

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

I team

1. Amila Ramić
2. Melika Balihodžić
3. Omar Memišević
4. Amina Hujdur
5. Melisa Gluhalić
6. Birsena Redžović

According to most research on the population aged 15 to 24 in Bosnia and Herzegovina unemployment and instability stand out as key problems. The reasons why a large percentage of people are unemployed and perceive Bosnia and instable, are multiple. Certainly the deepest roots are in the underdeveloped economic structure and reduced employment opportunities and in the education system. We decided to approach these issues by using our powers in these three segments: education, intuitional corruption and political engagement.

Education

The education system in B&H is highly decentralized and fragmented, and its structure largely reflects a complex political system of the state. Entity of RS, 10 cantons in the FB&H and the Brcko District have the main competencies in this field, or more precisely - their ruling national parties. It is these parties that resist the reforms and use the existing situation to promote their own nationalist principles through ethnically divided schools and ethnocentric curricula. This complexity created fragmentation of education resulting in over 30 different education laws, and 14 ministries and 3 state agencies dealing with education at various levels. We can argue that the reasons for the still present ethnic divisions within B&H are rooted in a segregated and divided education system which, as a result, prevents successful and sustainable development activities in all other sectors!

The main problems are: lack of singular basic educational standards in the state; evident ethnic segregation in education; inconsistency of education policy with the labor market and employment policies; lack of structure for monitoring the efficiency of educational institutions. Therefore, in a state like this, our main goals would be:

- developing basic educational standards that will ensure the minimum level of competencies, knowledge and skills that should be achieved as a result of the educational process;
- ensuring the principles of equality of access and participation in the educational process that will not strengthen ethnic divisions and that will ensure equal educational conditions for all children in B&H;

- harmonization of educational policies with socio-economic development and employment policies and linking enrollment plans in high schools and universities with labor market needs;

- establishment of an institutional structure for evaluating the efficiency of educational institutions and conducting regular monitoring and evaluation of the work of educational institutions and the achieved results.

We would use our limitless executive power in order to re-shape education policy in B&H by: ensuring compliance of standards with EU norms; eliminating 'two schools under one roof'; implement the common core content within the curriculum in whole B&H; define and implement an enrollment plan with market needs; establish centers for education and career development and designate competent institutions responsible for evaluating work efficiency of educational institutions.

Corruption

Young people first experience corruption through education. It has created a system where unprivileged still work hard to obtain their degrees while those who are wealthy and have social connections have it much easier. Corruption has also slowed down the privatization process and is used by employers during recruitment processes to exploit citizens in need of a job. Almost all sectors in Bosnia suffer from rampant corruption, it can be seen in the political parties, the police, the judiciary, the health system and the education system.

We therefore argue for anti-corruption strategies at national and entity level that should include following measures:

- Reforming the public sector - the aim is to increase accountability and transparency of the public service sector. To achieve this, the official discretion must be regulated. There must be oversight of discretionary decision-making.
- Necessary laws and enforcements – B&H needs to establish criminal law provisions that regulate specific bribery and corruption wrongdoings in both the public and private sector.
- Institution building and reform - the task consists of two objectives; to free the institutions of corruption and to strengthen them so that they can be used in the fight against corruption. To be able to complete this task, B&H needs to do reforms in the

institutions to ensure institutional independence, impartiality, and competence of the working force.

- Monitoring and evaluation - strategies should therefore include proper monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- Access to information - when there is better access to information in B&H, official record can be used to uncover corruption
- Anti-corruption education – it consists of: Institutional ethics training, Public education and Youth education

Political Engagement

B&H political system is divided amongst state, entity, cantonal and local level with a high level of extra-institutional work and decision making. One of the biggest issues is a relatively low number of youth engaged in politics or decision making. In the 2018 general election only several deputies younger than 35 were elected to serve in the State parliament, with a very low level of youth being on the ballot itself. Political parties within themselves need to solve this problem by engaging more youth. This, however, cannot happen without institutional and systemic support by changing the electoral law, political parties' law and several others. There was a similar issue with the engagement of women which was solved by enforcing quotas on ballots. The number of women skyrocketed following this amendment.

Conclusion

We approached this paper by identifying key issues young people face in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The obvious answers were unemployment and instability (both political and economic). Young people always state those issues as the main reasons why they choose to leave the country. As they are complex issues and essentially a consequence of problems in various other sectors we decided to approach them by using our limitless executive power to ensure a better education system, tackle institutional corruption and create policies to help increase youth political engagement. We hope that by improving situation in these areas we are dealing with those main issues.

II team

1. Lejla Mušanović
2. Arnes Jelač
3. Azra Kerić
4. Irma Rešidović
5. Armin Poljak

Essay: „Imagine you have a Gini`s lamp which allows you to gain limitless executive power in your country, that enables you to change immediately three things you would like to. What policy issues will you be focusing on and why? „

Introduction

The state by its definition is an organized social community united under a common political system. In this essay, we will explain and present more detailed reviews of our country and the problems we face in the system as well as possible solutions for them. Discovering the magic of the Gini`s lamp, we discussed and identified three major problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina which need to be solved. Our problems and potential solutions are reflected in the Constitutional Reform, as one of the keys and initial reforms that would change the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the better. In addition to the Constitutional Reform, we dealt with problems such as (in) security in the homeland, but with an emphasis on the crime, corruption, and their suppression. Also, last but not least is the transformation of the educational system with the bringing necessary practice in schooling.

One of the first things that need to be changed in Bosnia and Herzegovina is constitutional reform. The constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina is derived from Article IV of the Dayton Peace Agreement that was signed in 1995 to stop the war that lasted from 1992. While probably necessary in 1995, today this constitution is one of the key reasons for BiH's high dysfunctionality and complicated system. Calls to change the constitution grow stronger each day, but there are different opinions on how to exactly change it. One of the solutions that I would propose is changing the system by our Presidency is voted and formed. Today Bosnia and Herzegovina have three presidents, each belonging to different constitutional peoples (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs). People from the Federation entity elect Bosniak and Croat member, while people in the RS entity elect a Serb member. This creates many problems, from people not having the right to be a candidate because they don't belong to the „right“ ethnicity to „legitimate“ presentation. I would change the constitution so we have one president that is elected through the Parliament, with two other Vice Presidents that can't be the same ethnicity as the President. This would create a more fair system that is a perfect mix of the civic and national

state.

One of the biggest problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina, since the signing of the Dayton Agreement, represents also the creation of a common defense - security system, and thus the adoption of and establishing a common security policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The problem lies in the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina still do not have a complete system of national (state) security, which stems from the painting state structures and the security sector. Security policy is essentially a set of measures and activities that assess the sources of vulnerability from all areas of a democratic society, all to protect that society

One of the solutions that are imposed, but not easily realized, are European integrations that would mean harmonization of all legal acts with the European one and respect for the principles of the European Union. The complexity lies in the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina has a lot of good laws that are not implemented de facto, and thus creates distrust of citizens in the institutions of this country. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina need a security policy. So, only one democratic, objective, pragmatic, efficient, and enforceable security policy (with goals, forces, resources, dynamics of operationalization, etc.), and its effective implementation and other rational decisions in the concretization of operational tasks will enable the political structures of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina to form a desirable democratic and security community (Masleša, 2002, p. 30)

In this sense, it is necessary to introduce strict penalties for those who do not respect and do not enforce existing laws, starting from citizens to persons in office. Greater transparency is also needed in this regard, where things will be made clear to the public, to restore citizens' trust in the institutions and to make them feel that they are protected by the institutions of this country. Regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina, it will be a very long and difficult process, given that corruption is at a very high level, but also if it is not addressed soon, the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the European Union will not be possible.

One of the elements in our society which needs to also be reformed is the educational system. Other European countries are upgrading their educational systems often, while our system is old more than 60 years. One of the main problems that are present in it is the absence of practice. Technical and medicine faculties have some kind of practical work, while other faculties like faculties of political sciences, economics, and others do not have them at all. Most of the lectures are without any interaction which causes the incapacity of students to solve real problems in their fields of interest. We think that these “theoretical” courses need to develop some sort of practice for their students, besides work on some seminar papers or different types of essays. We think that practical work should be mandatory in every semester as one separate course. It should be created on a “14-day practice” in some agency or institution which is related to their fields.

CONCLUSION

Regarding the problems we described above, one may conclude how our society faces a variety of problems, each of these equally important for state and democracy development. It is too late to select problems depending on their primacy to solve them. However, we must initiate activities, doing step by step. Keeping the society in such conditions will cause a decline in democratic culture. Awareness about the necessity for improvement will become only a theoretical possibility. However, even the solutions have been discussed in the public sphere, without any significant changes, we lack a concrete strategy and a defined approach. Thus, to solve the first described problem, we need to elaborate on essential obstacles for everyday life, within it, which stop us. Awareness of it must be universal, clear to everyone, not the subject of permanent debates.

III team

1. Nadija Bulbulušić
2. Nihada Silajdžić
3. Amina Javorovac
4. Semir Smailbegović
5. Ilma Kovačević
6. Jasmin Begić

Imagine you have a Gini's lamp which allows you to gain limitless executive power in your country, which enables you to change three things you would like to change. What policy issues will you be focusing on and why? Please elaborate in English within your team on the three things while keeping in mind the limits of minimum 500 maximum 1,000 words

When discussing this matter we were truly surprised by the number of things we wanted to change. We got to a point where we were struggling to narrow it down to three things because we couldn't decide which one is more important than the other. But eventually, after a long discussion, we got our three things and our three wishes. Those three wishes are education reform, the abolition of the three-member presidency, entities and cantons, and free health care.

