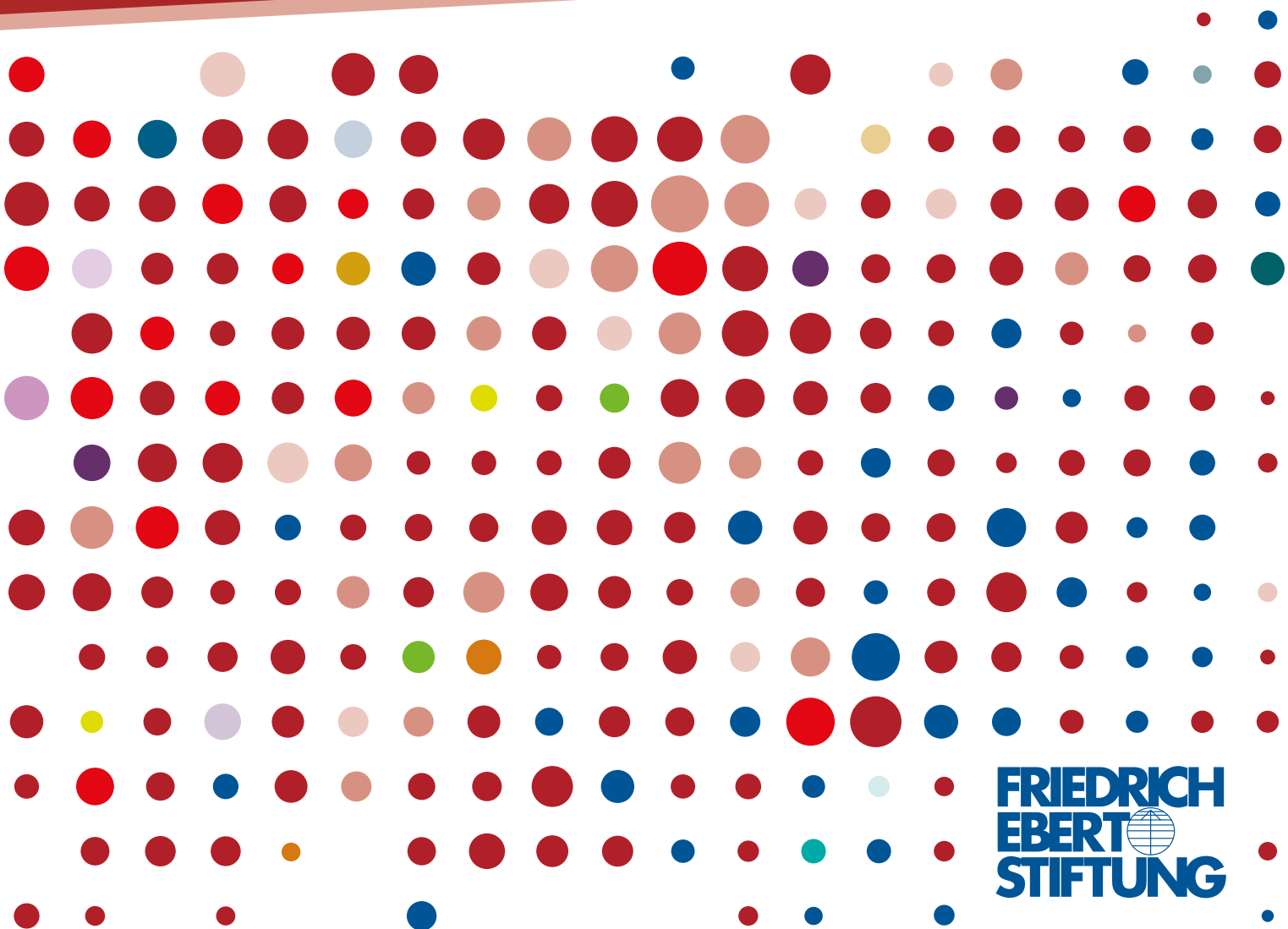


YOUTH STUDY KOSOVO 2018/2019



THE FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is the oldest political foundation in Germany, with a rich tradition in social democracy dating back to 1925. The work of our political foundation revolves around the core ideas and values of social democracy – freedom, justice and solidarity. This is what binds us to the principles of social democracy and free trade unions.

With our international network of offices in more than 100 countries, we support a policy for peaceful cooperation and human rights, promote the establishment and consolidation of democratic, social and constitutional structures and work as pioneers for free trade unions and a strong civil society. We are actively involved in promoting a social, democratic and competitive Europe in the process of European integration.

YOUTH STUDIES SOUTHEAST EUROPE 2018/2019:


“FES Youth Studies Southeast Europe 2018/2019” is an international youth research project carried out simultaneously in ten countries in Southeast Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. The main objective of the surveys has been to identify, describe and analyse attitudes of young people and patterns of behaviour in contemporary society.

The data was collected in early 2018 from more than 10,000 respondents aged 14–29 in the above-mentioned countries who participated in the survey. A broad range of issues were addressed, including young peoples’ experiences and aspirations in different realms of life, such as education, employment, political participation, family relationships, leisure and use of information and communications technology, but also their values, attitudes and beliefs.

Findings are presented in ten national and one regional study and its accompanying policy papers, which have been published in both English and the respective national languages.

YOUTH STUDY KOSOVO 2018/2019

Oltion Rumbullaku
IDRA Research & Consulting



1	Introduction	3
2	Executive Summary	5
3	Methodology	9
4	Values, religion and trust	13
5	Lifestyle and leisure	21
6	Family and Society	31
7	Education	39
8	Employment	45
9	Democracy and Government	53
10	Aspirations to Migrate	67
11	Kosovo identity, EU and neighbour countries	75
12	Conclusions	83
	Footnotes	84
	References	84
	Table of figures	85
	Table of tables	86

1

INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this study is to measure, describe and explain the main attitudes, beliefs and values of the young Kosovar population in terms of: society, economy, education and employment, integration into the European Union, religion, family, social life and lifestyle preferences.

It is believed that the young generation of this group (born between 1989 to 2004), considered to be mostly similar to Generation Z or post-millennials, have a very specific and unique set of values, characteristics and preferences because these young people have witnessed many social and economic transformations in their recent past, while it is a generation that has been using the Internet since a young age and its members are generally comfortable with technology and interacting using social media.

Like many Western Balkan states, Kosovo is still in transition. Kosovo is still trying to find its way between Europe and its past as it wrestles with values, integration models, and the security issues associated with this transition.

The long road to building a new country with a democratic society and a free market economy is far from being completed. In addition, the country faces challenges in the form of its complicated relations with Serbia, which are responsible for its isolation as well as difficulties in the process of Europe Integration.

This study explores the worries, aspirations, values, and lifestyles of Kosovo's youth. Young people who are today aged between 14 and 29 grew up mostly after the separation of Kosovo from Serbia in an independent Kosovo, so we can refer to them as "the generation of independence". This generation is an important factor in the future development of Kosovo society.

In particular, young people from the countries of the former Yugoslavia, and more specifically, the Kosovars, have witnessed more dramatic and striking events: the war, the collapse of the federal country and separation into smaller independent states, the transition from communism to capitalism, the long process of transition, privatisation of social ownership, visa bans, changes in currencies, high rates of unemployment and poverty, high rates of migration, etc. On the other hand, they witnessed an era characterised by innovations such as computers, mobile phones and the Internet, which have amounted to a kind of revolution and the beginning of a new, contemporary way of life, features of the 21st century.

The research is based on a country-wide, representative survey that was conducted in Kosovo among young people aged between 14 and 29 from December 2017 to January 2018. It is orientated towards the Shell Youth Study, which has been periodically conducted in Germany since 1953 and has proven to be a valuable indicator of a society's mid-term development. The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung has carried out a series of similar studies in Western Balkan countries as well as a previous study in Kosovo in 2012.

Most young people live with their family, mostly for practical reasons, or simply because it is the traditional way of living. In the future, they wish to get married – at the age of 26–28 – and generally have three children. There is a low level of participation in voluntary activities and a high degree of homophobia, suggesting a low degree of diversity.

2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Applying a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, the Youth Study in Kosovo 2018 reveals the attitudes, opinions, and expectations of the country's young people. The findings show the present-day life of young people in Kosovo in the context of family-based values, contradictions between education and employment realities, as well as in the traditional cultural and national context.

This study aims to present the key issues regarding family lifestyle, political participation, education, employment, mobility and relations with neighbouring countries from the perspective of Kosovo youth.

Young people in Kosovo are fairly traditional. Our study showed that they are very dependent on their parents – mostly in moral and material terms – and they would still prefer to be part of large families in the future. This young generation has a very specific set of values based on tradition, is starting to witness some social changes, and all in all is growing up in a very intense period of technological innovation.

MAIN FINDINGS

- The family represents the most important institution for Kosovo youth in almost all the most relevant areas of life, as almost all respondents believe that a person needs a family in order to have a better life. The family offers a stability that cannot be provided by friends, job, or political situation.
- Young people in Kosovo are generally very satisfied with their lives. The fact that the country is considered not to be developed and that young people are satisfied with their life should be considered problematic, as there is less motivation for young people to contribute to the development of Kosovo. Young people in Kosovo are overly optimistic about their personal future. They are also very optimistic about the future of Kosovar society in general. Females and people living in urban areas are more optimistic than their counterparts.
- There has been a significant increase in the preferred age of marriage for men, both among males and females, amounting to at least two years compared to the previous Youth Study of 2012. Although young people plan to marry and have their first child after the age of 25, they still want to have a large number of children and large families.
- Young people are mostly dissatisfied with the quality of education in Kosovo. Only 23% can be considered satisfied with the quality of education, which is one of the lowest percentages in the entire region. Moreover, Kosovo is the only country that has seen a decline in the level of satisfaction with the quality of education. More than 56% of young people mostly agree that there are cases of bribery in institutions/universities in Kosovo. This phenomenon is more widespread in urban areas.
- The majority of young people that participate in the job market appear not to work in their occupation. As a result, there is a considerable mismatch between young people's expectations of the job market and existing needs regarding the labour force. On the positive side, young people that have performed internships and practical positions during their studies appear to have greater chances of finding a job more related to their occupation.
- Job security is the main factor that young people in Kosovo consider in choosing a job. This implies a strong concern with employees' rights, lengthy hours of work, problems with salaries, etc. Those who are more concerned about job security have a greater desire to work in the public sector and are less

satisfied with the quality of education in Kosovo. In the last five years, there has been a notable increase in the preferences of young people regarding work in the public sector. This large appetite for the public sector appears to be shared by 70 per cent of respondents.

- Just 10% of young Kosovars are of the opinion that their interests are “well” represented in national politics. This viewpoint about a *lack of representation* closely aligns with the main demographic traits of the young population (urban, gender, age, etc.). There has been a dramatic decrease in youth people’s interest in political events compared to 2012.
- There is record distrust and apathy among Kosovar youth towards all political institutions, and especially the political parties and national government. Moreover, there is pronounced scepticism among youth regarding civil society organisations and media outlets. On the other side of the equation, there is greater trust in religious institutions and international organisations like NATO and the OSCE.
- Nearly half of young Kosovo Albanians have a moderate to very strong intention to leave Kosovo. Economic reasons are cited as the main cause for migration by those who want to leave Kosovo for another country. On the other hand, just one-quarter of young people from Kosovo who are willing to migrate have a good working knowledge of the language spoken in their planned country of destination, indicating that they do not prepare in advance for migration.

3

METHODOLOGY

QUANTITATIVE COMPONENT

A representative survey of Kosovar youth between the ages of 14 and 29, the survey consists of 1000 respondents selected at random through a carefully designed sampling methodology. A booster of 150 K-Serb and 50 K-Turk youth was added in order to have a statistically significant subgroup for analysis. The booster sample will be weighted when the national-level analysis is conducted; this will ensure that K-Serb & K-Turk youth are not overrepresented in national results. In contrast to this, no weights are to be used when comparisons by ethnicity are to be made. Three sub-groups of 969 K-Albanians, 181 K-Serbs and 50 K-Turks will be compared.

MARGIN OF ERROR

The margin of error for the general sample (N=1000) is $\pm 3.1\%$ with a confidence interval of 95%.

SAMPLING

The sampling methodology used is a multistage cluster sampling with stratification. Selection of respondents went through a three-layer process.

Step 1: Selection of 100 Primary Sampling Units (PSU) around Kosovo.

Primary Sampling Units for this specific survey were geographical areas defined by a Voting Centre (VC). The 2010 VC list made public by the Central Election Commission in Kosovo was used for this purpose. Selection of a VC was stratified according to regions. Registered voters served as a proxy for the population density of each VC area. The method of selection was probability proportional to size without replacement (PPS WOR) with the number of registered voters serving as a measure-of-size (MOS).

Step 2: Selection of household within PSU

Enumerators were assigned a randomly selected starting point within the Sampling Unit. Using random route methodology, enumerators selected every kth² door on their right side as the approach to be used in the survey.

Step 3: Selection of respondents

After contacting the selected household, the enumerator determined if there were permanent members between the ages of 14 and 29.

- If only one member of the household was 14–29 years old, the enumerator approached only the young member of the family for an interview.
- If two or more members of the household were between the ages of 14–29 years old, the enumerator approached the member who had most recently had a birthday for an interview.
- If no member of household was within the target age group of 14–29 years old, the enumerator moved along and approached the next 3rd household for the interview.

WEIGHTING

Two weightings were used. The first was a weighting according to gender and the second the combined weighting of age group and gender. Weighting was only performed for the representative respondents.

TABLE 1: **Age and gender distribution before and after the weighting**

Kosovo			
Age		Before	After
	14–17	39 %	27 %
	18–23	37 %	39 %
	24–29	24 %	34 %
Gender	Female	59 %	48 %
	Male	41 %	52 %

QUALITATIVE COMPONENT

As the main task in the preparatory phase, the Focus Group guideline is designed by IDRA Research & Consulting in close consultations with Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The Guideline was designed here in a way to make it possible to go in-depth on certain issues and results produced by the quantitative part of the research which needed further exploration and understanding. Additional questions outside of the survey instrument were also part of the guideline to serve as a support for specific issues.

Six focus groups were organised within five days, from 21 to 25 May 2018. On average, a group took 2 hrs. Beside Prishtina (3 groups), additional groups were also organised in Prizren (1), Gjilan (1) and Mitrovica (1). Three focus groups held in Prishtina were divided into age groups of 14–17, 18–24, 25–29, whilst in other locations it was mixed. Urban/rural area, gender and employment status were mixed.

SAMPLE STRUCTURE:

TABLE 2: **Focus groups distribution**

Location	Urban/Rural	Gender	Age	Employment Status
Prishtina (including Podujeva, Drenas, Lipjan)	Mixed	Mixed	14–17	Students
Prishtina (including Podujeva, Drenas, Lipjan)	Mixed	Mixed	18–24	Half of the group students and unemployed/half employed
Prishtina (including Podujeva, Drenas, Lipjan)	Mixed	Mixed	25–29	Half students and unemployed/half employed
Prizren (including Suhareka and Dragash)	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Half students and unemployed/half employed
Gjilan (including Viti and Kamenica)	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Half students and unemployed/half employed
Mitrovica (including Vushtri and Skenderaj)	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Half students and unemployed/half employed

4

VALUES, RELIGION AND TRUST

Values, behaviour and beliefs are very important aspects that will determine the future of young people of Kosovo and their society. Past and recent social developments have played a vital role in shaping the values, beliefs and attitudes of young people in society. As a result, changes in these factors over time are a prime indicator of changes in the social environment.

Kosovo society remains attached to traditional values. These values place a premium on traditional family values, respect for authority, the importance of religion, the importance of marriage and faithfulness to one's partner (Inglehart & Welzel, 2016).

KEY FINDINGS

- The most important value of young people in Kosovo is being faithful to one's partner, as 87 per cent of the youth people in Kosovo consider this to be very important. Moreover, another 77 per cent believe that having children is very important, while another 70 per cent have this view of marriage. This is a strong indication that traditional values and the family are the main values held by young people in Kosovo.
- On the other hand, there is a high degree of abstinence from civic and political actions, as only 10–16 per cent of young people consider these aspects to be very important. As such, there is a lack of a bond among young people that can serve as cohesion making them more co-operative when it comes to generating and obtaining mutual benefits.
- Young people in Kosovo are generally very satisfied with their lives (64 per cent). The fact that the country is considered underdeveloped and young people are satisfied with their lives should be considered problematic, as young people appear less motivated to contribute to the development of Kosovo.
- Young people in Kosovo have strong support from and belief in family life, which serves as a basis for their social and personal optimism. Young people in Kosovo display the greatest level of satisfaction with their lives compared to their counterparts in the region, even though they live in a country that has a lower level of socio-economic development.
- Young people in Kosovo are overly optimistic regarding their personal future. They are also very optimistic about the future of the Kosovar society. Females and people living in urban areas are more optimistic than their counterparts. Kosovo Albanians are optimistic about the future of Kosovo in the next 10 years, as 71 per cent of young people believe that the future will be better than now.
- Corruption is the major issue of concern to young people in Kosovo. Corruption makes a difference, as it is singled out as a key concern for around 56 per cent of young people.
- Although Kosovo has suffered from ethnic conflict in the past, only 18 per cent of the young people are frightened or concerned about similar conflicts in the region or worldwide.
- The survey produces some good news, namely that young people in Kosovo do not condone bribery and cheating on taxes. The 87 per cent of young people that categorically reject cheating on taxes shows a marked sense of ethics when it comes to paying taxes, reflecting stable support for the state in general, although there is a low level of trust in the main public institutions, except for the police and army.
- Young people in Kosovo are very negative about bribery, but not about leveraging personal connections, although around half of them categorically reject the use of connections to find jobs or get things done.

- Young people in Kosovo have pretty much the greatest trust possible in the immediate family. Beyond family members, the level of trust diminishes substantially. Young people have a greater-than-average level of trust for friends and classmates.
- More than one-third of young people in Kosovo can be considered to be very attached to religion, as they attend religious services at least once a month or more. Males appear to be more religious than females. There is a strong correlation between attendance of religious services by young people and the intensity of religious belief on the part of their parents.

with another 70 per cent that assign the same importance to marriage. This is a strong indication of adherence to traditional values, underscoring that the family is one of the most important values of young people in Kosovo.

Some other important goals include obtaining a university diploma, cited by 72 per cent of respondents, while another 70 per cent state that getting rich is very important, too. A majority of respondents cite these values and goals and have an individualistic approach.

On the other hand, there is a high level of abstinence when it comes to civic and political action, as only 10–16 per cent of young people consider these aspects to be very important. As such, there is a lack of a bond of among young people providing the cohesion to make them more co-operative to their mutual benefit.

The most important value young people in Kosovo hold is being faithful to one’s partner, with 87 per cent of young people in Kosovo considering this to be very important. Moreover, another 77 per cent believe that having children is very important, along

FIGURE 1: Most important values of young people in Kosovo

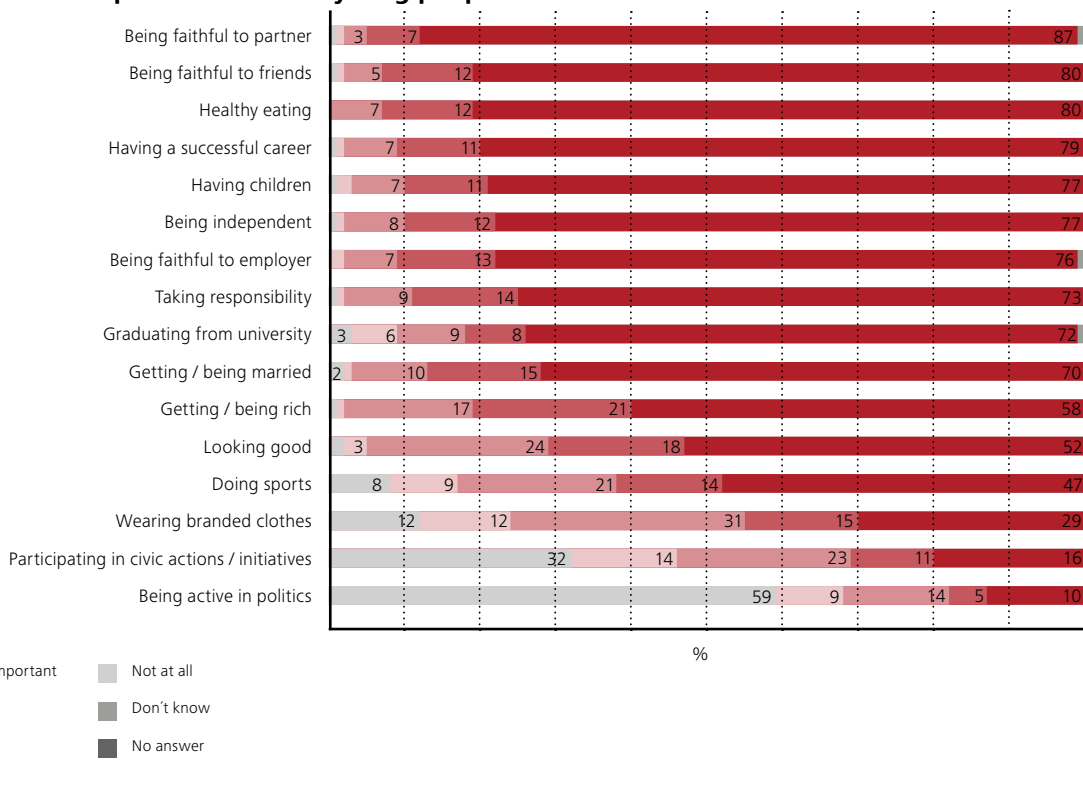
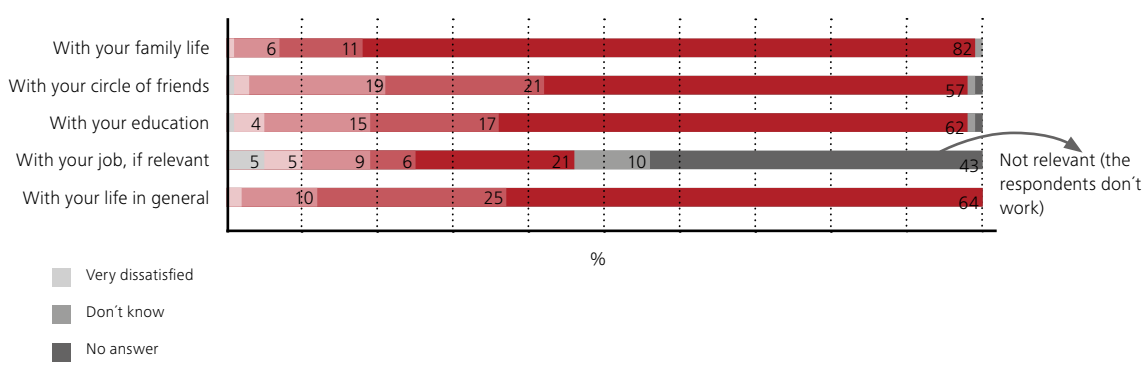
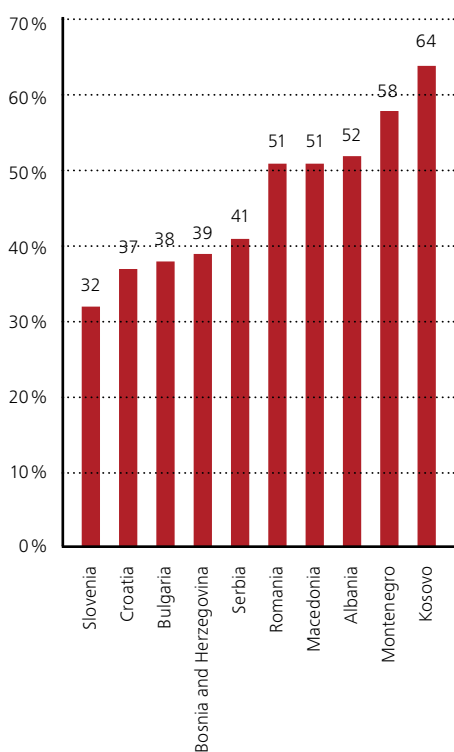


FIGURE 2: Satisfaction of young people in Kosovo



Young people in Kosovo are generally satisfied with their lives. The fact that Kosovo is considered by the World Bank to be a lower-middle-income country and young people are satisfied with their lives should be considered problematic, as there is less motivation for young people to contribute to the development of Kosovo. There are some significant statistical correlations with satisfaction of young people with their lives in general. Respondents in the youngest cohort are the most satisfied with their lives, with satisfaction then diminishing in the older age cohorts (Spearman's $\rho = -.154$, $p < 0.001$). Young people that are part of families with a better economic standing are usually more satisfied with their lives (Spearman's $\rho = .061$, $p = 0.043$). Moreover, those who are satisfied are less inclined to migrate in the near future (Spearman's $\rho = -.129$, $p < 0.001$). Those who more satisfied with their lives generally have a better view of the educational system (Spearman's $\rho = .114$, $p < 0.001$), and are also satisfied with the state of democracy in Kosovo (Spearman's $\rho = .062$, $p = 0.041$).

FIGURE 3: Percentage of young people declaring very high satisfaction with their life



Youth in Kosovo receive strong support from family life, which boosts their social and personal optimism. Young people from Kosovo show the greatest satisfaction with their lives compared to their counterparts in the region, although they are citizens of a country with a lower level of socio-economic development. It appears that young people in the countries that are part of EU are generally more dissatisfied with their lives. The developed countries in the region (Slovenia, Croatia and Bulgaria) have advanced further in the process of individualisation of their young

people, which has eroded their sense of family belonging. As a result, youth in these countries have greater ambitions to grow personally while having less support from their families, producing a sense of dissatisfaction. On the other hand, young people in Kosovo are very satisfied with their family support and tend to display a lower level of individualisation and less drive for personal development.

Focus-group discussions were concentrated on the need for the family as the most important asset and as something to be proud about. Other values and aspects that were cited included: respect for parents, pride and strong sense of morals. One example for a strong sense of morals could be considered the rare instances of divorce. "People living in other countries get married if they like someone and when things go wrong they get divorced. It isn't the same with us. We tolerate a lot of things because of moral beliefs and family and do not think only of ourselves as individuals" (Prishtina, female, 24 years old).

Young people in Kosovo are overly optimistic about their personal future. They are also very optimistic about the future of Kosovo society. Females are more optimistic than their counterparts (Spearman's $\rho = -.086$, $p = 0.005$). Young people in the oldest youth cohort (24–29) are generally less optimistic about their future in 10 years compared to the other group ages (Spearman's $\rho = -.138$, $p < 0.001$).

Those who expect a better personal future generally have a better opinion of the educational system (Spearman's $\rho = .065$, $p = 0.037$), and are also satisfied with the state of democracy in Kosovo (Spearman's $\rho = .066$, $p = 0.033$).

Kosovo Albanians are optimistic about the future of Kosovo in the next 10 years, as 71 per cent of young people believe that the future will be better than now. On the other hand, only 7 per

FIGURE 4: How do you see your personal future in 10 years?

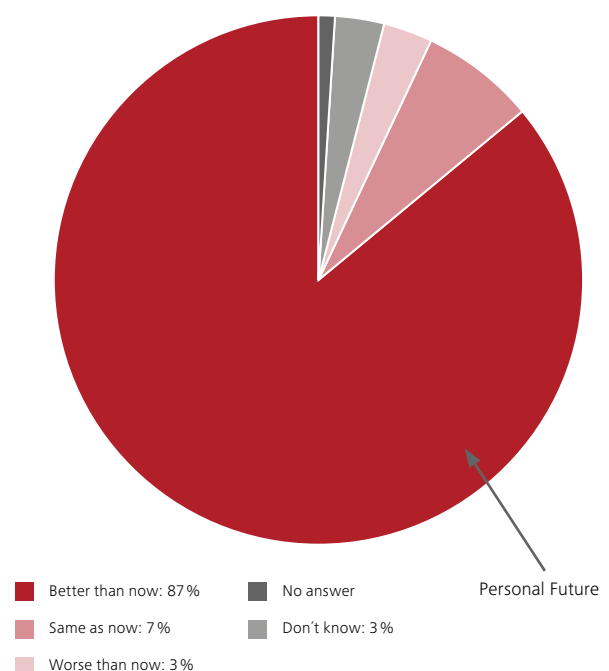


FIGURE 5: The opinion of young people about the future of Kosovo

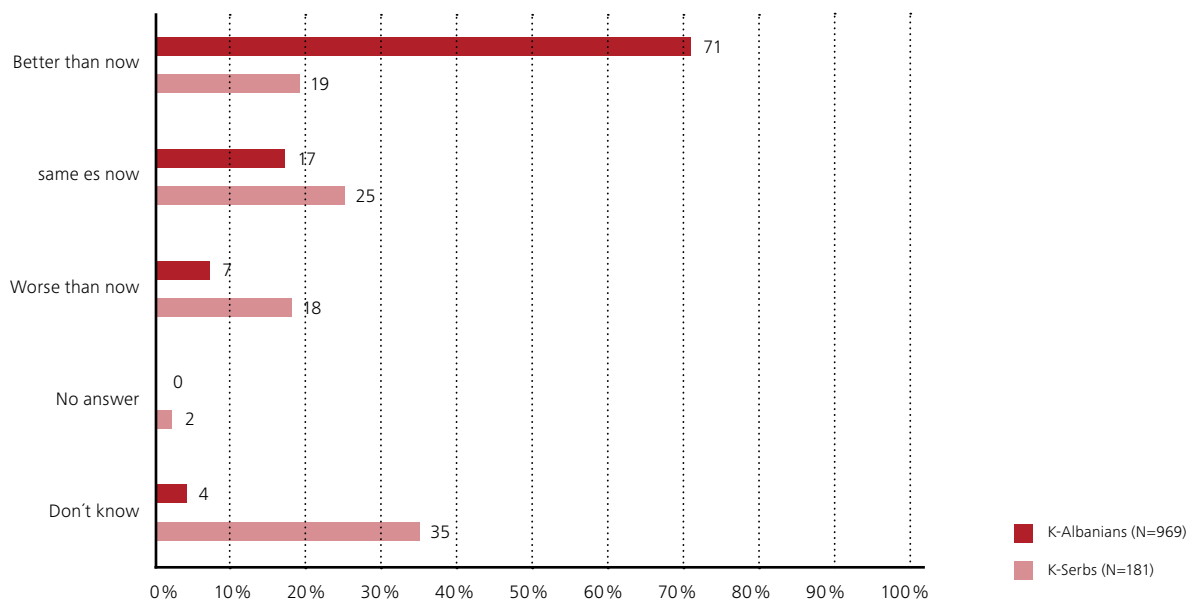
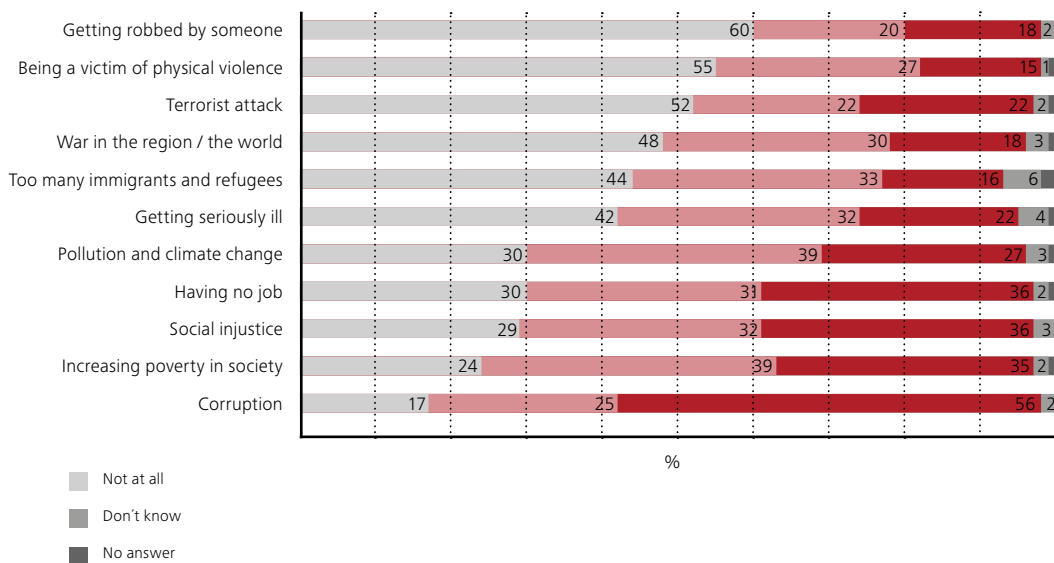


FIGURE 6: Concerns of young people in Kosovo



cent of young people among Kosovo Albanians can be considered to be pessimistic. More than one-third of Kosovo Serbs avoid the question about the future of Kosovo, while another 37 percent appear to think that the future will be the same or worse.

Kosovar families experienced ethnic conflict in the late '90s, only 18 per cent of young people are anxious or concerned about similar conflicts in the region or worldwide.

FRIGHTENED OR CONCERNED

Corruption is the major issue of concern for the young people in Kosovo. Corruption makes a difference, as it is singled out as a major concern by around 56 per cent of young people.

