

Political Barometer 1/2008

Long term research of public opinion concerning the actual political situation in Kosova

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Introduction

The Political Barometer is the first research project concerning a political topic initiated by AAB University respectively by the Center for Public Opinion Research - QHO. This first experimental research is financed by AAB University and is realized in cooperation with the University of Ljubljana, the Center for Public Opinion Research and Mass Communication of this University.¹

The canvass was realized in the time from December 4th to December 6th by means of standardized and anonym questionnaires using the "Face-to-Face" method. The questionnaires were distributed throughout Kosova - in the regions of Pristina, Gjilan, Ferizaj, Prizren, Gjakovo, Peje and Mitrovica including the localities with inhabitants of other nationalities. The way of distributing the questionnaires is based on the number of inhabitants according to the records of the Kosova registration office,² from 880 planed persons 876 (99%) persons with voting right were polled, a result which makes the project representative. The canvass was realized by 30 persons throughout the communes. The time for the completion of one questionnaire varied from 5 to 10 minutes. The data were analyzed by means of the statistical Software SPSS.³

The questionnaire was composed by the Head of the Center Lulzim Pllana MA, in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Niko Tos, Head of the Center for Opinion Research and Mass Communication and Dr. Slavdo Kurdija, professor and

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¹ www.cjm.si

² See registration office of Kosova www.ks-gov.net/esk.

³ Statistical Program for Social Science

collaborator of the Center at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia.

The questionnaire consists of the fix part containing the same questions throughout all stages of the canvass and the variable part, containing questions concerning the actual situation during the realization of the canvass.

In general, the questionnaire aims the definition and political orientation of the public opinion concerning the current political situation and evaluation of political events especially those in Kosova. Apart from the evaluation of the national institutions such as Government, Prime Minister, Parliament, Police, Political Parties, KLMDNJ, Trade Unions and the Ombudsman the questionnaire offers also the evaluation of the trust in international institutions like those from the United Nations, European Union as well as those from the United States of America.

Another evaluation point is the trust in media by differentiating between the public and private ones. The most important question of the "Political Barometer" is the so called "Sunday question" or "for which party you would vote"; this can be seen as the essence of the Political Barometer. In order to compare and decide on the developments of the trends concerning the respective parties the subsequent question is "for which party did you vote the last elections". As a consequence of this an evaluation of the political personalities by means of the open question is also done. This method of evaluation facilitates the evaluation of their political activities for a long period of time. The result of this evaluation can be gained the best by posing the question if there are changes in the field of social life, economy, education, healthcare, etc. in our case since the last elections of November 2007.

The variable part of the Barometer contains the questions which can or cannot be repeated in the questionnaire of the Barometer depending on the present situation. Matters such as the transformation of KPC⁴ into KSF⁵, "points of Ban Ki Moon", "Plan of Ahtisari" or "Policy of Barak Obama with regard to Kosova" are typical questions of the variable part of the Barometer.

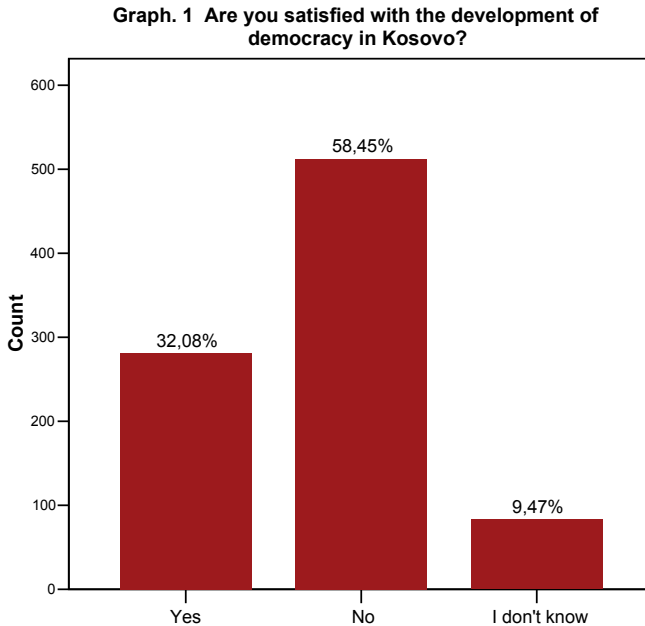
⁴ Kosova Protection Corps

⁵ Kosova Security Force

The empiric part of the Barometer contains the analysis of the data respectively the results of the research.

