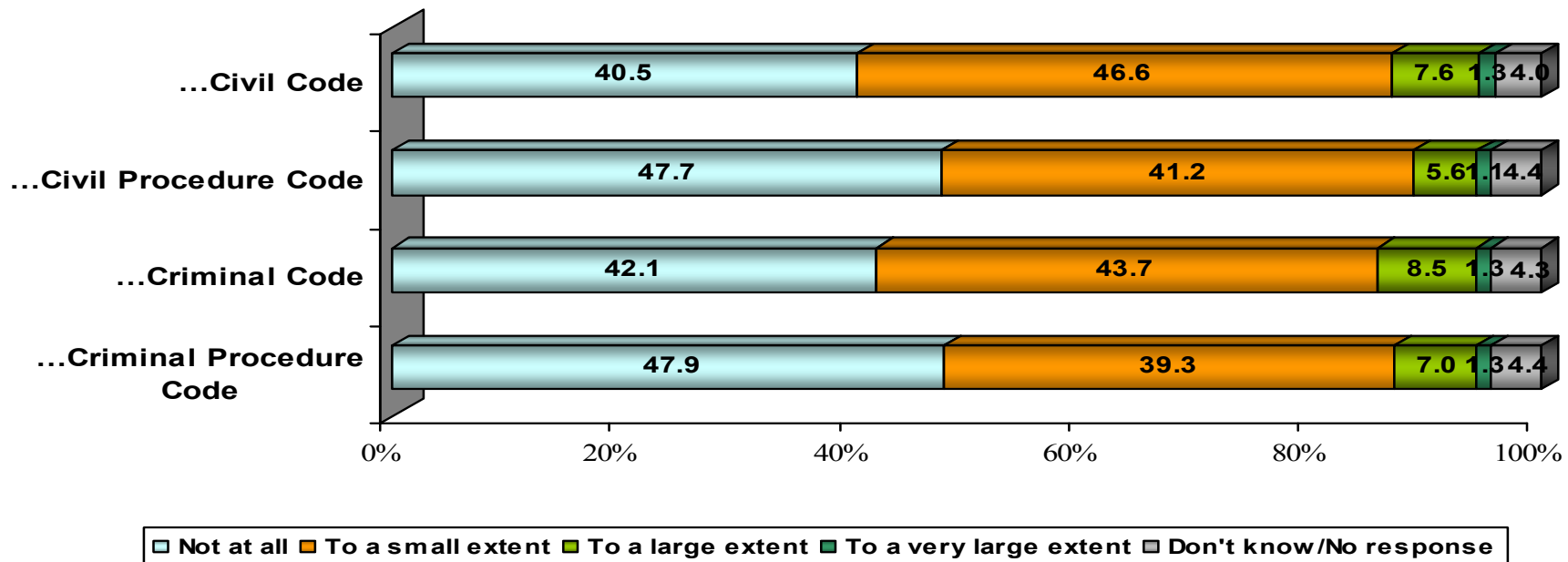


The Population's Level of Informing on the Codes' Modification

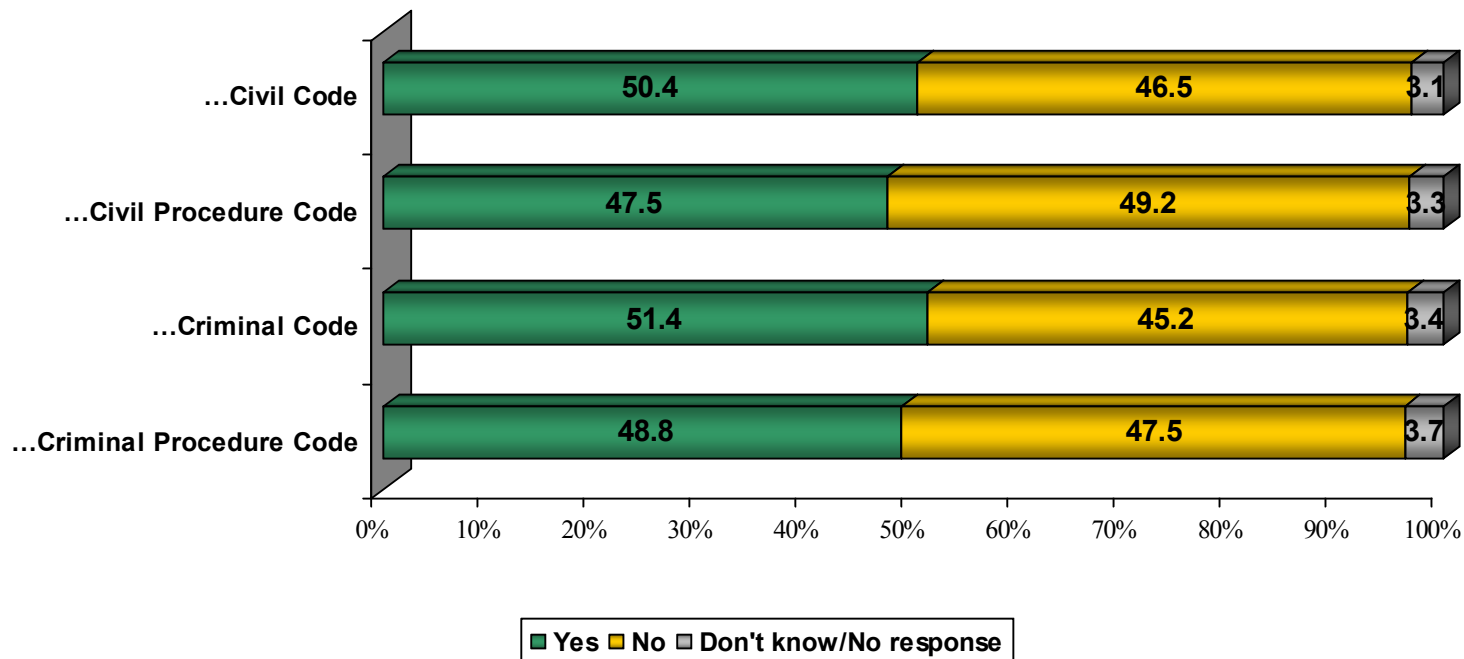
Opinion Poll: April 20 – May 8 2009
National representative sample

To what extent you know the provisions of the...?



- > Almost half of the Romanians do not know what the provisions of the codes are.
