

The background is a vibrant, abstract illustration. It features several white silhouettes of people in various poses, some sitting and some standing, set against a complex background of overlapping, colorful shapes in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. A network of thin white lines connects various points across the scene, suggesting a digital or social network. The overall style is modern and graphic.

# Perception of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro

2024



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# Contents

Key findings .....	3
Introduction.....	6
Research methodology .....	7
General opinions on the State Prosecutor's Office.....	8
Perceptions on the work of the State Prosecutor's Office.....	26
Citizen's perception of the Prosecutorial Council .....	33
Corruption and organized crime.....	40
Citizen's awareness of the State Prosecutor's Office.....	46
Citizen's attitudes towards the presence of state prosecutors in public .....	65
Recommendations based on the conducted research .....	73

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## Key findings

### General opinions on the State Prosecutor's Office

Research findings indicate dynamic shifts in public perception of the State Prosecutor's Office, with positive trends observed over the past year, albeit alongside clear challenges in building public trust. Notably, there has been a significant increase in public trust in prosecutorial bodies at all levels, ranging from 5% to nearly 15%, signifying a positive shift in public perception of their work. The Special State Prosecutor's Office has garnered the highest level of public trust, with cumulatively over two-thirds (64.8%) of respondents expressing full or partial confidence, marking a 9.7% increase compared to 2023. Similarly, over two-thirds of citizens trust the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office. The Supreme State Prosecutor's Office enjoys the full or partial trust of 64.1% of citizens, representing a 14.5% increase compared to 2023. More than half of the citizens trust the work of the High State Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica, which has the confidence of 57.4% of citizens, a 10.8% increase compared to the previous year. The High State Prosecutor's Office in Bijelo Polje also recorded a 5.1% increase in trust compared to the previous year's research, with 46.5% of citizens expressing confidence. Notably, there has been a significant increase in trust in basic state prosecutors' offices. The Basic State Prosecutor's Office responsible for the municipality where respondents reside enjoys the trust of 60% of citizens, marking a 14.4% increase compared to 2023.

It is important to note that this year's research reveals a more positive overall public sentiment compared to the previous year. Data indicates a gradual trend of improving public perception of the State Prosecutor's Office in recent times. The current research shows that 42% of respondents reported a very positive or somewhat positive attitude, representing a 9.5% increase compared to the 2023 data (32.5%). Conversely, slightly more than a quarter (27%) expressed a very negative or somewhat negative attitude, which is a 9% decrease compared to the 2023 research where one-third (36%) indicated a negative attitude towards the Prosecutor's Office.

Public perception of the State Prosecutor's Office in 2024 has shown significant improvement in several key areas. Citizens increasingly recognize the independence and impartiality of the State Prosecutor's Office, with a 12.6% increase in trust in the institution as a cornerstone of the rule of law (to 61.4% in 2024 from 48.8% in 2023), and as a public service, where there was a 10.2% increase (to 58.4% in 2024 from 48.2% in 2023). There has been an 11.9% increase in the number of citizens who believe that the State Prosecutor's Office acts in the public interest in accordance with the law and professional standards (to 58.3% from 46.4%). There has also been a 9.1% increase in perception of impartiality in decision-making (to 54.7% from 45.6%). The overall results indicate improved transparency and professionalism in the work of the prosecutor's office, while there is still room for further improvement in strengthening public trust.

The research shows a significant increase in support for Supreme State Prosecutor. More than half of the respondents (51.5%) fully or partially support the work of the Supreme State Prosecutor Milorad Marković, which represents a 13.9% increase compared to the 2023 results, when just over a third of respondents (37.6%) fully or partially supported the work of the Acting Supreme State Prosecutor at that time.

The trend of increasing support for the Chief Special State Prosecutor Vladimir Novović has persisted. The 2024 research results found that 57.6% of respondents either fully or partially support his work, marking a 2.8% increase from the previous year (2023 - 54.8%).

## Perceptions on the work of the State Prosecutor's Office

This year's data reveals that slightly more than half of the citizens believe that the State Prosecutor's Office is successfully combating corruption, indicating positive shifts in public perception of this institution. An analysis of data collected in 2024 highlights a significant increase in public trust in the Prosecutor's Office efforts to combat corruption. According to the cumulative results, 53% of respondents believe that the Prosecutor's Office is effectively addressing this challenge, representing an 11.8% increase compared to 2023 when 41.2% of respondents held this view.

The research indicates a growing number of individuals who perceive the State Prosecutor's Office as effective in its operations, coupled with a decreasing trend in the number of citizens who view the Prosecutor's Office as ineffective. Slightly more than half of the respondents (51.1%) reported that they consider the State Prosecutor's Office to be very or somewhat effective in its work, representing a 4.9% increase compared to the 2023 research results. Conversely, just over a third of respondents, 35.8%, indicated that they consider the Prosecutor's Office to be somewhat or not at all effective, a decrease of 7.1% from the previous year when this figure was 42.9%.

The findings indicate a slight optimism among citizens, but also highlight the need for more visible efforts to further improve public perception of the institution. In 2024, a cumulative 41.8% of respondents reported noticing significant improvements or some improvements over the past 12 months. This represents a 2.9 percentage point increase compared to the previous year (2023 - 38.9%).

## Citizen's awareness of the State Prosecutor's Office

Public perception of the State Prosecutor's Office's transparency has significantly improved in 2024. Data indicates a growing belief among citizens that the State Prosecutor's Office operates in a transparent manner. According to the latest data, 55.7% of citizens rate the prosecution's work as very or somewhat transparent, representing a 14.9 percentage point increase compared to 2023 when 40.8% of respondents held this view. Conversely, the percentage of citizens who believe the prosecution's work is mostly or not at all transparent has decreased from 54.8% in 2023 to 39.9% in 2024.

In 2024, a significant 59.9% of citizens reported getting their news from TV news programs, demonstrating a continuous increase compared to 2022 (47.3%) and 2023 (51.2%).

When comparing attitudes towards the efficiency, anti-corruption efforts, and overall perception of the State Prosecutor's Office, a positive trend is observed among those who watched the TV show "Get to Know the Prosecutor's Office." Citizens who watched the show have a more positive view of the State Prosecutor's Office compared to those who have not heard of the show.

## Citizen's attitudes towards the presence of state prosecutors in public

Public addresses by state prosecutors have made a strong impression on citizens for their clarity and comprehensibility. Among citizens who have followed public addresses by state prosecutors in the past 12 months, a dominant majority, 85.4%, stated that they understood all or most of what the prosecutor said. This data indicates a high level of clarity and accessibility in the communication of prosecutors with the public.

Direct communication between citizens and prosecutors remains rare but shows a slight upward trend in recent years. Results show that in 2024, 8.5% of citizens had the opportunity to speak with a prosecutor in the previous 12 months, representing the highest percentage in the observed five-year period. This percentage shows a slight increase compared to 2023 (5.1%). Despite this, the majority of citizens (90.5%) still did not have the opportunity for such contact, indicating limited direct communication between prosecutors and citizens.

The question of whether state prosecutor's offices should inform the public about cases under their jurisdiction through press conferences indicates a consistent interest among citizens in greater transparency in the work of prosecutors. Although in 2023, 61.3% of respondents believed that prosecutors should inform the public through the media, this percentage decreased slightly to 56.9% in 2024. These data indicate that there is still a significant interest in greater transparency and access to information.

## Citizen's perception of the Prosecutorial Council

The data shows that in this year's research, 43.3% fully or partially believe that the Prosecutorial Council is independent, which represents an increase of 7.4 percentage points compared to last year (35.9%).

The research results show that citizens' awareness of the Prosecutorial Council remains at an extremely low level, with slight variations over the past three years. While in 2023 there was a slight increase in the number of citizens who stated they were familiar with the composition of the Prosecutorial Council (17.9%), that percentage fell to 11.3% in 2024. The majority of respondents, 88.7% in 2024, stated that they are not familiar with the work of this body, which indicates the need for more intensive efforts to inform the public and bring the role and importance of the Prosecutorial Council closer to them.

Of the respondents who stated they are familiar with the composition of the Prosecutorial Council (11.3%), one-quarter support the composition of the Council, 22.8% do not support it, while the majority (52.3%) have no decided opinion. This data shows a decline compared to 2023, when 46.1% of respondents supported the composition of the Council.

## Corruption and organized crime

The 2024 data shows that a dominant majority of citizens consider corruption and organized crime to be very serious or somewhat serious problems (corruption – 92.8%, organized crime – 90.1%). Compared to the results of the previous wave, there is a slight decrease in the number of respondents who view corruption and organized crime as a problem (in 2023: corruption – 94.7%, organized crime – 96.3%)

## Introduction

The State Prosecutor's Office remains a key institution for upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice in every democratic society, including Montenegro. Citizens' perception of this institution directly reflects the level of public trust in the judiciary system and, more broadly, in state institutions.

The 2024 report represents the continuation of a long-term research effort aimed at analyzing the attitudes of Montenegrin citizens toward the State Prosecutor's Office, its activities, and its role in society. This is the fifth consecutive wave of research, which allows for not only a detailed overview of current attitudes but also comparisons with the results from previous years (2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023). This longitudinal dimension of the research provides added value, as it enables the identification of trends, changes, and potential challenges that the State Prosecutor's Office faces in the eyes of citizens.

In the 2024 research, special attention was given to analyzing various aspects of citizens' perceptions of the State Prosecutor's Office. *General attitudes* regarding the role and significance of this institution in society, as well as its contribution to upholding the rule of law, were examined. Particular focus was placed on perceptions of the efficiency, impartiality, and transparency of the Prosecutor's Office, specifically on how citizens perceive its ability to ensure justice through the prosecution of criminal offenses. *Trust in the Prosecutorial Council* was also a significant segment of the research, with the aim of understanding citizens' attitudes toward the role of this body in supervising and evaluating the work of prosecutors.

The research also covered the perception of the State Prosecutor's Office's success in combating *corruption and organized crime*, which are considered key challenges to the rule of law in Montenegro. Additionally, the level of *citizens' awareness about the role, competencies, and work of the State Prosecutor's Office* was analyzed, as well as the ways in which citizens obtain information about the activities of this institution. Finally, *attitudes toward the public presence of prosecutors* were examined, specifically how their media and public presence contributes to the perception of their transparency and accountability. The results of these analyses provide a comprehensive insight into citizens' views on the State Prosecutor's Office and its work.

As in previous years, the research results provide valuable insight into the attitudes of Montenegrin citizens toward the State Prosecutor's Office. The goal of this year's research is to contribute to understanding changes in perception, identifying key challenges, and improving trust in this important institution of Montenegro's legal system.

This research, like its previous waves, holds special importance because it not only documents current perceptions but also enables the monitoring of how changes in the legislative framework, media discourse, and citizens' daily lives shape trust in the judiciary system. Special attention is given to the fact that the perception of the State Prosecutor's Office reflects not only the work of this institution but also the broader picture of the rule of law in Montenegro. Citizens' trust in the judiciary, their sense of justice and security, as

well as their perception of the fight against key societal challenges such as corruption and organized crime, are reflected in their attitudes toward this institution. The longitudinal approach to the research, which allows for comparing results year after year, provides the opportunity not only to identify trends but also to pinpoint specific areas where reforms and additional efforts are needed to strengthen citizens' trust.

## Research methodology

The research on the perception of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro was conducted on a sample of 1005 adult citizens, ensuring representativeness for the overall population of adult residents of the country. The sample was formed using multistage random sampling, which provides a standard statistical error of +/- 3.1% with a confidence interval of 95% for a distribution of 50%.

The sample stratification process took place in two key phases. First, the population was divided into three regions reflecting the geo-economic characteristics of Montenegro: north, center, and south. Then, within each region, the sample units were categorized by settlement size into three categories: large, medium, and small. Households were selected using the random walk method, and the number of respondents in each region was proportionally adjusted to the population structure based on the most recent official census from 2011.

The questionnaire used in the research was designed in collaboration with the State Prosecutor's Office and the OSCE Mission in Montenegro, which supported the implementation of this project. It covered key aspects such as: awareness and understanding of the role of the State Prosecutor's Office, trust and sense of security, impartiality and fairness, efficiency in work, as well as the transparency and accountability of this institution.

Data collection took place from October 15 to November 11, 2024, using the CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) technique. This method involves a direct interview between the interviewer and the respondent, with data being collected via electronic devices. After the completion of the research, the results were further adjusted through post-stratification based on key demographic characteristics, such as gender and age, to ensure the representativeness of the sample.

In addition to analyzing this year's data, the report also includes a comparative analysis of results from previous surveys conducted in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, allowing for the tracking of trends and changes in citizens' perceptions where possible and useful.



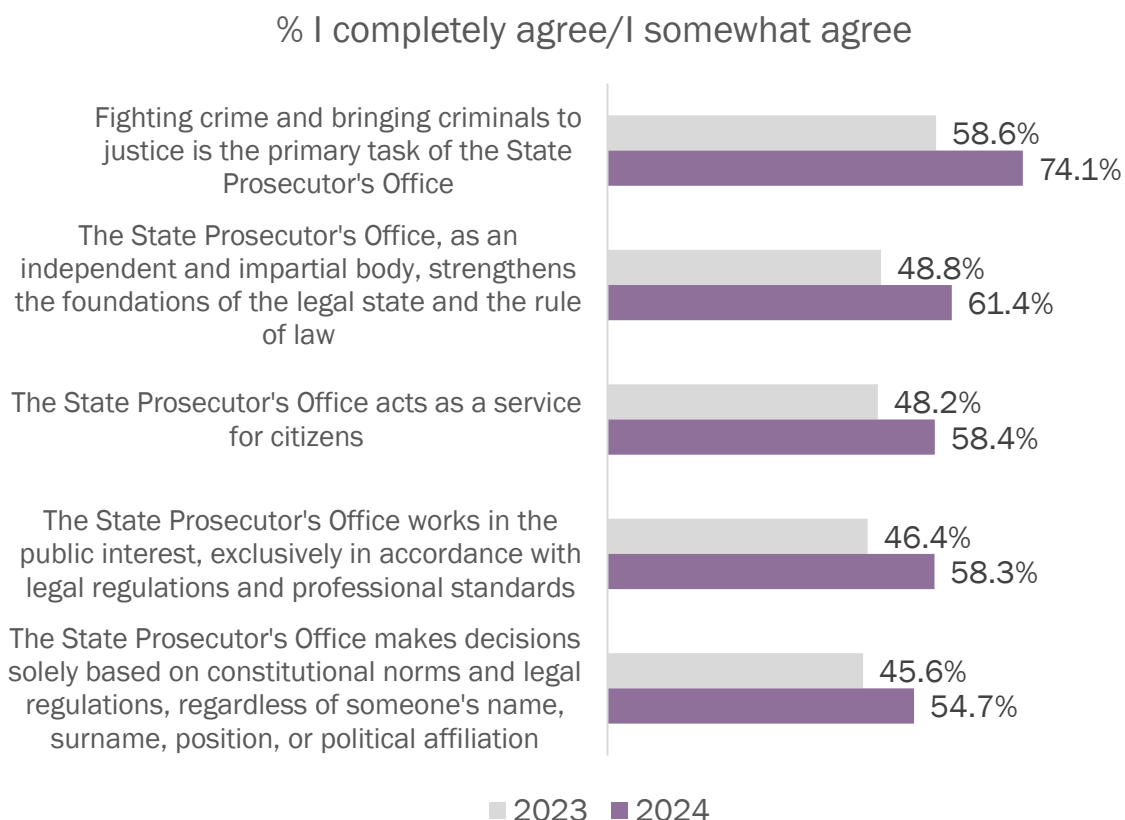
## General opinions on the State Prosecutor's Office

The perception of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro plays a key role in understanding the broader context of the judiciary system, reflecting complex social and political processes within the country. As one of the central institutions in administering justice, combating crime, and upholding the rule of law, the State Prosecutor's Office has a significant impact on public trust and the stability of institutions. Citizens' attitudes, as well as those of key social and political actors, directly influence its transparency, functionality, and credibility. This study begins with an analysis of the general relationship toward the Prosecutor's Office, reflecting on its role in society and the potential impact of these attitudes on the reform processes and strengthening of the legal system in Montenegro.

The analysis of results over time shows a significant increase in positive attitudes toward the work of the State Prosecutor's Office in 2024 compared to 2023. The largest growth is seen in the perception of the core function of the State Prosecutor's Office, where the number of citizens who agree that the fight against crime and bringing perpetrators to justice is its primary task increased by 15.5%, from 58.6% in 2023 to 74.1% in 2024. This indicates a growing understanding and recognition of the key role of this institution in the judiciary system. Similarly, the perception of the State Prosecutor's Office as an independent and impartial body that strengthens the foundations of the rule of law increased by 12.6%, from 48.8% in 2023 to 61.4% in 2024, suggesting that citizens are increasingly recognizing its contribution to the rule of law.

An increase in trust was also recorded in the perception of the State Prosecutor's Office as a service for citizens, with a 10.2% rise (from 48.2% to 58.4%), as well as in its focus on working in the public interest, solely in accordance with legal provisions and professional standards, which increased by 11.9% (from 46.4% to 58.3%). These changes indicate an improved perception of the transparency and professionalism of the State Prosecutor's Office's work. The smallest, but still significant increase, is seen in the perception of impartiality in decision-making, which rose from 45.6% in 2023 to 54.7% in 2024. While this result shows a 9.1% progress, it simultaneously emphasizes that there is room for further improvements in building citizens' trust in the impartiality of this institution's work.

Graph 1 Data through time: To what extent are the following attitudes applicable to the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro? % I completely agree/I somewhat agree



The analysis of data over the years indicates an increasingly pronounced trend of growing public trust in prosecutorial institutions, reflecting a positive change in the perception of their work. This research examined the level of trust of respondents in prosecutors' offices at all levels – the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, the Special State Prosecutor's Office, the High State Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica, the High State Prosecutor's Office in Bijelo Polje, as well as the Basic State Prosecutor's Office responsible for the municipality where the respondents live.

The results of the research indicate variations in the level of public trust in the prosecutor's institutions at different levels. The Special State Prosecutor's Office has the highest percentage of respondents who trust its work, with just over two-thirds (64.8%) of respondents fully or somewhat trusting, indicating a solid level of trust and an increase of 9.7% compared to 2023 (55.1%), while 11.2% of respondents do not trust it at all. The Supreme State Prosecutor's Office shows a similar pattern, with 64.1% fully or somewhat trusting and 11.6% not trusting this institution at all, representing a 14.4% increase compared to the previous year (2023 - 45.6%). A high level of trust is also present for the Basic State Prosecutor's Office responsible for the municipality where the respondents live, with 60% fully or somewhat trusting this institution, reflecting a 14.4% increase compared to 2023 (45.6%). More than half of the respondents (57.4%) say they fully or somewhat trust the High State Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica, showing a 10.8% increase compared to 2023 (46.6%). Although it shows a 5.1% increase compared to the previous year (2023

- 41.4%), the High State Prosecutor's Office in Bijelo Polje has the lowest level of trust, with 46.5% fully or somewhat trusting.

Overall, the results show that nearly two-thirds of citizens have trust in the work of prosecutor's institutions at all levels, with the exception of the High State Prosecutor's Office in Bijelo Polje, in which less than half of the citizens have trust.

Graph 2 To what extent do you trust the following prosecutor's offices?

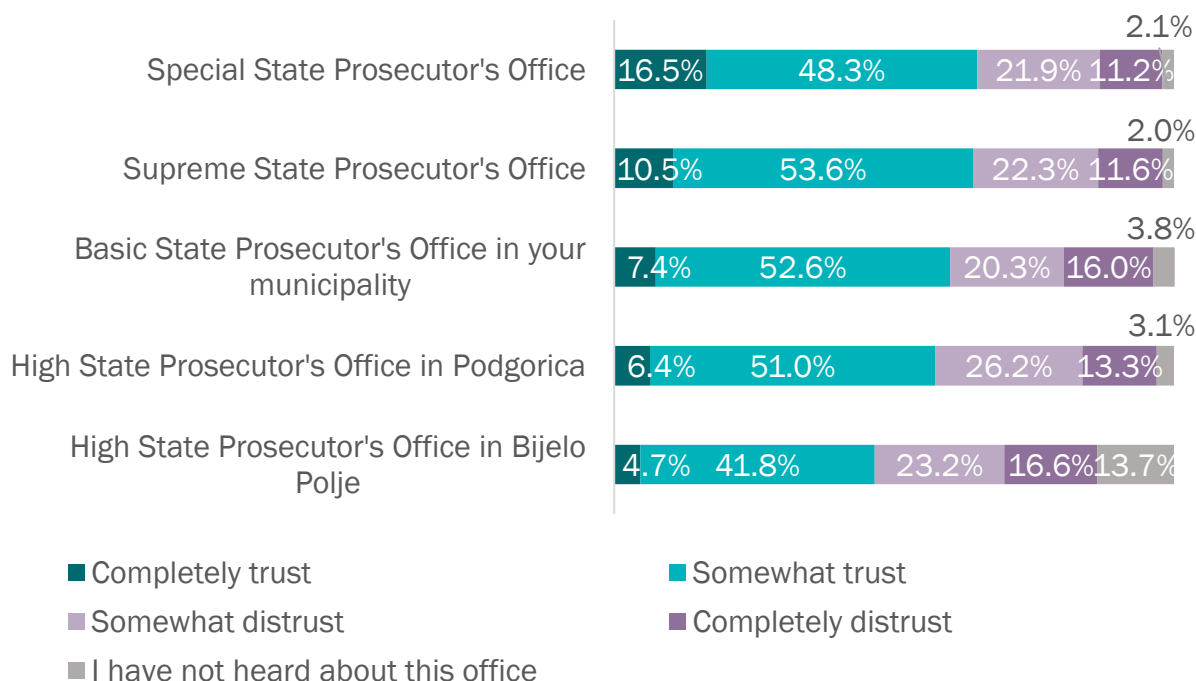


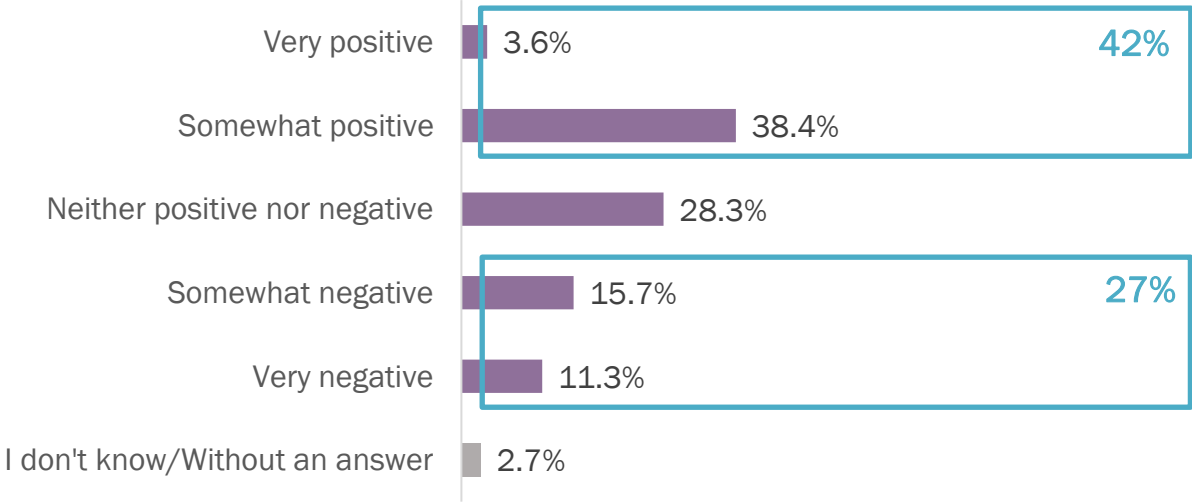
Table 1 Data through time: To what extent do you trust the following prosecutor's offices? % Completely trust or somewhat trust

% Completely trust or somewhat trust						
To what extent do you trust the following prosecutor's offices?	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference between the two waves
Supreme State Prosecutor's Office	43.7%	38.3%	42.6%	49.6%	64.1%	+ 14.5%
Special State Prosecutor's Office	44.8%	34.7%	42.7%	55.1%	64.8%	+ 9.7%
High State Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica	46.3%	37.4%	38.2%	46.6%	57.4%	+ 10.8%
High State Prosecutor's Office in Bijelo Polje	38.0%	34.5%	34.3%	41.4%	46.5%	+ 5.1%
Basic State Prosecutor's Office in your municipality	46.8%	41.4%	39.6%	45.6%	60.0%	+ 14.4%



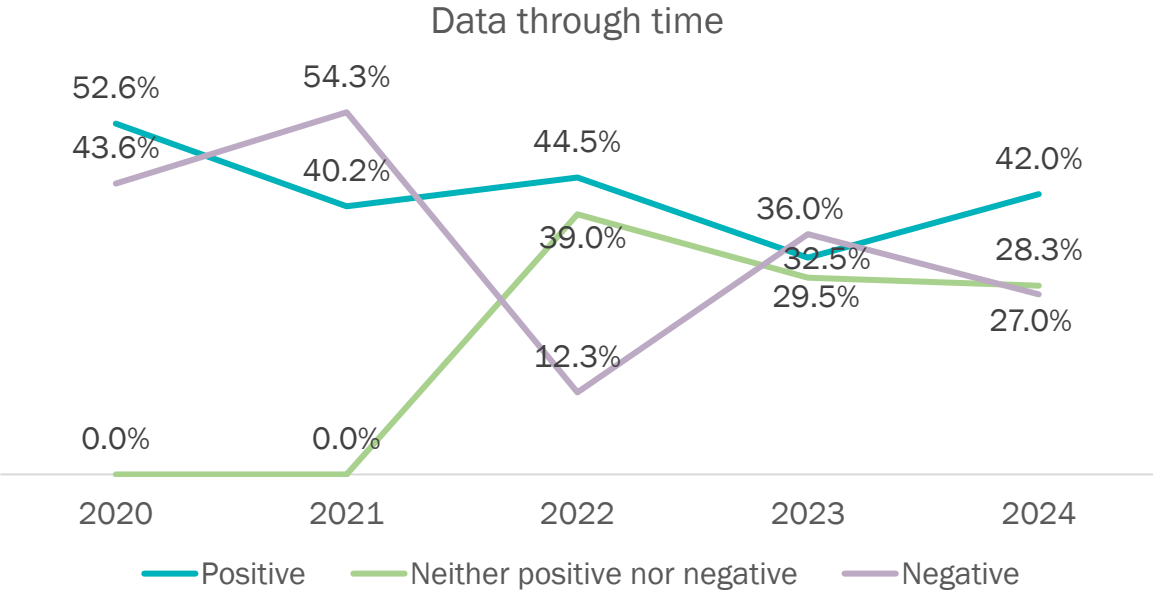
This year's research reveals prevailing positive attitudes among the citizens of Montenegro toward the prosecutor's office. The general attitude of citizens is more positive than negative, with 42% of respondents indicating they have a very positive or somewhat positive attitude, while just over a quarter (27%) report having a very negative or somewhat negative attitude.

Graph 3 What is your general opinion of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro?



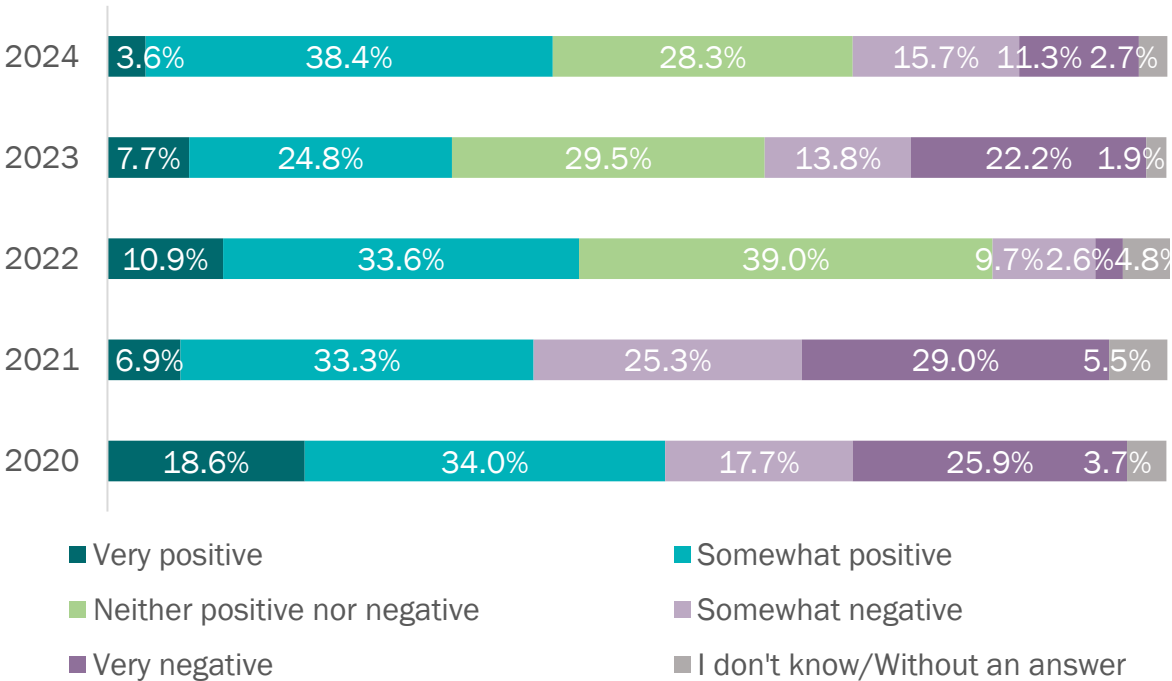
The combined percentage of citizens expressing a very positive or somewhat positive attitude toward the State Prosecutor's Office has increased in this wave of research, reaching 42%. This represents a significant improvement of 9.5% compared to 2023, when this share stood at 32.5%. This trend indicates a gradual improvement in the public's perception of the Prosecutor's Office in recent times. It is also noteworthy that, in this year's research, the general attitude of citizens is more positive than negative compared to the previous year.

Graph 4 Data through time: Trendline - What is your general opinion of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro?



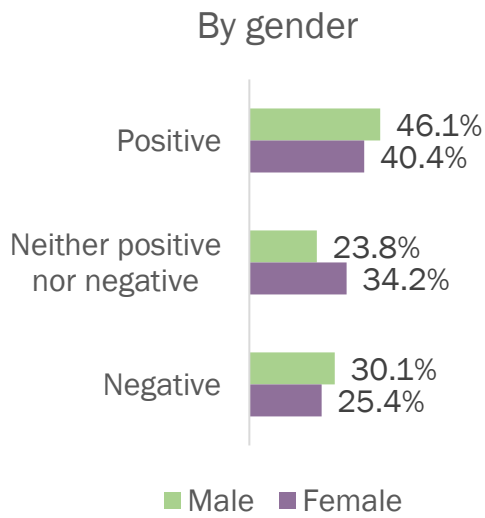
However, it is important to note significant differences in the intensity of attitudes toward the State Prosecutor's Office. In 2024, there is an exceptionally low percentage of those with a "very positive" attitude (3.6%), marking a decline compared to previous years, including 2023 (7.7%), 2022 (10.9%), 2021 (6.9%), and 2020 (18.6%). At the same time, the share of citizens with a "somewhat positive" attitude increased in 2024 (38.4%), indicating a significant recovery in perception compared to 2023 (24.8%). Neutral attitudes ("neither positive nor negative") have gradually declined from 39% in 2022 to 28.3% in 2024, while the percentage of negative attitudes (a combination of "somewhat negative" and "very negative") decreased in 2024 (27%) compared to 2023 (36%). This suggests a moderate improvement in public perception over the past year. Additionally, the number of respondents who did not know or did not wish to answer the question slightly increased in 2024 (2.7%) compared to 2023 (1.9%). Overall, the data indicates dynamic changes in the perception of the State Prosecutor's Office, with positive developments in the past year, but also clear challenges in building trust among citizens.

Graph 5 Data through time: What is your general opinion of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro?

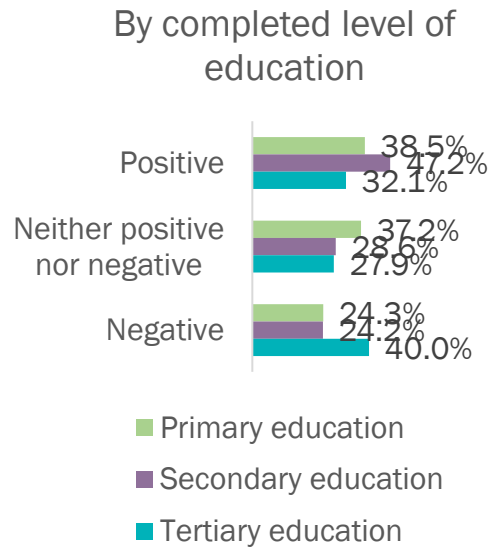


The data was further cross-referenced with respondents' gender, age, region of residence, and level of education to analyze the possibility of statistically significant differences among respondents. Differences were observed based on gender and education level. Men are more likely to hold a specific opinion about the State Prosecutor's Office, with 46.1% of men having a positive attitude and 30.1% a negative one. On the other hand, women are more neutral, with slightly over one-third having neither a positive nor a negative attitude toward the Prosecutor's Office. When examining data by education level, differences are also evident. Respondents with higher education are more likely to have a negative opinion compared to those with primary or secondary education. The age group most inclined to hold a positive attitude toward the State Prosecutor's Office is citizens aged 35–54.

