



Public Opinion of Democracy Issues in Kosovo

Findings from an IFES August 2012 Survey



Project Funded by:



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Methodology Details

- Fieldwork conducted between August 17 – 29, 2012
- Fieldwork and data processing conducted by the research organization Index Kosova, BBSS Gallup International
- Sample size: 1,520 of the adult population 18 or older



Methodology Details

- Sample consists of 1,000 Kosovo Albanians (K-Albanians) and oversamples of 420 Kosovo Serbs (K-Serbs) – both north and south of the Ibar River – and 100 non-Serb minorities (Bosniacs, Turks, Goranis, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian minority groups)
- Data weighted by population proportion of municipalities, age, gender and ethnicity to bring in line with national percentages and to ensure national representativeness
- Margin of error for national sample: $\pm 2.5\%$ at a 95% confidence level



References to Previous IFES Surveys

- References to 2008 IFES Post-Election Surveys:
 - Fieldwork conducted in January 2008
 - Unable to include Kosovo Serbs at that time
 - Total sample size: 1,256
 - Margin of error of ± 2.8



References to Previous IFES Surveys

- References to 2010 IFES Post-Election Survey:
 - Fieldwork conducted in February 2010
 - Survey included 903 K-Albanians, 218 K-Serbs and 103 non-Serb minorities
 - Total sample size: 1,224
 - Margin of error of $\pm 2.8\%$



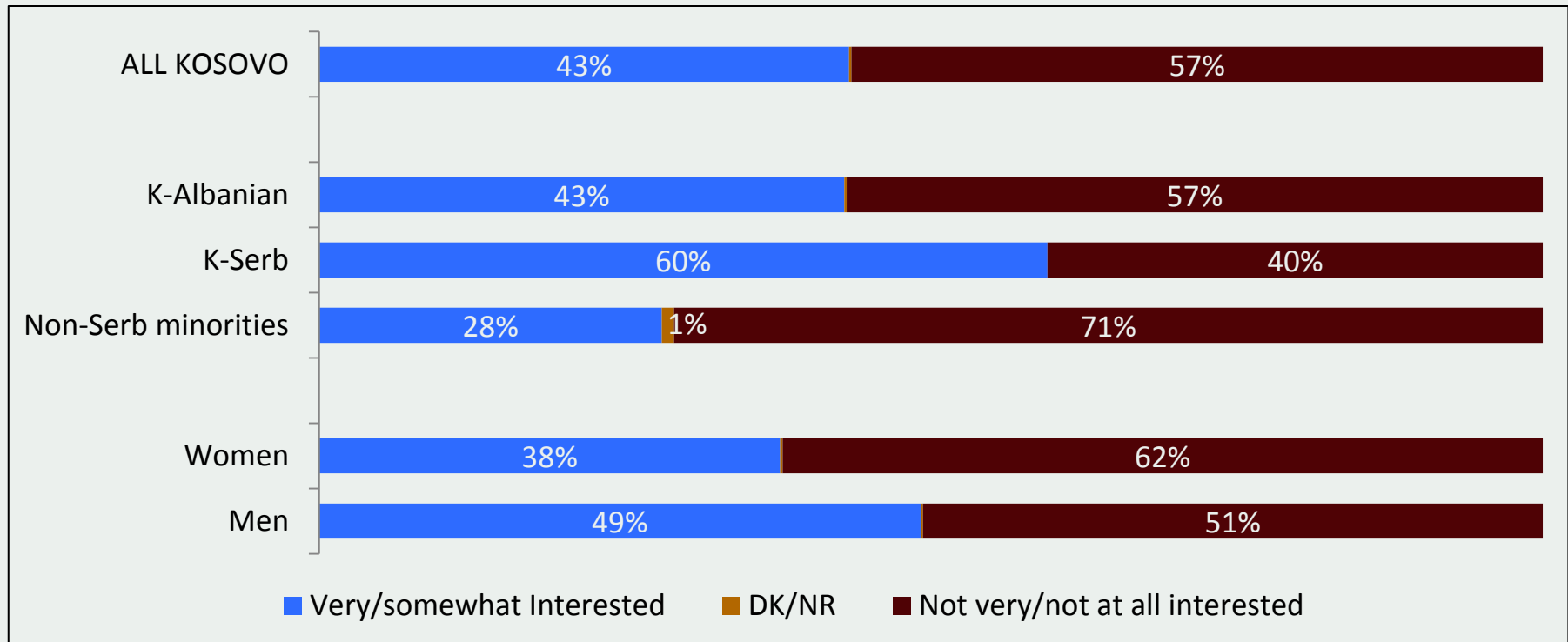
References to Previous IFES Surveys

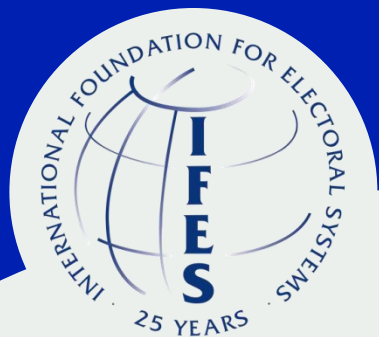
- References to 2011 IFES Post-Election Survey:
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Interest in Political Matters

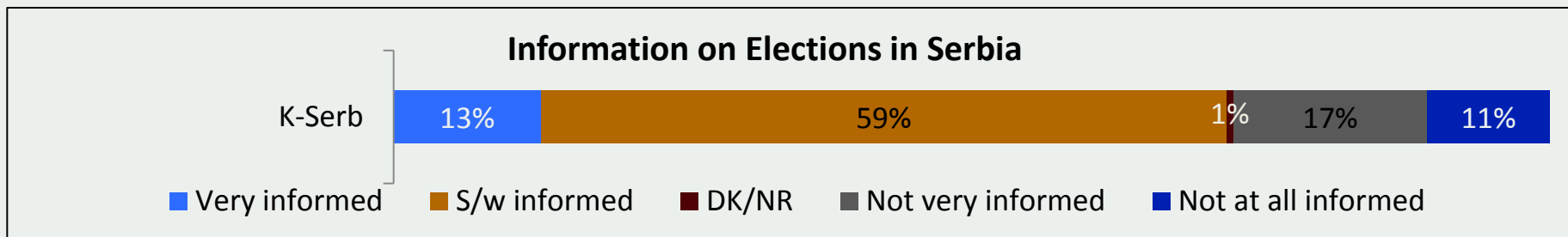
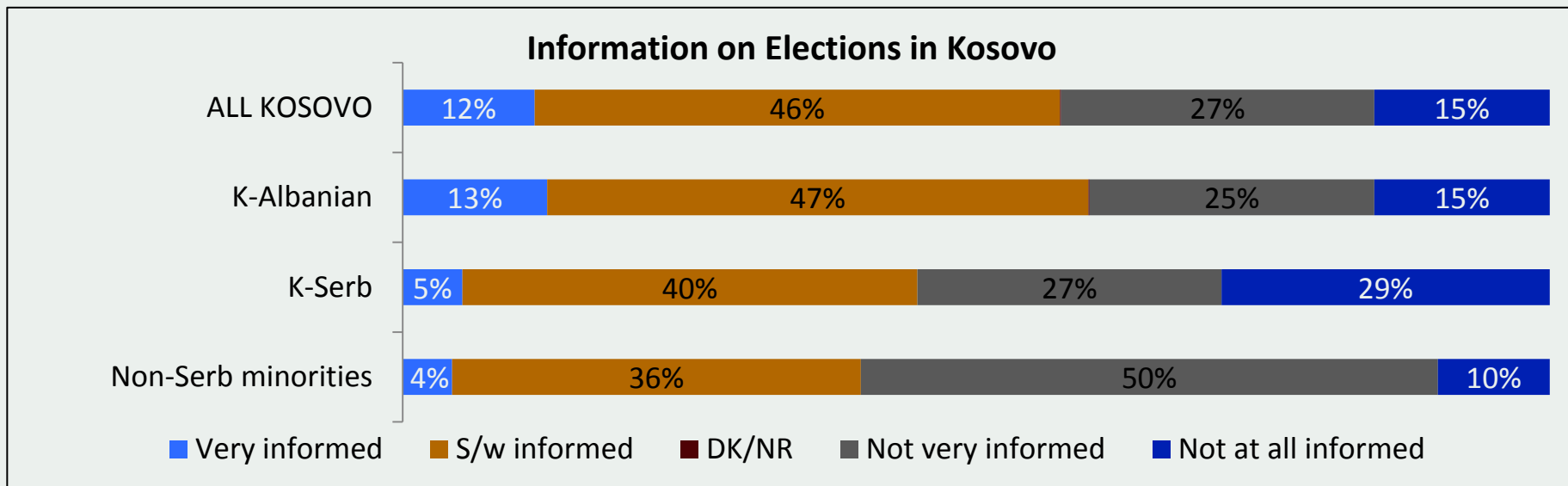
- Most K-Albanians and non-Serb minorities are **not** interested in political matters, while a majority of K-Serbs are interested.
- Less than half of men and women are interested in political matters, but men are more interested than women.





Level of Information on Elections

- Majority of K-Serbs (56%) and non-Serb minorities (60%) are **not informed** on elections in Kosovo.
- More K-Serbs are informed on Serbian elections (72%) than Kosovo elections (45%).

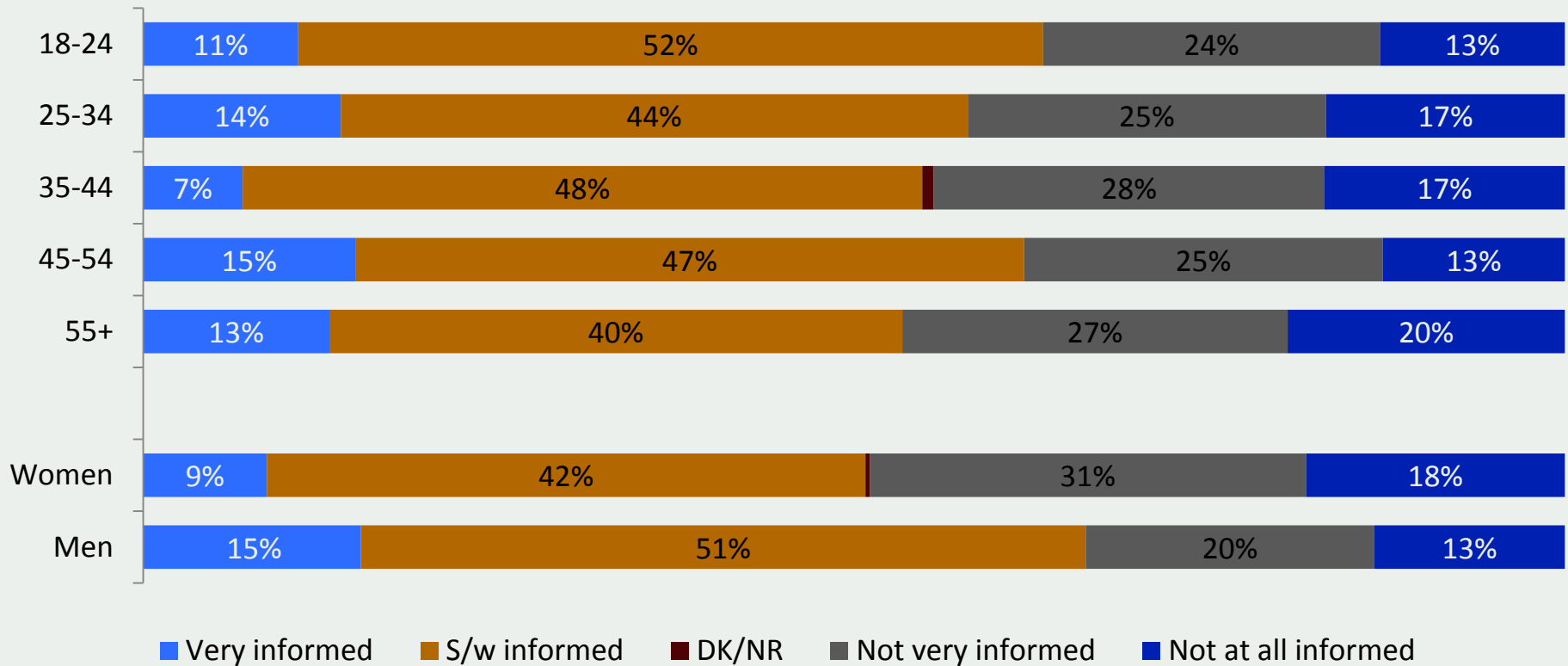




Level of Information on Elections by Age Groups and Gender

- Citizens across age groups are almost equally informed on elections.
- Men are more informed on elections (66%) than women (51%).

Information on Elections in Kosovo

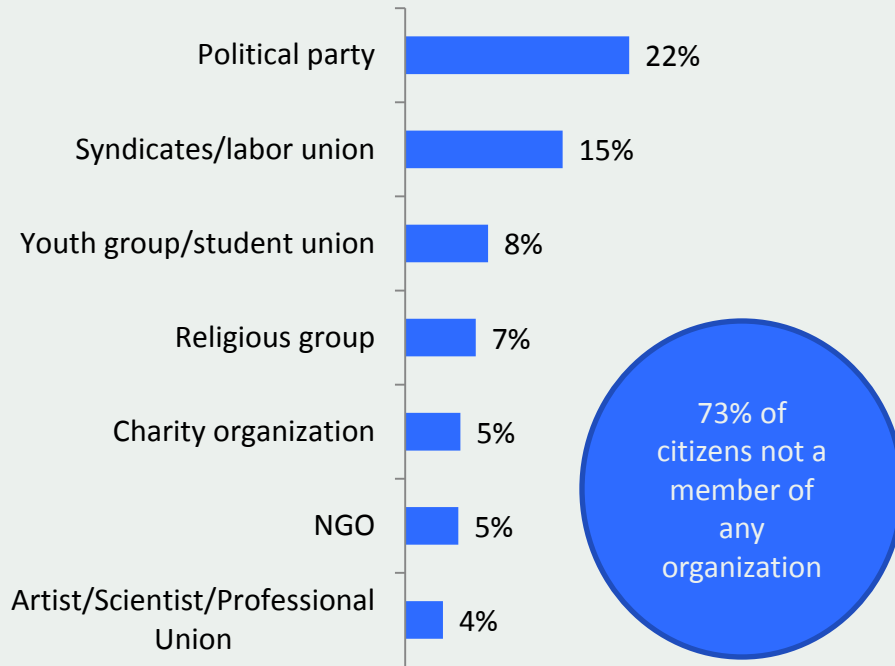




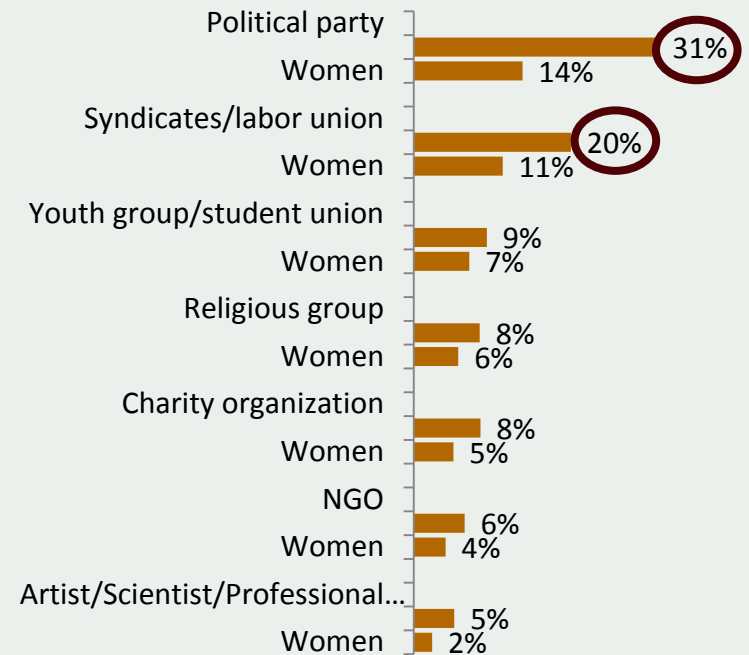
Membership in Organizations

- Membership in various types of organizations is low across Kosovo: 73% of citizens are not a member of any organization listed.
- Organization membership is low among men and women, but more men are in political parties than women (31% and 14%, respectively) and more men than women are in syndicates/labor unions (20% and 11%, respectively).

