



*Centar za građansko obrazovanje*  
*Centre for Civic Education*



**ΕΛΙΑΜΕΠ**  
**ELIAMEP**

# **PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH ON CORRUPTION IN EDUCATION**

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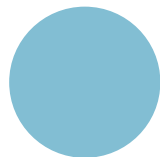


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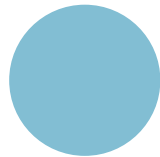


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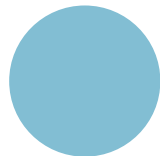
## SADRŽAJ



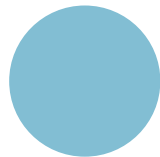
METHODOLOGY



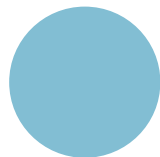
PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION  
IN EDUCATION



EXPERIENCES AND OPENNESS  
FOR CORRUPTION



PLAGIARISM



FIGHT AGAINST THE  
CORRUPTION





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## **METHODOLOGY**

**Implementation:** Field research conducted from 9 to 18 December 2015

**Sample framework:** Population of Montenegro 18+

**Sample size:** 1004 examinees

**Three-stage random representative stratified sample**

**Sample type:** First-stage unit: The territory of polling stations

Second-stage unit: Households (SRSWoR – random step)

Third-stage unit: Examinees within the household (Kish tables)

**Type of research:** Omnibus, field questionnaire, average length of 45 minutes

**Place of research:** 17 cities in Montenegro, 130 polling station territories, city, suburban and rural environments

**Post-stratification:** Based on gender, age and region

**Error:**  $\pm 1.45\%$  for the incidence of 5%

$\pm 2.86\%$  for the incidence of 25%

$\pm 3.31\%$  for the incidence of 50% (marginal error)

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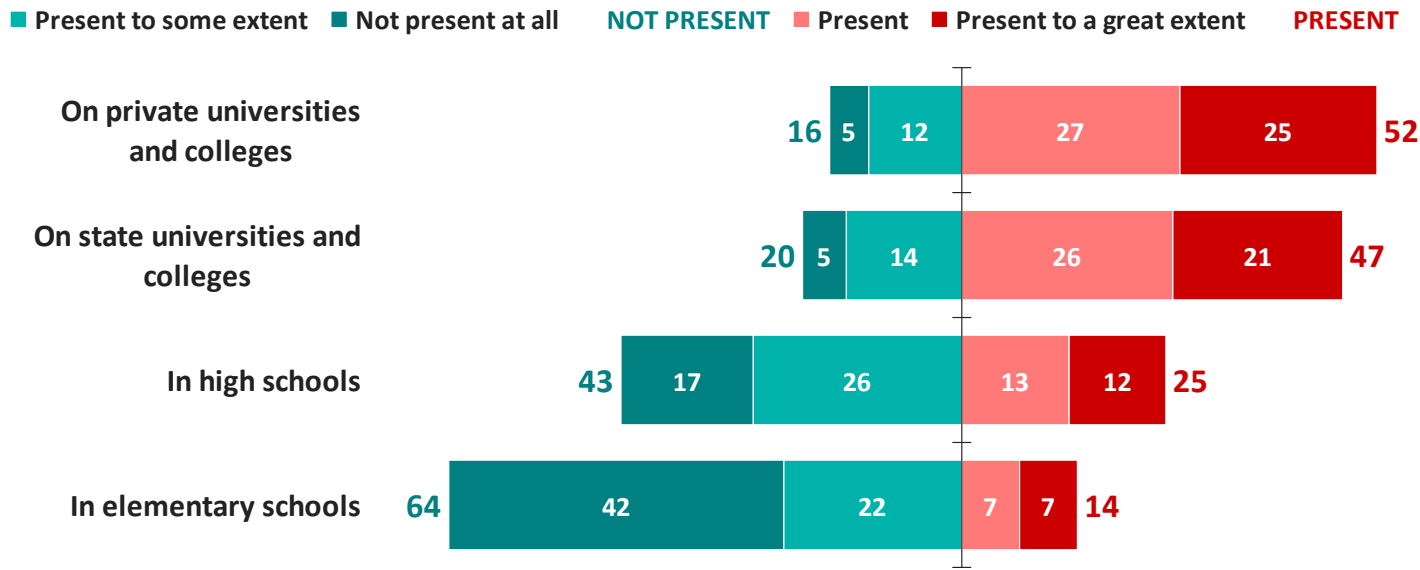


**PERCEPTION OF  
CORRUPTION IN  
EDUCATION**

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## Corruption on different levels of education

Half of the citizens believe that corruption is present in high-education (both private and state) institutions. Significantly lower number of citizens believes that corruption is present in schools (particularly elementary schools).



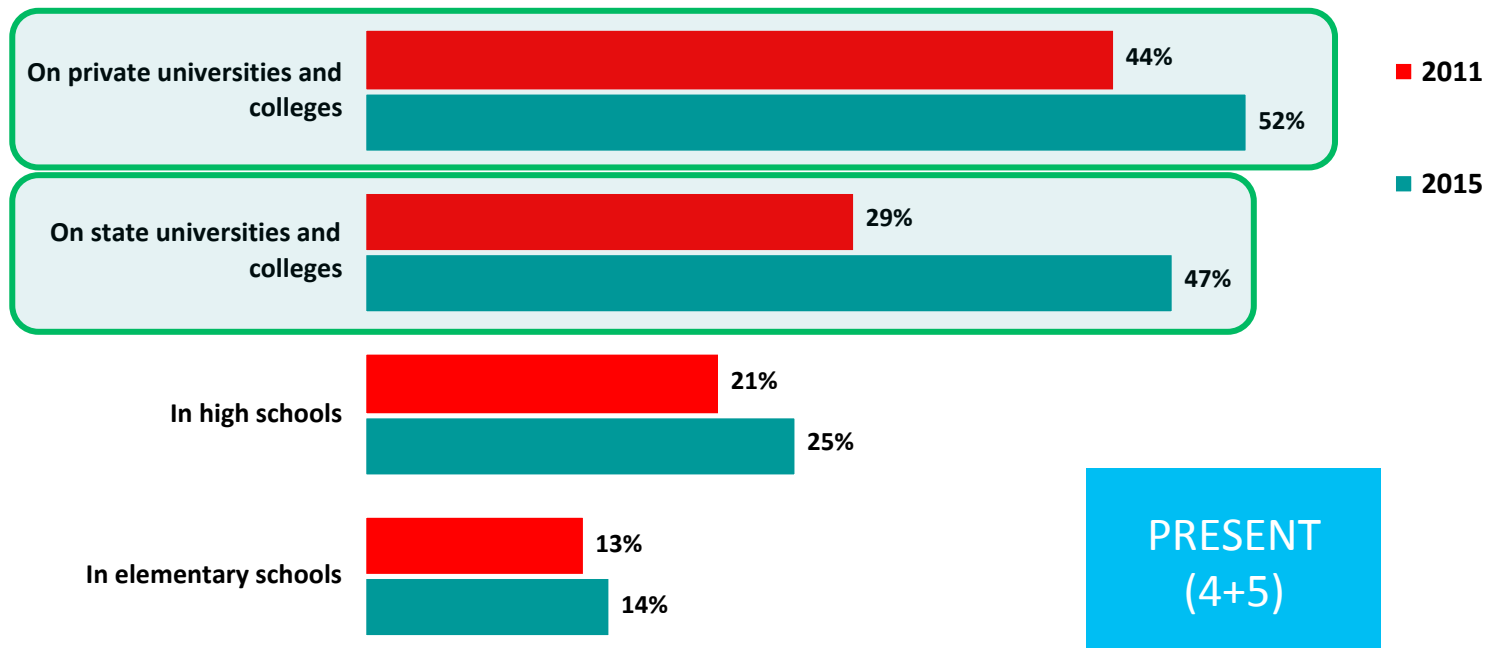
*To what extent is corruption present in the following levels of education in general?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Corruption on different levels of education

Compared to November 2011, number of citizens who believe that corruption is present on state and private faculties and colleges increased considerably.



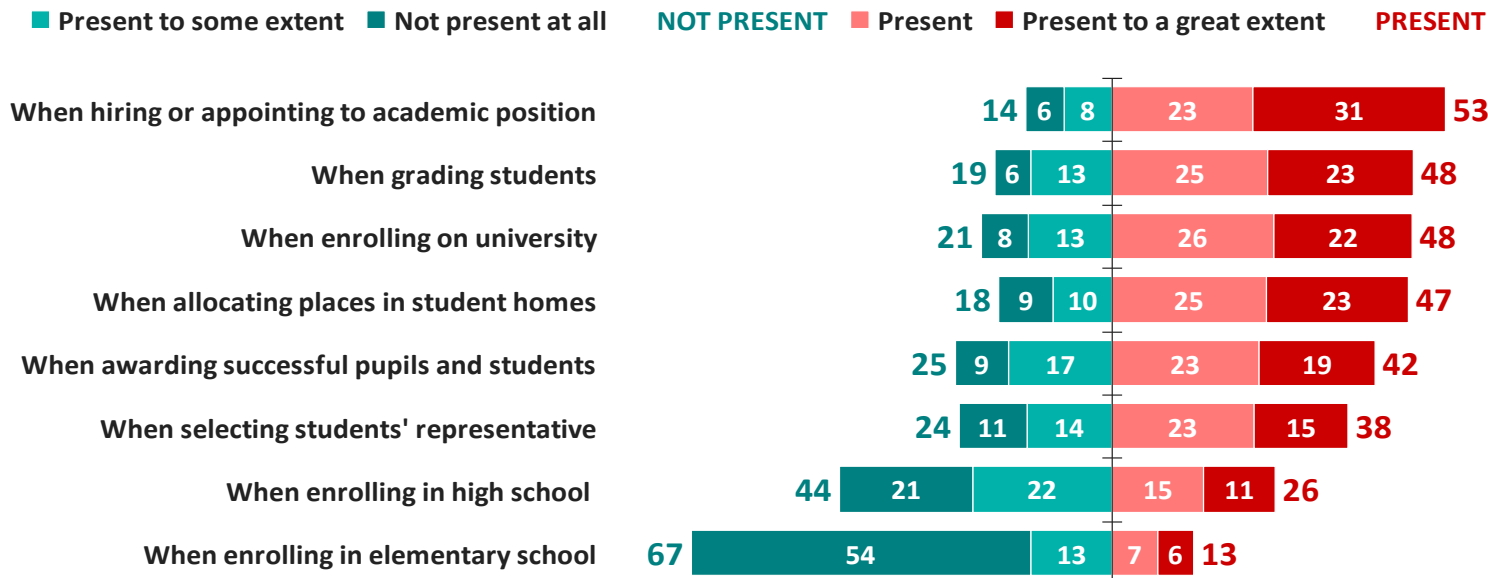
*To what extent is corruption present at the following levels of education in general?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Corruption on different levels of education

Some half of the citizens assess that corruption is present in situations related to academic advancement, grading and enrollment at the universities, as well as in those related to organisation of student life. On the other hand, enrollment in elementary school is perceived as a situation where corruption is rare.



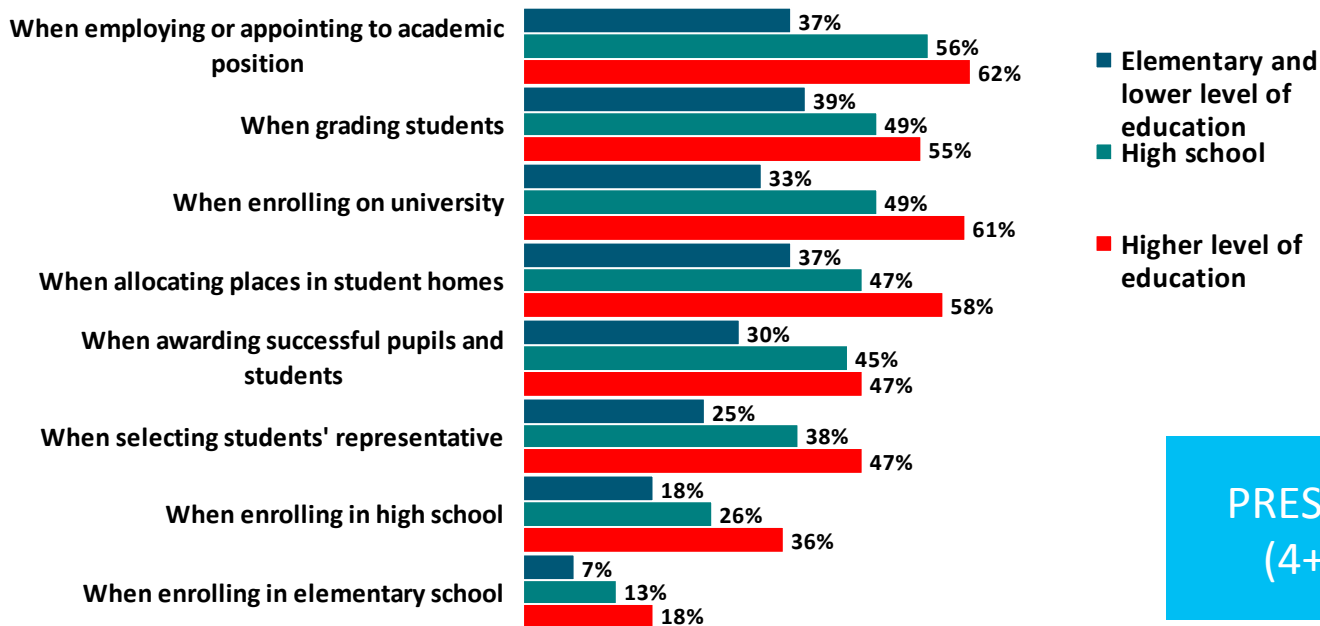
How much is corruption present in following situations?

