



**Brief report of the findings of Survey on Perceptions and Level of Understanding on  
Conflict of Interest Policies Among Public Servants in Armenia**

*Engaging Civil Society in Monitoring Conflict of Interest Policies Project*

*Yerevan 2014*



## **Report on survey on perceptions and level of understanding of Conflict of Interest policies among the public servants in Armenia**

In 2013-2014 Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF), in cooperation with Transparency International Moldova, has conducted a survey in a number of Armenian state institutions to identify the perceptions and level of understanding of Conflict of Interest (CoI) policies among public servants. The survey was implemented within the framework of “*Engaging Civil Society in Monitoring Conflict of Interest Policies*” project funded by the European Commission.

EPF has submitted letters to 10 ministries with a proposal to conduct surveys among their staff public servants:

1. Ministry of Education and Science
2. Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
3. Ministry of Justice
4. Ministry of Urban Development
5. Ministry of Energy and National Resources
6. Ministry of Finance
7. Ministry of Economy
8. Ministry of Agriculture
9. Ministry of Healthcare
10. Ministry of Ecology

Two of the above ministries (Economy and Finance) rejected the request while arguing that, at the moment, holding the proposed survey was “unreasonable”. The Ministry of Education and Science, while not openly rejecting, still constantly postponed the reply with no further explanation. The other seven ministries have assisted EPF in conducting surveys in a very timely and supportive manner.

As a result, the survey was done in in the seven out of 10 ministries with participation of 134 public servants.

Given that in 2009 and 2010 the Government of Armenia flatly refused to support and participate in the anti-corruption survey of USAID-funded “*Mobilized Action Against Corruption*” (MAAC) project, this can be considered a significant success.

Prior to each survey, an EPF expert introduced the essence of the questionnaire and the goal of holding the survey and was present in the room during the survey to be able to respond to possible questions.

Below are some findings of the survey.



1.

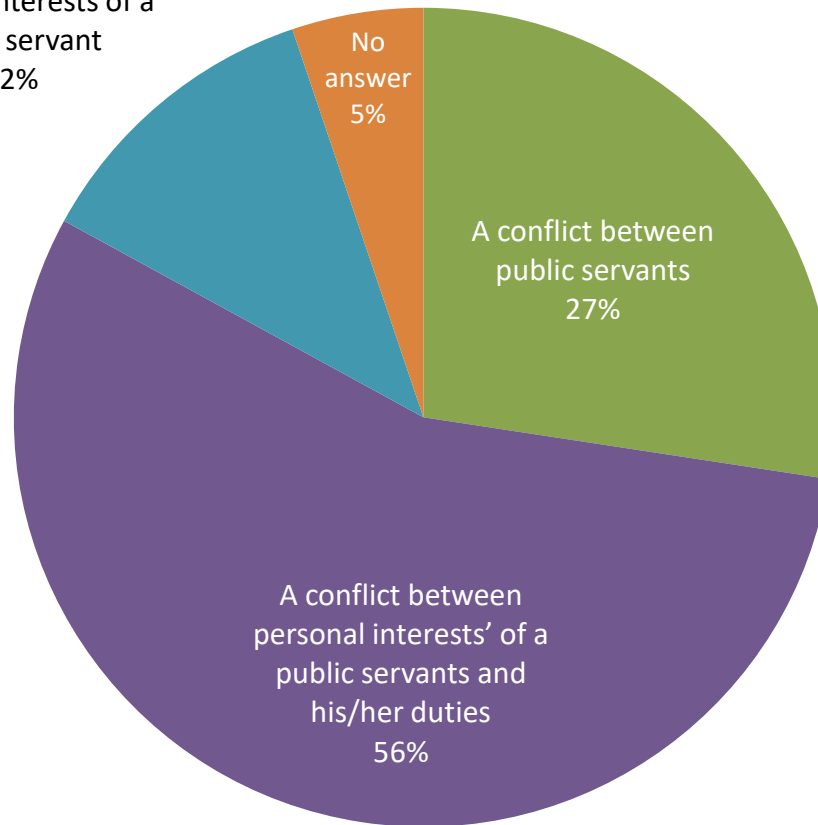
## What does "conflict of interests in public services" mean?