Percent who are currently or ever been a member of an organization (National level)



Percent who are currently or ever been a member of an organization (By gender)



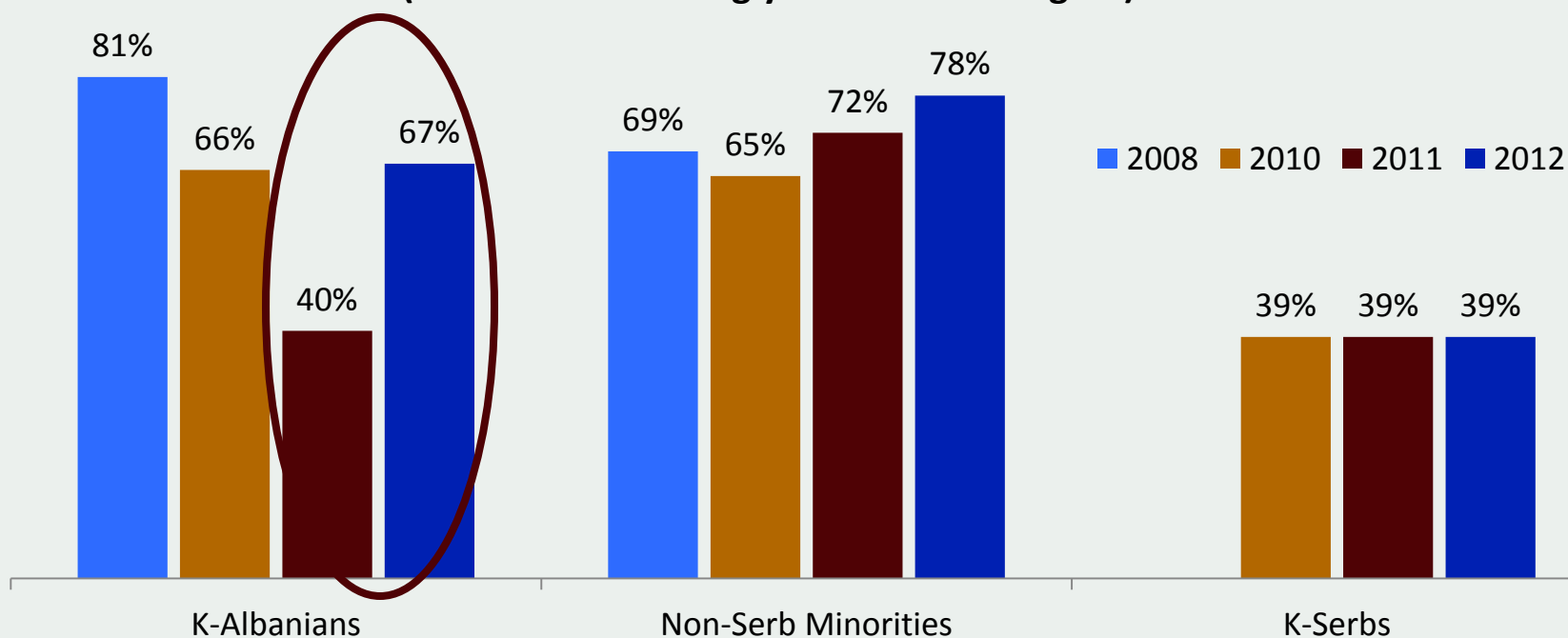


Perception of Voting as Way of Influencing Decision Making in Kosovo, Trend

- K-Albanians and non-Serb minorities display an increased belief in the power of the vote since 2011.
- K-Serbs' opinions remain the same, with less than half believing that voting gives them influence in Kosovo.

“Agree/Disagree: Voting gives people like me a chance to influence decision-making in Kosovo.”

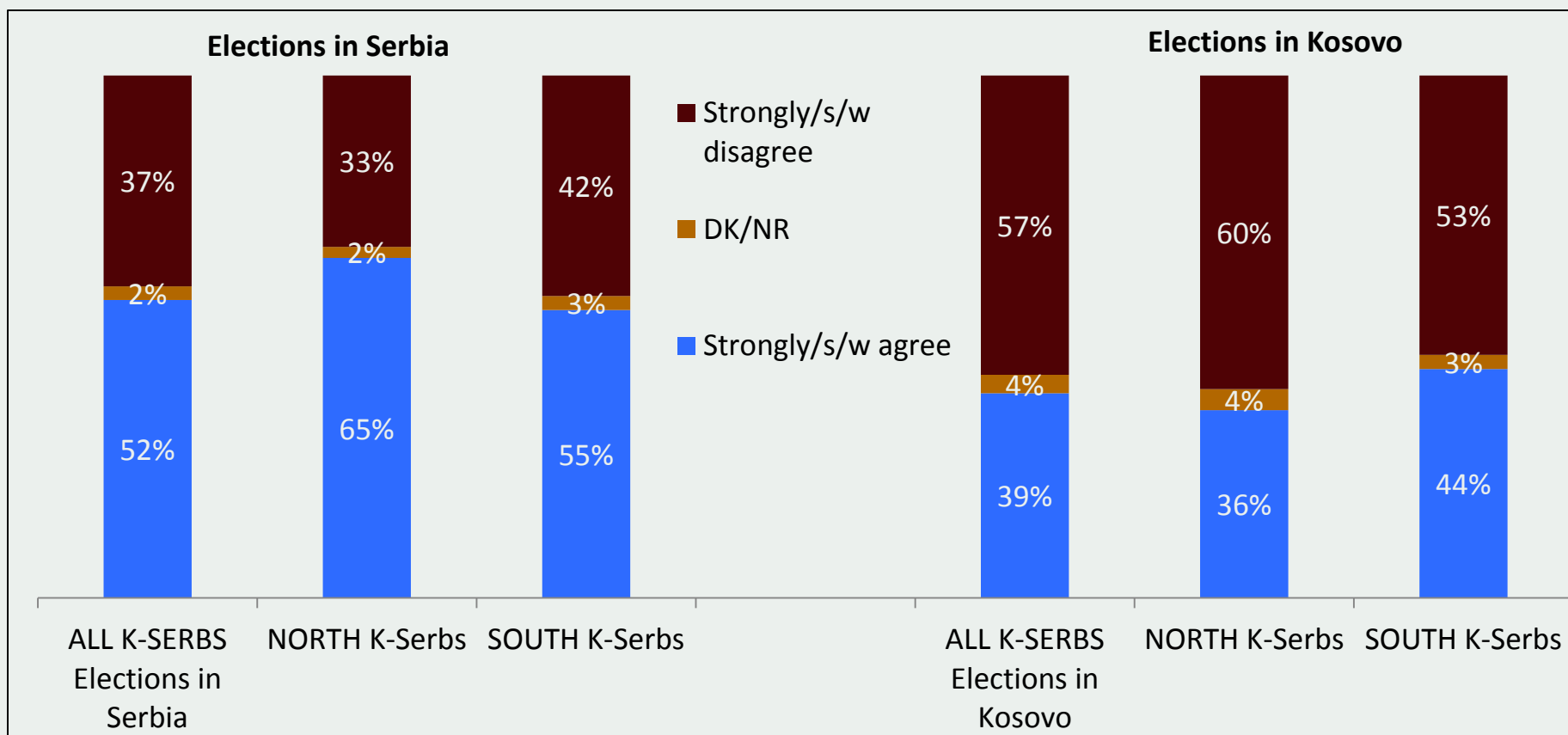
(Percent Who Strongly or Somewhat Agree)





Perceived Influence of Voting in Serbia vs. Kosovo Among K-Serbs

- More K-Serbs believe voting influences decision making in Serbia (52%) than in Kosovo (39%).
- All K-Serbs believe voting is more influential in Serbia than in Kosovo.





Priority Areas for Voter Education

“Which of the following areas of the election process are priority areas for you to receive more information.” (Three choices) %

1.	Procedures for removing the deceased from the voter list	70%
2.	Information about relevant electoral institutions, their roles and responsibilities	63%
3.	Procedures for changing and updating voter information	53%
4.	Procedures for submitting electoral complaints	29%
5.	Information on what constitutes an electoral offense	28%
6.	Information about changes throughout the electoral reform process	18%
7.	Information about access to relevant electoral legislation	17%



Priority Areas for Voter Education

“Which of the following areas of the election process are priority areas for you to receive more information.” (Three choices)

First Priority	%	Second Priority	%	Third Priority	%
Information about electoral institutions, their roles and responsibilities	51%	Procedures for changing and updating voter information	24%	Procedures for removing the deceased from the voter list	21%

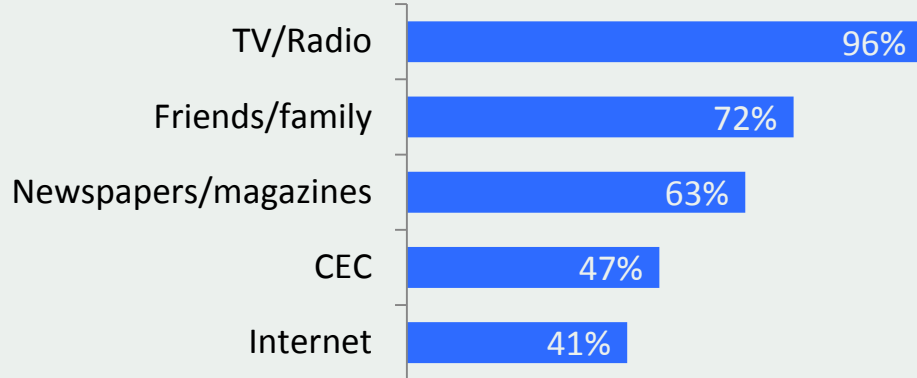
*The top three priorities are the same between ethnic groups.



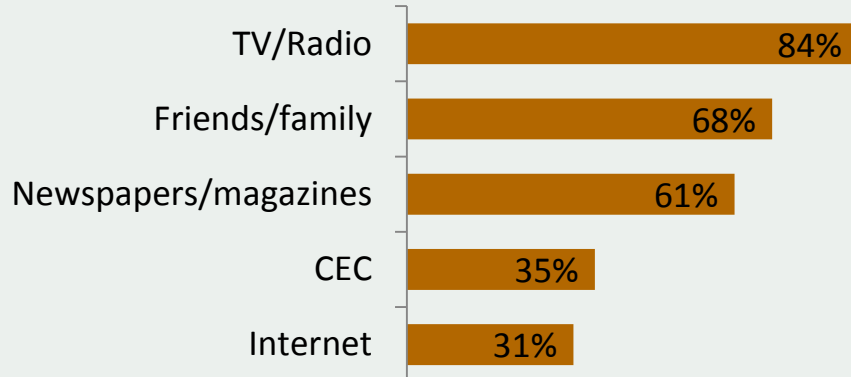
Sources Used to Learn About Elections, by Ethnic Group

- TV and radio are the best ways to reach voters of all ethnic groups.
- Encouraging information sharing amongst friends and family is also an important method of dissemination.

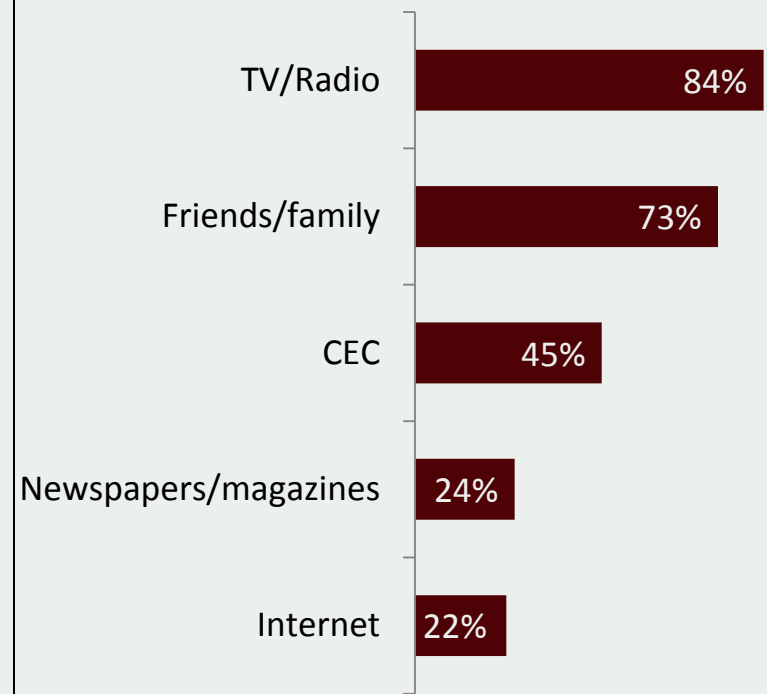
K-Albanians



K-Serbs



Non-Serb Minorities

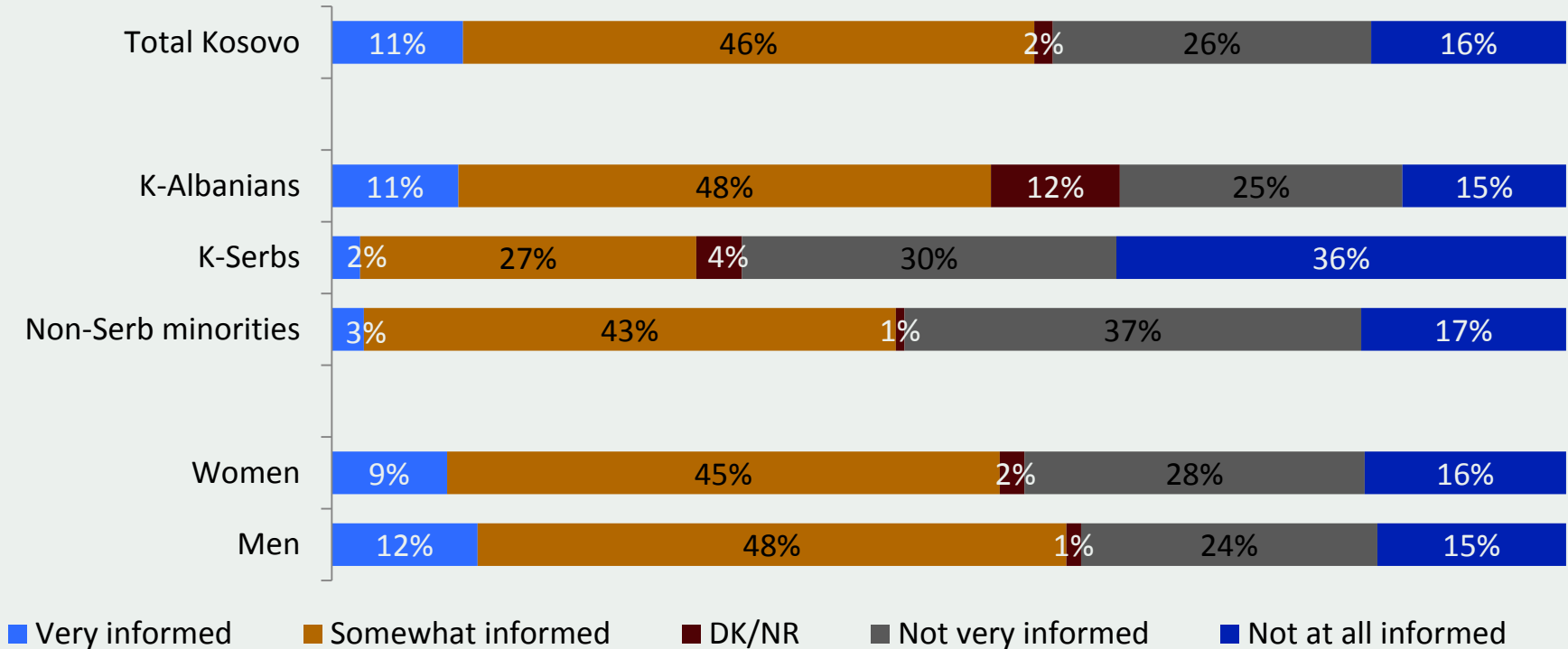




Information on Voter Registration Process

- Half of citizens are only somewhat informed (46%) or very informed (11%) on the voter registration process and 42% are not informed.
- K-Serbs are the least informed ethnic group (29%) and women report being slightly less informed than men (54% and 60%, respectively).

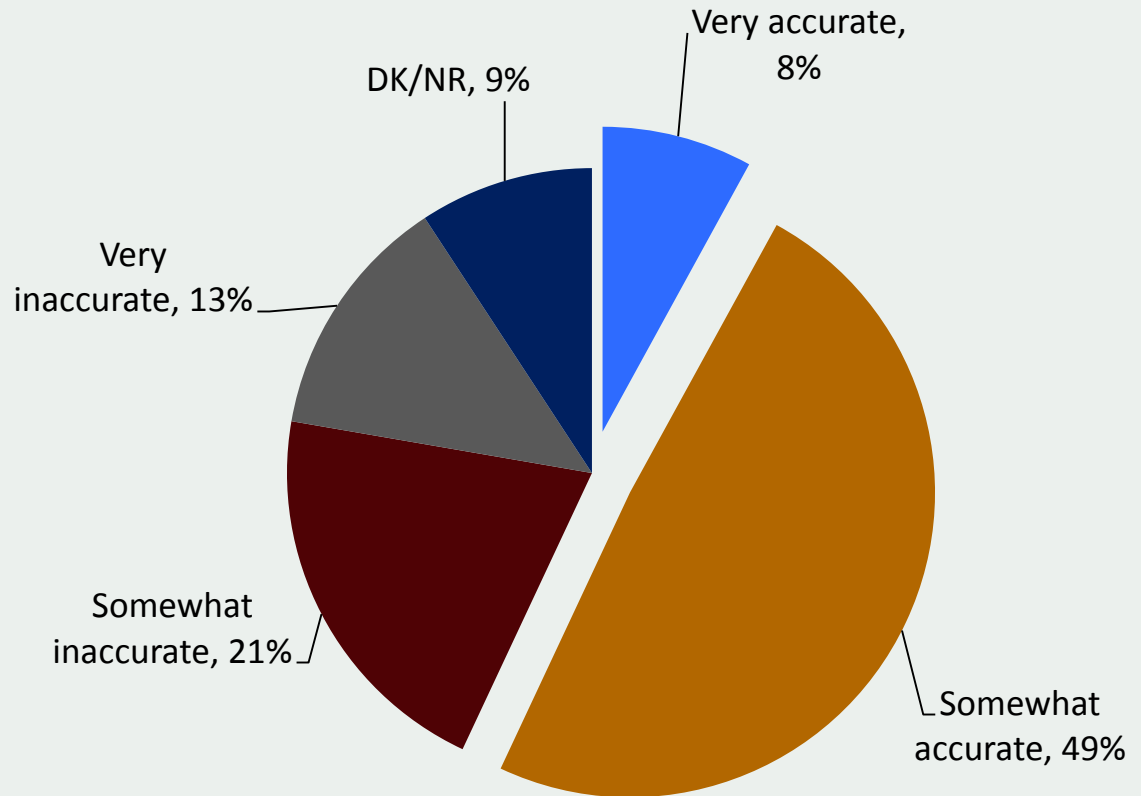
“How informed are you about the voter registration process?”





Perceived Accuracy of the Voter List in Kosovo

- Half of citizens (49%) view the voter list as at least somewhat accurate and 8% view it as very accurate.
- 34% of citizens view the list as somewhat or very inaccurate.

