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NATIONAL  
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INSTITUTE

# KOSOVO

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

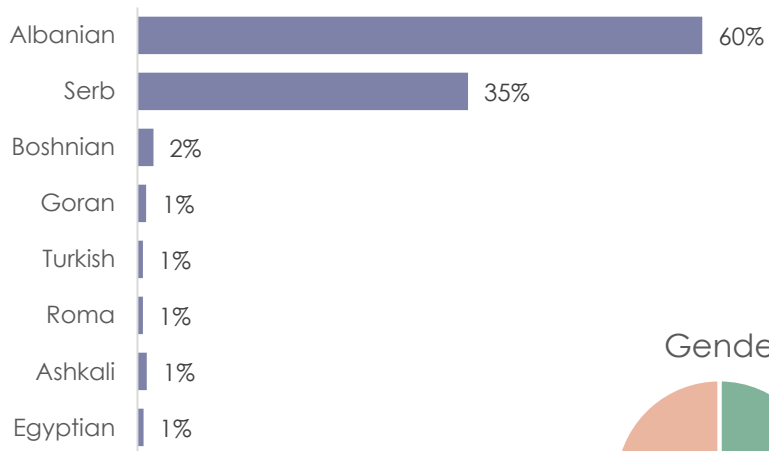
April 2021

# Research Methodology

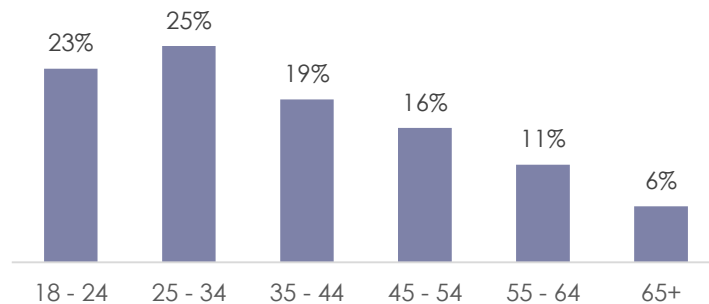
- Data Collection Time Period: 27 April – 06 May 2021
- Quantitative Research face-to-face method within household
- Total Number of Interviews: 1,714 Respondents Aged 18+ Throughout Kosovo
  - Stratified random sample (by region, settlement type, gender, and ethnicity)
  - Random walk technique, using every third house on the left side of the street
  - Random selection of respondent within HH using next birthday
- Margin of error for the full sample is +/- 2.27% at the 95% confidence level, while findings that pertain to subgroups are subject to a higher margin of error.
- Weights were implemented in order for the final results to reflect the structure of the population, in terms of ethnicity, gender and age-group

# Sample Demographics

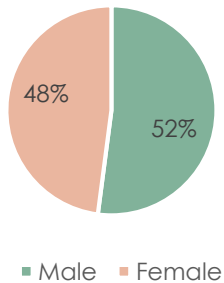
## Ethnicity



## Age Group



## Gender





# Dialogue with Serbia/ Geopolitics

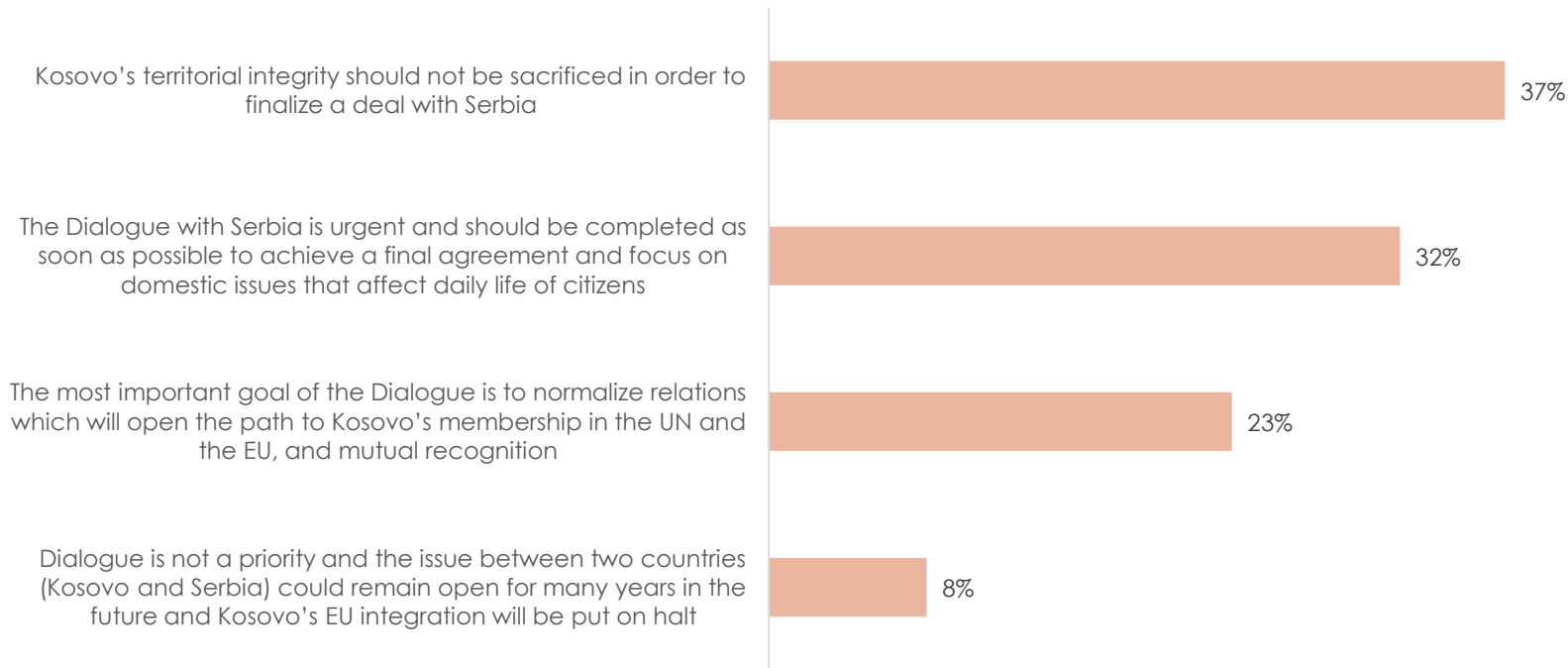
# International Relations

- One third see Dialogue with Serbia as urgent, 37 percent do not wish to sacrifice territorial integrity. Few (eight percent) believe it is not a priority.
- 74 percent of respondents want US and EU guarantees of Kosovo's territorial integrity
- Strong favorable views of the U.S., NATO, and EU are stable
- China, Russia, see declining favorability as compared to 2019. On a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5, they fell from 2.0 and 1.8 to 1.5 and 1.4, respectively.
- In line with historic trends, the Serb community in Kosovo holds near opposite views on international actors as compared to the Albanian community—except on Israel, for which views are comparable, averaging 2.5 on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5.

## One third see Dialogue with Serbia as urgent, 37 percent do not wish to sacrifice territorial integrity

*To what extent you agree with the following statements?*

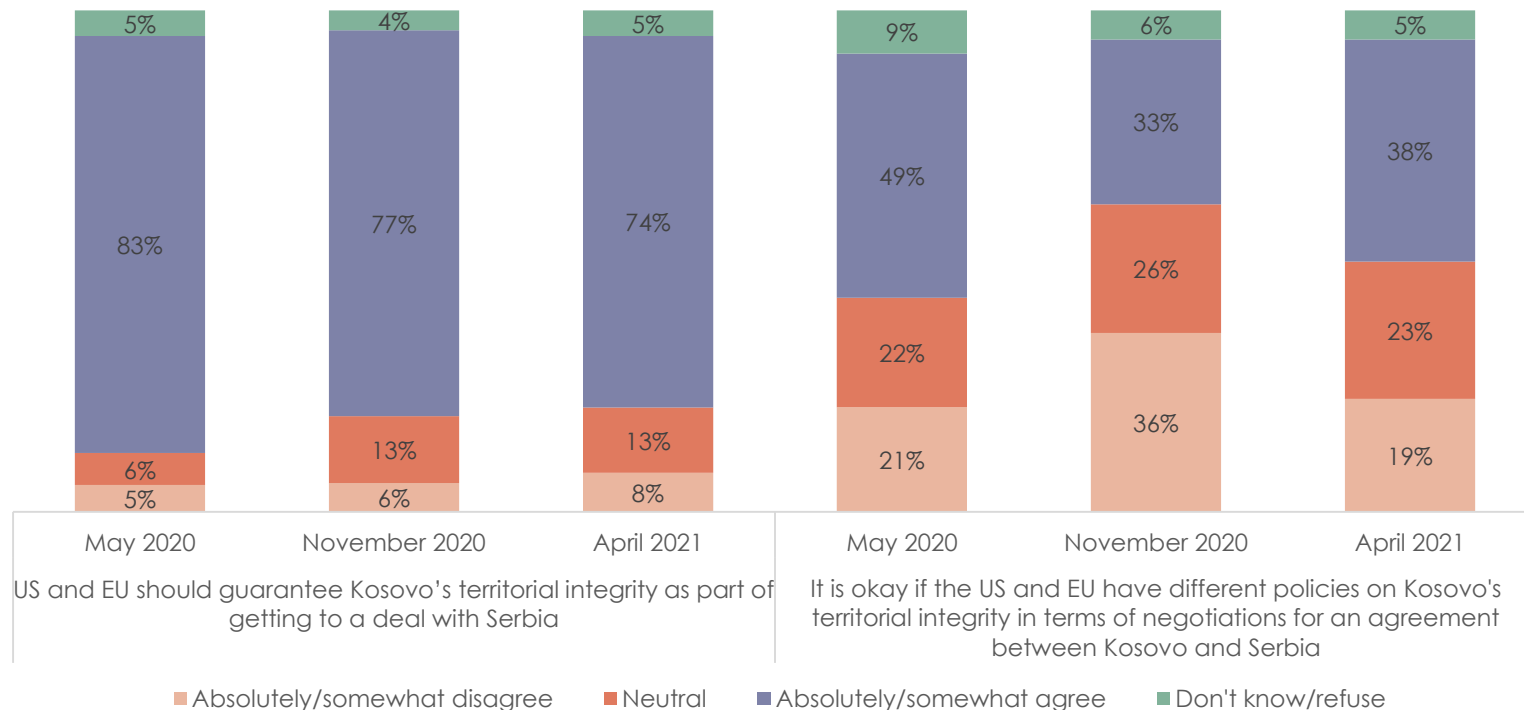
April 2021



## 38 percent believe it is okay if US and EU have different policies on terms of Dialogue

*How much do you agree with the following statements?*

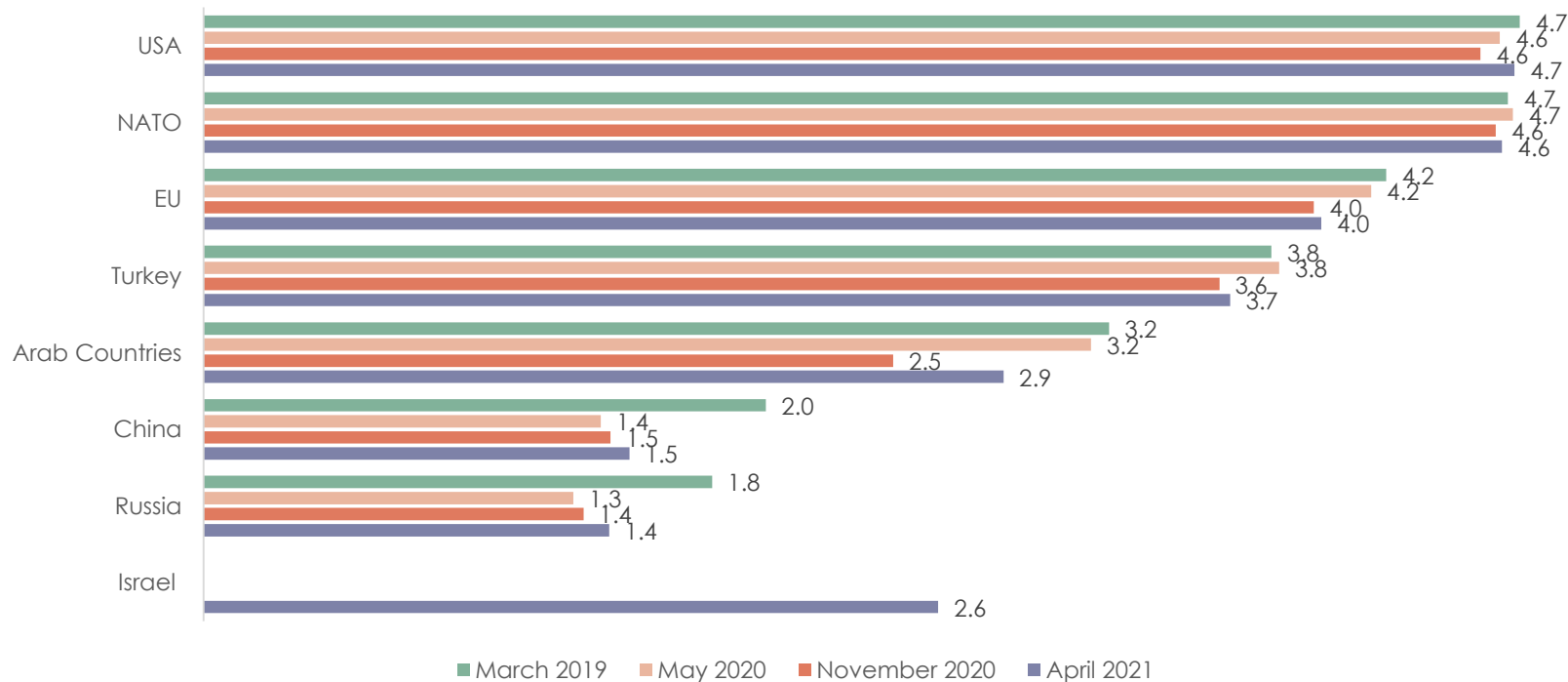
May 2020 to November 2020 to April 2021



## Favorable views of US, NATO, EU are consistent; declining for China and Russia compared to 2019

Observed in general, how would you evaluate your opinion about the following states and international institutions, on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)?

