

BALKAN BAROMETER 2016 Infographics

pocket edition



This project is funded
by the European Union





BALKAN BAROMETER, the voice of South East Europe

BALKAN Barometer 2016 edition is a comprehensive survey commissioned by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) on attitudes, experiences and perceptions of the **general public and business community** in **South East Europe** on various economic, social, political and cultural issues.

It is an integral part of the annual monitoring process of the SEE2020 Strategy.

Balkan Barometer pocket edition reveals the main thoughts of people and businesses on burning issues facing our economies, through infographics.

This survey, conducted by GfK, among **8000** citizens and **1800** companies through our part of Europe, is an easy-to-access source of information. The RCC website www.rcc.int permits download of both components of the **Balkan Barometer - Public Opinion Survey and Business Opinion Survey** - as well as their datasets which are easily searchable.

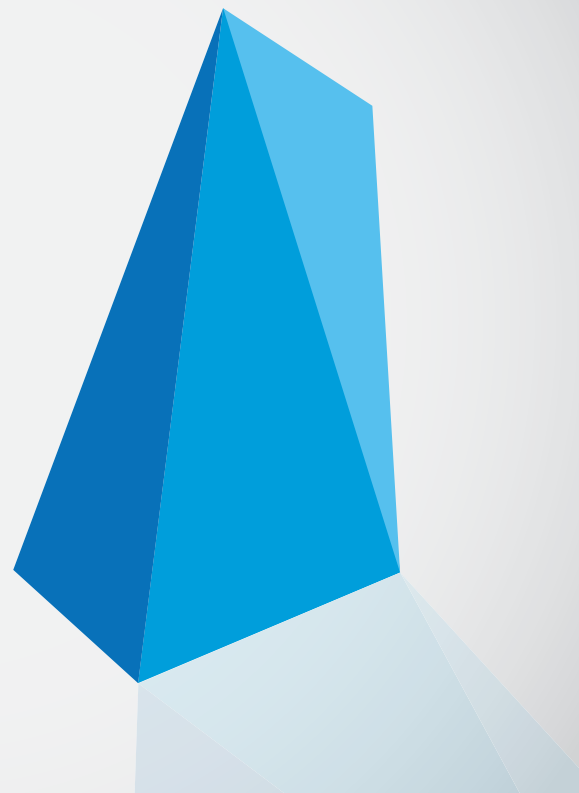
Check it out at:

<http://www.rcc.int/seeds/results/2/balkan-opinion-barometer>

<http://www.rcc.int/seeds/results/3/balkan-business-barometer>

Good. Better. Regional.

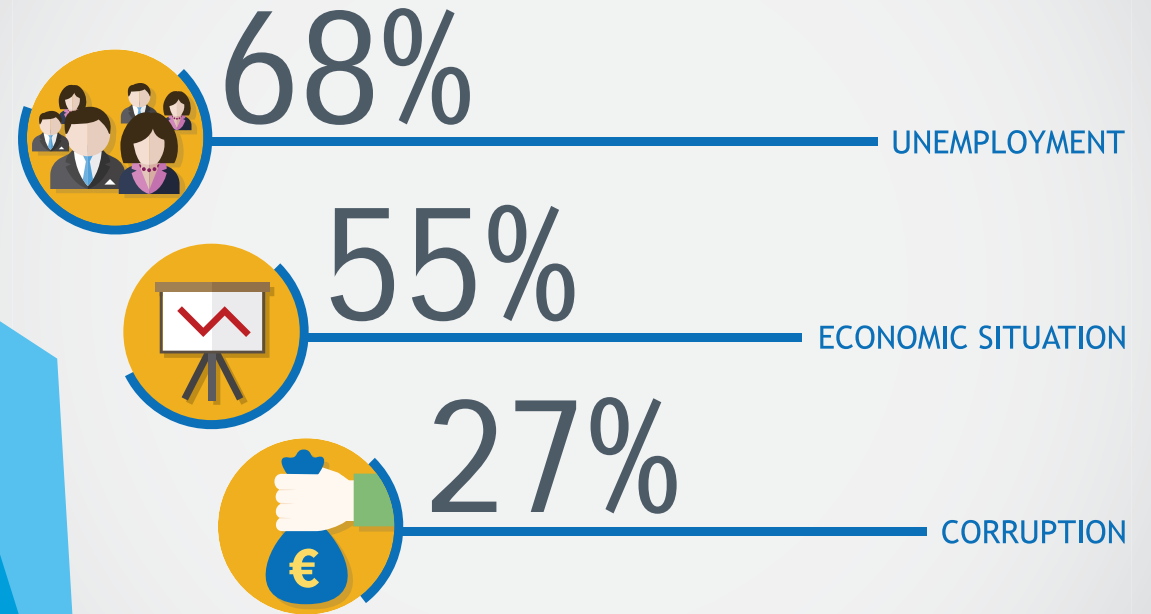
BALKAN
BAROMETER
2016
Infographics



What is troubling the people in South East Europe the most?