- > The citizens are required to comply with a series of laws they do not know
- > “Little extent” – those who have minimum information and know where to get it from (those consulting a lawyer)
- > “To a large extent” – legal professionals, connected professions

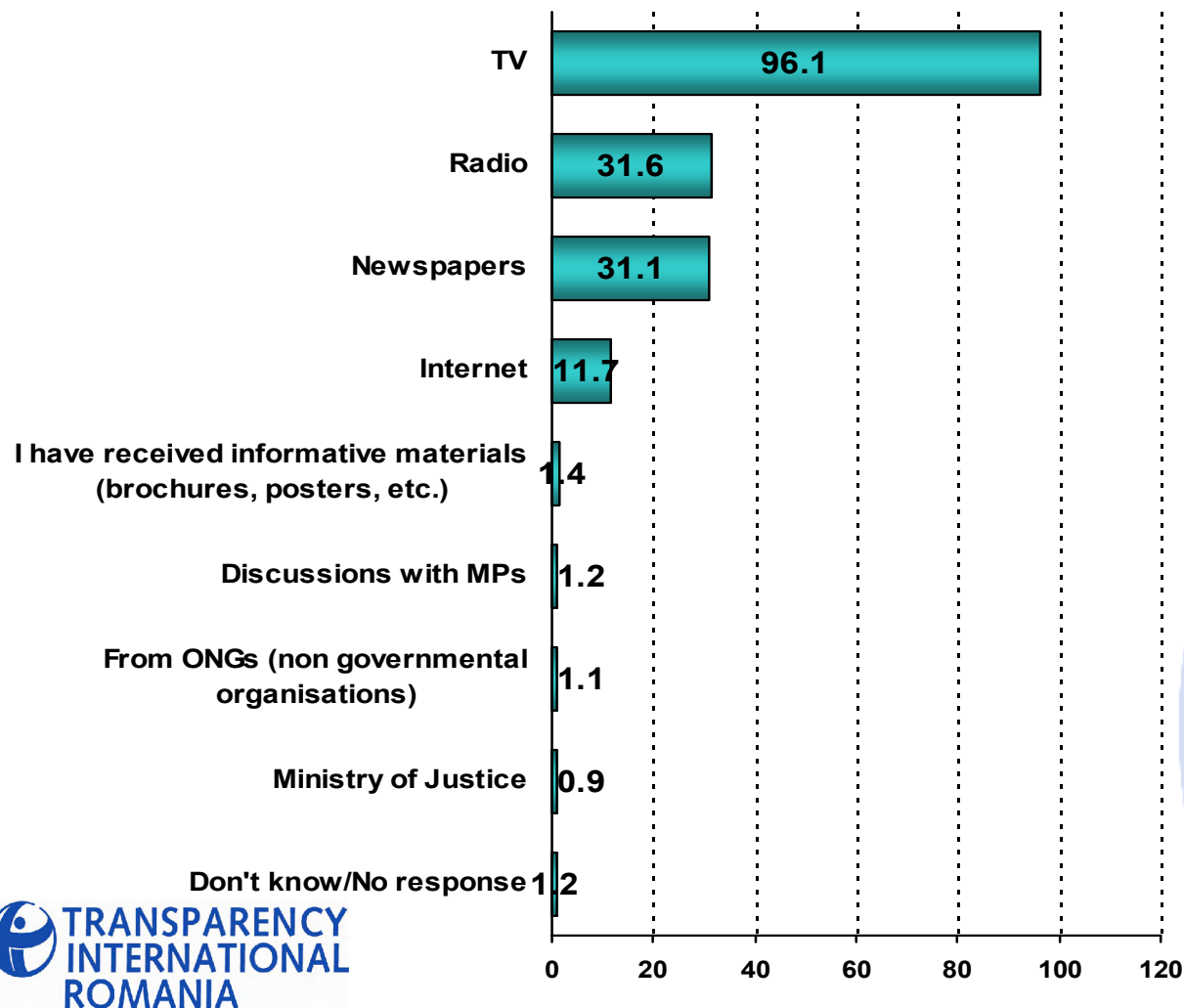
Do you know the following are being modified?



