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Corruption trends in the Balkan region: where we stand

Alexander Gerganov

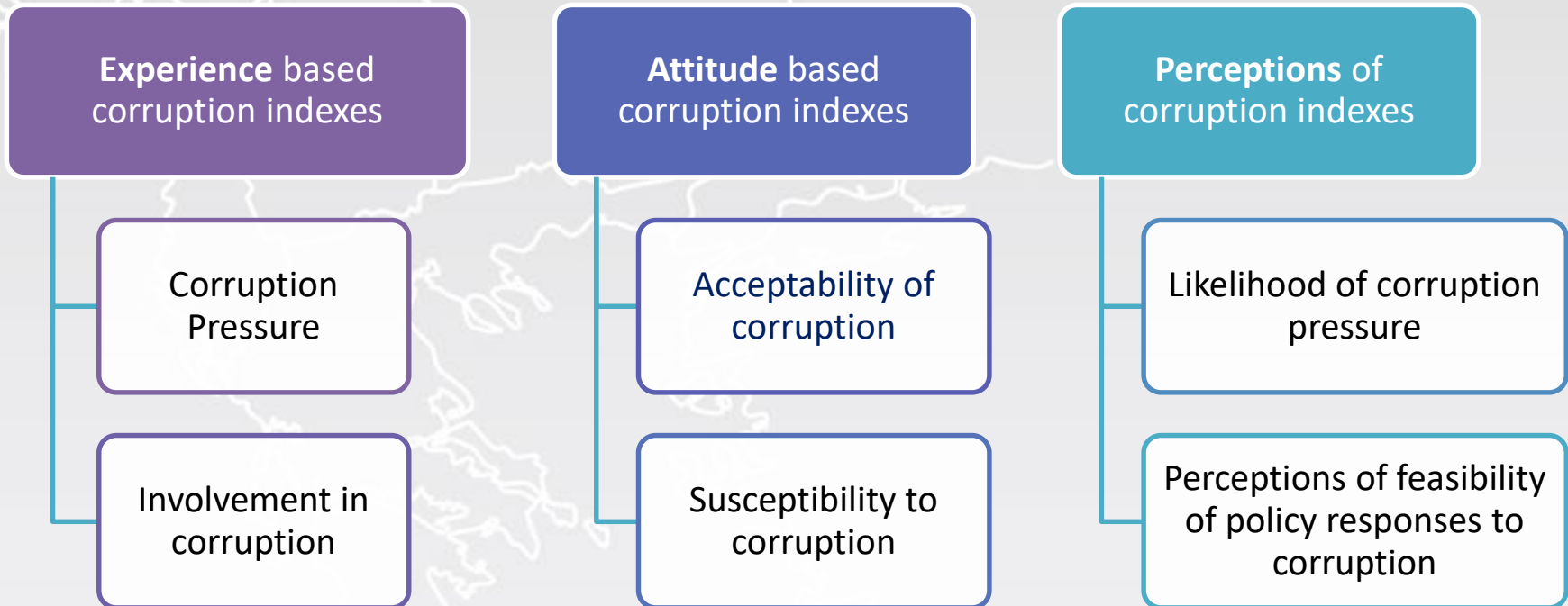
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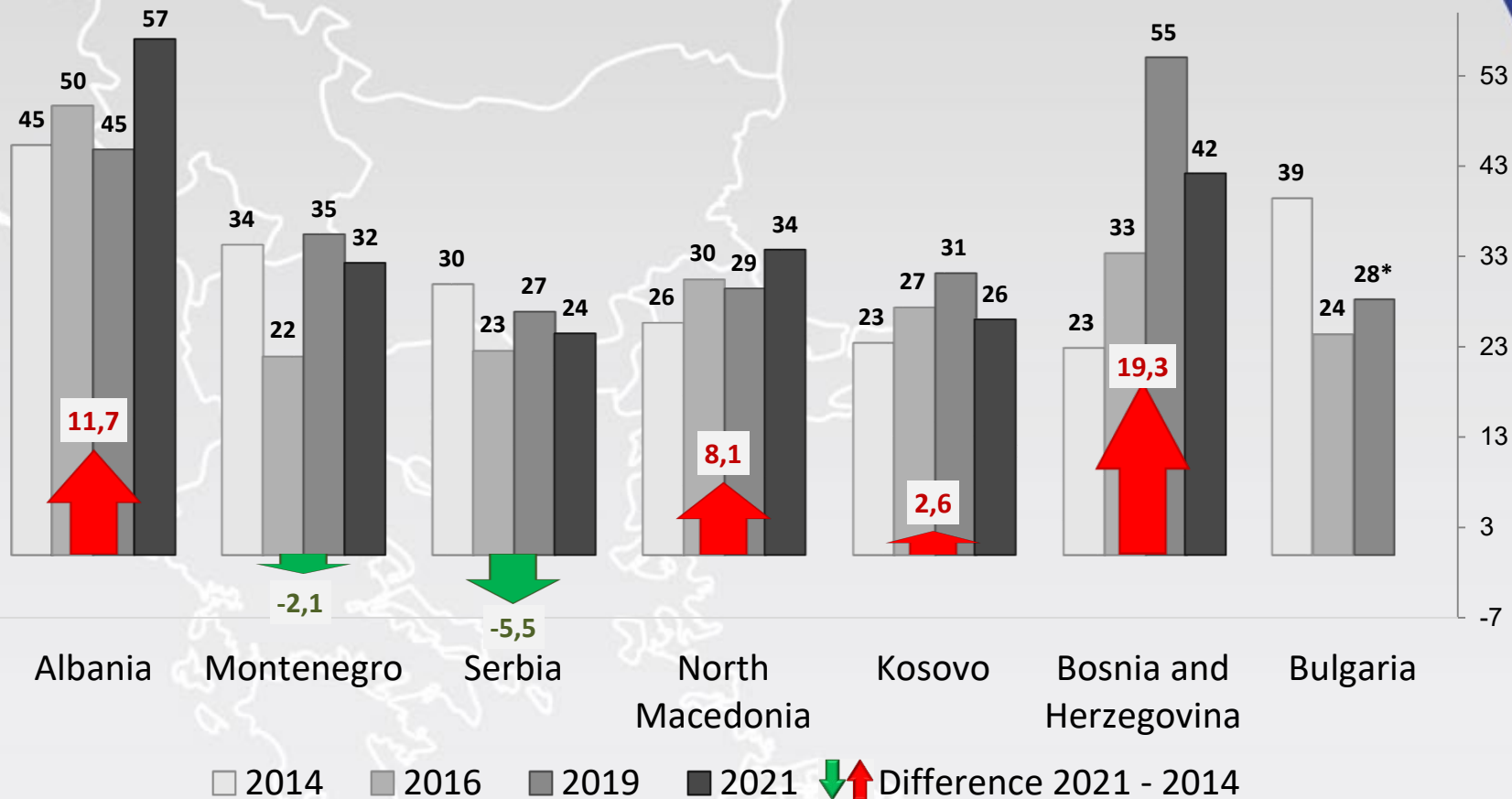