More than one-third of young people appear to consider the issues of poverty and social injustice to be problematic. Although

BEHAVIOUR AND ITS JUSTIFICATION

The survey reveals some good news with regard to the fact that young people in Kosovo do not condone bribery and cheating on taxes. The 87 per cent of young people who never approve of cheating on taxes shows a high level of ethics when it comes to paying taxes, reflecting stable support for the state in general, although there is a low level of trust in the main public

FIGURE 7: Behavior that can be justified or not

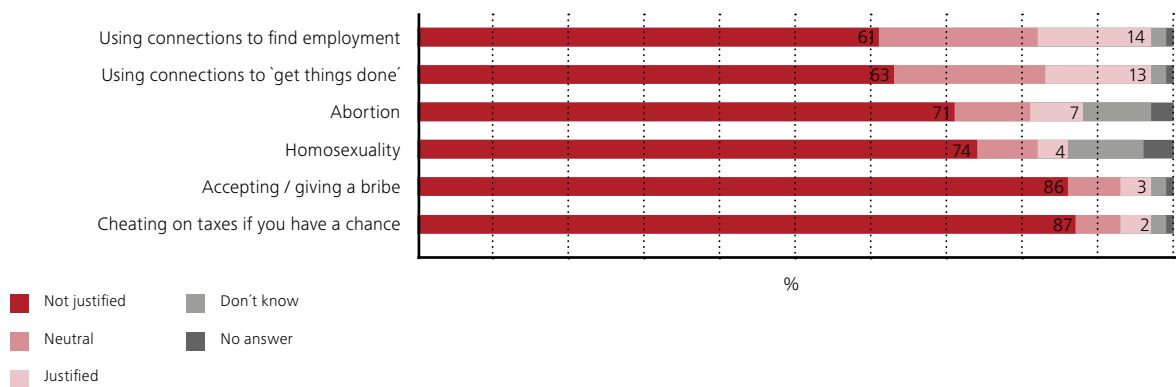
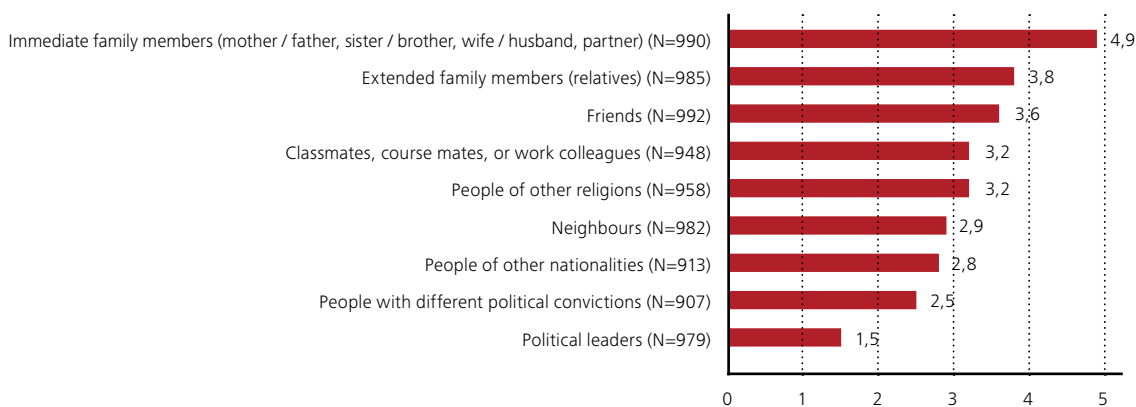


FIGURE 8: To what degree do you trust the following people?

On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "not at all" and 5 means "very much"



institutions, except for the police and army. There are very few significant statistical correlations in this case. Those who justify cheating on taxes also justify using connections to get things done (Spearman's $\rho = .250$, $p < 0.001$). Moreover, young people living in urban areas are more inclined to cheat on taxes compared to their counterparts (Spearman's $\rho = -.112$, $p < 0.001$).

On the other hand, there is a very low acceptance of abortion and homosexuality.

Youth people in Kosovo are very critical of bribery, but not as much when it comes to using connections, although around half of respondents say that the use of connections for finding jobs or getting things done is never justified. Young people living in urban areas are more inclined to justify connections in this regard (Spearman's $\rho = -.115$, $p < 0.001$). Moreover, young people that are not satisfied with their lives in general are more inclined to justify connections in order to find a job (Spearman's $\rho = -.129$, $p < 0.001$). Those who justify connections have a stronger desire to move abroad (Spearman's $\rho = .101$, $p = 0.001$). Surprisingly enough, those who attend religious services more often are more inclined to justify connections in order to find a job (Spearman's $\rho = .092$, $p = 0.003$).

TRUST

Young people from Kosovo have the greatest possible trust for immediate family members. Beyond family members, the level of trust diminishes at lower levels. Trust is a key ingredient in a more cohesive society that could push for better policies and a better life. Young people have a higher-than-average level of trust for friends and classmates.

There is a high tolerance of possible refugees among young people in Kosovo. Moreover, Roma families have a slightly above-average level of acceptance. On the other hand, there is a high level of social distance – an indicator of low acceptance of diversity – when young people are asked about drug addicts, ex-prisoners and homosexuals.

Sexual minorities are the group of population that meets with the highest level of intolerance, except for drug addicts. Plenty of statistically significant correlations can be found when we analyse acceptance of a homosexual person or couple moving into the neighbourhood. Young males (Spearman's $\rho = -.140$, $p < 0.001$) and young people living in urban areas (Spearman's $\rho = -.119$, $p < 0.001$) are more intolerant of homosexuality. Moreover, those

FIGURE 9: How would you feel, if the following persons moved into your neighborhood?

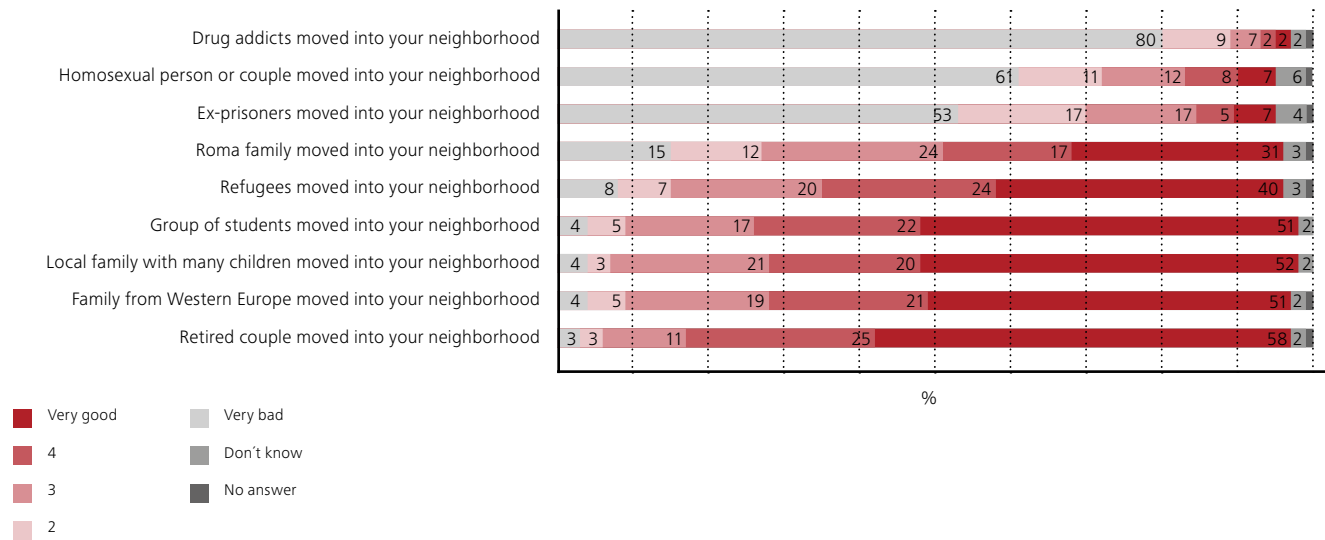
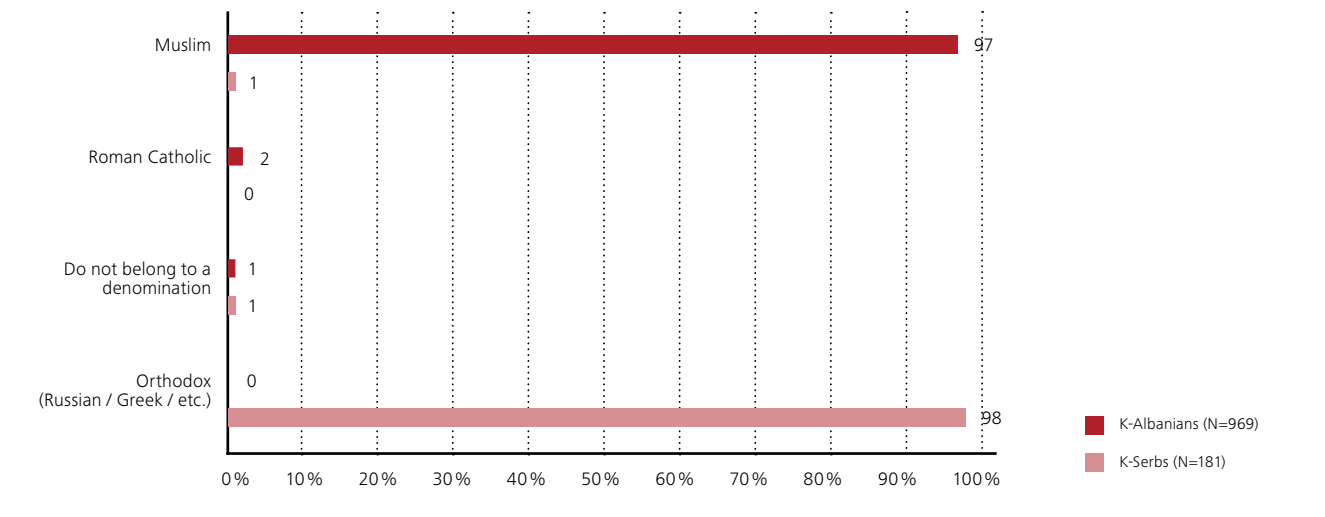


FIGURE 10: Religiosity of main ethnic groups



who more frequently attend religious service are more inclined to be against homosexual neighbours (Spearman’s rho=-.097, p=0.002). Young people who are members of families with a better economic standing are more tolerant toward homosexuals (Spearman’s rho=.92, p=0.003). Those who have fewer ethical qualms about cheating on taxes are also more inclined to accept homosexual neighbours (Spearman’s rho=.195, p<0.001).

RELIGIOSITY

The religion denomination of young people in Kosovo is completely determined by their ethnic membership. Albanians remain predominately Muslim in 97 per cent of cases, and only 1 per cent admit that they do not belong to any religious denomination. On the other hand, 98 per cent of Kosovo Serbs are Orthodox.

Around 36 per cent of young people in Kosovo can be considered to be very religious, as they attend a religious service at least once a month. Males appear to be more religious than females (Spearman’s rho=.219, p<0.001).

There are very few indicators that have a statistical significance with regard to the frequency of attendance of religious services. At any rate, young people in Kosovo who believe that the country should join the EU appear to be less religious (Spearman’s rho=-.100, p=0.001).

Only 7 per cent of parents are predominantly non-religious compared to 19 percent of young people who attend religious services from about once a year to practically never. There is a strong correlation between attendance of religious services by youth people and the degree of religious belief that respondents perceive their parents to have (Spearman’s rho=.329, p<0.001). Half of young people from predominantly religious families are still very likely to attend religious services, implying a considerable

FIGURE 11: How often do you attend religious services? (apart from weddings and funerals)

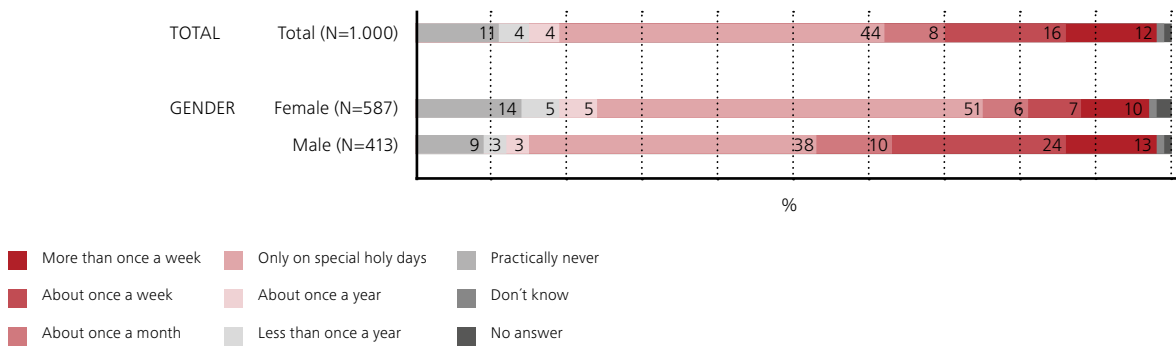
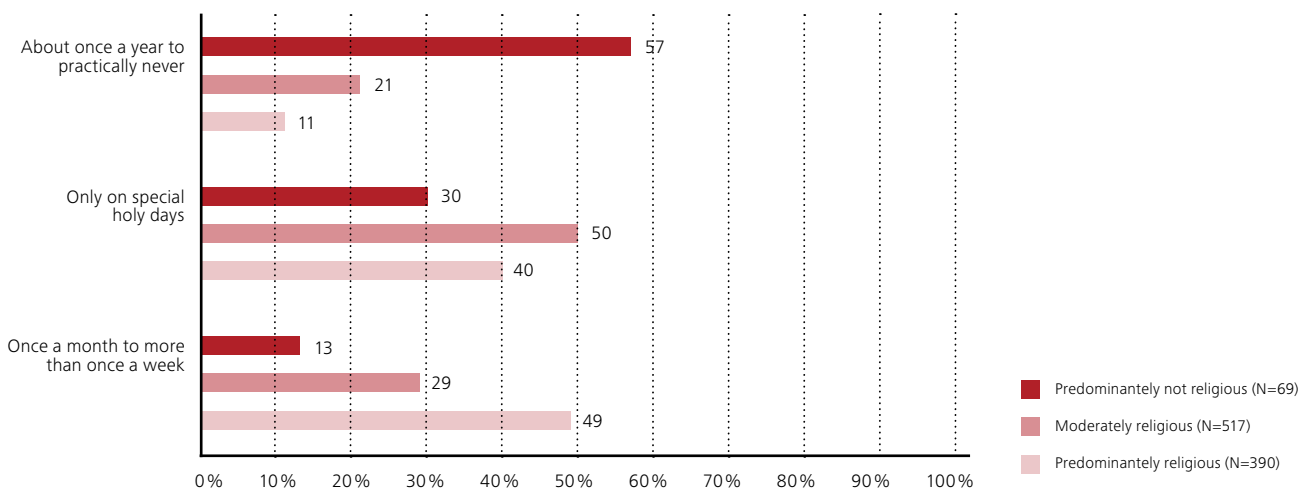


FIGURE 12: Young people religious practice/attendance frequency according to different parents religiousness



transfer or legacy with regard to religious behaviour. Moderately religious families appear to have a more neutral distribution among their younger members when it comes to attendance of religious services.

Participants in the Focus Groups considered themselves to be liberal Muslims with regard to religion. Religion is seen as a personal matter and not something to be imposed on others. *“My American friend visited Kosovo last year and he thought that he would find an unsafe country dominated by conservative Muslims. When he was here, he saw normal people consuming alcohol. Religion doesn’t affect our lifestyle.” (Prishtina, male, 25 years old).*

DISCUSSION

The young generation of Kosovars continues to attach special importance to family and other related events, with this importance being much greater than that assigned to friends and work.

There is a low tolerance for corruption, cheating on taxes and bribery, which could be leveraged to provide a strong base to support public-sector policies. The marked sense of ethics when it comes to paying taxes can be used to promote certain youth policies that could generate additional expenses and require some changes in the tax system. On the other hand, the more indirect form of “unfair play” has a lower rate of rejection.

5

LIFESTYLE AND LEISURE

The generation aged 14–29 were born in the late 80s and 90s and grew up in an era of rapid development of technology, the Internet and devices. Lifestyle depends on a person's attitudes, morality, values, preferences and opportunities. Leisure activities constitute an important part of the well-being of young people, of their work, school, and family obligations, and can reflect the true aspirations and passions of young people. The way that youth spend their free time can influence many aspects of their social activities.

This study comprises a set of questions regarding the lifestyle of young people in Kosovo. This set of questions is aimed at determining the way that young people spend their free time, and how they behave with regard to certain activities that involve risks.

KEY FINDINGS

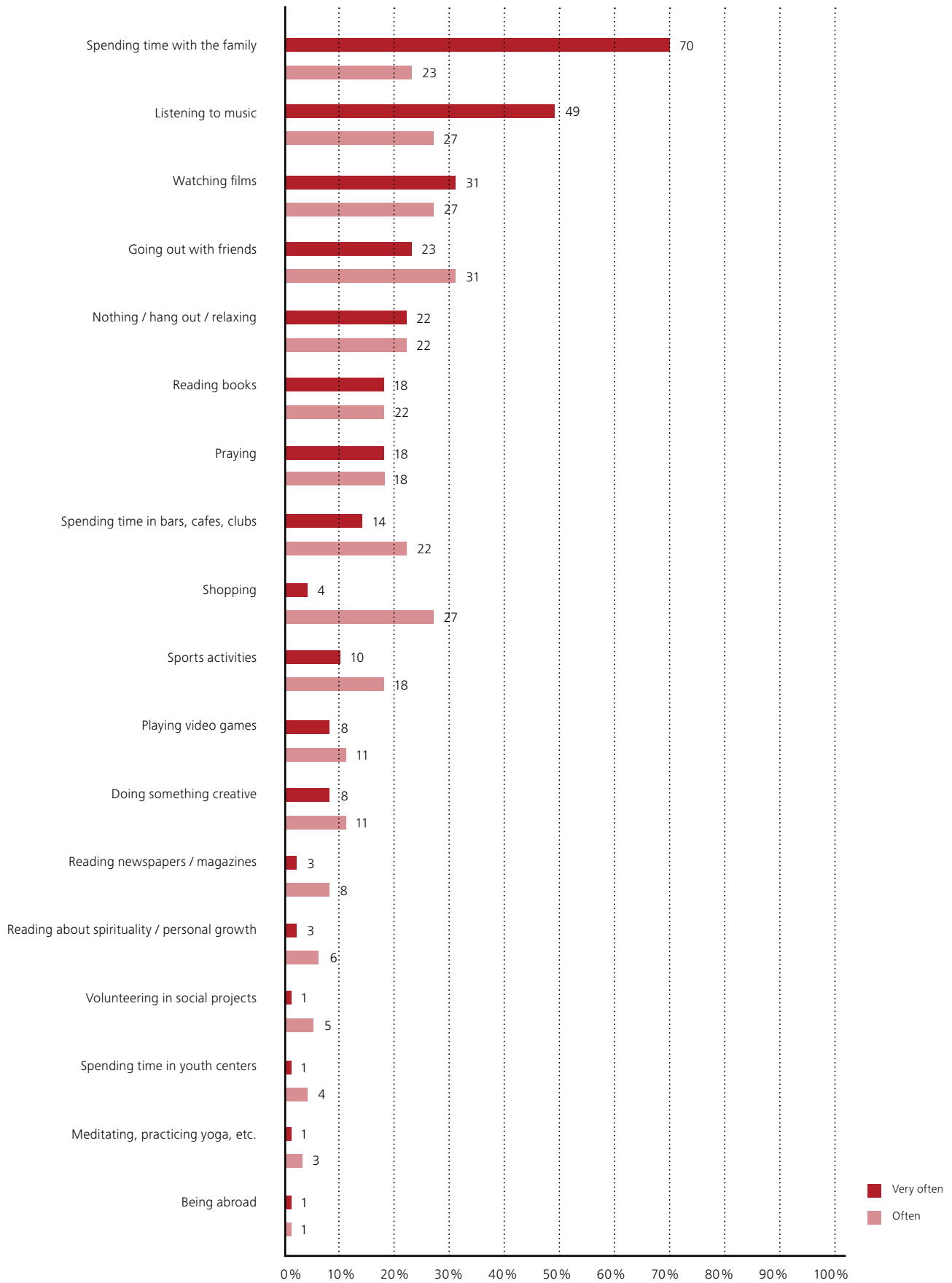
- Asked about the most frequent activities that young people in Kosovo usually engage in, it appears that they still concentrate their free time on 'spending time with family' as the most frequently mentioned activity. Listening to music and watching movies are the most common way to spend time.
- Less than half of young people spend a lot of time hanging out and doing nothing. This is very common among focus-group participants and usually takes place in the form of spending time in bars.
- The majority (56%) of youth in Kosovo access the Internet all the time in one form or another (Wi-Fi, smart phone, public, PC and/or other means). This is more common among boys, especially in urban areas, and among respondents who tend to be members of families with a better economic standing.
- The main reasons for using the Internet in almost 85% of the

cases are related to communicating and keeping in touch with relatives and friends. Half of the respondents use the Internet for educational or work-related purposes.

- Behaviour with regard to smoking cigarettes has not changed since 2012, as 71 per cent of young people still do not smoke. Nineteen per cent of males appear to be regular smokers, whereas only seven per cent of females smoke on a regular basis. Young people from families which are economically better off have a greater tendency to smoke.
- Nor has behaviour with regard to use of alcohol changed in the last six years, as the survey results show that once again 73 per cent of young people in Kosovo do not drink alcohol. Young people in urban areas have a stronger tendency to drink. Those young people that attend religious services more often are more inclined to refuse to drink alcohol even though the same does not apply to smoking cigarettes.
- 46% of young people in Kosovo confirm that they have not had sexual intercourse yet. On the other hand, 19% of them did not answer this question or did not feel comfortable answering it.
- Contraceptives are used by 40 percent of the young people who have had sexual experiences. There is a very high statistically significant correlation between the use of contraceptives and young people who drink alcohol, who are members of families with a better economic standing, and who have completed high levels of education.

In the survey, a list of activities is shown to all the respondents and they say how often they engage in them. As is to be expected, 'spending time with family' is the most frequently mentioned activity (70% very often and 23% often). Being so attached to the family is something that will be discussed in more detail later

FIGURE 13



in study. Although leisure time is supposed to mean spare time aside from the daily obligations of the school, job, or family, young people in Kosovo consider the family a very important way to spend their free time. 'Listening to music', 'watching movies' and 'going out with friends' are among the most frequent activities that young people in Kosovo usually engage in. It seems that 'praying' plays an important role in everyday life for youth (18% state they do this 'very often' and 18% 'often'). On the other hand, young people in Kosovo appear to not be involved in activities that are associated with volunteering, like 'spending time at youth centres' or being part of common undertakings such as 'doing something creative' or participating in sports. When comparing gender results, the survey exposes big difference with regard to some of the activities, with female respondents spending less time engaging in them than males. This tendency has been identified in several parts of the study. With regard to details, females tend to 'read books' more than males, but are less inclined to 'go out with friends', 'spend time in bars,

cafes, clubs', 'engage in sports activities' and 'play video games'. Furthermore, the data shows that there are no significant differences regarding urbanity (urban vs. rural area), aside from 'going out with friends'.

On the other hand, 23% of young people state that they never read books. Moreover, around 70% of youth never volunteer for social projects or initiatives. At the same time, close to 70% of respondents have never been abroad. 'Spending time abroad' is affected by the visa regime in Kosovo, as a majority of young people have never been to the European Union.

The table showing relationships between the most important activities indicates several correlations. Young people that like to spend time with family are more likely to engage in other passive activities like listening to music or watching movies, but they are less likely to engage in sport activities, creative activities or voluntary activities. Youngsters that like to go out with friends exhibit the most correlations with other activities, especially with spending time in bars and sport activities.

TABLE 3: **Correlation between activities conducted during leisure time**

Spearman's rho	Listening to music	Watching movies	Sports activities	Doing something creative	Volunteering	Spending time in bars
Spending time with family	.190**	.210**	-.096**	-.071*	-.190**	
Listening to music		.212**	.079**	.086**		.209**
Watching movies						.130**
Going out with friends	.315**	.133**	.293**		.140**	.604**
Nothing/hang out			.064*	.097**		.249**
Reading books		.067*	.081**	.301**	.130**	

Around 44% of the young Kosovars often hang out and do nothing, while 22% do so often and another 22% do so very often. This especially holds true for younger respondents.

Hanging out and doing nothing was a main concern in the focus group discussions. The participants described young people as indifferent and lacking prospects. They were said to spend time in cafes and bars in an effort to make new contacts and develop relationships in the hope of finding employment possibilities. *"I think that the main characteristic of Kosovar youth is the time spent in cafes and bars. Maybe we don't have other activities to keep us busy."* (Prizren, male, 29 years old)

Overall, those respondents who watch television say that they spend on average about 2.2 hours per day doing so. Female respondents seem to spend slightly more time than males in this activity, especially in rural areas. About 5% of respondents state that they watch TV for 4–6 hours per day.

Findings show that a majority (56%) of young people in Kosovo access the Internet 'practically all the time' in one way or another (Wi-Fi, smart phone, public, PC and/or other means). About

40% of respondents say that they access the Internet 'every day or almost every day', implying that these young people have Internet access at least every day. There are some minor changes when one takes into account urbanity and gender results, such as females (especially in rural areas) having slightly less Internet access compared to males (Spearman's rho=.085, p=0.005). Young people who are members of families with a better economic standing (Spearman's rho=.105, p<0.001) and whose parents have a higher level of education (Spearman's rho=.116, p<0.001) usually use the Internet more intensively.

The survey data indicate that the main reasons for using the Internet often, which means at least ones a week, are associated with communicating and keeping in touch with relatives and friends. About half of respondents (51%) state that they use the Internet often for occupational purposes such as work or school, while about 43% of youth people in Kosovo use the Internet often to stay up to date and be informed. On the other hand, using the Internet for online-banking or online-shopping displays low rates.

Focus-group discussions indicated a belief that smartphones are overused and hamper real-life communication. Participants

FIGURE 14: Internet access

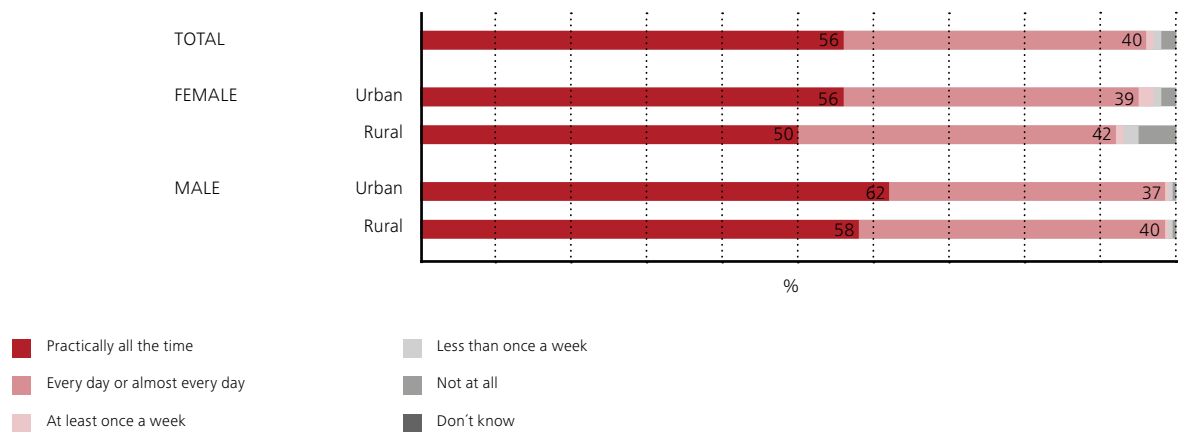
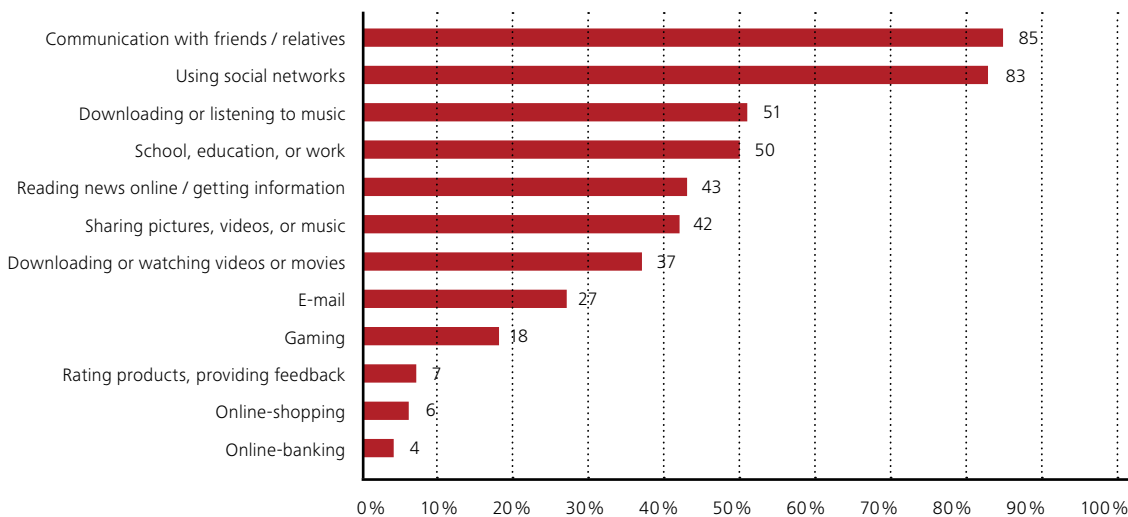


FIGURE 15: Main reasons for using internet



think that the Internet is being used too much for social networks. On the other hand, some young people who have good IT skills and a wide array of these skills are being hired by foreign companies to work online or as self-employed persons. Programming is becoming a very prestigious area and a very common occupation among youth.

It is especially important to note that leisure time is oftentimes associated with risky behaviour, such as alcohol consumption, risky sexual behaviour and the like. Risky behaviour among young people frequently results from a series of causes and situations that young people face within or outside their family, including in connection with various social, economic, and other factors.

SATISFACTION WITH PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

“Looking good” is no longer a top priority for young people in Kosovo, as only 52 per cent of them consider this to be “very important”. Nevertheless, it appears that a majority of young

people have a positive self-image, as 73 % of them were satisfied with their appearance, or more specifically, 38 % think they are very satisfied with how they look, while 35 % are satisfied, 13 % are moderately satisfied and only 10 % are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their appearance.

The parameters indicating satisfaction with appearance are not affected by age, community, or education, and the only statistically significant difference is related to gender, as males appear slightly more satisfied than girls (Spearman’s rho=.060, p=0.048).

FIGURE 16: Satisfaction with own physical appearance

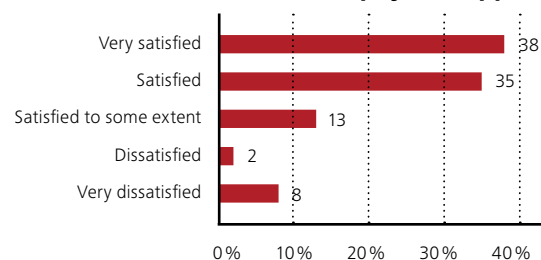


FIGURE 17: Do you smoke?

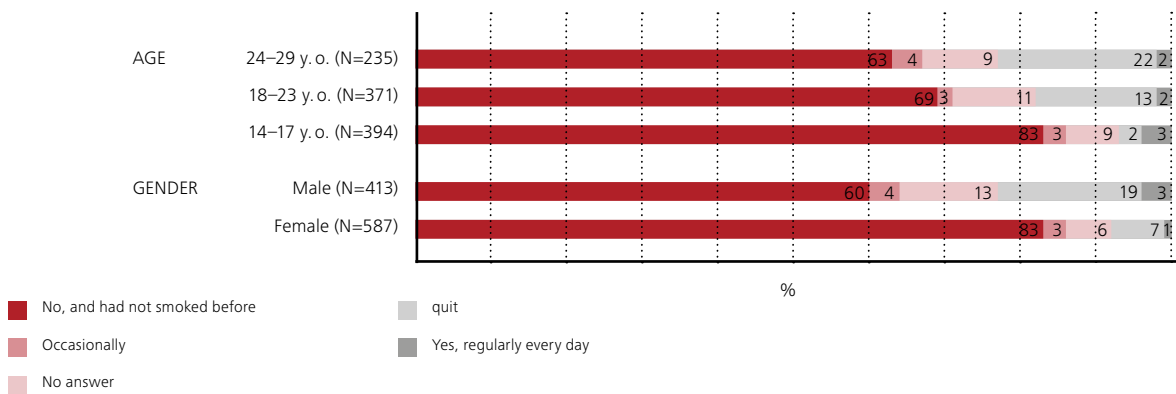
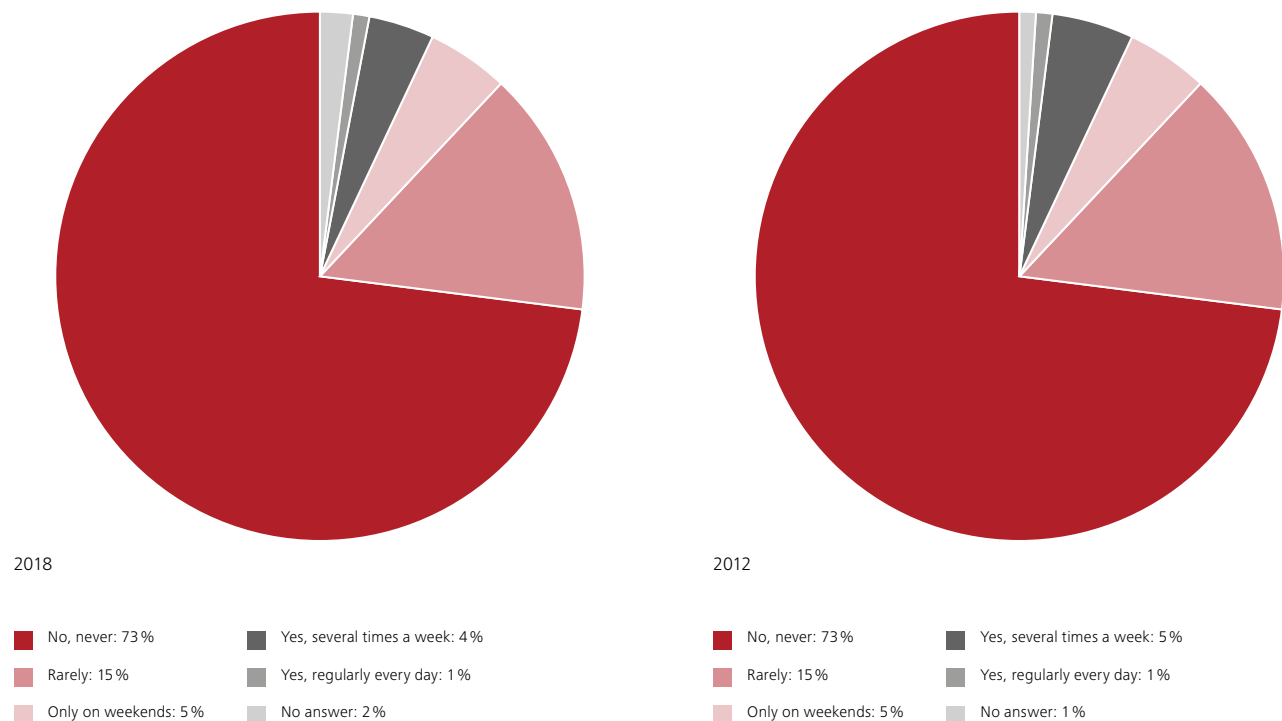


FIGURE 18: Do you drink alcohol? (N=1.000)



RISKY BEHAVIOUR

According to the survey results, 71 per cent of young people do not smoke cigarettes. This result is identical with the results produced by the same survey in 2012. Nineteen per cent of males appear to be regular smokers, whereas only seven per cent of girls smoke on a regular basis. Smoking on a regular basis is more prevalent among youth aged 24–29, with the share of non-smokers decreasing with increasing age, although the share of those who only smoke occasionally is pretty similar across different youth age groups (9–11 %).

