

# WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND DECISION MAKING IN ALBANIA

## PUBLIC PERCEPTION SURVEY 2012 -2013



*UN Women is the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. It promotes women and girls globally. UN Women was created to accelerate the advancement of women and the fulfillment of women's rights all over the globe.*

*UN Women acts under the fundamental conviction that women and girls everywhere in the world are entitled to a life free from discrimination, violence and poverty and that gender equality is at the focus of development.*

*Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but its achievement also empowers women in the developing countries, promotes productivity and brings about economic growth.*



This document is prepared with the support of UN Women in the framework of 'Leadership and Participation' programme. This programme is funded by Sweden through the UN Coherence Fund and it is part of the 'Government of Albania and United Nations Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016'.

The opinions and views expressed in this Survey are of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of UN Women or United Nations Agencies.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The survey of public perception on “Women Participation in Politics and Decision-Making 2012-2013”, was carried out due to the tireless work of a broad group of experts who collaborated with dedication. In particular we thank MA. Sokol Avxhiu, Dr. Suela Kusi, Dr. Klea Faniko, post-doctorial scientific research at the University of Geneva, LLM. Zyhrada Kongoli, PhD candidate and MA. Valbona Sulçe. We also thank for their support Ms. Florjana Çausi and LLM. Valbona Metaj.

The realization of this project would be impossible without technical and financial support of UN Women and the financial support of Swedish Government. This process was directed and supported with devotion by Ms. Fiorela Shalsi, national programme coordinator “Women and Election”, who gave a precious contribute and valuable help by continuously orienting toward the general purpose of this survey.

A.I.S.I. appreciates the valuable work of the interviewers and the dedication they showed to accomplish accurately and with correctness the task of interviewing as well as for truthful completion of the questionnaires, by going in all country’s regions.

The last but not the least, A.I.S.I. express its deep gratitude to all the interviewees, including the decision-makers and those involved in the political party structures, who showed willingness and patience in responding a long and detailed questionnaire. We highly appreciate their interest and enthusiasm on participating and contributing with their opinions, which give a real value to this survey, on fulfilling at best its goal.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gender equality in political participation is a key element and a prerequisite for advancing the democracy. The improvement of the position of women and gender equality remains a challenge not only for Albania but also for other countries.

Although Albania has made some progress in terms of legal framework toward increasing women's participation in politics and decision-making the current situation shows that women are still under-represented. Women represent approximately 50% of the population in Albania while only 15 % of members of parliament are women, thus being ranked among countries with low proportion of women in national parliaments.

The perception of public on women's participation in politics and decision-making is a very indispensable factor to assess the situation and, what is more important, to identify the reasons behind that. This survey was designed to produce comprehensive and liable data to serve to assess the current situation and measures to be taken.

The carried out survey allowed compiling a considerable and interesting amount of information, by measuring the progress made in comparison with 2008 and identifying remaining problems to be addressed.

A significant majority of interviewees affirm that the women are under-represented in politics and decisions making, blaming for that political environment dominated by men and characterized by aggressive nature.

It is noted a progress related to women behavior on their participation and desire to see more women in important positions, as an opportunity that offers more solutions on women and community problems.

An optimistic finding is the positive perception for the women involved in politics and decision making and appreciation for their abilities and capabilities to contribute in progressing different areas especially on human rights protection, education issues, health policies and social aspects.

Media is perceived to have a great role in increasing the participation of women in politics and decision making together with civil society and political parties.

# I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF GENDER EQUALITY ISSUES

Women rights and especially women's suffrage and jus honorum, as integral part of human rights are superior to the normative acts that govern the state. In this line all the laws are to be formulated in compliance with them. Inequalities between women and men affect free enjoyment of fundamental rights. Therefore gender equality and women rights protection should be promoted by the state through legal and institutional instruments.

Gender equality and defense of women rights are taken into protection by the Albanian constitutional principles and in more dedicated way by special laws such as Family Code, Law on gender equality in society, Law on protection from discrimination, Electoral Code and other related laws which provide opportunity for women to be equally treated and likewise benefit equal position with men.

Assurance of gender equality is not only a domestic obligation but is also an obligation in international level that comes as a result of signing and participating in many international documents. In this frame Albania has ratified a number of Conventions with regard to protection of women's rights such as Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination towards Women, International Convention on Civic and Political Rights, International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and European Convention on Human Rights.

On the other hand Albania, as an aspirant country to join EU community, has signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement. In this respect, pledging to harmonize its legislation with gender equality *acquis communautaire* is one of the main objectives. Obligations of Albania on integration of gender issues are based on the priorities denominated in the EU Strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015).

## *Gender Quota in Albanian Legislation*

The aspects of gender quota have been also subject of amendments made in 2012<sup>1</sup> in the Electoral Code. These amendments marked a progress in some respects while from the point of view of sanctions related to gender equality the fines are increased but the previous stronger clause on rejection of multi-name list was removed.

Parliamentary elections of 2009 and local elections of 2011 showed that gender quota implementation as introduced and determined in the Electoral Code of 2008<sup>2</sup>, improved women representation in Parliament and local government units, but still did not achieve the targets provided in the law on gender equality. In 2012 was initiated a process of Electoral Code revision. Many organizations on protection of women rights were involved in the discussions of the Electoral Code draft amendments for the part affecting gender quota.

The approved amendments marked a positive step by firming the requirement that for each electoral zone the multi-name list should have at least 30% of the list from each gender and one in the first three names should belong to each gender. The previous regulation<sup>3</sup> provided that for each electoral zone, at least 30% of the multi-named list and/or one of the first three names on the multi-named list must belong to each gender. This and/or clause was used by the

<sup>1</sup> Law No. 74/2012, dated 19.07.2012 "On some additions and amendments in Law No. 10019 dated 29.12.2008 "Electoral Code of Republic of Albania""

<sup>2</sup> Law No. 10019 dated 29.12.2008 "Electoral Code of Republic of Albania"

<sup>3</sup> See Article 67/5 of the Electoral Code, approved by Law No.10019, dated on 29.12.2008, abrogated.

political parties which took the advantage to circumvent the initial intention of the provision by meeting only one of the obligations; to submit a multi-name list in which at least 30% were women or to submit a list in which one of the first three candidates was a woman.

The same rule is to be applied in parliamentary elections as well as local elections for the multi-name lists for municipality and commune councils. The previous regulation of 2008, in case of local elections, required that one in every three names in the list should be from each gender.

The fines, in case of failure to include in the multi-name list at least 30% and one in the first three names from each gender, are increased compared to the previous ones. But the fines are to be applied in different amount in parliamentary elections from local elections. The fine<sup>4</sup> to be applied by CEC in the case of parliamentary elections is in the amount of ALL 1.000.000 and in case of local elections is in the amount ALL 50.000.

A substantial change, brought by amendments of 2012, is considered the abrogation of the sanction on list refusal. This was deemed a very advanced measure for the Albanian conditions and an extreme measure of penalization. The opinions against abrogating that sanction assume this as a step backward in the frame of gender quota protection. The previous sanction for parliamentary elections expressed in the authority of CEC to refuse the list of candidates, was more effective to bring an impact.

It is worth mentioning another positive amendment made to the Electoral Code. As an attempt to preserve the level of women representation in parliament, the recent amendments introduced the rule of vacancy replacement<sup>5</sup>. In case of mandate interruption the vacancy will be replaced by the subsequent candidate in the list, from the same gender.

According to the Law on Gender Equality in Society gender quota requires equal gender representation, not only in the membership of the parliament of not less than 30% but also in elected units of local government of above 30 % of each gender<sup>6</sup>. So, even the inclusion of the gender quota regulation into Electoral Code did not bring the expected results, because women continue to be under-represented in decision making processes and positions.

Since 2008, when a big step toward gender balance in political decision-making was taken in Albania in the occasion of the approval of Electoral Code and the Law on Gender Equality in Society, the amendments in Electoral Code in 2012 are generally considered as improvements.

Council of Europe Resolution of 2012<sup>7</sup>, based on the good practices experienced in some of the CoE countries, recommends that in case of proportional electoral systems, to introduce a minimum quota of 40% of the under-represented sex in the electoral lists, accompanied by special gender safeguards as regards the ranking order and the position at the top of the list. Such dynamic will sooner dictate the need for further improvements in the Albanian Electoral Code and other related legislation with regard to gender equality.

<sup>4</sup> See the article 175 as amended by Law No.74/2012.

<sup>5</sup> Article 164/2 as amended by Law No.74/2012

<sup>6</sup> See Article 15 of the Law on gender equality in society

<sup>7</sup> Resolution of Council of Europe, No. 1898 of 2012



## II. THE SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### *Background and Rationale*

In Albania, increasing the issue of women's role in politics and decision-making remains a national priority for the Government, as expressed in the National Strategy for Gender Equality (2011-2015), as well as for gender equality advocates. With the inclusion of quotas for elected and appointed positions in both the law "On Gender Equality in Society" (July 2008) and within the revised Electoral Code (December 2008), the results of the 2009 National Elections witnessed a doubling of the number of women in Parliament (from 7% in 2005 to 16.4% in 2009). Despite improvement at national level, the results of May 2011 Local Elections were not as promising. Women representation was indeed limited to only 7 out of 384 heads of local government units and with only 12.4% among Local Councillors. These limited results do not give women a strong voice to express their needs and for their priorities to be effectively addressed.

The Beijing Platform for Action called for gender balance in decision making, while CEDAW mandates the use of temporary special measures, including quotas, to amplify women's voices in decision-making including in the political arena. Of the 28 countries that have reached or exceeded 30 percent women's representation in national parliaments, at least 23 have used quotas<sup>8</sup>. Moreover, international experience has shown that national and international commitments to women can only be met if gender-responsive accountability systems exist not just on paper, but in reality. As reported by UNIFEM "Accountability from a women's rights perspective exists when all women are able to get explanations from those in power for actions that affect them, and can set in motion corrective actions – such as voting – when those responsible fail to promote their rights."<sup>9</sup>

In 2007 UNIFEM (now UN Women) supported a survey to measure the public perception on women's participation in elections in Albania. This survey highlighted the rationale behind the how and why women and men vote, the perception on the position of women and men as elected and appointed officials and the main reasons people would vote for a man or a woman and their perception of quota as a temporary measure to boost women participation in decision making.

In the lead up to the 2009 national elections, UNIFEM (now part of UN Women), supported NPOs in 7 regions of the country to (i) advocate and monitor political parties' applications of the national-level quotas as contained in the Electoral Code; (ii) use the national elections as a platform for launching community level dialogue around national and international commitments towards gender equality through the development of a Women's Manifesto; (iii) support the evolution of the concept of women as a political constituency, whose voice and vote should be heard; and (iv) mobilize communities to get women out to vote. The results and the information collected from the above mentioned survey were used as an advocacy tool in the lead up to the 2009 National Elections with the political parties and decision makers as well as the wide public through civil society organizations and women's advocates. This work contributed to the increase of women as voters and women as decision makers in the 2009 National Assembly.

In the 2011 local elections, UN Women supported another study on Women Leaders at the Local Level and used the results to support local NPOs to continue community-level dialogue around the idea of women as a political constituency; to monitor the application of local level quotas and sanctions as contained in the Electoral Code; create Community Based Scorecards based

<sup>8</sup> UN Women, "Progress of the World's Women 2011/2012" Executive Summary, page 8.

<sup>9</sup> UNIFEM, "Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009", page iii.

on the priorities outlined in the Women’s Manifesto; advocate with communities, including youth in holding decision-makers to account; advocate for women participation in decision making, and work to get women out to vote.

From 2008, two election processes have been carried out in Albania, where quota was introduced for the first time both for the Assembly of Republic of Albania and for Local Government Units. The quota implementation improved women participation in decision making especially at the national level, however failed to increase the representation at the local level. UN Women has also supported the monitoring of women participation at national and local level. Due to the increased national representation, more women have been present in public debates, supporting different issues including gender equality. During these years, while women participation as voters has increased family voting still remains an issue to be addressed.

In lead up to the 2013 National Elections UN Women is planning to continue supporting women as voters and as candidates. For that purpose, it is important to understand how and why the public perception has changed (or not) with reference to women participation in political decision making so that to better address the needs of the Albanian Community with respect to the gender equality and women participation.

In this context, the “Public Perception on Women Political Participation – survey 2012-2013” has been undertaken by AISI and UN Women Albania .This study forms part of all over country research project by UN Women Office for Tirana. A tailor made questionnaire to Albanian context was prepared by AISI experts who devised the methodology. Main data collection methods included a desk review of literature and official documentation, a nation-wide survey, and supplementary in-depth interviews with key informants.

## *Aim of the Survey*

The main aim of the research is to determine how the Albanian society perceives the participation of women in politics and decision making. The following matters were considered at length in the perspective of this main aim.

- Political opinion leadership
- Progress to women’s political participation
- Expectations about the increase in the number of women in political decision making mechanisms
- Perception of family members going into active politics
- The number of women politicians.
- Identify obstacles to women’s access in politics and their access at political high positions
- Identify the key gender issues and priorities and provide recommendations and strong messages to be used as an advocacy tool with the decision makers.
- The changes that the increase in women politicians will create in Albanian politics
- The impact of quota implementation on people beliefs on meritocracy and professional values;
- Point of view about the women’s quota that needs to be appended to the statutes of the Political parties.

## Methodology

The survey covered urban and rural areas of Albania, and 3000 people 18 years or older have been interviewed, with face to face paper and pencil interview. With application of sample size calculation formula (for simple random sample) it is estimated that sample size of maximum 3000 interviews will be sufficient to measure the hypothesis with a 95% confidence interval.

The interviews have been conducted with target persons selected according to simple random sample between 08:00-20:00, in order to cover the whole target population over 18 years and old.

The fieldwork started from 1<sup>st</sup> October until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012. The team is comprised of a total of 72 persons, 12 being supervisors and 60 were interviewers. During the field work interviewers were held responsible from making the interviews and the supervisors were held responsible to check 30% of the interviews made by the interviewers connected with them. During the field study of the research female survey takers conducted 1693 interviews and male survey takers conducted 1307 interviews. The field team worked with AISI identification cards during the field study.

A questionnaire was estimated to take 15-20 minutes. The design of the questionnaire and the content was prepared by AISI with the contribution of UN Women keeping in mind to avoid the leading questions. In order to eliminate the errors that might occur during the data collection and sampling exercise, 30 pilot interviews were conducted and some questions were precluded. Technical errors were updated during this pilot study. After these updates and after receiving approval for the question form from UN Women Albania Office the field study commenced on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The fieldwork was undertaken during October 2012.

The interviews have been administered by 60 trained interviewers who were familiar with the social context in which the interviewees live. In advance of the fieldwork, the interviewers and other research team members participated in a two-day training programme. The interviews were administered orally (face to face interview) in direct communication between the interviewer and the respondents.

The questionnaire contained 45 open- and close-ended questions (see **Appendix 1**), dealing with perception on women in politics, support for women participation in politics, perception on impact of quota implementation on women that have been elected with or without the support of the special measures, perception on impact of quota implementation on women access in politics, support for gender quota.

Each interview lasted an average of 18 minutes. It was administered in a face-to-face setting where there was direct communication between the interviewers and the respondents. All interviewers were encouraged to make notes of their observations during the interviews, which were used in the analysis.

After the fieldwork all the data collected during the interviews were checked. The interviews that were found to be erroneous were eliminated and that particular interview was repeated. 13 interviews were cancelled as a result of these controls and repeated. 12 control staff members were assigned for the controls.

10 data entry operators have been engaged to enter the data on the computer. The entry of the data for one interview took 2 minutes 51 seconds on the average. Quantitative data analysis of the information from the questionnaires was performed using SPSS (Statistical Program for Social Sciences) version 19.0 in national level and in regional level.

Any discrepancies in data entry were resolved by the Data Entry Manager, who also cleaned the data by examining frequencies and cross tabs for inconsistencies. Simple statistical tools,

such as frequency, distribution, percentage, range, proportions, mean, and median were used to analyze the weighted data from the survey.

Validation meetings have been organized in all the represented regions of Albania.

No major problems, in reference to the content of the interview, were encountered during the field study. No difficulty was experienced especially in finding people willing to answer the questionnaire in regard to this project. Due to the nature of the survey the people's approach has been positive. The same observations apply to the study conducted in the villages. It was observed that the participation and answers of the source persons were sincere throughout the field study.

Interviews with key informants were conducted. Thirty five respondents were purposively selected to be those involved in politics (members of parliament, local councilors, mayors/vice mayors, members of region councils) and who were elected without or with the support of quota. The questionnaires were used as a checklist to guide the interview. The qualitative data was primarily collected by taking detailed notes, which were later compiled and analyzed. The qualitative data from these interviews were later analyzed together with the qualitative data from the open-ended questions in the questionnaire.

## Sample

In planning stage, AISI researchers established a sampling frame. This is done through searching with Albanian National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) web site. Target household were selected at random in all districts by drawing a random sample from official sources.

In order to establish a comparison baseline with the previous studies supported by Un Women<sup>10</sup>, the questionnaire was carried out in the urban and rural areas of Albania (Berat, Diber, Elbasan, Fier Gjirokaster, Korçe, Kukes, Lezhe, Shkoder, Tirane, Vlore, Durres). In agreement with INSTAT (2011) recommendations this sampling included three statistical regions (domains); the north, the center, and the south of Albania. The percentage of the respondents for the study is based on the (proportional to size) number of residents per statistical region.

According to the results for housing and population Census in Albania, conducted by INSTAT, in October 2011 the distribution of the population in three domains as in Table A.

**Table A: Sampling of the study based on statistical regions**

Statistical regions of Albania	Districts	Number of population	Percentage of the whole population
the north	Diber, Durres, Kukes, Lezhe, Shkoder	840,183	29.7%
the center	Elbasan, Tirane	1,059,716	37.4%
the south	Berat, Fier, Gjirokaster, Korçe, Vlore	931,842	32.9%

Source INSTAT-Census 2011

<sup>10</sup> ACER & ASET (2010). Study on the situation of Albanian women leaders at the local level – A baseline analysis. Tirana, supported by UN WOMEN.

INSIZ & Faniko, K. (in press) Women and girls in Local Elections, 8 May 2011. Report of the Forum of Local Observers for the Monitoring of Women and Girls participation in elections. Supported by the UN Women, Tirana.

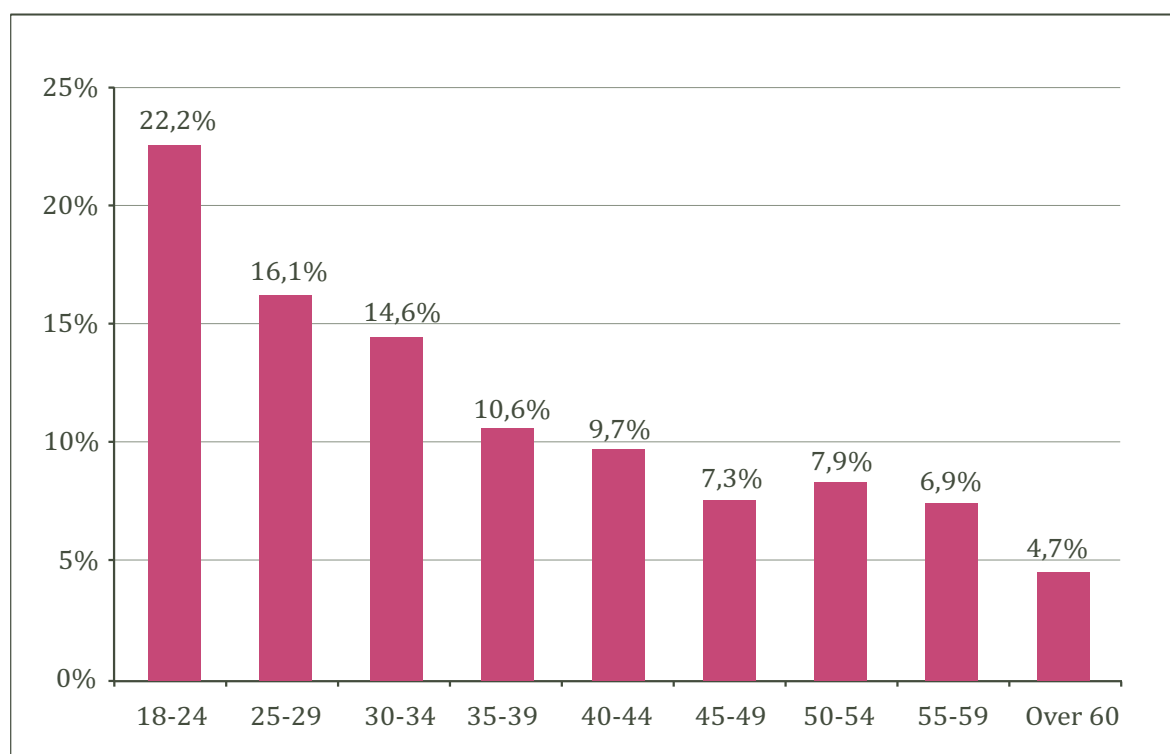
Based on this distribution, our sample consisted on 3000 participants: 800 respondents were from the North, 1000 from the center and 1200 from the South (Table B).

1705 respondents were resident in the urban area and 1282 of them were resident in the rural area.

**Table B: Sampling of the study based on statistical regions, districts, and number of residents**

Statistical regions of Albania	Districts	Number of respondents for the study
the north	Diber, Durres, Kukes, Lezhe, Shkoder	800
the center	Elbasan, Tirane	1000
the south	Berat, Fier, Gjirokaster, Korçe, Vlore	1200

62 % female and 38% male participated in the study. The age of residents range between 18 and 60 years old (Graphic 1). Only 4.7% of respondents were over 60 years old.



