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PRESS RELEASE

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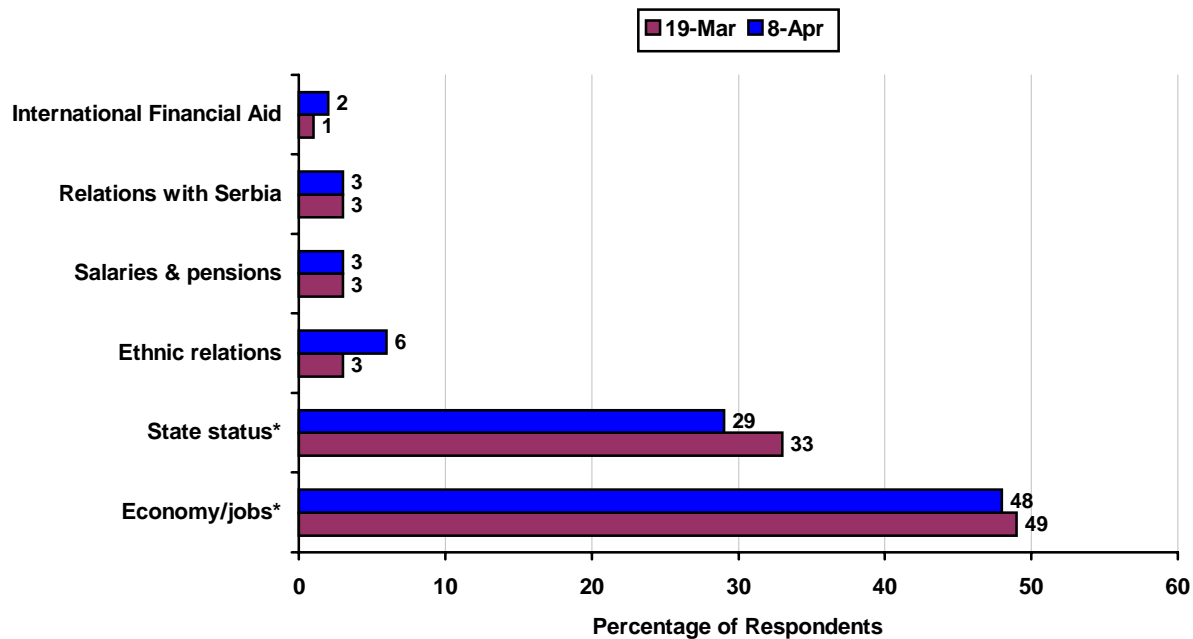
April 12, 2001

***ECONOMY REMAINS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE
FOR MONTENEGRO'S VOTERS***

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) today released the key findings of its first tracking survey, following up on its initial poll of early March. The tracking poll found that economic issues continue to top voters' interests, with the largest percentage saying that anti-corruption laws are the most important economic reform needed in Montenegro.

The poll found that economic issues remain the top concern of respondents by a sizeable and slightly widening margin over the second most important issue of Montenegro's state status.

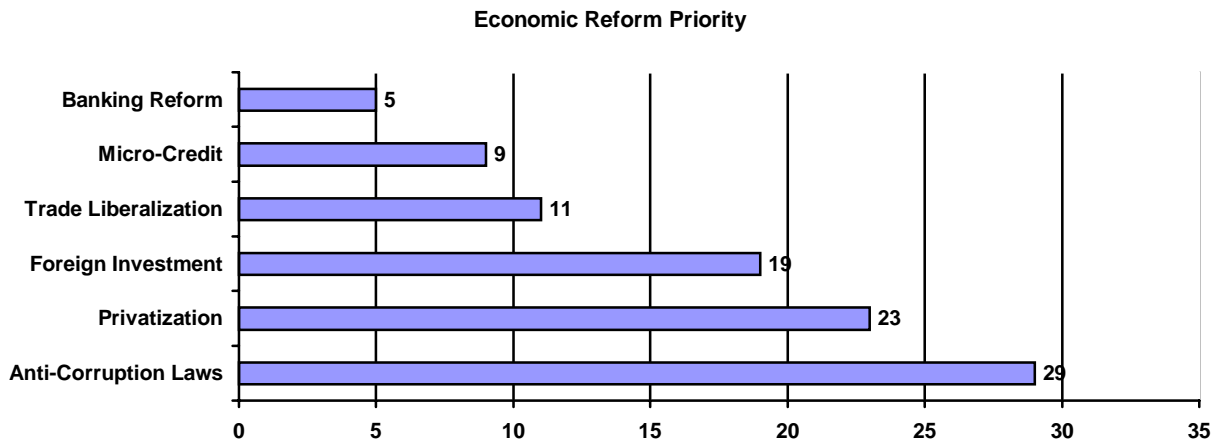
Most Important Issues



* Economy/jobs includes the categories of economy, industrial development and unemployment.

