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# Con- tents

## 11 REPORT FROM THE SURVEY

- 11 Macedonian society's tolerance
- 12 Assessment on the discrimination or particular groups
- 17 (Un)Desirable company
- 22 Neighbours
- 26 (Un)Desirable tenants
- 28 Cooperation on the job
- 36 Marriage
- 42 Public offices
- 47 Fields where discrimination is made
- 51 Public treatment of target groups
- 57 Legalization and (non)resolution of problems
- 63 Disease treatment or isolation
- 70 What should be sanctioned as criminal offence
- 81 Public's attitude on groups' active engagement in the promotion of their rights
- 90 Groups as threat to society
- 92 Summarized conclusions

## 97 REPORT FROM THE IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUPS

- 99 Roma
- 103 Homosexuals
- 111 Drug and narcotic users
- 121 Alcohol addicts
- 125 Physically and intellectually disabled persons

## ANNEX A

- 148 Map of statistical regions in Republic of Macedonia



## Dear reader,

The underlying incentive for the present research stems from our day to day work. Throughout the years of extensive support of inclusive processes in our society and the stakeholders therein, most of the project-proposals still aim at raising public awareness to address discrimination, both obvious and hidden.

FOSIM holds no illusion that the level of awareness as well as the conditions change fast and that civil society cannot be built over night. We are aware of the complex processes, the “power” of the stakeholders and their political will, and we understand the nature/effects of the consequences. The formal and informal indications of increasing instead of decreasing prejudices and stereotypes never cease to amaze us, and some out of carelessness are even mainstreamed.

The state and its institutions are constantly launching the so-called models and policies trying to convince us that here – in Macedonia – those living on the margins of society are provided for, and rights, social justice and conditions are improved. Midst the ineffective and almost devastating transition, the myth of the tolerant, good-intended and always ready to help Macedonian citizen persists and is “carefully cherished”. By rule, the marginalized are always victims of “some other person”, “of those who are different”, or “sick”. Media articles encouraging/mainstreaming discrimination persist and prevail. At moments, it seems as some of them call for lynch. In an Aryan style, despite all mainstreams and benefits of global dynamics in the period called Infomation Revolution, the model of the archaic Macedonian warrior is promoted.

Poor quality of life affects people on the margins in democratic Macedonia. A parent has recently chained its own “different” child. Many “others”, including large number of children and youth, are subject of the sexual frustrations of “normal” adults in this country. Others, in abound, live in their “dark rooms” so as not to shame their families and neighbours, projecting the image that their kin is “normal” in the eyes of the world. Is this “normal”?!

## What can one do?

By the end of 2007, the nature and effects of non-inclusiveness in Macedonia were questioned by the research **HOW INCLUSIVE IS THE MACEDONIAN SOCIETY?** The research focused on social groups addressed in current and future FOSIM program.

Unfortunately, the results obtained are defeating. Mimicry, detestation, dislike of “the other”/the different in our yard and the motto “OK, but not in my backyard”, “that is what they deserved” and “the normal”, whatever it means, seriously endanger the already fragile social capital in the democratic Macedonia, although the high-quality



social capital remains one of basic requirements for a successful democracy.

Like it or nor, this mirror reflection is ours.

### **What can one do?**

FOSIM will use this research data to create new programs to serve as food for thought on the state of affairs and to advocate for greater social integration by means of participatory decision-making and defiant respect for the rights of all.

What about you?

Slavica Indzevska

Deputy Executive Director of Joint Programs



## Research project

# HOW INCLUSIVE IS THE MACEDONIAN SOCIETY

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The research project “Macedonian Society’s Inclusiveness” was implemented in the period September-October 2007.

The project was based on survey questionnaires, in-depth interviews and focus groups.

Research target groups were: Roma, homosexuals, drug and narcotic users, alcohol addicts, intellectually disabled persons, physically disabled persons and sex workers.\*

The survey was carried out on a representative sample of 1,200 citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, by means of direct interviews.

In-depth interviews were made with 20 activists from non-governmental organizations addressing target groups’ rights.

10 focus groups were organized with target group members.

\* Terms hold neutral meaning, i.e., they refer to both genders.



# REPORT FROM THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

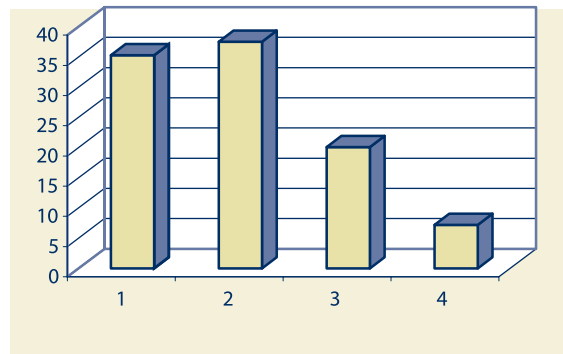
## Macedonian Society's Tolerance

On the introductory question, interviewees were asked to provide a general assessment of the Macedonian society's tolerance. According to answers obtained, 35% of interviewees see the Macedonian society as tolerant, 38% believe it is partially tolerant, 20% - intolerant, while 7% cannot provide an assessment. (Table: General Distribution, Question no.1)

### Question no. 1

**In general, do you believe that Macedonian society is tolerant?**

|   |                    | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Tolerant           | 422         | 35,3       |
| 2 | Partially tolerant | 449         | 37,5       |
| 3 | Intolerant         | 240         | 20,1       |
| 4 | Do not know        | 86          | 7,2        |
|   | <b>Total</b>       | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Differences between certain interviewees' groups appear only in terms of their employment status and ethnic background. Accordingly, 41% of Macedonians believe that the Macedonian society is tolerant, while Albanians provided twice as less such answers which account for 20%. And vice versa: 27% of Albanians and only 17% of Macedonians believe that Macedonian society is intolerant.

Frequent answers on society's intolerance were recorded among people employed in the non-governmental sector (35%) and the unemployed (28%), opposite to - for instance - 16% of such answers provided by people employed in the private sector.

## Assessment of discrimination against individual groups

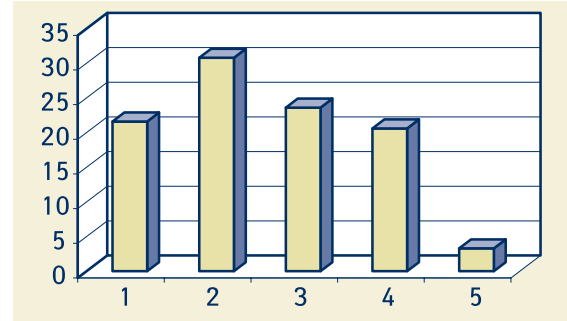
The research included questions on citizens' assessment of discrimination against individual groups, i.e., discrimination against Roma, homosexuals, drug and alcohol addicts, intellectually and physically disabled persons and sex workers.

When it comes to discrimination against **Roma**, positions in the Macedonian society are divided. Thus, 21% of interviewees believe Roma are **constantly** discriminated, 31% - they are **frequently** discriminated; 24% stated that Roma are **rarely** discriminated, while 21% believe they are **not discriminated at all**. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 2)

### Question 2.

#### Assess the discrimination against Roma.

|   |                          | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Constantly discriminated | 259         | 21,6       |
| 2 | Frequently discriminated | 369         | 30,8       |
| 3 | Rarely discriminated     | 283         | 23,6       |
| 4 | Not discriminated        | 246         | 20,6       |
| 5 | Do not know              | 40          | 3,3        |
|   | <b>Total</b>             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



There are relatively big differences from the aspect of ethnic affiliation in the two major ethnic groups, where Macedonians seem less sensitive to the discrimination of Roma, in comparison to Albanians, which can be seen on the following table:

#### Assessment of discrimination against Roma

|                                   | Macedonians | Albanians   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Roma are constantly discriminated | 13,10%      | 39,20%      |
| Roma are frequently discriminated | 29,20%      | 37,60%      |
| Roma are rarely discriminated     | 27,50%      | 13,70%      |
| Roma are not discriminated at all | 26,40%      | 7,50%       |
| Do not know                       | 3,70%       | 2,00%       |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> |

From the aspect of interviewees' age, it is interesting to notice that elderly interviewees (at the age above 65 years) in quite large number believe Roma are not discriminated at all (55%), or are rarely discriminated (25%), contrary to all other age groups where answers do not significantly deviate from the average.

From the pool of other social groups, interviewees with completed higher education

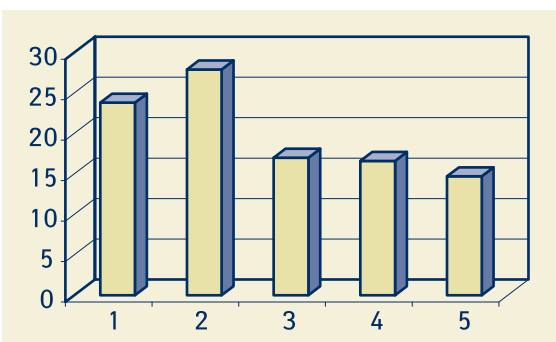
and employees in the public and non-governmental sectors are more sensitive to the discrimination of Roma

Treatment of **homosexuals** is not a question frequently asked on surveys, nor a topic discussed at length. According to research data, citizens' perception is as follows: 24 % believe homosexuals are constantly discriminated, 28% - they are frequently discriminated; 17% - rarely, that is, not discriminated at all, while 15% do not have a position. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 3)

### Question 3

Assess the discrimination against people having same-sex relations.

|   |                          | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Constantly discriminated | 285         | 23,8       |
| 2 | Frequently discriminated | 334         | 27,9       |
| 3 | Rarely discriminated     | 203         | 17,0       |
| 4 | Not discriminated        | 199         | 16,6       |
| 5 | Do not know              | 176         | 14,7       |
|   | <b>Total</b>             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



From the aspect of interviewees' gender, answers are quite similar, but differences appear according to their ethnic background. Thus, about two-thirds of Albanians believe homosexuals are constantly (31%), or

frequently (30%) discriminated. Among Macedonians, such answers are by 10% less frequent: 21% believe they are constantly, while 27% - they are frequently discriminated. On the other hand, most frequent (above 60%) statements acknowledging discrimination were provided by high-school and university students and employees in the non-governmental sector. In terms of interviewees' place of residence, Skopje is ahead of other towns according to the number of such answers, although differences are not substantial.

Discrimination against **drug and narcotic users** was assessed as **constant** by 25% of interviewees, as frequent by 34 %; 18% believe discrimination is rare; 15% believe it does not exist, while 7% cannot make an assessment. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 4)

### Question 4

Assess the discrimination against drug and narcotic users.

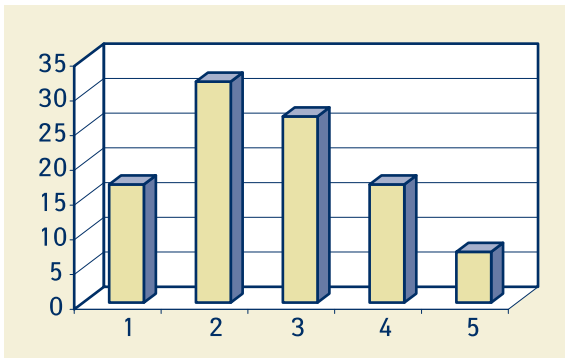
|   |                          | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Constantly discriminated | 304         | 25,4       |
| 2 | Frequently discriminated | 410         | 34,3       |
| 3 | Rarely discriminated     | 215         | 34,3       |
| 4 | Not discriminated        | 183         | 15,3       |
| 5 | Do not know              | 85          | 7,1        |
|   | <b>Total</b>             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



**Question 6**

Assess the discrimination against intellectually disabled persons.

|   |                          | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Constantly discriminated | 204         | 17         |
| 2 | Frequently discriminated | 381         | 31,8       |
| 3 | Rarely discriminated     | 321         | 26,8       |
| 4 | Not discriminated        | 204         | 17         |
| 5 | Do not know              | 87          | 7,3        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



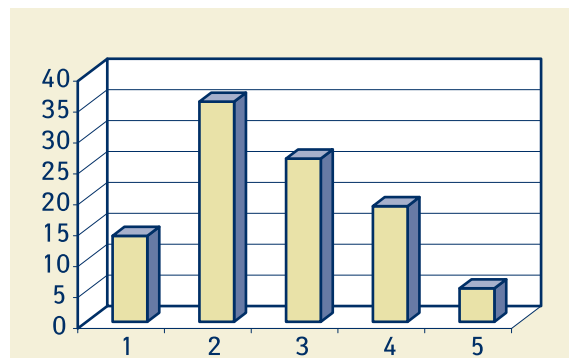
More than two-thirds of the Albanian population recognizes constant or frequent discrimination against these persons, while only one-third of Macedonians provided such answers. Younger interviewees are more aware of the discrimination (approximately 45% positive answers), opposite to - for example - interviewees at the age of 65 years and more, where the sum of such answers accounts for 26%. Other statistically relevant differences do not appear.

Very similar answers were obtained in relation to **physically disabled persons**: 14 % of citizens believe they are constantly discriminated; for 26% discrimination is rare; for 19% there is no discrimination, and 5% do not have a position. (Table: General Distribution, Question no 7)

**Question 7**

Assess the discrimination against physically disabled persons.

|   |                          | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Constantly discriminated | 166         | 13,9       |
| 2 | Frequently discriminated | 426         | 35,6       |
| 3 | Rarely discriminated     | 316         | 26,4       |
| 4 | Not discriminated        | 224         | 18,7       |
| 5 | Do not know              | 65          | 5,4        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Again, difference appears from the aspect of interviewees' ethnic background: according to more than half of Macedonians, discrimination is rare or non-existing; Albanians provided twice as less frequent answers on rare and non-existing discrimination.

According to a large portion of interviewees at the age of 65 years and more, discrimination against physically disabled persons is rare or non-existing (more than two-thirds). On the contrary, such answers do not exceed half of the total number of younger interviewee groups.

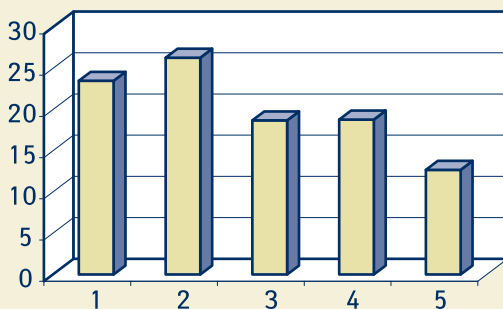
According to the place of residence, negative answers on discrimination provided in Skopje and by the rural population move within the margin of 40%, while in other towns they exceed 50%.

Discrimination against **sex workers**, despite the profession's illegal nature, has been recognized by most of interviewees. Namely, 24% assess discrimination as constant; 26% as frequent; 19% as rare; according to 19% there is no discrimination, and 13% do not have a position. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 8)

### Question 8

#### Assess the discrimination against sex workers.

|   |                          | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Constantly discriminated | 281         | 23,5       |
| 2 | Frequently discriminated | 315         | 26,3       |
| 3 | Rarely discriminated     | 224         | 18,7       |
| 4 | Not discriminated        | 225         | 18,8       |
| 5 | Do not know              | 152         | 12,7       |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



There are visible differences between Macedonian and Albanian interviewees: the sum of positive answers on discrimination provided by Macedonians accounts for 43%, while among Albanians it is 72%.

Groups with answers by 10% higher than the average and assessing discrimination as obvious are: employees in the non-governmental sector and high-school and university students.



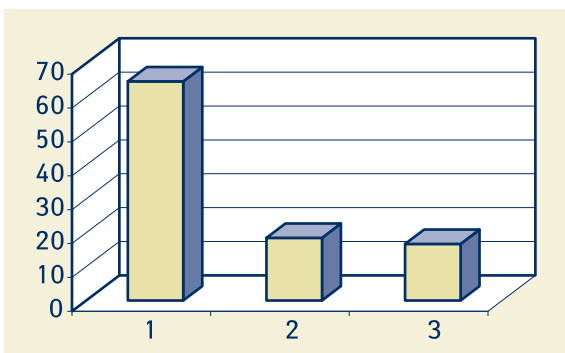
## (Un)Desirable company

Next block of questions addresses the issue whether interviewees mind being in the company of researched groups. Indicative answers were obtained, which indisputably point out the existence of discrimination, as well as various perceptions of groups. Large share of interviewees – 65%, declared they would not mind being in the company of **Roma**; 19% would feel uncomfortable; while 17% do not know, as they have not found themselves in such situation. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 9)

### Question 9

#### How would you feel in the company of Roma??

|   |   | Frequency   | %          |
|---|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Do not mind being in their company            | 775         | 64,7       |
| 2 | Feel uncomfortable                            | 222         | 18,5       |
| 3 | Do not know, as have not been in such company | 200         | 16,7       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



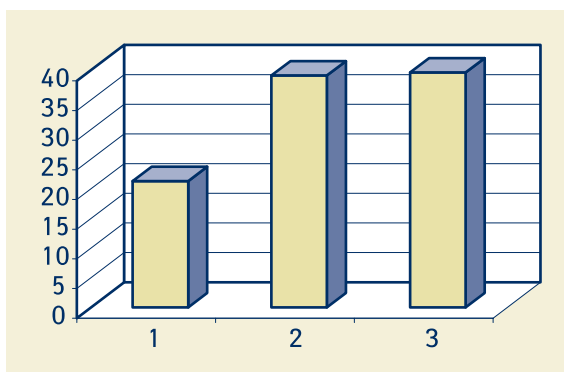
Major differences appear between the two largest ethnic groups. Share of Macedonians who do not mind the company of Roma

accounts for 72%, while only 41% of Albanians provided such answers. On the contrary, 29% of Albanian interviewees do not have a position as they have not been in such position (which is also indicative), while Macedonians without position account for 13%. The highest number of answers indicating uncomfortable feeling in the company of Roma was provided by interviewees at the age of 26 -30 years, while smallest number of such answers appears among interviewees at the age above 50 years, where these answers move within the margin of 12% to 14%. In Skopje and other towns, more than 70% of interviewees stated they would not mind the company of Roma, while the share of such answers provided in the rural areas accounts for 55%, (large percent of this population do not have a position).

Interesting answers were obtained on the same question, but in regard to homosexuals. Namely, 40% of interviewees do not know how they would feel in the company of **homosexuals**, as they have not found themselves in such situation; 39% would feel uncomfortable, and only 21% would not mind. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 10)

**Question 10****How would you feel in the company of people having same-sex relations?**

|   |   | Frequency   | %          |
|---|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Do not mind being in their company            | 255         | 21,3       |
| 2 | Feel uncomfortable                            | 468         | 39,1       |
| 3 | Do not know, as have not been in such company | 474         | 39,6       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Again, most obvious differences appear in terms of interviewees' ethnic background: 24 % of Macedonians and twice as less Albanians – 12% do not mind homosexuals' company. On the other hand, 48% of the Albanian and 37% of the Macedonian population feel uncomfortable in such company.

From the aspect of interviewees' age structure, approximately one quarter of younger interviewees stated they do not mind being in the company of homosexuals, but only 12% of elderly interviewees (at the age of 65 years and more) provided such answers (42 % of them do not have an answer). Data from the aspect of interviewees' education and place of residence are interesting, and are shown on the following tables:

**How would you feel in the company of homosexuals?**

|   | Primary education | Secondary education | Higher education |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Do not mind being in their company            | 9,20%             | 20,70%              | 32,80%           |
| Feel uncomfortable                            | 46,40%            | 39,90%              | 31,70%           |
| Do not know, as have not been in such company | 44,40%            | 39,40%              | 35,40%           |
|   | <b>100,00%</b>    | <b>100,00%</b>      | <b>100,00%</b>   |

**How would you feel in the company of homosexuals?**

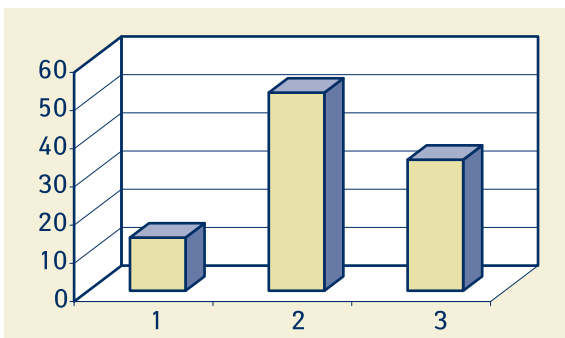
|   | Skopje | Other towns | Villages |
|---|--------|-------------|----------|
| Do not mind being in their company            | 35,20% | 22,00%      | 13,10%   |
| Feel uncomfortable                            | 38,30% | 36,00%      | 42,40%   |
| Do not mind, as have not been in such company | 26,50% | 42,00%      | 44,50%   |
|   |        |             |          |

As for drug and narcotic users, more than half of interviewees – 52% would mind such company; 14 % do not mind, and 34 % do not have a position. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 11)

**Question 11**

How would you feel in the company of drug and narcotic users?

|   |   | Frequency   | %          |
|---|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Do not mind being in their company            | 166         | 13,9       |
| 2 | Feel uncomfortable                            | 621         | 51,9       |
| 3 | Do not know, as have not been in such company | 410         | 34,3       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



48% of surveyed Macedonians do not mind such company, opposite to Albanians where such answers account for 60%. However, high 39% of Macedonians do not have a position on this issue, while 23% of Albanians responded in this manner.

From the aspect of interviewees' age, it is logical that 19% of the youngest interviewees (18-26 years) do not mind drug users, while such answers were obtained by only 3% of the eldest interviewees.

Certain differences occur in regard to interviewees' place of residence. For example, the population without position as has never been in such situation, in Skopje accounts for 24%, in the rural areas - 34%, and in other towns - 40%.

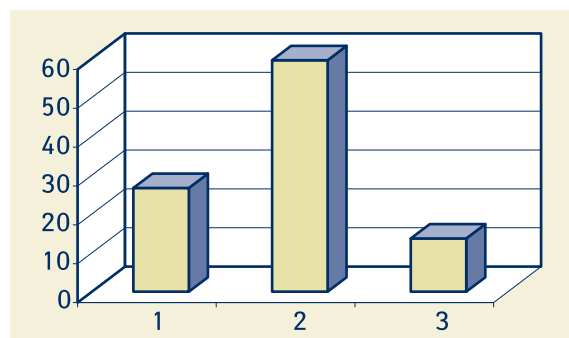
60% of interviewees feel uncomfortable in the company of **alcohol addicts**; 27% do not

mind, and 14 % do not have a position. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 12)

**Question 12**

How would you feel in the company of alcohol addicts?

|   |   | Frequency   | %          |
|---|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Do not mind being in their company              | 320         | 26,7       |
| 2 | Feel uncomfortable                              | 713         | 59,6       |
| 3 | Do not know, as have never been in such company | 164         | 13,7       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

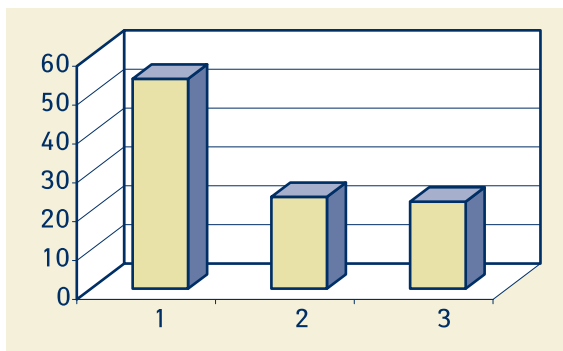


On this question, only the eldest interviewee group deviates from the average, where 72% of them answered that they would feel uncomfortable in such company. Small differences (by 10%) appear between man and women: 32% of men do not mind the company of alcohol addicts, while such answers were provided by 21% of women.

**Intellectually disabled persons** are unpleasant company for one quarter (24 %) of interviewees, but most of the interviewed population (54%) stated they do not mind such company. 22 % of interviewees were unable to provide an assessment. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 13)

**Question 13****How would you feel in the company of intellectually disabled persons?**

|   |   | Frequency   | %          |
|---|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Do not mind being in their company              | 646         | 54         |
| 2 | Feel uncomfortable                              | 283         | 23,6       |
| 3 | Do not know, as have never been in such company | 268         | 22,4       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



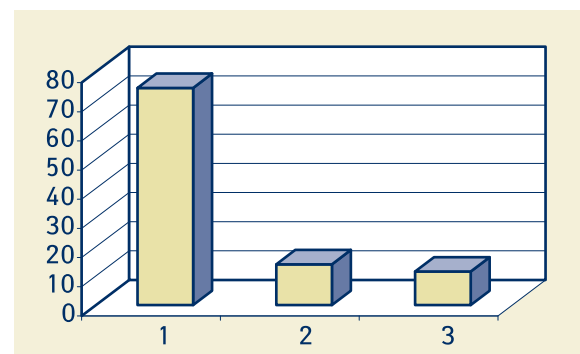
Again, difference in answers appears from the aspect of interviewees' ethnic background. Share of Macedonians who do not mind the company of intellectually disabled people accounts for 61% and is almost as double from the share of same answers provided by Albanians – 36%. Place of interviewee's residence affects type of answer provided as well: in Skopje, 62% of interviewees do not mind such company, while in rural areas this is an answer less frequently provided - 45%. From the aspect of other interviewees' features, only the eldest generation stands out with the provision of high number of answers indicating they do not mind the company of intellectually disabled persons – 70%.

**Physically disabled persons** do not cause discomfort for majority of the population – 75%; 14 % feel uncomfortable, and 12% do not have a position. The relatively high

percentage of such answers is explained by the fact that there are no differences in the distribution of answers per individual socio-demographic groups of interviewees. (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 14)

**Question 14****How would you feel in the company of physically disabled persons?**

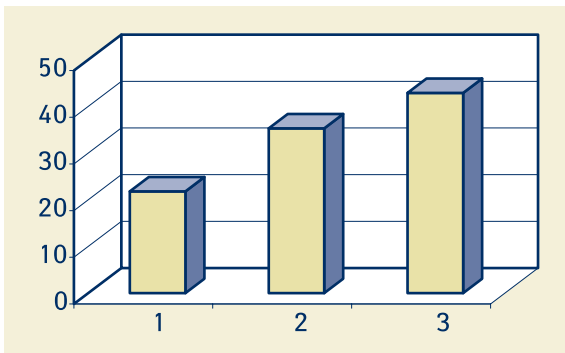
|   |   | Frequency   | %          |
|---|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Do not mind being in their company              | 892         | 74,5       |
| 2 | Feel uncomfortable                              | 167         | 14         |
| 3 | Do not know, as have never been in such company | 138         | 11,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



The population is interestingly divided in terms of the possibility for being in the company of **sex workers**. Majority of interviewees (42 %) do not have a position, as they have never been in such company; 22 % do not mind, while 35% feel uncomfortable. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 15)

**Question 15****How would you feel in the company of sex workers?**

|   |   | Frequency   | %          |
|---|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Do not mind being in their company              | 261         | 21,8       |
| 2 | Feel uncomfortable                              | 422         | 35,3       |
| 3 | Do not know, as have never been in such company | 514         | 42,9       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Albanians provided by 10% more frequent answers indicating they would feel uncomfortable in the company of sex workers in comparison to Macedonians feeling uncomfortable in the company of sex workers (43 % vs. 32 %). Also, only 16% of the rural population stated they do not mind such company. In Skopje, this answer is twice as frequent - 36%, while in other towns this answer accounts for 20%. The eldest group – at the age of 65 years and more deviates from the average with 48% of interviewees feeling uncomfortable in the company of sex workers.

## Neighbours

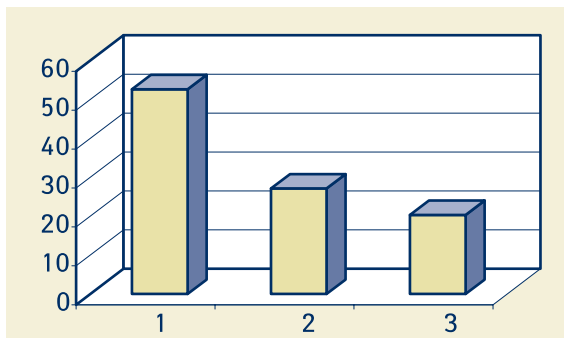
Another indicator of tolerance is, of course, the willingness to have a neighbour from a certain target group. Following are the answers obtained:

On the question whether they would accept **Roma** as their neighbours, 53% of interviewees answered they find it acceptable; 27% provided negative answers, while 20% do not know. (Table: General Distribution, Question no.16)

### Question 16

Would you accept Roma as your neighbours?

|   |                      | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes, would accept    | 630         | 52,6       |
| 2 | No, would not accept | 324         | 27,1       |
| 3 | Do not know          | 243         | 20,3       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>         | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



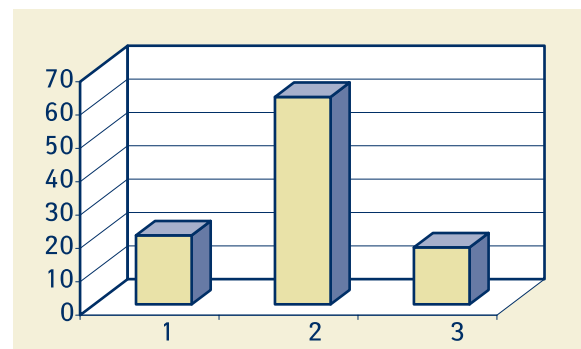
Differences in answers appear in terms of interviewees' ethnic background. Macedonian population seems more tolerant (56% of them do not mind having Roma as neighbours), contrary to the Albanian population, where positive answers were provided by 38%. Elderly citizens (above the age of 50 years) do not mind having Roma as neighbours, as well

as employees in the non-governmental sector and high-school and university students. Over two-thirds of this interviewee group stated that they find Roma acceptable as their neighbours. From the aspect of interviewees' place of residence, citizens in Skopje appear to be by 10% more tolerant than others. Opposite to the previous group, around two-thirds of interviewees would mind having **homosexuals** as neighbours (62%); 21% would not mind, while 17% do not know. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 17)

### Question 17

Would you accept people having same-sex relations as neighbours?

|   |                      | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes, would accept    | 248         | 20,7       |
| 2 | No, would not accept | 744         | 62,2       |
| 3 | Do not know.         | 205         | 17,1       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>         | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



The male population and Macedonians mind having homosexuals as neighbours by 7% more than other groups. Homosexuals are not acceptable for 58% of Albanians and 64% of Macedonians. However, the number of Albanian interviewees who said that they do not have a position is twice as big as the

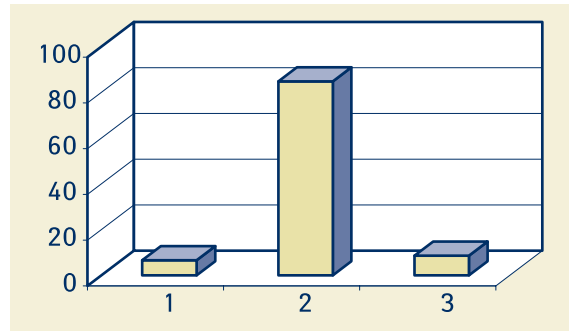
number of Macedonian interviewees with the same answer (27% and 14%, respectively). Elderly citizens are much more prejudiced. Namely, about half of the youngest interviewees (at the age of 18-25 years) do not accept neighbours-homosexuals, while negative answers obtained from the eldest citizens (above the age of 65 years) account for 75%. Again, negative answers provided by university students, employees in the non-governmental sector and people with completed higher education move within the margin below 50 % (which should not be underestimated), but unwillingness to accept homosexual neighbours by other groups exceeds two-thirds of answers. Major differences appear from the aspect of interviewees' place of residence. As it could have been assumed, citizens in Skopje are most tolerant: 34% of them do not mind having homosexuals as neighbours, contrary to the rural population, where such answer appears in 16% of cases, or citizens in other towns - 18%.

High percentage of interviewees stated that they would not accept **drug and narcotic users** as neighbours - 85%. 7% would accept them, and 9% do not have a position. (Table: General Distribution, Question no.18)

#### Question 18

Would you accept drug and narcotic users as neighbours?

|   |                      | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes, would accept    | 79          | 6,6        |
| 2 | No, would not accept | 1015        | 84,8       |
| 3 | Do not know.         | 103         | 8,6        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>         | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



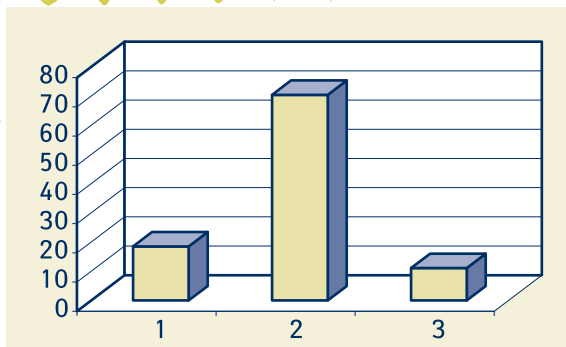
Due to the high frequency of negative answers, absence of major differences in terms of interviewees' socio-demographic features is only logical. Differences of no particular importance appear among citizens in Skopje, where 11% of citizens do not mind having drug users as neighbours, contrary to the rural areas where the percentage of such answers accounts for only 5%. From the age aspect, neighbour tolerance of the eldest group of interviewees was expressed by only 2%, contrary to the 11% of the youngest interviewees expressing the same position. Other groups do not deviate from the average.

The situation with the possibility of having **alcohol addicts** as neighbours is similar to the previous one. On this question, 19% of interviewees would accept such neighbours, 70% would not, while 11% do not have a position. (Table: General Distribution, Question no.19)

#### Question 19

Would you accept alcohol addicts as neighbours?

|   |                      | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes, would accept    | 221         | 18,5       |
| 2 | No, would not accept | 843         | 70,4       |
| 3 | Do not know          | 133         | 11,1       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>         | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



From the aspect of interviewees' ethnic background, there is a smaller number (9%) of Albanians who would accept alcohol addicts as neighbours, in comparison to Macedonians, where this number accounts for 22% of answers. On the other hand, share of those who would not accept such neighbour is almost equal in both groups (69% and 73%, respectively). However, number of Albanians who do not have a position is higher. 27% of the youngest interviewees would accept alcohol addicts as neighbours, whereas such position was expressed by only 13% of the eldest interviewees. High-school and university students provided negative answers in 58% of cases; whereas the percentage of negative answers provided by other groups exceeds 70%.

In Skopje, 28% of answers indicated acceptance, in comparison to rural areas and other towns where these answers move within the margin of about 15%.

**Intellectually disabled people** would not be accepted as neighbours by 27% of the interviewed population; 53% would not mind having them as neighbours and 20% do not have a position. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 20)

### Question 20

## Would you accept intellectually disabled persons as neighbours?

|   |                      | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes, would accept    | 636         | 53,1       |
| 2 | No, would not accept | 322         | 26,9       |
| 3 | Do not know.         | 239         | 20         |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>         | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

Difference was noticed between interviewed Macedonians and Albanians. Albanians have higher number (34%) of answers indicating absence of position on the matter. However, the number of Albanians, who would not mind having intellectually disabled people as neighbours, amounts to 39%, as opposed to Macedonians, for 58% of which intellectually disabled persons are acceptable.

High threshold of acceptance was recorded among employees in the non-governmental sector – 75%, while lowest acceptance was recorded among housewives – 39%. Acceptability as a quality grows by 10% with the interviewees' level of acquired education, as well as among citizens in Skopje – opposite to rural areas and other towns.

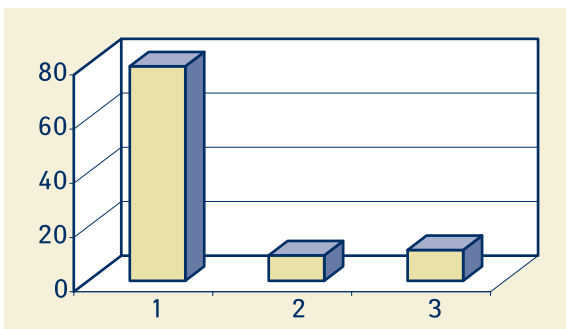
**Physically disabled persons** are more acceptable as neighbours than the intellectually disabled ones – 79%. They are not acceptable for only 9%, while 11% do not have a position. Similarly to the previous question, Albanians in comparison to Macedonians are by 10% less willing to accept such people as neighbors and by 10% more do not have a position. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 21)



### Question 21

Would you accept physically disabled persons as neighbours?

|   |                      | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes, would accept    | 948         | 79,2       |
| 2 | No, would not accept | 112         | 9,4        |
| 3 | Do not know.         | 137         | 11,4       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>         | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



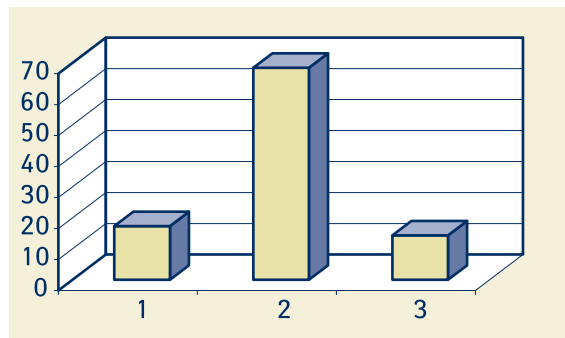
Positive answers of people with completed higher education amount to 89%, as opposed to the 73% of such answers provided by people with completed primary education.

**Sex workers** as neighbours are acceptable for only 17% of interviewees; they are not acceptable for 68%, while 14% do not have a position. At the same time, this is the only question where difference (although a small one) appears in the answers provided by different genders: acceptance is by 10% higher among the male population in comparison to the female population (22% vs. 12%, respectively). (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 22)

### Question 22

Would you accept sex workers as neighbours?

|   |                      | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes, would accept    | 207         | 17,3       |
| 2 | No, would not accept | 819         | 68,4       |
| 3 | Do not know.         | 171         | 14,3       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b>         | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



21% of Macedonians and 7% of Albanians would not mind having sex workers as neighbours (but for a high 82%, this is unacceptable). The number of negative answers provided by the youngest interviewee group moves around two-thirds, while among the eldest population at the age of 65 years and more this number reaches high 82%. Other social groups deviating from the average in regard to the number of negative answers provided are as follows: housewives, whose unwillingness to accept sex workers amounts to 88%; and interviewees without completed primary education - 81%. Much more tolerant in regard to sharing the neighbourhood with sex workers are citizens in Skopje, with 29% positive answers provided on this question. Such answers in other towns account for 17% and 12% among the rural population..