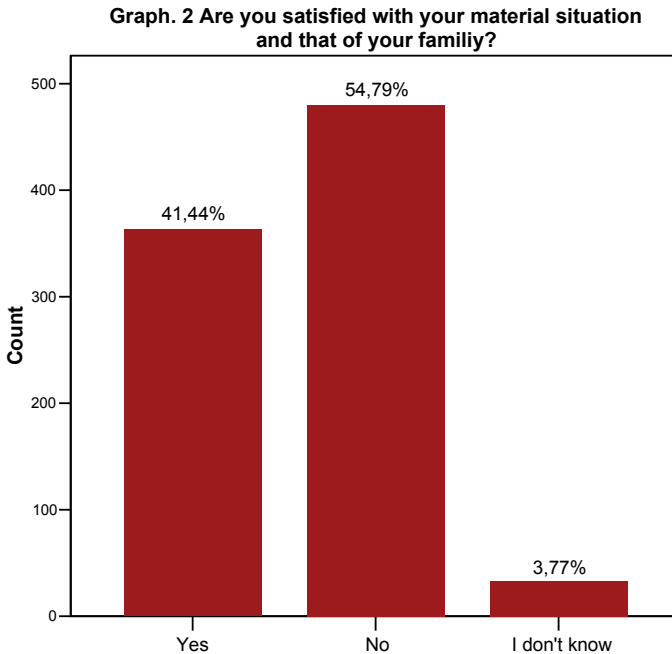
1. Development of the democracy and material situation

One of the questions in the introductory part of the Barometer is the question of the development of democracy in Kosova and material situation. Regarding the question that if you are satisfied with the developments of democracy in Kosova, we see that most of the respondents are not satisfied with the development of democracy, just 32% are satisfied with this situation. And less than 10% have a neutral opinion they do not know if they are satisfied with that situation or not.



Source: QHO N= 876

With respect to the personal material situation and that of the family we see in graphic No. 2 that half of the respondents (54,8 %) are not satisfied and a considerable part (41,4%) are satisfied with the material situation whereas a small part (3,8%) do not have any answer.



Source: QHO N= 876

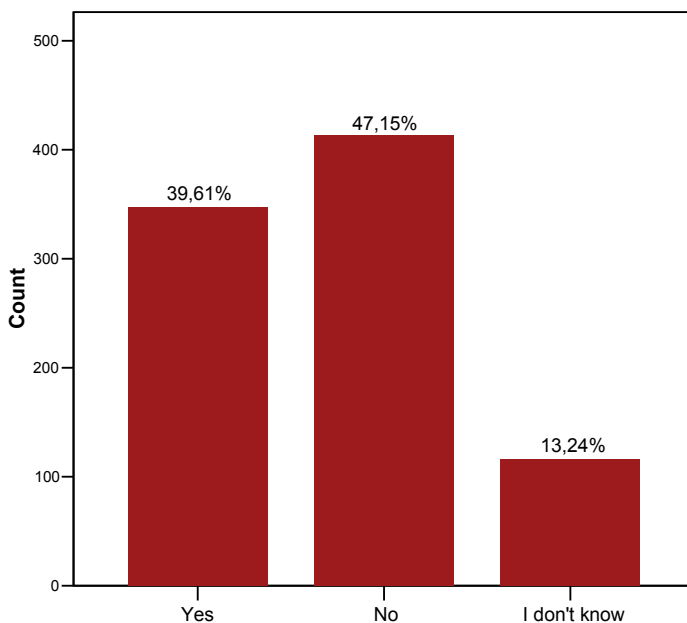
2. Support and trust in the Government

As a general part of the Political Barometer is the support and evaluation of the trust in the national institutions such as the Government as a whole, Prime Minister, Parliament, Political Parties, Police, KLMDNJ, Trade Unions and Ombudsman.