Romanians know something within the Codes is being modified, yet they do not know what

> The “Stop the Codes” Coalition launched the campaign on April 10th, so one month later half of the population learnt the Codes are being modified

Where have you heard/ read/ seen information on the modification of the Codes?



>The civil society supported by mass media brought the issue on the public agenda

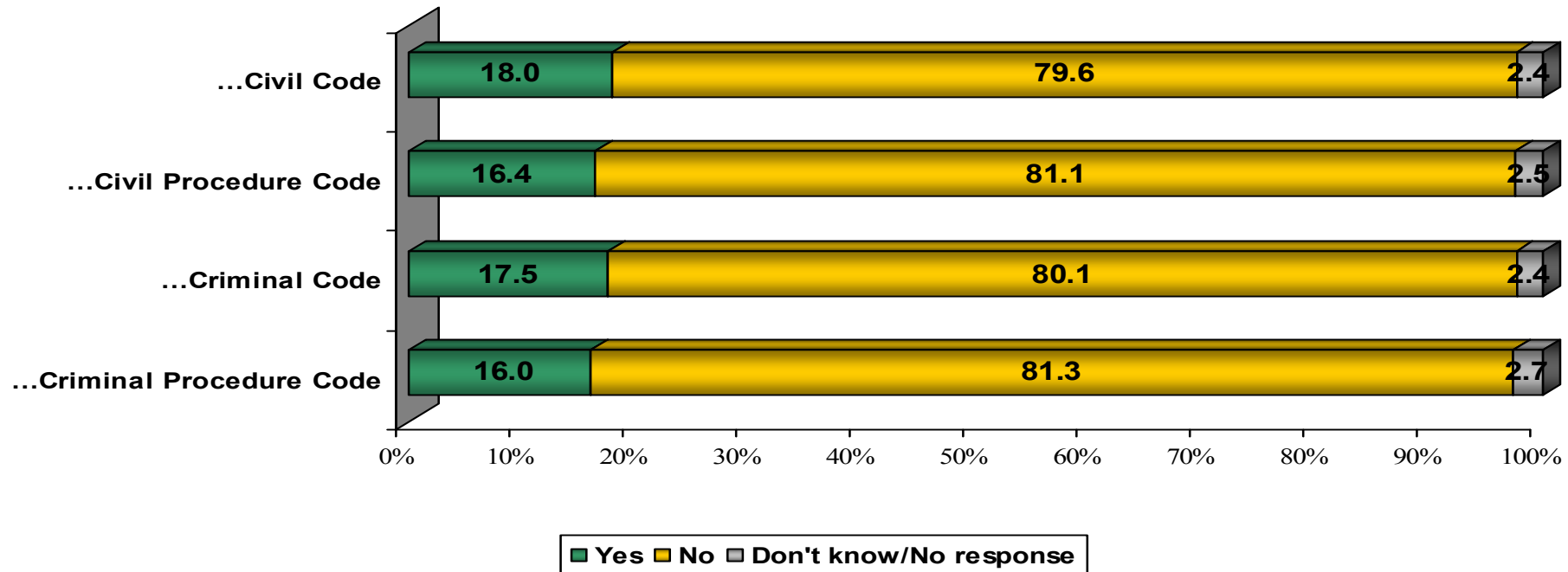
>11.7% of youth and urban population use the internet for information