The R2G4P project, coordinated by the Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria benefits from a € 1.5 million grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation.

Principle corruption assessment indexes from the Corruption Monitoring System

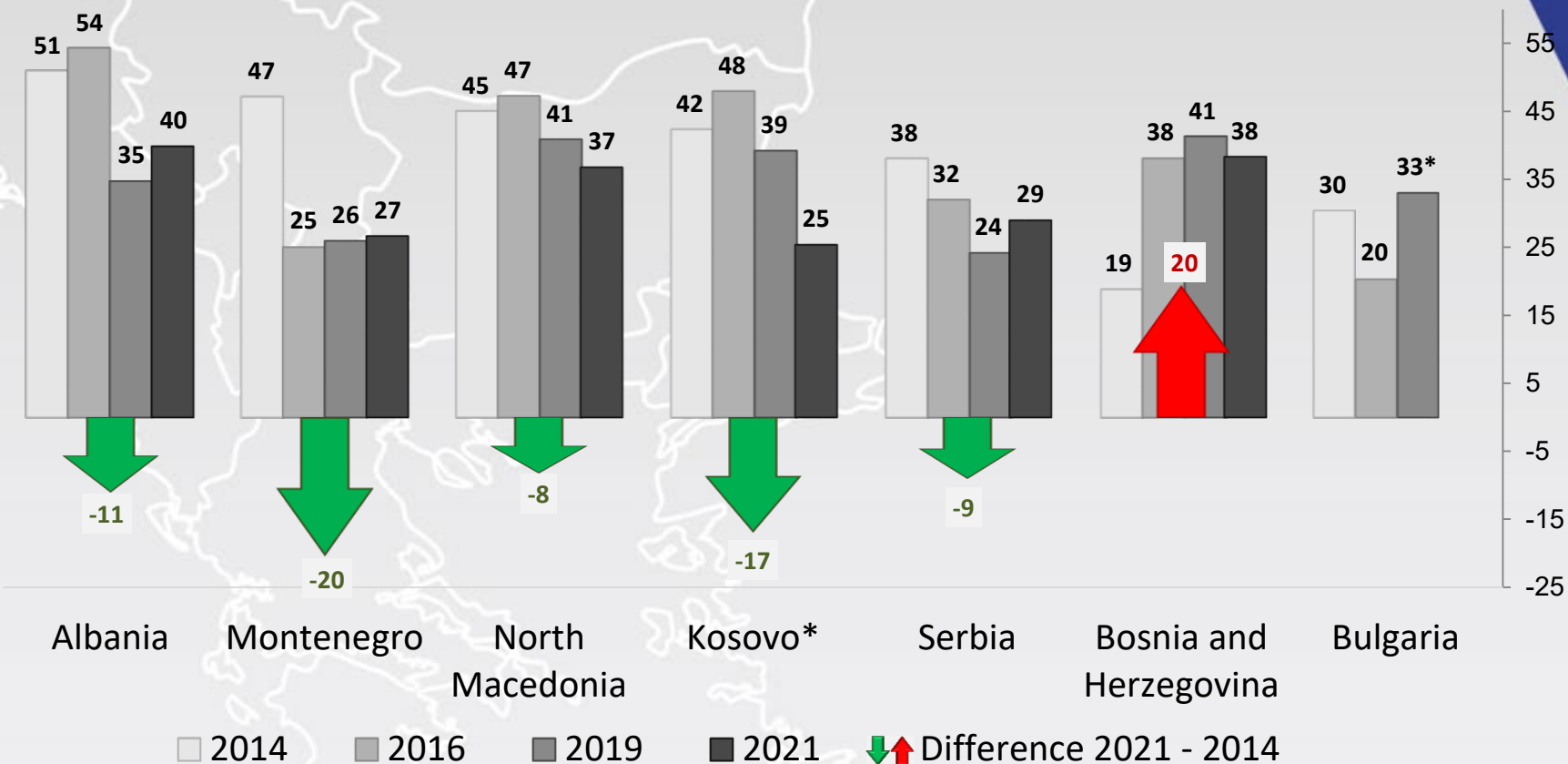


Corruption pressure in the Balkan region



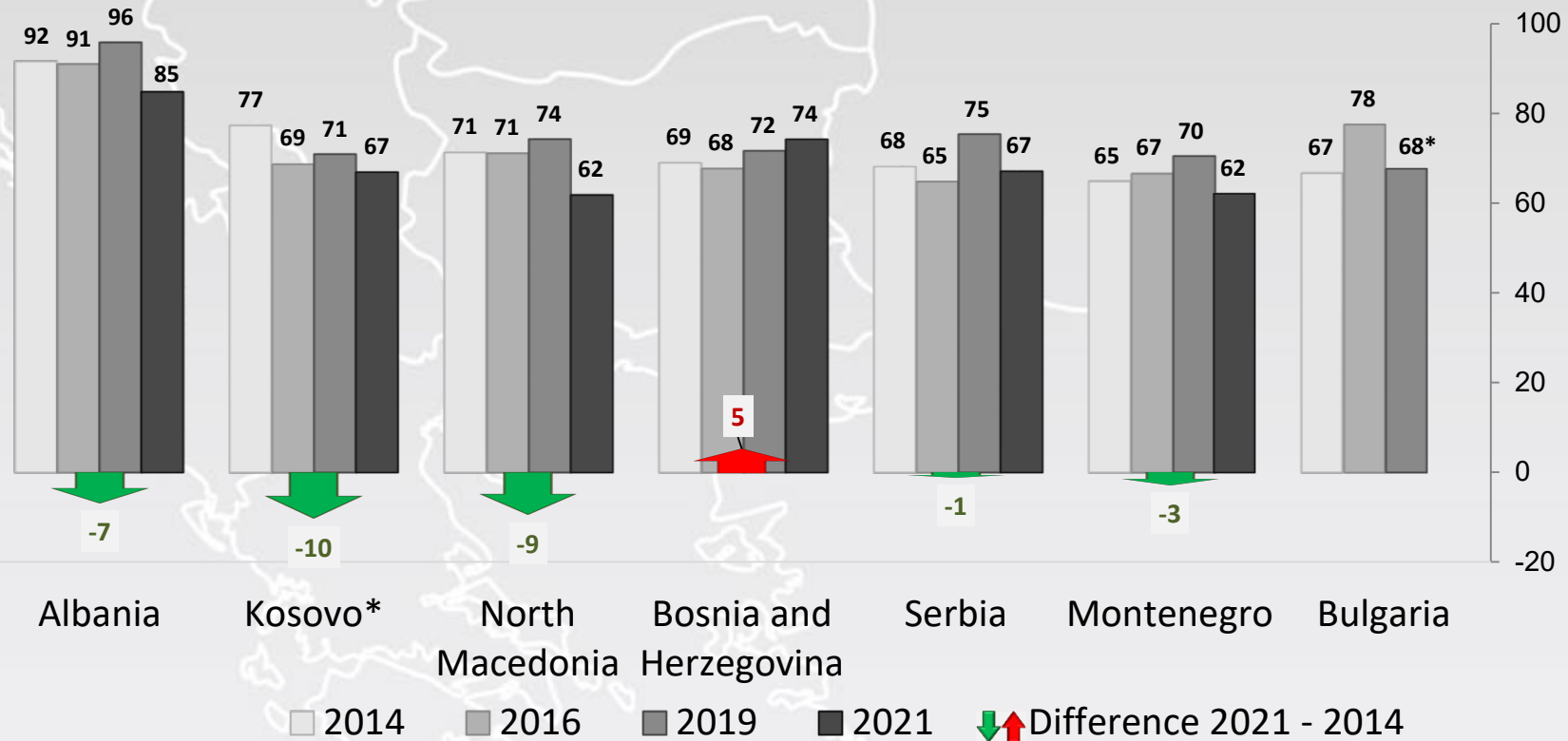
*Data for Bulgaria is for 2014, 2016 and **2018**

