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PARTNERSALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

MONITORING REPORT OF

POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH

2023



Researcher
Era Sherifaj

Contributor
Jonida Alite

Design and Layout
Enxhi Rexhepi



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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Partners Albania for Change and Development (PA) has been preparing the "Monitoring Report on Political, Social, and Economic Participation of Youth" in Albania since 2016.

The monitoring report serves as a mechanism to gain insight into the broad political, economic, and social context that can empower or hinder youth participation in society. It provides a comprehensive overview of opportunities for youth through the lens of 25 indicators of political, economic, and social participation.

- **Political dimension** refers to the opportunities of young people to get involved in political processes – to be informed on the work of the government, parliament, and municipalities, to participate in youth networks, and to be elected to political positions. The set of indicators selected to measure the participation of young people in the political dimension include the presence of young ministers and deputy ministers in government, young members of parliament, and young mayors. Further indicators assess the availability of online tools for information and participation in decision-making of the government, parliament and municipalities; the existence of youth-focused structures at both national and local levels, and the representation of youth in leadership and decision-making roles within local public administration, such as municipalities.

- **Economic dimension** refers to the degree of inclusion or, to the contrary, exclusion of young people from the labour market. It captures the degree of their activity, employment, and self-employment. Key indicators for assessing this dimension include the NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) rate, youth unemployment rate, long-term unemployment rate, youth labor force participation rate, youth employment rate, the proportion of self-employed young people, and the total government expenditure on employment programs.

- **Social dimension** refers to the active participation of young people in social life. It is assessed based on the integration of young people in the community through formal and nonformal education, as well as through an absence of markers of potential exclusion – due to poverty, dependence on the social welfare system, and time spent in prison or correctional facilities. Relevant indicators include the proportion of young people at risk of poverty, young people in prison, and young people part of the social welfare. Education-related metrics, such as literacy rates, enrolment and graduation rates in mandatory, secondary, vocational, and tertiary education, as well as the percentage of youth with advanced education, are also considered. Additionally, total government spending on social protection programs is included in this year report.

The Report is a concrete tool that can be used by public authorities and NPOs to systematically identify and address the most pressing challenges of youth participation. It contributes to:


- Compare data according to key indicators of youth participation in all three dimensions: political, economic, and social;
- Monitor progress in youth participation through the years in Albania;
- Advocacy actions at the local level for the implementation of policies and programs aimed at the improvement of youth participation.

The Monitoring Report for 2023 provides an analysis of the data collected through desk research and official requests for information sent to responsible institutions as: the Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Health and Social Protection; Minister of State for Youth and Children; Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation; Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and Business Climate; Ministry of Tourism and Environment; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; General Directorate of Taxation, General Directorate of Prisons; National Institute of Statistics; and Albanian municipalities.


In 2023 the report was prepared in the framework of the project “Strengthening Civil Society: Empowering Resilient CSOs and Fostering Public Engagement for a Sustainable Democracy” implemented by Partners Albania and financially supported by the United States Embassy in Tirana.

Previously, the report was developed by PA in the frame of the regional project “Wester Balkan & Turkey for EmploYouth”, contributing to regional reports, reflecting the situation of youth in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey.





“Although in recent years many youth-focused initiatives have been undertaken, access to services for them remains limited or challenging, especially for young people living in smaller cities and rural areas”





Data on Political Participation of Youth

INDICATORS	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	YEAR
Young* Ministers in Government	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2023 ¹
Young Deputy Ministers in Government	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2023 ¹
Young MPs in the Parliament	1.40%			2023 ¹
Young Mayors	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2023 ¹
Online Tools for Information and Participation in Decision-Making of the Government and Parliament	92%			2023 ¹
Online Tools for Information and Participation in Decision-Making at Local Level	95%			2023 ¹
Existence of Youth Structure (councils/parliaments/unions) at National Level	YES			2023 ¹
Existence of Youth Structure (councils/parliaments/unions) at Local Level	98%			2023 ¹
Youth Employees in Public Administration at Central Level	No Data	No Data	No Data	2023 ²
Youth Employees in Public Administration at Local Level	10.5%	14.7%	8%	2023 ³
Youth in Leadership and Decision-Making Positions in Public Administration at Central Level	No Data	No Data	No Data	2023 ³
Youth in Leadership and Decision-Making Positions in Public Administration at Local Level	6.10%	6.20%	6%	2023 ³
% of the Municipality Budget dedicated to Youth	2-3%			2023 ³


*By "Young" we refer to the age group 15-29 years old, as defined by the Law on Youth 75/2019 in Albania.

Attention to: percentage of seats held by young women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments


[1] Desk Research

[2] Request for Information to Department of Public Administration, DAP

[3] Request for Information to the 61 Municipalities of Albania



“Youth political participation in Albania remains very low. Representation of young people in leadership and decision-making positions continues to be minimal, hovering near 0%”





Data on Social Participation of Youth

INDICATORS	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	YEAR
Young People at Risk of Poverty	21.5%	23.4%	19.7%	2022 ⁴
Young People in Prisons	39.3%	0.4%	38.9%	2023 ⁵
Young People in Social Welfare System	19.1%			2023 ⁶
Literacy Rate	98.9%	99.1%	98.9%	2023 ⁷
Young People Enrolled in Mandatory Education	97%	96.9%	97.2%	'23-'24 ⁸
Young People Enrolled in Secondary Education	80.6%	77.3%	83.7%	'23-'24 ⁸
Dropout from the Secondary Education	No Data			2023 ⁹
Gender Parity in Secondary Education	0.92%			2023 ¹⁰
Young People Enrolled in Vocational Education and Training	14.4%	4.8%	23.8%	'23-'24 ⁸
Young People Graduated in Vocational Education and Training	1.9%	0.6%	3.2%	'22-'23 ⁸
Young People Enrolled in Tertiary Education	21.3%	25.4%	17.2%	'23-'24 ¹¹
Young people Graduated from Tertiary Education	23.6%	26.2%	19.7%	'22-'23 ¹¹
Young People with Advanced Education	31.6%	42.9%	20.1%	2023 ⁸
Young people Living Below the Minimal Income Level	No Data			2023
Total government budget in social protection programs	Budget: 30,597,119,00 Albanian Lekë (ALL) Spending: 30,095,419,629 Albanian Lekë (ALL)			2023 ¹²

[4] Request for Information to the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), the data available for 2022, and for 2023 will be published in December 2024

[5] Request for Information to the Generate Directorate of Prisons

[6] Request for Information to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection

[7] Desk Calculation, Data form Cens 2023


[8] Data from INSTAT and Cens 2023

[9] Request for Information to Ministry of Education and Sports

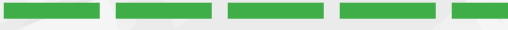
[10] Desk Calculation

[11] Request for Information to Ministry of Education and Sports and National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)

[12] Request for Information to the State Social Services



“The lack of consistent data on the social dimension, particularly regarding poverty rates and young people in the social welfare system, remains a significant issue in 2023”