March 2019 to May 2020 to November 2020 to April 2021

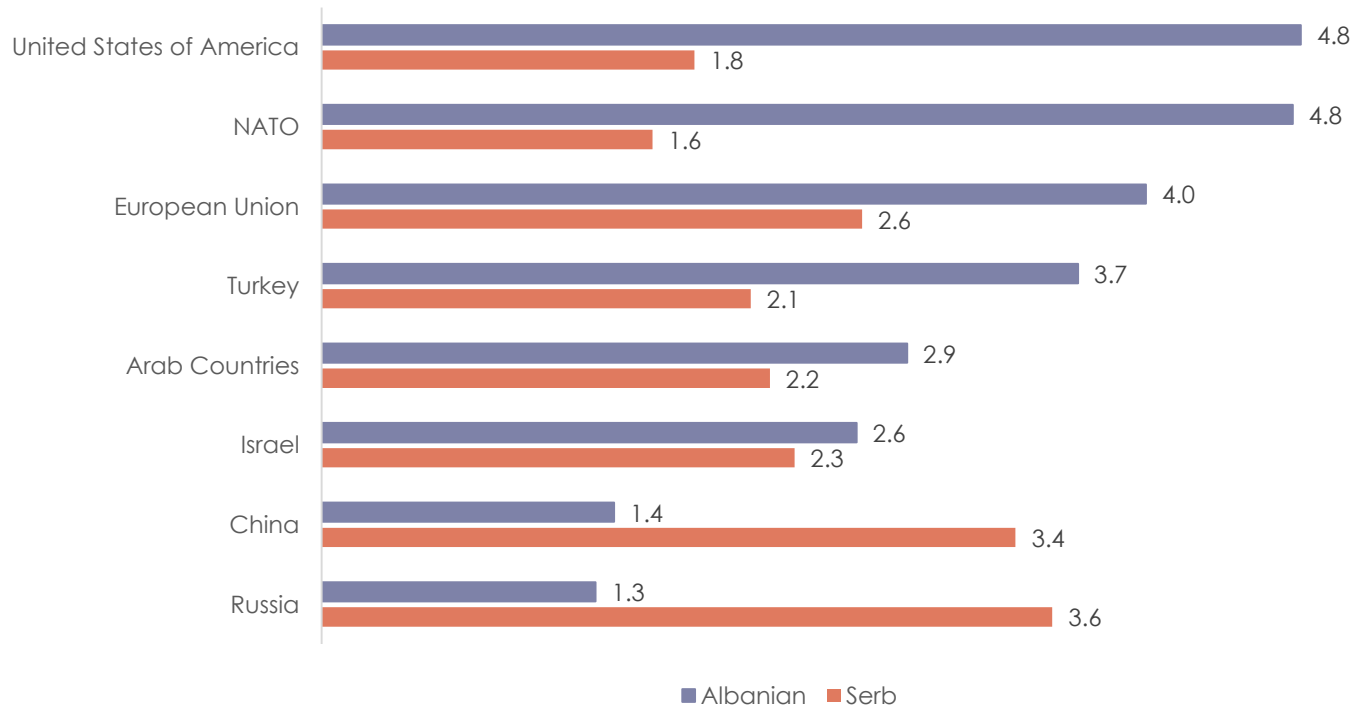




## Higher opinion of US/NATO/EU among Albanian community; China/Russia among Serb community

*Observed in general, how would you evaluate your opinion about the following states and international institutions, on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)?*

By ethnicity





# Top Issues

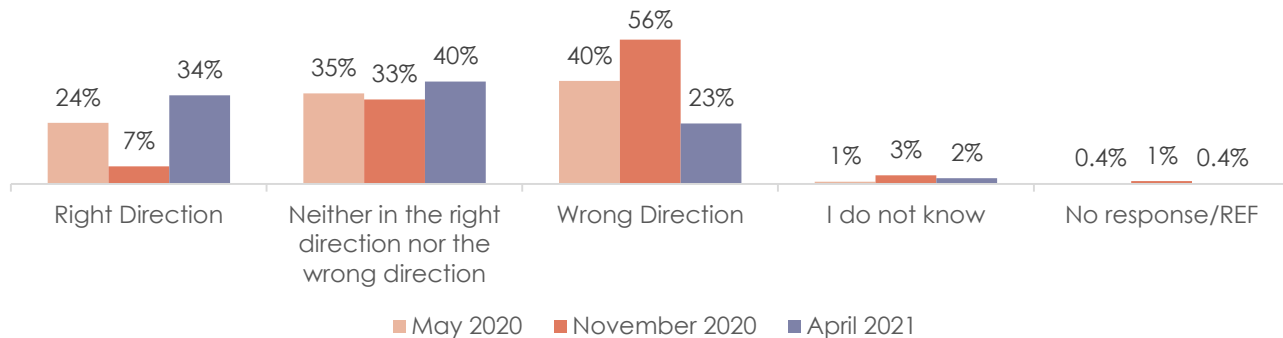
## Top Issues

- An overall rebound in optimism about Kosovo's direction and trust in institutions is apparent, returning to levels comparable to May 2020 after a dip in November 2020
- One-third believes that Kosovo is going in the right direction, a significant jump from 7 percent in November 2020.
- Vaccination and economic recovery from Covid-19 are among respondents' top issues, along with healthcare (quality of primary care and insurance).
- Corruption as a priority issue gained prominence since May 2020, while visa liberalization with the EU has fallen.
- Serb community respondents cite Dialogue with Serbia as the biggest challenge—more than unemployment, inter-ethnic tension, or Covid-19 related concerns
- Transparency, countering nepotism, and seizing assets are seen as key to fighting corruption

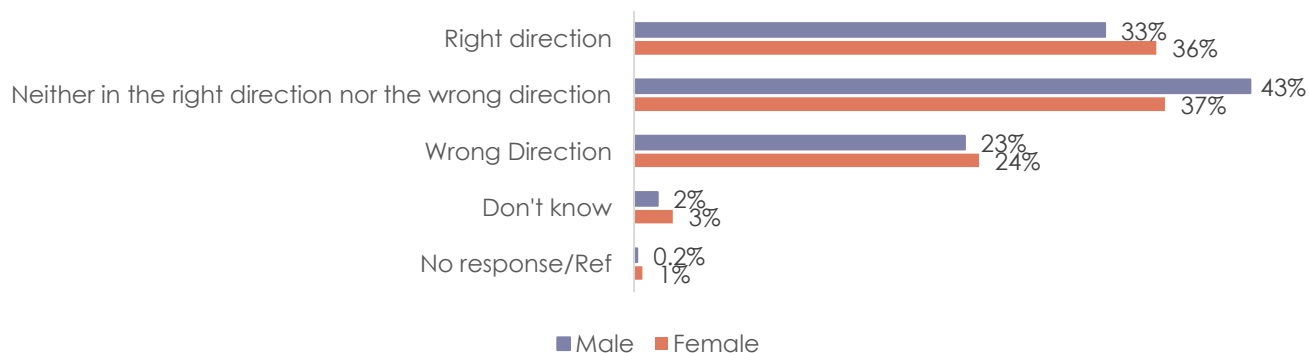
## One-third believe that Kosovo is going in the right direction; more than in 2020

*Generally speaking, do you think Kosovo is going in the right or wrong direction?*

May 2020 to November 2020 to April 2021



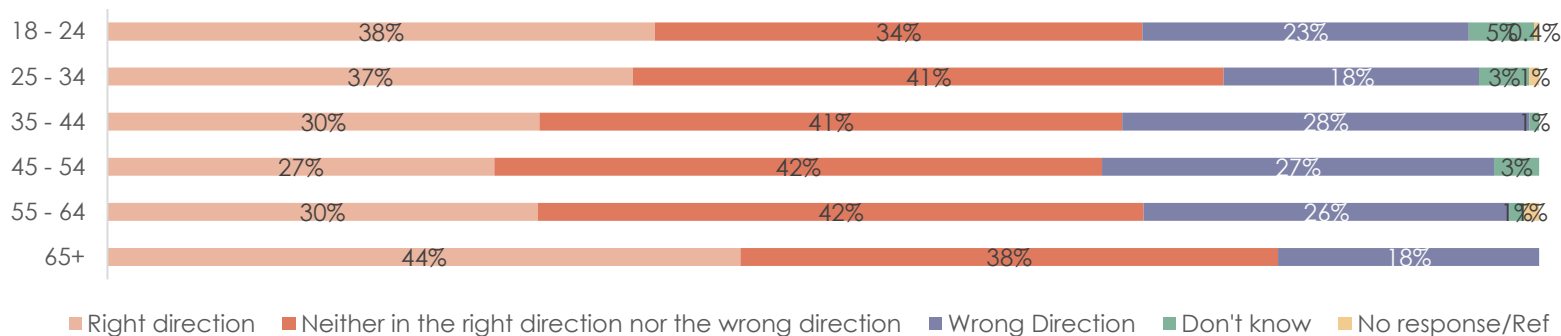
By gender, April 2021



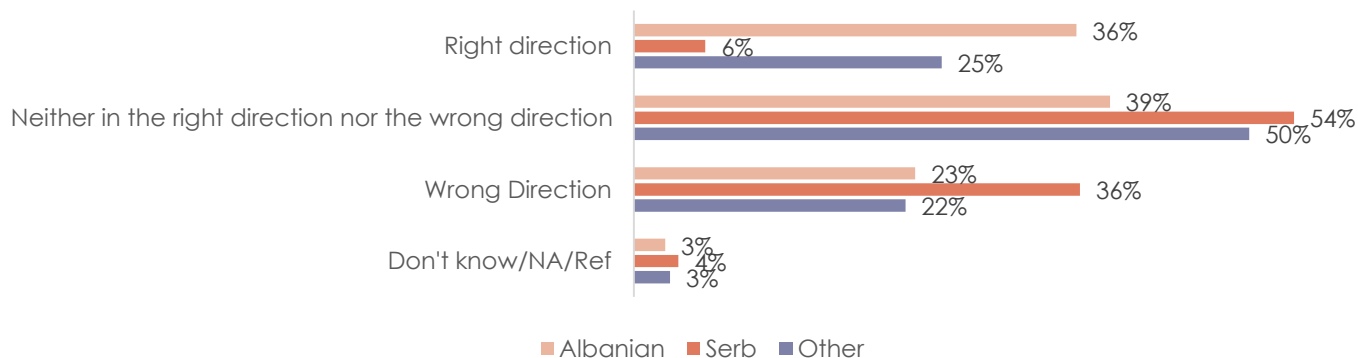
## Older and younger respondents register positive outlook on Kosovo's general direction

Generally speaking, do you think Kosovo is going in the right or wrong direction?

### By age



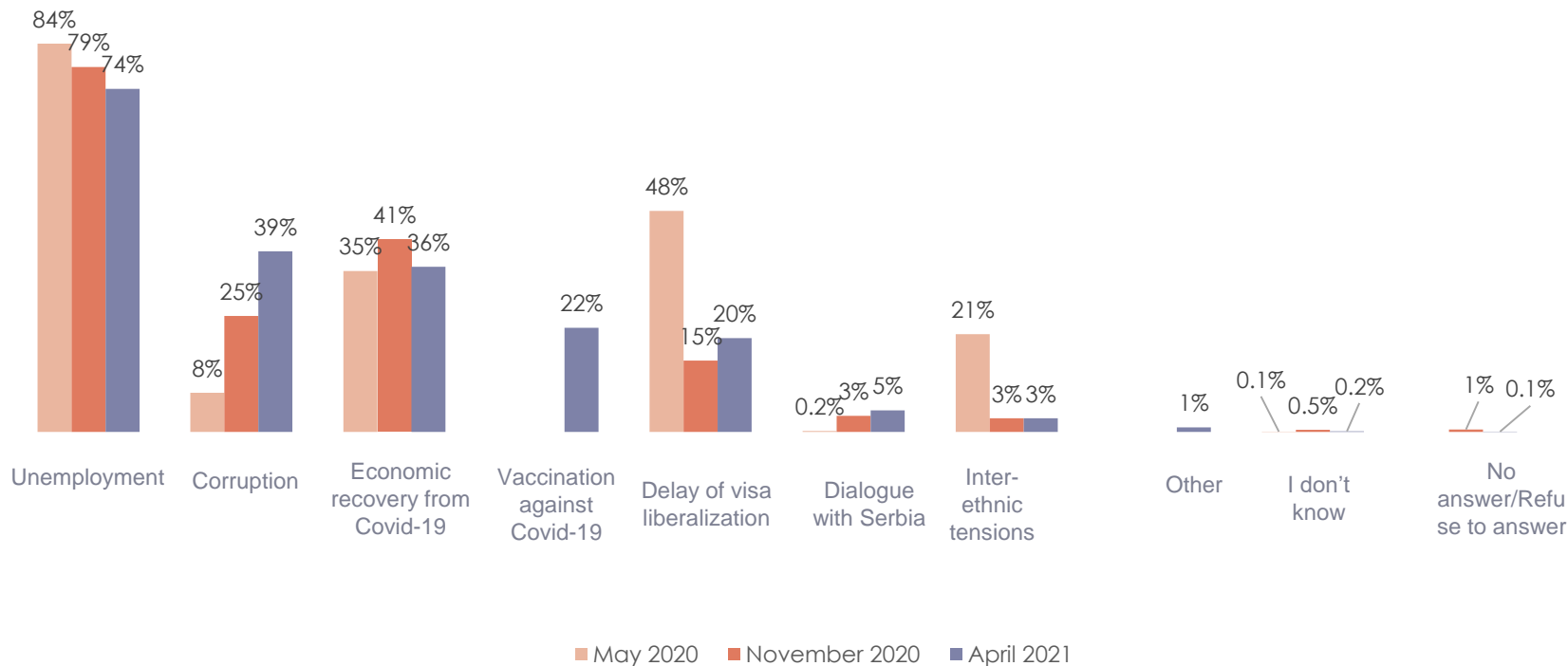
### By ethnicity



## Vaccination and economic recovery from Covid-19 among top issues; corruption increasingly prioritized

*Which of the following issues will be the biggest problem for Kosovo in the near future?*

