

COMMON CORRUPTION PRACTICES AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE CORRUPTION PHENOMENON

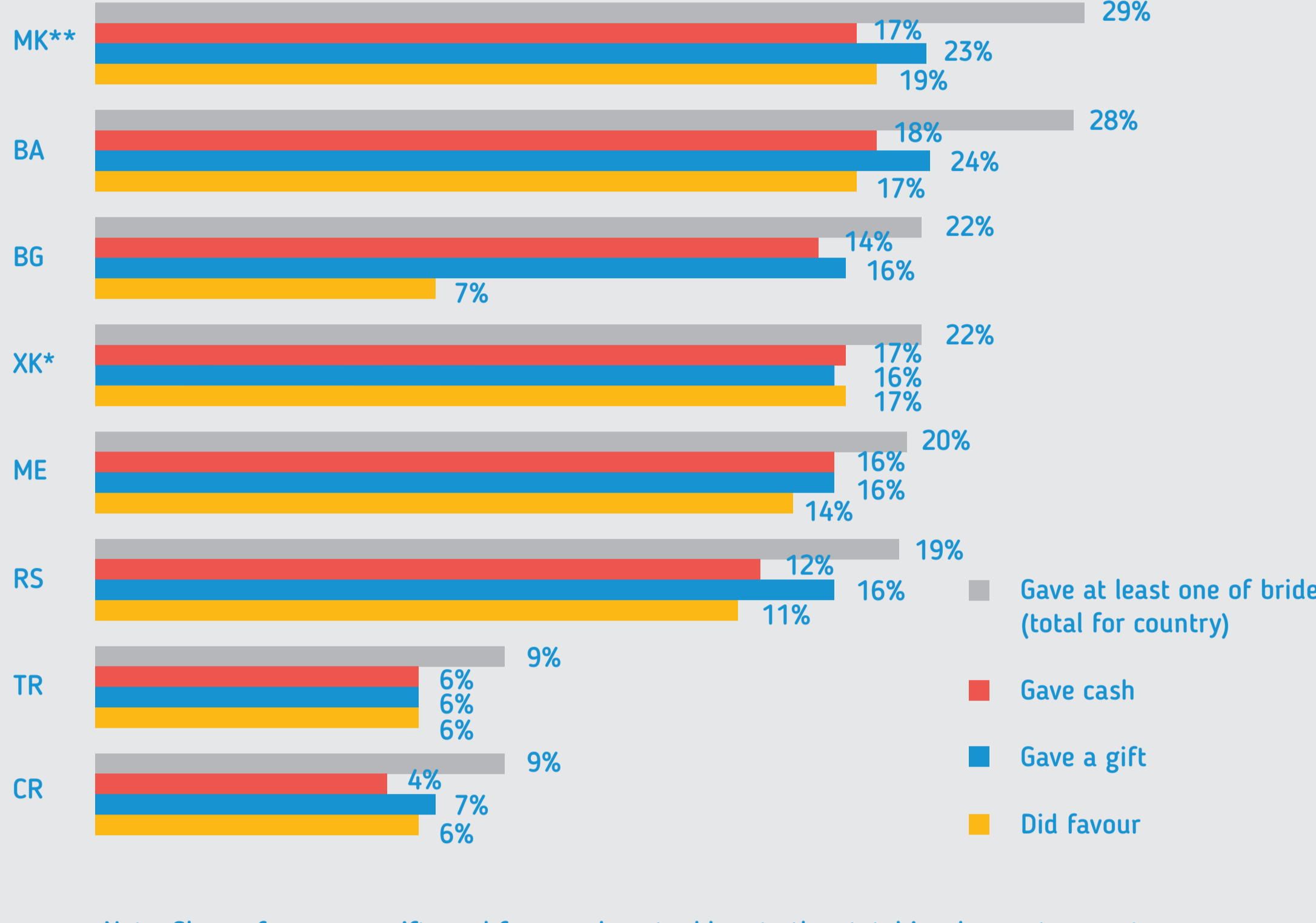
THE MEDIUM OF CORRUPTION

Important as the frequency of corrupt transactions is, their vehicle is also a significant factor. Bribery is often defined in terms of money changing hands, and in some cultures gifts or the exchange of favours are not considered bribes.

