

Survey Results

'Minority Rights and the Bosniak National Minority Council'



Introduction

As part of our project ‘Promoting and strengthening the role of the Albanian and Bosniak National Minority Councils (NMCs)’, supported by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, TransConflict Serbia is pleased to present the results of a survey, entitled 'Minority Rights and National Minority Councils', which was conducted during March 2011.

General Information about the Sample

TransConflict conducted a survey on the topic, 'Minority Rights and National Minority Councils', which took place in March 2011. The average time for completing the survey was about fifteen minutes, the data from which was processed using the statistical software package SPSS 10.0. The survey covered a total of **195 respondents**, 99% of which came from the Novi Pazar area. The **main objective** of this study was to assess the level of understanding about minority rights and the role of the Bosniak National Minority Council in protecting and promoting them. The questionnaire collected the following demographic and socio-economic data of the tested samples:

- place,
- age,
- level of education,
- number of children,
- education
- average monthly income per household member

195 questionnaires were complete and valid for statistical analysis, as can be seen from Table 1. The study's respondents, according to place of residence, in 99% of cases (193 out of 195) were from Novi Pazar (*Table 1*).

Table 1: In which municipality do you live?

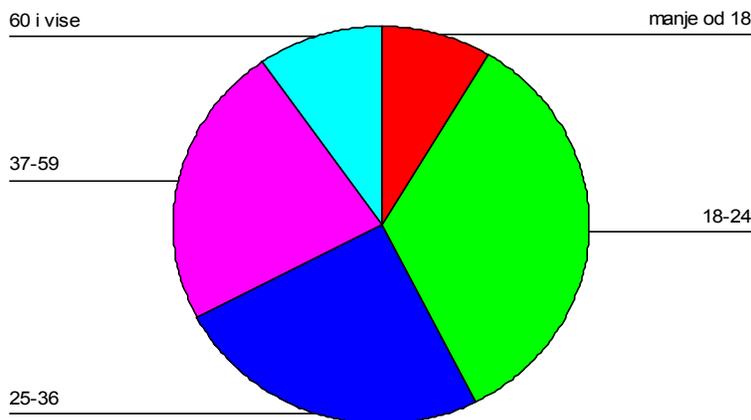
	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative %
Novi Pazar	193	99.0	99.0
Other	2	1.0	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

Table 2 shows the structure of the sample by age. From a total of five age categories offered, the largest number of respondents were aged 18 to 24 years (33.8%), and then the category of 25 to 36 years (24.6%). The least number of respondents were pupils under the age of 18 and over 60.

Table 2: How old are you?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Less than 18	17	8.7	8.7
18-24	66	33.8	42.6
25-36	48	24.6	67.2
37-59	45	23.1	90.3
60+	19	9.7	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

Koliko godina imate?

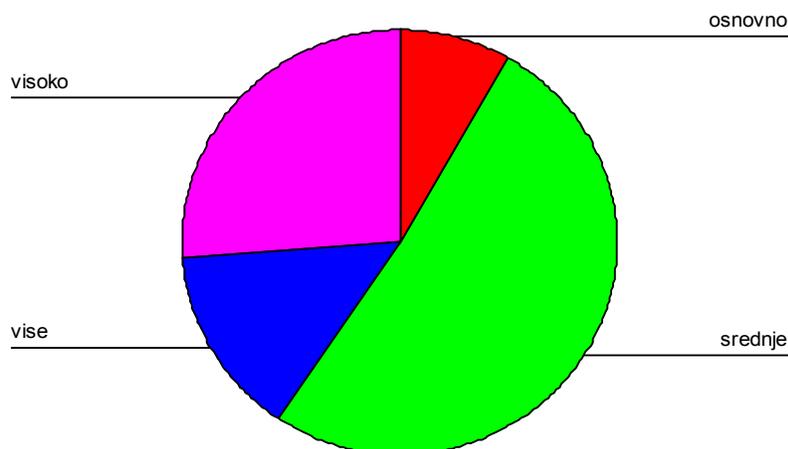


The questionnaire covers all educational levels, although it had the highest percentage of high school (51.3%) educated respondents. Also, the sample included 26.2% of respondents with undergraduate and 14.2% with post-graduate education (Table 3), which does not reflect the real situation in Novi Pazar in terms of the educational level of the population. According to the Republican Bureau of Statistics (Municipalities in Serbia, 2008), 34.91% of the population of over 15 years of age in Novi Pazar has completed high school, 2.68% are undergraduate students, and 3.44% have a university degree. According to the same source, but for 2009, Novi Pazar has 11,767 primary school students, 4,704 secondary school students and 3,654 university students.

Table 3: Level of your education?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative %
Primary	16	8.2	8.2
Secondary	100	51.3	59.5
Undergraduate	28	14.4	73.8
University	51	26.2	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

Stepen Vašeg obrazovanja?



The number of children the respondents had (*Table 4*) ranged from none (58.5%) to four children (5.1%). The fact that the sample mainly consisted of youth, who are mostly students, entails another characteristic of the sample – a large number of respondents don't have children, which also isn't the real situation in Novi Pazar when it comes to the number of children.

Table 4: How many children do you have?