May 2020 to November 2020 to April 2021

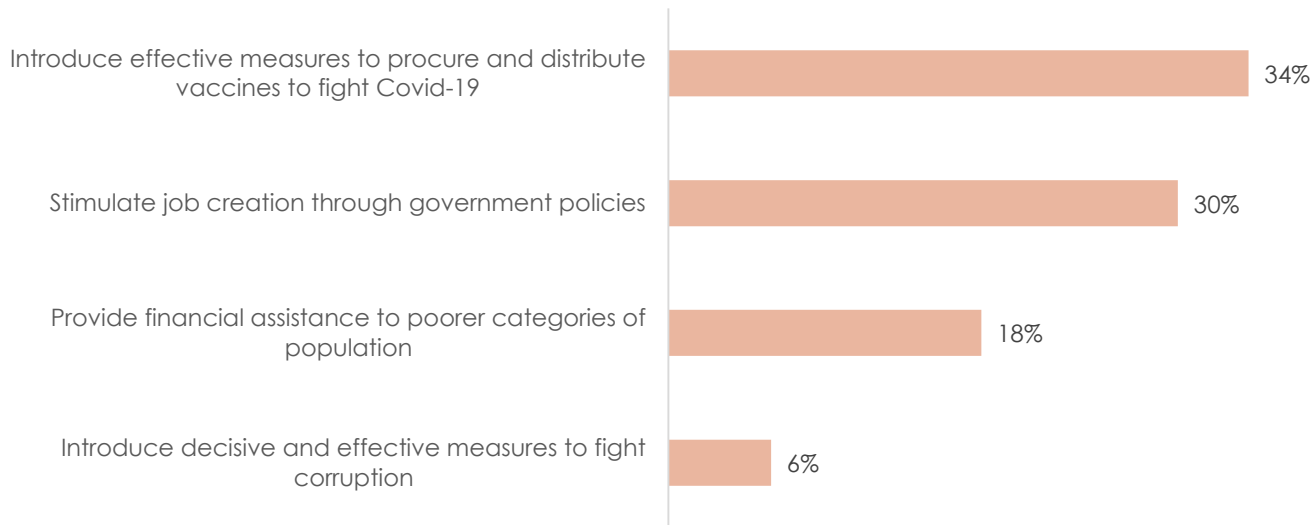


## Covid-19 vaccines and job creation top immediate priorities for government action.

*Looking at the list of issues below, please rank them according to your priority, for the government in the next 6 months*

April 2021

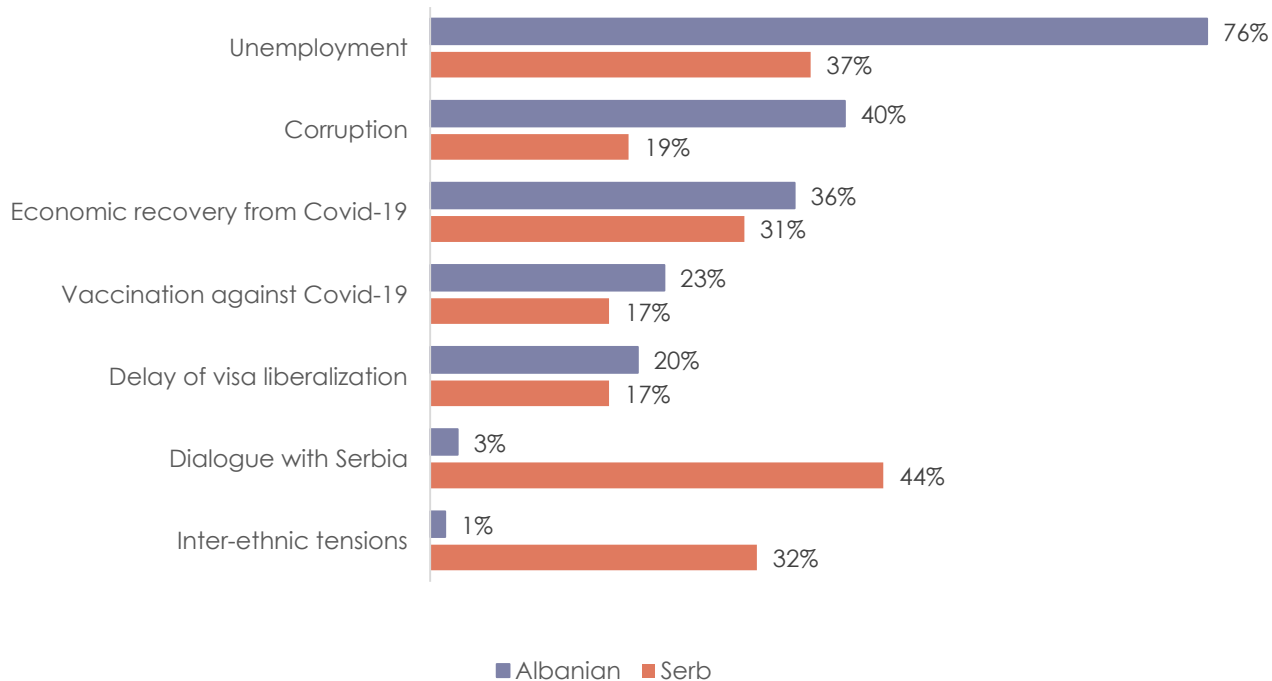
### Top issues ranked as highest priority



## Serb community cites Dialogue with Serbia as Kosovo's biggest upcoming challenge

*Which of the following issues will be the biggest problem for Kosovo in the near future?*

By ethnicity, April 2021

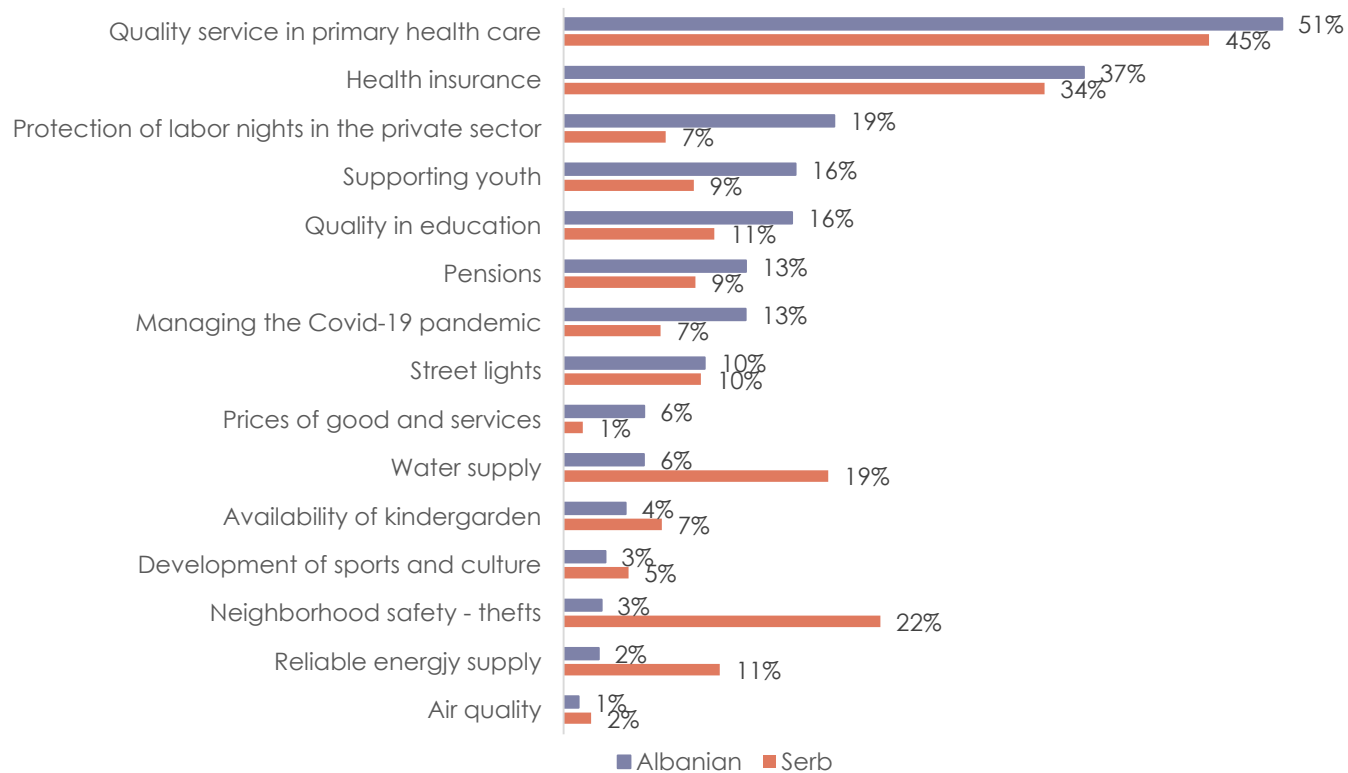




## Neighborhood safety and water supply are also top concerns for Serb community

*Which of these is the most important issue, aside from corruption and unemployment, in deciding your vote in the next election?*

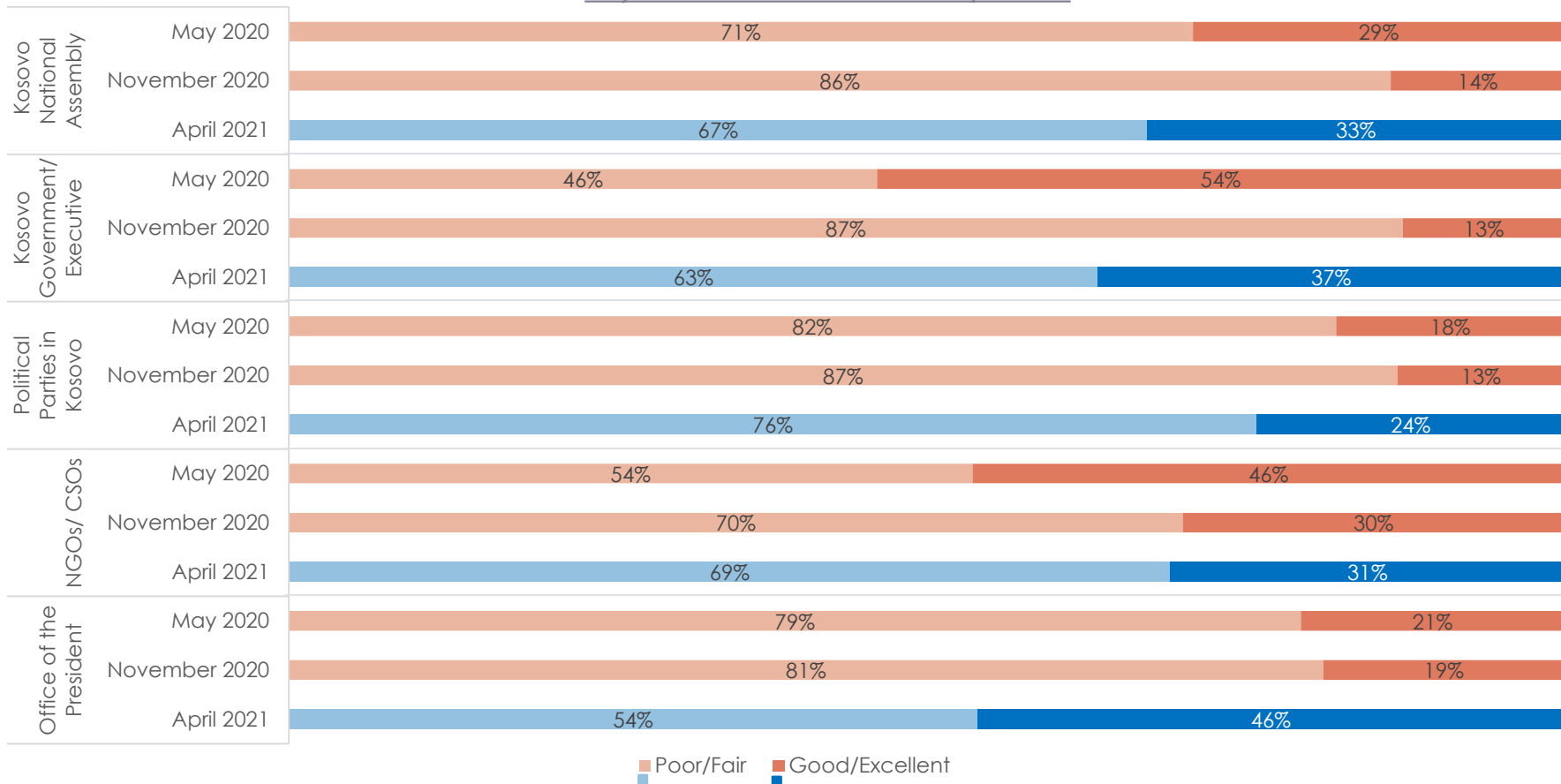
### By ethnicity



# Increased trust in most public institutions compared to 2020

Please tell us the trustworthiness in the following institutions in Kosovo in their public duties, in your opinion?

