



# SURVEY OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES OF THE POPULATION OF GEORGIA TOWARDS PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



## SUMMARY OF THE SURVEY

Within PrIME the survey of the population of Georgia on the knowledge and attitudes towards Prosecutor's Office was conducted from March 30 to April 12, 2020.

The survey studies the following topics: (1) Attitude towards the Prosecutor's Office and prosecutors of Georgia; (2) Knowledge about the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia; (3) Experience with the Prosecutor's Office; (4) Application of communication channels of the Prosecutor's Office and their evaluation.

The study included the country's adult Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani-speaking population, except population living in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. 1,017 people in total were interviewed by telephone. The sampling was representative for Georgia (except for ethnic minority settlements and occupied territories), as well as for the population of the capital, other cities and villages. List of phone numbers generated through random digit dialing was used at sampling. The average error rate on a country level is 2.1%.



## SURVEY OUTCOMES

### Attitude towards the Prosecutor's Office and prosecutors of Georgia

According to the results of the survey, a large part of the adult population of Georgia (44%) states that they are interested in the activities of the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia. However, at the same time, more than half of the population (54%) says they are not interested in the activities of the Prosecutor's Office.

When asked what the purpose of the Prosecutor's Office is in Georgia today, the population most often answers that it serves to fight crime. The second most frequent answer is human rights protection (17%). Almost the same share of the population claims that the Prosecutor's Office serves to establish public order today. A small part says that the Prosecutor's Office serves the interests of the government. It should be noted that slightly over one-fifth of the population does not know the purpose of the Prosecutor's Office in Georgia today. (See diagram 1)



## IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TODAY IN GEORGIA? (%)

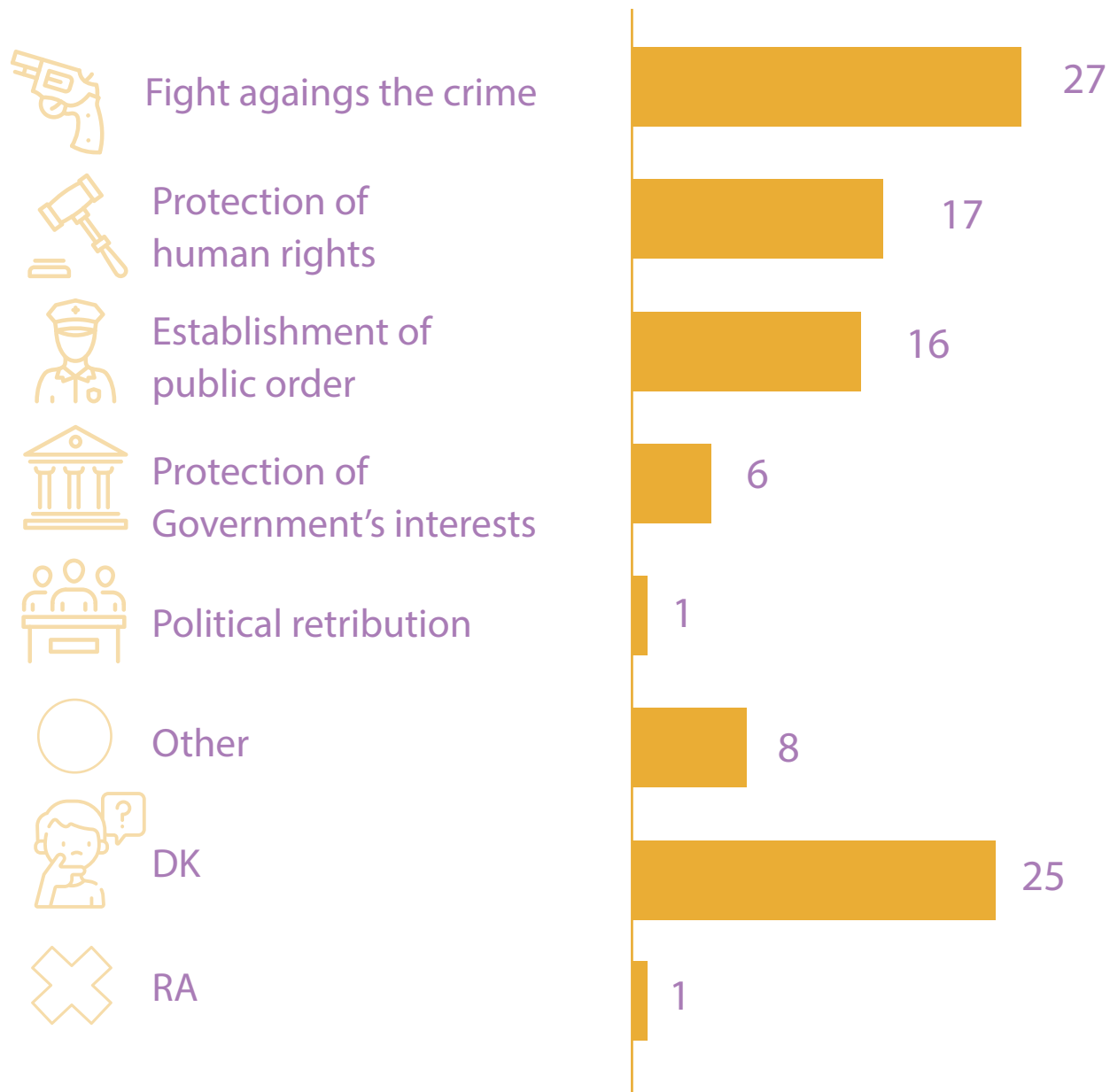


DIAGRAM N1

One-fifth of the population says they fully trust the Prosecutor's Office, while about twice as many say they more likely trust them than otherwise. It is noteworthy that