Graph 6 What is your general opinion of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro? By gender



Graph 7 What is your general opinion of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro? By completed level of education



A key factor in citizens' trust in institutions is their trust in leadership. Therefore, the research included this aspect, focusing on evaluating support for the work of Chief State Prosecutor Milorad Marković, who was appointed to the position on January 27, 2024. The research shows that more than half of the respondents (51.5%) fully or partially support

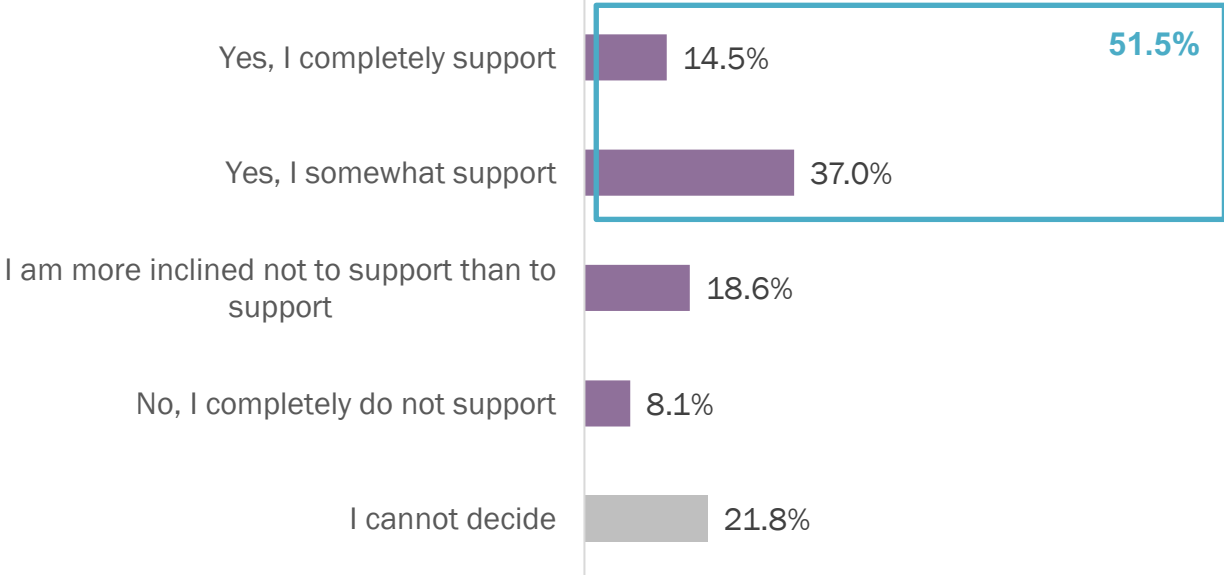


the work of Chief State Prosecutor Marković, while only 8.1% do not support it at all. There are also citizens who are more inclined to disapprove of Chief State Prosecutor Marković's work than to support it, accounting for 18.6%. Additionally, slightly less than a



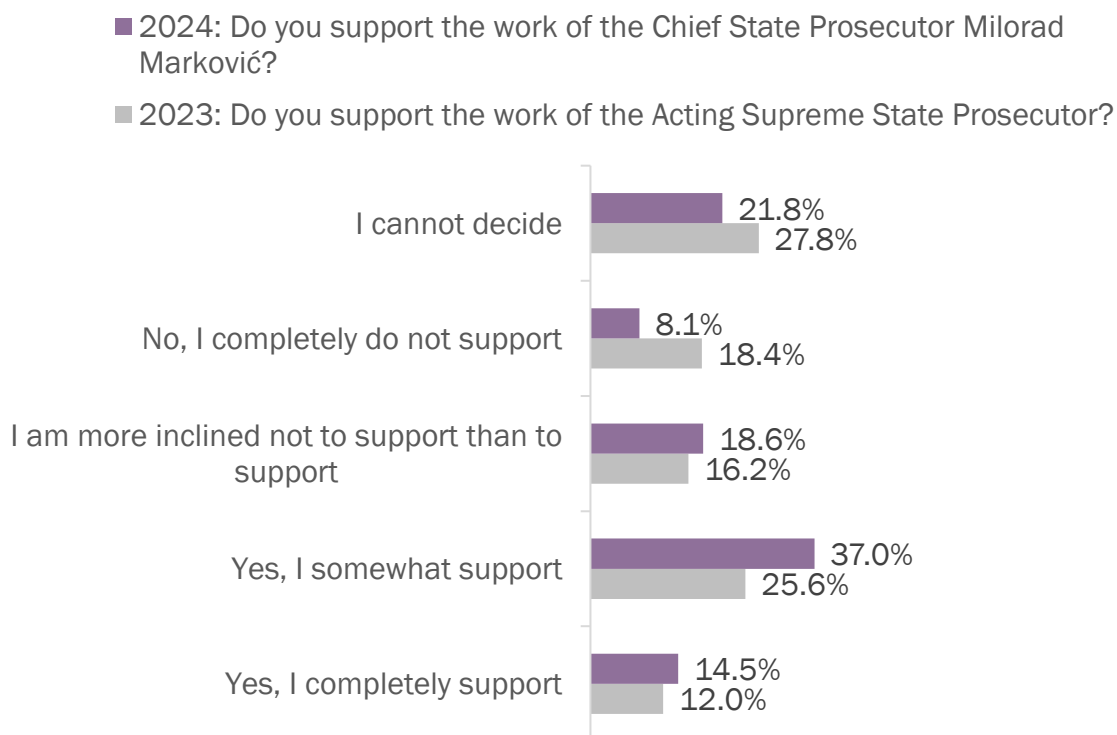
quarter of respondents (21.8%) are undecided and cannot determine whether they support his work or not.

Graph 8 Do you support the work of the Chief State Prosecutor Milorad Marković?



Comparative data shows a significant increase in support for the work of the Chief State Prosecutor. While last year's data indicated that cumulatively slightly more than one-third of citizens (37.6%) fully or partially supported the work of the Acting Chief State Prosecutor at the time, in 2024, the number of citizens supporting the work of Chief State Prosecutor Milorad Marković has significantly increased to 51.5%.

Graph 9 Data through time: Do you support the work of the Acting Chief State Prosecutor/Chief State Prosecutor Milorad Marković?

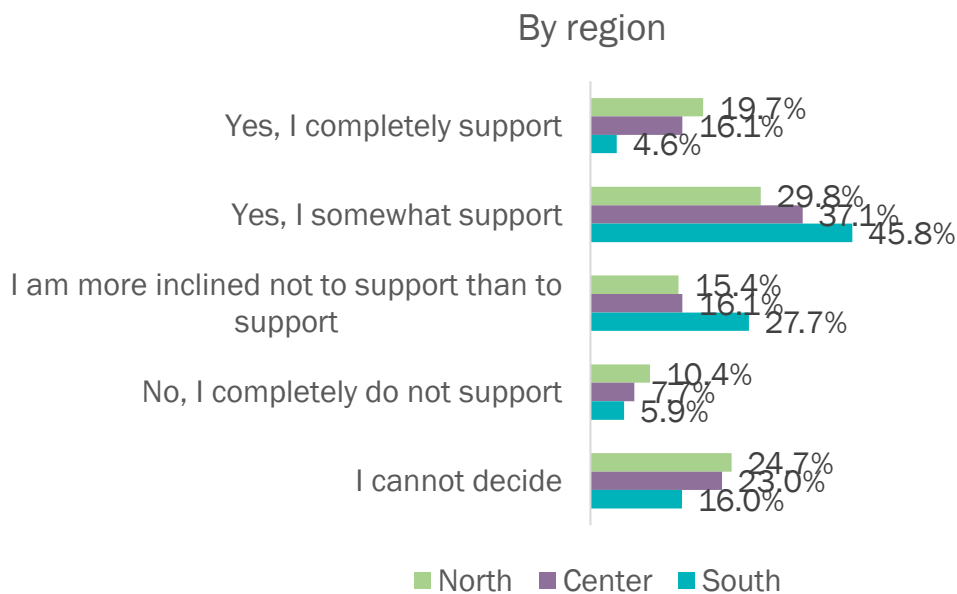


The research results on support for the work of Chief State Prosecutor Milorad Marković reveal significant differences in citizens' attitudes based on various demographic and geographic characteristics. Support for the Chief State Prosecutor's work is most prominent in central Montenegro, where a cumulative 84.7% of respondents fully or partially support his work.

Citizens from northern Montenegro also predominantly support Chief State Prosecutor Marković, with 72% expressing their approval. In contrast, less than half of respondents (43.3%) from the southern region indicate full or partial support for his work. The north has the highest percentage of full support compared to other regions, suggesting specific perceptions or expectations among citizens in these areas regarding the work of the State Prosecutor's Office. In the north, 19.7% of respondents fully support his work, while 29.8% provide partial support.

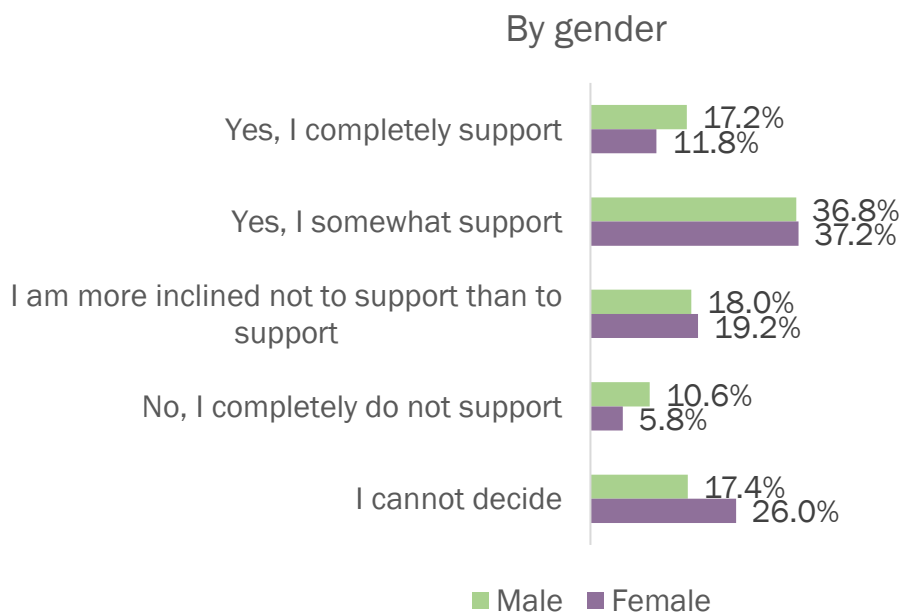
In the central region, full support stands at 16.1%, with 37.1% of respondents offering partial support. The southern region, which has the lowest percentage of full support (4.6%), sees a majority (45.8%) expressing partial support.

Graph 10 Do you support the work of the Chief State Prosecutor Milorad Marković? By region



By gender, men show slightly higher full support (17.2%) compared to women (11.8%), while partial support is similar in both groups (36.8% for men and 37.2% for women). However, a significantly larger proportion of women (26%) are unable to assess the work of the Chief State Prosecutor, compared to men (17.4%).

Graph 11 Do you support the work of the Chief State Prosecutor Milorad Marković? By gender

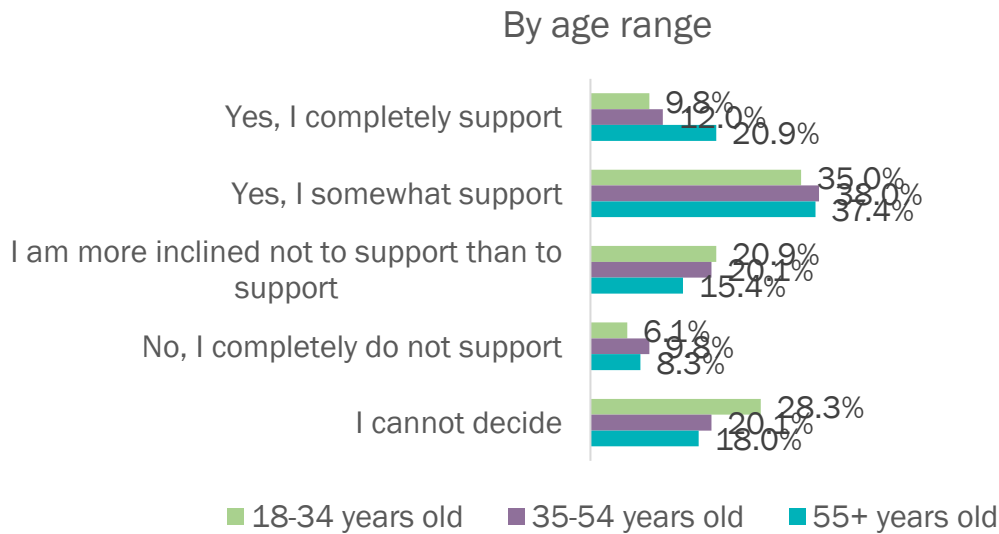


Older respondents (55+) are more inclined to support the work of the Chief State Prosecutor, with 20.9% fully supporting his work and 37.4% providing partial support. This age group may have greater trust in institutional authorities, possibly linked to their experiences and previous attitudes toward judicial institutions. In contrast, younger respondents (18–34 years) have the highest percentage of those unable to assess his



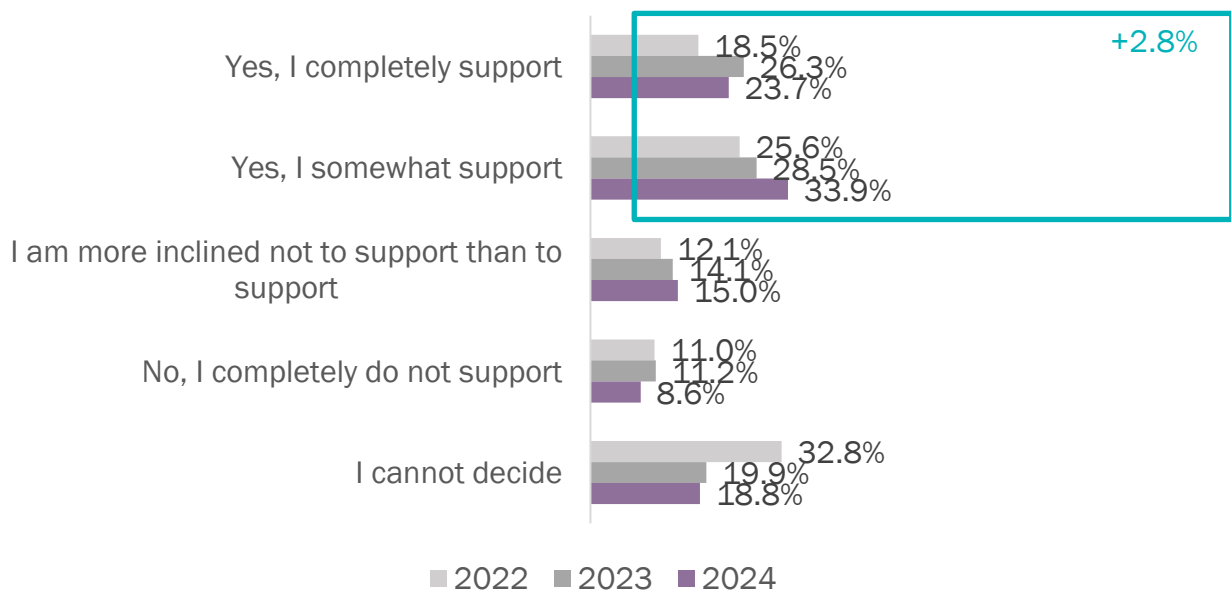
work (28.3%), which may indicate a lower level of awareness about the State Prosecutor's Office or greater apathy toward this institution among young citizens.

Graph 12 Do you support the work of the Chief State Prosecutor Milorad Marković? By age range



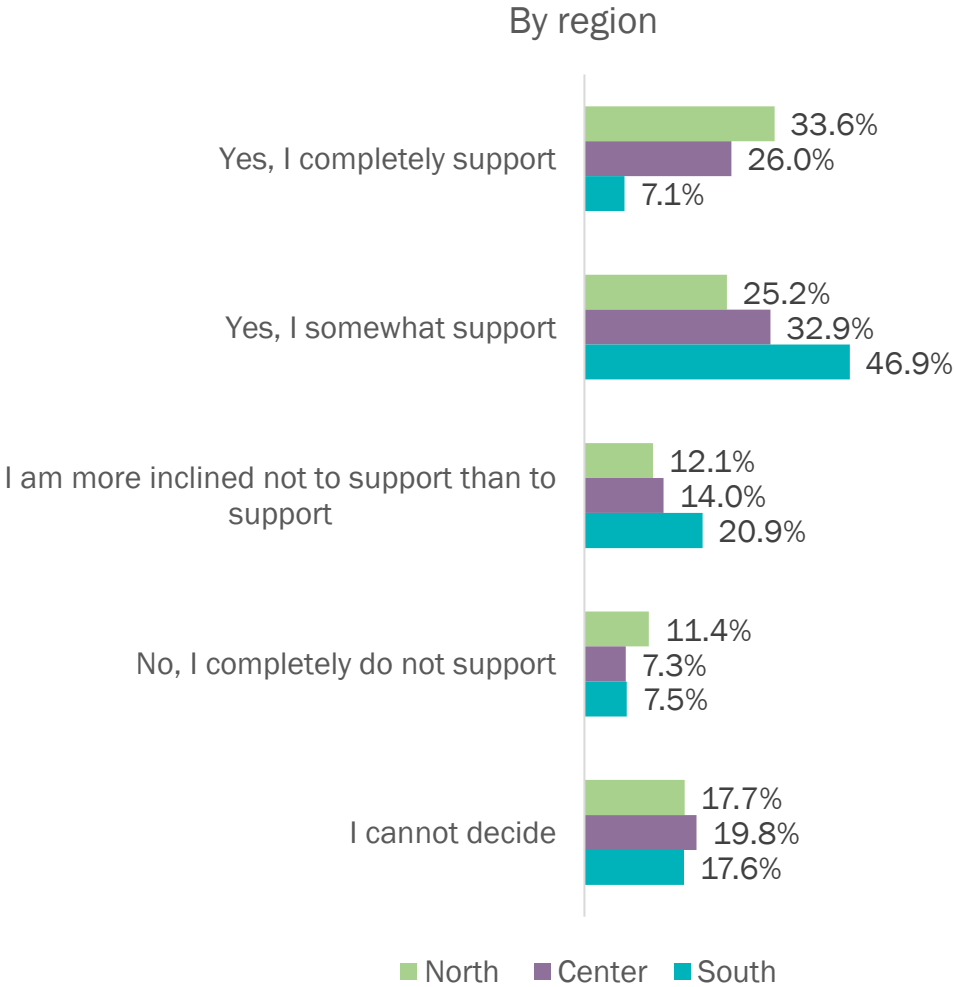
This research also examined the perception of support for the work of Chief Special State Prosecutor Vladimir Novović, with data available for 2022, 2023, and 2024. The findings show a sustained trend of increasing support for Novović's work. In 2024, 57.6% of respondents stated they fully or partially support his work, representing a 2.8% increase compared to the previous year (54.8% in 2023). It is also important to note that the number of respondents unable to assess whether they support the Chief Special State Prosecutor's work has significantly decreased, nearly halving compared to 2022. These results indicate that citizens' opinions are becoming more defined regarding the Chief Special State Prosecutor's work, suggesting increased awareness or the formation of clearer opinions about his actions.

Graph 13 Data through time: Do you support the work of the Chief Special State Prosecutor Vladimir Novović?



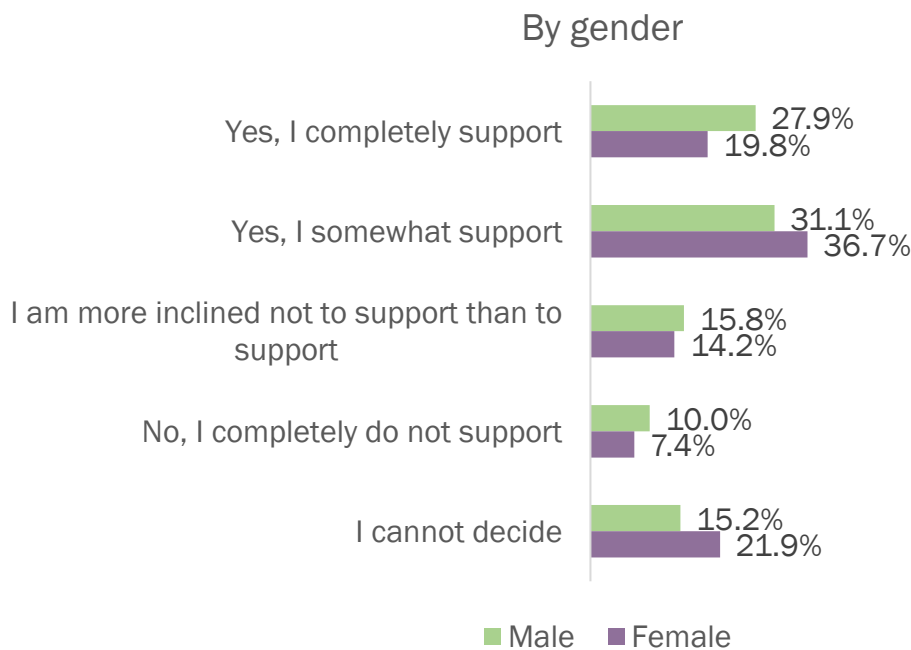
The analysis of attitudes toward the work of Chief Special State Prosecutor Vladimir Novović across different regions of Montenegro reveals significant differences in perception. In the northern region, 33.6% of citizens fully support his work, while this percentage decreases to 26% in the central region and just 7.1% in the southern region. Partial support is most prominent in the south, where 46.9% of citizens state they partially support his work, compared to 32.9% in the central region and 25.2% in the north. On the other hand, negative attitudes toward the prosecutor's work vary by region. The highest percentage of citizens who disapprove more than they approve of his work is found in the south (20.9%), while such attitudes are less pronounced in the north (12.1%) and central region (14%). Overall disapproval of the prosecutor's work is relatively low across all regions, ranging from 7.3% in the central region to 11.4% in the north.

Graph 14 Do you support the work of the Chief Special State Prosecutor Vladimir Novović? By region



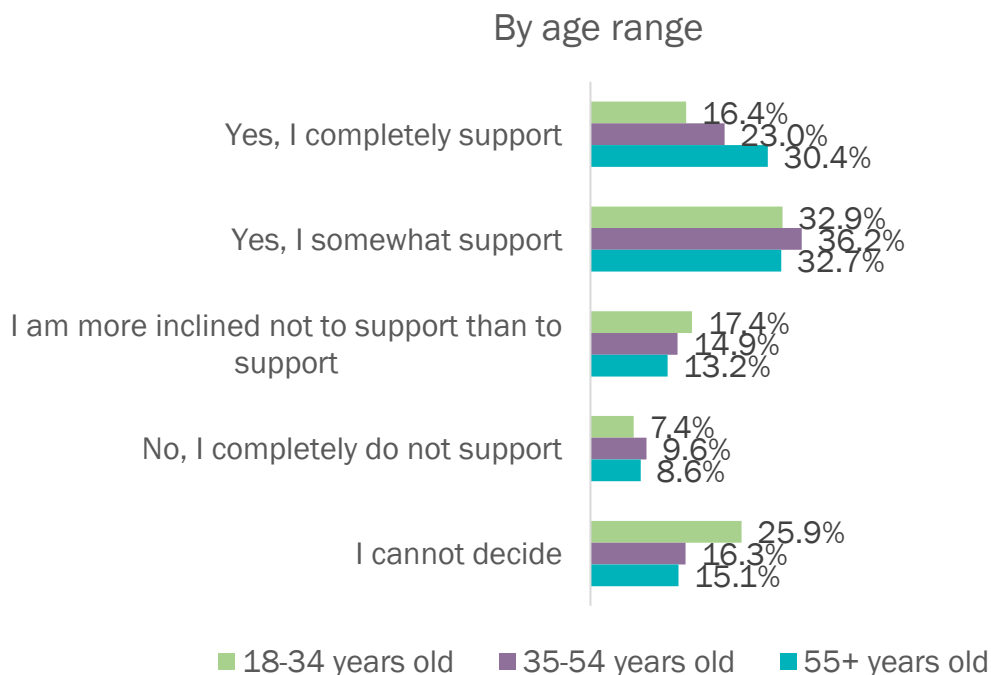
Support for the work of Chief Special State Prosecutor Vladimir Novović varies by gender and age groups. Men are more inclined to express full support (27.9%) compared to women (19.8%), while women are more likely to show partial support (36.7%) than men (31.1%). Negative attitudes toward his work are similar between genders, although men have a slightly higher percentage of those who state they “disapprove more than they approve” (15.8%) compared to women (14.2%). Additionally, women are more often unable to assess his work (21.9%), whereas this percentage is lower among men (15.2%).

Graph 15 Do you support the work of the Chief Special State Prosecutor Vladimir Novović? By gender



When it comes to age groups, older citizens, particularly those aged 55 and above, demonstrate the highest level of full support (30.4%). In contrast, younger groups, especially those aged 18–34, show lower full support (16.4%) and higher indecisiveness (25.9%). Partial support is fairly evenly distributed across all age groups, while negative attitudes decrease with age. These results suggest that older citizens tend to express stronger full support, while younger generations are more often unable to take a stance or exhibit lower levels of full support.

Graph 16 Do you support the work of the Chief Special State Prosecutor Vladimir Novović? By age range





The research highlights citizens' clearly defined perceptions of the State Prosecutor's Office, particularly regarding its independence, reliability, presence of corruption, openness to the public, and transparency in hiring processes. The largest percentage of respondents, 63.6% (a combination of those who fully and somewhat agree), believe the State Prosecutor's Office is influenced by political parties, indicating a perception of significant political control over the institution's work. Conversely, 24.2% somewhat disagree with this statement, and 8% completely reject it, showing a smaller but present segment of the population with a differing view.

Regarding reliability, cumulatively over half of the respondents (56.1%) believe the State Prosecutor's Office is reliable, representing a 13.5% increase compared to the previous year (42.6% in 2023). Half of the respondents (50.3%) somewhat agree that the State Prosecutor's Office is reliable, while only 5.8% fully confirm this. However, a significant proportion of citizens remain skeptical—cumulatively 40.6%, which also shows improvement, decreasing by 12.7% from the previous year (53.3% in 2023). The percentage of citizens who find the State Prosecutor's Office completely unreliable stands at 14.5%, almost halving compared to 2023 (28.6%). On the other hand, the proportion of those who somewhat disagree has slightly increased, reaching 26.1% this year from 24.7% last year.

The perception of corruption within the State Prosecutor's Office has fluctuated over the past five years, peaking in 2021 (60.5%) and declining to 51.5% in 2024. Despite this significant decrease, corruption perceptions remain pronounced, with 51.5% of citizens (combining those who fully and somewhat agree, 4.3% less than the previous year's 55.8%) believing the institution is corrupt. Conversely, 41.1% of respondents (a combination of those who somewhat and fully disagree, up 4.6% from 36.5% in 2023) hold an opposing view, highlighting a polarization of opinions in society.

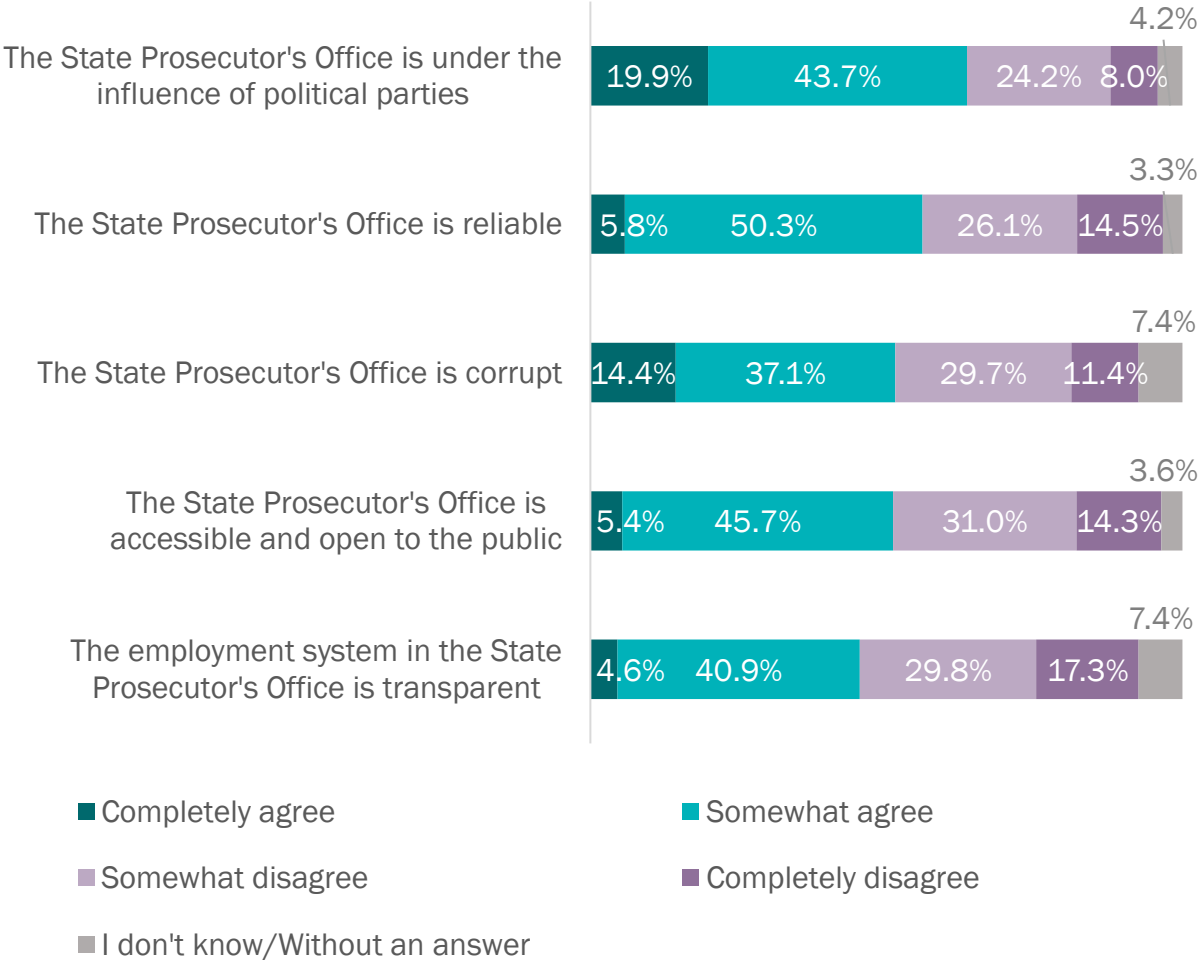
Regarding accessibility and openness to the public, over half of respondents (51.1%) believe the Prosecutor's Office is fully or somewhat accessible (45.7% somewhat agree, and only 5.4% fully agree). This represents a notable improvement of 9.8% compared to the previous year (41.3%). However, 45.3% of respondents either fully or somewhat disagree with this statement, a decrease from 54.4% in 2023. A third of respondents (31%) somewhat disagree, while 14.3% completely reject the claim, underscoring significant challenges in public perception of transparency.

Finally, the transparency of the hiring system within the State Prosecutor's Office receives the lowest ratings. Only 45.5% of respondents consider the hiring process somewhat or fully transparent, while 47.1% disagree. Of those who agree, only 4.6% fully believe in the transparency of the hiring process, with 40.9% somewhat agreeing. On the other hand, 29.8% somewhat disagree, and 17.3% completely disagree, pointing to substantial doubts about hiring practices.

These findings reveal serious challenges in public perceptions of the State Prosecutor's Office, particularly regarding political influence, corruption, and hiring transparency.

Moreover, relatively low levels of reliability and accessibility further underscore the need for reforms aimed at strengthening public trust.

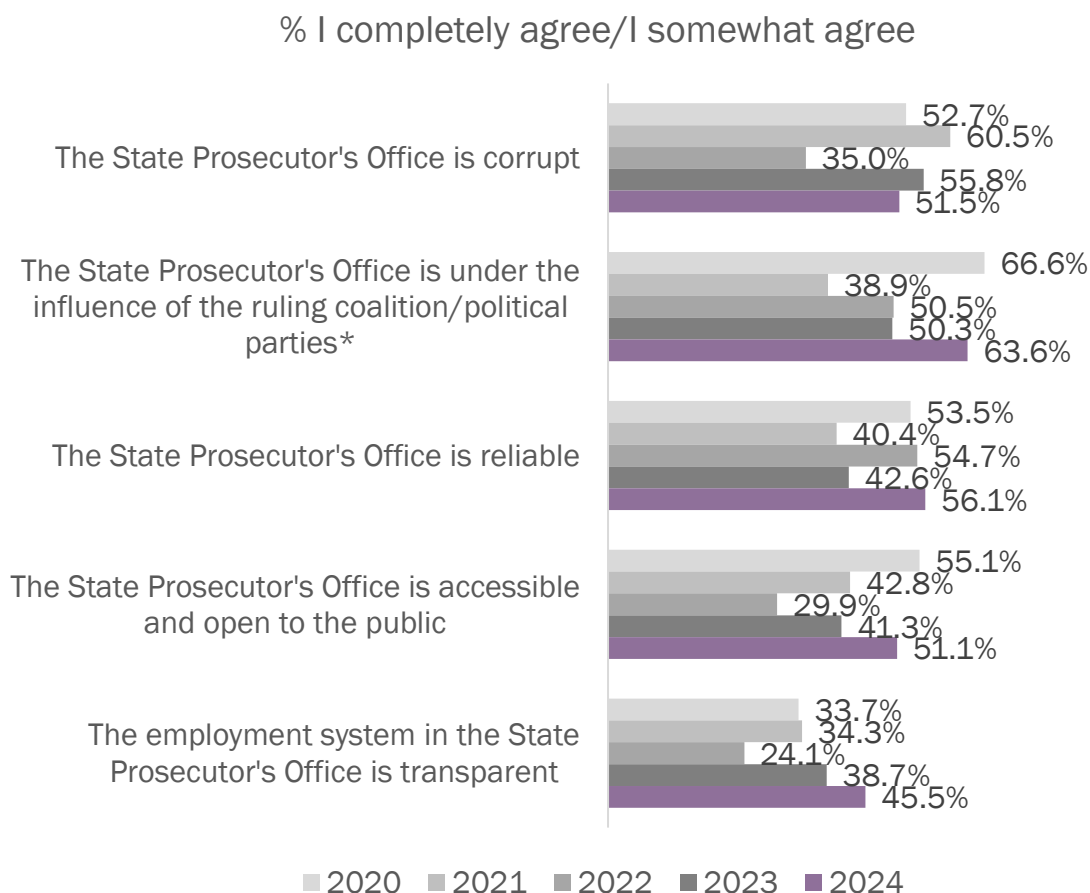
Graph 17 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



An analysis of results over time reveals shifting public perceptions of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro. Reliability has seen a significant increase in 2024, reaching 56.1%, while the perception of accessibility and openness rose to 51.1%, marking its highest level since 2020. This year's data indicates that transparency in the hiring system remains the aspect with the least agreement among respondents. However, a longitudinal analysis highlights a positive trend—agreement rates have increased from 33.7% in 2020 to 45.5% in 2024.

These findings point to gradual improvements in certain aspects of the Prosecutor's Office's operations. Nevertheless, persistent challenges such as perceptions of political influence and corruption underscore the need for further reforms to bolster public trust.

Graph 18 Data through time: To what extent do you agree with the following statements? %I completely agree/I somewhat agree<sup>1</sup>



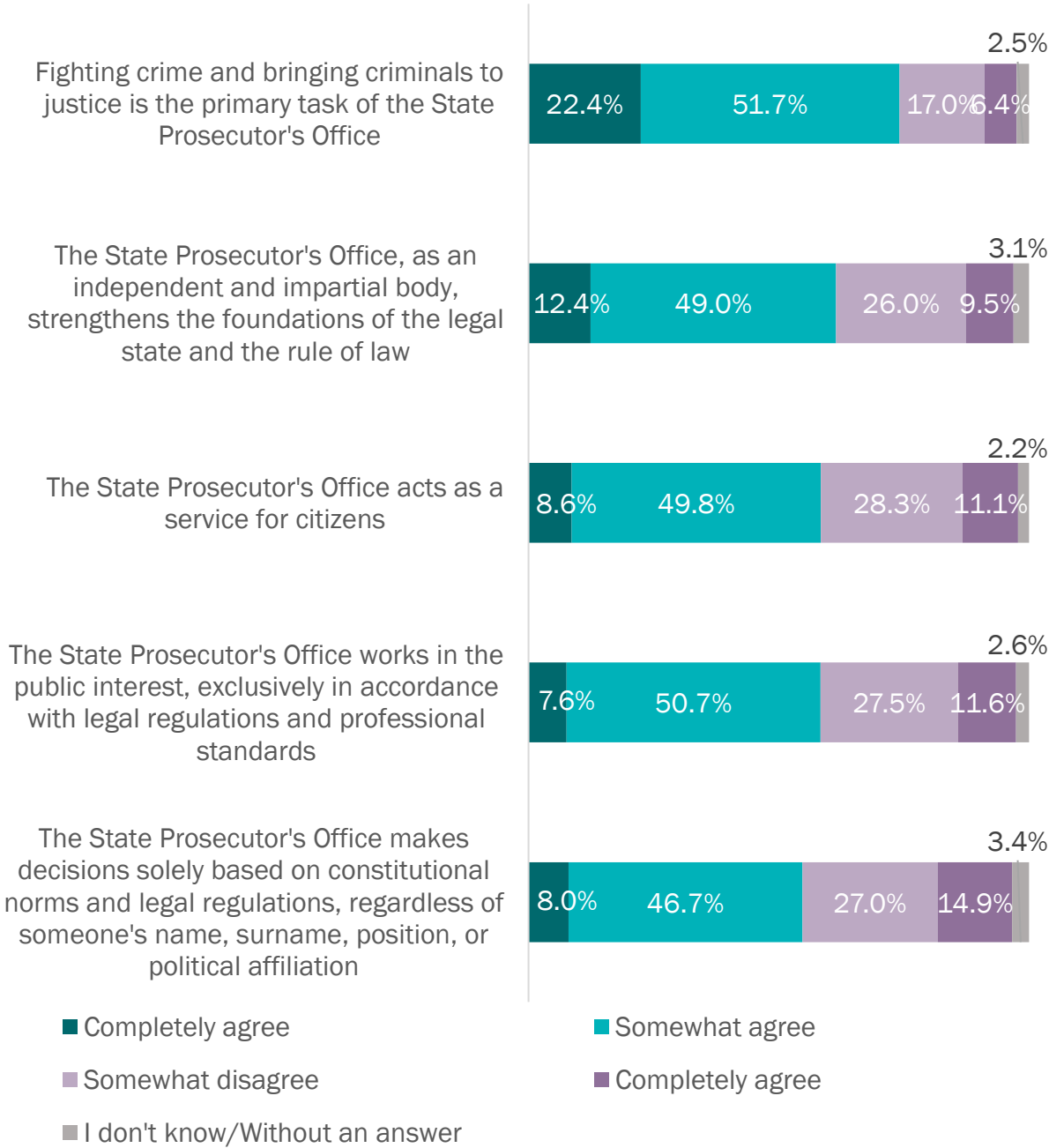
The survey results provide insights into citizens' perceptions of the role and functions of the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro. A majority of respondents (74.1%) agree that combating crime and bringing perpetrators of criminal acts to justice is the primary task of the State Prosecutor's Office, reflecting a significant increase of 15.5% compared to 2023 (58.6%). Additionally, two-thirds of citizens (61.4%) believe that the State Prosecutor's Office, as an independent and impartial body, contributes to strengthening the rule of law, marking a 12.6% increase compared to the previous year (48.8% in 2023). Regarding the perception of the Prosecutor's Office as a service to citizens, 58.4% of respondents agree that it acts in this capacity, a 10.2% rise from 2023 (48.2%). The percentage of those who disagree or express reservations about this perception has decreased by 9.8% (49.2% in 2023). These findings highlight the need for continued efforts to improve accessibility and accountability toward the public. Similarly, 58.3% of respondents believe that the Prosecutor's Office operates in the public interest, adhering to legal and professional standards, showing an 11.9% increase compared to 2023 (46.4%). The proportion of respondents who disagree with this view has fallen to 39.1%, a decrease of 11.5% from the previous year (50.6% in 2023).