Base: Overall target population

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## Corruption on different levels of education

Citizens with university or higher level of education mostly assert that corruption is present in these situations, particularly compared to citizens with lower level of education.



PRESENT  
(4+5)

*How much is corruption present in following situations?*

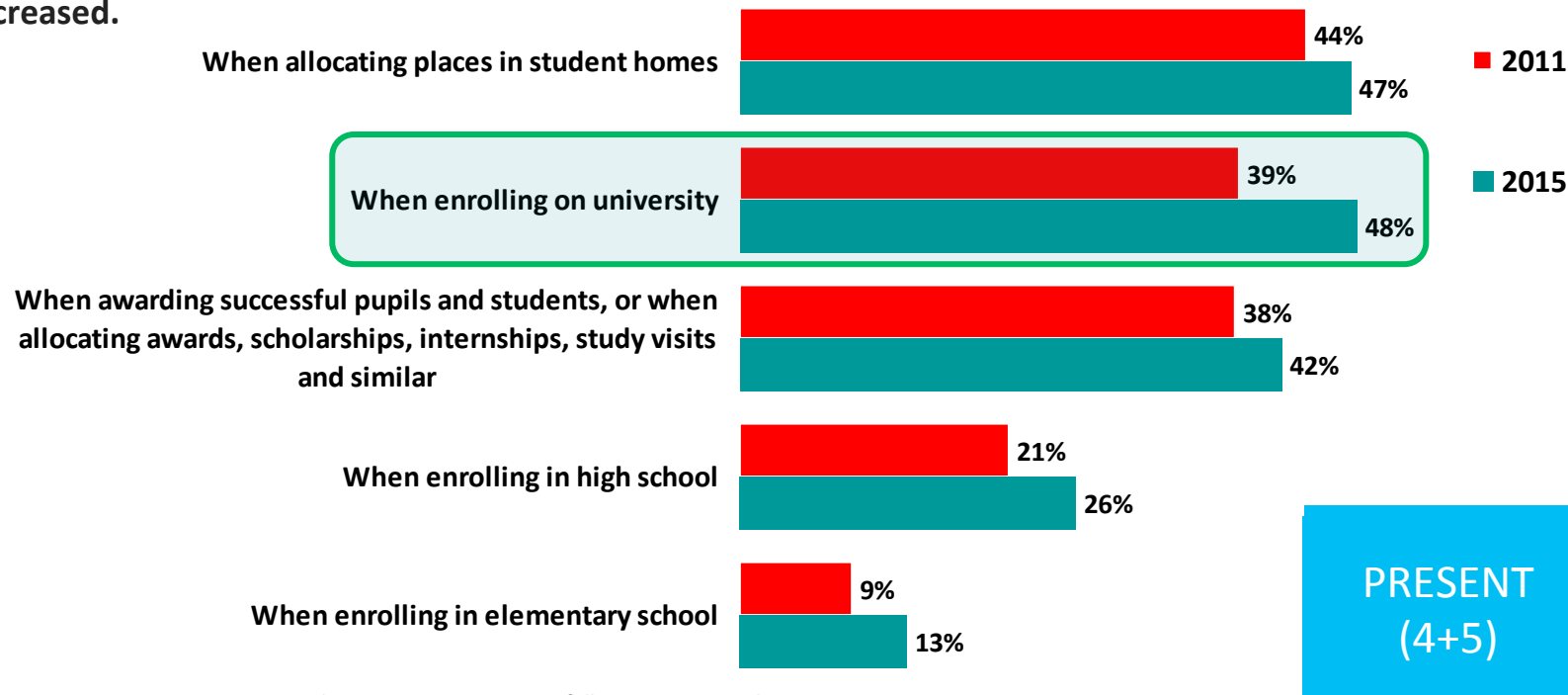
*Base: Overall target population*



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## Corruption on different levels of education

Compared to November 2011, the number of citizens who believe that corruption is present when enrolling on university increased.



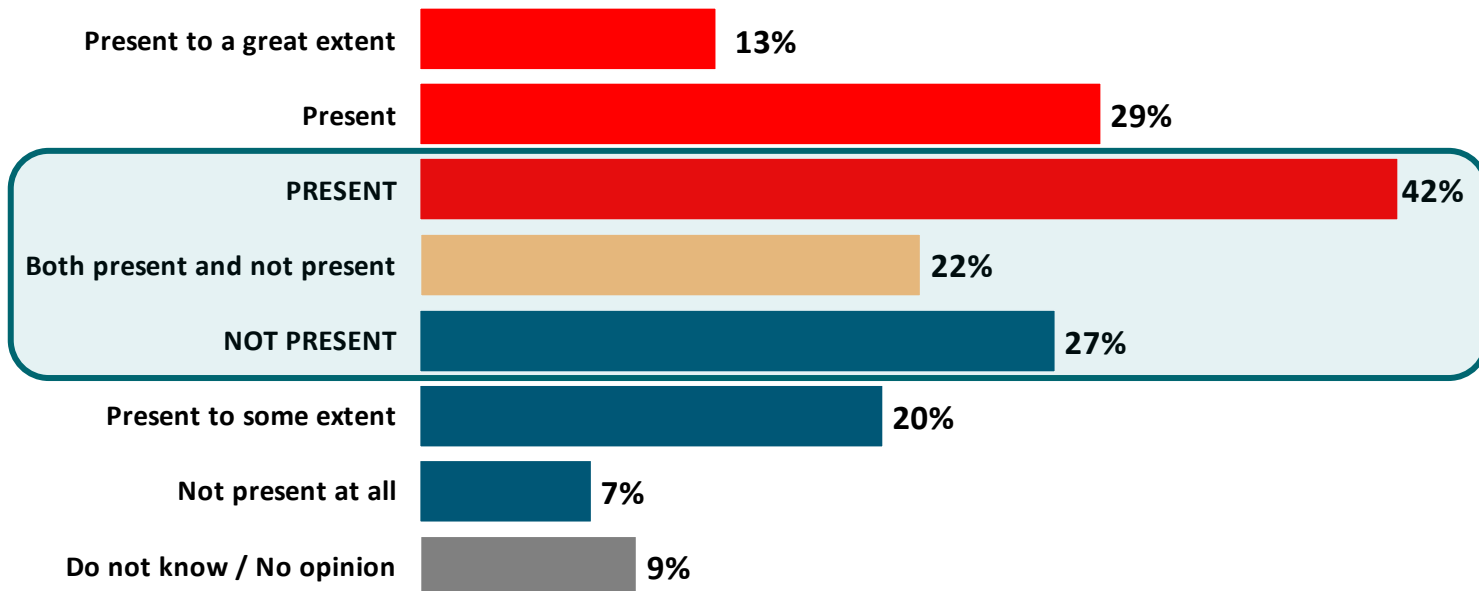
*How much is corruption present in following situations?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Accepting money or gifts

2/5 of citizens believe that it is recurrent in Montenegrin society for a teacher to accept money or gifts in exchange to better grade a student, allow him/her to pass an exam or otherwise help him/her.



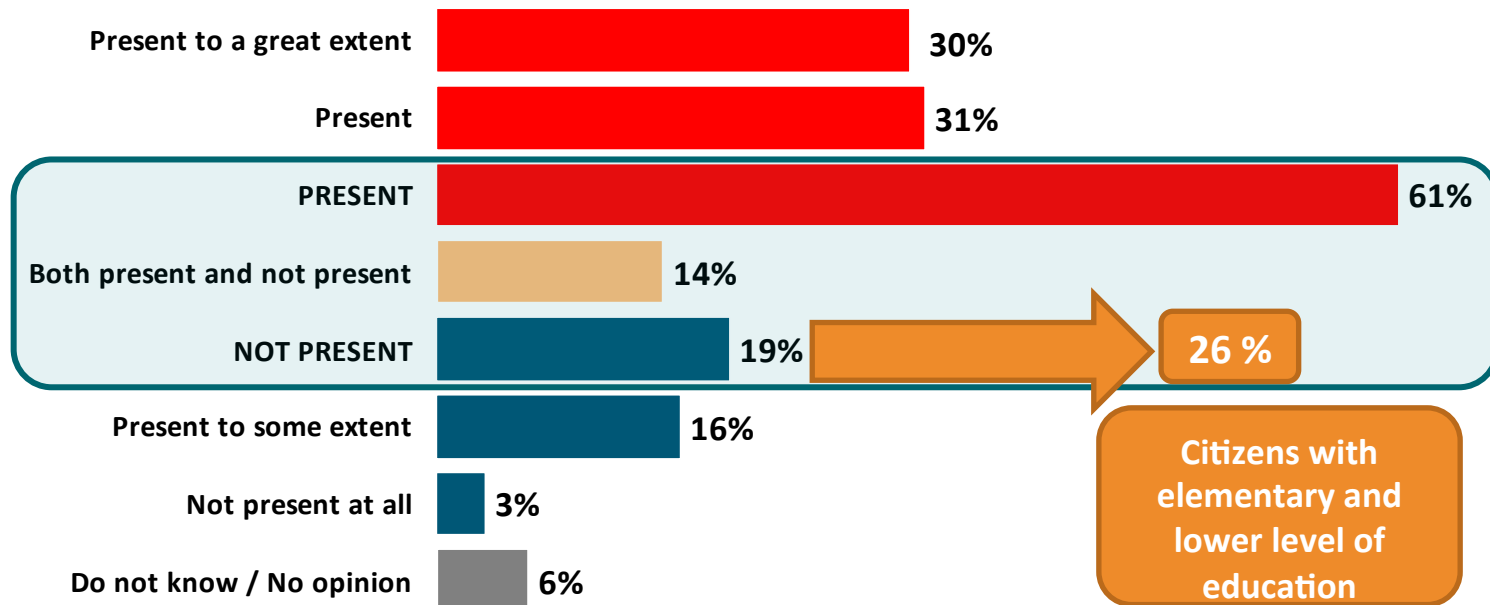
*Accepting money, gifts or asking for services from teachers and professors, to better grade students or students, let them pass the exam or help in some other way - To what extent are the following present in the Montenegrin system of education?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Kinship and party connections

Majority of Montenegrin citizens believe that people often use kinship and party connections to improve grades or success of a student, to pass an exam and similar. Nearly one third of citizens believes that this behaviour is widely spread.



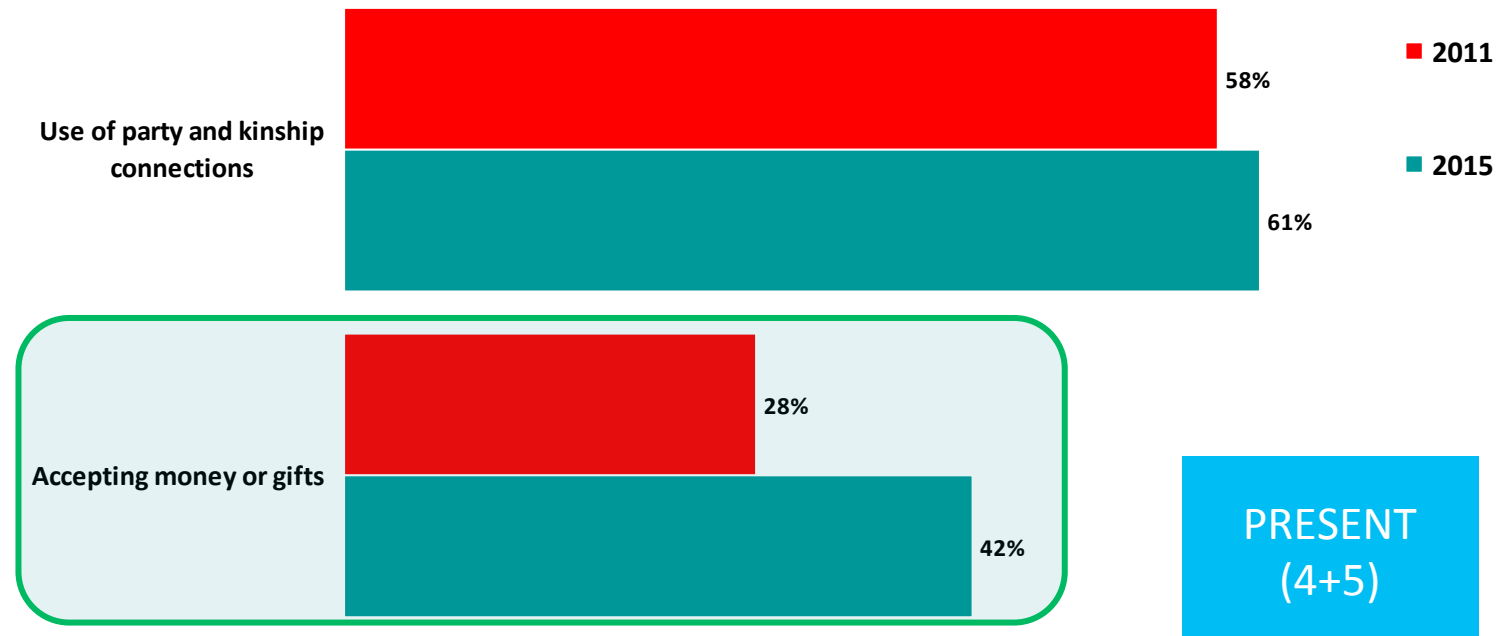
*Using kinship-party connections in education, in order to improve grades, success, exam - To what extent are the following present in Montenegrin system of education?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Party and kinship connections, money and gifts

Compared to the results from November 2011, considerably more citizens estimated that the occurrence of people accepting money or gifts is present in the system of education in Montenegro.



