



OTVORENI PARLAMENT

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**AUDIT OF POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT
IN SERBIA
2014**



As part of the initiative Open Parliament, the Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA) conducted its second „Audit of Political Engagement in Serbia“ with support of the Ipsos Strategic Marketing, British Embassy Belgrade and National Democratic Institute.

The Audit presents the assessment of the state of democracy in a society. Its main objective was to determine the level of citizens' interest and motivation to participate in democratic processes in Serbia, including different forms of engagement: from voting in elections to concrete actions. The level of citizens' motivation to participate in political processes, exercise their civic rights and influence decision making is the main indicator of the 'health' of a society.

METHODOLOGY

- ✓ **Sample type:** Three-stage stratified random representative sample (First stage unit: Territory of polling station; Second stage unit: Households – SRSWoR – random procedure; Third stage unit: Respondents within households - Kish grids)
- ✓ **Sample size:** 2014 n=1040, 2013 n=1060
- ✓ **Data collection method:** Face-to-face at the respondent's household
- ✓ **Data collection period:** August 21 – 25, 2014
February 15 – 25, 2013
- ✓ **Post-stratification:** According to gender, age and region
- ✓ **Margin error:** ±3.31%

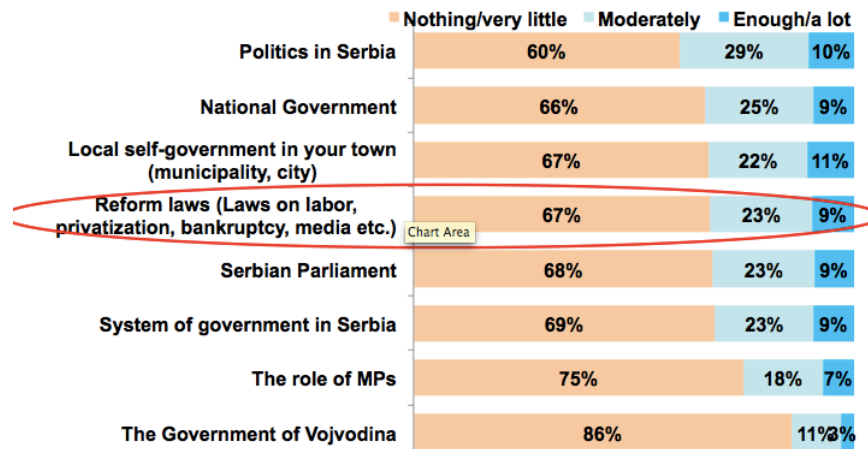
Citizen participation in democratic processes was surveyed through three groups of indicators:

- ✓ Knowledge and interest
- ✓ Engagement and participation
- ✓ Satisfaction with the work of the Parliament and the Government, and confidence in the effectiveness of civic participation

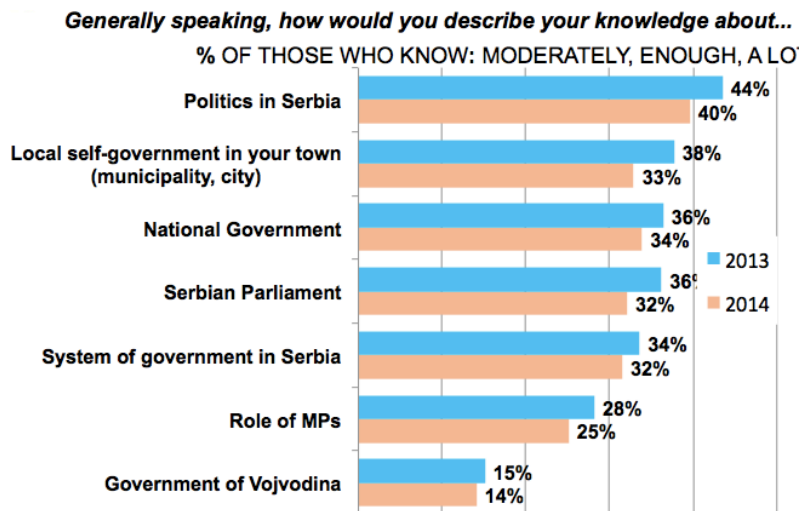
1. KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST

Majority of citizens feel they do not have even moderate knowledge about politics and democratic institutions in Serbia.