<sup>1</sup> The formulation of the statement regarding political influence on the State Prosecutor's Office was changed in 2024 to "The State Prosecutor's Office is influenced by political parties," whereas in previous years, it was phrased as "The State Prosecutor's Office is influenced by the ruling coalition."

Despite these improvements, the greatest mistrust is evident in the perceived impartiality of decision-making. More than half of respondents (54.7%) agree that the Prosecutor's Office bases its decisions solely on the Constitution and laws, an increase of 9.1% compared to 2023 (45.6%). However, 41.9% of citizens still express disagreement or doubt regarding this approach to decision-making, a decrease from 50.8% in 2023.

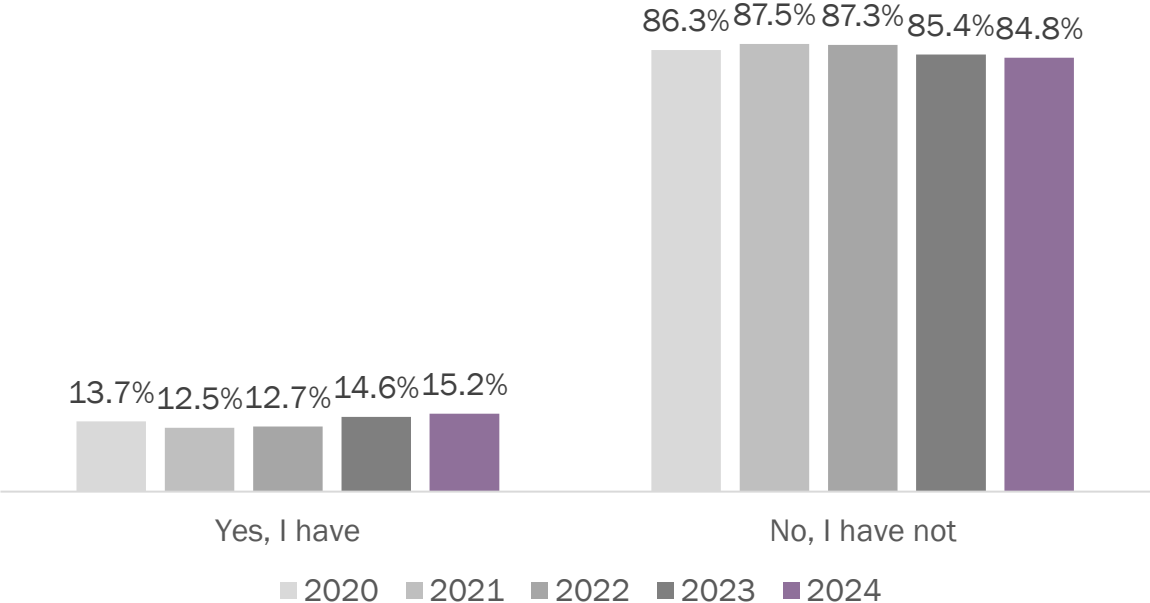
Overall, the findings indicate improved transparency and professionalism within the Prosecutor's Office. Nevertheless, there remains room for further progress, particularly in enhancing transparency, strengthening institutional integrity, and improving public communication.

Graph 19 To what extent are the following attitudes applicable to the State Prosecutor's Office in Montenegro?



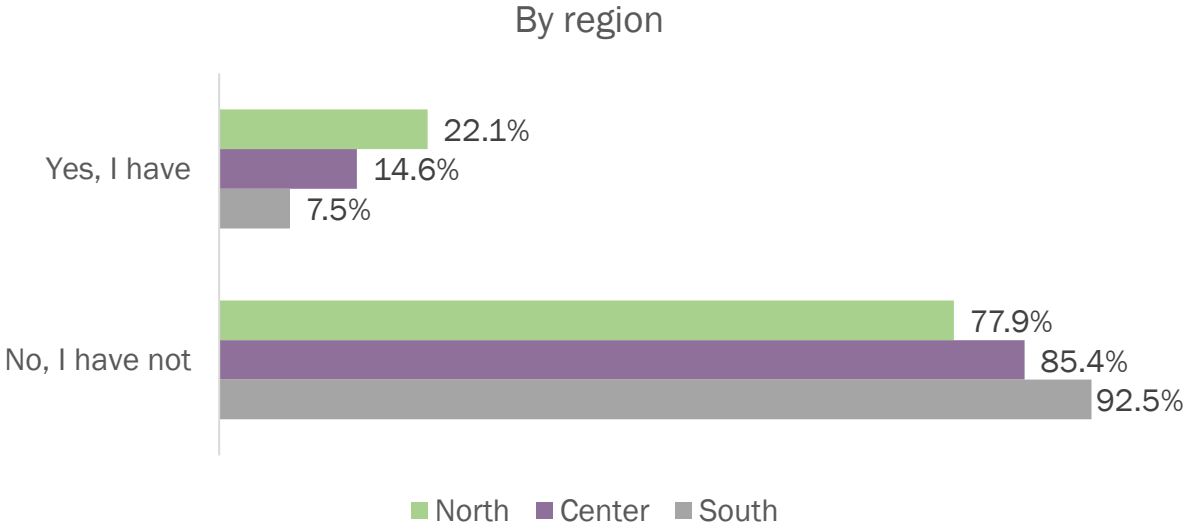
Citizens were also asked whether they had any experience with one of the Prosecutor's Offices in Montenegro. The results remain consistent with previous years. In this wave, 15.2% of respondents reported having such experience, while a dominant majority (84.8%) stated that they had no experience with the Prosecutor's Offices.

Graph 20 Data through time: Have you had any experiences with any of the prosecutor's offices in Montenegro?



The analysis of respondents' experiences with the Prosecutor's Office reveals significant differences based on region, gender, and education level. The highest percentage of those reporting experience with the Prosecutor's Office comes from the northern region (22.1%), followed by the central region (14.6%), while the southern region records the lowest percentage (7.5%).

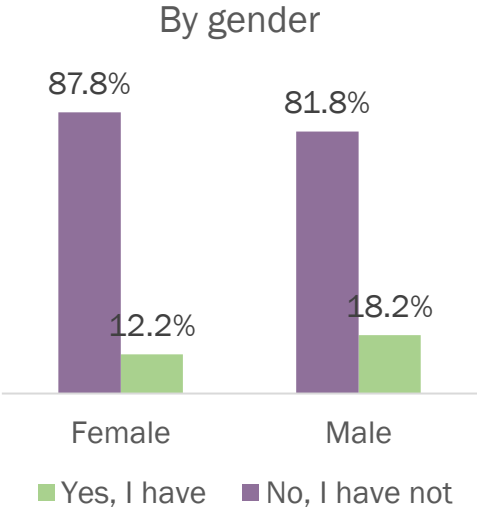
Graph 21 Have you had any experiences with any of the prosecutor's offices in Montenegro? By region



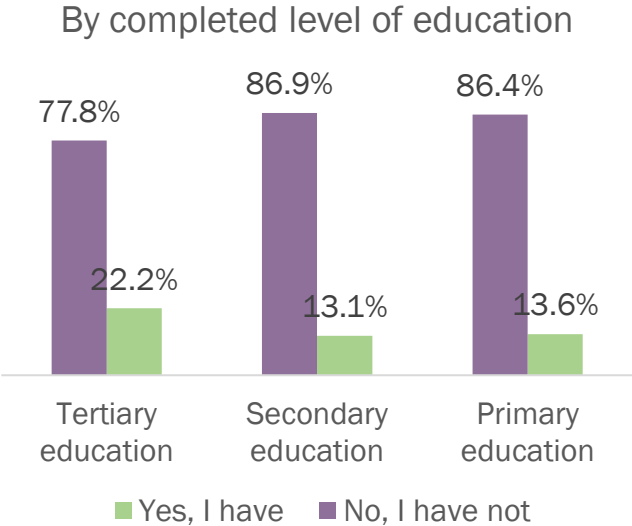


When it comes to gender, men more frequently report having experience with the Prosecutor's Office (18.2%) compared to women (12.2%). Additionally, differences are observed based on the level of education—individuals with higher education most often report having experience with the Prosecutor's Office (22.2%), while these figures are lower among respondents with primary (13.6%) and secondary education (13.1%).

Graph 22 Have you had any experiences with any of the prosecutor's offices in Montenegro? By gender



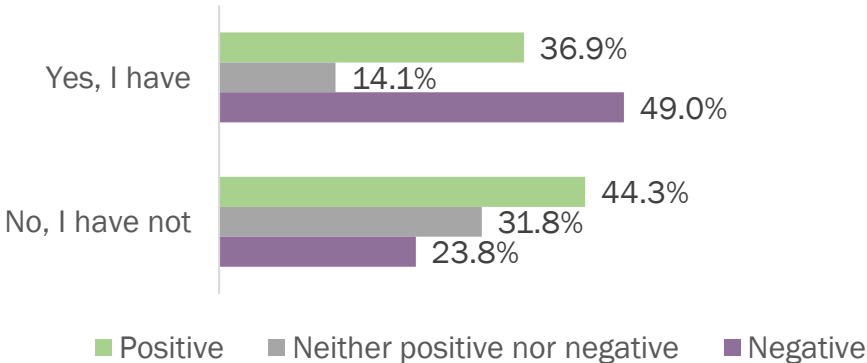
Graph 23 Have you had any experiences with any of the prosecutor's offices in Montenegro? By completed level of education



Additional analysis of these results indicates that respondents who have had experience with one of the Prosecutor's Offices in Montenegro are more likely to hold a negative view of the State Prosecutor's Office compared to those who have not had contact. Nearly half of those with experience with a Prosecutor's Office report having a negative view of the State Prosecutor's Office, while slightly less than one-quarter of respondents without such experience express a negative view.

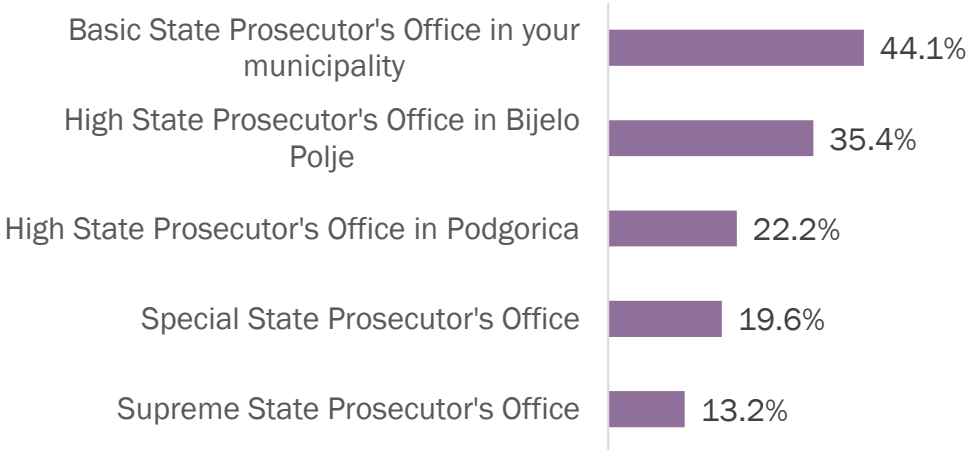
Graph 24 Have you had any experiences with any of the prosecutor's offices in Montenegro? By general attitude towards the State Prosecutor's Office

General attitude towards the State Prosecutor's Office in relation to experience with one of the prosecutor's offices in Montenegro



Among respondents who had experience with one of the prosecution offices (15.2%), 44.1% stated that they had experience with the Basic State Prosecutor's Office responsible for their municipality. A quarter of respondents (35.4%) reported that their experience was with the High State Prosecutor's Office in Bijelo Polje, while 22.2% had contact with the High State Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica. Additionally, 19.6% of respondents highlighted the Special State Prosecutor's Office, and 13.2% cited the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office as the institutions they had experience with.

Graph 25 Which prosecutor's office have you had experience with? N=152



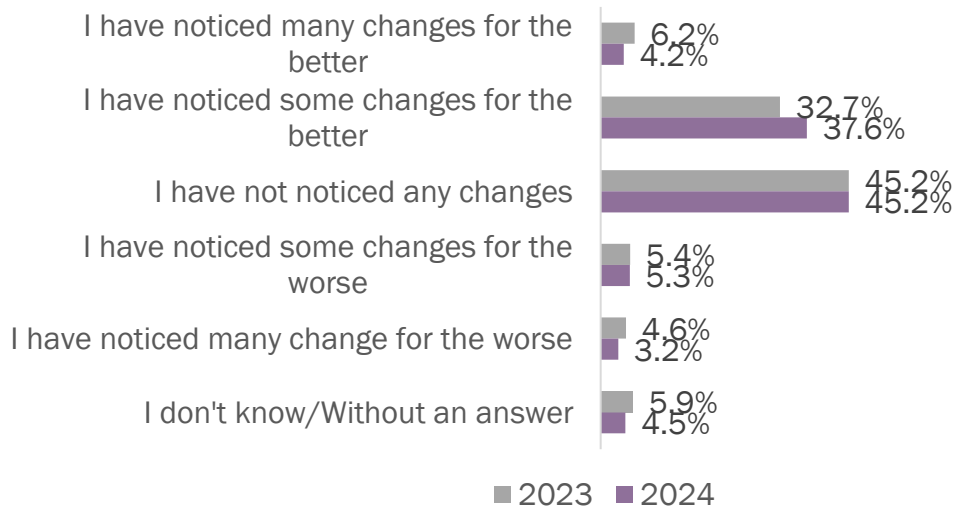
### Perceptions on the work of the State Prosecutor's Office

The work of the State Prosecutor's Office plays a key role in preserving the rule of law and maintaining citizens' trust in the judiciary system. Therefore, the research included an assessment of citizens' perceptions of the institution's work to gain insight into the level of trust, satisfaction, and expectations. Special attention was given to opinions on transparency, efficiency, and impartiality of the Prosecutor's Office. The analysis of this data provides important guidelines for understanding public attitudes toward the State Prosecutor's Office and identifying potential challenges and opportunities for improvement.

The analysis of results shows that citizens' perceptions of changes in the work of the State Prosecutor's Office over the past 12 months remain mostly stable compared to the previous year. In 2024, a cumulative 41.8% of respondents reported noticing significant or some positive changes in the past year. This represents an increase of 2.9 percentage points compared to the previous year (38.9% in 2023). Looking at the data by intensity, a higher percentage of respondents (37.6%) stated that they noticed some positive changes, marking a slight increase compared to 2023 (32.7%). However, the percentage of those who observed significant positive changes decreased from 6.2% in 2023 to 4.2% in 2024.

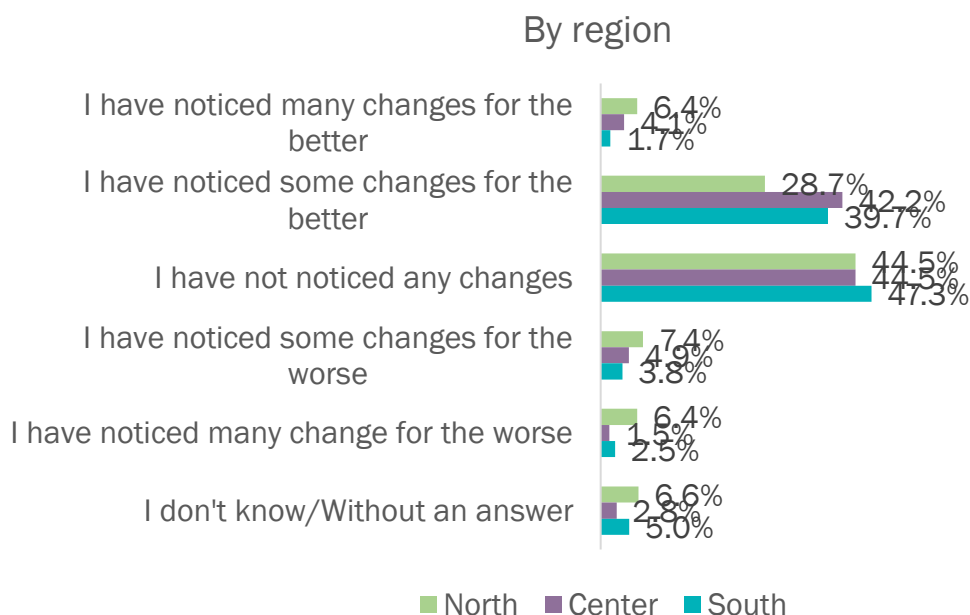
On the other hand, perceptions of negative changes have remained at similar levels, with a slight decline in the percentage of those who noticed significant negative changes (from 4.6% to 3.2%). A significant portion of respondents (45.2% in both years) reported no changes, while the number of those who responded with "I don't know/no answer" slightly decreased in 2024. These results indicate slight optimism among citizens but also highlight the need for more visible efforts to further improve the perception of this institution's work.

Graph 26 Data through time: Have you noticed some changes in State Prosecutor's Office's work over the past 12 months?



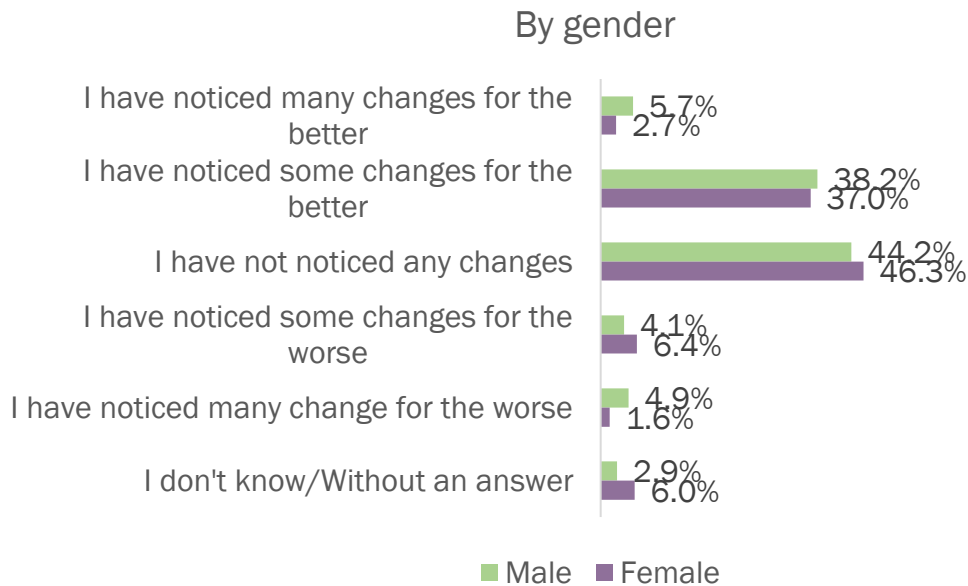
The analysis of results by region and gender reveals interesting differences in the perception of changes in the work of the State Prosecutor's Office. Cumulatively, the highest percentage of respondents who noticed improvements (significant or partial) come from the central region (46.3% of all respondents living in the central region), followed by the southern region (41.4% of all respondents living in the south of Montenegro), while this percentage is the lowest in the northern region (35.1% of all respondents living in the north). On the other hand, respondents from the southern region have the highest percentage of those who did not notice any changes (47.3% of all respondents from the southern region), while this share is equal for the central and northern regions (44.5% of all respondents individually from the central and northern regions). When it comes to cumulative negative changes (significant or partial), the northern region leads with 13.8%, while the central (6.4%) and southern (6.3%) regions show significantly lower percentages.

Graph 27 Have you noticed some changes in State Prosecutor's Office's work over the past 12 months? By region



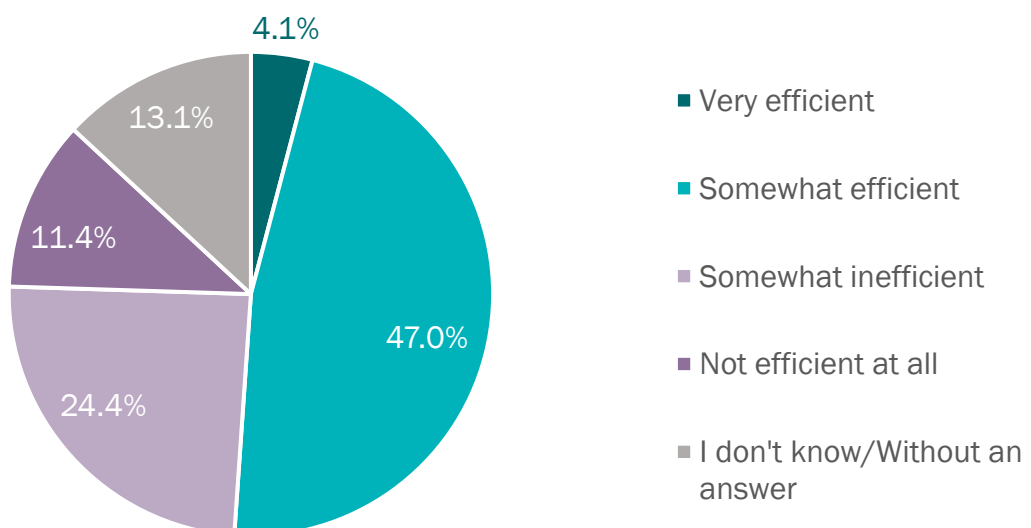
Overall, men are slightly more likely to notice positive changes (43.9%) compared to women (39.7%). On the other hand, women are somewhat more inclined to state that they have not noticed any changes (46.3% among women versus 44.2% among men). When observing negative changes, women (8%) and men (9%) have noticed changes for the worse in a similar amount. Additionally, women are more likely to state that they are unsure or did not provide an answer (6% versus 2.9% among men).

Graph 28 Have you noticed some changes in State Prosecutor's Office's work over the past 12 months? By gender



When it comes to the efficiency of the State Prosecutor's Office, slightly more than half of the citizens (51.1%) state that they believe the State Prosecutor's Office is very or somewhat efficient in its operations, while just over one-third (35.8%) indicate that they consider it somewhat inefficient or not efficient at all.

Graph 29 To what extent do you believe that the State Prosecutor's Office is efficient in its operations?



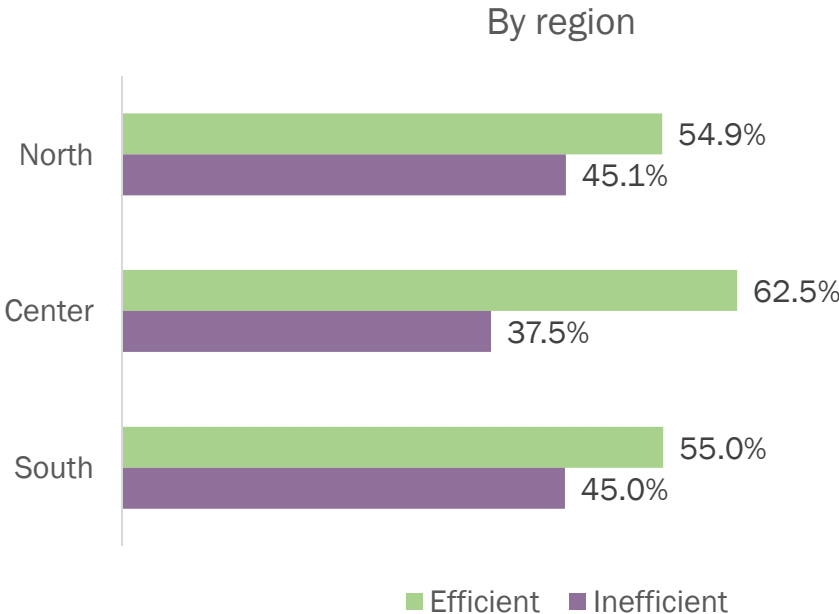
It is interesting to observe the data over different survey waves. The perception of the Prosecutor's Office's efficiency fluctuates over the years. The highest percentage of respondents who considered the Prosecutor's Office efficient was recorded in 2020 (59.8%), while in 2023, this perception dropped to its lowest level (46.2%). However, in 2024, a slight recovery and an increase of 4.9 percentage points were recorded, reaching 51.1%. This positive change may indicate certain improvements in the work of the Prosecutor's Office as well as the public's perception of those changes.

Table 2 Data through time: To what extent do you believe that the State Prosecutor's Office is efficient in its operations?

To what extent do you believe that the State Prosecutor's Office is efficient in its operations?	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Difference between the two waves
Efficient	59.8%	47.8%	59.8%	46.2%	51.1%	+ 4.9%
Inefficient	36.9%	47.0%	28.6%	42.9%	35.8%	- 7.1%
I don't know/Without an answer	3.3%	5.2%	11.6%	10.8%	13.1%	+ 2.3%

The analysis of the perception of the Prosecutor's Office's efficiency by region reveals certain differences in citizens' opinions. In this analysis, respondents who stated they had no opinion or did not wish to answer were excluded. Citizens from the central region hold the most positive view of the Prosecutor's Office's efficiency, with as many as 62.5% of respondents considering it efficient, while 37.5% view it as inefficient.

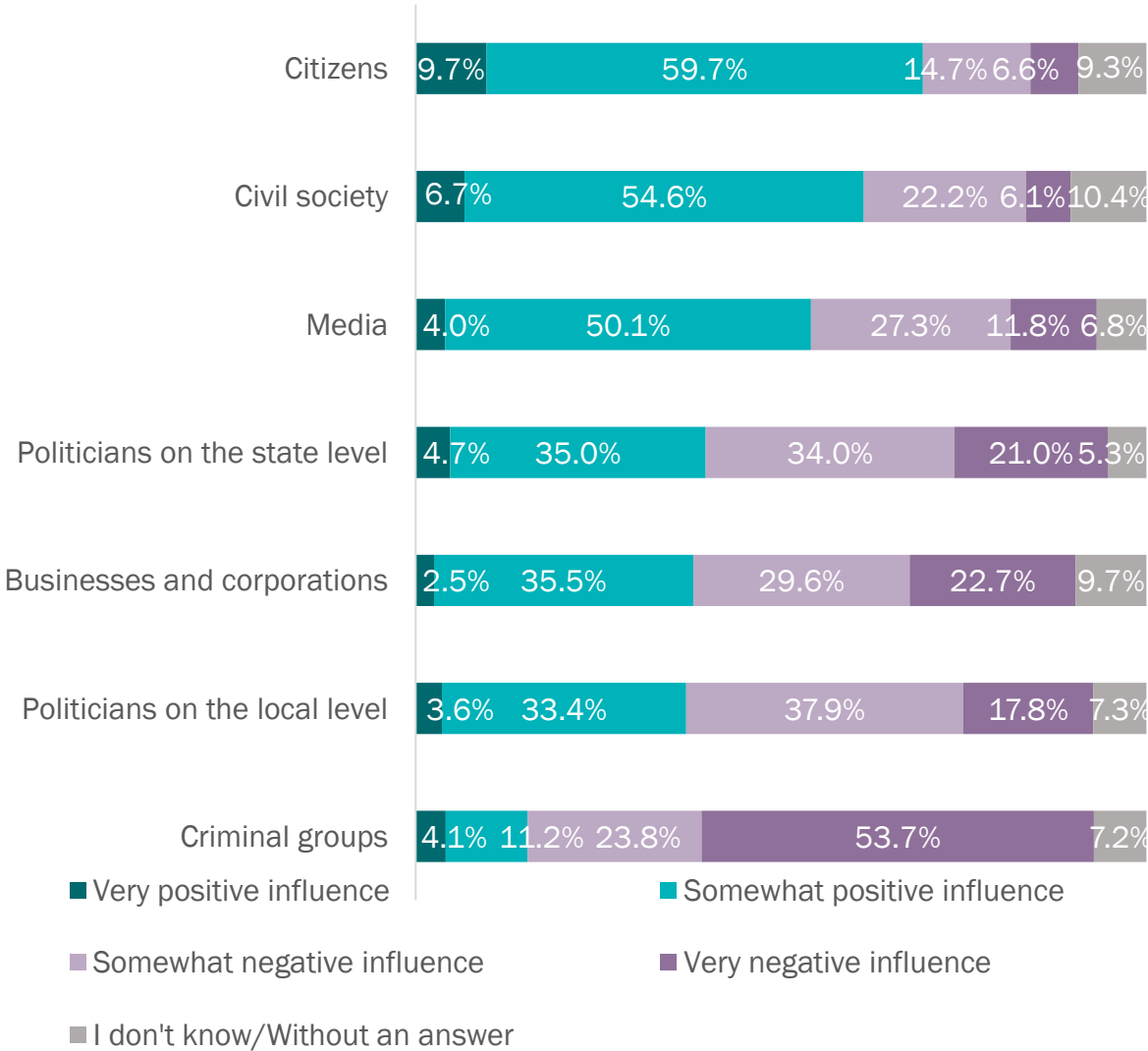
Graph 30 To what extent do you believe that the State Prosecutor's Office is efficient in its operations? By region





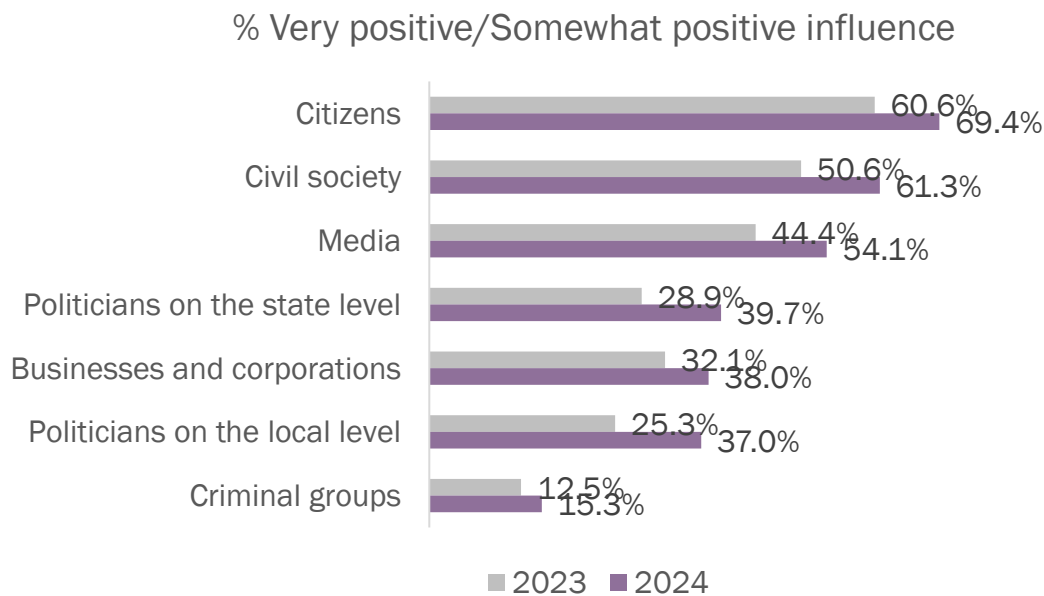
The perception of respondents regarding the influence of certain groups on the work of the State Prosecutor's Office offers particularly interesting insights. Respondents were asked to assess whether specific groups have a positive or negative impact on the functioning of this institution. The results show that citizens and civil society enjoy a predominantly positive image regarding their influence on the State Prosecutor's Office, while opinions about the media are divided. On the other hand, politicians at both national and local levels, as well as businesses and large corporations, are predominantly perceived negatively. The most negative influence is attributed to criminal groups, which are overwhelmingly viewed unfavorably. These findings highlight low trust in political and economic actors, while citizens and civil society remain key drivers of positive changes in public perception.

Graph 31 How do you perceive the influence of the following groups on the work of the State Prosecutor's Office?



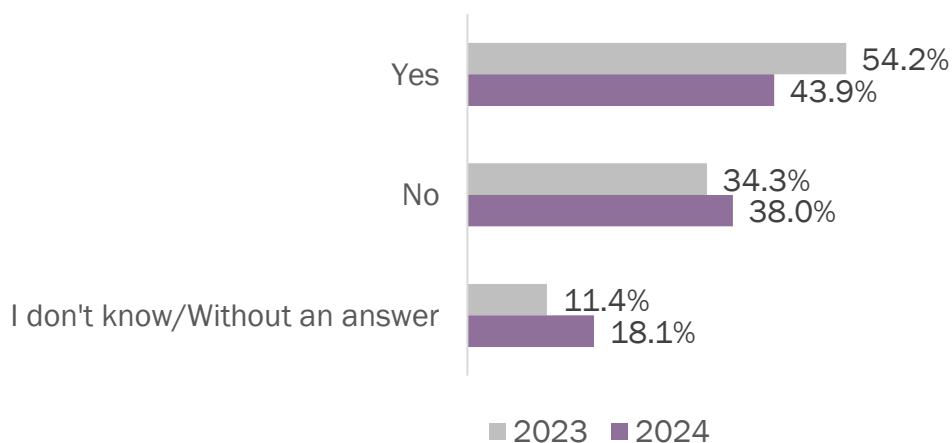
When looking at the data over time, the findings indicate an increase in the perception of positive influence among all actors on the work of the State Prosecutor's Office.

Graph 32 Data through time: How do you perceive the influence of the following groups on the work of the State Prosecutor's Office?



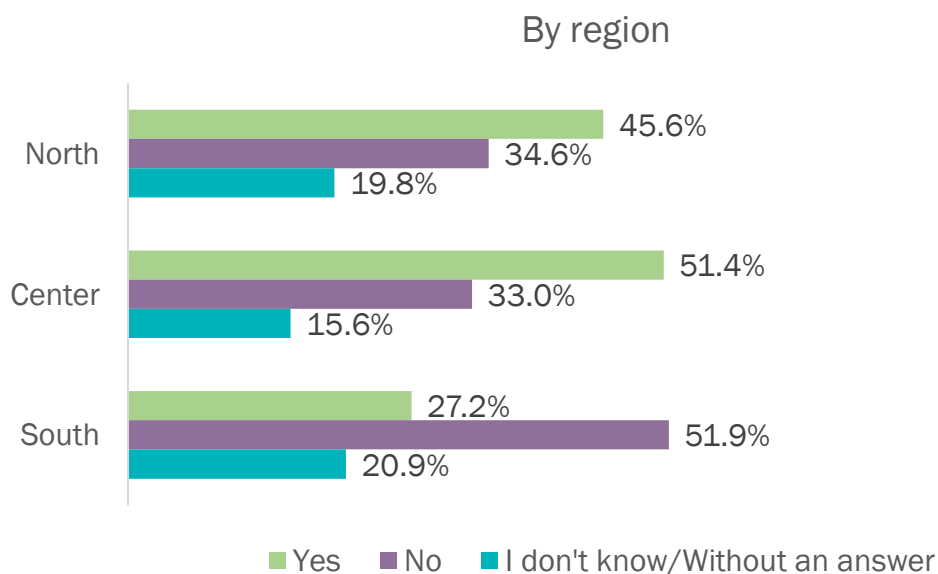
An analysis of responses to the question about necessary changes in the State Prosecutor's Office reveals an interesting trend. While in 2023, 54.2% of respondents believed changes were necessary, this number decreased by 10.3% to 43.9% in 2024. On the other hand, the percentage of those who believe changes are not needed increased from 34.3% to 38%. Additionally, an increasing number of respondents were undecided, with the proportion of those without a clear stance rising from 11.4% to 18.1%.

