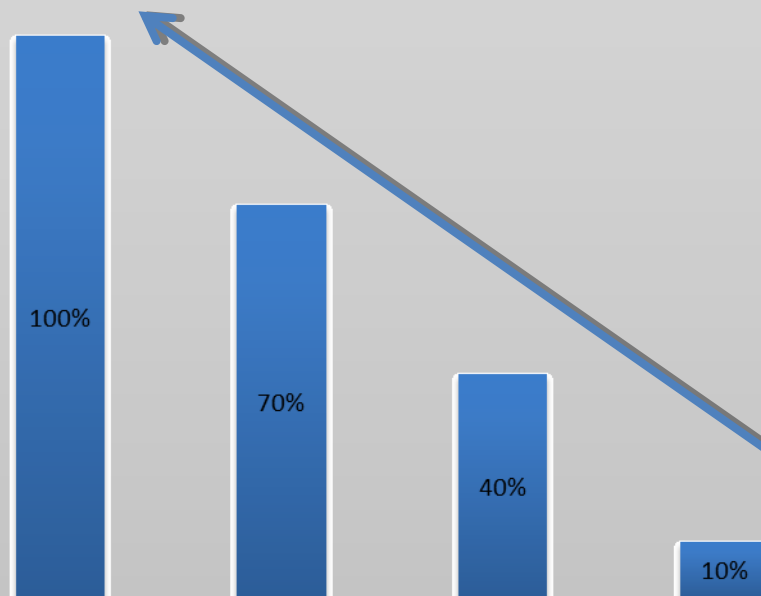


Regional Security Barometer

*Security Research Forum:
Belgrade - Prishtina - Tirana*



KOSOVO SECURITY BAROMETER

December 2013



SUPPORTED BY:
**Royal Norwegian
Ministry of Foreign
Affairs**

AUTHORS OF THE REPORT

Mentor Vrajolli
Florian Qehaja

KSB TEAM

Mentor Vrajolli, Programme
Coordinator

Fjolla Raifi, Field Research
Coordinator

Skender Perteshi, Deputy Field
Research Coordinator

Sofije Kryeziu, Field
Supervisor

Abit Hoxha, Quality Assurance

Petrit Tahiri, SPSS Data Entry
Manager

Donika Emini, Design and
Layout of the Report

What is the Kosovo Security Barometer?

The Kosovo Security Barometer (KSB) is a special research programme established by KCSS in October 2012. The main purpose for establishing the KSB was to develop a programme within the KCSS which is fully capable to collect, manage and analyze the quantitative research data. The KSB programme contains its own methodology. It has also developed a core of very professional and now also experienced staff capable of conducting very accurate and reliable surveys. This way, the KSB has produced a regular survey measuring the trends of public perception towards security and justice sector in a biannual manner (every six months). As a result, the KSB has become a widely known mechanism, implemented and communicated by a local think tank in Kosovo. KCSS has no political constraints in communicating the findings and messages. This publication is the Special Edition of the KSB which has been conducted for the purpose of the Regional Trilateral Project "*Security Research Forum: Belgrade-Prishtina-Tirana*".

Whom do we target with this Special Edition?

The "**Kosovo Security Barometer: Special Edition**" targets wide variety of audience from Kosovo, Serbia and Albania. More precisely it targets a group of audience which is interested to follow the public opinion trends in Kosovo in the field of security, justice and interethnic relations between Kosovo and Serbia citizens. The KSB targets policy makers from these three countries; international community presence in Kosovo and its headquarters; local, regional and international civil society organizations; academia in each of the targeted countries, region and in the world as well as media.

Executive Summary

This publication represents a brief narrative interpretation of quantitative data collected by KCSS in its special survey edition conducted under the auspices of the Security Research Forum "Belgrade-Prishtina-Tirana" during the period 1st - 15th October 2013.¹ This survey aims to measure the perceptions of Kosovo citizens towards Serbia and Albania, as well as inter-ethnic relations.² However, considering that the perception of Kosovo citizens towards Albania's institutions as well as its citizens is generally very positive, this paper focuses mainly on the interpretation of the perceptions towards inter-ethnic cooperation and the institutional and inter-citizens relation between Kosovo and Serbia.

As the findings of the survey will show, the relationship between Kosovo and Serbia and also the mutual trust between K-Albanian and K-Serb in general is still in the very basic level. The majority of Kosovo citizens share multiple fears and distrust towards Serbia. They still consider Serbia as a threat for their national security and consider the Serbian security structures (such as military, police, gendarmerie and its intelligence service) as unfriendly and rather a threat towards Kosovo national security. However, the results showed also optimism when it comes to the long-term peaceful future between Kosovo and Serbia. Approximately 75% of respondents consider that there will be no conflict in Kosovo or region. There is also a great believe among Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs that both communities can live peacefully close to each other in the near future. Nevertheless, the majority of citizens are somehow supporting the ongoing European Union (EU) facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

The survey measured public perception towards prospective security cooperation. The citizens of Kosovo understand that joint border patrolling between Kosovo and Serbia police would contribute to better security for both countries. They do acknowledge the importance of the participation of countries in joint training activities and support to each other in case of natural and/or man-made hazards.

The report also indicated the perception of Kosovo citizens towards their own safety viewed from the perspective of ethnic Albanian and Serbian communities. Both communities found their compact environment, respectively their homes/apartments, neighbourhood and

¹ The project is run jointly by Kosovo Center for Security Studies - KCSS (Prishtina) and its partners Belgrade Centre for Security Policy - BCSP (Belgrade) and Institute for Democracy and Mediation - IDM (Tirana).

² BCSP conducted the survey for Serbia. The findings of Serbia can be found at www.bezbednost.org

IDM conducted the survey for Albania. The findings of Albania can be found at www.idmalbania.org

town/village as safe places, while considered the general safety in Kosovo as quite low. The predominant fear has to do with increased trafficking accidents and robbery, while a considerable number of the respondents declared that they were satisfied with the response of the police provided to them or their family members/friends.

The survey also provides findings about the Kosovo citizens trust towards Serbia and its citizens (including the Serbs living in Kosovo). The survey shows that approximately half of the Kosovo population never travelled to Serbia. Furthermore, the majority of those who have been in Serbia have only been there before the conflict of 1999. Likewise the indexes show that contacts between the K-Albanians and Serbs are relatively rare. The most critical finding has to do with the issue of mixed marriages where more than 90% of respondents declared that they would not marry nor would like to see mixed marriages taking place between Albanian and Serbs, which shows a very high level of distrust among these two communities.

Methodology

This survey is a special edition conducted exclusively as part of the regional trilateral project "Research Security Forum: Belgrade-Prishtina-Tirana". The project Security Research Forum is supported by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it is implemented in a close partnership between Kosovar Center for Security Studies - KCSS (Kosovo), Belgrade Centre for Security Policies - BCSP (Serbia) and Institute for Democracy and Mediation - IDM (Albania). In this regards, also the purpose of the survey was to cover this triangle where all of the partner organizations covered their own case study. KCSS conducted the survey solely through the already established programme of Kosovo Security Barometer.

The KCSS team was in charge of drafting the initial questionnaire and methodology, whereas the partners contributed significantly in finalizing it. The survey aimed to holistically measure the perception and potential cooperation between the Albanians and Serbs in general, while particularly focusing on the Kosovo-Serbia, Albania-Serbia, and Kosovo-Albania. This special edition is carried out through face-to-face interviews with randomly selected households. It covered all parts of Kosovo. The questionnaire contained more than 100 questions. 80% of the questions were close ended, while only 20% were open ended questions. Sampling, piloting, interviews, management and analysis were conducted by the KCSS team involving more than 30 field researchers. The drawn national sample represents

the Kosovo population of 18 years and above and includes 1118 households. Having in mind that the purpose of the survey was to measure the perceptions not only between the Kosovo and Serbia, but also the difference of opinions which already exist between the K-Albanians and K-Serbs, as well as between Serbs in Serbia and ethnic Albanians in the Southern Serbia, in this case both KCSS (Kosovo) and BCSP (Serbia) has decided to double the sample for the respective ethnic minority. As a result, the ethnic breakdown of the randomly selected respondents was as follow: 83% Albanians, 12% Serbs and 5% others.

The sample frame is based on telephone area codes and includes the regions of Prishtina, Mitrovica, Prizren, Ferizaj, Gjilan, Peja and Gjakova. The geographical clustering is based on the 2012 Kosovo Census Report. The second stage involved clustering samples by municipal area with a stratified rural/urban sample as per the number of households. The last stage followed a random sampling method using the nearest 'birthday method'. Random sampling ensures that each person resident in Kosovo has an equal probability of being chosen for the interview. As a representative sample, the result of the survey can be projected onto the Kosovo population as a mirror image of trends in attitudes and perceptions amongst adult Kosovars in general. The margin of error is 3% with a confidence interval of 95%.

Structurally, the paper contains five sections. The first section aims to interpret results related to Kosovo-Serbia relations and their impact on the national security level of Kosovo. The second section covers the citizens' perceptions towards the EU facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. The third section covers perceptions of citizens towards prospect of security cooperation between Kosovo and Serbia. The fourth chapter covers Kosovo citizens perception towards safety seen from the perspective of both K-Albanians and K-Serbs. While the fifth chapter highlights the results of public perceptions on security cooperation in the region.

1. Public Perception on Kosovo-Serbian relations and their impact on national security in Kosovo

Regardless of the existent consensus among the security stakeholders in Kosovo that the country does not face any immediate threat towards its national security, the survey shows that the Kosovo citizens still share their own concerns. When asked "to what extent they consider that national security of Kosovo is threatened" more than 64% of the respondents expressed some level of fear, with 16% of whom considering the level of threat as very high.

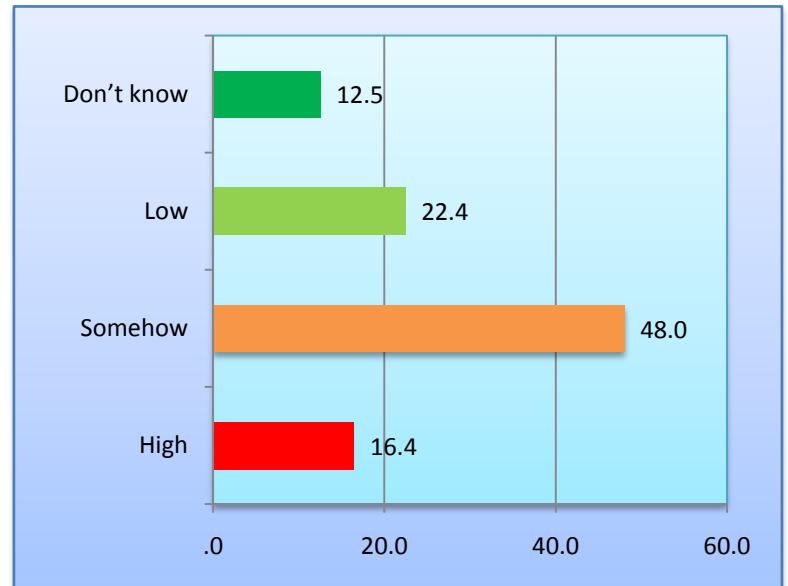


Figure 1 Respondents' perceptions related to the threats towards national security of Kosovo

This concern comes as a result of the ongoing fragile relations between Kosovo and Serbia and tensed political discourse which continues within and outside Kosovo. Indeed the following graph shows that comparing to Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro (which are mainly considered friendly towards Kosovo), more than 69% of the respondents consider Serbia as a hostile country.