Acceptability of corruption is decreasing since 2014 in most Balkan countries



*Data for Bulgaria is for 2014, 2016 and **2018**

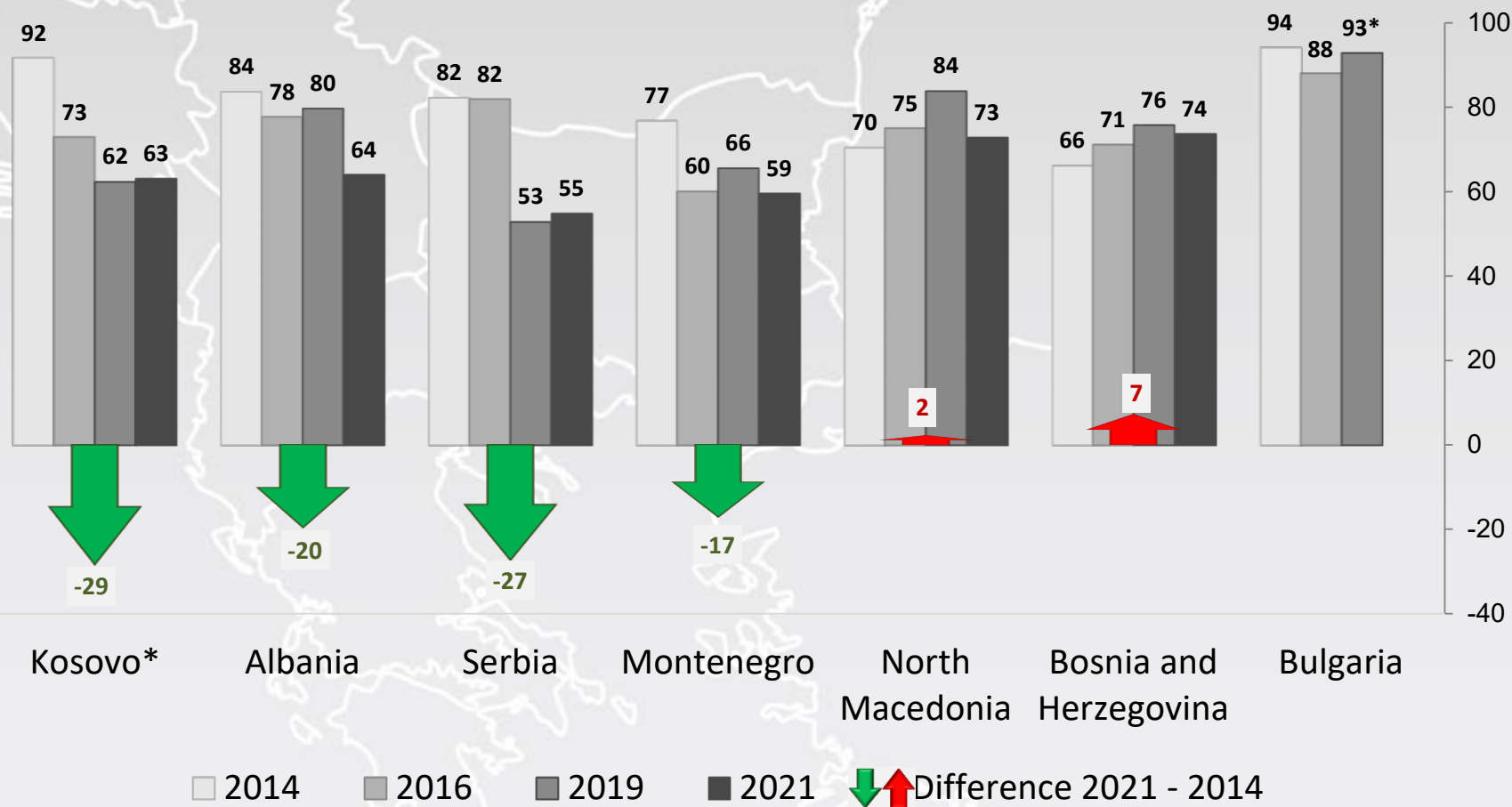
Susceptibility to corruption remains very high



*Data for Bulgaria is for 2014, 2016 and **2018**

Susceptibility to corruption: % of the population 18+ who are susceptible to accepting or offering a bribe in at least one of the tested scenarios