RCC'S BALKAN BAROMETER 2016

The people in South East Europe say the MOST IMPORTANT problems of our societies are:

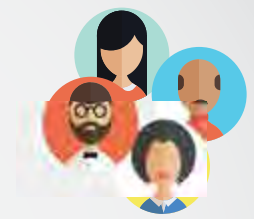


Good.
Better.
Regional.

Regional cooperation

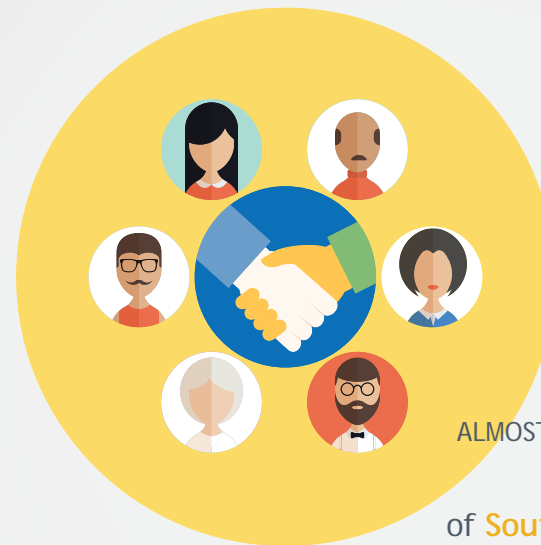
Regional cooperation is valued, primarily as an instrument of stability

77% OF PEOPLE IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE think that regional cooperation is *a contributor* to



in their individual societies

One region, one economy!



ALMOST

51%

of South East European companies
find the
quality of regional cooperation
either important or very important
for their business.

Good.
Better.
Regional.

EU integration

*EU is valued primarily for free travel and labour
market reasons*



39%

of
PEOPLE IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE
think that
EU membership
is a



GOOD THING

They say
EU membership
FOR THEM PERSONALLY
means:

32%



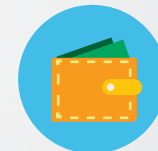
Freedom to
study and/or work
in the EU

31%



Freedom to
travel

30%



Economic
prosperity

One region, one economy!

54%

of businesses
think that
EU MEMBERSHIP
would be a



GOOD THING



Good.
Better.
Regional.

On average

26%

of people in South East Europe
think that the
EU accession
WILL NEVER HAPPEN

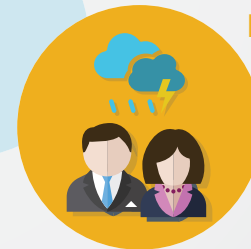
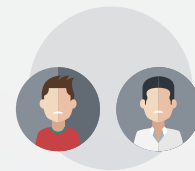
led by BiH



with

33%

of
PESSIMISTS!



One region, one economy!

Employment

Unemployment rates remain high as well as the risk of falling into poverty; and inequality is increasing

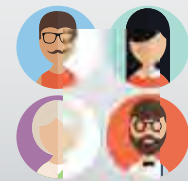
The
GAP

between the RICH and the POOR

is

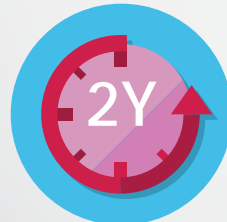
increasing

says



89%

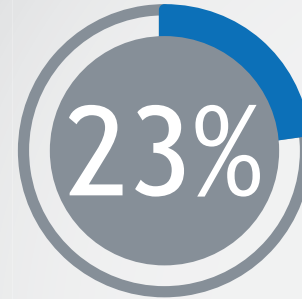
of people in
South East Europe



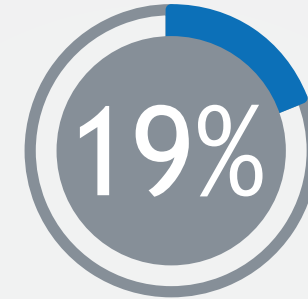
61%

of people in South East Europe
are not confident
they would have a job in
TWO YEARS' time

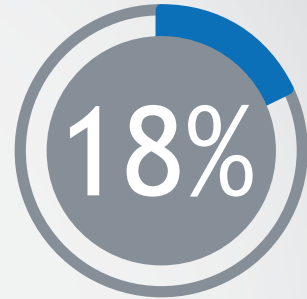
Good.
Better.
Regional.