Data on Economic Participation of Youth

INDICATORS	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	YEAR
NEET Rate	24.6%	25.6%	23.5%	2023 ¹³
Gender Parity in NEET	1.09%	0.0%	0.0%	2023 ¹⁴
Youth Unemployment Rate	22.2%	20.6%	23.6%	2023 ¹³
Long-term Youth Unemployment Rate	15%	12.5%	17.2%	2023 ¹³
Youth Labor Force Participation Rate	56.9%	52%	61.8%	2023 ¹³
Youth Employment Rate	44.2%	41.3%	47.2%	2023 ¹³
Percentage of Young People who Started their own Businesses with the State Financial Support	No Data	No Data	No Data	2023 ¹⁵
Self-Employed Young People	15.1%	12.5%	17.5%	2023 ¹³
Youth to Total Population Unemployment Ratio	48.8%	42.5%	50.7%	2023 ¹⁴
Youth to Total Population Employment Ratio	19.6%	20.1%	19.1%	2023 ¹⁴
Working Youth at Risk of Poverty	No Data	No Data	No Data	2023 ¹³
Young people 15-17 years Engaged in Labour	4.1%	1.2%	2.9%	2023 ¹⁶
Total Government Spending in Employment Programmes	626.790.431	Albanian Lekë (ALL)		2023 ¹⁷

[13] Request for Information to the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)

[14] Desk Calculation

[15] Request for Information to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and Business Climate, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

[16] Request for Information to the General Directorate of Taxes

[17] Request for Information to the National Agency for Employment and Skills

“In 2023, economic challenges for youth have increased overall, affecting both genders. Notably, young men experienced a first-time decline in key indicators, marking an unusual shift in their participation”



ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON OF DATA DURING 8 YEARS OF MONITORING

Overall, several indicators have fluctuated positively and negatively over the years. However, compared to the data reported in the first report, eight years ago, there has been a notable improvement.

Political Participation Dimension

Youth political participation in Albania remains significantly low, with limited representation in both national and local governance. In 2023, there were no young people appointed as ministers, deputy ministers, or mayors, underscoring a persistent generational gap in leadership. While youth structures and advancements in digital engagement tools exist, these measures have yet to translate into meaningful influence or decision-making opportunities for young people.

The representation of young individuals in ministerial positions in Albania remains non-existent, with a persistent 0% appointment rate over the years. Despite notable strides in gender representation, with women constituting 69% of government ministers as of September 2023, this marks a decline from the 81% achieved in 2022 following changes in the government cabinet. Meanwhile, the average age of ministers remains static at 45.5 years.

In 2023, the number of young deputy ministers fell to zero, down from just one in 2022, perpetuating a long-standing trend of limited youth participation in these roles. Women currently hold 56% of deputy ministerial positions, yet the average age remains at 47 years, further emphasizing the lack of generational diversity.

Parliamentary representation paints an equally concerning picture. In 2023, only 1.4% of MPs were aged 15–29, signaling a minimal and diminishing presence of youth in legislative processes.

At the local level, no young individuals have been elected as mayors over the past five years. The leadership remains dominated by men (87%), with women accounting for just 13%, and the average age of mayors remains at 47 years. However, the 2023 local elections marked a modest shift, introducing eight mayors aged 35–38, offering a glimmer of generational change amidst an otherwise static leadership landscape. This gradual change suggests potential for increased youth participation if structural and cultural barriers are addressed.

At the local level, significant progress has been made in expanding digital participation tools between 2016 and 2023, with a particularly sharp increase in the last two years. By 2023, nearly all municipalities had established online platforms, such as websites and social media accounts, aimed at informing and engaging citizens, including youth, in decision-making processes.

In many cases, these accounts are managed by mayors rather than the municipalities themselves, prioritizing the promotion of mayors' activities over broader participatory objectives. Similarly, most government institutions in Albania have adopted online tools to enhance public access to information, with only one or two exceptions where such resources remain unavailable. While these developments mark progress, the underlying focus on self-promotion rather than meaningful public involvement underscores the need for a shift toward more participatory and inclusive digital practices.

Youth structures at both national and local levels are in place to promote young people's engagement in political and social life. At the national level, organizations such as the National Youth Agency, the National Youth Council, and the National Youth Congress play a crucial role in empowering youth and fostering their participation in governance and community activities. These bodies provide a platform for advocacy, capacity-building, and policy influence.

At the local level, the Law on Youth 75/2019 mandates the establishment of youth councils within municipalities to enhance youth engagement in decision-making. By 2023, youth councils have been established in 60 municipalities, reflecting progress in institutionalizing youth participation. However, their effectiveness in fulfilling their intended roles varies widely, often constrained by insufficient resources, limited capacity, or lack of prioritization by local authorities.

To fully realize their potential, a stronger and more consistent commitment is needed to equip these councils with the tools, support, and autonomy required to function as active agents of youth empowerment and civic participation. Without such efforts, these structures risk becoming symbolic rather than transformative.

Additionally, youth centers and multifunctional spaces serve as hubs for fostering youth engagement and empowerment, offering opportunities for social interaction, skill development, and active participation in community life. While some of these facilities are already operational, many remain under construction, highlighting disparities in accessibility and availability across municipalities.

To ensure equitable opportunities for youth participation, it is essential to prioritize the establishment and effective operation of these centers in all municipalities. This includes allocating sufficient resources, ensuring diverse programming tailored to local needs, and fostering inclusive environments that encourage the active involvement of all young people, regardless of their socio-economic or geographic background.

Without a comprehensive approach to expanding and supporting these facilities, the potential of youth centers to drive meaningful engagement and empowerment risks being undermined.

Municipalities play a pivotal role in youth empowerment at the local level, but their efforts are frequently hindered by structural and financial constraints. Except for Tirana, most municipalities lack dedicated youth directorates, instead addressing youth-related issues through broader departments such as education, culture, or social services. This fragmented approach dilutes the focus on youth-specific initiatives and limits their overall impact.

While many municipalities employ youth specialists, only a handful allocate dedicated budgets for youth initiatives, typically amounting to just 2–3% of their overall budgets. Even these limited funds are often embedded within broader programs, further constraining their effectiveness in addressing the unique needs of young people. This financial gap stems from several factors, including low demand from youth-focused offices, competing priorities that overshadow the needs of young people, and limited financial resources due to insufficient municipal revenues.

At the municipal level, 10.5% of public administration staff are aged 15–29, with women making up the majority of this demographic. However, their presence in leadership roles is notably low, with only 6.1% of young employees occupying positions such as deputy mayor, director, or sector supervisor, and just 3.9% being young women. Furthermore, representation of individuals with disabilities is marginal, accounting for only 1.2% of young municipal employees, highlighting the need for more inclusive hiring practices.

In terms of political engagement, transparency from political parties regarding youth involvement remains absent, as no data has been disclosed on the number of young people active in party structures. Consultative meetings reveal a concerning trend: most young people show little to no interest in political participation, reflecting a broader disengagement from traditional political processes. However, a subset of youth expresses a willingness to engage, particularly at the local level, yet many face significant barriers. These include a lack of guidance, mentorship, and incentives to navigate complex political pathways, which perpetuates their exclusion from meaningful participation.

Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort to create supportive environments that not only encourage youth involvement but also actively remove the structural barriers hindering their leadership and political engagement. This includes offering mentorship programs, enhancing transparency within political structures, and fostering a culture that values and incentivizes youth participation in governance and decision-making.



Social Participation Dimension

Over the years, significant gaps remain in the availability of data for certain indicators within the Social Participation dimension, particularly regarding the percentages of impoverished youth and those integrated into the social welfare system. These limitations undermine efforts to fully understand and address the socio-economic challenges facing young people.

The data reveals an overall reduction in the risk of poverty among young people, though notable gender disparities remain. Young women are consistently at a higher risk of poverty than young men. Between 2017 and 2022, the percentage of young men at risk of poverty decreased by 7.2%, while for young women, the decline was only 0.9%. The risk is particularly pronounced among the 0-17 age group, with 28.6% of girls in this category facing a higher likelihood of poverty.

In Albania, the youth population faces a slightly higher poverty risk than the general population, with 21.5% of youth at risk compared to 20.6% of the total population. These figures underscore the systemic barriers young people face in achieving economic stability. Updated data on youth poverty rates for 2023 is expected by the end of December 2024, offering an opportunity to reassess and refine interventions aimed at addressing these inequalities. Addressing these disparities will require targeted strategies that prioritize gender-responsive and age-specific policies within the broader framework of social welfare and economic inclusion.

The data on the percentage of poor people continues not to be measured or provided by INSTAT and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection during 2017-2023. In 2023, a draft law was proposed to establish conditions and criteria for determining the minimum living standard in the Republic of Albania. However, as of now, there is no available information regarding the adoption of this minimum standard or its specified value.

Similarly, in 2023, data on young people in the social welfare system continues to be partial and provided for different age groups other than 15-29. Of the three available social assistance programs, limited data suggests that approximately 19.1% of the total recipients of economic assistance fall within the youth category aged 18 -30. The budget allocated for social protection programs in 2023 amounted to 30.597 billion Albanian Lekë (ALL), with expenses totaling 30.095 billion Albanian Lekë (ALL).

In 2023, 39.3% of the prisoners treated in penal enforcement institutions were young people. A clear gender disparity is evident, with the percentage of male prisoners being significantly higher than female prisoners. Female incarceration remains negligible, ranging from 0% to 0.4%, while male percentages have shown more substantial fluctuations, peaking at 38.9% in 2023. The highest percentage of young people in prisons was recorded in 2018 at 47.7%, and the lowest in 2020 at 30%, followed by a steady increase in the last three years.

This trend raises critical questions about the socio-economic, educational, and systemic factors contributing to youth involvement in criminal activities and their subsequent incarceration. Addressing these issues requires targeted interventions, including preventive programs, youth engagement initiatives, and reforms within the justice system to reduce recidivism and provide alternatives to incarceration for young offenders.

The literacy rate among young people resident in Albania is remarkably high, with 98.9% of young people literate. This figure is slightly higher for young females (99.1%) compared to young males (98.8%). However, there is a stark contrast when it comes to young people with disabilities, with only 63.4% of them being literate, compared to the general youth literacy rate of 98.9%. This significant gap underscores the substantial barriers to education accessibility faced by young individuals with disabilities. While nearly all young people in the general population are literate, more than a third of those with disabilities are not, highlighting a critical issue in achieving inclusivity and equal access to education.

This disparity underscores systemic shortcomings in creating inclusive educational environments that accommodate diverse needs. Addressing this critical issue requires a multi-pronged approach, including investing in accessible infrastructure, adaptive learning resources, specialized training for educators, and policies that actively promote the inclusion of young individuals with disabilities in mainstream education. Bridging this gap is essential to achieving equitable education and fostering the full participation of all youth in societal and economic life.

The data on enrollment in mandatory education shows high participation rates among young people aged 6-15 living in Albania, with an overall enrollment rate of 97.0%. There is a slight gender difference: 50.5% of young people of this age group registered in mandatory education are boys, 4% more than girls (46.5%).

For secondary education, 80.6% of young people aged 15-18 were enrolled in 2023, with men representing 42.5% and women 38%. When broken down by gender, 77.3% of young females are enrolled, compared to 83.7% of young males. This reveals a gender gap in educational participation, with young males having a higher enrolment rate by 6.4%.

Gender Parity Index (GPI) for secondary education enrollment for young people is 0.92, indicating that for every 100 boys enrolled, there are 92 girls, highlighting a slight but consistent imbalance in favor of males.

In secondary education, 14.4% of young people aged 15-18 opt for vocational education, with a significant gender disparity. Just 4.8% of young women in this age range pursue vocational secondary education, compared to 23.8% of young men aged 15-18. VET is far more appealing or accessible to young men than young woman, due to traditional perceptions of vocational fields being more suited to male-dominated industries.

The disproportionate participation of young men suggests that vocational education is either more appealing or accessible to them, while young woman may face both structural and cultural barriers to entry. These include limited exposure to diverse vocational fields, a lack of role models in traditionally male-dominated careers, and societal expectations steering girls toward more academic or "feminine" career paths.

Addressing this imbalance requires challenging gender stereotypes, expanding the range of vocational programs to promote equal opportunities. Efforts should also focus on outreach campaigns to change perceptions about vocational education, coupled with policies that incentivize and support young woman in pursuing these pathways, ensuring that vocational education becomes an inclusive option for all young people.

In 2023, only 1.9% of youth aged 19–24 completed vocational education in Albania, with young men accounting for the majority (1.5%) compared to 0.3% for young women. This disparity highlights the ongoing gender gap in vocational education enrollment. However, when examining graduation rates, young women outperformed their male counterparts. Among students enrolled in 4-year vocational programs in 2019, 16.3% successfully graduated in 2023, with 17.5% of young women completing their studies compared to 16.1% of young men.

These figures suggest that while young women face barriers to enrolling in vocational education, those who do enroll are more likely to persevere and complete their programs on time. This trend underscores the importance of addressing enrollment disparities and creating targeted interventions to encourage more young women to pursue vocational education. Efforts could include awareness campaigns, mentorship opportunities, and diversifying vocational fields to include programs traditionally associated with women, alongside supportive policies to ensure equitable access and participation. By doing so, vocational education can become a viable and inclusive pathway for all youth.

The enrollment rate in higher education in Albania has shown stability over recent years, with minor fluctuations. The lowest rate was observed in 2020 at 20.9%, followed by a slight rise to 21.3% in 2023. Despite the overall consistency, a persistent gender gap remains evident, with young women continuing to outnumber young men in tertiary education enrollment by 8.2%.

Notably, while young women's enrollment rate has declined from its peak of 28.1% in 2016 to 25.4% in 2023, they still maintain a significantly higher representation compared to young men. This disparity reflects broader socio-cultural and systemic factors that influence access to and participation in higher education. Young women's stronger presence in higher education suggests that they perceive it as a critical pathway for career advancement and social mobility, while young men may face different socio-economic pressures or opportunities that draw them away from formal education.