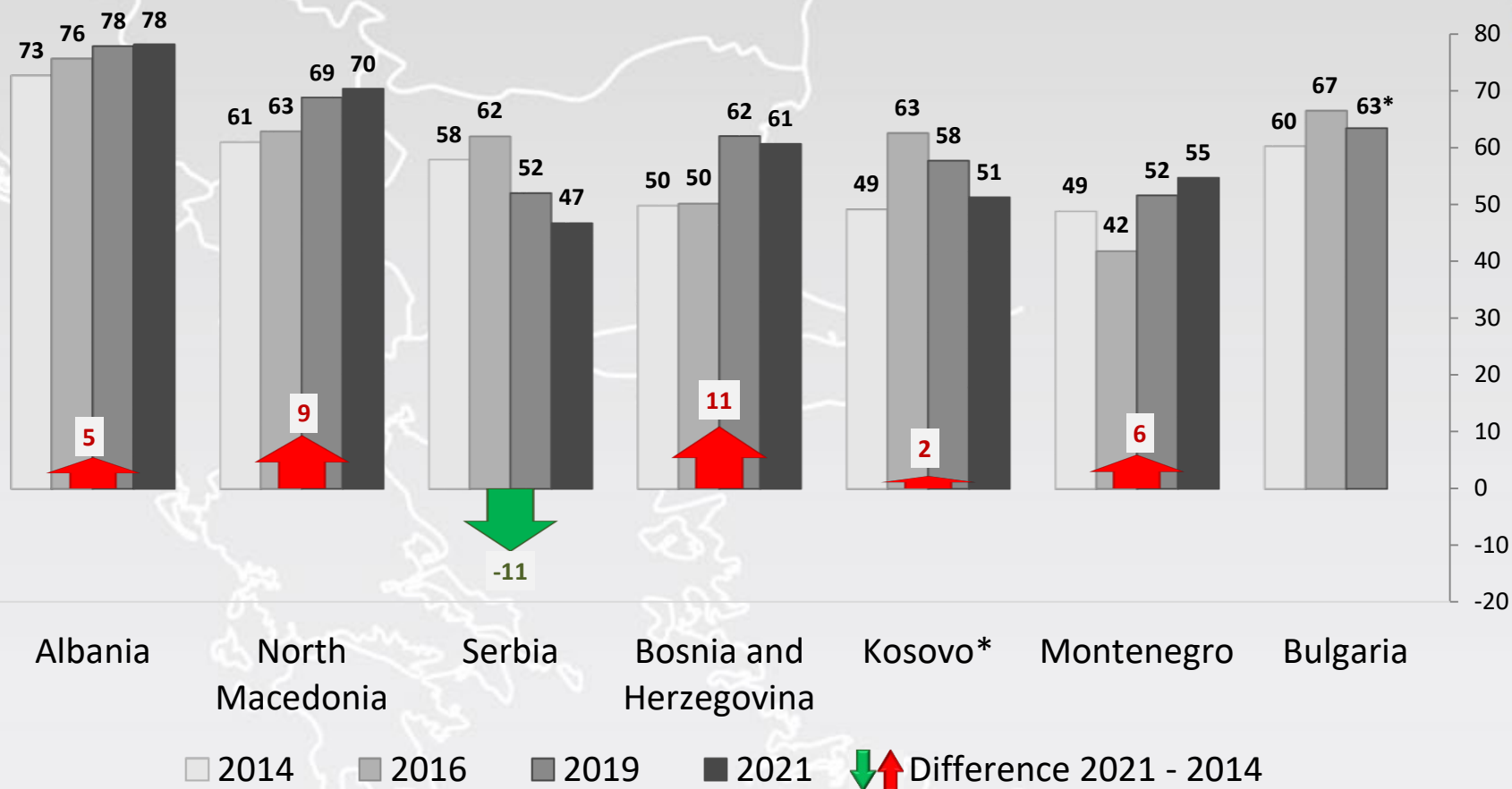
Perceptions: Likelihood of corruption pressure