Education reform was something we were all quite passionate about. As young people, we don't see the future in our latest education system and we are all pretty disappointed in the way our system works. We still learn from books written in the 1990s when so many things have changed since then. Also, our secondary schools are pretty basic and only a handful of them offer the possibility to have a part-time job or an internship but that's just how it is. If we could decide what is going on in our education system we would advocate for more important stuff that kids need to learn to become adults and we would also normalize talking about mental health and mental health issues. Our kids are anxious, depressed, sad, bullied but no one cares about that. All adults care about is a grade on an exam and whether we passed or not. All of them, teachers and our parents, because kids can't have mental health issues, right?

Moving along, we chose the abolition of our three-member presidency along with our entities and districts. We also feel very strongly about this. As long as we separate our leaders, we can't expect the people to be united. Our political system is so complicated and hard to understand, but wouldn't it all be easier if we had only one president and ministries only existed on a state level? We would immediately be able to save so much more money if our country didn't have to give as many unnecessary paychecks. Imagine if we used that money to build more factories, companies and create jobs that never existed before. We are quite a poor country and by doing this we would improve our current status. I know it sounds silly, changing the Dayton Agreement, but trust us. If we want this country to change and if we want to be a united nation, this must happen at some point, despite all the patriots wanting to chop up the country into three.

The last but not the least thing we discussed was our health care and how we can make it free. Our health care system is also a mess, because in one city you don't have to pay for health care services and then in another city 15 minutes away from you, you have to pay for everything. Isn't that a bit silly? This is a problem that could easily be solved if our last wish came true. The biggest problems come from having districts and dividing people even more. Let's just talk about this example that happened to one of us a few days ago. Nadija went to the doctor's office in Sarajevo which is in the District of Sarajevo and since my residence is also in the District of Sarajevo I can enter the hospital by just having my fever measured. If you don't have a residence in the District of Sarajevo, you must bring a negative COVID-19 test. We couldn't believe that but it is sadly the truth. Alongside making health care accessible to everyone we want to expand the list of free medication in our country so people don't have to spend their entire paychecks on medication. The last thing we really want to come true is this: country paying for surgery abroad

because they couldn't make it happen in our country. We always see those people begging us for a few marks just so they could go get the surgery done and stay alive.

These are the three wishes we chose, and we believe we chose wisely and all of our arguments are based on facts and our day-to-day experiences living in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We would love to have a real Gini's lamp someday and to stop imagining one but there's nothing we can do about that, right?

IV team

1. Dalila Kurtić
2. Amila Lelo
3. Adna Softić
4. Hana Efendić
5. Igor Panić
6. Đorđe Dujković

The three policy issues that our essay will explore are grouped under the themes of education, unemployment, and health respectively.

1. Education and individualised teaching

Our first policy issue of interest is related to the field of education and the notion of individualised teaching. With large class sizes and a lack of resources for teachers, students have been largely neglected in discovering their strengths during their schooling years and nurturing the potential they may have towards different subjects or areas of expertise. We believe that this should be an integral factor of every student's educational experience, so we propose that class sizes are reduced, and teachers are given the capacity to focus on each student's talents and allow them to tap into them further, by means of an individualised approach to teaching. This may also be enhanced by the adoption of adaptive learning technologies. For example, students who are more keen on languages may be given the opportunity to spend more time crafting this interest further by means of extra classes, extra-curricular activities pertaining to the use of studying/learning additional languages, or perhaps being given the opportunity to gain work experience in this field. Furthermore, the teacher will also be able to adapt to each student's learning abilities in order to secure their success. This individualised method can foster the right skills in students which will allow them to excel in their respective fields in the future and be more confident in their personal decision making.

2. Youth unemployment and labour law

The second key policy issue that we have chosen relates to youth unemployment which we would try rectifying through an amendment to current labour law. As it stands, approximately 40% of Bosnia and Herzegovina's youth are jobless, namely those who could work but cannot find the opportunity to do so. This raises many concerns for the country's future, and in relation to our previous policy issue, can deter the youth from progressing onto third level education because they lack the necessary means to explore it. Consequently, it can create a drain on the country's human capital, may lead to more dependence on parents' wages, and hinder the youth from developing a forward-looking mindset in which they realise both their career and academic goals which is crucial for any one nation's future.

As a result, the policy solution that we would focus on to help engage students/the youth effectively into labour is by amending the current labour law in the country which falls short of providing protection and stability to youngsters that are employed and/or searching for a job, whether studying or not. Under the current law, students have been vulnerable to exploitation in terms of the hours they work, the remuneration they receive, and in which circumstances they work. The unregulated nature of student cooperatives in the Federation also adds to this, whereby companies mask themselves as such but rather, register students in their offices without calling them for a job, or permit them to engage in illegal work, attested by a survey carried out in the Canton of Sarajevo. Additionally, earlier this year in Sarajevo, a prosecution started taking place on an organisation with similar behaviours that had drawn up fictitious employment contracts for full time students, causing damage to the extent of 30 million KM for the Federation's budget.

It is clear that these practices are inconducive to the wellbeing of the youth but also to their employment status. Therefore, setting the grounds for a labour law that ensures the protection of youth/students is crucial in taking the first steps towards battling the high unemployment rate. This includes regulating the conditions that the youth work in, and if studying, setting a limit on how many hours of work they can bear, whilst taking into account the nature of their study. It would also be favourable that student employment co-operatives are regulated and perhaps in sync with universities

which would be in contact with students whose networks are comprised of other youth. Ultimately, these newly built foundations could uplift the youth in garnering them with motivation, experience, and hope for the future.

3. Unified healthcare

Our third and final policy recommendation relates to the health system in the country. With the backdrop of the COVID-19 outbreak, Bosnia and Herzegovina's health services have been proven unreliable and inadequately equipped. However, there is an issue that predates the pandemic which has deterred ordinary citizens from gaining medical treatment. This is namely the decentralised nature of the country's health system which does not allow citizens from one canton to be medically treated in another due to the integral provision of one's health insurance to the canton in which they reside. This provides uncertainty for one's freedom of movement across the country because it is not guaranteed that their insurance will cover costs that pertain to an unexpected shift in their health whilst they are away from their canton of residency. The situation has partially stemmed from the formation of 13 ministries of health across the country and each administrative unit being able to set their own practices, unmatched to the others.

In response to this, we set out to centralise public health institutions across the country so that one's health insurance can cover their care across all cantons, but also provide citizens equal access to treatment which is not barred by residency or health insurance type. This will allow the health system to be fairer but will also mean that those outside of their canton who need medical treatment will not be left neglected. It can also strengthen the administration of health whereby public health institutions are following unified codes of conduct and do not fall prone to corruption on single administrative levels. It goes without saying that the Minister of Health and their team would have to overlook such changes, yet it would be more comprehensive and prone to oversight than the system in place at present.

To conclude, we have looked at education, unemployment, and health respectively from a policy perspective which all play a role towards securing a level of normalcy in the country right now, steering its future towards success if implemented effectively.

V team

1. Lejla Mašić
2. Ajla Kuluglić
3. Adisa Atiković
4. Melisa Ruščuklić
5. Dženi Babajić
6. Nikola Todorović

We are aware that the world is changing rapidly and that we need to be fully prepared to apply new technologies. Day by day we can notice the growing demand for experts in the field of software engineering, and the IT sector in general. In order to help young people to become part of one of the most promising sectors in the easiest possible way, priority would be given to education in this area. It is necessary to enable young people to improve their first digital skills or more advanced IT knowledge in free educations. Therefore, it is necessary to organize additional classes in this area within primary education. Provide free education programs in the IT sector for 500 unemployed people who want to become part of the IT sector in the field of software development regardless of previous knowledge and experience. Provide free master studies to students at the Faculty of Information Technology, and increase the number of third cycle scholarships. Non-formal education is very important in IT because it is focused on acquiring practical knowledge and skills. More than 60% of programmers have a university degree in the IT or related fields. The IT industry is characterized by a large representation of young people among company employees, and between 60 and 70% of its workforce in BiH are young people up to 35 years of age. In addition to the listed advantages over other industries, in the context of the prospects for growth and development of the software industry in the future, a global trend is noticeable where IT companies and their software solutions are an indispensable lever for any serious development of other industries. Roughly divided IT companies are divided into hardware-based companies and software development companies. Most IT companies are engaged in software development, while BiH does not have a developed production of hardware components, so companies are mainly engaged in hardware distribution, so we would change that, connecting IT sector with economy development where we would decrease the national export deficit in all aspects with the focus on materials and products that are of high demand in the world and readily available in our country such as water, food and coal industry and rise awareness of the importance of buying domestic products as the only healthy and, for all sides, acceptable way of patriotism.