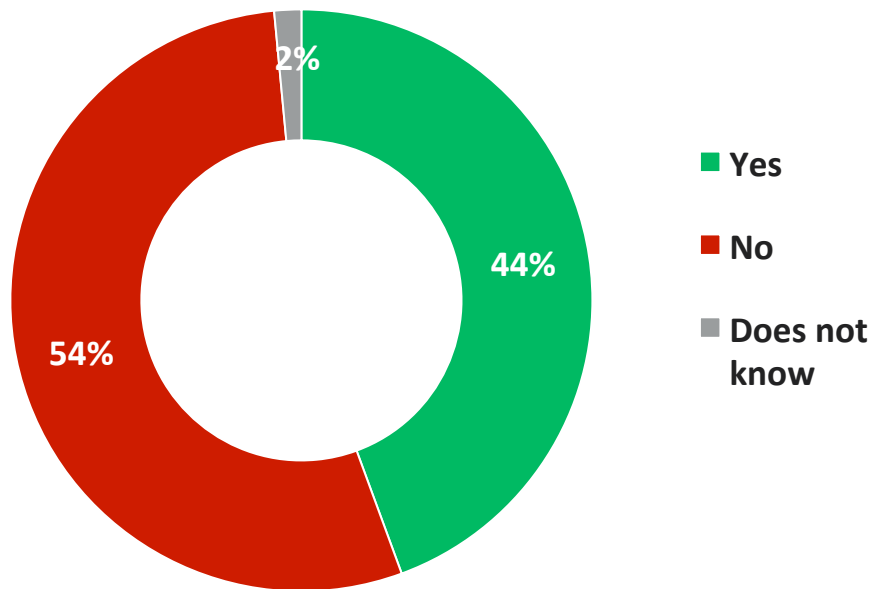
*To which extent are the following present in Montenegrin system of education?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Double labour contracts at the University of Montenegro

Slightly less than half of the citizens is familiar with the issue of double labour contracts of professors at the University of Montenegro.



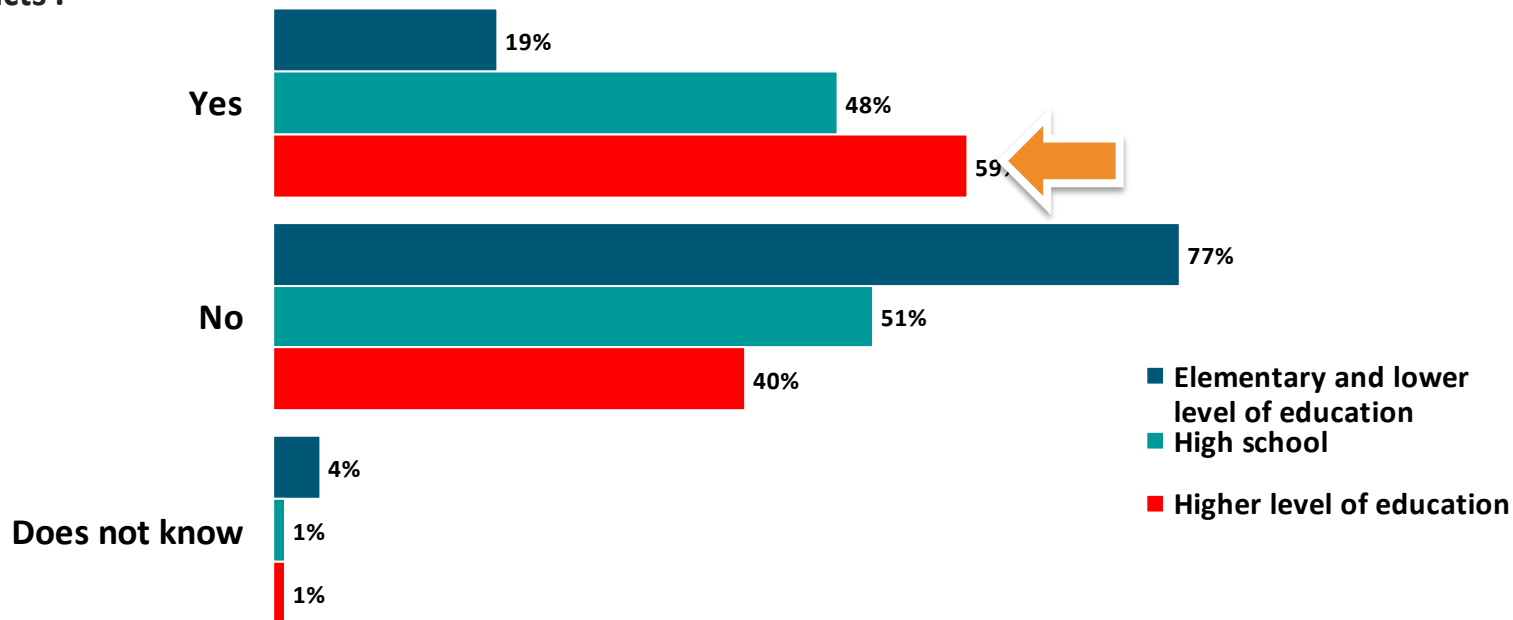
*Have you heard of the issue of double labour contracts of professors at the University of Montenegro (work commitments of professors who are suspected to have a full-time employment at the University of the region)?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Double labour contracts at the University of Montenegro

Citizens with university or college level of education more often claim that they are familiar with the issue of of double labour contracts .



*Have you heard of the problem of double labour contracts of professors at the University of Montenegro (work commitments of professors who are suspected to have a full-time employment at the University of the region)?*

*Base: Overall target population*



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## PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION

- **Perception of (non) corruption of system of education in Montenegro is not universal.** Significantly greater number of citizens believes that corruption is present in higher education (state universities– 47%; private universities– 52%) compared to high schools (25%) and especially elementary schools (14%). Also, compared to 2011, nowadays significantly greater number of citizens believes that corruption is present on universities in Montenegro.
- **Area regarded as most corrupt is the employment or academic appointment** (53% of citizens believe that corruption is present to some extent in these situations). Slightly less than half of the citizens believes that corruption is present during the enrollment on university (48%), or during the grading of students (48%) and allocation of places in student homes (47%). The selection of students' representative is regarded as somewhat less corrupt (38%). Enrollment in high schools (26%) and elementary schools (13%) is perceived much more positive. Citizens with higher level of education are less optimistic and mostly believe that corruption is present in all of the above mentioned areas.
- **Citizens greatly believe that nepotism and use of party connections is widespread** in Montenegro (61%) compared to bribery (accepting money or gifts; asking for services) – 42%, in terms of the system of education.
- The issue of double labour contracts of professors at the University of Montenegro is not sufficiently emphasized in Montenegro. More than a half of citizens (54%) is not familiar with this problem at all. Somewhat greater number of citizens with higher level of education is familiar with this issue, but even among them, two fifths (40%) are not familiar with this problem.

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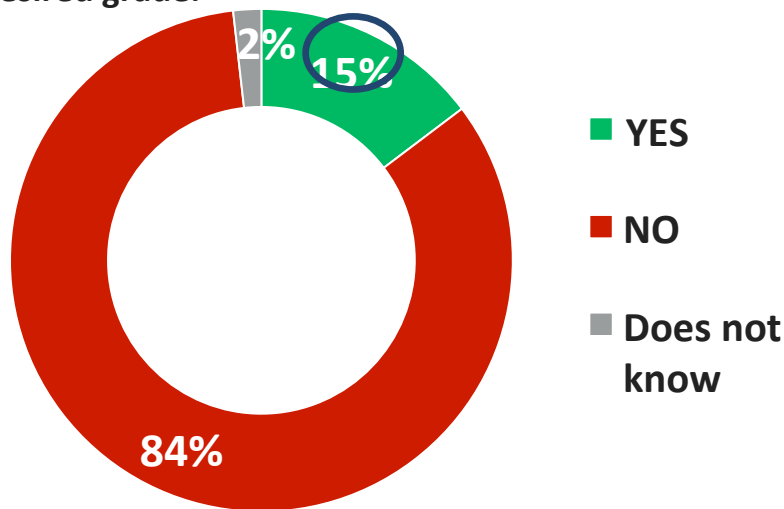
**EXPERIENCES AND  
OPENNESS FOR  
CORRUPTION**



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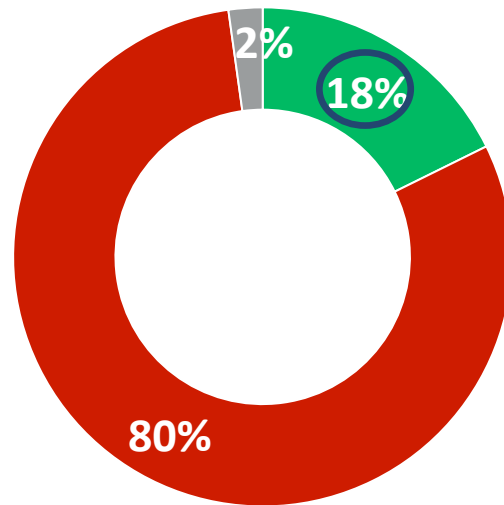
## Use of connections and willingness to bribe

15% of respondents say that they used kinship, party or similar connections in order to help themselves, or some other close person, to obtain better grades or to pass an exam. Approximately same percentage of citizens claims that they are prepared to bribe professors if that was the only way to enable themselves, or some other close person, to pass an exam or get the desired grade.



*Have you personally ever used family, party or other connection to help yourself or a close one get a better grade in school / college or take an exam?*

*Base: Overall target population*



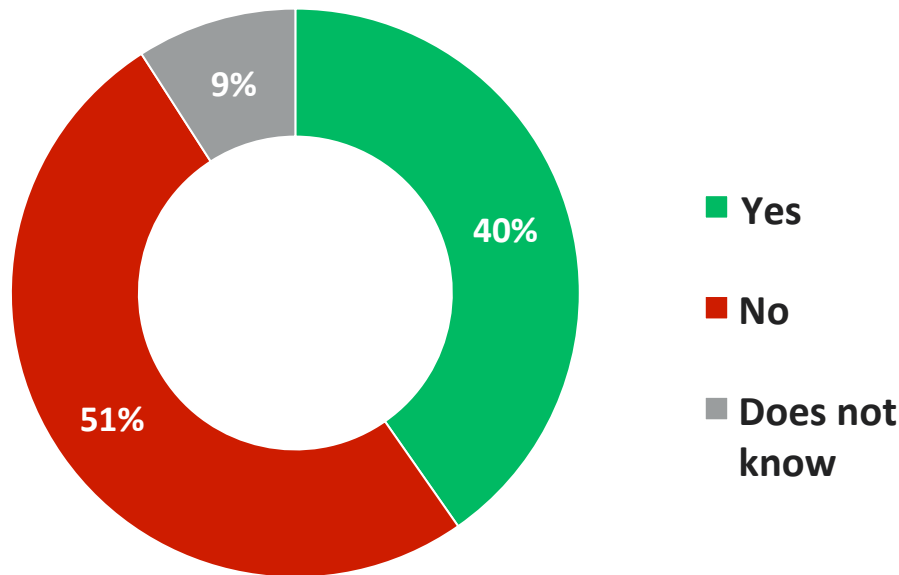
*Would you personally bribe a professor if it was the only way for you or a member of your family to pass an exam or obtain the desired grade?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Willingness to report bribery

Only 2/5 of citizens would report the professor who would receive, or ask for bribe, from them or members of their families to pass an exam or get the desired grade.