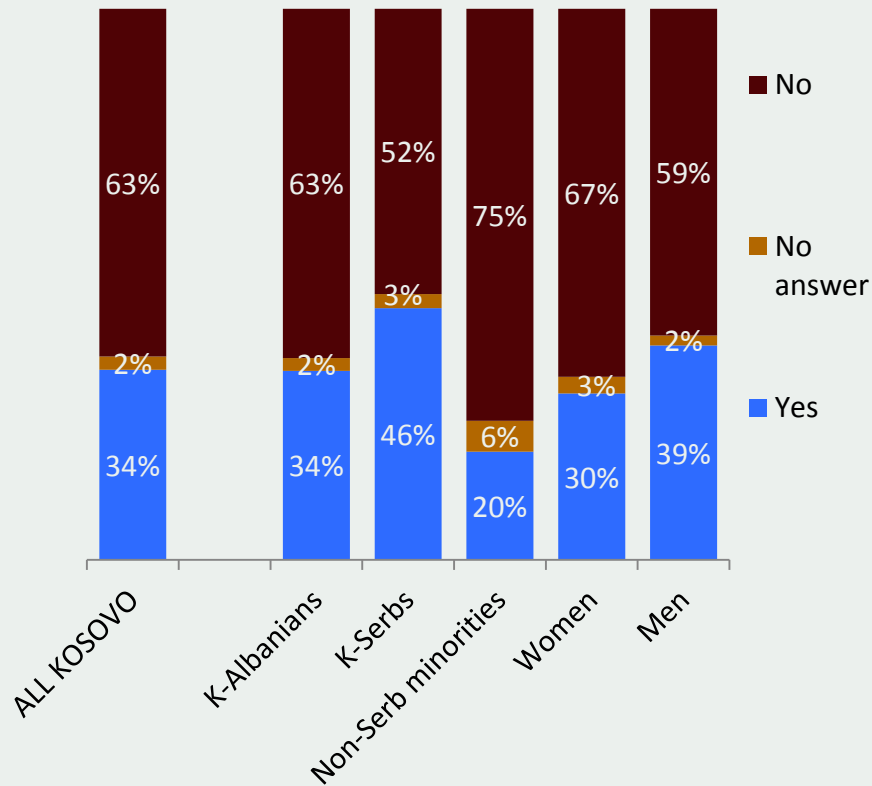




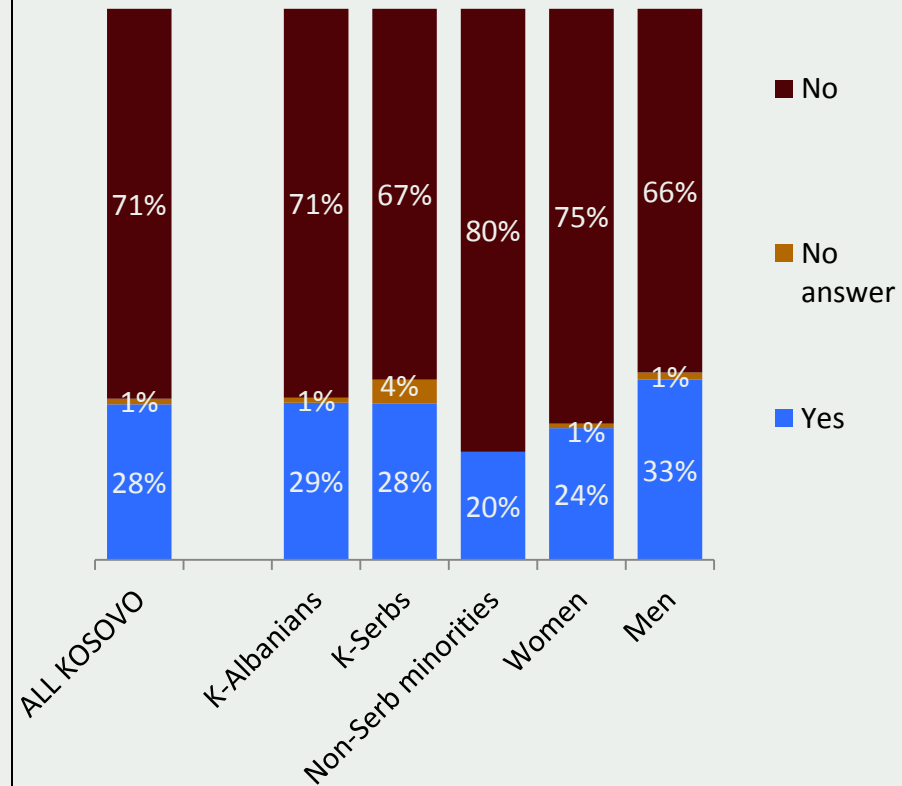
Knowledge of Checking and Changing Polling Center Before Elections

- There are low levels of knowledge across all segments of the population on how to check or change their polling station.

“Do you know how to check the polling center in which you are assigned to vote?”



“Do you know how to change the polling center in which you are assigned to vote?”





Possession of ID Documents, by Ethnic Groups

- 92% of K-Albanians and 85% of non-Serb minorities have Kosovo ID cards.
- 9% of non-Serb minorities have **none** of these ID cards.
- 99% of K-Serbs in the North and 98% in the South have Serbian ID cards.
- Only 7% of K-Serbs in the North have a Kosovo ID card compared to 93% of K-Serbs in the South.

**UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo*

K-Albanians Top ID Documents	%	Non-Serb Minorities Top ID Documents	%
Kosovo ID Card	92%	Kosovo ID Card	85%
Kosovo Passport	45%	Kosovo Passport	29%
Kosovo Driver's License	39%	UNMIK ID Card	7%
UNMIK* ID Card	6%	None of these IDs	9%

K-Serbs North of Ibar Top ID Documents	%	K-Serbs South of Ibar Top ID Documents	%
Serbian ID Card	99%	Serbian ID Card	98%
Serbian Passport	53%	Kosovo ID Card	93%
Serbian Driver's License	46%	Serbian Driver's License	67%
UNMIK ID	41%	Serbian Passport	44%
Kosovo ID Card	7%		



Priority Areas for Improving the Election Process

“Which areas of the election process should be given priority for improvement?” %
(Three choices)

1.	Voter registration process	59%
2.	Information on where and when to vote	52%
3.	Information on voting procedures and how to mark the ballots	44%
4.	Competency of the polling station commissioners	36%
5.	Impartiality of polling station commissioners	27%
6.	Impartiality in the counting, tabulation and announcement of results	25%



Priority Areas for Improving the Election Process

“Which areas of the election process should be given priority for improvement?” (Three choices)

First Priority	%	Second Priority	%	Third Priority	%
Voter registration process	40%	Information on where and when to vote	27%	Information on voting procedures and how to mark the ballots	21%

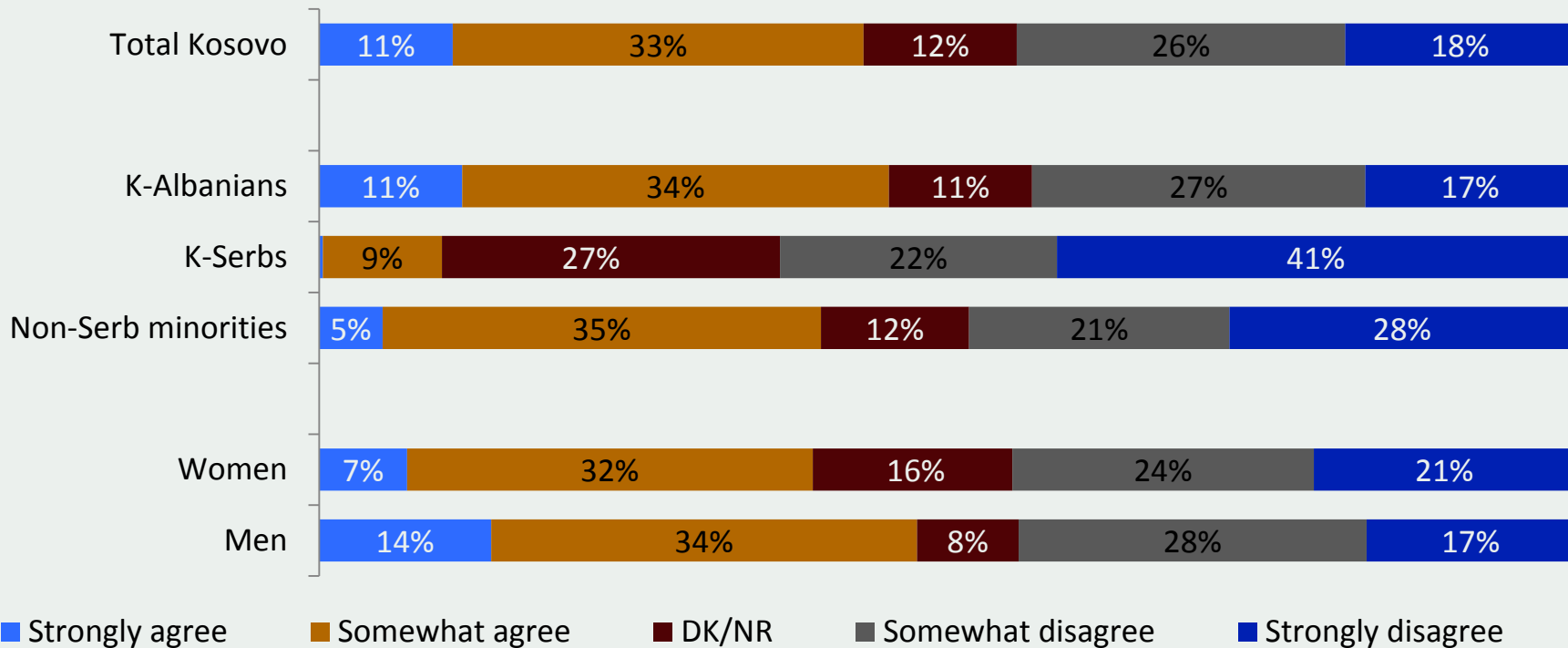
*The top three priorities are the same between ethnic groups.



Information on Electoral Reform Process

- There are low levels of knowledge of the changes occurring during the electoral reforms between ethnic groups and genders: less than half of citizens say they have this information.
- K-Serbs have the least information amongst ethnic groups.

Agree/Disagree: “I have enough information on what is changing throughout the electoral reform.”

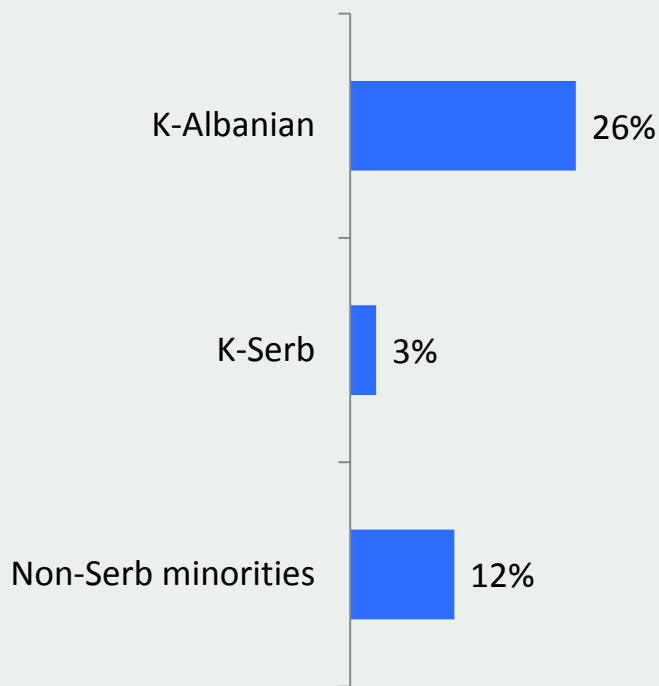




Awareness of Electoral Reform Process and Constitutional Reform Committee

Knowledge of Constitutional Reform Committee

Percent who say, "yes, aware"



[If aware of Constitutional Reform Committee] "What have you heard?"

% of cases

They are preparing electoral reform 22%

They will do some constitutional changes 17%

They are working on the way the president will be elected 15%

Will make changes 8%

President shall be elected by the people 5%

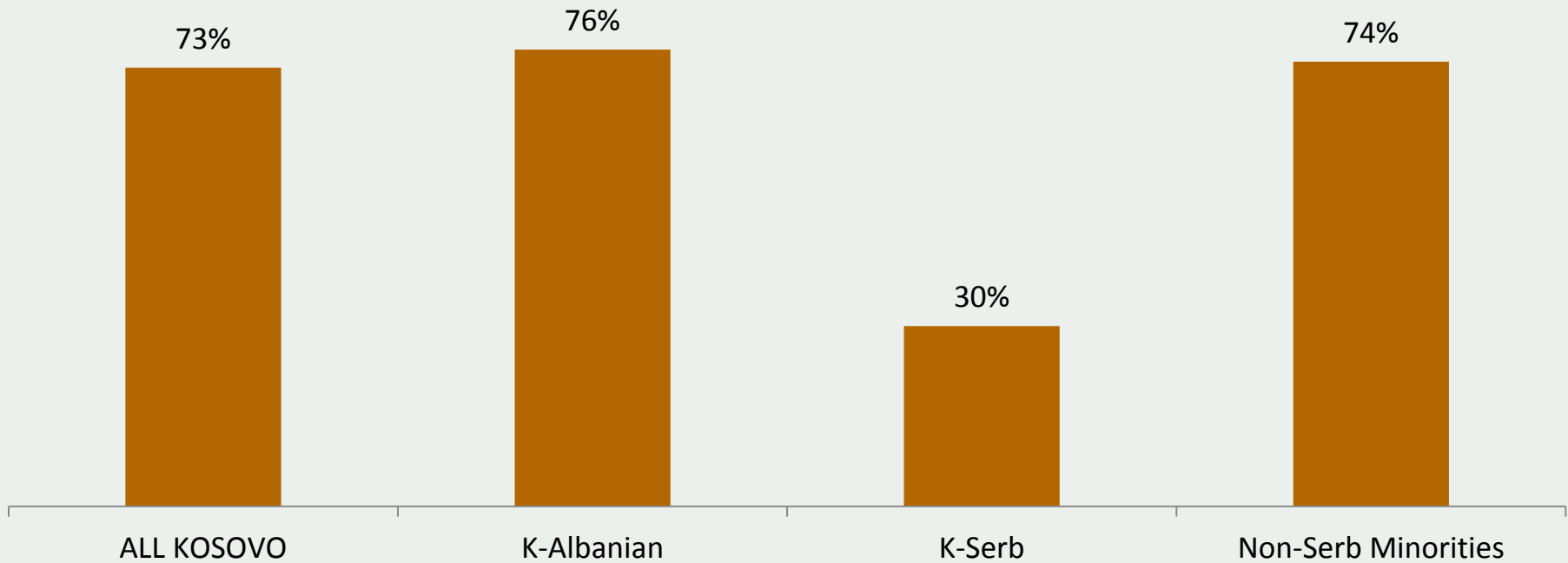
Don't know 33%



Knowledge of How President Would be Elected Under Reform Process

- Despite less than half of citizens saying they are informed on the electoral reform process, nearly three-quarters correctly understand that as a result of reforms, the president will be directly elected by the people.
- However, only one-third of K-Serbs correctly answered this question.

Percent Correctly Selecting “President will be elected directly by the people.”





Knowledge of Presidential Responsibilities if Directly Elected by People

“Under the reform process could you tell me whether or not the following competencies will be the responsibility of the directly elected President of Kosovo?”

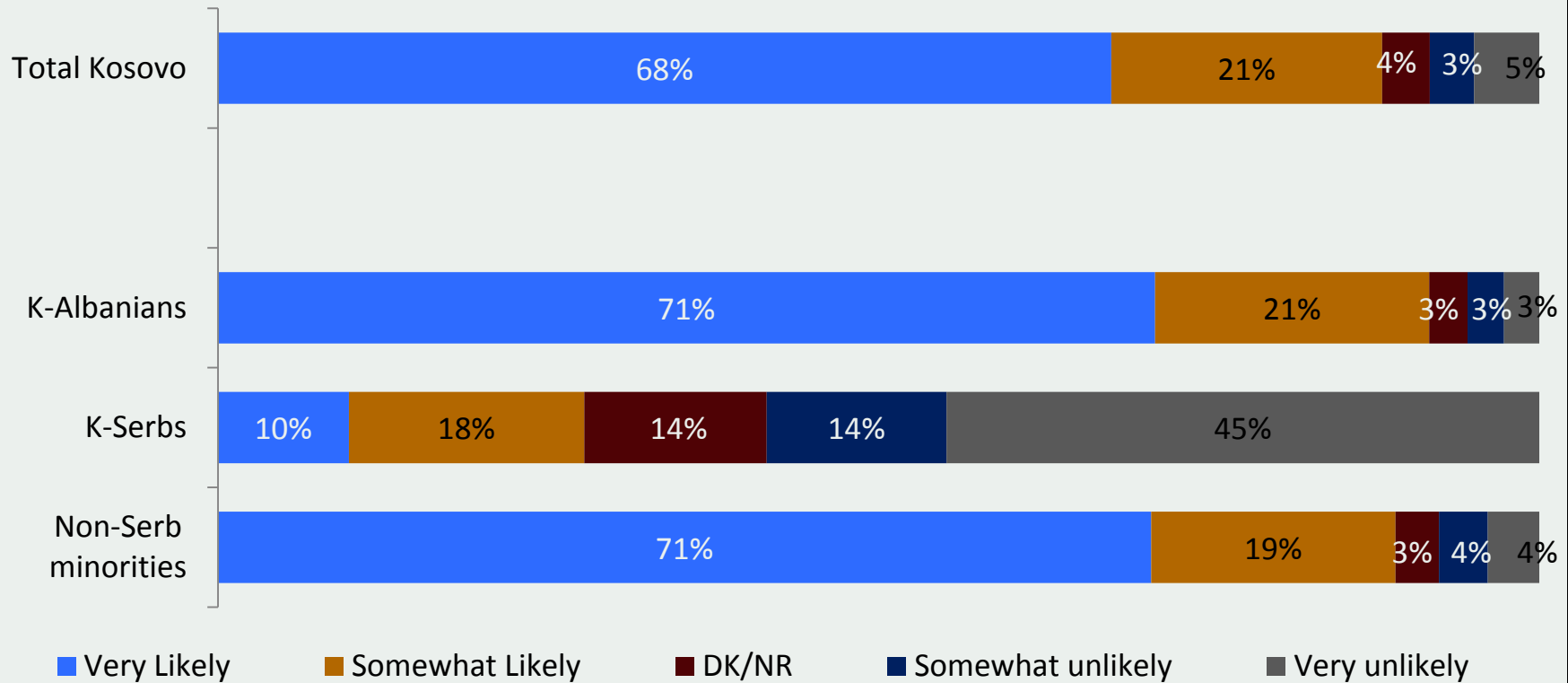
CORRECT ANSWERS	% of Cases
Announce the day of the elections for the Assembly of Kosovo	56%
Acts as a commander-in-chief of the Kosovo Security Force	42%
Appoints the Chair of the Central Election Commission	27%

INCORRECT ANSWERS	% of Cases
Ensures implementation of laws and policies determined by the government	32%
Represents and leads the government	27%
Proposes the budget expenditures	24%
Appoints the Director of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency	22%
Don't know	18%



Likelihood to Vote if President is Elected by People

“If the President of Kosovo is elected by the people, how likely would you be to vote in presidential elections?”