Supporting the Government

According to the results of the research we see that there is a decrease in the support when regarding the negative answers of the respondents.

Graph. 3 Do you support the present government?

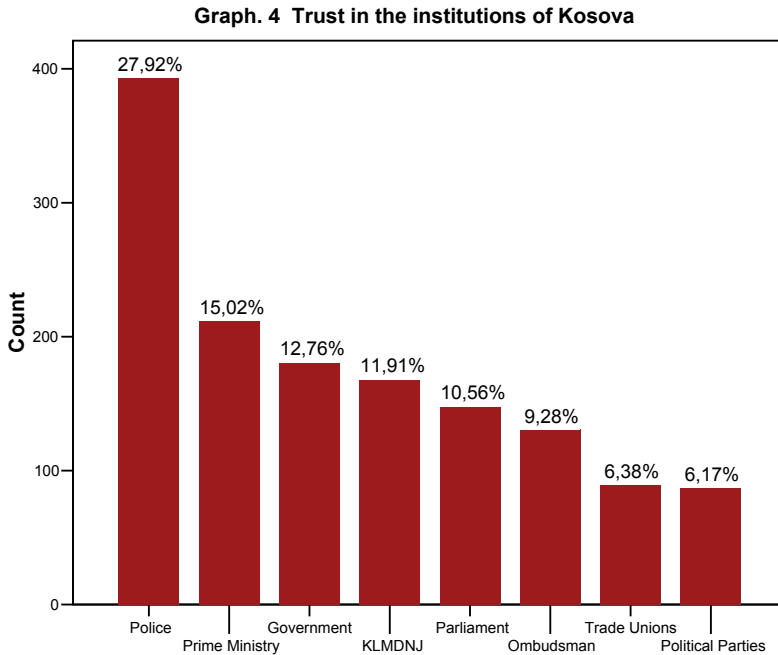


Source: QHO N= 876

Trust in national institutions

In the following graphic we see the evaluations of the respondents concerning the trust in national institutions based just on the positive answers.

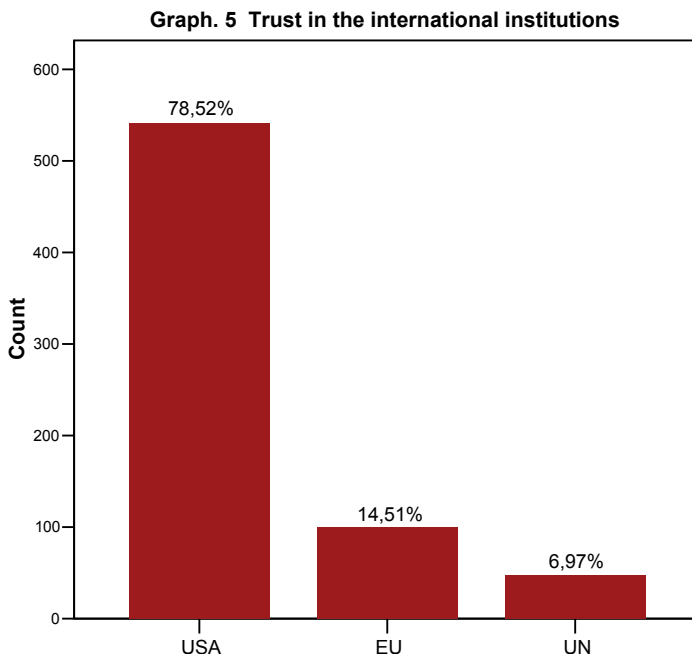
It is clearly stated that in this case the Police got the most positive result with 27,92% of the total percentage concerning this question followed by the Prime Minister with 15,02%, Government, KLMDNJ, Parliament, Ombudsman, Trade Unions and finally the Political Parties.