## (Un)Desirable tenants

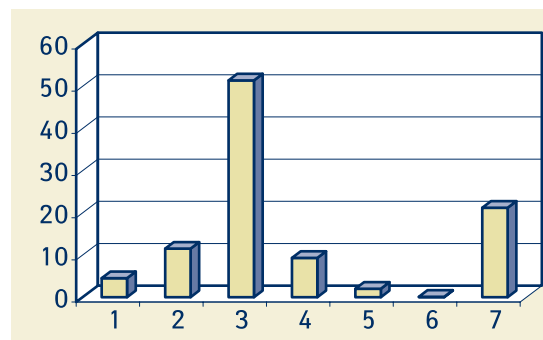
On the question “**to which person – member of the identified marginalized group you would never rent an apartment**”, highest percent of interviewees answered – **drug users (51%)**. Such answers, on a question with seven pre-defined modalities indicates that **there is a significant social distance toward this group, independent from the reasons behind its occurrence**. According to the interviewees, portion of such rejection could be explained by the fact that the group in question is considered high risk social group. Prejudiced or not, this distance exists and is characterized by high frequency, especially in comparison to the degree of social distance expressed toward other target groups. From the answers obtained on the same question one can say that there social distance exist towards people engaged in prostitution (21%), people having same-sex relations (12%) and alcohol addicts (9%). Answers indicating Roma (5%), intellectually disabled persons (2%) and physically disabled persons (0%) appear with low frequency. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 23)

\* You can find a map of statistical regions in Republic of Macedonia on page 148

### Question 23

To which person – member of the following groups you would never rent an apartment?

|   |                                  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Roma                             | 54          | 4,5        |
| 2 | People having same-sex relations | 138         | 11,5       |
| 3 | Drug and narcotic users          | 615         | 51,4       |
| 4 | Alcohol addicts                  | 111         | 9,3        |
| 5 | Intellectually disabled persons  | 24          | 2          |
| 6 | Physically disabled persons      | 1           | 0,1        |
| 7 | Sex workers                      | 254         | 21,2       |
| 8 | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Particular statistical deviations appear within the group of answers indicating drug users (51%). Higher percentage appears among citizens in the South-West region (63%), in the Vardar region and citizens in Skopje (59%), the young population at the age of 18-25 years and high-school and university students (58%), as well as employees in the private sector (57%). Deviations with smaller shares appear among citizens in the Polog region and housewives (45%). What is specific for

these deviations is the difference appearing in the smaller number of answers indicating people engaged in prostitution: the Polog region (36%), housewives and Albanians (32%), people with completed primary education (30%), pensioners and rural population (26%).

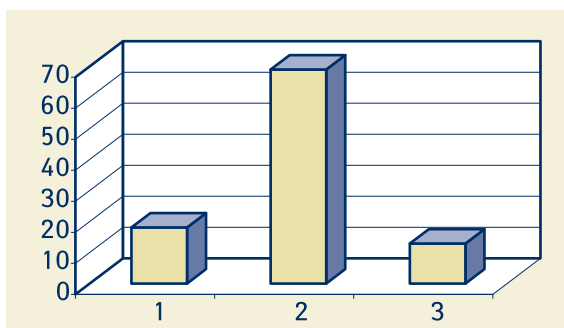
## Cooperation on the job

Answers obtained on the question “**Would you mind working with Roma on the job**” reflect low social distance toward this researched category. Negative answers, i.e., answers indicating that **they would not mind working with them were provided by 69%** of interviewees - high and tolerant results, which in a normal context would be a feature of an inclusive society. Second in rank is the answer yes, they would mind working – 18%, while 13% of them stated they do not know. (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 24)

### Question 24

**Would you mind working with Roma on the job?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 217         | 18,1       |
| 2 | No           | 826         | 69         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 154         | 12,9       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Deviations appear according to several variables. Deviations above the average, meaning they would not mind working with them, appear among citizens in Skopje and

the Pelagonija regions (80%), the age group from 50-65 years and citizens in the Skopje region (76%). Lower deviations, i.e., deviations by minor percentages indicating the willingness to work with Roma appear among housewives (44 %), citizens in the East region (55%), citizens in the North region (59%), Albanians (60%) and citizens in the Polog region (63%). According to the deviations, citizens in the East region (39%) provided the highest number of answers indicating the unwillingness to work with Roma.

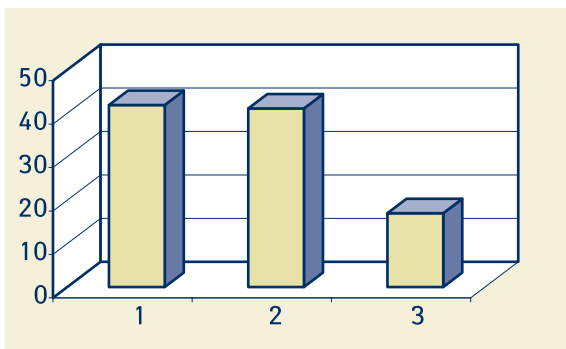
Answers obtained on the question “**Would you mind working on the job with people having same-sex relations?**” indicate both positive and negative distance toward this category of people. Namely, positive answers, i.e., **that they would not mind working with them**, were provided by **41%** of interviewees, but at the same time, negative answers, i.e., **that they would mind working with them** were provided by **42%** of interviewees. Such answers suggest that half of interviewees have prejudices toward this group and that they keep a social distance, while the other half appears not to have any prejudices toward the group. It must be said that in cases of such answer distribution on an active behaviour question, most often, many of the interviewees do not have personal experience concerning the researched phenomenon or category. Thus, by means of random sampling, the result obtained from a larger population is usually divided. Of course - as the action does not take place “in my backyard” both negative and positive answers appear. 17% of interviewees

do not know whether they would mind. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 25)

### Question 25

**Would you mind working on the job with people having same-sex relations?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 501         | 41,9       |
| 2 | No           | 492         | 41,1       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 204         | 17         |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



On this question deviations appear in regard to several independent variables. Higher percentage from the average 41%, i.e., positive attitude is preferred by citizens in Skopje (58%), citizens in the Pelagonija region (57%), high-school/university students and people with completed college/higher education (53%), young people at the age of 18-25 years (51%), citizens in the Vardar region (50%), employees in the public sector and citizens in the Skopje region (49%). Higher percentage from the average 42% and a negative distance appear with citizens in the East region (69%), people with completed primary education, unemployed and citizens in the South-East region (49%) and the rural population (48%).

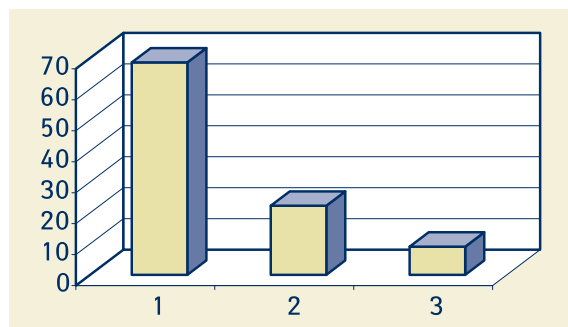
Answers obtained on the question **“Would you mind working on the job with drug**

**users?”** verify the great social distance toward this category of citizens. 69% of interviewees stated **they would mind working with them, which appears as negative social distance**. This is a rather high and exclusive attitude toward this social group. It can be assumed that, despite the prejudices towards this group, there is also an intolerant behaviour on the behalf of the wider society. 22% of interviewees stated they would not mind working with them, while 9% of answers indicated that they do not know. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 26)

### Question 26

**Would you mind working on the job with a drug or narcotic user?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 821         | 68,6       |
| 2 | No           | 267         | 22,3       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 109         | 9,1        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



There are no major deviations from the aspect of independent variables. Citizens in the North-East region (87%), in the East region (81%) and people with completed primary education (74%) account for deviations above the average in regard to the unwillingness to work with drug users. Negative deviations indicating a lower social distance from the average (69%) appear among citizens in

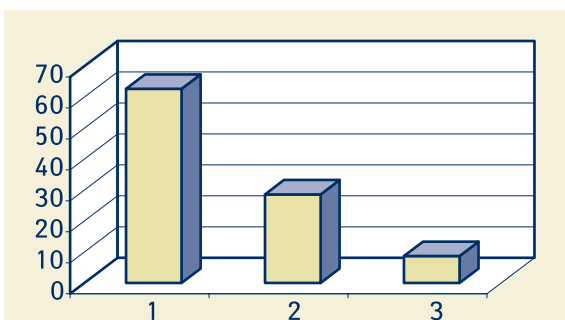
the Polog region (60%), Albanians and high-school/university students (62%).

Answers obtained on the question **“Would you mind working on the job with alcohol addicts?”** indicate a rather high social distance toward this category of citizens. The negative distance, **meaning that they would mind working with them, appears with 63% of interviewees.** This is a rather high and negative attitude towards this group. Alcohol abuse is a relatively old societal phenomenon and intolerance on the behalf of the wider society can vary depending on the community context. Most often, high and negative distance toward this category of people stems from their association with other socially problematic phenomena. 22% of answers indicated that they would not mind working with them, while 9% of answers stated they do not know. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 27)

### Question 27

**Would you mind working on the job with alcohol addicts?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 751         | 62,7       |
| 2 | No           | 342         | 28,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 104         | 8,7        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



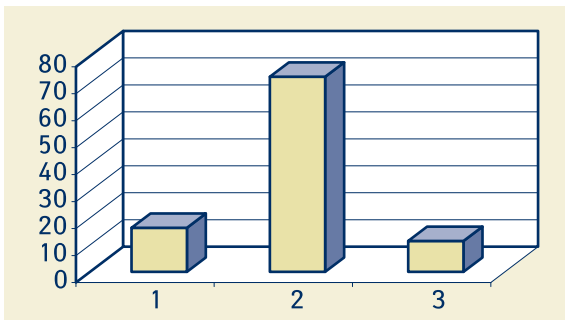
Significant statistical deviations appear in the distribution of answers on this question. Deviations above the average and concerning the unwillingness to work with them appear among citizens in the North-East region (78%) and in the East region (74%). Smaller deviations or lower social distance from the average (63%) appear exclusively among citizens in the Pelagonija region (55%).

Answers obtained on the question **“Would you mind working on the job with physically disabled persons?”** reflect a very small social distance from this research category. Negative answers indicating that they **would not mind working with them were provided by 72% of interviewees.** This is a rather high result, which in any context would be a feature of a peaceful and cohesive society. This answer could be interpreted in various ways, but there is one thing that we can stress as certain – society’s awareness on this category of citizens, but an awareness developed by public campaigns and information distribution. Second in rank is the answer “yes, I would mind” provided by 16% of interviewees, while “do not know” answers were provided by 11% of interviewees. (Table: General Distribution: Question no. 28)

### Question 28

**Would you mind working on the job with physically disabled persons?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 195         | 16,3       |
| 2 | No           | 866         | 72,3       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 136         | 11,4       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Deviations appear in regard to several independent variables. Above average deviations indicating they would not mind appear among citizens in the Pelagonija region (89%), the South-West region (82%) and the South-East region (81%), but also among the age group of 50-65 years (80%) and employees in the public sector (78%). Lower deviations from the average (72%) or lower percentage of willingness to work with physically disabled persons appear among citizens in the Vardar region (54%), housewives (56%), and people with completed primary education (61%) and citizens in the North-East region (70%).

**Summarized, results on the five previous questions** on the willingness to work on the job with members of several social groups can be presented as follows:

| Would you mind working on the job with: |     |     |             |
|---|-----|-----|-------------|
|   | Yes | No  | Do not know |
| Drug users                              | 69% | 22% | 9%          |
| Alcohol addicts                         | 63% | 29% | 9%          |
| People having same-sex relations        | 42% | 41% | 17%         |
| Roma                                    | 18% | 69% | 13%         |
| Physically disabled persons             | 16% | 72% | 11%         |

**Exclusively high negative social distance concerning the willingness to work on the job with certain social groups was**

**expressed towards drug users (69%) and alcohol addicts (63%). Positive social attitude was registered towards Roma (69%) and physically disabled persons (72%). Social distance towards people having same-sex relations was inconclusive.**

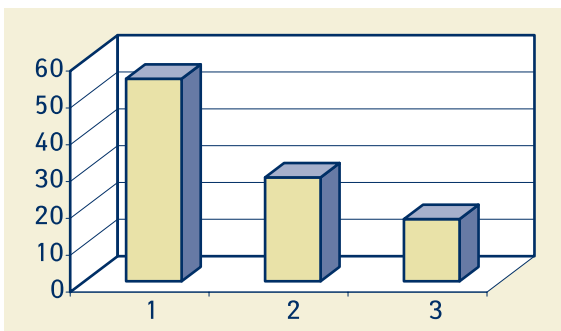
In comparison to the previous, answers obtained on the following set of five questions includes a more direct and immediate hypothetical communication between interviewees as employees and their superiors - members of researched marginalized social groups. Thus, different results were expected. Let us see the statistical and tabular values on this set of questions.

Following are the answers obtained on the question **“Would you accept Roma as your job superiors?”** Positive answers, indicating that **they would accept them were provided by 55%** of interviewees. Such answers show good and active attitude towards this category of citizens in the indicated relation. It must also be said that Roma have always been perceived as a lower social class population, that society cherishes many prejudices for them and that they have been perceived as facing difficulties in achieving vertical social promotion. Accordingly, the result obtained might be treated as positive, especially when combined with the one obtained on the previous question in relation to Roma. Thus, it can be concluded that there is no negative social distance towards Roma. Second in rank, according to the frequency, is the negative answer – they would not accept them – with 28%, while 17% of citizens answered “do not know”. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 29)

**Question 29**

**Would you accept Roma as your job superiors?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 658         | 55         |
| 2 | No           | 337         | 28,2       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 202         | 16,9       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



There are no significant statistical deviations according to the independent variables. Deviations above the average exist among answer indicating their acceptance as superiors, and in particular among citizens in Skopje (63%) and in the Vardar region (61%). Smaller deviations appear among housewives (37%), Albanians (46%) and people with completed primary education (49%).

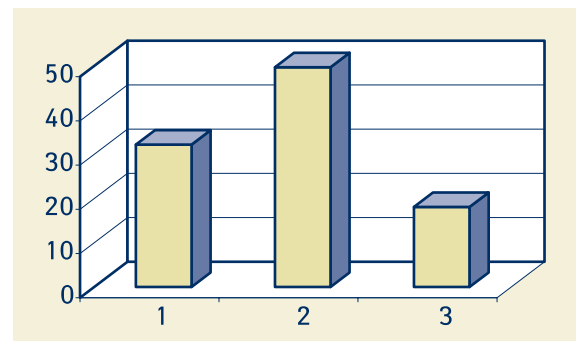
Answers indicating a negative social distance were obtained on the question **“Would you accept people having same-sex relations as your job superiors?”** **Half of interviewees would not accept them (50%), while positive attitude was expressed by a smaller percentage (32%).** This is a much clearer society’s position in comparison to answers obtained on the previous question, which indicated that 41% of interviewees would not mind working with them, i.e., 42% of interviewees would mind working with them.

On this question, the negative social distance has been clearly expressed as a rejection to accept having a superior officer who is a member of this group, although the number of answers indicating their acceptance is still high. 18 % of interviewees do not know whether they would mind. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 30)

**Question 30**

**Would you accept people having same-sex relations as your job superiors**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 385         | 32,2       |
| 2 | No           | 595         | 49,7       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 217         | 18,1       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Several regional deviations were identified, as well as other standard statistical deviations. Higher than the average 50% negative distance appears among interviewees at the age of 50-65 years and among citizens in the South-East region (56%), in the South-West region and pensioners (61%), citizens in the Vardar region (68%), as well as citizens in the East region (80%). However, **the most interesting statistical difference was noticed in regard to the independent variable – gender.** Namely, in our researcher, significant differences rarely appear on this variable. **57% of male**



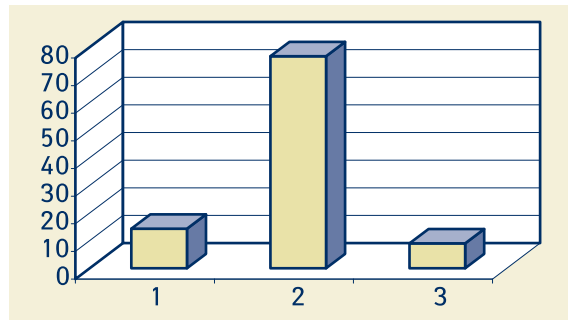
interviewees answered negative, while such answers were provided by 42% of the female interviewee population. This means that men are by 15% more exclusive and hold higher negative social distance toward this category of citizens, as opposed to women. Only 27% of male interviewees provided positive answers, meaning they would accept such relation, while the same answer was obtained by 37% of female interviewees. This is a 10 statistical points' difference. Slightly more modest difference than the one recorded on the negative answer, but a significant indicator on the **female population's higher tolerance for people having same-sex relations.**

On the question **"Would you accept drug users as your job superiors?"** the answers obtained indicate an even higher negative social distance toward this category of citizens. Such relation **would not be accepted by 77% of the interviewees.** The results show a unique and exclusive social relation. At the same time, one can say that this also indicates the open intolerance for them in the society. Only 14% of answers indicated that they would not mind working with them, while "do not know" answers was provided by 9% of interviewees. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 31)

### Question 31

**Would you accept drug and narcotics users as your job superiors?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 171         | 14,3       |
| 2 | No           | 918         | 76,7       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 108         | 9          |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



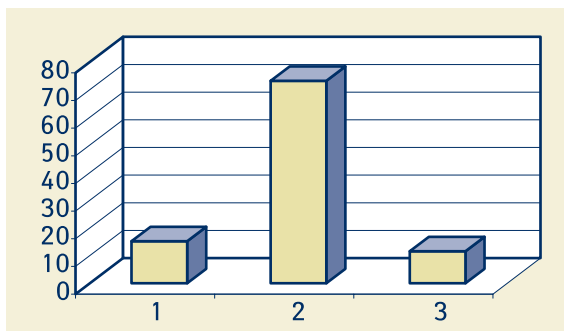
No major deviations appear within the independent variables. There are deviations above the average (**77%**) **within the answer module on accepting such relation particularly among urban citizens (83%) – but not among citizens in Skopje (66%) or in the Skopje region (64%),** citizens in the Vardar region (84%), in the Pelagonija region (88%) and in the East region – expressed by a high percentage (99%). Lower than average shares appear among housewives (62%), Albanians (66%) and people with completed primary education (69%).

High social negative distance was inferred as a result of answers obtained on the question **"Would you accept alcohol addicts as your job superiors?"** Such job situation is not acceptable for **73% of interviewees.** It can be assumed that such exclusive unwillingness to accept them as superiors is probably due to the general opinion that this group is more aggressive towards other social actors. 15% of answers indicated that they would not mind working with them, while undecided answers were provided by 12% of interviewees. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 32)

**Question 32**

**Would you accept alcohol addict as your job superiors?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 182         | 15,2       |
| 2 | No           | 876         | 73,2       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 139         | 11,6       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



On the independent variables, small statistical deviations appear in regard to the regional distribution of interviewees. There are deviations above the average (73%) within the positive answer modality among citizens in the East region (88%), in the Pelagonija region (85%) and citizens in the North-East region (80%). Lower shares from the average within the negative modality appear among housewives (59%), citizens in the Skopje region (61%) and citizens in the City of Skopje (63%).

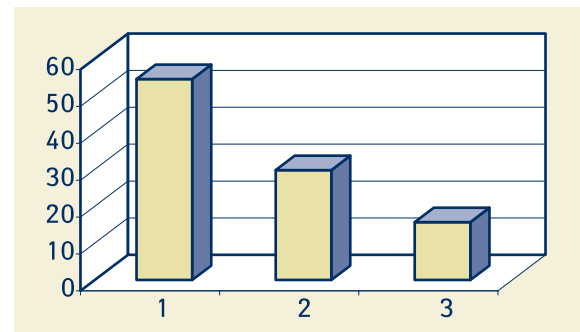
On the question **“Would you accept physically disabled persons as your job superiors?”** answers obtained indicate no or small social distance towards the researched category. **Positive answers indicating acceptance of such people as superiors, were provided by 55% of interviewees.** This is a rather encouraging result, which, again, is a feature of an inclusive society. The second in rank answer is the negative one

which accounts for 30%, while undecided answers account for 16%. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 33)

**Question 33**

**Would you accept physically disabled persons as your job superiors?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 652         | 54,5       |
| 2 | No           | 357         | 29,8       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 188         | 15,7       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Several statistical deviations appear. There are deviations above the average within the positive attitude among citizens in the Pelagonija region (81%), urban population (63%) and pensioners (61%). Smaller shares concerning the acceptance of such job situation were noticed among housewives (24%), people with completed primary education (40%), Albanians and citizens in the North-East region (41%), in the South-East region (44%) and among the rural population (46%).

**Summarized, the results on this set of questions, expressed as acceptance of various social group members as job superiors can be presented as follows**

| Would you accept as your job superior: |     |     |             |
|--|-----|-----|-------------|
|  | Yes | No  | Do not know |
| Drug user                              | 14% | 77% | 9%          |
| Alcohol addict                         | 15% | 73% | 12%         |
| People having same-sex relations       | 32% | 50% | 18%         |
| Roma                                   | 55% | 28% | 17%         |
| Physically disabled person             | 55% | 30% | 16%         |

Answers on these questions provide nuanced differences in comparison to answers obtained on the previous set of questions. The hypothetical relation between groups is more direct and immediate resulting in polarization of results, i.e., results are much more negative in comparison to those obtained on the issue of working on the job. **First, there is an increased negative social distance towards drug users (77%) and alcohol addicts (73%); second, the positive distance, i.e., acceptance of the hypothetical relation is decreased in regard to Roma (55%) and physically disabled persons (55%); and third, the negative social distance towards people having same-sex relations has been clearly defined (50%).**

## Marriage

Answers on the following seven questions provide for most direct and immediate relation between interviewees or their family members and members of researched marginalized groups in regard to marriage. This is the highest form of social distance assessing the closeness of different group members as part of the indicator on marriage. **This is more a matter of group's inclusiveness rather than the inclusiveness of the society as a whole.** Thus, if the exclusive attitude was previously expressed as a high negative social distance towards several social groups, the percentage of such answers is expected to rise on the following questions. Following are statistical and tabular results obtained on this set of questions.

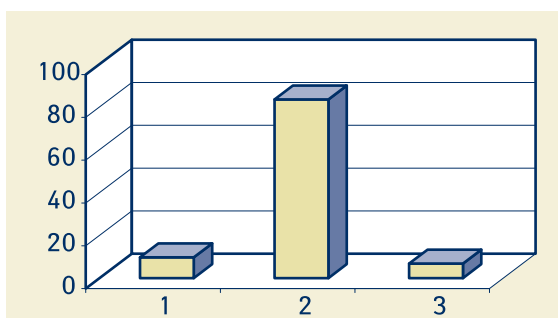
Following is the elaboration of answers obtained on the question: **“Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and Roma?”** This relation **is not approved by 84% of interviewees.** Such result speaks of highly negative social distance towards Roma, when it comes to marrying them. Part of reasons for this can easily be elaborated with a high probability: the Roma population is the only social group “racially different” from the other “white” groups. Large percent of this population lives in sheer poverty without chances for climbing the social ladder. Many Roma are beggars and they are generally victims of many prejudices and stereotypes. Within the general distribution of answers,

this relationship is approved by 10% of interviewees, while 7% of them do not know. (Table: General Distribution, Question no.34)

### Question 34

**Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and Roma?**

|   |                   | Frequency   | %          |
|---|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes               | 116         | 9,7        |
| 2 | No                | 1000        | 83,5       |
| 3 | Do not know       | 81          | 6,8        |
| 4 | <b>In general</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



There are small statistical differences. Above the average differences appear within the negative modality among citizens in the Pelagonija region (97%), Albanians (95%), citizens in the North-East region, housewives (92%) and citizens in the Polog region (90%). Highest positive deviations on the willingness to accept this relation is present among citizens in the South-East region (27%), while the rejection among them is on the lowest level (54%).

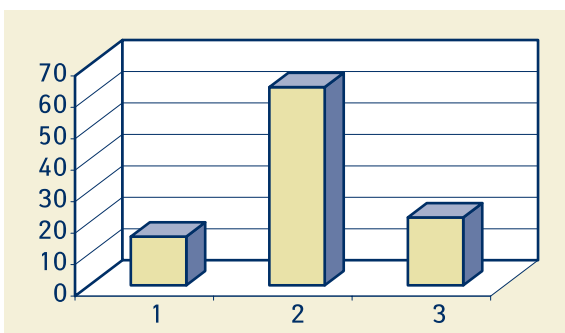
Following is the elaboration of answers obtained on the question: **“Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and a physically**

**disabled person?”** This relation **was not approved by 63% of interviewees**. At the same time, it was approved by 16%, and there is high percentage of those who said that they do not know (22%). On this question we obtained the lowest negative social distance from the social groups researched and concerning the approval of marriage. However, it has already been mentioned that this is a matter of a family group's inclusiveness, expressed as a high form of intimate communication which is influenced by the relatives and the community. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 35)

### Question 35

**Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and a physically disabled person?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 185         | 15,5       |
| 2 | No           | 754         | 63         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 258         | 21,6       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Small statistical deviations appear with several independent variables. Greatest deviations were noticed in regard to regional distribution of answers. Namely, above average (63%) deviations were noticed among negative answers obtained from interviewees at the age 41-50 years (71%),

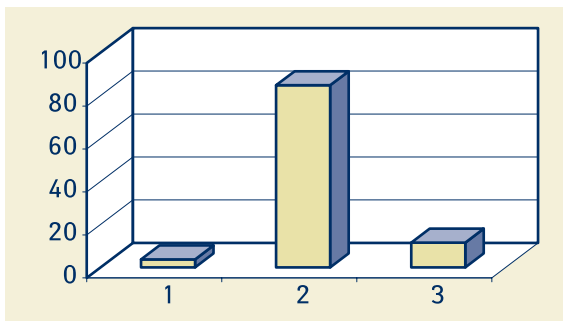
while lower negative attitude was expressed by high-school and university students (51%), people with completed college/high education (55%), pensioners (56%) and housewives (58%). In terms of the regional distribution, higher rejection of marriages with physically disabled persons was expressed by citizens in the North-East region (80%), in the South-West region (78%), citizens in the Pelagonija region (77%) and in the East region (74%). Citizens in the Vardar region (43%) and South-East region (52%) provided less frequent negative answers.

Following results were obtained on the question: **“Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and an intellectually disabled person?”** This relation **was not approved by 85% of interviewees**, indicating the existence of high negative social distance in the hypothetical relation. Although it might appear odd to assess such distance, as many of the members of this group are neither physically nor intellectually capable of being married, our intention was to identify the deviation of these shares compared to shares obtained on questions indicating other marginalized groups. In essence, we assessed the hypothetical attitude within the general inclusiveness of the society. It must be mentioned, that the target group indicated in this question is – in general - financially dependent and supported group. The percentage obtained was surprising, as it was not as extreme as the one obtained in relation to other groups, which will be seen in answers obtained on the following questions. In the general distribution, this relation was approved by only 4%, while 12% of interviewees stated they do not know. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 36)

**Question 36**

**Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and an intellectually disabled person?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 44          | 3,7        |
| 2 | No           | 1015        | 84,8       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 138         | 11,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Small statistical deviations were noticed. Above the average deviations concerning the disapproval of such marriage were indicated by citizens in the North-East region (100%), South-West region (97%), people with completed primary education and Albanians (90%) and employees in the public sector (89%). Lower disapproval was indicated by citizens in the Vardar region (74%) and South-East region (69%).

On the question: **“Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and a drug addict?”** following are the results obtained. This relation **was not approved by 96% of interviewees**, indicating high negative social distance toward this social group. Some of the reasons behind this high percentage can be explained by citizens’ perceptions and attitudes, who generally feel that drug addicts are a high-risk social group. Out of all assessed distances and social groups,

this was the highest distance obtained. It is obvious that **when it comes to marriage, this social group is the object of highest degree of disapproval**. From all data presented thus far, **disapproval of this social group was noticed in regard to all assessed social distance categories**.

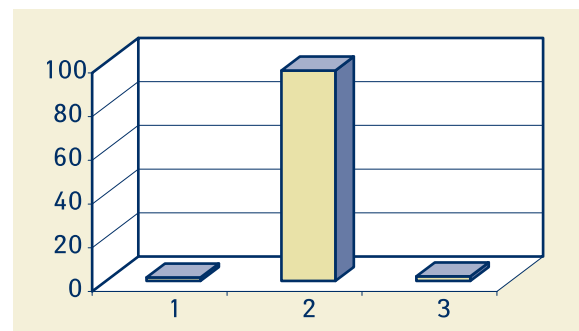
In the general distribution of answers, this relationship was approved by only 2%, while “do not know” answers were provided by 2% as well.

(Table: General Distribution, Question no. 37)

**Question 37**

**Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and a drug addict?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 19          | 1,6        |
| 2 | No           | 1153        | 96,3       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 25          | 2,1        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



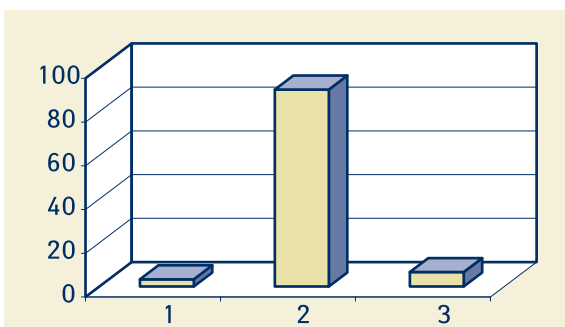
Only several statistical deviations were noticed. Deviations above the average on the disapproval of such relation were provided by housewives, citizens in the Pelagonija and the North-East regions (100%), as well as 99% of interviewees with completed primary education. The lowest negative attitude was provided by citizens in the Vardar region (91%).

Following is the elaboration of answers obtained on the question: **“Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and an alcohol addict?”** **90% of interviewees** stated that they disapprove such relations. This indicates a relatively high negative social distance toward this social group. It can be assumed that such general disapproval is due to the belief that members of this group are often asocial personalities, people who find it very difficult to control themselves in normal social contexts, but also characterized with aggressive behaviour, as compared to other social actors. Another reason could be the association of alcoholism with other negative social phenomena. The disapproval and negative social distance were – actually – expected. In the general distribution of answers, this relation was approved by only 3% of interviewees, while 7% of them provided “do not know” answers. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 38)

### Question 38

**Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and an alcohol addict?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 39          | 3,3        |
| 2 | No           | 1079        | 90,1       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 79          | 6,6        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



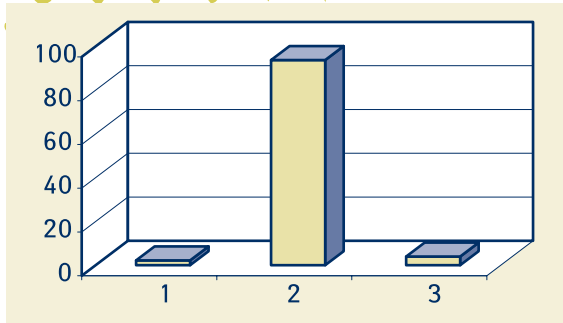
Several statistical deviations appear. Above the average deviations within the disapproval of such relation appear among citizens in the Pelagonija region (98%) and in the South-West region (96%). Lower negative attitude toward this social group was indicated by housewives (81%), citizens in the Skopje region (85%), high-school/university students and citizens in the Vardar region (86%).

Answers mainly indicating disapproval were obtained on the question: **“Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and a person having same-sex relations?”** This relation **was not approved by 94% of interviewees**. Only 2% of them have positive attitude, while 4% do not know. Such results indicate a very high level of negative social distance, which is only slightly lower than the one manifested towards drug addicts. This also proves the extremely negative attitude and disapproval of marriages with members of this social group. It must be mentioned that this negative attitude towards the group is also based on the supposed sexual orientation of this group’s partners. From the aspect of personal experiences, the conservative social context and existing ethics, the percentage obtained does not come as a surprise. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 39)

### Question 39

**Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and a person having same-sex relations?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 26          | 2,2        |
| 2 | No           | 1123        | 93,8       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 48          | 4          |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



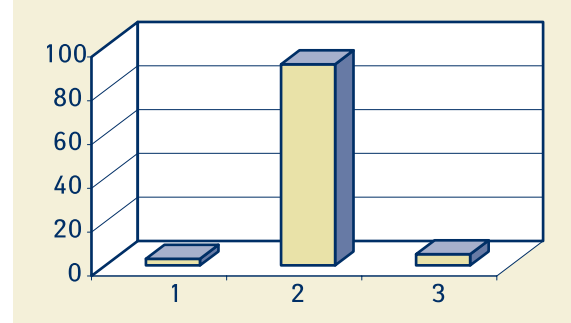
Deviations in answer distribution can be seen only from the regional aspect. Higher values than the average 94% of negative social distance appear among citizens in the North-East region – 100%, the population in the East region – 98% and the population in the South-West region – 97%.

Following are the answers obtained on the question: **“Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and a person engaged in prostitution?”** This relationship was **not approved by 92% of interviewees**; 3% of them approve it and 5% of them do not know. This is a matter of another high-risk social group imposing major challenges by means of its lifestyle. It has been often associated with several socio-pathological phenomena in the society. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 40)

#### Question 40

**Would you marry or approve a marriage between a member of your family and a sex worker?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 36          | 3          |
| 2 | No           | 1100        | 91,9       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 61          | 5,1        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



There are only regional deviations on this question's answer distribution. Above the average frequencies (92%) within the negative answer modality were provided by citizens in the North-East and Pelagonija regions (100%), as well as by citizens in the Polog region (96%).

**Following are the summarized results on the willingness to marry members of various marginalized social groups:**

#### Would you marry:

|                                  | Yes | No  | Do not know |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------|
| Drug addict                      | 2%  | 96% | 2%          |
| Person having same-sex relations | 2%  | 94% | 4%          |
| Person engaged in prostitution   | 3%  | 92% | 5%          |
| Alcohol addict                   | 3%  | 90% | 7%          |
| Intellectually disabled person   | 4%  | 85% | 12%         |
| Roma                             | 10% | 84% | 7%          |
| Physically disabled person       | 16% | 63% | 22%         |

The negative social distance is dominant within all answers obtained on this set of questions. This set of questions implied the most intimate hypothetical relation between the groups, as it concerns marriage and close kin relations. Results obtained were expected, except for certain social groups, where the negative social distance is slightly higher in comparison to other social distance



degrees recorded towards the same group. Therefore, the analysis of social distance towards people having same-sex relations and people engaged in prostitution must take into consideration the effects of social ethical values and the actual social context as factors.

**Results obtained form a continuum of negative social distance which, at the same time, can be divided into three groups: the first is comprised of drug addicts (96%), people having same-sex relations (94%), people engaged in prostitution (92%) and alcohol addicts (94%); the second one encompasses people with intellectual disabilities (85%) and Roma (84%); while people with physical disabilities comprise the third group (63%).** Some of the explanations regarding the reasons behind obtained results have been analyzed in the elaborations provided on the previous sets of questions.

## Public Office

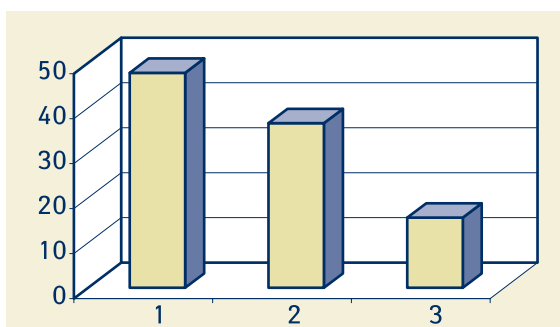
The following six questions assess the social distance in a more-neutral relation and concern the fact whether the interviewed population would vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is member of a marginalized social group. As such questions do not imply close relations - lower negative social distance results were expected. Following are the results.

On the question **“Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is Roma?”** positive answers were obtained from **48% of interviewees**. Negative answers are still relatively high and account for 37%, while indecisive answers account for 16%. When it comes to Roma, results contain positive values on certain social distance categories. This is another example for that. This analysis must acknowledge the positive attitude of interviewees concerning multiculturalism and Roma as an ethnic community and integral part of our multicultural living. Nevertheless, the focus of the research is different. It primarily addresses the inclusiveness of our society. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 41)

### Question 41

**Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is Roma?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 572         | 47,8       |
| 2 | No           | 438         | 36,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 187         | 15,6       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



There are small statistical deviations on many independent variables. Above the average (48%) deviations appear within the pool of positive answers provided by citizens in the Pelagonija region (70%), in the South-East region (63%) and in Skopje (61%), and answers provided by pensioners (59%), Macedonians (58%), unemployed (55%), urban population (54%) and interviewees at the age of 50-65 years (53%). Most frequent negative answers were obtained from Albanians (15%), housewives (13%), citizens in the North-East region (25%) and in the Polog region (27%).

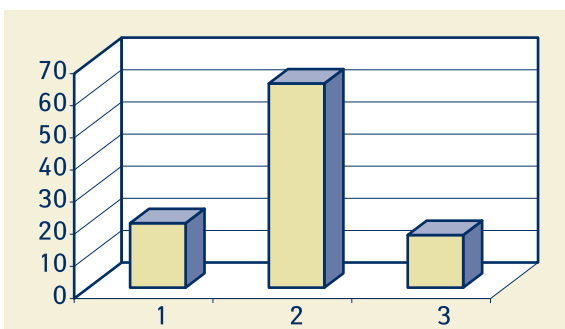
Results obtained on the question **“Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is a person having same-sex relations?”** were easy to predict. Namely,

**only 20% of citizens would vote for** them when running for a MP or other public office, **while 64% of citizens would not vote for them.** 16% of interviewees do not know whether they would vote or not. This is a relatively high negative social distance for such a hypothetical relation of political representation. Probably, in a society such as ours, social pluralism is still conservative featured. It would be quite interesting to re-assess this social distance upon the expiration of a particular time period. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 42)

#### Question 42

**Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is person having same-sex relations?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 240         | 20,1       |
| 2 | No           | 761         | 63,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 196         | 16,4       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Several statistical deviations appear on many independent variables. Within the negative answer, above the average (64%) deviations were noticed among citizens in the East region (86%), North-East region (75%), pensioners and citizens in the Vardar region (71%) and employees in the private sector (69%). Most frequent positive answers were

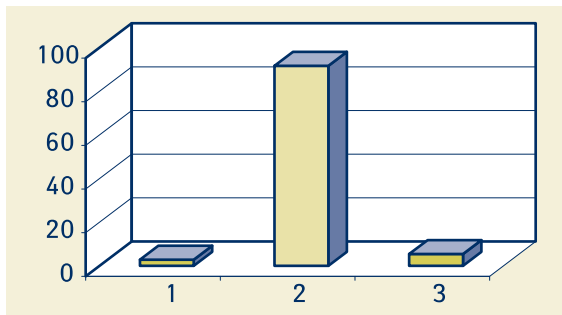
provided by citizens in Skopje (41%), citizens in the Skopje region (32%), high school and university students (31%), population at the age of 26-30 years (26%), Macedonians and the population at the age of 18-25 years (25%), as well as employees in the public sector (24%).

On the question **“Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is drug user?”** results obtained correspond with the negative attitude toward this category of citizens on all social distance modalities. Namely, 92% of interviewees **would not vote for drug users.** Only 3% would vote for them, while the remaining 5% are undecided. In comparison to other social groups, results show that this social distance modality affects drug users the most. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 43).