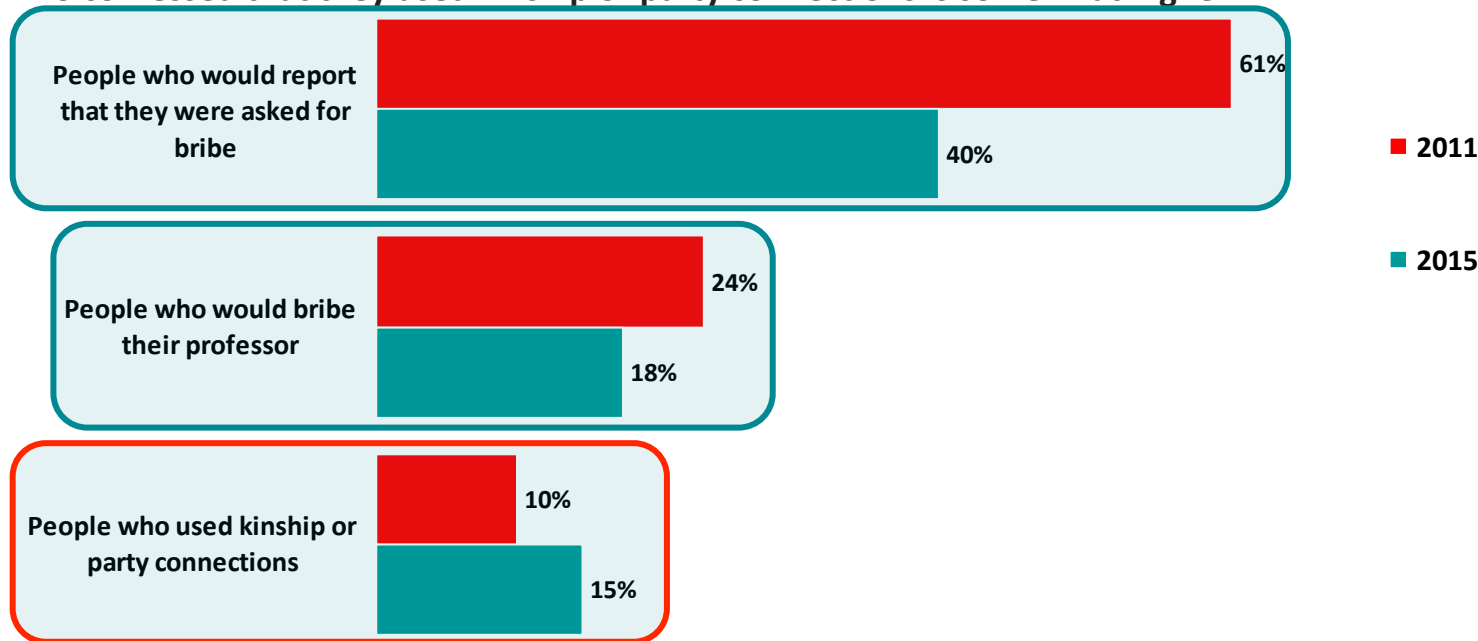
*Would you report to the authorities if you or member of your family was asked by a teacher/professor for bribe or service as a condition for taking the exam / obtain better grades?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Connections, bribery and reporting

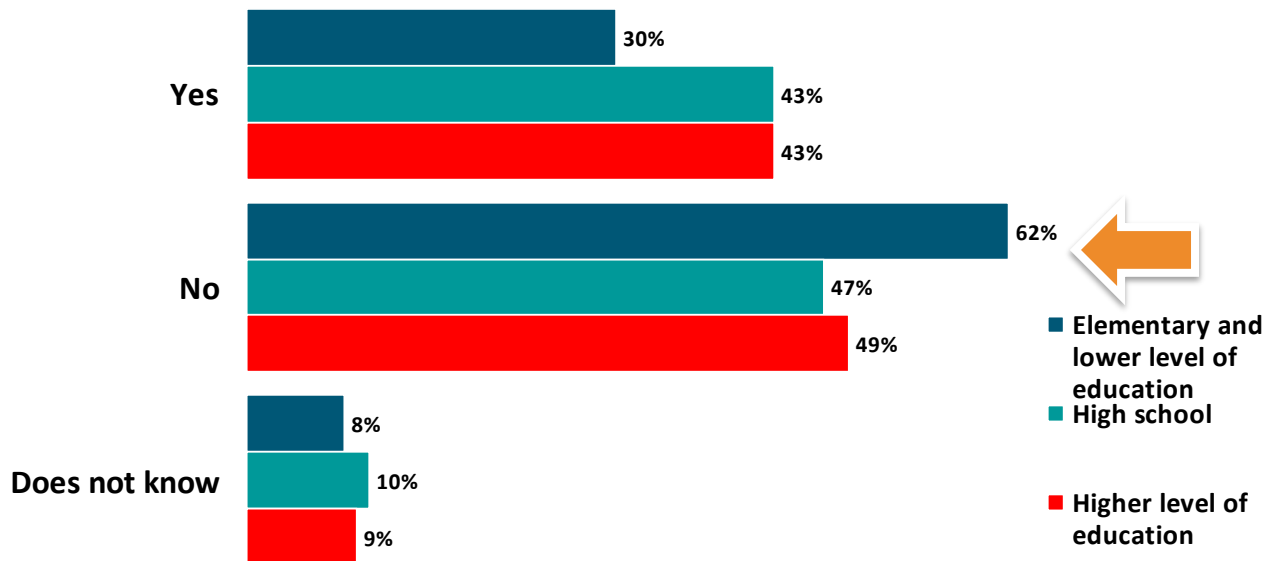
Compared to November 2011, number of citizens who would have reported that they sought for bribery significantly decreased. The number of those who would try to bribe professors also decreased. On the other hand, the number of citizens who confessed that they used kinship or party connections is somewhat higher.



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## Willingness to report solicited bribery

People with primary and lower level of education are among the citizens who said they would not report a professor who asked for bribe or service.



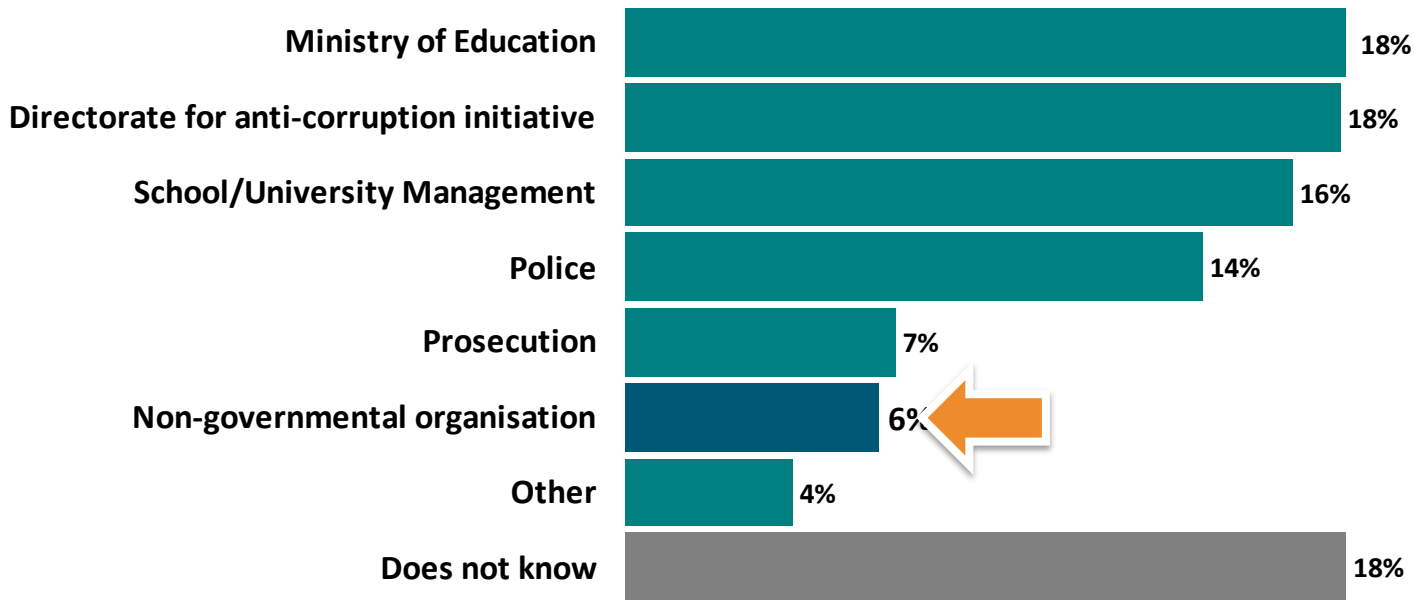
*Would you report to the authorities if you or member of your family was asked by a teacher/professor for bribe or service as a condition for taking the exam / obtain better grades?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Reporting the corruption

Ministry of Education and the Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative are commonly mentioned as relevant institutions to which citizens turn to report corruption in education, whereas 6% of citizens would turn to non-governmental organizations.



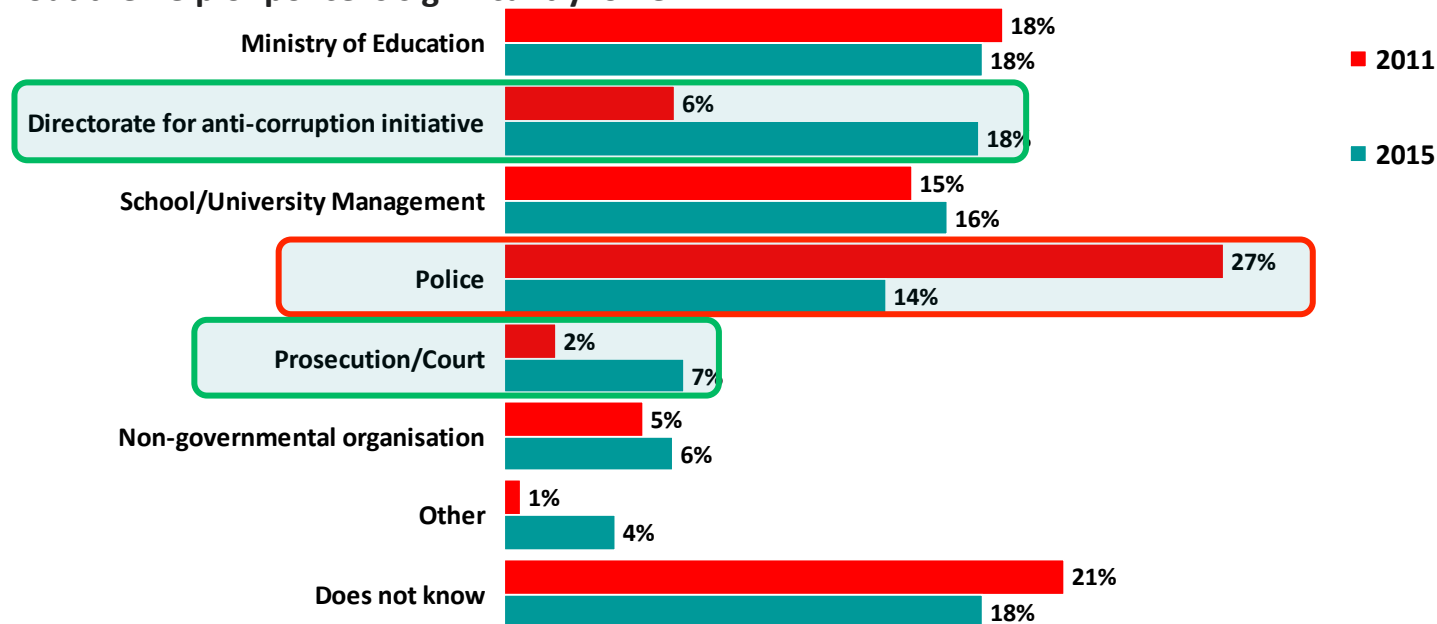
*Which institution or body would you first address if you were to decide and report the perceived corruption in education?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Reporting corruption

Compared to November 2011, the number of citizens who would report corruption to Directorate for anti-corruption increased, as well as the number of those would report it to prosecution. On the other hand, the number of those who would seek out the help of police is significantly lower.