**Graphic 1. Age of respondent**

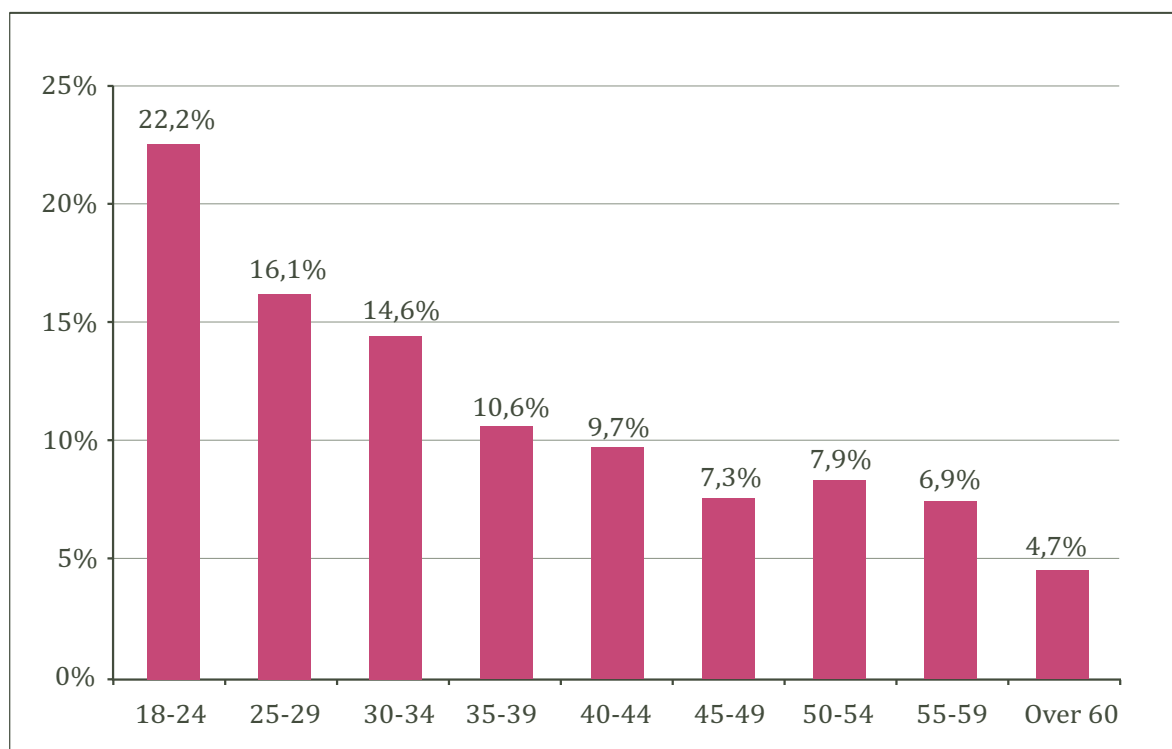


### III. PROFILE OF RESPONDENT

This chapter aims to familiarize us with the socio-demographic profile of young girls / women and men who took part in the study “The perception of the public on women’s participation in politics, 2012-2013”. The following data introduces us with the age, marital status, educational level, and the employment status, number of children and average monthly household income of people who agreed to fill out our survey.

#### Age

In this study, participated 1844 (62%) females and 1142 (38%) males of different age groups. As it can be seen on the illustration of the graphic about **the age** of the respondents, most of them belong to the age of 18-39 years. More specifically, the 22.2% of participants in the survey were aged between 18-24 years. The age of the 16.1% of persons participating in the study ranges from 25 to 29 years. 25.2% of the respondents were aged between 30-39 years. The 17% of the respondents belong to the age group of 40-49 years. 14.8% of the respondents belong to the age group 50-59 years. And the 4.7% of the respondents were over 60 years (Graphic 1).



**Graphic1. Age of the respondent**

#### Residence

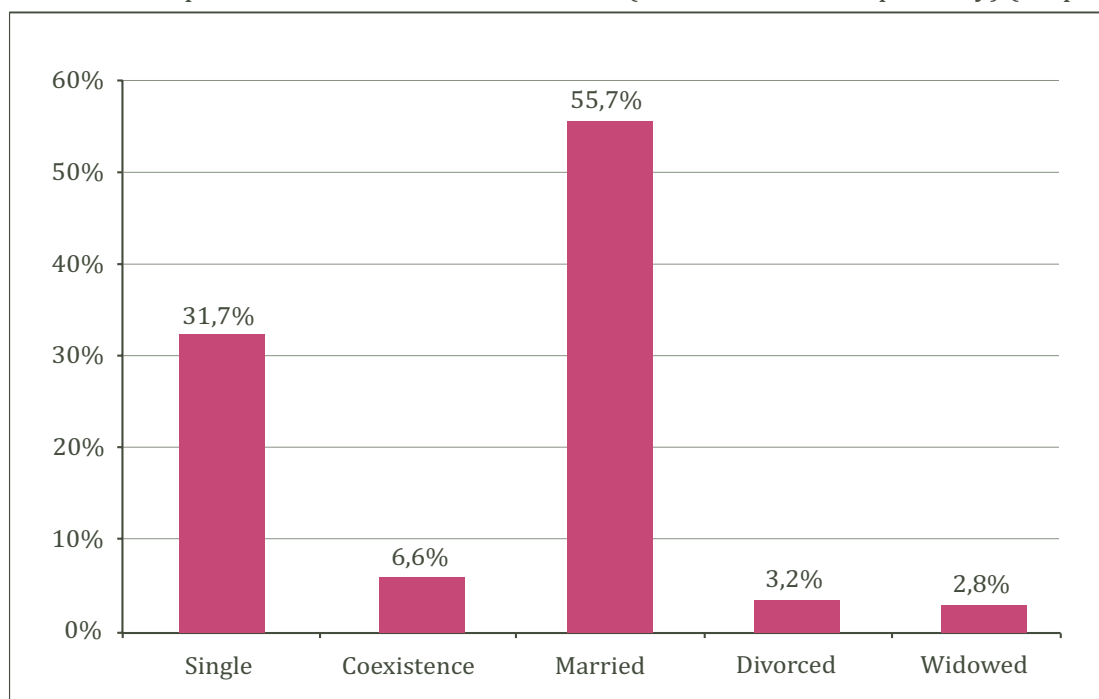
Regarding residence, the 57 % of respondents stated that they live in the city and 43% state that they live in the village. The study was conducted in the towns and villages of 12th regions and creates the opportunity for recognizing the opinions of a representative sample of the entire population. Table 1 describes the number of contacted persons in the villages and towns of each region.

**Table 1.** Number of the respondents regarding their residence

	City	Village	Total
Berati	113	97	210
Dibra	29	59	88
Durresi	108	117	225
Elbasani	83	106	189
Fieri	80	80	160
Gjirokasta	177	95	272
Korça	183	85	268
Kukesi	45	131	176
Lezha	32	65	97
Shkodra	79	48	127
Tirana	522	305	827
Vlora	254	94	348
Total	1705	1282	2987

### Marital status of the respondents

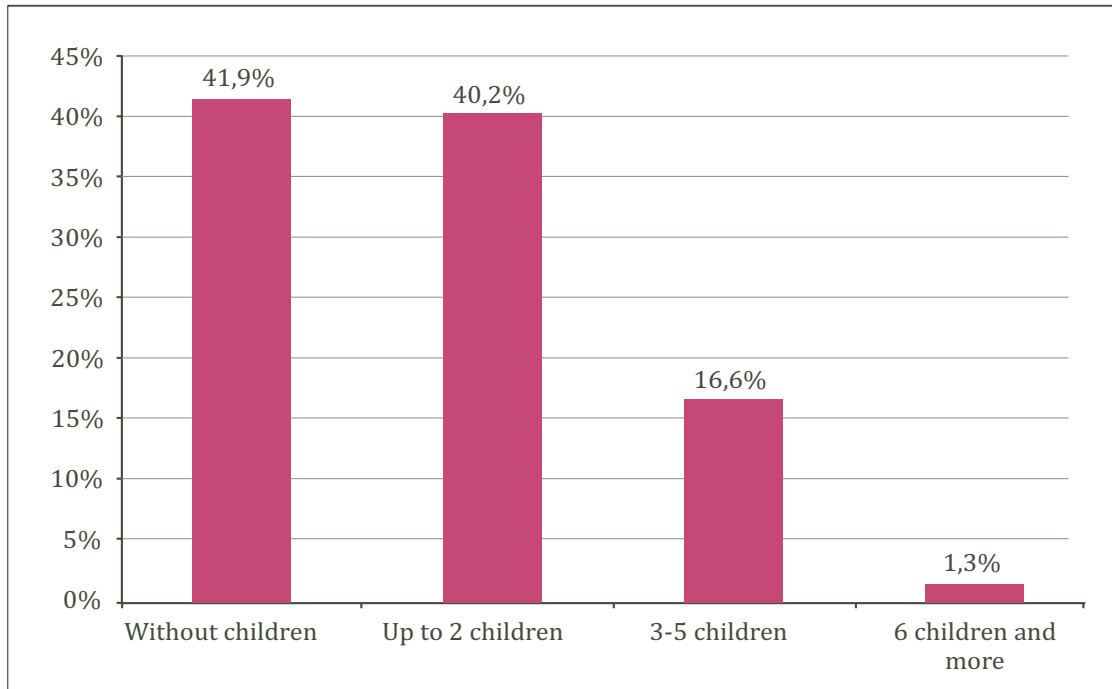
In terms of **marital status**, the following data show that most of the respondents (55.7%) are married; 31.7% declare that they are single; 6.6% have a partner with who coexist. A limited number of respondents are divorced or widowed (3.2% and 2.8%, respectively) (Graphic 2).

**Graphic 2.** Marital status of the respondents



## Number of the children of respondents

Figure 3 refers to the **number of children** and shows that 40.2% of the the respondents have 1 or 2 children; 16.6% have 3 to 5 children and 1.3% claim to have six or more children. 41.9% say that do not have children.



**Graphic 3.** Percentage of the respondents regarding the number of the children

## Educational level of respondents

The following findings investigate the **educational level** of persons interviewed. Most of the participants in the study had completed secondary school (37.3%) and high school (35.9%). A limited number of them have stated that; have completed post-graduate studies (12.2%).

Table 2 shows that there are differences between girls / women and men in terms of education. The data show that the proportion of respondents who have completed undergraduate or postgraduate studies is higher among girls and women (39.2%; 14.6%, respectively) than in men (30.5%; 8.5%, respectively). Meanwhile, the percentage of respondents with primary education and secondary education is higher among male respondents (16.2%; 43.6%, respectively).

**Table 2.** The educational level the interviewed men and girls / women

	Without education	Mandatory education	Secondary education	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
Men	1.2%	16.2%	43.6%	30.5%	8.5%
Women	2.1%	10.7%	33.4%	39.2%	14.6%
Total	1.8%	12.8%	37.3%	35.9%	12.2%

## Occupational status

Most of the respondents in the survey state that they are employed (43.8%) and the 17.5% say that are self-employed. The rest of the respondents state that they are unemployed (17.6%) and retired (5.2%). And the 15.9% of the respondents are students.

As it is illustrated in Table 3, the employment status is not the same for male and female respondents. The percentage of employed persons is higher among girls and women (45.2%) than in men being interviewed (41.7%). According to our data, the tendency to be self-employed is higher among men (23.7%) than in girls and women who were interviewed (13.6%). There are no statistically significant differences between the percentage of male respondents (17.1%) and females (17.9%) who state that they are unemployed. In line with previous findings, the data on this question has shown that, a percentage of female students (18.9%) is higher than that of male students (11%).

**Table 3.** *The employment status of the interview men and girls/women*

	Employed	Self - employed	Unemployed	Student	Retired
Men	41,70%	23,70%	17,10%	11%	6,50%
Girls/women	45,20%	13,60%	17,90%	18,90%	4,40%
Total	43,90%	17,50%	17,60%	15,90%	5,20%

## Occupational sector

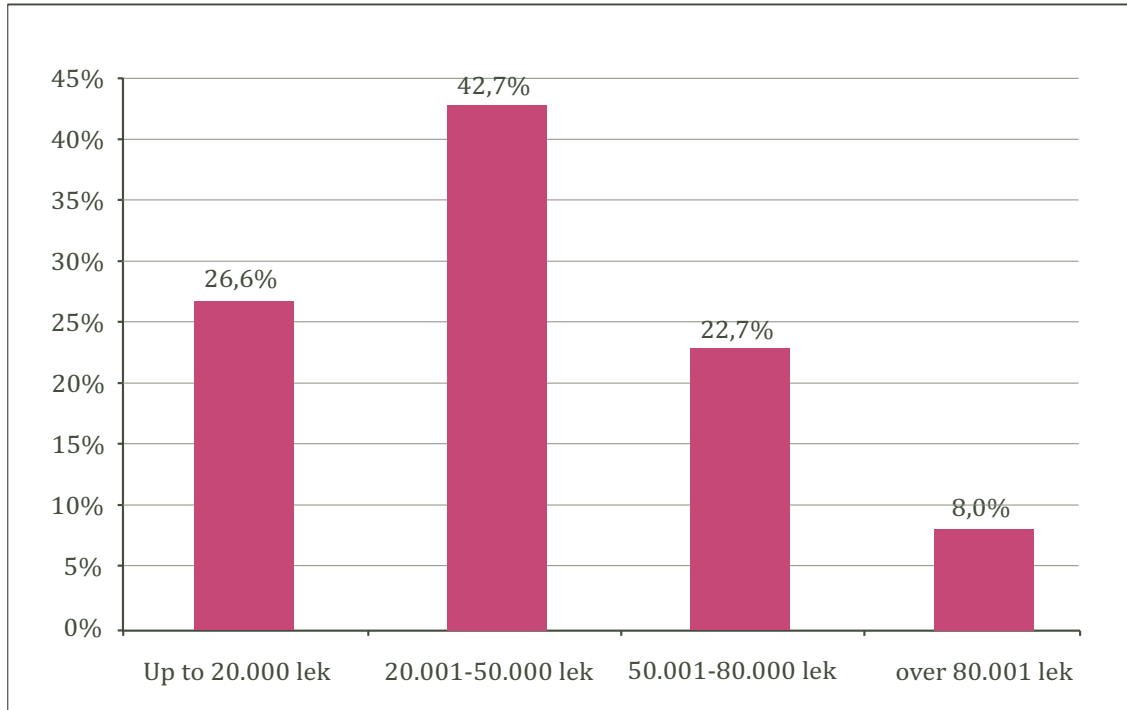
Private sector of employment (57.7%) is stated more frequently than the public sector employment sector (42.3%). However, the data collected indicated that the tendency to be employed in public and private sector is not the same for male and female respondents. More specifically, the percentage of men (65.7%) employed in the private sector is higher than the percentage of girls / women (55.9%) (Graphic 4).



**Graphic 4.** *The employment sector for female and male respondents*

## Average monthly household income

The data on monthly average household income of respondents indicate that the majority of them (42.7%) have 20000-50000 Lek per month. A very small percentage of the respondents claim that their monthly income goes over 80,000 Lek per month (Graphic 5).



**Graphic 5.** Average monthly household income



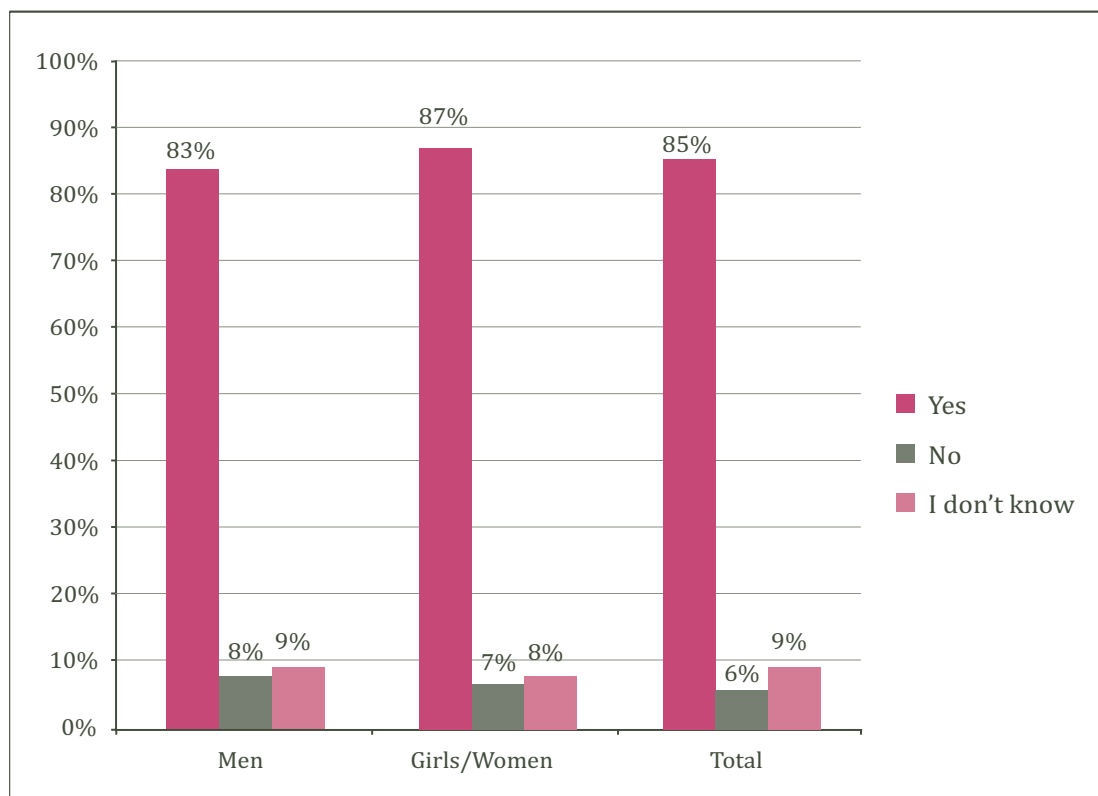
## IV. PERCEPTION ON GENDER EQUALITY AND ON PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

The following findings familiarize us with the perception of the respondents about the representation of girls and women in positions of leadership and decision-making, the obstacles they face to be involved in politics, and politician's characteristics. In addition, this chapter aims to highlight the reasons that drive respondents to be in favor of the increased presence of girls and women in decision-making policy.

### *Perception about the participation of girls and women in positions of leadership and decision-making*

**The majority of the respondents share the opinion that women are not represented in leadership and decision-making positions.**

The majority of people (85%) who participated in this survey answered that Albanian women are less represented than men in positions of authority and decision-making. The data show that there is a statistically significant difference between the proportion of men (83%) and the percentage of women (87%) regarding this issue (Graphic 6). Another study which was recently conducted in Albania (NDI & IDRA, 2012), points out that independently of gender social origin and place of residence, respondents feel that girls and women are less represented in politics, that politics is dominated by men, and that the policy provides little opportunity for women to become part of it, and also to be represented. However, Albania is not an isolated case: according to the 2012 Eurobarometer, Europeans believe that decision-making positions in Europe are dominated by men, although women have proper skills for being involved in important high positions.



**Graphic 6.** Perception about the participation of girls and women in positions of leadership and decision-making

## *Perception of the factors that currently limit the participation of women in politics*

**The limited presence of girls and women in politics is primarily associated with the fact Albanian politics is dominated by men and not with women's skills and qualities.**

The following questions familiarize us with the perception about the factors that currently limit the participation of girls and women in politics. These barriers are related to the Albanian political environment or to the nature and women's choices.

The following table shows that the respondents consider as the main obstacle for the non-inclusion of girls and women in politics and decision-making the domination of Albanian political system by men ( $M = 4.13$ ) (Table 4). The data indicated that girls and women ( $M = 4.16$ ) of respondents perceive this barrier more than men do it ( $M = 4.00$ ).

The second obstacle relates to the aggressive nature of Albanian politics ( $M = 3.76$ ). Women ( $M = 3.77$ ) and men interviewed ( $M = 3.75$ ) share the same opinion about this obstacle.

The limited participation of women in politics is also related to the fact that women were not provided with proper chances ( $M = 3.62$ ). Girls and women ( $M = 3.74$ ) support more this opinion that the men interviewed ( $M = 3.43$ ).

Another obstacle is related to the lack of free time girls and women have because of the responsibilities and obligations that they have in their family ( $M = 3.50$ ). This factor is reported more by the girls ( $M = 3.51$ ) than the men ( $M = 3.47$ ).

Another group of factors that hinders women's participation in decision-making refers to the prejudice ( $M = 3.42$ ) and to the amount of financial resources of women which are not enough to cover the electoral campaigns ( $M = 3.32$ ). Based on our findings, the study conducted by NDI and IDRA (2012) shows that conservative attitudes, patriarchal mentality of Albanian society bias against the inclusion of women in political and public life are one of the main obstacles to their involvement in politics.

The last group of constraints to which respondents believe less refers to the lack of experience that women have in politics ( $M = 3.00$ ), lack of persistence of girls and women to make a career ( $M = 2.48$ ), to their unwillingness of being involved in politics ( $M = 2.44$ ), women's lack of confidence in their skills ( $M = 2.29$ ), lack of skills and qualities considered necessary for women ( $M = 1.97$ ).

Respondents agree lesser with these statements that reflect the idea that girls and women are responsible for their exclusion in the political system, and that their limited presence in politics relates to women themselves and not with the political environment dominated by men. These data are optimistic because broadcast the message that the respondents do not blame women for their representation in politics but the Albanian political environment and its domination by men.

These data provide us with the ability to come up with the same conclusions as the Eurobarometer 2012: The Albanians as many other Europeans think that the main obstacles that limit women's involvement in decision-making positions are related to the fact that these positions are monopolized and male-dominated. Also, most of the Albanians as well as the Europeans do not link the limited representation of women in politics with their reluctance to become involved in politics, lack of qualifications and skills required, or their tendency to fight less to make a career.

**Table 4. Perception of the factors that currently limit the participation of women in politics**

	Average	Men	Girls/ women
Albanian politics dominated by men	4.13	4.00	<b>4.16<sup>11</sup></b>
Aggressive nature of Albanian politics	3.76	3.75	3.77
Women are not given the required amount of chances	3.62	3.43	<b>3.74</b>
Women have less free time due to their family responsibilities and duties	3.50	3.47	<b>3.51</b>
Prejudices prevent women becoming involved in politics	3.42	3.46	3.39
Women do not have sufficient financial resources to cover the election campaigns	3.32	3.33	3.31
Women have less experience than men in politics	3.00	<b>3.11</b>	2.93
Women fight less than men for their career	2.48	<b>2.62</b>	2.39
Women lack the desire to be involved in politics	2.44	<b>2.57</b>	2.37
Women don't trust their skills	2.29	<b>2.46</b>	2.18
Politics is a profession for men	2.15	<b>2.43</b>	1.98
Women don't have the required qualities and skills	1.97	<b>2.22</b>	1.81

## Characteristics of girls and women involved in politics and decision- making

### Women involved in politics are perceived positively by respondents.

The ongoing analysis provides us with opinions about the characteristics of women and girls involved in politics and decision-making. The findings presented in Table 5, suggest conclusions and interpretations which are quite optimistic and satisfactory regarding the perception of women's image involved in politics and decision-making.

First, the findings show that respondents perceive girls and women involved in politics, without masculinity, rejecting thus stereotypes created about female politicians. For the participants of this study, Albanian politician wife reflects typical feminine features referring in the sensitivity shows to the needs of citizens, the ability of being open to debate, tolerance, or the easiness to be put in contact (Bem, 1974). This feminine profile it is also supplemented by the open-ended questions of the survey that noted the tendency of women politicians to be a humanist, to be sacrificed and committed. At the same time, her profile is characterized by typical traits considered as masculine, such as the ability to take responsibility and determination to be represented (Lorenzi-Cioldi, 1994).