While in Albania money is by far the most often used means of bribery (34% compared to 20% giving gifts and 17% doing favours), in most of the SELDI countries gifts are given more often than money. Many people in SEE still do not consider gifts or favours to be bribes. For example, 34% of the SEE respondents do not believe that "giving a gift to a doctor so that he/she takes special care of you" is an example of corruption.

The problems of the rule of law cannot be resolved without deciding on the ownership of the law.

Ranking of major concerns by the public, SEE regional average, 2016



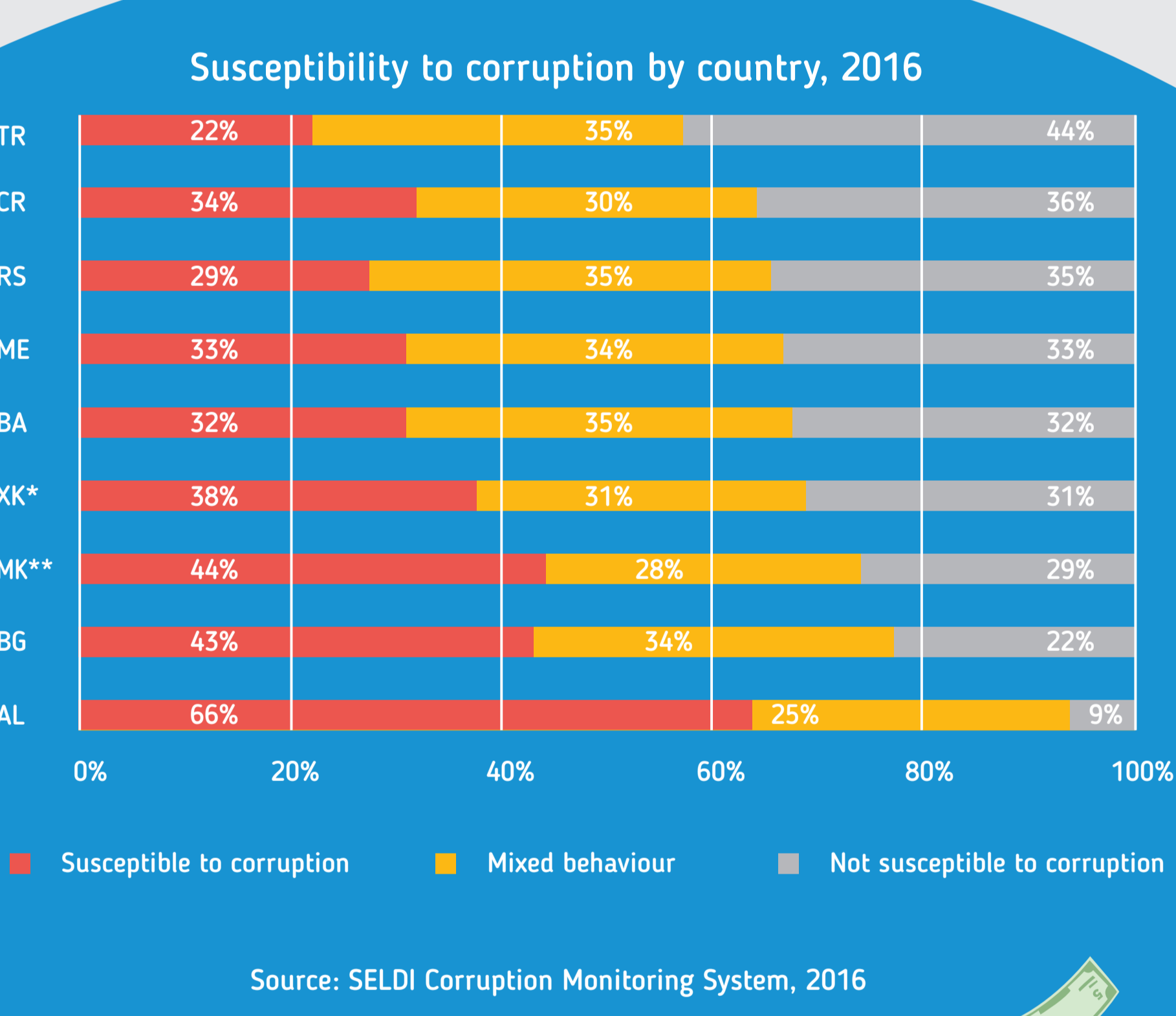
Note: Shares for money, gifts and favours do not add up to the total involvement percentage because often various means of bribery are used at the same time.
Source: SELDI Corruption Monitoring System, 2016.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS CORRUPTION