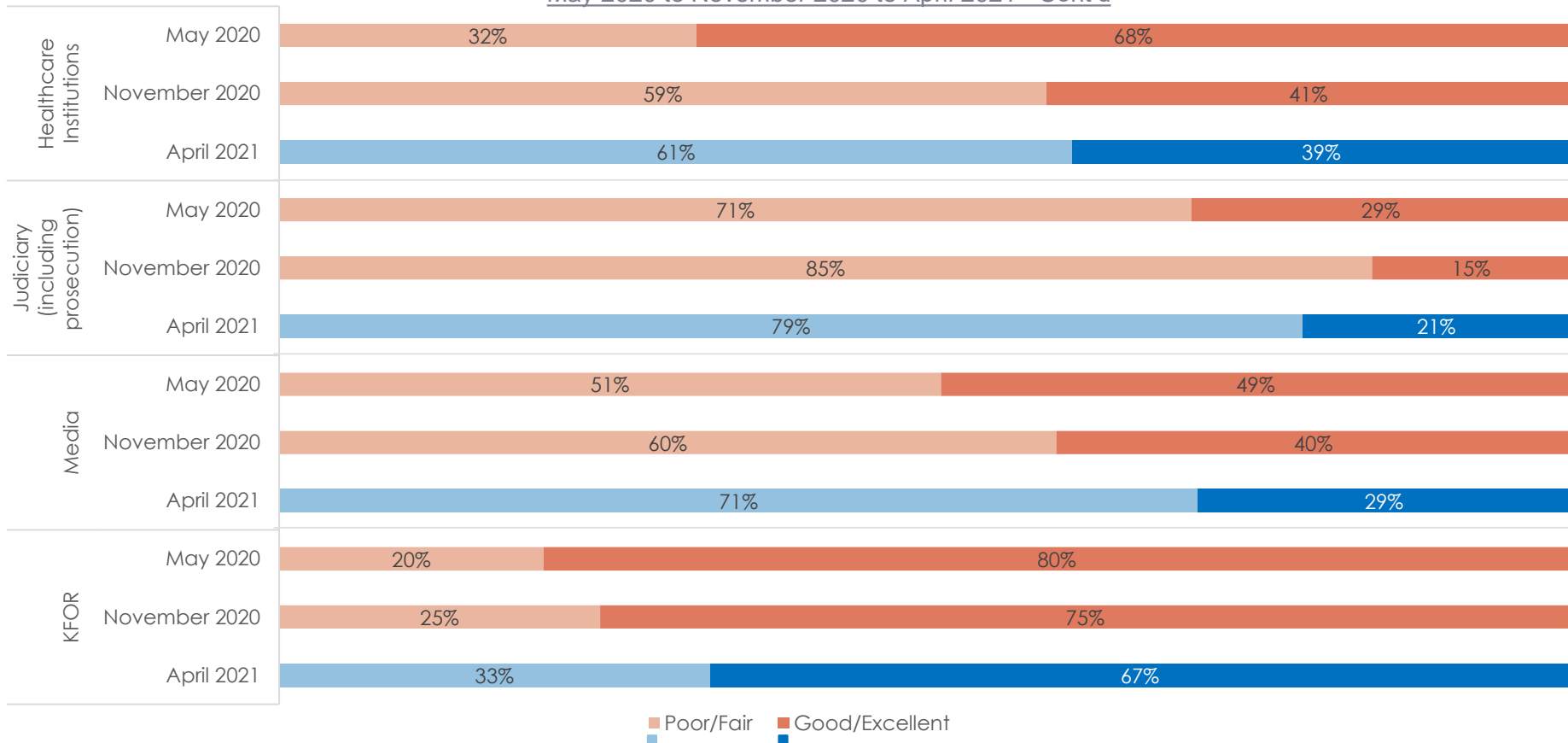
May 2020 to November 2020 to April 2021



# Trust in media declines; trust in healthcare falls compared to beginning of Covid-19 pandemic

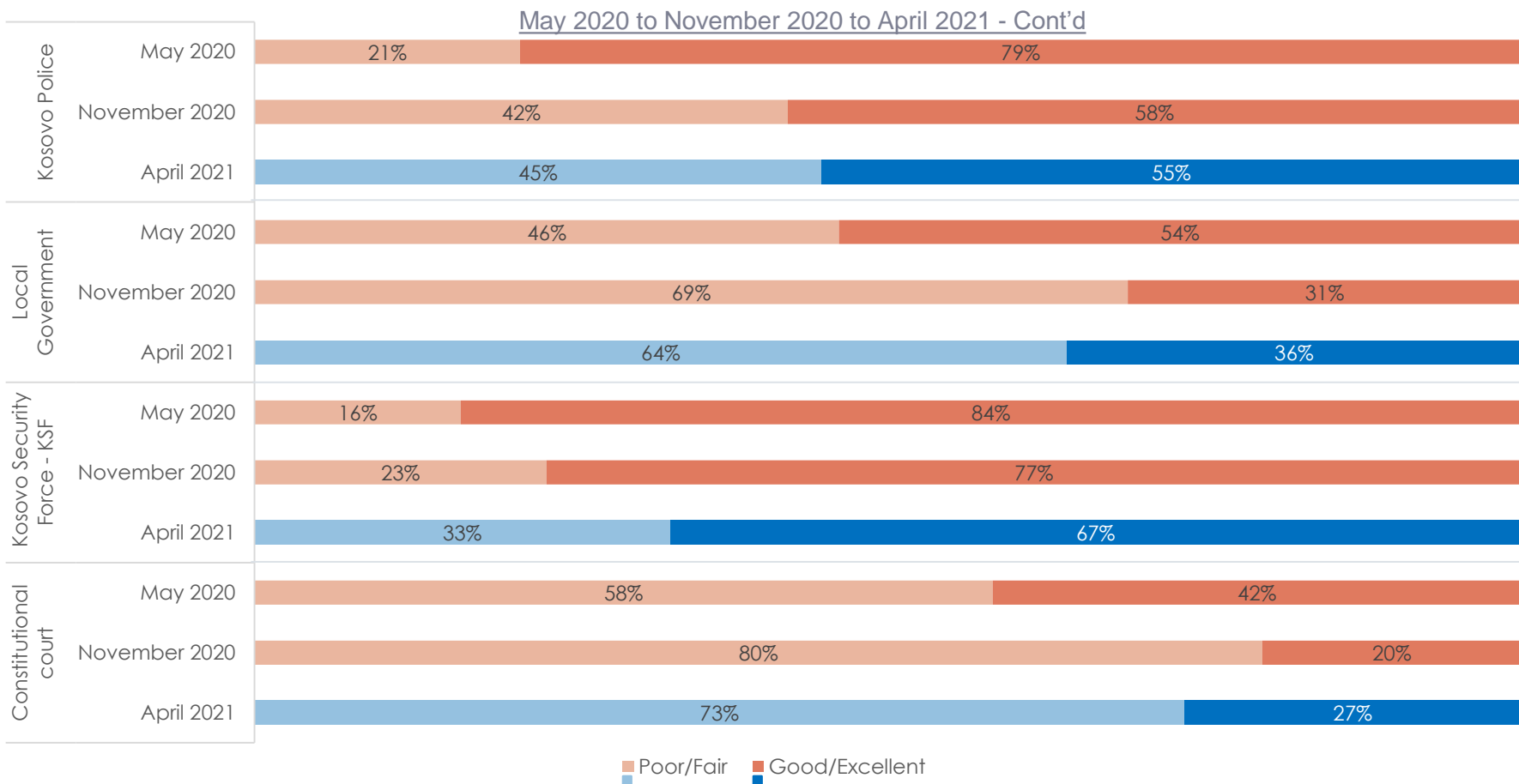
Please tell us the trustworthiness in the following institutions in Kosovo in their public duties, in your opinion?

May 2020 to November 2020 to April 2021 - Cont'd



# Trust in police declines; trust in local government and constitutional court rises from November 2020

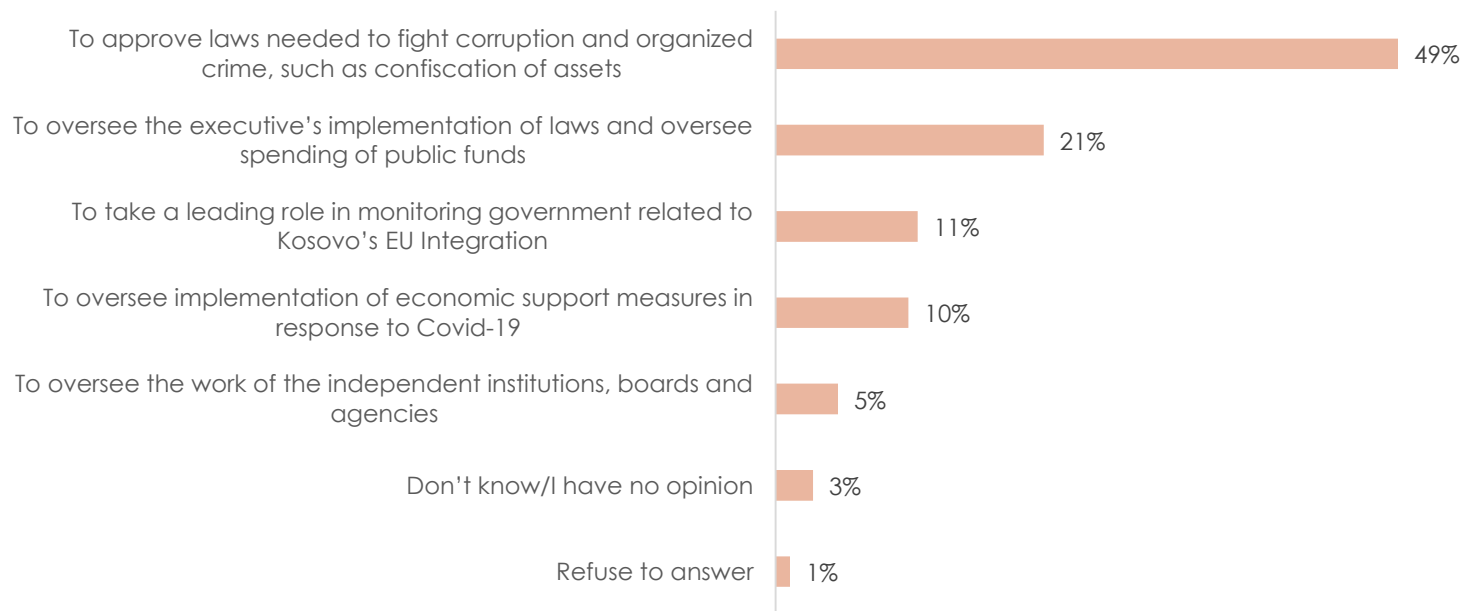
*Please tell us the trustworthiness in the following institutions in Kosovo in their public duties, in your opinion?*



## One-half cite fighting corruption as top legislative priority

*What should be the priority of the Kosovo Assembly?*

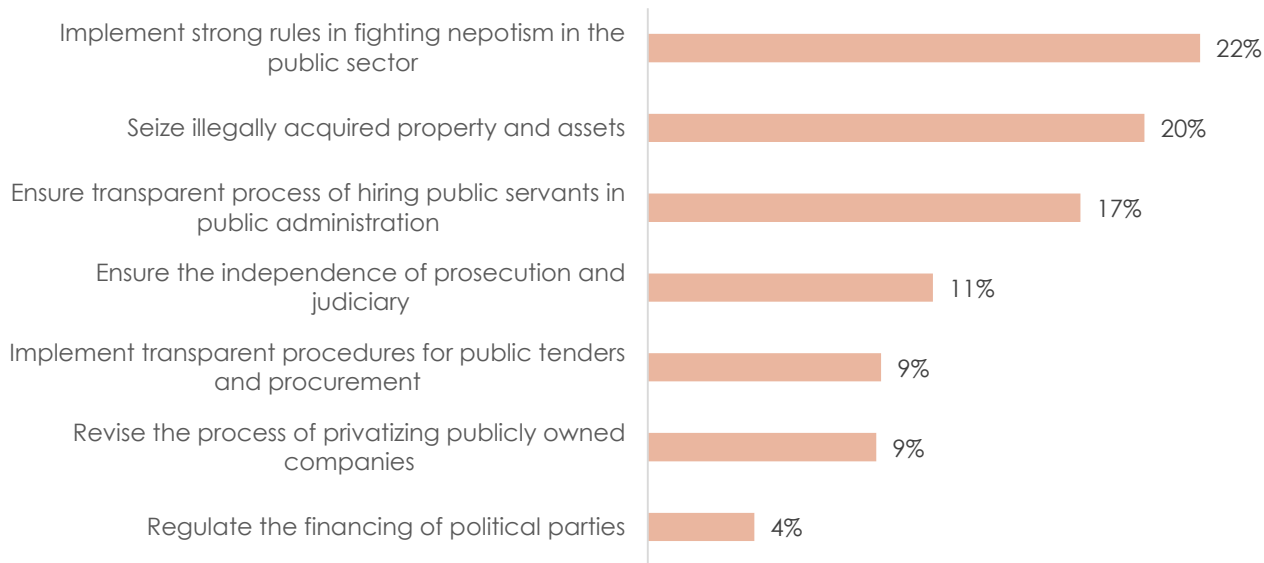
April 2021



## Transparency, countering nepotism, and seizing assets seen as key to fighting corruption

*I am going to read you a series of priorities that are associated with fighting corruption. Please choose the ONE that you think is MOST important for combating corruption.*

April 2021





# Local Government Elections 2021

# Local Government

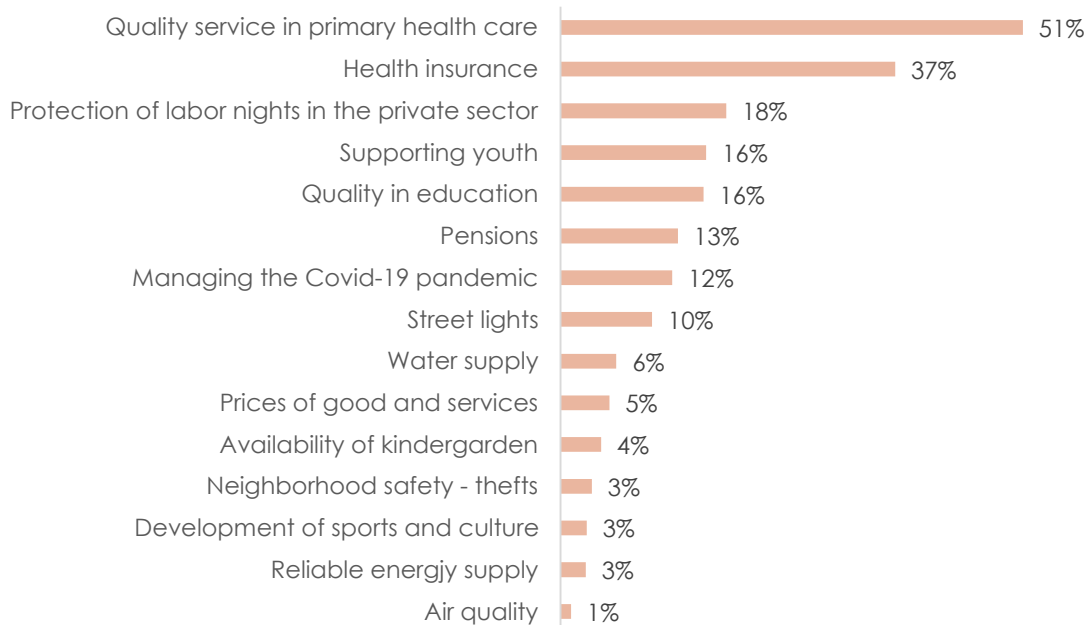
- Local elections are scheduled for October 17
- Two-thirds of respondents are satisfied with work of their mayor, although there is less than average satisfaction among the Serb community
- 40 percent note educational achievement as top attribute for mayoral candidates
- 62 percent plan to vote for same party in municipal assembly elections as in the last local election, and 65 percent plan to vote for same party in municipal assembly and for mayor (not splitting their vote)



