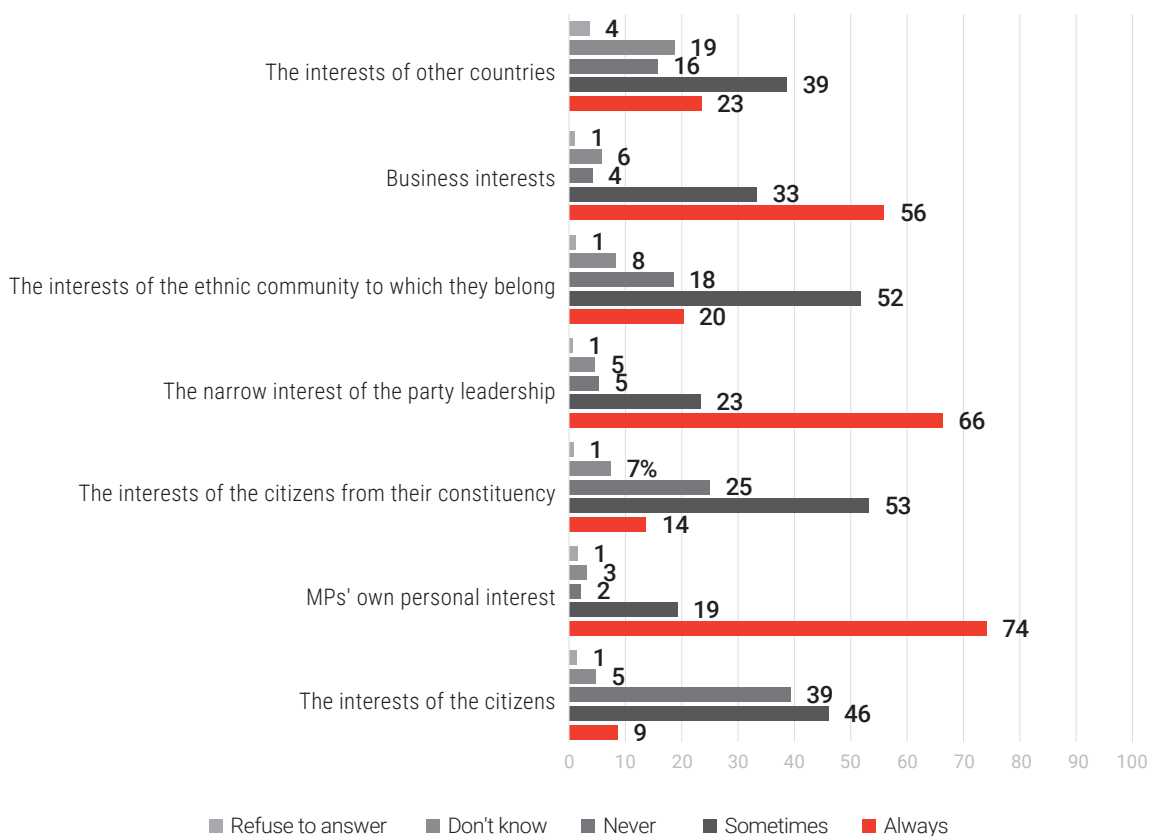
**WHO DO THE MPs
IN THE PARLIAMENT
REPRESENT?**



VIII. WHO DO THE MPS IN THE PARLIAMENT REPRESENT?

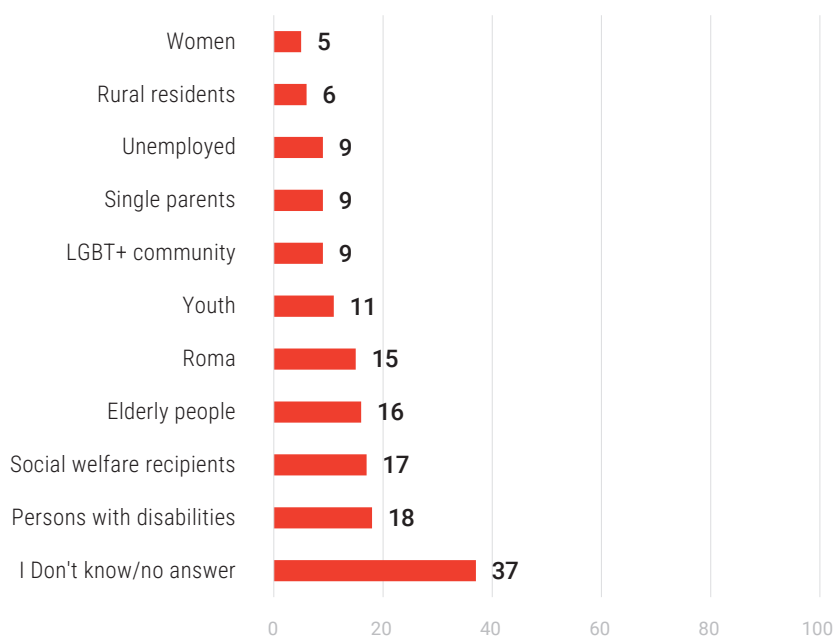
74% of the surveyed citizens believe that MPs in the Parliament always represent their personal interests, while 66% indicated the interests of the inner circle of the party leadership. More than half (56%) of respondents chose the business community as the most represented by the MPs, while only 9% of respondents believe that MPs represent the interests of all citizens, an increase of 3% compared to last year. Such responses indicate a perception among citizens that the representation of the public interest by the MPs is relatively marginalized at the expense of other private interests (Chart 32).