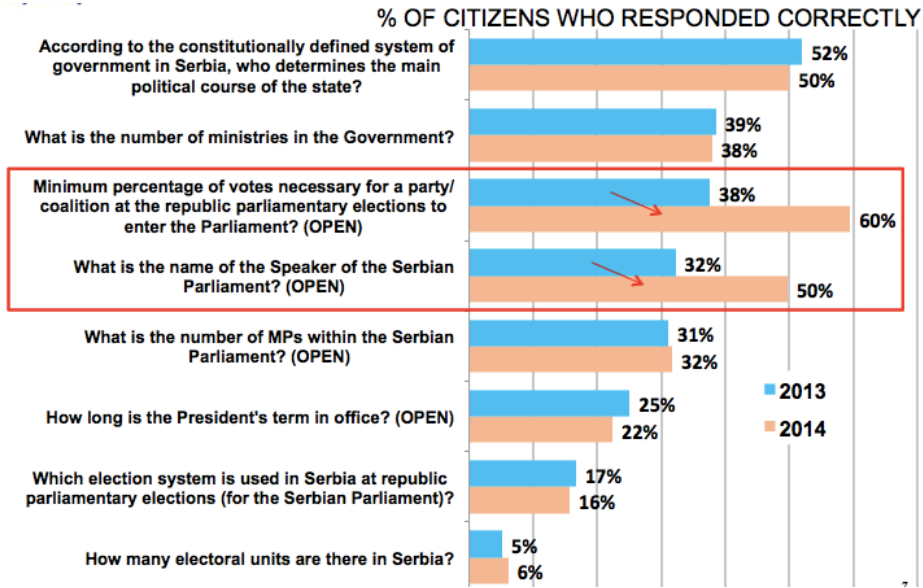
Generally speaking, how would you describe your knowledge about... ?



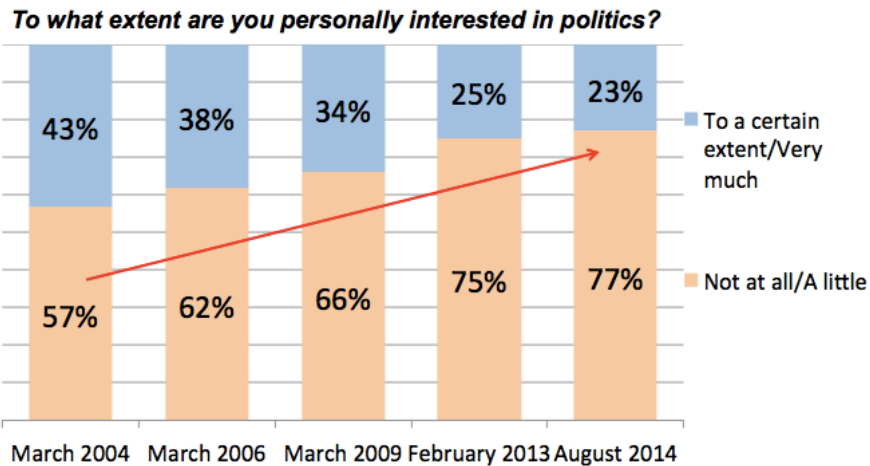
Percentage of citizens who feel they are at least moderately informed is even lower than in 2013.



On the other hand, citizens are better informed about some issues, while their knowledge of majority of issues remained poor.

