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Fragility in Macedonia

Five New Deal Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs):

1. **Legitimate politics:** Foster inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution.
2. **Security:** Establish and strengthen people's security.
3. **Justice:** Address injustices and increase people's access to justice.
4. **Economic Foundations:** Generate employment and improve livelihoods.
5. **Revenues & Services:** Manage revenue and build capacity for accountable and fair service delivery.

Never-ending transition

- **Hybrid regimes** or “competitive authoritarianism” according to which “formal democratic institutions are widely considered as the primary means of acquiring and achieving political authority. Officials, nevertheless, break these rules so frequently and to such an extent that the regime does not meet the conventional minimum standard of democracy.” Formal democratic policies are implemented in these regimes, and the “rule of law” according to the “Constitution and the laws” is the mantra repeated by the political representatives.

SDC Definition

Some of the challenges: In many SDC partner countries democracies are only emerging and still in the making. Frequently they are under immense pressure to shortly meet new expectations and deliver a better standard of living. Otherwise the risk is high that people may lose interest or become susceptible to populism. “Democracy scepticism” is one of the actual headwords. New forms of “modern authoritarianism” are another challenge to democratization, when those in power keep up a façade of democracy while in reality weakening competition, closing space for participation and undermining the rule of law. In traditional societies and their predominantly loyalty based clan structures democracy is often questioned as imposed western system which is opposed to existent cultural norms and values.

SDC Policy Democratization, Decentralization and Local Governance, 2015

State capture

The concept of captured state refers to “the actions of individuals, groups, or firms both in the public and private sectors to influence the formation of laws, regulations, decrees, and other government policies to their own advantage as a result of the illicit and non-transparent provision of private benefits to public officials.” In this regard, “the capturing” of the state generally refers to the firms (the “captors”) who “capture” the institutions and manage to impose legal and other regulations that are in their best interest, and thus harm the economy of other participants and of course, harming the public too. Hence, there is “extracting rents from the state for a narrow range of individuals, firms, or sectors through distorting of the basic legal and regulatory framework with potentially enormous losses for the society at large.”

“Anticorruption in Transition : A Contribution to the Policy Debate”
The World Bank, 2000

Legal overregulation & Excessive administrative fining

The empowerment of the executive to frequently impose high administrative penalties, which in terms of highly overregulated legislature makes strict attendance to the law impossible, exalts that branch above the legislative and judicial branches, eroding the separation of powers. The executive's ability to directly impose fines allows for a degree of absolute power such that the judicial branch is reduced to mere decoration. With its absolute rule, in most cases the executive branch does not even have to corrupt the judiciary because it has its own autonomous power to punish.

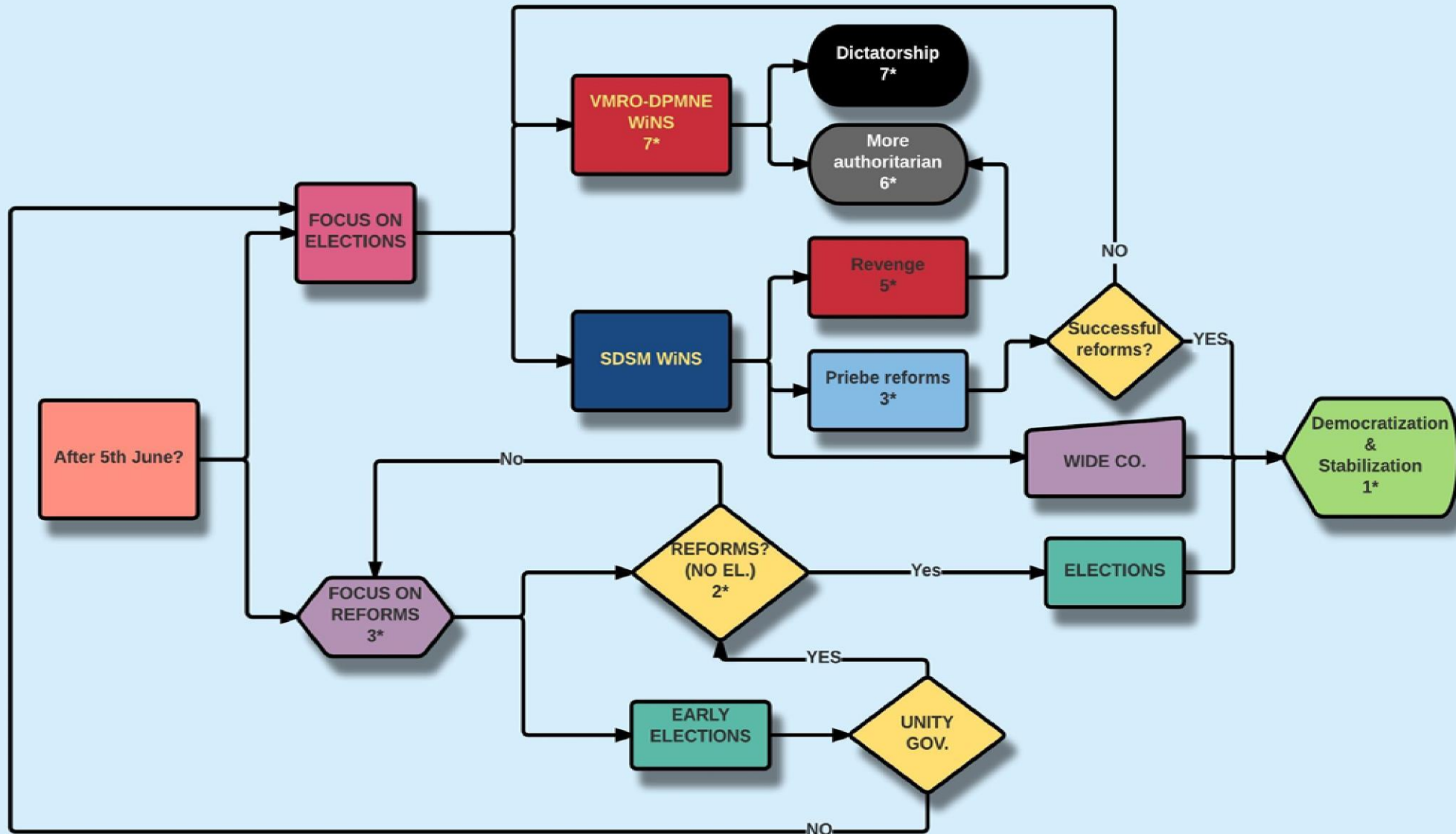
Technology of State Capture: Overregulation in Macedonian Media and Academia,