Secondly, in contrary to the prejudices and not to favorable impressions about women involved in politics, our survey data show that perceptions of women involved in politics and decision-making are positive. Thus, the average value of attributed features is over the average number (M = 3.63) on a scale ranging from 1 to 5. The positive characteristics that respondents attribute more in girls

<sup>11</sup> Just the averages, the value of which is statistically higher than the average value which is compared to (average for women against men's average) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed here are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (no agreement) to 5 (completely agree).

and women involved in politics are related to their latter ability in taking responsibility ( $M = 3.96$ ), which is followed by their sensitivity to the needs of citizens ( $M = 3.94$ ), then their willingness to work ( $M = 3.86$ ), and last the determination to be represented ( $M = 3.77$ ). Perceptions regarding the knowledge that decision-making women have about the community problems ( $M = 3.67$ ) and their commitment to solving these problems ( $M = 3.56$ ) were also positive.

In the list of positive attributed traits, the feature related to the ability of decision-makers against corruption ranks last. This finding should be examined in the context of Albanian politics and corruptive nature that people often associate with it. The woman politician is difficult to convey the image of an honest and a non – corrupted personality as long as she is part of a political and social system which is characterized by the element of corruption. Therefore, her efforts to build up the image of a non – corrupted person to her position in the political system are necessary and essential to improve her political representation.

Regarding the negative characteristics which refer to the aggressive behavior ( $M = 2.89$ ) or the lack of expertise on decision-making ( $M = 2.88$ ) the averages are low and confirm the positive perception about girls and women in politics.

As it is displaced in Table 5, the female respondents in comparison to male respondents have a more positive perception of girls and women involved in politics. Also, the averages of statements that refer to the negative traits associated with the aggressive behavior and lack of experience of women in decision-making are higher among men than among women respondents. These gender differences in the perception of women politicians may be related to the patriarchal nature of Albanian society (Pango, 1997) and stereotypical perceptions of the role of women in politics. Perceptions about the role of women in politics are part of the perceptions about women in general, and our findings are consistent with previous studies (see Faniko, Lorenzi-Cioldi, Buschini, & Chatard, 2012) showing that in Albania, men have more gender stereotypes gender than women.

**Table 5. Perceptions about the characteristics of women and girls currently participating in politics and decision-making**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
Are capable of taking responsibility	3.96	3.78	<b>4.08<sup>12</sup></b>
Show more sensitivity towards the needs of citizens	3.94	3.66	<b>3.95</b>
They work more	3.86	3.72	<b>3.95</b>
They are open to debate	3.80	3.66	<b>3.89</b>
They are determined and sure to represent	3.77	3.58	<b>3.88</b>
The are familiar with community problems	3.67	3.54	<b>3.75</b>
They represent a good model of women in politics	3.63	3.43	<b>3.75</b>
They are tolerant	3.61	3.48	<b>3.69</b>
They are committed to solving community problems	3.56	3.40	<b>3.66</b>
They can be easily contacted	3.41	3.32	<b>3.47</b>
They keep their promises	3.28	3.17	<b>3.35</b>
They are uncorrupted	3.04	2.91	<b>3.12</b>
Often characterized by their aggressive behavior	2.89	<b>3.04</b>	2.80
Do not have adequate experience in decision-making	2.88	<b>3.03</b>	2.79

<sup>12</sup> Just the averages, the value of which is statistically higher than the average value which is compared to (average for women against men's average) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed here are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (no agreement) to 5 (completely agree).



## *The desire to have more women in positions of leadership and decision-making*

**A greater representation of girls and women in positions of leadership and decision-making is welcomed by most of the respondents.**

The data indicate that the majority of respondents (75%) say they would like to see more women represented in positions of leadership and decision-making at national and local level. (Graphic 7) The desire for a higher representation of women in leadership positions is very strong in most of the respondents regardless the fact of whether they live in rural or in urban.



**Graphic 7.** *The desire to have more women in positions of leadership and decision-making*

## *Reasons for having an increased number of women's participation in politics and decision-making*

**Most of the respondents would like to see more women in politics in order to eliminate gender inequality. Also they believe that increasing the representation of girls and women politicians will have a positive impact in politics and in problem solving related to women and to the community.**

Below Table 6 sets out the need to eliminate gender inequality (M = 4.41), explains why respondents want to see more women participating in politics and decision-making. Another reason relates to the confidence of the respondents in the assistance they can provide politicians and decision-makers in solving problems related to women (M = 4.15) and community (M = 3.95). The other reason is related to the influence of women's emancipation in the politics (M = 3.93) and mitigation of conflicts between political parties (M = 3.63). The belief that women can do the same things as men (M = 3.66), their capacity to manage more effectively than men (M = 3.62), the potential for being less corrupted (M = 3.28), or belief that they are more

intelligent than men (M = 3.23) are a group of another factors to which respondents believe less than the above mentioned factors which are at the origin of their desire to increase female representation.

**Table 6. Reasons for having an increased number of women's participation in politics and decision-making**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
Inequality between men and women should be eliminated	4.41	4.28	<b>4.47<sup>13</sup></b>
Women provide more effectively their help to solve problems related to women	4.15	4.07	<b>4.19</b>
Women would give priority in solving the problems which are more sensitive to the community	3.95	3.95	3.96
Women emancipate politics	3.93	3.89	3.95
Women can do the same things with men	3.66	3.48	<b>3.74</b>
Women mitigate conflicts between political parties	3.63	3.58	3.66
Women can manage more efficiently	3.62	3.48	<b>3.69</b>
Women are less likely to be corrupted	3.28	3.23	3.30
Women are more intelligent than men	3.23	2.86	<b>3.23</b>

<sup>13</sup> Just the averages, the value of which is statistically higher than the average value which is compared to (average for women against men's average) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed here are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (no agreement) to 5 (completely agree).

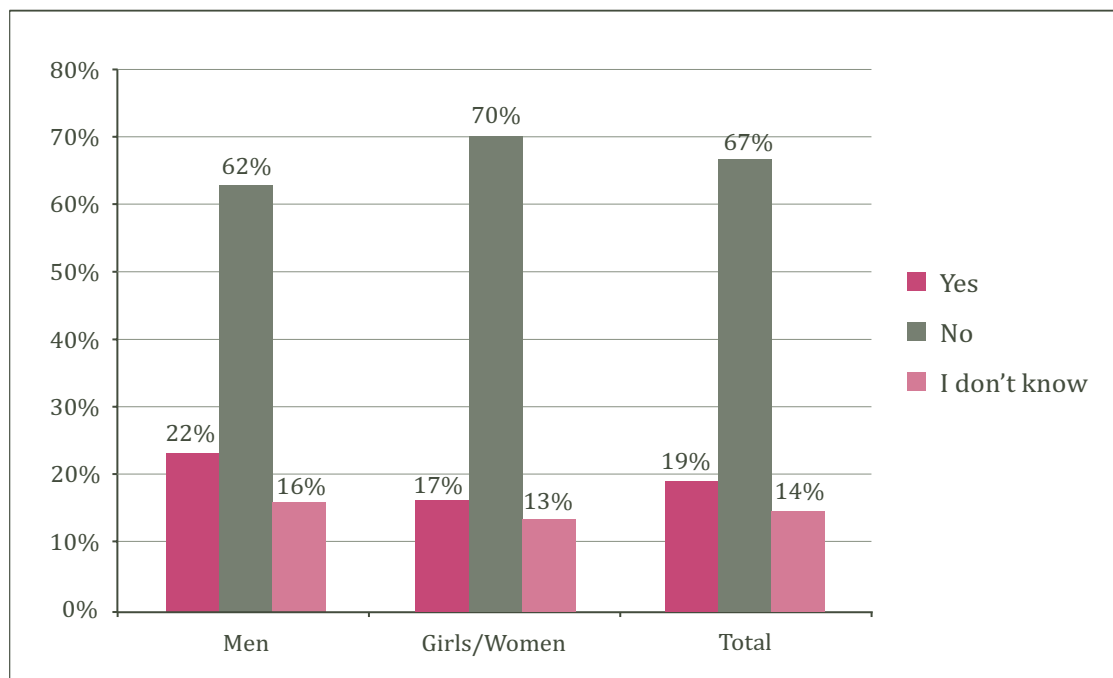
## V. PARTICIPATING AS A VOTER

This chapter reflects the data about respondent's membership in political parties, the support that they offer to their families who want to get involved in politics. The findings of this chapter provide us both with the participation of the respondents in election activities and polls, as well as factors that promote or prevent attendance in electoral activities and the election of a particular candidate for mayor or municipality. The existing results allow the interested structures to develop programs aimed at increasing the participation of voters in elections and voting activities.

### *Membership in political parties*

**Membership in a political party is very low to the respondents, and especially in girls and women.**

According to the data shown in Graphic 8, the percentage of persons affiliated to a political party is very low (19%). The people who claim that they are members of a political party, in their largest percentage are men (22%). Changes between percentage of men and women who state that they are or are not members of a political party are statistically significant. These data also show that membership in a political party not only varies depending on gender, but also depending on the employment sector. The (24%) percentage of persons employed in the public sector declaring that they are members of a political party is higher than that of employees in private sector (19%).

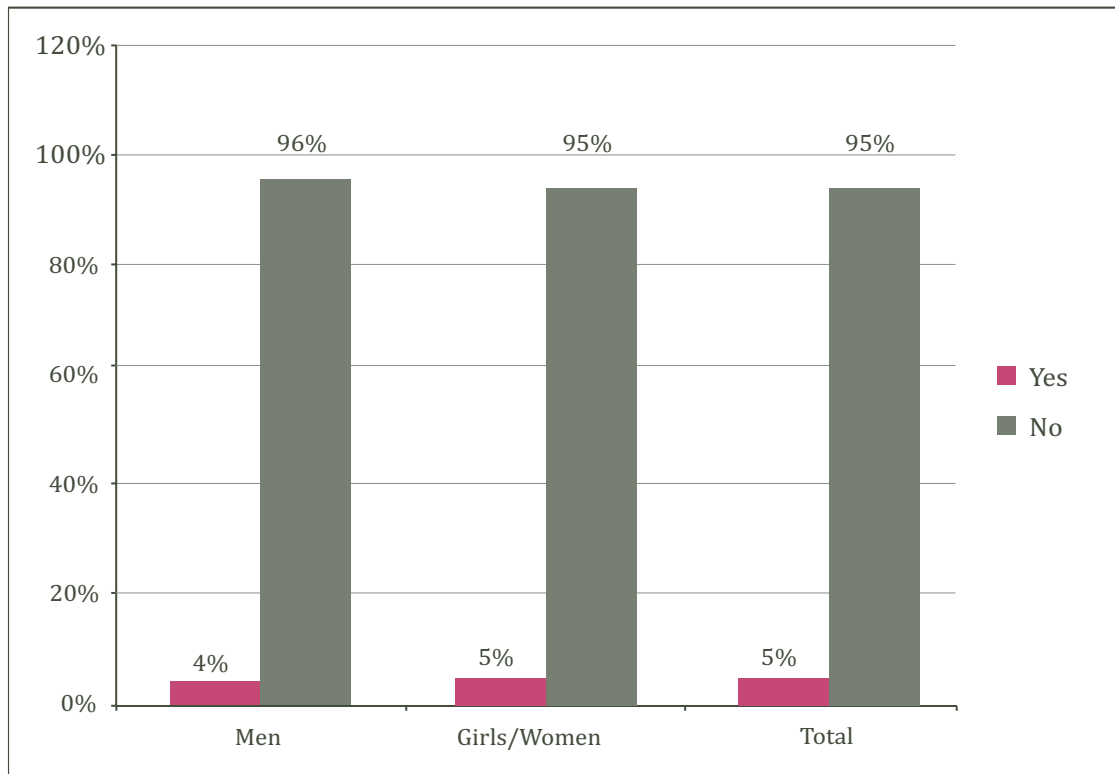


**Graphic 8. Membership in political parties**

## Candidacy of respondents in local or parliamentary elections

A very low percentage of the respondents have candidated in local and parliamentary elections.

Analysis of data about respondents' candidacy in the elections indicates that this participation has been very low: only the 5% of participants in this study reported that they have been national or local election candidates. There is no statistically significant difference between men and women (Graphic 9).

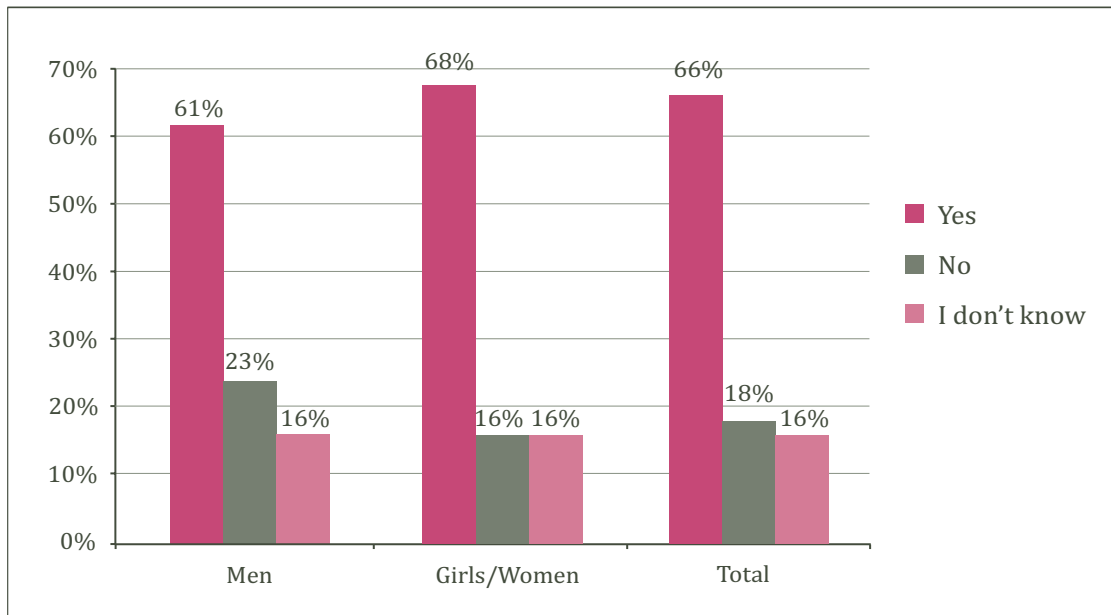


**Graphic 9.** Respondents' candidacy in local or parliamentary elections

## Support of family entrance in politics

Most of the respondents are willing to promote political involvement of family members, especially the father or the son.

The data are optimistic regarding the willingness of respondents to support and help their relatives' engagement in the political ground. Most of the respondents (66%) state that they are willing to support their family's involvement in politics. It is interesting to notice that the women (68%) more than men (61%) claim to provide this support and assistance (Graphic 10). Furthermore, although the level of support that respondents provide for their families is high, the data indicate that this tendency is somehow higher among respondents living in rural (80%) than those living in the urban (75%).



**Graphic 10. Support of family entrance in politics**

Below Table 7 shows the family member for who support will be greater. It is not a surprise that the assistance and support provided to the father and son (77% in both cases) are the highest. Also, the support for political engagement of husband / wife is high (75%) in general, and among women (80%) in particular. The proposed support for daughter's political involvement (69%) and especially the mother (64%) is lower. Concerning the proposed support for the girl and her mother provided by the data, it is noticed the element of female solidarity: female respondents (70%) suggest more support than male respondents (64%) to the girl's involvement in politics. Also, support for the mother's political engagement is higher among women (65%) than men (60%)<sup>14</sup>.

**Table 7: Respondent's support of their family members' involvement in politics**

		Yes	No	I don't know
<b>Father:</b>	Men	78%	8%	14%
	Women	77%	7%	16%
	Total	77%	8%	15%
<b>Boy:</b>	Men	80%	7%	13%
	Women	77%	8%	17%
	Total	77%	8%	15%
<b>Wife / Husband:</b>	Men	66%	16%	18%
	Women	<b>80%</b> <sup>15</sup>	8%	12%
	Total	75%	11%	14%
<b>Girl:</b>	Men	64%	17%	19%
	Women	<b>70%</b>	11%	19%
	Total	69%	12%	19%
<b>Mother:</b>	Men	60%	17%	19%
	Women	<b>65%</b>	15%	20%
	Total	64%	16%	20%

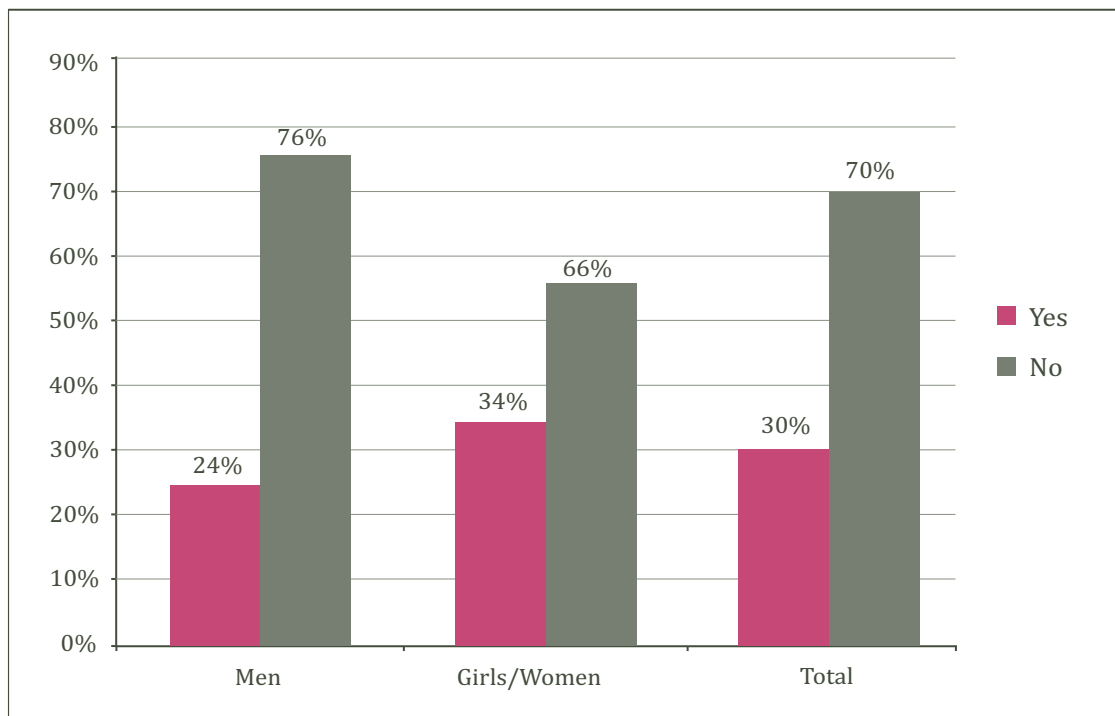
<sup>14</sup> Statistically significant difference between the responses given by men and women regarding support for political involvement of husband, daughter and mother which is also tested by analyzing only responses of persons that accept or refuse this support. Even in this case, the difference in response is statistically significant.

<sup>15</sup> Only the percentages, the value of which is statistically higher than the other values which is compared to (percentage of women against proportion of men) are highlighted (in bold). Other rates not listed are not statistically different from each other.

## Voting for a political party involving a large number of young girls and women

**A small portion of the respondents stated that voted for a political party with a greater involvement of women.**

Even though a small proportion of of the respondents (30%) state that they voted for the party that had included more women, this finding is optimistic after it exposes voters' sensitivity to the inclusion of women in political parties. Of course, the percentage of women (34%) stating this connection between the participation of women and the vote is higher than that of men (24%) (Graphic 11).



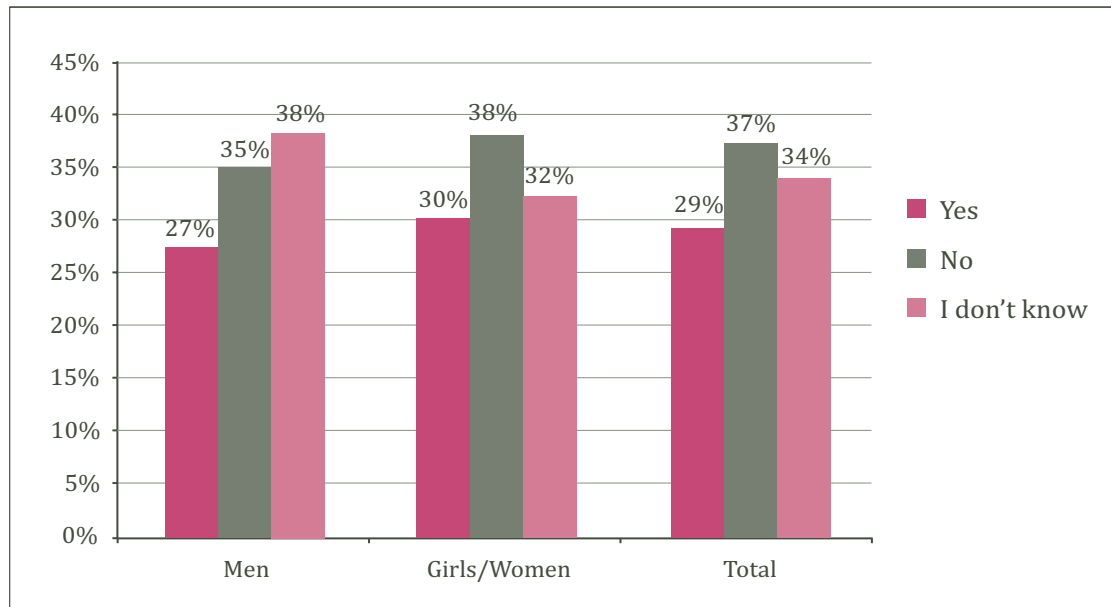
**Graphic 11.** *Voting for a political party involving a large number of girls or women*

## The opinion of the respondents toward gender policies of the political party they support

**Most of the respondents are not satisfied with the gender policies of the party they sympathize or are not aware of these policies.**

In the question, whether are satisfied with the policies of the party they sympathize with, support or vote in relation to gender equality and women's political rights, most of the respondents affirmed that they were not satisfied (37%). A high percentage (34%) claims that they are not aware of these policies. Only the 29% of the electorate claims to be aware of these policies (Graphic 12). These data indicated that the political parties did not properly inform the public about the policies and strategies that they have developed on gender equality and women's political rights. Based on these findings, it is recommended that political parties should provide more information to the public about the role and the place of gender equality and women's political rights in their programs, as this may be a factor that can influence the behavior of the

electorate and in particular the behavior of girls and women. There is no statistically significant difference between men and women as it regards the evaluation of these policies.



