

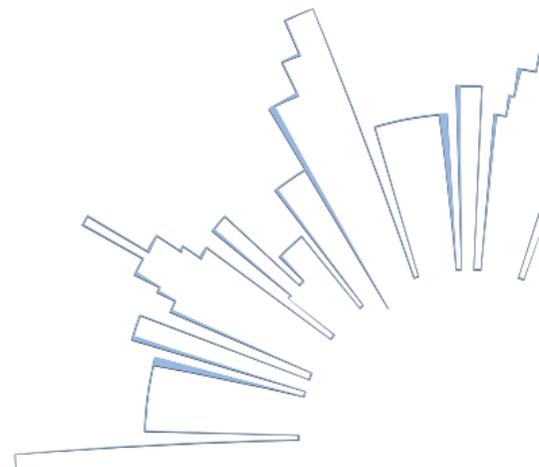
# Western Balkans SecuriMeter

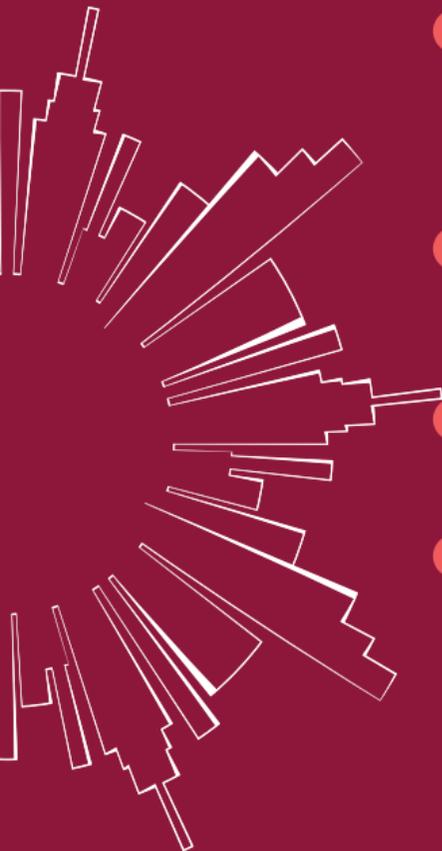
*Public Opinion Survey on Security*

1st edition - 2021



*Infographics*





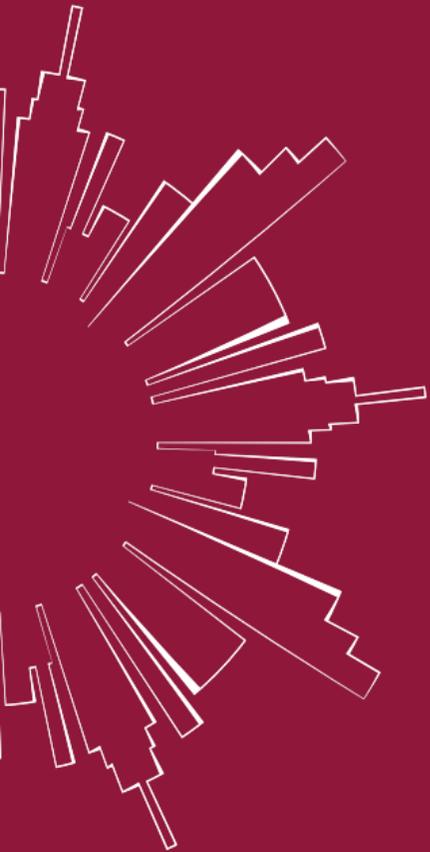
- **SecuriMeter - annual security survey of public opinion** in six Western Balkans economies, commissioned by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), in cooperation with UNDP/SEESAC, MARRI, DPPI-SEE, IISG and OBCT.
- **SecuriMeter - explores the most important regional contemporary security issues** and public perceptions towards them, facing Western Balkans today
- **SecuriMeter pocket edition - features** some of the defining **thoughts** on prevailing security issues facing our region **through infographics**
- **#SecuriMeter 2021 - conducted by Indago** among **6,046** citizens in the period 28 January – 19 February 2021 throughout the Western Balkans

Download **#SecuriMeter** at [www.rcc.int/securometer](http://www.rcc.int/securometer)

For presentation purposes, numbers in the charts are rounded to the nearest rounded value.