A conflict between  
personal interests of a  
public servant  
12%

No  
answer  
5%

A conflict between  
public servants  
27%

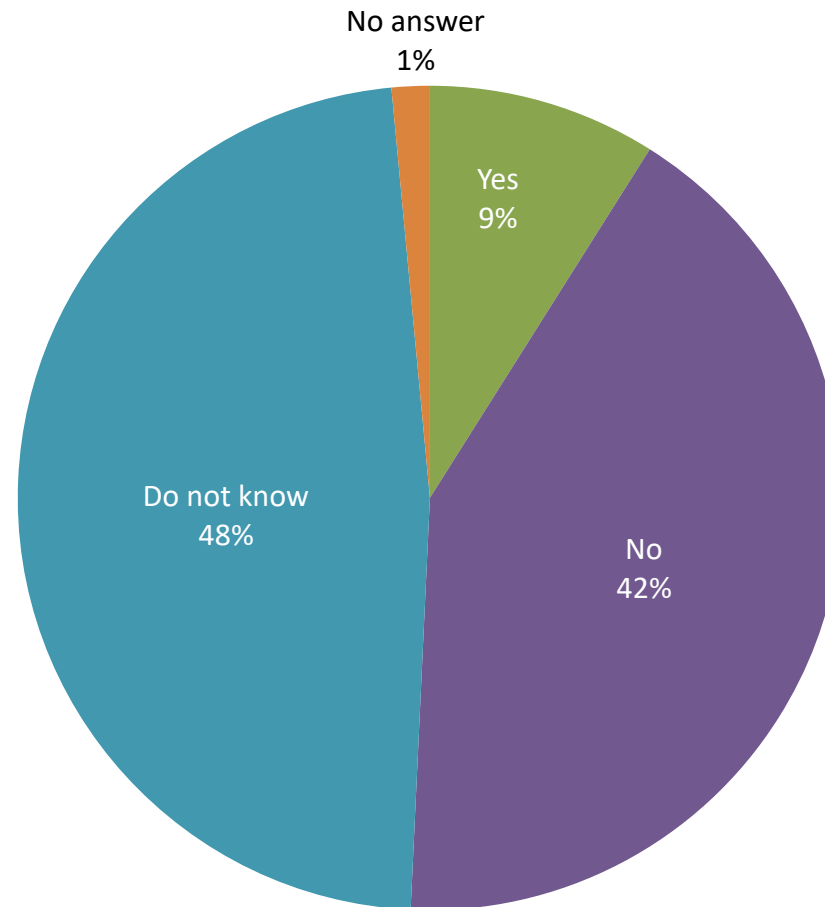
A conflict between  
personal interests' of a  
public servants and  
his/her duties  
56%





2.

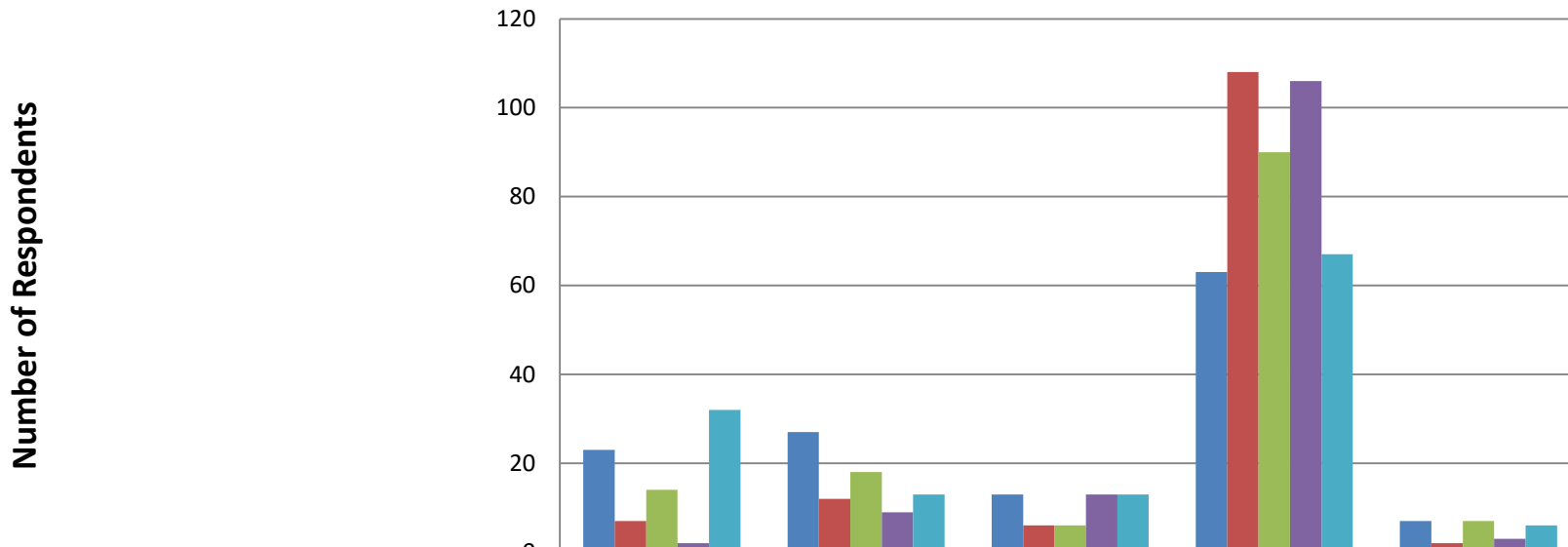
### Do you think "conflict of interests" is corruption?





