

Corruption Indexes

Results from the Comparative Survey
in Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia

February 2000



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The main results from the first comparative survey of the public opinion on corruption conducted in Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia in January 2000 are presented in this material.

The survey was conducted with the cooperation between Vitosha Research with Center for the Study of Democracy, Albanian Center for Economic Research, Albania, and Forum – Center for Strategic Research and Documentation, Macedonia. The survey is based on a Corruption Monitoring System of Coalition 2000 which was created by Vitosha Research and is an initial step towards implementation of a Regional Corruption Monitoring System.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Sample

National representative survey of the population aged 18+ of each country.

	<i>Sample Size</i>
Albania	1002
Bulgaria	1144
Macedonia	1007

Survey method

The survey used the method of the face-to-face interview.

Field work

Field work was conducted between January 15 - January 25, 2000.

CORRUPTION INDEXES

- Corruption assessment index numbers assume values from 0-10.
- The closer the value of the indexes is to 10, the more negative are the assessments of the evaluated aspect of corruption in Bulgaria. Index numbers closer to 0 indicate approximation to the ideal of a “corruption-free” society.
- Corruption indexes have been grouped into several categories:
 - Attitudes towards corruption;
 - Corrupt practices;
 - Assessment of the spread of corruption;
 - Corruption-related expectations.

MAIN PROBLEMS FACED BY ALBANIA, BULGARIA, AND MACEDONIA

The citizens of the three countries evaluate in different ways the main problems of their societies, as well as the public significance of the problem “corruption”.

According to the public opinion in Albania corruption is the most important public problem at present.

In Bulgaria corruption is among the four most important problems, and in Macedonia corruption is ranked at seventh place. In Bulgaria, as well as in Macedonia unemployment is ranked as the most important social problem.

TABLE 1 MAIN PROBLEMS FACED BY COUNTRY

	<i>Albania</i>		<i>Bulgaria</i>		<i>Macedonia</i>	
	<i>%</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Political instability	40,3	4	13,1	8	35,7	4
Ethnic problems	5,2	9	1,4	11	28,9	6
Corruption	68,4	1	37,5	4	28,5	7
Low incomes	26,3	5	50,6	2	38,1	2
Crime	54,5	2	27,9	5	32,1	5
Unemployment	44,7	3	65,3	1	69,0	1
Environment pollution	6,4	8	4,3	9	3,8	11
Health Care	22,7	6	18,9	6	10,2	8
High prices	4,9	10	2,9	10	4,2	10
Education	3,7	11	14,6	7	6,2	9
Poverty	20,5	7	41,2	3	38,0	3

Respondents gave up to three answers and the sum total of percentages therefore exceeds 100.

