



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 rural development in the Western Balkans

*Rural Youth in Serbia, an Overview
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18 - 20 October 2022
Tirana, Albania



Contextualization

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- 6,834,326 people are anticipated to live in the Republic of Serbia in 2021 (estimates are based on the results of statistics on natural movements and internal migrations of the population). However, the trend of **depopulation** persisted, resulting in a negative population growth rate of **-9.4 per cent** when compared to the previous year.
 - There are no consistent statistics or a universally agreed-upon definition of what constitutes an urban or rural settlement in Serbia (official national census methodologies - urban and other, based on the legal criteria for determining urban settlements, while settlements outside this category are classified as other or rural, the OECD methodology - population density below 150 inhabitants/km² and EC methodology, Degurba, Eurostat). A number of indicators are not available by type of region (predominantly rural, medium and predominantly urban regions), according to the EC methodology.
 - Approximately **85 per cent** of the Republic of Serbia's land is classified as **a rural area**, according to the Law on the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia, from 2010 to 2020. They are home to about **55 per cent** of the Republic of Serbia's **inhabitants**, with an average population density of **63 persons per ha**.

Youth rural in Serbia - population

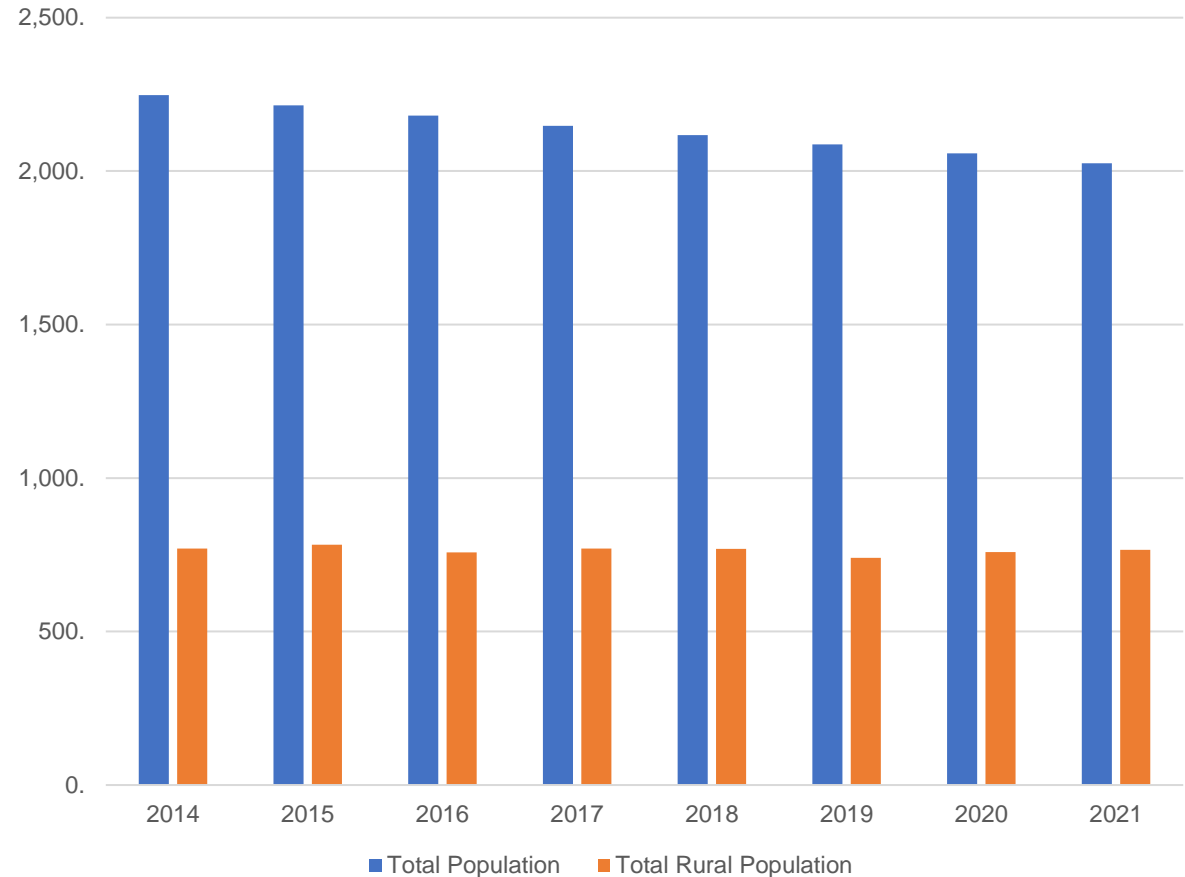
The chart shows the total youth population in Serbia aged 15-39 (in 000) and populations according to the urbanisation in the rural settlements.