Source: QHO N= 876

Trust in international institutions

The international institutions dealing with Kosova were also included in the question of trust. The results in (Graph. 5) show that the United States of America is in the first place the respondents have trust in. Second is the European Union but visible less than the USA followed by United Nations with the lowest percentage. This is because of the current political situation and other social matters of concern in Kosova.

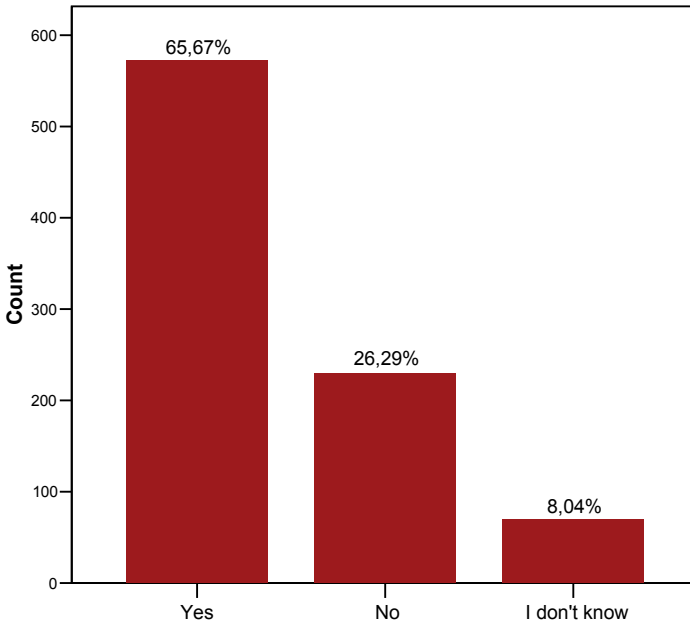


Source: QHO N= 876

Trust in media

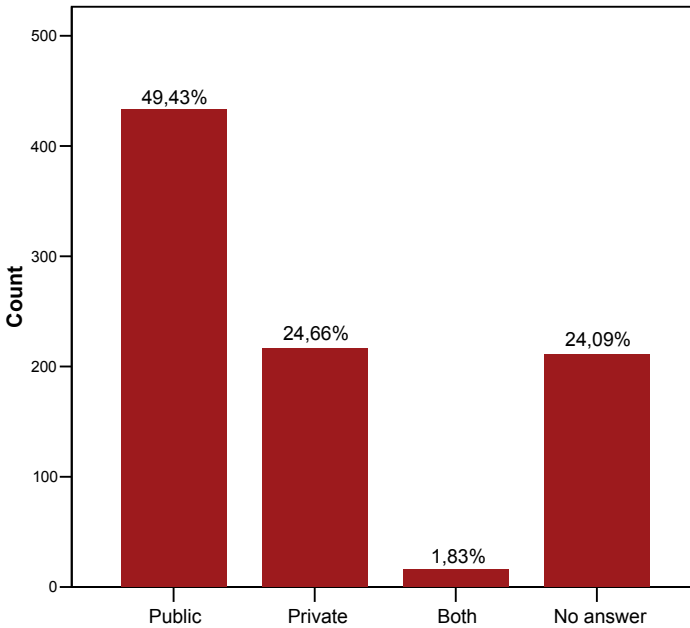
Media seems to be the main tool of communication in Kosova, an important channel of transmitting the message of the population of the Republic of Kosova. Their credibility seems to be quite high as we see in the results below; according to the results we can say that the media have a great impact on the Kosova society. The graphic shows that the majority of the respondents more than 65% have trust in media, 29% of them do not trust them and only 8% did not answer this question. Regarding the question of which media they trust in, we see in (Graph. 7) that about half of the respondents (49, 43%) trust the public media and only 24, 66% trust the private ones. Trust in both have just 1, 83% of the respondents whereas 24% of them did not answer this question.

