Satisfaction with the situation at the country level and with personal circumstances

24 and 21 per cent of respondents believe that the economic and political situation in Montenegro was better in 2016 than four years prior to the survey, values higher than the averages for south-eastern Europe (SEE), both at 17 per cent. Furthermore, 20 per cent of interviewed individuals think that corruption levels improved over the four years preceding the survey, 2 percentage points more than in the SEE region as a whole but 3 percentage points below the transition region average.

Among Montenegrin respondents, 28 per cent believe that their household was better off in 2016 as compared to four years prior to the survey, while 32 per cent are satisfied with their personal financial situation. Both values are comparable to the respective transition region averages and higher than the averages for SEE as a whole.

Life satisfaction slightly increased by 4 percentage points compared to 2010, particularly for those in the lower and middle income groups and among respondents aged 40 and above. As of 2016, 46 per cent of Montenegrin respondents were satisfied with their life, a percentage higher than the averages for Italy, SEE and the transition region (42, 39 and 43 per cent, respectively).

40 per cent of Montenegrin respondents think that children born now will have a better life than the current generations, a 10 percentage point decline relative to 2010 levels, and a level of optimism that is well below the transition region average of 50 per cent.

Attitudes towards democracy and the market economy

Among Montenegrin respondents, 58 and 44 per cent prefer democracy and a market economy over any other form of political or economic system, respectively. Both these percentages are higher than the corresponding transition region averages (51 and 37 per cent, respectively). Around 17 and 25 per cent of Montenegrins believe that an authoritarian system and a planned economy may be better under some circumstances, while 25 and 31 per cent state that “for people like me, it does not matter” which political and economic system prevails, respectively.

Despite the relatively strong support for democracy, Montenegrins are sceptical about the existence of democratic institutions in the country. Only 26 per cent of respondents believe that elections in their country are free, compared to an average of 39 per cent for SEE and 41 per cent for the transition region. Similarly, only a quarter of Montenegrins believe that the press is independent, while 37 per cent think that there is gender equality in their country. Both these figures are substantially lower than the averages for SEE and the transition region. Montenegrin respondents’ trust in law and order, freedom of speech, a strong political opposition and a fair court system are comparable to those in SEE and the transition region.

Priorities for government spending

Among Montenegrin respondents, 32 per cent would prefer extra government funding to be spent on health care, a figure comparable to the average for the transition region as a whole (34 per cent). This is followed by helping the poor (24 per cent), investments in education (19 per cent) and pensions (14 per cent). Housing, the environment and infrastructure are mentioned by less than 3 per cent of all respondents as priorities for government spending. Consistently, additional results from LISS III show that about 61 and 48 per cent of Montenegrin respondents would be willing to pay more taxes in order to improve the quality of the public health system and to assist the poor, respectively.
CHART 2. Optimism: percentage of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the younger generation

CHART 3. Market economy and democracy: percentage of respondents who prefer a market over a planned economy and democracy over an authoritarian government

CHART 4. Basic democratic institutions: percentage of respondents who agree that the country has these basic democratic institutions

CHART 5. Priorities for government spending

Panel A: Percentage of respondents who identify a given area as a priority in terms of government spending

Panel B: Breakdown of preferences for the top priority (health care)

CHART 6. Sources of information: percentage of respondents who use these different sources of information

CHART 7. Health assessment: percentage of respondents who report themselves to be in good health (self-assessed)

CHART 8. Quality of services: percentage of respondents who are satisfied with the quality of public services, by category

CHART 9. Factors for success: percentage of respondents who identify the given factor as the most important for success, by income level

CHART 10. Attitudes towards women: percentage of respondents who agree with the statements below