Graph 33 Data through time: Do you believe that something needs to be changed in the State Prosecutor's Office?



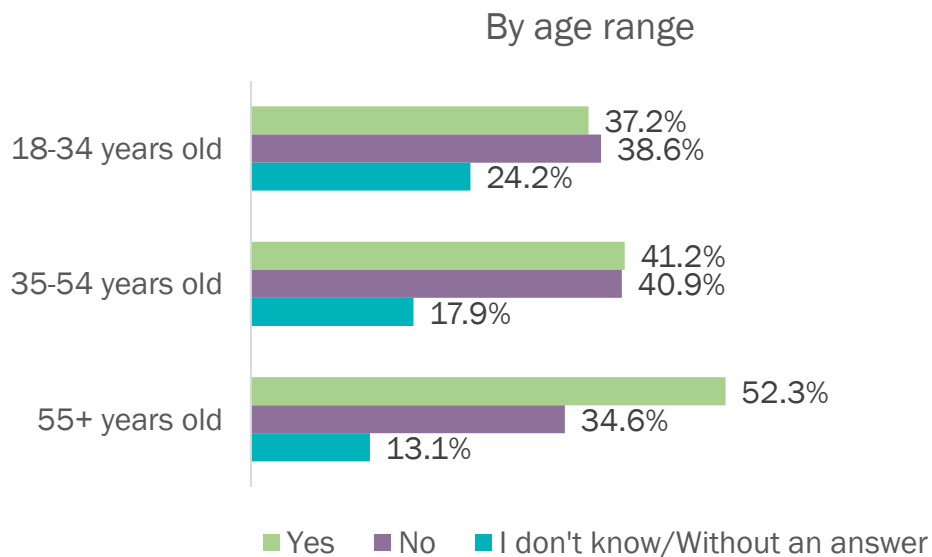
This data has been further cross-analyzed by demographic characteristics, revealing statistically significant differences. By region, a noticeable territorial divide in opinions emerges. Respondents from the southern region are the most supportive of the current system, with 51.9% believing that no changes are needed, while only 27.2% think reforms are necessary. On the other hand, respondents from the northern and central regions show greater support for changes, with 45.6% in the north and 51.4% in the center stating that reform is needed.

Graph 34 Do you believe that something needs to be changed in the State Prosecutor's Office? By region



By age group, the highest percentage of those who believe that changes are necessary belongs to the 55+ age group, where 52.3% stated that reforms are essential. The lowest percentage advocating for change is among respondents aged 18-34 (37.2%), while the 35-54 age group falls in the middle with 41.2%.

Graph 35 Do you believe that something needs to be changed in the State Prosecutor's Office? By age range



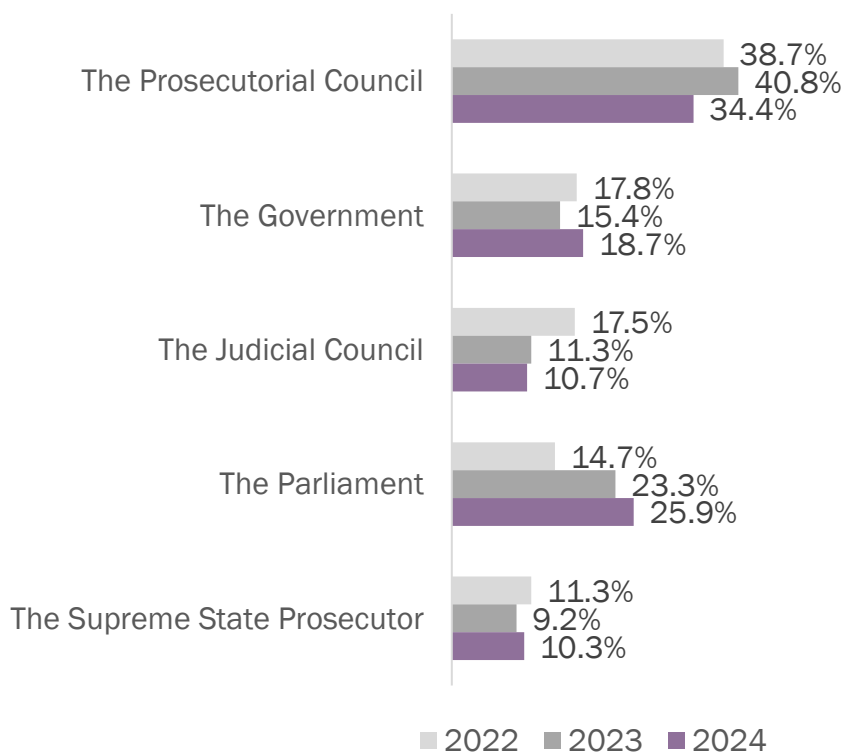
Ovi rezultati ukazuju na to da stavovi o potrebnim promjenama variraju značajno u zavisnosti od regije i starosti, što može ukazivati na različite percepcije sistema i njegove efikasnosti među različitim grupama građana/ki.

## Citizen's perception of the Prosecutorial Council

Citizens' perception of the Prosecutorial Council represents an essential aspect of public opinion research on the State Prosecutor's Office, given the importance of this institution in the functioning of Montenegro's judicial system. As the body responsible for maintaining the autonomy and integrity of the State Prosecutor's Office, the Prosecutorial Council plays a crucial role in deciding on the most important organizational and status-related issues of state prosecutors. Its competencies, defined by the Constitution and the Law on the State Prosecutor's Office, include appointing and dismissing prosecutors, deciding on disciplinary accountability, proposing candidates for the position of Supreme State Prosecutor, and ensuring resources for the institution's operations. Given the scope of its powers and its influence on the quality of the State Prosecutor's Office's work, public perception of the Prosecutorial Council provides significant insight into public trust in the judicial system and highlights key areas requiring improvement.

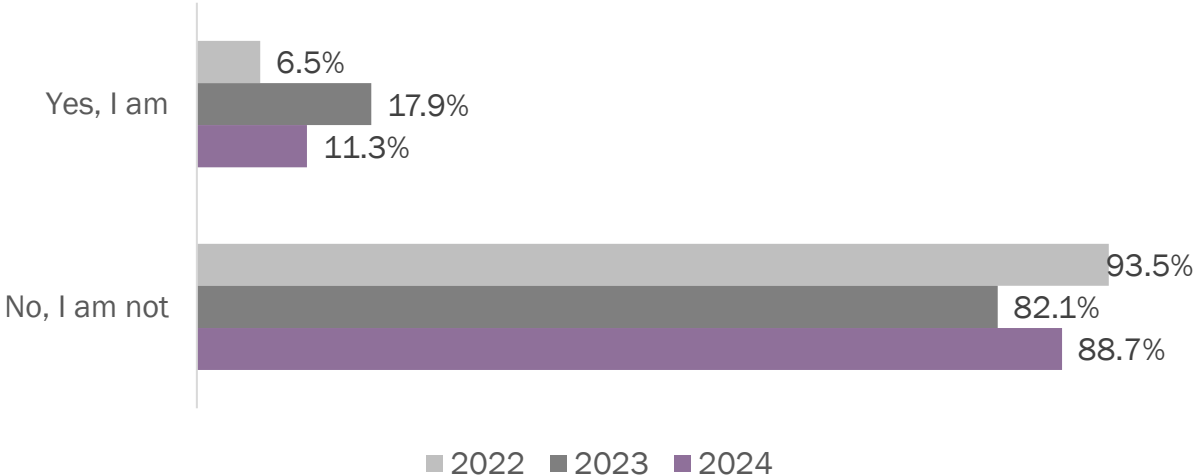
Public perception of who selects prosecutors in Montenegro has shown slight changes over the past three years. According to the survey results, the largest percentage of respondents believe that prosecutors are selected by the Prosecutorial Council, though this share has decreased from 40.8% in 2023 to 34.4% in 2024. At the same time, the number of those who believe that prosecutors are chosen by Parliament has increased, from 23.3% in 2023 to 25.9% in 2024. This trend may indicate shifts in perceptions regarding the roles of various institutions within the judicial system. A significant portion of respondents still believe that prosecutors are appointed by the Government (18.7% in 2024), while a smaller number of respondents believe that the Supreme State Prosecutor (10.3%) or the Judicial Council (10.7%) chooses the prosecutors.

Graph 36 Data through time: In your opinion, who appoints prosecutors in Montenegro?



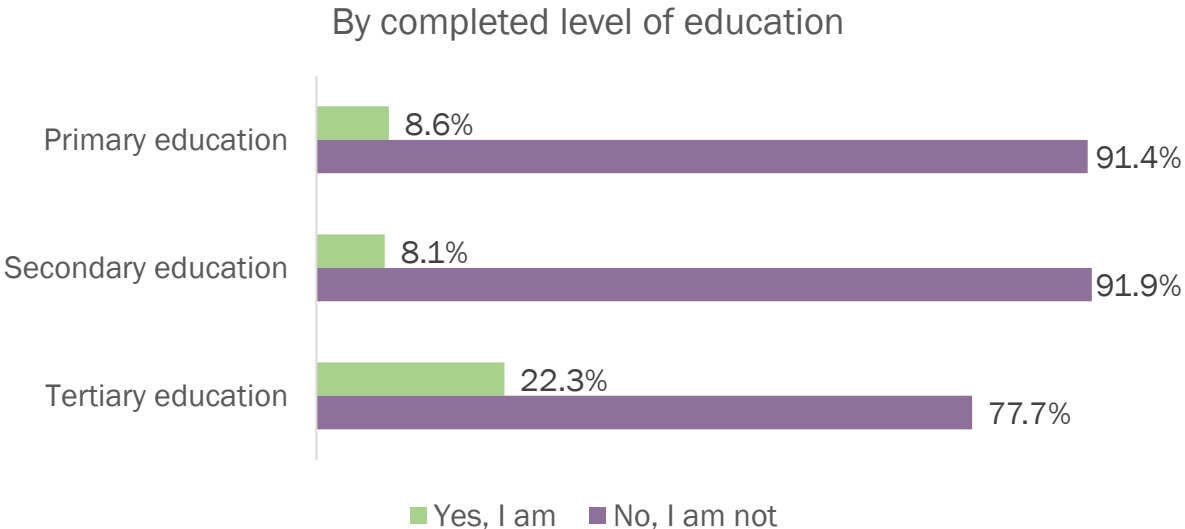
Research results reveal that citizens' awareness of the Prosecutorial Council remains extremely low, with slight fluctuations over the past three years. While 2023 recorded a modest increase in the number of citizens who stated they were familiar with the Prosecutorial Council (17.9%), this percentage dropped again to 11.3% in 2024. The majority of respondents, 88.7% in 2024, reported being unfamiliar with the work of this body, highlighting the need for more intensive efforts to inform the public and communicate the role and importance of the Prosecutorial Council.

Graph 37 Data through time: Are you familiar with the composition of the Prosecutorial Council?



An analysis of the results based on the level of education shows that awareness of the Prosecutorial Council is higher among citizens with higher education, with 22.3% of respondents in this category stating they are familiar with this body. In contrast, only 8.6% of citizens with primary education and 8.1% with secondary education reported the same. The majority of respondents across all three groups, particularly those with lower levels of education, are unaware of the Prosecutorial Council. This highlights the need for targeted efforts to inform and educate these populations.

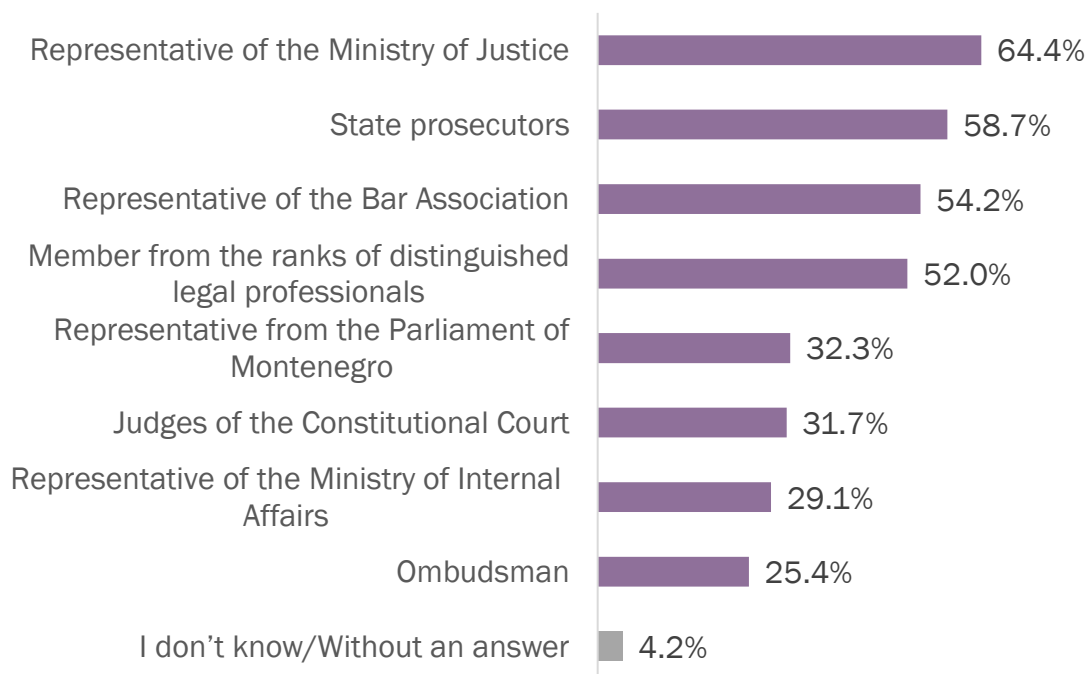
Graph 38 Are you familiar with the composition of the Prosecutorial Council? By completed level of education





Respondents who stated they were familiar with the composition of the Prosecutorial Council were further asked to select, from a provided list, who they believe are members of the Prosecutorial Council. The question allowed multiple-choice answers, meaning respondents could select more than one option.

Graph 39 Can you tell us who, from the provided list, is a member of the Prosecutorial Council? N=113



The majority of citizens consider representatives from the Ministry of Justice (64.4%), state prosecutors (58.7%), and representatives from the Bar Association (54.2%) as members of this body. Additionally, 52% of respondents believe that a member of the Council is a representative from among respected lawyers, while recognition of representatives from the Parliament of Montenegro (32.3%) and judges of the Constitutional Court (31.7%) is somewhat lower. Representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ombudsman are considered members of the Prosecutorial Council by 29.1% and 25.4% of respondents, respectively.

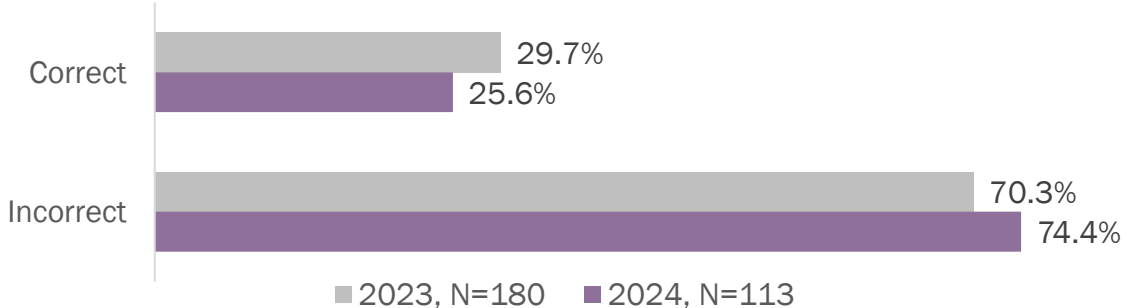
The Prosecutorial Council consists of the President, the Supreme State Prosecutor, and ten members. The Council includes five state prosecutors with permanent functions and at least five years of professional experience in prosecutorial duties. These are elected and dismissed by the Conference of State Prosecutors, and they include one prosecutor from the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, the Special State Prosecutor's Office, and High State Prosecutor Offices, as well as one from Basic State Prosecutor Offices. Additionally, the Council includes two distinguished lawyers who are not attorneys, appointed and dismissed by the Parliament of Montenegro. One member is from the Ministry of Justice and is appointed by the Minister of Justice. The Council also includes one respected lawyer as a representative of non-governmental organizations working in the fields of the rule of law, the functioning of the state prosecutor's office, or the fight against corruption and organized crime, nominated by NGOs and elected and dismissed by the Parliament. Finally, a member of the Council is a distinguished lawyer with at least five years of professional

experience, appointed and dismissed by the Parliament upon the proposal of the Bar Association of Montenegro.

It is noted that changes to the legal framework governing the composition of the Prosecutorial Council may have affected citizens' perceptions of this institution. It is possible that some perceptions were based on previous legislation, which could have influenced the interpretation of the questions asked and the responses given.

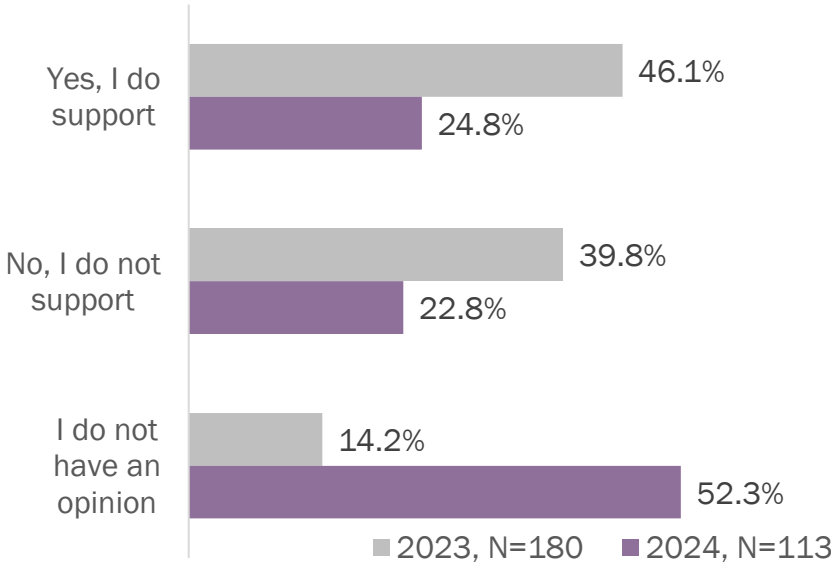
Through analysis of the responses, we concluded that 25.6% of respondents provided the correct answer and were able to identify that members of the Prosecutorial Council include state prosecutors, representatives from the Ministry of Justice, and distinguished lawyers. Data over time show that respondents in 2023 were slightly more knowledgeable about the composition of the Prosecutorial Council.

Graph 40 Data through time: Can you tell us who, from the provided list, is a member of the Prosecutorial Council?



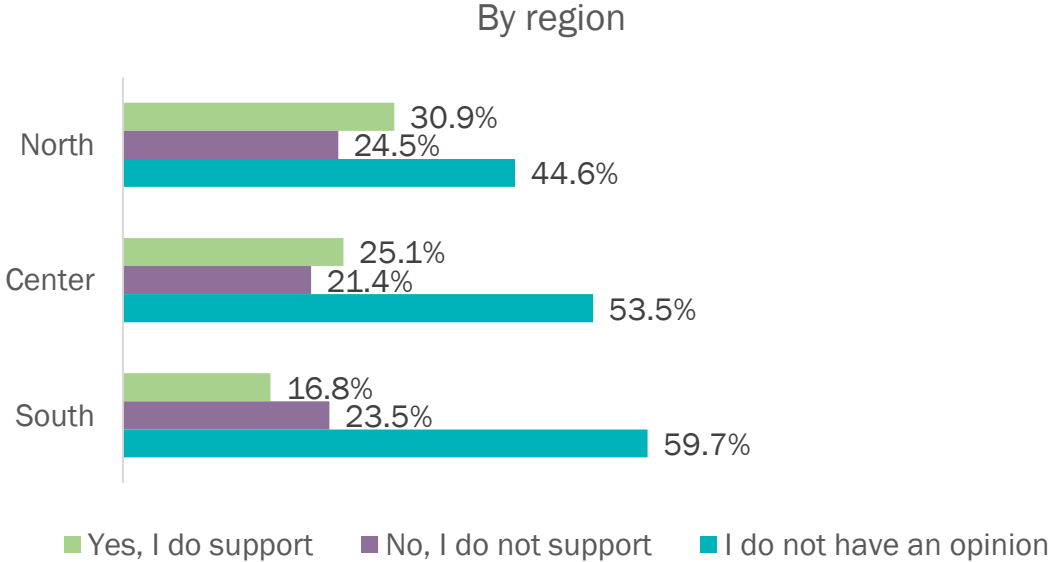
Of the respondents who claim to be familiar with the Prosecutorial Council, a quarter support its composition, 22.8% do not support it, while the majority (52.3%) have not formed a clear opinion. These data show a decrease compared to 2023, when 46.1% of respondents supported the composition of the Council.

Graph 41 Data through time: Do you support the composition of the Prosecutorial Council?



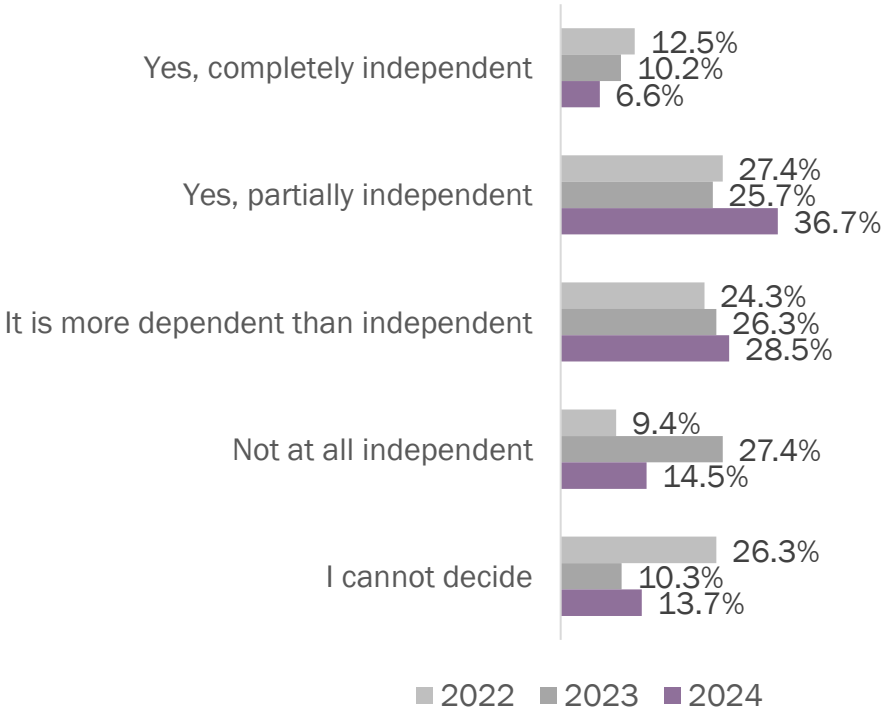
The data was further cross-tabulated by region, where we see that respondents from the north of Montenegro are more likely to support the composition of the Prosecutorial Council (30.9%), while respondents from the south are the least likely to support it (16.8%).

Graph 42 Do you support the composition of the Prosecutorial Council? By region



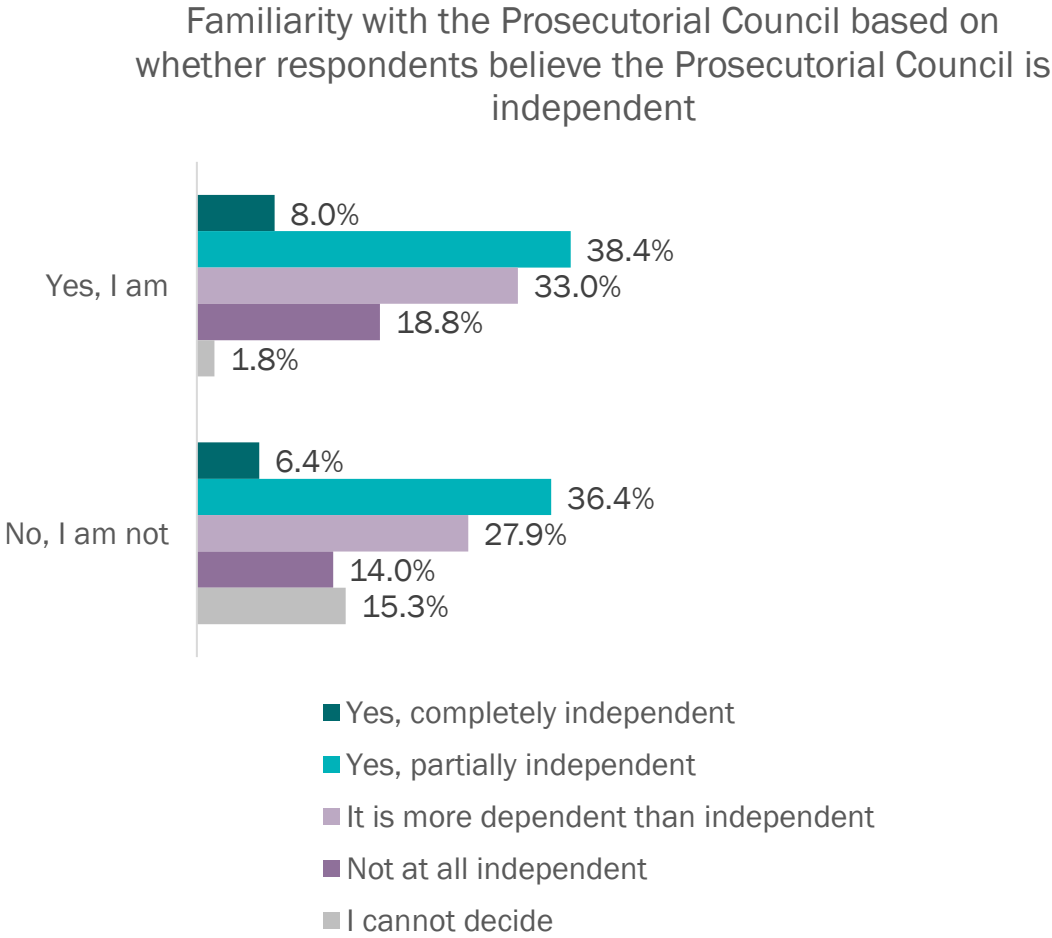
All respondents were asked whether they believe the Prosecutorial Council is independent in its work. The data shows that in this year's survey, 43.3% fully or partially believe that the Council is independent, which represents an increase of 7.4 percentage points compared to last year.

Graph 43 Data through time: Do you believe that the Prosecutorial Council is independent in its work?



Data analysis indicates differences in citizens' perceptions depending on whether they are familiar with the composition of the Prosecutorial Council. Among those who stated they are familiar with the composition of the Prosecutorial Council, 8% believe the Council is fully independent in its work, while 38.4% believe it is only partially independent. In contrast, among respondents who are not familiar with the composition, only 6.4% consider the Council fully independent, and 36.4% acknowledge its partial independence. Interestingly, 15.3% of those who are not familiar with the composition could not assess the independence of the Council, compared to 1.8% among those who are familiar. These results suggest that the level of awareness influences perceptions of the Prosecutorial Council's independence, and there is significant room to strengthen citizens' trust in its work.

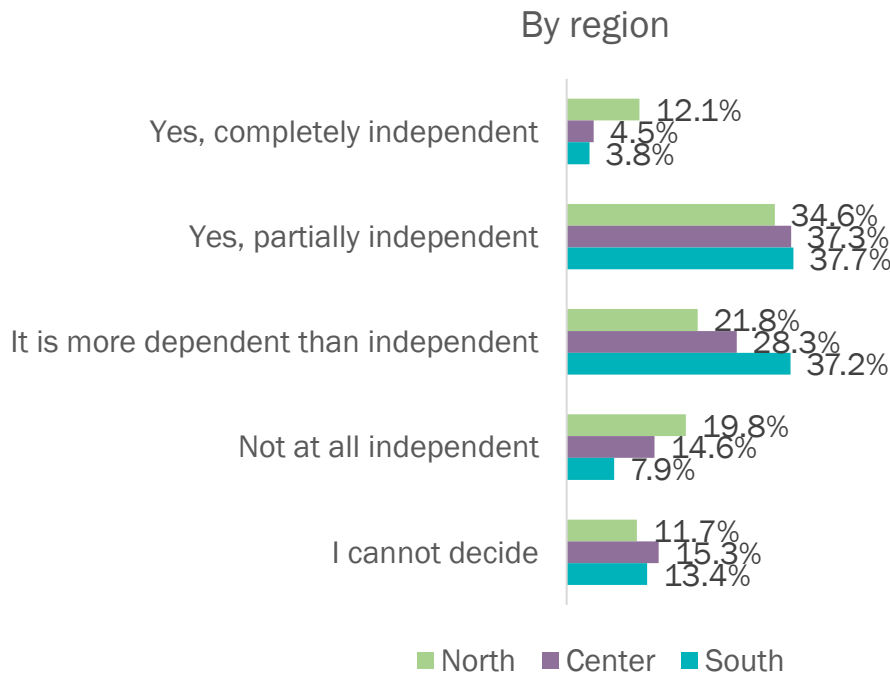
Graph 44 Familiarity with the Prosecutorial Council based on whether respondents believe the Prosecutorial Council is independent



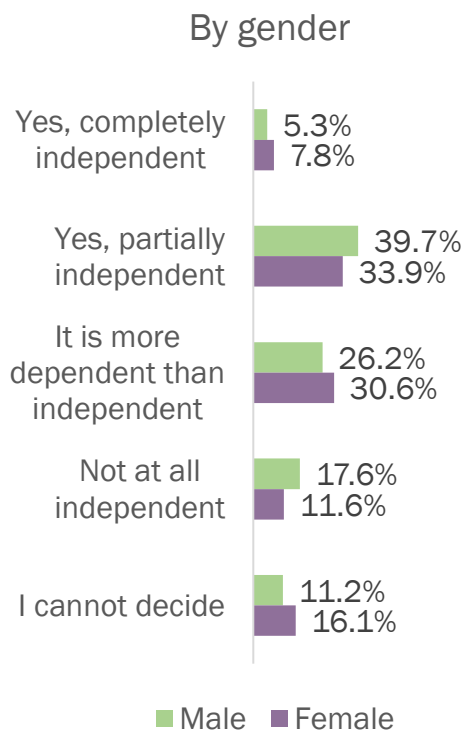
The analysis of perceptions of the Prosecutorial Council's independence by region, gender, and education shows differences. Respondents from the north are most likely to consider the Council fully independent (12.1%), while this percentage is lowest in the south (3.8%). Women are slightly more likely than men to believe in the full independence of the Council (7.8% compared to 5.3%), while men are more likely to view its independence as partial (39.7% compared to 33.9%). Skepticism is more pronounced among women (30.6%) than among men (26.2%). When education is analyzed, respondents with only primary education

more frequently express uncertainty and state that they cannot assess the Council's independence (32.1%).

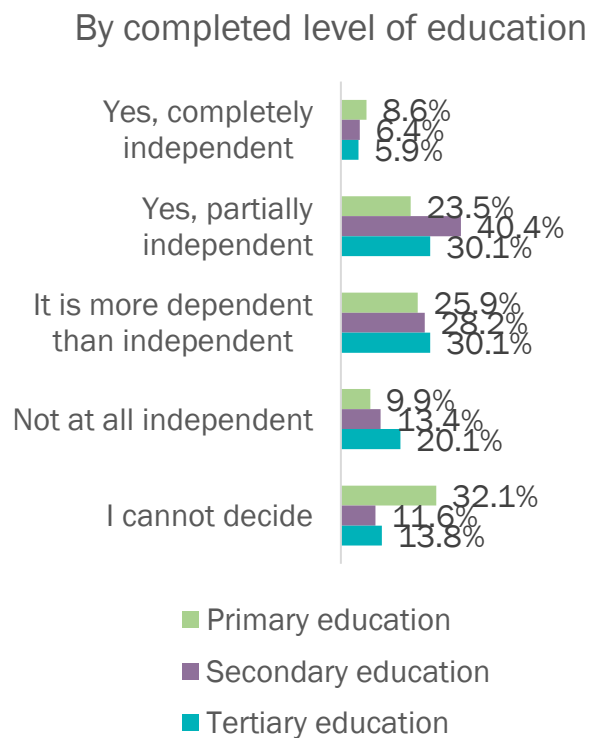
Graph 45 Do you believe that the Prosecutorial Council is independent in its work? By region



Graph 46 Do you believe that the Prosecutorial Council is independent in its work? By gender



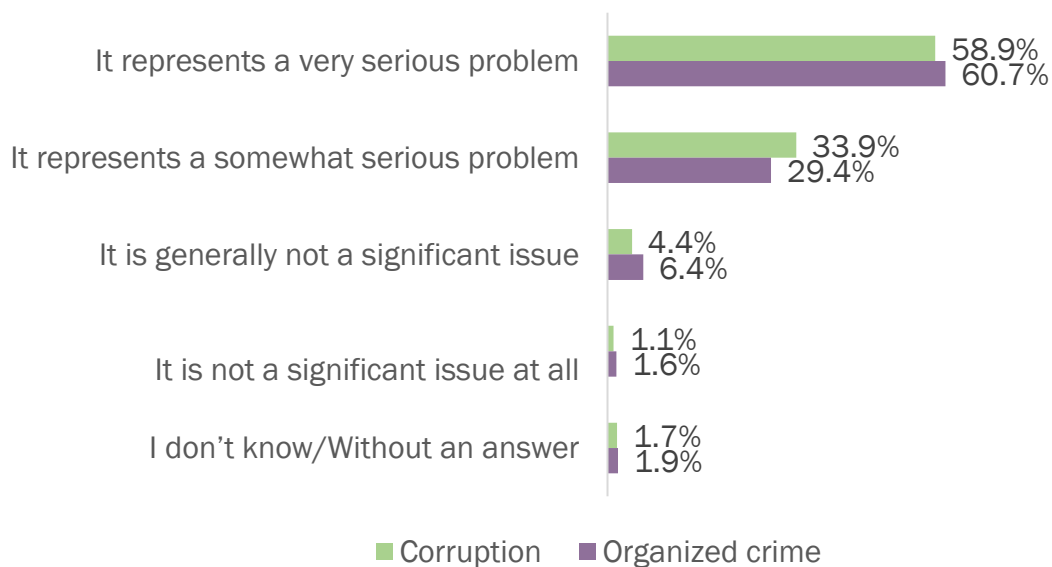
Graph 47 Do you believe that the Prosecutorial Council is independent in its work? By completed level of education



## Corruption and organized crime

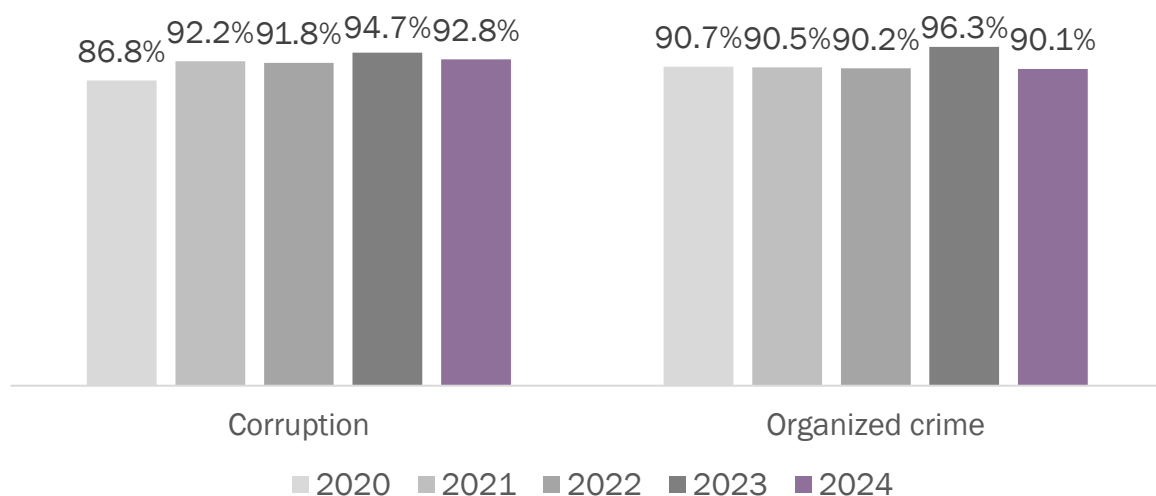
This chapter is dedicated to citizens' perceptions of the role and effectiveness of the State Prosecutor's Office in the fight against corruption and organized crime, which represent key challenges for the judicial system and society as a whole. Through the analysis of respondents' views, the study examines how the public evaluates the Prosecutor's Office's work in combating these issues, how much trust it has in its dedication and effectiveness, and the main factors influencing their stance on these matters. Data from 2024 show that the vast majority of citizens consider corruption and organized crime to be very serious or somewhat serious problems (corruption – 92.8%, organized crime – 90.1%).