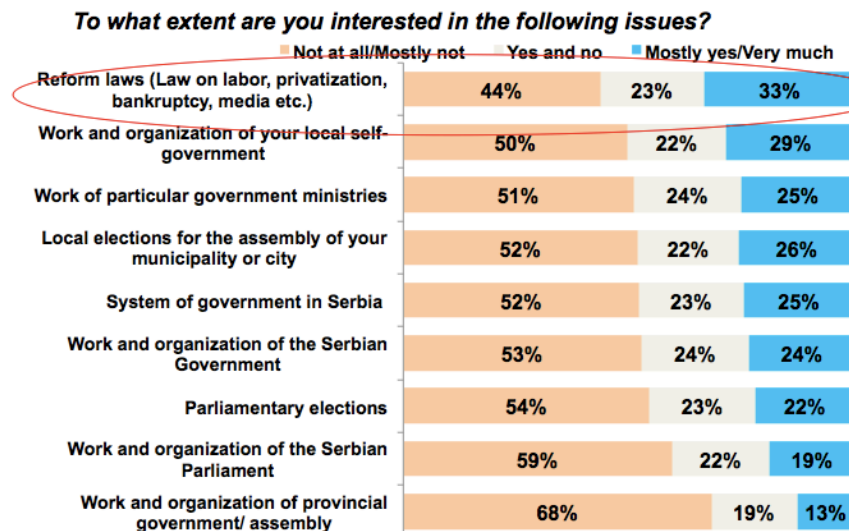


Citizens' interest in politics is steadily deteriorating. In August 2014 only 23% of citizens stated they were at least partially interested in politics, which is 20% less than in 2004.

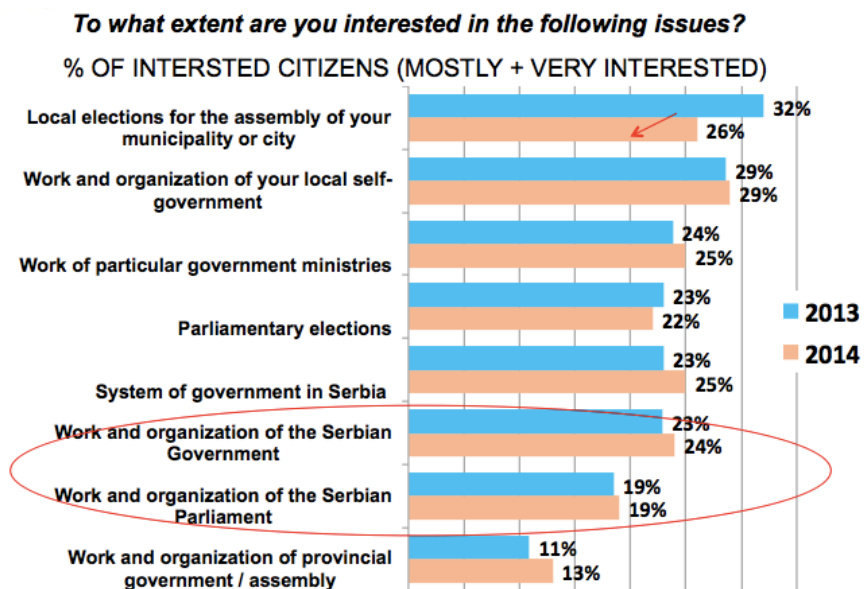


Source: Public opinion polls for the International Republican Institute, 2004, 2006, 2009

Citizens lack interest in issues related to politics and the work of democratic institutions in Serbia. They are mostly interested in the new reform laws, which are of interest for one third of citizens.



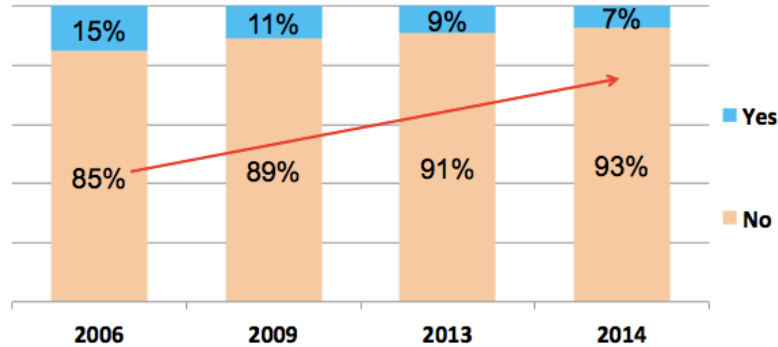
If compared to the 2013 survey, there are no specific changes with regard to citizens' interest in politics and the work of democratic institutions in Serbia.



2. ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Decreasing number of citizens are engaged in problem solving in their local community.

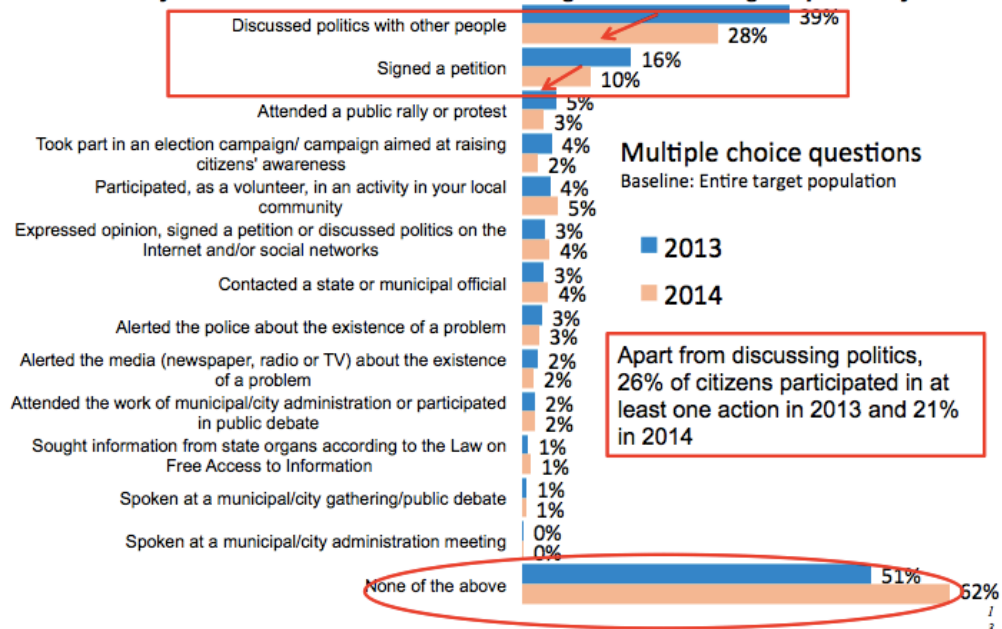
During the past year, have you initiated or actively participated in any action or initiative pertaining to solving some problem in your local community?



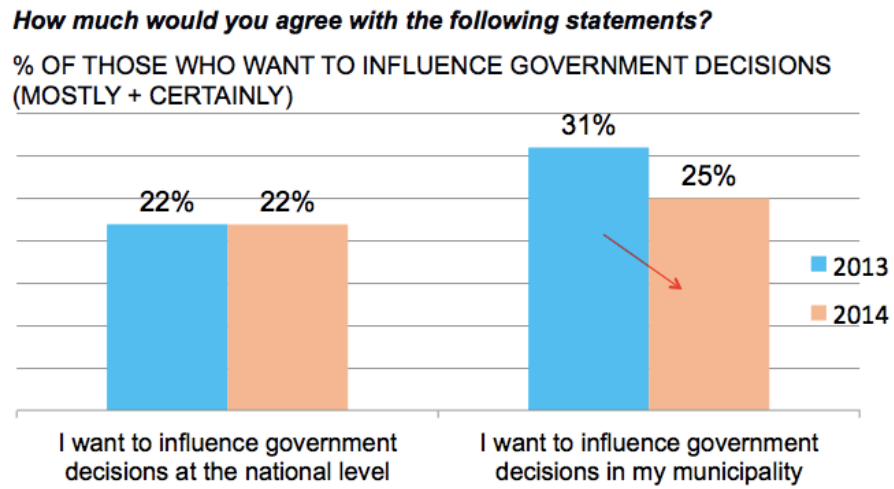
Source: Public opinion on NGOs in Serbia, 2006 and 2009, Ipsos Strategic Marketing for the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) and USAID

Percentage of citizens who participated in at least one of the following actions is 11% lower than in 2013.