>The Ministry of Justice used an instrument that could reach 10% of the population but did nothing to get the message to the other 90%

>The only instrument used by the Ministry of Justice reached only 1% of the population – those who were informed by the MoJ; the Transparency Law requires the MoJ to inform the citizens

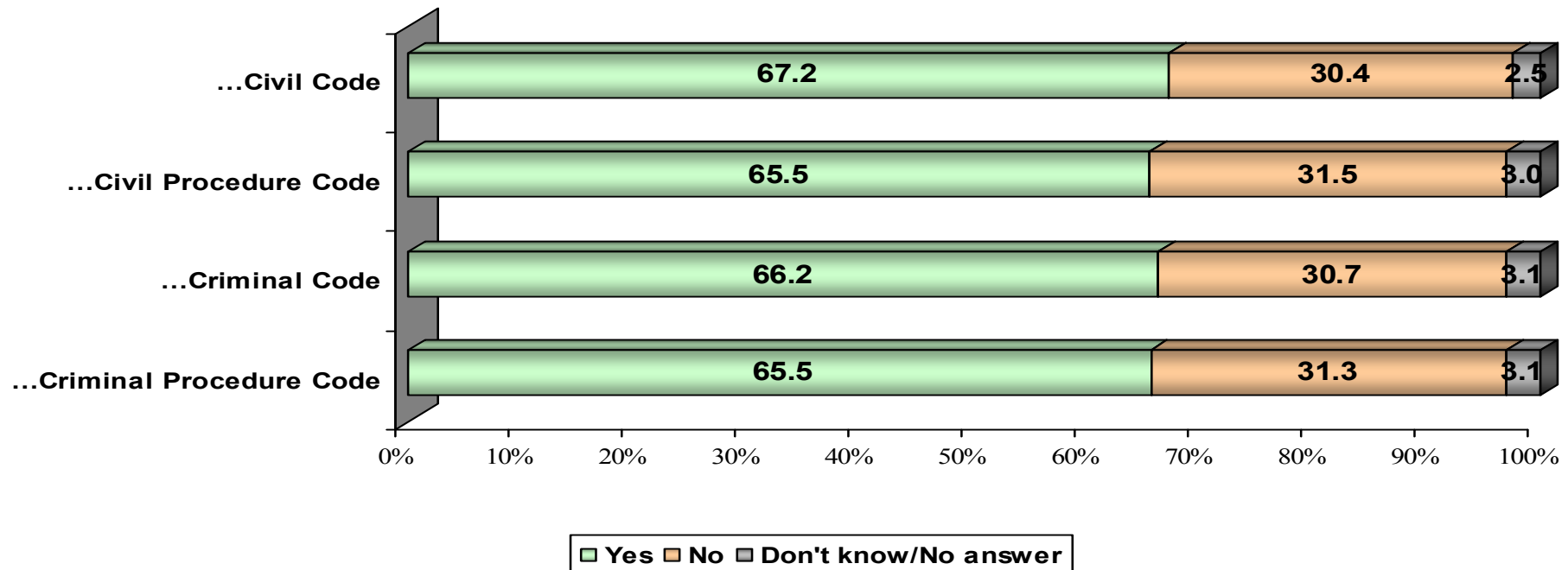
> The MPs' activity (related to this issue) was practically inexistent in their circumscriptions

Do you know what the modifications for... are?