Graph 48 To what extent are the following issues a problem in Montenegro?



Compared to the results of previous waves, we observe a slight decrease in the number of respondents who consider corruption and organized crime to be a problem.

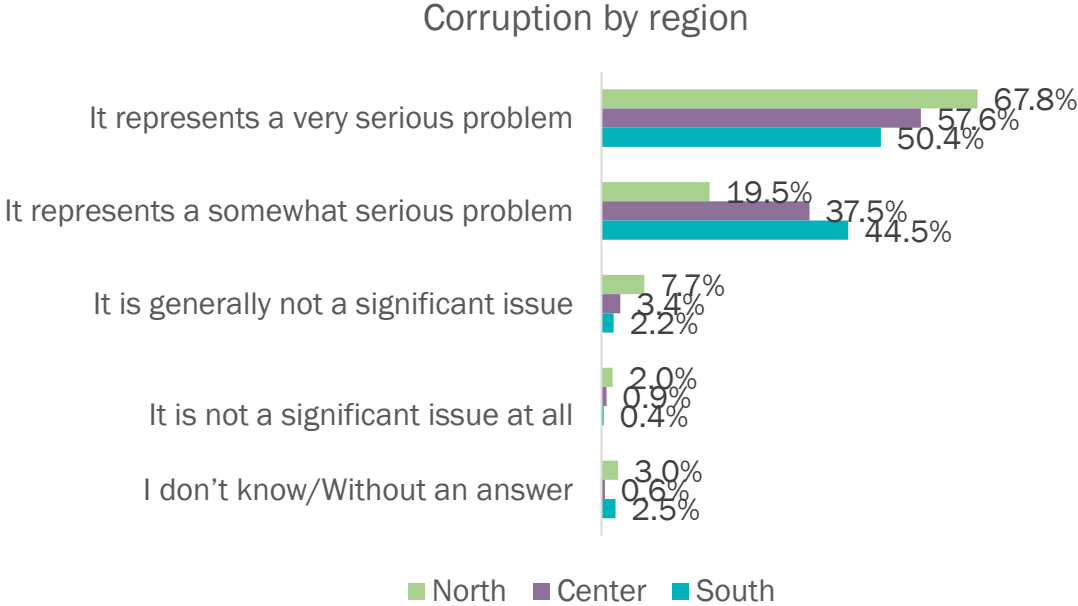
Graph 49 Data through time: To what extent are the following issues a problem in Montenegro? % It represents a very serious problem/Somewhat serious problem





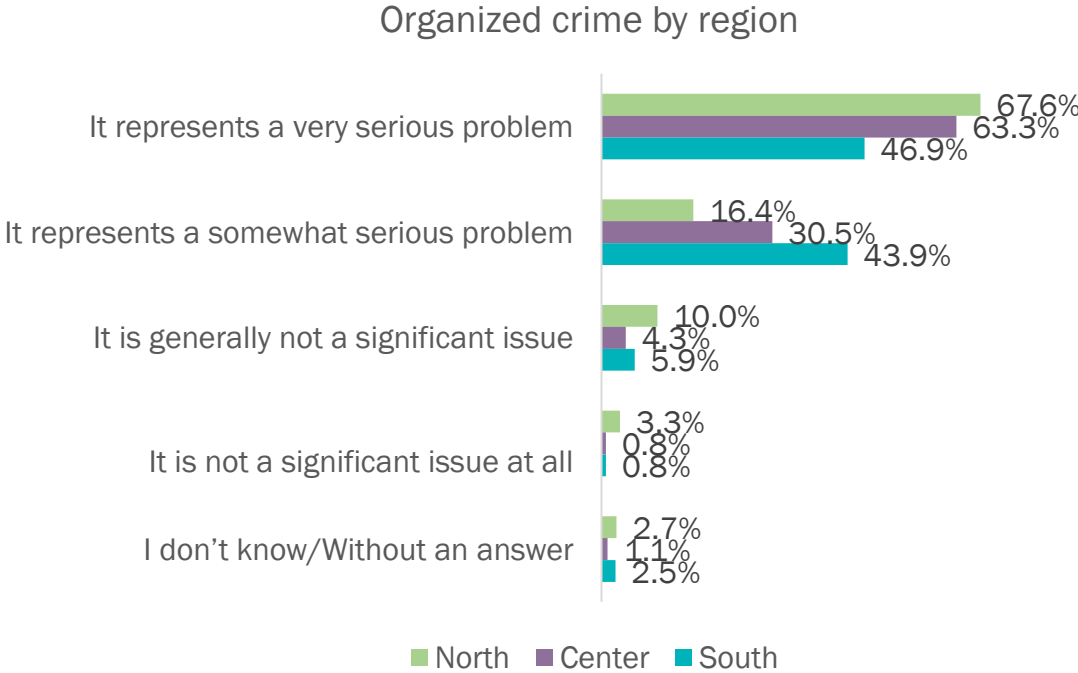
The results show that the majority of respondents consider corruption and organized crime to be very serious problems in Montenegro, but the perception of these issues varies depending on region, education, and age group. Corruption is most often recognized as a "very serious problem" in the north (67.8%), while this percentage is lower in the center (57.6%) and the south (50.4%).

Graph 50 To what extent are the following issues a problem in Montenegro? Corruption - by region



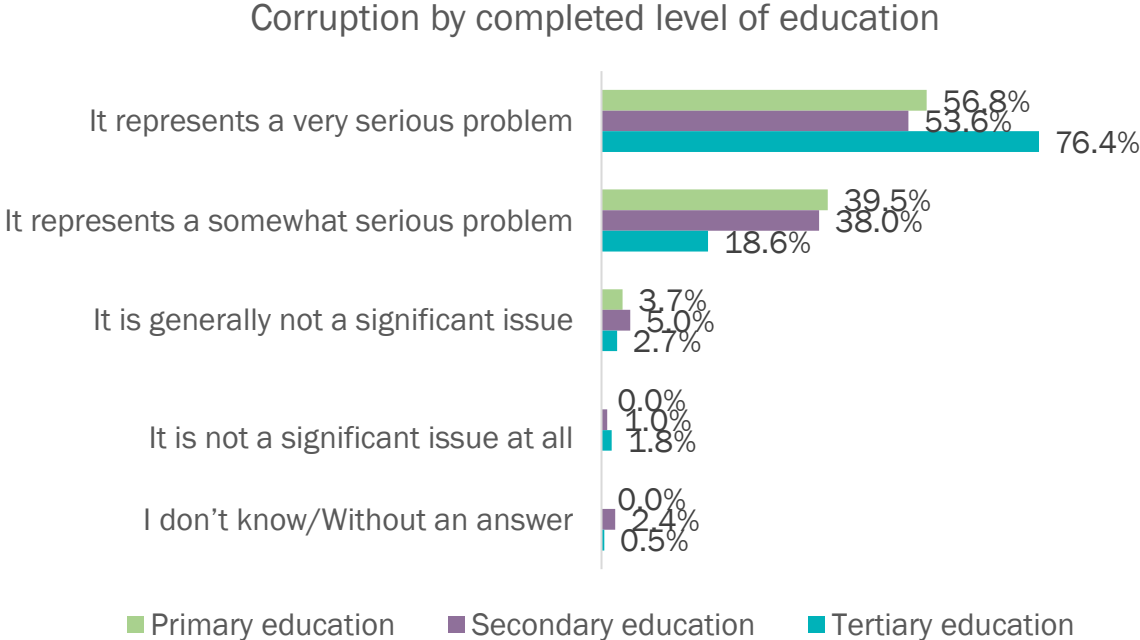
Similarly, organized crime is also most often recognized as a "very serious problem" in the north (67.6%), while the south shows significantly lower concern (46.9%).

Graph 51 To what extent are the following issues a problem in Montenegro? Organized crime - by region



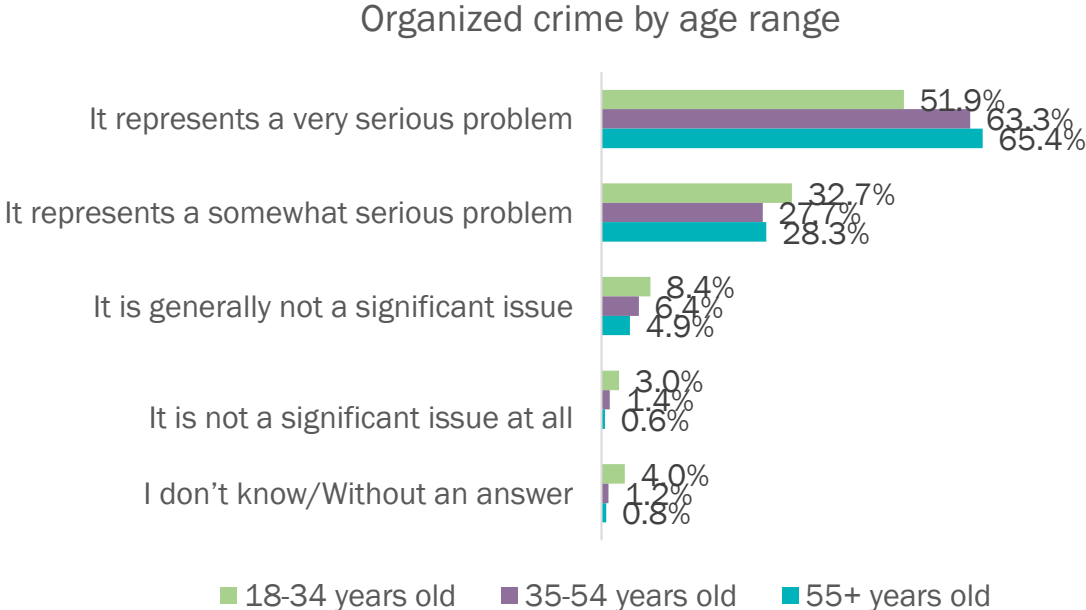
When education is considered, respondents with higher education most often recognize corruption as a "very serious problem" (76.4%), while this view is shared by only 56.8% of respondents with primary education.

Graph 52 To what extent are the following issues a problem in Montenegro? Corruption - by completed level of education



Age analysis shows that older respondents (55+ years) are more likely to recognize organized crime as a "very serious problem" (65.4%), while younger people (18-34 years) express this view somewhat less frequently (51.9%). This indicates differences in problem perception among different demographic groups, which could be crucial for shaping strategies to combat these issues.

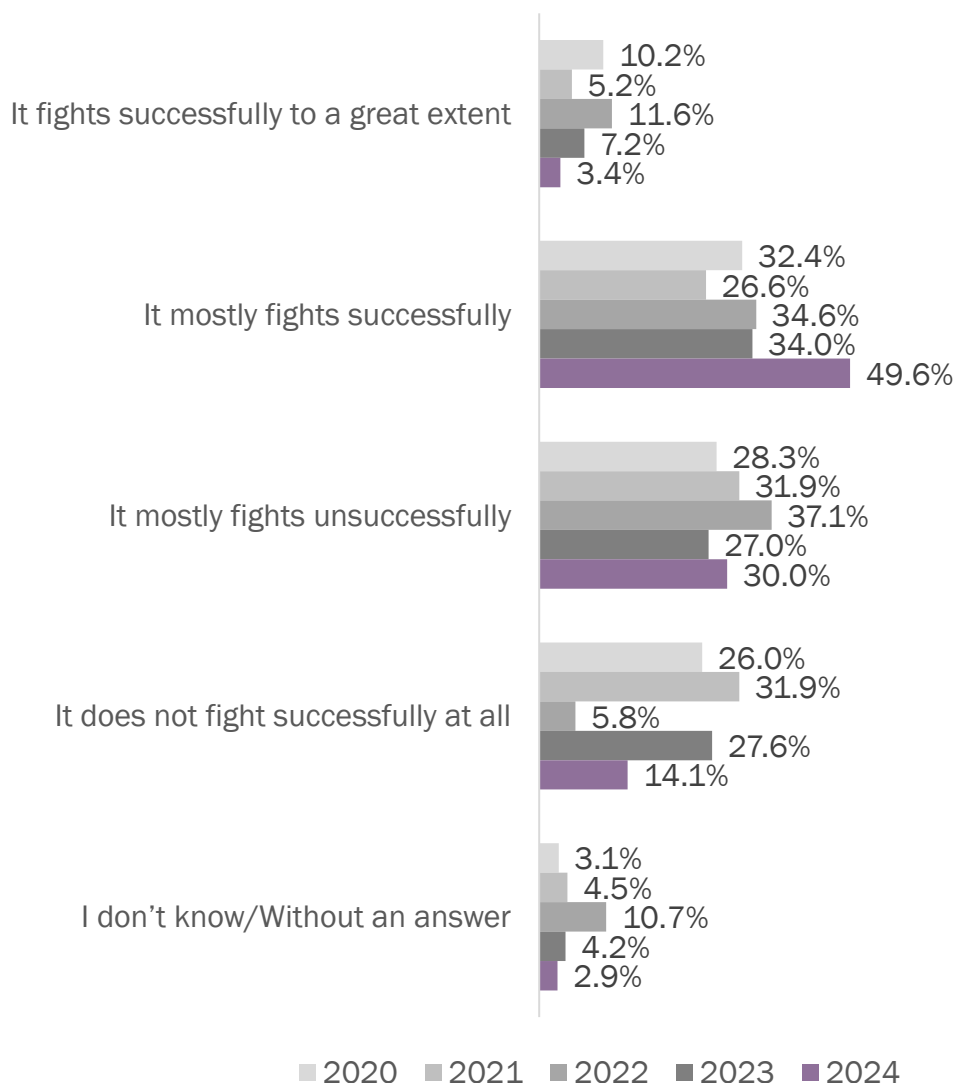
Graph 53 To what extent are the following issues a problem in Montenegro? Organized crime - by age range



Citizens were also asked whether they believe the State Prosecutor's Office is successfully fighting corruption. Data across the waves show that cumulatively, 53% of respondents believe the Prosecutor's Office is successfully combating corruption, which represents an increase of 11.8% compared to the previous year (41.2% in 2023).

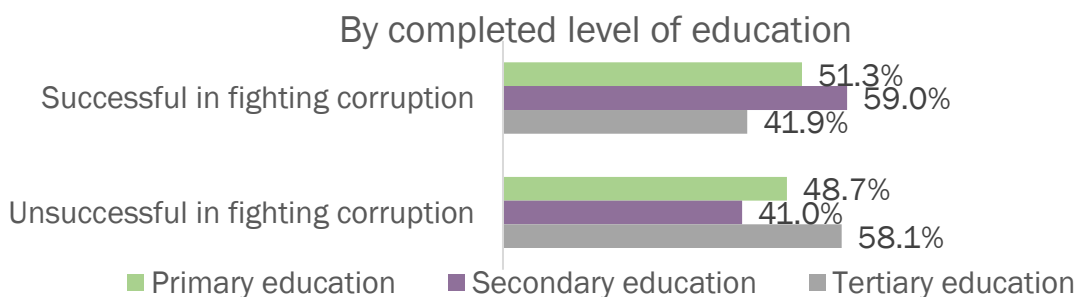
Interestingly, the percentage of undecided respondents ("Don't know/No answer") remained relatively low during this period, decreasing from 10.7% in 2022 to 2.9% in 2024. These data indicate an improvement in perceptions of the Prosecutor's Office's success in fighting corruption, but also reflect some skepticism, as a significant portion of citizens still believes the Prosecutor's Office is not sufficiently successful in this area.

Graph 54 Data through time: Do you think the State Prosecutor's Office is successfully fighting corruption?



The data further show that respondents with primary education are more likely to believe that the State Prosecutor's Office is successfully fighting corruption, while those with higher education are somewhat less likely to view the Prosecutor's efforts as successful in combating corruption.

Graph 55 Do you think the State Prosecutor's Office is successfully fighting corruption? By completed level of education



Citizens' perceptions of prosecutors' susceptibility to corruption show changes between 2023 and 2024. The number of those who believe that "most prosecutors are susceptible to corruption" has significantly decreased by 15.2%, from 26.1% in 2023 to 10.9% in 2024. At the same time, the perception that "a certain number of prosecutors are susceptible to corruption" remained relatively stable, with a slight increase from 32.2% to 33.7%. There was also an increase among those who believe that "a small number of prosecutors are susceptible to corruption," with the percentage rising from 22.5% in 2023 to 28.7% in 2024. Additionally, the number of respondents who believe that "only certain prosecutors" are susceptible to corruption has slightly increased, from 12.2% to 14.3%.

It is noteworthy that in 2024, a new response option was added – "Prosecutors in Montenegro are not susceptible to corruption," which was chosen by 5.5% of respondents, indicating a smaller, but important segment of the population that has confidence in the integrity of prosecutors. The percentage of those who have no clear opinion ("Don't know/No answer") remained almost unchanged, from 7% in 2023 to 6.8% in 2024. These results suggest a more positive trend in citizens' perceptions of prosecutors, but also reflect caution and diverse views among respondents.

Graph 56 Data through time: Do you believe that the state prosecutors are susceptible to corruption?<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> In 2024, a new response option was added – "Prosecutors in Montenegro are not susceptible to corruption."

The analysis of citizens' views by region on prosecutors' susceptibility to corruption reveals significant differences. In the north, 15.8% of respondents expressed the belief that most prosecutors are susceptible to corruption, while this percentage is 12% in the center and only 2.9% in the south. The view that "a certain number of prosecutors are susceptible to corruption" is most prevalent in the center (37.6%), followed by the north (31.2%) and the south (29.4%). Interestingly, in the south, the highest percentage of respondents believe that "a small number of prosecutors are susceptible to corruption" (51.3%), which is significantly higher compared to the center (24%) and the north (18.1%). The perception that only certain prosecutors are susceptible to corruption is approximately equally represented in the center (15.9%) and the north (15.1%), while it is somewhat lower in the south (10.1%).

Graph 57 Do you believe that the state prosecutors are susceptible to corruption? By region

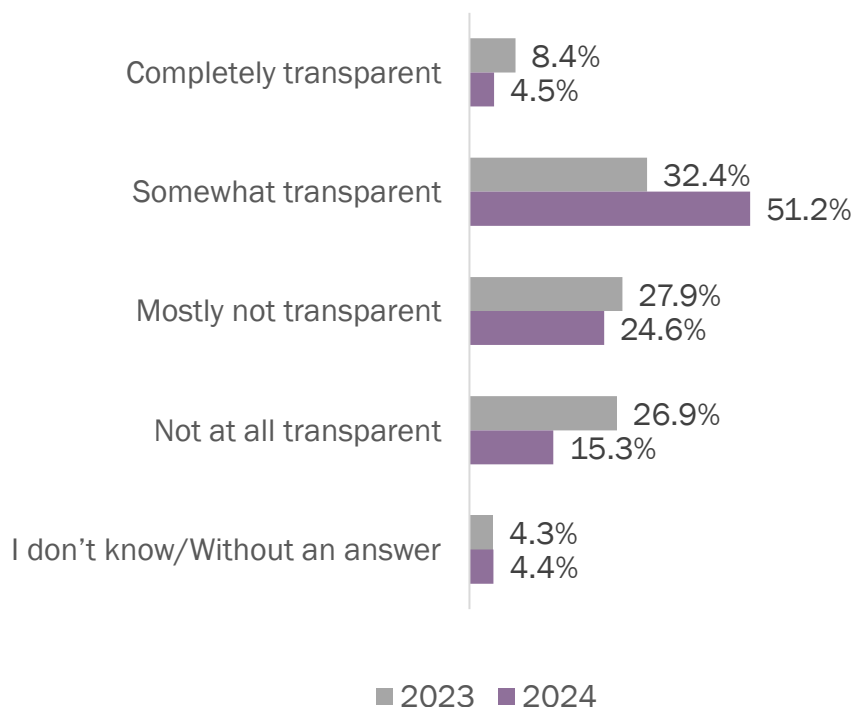


## Citizen’s awareness of the State Prosecutor’s Office

This section of the report examines the level of citizens' awareness about the State Prosecutor's Office, including their perceptions of transparency and the availability of information. Knowledge of the prosecutor's office's operations, its competencies, and activities is crucial for building trust and improving relations between citizens and institutions. Special attention is given to analyzing the sources of information that citizens use, as well as their views on how open and transparent the prosecutor's work is.

The analysis of citizens' perceptions of the transparency of the State Prosecutor's Office shows significant changes between 2023 and 2024. While in 2023, 40.8% of citizens believed that the work of the State Prosecutor's Office was fully or somewhat transparent, 2024 sees a significant increase. More than half of respondents (55.7%) now believe that the prosecutor's work is somewhat or fully transparent, representing a 14.9% increase compared to the previous year. When examining these figures by intensity, it is noted that last year, 8.4% of respondents thought the prosecutor's work was fully transparent, while in 2024, this percentage dropped to 4.5%. At the same time, there was a significant increase in those who believe that the prosecutor's work is somewhat transparent, rising from 32.4% in 2023 to 51.2% in 2024. This trend suggests a shift toward a more moderate stance on transparency among citizens. On the other hand, the percentage of citizens who believe that the prosecutor's work is largely or not at all transparent has decreased by the same 14.9%, from 54.8% in 2023 to 39.9% in 2024. The data indicates an increasing belief among citizens that the State Prosecutor's Office operates in a transparent manner.

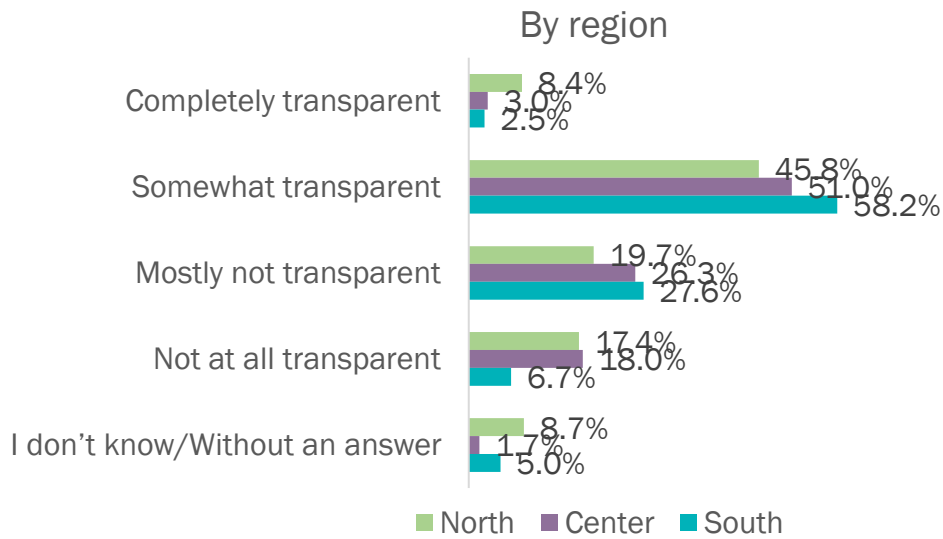
Graph 58 Data through time: Do you believe the work of the State Prosecutor's Office is transparent?



A detailed analysis of the perception of the transparency of the State Prosecutor's Office's work by region and age groups in 2024 shows certain differences. When it comes to regions, the highest percentage of citizens who believe that the work of the prosecutor's

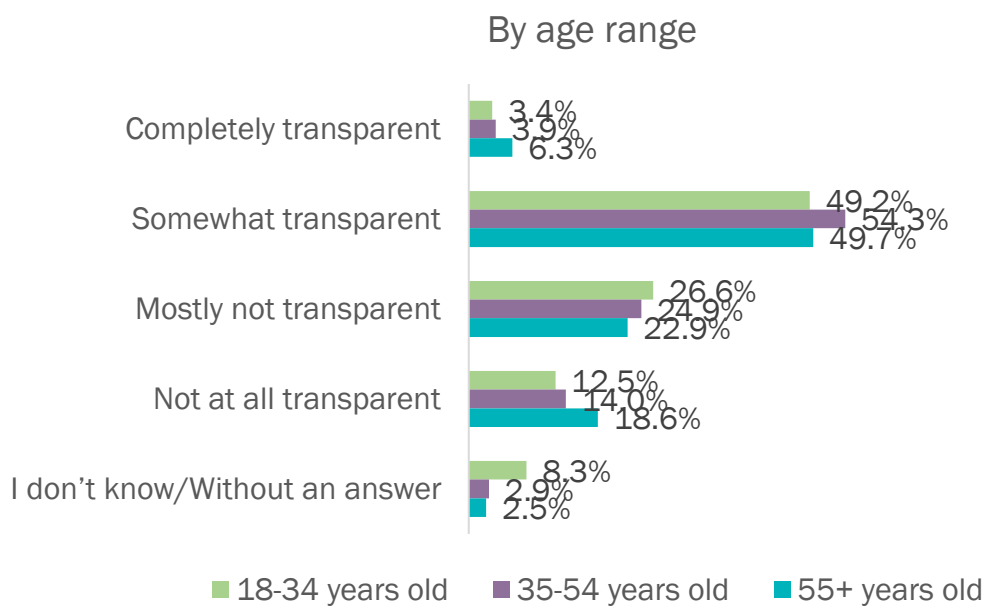
office is fully or somewhat transparent is recorded in the south (60.7%), while this percentage is slightly lower in the center (54%) and in the north (54.2%).

Graph 59 Do you believe the work of the State Prosecutor's Office is transparent? By region



According to age groups, citizens over 55 years old are more likely to consider the work of the prosecutor's office fully transparent (6.3%), while those under 35 years old are the least likely to think so (3.4%). All age groups most commonly believe that the work of the prosecutor's office is somewhat transparent, with percentages ranging from 49.2% to 54.3%. However, those over 55 years old are somewhat more likely to consider the work of the Prosecutor's Office not transparent at all (18.6%) compared to younger generations. These data indicate regional and generational differences in the perception of the transparency of the State Prosecutor's Office, with southern regions and younger generations somewhat more inclined to give milder assessments.

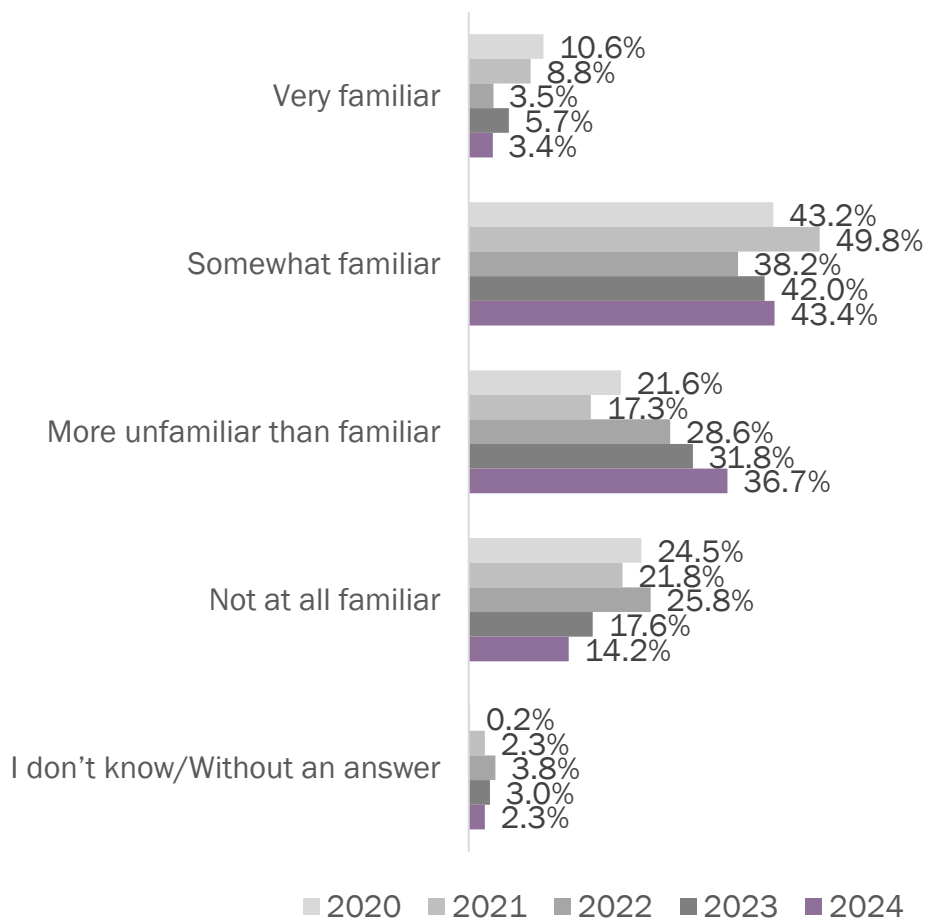
Graph 60 Do you believe the work of the State Prosecutor's Office is transparent? By age range





Data on citizens' awareness of the State Prosecutor's Office's competencies from 2020 to 2024 show a trend of decreasing numbers of citizens who are "very familiar" with the office's competencies, from 10.6% in 2020 to only 3.4% in 2024. At the same time, the percentage of those who are "somewhat familiar" remained relatively stable, around 43% in 2024, indicating a moderate level of awareness among a larger portion of the population. On the other hand, there has been a significant increase in the percentage of citizens who consider themselves "more unaware than aware" of the competencies, from 21.6% in 2020 to 36.7% in 2024. Meanwhile, the percentage of those who are "not familiar at all" has decreased from 24.5% in 2020 to 14.2% in 2024, which may indicate a growing general interest in the work of the prosecutor's office, although deep understanding remains limited.

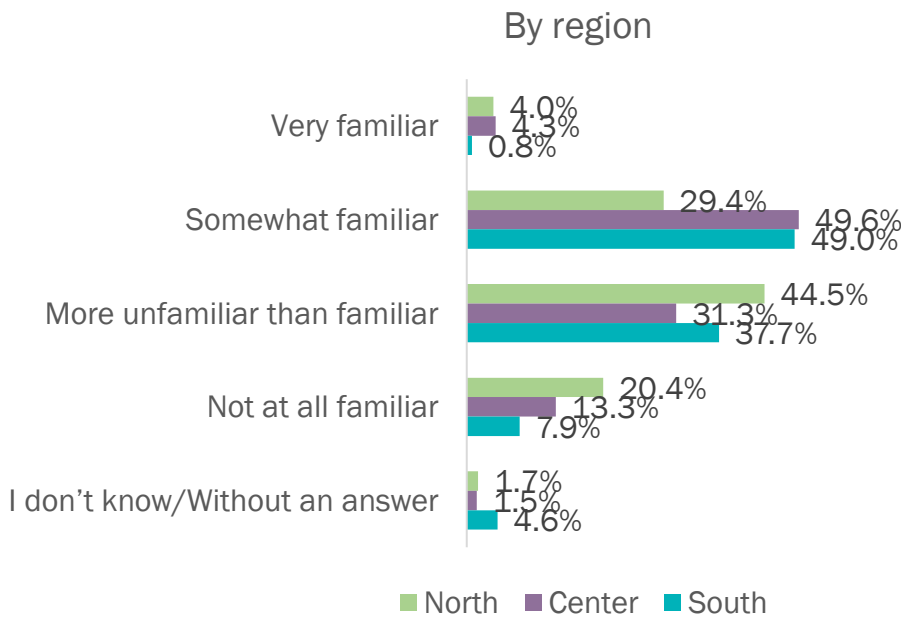
Graph 61 Data through time: To what extent are you familiar with the competencies of the State Prosecutor's Office?



Overall, these results indicate the need for more intensive communication activities by the State Prosecutor's Office to provide the public with clearer and more accessible information about their competencies.

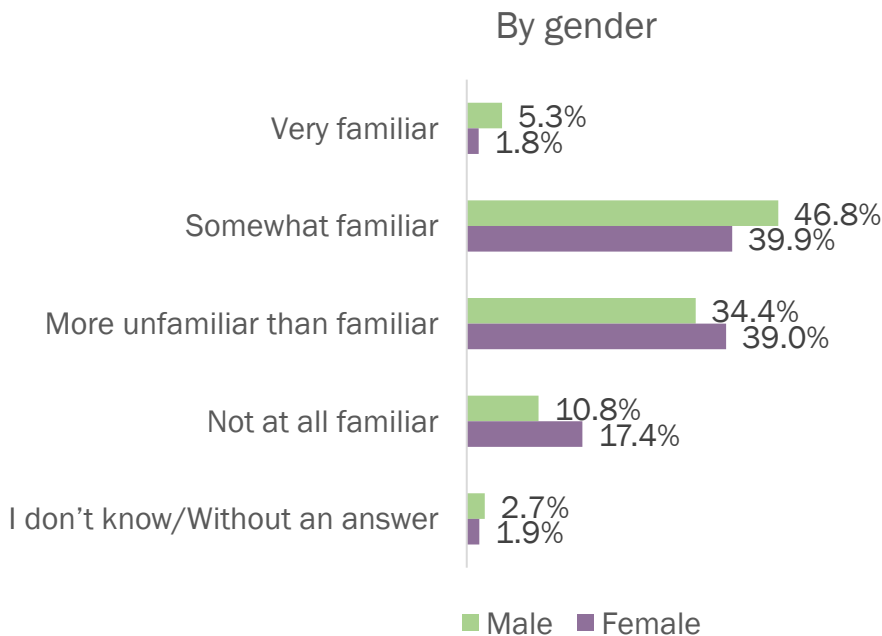
Citizens from different regions show differences in their awareness of the State Prosecutor's Office's competencies. In the northern region, the smallest percentage of respondents (4%) claim to be "very familiar," while in the central region, this percentage is 4.3%, and in the south, it is only 0.8%. The highest percentage of citizens in the south (49%) and center (49.6%) state that they are "somewhat familiar," while in the north, the dominant view is "more unaware than aware," with 44.5%.

Graph 62 To what extent are you familiar with the competencies of the State Prosecutor's Office? By region



The analysis by gender shows that men are slightly more informed than women, with 5.3% of men claiming to be "very familiar" compared to 1.8% of women. Additionally, a higher percentage of men (46.8%) are "somewhat familiar," while women lag behind at 39.9%.