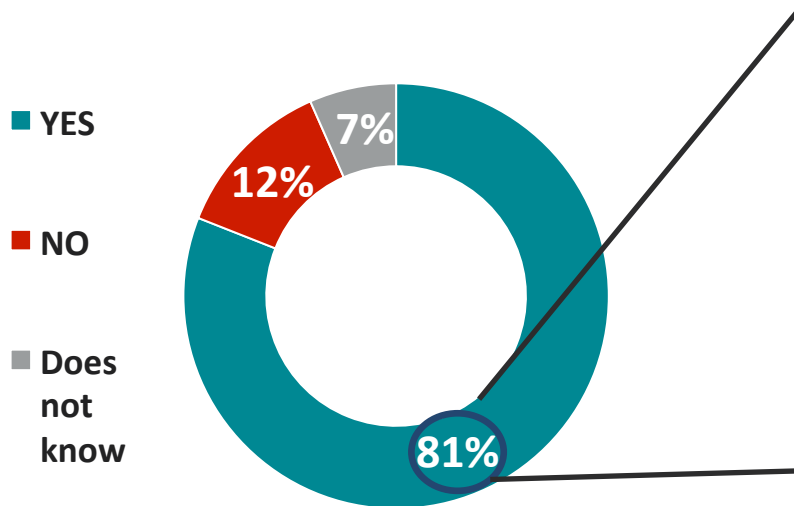
*Which institution or body would you first address if you were to decide and report the perceived corruption in education?*

*Base: Overall target population*

# Only KNOWLEDGE should bring you the TITLE

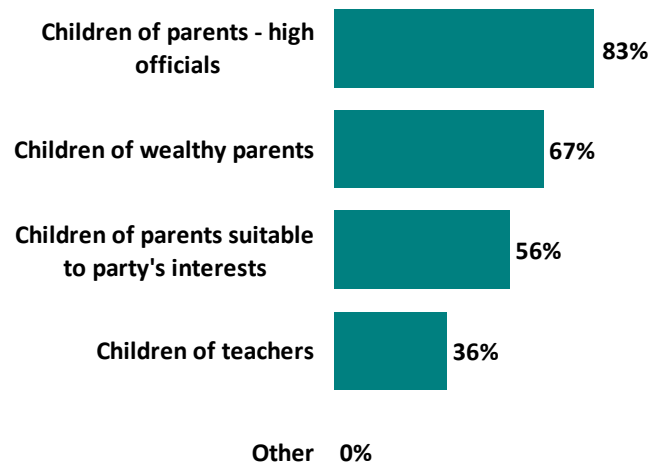
## Privileged students

Four out of five citizens do not have doubts that there are privileged students in the education system. “Privileged student” often refers to children whose parents are high officials, wealthy or party’s interest-suitable people.



*In your opinion, are there privileged students in the education system when it comes to assessing their knowledge and their overall position in the school / college?*

*Base: Overall target population*



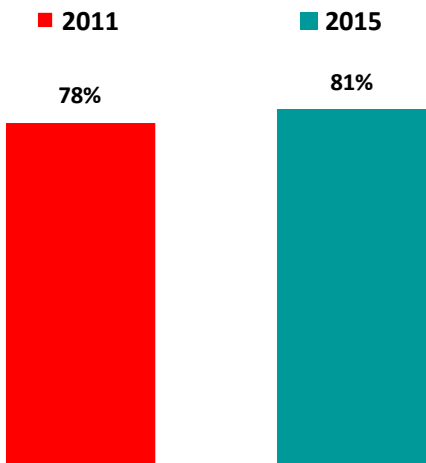
*Which children/youth are privileged in system of education?*

*Base: if there are privileged students in the education system, in terms of the evaluation of their knowledge and their overall position in the school / faculty (81% of target population)*

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## Privileged students

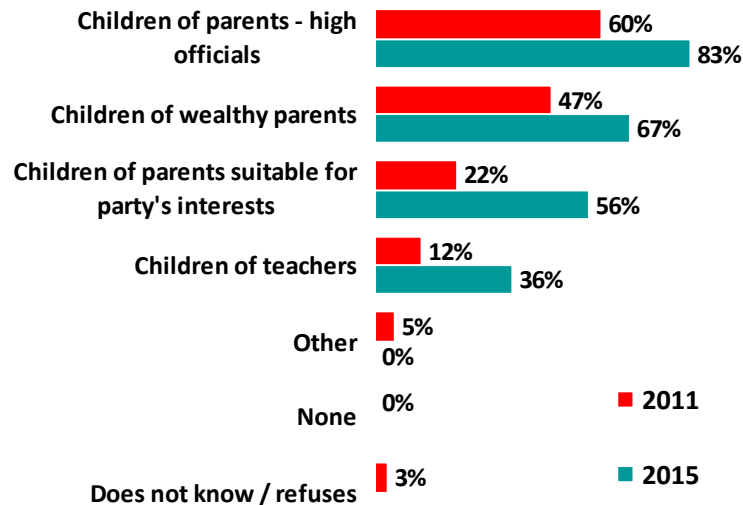
Compared to November 2011, each of these categories of children was marked as privileged by great number of citizens.



**There are privileged students in system of education**

*In your opinion, are there privileged students in the system of education when it comes to assessing their knowledge and their overall position in the school / college?*

*Base: Overall target population*



*Which children/youth are privileged in system of education?*

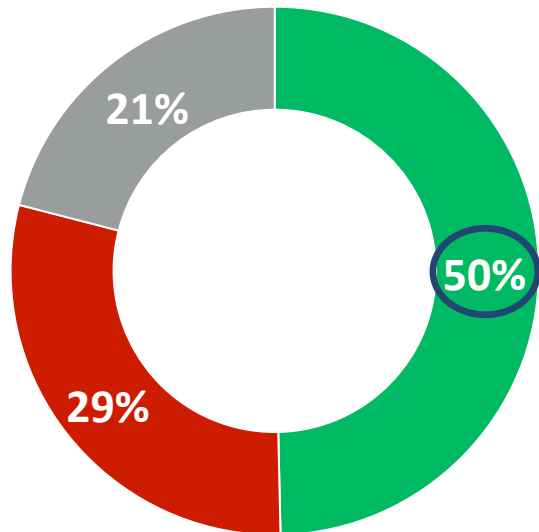
*Base: if there are privileged students in the system of education, in terms of the evaluation of their knowledge and their overall position in the school / faculty (81% of target population)*



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## Buying of diplomas

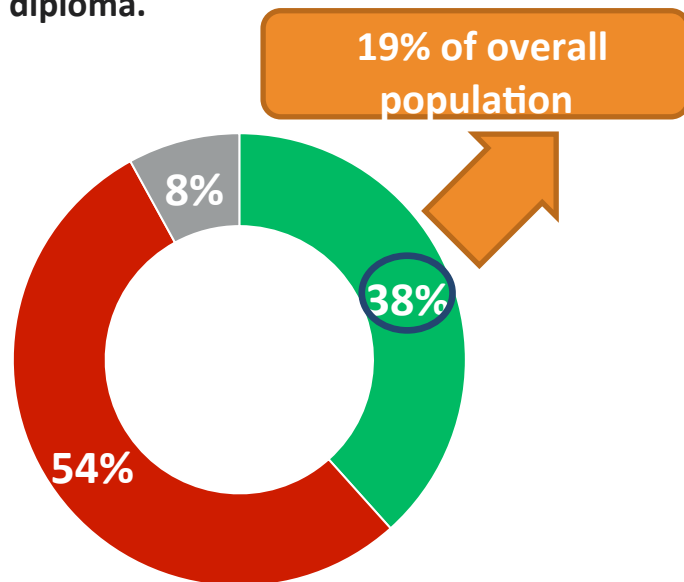
Half of the citizens claim that it is possible to buy a diploma of certain school or university in Montenegro. On the other hand, 19% of citizens claim that they know someone who bought a diploma.



*Is it possible to buy a valid university diploma today?*

*Base: Overall population*

- YES
- NO
- Does not know



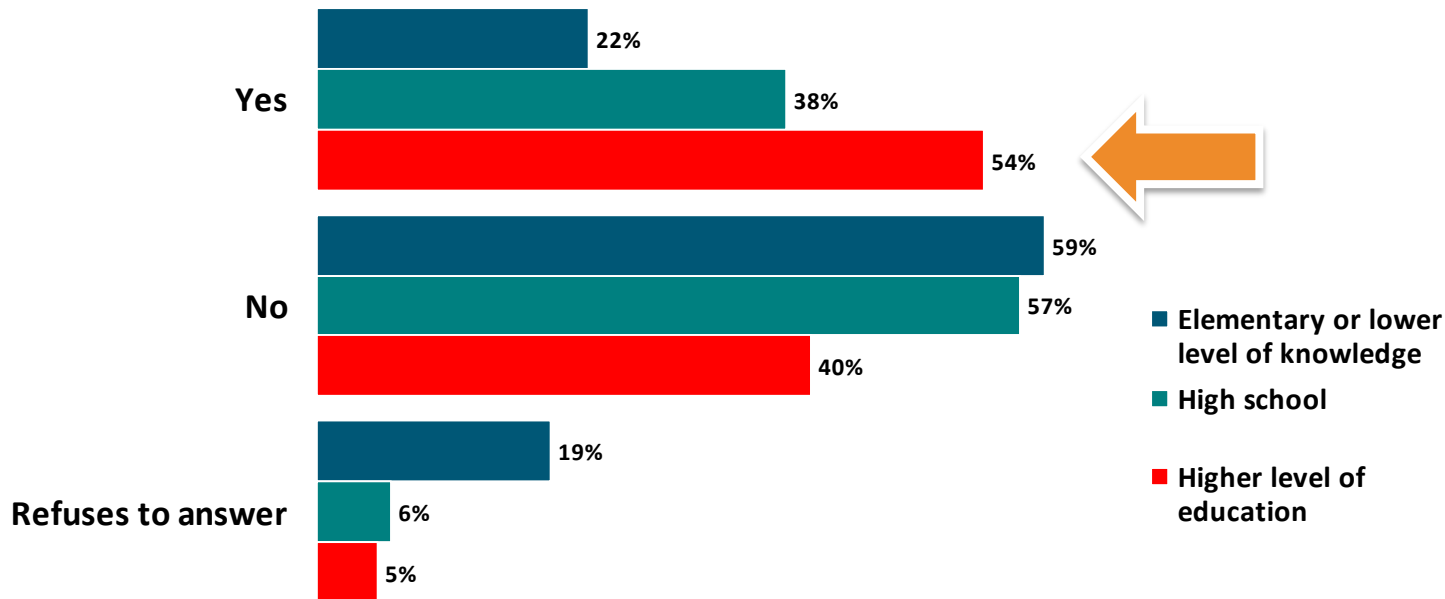
*Do you know someone who bought a diploma?*

*Base: those who believe that it is possible today to buy a diploma of a certain university or college (50% of total population)*

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## Buying of diplomas

Significantly larger number of citizens with university or college level of education claims that they know someone who bought a diploma.



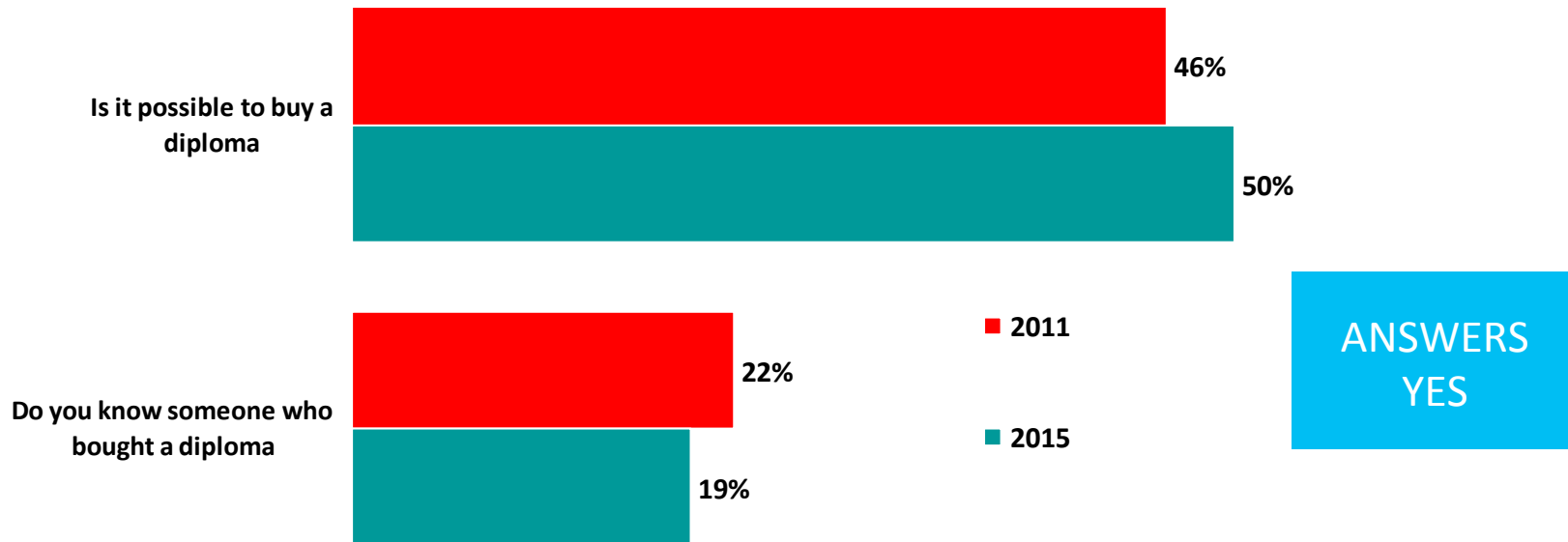
*Do you know someone who bought a diploma?*

*Base: those who believe that it is possible today to buy a diploma of a certain university or college (50% of target population)*

*Only KNOWLEDGE should bring you the TITLE*

## Buying of diplomas

Percentage of citizens who estimated that it is possible to buy a valid diploma in Montenegro, and percentage of those who claim that they know someone who bought a diploma is almost the same as in 2011.