Secondly, development of an independent judicial system with the aim of fully building a democratic and self-sustaining state, whereby the court does not engage in resolving political issues but exclusively issues of a legal nature. Establishing and implementing goals in terms of protecting society from crime and eliminating social unrest caused by suspicions of a crime can be concretized in such a way that establishing the truth is in the interest of the accused, as well as victims of crime and the community as a whole. The implementation of the reform in the area of access to equal trial indicates that it is the same key and constitutive precondition for quality and comprehensive development. Ensure the right to a fair trial and improve respect for the rights of the victim by engaging independent and professional judges who will act for the benefit of all citizens, without making distinctions between the most powerful members of society and workers as well as people with low incomes. We would pay special attention to all aspects of the criminal procedure, from the initial investigation to the execution of the criminal sanction, and work on inclusion, the use of alternative measures primarily against juvenile offenders, with mandatory monitoring of the entire process by specially trained / professionals. Also, focus would be on supporting the drafting and adoption of constitutional and other legal amendments regarding the introduction of the death penalty for the most serious crimes (terrorism, treason - coup d'etat, sexual access with minors, rape, genocide and other acts of similar gravity / danger). Make additional efforts and involve non-judicial staff, as well as the media, which will increase the element of social control and reaction over the activities of the judiciary through their objective reporting. The presence of corruption deprives societies of important resources that could be used for basic needs, such as public health, education, infrastructure or security, and its presence in the judiciary has a major impact on justice and human rights, further implying public distrust of judicial institutions. Establish bodies to prevent and reduce corruption. Improve the

system of financing the judiciary with continuous control and supervision over the use of allocated funds. Strengthen coordination with other branches of government and strengthen regional cooperation in addressing national shortcomings and regional challenges with the primary purpose of creating a sound legal system. We would also protect “whistleblowers” and citizens that want to stay anonymous by implementing strong laws on protection of personal information using Anglo-Saxon precedential law in prosecutions instead of European justice system especially in capital punishment for crimes of:terrorism, treason, capital murder, repeated felony offences.

Last, but not the least, decreasing CO₂,PM₁₀ and PM_{2,5} footprint by implementing harsh rules and regulations on the factories that are not using adequate measures to prevent hazardous emissions would be a third aspect of our interest. Rewarding those who do so by lowering their taxes or in a similar way. Creating a new task force that would be in charge of protecting rivers, lakes and forests. Public shaming as a way of punishment for individuals that are throwing garbage in the rivers or anywhere else except the places that are not for that purpose. Total ban for small hydroelectric plants and factories that are dumping waste in the water. We are aware of a small impact on the economy by reducing the production of electricity but that would be substituted by exporting our clean high quality water that we have in abundance. Total ban of coal and woods as a way of heating the homes. Instead, use of solar panels or pellet would be highly encouraged by providing financial aid for purchase of solar panels or pellet furnace/pellet.

VI team

1. Šejla Sarač
2. Mirza Kapetanović
3. Tibor Kovačević
4. Verda Mesihović
5. Kerim Obhodas
6. Filip Vidić

Gini's lamp in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The most important move that Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to do is joining NATO alliance and the European Union, as a functioning state. Therefore, if we have limitless executive power, we will carry out democratic consolidation of our post-socialist society because only a stable, democratic and functioning country can be accepted as a partner in these alliances.

Democratic consolidation is looked into at the levels of (1) basic political institutions; (2) chief proponents of representative democracy (political parties and interest associations); (3) behaviour of powerful informal political actors (army, entrepreneurs, etc); and (4) civic culture. By basic political institutions we mean government, head of state and parliament. Main actors in representative democracy are political parties who are in need of good law and clear principles of participation. The special and the most comprehensive reform will be in regards to participation of religious organisations in public life and political processes. The civic culture will have the most diverse reforms and the main principle is to include all participants into one nation.

Parallel to this process, state wide influence of patriotism and a sense of pride would be encouraged as well as the reforms of judiciary and other institutions that would ensure the publics trust is being reinstated into the government and its institutions. Both on the legislative and administrative side, the methods of retrieving the publics trust must be made and they must be conclusive.

The second thing we would change is education. We would define and develop basic educational standards that will ensure a minimum level of competencies, knowledge and skills to be acquired as a result of the education process. Focus in our education should be critical thinking and diligence.

Our activities:

1. Defining basic educational standards and results of teaching processes in preschool, primary and secondary education;
2. Ensuring compliance of standards with EU norms and standards;
3. Introduction of a mandatory entity / state external matura exam at the end of the four-year period secondary education.

We will ensure the principles of equality of access and participation in the educational process that will not strengthen ethnic divisions and which will ensure equal conditions of education for all children in BiH. Therefore, our main activities will be removal of inappropriate names of educational institutions, elimination of “two schools under one roof”, removal of inappropriate content from certain history, geography and mother tongue textbooks and ensuring equal conditions for all children (children with disabilities and minority groups included) in BiH to be included in the education system. Harmonization of educational policies with socio-economic development and employment policies. We will also focus on

linkage of enrollment plans in secondary schools and universities with labor market needs. In the end, we will establish an institutional structure for evaluating the efficiency of educational institutions.

The third thing that needs to be changed is the economy. Today, the economy of BiH is practically at the very bottom, which is shown by all relevant research and parameters. It is, above all, a direct consequence of the enormous destruction of the war, but also the unpreparedness of the post-war, but also current governing structures to adequately implement the transition from pre-war, socialist, of the planned system of economy into modern liberal capitalism. Catastrophic implementation of privatization and transition, marked by significant criminal elements, non-transparent spending of huge funds raised at various donor conferences, incompetence, ignorance and nepotism, are the cause of inefficient state apparatus.

Economic reforms would include:

- state regulation of prices and minimum salaries that would be respected
- simplifying the process of creating new jobs
- promoting the domestic manufacturers
- promoting the export of domestic products
- transparent spending of funds

We are a group of young people but the ideas we present in this project can be a great start and a way to unite with the goal of building a better Bosnia and Herzegovina.

NORTH MACEDONIA

I team

1. Angel Draskachev
2. Angela Jakimovska
3. Aleksandar Karatosho
4. Hristijan Ilievski
5. Marija Stojanova
6. Viktor Jakimovski

GROUP 1

LOWERING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT & TACKLING BRAIN DRAIN WITH QUALITY EDUCATION

Enjoying the benefits of youth is something that varies all around the world. Different countries and regions have different cultures and values and apropos of that different educational systems. So, if society has clearly defined its values and where it tends to move in the future, why is the educational system, as one of its laying foundations, still failing? The problem lays much deeper and of course, it's the government's fault. The government is the one who should carefully monitor and analyze the sectors, to be in step with the latest science advancements, just so that can always be able to work on updating the education system. Moreover, unemployment is another issue that young people face, especially during their first work experiences, which creates more space for brain drain to flourish. While one part is directly correlated with the quality of the education that they are getting, the other reason for these issues is equally found in the institutions and business sector. In the following, we will address these issues separately.

Education

During times of drastic changes in every part of the society and the lives of the people, keeping an educational model from the 20th century becomes a serious issue. Even though the content has been somewhat updated with newer information, the subjects and their methods of delivery are still the same. Today, there isn't a need for industrial workers, but for technologically educated staff. Additionally, with the rise of fake news, political apathy and radicalization, an ongoing global pandemic and the enlargement of the gap between the rich and the poor, there isn't much to do except proper education, especially when it comes to the young people. It is clear that modern challenges require innovative solutions. We can't educate the generations of the future with a system from the past! The first necessary step in this direction would be by adding a reformed civic education that would include media literacy, digital literacy, critical thinking, civic responsibilities, civil society, volunteering, health education, sex education, and developing soft skills, as well as financial literacy that would focus on personal finance as something that heavily influences poverty. Through this, the next generations of youngsters will have a set of competences that they can use to change their surroundings while establishing their personal freedom through financial freedom.

Unemployment

Every country faces unemployment as a serious issue that can't be truly eradicated. In several countries, in the past, the main cause of unemployment was transition and privatization. During that period, tons of workplaces were closed and many people were unemployed. Nowadays, we

are facing a bad economy, no foreign investments and of course the Covid19 crisis, but I am afraid that the worst is yet to come. To give a solution on this problem, we need a plan. A real plan! First, we need to work on our economy. We can't talk about a strong economy if we do not have strong and well-educated economists who will face the problem and offer a solution to it. So first of all, hire the best economists in the country! But please, don't look for them in your local political headquarters. We also need to invest more in our private sector. Giving grants to people who would like to start their own business will give us more workplaces for the unemployed. We also need to work more on foreign investments! Why is this so important? If we manage to attract more foreign investors to our country, they will look for workers. For example: A car parts factory can employ more than 1,500 workers. If we have more factories, then we have the right solution to this problem.

Brain drain

Many countries lose an important portion of valuable individuals because of brain drain. The term usually describes the departure of groups of well-educated people, scientists, doctors etc. When these people leave, their places of origin are harmed in two main ways. First, the country is harmed economically because each one of the professionals who leave represents surplus spending units. Secondly, the supply of that concrete profession is diminished because with each emigrant, a significant expertise is lost. Some of the common causes that provoke brain drain are the shortage of economic opportunities, lack of available and well-paid jobs, political instability & high level of corruption in the country. These factors prompt skilled and talented individuals to leave their respective countries for places that offer better opportunities. If we want to reduce brain drain, we will have to work to improve our system in many crucial points. Promote people on merit basis, fund them or guarantee a job immediately after they graduate. Provide attractive salaries to highly qualified people on the basis of their qualifications and experience Provide adequate research facilities & invest more in the education system.

Taking in consideration national issues, such as education, unemployment and brain drain, we can agree that we must get to work on them, immediately! Systematic changes must be made in order to create opportunities for young people by recognizing and directing young talents and creative young people through educational programs and jobs positions according to their qualifications. If not through the educational system - where would we educate the citizens of tomorrow about media and digital literacy, critical thinking, civic responsibilities, civil society, volunteering, health and sex education. Furthermore, we need solutions for the economy as well, and one of the first steps would be to attract foreign investments, while at the same time tackle brain drain by creating better economic opportunities for the youngsters that would bring more jobs that will offer bigger salaries and standards. If the country manages to successfully tackle these issues, the people will be satisfied and happy enough to stay in their own country since they would be appreciated and secure, which will additionally show them that they truly belong in this community.

II team

1. Andrej Nikolovski
2. Marta Manevska
3. Leonita Popovska
4. Amona Zemon
5. Marko Paloski
6. Bekim Sejdini

7. Denica Shosholcheva

We decided to focus on three main issues that the young people are mostly concerned about and offer some possible ways to solve them.