Have you undertaken some of the following activities during the past 2-3 years?

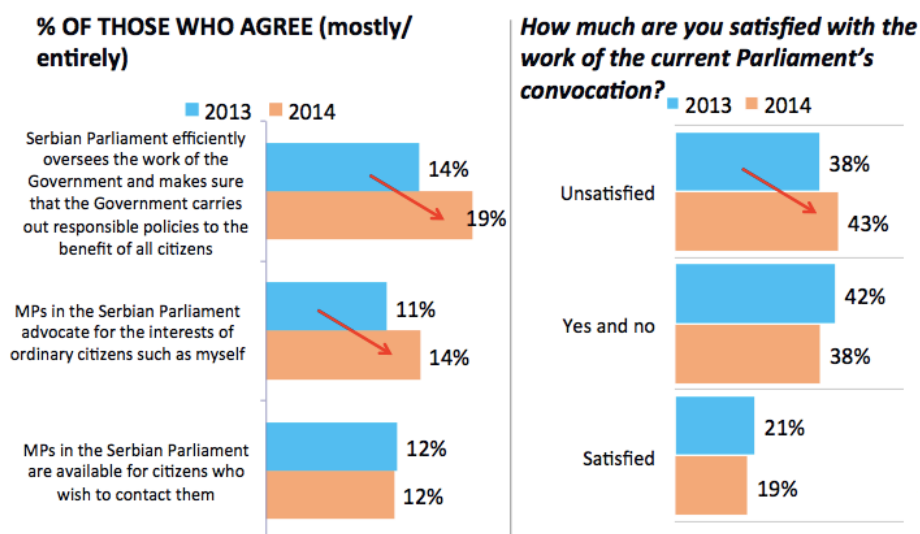


Low percentage of citizens want to influence government decisions. If compared to the 2013 survey, percentage of citizens who want to influence government decisions is even lower.



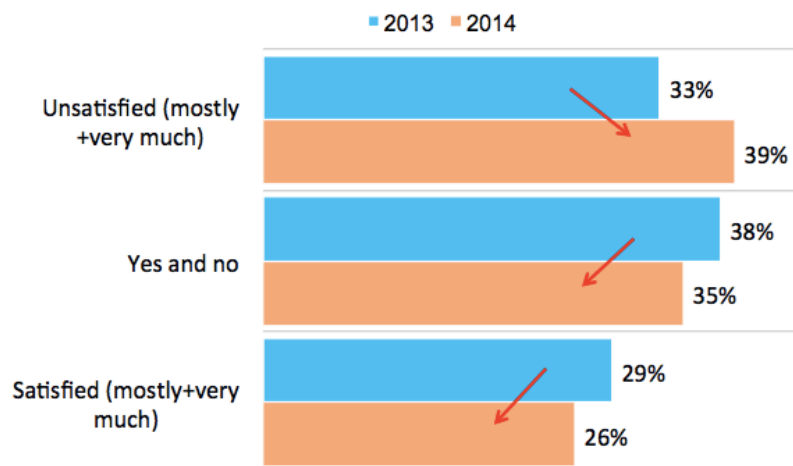
3. SATISFACTION WITH THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT AND CONFIDENCE IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Very low percentage of citizens believe that the Parliament of Serbia works for the overall benefit of citizens. Their stands are more positive if compared to 2013, while the satisfaction with the work of the Parliament remained poor.



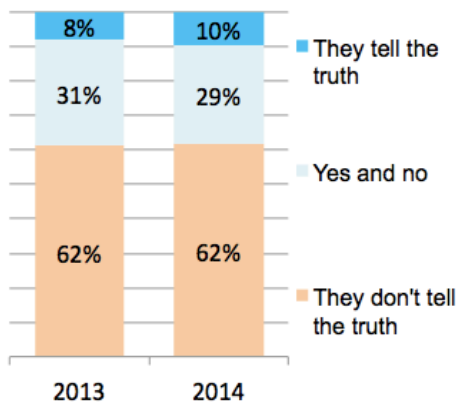
Dissatisfaction with the work of the Government slightly increased as well – only one quarter of citizens are mostly satisfied.