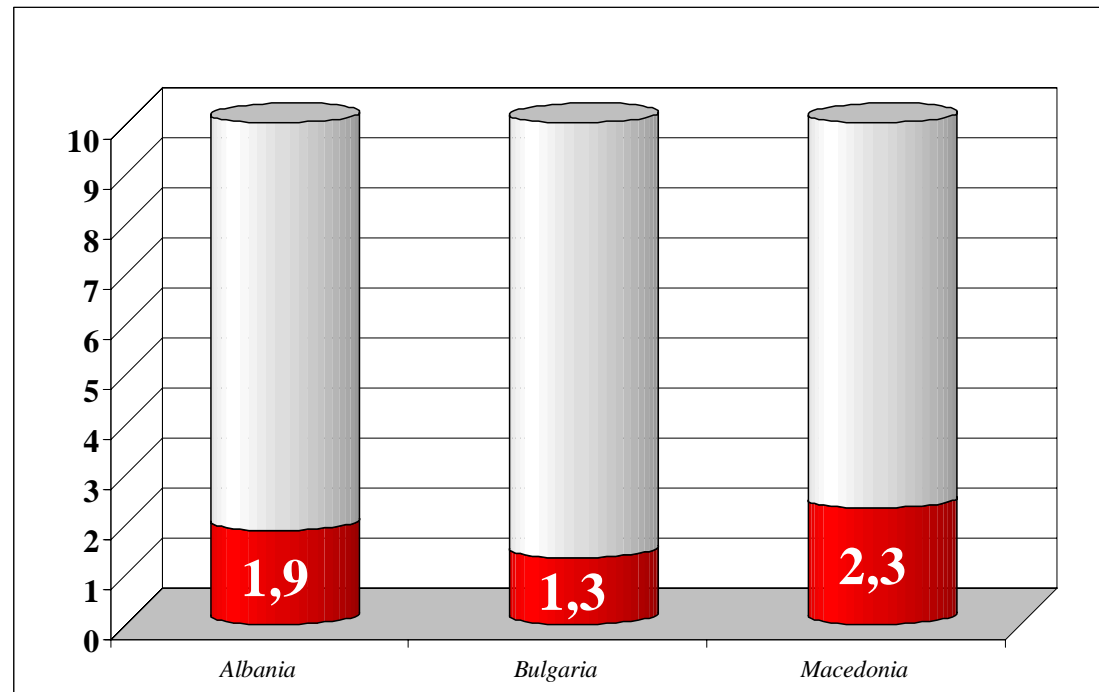
ATTITUDES TOWARDS CORRUPTION

Acceptability in Principle

This index reflects the level of tolerance towards the various corrupt practices in all of the three countries.

The values of this index reflect the fact that corruption is generally perceived as morally inadmissible phenomenon.

FIGURE 1. ACCEPTABILITY IN PRINCIPLE

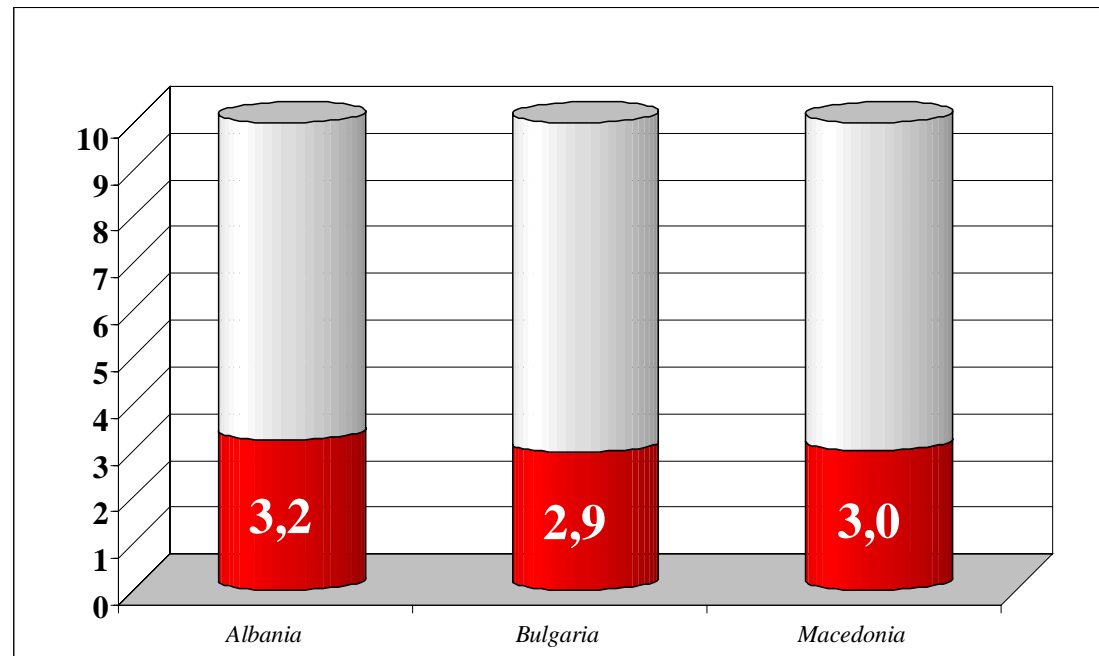


Susceptibility to corruption

The index, which measures the inclination of the citizens to compromise with their principles and values under the pressure of circumstances, has similar values in all of the countries.

This fact shows that public opinion in Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia demonstrates intolerance towards corrupt practices, and citizens declare their willingness for personal non-involvement with them, despite the pressure of the circumstances.