*Data for Bulgaria is for 2014, 2016 and **2018**

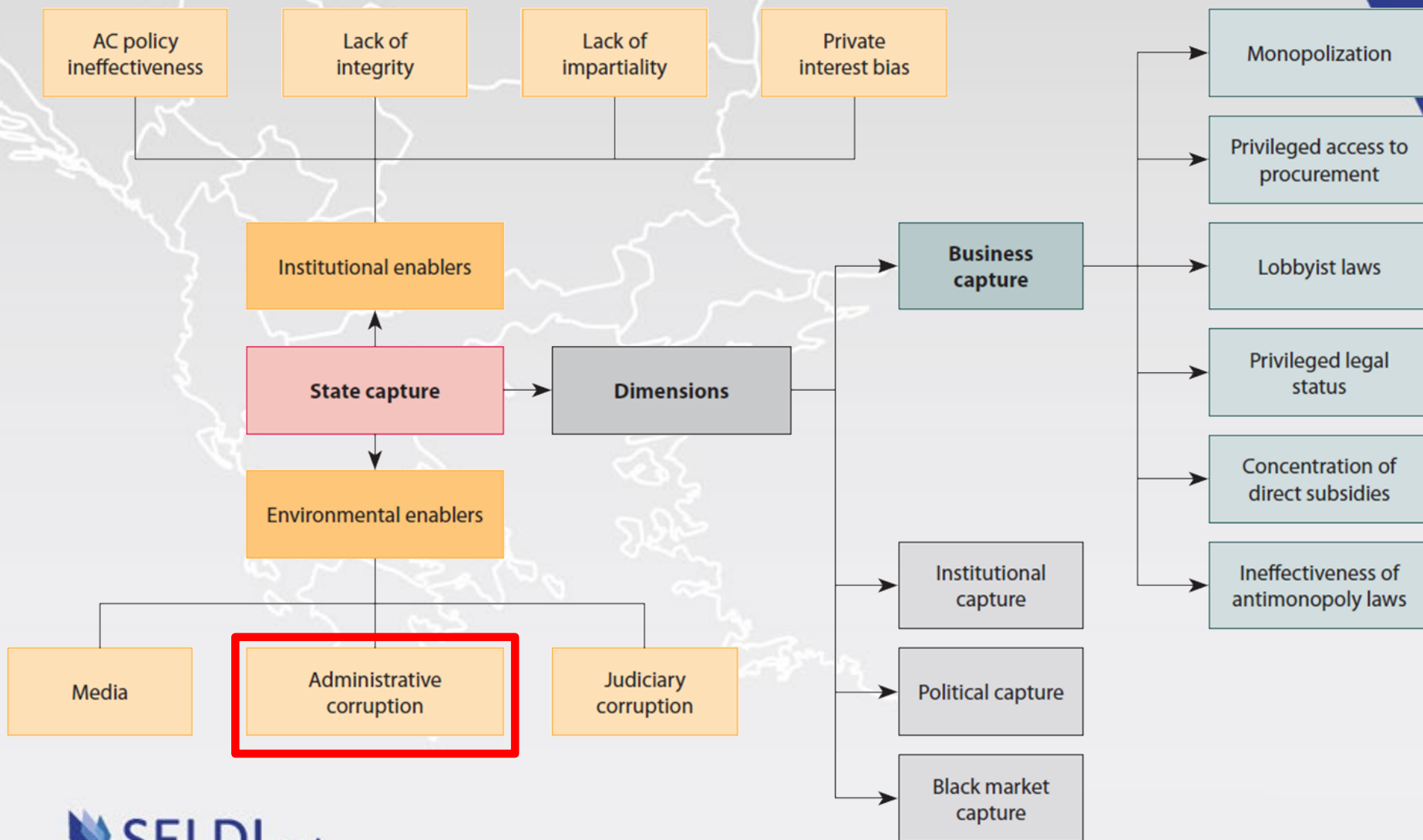
Likelihood of corruption pressure: % of the population 18+ considering corruption pressure “very likely” and “likely”