of
SEE population
say they
COULD NOT pay
all the bills in
the past 12 MONTHS



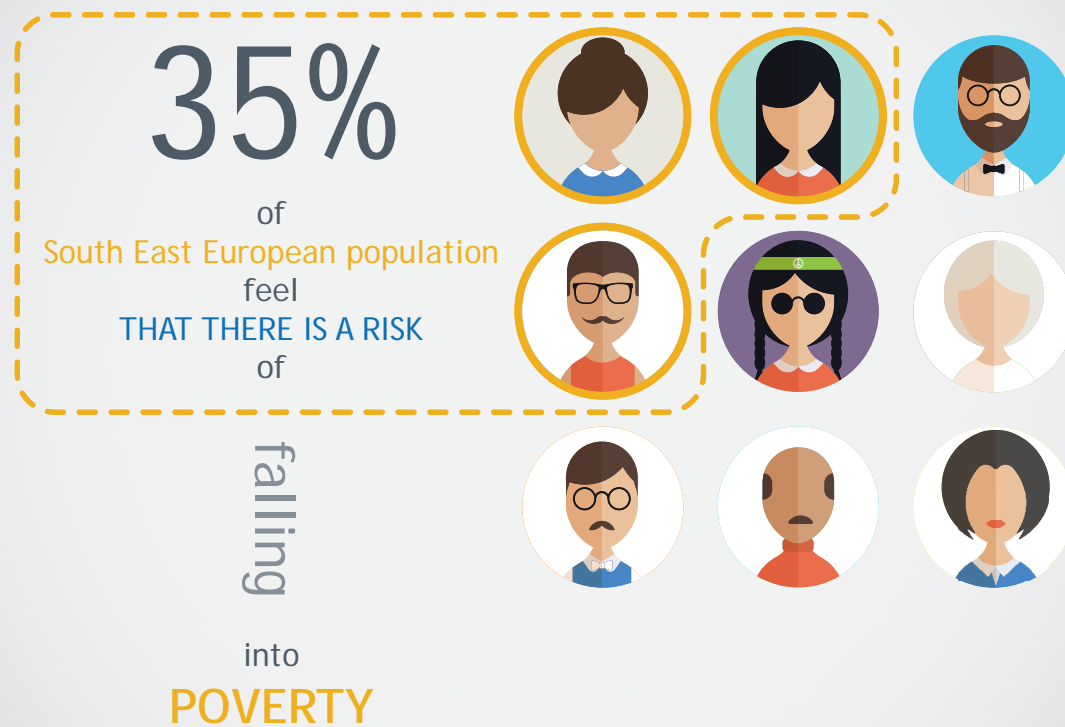
were unable
to keep
THEIR HOME
adequately
warm



were unable
to AFFORD
basic
supplies



One region, one economy!



Good.
Better.
Regional.

ALMOST HALF
of the population
in South East Europe

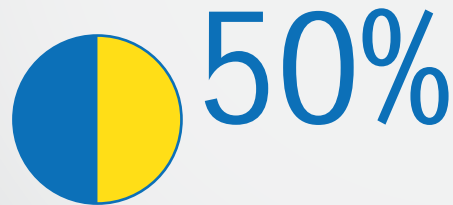
43%



is thinking
of
LIVING ABROAD



The highest percentage
of population who reported WANTING TO LEAVE
is in Bosnia and Herzegovina



50%

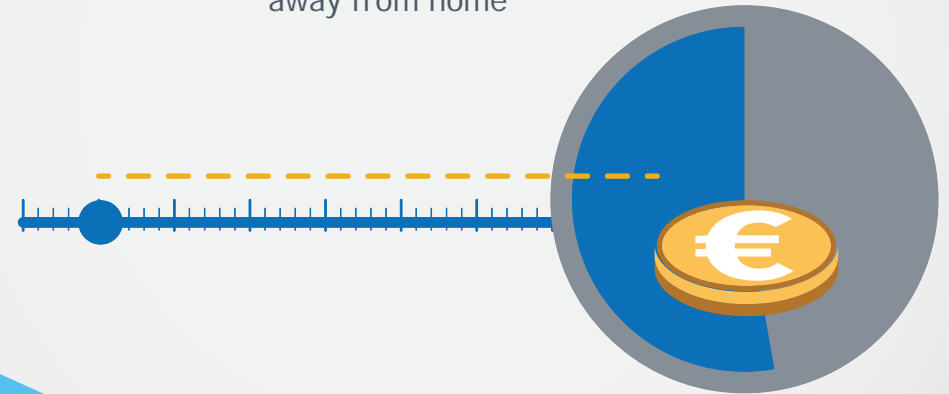


36%

and the lowest in
Croatia

One region, one economy!