In 2023, 9.5% of young people aged 22–29 graduated from higher education, reflecting a downward trend in tertiary education graduation rates. The overall graduation rate dropped from 26% in 2019 to 23.6% in 2023, marking a 2.4% decline over four years. This decline affects both genders but underscores persistent disparities, with young women continuing to graduate at significantly higher rates than young men—26.2% compared to 19.7%.

The gender gap in graduation rates suggests that while young women are more likely to complete higher education, systemic challenges affect all students. For young men, factors such as labor market demands, societal expectations, or economic pressures may contribute to lower completion rates. For young women, despite their higher graduation rates, structural barriers may still hinder their transition from education to employment.

31.6% of young people aged 25–29 hold advanced degrees, such as master's or doctoral qualifications. Nearly one-third of the population in this age group has achieved an advanced degree. Women are far more likely to have advanced education, with 42.9% of women aged 25–29 holding advanced degrees, compared to just 20.1% of men.



Economic Participation Dimension

In 2023, key economic indicators for youth in Albania reveal concerning trends, particularly for young men. Unemployment and long-term unemployment rates have risen, while employment and self-employment rates have declined. These shifts indicate mounting challenges for young men in securing stable and sustainable positions within the labor market. For young women, persistent barriers continue to result in lower employment and labor force participation rates compared to their male counterparts.

The NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) rate remains high at 24.6% in 2023, despite a slight downward trend from 2016. This figure is more than double the EU average of 11.2%.

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for NEET stands at 1.09, indicating a marginal gender disparity, with more females being out of education, employment, or training compared to males in the recent year. Notably, in 2023, the female NEET rate decreased by 2.2%, narrowing the gender gap from 5.2% in 2022 to 2.1%. Despite this progress, women still face more barriers to economic participation than men. Interestingly, in 2023 the male NEET rate increased slightly by 0.9%, a first-time occurrence, suggesting rising difficulties for young men in accessing education or employment opportunities.

There has been a consistent decline in the youth unemployment rate over time (2016-2022), but 2023 marks an increase in the youth unemployment rate for the first time in eight years. This was particularly pronounced among young men, whose unemployment rate rose by 2.9%, surpassing the female unemployment rate for the first time in four years. Meanwhile, the young female unemployment rate has remained fairly stable, with slight decreasing fluctuations indicating a gradual improvement in the employment opportunities of young women.

Long-term youth unemployment has been on the rise over the past three years, with both genders experiencing increases in 2023. Long-term unemployment reached 15% in 2023, marking a significant rise of 2.5% compared to 2022 (12.5%) and representing the second-highest rate since 2016 (16.7%). Male youth are disproportionately affected, with the long-term unemployment rate for young men at 17.2%, 4.7 percentage points higher than for young women (12.5%).

Youth labor force participation in Albania has been steadily increasing from 45.7% in 2016 to 56.9% in 2023. While both genders have shown increased participation, there exists gender disparity and the male participation remains consistently higher than female participation across all years, though the gap has narrowed over time. In 2023, the gap was 9.8 percentage points with 61.8% of young men and 52% of young women participating in the labor force.

The youth employment rate also has improved significantly over the years, rising from 32.4% in 2016 to 44.2% in 2023, representing an increase of nearly 12 % over this period. The Employment Rate of young men in 2023 (47.2%) is higher than that of young women (41.3%). It always has been higher in all the years. However, there is a slight decrease by 0.8 percentage points of the young men employment compared to previous year.

The number of self-employed youngsters shows a dynamic trend with significant fluctuations over the years. In 2023 there is a decrease in the percentage of young people self-employed by 1.5% compared to the previous year. However, what is noticed this year is the considerable decrease in the number the self-employed young men compared to the other years, this year the decrease is very high 3.2%. Gender disparities persist, with men maintaining higher self-employment rates than women, although both have seen declines in recent years.

Youth make up 46.8% of the total unemployed population, reflecting the significant burden of unemployment on young people, suggesting that younger individuals face more challenges in securing employment compared to other age groups. Young men face higher unemployment relative to the total unemployed male population. Meanwhile, youth account for only 19.6% of the total employed population, less than one-fifth of all employed individuals, underscoring their underrepresentation in the labor market.

Data from INSTAT on working youth (15-29) at risk of poverty remains unavailable.

Among youth aged 15-17, 4.1% are employed, with boys (2.9%) engaging more in early employment compared to girls (1.2%), particularly during the summer months from June to September.

In Albania, 1.2% of resident youth, or 5,363 individuals^[18], are young people with disabilities, with the majority (60%) being young men. Only 2.1% (113 individuals¹⁸) of these young people which are directed and profit from the services of the National Agency for Employment and Skills (NAES) are employed through programs, such as the Program for the Promotion of Employment and Other Employed Persons. This low employment rate suggests that many young people with disabilities encounter significant challenges in entering the labor market, likely due to physical barriers, discrimination, a lack of inclusive hiring practices, or insufficient accommodation in the workplace.

Regarding NEET youth, only 7% (10,259 individuals^[19]) of them are employed through NAES programs (Employed Persons and Program for the Promotion of Employment).

In 2023, the Albanian Government allocated approximately 626.790.431 Albanian Lek (ALL) to employment programs. Despite these allocations, Albania continues to face challenges in employment, particularly among youth.

In general young men in Albania maintain better inclusion in key labor market indicators compared to young women. They exhibit higher rates of youth employment, labor force participation, and self-employment, reflecting greater integration into the workforce.

[18] Calculated from data obtained from Cens 2023, Resident Young People 15-29 by age group, disability, status and sex,



POLICY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVOCACY

This session aims to provide policy recommendations, insights and strategies for stakeholders and institutions to effectively address and advocate for positive policy changes in the field of youth.

Recommendations concerning youth political participation

The political dimension of youth engagement in Albania has experienced the least progress, with indicators showing minimal improvement over time. Young people continue to be significantly underrepresented in key political roles, including ministers, deputy ministers, members of parliament, and mayors. This persistent lack of representation highlights systemic barriers that limit youth access to leadership and decision-making positions. Their underrepresentation in politics not only stifles their voices in governance but also hinders the incorporation of fresh perspectives and innovative solutions into policy-making processes.

To address this gap, more robust and targeted strategies are essential, and the following recommendations aim to encourage and increase youth political participation:

- **Recommendations to Increase Youth Representation in Political Leadership**

With the 2025 national elections approaching, the government should seize this opportunity to increase youth political participation. To effectively increase the number of young people in political leadership roles, a multifaceted approach is essential. First, establishing quotas for youth representation can ensure that a certain percentage of political candidates and appointees are under a specified age, promoting inclusivity. Introducing policies that incentivize political parties to actively recruit young candidates and providing financial support through grants can help mitigate the barriers they face in running for office. Additionally, developing youth leadership programs focused on mentoring and essential skills—such as public speaking, policy analysis, and campaign management—will prepare young individuals for successful careers in politics. Furthermore, implementing internship and apprenticeship programs within governmental institutions can offer valuable hands-on experience. Enhancing civic education in schools to raise awareness about political participation and promoting youth networks for collaboration and advocacy can also stimulate interest. Leveraging technology for engagement through social media and virtual platforms helps to connect young people with political processes. Establishing awards for outstanding youth leadership recognizes achievements and inspires others, while ensuring youth representation in decision-making bodies through advisory councils guarantees that their perspectives are considered in policymaking.