## Healthcare a top issue for October 17 local elections

*Which of these is the most important issue, aside from corruption and unemployment, in deciding your vote in the next election?*

April 2021

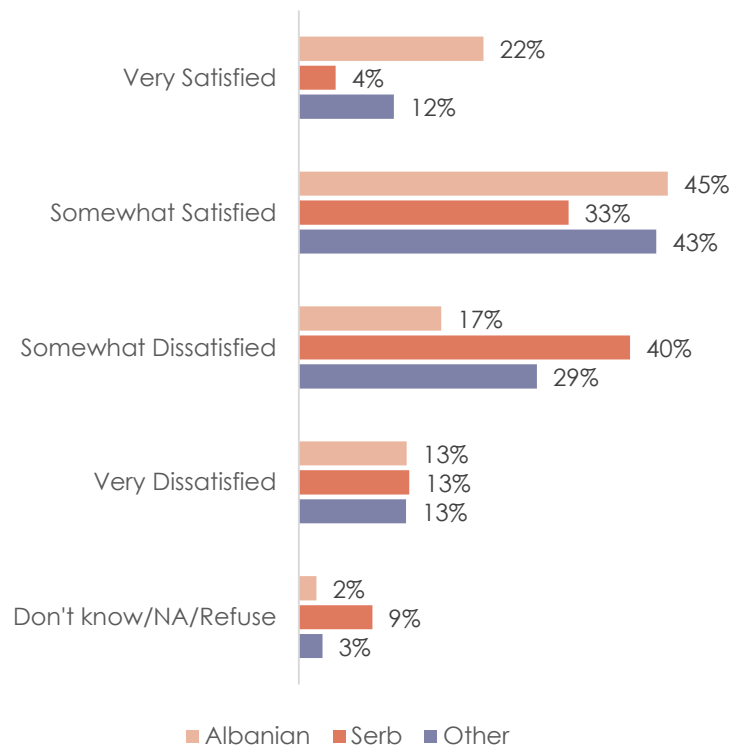
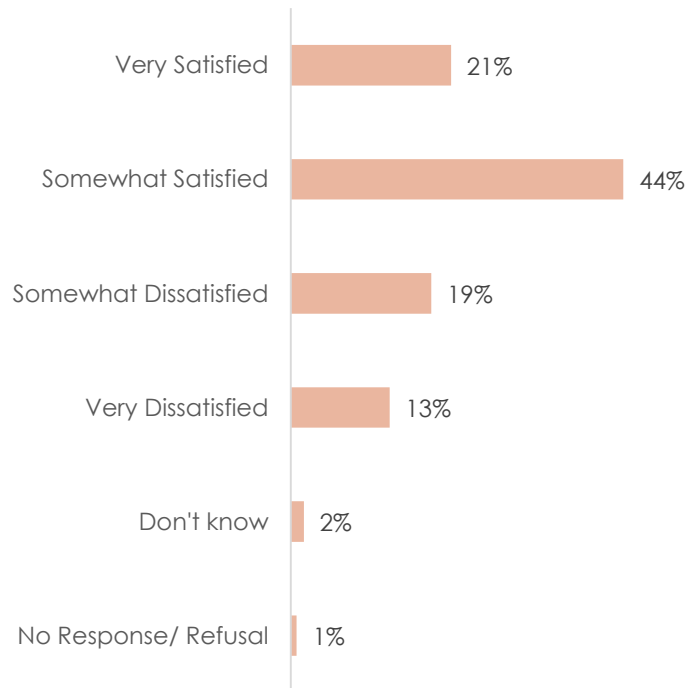


## Two-thirds satisfied with work of municipal mayor; less satisfaction in Serb community

*Are you satisfied with the work of the Mayor of your municipality in the last year?*

April 2021

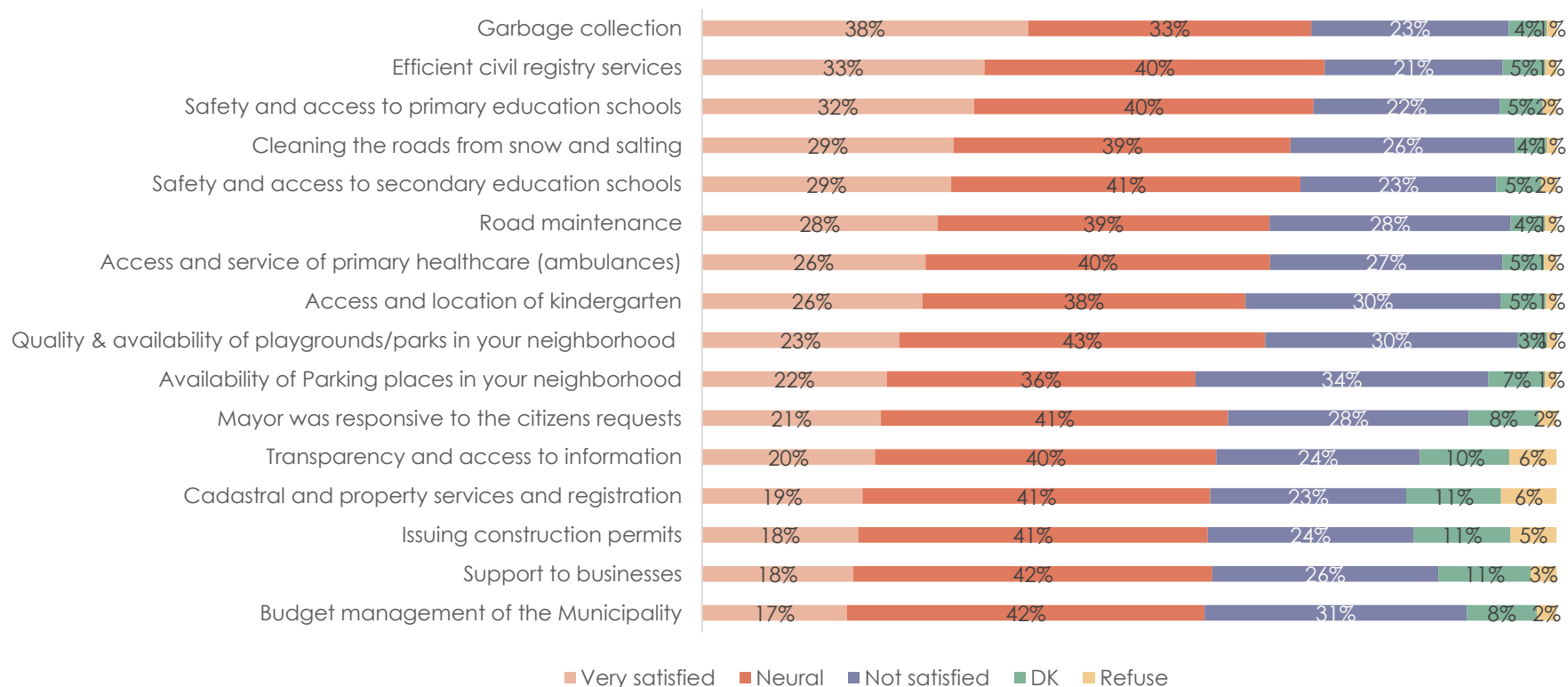
By ethnicity



## Satisfaction with specific local services predominantly neutral

*How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the public services in your municipality?*

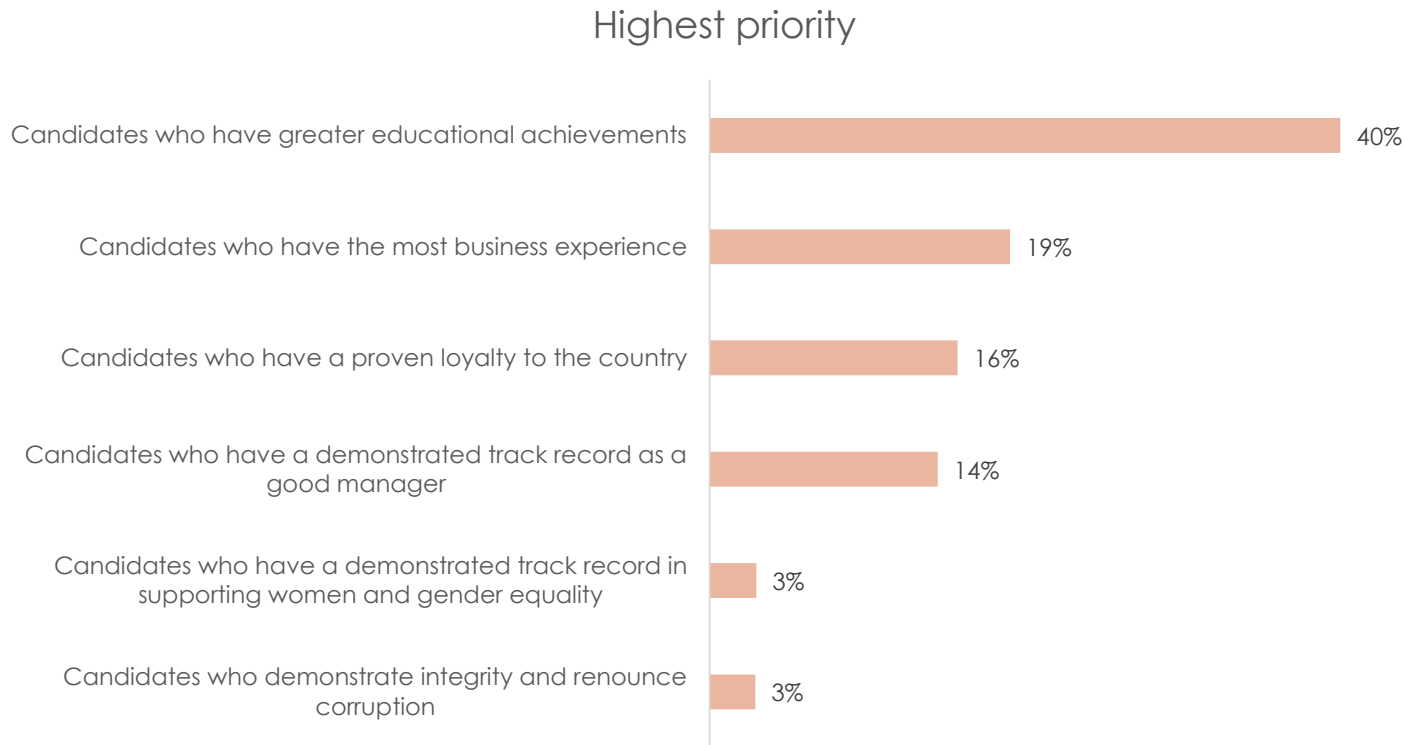
April 2021



## 40 percent note educational achievement as top deciding attribute for mayors

*How important is each of the following attributes for mayoral candidates? Please rank them according to how important they are in deciding your vote in the upcoming local elections*

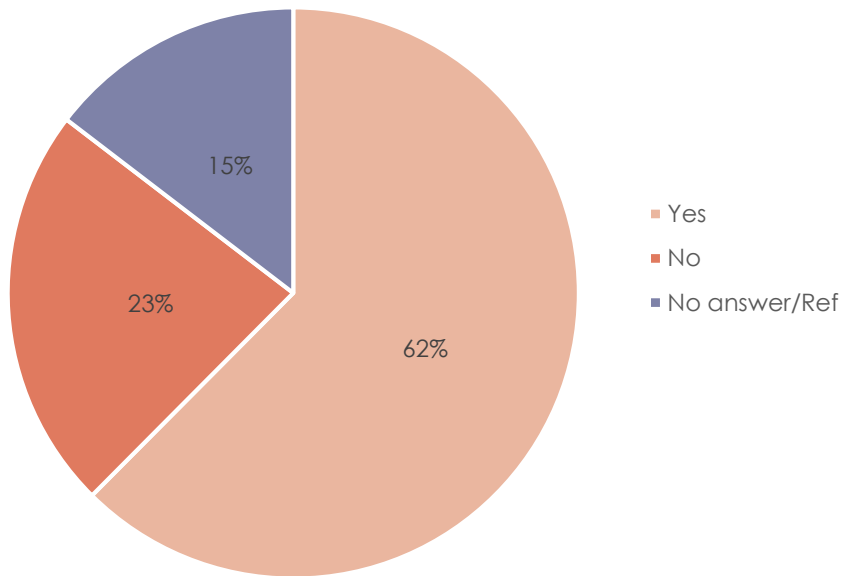
April 2021



## 62 percent plan to vote for same party in municipal assembly elections as in the last local election

*Will you be voting for the same political entity (municipal assembly) compared to the last local elections?*

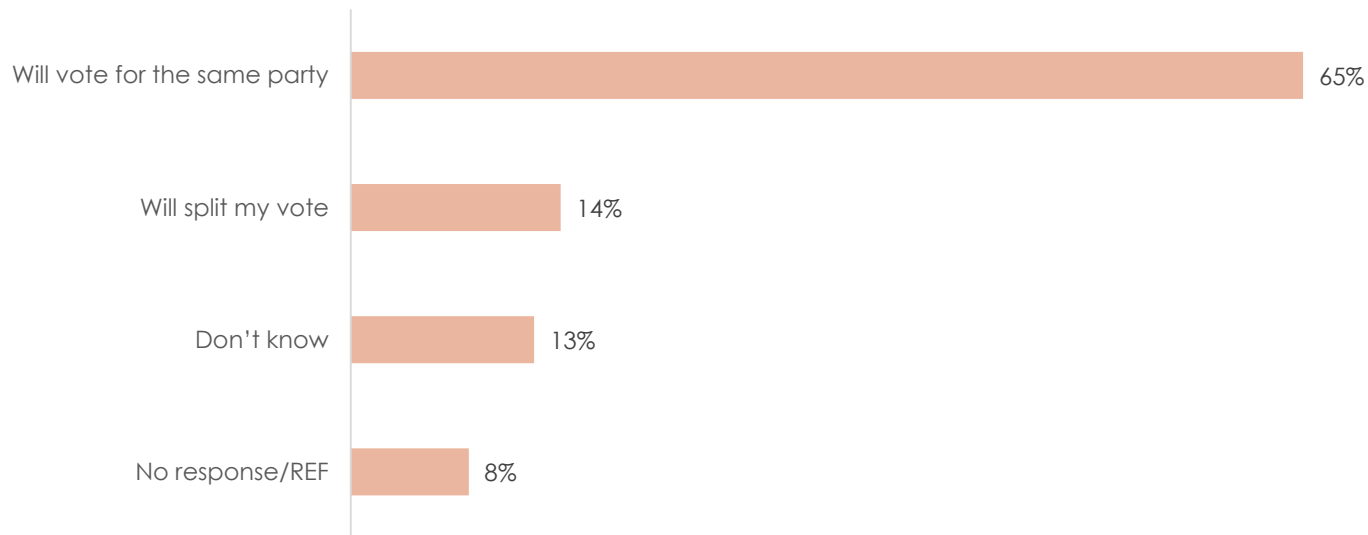
April 2021



## 65 percent plan to vote for same party in municipal assembly and mayoral (not splitting their vote)

*Will you vote for the same political party for mayor and for municipal assembly, or will you split your vote?*