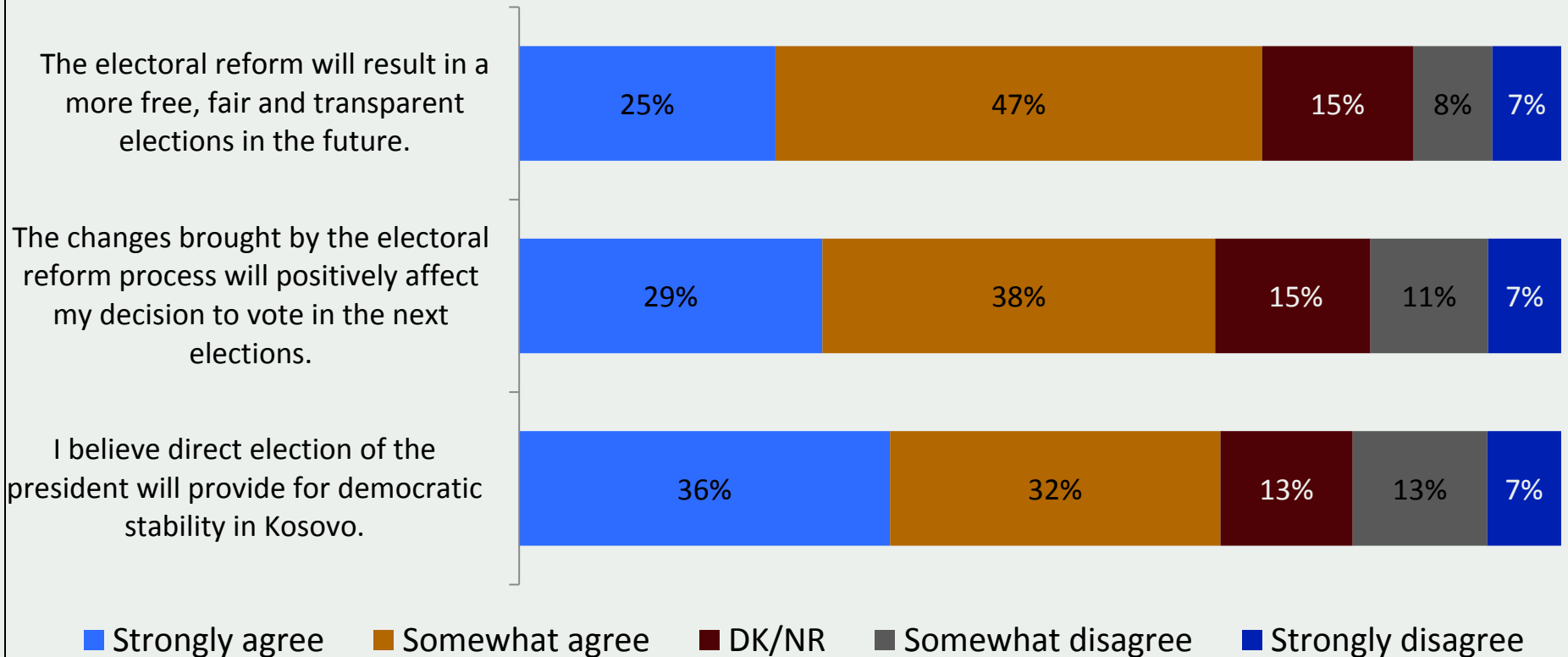




Opinions on Electoral Reform Process

- A majority of citizens agree electoral reform will bring positive changes to the process and will improve their likelihood to vote in the next elections.

Agree/Disagree with Statements on Electoral Reform Process
Percent at National Level (n=1,522)

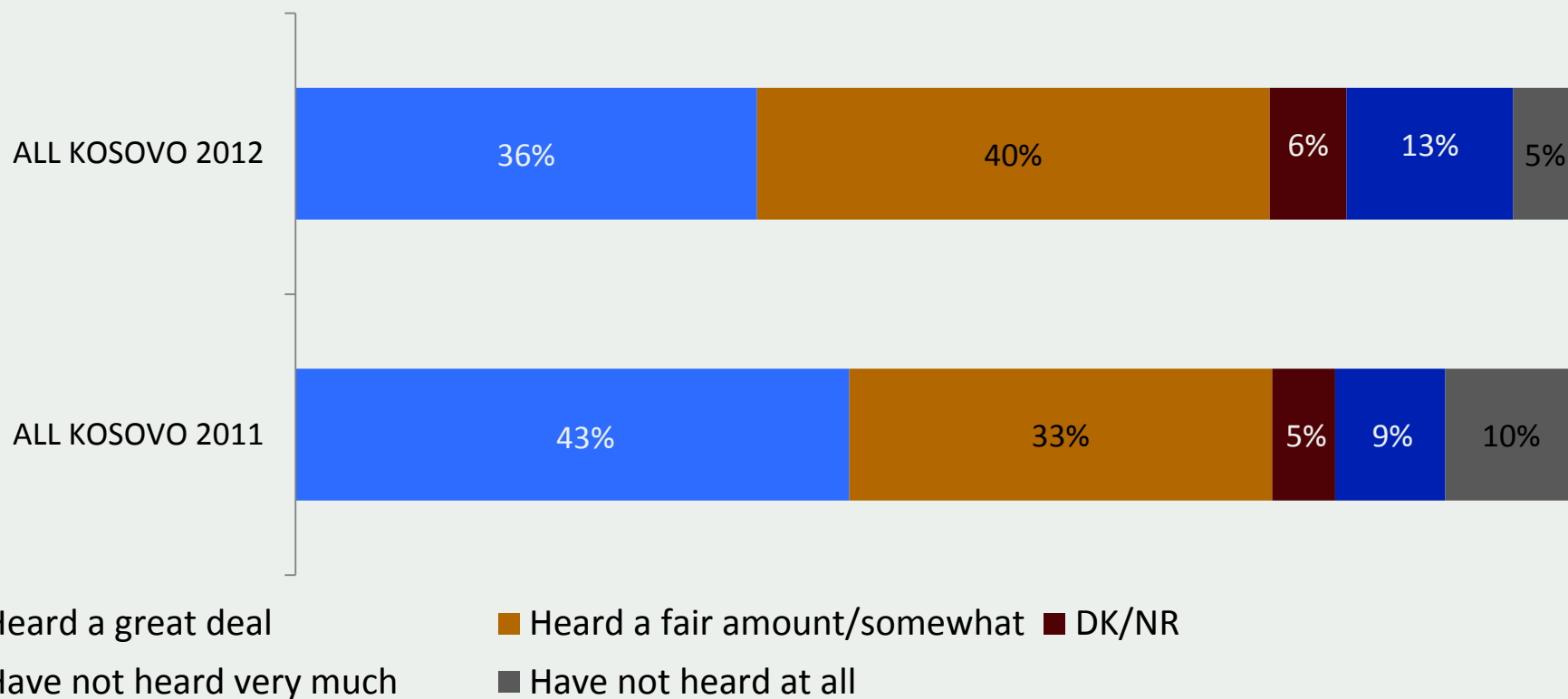




Awareness of Central Election Commission (CEC), Trend and by Ethnic Group

- A majority of citizens are aware of the CEC (76%), the same percentage as in the 2011 survey.
- Awareness of the CEC has increased slightly amongst K-Serbs from 14% in 2011 to 23% in 2012.

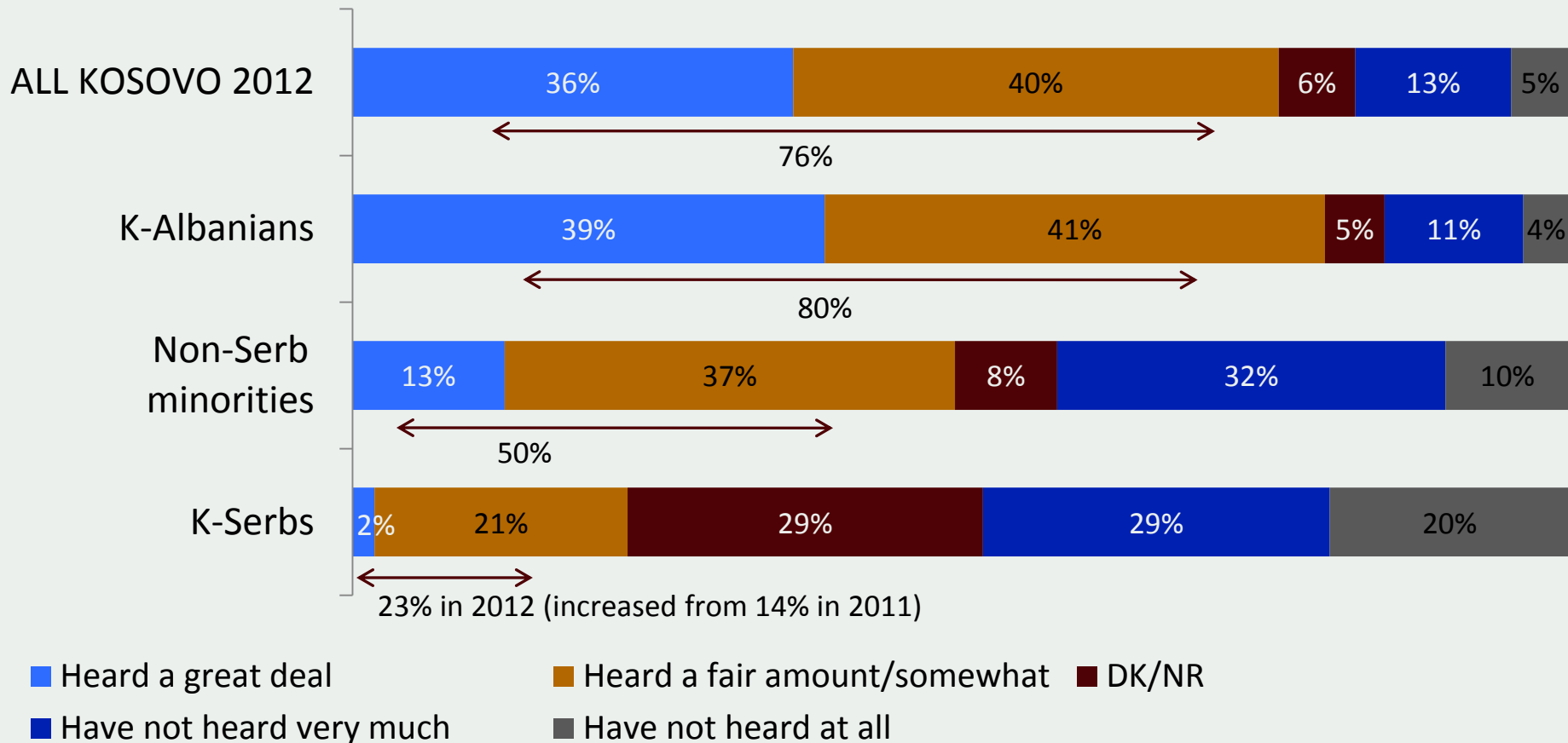
Awareness of the CEC, Trend





Awareness of Central Election Commission (CEC), Trend and by Ethnic Group

“How much have you heard about the Central Election Commission of Kosovo?”





Awareness of the CEC's Responsibilities

- Responses indicate a lack of clarity on some of the CEC's responsibilities: 39% of respondents did not mention any of the five correct answers and 49% are aware of one or two correct roles of the CEC.

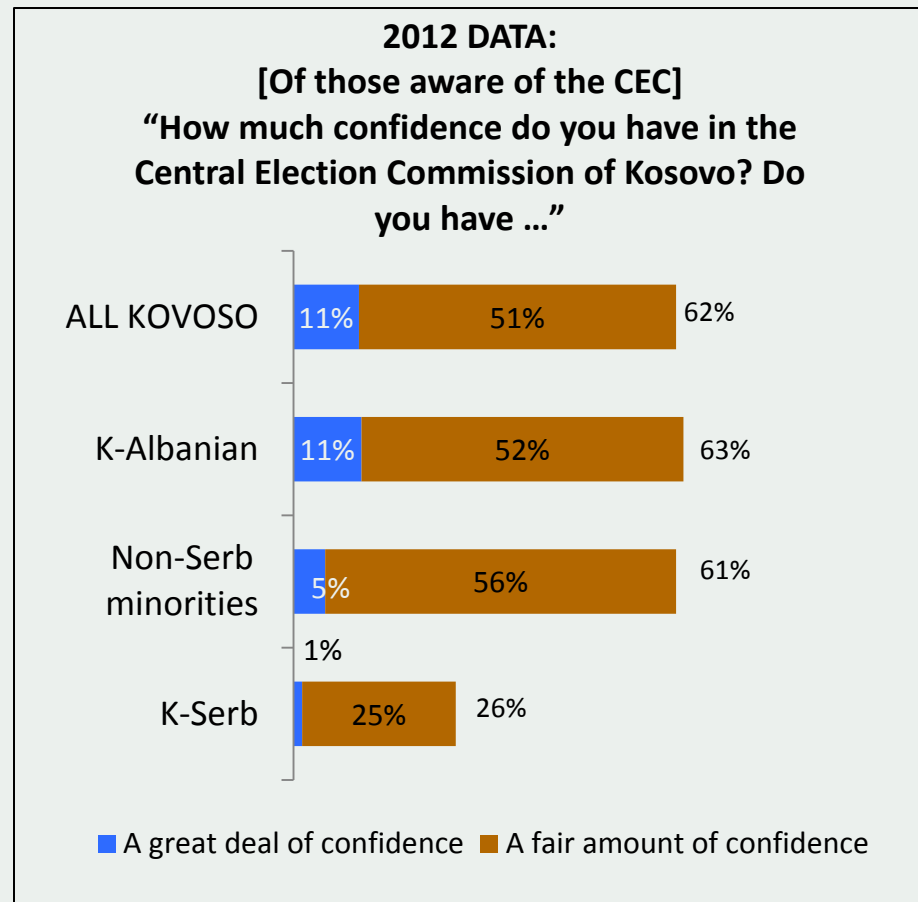
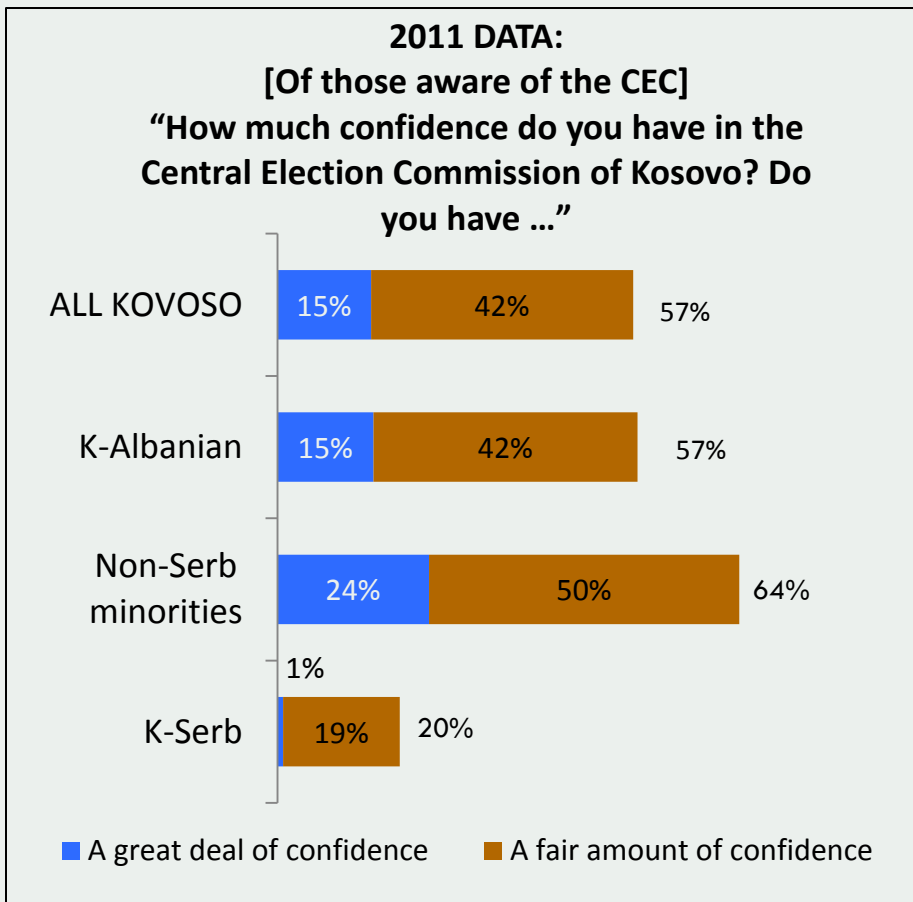
CORRECT ANSWERS	% of Cases
Maintain and update the voter list	37%
Accredit election observers	25%
Undertake voter information campaigns	19%
Certify the political entities and lists of candidates that run in elections	18%
Receive and audit political party financial reports	12%

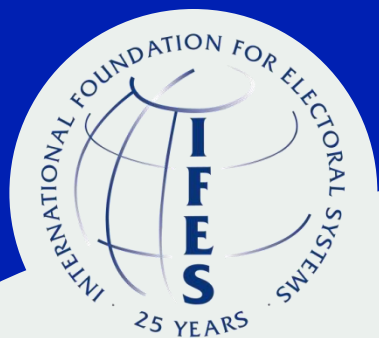
INCORRECT ANSWERS	% of Cases
Decide and announce day of elections	57%
Count the ballots centrally after polling is over	48%
Adjudicate electoral complaints	29%
Observe political party expenditures throughout the campaign	19%
Ensure equal media coverage of political parties during campaign	17%
Don't know	18%



Confidence in Central Election Commission, Trend and by Ethnic Group

- At the national level, confidence in the CEC has increased from 47% in 2010 to 57% in 2011, and 62% in 2012.
- Confidence in the CEC has increased within each ethnic group as well.