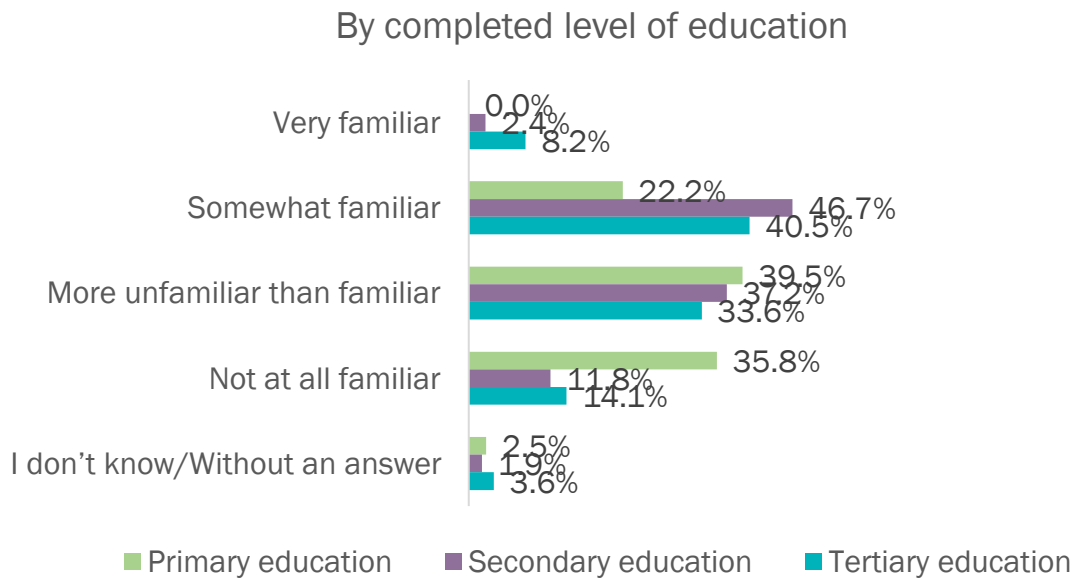
Graph 63 To what extent are you familiar with the competencies of the State Prosecutor's Office? By gender



Education significantly impacts awareness. Respondents with higher education are most likely to declare themselves as "very familiar" (8.2%), while none of those with primary education gave this response. Those with secondary education have the highest

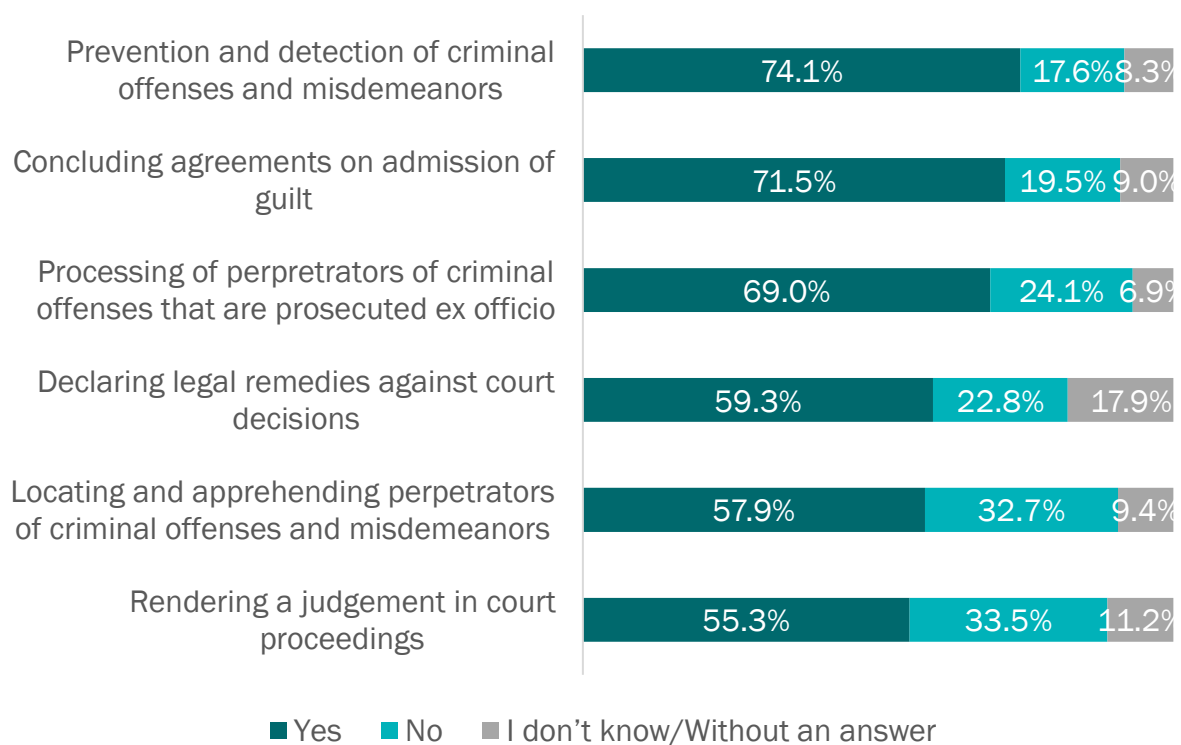
percentage of "somewhat familiar" respondents (46.7%), while the largest proportion of those who are "not familiar at all" comes from the group with primary education (35.8%).

Graph 64 To what extent are you familiar with the competencies of the State Prosecutor's Office? By completed level of education



More than three-quarters of respondents believe that the State Prosecutor's Office is involved in the prevention and detection of criminal acts and misdemeanors. All percentages are high, indicating a significant level of awareness regarding the competencies of the State Prosecutor's Office.

Graph 65 What is the State Prosecutor's Office in charge of?

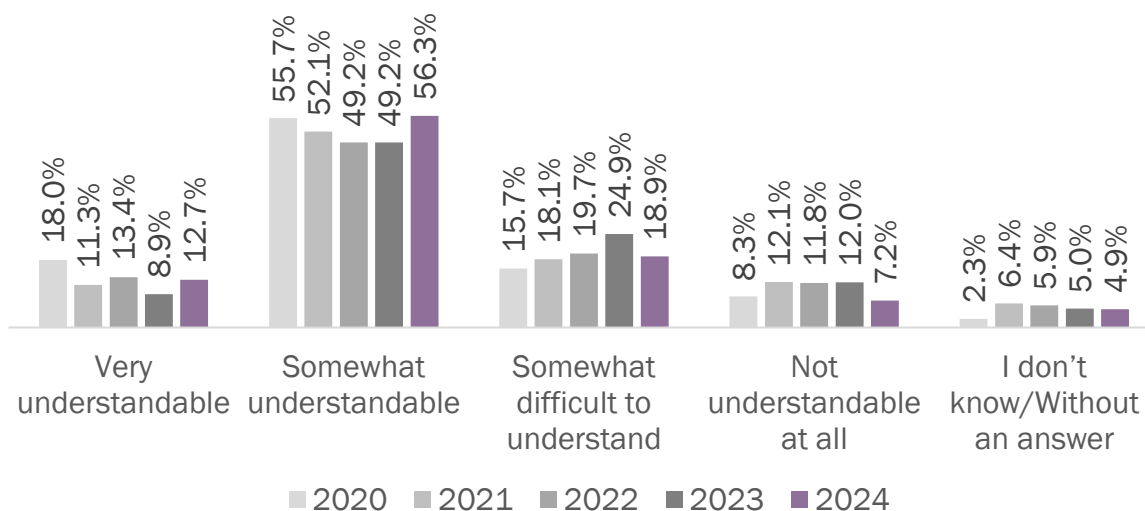


The data indicate a trend of improving clarity in the State Prosecutor's Office's statements while highlighting the need for continued efforts to enhance communication with the public in a clearer and more transparent manner. From 2020 to 2024, there is a noticeable upward trend in the perceived comprehensibility of the statements issued by the State Prosecutor's Office.

In 2024, a cumulative 69% of respondents find the statements either very or somewhat understandable (12.7% consider them "very understandable," and 56.3% find them "somewhat understandable"), marking a 10.9% increase compared to the previous year, when cumulatively 58.1% of respondents reported the statements as at least somewhat understandable. The majority of respondents (56.3%) regard the statements as "somewhat understandable" a rise compared to prior years, when this figure hovered around 50%.

However, there remains a significant portion of the public who feel that the statements are insufficiently understandable. A quarter of respondents (26.1%) find the statements somewhat unclear or not clear at all (18.9% rate them as "somewhat difficult to understand," and 7.2% say they are "not understandable at all"). This percentage has declined compared to previous years, notably in 2023, when it stood at 36.9%.

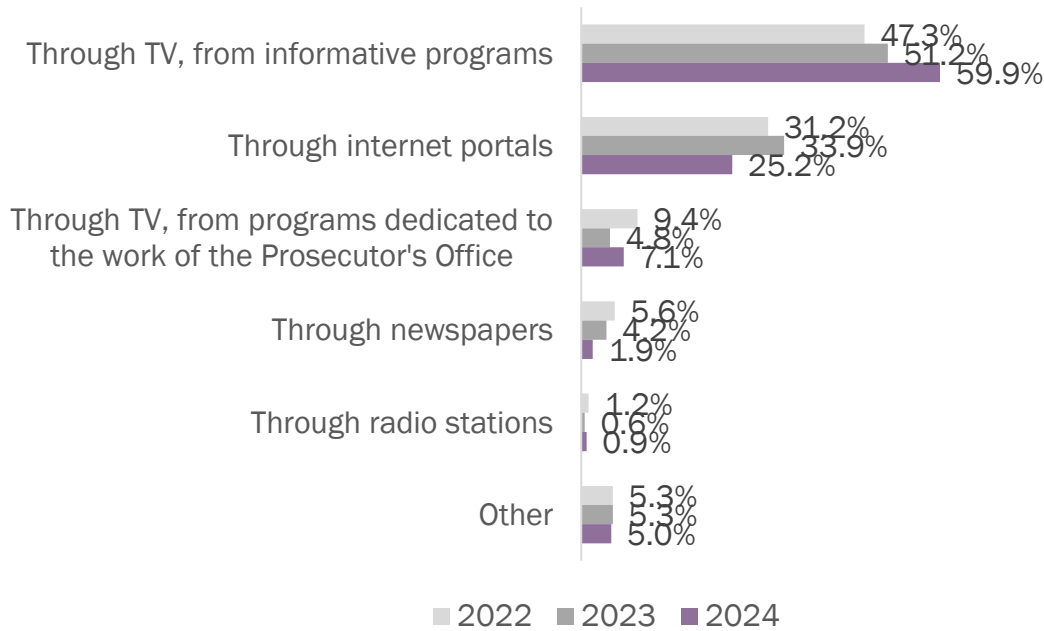
Graph 66 Data through time: To what extent do you understand the statements from the State Prosecutor's Office?



In 2024, as many as 59.9% of citizens reported obtaining information through news programs on television, reflecting a continuous increase compared to 2022 (47.3%) and 2023 (51.2%). On the other hand, the popularity of online news portals has declined, with 25.2% of citizens citing them as their primary source of information in 2024, down from 31.2% in 2022 and 33.9% in 2023. Although news programs specifically dedicated to the work of the State Prosecutor's Office have slightly higher viewership in 2024 (7.1%) compared to previous years, their influence remains considerably lower than that of general news broadcasts. There is also a noticeable decline in the importance of traditional media, such as newspapers, which only 1.9% of citizens used in 2024 to stay informed about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office—the lowest percentage recorded in the

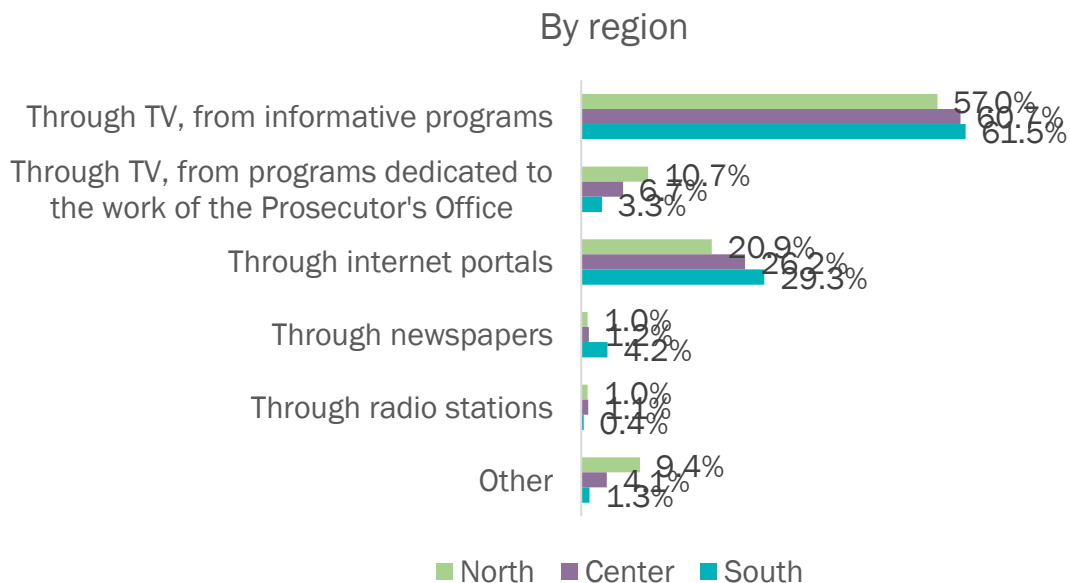
analyzed period. Radio stations also show minimal influence, with less than 1% of respondents utilizing them for this purpose.

Graph 67 Where do you inform yourself about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office?



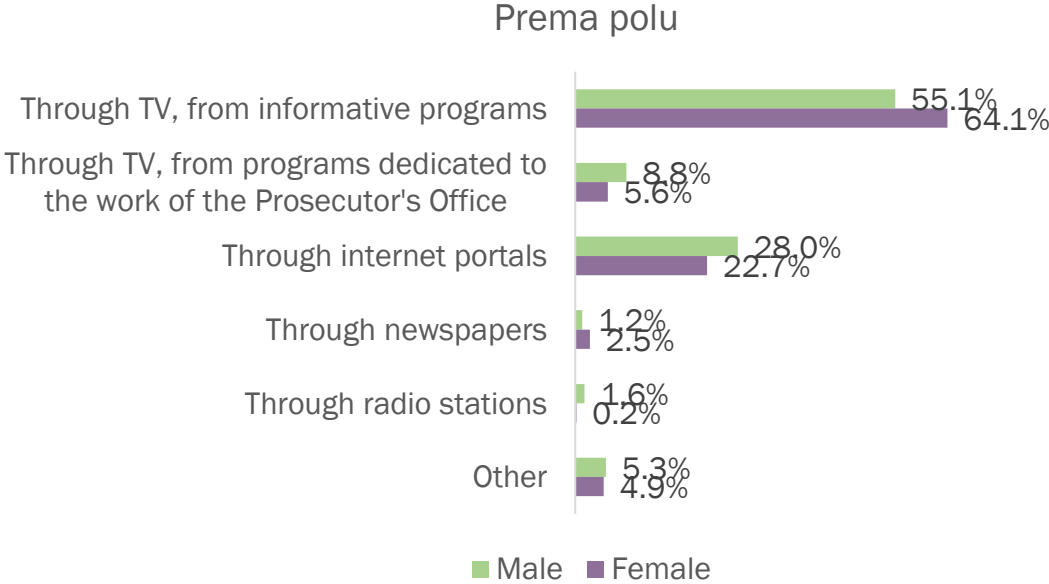
Television remains the most important source of information across all regions, with slightly higher prevalence in the southern region (61.5%) compared to the central (60.7%) and northern regions (57%). Internet portals rank second in importance, with the highest share in the south (29.3%). Programs specifically dedicated to the work of the State Prosecutor's Office have greater viewership in the northern region (10.7%). Newspapers and radio hold marginal influence across all regions, while the "Other" category is most significant in the north (9.4%).

Graph 68 Where do you inform yourself about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office? By region



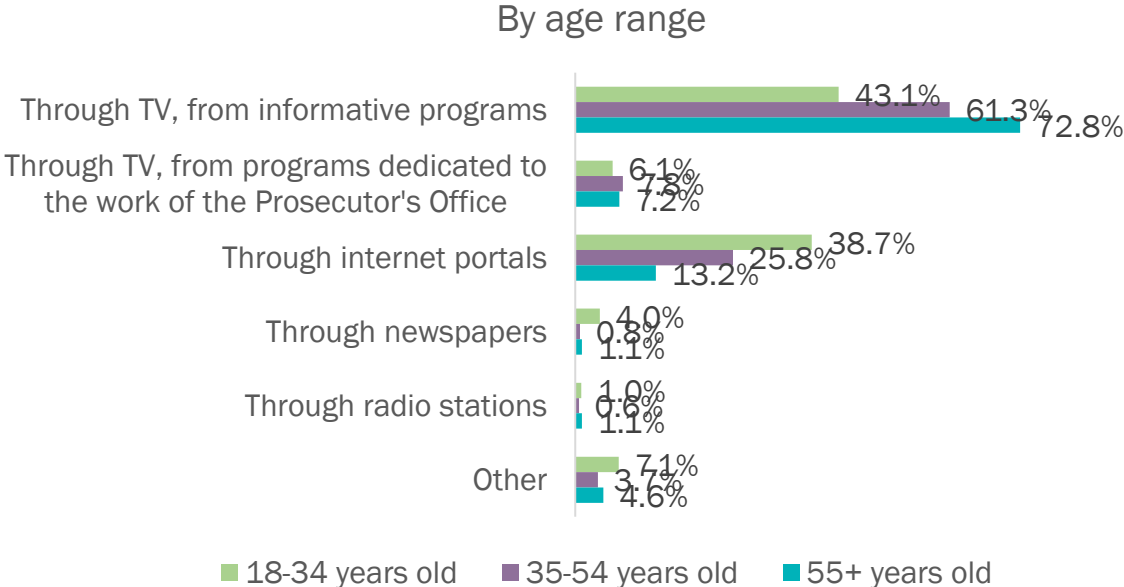
Women are more likely to get information through television (64.1%) compared to men (55.1%), while men are more likely to use internet portals (28% compared to 22.7%). Programs dedicated to the work of the Prosecutor's Office, as well as newspapers, are slightly more popular among men, while radio remains a marginal source of information for both genders.

Graph 69 Where do you inform yourself about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office? By gender



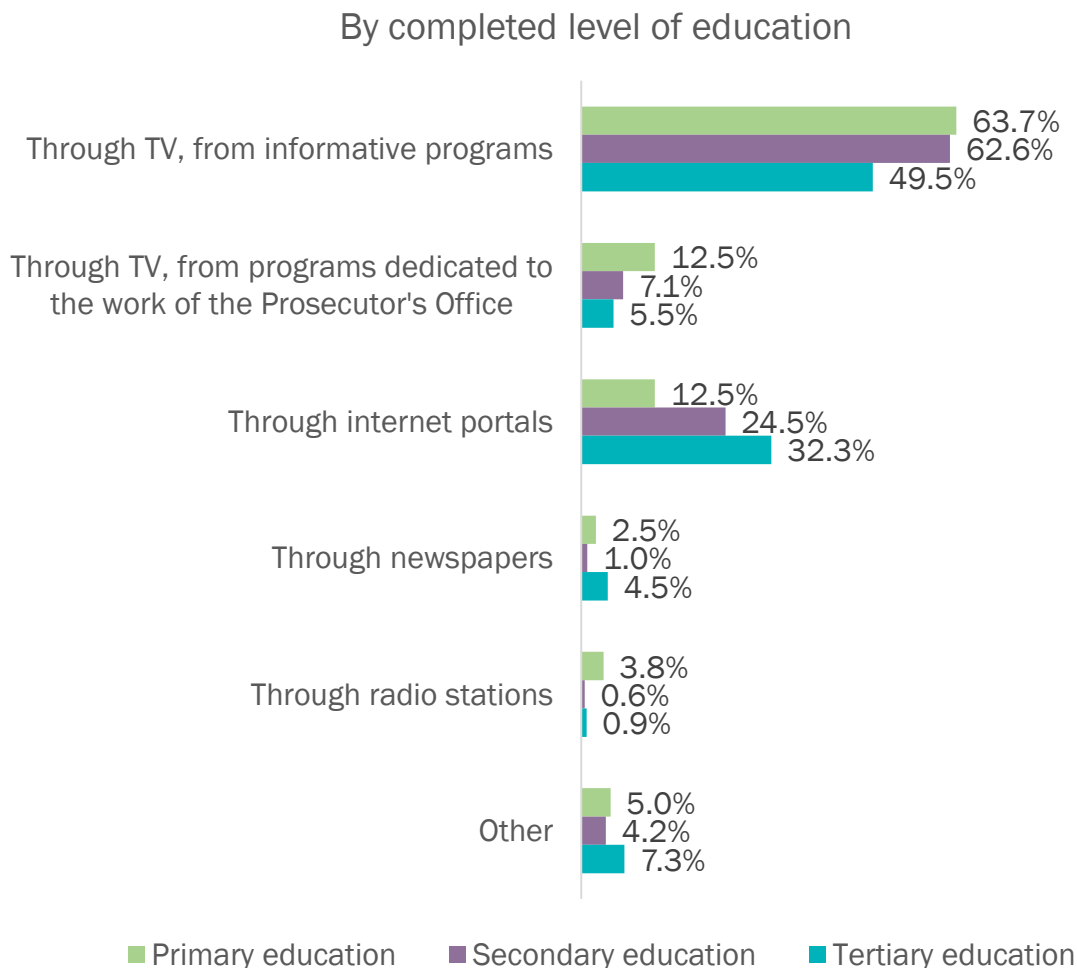
Television becomes an increasingly dominant source of information with age – from 43.1% in the 18-34 age group, to 61.3% in the 35-54 age group, and up to 72.8% in the 55+ age group. In contrast, internet portals are most prevalent among the youngest group (38.7%) and decline with age (25.8% and 13.2% in older groups). Other sources, including newspapers and radio, show low values across all age groups.

Graph 70 Where do you inform yourself about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office? By age range



Citizens with basic education most frequently use television (63.7%), while those with higher education tend to choose internet portals more often (32.3%). Special programs about the work of the prosecutor's office are more significant for citizens with basic education (12.5%) than for those with secondary (7.1%) or higher education (5.5%). Newspapers and radio remain marginal sources across all education groups.

Graph 71 Where do you inform yourself about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office? By completed level of education

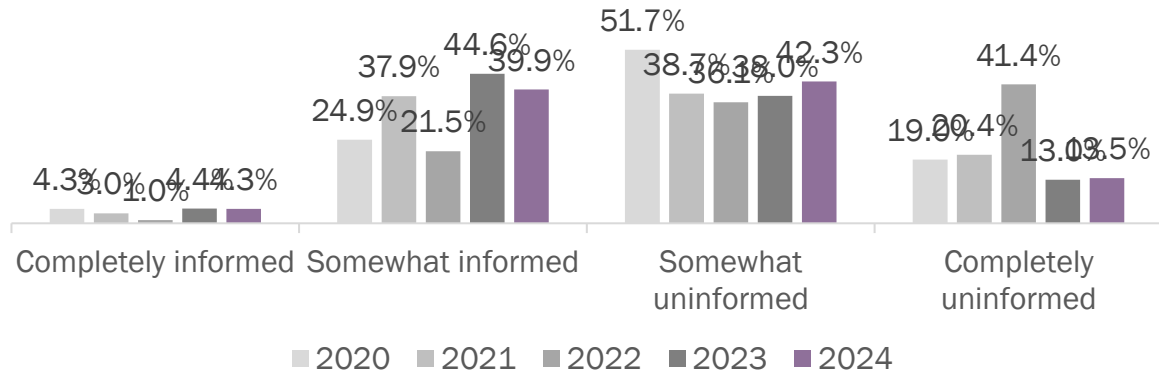


Citizens who selected the "Other" option as a source of information about the work of the prosecutor's office provided a wide range of responses. Most of them indicated that they do not inform themselves about this topic at all or that the work of the prosecutor's office does not interest them. Some highlighted specific sources such as personal contacts, professional experiences (lawyers, attorneys), or university literature. A few responses mentioned a combination of various sources, including television, the internet, and newspapers, while others referred to informal sources such as friends or communication with friends through social media.

The research shows that most citizens are somewhat informed about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office, with the percentage of those who have almost no information decreasing. A large number of people, around 42.3%, still consider themselves to be "partially informed," while a smaller number, about 4.3%, are fully informed.

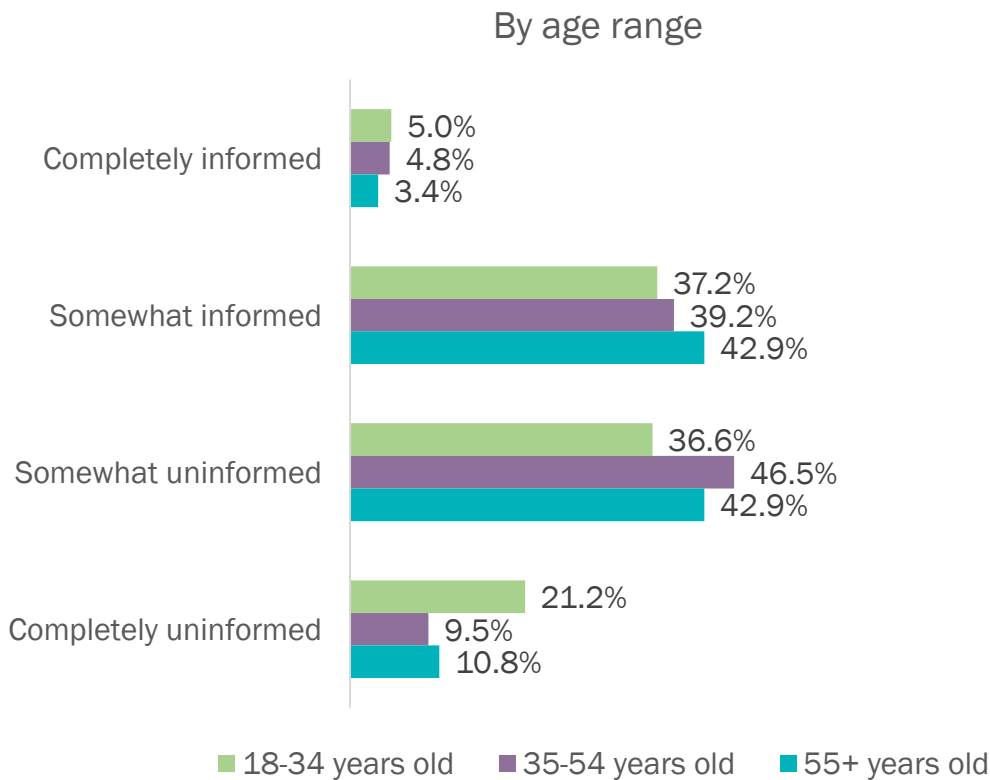


Graph 72 Data through time: Generally speaking, how well-informed are you personally about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office?

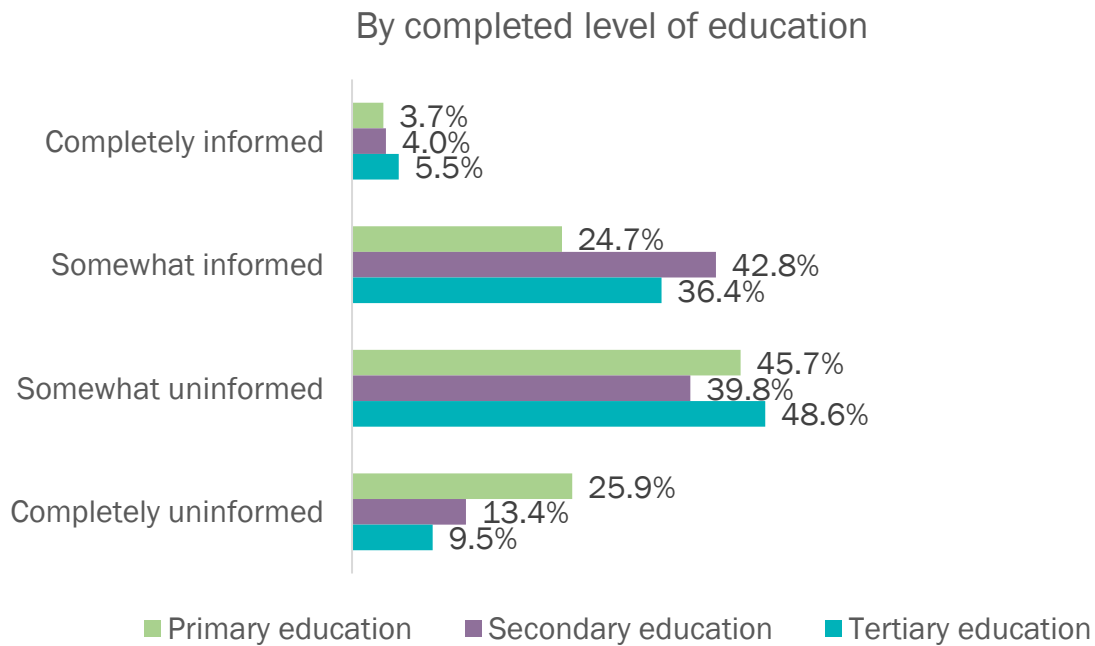


Older generations (55+) generally feel better informed compared to younger individuals (18-34), while people with higher education are less likely to say they have no information, compared to those with lower education. This highlights differences in access to information and the need for additional efforts to ensure all segments of society are better informed about the work of the prosecutor's office.

Graph 73 Generally speaking, how well-informed are you personally about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office? By age range

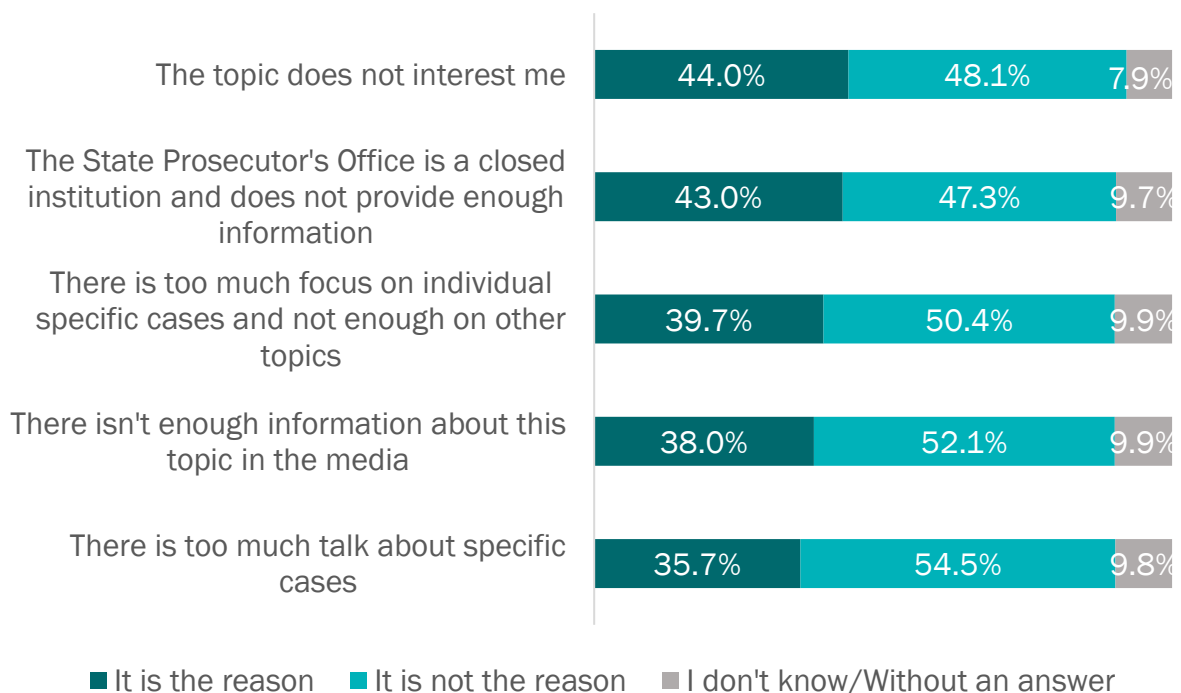


Graph 74 Generally speaking, how well-informed are you personally about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office? By completed level of education



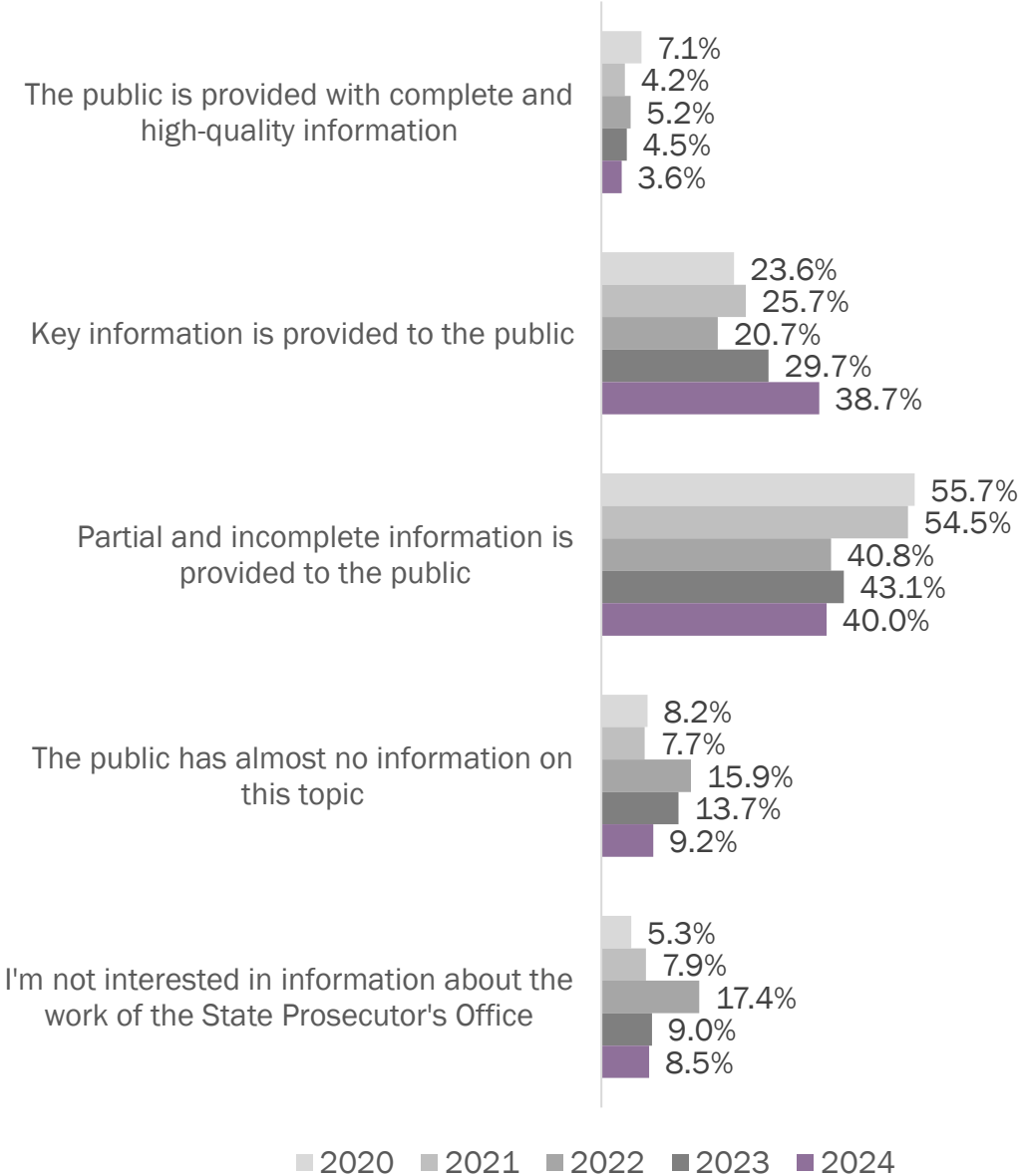
Respondents who indicated they were either not informed or only partially informed were further asked why they felt this way. Nearly half of the respondents (44%) stated that they are not interested in the topic, while 43% believe that the State Prosecutor's Office is a closed institution that does not provide enough information. A smaller number of respondents felt there is not enough information on this topic in the media, or that there is too much focus on specific cases.

Graph 75 If you are not informed or only partially informed, why is that the case? N=560



The public perception of the quality and quantity of information provided about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office has remained relatively stable over the years.

