

Monitoring report of Political, Social, Economic Participation of Youth

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Main difficulty of developing YPI is collecting adequate data for every country, because of the different ranges to define youth, lack of available data, lack of comparative data in the region.

Summary

“Ana and Vlade Divac” Foundation - Serbia
NGO Prima - Montenegro
Partners Albania for Change and Development - Albania
“Community Volunteers Foundation” - Turkey
Association for Education - MLADIINFO International - Macedonia

The project YBH for WBT aims to establish and develop a regional network of CSOs working towards social, economic and political inclusion of young people in all partner countries. The applicant and coordinator of this project is “Ana and Vlade Divac” Foundation from Serbia, and is run in partnership with “Partners Albania for Change and Development” from Albania, Association for Education - MLADIINFO International from Macedonia, “Prima” organization from Montenegro and “Community Volunteers Foundation” from Turkey.

The network’s focus is on youth participation, and monitoring of youth policy developments in the respective countries with the aim to advocate for youth issues. In order to help decision makers create frameworks and tools to ensure active involvement of young people in all decision-making processes that affect them, YBH developed a Youth Participation Index, which measures the level of opportunity of young people to be involved in decision making process. The Index is consists of three pillars: Political participation of young people; Social participation of young people and Economic participation of young people.

The purpose of this annual monitoring report is to give an overview on the political, social and economic participation of youth in all partner countries through YPI indicators. The data presented in this report are available in all participating countries and can be traced temporally.

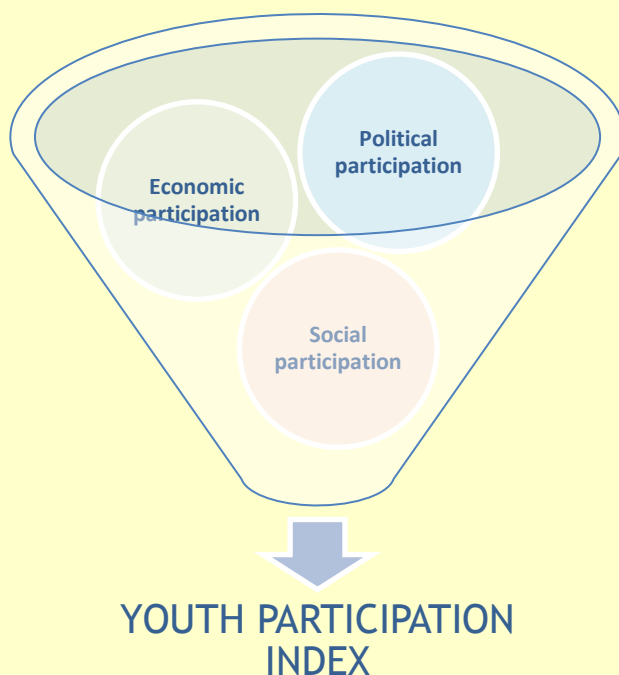


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Youth Participation Index

Youth Participation Index is carefully created using three dimensions of participation:

1. **Political participation** - shows the level of involvement of young people in government bodies, opportunity to gain information and appeal to government bodies, and existence of youth institutions in local and national bodies.
2. **Economic participation** - shows the level of economic independence of young people. This dimension measures youth unemployment rate, labor force rate, NEET rate, self-employed young people etc.
3. **Social participation** - shows the social demographic characteristics of young people. This dimension measures the development opportunities of youth, their education level, the percent of young people in prisons, percentage of young people at risk of poverty etc.