Chart 32. How frequently do you think the MPs represent the following interests? (%)



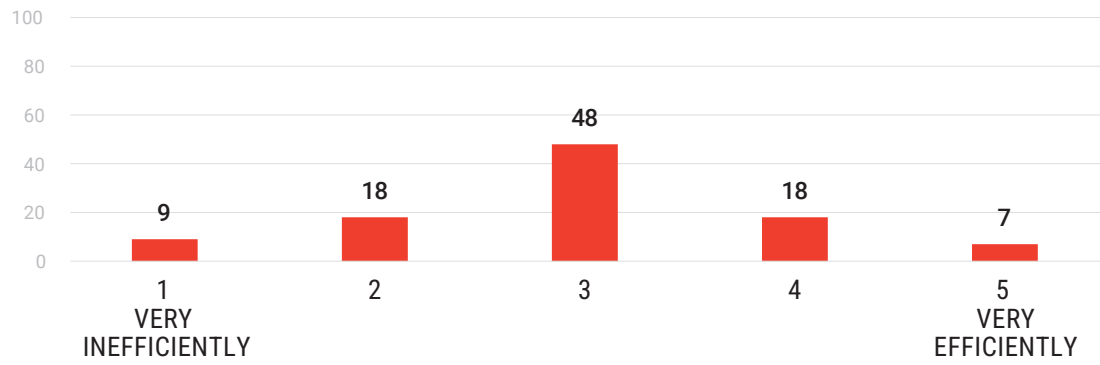
The respondents were asked which marginalized groups are best represented in the Parliament. The highest percentage of the citizens indicated people with disabilities (18%), followed by beneficiaries of social assistance (17%), the elderly (16%), and Roma (15%). Less than 10% of the citizens believe that unemployed people (9%), single parents (9%), residents of rural areas (6%) and women (5%) are best represented. However,, 37% did not answer or said that they did not know, representing an increase of 4% compared to last year (Chart 33).

Chart 33. Which of the following groups of citizens do you think the Parliament represents best? (%)



Citizens' perceptions of how effectively the Parliament takes into account the needs and interests of the private sector are mostly concentrated around the middle of the scale. Almost half of the respondents (48%) gave a rating of 3, indicating that they think this role is being fulfilled partially but without much satisfaction. Higher ratings were given by 25% of citizens, of whom 18% rated it 4, and 7% rated it 5. 27% gave lower ratings, with 9% rating it 1 and 18% rating it 2. These findings indicate that citizens do not have a clearly negative, nor a clearly positive, perception, but rather a mostly reserved attitude about the extent to which the Parliament recognizes and incorporates the interests of the private sector in its work. (Chart 34)

Chart 34. On a scale from 1 to 5, how efficiently do you think the Parliament is considering the needs and interests of the private sector (businesses and companies)? (%)



IX.

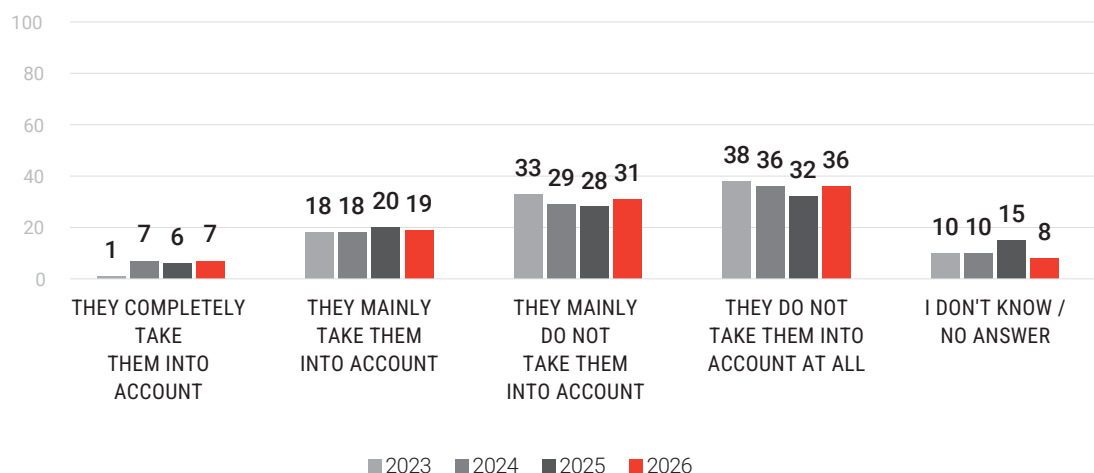
**THE DEBATE IN THE
PARLIAMENT**



IX. THE DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT

Almost two thirds of the surveyed citizens (67%) think that the ruling majority takes the arguments of the opposition into account during parliamentary debate and decision-making, which represents an increase of 7% compared to last year. 26% of the respondents think the majority mainly or fully takes the arguments of the opposition into account during the discussions, which is an improvement of 1% from the previous year (Chart 35).

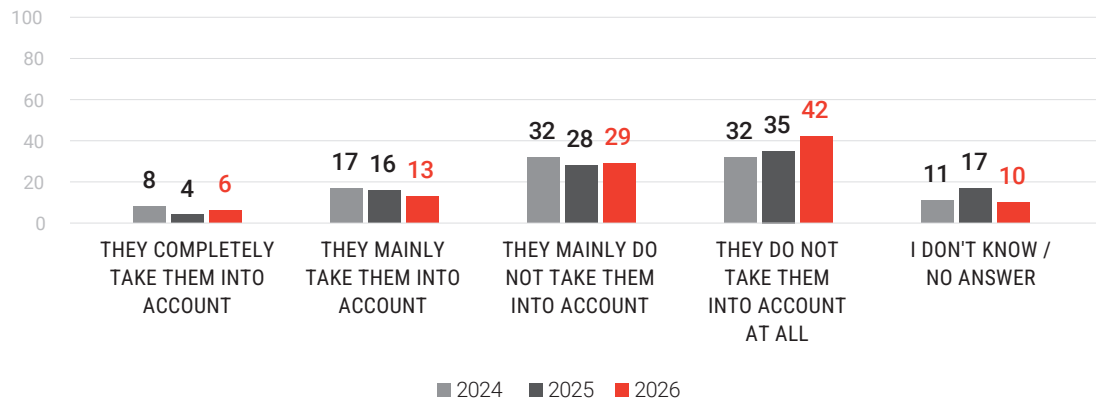
Chart 35. The MPs from the ruling majority consider the arguments of the opposition MPs when making decisions in the Parliament (%)



The perception of the opposition is similar. 71% of the respondents believe that the opposition mainly or fully does not take the ruling party's arguments into account, while 19% say that it mainly or fully takes them into account. Compared to last year, there is decline in the perception about the cooperation between the parliamentary groups (Chart 36).