one tenth of the public has no answer to the question. (See diagram 2).



## TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU TRUST OR DISTRUST THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF GEORGIA? (%)

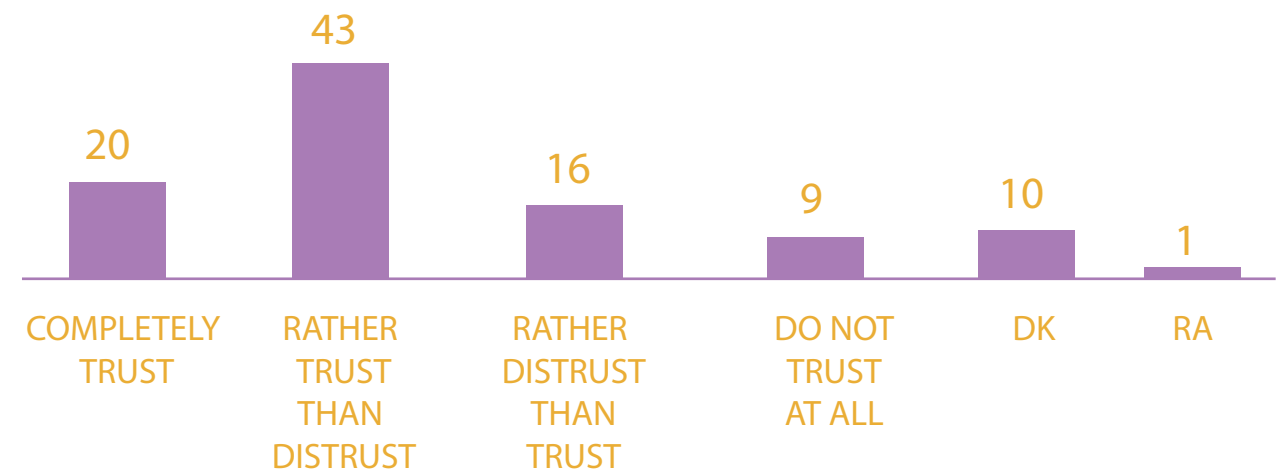
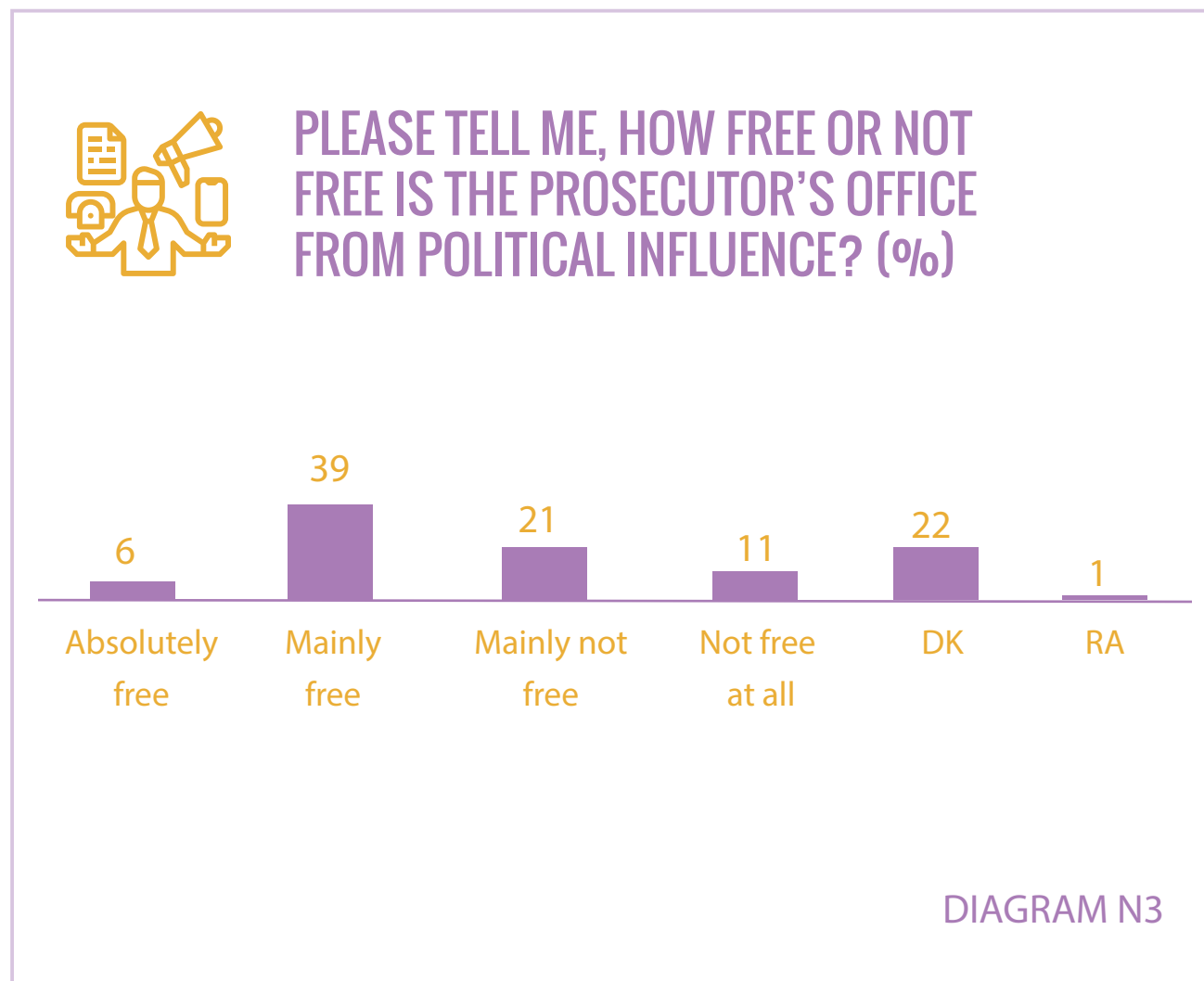