3.

### In your opinion, how acceptable are the following situations:



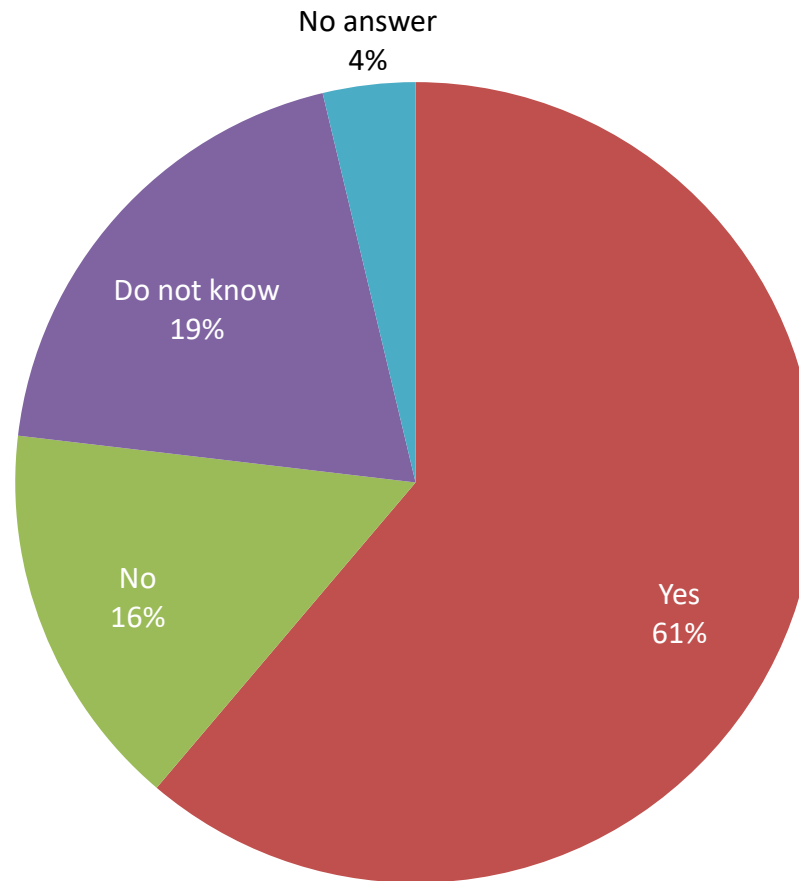
#### The public servant

	Totally acceptable	Acceptable to some extent	Acceptable as an exception	Unacceptable	No answer
■ Takes part in the decision to sign a contract on public procurement with a company owned by his/her spouse	23	27	13	63	7
■ Uses the internal information to warn a business person on a control from a state institution	7	12	6	108	2
■ Decides on allocation of funds to an NGO funded by him/her	14	18	6	90	7
■ Uses the company car in an election campaign	2	9	13	106	3
■ After quitting the position in public service applies for a job in a company he/she supervised in his/her public position	32	13	13	67	6



4.

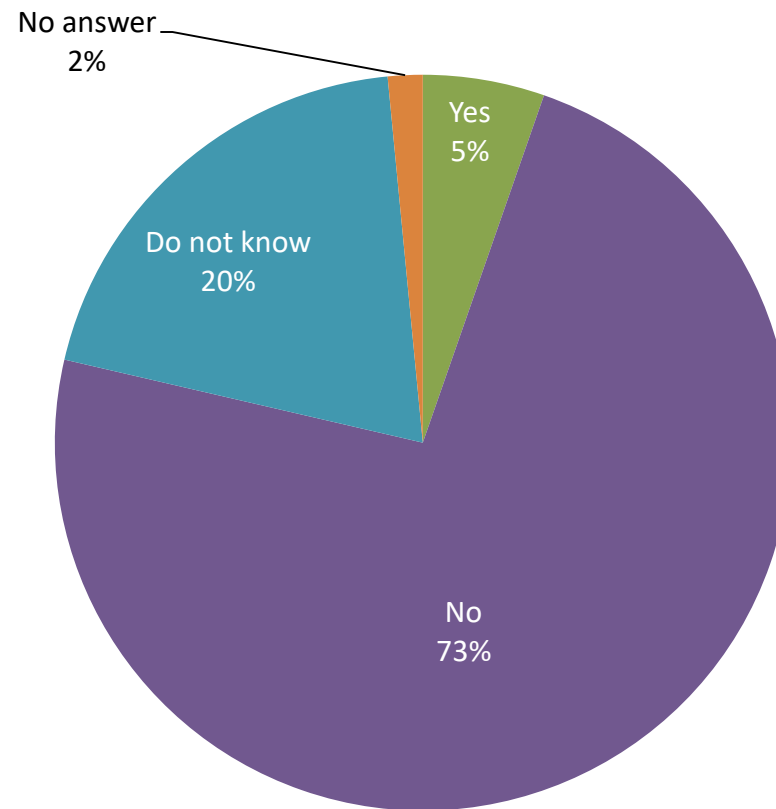
### Do you think a public servant has the right to take a decision being in a conflict of interest situation?