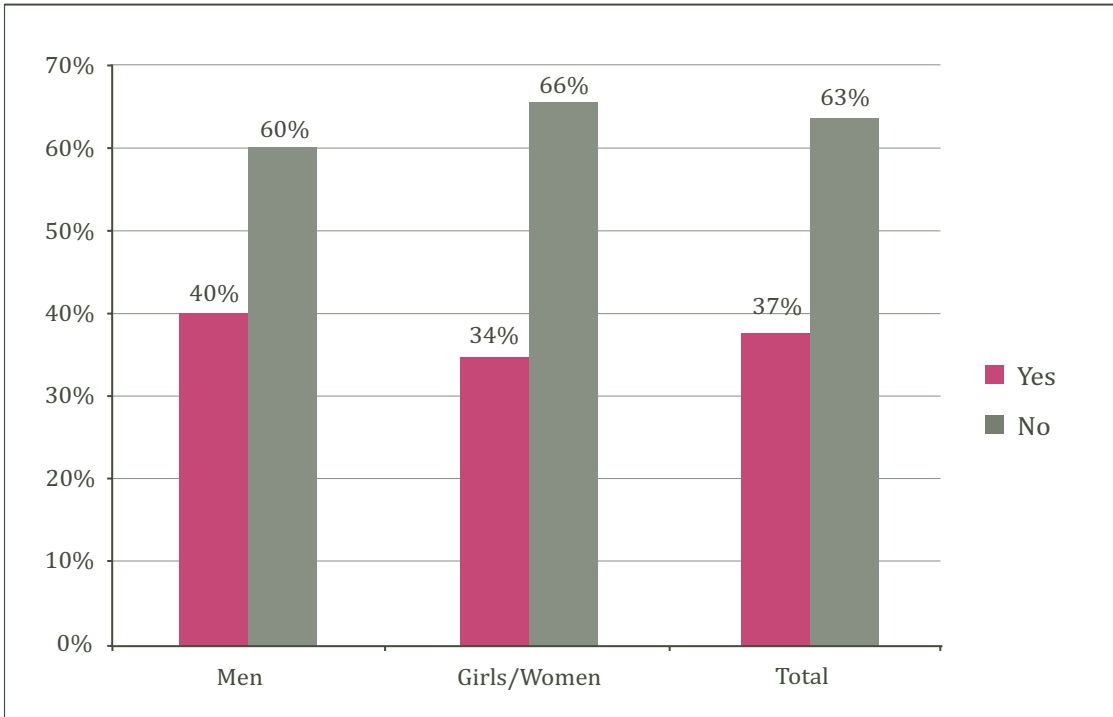
**Graphic12.** *The opinion of the respondents toward gender policies of the political party they support*

## *Participation in electoral activities*

**The interest for participation in electoral activities is low, especially among girls / women, persons employed in the private sector, the pensioners and residents of the city.**

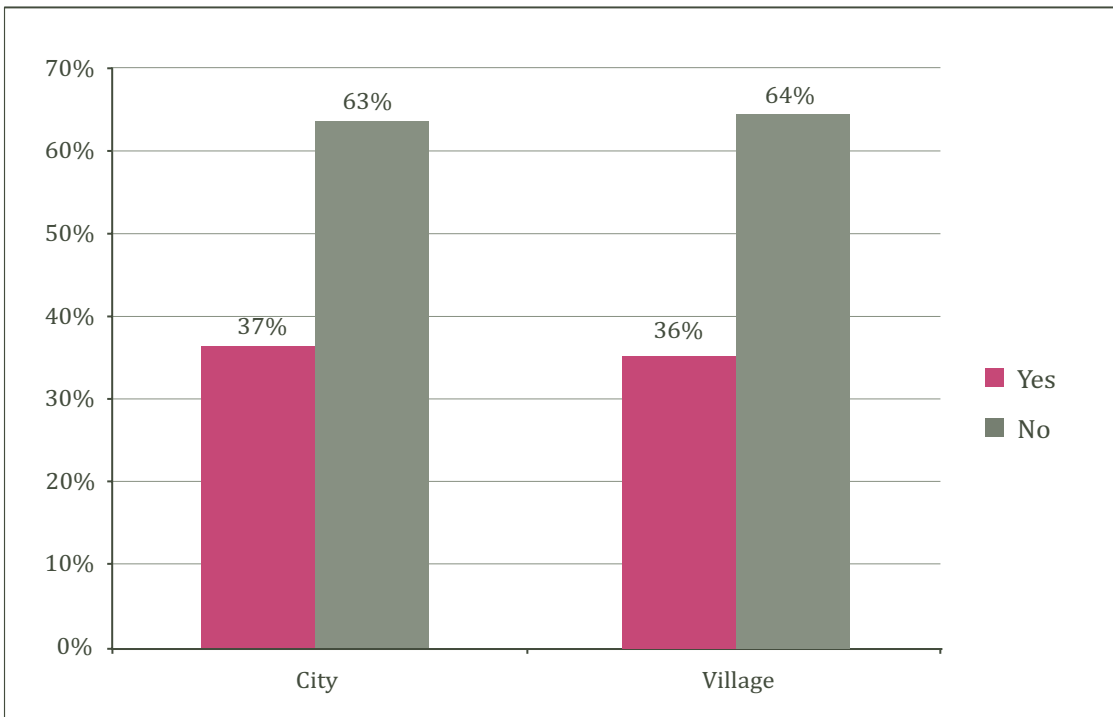
The following analysis shows that women and men employed or not employed in the public or private sector and the respondents of different age groups do not share the same interest about electoral activities. The findings regarding the impact of these factors on the behavior of voters allow us to draw a clearer picture about participation in elections and above all, enable the formulation of recommendations about social or political structures which are designed to increase the participation of voters in electoral activities organized by organs or political parties.

The data show that the level of participation in electoral activities in general is low. Only a small percentage of the respondents (37%) indicate that they are interested in pursuing electoral activities organized by candidate/or political parties. Graphic 13 show that the participants who claim to have taken part in activities, the (40%) of men have a greater tendency more than women (34%) in following campaign activities. This trend of women not to pursue electoral activities is also noted during interviews conducted for local elections, on 8 May 2011 by the Albanian Institute for Election System Development. The same study noted that the low participation of girls and women is related to the limited place of discussions about issues related to women in electoral activities as well as the small number of women who were presented as candidates in local elections (INSIZ, 2012). Our study, also in the same line with this study, shows that women aged between 45-54 years are more likely to participate in electoral activities.



**Graphic 13.** Participation in electoral activities organized by the candidate or the political party according to the gender

There are some differences between the respondents who live in the city and those who live a village in terms of participation in electoral activities: attendance has been low and more or less the same in the village and in the city. (Graphic 14).

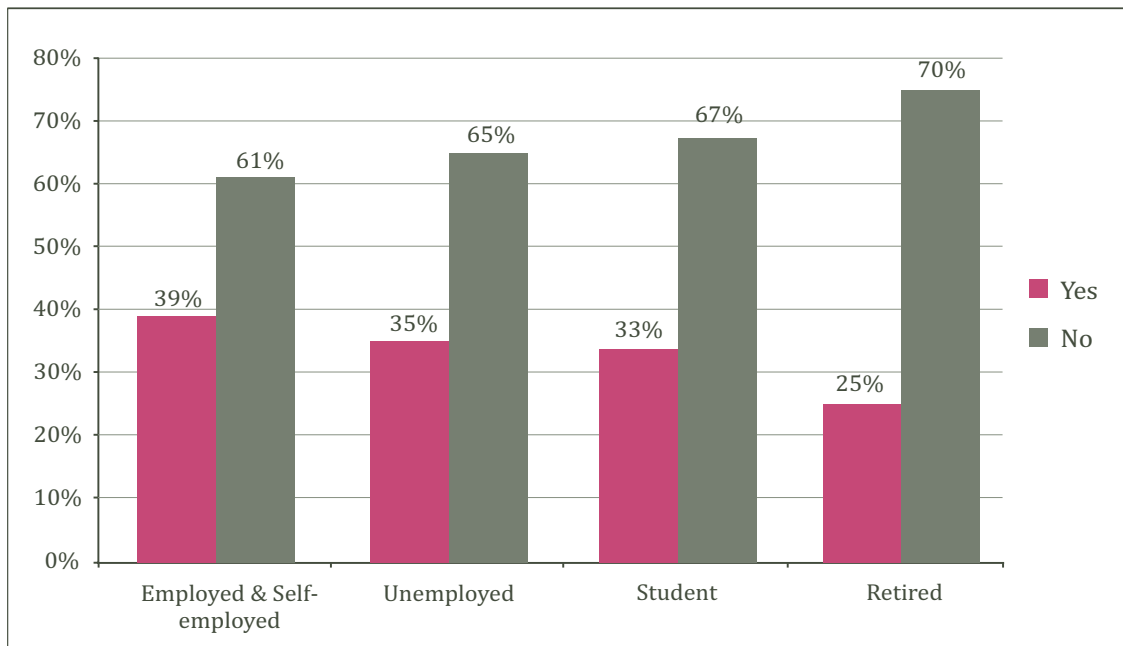


**Graphic 14.** Participation in electoral activities organized by the candidate or the political party according to the gender

Another factor that seems to determine participation in electoral activities is associated with current occupational status. The following graphic shows that participation is higher among

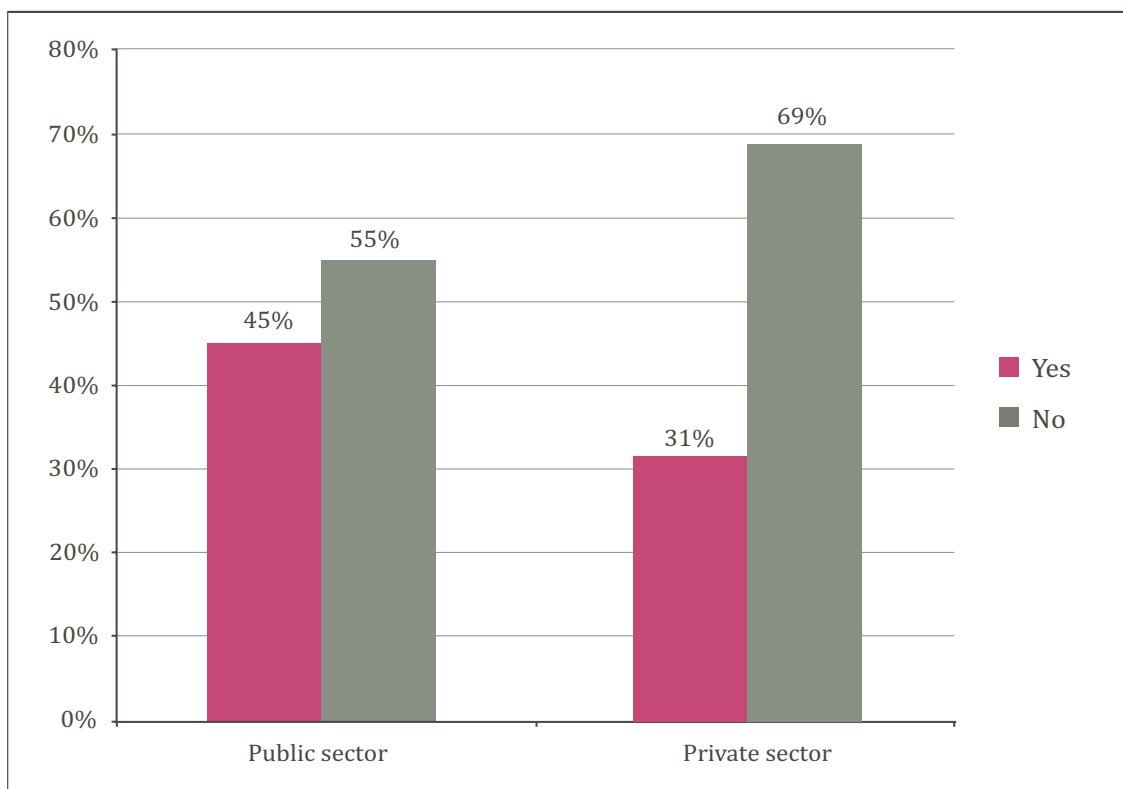


employed or self-employed people (39%), followed by the unemployed (35%) and students (33%). Attendance in electoral activities is low, especially among retirees (25%).



**Graphic 15.** Participation in electoral activities organized by the candidate or the political party according to occupational status

The occupational sector also affects the tendency of respondents to attend or not electoral activities. Supporting the findings of the study (INSIZ, 2012), our study shows that respondents from the public sector (45%) were more likely to participate in electoral activities than respondents from the private sector (31%). (Graphic 16)



**Graphic 16.** Participation in electoral activities organized by the candidate or the political party according to occupational sector

## Reasons for participating in electoral activities

**The interest in the program of the political party or candidate, the sympathy for the party that organizes the activity and the desire to support the candidate that the voter prefers are the main incentives to participate in electoral activities.**

Table 8 familiarizes us with the factors that cause voters to participate in electoral activities. The data show that interest in the program of the party / or candidate (M = 3.44), the sympathy for the party that organizes activities and the desire to support the candidate that the voter prefers more (M = 3.38, both) is the first group of factors that encourage the electorate to pursue actively and closely the party or political candidates.

Another factor that determines the pursuit of the activity is faith in the candidate (M = 3.21). The solution provided by the candidate or the political party for voter's problems (M = 3.02) appears to be a factor with smaller power in voters attendance on electoral activities.

Although many individuals believe that in many state institutions people are pressured to follow the electoral activity, data show that the influence of this factor is smaller compared to other factors (M = 2.36). But, it is interesting to note that female respondents (M = 2.43) more than men (M = 2.27) felt the pressure of the institution where they work in order to attend election activities.

In their entirety, these data are positive for pointing out that participation in electoral activities is the choice of the electorate, of his faith to a political party or candidate, and not a behavior imposed by a state institution.

**Table 8: Reasons for participating in electoral activities**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
It was interesting listening to the programme of the political party or candidate	3.44	3.34	<b>3.51<sup>16</sup></b>
Have a sympathy for the party organizing the activity	3.38	3.31	3.43
To support a candidate whom you prefer more than others	3.38	3.33	3.41
Did you trusted the candidate	3.21	3.20	3.21
The candidate proposed with you a solution for your problems	3.02	3.02	3.03
Accompanied a friend / friends / family / relatives	2.77	2.67	<b>2.84</b>
To create a personal acquaintance with the candidate / en	2.38	<b>2.46</b>	2.32
Leaders of the institution where you work asked you to participate	2.36	2.27	<b>2.43</b>

<sup>16</sup> Just the averages, the value of which is statistically higher than the average value which is compared to (average for women against men's average) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed here are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (no agreement) to 5 (completely agree).

## Reasons for not participating in electoral activities

**Most of the respondents did not participate in electoral activities because they have no confidence in politics and have a negative opinion on campaign activities.**

The following analysis makes us more familiar with the causes that prevent the electorate not to participate in electoral activities<sup>17</sup>.

The findings shown in Table 9 indicated that the main factor that pushes respondents do not participate in electoral activities is the loss of faith in politics (M = 3.48). The second group of factors is related to bad experiences during previous activities (M = 3.17) and to the worthless nature of electoral activities (M = 3.11). The third group refers to the lack of proper time (M = 2.89) and family commitments (M = 2.60), factors that appear to be prohibitive for women. The distance between voter's residence and the place of organizing electoral activity (M = 2.59) is also a factor that makes many individuals, especially women not to attend the electoral activities. In support with the previous findings, employment in public administration is a factor of little importance compared to other factors (M = 2.16).

Previous data indicated us that girls and women are less liable than men to attend electoral activities. The findings we just noticed suggest that the low attendance among women is associated with a lack of trust in policies (M = 3.60), lack of free time (M = 2.96), family commitments (M = 2.65), distance from apartment to destination in which the activity takes place (M = 2.69), lack of support from family members to participate in the activity (M = 2.30), factors that are mentioned more from girls / women than by men. Political parties should pay attention to these factors, in order to find ways to reduce their importance to the behavior of the electorate.

**Table 9. Reasons for not participating in electoral activities**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
We lost our trust in politics	3.48	3.28	<b>3.60<sup>18</sup></b>
You gave up because you previous activities didn't draw your attention	3.17	3.14	3.17
Electoral activities seem useless and worthless	3.11	<b>3.26</b>	3.18
Didn't have enough time	2.89	2.77	<b>2.96</b>
Family commitments prevent you	2.60	2.52	<b>2.65</b>
Electoral activity organized away from your residence	2.59	2.42	<b>2.69</b>
Family members do not support your participation in electoral activities	2.24	2.16	<b>2.30</b>
You hesitated because you are employed in public administration and you sympathize the party which is in opposition	2.16	2.18	2.15

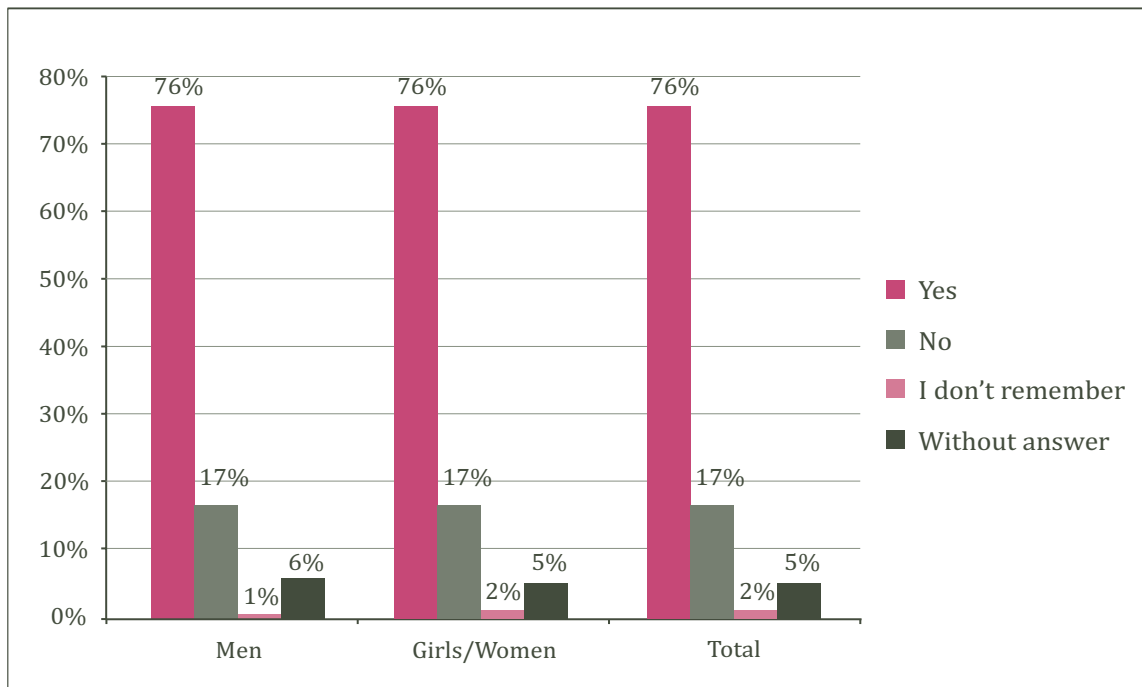
<sup>17</sup> Analyses were conducted only with respondents who said they had not taken part in election activities organized by the candidate / or political parties.

<sup>18</sup> Just the averages, the value of which is statistically higher than the average value which is compared to (average for women against men's average) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed here are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (no agreement) to 5 (completely agree).

## Participation in local elections 2011

**Most of the participants in the study claim to have participated in local elections 2011.**

The data regarding the participation of the respondents in local elections of 2011, show that most of them claim to have voted (76%); and 17% say that they have refused to vote, the 2% did not remember, and 5% do not want to respond to this question. As it is indicated by the similarity of the responses, there is no statistically significant difference between responses of men and women who have voted or not in 2011 (Graphic 17). The percentage of respondents who claim that participated in the local elections 2011 (76%) is higher than the percentage of those who took part in the parliamentary elections 2009 (68%).



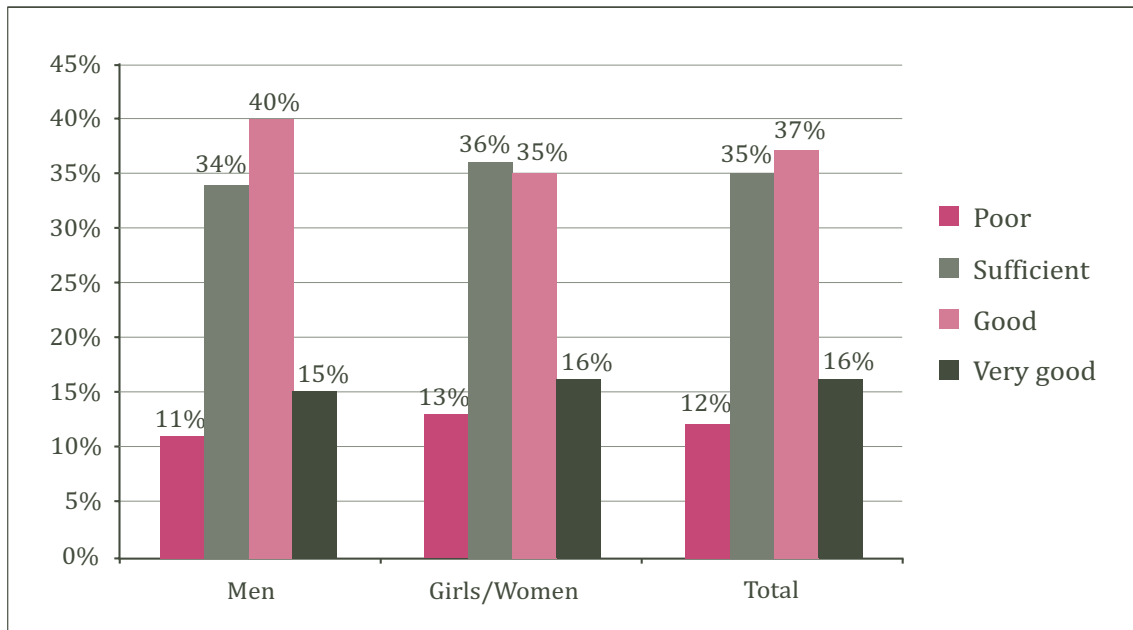
**Graphic 17. Participation in local elections 2011**

## Information regarding the voting procedures of local elections 2011

**Most of the respondents had sufficient information about the procedure of voting in local elections in 2011, excluding persons without education, with primary education, the youth of the age grup 18-29, and respondents over 50 years.**

Most of the respondents questioned about the quality of information regarding the voting procedures in local elections 2011 claim that it is sufficient (35%) or good (37%). There are no statistically significant differences between men and women in terms of quality of information (Graphic 18). In concordance with the study conducted by the Albanian Institute for Election System Development in the local elections, the data of our study indicated that the quality of information is poor to those with no education at all (28%) or with primary education (21%). Furthermore, the percentage of respondents reporting that they have poor information about voting procedures is higher among respondents aged 18-24 years (19%); 25-29 years (18%) and to persons over 50 years (20%). This data highlights the necessity of informing these age

groups and those with low educational level from the program structure which is related to the behavior of the electorate.