To enhance political participation at the local level, initiatives should be developed to promote young women in leadership roles, particularly as mayors. This can follow the successful national model, where women hold a significant percentage of ministerial positions. Implementing similar measures at the local level would encourage gender balance in political leadership at both local and national level and provide young women with greater opportunities to contribute to governance and decision-making.

There is a need for stronger coordination between the Minister of State for Youth and relevant national ministries, and local municipalities to streamline efforts and prioritize youth issues. Every aspect of policy and governance across ministries should be viewed through a youth-focused lens, ensuring that policies are adapted to address the specific needs and aspirations of young people. This coordinated approach will foster a more youth-inclusive environment in decision-making processes at both national and local levels.

Greater emphasis should be placed on the role of youth organizations, recognizing the advantages they provide to young people. Even though, they play a crucial role in supporting the development of young people, yet many cities, particularly smaller ones, still lack these essential structures. The government should introduce programs that incentivize the establishment of youth organizations in all cities at the local level. These organizations could work in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Local Youth Councils (LYC) to mobilize young people ensuring they have equal opportunities for involvement and development.

Alongside this, establishing youth centers or multifunctional facilities in cities where they are currently absent would complement LYC functions and provide young people with more opportunities for engagement and participation.

- **Recommendation to Strengthen Youth Representation and Budget Allocation at the Local Level**

To effectively address the needs and aspirations of young people, all municipalities should establish dedicated structures or directories for youth, similar to the ones already present in the Municipality of Tirana. This will ensure that youth issues receive consistent attention. Many municipalities now have a youth specialist, but they lack a direct role in influencing the municipal budget for youth-related activities. Additionally, municipalities must allocate a specific and substantial budget line for youth-related programs and initiatives. This targeted funding would support the development of policies and services that empower young people, foster their participation in decision-making processes, and address key issues such as education, employment, and civic engagement at the local level.

Encouraging youth to remain engaged in their local communities requires a multi-faceted approach that combines employment opportunities, incentives, and long-term support systems. Municipalities can play a pivotal role in this by creating attractive career pathways within local administrations, which are often perceived as secure and stable. Offering affordable housing loans to young employees in local administrations, making it easier for them to settle and invest in their communities.

Municipalities should actively seek to collaborate with foreign and domestic institutions, organizations, and donors to secure funding for youth-related projects. This would offer an alternative means of financing youth initiatives when the municipal budget is constrained by competing priorities. Implementing more projects focused on youth would ensure consistent opportunities for their participation and leadership development.

- **Recommendation to Activate National Youth Structures to Foster Youth Engagement**

To ensure the effectiveness of national-level youth structures, immediate and proactive measures are essential to activate these entities and maximize their impact. While many of these structures have been established, their inactivity in some cases undermines their potential to address youth-related challenges and promote meaningful civic participation.

Therefore, it is essential to create a framework that supports these structures in becoming operational through capacity building and training for youth structure coordinators, equipping them with the skills to organize events and mobilize young people. Additionally, financial and logistical support must be allocated to ensure these structures have the resources to plan and execute impactful programs. Encouraging partnerships between national youth structures and local youth organizations will also strengthen engagement at the grassroots level. To ensure sustained activity, monitoring and accountability mechanisms should be established, setting clear goals and expectations while providing public reporting on progress.

- **Recommendations to Encourage Regular Youth Data Collection and Reporting**

Ensure that comprehensive data on youth political participation is regularly collected, analysed, and reported. This information is vital for tracking progress, identifying areas for improvement, and formulating evidence-based policies.



Recommendations concerning youth social participation

- **Trust should be built among youth through a unified data system to develop targeted support initiatives for vulnerable youth.**

Following the lack of data in the social dimension especially regarding, young poor people, and young people part of the social protection programs, it is essential to establish an integrated data management framework, a transparent, and reliable system for collecting and processing data on economically disadvantaged youth and those in social protection programs. Such a system would enable the accurate identification of young people at risk of poverty or transitioning into the NEET category, facilitating the delivery of targeted and effective support. Through this data, policymakers can address socio-economic disparities more effectively and provide tailored interventions that support youth in overcoming poverty and achieving economic and social independence.

It is vital that the system operates with full transparency and ensures the confidentiality of their data to build trust among young people. This will encourage young people engagement and participation, knowing the collected information is used responsibly and for their benefit. Additionally, the system should be accessible and user-friendly, allowing youth and relevant stakeholders to understand and utilize the data for improved policymaking and program design.

- **Prioritize support for youth at risk of poverty, with a focus on young women**

Dedicated initiatives should be established to address the needs of poor young people and youth at risk of poverty, particularly young women who face disproportionately high levels of economic vulnerability. Preventive measures should include comprehensive financial support, housing assistance, access to affordable healthcare, skill-building programs, employment programs, and access to counseling services to mitigate the risks of poverty and social exclusion.

A key strategy to combat youth poverty involves identifying and integrating young people at risk of poverty into targeted programs, through targeted efforts starting at the local level and expanding in all the country. Emphasis should be placed on young people working in low-wage jobs that fail to cover essential living expenses, a group often overlooked but at high risk of falling into poverty and require urgent intervention to prevent further economic decline.

It is essential to create employment opportunities that align with young people's qualifications and aspirations and offer fair compensation, ensuring that youth have access to fulfilling careers that support their well-being and financial independence, contributing to a life of dignity. Collaboration with the private sector to create meaningful job opportunities and skill-building initiatives is vital for fostering long-term economic stability.

Additionally, public awareness campaigns and policy dialogues should normalize conversations about youth poverty, highlighting the struggles faced by young people and working young people on the brink of poverty. By openly addressing these issues, society can build empathy, drive policy reform, and advocate for improved wages, equitable labor practices, and expanded access to essential services for this vulnerable population.

- **Strengthen social protection programs to provide comprehensive services for young people**

Strengthen and enhance welfare programs to ensure that young people at risk of poverty, including those with disabilities and from disadvantaged backgrounds, are provided with inclusive support and have access to essential services, including education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

The educational needs of young people in the welfare system should be prioritized, ensuring that they have equal access to both formal and non-formal education programs. Monitoring should be increased to prevent dropouts. Strengthening support systems, such as social workers, counselors, and peer mentoring, for youth in the welfare system to encourage them to complete secondary and tertiary education.

While Albania's welfare system provides some essential services, there remains a significant gap in the availability and accessibility of comprehensive social services across the country. Many young people, particularly in rural regions, lack access to critical support. To address this, the government should collaborate more effectively with social enterprises to bridge these gaps. By institutionalizing partnerships through a robust legal framework, inspired by models such as Italy's, the government can leverage the capacity of social enterprises to provide services it cannot deliver alone. These partnerships should involve co-designing and co-delivering innovative and tailored services that address unmet needs in education, employment, mental health, and inclusion.