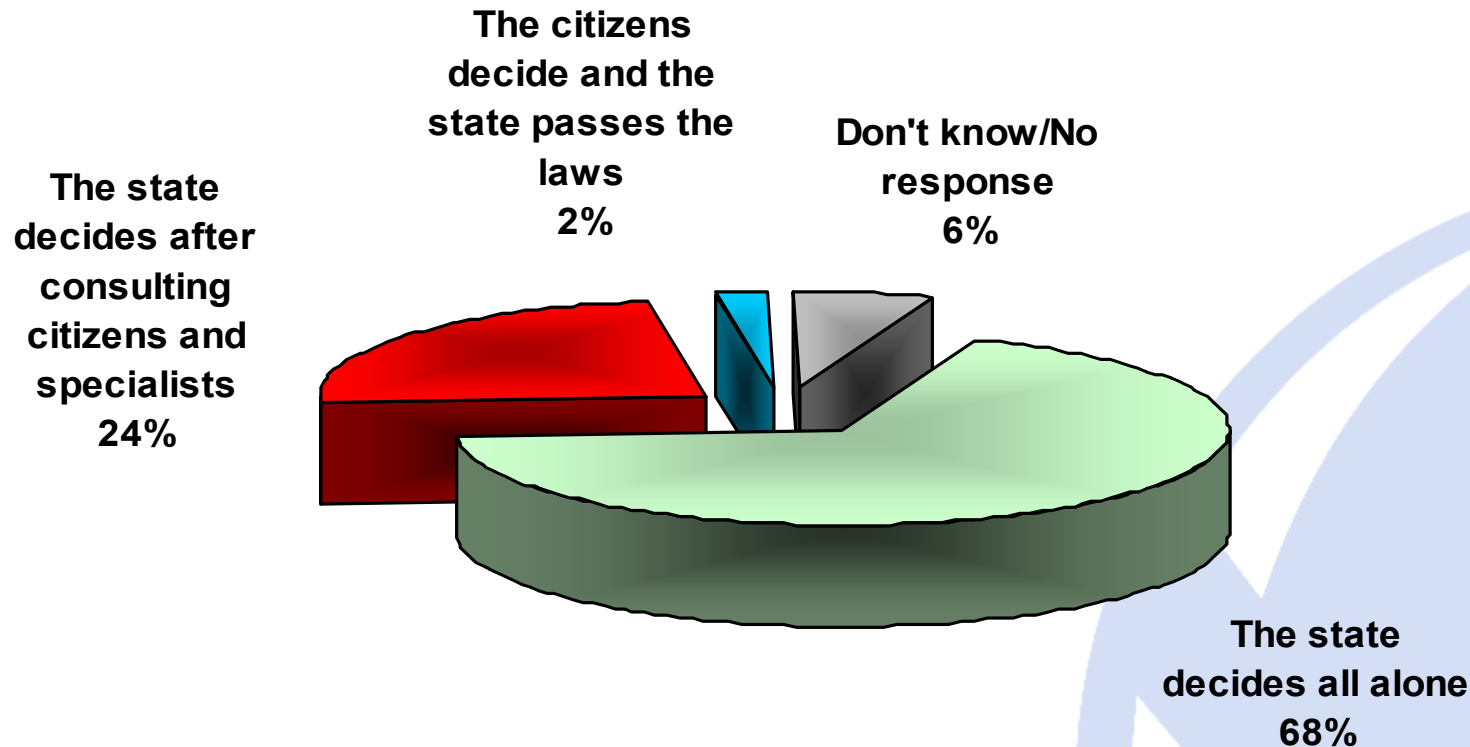
- > The people do not know what the modifications are about
- > However they do want to know; (see next slide)

Would you have been interested to receive more information on the modifications proposed for... ?



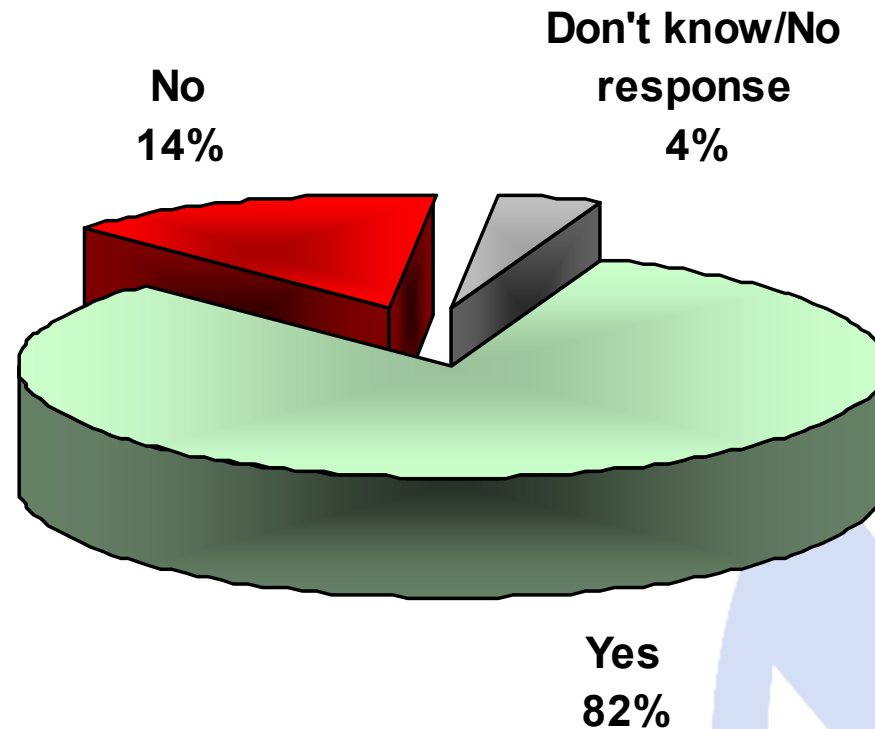
> 7 out of 10 citizens are interested in receiving information on the modification of the Codes!