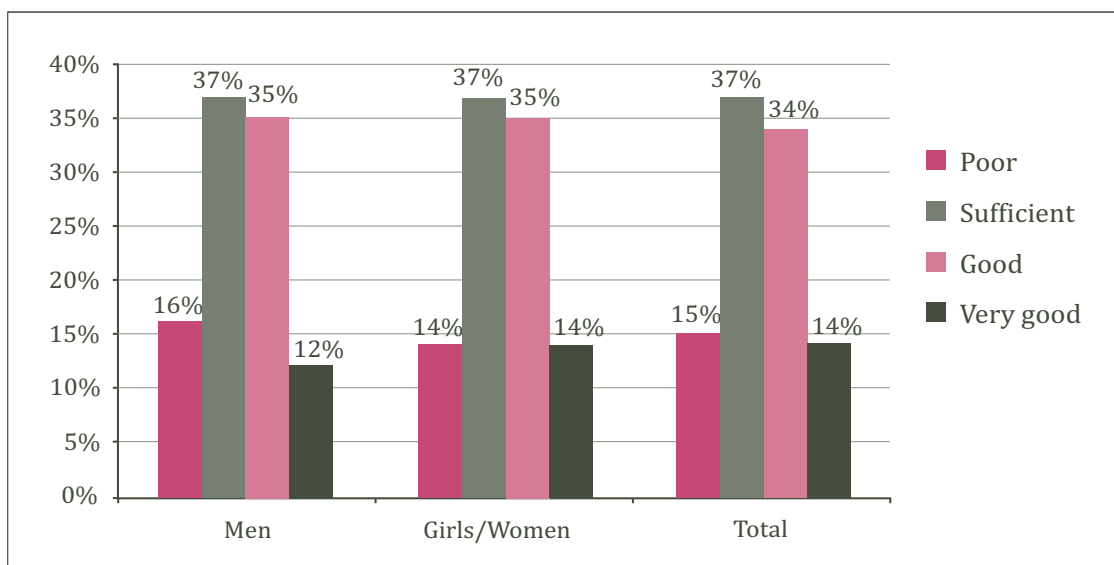


**Graphic 18.** Information about the voting procedures of local elections 2011

### Information about the candidate / es for mayor / local government in local elections 2011

Most of the respondents had sufficient information about the candidate / s for mayor / local government unit in the local elections of 2011.

Even in this issue, as the voting procedures, most of respondents claim that the quality of information about the candidate / es for mayor / local unit in 2011 local elections was sufficient (37%) or good (34%). There are no statistically significant differences between men and women (Graphic 19).



**Graphic 19.** Information about the candidate / es for mayor / local government in local elections 2011

## Reasons of supporting the candidate for mayor or municipality

**Good reputation, ability to keep promises, the candidate's contribution to the community are the main reasons that have prompted the electorate to vote for a candidate for mayor / or municipality in the local elections 2011.**

Data from our survey indicate, as well as the results of research conducted by ACER and ASET (2008), that good reputation (M = 3.82), the ability to keep promises (M = 3.71) the candidate's contribution to the community (M = 3.61) are the indicators which oriented the respondents to support a candidate for mayor or municipality during the 2011 elections.

In order to complete the picture of the factors identified in the study of ACER and ASET (2008), our study aimed to identify other factors of influence on the behavior of voters. Thus, our findings point out that voters are influenced by the presence of the candidate in the media and social networks (M = 3.55); by the quality of the electoral program for solving problems and community development (M = 3.44); or by the link between the political force that the respondent sympathizes and vote for the candidate who represents the political party (M = 3.45). The children, young people and women (M = 3.34) were ranked last in importance in the candidate's program, although most often identified as a strong factor with girls and women. The lesser importance of this factor, as opposed to other factors, on which respondents put more emphasis can be explained by the fact that only small number of the candidates placed more emphasis on issues related to children, youth and women in electoral activities in 2011 (INSIZ, 2012). Therefore, voters without being exposed to these issues are less susceptible to the promises of the candidates to these groups.

**Table 10: Reasons for supporting a candidate for mayor or municipality**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
The candidate has a good reputation in the electoral zone	3.82	3.78	3.84
Considered her/ his skills and abilities in order to keep his / her promises	3.71	3.68	<b>3.74<sup>19</sup></b>
The candidate has been famous for the contribution his / her community	3.61	3.59	<b>3.62</b>
The candidate has been active in the media and social networks	3.55	3.53	3.56
Candidate has represented the political strength that I like	3.45	3.40	3.49
The candidate had the best electoral program for problem solving and community development	3.44	3.38	<b>3.47</b>
In the previous mandate, the candidate indicated that he had kept his/ her promises	3.39	3.33	<b>3.42</b>
The candidate organized a fair campaign	3.38	3.38	3.39
The candidate in his/ her campaign promised specific support relating issues of children, youth and women;	3.34	3.27	<b>3.39</b>
I have acquaintance / personal / family relations with the candidate	2.39	<b>2.60</b>	2.26

<sup>19</sup> Just average, the value of which is statistically higher than the average value which is compared to (average for women against average for men) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (absolutely not) to 5 (absolutely).

## VI. VOTING FOR FEMALE CANDIDATES

The following findings familiarize us with the tendency of respondents to vote a female candidate for mayor or municipality, the reasons for choosing a female candidate, the areas in which women's representation would have a positive impact, important positions that can be represented by women. These results also let us know the perceptions of the respondents about the organs and structures that can help in increasing the representation of women in politics and decision-making.

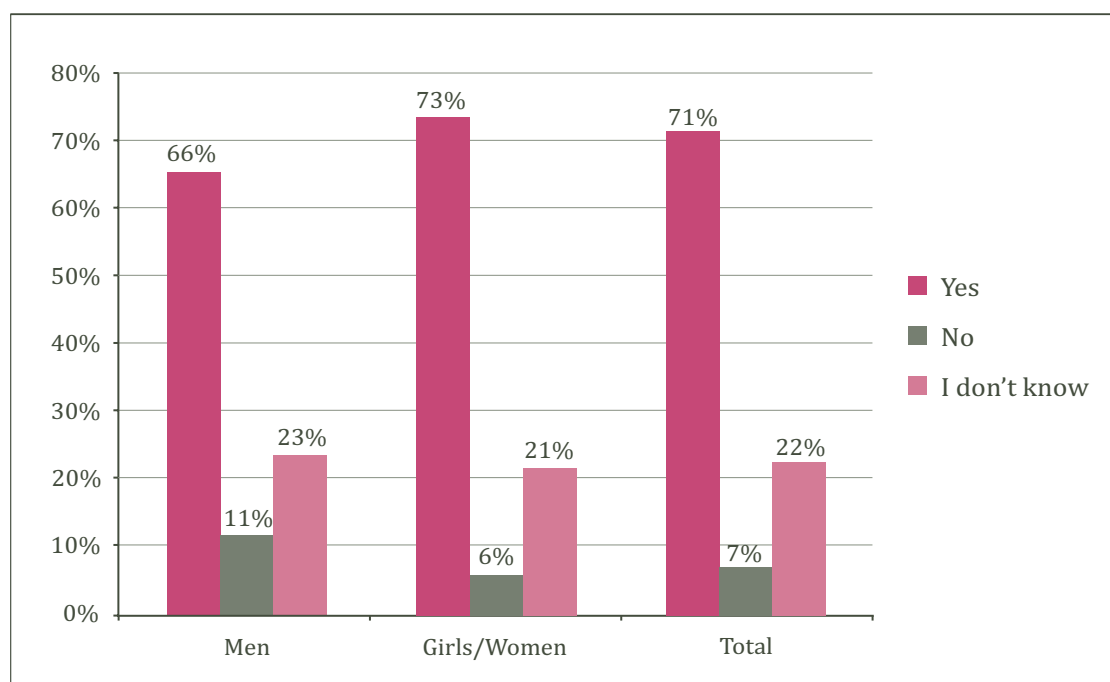
### *Voter's participation if parliamentary elections were held today*

**Most participants in this study, and especially girls and women express their willingness to vote if elections were held today in Albania.**

The details regarding participation in polls indicate that 71% of those interviewed state that they are willing to vote for if parliamentary elections were held now; a limited number (7%) stated that they have no desire to participate in polls and the rest (22%) are hesitant and answered that they did not know whether to be part of the voters or not.

Also, these results indicated that there is a statistically significant difference between men and women interviewed in relation with this question. Motivation to participate in voting is higher among women and girls interviewed (73%) than men (66%) (Graphic 20).

A comparison of our findings with those stated in the report «The public perception about women's participation in elections in Albania» conducted in 2008, notes an increase in women's desire to express their willingness through the voting. So in 2008, the percentage of people stating that they would participate in the polls was higher to men than to women. Comparing the 2008 findings with those of 2013 we notice a progress in the importance that women give to their participation in voting, an amplified interest to be represented by the vote in decision-making and perhaps a raise in the confidence that people have in the political system.



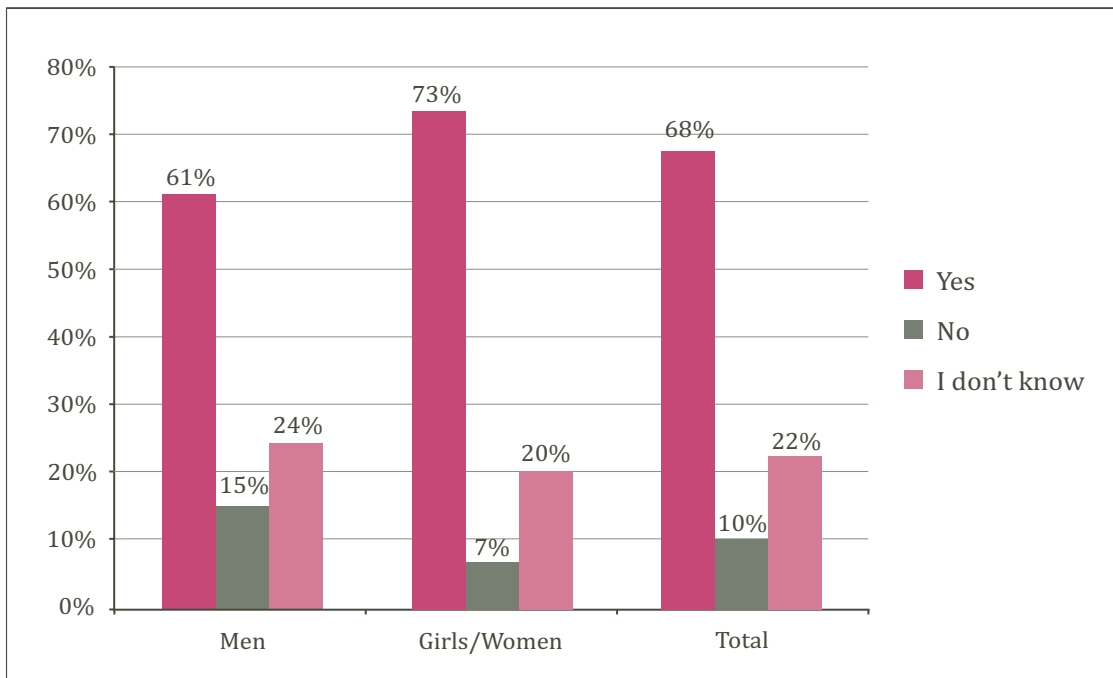
**Graphic 20.** *Voter's participation if parliamentary elections were held today*

## Voting for a female candidate

### Most of the respondents, and especially girls and women are willing to vote for a female candidate for the mayor or municipality.

Most of the people who are interviewed (68%) state that they would vote for a female candidate for the mayor or municipality; the 22% said they were uncertain of their vote and a small percentage (10%) said they are against the idea. In relation with the opinion expressed by male and female respondents on this issue, it is not surprising that the resistance and refusal to vote for a female candidate is higher in males: 61% of men are willing to vote for a female candidate. Meanwhile, we notice that the desire to vote for a female candidate in women and girls (73%) who participated in this study is higher than that of men (Graphic 21). However, although compared to men, the percentage of girls and women who expressed a voting pro female candidates of mayor or municipality elections is higher, it should be noted that the percentage of men is too high and that the data in their entirety show that men tend to be open to the candidacies of women in politics.

These findings reflect the same idea as the report's findings also conducted by ACER and ASET (2008) concerning the admission of increasing the representation of women in political life and national and local positions. Details of the study conducted in 2008 show that most of the participants in the study believe that there is a need to increase the presence of women in political life. Furthermore, in line with our findings, the data of this survey indicated that women are more favorable than men to the nomination of women in local and national positions.



**Graphic 21.** Predisposition of voting for a female candidate for the mayor or municipality

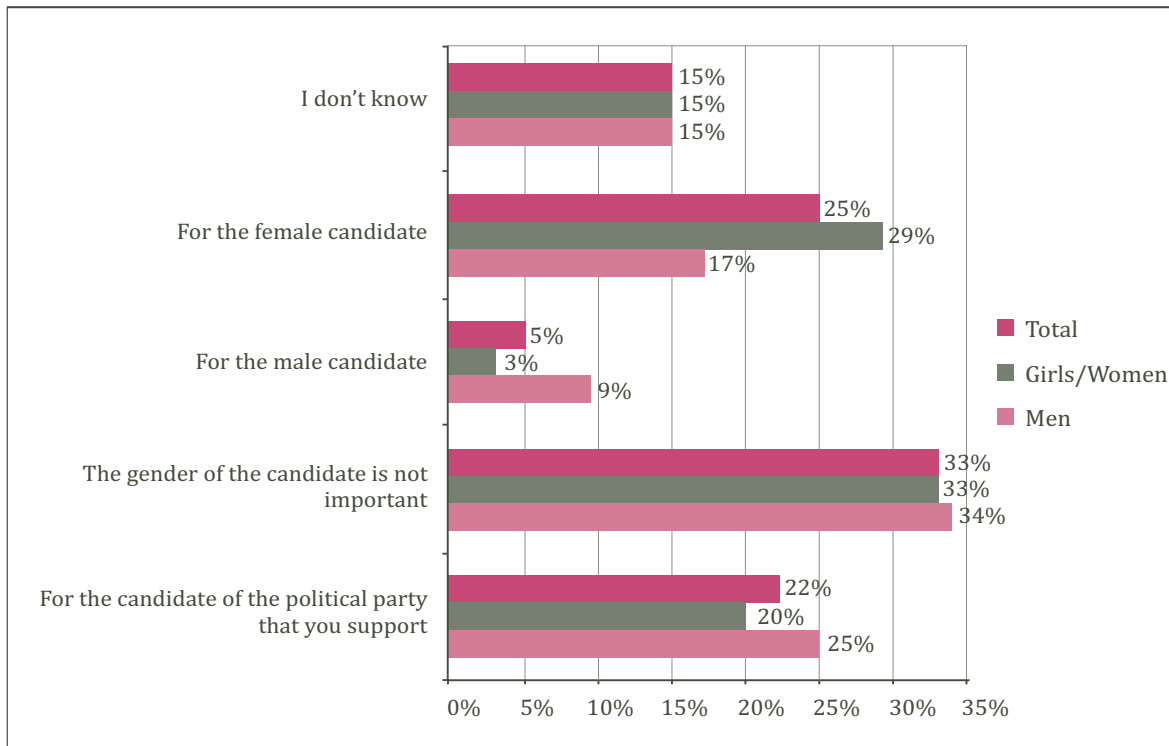
The responses of the questions presented in Graphic 22 show that in the majority of our cases (33%), the gender of the candidate doesn't matter either for men or women voters, if they were given the chance to vote for one of two male and female candidates similar in skills and qualities. In the same line with the study conducted by ACER and ASET (2008), as for males (34%) and for the interviewed women (33%), the gender of the candidate is neither a stimulus nor an obstacle in assuring the vote. Although, on this response data indicated no gender differences, when respondents were asked about their tendency to vote a female candidate, the



data show that female respondents (29%) more than the male (17%), say they would like to choose the female candidate. So again, this finding confirms the results of research conducted by ACER and ASET (2008) which show that female candidates rely more on women voters than on men voters.

The same graph shows that respondents who prefer a female candidate (25%) are more frequent than those who prefer a male candidate (5%). Data indicated that the percentage (29%) of female respondents who state that they would vote for a female candidate is higher than the percentage of male respondents (9%) who declare that they would vote for a female candidate. This finding suggests that the female electorate tends to be more solidar with a female candidate than the masculine electorate with a male candidate.

Finally, the findings indicated that male respondents seem more influenced by the political party they support in candidate selection: 25% of them want more than the respondents (20%) to vote for the candidate that represents the party supported by them.



**Graphic 22.** Propensity to vote for a female candidate toward a male candidate with the same skills

## Voting or not a female candidate

Professionalism and good reputation are the two main reasons that makes the electorate to vote for the the candidate for the mayor or municipality. Also, the need to have more women in politics motivates respondents to vote for women candidates. The lack of trust and the suspicion that the candidate will not be present in the Albanian political environment which is dominated by men are the main factors that prevent voters, especially males to vote for a female.

The following findings allow us to understand the mechanisms that guide the female and male electorate in choosing a female candidate. Let us analyze first the reasons to vote female candidates and then the causes that push voters to reject these nominations.

## *Reasons for voting a female candidate for mayor or municipality*

Professionalism (M = 4.14) and good reputation (M = 4.13) are the two main features that would encourage respondents to vote for a female candidate. The second reason is not related to the profile of the candidates but with the Albanian political need to have more women (M = 4.12). The third reason relates to the attitude of the interviewed women's values, trusted to them (M = 4.04). The fourth reason has to do with the features of women candidates, these features refer to the effectiveness of women at work (M = 3.83), their ability to communicate (M = 3.77), their sensitivity to social and economic problems (M = 3.75) and their determination to achieve more results (M = 3.61). The tendency of women to be oriented toward social relations and its sensitivity to social issues is also identified in the study conducted by NDI & IDRA (2012) which points out among other things that these features associated to the role of women as a mother perceived by respondents as useful for Albanian politics since they can lead to the improvement of political dialogue and relations between political parties.

Representation of political power (M = 3.61) to which the respondent belongs is perceived by the candidate as a less important factor compared to other factors. Also, personal acquaintances / family or social relations (M = 3.43) are considered less important. The tendency of women to be less corrupted (M = 3.28) as a factor that determines voting for them, ranked last in our study, in contrast to the importance given to this feature of the respondents who participated in the study of «The public perception about women's participation in elections in Albania »(2008), where it was ranked second. Despite this difference, the study of ACER & ASET (2008) being in the same line as our study shows that the ability to understand better the social and family problems are the reasons that have directed the respondents to vote for a female candidate.

These data, as a whole, are optimistic about the possibility of increasing the participation of women in politics and in decision-making and reflect a trend of citizenship and maturity of the respondents who are not guided by their political affiliation in order to choose a female candidate, in contrast to a previous study (ACER & ASET, 2011) where the "main trend is to vote for a political party and not for the candidates" (p.49). These data seem to suggest that on the one hand, female candidates have all the chances to be resolved if are characterized by good reputation, professionalism and effectiveness at work. On the other hand, the selection of women candidates is conditioned, on one side, by the awareness of the electorate that Albanian politics need women and by the faith in their abilities.

**Table 11: Reasons for voting for a female candidate**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
If she is known as good professional in her job	4.14	4.04	<b>4.19<sup>20</sup></b>
If she has a good reputation	4.13	4.10	4.16
The Albanian political system needs to include more women	4.12	3.94	<b>4.21</b>
I believe in the women's values	4.04	3.84	<b>4.15</b>
Women are more effective in their work	3.83	3.62	<b>3.94</b>
Women are more communicative	3.77	3.6	<b>3.87</b>
Women are more likely to be more sensitive to social and economic problems	3.75	3.63	<b>3.82</b>

<sup>20</sup> Just average, the value of which is statistically higher than average value which is compared to (average for women against average for men) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (absolutely not) to 5 (absolutely).

If she will be the representative of a political force that I belong / support	3.61	3.52	<b>3.67</b>
Women are more firm and achieve more results	3.61	3.42	<b>3.71</b>
Whether you know from your personal / family or social acquaintances	3.43	<b>3.53</b>	3.37
Women are less corrupted	3.28	3.21	<b>3.32</b>

### ***Reasons for not voting a female candidate for mayor or municipality***

The data in Table 12 show that the first factor that inhibits the voters in general (M = 3.51) and especially male voters (M = 3.61), not to vote a female candidate in local elections, is associated with a lack of confidence to the candidate. This data set once out in accordance with the previous answers how important it is for voters to be presented with the candidates that are characterized by professionalism and good reputation, features that are essential in order to increase their trust in them. The second factor relates to the opinion of the respondents (M = 3.16), especially in males (M = 3.31), that women have less chances to be heard in the Albanian political environment dominated by men. This factor has been also noted by previous studies (ACER & ASET, 2008) as a factor that pushes voters, especially men not to support female candidates. Another factor that inhibits the respondents to vote for female candidates is associated to the perception that women do not have strong political connections and support (M = 3.01).

The role of women in the family (M = 2.99) and her commitment to the family in this study is perceived as less inhibitor on the selection and her involvement in politics than in the study conducted by ACER and ASET in 2008 where this factor is considered the second according to the respondents. This finding is encouraging, because it allows coming in a conclusion that women in politics and decision-making are not confined within a stereotypical framework and that a balance between professional and family life seems possible in the eyes of the voters.

Another obstacle in delivering the vote for female candidates is related to the perception of politics as a male monopolized area and lack of habit to see more women in the political arena. Thus, the fact that the respondents (M = 2.84) in general, and those in particular men (M = 3.09) are not used to see more women in politics or that respondents trust more a male candidate (M = 2.65) are other causes that lead to the rejection of the election of women candidates. Lack of confidence in the quality of women candidates (M = 2.38) is a less important factor in relation to other factors, and moreover the low average suggests that some respondents did not believe in the abilities of the candidates. In conclusion, we emphasize that stereotypical feminine features like the possibility to be influenced by others (M = 2.27) or fragility to face and solve problems (M = 2.17) were factors with a lesser amount of power that can impede the granting of voting for female candidates. All the reasons mentioned above are used more often by men than by women interviewed to explain the rejection in the selection of women candidates.