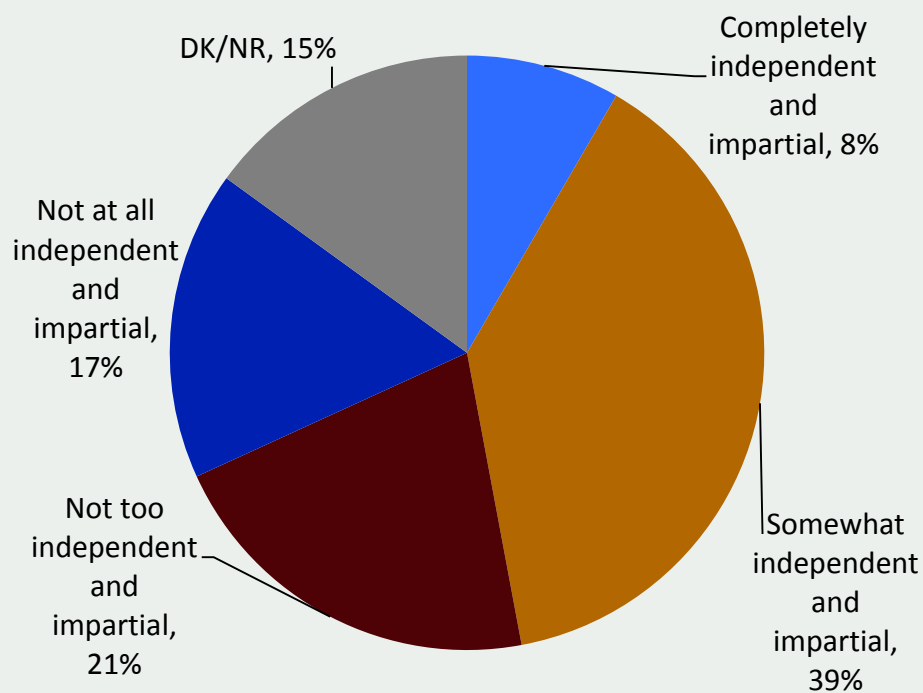




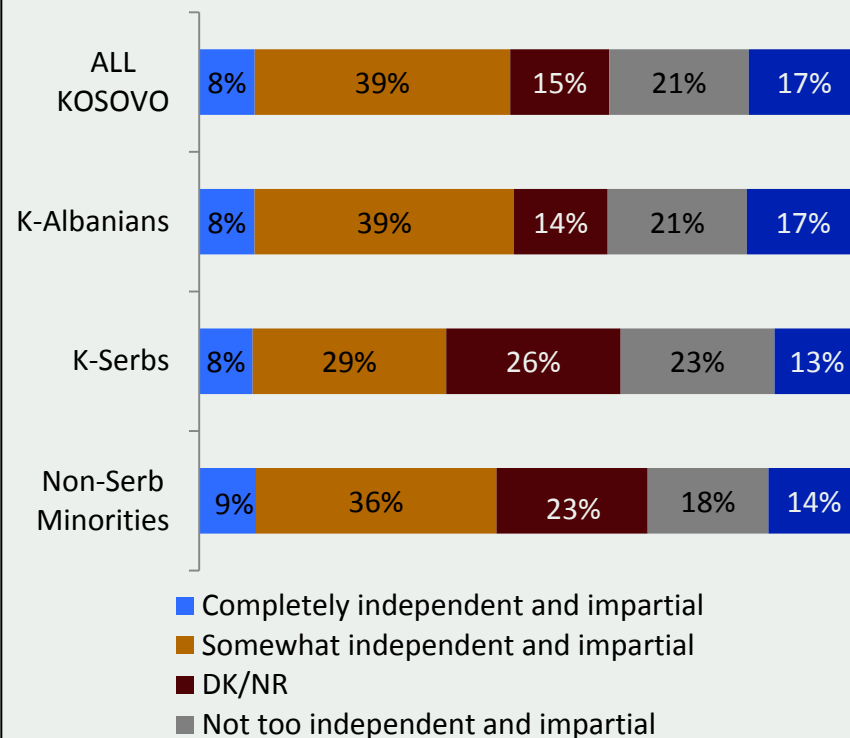
Perception of Whether the CEC is Independent and Impartial from Political Influence

- More respondents view the CEC as completely/somewhat independent and impartial (47%) than those who view the CEC as not too or/not at all independent and impartial (38%).
- Opinions are similar between ethnic groups.

By National Level



By Ethnic Group

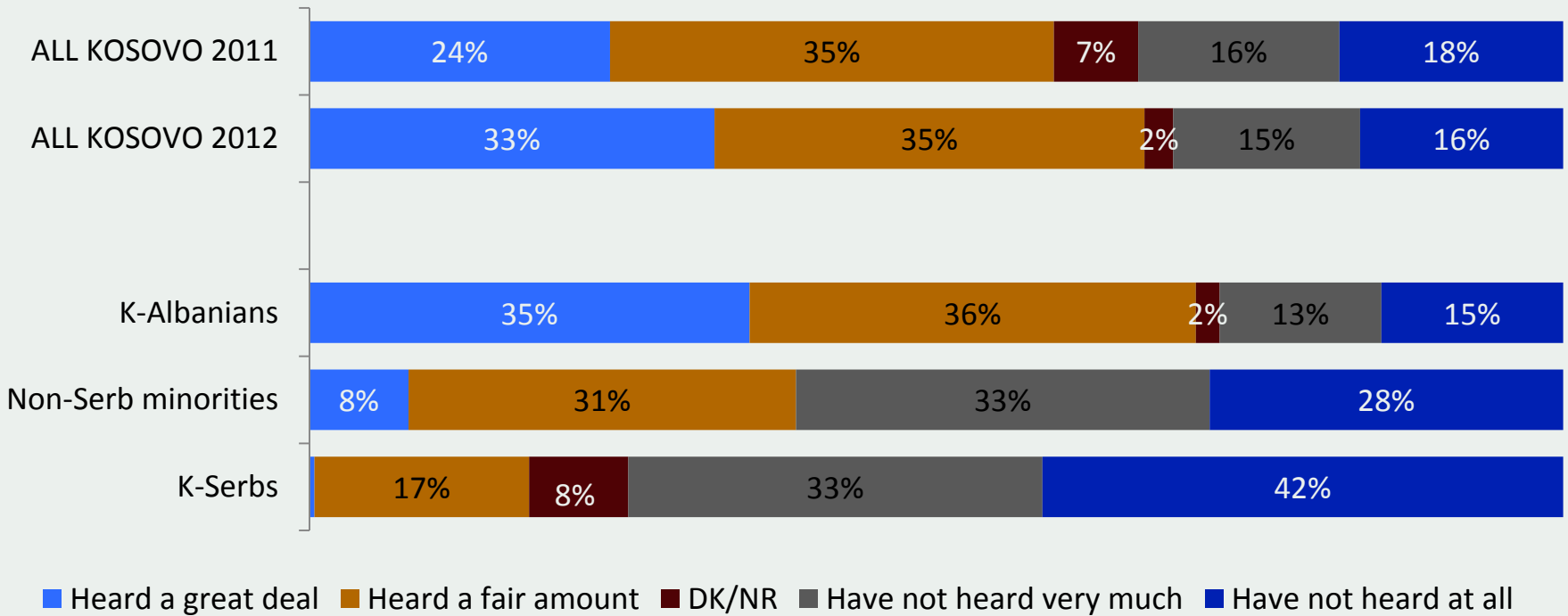




Awareness of Counts and Results Center (CRC)

- Awareness of CRC has increased 59% in 2011 to 68% in 2012.

“How much have you heard about the Counts and Results Center (CRC) of Kosovo?”

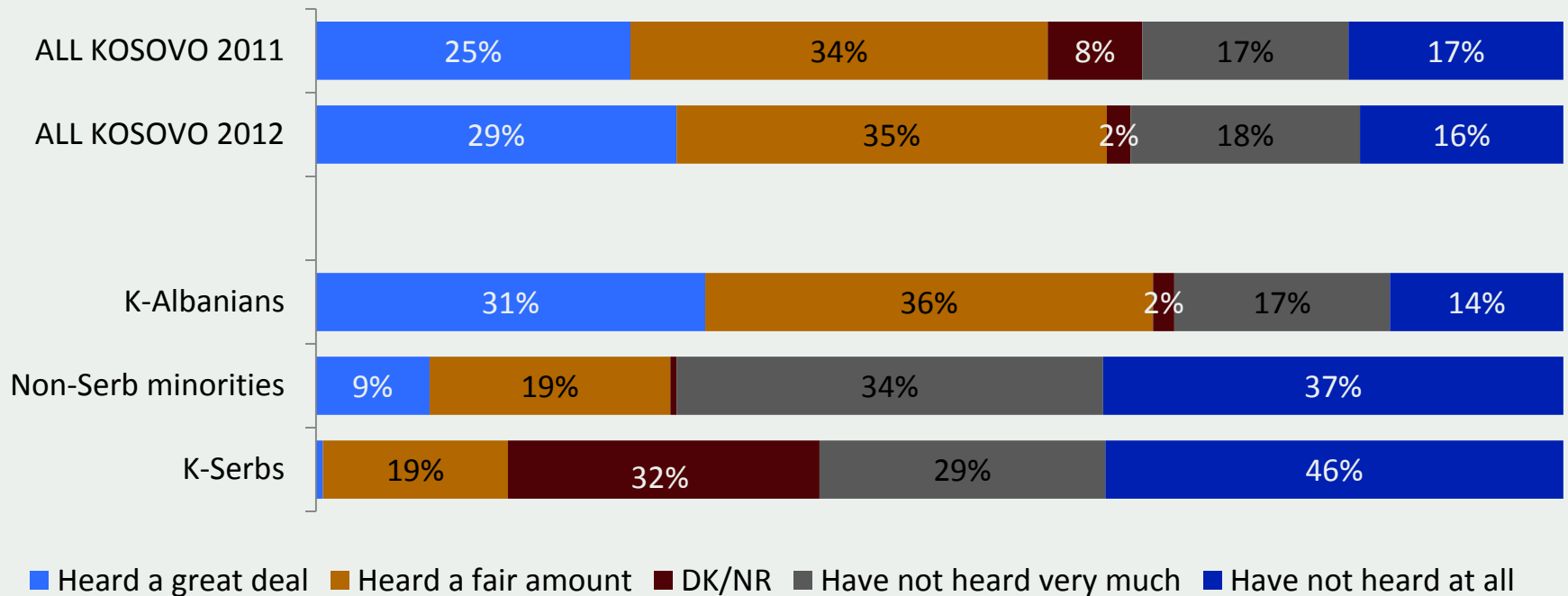


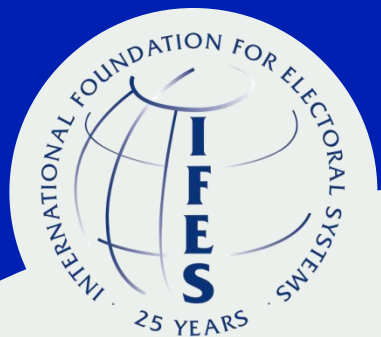


Awareness of and Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP)

- Awareness of ECAP has slightly increased from 59% in 2011 to 64% in 2012.

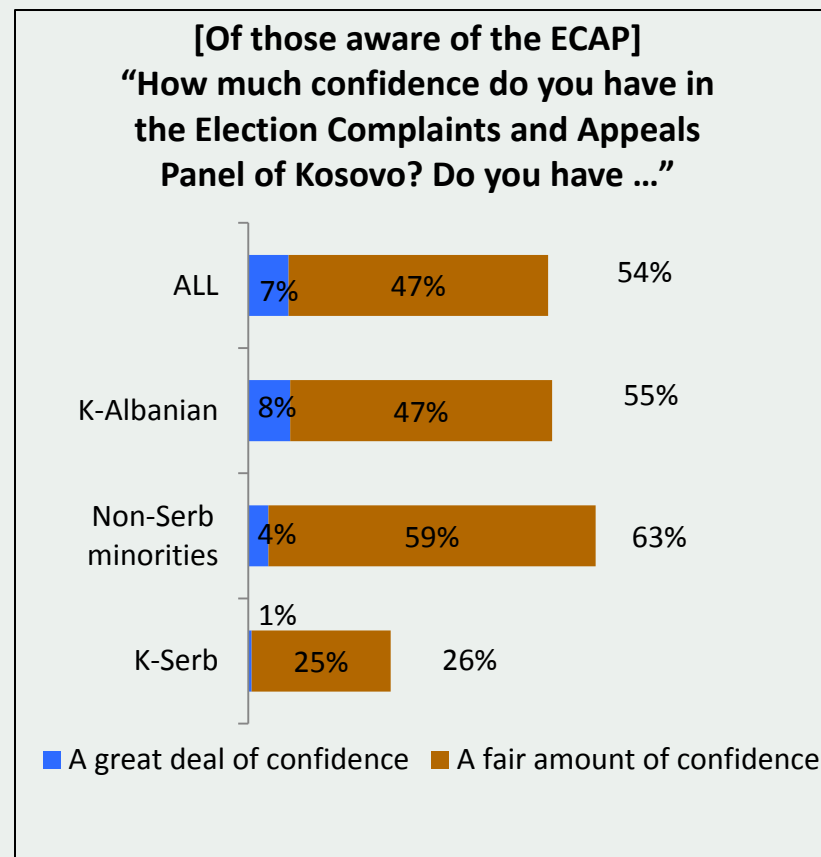
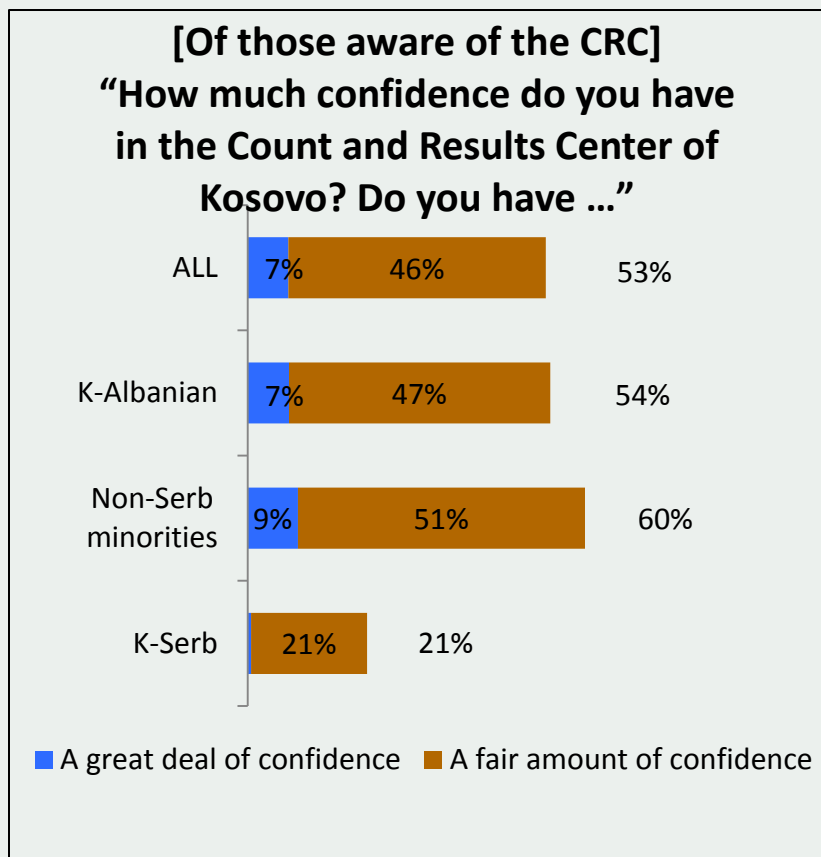
“How much have you heard about the Elections Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) of Kosovo?”