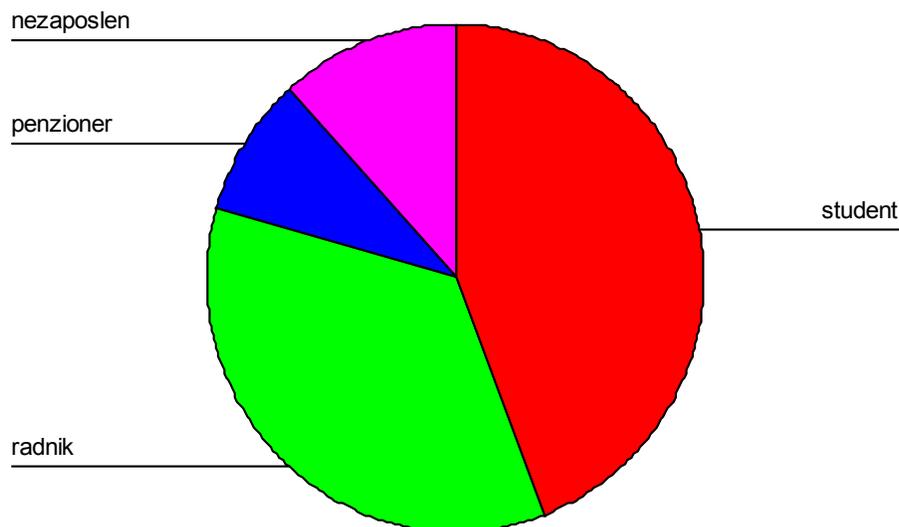
	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
None	114	58.5	58.5
1	14	7.2	65.6
2	33	16.9	82.6
3	24	12.3	94.9
4	10	5.1	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

Table 5 contains data about the respondents' respective occupations. As noted above, the project included the highest percentage of youth and students (44.1%) and a relatively small number of the unemployed (11.8%). According to data from the Statistical Office, Municipalities in Serbia 2008., only 12.89% of the working population is employed in the area Novi Pazar, 45.73% is from the category of dependent population, and according to the National Employment Service, in April 2010, 21,653 persons or 25.58% of the total population was employed.

Table 5. What is your profession?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Student	86	44.1	44.1
Employed	69	35.4	79.5
Retired	17	8.7	88.2
Unemployed	23	11.8	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

Šta ste po zanimanju?



With respect to average monthly income (*Table 6*), the highest percentage is within the category of 20,000 to 40,000 dinars (23,1%), followed by 10,000 to 20,000 dinars (21%) and 20% earns up to 10,000 dinars.

Table 6: The average monthly income per household member, taking into account the income of all members?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Up to 10,000	39	20.0	20.0
10,000-20,000	41	21.0	41.0
20,000-40,000	45	23.1	64.1
40,000-60,000	30	15.4	79.5
60,000-80,000	9	4.6	84.1
More than 100,000	10	5.1	89.2
Did not wish	21	10.8	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

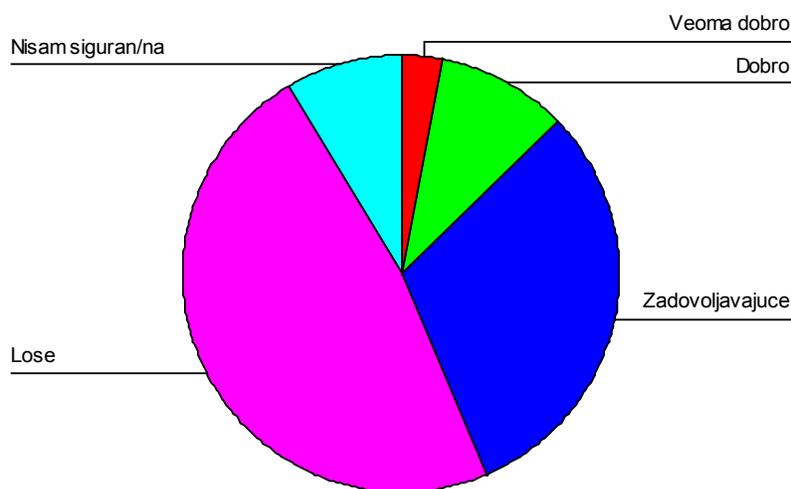
Minority Rights of Bosniaks

A large percentage are dissatisfied with the degree of respect for the rights of the Bosniak community in Serbia. Of the total of 195 respondents, 93 respondents (almost 50%) expressed their dissatisfaction, while only 3.1% believe that the rights of the Bosniak community are very well respected (*Table 7*).

Table 7: How would you rate the level of respect for the rights of the Bosniak community in Serbia?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Very good	6	3.1	3.1
Good	19	9.7	12.8
Satisfactory	60	30.8	43.6
Bad	93	47.7	91.3
Not sure	17	8.7	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

te ocenili stepen uvažavanja prava bošnjacke zajednic

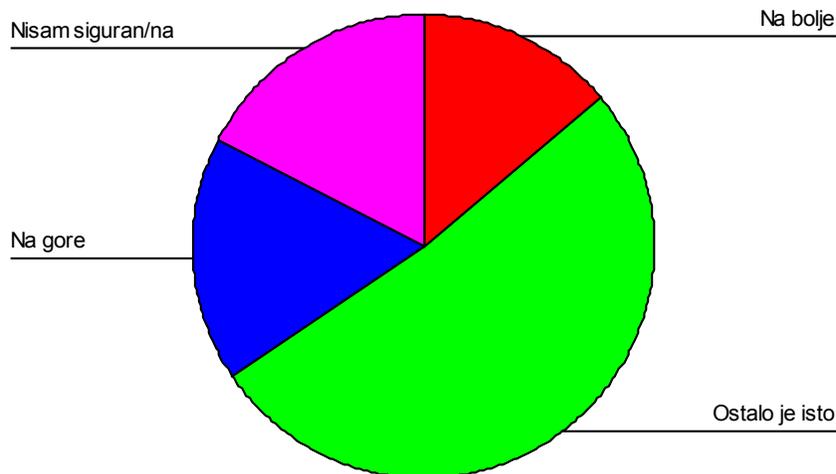


More than half of the tested sample considers that respect for the rights of the Bosniak community in Serbia in recent years has not changed – either in a positive or negative sense – and 16.9% considered that there was a change for the worse (*Table 8*).