More than half
53% of South East European population says they were **UNABLE** to afford a **weeklong holiday** away from home



Good.
Better.
Regional.

A VAST MAJORITY
of people in South East Europe



79%
say they would rather
work in PUBLIC SECTOR



54%
of them
say it is because of
JOB SECURITY

One region, one economy!



46%

of
South East European businesses
think people prefer to work



in PUBLIC SECTOR



primarily
because of
JOB SECURITY

Good.
Better.
Regional.

Rule of Law

Corruption remains a major problem

RCC'S BALKAN BAROMETER 2016

More than half
of
SEE population
think
CORRUPTION
is most
widespread
among

54%

POLITICIANS



while

26%

say
people working
in the
HEALTH CARE SECTOR
are
CORRUPT



One region, one economy!



78%

of people in South East Europe say JUDICIAL SYSTEM is not independent from political influence



71%

do not have CONFIDENCE in courts and judiciary



83%

think the law IS NOT APPLIED to everyone equally

Good.
Better.
Regional.

Corruption and business in South East Europe:

19%

of

South East European businesses say they make

'UNOFFICIAL PAYMENTS' to get GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS



One region, one economy!



39%

of
South East European managers
think that

REPORTING WRONGDOING



to people in authority
via official channels
is the most EFFICIENT way
to fight corruption



Good.
Better.
Regional.



26%

of
South East European companies
report having
cases before

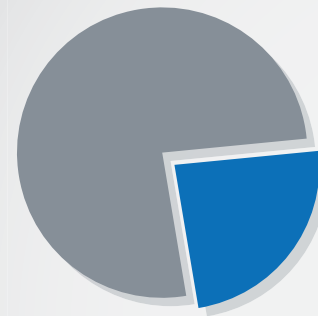
ARBITRATION COURTS



in the
PAST 3 YEARS



One region, one economy!



A QUARTER of South East European businesses

24%



say they had to initiate
COURT PROCEEDINGS
to settle

overdue
payments



Good.
Better.
Regional.

Education

About a third of South East European population believe that education is most important for finding a job today



Most people
in the region



agree that their
EDUCATION
meets the needs
of their job.
BUT MAJORITY



are not often encouraged
to take initiative
or to be innovative
in their work

One region, one economy!