Graph. 6 Do you trust the media?



Source: QHO N= 876

Graph. 7 Wich media do you trust?

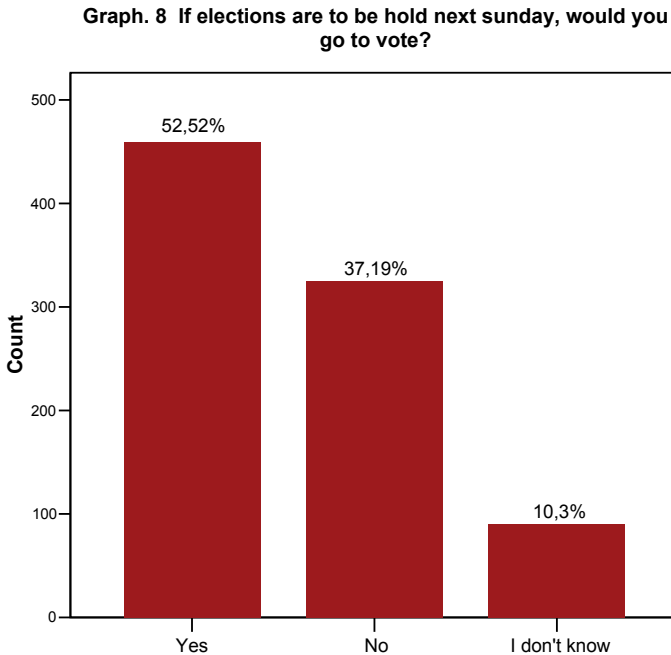


Source: QHO N= 876

3. Sunday Question

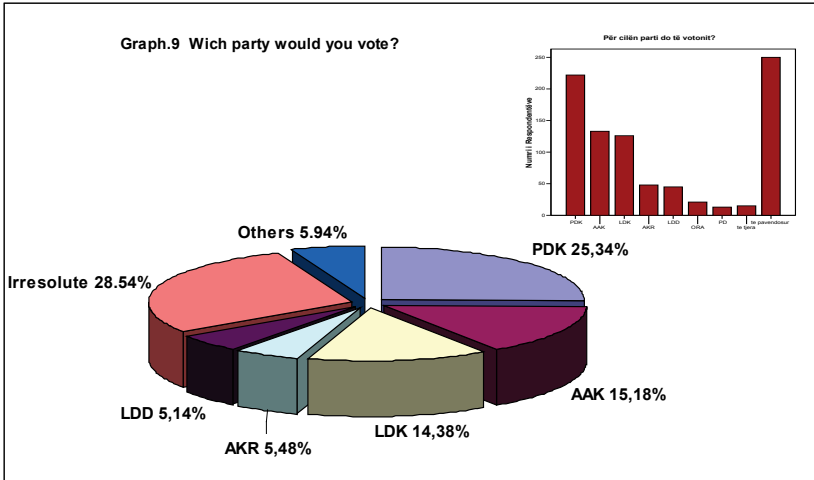
The key factor of the evaluation of the Political Barometer is the "Sunday Question". The aim of this question is to evaluate the readiness of the population to go to vote if elections are to be held the coming Sunday.

We see in (graph. 8) that more than 50% of the respondents would vote, and 37% of them would not vote. Another part of 10% still does not know whether or not to vote.