Smoking habits are correlated with the wealth index score, as young people who are members of families with a better economic standing have a greater tendency to smoke (Spearman’s

$\rho=0.084, p=0.006$). Kosovo Serbs appear to be heavier smokers than Kosovo Albanians (Spearman’s $\rho=0.226, p<0.001$).

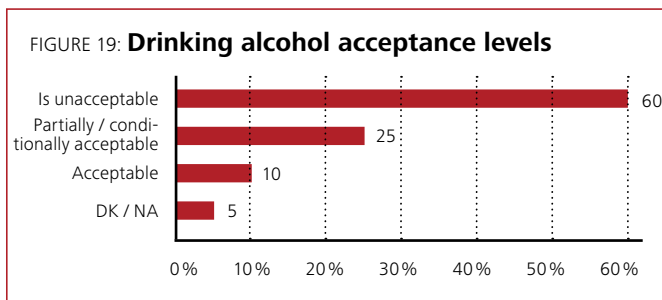
Focus group participants claimed that smoking is influenced by friends and popular singers. It is very easy to access cigarettes, as they are sold in every shop near schools at a price of 0.10–0.20 euros and the age limit is not respected. *“They have easy access to buying cigarettes. It is as easy as to buy bread.” (Prishtina, male, 28 years old)*. The most common reason for smoking is “being IN” and “breaking the rules”.

According to the survey results, 73 per cent of young people do not drink alcohol, nor have the results changed in the last six years. Five per cent of young people report drinking alcohol at least several times a week. Generally, consumption of alcohol is prevalent among 25 % of youngsters, including those who drink on a regular basis and those who are very rare drinkers. The prev-

alence of alcohol consumption among males is 33% and for females just 16%.

Not surprisingly, the likelihood of drinking alcohol weekly increases with age from 5% to 17%. There is a high correlation between frequency of smoking and consumption of alcohol among young people (Spearman's $\rho = .440$, $p < 0.001$). Moreover, the consumption of alcohol correlates to the wealth index score, as youth who are members of families with a better economic standing have a stronger tendency to consume alcohol (Spearman's $\rho = .241$, $p < 0.001$). As expected, young people in urban areas have a stronger tendency to consume alcohol compared to their rural peer group (Spearman's $\rho = -.062$, $p = 0.041$). Furthermore, those young people that attend religious services more often are more inclined to refuse to drink alcohol (Spearman's $\rho = -.140$, $p < 0.001$).

According to quantitative findings, drinking alcohol is unacceptable for 60 per cent of respondents. Moreover, a belief that the use of alcohol is partially acceptable is statistically linked to respondents' gender, residence, age, and wealth index. The profile of a young person who considers alcohol more acceptable is male (Spearman's $\rho = .127$, $p < 0.001$), living in an urban area (Spearman's $\rho = -.120$, $p < 0.001$), has a higher level of education (Spearman's $\rho = .189$, $p < 0.001$), and a better wealth index score (Spearman's $\rho = .238$, $p < 0.001$).



Focus group discussions revealed that alcohol is very easy to obtain. Overall, respondents were not opposed to drinking a beer or two, or having a glass of wine. Drinking is seen more as a method of socialising, but "getting drunk" is not acceptable. Alcohol is less or very rarely used among the age group 14–17. Most of these respondents are against alcohol and associate it with violence and loss of self-control. *"I am fasting for Ramadan now, but a month ago I used to consume beer at least twice a week. It is normal. I don't get drunk. I like to drink it when I am in good company. It is even healthy for the organism to drink sometimes and kill the bacteria."* (Prishtina, male, 22 years old).

94 per cent of young people stated that they never smoked marijuana, with only three per cent engaging in this activity rarely. These data do not allow one to make comparisons or to calculate the statistical significance of different indicators relating to marijuana use.

Focus group discussions revealed another story. Some participants in focus groups declared that a few of their friends started using drugs after the age of 15. They are said to be mostly influ-

enced by social networks, the Internet and rap artists who promote this very much. Other important reasons include being "IN" and curiosity. Participants claim that there is a perception that if someone does not consume alcohol, he/she has at least tried it once. *"A friend of mine uses marijuana sometimes. She was surprised when I told her that I never tried it. She kept saying that it is impossible, that everyone is trying it and that it is normal. She does not believe that she could become addicted."* (Podujeva, female, 25 years old).

As cigarettes have started to become less "trendy", young people have started to use drugs. *"They are aware that it's very easy to have access to it and buy it. It's not too expensive, they don't use it too often, so they save money to buy it and smoke together. They don't think that it leads to a dependency"* (Prishtina, male, 23 years old).

"I remember that when my sister was in high school and I was a little girl, we heard about one case of a friend of her's using drugs. It was a big deal back then. Now, when I am at high school and I tell stories about almost all of my friends using drugs, it has become a normal conversation and no one is surprised. It is becoming acceptable in society." (Mitrovica, female, 18 years old)

SEXUAL LIFE

When it comes to sexual behaviour of young people, 19% of them did not respond or were not comfortable responding. This figure is much lower than in the same studies that have been organised in Bosnia & Herzegovina (48.8%) and in Macedonia (37%). On the other hand, 46.2% of youth people state that they have not had sexual intercourse yet.

Naturally, sexual experience is greater among people aged 25–29 compared to youth in their teenage years. Sexual experience is also more prevalent among males than females (Spearman's $\rho = .347$, $p < 0.001$). Moreover, sexual activity correlates with the wealth index score, as young people who are members of families with a better economic standing tend to state behaviour along these lines (Spearman's $\rho = .207$, $p < 0.001$).

Contraceptives are used by 40 percent of the youth that have had sexual experiences. Four percent of young people appear to be uninformed about these issues. There is a very high statistically significant correlation between those who drink alcohol and young people who use contraceptives (Spearman's $\rho = .355$, $p < 0.001$). Moreover, those who are classified as "rich" in the wealth index score and have completed high levels of education are keener to use contraceptives (Spearman's $\rho = .239$, $p < 0.001$, Spearman's $\rho = .274$, $p < 0.001$). Males are more used to contraceptives (Spearman's $\rho = .196$, $p < 0.001$), while urban or rural residence is not linked to any statistical difference in this regard.

As far as respondents' attitudes towards sex are concerned, it should be noted that virginity is a matter of dignity for both genders; this is what 37 per cent of respondents believe. 23 per cent state that this is a matter of dignity, especially for girls.

FIGURE 20: Sexual experience

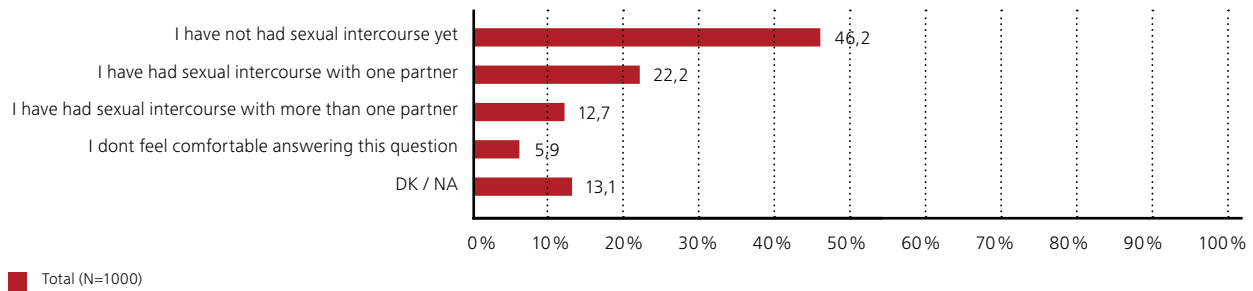


FIGURE 21: Contraceptives use behavior

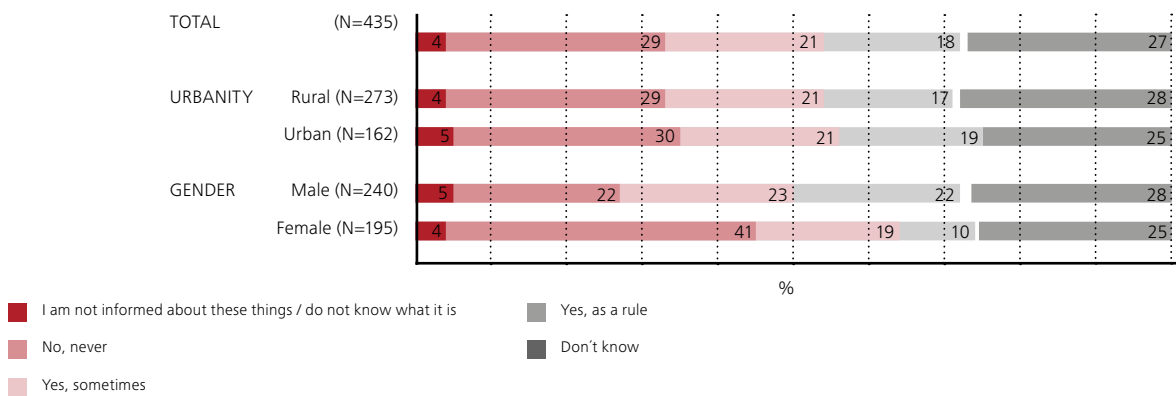
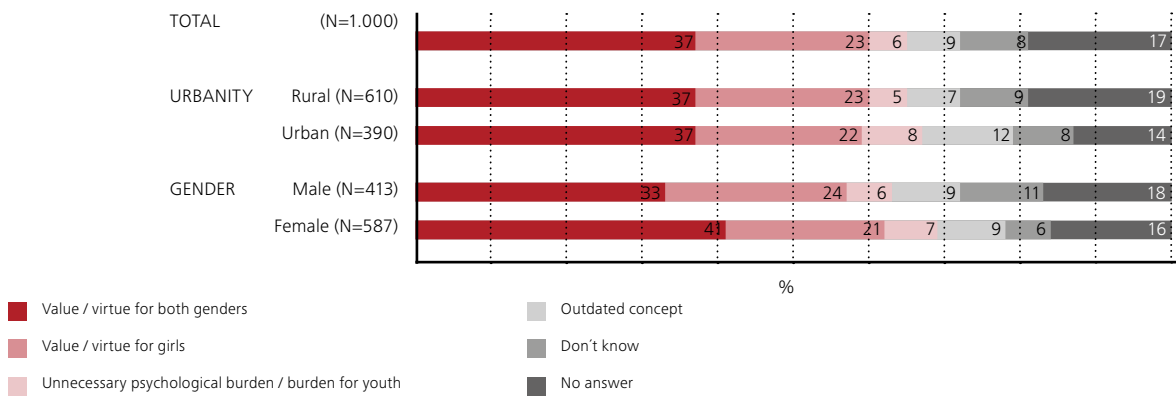


FIGURE 22: Opinion about virginity of young people in Kosovo



On the other hand, around one-quarter of the young people do not respond or do not know how to respond to this question. There is no statistically significant difference between males and females, while young people in rural areas are more conservative

regarding virginity (Spearman’s rho=-.070, p=0.048). Furthermore, those young people who attend religious services more often are more inclined to advocate sexual abstinence before marrying (Spearman’s rho=-.128, p<0.001).

DISCUSSION

Young people in Kosovo live mostly with their parents and sometimes even with their grandparents, under constant supervision and are characterised by financial dependency. As a result, they have a limited choice in terms of leisure time and lifestyle, and it is striking to note that more than 80 per cent of young people want to spend their leisure time with their family. Most young people are still in school, some of them are not undergoing education or unemployed, and they cannot avoid spending time with their families, so those who provided this answer spend their time with their family more passively, and have narrow social networks.

Differences between urban and rural young people are more noticeable in the context of leisure time and lifestyle. Young people in rural areas cannot avoid spending time with their families in a more passive way due to the lack of places of entertainment or other cultural/sports institutions. On the other hand, cigarette and alcohol use are more widespread in urban areas.

Half of young people in Kosovo have still not had sexual experiences, although this activity increases proportionally with age. Responsibility for the use of contraceptives is greater among boys. Virginity is still very important, especially due to the fact that one-quarter of young people think that it is a virtue that should be upheld only by girls.

5

FAMILY AND SOCIETY

In Kosovar society, the family is traditionally considered to be the most important value. This is very evident in the findings in the previous sections, which underscore the importance of the family in many aspects. The family in Kosovo is still strong and not going through certain transformations as much as is the case in other countries. Kosovo is an absolute stronghold of “familyism”, where the primacy of family interests is much more important than individual interests. The age of marriage is still low, the number of children desired is still high, and the custom of living together with one’s parents is still widely shared, with few young people living away from their parents.

KEY FINDINGS

- Young people in Kosovo live in very large families. The average number of family members in respondents’ households is 5.7 members. Big families tend to be poorer than smaller families, exhibiting a lower level of education among younger family members. Moreover, the higher the level of education of the respondents’ mother, the smaller the families.
 - Most young people (81 per cent) still live with close family members and another 8 per cent live in inherited flats/houses or flat/houses bought by their parents. Out of those who live with their parents, around 83 per cent of young people aged 24–29 prefer to live with their parents because it is the simplest and most comfortable solution.
 - Almost all young people surveyed (98 per cent) said that they have good relationship with their parents, with two-thirds of them being in a very good relationship and the other one-third having good relationship, albeit some differences in opinions. This confirms a very stable position of the family on the list of values held by young people in Kosovo.
 - One-fourth of young people would raise their children differently than their parents. On the other hand, only 30 per cent of them would raise their children in the same way. Young people living in families with better economic conditions and having a mother with a higher level of education are more likely to raise their children in the same way.
 - Father and mother both have a very strong influence on important decisions of young people in Kosovo. Close to 60 per cent of the young people make important decisions together with their parents. Males have a higher tendency to make decisions by themselves, as do educated young people.
 - There is a significant increase in the preferred age for marriage for men among both males and females, from 26 to 29. Moreover, young people prefer to have their first child after they are 25 years old on average.
 - 54% of young people in Kosovo are planning to have three or more children. On the other hand, only 1 per cent of young people in Kosovo want only one child. The youngest cohort of youth in Kosovo generally want a lower number of children, while those who are part of families with a better economic standing want a greater number of children.
 - The most important factors that influence the choice of a spouse are personality, family approval and religious belief. Family approval in choosing a marriage partner is very important to females as well as those persons living in families which are not as economically well off.
- Young people in Kosovo live in very large households. The average number of family members in respondents’ households was 5.7 members. These extended families are the main factor in transmitting the values of the family from the older generation to younger ones. The distribution of family members in rural and urban areas is very similar, with more than one-quarter of young

FIGURE 23: How many persons live in your household, including you?

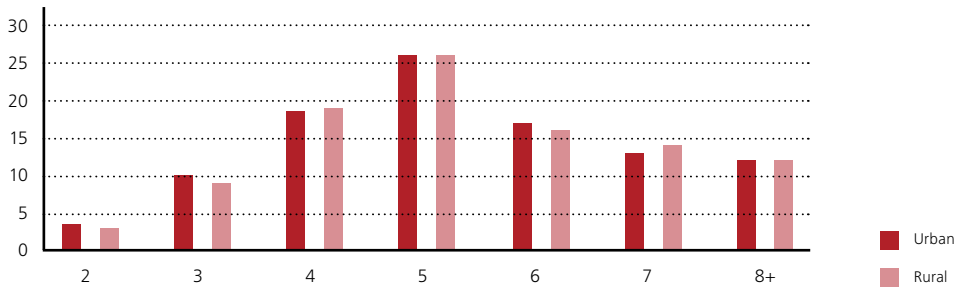
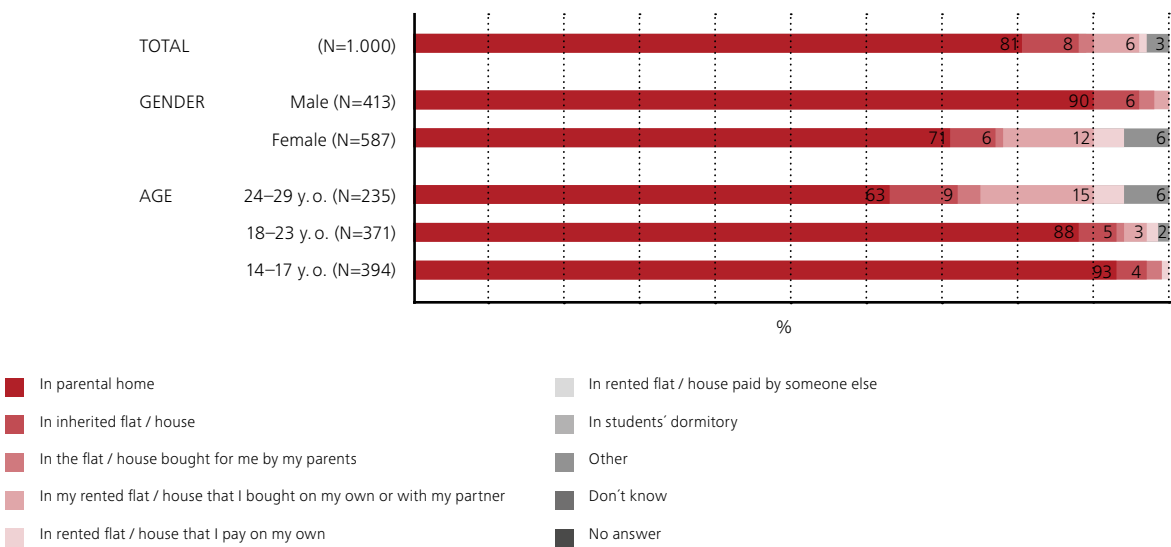


FIGURE 24: Young people living preferences



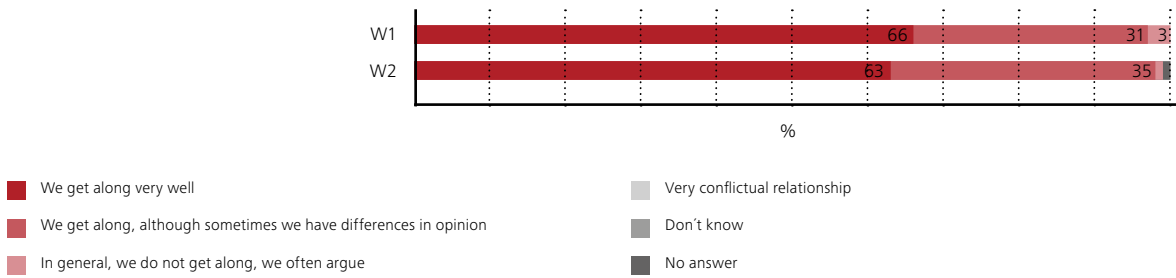
people living in households with 7 or more members. There are just a few more smaller families in urban areas, as 13 per cent of all urban households of young people have 2–3 members, compared to 11 per cent of rural households. There is no single-person household in the whole sample. Families often consist of three generations, as quite frequently grandparents live with parents and children, sharing the task of raising them. Moreover, having big families is statistically linked to the wealth index score, language, respondents' education and respondents' mother's education. Bigger families tend to be poorer than smaller families on the wealth index score (Spearman's $\rho = -.153$, $p < 0.001$). Families that speak Albanian are also more numerous. The higher the level of education of the respondent (Spearman's $\rho = -.142$, $p < 0.001$) and of the mother of the respondent (Spearman's $\rho = -.112$, $p < 0.001$), the smaller the family tends to be. Moreover, young people living in bigger families plan to have children at a younger age (Spearman's $\rho = -.84$, $p < 0.001$).

RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENTS

The role of parents is very important to young people in Kosovo. The majority of 81 per cent of respondents have lived with their parents in the past year and another 8 per cent are living in inherited flats/houses or flat/houses bought by their parents. Even youth people aged 24–29 live in the parental home in 63 per cent of cases, which shows that the process of living on their own in general takes a long time. Only 14 per cent of these respondents would like to live alone, but are impeded by financial circumstances.

Relationships with parents remain very strong and have stayed almost constant over the last six years compared to the previous wave of 2012 (W1 on the graph). Almost 98 per cent of young people in Kosovo confirm that they generally have a good relationship with their parents, including 35 per cent who admit some differences of opinions. This confirms a very stable position on the part of the family on the list of the values held by young people in Kosovo. Only 1% of young people state that they have a conflictual relationship with their parents. There are very few indicators that show a statistical significance with regard to this aspect, while gender, age and educational level do not influence this relationship. Young people living in rural areas tend

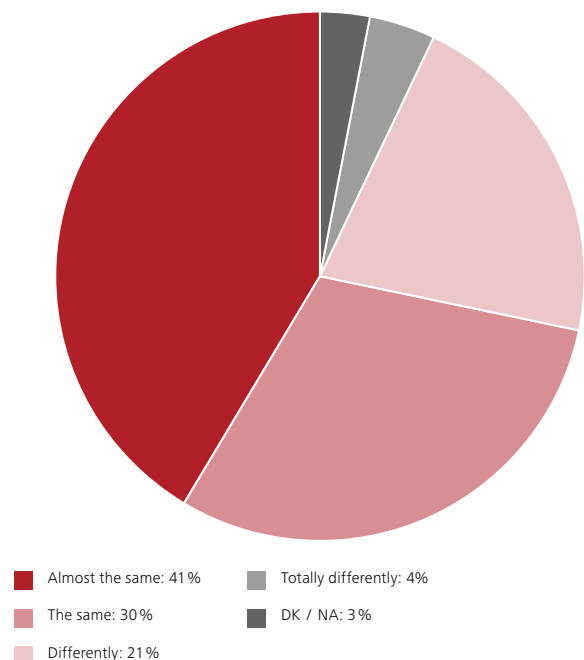
FIGURE 25: Which of the following statements best describes your relationship with your parents?



to be in a more conflictual relationship in their families (Spearman’s rho=-.180, p<0.001). Moreover, those who are generally not satisfied with their lives in general tend to have a conflictual relationship with their parents (Spearman’s rho=-.172, p<0.001), suggesting that these young people have a more individualistic approach.

Although young people appear to get along well with their parents, only 30 per cent of them would raise their children in the same way, with another 41 per cent stating that they would raise their children almost the same as their parents. A quarter of young people would raise their children differently than their parents.

FIGURE 26: Would you raise your children like your parents raised you, or differently?



There are very few indicators that show a statistical significance with regard to this aspect. Young people living in families with a better economic situation would raise their children in the same way (Spearman’s rho=.076, p=0.011). The younger part of the oldest cohort in this survey (24–29 years of age) would mostly try to raise their children differently (Spearman’s rho=-.125,

p=0.011). On the other hand, the higher the level of the education of the mother as a parent, the better the chances are of having set a good example even for the next generation (Spearman’s rho=.119, p<0.001)

HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS?

Young people were asked about which family members have the greatest influence on the decisions they make for the important things in life, including themselves. Both parents have a very strong influence on important decisions. The patriarchal structure of the family appears to be responsible for an orientation toward a more collegial principle in decision-making, as 58 per cent choose the father, while half of young people also mention the mother.

Depending on respondents’ gender, age and residence, the answer to this question also varies. Females have a very close influence by both parents, while males are more influenced by their fathers (Spearman’s rho=.209, p<0.001).

In general, 26 per cent of respondents appear to be independent, which means that they are free in their decision-making process. There is a slight increase of 4 per cent here compared to the previous wave (2012). Close to 60 per cent of young people make important decisions together with their parents. Males have a greater tendency to make decisions by themselves (Spearman’s rho=.092, p=0.003), while there is a notable increase in females who give the same response comparing 2012 with 2018 (jumping from 17 per cent to 23 per cent). Young educated people (Spearman’s rho=.325, p<0.001), those living in families with better economic conditions (Spearman’s rho=.121, p<0.001) and older respondents (Spearman’s rho=.412, p<0.001) exhibit much higher rates of independency in taking decisions.

FIGURE 27: Who, among your family members or acquaintances, has most influence on your important decisions:

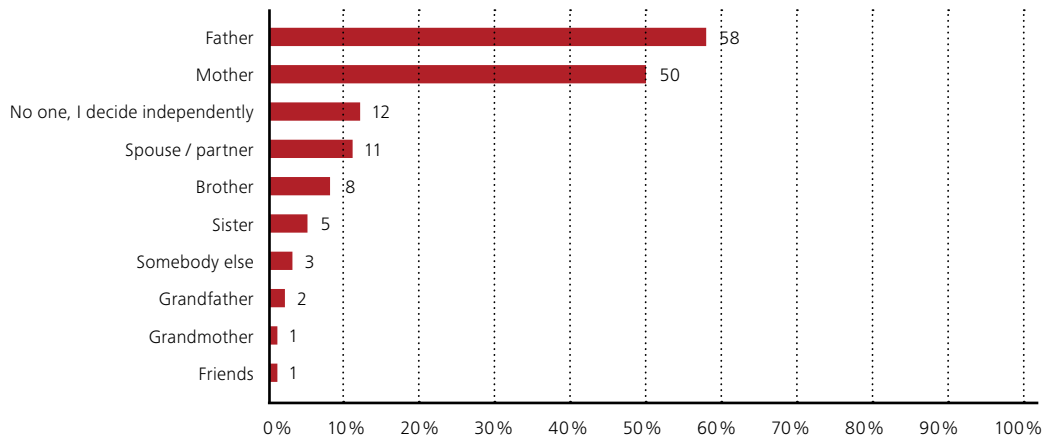
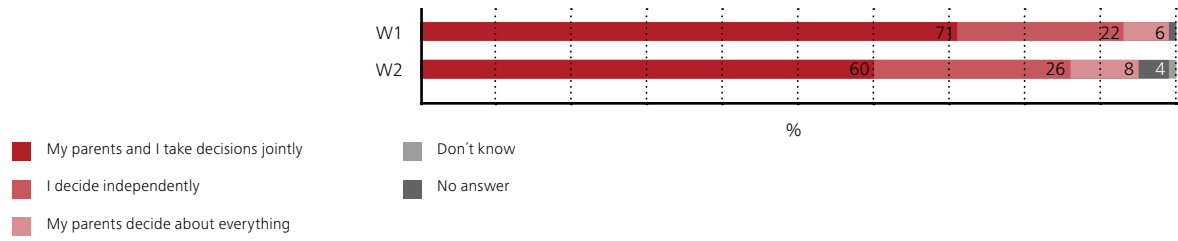


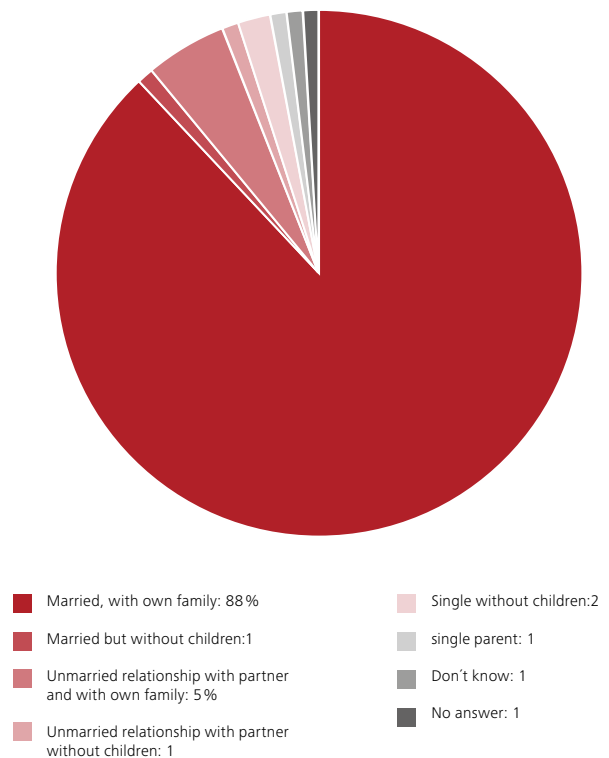
FIGURE 28: Which of the following statements best describes your situation?



FAMILY PLANS

Young people in Kosovo are very resolute and unanimous in the way they predict their family’s future, as 88% of respondents selected the option of “marriage with children”. In this case, both official marriage and children are important, but another 5 per cent select “unofficial marriage” with children as a possible family plan. The models of a family without children, or living single with or without children altogether receive a very minimal “approval rate” of less than 3 per cent.

FIGURE 29: Family plans



MARRIAGE AGE

There is a significant increase in the preferred age for marriage for men among both males and females amounting to at least two years compared to the previous Youth Study of 2012. Boys prefer a lower age for marriage for both males and females. Girls prefer on average an age of 26 for themselves and 29 for marriage of males.

TABLE 4: Adequate age for marriage

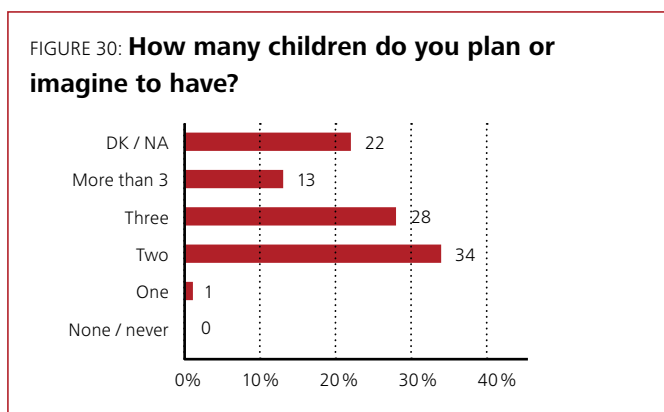
Adequate age for marriage for women		
	2012	2018
Male	23	25
Female	24	26

Adequate age for marriage for men		
	2012	2018
Male	26	28
Female	27	29

When asked about the age when young people want to have their first child, females state that they would like to have their first baby on average at the age of 25, while males would like to be a father at the age of 27 on average.

Young people in rural areas (Spearman’s rho=-.093, p=0.015), and youngsters who are generally satisfied with their lives (Spearman’s rho=-.076, p=0.045) want to have their first child at a younger age. Young people coming from families with a better economic standing (Spearman’s rho=.164, p<0.001), and who have parents with higher levels of education (Spearman’s rho=.192, p<0.001) are generally planning to have their first child at an age that is higher than the average.

In focus group, discussions revolved around the fact that perceptions about marriage have changed. Some years ago, the appropriate age for getting married was 18–19, and now it is about 27. *“Before, because of the mentality, we were taught to get married young at the age of 18. Nowadays, our parents don’t pressure us to get married so we can wait until we find the right partner”.* (Prishtina, female, 23 years old).



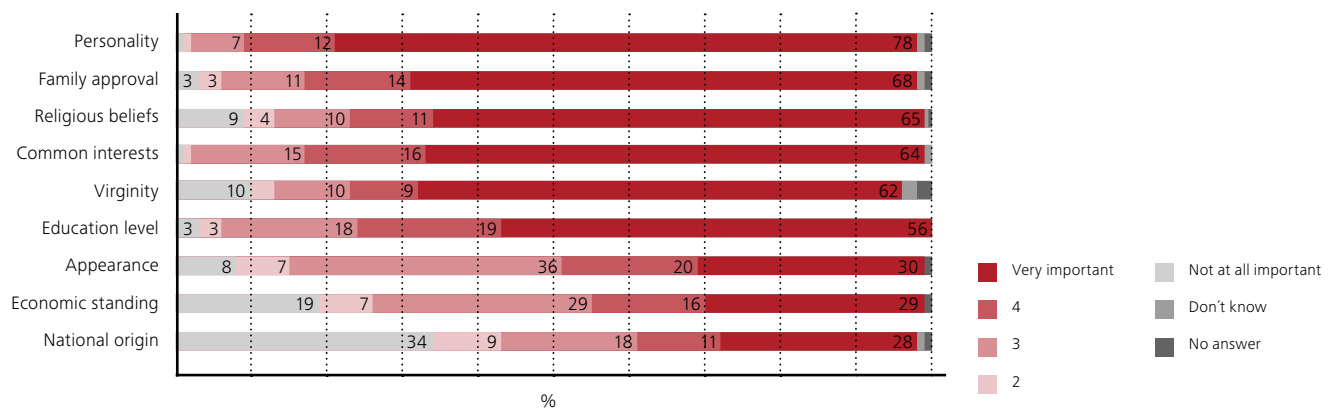
Although young people plan to marry and have their first child after they are 25 years old, they still want to have a large number of children. The results show that young Kosovars still want large families and do not want to change the current situation significantly. Moreover, the survey produced some very peculiar results. Only 1 per cent of young people in Kosovo want only one child. On the other hand, close to 22 per cent of young people do not know the number of children they want to have, or do not want to answer this question. Despite having a greater percentage of non-responses from the youngest respondents, the remainder appear to have a more confused opinion about this issue. In 2012 around 59% of young people in Kosovo were planning to have three or more children. In 2018, 54% want to have three or more children (the graph includes even those who did not answer the question, resulting in a lower figure of 41%). The youngest age group (Spearman’s rho=.120, p<0.001 and females generally want to have fewer children (Spearman’s rho=.077, p=0.024). Furthermore, those who are members of families with a better economic standing generally want to have more children (Spearman’s rho=.090, p=0.090).

The most important factors contributing to the choice of a spouse when starting a family are the following: personality (78 per cent), family approval (68 per cent), religious belief (65 per cent), common interests (64 per cent) and virginity (62 per cent). Less important factors include appearance (30 per cent), economic standing (29 per cent) and national origin (28 per cent).

Young people in Kosovo confirm the role of the family even when making very personal decisions like marriage. The consent of the family when choosing a marriage spouse is important in 68 per cent of cases. There are some statistically significant correlations between obtaining family approval and other factors. Those who would raise their children in the same way as their parents raised them are more inclined to seek family approval before getting married (Spearman’s rho=.169, p<0.001). Moreover, females are more dependent on receiving family approval compared to males (Spearman’s rho=-.153, p<0.001). Those who live in families whose economic standing is not good are also more inclined to seek family approval before getting married (Spearman’s rho=-.082, p=0.007). The younger respondents are, the more they think that they have to get family approval before choosing a spouse (Spearman’s rho=-.120, p<0.001).