Indicators per dimension

Every dimension consists of a set of indicators. The table shows the availability of the data for each indicator in the region.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION - INDICATORS

AVAILABLE DATA

1. Young ministers in Government	Yes
2. Young deputy ministers in government	Partially
3. Young MPs in the parliament	Yes
4. Young mayors	Yes
5. Young people participating in General Assemblies of political parties	Partially
6. On-line tools for information and participation in decision making of government and parliament	Yes
7. On-line tools for information and participation in decision making of municipalities	Yes
8. Existence of youth structure (councils/parliaments/unions/offices) on national level	Partially
9. Existence of youth structure (councils/parliaments/unions/offices) on local level	Partially
10. Election participation of youth	No

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION - INDICATORS

AVAILABLE DATA

1. NEET rate	Yes
2. Youth unemployment rate	Yes
3. Long-term youth unemployment rate	Yes
4. Youth labor force participation rate	Yes
5. Youth employment rate	Partially
6. Young people that started their own business with the financial support of state	Partially
7. Self-employed young people	Partially
8. Young people with disability employed by private sector entities	No

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION - INDICATORS

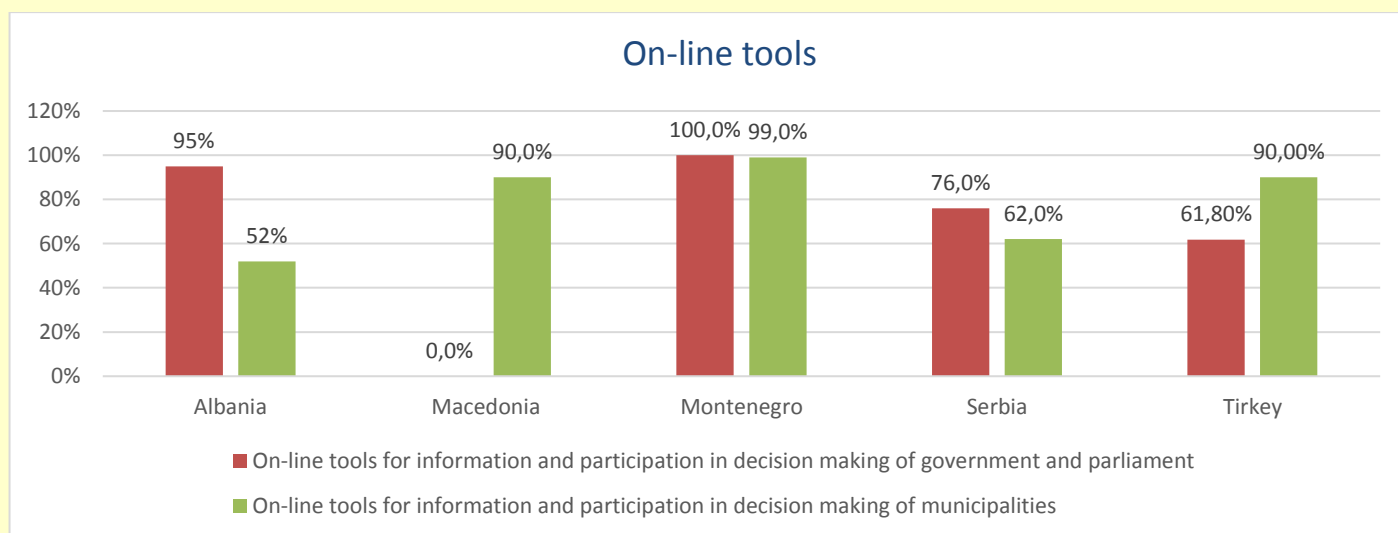
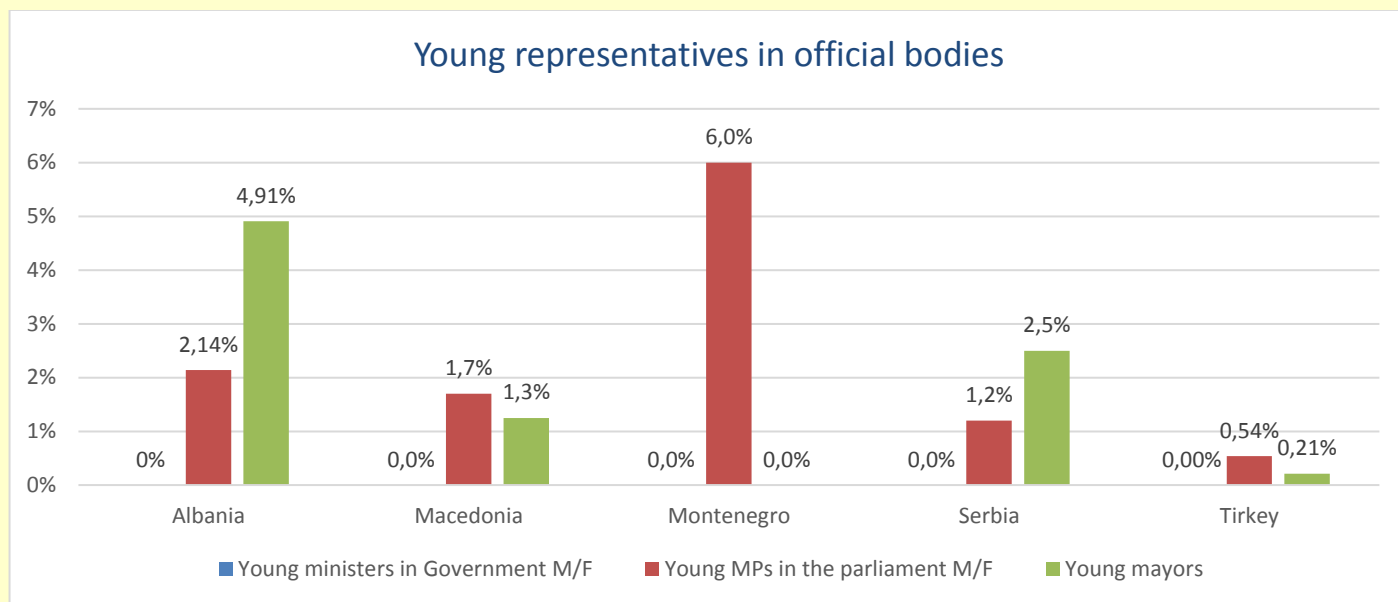
AVAILABLE DATA