- **Promote and encourage vocational and education training among young people**

Vocational education provides specialized training in fields such as trades, technology, or health services, preparing young people for careers that may not require a university degree but are in high demand. This allows them to enter the workforce more quickly and with a relevant skill set. Therefore, there is a need to encourage vocational education and informal learning opportunities among young people. It is necessary to invest in expanding vocational training programs that align with current labour market demands, ensuring that youth are equipped with the skills employers need.

The government should also make these programs more accessible by offering financial support, such as scholarships or subsidies, to reduce barriers for disadvantaged youth.

It is also crucial that VET schools have proper facilities, modern equipment, tools, materials, and access to industry-standard products which are essential to effectively deliver training and provide hands-on, practical education, ensuring the students master their skills and prepare for the demands of the workforce. Additionally, fostering partnerships between educational institutions and industries can help tailor curricula to meet the needs of the job market, providing hands-on training and apprenticeships.

The government should also promote awareness of vocational education as a viable and valuable career path, helping to shift societal perceptions and encourage more young people to pursue these opportunities. In this regard, only 2.3% of girls are enrolled in vocational education compared to 12.1% of boys, therefore there is need to introduce targeted campaigns to promote vocational education among young women and provide incentives like scholarships and female role models in vocational sectors.

- **Enhance the Education System in Albania**

To encourage more young people to stay and pursue their studies in Albania, it is vital to enhance the quality and relevance of educational curricula, ensuring they align with global standards, particularly by incorporating digitalization and modern theoretical frameworks. Additionally, it is important to guarantee that degrees are recognized both nationally and internationally.

More scholarships and financial incentives should be provided for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to access quality education and reduce the drop-out rate due to financial barriers.

Although training programs focused on developing digital and coding skills are available in Tirana and several other cities, they remain largely inaccessible in smaller cities and rural areas. During our meetings, many young people expressed strong interest in participating in such programs, highlighting the need to decentralize these opportunities and make them available to all youth, regardless of their location.

A broader issue identified during these discussions is the significant lack of information among young people. Despite living in an era dominated by technology and abundant access to information, many youths remain uninformed. This gap may stem from various factors, including not knowing where to seek reliable information, use available resources effectively, or even a general disinterest.

Addressing these challenges requires not only expanding access to training but also fostering digital literacy and engagement to empower young people to fully leverage the resources and opportunities around them. Providing the youth related information through integrated programs in schools, can be a way in which all the young people have the access to the information.

- **Equal Education and Employment Opportunities for all young people across Albania, with special focus on vulnerable young people.**

Through inclusive education policies students with disabilities should be integrated into mainstream schools while providing tailored resources, assistive technologies, and accessible infrastructure. Educators should receive specialized training in adaptive teaching methods and disability awareness to support diverse learning needs effectively. Customized programs offering one-on-one tutoring, flexible schedules, and tailored materials are essential to address literacy gaps and make it easier for young people to follow education.

Expanding vocational training aligned with market demands and fostering inclusive employment opportunities through public-private partnerships can help bridge the gap between education and meaningful work. Additionally, mentorship programs, career counselling, and post-education support such as job placement services and internships are crucial for guiding these young people toward successful careers. Awareness campaigns to combat stigma and build community support are equally important, alongside collaborative networks with NGOs and local stakeholders to amplify efforts.

- **Policies and Measures to decrease the number of young people in Prisons and support their reintegration during and after incarceration**

To reduce the likelihood of young people entering or re-entering the prison system, a comprehensive approach is essential, focusing on prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Preventive measures should prioritize addressing the root causes of youth delinquency—such as social, economic, educational, and psychological factors—through targeted interventions. These might include community-based mentorship programs, improved access to education in underserved areas, and financial and social support for vulnerable families. Equally critical is addressing underlying issues like mental health challenges and substance abuse, which often lead to criminal behavior. Governments should ensure the availability of accessible mental health services, early intervention programs, and comprehensive addiction treatments tailored to the needs of at-risk youth. For those already in the prison system, investing in educational and vocational training programs focused on life skills, employability, and entrepreneurship can aid rehabilitation and prepare young people for reintegration into society. Post-release support is equally vital, encompassing mentorship, stable housing assistance, and employment opportunities, with incentives for businesses to hire rehabilitated youth.



Recommendations concerning youth economic participation

The introduction and implementation of strategies such as the National Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2029, the National Strategy on Employment and Skills 2023-2030, and the Youth Guarantee represent key steps toward creating more favourable conditions in the labour market for young people in Albania. However, despite the progress and the positive steps taken forward over recent years, in 2023 certain indicators of youth economic participation have shown a concerning decline. This highlights persistent areas of concern requiring focused attention and immediate action to ensure comprehensive and impactful progress.

- **Recommendations to Decrease the Number of Young People in NEET**

The NEET rate in Albania remains high at over 24%, with unemployment exceeding 22%. To address these challenges, responsible institutions must focus on the effective implementation of key initiatives outlined in the Youth Guarantee and the National Strategy on Employment and Skills.

- A critical starting point is the effective identification of NEET youth, beginning with well-defined, inclusive, and targeted approach that combines localized efforts with seamless national coordination. Strong collaboration with local institutions and communities utilizing both formal and informal methods is essential to ensure no vulnerable individuals are overlooked. This is crucial because NEET individuals often belong to various categories of vulnerable groups, and a comprehensive strategy is necessary to ensure that all are identified and include. Training and capacity-building for local stakeholders play a pivotal role in addressing challenges observed in prior identification efforts and ensuring the effective implementation of the process.
- Early intervention programs in schools can help identify students at risk of becoming NEET, allowing for timely support.
- Moreover, as part of implementing this strategy, it is crucial to ensure qualitative employment opportunities through the Youth Guarantee, ensuring that jobs offered meet quality standards and align to the needs and expectations of young people. Pairing employment opportunities for youth with supportive initiatives such as housing loan schemes or other financial incentives can enhance their stability and long-term engagement.
- Raising awareness among young people about these programs is equally vital. Clear communication and accessible resources will ensure that youth know where to turn for support and guidance when needed.

- **Recommendations Improve Employment Opportunities among Young People**

To address the persistent challenge of youth unemployment, particularly long-term unemployment, efforts should focus on fostering job creation in high-growth sectors such as technology, green energy, and creative industries. This can be achieved through public-private partnerships, strategic investments in infrastructure, and incentives for businesses to hire young people.