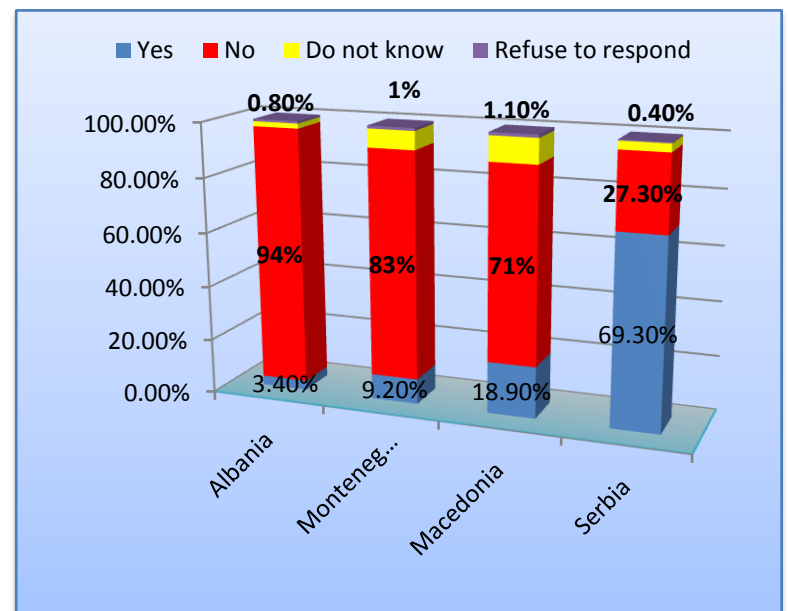


Figure 2 Respondents' perception towards national security threats coming from the neighboring countries

Similarly, the survey shows that the citizens also share negative perception with respect to Serbian security institutions/structures such as their state military, police structure, gendarmerie and the intelligence service. Serbian Gendarmerie leads the list presumably as the result of its presence in the border with Kosovo and some reporting related to their activities in the Albanian inhabited villages.

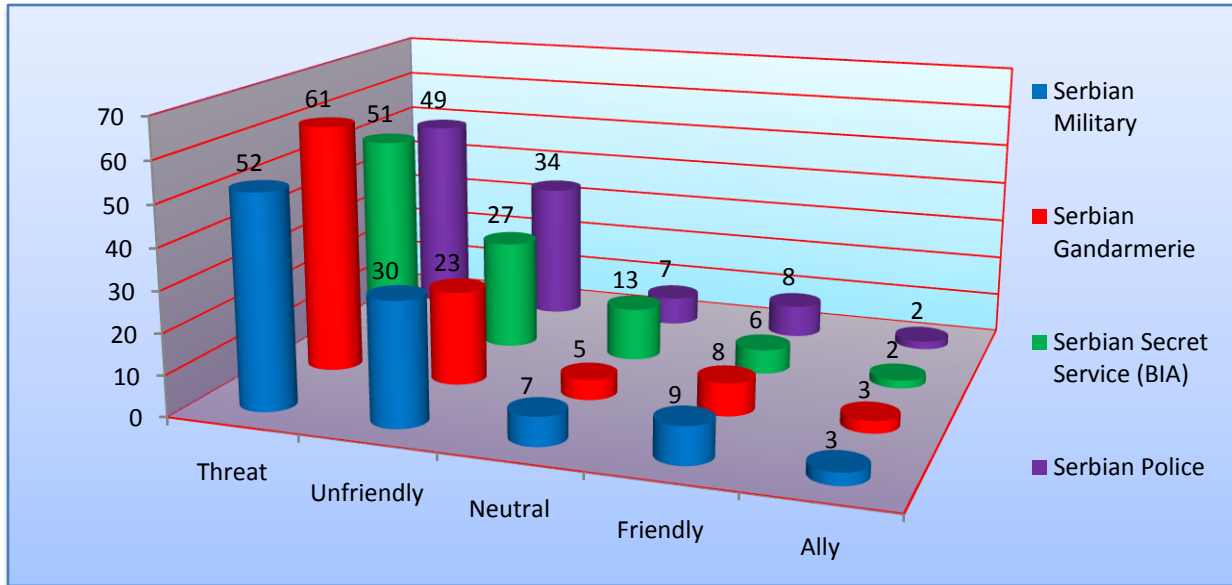


Figure 3 Kosovo citizen's perceptions towards main security institutions/structures from Serbia

Indeed, when comparing these results with the same indicators with respect to the Albanian security institutions, it shows that the majority of Kosovo citizens have completely different perception towards Albanian security institutions.

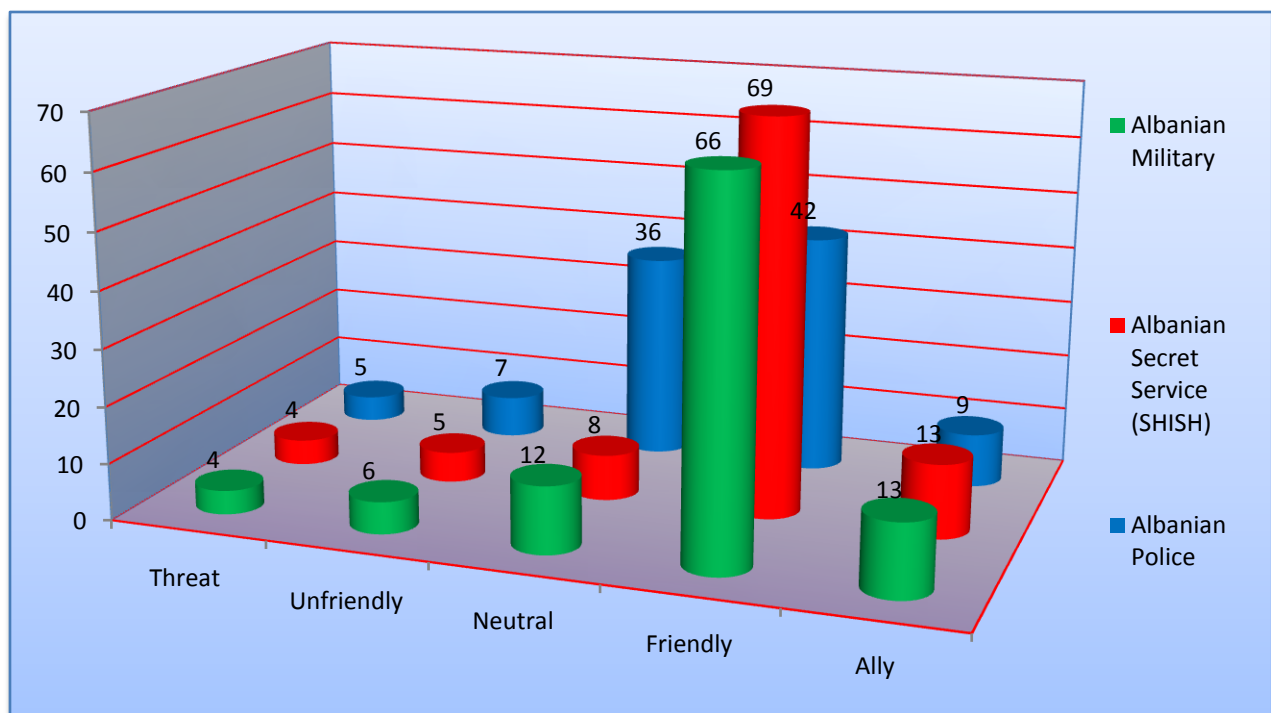


Figure 4 Kosovo citizen's perceptions towards main state security institutions from Albania

The survey showed some positive results when it comes to the relationship between the Kosovars and Serbs. More precisely, when asked whether they imagine Albanians and Serbs living peacefully together, the majority responded positively, whereas only less than 20% of the respondents provided negative answer to this question. In addition to that, the respondents were asked whether they believe that in next 5 years there will be another armed conflict. More than 63% of the respondents ruled out the possibility of another conflict taking place in the region in the near future, whereas 26% of the respondents think the opposite.

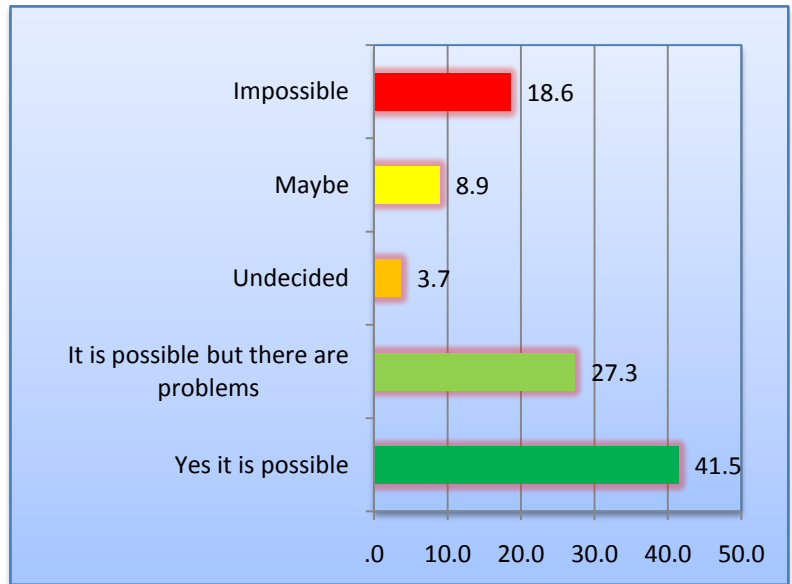


Figure 5 Kosovo citizen's perception about the prospect of Albanians and Serbs leaving peacefully together

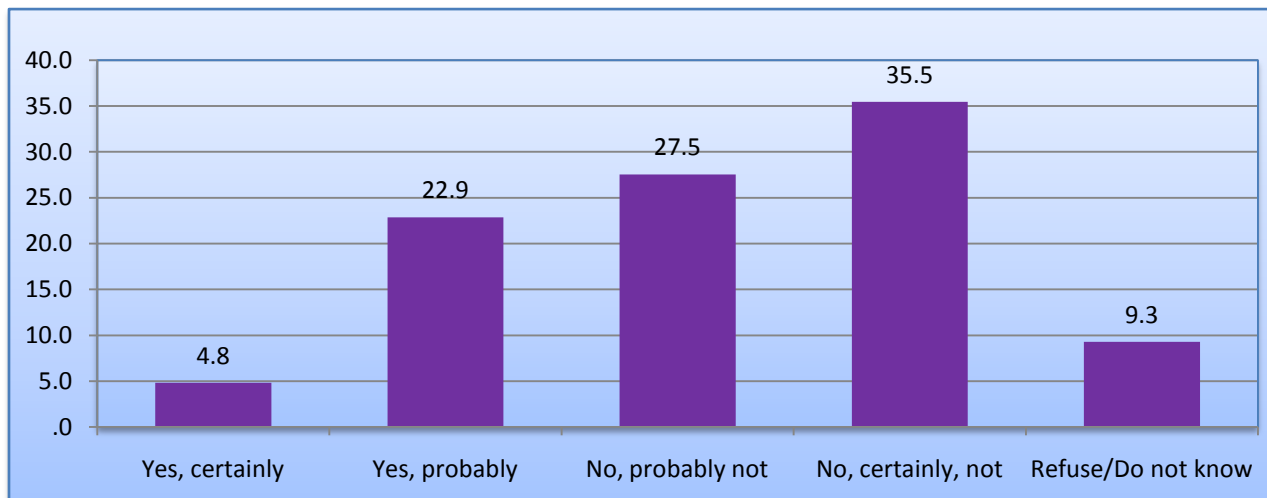


Figure 6 Perception about the new conflict in WB during the next 5 years

The survey measured the readiness of Kosovo citizens in responding to their respective co-ethnicity in case of armed conflict in the region. It was interesting to find out that 97% of respondents belonging to K-Albanian community demonstrated some kind of readiness in providing support to their fellow Albanians outside Kosovo in comparison to 62% of the K-Serbian respondents. However, it is important to mention that the support they were ready to provide was mainly humanitarian one. Thus, more than 56% of K-Albanians, respectively more than 32% of K-Serbs were open to accept refugees in case such conflict happens. Others would provide financial or other non-financial support. Meanwhile, only 16% of K-Albanian respondents, respectively 19% of K-Serbs would likely join the armed conflict.