The vast majority of employed persons

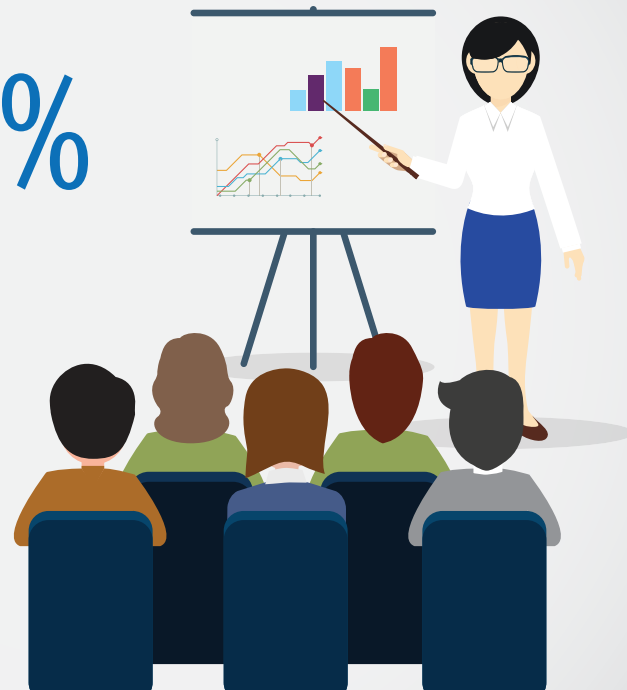


81%

in the SEE region say they are ready to pursue

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

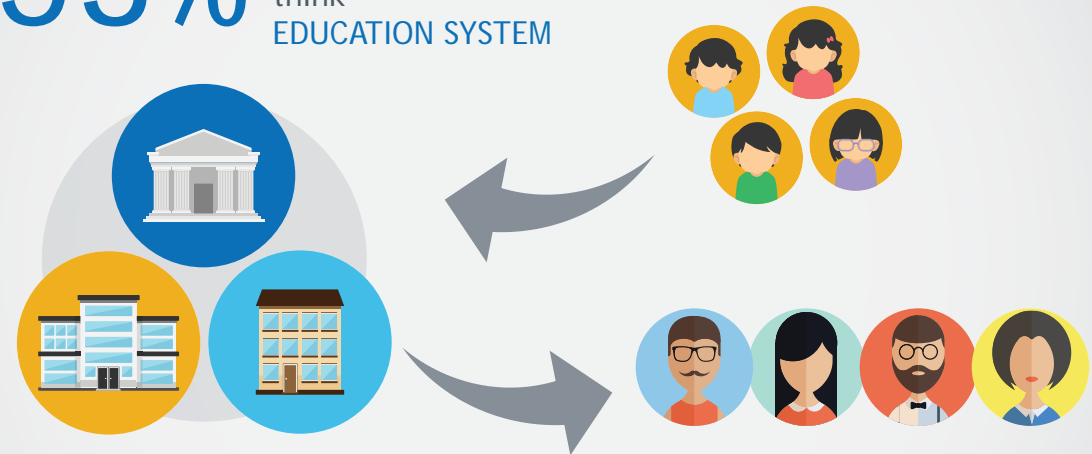
in order to advance at work



RCC'S BALKAN BAROMETER 2016

Good.
Better.
Regional.

53% of South East European businesses think EDUCATION SYSTEM



produces LABOUR force that meets the needs of their enterprise

One region, one economy!

31%

of
SEE businesses
mostly large and
trade-oriented
companies
say they
had vacancies
that were
DIFFICULT TO FILL
in
2015



vs.



25%

in
2014



Good.
Better.
Regional.

46% of
South East European businesses
say they organised

ADDITIONAL
TRAININGS



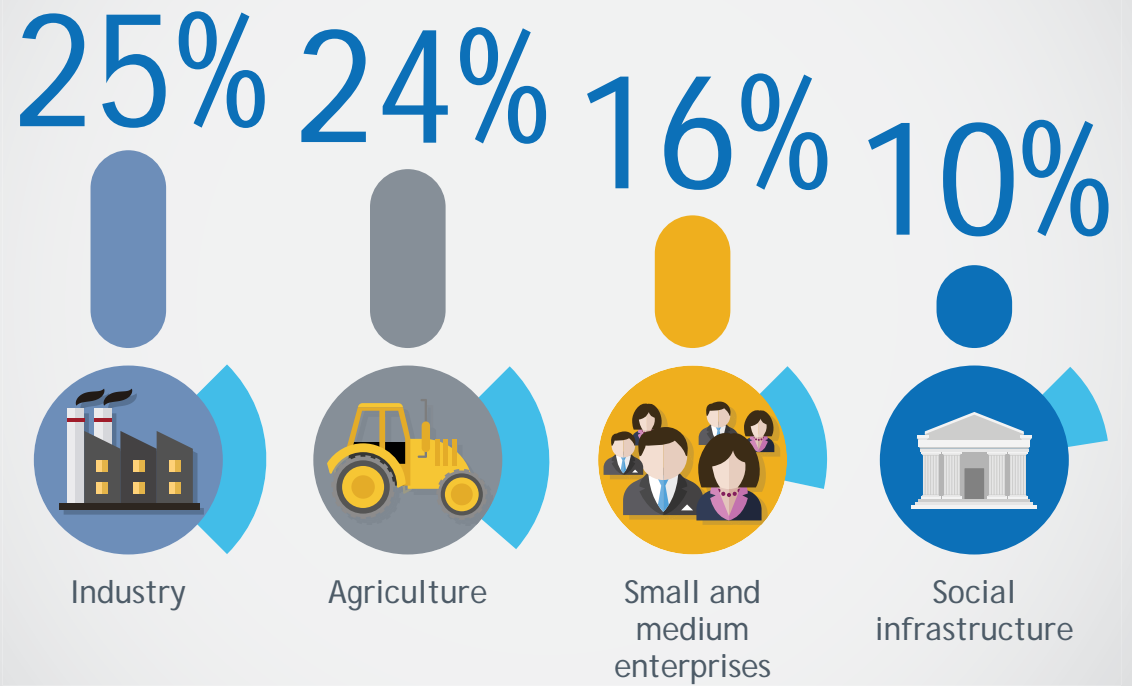
for their employees
in the
past year

One region, one economy!

Trade and Investments

Protectionism is still strong in most economies, free trade is generally supported

The people in SEE say GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT priorities should be:



Good.
Better.
Regional.

In South East Europe

63%

of large companies report to be
NON-EXPORTERS,



while only

37%

say they are
EXPORTING!



One region, one economy!