1. Young people at risk of poverty	Partially
2. Complaints about discrimination of young people, reported to the relevant institutions	No
3. Young people in prisons	Partially
4. Young people in need for continuous care	No
5. Young people who established their own CSOs in the last year	No
6. Young people illiterate	Partially
7. Dropout from the secondary education	Partially
8. Young people enrolled in tertiary education	Partially
9. Young people graduated from tertiary education	Partially

Legend: Yes - the data is available in every partner country, Partially - the data is available in one country and in others is not, No - the data is not available in all partner countries.

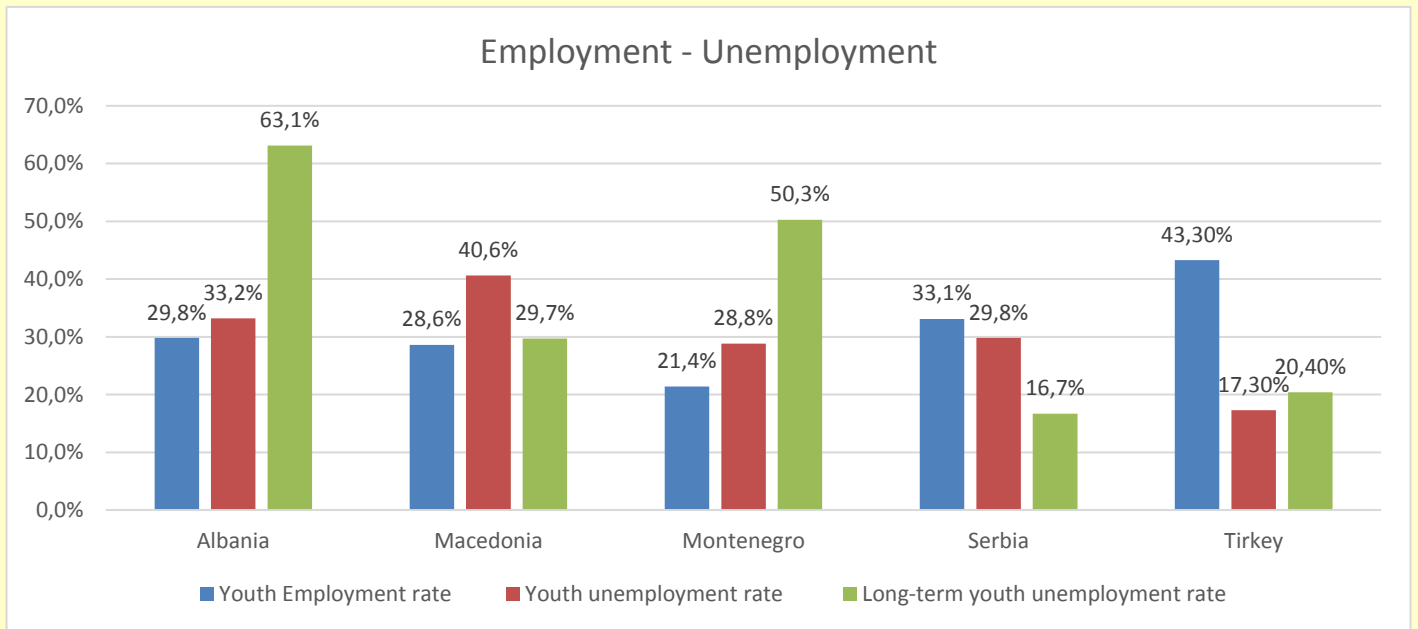
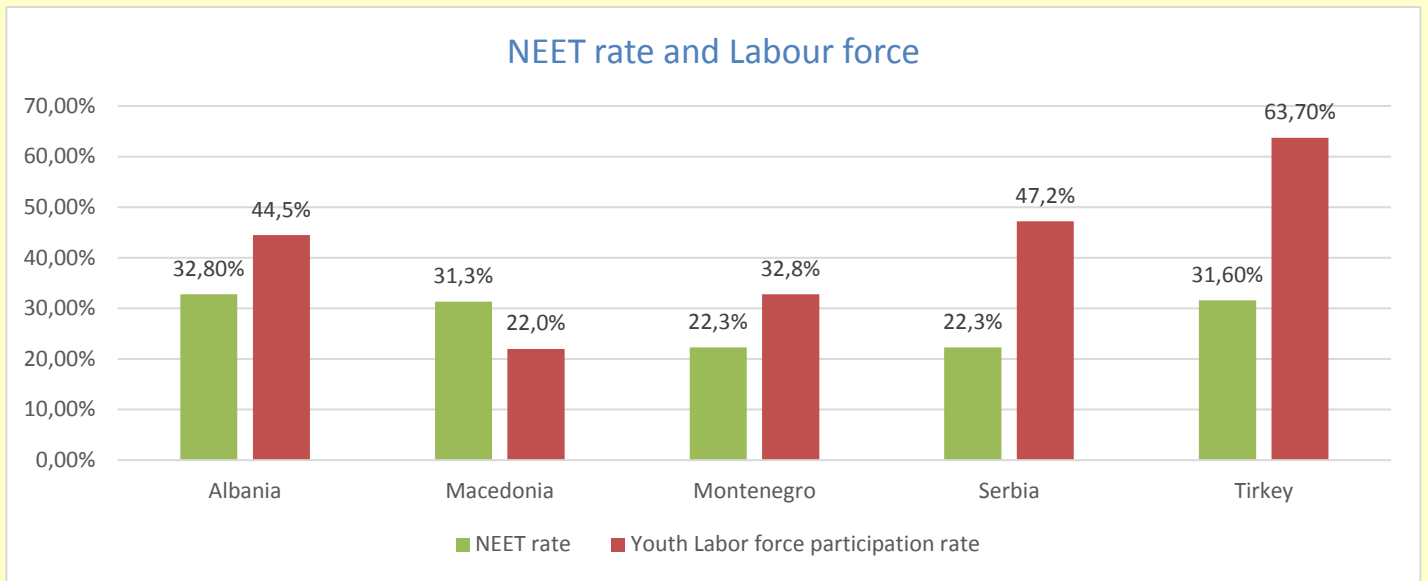
Tracking data in the region

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



*Data presented in the above graph are based on official data and manually conducted from on-line presentation of the respective institutions and related to the period 2015-2017.