Confidence in Counts and Results Center (CRC) and Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP)

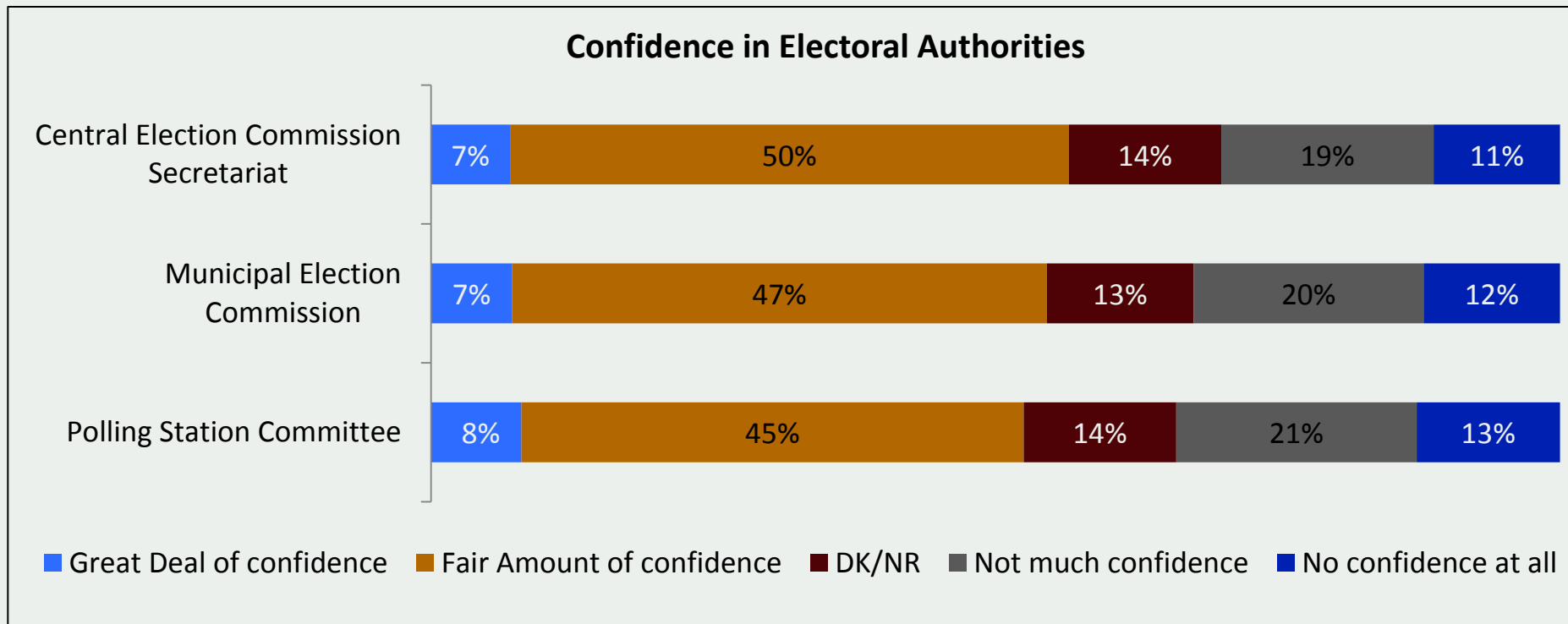
- At the national level, confidence in the CRC and ECAP has decreased slightly from 58% and 57% in 2011 to 53% and 54% in 2012, respectively.





Confidence in Electoral Authorities to Organize Credible Elections on Time

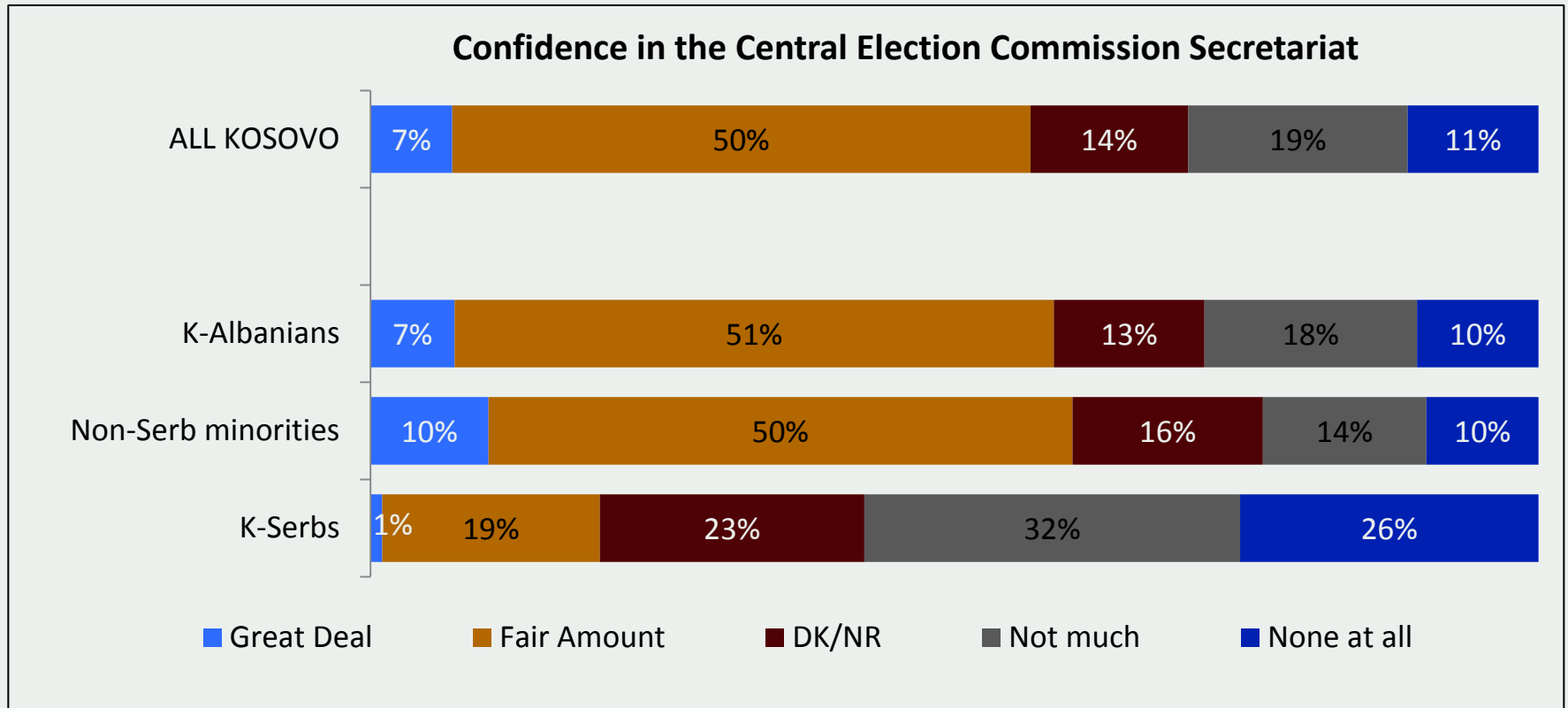
- Around half of citizens have at least a fair amount of confidence in the Central Election Commission Secretariat (57%), Municipal Election Commission (54%) and their Polling Station Committee (53%) to organize credible elections on time. However, about one-third of citizens do not have confidence in these electoral institutions.
- Confidence levels are similar between K-Albanians and non-Serb minorities, but only around 20% of K-Serbs have confidence in these electoral authorities.





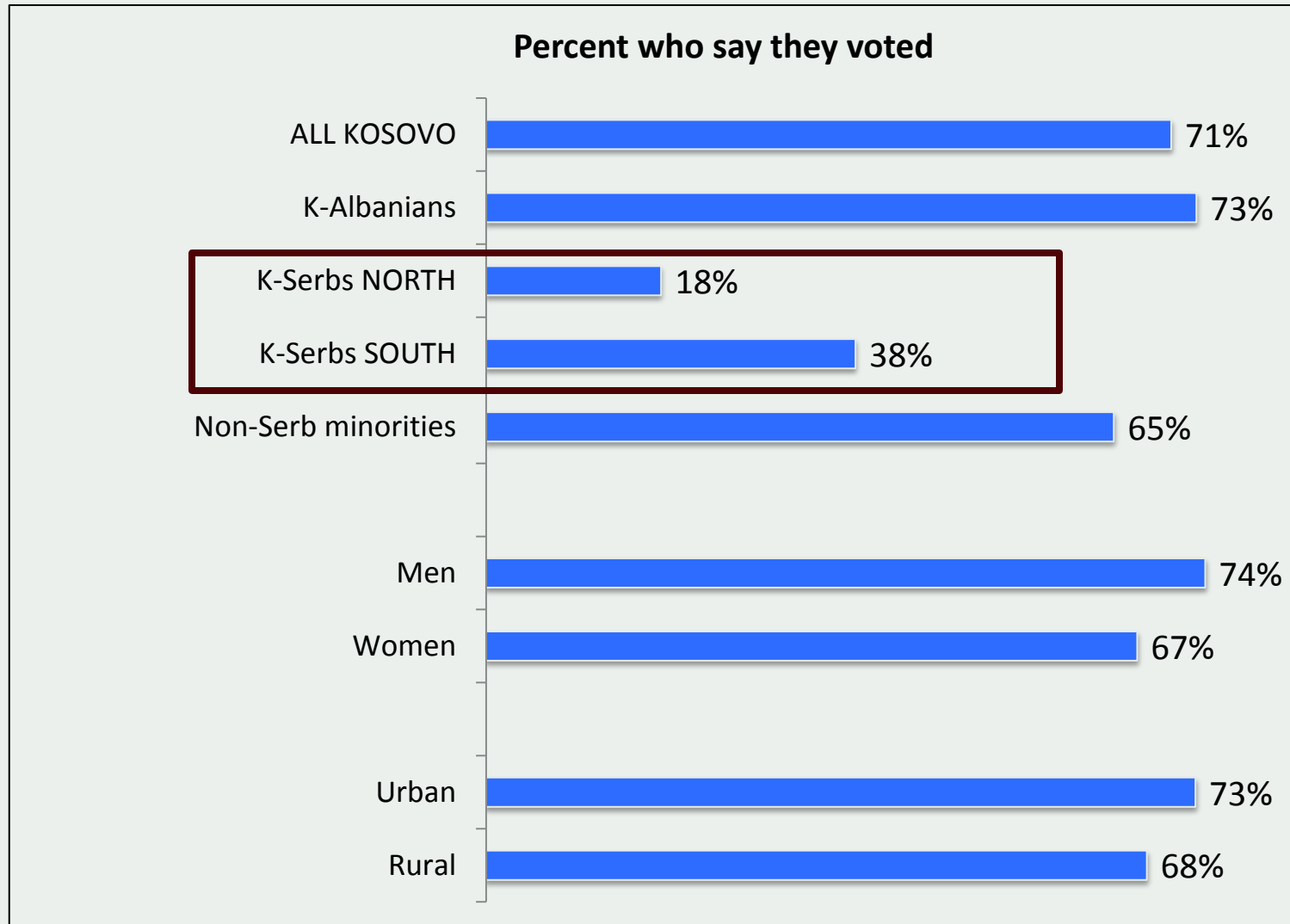
Confidence in Central Election Commission Secretariat, by Ethnic Group

- Half of citizens (50%) have a fair amount of confidence in the Central Election Commission Secretariat to organize credible elections on time, and 7% have a great deal of confidence.
- Confidence levels are similar between K-Albanians and non-Serb minorities, but is much lower for K-Serbs.





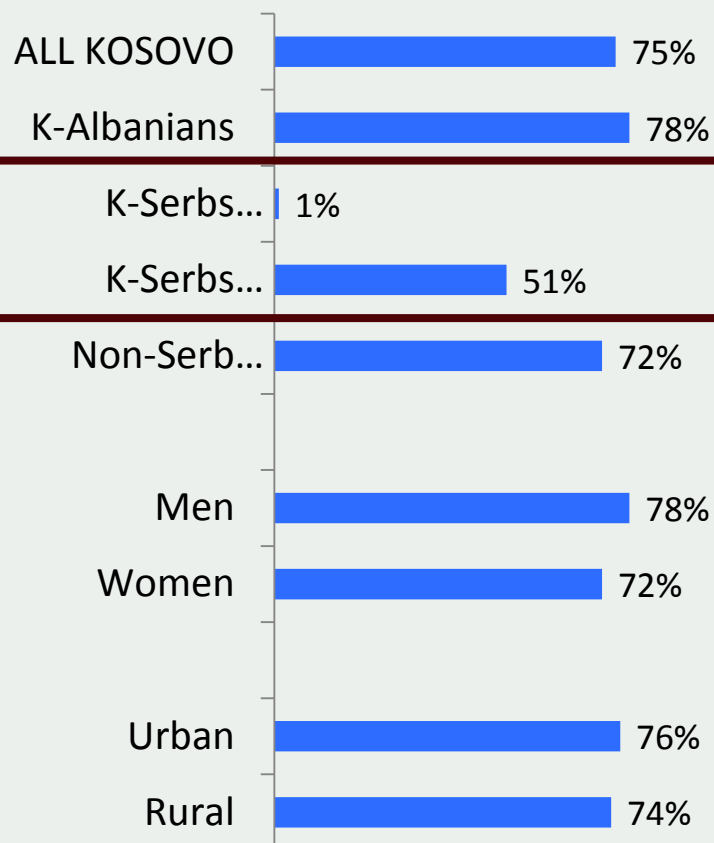
Reported Voter Turnout in the November 2009 Local Elections





Reported Voter Turnout in the December 2010 Kosovo Assembly Elections

Percent who say they voted



Why did you not vote? (K-Albanians) % of cases

Did not want to vote for any of the options/was disappointed	19%
Was abroad	13%
Was not able to go	10%
Was sick	6%
Was not interested	6%

Why did you not vote? (Non-Serb minorities) % of cases

Was not able to go	18%
Did not want to vote for any of the options/was disappointed	12%
Was abroad	11%

Why did you not vote? (K-Serbs) % of cases

I boycotted the elections	51%
I do not vote	5%
Was not on list	5%
Did not want to vote for any of the options/was disappointed	4%



IDs Used When Voting in 2010 Elections

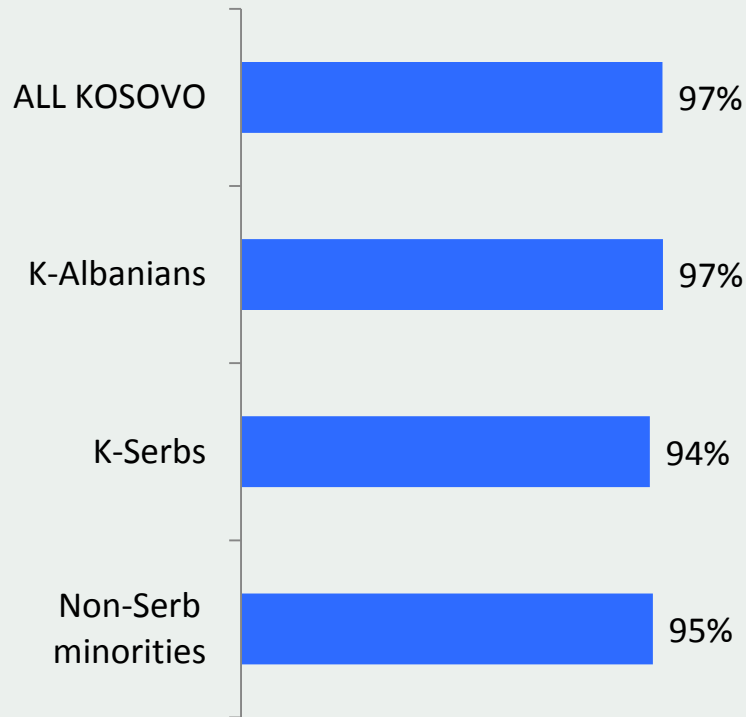
[Of those who voted in 2010 Elections] ID Documents Used when Voting	K-Albanians	K-Serbs	Non-Serb Minorities
ID document issued by the Republic of Kosovo	87%	93%	82%
ID document issued by UNMIK*	10%	3%	16%
Passport issued by Kosovo	1%	0	0
Passport issued by UNMIK	0	1%	0

*UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo



Name on Voter List and Assigned to Nearest Polling Center?

Percent who were on list at polling station where they first went to vote



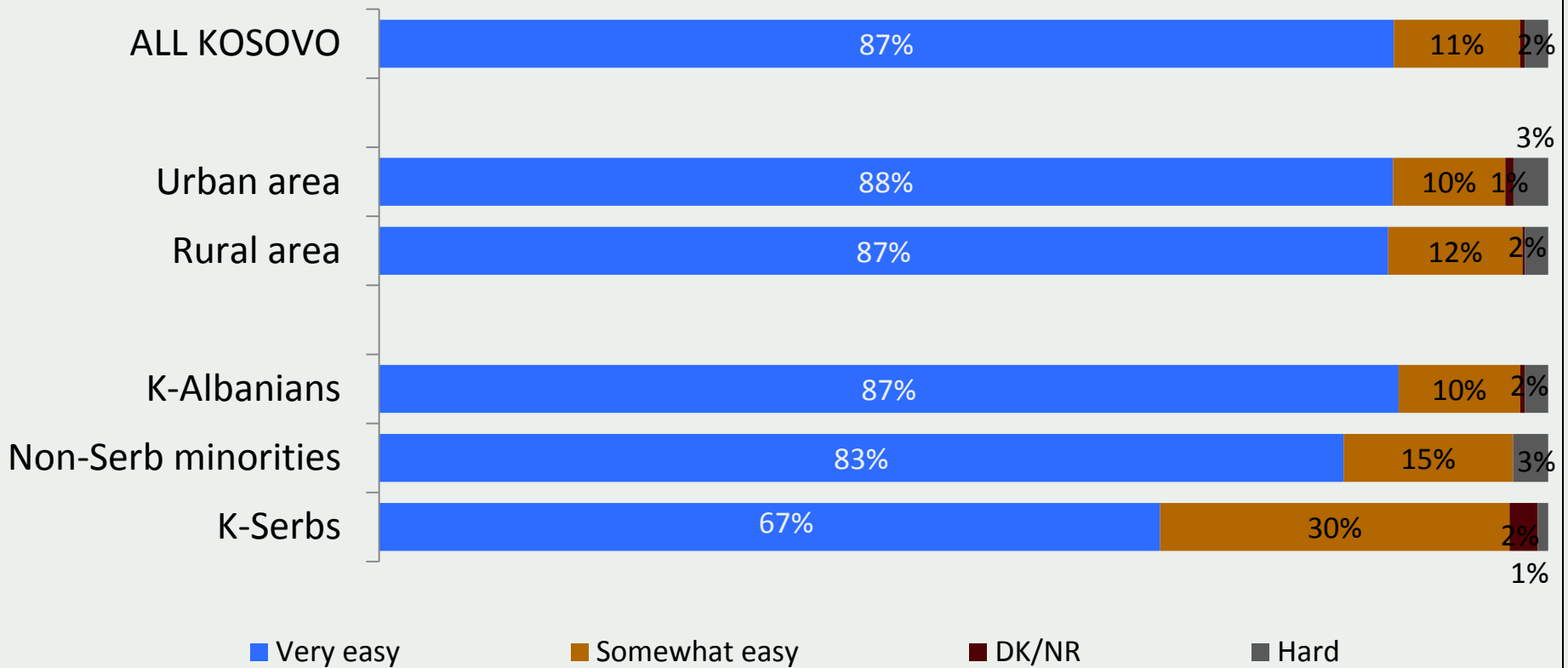
Percent whose names were assigned to the nearest polling center





Ease of Locating Polling Center

“How easy or hard was it to locate the appropriate polling center?”

