

# Government Transparency and Accountability

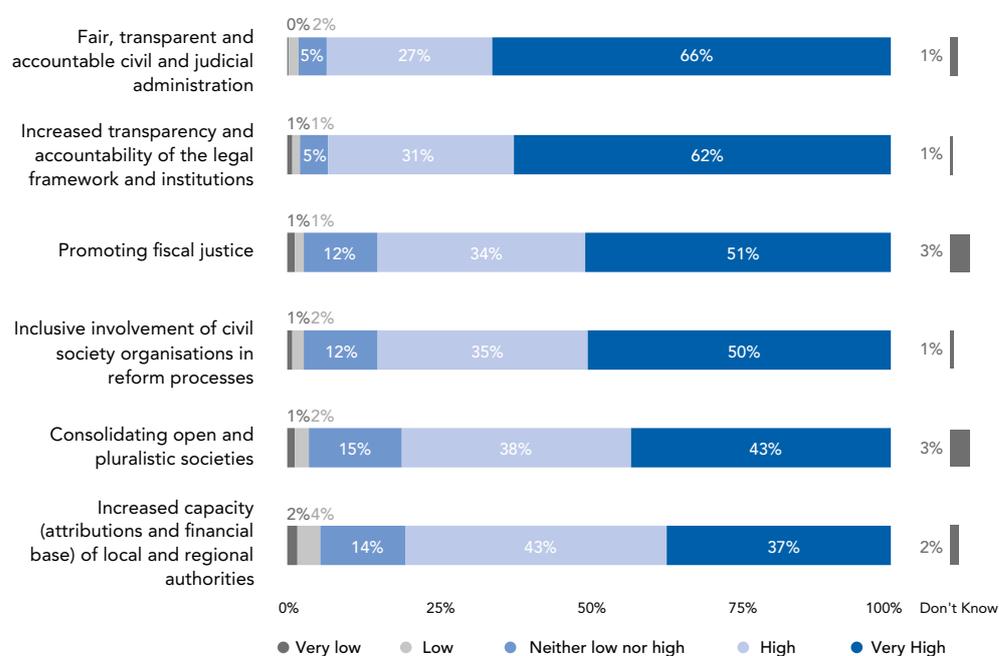
The last block of the questionnaire explores governance challenges in SMCs and to gather cooperation priorities that could enhance good governance.

## **Main findings:**

- Priorities to improve good governance should first deal with transparency and accountability both in the civil and judicial administration and in terms of legal frameworks and institutions.
- Consistently with the results on good governance priorities, cooperation priorities should be focused on transparency and rule of law (35.7%). Addressing corruption was identified as a main priority by nearly one third of all respondents (29.5%).

**Question 23** invited respondents to indicate, among different options, which issues should be prioritised while dealing with good governance in SMCs. The overall results showed that “Fair, transparent and accountable civil and judicial administration” together with “Increased transparency and accountability of the legal framework and institutions” were the main concerns dealing with good governance (see graph 34). Results also indicate that “Promoting fiscal justice” and “Inclusive involvement of civil society in reform processes” are also important.

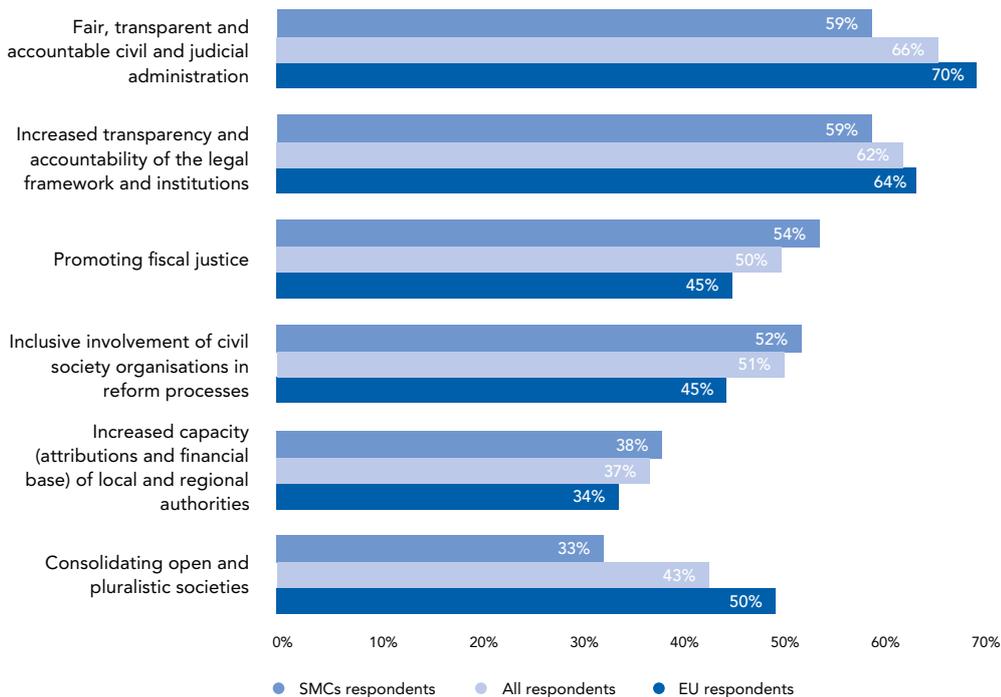
**Graph 34:** Q.23 To what extent should the following elements be prioritised while dealing with good governance in SMCs?