The extent to which corruption is considered (in)admissible is important for the kind of soft enforcement of integrity rules that is particularly lacking in SEE. Such informal enforcement is especially valuable in environments where hard enforcement cannot keep up with the proliferation of corrupt practices.

SELDI CMS explores the reactions of private individuals to two hypothetical situations - a) accepting/rejecting a bribe that was offered if one were a public official; b) giving in to a demand for a bribe by a corrupt public official whom one has approached with a major problem.

Susceptibility to corruption by country, 2016



Source: SELDI Corruption Monitoring System, 2016

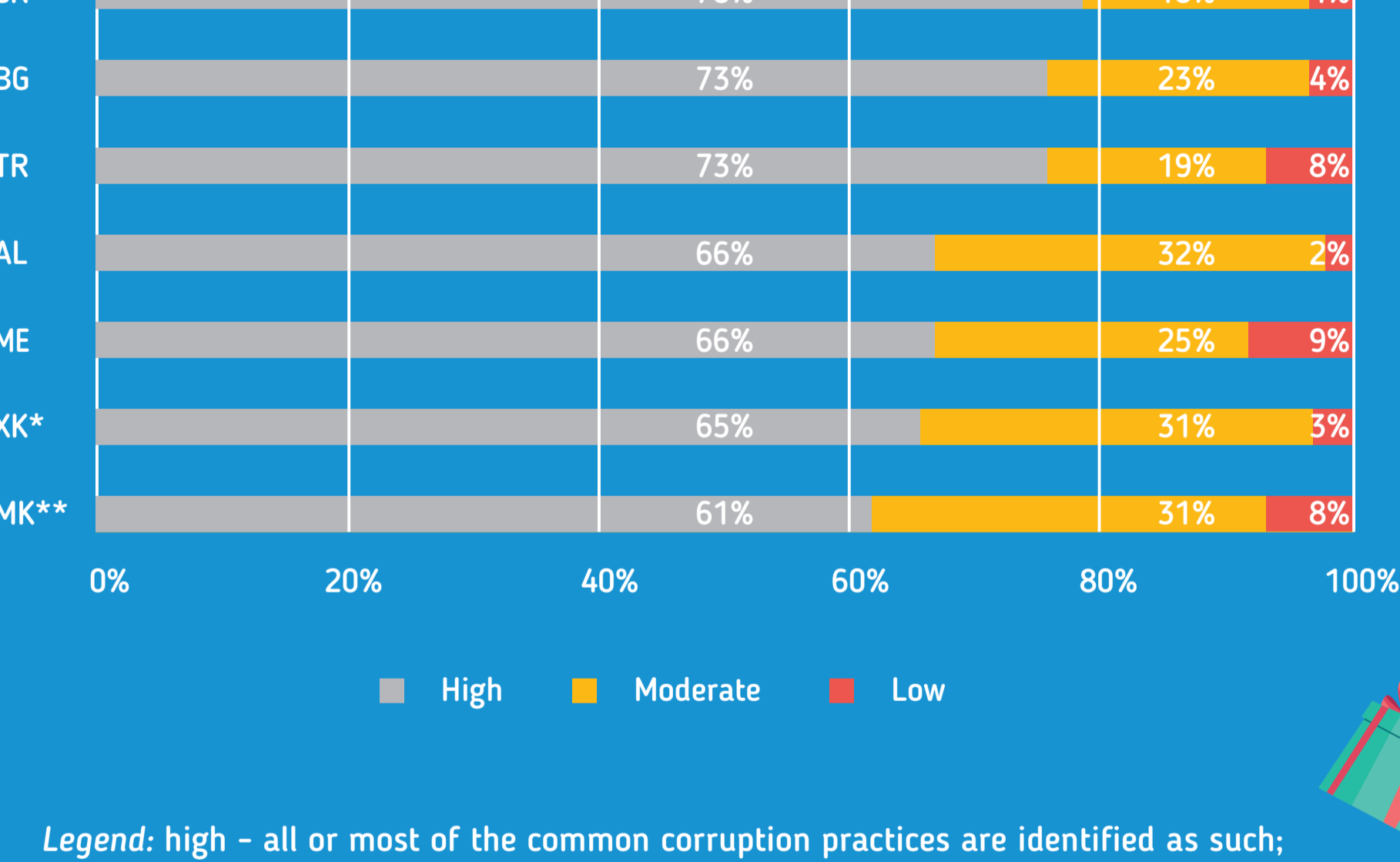
Self-professed corruptibility focuses on bribery - a straightforward form of corruption. More subtle - and thus insidious - forms may not present such clear-cut ethical dilemmas.