Table 8: In what way has the respect of rights the Bosniak minority changed in recent years?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Better	27	13.8	13.8
Same	101	51.8	65.6
Worse	33	16.9	82.6
Not sure	34	17.4	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

Učin se promenio uvažavanje prava bošnjačke manjinski



Also, the respondents were able to explain their answer to previous questions, or to list examples demonstrating changes in the respecting the rights of the Bosnian community in recent years.

Some examples given of change for the better are:

- *“The introduction of the Bosnian language in primary schools as an elective subject”;*
- *“Inclusion in government”;*
- *“Adding Bosnian holidays to the school calendars”;*
- *“Religious freedom is enhanced much more than national freedom”;*
- *“Improved security in personal and public life, and security in emphasizing minority characteristics”.*

Some examples given of changes for the worst:

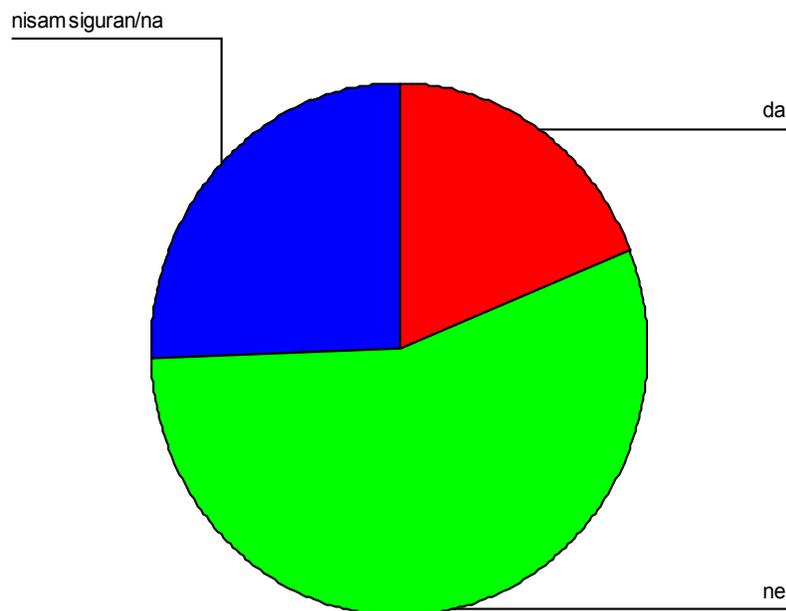
- *“National council has not yet been formed”;*
- *“Non-Bosniak citizens are distancing themselves from us and would not like to have Bosniaks near them”;*

- “Increasing discrimination towards the Bosniaks”;
- “Too few Bosniaks in leading positions”;
- “Our religious rights are threatened by the division of the Islamic community”;
- “Forcing children to celebrate St. Sava”;
- “Discrimination in employment and investment in economic development”;
- “Contempt of religious rights and freedoms”;
- “Few Bosnians employed in state institutions”.

Table 9: Do you think that Bosniaks are sufficiently integrated into the Serbian society?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	37	19.0	19.0
No	108	55.4	74.4
Not sure	50	25.6	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

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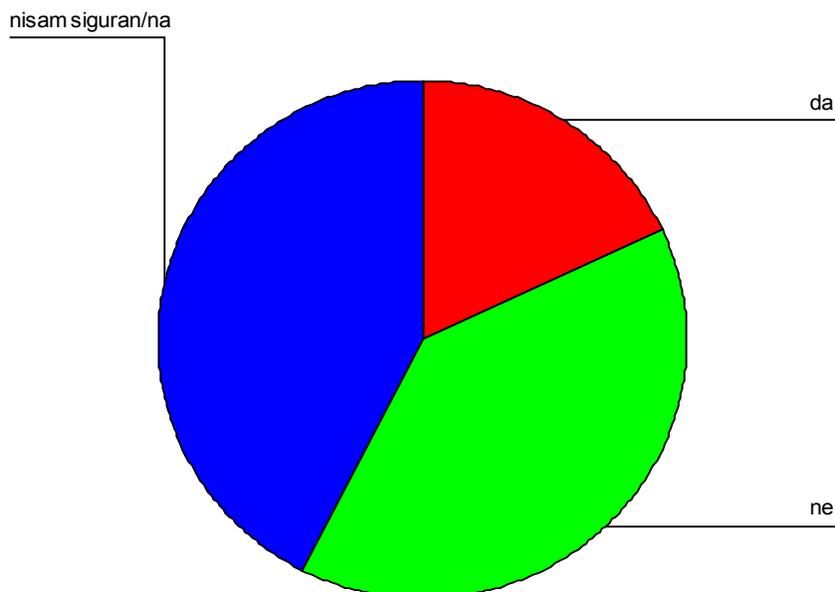


The interviewed citizens of Novi Pazar, in most cases, are not sure whether any measures are taken to better integrate Bosniaks into society (42,5%), and also a great number of them (39,5%) believe that no action has been taken in this area (*Table 10*).

Table 10: Are any measures taken to better integrate the Bosniaks society?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	35	17.9	17.9
No	77	39.5	57.4
Not sure	83	42.6	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

preduzete ikakve mere kako bi se Bošnjaci bolje inteq



The respondents who consider that the actions to encourage better integration have been taken referred the following examples:

- *“Establishment of a state university”;*
- *“Equal rights in the use of any institutional mechanism”;*
- *“Non-governmental organizations with their programs of mutual understanding”;*
- *“Anti-discrimination law”;*
- *“A large number of Bosniaks in key positions”;*