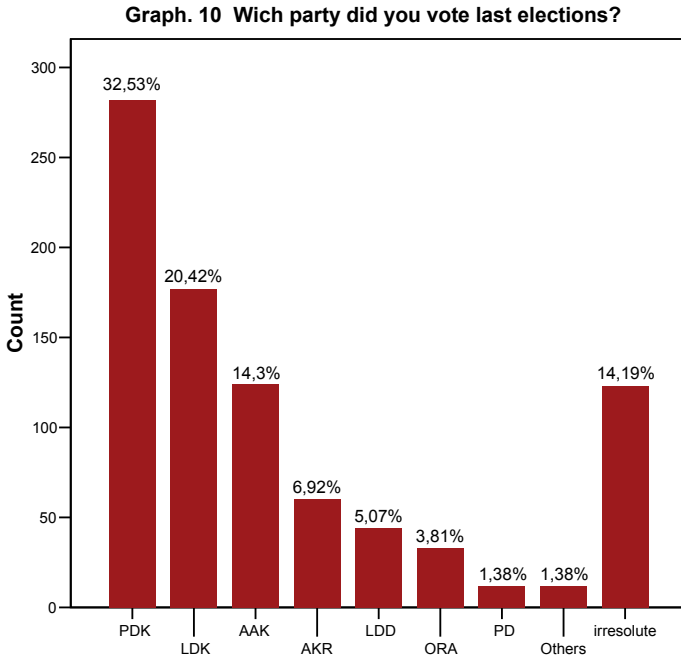
Source: QHO N= 876

In the next question concerning the party they would vote we see in (Graph. 9) that a large number (28%) of the respondents are still irresolute, an opinion which can change until the next real elections. PDK is here the outlier with the highest percentage of 25% followed by AAK with 15%, LDK with 14%, AKR 5,5%, LDD 5,15%, ORA 2,41% and PD with 1,49%.



Source: QHO N= 876

When considering the question of which party they voted during the last elections which aim also the comparison of the development of the political trends we see in (Graph. 10) that there is an overall decrease excluding the party AAK which shows a slight increase. PDK is again the outsider a visible decrease, however, is recorded by LDK from 20, 42% to 14, 3%, which reclassifies AAK at the second position. Only 14, 19% did not answer this question.



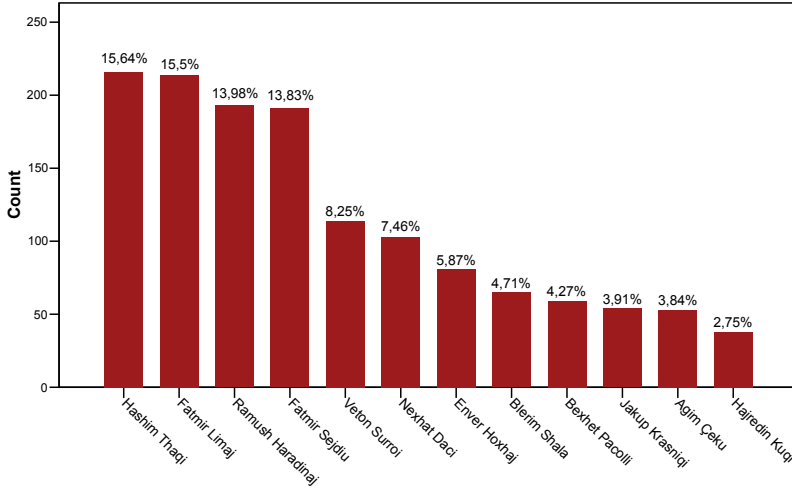
Source: QHO N= 876

4. Political personalities

In the following question considering the evaluation of the political personalities, about 120 personalities are mentioned by the respondents. Only the persons with at least 2, 5% are mentioned in the Barometer meaning 12 personalities of the Kosova politicians. Prime Minister, Hashim Thaqi, is the outlier on the list of the most successful politicians with 15,64%, followed by Fatmir Limaj, Minister of Transport and Post-Telecommunication with 15,5%, Ramush Haradinaj, Chairman of AAK with 13,98%, Fatmir Sejdiu, President of the Republic of Kosova with 13,83%, Veton Surroi with 8,25%, Nexhat Daci, Chairman of LDD with 7,46%, Enver Hoxhaj, Minister of Education, Science and Technology with 5,87%, Blerim Shala, Vice-Chairman of AAK with 4,71%, Bexhet Pacolli, Chairman of AKR with 4,27%, Jakup Krasniqi, President of the Parliament with 3,91%, Agim Ceku, Chairman

of PSD with 3,84% and Hajredin Kuçi, Vice Prime of the Republic with 2,75%.