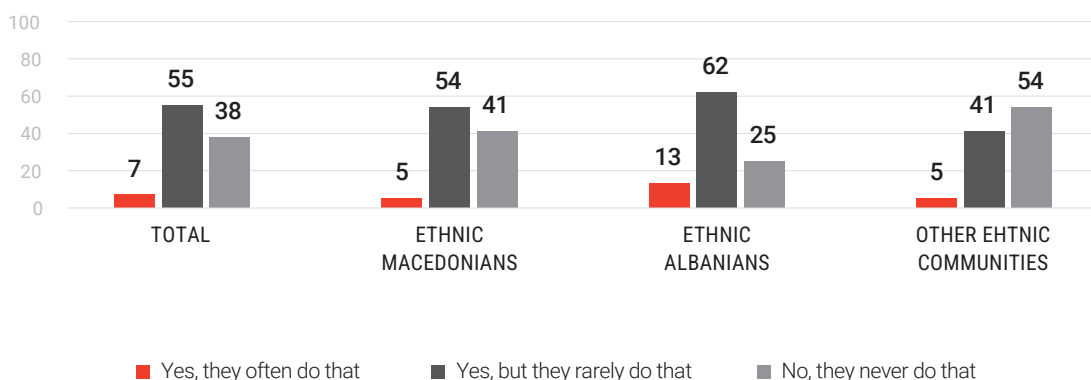
These findings indicate a dominant perception of confrontation, rather than cooperation, between government and opposition MPs, which undermines constructive parliamentary dialogue. The low percentages of positive responses indicate that citizens continue to have limited trust in the communication between political parties as a basis for quality decision-making.

Chart 36. The MPs from the opposition take into account the arguments of the MPs from the majority when making decisions in the Parliament. (%)



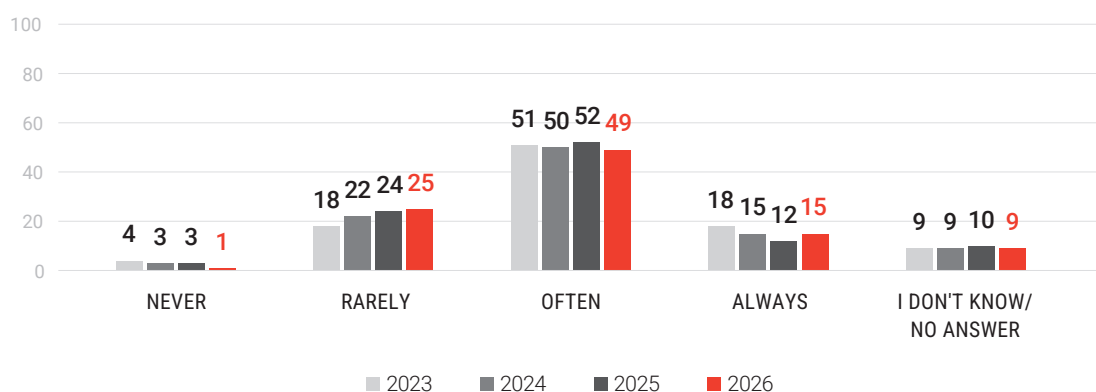
The majority of citizens (55%) believe that there is a willingness among the parties to compromise in the interest of the citizens, but that this rarely happens. Only 7% responded that the parties often reach such a compromise, while 38% believe that this is never the case. Among ethnic Macedonians, 41% responded that the parties never compromise. In contrast, only 25% of ethnic Albanian respondents hold this belief, indicating a more moderate perception regarding the possibility of inter-party compromise (Chart 37).

Chart 37. Do you think that the parties are willing to compromise with each other, in order to find a common solution that is in the public interest? (%)



64% of respondents have the impression that MPs often or always use language in sessions that belittles and degrades their political opponents based on their political, ethnic, religious or gender affiliation. Of the total number of respondents, 49% believe that the MPs do this often, while 15% believe that such language is always used. On the other hand, 26% of the citizens say that the MPs rarely or never use such language. This represents a slight increase in the share of respondents who believe that the MPs always use derogatory and degrading language compared to 2025, but the overall perception on this issue remains almost unchanged. The impression that MPs often use hate or discriminatory language to belittle political opponents in parliamentary debates continues to prevail among citizens (Chart 38).

Chart 38. In your opinion, how often do the MPs use hate speech or discriminatory speech? (%)