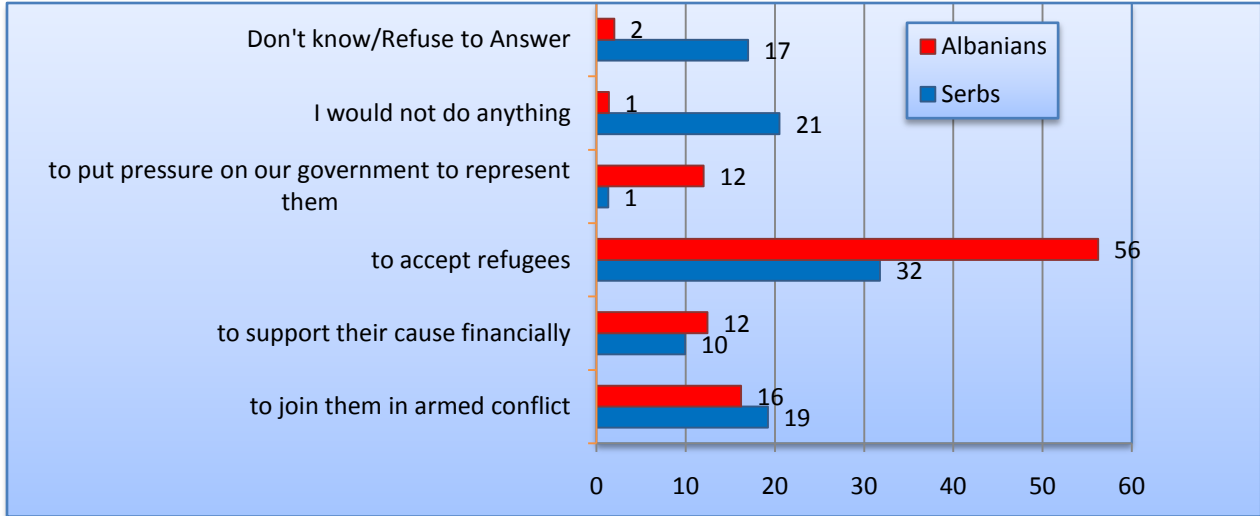


Figure 7 Perception of K-Albanian and K-Serbian Communities towards the potential conflict in the region involving the co-nationalities

Finally, the respondents were asked also whether they think that the international presence is still needed to maintain peace and security in Kosovo. Around 30% of the respondents were in favor of continuity of the KFOR mission for an additional undefined period, approximately 52% thought that this mission should be withdrawn in a few years' time, whereas 13% thought that KFOR should already been gone. On the contrary, the citizens were more skeptical with the role of EULEX. Only 10% thought that this EU mission should continue its mandate for an undefined period, about 37 % thought that this mission should be withdrawn in a few years' time, whereas more than 38% thought that EULEX should have already been withdrawn, followed by only 5% who thought that EULEX should be withdrawn by latest next year. In addition to KFOR and EULEX, the respondents were able to provide their opinion also for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. The respondents had difficulties in de-constructing the recent role of the OSCE.

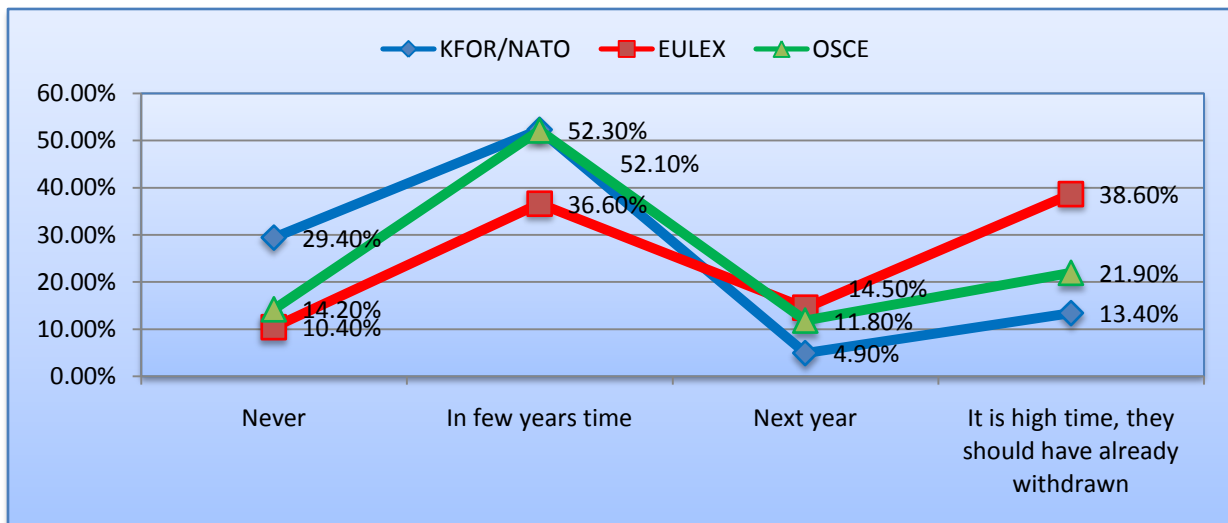


Figure 8 Perception of the Kosovo Citizens about the potential withdrawal of KFOR, EULEX and OSCE

2. Citizens Perceptions towards the Kosovo-Serbia dialogue

The EU facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia has been one of the main political processes underpinning the progress of both countries. This survey found of crucial importance the need to measure public perception on the dialogue. The survey contained some direct and indirect question related to the EU facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

The first question related to the issue was a direct one, asking the respondents on who is benefiting the most from the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. The majority (or in percentage more than 60%) of the respondents were aware of some kind of positive impact that the dialogue has; 19% declared that Kosovo is the one who is benefiting more in the process; 25% thought that both parties are equally benefiting, while almost 10% of the respondents pointed out that the local Serbian community is main beneficiary. On the contrary, 34% of respondents were clearly skeptical towards the results of the dialogue since they believe that Serbia is the one benefiting the most from this dialogue.

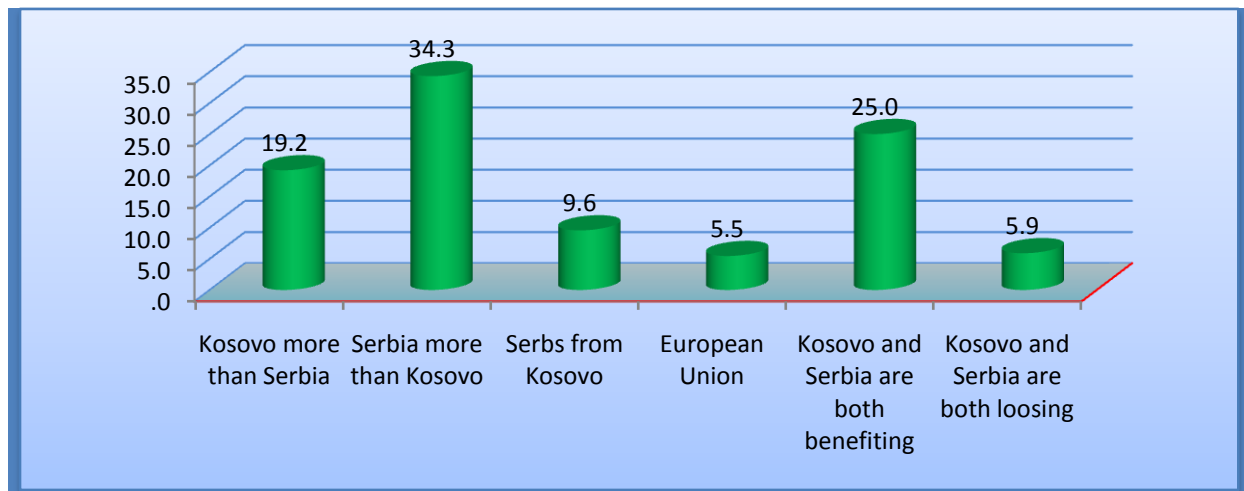


Figure 9 Perceptions about the main beneficiary of the dialogue between Prishtina and Belgrade

The respondents were asked whether Kosovo and Serbia should continue the dialogue. More than 73% of the respondents were in favor that the dialogue should continue, out of which more than 55% said yes but only if it increases the possibility to join EU whereas only around 20% said that dialogue should go on in any circumstances. In the other hand 21% said that there should not have been dialogue between parties.

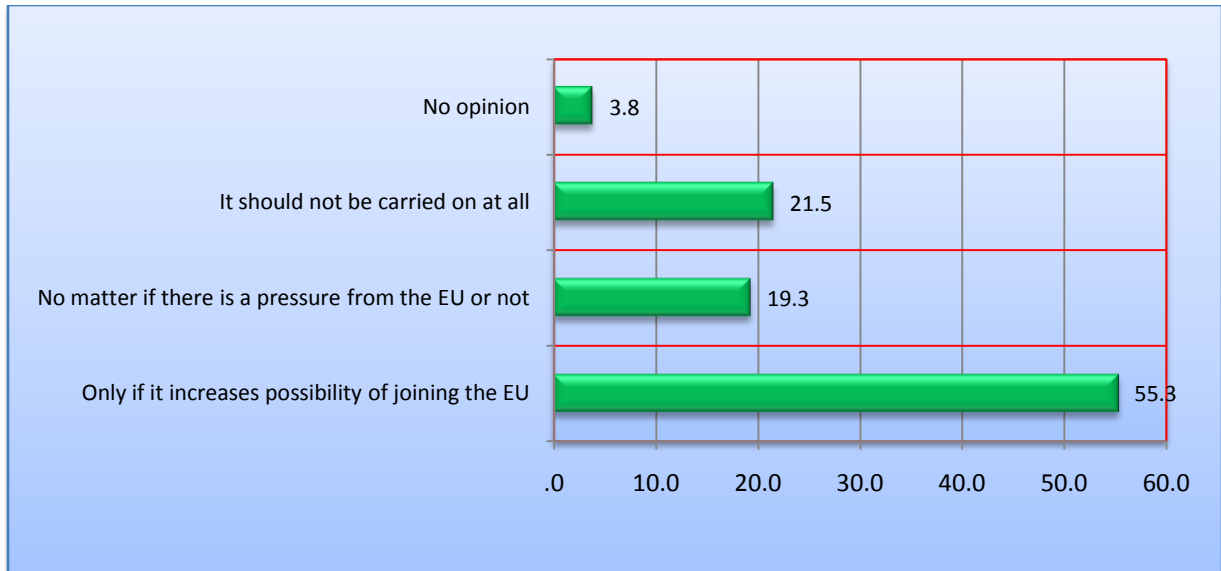


Figure 10 Perception whether the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia should go on

The final direct question related to this topic was about the impact of the dialogue with respect to the interethnic cooperation. More than 59% of the respondents responded that the dialogue will improve the interethnic relations in Kosovo while 31% thought the opposite.