Graph. 11 List of the most successful mentioned politicians



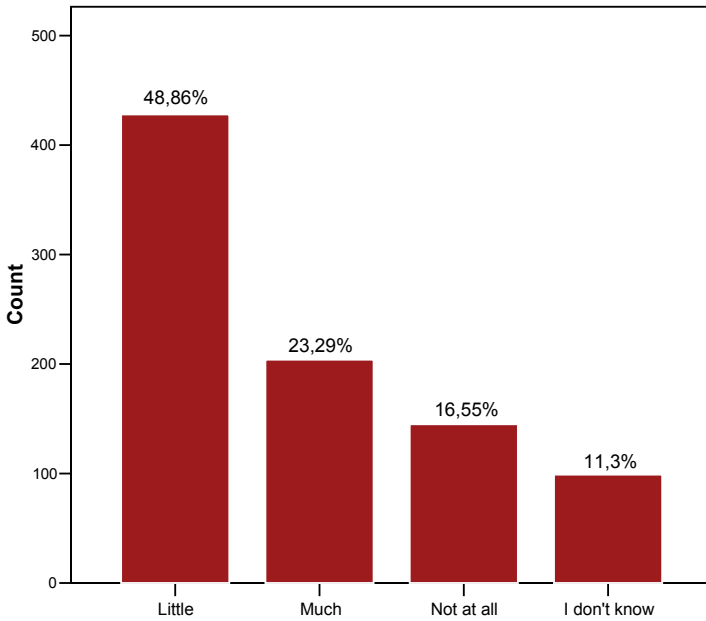
Source: QHO N= 876

5. Political Topicalities

In the variable part of the questionnaire we see questions of the topicalities such as “ points of Ban Ki Moon“, “the Policy of Barak Obama “ with regard to Kosova, “Transformation of KPC into KSF, etc.

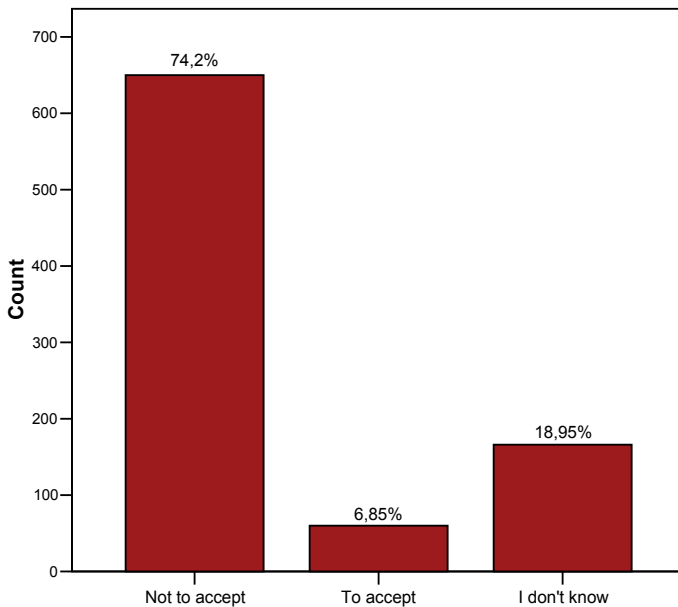
Concerning the question of the 6 points of Ban Ki Moon almost the half of the respondents say that they are little informed about it and 23% are much informed. When comparing these results we see that the majority of the respondents are quite little informed about the points of Ban Ki Moon. The graphic No.13 shows clearly the public opinion that the 6 points of Ban Ki Moon should not be adopted by the Government and only 6.85% of them say that the Government should adopt them.

Graph. 12 Are you informed for the 6 point of Ban Ki Moon?