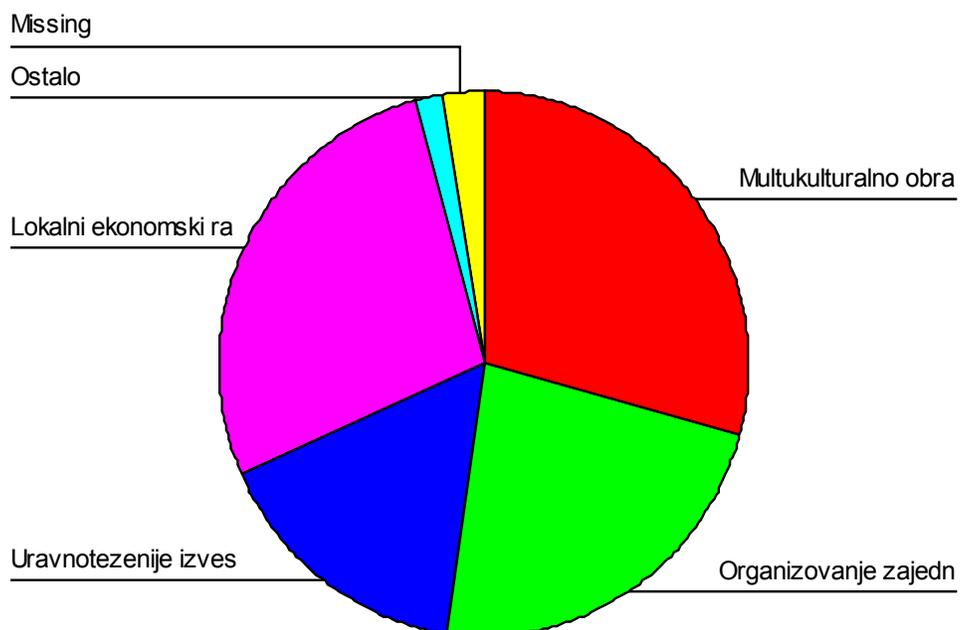
- “Measures have been taken through the media”.

With respect to methods to improve the integration of all communities, the respondents asserted that this can be achieved by multicultural education in schools (29.2%), local economic development (27.7%) and organizing joint cultural activities (23.1%).

Table 11: In what way, in your opinion, can the integration of all communities be improved?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Multicultural education in schools	57	29.2	30.0
Joint cultural activities	45	23.1	53.7
Balanced media coverage	31	15.9	70.0
Local economic development	54	27.7	98.4
Other	3	1.5	100.0
Total	190	97.4	
Missing	5	2.6	
	195	100.0	

nacin se, po Vašem mišljenju, može poboljšati integris



Half of the tested sample (48,2%) is familiar with cases of violations or denials of minority rights, while the other half (51,3%) say that they do not know of any such case (*Table 12*).

Table 12: Do you know of specific cases of violation or denial of minority rights?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	94	48.2	48.5
No	100	51.3	100.0
Total	194	99.5	
Missing	1	.5	
	195	100.0	



Also, the respondents were give the opportunity to describe cases of violations or denials of minority rights with which they were familiar from everyday life.

Examples included:

- *“unequal employment in public services where the majority of the population are Bosniaks. In Novi Pazar, the police, courts, tax offices, over 70% of the employees are Serbian nationality, while the majority of the population are Bosniaks”;*
- *“Certain professors are discriminating us because we are Bosniaks”;*
- *“The school curriculum discriminates Bosniaks”;*
- *“Discrimination of pupils in elementary schools where teachers are mostly Serbs”;*
- *“Discrimination in employment”;*

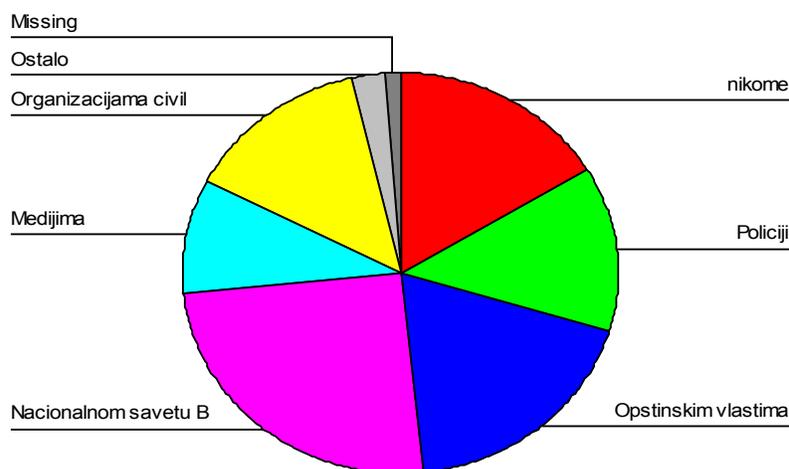
- *“The youth are marginalized because there is insufficient space for their promotion, without them being a device of political parties”;*
- *“The Constitution, above all, does not guarantee all the rights for the minorities”;*
- *“We are not represented in the state media”;*
- *“Lack of right for education in our mother tongue”;*
- *“Bosniak children have to undertake history courses which are insulting the Bosniaks”;*
- *“Disdain for girls and women wearing the hijab”;*
- *“Lack of educational content on Bosniaks in history and language textbooks”;*
- *“In particular, the rights of Roma are threatened”;*
- *“Denial of minority rights is also seen in the fact that the key positions are filled with incompetent party members or relatives”;*
- *“We celebrate St. Sava in schools”;*
- *“State media do not see the Bosniaks”;*
- *“The Islamic communities is divided”;*
- *“Negative atmosphere in the city”;*

In the case of the need to protect their minority rights, 25,1% of the respondents would contact the Bosniak National Minority Council for assistance, followed by municipal governments (18.5%) and civil society organizations (13.8%). What is of concern is the percent of those who, in any violation of their rights, would not contact anyone (16,4%). The question remains, is one of the reasons for this attitude a lack of confidence in the work of these institutions and/or a lack of information?