The main concerns for the young are education, unemployment combined with brain drain and the pollution.

Education

The education in N. Macedonia is declining. The best University in the state, is only 1816th in the world rankings. Just in comparison Belgrade University is placed 383rd on the list. Our educational system is archaic and not compatible with today's challenges. Furthermore the subjects and methodologies are old and redundant.

One of the main sources of the bad scores that our students get on international and standardized exams are also the professors who are either too old or are not capable and good enough to teach.

The age structure of the teaching staff is one of the main problems of modern universities. This seems to be a normal and natural process, as it replaces the older generation with always coming young teachers. But with each passing year, the "reproduction" of young people becomes more and more obvious. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that out of desperation the heads of institutions are forced to hire people with dubious qualifications. As a result, the quality of education suffers.

There are no repercussions for the staff for the underperforming of their students and there are no obstacles for them to keep the status as professors. We need rules, supervisory boards and punishments.

In order to lower corruption we need to increase the government budget for researching on the universities, faculties, and other research institutions.

From the problems listed above we come to another unsolved problem - the lack of practically oriented education. Even if the student decides for himself/herself the direction of further development in the early stages, he/ she will not be able to master most of the practical skills in the learning process.

Unemployment and brain drain

Firstly, this problem is widespread in our society and unfortunately it is not getting any better. We believe that the unemployment directly causes the brain drain. There are possible solutions to the problem. First we need to make the party partisanship disappear. Lots of young people feel that the only way they can advance is if they become members of a party. If we just make it disappear it would give young people chances that they deserve and if the administration is not filled with people alleged to a party, the civil servants will work better and faster, more productive and with less frustrations for every member of the society.

There are so little opportunities for students to be engaged with any kind of work, even the law in the country doesn't allow students to work, that way they lose the status of a regular student. Also with the new law practical education is not mandatory and this makes things even worse. The students should be highly motivated to start working at least part time in order to prepare them to the challenges that they will face after the University.

All the companies need to find a way to incorporate the students and youth to their needs and make possible opportunities for them, link internships, part time jobs, training incubation programs etc.

Pollution and climate changes

When you think of environmental pollution, it typically comes in seven different types. These include air, water, land, radioactive, thermal, light, and sound pollution. In N. Macedonia we have air pollution that is above the normal level. The Air Quality Health Index provides a number from 1 to 10+ to indicate the

level of health risk associated with local air quality. On occasion, when the amount of air pollution is abnormally high, the number may exceed 10 and that's what happens in our country sometimes. The media reports that we must avoid strenuous activities outdoors and children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion

Besides the well-known challenges of corruption, freedom of expression, rule of law, political accountability, authoritarian tendencies etc., the Balkan countries – regardless of their EU status – are facing another poorly tackled issue. Skopje, with nearby Tetovo, holds the unflattering record. In a recent article published on its website, the United Nations Environment Programme named Skopje “Europe’s most polluted capital”.

The pollution in our country is very alarming, we need to make this one of the priorities in the government and the institutions and to allocate the appropriate budget to solve that problem.

To control the companies/institutions who are producing waste and pollute with some policies and regulations to use filters and to take good care of the output they produce.

Changes are needed in every city and municipality in order to parks and more and more green areas and trees between the buildings.

More regulations and policies for environmental use of the nature from the citizen and companies.

III team

1. Erton Axhami
2. Josif Stojkov
3. Ljupka Pavlova
4. Tijana Popovik
5. Andrej Angeleski
6. Sandra Peceva
7. Marija Bandulova
8. Milena Nikolovska

The youth of the future

Most of today's youth in the Western Balkans are the slightest politically involved generation – both formally and informally.¹ They frequently argue that authorities do not feel a concern regarding their desires and difficulties and their voice is unheard even across elections because their level of involvement is low. The youth is becoming more socially inactive, disconnected from the local and national policies. We are attempting to find solutions concerning the following issues in our country North Macedonia: illiteracy, effects of digitalization, and disinterest of youth and give hope for young generations that they are going to be the ones that can change the world.

Literacy has never been more essential for development. It is vital to communication, learning and an important condition of access to today's knowledge societies. Literacy leads to empowerment, and the right to education includes the right to literacy. The rising aspirations of young people should be met, that is why we need to consider education as one of the driving tools. Preparing young people with the relevant skills attained through education and training will help us create dynamism and inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

Literacy is a process, not an endpoint. It is rather the entry point to basic education and the passport to lifelong learning. The ultimate goal is not 'destroying illiteracy', but engaging people in lifelong learning. No education is possible without literary skills. It is not only a question of gaining access to literacy, be it through formal schooling or non-formal programs, but also of the quality of the programs.

As a key factor on which education and literacy depend are in fact the transmitters of knowledge, i.e., teachers, professors, educators. But first, let us look at the bigger picture. There are different professions and people that are meant for them, not everyone can run a company, not everyone can be a tourist guide, and not everyone can share knowledge and possess the qualities of a perfect teacher; it requires kindness, patience, tenderness, and stability.

¹ <https://www.humanityinaction.org/the-new-democratic-wo-men-of-the-western-balkans/>

Illiteracy arises from staff who do not possess these qualities, and who are to blame for many unpleasant events and for the result that we ourselves are witnessing today. To make that selection, psychological tests, and the psychological profile of the personality of a professor, teacher, educator and beyond are necessary.

Like globalization and urbanization, 'digitalization' has already changed the world. It is an unstoppable force, touching virtually every sphere of modern life, from economies to societies to cultures and shaping everyday life. Childhood is no exception. From the moment children enter the world, they are steeped in a steady stream of digital communication and connection – from the way their medical care is managed and delivered to the online pictures of their first precious moments. As children grow, the capacity of digitalization to shape their life experiences grows with them, offering seemingly limitless opportunities to learn and to socialize, to be counted and to be heard. This is not different when it comes to young people also. Instead of spending time in the real world, they are now feeling this increasing need to spend time virtually. The social media has curbed the expectations and the ordinary is no more ordinary. This all has led to a social disconnect. Appropriately, the question presented is what can be done for children and the youth in general to limit the harms of a more connected world, while harnessing the opportunities of a digital world to benefit everyone?

A proposed solution should be digital-free zones, such as camps or scouting. They uncover the world beyond a computer or a mobile phone, tapping the skills of others to become well-rounded people. Additionally, they achieve their purpose of helping young people develop physically, intellectually, and socially, but mostly have fun and be creative. So how do we bring these kinds of opportunities to more young people? To our mind, it is about forging partnerships with schools. Whatever young people want to achieve in life, they cannot rely solely on computers and mobile phones to get them there.

It is not a mystery that nowadays young people have low levels of political interest and therefore, little or no knowledge in the area. Let us not forget their poor opinions about politicians. Many might think the attitude of young people towards politics is due to indifference or disengagement, but that is not essentially the case. Therefore, you might ask what is it? The answer would probably be lack of education concerning the matter. Opening a Macedonian book, the problematic views of countries, authority, activism etc. are still there. As a cherry on the top the conservative approach and the family values that our country worships are also serious factors. Furthermore, a huge 90% of youngsters have never been a part of a non-profit organization in the country.² What does this tell us? Their disengagement from participating in society makes them more conservative, meaning that they never had an opportunity to learn something new, because experiencing new opportunities is how you start building political views.

² <https://www.dw.com/mk/%D0%BC%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BC%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%B0%D1%82-%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%B4%D0%B5%D1%80-%D1%81%D0%BE-%D1%86%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0-%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%B8-%D0%B2%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B7-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%B5%D1%83-%D0%B4%D0%BE-2025-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0/a-51715105>

Continuously, a factor that contributes to the lack of interest is the underestimation of interested young people and their voice not being heard. Namely, 62% of young people believe in not having enough opportunities in the decision-making process. Here comes the question whether young people may be lazy, or they do not have enough quality ideas, or the reason could be the pursuit of unsuccessful youth policy in a country where the voice of some young people who think critically is muted by others with their focus on pursuing interest rather than the common good.³

Recently, countries have been dedicated to sustainable development, meaning leaving a better planet for the generations to come. What about leaving better young people who will put their efforts into sustainability? Many things are not perfect, that is why we need possible solutions to improve them.

Simply, we can say “Math’s isn’t enough to develop logic”. We all have different qualities, but to reach their best potential, we must work and develop them. Besides the question why, more importantly is how. Imagine a world full of creativity, different young people, different problems, and even different quality solutions. In conclusion, the best possible solution is to combine formal with non-formal education, with more creative development programs in the schools, to even more creative and intelligently developed young people. Let us try to be different and unique, because different could become something amazing.

³https://www.atamacedonia.org.mk/images/stories/dokumenti/youth_empowerment.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2OVc12IA CWrnuHxlrNmYad9kOxzBYPyDIfvWko6FIGFyThrqN4EI1VSZo p.19

IV team

1. Ivan Durgutov
2. Bojan Lazarevski
3. Blerina Pollozhani
4. Iva Naskova
5. Kimberli Veljanoska
6. Lek Grubi
7. Martin Ilov
8. Galena Arizankoska

The youth's magic wand that will lead you to the ideal society

An Ideal society, otherwise known as a Thomas Mores Utopia, is one in which everything is nearly perfect in all aspects. For an ideal society to exist, everyone needs to be satisfied in some way shape or form. The biggest problem here is people are not all the same. A Utopian society, then, would involve a large group of people agreeing about a definition of perfection and then achieving it. Adolf Hitler and Martin Luther Kings both had vision of the perfect world. One wanted to exist with only one dominant race while the other wanted to live in harmony with all kinds of people regardless of appearance. When attempting to create a perfect society, one must take every single person's needs into consideration, which means that if we are thinking about an ideal society, it is crucial to take into consideration the laws in which the society will lean, with strong believe that all humans are the same and that nobody is more important than someone else. When talking about an ideal society, it is important to keep in mind that in order for the society to be “ideal”, everyone needs to be “happy”. Nowadays, the youth is facing many problems that influence their life subversively. So, in order to achieve this almost “ideal” society, we need to implement reforms in the educational system, we need to speak more loudly about the corruption, and to build more resilient and sustainable health care system.