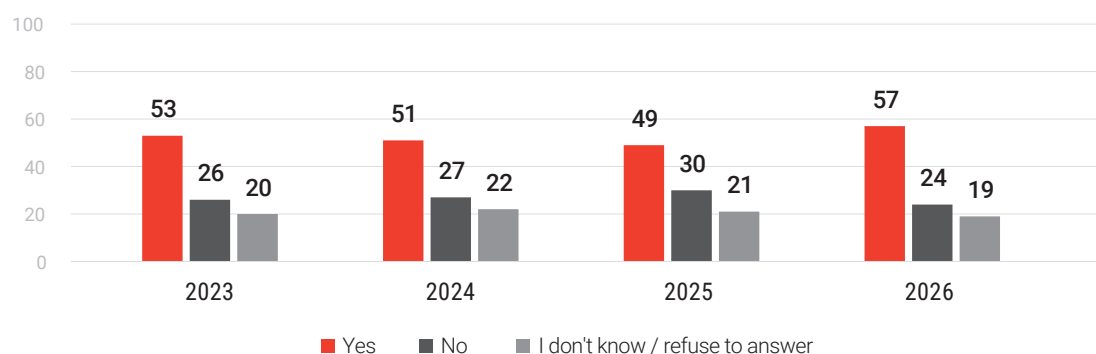
REFORMS



X. REFORMS

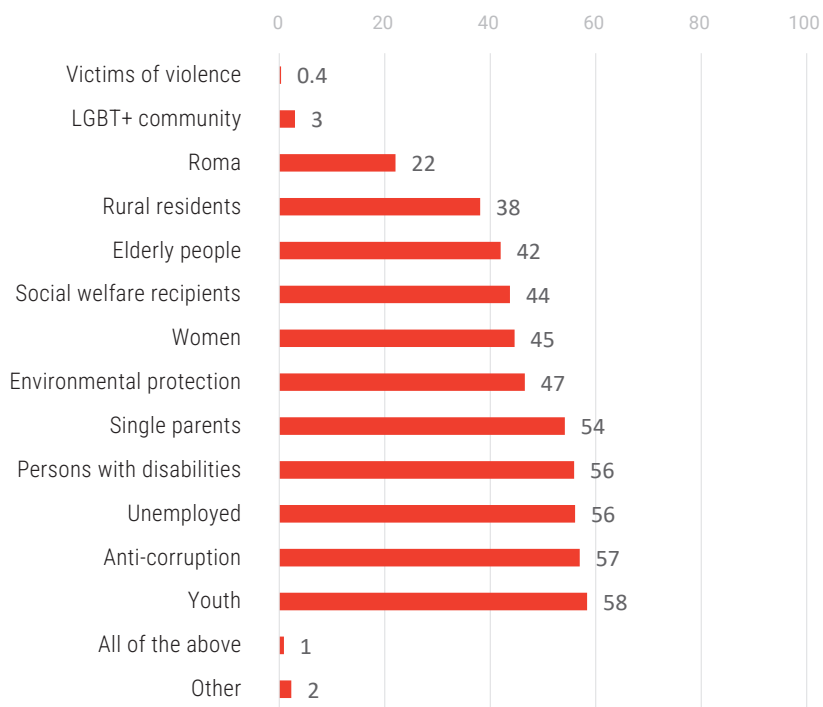
Almost half of the respondents (57%) believe that it is important to establish multi-party groups in the Parliament in which MPs from different parties would unite around the same issues, representing an increase of 8% compared to 2025. These findings represent a slight increase in citizens' support for multi-party groups is observed, in contrast to previous years when the results showed a continuous decline (Chart 39).

Chart 39. Do you believe that it is important that multi-party groups are established at the Parliament (for example, the Female MP Club) at which the MPs from different parties would unite on the same issues? (%)



Citizens who stated that it is important to establish multi-party groups in the Parliament were asked about which issues they think it is important to establish such groups for. In that regard, 58% of the respondents believe that such groups should be established for youth-related issues, while 57% believe that they should be established to address issues related to corruption in the country. The issues of unemployed people and people with disabilities are highlighted by 56% of the respondents, while 54% believe that such groups should be established for the needs of single parents. A high percentage of respondents indicated the need for environmental protection (47%), which was not the case in previous years. Lowest on the list in terms of percentages, with less than a quarter of respondents, are the Roma (22%), the LGBT+ community (3%) and victims of violence (0.4%) (Chart 40).

Chart 40. For which issues do you think it is important to establish such groups? (%)



XI.

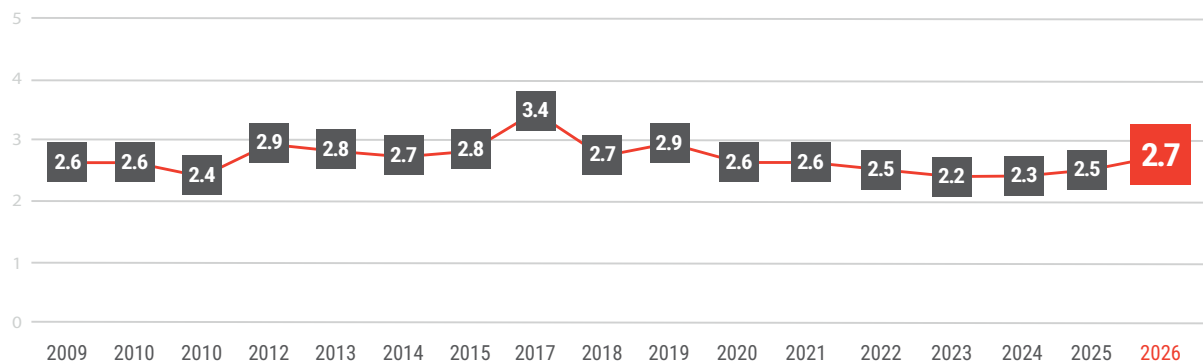
AVERAGE RATING OF THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT



XI. AVERAGE RATING OF THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT

Respondents evaluated the work of the Parliament with an average score of 2.7, with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best. This represents an increase of .2 points compared to 2025, when the work of the Parliament was evaluated with an average rating of 2.5. The highest average rating in the last 15 years, of 3.4, was received by the Parliament in 2017 (Chart 41). Although the overall assessment of the work of the Parliament remains relatively low, there has been a gradual improvement in perception over the last three years, indicating a small but steady tendency towards increase of satisfaction among citizens. This trend is encouraging, but shows that the Parliament has significant room for improvement in its work and accountability to the public.

Chart 41. Average rating of the work of the Parliament (on a scale from 1 - worst to 5 - best)



XII.

