



THE VOICE OF CITIZENS
IN PARLIAMENT: NATIONAL DEBATE
ON THE ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENT
IN THE PROCESS OF EU ACCESSION

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE DELIBERATIVE POLL ON THE ROLE
AND MODELS OF INVOLVEMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT IN EU
INTEGRATION



European
Policy
Institute.
Skopje



NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC
DEBATE



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
DEMOCRACY

SUPPORTING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD

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 be more informed. The Deliberative Poll aims to consider the views and preferences of the public, both prior to and following a thorough understanding of the topic.

Representative sample

Initial survey

Before the deliberative event, a baseline survey was conducted with a nationally representative sample of 1200 citizens between 18th of March and 02nd of April, 2026. Ethnicity of the respondents: 66,3% Macedonians, 24,8% Albanians, and 8,9% other.

After the deliberation

After the two-day deliberative event on 25th and 26th of April, 2026, 136 respondents filled out the survey again, after two days of informing and discussing the topics with relevant stakeholders from the Macedonian society. Ethnicity of the respondents: 80,9% Macedonians, 12,5% Albanians, and 6,6% other.

The deliberative event

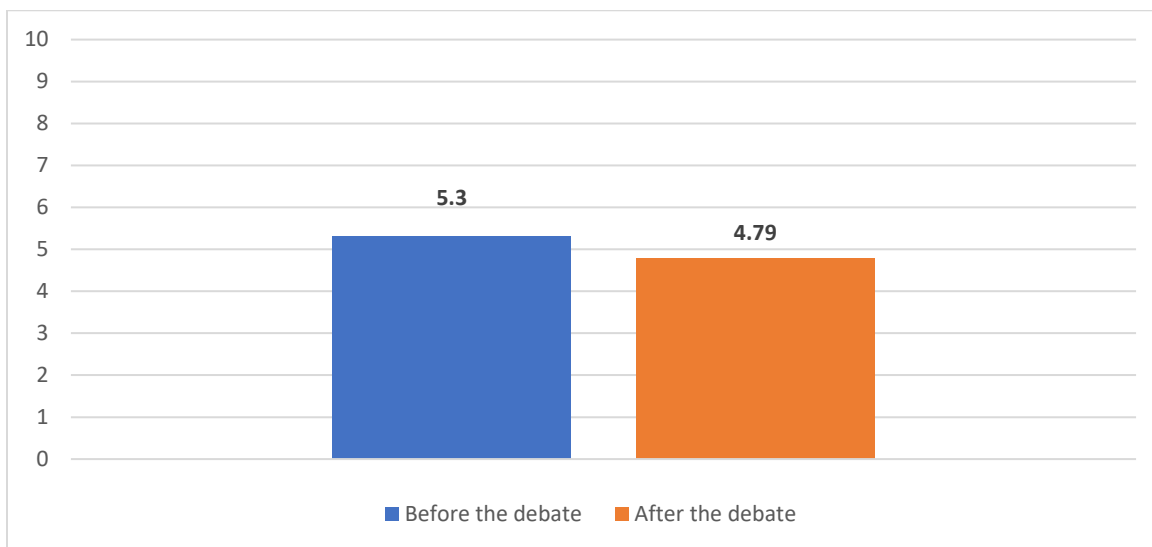
The two-day event took place at the Holiday Inn Hotel and the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia on 25 and 26 April 2026. 140 respondents divided into 11 groups informed and taught each other about the role of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia in the EU accession process, focusing on the functions of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, transparency and trust, functioning and key working bodies of the Assembly in the EU accession process. Each group then posed questions to a panel of experts and politicians from across the spectrum, in order to build informed and unbiased views.