The youth population in Serbia **decreasing**.

Depopulation among youth in rural areas **is going at a slower pace** than among the total youth population.

Over 35% of young people live in rural areas. This percentage has been slightly increasing in recent years.

Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws)

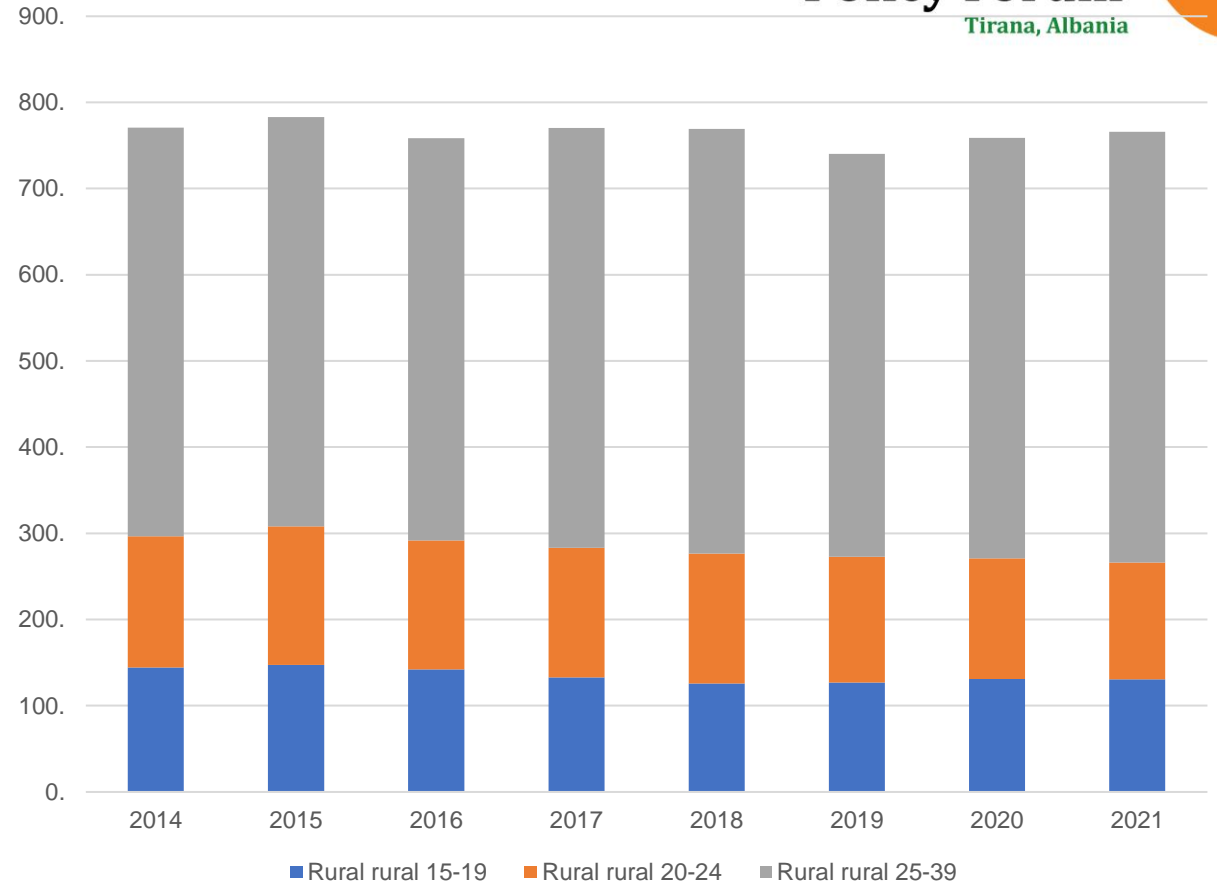


Youth rural in Serbia – population - cont

One of the basic demographic characteristics of the rural population in Serbia is ageing.