**Table 12. Reasons for not voting a female candidate**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
If no female candidate evokes me the feeling of trust	3.51	<b>3.61<sup>21</sup></b>	3.44
Women have less chances of imposing their voice in the Albanian political environment dominated by men	3.16	<b>3.31</b>	3.04
If she would not be representative of the political force that I belong to or I support	3.05	<b>3.17</b>	2.96
Women don't have strong political support and relations	3.01	<b>3.17</b>	2.89
Women are more involved in their family and this commitment is their priority	2.99	<b>3.16</b>	2.86
I'm not used to the image of having more women in politics	2.84	<b>3.09</b>	2.65
I trust more in a male candidate	2.65	<b>3.00</b>	2.39
I do not believe in the qualities and abilities of a female candidate	2.38	<b>2.72</b>	2.12
Women are more easily influenced by others	2.27	<b>3.01</b>	2.49
Women are fragile to confront and solve problems	2.17	<b>3.01</b>	2.48

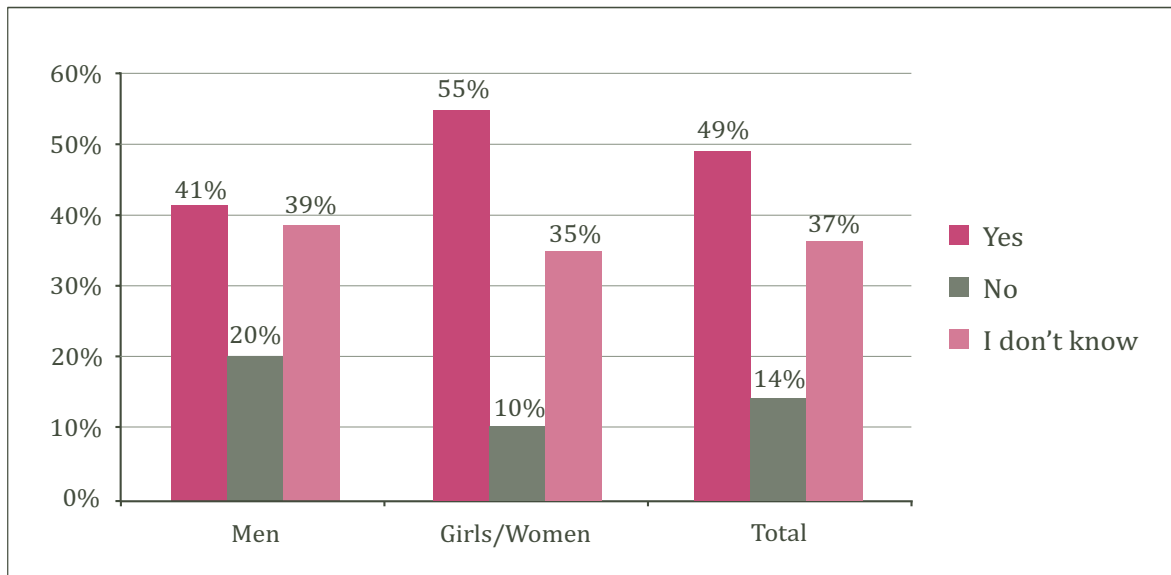
### ***Voting for the political party with the larger number of women in "secure zone" of the multi - name list***

**A significant number of respondents are willing to vote for the party with more women in the "secure zone" of the multi-name list. However, the percentage of those who are reluctant also remains high.**

Most of the respondents (49%) say they are likely to vote for the party that has a larger number of women in the "secure zone" of the multi-name list. Girls and women (55%) are more likely than men (41%) to vote for the party that has more women in the "secure zone" of the multi-name list.

However, the percentage of respondents who are reluctant in this regard remains high (37%) (Graphic 23). This last result can be explained to some extent by the lack of accurate information of the respondents about the presence of "secure zone" in the multi-name lists. Furthermore, the percentage of men (39%) and women (35%) who are reluctant remains more or less the same.

<sup>21</sup> Just the average, the value of which is statistically higher than the average value which is compared to (average for women against average for men) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (absolutely not) to 5 (absolutely).



**Graphic 23.** Propensity to vote for the party with a larger number of women in the “secure zone” of the multi-name list

## *The impact of increasing the participation of women in some fields and policies*

**Respondents believe that a larger participation of women in politics and decision-making will have positive effects in many areas, particularly in areas related to the protection and respect of human rights, issues of education, health policy, social issues and problems.**

Below table 13 highlights positive and optimistic expectations of respondents about the impact that may have a bigger participation of women in politics and decision-making. In general, the respondents believe that a larger number of women’s presence in politics and decision-making could increase the possibility of addressing issues faster in general (M = 3.64). It is not a surprise that girls and women (M = 3.70) were more optimistic than men (M = 3.47) about the positive role of women in decision-making to address various issues.

The areas where it is thought that women can influence more, is the protection and respect of human rights (M = 3.98); followed by education issues (M = 3.88); health issue policies (M = 3.87); issues and social problems (M = 3.86); protection of the environment (M = 3.76); reduction of poverty (M = 3.70); employment policies (M = 3.65); faster harmonization with the EU policies (M = 3.59); sustainable economic development (M = 3.57). The contribution of women is perceived in a more limited way to the urban areas of the country (M = 3.43) and to the improvement of agricultural policies (M = 3.41). Their role is reduced even more in terms of infrastructure (M = 3.38), security issues, law and order issues (M = 3.22).

Comparing the data of our study with those of the study «The public perception about women’s participation in elections in Albania» (2008) we observe that in both studies the areas where women think they can have more impact on is the protection and respect human rights. This consistent result in both studies may be explained by the perception of women engaged in politics as human and tolerant, these features can make the decision-making woman more likely to fight for human rights.

**Table 13. The impact of increasing the participation of women in some fields and policies**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
Protection and respect of human rights	3.98	3.86	4.05 <sup>22</sup>
Educational issues	3.88	3.80	3.90
Healthcare issues and policies	3.87	3.77	3.93
Social issues and problems ( as revenge, violence against women)	3.86	3.75	3.93
Environmental protection	3.76	3.62	3.84
Reduction of poverty	3.70	3.59	3.77
Employment policies	3.65	3.53	3.72
More rapid harmonization with EU policies	3.59	3.47	3.66
Sustainable economic development	3.57	3.44	3.66
The strengthening of public administration	3.53	3.41	3.60
Rural development	3.43	3.32	3.50
Improvement of agricultural policies	3.41	3.29	3.48
Infrastructural issues	3.38	3.26	3.43
Issues of security, law and order	3.32	3.21	3.38

### *The nomination of young girls and women in important positions*

**Respondents are more positive to the nomination of women to positions of high importance. The vast majority of participants in the study and especially of women say that the post of deputy can be represented very well by a woman.**

The idea of electing or nominating women to important positions is accepted very well almost by all respondents. Comparing the values of data rates for each post, demonstrates that the position of deputy and the post of dean / rector are positions in which the majority of the respondents (82% for both) and especially those of women (85% for both posts) would like to see a woman on it. This attitude to women's choice as deputies is encouraging, especially if we consider that we are on the eve of the parliamentary elections in 2013 and political parties will hopefully be inspired by this fact in order to increase the number of women on their lists.

Also the post of the Minister of Labour, of Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (77%) or the minister in general (76%) are positions that according to the interviewed men and women can be provided to women.

Although, in a much lower rate, responses remain favorable to the idea of the appointment of women as mayor of municipality (70%) and as mayor of commune (62%). These data can motivate women to be represented in the upcoming local elections and to run for the position of president in the local government units. We note that in the 2011 elections, only 11 girls and

<sup>22</sup> Just the average, the value of which is statistically higher than the average value which is compared to (average for women against average for men) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (absolutely not) to 5 (absolutely).

women competed for the position of mayor of municipality and 11 for the position of mayor of the commune (INSIZ, 2012).

Other analyses show that there is no difference between respondents from urban and rural areas to the appointment of women in these positions.

Table 14 and Graphics 24-25 show that in all cases there is a statistically significant difference between the support of men and women for the nomination of women on important positions. For all proposed positions in politics and decision-making, women and girls are more favorable than men to the nomination of women and girls. This solidarity between women has been noticed also on our previous findings, and this result confirms once again the idea of a favorable position within the group, of women toward women who are or want to be involved in politics.

The study conducted by ACER and ASET (2008) has also pointed out a support of respondents to the nomination or candidacy of women as deputies of the Parliament. But, the data of our study suggests that we have a kind of emancipation in the attitude of responders to important positions which can be operated by women and girls. Thus, if the study of ACER and ASET (2008) shows that “when there is a prediction about women in higher positions (prime minister and president) in their responses participants don’t feel so comfortable with women in these leadership positions” (p. 43). Our study shows that in comparison with the opinions collected in 2008, 2012 respondents are willing to see women in important positions: they are open to the idea of women’s nomination as a prime minister, mayor or president.

Meanwhile, it is interesting to note that respondents nominate fewer women in the position of the President of Parliament (60%) or the Chairwoman of the CEC (56%), positions currently operated by women. Perhaps, on the one hand, the presence of women in these positions makes respondents think that the nomination of women candidates as heads of these institutions is not necessary because there is no gender discrimination. On the other hand, may be the unfavorable perception of the respondents’ en route for the work and management of these structures that makes them less supportive of participation of women in those positions.

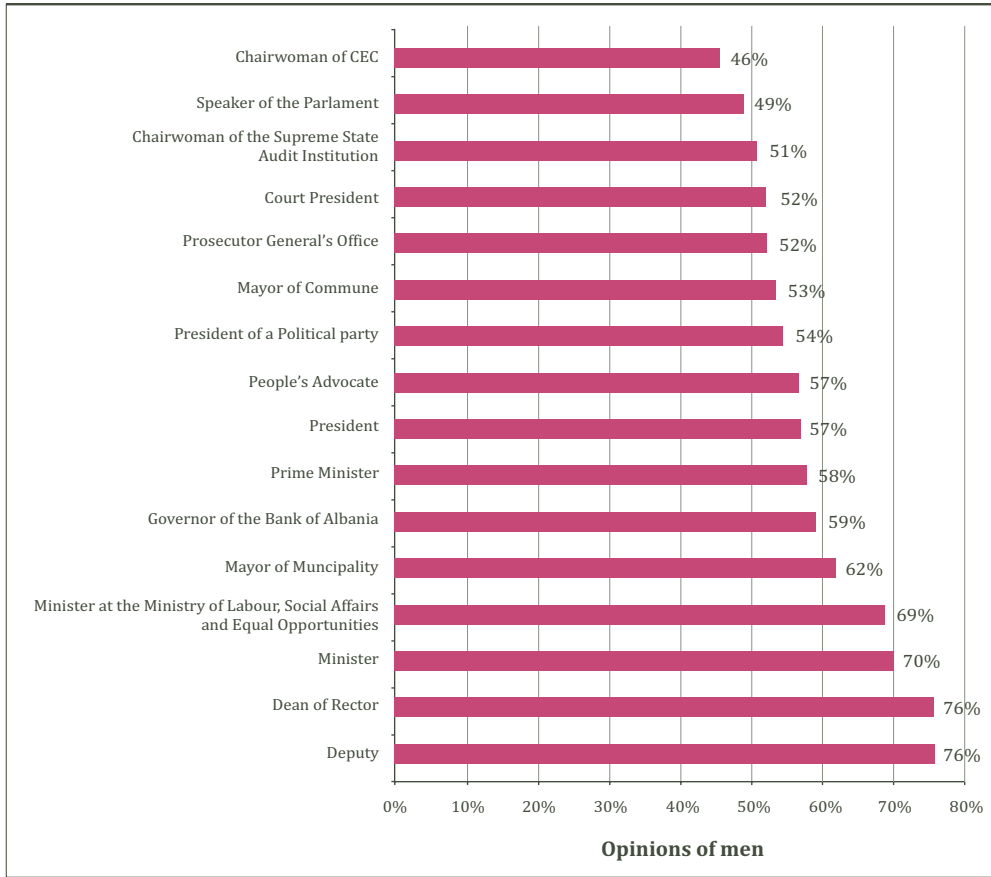
**Table 14. Positions in which the interviewees would like to see a woman**

		Yes	No	I don't know
<b>Deputy</b>	Men	76%	14%	10%
	Women / girls	<b>85%</b> <sup>23</sup>	8%	7%
	Total	82%	10%	8%
<b>Dean or Rector</b>	Men	76%	12%	12%
	Women / girls	<b>85%</b>	6%	9%
	Total	82%	9%	9%
<b>Minister at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities</b>	Men	69%	15%	16%
	Women / girls	<b>82%</b>	7%	11%
	Total	77%	11%	12%
<b>Minister</b>	Men	70%	17%	13%
	Women / girls	<b>80%</b>	10%	10%
	Total	76%	13%	11%
<b>Prime Minister</b>	Men	58%	29%	13%
	Women / girls	<b>77%</b>	12%	11%
	Total	70%	19%	11%

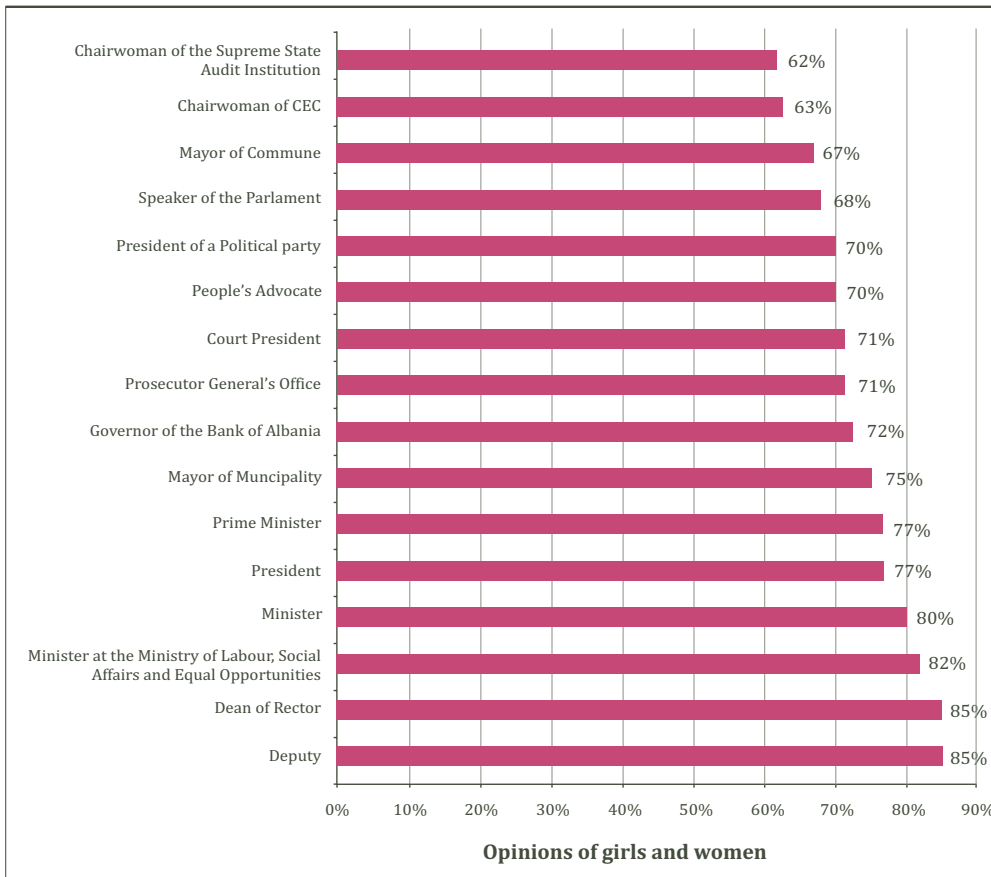
<sup>23</sup> Only the percentages, the value of which is statistically different from the other values which is compared to (women percentage against men rates) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed are not statistically different from each other.

<b>Mayor of Municipality</b>	Men	62%	23%	15%
	Women / girls	<b>75%</b>	14%	11%
	Total	70%	17%	13%
<b>President</b>	Men	57%	25%	18%
	Women / girls	<b>77%</b>	11%	12%
	Total	69%	17%	14%
<b>Governor of the Bank of Albania</b>	Men	59%	22%	19%
	Women / girls	<b>72%</b>	14%	14%
	Total	67%	17%	16%
<b>People's Advocate</b>	Men	57%	27%	16%
	Women / girls	<b>70%</b>	18%	12%
	Total	65%	21%	14%
<b>Court President</b>	Men	52%	31%	17%
	Women / girls	<b>71%</b>	17%	12%
	Total	64%	22%	14%
<b>President of a political party</b>	Men	54%	29%	17%
	Women / girls	<b>70%</b>	17%	13%
	Total	64%	22%	14%
<b>Prosecutor General's Office</b>	Men	52%	30%	18%
	Women / girls	<b>71%</b>	17%	12%
	Total	64%	22%	14%
<b>Mayor of Commune</b>	Men	54%	29%	17%
	Women / girls	<b>67%</b>	19%	14%
	Total	62%	23%	15%
<b>Speaker of the Parliament</b>	Men	49%	35%	16%
	Women / girls	<b>68%</b>	20%	12%
	Total	60%	26%	14%
<b>Chairwoman of the Supreme State Audit Institution</b>	Men	51%	31%	18%
	Women / girls	<b>62%</b>	22%	16%
	Total	58%	26%	16%
<b>Chairwoman of CEC</b>	Men	46%	33%	21%
	Women / girls	<b>63%</b>	21%	16%
	Total	56%	26%	18%





**Graphic 24.** Positions in which the male interviewees would like to see a woman



**Graphic 25.** Positions in which the female interviewees would like to see a woman

## The organs that can contribute most to the increased presence of women in politics and decision-making

Respondents also noted the role that they can play as voters about the increased presence of women in politics and decision-making. According to the interviewed media, NGO's that support gender equality and women's organizations forums can help more on increasing the representation of women in politics and decision-making. Respondents also noted the role that they can play as voters about the increased presence of women in politics and decision-making.

As it is revealed by the higher rates in the table below, respondents provide an important role to structures that can help to increase the participation of women in politics and decision-making. The Media (79%), NGO's that support gender equality (79%), women's organizations forums (77%) are structures that respondents, especially women (81% of NGO's that support gender equality; 80% for women's organization Forums) believe they can play a role in the empowerment of women in politics and decision-making. Also, it is interesting the power that respondents give to voters and to themselves as voters (75%) with respect to this purpose. This data suggests that the men interviewees (73%) and women (76%) are aware of the role they can play as citizens and voters in order to increase the representation of girls and women in positions of significant political power and decision-making. Political parties (70%) and the Parliament (69%) is thought that could have a positive impact in this regard. The influence of companies (45%) or of the CEC (42%) does not seem to be great, according to our respondents (Table 15).

**Table 15. Structures which, according to the respondents can increase the presence of women in politics and decision-making**

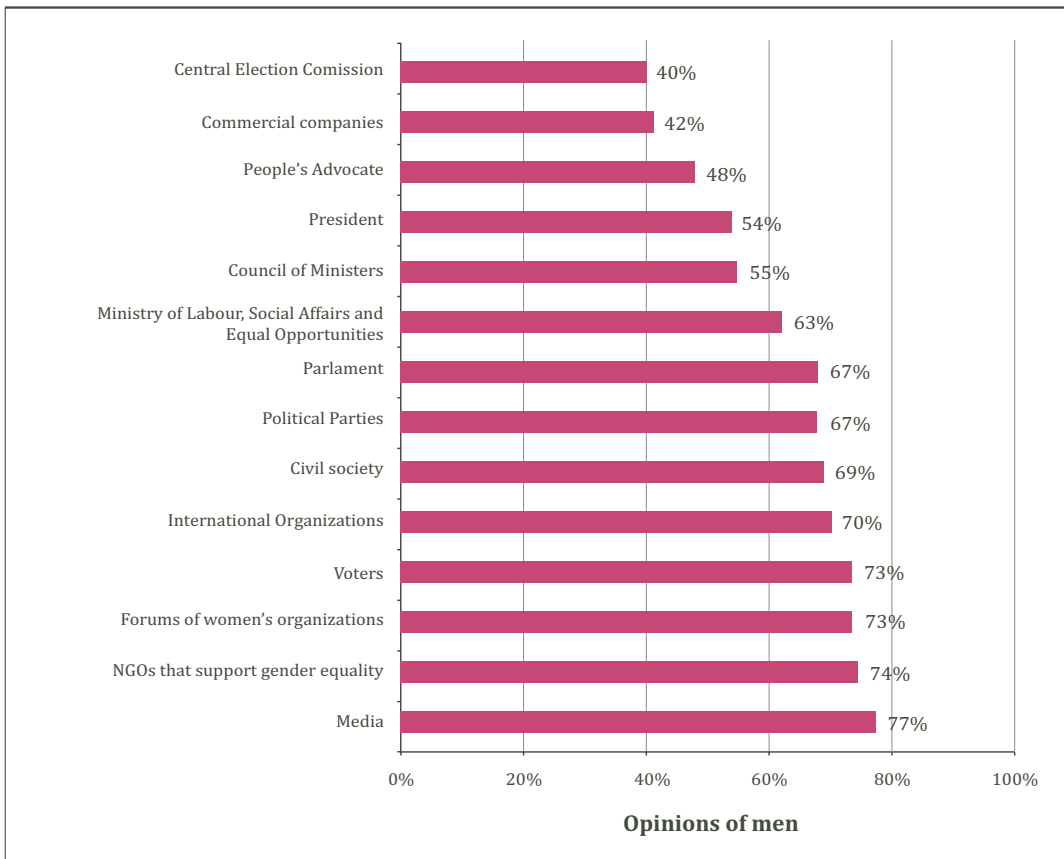
		Yes	No	I don't know
<b>Media</b>	Men	77%	6%	17%
	Women	80%	7%	13%
	Total	79%	7%	14%
<b>NGOs that support gender equality</b>	Men	74%	8%	18%
	Women	<b>81%</b> <sup>24</sup>	6%	13%
	Total	79%	6%	15%
<b>Forums of women's organizations</b>	Men	73%	9%	18%
	Women	<b>80%</b>	6%	14%
	Total	77%	7%	16%
<b>Voters</b>	Men	73%	8%	19%
	Women	76%	10%	14%
	Total	75%	9%	16%
<b>International Ogranizations</b>	Men	70%	8%	22%
	Women	73%	9%	18%
	Total	72%	8%	20%

<sup>24</sup> Only the percentages, the value of which is statistically different from the other values which is compared to (women percentage against men's percentage) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed are not statistically different from each other.