Generally speaking, how much are you satisfied or unsatisfied with the work of the Government of Serbia?

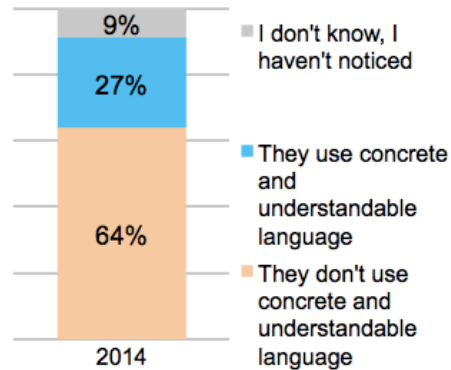


Majority of citizens do not believe that politicians tell them the truth. Majority of citizens believe that politicians use language which is not understandable to the common citizen when talking about the reform laws.

How much do politicians in Serbia tell citizens the truth?

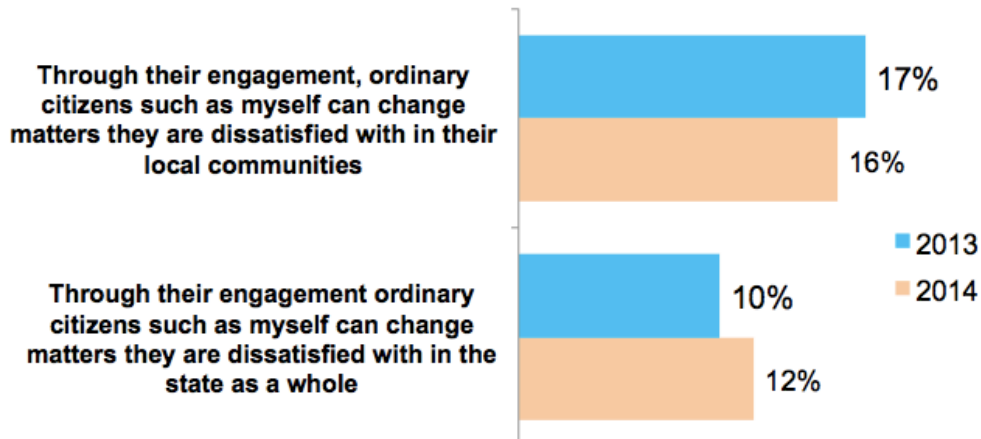


How much do politicians use concrete and understandable language when speaking about the reform laws?



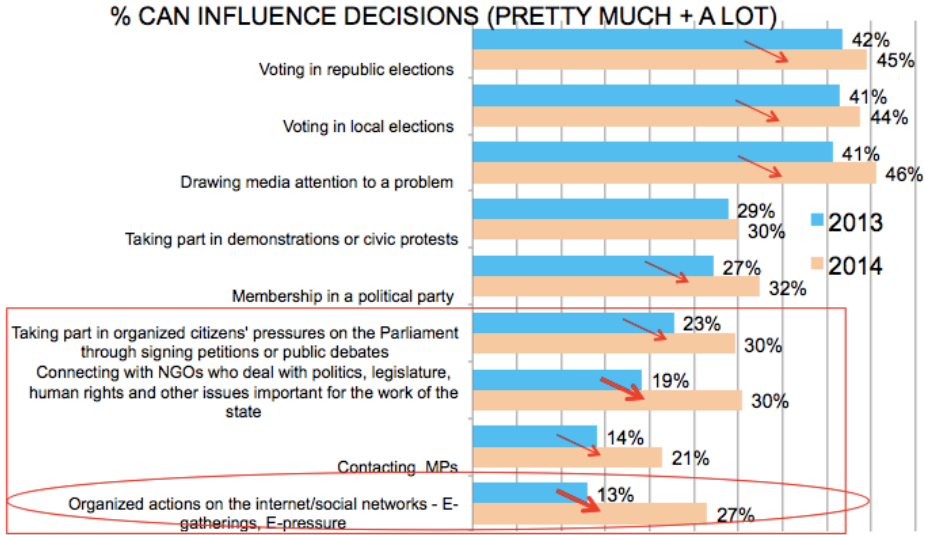
Very low percentage of citizens generally believe that their engagement can influence changes in local communities and in the country as a whole. This percentage hasn't particularly changed if compared to 2013.