Perceptions: Feasibility of policy responses to corruption remains low

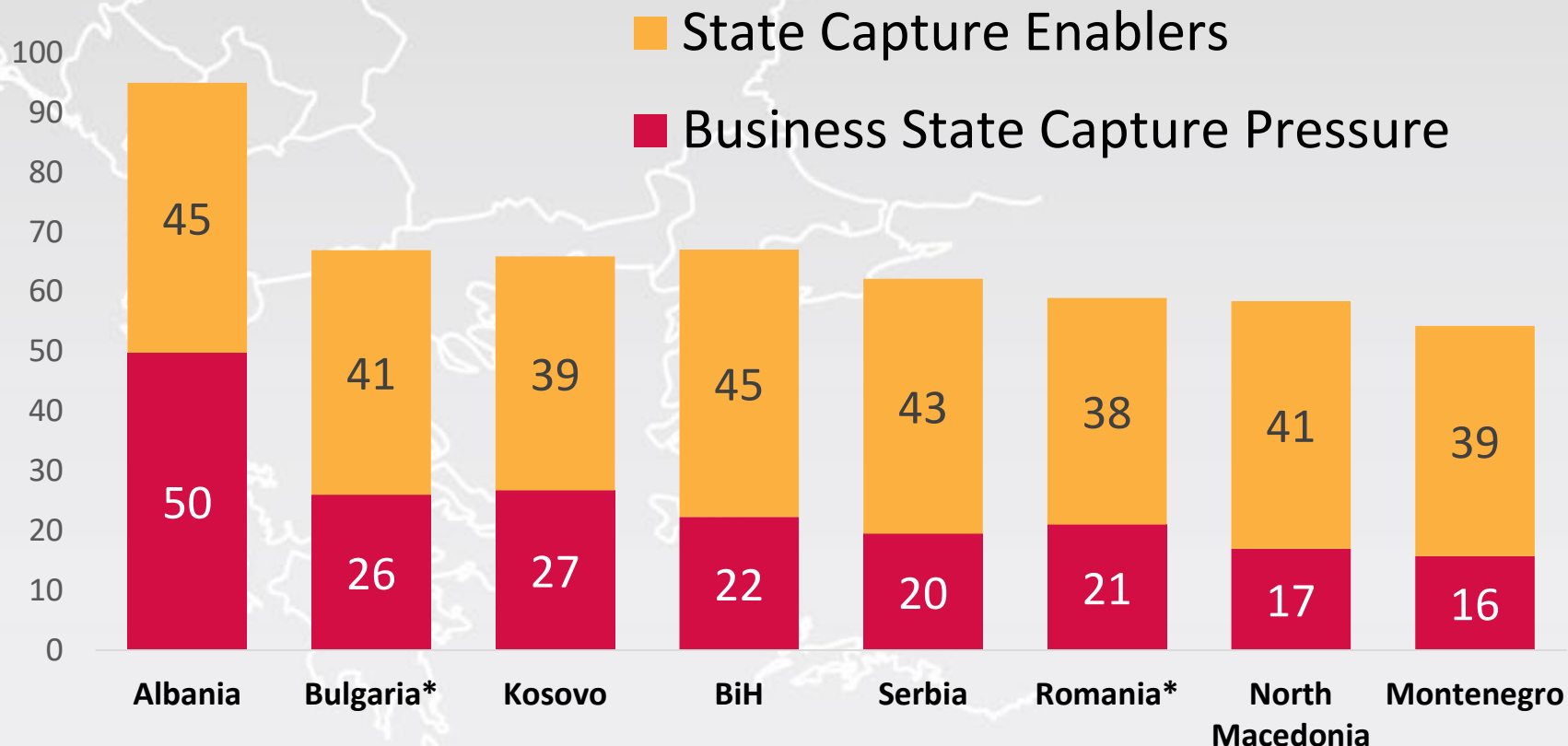


*Data for Bulgaria is for 2014, 2016 and 2018

State Capture Assessment Diagnostics (SCAD)



Business state capture pressure and state capture enablers in the Western Balkans, 2020



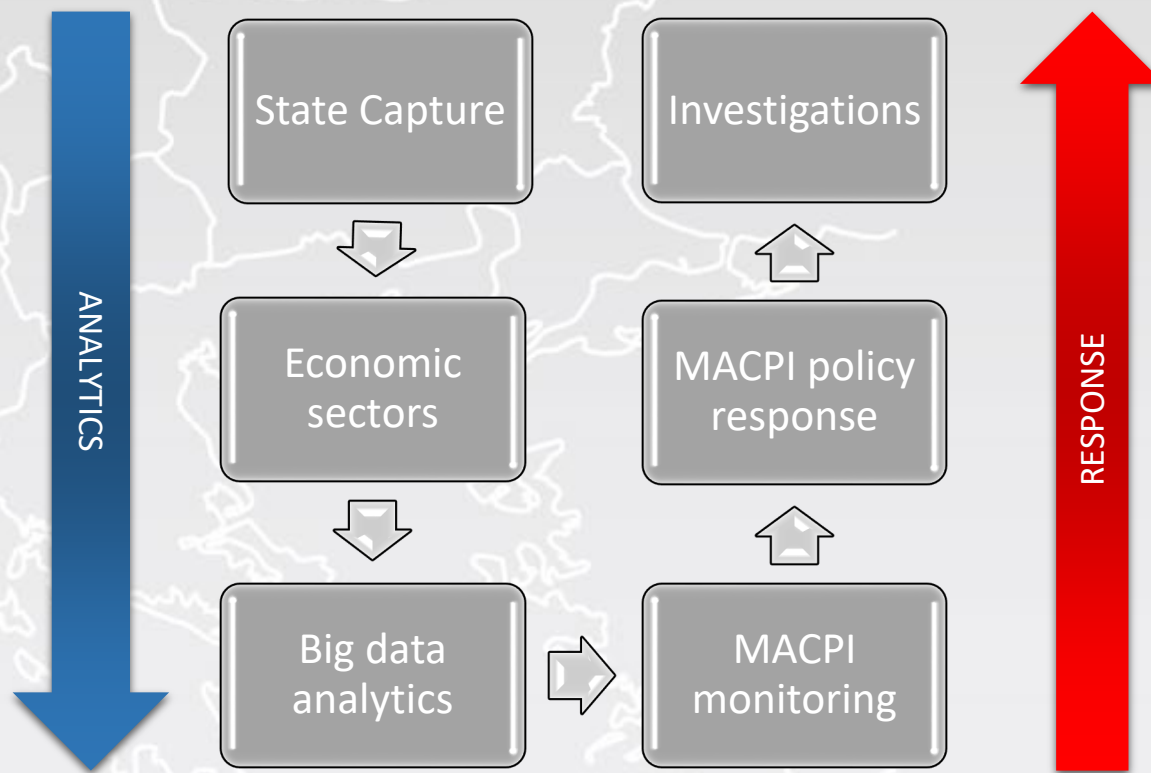
*Data for Bulgaria and Romania is for 2017-2018