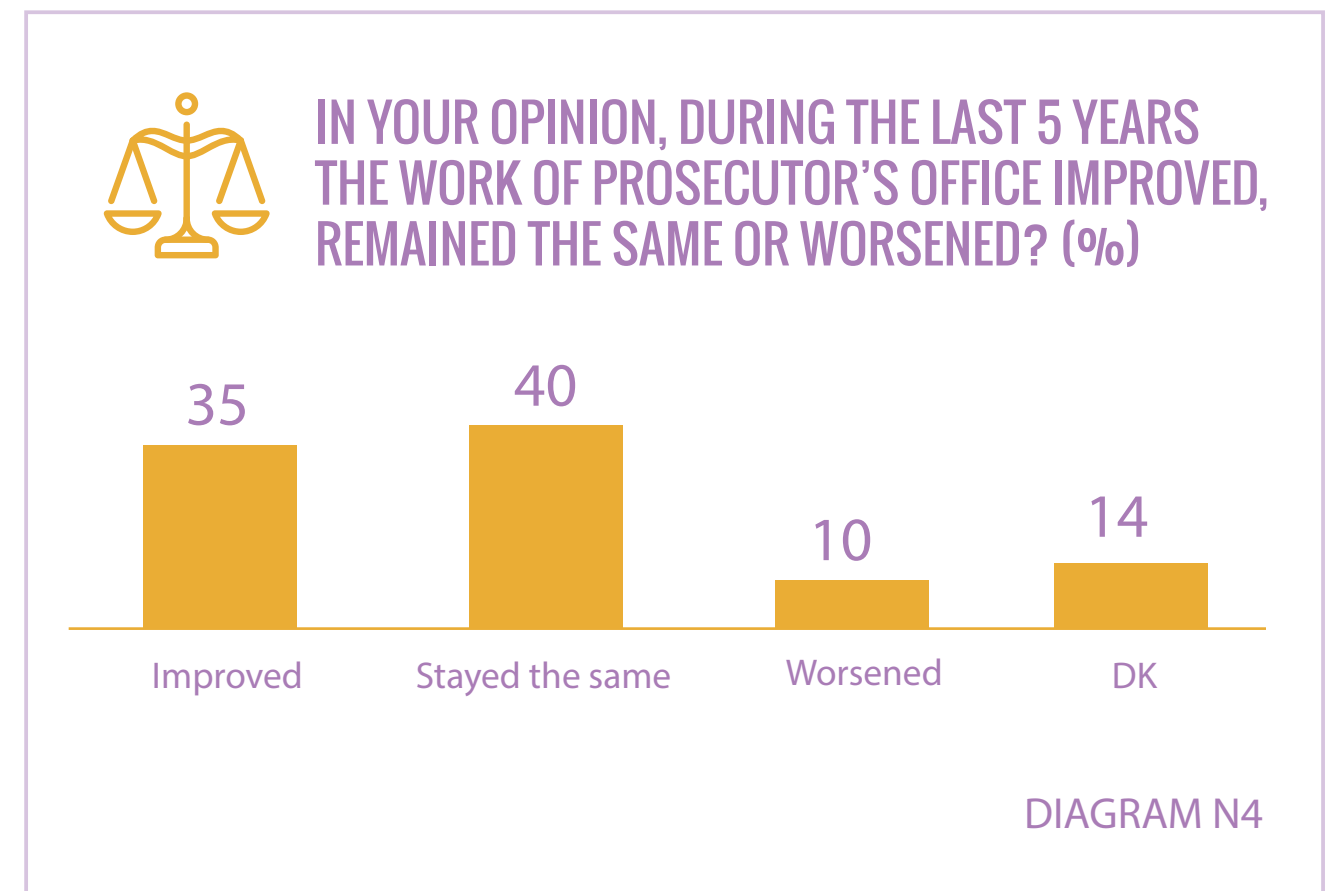
DIAGRAM N2

Despite the public's trust in the Prosecutor's Office, the public's opinion divides when it comes to political influence on the Prosecutor's Office. About a fifth of the population states that the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia is not free from political influence. A relatively large share of the population believes that the Prosecutor's Office is mainly free from political influence, and about one-tenth state that the Prosecutor's Office is not at all free from political influence. It is noteworthy that slightly more than one-fifth of the population has no answer to the question (see diagram 3).



According to the results of a telephone survey, 44% of the population say that the Prosecutor's Office works well, slightly less - 39% of the population evaluates the work of the Prosecutor's Office as average, and almost a tenth of the population says that the Prosecutor's Office works poorly (9%). Also, about one-tenth (8%) does not have an answer to this question.

As for the evaluation of the work of the Prosecutor's Office for the last five years, 40% of the population say that the performance of the Prosecutor's Office has not changed. Slightly more than a third of the public believe it has improved, and a tenth thinks the work of the Prosecutor's Office has deteriorated over the past five years. (See diagram 4).



Those who think that the performance of the Prosecutor's Office has improved will attribute this improvement mainly to more transparency and prompt work of the Prosecutor's Office. And those who think that the work of the Prosecutor's Office has deteriorated cite biased investigation conducted by the Prosecutor's Office as the reason. (See Annex A, Chart 9; 10).