Results

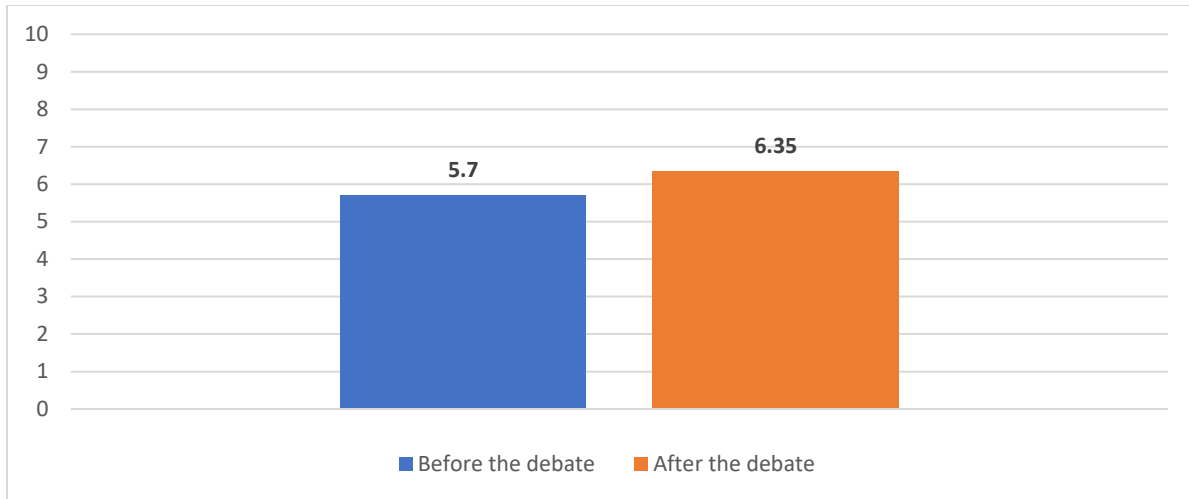
The following are some of the results of the change in citizens' attitudes regarding the role of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia in the EU accession process.

1. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means “Not understandable at all” and 10 means “Completely understandable”, how understandable do you find the information about the EU coming from state institutions?



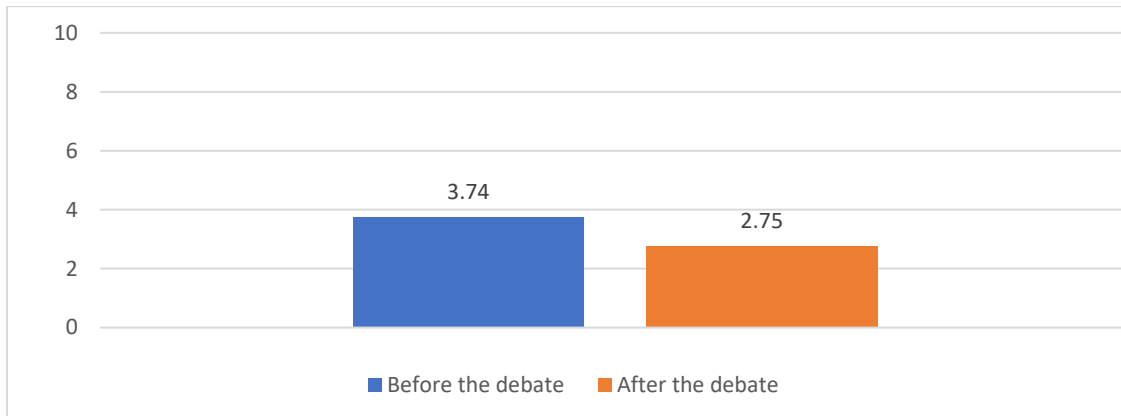
① The average score decreased from 5.30 before the debate to 4.79 after the debate. After the debate, participants rated the institutional information as somewhat less understandable, perhaps reflecting increased criticality after participants were introduced to detailed institutional content during the debate.

2. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means “I am not familiar at all” and 10 means “I am fully familiar”, how familiar are you with the role of the Assembly in the EU accession process?