According to South East European companies, there are three main reasons for NOT EXPORTING:

18%



No capacity to export

30%



No interest or plans to export

36%



Inadequacy of goods and services

Good.
Better.
Regional.

More than half
of South East European population



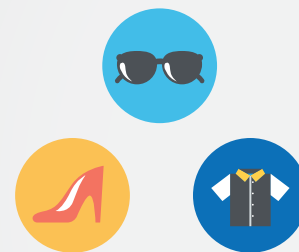
58%

estimates that the
TRADE LINKS
in the region
should be
IMPROVED



One region, one economy!

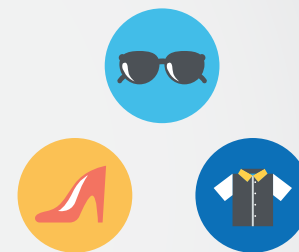
The vast majority of South East European population **81%**



considers that products from their economy



CAN COMPETE WELL



with the products from both other **SEE economies** and the EU

Good.
Better.
Regional.

Food and beverages:

86%

of South East Europeans
say they prefer

DOMESTIC
PRODUCTS.



As the SECOND CHOICE,

42%

reported choosing
products from
WESTERN EUROPE

while

41%

opt for products
from other
SEE economies

One region, one economy!

Most people
in
SEE region **77%**

believe
that governments
should give
priority
to **LOCAL SUPPLIERS**
when
procuring products and services
instead of
treating them
the same as
FOREIGN SUPPLIERS



Good.
Better.
Regional.

59%

of
South East European companies
say they do NOT
feel threatened
by
international competition



One region, one economy!



Tax-related regulations are



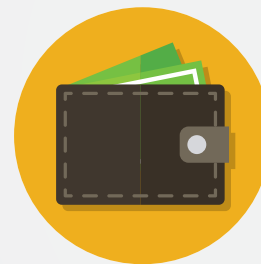
the
BIGGEST OBSTACLE
to success says

43%

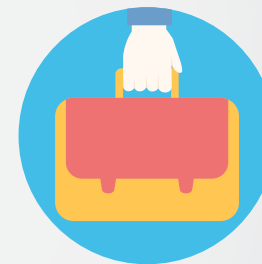
of South East European businesses

Good.
Better.
Regional.

56% of South East European companies
say their working capital
and new fixed investment
were financed
from



INTERNAL FUNDS



in the

last year



One region, one economy!

49%

of South East European businesses believe that demand for their products/services will INCREASE next year!



Others are LESS optimistic

Good.
Better.
Regional.

Most people
in the region

56%

think that
entering of foreign companies
into their economies
WOULD IMPROVE
the situation
for

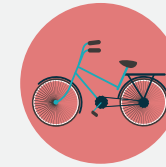
consumers



One region, one economy!