56 per cent of young people in Kosovo consider the level of education to be of primary importance when choosing a spouse. Females are more interested in the level of education of their partner compared to males (Spearman’s rho=-.113, p<0.001). Interestingly, young people who are members of families better off economically are more inclined to seek partners with a better level of education (Spearman’s rho=0.084, p=0.005). The younger the respondent, the more likely they are to believe that the level of education has an influence on their decision to choose a spouse (Spearman’s rho=-.183, p<0.001). The most surprising significant correlation is the fact that the higher the level of education of the father, the more important the level of educa-

FIGURE 31: Most important factors to choose the spouse



tion becomes when choosing a spouse (Spearman's $\rho=0.140$, $p<0.001$).

When choosing a spouse, females tend to attach more importance to family approval, economic standing and personality, while males focus more on appearance, virginity and religious beliefs.

DISCUSSION

Family is considered to be the most important value in Kosovo. The study revealed a strong desire to preserve traditional features of the Kosovar family as well as weak tendencies to modify some specific aspects. Kosovo families are still large in terms of the number of members and it is easy to transfer traditional values of the families from the older generation to younger ones. Parents are very involved in making sure that young people have accommodations and attend to their financial needs as well. Sometimes parents find jobs for their children, or attempt to influence their school marks. All these factors lead to a strong dependency on the part of young people on their parents. The need to become independent and live separately increases at a very late age, and young people are slow in becoming concerned about providing for their own living.

Broadly speaking, there is huge gender differences in the traditional structure of the Kosovo family. Family supervision and decision-making are certainly more common for girls than boys. As stated above, females are more dependent on obtaining family approval when choosing a spouse. Females usually take decisions together with their parents, while males are more independent in decision-making. The most important change in this aspect is that females are not being pushed to get married in a lower age, and are receiving more time to choose their spouse.

For young people, their most important matrix of values begins in their parents' family and ends in their own family. Although initial social supervision of young people is performed by the family itself, young people do not question the family at any point, only expressing confidence in family members. Moreover, they

expect to complete their education and find jobs through family support, while the family itself serves as a replacement for social space that young people should have in the outside world.

On the other hand, the fact that only 30% of young people would raise their own children exactly the same as they were raised by their parents demonstrates that a section of young people have started to think above and beyond the traditions and norms with which they were raised.

In conclusion, the paradigm of the traditional Kosovar family is still very important among young people. All informal social mechanisms are still related to traditions, which means that policies instituted by the government should be targeted more to individuals instead of families. Values relating to personal development, individualism and independence are the main ingredients needed to build a developed society and economy, i.e. there is a need for these new values to be conveyed to Kosovar youth so that young people can develop the individualism that is needed to become more ambitious in life and to search for success outside of the family.

6

EDUCATION

Last year, Kosovo spent around 4.3% of GDP on education¹ (including higher education), although almost 60% of these expenditures were allocated to the wages and salaries of teachers in primary and secondary education. In 2014–2015, nearly 110,000 students were registered in institutions of higher education², mainly in public institutions, although around 35% of students are registered at 29 private institutions of higher education that are approved by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency. Although Kosovo has not yet officially joined the Bologna Process, its implementation is one of the main trends in policy towards higher education.

Education is expected to ensure competences and skills needed for employment, and the achievement of an adequate standard of living whether it be in the home country or abroad. Kosovo is mirroring the global trend towards a rapid increase in young people entering the higher-education system (GoK, 2016). Moreover, education takes up a sizable part of young people's lives in Kosovo society, and can influence their personal and professional fulfilment and development. Another reason for the high rate of enrolment in education might be an attempt by some countries in transition to "alleviate employment pressure and reduce youth unemployment"³. This happens even in Kosovo, where an overwhelming majority – 92% – of young Kosovars intend to attain higher education.

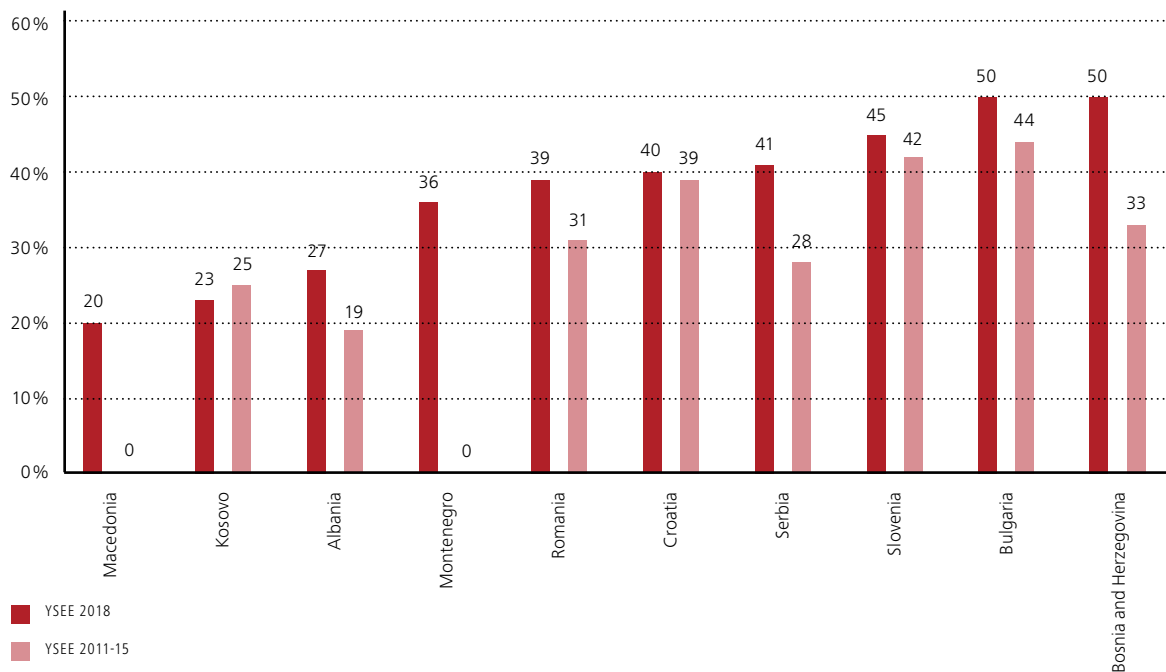
The educational sector is not properly aligned with labour market needs, resulting in low employability of graduates and a significant premium on skills. Public spending on education has remained unchanged, at 4.6% of GDP in 2016, which is broadly in line with middle-income countries with similar age profiles. Considering the relatively large number of students, however, Kosovo spends considerably less than some neighbouring countries per student on primary and secondary education. Furthermore, spending on education is dominated by the wage bill. Early childcare and pre-schooling enrolment rates are very low at 4.4% and 33.9%, respectively, still well below the EU target of 95% by 2020. In contrast, there are relatively high enrolment rates in primary

and secondary education at 96% and 88.1%, respectively. Enrolment at the tertiary level is very high with 120,000 students in both public and private institutions of higher education. However, low PISA scores and a high unemployment rate among higher-education graduates (26.7% in Q3 2017) reflect the poor quality of education in general and its misalignment with labour-market needs in particular. Given this situation, Kosovo needs to work on fostering closer cooperation between the educational system and the private sector (European Commission, 2018).

KEY FINDINGS

- Young people are mostly dissatisfied with the quality of education in Kosovo. Only 23% can be considered satisfied with the quality of education, which is one of the lowest figures in the whole region. Moreover, Kosovo is the only country that has seen a deterioration in the level of satisfaction with the quality of the education. The youngest cohort of young people and females appear to be more satisfied with the quality of education.
- More than 56% of young people mostly agree that there are cases of bribery in institutions/universities in Kosovo. This phenomenon is more widespread in urban areas.
- The majority of school-attending youth in Kosovo spend at least two hours per day studying. There has been a slight increase in the number of pupils and students who study more than two hours per day. There is a notably greater number of hours of study for university students compared to other groups. This shows that high schools are perceived to be less demanding than the university level.
- There has been a decrease in the level of stress perceived at schools/universities in the last few years. The share of students who report life in school to be "quite hard and stressful" and "very hard and stressful" has dropped from 30% to 13%. On the other hand, students at the higher-education level

FIGURE 32: How satisfied are you generally with the quality of education in your country?



claim to be subject to much more stress than their counterparts in high schools.

- Only 28% of young people have performed a practical position or internship, although the level of participation in internships increases notably at the level of university studies.

Satisfaction with the quality of education in Kosovo generates some mixed results, with respondents for the most part displaying a low level of satisfaction with the quality of education.

Only 23% of young people in Kosovo can be considered to be satisfied with the quality of education. This is one of the lowest figures in the entire Youth Study in Eastern Europe (YSEE), with the exception of Macedonia. Moreover, Kosovo is the only country in the region that appears to have seen a slight deterioration in satisfaction with the quality of education when comparing the results of 2012 with 2018.

It is very obvious that the older sub-group (24–29) of youth are most dissatisfied with this aspect, while the youngest segment of the population (14–17) has a more positive view. This is also confirmed by statistical correlations (Spearman’s rho=-.130, p<0.001). We see the same phenomenon among the female cohort group, which would appear to be more dissatisfied in 27% of cases, while males are mostly dissatisfied in 32% of the cases.

Actual university students are clearly less satisfied with the educational system compared to actual high school pupils. High school pupils tend to have a higher level of satisfaction. (Spearman’s rho=-.096, p=0.013)

FIGURE 33: Satisfaction with the quality of education

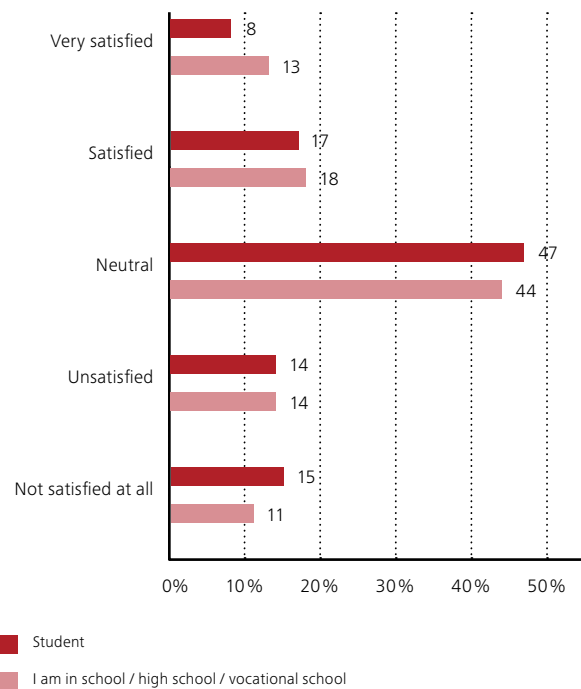
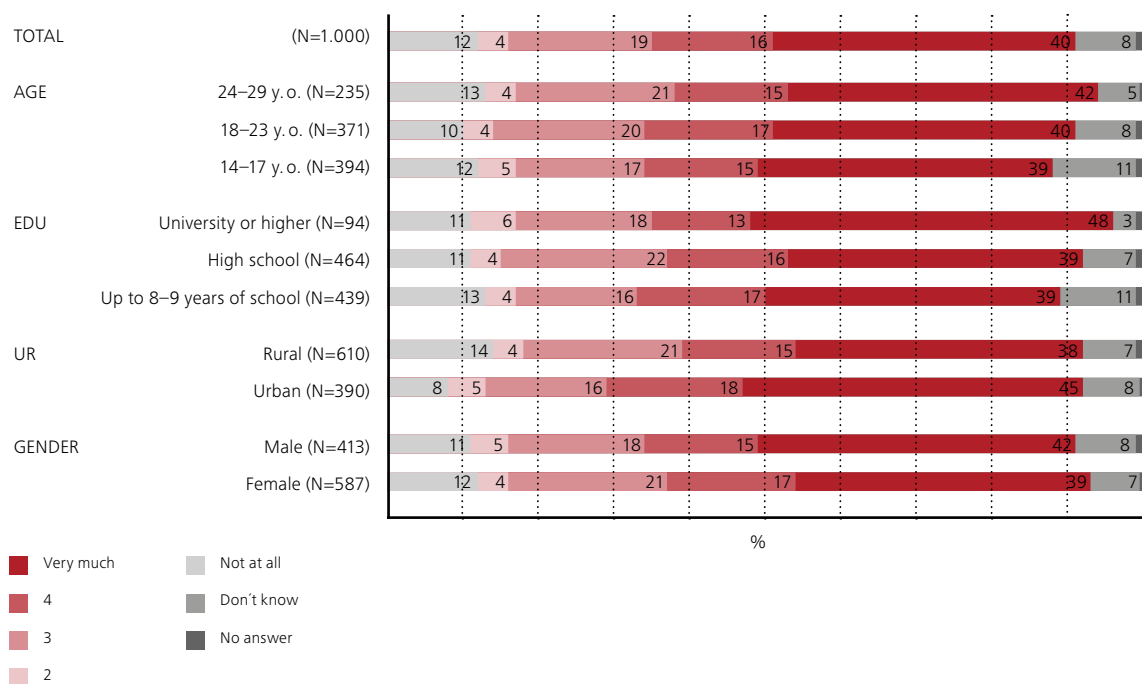


FIGURE 34: Do you agree that there are cases where grades and exams are 'bought' in institutes / universities in Kosovo?



“BUYING” GRADES

Young people have the perception that “buying” exams is commonplace. More than 56% of respondents mostly agree that there are cases in which exams are bought. This is more prevalent in urban areas than rural areas (Cramer’s V=.135). The problem appears to be more present in the eyes of those who have completed the third level of education (university studies).

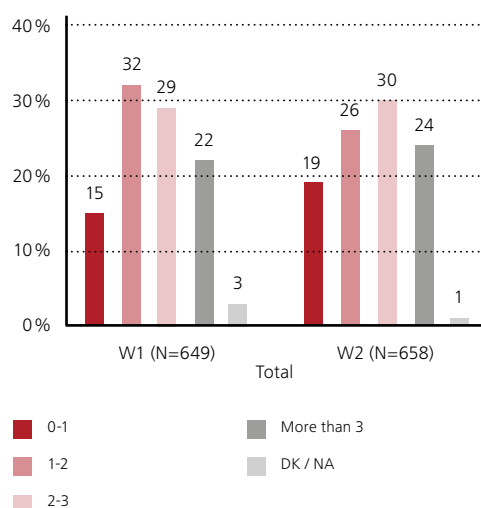
On the other hand, focus-group discussions reveal that there are a lot of ways to pass an exam, ranging from paying money to cases of influences by the family or social circle. Everyone has experienced such phenomena. *“If parents of a student work in the field of medicine, and the son or daughter pursues studies in the same field, it is certain that they will pass all exams by leveraging their influence”.* (Prishtina, male 26).

HOW MANY HOURS A DAY DO STUDENTS STUDY?

The majority of school-attending youth in Kosovo spend at least two hours per day studying. There has been a slight increase in the number of pupils and students who study more than two hours per day in 2018, accounting for around 54% of the total number of young people. Regarding the level of education, university students and females study a significantly greater number of hours compared to their counterpart groups. Hours of study are negatively correlated with non-stressful daily life at schools/universities. This implies that the great number of hours of stud-

ies is responsible for the increased stress experienced by students or vice-versa (Spearman’s rho=-.172, p<0.001). At the same time, girls are more inclined to study for long hours compared to boys and the statistical coefficient is very high for this correlation (Spearman’s rho=-.272, p<.001).

FIGURE 35: How many hours on average do you spend studying (after classes / at home) per day?



On the other hand, the higher the level of studies (bachelor and above), the greater the number of hours that students should spend studying. This indicates that high school is perceived to be less demanding than the university level (Spearman’s rho=.125, p=0.001)

FIGURE 36: Student's levels of stress in 2012 (wave 1) and 2018 (wave 2)

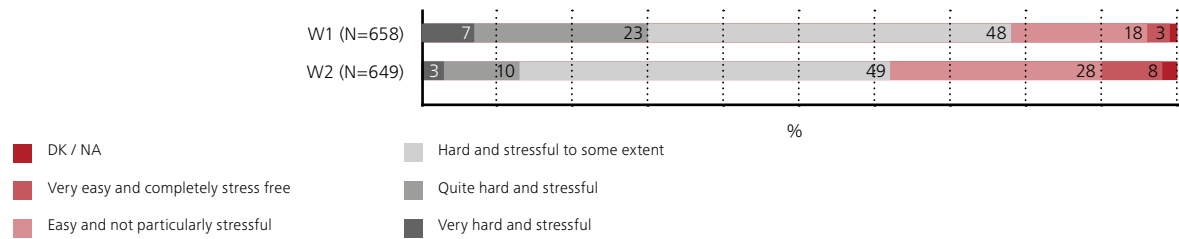


FIGURE 37: Participation in internships

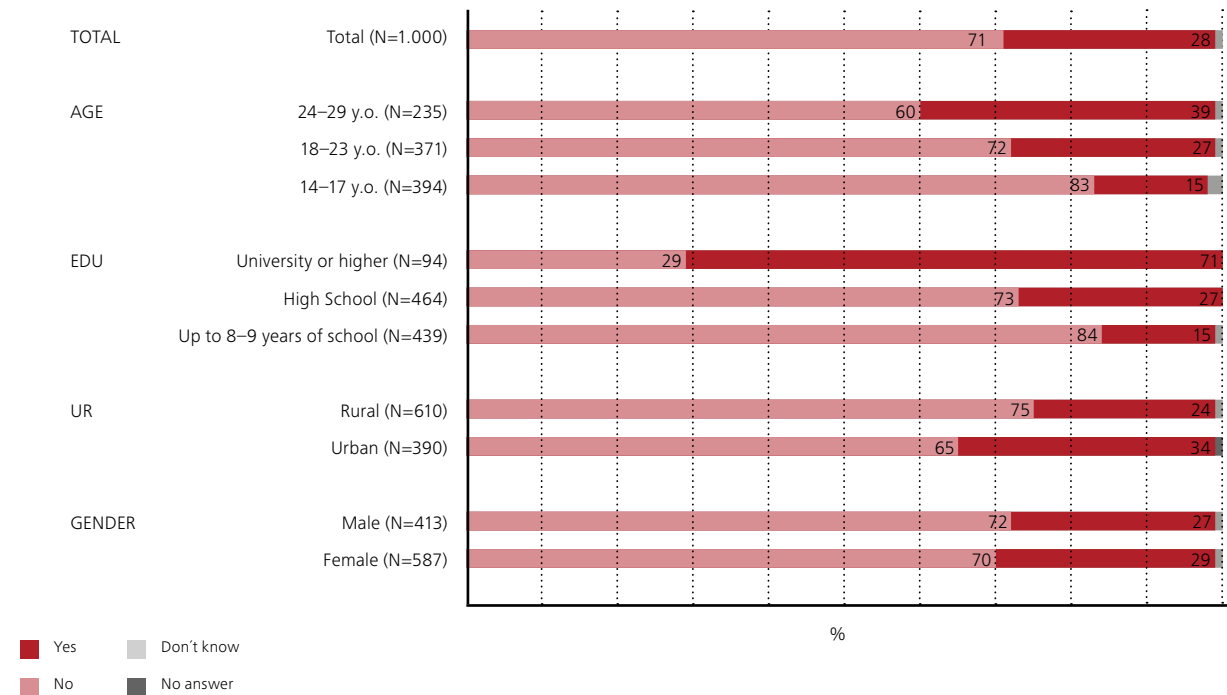
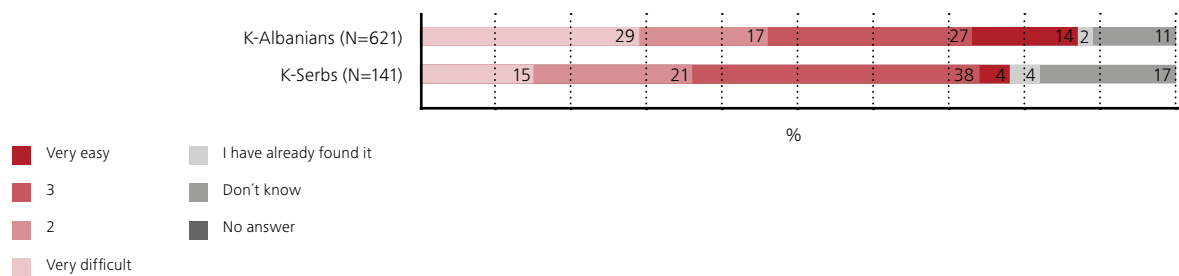


FIGURE 38: Difficulty in finding a job



There has been a notable decrease in the **level of stress perceived at schools/universities** in the last few years. The share of students who report life at school to be “quite hard and stressful” and “very hard and stressful” has dropped from 30% to 13%. Students who have better grades display a much lower level of stress (Spearman’s $\rho = .171$, $p < 0.001$). On the other hand, students at the higher-education level appear to perceive a much higher level of stress than their counterparts at high schools (Spearman’s $\rho = -.132$, $p = 0.001$).

PRACTICAL ORIENTATION OF EDUCATION AND TRANSITION IN THE LABOUR MARKET

It is obvious that students at the level of higher education display a much higher rate of performance with internships and practical positions. This is mostly related to the orientation of the educational system.

Generally, only 28% of the young population have ever performed a practical position or internship. Furthermore, we asked those who were studying (at the secondary or tertiary level) about their degree of optimism regarding the possibility of finding a job after graduation.

There is no correlation between the likelihood of finding a job and the practical orientation of education.

Most of the participants in the focus groups agreed that there is no correlation between education and the labour market. It is difficult to find a job in the area they are studying. *“At university only theory is taught, but no practical skills in the same field. Some students have performed some internships that they arranged themselves, but these are not related to their area of study.”* (Prishtina, female, 25 years old).

DISCUSSION REGARDING EDUCATION

Young people in Kosovo evaluate the education system as unsatisfactory, and are of the opinion that educational institutions are not equipping young people with the skills and know-how they need for the labour market. This could be partially due to outdated curricula of institutions of higher education that are not geared to practical aspects of the job market.

Educational curricula are a major problem, as their content is outdated and not practical. Even if there were a large supply of jobs in the labour market, it would be difficult to estimate the extent that the skills offered in the educational system could meet the requirements of the modern international labour market.

7

EMPLOYMENT

Youth unemployment is a huge problem in Kosovo. According to the UNDP (2017), current youth unemployment in Kosovo is as high as 57.7%. The national poverty rate is nearly one-third of the population (29,7%). This situation is still a legacy of disruptions caused by end of the communist regime, the ongoing struggle for independence and the economy being dependent on financial aid from abroad. Kosovo is one of the youngest nations on earth, however, and currently at a critical juncture. The country shows considerable potential due to its young, willing-to-work population, which could potentially boost the economy and labour market significantly if properly fostered and developed (UNDP, 2017).⁴

At the same time, the unemployment rate has climbed to 30.4% compared to 27.5% in 2016, and Kosovo still has the highest unemployment and lowest employment rate in Europe. High youth unemployment (51.6%) demonstrates a clear misalignment between the educational system and labour-market needs (i.e. a mismatch between students' qualifications and skills and what is needed in the job market). This calls for more active labour market policies, pre-qualification schemes and vocational-training programmes (European Commission, 2018).

Moreover, the unemployment rate for people under 25 years of age displays a major difference between the genders, and indicates that young women have a weak attachment to the labour market. The incidence of unemployment among young women is 67% in Kosovo, a pattern that is only comparable in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia. On the other hand, unemployment among young people has declined the most for highly skilled labour when comparing 2016 with 2010, while low-skilled young people face increased numbers of unemployed (WB & WIIW, 2017).

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare finalised the draft Action Plan on Youth Employment and it was adopted by the Government on 4 January 2018. This measure aims to achieve full functionality of the Employment Agency in providing quality services in the transition from vocational training to employment,

and to expand active labour market measures focused on youth, women and the promotion of entrepreneurship (GoK, 2018)

In her report, Cojocarú puts forward specific recommendations which could lead to improvements with regard to unemployment and promote active, employed young people who have jobs matching their sets of skills. Moreover, putting focus on needed skills as mentioned above, the improvement of public services as well as reforms of the social care system for elderly and children may also enhance the involvement of women in the labour market (Cojocarú, 2017).

In 2017 Kosovo was one of the top 10 reformers, according to the World Bank Doing Business Report. Nevertheless, the main obstacles to doing business here still include a weak and unaccountable administration, weak rule of law, corruption and a pervasive informal economy. Informal work remains at a high level, accounting for around 30% of GDP⁵.

With regard to employment policy, the government has adopted the 2018–2022 sector strategy. The government developed an action plan to tackle youth unemployment in line with commitments under the European Reform Agenda. The budget earmarked for active labour-market measures remains insufficient. Public employment services have improved their performance in matching employers to employees.

KEY FINDINGS

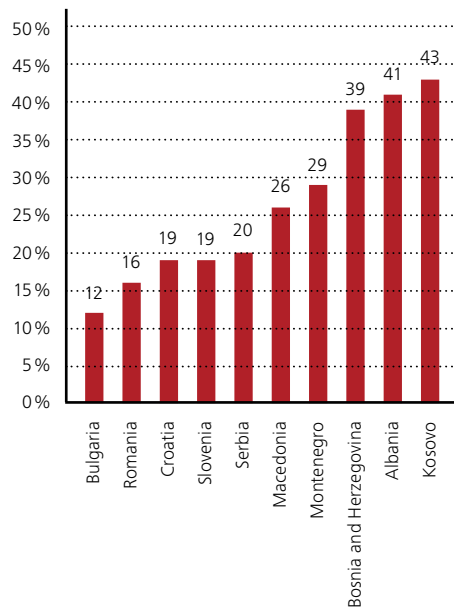
- Kosovo has a high share of 25% of NEETs (young people who are not undergoing education or training). Gender disparities with regard to social status are very pronounced. Females have very high levels of NEET and education, while males are more present in the employment market. Unemployment is more widespread among children whose parents have only attained lower levels of education, those from poorer households and mostly rural areas.

- The prevailing perception is that acquaintances and connections with people in power that imply that an individual is considered to be well-positioned in the social structure help to find a job in 54–58% of cases. Moreover, education and expertise are held to have a similar impact.
- Young people in Kosovo frequently (54% of them) work at jobs which do not align with their occupation. This shows a high degree of mismatch between workforce qualifications and needs and demand in the market for labour. Females appear to have a greater tendency to work in their occupation.
- Over-education is another important dimension of a high-skills mismatch. In Kosovo around 44% of actual jobs of young people require a lower level of formal education compared to the existing level of youth employed in those jobs.
- The striking figure with regard to the most-preferred employment prospect is that 70 per cent of those surveyed would like to work in the public sector and only 23 per cent in the private sector. The desire to work for the public sector is quite problematic compared to other countries in the region. Only 18% of employed young people in Kosovo work in the public sector, while the discrepancy between reality and preferences are the greatest in the region.
- Job security is the main factor that young people in Kosovo consider when choosing a job. This implies significant concern about employees’ rights, lengthy hours of work, problems with salaries, etc. Those who are more concerned about job security have a greater desire to work in the public sector and are less satisfied with the quality of education in Kosovo.

Kosovo together with BiH and Albania suffer from high unemployment rates. Unemployment is more widespread among children of parents with lower levels of education who come from poorer households and mostly from rural areas.

Kosovo has a high share of NEETs (youth not undergoing either education or training who are not employed, either; they can be termed “lost souls”⁶). Those who are neither employed nor undergoing education account for around 25 % (EU 28 average 2014: 17%). On the other hand, close to 23% of young people are employed, or are employed and undergoing education at the same time (8%).

FIGURE 39: Unemployment rates (15-29), % of labor force



On the other hand, a majority of youth are involved in some kind of education or training. 52% of young people are only undergoing education and are not employed, while another 8% are simultaneously undergoing education and are employed. Young NEETs are more concentrated in rural areas. Furthermore, the gender disparity in social status is very pronounced. Females have very high levels of NEET and education, while males are more present in the employment market.

IMPORTANT FACTORS IN FINDING A JOB

There are several factors that are considered to have a similar impact in finding a job. The prevailing perception – that acquaintances and connections with people in power translate into an individual’s position in the social structure – is considered to be very important by 54–58% of respondents. Moreover, educa-

FIGURE 40: Employment or education engagement of the youth

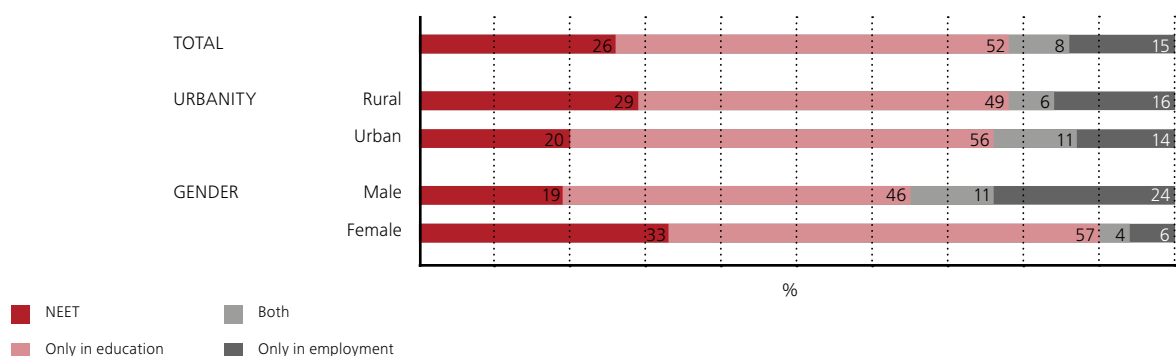
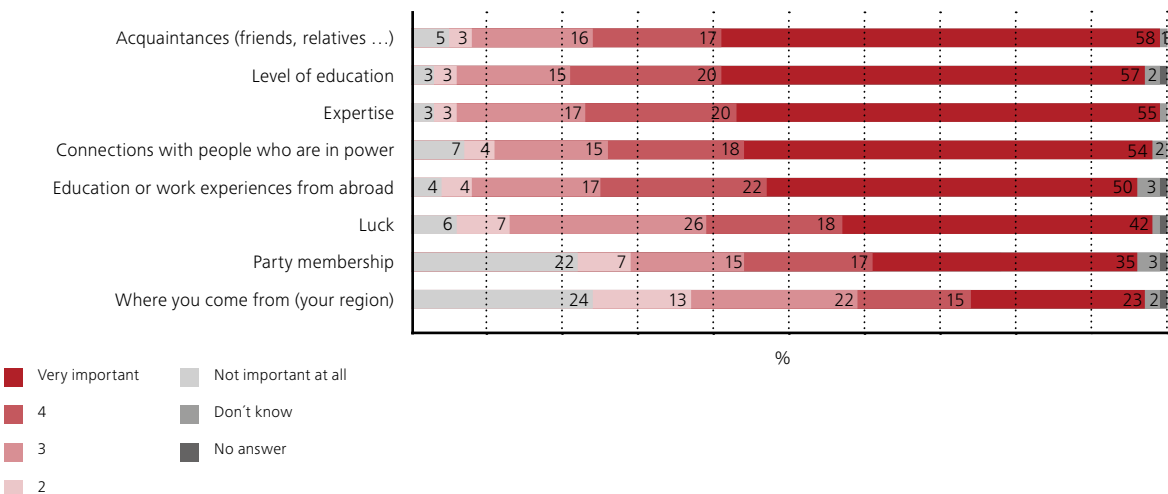


FIGURE 41: Important factors to find a job



tion and expertise have the same impact. On the other hand, party membership and origin are less important. There is a slight difference in relation to gender, with females considering expertise and the level of education to be the main factors in finding a job, while males are more oriented towards using acquaintances and connections with people in power.

SKILL MISMATCHES

Young people in Kosovo are frequently (54% of them) in a position of working at jobs that do not align with the occupation they are trained in. Of the young people who are currently employed, only 27% are currently working in their chosen occupation, while 9% are working in jobs that are related to their occupation. This is a net decrease of 6 per cent compared to 2012. On the other hand, there has been a very significant increase in the number of young people who declare that they do not work in their occupation, shooting up from 36% to 54% of the young people who have been part of the workforce in the last six years. This indicates a significant mismatch between workforce qualifications and the needs and demand of the market for labour. Females appear to have a greater tendency to work in their occupation, while males are more likely not to work in their occupation (Spearman’s rho=-.180, p=0.008). The lower the father’s highest level of education, the greater the possibility that young people will not work in their occupation (Spearman’s rho=-.188, p=0.005). On the other hand, young people who have performed internships and practical positions have a greater chance of working in their profession (Pearson Chi-Square V=28.634, Spearman Correlation=.344, p<0.001).

OVER-EDUCATION

Over-education is another important dimension in the considerable skills mismatch, constituting a significant problem in Kosovo, Serbia and Albania. In Kosovo around 44% of actual jobs of young people require a lower level of formal education than the existing level of young people employed in those jobs. Another 46% of young people in Kosovo appear to have a job that is in line with their achieved level of education, a figure that is barely half the level in Croatia or Bulgaria. It is not surprising that over-education is considerably more prevalent among highly educated young people in Kosovo (Spearman’s rho=-.201, p=0.004).