As President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely.” This is why we the youth need educational reform. Youth participation in educational reform is a process of involving young people in the educational policy, planning, and program institutions that affect their lives. It includes youth-led, adult-led, or intergenerational initiatives by formal agencies to involve youth in their activities, or by young people to join together and take action on their own. It includes efforts which address both broad systemic issues related to discrimination, poverty, and also everyday experiences with unsanitary bathrooms, unclean classes, lack of infrastructure as in the educational process which includes electronics, etc. Young people should participate in educational reform at the level of state, because their participation provides a legitimate source of information for making policy and planning. It prepares youth to exercise their political

rights and to participate actively increasing their individual involvement, organizational involvement, organizational capacity, and ability to create community change. Although young people are directly affected by educational policies, they are too often displaced and thus disengaged from the process. In contrast, our argument is that young people are willing and able to participate, and that if only a fraction of them were to increase their involvement, and if society were to view them in this way, they might create a powerful new constituency for educational reform. As young people became more conscious of these issues, they both should challenge teachers and administrators to change curricula and also devised curricula of their own. The critics should begin from the lack of cultural content, be able to push the curriculums to be more on the history of the past social and political movements, and teach this curriculum in civics classes. We should find at least twenty young people to spend more than a year to discuss what they want to learn, formulate action plans, organize other youth, parents and teachers who should support their proposals and approve at least five new multicultural course electives which have to be implemented.

One society strongly relies on its citizens' health, including those who represent the future - the youth. It relies both from political and economic aspect. The biggest importance is given to primary health care, which provides a holistic approach for everyone's medical needs and wellbeing throughout their lifespan. Primary health care should be omnipresent (widespread) in the society, as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing, including food, clothing, housing and medical care". Since it indicates preventive medical approach, primary health care is the cheapest method for providing health care for all. And the latest things happening in the world, have proven the importance of the healthcare and its necessity in a perfect society.

Today, contemporary societies face a variety of illegal forms that are reflecting on them. One of them is the corruption that inhibits the individual growth as well as the growth of society and the country. Corruption is a crime against humanity—it destroys the country and infects every level of government. Consequently, it is important to deepen knowledge about corruption if we want to be successful in the fight against this phenomenon, and education is undoubtedly central to preventing corruption. It should begin from the earliest age, at elementary school levels, and continue throughout the whole curriculum, including both aspects of personal values and ethical behavior and human rights based approach. The youth need to be engaged at the design stage of policies concerning them, because the more young people take the lead in a problem that is directly concerning them, the more chance policies have of succeeding. Most innovative and most efficient are the initiatives led by the young people themselves, so youth initiatives become more structured when integrated into larger anti-corruption campaigns.

In new and emerging democracies, the inclusion of young people in formal political processes is important from the start. Young people are not only enthusiastic and energetic but are also full of new ideas. They are able to instil freshness in the political affairs of their respective region as well as the nation. We can conclude by saying that today's youth are highly intelligent and educated. If we take part in politics, they will enrich it with their new ideas. Politicians, policy makers, and parents must work together to fathom just how to work the young minds of the nation, in order for them to see the importance it holds in western society. Only then will changes occur, because the youth is the hope of the nation, and as Aristotle once stated, "Good habits formed at youth, make all the difference".

V team

1. Dusko Doncev
2. Liridon Selmani
3. Bisera Nikolova
4. Vafire Muharemi

Raising voice on current issues shaping the socioeconomic status in the Republic of North Macedonia

Introduction

Youth participation and empowering youth activism has never been as high on the agenda as it is today. Supporting youth activism is one of the key pillars for advancing a development process geared towards achieving equality. We as young people of this country, often feel that traditional political discourse, spheres and mechanisms do not represent us. Although there are lots of calls for social justice, environmental protection and cultural diversity for young people, we participate very little in decision-making processes or in discussions on political or socioeconomic issues concerning the country and the region.

Main Body

Considering the well-being of the people in a country, the processes of the youth as they grow and get included into the system, many factors must be taken into account that will enable their freedom of speech and action, quality education, health and economic welfare, etc.

According to us, as the youth of this country, the three main issues that we consider as crucial to intervene in the Republic of North Macedonia are Digital transformation, Education and Rule of law.

Digital transformation is a chance to address some of the country's structural, economic, political and social challenges. New technologies aim to improve the effectiveness of government, a multifaceted concept that includes, among other things, the control of corruption and the efficient delivery of public goods such as education, health, social security

and transportation. In addition, ICT will have crucial role in the economy, by creating new jobs, introducing new services and industries, transforming workforce, and business innovation. What can be identified as significant room for advancement and potential is the level of regional digital cooperation. If managed based on a regional approach that utilizes the cooperation of multiple relevant stakeholders to help the country find a new path towards economic, democratic and social convergence with the EU.

- **Digitalization of public services, efficient delivery of public goods**

Health-related quality life cannot be summarized exactly because different aspects perform simultaneously. Due to the fact that well-being truly is the driving force throughout world, it is channeled through: physical, emotional psychological, developmental, social, life satisfaction and economic welfare. As the health system is the most endangered worldwide due to the pandemics, we considered it useful to state some of the challenges in our system. Up to the services in the primary health care organizations we are facing several challenges: pricey hospitalization and medication for COVID patients*, frequently lost/unavailable/incomplete documentation, unavailable documentation from private health institutions, abused non urgent patients according to basic medical or priority referral and cash payment only.

- **Digital Document Management - Moving from paper based to digital document management**

Digitalization in general it is a big step towards saving the environment. In this aspect we consider that it is crucial to invest more in Green Economy, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcity.

- **Digital infrastructure**
- **Creating new job thus preventing further brain drain**

The next important thing that the government should do is provide good **education** to its citizens. What we suggest is advancement in the following areas:

- **Online system for learning management for all educational levels (in case of need)**

The Covid-19 pandemic was a great test for the whole world. We do not have the correct answer whether any country could anticipate this event, but for the developing countries it was a big blow for the whole socio-economic system. Our country is still facing the challenges of E-learning and a proper working Learning Management System. The latest data shows are that it is crucial to measure efficiency of LMS and to further explore factors that will measure the e-learning system in general. Some of the challenges are: LMS success, LMS efficiency, relationship between usability and learner characteristics, etc.

- **Higher qualification criteria for teaching staff**
- **Collaboration of Universities with business sector**
- **Empowering youth activism**
 1. Empowering youth through meetings with decision makers
 2. Mobility
 3. Training and Networking
 4. Fostering Social Inclusion

In addition, the last issue that we consider it is important to intervene to is the judiciary system in the Republic of North Macedonia. Judiciary system is really important for the wellbeing of one country. Feeling protected and secure by the state institutions when our rights are threatened by individuals, state bodies or foreign governments is crucial for the wellbeing of the citizens therefore for the country.

Our judiciary system has to be independent, transparent and sensitive for equity. At this moment we have huge issues with the citizens' confidence in the judiciary system (it is coming from the low performance of the judges, low quality of the judicial procedures, corrupted judges ect). Also, procedural laws have a lot space for improvement. What we suggest in this aspect is:

- **Revision of the procedural laws** with wide consultation of experts in different topics not only lawyers. Although the procedural laws are complex, at the same time they are addressing

really sensitive issues. Thus we need broad consultation with experts from different fields to reach as real as possible overview of the situation that matters.

- **Revision of the law for witnesses** - We propose enacting new law for witnesses, following

international practice, especially the Scottish one. We have to emphasize the importance of informing and supporting youth 14-30 years old witnesses in the trial.

- **Fighting corruption** - Corruption still is the cancer of our country. One of the possible solutions is strong pressure from the citizens and aware citizens at the same time. There are enacted laws, and following EU directives just on paper, thus we need public pressure to decrease the corruption which is appearing in many forms in our country.

Conclusion

Republic of North Macedonia and the Western Balkans in general have mutual issues that should be solved, however besides all of the above mentioned, what is crucial for a better future, is to invest in human capital and by that in our population. Emphasizing the youth as a relevant stakeholder in decision making processes will help prevent brain drain and improve the welfare. By using the fine art of persuasion and mindfulness, we can create something that cannot be easily imitated and reach the long desired competitive edge.

VI team

1. Magdalena Ilieva
2. Nazlie Miftari
3. Jana Korunovska Ivanovska
4. Malek Al Auashreh
5. Renata Penchova
6. Sasho Merzhanoski

Youth Problems in North Macedonia

In every system in one modern state, the youth are the main progressive force which represents the future of the society and at the same time is one of the biggest creators on the public policy, the opinions, and views of the community.

It is a well-known fact that the youth of any country is a great asset. They are indeed the future of the country and represent it at every level. Youth are the population group with the greatest potential – for innovation, change, and peacebuilding in their own country.

However, youth nowadays are facing too many problems. In this essay, we will elaborate on the three problems that concern youth the most in our country, which are education, youth unemployment, and low quality of lifestyle.

Education

Education is central to the development and the improvement of the lives of youth globally. The significance of education is comprehensively recognized by individuals, belonging to all categories and backgrounds. The individuals have formed this viewpoint that they will be able to enrich their lives when they would acquire education.

