



## 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*

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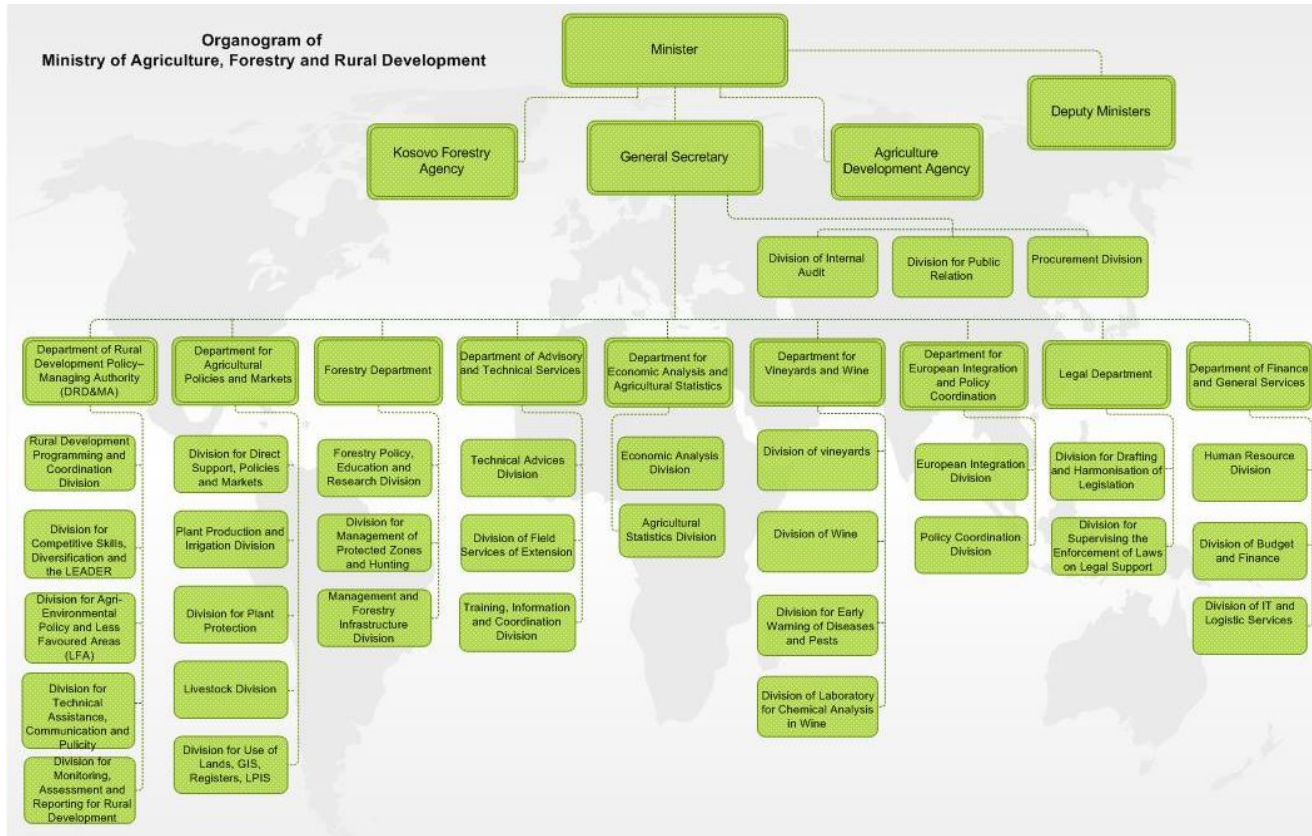
*\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence*





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# Authorities and Other Stakeholders



- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
- Agriculture Development Agency
- Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (Department of Youth)
- Directorates for Youth and Culture (municipalities)

### Other non-governmental entities:

- Initiative for Agricultural Development in Kosovo\* (IADK)
- USAID
- Several Youth NGOs
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
- GIZ
- Tetra Tech



## Legislation framework

- Law 04/L-090 “On Amending Law 03/L-098 on Agriculture and Rural Development”
- Administrative Instruction 04/2022 “On Measures and Criteria for Supporting Rural Development for 2022”
- Administrative Instruction 19/20014 “On Amending and Supplementing AI 16/2014 for Support of Local Development Strategies – LEADER Approach”
- National Development Strategy – 2030
- Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2022 – 2028
- Strategy for Youth 2019 - 2023



## Policies on ARD and Youth

- Agriculture and Rural Development Program (ARDP) 2014–20 (MAFRD 2013),
- Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MoF, various years),
- Economic Reform Program (ERP; Republic of Kosovo\*, various years),
- Rural Development Program 2022
- 2018–21 action plan for organic agriculture,
- Tetra Tech's NOA program,
- IADK's Strategy 2020 -2027,
- USAID's AGRO program,
- Danish Neighborhood Programme,
- GIZ's Youth, Employment and Skills Project 2017 – 2021, etc.



## Reviewing Kosovo policies on ARD

- Focus of narrow rural policies = national rural development programme, strategy for agriculture and rural development → Government + Other stakeholders;
- Complemented with broader policies such as the national development strategies;
- Institutional policies and strategies → lacking focus on youth;
- Measures for youth involvement and development are very abstract;
- Insufficient implementation;
- Focus on youth and rural youth → mostly NGO and International Organizations (NOA, AGRO, IADK).



## Statistical data

Indicator	2021	Trend
Population	1.78 million	Decreasing
Area	10'950.25 km <sup>2</sup>	N/A
Population Density	162.0 p/km <sup>2</sup>	Decreasing
GDP per Capita	4.49	Increasing
Emigration	38'606	<b>Increasing</b>
Migration	7'353	Decreasing
Target group employment rate	14.3%	Increasing
People employed in ARD	2.7%	<b>Decreasing*</b>
Unemployment Rate	17.7%	Decreasing
Agriculture in GVA	6.9	Relatively unchanged

## The Youth Situation in Kosovo\*

- High percentage of NEET youth;
- 56% of the youth in Kosovo\* believe that connections and relations to people in power are the best way to get employment;
- Obstacles to employment of rural youth are lack of adequate jobs (17.9%), lack of part time jobs (14.3%), lack of flexible jobs (14.3%), lack of transportation (14.3%), inability to work due to familial responsibilities (14.2%);
- Mismatch between the skills and qualifications of rural youth and the needs of the job market → lack of relevant qualifications/training;
- Desire to work in the public sector;
- Rural youth has insufficient access to employment information;
- Insufficient soft skills.



## Conclusions

- Primary legislative framework is sufficient, secondary legislation is lacking;
- Need for increased focus on youth from institutions;
- Policies and strategies should be modified to take youth into account;
- Implementation of strategies, legislation and policy is insufficient;
- Rural youth in Kosovo\* has insufficient access to information and training for skills to obtain employment;
- Youth qualifications  $\neq$  Job market requirements





**Thank you for your attention!**





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