April 2021





# Information Integrity

# Information Integrity

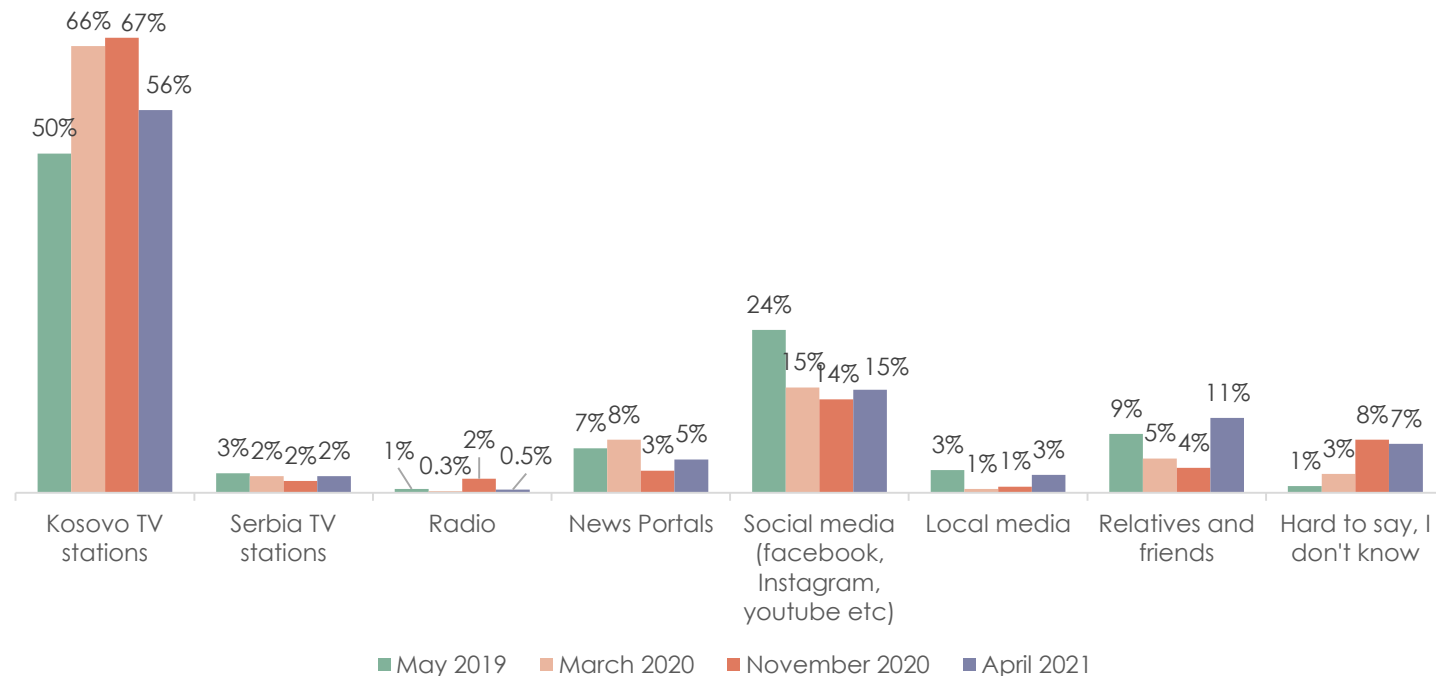
- TV stations are the most-trusted source of information in Albanian and Serb communities, although the communities trust different specific stations
- Trust in relatives and friends as a source of information, consistently stronger among the Serb community, has grown in the Albanian community.
- More than 70 percent believe false stories are published online – whether through online news sites or social media
- 38 percent believe false stories are published online due to financial interests or potential financial gains
- Around one-third believes false Covid-19 related narratives



## TV stations most-trusted source of information; increased trust in relatives and friends

*Which of the following sources of information do you trust the most?*

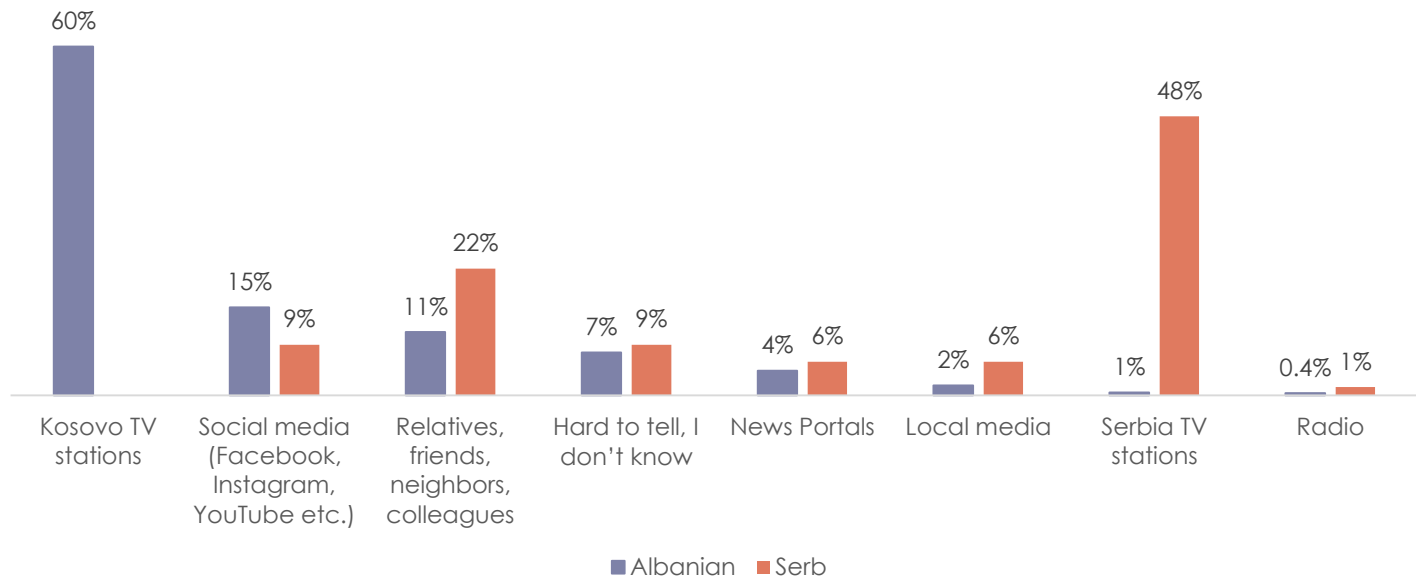
May 2019 to March 2020 to November 2020 to April 2021



## Higher trust in friends/relatives among Serb community compared to Albanian community

*Which of the following sources of information do you trust the most?*

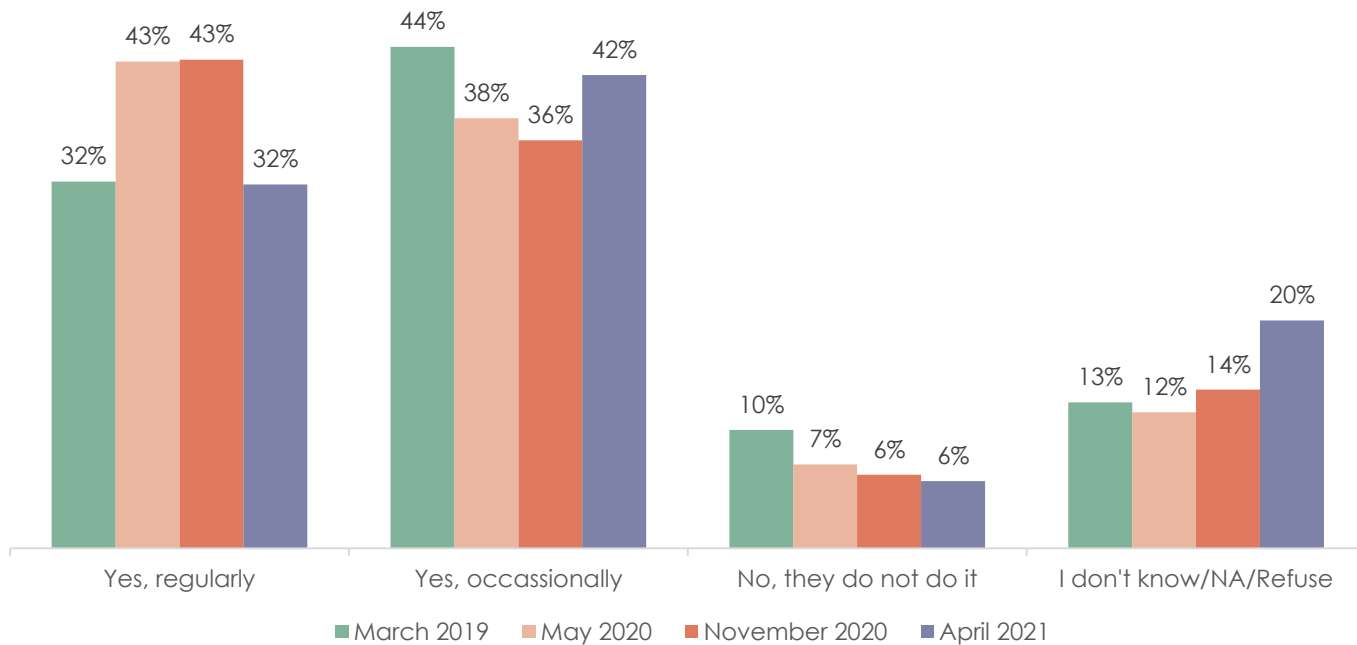
By ethnicity



## 74 percent think online news sites sometimes or regularly report false information

*Do you think some online news websites/portals ever report false information stories, or not?*

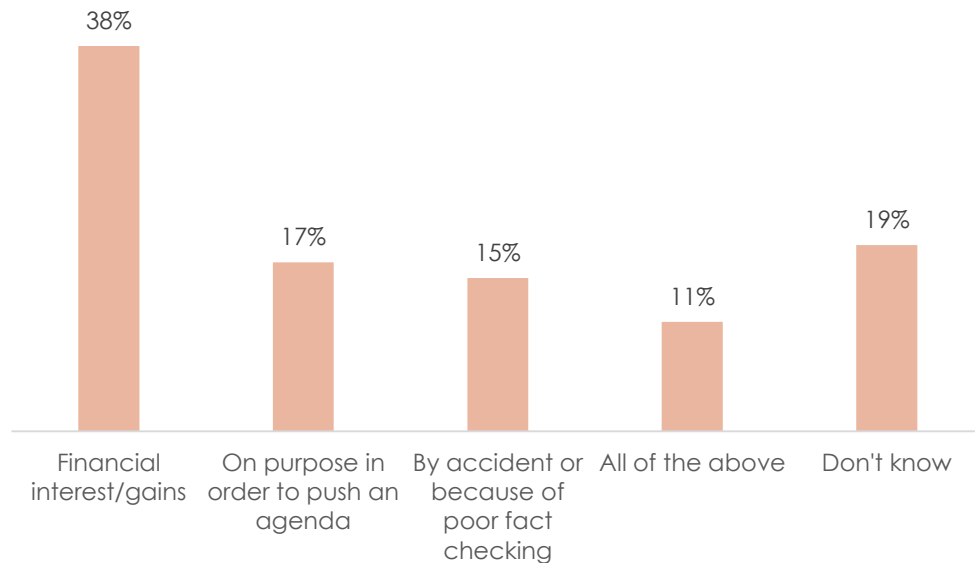
May 2019 to March 2020 to November 2020 to April 2021



## Plurality believe false stories published for financial reasons

*Do you think these sources report these stories on purpose in order to push an agenda? Or do they tend to report them more by accident, or because of poor fact checking?*