#### Question 43

**Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is drug or narcotics user?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 34          | 2,8        |
| 2 | No           | 1098        | 91,7       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 65          | 5,4        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Deviations appear only within negative answers and among citizens in the East and North-East regions (99%), while there are

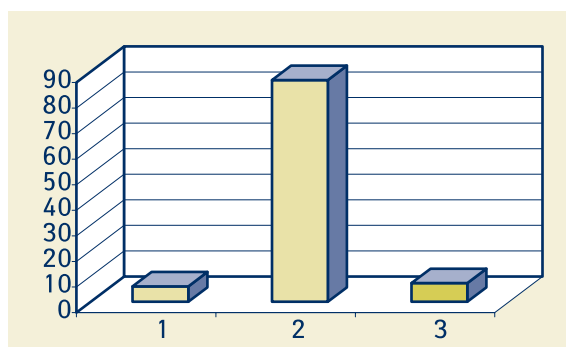
no significant statistical deviations on other independent variables.

On the question “**Would you vote for a MP or other office candidate who is alcohol addict?**” negative answers were provided by **87% of interviewees**. Only 6% provided positive answers, and 7% stated “do not know”. There is an extreme negative attitude toward this social group as well. In comparison to other social groups, together with the drug users, this one is the most undesirable and characterized by extreme negative preferences in all social distance modalities. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 44)

#### Question 44

**Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is alcohol addict?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 72          | 6          |
| 2 | No           | 1038        | 86,7       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 87          | 7,3        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Deviations within the negative attitude appear only among citizens in the North-East region (99%) and citizens in the East region (94%). Lower negative attitude toward this group appears among citizens in the Skopje region (80%) and population at the age of 18-25

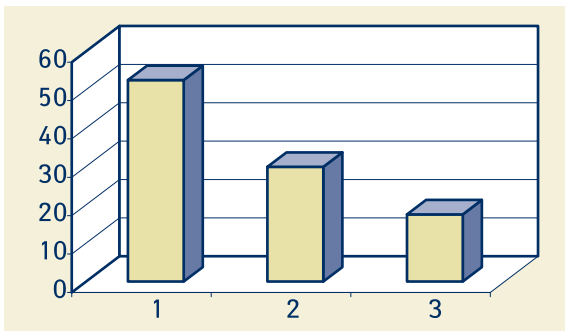
years (82%). Other independent variables do not show statistical deviations from the general distribution.

Results obtained on the question “**Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is a physically disabled person?**” were predictable. Namely, **high 53% of interviewees would vote** for these people if they are MP or other public office candidates. The negative answers account for a relatively high share of 30%, while undecided answers account for 18%. The attitude towards physically disabled persons, similarly to the situation with Roma, shows positive values on certain social distance modalities. This is another example of that. In this analysis, the already indicated societal awareness for this category of citizens should be taken into account as a factor, as their problems have been discussed in public, but also because there are various programs and activities, such as, for instance, the Special Olympic Games. There are examples of people in chairs attempting to undertake courageous actions, hence gaining the public’s sympathy and support. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 45)

#### Question 45

**Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is physically disabled?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 629         | 52,5       |
| 2 | No           | 358         | 29,9       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 210         | 17,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



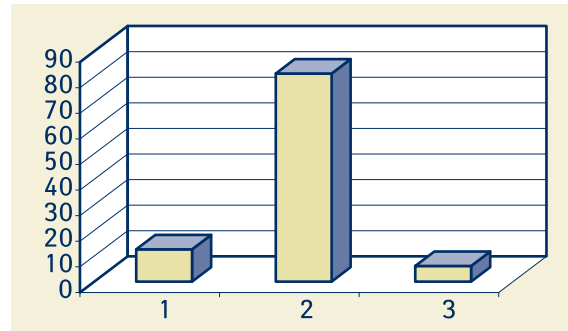
Small statistical deviations appear on several independent variables. In the pool of positive answers, deviations above the average (53%) appear among citizens in the Pelagonija region (67%), people with completed college/higher education (63%) and urban population and employees in the public sector (60%). Negative attitude towards these persons were more frequent among citizens in the North-east region (52%), people with completed primary education and the rural population (37%).

On the question **“Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is engaged in prostitution?”** 81% of interviewees provided negative answers. If we take into account previously elaborated factors, this negative social distance is not surprising. This is a high-risk social group, which - due to its lifestyle - is often related to other socio-pathological phenomena. 13% of interviewees would vote for them, while 6% do not know. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 46)

#### Question 46

**Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is engaged in prostitution?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 151         | 12,6       |
| 2 | No           | 973         | 81,3       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 73          | 6,1        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Small statistical differences were noticed on this question. Higher share from the average 81% of negative answers appear among citizens in the North-East region (100%), Albanians (93%), citizens in the Polog region (92%), housewives (91%), citizens in the East region (90%), rural population and citizens in the South-West region (89%).

**Following are the summarized results concerning the vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is a member of different social group.**

#### Would you vote for a MP or other public office candidate who is:

|                                  | Yes | No  | Do not now |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Drug user                        | 3%  | 92% | 5%         |
| Alcohol addict                   | 6%  | 87% | 7%         |
| Person engaged in prostitution   | 13% | 81% | 6%         |
| Person having same-sex relations | 20% | 64% | 16%        |
| Roma                             | 47% | 37% | 16%        |
| Physically disabled person       | 53% | 30% | 18%        |

The highest negative social distance when coming to the issue of voting for a MP or other public office candidate were noticed towards drug users (92%), followed by alcohol addicts (87%), persons engaged in prostitution (81%), while slightly smaller

negative social distance was recorded in regard to persons having same-sex relations.

Positive social distance in regard to the willingness to vote was recorded towards physically disabled persons (53%) and Roma (47%).

## Discrimination Areas

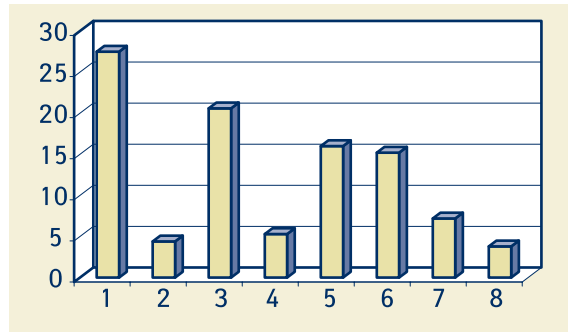
On the issue which of these groups has been discriminated *the most* in the exercise of their rights in particular *areas*, the following answer distribution was observed:

When coming to the issue of **exercising health rights and services**, more than one quarter of interviewees (27.5%) believe Roma is the most discriminated group, followed by drug and narcotic users (21%), physically disabled persons (16%), intellectually disabled persons (15%), sex workers (7%), alcohol addicts (5%) and people having same-sex relations (4%). Approximately 4% of interviewees did not provide answers on this question. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 47).

### Question 47

**Which of the following groups is discriminated the most when exercising its health rights and services?**

|   |                                  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Roma                             | 329         | 27,5       |
| 2 | People having same-sex relations | 53          | 4,4        |
| 3 | Drug and narcotic users          | 247         | 20,6       |
| 4 | Alcohol addicts                  | 63          | 5,3        |
| 5 | Physically disabled persons      | 192         | 16         |
| 6 | Intellectually disabled persons  | 182         | 15,2       |
| 7 | Sex workers                      | 86          | 7,2        |
| 8 | No answer                        | 45          | 3,8        |
| 9 | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



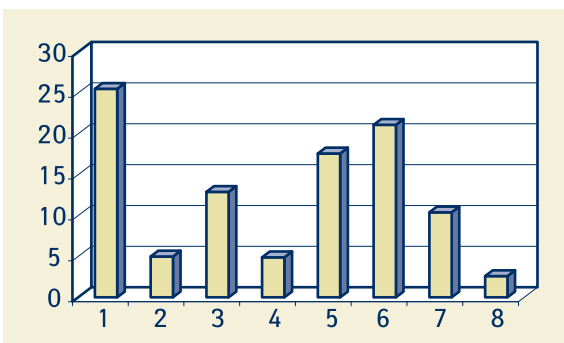
Deviations from the general average were identified among interviewed ethnic Albanians and in regard to drug and narcotic users (27%) and sex workers (12%). On the other hand, Turks (38%) and Roma (36%) have higher than average shares in the believe that Roma are discriminated the most, just as the young generation at the age of 18-25 years (38%) and high school and university students (36%). Housewives (30%), people without completed primary education (33%) and citizens in Skopje (28%) provided more frequent answers stating that drug and narcotic users are discriminated the most. From the regional aspect, Roma were the most frequent answer provided in the North-East region (35%), while drug and narcotics users in the Skopje region (29%) and in the South-East region (28%). Alcohol addicts were frequently identified in the answers provided by citizens in the North-West region (13%) and in Vardar region (11%). Citizens in the South-East region list physically disabled persons are being discriminated the most (23%), while the interviewees in the Pelagonija region indicated the intellectually disabled persons (23%). Finally, citizens in the South-West region believe that in the course of utilizing health services sex workers are discriminated the most (13%).

**When exercising social rights and services**, again, the group indicated as the most discriminated one were Roma (25%), followed by intellectually disabled persons (21%), physically disabled persons (18%), drug and narcotic users (13%), sex workers (10%), people having same-sex relations (5%) and alcohol addicts (5%). (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 48)

#### Question 48

**Which of the following groups is discriminated the most when exercising its social rights and services?**

|   |                                  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Roma                             | 305         | 25,5       |
| 2 | People having same-sex relations | 60          | 5          |
| 3 | Drug and narcotics users         | 154         | 12,9       |
| 4 | Alcohol addicts                  | 59          | 4,9        |
| 5 | Physically disabled persons      | 211         | 17,6       |
| 6 | Intellectually disabled persons  | 253         | 21,1       |
| 7 | Sex workers                      | 124         | 10,4       |
| 8 | No answer                        | 31          | 2,6        |
| 9 | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Discrepancies from the general average obtained were noticed among following population sub-categories: interviewed ethnic Albanians believe that when exercising social rights most discriminated are people

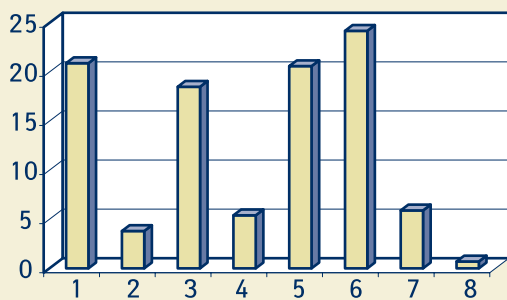
having same-sex relations (11%) and sex workers (18%). Ethnic Turks (45%) and Roma (51%) believe that Roma are the most discriminated group. Such answers were provided by people at the age of 18-25 years (32%) and at the age above 65 years (33%). Housewives (21%), agricultural workers (26%), people without completed primary education (33%) and citizens in the North-East region (23%) emphasize the discrimination against drug and narcotic users. On the other hand, people having same-sex relations are frequently indicated in the answers provided by interviewees with completed primary education (10%), while Roma (31%) and alcohol addicts (12%) are reiterated as discriminated groups by citizens in the North-East region. Roma appear as the most frequent answer among citizens in the South-West region (47%), while intellectually disabled persons are the most frequent answer provided in the Polog region (30%). In regard to **employment**, citizens believe that most discriminated are intellectually disabled persons (24%), followed by Roma and physically disabled persons (21% for both groups), drug and narcotic users (19%), sex workers (6%) and finally people having same-sex relations (4%). (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 49).



**Question 49**

Which of the following groups is discriminated the most in regard to employment?

|   |                                  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Roma                             | 250         | 20,9       |
| 2 | People having same-sex relations | 45          | 3,8        |
| 3 | Drug and narcotics users         | 221         | 18,5       |
| 4 | Alcohol addicts                  | 65          | 5,4        |
| 5 | Physically disabled persons      | 247         | 20,6       |
| 6 | Intellectually disabled persons  | 290         | 24,2       |
| 7 | Sex workers                      | 71          | 5,9        |
| 8 | No answer                        | 8           | 0,7        |
| 9 | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Discrimination in employment was marked by above average differences when it comes to Roma and among following interviewee categories: ethnic Turks (40%), Roma (49%), urban population (27%) and citizens in the South-West (29%) and Pelagonija region (41%). Population groups believing that sex workers are discriminated in employment are: ethnic Albanians (11%), pensioners (18%), and citizens in the North-East (10%) and in the Vardar region (10%). Drug and narcotic users were frequently mentioned among citizens in Skopje (27%), while intellectually disabled persons were identified by interviewees with completed higher education (27%) and citizens in the South-East region (32%). In the Vardar region, most

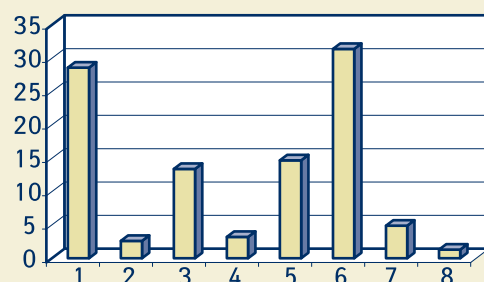
frequent answers were obtained in regard to discrimination against people having same-sex relations (15%) and alcohol addicts (14%).

In the domain of **education**, interviewees believe that most discriminated are intellectually disabled persons (31%) and Roma (29%), followed by physically disabled persons (15%), drug and narcotic users (13%), sex workers (5%) and finally people having same-sex relations (3%) and alcohol addicts (3%). (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 50)

**Question 50**

Which of the following groups is discriminated the most in regard to education?

|   |                                  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Roma                             | 342         | 28,6       |
| 2 | People having same-sex relations | 31          | 2,6        |
| 3 | Drug and narcotics users         | 160         | 13,4       |
| 4 | Alcohol addicts                  | 38          | 3,2        |
| 5 | Physically disabled persons      | 176         | 14,7       |
| 6 | Intellectually disabled persons  | 376         | 31,4       |
| 7 | Sex workers                      | 59          | 4,9        |
| 8 | No answer                        | 15          | 1,3        |
| 9 | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Roma were reiterated as the most discriminated category in the education

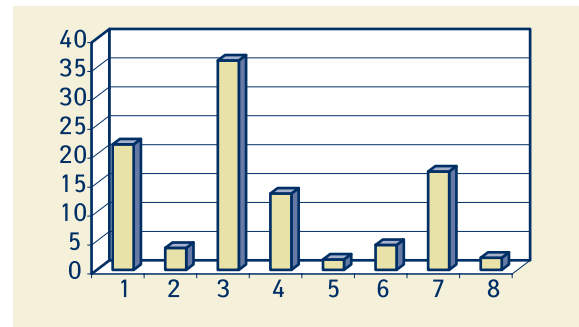
process by following population sub-groups: ethnic Turks (38%), Roma (58%), urban population (34%) and citizens in the South-East and Pelagonija regions (40%). Intellectually disabled persons were more frequently mentioned by ethnic Albanians (39%) and citizens in the Polog region (59%), while physically disabled persons by citizens in Skopje (24%). Drug and narcotic users were more frequently mentioned in the answers provided by housewives (21%), while people having same-sex relations in the answers provided by interviewees in the Vardar region (10%).

From the aspect of discrimination in **police treatment**, more than one-third of interviewees believe that most discriminated are drug and narcotic users (36%). They are followed by Roma (22%), sex workers (17%), and alcohol addicts (13%), while discrimination against intellectually disabled persons was assessed as quite lower (4%), along with people having same-sex relations (4%) and physically disabled persons (2%). (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 51)

### Question 51

**Which of the following groups is discriminated the most in regard to police treatment?**

|   |                                  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Roma                             | 260         | 21,7       |
| 2 | People having same-sex relations | 45          | 3,8        |
| 3 | Drug and narcotics users         | 433         | 36,2       |
| 4 | Alcohol addicts                  | 158         | 13,2       |
| 5 | Physically disabled persons      | 22          | 1,8        |
| 6 | Intellectually disabled persons  | 51          | 4,3        |
| 7 | Sex workers                      | 203         | 17         |
| 8 | No answer                        | 25          | 2,1        |
| 9 | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



According to frequencies appearing among interviewee subgroups, it is evident that Roma are reiterated as being discriminated in the answers provided by ethnic Turks (38%), Roma (39%) and citizens in the South-East (35%), the South-West (38%) and the Pelagonija regions (31%). On the other hand, drug and narcotic users were frequently mentioned by groups at the age above 65 years (43%), citizens in Skopje (43%) and the Pelagonija region (42%). Alcohol addicts were mentioned as frequently discriminated by ethnic Roma (42%), as well as by citizens in the North-East region (26%) and in the Vardar region (20%). Discrimination of sex workers was indicated by ethnic Albanians (27%) and citizens in the Polog region (26%). People having same-sex relations were frequently mentioned in the answers of citizens in the Vardar region (9%) and in the South-West region (8%).

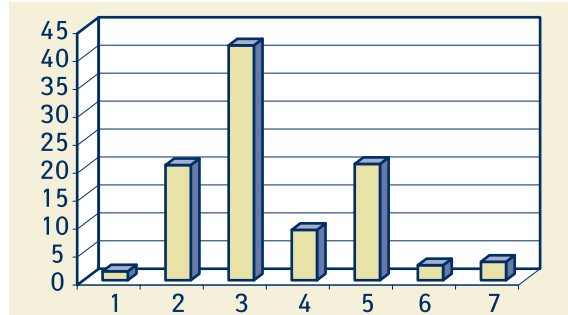
## Public treatment of target groups

When testing population's position on the question **"Which of the following groups endangers the moral and family values the most?"**, we obtained the following answer distribution: majority of interviewees answered drug and narcotic users (42%), followed by equal shares of answers indicating sex workers (21%) and people having same-sex relations (21%), alcohol addicts (9%) and "nobody" (3%), or "no answer" (4%). (Table: General Distribution: Question no. 52)

### Question 52

**Which of the following groups endangers the moral and family values the most?**

|   |                                  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Others                           | 19          | 1,6        |
| 2 | People having same-sex relations | 247         | 20,6       |
| 3 | Drug and narcotic users          | 503         | 42         |
| 4 | Alcohol addicts                  | 108         | 9          |
| 5 | Sex workers                      | 249         | 20,8       |
| 6 | Nobody                           | 32          | 2,7        |
| 7 | No answer                        | 39          | 3,3        |
| 8 | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



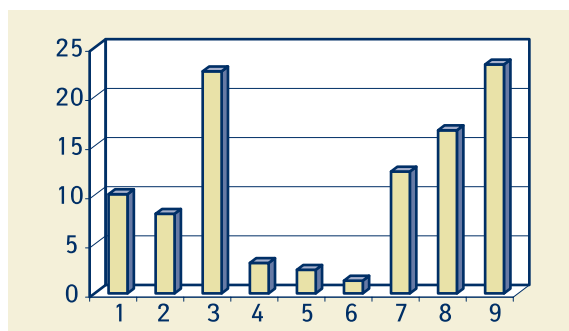
Sex workers were emphasized as "endangering moral and family values the most" among the population at the age above 65 years (28%), ethnic Albanians (34%), housewives (30%), people with completed primary education (30%) and citizens in the Polog region (41%). Other groups with above-average answers in terms of "endangering moral and family values" are people having same-sex relations – in the North-East region (57%) and drug and narcotic users - in the South-West region (57%). Remaining results do not show significant deviations from the average values.

Interviewees' impression is that **media provide the worst (in the sense of prejudices or inappropriate presentation) coverage** of drug and narcotic users (23%), followed by Roma (10%), people having same-sex relations (8%), alcohol addicts (3%) and intellectually (3%) and physically disabled persons (1%). On the other hand, 17% of interviewees believe that media provide poor coverage of all categories, while 23% of the respondents did not have an answer on this question. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 53)

**Question 53**

Which of the following groups is covered the worst by the media?

|    |                                  | Frequency   | %          |
|----|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1  | Roma                             | 121         | 10,1       |
| 2  | People having same-sex relations | 97          | 8,1        |
| 3  | Drug and narcotic users          | 270         | 22,6       |
| 4  | Alcohol addicts                  | 37          | 3,1        |
| 5  | Intellectually disabled persons  | 29          | 2,4        |
| 6  | Physically disabled persons      | 16          | 1,3        |
| 7  | Sex workers                      | 149         | 12,4       |
| 8  | Nobody                           | 199         | 16,6       |
| 9  | do not know                      | 279         | 23,3       |
| 10 | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Above average frequencies of answers appear from the aspect of their regional distribution throughout the Republic of Macedonia. In particular, citizens in the South-East (31%), East (32%) and in the North-East (38%) regions believe that media provide worst information on drug and narcotic users. At the same time, slightly higher share of answers provided by citizens in the North-East region indicate alcohol addicts (11%) and physically disabled persons (6%). Respondents from the Pelagonija region (24%) and East region (31%) provided frequent answers indicating media do not provide bad coverage for any of the target groups, while majority of citizens in the Vardar region stated that they do not have

an answer on this question ("do not know" – 44%).

### Degree of satisfaction with state institutions' care for particular social groups

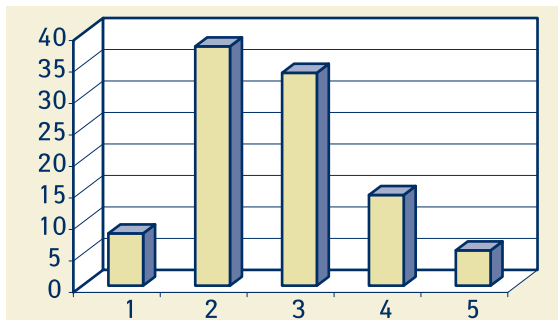
The following section provides comments on the question **whether competent institutions in Macedonia provide sufficient care** for each of the indicated groups.

When it comes to **Roma**, most of interviewees believe that state institutions do not provide sufficient care (38%) or that they provide little care (34%). Others are of the opinion that the state cares too much (8%) or does not care about them at all (14%), while 6% do not have a position on this question. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 54)

**Question 54**

Do competent institutions in Macedonia care enough for Roma?

|   |                    | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Care too much      | 99          | 8,3        |
| 2 | Care enough        | 455         | 38         |
| 3 | Care very little   | 404         | 33,8       |
| 4 | Do not care at all | 172         | 14,4       |
| 5 | Do not know        | 67          | 5,6        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>       | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



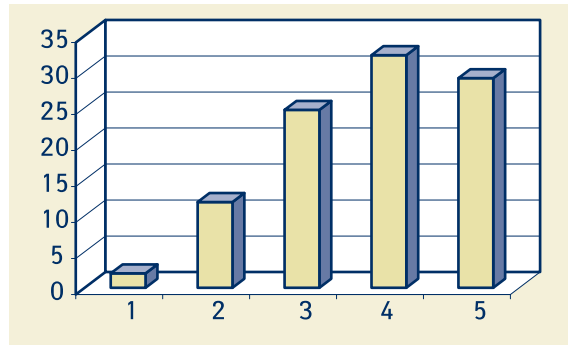
Roma tend to believe that state institutions care enough (36% - within the general average), but also prefer the option that there is no care at all (36%). Categories of citizens that believe there is “too much” care are agricultural workers (14%) and citizens in the East (17%) and the Polog region (14%). Answers indicating that care is sufficient are frequent among employees in the private sector (44%), the urban population (45%) and among citizens in the South-East (46%), East (54%) and Pelagonija (47%) regions. Groups believing that care provided by competent institutions for Roma is non-existent include people without completed primary education (27%) and citizens in the Vardar (30%) and North-East region (29%).

When it comes to **people having same-sex relations**, dominant is the position that state institutions care very little (25%) or do not care at all (32%), while 29% of interviewees do not have a position on this issue. On the other side, a smaller portion of interviewees believes that state cares too much (2%) or provides sufficient care (12%) for this category of citizens. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 55)

### Question 55

**Do competent institutions in Macedonia care enough for people having same-sex relations?**

|   |                    | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Care too much      | 24          | 2          |
| 2 | Care enough        | 142         | 11,9       |
| 3 | Care very little   | 296         | 24,7       |
| 4 | Do not care at all | 387         | 32,3       |
| 5 | Do not know        | 348         | 29,1       |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>       | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



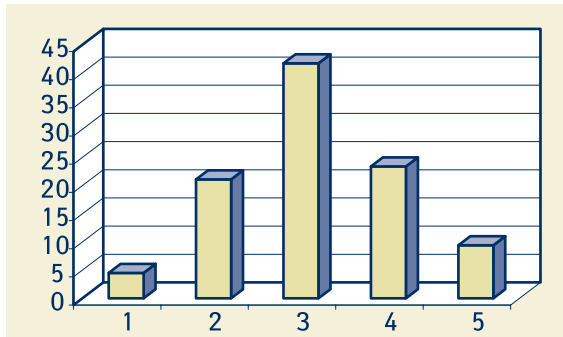
Population subgroups which believe that state competent institutions do not care for this category of citizens are the following: people at the age of 41-50 years (40%), people employed in the public sector (42%) and citizens in the Vardar (40%), North-East (44%) and South-West (42%) region. Contrary to this claim, agricultural workers (23%) and citizens in the South-East region (31%) believe that care is sufficient. The category of interviewees at the age above 65 years (42%), pensioners (37%) and citizens in the Pelagonija (45%) and Polog (41%) regions provided frequent answers indicating that they do not have a position.

As for **drug and narcotic users**, dominant is the position that competent state institutions care very little (42%), while results close to this were obtained on the answer modalities “not at all” (23%) and “sufficient” (21%). Nearly 5% of interviewees believe that the state is providing too much care, while 9% do not have a position on the issue. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 56)

**Question 56**

**Do competent institutions in Macedonia care enough for drug and narcotic users?**

|   |                    | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Care too much      | 54          | 4,5        |
| 2 | Care enough        | 252         | 21,1       |
| 3 | Care very little   | 499         | 41,7       |
| 4 | Do not care at all | 280         | 23,4       |
| 5 | Do not know        | 112         | 9,4        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>       | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Interviewees from the South-East (44%) and East (51%) regions more frequently believe that the state is doing enough for drug and narcotic users. On the other hand, employees in the civil sector (65%) and citizens in the South-West (60%) and Pelagonija (61%) regions emphasized the belief that state is doing very little for these people. Housewives (32%) and ethnic Albanians (36%) provided above average answers indicating that the state does not care about this group of people at all.

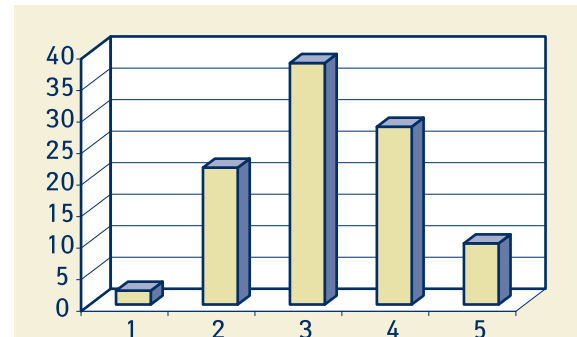
Answers provided in regard to **alcohol addicts** show results similar to the ones presented on the previous question. Around 38% of them believe that care is scarce, 28% - there is no care at all, while 22% believe it to be sufficient. Two percents (2%) of citizens said that care for alcohol addicts is more than sufficient, while 10% do not have a position on this issue. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 57)

How Inclusive Is the Macedonian Society

**Question 57**

**Do competent state institutions in Macedonia care enough for alcohol addicts?**

|   |                    | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Care too much      | 26          | 2,2        |
| 2 | Care enough        | 260         | 21,7       |
| 3 | Care very little   | 458         | 38,3       |
| 4 | Do not care at all | 337         | 28,2       |
| 5 | Do not know        | 116         | 9,7        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>       | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



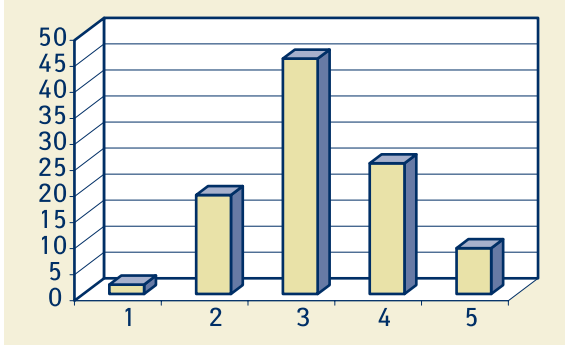
Interviewees' subcategories believing that state institutions do not care at all about alcohol addicts are the following: ethnic Albanians (41%), people with completed primary education (38%), and citizens in the North-East (35%), Vardar (43%) and South-West (37%) regions. Those believing that little is done for this category are the employees in the civil sector (55%) and citizens in the South-West (49%) and Pelagonija (52%) regions. The belief that the state does enough for alcohol addicts is predominant among citizens in the South-East (44%) and East (40%) regions.

Interviewed citizens believe that state institutions provide little (45%) or no care (28%) for **intellectually disabled persons**. Nearly 2% believe that such care is more than sufficient or sufficient (19%). Around 9% of interviewees do not have a position on this issue. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 58)

### Question 58

Do competent state institutions in Macedonia care enough for intellectually disabled persons?

|   |                    | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Care too much      | 22          | 1,8        |
| 2 | Care enough        | 228         | 19         |
| 3 | Care very little   | 541         | 45,2       |
| 4 | Do not care at all | 301         | 25,1       |
| 5 | Do not know        | 105         | 8,8        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>       | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



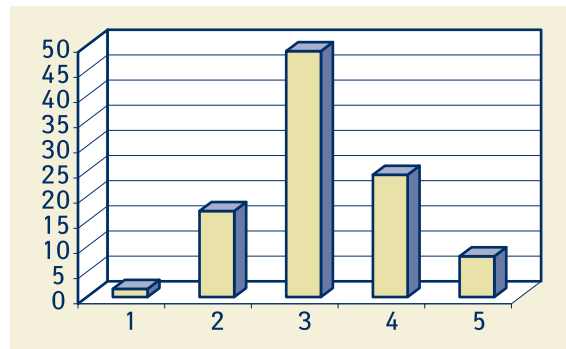
Frequent answers indicating low level of care for intellectually disabled persons were provided by the urban population (52%) and citizens in the Pelagonija (73%) and South-East (56%) regions. Population groups believing that there is no care at all are ethnic Albanians (37%), and citizens in the Polog (42%) and Vardar (36%) regions. On the contrary, categories believing that state care is sufficient were the following: people at the age above 65 years (32%), agricultural workers (31%) and citizens in the North-East (32%) and South-East (39%) regions. Similarly to the previous trend, the most dominant position on the next question was that state institutions are doing little (49%) or are not providing care at all (24%) for **physically disabled persons**. Significantly low portion of answers indicated that that the state has done more than enough (2%) or enough (17%) for this category of citizens.

Around 8% of interviewees did not have a position on this issue. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 59).

### Question 59

Do competent state institutions in Macedonia care enough for physically disabled persons?

|   |                    | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Care too much      | 19          | 1,6        |
| 2 | Care enough        | 205         | 17,1       |
| 3 | Care very little   | 585         | 48,9       |
| 4 | Do not care at all | 291         | 24,3       |
| 5 | Do not know        | 97          | 8,1        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>       | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Trends identified from the analysis of answers obtained on the previous question repeat with the answers provided for physically disabled persons. Groups with frequent answers indicating that state institutions do not provided sufficient care are the following: ethnic Albanians (34%), people with completed primary education (34%), and citizens in the Vardar (40%) and Polog (35%) regions. Citizens in the South-West (69%) and Pelagonija (68%) regions believe that care is scarce, but the population in the South-East region of the state (32%) believes that care is sufficient.

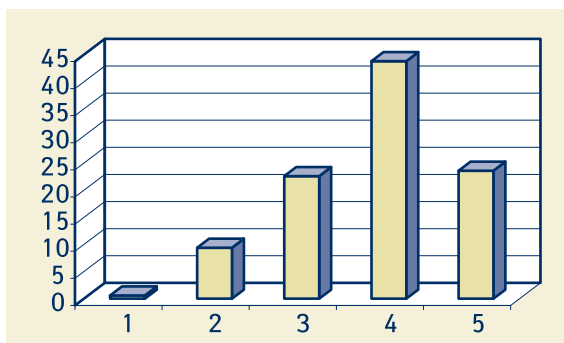
As for **sex workers**, citizens generally believe that competent state institutions

do little (23%) or nothing at all (44%). One quarter of interviewees (24%) do not have a position on this question, while 9% believe that competent institutions are doing enough or even too much for them. (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 60)

### Question 60

#### Do competent state institutions in Macedonia care enough for sex workers?

|   |                    | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Care too much      | 7           | 0,6        |
| 2 | Care enough        | 112         | 9,4        |
| 3 | Care very little   | 271         | 22,6       |
| 4 | Do not care at all | 524         | 43,8       |
| 5 | Do not know        | 283         | 23,6       |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>       | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



The opinion that state institutions do not provide care for sex workers appears more frequently than the average among ethnic Albanians (54%) and citizens in the Skopje (62%), Vardar (54%) and South-West (54%) regions. Answers indicating “sufficient care” (21%) and “little care” (35%) are dominant in the answers provided by citizens in the South-East region. The distribution of answers is similar in the East region (“sufficient care” – 23% and “little care” – 36%).

When comparing data obtained for all groups in regard to state institutions’ care, the

following can be inferred: Roma received most answers in the modality “too much” (8%) and “sufficient” (38), around one-fifth of “sufficient” answers were provided for drug users (21%), alcohol addicts (22%) and intellectually disabled persons (19%). Most frequent answers indicating that the state is doing little were provided for physically disabled persons (49%), intellectually disabled persons (45%) and drug users (42%). Sex workers were identified by interviewees as the group which has not been cared by state institutions. (44%).



## Legalization and (non) resolution of problems

### Prostitution

In many countries prostitution is legal i.e., it is legally acknowledged as an activity for providing existence, as many other professions. Such initiative was raised in Macedonia as well, but without any success or change of the situation.

In that sense, it is important to mention that the problem with prostitution in our country is not one-sided. Namely, Macedonia is a country with an extremely high level of human trafficking, especially “white slaves” trafficking. We are no longer transit country, but a country where “white slaves” are recruited as well.

Prostitution in Macedonia is criminalized, and accordingly legalization of prostitution is seen as a solution to reducing human trafficking.

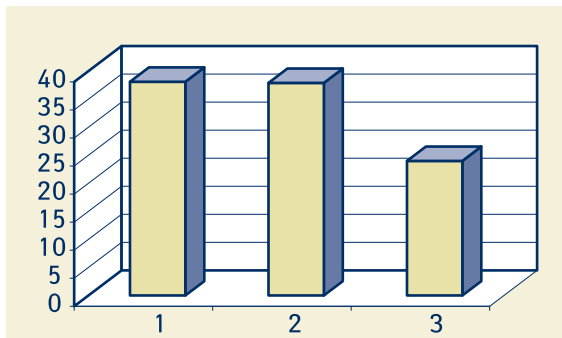
What is the public opinion on this issue, i.e., will legalization of prostitution reduce the problems affecting this group?

According to data obtained, it can be said that **the public is hesitant, meaning there are equal shares of citizens believing that legalization will reduce problems (38%) and of those believing that legalization will not reduce problems faced by this group (38%).** At the same time, **every fourth interviewee (24%) answered that it does not know** whether legalization will result in decreased problems. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 61)

### Question 61

Will legalization of prostitution in Macedonia reduce problems affecting this group?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 456         | 38,1       |
| 2 | No           | 454         | 37,9       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 287         | 24         |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Significant statistical deviations were noticed among interviewed Albanians, where 46% do not see legalization as the solution. Similar frequency of “NO” answers was seen among interviewees without completed primary education (48%), while the largest number of negative answers were obtained in the North-East region (65%). On the other hand, legalization is frequently seen as a solution by interviewed high school and university students (48%), citizens with completed college and higher education (47%), interviewees from Skopje (53%), as well as interviewees from the South-East region (50%).

Largest number of “do not know” answers was obtained from interviewees at the age above 65 years (38%), housewives (40%), interviewees with low level of education (33% and 34%) and interviewees from the South-West region (34%).

## Drug and narcotic addiction

The second focus point was the legalization of soft drugs, as a way of reducing problems affecting drug users. Namely, drug and narcotic addiction is considered to be “fertile soil” for criminal activities, as well as basis for social distance and isolation. To a large extent, this status reduces possibilities on obtaining appropriate treatment and assistance. Experiences from many countries show that legalization of soft drugs, whose addiction effect is similar to the one of tobacco and alcohol, is an opportunity for “legal redistribution of criminal factors and influences”. A precise legal classification would create a social milieu conducive for addicts’ re-socialization.

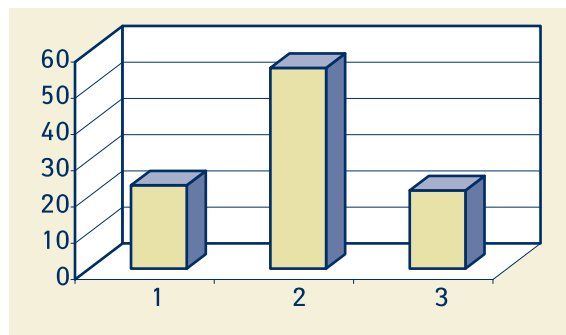
Based on answers obtained, it becomes obvious that interviewees fail to understand the concept of soft drug legalization:

**negative answers are twice as more frequent (55%) compared to the ones in favour of legalization for the purpose of reducing problems (23%). Almost every fifth interviewee (22%) does not know how to assess the effects of soft drugs’ legalization.** (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 62).

### Question 62

**Will legalization of soft drugs reduce the problems affecting drug and narcotic users?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 275         | 23         |
| 2 | No           | 663         | 55,4       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 259         | 21,6       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Highest number of “do not know” answers was provided by: the eldest population (35%), agricultural workers (34%), housewives (38%) and interviewees without completed primary education (43%). On the contrary, the lowest number of “do not know” answers was obtained from employees in the non-governmental sector (5%). Interviewees who provided high number of negative answers were again employees from the non-governmental sector (70%) and citizens in the South-West (71%), East and Vardar (79%) regions.

## Most Responsible for problem solving

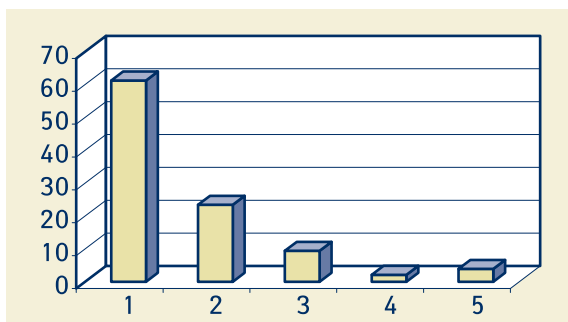
This set of questions was focused on the responsibility for solving problems of marginalized groups.