Shishovski & Lechevska

Political crisis



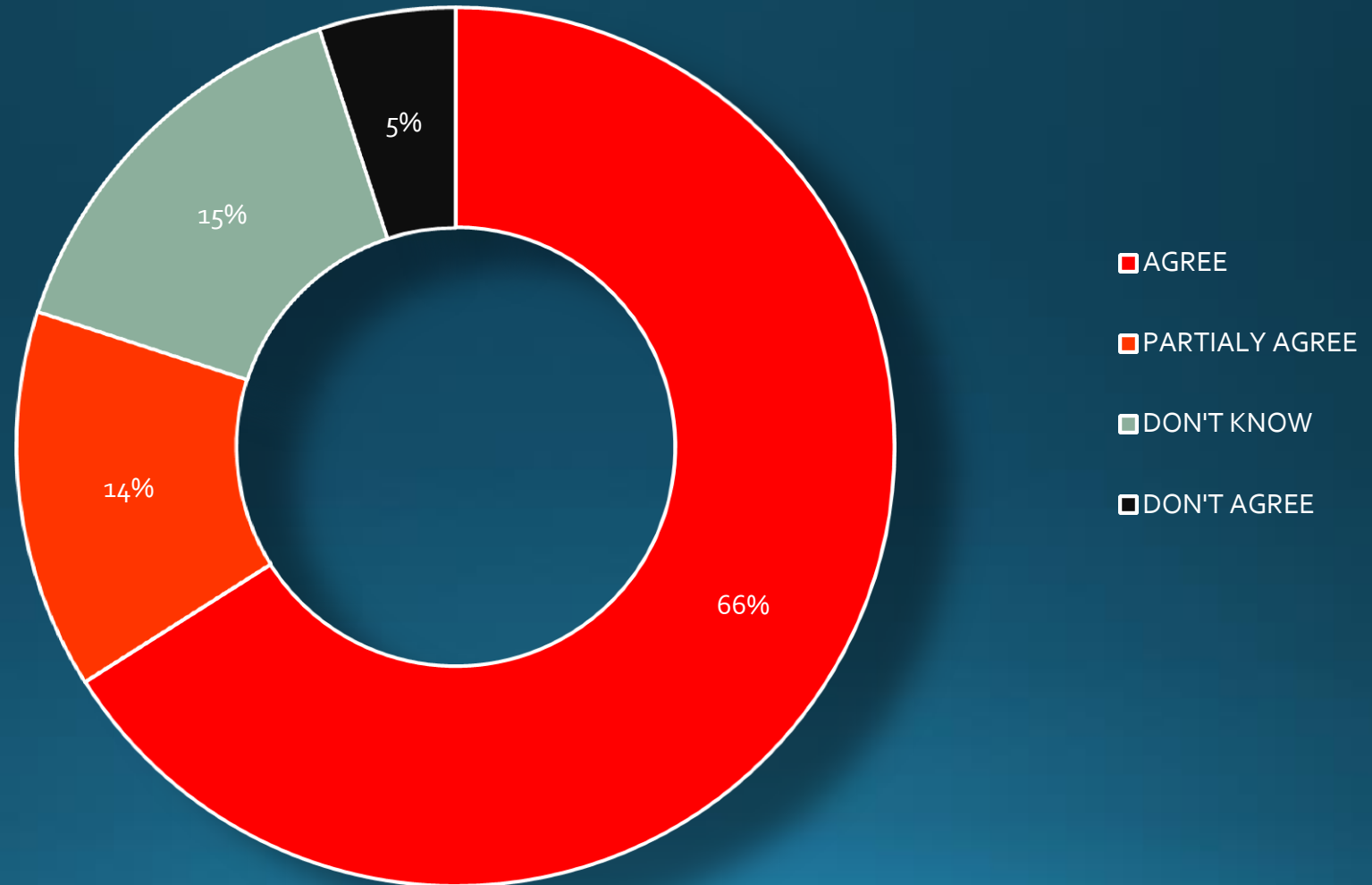
Flowchart of possible outcomes



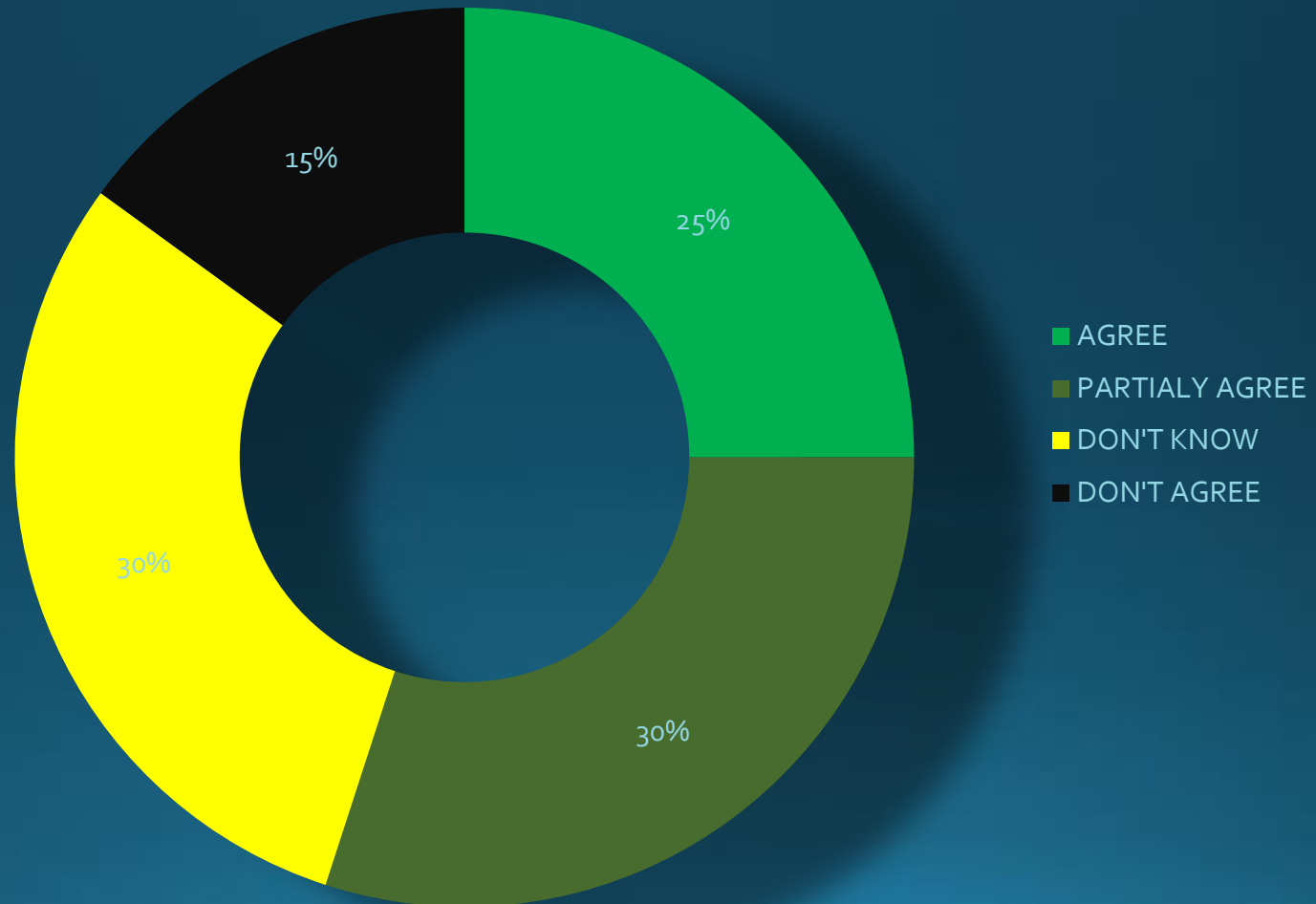
Civil activism



Q1. Civic activism is necessary for citizens to influence decisions in society



Q4. In Macedonia there is no real civic activism, these are groups financed by political parties or international organizations



Q.6. In the last year several types of plenums were established (students, professors, journalists...). On behalf of your rights would you join in some type of civil plenum?