% MOSTLY / ENTIRELY AGREE



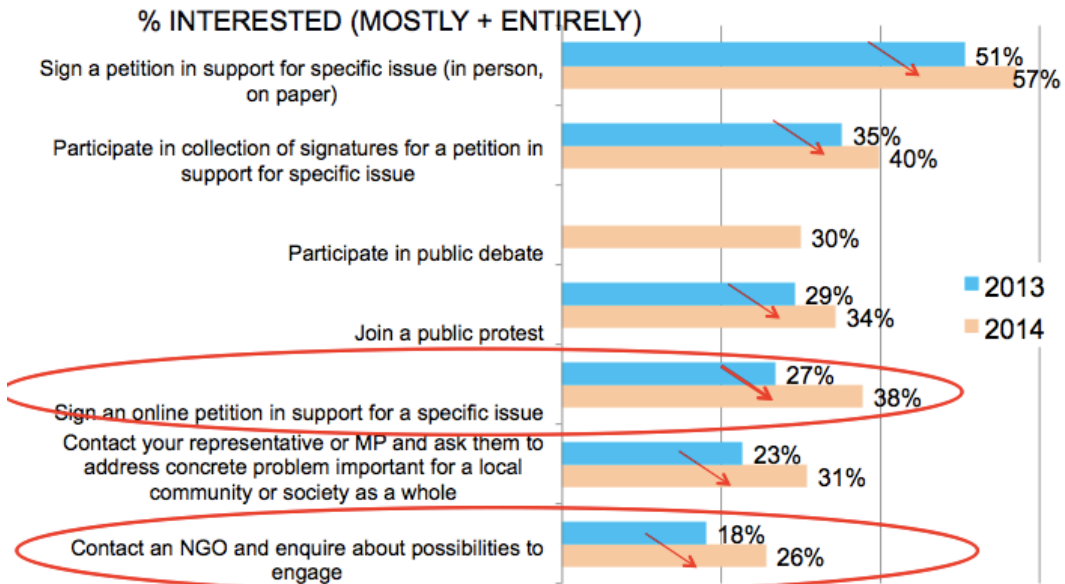
On the other hand, percentage of citizens who believe they can influence changes in the country through specific actions significantly increased.

Which of the following activities do you believe can influence changes you perceive necessary in our state?



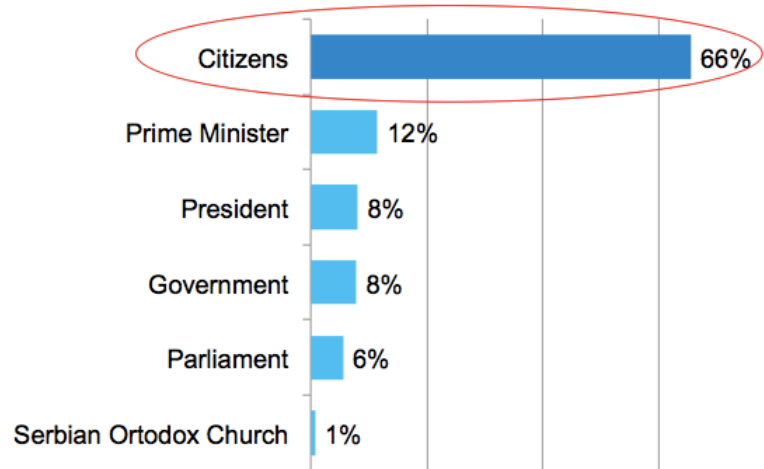
Number of citizens interested to participate in actions towards influencing changes in the country and government decisions also increased.

How much are you personally interested to...?



Majority of citizens is aware of the fact that politicians have to be accountable to the citizens.

Who do you think politicians are accountable to for their performance and statements?



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