Table 13: Who would you first contact to ensure the protection of your minority rights?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
No one	32	16.4	16.6
Police	26	13.3	30.1
Municipal government	36	18.5	48.7
Bosniak National Council	49	25.1	74.1
Media	18	9.2	83.4
Civil society organizations	27	13.8	97.4
Other	5	2.6	100.0
Total	193	99.0	
Missing	2	1.0	
	195	100.0	

iste se najpre obratili kako biste osigurali zaštitu Vaših

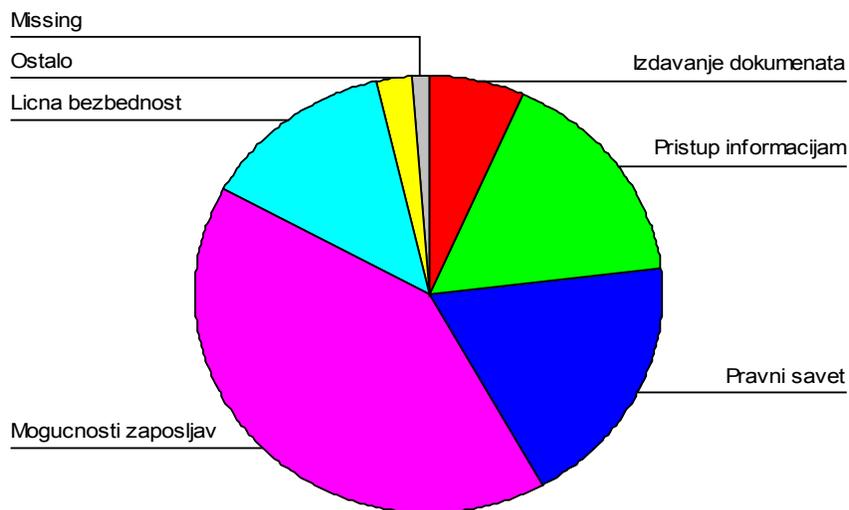


In the event that they require certain assistance, the largest percentage would ask for employment opportunities (41%) and legal advice (19%). These responses reflect the real situation in Novi Pazar, where most of the problems revolve around a lack of work (*Table 14*).

Table 14: For which question would you ask for help?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Issuance of documents	13	6.7	6.7
Access to information	32	16.4	23.3
Legal advice	37	19.0	42.5
Employment opportunities	80	41.0	83.9
Personal safety	26	13.3	97.4
Other	5	2.6	100.0
Total	193	99.0	
Missing	2	1.0	
	195	100.0	

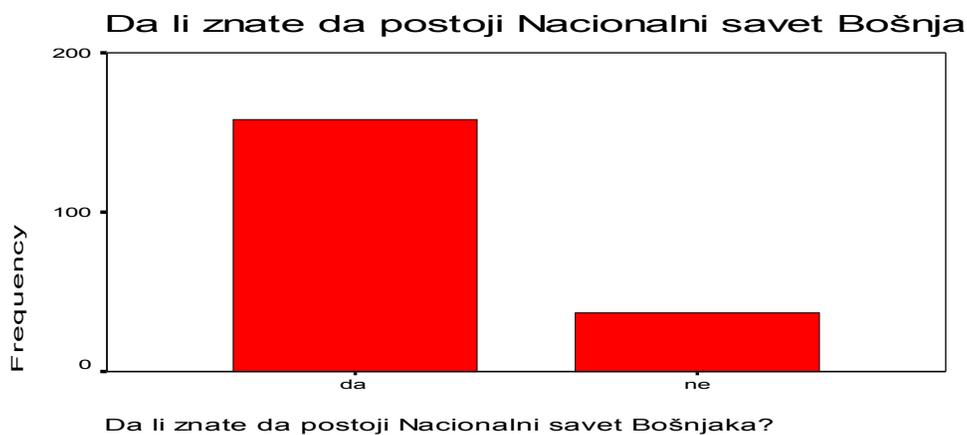
Za koje pitanje biste zatražili pomoc?



Out of 195 respondents surveyed, 158, or 81% know that there is a Bosniak National Minority Council, while 19% were not aware that such a Council exists (*Table 15*).

Table 15: Do you know that there is a Bosniak National Minority Council?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	158	81.0	81.0
No	37	19.0	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

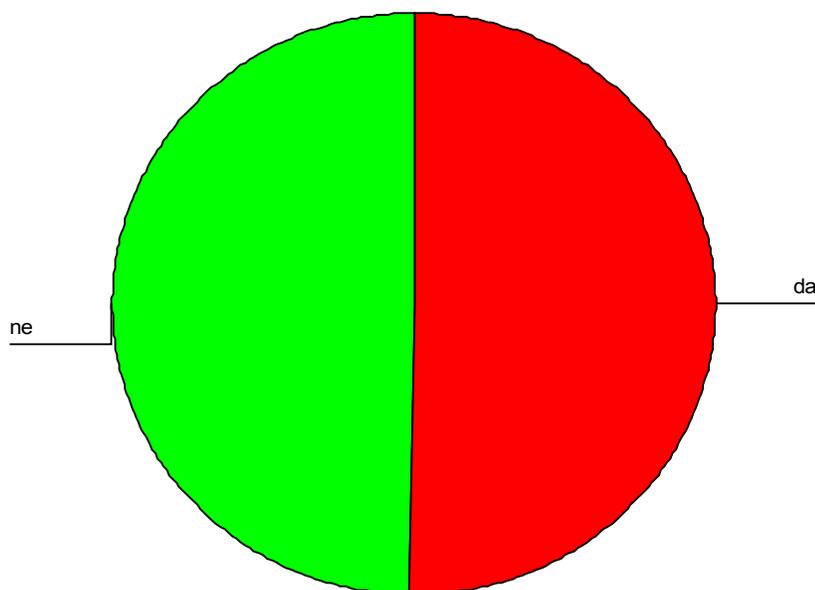


However, when it comes to the function and purpose of the Bosniak National Minority Council, the percentage of those who are familiar suddenly decreases, and from 81% of those who know that the Bosniak National Minority Council was established, only 50% stated that they know what is its function and purpose (*Table 16*).