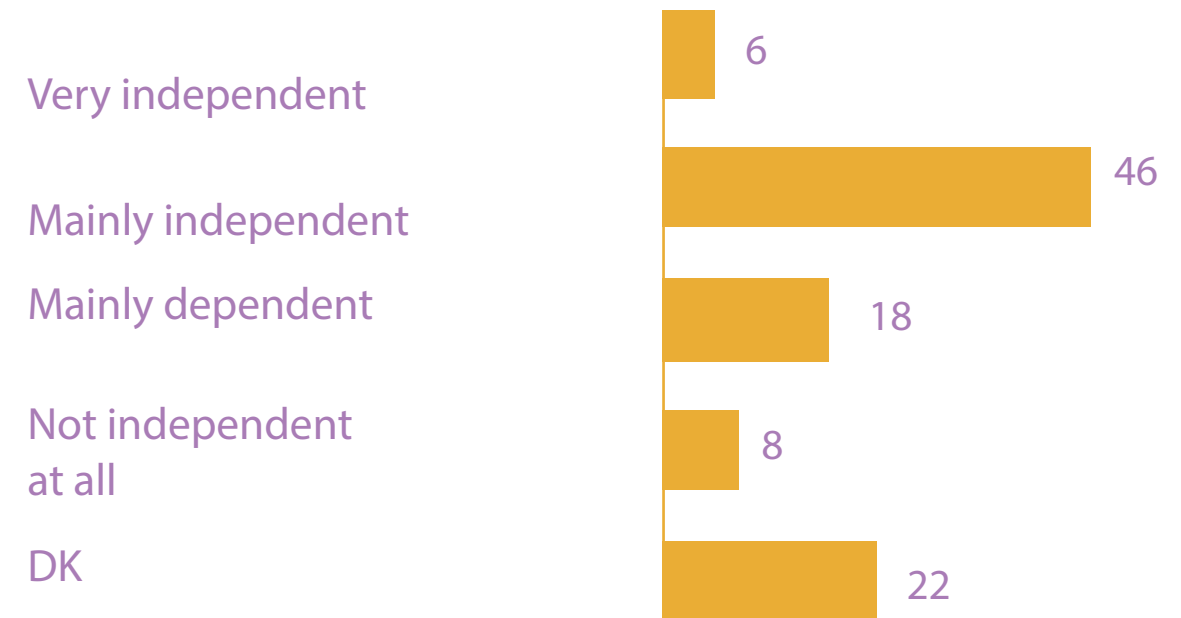
## ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROSECUTORS

According to the results of the telephone survey, the majority of the public (61%) trust prosecutors. Slightly over a quarter (27%) of the population do not trust them, and about a tenth (11%) do not know whether they trust prosecutors in Georgia

About half of the public says prosecutors are mostly independent. About a fifth of the population says the opposite. As for the professionalism of prosecutors, the majority of the population claims that prosecutors are mostly professionals. One-tenth believe that they are mostly unprofessional. (See diagram 5).



### PLEASE TELL ME, HOW INDEPENDENT ARE PROSECUTORS IN GEORGIA? (%)



### PLEASE TELL ME, HOW PROFESSIONALS OR UNPROFESSIONALS ARE PROSECUTORS IN GEORGIA? (%)

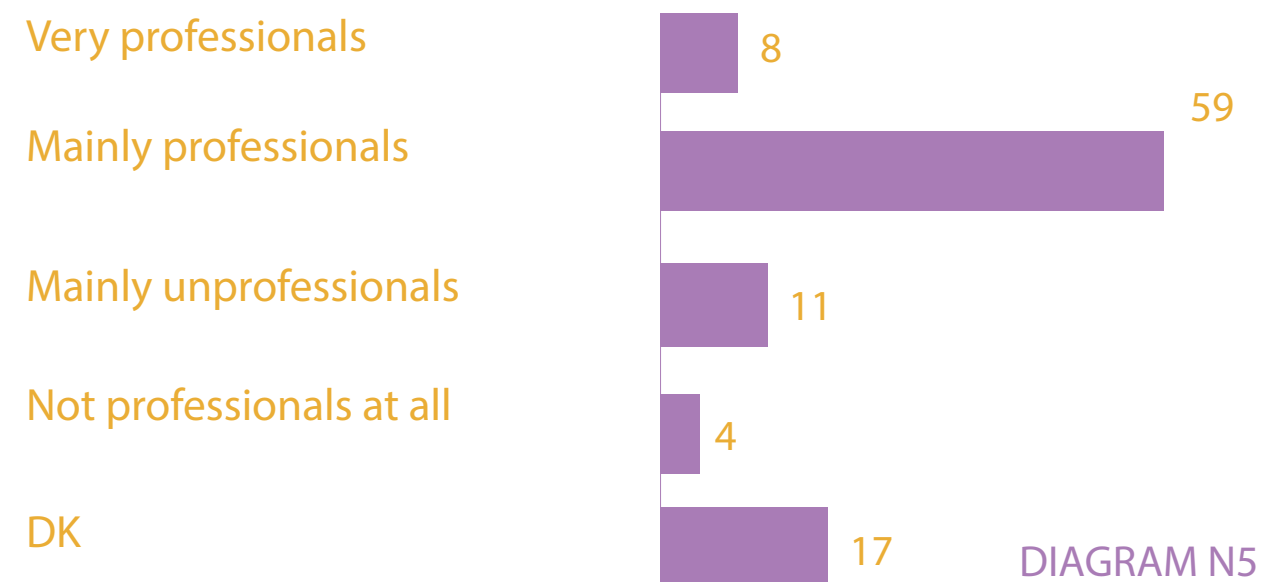


DIAGRAM N5



## KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF GEORGIA

The majority of the adult population of Georgia (64%) does not know who the Prosecutor General of Georgia is today. Almost a third (31%) correctly and the rest (4%) incorrectly name the Prosecutor General.