FIGURE 42: Young people working or not in their profession

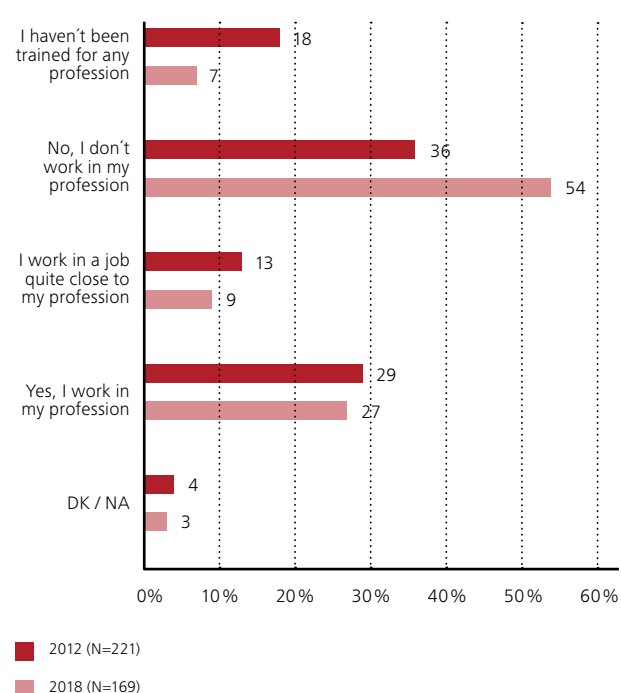


FIGURE 43: Formal education requirements of young people's job

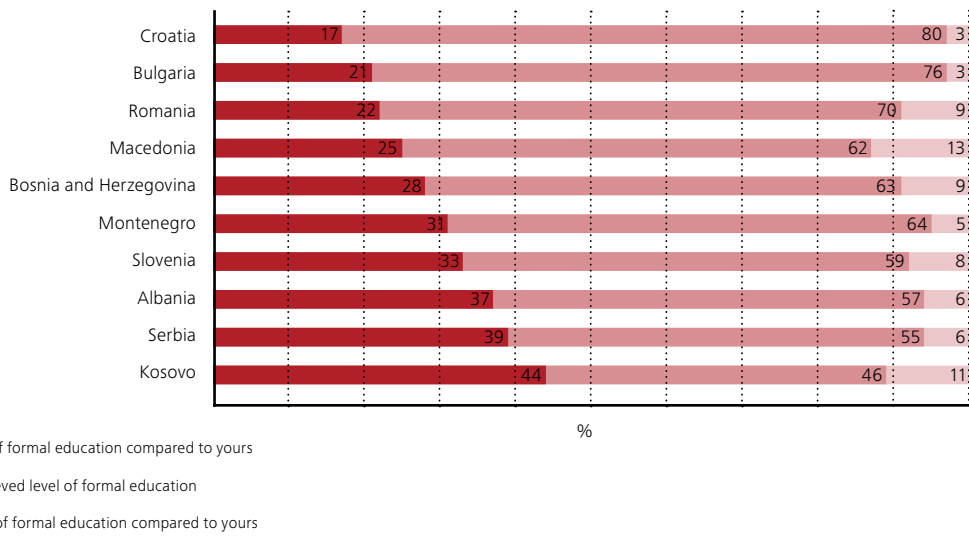
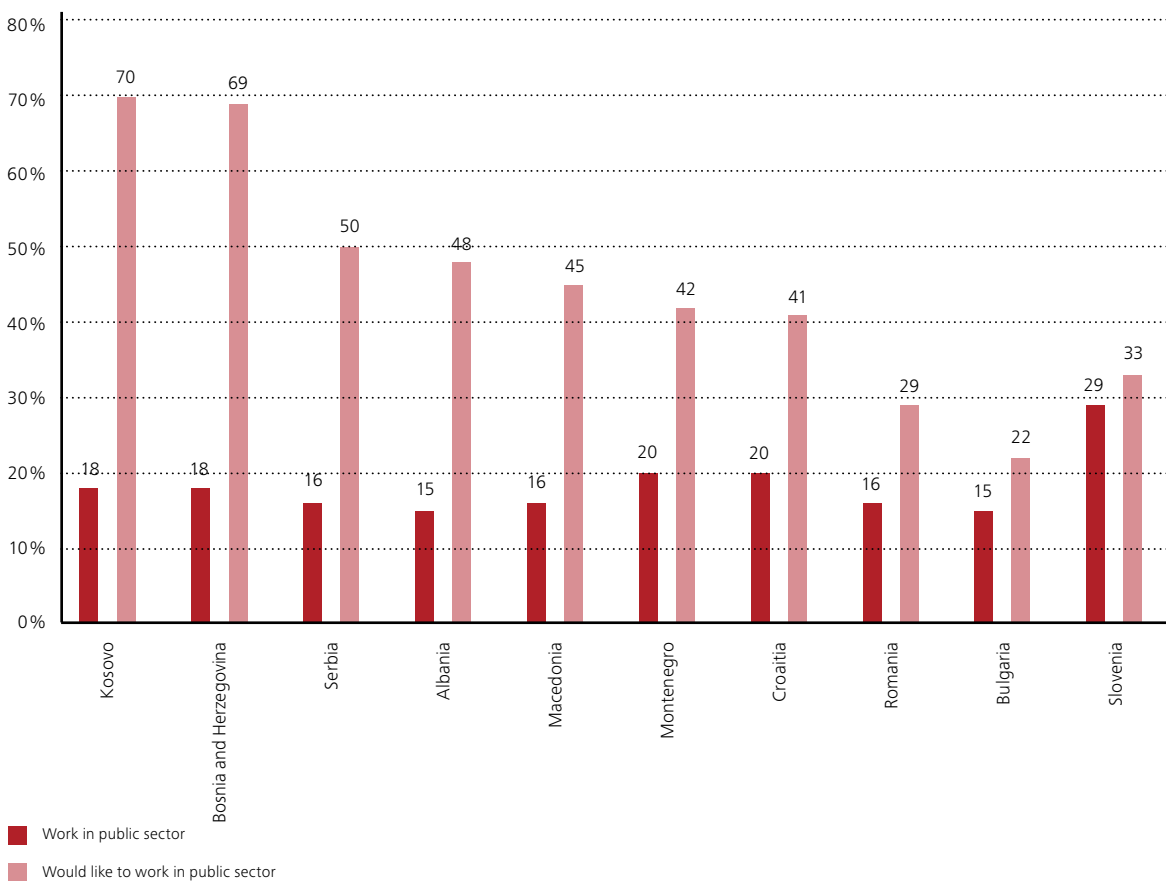


FIGURE 44: Working in public sector: reality and preference



CHOICE OF WORK

Only a small portion of young people in Kosovo are part of the labour force. One striking figure reflecting the most preferred type of employment is that 70 per cent of those surveyed want to work in the public sector and only 23 per cent in the private sector. Only 47 per cent of Kosovo's youth favoured a job in the

public sector in 2012. It is noteworthy that the young people whose objective is to work for an international institution has declined from 19% in 2012 to 5% in 2018. The decrease in the presence of international institutions in Kosovo has had implications even for the number of young Kosovars who want to work for them. The desire to work for the public sector is quite problematic compared to other countries in the region. Only 18% of

FIGURE 45: Choice of work preferable sector

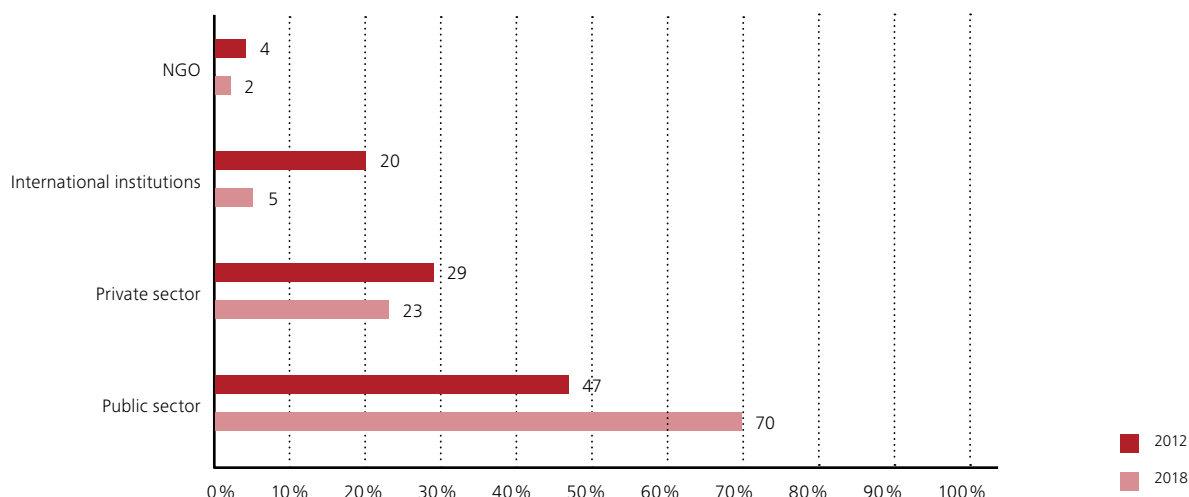
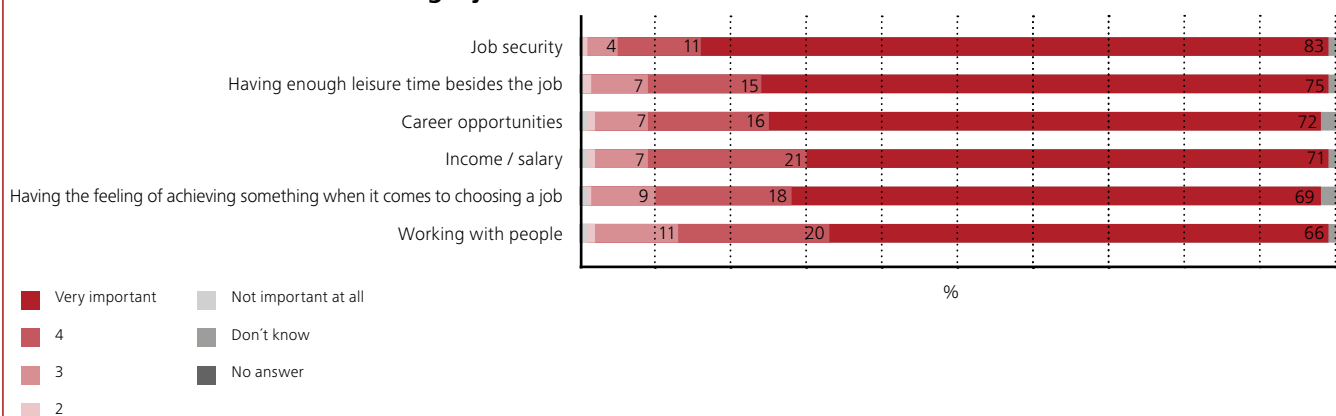


FIGURE 46: Main factors for choosing a job



employed young people in Kosovo are working in the public sector, while the discrepancy between reality and preferences are the highest in the region. Females are more inclined to work in the public sector (71%), while males have a higher incidence in the private sector (Spearman’s rho=-.146, p<0.001). Young people living in smaller communities are more inclined to prefer working in the public sector (Spearman’s rho=.109, p=0.001) even though these job positions are mostly to be found in larger urban areas. On the other hand, the higher the level of education completed by parents, the more likely young people are to prefer to work in the public sector (Spearman’s rho=-.080, p=0.011).

FACTORS IN CHOOSING A JOB

When choosing a job, young people are oriented primarily towards workers’ rights, which are considered very important in 83 per cent of cases. Job security and having leisure time outside the job confirm the impression created by the focus-group discussions that the main concerns of workers in the private sector revolve around employees’ rights, lengthy hours of work

and problems with salaries. There are a host of significant statistical correlations concerning job security with youth people in Kosovo. Those who are concerned about job security also tend to be more convinced that incomes of the poor and the rich should be more equal (Spearman’s rho=.244, p<0.001), with the correlation here being quite high. The deterioration in job conditions is pushing young people to forward more left-wing political demands. At the same time, those who worried about job security are also interested in politics (Spearman’s rho=.091, p=0.005). Arguably, they have a stronger desire to work in the public sector, as it is considered to offer much greater job security (Spearman’s rho=-.096, p=0.002). At the same time, those unsettled by the issue of job security in Kosovo are also generally dissatisfied with the quality of education (Spearman’s rho=-.083, p=0.009), although on the other hand they appear to be more satisfied with their lives in general (Spearman’s rho=.220, p<0.001).

Young people who are more interested in income/salary are slightly more numerous in rural areas (Spearman’s rho=.095, p=0.003), and also appear to be more satisfied with their lives in general (Spearman’s rho=.088, p<0.001).

Focus-group discussions reveal that public-sector jobs are more preferred because of job security, permanent contracts and employees' rights. *"I prefer to work in the public sector because private sector employers don't pay taxes or pensions. They don't even pay salaries every month. There are better working conditions in the public sector, such as annual vacations."* (Dragash, female, 28 years old). On the other hand, it appears too difficult to find a job in the public sector. *"Having a political connection is the main factor in finding a job. If a person wants to get hired in the public sector, all they need is a diploma and relatives/political connections. It is very important to belong to a political party or have connections allowing one to access these institutions."* (Prishtina, female, 26 years old).

DISCUSSION ON EMPLOYMENT

Study results reflect a significant mismatch between the labour market supply and demand for jobs throughout the generation of young people.

The findings of the survey highlight the fears of youth concerning the chances of working in the private sector compared to the public sector. Lower salaries in the private sector together with the poor level of job security are fundamental issues that have increased distrust in the labour market and economic environment.

8

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNMENT

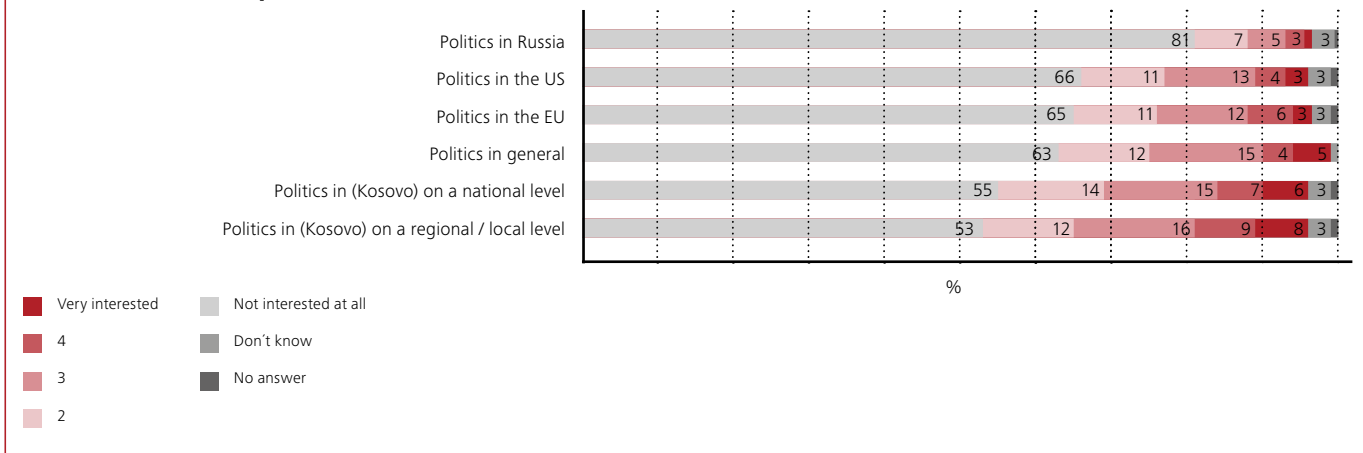
In this part of the study, we present the views of young people in Kosovo on politics – their feeling of representation and influence on politics, trust in institutions, and their ideological orientations. The way young people see the political system and politics in a society is important with regard to active participation in a democratic society, and the belief that the political system is to everyone's benefit and ensures equal conditions for development.

Kosovo saw very intense political activity in 2017, as both parliamentary elections and local government elections were held in the same year (local elections on 22 October 2017 and parliamentary elections on 11 June 2017).

KEY FINDINGS

- There has been a dramatic decrease in young people's interest in political events compared to 2012. Young people express a slightly greater interest in local governance. Two-thirds of young people in Kosovo do not discuss, or rarely discuss, politics with family or acquaintances. Young people tend to be more inclined to engage in political discussions with family or acquaintances when they have completed higher levels of education, or when they live in urban areas.
- Parents' influence on the political views of young people in Kosovo is not high. Around one-third of youth in Kosovo do not align their views and beliefs with their parents, while another quarter of young people state that they do not know or did not answer this question. These figures show a significant potential shift in political orientation between generations.
- Just 10% of young Kosovars are of the opinion that their interests are "well" represented in national politics. This viewpoint regarding lack of representation is almost the same across the board regardless of the demographic filter applied to the young population (urban, gender, age, etc.).
- TV and the Internet are the main information tool when it comes to political issues, although the Internet combined with social networks dominate the present and will dominate the future world of information for young people. The more young people use the Internet as an information tool, the less probable it is that they voted in the last election, and the more pessimistic they are likely to be regarding the economic situation of Kosovo in the future.
- Although young people tend to say they are not interested in national politics, young people in Kosovo displayed a very high level of participation in the last elections. The data indicate that there are other reasons motivating young people to get out and vote.
- Kosovo youth struggle when they are asked to characterise themselves as leaning to the "right" or "left" in their political orientation. Regarding their positioning on the left or the right of the political scale, young people tend to have problems understanding these categories and locating their position along the political spectrum. A small majority of respondents believe that they have a "right-wing" political orientation, but share "left-wing" opinions on economic and social issues as well on the role of the state in providing social welfare.
- There is a record level of distrust and apathy among Kosovo youth toward all political institutions, especially the political parties and national government. Moreover, there is greater scepticism among youth regarding civil society organisations and media outlets. On the other hand, there is greater trust in religious institutions and international organisations like NATO and the OSCE.

FIGURE 47: Interest in political events



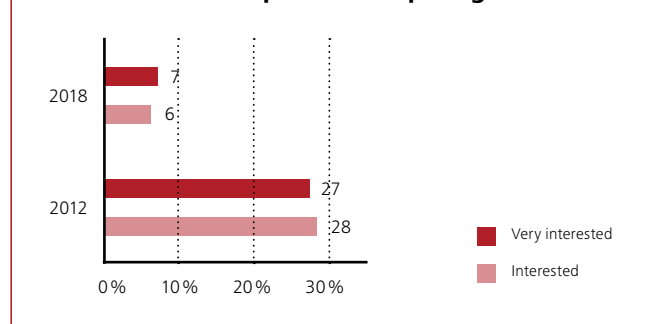
- One-quarter of young people in Kosovo are satisfied with the situation of democracy in their country. Political turmoil and fragile governments have led to almost 60 per cent of young people in Kosovo favouring a strong leadership, with 18 per cent clearly articulating a preference for dictatorship under some circumstances.
- Expression of a political position through civic activism in mostly unpopular, as only 13 per cent have been active in civil society on a voluntary basis. Young people living in urban areas who are members of families in a better economic situation are more inclined toward political activism.
- Although there is a high degree of frustration with the situation in all important areas that matter in the present and future, young people in Kosovo feel rather optimistic in their forecast of the future, as 62 per cent of them believe that the economic situation of people in Kosovo will improve over the next 10 years. Young people who are members of families that are not financially well off are also more optimistic about the future, as are young people living in rural areas.
- It is surprising that both main ethnic groups single out “poor people” and “disabled people” as groups that have fewer rights in Kosovo. This confirms that the biggest problems are of a socio-economic nature, and relate to poverty and unemployment.

Young people do not express great interest in political events, regardless of whether the issue involves global politics, local politics, Kosovo or EU politics. Between 65% and 76% of respondents⁷ are not interested or not interested at all in political events, depending on the scale of the political event. Young people express more interest in local governance, followed by politics at the national level, while there is less interest in the EU and world politics.

On the other hand, there has been a dramatic change among Kosovo youth compared to the same study conducted in 2012. In 2012 interest in national politics was considerable, with about 56% of the young people interviewed reporting that they are “very interested” or “interested” in Kosovo politics, whereas 6 years

later this figure is 4 times lower (13%). This strong shift in interest in national politics together with diminishing trust in politicians and political institutions reflect a wider rejection of being seen as interested in politics than it does a real reduction in interest.

FIGURE 48: Interest in politics comparing 2012 to 2018

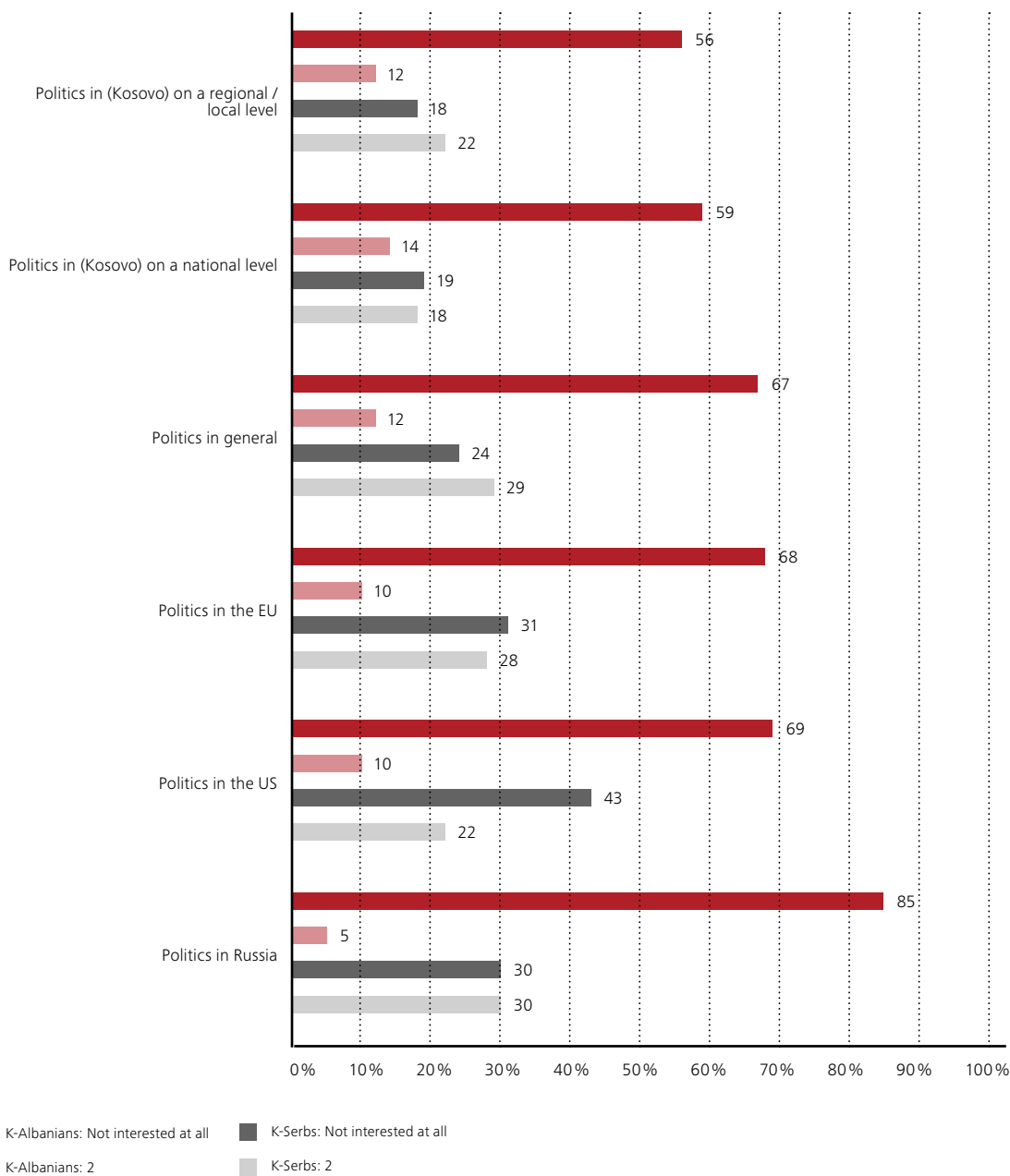


Focus-group discussions painted a slightly different picture. Participants declared that they perceive politics as a part of their everyday lives. They do not participate in political initiatives, but they inform themselves, and have conversations and debates almost every day. Many respondents are not happy with overall political developments. They perceive the political class to be corrupt, but also point out that this is the case with the whole of society in Kosovo. “How should we be happy when our Prime Minister, who is very rich, has increased his own salary? That is all he did.” (Vushtri, female, 25 years old).

Respondents are more interested in national politics when they have completed higher levels of education (Spearman’s rho=.224, p<0.001), or their father has completed a higher level of education (Spearman’s rho=.233, p<0.001). Older youth are obviously more interested in politics than their younger peers (Spearman’s rho=.153, p<0.001). Moreover, younger people who live in urban areas are slightly more interested than those in rural areas (Spearman’s rho=-.129, p<0.001).

Respondents in different ethnic groups voice very different responses to this question. Kosovo Albanians appear to not be interested in politics, while Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Turks are more interested in local and national politics, or politics in general.

FIGURE 49: Disinterest in politics for different ethnic groups (showing only those who are “not interested at all” and “not interested”)



HOW OFTEN DO YOU DISCUSS POLITICS WITH YOUR FAMILY OR ACQUAINTANCES?

When asked about how often they discuss politics with family or acquaintances, around 63 % of Kosovo youth respond with “never” or “rarely”. Respondents are more likely to discuss politics with family or acquaintances when they complete higher levels of education (Spearman’s rho=.265, p<0.001), or their father has completed a higher level of education (Spearman’s rho=.272, p<0.001). Older youth are obviously more interested in politics than their younger peers (Spearman’s rho=.207, p<0.001). Moreover, younger people who live in urban areas are slightly more interested than those who live in rural areas (Spearman’s rho=

.098, p<0.001). There is a strong correlation between young individuals who are interested in national politics and those who discuss these issues more with family and friends (Spearman’s rho=.576, p<0.001).

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS AND BELIEFS ALIGNED WITH THOSE OF YOUR PARENTS?

Parents do not have a great influence on the political views of young people in Kosovo. Around one-third of youth in Kosovo do not align their views and beliefs with their parents, while another quarter of young people say they do not know or did not answer

FIGURE 50: Level of discussion of politics with family or acquaintances

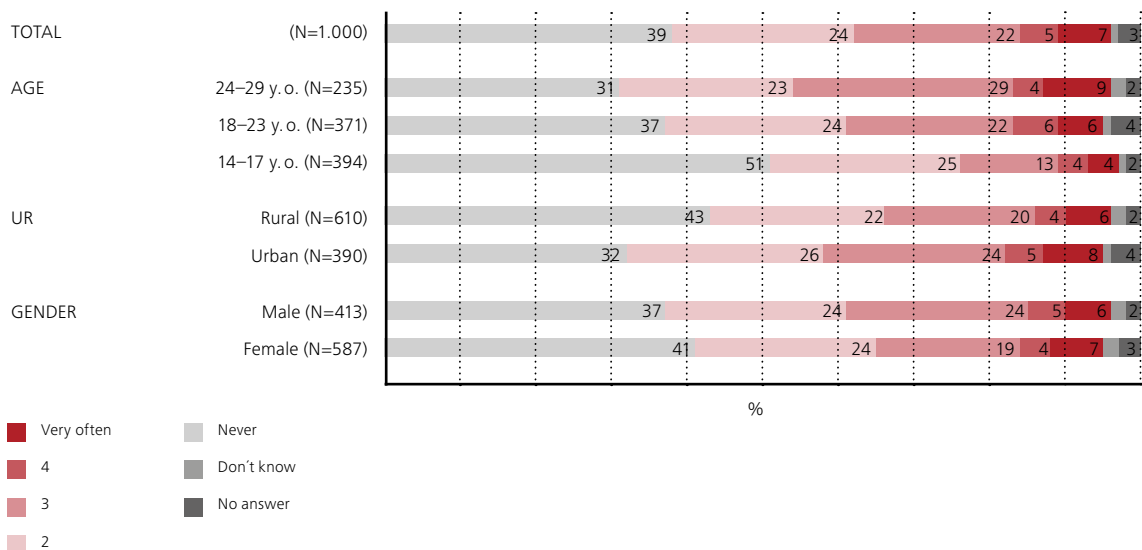
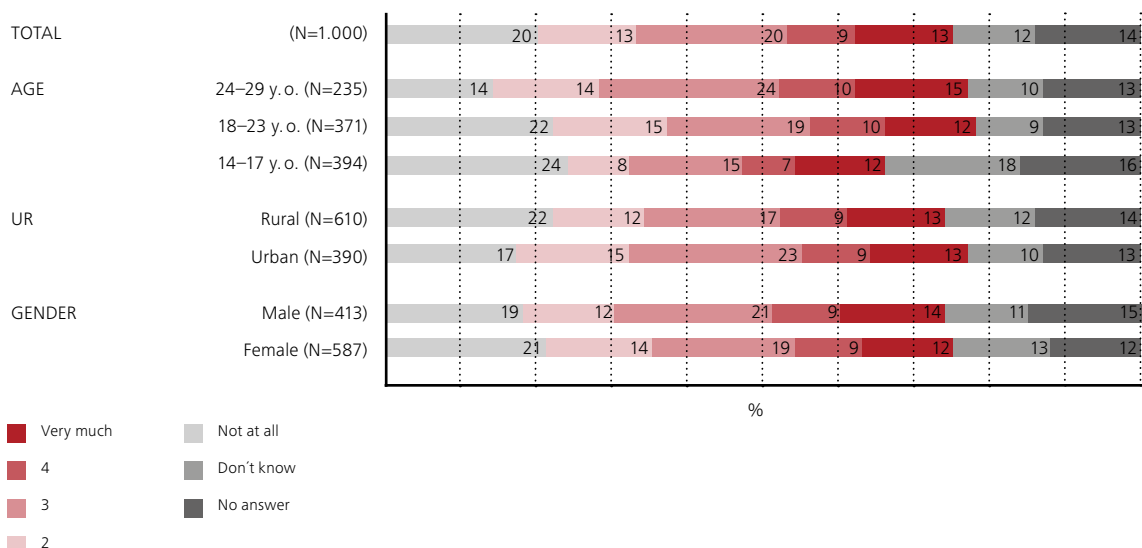


FIGURE 51: Political views alignment compared to respective parents



this question. These figures show a significant potential shift in political orientation between generations.

Statistical correlations show some similar results compared to the previous questions. The most striking correlation is that political views are more aligned in families that discuss politics more often (Spearman’s rho=.487, p<0.001). Once again, the higher the level of education of the father of the family, the greater the similarity between the political views of younger individuals and those of their parents (Spearman’s rho=.223, p<0.001).

HOW WELL DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE’S INTERESTS ARE REPRESENTED IN NATIONAL POLITICS?

Only 10% of young Kosovars think that their interests are represented “well” or “very well” in national politics. This opinion that there is a lack of representation is almost the same across all the main demographic categories of the young population. The only significant statistical correlation is with younger individuals, who are very optimistic about the economic situation of people in Kosovo in the next 10 years (Spearman’s rho=.150, p<0.001)

FIGURE 52: Young people’s interests represented in national politics

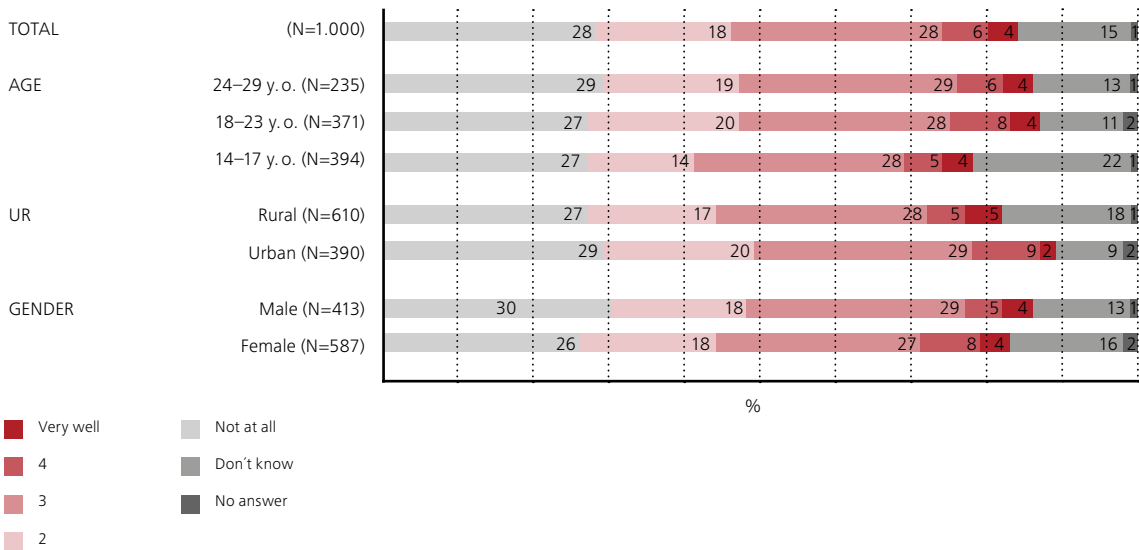
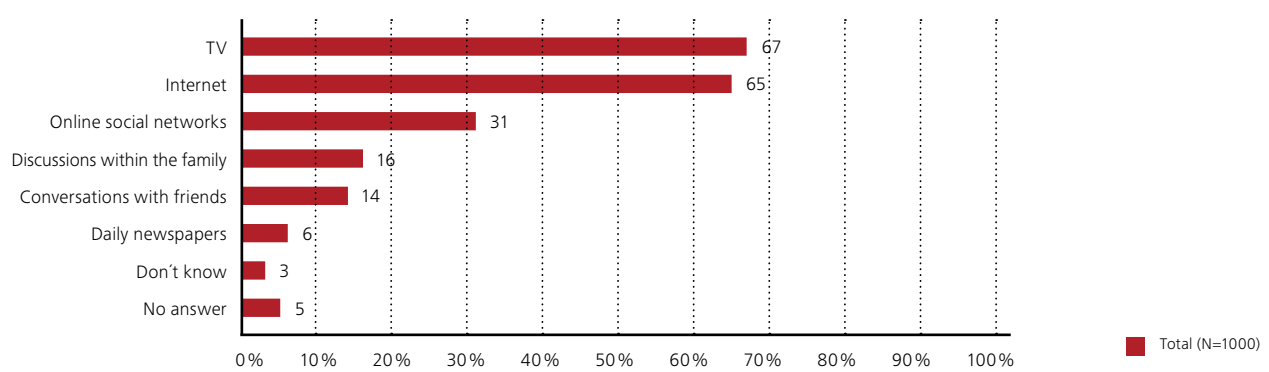


FIGURE 53: Main sources of information on politics



WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON POLITICS?

Regarding interest in political events, young people were asked how they get information on politics. TV and Internet compete as the main information tool for political issues. If we combine the Internet and online social networks, then we have the most important tool regarding these issues. There is quite an interesting difference between young people who use TV or the Internet as their main source of information. Young people who are members of the older age cohort (24–29) use the Internet as their main information tool (Spearman’s rho=.071, p=0.025). Moreover, the higher the level of education, the more they use the Internet as their main tool (Spearman’s rho=.185, p<0.001). On the other hand, those who use the Internet as an information tool are less likely to have voted in the last election (Spearman’s rho=-.165, p<0.001).