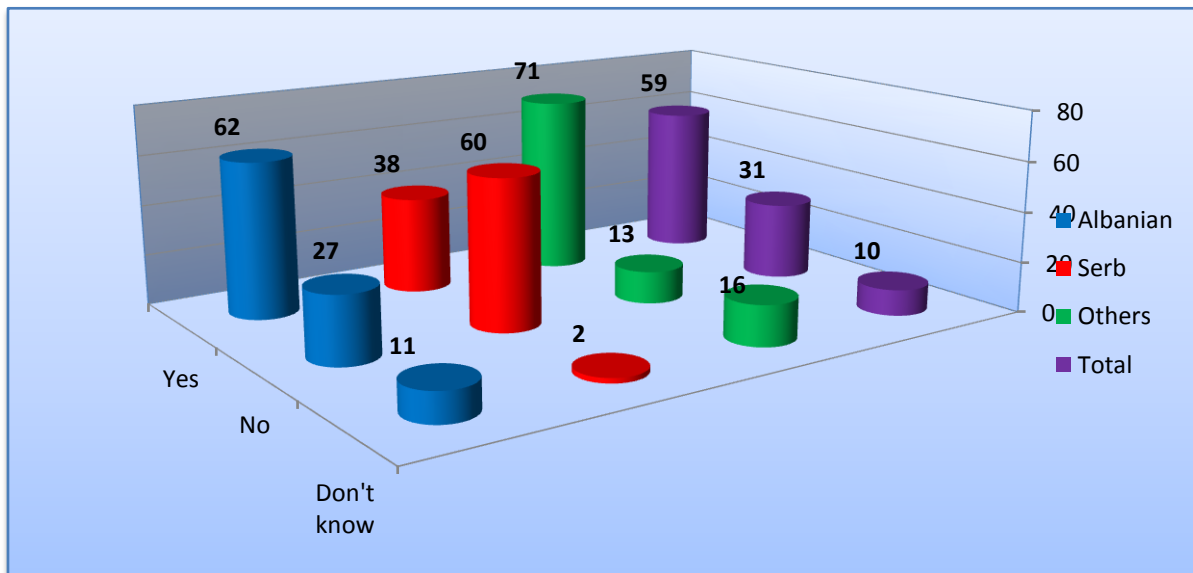


Figure 11 Perception of the Kosovo Citizens towards the impact of the Dialogue in the interethnic cooperation

3. Security Cooperation between Kosovo and Serbia

Due to the ongoing political disputes, the cooperation in the security sector between two countries is almost inexistent. Whereas, as stated in the first sections the citizen’s perceptions towards the Serbian security institutions is very negative one. The survey shows that the majority of the citizens are aware that Kosovo has developed almost no security cooperation with Serbia.

More precisely, as highlighted by Figure 12, approximately 80% of the respondents thought that bilateral cooperation with the Serbian security institutions is very limited, of whom 29% stated that there is no cooperation

at all. Having in mind that Serbia is one of the neighboring countries of Kosovo, the lack of cooperation between the security institutions of both countries reflect e serious concern to Kosovo citizens. This can be highlighted also when comparing the respondent’s perception towards the level of cooperation with Albanian security institutions which in the positive sense represents completely the opposite picture.

A positive result reflects the public support for the practical aspects of security cooperation namely joint border police patrols. More precisely, more than 63% of Kosovo citizens believe that there shall be joint border patrols between Kosovo and Serbian police compare to 31% who were against.

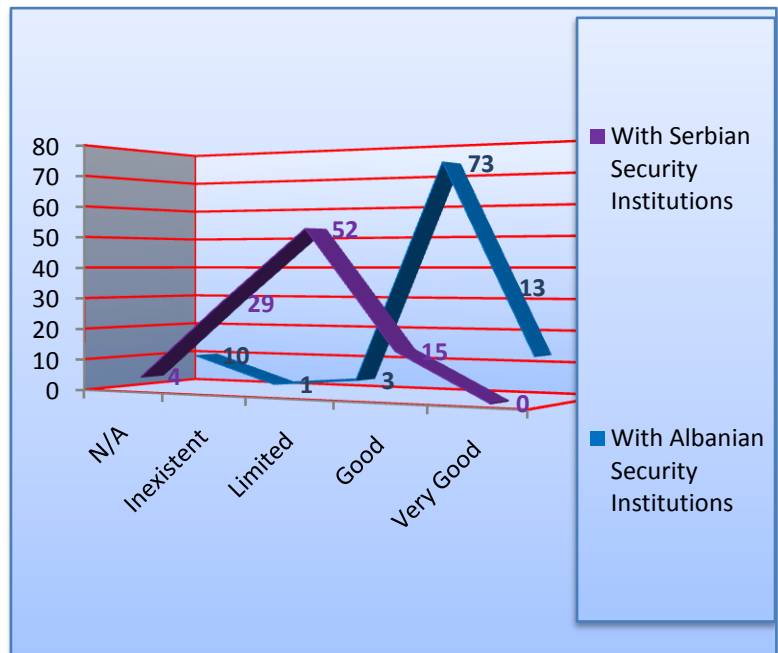


Figure 12 Citizens perceptions towards the level of institutional cooperation with respective security institutions from Serbia and Albania

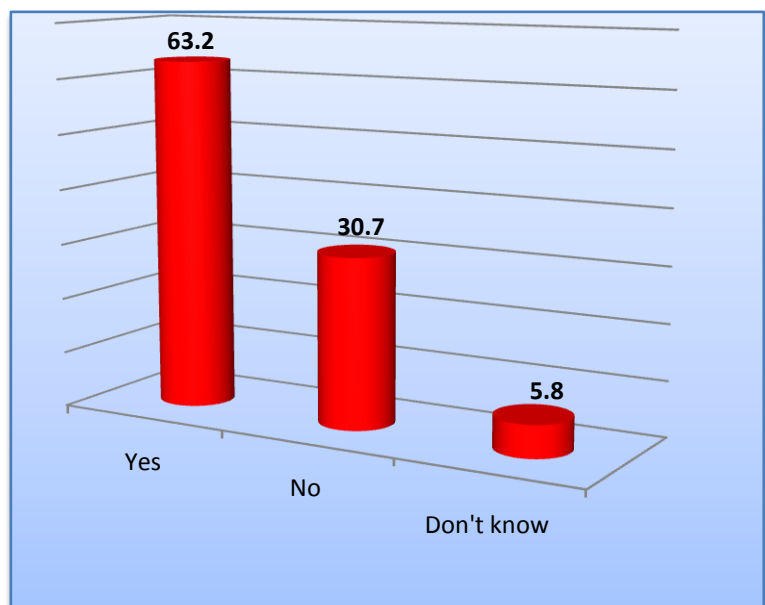


Figure 13: Perceptions about the joint border police patrolling between Kosovo Police and Serbian Police

In addition to that, a significant percentage of respondents agreed also that it's of mutual benefit for both Kosovo and Serbian security institutions to participate in joint trainings, conferences and summits. The respondents were slightly more reluctant in accepting humanitarian assistance from Serbia in case of natural and man-made hazards. As Figure 14 shows, approximately 50% of Kosovo citizens were against such support coming from Serbia. However, around 45% were in favor of accepting such an assistance if hazard occurs in Kosovo.

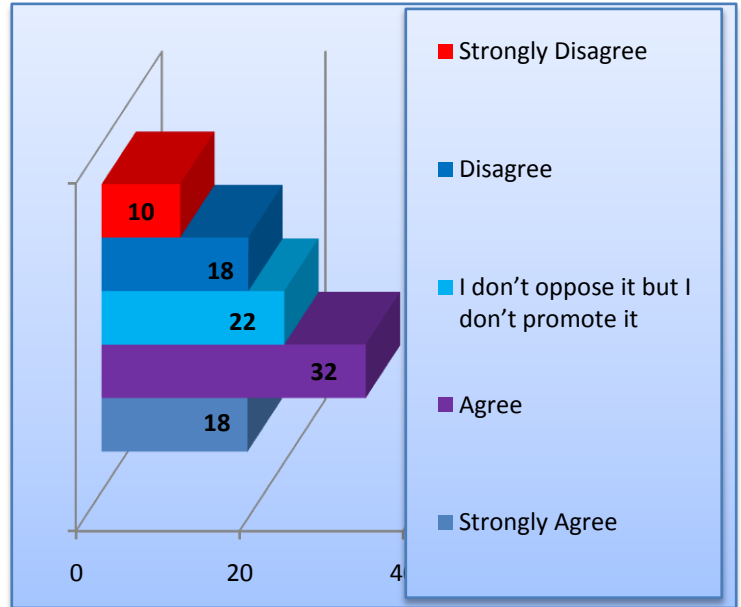


Figure 13 Perceptions towards participation in joint regional security trainings

However, when comparing to same question asked with the regards to the Albania, the figures are very different. Approximately 96% of Kosovo citizens were open to accept security assistance in case an emergency catastrophe occurs in Kosovo. Yet, considering the fresh memories of the Kosovo citizens from the war period towards Serbian security structures, 45% represents an encouraging figure.

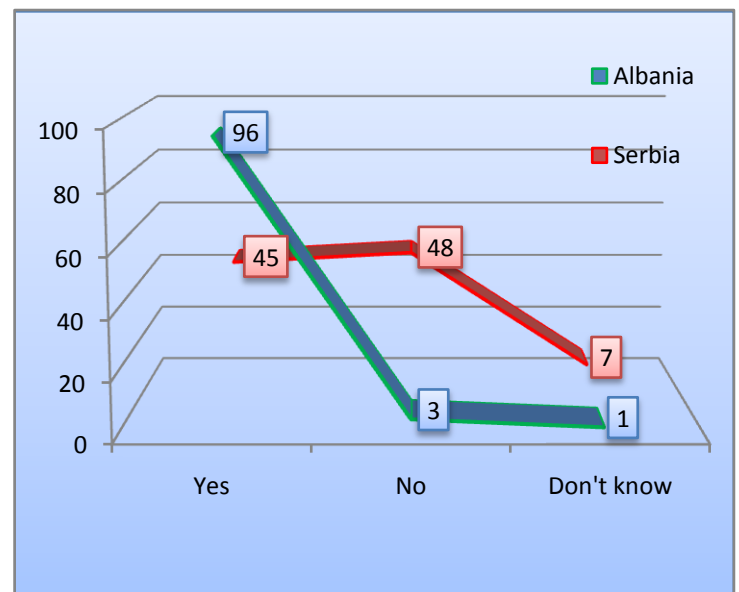


Figure 15 Perceptions on whether the citizens agree to receive emergency assistance from Serbian and Albanian security structures

4. Public Perception on Safety in Kosovo

The survey showed that there is a lower satisfaction among the Kosovo citizens when it comes to the level of the general safety in Kosovo compared to the safety in their compact living environment. This can be best explained by the fact that only 36% of the respondents stated that they feel “mostly safe” (23.1%) or “completely safe” (13.2%) in Kosovo, almost half of the respondents - respectively 42%, were undecided, whereas 21% responded that they felt “mostly unsafe” or “really unsafe” (7.4%).

This low perception when it comes to safety feeling in Kosovo has been shared by all communities.