During the survey, respondents were given several statements about the Prosecutor's Office and were asked to answer which of them was true. 29% of the population correctly answers that the statement - the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia is currently an independent body - is true. About one-fifth think that the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia is currently under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, while 15% think that the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia is currently under the Ministry of Justice. About a third of the population states that they do not know which of these three statements is true. (See diagram 6).



## IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE? (%)

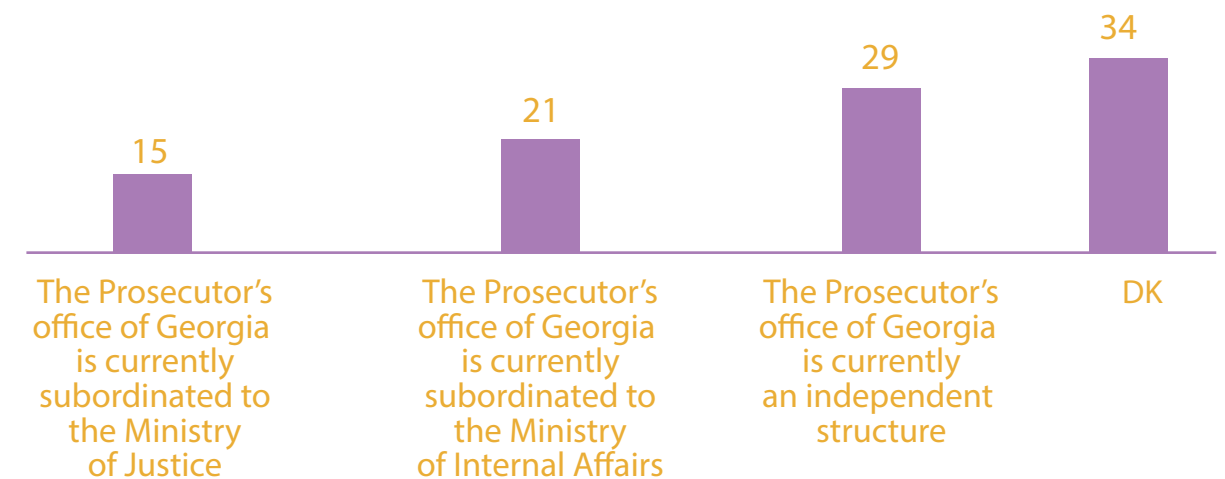
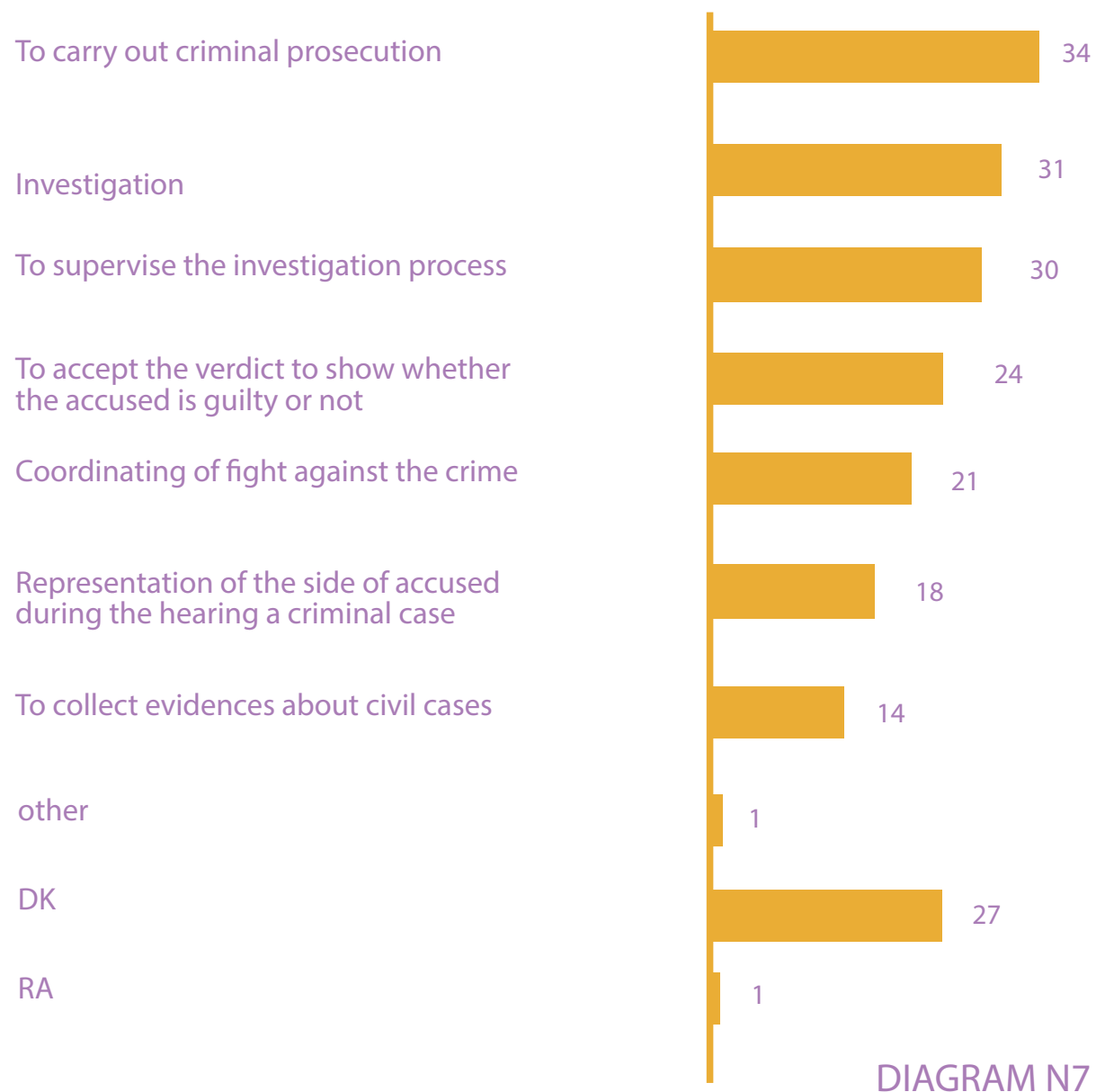


