



Agricultural Policy Forum 2022

Agriculture and Rural Development in the context of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans: Overcoming the Impact of the Global Challenges

Working Group 4: The role of youth in the rural development in the Western Balkans

METHODOLOGY

for Analysing the Role of Rural Youth in the Rural Areas in the Western Balkans

Association of Agricultural Economists of North Macedonia

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18 - 20 October 2022

Tirana, Albania



Implemented by:



AiM: Analysing the Role of Rural Youth in the Rural Areas in the Western Balkans

- National Experts for selected WB country/territory:

1. Albania,
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina,
3. Montenegro,
4. North Macedonia,
5. Serbia
6. Kosovo*

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

The study will address policymakers, international organizations, stakeholders in agriculture and rural development, youth organizations and researchers in the field.

MIXED-METHOD APPROACH



QUALITATIVE

1. DESK RESEARCH

National
Expert

2. INTERVIEWS

SWG

3. FOCUS GROUP
DISCUSSION

National
Expert

QUANTITATIVE

YOUTH SURVEY

International
+ SWG

NATIONAL REPORT

CROSS-COUNTRY REPORT



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DESK RESEARCH

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National Experts responsible for the desk research for each WB country/territory

It will include:

- **secondary statistical data** and a review of different **strategic documents** at the national level.
- Official documents, statistical data, and expert and research studies
- Possible sources to find data are the websites of ILO and Eurostat, National statistical databases and previous reports.
- The national reports will state if there are data constraints and data gaps.
- ✓ All findings will be discussed in the Western Balkans' socio-demographic and rural/agricultural context.
- ✓ In addition, the desk research will include a **detailed policy review**,
 - ✓ relevant policies and policy trends which could influence the situation of rural youth and their engagement in the agri-food sector in the WB countries and territories.



This task includes conducting interviews with relevant stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of relevant dynamics and current issues rural youth face
- Generate new theories and hypotheses for composing the survey questionnaire.

Expert interviews will be conducted with **seven**, relevant representatives of different stakeholders per country/territory, including:

1. Local representative of a **civil society sector** from the targeted age group of ***under 30 year olds*** (eg. Network or NGO organization of young people coming from/living in the rural areas and if possible to have one representative of each gender)
2. Representative of a **policy-making institution** (eg. Ministry of Agriculture)
3. **Ministry of Youth/Labour/Social policy;**



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INTERVIEWS

SWG regional offices

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- The national experts will select relevant interview partners.
 - The selection will be reviewed and confirmed by the research team in Skopje.
4. Professor/representative from the **University/Faculty of Agriculture**;
 5. A **researcher from academia**, who has the youth or rural youth as a research field;
 6. **NGO on rural women issues**; or
 7. **Career advisory center or similar institute**





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EXPERT INTERVIEWS

Guiding question for the semi-structured interviews



1. In your **personal opinion**, what are the **most pressing issues for rural youth and how can they be best addressed**? How do you perceive the **current situation, major challenges, and opportunities** for rural youth? Which of the mentioned challenges and issues are only specific to rural youth?
2. Can you please give us your **opinion on the effectiveness the relevant institutions** that implement or have jurisdiction over rural youth issues (e.g. Ministries, Agencies, etc.), and the **programmes/policies** that target rural youth? Can you **identify the crucial institution(s) or policies that are missing**?
3. Are you aware of **different strategic documents and programs** that include different aspects of youth and rural youth? Is there a National youth strategy? If yes, please describe **how are rural youth issues incorporated within this document**; which (if any) **operational and monitoring plans** exist. Is there a **“Youth guarantee fund”** or similar instrument in your country and if so, could you provide more detail about the aims of such instrument?
4. Is there an **appointed unit/department/sector/appointed person** in your institution, responsible for dealing with (rural) youth issues? Please describe their responsibilities and explain if they are operational and active.





INTERVIEWS

Guiding questions for the semi-structured interviews



- Can you identify the **specific state-support measures targeting rural youth**? How would you evaluate their suitability and accessibility for rural youth? Do these **measures include a gender perspective**?
- Do you have ongoing or already implemented **donor-funded projects** targeting rural youth? Can you explain what the specific aims are and if you think that the projects are **successful/not successful** and why? Do these projects perceive the different challenges met by rural young women and rural young men?
- What are the **organizations or community groups functioning on a local level** which empower rural youth? Can you give examples of how they function and how they support rural youth?
- Can you specify what **activities, policies/subsidies** would incentivise young people in the rural areas to consider staying instead of leaving rural areas?
- What are the **future plans** of your institution/organization for activities for improving the rural youth's well-being?





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FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

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National Experts responsible for the focus group for each WB country/territory

This task includes conducting a focus group discussion with the target group of rural youth to gain deeper understanding of relevant dynamics and current issues rural youth face.

Composition of focus groups

- Within the groups 50-50% will be the distribution among participants who
 - (i) are engaged in agriculture and related fields along the value chain (e.g. work on their own or others' farm) or
 - (ii) not involved in agriculture and related fields at all.





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Opening/open question: Which topics are concerning you the most, being a young person

1. Education

2. Employment and economic opportunities

3. Social life

4. Rural infrastructure incl. access to health services

5. Civic engagement and political participation and inclusion

- Discuss the civic engagement initiatives of young people in the selected community. Are young people proactive in solving their own problems or challenges of the village/community they live in? (Please give examples of such engagement) If not, what are key issues that need to be addressed, and what is the reason that the young people do not engage in solutions (have they ever tried and failed or just wait for someone else to lead these issues)?
- Discuss the political engagement of young people in the selected community emphasizing the age and gender perspective. Are young people proactive in politics? Is the voice of young people in politics strong enough to make certain changes in the place they live in? Are there equal opportunities for both genders to be involved in political engagement and policy decisions?
- Discuss the knowledge/awareness of the existing targeted state-support measures for rural youth (young farmers, young entrepreneurs, etc.).

stays despite or because of the economic situation? Who leaves? And why?





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YOUTH SURVEY

- Prepared by International and Regional Experts

- SWG will organize the survey through its regional offices.



Proposed sample size by country:

COUNTRY	Sample size
Serbia	400
BiH	200
Albania	200
Kosovo*	150
North Macedonia	150
Montenegro	100
Total sample	1200

Sample selection:

- ✓ The sampled target group covers respondent who live in a rural area and are within the **age categories of 15 to 40 years old.**
- ✓ **Representation of different regions/locations within a country/territory** (e.g. remote location versus location closer to a rural town, tbd) and strives for a balanced gender distribution.
- ✓ **Other variables** such as education levels, diversity of professional backgrounds, inclusion of minorities, etc. will be monitored during the survey, but are not considered in the sample selection procedure.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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