Education in North Macedonia is in a continuous process of reform and is still facing some problems and obstacles.

The major problems concerning education in North Macedonia are:

- Schools and universities are under-resourced with aging infrastructure and outdated materials and equipment;
- The quality of teaching has deteriorated in recent years due to the overall socio-economic and political situation in the country;

- The preferred level of education applying to more than 80% of youth is to complete university education, as they expect to find job opportunities later on⁽¹⁴⁾;
- The prevalence of buying grades has increased in the past few years;

Solutions:

- **The teacher's strategies:**

quality awareness, professional freedom, professional ethics, organizing student learning opportunities, participation in school curriculum and organization development, promoting parent and community commitment.

- **The education's system:**

improvement in the quality of components, improving the quality of standards and curricula, improving the quality of academic literature, improving professionalism among school personnel, improving the quality of educational monitoring, improving the quality of research, improving the quality of management system, improving the quality of material and technical base and formulation of policies and rules.

Youth unemployment

Being one of the major concerns in many countries, it remains a prevalent issue in new democracies such as the **Western Balkan countries**.

Since its independence in 1991 and during the years that followed, North Macedonia has been characterized by high unemployment rates.

¹ The Friedrich Ebert Foundation, "Youth Study North Macedonia 2018/2019", 2019, <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/id-moe/15266.pdf>

The one group that is facing extremely high unemployment, is the youth. Facts show that 48.2% of youth unemployment in the Republic of North Macedonia, the general perception is that the young population that enters the labor force faces a higher risk of becoming or remaining unemployed. Moreover, the formal education and training systems often have been ineffective at easing the transition from school to work or slow to adapt to the changing requirements arising from the rapidly changing industrial structure. Among other factors that might cause a higher incidence of youth unemployment are some labor market institutions such as minimum wages and unemployment benefits.

The problem of youth unemployment is often related to the role of the family in providing income support, particularly in more traditional and collectivist societies.

This is the data for the unemployment in North Macedonia from 1991 to 2020. The average value for North Macedonia during that period was 56.39% with a minimum of 37.74% in 2020 and a maximum of 65.44% in 2003. The latest value from 2020 is 37.74%. For comparison, the world average in 2020 based on 182 countries is 15.95%. The main reason for high unemployment among young workers is skills mismatch, digital divide and the lack of access to capital.

Solutions:

- Improving the education and training courses;
- Make it easier for youth to access capital;
- Universal internet access;
- Greater availability of cheap tech.

Quality of lifestyle

The quality of lifestyle reflects the way in which youth, individually or in a group, spend their free time, the activities in which they engage, and their habits. The quality of lifestyle is strongly related to the youth's values, interests, and models of behavior and has an impact on their personal development.

According to the survey data by the State Statistical Office, expressed through a number of hours and minutes, shows that youth aged between 15 and 24 on average spend their free time as follows: sleeping – 8.59, leisure activities – 5.35, household chores – 0.53, employment – 0.49, eating and drinking – 2.18, other personal care – 1.05, traveling – 1.13, schooling – 2.46, voluntary work and assistance – 0.07 (2).

These data show that youth in their free time mostly like to spend time on Internet, listen to music, spend time with their family and go out with their friends and rarely volunteer, attend cultural events, participate in workshops, or practice sports.

This way of spending their free time results in behavior in which the youth are not investing in their self-growth and personal development and holding values of estrangement, closed-mindedness, and apathy.

Solutions:

- To establish Youth Centers in every town that will offer different programs and non-formal educational opportunities for promoting self-development, development of skills and values of diversity, inclusion, and open-minded behavior as well as sport and creative activities;
- To establish a program that will promote different opportunities for youth to volunteer and to become socially engaged;
- To offer opportunities for youth to visit cultural events, at least, once a month.

Conclusion

Youth is the future of society. The youth simply need to renew, refresh and maintain the current status of the society. When the youth contribute their ideas and energy to resolve

social issues, they become capable leaders and can also make a difference in the lives of others.

They must have the courage to resolve the mournful contradictions that are plaguing the society and boldly take on great challenges without shunning the subsequent problems and difficulties that they will inevitably face.

Bibliography

- The Friedrich Ebert Foundation, "Youth Study North Macedonia 2018/2019", 2019, <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/id-moe/15266.pdf>
- UNICEF, "Born in transition: situation analysis of young people in North Macedonia", 2020, www.unicef.org/northmacedonia/media/5256/file/Youth%20in%20North%20Macedonia_EN.pdf
- European Policy Institute-Skopje, "Youth Employment in North Macedonia", February 2019, <https://epi.org.mk/post/13484>
- The World Bank, "Finding Solutions to Youth Unemployment in North Macedonia", July 2019, <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/867231589230179351/pdf/Finding-Solutions-to-Youth-Unemployment-in-North-Macedonia.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0t-3oE2AteWW8dfvHF0WTgYKagwjMD0dRbY5keFWHNBnp6BQtwN3TIKDo>
- Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, "Youth (Un)employment in Republic of Macedonia", November 2017, <https://repository.ukim.mk/handle/20.500.12188/1846>
- Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, "Unemployment: Risks and Challenges", 2013, <http://isppi.ukim.edu.mk/images/392333NEVRABOTENOST%20-%20rizici%20i%20predizvici-%20FINALNA%20FINALNA%20verzija-%2024%2012%202013.pdf>

- Association for Education Mladiinfo International, "Youth (Un)employment in North Macedonia: An analysis of NEET and vulnerable youth", October 2020, http://www.mladiinfo.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Baseline-Study_Final.pdf
- State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia, "Time use survey, 2014/2015", December 2015, <http://www.stat.gov.mk/Publikacij/2.4.15.20.pdf>

MONTENEGRO

I team

1. Aleksandra Simoni
2. Milica Kraljević
3. Danka Gardašević
4. Milena Mitrović
5. Biljana Popović
6. Mina Milović

Imagine you have a Genie`s lamp which allows you to gain limitless executive power in your (real) country, that enables you to solve immediately three problems that concern young people the most. What policy issues will you be focusing on and why? Please elaborate in English within your team the three things while keeping in mind the limits of minimum 500 maximum 1,000 words.

In the 21st century, in an era of advanced technological developments, small developing nations, like Montenegro, have not been successful in keeping up with the advanced modern world which is causing two major problems. First, youth is not provided with the basic means needed for building a safe future, and second, the state loses its population because of emigrations to developed prosperous nations. What this country, like many others, failed at is keeping its focus on providing programs, platforms, and services that would strengthen the position of youth, instead of solely investing in capital.

The three major problems that Montenegrin youth is facing today are education, employment, and housing. Education presents the foundation for any progress. Understanding a piece of information is the essence of the problem-solving process. Montenegrin education system does not recognize the need for adapting to new trends that directly affect youth`s ability to make decisions or judgments. This has a direct impact on the state's ability to change and develop because it does not produce academically trained citizens who are able to respond to various tasks. Montenegro should diversify its educational system, so young professionals can specialise in many different jobs. Respectively, it is the same case for the Montenegrin economy, which weaknesses really showed their impact during the COVID-19 crisis. Montenegrin GDP consists of 25% income

from the tourism sector. Once again this waves a red flag demanding diversification of the economy too. The last problem that we would like to solve is the housing problem, because recent studies showed that Montenegrin youth see this as one of the reasons why they want to leave their country.

Changes in the educational system take time and they require a multi-level approach. Since we believe that Montenegro faces too many problems in this area, we chose one of them which we think is a great example of what this state should do and why. According to IPSOS data from 2018, children mostly use internet search engines and social networks as a source of information and as entertainment platforms. We recognized the necessity to educate children and young adults about Internet safety, but also about the proper use of the Internet, given that the Internet is a global gateway. So far, many projects have been launched as the beginning of media literacy, however, due to the rapid development of technology, information expansion, but also the situation with the coronavirus, children and youth are not educated enough in media literacy to feel confident and safe in the digital environment. As a solution, we propose compulsory subjects within formal education that will address all aspects of safe and desirable behavior on the Internet, but also informal workshops that will address similar topics and empower young people in critical thinking, forming their own attitudes, and adapting their personal characteristics to the rapidly evolving interdisciplinary global environment.

Adapting education to current trends and providing youth necessary skills comes hand in hand with the need for diversification of the economy. The World Bank in 2020 estimated that youth unemployment rate in Montenegro was at 29.49 percent. There are many roots of this problem: lack of educated labor, high percentage of low paid jobs, no production industry, low wages, few sectors with overcrowded labor and many sectors with unskilled labor, not friendly start-up environment, lack of support for opening private business, high taxes, etc. Our proposal for this problem is a policy that would help young people to establish their businesses in Montenegro with providing them incentives and creating a business friendly environment. The state should help young entrepreneurs with low interest loans with a grace period of a few years; by lowering their taxes for the first five years; lowering income taxes for their employees below 35 years old. Also, the state should organize entrepreneurship workshops that would teach youth

to run their businesses. Montenegrin private sector needs to grow and this way both youth unemployment and diversification of the economy would be solved.

The Study on Youth in Montenegro from 2018/2019 concluded that as many as 71.8% of young people live in a parental home, 6.2% of those who pay for an apartment/house by themselves, while 5.6% of those live separately but their apartments/houses are paid by someone else. The least are those who live in the building that they bought themselves - 3.2%. Also, the situation is not better with young married couples where 23% of young couples live in the home they bought. It is important that half of the young people aged 26-29 stated that they would live separately if they were able to, which leads us to conclude that their perceptions of a happy life are directly related to economic and political factors - as many as 67, 4% of young people think that it is very important to live in a good country in order to have a happy life.