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## *General security perception*

**38%**

of Western Balkans  
citizens see  
security situation as  
**satisfactory**



64%



of Western Balkans  
citizens believe their  
region is a **secure**  
**place to live**





More than half,

**56%**

of Western Balkans citizens  
are **satisfied** with their  
personal security situation



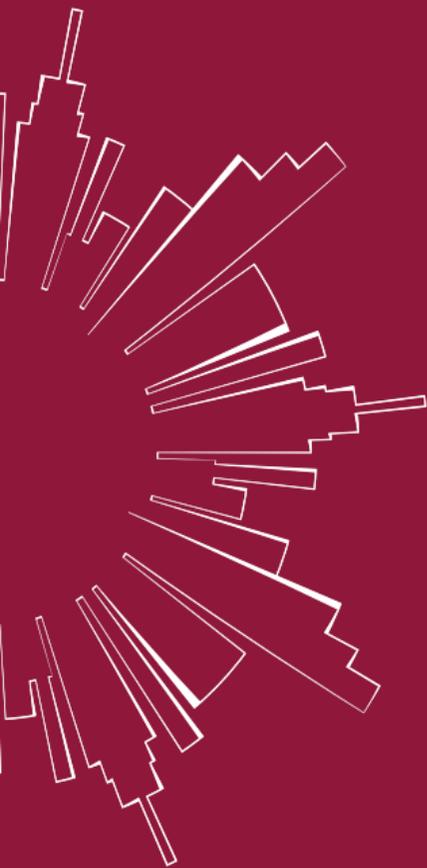
# Top 5

## issues

Western Balkan citizens listed having the most **negative impact** on their feeling of security in the region:

1. Economic crises, poverty, social exclusion (**63%**);
2. Crime, organised crime, drugs trafficking, violence, or vandalism (**58%**);
3. Pandemic (**53%**);
4. Natural and man-made disasters, climate change, and pollution (**29%**);
5. Migrant crisis with **26%**





***Perceptions on fight against terrorism,  
organised crime and border security***

# What are the **most pressing** challenges our region should address when it comes to **security**:

**92%**

of Western Balkans citizens say it is serious, organised crime & financial crime



For

**88%**

it's combating terrorism



**86%**

believe it's migrant crisis



and for

**84%**

cybersecurity





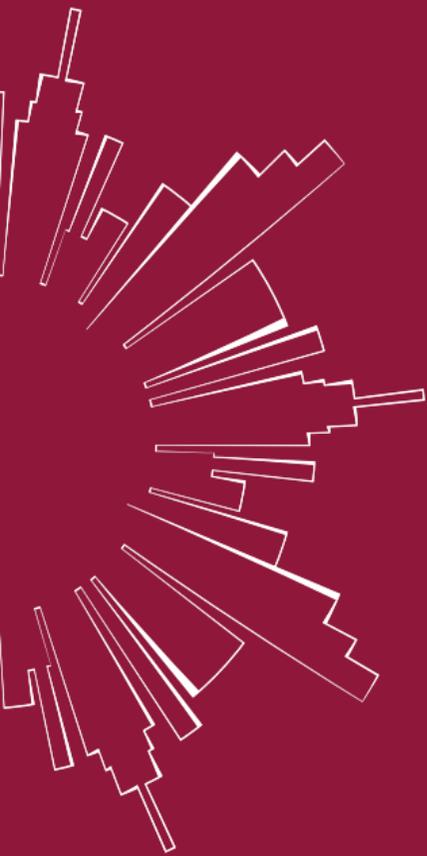
**A quarter** of the Western  
Balkans citizens believes the  
situation related to violent  
extremism will be **better**  
**in the next**  
**three years**