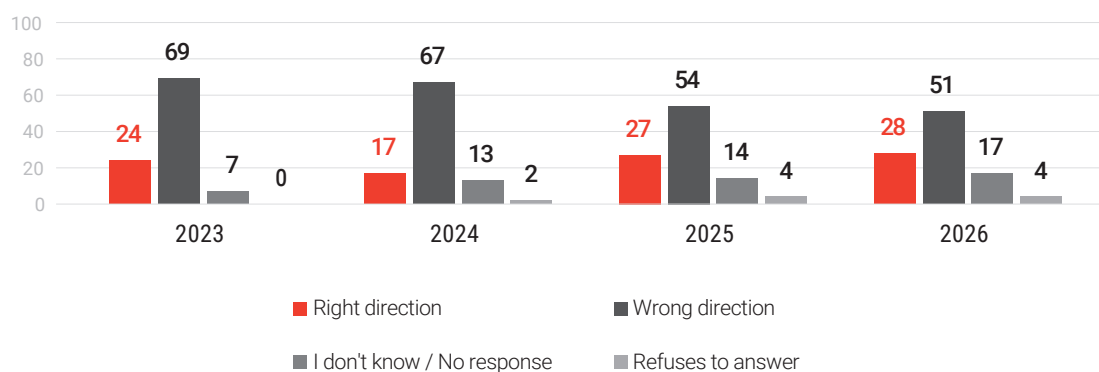
POLITICAL CONTEXT AND TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS



XII. POLITICAL CONTEXT AND TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

The respondents were asked in which direction they think life in North Macedonia is heading. About half of respondents (51%) believe that life in the country is heading in the wrong direction, while over a quarter of respondents (28%) believe that life is moving in the right direction. These perceptions are similar to those in 2025; 1% more than last year believe that the country is moving in the right direction, while 3% less believe that it is moving in the wrong direction (Chart 42). These results indicate a slight optimistic shift in public perception of the direction of social development, but at the same time confirm that the lack of satisfaction and feelings of insecurity remain dominant among the majority of citizens.

Chart 42. Do you believe that, generally speaking, life in North Macedonia is moving in: (%)

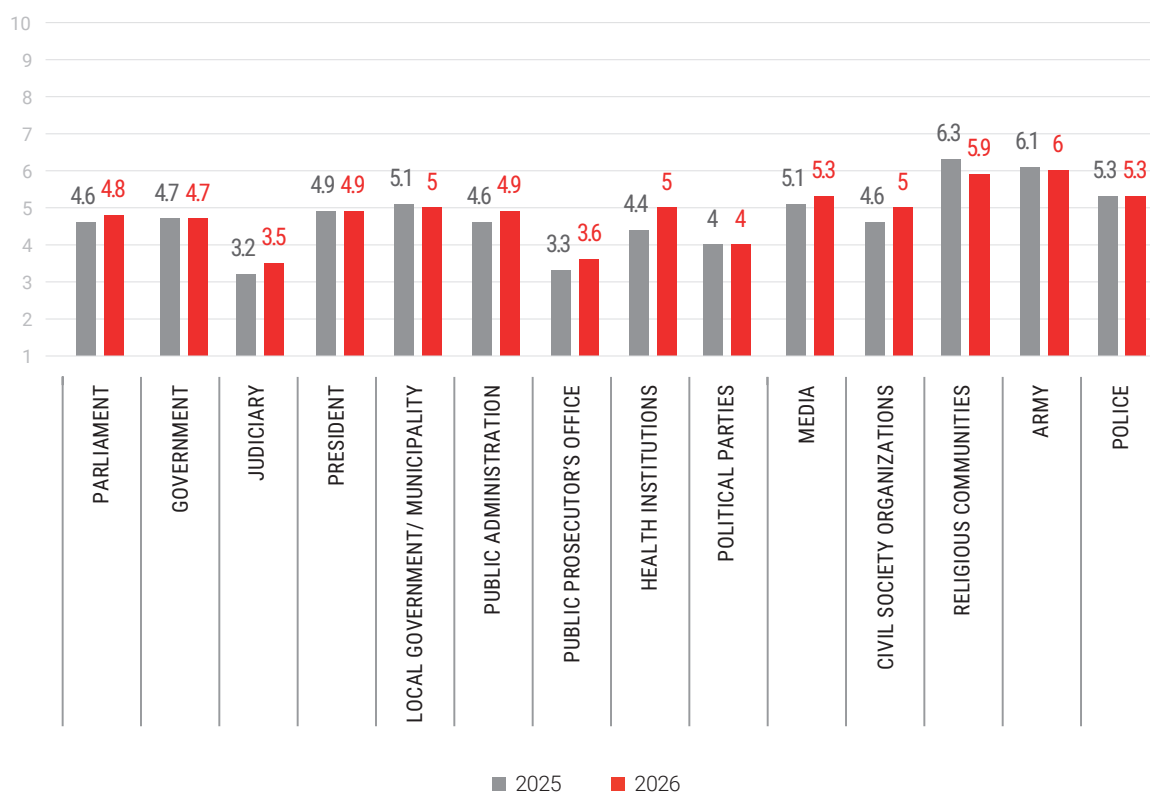


There were no major changes in citizens' trust in public institutions compared to the previous year, with minor shifts in trust in specific institutions. Religious communities and the military continue to be the institutions in which citizens have the highest trust, although both have a slight decline compared to 2025 – from 6.3 to 5.9 in religious communities and from 6.1 to 6.0 in the military. This is followed by media and police, with an average score of 5.3, with trust in the media slight increasing and the trust in the police remaining unchanged.

Trust in the Parliament in 2026 is rated at 4.8, which is a slight improvement compared to 4.6 in 2025. Trust in the Government and the President remains unchanged, with an average rating of 4.7 and 4.9, respectively. A slight increase is also recorded in the public administration, from 4.6 to 4.9, healthcare institutions, from 4.4 to 5.0, as well as non-governmental organisations, from 4.6 to 5.0. Increase, although moderate, is also observed in the judiciary and the public prosecution, which in 2026 were rated with 3.5 and 3.6 respectively.

