Empowering Civic Monitoring:
The iMonitor Experience in Lithuania

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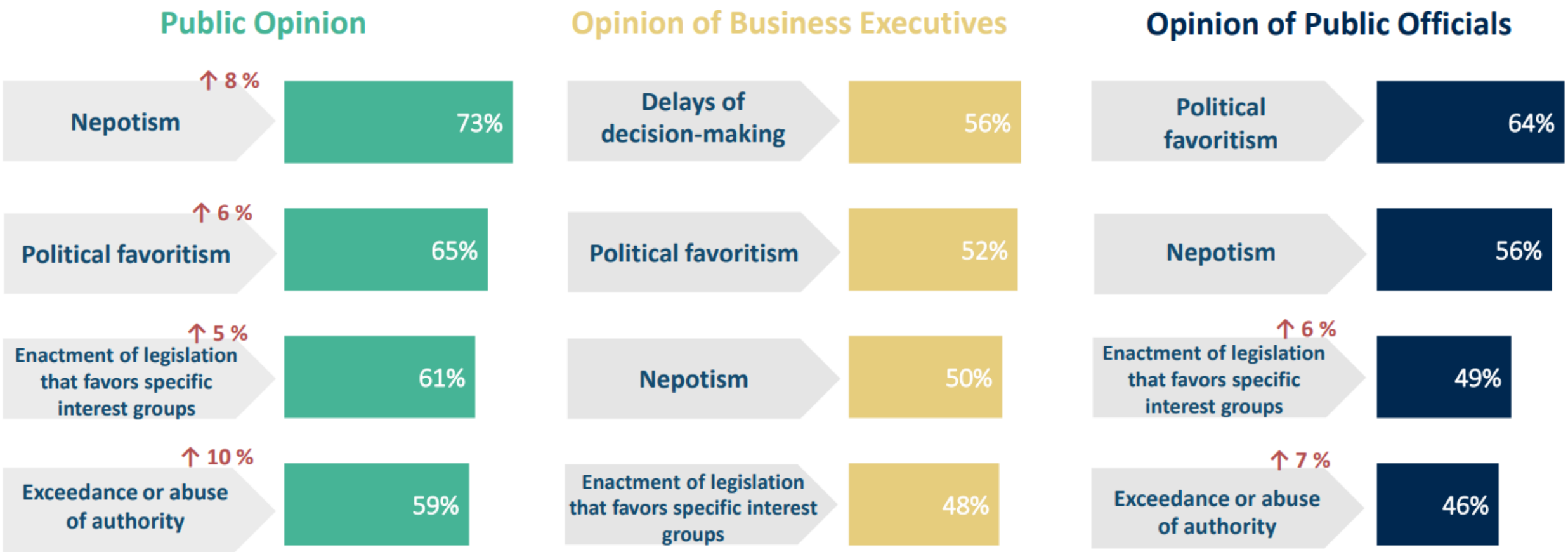
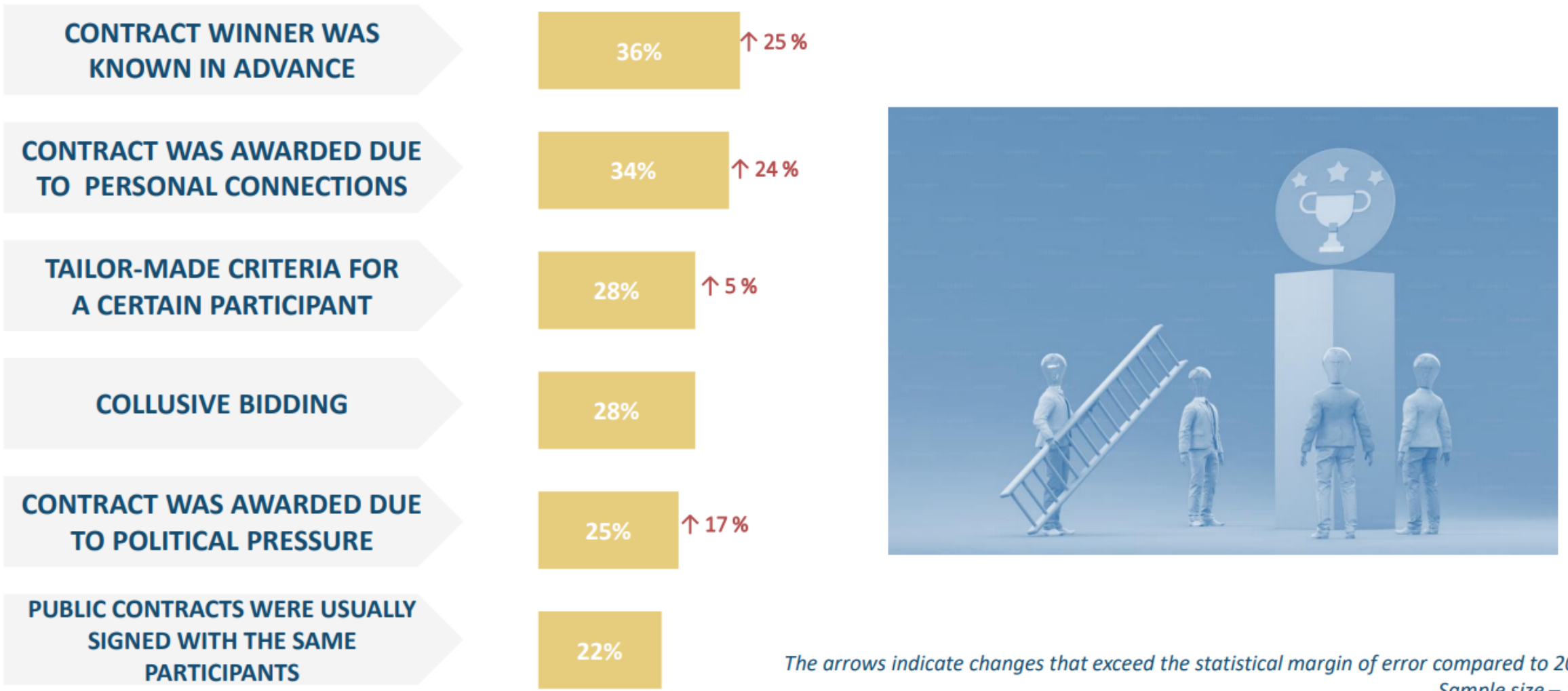
The most acute forms of corruption



