



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

*(Youth in Albania: Situation and Needs)
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18 - 20 October 2022
Tirana, Albania




Demographic data

- The Albanian population is the second youngest in Europe behind Kosovo, (median age in 2020 of 37.2 years¹).
- Young people aged 15-39 years are 35,9 % of the whole Albanian population (2022).
- Young population has decreased in the last two decades due to large-scale emigration
- Urban areas have been experiencing a steady population growth, while a large decrease of population is observed in rural areas;
- Official data shows a decline of 4.69% in the number of young people in education, particularly at the high school and university levels from 2018 to 2020.

- The Law on Youth approved in 2019 – a milestone towards improved youth policymaking;
- Ministry of Youth and Children
- National Youth Strategy (2022-2029) – public consultation phase
- National Youth Agency established in 2020;
- Public Fund for youth grants;
- Youth structures: National Youth Council (NYC), the Local Youth Council (LYC), and the National Youth Representative Organization (NYRO);
- Local self-government units responsible for drafting and implementing local youth policies;
- Non-profit organizations



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- 74.4% of municipalities do not have a dedicated youth, consequently unable to fulfill legal responsibilities as regards youth activities and support to youth initiatives;* (2021)
 - 69.7% of municipalities report that they have a local youth action plan, compared to 30.3% that do not have a strategic document on youth;
 - **MOST YOUTH POLICIES IGNORE THE RURAL, AND MOST RURAL POLICIES IGNORE THE YOUTH!**



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Current situation



- **Education and Employment**

- A decline of 4.69% in the number of young people in education, particularly at the high school and university levels from 2018 to 2020.
- The NEET rate for Albania in 2020 was 27.9, from 26.6 in 2019 - 12.6% higher than the EU average rate;
- 36.5% of NEET are classified unemployed, (INSTAT 2020), out of a total of over 190,000 - are registered in the employment offices and the needs must be covered to extend beyond this group, which represents less than 10% of APAA youth.
- Agriculture has the highest share of the employment, while it's among the economic activities receiving wages below the national average level. There is a strong poverty concentration in rural areas





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Current situation



- **Migration**

“Youth brain drain” ranks Albania at number one in Europe for young people's desire to leave and study abroad. 35% of students with a Bachelor's degree and about 30% of students generally aim to study abroad, while the level of economic status of Albanian students is again at alarming proportions compared to other countries. Young people that willingly want to leave the country account for up to 79%, according to Gallup, placing Albania at the top of the list.

- **Social life**

Youth in rural areas work more hours per day than youth in urban areas. Also, hanging out with friend is rarer for the youth in rural areas than they in urban areas and there is a huge difference in the percentage of the youth from rural and urban areas in travelling abroad.



- **Political participation**

The majority of the youths in Albania are not interested in political processes.

According to a study conducted by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in South Eastern Europe, 35.8% of youth participate in some way in politics and 27.7% are active in civil society.



YOUTH ASSEMBLIES – Problems as perceived by rural youth

- Purpose: The Youth Assemblies had the objective to collect rural youth's concerns and priorities regarding rural development at local level
- Participants: 105 participants, 47 women – 58 men