Currently, in Romania, do you believe that when it comes to establishing civil and criminal legal provisions...



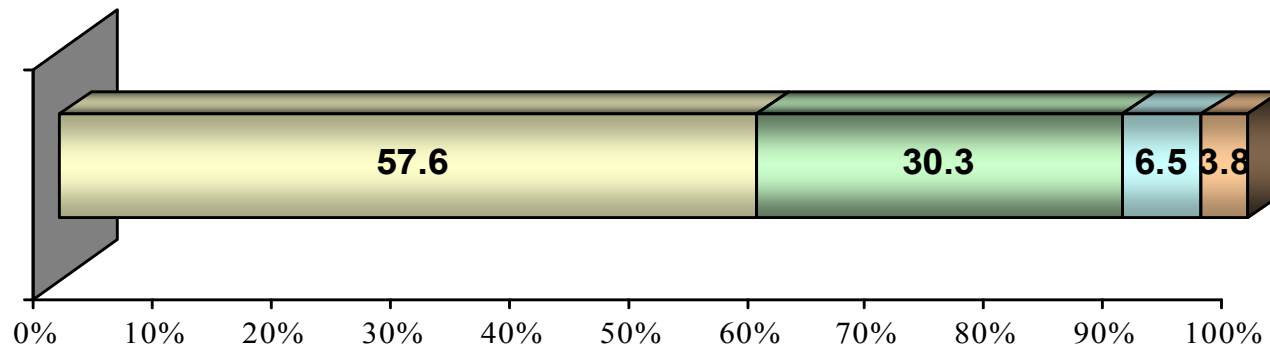
- > It is relevant that 68% of the people say the state take decisions all by itself, while 82% believe the state should organise debates where anyone who wishes could participate
- > Therefore 7 out of 10 Romanians believe the state is authoritarian when it comes to legiferating

Do you believe citizens should be consulted before the laws are written or passed?



> 82% believe they must be consulted before the decisions are taken and the laws passed!

How should the citizens be consulted before the laws are written?

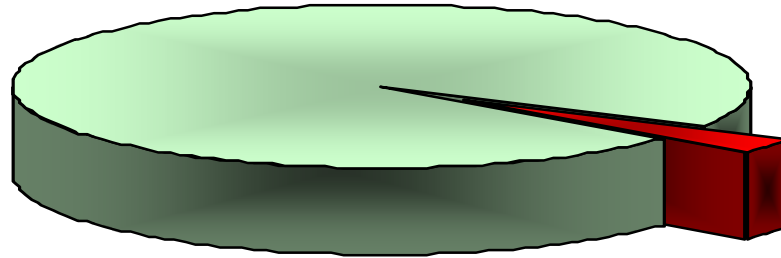


- Debates with citizens should be organised
- Citizens should receive informative materials
- Draft laws should be published on the involved institutions' websites
- Citizens should be able to read the draft laws on the involved institutions' premises

- > The citizens want the public debate of the laws
- > At least 30% want informative materials whereas the state published and disseminated none
- > The only instrument that was employed would have reached only 6.5% of the population if properly used

Where should the debates be organised before the laws are written?