Map of corruption in Lithuania, 23/24

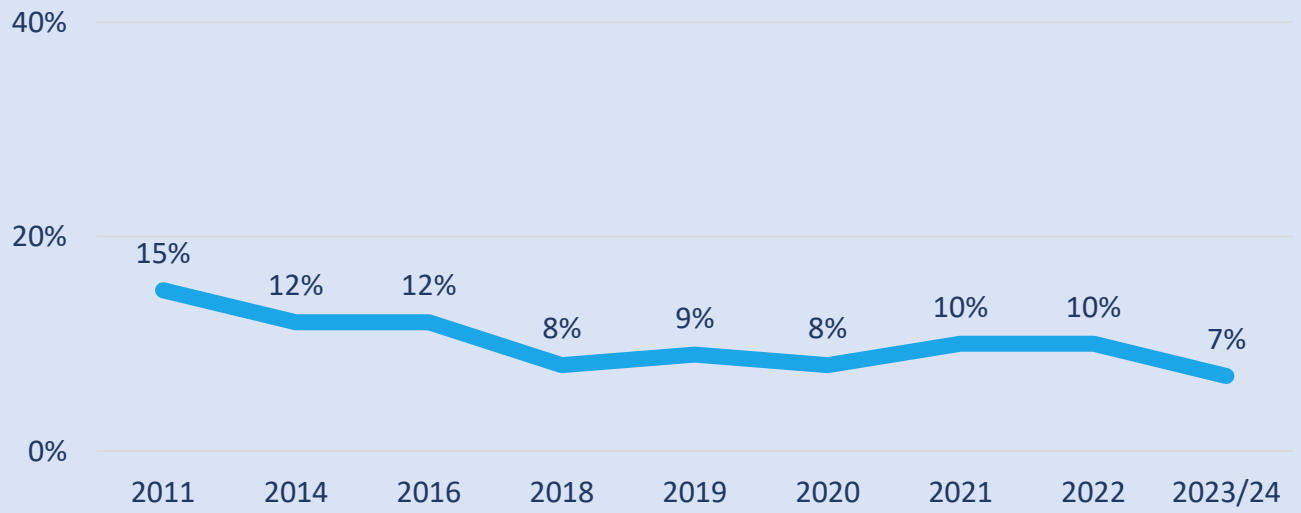
Practices encountered by businesses in public procurement



The arrows indicate changes that exceed the statistical margin of error compared to 2022
Sample size – 141

Why Lithuania? Why now?