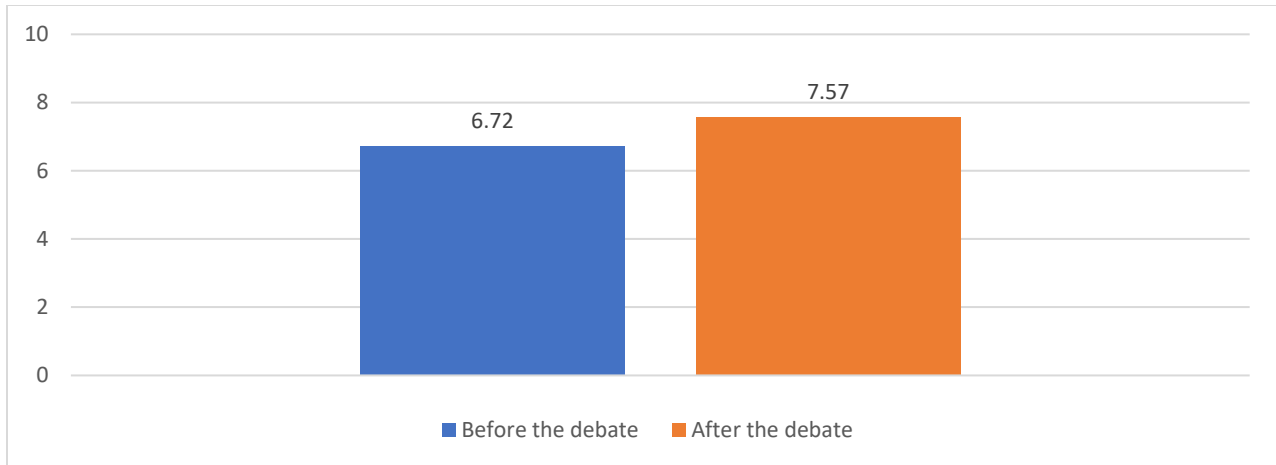
① After the debate, awareness of the role of the Assembly in the EU accession process increased, which is in line with the informative content of the debate event.

3. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means “strongly disagree” and 10 means “strongly agree”, how much do you agree with the statement that the dialogue between the government and the opposition on EU integration is at a high level?



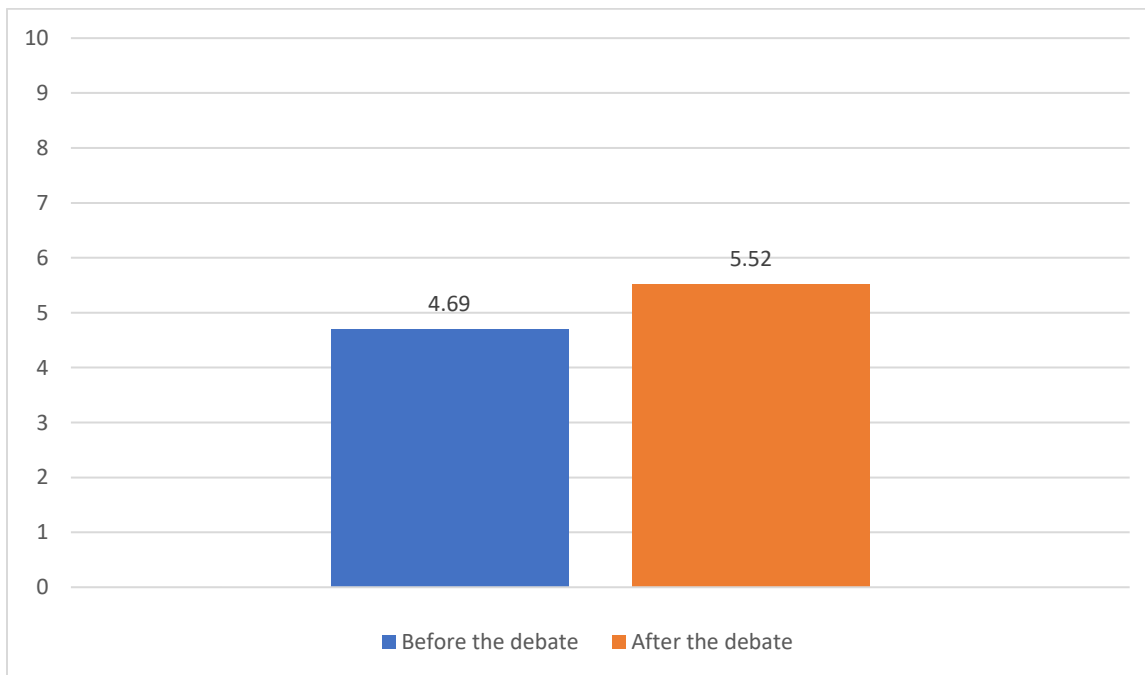
① After the debate, awareness of the role of the Assembly in the EU accession process increased, which is in line with the informative content of the debate event.

4. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means “strongly disagree” and 10 means “strongly agree”, how much do you agree with the statement that public hearings in the Assembly help citizens understand what EU membership brings?