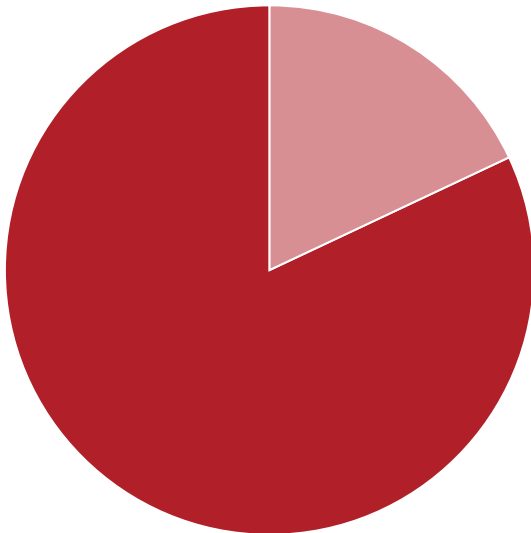
Young people who mostly use TV to get information are usually a bit younger (Spearman’s rho=-.063, p=0.046), have completed less education (Spearman’s rho=-.079, p=0.013) and are

more likely to live in rural areas (Spearman’s rho=.127, p<0.001). They were more likely to have voted in the last elections (Spearman’s rho=.080, p<0.012), and are much more optimistic about the economic situation of Kosovo in the next 10 years (Spearman’s rho=.143, p<0.001)

VOTING DURING ELECTIONS

Given the low level of interest in politics and limited tendency to discuss politics, one would expect an inevitably low level of youth participation in political life and use of the democratic right to vote. In this study, young people were asked how often they vote in parliamentary and local elections. Although the level of interest in politics is low, the level of participation by young people in elections is very high, with 82 per cent of those who had the right to vote having voted in the last elections. These data indicate that there could be other reasons that need to be explored in future studies that motivate young people to get out and vote, regardless of their lack of interest in politics.

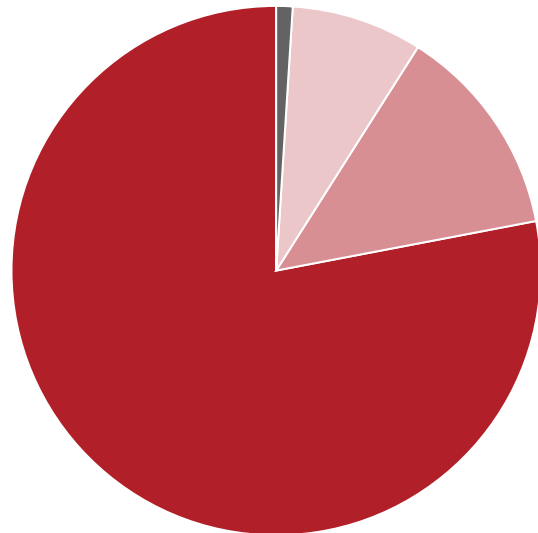
FIGURE 54: Voting in last elections



Total (N=616)

- Yes: 82%
- No, although I had the right to vote: 18%

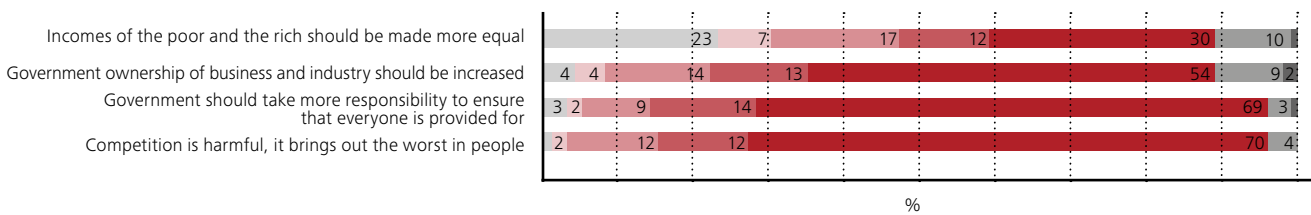
FIGURE 55: Voting if elections were held today



Total (N=1.000)

- Yes: 78%
- No: 13%
- Don't know: 8%
- No answer: 1%

FIGURE 56: Attitude toward different policies



%

- Totally agree
- 4
- 3
- 2
- Totally disagree
- Don't know
- No answer

Statistically significant differences between groups of respondents were found in some cases. Females are less inclined to vote compared to males (Spearman’s rho=-.068, p=0.025), and young people in rural areas have a higher participation rate in the last elections (Spearman’s rho=-0.065, p=0.033).

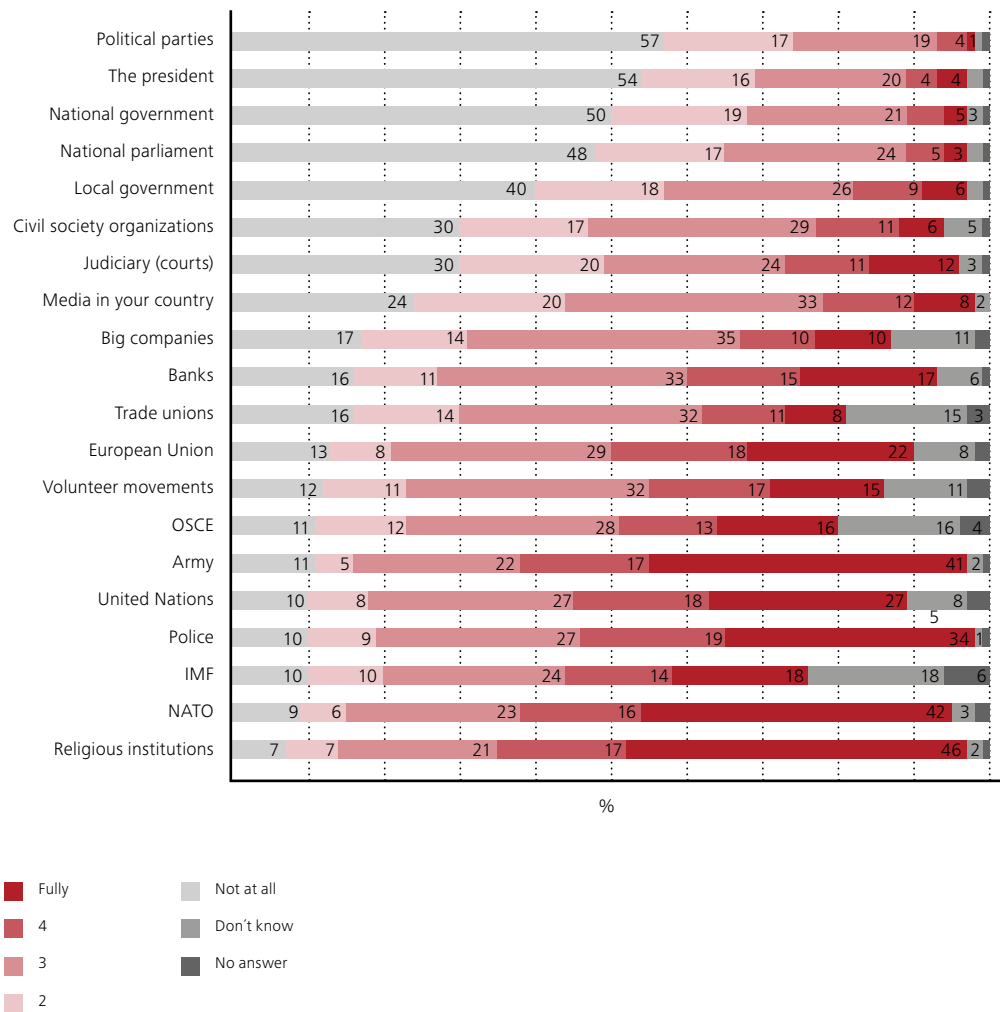
Very similar results are produced when young people are asked if they would vote in national parliamentary elections if they were to be held today and they were eligible to vote. 78 per cent of young people state that they would vote in the next elections, while 13 per cent respond say that they would not vote.

OPPOSING POLITICAL STANCES – LEFT TO RIGHT ON THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM

With respect to individuals’ positioning on the left to the right of the political spectrum, young people tend to have problems understanding these categories and positioning themselves on the scale. The majority of respondents (65%) believe that they tend to share a centrist political orientation, while only 20% and 15%, respectively, share “right-wing” and “left-wing” political views.

Political categories of “left and right” do not mean anything to a large number of young people; hence their attitude toward politics is different. When asked if incomes of the poor and rich should be made more equal, this statement meets with more approval by younger people who position themselves on the “right” side of the politic spectrum, reflecting the uncertainty and contradictions existing with regard to these political aspects (Spearman’s rho=.155, p=0.001). Moreover, young people who

FIGURE 57: Acceptance of different national and international institutions



support these “leftist” ideas more are more numerous in rural areas (Spearman’s rho=.093, p=0.003) and are usually not satisfied with the state of democracy in Kosovo (Spearman’s rho=-.105, p=0.001).

On the other hand, there is greater trust in religious institutions and international organisations like NATO and the OSCE. Furthermore, confidence in the army and police is much greater than in other services of the public sector.

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

One important issue in connection with the legitimacy and satisfaction of citizens with democratic society is their trust in institutions. Young people were offered to state their degree of trust or distrust towards 20 (public and private) institutions on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means “no trust” and 5 “great trust”.

Generally speaking, there is a high level of mistrust in all political institutions, from political parties to local government. This is probably also influenced by recent general and local elections and political deadlocks over the issue of demarcating the border with Montenegro and other political issues. Moreover, there is a higher degree of scepticism among youth regarding civil society organisations and media outlets.

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN KOSOVO IN GENERAL?

Only 19 per cent of youth in Kosovo are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the state of democracy in Kosovo. Young people who are over 23 and less than 30 years old are less satisfied compared to the younger age cohorts (Spearman’s rho=-.080, p=0.008). At the same time, young people who have completed higher levels of education are generally less satisfied with the state of democracy (Spearman’s rho=-.099, p=0.001). On the other hand, young people living in urban areas are slightly more satisfied with the situation of democracy in Kosovo (Spearman’s rho=-.062, p=0.039).

FIGURE 58: Satisfaction with the state of democracy

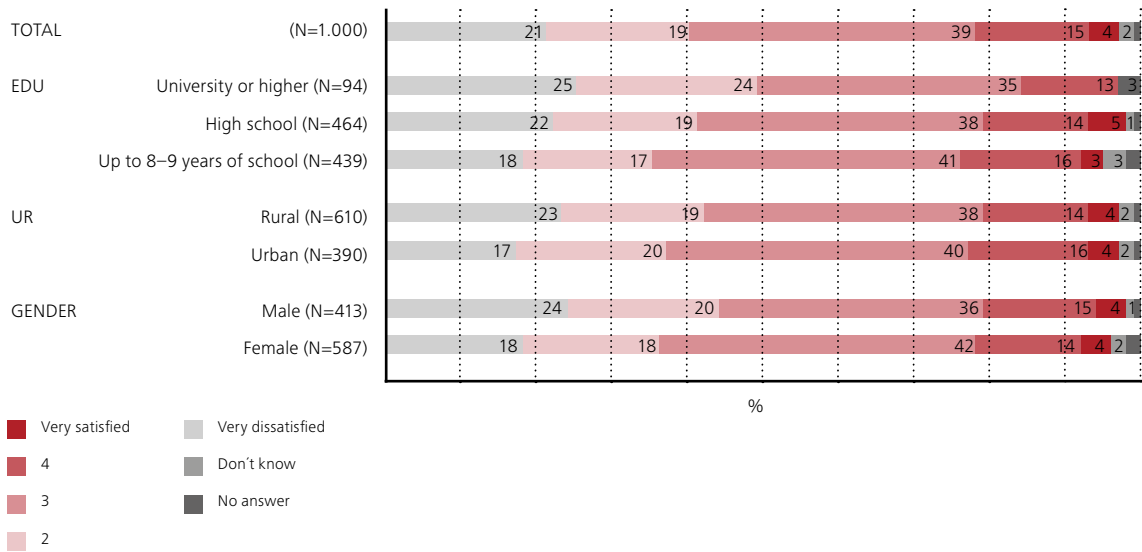
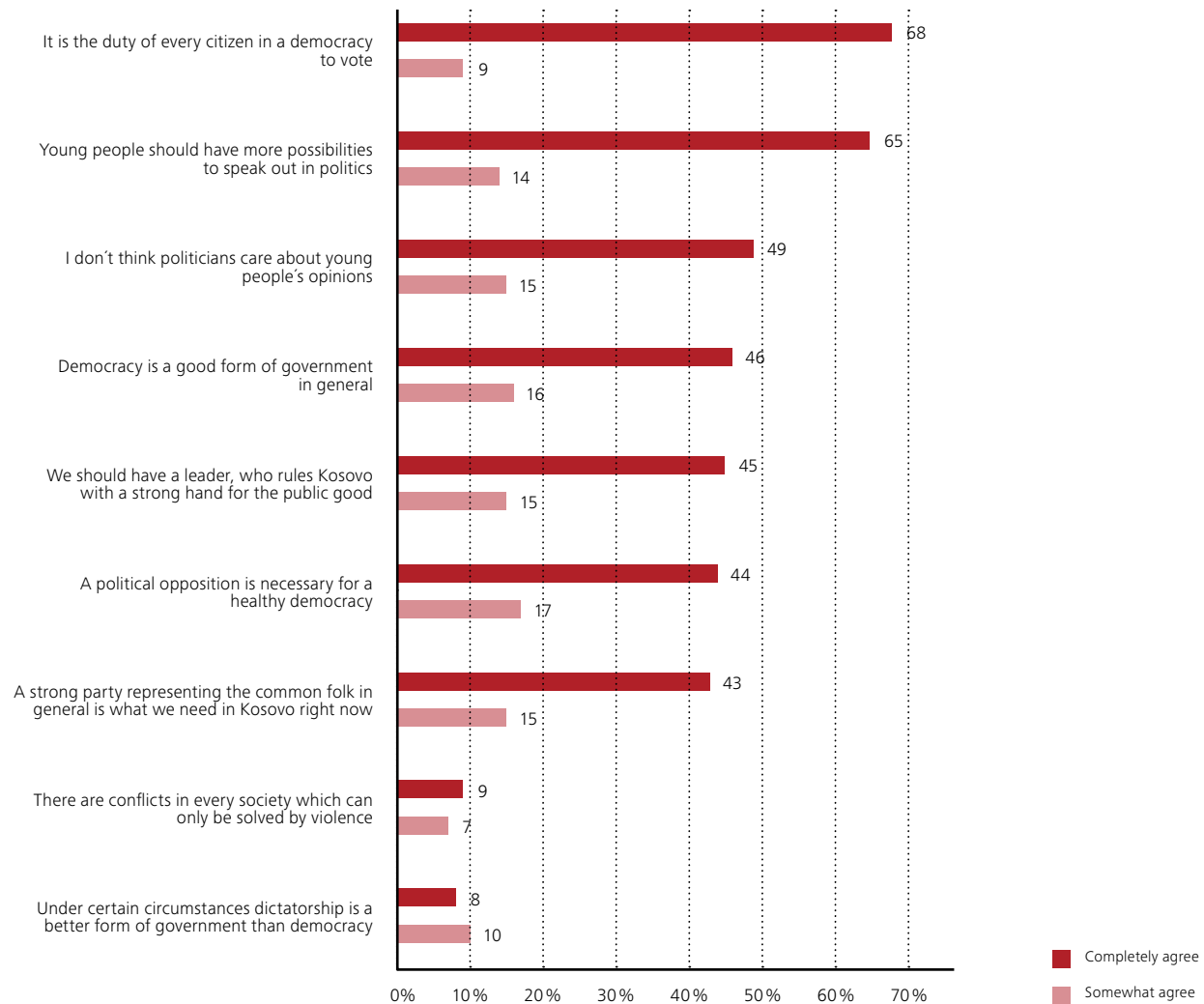


FIGURE 59: Agreement with specific political opinions



POLITICAL OPINIONS

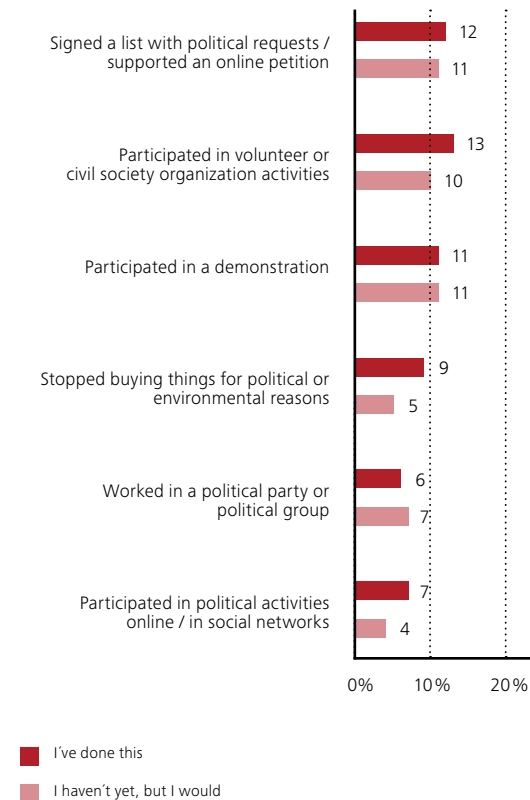
There is a considerable consensus among 77 per cent of young people who somewhat or completely agree that citizens have the duty to vote in a democracy. Around 62 per cent share the opinion that democracy is somehow a good form of government and opposition is needed for a healthy democracy. However, political turmoil and fragile governments probably push almost 60 per cent of young people to favour a “strong leadership” which could mean both a strong democratic leader or a strong leader with some tendencies towards dictatorship. Moreover, it appears that 18 per cent of young people favour a clear-cut dictatorship under certain circumstances.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

As regards other ways to express political positions, few young people engage in any of the main forms of activism. We have determined the extent to which young people in Kosovo are active in public and civic life, and whether or not they are engaged in different activities. The results of this quantitative survey demonstrate that civic activism is unpopular among young people, as only 13 per cent have volunteered for a civil society activity. Involvement in other political activities, such as participation in political demonstrations or signing petitions is still low at around 11–12 per cent. Among all the various methods of expressing a political position, Kosovar youth even use “consumer activism”, which means expressing a political or environmental position by boycotting goods originating in some country, although only 9 per cent of young people have used this form of expression. People living in urban areas (Spearman’s $\rho = -.174$, $p < 0.001$) and males (Spearman’s $\rho = .098$, $p = 0.001$) usually exhibit a slightly greater tendency to engage in these activities. Moreover, young people who are part of families with a better economic standing are more inclined to take part in civic activities (Spearman’s $\rho = .150$, $p < 0.001$). As expected, young Kosovars who are less satisfied with their lives in general have more chances to take part in activist activities (Spearman’s $\rho = .063$, $p = 0.038$).

Taking into account ethnic divisions, Kosovo Serbs exhibit a much higher degree of activism, with at least 30 per cent of these young people having participated in voluntary activities, and a slightly greater commitment when it comes to political activities.

FIGURE 60: Engagement in different forms of activism



TO WHAT EXTENT SHOULD THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOCUS ON REALISATION OF THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES?

The top priority task for the government with regard to young people in Kosovo is to tackle the unemployment issue, and this opinion is shared across the three main ethnic groups in Kosovo. Other important tasks to focus on include economic growth and the fight against crime and corruption. This position reflects the attitude of a majority of young people in Kosovo on political priorities. The study findings show a relatively homogenous perception of Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs on a variety of issues, with a few statistically significant differences on some issues. Kosovo Albanians appear to expect everything from the government, as at least nine objectives to be very important to more than 70 per cent. The fight against corruption should be the second most important objective for the government for both Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Turks, while Kosovo Serbs appear not to approve of a strengthening of military power or efforts to foster national identity. The chart shows that almost every problem enquired about within the scope of this study is alarming to young Kosovo Albanian youngsters.

A sizable part of the focus-group participants admitted that they have witnessed bribery or nepotism in connection with education and employment, confirming that fair employment together with unemployment and corruption remain the main

FIGURE 61: Preferable objectives for the national government according to different ethnic groups

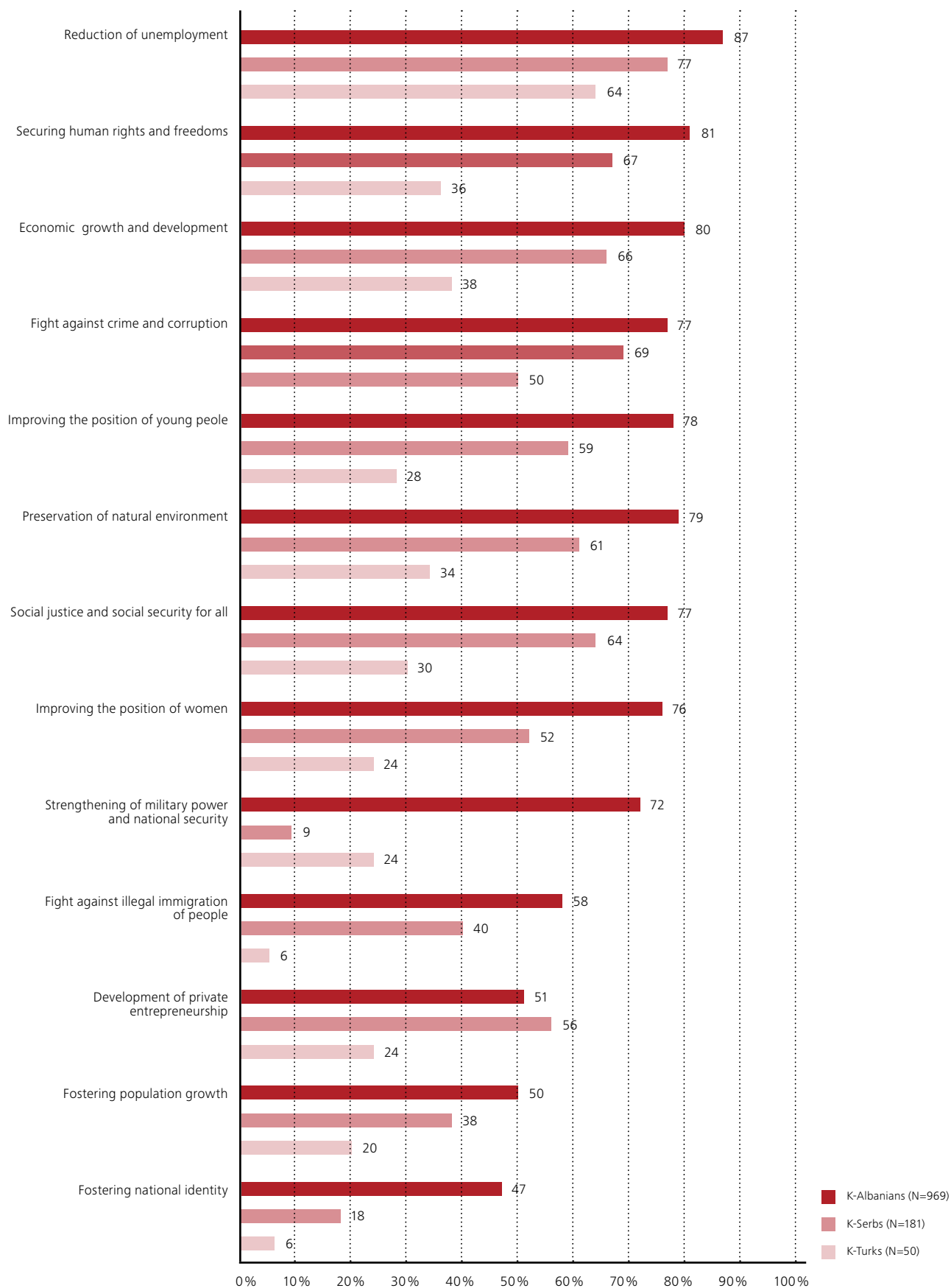


FIGURE 62: **Future expectations for the economic situation in Kosovo**

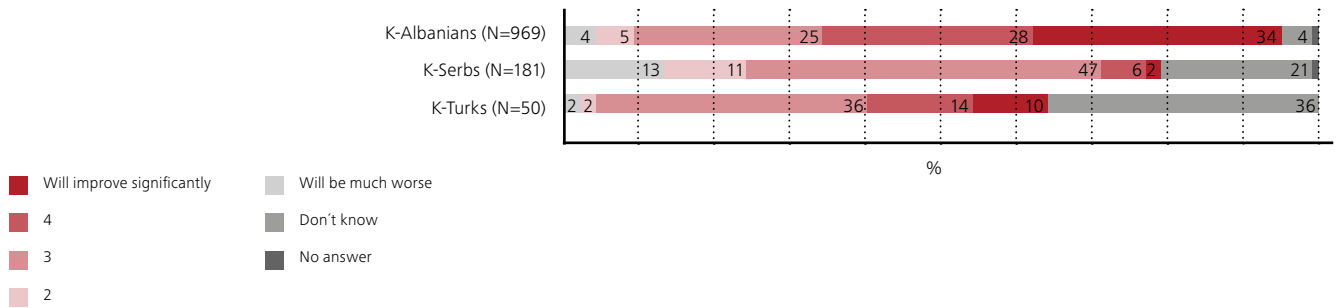
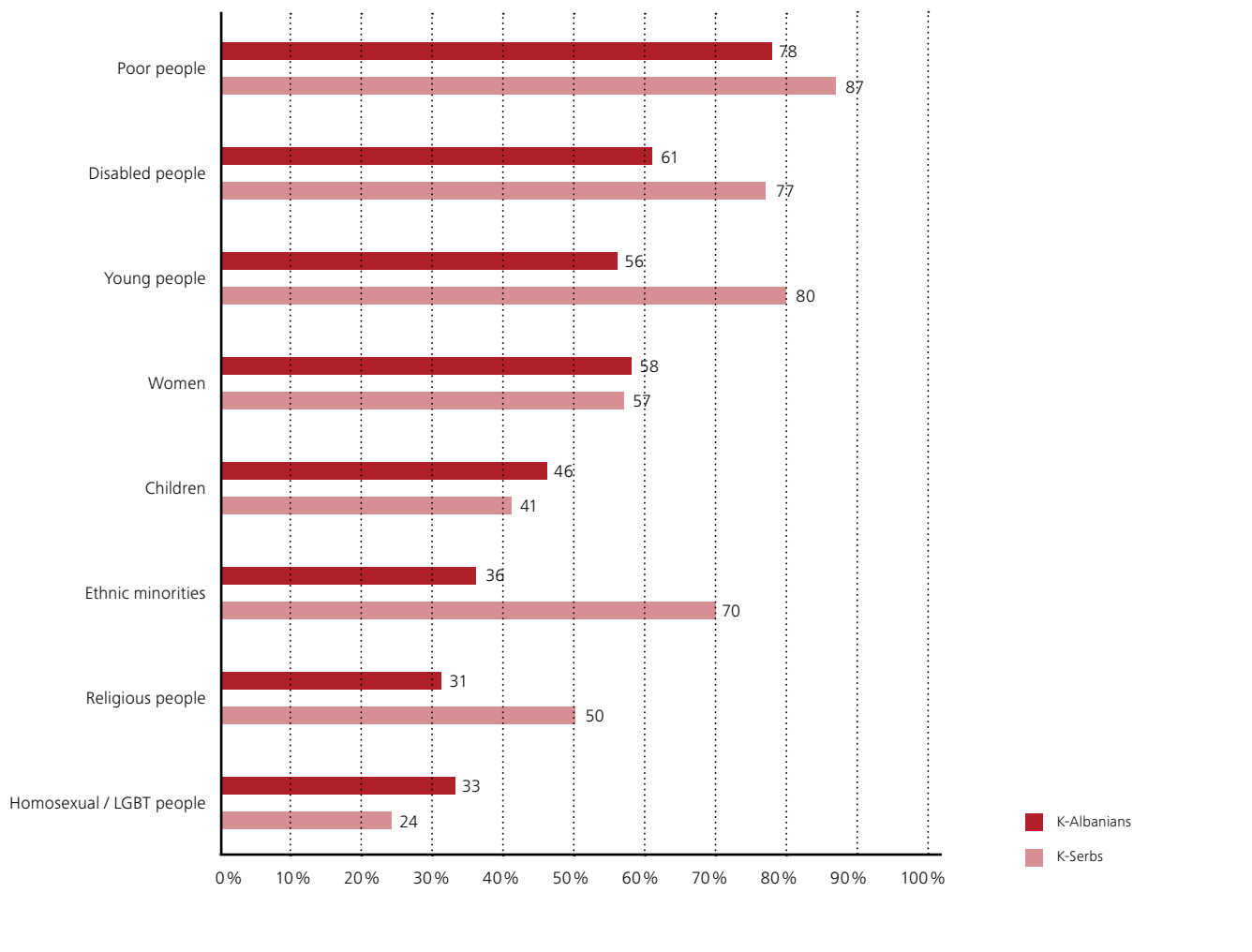


FIGURE 63: **Shown 'Not enough rights only'**



priority tasks that the government should tackle to ensure a better future for young people in Kosovo.

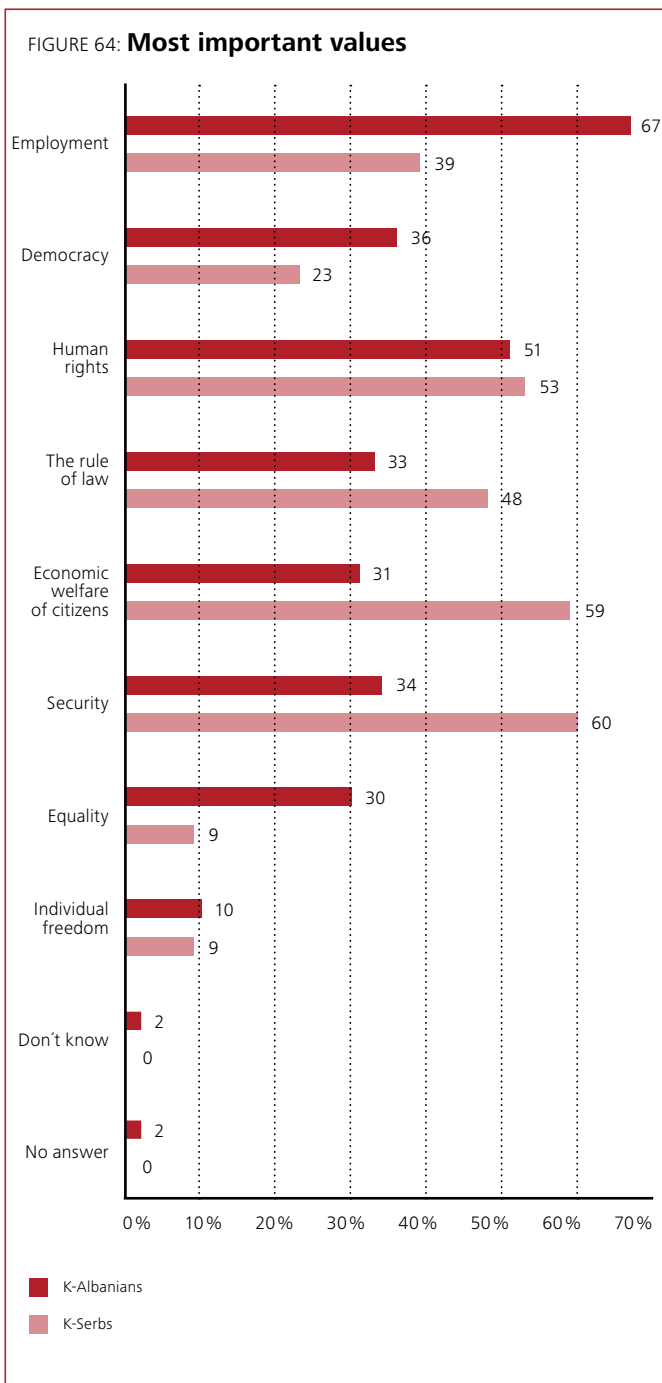
THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF PEOPLE IN KOSOVO OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS

As for future expectations, young Kosovo Albanians feel rather optimistic, with 62 per cent of them believing that the economic situation of people in Kosovo will improve over the next 10 years

(34% – will improve significantly, 28% – will improve to some extent). It is rather to be expected that very few Kosovo Serbs expect that the economic situation in Kosovo will improve, with the bulk of them expecting the situation not to change. Young Kosovo Turks appear to have an opinion lying between the other two ethnic groups, although a fair number of them did not know how to answer to this question. The statistical correlations show that the young people who are on the poor side of the wealth index score are slightly more optimistic about the future (Spearman’s rho=-.070, p=0.021). Moreover, young people living in rural areas are also more optimistic (Spearman’s rho=.160, p<0.001).

WHICH GROUPS DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH RIGHTS IN YOUR COUNTRY?

It is surprising that both main ethnic groups single out “poor people” and “disabled people” as the groups that have fewer rights in Kosovo. This is probably related to explicit attitudes about problems in Kosovo society, as the biggest problems are of a socio-economic nature, related to poverty and unemployment, and subterfuge other issues that could be related more to the expression of rights in Kosovo society. The study findings appear to indicate relatively homogenous perceptions among both main ethnic groups, except when they are asked about the rights of ethnic groups.



THREE MOST IMPORTANT VALUES

When asked about the three most important values for young people of Kosovo, the main important value for Kosovo Albanians remains employment (67 per cent), while Kosovo Serbs are also focused mostly on the economic welfare of citizens (59 per cent). It is worth mentioning that both groups included human rights as a top-three value.

On the other hand, Kosovo Serbs are more concerned about “security”, a value that they consider to be one of the top three issues of importance in 60 per cent of cases.

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

According to the current study, young people trust international organisations, EU institutions and NATO more than national or local institutions. Their high level of trust in international organisations can be explained by the active role of international institutions in helping Kosovo to gain independence and build a democracy.

Respondents were asked to evaluate several groups and institutions on a 1–5 trust scale, where 1 means “not at all” and 5 means “fully trust”.