FIGURE 2. SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CORRUPTION



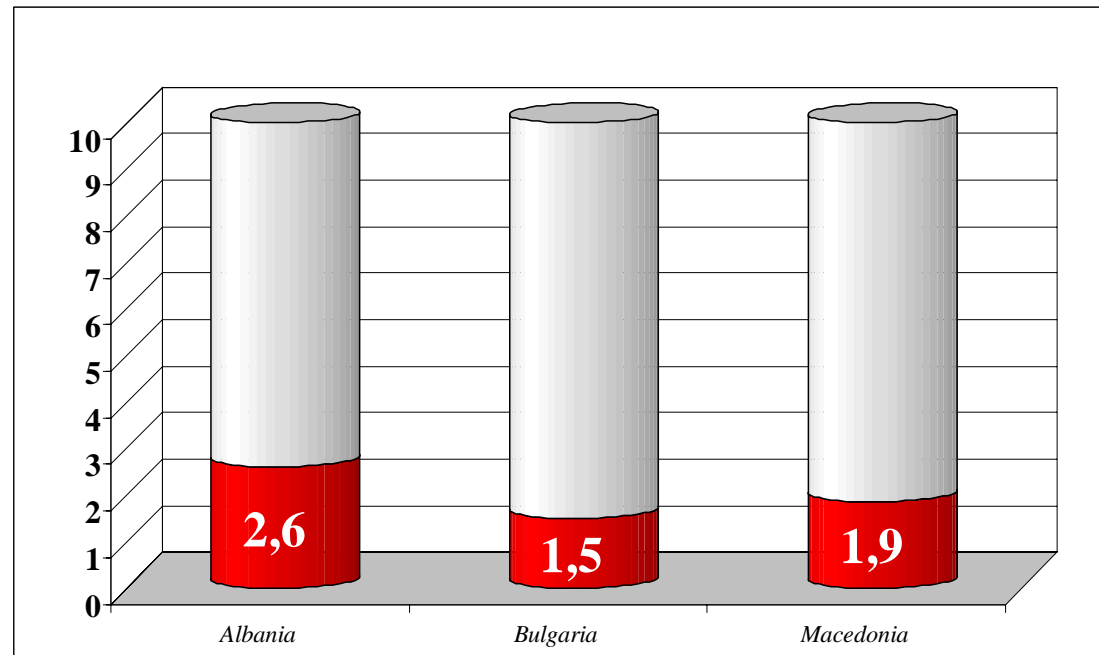
CORRUPT PRACTICES

Corruption pressure

This index reflects the spread of the attempts of public officials to exert direct or indirect pressure on the citizens of the three countries in order to obtain money, gifts, or services.

The empirical data show that the exerted pressure on citizens by public officials is strongest in Albania, where the index value is the highest. On the contrary, in Bulgaria and Macedonia the role of this factor for the formation of corrupt behavior is less important.

FIGURE 3. CORRUPTION PRESSURE



Corruption pressure by professional groups

According to public opinion in Albania doctors are the ones who exert the strongest corruption pressure on citizens. More than two thirds of all the respondents have declared that such pressure was exerted on them. Municipality, tax, and police officers also exert substantial corruption pressure on Albanian citizens.

In Bulgaria, police and customs officers, doctors, and administrative staff in the judicial system are shown as occupations, which most often exert corruption pressure.

In Macedonia the ranking of the different professional groups according to the corruption pressure they exert is led by doctors, municipality, police, tax, and customs officers, as well as administrative staff from the judicial system.

TABLE 2. “IF IN THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEAR YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR SOMETHING IN ORDER TO HAVE A PROBLEM OF YOURS SOLVED, YOU WERE ASKED BY:”

	<i>Albania**</i>		<i>Bulgaria</i>		<i>Macedonia</i>	
	<i>%*</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>%*</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>%*</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Doctor	71,0	1	20,0	2	36,1	1
Teacher	3,8	13	4,9	14	10,1	11
University professor or official	4,2	9	10,1	7	11,3	10
Official at a ministry	2,9	15	3,2	15	12,1	9
Municipal official	20,5	2	11,3	6	25,5	2
Administrative official in the judicial system	4,7	7	18,5	4	17,7	5
Judge	8,5	5	6,9	10	13,4	8
Public prosecutor	4,1	10	5,9	13	4,5	14-15
Investigating officer	4,4	8	6,1	12	4,5	14-15
Police officer	12,6	4	23,4	1	18,0	3
Customs officer	7,9	6	19,8	3	17,8	4
Tax official	15,6	3	8,4	8	16,2	6
Member of parliament	0,9	16	1,9	16	4,0	16
Municipal councilor	4,0	11-12	6,7	11	7,9	12
Businessman	3,4	14	13,7	5	15,0	7
Banker	4,0	11-12	8,1	9	4,7	13