... in all electoral
circumscriptions
(county seats)
97%

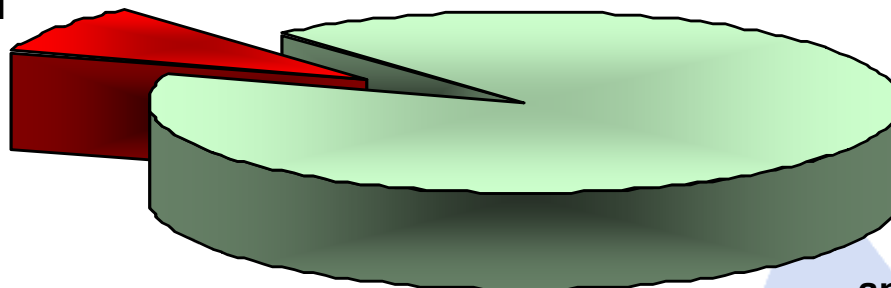


... in Bucharest,
one debate
3%

- > 97% want debates with the MPs in their circumscriptions
- > A large part of the Bucharest population (10%) consider that the debates must cover the whole country

Who should participate in these debates?

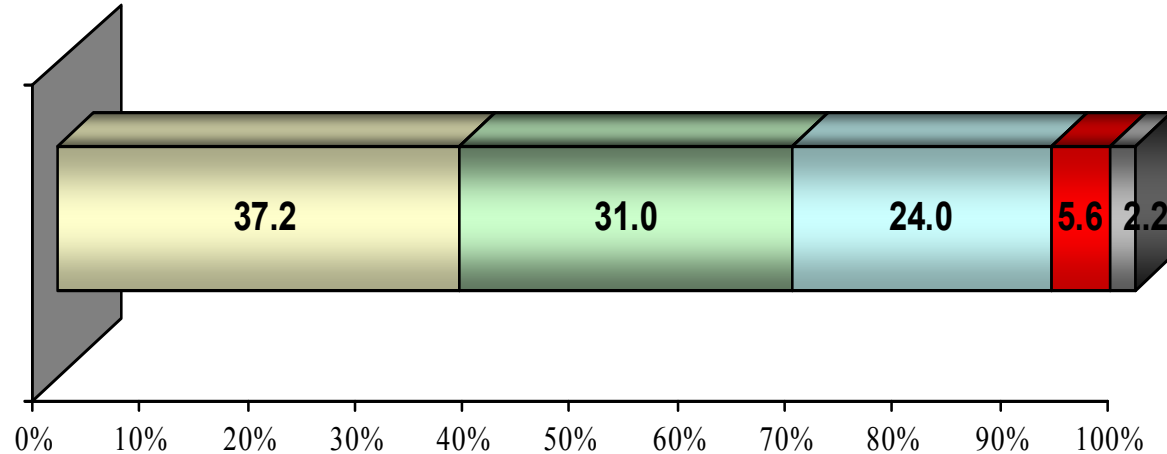
...only those who received nominal invitations/ only the persons especially invited for this purpose
9%



...anyone who wishes so
91%

- > 91% believe that anyone should participate in the debates, not only the specialists
- > The public perception is natural: if nobody is above the law then anyone can take part in making it

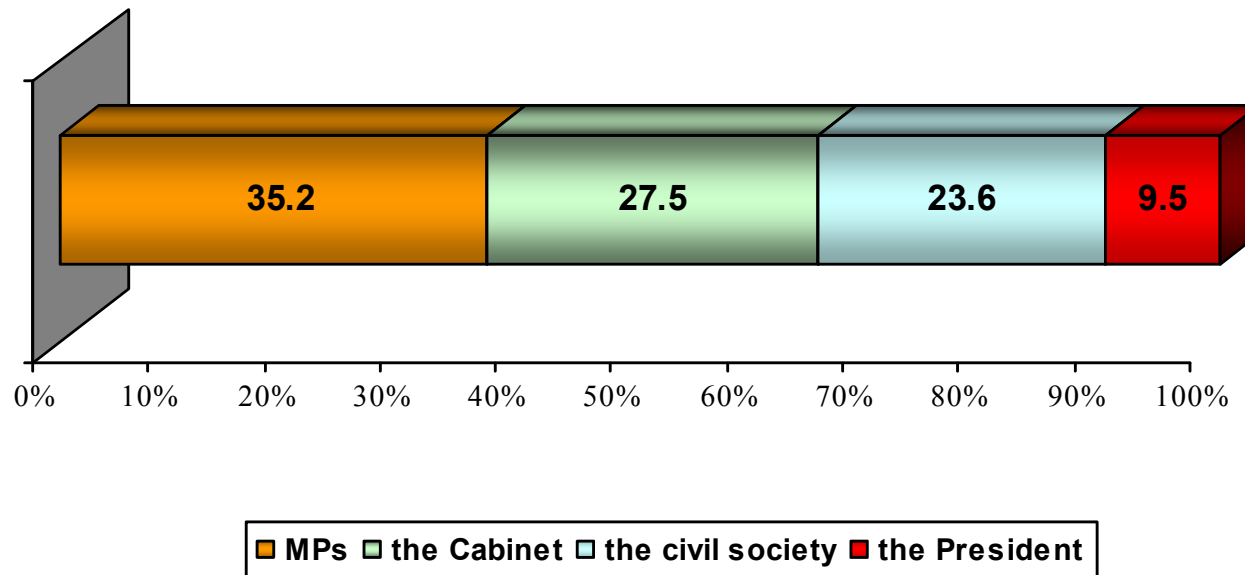
Who should organise consultations with the citizens before the writing of key laws?