- Targeted subsidies should be introduced to employers for hiring long-term unemployed youth, to help reduce youth unemployment. These subsidies can lower the risk for employers in hiring less experienced candidates.
- Specialized Youth-Focused Employment Services should be established, catering to the unique needs of young job seekers. Career counselling, job matching, and training opportunities should be provided to facilitate smoother transitions into the workforce.
- Additionally, skills-based training programs aligned with market demands must be prioritized, focusing on digital skills, soft skills, and vocational training to equip young people with the capabilities needed for available job opportunities. Programs like Youth Guarantee should also ensure that employment offerings are closely aligned with market needs to maximize their impact.
- Promote more flexible working conditions, such as part-time roles or remote work, which could help young people balance work with education or other responsibilities and enter the workforce earlier.
- Retraining and upskilling programs should be made available for long-term unemployed youth to enhance their employability. These programs ought to focus on industries with high labor demand and equip participants with the skills required for immediate integration into the workforce.
- Tailored job search assistance should be provided to long-term unemployed youth, including career counseling, resume-building workshops, and interview preparation. Such targeted support can help address specific barriers to employment and facilitate their return to the workforce.
- The social and psychological effects of long-term unemployment should be acknowledged, and appropriate mental health and social services must be offered to help youth regain confidence, build resilience, and transition back into employment.
- To increase the youth employment rate for people with disabilities, it is essential to promote inclusive workplaces by training employers on supporting young people with disabilities and make workplaces more accessible. Also, targeted vocational programs should be developed to focus on industries where these individuals can thrive, accompanying with supportive and adaptable work environments. Public awareness campaigns are also necessary to reduce stigma and encourage employers to recognize the valuable contributions that young people with disabilities bring to the workforce.

- Early employment (age 15–17) plays a crucial role in helping young people develop essential life skills, such as responsibility, social engagement, and independence. To support their growth and foster early individual development and financial independence, it is vital to promote safe and regulated part-time work opportunities that comply with labor laws and prioritize learning over-exploitation. Additionally, strengthening school-to-work transition programs, such as internships and work-based learning, can provide valuable hands-on experience and effectively bridge the gap between education and employment. These initiatives should ensure that early work experiences are meaningful, skill-building, and do not interfere with the education of young individuals.

• **Recommendations to Promote and Increase Self-Employment among Youth**

To effectively promote self-employment among young people in Albania it is essential to address the challenges of identifying opportunities, navigating complex application processes, and cultivating interest in entrepreneurial initiatives.

- Efforts should focus on simplifying access to opportunities and raising interest in entrepreneurship. A centralized online platform should be established to consolidate information about available entrepreneurial programs, grants, training, and mentorship opportunities. This platform needs to be user-friendly, regularly updated, and widely promoted among young people to ensure accessibility and awareness.
- There is a need to streamline application processes by digitizing and simplifying procedures for financial support, training, and incubator programs. Step-by-step guidance and templates should also be provided to help young people navigate the application process with ease.
- To generate interest and enthusiasm for entrepreneurship, targeted awareness campaigns should be launched, highlighting relatable success stories and showcasing the potential benefits of entrepreneurial initiatives. These campaigns can leverage social media and community networks, alongside entrepreneurship challenges or competitions that include tangible rewards to inspire participation.
- Hands-on support should be prioritized through advisory services, such as one-stop help desks or mobile units, to assist young people in identifying opportunities and understanding application requirements. Peer-led networks and workshops should also be established to create an environment of shared learning and inspiration.
- To foster a youth-friendly entrepreneurial ecosystem, there is a need to reduce bureaucratic barriers by implementing fast-track systems for youth-led initiatives and minimizing procedural delays. Partnerships with educational institutions should ensure that entrepreneurship is integrated into the curriculum, with practical activities like business simulations and project-based learning to nurture entrepreneurial mindsets from an early age.



ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Since 2016, a set of indicators were chosen based on an analytical process comprising of extensive desk research and expert consultations. Over the years new indicators have been presented to better measure the political, social and economic participation of young people. In the following Table are listed all the indicators, calculation method and data sources.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION DIMENSION	DATA CALCULATION METHOD			SOURCE OF DATA
INDICATORS	DATA	FEMALE	MALE	
Young Ministers in Government	Number of young ministers (15-29)/Total number of ministers.	Number of female young ministers (15-29) / Total number of ministers.	Number of male young ministers (15-29)/ Total number of ministers.	Desk research
Young Deputy Ministers in Government	Number of young deputy ministers (15-29)/ Total number of deputy ministers.	Number of female young deputy minister (15-29)/Total number of deputy ministers.	Number of male young deputy minister (15-29)/ Total number of deputy ministers.	Desk research
Young MPs in the Parliament	Number of young MPs (15-29)/ Total number of MPs.	Number of female young MPs (15-29)/ Total number of MPs.	Number of male young MPs (15-29)/ Total number of MPs.	Desk research
Young Mayors	Number of young mayors (15-29)/ Total number of mayors	Number of female young mayors (15-29)/ Total number of mayors.	Number of male young mayors (15-29)/ Total number of mayors.	Desk research
On-line tools for information and participation in decision making of government and parliament.	Average of (Number of public institutions at central level that have Twitter/Total number of public institutions at central level + (Number of public institutions at central level Facebook/Total number public institutions at central level) + (Number public institutions at central level that have a Webpage/Total number of public institutions at central level).	N/A	N/A	Desk research

INDICATORS	DATA	FEMALE	MALE	
On-line tools for information and participation in decision making of municipalities.	Average of (Number of municipalities that have Twitter/Total number of municipalities) + (Number of municipalities that have Facebook/Total number of municipalities) + (Number of municipalities that have a Webpage/Total number of municipalities).	N/A	N/A	Desk research
Existence of Youth Structures (councils/parliaments/unions) at National Level.	Number of youth structures on national level.	N/A	N/A	Information provided by the Ministry of Youth and Children and desk research.
Existence of youth structures (councils/parliaments/unions) at Local Level.	Number of municipalities that have youth structure (councils, parliaments, unions)/ Total number of municipalities.	N/A	N/A	Information provided by the Municipalities and Ministry of Youth and Children.
Youth Employees in Public Administration at the Local Level.	Number of young people (18-29) employed in the municipalities of Albania / Total number of employees in the municipalities of Albania.	Number of young women (18-29) employed in the municipalities of Albania / Total number of women employed in the municipalities of Albania.	Number of young men (18-29) employed in the municipalities of Albania / Total number of men employed in the municipalities of Albania.	Data calculated by the researcher according to information provided by Municipalities of Albania (n=50).
Youth in Leadership and Decision-Making Positions in Public Administration at the Local Level.	Number of young people (18-29) in leadership and decision-making positions in the municipalities of Albania / Total number of employees in leadership and decision-making positions in the municipalities of Albania.	Number of young women (18-29) in leadership and decision-making positions in the municipalities of Albania / Total number of women in leadership and decision-making positions in the municipalities of Albania.	Number of young men (18-29) in leadership and decision-making positions in the municipalities of Albania / Total number of men in leadership and decision-making positions in the municipalities of Albania.	Data calculated by the researcher according to the information provided by the Municipalities of Albania (n=50).
% of the Municipality Budget dedicated to Youth.	Average % of Municipal Budgets of the municipalities that have provided this information.	N/A	N/A	Data calculated by the researcher according to the information provided by the Municipalities of Albania (n=14).