Table 16: Do you know what is the function and purpose of the Bosniak National Minority Council?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	98	50.3	50.3
No	97	49.7	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

znate koja je funkcija i svrha Nacionalnog saveta Bošnjaka



The role of the Bosniak National Minority Council as the survey respondents see it is:

- *“Representation of the Bosniak community”;*
- *“To improve the situation of Bosniaks in Serbia”;*
- *“It is unclear to me, I do not have enough information”;*
- *“The National Council needs to take care of the Bosnians”;*

- *“To enhance the development of culture and education”*;
- *“The cultural integration of the Bosnian society”*;
- *“Advocacy, promotion and protection of minority rights”*;
- *“The future of Bosniaks”*;
- *“Important, but I am not informed about their work”*;
- *“If they would allow the council to form, it would have the role of protecting the rights of Bosniaks”*;
- *“Improving communication in the community”*;
- *“To have someone to turn to if our interests are jeopardized”*;
- *“Education, culture and national symbols”*;
- *“To improve the situation in which the Bosnians now”*;
- *“Preservation of identity and tradition”*;
- *“Mini-government of a national minority”*;
- *“The integration of Bosnians in a society in which they live”*;
- *“Encouraging the development of culture, education, and overall economic development in Sandzak”*;
- *“The unification of the fulfillment of the objectives of the Bosniaks”*;
- *“Advocating for the rights of Bosniaks, which they are deprived of”*;
- *“Have to solve all the problems of Bosniaks”*.
- *“As things stand, it should not exist because the regime in Belgrade and the local politicians decide for the council”*.
- *“The use of language and national symbols”*.
- *“Preservation of national identity”*.

Also, almost 60% of the sample did not know – or is not sure if – the Bosniak National Minority Council promotes advocacy and protection of minority rights (*Table 17*).

Table 17: In your opinion, does the Bosniak National Minority Council promote advocacy and protection of minority rights?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	83	42.6	42.6
No	21	10.8	53.3

Not sure	91	46.7	100.0
Total	195	100.0	

Vašem mišljenju, Nacionalni savet Bošnjaka unapredju

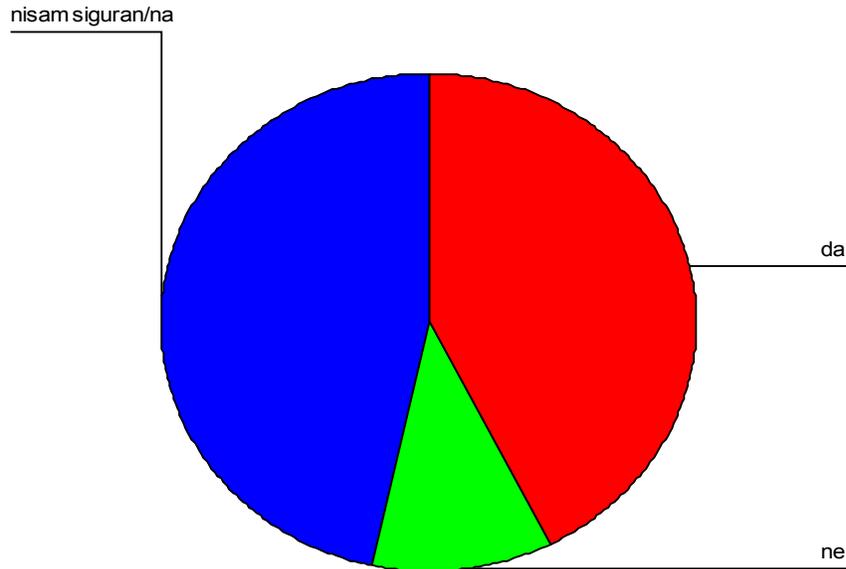
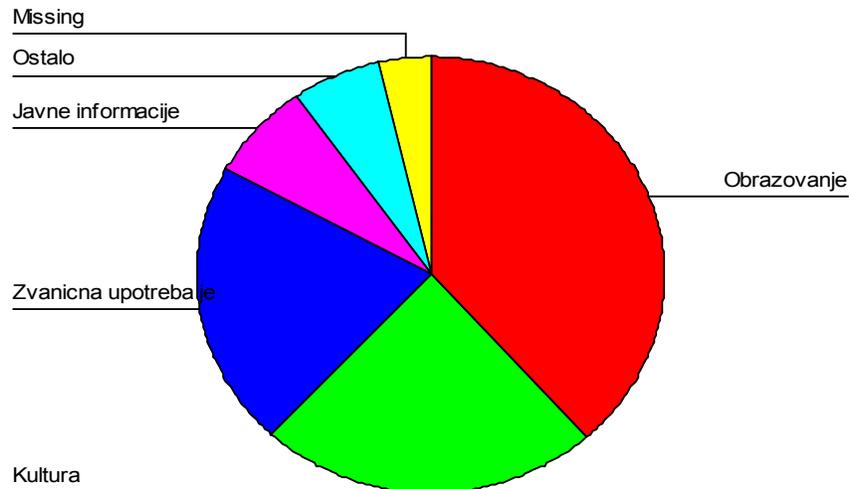


Table 18 presents the percentages and rate of responses to the question of which is the most important function of the Bosniak National Minority Council. The majority of respondents recognize the most important function of this Council as being its work in the field of education (38.5%), followed by culture (23.6%) and official use of language and national symbols (21%).