■ Guvernul ■ Societatea civilă ■ Membrii parlamentului ■ Președintele ■ NS / NR

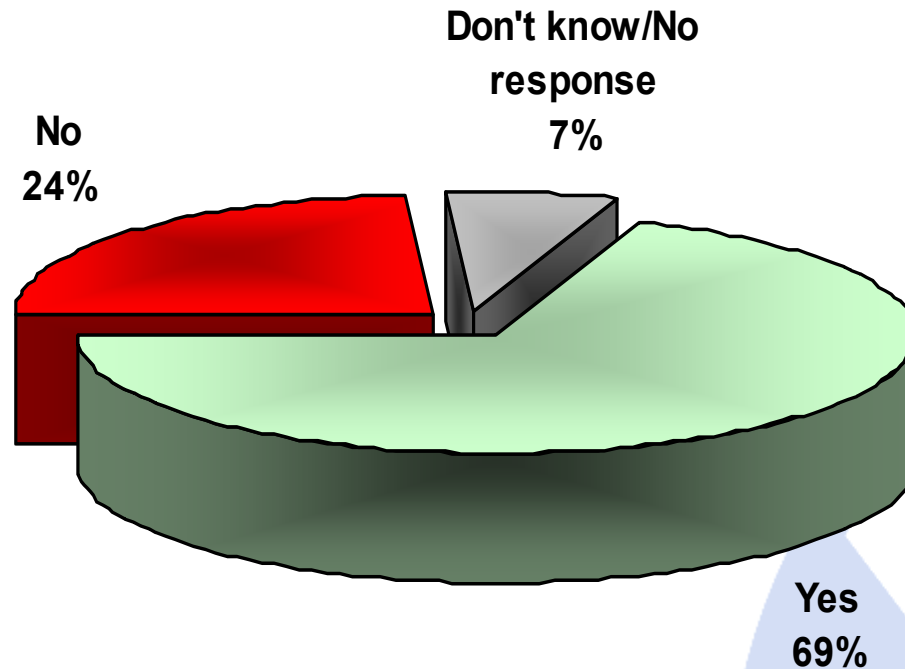
- > The Romanians believe the civil society is more important in the organising of the public debates than the President
- > 61.2% believe that the authorities must organise public consultations
- > The mandate of the civil society to require and organise public consultations is similar to that of the Government and the Parliament

Who should organise consultations with the citizens before the passing of key laws?



> Following the uninominal elections, the population considers the Parliament to be the first responsible to consult the citizens, thus substantiating legitimacy

Should the President consult the citizens or not before he enacts key laws passed by the Parliament?



- > While the President asserts that the people do not understand, the poll shows that 69% want to be consulted before the enactment
- > Just as the European Union confirmed, through Mark Gray and Jaques Barrot, Romanians believe the large public debate is more important than the May 15th time limit.

Observations and Conclusions

- The Romanians do not want the state to decide how to formulate the norms regarding the social organising all by itself
- The Romanians want to be consulted on the fundamental law drafts
- The so-called debates set up by the Ministry of Justice had no social relevance
- The population wants the MPs to consult the citizens in their circumscriptions
- The information is largely received from the media, who cannot do the work of those paid from the public money
- The citizens feel they are capable to formulate their opinions if they are asked
- The citizens want to be asked
- The citizens are not keen on passive forms of informing through publishing on the internet
- The internet is not the population's main source of information with regard to legislation, and the public institution websites are not an active communication instrument
- The civil society's mandate equals that of the Cabinet and of the Parliament in which the debates and consultations on legislation are concerned, which legitimates and obliges us at the same time

Questions and Answers

Thank you!