When talking about **Roma**, state institutions were most often indicated as being the most responsible ones for solving their problems (61%). **The family is the second ranking institution (23%),** responsible for solving problems and needs. **Twice as less (9%) answers indicated the non-governmental organizations** as being the most responsible ones; 4% of interviewees did not identify the most responsible organization, while 2% indicated other organizations. (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 63).

**Question 63**

**Who is most responsible for addressing needs and problems of Roma?**

|   |  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--|-------------|------------|
| 1 | State institutions (social, health care) | 733         | 61,2       |
| 2 | Family                                   | 280         | 23,4       |
| 3 | Civil society organizations              | 112         | 9,4        |
| 4 | Other organizations                      | 25          | 2,1        |
| 5 | Do not know                              | 47          | 3,9        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



It is indicative that among interviewed Roma, 3 out of 4 interviewees (76%) believe state institutions are the most responsible ones, while at the same time the number of those expecting NGOs to solve their problems (12%) is larger than the number of interviewees indicating they expect their families to provide solutions (9%).

In parallel to this, state institutions are most often mentioned as being the most responsible ones by interviewees with low level of education (76%) and by interviewees from the South-West region (80%).

Interviewees from the East region expect the less from state institutions.

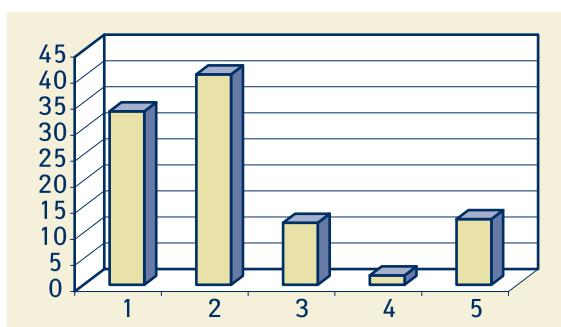
**The family** (40%) was indicated as the most responsible institution for addressing problems and needs of **people having same-sex relations**, followed by **state bodies** (33%), and **NGOs** (12%). **Every**

**tenth interviewee (13%) cannot identify the institution most responsible** for addressing problems affecting this group, while 2% of interviewees listed various other organizations. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 64).

**Question 64**

**Who is most responsible for addressing needs and problems of people having same-sex relations?**

|   |  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--|-------------|------------|
| 1 | State institutions (social, health care) | 399         | 33,3       |
| 2 | Family                                   | 483         | 40,4       |
| 3 | Civil society organizations              | 143         | 11,9       |
| 4 | Other organizations                      | 21          | 1,8        |
| 5 | Do not know                              | 151         | 12,6       |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



“Do not know” answers were most frequently obtained from the eldest age group – above 65 years (30%), i.e., from pensioners (26%), while the interviewees from the Vardar region provided extremely rare answers (2%) indicating that NGOs are the solution to problems faced by this group.

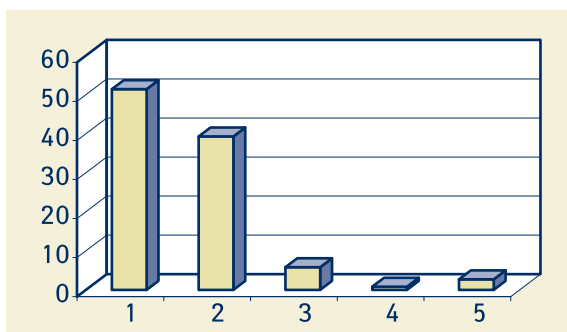
In the case of addressing needs and problems of **narcotic users, state, health care and social organizations were the most frequently indicated ones** – 51%, while

39% of interviewees **indicate the family** as the most responsible institution. Civil society organizations or **NGOs were indicated by only 6% of interviewees**. Only 3% of interviewees provided "do not know" answers and once percent less indicated other organizations. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 65).

### Question 65

Who is most responsible for addressing needs and problems of drug and narcotic users?

|   |  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--|-------------|------------|
| 1 | State institutions (social, health care) | 615         | 51,4       |
| 2 | Family                                   | 471         | 39,3       |
| 3 | Civil society organizations              | 70          | 5,8        |
| 4 | Other organizations                      | 9           | 0,8        |
| 5 | Do not know                              | 32          | 2,7        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



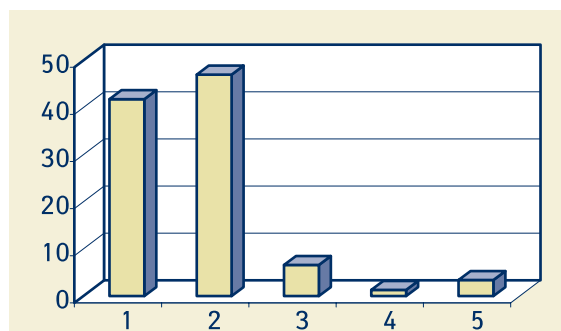
Deviations from this answer distribution were noticed among interviewed Albanians, where an equal number of them indicated state institutions (42%) and the family (43%). Similar opinions were provided by young population group (from 18 to 25 years), where 46% of interviewees indicated the family, and 44% the state; 49% of interviewees from the South-West and Polog regions indicated the family as being the most responsible one, while 38%, and 40%, respectively, indicated state institutions.

The most responsible institution for **addressing problems of alcohol addicts is the family** (47%), followed by **the state** (42%). **7%** of interviewees believe that **NGOs should be the most responsible ones**, 3% stated that they do not know, and only one percent indicated other organizations. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 66)

### Question 66

Who is most responsible for addressing needs and problems of physically and intellectually disabled persons?

|   |  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--|-------------|------------|
| 1 | State institutions (social, health care) | 500         | 41,8       |
| 2 | Family                                   | 562         | 47         |
| 3 | Civil society organizations              | 79          | 6,6        |
| 4 | Other organizations                      | 15          | 1,3        |
| 5 | Do not know                              | 41          | 3,4        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Most convinced in this ranking of institutions is the young population (from 18 to 25 years): 53% of them indicated the family, while 33% state institutions. Opposite position is taken by the elderly population at the age of 50 to 65 years, where 47% of interviewees indicated state institutions, and 39% the family; similar opinions were noticed among interviewees with completed primary education: 44% of them indicated state institutions, while 42% the family. It is

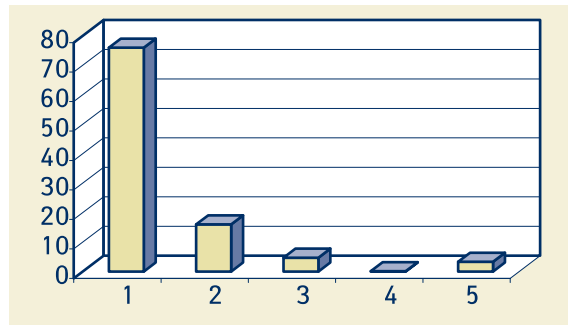
indicative that interviewees from rural areas indicated the family more frequently (48%) in comparison to state institutions (37%), whereas the share difference of answers provided by interviewees residing in urban areas and in Skopje is only one percent. At the same time, significant deviations were identified in the regional distribution of answers, where state institutions (50%) rather than the family were more frequently indicated in the Pelagonija, i.e., North-East and Vardar region (47%), Polog region (55%) and East region (55%), while answers expecting the family to assume greater responsibility were predominant in the answers obtained from citizens in the South-West region (53%).

Indisputably, **most of interviewees (76%)** answered that **state institutions** should be the **most responsible ones for addressing needs of physically and intellectually disabled persons. 16% locate the responsibility with the family, while 5% with the NGOs.** Only 3% did not know which institution should be most responsible and one percent less indicated other institutions. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 67)

#### Question 67

**Who is most responsible for addressing needs and problems of physically and intellectually disabled persons?**

|   |  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--|-------------|------------|
| 1 | State institutions (social, health care) | 910         | 76         |
| 2 | Family                                   | 191         | 16         |
| 3 | Civil society organizations              | 56          | 4,7        |
| 4 | Other organizations                      | 1           | 0,1        |
| 5 | Do not know                              | 39          | 3,3        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



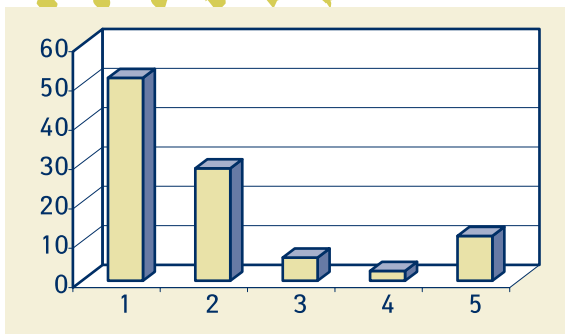
In this context, although state institutions are indisputably dominant the answers provided by all types of interviewees, the frequency is significantly decreased among interviewees without completed primary education: 57% state institutions; 19% family; 19% NGOs; as well as among interviewees from the North-East region: 61 % state institutions, 20% family and 13% NGOs.

Half of interviewees indicated **state institutions as being most responsible for addressing problems of sexual workers (52%)**, second in rank is **the family (29%)**, and **only 6% indicated civil society organizations. Every tenth interviewee (11%) “does not know”** who is most responsible for addressing problems of sexual workers, while 2% of interviewees indicated other institutions. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 68)

#### Question 68

**Who is most responsible for addressing needs and problems of sexual workers?**

|   |  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--|-------------|------------|
| 1 | State institutions (social, health care) | 618         | 51,6       |
| 2 | Family                                   | 342         | 28,6       |
| 3 | Civil society organizations              | 71          | 5,9        |
| 4 | Other organizations                      | 30          | 2,5        |
| 5 | Do not know                              | 136         | 11,4       |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



This is a stable distribution of answers having in mind interviewees' characteristics, while major deviations were noticed in regard to certain regions: in the South-East region 34% of interviewees indicated the family, while 31% indicated state institutions as being most responsible; in the Skopje region, 66% of interviewees indicated state institutions, and only 18% - the family.

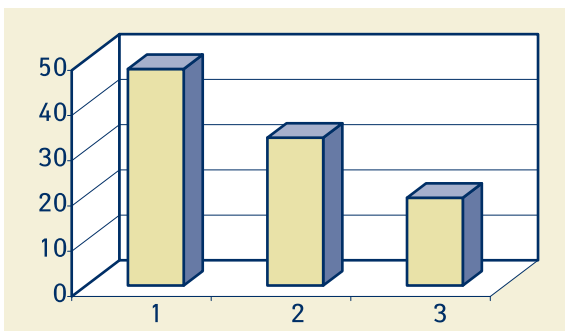
## Disease treatment or isolation

For most of interviewees **homosexuality is a disease** (48%), while **one-third** (33%) **does not agree with this position**. At the same time, **every fifth interviewee** (19%) answered **“do not know” in terms of defining homosexuality**. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 69)

### Question 69

Do you agree with the statement that homosexuality is a disease?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 573         | 47,9       |
| 2 | No           | 392         | 32,7       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 232         | 19,4       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Indicative deviations appear among interviewed high-school and university students, where there is significant balance of answers indicating that homosexuality is disease (47%) and those opposing that statement (42%). On the other hand and quite understandably, housewives (33%) and people without completed primary education (38%) provided most frequent

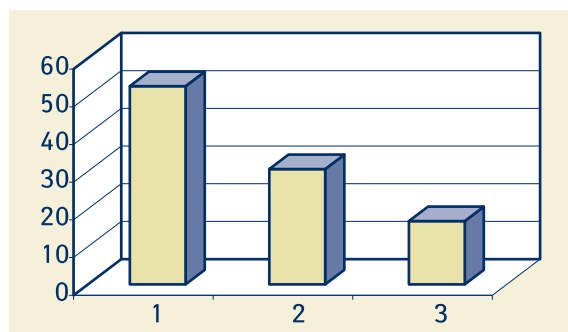
answers that they do not know how to define homosexuality. Major deviations appear in the regional distribution of answers: in the Bitola region, 44% of interviewees believe homosexuality is not a disease, while most frequent opposite answers were obtained in the Vardar region (62%).

Around **half of interviewees** (53%) **agree with the position that “drug addiction is curable”, while one third (31%) believe the opposite**. 17% of interviewees answered **“do not know”**. (Table: General Distribution, Question 70.)

### Question 70

Do you agree with the statement that alcoholism is curable?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 630         | 52,6       |
| 2 | No           | 366         | 30,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 201         | 16,8       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



A significantly higher number of “do not know” answers in terms of drug and narcotic addiction’s (in)curability appears among interviewed agricultural workers (31%) and housewives (30%), as well as people without completed primary education (29%). In

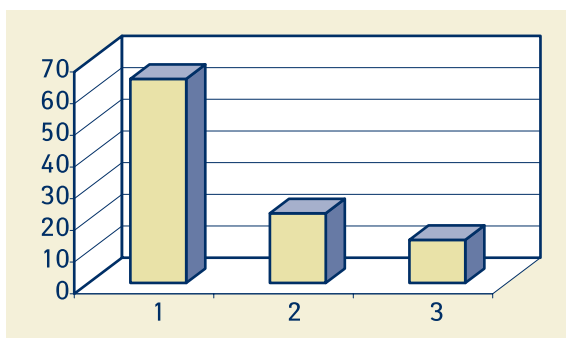
the Pelagonija region, a record number of interviewees (70%) agreed that drug and narcotic addiction is curable.

When discussing **alcoholism, two-thirds of interviewees (64%) agree that it can be cured. 22% believe that it cannot be cured, while 14% answered “do not know”.** (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 71).

### Question 71

**Do you agree with the statement that alcoholism is curable?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 771         | 64,4       |
| 2 | No           | 263         | 22         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 163         | 13,6       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



It is indicative that Albanians, more frequently than others, answered that alcoholism is “incurable” (32%). Such high frequency of answers was also present among interviewed citizens in Skopje (31%). On the other hand, the largest share of answers “alcoholism is curable” was provided by public sector employees (76%) and interviewees from the Pelagonija region (81%). In comparison to other interviewed groups, interviewees without completed primary education provided most frequent answers “do not know” (29%).

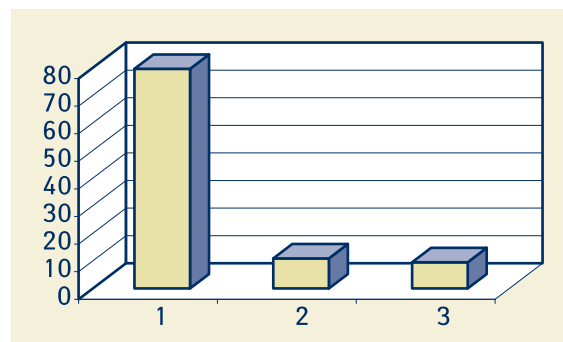
As for **prostitution, 4 out of 5**

**interviewees (80%) agreed with the statement that “nobody is forced to be engaged in prostitution, unless he/she wants to”.** Only for **11%** of interviewees prostitution is not a matter of choice, meaning **they disagreed with the given statement**, while **9%** of interviewees answered “do not know”. (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 72)

### Question 72

**Do you agree with the statement that nobody is forced to engage in prostitution, unless he/she wants to?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 953         | 79,6       |
| 2 | No           | 130         | 10,9       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 114         | 9,5        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Interviewees without completed primary education (29%) and housewives (25%) have provided most frequent “do not know” answers. On the contrary, only 2% of interviewees from the East region answered “do not know”, i.e., 91% of interviewees agreed with the statement “nobody is forced to engage in prostitution, unless he/she wants to”.

Almost 4 out of 5 interviewees (**77%**) agreed with the statement that “**people having same-sex relations should not work in**

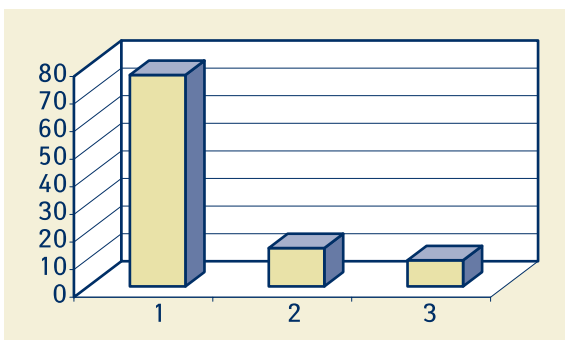


the educational system”, i.e., **should not work with children**. **14%** of interviewees would allow homosexuals to have professional engagement in education or work with children. **9%** of interviewees answered “**do not know**”. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 73)

#### Question 73

Do you agree with the statement that people having same-sex relations should not work in education and with children?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 917         | 76,6       |
| 2 | No           | 166         | 13,9       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 114         | 9,5        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



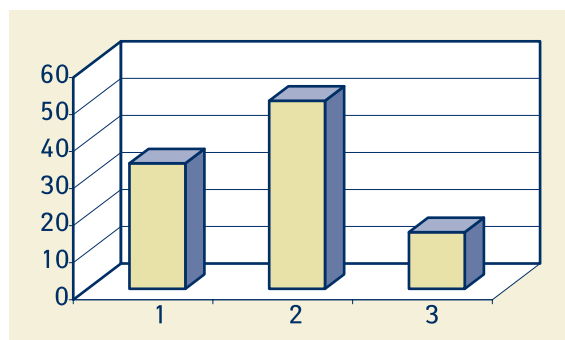
Such answer distribution was present with almost all categories of interviewees. Deviations appear among interviewees without completed primary education (19%) and housewives (20%), which most often answered “do not know”. In the East region, a record number of interviewees (93%) agreed that homosexuals should be forbidden professional engagement in education. On the other hand, almost **every second interviewee** (51%) disagreed with the statement that **persons with physical disabilities should not work in education or with children**. Contrary to this answer,

**34%** of interviewees **agreed** that persons with physical disabilities should be excluded from professional engagement in the educational process. **15%** of interviewees answered “**do not know**”. (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 74)

#### Question 74

Do you agree with the statement that persons with physical disabilities should be prevented from working in education and with children?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 406         | 33,9       |
| 2 | No           | 608         | 50,8       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 183         | 15,3       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Significantly different answers were provided by interviewed Albanians, where those agreeing with the statement that physically disabled persons should not be professionally engaged in education are higher in number (42%) in comparison to those holding the opposite opinion (34%). Similar results were obtained from the interviewees in the Vardar region: 49% have answered that such persons should not work in education, while 29% had the opposite position. On the other hand, in the Pelagonija region, a high 85% of interviewees believe that such persons should not be excluded from professional

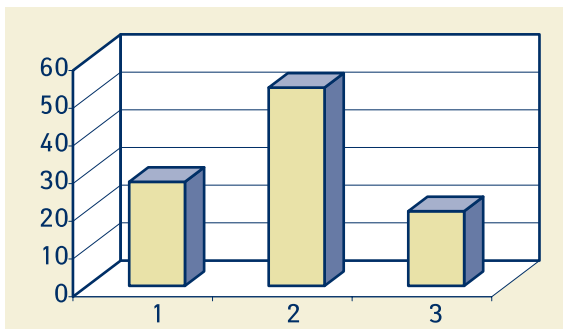
engagement in education.

Interviewees show similar attitude towards intellectually disabled persons. Namely, **53% disagree, while 28% agree that intellectually disabled persons should be accommodated at special institutions. 20%** of interviewees answered “do not know”. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 75)

### Question 75

**Do you agree with the statement that intellectually disabled persons should be accommodated at special institutions?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 330         | 27,6       |
| 2 | No           | 630         | 52,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 237         | 19,8       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Different answer distribution was identified only among agricultural workers, where the percentage of those who agree is predominant (46%), as oppose to those who disagree (40%) with such isolation. An above average number of “do not know” answers was provided by the following interviewed population groups: Albanians (29%), people at the age above 65 years (38%) and housewives (37%). On the other hand, large number of interviewees

from the Pelagonija region (66%) and the East region (61%) disagree with the confinement of such persons at special institutions.

### Isolation

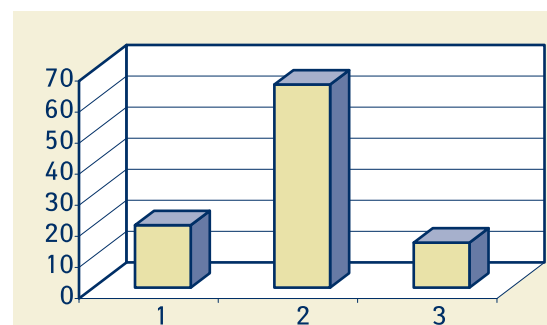
Public’s attitude towards particular groups was tested by means of the general positions on the issue whether members of these groups should be isolated if they want to spent portion of their leisure time in public, such as coffee shops for example. This position is a symbolic and concentrated presentation for the distance we keep from these groups.

**Two thirds of interviewees (65%) disagree that Roma should frequent separate coffee shops. Opposite opinion is held by every fifth interviewee (20%), while 14% answered “do not know”.** (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 76)

### Question 76

**Should there be separate coffee shops, restaurants, etc., for Roma to frequent?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 240         | 20,1       |
| 2 | No           | 783         | 65,4       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 174         | 14,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



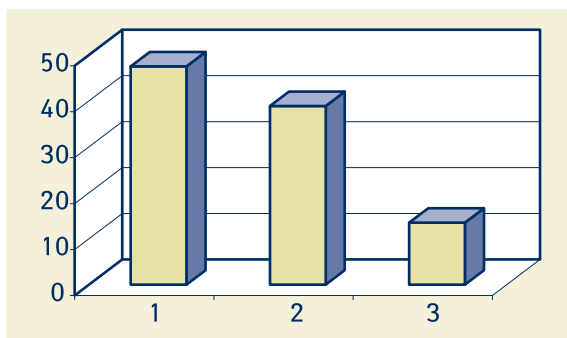
Increased intolerance of Roma in the sense “they should have separate coffee shops” was noticed in the Vardar and Pelagonija regions (30%), while above average opponents to such isolation was noticed among answers provided from citizens in the South-West (78%) and East (73%) regions. At the same time, particular groups show above average number of “do not know” answers: Albanians (25%), interviewees above 65 years of age (35%), housewives (34%) and people without completed primary education (38%).

**“People having same-sex relations should frequent separate coffee shops” is the position provided by majority of interviewees – 47%. Opposite position was held by 39% of interviewees. 14% answered “do not know”.** (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 77)

#### Question 77

Should there be special coffee shops, restaurants, etc., for people having same-sex relations to frequent?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 569         | 47,5       |
| 2 | No           | 466         | 38,9       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 162         | 13,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Opposite structure of answers: higher share of answers within the group disagreeing

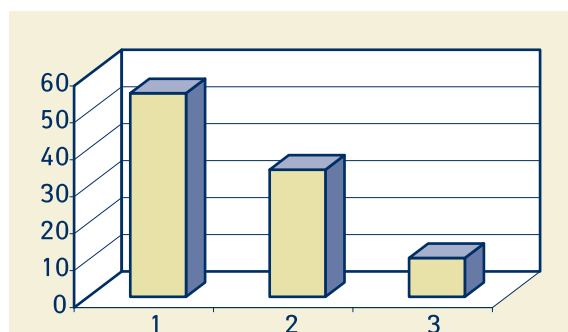
with the isolation of homosexuals in special coffee shops was provided by public sector employees (48%), agricultural workers (46%), people without completed primary education (52%), people with completed college and higher education (52%), citizens in the South-East (52%) and South-West (56%) regions. Opposite answers were provided by interviewees from the Vardar region, where 87% agree that homosexuals should frequent special coffee shops. Again, the elderly population at the age above 65 years (28%) and housewives (28%) provided frequent “do not know” answers.

**Every second interviewee (55%) agreed that there should be separate restaurants for narcotic users to frequent. One third (34%) of interviewees were against** such isolation, while every tenth interviewee (11%) answered “do not know”. (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 78).

#### Question 78

Should there be special coffee shops, restaurants, etc., for drug and narcotic users to frequent

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 659         | 55,1       |
| 2 | No           | 412         | 34,4       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 126         | 10,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



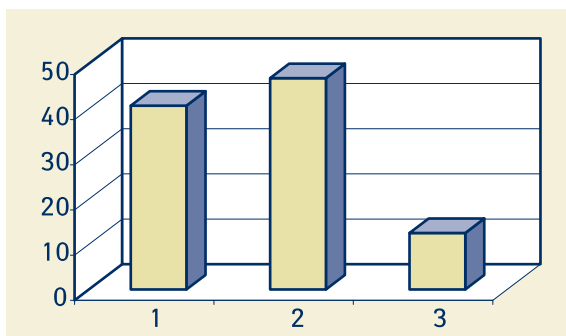
Emphasized majority of interviewees agreeing that drug addicts should be isolated in separate coffee shops was noticed among Albanians (64%), and especially among interviewees in the Pelagonija region (69%) and in the Vardar region (90%).

“There should be **separate restaurants for alcohol addicts to frequent**” was the statement that divided the interviewees: **47% of them disagree, while 41% agree** with this position. **12%** of interviewees answered “**do not know**”. (Table, General Distribution, Question no. 79).

#### Question 79

Should there be separate coffee shops, restaurants, etc., for alcohol addicts to frequent?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 487         | 40,7       |
| 2 | No           | 560         | 46,8       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 150         | 12,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Higher tolerance was noticed among interviewed agricultural workers: 60% disagree with such isolation, as well as interviewees in the Pelagonija (62%), and the South-East (68%) regions. On the contrary, most of the Albanian interviewees (49%) agree that there should be special coffee shops for alcohol addicts; this opinion is shared by 47% of interviewees at the age of 41 to 50 years, 48% of those without

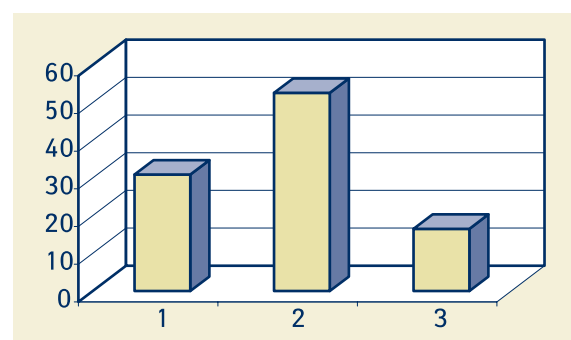
and 41% of those with completed primary education, as well as the interviewees in the Polog region (48%), and especially by those in the Vardar (69%) and North-East (68%) regions. The fact that a high 40% of interviewed housewives answered “do not know” is indicative.

**Intellectually disabled persons should not frequent special coffee shops was the answer provided by 53% of interviewees.** Almost every third interviewee (31%) agrees with such isolation, while **16%** answered “**do not know**”. (Table, General Distribution, Question, no. 80)

#### Question 80

Should there be separate coffee shops, restaurants, etc., for intellectually disabled persons to frequent?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 370         | 30,9       |
| 2 | No           | 630         | 52,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 197         | 16,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Higher tolerance was shown by interviewed agricultural workers: 63% of them are against separate coffee shops. Such answers are particularly frequent in the South-West region (76%). Opposite answer distribution where majority of interviewees agreed with the isolation was noticed among the eldest

population of interviewees – above the age of 65 years (37%) and the interviewees in the Vardar region (64%). Housewives are the only interviewed group with most frequent “do not know” answer – 45%.

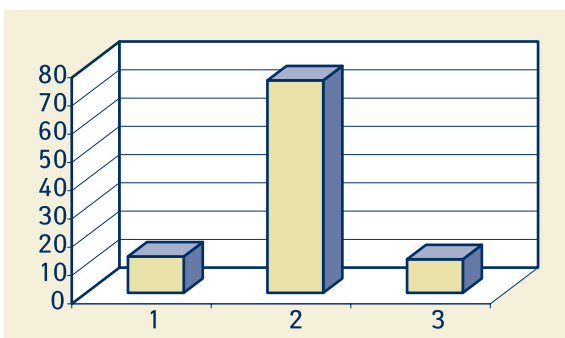
**High tolerance** was noticed in regard to **physically disabled persons: 75% of interviewees disagree with the statement that such persons should frequent special coffee shops.**

Nevertheless, every **tenth interviewee** (13%) **agrees** with such isolation, while **12%** of interviewees answered “**do not know**”. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 81).

#### Question 81

**Should there be special coffee shops, restaurants, etc., for physically disabled persons to frequent?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 155         | 12,9       |
| 2 | No           | 900         | 75,2       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 142         | 11,9       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Deviations identified among particular interviewee populations did not disturb the answers distribution scheme, i.e., there were no significantly higher or lower shares of disagreement with the given statement. In that sense, interviewees in the East region very frequently (87%) disagreed with the existence of special coffee shops for physically disabled persons; the group with

the highest share of interviewees agreeing with such position is the population in the Vardar region (34%), while housewives were the group with largest number of “do not know” answers (31%).

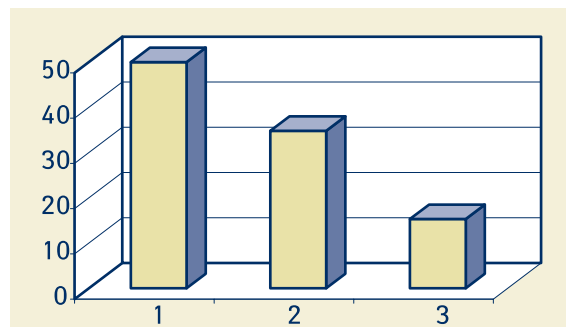
**Majority of interviewees (50%) agreed that there should be separate coffee shops for sexual workers to frequent, while 35% disagreed** with this position. The remaining **15%** answered “**do not know**”.

(Table: General Distribution, Question no. 82)

#### Question 82

**Should there be special coffee shops, restaurants, etc., for sexual workers to frequent?**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 598         | 50         |
| 2 | No           | 416         | 34,8       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 183         | 15,3       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Such willingness for isolating sexual workers is particularly present among interviewed Albanians (63%), and interviewees in the North-East (74%) and Vardar (73%) regions. Opposite answers were provided in the South-East (54%), East (50%) and South-West (49%) regions, where most numerous were the answers indicating no need for separate coffee shops. As usual, housewives (34%) and the population without completed primary education (29%) were the groups with highest number of “do not know” answers.

## What should be sanctioned as a criminal offence?

The aim of this set of questions is to detect the barrier interviewed people have toward some of previously listed groups. Namely, according to most of the interviewees (**60%**), **drug and narcotic addiction should be treated as a criminal offence**. Such rigid attitude is shared by more than a half of interviewees (**54%**), who feel that **prostitution is a criminal offence**, and therefore should be sanctioned. Although characterized with a lower frequency, significant share of respondents answered that **same-sex relations and alcoholism should be considered criminal offences as well**. More accurately, **every third participant in the survey shares this position**, as shown on the following table:

### Should the following categories be considered criminal offences?

|                             | Yes | No  | Do not know |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------------|
| Same-sex relations          | 34% | 47% | 19%         |
| Drug and narcotic addiction | 60% | 27% | 13%         |
| Alcoholism                  | 31% | 55% | 14%         |
| Prostitution                | 54% | 32% | 14%         |

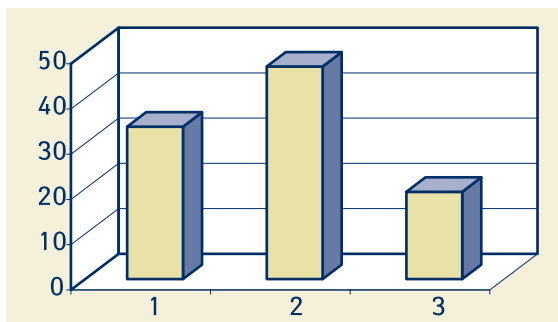
Highest percentage of negative answers indicating that some of the mentioned behaviours should not be considered criminal offences was recorded in regard to alcoholism. Namely, for **56%** of interviewees

**alcoholism should not be treated as a criminal offence**. The answer indicating that **same-sex relations, i.e., prostitution should not be sanctioned** is shared by almost half of interviewees, i.e., one-third of interviewee (**47% and 32%, respectively**). Among respondents without position on this issue, most numerous “do not know” answers were provided in regard to treating same-sex relations as criminal offence (19%), while 14% of them do not have an opinion on the issue whether prostitution and alcoholism should be considered offences. Almost identical share of “do not know” answers were provided on the modality whether drug and narcotic addiction should be sanctioned – 13%. (Table: General distribution, Questions no. 83, 84, 85 and 86)

### Question 83

In your opinion, should same-sex relations be treated as criminal offence?

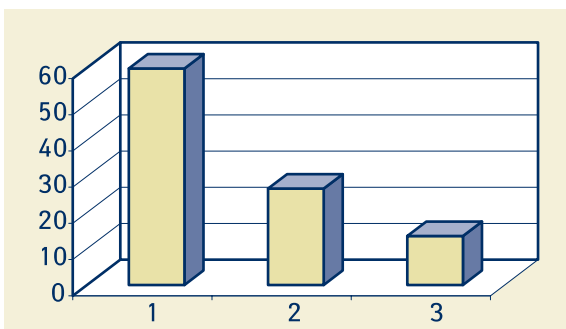
|                | Frequency   | %          |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 Yes          | 403         | 33,7       |
| 2 No           | 563         | 47         |
| 3 Do not know  | 231         | 19,3       |
| 4 <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



**Question 84**

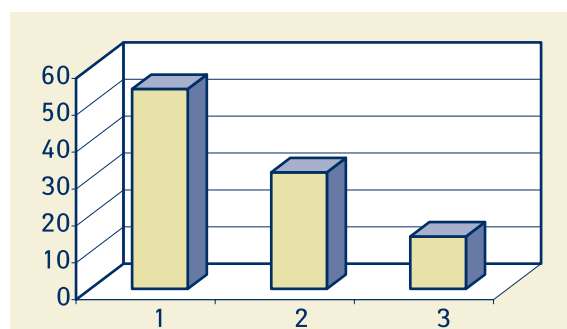
In your opinion, should drug and narcotic addiction be treated as criminal offence?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 716         | 59,8       |
| 2 | No           | 319         | 26,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 162         | 13,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Question 86**

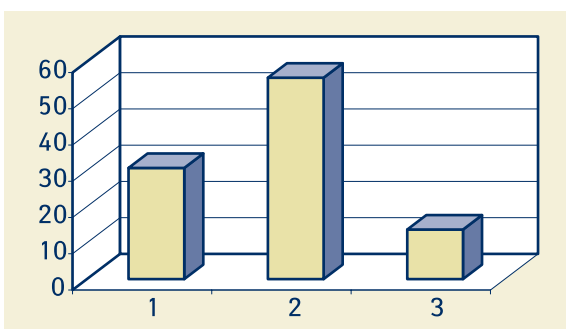
In your opinion, should prostitution be treated as criminal offence?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 649         | 54,2       |
| 2 | No           | 378         | 31,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 170         | 14,2       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Question 85**

In your opinion, should alcoholism be treated as criminal offence?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 367         | 30,7       |
| 2 | No           | 666         | 55,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 164         | 13,7       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Combined data register more significant deviations in the distribution of answers provided on this set of questions. Accordingly, male respondents, in comparison to female respondents, provided more frequent answers indicating that same-sex relations (+9%), as well as drug and narcotic addiction (+7%) should be treated as criminal offences. On the contrary, alcoholism and prostitution are recognized as criminal offences by almost equal shares of male and female respondents.

From the aspect of interviewees' ethnic background, it was noticed that higher share of interviewed Albanians, in comparison to interviewed Macedonians, share the position that indicated phenomena should be qualified as criminal offences. In that sense, 68% of interviewed Albanians indicate prostitution as an act liable to sanctions. On the other hand, major discrepancies among answers provided were registered in regard to alcoholism and prostitution. There are 20% more Albanians than Macedonians who perceive

these phenomena as offences. Even though a discrepancy of answers can also be seen in regard to considering same-sex relations and drug and narcotic addiction as criminal offences, the same is not explicitly expressed. Such perception on same-sex relations is shared by 37% of interviewed Albanians, i.e., 31% of Macedonians. The position that drug and narcotic addiction should be treated as an offence is shared by 63% of interviewed Albanians, which is by 5% more than the share of interviewed Macedonians. See also: Annex on combined tables, questions no. 83, 84, 85 and 86 /ethnic background.

Age as an independent variable, determines certain differences in the perception of such phenomena. Actually, tradition and conservatism affect the positions held by the elderly population. Namely, higher number of elderly interviewees (39%) at the age of 41-50 years and 50-65 years share the opinion that same-sex relations should be treated as criminal offence. On the contrary, such opinion is shared by 29% of the youngest group of interviewees (18-25 years). Answers indicating that drug and narcotic addiction should be criminally sanctioned were provided by a smaller percentage of interviewees at the age of 26-30 years (57%) and 31-40 years (54%) in comparison to the 62% of such answers provided by the youngest interviewed population, and the 66% of answers provided by interviewees at the age of 41-50 and the 65% of people at the age of 50-65 years. On the issue of treating alcoholism, i.e., prostitution as criminal offences, higher deviations from the average distribution of answers was noticed among the population at the age of 41-50 years, where the number of positive answers is by 9% higher.

Interviewees' employment status undoubtedly impacts answer distribution contrary to the general distribution. Thus, the answer indicating that same sex relations should be treated as criminal offence is more frequently provided by interviewed housewives – 41%, people employed in the private sector – 38%, unemployed people – 36%. On the other hand, this position is shared by every fourth respondent employed in the public sector or every fourth high-school or university student. Highest number of “do not know” answers was provided by housewives – 36% and agricultural workers – 34%. Answers indicating that drug and narcotic addiction should be sanctioned as criminal offence are by far the most common answer among interviewees employed in the private sector – 67%. On the contrary, negative answers provided by people employed in the public sector were by 12% higher than the average. Regarding alcoholism, housewives are most rigorous: 46% of them feel it should be treated as criminal offence, which is by 15% higher than the average distribution. On the contrary, pensioners – 65%, as well as people employed in the public sector – 62%, do not share this position, i.e. they provided negative answers. As for the treatment of prostitution, deviations in answer distribution are insignificant, meaning that answers do not differ from the general distribution.

The perception on treating same-sex relations as criminal offence is – to a large extent - determined by interviewees' level of education. Thus, the biggest share of interviewees sharing the position that this should be treated as criminal offence was noticed among interviewees with completed primary education – 48%, contrary to interviewees with completed higher education, majority of whom provided



the opposite answer – 64%. Even though answer deviations are not as obvious when it comes to sanctioning drug and narcotic addiction, respondents with completed primary education provided more positive answers (65%) in comparison to respondents with higher education (52%). Distribution of answers concerning alcoholism is similar, while, judging from the answers obtained, respondents tend to treat prostitution identically regardless of their level of acquired education. Indicative redistribution of answers was noticed in regard to the place of residence when considered as an independent variable. Actually, re-distribution of answers according to the modalities offered is quite impressive. Hence, every second survey participant from the Vardar and the East regions feels that same-sex relations should be considered criminal offence. In contrast, 62% of interviewees in the Pelagonija region disagree with this treatment. As for the treatment of drug and narcotic addiction, interviewees from the East (80%), Vardar (77%) and North-East regions (75%) have no dilemma that it actually is an offence. According to answers obtained, alcoholism is the least perceived as criminal offence by respondents from the Pelagonija (16%) and the South-East region (8%). Survey participants from the North-East region are among demographic groups which to a large extent (49%) share the position that alcoholism should be treated as criminal offence. A multitude of interviewees from the North-East region (73%) sees prostitution as an offence. In contrast, respondents from the Pelagonija region provided the smallest percentage of positive answers (35%) compared to other interviewees groups.