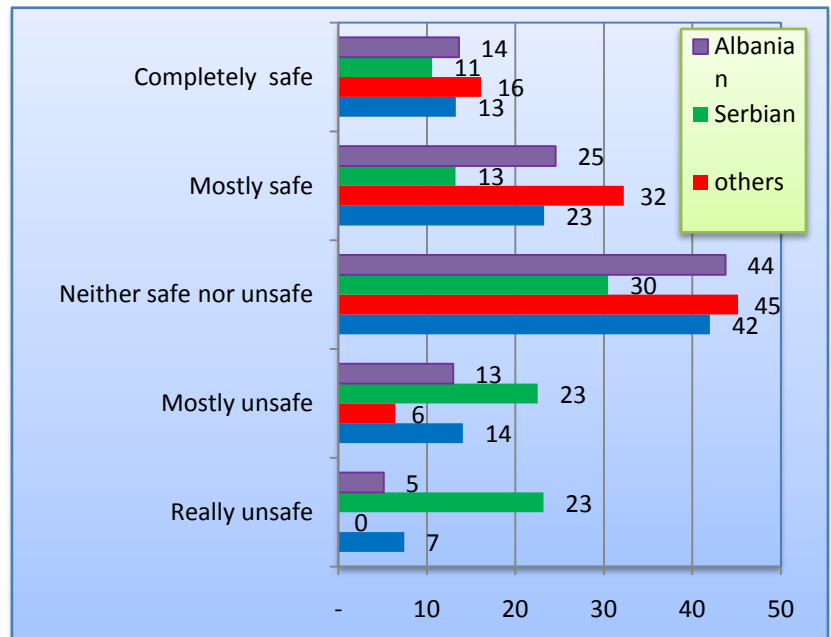


Figure 16 Perception of Safety in Kosovo

In the other hand, the respondents shared considerably positive views when it comes to their surrounding environment. About 68% of the respondents stated that they feel mostly (30.1%) or completely (37.6%) safe in their town/village and the percentage increased up to 75% when it comes to safety in the neighborhood or house/apartment. On the other hand, only 9% of the respondents responded that they feel relatively unsafe or really unsafe in their villages/towns which percentage drops into 6.3% when it comes to safety on the neighborhood. It is worth mentioning that with margin of 3% more or less, these perceptions are shared by both the minority and majority communities in Kosovo.

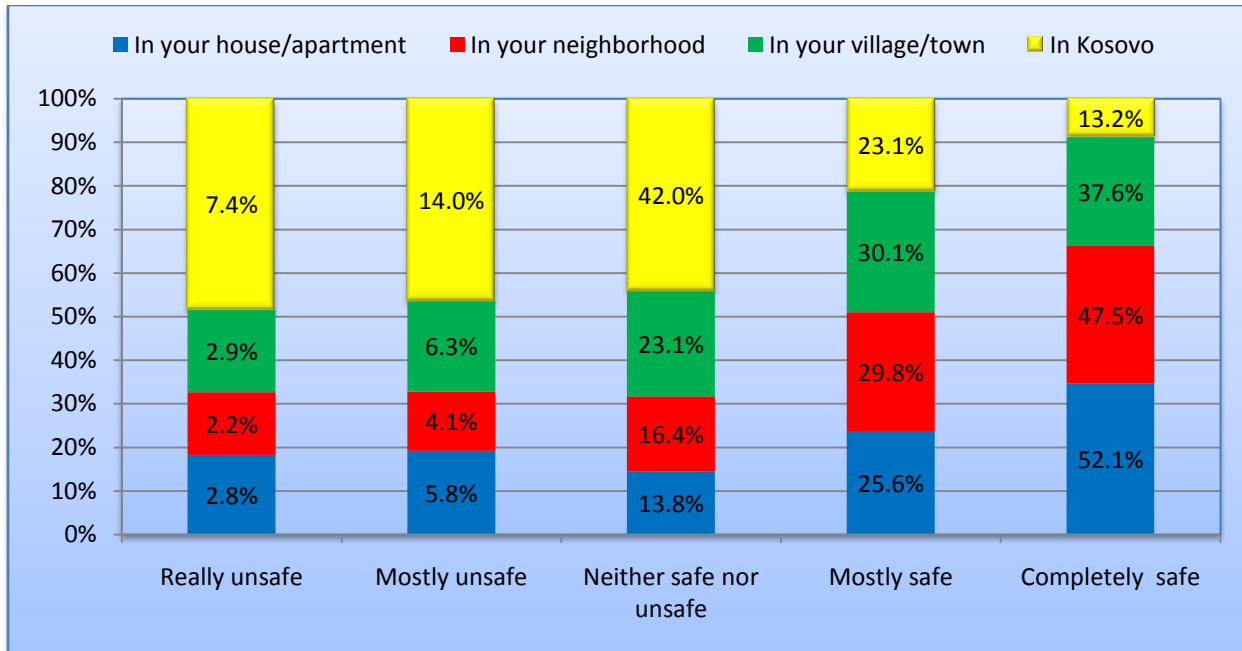


Figure 17 The Extend Citizens of Kosovo Feel Safe

What needs to be pointed out is that 89% linked their sense of feeling safety primarily to the positive collective behaviors of the citizens while only 4% of the respondents attributed this to the capability of the state institution to fulfil their duty properly which shows the solidarity and the sense of the community among the citizens. Only 7% of the respondents responded that they feel safe because they are capable of protecting themselves. Whereas, when asked more specifically to whom they would rely the most in providing safety for their families, 43% of the respondents responded they rely on themselves, 37% relied on the Kosovo Police and another 7% on their neighbours.

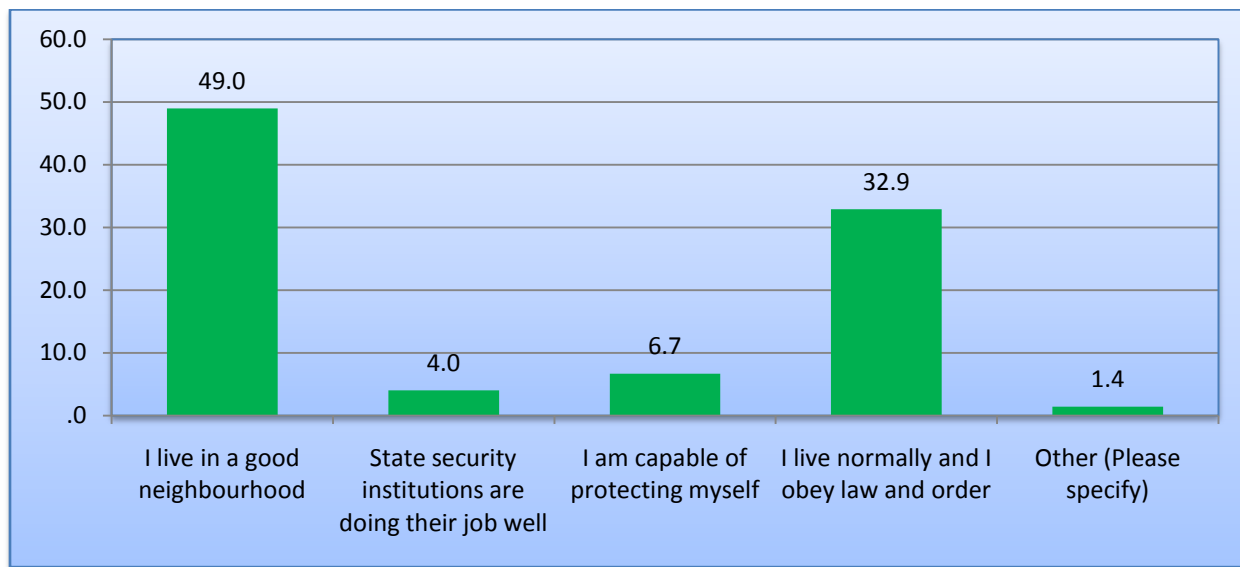


Figure 18 Perceptions why makes the citizens feeling safety the most

Meanwhile when it comes to the community safety concerns, 42% of the respondents thought that trafficking accidents are their main concern followed by robbery (32%), violent incidents (10%), natural hazards (8%), domestic valence(3%) whereas only 3% of the respondents thought that the inter-ethnic incidents is their safety concern.

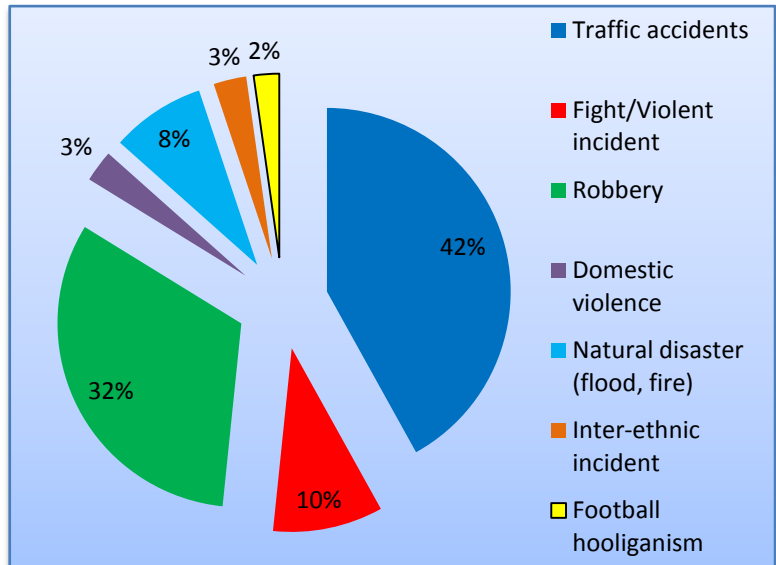


Figure 14 Main safety threats

The respondents were asked also whether they or their family members have been the subject of the safety threats, where only 14% of them responded with 'yes'. From them only 24% were very satisfied with the assistance provided by the police, another 41% shared mainly positive thoughts, whereas 35% of those respondents were dissatisfied with the police reaction.

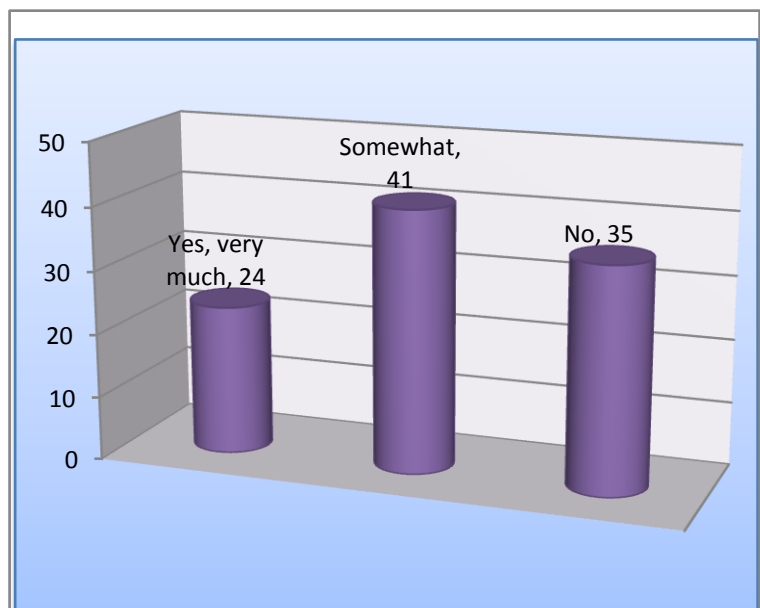


Figure 15 Satisfaction with the assistance of the police

What is important to mention is that in an open ended question the respondents were asked directly: "To whom would you report a violent crime?" More than 87% of the respondents answered that they would report to the Kosovo Police, 5% would report it to the international actors and another 5% responded that would not report it at all. This shows a general awareness among the population to report incidents to the Kosovo Police.