5.

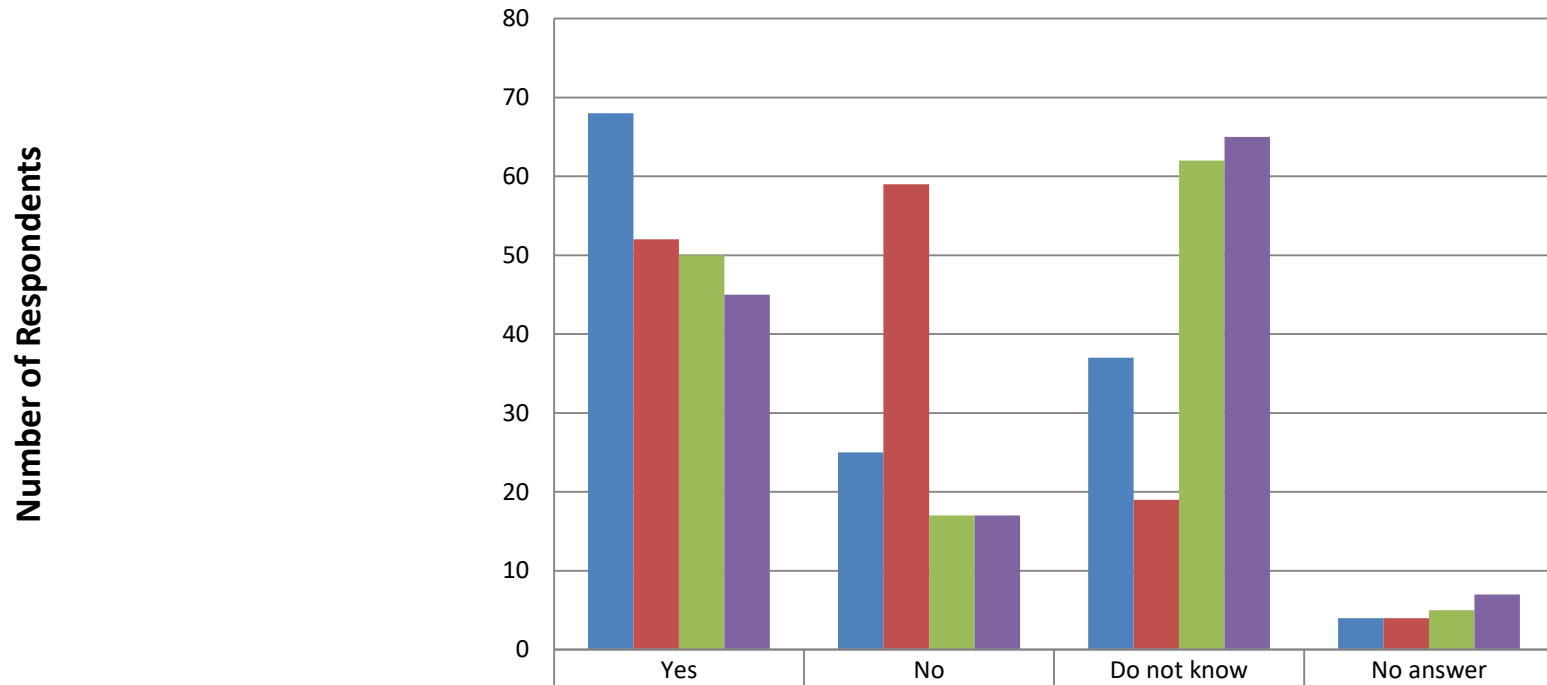
### Does your contract or ToR include obligatory requirements to declare conflict of interests?





6.

### Please express your opinion on the following practices in your institution:



	Yes	No	Do not know	No answer
■ Is there a Code of Conduct/Ethics for the staff members of your institution?	68	25	37	4
■ Are you aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct/Ethics?	52	59	19	4
■ If the Code was broken, were measures taken against the code breaker?	50	17	62	5
■ Were the staff members informed of the measures taken towards the people who broke the Code of Conduct?	45	17	65	7