Table 18: What is, in your opinion, the most important function of the Bosniak National Minority Council ?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative %
Education	75	38.5	39.9
Culture	46	23.6	64.4
Official use of language and national symbols	41	21.0	86.2
Public information	14	7.2	93.6
Other	12	6.2	100.0
Total	188	96.4	
Missing	7	3.6	
	195	100.0	

po Vašem mišljenju, najznacajnija funkcija Nacionalnog

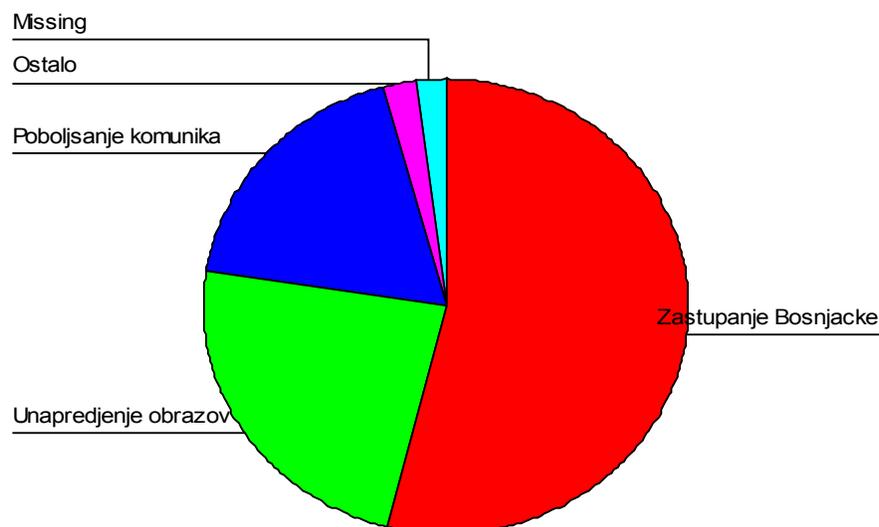


For 53.8% of the respondents, representation of the Bosniak community in general is listed as the most important function of the Bosniak National Minority Council (*Table 19*).

Table 19: What role would you like the Bosniak National Minority Council to have?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative %
Representation of the Bosniak community in general	105	53.8	55.0
Improving education for minorities	46	23.6	79.1
Improving communication between communities	36	18.5	97.9
Other	4	2.1	100.0
Total	191	97.9	
Missing	4	2.1	
	195	100.0	

koju ulogu biste želeli da Nacionalni savet Bošnjaka ima:

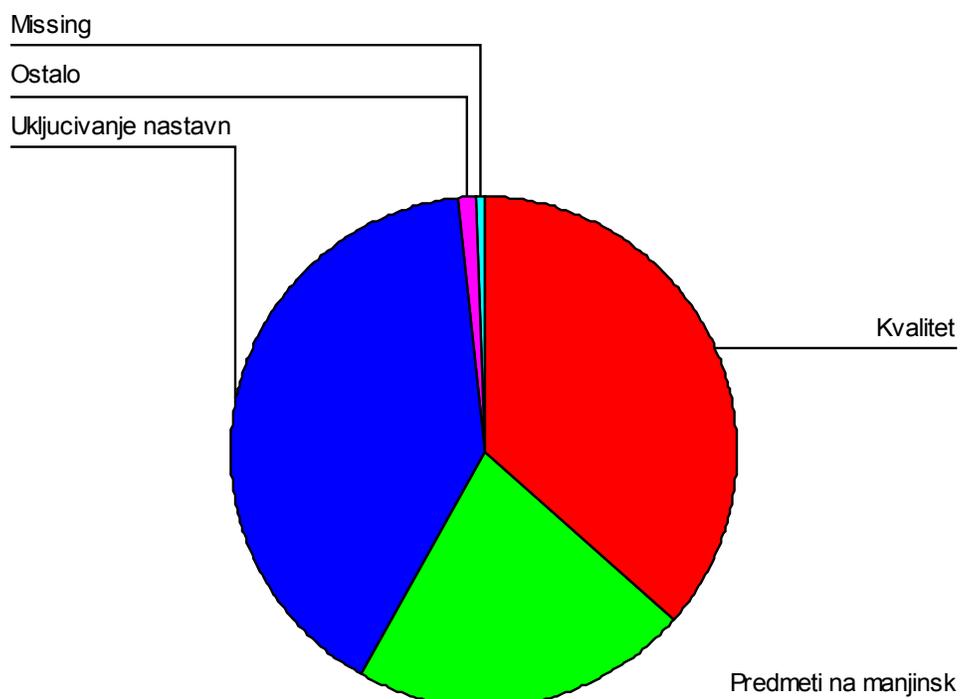


In education, 40.5% of the sample recognize that the most important issue the Bosniak National Minority Council should deal with is inclusion of educational content in textbooks. A large percentage (36.4%) cited as a key issue above all – the quality of education, which is one of the general goals of education regardless of the activities of the Bosniak National Minority Council (*Table 20*).

Table 20: When we talk about education, which issue is most important, in your opinion?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Quality	71	36.4	36.6
Subjects in minority languages	42	21.5	58.2
Inclusion of educational content in textbooks	79	40.5	99.0
Other	2	1.0	100.0
Total	194	99.5	
Missing	1	.5	
	195	100.0	