- Public procurement = high-risk, high-impact
- Falling public interest in transparency and anti-corruption efforts
- Growing need for meaningful civic engagement



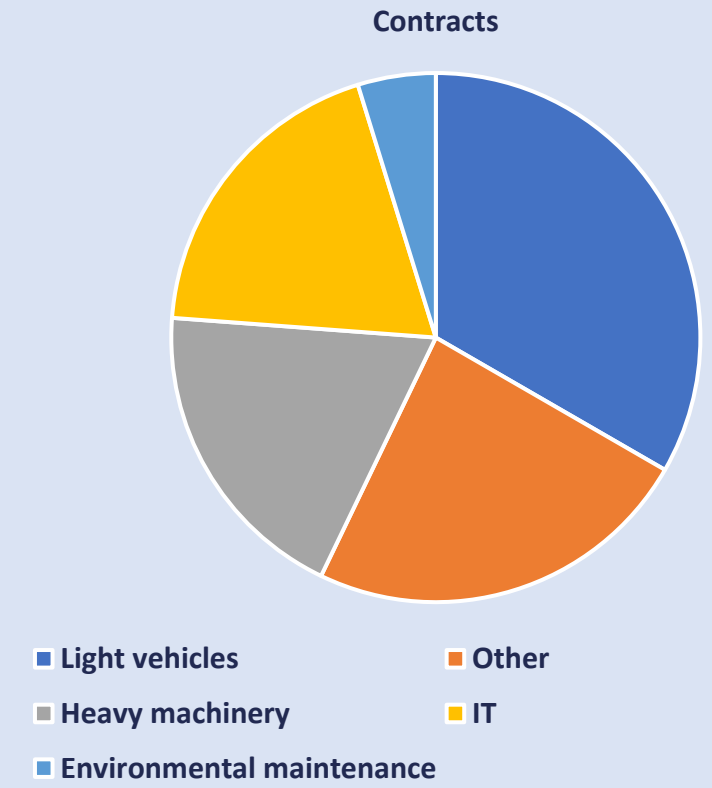
Map of corruption in Lithuania, citizen willingness to engage into anti-corruption efforts

Why partner with a University?

- Mykolas Romeris University (MRU): #1 in Law in Lithuania
- Strong alignment with public administration & security
- Built-in sustainability via curriculum integration. Four groups of students:
    - Law
    - Law and Financial Technology
    - Law and International Relations
    - Law and Customs

From theory to practice: monitoring in action

- 21 contracts monitored implemented in Vilnius district (11), Kaunas district (3), Klaipėda district (5), Panevėžys district (2).
- The amounts of the procurement contracts ranged from 16 588 to 668 823 EUR. The average amount – 235 874 EUR.
- The public procurements were conducted by municipalities (3), public institutions (9) such as the Public Security Service under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Border Guard Service, university (2) and other (7).
- Average integrity score – 64, lowest – 44.
- 62 student monitors trained to assess *low-integrity contracts.*



What did we find?

- Lack of information on supplier ownership (not just names, but number of shareholders)
- No data on how many companies participated in some tenders. Of 21 tenders reviewed:
  - 4 had multiple offers
  - 7 had only one offer
  - 10 had no publicly available info
- 8 FOIA requests sent, only 5 received responses

What was the impact?

- **+1.1 point increase** in self-assessed knowledge of the ability to independently monitor procurement contracts (*from 5.2 after training to 6.3 after monitoring, on a 10-point scale*).
- **65%** of participants felt they gained significantly more knowledge about public procurement, and **92.6%** agreed they now have sufficient understanding of corruption-related risks.
- Participants developed hands-on skills in risk detection, using FOIA (Freedom of Information Act), and civic engagement, discussing with key institutions such as the Public Procurement Office, the Ministry of Interior, several procuring entities.

What’s next?

Active citizenship is a *precondition* for meaningful civic monitoring. Citizens need reasons, trust, and feedback to engage.

- **Invest in civic education & curricular integration.** Make transparency and accountability part of formal education→ Embed public monitoring into university programs→ Cultivate long-term civic habits early on.
- **Make participation meaningful and measurable.** Try various citizen initiatives (participatory bugdeting, citizen assemblies, etc.) → Collect feedback and ensure follow-through on public input→ Ensure accessibility to all groups, not just the most vocal.
- **Strengthen open data infrastructure & institutional practices**→ Support tools like opentender.eu and public dashboards.

THANK YOU!

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