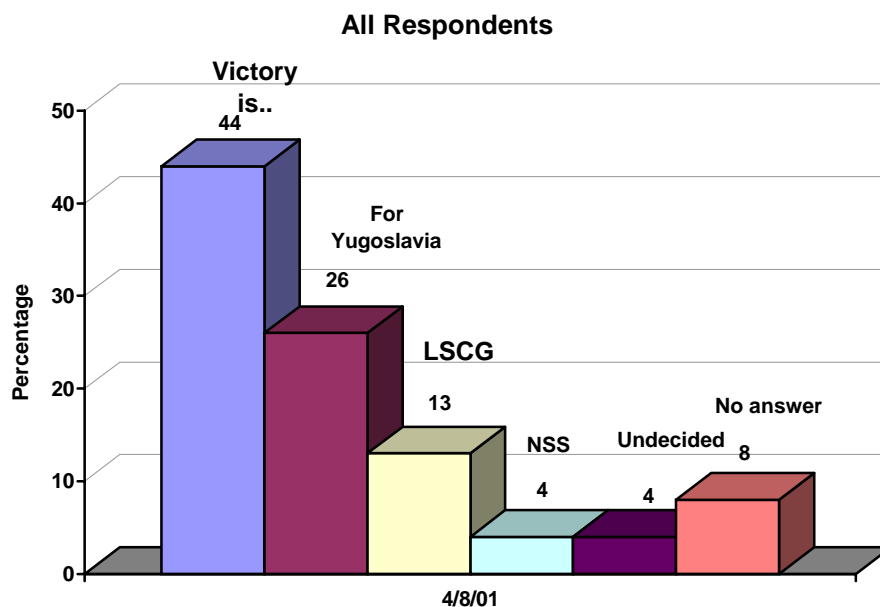
* State status includes independence/sovereignty of Montenegro, and Montenegro remaining within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The tracking poll also asked respondents to identify which are the most important economic issues facing Montenegro and the largest group (30 percent) said that it is unemployment. When asked to consider what reforms are most critical to the creation of a market economy in Montenegro, anti-corruption laws received 29 percent of responses, followed by privatization at 23 percent.



The poll also asked respondents about their intentions for the April 22 elections. Ninety-three (93) percent of respondents said they plan to vote. If the elections had been held in early April, 43.6 percent would have voted for “Victory is Montenegro’s, Democratic Coalition Milo Djukanovic,” comprised of the governing Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and Social Democratic Party (SDP). Twenty-six (26.4) percent would have voted for the “Together for Yugoslavia” coalition, comprised of the Socialist People’s Party (SNP), the People’s Party (NS), and the Serb People’s Party (SNS).

These numbers represent a slight drop for the parties making up the “Victory” coalition and a slight rise for the “Together” coalition from mid-March. The pro-independence Liberal Alliance is favored by 12.6 percent of respondents. The poll results should be viewed as an assessment of current public attitudes in Montenegro and not as a predictor of the outcome of the upcoming elections.



The poll also asked respondents their views on possible referendum questions concerning Montenegro's status. If the referendum asked, "Are you for Montenegro as an independent country/state?" – 58 percent say they would vote yes, and 31 percent say they would vote no, a slight drop in support of independence (4 percentage points) since mid-March. If the question were, "Are you for the union of two internationally recognized states – Serbia and Montenegro – established on the basis of negotiations between Montenegrin and Serbian governments?" – 40 percent say they would vote yes and 37 percent say they would vote no, an effective tie since this difference is within the margin of error.

This tracking poll follows a baseline survey conducted in March and represents the second part of NDI's political research in Montenegro in 2001. The project will continue with additional tracking polls throughout the year. The interviews were conducted in each of Montenegro's 21 municipalities between 1st and 4th April. The polling firm Prism canvassed 1,281 residents face to face. The margin of error on a sample of 1,200 is +/- 3%.

This research is part of a broader NDI program, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to assist the development of a democratic multi-party political system in Montenegro.

For more detailed information regarding the polling results, please visit NDI's web site at www.ndi.org.

NDI is a non-profit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and to promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

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