

NATIONAL DEBATE FOR DEMOCRACY



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DEMOCRATIC
DEBATE

Deliberative Polling On Promoting Successful Democratic Transition in North Macedonia

What is Deliberative Polling®?

Deliberative Polling is a unique form of political consultation that combines techniques of public opinion research and public deliberation to reveal what public opinion would be on a particular issue if citizens were given a chance to become more informed. The Deliberative Poll seeks to account for the preferences and opinions of citizens both before and after they have had an opportunity to arrive at considerate judgments based on balanced information and discussion with fellow citizens.

Representative sample

Before

Before the deliberative event, a baseline study survey was conducted with a nationally representative sample of 1200 citizens between May 15th and May 31st, 2019. The sample included 64% Macedonians and 25% Albanian.

After

After the two day deliberative event on June 22nd and 23rd 2019, 130 participants were surveyed upon departure. The participants were invited to attend this two day event after completing the baseline study. The participants included 68% Macedonians and 23% Albanian.

The event

The two day event was held at hotel Continental Skopje. 130 participants deliberated in 11 moderated small groups. They discussed the state of democratic development in country, focusing on two topics: democratic institutions and equality for all. The small groups also prepared and posed questions to panels during two moderated plenary sessions consisting of politicians, academics and experts in the field. The plenary sessions were Q&A only, no speeches. Both days of the event were covered by two national TV stations – Sitel TV and TV 21.



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Results

The results are from the preference changes among those who participated in the before (baseline) and after deliberation surveys.

1. Perception for EU and the need for democratization

Question	Before	After	Comment
How much of the democratic requirements for EU accession do you think North Macedonia fulfilled since 1991 on a scale from 0 to 10?	6.03 was the average mark before the debate	5.44 was the average mark after the debate	The perception for the fulfilment of the democratic requirements for EU accession decreased after the debate, meaning the participants deem North Macedonia has not fulfilled many of the democratic requirements.
How urgent are Macedonia's needs for democratization on a scale from 0 to 10?	8.21 was the average mark for the urge for democratization before the debate	8.19 was the average mark for the urge for democratization after the debate	The perception for democratization remained the same before and after the debate, and the urgency for democratization still prevails amongst participants.

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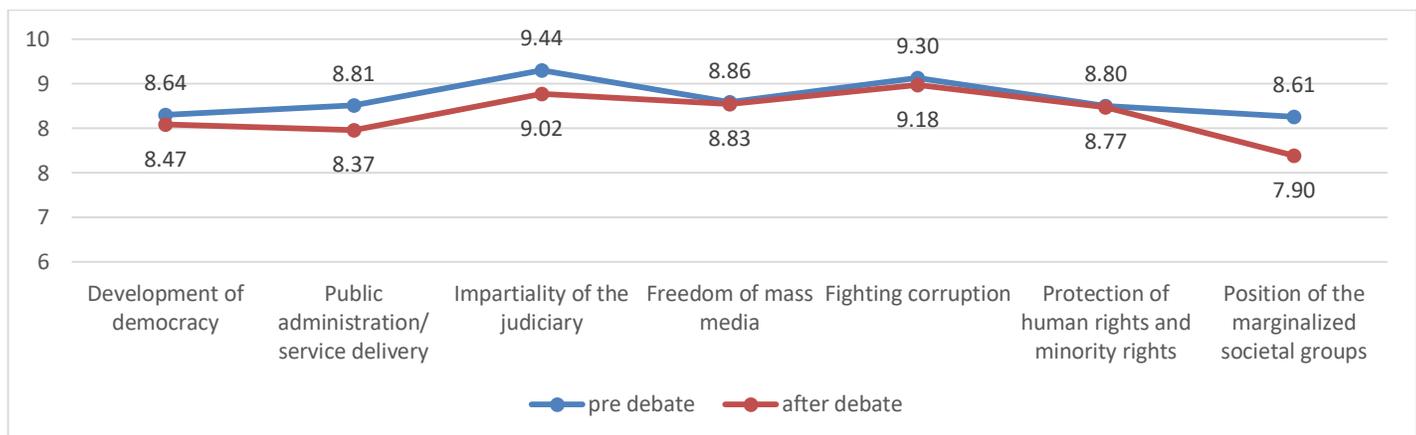