The proposal would be - a state subsidy or a form of financial incentive, which gives young people the opportunity to become independent on favorable terms, such as payment in monthly installments with a symbolic fee. If the state would invest in housing facilities that would be accessible to young people, under fairly set conditions, something like facilities for educators, that investment would benefit everyone in the long run, because it is an investment in the future of the country - the Youth, it is important because it would touch upon another important topic - migration of Youth to other more developed countries.

This leads us further to the conclusion that young people in Montenegro are dependent on housing, and thus dependent on developing their lives in a certain direction. For this reason, it is important to address the issues of education, unemployment and housing opportunities for Youth which is our Genie problem for this essay, if they have proper education, employment opportunities and housing independence they will build a prosperous society and develop within their country.

Sources:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/12/02/pandemic-threatens-to-push-72-million-more-children-into-learning-poverty-world-bank-outlines-new-vision-to-ensure-that-every-child-learns-everywhere>

<https://www.medijskapismenost.me/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Istra%C5%BEivanje-Djeca-roditelji-i-mediji-12.11.2018.pdf>

<https://dfcme.me/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/medijska-pismenost-korona-i-gradjani-cg-final.pdf>

https://www.nb-cg.me/fajlovi/IMP_Smjernice_PRERADA.pdf

<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/787451545030793133/pdf/Montenegro-Growth-and-Jobs.pdf>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/812253/youth-unemployment-rate-in-montenegro/>

II team

1. Nađa Perović
2. Jelena Uskoković
3. Teodora Ilić
4. Milica Simović
5. Sanja Djikanović

Imagine you have a Genie`s lamp which allows you to gain limitless executive power in your (real) country, that enables you to solve immediately three problems that concern young people the most. What policy issues will you be focusing on and why? Please elaborate in English within your team the three things while keeping in mind the limits of minimum 500 maximum 1,000 words.

Nowadays, this country`s youth is surrounded by numerous problems, and the older generations are not always willing to listen. Therefore, we, as representatives of the Montenegrin youth, have decided to present our ideas and hopefully help change the future for the better.

The first problem the youth faces is the substandard level of secondary education. The outward appearance of schools may deter some students from enrolling in courses they would otherwise find better suited for their interests. Instead opting for a gymnasium, which, though providing a great level of academic knowledge, lacks the means to educate and build upon practical skills.

The previously stated problem, in our opinion, stems from a lack of funds for maintenance and refurbishment of school equipment, as well as inadequate training of school staff. The solution we propose is to increase the budget that goes directly into the aforementioned ideas, as well as helping students take initiative in taking care of them. The latter can be achieved with the help of teachers who would be thoroughly trained in pedagogy and developmental psychology. The school staff in its entirety should also be open to all kinds of dialogue with students in order to provide a proper net of support, as schools are places we spend a significant part of the day in.

When it comes to school, another lacking part is praxis. It is especially important for gymnasiums, which, in contrast to specialized schools, completely lacks programs to put theory to practice. This proves to be the biggest problem while choosing a field in which to pursue higher education and as such, introducing mandatory praxis to gymnasiums and improving on specialized schools` praxis could prove beneficial and helpful.

Due to such problems, many students give up on the universities and/or jobs they initially desired and focused on, thus we come to another major problem among youth, which is employment. This problem is primarily a product of discrimination based on political affiliation and gender. To regulate this problem, it is necessary for employers to be as objective as possible in their selection, i.e. not to discriminate on the previously stated factors. A regulatory body should be formed to oversee the selection of employees and provide everyone with appropriate qualifications equal opportunity for employment.

To provide greater employment opportunities for younger people, stricter enforcement of the law that is already in place should be carried out, and that is for every person aged 66(m) and 64(f) to be retired and eligible for pension. In our opinion, the age should be lowered for jobs that require a certain degree of physical fitness (such as P.E. teachers and construction workers), and a person employed for over 30 years should also be eligible for pension.

As a result of older generations staying employed, there is little to no room for today's youth to find jobs in Montenegro. They are forced to travel abroad in order to acquire financial stability and lead fulfilling lives. The issue is so common, that it has been titled as "brain drain". With the uncertainty of finding stable employment comes the new fear of having children and being unable to provide for them. The solution we propose is to implement a system that provides welfare benefits for individuals who plan on having children that would indeed be able to better the quality of life for them. To prevent people from abusing the system, a certain amount of money would only be accessible in form of coupons/checks specifically intended for baby products such as diapers, bottles, and clothes.

Another way to encourage young adults to have children is to implement longer paid leave. To clarify, at least one year of paid leave after the birth of the child for the mother, and another year for which working parents are free to choose which spouse gets the paid leave. This system, or rather its variation, is already implemented in certain job fields, therefore the goal would be to make it available in every field.

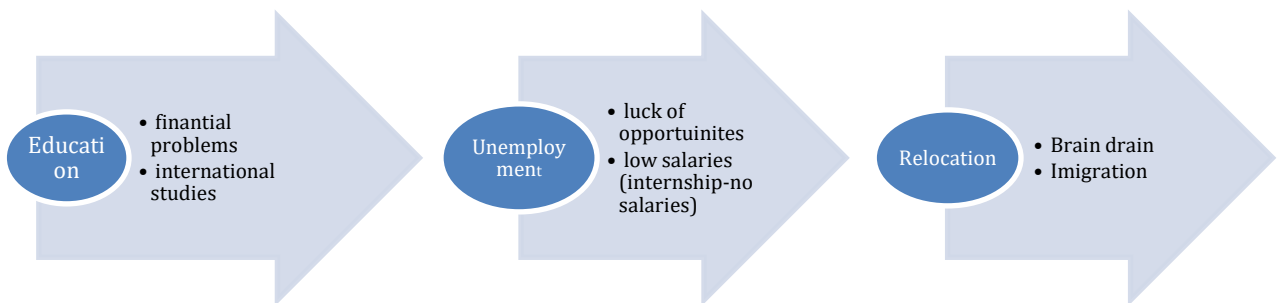
The final goal is to create an environment encouraging youth to love their country for what it can provide them and encourage them to give back in return. We think it is possible, that it's not a faraway utopia, but rather, a place we can create with dedication, hard work and teamwork.

III team

1. Elma Radončić
2. Jasmina Radonjić
3. Hamdija Begović
4. Jovan Jablan
5. Kristina Šćepanović
6. Tea Babić

Montenegro is an independent country with a democratic regime and multi-party system. It is located in Southeast Europe, which is often politically labeled the Western Balkans. It is a small country with less than a million inhabitants, but multicultural and multi-national. Since Montenegro gained its independence and divided from Serbia in 2006, clear foreign policy goals were set. The membership in European Union, whose candidate, became in 2012 and today is considered a Western Balkan countries leader in a negotiation process. NATO membership, which happened by joining in 2017. Its recognition as a right partner brought the country many benefits, primarily through financial support for democratization is the crucial point in the accession process.

Does the independence and after recognition and reputation of the county directly mean the well-being of its citizens, more opportunities, and higher living standards? As young people coming from the Balkans, there is a list of problems we face every day. The three main problems have a causal relationship, which is presented and discussed below.



Problems with education occur first and primarily because of financial problems; the living standard is not high. If a family has more than two children, it is hard to support them

financially, and this problem concerns young people on the Northside of Montenegro, Universities are mainly located in Podgorica, and there are costs for living that need to be covered as well.

All the Universities offer scholarships just for the best high school students, but we think that there should be a place for students, called "social cases" and help them. We understand that the students with the best results should be awarded, but we also have to consider that life circumstances are not the same for everyone; the overall score students gain depends on other things, not just on their effort. Also, moving to another city costs. This could be done by the parliament resolution to open new dorms and to support at least one percent of the people who are in the lower material situation.

Here is a problem we called above international studies, problem is not a problem itself, but many Montenegro citizens every year decide more and more to apply for the scholarship abroad. Educational reform is urgently needed, and Montenegrin Universities are mainly theory-oriented rather than research-oriented. More practice would create more experts; the research-oriented educational institution would create the individuals who can critically observe things and act in the purpose of change, also, contribution to science through synergy with the economy will raise the level of both spheres, the reputation of the state and create recognized eminent experts in various fields.

The educational problems will result in a problem with unemployment. The people who do not have the opportunity to gain high education would end up with a lack of employment opportunities. People with high school can do mostly and only catering jobs. This could change if there were individual accredited institutions that offer training in certain areas and in that way people, people can decide on something between college/universities and high school (with less money and less time), which in turn will give them the opportunity for a dignified life and higher earning.

Furthermore, we have a second dimension here, low salaries. Even people who have higher education tend to be unsatisfied with their salaries. In comparison with the rest of the world, salaries for medical workers, professors, for example, are not high, and especially people who gain their education abroad, see the life standard there, where the salaries in catering jobs are three times or higher than as an academic citizen here, people tend to stay there and accept to work on those kinds of jobs even overqualified. This problem is more profound; it has a lot to do with corruption, which is on the high level in Montenegro. In recent years, the Freedom House index describes Montenegro as a "hybrid regime" country, the hybrid regime has the characteristic of both democratic and autocratic regimes, and this high level of corruption comes with no surprise. The anti-corruption agency of Montenegro has the leading role here, but unfortunately, this agency is highly political, and the efforts for anti corruptions seem to be low. That is why the independence of the lending institution regarding corruption is urgent. And publicly presenting facts about corrupt politicians, social elite, business people, and not selective administration of justice would mean a lot to solve this problem.