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Social Participation dimension	Albania			Macedonia			Montenegro			Serbia			Turkey		
	DATA	Yes/No	YEAR	DATA	Yes/No	YEAR	DATA	Yes/No	YEAR	DATA	Yes/No	YEAR	DATA	Yes/No	YEAR
Young people at risk of poverty	15.0%	yes	2015	24,8%	yes	2017		no		30.2%	yes	2016	27.10%	yes	2013
Complaints about discrimination of young people, reported to the relevant institutions	11.5%	yes	2015		no			no			no			no	
Young people in prisons	36.50%	yes	2016		no			no		32.7%	yes	2016	67.43%	yes	2016
	0.15%	yes	2016		no					0.3%	yes	2016	0.39%	yes	2016
Young people in need for continuous care		no			no			no			no			no	
Young people who established their own CSOs in the last year		no			no			no			no				
Young people illiterate	12.70%	yes	2015		data only from 2002		0.7%	yes	2011	0.7%	yes	2011 (Census)	1.30%	yes	15-24
Dropout from the secondary education	0.70%	yes	2015	6.7%	yes	2016	0.2%	yes	2017	1.3%	yes	(2014/2015)	38.00%	yes	2014
Young people enrolled in tertiary education	146,756	yes	2015	28.9%	undergoing	2016	34.5%	yes	2016	48.0%	yes	(2014/2015)	6,062,886	yes	2016
Young people graduated from tertiary education		no		12.2%	yes	2016	3,019	no	2016	20.0%	yes	(2014/2015)	5,913,187	yes	2015

Since data in the social participation dimension common for all countries are not available, the comparison of data in this area is not available. One the first activity in this project was to advocate for availability of youth sensitive data in official statistics.

