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Quest No:

1-4

PEACE, STABILITY AND ELECTIONS

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is from the Centre for Ethnic Relations. We are currently undertaking a survey aimed at discovering what the people of Macedonia believe needs to be done to help secure greater peace and long term stability.

The questions deal with the most important issues that need to be addressed in the near future and include:

- **The political, social and economic problems facing the people of Macedonia**
- **Actions the Government of Macedonia and International Community could take to help solve these problems**
- **What could happen if these problems are not properly addressed**
- **The importance and requirements for free and fair elections**

The results of the survey will be analysed and widely published in the local press and in reports that will be sent to all the parties who have been elected to the Parliament of Macedonia and to the EU, OSCE and other interested NGOs and IGOs.

The research is independently supported with a grant from the Foundation for Open Society Institute of Macedonia and is being undertaken by the Centre for Ethnic Relations in Skopje with advice from Dr Colin Irwin of the Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

All your answers will be kept completely confidential.

The survey involves interviewing one thousand six hundred people from across Macedonia to complete a representative sample in terms of age, gender, social class, political and ethnic affiliation and geographical area.

Peace, Stability and Elections

1. Reasons for the lack of peace and stability

People from different communities often hold very different views about the causes of the conflict and the lack of peace and stability in Macedonia. Please indicate which ones you consider to be 'Very Significant' 'Significant', 'Of Some Significance', 'Of Little Significance' or 'Of No Significance' at all.

	Very Significant	Significant	Of Some Significance	Of Little Significance	Of No Significance
Poor economic opportunities for all sections of the society					
The failure of the Macedonian economy					
Bribery and party political corruption that undermines the democratic foundations of the state					
Serious organised crime including businessmen, paramilitaries and politicians					
Lack of transparency in government at all levels					
Lack of understanding of democracy by the people's elected politicians					
Lack of understanding of democracy by the people of Macedonia					
Bad interethnic relations between the people of Macedonia					
Bad interethnic relations between the politicians of Macedonia					
Biased media and abuse of information due to gross political interference					
Discrimination against minority ethnic groups in employment, education and language rights					
Interference of the religious communities in politics					
Unequal treatment of different ethnic groups by international institutions and NGOs					
Activities of Albanian paramilitary groups still operating in Macedonia (ANA).					
Activities of Macedonian party police and paramilitary groups operating in Macedonia (Lions, Poskoks).					
Amnesty that includes ALL serious crimes against humanity					
Incomplete disarmament of NLA by KFOR					
Many illegally held weapons in the region					
Displaced people within Macedonia					
Lack of action by the International Community to create peace and stability in Macedonia					
The dispute about the border with Kosovo					
Macedonia has not resolved its name dispute					
The FA does not adequately deal with the requests for reforms					
The FA goes too far regarding the requests for reforms					

Choosing your options for peace and stability

Most of the remainder of this questionnaire will present you with various options on what could be done to improve the prospects for peace and stability in Macedonia.

For each option you will be asked to indicate which ones you consider to be 'Essential', 'Desirable', 'Acceptable', 'Tolerable' or 'Unacceptable'.

For the purposes of this poll 'Essential', 'Desirable', 'Acceptable', 'Tolerable' and 'Unacceptable' mean:

'Essential' - *You believe this option is a necessary part of the peace process and should be fully implemented.*

'Desirable' - *This option is not what you would consider to be 'Essential', but you think this option, or something very similar to it, is a good idea and should be put into practice.*

'Acceptable' - *This option is not what you would consider to be 'Desirable', if you were given a choice, but you could certainly 'live with it'.*

'Tolerable' - *This option is not what you want. But, as part of a successful peace process, you would be willing to put up with it.*

'Unacceptable' - *This option is completely unacceptable under any circumstances. You would not accept it, even as part of a successful peace process.*

You may use each of the terms 'Essential', 'Desirable', 'Acceptable', 'Tolerable' and 'Unacceptable' as many times as you wish in each question.

2. Steps towards a successful peace process

As steps needed to help secure a lasting peace and permanent stability please indicate which of the following options you consider to be 'Essential', 'Desirable', 'Acceptable', 'Tolerable' or 'Unacceptable'.

	Essential	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Strategic plan to eliminate social decline and poverty					
The state keeps control of strategic industries and resources					
International help to build new and strengthen existing institutions of government					
International monitoring of the activities of key Ministries					
Strengthening the rule of law					
True court independence					
Free and fair elections					
Local government development					
Strong measures to prevent ethnic discrimination					
Strong measures to prevent gender discrimination					
Proportional representation for all ethnic groups in the public administration, police and army of Macedonia					
Strategic plan to build confidence between different ethnic groups					
State funded University in Albanian					
State funding for an Faculty for Turkish Studies within an existing University					
Transparency in the grant giving of international institutions and NGOs					
Effective policies against paramilitaries and organised crime					
Integration of ex-paramilitaries into civil society					
The International Community should make greater efforts to remove all illegally held arms from the region					
Rebuild the houses of displaced people and secure their safety					
Build new communities for displaced peoples in Macedonia					
NATO membership					
Planned membership of the European Union					
Resolving the question of the name of Macedonia					
Full implementation of the FA					

3 - Establishing peace and stability

From the different possibilities listed below what do you think will happen if the Government of Macedonia and the International Community fail to take the necessary steps needed to help secure a lasting peace and permanent stability. Please indicate which ones you consider to be 'Very probable', 'Probable', 'Not sure' about, 'Improbable' or 'Very improbable'.

	Very probable	Probable	Not sure	Improbable	Very improbable
Increased poverty					
Emigration of young people					
Immigration from Kosovo					
Increased violence					
There will not be fair and free elections					
Few people will bother to vote in the coming elections					
The new Macedonian government will be weak and ineffective					
State of emergency declared and elections cancelled					
Restart of conflict initiated from Kosovo					
Interference of the religious communities in the political life					
Creation of ethnically clean communities					
Aspirations of neighboring countries and break up of the state					
Exchange of territories with neighboring countries					
Civil war and imposition of International Protectorate					
Civil war leading to a regional war					

4. Fair and free elections

As steps needed to help secure fair and free elections please indicate which of the following options you consider to be 'Essential', 'Desirable', 'Acceptable', 'Tolerable' or 'Unacceptable'.

	Essential	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
The politicians should avoid using language and speeches that incite ethnic hatred					
The news media should avoid publishing and broadcasting stories that incite ethnic hatred					
The police, army and paramilitary groups should stay out of the electoral process					
Parties should cease all violence and intimidation during elections					
International monitors should be pro-active in the maintenance of international standards for fair and free elections					
International monitoring teams should be deployed in Macedonia at the earliest opportunity					
International forces should be used to monitor the voting process throughout Macedonia during the elections					
International forces should be used to monitor and close the border to paramilitary groups intent on disrupting elections					
A policemen should be present in each polling station					
International monitors should be present in each polling station					
There should be a campaign to educate and encourage citizens to vote					
All the political parties should sign a pledge for fair and free elections					

If these conditions for fair and free elections can be met do you think people should vote?

Yes	
No	

And would you vote under these circumstances?

Yes	
No	

Gender

Age

Ethnic background

Religion

Education

Place of living

Which political party is closest to you (regardless whether you vote for it or not)