*Is it possible to buy a valid university diploma today in Montenegro? Do you know someone who bought a diploma?*

*Base: overall target population*



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## **EXPERIENCE AND OPENNESS FOR CORRUPTION**

- Only 15%, citizens of Montenegro claims that they personally used kinship, party or some other connections in order to help themselves, or some other close person, obtain a better grade in school / faculty or pass an exam. Nearly the same percentage of citizens (18%) underlines that they would personally bribe a professor if it was the only way to help themselves, or some other member of their family, to pass an exam or get the desired grade?
- Apart from that, only 40% of citizens claims that they would be prepared to report if they, or some member of their family, was asked by a teacher, professor for a bribe or service as a condition to pass an exam / get the desired grade. It is important to mention that in 2011 the number of citizens who were prepared to report the corruption was significantly higher (61%).
- Among other institutions that citizens said they would address to report the corruption in education, they mentioned Ministry of Education as well as the faculties (and schools), but also the Directorate for anti-corruption initiative.
- 6% of citizens states that they would report the corruption to non-governmental organisations, while one fifth of citizens (18%) claims that they do not know who would they turn to.



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## **EXPERIENCE AND OPENNESS FOR CORRUPTION**

- The number of citizens who claim that they would not report the corruption in education is greatly higher (51%), compared to the number of citizens who claim that they do not know who would they turn to (18%). This leads to the conclusion that citizens are not that interested in corruption in education, or that they believe that this form of corruption is acceptable.
- 4/5 of citizens of Montenegro considers that there are privileged students in education system, and in their opinion, those are primarily children whose parents are high officials, or wealthy persons.
- Half of the citizens (50%) believes that it is possible to buy a valid diploma of a certain school or faculty in Montenegro. Nonetheless, same as with the issue of corruption, we notice a great difference between the perception and experience. Thus, significantly lower number of citizens (19%) claims they know who bought a diploma. Though, its is important to mention that the percentage of people with somewhat higher.

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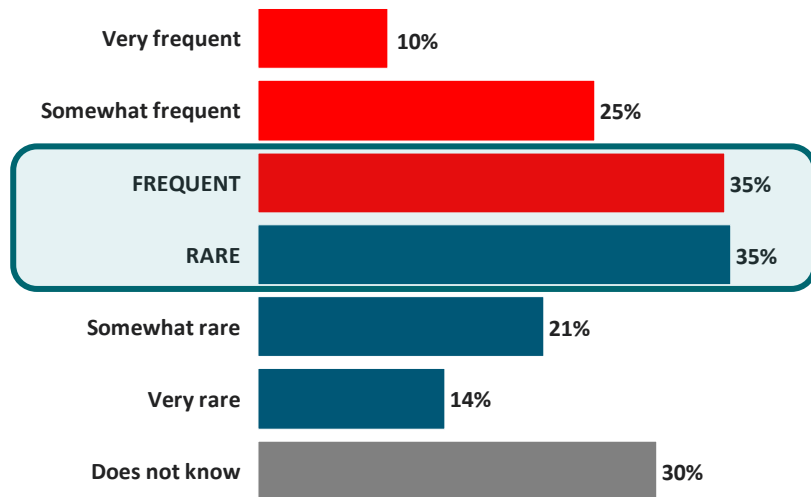


**PLAGIARISM**

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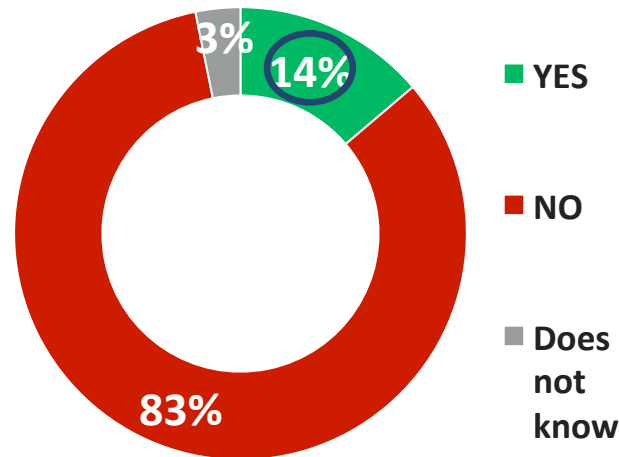
## Frequency of plagiarism and plagiarism in personal environment

One third of citizens estimated that the issue of plagiarism in higher education is frequent. 14% of citizens claim that they know someone who plagiarized their scientific, master or PhD thesis.



*Lately in media there has been a lot of discussion on the issue of plagiarism (copyright offense) in higher education. In your opinion, how frequent are plagiarisms in Montenegro?*

*Base: Overall target population*



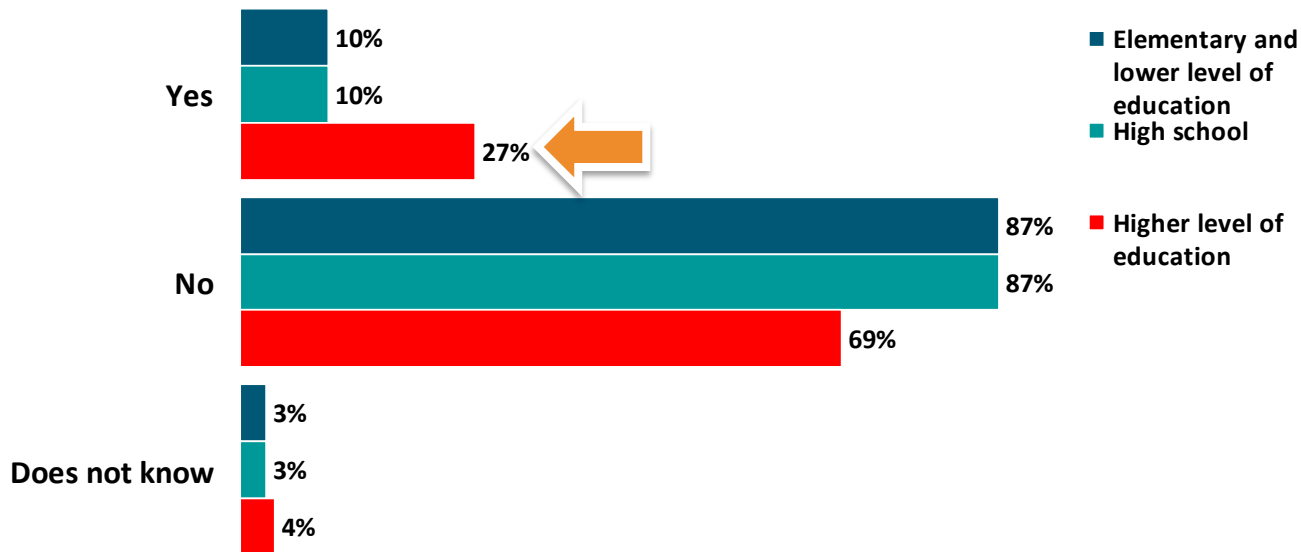
*Do you personally know someone who plagiarized their scientific, master or PhD thesis?*

*Base: Overall target population*

*Only KNOWLEDGE should bring you the TITLE*

## Presence of plagiarism in personal environment

One quarter of citizens with university or college level of education claims that they know someone who plagiarized their scientific, master or PhD thesis.



*Do you personally know someone who plagiarized their scientific, master or PhD thesis?*

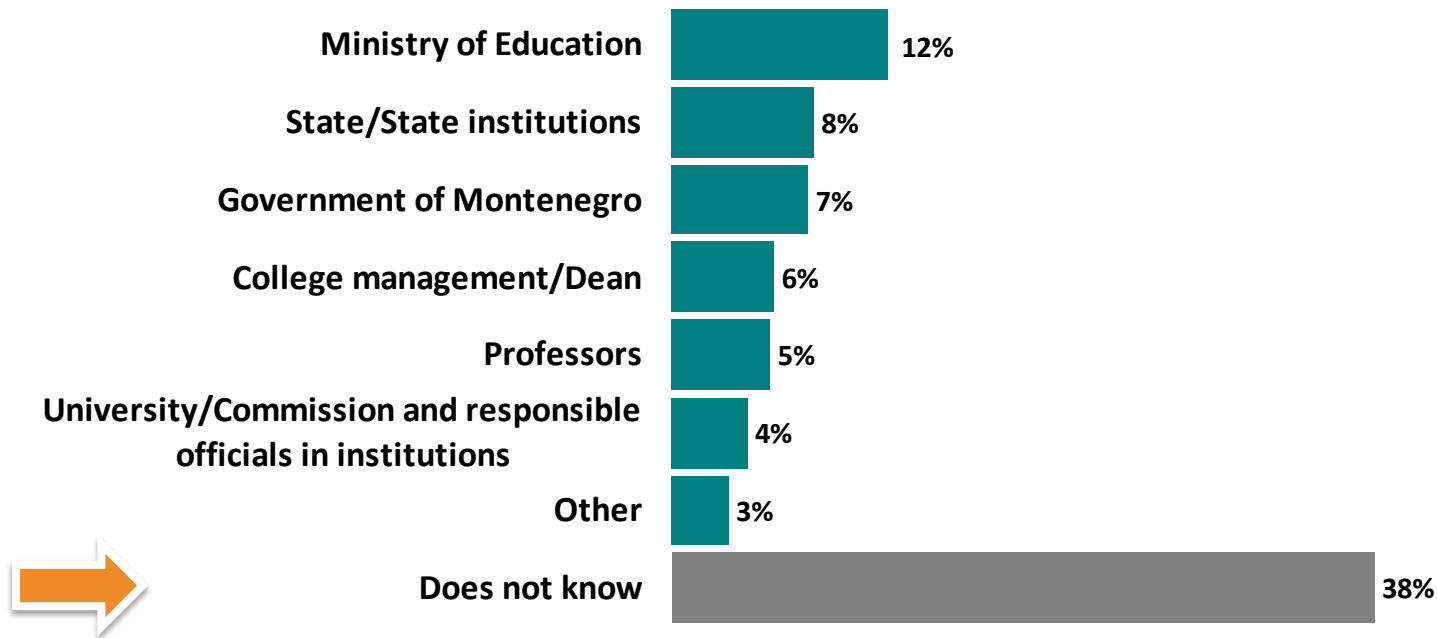
*Base: Overall target population*



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## Solving the issue of plagiarism

Majority of citizens is not familiar with the instance responsible to solve the issue of plagiarism.



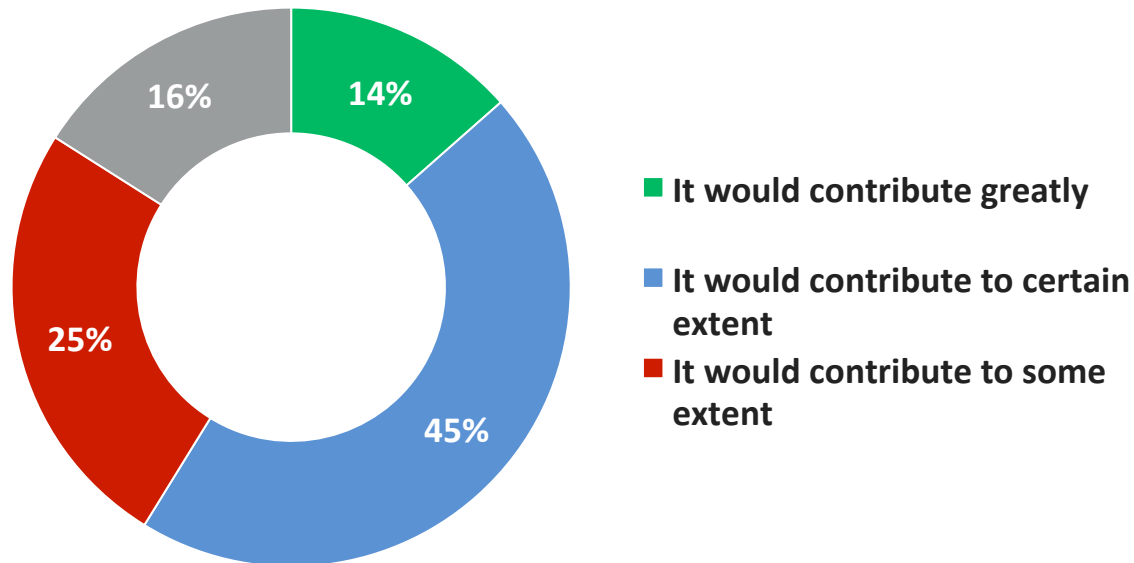
*In your opinion, who is the most responsible for the issue of plagiarism (to determine and suppress plagiarism)?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Solving the issue of plagiarism

14% of citizens consider that the obligation of publishing master and PhD thesis on portals of higher-education institutions and on the site of Ministry of Education would contribute in solving the issue of plagiarism to a greater extent.