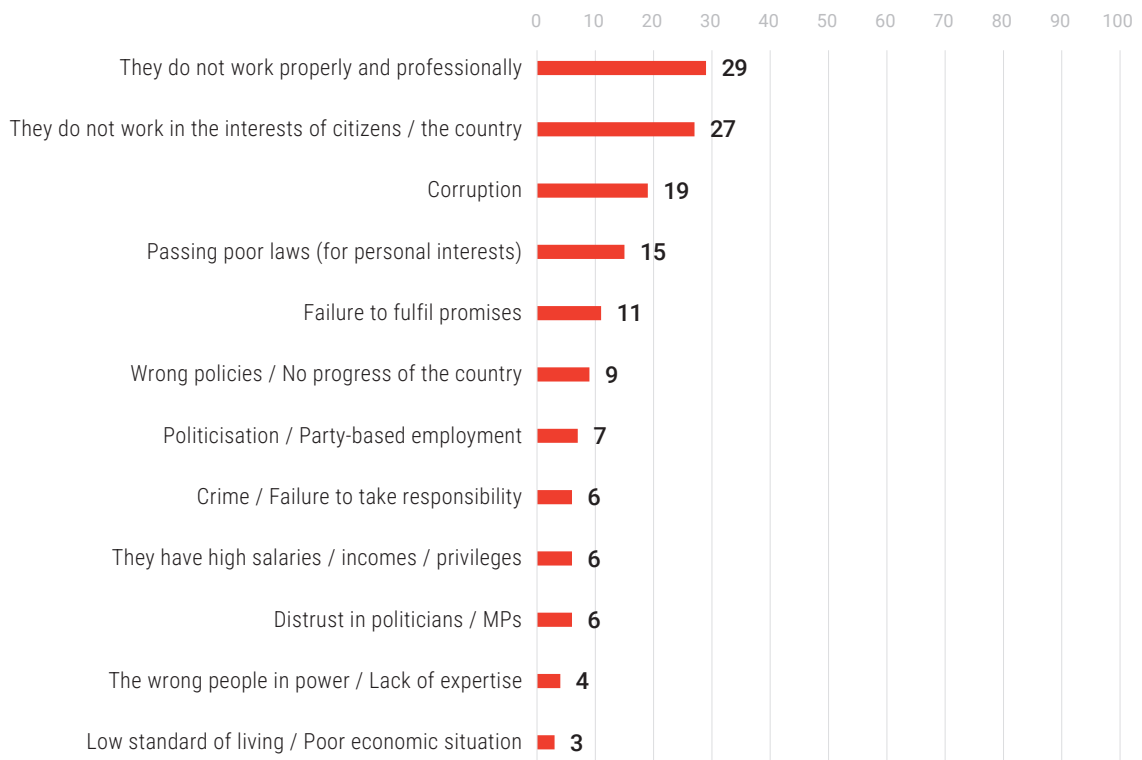
On the other hand, trust in local government has decreased slightly, from 5.1 to 5.0, while trust in political parties remains unchanged, with a score of 4.0. Overall, the findings indicate a relatively stable distribution of trust, with the highest trust still being in institutions that are not directly related to the daily political arena. The institutions of the justice system continue to be among the those with lowest rating, although they also show a slight improvement (Chart 43).

Chart 43. On a scale from 1 – the lowest to 10 – the highest, rate your trust in the following institutions (%)



Citizens who rated their trust in the Parliament with an average score of 4 or lower, on a scale from 1 – lowest to 10 – highest, were asked about the main reasons for this relatively low level of trust in the Parliament. The perception that MPs do not work conscientiously and professionally, which was cited by 29% of respondents, and the view that they do not work in the interests of citizens and the state, cited by 27%, were most frequently cited as reasons for low level of trust. This is followed by corruption, with 19%, and the adoption of bad laws, that is, laws that are perceived as being driven by personal interests, with 15%. A smaller proportion of respondents also cited the failure to fulfil promises, wrong policies, partisanship, and the absence of accountability as reasons for mistrust. These responses indicate that low trust in the Parliament is primarily related to perceptions of insufficient professionalism, lack of public interest in decision-making, and broader problems related to the integrity and quality of legislative work (Chart 44).

Chart 44. (Citizens who rated their trust in the Parliament with a score of 4 or lower, on a scale from 1 – the lowest to 10 – the highest) In your opinion, what are the main reasons why you have lower trust in the work of the Parliament? (%)



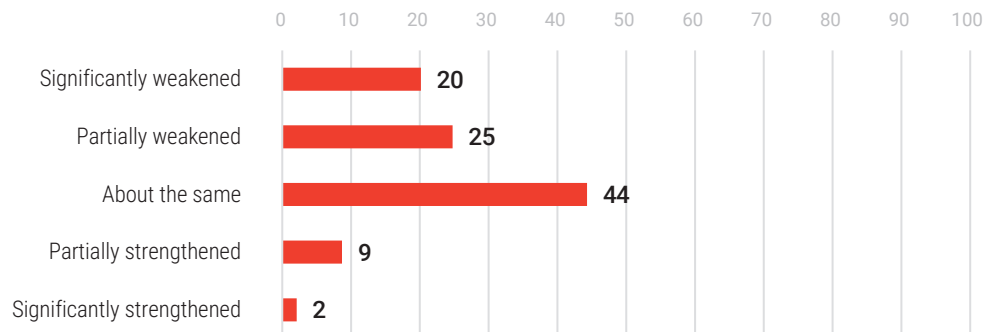
The same group of citizens – those who rated their trust in the Parliament with a score of 4 or lower on a scale of 1 to 10 – were also asked what MPs should improve in their work in order to increase the trust in the Parliament. Most often, they point out that MPs should work in the interest of the citizens and the state (37%), as well as be honest, responsible, principled and professional (27%). This is followed by requests for better quality laws in the interest of the citizens (12%), greater transparency and accountability to the public (11%) and a more determined fight against corruption and crime (11%, Chart 45). These responses show that low trust in the Parliament is closely related to expectations for greater responsibility, integrity, transparency and a clearer orientation towards the public interest in the work of MPs.