** Relative share of those who have had such contacts, who have been asked for money, gifts, or services.*

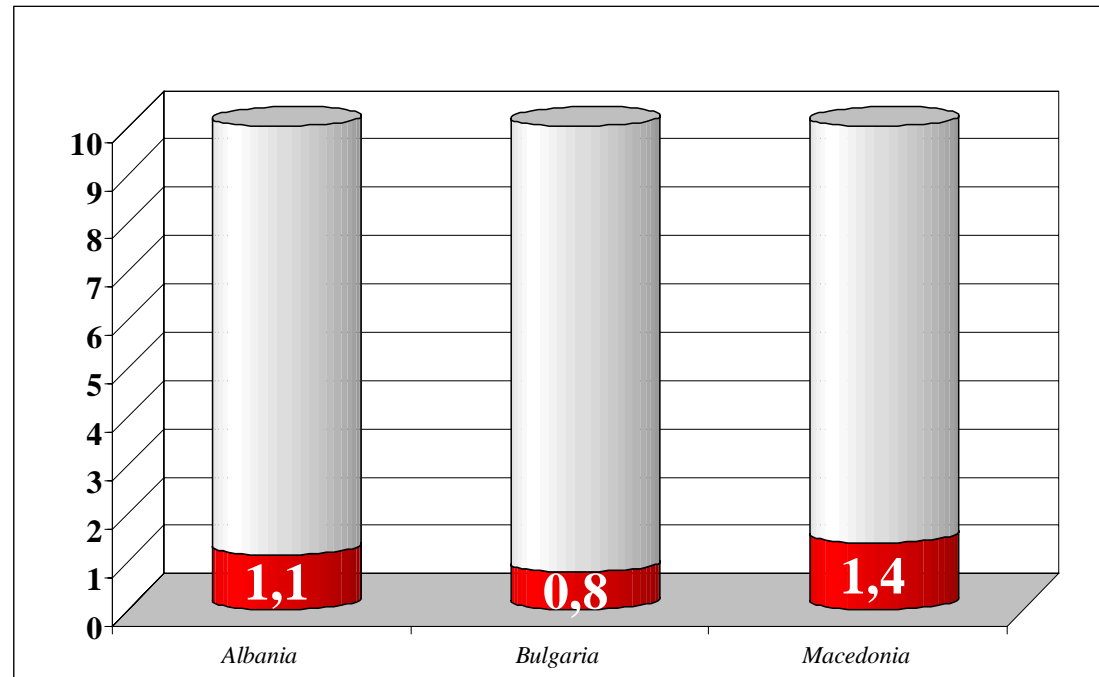
*** The Albanian data concern not only the direct corruption pressure but also report on the respondents' perceptions of the indirect corruption pressure.*

Involvement in corrupt practices

This index reflects respondents' self-admission of personal involvement in corrupt practices.

Its values in the three countries give grounds for arguing that real corruption is created by a small part of the citizens – about 7-8% of them are involved in corrupt practices according to their own confessions. It could be assumed that in practice this share is larger.