DIAGRAM N6

As for the duties of the Prosecutor's Office, the population has more or less correct knowledge about them. During the survey, respondents were given a list of activities and asked to answer which of them were among the duties of the Prosecutor's Office. Prosecution, investigation and supervision of the investigation process are the most frequently named duties performed by the Prosecutor's Office. It is noteworthy that more than a fifth of the population thinks that the duty of the Prosecutor's Office is to issue a verdict on whether the accused is guilty or not. In addition, 15% say that it is the duty of the Prosecutor's Office to collect evidence on civil cases. At the same time, more than a fifth of the public does not know what activities are among the duties of the Prosecutor's Office. (See diagram 7)



## IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE THE DUTIES OF THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE? (%)



Note: Respondents could name any answers. Thus indicators of the answers in percentages do not add up to 100.



## EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

According to the survey, only 6% of Georgia's adult Georgian-speaking population say they, their a family member or close friend have had any contact with the Prosecutor's Office in the past five years, and their status was mainly of a victim. Out of those who had contact with the Prosecutor's Office, slightly more than a third states, that the case were resolved in their/their relative's favor; About half of the respondents say the case has not been resolved in their/their relative's favor and about a tenth refuse to answer the question. The share of respondents is almost equally divided when they evaluate prosecutors in the process of working on their/their relative's cases. Part of them claims that the prosecutor worked professionally on the case, while part claims the opposite.

During the survey, respondents were asked if they had filed a complaint to the Prosecutor's Office against any of the prosecutors. As it turned out, almost none of the respondents complained to the Prosecutor's Office.