**23%**  
*of Western Balkans  
citizens think migrant crisis  
will improve in the  
next 3 years*





***Fight against terrorism***

Almost half,

**49%**

of Western Balkans citizens **do not support** the return of **foreign terrorist fighters** (FTFs) and their families to their homeland,



while only a somewhat lesser percentage

**43%**  
supports it



**40%** of Western Balkans citizens said that the return of foreign terrorist fighters and their families to their local communities **would not impact their sense of personal security,**

while **55%** believe that they would feel somewhat **insecure** or very insecure



56%

of Western Balkans citizens agree that the police and other law enforcement authorities are **doing enough** to fight terrorism,



while  
39%  
disagree



*The Western Balkans citizens think that in order to **fight terrorism** more effectively, the police and law enforcement agencies should focus on the **following activities**:*



They should work on improving their capacities to combat terrorism

**67%**



They should undertake joint actions with the rest of the WB6 economies

**59%**



They should exchange information with other EU partners

**58%**



They should exchange information with the partners from the WB region

**53%**



# 44%

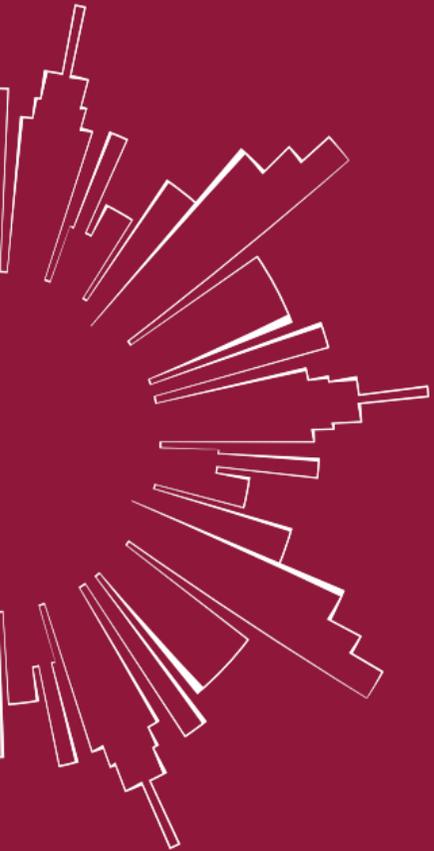
of Western Balkans citizens indicated that there is a strong probability for **online radicalisation** of their children or relatives & friends



# 26%

of the Western Balkans citizens are very afraid because there are **no efficient ways** on how to control online radicalisation





## *Organized crime*

**82%**

of Western Balkans  
citizens consider  
**organised crime a  
serious threat in  
the region**



54%

of Western Balkans citizens believe the law enforcement agencies **should do more** to deal with organised crime



Almost  
**70%**

of Western Balkans citizens think the biggest issue in combating organised crime lies in **insufficient capacities** of the institutions,



while  
**60%**

see a need for the law enforcement agencies to **exchange information with EU partners**



55%

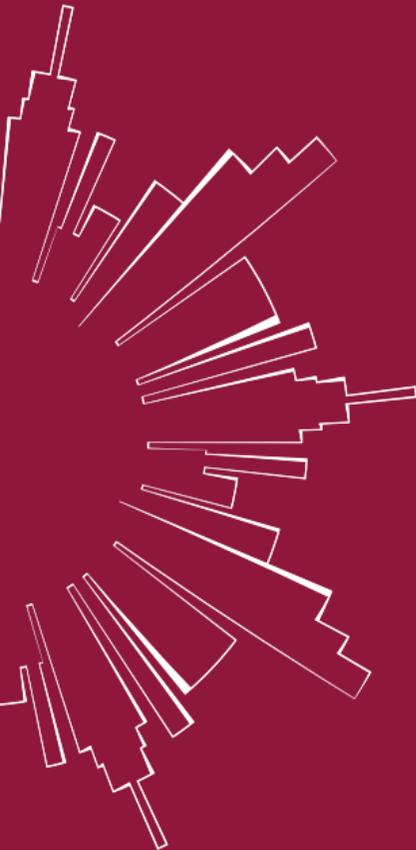
of Western Balkans citizens think **corruption** is the main reason for **low performance** of institutions in fighting organised crime