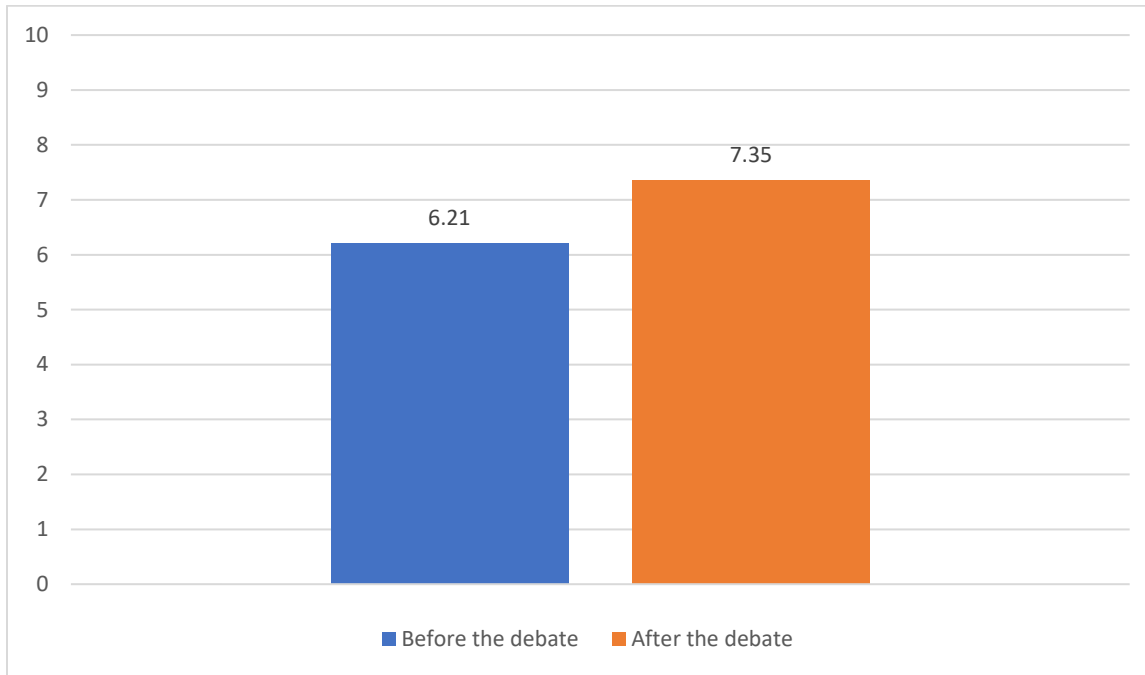
① The average score increased from 6.72 before the debate to 7.57 after the debate. After the debate, participants agreed more strongly that public debates in the Assembly help citizens understand what EU membership brings.

5. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means “strongly disagree” and 10 means “strongly agree”, how much do you agree with the statement key EU decisions are made exclusively in the Government, without substantive participation by the Assembly?



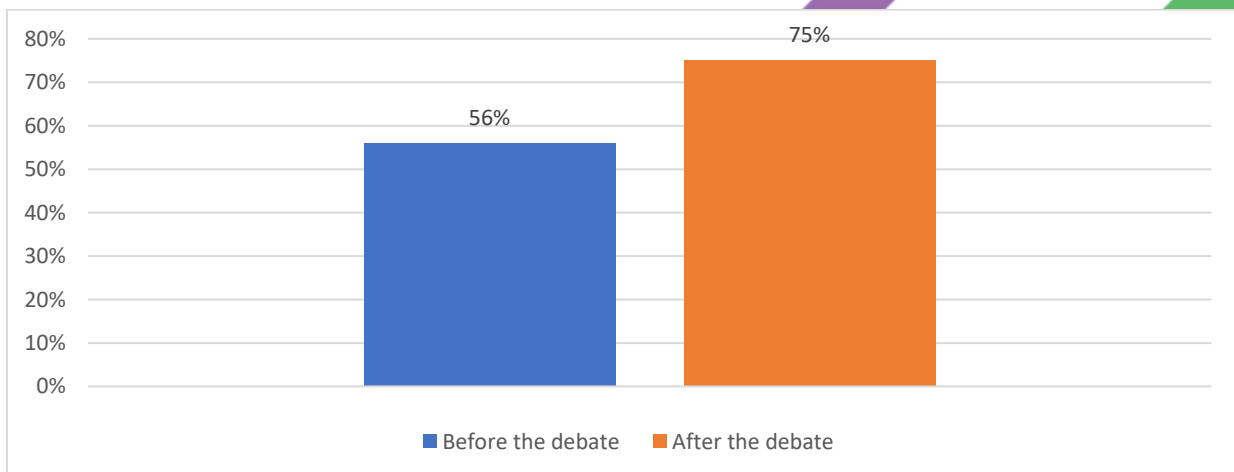
① The average score increased from 4.69 before the debate to 5.52 after the debate. After the debate, participants agreed more strongly that key decisions on the EU are made exclusively in the Government, with limited substantive participation by the Assembly. This indicates an increased awareness of the dominance of the executive branch in EU-related decision-making.

6. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means “strongly disagree” and 10 means “strongly agree”, how much do you agree with the statement that public debates and hearings increase citizens’ trust in the Assembly?



① The average score increased from 6.21 before the debate to 7.35 after the debate. After the debate, participants agreed more strongly that public debates and discussions increase citizens' trust in the Parliament. This is the largest positive shift among all scale items and indicates the perceived value of deliberative formats.

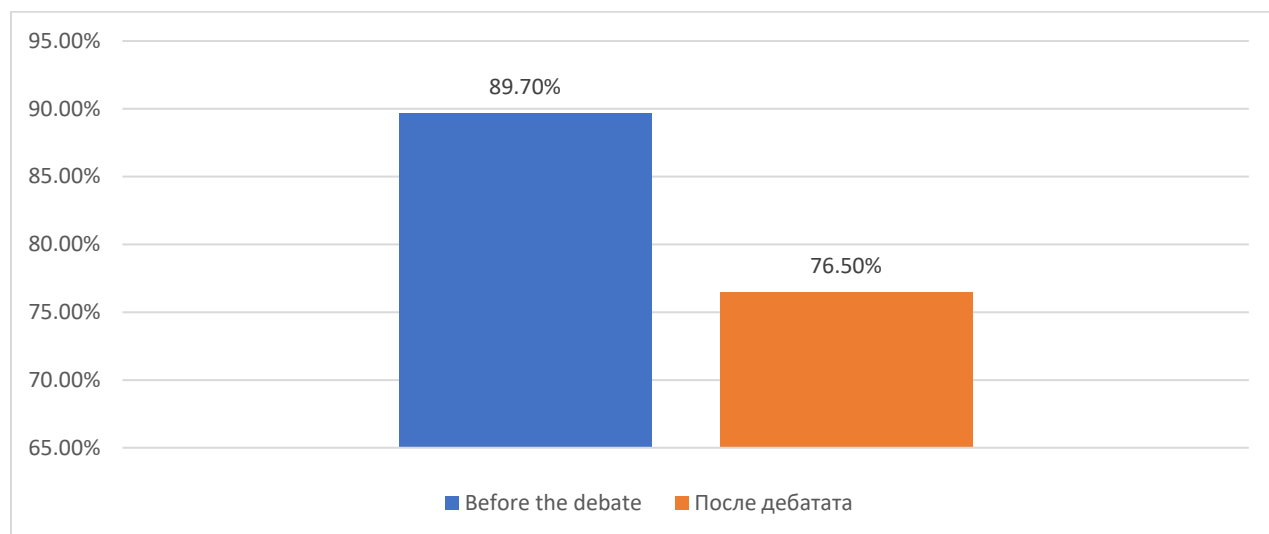
7. Have you heard that in addition to the regular Committee on European Affairs, there is a special body in the Assembly called the “National Council for European Integration”?



① The share of participants who chose the correct answer (Yes, I have heard of it.) increased from 56.6% before the debate to 75.0% after the debate. After the debate,

participants have greater knowledge about the key bodies of the Assembly in the EU accession process.

8. Does the Assembly have the right to hold the Government accountable (for example, to demand the removal of a minister) if it believes that the negotiations are being conducted poorly?



① The share of participants who chose the correct answer (Yes) decreased from 89.7% before the debate to 76.5% after the debate.