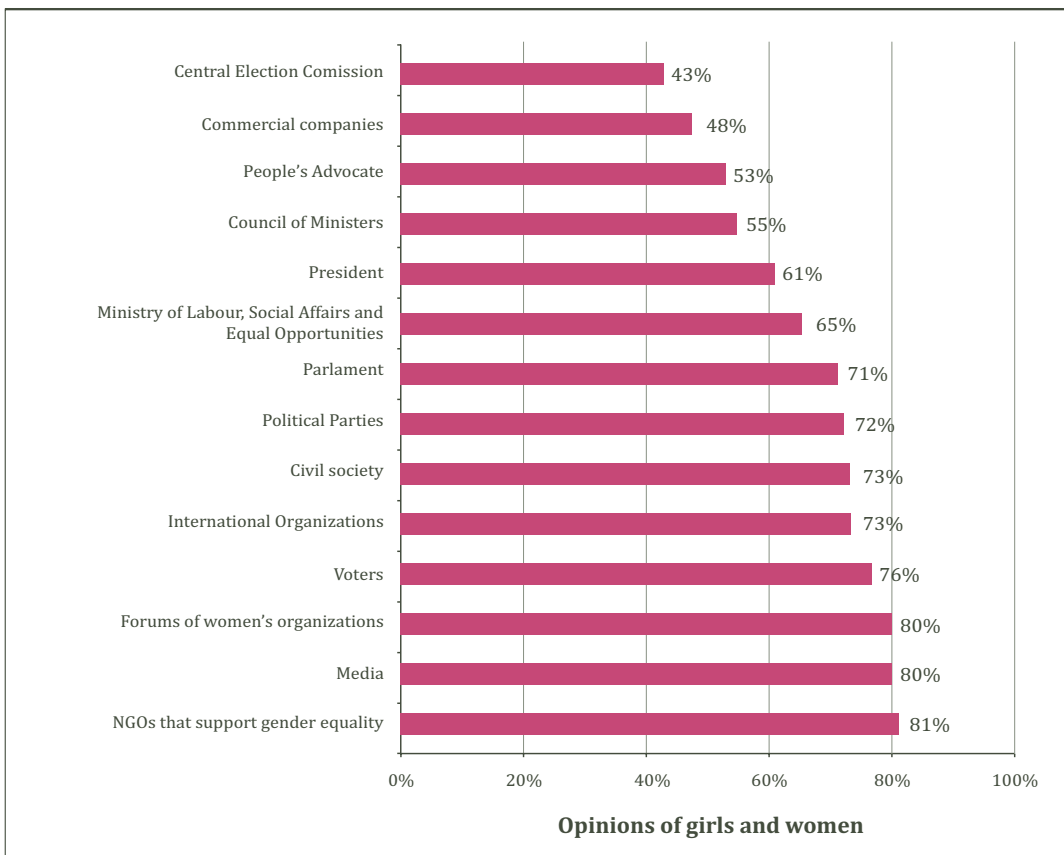
<b>Civil society</b>	Men	69%	9%	22%
	Women	73%	9%	18%
	Total	71%	9%	20%
<b>Political Parties</b>	Men	67%	11%	22%
	Women	<b>72%</b>	9%	19%
	Total	70%	10%	20%
<b>Parlament</b>	Men	67%	11%	22%
	Women	<b>71%</b>	7%	22%
	Total	69%	9%	22%
<b>Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities</b>	Men	63%	13%	24%
	Women	65%	12%	23%
	Total	65%	12%	23%
<b>President</b>	Men	54%	20%	26%
	Women	<b>61%</b>	14%	25%
	Total	58%	17%	25%
<b>Council of Ministers</b>	Men	55%	19%	26%
	Women	55%	16%	29%
	Total	55%	17%	28%
<b>People's Advocate</b>	Men	48%	23%	29%
	Women	53%	21%	26%
	Total	51%	22%	27%
<b>Commercial companies</b>	Men	42%	24%	34%
	Women	48%	23%	29%
	Total	45%	24%	31%
<b>Central Election Comission</b>	Men	40%	29%	31%
	Women	43%	30%	27%
	Total	42%	29%	29%

As it is shown by the graph below, male and female respondents with some minor changes have given similar answers concerning the role that give to specific structures that may increase the female presence in politics

**Graphic 26. Organs that according to female respondents can increase the presence of women in politics and decision-making**



**Graphic 27. Structures which, according to the male respondents may increase the presence of women in politics and decision-making**



## Means of communication and public awareness regarding the participation of women as voters and candidates

**National television, local television and the political debates broadcasted through them can help to increase public awareness about the participation of women as voters and candidates.**

Table 16 shows that, in general, respondents provide an important role in all communication media and public awareness about the representation of women as voters and candidates. However, national television (M = 4.11), local television (M = 3.93) and political debates broadcasted by them (M = 3.89) have a major role in this regard. Activities of political parties (M = 3.87) have a minor importance in relation to the importance of television channels. Meanwhile the press, newspapers (M = 3.84) and magazines (M = 3.67) are listed below by their role.

These data point out the responsibility of the media in the objective and non-stereotypical information related to female candidates and the contribution they play in increasing the participation of women as voters and candidates.

Brochures (M = 3.55) and posters (M = 3.53) were ranked last in this mission. These findings are consistent with data of previous studies. For example, the study ACER and ASET (2008) shows that radio and television have greater coverage for women candidates; another study also conducted by ACER and ASET (2011) shows that interviewees give to the media a fundamental role in promoting women leaders and candidates in local elections.

In the same vein, a study prepared by the Albanian Institute for Election System Development (2012), shows that the media play a key role in informing about the candidates for mayor in the local elections. Also, in line with the recent study is cited, that posters / flyers role remains very limited.

**Table 16. The role of means of communication to public awareness about women's participation as voters and candidates**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
National Television	4.11	4.11 <sup>25</sup>	4.11
Local Television	3.93	3.92	3.94
Public debates	3.89	3.90	3.88
Activites of the political parties	3.87	3.89	3.85
Newspapers	3.84	<b>3.91</b>	3.80
Radios	3.76	3.77	3.75
Communication through the internet and social networks	3.74	3.72	3.75
Magazines	3.67	3.69	3.65
Telephones	3.63	<b>3.43</b>	3.32
Brochures / Flyers	3.55	3.54	3.56
Posters	3.53	3.52	3.53

<sup>25</sup> Just average, the value of which is statistically higher than average value which is compared to (average for women against men's average) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (absolutely not) to 5 (absolutely).

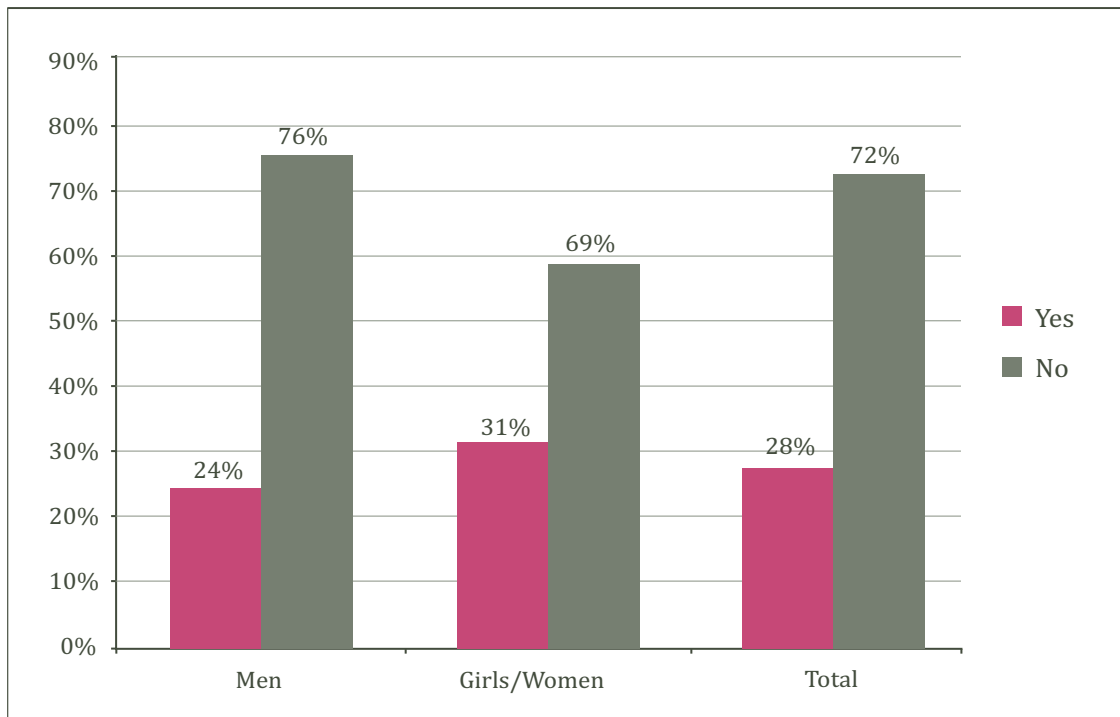


## VII. OPINIONS ABOUT THE GENDER QUOTAS

### *Information about the inclusion of gender quotas in the Electoral Code and the Law “On Gender Equality”*

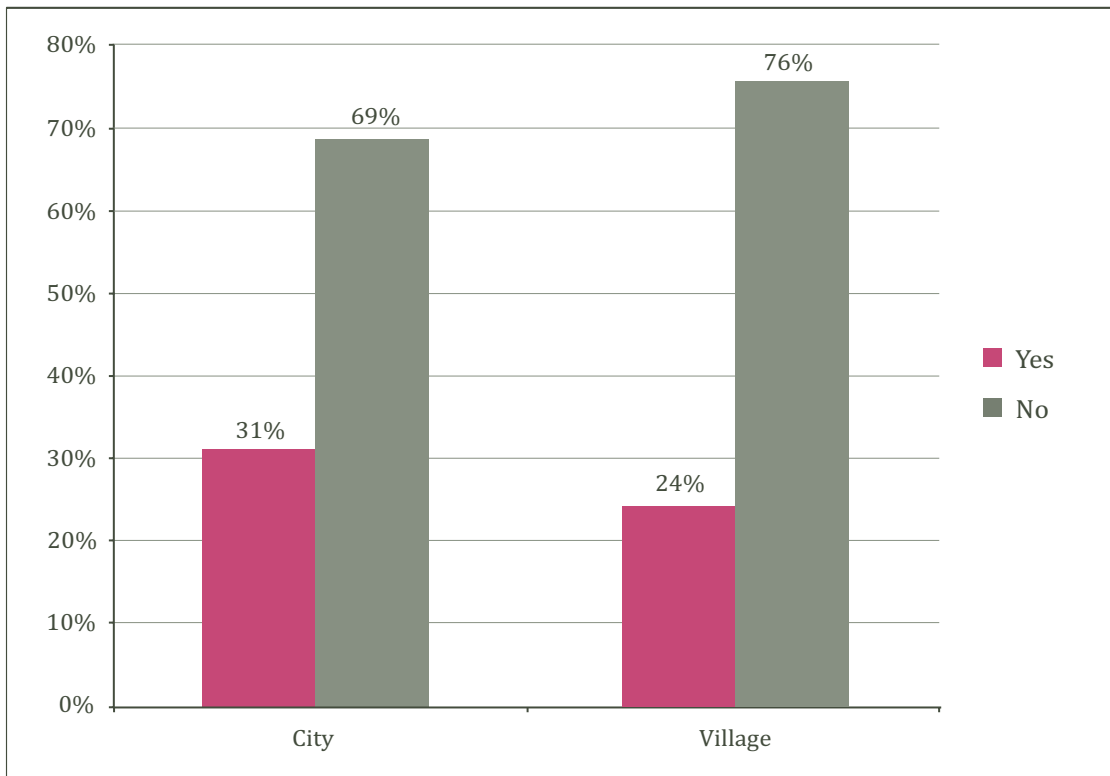
**Most of the respondents and especially of men and individuals living in rural areas are not informed about the inclusion of gender quotas in the Electoral Code and the Law “On Gender Equality”.**

Below Graphic 28 shows that the level of information the respondents about the inclusion of gender quotas in the Electoral Code and the Law “On Gender Equality” are very low. Only a minority of them (28%) claims to have information about gender quotas. Findings indicated that the percentage of men (76%) stating that have no information is higher than that of women (69%).



**Graphic 28.** *Information about the inclusion of gender quotas in the Electoral Code and the Law “On Gender Equality” by gender*

Another analysis shows that information about gender quotas and the law about “On Gender Equality” varies depending on the place of residence of the respondents. Thus, respondents who said they had not information are more from the village (76%) than from the city (69%) (Graphic 29).



**Graphic 29.** Information about the inclusion of gender quotas in the Electoral Code and the Law “On Gender Equality” by residence

### Support for quota

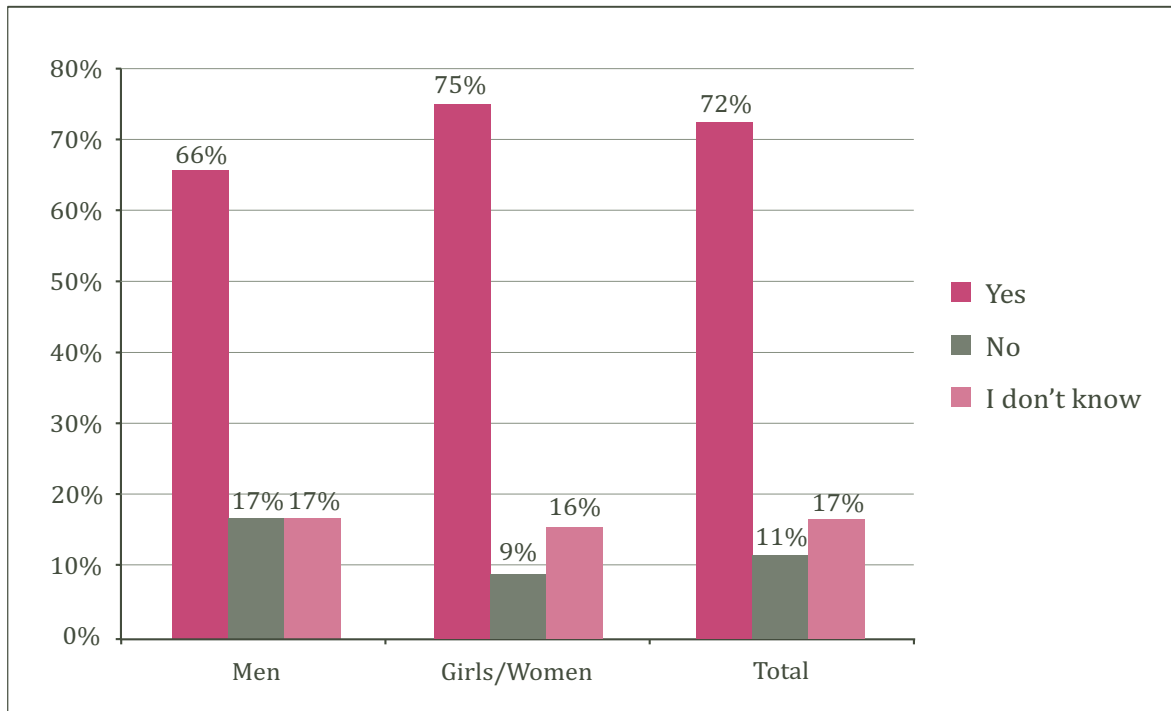
**Most of the respondents, who have information about the inclusion of gender quotas in the Electoral Code and the Law “On Gender Equality”, are conducive to the implementation of gender quotas. Compared to men, women are more in favour of gender quotas. The support for gender quotas is increased significantly after 2008.**

Within the group of people who claim that they are aware of the inclusion of gender quota in the Electoral Code and the Law “On Gender Equality”, most of them (72%) claim that they are in favour of the implementation of gender quota; 17% of the respondents are reluctant and 11% state that they are not favorable to it. It is not surprising that the proportion of women (75%) who claim that they are favorable to the quotas is higher than the percentage of men (66%) stating the same (Graphic 30). Results indicated no statistically significant difference between the support on quotas to residents living in the countryside and those who live in the city.

In comparison with the study conducted by ACER and ASET in 2008, the findings of our study indicate that there is a positive change in the attitude of individuals towards gender quota. Therefore in 2008, less than half of respondents (48%) articulate that they are in favor of the rules on the percentage of women’s representation in politics, while in our study nearly three-quarters of respondents (72%) are in favor of gender quota. Also, it is interesting to notice that from 2008 to 2013 there is a significant difference in terms of the percentage of people who are reluctant to be pro quotas and those who categorically refuse it. So in 2008, a very high percentage (36%) is expressed against the application of the rules on the percentage of



representation of women in politics, whereas in our study the percentage of rejections of the quotas is reduced by half of it (11%). These data, together with the findings that we have seen above, convey the idea that the Albanian electorate and especially the female is very favorable to the inclusion of women in politics and decision-making as well as to the strategies that can be used to support the strengthening of their role in politics.

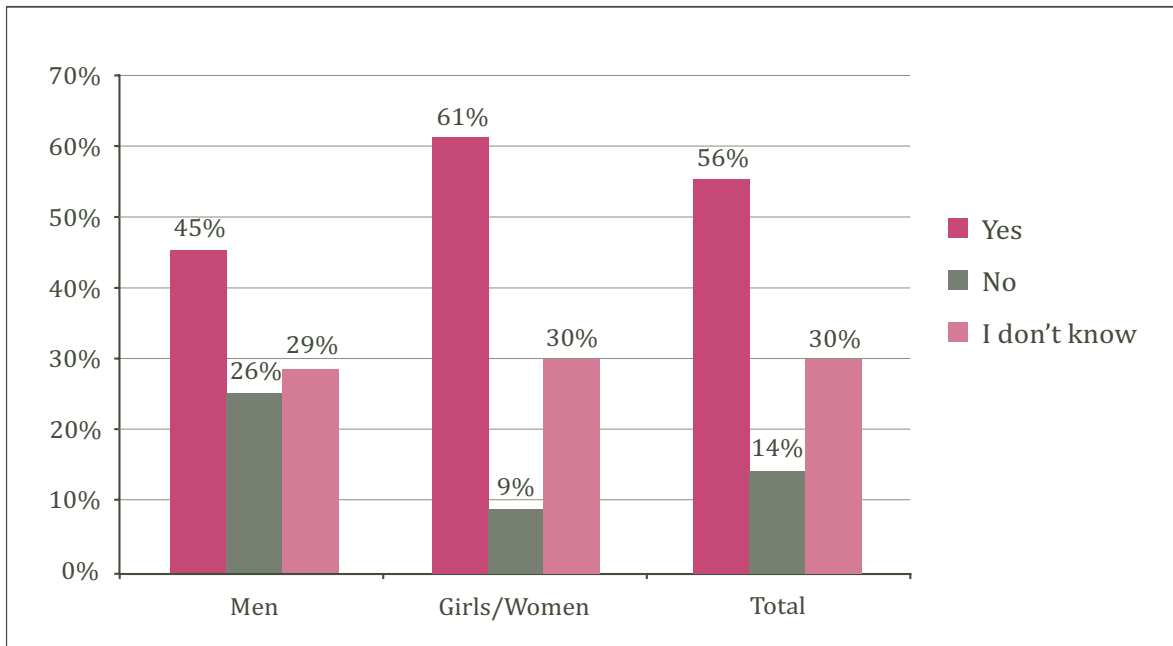


**Graphic 30. The support for gender quota**

### ***Voting for a political party that has met the gender quota in the multi-name list of candidates***

**More than half of the respondents, and especially girls and women are ready to vote for the party that has met the quotas in the multi-name list of candidates. The number of respondents who are reluctant, however, remains high.**

These findings indicated that if parliamentary elections were held today, most of the participants in the study (56%) would be inclined to vote for the party that has met the quotas in the multi-name list of candidates; 14% of them are against this idea, and 30% are reluctant. Graphic 31 shows that in this question there is a statistically significant difference between male and female respondents. In comparison with men (45%), women and girls (61%) are more likely to favor the party in the multi-name lists has respected gender quotas.



**Graphic 31.** *Voting for a political party that has respected the quotas in the multi-name list of candidates*

### **Perception about the impact of the implementation of the gender quotas**

Respondents' expectations about the impact of gender quotas are positive. According to them, the gender quota has beneficial effects as it strengthens the role of girls and women in politics, motivates their political commitment, augmented the female solidarity and creates conditions for the identification of new feminine figures.

Below Table 17 shows voters' perceptions about the impact of the gender quotas to girls and women remain positive. Thus, respondents who have information about gender quotas argue that the latter strengthens the role of women in politics ( $M = 3.89$ ), motivates their involvement in the political ground ( $M = 3.80$ ); increased female solidarity ( $M = 7.73$ ); creates conditions for the identification of new female figures ( $M = 3.44$ ).

However, everyone, regardless of their gender, of the interviewers express the opinion that the implementation of gender quotas can somehow threaten the male domination in politics. Thus, the high averages (more than 2.5) indicate that the quota may increase the competition between men and women involved in politics and decision-making ( $M = 3.36$ ) and the quotas can reduce the power of men involved in politics and decision making ( $M = 3.08$ ). But despite this threat, respondents are optimistic about the support that politicians will offer to women elected through these quotas ( $M = 3.20$ ).

These findings indicated that public opinion is generally favourable to the gender quota because it believes in the positive effects that its implementation can have on politics and society. Although, the Law "On Gender Equality" has generated fears?? the idea that politics could include girls and women who do not have the right qualities and characteristics of a true feminine (Kosho, 2009), respondents ( $M = 2.77$ ) and especially women are not of the opinion that women elected with quote may not be the ladies. Although the suspicion that the girls

and women involved in politics may not be capable of is not very strong, as in many European countries that are implementing the quota, programs must be drawn up to combat the negative stereotypes that often accompany the image of women elected through strategies and policies that support women's careers (Heilman, Battle, Keller, & Lee, 1998).

**Table 17. The impact of the implementation of the gender quotas**

	Average	Men	Girls /women
Strengthens the role of women in politics	3.89	3.80	<b>3.93<sup>26</sup></b>
Motivates women's involvement in politics	3.80	3.68	<b>3.86</b>
Increases female solidarity	3.73	3.53	<b>3.83</b>
Provides at least the minimum number of women who can have an impact on policy and on decision-making	3.70	3.72	3.69
Has a positive impact on Albanian politics	3.64	3.49	<b>3.71</b>
It is an effective way to increase the participation of women in politics	3.59	3.46	<b>3.64</b>
Is a right way to increase women's participation in politics	3.56	3.36	<b>3.61</b>
Creates the conditions for identifying qualitative and skilled candidates but less popular	3.44	3.23	<b>3.54</b>
Quotas will increase the rivalry between Menve and women involved in politics and decision-making	3.36	3.28	3.40
Politicians support women who are elected through quota	3.20	3.20	3.19
Affect the competition between candidates elected without quote with those selected through quota	3.10	2.97	<b>3.16</b>
Quota would reduce men's power involved in politics and decision-making	3.08	3.05	3.09
It is an artificial way to increase women's participation in politics	3.02	3.07	2.99
The female candidates elected with quote may not be capable	2.77	<b>2.92</b>	2.70

<sup>26</sup> Just the average, the value of which is statistically higher than the average value which is compare to (average for women against average for men) are highlighted (in bold). Other values not listed are not statistically different from each other. Responses range from 1 (no agreement) to 5 (completely agree).