**53%**

of Western Balkans  
citizens agree that  
the region has the  
capacity to deal with  
**transboundary  
crime threats**





# ***Border security***

# 40%

of Western Balkans citizens  
support **inward migration**  
within our region

**+4%**  
compared to  
2018



55%

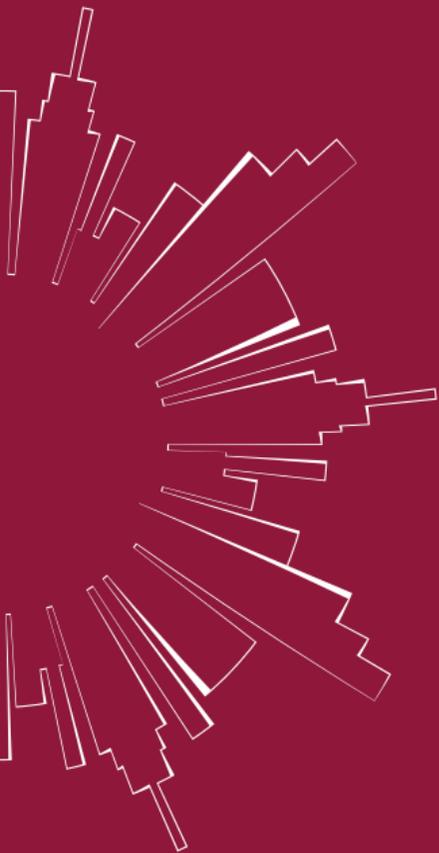
of Western Balkans  
agree that the current  
level of border security  
of their economy is  
sufficient in terms of  
migration crisis



**53%**

of Western Balkans think that law enforcement agencies are **doing enough** in fighting illegal migration





***Perceptions on use, ownership and  
community safety related to firearms***

Only  
**6%**

of Western Balkans  
citizens would  
consider **owning  
a gun,**

compared to the  
**overwhelming**

**91%**

**of those who  
would not.**

In **2020** that ratio was



**15:70**



**47%**

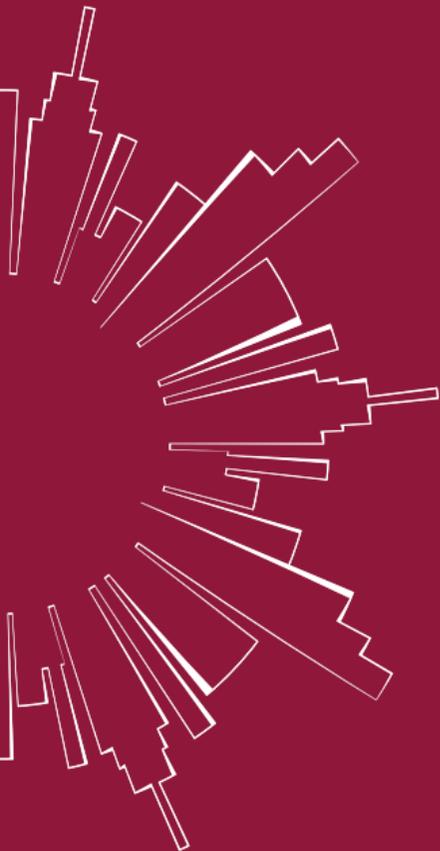
of Western Balkans citizens feel threatened or very **threatened by the illegal possession and misuse of weapons** in their neighbourhoods,

and

**50%**

do not feel threatened at all.