Economic sectors with high or medium monopolization, 2020

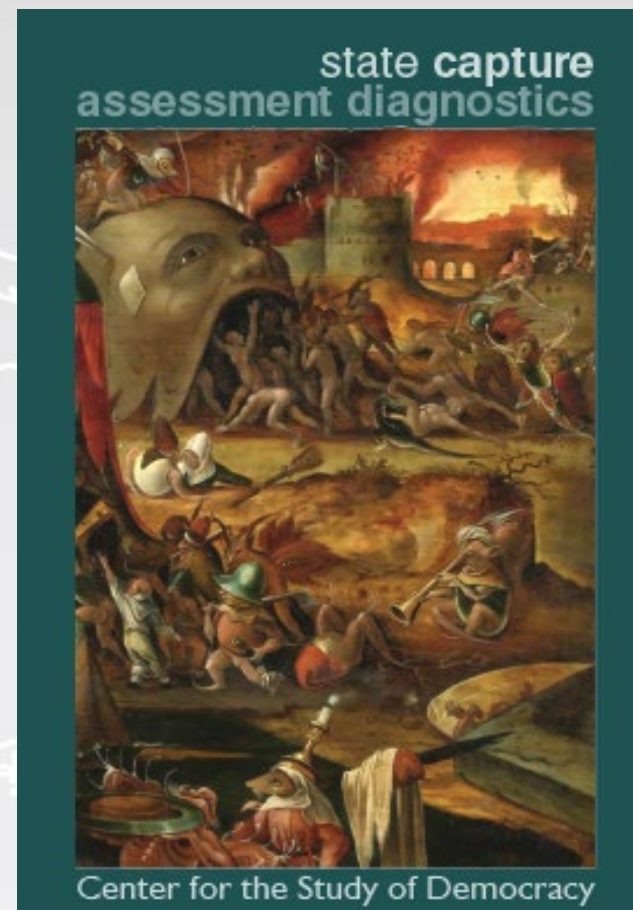
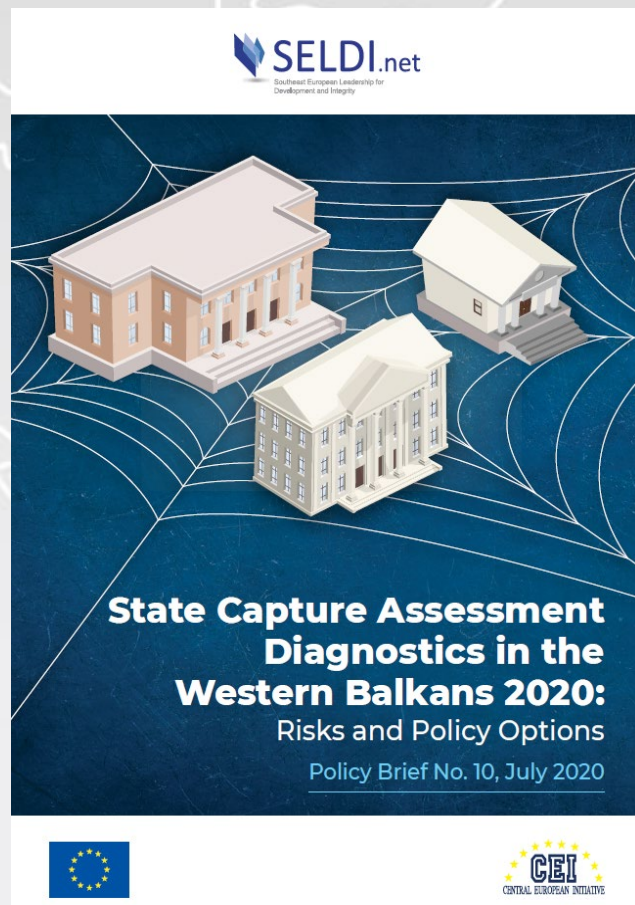
	Assessed monopolization							
	AL	BiH	BG*	KOS	MNE	MK	RO*	RS
Civil engineering	12%	41%	45%	NA	25%	35%	44%	30%
Construction of buildings	41%	47%	45%	NA	46%	26%	44%	51%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	47%	61%	43%	38%	65%	74%	52%	77%
Gambling and betting activities	50%	58%	40%	36%	42%	33%	21%	38%
Programming and broadcasting activities	21%	32%	NA	4%	20%	18%	NA	64%
Telecommunications	59%	67%	48%	46%	49%	67%	54%	47%
Wholesale of pharmaceutical goods	56%	53%	70%	58%	48%	53%	56%	51%
Wholesale of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	24%	35%	85%	52%	15%	53%	23%	42%
Wholesale of tobacco products	18%	38%	33%	48%	29%	20%	21%	17%

*Data for Bulgaria and Romania is for **2017-2018**

An integrated model of corruption measurement



State capture assessment diagnostics, 2020




Summary

- In most Balkan countries **experience-based** indicators show higher levels of administrative corruption than in 2014/2016.
- Self-reported involvement in corruption in the Western Balkans remains very high - 20-40% of the citizens admit to having paid some kind of a bribe.
- **Tolerance of corruption** by the general public, although declining, still ranges between 25% and 40%.
- **Perception-based** indicators point to deep distrust in the governments in the region.
- **State-capture assessments** show both vulnerabilities and potential symptoms of state capture

Recommendations

- More efforts should be put into **transparency** and empowering independent analysts and investigative journalists through:
 - Machine-readable **company information and asset declarations**.
 - Detailed, machine-readable data on **public procurement**.
- External audits by independent organizations (e.g. DG SANTE's Audit at Kapitan Andreevo Border Checkpoint in Bulgaria)
- Cooperation with CSOs; **independent assessment of anti-corruption policies** at the level of public institutions; reports from the assessments should be made public.
- Regular **monitoring of corruption levels** (administrative corruption, state capture, etc.).
- **Judiciary reforms** and strengthening the **rule of law**



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Thank you!

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