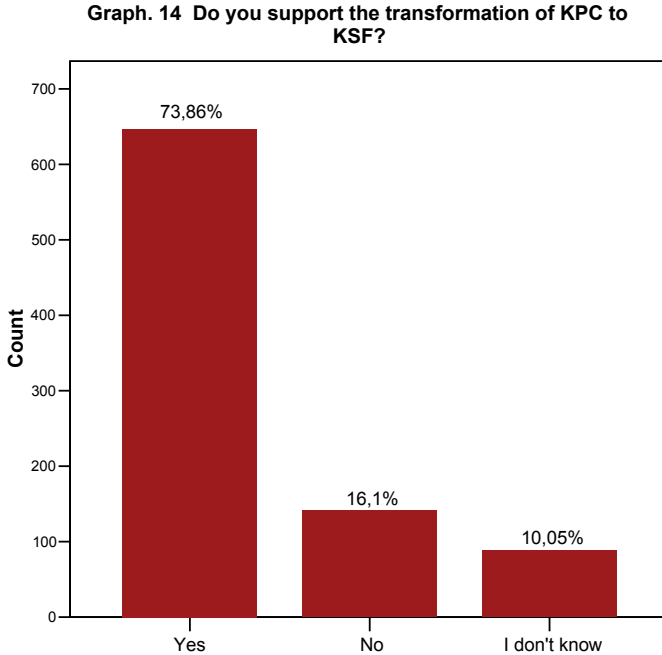
Source: QHO N= 876

Graph. 13 Wich should be the position of the Kosova Government concerning the 6 point of Ban Ki Moon?



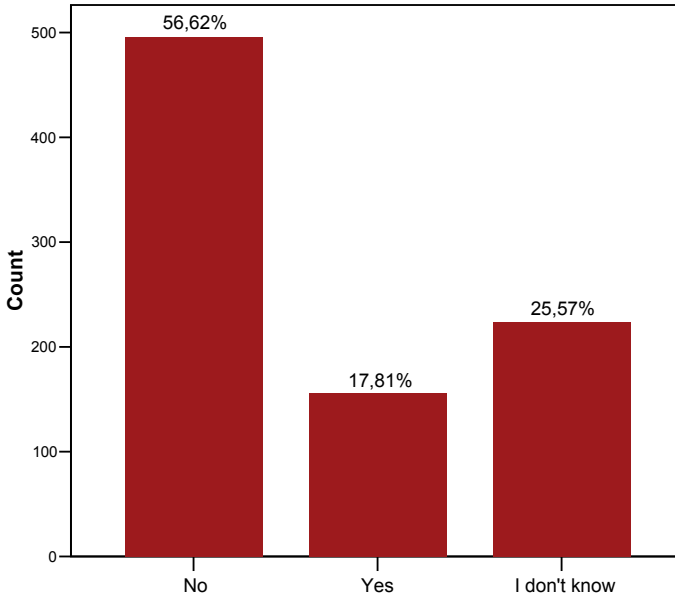
Source: QHO N= 876

Another matter of concern and question in this part of the Barometer is whether or not to support the transformation of KPC (Kosova Protection Corps) into KSF (Kosova Security Force). A considerable part of the respondents about 74% support the transformation of KPC into KSF. And 16% of them do not support it whereas 10% do not have any opinion concerning that question.



Next question (see Graph. 15) concerning the new President of the USA Barak Obama with regard to his opinion about Kosova, around 56% of the respondents say that his policy will not change the American attitude towards Kosova whereas only 17% of them have an opposite view and 25% do not know anything concerning this topic.

Graph. 15 Do you think that the policy of Barak Obama will change the american attitude towards Kosovo?



Source: QHO N=876

6. Conclusion

The Political Barometer as the first research project by the Center for Public Opinion Research - QHO is an long term opinion research and includes also many other variables which will be treated and analyzed in a separate presentation of the Political Barometer.

Because of the lack of registration of the population the presented data are based on the numbers of domiciles.

The Political Barometer as a first and only one of its kind in Kosova provides a certain image of the political situation on the spot, research and evaluation of the decisions taken by the national and international institutions thus to be a political directory for the public opinion but also for the institutions, parties or political personalities.

Translated by Dafina Veza