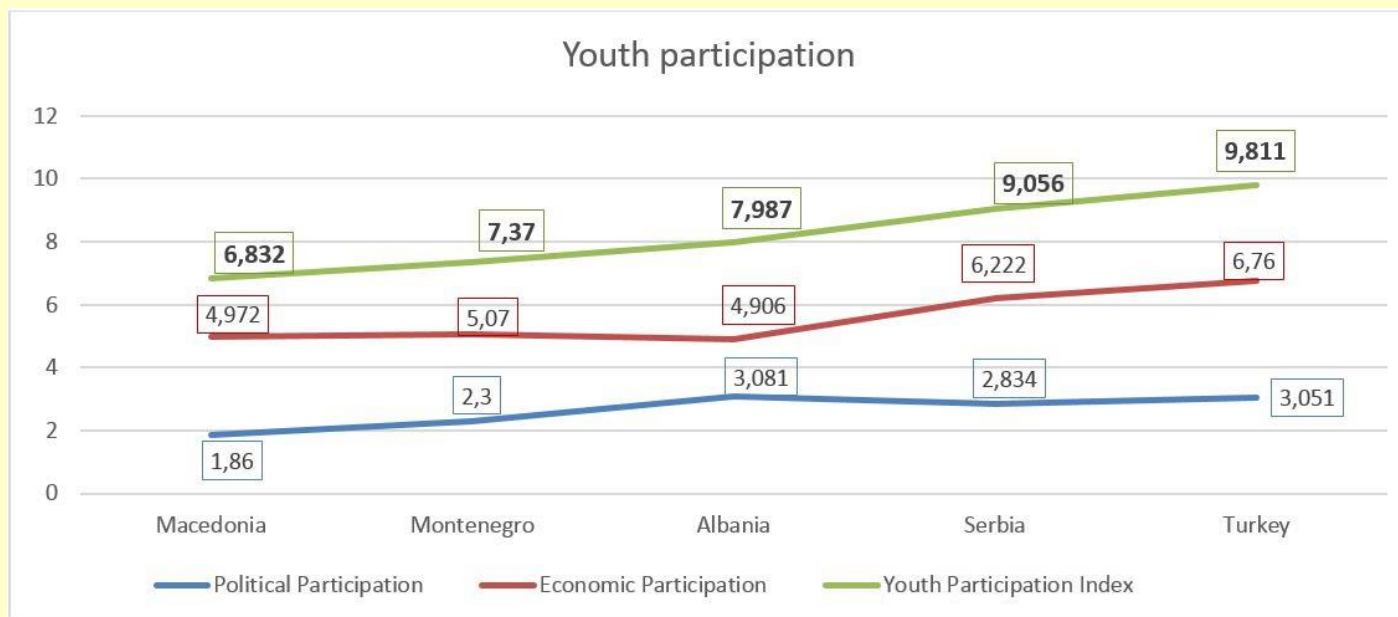
Comparison of the data

Tracking of data is only useful if we have a desired outcome or a comparative result. The table below shows the level of youth participation in the available indicators with the aim to comparison the results for every country. The policy researchers engaged in this project developed the targeted percentage which should be the kind of desired outcome for the region.

Political Participation	Target percentage	Economic Participation	Target Percentage
Young ministers in Government	30%	NEET rate	15%
Young MPs in the parliament	30%	Youth Labor force participation rate	57%
Young mayors	30%	Youth Employment rate	75%
On-line tools for information and participation in decision making of government and parliament	100%	Youth unemployment rate	19%
On-line tools for information and participation in decision making of municipalities	100%	Long-term youth unemployment rate	4%
Targeted index	29	Targeted index	36

Based on available data presented in the previous pages, (Incomplete) Youth Participation Index related to Political and Economic Participation created. (Incomplete) Youth Participation Index provides the possibility to summarize complex, multidimensional data into one comprehensive number per county. Considering that every data should have the purpose, the table below present the targeted percentage of every observed indicator. Targeted political participation indicators are set using the standard opinion that every vulnerable group should have 30% of representatives

in decision making structures. Targeted economic participation indicators are set using European values or targeted figures by Europe 2020 Strategy. As it is shown, the target index of political participation is 29, and target index for economic participation is 36. Summarizing those two dimensions, the targeted Incomplete Youth Participation Index should be 64.



*available data for 2015-2017

On the base of available data, Macedonia has the lowest level of political participation and Albania has the highest level but in comparison to the maximum score, which could be 29 for the selected indicators, it is still low level of participation.

The lowest level of economic participation is in Albania, followed by the Macedonia and Montenegro. Serbia and Turkey show slightly higher level of economic participation but the results are still one sixth of the target stage.