Still, any anticorruption effort relies on a shared understanding of "corruption" as an obvious and uncontentious breach of rules and trust.

Any ambiguity, therefore, would erode the cohesiveness of the anticorruption constituency. With these considerations in mind, the SELDI CMS also gauges the level of public awareness of various forms of corruption.

Bosnians and Croats, for example, have similar levels of identification of corrupt practices while having substantially different rates of involvement. These findings point to the potential for mobilisation of support for anticorruption measures as people would know it when they see it.

Rates of identification of common corruption practices, 2016



Legend: high - all or most of the common corruption practices are identified as such; moderate - many are identified but some are considered "normal practices"; low - few practices are identified as corruption

Source: SELDI Corruption Monitoring System, 2016

A much discussed aspect to corruption-related perceptions are public estimates of the level of corruptness of public officials. The perceptions of citizens can help locate vulnerabilities at the level of different sectors of government or society. They need to be interpreted, however, in their broader sense as a verdict on the whole system of governance.

Thus, while they represent a simplification of popular discontent, this discontent needs to be further disambiguated in order to explain why blatantly corrupt parties and politicians in SEE keep getting re-elected.

Estimated corruptness of public officials and other occupations in SEE, 2016

Occupation	Estimated involvement, regional average
Political party and coalition leaders	68%
Members of parliament	67%
Ministers	67%
Local political leaders	66%
Customs officers	64%
Judges	61%
Officials at ministries	59%
Public prosecutors	58%
Tax officials	57%
Municipal councillors	57%
Police officers	56%
Municipal officials	56%
Lawyers	56%
Investigating officers	53%
Administration officials in the judicial system	53%
Doctors	52%
Businesspersons	51%
University officials or professors	42%
Bankers	36%
NGO members	34%
Journalists	34%
Teachers	19%

Source: SELDI Corruption Monitoring System, 2016

*The designation "Kosovo" is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
**According to the RCC Statute, the full name of MK is: The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

POLICY CONCLUSIONS

People view corruption as a problem of power and not just as a technical gap in law enforcement capacity, which underscores the importance of sustained action against high level corruption. The policies which target corrupt behaviour at administrative level and those seeking to change trust in government need to be pursued in concert.

If not complemented by strengthened public demand for integrity in government and sustained improvement in economic well-being, stricter enforcement of penal measures cannot have a sustainable effect.

Law enforcement would likely be seen either as useless repression when targeting lower government levels or as political witch-hunt.

Conversely, intensifying awareness-building measures would only fuel cynicism and resignation in the public if it is not accompanied by visible efforts for cracking down on rent-seeking officials.

GDP PER CAPITA