We have to mention that the internship is usually not paid and if there is even an opportunity for an internship. It is terrible because the internship connected to the field of studies is essential for Montenegrin youth; thus, they gain the experience needed to get a job. There should be the policy that the at least 200 best operating companies, NGOs, and state institution have at least two interns a year, in six months, someone can gain experience, be less dependent on parents, and contribute to the system with fresh, new ideas more strength and motivation, as young people have.

The last problem that became a high trend among Montenegro youth is presented as "relocation," and we have two dimensions migration or brain drain. Those from the first dimensions of each problem will decide to go abroad and try their luck. Even if they do the same jobs as here, more paid somewhere else, they help their families and stay there, sometimes even illegally. This is noticeable on the Northside of Montenegro, where we have much migration in the United States of America. Again, this problem requires the solution as unemployment, giving more opportunities and creating some specific policies that include a social category with the lack of material funds and thus lack of high education, would be more than beneficial. Giving them opportunities to work not just on the catering jobs, but to specialize and be trained in certain areas and fields, is necessary if we want them to have a reason to stay. Because these kinds of jobs they can do wherever they go, with a lot bigger salary than it is here.

Brain drain is a problem that is usual among those who gain knowledge abroad. Instead of coming home, young and smart people with the degrees of the most recognizable educational institutions in the world are searching for a way to stay in a foreign country. This directly affects all the aspects of the Montenegro system in its entirety. A lower percentage of the educated people means a weaker state because they could contribute to institutional development, and their knowledge and experience would influence political, economic, and other segments.

The three problems we discussed in this paper are all connected: one problem leads to another, and the system needs reform in many aspects. The picture of Montenegro as a leader in the integration processes and the recognition as a right partner should be shown not to the people outside the country but also the inside. The youth should see the benefits of all this, and it can be done just by efforts to create a system that values them and in which they can trust!

IV team

1. Luna Ćerić
2. Milana Tomić
3. Alida Bojadžić
4. Igor Mijušković
5. Iva Lalić
6. Nikola Nenezić

Introduction

*“Like all young people, you are quite sure that you alone feel and think, you alone recognize danger, you alone are the only one clever enough to realize...”*¹

Law on Youth² defines a young person as a person from 15 to 30 years of age.

This is a critical age group because of the transfer from childhood to adult age. To address the particular problems this group is having, laws and international instruments distinguish this group. However, the most challenging part remains law enforcement.

This essay will discuss three problems that concern young people in Montenegro.

I. Unemployment

A lot has been said, but little done, regarding the unemployment problem.

This issue has priority on our list, because it is the most severe one.

We want a society where every person will have a guaranteed job after its graduation from college. Competence should be the only criteria for hiring, and not membership in a political party.

Causes:

This problem is caused by inequality of chances, corruption and nepotism which are incorporated in all spheres of society.

Government has focused its priorities on tourism, and neglected other areas of the economy. Also, employers do not want to hire a young workforce because of a lack of experience. In job advertisements, there is always a requirement that a person has a minimum of 2 to 3 years of experience. Under the Montenegrin law, it is not mandatory to retire when requirements for retirement are fulfilled. This enables the old workforce not to retire and to stay all life.

Government has neglected this problem, which lead to even more serious problems:

First, the lack of opportunities for young graduates has caused the issue of brain drain. Young people are forced to move abroad to find a job for an appropriate salary. A society where all young people are forced to migrate cannot develop. Second, political parties abuse this problem to get

¹ J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

² Official Gazette of Montenegro no. 025/19 from 30.04.2019, 027/19 from 17.05.2019

votes and new members. Third, crime and corruption are growing because there is no chance for young people to provide for living in another way.

Possible solutions:

Opening of new workplaces. The Government should improve housing rights. Moreover, a Special housing fund for young people might resolve the problem. Also, Banks could provide beneficial credits with the low-interest rate for young people who do not have a place to live.

Foreign investments in previous years have been focused on tourism, and on the south of Montenegro. We think that there is a need for investments in the north, such as the opening of factories, etc. This could resolve a problem of centralization in the capital of Montenegro.

Also, the Government should provide more support to SME (small and medium enterprises) and encourage them to hire young people through the tax system or other benefits.

One of the causes of the first problem are flaws in the education system.

II. Education system

Public policy should focus on strengthening the potential of young people through the education system.

Education is based only on exams and deadlines, which put too much pressure on students who don't have time for any extracurricular activities.

The schools do not encourage students to think critically and stand up for themselves. The mindset of young people is that they must accept whatever is offered and live with that.

Criteria for grades is very provisional and subjective.

People who finish university are ones with family connections, not ones who study hard. Also, only they can find a job after graduation. That is how the purpose of education is lost.

Competition on the market is very high. Little has been done to make the transition from college to labour market easier.

All the problems in society had an impact on the mental health of young people. Young people are living with serious anxiety, depression etc. No one talks about these problems, and it is tabu in Montenegro.

Possible solutions:

This all proves the need for development of soft skills through education such as communication skills, teamwork, leadership, negotiation skills etc.

Schools should encourage young people to use their freedom of speech and to criticize whatever they do not accept. Only critical mindset can initiate changes.

Institutions must have Rules which will provide criteria for grades. Also, the impartial body should be established to which unsatisfied students can appeal.

Culture should be encouraged through school curricula. Fine arts such as music, literature, art should be studied more thoroughly.

Well-being centres should be established where students can talk about their problems with an expert. There students will find support and help. That could boost their confidence and they will not feel alone.

III. **Young people are not included in the decision making process.**

Young people have always been initiators of change and development. They have the right and responsibility to create their future.

Interests of young people are often disregarded in public policy. Laws should be created in accordance with the needs of young people.

Currently, Montenegro does not have a Ministry of Youth. This body should be in charge to propose laws which could tackle issues that concern Youth.

Further, young people should have their representatives in parliament. These representatives would collect appeals from young people regarding the issues that are bothering them, and propose solutions. In this way, freedom of speech is encouraged.

The example of good practice is the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme. Through this programme, countries send young delegates who include input to their delegation on issues in their country related to Youth.

“Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society’s margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have every opportunity to participate fully in the lives of their societies.”

- Kofi Annan

V team

1. Anja Strugar
2. Tea Muratović
3. Aleksandra Vidović
4. Ljubica Smolović
5. Aleksandra Gogić

Three youth policy issues that we believe need to be addressed in our society

Youth, by which we mean adolescents and young people are the basic unit of any society. By using the term youth we mean the transition period between childhood and taking responsibility as an adult. The question is whether young people should be presented as a vulnerable group prone to risks, or as active participants in decision-making in society. Although young people represent the most dynamic part of society, they also represent a vulnerable category of society because their vulnerability can be the result of many factors and as such affect their behavior. The goal of every society should be the active participation of young people in the decision-making process, as well as raising the awareness of young people that their active commitment can influence the world around them.

In this period in which a person's identity is formed, it is necessary for a young person to know that he has the support of society and institutions, in order to reduce the risks of a young person indulging in radical ideas. Taking into account the fact that the most dominant factors influencing the vulnerability of young people are poverty, inequality and social exclusion, it is clear that this is a problem that affects everyone, and that only the joint efforts of civil society and state institutions, up to the commitment of interested individuals to this topic can reduce the problem.

As three main problems faced by young people in Montenegro, we identified *radicalization*, *education* and *insufficient connections between institutions* in relation to youth policies. As the main problem we emphasize radicalization, when we think of increased extremism in beliefs, ideas, behavior and feelings. The reason for this can be found in inherited attitudes, insufficient education or even misperception of things imposed by the media. The new phenomenon of fake news and not recognizing it, can lead to the formation of radical opinion without the person even being aware of it. We recognize education as the best solution for radicalization. However, we believe that the problem of radicalization exists not only in Montenegro but also in other countries

in the region, so we see the solution in regional cooperation of interested young people in creating better regional cooperation, but also a better situation in each country.

On the other hand, in education we also recognize the problems that need to be solved in order to create a stronger society, resistant to negative influences. The introduction of subjects such as media literacy would prepare young people to face contemporary challenges. Education should also focus on educating young people by increasing the level of tolerance for diversity in order to create a multiethnic, multi-religious and multinational civil society. In these two problems, we recognize the causal link - namely, improved education would reduce radicalization.

Also, there is a problem when it comes to the employment of young people and the compliance of their education with the job they have. It is often the case that they are overqualified and have a higher level of education than the position they hold. Further, the problem is that for some new occupations that appear on the labor market we do not have an educational background and it happens that we lack staff. We also need to talk more and dedicate ourselves to the idea of developing youth entrepreneurship in the Western Balkan.

The third problem is complex, it is about cooperation between institutions regarding youth policies. This is a very important issue. State and civil society institutions need to focus on youth involvement, and this can only be achieved through joint action. The marginalization of young people is highly undesirable and a problem for society as a whole. Involving young people in creating policies that affect them can ensure the prosperity of the whole society in the future. It is very important to create a good, safe environment that will encourage them to further improve and learn. Montenegro is on the right track, but of course it is necessary to strive for even closer cooperation between institutions and setting a good example for the countries of the region.

We conclude that it is very important to invest in the young generations, to create all the necessary conditions for their successful realization as a person, because they make the future. They are future citizens of the European Union. Their perspective for the future should be success, tolerance of diversity, raising awareness and standards of living, openness to the values of the European Union and preserving them. On the other hand, it is our responsibility, young people, to get involved, to create, to respect, to use the opportunities that are provided to us. To be active citizens who make decisions. Most young people in Montenegro are oriented towards the values of the European Union, the perspective of Montenegro is European and implies respect for all values. The young people of the Western Balkans should be turned to mutual cooperation. As

representatives of active young citizens of Montenegro, we look forward to working with our peers in other Western Balkan countries so that the future of our region is European.