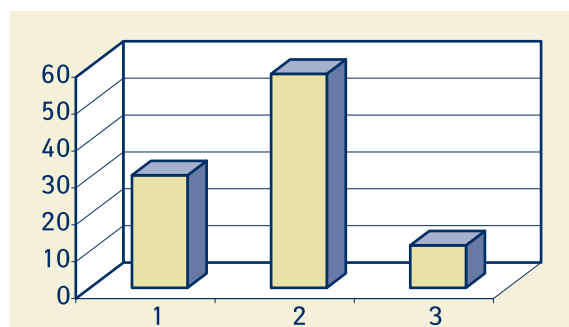
## Problems affecting Roma – private or public matter

According to answers obtained, the position that **“Roma problems are private matter and should not be discussed in public”** is unacceptable for most of respondents, i.e., **58%** of them answered **“no”**. In contrast to them, the opposite opinion is held by 30% of interviewees, who feel that the problems affecting Roma **should remain in the private sphere**. The remaining 11% comprise the group of respondents without an opinion on this issue. In essence, the goal of this question was to detect public opinion on the matter if problems affecting this group of citizens should be elaborated and resolved as a personal, private problems or whether it requires wider involvement of the community or the public. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 87)

### Question 87

**Problems affecting Roma are private matter and they should not be discussed in public.**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 365         | 30,5       |
| 2 | No           | 694         | 58         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 138         | 11,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



According to combined data, an impression is obtained that problems faced by the Roma community should not be exclusively considered private. Above average shares of such answers were obtained from the following interviewee groups:

- Macedonians (64%) and Turks<sup>1</sup> (64%);
- Adults at the age of 31-40 (62%), and at the age of 50-65 years (64%);
- People employed in the public sector (68%) and people employed in the private sector (61%);
- People with completed higher education – college, university or secondary education (61%);
- Interviewees in the South-East (70%), Pelagonija (66%), South-West (66%) and East (61%) regions.

<sup>1</sup> Even though the number of interviewed Roma is not representative so that it would be interpreted as relevant (only 33 Roma were interviewed), due to the specific nature of the question, it can be noted that majority of Roma survey participants are explicit in the statements indicating that their problems are not merely a private matter, but should be discussed in public.

On the contrary, above the average shares of answers indicating the restrictive interpretation of Roma problems as private matter were noted among interviewees with the following social and demographic features:

- Albanians – 42%;
- Young population at the age of 18-25 years (37%) and at the age of 26-30 years (36%);
- high-school and university students – 42%;
- Interviewees in the Vardar region – 47%.

Housewives – 31% and pensioners – 23% provided highest number of answers indicating absence of position regarding Roma problems. The above average “do not know” answers group includes respondents from the North-East (20%) and Vardar (17%) regions.

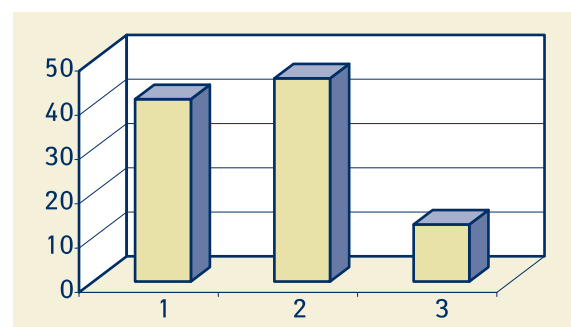
## Problems affecting homosexuals – private or public matter

Survey participants provided divided answers concerning the statement “**problems of the people having same-sex relations are private matter and should not be discussed in public**”. Namely, **46% of interviewees feel that these problems are private matter**, whereas **41% of them feel the opposite**. The remaining **13%** are interviewees without a decisive position on this question, meaning they provided “**do not know**” answers. (Table: General Distribution: Question no. 88)

### Question 88

**Problems affecting people having same-sex relations are private matter and should not be discussed in public.**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 493         | 41,2       |
| 2 | No           | 550         | 45,9       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 154         | 12,9       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Social and demographic features of interviewees result in particular redistribution of answers in comparison to the general distribution. Hence, from the aspect of interviewees’ ethnic background, the general impression shows that higher shares of Albanian community members

(47%) in comparison to their Macedonian (39%) and Turkish (36%) cohorts agree with the statement that problems affecting people having same-sex relations are private matter and should remain outside public interest. At the same, this ethnic group provided the 9% higher than average number of answers indicating absence of position on this question.

The fact that the young population (age 18-25) has the highest percentage of answers indicating that public should be ignorant to these problems, i.e., that this group's problems are private, and not public matter in comparison to other age groups is quite indicative. From the aspect of respondents' employment status, smaller deviations of answers were noticed, while housewives and pensioners are the groups with most numerous answers indicating no position on the matter in question. Actually, such above average participation in the "do not know" answers corresponds with the percentage of answer provided by respondents at the age above 65 years (32%). Above average shares of answers indicating no position on the matter if these problems should be isolated from the public, were provided by respondents with completed primary education – 22%. Discrepancy of answer distribution was seen from the aspect of the place of residence, where citizens of the city of Skopje (55%) provided more frequent answers indicating that problems affecting people having same-sex relations should remain private matter and not be discussed in public, in comparison to interviewees from other towns (34%) and the rural population (40%). The answer distribution according to the regional allocation of interviewees shows certain characteristics. Thus, most impressive deviations of answer distribution

were noticed among interviewees from the Vardar and the Skopje regions in comparison to respondents from the East and the South-West regions. Namely, three-quarters of respondents from the Vardar region and every second respondent from the Skopje region share the position that problems affecting this group should be treated as private matter. Interviewees from the East (60%) and the South-West (55%) regions disagree with this position and believe these problems should be discussed in public.

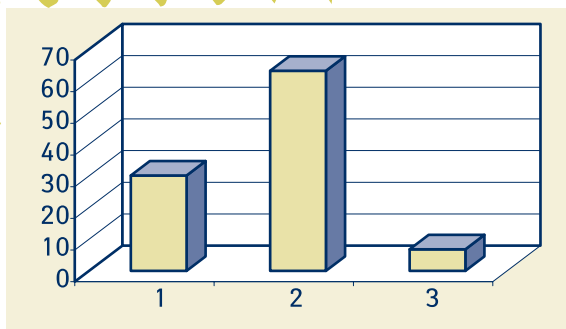
### Problems affecting drug and narcotic users - private or public matter

Indisputably, majority of survey participants (63%) disagree with the position that problems affecting drug and narcotic addicts are private matter and should not be discussed in public. 30% of respondents provided positive answers, i.e., agreed with the given statement. The number of respondents without an opinion on the matter is relatively low, i.e., 7% of respondents answered "do not know". (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 89)

#### Question 89

**Problems of drug and narcotic addicts are private matter and should not be discussed in public.**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 360         | 30,1       |
| 2 | No           | 756         | 63,2       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 81          | 6,8        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Combined data indicate certain above the average deviations of answer distribution. Interviewee's gender does not result in significant answer differences, whereas respondents' ethnic background provides for difference in answer distribution. Accordingly, Albanians (36%) provided above average answers indicating that problems affecting drug and narcotic addicts should be treated as private matter, while interviewed Turks (77%) and Macedonians (66%) provided more frequent positive answers, i.e., they are of the position that these problems should be discussed in public.

Age as an independent variable implies interesting answer distribution. Namely, the youngest (38%) and the eldest age group (37%) in comparison to other age groups provided most frequent answers expressing their agreement with the presented position, i.e., problems affecting drug and narcotic addicts are private matter and should not be discussed in public. Above average shares indicating this position were provided by high-school and university students (10% above the average), interviewees in the city of Skopje, as well as by interviewees in the Vardar (29% above the average) and in the Skopje region (8% above the average). On the contrary, respondents from the South-West region (90%) are by far the most numerous ones among those disagreeing with the given statement. Unsurprisingly, above average

shares of "do not know" answers were provided by housewives (21%), pensioners (12%), eldest population at the age above 65 years (15%), people with completed primary education (16%), interviewees in the Vardar region (15%), as well as Albanians (11%).

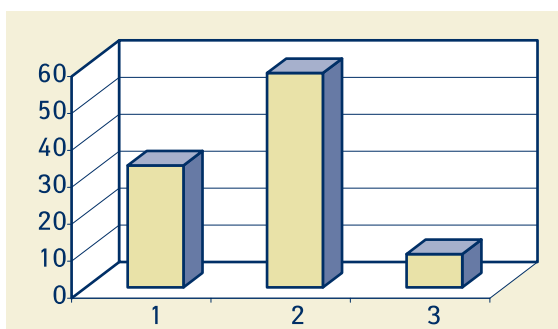
### Problems affecting alcohol addicts – private or public matter

Majority of survey participants (58%) disagree with the position that problems affecting alcohol addicts are private matter and should not be discussed in public. Unlike them, every third respondent holds the opposite opinion (33%), whereas every tenth of them has no position as to whether problems of alcohol addicts are exclusively a private matter or a problem that should occupy public's attention. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 90)

#### Question 90

Problems affecting alcohol addicts are private matter and should not be discussed in public.

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 395         | 33         |
| 2 | No           | 694         | 58         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 108         | 9          |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



As for the independent variables, it can be noted that different categories of interviewees hold different positions on this issue. Hence, above average number of Albanians treat problems of alcohol addicts as private matter (8% above the average), and their share is by 10% higher than the share of Macedonians who provided the same answers. The position of high-school and university students is identical (8% above the average), whereas above average number of employees in the public sector believe these problems should be discussed in public (66%). "Do not know" answers are most frequently provided by housewives (19%), pensioners (18%) and agricultural workers (14%). Deviation from the general distribution was noticed among the respondents with completed primary education, who are by 10% less than the average agree that problems affecting alcohol addicts should be discussed in public. At the same time, this group provided the most numerous answers indicating no opinion on the issue – 16%. Respondents from the City of Skopje have higher percentage in comparison to their counterparts in urban and rural areas around the Republic of Macedonia (44%) considering the approval of the statement that the problems affecting this category of citizens are private matter. Furthermore, according to data obtained, respondents from the Vardar region provided higher than average (23% above the average) answers indicating that problems of alcohol addicts as private matter have no place in public affairs. On the contrary, most of interviewees in the South-West region (78%) are decisive in their position that these problems should also be discussed in public. "Do not know" answers are the most frequent choice made by interviewees in the North-East (20%) and South-East (15%) regions.

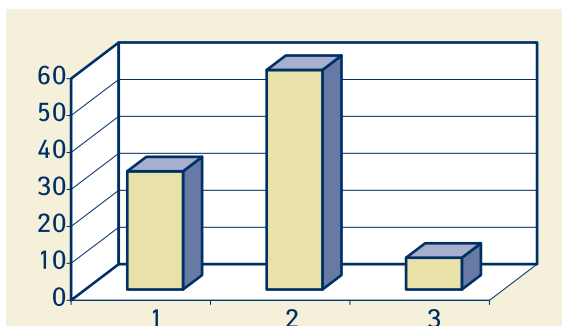
### Problems affecting intellectually disabled people – private or public matter

Most respondents (**59%**) expressed their **disapproval** of the given **position that problems affecting intellectually disabled are private matter and should not be discussed in public**. One-third of respondents hold the opposite position, meaning that 32% of interviewees approve **this attitude**. The remaining **9%** do not have an opinion on the treatment of problems affecting intellectually disabled people, i.e., provided "do not know" answers. (Table: General Distribution, Question no.91)

#### Question 91

**Problems affecting intellectually disabled people are private matter and should not be discussed in public.**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 383         | 32         |
| 2 | No           | 711         | 59,4       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 103         | 8,6        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



The analysis of combined data depicts certain discrepancy in answers, but it moves within the frame of deviations registered on previous questions from this set. Thus, in this case as well, interviewed Albanians have higher

percentage of positive answers – 46%, as compared to interviewed Macedonians, who have higher percentage of answers (63%) indicating the opposite opinion, meaning Macedonians provided by 19% more frequent negative answers than the Albanians. As for other social and demographic differences, it was noticed that interviewees at the age of 50-65 provided the lowest frequency of positive answers (25%), whereas the eldest group at the age of 65 years and more provided most numerous answers indicating no opinion on the matter (27%). It can be noticed that the employment status as a variable impacts answers' polarization. On one side, high-school and university students (39%), as well as housewives (38%) show higher percentages of answers indicating that problems affecting intellectually disabled are private matter and should not be discussed in public. At the same time, an above average number of housewives (17%) and pensioners (16%) provided "do not know" answers, corresponding to answers obtained on other questions from this set.

From data obtained, it is evident that the variable on interviewees' education implies certain redistributions resulting from the conflicting perception of problems. Thus, interviewees with completed college or university education find it unacceptable to treat problems of intellectually disabled people only as private matter, i.e., 69% of them provided negative answers, which is by 30% higher percentage of such answers compared to interviewees with completed primary education. From the aspect of regional distribution of answers, it can be seen that interviewees from the South-West (81%), Pelagonija (73%) and the South-East (70%) regions expressed their disagreement with the given position in shares higher

than the average, whereas the affirmative answers are more frequently provided among interviewees from the East region – 68%. Large number of "do not know" answers was registered among interviewees from the Vardar (15%), North-East (15%) and Pelagonija (13%) regions.

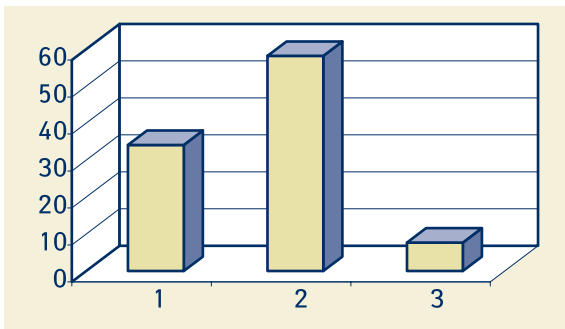
### Problems affecting physically disabled persons – private or public matter

Interviewees' position on the statement whether "**problems affecting physically disabled people are private matter and should not be discussed in public**" shows answer distribution similar to the one obtained on the previous question. Namely, **58%** of interviewees disagree with this statement, while **affirmative answers were registered from nearly every third survey participant** – 34%. Percentage of interviewees without developed position accounts for **8%**. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 92)

#### Question 92

**Problems affecting physically disabled persons are private matter and should not be discussed in public.**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 408         | 34,1       |
| 2 | No           | 697         | 58,2       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 92          | 7,7        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Of course, respondents' social features are reflected in their answers. Hence, answers provided by interviewed Albanians deviate from the general average. More precisely, answers provided by interviewed Albanians have almost identical shares ("yes" – 46% and "no" – 48%), whereas answers provided by Macedonian respondents follow the general distribution. Deviation was registered among interviewed Turks, who to a larger degree disagree with the given position (25% above the average). Answer distribution according to the age variable results in single difference among the eldest population group, where above average answers indicating no opinion on the matter in question were provided, i.e., 20% of them answered "do not know". Most frequent answers indicating agreement with the position that problems affecting physically disabled people are private matter, i.e. should not be discussed in public, were provided by housewives (40%) and agricultural workers (40%), who together with the pensioners are also among interviewees with highest shares of "do not know" answers. Interviewees' education background accounts for a significant discrepancy in answer distribution. Thus, above average number of respondents with completed primary education (17% above the average) agree with this position.

The variable concerning interviewees' place of residence results in certain discrepancy of answer distribution. Namely, interviewees in the Vardar region (66%) are convincingly

most numerous among people agreeing that problems of physically disabled persons are private matter and should not be discussed in public. Contrary to them, 85% of respondents in the South-West region think differently, i.e. according to them problems affecting these people should be discussed in public. The distribution of "do not know" answers shows that most frequently such statements were provided in the Pelagonija (16%), North-East (15%) and South-East (13%) regions.

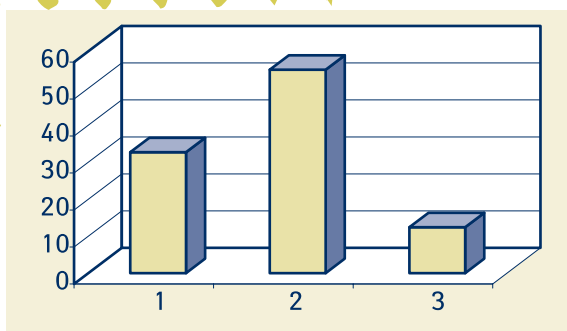
### Problems affecting sex workers – private or public matter

The largest percent of interviewees (**55%**) **disagree** with the position that **"problems affecting sex workers are private matter and should not be discussed in public"**. On the contrary, **every third participant** in the survey **thinks the opposite**, while **12% provided "do not know" answers**. (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 93).

#### Question 93

**Problems affecting sex workers are private matter and should not be discussed in public.**

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 391         | 32,7       |
| 2 | No           | 658         | 55         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 148         | 12,4       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



The combined data indicate the conclusion that in regard to problems affecting the field of prostitution, “do not know” answers are acceptable to higher percent of interviewed Albanians – 17%. Even though age does not imply significant deviations from the general trend, the eldest group among respondents without an opinion is – nevertheless - the most numerous one. More precisely, every third respondent from this group answered “do not know”. This answer was frequently

provided by interviewed housewives (27%), pensioners (24%), as well as respondents with completed primary education (24%).

The place of residence variable provides for interesting deviations. More precisely, the share of positive (45%) and negative (47%) answers provided by interviewed citizens from Skopje are almost equal. Such a distribution is in discrepancy with answers obtained from the citizens in other towns in the Republic of Macedonia and answers obtained from the rural population. In this context, above the average number of interviewees in the South-West region (77%) expressed disagreement with the given position, while largest number “do not know” answers were provided in the Pelagonija (25%) and the Vardar region (21%).



## Public's attitude on groups' active engagement in the promotion of their rights

It is a fact that exercising certain rights and achievement of certain goals implies activities aimed at promoting problems faced by mentioned groups. This set of questions tried to identify the position on the issue whether researched groups should be more active in society in light of exercising their rights. The following table shows the results obtained:

### Should the following groups be more actively engaged in society?

|                                  | Yes | No  | Do not know. |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| Roma                             | 79% | 10% | 10%          |
| People having same sex relations | 44% | 35% | 21%          |
| Drugs and narcotic users         | 41% | 43% | 16%          |
| Alcohol addicts                  | 45% | 42% | 13%          |
| Intellectually disabled persons  | 73% | 16% | 11%          |
| Physically disabled persons      | 83% | 10% | 7%           |
| Sex workers                      | 44% | 39% | 17%          |

Judging from answers obtained, it is obvious that there is certain difference depending on the group in question. In this sense, **interviewees provided more frequent answers indicating that Roma (79%), intellectually (73%) and the physically**

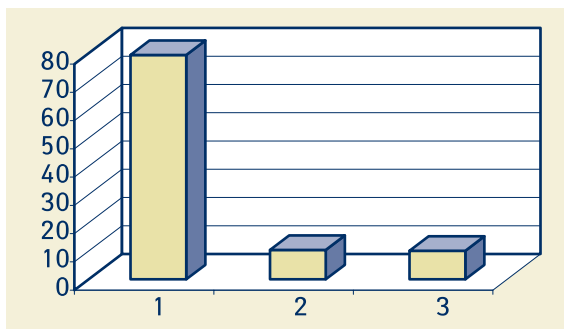
**disabled (83%) persons should be more active.** On the contrary, the affirmative answers with **lower frequency were provided for the following groups: drugs and narcotic addicts – 41%, people having same sex relations – 44%, sex workers – 44% and alcohol addicts – 45%.** Number of respondents manifested reserved position in regard to the need for intensified engagement of groups. Hence, when Roma and physically disabled persons are concerned, every tenth interviewee provided negative answer, whereas negative answers in regard to intellectually disabled persons were emphasized by 15% of interviewees. A decisive “no” was characteristic in regard to drug and narcotic users (43%), alcohol addicts (42%), sex workers (39%) and people having same sex relations (35%). Number of interviewees lacked opinion on the given question, i.e., provided “do not know” answers in relation to the following groups:

- physically disabled persons – 7%;
  - Roma – 10%;
  - intellectually disabled persons – 11%;
  - alcohol addicts – 13%;
  - drug and narcotic users – 16%;
  - sex workers – 17%;
  - people having same sex relations – 21%.
- (Tables: General Distribution, Questions no. 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)

**Question 94**

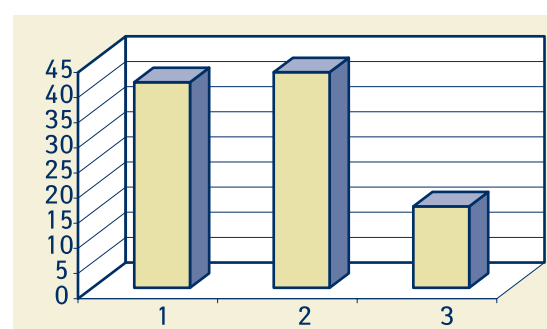
Should Roma be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 951         | 79,4       |
| 2 | No           | 125         | 10,4       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 121         | 10,1       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Question 96**

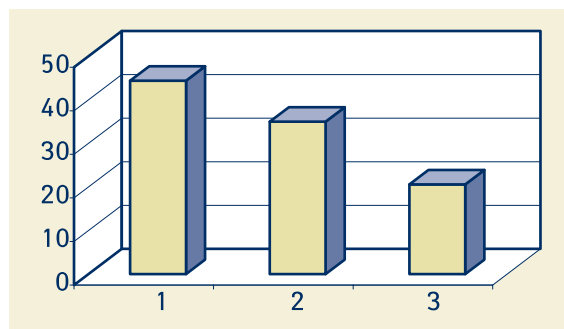
Should drug and narcotic users be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 489         | 40,9       |
| 2 | No           | 514         | 42,9       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 194         | 16,2       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Question 95**

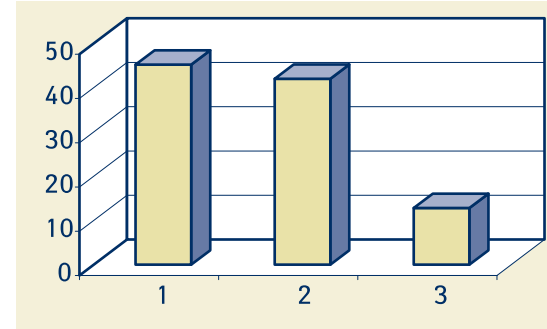
Should people having same-sex relations be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 531         | 44,4       |
| 2 | No           | 419         | 35         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 247         | 20,6       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Question 97**

Should alcohol addicts be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights?

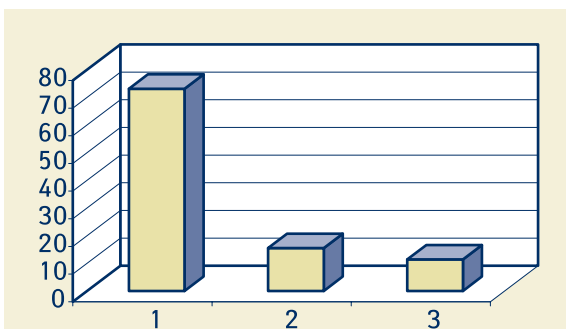
|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 541         | 45,2       |
| 2 | No           | 503         | 42         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 153         | 12,8       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



## Question 98

Should intellectually disabled people be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights?

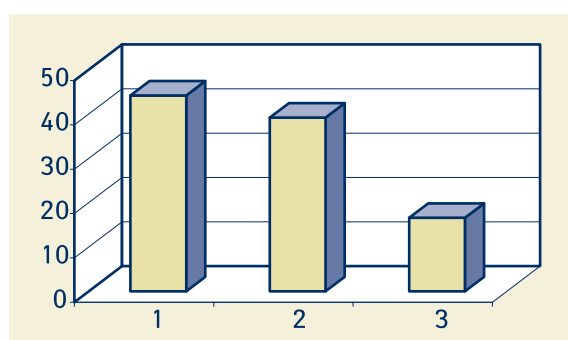
|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 875         | 73,1       |
| 2 | No           | 185         | 15,5       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 137         | 11,4       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



## Question 100

Should sex workers be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights?

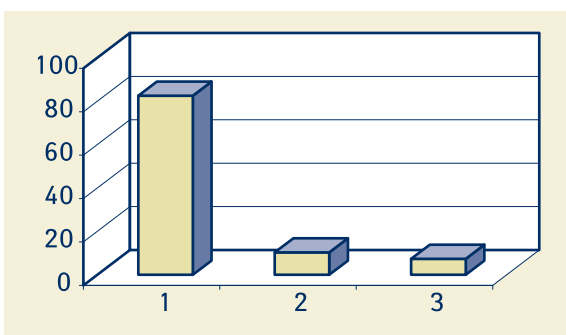
|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 529         | 44,2       |
| 2 | No           | 469         | 39,2       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 199         | 16,6       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



## Question 99

Should physically disabled people be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 987         | 82,5       |
| 2 | No           | 123         | 10,3       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 87          | 7,3        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



The socio-demographic features of interviewees provide for certain deviations from the general distribution of answers on this set of questions. In this case, the interviewees' gender results in certain differences of answers provided. Namely, man, in comparison to women, have higher percentage of answers indicating agreement with the need for active involvement in the process of awareness building concerning human rights of groups in question. This position was especially expressed in regard to people having same-sex relations (men have by 9% more frequent answers) and sex workers (men have by 10% more frequent answers). At the same time, women are more numerous among interviewees without an opinion on this matter.

On the issue **whether Roma should be more active** - according to answers obtained - positive correlation was noticed in regard to interviewees' education level,

i.e. 86% of interviewees with completed college or university education provided such answers. This position is shared by same percentage of interviewed citizens in the City of Skopje – 86%. Major reserves for the need of intensified activity on the part of Roma were registered among interviewees in the East and South-East regions, whose share of negative answers was above the average. On the contrary, interviewees in the South-West, North-East and the Pelagonija regions are by 10% more than average agreeing that Roma should be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights. Above average number of “do not know” answers were provided by interviewed housewives (+15%), eldest interviewees (+7%) and interviewees in the Vardar region (+7%).

From the aspect of interviewees' employment status, the need for intensified involvement of Roma in the mobilization of the public, was more frequently recognized by high-school and university students (11% above the average) and people employed in the public sector (7% above the average). Such answer distribution was also been registered among interviewees with completed college or university education (15% above the average), citizens in the City of Skopje (10% above the average), as well as interviewees in the North-East (12% above the average) and Pelagonija region (11% above the average).

When answering this question related to **people having same-sex relations**, Albanian interviewees have above average “do not know” answers. Above average answers in the “do not know” modality were also provided by housewives (42%), pensioners (32%), the two eldest groups (interviewees at the age of 50-65 years – 26% and at the age of 65 years and more – 37%). According to the frequency

of answers, citizens in the Polog -27%, Pelagonija – 32% and Vardar – 29% regions fall also under the category of interviewees without an opinion on the matter.

According to combined data, the position indicating **greater activity on the part of drug and narcotic addicts** in the pursuit of their rights varies depending on the interviewees' regional residence. Therefore, ignorance for such activity was obviously most frequent in answers obtained from respondents in the Vardar – 71% and Eastern region – 70%. Data provide for a quite different picture in regard to answer distribution in the Pelagonija region, where 60% of interviewees provided affirmative answers.

**Alcohol addicts** should be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights was the answer most frequently obtained among interviewees with completed college or university education (51%), high-school and university students (56%) as well as among citizens in the Skopje region (59%) and in the Pelagonija region (60%). Higher indifference towards the need for an active engagement on the part of this group was registered among answers provided by interviewees in the East (63%), North-East (65%) and Vardar (66%) regions. Most frequent “do not know” answers were obtained from housewives (33%), interviewed Albanians (19%), interviewees with completed college or university education (19%) and the eldest group of interviewees at the age of 65 years and more (20%).

On the issue **whether intellectually disabled people should be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights**, discrepancies were registered among answers provided by various groups of

interviewees. More precisely, in contrast to previous questions from this cluster, where interviewees' ethnic background did not result in considerable differences in the answers, in this case – higher number of Macedonians (77%) agree that intensified activities are needed. Unlike them, number of interviewed Albanians expressing the same opinion is lower and accounts for 61%. Younger categories of interviewees (at the age 18-25 years– 80%, opposite to the eldest group at the age of 65 years and more – 52%), high-school and university students (84%), people with completed college or university education (79%), citizens in the Pelagonija (87%), North-East (78%) and the East region (78%) have all agreed that greater activity is needed by these people.

A “barrier” in acknowledging problems of intellectually disabled people was noticed by larger number of interviewed housewives (27%), people with completed primary education (25%) and citizens in the Vardar region (32%). On the other hand, housewives, along with the eldest interviewee group (at the age of 65 years and more – 25%), provided most frequent “do not know” answers – 30%.

Despite the relatively high percentage of affirmative answers in regard to the need for **physically disabled people** to be more active in society in the pursuit of their rights, there are still certain deviations from the general answer distribution based on social features of interviewees. Hence, a higher percentage of interviewees in the North-East (90%), Pelagonija (90%) and East region (88%) agree with this position. Same answers were obtained from large number of interviewed Macedonians (85%), contrary to the 75% of interviewed Albanians sharing this position. On the other hand, “do not know”

answers were more frequently registered among housewives (22%) and elderly people at the age of 65 years and more (17%).

Significant deviations from the registered average of answers were noticed on the question **whether sex workers should be more active in society** in the pursuit of their rights. Thus, Albanian respondents – 31%, housewives – 14%, the eldest population (at the age of 50-65 years and at the aged of 65 years and more) – 38%, people with completed primary education – 26%, rural population – 37%, as well as citizens in the Vardar – 27% and the North-East region – 31% show highest level of reserved position. Contrary to them, Macedonian respondents – 50%, citizens in the City of Skopje – 55%, population from the Pelagonija region – 65%, high-school and university students – 53% and respondents with completed high education – 54%, feel the opposite. Above average frequencies of negative answers appeared among housewives – 45%, pensioners – 23%, Albanians – 26%, respondents from the Vardar region – 24% and people with completed primary education – 29%.

### Willingness for campaign involvement

Of course, the process of raising public awareness and interest on problems affecting the groups targeted by this research implies undertaking activities for the purpose of promoting their specific problems. In this sense, campaign organization appears to be one of the key elements in the promotion of their problems and rights. For that purpose, the survey provided the interviewees opportunity on expressing their position on

this matter, while the results obtained are presented in the following table:

### Would you support a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of the following groups?

|                                  | Yes | No  | Do not know. |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| Roma                             | 63% | 18% | 19%          |
| People having same-sex relations | 18% | 68% | 14%          |
| Drug and narcotic addicts        | 26% | 62% | 12%          |
| Alcohol addicts                  | 31% | 57% | 12%          |
| Intellectually disabled people   | 79% | 11% | 10%          |
| Physically disabled people       | 89% | 4%  | 7%           |
| Sex workers                      | 25% | 61% | 14%          |

Obviously, interviewees have different approaches to this question depending on the given group. Namely, the largest number of interviewees expressed **their willingness to participate in a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of physically disabled people – 89%, of intellectually disabled people – 79% and of Roma – 63%. In contrast, campaigns focused on the problems affecting people having same-sex relations (18%), sex workers (25%), drug and narcotic addicts (26%) and alcohol addicts (31%), even though assessed with a different rank, were less supported. As expected, highest number of negative answers, i.e. the decisive refusal to participate in such campaigns was obtained in relation to people having same-sex relations (68%), while the lowest number of such answers were provided in regard to physically disabled**

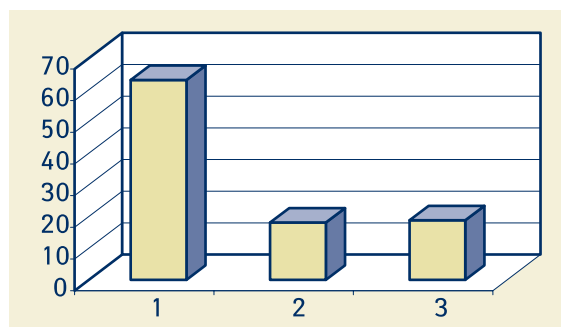
**persons (4%).** Number of interviewees who do not know whether they would support such a campaign or not, varies depending on the interviewee groups' features. Thus, **every fifth respondent answered “do not know” in regard to Roma, while 7% of respondents provided same answers concerning physically disabled persons. As for the other groups, shares of “do not know” answers move within the scope of 10% up to 14%.**

(Tables: General Distribution, Questions no. 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 and 107)

#### Question 101

### Would you support a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of Roma?

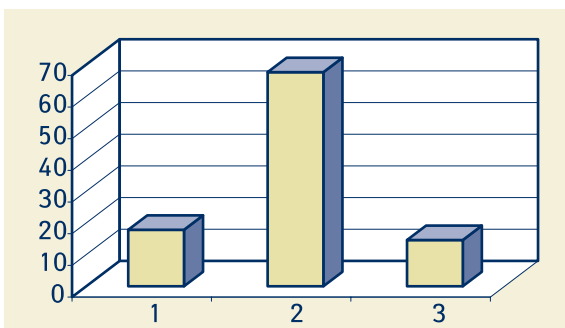
|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 755         | 63,1       |
| 2 | No           | 217         | 18,1       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 225         | 18,8       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



**Question 102**

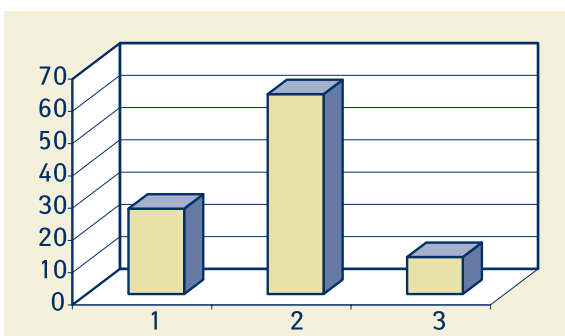
Would you support a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of people having same-sex relations?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 213         | 17,8       |
| 2 | No           | 809         | 67,6       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 175         | 14,6       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Question 103**

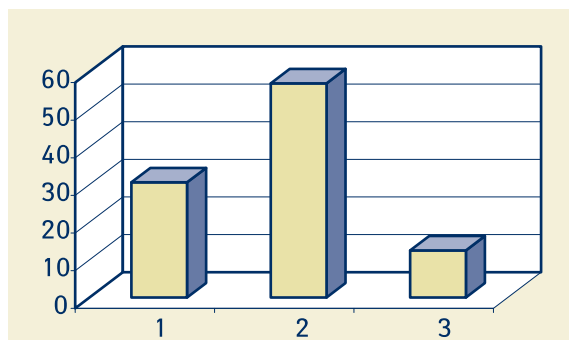
Would you support a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of drug and narcotic users?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 317         | 26,5       |
| 2 | No           | 742         | 62         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 138         | 11,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Question 104**

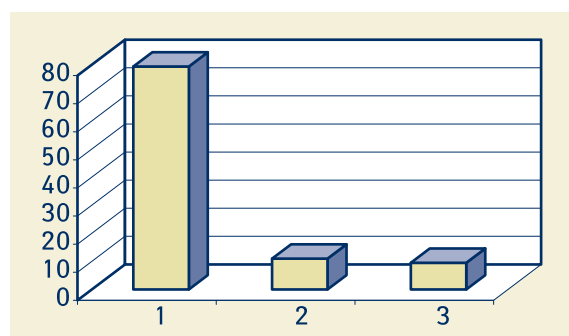
Would you support a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of alcohol addicts?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 366         | 30,6       |
| 2 | No           | 681         | 56,9       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 150         | 12,5       |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Question 105**

Would you support a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of intellectually disabled people?

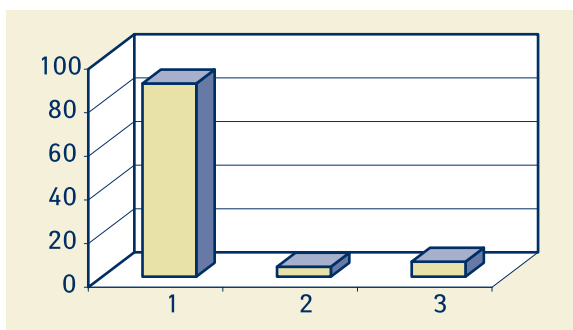
|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 951         | 79,4       |
| 2 | No           | 132         | 11         |
| 3 | Do not know  | 114         | 9,5        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



**Question 106**

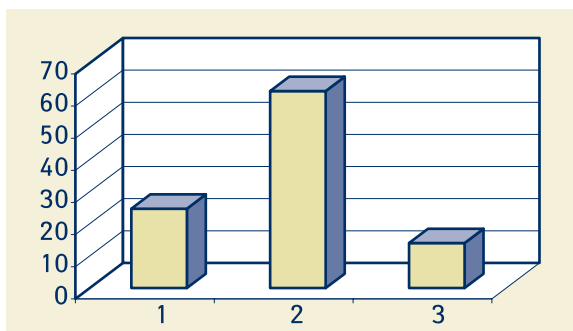
Would you support a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of physically disabled people?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 1060        | 88,6       |
| 2 | No           | 55          | 4,6        |
| 3 | Do not know  | 82          | 6,9        |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |

**Question 107**

Would you support a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of sex workers?

|   |              | Frequency   | %          |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | Yes          | 296         | 24,7       |
| 2 | No           | 734         | 61,3       |
| 3 | Do not know  | 167         | 14         |
| 4 | <b>Total</b> | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



The socio-demographic features of interviewees denote certain spillover of

answers registered as general average. In terms of respondents' gender, it can be seen that female respondents provided more frequent undecided answers when it comes to campaigns related to people having same-sex relations, Roma and sex workers. Otherwise, judging from answers obtained, male respondents (73%) account for deviations in answers compared to female respondents (62%), when it comes to active involvement in campaigns aimed at improving the status and rights of people having same-sex relations. From the aspect of respondents' ethnic background, data analysis indicates two specific moments. Although there is divergence of answers, the first moment provides for an exception. Namely, almost even distribution of answers was seen among respondents from the two major ethnic groups in regard to their willingness for campaign involvement aimed at improving the status and rights of physically disabled persons, i.e. 88% of Macedonians and 90% of Albanians provided affirmative answer. The second one includes certain answer re-distributions, which are mainly due to the larger number of "do not know" answers provided by Albanians, in comparison to other groups. At the same time, the largest share of Albanians without a position on the possibility for active involvement in such campaigns was registered in regard to Roma.