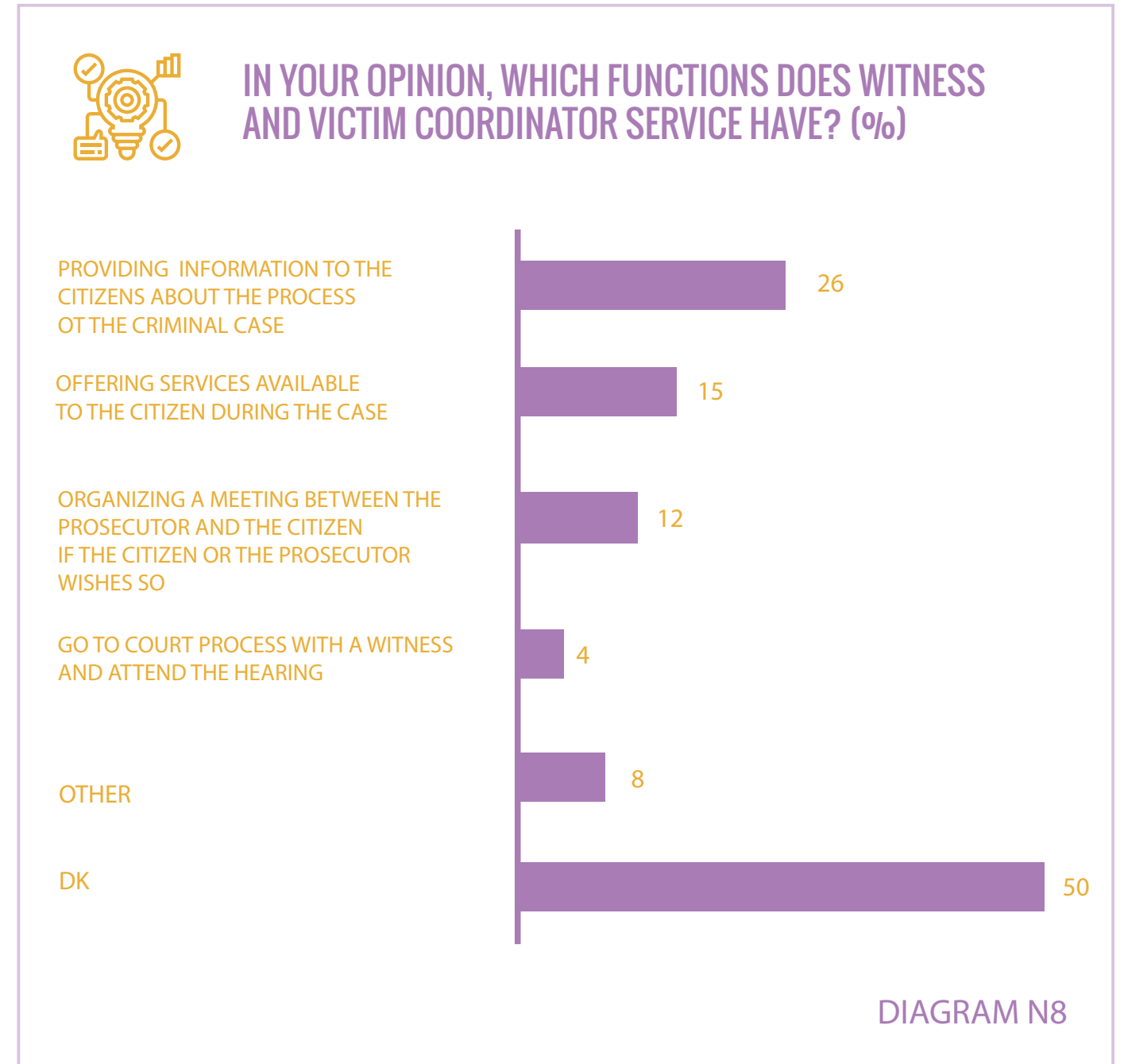
## APPLICATION OF COMMUNICATION CHANNELS OF THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND THEIR EVALUATION

It was also interesting for the study to find out how actively people use the communications and information means related to the Prosecutor's Office and whether they see any flaws in them.

According to a telephone survey, only 1% of the population used the Prosecutor’s Office website and Facebook page. 2% stated they were unaware that the Prosecutor’s Office had a website or a Facebook page, while the rest of the public said they did not use the Prosecutor’s Office website or Facebook page. Most of those who have used the website of the Prosecutor’s Office, say it is easy to find information on the website.

As for the hotline of the Prosecutor’s Office, like in case of the website and Facebook pages, there is very little share of people (1%) who state to have used the hotline of the Prosecutor’s Office. 7% said they were unaware of the existence of a hotline at the Prosecutor’s Office; 91% say they did not use the hotline. Most of those who have used the hotline of the Prosecutor’s Office are satisfied with the service. A small number of those who are dissatisfied with the hotline service name not receiving desired information as a reason for dissatisfaction.

During the survey, respondents were asked if they had heard of the Victim Coordinator Service. As it turned out, 6% of the population had heard of the Coordinator Service and mostly they state that the function of the Coordinator Service is to provide information on prosecution to the citizens, to offer available services to citizens during case proceeding and in case a citizen or a prosecutor wishes so, to arrange a meeting of a prosecutor and a citizen.



Note: Respondents could name any answers. Thus indicators of the answers in percentages do not add up to 100.