This shows a general awareness among the population to report incidents to the Kosovo Police.

5. Relationship with Serbia and its citizens (from Kosovo Citizens perspective)

Practical aspects of life such as free movement across the border is basic Human Right, but how ready are communities to move from one country to another is a matter of wider interpretation. The question on 'How safe would you feel to travel to Serbia with Kosovar car plates?' resulted with 61% of the respondents feeling unsafe to do such action. The rest of respondents were more ambiguous in their responses and 12% were indicating that 'it is safe'.

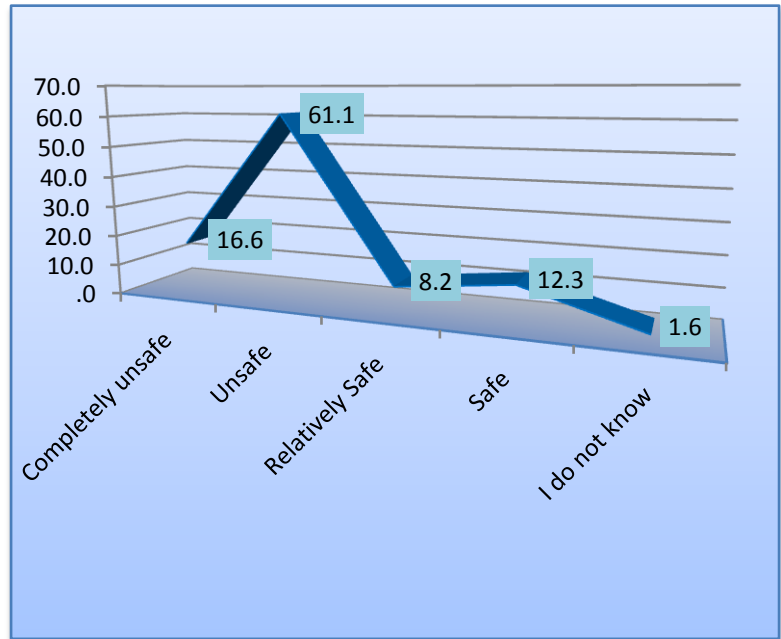


Figure 20 Perception about traveling to Serbia with Kosovo car plates

When considering the ethnic composition and sampling of such research with the number of Serbs interviewed, we can see that a vast number of K-Albanians think that is unsafe to travel to Serbia with Kosovo car plates despite the agreements of political level. This indicates that there is a lot of work to be done in building the trust among the communities to ensure basic Human Rights are respected properly in both countries.

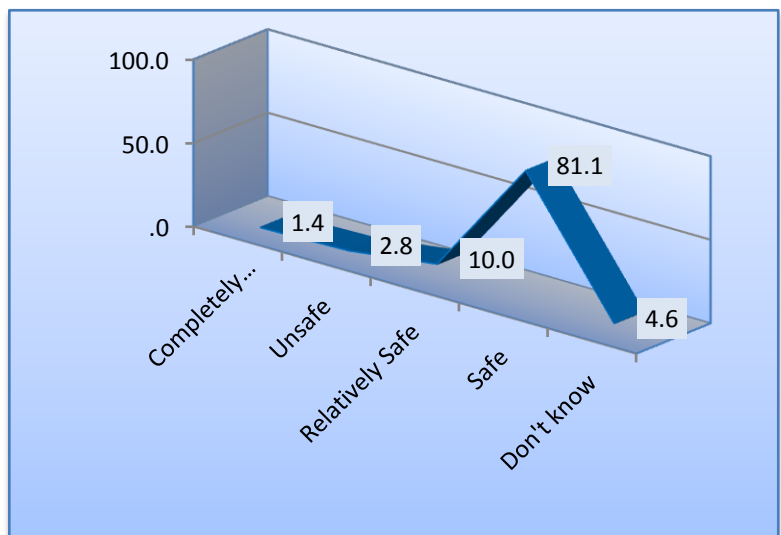


Figure 21 Perception about traveling to Albania with Kosovo car plates

Similar to the aforementioned graph but with a contrary extreme percentage results, only 3% of the respondents including the K-Albanians think that it is unsafe to travel to Albania with Kosovo car plates. The trust among K-Albanians and Albanians is evident and therefore there is an increasing trend of movement of people across the borders. The

Interesting thing about this question is that only 5% of the respondents think that it is completely safe to travel to Albania with Kosovo plates.

Travelling to Serbia is still a taboo for most K-Albanians and this is reflected in the answers where 49.2% of the respondents in Kosovo have never visited Serbia and this shows to some extent how little they know each other in the personal level. Most of those who travelled declared that they have travelled to their friends or relatives in Presevo Valley. Additionally, this graph shows also that there is not much cross border cooperation in any field. Similar to the above, this graph shows that most of people don't like to reveal when they last visited Serbia which can be interpreted that there is lack of confidence in transmitting the real messages. More than 23% of the population has visited Serbia before 10 years.

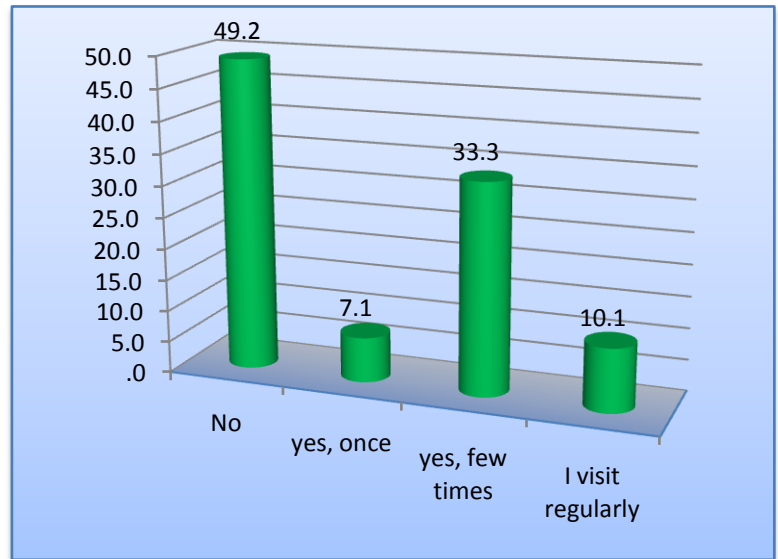


Figure 22 Trends on often Kosovo citizens travel in Serbia

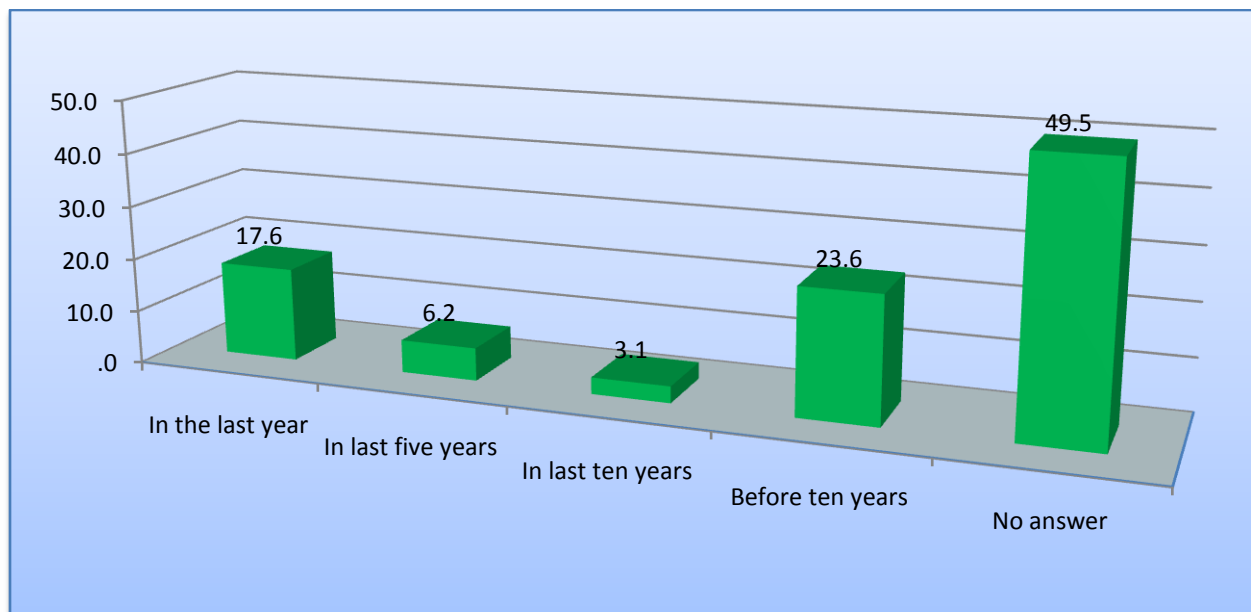


Figure 22 Answers on when did respondents visited last time Serbia?

This chart explains the map of relations with Serbia in general. It is interesting that 15.6% of the total respondents said that they have family relations in Serbia and therefore their relation to the other side of the border is family related, whereas 36.2% have no relation whatsoever with neighboring country Serbia. This chart also contains a high percentage of 'no answer' category which could potentially

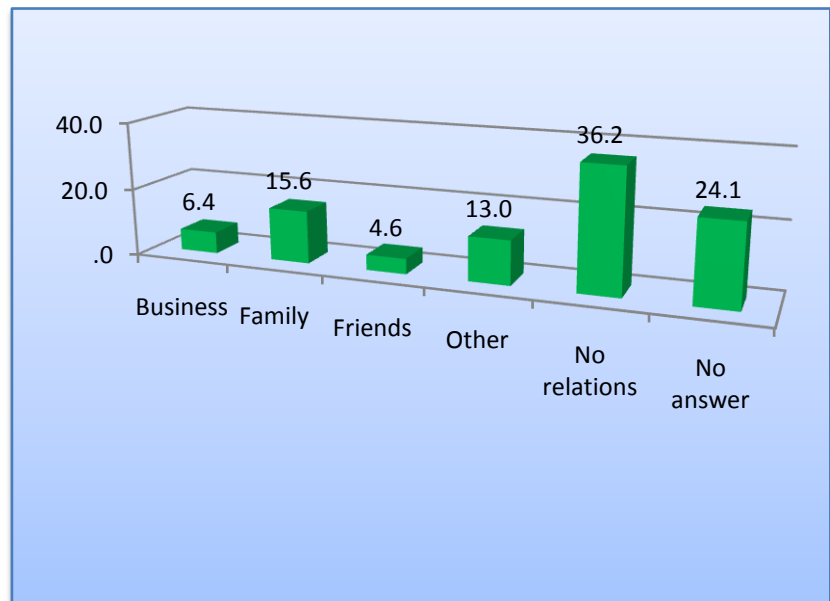


Figure 23 Relationship of Kosovo citizens with Serbia

be explained that people do not prefer to disclose the nature of their relations with Serbia in public as it might be a stigmatizing act in future.

Almost 26% of the respondents have friends or relatives living in Serbia which is quiet high number, but one should have in mind that this number also includes the K-Serb minority sample. Additionally, 72.7% have neither relatives nor friends that are located in Serbia and this makes travelling to Serbia in the previous chart more irrelevant. Continuation of division between the K-Albanians and Serbs in Serbia it is also explained in the above graph where 64.2% of the respondents have never personally talked or met with Serb or any person from Serbia whereas 34% have done so. This explains that co-existence is very difficult.