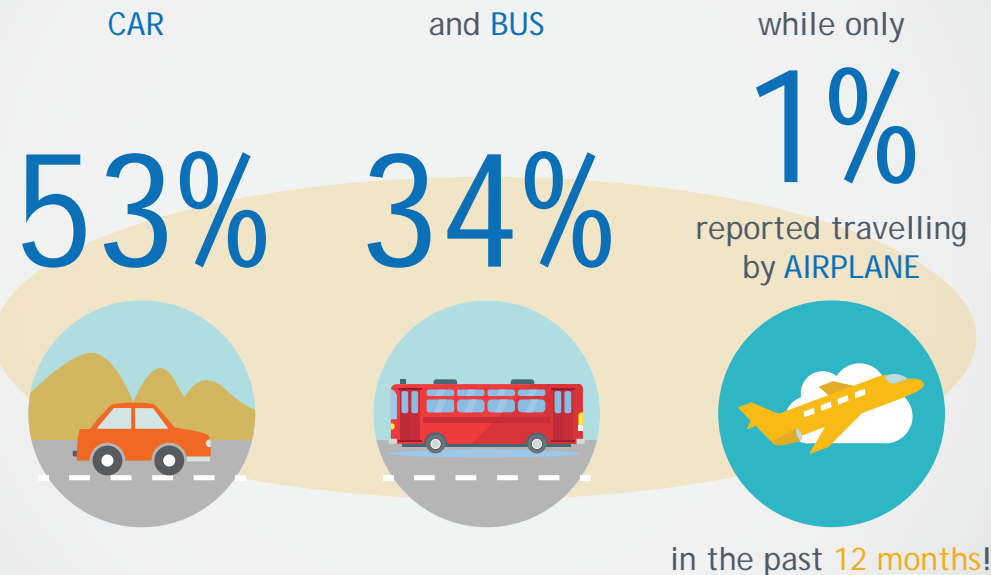
Transport and Infrastructure

Investments in this area are popular, especially when it comes to roads



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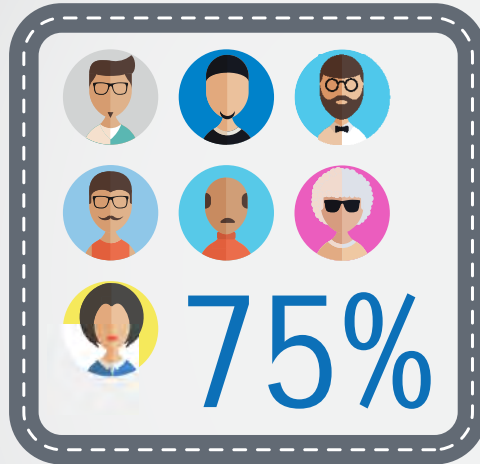
People in **South East Europe** reported travelling mostly by



RCC'S BALKAN BAROMETER 2016

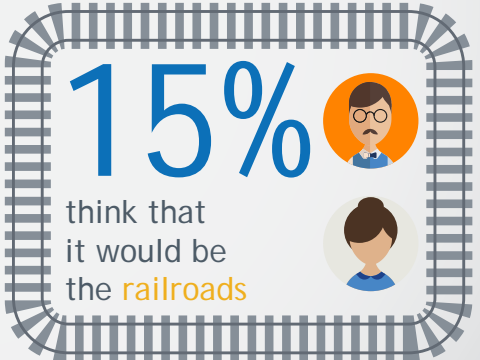
One region, one economy!

Majority of people in South East Europe

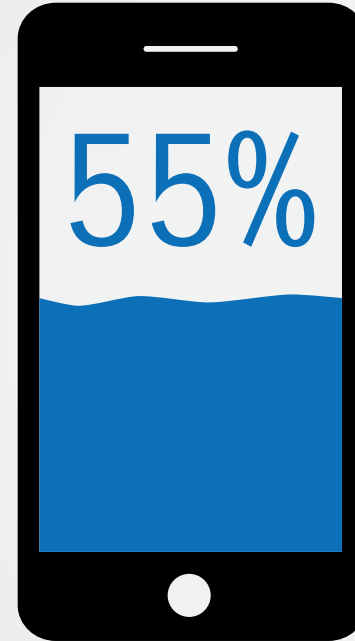


believe that road improvements would have the most BENEFICIAL IMPACT on travelling,

while




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of
South East European business leaders
believe
eliminating
MOBILE PHONE ROAMING CHARGES
would be
useful
for their business

One region, one economy!

 **48%** of SEE companies say they prioritize **UPGRADES OF ROADS** over all other infrastructure as having the largest **beneficial effect** on their business



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Regional.

Environment and Energy

Climate change is real, saving energy is important

SEE: **70%**
of people
PERCEIVE
climate change
as a
problem!



People in SEE
claim they pay more
attention to
SAVING ENERGY
in their homes



84%
and

65%
say they are ready
to buy
ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCTS
even if they
cost a little bit more

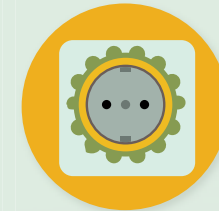


One region, one economy!

Businesses and environment in South East Europe:

73%

of companies
say they took some steps
to REDUCE
the
harmful environmental impact



Good.
Better.
Regional.

Public Administration

Credibility of public institutions in SEE is perceived low

58%

of people in
South East Europe
believe

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES
in public institutions
are inefficient



Time required to
obtain public services
(police, health system,
judiciary, township, etc.)
is GRADED POOR
by