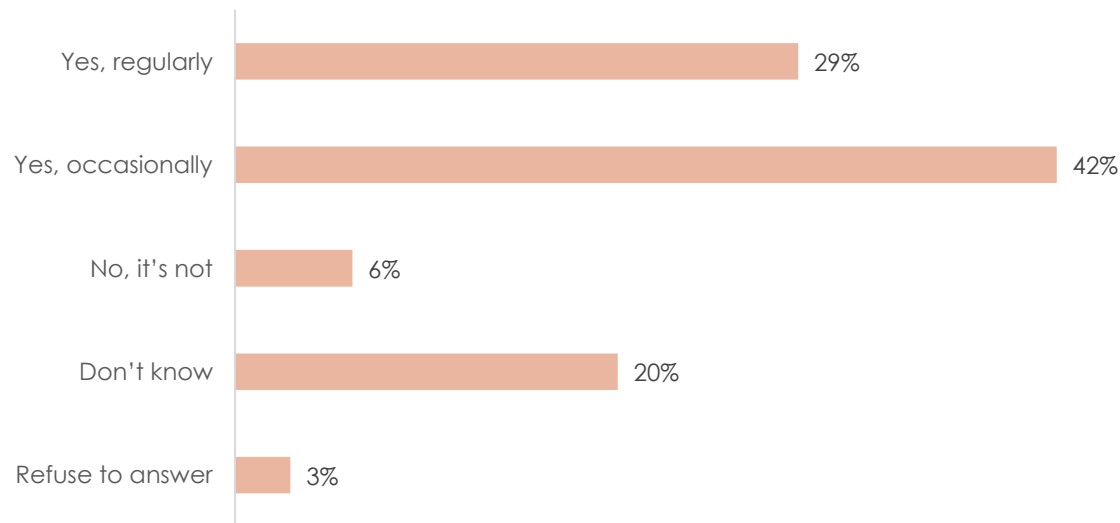
April 2021



## 71 percent believe false information is being spread on social media in Kosovo

*Do you think false information is being spread through social media in Kosovo?*

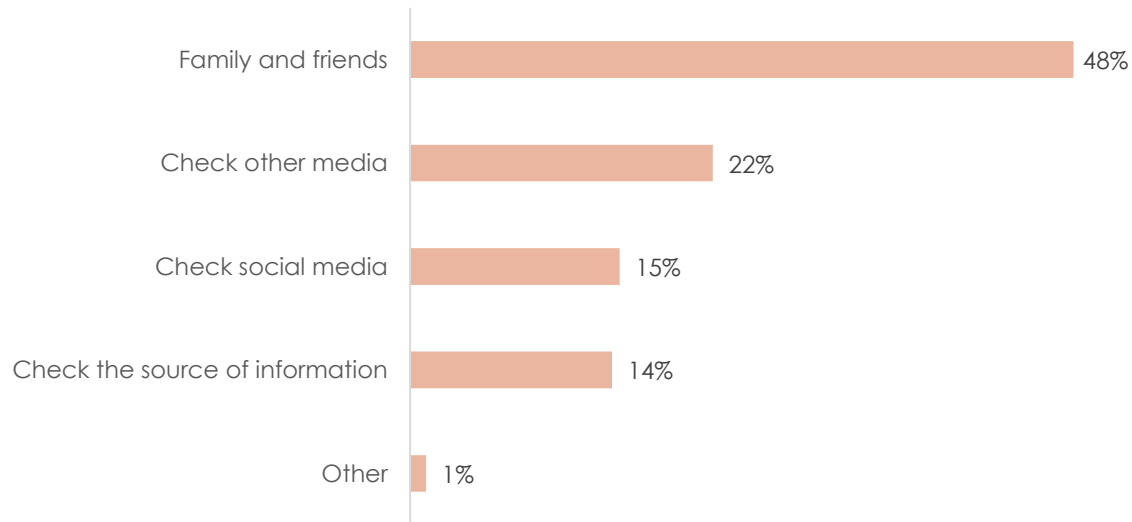
April 2021



## Plurality turn to family/friends to verify or discuss information

*Where do you turn if you see an interesting / unusual piece of information?*

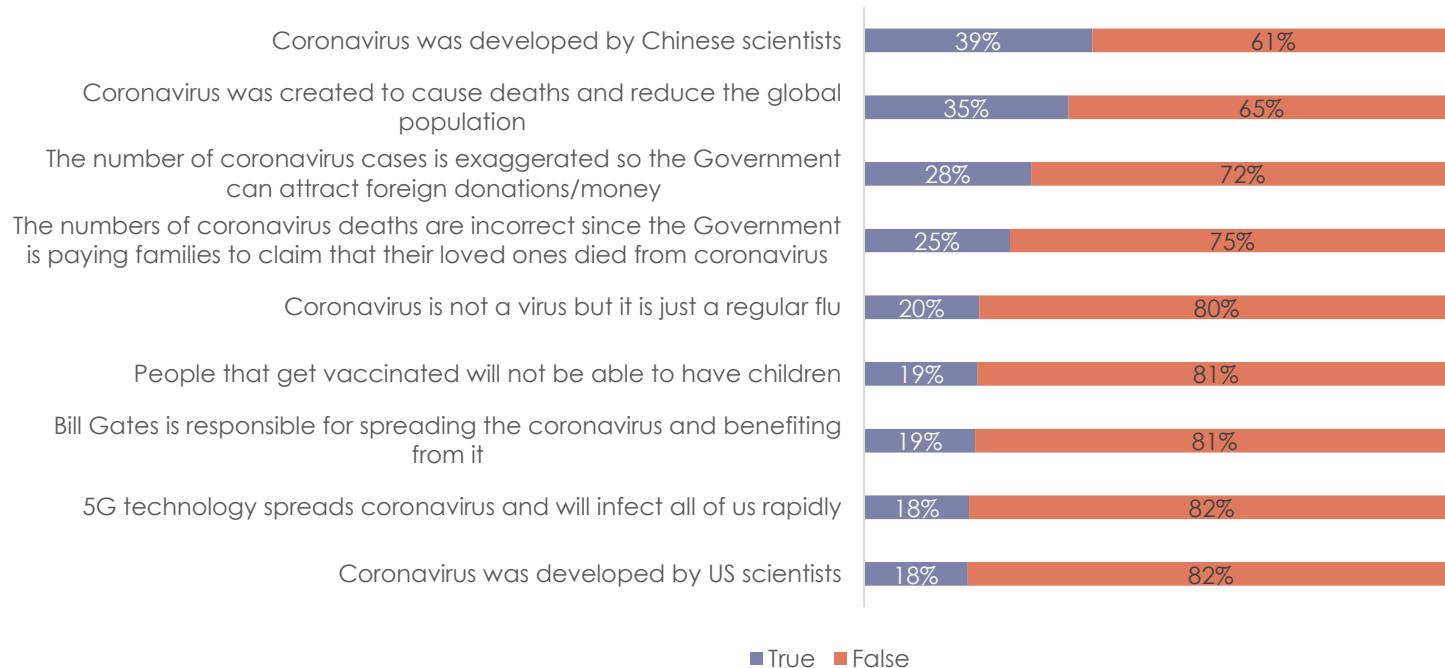
April 2021



## Around one third believe false Covid-19 narratives

Do you believe the following statements are true or false? Covid-19 related statements

April 2021





Gender



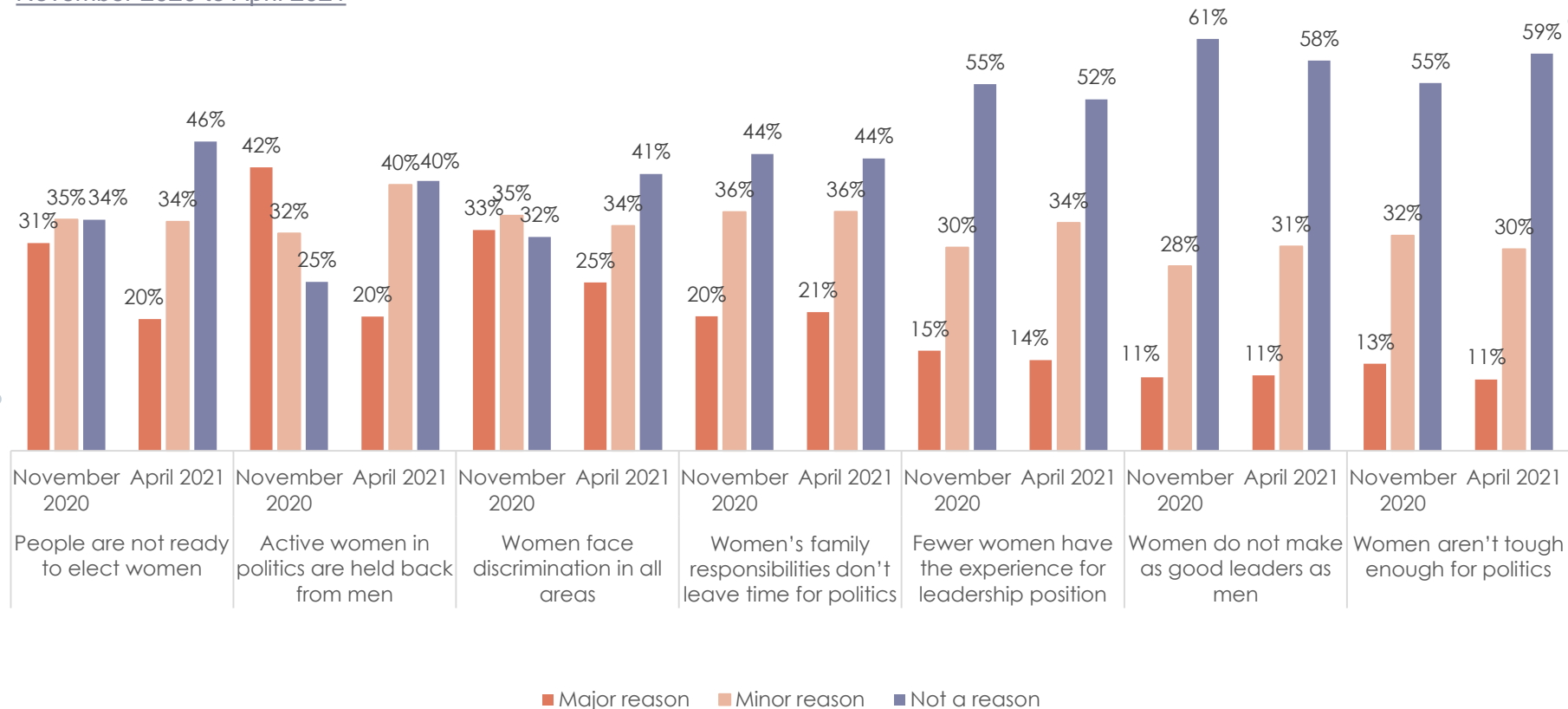
# Gender

- The February 2021 parliamentary elections saw the most-ever women elected to the Assembly of Kosovo. The resulting government has a record number of women in leadership positions.
- Optimism about the impact of common obstacles to women's leadership rises. Twenty percent described active women in politics being held back as a major reason for low numbers of women in leadership, a 20-point drop.
- Similarly, fewer than in November 2020 see widespread problems in portrayal, harassment, or violence against women in politics
- Misogynistic views, such as women not being "tough enough" for politics, are not identified as major obstacles for women's leadership

## Obstacles to women's leadership perceived to be less impactful than in November 2020

Can you please tell us, why aren't there more women in the top leadership positions?

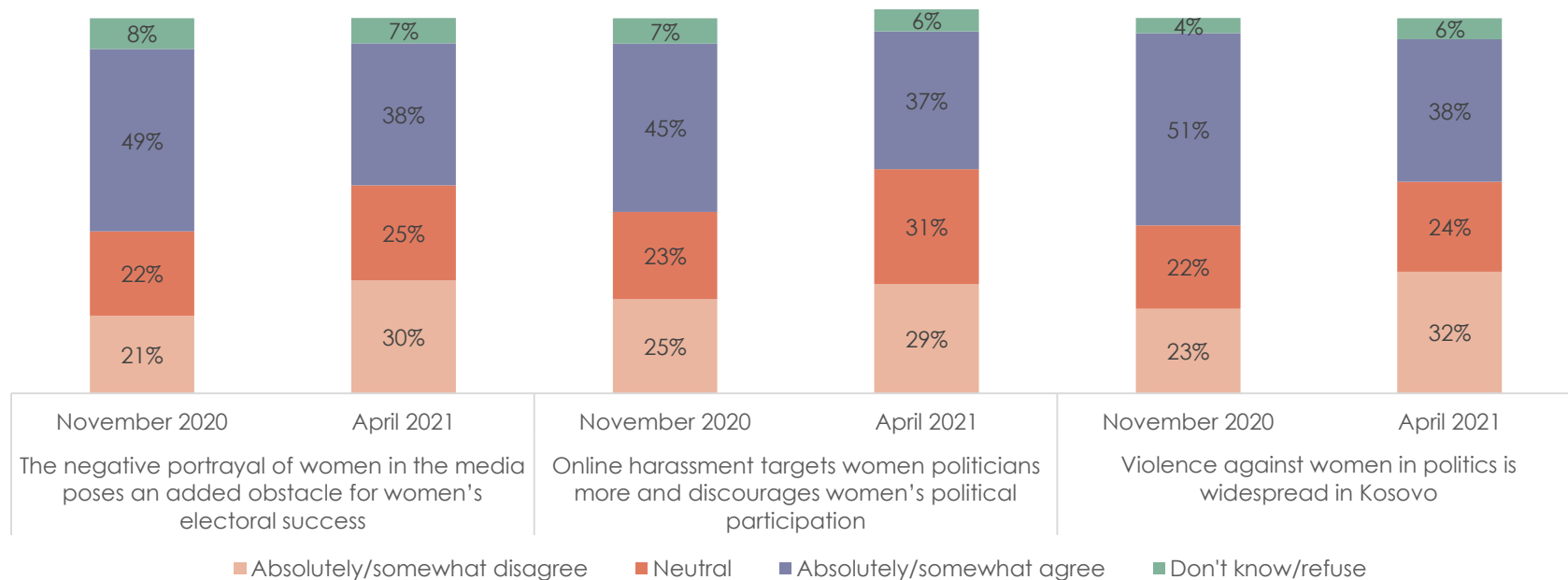
November 2020 to April 2021



## Fewer see widespread problems in portrayal, harassment, or violence against women in politics

*Violence against women in politics is defined as encompassing all forms of aggression, coercion, and intimidation against women as political actors simply because they are women. Can you tell us how much you agree with the following statements?*