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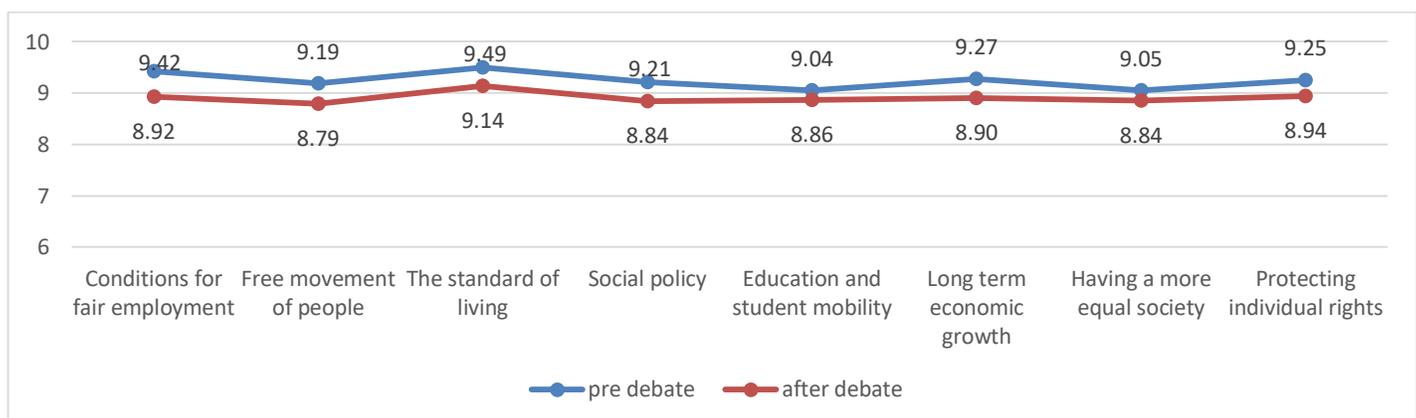


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2. How important or unimportant do you think these are as policy goals in North Macedonia, on a scale from 0 to 10?



① Participants continue to deem the policy goals important for democratization of the country.



① The importance that participants estimate for almost all tested policy goals is high with value above 8 as before and after the debate. There is no significant change in participants' opinion on almost all aspects.

The only statistically significant change that happened, is that participants estimate less importance of the position of the marginalized societal groups after the debate compared to the level of importance before the debate.



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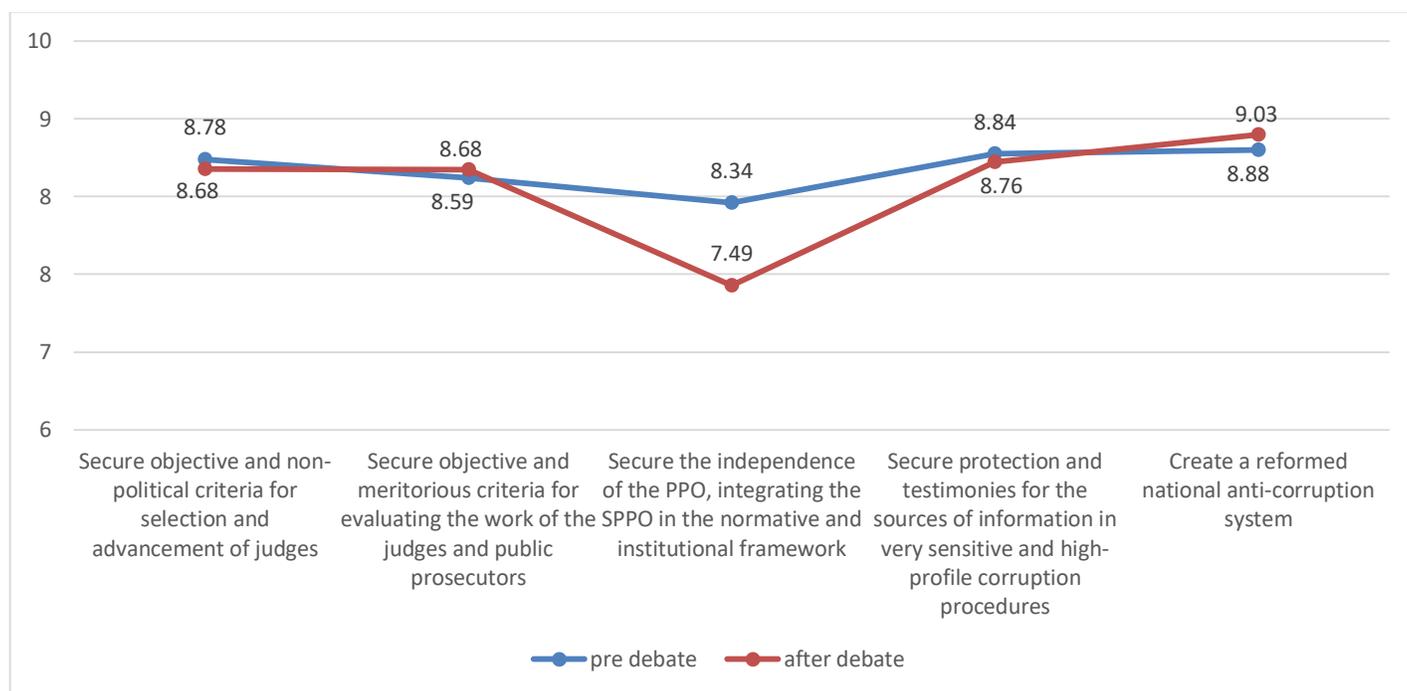