vorimo o obrazovanju, koje pitanje je po Vašem mišljenju

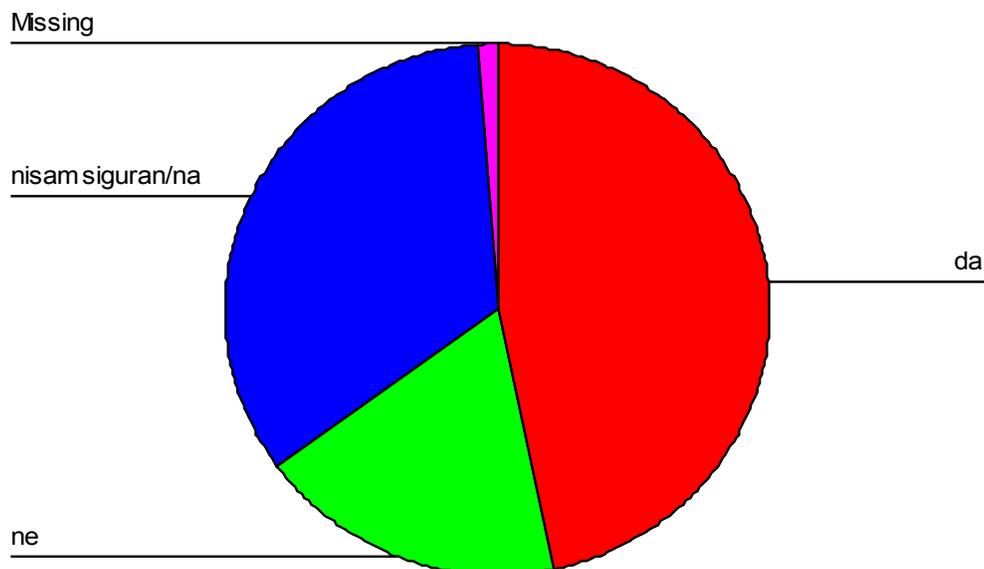


There is still a relatively large number of members of the Bosniak community who, in case of need, would not – or are not sure that they would – turn to the Bosniak National Minority Council to defend their rights (more than 50% of the sample).

Table 21: Would you turn to the Bosniak National Council to improve protection of minority rights?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	91	46.7	47.2
No	36	18.5	65.8
Not sure	66	33.8	100.0
Total	193	99.0	
Missing	2	1.0	
	195	100.0	

te se obratili Nacionalnom savetu Bošnjaka za poboljš

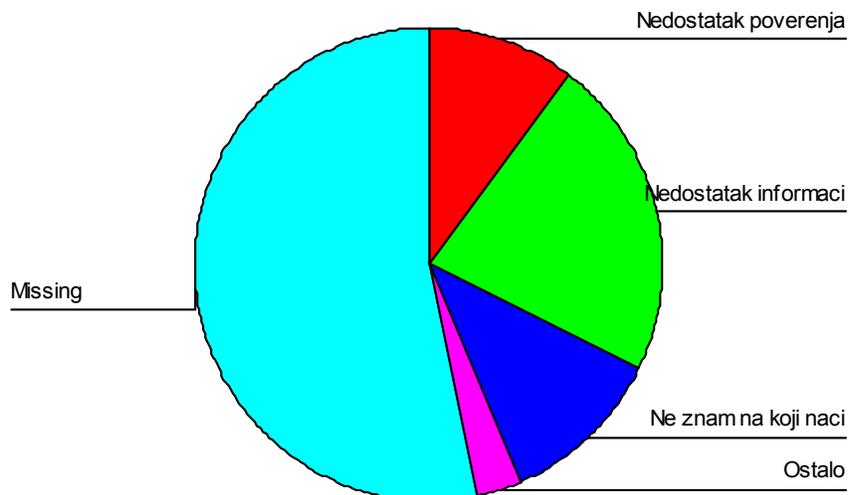


In case they would not turn to the Bosniak National Minority Council, the respondents were able to explain or to state their reason for this attitude. The main reason is a lack of information regarding the National Council (22.1%).

Table 22: If the answer is negative, please state why?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative %
Lack of trust in the National Council	20	10.3	22.0
Lack of information regarding the National Council	43	22.1	69.2
I do not know how	22	11.3	93.4
Other	6	3.1	100.0
Total	91	46.7	
“Yes” (previous question)	104	53.3	
	195	100.0	

Ako je odgovor negativan, obrazložite zbog čega?

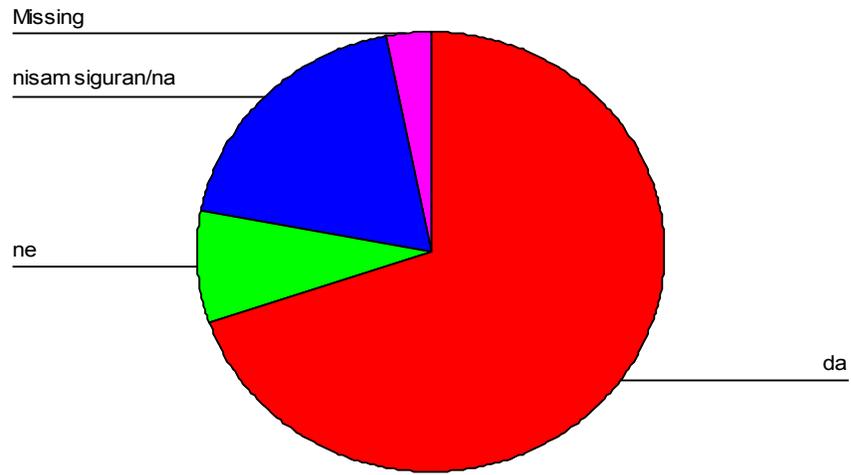


However, in the case of better informing of citizens about the role and function of the Bosniak National Council, their confidence in the work of the Council and their willingness to, if necessary, ask for help from this institution increases.

Table 23: Would you be willing to frequently use the services of the National Council of Bosniaks, if you were better informed about its role and function?

	Rate	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Yes	136	69.7	72.0
No	16	8.2	80.4
Not sure	37	19.0	100.0
Total	189	96.9	
Missing	6	3.1	
	195	100.0	

ste bili voljni da češće koristite usluge Nacionalnog sav



For further information about the project, 'Promoting and strengthening the role of the Albanian and Bosniak National Minority Councils (NMCs)', please visit:

<http://www.transconflict.com/institutions/nmc-serbia/>



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