The youth population in rural areas has this characteristic too.

Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws)



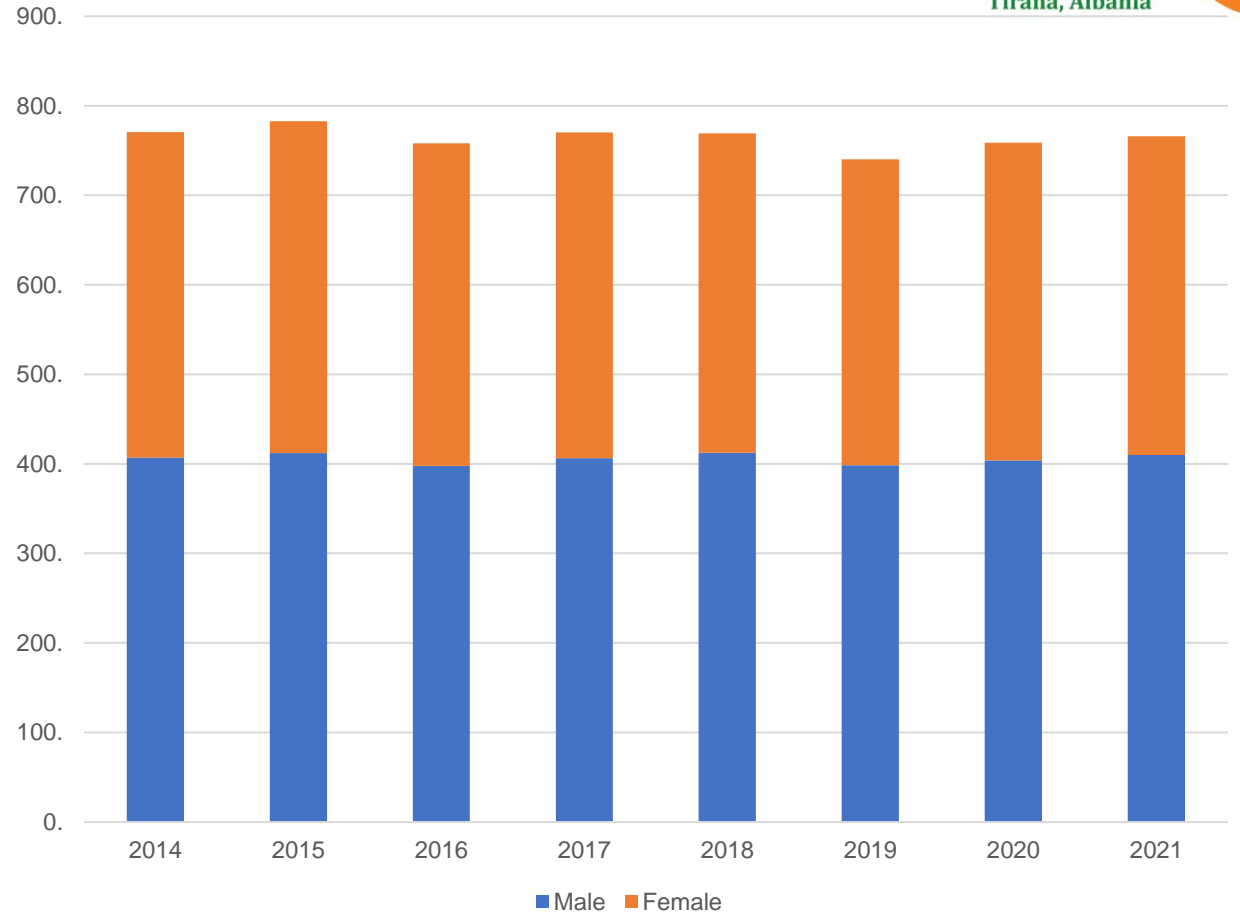
Youth rural in Serbia – gender structure

The chart shows the gender structure of the rural youth population in Serbia aged 15-39 (in 000).

Males outnumber females in both the total population of young people and among youth in rural areas.

This is in contrast to the general gender statistics.

Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws)



Youth rural in Serbia – unemployment

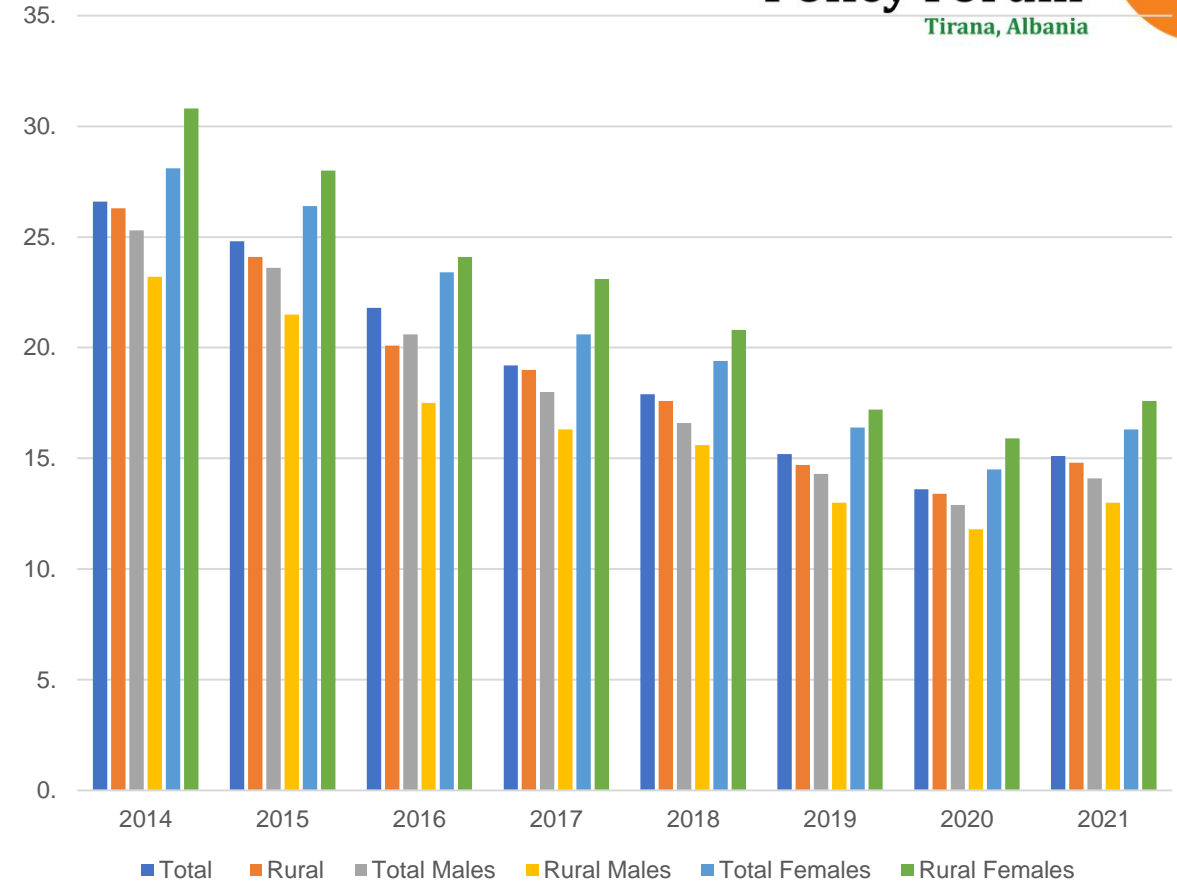
The chart shows unemployment rates (in %) for the rural youth population in Serbia according to the gender structure.

For all groups shown on the chart, **unemployment has been slowly declining** during the period shown.

However, the unemployment rate for young women residing in rural areas is slightly higher in 2021.

While the employment rate for males living in rural areas is lower than the rate for all men, the unemployment rate for women living in rural areas is greater than the rate for all young females.

Source: Eurostat (lfst_r_urgau)





REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Issues that rural areas is Serbia face

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OCTOBER
2022

- The Law on the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia from 2010 to 2020 identified certain problems in rural areas:
- marginalization of villages,
- stagnation and decline in the vitality of rural areas and the rural population,
- the depopulation of the area;
- lower level of technical and social infrastructure equipment;
- disturbances in the spatial and residential structure;
- stagnation of the economic competitiveness of rural areas;
- damage to the ecological integrity of rural areas;
- lack of appropriate institutional and organizational support for rural development.





Thank you for your attention!