The total scores of (Incomplete) Youth Participation Index shows that Macedonia has the lowest level of participation for two observed dimensions, which is followed by Montenegro and Albania. Serbia and Turkey have higher score than rest of the participating countries. In comparison with the targeted index for the respective dimensions, which is 65, all countries have relatively low levels of participation at this moment.

Conclusions

“Participation is a fundamental right. It is one of the guiding principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that has been reiterated in many other Conventions and Declarations. Through active participation, young people are empowered to play a vital role in their own development as well as in that of their communities, helping them to learn vital life-skills, develop knowledge on human rights and citizenship and to promote positive civic action. To participate effectively, young people must be given the proper tools, such as information, education about and access to their civil rights.”¹

Youth Participation Index as a combination of social, political and economic dimension presents the unique numeric measure of possibilities for young people to participate in society in the region. Therefore, the main purpose is to standardize availability of data in the participating countries, and conversely, to track this data over time.

The main obstacle during the development of the Youth Participation Index was availability of reliable data and comparative data. Since the 5 participating countries have different approaches to official statistics, the real issue was to establish clear understanding of policy researchers of every data that make YPI.

In the region, Macedonia and Montenegro have the least comprehensive official statistics, and has therefore been lacking relevant data for almost all indicators of Youth Participation Index, especially in the social area. Albania, Serbia and Turkey have difficulties in providing the same kind data.

From the perspective of different dimensions, it is obvious that some kind of data is available in all countries, but some of them are not. Regarding economic and political dimensions, YPI is well covered with the data, unlike of social dimension where all countries have a problem of finding relevant data. The most important task in the following years is establish youth sensitive official statics in the region that will improve evidence based policy making targeting youth.

¹ YOUTH PARTICIPATION - United Nations - Economic and social council,
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-participation.pdf>