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the 13<sup>th</sup> Euromed Survey

A geographical breakdown of results points to some nuances on the key concerns facing good governance in SMCs. Results followed the overall pattern of the aggregated results between the two sub-samples, but EU respondents tended to choose “Fair, transparent and accountable civil and judicial administration” together with “Increased transparency and accountability of the legal framework and institutions” in higher percentages and particularly in the case of “Consolidating open and pluralistic societies” which ranks in third position with 17 percentage points above the SMCs percentage of answers (see graph 35). SMCs respondents gave higher percentages to “Promoting fiscal justice” and “Inclusive involvement of civil society in reform processes”.

**Graph 35:** Q.23 To what extent should the following elements be prioritised while dealing with good governance in SMCs? (% to a very high extent)



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the 13<sup>th</sup> Euromed Survey

In their comments respondents highlighted barriers to good governance:

An enhanced role for local and regional authorities does not guarantee better governance, it depends on local realities.

— Italian respondent

The implementation of good governance requirements depends on the political will and convictions of the ruling elites and the desire for change.

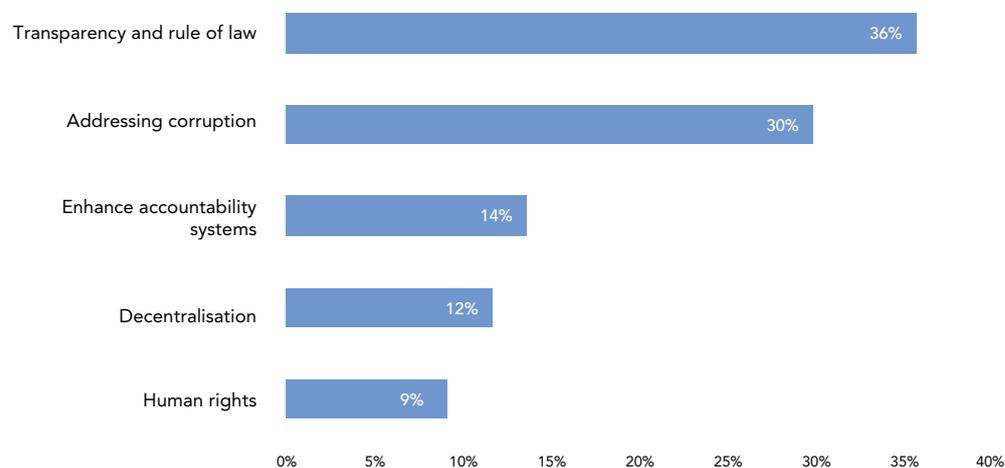
— Algerian respondent

Governments of SMCs should build strategies of fighting poverty and youth strategies that are supported by international guidelines.

— Danish respondent

The open-ended **Question 24** invited respondents to identify what should be the main cooperation priority to enhance good governance. In line with the results in Question 23, transparency and rule of law was the prioritised option (35,7%). Interestingly, the second priority was addressing corruption, mentioned by nearly one third of respondents (29,5%), (see graph 36). A geographic breakdown of results followed the overall pattern of results with no salient differences.

**Graph 36:** Q.24 What should be the main EU-SMCs cooperation priority for good governance? (Categories developed from open-ended answers)



Source: Compiled by the IEMed based on the results of the 13<sup>th</sup> Euromed Survey

Respondents explained how to further cooperation for good governance:

Set a good example yourself before advocating it for others. Therefore, the “do as I say but don’t do as I do” should be avoided. Otherwise, this discourse is incoherent.

— Belgian respondent

Potential conflicts of interest in government appointments and in links between prominent politicians and the business community have been identified as an issue of concern.

— Egyptian respondent

The EU must use a great deal of diplomacy and pedagogy to manage both the susceptibilities of incompetence and to provide the experience required for greater consistency in the difficult management of the insufficient means and resources available in societies that are in crisis.

— Tunisian respondent

Sharing best practices in governance approaches among countries of the region. Particularly, on issues related to accountability and transparency.

— Jordan respondent

The main EU-SMCs cooperation priority for good governance is to have good accountability measures set in place for EU-funded projects and initiatives, since the latter have been gravely exploited by some informal actors and groups in the region that, in some ways, have a proximity with national governments.

— Lebanese respondent