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3. Judicial reform: How desirable or undesirable would you say are the following reform priorities on a scale from 0 to 10?



① Regarding the preference of reforms in judicial system of the country, participants' opinion did not change before and after the debate on almost all tested aspects. As before and after the debate there is high level of preference for reform in the judicial system among participants.

The only statistically significant change that happened, is that participants less favored the independence of the PPO, integrating the SPPO in the normative and institutional framework after the debate compared to their level of preference before the debate.



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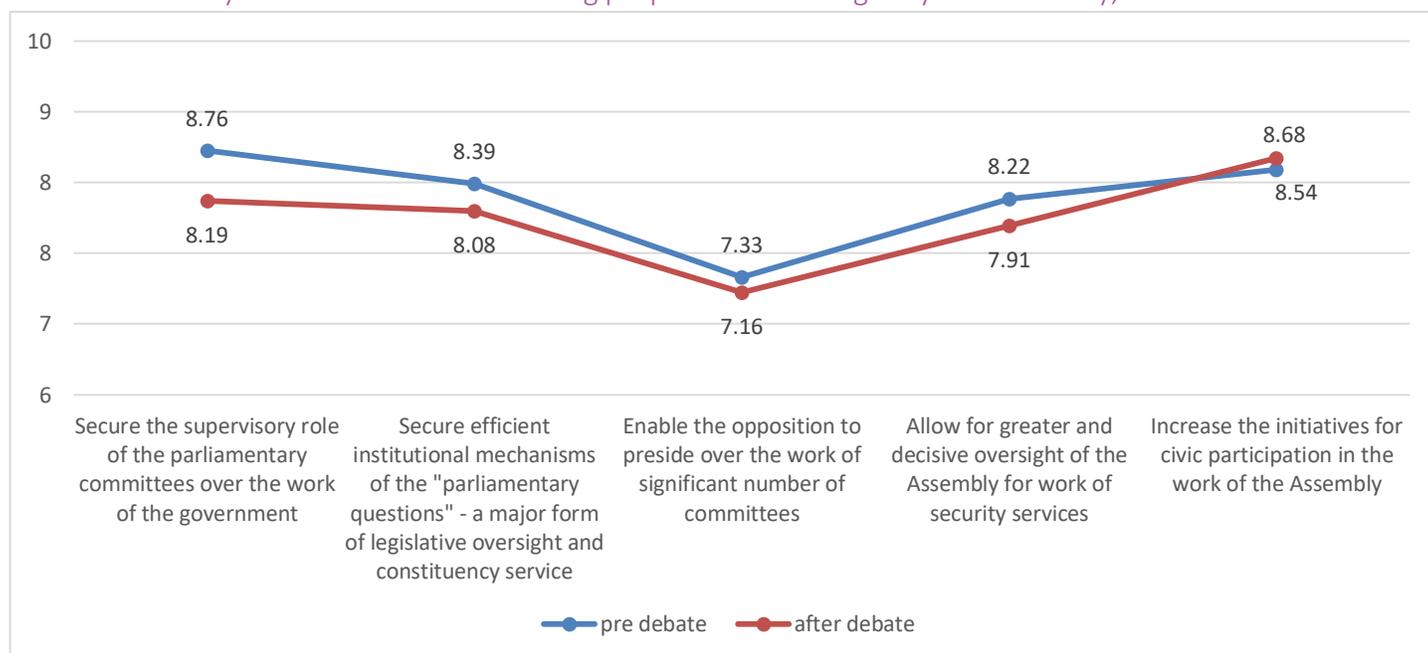