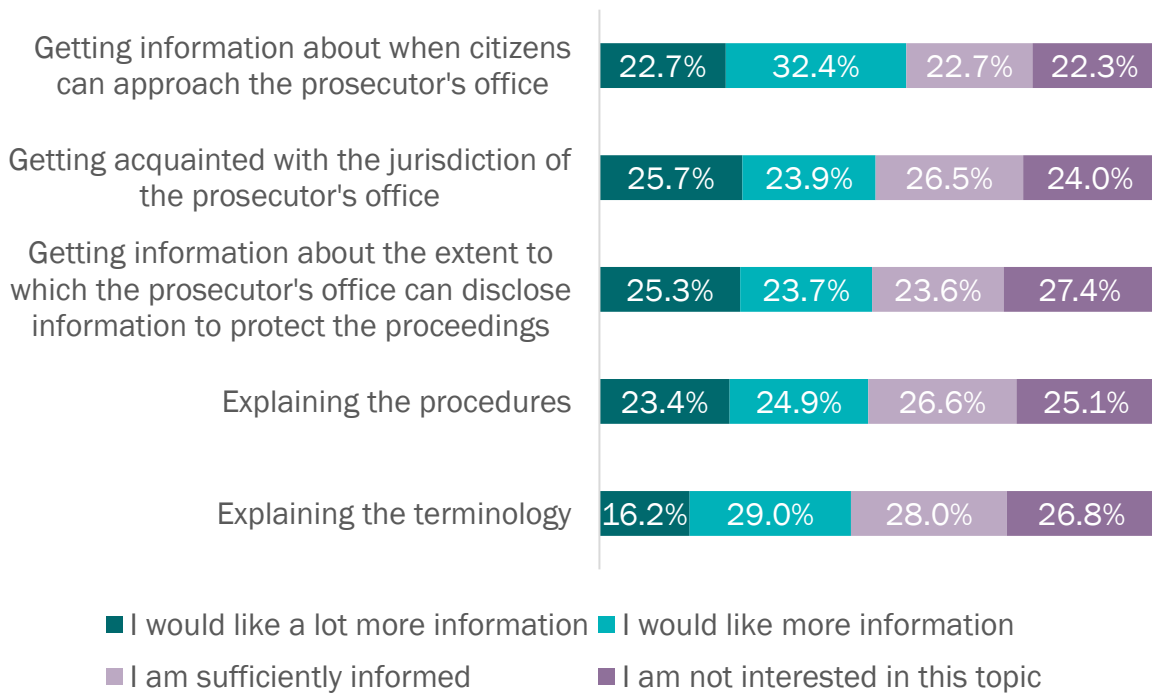
Graph 76 Data through time: How would you rate the quantity and quality of information about the work of the State Prosecutor's Office that is intended for the public?



However, there is a noticeable increase in the percentage of those who believe that only key information is provided to the public, from 23.6% in 2020 to 38.7% in 2024. On the other hand, the perception that the public is provided with partial or incomplete information has slightly decreased, from 55.7% in 2020 to 40% in 2024.

According to the 2024 results, there is the most interest in topics related to when citizens can contact the prosecutor's office and the competencies of the prosecutor's office. Explaining the procedures and terminology of the prosecutor's office is also among the topics that interest respondents.

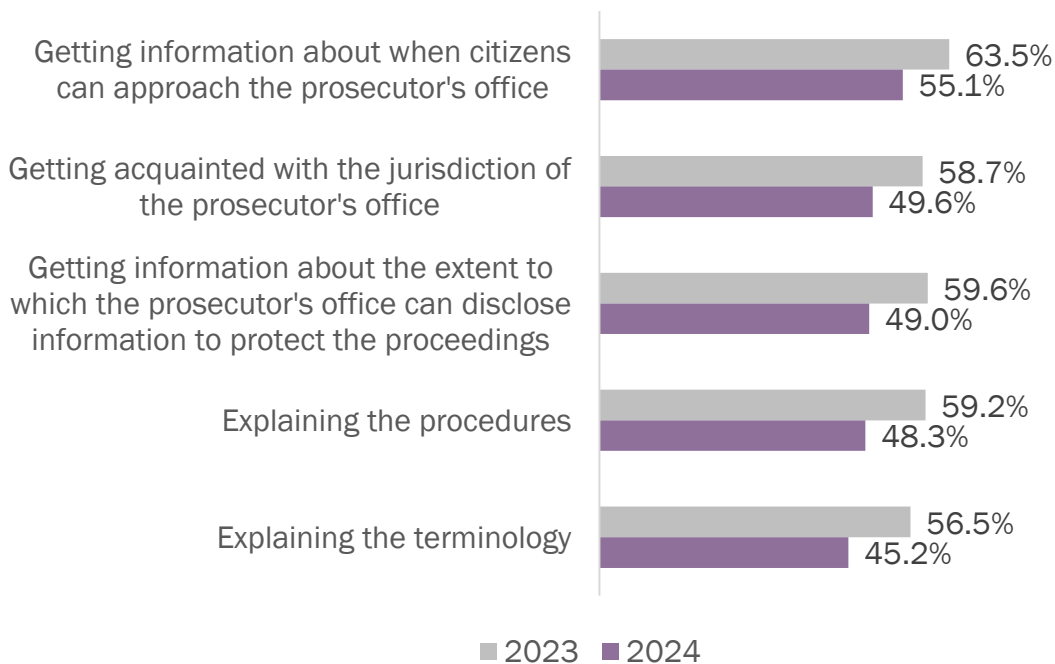
Graph 77 Which topics related to the State Prosecutor's Office would you like to have more information about?



Cumulative data from respondents who would like to receive information about topics related to the State Prosecutor's Office shows that overall interest decreases in waves.

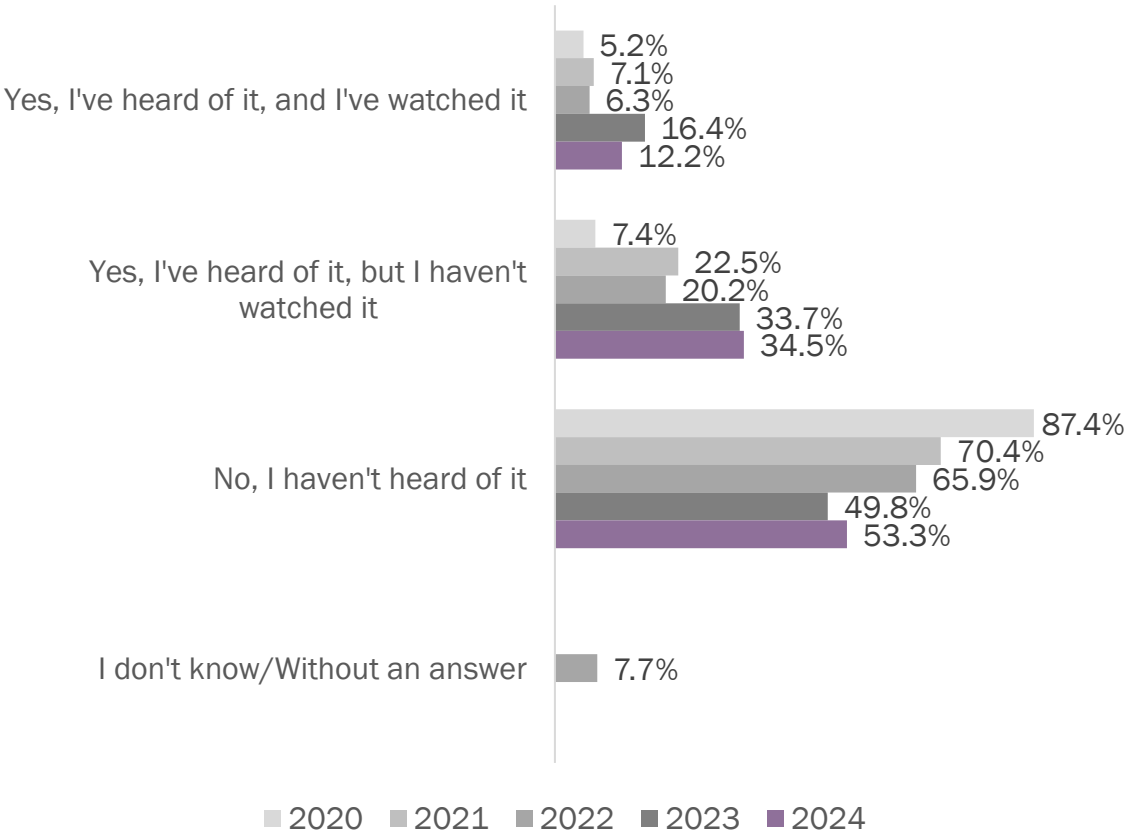
Graph 78 Data through time: Which topics related to the State Prosecutor's Office would you like to have more information about? % I would like a lot more information/I would like more information

% I would like a lot more information/I would like more information



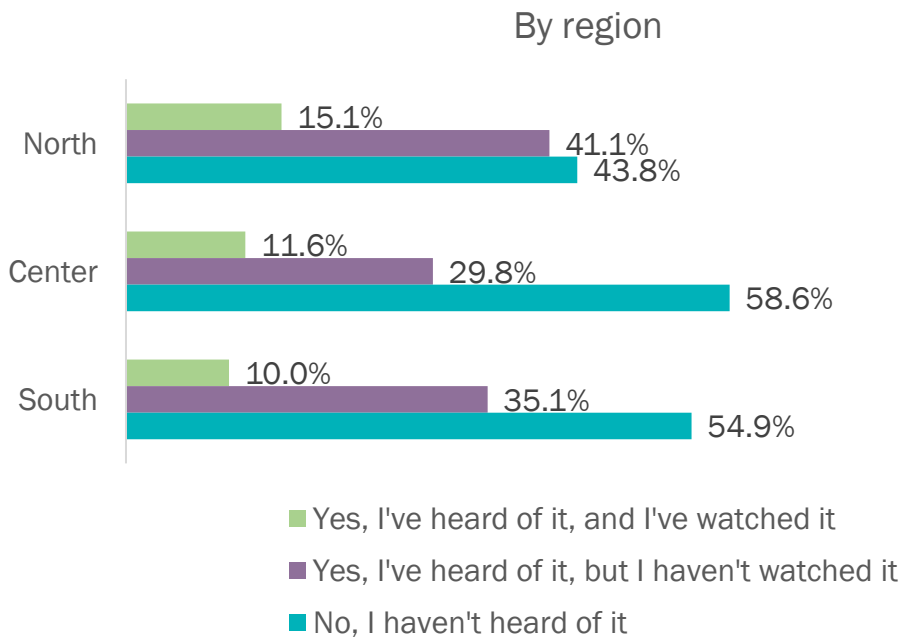
Data on the recognition of the TV show "Get to Know the Prosecutor's Office" indicate interesting changes in public perception and engagement with the show from 2020 to 2024. In 2024, 12.2% of respondents reported having heard of the show and watched it, which is a decrease compared to 16.4% in 2023. However, the number of those who have only heard of the show but did not watch it remains high – 34.5% in 2024, showing a slight increase from previous years (33.7% in 2023). Interestingly, there is still a significant number of citizens who have never heard of the show, although this number is declining – 53.3% in 2024, which is an improvement compared to 70.4% in 2021. This suggests that the show still has not achieved wide recognition among all population groups. These data suggest a continued need for better promotion and placement of the show to reach a broader audience, as well as for improving viewer engagement among those who have heard of the show but were not motivated to watch it.

Graph 79 Data through time: Have you ever heard of the TV show "Get to Know the Prosecutor's Office"?



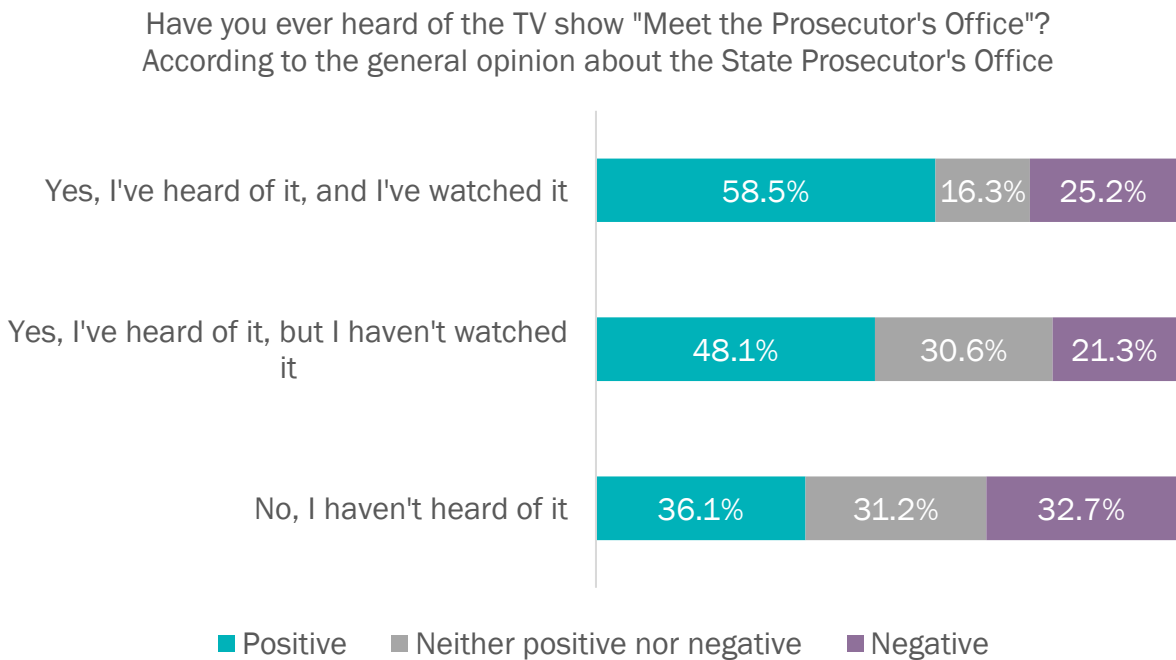
The results show interesting correlations between the recognition and viewership of the TV show "Get to Know the Prosecutor's Office" and attitudes towards the State Prosecutor's Office. In the northern part of Montenegro, 15.1% of respondents have heard of the show and watched it, while the percentage is lower in the center and the south (11.6% and 10%, respectively). Although the percentage of those who have never heard of the show is significant, particularly in the south and the center (54.9% in the south and 58.6% in the center), this indicates regional differences in awareness and engagement with the show.

Graph 80 Have you ever heard of the TV show "Get to Know the Prosecutor's Office"? By region



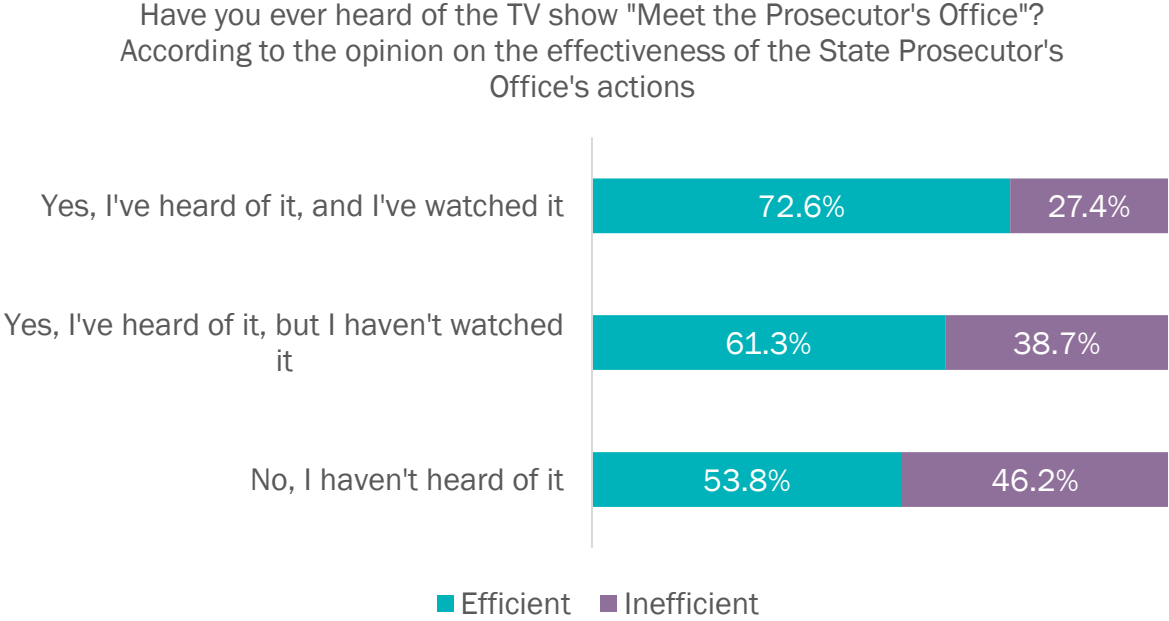
When comparing attitudes towards the efficiency, fight against corruption, and general views on the State Prosecutor's Office with the familiarity of the show, a positive trend is observed among those who watched the show. Citizens who have watched the show have a more positive view of the State Prosecutor's Office compared to those who have never heard of the show at all. This suggests that increased exposure to the show may contribute to a more favorable perception of the institution's work.

Graph 81 Have you ever heard of the TV show "Meet the Prosecutor's Office"? According to the general opinion about the State Prosecutor's Office

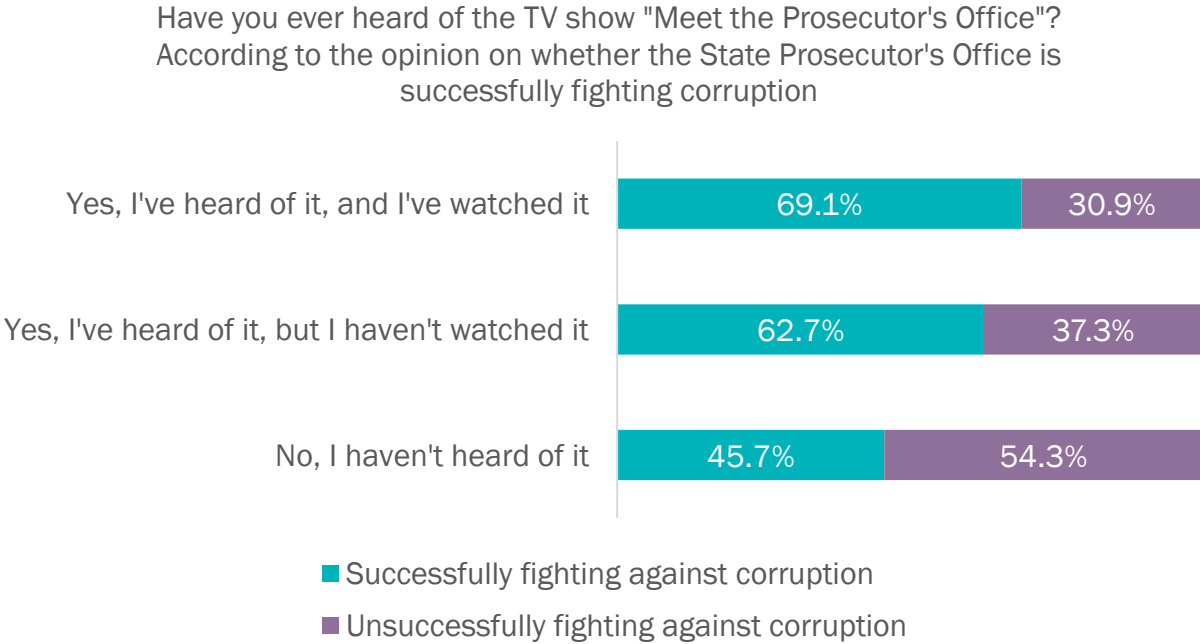


Among those who have watched the show, 72.6% consider the State Prosecutor's Office efficient, and 69.1% believe it successfully fights corruption. These figures are higher compared to those who have only heard of the show, as well as those who have never heard of the show, where the percentage of people who consider the Prosecutor's Office efficient and successful in fighting corruption decreases.

*Graph 82 Have you ever heard of the TV show "Meet the Prosecutor's Office"? According to the opinion on the effectiveness of the State Prosecutor's Office's actions*



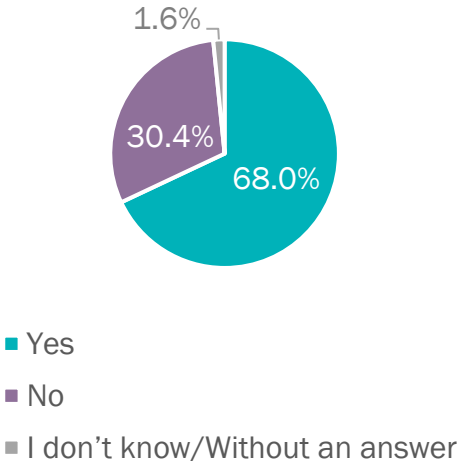
*Graph 83 Have you ever heard of the TV show "Meet the Prosecutor's Office"? According to the opinion on whether the State Prosecutor's Office is successfully fighting corruption*



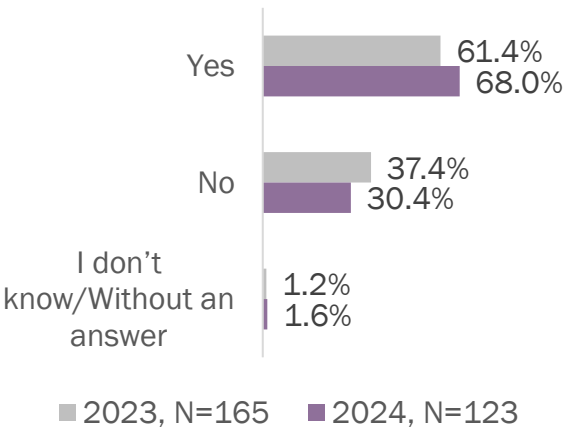


These data suggest that increasing the viewership of the show could positively influence public attitudes toward the State Prosecutor's Office, improving perceptions of its work and efficiency. Among those who watched the show, more than one-third state that it helped them understand the powers and operations of the Prosecutor's Office. Compared to the previous year, the data is quite similar.

Graph 84 Did the show help you understand the responsibilities and work of the Prosecutor's Office? N=165

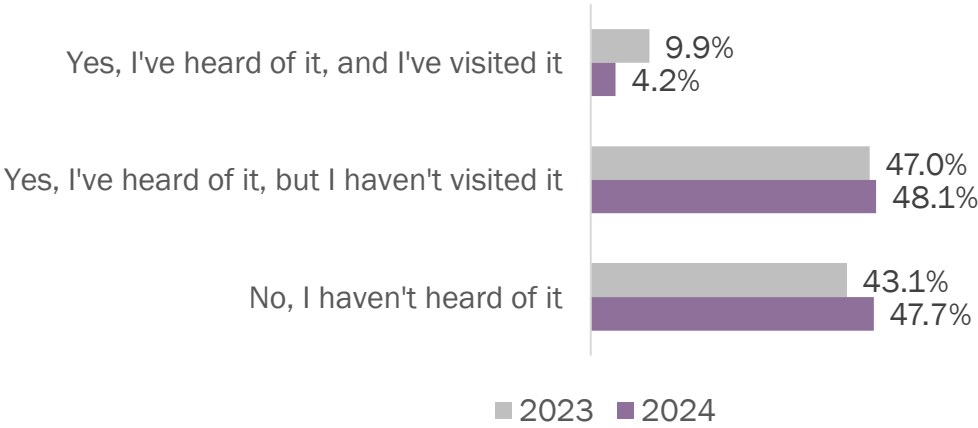


Graph 85 Data through time: Did the show help you understand the responsibilities and work of the Prosecutor's Office?



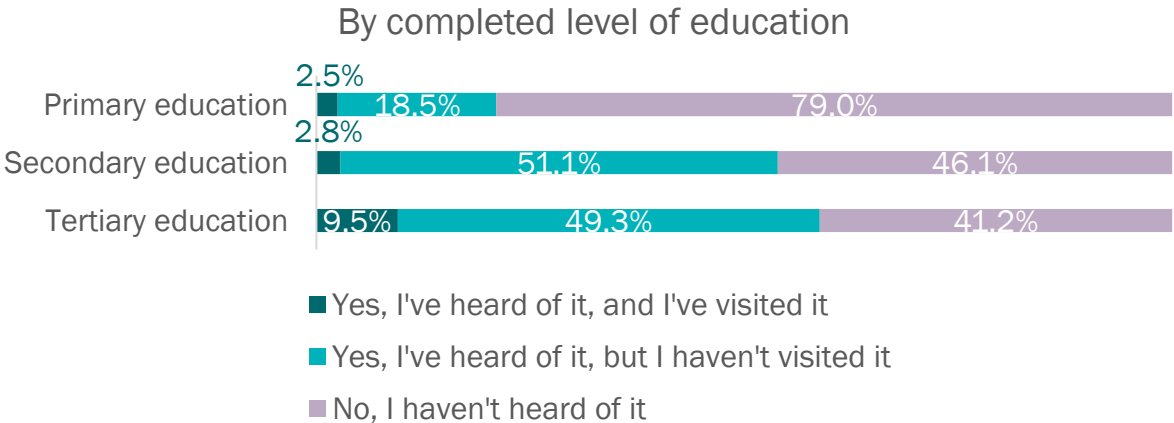
The results show that the recognition of the official website of the State Prosecutor's Office, [www.tuzilastvo.me](http://www.tuzilastvo.me), remains relatively low among citizens. In 2023, 9.9% of respondents had heard of the website and visited it, but this number dropped to 4.2% in 2024. Similarly, the percentage of those who had heard of the site but did not visit it remained stable (47% in 2023 and 48.1% in 2024). Around 43% of respondents in 2023 and 47.7% in 2024 were unaware of the website's existence. These data suggest that there is a significant opportunity to increase the visibility and engagement of citizens with the official website of the State Prosecutor's Office.

Graph 86 Data through time: Have you ever heard of the official website of the State Prosecutor's Office [www.tuzilastvo.me](http://www.tuzilastvo.me)?



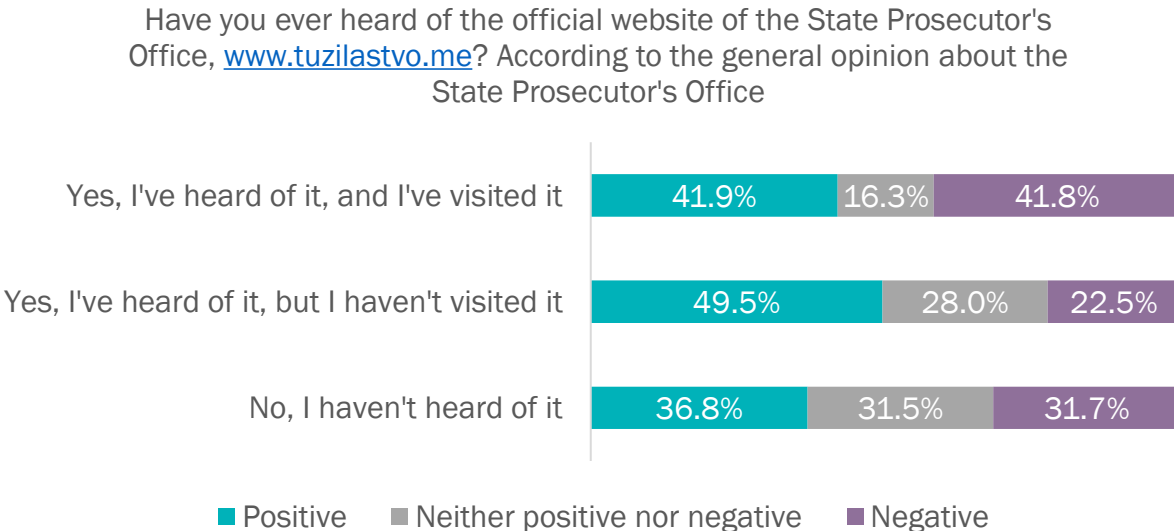
According to the analysis results for 2024, there is a significant difference in the recognition of the official website of the State Prosecutor's Office depending on the education level. Regarding education, 79% of individuals with basic education have not heard of the website, while this percentage is lower among those with higher education (41.2% for those with higher education). Based on these data, additional efforts should be directed towards increasing recognition and visits to the website among less educated groups.

Graph 87 Have you ever heard of the official website of the State Prosecutor's Office [www.tuzilastvo.me](http://www.tuzilastvo.me)? By completed level of education



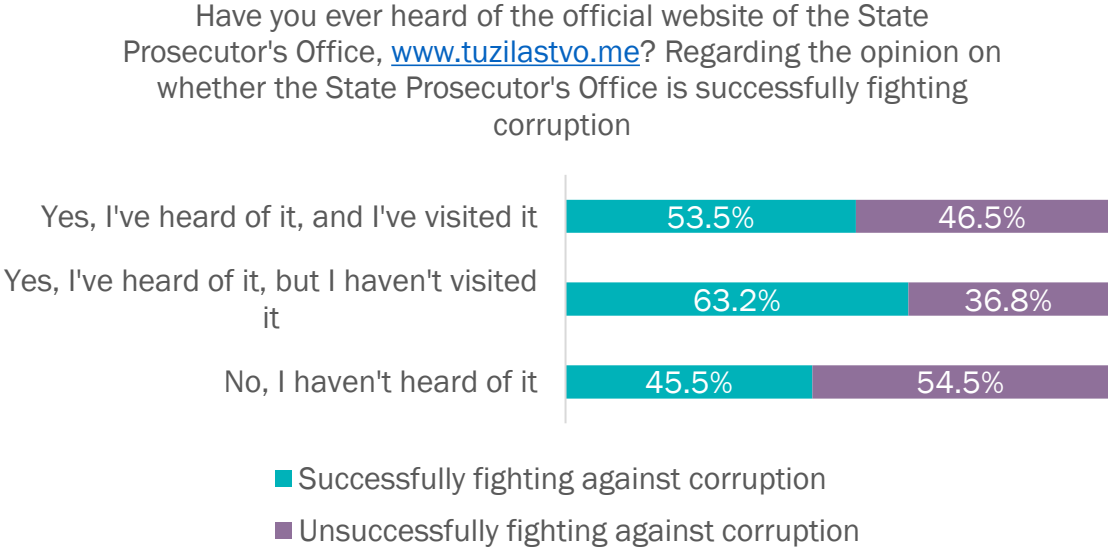
The results show a connection between attitudes towards the State Prosecutor's Office and the awareness of its official website. Respondents who have heard of the website and visited it generally have positive views about the prosecutor's office. Among them, 41.9% hold a positive opinion about the prosecutor's office. In contrast, just over one-third (36.8%) of those who have neither heard of nor visited the website have a positive attitude toward the prosecutor's office.

Graph 88 Have you ever heard of the official website of the State Prosecutor's Office, [www.tuzilastvo.me](http://www.tuzilastvo.me)? According to the general opinion about the State Prosecutor's Office



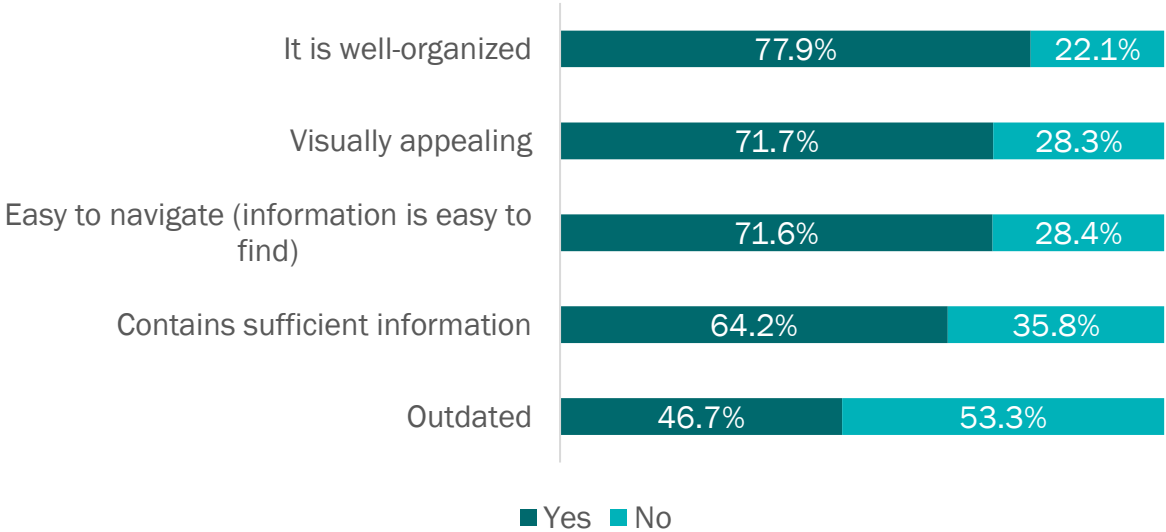
When it comes to the fight against corruption, opinions on the fight against corruption are more favorable among those who have visited the website (53.5% believe that the prosecution is successfully fighting it), while those who have not heard of the website exhibit more skepticism (45.5% believe it is successfully fighting corruption). These findings suggest that increasing visits to the State Prosecutor's Office website could positively influence public attitudes toward its efforts in the fight against corruption.

Graph 89 Have you ever heard of the official website of the State Prosecutor's Office, [www.tuzilastvo.me](http://www.tuzilastvo.me)? Regarding the opinion on whether the State Prosecutor's Office is successfully fighting corruption



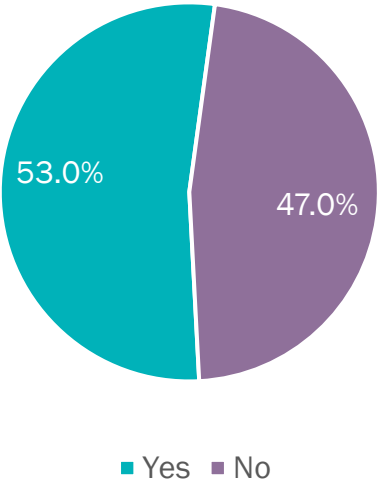
According to the responses of participants who visited the website, the majority believe that the official website of the State Prosecutor's Office ([www.tuzilastvo.me](http://www.tuzilastvo.me)) has positive attributes. Most (77.9%) consider the site to be easy to navigate, while 71.7% of respondents rate it as visually appealing. Additionally, the site is regarded as user-friendly, with 71.6% of respondents saying that information is easy to find. On the other hand, 46.7% of respondents consider the site to be outdated.

Graph 90 Do the following statements describe the website of the State Prosecutor's Office [www.tuzilastvo.me](http://www.tuzilastvo.me)? N=43



According to the responses, 53% of respondents who visited the website were able to find all the information they were looking for on the State Prosecutor's Office website, while 47% of respondents reported that they were unable to find the requested information. This result suggests that the website generally meets users' needs, but also highlights room for improvement in terms of the accessibility and clarity of information.

Graph 91 Did you find all the information you were looking for on the website?

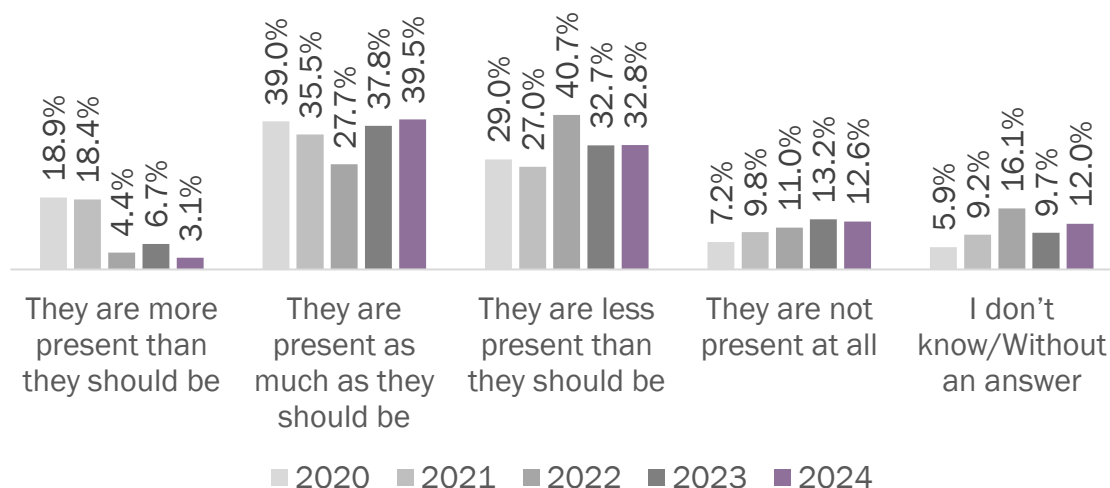


### Citizen’s attitudes towards the presence of state prosecutors in public

The chapter on the attitudes regarding the presence of state prosecutors in the public explores citizens' perceptions of the transparency and communication of the State Prosecutor's Office with the public. The legal framework regulating the obligation to provide information about the activities of the prosecution office stipulates that high-ranking prosecutors and other authorized representatives are tasked with regularly informing the public about their activities. This legal regulation aims to improve transparency and trust in the judiciary system. By analyzing citizens' attitudes on this matter, we aim to gain insight into the effectiveness of communication between the prosecution and the public, and how this affects the overall perception of the judiciary system.