Chart 45. (Citizens who rated their trust in the Parliament with a score of 4 or lower, on a scale from 1 – the lowest to 10 – the highest) What should the MPs improve in their work so you can increase your trust in the Parliament? (most frequently mentioned) (%)



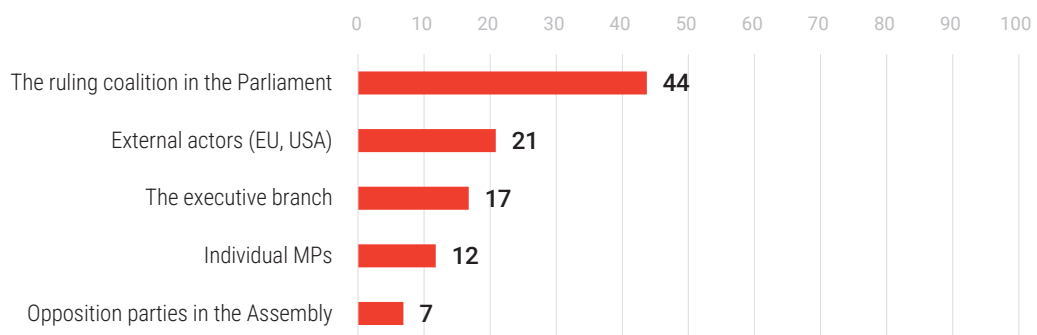
The respondents were asked how the position of the opposition parties in the Parliament has changed, that is, whether it has strengthened or weakened. Almost half of the respondents (44%) answered that it has remained almost the same, while 45% answered that it has partially or completely weakened. Only 11% believe that the opposition has been fully or partially strengthened. This finding indicates that citizens predominantly perceive the opposition parliamentary groups as weak, with insufficient power to act. (Chart 46)

Chart 46. Compared to the period a year ago, how do you think the position of the opposition parties in the Parliament has changed? (%)



When asked who will have a key role in setting the legislative agenda in the Parliament in the coming year, 44% of the respondents point to the ruling coalition as the potentially most influential actor. Almost a quarter (21%) believe that external actors, such as the EU and the US, would have a significant influence, while 17% point to the executive branch. A smaller proportion of respondents (12%) believe that individual MPs play a key role, and only 7% recognize the opposition as the most influential factor in creating the legislative agenda. (Chart 47)

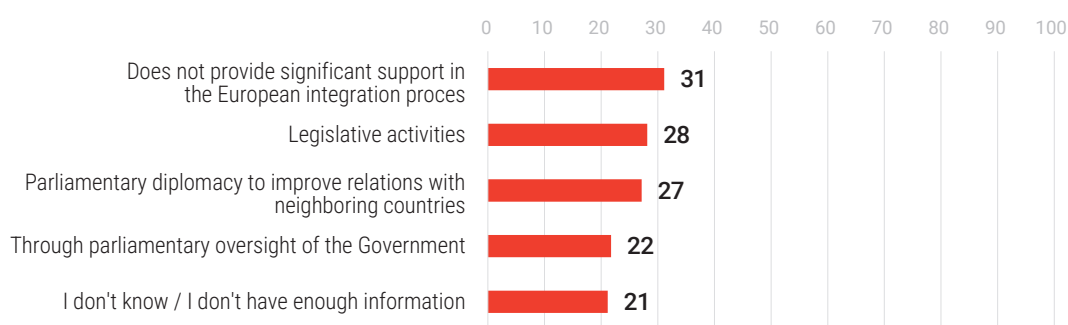
Chart 47. Looking ahead to the next 12 months, who do you think will play the key role in setting the legislative agenda in the Parliament? (%)



These findings indicate a perception of a high concentration of power in the governing structures, with the legislative process being perceived as dominated by the majority and closely linked to the executive branch. At the same time, the relatively high recognition of the role of external actors suggests that some citizens perceive the legislative agenda as under significant international influence, especially in the context of European integration. The low percentage for the opposition and individual MPs may indicate limited confidence in their capacity to actually influence the legislative process, which raises questions about the perception of pluralism and balance in the work of the Parliament.

When asked what is the nature of the support that the Parliament provides in the process of unlocking European integration, the opinions of the respondents are divided. 31% of respondents believe that the Parliament does not provide significant support in this process, while 21% stated that they do not know or do not have sufficient information. Among those who recognize a more specific role of the Parliament, 28% believe that it is mostly realised through legislative activities, 27% through parliamentary diplomacy, and 22% through parliamentary oversight of the Government (Chart 48).

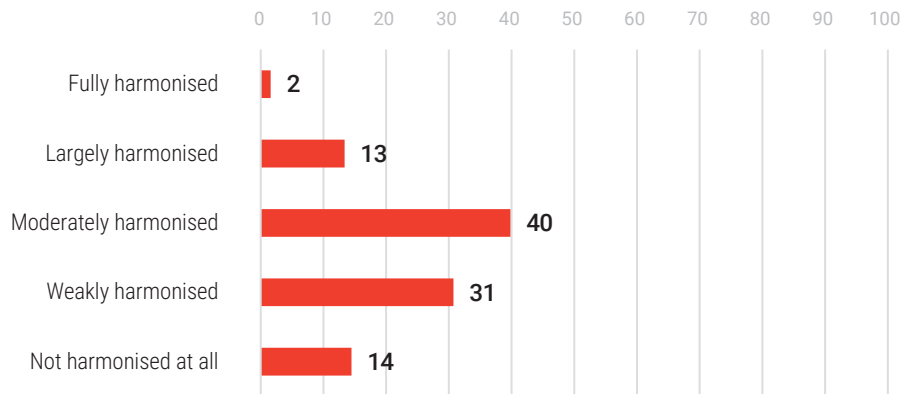
Chart 48. The Parliament provides support in the process of unblocking the European integration process through: (%)



These findings indicate the lack of a clear and consistent perception of the role of the Parliament in European integration. The high percentage of respondents who believe that there is no significant support, together with those who do not have enough information, may indicate insufficient visibility and communication of parliamentary activities related to this process. At the same time, the distribution of responses among the remaining respondents suggests that there is no dominant narrative about the mechanisms through which the Parliament contributes, which may mean that its role is perceived as fragmented or insufficiently articulated in the public discourse.