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4. What do you think about the following proposals on oversight by the Assembly, on a scale from 0 to 10?



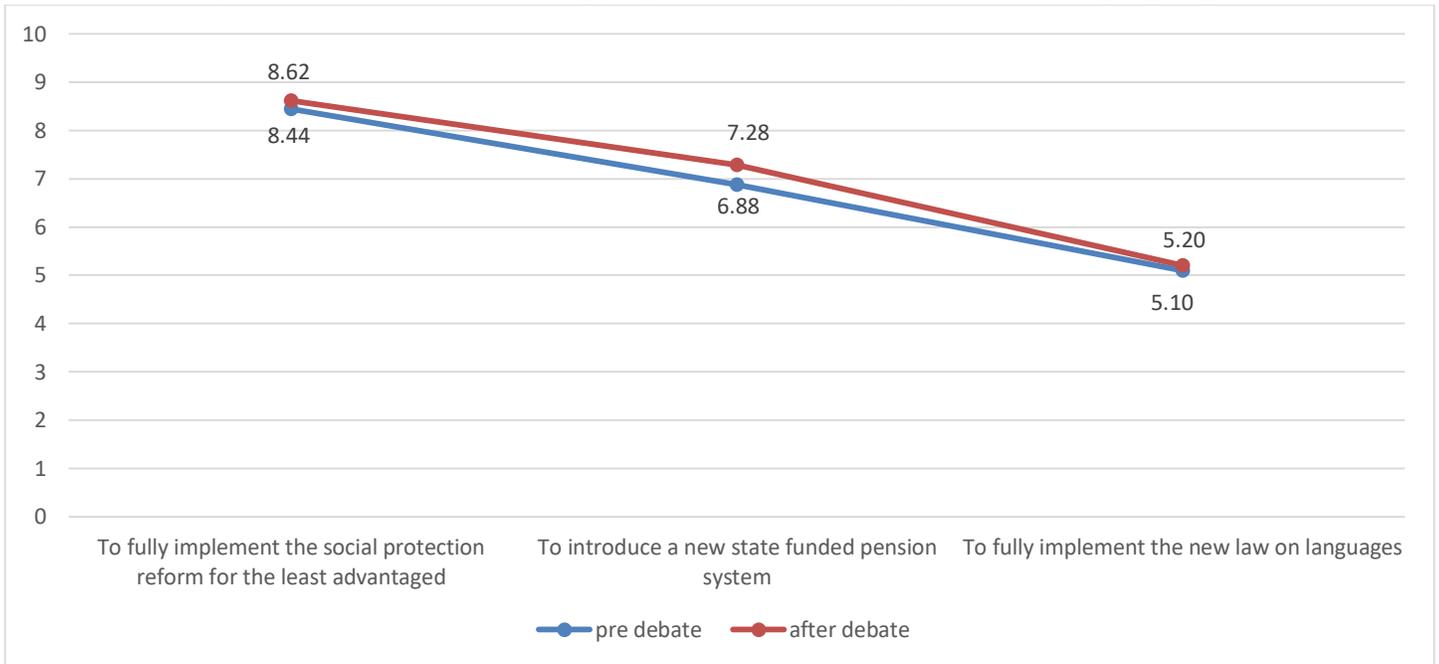
① There is no effect of the debate on the participant's opinion about the preference of the oversight role of the Assembly.