*In order to solve the issue of plagiarism as soon as possible there is a proposal to introduce the obligation of publishing master and PhD thesis of academic structure of employees on higher-education institutions, as public officials, on portals of higher-education institutions, as well as on the site of Ministry of Education for public officials. Do you believe that this obligation would help solve the issue of plagiarism in Montenegro?*

*Base: Overall target population*



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## PLAGIARISM

- Like the rest of the issues related to system of education in Montenegro, in terms of the plagiarism, we noticed a difference between the perception on issue and experience with given issue. While one third of citizens (35%) claims that plagiarism is relatively frequent occurrence in Montenegro, significantly lower number of citizens claims that they know someone who plagiarized their scientific, master or PhD thesis (14%). Similar to problem of double labour contracts, citizens with higher level of education have somewhat negative picture, hence we noticed the increase in number of citizens who claim that they know someone who plagiarized their scientific, master and PhD thesis (27%).
- Fact that the majority of citizens (38%) are not familiar with who is responsible for the issue of plagiarism leads to the conclusion that citizens still do not deal with this issue.
- The opinion is divided regarding the proposal to introduce the obligation of publishing master and PhD thesis of academic structure of employees from higher-education institutions, as well as of high officials, on portals of higher-education institutions, as well as on the site of Ministry of Education for higher officials, in order to solve the issue of plagiarism as soon as possible. Still, the majority are those who think that this decision would at least contribute in the resolution of issue of plagiarism (45%), while 14% think that it would contribute greatly.

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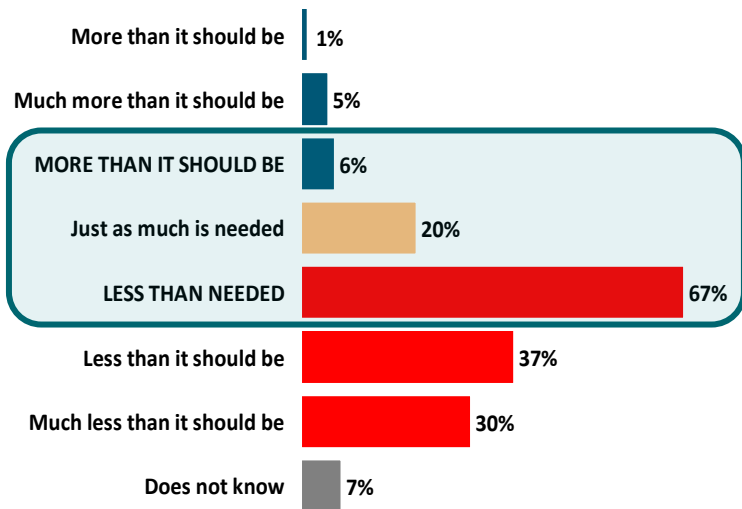


**FIGHT  
AGAINST THE  
CORRUPTION**

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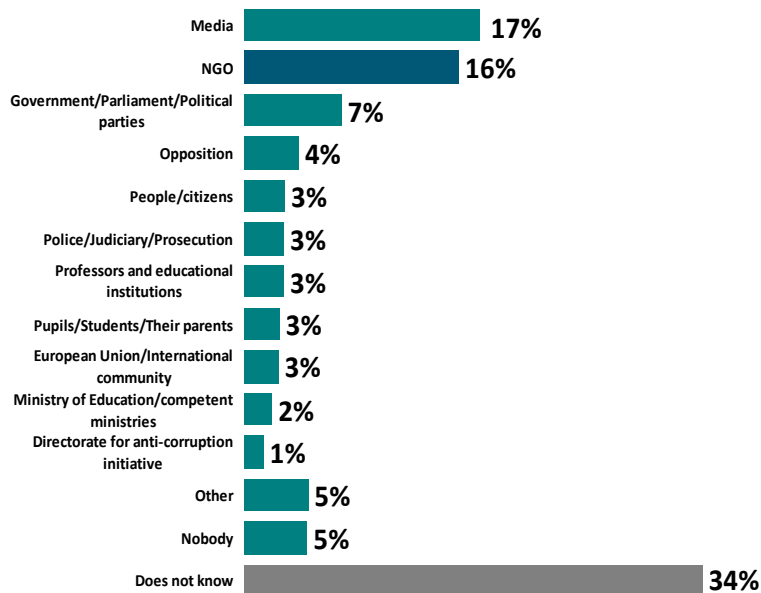
## Visibility of issue of corruption in public

2/3 of citizens believe that the issue of corruption in education is not present enough in public. On the other hand, media and NGOs are most often referred as institutions who contributed in raising the awareness on this issue.



*To which extent we talk about the issue of corruption in education in Montenegro?*

*Base: Overall target population*



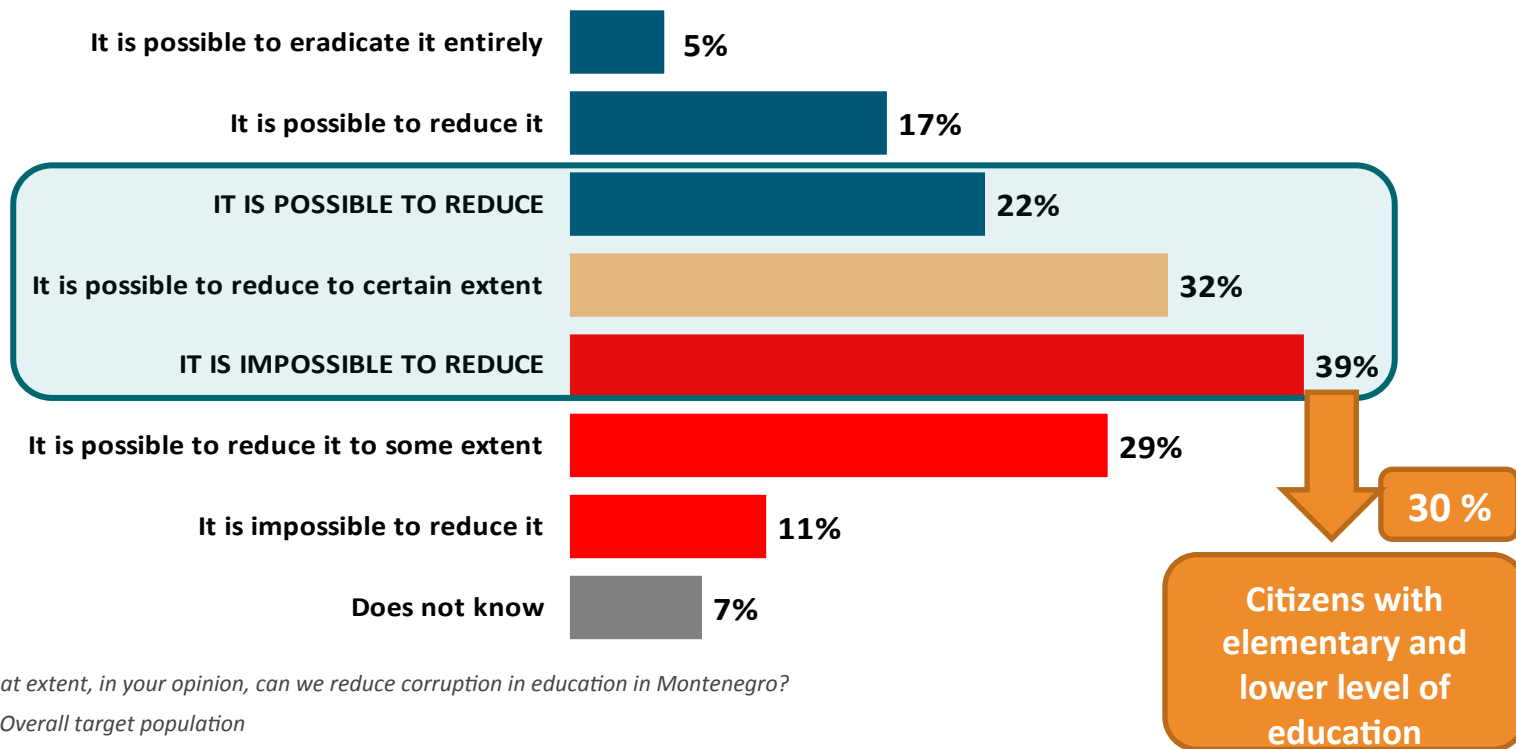
*In your opinion, who contributed the most in raising this issue in Montenegrin society?*

*Base: Overall target population*

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## Possibility to reduce the corruption in education

One fifth of citizens believes that it is possible to reduce the corruption in education in Montenegro.



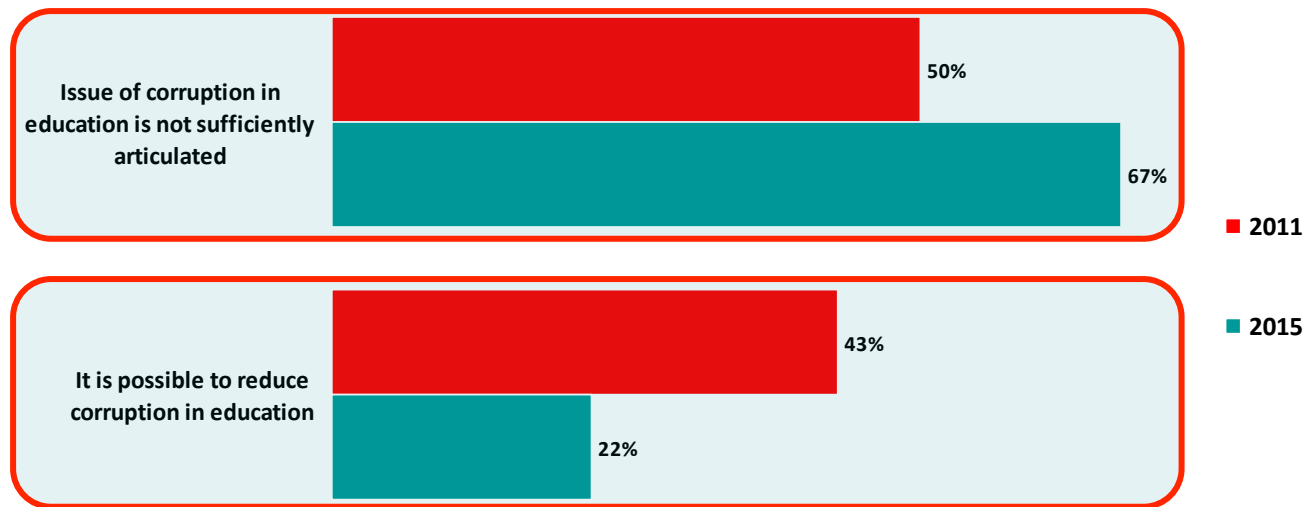
To what extent, in your opinion, can we reduce corruption in education in Montenegro?

Base: Overall target population

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## Corruption in public and the possibility of reduction

Percentage of citizens who believe that the issue of corruption in education is not sufficiently articulated in the public is not significantly higher compared to 2011. On the other hand, the number of citizens who believe that corruption in education can be reduced cut halved.