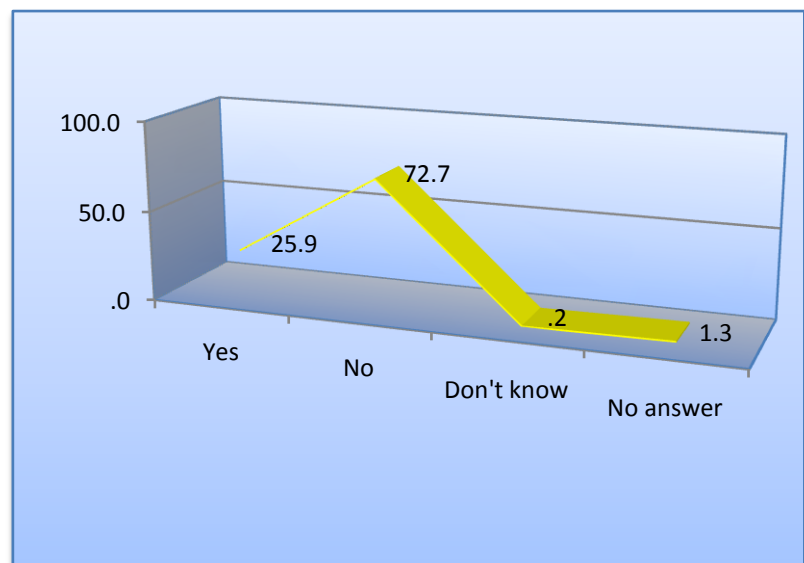


Figure 24 Percentage of respondents who declared that they have close relatives in Serbia

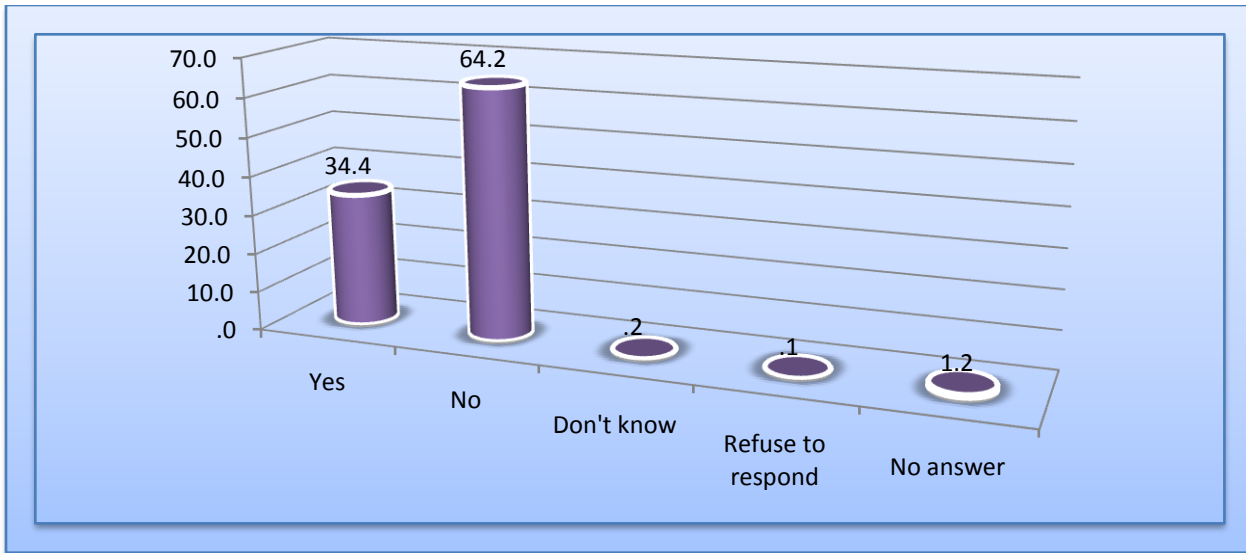


Figure 25 Results on how often respondents interacted with a Serb or any person from Serbia

In case that the answer was positive, the following categories were listed but most of the respondents were more experienced with the Serbs living in Kosovo than with Serbs living in Serbia. Additionally 66% were reluctant to identify their contact and therefore similar to the above graphs, this graph indicates the taboo of relationships between individuals from different communities.

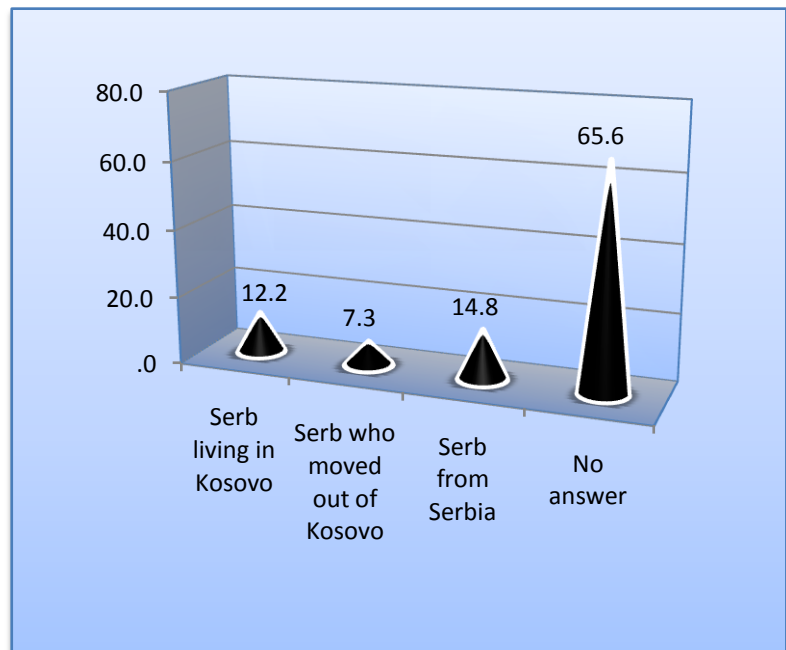


Figure 26 Answers to question "if yes who was that person?"

This also can be interpreted in the form of unwillingness to know each other as start for fruitful dialogue and co-existence.

In case of co-existence between the K-Albanians and K-Serbs, this is an interesting illustration of the readiness of these two communities to live side by side. 55% of respondents said that they would not mind living next to a Serbian family which can be interpreted as a very positive trend however the number of people who firmly oppose to live next to a Serbian family is 40%. The reluctance to live next to a Serbian family was present to a traditionally absolute majority Albanian living areas.

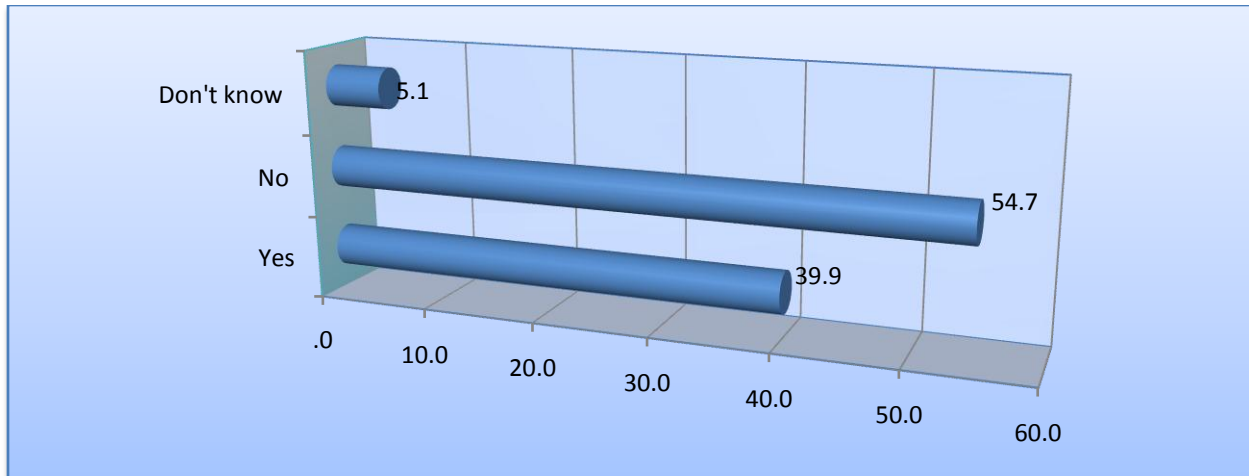


Figure 27 Would you mind living next to a Serbian family?

The audience was asked also more personal questions such as inter-ethnic marriage and the results shows huge divisions between the communities. Chances of marrying someone from the other community for Serbs and Roma are similar whereas for Albanians stand almost 58%. 95% of the respondents would not marry a Serb or a Roma whereas 40% would not marry an Albanian from Albania. Such indicators show that the society is not only divided in the political level but rather deep in the societal and personal level too.

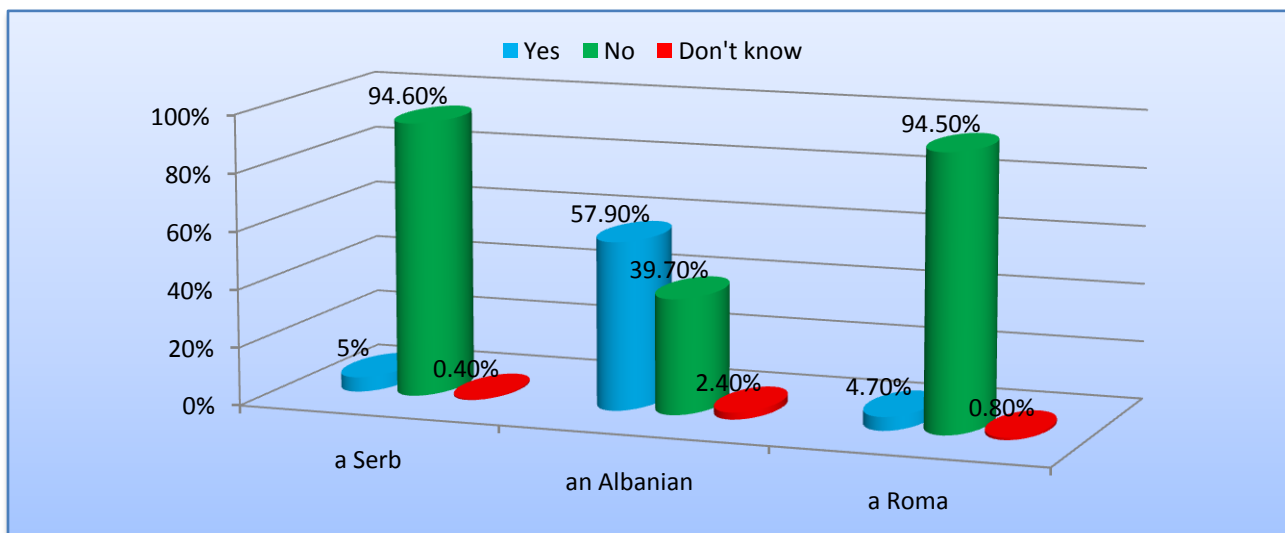


Figure 29 Results on would K-Alabian would marry or allow their family members to marry a member of following communities: a Serb, an Albanian (from Albania) or a Roma

About 75% of the Kosovar population receives information about Serbia and Serbs from Television and 7% via internet which clearly shows that personal exchange of information remains very low in 5% from family and friends and 10% from personal contact with Serbs. In total, the personal experience matches with previous charts where about approximate numbers had direct experience with Serbs.