The high level of desirability of reforms in the oversight role of Assembly from all tested aspects exit as before and after the debate among participants.



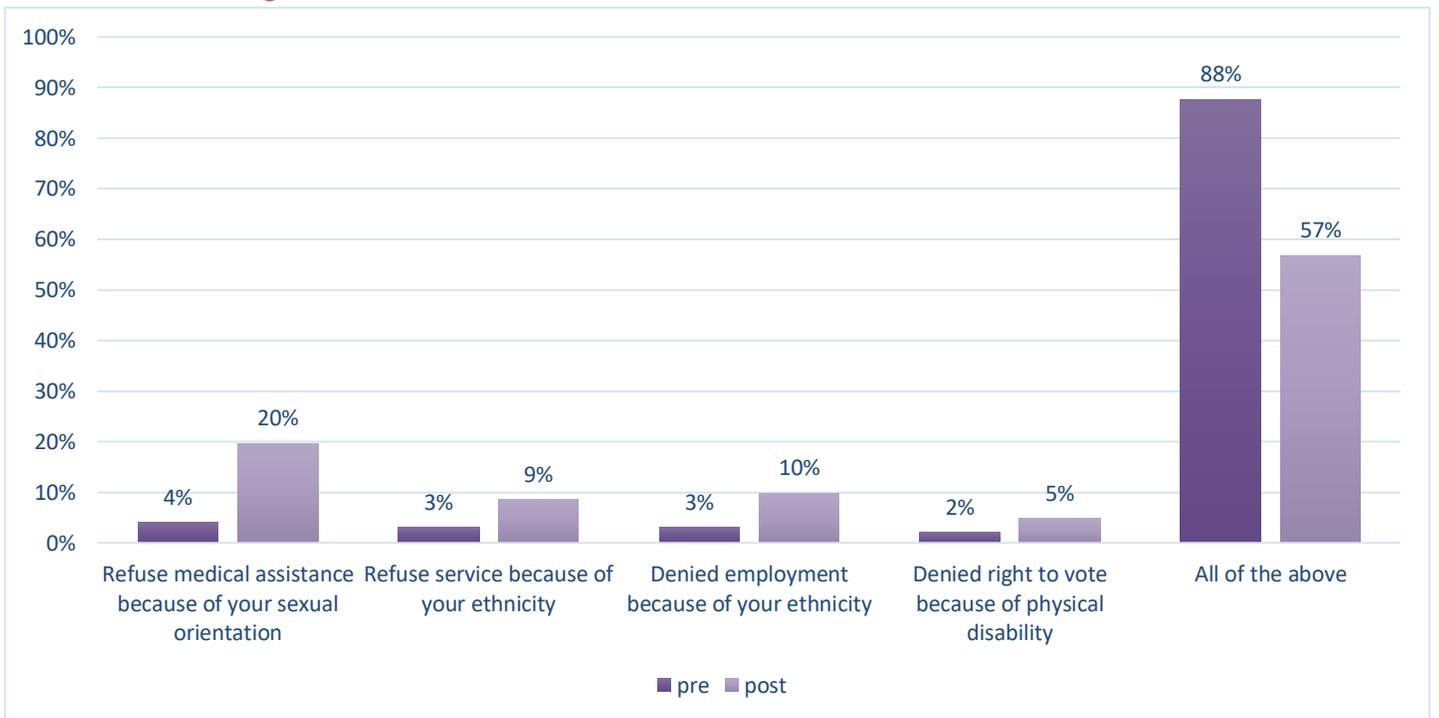
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5. What do you think about the following proposals on social inequalities and language rights?



① *The desirability of the proposals on social inequalities and language remains on the same level before and after the debate among participants.*

6. Knowledge: The EU has minimal standards for protection against discrimination. Which of the following would be illegal under EU's minimal standards?



① *The most important part from the debate was the level of knowledge participants gained. The debate increased significantly the number of participants believing that refusal of medical assistance because of your sexual orientation (16%), refusal of service because of your ethnicity (6%), and denying employment because of your ethnicity would be illegal (7%) under EU's minimal standards.*

