



## 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*

*Montenegro – Preliminary Findings through Desk Research (WG4 on Rural Youth)  
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REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

# General data

- ✓ Location - South-eastern Europe, Balkan Peninsula.
- ✓ Territorial access to the Adriatic Sea.
- ✓ Borders Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, and Albania. The Adriatic Sea separates it from Italy.
- ✓ The total territory is 13,812km<sup>2</sup>.
- ✓ 25 municipalities.
- ✓ 628,247 habitants - equivalent to 0.01% of the total world pop. - 168 country by population.
- ✓ Population density 47 per km<sup>2</sup>.
- ✓ Last census in 2011

*\* 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*



# EC Progress Report 2021

- ✓ Montenegro remains moderately prepared in the area of agriculture and rural development.
- ✓ Some progress was achieved in the implementation of the instrument for pre-accession assistance for rural development programme (IPARD II).
- ✓ The implementation of the action plan on EU acquis alignment was limited.
- ✓ Recommendations:
  - step up the implementation of the IPARD II programme,
  - seek entrustment for implementing the 'Technical assistance' measure,
  - submit the draft IPARD III 2021-2027 programme to the Commission for adoption;
  - continue to implement the action plan for alignment with the EU acquis on agriculture and rural development, and
  - adopt the strategy for agriculture and rural development 2021-2027.

**State should pay more attention on creating and implementing more concrete policies that will focus on the preconditions for the people to stay and live in rural areas.**

# Legislative Framework

Umbrella legislation on youth - Law on Youth (OGM no. 25/2019 from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019).

- ✓ This law regulates:
  - the method of determining and implementing youth policy,
  - measures and activities undertaken with the aim of improving the social position of young people, and
  - creating conditions for fulfilling the needs of young people in all areas of interest to young people.
- ✓ Young people, in the sense of this law, are persons from 15 to 30 years of age.
- ✓ 11 Bylaws
  - 3 rulebooks
  - 8 decisions
- ✓ The Ministry of Sports and Youth responsible for Law implementation.

# Legislative Framework

- ✓ Umbrella legislation on agriculture and rural development - Law on Agriculture and Rural Development (OGM no. 59/2021 from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021).
- ✓ This law regulates:
  - development of agriculture and rural areas,
  - goals and measures of agricultural policy,
  - support in agriculture and conditions for their realization,
  - rights and obligations of beneficiaries of support, and
  - supplementary activities in agriculture, organization in agriculture, and other issues of importance for the development of agriculture and rural areas.
- ✓ 54 Bylaws
- ✓ The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management responsible for Law implementation.







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# National Youth (Rural) Policies



- ✓ Youth Strategy (2017-2021) (Ministry of Education, 2016).
- ✓ Call for development of Youth Strategy published on March 2022.
- ✓ The strategy defines six key priorities:
  - Easier access to employment,
  - Easier access to education,
  - Participation in development and implementation of policies,
  - Access to health and safety services,
  - Access to cultural contents, and
  - Effective and functional normative and institutional framework for the implementation of youth policies.
- ✓ Few data on rural youth
  - Unemployment rate in rural area 48,2%,
  - 67,5% of young people is informally employed
  - Agriculture and rural development are among four priority development sectors (tourism, energy). Nevertheless, only 1,1% of young people living in rural areas work in agriculture.
  - No adequate support and guidance system is available, particularly for vulnerable groups: poor, youth from rural areas, Roma, LGBT, national minorities, youth with disabilities
  - Lack of cultural content for rural youth
  - These data are all relevant for youth 15-30 years of age



- ✓ Strategy for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas for the period 2015-2020 (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)
- ✓ Major actions
  - Infrastructure development (local and regional roads, hospitals, schools, kindergartens, sports facilities, the construction of residential buildings, etc.);
  - Increase in economic activity and further impetus regarding the development of entrepreneurship in small and medium size businesses;
  - Attraction of foreign investors and the identification of areas for investment;
  - Incentive measures for populating underdeveloped municipalities in order to reduce emigration, return of emigrants and attracting new inhabitants;
  - An improvement in the standard and quality of education, particularly in the area of higher education, in accordance with the needs and requirements of the market, and with a special focus on developing and strengthening entrepreneurial skills in young people.





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# National Youth (Rural) Policies



- ✓ National Strategy For the Development of Rural Tourism until 2021 (Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism 2019).
- ✓ Call for development of Youth Strategy not available.
- ✓ The strategy defines three goals:
  - Improvement of the system of rural tourism experiences and integration of the offer in order to establish integrated value chain in rural tourism on the territory of Montenegro.
  - Raising the level of awareness and information among tourists about the offer in the field of rural tourism in Montenegro with the aim of positioning rural tourism on the market.
  - Training and activation of rural communities, entrepreneurs and companies to improve the value of rural products through active participation in managing the sustainable development of their own destination.
- ✓ Few data on rural youth
  - High rate of population migration from villages to cities, especially among the younger generation represents one of the main weaknesses in rural tourism because it directly leads to insufficient personnel in the sector of rural tourism.
  - Village depopulation is recognised as one of the weakness in central and northern region
  - Support for young people is necessary in order to attract them through institutional support (incentives, child allowances and grants)
  - Lack of knowledge and competences
  - Lack of networking
- ✓ Goal no 3 – Measure – Support and encouragement to the younger generation to go back to villages through grants and funds for young entrepreneurs.
  - opens to young people the perspective of life and work in the countryside and stimulates them to return and remain in rural areas.





# National Youth (Rural) Policies

- ✓ National strategy of sustainable development until 2030 (Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism in 2016)
  - Social stability and reduction of the poverty rate are promoted through encouragement and development of entrepreneurship and self-employment, development of youth employment in rural tourism, urban gardening, green jobs.
  - As one of the priorities, investments in the development of villages through strengthening of family farms with special emphasis on the younger population.



# Earlier research findings

- ✓ Research and assessment of local policies relating to youth and needs youth in 15 local governments
  - Regional program of local democracy in the Western Balkans 2 (Re-LOaD2).
  - The program is implemented in six countries and territories of the Western Balkans until 2024.
  - ReLOaD2 is financed by the European Union with co-financing by UNDP and local governments included in the program.
  - The main goal of this research is the analysis of local policies related to young people with the aim of using the obtained results for the development of local policies for young people.
  - Partially tackles discrimination of rural young population (findings detected through interviews)
- ✓ Mapping of youth policies and identification of existing support and gaps in financing of youth actions in the Western Balkans
  - Regional Cooperation Council 2021
  - Comparative report
  - Detected that the areas where almost no funding exists is rural youth
  - Recommends to donor community particular attention to the provision of support in the rural youth
  - Well-established youth organizations and networks should provide peer-to-peer support, guidance, and mentorship for smaller, grassroots organizations and youth initiatives from rural and remote areas.



# Conclusions

- ✓ Young people are a particularly vulnerable population in rural areas.
- ✓ Weaknesses detected in government and local policies.
- ✓ Lack of funding.
- ✓ Lack of social and cultural contents.
- ✓ Poor infrastructure.
- ✓ Insufficiently developed social infrastructure (kindergartens, schools, sports and cultural events, etc.),
- ✓ There are no youth associations in rural areas.