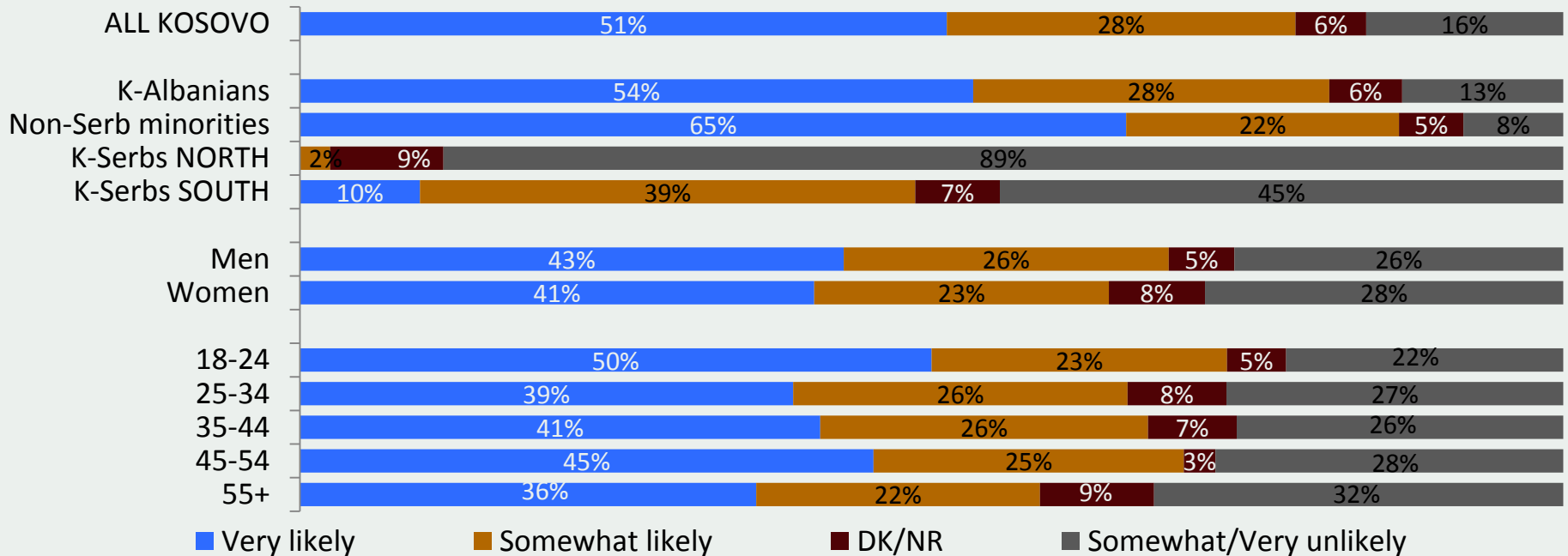




Likelihood to Vote in Next Kosovo Assembly Elections

- K-Serbs in the North are the least likely to vote if new Kosovo Assembly elections are called: 89% said they are not likely to vote. Southern Serbs say they are more likely to vote, with 39% saying they are somewhat likely and 10% saying they are very likely.
- Men are only slightly more likely to vote than women (69% and 64%, respectively), and young voters are the most likely to vote out of all age groups (73%).

Likelihood to Vote in Next Kosovo Assembly Elections

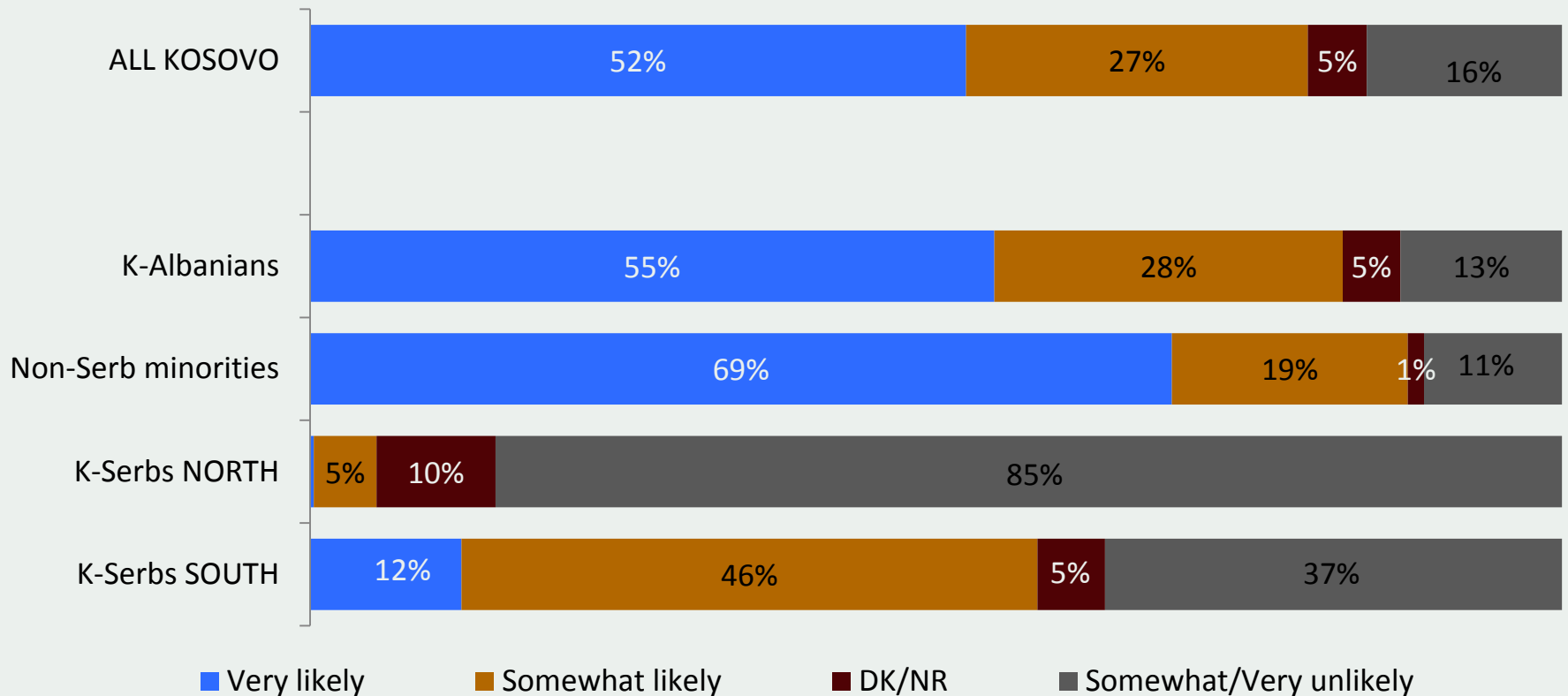




Likelihood to Vote in Local and Mayoral Elections in Kosovo

- Similar patterns are observed in terms of whether respondents are likely to vote in the next local and mayoral elections in Kosovo.

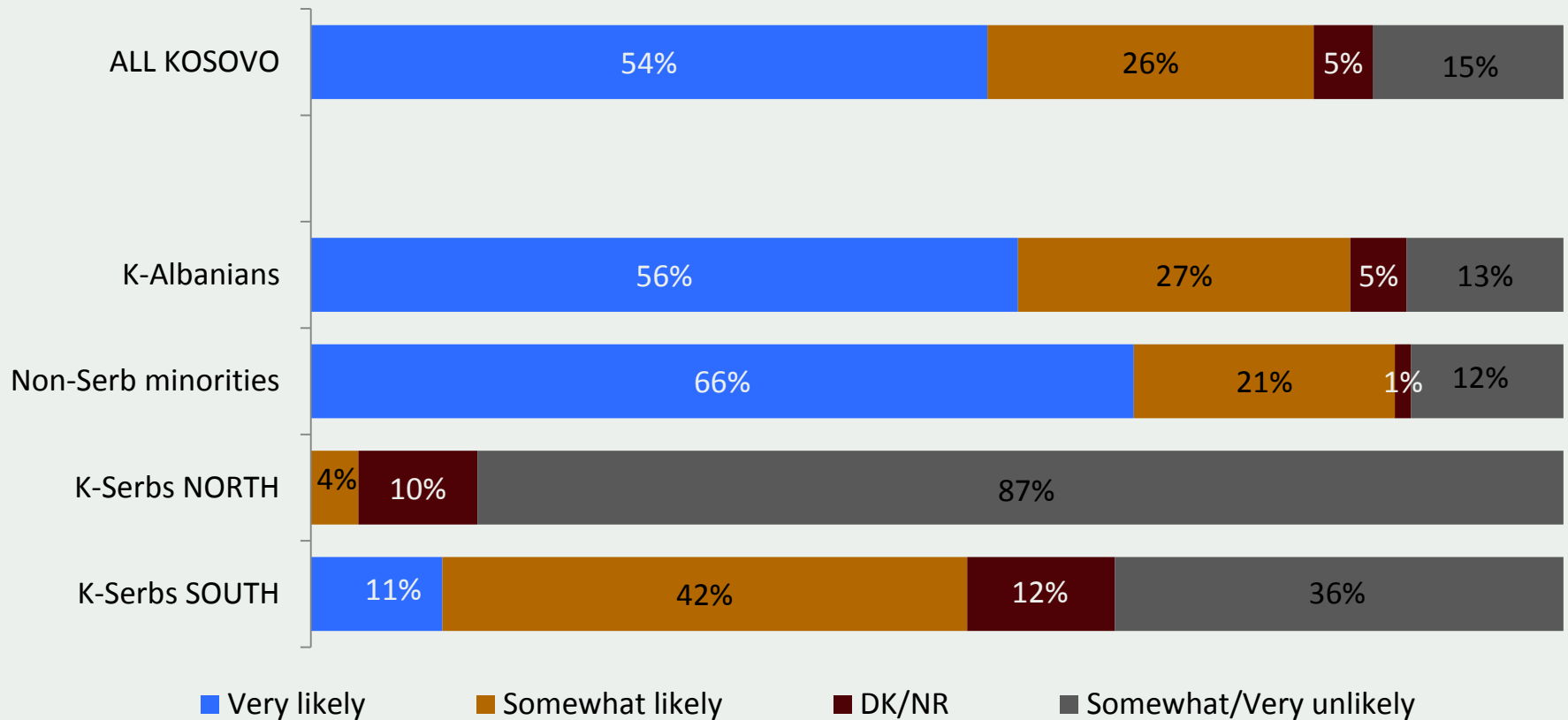
Likelihood to Vote in Next Kosovo Local Elections





Likelihood to Vote in Local and Mayoral Elections in Kosovo

Likelihood to Vote in Next Kosovo Mayoral Elections

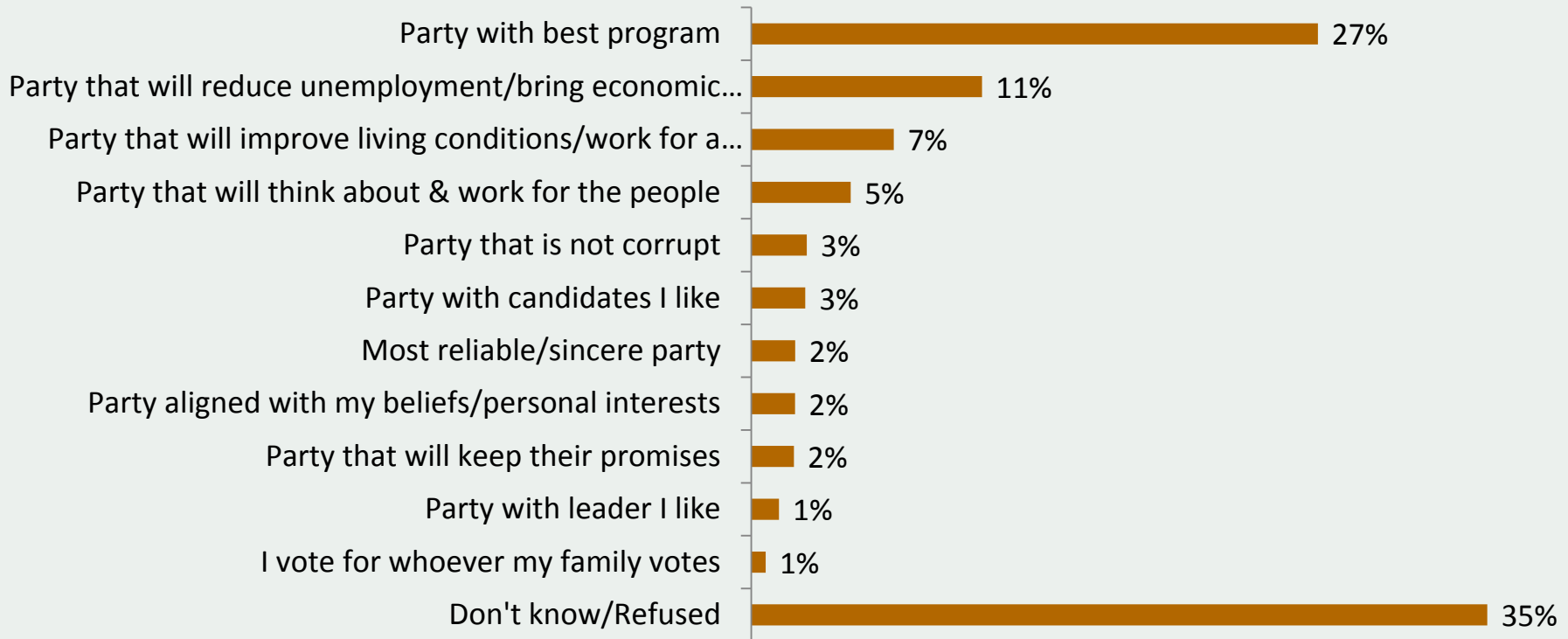




Considerations in Party Support

- One-third of respondents could not explain how they choose a party to support (35%), yet 27% of respondents vote for parties based on their programs, 11% vote for parties that will reduce unemployment and bring economic development and 7% vote for parties that will improve living conditions.

“When you consider political parties to support, what is your main consideration when deciding which party best represents your views?”

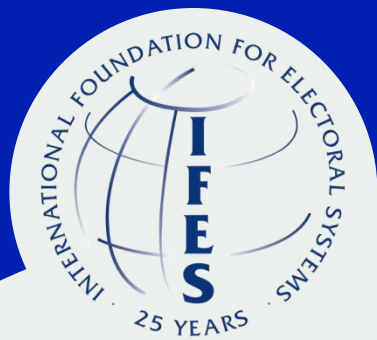




Priorities for Elected Officials to Address

- Creating jobs, fighting poverty and fighting corruption are important issues citizens would like elected officials to tackle, across ethnic groups. However, K-Serbs mention reinforcing national security as a concern in higher percentages than K-Albanians and non-Serb minorities (20%, 7% and 7%, respectively).

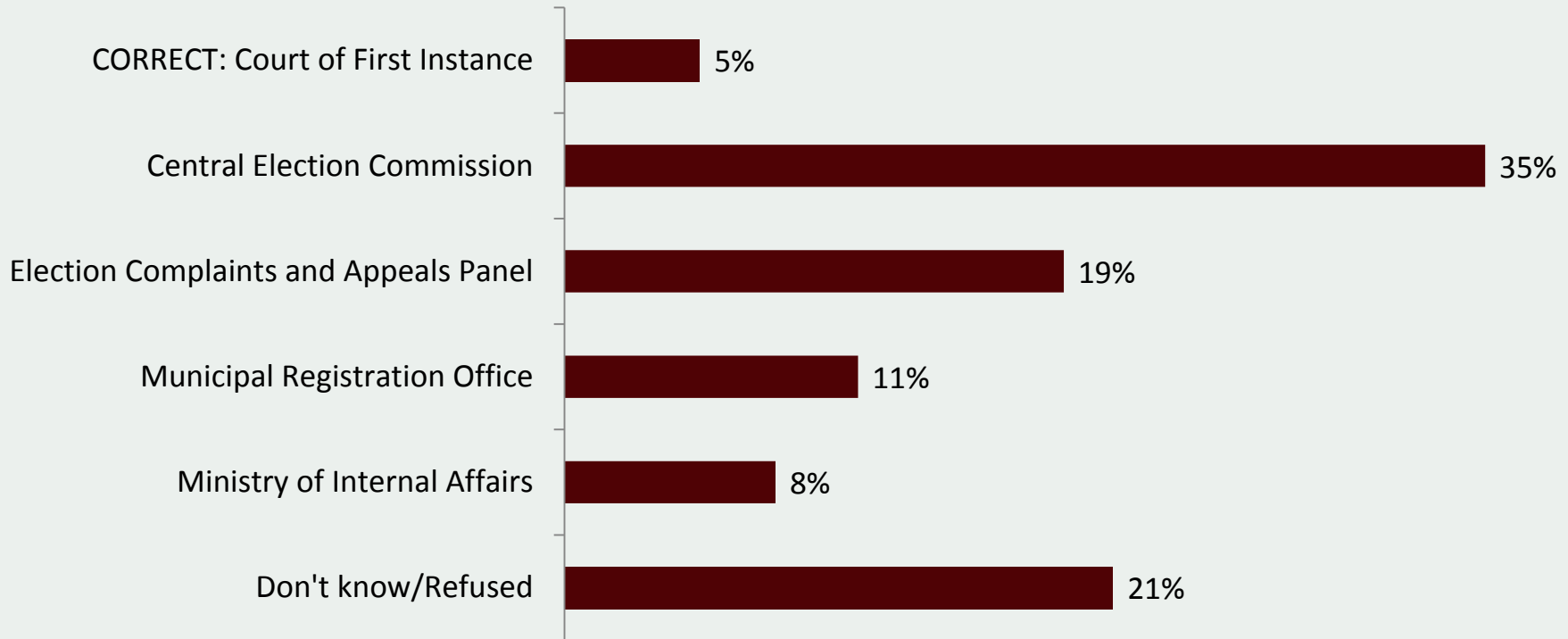
“Which of these issues should elected officials be prioritizing once in office?” (K-Albanians)	% of cases	“Which of these issues should elected officials be prioritizing once in office?” (K-Serbs)	% of cases	“Which of these issues should elected officials be prioritizing once in office?” (Non-Serb Minorities)	% of cases
Creating jobs	93%	Creating jobs	89%	Creating jobs	97%
Fighting corruption	78%	Fighting poverty	63%	Fighting poverty	69%
Fighting poverty	66%	Fighting corruption	57%	Fighting corruption	49%
Improving the economy in general	21%	Reinforcing national security	20%	Improving the economy in general	26%
Improving access to healthcare	15%	Improving the economy in general	19%	Improving access to healthcare	20%



Awareness of Who to Notify of Voter List Inaccuracies

- Only 5% of respondents correctly know to notify the Court of First Instance in the case of voter list inaccuracies.
- 74% of respondents gave incorrect answers and 21% say they don't know.