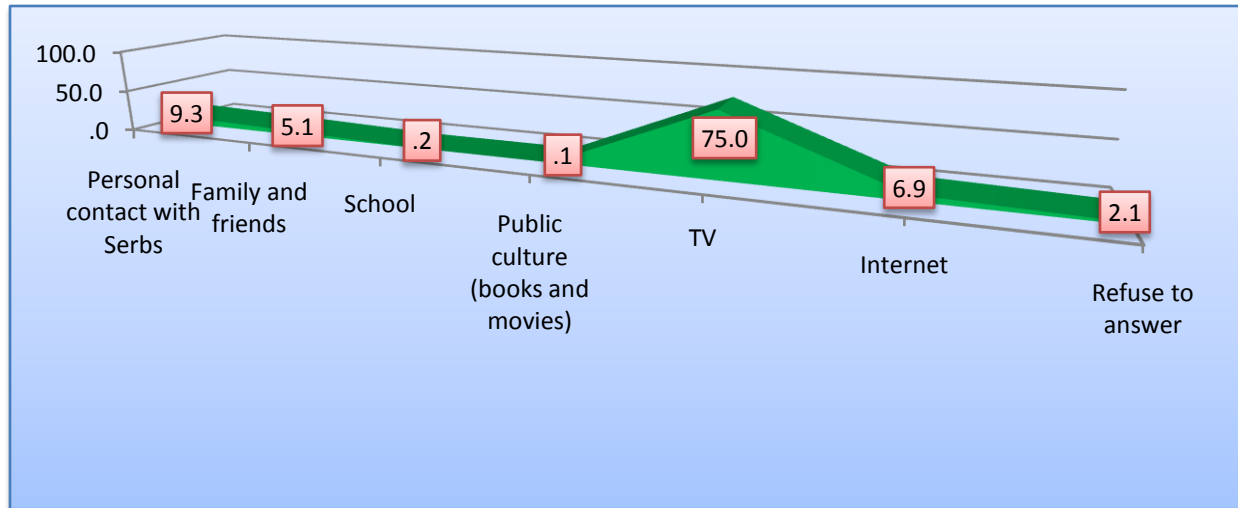


Figure 16 From where does Kosovo citizens get information about Serbia

The respondents were also asked to provide an opinion whether the rights of ethnic Albanian minority in Serbia are respected and vice versa whether the rights of Serbian minority in Kosovo are respected. A large number of Kosovars believe that there are violations of rights of the Albanians living in Presevo valley (74%). The comparison between minority rights in Kosovo and in Serbia enables K-Albanians to have negative impressions on the subject but also receiving information from single sided media does contribute towards building that discourse. In comparison, 79% of Kosovars believe that rights of Serbs living in Kosovo are being well respected whereas 18% say the opposite. Knowing the percentage of K-Serbs in Kosovo, the 18% should include other minorities and K-Albanians who think that K-Serbs' rights are not being respected.

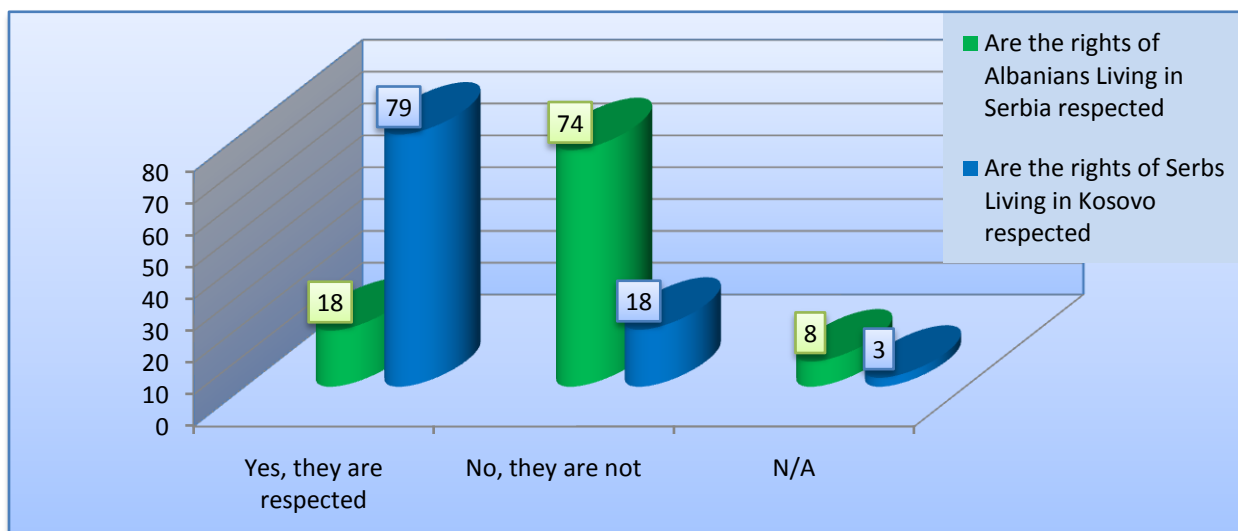


Figure 31 Perception of Kosovo citizens with the regards of respect of right of Albanian community in Serbia, respectively the Serbian community in Kosovo

The questions about indications on increasing inter-ethnic dialogue have been responded mainly leaving the most important indicators to increasing security (51.4%) knowing each other more (50.2%) to be followed with economic improvements (42.4%) and political agreements (41.90%), but what is interesting and unique is that 41.7% of respondents think that sports activities are most important to improving inter-ethnic cooperation.

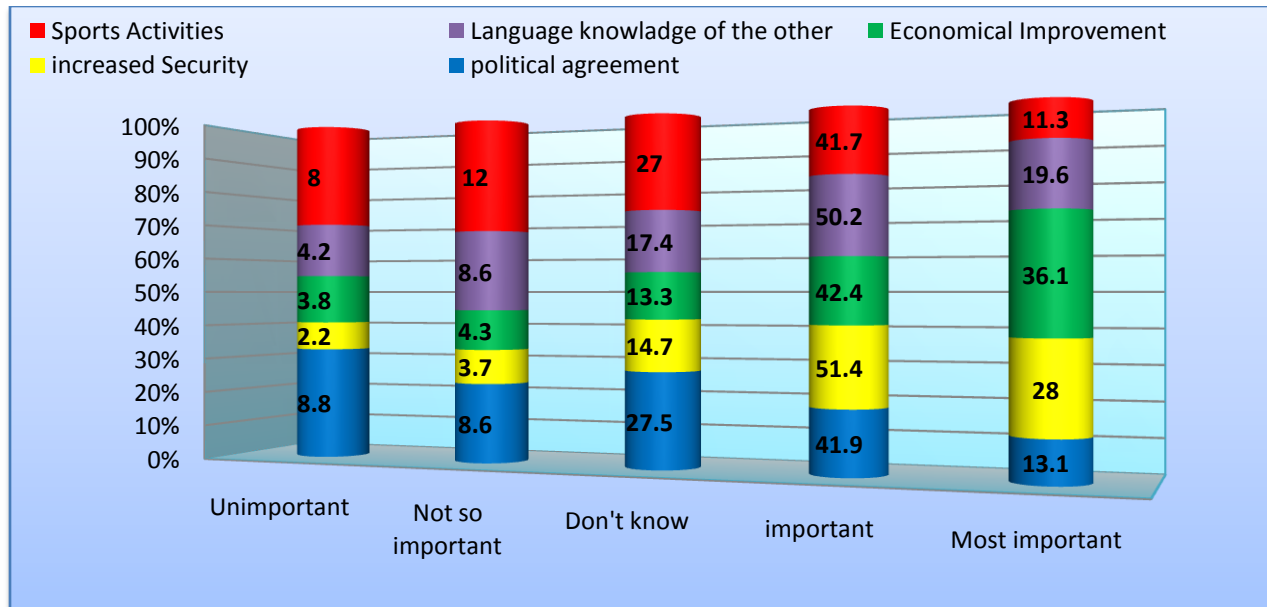


Figure 32 Perception towards the potential indicators who would increase inter-ethnic dialogue

This project is meant to foster balanced debate among think-tank community, academia, public policy and media in order to provide research-based alternative solutions to ongoing challenges of cooperation among Serbia, Kosovo and Albania.

WHO ARE WE?

Three independent think tanks from Belgrade (BCSP), Prishtina (KCSS) and Tirana (IDM) specialized in research of security issues, share a concern for human security and democratization, and believe that competent involvement of civil society in security politics can make security governance more representative, transparent, democratic and effective. Prior to this initiative, we have been cooperating since 2009 on a regional research on progress of security sector reform (SSR) and a transformation of region from a conflict zone into a security community. Apart from that, the three organizations have a proven record in dealing with wide variety of topics such as territorial and border demarcation disputes in the region, confidence building, reconciliation and network building among security professionals and young people.

WHO ARE WE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF?

In the Security Research Forum meetings we represent only our own personal views and in no way aim to speak on behalf of whole organisations, respective governments or any other interest groups. The support provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway is not affecting the outcome of research findings or advocacy initiatives.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Enhanced understanding of bilateral and trilateral security issues by establishing various links among security policy communities (Belgrade-Prishtina-Tirana) and increasing transparency in security governance. For that purpose, three participating think tanks will have a peer-to-peer exchange of practices, positive and negative lessons learned, and work with national security communities in Belgrade-Prishtina-Tirana.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS WE WANT TO ADDRESS?

There is security dilemma in the region reinforced by lack of transparency in security governance, mutual fear and mistrust and by lack of credible information and unbiased sources on developments in security communities in respective countries. This is to a great extent caused by a deficient communication between Belgrade, Prishtina and Tirana, even within civil society and academia resulting in lack of knowledge on other communities (especially security communities) as well as persistence of ingrained stereotypes and misconceptions. The inadequate level of transparency impedes national oversight of the sector (including that by the civil society) as well as the confidence building necessary for regional security cooperation. The current prevailing issues do not only contribute to security dilemma in the region, but they also impede democratization and reform processes in three societies, by diverting attention from domestic (social, economic and political) issues.

WHAT DO WE PLAN TO DO?

This will be achieved through research, networking and advocacy activities and capacity-building activities of the participating organisations. Research on key topics of common interest related to threat perceptions, gaps in security governance and accountability caused with lack of cooperation, as well as other relevant sources that aim to increase understanding of political dynamics and security transformation of 'the other'. Each participating organisation will produce two publications per year, which will be available in two languages (Albanian and Serbian). The research products will be credible and fact-based sources of information, thus filling in the gap in the current state of knowledge on these issues. A diverse number of social science methods will be used to gather and analyse data. The cornerstone of Networking and Advocacy efforts will be three meetings of Security Research Forum (SRF) per year, one in each capital. SRF will be organized with the aim to discuss research findings with the members of security communities within each country. Forums will be organized under 'Chatham House' rules, thus providing 'safe' space for open discussion among security professionals, policy-makers and scholars, which would ultimately set conditions for establishing bilateral and trilateral security cooperation. The second activity will be the Summer School, held in second project year, targeting prospective members of security communities from all three countries. Participants will be taught on various regional security issues, related to trust and cooperation building and security policy-making. This will enable developing connections among future decision-makers, scholars and civil society activists. Finally, national events will be organized in each country (twice per year per country) bringing together members of national security community to present them with the latest research findings and encourage them to share their views on these findings, thus establishing closer links between research and policy-making. Lastly, capacity-building of participating organisations will include three joint training in relevant research skills and exchange of researchers among participating organizations (three researchers per year). The exchange of researchers will enable researchers to work more closely with their peers from partner organisations, so that part of the research is carried out jointly and knowledge and practices are exchanged.

A copy of this report as well as inquiries should be addressed to:

Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS)

Rr. SylejmanVokshi 13/3

10000 Prishtina, Kosovo

Email: info@qkss.org

Telephone: +381 (0) 38 221 420

Homepage: www.qkss.org