FIGURE 4. INVOLVEMENT IN CORRUPT PRACTICES



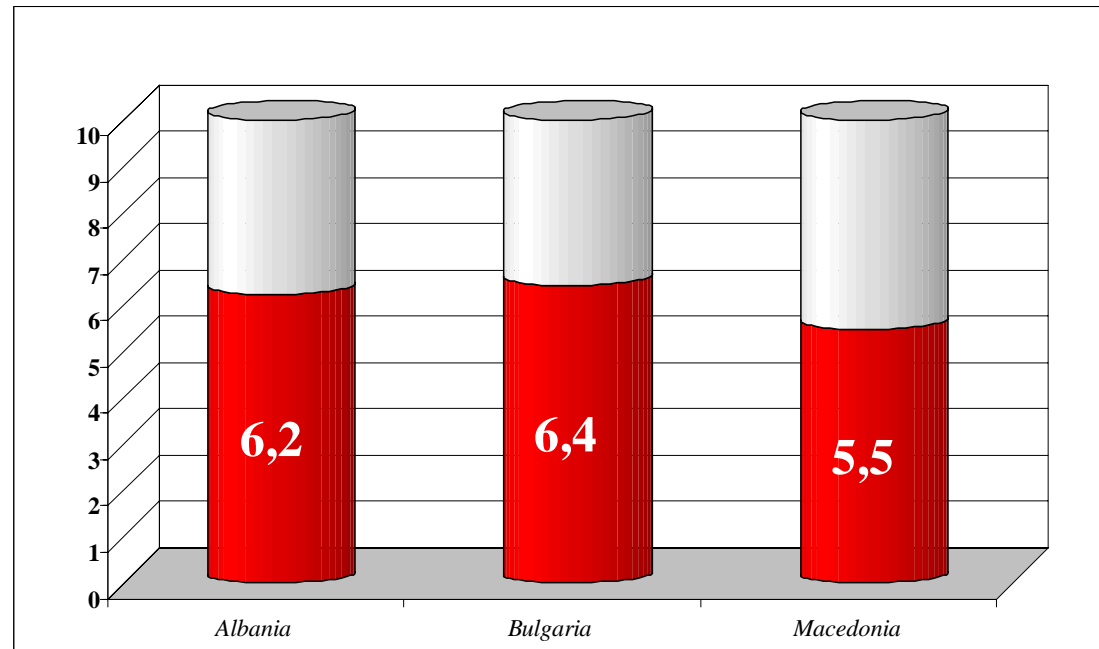
ASSESSMENTS OF THE SPREAD OF CORRUPTION

Spread of corruption

This index registers Albanian, Bulgarian, and Macedonian citizens' estimates of the spread of corrupt practices among public officials.

Despite the registered differences, the values of the index in the three countries are high. This practically means that according to the public opinion in Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia, the phenomenon "corruption" is perceived as widely spread.

FIGURE 5. SPREAD OF CORRUPTION



Spread of corruption by professional groups

As it can be expected, public opinion in Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia evaluates in different ways the level of spread of corruption among the professional groups. Despite this fact, in the three countries there are occupations, which can be fairly defined as “centers” of corruption.

According to the public opinion in Albania, corruption is most widespread among customs and tax officers, as well as among all representatives of the judicial system – judges, lawyers, investigators, and prosecutors. In Bulgaria the leading positions in the ranking are occupied by customs officers (who are far ahead of the other occupational groups), lawyers, tax and police officers, businessmen. In Macedonia customs officers are also assigned first place in the ranking based on spread of corruption. They are followed by doctors, ministers, members of parliament, and ministry administration.

TABLE 3. "ACCORDING TO YOU, HOW WIDESPREAD IS CORRUPTION AMONG THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:"

	<i>"Nearly all" and "most" are involved in corruption" (%)</i>					
	<i>Albania</i>		<i>Bulgaria</i>		<i>Macedonia</i>	
	<i>%</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Journalists	9,4	21	10,6	21	17,8	22
Teachers	9,0	22	9,5	22	25,6	19
University professors and officials	27,8	18	29,4	18	52,2	7
Officials at ministries	50,2	12	47,9	7	52,7	6
Municipal officials	56,1	9	45,0	10-11	43,6	15
Administration officials in the judicial system	63,7	7	42,0	13	46,4	11
Judges	85,4	2	48,5	5-6	50,7	8
Public prosecutors	72,5	6	46,3	8	39,8	16
Investigating officers	74,3	5	41,0	14	37,9	17
Lawyers	77,2	4	54,8	2	45,0	14
Police officers	51,4	11	51,9	4	45,8	12-13
Customs officers	95,2	1	77,0	1	66,3	1
Tax officials	79,5	3	53,9	3	50,2	9
Members of parliament	37,7	15	45,0	10-11	52,8	5
Ministers	47,6	14	45,3	9	53,1	4
Municipal councilors	36,3	17	32,5	16	33,2	18
Business people	54,8	10	48,5	5-6	58,2	3
Doctors	58,9	8	42,5	12	62,4	2
Political party and coalition leaders	37,4	16	35,7	15	48,0	10
Local political leaders	49,1	13	31,7	17	45,8	12-13
Representatives of NGO's	21,7	20	16,2	20	22,3	20
Bankers	23,8	19	20,9	19	20,9	21

Spread of corruption among institutions

Data show that the institutional spread of corruption in the three countries largely reproduces public assumptions about common corrupt practices among different occupational groups. Among the first five institutions determined by the respondents as “centers” of huge corruption in Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia are customs, tax offices, and the judicial system.

According to the public opinion in the three countries the Army, National Institute of Statistics and Presidency are institutions, where corruption is the least widespread.