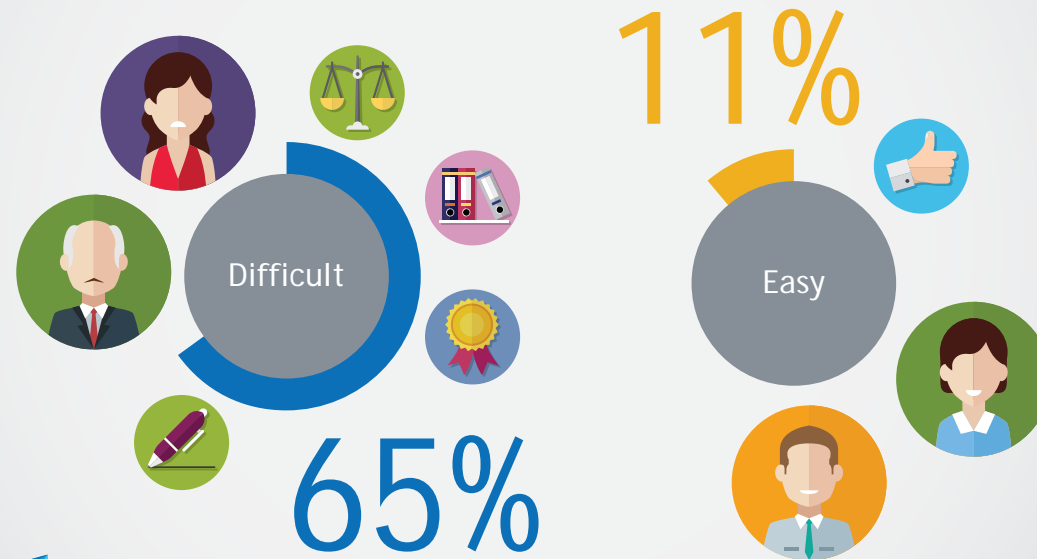


52% of people



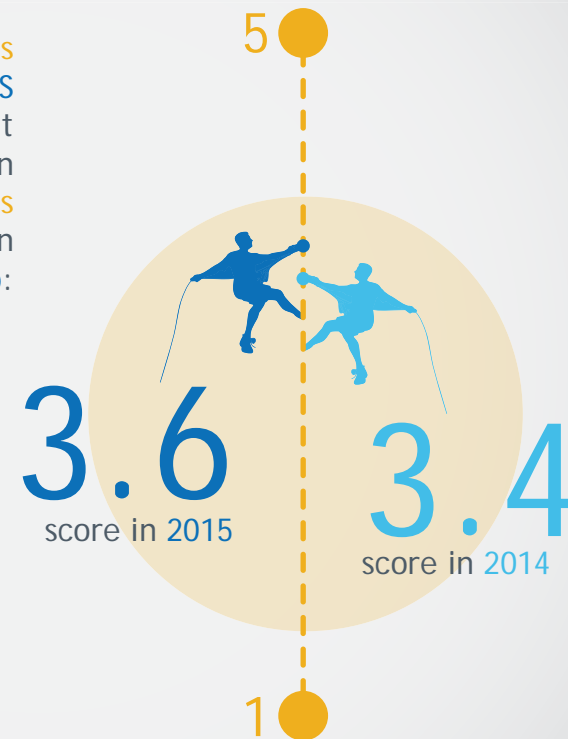
One region, one economy!

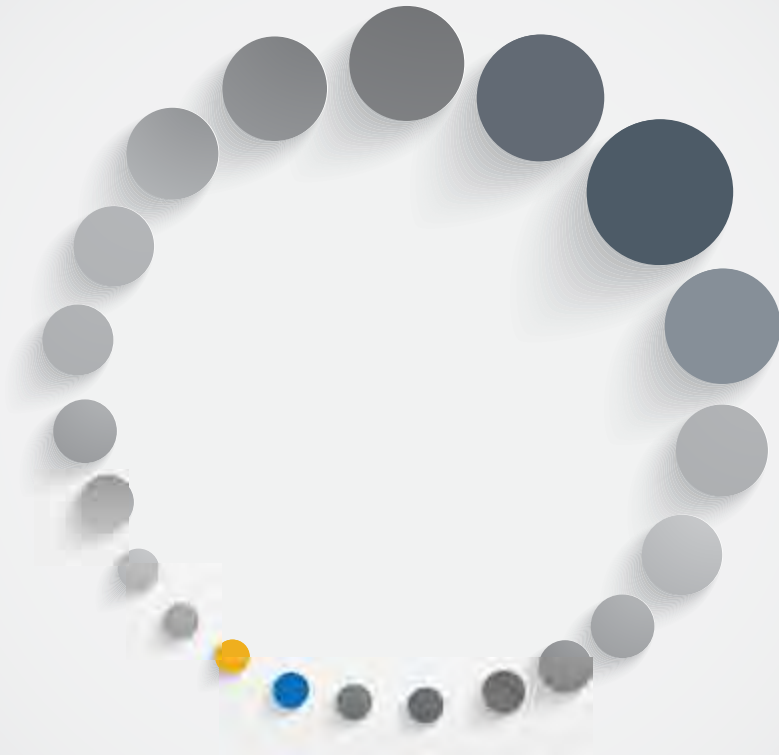
Is it difficult or easy to start a business in South East Europe?
South East Europeans say it is:



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South East European businesses report having **EASIER ACCESS** to relevant information on **laws and regulations** than 12 months ago:







@rccint



RegionalCooperationCouncil



RCCSec

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