“If you would want to complain about inaccuracies in the voter list, which of these institutions would you go to?”

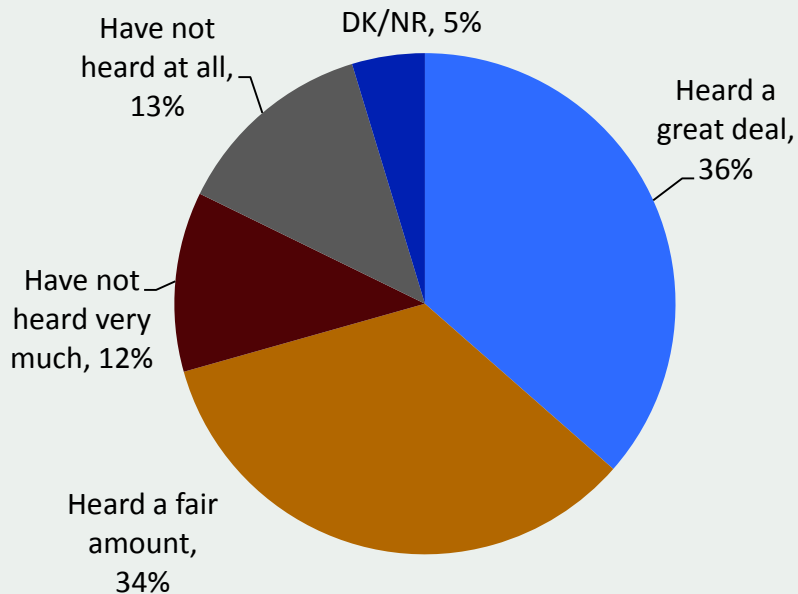




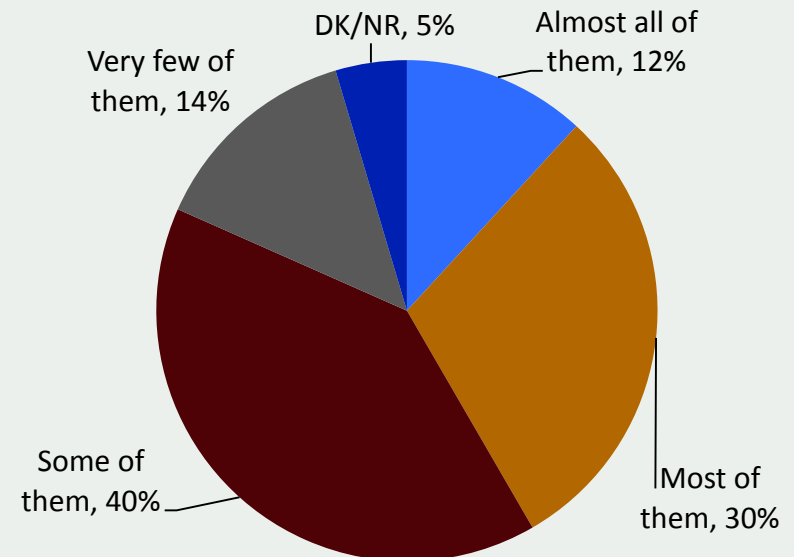
Awareness of and Opinions on Complaints Filed about Voting Irregularities in 2010 Election

- A majority of citizens (70%) have heard about complaints that were filed about irregularities during the 2010 National Assembly Elections.
- More respondents view some of them or very few of them as valid (54%) than those who view all or most of them as valid (42%).

**“How much have you heard about complaints that have been filed about irregularities in voting during the 2010 Assembly Election?”
(National Level Data)**



**“In your opinion, what portion of these complaints are valid about irregularities?”
(National Level Data)**

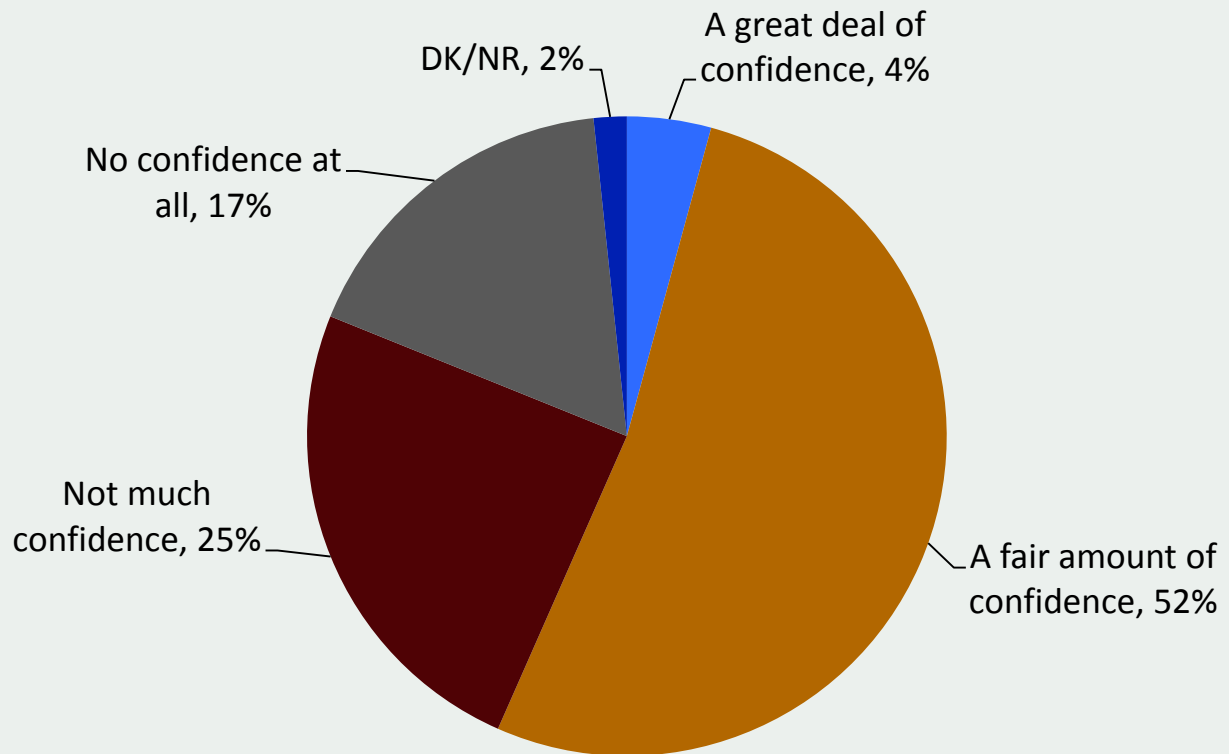




Confidence in Authorities Handling Complaints

- 56% of respondents have confidence in the electoral authorities to handle electoral complaints, but 42% do not have confidence in them.

**“How much confidence do you have that the electoral authorities will handle these complaints in a fair and timely manner?”
(National Level Data)**

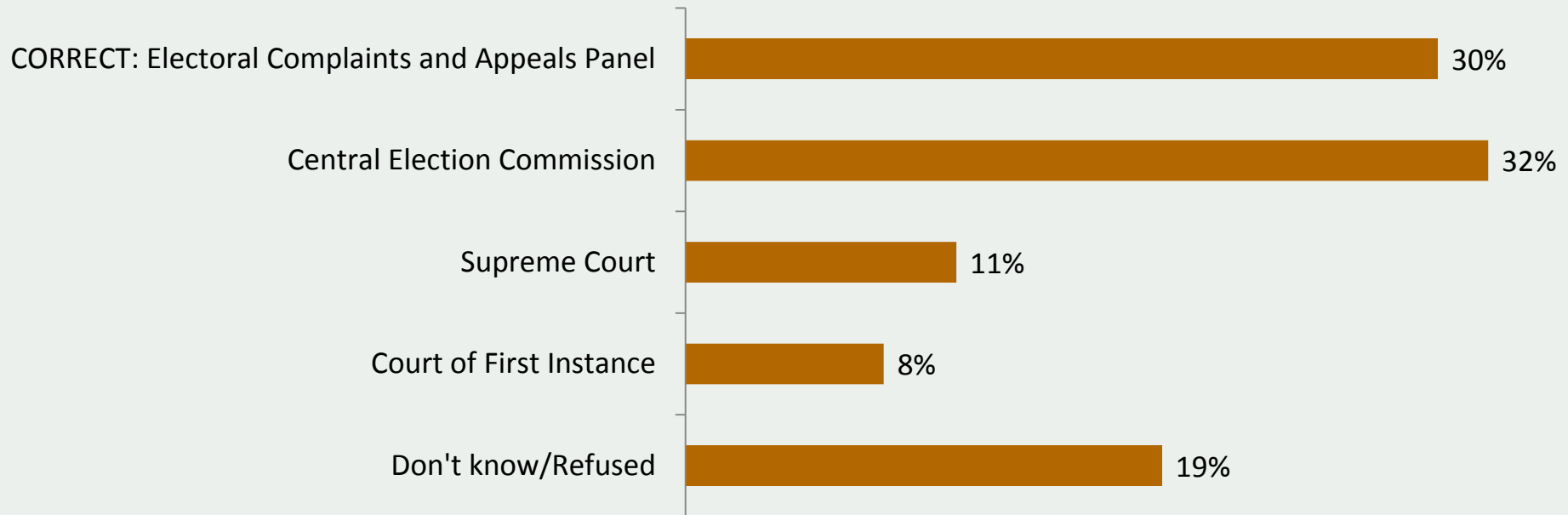




Knowledge of Which Institution to File Complaints

- Awareness is low in terms of which institution should receive complaints of incorrect polling procedures. Only 30% of respondents correctly identified the Electoral Complaints and Appeals Panel as the correct institution to turn to if they saw incorrectly implemented polling station procedures.
- 32% incorrectly believe they should turn to the CEC and 19% say they do not know.

“If you see the procedures in the polling station are not being correctly implemented, which institution would you turn to?”

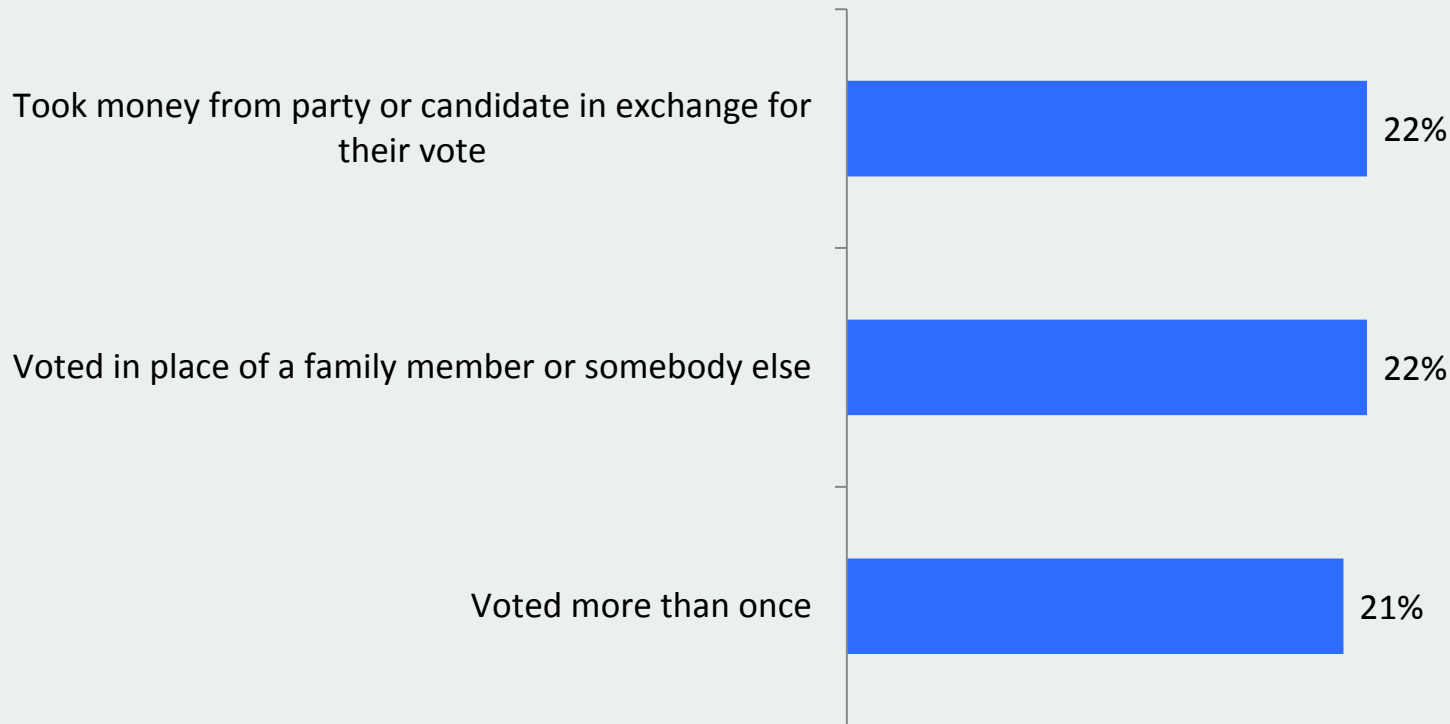




Awareness of Voter Fraud

- 2 in 10 respondents say they have heard about somebody in their neighborhood or community undertaking a form of voter fraud.

Percent who say yes, they have heard of this happening in their community

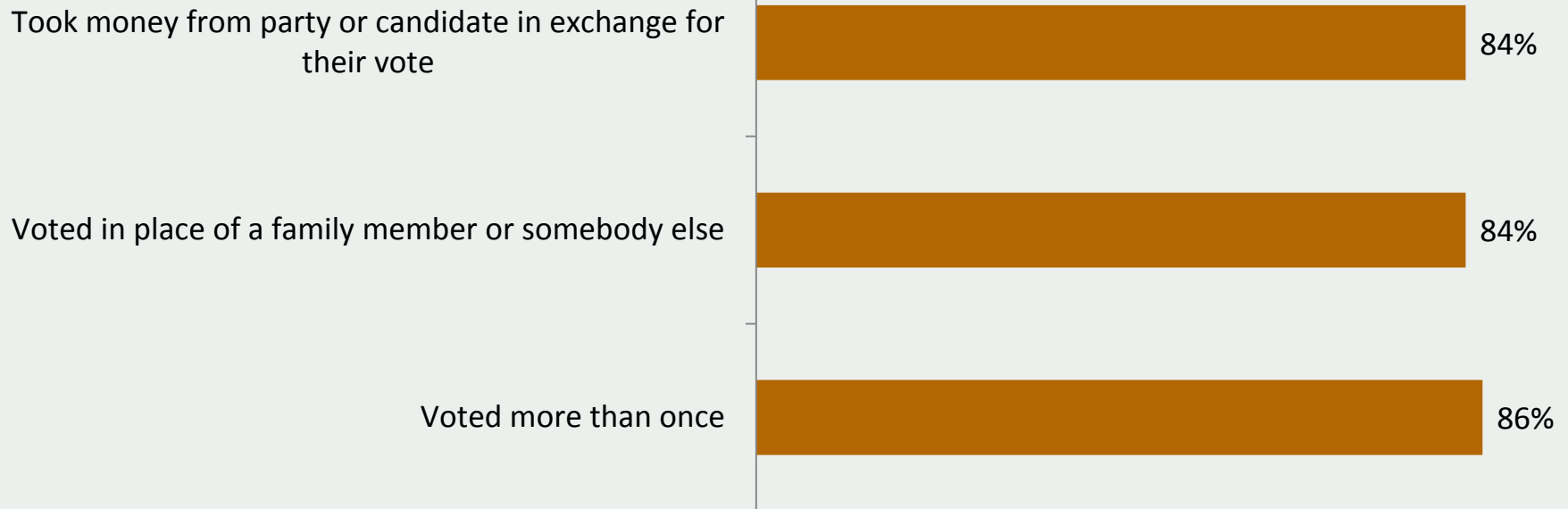




Opinions on Penalties Deserved for Voter Fraud

- Majorities of respondents believe people should be penalized if they participate in these types of voter fraud.
- Common penalties they believe people should receive include losing their privilege to vote (42%), imprisonment (37%) and €100 fines (17%).

Percent who say people should be penalized for taking such an action





Public Opinion of Democracy Issues in Kosovo

Findings from an IFES August 2012 Survey



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