Nevertheless, from the aspect of other independent variables, it can be seen that they appear as determinants affecting the spillover of shares from the average answer distribution concerning the willingness for active campaign involvement aimed at promoting rights and problems of this researched target groups. Hence, interviewees' age, level of education and



employment status account for certain possibility for involvement. Younger interviewees, people with completed higher education, people employed in the public sector, as well as high-school and university students provided higher shares of positive answers, whereas most of interviewees with completed primary education, housewives, pensioners and agricultural workers provided “do not know” answers. As for the region and place of residence variable, it resulted in dramatic deviations from the general image of answer distribution. Namely, interviewees from the City of Skopje expressed above average positive disposition for active engagement in campaigns aimed at promoting rights and problems of these groups, except in the case of campaigns related to intellectually or physically disabled persons, where interviewees’ answers comply with the average. In regard to regional distribution of answers, there are certain deviations from the average. Thus, most significant deviations were registered among the following groups:

- Skopje (+11%) and Pelagonija (+14) regions, where interviewees expressed above average willingness for active involvement in campaigns promoting the rights and problems of Roma;
- Skopje region (+9%), where respondents provided above average number of affirmative answers regarding such engagement for the benefit of people having same-sex relations, contrary to their counterparts in the East region, who provided by 20% more frequent negative answers than the average;
- South-East (+20%), Skopje (+10%) and Pelagonija regions (+10%), where an above average number of respondents

provided affirmative answer concerning drug and narcotic addicts;

- South-East (+17%) and Skopje region (+9%), where affirmative answers are more frequently registered in regard to alcohol addicts, whereas negative attitude is predominant among interviewees in the East (+20%) and North-East region (+20%);
- South-West (+13%), as well as the South-East (+8%) and the Pelagonija region (+8%), where interviewees expressed determined willingness to be involved in campaigns for improving the status and rights of intellectually disabled persons;
- South-East (+8%) and East region (+7%), where above average willingness for supporting a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of physically disabled persons was registered;
- South-East region (+14%), where interviewees provided higher number of affirmative answers in regard to sex workers, contrary to answers of interviewees in the North-East and East regions who prefer the negative modality by 15% or 10% above the average.

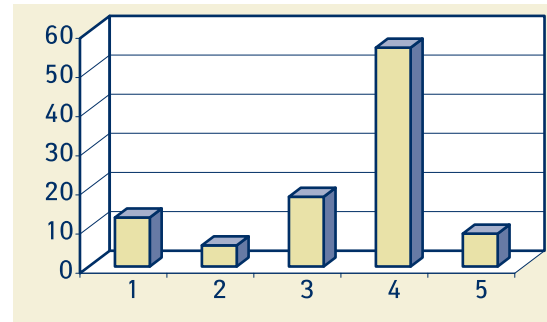
## Groups as threat to society

The question: **“Which of the following groups do you consider to be the greatest threat to society?”** aimed at determining citizens’ perception of target groups. According to answers obtained, **first on the ranking list as biggest threat to society are drug and narcotic users (60%). Second in rank are sex workers (18%), followed by people having same-sex relations on the third place (12%) and alcohol addicts on the fourth place (5%).** The remaining **8%** are interviewees who feel that **none of the listed groups is a threat to society.** (Table: General Distribution, Question no. 108)

### Question 108

**Which of the following groups do you consider to be the greatest threat to society?**

|   |                                  | Frequency   | %          |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | People having same-sex relations | 150         | 12,5       |
| 2 | Alcohol addicts                  | 65          | 5,4        |
| 3 | Sex workers                      | 213         | 17,8       |
| 4 | Drug and narcotic users          | 669         | 55,9       |
| 5 | None of them                     | 100         | 8,4        |
| 6 | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1197</b> | <b>100</b> |



Deviations from the general distribution of answers obtained were noticed from the aspect of several social features of survey participants. Of course, such deviations are larger or smaller with certain categories. Thus, interviewees’ gender does not seem to appear as respectable determinant, but it can be noted that interviewed women (11%), compared to interviewed men (14%), show lower perception of people having same-sex relations as dangerous. On the contrary, female respondents (19%) see sex workers as a threat to society more frequently than male respondents (16%). Interviewees’ ethnic background produces different perceptions in this case as well. Hence, higher percentage of Albanians see sex workers as danger (10% more than the average), while drug and narcotic users were indicated as dangerous by 41% of interviewed Albanians, which is by 20% smaller number than the average distribution of answers registered among Macedonian interviewees (61%). At the same time, interviewed Albanians provided more frequent “do not know” answers – 13%. It can be noted that interviewees’ age affects certain answer re-distributions in regard to particular groups. Therefore, interviewees at the age of 31-40 years (16%), at the age of 50-65 years (15%), as well as at the age

of 41-50 years (13%) believe people having same-sex relations are a potential threat. Interviewees at the age of 65 years and more feel alcohol addicts are the “greatest” danger (5% above the average), together with drug and narcotic users (6% above the average). On the contrary, below average number of interviewed high-school and university students see people having same-sex relations as the greatest threat to society (7%), while above average number of respondents from the same group pointed alcohol addicts (8%) and sex workers (24%) as the biggest threat. Furthermore, only 1% of housewives see alcohol addicts as a threat to society, whereas sex workers are seen threat by every fourth housewife. Deviations appear among employees in the private sector, as well as among survey participants with completed college or university education, where 6% more than the average number of participants identify the threat with drug and narcotic

users. Respondents with completed primary education believe sex workers are a threat (7% above the average).

Such re-distributions of answers are determined by region and place of residence variables. It was noticed that interviewees in the City of Skopje (60%) and in urban areas in the Republic of Macedonia (60%), as well as those from the Vardar (69%) and East regions (72%) provided above average answers indicating drug and narcotic users as threat to society. Sex workers are seen as such threat by citizens in the Polog region (32%), while respondents from the South-East (7%) and the East region (7%) provided below average answers indicating this group. As for people having same-sex relations, they are perceived as danger to society by interviewees in the South-West region (21%), contrary the number of such answers obtained from participants in the Pelagonija region – 5%.

## SUMMARIZED CONCLUSIONS

### Tolerance and discrimination in the Macedonian society

- More than one-third (35%) of interviewees believe that the Macedonian society is tolerant; 38% believe it is partially tolerant, while 7% are unable to provide an assessment.
- 41% of Macedonians assessed the Macedonian society as tolerant, while Albanians provided twice as less such answers – 20%.
- 21% of interviewees believe that Roma are **permanently** discriminated, 31% believe they are **frequently** discriminated, 24% stated that Roma are rarely discriminated, and 21% that they are **not discriminated at all**.
- 24% of interviewees believe that homosexuals are permanently discriminated, 28% - frequently; 17% - rarely and not discriminated at all, respectively, while 15% do not have a position.
- Discrimination of drug and narcotic users was assessed as **permanent** by 25% of interviewees, as **frequent** – 34%, 18% believe that discrimination is rare; 15% believe that there is no discrimination, while 7% cannot provide an assessment.
- Alcohol addicts, according to 16% of interviewed citizens are **permanently** discriminated, for 27% - **frequently**; 28% believe alcohol addicts are rarely discriminated; 24% - they are

not discriminated at all and 5% of interviewees do not have a position.

- Persons with intellectual disabilities are permanently discriminated according to the answers provided by 17% of interviewees; they are frequently discriminated for 32%, rarely for 27%, while 17% of them stated they are not discriminated at all, and 7% do not have a position.
- 14% of interviewees believe that persons with physical disabilities are permanently discriminated; 36% - frequently discriminated; for 26% discrimination is rare; for 19% it does not exist, and 5% do not have a position.
- In regard to sexual workers, 24% of interviewees assessed discrimination as permanent; 26% as frequent; 19% as rare; according to 19% there is no discrimination, and 13% do not have a position.
- Albanians – in higher shares – declare concerns regarding discrimination, but they are also the ones showing deeply-rooted prejudices.

### (Un)Desirable company

- Around two-thirds of interviewees declared that they do not mind being in the company of Roma; 19% feel uncomfortable; and 17% do not know, as they have never been in such situation.
- Around 40% of interviewees do not know how they would feel in the company of homosexuals, as they have never been in such situation; 39% would feel uncomfortable, and only 21% would not mind such company.

- In regard to drug and narcotic users, more than half of interviewees – 52% would mind such company; 14% would not mind, while 34% do not have a position.
- 60% of interviewees feel uncomfortable in the company of alcohol addicts; such company does not bother 27%; while 14% do not have a position.
- Intellectually disabled persons are undesirable company for one quarter (24%) of interviewees, but majority of the interviewed population would not mind their company (54%); for 22% of interviewees such assessment is impossible.
- Physically disabled persons do not cause discomfort with majority of the population – 75%; 14% feel uncomfortable in their company, while 12% do not have a position.
- In regard to sexual workers, 42% of interviewees do not have a position as they have never been in such company; 22% do not mind, while 35% would feel uncomfortable.
- Similar is the situation with the possibility of having alcohol addicts as neighbors. Here, 19% of interviewees would accept such neighbors, 70% would not, while 11% do not have a position.
- Intellectually disabled persons would not be accepted as neighbors by 27% of the surveyed population; 53% would not mind; while 20% do not have a position.
- Physically disabled persons are more acceptable as neighbors in comparison to intellectually disabled persons – 79%; they are not acceptable for 9%, while 11% of interviewees do not have a position.
- Having sexual workers as a neighbor is acceptable for only 17% of interviewees; 68% find them unacceptable as neighbors; while 14% do not have a position.

### Tenants, spouses, associates

- **51% of surveyed participants would not rent an apartment to drug users under no circumstances.**
- On the issue of apartment let, social distance is created towards people engaged in prostitution (21%), people having same-sex relations (12%) and alcohol addicts (9%).
- **Indisputably, the highest social distance in terms of cooperation on the job was noticed against drug users (69%) and alcohol addicts (63%).**
- There is no negative social distance in regard to cooperating on the job with Roma (69%) and physically disabled persons (72%).
- **There is increased negative social distance from drug users (77%) and alcohol addicts (73%) when they are**

### Neighbors

- Roma are acceptable as neighbors for 53% of the population; 27% provided negative answers, while 20% do not know.
- About two-thirds of interviewees would mind homosexuals being their neighbors (62%), 21% would not mind; while 17% do not know.
- Large percentage of interviewees stated that they find it unacceptable for their neighbors to be drug and narcotic users – 85%. Only 7% find it acceptable, while 9% do not have a position.

### to be accepted job superior.

- Negative social distance is reiterated towards people having same-sex relations (50%) in terms of accepting them as job superiors.
- **On the question, would you approve marriage with members of various social groups, highest negative percentage was obtained in regard to drug users (96%), people having same-sex relations (94%), people engaged in prostitution (92%) and alcohol addicts (90%).**
- The second group of unacceptable marriages with various social group members encompasses intellectually disabled persons (85%) and Roma (84%), while the third group is comprised of physically disabled persons (63%).
- **Higher social distance in regard to voting for MP or other office candidate was noticed towards drug users (92%), alcohol addicts (87%) and people engaged in prostitution (81%).**
- A slightly lower negative social distance as willingness to vote for MP or other office candidates was noticed towards people having same-sex relations (64%).
- Positive social distance was noticed in terms of voting for physically disabled persons (53%) and Roma (47%).
- When the assessed social distance is as far as possible from somebody's "home and family", the probability for negative social distance towards drug users and alcohol addicts is higher.
- **When the assessed social distance is close to somebody's "home and family", the for drug users and alcohol addicts having standard negative social distance to join the group of people having same-sex**

### relations and people engaged in prostitution is higher.

- **On the summarized and ranking assessment of social distance categories, lowest social distance or rejection was noticed towards physically disabled persons.**
- **There is no negative social distance towards Roma as a social group, except in cases of approving marriages with a member of this community.**

### Exercising rights

- When exercising health rights and services, more than one quarter of interviewees believe that Roma are the most discriminated ones, followed by drug and narcotic users (1/5).
- When exercising social rights and services, again Roma are the most discriminated ones (indicated in 1/4 of answers), followed by intellectually disabled persons (1/5) and physically disabled persons (1/5).
- As for employment, it is believed that the most discriminated are intellectually disabled persons (1/4), closely followed by Roma, physically disabled persons and drug and narcotic users (1/5).
- In the domain of education, it is believed that most discriminated are intellectually disabled persons and Roma (1/3).
- From the aspect of police treatment, 1/3 of interviewees believe that most discriminated are drug and narcotic users, followed by Roma and sexual workers (1/5).
- Often, Roma believe they are the most discriminated group.
- Citizens believe that the group endangering the moral and family values

the most is the one comprised of drug and narcotic users (42%), followed by sexual workers and people having same-sex relations (1/5, respectively). opojni drogi i supstancii (42%),

- Interviewees believe that media provide worst coverage of drug and narcotic users (1/5).
- For Roma as a group, interviewers believe that state institutions provide “sufficient” or “little” care (1/3 respectively).
- For people having same-sex relations, predominant is the opinion that state institutions care “little” (1/5) or “not at all” (1/3).
- For drug and narcotic users, predominant is the opinion that competent state institutions care “little” (42%) or do not care at all (1/4).
- For alcohol addicts, it is believed that care is scarce (40%), or that there is no care at all (1/3).
- For intellectually disabled persons, it is believed that state institutions care little (45%) or do not care at all (1/3).
- For physically disabled persons, it is believed that the state does “little” (49%) or “nothing at all” (1/4).
- For the category of sexual workers, citizens predominantly believe that competent state institutions do little (1/4) or “nothing at all” (44%).
- All in all, most numerous answers indicating that state does “little” were provided in regard to physically disabled persons, intellectually disabled persons (for both groups, almost every second citizens) and drug users (42%).
- Largest number of interviewees believes nothing has been done for sex workers (44%).

## Legalization

- To a great extent, surveyed citizens did not have a developed position on certain issues, such as the legalization of prostitution: 24% - “do not know” and the legalization of soft drugs: 22% - “do not know” answers. At the same time, the legalization of soft drugs has been rejected by a larger share (55%), in comparison to the legalization of prostitution (38%).
- From the plethora of state institutions, the ones operating in the field of health and social care are expected to be most responsible for addressing problems affecting: persons with physical or intellectual disabilities (76%); Roma (61%); sex workers (52%) and drug users (51%).
- The family was indicated as most responsible in terms of addressing problems affecting: people having same-sex relations (40%) and alcohol addicts (47%).
- Non-governmental organizations as most responsible for addressing problems were frequently indicated in the context of homosexuals (12%), while such answers in regard to other groups account for share lower than 10%.
- Reasons and nature of social distance towards groups were developed on the basis of accepting the following positions:
  - same-sex relations are a disease – 48%;
  - alcoholism is a curable disease – 64%;
  - drug use as a disease is curable – 53%;
  - nobody is forced to enter prostitution unless it wishes to – 80%;

- homosexuals (77%) and physically disabled persons (34%) should not be allowed to work in the educational system, i.e., with children;
- intellectually disabled persons should be accommodated at special institutions – 28%.
- The coffee shop “Macedonia” as a place for spending portion of their leisure time is open for: Roma (65%); former alcohol addicts (47%); intellectually disabled persons (53%) and physically disabled persons (75%). The following will remain outside, or frequent other coffee shops intended only for them: sex workers (50%); drug users (55%) and homosexuals (47%).

### **Criminal offense – public or private matter**

- For majority of surveyed citizens (60%), drug and narcotic use should be treated as criminal offense. Such rigid position is shared by more than half of interviewees (54%) who provided answers indicating that prostitution should be sanctioned as criminal offense. Although with a lower frequency, a significant share of respondents believe that same-sex relations and alcohol addiction also deserve the status of criminal offences. To be more precise, every third survey participant shares this position.
- There is no doubt that surveyed citizens - to large extent (50% -60%) - believe that problems affecting these marginalized groups deserve the public's attention, but one should not underestimate the fact that every third survey participant sees the problems of these people as private matter which should not be discussed in public. Judging from the answers obtained, greatest distance has been indicated in regard to people having same-sex relations.
- The public's attitude towards active engagement of groups in the promotion of their rights varies depending on the group in question. The position that they should be more active was frequently provided by interviewees in regard to Roma – 79% and physically disabled persons – 83%. However, when coming to drug and narcotic users and people having same-sex relations, higher shares of interviewees are indifferent to this possibility.
- Majority of respondents expressed willingness to participate in a campaign aimed at improving the status and rights of physically disabled persons – 89%, followed by the campaign addressing intellectually disabled persons – 79%, as well as the campaign organized for promotion of Roma rights 63%. On the contrary, campaigns that focus on problems faced by people having same-sex relations (18%), drug and narcotic users (26%) and alcohol addicts (31%), although with variable gradation received a lower degree of public support.
- First on the ranking list of groups presenting greatest threat to society are drug and narcotic users (60%). Second in rank are sex workers (18%), the third position is reserved for people having same-sex relations (12%), and the fourth for alcohol adducts (5%). Only 8% of interviewees believe that neither of the groups listed presents a threat toe society.





**REPORT FROM  
THE IN-DEPTH  
INTERVIEWS AND  
FOCUS GROUPS**





# ROMA

summary report from focus groups and interviews

## Tolerance of the Macedonian society

NGO interlocutors assess the Macedonian society as modestly or insufficiently tolerant. The Republic of Macedonia is more tolerant than Western European countries, but at the same time tolerance for the Roma population is primarily declarative.

At the same time, in their opinion, the lowest level of tolerance is seen towards addicts and Roma population, while the highest level is noticeable towards people with special needs.

Thus, when assessing the specific relation society-particular group, interlocutors stress that society is extremely intolerant toward their group. In some cases, such relation is projected on their organizations as well: certain public institutions negate the legitimacy of the organization representing the interests of their target group.

On the other hand, focus group interlocutors held a far more critical position, and – in their opinion – the Macedonian society is intolerant. Reasons listed for it are numerous and of various nature, but what is common is the statement that “rules do not apply to all equally”.

## Discrimination

According to focus group interlocutors, intolerance, discrimination, problems they are facing encompass every aspect of life and create a long list of bottle necks. The list includes:

- unequal treatment by the police;
- different treatment in regard to communal services' payment collection (electricity);
- unequal treatment of Roma children in the education, in the enrolment and grading procedures;
- mistrust, refusal to be served in shops;
- closed doors for employment, even in cases of people holding higher education degrees;
- refusal of social allowance;
- no assistance in solving residential or health problems;
- humiliating attitude from other ethnic groups, especially from Macedonians and Albanians.

NGO interlocutors confirmed the problems affecting this group, and stressed the ones in regard to employment, which are bigger as the education level increases, and problems in regard to health and social insurance. They added that as Roma organizations they are faced with lack of financial means,

communication problems with state services, as well as absence of state programs intended for Roma community development.

When coming to discrimination, intolerant behavior, non-governmental organizations are of assistance to group members, since institutions react in different ways depending on the organization or individual in question.

Discrimination is permanent, day-to-day, and is obvious when Roma become “visible in the environment”. For example, they are not allowed to enter coffee shops or the schools, where Roma children are “regular” culprits for all problems.

A particular problem occurs when organizations try to act for the general wellbeing, outside the “Roma framework”. Donor look in wonder, while citizens comment “Gypsies should mind their business; no Gypsy will solve my problems.”

### State's attitude

Not only did the focus group interlocutors feel lack of care provided by the state, but they believe that the state is getting wealthier on their account, with the money provided by foreign donors!

It is their assessment that NGOs help much more in education in comparison to state institutions. Nevertheless, they pointed out the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy as a positive example of care and assistance provided by a state institution, while the following institutions were indicated as negative examples: Ministry of Health (problems with health insurance), Ministry of Culture (no financial support for Roma culture programs) and the Ministry of Finance

(no assistance for Roma NGOs).

The experience of focus group interlocutors shows that assistance is mainly provided by NGOs, particularly because state institutions often do not cooperate in problem solving.

The non-governmental sector interlocutors had bad experiences with the central government bodies. They emphasize that existing programs within the “Roma Decade” have not been implemented due to lack of financial support. On the contrary, experiences and the cooperation with the local government, and even local media were assessed as positive.

The focus groups interlocutors are unanimous in the statement that the poor economic status of Roma families, as well as parents’ low level of education, makes the family the source of problems, rather than the solution to them.

As for the NGOs assistance, various experiences were shared. It is positive than NGOs act as services for citizens, but at the same time Roma population can impact local governments through them. Another quality is that people in such organizations are capable and willing, and they know how to help. On the contrary, the negative experiences show that certain NGOs are closed within families of political party affiliation.

The fact that the state fund for NGO assistance does not have funds for them, and financially supports other NGOs was indicated as a special problem.

Strong criticism was directed to particular programs supported by FOSIM: “Mentorship programs are money wasted in vain, as children acquire 10% of their knowledge at

school, but 90% at home, with their parents. Has “Soros” thought about the fact that 90% of Roma parents are uneducated?! It would have been better if somebody was paid to teach children after school....!”

### Expectations and future changes

Expectations are almost completely directed towards the central government. NGO interlocutors stress that central government authorities should be engaged in developing special programs, action plans that would be accompanied with appropriate budgets, within the relevant ministries. Such organized focus would not only address Roma population, but should – to a great extent - include representatives and executives from the Roma community. Furthermore, the central government is expected to show greater engagement in education, by designing special curricula for Roma from first to eight grade of primary education.

Changes expected or requested by interlocutors concern the adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Law, as well as changes in the human resource policy: increased participation of Roma, especially in the higher bodies of the central government.

### Media

Media coverage of Roma was assessed as lacking objectiveness and insufficient; as a matter of fact – negative assessments are prevailing.

Arguments in support are:

- the use of term “Gypsy” instead of “Roma”;
- covering only the poorest Roma, and not all of them, as there are also stories of successful Roma. Only the dark side of life is being shown, which – of course – is de-motivating;
- the lack of TV programmes on Roma language, twice a week is too little;
- lack of printed media on Roma language and lack of national concession for a broadcasting media in Roma language;
- media do not report sufficiently on problems affecting Roma.



# HOMOSEXUALS

report from organized interviews and focus groups

Thorough interviews with 4 activists from non-governmental organizations addressing the rights of homosexuals were organized as part of the project, as well as 2 focus groups with citizens declaring themselves as homosexuals, independent from their participation in non-governmental organizations.

The following report summarizes the results obtained.

## Interviews with homosexuals active in non-governmental organizations

### Citizens and the (In)tolerance

On the question whether the Macedonian society is tolerant, interviewees mainly provided positive answers. When they were asked to rank tolerance on a scale (where 1 was the lowest, and 5 highest tolerance), assessments move between 3 and 4. It is important to mention that these assessments were formed according to their personal general experience and do not concern the attitude toward homosexuals in particular. According to the interviewees, higher assessments are a result of the general features **declared** by Macedonian citizens.

In this context, all of them mentioned the hypocrisy which – in their opinion – predominates with majority of the population, due to which the Macedonian society seems more tolerant than it really is.

### Tolerance toward particular societal groups

Interviewees provided completely different answers on this question. For one of the interviewees, sex workers are the least tolerated ones, while another said that they are not the group causing great condemn from the environment as expected. Roma, as a group that has been largely deprived of its rights, was indicated by two interviewees. According to them, this is due to their appearance and the existing prejudices in regard to their living style, although they have a political lobby of their own. Drug users, due to their addiction and aggressiveness, are the least tolerated ones in the society – according to one of the interviewees.

It is interesting to mention that all interviewees saw themselves as a group that causes great intolerance. One female interviewee, who listed homosexuals among discriminated groups, even mentioned that this only concerns the male portion of the group, due to the existing stereotypes in regard to their appearance and behavior.

### **(In)tolerance toward non-governmental organizations addressing the rights of homosexuals**

Although interviewees are activists from three different non-governmental organizations addressing the rights of homosexuals, nobody had a negative example of intolerance toward their organization. A single example of hidden intolerance was indicated, and it concerned sabotaging their activities, but accompanied with a different explanation (refusal to provide venue for an event, etc.). On the contrary, examples of intolerance provided by homosexuals who addressed non-governmental organizations for advice were numerous. The non-governmental organization, whose member was the female interviewee, is active, but not open for the broader population, i.e., works only on addressing the needs and interests of homosexuals. All activities organized by this NGO, as well as its members, are unknown to the public. Due to these reasons, she was unable to indicate specific problems.

### **Intolerance toward non-governmental organizations in the private or public sphere**

One of the examples provided during interviews concerned the organization located in a residential building, where the other tenants are not informed about the type of activities it performs (although there is small number of tenants who are acquainted and do not criticize). Therefore, this organization is not faced with major problems and intolerance of any kind.

On the other hand, there was an example of expressed intolerance from the manager in a culture institution, who did not allow the organization of a gay event. Upon the change of the manager in question - one year latter

- the new manager allowed the organization of the same event, which only shows that intolerance depends more on individuals rather than on the institutions.

Examples of intolerance within particular ethnic groups were also indicated (several cases where groups of Albanians crashed gay parties and attacked homosexuals with Albanian ethnic background).

In the private sphere, interviewees, in general, are not faced with intolerance from friends as they mainly hang out with open people - free of homosexual prejudices. However, unpleasant situations were mentioned when acquaintances doubting their homosexuality gossiped. In the words of one interviewee: "It all boils down to gossip and hypocrisy."

### **Individual examples of intolerance**

One of the interviewees stated that he has not encountered any specific problems because of his sexual orientation, as he carefully chooses people to whom he can open up. But, there were many specific experiences with close friends who were faced with utter intolerance within the circles they move in. In general, other interviewees rarely found themselves in situations of personal intolerance due to their homosexuality. For one of them, the most unpleasant situation is coming clean in front of their families. He believes that intolerance is greatest within the family, as he was expected to get married, have offspring, so at the moment when this becomes impossible, parents' reactions are traumatic.

In regard to social company, examples of several broken relations with long-term friends were mentioned, which were discontinued at the moment of disclosing one's homosexuality.



One of the interviewees believes that intolerance becomes visible when people are personally affected. He provided several examples where family and friends show intolerance the moment they discover the person's same-sex orientation, although they previously have not displayed negative attitude towards homosexuals.

All interviewees indicated a specific example when at the Clinic Centre in Skopje the blood from a homosexual was refused in a risk case of rare blood type patient. Although the patient's family gave their consent, the hospital refused the blood donor prior to having tested the blood, with the explanation that he must have a transmissible disease because of having sex with men.

### Specific problems affecting the group

*The major problem faced by one of the interviewees, and the relevant non-governmental organization, as well as homosexuals in general, are lies and hiding. "Lying about my sexual orientation for the sake of being better accepted by society, especially by the family which still prefers traditional values, is the most difficult thing I have done."*

According to another interviewee, homosexuals face multiple problems, the most difficult one being the moral judgment from the surrounding. *"The inability to express my sexual orientation in public imposes hiding and leading double lives."*

According to yet another interviewee, lack of information on homosexuality results in people developing the image that this is "fashion imported from the West". This contributes to the creation of various stereotypes for homosexuals, and a large

number of prejudices (for instance, that AIDS is the disease of homosexuals, etc.).

The same interviewee believes that homosexuals are faced with numerous judgments from more primitive and less educated people, who are often willing to prove that by means of physical encounters. He witnessed brutal attacks from police structures directed towards his friends, but was unwilling to provide further comments.

### Institutions' attitude

On this topic, interviewees were expected to provide their expectations from certain institutions (for example, central and local government authorities, non-governmental organizations, schools, media, etc.) in regard to promoting rights of homosexuals. All interviewees expect greater efforts on behalf of institutions listed, but - in reality - they are pessimistic and believe that not a single one of them would more seriously address this issue. One of the interviewees stated that his pessimism is so great that it would take at least ten years for people, as well as institutions in Macedonia, to at soften the discriminatory behavior against homosexuals

Mistrust in media should also be mentioned, as majority of them do not ignore homosexuals' existence, but mentioned them only for marketing goals intended to increase their sales and viewing ratings. Media coverage depends on the specific editorial policy.

Another interviewee believes that discrimination cannot be completely eradicated, but can be reduced with the assistance from central government authorities. *"As soon as highest level*

*institutions become engaged, the effect will be felt everywhere.*" The interviewee in question does not expect much from them, but hopes that if institutions wish to work according to European standards, they should start acting for the benefit of homosexuals. Media are the ones they put their hopes in for initiating campaigns on accepting homosexuality as a normal phenomenon.

The third interviewee expects all above listed institutions to undertake certain efforts for decreasing discrimination of homosexuals, as *"it falls under their competences"*. However, in reality, he believes that only non-governmental organizations and media would seriously address this problem.

Due to the bad experience with local government bodies, which was indicated on numerous occasions, the interviewees expect insignificant or almost no efforts on their part.

### **Worst and best cooperation**

The non-governmental organization whose member was one of the interviewees, cooperates the best with other non-governmental organizations and the Clinic for Infectious Diseases, which enables them free-of-charge testing for STDs and SOS lines, while other institutions provide for minimum or no cooperation at all.

Another interviewee mentioned that there is good cooperation with certain printed media and citizens' associations.

The non-governmental organization - whose members are the other two interviewees - cooperates the best with other non-governmental organizations. Several non-governmental coalitions were mentioned

in the context of dealing with homosexuals' rights by means of particular projects, most often sponsored by foreign organizations. The worst cooperation was indicated in regard to local government authorities. Local authorities either ignore or sabotage these organizations when they need support, i.e., when they need venues for events.

### **Need for policy and legislative changes**

On the issue of improving their status, all interviewees listed the adoption of the Law on Minority Rights (including homosexuals) that would prevent discrimination against them. But, in the words of one of them *"unfortunately, in reality no law is enforced"*. This interviewee believes that institutions should be separately informed of the rights of homosexuals, and emphasized the police and hospitals. In that way, unpleasant experiences mentioned, would not be repeated.

The second interviewee also believes that anti-discrimination laws exist only on paper. However, he is more optimistic about the future and believes that laws for the benefit of homosexuals will be adopted, although he does not exclude the possibility for this to happen in ten years time.

The Law on Same-Sex Communities is most needed for homosexuals, as it would help the regulation of basic rights and liabilities with their partners (in terms of health insurance, property, etc.). It is worth noting one of the examples provided by an interviewee and illustrating that Macedonia does not lag behind modern countries. Namely, small number (but with a growing tendency) of Macedonian homosexuals decide to marry foreign citizens coming from countries where

same-sex martial communities are regulated by law. That this is not a matter of obtaining foreign country passport for comfortable life in more liberal countries was proved by the fact that majority of foreigners reside in the apparently homophobic Macedonia and are not faced with serious problems and judgments.

According to the third interviewee, major changes in the legislation are needed to decrease the discriminatory behavior against homosexuals. The non-governmental organization where he participates is very active in the struggle on improving the rights of homosexuals. Their current preoccupation is the finalization of anti-discrimination draft laws and amendments to the Family Law.

### Report from organized focus groups

#### Tolerance of the Macedonian society

Large number of focus group participants assessed the Macedonian society as tolerant. On the scale from 1 to 5 (where 5 is the highest rate for tolerance), interviewees mainly assessed Macedonia with ratings from 3 to 4. Lower ratings were noticed, as well as the tendency to base assessments on personal experiences.

In terms of tolerance for homosexuals, it is interesting to note that female interviewees provided higher ratings and expressed less painful personal experiences with the surrounding. This is what was emphasized by one of the participants: *"Nobody minds the lesbians, as their affection is seen as a type of foreplay that excites heterosexual men."*

Lower tolerance ratings were obtained from male participants, who provided numerous unpleasant experiences related to their sexual orientation. Following is one of them: *"I was never directly told that I was fired because I am homosexual. I was given million tasks that nobody could really complete so that they would provide themselves with an excuse for firing me. The truth was that my homosexuality bothered my boss."*

It was interesting to see that not a single focus group participant provided the lowest rating for tolerance of homosexuals in the Republic of Macedonia. On the question why they provided such assessments, when there is predominant opinion that our society is homophobic, participants provided various examples.

The first focus group compared our country with the neighboring ones, which were rated as far more homophobic than ours. Some of the participants witnessed that tolerance in the region is much lower. *"We avoided an incident by inch, caused by Neo-Nazis during a gay workshop in Slovenia"* – said one of the female participants.

*"In Serbia there was so much hatred for homosexuals, which resulted in an incident during the gay parade organized last year"* – said a participant frequently traveling on the relation Skopje-Belgrade.

*"The tolerance in the Macedonian society is assessed as high, as here there were no major incidents directed toward us as a group or an organization. This is quite different from the region, or from Russia, for instance. It all boils down to petty talks and laughing behind one's back."* – is the conclusion provided

by a female participant in the focus group, activist from an NGO fighting for the rights of homosexuals.

According to the participants, tolerance in the Republic of Macedonia is actually a reflection of the lower degree of expressing anger (in the physical sense of the word) toward homosexuals.

### Individual experiences of discrimination against homosexuals

The general impression of participants in both focus groups is that they as homosexuals feel discriminated in comparison to other citizens. Even those that have been directly discriminated, feel frustrated, as they cannot freely declare their sexual orientation. The participants who were also activists in non-governmental organizations addressing the rights of homosexuals provided several examples of discrimination.

Following is the illustration provided by a participant – NGO activist:

*“The venue in the down town area for the organization of the gay parade was not approved with the explanation that another organization has scheduled an event at the same time. We contacted the other association for the purpose of harmonizing the timing of events. Once we managed to find different time frames for the same day, we were rejected again by the city authorities, but this time - without an argument.”*

Or in the words of another participant: *“In Macedonia, homosexuals are faced with violence dressed in silk gloves.”*

All participants were unanimous that discrimination is present in all spheres, although it has not been publicly declared.

One of the female participants deems that fear among homosexuals for coming out of the closet and disclosing their sexual orientation is violence as well. *“Everybody fears the reactions from the environment, and the respective consequences”* – she said. Contrary to this position, there were other participants who said that *“In Macedonia all wonders last three days, so soon homosexuals will no longer cause fierce reactions as they do now.”*

The remark provided by a participant and approved by both focus groups is worth mentioning: *“in Macedonia, discrimination is ethnically colored”*. More precisely, when talking about discrimination, it all comes down to the attitude towards the Albanian minority and their rights, while other minority groups and cultural minorities are being forgotten.

### State and institution’s attitude toward homosexuals

Participants in both focus groups provided different answers regarding institutions that help or do not care for the rights of homosexuals. Ordinary citizens, who were part of the focus groups, had almost no contact with state institution under the hat of being homosexuals. *“I do not know how they would react when I would ask them for assistance or advice, but I know that I would never do such thing as I am afraid that I might be rejected because of being lesbian, and would then be discriminated for other matters as well”* – said a female participant in the focus group. Interviewees having frequent contacts with state institutions were the non-governmental organizations’ activists. Their conclusion was that only few non-governmental organizations care about homosexual rights. State institutions play the deaf ear to homosexual needs.

Most often, their initiatives neatly submitted to competent authorities are not even dignified with an answer. According to one of them: *“Rights of homosexuals become an interesting topic during election campaigns when political parties fight for every vote, although there are parties that completely ignore this population.”*

### Role of the family

All participants agreed that the family has a major role in their lives and that its assistance and support means a lot.

Statements provided by many participants give the impression that their families unconditionally support their choices.

However, in reality, despite the percentage of open-minded families, majority of them disagree with the homosexual choices of their children. It has to be taken into account that this is a vulnerable topic that cannot be openly discussed.

Numerous examples were provided of families providing no support for their homosexual members and concerning experiences of participants' close friends.

According to majority of participants, such families show rigid homophobia. Family members are expected, and even pressured, to become “normal”, i.e., they are expected to marry and establish their own families. Young people are often expelled from their homes due to their sexual orientation. It was mentioned that some of them address non-governmental organizations for assistance.

### Homosexuals and non-governmental organizations

Focus groups were comprised of non-governmental activists, as well as citizens contacting non-governmental organizations for the purpose of obtaining advice or assistance. The general impression is that

all participants in both focus groups have positive relations with non-governmental organizations, contrary to the relations they have with state institutions.

Interviewees who are active members belong to organizations working on improving the rights of homosexuals and raising awareness. They have positive experiences from the cooperation with other non-governmental organizations with whom they work on various projects. In the positive context, they also mentioned the coalition cooperation established between several non-governmental organizations addressing the rights of homosexuals.

### Requested assistance as group members

Interlocutors' experience in terms of requested assistance from certain institutions or individuals varies to a great extent. Indisputable, most of them have negative experiences with state institutions. Some focus groups participants stressed the bad attitude of local authorities and certain political parties.

The examples provided by surveyed interviewees were repeated in focus groups discussions (police violent behavior towards homosexuals, etc.), but new examples were also provided (citizens' violence, job position discrimination, forced “treatment” of homosexuality...).

In terms of positive experiences, interviewees provided examples of non-governmental organizations (domestic and international), media and particular individuals that have assisted them disregarding their sexual orientation. Interlocutors have assessed that provided or denied assistance in our society depends on the individual preferences of

certain office holders, and is not a result of principle-based and well developed policy.

According to some participants, it is difficult to ask for assistance in a country where the educational system, although latently, still treats homosexuality as disease or a pathological phenomena. As it was emphasized “we are left to help ourselves or one another”.

### Media coverage

In general, all participants agree that media hold great power and can have great impact on people. The general conclusion is that media coverage of homosexuals depends on the specific editorial policy. In the words of one focus group participant: “*media make sensation out of homosexuals*”. In the opinion of participants, most of media items which include information related to homosexuals are presented in spectacular manner, exclusively for the purpose of attracting broader audiences. Attention is not paid to the fact whether somebody is being offended or not.

In terms of objectivity and correctness, majority interviewees agreed that they depend on editors and media objectives. “There are media covering our group only for the purpose of increasing sales and viewer ratings; there are media providing correct coverage, and those that completely ignore us or spread intolerance towards our group” - said a female participant in the focus group. It was reiterated that editors’ individual preferences have a major role in terms of media coverage of homosexuals. Several examples were provided of media that have previously showed intolerance, but have changed their attitude in positive direction pursuant to the change of editors in chief.

### Directions for future actions

The criticism of the current situation in Macedonia did not prevent participants from holding optimistic expectations in regard to the rights of homosexuals. The general assessment is that our state will be forced, due to its Euro-integration processes to harmonize its legislation with the European, which in future will be reflected on the behavior of individuals in their everyday life. One interlocutor emphasized: “disregarding the duration of the process, there must be a positive outcome”. One of the female participants provided an interesting comparison: “the establishment of the university with Albanian language of instruction was accompanied with demonstrations and violence, even casualties. After only several years, Macedonians enroll at the same university. Same will happen with our requests.”

Despite the legislation changes, this group believes that another priority should be raising awareness for homosexuals by means of various campaigns, public events, billboards, debates, changes in textbooks, etc. At the same time, the following was concluded: it is of key importance for the broader, heterosexual population freed of prejudices towards citizens with different sexual orientation to take part in such efforts.