Among young people in Kosovo, political parties, the government, the Parliament and the President are the least trusted institutions on average, scoring less than 2 points on the 5-point trust

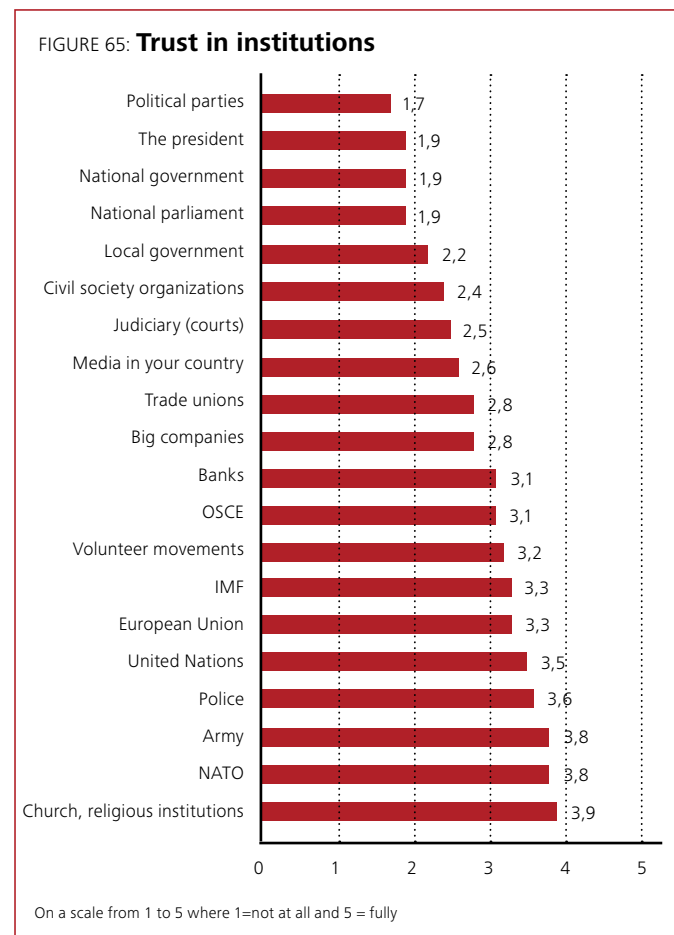
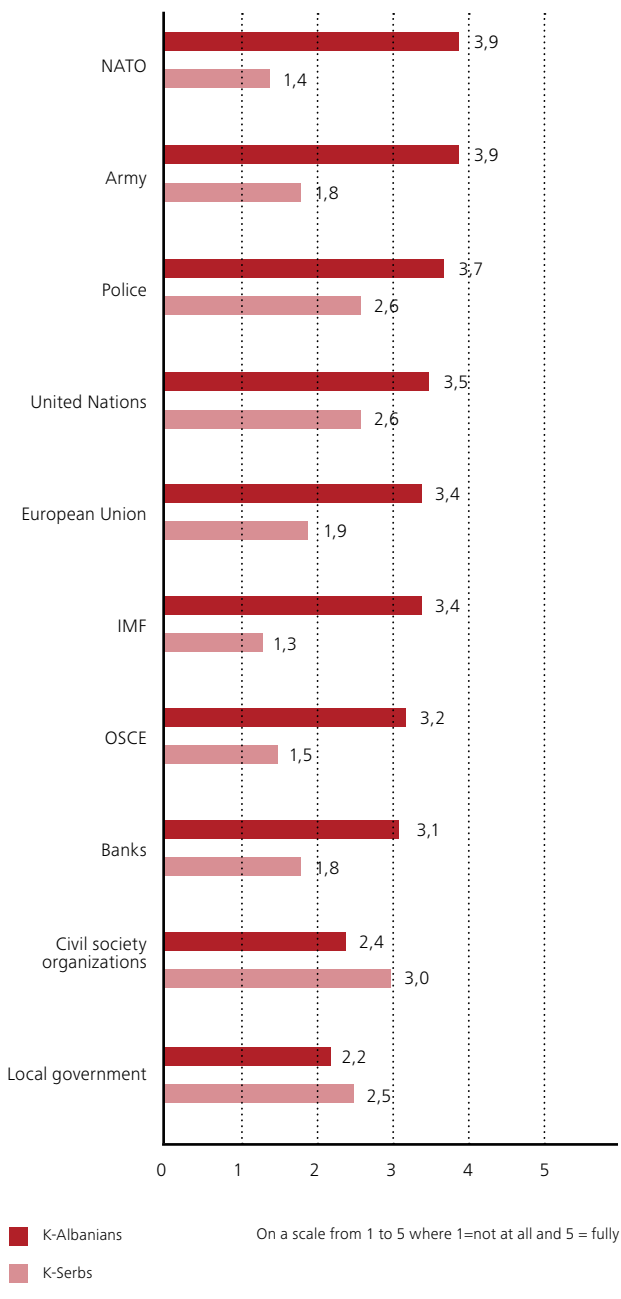


FIGURE 66: Differences in trust of institutions between two ethnic groups



Nevertheless, there are just two cases where young Kosovo Serbs have greater trust compared to young Kosovo Albanians. They have a greater trust in civil-society organisations and local government.

DISCUSSION

In terms of political ideology, in most cases young people in Kosovo are inclined to avoid a clear political orientation. On the other hand, they believe that the government is responsible for providing a social environment assuring equality and providing every citizen with basic necessities. Moreover, disadvantaged youth have a greater need for social justice. Nevertheless, the need for more social policies is not being pursued by means of civic activism among young people, as they feel that they receive sufficient support from their families.

The survey results imply that young Kosovars are rather disinterested in political activities and have negative attitudes towards politicians and political institutions. Young people view politics as an informal business and believe that people involved in politics have a huge amount of power and act solely in their personal interests.

Young people in Kosovo feel that they are excluded from political decision-making processes.

scale. This information, according to which young people in Kosovo have more trust in international political institutions than domestic institutions, media and civil society, is a bad indication of the state of democracy. The trust vested in the police and army are the only good examples of the institutions that still have high levels of trust and should be used as an example of other domestic institutions.

Statistically significant differences and a clear divide between two ethnic groups have been established for at least 9 institutions. Kosovo Albanians have a very great trust in international organisations, starting with NATO, the United Nations, EU, IMF and OSCE. On the other hand, Kosovo Serbs have very low level of trust in NATO, the IMF and OSCE, and an average level of trust in the United Nations.

9

ASPIRATIONS TO MIGRATE

This study examined various aspects of youth migration. Migration flows – voluntary and involuntary – have been a continuing pattern in the changing population of Kosovo. For the last two decades, migration flows have drastically intensified in the context of the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the war of independence. In 2014–2015 there was a new wave of emigration towards the European Union. While these young persons with their creative potential are making a positive contribution to other developed societies, their home country remains among the handful of underdeveloped countries in Europe.

On 14 June 2012, Kosovo received its much-awaited visa-liberalisation roadmap. The roadmap listed all the reforms and requirements that Kosovo needs to complete in order to qualify for visa-free travel to the Schengen area. Indeed, it had been a long wait. Kosovo is the only country in the Balkans whose citizens are still required to obtain a visa to enter the Schengen zone⁸. Kosovo is waiting for the final decision on the visa-liberalisation process by the European Parliament.

KEY FINDINGS

- The majority of Kosovo's young people do not intend to study or obtain training abroad. These figures show a low level of involvement with foreign education and training systems, while most young people in Kosovo expect to undergo education and training locally.
- Nearly half of Kosovo's young Albanians have a moderate to very strong intention to leave Kosovo. At the same time, around 55 per cent of Kosovo Serbs respond in the same manner. There is no difference with regard to the intention to migrate between age groups, levels of education, and wealth index scores, indicating that all the different groups have similar intentions of migrating.
- Out of those respondents that indicated some desire to migrate, Kosovo Albanians appear to have a stronger intention of migrating in the near future (at least in 51 per cent of cases). On the other hand, out of those Kosovo Serbs who have some intention of migrating, in 55 per cent of cases they are not sure when they will migrate.
- Nearly 40 per cent of Kosovo Albanians want to migrate for a short to medium period of time that is less than five years. On the other hand, close to 35 per cent want to migrate for good. Young people living in rural areas have a stronger desire to migrate for longer periods.
- Economic reasons are stated as the main reason for migration by around 63 per cent of all those who want to leave Kosovo for another country of destination. Those persons who can be considered "poor" are more likely to cite economic reasons for migration.
- Switzerland and Germany are the most preferred countries to migrate for Kosovars, with these countries being stated as the main preference for migration in 49 per cent of the cases. There has been a notable increase in preferences for France, Austria and Sweden, and a decline in preferences for the USA and Great Britain.
- One-quarter of young people from Kosovo who are willing to migrate have a good working knowledge of the language of their planned country of destination. It is interesting that a majority of those willing to migrate are not doing anything to prepare themselves in advance for their future migration, or that they merely have a desire to migrate, but are not taking any additional steps to set the migration process in motion.

FIGURE 67: Intention to study abroad

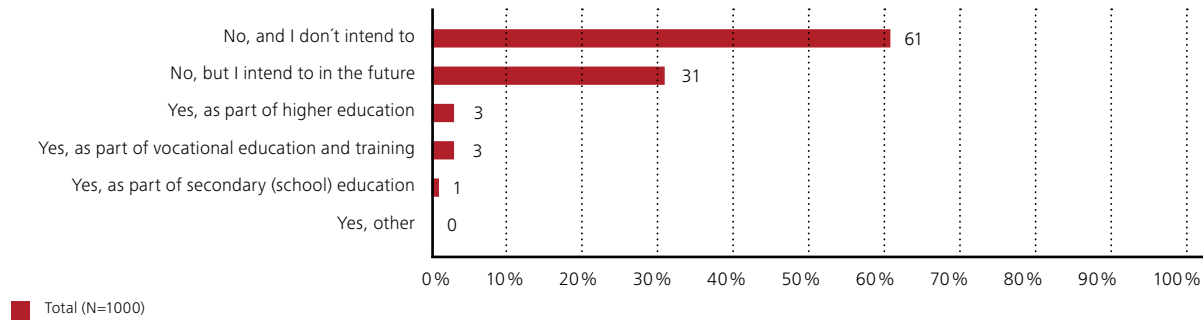
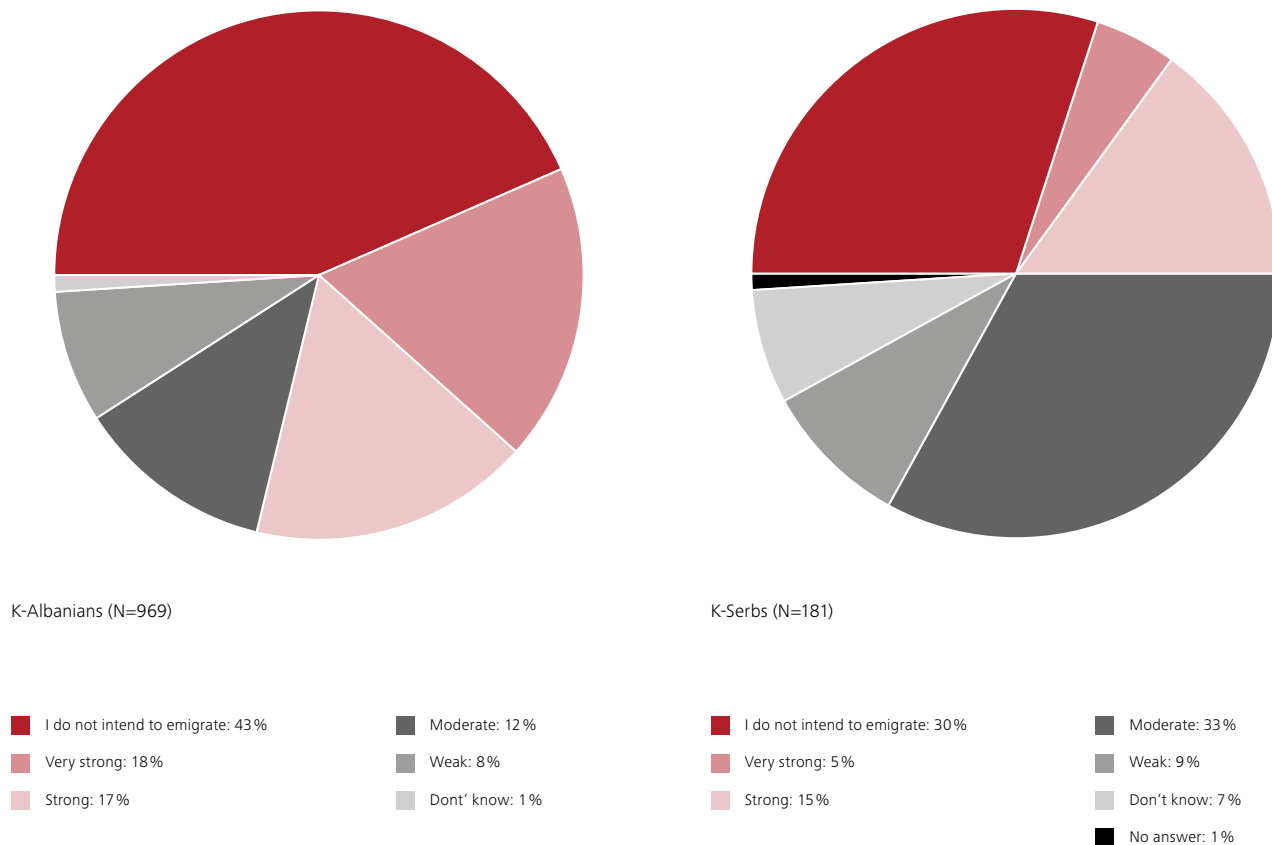


FIGURE 68: Intention to migrate for more than six months



— A high level of 63 per cent of young people from Kosovo state that they would accept jobs that are not desired by local populations. Those who would accept less desirable jobs are considered to want to migrate mainly for “economic reasons”, and as one would expect they tend to come from the “poorer” quintile of the wealth index.

In the context of this research, respondents were asked a set of questions regarding potential aspirations for a change in their place of residence, the motives for such and the preferred countries to which they wished to emigrate.

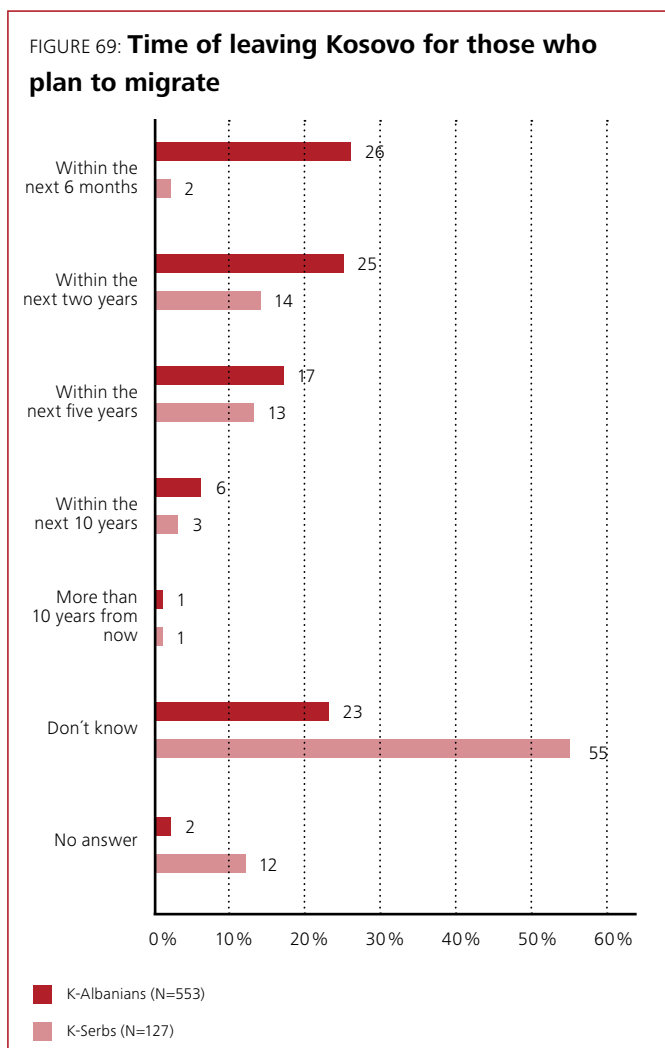
LEARNING OR TRAINING ABROAD

Although there is a considerable diaspora abroad, especially in Europe, the majority of Kosovo’s young people (61 per cent of cases) do not intend to study or train abroad. Very few of the respondents have been abroad and their contact with the world is not very great. Only three per cent of young Kosovars have been abroad to study at higher levels of education. Another three per cent have been abroad for vocational training and education. These figures show a low level of integration among young people in Kosovo with foreign education and training systems, and they usually expect to undergo education and training locally. Young people living in urban areas have had more experience studying abroad. Young people from Kosovo want to go abroad, but not primarily for educational or learning purposes.

Only 12 per cent of young people in Kosovo have been away from Kosovo for more than six months. These can be considered “returnees” in the sense that they have migrated, but for many reasons have decided to come back to Kosovo.

INTENTION TO MIGRATE FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS

47 per cent of young Kosovo Albanians have a moderate to very strong intention to leave Kosovo. At the same time, around 53 per cent of Kosovo Serbs respond in the same way. There is no difference between age groups or levels of education with regard to the intention to migrate. There is no difference even in those cases in which young people are members of families with different levels of economic standing. Only one statistically significant correlation was identified between this variable and the respondents’ gender, as males have a stronger tendency to migrate (Spearman’s rho=.062, p=0.041). As expected, those persons who strongly want to migrate correlate with those who want to migrate as soon as possible (Spearman’s rho=-.263, p<0.001) and those who want to stay longer in the country of destination (Spearman’s rho=.304, p<0.001).



TIME OF MIGRATION AWAY FROM KOSOVO AND MIGRATION PLANS

Regarding the time to migrate away from Kosovo, there is quite a difference between Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs. Only respondents that showed some desire to migrate were asked about the time that they think will depart from Kosovo to migrate abroad. Kosovo Albanians appear to have a strong intention to migrate in the near future – at least in 51 per cent of the cases. Kosovo Serbs mainly have a desire to migrate, but in 55 per cent of cases are not sure about when they will migrate. We tested several indicators in order to determine any statistical significance with the desire to migrate as soon as possible and found some correlations. The age of young people shows a strong correlation, as the older they become, the sooner they want to migrate abroad (Spearman’s rho=-.354, p<0.001). At the same time, young males want to migrate faster, exhibiting the same tendency as young people living in rural areas (Spearman’s rho=-.136, p=0.003).

Regarding plans with respect to the length of stay in the country of destination in the event of migration, there are once again widely differing results between Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs. Nearly 40 per cent of Kosovo Albanians want to migrate

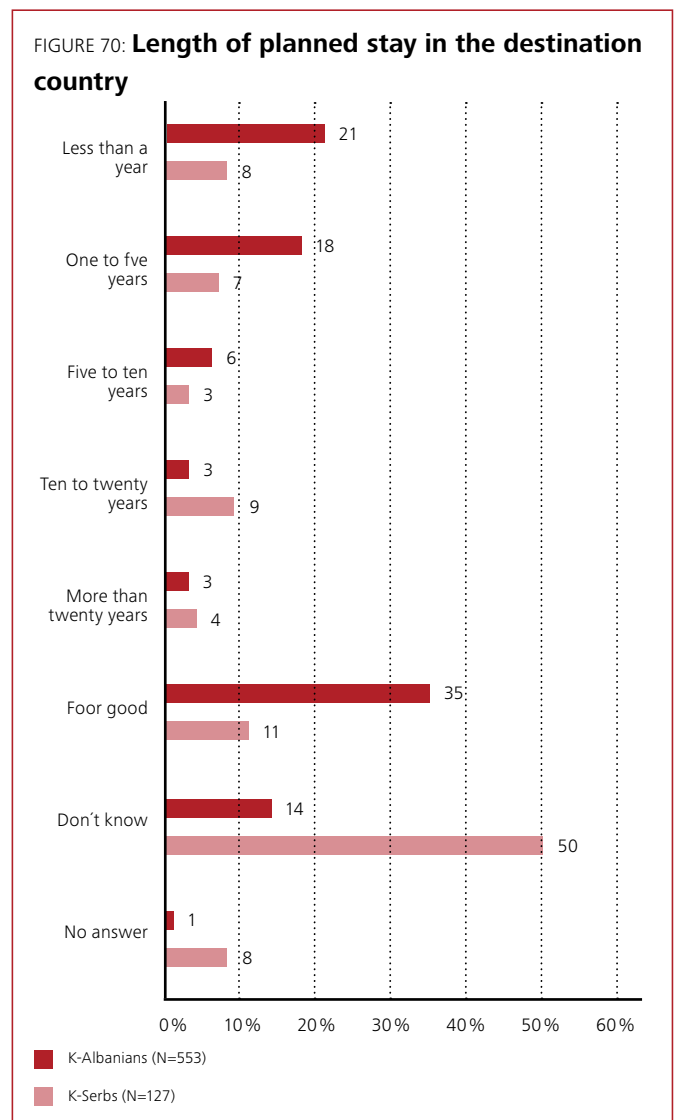
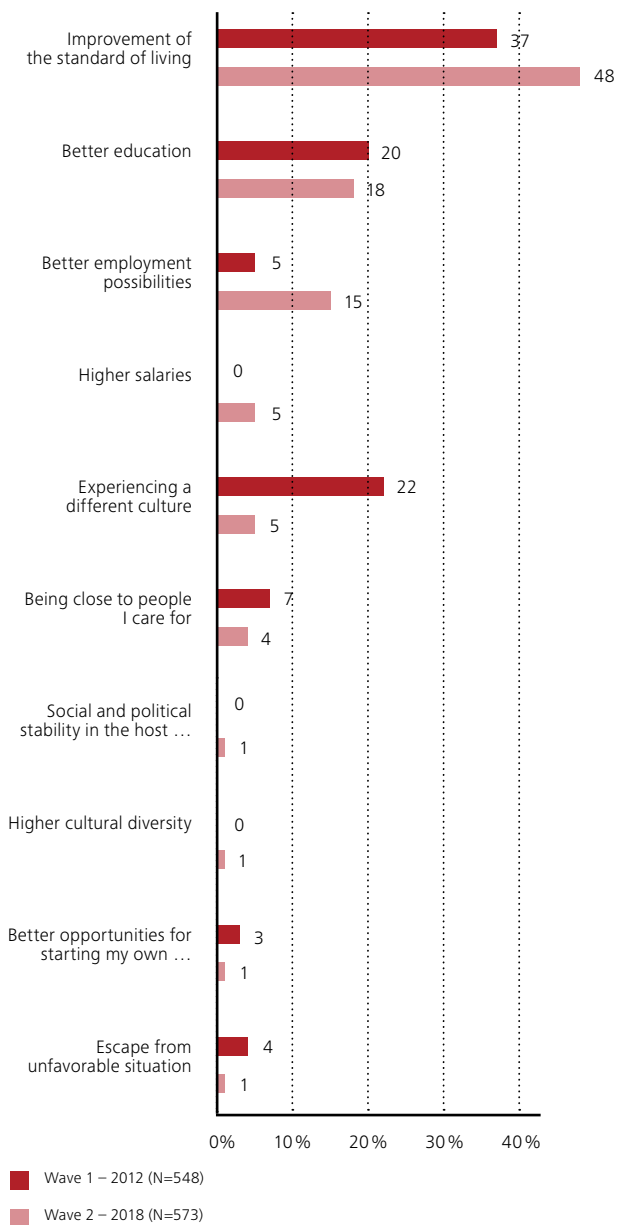


FIGURE 71: Reasons to migrate comparing 2012 to 2018



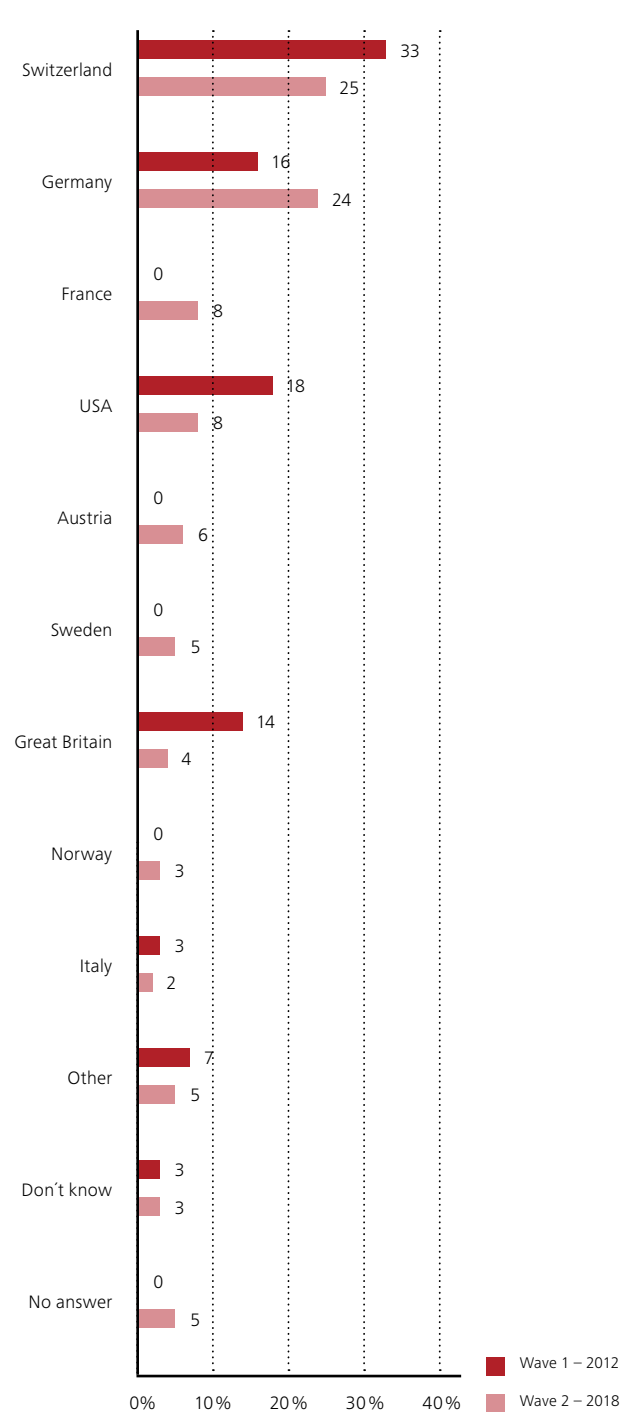
for a medium period of less than five years. On the other hand, close to 35 per cent want to migrate for good. Around half of Kosovo Serbs are not sure about the period of time for their probable migration.

Young people living in rural areas have a stronger desire to migrate for longer periods (Spearman's $\rho = -.165$, $p < 0.001$), and the older the young people wishing to migrate are, the longer they want to stay abroad (Spearman's $\rho = .177$, $p < 0.001$).

REASONS TO MIGRATE

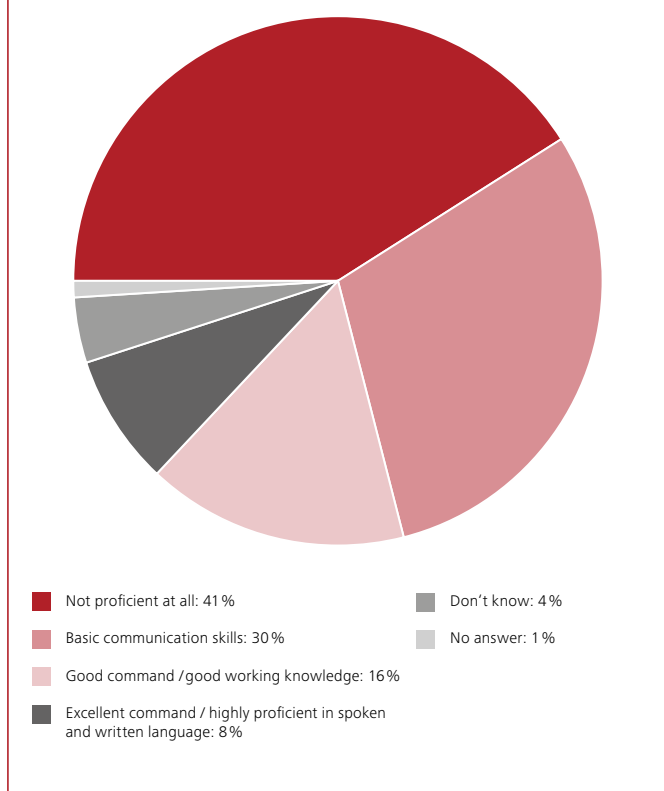
Respondents were asked what they had done so far in order to prepare to leave the country and their reasons for migrating. 69 per cent of those who want to migrate state that they have done nothing to this end. They just have a desire to migrate, but have

FIGURE 72: Where would you prefer to move to?



not taken any steps in that direction. Nearly 20 per cent of them have contacted friends/relatives in order to obtain help from them to move abroad. We made a comparison about the reasons for migrating between 2012 and 2018. It is obvious that in 2018 young people in Kosovo are driven to migrate more for economic reasons. Having a better standard of living abroad stands out as the main reason in 48% of the cases. Moreover, finding better employment opportunities has become the third main reason to migrate. Combining these two reasons, we have devised a composite "economic reasons" indicator, which was selected by around 63 per cent of all those who want to leave Kosovo for

FIGURE 73: **What is your level of proficiency of the official language of the host-country? (N=573)**



another country of destination. There are several statistically significant correlations between “economic reasons” for leaving Kosovo and other variables. The wealth index score is negatively correlated with it, which means that those individuals who can be considered “poor” are more willing to cite economic reasons for migration (Spearman’s $\rho = -.096$, $p = 0.017$). Moreover, those persons living in rural areas (Spearman’s $\rho = .099$, $p = 0.014$) and those who have completed higher levels of education once again state economic reasons as the main reasons for migration.

COUNTRIES PREFERRED FOR MIGRATION

Switzerland and Germany are the most preferred countries to migrate to for Kosovars, with these countries being stated as the main preference for migration in 49 per cent of cases. The large Kosovar diaspora in Switzerland and Germany mirrors the percentages in the answers stated by the respondents. On the other hand, there is a notable increase in preferences for France, Austria and Sweden, which were not among the main preferences six years ago. On the other hand, there has been a decline in preferences for the USA and Britain, with both these countries being assigned a high level of preference in 2012. Although only 23 per cent of Kosovars view themselves to be Europeans, Europe remains undisputedly the favourite destination for purposes of migration.

In the countries mentioned above, the existence of relatively large Kosovar diaspora communities should be noted. The sizes of these communities roughly mirror the percentages of answers given by the young people of Kosovo.

PROFICIENCY IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

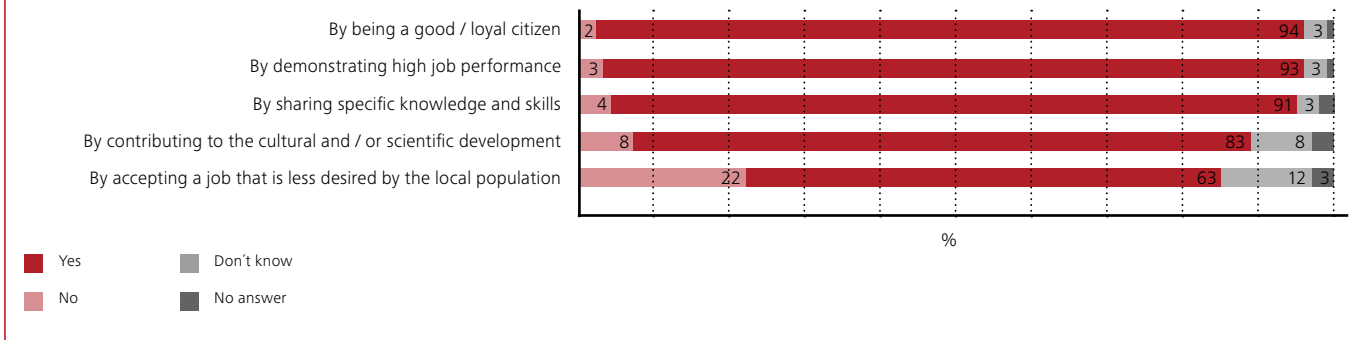
Only 24 per cent of young people from Kosovo who are willing to migrate have a good working knowledge of the language of their planned country of destination. This figure shows that young people do not prepare themselves in advance for future migration, or that they merely have a desire to migrate, without having taken further steps to start the migration process. On the other hand, around 87 per cent of young Kosovars are willing to learn the language of the countries of destination. There are some statistically significant correlations between the level of knowledge of the country of destination’s language and other variables. The wealth index score is correlated positively, which means that those who can be considered “richer” have greater chances of knowing the country of destination’s language (Spearman’s $\rho = .210$, $p < 0.001$). On the other hand, those individuals who plan to move in the near future have greater knowledge of the country of destination’s language, indicating that these young people have been preparing for some time for the upcoming migration (Spearman’s $\rho = -.091$, $p = 0.051$).

CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY OF THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

Those individuals who want to migrate also display a greater desire to contribute to the development and prosperity of the country of destination. In more than 90 per cent of cases, young people from Kosovo aspire to be good citizens abroad and to perform at a high level in their jobs.

A high level – 63 per cent – of young people from Kosovo would accept jobs that are not desired by local populations. There are some statistically significant correlations between “accepting a less-desired job” and other variables. Those individuals who would accept less desirable jobs want to migrate mainly for “economic reasons” (Spearman’s $\rho = .130$, $p = 0.003$). They also have a strong desire to migrate (Spearman’s $\rho = .149$, $p = 0.001$) and want to migrate as soon as possible (Spearman’s $\rho = -.211$, $p < 0.001$). As one would expect, they are usually members of the “poorer” quintile of the wealth index (Spearman’s $\rho = -.129$, $p = 0.003$).

FIGURE 74: Level of contribution in the destination country



DISCUSSION ON MIGRATION

The survey of migration attitudes among Kosovo youth has produced some mixed results. On the one hand, the majority of young people in Kosovo are satisfied with their life in general, while a large share of respondents expect an improvement in their personal future in 10 years.

On the other hand, hopelessness when it comes to finding a good job and improving their economic lot are some of the reasons that prompt around 47 per cent of young Kosovo Albanians to have a moderate to very strong intention to migrate in the near future. Moreover, dissatisfaction with education, corruption, a low level of trust in institutions and other issues all give rise to resentment and displeasure, fuelling migration.

Young people's target countries remain Switzerland and Germany, reflecting the influence of the large Kosovar diaspora in these two countries. A large number of young people from Kosovo would accept jobs that are not desired by the local population. Apart from this, the motivation to migrate for educational reasons remains fairly low, creating an imbalance between the desire to migrate and work in the country of destination and the thirst for a better education abroad, which in and of itself can offer better job opportunities in the country of destination.