TABLE 4. “ACCORDING TO YOU, HOW WIDESPREAD IS CORRUPTION IN THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:”

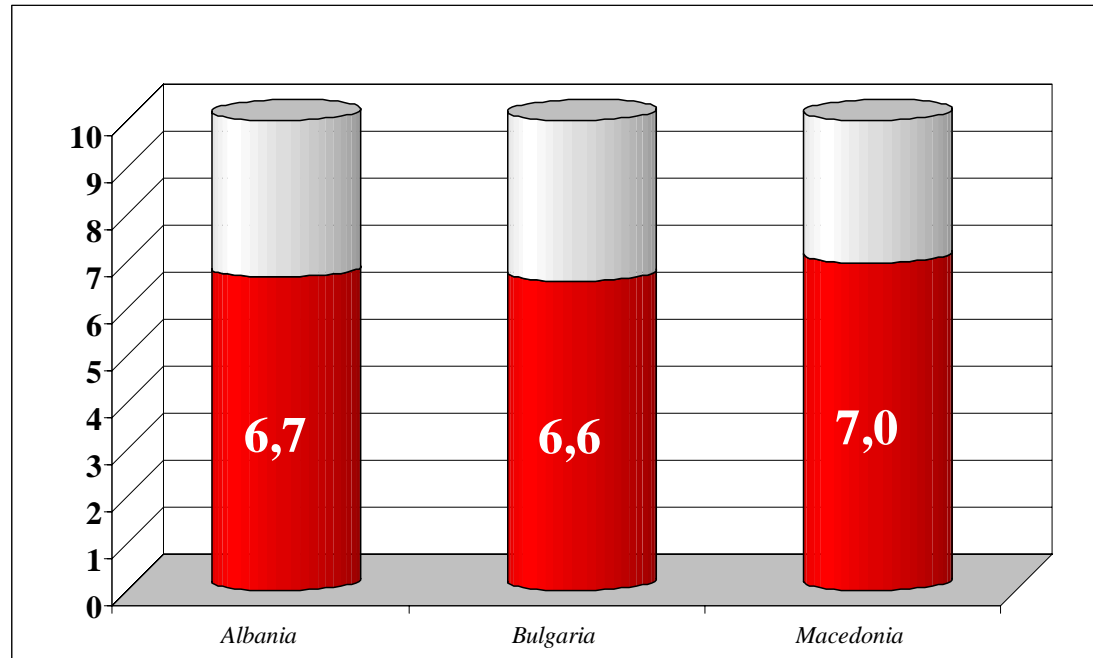
	<i>Albania</i>		<i>Bulgaria</i>		<i>Macedonia</i>	
	<i>Index</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Index</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Index</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Presidency	3,86	16	4,28	20	4,58	13
Parliament	5,74	12	6,96	10	6,22	9
Government	7,24	6-7	6,94	11	6,52	8
Industry line ministries	-	-	7,24	6	6,84	4
Municipal government	7,24	6-7	7,02	8	-	-
Municipal administration	7,34	5	6,82	12	-	-
Army	5,22	14	5,06	18	4,50	14
Customs	9,72	1	9,02	1	8,14	1
Tax offices	8,86	2	7,68	3-4	7,20	2
Judiciary	8,78	3	7,68	3-4	7,02	3
Police	7,06	11	7,30	5	6,72	6
Committee on Posts and Telecommunications	7,18	8-9	6,32	13	-	-
Committee on Energy	7,10	10	7,00	9	-	-
Privatization Agency	8,66	4	7,96	2	6,82	5
Agency for Foreign Investment	-	-	7,20	7	6,60	7
Commission for the Protection of Competition	-	-	6,18	15	-	-
Securities and Stock Exchanges Commission	7,18	8-9	6,22	14	-	-
Audit Office	-	-	5,54	16	5,74	11
Bulgarian National Bank	5,54	13	5,34	17	5,82	10
National Institute of Statistics	4,28	15	5,00	19	4,64	12

** In this table are listed some of the Bulgarian organizations and institutions. The Albanian and Macedonian data refer to the relevant institutions in these countries.*

Practical efficiency of corruption

This index shows Albanian, Bulgarian, and Macedonian citizens' evaluations of the extent in which corruption is becoming an effective means of solving personal problems. The high values of this index in the three countries show that for the bigger part of the citizens corrupt behavior constitutes a successful social practice. This attitude coexists with the conviction, which finds further confirmation on a daily basis, that corruption is a highly effective tool for resolving personal problems.

FIGURE 6. PRACTICAL EFFICIENCY OF CORRUPTION



CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS

This index reflects evaluations of the possibilities (potential) of the three countries to cope with corruption.

Its values (despite the fact that the value of the index is lower in Macedonia than in Albania and Bulgaria) show that as a whole skepticism and uncertainty towards the ability to cope with the problem “corruption” is dominant among the citizens. According to the public opinion in Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia corruption is hard to be eliminated in near future but there are possibilities for its limitation.

FIGURE 7. CORRUPTION EXPECTATIONS