***Perceptions on illegal immigrations,  
asylum seeking and humanitarian  
dimension of migratory movements***

**70%**  
of Western Balkans  
citizens believe that the  
migrants increase **security**  
**risks** for their economy

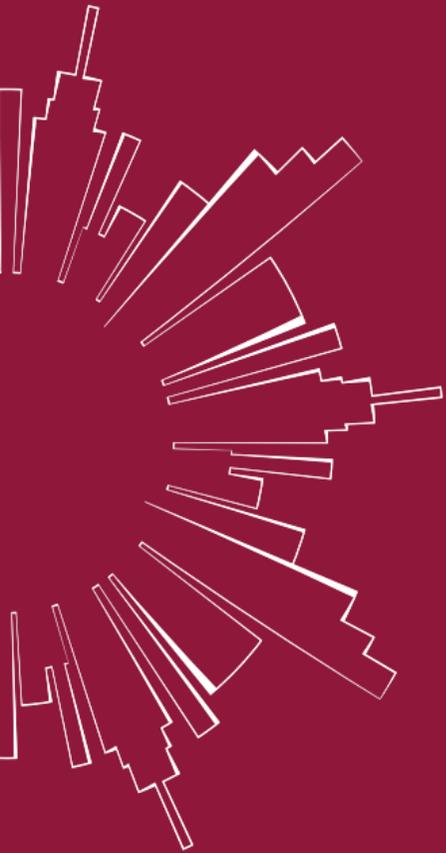


**62%**  
of Western Balkans citizens  
favour fines followed by  
**expulsions** when illegal  
migrants **violate laws** of  
the host country, use  
false or falsified documents or  
present false declarations



**68%**  
*of Western Balkans  
citizens believe illegal  
migrants should be placed  
to locked detention  
centres*





## ***Perceptions on disaster prevention and disaster preparedness***

**72%**  
of Western Balkans  
citizens perceive **natural  
disasters** as a serious  
security threat



78%

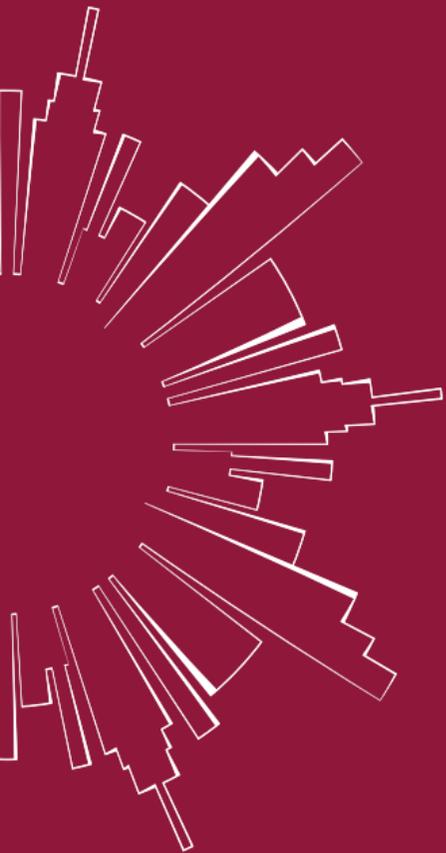
of Western Balkans citizens believe the region would benefit from **cooperation** and a **joint system** for **natural disasters**, including **pandemics**



Less than  
**half**

of Western Balkans  
respondents **feel  
well informed**  
about the main  
**natural disaster  
risks** in their area





## *Hybrid threats and disinformation as new security challenge*

**FAKE  
NEWS**

**76%**

of Western Balkans  
citizens see  
**disinformation**  
as a new way of  
warfare



## Every fifth



Western Balkans citizen indicates that **journalists** are the first choice when it comes to actors who should act to stop the spread of **"fake news"**



Men in the Western Balkans,



appear to be more confident in recognising  
“fake news”

compared to



women



**77%**

of Western Balkans citizens think that the existence of fake news or misinformation presents a **problem in their economy**





# FAKE NEWS

Almost all North Macedonian respondents (**94%**) perceive "fake news" or misinformation as a possible problem to their economy. They are followed by respondents from Serbia (**86%**), Albania (**83%**), Bosnia and Herzegovina (**74%**), Montenegro (**67%**) and last by Kosovo\*, split in their beliefs – while **57%** share the above opinion, slightly less than half (**43%**) of respondents do not consider misinformation and "fake news" to be a problem.





# Western Balkans SecuriMeter



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