10

KOSOVO IDENTITY, EU AND NEIGHBOUR COUNTRIES

As discussed in the foregoing, trust of young people in Kosovo in international institutions was very high. Kosovo foreign policy has been a very demanding area of tasks for the government of Kosovo, especially in its attempts to gain more recognition for its independence, and to take further steps in the direction of the EU. Despite delays in the visa-liberalisation process, there is a great degree of trust in the European Union and strong support for EU membership. On the other hand, Kosovo and Albania have made some attempts to intensify relations, while at the same time the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia facilitated by the EU aims at a normalisation of relations between Belgrade and Pristina.

KEY FINDINGS

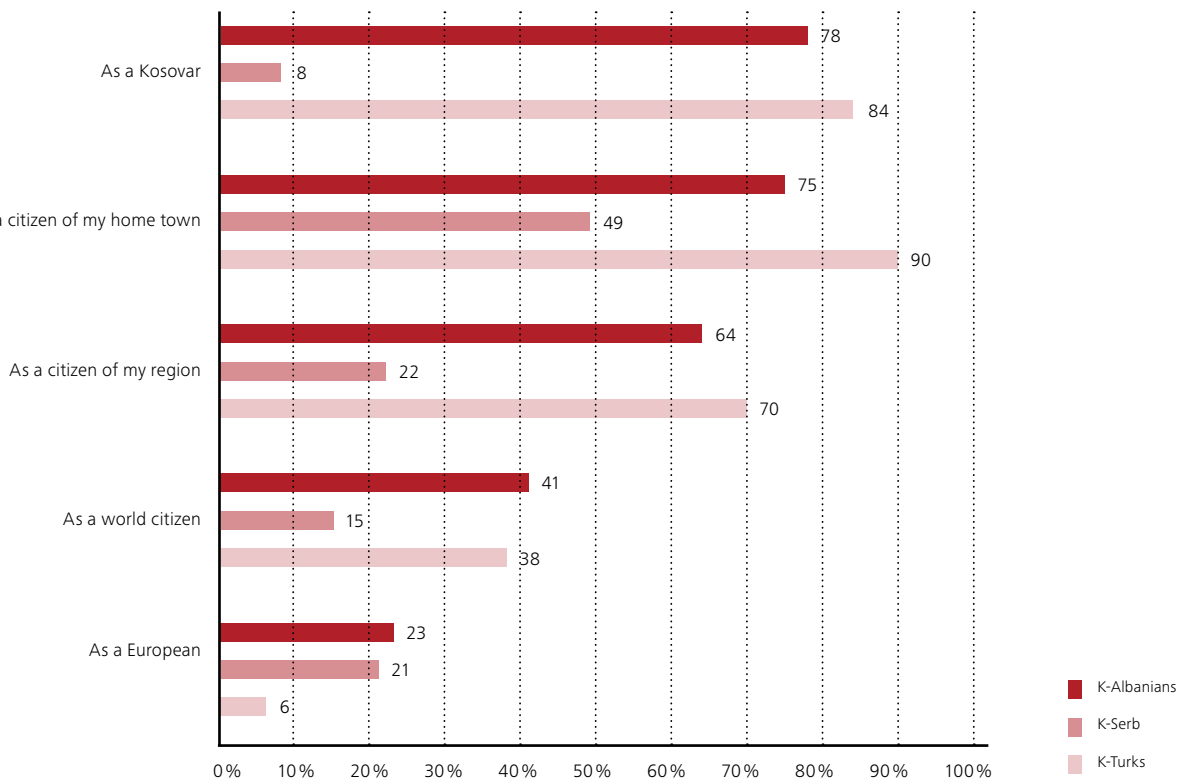
- The survey indicated that the national and local identity of Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Turks is much stronger than the other identities. Young Kosovo Serbs appear to show only an average level of local “home-town” identity, while for the most part rejecting a Kosovar identity.
- Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Turks support membership in the EU in more than 83 % of cases. On the other hand, young Kosovo Serbs appear to be split in their opinions concerning EU membership.
- There is great degree of optimism among youth in Kosovo that their country will soon join the European Union. Less than half of respondents (43 %) believe this will be possible in the next five years.
- Young people in Kosovo think that Albania and Kosovo are cooperating to some extent, but not enough. Furthermore, half of young Kosovars want Kosovo and Albania to merely have neighbourly relations as independent states, while one-third of them want the two countries to be joined together.
- Kosovo Albanians are split in their opinions with regard to possible Serbian recognition of Kosovo. Half of Albanians think that Serbia will recognise Kosovo in the near or distant future, while another quarter think that Serbia will never recognise Kosovo.

NATIONAL IDENTITY

The survey indicated that the national and local identity of Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Turks is much stronger than the other identities. Young Kosovo Serbs appear to merely display an average level of local “home-town” identity, while for the most part rejecting Kosovar identity. Around 40 percent of Kosovo Albanians see themselves completely as citizens of the world. As for European identity, only 23 per cent of Kosovo Albanians fully consider themselves to be Europeans.

There are very few indicators that have a significant correlation with the perception of considering oneself to be a world citizen, or a European, although both statements have a strong correlation with each other (Spearman’s $\rho = .478$, $p < 0.001$). Males consider themselves more often to be world citizens (Spearman’s $\rho = -.096$, $p = 0.001$), while people living in rural areas have a slight preference

FIGURE 75: Level of identities of the different ethnic groups



to consider themselves to be Europeans (Spearman's $\rho = -.078$, $p = 0.010$). Moreover, young people who are generally optimistic about the future in 10 years are also more inclined to consider themselves to be world or European citizens.

FOREIGN-POLICY ORIENTATION

The following block of questions analyses foreign-policy orientations among the young population in the Republic of Kosovo, primarily in connection with integration into the European Union and the relations with Serbia and Albania.

SHOULD KOSOVO JOIN THE EUROPEAN UNION?

Kosovo youth still strongly support joining the EU. When asked whether Kosovo should join the EU, about 83% of Kosovo Albanians answered "yes", with only 5% opposing it. Similar approval is found even among Kosovo Turks. On the other hand, Kosovo Serbs' opinions break down into three similar answers. 33% of them think that Kosovo should not join the EU, while 30% of them approve of this move. Another 37% do not know how to respond to the question, or they did not answer it. Six years ago, the proportion of Kosovo Serbs who wanted Kosovo to join EU was only one per cent. As expected, young people

that have more trust in the European Union are more willing to support EU membership (Spearman's $\rho = -.229$, $p < 0.001$). Moreover, the more the younger generation is dissatisfied with the state of democracy in Kosovo, the more they push for EU membership (Spearman's $\rho = -.142$, $p < 0.001$). Young people living in urban areas (Spearman's $\rho = .106$, $p < 0.001$) and those who attend religious services more rarely (Spearman's $\rho = -.100$, $p = 0.001$) are also slightly more supportive of EU membership.

In general, there is an 82 per cent approval rate for Kosovo joining the EU, a slight decrease from the 88% figure produced by the same study in 2012. This is probably due to the fatigue process associated with the VISA Liberalisation Agreement and the process of integration into the EU, which seems to be taking much longer than expected.

Young people in Kosovo remain optimistic about the EU. Overall, there is considerable optimism among youth in Kosovo that their country will soon join the European Union. Less than half of respondents (43%) believe this will be possible in the next five years, and an additional 18% predict that it will happen within the next 10 years. A considerable change has taken place among Kosovo Serbs with regard to this question. Six years ago K-Serbs were almost totally against Kosovo joining the EU, while now they usually do not want to answer the question (54% of responses). Around 16% of K-Serbs believe that Kosovo could join EU in less than 10 years.

FIGURE 76: Do you think Kosovo should join the European Union?

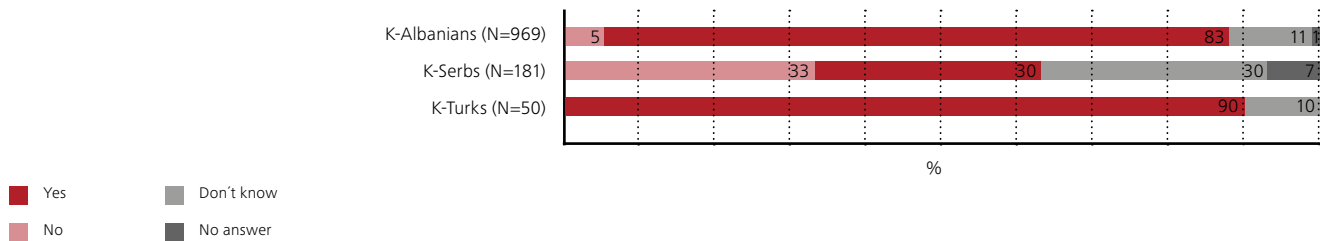


FIGURE 77: When do you think Kosovo will join the European Union?

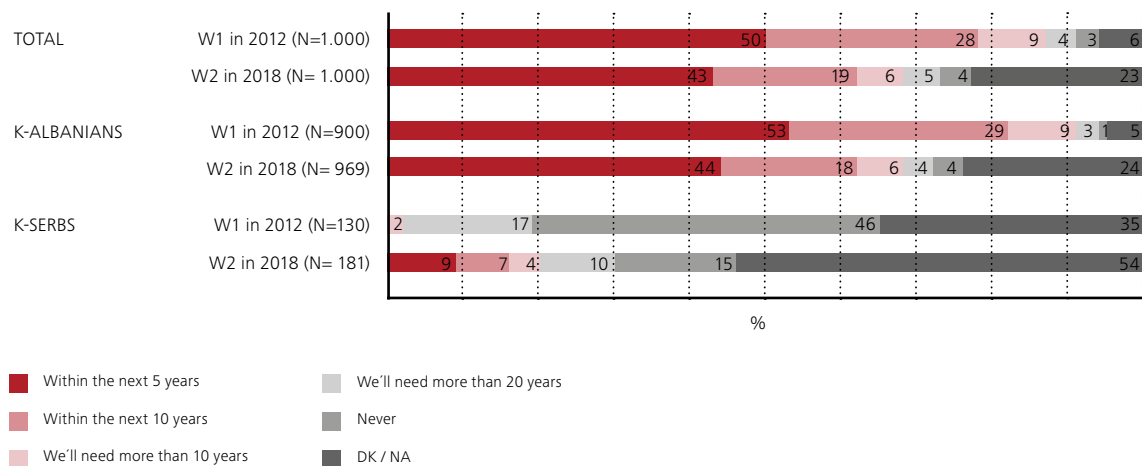


FIGURE 78: Study with a scholarship in Albania

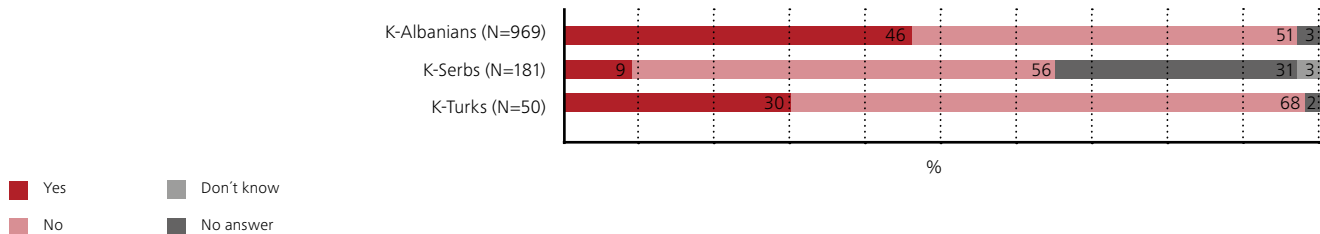


FIGURE 79: Work in Albania

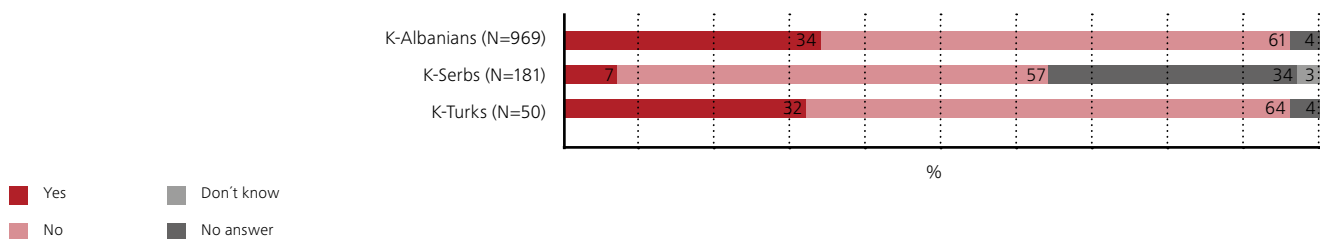


FIGURE 80: Do you think that overall Kosovo and Albania are cooperating enough?

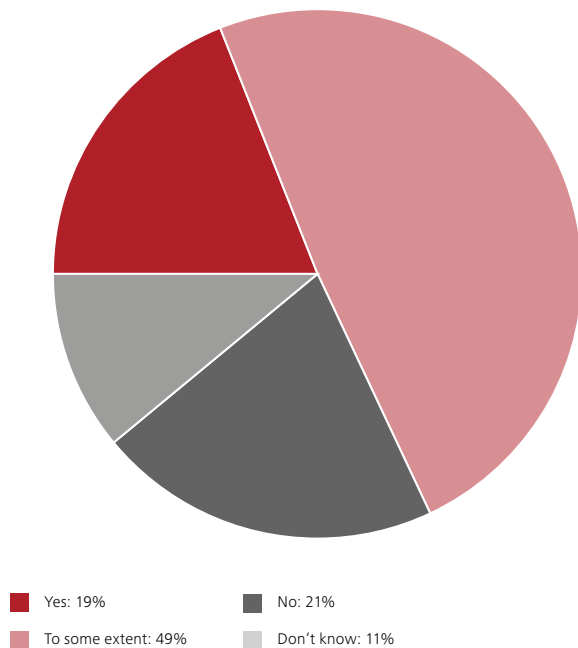
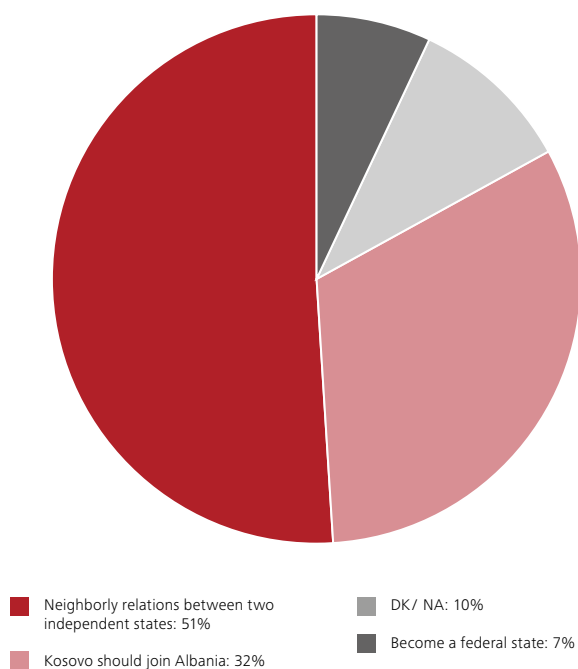


FIGURE 81: According to your opinion, what kind of formal relations should Kosovo and Albania have?



RELATIONS WITH ALBANIA

Less than half of young Kosovo Albanians would study in Albania if they received a scholarship. On the other hand, the number of Kosovo Serbs who would study in Albania is very low. One-third of Kosovo Albanians would prefer to work in Albania, exhibiting a lesser tendency compared to the preference for education.

Focus-group discussions reveal that there are no major differences between the youth of Kosovo and Albania. Young people in Albania are seen as more educated in some areas and have more opportunities as a result of visa liberalisation. Participants had mixed opinions about the relationship between the two countries. Most of them, predominantly the older participants, agree that Kosovo and Albania should be one state because of the benefits this would offer in the political and economic spheres. *"We are working to join the EU one day and together we are stronger. It isn't about nationalism or patriotism, it is about better education and the economy. Both countries have a major interest in it."* (Prishtina, male, 29 years old). Younger participants are mostly opposed to a merger of the two countries, and few of them think that they should join to form a confederation. *"I don't think that it is a good idea for both countries to merge. Maybe we should be like the USA: different states with the same constitution."* (Prizren, female, 21 years old)

Occasionally the governments of Kosovo and Albania organise joint meetings in order to foster cooperation. The meetings have produced many accords and agreements, but many stakeholders still complain that this cooperation on paper is not always put into practice. Even young people in Kosovo assert that Kosovo and Albania have some sort of partial cooperation in half of their responses. Young people living in urban areas are more inclined to answer that Kosovo and Albania are not cooperating enough (Spearman's $\rho = -.063$ $p = 0.037$).

Half of young Kosovars want Kosovo and Albania to have just neighbourly relations as independent states, while one-third of them want Albania and Kosovo to join together.

The youngest age cohort are more in favour of their two countries joining in comparison to other age cohorts (Spearman's $\rho = -.064$ $p = 0.035$). Moreover, those who are members of families which are not economically well off are more favourable towards the two countries joining together (Spearman's $\rho = .080$ $p = 0.008$). Those who consider themselves to be more religious are more in support of the idea of a national union between Albania and Kosovo (Spearman's $\rho = .065$ $p = 0.032$).

FIGURE 82: When will Serbia recognize Kosovo?

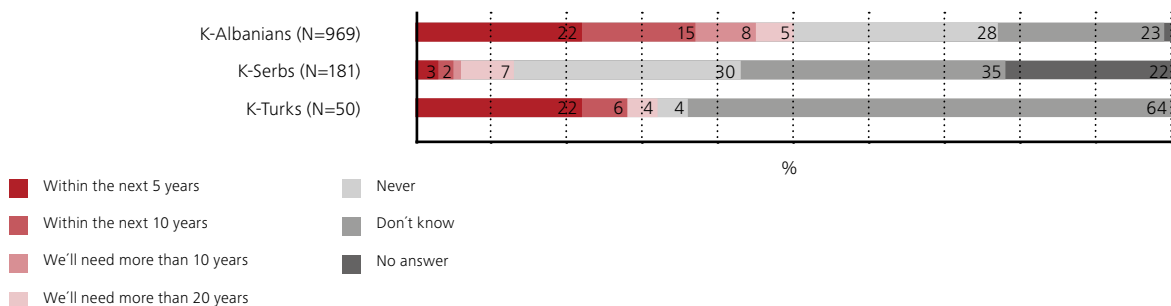


FIGURE 83: Do you buy Serbian products in the supermarket?

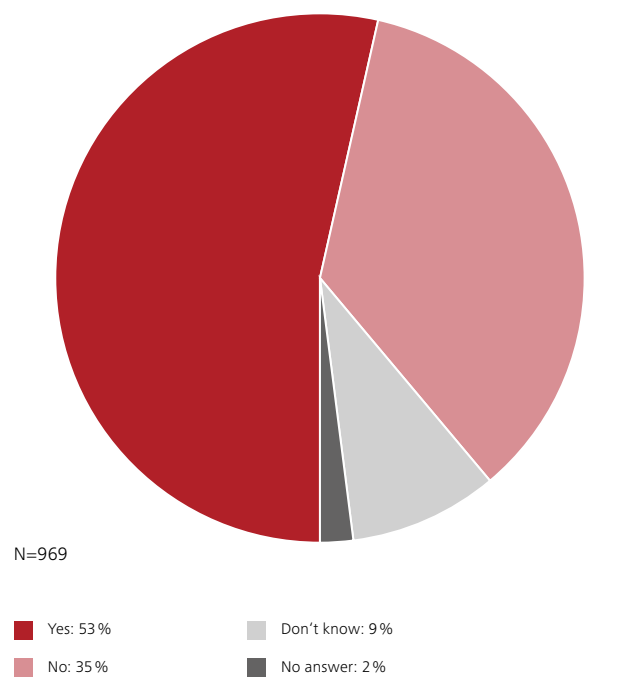
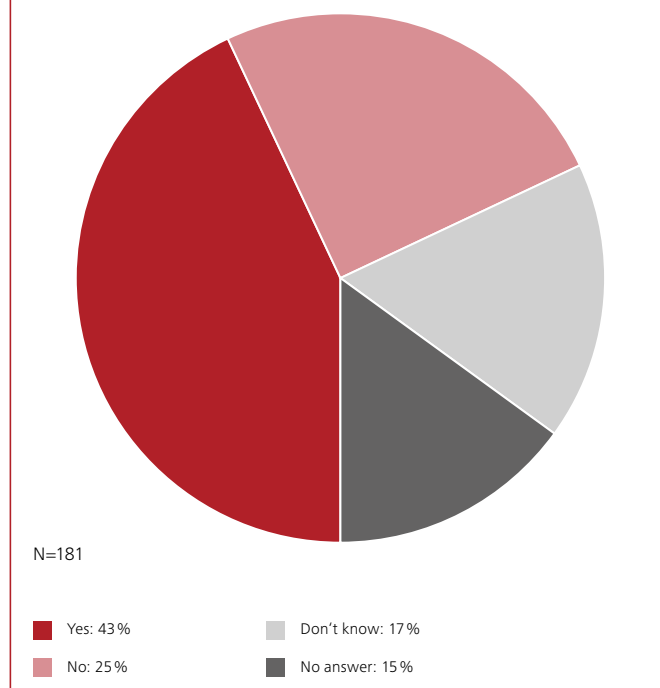


FIGURE 84: Do you buy Kosovar products in the supermarket?



RELATIONS WITH SERBIA

The main issue between Kosovo and Serbia remains recognition of Kosovo as an independent state. Opinions of Kosovo Albanians are split into four perspectives on this issue. Less than one-quarter of Kosovo Albanians believe that Serbia will recognise Kosovo within the next 5 years. Another one-fourth of them hope that Serbia will recognise Kosovo in the distant future. The third quarter does not believe that Serbia will ever recognise Kosovo, while the last quarter has no firm opinion on this issue.

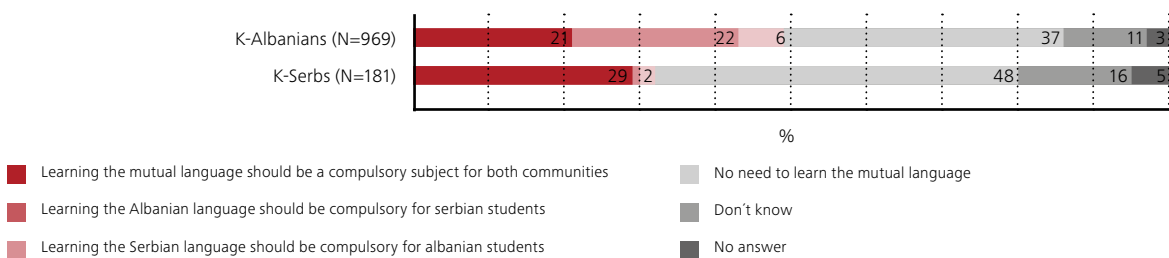
Less than half of young Kosovo Serbs choose to answer this question. 14% of them accept the possibility that Serbia could recognise Kosovo in the future, while 30% of respondents never expect this to happen.

More than half of young Kosovo Albanians buy Serbian goods in the supermarket. Somewhat more than one-third state that they practice “consumer activism”, which means the expression of a political position by boycotting goods originating in Serbia. Similar responses are even given by Kosovo Serbs, although

one-third of them do not know how to answer or they did not provide any answer.

The number of Kosovo Albanians in the study is large enough to have significant statistical correlations. The lower the age of young people, the more inclined they are to refuse to buy Serbian products (Spearman’s rho=-.085 p=0.009). Young people who are more optimistic about the economic future of Kosovo are more reluctant to buy Serbian products (Spearman’s rho=.147 p<0.001).

FIGURE 85: Opinion on language learning between different ethnic groups



LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF THE OTHER GROUP

More than one-third of young Albanians and almost half of young Serbians are convinced that there is no need to learn the other language. On the other hand, 29% of young Serbians agree that learning the common language should be compulsory for both communities. Moreover, 21% of young Albanians think the same.

Focus-group participants generally would like Serbians who live in Kosovo to integrate and believe that they should at least speak Albanian. *"I don't like the fact that they don't speak Albanian. In every country you have to know the official language if you live there."* (Prizren, male, 29 years old).

11

CONCLUSIONS

The study was based on a representative sample of 1000 respondents, with the addition of a sample booster of 200 respondents in order to have a more representative sample of Serbian and Turkish minorities in Kosovo. The respondents fall under the 14–29 age category from all over Kosovo. The SPSS Statistics software package was used to perform inferential data analysis.

The study explored the nature of young people who represent the “independence generation”. Young people in Kosovo are very optimistic about their future and the future of Kosovo, but are also very pessimistic about the actual situation with regard to education, the employment market, political situation, etc. Usually they express a conservative attitude that places the institution of the family at the heart of everything.

The family constitutes the most important institution for young people with regard to almost all aspects of life, as almost all respondents believe that a person needs a family in order to have a better life. The family offers a stability that no friends, job, or political situation can provide. On the other hand, there has been a significant increase in the preferred age of marriage for men in the last six years in the views of both males and females.

The labour market is less secure, and young people in Kosovo are not able to find jobs that use and improve the skills that they have acquired in the educational system. There is a great need for labour and educational flexibility to reduce the skill gaps of young people at present. Those who are more concerned about job security have a greater desire to work in the public sector and are less satisfied with the quality of education in Kosovo.

Results show that young people want to migrate for economic reasons. Kosovo should create the economic foundations that would enable youth to try their luck in Kosovo. Moreover, this would help youth move away from their parents and search for opportunities outside the parental home.

Distrust and apathy among Kosovo youth have reached record levels with regard to all political institutions, especially with respect to political parties and the national government. On the

other hand, greater trust is placed in religious institutions and international organisations like NATO and the OSCE.

The findings of the study indicate that young people in Kosovo are very dependent on their families. The typical profile of a young person in Kosovo is someone who does not work in the field that he/she has been trained for and who has a strong desire to work in the public sector. Moreover, the typical young Kosovar knows that only political connections or family networks can help find a job. Young Kosovars do not trust Kosovo institutions, and exhibit a low level of political engagement. They are generally dissatisfied with education in Kosovo, but want to get a university degree. Moreover, the average person has a moderate desire to migrate to the EU, although they still do not know the language of the country they want to migrate to. On the other hand, this typical young person is very optimistic about his/her future in Kosovo and about the future of Kosovo in general. Our average young person is generally religious, but very intolerant towards homosexuals. The main purpose in their life is to make their parents proud and to have a good marriage. They would be inclined to ask their parents for their input when the most important decisions in life come up. The preferred age of marriage for males is 28–29, while for females it is 25–26. The typical young person in Kosovo would like to have three or more children, whereby he/she wants to have their first child after the age of 25.

FOOTNOTES

[1] Calculated from “<http://www.institutigap.org/spendingsEng/#/~-/budget-of-kosovo---planning/education-and-science>”

[2] https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/countryfiche_kosovo_2017_0.pdf

[3] Lavric, “Youth in Education Across South East Europe.” *Lost in Transition?*

[4] <http://www.ks.undp.org/content/kosovo/en/home/countryinfo/>

[5] Progress toward Meeting the Economic Criteria for EU Accession (European Commission, 2018).

[6] The term is coined in *Lost in Democratic Transition? Political Challenges and Perspectives for Young People in South East Europe* (2015).

[7] The study's findings show that only 13.1 per cent of youth in Kosovo are mainly interested in political events that take place in Kosovo (6 per cent are very interested, 7 per cent interested).

[8] <https://www.esiweb.org/index.php?id=444&lang=en>

REFERENCES

Cojocaru, A. (2017). *Jobs Diagnostic Kosovo*. World Bank Group.

European Commission. (2018). *Progress Toward Meeting the Economic Criteria for EU Accession*. European Commission.

GoK. (2016). *Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017–2021*. Government of Kosovo.

GoK. (2018). *Kosovo Economic Reform Programme (ERP) 2018–2020*. Government of Kosovo.

WB & WIIW. (2017). *Western Balkans Labor Market Trends 2017*. World Bank Group and WIIW.

TABLE OF FIGURES

14	FIGURE 1: Most important values of young people in Kosovo	40	FIGURE 32: How satisfied are you generally with the quality of education in your country?
14	FIGURE 2: Satisfaction of young people in Kosovo	40	FIGURE 33: Satisfaction with the quality of education
15	FIGURE 3: Percentage of young people declaring very high satisfaction with their life	41	FIGURE 34: Do you agree that there are cases where grades and exams are 'bought' in institutes / universities in Kosovo?
15	FIGURE 4: How do you see your personal future in 10 years?	41	FIGURE 35: How many hours on average do you spend studying (after classes / at home) per day?
16	FIGURE 5: The opinion of young people about the future of Kosovo	42	FIGURE 36: Student's levels of stress in 2012 (wave 1) and 2018 (wave 2)
16	FIGURE 6: Concerns of young people in Kosovo	42	FIGURE 37: Participation in internships
17	FIGURE 7: Behavior that can be justified or not	42	FIGURE 38: Difficulty in finding a job
17	FIGURE 8: To what degree do you trust the following people?	42	FIGURE 39: Unemployment rates (15-29), % of labor force
18	FIGURE 9: How would you feel, if the following persons moved into your neighborhood?	46	FIGURE 40: Employment or education engagement of the youth
18	FIGURE 10: Religiosity of main ethnic groups	47	FIGURE 41: Important factors to find a job
19	FIGURE 11: How often do you attend religious services? (apart from weddings and funerals)	47	FIGURE 42: Young people working or not in their profession
19	FIGURE 12: Young people religious practice/attendance frequency according to different parents religiousness	48	FIGURE 43: Formal education requirements of young people's job
22	FIGURE 13: Activities in the leisure time	48	FIGURE 44: Working in public sector: reality and preference
24	FIGURE 14: Internet access	49	FIGURE 45: Choice of work preferable sector
24	FIGURE 15: Main reasons for using internet	49	FIGURE 46: Main factors for choosing a job
24	FIGURE 16: Satisfaction with own physical appearance	54	FIGURE 47: Interest in political events
25	FIGURE 17: Do you smoke?	54	FIGURE 48: Interest in politics comparing 2012 to 2018
25	FIGURE 18: Do you drink alcohol? (N=1.000)	55	FIGURE 49: Disinterest in politics for different ethnic groups (showing only those who are "not interested at all" and "not interested")
26	FIGURE 19: Drinking alcohol acceptance levels	56	FIGURE 50: Level of discussion of politics with family or acquaintances
27	FIGURE 20: Sexual experience	56	FIGURE 51: Political views alignment compared to respective parents
27	FIGURE 21: Contraceptives use behavior	57	FIGURE 52: Young people's interests represented in national politics
27	FIGURE 22: Opinion about virginity of young people in Kosovo	57	FIGURE 53: Main sources of information on politics
32	FIGURE 23: How many persons live in your household, including you?	58	FIGURE 54: Voting in last elections
32	FIGURE 24: Young people living preferences	58	FIGURE 55: Voting if elections were held today
33	FIGURE 25: Which of the following statements best describes your relationship with your parents?	58	FIGURE 56: Attitude toward different policies
33	FIGURE 26: Would you raise your children like your parents raised you, or differently?	59	FIGURE 57: Acceptance of different national and international institutions
34	FIGURE 27: Who, among your family members or acquaintances, has most influence on your important decisions	60	FIGURE 58: Satisfaction with the state of democracy
34	FIGURE 28: Which of the following statements best describes your situation?	60	FIGURE 59: Agreement with specific political opinions
34	FIGURE 29: Family plans	61	FIGURE 60: Engagement in different forms of activism
35	FIGURE 30: How many children do you plan or imagine to have?	62	FIGURE 61: Preferable objectives for the national government according to different ethnic groups
36	FIGURE 31: Most important factors to choose the spouse	63	FIGURE 62: Future expectations for the economic situation in Kosovo

63	FIGURE 63: Shown 'Not enough rights only'
64	FIGURE 64: Most important values
64	FIGURE 65: Trust in institutions
65	FIGURE 66: Differences in trust of institutions between two ethnic groups
68	FIGURE 67: Intention to study abroad
68	FIGURE 68: Intention to migrate for more than six months
69	FIGURE 69: Time of leaving Kosovo for those who plan to migrate
69	FIGURE 70: Length of planned stay in the destination country
70	FIGURE 71: Reasons to migrate comparing 2012 to 2018
70	FIGURE 72: Where would you prefer to move to?
71	FIGURE 73: What is your level of proficiency of the official language of the host-country? (N=573)
72	FIGURE 74: Level of contribution in the destination country
76	FIGURE 75: Level of identities of the different ethnic groups
77	FIGURE 76: Do you think Kosovo should join the European Union?
77	FIGURE 78: Study with a scholarship in Albania
77	FIGURE 77: When do you think Kosovo will join the European Union?
77	FIGURE 79: Work in Albania
78	FIGURE 80: Do you think that overall Kosovo and Albania are cooperating enough?
78	FIGURE 81: According to your opinion, what kind of formal relations should Kosovo and Albania have?
79	FIGURE 82: When will Serbia recognize Kosovo?
79	FIGURE 83: Do you buy Serbian products in the supermarket?
79	FIGURE 84: Do you buy Kosovar products in the supermarket?
80	FIGURE 85: Opinion on language learning between different ethnic groups

TABLE OF TABLES

10	TABLE 1: Age and gender distribution before and after the weighting
10	TABLE 2: Focus groups distribution
23	TABLE 3: Correlation between activities conducted during leisure time
35	TABLE 4: Adequate age for marriage

IMPRINT

PUBLISHER: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung e. V.
Referat Mittel- und Osteuropa
Hiroshimastr. 28 • 10785 Berlin
www.fes.de/referat-mittel-und-osteuropa/
www.fes.de/youth-studies/

RESPONSIBLE: Matthias Jobelius, Frank Hantke
PROJECT COORDINATOR: Mevlyde Hyseni
CONTACT: Martin Güttler • martin.guettler@fes.de
EDITORS: Oltion Rrumbullaku
LANGUAGE EDITING: James Turner
DESIGN: Andrea Schmidt • Typografie/im/Kontext
PRINTED BY: bub Bonner Universitäts-Buchdruckerei

ISBN: 978-3-96250-274-4

DATE: 2019

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), or of the organisation for which the authors work. The FES cannot guarantee the accuracy of all information and data provided in this publication. Commercial use of any media published by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung is not permitted without the written consent of the FES. Any reference made to Kosovo 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. Any reference made to Macedonia is understood to refer to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