## DRUG AND NARCOTIC USERS

Report from focus groups organized with drug and narcotic users and interviews with representatives from non-governmental organizations

### Is the Macedonian society tolerant?

According to most positions expressed, certain people in the Macedonian society are utterly tolerant, while others utterly intolerant. On one side, Macedonian citizens are highly tolerant in regard to their basic life needs, and do not react even when their basic human rights are being endangered. On the other hand, there is great intolerance for social and pathologic phenomena, such as drug use. Interview participants identify the reasons behind such situation as prejudices, ignorance and community's need to draw strict lines between the healthy and the sick.

*"Intolerance is shown even by institutions that should assist vulnerable groups, especially the health care ones."*

Certain employees in these institutions believe they are tolerant, humane and full of understanding by the mere act of performing the job they are paid for. One of the interviewees believes that institutions dealing with this problem do their job because they have to, and therefore acquire false humanity and tolerance in situations where tolerance should not be a matter of discussion, but should be implied. Reason for this situation, inter alia, is the ignorant attitude towards

the problem matter. One cannot tolerate something that he/she does not understand.

*"An employee at an institution working on the problem believes it makes a favor to these people".*

The tolerance of the Macedonian society is strongly related to its inclination towards stigmatization of the otherness. Roots for such behavior can be found in the traditionally set societal values, which are not prone to changes. In the opinion of some interviewees, the community has low tolerance threshold for everything different. The situation at the Drug Users Centre in the Municipality of Kisela Voda was indicated as an example of intolerance.

*"Community's tolerance for drug users treated there has been dramatically lowered in the aftermath of violent outbursts that occurred upon the alteration of the therapy regime."*

According to focus groups, such behavior towards drug users makes this group the most unwelcome one in the Macedonian society, with low level of tolerance for. The reason for this is community's fear based on marginalized group's age (relatively young population) resulting in dread for their off-springs' future, who might be the next victims. Prejudices

against drugs cherished by the community worsen the situation.

*"Intolerance emerges as soon as the community learns that somebody is an addict, and is accompanied with social isolation exercised by person's friends, as they no longer communicate with him/her."*

Assessments provided in regard to the degree of society's tolerance on the scale of 1 to 5, moved in the range from 2 to 3. The average assessment is 2.5. The general assessment of the Macedonian tolerance is only 2, although – according to the focus groups – modest progress has been made in terms of improvement.

*"When it comes to mutual tolerance among societal groups, the assessment would be 2."*

*The society shows lowest tolerance for drug users, although HIV/AIDS affected persons were also mentioned in this context. People fear these two groups due to the possible criminal activities of the former, whereas lack of knowledge concerning the disease and the related fear makes the latter unwelcome in the community. The group of unwelcome citizens includes the LGBT population.*

*„Community shows intolerance toward several groups, but if we are to indicate one, it would most certainly be the HIV/AIDS population."*

Society is highly tolerant of homeless and poor people, as citizens understand the problem of poverty and can more easily relate to it (would not like to see themselves in such position). The society shows greatest level of tolerance for people with special needs, as this a problem discussed at length

with developed positive attitudes for the population in question. However, there is no tolerance for drug users and HIV/AIDS infected people.

*"The reason for this can be found in the moral values of affected persons, who are believed to be bad examples in society."*

As for the local community, unfortunately the tolerance level is very low as well. Maybe in smaller towns such as Kavadarci and Strumica, as it was indicated, the local population is more tolerant towards marginalized groups, as opposed to Skopje, where the community would like to see these people as far away from them as possible. This happens because in smaller places people can more easily and faster understand the problem due to the community's homogeneity.

*"God forbid somebody from your surrounding to learn of your vice. Your life immediately turns into hell. You are isolated by everybody."*

### **General tolerance for drug users**

According to focus groups participants, drug users face problems everywhere and in all spheres of life: health care, education, employment. Their human rights are being constantly violated. When they say they have hepatitis C, intervention and assistance at health care institutions is immediately denied, even at the private ones, where services are paid in cash.

*"My friend was at the dentist. They sent him to the Clinic with the explanation that dentists there are better protected."*

These people face various problems: social, health, legal. Improvement has been noticed



in regard to social problems, but health care remains a major issue. On the mere look of the prescription code, medicaments are denied to this population. In one of the focus groups it was said that matters at the Ministry of Health are not systematically addressed. They are labeled as “crack-heads and junkies”. Often, they are denied their health services. Greatest intolerance toward this group occurs in the public sphere. Health care was indicated as a field where intolerance is most obvious. If health professionals previously expressed their intolerance in public, today they know that such behavior is unacceptable, and hide it behind “discreet”, but allowed exclusion mechanisms.

*“Patients are required to do HIV/AIDS tests even for minor medical interventions. Hepatitis C tests. Just imagine doing all these tests for the purpose of seeing the dentist. They always want tests to be taken recently, although the testing for these diseases last for two weeks. If somebody needs a tooth pulled out, we as a non-governmental organization run around and intervene with friends in order to get the matter done.”*

Major remarks were made in regard to police intolerant behavior in most of the cases. Focus groups participants stated that employees from the ITC department (illegal trade and contraband department) force them to sign statements on waiving their right to legal defenders. Policemen are inhumane, they detain us without orders, force us to make statements, deny us the right to see the minutes. Participants said that they do not know a single person that was given the minutes on the police proceedings. Focus group participants said that “Alpha members” are anti-tolerant, aggressive, search private items, act in unkind

behavior. When we react to unwarranted controls and searches, they label us as being aggressive.

*“How're you junkie? Your eyes are sparkling” – although the policeman saying it is drunk.*

They are unsatisfied with the manner in which their social problems are addressed. There are no programs or activities for that purpose. Half of addicts are social cases. In most of the cases they are unemployed. Some of them find employment, but such cases are rare. These people are predominantly pessimistic when it comes to institutions, and believe that if they ask for something they would not get it. They cannot exercise a single human right and will always be labeled as “junkies”. They believe the public is not well familiarized with their situation. Everybody keeps their distance. Thus, drug users cannot have any job done for them. Some of them were employed but lost their jobs to various reasons. In many cases, when employers learn of their participation in a rehabilitation program, drug users are immediately fired.

*“I was employed. I both worked and used drugs. But addiction starts creating problems. You collapse physically, you are no longer functional. You fail in meeting job targets. On the other hand, nobody is obliged to tolerate you when you are “high”. People are afraid of us. A friend of mine - my boss - told me he would give me money if I stay home and don't show up at work.”*

Intolerance is sometimes invisible due to the fact that addicts isolate themselves from the community for the mere purpose of avoiding problems. They believe their problems will be smaller if they are less visible to others. This

group marginalizes itself due to the fear of stigmatization; they are not familiarized with their civil and health rights, and are faced with condemn by citizens. Such situation creates two-way mistrust and intolerance: the more intolerant citizens are the more drug users develop fear from and distrust in the society. The stigmatization problem does not stop with addicts; their families are also condemned by the community they live in.

*"Single member is sufficient for labeling the whole family."*

It is quite difficult to distinct between the private and public sphere, as at the very moment when people learn about the chemical substance abuse problem, they immediately cancel contacts and arrangements – be they private or public. Thus the re-socialization is a problem, although it is a matter of individuals who are no longer active drug addicts. In most cases, even addicts' appearance is a problem, but the situation varies from case to case. Some face difficulties, some don't. Due to the status and welfare of their families, some addicts can hope for better attitude on the part of institutions.

*"There are class differences among people using drugs. Those from the higher class have a privileged status. We – the "junkies"- are filthy, whereas they are "good". They use cocaine and expensive drugs. The poor ones are "beggars", whereas they are the "elite". Society treats them differently. They don't face problems in terms of employment or education. Rich people generally get employed in state institutions. Poorer ones face difficulties in finding employment."*

Fortunately, there are also cases when

employers are aware of their condition at the beginning, but accept them and cooperate with them and with the mediating non-governmental organization. This shows that such model of re-socialization is possible and desirable for the target group.

### **State institutions' attitude**

Central government authorities are most responsible for reducing discrimination against this group. These institutions should primarily work on their discriminatory attitude towards the group in question, as by means of their behavior they contribute to further stigmatization. The central government is expected to adopt laws and strategies that would be enforced by other state and local institutions. For the addicts, the work of local authorities in the community is of essential importance, but it is conditioned with solid legislative acts and programs adopted by the central government, which has the key role in building the right position on the problem at hand.

*"Ministry of Health is responsible for our health status, while the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy should take the leading role in terms of rehabilitation and re-socialization."*

MLSP can do much. It can establish a small start-up business program. The state can provide seed funds for certain social group members to start their businesses. Sports and Recreation Centers can also be established. One such centre was opened in Ohrid, although it does not function in its full capacity. The opening of a new centre in the settlement "Avtokomanda" was not allowed. The Mayor disapproved it. In cases centers are opened, they are operated by incompetent

people, thus failing to produce positive outcomes.

*"If centers are managed by competent people, they can be turned into self-financing institutions. They can produce various items; be sustainable."*

The problem with these centers continues on local level, where local authorities' representatives are not investing enough efforts to convince citizens against such centers in their communities. Due to this, already secured funds obtained from foreign donations fail to be properly used. Another bad example of the local government cooperation is the one regarding the centre in the settlement "Kisela Voda". Following the example of this municipality, others assume the same position on the issue and would not like centers opened on their territory.

*"They are bothered with us coming to the Kisela Voda centre. People are righteously against our visits, because of the careless disposal of syringes by addicts immediately upon obtaining their methadone dose."*

According to focus groups, there are 50 people on the waiting list in Skopje. Some of those receiving therapy and residing in Skopje, have to go to Tetovo or Kumanovo for treatment. Mayors of municipalities falling under the territory of the City of "Skopje oppose the opening of centers. There are funds available, but they might go "down the drain" if no centers are opened. The funds are provided by the Global Fund Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health – the Sector on European Integration. Governmental approval was obtained for opening centers in the settlements Bit Pazar, Karpos and Cair, but they have not been

established so far. Such units are not operated as parts of health care centers. Mayors do not allow them. On the territory of Macedonia, centers were opened only in Tetovo and Kumanovo. In Skopje, the list has been closed for the last 5 years now. New users are not being admitted on the methadone list. Former inmates are the only ones getting enrolled on the list.

*"Addicts do not pay their fines on purpose, so that they would be incarcerated, released from prison and then get in the program. They receive methadone in prison, as well. Some of them commit misdemeanors, just to be incarcerated and receive their therapy."*

Sometimes, problems appear only with individuals holding a central or local government office, due to their personal attitude towards the group. Other times officials play on the card of displeased citizens and are not willing to take any action, so that they would not risk losing political points. This is not an excuse, since if they are willing to solve the problem they would find ways to convince citizens that a particular initiative is beneficial for the whole community. The current number of centers is insufficient so as to provide care for all addicts.

*"They always say - centers will soon be opened. But we do not see them. We have to go to Tetovo from Skopje, from Gostivar. At the moment Skopje has only one centre, while 3-4 are ready to be opened."*

It is the local community, and not the authorities, that can contribute the most in reducing discrimination. A fine example of this is the Municipality of Strumica, where the whole community was involved in the problem solving, while the church had a major role, as well.

## How much do non-governmental organizations help?

One of the interviewed NGO representatives said that - unfortunately - they do the job of the state institutions, as the engagement of the latter ends with the medical (methadone) therapy. NGOs are well accepted by the society and citizens (families of people affected by the problem, but also the directly affected people). Their work is accepted and approved, since their activities are focused on rehabilitation and re-socialization of addicts.

*"There are three types of NGOs: the good ones, the single-man organizations, while the third ones are moving back and forth."*

The experience with the NGO "HOPS" is positive. At the beginning HOPS was just a "cover up". Within our group there is no NIV/AIDS because HOPS worked on the field; people were able to obtain clean packages thus eliminating the spread of HIV/AIDS. Active work has been undertaken by NGO "Doverba" (Trust) as well. They work on prevention and consulting. They have an SOS line operated by former addicts. They assist as much as they can. They also work with self-help groups. They work on the field. Sometimes they receive calls from family members.

*"I am active in HOPS. I was distributing leaflets -information about lectures on AIDS, Hepatitis C. They have a social worker, a medical doctor, and I consult them."*

So far NGOs do not receive any financial assistance from the state, although they have been positively assessed in terms of their work by both - domestic and foreign

institutions. According to them, state bodies are not obliged to finance them, but should assume part of responsibilities and get directly engaged in the process of addicts' rehabilitation and re-socialization. On the contrary, organizations appear that are more interest- and profit- oriented groups rather than NGOs.

*"There are these so called NGOs who completely missed the interpretation of the problem. Most often, they establish commercial programs. You will be cured, but only if you pay. If you don't have the money, you have to go elsewhere. It all comes down to your parents' income. Such NGOs charge more than 1000 EUR for monthly regular treatment."*

In general, NGOs operate with funds provided by foreign funds and donations. There is no state money. There is no budget money. According to the focus groups, there is a general opinion in the state that this group is not worth investing in it. On the contrary, the Government should be the one financing programs. Several things can be done, for example, activities such as the ones undertaken by the People's University. Re-qualification programs can be established, so that people could at least obtain a certain education level degree. Such programs could address all vulnerable groups, not just the addicts. Employment can also be financed. Employers can be excused from tax payment. Businesses could be given incentives for employing such people.

*"Such is the situation in Croatia. Business can get loans with grace periods. This should be regulated by a law. On top of it, investments should be made in rehabilitation and re-*

*socialization programs. Certain groups were addressed with such programs, but not ours. "*

The group itself is often faced with lack of special programs for addicts and provision of social assistance and protection. It would be of great assistance when special programs on supporting re-qualification and employment for these people are developed by the state. This can be done in cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

*"Greater engagement on behalf of NGOs is required. But they should be assisted by the state. Funds should be established for that purpose. When I am on 0 with my therapy, I would not know what to do. We are lacking re-socialization under normal conditions."*

The main problem faced by NGOs is the absence of special programs and budget established by the Government that would provide sustainability of projects implemented by NGOs.

*"For us, the most important thing is to find something to do. To have some place to go. We need to get back to life, back to work. We should not stay at home and think of bad things. This is where NGOs could help. They should have programs, IT courses, and foreign language courses. They should provide engagement for us for at least 2-3 hours a day. I spend most of my time at home and that kills me."*

## **How important is the relation between families and NGOs and their support in the stages of treatment, rehabilitation and re-socialization?**

When we talked with addicts concerning their treatment and how beneficial it has been, one of the most important factors emphasized was the family which has an impact in all stages of their return. Everything is more difficult when the family is not included. However, the fear of stigma is also great. For the wellbeing of their child they might attend closed sessions, but parents are unwilling to come out and appear in public. Families almost never want to get involved in the treatment.

*"My family is not included in my treatment, but it did not obstruct me. I always had a roof above my head and a meal. The situation with friends is so-so. Everything matters. The surrounding is important, as well."*

According to many, the closest kin either accept you as you are – hoping there is a salvation, that you can be healed – or chase you from the home. There is no third option. Nevertheless, families are not always in a position to help you. Sometimes, assistance has to come from other places.

*"I have been equally helped by the family, friends, and "Doverba" (NGO)."*

NGOs have a major role in providing assistance to addicts in their rehabilitation and re-socialization stages. Many former addicts are now NGO members. Centers are being opened so that people can get involved in NGO activities. Others can help as well. They know that attitude of people

around them changes for worse. Friends are lost; childhood buddies are getting more and more distant; without the support from the family and the immediately environment, re-socialization would be difficult to achieve.

### Media coverage

The reason for the slow progress in this field is lack of information in the community concerning certain societal problems. Their insufficient, sometimes wrong information on problems is the result of the shallow, one-sided media coverage of particular groups' problems, but also of the conservative and often erroneous positions (based on lack of interest for the problem matter) expressed by community leaders, thus resulting in the development of a negative position toward a particular societal group or phenomena.

*"Most often, they have a sensationalistic approach. They are interested only in the commercial part."*

Depending on the position taken, media – by means of their coverage – can significantly help, but at the same time make the situation worse. They can do a lot. Journalists most often have negative attitudes. The last negative coverage was the one concerning the centers and suggestions for solving the problem with the local population. They did not help much. On the contrary, they often make things worse. They stress and multiply bad matters, and do not mention the positive ones.

*"They provide one-sided information. They also abuse. There is a documentary show called "Homecoming" on the National Broadcasting Service (MTV). Immediately upon its broadcast,*

*statements were being re-aired but out of the context."*

Media use labeling terminology. The term "narco-addict" was invented by journalists. For example, not all addicts take narcotics. Media create negative positions with viewers toward this category of citizens.

*"They were shooting an item in Bardovci. They were supposed to show us the material prior to airing it, but did not do it. Again, it was broadcasted on MTV."*

Certain media expressed willingness to participate in public education and information campaigns, without financial compensation for it.

### What changes are needed?

According to the statements provided in focus groups discussions, problems are not solved systematically. NGOs and people well familiarized with the problem proposed changes in the legislation; for example, the Law on Drug Control. Although the Government promised, they did not participate in the law drafting process. It was drafted by the Ministry of Health, i.e., the Bureau on Drugs. There was no public debate. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy was not included as well. The law was put for adoption in the middle of the summer. Now it is in Parliamentary procedure. The law in question collides with the National Strategy on Fight against Drugs.

*"There must be a public debate. Experts need to be engaged, as well as the non-governmental sector. On three occasions, the Minister of Health promised he would endorse*

*the law, but nothing has come out of it."*

The law – in the opinion of focus groups participants – treats drug users in the same manner as drug dealers. There is an article in the Law on Drug Control, according to which everybody should report drug matters to police stations. So if somebody comes to us – NGOs for assistance - according to the law - we have to report them to the police. Reporting has been justified by keeping addict registers, but why should the reporting be done at police stations, and not somewhere else, as well as anonymously? The law contains many flaws and provides bases for human rights violation, which might lead to greater stigmatization and intolerance for addicts. Another possible consequence of the law is the bad communication between addicts and institutions competent for addressing their problems.

*We organized a press conference, we protested - but in vain. The parent is held criminally responsible if he/she does not report his own child taking drugs. We ask for decriminalization of people using drugs."*

New addicts will be registered in accordance to the CARDS financed program. Databases will be established. According to this program, NGOs will receive monthly reports. The attempt is to register new addicts and keep records on their number. There are new addicts all the time. The state does not have the exact number of addicts in the country. *"There are many new addicts who have not been registered. They are younger people. They have not yet reached the stage when problems start. In the first two years, you keep yourself together. The fall-down is quite a different matter."*

NGOs sometimes participate in the work on

developing new legislative and programs, and believe that is good practice. Changes in the legislation are needed due to the bad solutions provided in the applicable laws, as well as the cooperation with people drafting them. In our country, the legislation covering this problem is tangled and enforced by several laws.

*"Doverba", as a non-governmental organization is already participating in the protest against the adoption of the Law on Drugs, due to the poor solutions it offers."*

The Government is not thorough when it comes to opening drug users' treatment centers. People responsible for these issues are not familiarized with the population in question. There are people who are no experts in the field, and meddle in the activities. They make the rules, although know nothing about the problems. People working with drug users are prejudiced. NGO activists are not satisfied with the organization of treatment centers. Another problem is the announcement for the establishment of drug users' treatment centre in Bardovci.

*"If this centre is to be opened, then there will be no re-socialization, but institutionalization."*

### **Instead of a conclusion**

This is how an ordinary "junkie" story goes. It speaks of reasons, but more importantly of consequences. And consequences are catastrophic. There is no forward, no future, no answer, no solution, no present, no salvation, nothing.

*"Any moment now and I will go crazy. I do not work. I have no money. I even beg for*

*cigarettes. Where should I go? I don't know what to do? I come to therapy, but don't know where I will end later. I'm "running with scissors". I need a plain job; they don't have to pay me much. I need to work at least 5-6 hours a day. To have a place to go to. To have something to do. I used to work. Now, I am unable to find any job. I can work anything. I want to have my own money, and not to beg for it. That is what I need. People have lost faith in me. People are afraid of me. I started talking to myself. I quarrel with my folks at home almost every day. Life is hard. Every day I go out, thinking what to do. We are people as well. I know we have made a mistake. If they find us jobs, we would no longer do stupid things. We need a little help to get us started. We are satisfied with the centre. We come to therapy every day. I am dissatisfied with my friends. I had many, now they avoid me. There is no future for me. And I am young. All I do is fall a little bit every day. Like I'm dead. Everybody has something to do, hang out for coffees, with their buddies.... I sit on the street. Waiting for somebody to throw me 50 MKD to buy myself cigarettes and then go home. I am at the house all day. All because I had bad company. They made me take heroin. They said it was pleasure, just as having couple of beers. At the beginning I puffed the dragon once or twice, and soon enough got hitched. That is how you get started. I didn't know what it looked like. I was not informed. That is why I am here. I lied to myself. I stole items from my house and sold them. I caused problems. It is the urge inside you that makes you do it. You have to have more."*

Following are the conclusions and recommendations to those that might help the most, primarily competent institutions and organizations:

- This population group requires support for the establishment of centers that were promised by the state and for which financial funds from abroad were secured. They also appeal to Mayors and local authorities to approve the opening of such centers for which the required preconditions have been provided. At the moment, people are waiting for to get enrolled on the methadone list. Those receiving therapy travel from Skopje to Tetovo, from Gostivar to Tetovo, from Skopje to Kumanovo, etc.
- They appeal to leaders to be careful when adopting legal solutions affecting their group, as instead of improving their lives, only make it worse. They ask the state to pay attention and support them by projects that will facilitate their rehabilitation and re-socialization. Such projects would also encourage their hopes and willingness for a more open and normal life.
- They need activities. They need employment. They need funds to sustain their lives. It is the only way in which they can realize themselves and will not be a burden on the state budget. Initial step is needed. This can be a network activity implemented by state institutions, by means of plans and programs, by non-governmental organizations by means of project management and by families, those that did not give up their children.

On the question how inclusive the Macedonian society is towards drug users, the answer would be - very little. This probably due to the fact that we forget their problems are not only theirs, but problems of their families and of the society in general.



# ALCOHOL ADDICTS

Summary report from focus groups and interviews

## Is the Macedonian society tolerant?

Focus groups (FG) discussions and in-depth interviews (II) identified multidimensional aspects and ambivalence of the (in)tolerance towards alcoholism and alcohol addicts. Such - apparently paradox situation - reveals contradictory assessments.

On one side, the society is highly tolerant, even to the point of irrationality and irresponsibility. There are festivals organized for various alcohol beverages: wine, schnapps, beer. "Alcohol is sold everywhere and to everyone. One cannot imagine higher level of tolerance!" At the same time, this social scene featured by obvious absence of active, conscious and critical attitude towards alcoholism has negative effects – it stimulates alcoholism expansion throughout Macedonia.

On the other side, there is no tolerance for victims, i.e., alcohol addicts. It has been decreased in all societal contexts. Nowadays, especially in the private business environment "people are afraid to confess the need for alcoholism treatment." People will be immediately fired, and no treatment opportunity will be provided. Society should treat this phenomenon as a treatment-requiring disease.

Medical treatment should be accompanied with social treatment: social support by means of various association forms. On the contrary, people affected by it, the "ill", the alcohol addicts will be and are left on their own. Associations do not provide material or financial support. The Government has not supported a single project of the Association, although members feel ready to implement them and to animate the younger population.

Tolerance should mean understanding, assistance, support, and not silence. Unfortunately, family tolerance, tolerance on the part of spouses and off-spring is being reduced to silence, patience.

More education is needed on addiction diseases, prevention should be provided in order the society to assume active and righteous attitude towards it and treat affected people with tolerance.

## Problems and discrimination

*"People seeking treatment are viewed much worse than those "killing time" on streets."*

Problems faced by former addicts - interlocutors in the focus groups are numerous and cover almost every segment of life:

- Health problems: difficulties in acknowledging alcoholism as a disease;

- Social and physiological problems: evasion and isolation from the surrounding, as well as from the family;
- Professional, and financial problems: inability to work and job loss.

Problems, identified by interview interlocutors, have a common denominator: lack of financial means. Assistance was provided in the past by means of the Lottery, i.e., by the state, but now, almost everything has been reduced to self-financing from membership fees and several donations granted from companies whose employees are treated alcoholics. Re-socialization is at stake. There are no funds for organizing various social, cultural, entertaining activities. Hence, families stay out of rehabilitation programs, minimizing the treatment outcomes.

Discrimination is the most palpable problem of the re-socialization process. "Alcohol addicts are not trusted". Discrimination is not only individual, but affects the Association as well. The Association has not received funding necessary for many activities.

*"I am 18 years old and "Skopsko" makes me do anything!"*

Interview interlocutors – indisputably - represent the expert public and stressed the general and high tolerance of societies towards alcohol consumption. The ritual and symbolic alcohol consumption is the pillar of such society tolerance, which most directly affects the young population – they have wrong idols. Such tolerance is a result of erroneous information: alcohol is not toxic; it does not result in addiction. Therefore, appropriate prevention is not provided.

On the other hand, there is no tolerance for alcohol victims, which only worsens their re-

socialization and endangers their treatment. The reason (but the justification, as well) is seen in the "country's poverty". Nevertheless, poverty is not defined only in terms of material, financial status. Discrimination is frequent towards former addicts. Those who are not personally affected, lack understanding and avoid alcohol addicts as a rule. The background for this situation is the erroneous approach to addiction diseases: as if it is an ethical, rather than a health problem. Most frequent is the position that alcohol addicts are amoral and irresponsible; they should not be assisted as such. Statements provided by interlocutors and experts indicate that acknowledging the need for alcoholism treatment is dangerous – such open admission is accompanied by evasion and exclusion. This is associated with a "systematic intolerance and discrimination". Those undergoing treatment are most often unemployed, meaning without means for sustaining their lives, yet alone providing money for their treatment!

### **State's attitude and institutions' assistance**

*"The state does not care for us!"*

All FG interlocutors provided numerous examples arguing the lack of care on the behalf of the state. Many of them are "unemployed and/or social allowance beneficiaries". On top of that, the Association is not financially supported by the state. The state was accused of being short-sighted: it fails to associate alcoholism with family violence and drugs. There is no assistance for purchasing necessary medicaments, yet alone for establishing AA clubs throughout the country.

Health institutions, (Bardovci, Clinical Centre, Army's Hospital, Daily Centre in Kisela Voda) are the only ones providing assistance, despite the many problems they face. On the contrary, social services "would not even talk to you", and there are no re-socialization services available.

Interview interlocutors emphasized the fact that there is no specific intolerance towards associations and NGOs engaged in the fight against alcoholism. The general situation was described as absence of care and understanding, which ultimately leads to the intolerance towards alcohol addicts, including the successful abstinent.

Imbalanced treatment of various groups was indicated as a special problem. A good Centre Against Addictions cannot overlook the fact that people affected are replacing one addiction with another. Therefore, balanced treatment must be provided.

Assistance fails, both from the state and the companies. Previously, under the socialist regime, the state provided assistance, so associations worked under normal conditions, i.e., their telephone bills were paid; offices and premises were secured. Nowadays, not does the state deprive us of assistance, but there is also lack of adequate social responsibility of companies manufacturing alcohol.

Intolerance of public institutions (organizations, companies) where alcohol addicts work or used to work is even more obvious. There is no understanding for the disease and the need for assistance, especially on the part of private companies, where firing addicts is the only solution to the problem.

The situation with NGOs is not better. Focus group interlocutors clearly emphasized the lack of assistance by any NGO, even in cases

when AA members knocked on their doors - they were closed.

The family remains the most certain, and often the single support. Friends show understanding and readiness to cooperate and assist, but unfortunately they are silent in expressing worries, thus the first step towards treatment is often belated, which delays and complicates the treatment process.

Focus group participants indicated that families lack professional criticism. The role of the family is irreplaceable, although it is the most affected one as alcoholism is the reason for the break of many marriages, but on the other hand - is the most significant factor in the treatment process.

Alcohol addicts experiences are too various to be categorized in terms of assistance seeking. Assistance has been provided only by health care institutions, where alcoholism is treated as a disease, and they are the only establishments trying to determine reasons behind it. On the contrary, experiences with social services were described as negative, and characterized by rude behavior, and vain promises for refunding money spent on medicaments, rather than by true assistance. Such experiences, as well as poor information on institutions to address, make the family an irreplaceable and often the single institution that might help alcoholics.

Interviewees' experiences do not offer "bright memories" either. There is no serious, organized, coordinated and long-term cooperation between various institutions, resulting in lack of prevention activities. Isolated cooperation has been established with hospitals, and - almost exceptionally - with few schools. A recently implemented project provides positive experiences in terms of media cooperation, but only as

an exception from the rule. Long-term and organized cooperation is needed on all fronts. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Ministry of Health fail to show interest and willingness for cooperation.

Things are moving slowly: awareness that alcoholism is a disease is shared by few, while the number of those willing to treat it appropriately is even smaller.

### Expectations and required changes

Interlocutors from the expert public provided similar expectations in terms of particular institutions' engagement.

The CENTRAL GOVERNMENT is expected to provide financial assistance and coordination for establishing dispersed centers for treating alcoholism throughout the state.

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT is also expected to provide financial assistance, and support in terms of securing premises that would enable re-socialization for the affected population.

ASSOCIATIONS AND NGOs are expected to provide prevention actions, by means of education, but also provision of adequate assistance to indirect victims of alcoholism.

SCHOOLS have a clear role to take, which has been insufficiently utilized. Frequent and regular lectures provided by experts are needed, for the purpose of familiarizing the school population with the alcoholism problem. Results would be two-folded - prevention and greater understanding and tolerance for the affected population.

It might be said that the AFFECTED POPULATION is expected to continue their previous engagements. Based on the good cooperation, not only with the Toxicology Department, but with other clinics as well, interlocutors stressed the need for continuing

current professional relations in future.

The need for major and general changes was reiterated. What needs to be done in the first place is providing working premises and adequate funding for AA associations, clubs, NGOs in order to continue their work.

Lobbying for legislative changes requires major efforts and expertise. Research focused on alcoholism in Macedonia and covering its numerous aspects is need as the basis for policy- and legislation-making.

Nevertheless, changes cannot end with new or amended legislative acts. Legislative acts are not the solution to the problem. Awareness needs to be changed as well, especially in terms of overcoming the stigma of alcoholism. Humane treatment of the affected population is required.

### Media

Media are an important ring in the chain of expectations and changes, along with the change of their alcoholism coverage.

Focus group participants stressed that media do not provide sufficient nor objective coverage. They criticized the presence of alcohol in advertisements, rather than in programs covering its effects. Alcoholism topics are being rarely and superficially covered – for the mere purpose of filling program gaps.

## PHYSICALLY OR INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED PEOPLE

Summary report from the three focus groups organized with parents of intellectually disabled children and physically and intellectually disabled persons

### Is there tolerance?

During focus group discussions, comments provided by interlocutors on the **tolerance of the Macedonian society** show that many of them believe it is intolerant, and expressing disappointment in it provided assessments in the range from one to two. Following are their comments on the **reasons** behind the intolerance:

- *the situation is hopeless: "Wherever you go – doors are closed!"*;
- they feel as citizens of lowest positions in this society under transition, which might last forever;
- things that have been initiated are being left unfinished in almost every sphere of life;
- laws are imprecise and/or there is a feeling of lawless state;
- ways are being constantly devised to manipulate something for the purpose of preventing them to enjoy their rights;
- required documents can hardly be obtained from state institutions, usually depending on the civil servants' goodwill; ;
- incompetent or ignorant people are being employed to deal with the matter at hand, thus hindering the exercise of target group's rights.

*"Things are terrifying when we – as parents – start demanding our rights. For example, when a decision was made to provide free-of-charge treatment for our children, a "smart" gay included a clause stipulating that only children enrolled in public education can benefit from it. You all know that we are talking about children with developmental impediments. How can these children be educated in the public system?!... People know that, they know the problems we face; we should not depend on their goodwill for enjoying the benefits we are entitled to. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy is competent for the matter at hand, and should cover all costs, but its employees simply deny the issuance of relevant decisions."*

Intolerance toward people with disabilities is manifested in various ways. Sometimes it is more subtle, as if from compassion.... Other times it is a matter of clumsy behavior, stemming from the generally accepted opinion that all disabled persons are incapable of doing anything.

*"While they are with you, all you can hear is nice words, and when you turn your back – Poor her! Only she knows her troubles. This might not be so publicly manifested, but people speak behind our backs."*

*"There are people on the streets literally staring at you, throwing comments like – why*

*is he taking his child out, when it can barely walk.”*

*“I took the bus today. My walking cane fell. Nobody made an effort to help me and pass me my walking cane.”*

In the opinion of participants, *intolerance is based on the traditional beliefs that people with special needs represent a misfortune and family liability.* Special role in such situation plays *the lack of information* on the ways how this population can be assisted. It has been assessed that this change of awareness will happen very slowly.

*“In some rural environments, where taboo topics persist, disabled persons are less able to prosper as opposed to the more developed environments.”*

However, some focus groups participants, who – truth to be told – are very few in number, believe that the Macedonian society is highly tolerant and that physically disabled persons are well accepted by the general population, and by the state.

*“I have stayed in contact with all my relatives, friends and acquaintances. Not a single reasonable person would even think of mocking me or saying that I am less worth of their company after my accident. My house is always full. I have never felt that I have been avoided. Maybe after leaving me, someone might say “poor her, she was such a nice woman...”, but they have never said that to my face.”*

*“I cannot complain. I don’t feel as a disabled person. I believe that our acceptance depends on the disabled person’s state of mind, attitude*

*and communication. All doors have been opened for me.”*

*“Good laws have been put in place, and they correspond to the possibilities and the economic situation in the state. There is even a special law on employing disabled persons.”*

Some attendees, especially the more educated ones, believe that tolerance – to a large extent – depends on themselves and their attitude towards people in general.

They all agree that the main problem behind intolerance is the fact that the society has not developed **equal opportunities** for all children, citizens to be able to have righteous access to exercising their rights, just as the rest of the society.

*“I am disabled from my birth and have never been denied something or branded as such. The only thing I might have been deprived from is adequate conditions in certain life periods so that I would have been able to meet my needs.”*

*“There is not a single school providing access to physically disabled children.”*

In this sense, it has been thought that the state has a major role in addressing problems of disabled people.

*“Tolerance implies creation of technical and technological conditions, architectural solutions.”*

Parents of intellectually disabled children **indicated the following as major problems faced by the group:**

- cancellation of children allowance after their children turn 26 years,

although they have been diagnosed with modest intellectual impediment and face continuous problems in terms of health protection due to the deprivation of certain benefits after that age: *“all medical examinations for our children which fall under the category of excused from contribution payment should be settled by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, but once you address them with your problems you enter a vicious circle. We are the ones faced with threats from the institutions competent issuing us the diagnosis and medical opinions. We cannot enjoy these services fee-of-charge without a document provided by the Inter-Municipal Social Work Centre, and after our children turn 26 years, we cannot pay for all the medical examinations. At that age our children are treated as adults, whereas private medical care is costly.”*

- **small social allowances** in situations when necessary medicaments are not on the positive lists, so parents are left on their own to manage the payment;
- **ignorance and condemn** by the environment concerning the **social allowance** awarded to these families;
- problems concerning the employment of people with intellectually disabilities: *“despite state incentives and benefits for employers when employing disabled persons, after the initial period of enjoying them, employers manage to avoid engaging disabled people in working relations in various ways; sometimes they provide completely inappropriate job positions for the abilities of the person in question, so in only 2 or 3 months they are fired, or the company is being closed”....“(Our employer) abused us for whole two years. We were not given health*

*care insurance, salaries, and at the end he closed the company without properly informing us thereof. I (the parent) had to look for him to take my child’s working documents, only to be able to register her at the Agency for Employment”;*

- **poor economic status** of families with intellectually disabled children, because of the fact that one of the parents must discontinue his/her working status to provide care for the child, as they are not accepted in kindergartens;
- institutions are **insensitive** to problems affecting this population, whereas administrative processes take too long;
- competent institutions employ people with **inadequate education**, and lacking **understanding** for the matter in question, thus resulting in zero effort to change things; whereas the few civil servants competent for the matter are no longer on the same job positions after the change of government;
- **absence of adequate special services** as part of kindergartens and public schools that would take care for these children (disability therapists,...) which is one of the major obstacles for accepting disabled children although the institutions show willingness for it;
- available funds have been **misdirected** or end up in someone’s pocket;
- other children’s **unacceptance**, due to their home education provided by their parents

Parents said that their children are discriminated as opposed to other children in terms of health care, education and establishing contacts with “healthy” children.

As parents they would not ask for anything more than seeing their children enjoying the same rights as the rights of the "healthy" ones. However, they have also said that recently modest progress has been noticed in the field of education and acceptance of disabled children in public schools.

On the other hand, in the focus groups comprised of physically and intellectually disabled persons, it was said that they are faced with common problems making their lives difficult. Due to their or the disability of their child, these citizens are unable to go to work, and almost all of them are in very difficult economic positions.

*"When I became disabled, I and my spouse were made laid off from work. Both of my kids completed their university education with tantalizing efforts, and today they are jobless."*

*"My husband was carrying me on the stairs for whole eight years. We were unable to construct a special path for me to enter the house. We did not have money."*

All focus groups participants expressed the problems they face when exercising social and health care protection. This is a common problem among physically disabled people, who are deprived of any elementary living conditions.

*"Children up to the age of 18 are excused from paying the medical contribution. But the medicines they need for their regular therapy are unavailable in insurance covered pharmacies. We have to pay for them from our own pockets. "*

*"If it wasn't for the assistance of our next of*

*kin, the family, one can hardly survive on the social allowance."*

*"The social allowance for home care was reduced in amount, although it was insufficient in the first place."*

*"We are unable to benefit from the free-of-charge PAP tests and obstetrician examinations, as there are no obstetric chairs adjusted to our needs."*

A special problem affecting physically disabled persons is their mobility, i.e., the access to institutions. Although certain companies and public institutions have solved this problem, they are just a drop in the sea for the disabled population. Because of inaccessibility of buildings, they are deprived from exercising most of their rights.

*"The aid device helps me attend sport events, literature clubs, hospitals, but not theatres, as they still have stairs."*

*"Komercijalna banka has constructed the ramp, but it is not in compliance with the standards, as the purpose of it would be for me to be able to enter the bank premises on my own, and not assisted by other people. Ramps are not intended as decorations."*

*"We cannot go to shops, hospitals. Even a single step is a major obstacle for us."*

*"Pavements are abounding with physical obstacles such as plant pots and billboards. Blind and disabled people find it difficult to avoid bumping into them."*

*"We are prevented from using public transportation."*



*“For whole 5 years I was unable to get my I.D. as refused to be taken to the issuing agency on hands, and not a single Mol officer came to my home. I did not want to feel incapable. Mol buildings do not have ramps. Now, when I had to get my I.D., the officer came to the street where I was waiting for him.”*

Another field where discrimination is visible is employment. It is also believed that state institutions do not provide care in terms of ensuring equal access to the labor market.