November 2020 to April 2021





Covid-19

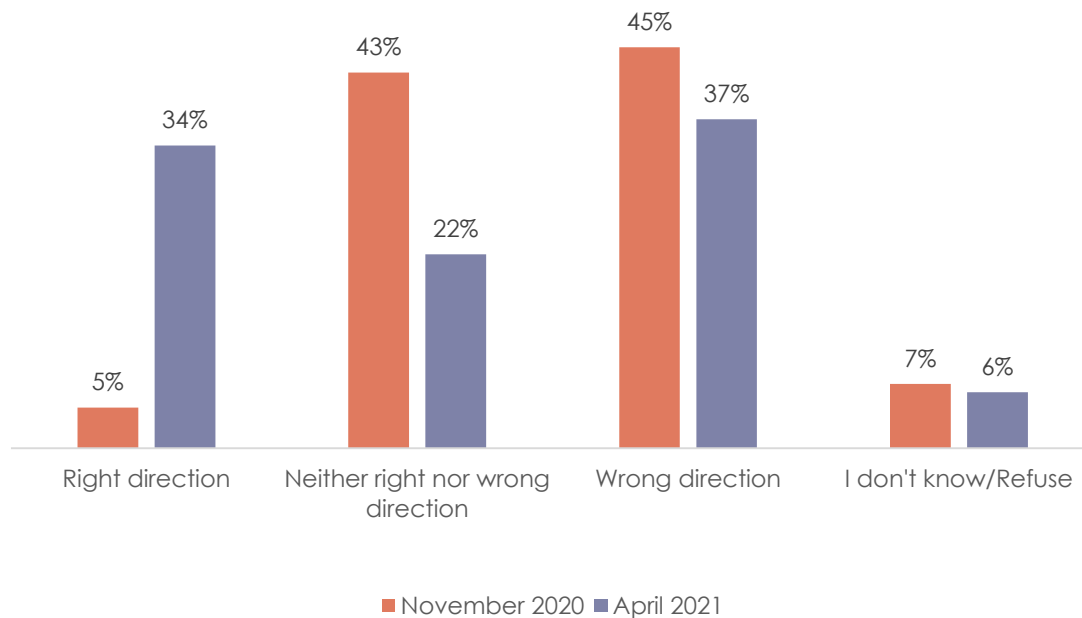
# Covid-19

- There is increased optimism about the direction of Kosovo's Covid-19 situation compared to November 2020: one-third believes Kosovo is heading in the right direction, up from five percent
- 68 percent are skeptical that restrictions on movement prevent the spread of Covid-19
- Health institutions retain high trust for information on Covid-19; 76 percent also trust friends/relatives
- 56 percent are willing to get the Covid-19 vaccine; 39 percent of those aged 18-24 say they will not. The Serb community is also more reluctant than the national average to get the vaccine.
- 48 percent have concerns about Covid-19 vaccine safety and side effects

## Increased optimism about the Covid-19 situation compared to November 2020

*Do you think the Coronavirus situation in Kosovo is generally headed in the right direction, or the wrong direction?*

November 2020 to April 2021

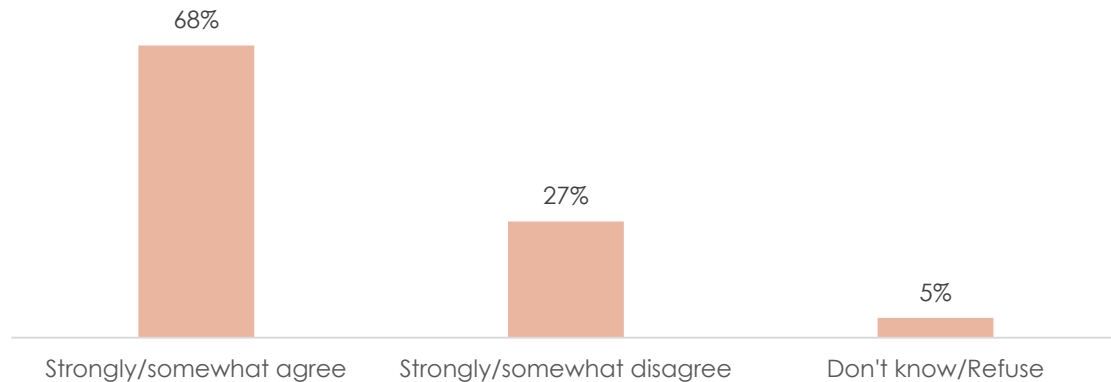


## 68 percent skeptical that restrictions on movement prevent the spread of Covid-19...

*How much do you agree with the following statement:*

*Restrictions on travel and self-isolation will not prevent the spread of Coronavirus?*

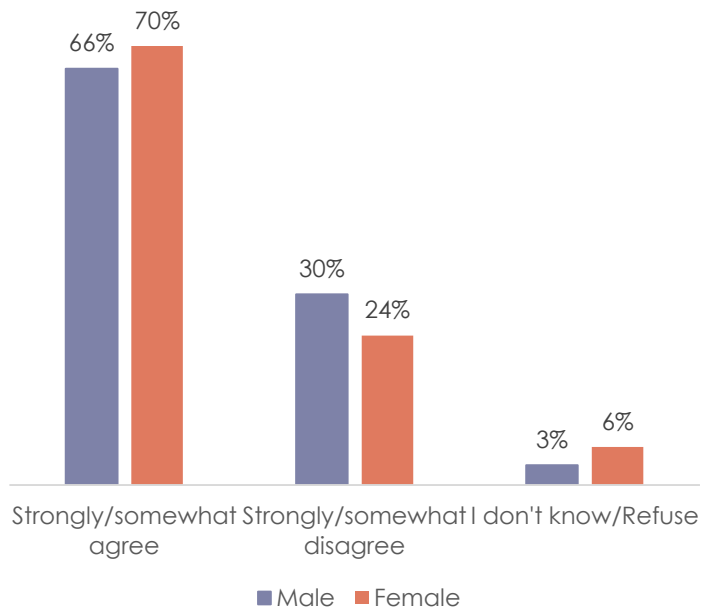
April 2021



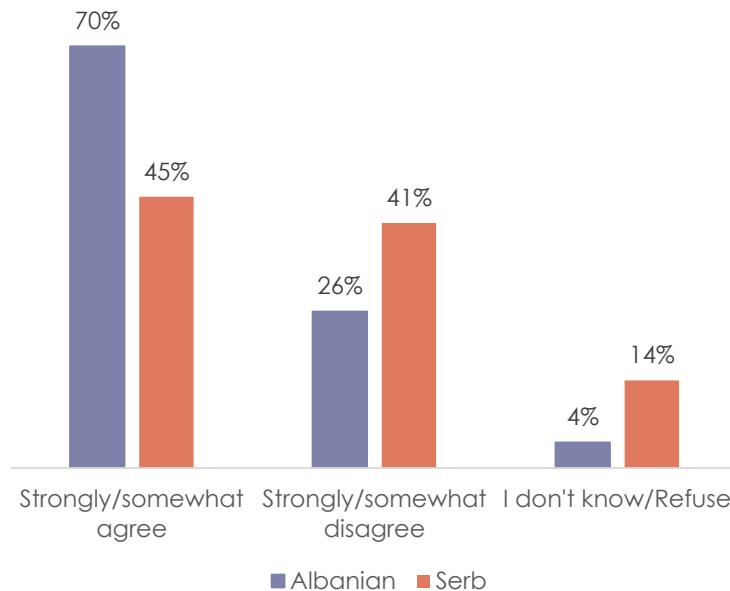
## ...this increases to 70 percent among women and the Albanian community; falls to 45 percent among Serb community

*How much do you agree with the following statement: Restrictions on travel and self-isolation will not prevent the spread of Coronavirus?*

By gender



By ethnicity

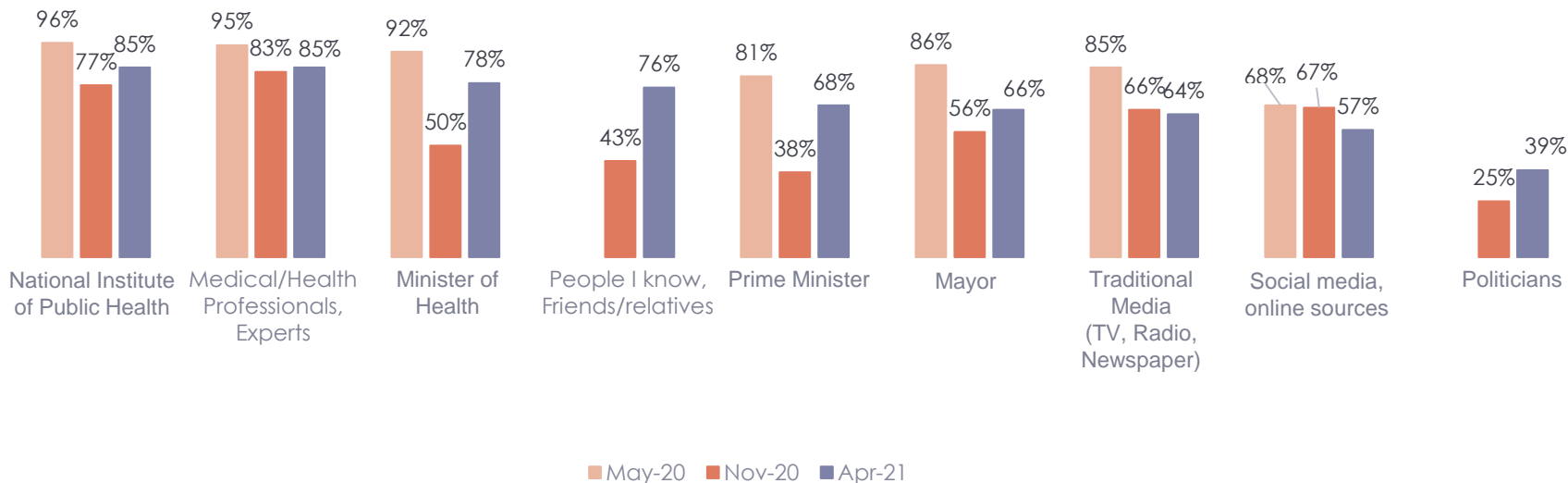




## 76 percent trust friends/relatives for information on Covid-19; health institutions remain most trusted

*Do you trust the following institutions in terms of providing accurate information on Coronavirus and what to do during this period?*

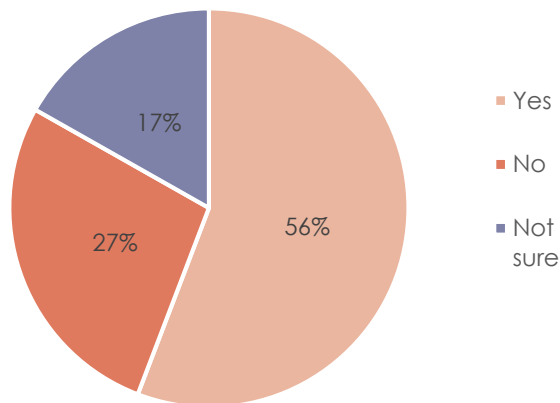
May 2020 to Nov 2020 to April 2021



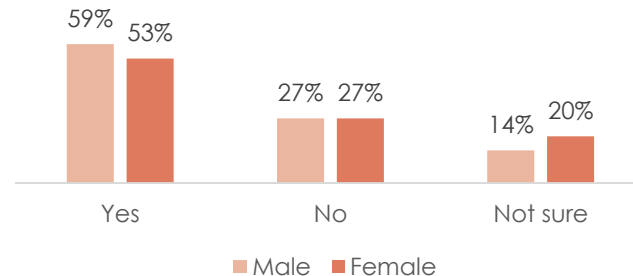
# 56 percent willing to get the Covid-19 vaccine; 39 percent of those aged 18-24 say they will not

*Do you plan to get a Covid-19 vaccine when one becomes available?*

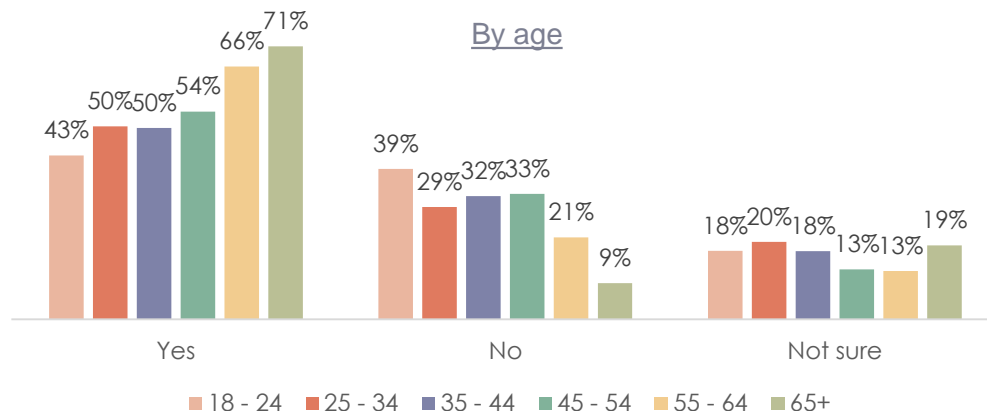
April 2021



By gender



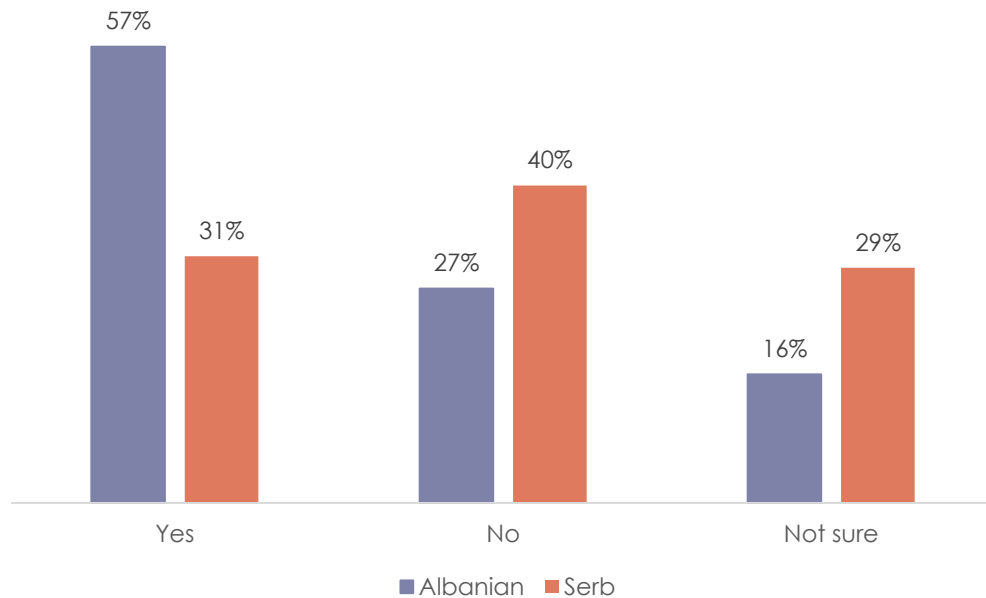
By age



## Serb community more reluctant about Covid-19 vaccine than average

*Do you plan to get a Covid-19 vaccine when one becomes available?*

By ethnicity



## 48 percent have concerns about Covid-19 vaccine safety and side effects

*What concerns do you have, if any, about receiving a Covid-19 vaccine?*

April 2021