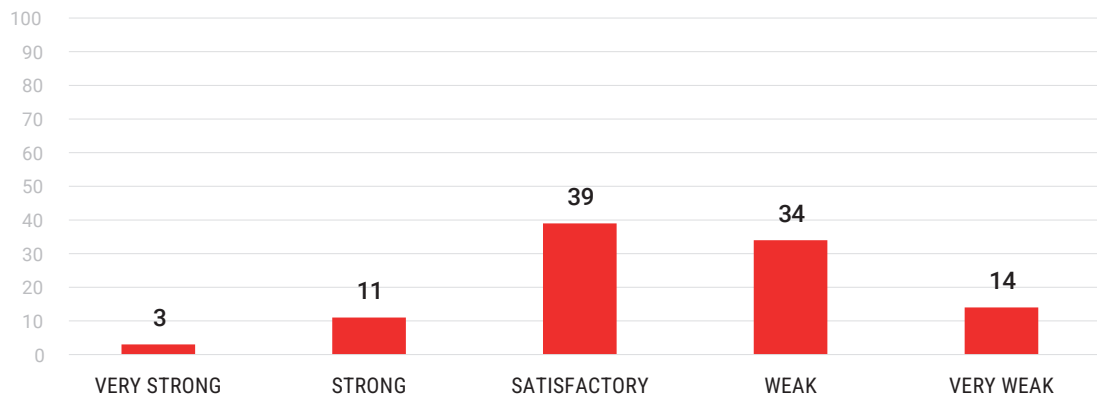
The respondents were asked about MPs' harmonisation on key national security priorities. Forty percent (40%) of respondents believe that there is moderate harmonization, while 45% say that the MPs are poorly or not harmonized when it comes to key national security priorities. Only 15% of the respondents believe that the MPs are largely or completely harmonized on these issues (Chart 49).

Chart 49. To what extent are MPs harmonised on key national security priorities? (%)



When asked how they assess the Parliament’s ability to respond to challenges related to national security, 39% of respondents assessed it as satisfactory. However, 48% of respondents consider the Parliament’s ability to be weak or very weak, while only 14% assessed it as strong or very strong (Chart 50).

Chart 50. How do you assess the Parliament’s ability to respond to challenges related to national security? (%)



These findings point to a largely undecided, yet more critical than positive perception of the Parliament’s readiness to respond to national security issues. Although a significant proportion of citizens believe that there is at least some level of harmonization among MPs, the higher share of respondents who see weak harmonization and limited institutional capacity suggests reservations regarding the effectiveness of parliamentary response in the face of security challenges.

XIII. DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

		Апсолутен број	Процент
Gender	Male	494	49.3%
	Female	508	50.7%
	Other	0	0%
Total		1002	100.0%

Age	Under 18	0	0.0%
	18-29	209	20.9%
	30-39	190	19.0%
	40-49	214	21.4%
	50-59	161	16.1%
	60+	228	22.8%

Place of residence	Urban	580	57.9%
	Rural	422	42.1%

Region	Vardar region	76	7.6%
	Eastern region	88	8.8%
	Southwestern region	103	10.3%
	Southeast region	88	8.8%
	Pelagonia region	124	12.4%
	Polog region	140	14.0%
	Northeast region	83	8.3%
	Skopje region	300	29.9%

Ethnicity	Macedonian	657	65.6%
	Albanian	254	25.3%
	Other	91	9.1%

Economic status	Formally employed in the public sector full-time	215	21.5%
	Formally employed in the public sector with part-time work	12	1.2%
	Formally employed in the private sector full-time	302	30.1%
	Formally employed in the private sector with less than 30 hours	18	1.8%
	Self-employed (works in own company or shop)	36	3.6%
	Informal engagement that brings in regular income	18	1.8%
	Informal engagement that brings in occasional income	27	2.7%
	Student	88	8.8%
	Pensioner	175	17.5%
	A person with a disability who cannot work	9	0.9%
	No job and was not looking for one in the last 30 days	43	4.3%
	Unemployed and actively following job postings and looking for work	45	4.5%
	Does not want to answer	14	1.4%

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Swiss Parliamentary Support Programme (PSP) supports the efforts of the Assembly of Republic of North Macedonia for independence through building consensus, structural reforms and capacity building for the institutional development of the Assembly; its legislative and oversight role and institutional transparency and accountability. The PSP is implemented by the National Democratic Institute, the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje and the Centre for Change Management, aimed at supporting the strategic planning of the Assembly; human resources management reforms; improved regulatory impact assessment and procurement processes; commitment to open data and measuring the public opinion and monitoring the efforts for reforms, including an enhanced citizen participation in the policy-making processes.

ABOUT IDSCS

Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" Skopje (IDSCS) is a think tank organisation that researches the good governance development, the rule of law and the European integration of North Macedonia. The IDSCS mission is to support citizen involvement in decision-making and to strengthen the participatory political culture. By strengthening the liberal values, IDSCS contributes to the cohabitation of diversities. Since June 2014, IDSCS has been monitoring the debate quality in the Assembly and the media coverage of the work of the Assembly. The monitoring in the first cycle took place during a period of 10 months - from June 2014 to May 2015. The second period of monitoring and evaluation of the quality of the parliamentary debate and the media reporting started in September 2015 and it lasted until December 2017, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The third period of monitoring of the debate quality began in January 2018 and it lasted until December 2019. Since January 2020, the Institute for Democracy has been monitoring the work of the Assembly and the debate quality within the framework of the Parliamentary Support Programme (PSP).

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ABOUT NDI

Since its founding in 1983, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) has worked to strengthen democracy and support inclusive political participation worldwide. The Institute has been active in North Macedonia since 1993, partnering with citizens, civil society, political parties, media, and institutions to build more transparent, accountable, and resilient democratic practices. Today, NDI is implementing the Swiss Parliament Support Programme and Integrity Driven Communities initiatives, supported by the Governments of Switzerland and Sweden, to foster stronger democratic governance and integrity at both the national and local levels.

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