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION DIMENSION	DATA CALCULATION METHOD			SOURCE OF DATA
	INDICATORS	DATA	FEMALE	
NEET rate.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Information provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
Gender Parity Index.	NEET of Young Women (15-29)/ NEET of young Men (15-29).	N/A	N/A	Data calculated by the researcher according to the information provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
Youth Unemployment Rate.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	N/A	Data calculated by the researcher according to the information provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
Long-term Youth Unemployment Rate.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Information provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
Youth Labour Force Participation Rate.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Information provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
Youth Employment Rate.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Information provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
Young people that started their own business with the financial support of state.	Number of young people (15-29) who received financial support from government (Ministries)/ Total number of people who received financial support from the government (Ministries).	Number of young Female (15-29) who received financial support from government (Ministries)/Total number of females who received financial support from government (Ministries).	Number of young Male (15-29) who received financial support from government (Ministries)/Total number of Male who received financial support from government (Ministries).	Information provided by the Minister of State for Entrepreneurship Protection, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

INDICATORS	DATA	FEMALE	MALE	
Self-employed young people.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Information provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
Youth to Total Population Unemployment Ratio.	Young People (15-29) Unemployed /Total Population Unemployed.	Young Female (15-29) Unemployed /Total Female Population Unemployed.	Young Male (15-29) Unemployed /Total Male Population Unemployed.	Data calculated by the researcher according to the information provided in the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT) publications, Labor Market 2023.
Youth to Total Population Employment Ratio.	Young People (15-29) Employed /Total Population Employed.	Young Female (15-29) Employed /Total Female Population Employed.	Young Male (15-29) Unemployed/Total Male Population Unemployed.	Data calculated by the researcher according to the information provided in the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT) publications, Labor Market 2023.
Working Youth at Risk of Poverty.	No Data.	No Data.	No Data.	N/A
Young people Aged 15-17 Years Engaged in Labour.	Young People (15-17) employed /Total youth population (15-17).	Young Female (15-17) Employed/Youth population (15-17).	Young Male (15-17) Employed/Youth population (15-17).	Information provided by the General Directorate of Taxation .
Government Spending in Employment Programmes .	Total Amount in Albanian Lekë (ALL)	N/A	N/A	Information provided by the National Agency of Employment and Skills

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION DIMENSION	DATA CALCULATION METHOD			SOURCE OF DATA
INDICATORS	DATA	FEMALE	MALE	
Young People at Risk of Poverty.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Information provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
The percentage of poor people (the young people who lives under the line of poverty) (No of young poor people / no of young people).	No data.	No data.	No data.	N/A.
Young People in Prisons.	Number of young people (15-29) in prison/ Total number of people in prison.	Number of young female (15-29) in prison / Total number of people in prison.	Number of young male young (15-29) in prison/ Total number of people in prison.	Information provided by the General Directorate of Prisons.
Young People part of Social Welfare System (who receive financial support in Social Protection System) divided with the young people who are in the social welfare system.	Young people (15-29) beneficiaries of the economic assistance scheme/ Total People beneficiaries of the economic assistance scheme.	No data.	No data.	Information provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.
Literacy Rate.	Number of young people (15-29) literate / Total number of young people (15 -29) resident in Albania.	Number of young women(15-29) literate / Total number of young women (15- 29) resident in Albania.	Number of young men (15-29) literate / Total number of young men (15-29) resident in Albania.	Data calculated by the researcher according to the information published in CENS 2023
Young People Enrolled in Mandatory Education.	Number of young people enrolled in mandatory education / Total number of young people of the age group (6-15) resident in Albania.	Number of young women enrolled in mandatory education / Total number of young women of the age group (6-15) resident in Albania	Number of young men enrolled in mandatory education / Total number of young men of the age group (6-15) resident in Albania	Data calculated by the researcher according to the statistics and information published by National Institute of Statistics in Albania, CENS 2023 and Statistics of Registrations in Education

INDICATORS	DATA	FEMALE	MALE	
Young People Enrolled in Secondary Education.	Number of young people enrolled in secondary education / Total number of young people of the age group (15-18) resident in Albania.	Number of young women enrolled in secondary education / Total number of young women of the age group (15-18) resident in Albania.	Number of young men enrolled in secondary education / Total number of young men of the age group (15-18) resident in Albania.	Data calculated by the researcher according to the statistics and information published by National Institute of Statistics in Albania , CENS 2023 and Statistics of Registrations in Education.
Dropout from the secondary education.	No data.	No data.	No data.	N/A.
Gender Parity in Secondary Education	Percentage of Young Female Enrolled in Secondary Education / Percentage of Young Men Enrolled in Secondary Education	N/A	N/A	Data calculated by researcher according to the information of the indicators calculated above
Young People Enrolled in Vocational Education and Training	Number of young people enrolled in VET / Total number of young people of the age group (15-18) resident in Albania.	Number of young women enrolled in VET / Total number of young women of the age group (15-18) resident in Albania.	Number of young men enrolled in VET / Total number of young men of the age group (15-18) resident in Albania.	Data calculated by the researcher according to the statistics and information published by National Institute of Statistics in Albania , CENS 2023 and Statistics of Registrations in Education.
Young People Graduated in Vocational Education and Training	Number of young people graduated in VET/ Total number of young people of the relevant age group (18-24) resident in Albania.	Number of young women graduated in VET/ Total number of young women of the relevant age group (18-24) resident in Albania.	Number of young men graduated in VET/ Total number of young men of the relevant age group (18-24) resident in Albania.	Data calculated by the researcher according to the statistics and information published by National Institute of Statistics in Albania , CENS 2023 and INSTAT Database.
Young People Enrolled in Tertiary Education.	Young people (18-29) enrolled in Tertiary Education/Total young people (18-29).	Young female 18-29 Enrolled in Tertiary Education/Total young female (18-29).	Young male 18-29 Enrolled in Tertiary Education/Total young male (18-29).	Information provided by the Ministry of Education and Sports and National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
Young People Graduated from Tertiary Education.	Young people (18-29) graduated in 2022 / Young people (18-29) enrolled in 2022.	Young female people (18-29) graduated in 2022/Young female (18-29) enrolled in 2022.	Young Male people (18-29) graduated in 2022 /Total young male (18-29) enrolled in 2022.	Information provided by the Ministry of Education and Sports and National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).

INDICATORS	DATA	FEMALE	MALE	
Young People with Advanced Education.	The number of young people (25-29) graduated with a master, doctorate or equivalent degree / Total number of young people (25-29) in 1 January 2023.	The number of young women (25-29) graduated with a master, doctorate or equivalent degree /Total number of young women (25-29) in 1 January 2023.	The number of young men (25-29) graduated with a master, doctorate or equivalent degree / Total number of young men (25-29) in 1 January 2023.	Data calculated by the researcher according to the data provided by the Ministry of Education and Sports and information available in the INSTAT Database.
Participation Rate in Non-Formal Education and Training (last 4 weeks).	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Data calculated and provided by INSTAT.	Information provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Albania (INSTAT).
Government Budget on Social Protection Programs .	Total amount in Albanian Leke (ALL).	N/A	N/A	Information provided by the State Social Services.

PARTERS ALBANIA FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT



Elbasani Street, bulding Park Gate, floor 10, ap. 71/73, Tirana, Albania



partners@partnersalbania.org



www.partnersalbania.org