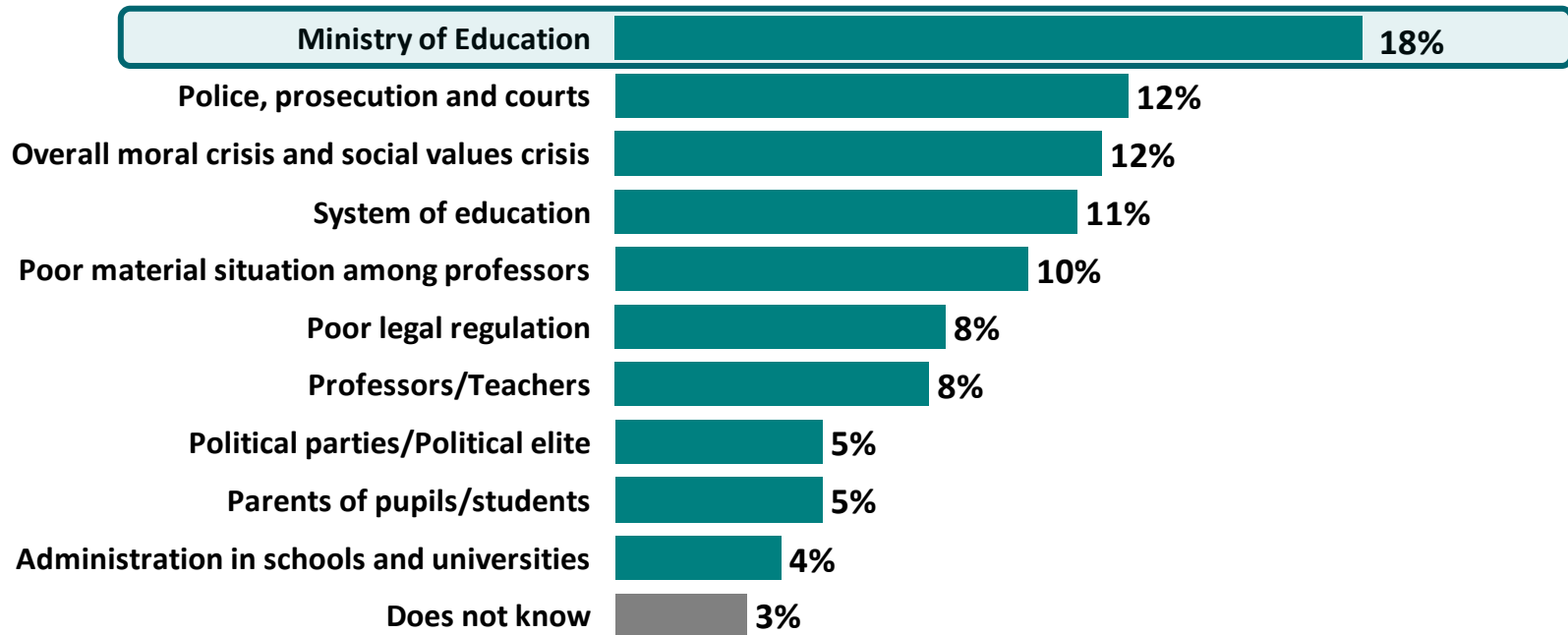
*To which extent is the issue of corruption in education present in our discussion? To which extent can we reduce corruption in education in Montenegro?*

*Base: Overall target population*

*Only KNOWLEDGE should bring you the TITLE*

## Responsibility for the issue of corruption in education

Citizens usually attribute the problem of corruption in education to Ministry of Education.



*In your opinion, who is the most responsible for corruption in education in Montenegro?*

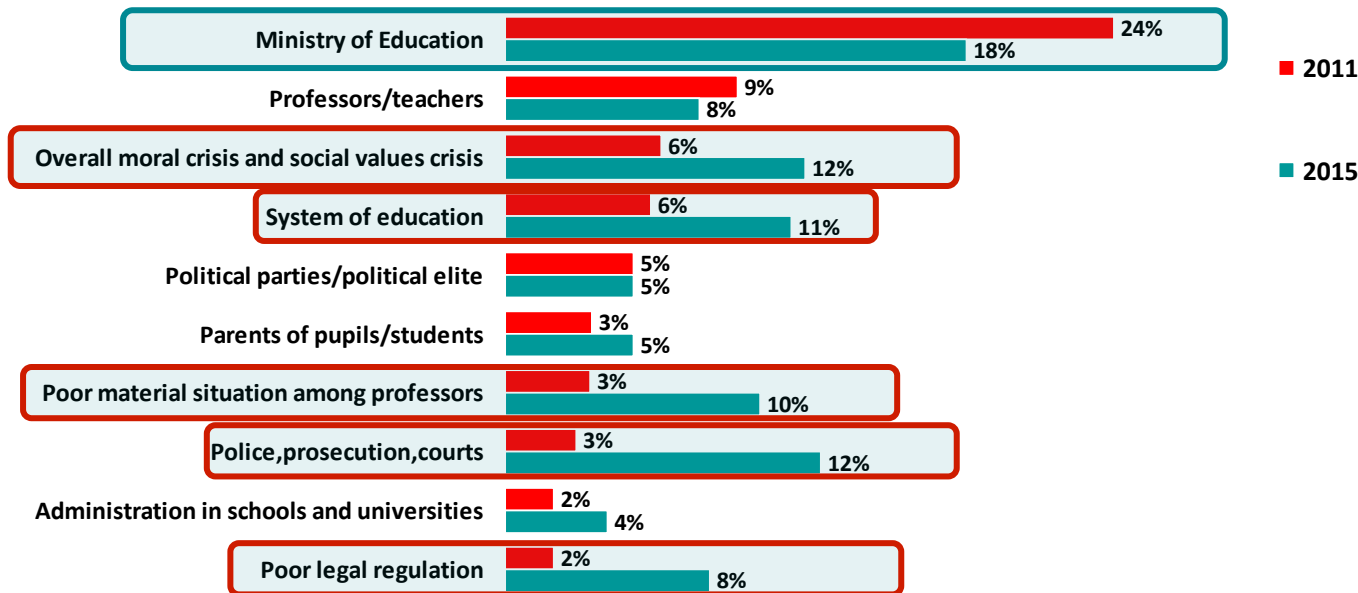
*Base: Overall target population*



*Only KNOWLEDGE should bring you the TITLE*

## Responsibility for the issue of corruption in education

Compared to 2011, considerably lower number of citizens believes that the Ministry of Education is the most responsible for issue of corruption in education. On the other hand, the number of those who emphasise the impact of moral-value crisis, imperfections in system of education, material situation among professors and work of the police and judicial bodies increased.



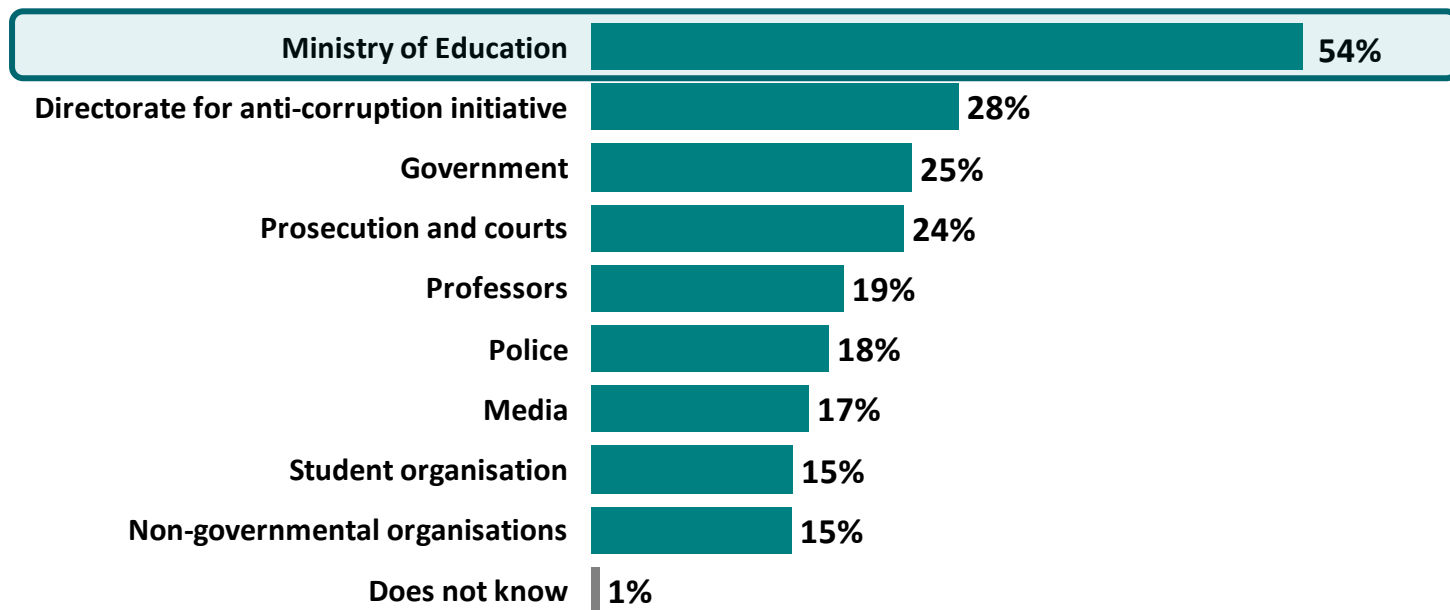
*In your opinion, who is the most responsible for corruption in education in Montenegro?*

*Base: Overall target population*

*Only KNOWLEDGE should bring you the TITLE*

## Competence in the fight against the corruption

Ministry of education is the roof institution that should work the most to suppress corruption in education.



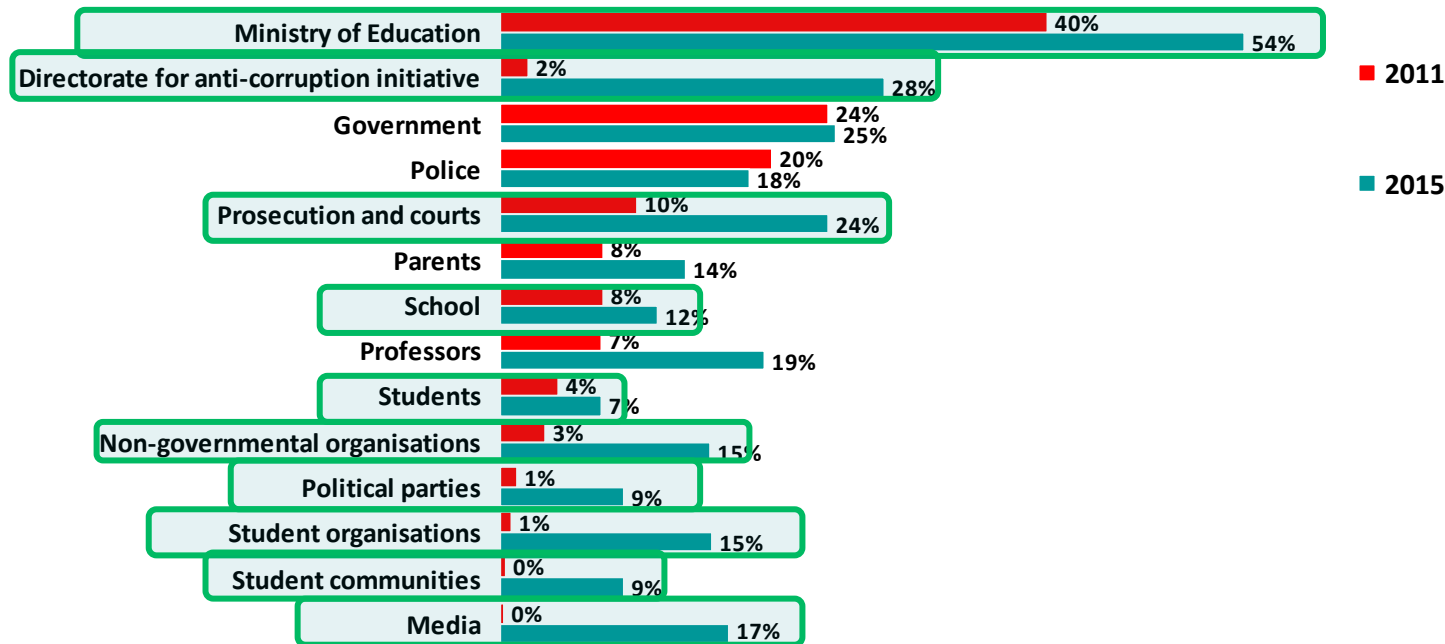
*In your opinion, who should work the most to suppress corruption in education in Montenegro?*

*Base: Overall target population*

*Only KNOWLEDGE should bring you the TITLE*

## Competence in the fight against the corruption

Higher number of citizens marked nearly every institution or organization as responsible for the fight against the corruption.



*In your opinion, who should work the most to suppress corruption in education in Montenegro?*

*Base: Overall target population*



*Only KNOWLEDGE should bring you the TITLE*

## FIGHT AGAINST THE CORRUPTION

- **The media (17%) and non-governmental organizations (16%) stated that they contributed the most in raising the issue of corruption in education in Montenegrin public**, and the fact that every third citizen of Montenegro does not know who contributed the most in raising this issue demonstrates the lack of interest of public in this problem, although declaratively two-thirds of citizens of Montenegro (67%) said that the problem of corruption in education is not sufficiently articulated.
- **Two fifths of citizens (39%) are pessimist in terms of the possibility of reduction of corruption in education.**
- Finally, it is important to emphasise that citizens believe that corruption in education is the internal issue of system of education. Thus, **the majority of citizens simultaneously claims that the Ministry of Education is the most responsible for the issue of corruption in education as well as that it is the institution that should work the most to suppress the corruption in education in Montenegro.**

**STOP  
CORRUPTION**

**Thanks for your attention!**