*“There are things we can do, and there are thing we cannot do. When we can, we perform tasks that we are able with the required quality.”*

*“I keep contacts with USA citizens who have been diagnosed with my condition. They are employed immediately aftergraduation. Social services contact them and ask them about their working preferences.”*

Speaking on state’s attitude toward their group, and institutions providing most or least care, interlocutors from the focus group comprised of parents of intellectually disabled children expressed huge dissatisfaction with state’s position due to the previously elaborated matters. However, the Hearing and Speaking Centre was indicated as being most helpful, because it has managed to enroll a child in kindergarten and provide adequate therapy at the same time. The second institution indicated was the special school “Zlaten Sremac”, because of the good behavior and attitude shown by the employees.

Other focus group participants were of the same opinion that the state is showing

discriminating attitude towards people with special needs. They believe that *state institution act without coordination, and that most laws are contradictory or adopted on the detriment of this group of citizens.* The general assessment is that legislation is adopted mechanically, without taking into consideration needs of these people, and accompanied with major problems in terms of their implementation. It is believed that amendments to the legislation are usually made for the purpose of including limitations that have negative effects on this population’s existence.

*“The Medical Centre does not refer us to the right institution. For years we have been knocking from one door to another.”*

*“Medical contribution is not collected for people up to the age of 18. What happens next, when they turn 28, 40 or 56 years? They will need their medications at that age as well.”*

Major dissatisfaction was expressed in regard to the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, due to its inappropriate reactions to the actual situation and needs of disabled people, as well as the adoption of numerous restrictive measures that make the status of these citizens worse. Attendees said that the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Ministry of Health are not prepared – in terms of finances and appropriate human resources – to address the needs of disabled people. Problems faced by parents of intellectually disabled children were reiterated.

*“Foster families are the major problem. They receive funding for taking care of intellectually disabled children. Such families receive up to 10.000 MKD for providing care to a single child, and sometimes they take up to 4*

*children. On the other hand, biological parents receive only 50 EUR for providing special care for their own children."*

*"Projects are outdated for at least 20 to 30 years. Employees are inappropriately educated so as to be able to work with disabled children."*

*"Rehabilitation is irregular and performed under inappropriate conditions. If we want to provide the most professional and contemporary treatment for our children, we have to pay out of our pockets."*

The state is not providing special care for the education of people with special needs, as they are not included in the public education system, i.e., not a single school is accessible for physically disabled children."

*"I carried my child to school up to 6th grade. When subject teaching started, I was no longer able to carry my child from one classroom to the other, as some of them were located on the second floor of the school building."*

Only one of the participants stated that the state assists as much as it can.

In order to feel equal and find their place in the society, participants believe that the state should change its position towards disabled people, get engaged in joint cooperation, and discontinue the current ignorance.

*"Ways should be identified in which we will no longer be a burden on the state, but contribute to society."*

*"There are people with severe physical disabilities; they should not be somebody's experiment."*

*"Even when solutions are being offered to them, they play the deaf ear. We came to our senses as well; we should no longer be satisfied with crumbs."*

On the issue of **family's ability to help in solving their problems**, interlocutors said that the families are their single pillar. Family members have a major role in making lives of disabled people easier, capacitating them for life, which requires major sacrifices.

*"Many marriages are broken when one of the parents leaves the home as soon as a disabled child is born in it."*

*"In smaller towns, these families are branded. They suffer."*

It has been said that all families with disabled members face *lack of funds*, as disabilities require undivided attention and care on the behalf of parents or next of kin, making them leave their current jobs. From these reasons, physically disabled persons believe that the state is responsible for assisting parents of children with severe disabilities, i.e., assisting people with special needs.

*"These families should be financially assisted – either by employing a family member or increasing the amount of the social allowance for home care."*

*"I live with a single mum. She is old and less capable of caring for me. It is my turn to return the favor, but I am unable to, as I can barely take care of myself without assistance."*

In addition, parents are psychologically burdened with questions related to their children's future: *"Parents lose their strength, and ask*

*themselves: what if something happens to me, especially now when the Demir Kapija Institution is being closed. These children are not accepted in the society. They try to work, but when they lose their jobs – nobody is interested in helping them.”* On this issue, participants stressed that a major mistake is being made in Macedonia concerning the deinstitutionalization process because institutions are closed without providing appropriate accommodation for these children.

On the question “**how do civil society organizations help and their experiences in regard to cooperating with them**”, interlocutors said that they have excellent cooperation with the organization “Poraka”, whose staff is extremely committed; there are excellent programs and cooperation with kindergartens and primary schools. *In that sense, participants recommended the establishment of at least another Poraka centre in Skopje, because of the large number of disabled people and their territorial distribution. Moreover, the employees in that centre work for a very small reimbursement, thus the need for more people. It has also been stressed that state institutions should organize campaigns as well, and not only the civil society organizations.*

Other groups emphasized the *moral satisfaction* they have with civil society organizations, rather than the actual assistance provided in terms of solving their problems.

*“Parents come and express their problems.”*  
*“My membership in “Polio” made me see the disability from another aspect. It made me see the beauty of the handicap, its usefulness. It guided me to motivate and educate others and share my experience with next generations,*

*so that they would not have to take the same bumpy road as I did.”*

Activities of civil society organizations working on education and information for their members and for the broader public in terms of manner of treating people with special needs and helping them in terms of their social integration are welcomed.

*“We are informed on the benefits available...”*

*“They established a sports club, where children can hang out together and see that they are the same, although they are different.”*

For some focus group participants, there are also civil society organizations established for the purpose of profiting, and they do not work for the benefit of their target groups.

Interlocutors believe that organizations funded by the state – alliances and association – *should be more active in communicating with state institutions so as to able to provide adequate solutions for problems and mitigating the status of this population.*

Following was the discussion on the situation when focus group participants **as members of their group asked assistance from somebody**. They said that they have usually addressed state institutions and/or civil society organizations for assistance, sometimes they have turned to religious or humanitarian organizations for single financial assistance.

Experiences with state institutions were described as utterly negative, since they were unable to exercise their rights and benefits guaranteed under the applicable legislation.

*"I turned to the social service to get information on documents to be submitted for obtaining the document on free-of-charge medical services. I was told I cannot be issued such document, as I am not entitled to such benefits. At the pharmacy I was told that they were not informed of the matter in question, although I showed them the Official Gazette where the regulation was published. It was published one year before. I had to ask for contacts in the relevant institutions to obtain the document. Officials in the social service told me not to spread the word on the relevant law, as well as not to share with anyone the fact that I was entitled to it."*

In their opinion, reasons for this situation can be identified in *lack of information and education of civil servants working in state institutions*. Therefore, the only way in which these people can fully enjoy their rights is by sharing information and communicating among them.

On the other hand, the physically disabled persons shared quite less negative experiences.

*"Because the state deprives us of certain opportunities, we are forced to ask for assistance – human support when walking, or financial support. If the things we ask for are justified and have a goal, there is no reason why we should be turned down."*

Commenting on media's attitude towards their group, in terms of **sufficient, objective and correct coverage**, all parents of intellectually disabled children stressed that media provide insufficient coverage of this problem matter.

*"Even when certain items are produced, they are done for the purpose of filling program gaps, or are aired in completely inappropriate times, when nobody is watching. It often happens for items to be produced but not aired, as something "more interesting" has been produced in meantime."*

They believe that physically and intellectually disabled persons are not interesting for the media when it comes to providing assistance for solving problems faced by this population. The general assessment is that media often cover the problem matter by presenting individual cases, most often quite inappropriately. Media have a sensationalistic approach in covering such items, full of pathos and sympathy.

*"We needed media coverage, but people from MTV (national broadcaster) and A1 (private national broadcaster) told us they do not cover problems of handicapped people. Apparently we are not that interesting."*

*"Our problems are not being treated. Items are produced around a single person, and only for the benefit of the journalist – award winning."*

*"All they need is a story. They handpick families for sponsors to be presented as socially responsible actors. I do not wish to be covered on TV so that people would pity me."*

Attendees also believe that media more frequently cover people with special needs from Skopje, in comparison to other towns. There was no satisfaction with local media either.

*"When local media were established, they produced items only for the purpose of showing anything, although their coverage was relatively correct."*

Nevertheless, participants believe that media can be their allies in the struggle for better status of disabled persons in the society.

*“Media have an important role to play in terms of accessibility. It is important for them to communicate information.”*

*“Media can do their part in reaching out to those that need to be reached.”*

*“The problem should be covered as an essential complex issue, starting from our human values, and correspondingly – our rights, conditions and needs.”*

Interlocutors believe that media need additional education on the problem matter, as lack of knowledge on the handicap in question on the part of journalists can lead to repeated story items and distorted images.

*“Physical, architectural obstacles have been repeated over and over again, as if there are no other problems affecting us.”*

*“Media do not provide statistical data on the number of unemployed disabled people.”*

*“Journalists never have time for us. If a 30-minutes interview is broadcasted in only 2 minutes, nobody would ever understand anything.”*

Following are the conclusions from the results obtained:

- contrary to the opinions obtained in the course of interviews, most of focus group participants believe the Macedonian society to be intolerant and has been assessed with 1 or 2 on the rating scale;
- intolerance is manifested in different forms: from subtle to obvious – and it is the result of old beliefs and tradition, system’s inconsistencies, and sometimes individual features;
- all participants agreed that the main problem of intolerance is the fact that the society has not developed equal opportunities for all children and citizens in terms of enjoying their rights and meeting their needs, so that they would feel equal;
- the state is expected to assume a more active role, by allocating financial means and adopting appropriate legislative acts on the specific problems affecting this population;
- parents of intellectually disabled children believe their children are discriminated on all fronts;
- these people face difficulties in exercising their social and health protection rights, along with their right to employment, and to education;
- movement is a special problem affecting physically disabled persons, especially access to institutions and public facilities;
- it has been assessed that legislative acts are adopted mechanically, without taking into consideration needs of the affected population;
- most of interlocutors have had positive experiences in terms of cooperating with civil society organizations;
- media experiences are contradictory: the cooperation with some was assessed as good, but there were also statements of dissatisfaction in regard to the superficial or sensationalistic coverage, which can sometimes distort the truth.

## REPORT

### from the 3 interviews organized with civil society activist working on the promotion of rights and protection of intellectually disabled persons

#### Citizens and the intolerance

The question **whether the Macedonian society is generally tolerant**, was a complex dilemma for our interlocutors requiring a comprehensive elaboration. They believe positive progress has been made in comparison to the actual situation and the state of mind now and ten years ago.

*"It can be said we started being tolerant; my working experience proved that beginning are always more difficult and there were many obstacles – not as much social, as barriers in people's heads and awareness for others living in their vicinity."*

*"...laws are not as intolerant as people living in this society."*

This positive process has never been nor is free of problems, but people's commitment and persistence was fruitful.

*"Many things have happened in the last seven-eight years. We encountered many problems in the society, but sustained them and here we are today on the right path."*

*"It is much easier now that we raised our voice. All sorts of social activities are being organized, campaigns are being promoted, we are active in the communities; distributing handcrafts, celebrating holidays. We proved that we are doing something useful and people*

*recognize us. The more we try to change society's attitude, the more tolerant it will be."*

The average assessment on tolerance provided by this group of interviewees is around 3<sup>1</sup>, but it has been emphasized that different assessments were provided for the tolerance shown towards different population categories.<sup>2</sup>

It is believed that *sometimes, the society sees its own mirror reflection as being much better than it really is*. In that sense, it was said that "we would like to think of ourselves as tolerant and try to reflect such image on the outside, but this is not who we really are."

Different opinions were provided on the question requiring the interviewees to identify the **most and least tolerated groups** by the society. Statements indicating that there is low tolerance for people having same-sex relations, and high tolerance for disabled people, as well as the growing tolerance for Roma, due to the Roma Decade, which by means of campaigns has raised the general tolerance for all groups, were more frequent. It is believed that society assumes positive attitude on women rights and their participation in all social spheres.

When arguing on the **reasons** behind this positive movement, especially in regard to intellectually disabled persons, it was said that "twenty years ago intellectually disabled persons were completely marginalized, institutionalized, excluded from the society, but the last 20 years have seen public awareness, meaning the problem was acknowledged, foreign trends were noticed,

<sup>1</sup> Assessment scope – 1 to 5

<sup>2</sup> For example the assessment 3 was given for the tolerance of intellectually disabled persons, while 2 for the tolerance of other groups, such as HIV positive people, etc.

experiences were exchanged and resulted in higher awareness on behalf of our fellow citizens. So this is a matter of a **process**, that would surely **last long**, but it is good that awareness was raised."

*"If twenty years ago, awareness for intellectually disabled persons and their needs was developed only among people working with them, such as speech therapist, disability therapists and doctors, today, awareness is developed by all family members and children attending kindergartens, schools... In order to overcome problems, we need to look them in their eyes, try to find solutions and foster tolerance among young children. If we do not do this, when they grow up, they would develop different perceptions and positions on the subject matter."*

Others believe that there is low tolerance for Roma and disabled persons, and high tolerance for other ethnic community members. It has been noted that lower tolerance was shown towards population groups that have not been protected under legislative acts.

*"This is partially due to the knowledge or lack of knowledge in the society. If drugs, homosexuality are discussed more often, people will no longer consider them taboos."*  
*"There are still people who are unable to distinguish between intellectual disability and mental illness. The less visible disabilities are the more accepted they are...people are either afraid of such people, or are indifferent or ignorant."*

On the issue of **intolerance toward the civil society organization** where interlocutors are members, some of them

expressed regret that despite the various efforts from local to the highest level, they still feel as being insufficient, unequal partner in the implementation of disability policies. To be more specific, they said:

*"Far away from saying that there is no reaction to the needs of this group, but excuses such as "there are no sufficient funds" or "patience, we'll get to it, but not at the moment" are frequently heard."*

*"Intolerance is visible among high-level institutions. We try to lobby with ministries for the purpose of adopting certain laws, which are accepted as European standards and already functional, but nobody listens to what we have to say."*

*"The Social Work Centre sees us as rivals, as recently a number of state centers were established and they are imposed at all prices. This is how they show their intolerance, by not allowing us access and space for proving our capacities and possibilities, while the results speak of the opposite."*

Problems were also identified in regard of civil society organizations' cooperation with schools:

*"When implementing the campaign on the rights of intellectually disabled children, some of the primary schools rejected to cover the topic (one of the schools insisted on obtaining consent from the municipality) or are afraid to promote the topic independently. ...this is nevertheless a form of intolerance, because responsible people from the school refuse to face the problem and believe nothing should be done in that regard (by excusing themselves with various bureaucratic procedures on*

*obtaining this or that consent, although it is desirable for children to get familiarized with the matter in question).*"

As for possible intolerance towards the group in question, some say that so far *they have not noticed such manifestations (open)*, but emphasized that:

*"This is more a result of lack of refinement, the education of individuals in the society. It takes a heartless man to pass by a person in need and not provide a helping hand... it takes an illiterate man to believe that intellectual disabilities are transmittable ....again, it all boils down to the consciousness and lack of information and education."*

*"Beneficiaries of the Daily Centre do not face such problems, but they can be mocked, excluded, or pushed in corners. We say our education is inclusive, can we trust such statements? There are still parents hiding their children at home, and this might also be seen as one of the problems behind the intolerance of the society. Fear of social stigma, makes parents of children with disabilities, intellectual or other, to keep them at home."*

Commenting on state's treatment of intellectually disabled persons, it was said that *amendments to the Law on Social Protection do not provide essential changes in terms of guaranteeing the rights, and certain irregularities have not been corrected:* for example, people with modest disabilities are entitled to a special social allowance up to age of 26 years, while upon turning 26 years they are deprived of such assistance. They suffer from conditions that cannot be cured, and upon turning 26 years are deprived from the care and medicaments they need.

Another barrier is intolerance in terms of employment, where these people have often been abused by employers in the light of providing documents to qualify for the special benefits and tax relieves provided for employing such people.

Interviewees were asked to compare **the private (friends, neighbors) and public (working relations) spheres and assess the intolerance toward their group.**

From the answers received it can be said that intolerance in the public sphere will never be openly manifested, because:

*"Officially, the state would never say that it will not tolerate somebody, and nobody would ever tell you in the face that he/she is not willing to cooperate because the matter in question concerns intellectually disabled people, so it can be inferred that greater intolerance is visible in the private sphere, supported by statements of parents indicating the existence of many barriers."*

However, this assessment does not mean that public services are tolerant, thus health care services were indicated in support of such statements.

*"I would not say that the public sphere is intolerant, but rather inconsistent in terms of social and health protection rights. I speak from my personal experience: every time we have recommended the Social Work Centre to issue documents that might help people in enjoying their rights – in the field of primary, secondary and tertiary health care, such documents were never issued. It also happened for certain people to obtain the document in question, while others were rejected, as if this is a matter that depends*



*on the willingness of employees. That is why I strongly believe that these people have been most affected from the aspect of enjoying their legally stipulated rights."*

It has been noted that *governmental institutions* provide for declarative support, although changes have been made:

*"We were a civil society organization whose daily centers were financed by "Soros", but the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy started co-financing the project in 2002, and has assumed the responsibility for full support upon the completion of the co-financed project. Such commitments were unfathomable before."*

It has been assessed that approaching the problem in the private sphere depends on the parents and the immediate environment of intellectually disabled persons. It has been said that people are becoming more open and willing for cooperation, and that they welcome activities implemented by civil society organizations. In terms of the day to day communication and friendship making, interviewees believe that their beneficiaries have established good communication and are accepted by the community and the neighborhood they live in.

*"There are people making efforts, but are not accepted by the community, due to the fear or lack of knowledge for interacting with them. These people need to be treated with care, tolerance, patience and love, as they cannot always adjust to the present fast-track live."*

On the question concerning the **frequency and type of obvious intolerance**, interviewees stated that intolerance appears

*only "if you are not personally involved and ignorant."*

*"Most tolerant are the people personally affected by the problem, since they understand it and know the burden of the same. In the beginning, tolerance depends on the parents' persistence for making the community and the society accept their child. As the circles widens, intolerance becomes more palpable."*

An example of day-to-day intolerance was given in regard to *public transportation users*, who are impatient and have no understanding that some children need more time to get on the bus.

Another intolerance example concerns *the exercise of rights that have not become a routine*. In cases of complex procedures, a person is being re-referred to various instances and institutions.

*"Frequency of intolerance depends – to a large extent- on the exposition of disabled persons in the society. We do not ask for empathy, but for understanding."*

*"Concern is visible within the family, and not around it – people in the surrounding are not interested in our problems, thus they believe that it is a matter of personal problems, and not societal."*

Problems identified by civil society organizations in regard to their operation mainly fall under the category of cooperation with *governmental institutions and organizations*, as the cooperativeness on their behalf is purely a declarative one. Nevertheless, it was also said that sometimes they show understanding. On the other hand

interviewees complain on the fact that they are still unable to establish partnerships with the *local authorities*, although in principle every municipal council meeting or meetings with local officials end with pledges for partnerships. The general impression inferred is that local authorities do not consider these problems as priorities. Such assessments are made with regret, as one of the main objectives of the decentralization process is service-provision for citizens, and the municipal administration is the one to take all efforts for ensuring that.

*“There are municipalities, mayors and municipal councils willing to assist, and they do so, but on the other hand there are mayors without any intention to help or expressing support only on meetings, and latter forgetting what they have promised.”*

Some interviewees stated that parents can sometimes make more damage than help, as at the beginning when they start taking their disabled children to the Daily Centers, they show no interest in getting involved in the activities, although there are various mechanisms for achieving their full integration in their children’s rehabilitation process (workshops, activities organized outside Daily Centers, training sessions, involvement in campaigns, etc.).

*Discrimination* was identified in terms of laws stipulating rights, such as social protection, health care, education and others. They contain ambiguities and provisions that might be changed for the benefit of disabled people.

**Funding** was identified as one of the major problems affecting the operation of civil society organizations.

*“The Daily Centre in Skopje includes 35 beneficiaries, and there is no financial support provided by the local government or the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. At the moment certain funding was made available, but only until the end of the current year. What will happen with the centre afterwards is unknown even to us. What should we do? Close the Daily Centre?”*

Finances are also a major problem of families with intellectually disabled members. This is due to the unemployment status of disabled persons or family members taking care of them.

*“This is a matter of families where one of the parents is unemployed for the purpose of providing care for their child, and the purpose of the Daily Centers is to provide care for such children during parents’ working hours (activities aim at making the children more independent) and also for the purpose of providing parents more time for addressing their and their family needs, as well as look for employment in order to increase the family budget... Some children need costly medicaments, which not all families can afford, some of them are on the positive list, while others not.”*

*“Employing disabled persons and the benefits accompanying it should be sufficient for covering their needs. Disabled persons should not be manipulated, as it has been done by paying them only 2000/3000 MKD, which is more an allowance than a pay check. Their labor should be valued.”*

Suggestions were provided for the domain of *education*, in the light of making subtle tests and assessments that would stress children’s potentials and indicate the best

programs for them. In the field of *social rights*, it was suggested to institutionalize the **social allowance for care**, which should not be provided only for care givers of people with severe intellectual disabilities, but also for those caring for people with modest intellectual disabilities.

In the field of *health care rights*, it has been said that some people stand in between legal provisions, as they cannot be treated on their parents' health protection payment because they are 18 or 26 years old, while on the other hand are unable to obtain individual health protection schemes because of being unemployed, and the third option would be the registration at the Agency for Employment, meaning that they have to be declared as completely incapable for work. *"You are faced with the decision on what is best for your child, what label it has to wear for the purpose of being in the position to enjoy its rights."*

## Institutions and the (in)tolerance

On the question, **what kind of engagement is expected from the institutions**, the interviewees provided the following answers:

- the state is expected to change the legislative acts, including the Laws on Social Protection, Health Care and Education; it should finance service-providing centers; be more open for suggestions and proposals provided by civil society organizations working for the benefit of disabled persons and concerning new legal solutions; to adopt the Anti-Discrimination Law.
- the local governments should assume the initiative-taking approach and

be more aware; they should be more cooperative, and show serious efforts for implementing the law; they should provide continuous financial support for service-providing centers that have already been established and support the establishment of new ones.

- media should support the activities and operation of civil society organizations for the purpose of contributing to public awareness development; media should get involved in the fight against discrimination of disabled persons. *"I demand their greater involvement and objective coverage, on the detriment of chasing sentimental and empathetic stories. They should be focused on people's real problems. We have been suffocated with party politics, corruption and manipulation of stories that are becoming boring, as they are concentrated on discrediting one another, instead of solving specific problems."*
- good cooperation has already been established with other civil society organizations and the same will continue in future; situations of disunity are rare and easily solved.
- schools should be more involved in education of children concerning intellectual disabilities – meaning that it is nothing to be ashamed of, scared from or avoided; teachers should find out ways for presenting intellectual disabilities in a positive manner; attempts should be made on reducing discrimination by means of education. *"Special service should be established for this purpose, and adequate programs should be developed."*

civil society organizations' activists believe that hospitals are still discriminating intellectually disabled persons; it is believed that hospitals and health professionals still hold major prejudices, and intellectual disabilities should be clearly distinguished from mental illness; this is a prerogative for the health professionals.

On the question intended for identifying **institutions with which interviewees had best and worst cooperation**, answers indicated that best cooperation was noticed with other civil society organizations, as well as some schools and kindergartens. Worst cooperation or mere *declarative cooperation* was noticed in regard to local authorities. Cooperation with media was assessed as decent.

Commenting on needed **changes and policies to eradicate discrimination against this group**, interviewees said that such changes should be made in the light of:

- sincere commitment on behalf of institutions for cooperating with civil society organizations;
- amendments to the Law on Social Protection (institutions should be established for accommodation and/or care for severely intellectually disabled children so that parents can have a moment of relief);
- provide foster homes in cases of serious health problems of single parents caring for disabled persons;
- changes in the education system (schools should employ disability therapists, when a number of disabled children are enrolled);

- more attention should be paid to intellectually disabled patients in the course of health service provision (the Law on Health Protection should provide for free-of-charge accommodation for the intellectually disabled persons' care provider, as they are unable to care for themselves);
- the Anti-Discrimination Law should be adopted;
- equal benefits should be provided for both biological families and foster families caring for disabled people. Foster families receive social benefits, whereas the biological families are discriminated in that sense.

## REPORT

**from the 3 interviewees organized with civil society organizations' activities working on the promotion of physically disabled persons' rights and protection**

### Citizens and the intolerance

The dilemma **whether the Macedonian society is generally tolerant**, resulted in many positions and ideas provided by our interlocutors. Some of them were of the opinion that such behaviors and attitude of people from this area (meaning on the Balkan) are inevitably a major problem, and does not concern only disabled persons. The mentality has been pre-determined by the belief that *"anything outside my backyard is no problem of mine"*. Accordingly, people *"lack feeling of*

*stateness, common matters, and cohabitation”, while “disabled persons are loved and cared for only when they are family members.”*

Nevertheless, on the attempt to assess the level of tolerance, the interlocutor in question provided a solid two to three ranking, as it is a common belief that “people are open” for accepting new ideas, and because media and contemporary communication means work for the benefit of **increasing tolerance**. Positions of other two interlocutors provided on the question of our society’s tolerance differed. One of them ranked it with an assessment of 3, indicating that such tolerance for handicapped people is still insufficient.

*“Work is needed with citizens. It is not that they are unwilling to be more tolerant, but maybe do not know how to express their tolerance and how to behave towards disabled people. There are million examples of people not knowing how to express their tolerance.”*

The interviewee representing the Association of Blind People assessed the society’s tolerance as weak and gave it a rank assessment of 2 (only because of the willingness expressed by the state in general). He commented the negative factors, and said: *the economic situation of the population in general and the education and rearing system impact the low level of tolerance.*

*“There is a specific paradox in our society. Opposite to countries in Europe, blind children are not admitted to kindergartens in our country. This is the main problem. Until recently, we had a law stipulating that all blind children must attend the school for blind children. When small blind kids are enrolled in kindergartens other children get used to*

*their disability and establish friendships, so the distance is eliminated at young age.”*

### **Commenting on the question to identify the most and least tolerated groups by the society,**

some interviewees said that *the community is more tolerant toward disabled persons, as opposed to drug and narcotic users or people having same-sex relations.* “Recentness” of such groups was indicated as a reason for low level of intolerance, as well as the “manner” in which other groups accept the “distinctiveness” of the marginalized group in question.

*“The early accepted groups are more tolerated, since people have already been used to them and consider them normal. It is my opinion that people would not accept neighbors who are drug users or having same-sex relations, as opposed to handicapped persons. Probably, the new trends have not been “processed” ... people still hold on to their traditional values, believing that such people brought the misfortune on themselves or it has been God-given. God-given misfortunes are more easily accepted, as they can happen to anyone. But if the misfortune was brought on the person by him/herself, people cannot understand why somebody would use needles and drugs, or become an addict, resulting in low tolerance for such people, since it is believed that they can discontinue such practices. What Devil made him do it in the first place? On the contrary, if a disability is a result of a traffic accident, is it more easily accepted and understood by people.”*

The interlocutor from the Association of Blind People said that a very small number of people are completely blind, while majority of them suffer from impaired vision (90%),

and that the state and the community in general are more tolerant towards people with impaired vision, whereas blind people are completely marginalized. He also suggested several ideas for making lives of blind people much easier:

*"Blind people are not able to move freely, and they cannot read. But computer reading has been designed for them. I have a computer at home, scan books and then read them. I can type anything on my machine. Science has provided solutions. In Macedonia there is lack of specialized computers for blind people, and their affordability is another issue. Thousands of computers were purchased for schools around the country; they should have included the specialized computers for blind children.*

*The state is attempting to solve the problem on general level. Blind and intellectually disabled people are not the same. We have our specific needs."*

The third interlocutor, member of an association addressing various disabilities, believes that *the state is tolerant, but not sufficiently*. As for the financial assistance provided for his organization, it is deemed sufficient as well. In his opinion, narcotic users are the least tolerated group in the society.

*"This is a result of the insufficient care for the young people. The state should rear them from the earliest age and teach them wrong from right. Young people are unaware of what they are doing when they start using drugs... Of course, parents are the most important factor in children's education and rearing.... If the situation has escalated to that degree, it seems that the state is not paying sufficient attention to the drug problem. They are not treated as diseased."*

When asked to assess the **(in) tolerance toward the civil society organization whose members they are**, some interlocutors expressed their satisfaction, meaning that things have changed for better, and indicating that although relevant legislation has not been adopted, **a higher level of awareness has been developed.**

*"I can personally notice huge progress made in terms of tolerance at the time when I was 12-13 years old and now when I am 42-43 years. This can be seen everywhere. It doesn't matter if someone opens the door, picks up heavy things for me or even stop the traffic on the street to let me pass. All these things show higher level of tolerance. People seem much more willing to assist."*

Other interlocutors feel that *the state is doing its best in terms of providing funding*, although such funds are insufficient in comparison to the situation in the past, whereas the *community's treatment is not the least discriminatory.*

*"I do not feel discriminated. I have never felt as a second rate citizen throughout my working days and upon my retirement. Perhaps sometimes someone stared or was simply curious to know what happened to me, why I am disabled. Otherwise, I do not feel that discriminated by the citizens, nor by the society as a whole. I believe we are, nevertheless, good people willing to help disabled or elderly persons. That is who we are, as people and as a nation – willing to give a helping hand."*

When comparing the **private (friendships, neighbors) and the public sphere (working relations and like) in regard to intolerance towards their group**, the interviewees indicated that the problems

never appear in the private sphere, but in the public one, as people at work are subjected to the demands of activists.

*“The issue of handicapped people was never considered an urgent matter; everyone is willing to solve it, but afterwards it turns out that money or something else is lacking. We, on the other hand, keep voicing our demands, although at moments it seems as if we don’t know what we want. Sometimes we demand all our problems to be taken into account, and are therefore misunderstood.”*

Furthermore, remarks were provided in the field of employment, where it seems as if discrimination is stipulated by law. Namely:

*“The Law on Employment of Disabled Persons includes a provision stating that blind people cannot be managers, unless they are tested by a certain Commission of the Ministry of Labor and Social Work, where he/she would be subjected to medical doctors’ assessment. What seems to be the problem? If a person is blind, it does not automatically mean that it is psychologically disabled. This provision has to be waived. Take me as an example. I am blind, but have spent all of my working experience as a company manager. Should this provision remain in power, we will be forced to raise charges in front of the Court on Human Rights in Strasbourg.”*

Interlocutors said that discrimination examples are rare.

*“It happened at a sports event for disabled persons organized in Ohrid. A certain gentleman organized a family wedding reception at the hotel where we were accommodated. He expressed his preference*

*to the hotel personnel to keep us “out of his sight” during the wedding. The receptionist told us that the elevator will be out of service after 8 PM due to repairs, so disabled people were supposed to remain in their rooms after that time. However, when we learned that such arrangements were made by the gentleman in question, we kept our distance from the ball room, and “parked” in front of the bar. Wedding guests found our presence interesting, while wedding singer greeted us and expressed his wish to enjoy ourselves. In a way, we ended up as part of the wedding. Actually, our discreet presence improved the general atmosphere. Nevertheless, that is a negative example, which proved to be an isolated incident.”*

When asked **how often and under which occasions, intolerance becomes obvious**, interviewees stated that such a behavior rarely appears.

*“I am disabled from my fourth year, and it is true that during most of my life I have felt intolerance on the part of individuals, but those were only isolated cases. Having a disabled person in the family does not necessarily result in higher tolerance. It all depends on the person you are communicating with. My companions, relatives or friends have never pushed me aside because of my disability and they never considered my disability as an obstacle in our friendships.”*

*“It all depends on the individual qualities of the person.”*

*“This is related to “people feeling comfortable in their shoes”. People here are used to doing what they please – they don’t stop on traffic red lights, overtaking other vehicles without*

*giving proper signals, parking on lawns. The reason for such behavior is the lack of personal manners, as well as lack of order. For example, we marked a parking lot for disabled persons in front of our building. People keep parking their cars right on that marked lot, even though they are able to find free parking lots all around. And kept "bothering" them by distributing leaflets containing: "Your car is here! Where did you park your conscience?" Some came to apologize. Since we were restless in the distribution of leaflets, they were thrown away. They were displeased. All of this means that people are tolerant as long as no one disturbs their comfort."*

Remarks were provided in regard to companies employing disabled persons, which, in fact, abuse the benefits provided by the state.

*"The community rewards such companies with significant incentives. They, on the other hand, employ disabled people and give them minimum salaries. This resulted in numerous cases of blind people quitting their jobs. They feel much more comfortable with receiving social allowance. In this respect, I think that people are not as tolerant as they should be. They choose to employ disabled people for personal material interests."*

**The interviewees pointed out several problems they face in regard to the operation of their civil society organizations:**

self-limitation because of person's disability; lack of financial means for purchasing state-of art devices (household appliances, computers, etc.) that would improve the quality of life for blind or physically disabled persons; lack of traffic signalization for the disabled, i.e. the lack of orientation aids for blind persons; insufficient

attention for disabled persons' needs in terms of enabling free movement on streets and access to public buildings (administrative buildings, hospitals, courts, libraries, etc.); problems in regard to exercising health care and education services; biased policies on issuing documents needed for becoming eligible beneficiaries of social allowances for home care".

*"If social allowance for care givers amounts to 10.000 MKD, I would be able to find a personal assistant. On the other hand, an allowance of 3.000 MKD is insufficient. In this respect, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy should transparently establish the social allowance beneficiaries and amounts. Allowances cannot be issued en block. Same social allowance cannot be awarded for all disabilities – it is not the same if a person has lost his/her leg or the sight."*

*"Several days ago, a group of women – members of our organization requested for an ambulance to be designated and equipped with suitable obstetric chair adjusted to their needs. Similar problem was identified in regard to the Dentistry Clinic, but we managed to solve it to our mutual satisfaction. The facility in question was equipped with an elevator, which stops on mezzanines, which for us is equal to no elevator. They did not have access ramps for the disabled, so our Association provided for it. In return the Clinic Centre agreed to provide for ambulance premises on the ground floor, designated especially for disabled persons, which can be used on previous announcement of such people."*

*"Another negative example concerns the education system. According to the new law, secondary education is made mandatory for*



*all children. There are around sixty disabled children at the age up to 12 years in our community who are supposed to go to school, but do the conditions allow them to? None of the schools in our country is equipped with an elevator. School entrance path-ways are stairs, and ramps are not constructed. The toilets are not properly equipped for facilitating the needs of disabled students (there are only squat toilets, which are inappropriate for disabled people)."*

## Institutions and the (In)tolerance

When indicating the **engagement** interviewees expect **from relevant institutions**, it was noted that all institutions listed should work in step and in coordination in order for their efforts to provide benefits for the disabled persons.

*"I think that proper laws and regulations are the most effective instrument for rapid changes, but they can never be the only instrument available."*

- The state is expected to focus more on the continuity in the creation of relevant policies, as well as on proper implementation of legal provisions, rather than starting all over again, another party comes into office; it is also expected to secure funds for the blind people for the purpose of procuring reading and walking aids.
- The local self-government should show greater understanding and allocate funds for adjusting streets to their needs. *"Every time I cross Partizanski Odredi Street, I come across difficulties. There is a law in the USA, for example, which states that a disabled person does not have the right*

*to a personal assistant, as all natural persons and legal entities are obligated to assist and take disabled persons to the place they are headed. In Europe, disabled persons are entitled to a personal assistant, but whenever you travel on an airplane and inform the airline of your status, it is obligated to provide assistance. In our country, this is unfathomable."* Complaints were expressed in terms of bus ticket policy for disabled persons. *"An entire group of people with minor disabilities was deprived of bus ticket benefits. I cannot understand this attitude, since it is a matter of 200-300 bus tickets per year."*

- Remarks were made on the media competence for doing the work they are paid for, while they are the ones that should contribute to raising the level of public tolerance. *"If they regularly keep the public informed in a thoughtful and dedicated manner, by introducing regular daily items on disabled people that would properly identify and address problems and needs affecting the disabled, the situation would be considerably better."* In contrast to this, other interlocutors have expressed their satisfaction from the cooperation established with the media.
- Other civil society organizations should work **together** and participate in the process of raising public awareness on these problems, as well as in the promotion of common interests: *"I have been told that brochures are distributed in the USA where a plate is described as a clock. Therefore, different food and objects are assigned to a specific time of the day as a metaphor of things needed. This is an example of how matters should be addressed. The Americans are properly*

*informed. No one here is informed about our needs and problems. Not even my wife."*

- Concerning the schools, the representative of the Association of Visually Impaired Persons expressed his satisfaction with progress made: *"the system changes have resulted in greater support for the education of blind children. They can now choose between attending specialized schools or public schools. If they feel fit, it is much more normal for them to attend public schools."*
- In regard to hospitals, complaints were primarily addressed to public health system, where people with disabilities are treated as regular patients, which is a major mistake.

*"Severely disabled people cannot wait 4-5 hours in hospital corridors, when it is very well known that sitting in the wheelchair is uncomfortable. Such sights are sore to the eyes. In my opinion, ambulances, banks and other institutions should not only construct special access ramps for the disabled, but should also give advantage to these people. It is not right for a person with crutches to wait in line with the others. The same goes for hospitals. We all know that people go to hospitals when they have a need, but there are people in greater need of medical attention."*

When asked to name **institutions with which they have established the best and/or worst cooperation**, some answered that best cooperation has been achieved with schools in their communities, followed by the ministries and state institutions (a lobby-group in the National Parliament has been established as well), media and the local

self-government. *"We are developing action plans together with the municipalities; we have already held meetings with 50 mayors."* On the other hand, the cooperation with health care institutions has been identified as the worst. Others complained about the lack of understanding on the part of state institutions, as well as the mixed messages provided by local authorities.

*"We are constantly been referred to the City Administration and the other way round – the City Administration refers us to the municipalities. However, there are positive examples, as well. In the field of sports, the Municipality of Kisela Voda constructed new sports facilities adjusted to our needs. It is a modest facility of around 100 m2, but it is quite sufficient for us. Now, we are faced with another problem. We do not have funds for paying the electricity bills, other utility bills, as well as the salary for the person who is in charge of building's maintenance. On the other hand, we are quite aware that those expenses are insignificant burden to the municipality budget."*

When commenting **whether policy and law changes are need for the purpose of reducing discrimination against this group**, the interviewees said such changes should be undertaken in the light of:

- *Allocating more funds from the state budget in order to proper address the needs of these persons (movement, everyday activities, personal assistance, cheaper bus tickets for disabled people);*
- *Instead if discussions and opinion exchanges, actions that have been promised for many years should be implemented. They are in fact obligations that the state has assumed when signing*

the Resolution on Disabled Persons;

- Adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Law, which has already been thoroughly discussed, and drafted; this law should provide for the establishment of independent bodies, i.e., mechanisms, that are to effectively work on anti-discrimination issues;
- All sectors should be involved in addressing problems affecting people with disabilities and should properly implement relevant legislation.

# Annex A

## Map of statistical regions in Republic of Macedonia