## VIII. COMPARING THE RESULTS AMONG THE STUDIES OF AISI of 2012-2013 & ACER-ACET of 2008

The study of AISI provides a foundation for making a comparison on a number of indicators that are measured in a few years by other organizations regarding the participation of women in politics and decision-making. By the analysis of data, it is observed that in some parameters there is a progress or change, while in others some perceptions remain the same.

Therefore it is noticed:

- Increased desire of women to express their will through the vote
- A greater support for women in senior management positions as prime minister, president or mayor;
- A greater support for gender quotas (75% compared with 50% in 2008);
- A displacement of women's characteristic as less corrupted in the last place as the reason that urges voters to choose a female candidate against a male candidate;
- The role of women in the family is seen not as much of a barrier for their career in politics than in 2008;

Meanwhile, some areas still remain the same:

- The reasons of supporting candidates for mayor mayor of municipality or mayor of commune;
- The need to increase the presence of women in political life and in positions of high importance;
- Insularity of gender in the selection of a candidate;
- The perception that the political environment is dominated by men and women have little chances to be heard;
- The role of the media, especially television, to raise public awareness on the need for women's participation in politics;
- Areas where women think they can have more impact are to protect and respect human rights.

A detailed analysis of these findings.

**1. The reasons to support the candidate for mayor or municipality** remain the same such as *good reputation, ability to keep promises and the contribution of candidate to the community*. In contrast to the study of ACER-ASET, the study of AISI aims to identify other factors of influence on the behaviour of voters. Thus, our findings point out that voters when they *vote are influenced by the presence of the candidate in the media and the social networks (M = 3.55); by the quality of the electoral programme regarding the problem solving and community development (M = 3.44)*

**2. Increase of women's desire to express their will through the vote.** In 2008, the percentage of people stating that they would participate in the polls was higher among men than among women. Comparing the 2008 findings with those of 2013 *we notice a progress in the importance that women give to their participation in voting, an increasing interest to be represented through voting in decision-making and perhaps an increase in confidence in the political system.*

### ***3. The vote for a female candidate***

These findings reflect the same idea as the report's findings also conducted by ACER and ASET (2008) concerning the ***acceptance of increasing the representation of women in political life and national and local positions***. The details of the study conducted in 2008 show that most of the participants in the study believe that there is a need to increase the presence of women in political life. Also, in line with our findings, the data of this survey indicated that women more than men say they are favourable to the nomination of women in local and national positions.

In line with the study conducted by ACER and ASET (2008), for males (34%) and women interviewed (33%), the gender of the candidate is neither incentive nor an obstacle to granting the vote. Although on this response data indicated no gender differences, when respondents are asked about their tendency to vote a female candidate, the data show that female respondents (29%) more than the male (17 %) say they would like to choose the female candidate. Again, this finding confirms the results of research conducted by ACER and ASET (2008) which shows that female candidates are supported more by women voters than those men.

### ***4. Reasons for voting a female candidate for mayor of municipality or of community***

The tendency of women to be less corrupted ( $M = 3.28$ ) as a factor that determines voting for them, was ranked last in our study, in contrast to the importance given to this feature of the respondents who participated in the study «the public perception about women's participation in elections in Albania »(2008), ranking second. Despite this difference, the study of ACER & ASET (2008) on the same line as our study shows that the ability to understand better the social and family problems are the reasons that have directed the respondents to vote for a female candidate.

### ***5. Reasons for not voting a female candidate for mayor of municipality or of community***

Respondents, especially men think that women have little chance of being heard in the Albanian political environment that is dominated by men. This factor has been also noted by other previous studies (ACER & ASET, 2008) as a factor that pushes voters, especially men not to support female candidates.

The role of women in the family ( $M = 2.99$ ) and their commitment to the family in this study are perceived as less obstructive on the selection and their involvement in political life than in the study conducted by ACER and ASET in 2008, where this factor is considered as second of the most mentioned factors by respondents.

### ***6. The impact of increasing the participation of women in some areas and policies***

Comparing the data of our study with those of the study «the public perception about women's participation in elections in Albania» (2008) shows that in the two study areas where women think they can have more impact on protection and respect of human rights. This consistent finding in both studies can be explained by the perception of women engaged in politics as human and tolerant, these features that can make the decision-making woman more likely to fight for human rights.

### ***7. The nomination of girls and women in important positions***

The study conducted by ACER and ASET (2008) has also located a support of the respondents to the election of women as deputies of the Parliament. But the data of our study suggest that there is emancipation in the attitude of the respondents to important positions which can be operated by women and girls. Thus, if the study of ACER and ASET (2008) shows that "when we make predictions for women in higher positions (prime minister and president) in their responses participants feel not as much well with women in these leadership positions" (p. 43) Our study shows that in comparison with the opinions collected in 2008, 2012 respondents are willing to see women in important positions: they are open to the idea of women's nomination as prime minister, mayor or president.

### 8. Means of communication and the public awareness about the participation of women as voters and candidates

National television, local television and political debates which are broadcasted through them can help to increase public awareness about the participation of women as voters and candidates. These findings are consistent with the data of previous studies. For example the study of ACER and ASET (2008) show that radio and television have greater coverage for women candidates.

### 9. Support of quota

In comparison with the study conducted by ACER and ASET in 2008, the findings of our study indicate that there is a positive change to the attitude of individuals towards gender quota. So in 2008, less than half of the respondents (48%) they are in favour of the rules about the percentage of representation of women in politics, whereas in our study nearly the three-quarters of respondents (72%) are in favour of gender quota. Also, it is interesting to notice that from 2008 to 2013 there is a significant difference in terms of the percentage of people who are reluctant to be in favour of quota and those who categorically refuse. So in 2008, a very high percentage (36%) is expressed against the application of the rules on the percentage of representation of women in politics, and in our study the percentage of rejections of the quota is reduced by half (11%). These data, together with the finding that we have seen above, convey the idea that the Albanian electorate and especially the female is very favourable to the involvement of women in politics and decision-making as well as to the strategies that can be used to support the strengthening of the role its politics.

Area	The tendency compared to 2008	Comments
Reasons for supporting a candidate for mayor of municipality or community	=	The study of AISI brings additional factors that affect the reasons for supporting a candidate.
Participation in voting	+	
Voting for a female candidate	=	
Reasons for voting a female candidate for mayor of municipality or community	Change	The impact on the ability of women to better understand the social problems of the family remains the same, and their tendency not to be corrupted is ranked last in all possible reasons
Reasons for not voting a female candidate for mayor of municipality or community	=	
The impact of increasing the participation of women in some areas and policies	=	
The nomination of girls and women in important positions	+	
Means of communication and the public awareness about the participation of women as voters and candidates	=	
Support of quota	+	





## IX. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING THE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND DECISION MAKING

Promoting gender equality both in the areas of politics and legislation as well as in society is a long and complex process. Gender stereotypes and gender inequalities have been developing over decades; any initiatives to remedy those inequalities must be strategic and long-term oriented. It is also crucial to avoid a limited interpretation of gender equality, as only referring to anti-discrimination measures. Absence of discrimination is not sufficient to promote gender equality, but should rather be accompanied by concrete activities and positive measures contributing to substantive equality, equal opportunities, equal access to opportunities, and equivalent results.

This section outlines strategies and recommendations proposed as the next steps to achieve a more balanced political participation of women and men and for Albania to effectively comply with its international gender-equality commitments.

The future coordinated actions should support policy, institutional and organizational change to create spaces and processes, which empower women, focused on political parties and government. Also, should be a focus on enabling women to influence decision-making, alongside increasing the numbers of women representatives.

Recommendations are given in some specific directions, beginning with those focused on the current election cycle. Despite the challenging political context, consultation indicated that specific support should be offered to women's participation for the forthcoming elections, including a focus on political party capacity to increase women's participation. These recommendations are premised on the idea of a coordinated donor approach, to facilitate early identification of needs, and shared response in a constrained environment for political competition.

Since political parties are seen as the gatekeepers of democracy, governments and international organizations seeking to advance the participation of women in politics should focus on the role of political parties, as follows:

- ◆ Voluntary quotas to increase women's participation in party structures,
- ◆ Political parties' outreach to women voters,
- ◆ Strengthening of public and inter-party dialogue.

It is necessary to widely publicize the Guidelines on political parties, published in 2010 by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR) and the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), which includes examples of good practice while reviewing the main human rights instruments relevant for the issue of women's political representation.

Political participation also extends beyond parties. Women can participate in certain aspects of the electoral process independently, for example, by joining civil society organizations. Women's networks, non-governmental organizations, and the media can all provide avenues for the increased political participation of women, as follows:

- ◆ Public campaigns and support for women's political involvement,
- ◆ Gender monitoring of political forces: quality of men's and women's political activity,
- ◆ Encouraging a new generation of women politicians,
- ◆ Working with men as partners to promote women's active participation in politics,
- ◆ Reducing gender-discriminatory media information

Ensure that women and men have equal opportunities during election campaigns, such as providing public funding, access to the state media, setting campaign spending limits, and ensuring that campaign finances and expenditures are disclosed.

It is strongly recommended that governmental institutions keep on the reporting on gender equality development. As an additional measure, a yearly report from the Government to the Parliamentary Committee of Labour, Social Affairs and Health on the progress of gender equality in decision-making in the Albanian would be highly welcomed.

Several practical directions, which require special attention and improvement for efficient implementation of gender-balanced state policies, are as follows:

- ◆ Improving collection of sex-disaggregated statistics,
- ◆ Balancing the professional and private roles of women and men,
- ◆ Gender budgeting and analysis of state-level decisions.

In order to have a better promotion of young women's participation in political and public life, mentoring programmes should be introduced as an effective and innovative method. Mentoring, adequate training and exchange programmes are also some of the measures that are recommended in this part of the report as means to achieve gender balance in politics. ICT training should be used as a tool in education and training efforts, in particular, to overcome the digital divide between men and women in the use of new technologies, and to provide women with equal access to information.

The importance of media and education in encouraging women to participate in politics needs to be highlighted. It is important to monitor media coverage of women in decision-making to identify gender bias and means to address it, and thus promote efforts to eliminate stereotypes and encourage the portrayal of positive images of women as leaders in all areas of life. Setting up training programmes to strengthen women's media skills and ensure that women members are given a fair chance to speak on behalf of the party on a broad range of issues.

# APPENDIX 1: THE QUESTIONNAIRE

## QUESTIONNAIRE ON PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS 2012-2013

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I represent the Albanian Institute for Social Innovation. You have been selected casually, to be one of the three thousand interviewed in frame to this survey, all over Albania. The questionnaire is anonymous and all the answers will be treated in confidence and only for the purpose of the survey.

This survey intends to know your opinions about women participation in politics and decision making, and other issues related to this participation. You are pleased to respond spontaneously the questions directed by the interviewer taking in consideration that we are interested only in your opinions and there will be no categorizations of responses as correct or incorrect.

### PART I

#### THE GENERAL PERCEPTION ON GENDER EQUALITY AND ON WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

1- Are Albanian women less represented than men in leading and decision making positions?

1  Yes

2  No

3  I don't know

2- Assess from 1 to 5 the factors that actually limit the participation of women in politics.

Factors	1- Totally disagree	2- Disagree	3- Maybe	4- Agree	5- Totally agree
a) Women have less free time due to responsibilities and duties they have in family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Women are not given enough chances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Women have no confidence in their capabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Women are characterized by lack of aspiration to involve in politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Albanian politics is dominated by men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Aggressive nature of politics in Albania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Women do not have the necessary skills and qualities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Women fight less than men to do career	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Women do not have sufficient financial resources to cover election campaigns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Politics is a profession for man	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Women have less experience in politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) The prejudices impede women to be involved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) Other factor, (please specify) _____					

3- Assess from 1 to 5 the characteristics associated with the women profile currently participating in politics and decision-making at central and local level.

<i>Characteristics</i>	1- Totally disagree 2- Disagree, 3- Maybe, 4- Agree, 5- Totally agree				
a) Are able to take responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Are more sensitive on the citizens' needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Are open to debate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Are tolerant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Are firm and secure to represent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Have good knowledge on community problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Represent a good model of woman in politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Are uncorrupted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Are easily accessible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Keep promises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Are committed in solving community problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Are often characterized by aggressive behavior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) Don't have the required experience in decision making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) Have calmed political climate in Albania	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) Work hard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) Other characteristic, (please specify) _____					

4- Would you like to see more women represented in political decision making mechanism, in national and local level?

- 1  *Yes*
- 2  *No* → go to question 6
- 3  *I don't know* → go to question 6

5- If YES, assess 1 to 5 the reasons for which you would like to see more participating women in politics and decision-making.

<i>Reasons</i>	1- Totally disagree 2- Disagree, 3- Maybe, 4- Agree, 5- Totally agree				
a) Inequality between men and women should be eliminated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Women help more effectively to solve problems related to women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) The women are more intelligent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) The women can manage more efficiently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) The women are more successful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) The women can do same what the men do	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Women mitigate conflicts between political parties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) The women are less likely to become corrupted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) The Women emancipate politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) The women would give priority on solving community sensitive issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Other reason, (please specify) _____					

6- How many women are in the Parliament of Albania?

1(%)\_\_\_\_ 2(No)\_\_\_\_\_ 3(I don't know)

\_\_\_\_\_4(Comment)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PART 2

## PARTICIPATION AS VOTER

7- Are you a member of a political party? 1  Yes      2  No      3  No answer

8- Have you ever been a candidate in parliamentary or local elections?

1  Yes      2  No

9- Would you approve any of your family members engaging in politics?

1  Yes

2  No      → go to question 11

3  No answer      → go to question 11

10- If YES, the involvement of which family member would you support more?

a) Spouse:      1  Yes      2  No      3  I don't know

b) Son:      1  Yes      2  No      3  I don't know

c) Daughter:      1  Yes      2  No      3  I don't know

d) Mother:      1  Yes      2  No      3  I don't know

e) Father:      1  Yes      2  No      3  I don't know

11- Did you vote in:

a) National elections of 2009      1  Yes      2  No      3  Don't remember      4  No answer

b) Local elections of 2011      1  Yes      2  No      3  Don't remember      4  No answer

If per 11\_a and 11\_b the response for both is 3 or 4 → go to the question 14

If per 11\_a and 11\_b the response for both is 1 → go to the question 13

12- If you haven't voted, what are the reasons why you haven't voted?

\_\_\_\_\_

If per 11\_a and 11\_b the response for both is 2 → go to the question 14

13- If you voted, did the women participation had an influence in the party you voted for?

1  Yes

2  No

14- Are you satisfied with the policies of the party you sympathize / vote / support in terms of gender equality and women's political rights?

1  Yes

2  No

3  I don't know

15- Did you participate in electoral activities organized by the candidate or political parties:

1  Yes

2  No      → go to the question 17

**16- If Yes, assess 1 to 5 the reasons that made you to participate.**

<i>Reasons</i>	1- Totally disagree 2- Disagree, 3- Maybe, 4- Agree, 5- Totally agree
a) Sympathizes the party that organizes the activity	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b) Has interest to listen to the party and/or candidate program	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
c) Accompanied a friend/familiar/relative	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
d) The heads of the institutions where you work asked you to participate	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
e) To support the candidate whose you prefer more	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
f) Candidate proposed a solutions for your problems	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
g) Had faith in the candidate	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
h) To create personal recognition with the candidate	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
i) Other reason, (please specify) _____	

**17- If No, assess 1 to 5 the reasons that made you not to participate**

<i>Reasons</i>	1- Totally disagree 2- Disagree, 3- Maybe, 4- Agree, 5- Totally agree
a) Electoral activity was organized far away from your house	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b) Have lost faith in politics	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
c) Have no time	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
d) Have given up because prior activities did not attract your attention	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
e) Familiar commitments impede you	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
f) Hesitated because you are employed in public administration and sympathize an opposition party	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
g) Familiars don't support your participation in electoral activities	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
h) Electoral activities seems to me wasteful and worthless	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
i) Other reason, (please specify) _____	

**18- In the local elections of Year 2011, your information on voting procedures was:**

1  *Weak*    2  *Sufficient*    3  *Good*    4  *Very Good*

**19- In the local elections of Year 2011, your information for the candidate for local unit mayor was:**

1  *Weak*    2  *Sufficient*    3  *Good*    4  *Very Good*

20- Assess from 1 to 5 the reasons for which you decide to support the candidate for Mayor of Municipality/ Commune voted by you in the local election of the year 2011. (only for the persons who had voted in 2011 )

<i>Reasons</i>	1. Absolutely No 2. No 3. Maybe 4. Yes 5. Absolutely Yes				
a) The candidate represented the political party I support	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b) The candidate enjoyed a good reputation in the zone	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
c) I Have recognition/ personal /familiar relations with the candidate	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
d) The candidate had the best electoral program on solving problems and community development	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
e) The candidate in his/her campaign promised to support specifically the issues related to the children, youth and women	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
f) The candidate organized a fair campaign	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
g) The candidate was active in media and in social networks	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
h) The candidate was known for his/her contribution in community	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
i) Considered his/her skills/abilities to keep the promises	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
j) In the previous mandate, the candidate had shown that had kept the promises	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
k) Other reason, (please specify) _____					



### PART III

#### VOTING FOR FEMALE CANDIDATES

**21- If parliamentary elections in Albania would be held today, will you vote?**

1  *Yes*                      2  *No*                                      3  *I don't know*

**22- If the local elections in Albania would be held today, will you vote for a female candidate for mayor of Municipality/Commune?**

1  *Yes*                      2  *No*                      → go to the question 24                      3  *I don't know*

**23- If YES, assess 1 to 5 the reasons why will you vote for a female candidate.**

<i>Reasons</i>	1. Absolutely No 2. No 3. Maybe 4. Yes 5. Absolutely Yes				
a) If she will be a representative of the political force that I belong/support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) If she will have a good reputation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) I believe in women value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) If she is known as a good professional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Women are more likely sensitive on economic and social problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) If I know her from personal/familiar or social relation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Women are more communicative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Albanian politics needs more women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Women are less corrupt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Women are more firm and achieve more results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Women are more efficient in work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Other reason, (please specify) _____					

**24- Assess from 1 to 5 the reason why you will NOT vote a female candidate in local elections.**

<i>Reasons</i>	1. Absolutely No 2. No 3. Maybe 4. Yes 5. Absolutely Yes				
a) If she would not be the representative of the political party I belong/support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) If the women candidate doesn't inspire trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Women have less chances to be listen in Albanian political environment dominated by men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) I don't believe in women qualities and skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) The women are fragile to face and solve problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) The women are very committed in family and they give priority to this commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) The women have not connection and strong political support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) The women are influenced more easily from others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) I believe more in a male candidate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) I am not used to see more women in politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Other reason, (please specify) _____					



**28- In your assessment, who can more contribute in increasing women's participation in politics and decision-making?**

<i>Organization/Institution</i>			
a)Parliament	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
b)Council of Ministers	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
c)Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
d)People's Advocate	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
e)President	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
f)Political parties	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
g)The Central Election Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
h)Women's organizations forums	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
i)NGOs supporting gender equality	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
j)Media	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
k)Civil Society	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
l)Commercial Companies	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
m)International organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
n)Voters	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> No	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> I Don't know
o) Other Institution/Organization, (please specify) ) _____			

**29- In your consideration, which of information and communication tools contributes in public awareness on increasing the participation of women as voters and candidates?**

<i>Information and communication tools</i>	1. Absolutely No	2. No	3. Maybe	4. Yes	5. Absolutely Yes
a)Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b)Magazines	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
c)Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
d)Local TV	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
e)National Television	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
f)Activities of political parties	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
g)Public debates	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
h)Leaflets	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
i)Posters	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
j)Communication through the internet and social networking	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
k)Calls	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
l)Other tools (please specify) ) _____					

**30- If you will vote for two candidates similar from the skills and qualities, but one is male and the other female, would you vote:**

- 1  for the candidate who represents the party that you support / sympathize
- 2  gender candidates does not matter to me
- 3  for male candidate
- 4  for female candidate
- 5  I do not know

**PART IV**  
**GENDER QUOTA**

**31- Are you aware of the inclusion of the gender quota in the Electoral Code and in the Law “On Gender Equality”?**

1  *Yes*                      2  *No*                      → go to the question 34

**32- If Yes, give your assessment related to the impact of the gender quota implementation according to legal regulations.**

<i>Effects</i>	1- Totally disagree 2- Disagree, 3- Maybe, 4- Agree, 5- Totally agree
a) Is an effective way to increase the participation of women in politics	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b) Is a fair way to increase the participation of women in politics	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
c) Is an artificial way to increase the participation of women in politics	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
d) Have a positive influence in Albanian politics	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
e) Crushes the competition between candidates elected without quota and those elected through quota	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
f) Motivate women participate in politics	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
g) Creates conditions for the identification of the candidates with high skills and qualities but less visibility	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
h) Increases female solidarity	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
i) Empowers the role of women in politics	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
j) At least, ensures the minimum number of participating women that might have influence in politics and decision making	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
k) Quota will increase rivalry between men and women involved in politics and decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
l) Quota would reduce the power of the male involved in politics and decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
m) Politicians support women elected through quota	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
n) Women elected by quota may not be capable	
o) Other, (please specify) _____	

**33- Are you pro the implementation of the gender quota?**

1  *Yes*                      2  *No*                      3  *I don't know*

**34- If the next parliamentary elections would be held today, would you vote more for a party who have respected gender quota in the multi-name list of candidates?**

1  *Yes*                      2  *No*                      3  *I don't know*

**PART V****Personal data for the interviewed**

Dated \_\_. \_\_. 2012                      Time of the interview \_\_\_\_\_                      32-Region (Qarku) \_\_\_\_\_

36-Gender:                      1  Male                      2  Female

37-Residence:                      1  City                      2  Village

38-Specify the name of Village/Commune/City \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/

39-Age:

1  18-24    2  25-29    3  30-34    4  35-39    5  40-44    6  45-49  
7  50-54    8  55-59    9  60 +

40- Civil status:

1  Single                      2  Cohabitation                      3  Married                      4  Divorced                      5  Widow

41- No. of children:

1  No children    2  up to 2 children    3  3-5 children    4  6 children and more

42-The highest educational level you have completed:

1  No education    2  Primary                      3  High school  
4  University (at least Bachelor)                      5  Post university

43-Employment status:

1  Employed  
2  Self employed                      → go to question 45  
3  Unemployed                      → go to question 45  
4  Student                      → go to question 45  
5  Retired                      → go to question 45  
6  Other \_\_\_\_\_                      → go to question 45

44- If you are employed, you work in:    1  Public sector                      2  Private sector

45- How are your monthly average incomes of your family in ALL?

1  Up to 20.000 ALL    2  20.001-50.000 ALL    3  50.000 – 80.000 ALL    4  over 80.001 ALL

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