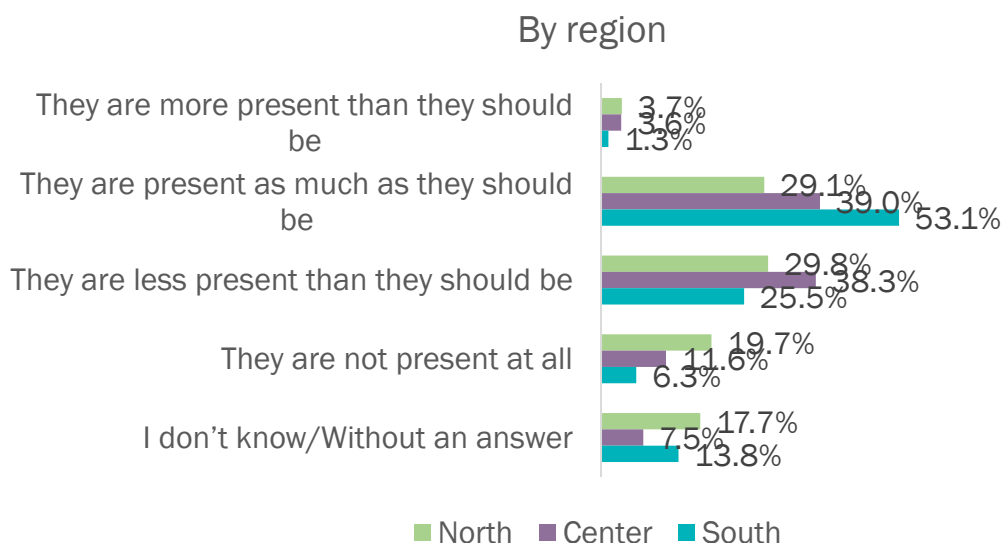
The results concerning the presence of prosecutors in the public indicate that some citizens believe prosecutors are sufficiently present, with the highest number of responses in the category "present as much as they should be," which was dominant in all years, including 2024 (39.5%). However, there is also a significant number of citizens who believe prosecutors are not present enough, with 32.8% of responses in 2024 indicating that their presence should be greater. A smaller percentage of respondents (3.1%) believes that prosecutors are present more than necessary.

Graph 92 Data through time: In your opinion, are prosecutors present in the public eye to a sufficient extent?



The analysis of results by geographic regions reveals interesting patterns in citizens' attitudes regarding the presence of prosecutors in the public. In the northern region of Montenegro, nearly one-third of respondents (29.8%) believe that prosecutors are less present than they should be, while in the central region, 38.3% of citizens share this opinion. In the southern part, 25.5% of respondents hold this view, while the largest percentage (53.1%) believes that prosecutors are present as much as they should be. In the northern region, respondents are the most undecided, with 17.7% choosing the option "Don't know/No answer," compared to respondents from the south and center.

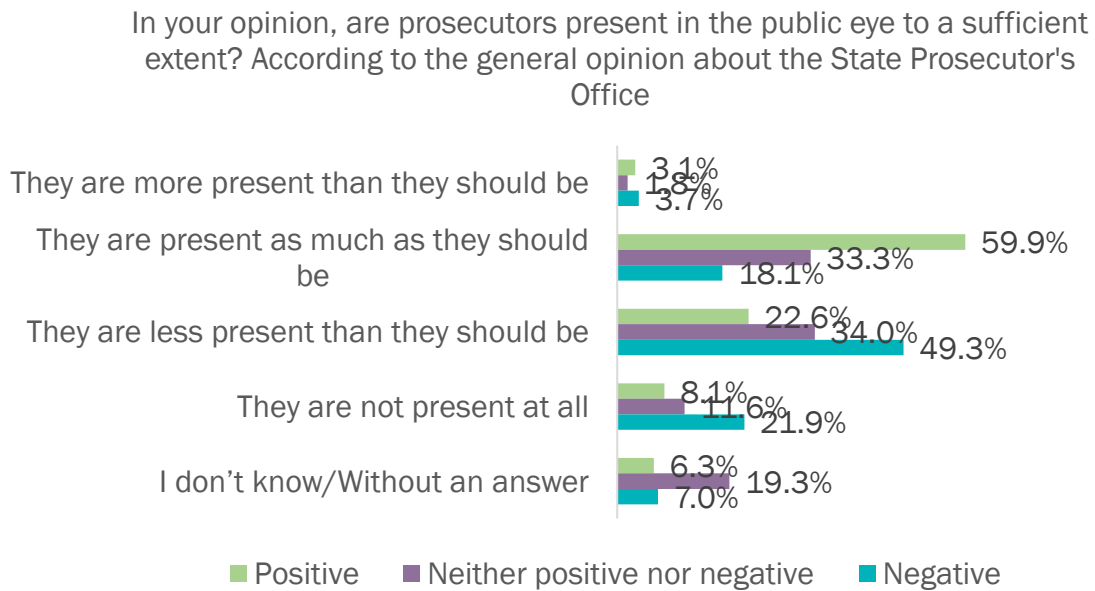
Graph 93 In your opinion, are prosecutors present in the public eye to a sufficient extent? By region



When analyzing citizens' attitudes regarding the presence of prosecutors in the public in relation to their overall views on the State Prosecutor's Office, its efficiency, and the fight against corruption, clear patterns emerge. Respondents with a positive opinion of the

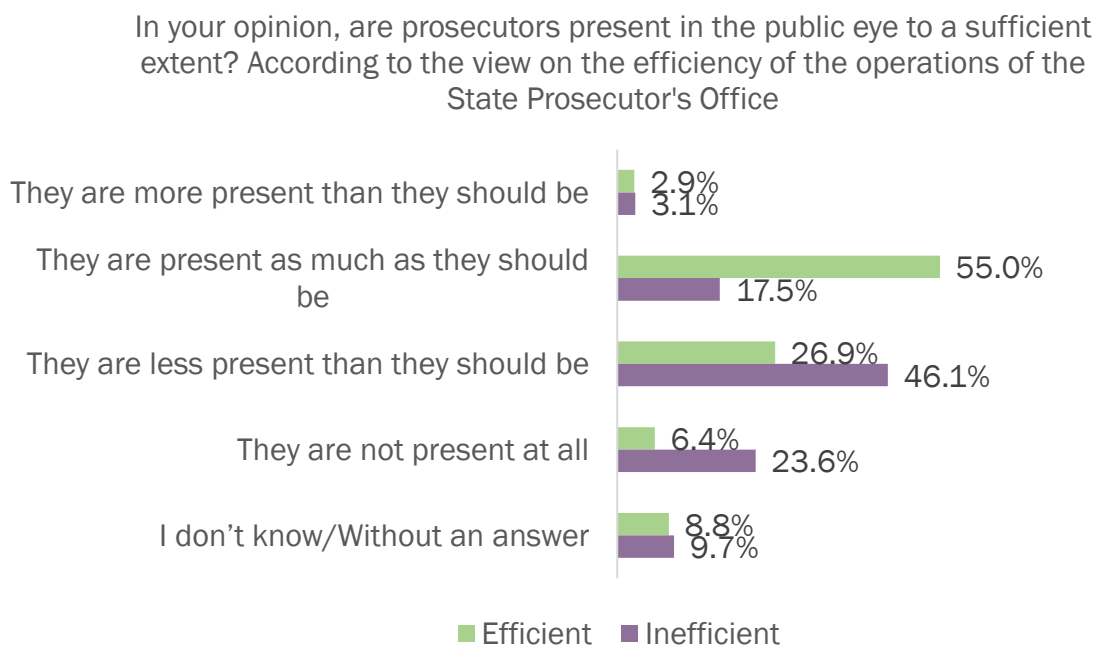
prosecutor's office mostly believe that prosecutors are present as much as they should be (59.9%), while those with a negative opinion tend to think that prosecutors are less present than they should be (49.3%).

Graph 94 In your opinion, are prosecutors present in the public eye to a sufficient extent? According to the general opinion about the State Prosecutor's Office



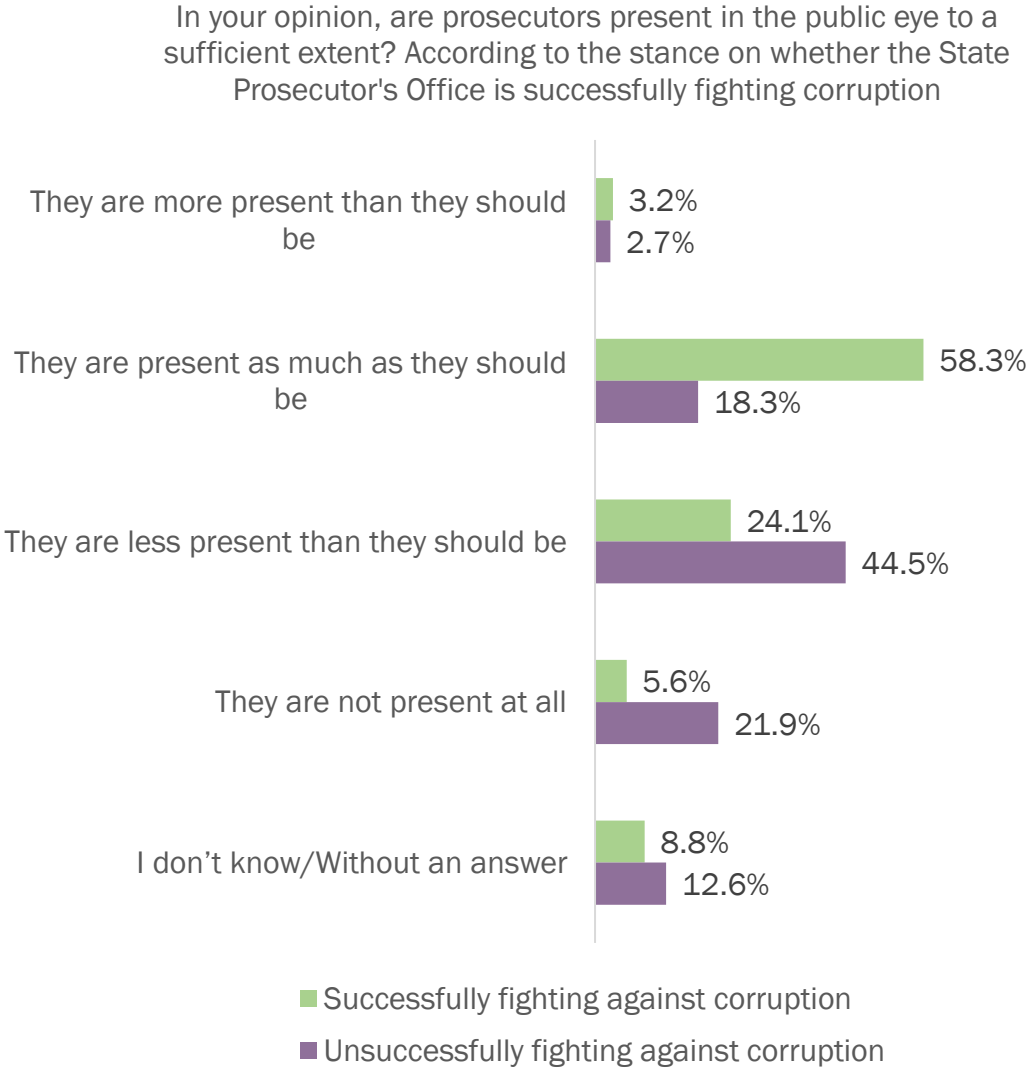
Respondents who believe the prosecutor's office is efficient generally think that prosecutors are present to the extent they should be (55%). In contrast, those who think the prosecutor's office is inefficient are more likely to believe that prosecutors are less present than they should be (46.1%).

Graph 95 In your opinion, are prosecutors present in the public eye to a sufficient extent? According to the view on the efficiency of the operations of the State Prosecutor's Office



Citizens who believe that the prosecutor's office is successfully fighting corruption generally think that prosecutors are present in the public as much as they should be (58.3%). On the other hand, those who believe that the prosecutor's office is not successfully fighting corruption more often think that prosecutors are less present than they should be (44.5%).

*Graph 96 In your opinion, are prosecutors present in the public eye to a sufficient extent? According to the stance on whether the State Prosecutor's Office is successfully fighting corruption*

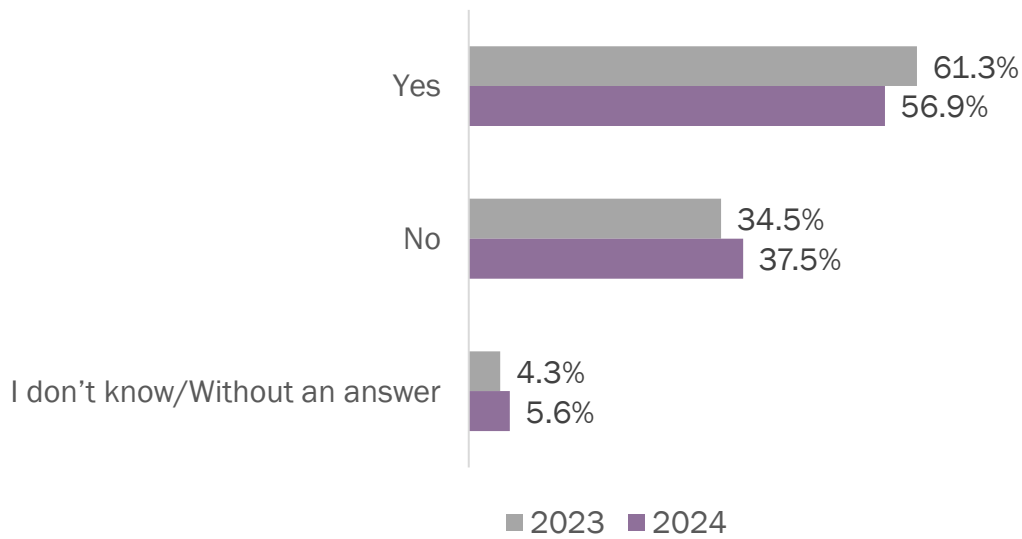


These results suggest that citizens' views on the presence of prosecutors in the public often reflect their perception of the efficiency and success of the prosecutor's office, as well as its efforts in the fight against corruption.

The question of whether state prosecutors should inform the public about cases within their jurisdiction through press conferences shows a consistent public interest in greater transparency in the work of prosecutors. Although in 2023, 61.3% of respondents believed that prosecutors should inform the public through the media, this percentage slightly decreased to 56.9% in 2024. These data indicate that there is still significant interest in greater transparency and access to information.

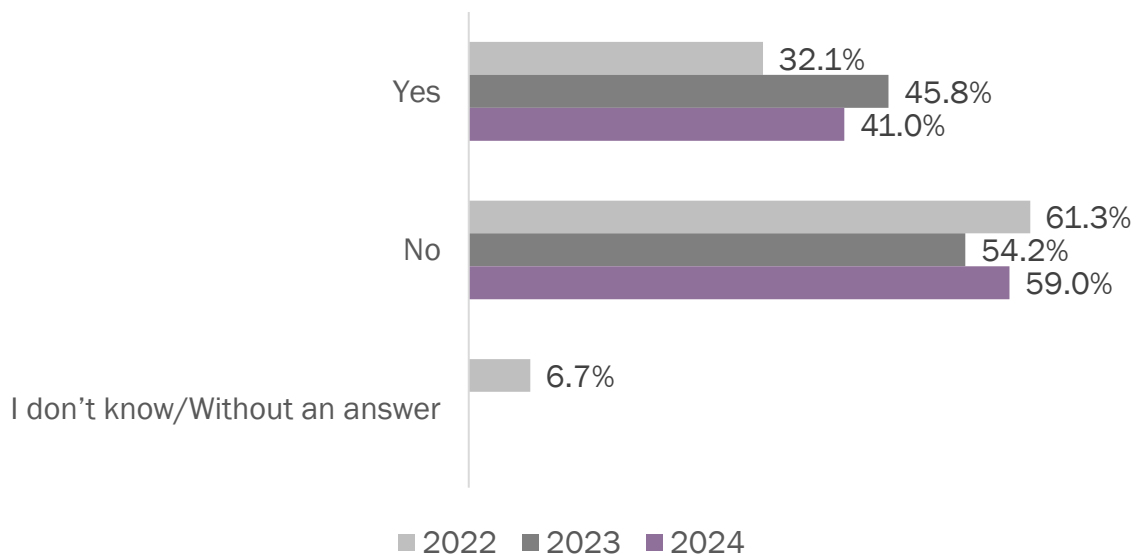


Graph 97 Data through time: Should state prosecutor's offices inform the public about cases within their jurisdiction through press conferences?



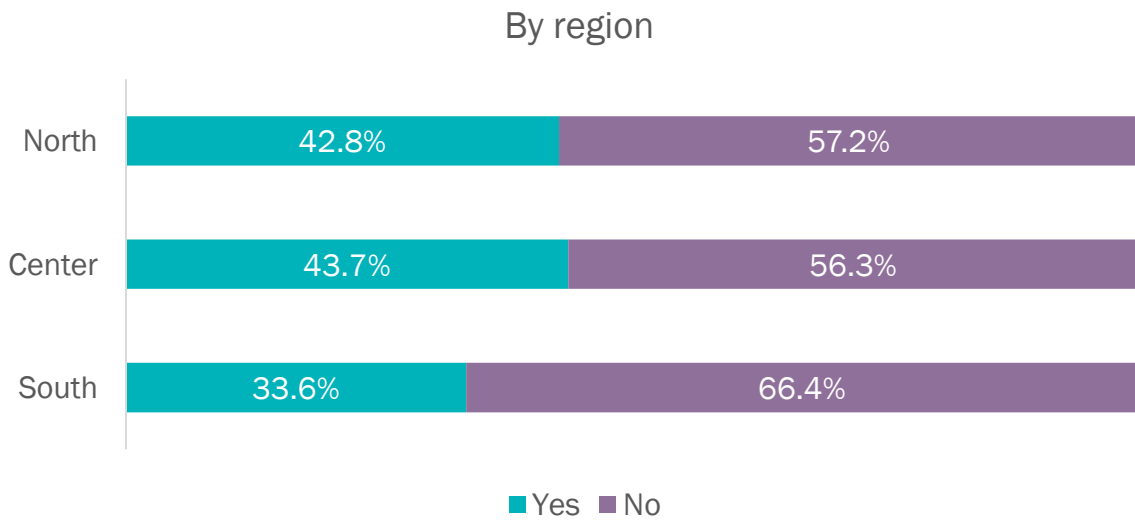
The results of the question about whether citizens have watched the appearance of the state prosecutor in public in the past 12 months indicate a decline compared to the previous year. These data may suggest a fluctuating interest in the presence of state prosecutors in the media, as well as a potential decrease in their visibility in the public in the recent period.

Graph 98 Data through time: Have you watched any appearances by a state prosecutor in the public eye in the past 12 months?



The highest percentage of citizens who have watched the prosecutor's appearance in public comes from the central region (43.7%), while the percentages are slightly lower in the north and south, at 42.8% and 33.6%, respectively.

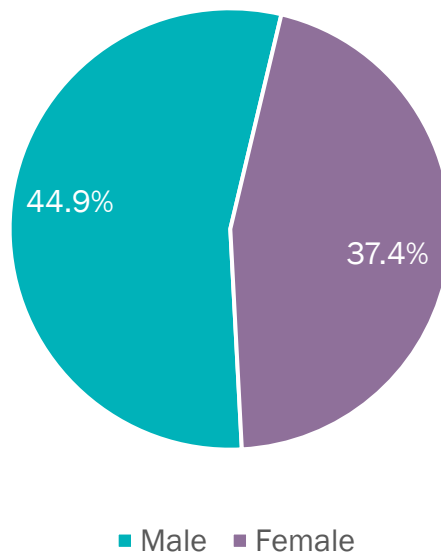
Graph 99 Have you watched any appearances by a state prosecutor in the public eye in the past 12 months? By region



Men (44.9%) are more likely than women (37.4%) to follow the public appearances of state prosecutors, which may indicate a higher level of interest among men in this topic.

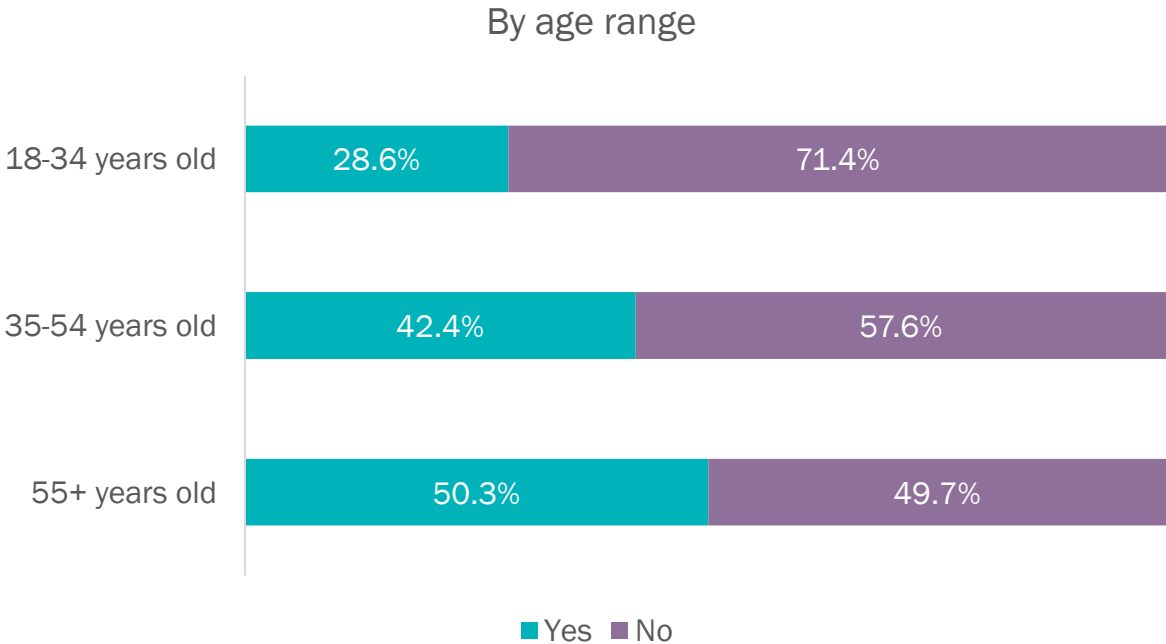
Graph 100 % Yes, I have watched the public appearance of a state prosecutor in the past 12 months – By gender

% Yes, I have watched the public appearance of a state prosecutor in  
the past 12 months  
By gender



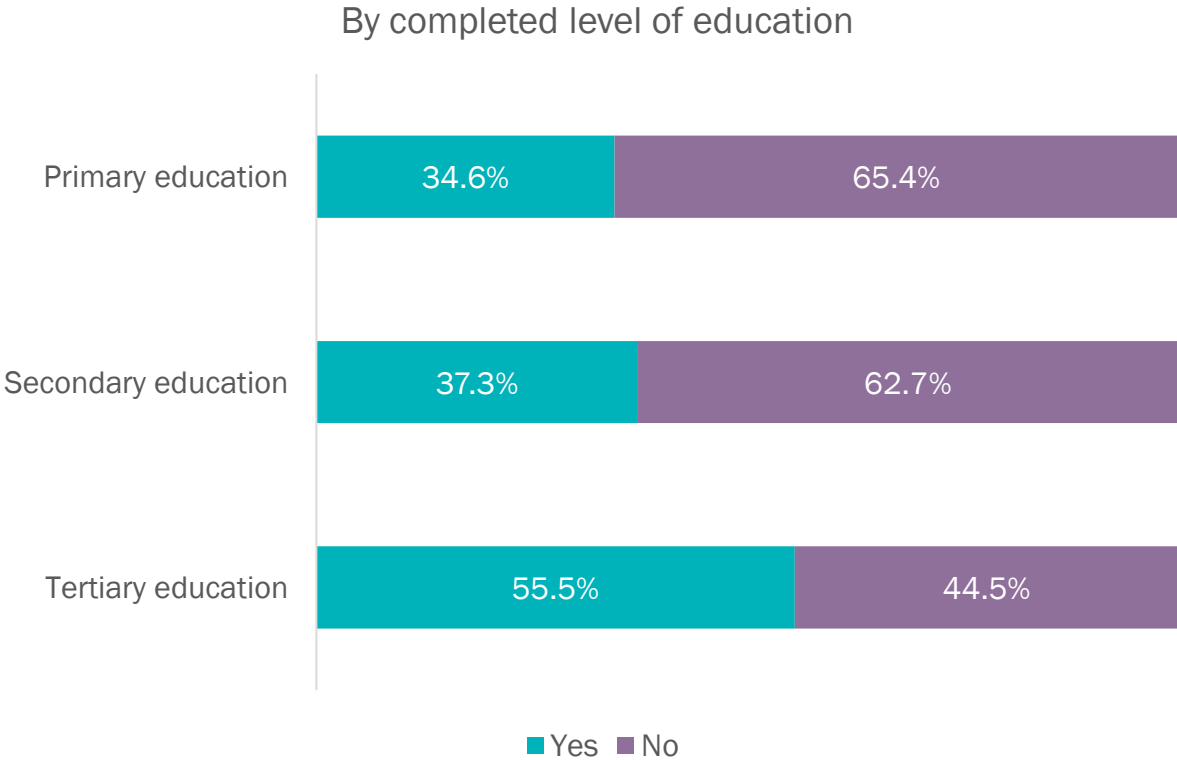
The highest interest is shown by the 55+ age group, where as many as 50.3% of respondents follow prosecutors in public appearances, while younger respondents (aged 18-34) showed the least interest (28.6%). This may indicate that older citizens follow prosecutors' public appearances more than younger generations.

Graph 101 Have you watched any appearances by a state prosecutor in the public eye in the past 12 months? By age range



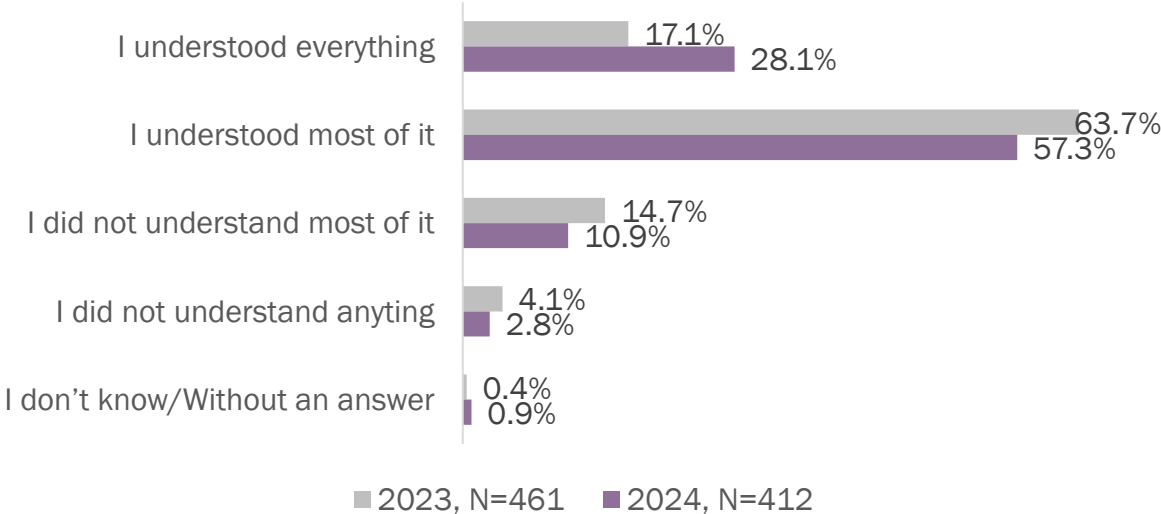
Citizens with a higher level of education (55.5%) are more likely to follow prosecutors' public appearances compared to those with primary or secondary education (34.6% and 37.3%, respectively).

Graph 102 Have you watched any appearances by a state prosecutor in the public eye in the past 12 months? By completed level of education



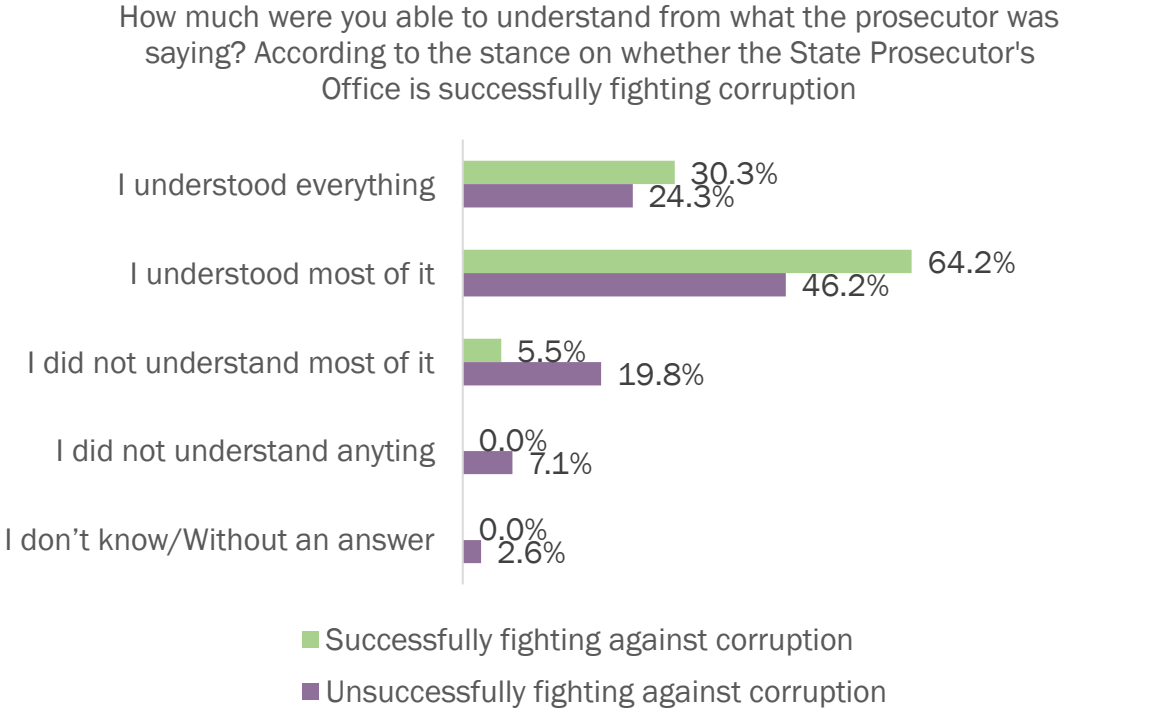
Among respondents who watched a prosecutor's public appearance in the past 12 months, the dominant majority understood all or most of what the prosecutor said (85.4%).

Graph 103 Data through time: How much were you able to understand from what the prosecutor was saying?



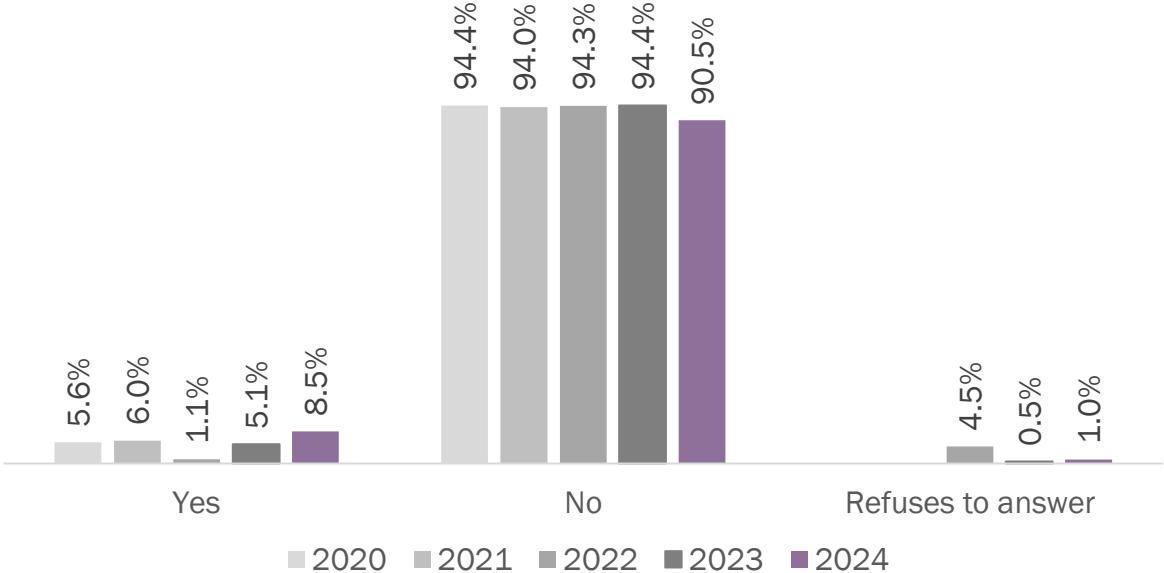
Additionally, data was cross-referenced with respondents' perceptions of whether the State Prosecutor's Office is effectively fighting corruption. Among those who believe the office is successful in fighting corruption, 94.5% reported understanding all or most of what the prosecutor said during their public appearances. In contrast, among those who believe the office is not effective, the percentage of respondents who understood all or most of what was said drops to 70.5%.

Graph 104 How much were you able to understand from what the prosecutor was saying? According to the stance on whether the State Prosecutor's Office is successfully fighting corruption



The results show that in 2024, 8.5% of citizens had the opportunity to speak with a prosecutor in the past 12 months, marking the highest percentage in the observed five-year period. This figure represents a slight increase compared to 2023 (5.1%) and a significant rise from 2022 (1.1%). Despite this growth, the majority of citizens (90.5%) still have not had such an opportunity, highlighting the limited direct communication between prosecutors and the public.

Graph 105 Data through time: Have you had the opportunity to talk to a prosecutor in the past 12 months?



### Recommendations based on the conducted research

The observed improvements in certain areas notwithstanding, the research results indicate the need to enhance the *public presence of state prosecutors*. Prosecutors should engage more frequently with citizens through media and public events to better showcase their work and activities. Special attention should be given to ensuring equitable visibility across all regions of the country. Organizing regular press conferences and other public initiatives can contribute to greater transparency and public trust. Increasing the number of citizens familiar with the work of the prosecution could also improve positive perceptions of the institution and its effectiveness in combating corruption.

According to the research findings, television remains the primary source of information about the State Prosecutor's Office for most citizens. This underscores the need to focus the *promotion of the TV show "Get to Know the Prosecutor's Office" on this medium*. To increase the show's recognition and viewership, it is recommended to intensify promotional activities on widely viewed TV channels. This includes airing short promotional spots during prime time, integrating show announcements into news programs, and featuring the show's content in guest segments on popular programs. Additionally, targeted campaigns on local TV stations can help inform specific communities. This approach would allow the show to reach a larger audience and encourage those already aware of it to watch regularly, thereby strengthening its impact and contribution to public awareness about the prosecution's work.

*Educating the public about the role of the State Prosecutor's Office* is key to fostering trust and improving understanding of its purpose. Campaigns emphasizing the prosecution's efficiency and commitment to combating corruption are recommended, especially as citizens with negative perceptions of the institution have been identified as a priority group for communication.

*Direct communication with citizens should be a top priority.* Initiatives such as open days or opportunities for personal interactions with prosecutors can help bridge the gap between the public and the institution.

*Finally, the activities of the State Prosecutor's Office must be tailored to different regions and demographic groups.* Citizens from the northern regions, women, older adults, and individuals with elementary education express specific perceptions and needs that should be addressed when planning strategies. The aim of these initiatives should be to create equal opportunities for all citizens to access information and participate in the activities of the prosecution.

These recommendations represent key steps for strengthening trust in the State Prosecutor's Office, enhancing transparency, and improving communication with the public. Their implementation could contribute to a better perception of the prosecution's work and to strengthening the legal system as a whole.