

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX IN MACEDONIA

REPORT FOR 2018



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Index in Macedonia

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

YDIM	– Youth development Index in Macedonia
SSO	– State Statistical Office
IPH	– Institute of Public Health
OECD	– Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
ULSG	– Unit of Local Self Government



1. INTRODUCTION

Regarding the involvement of young people in social and political life, local and national institutions still do not recognize the benefits of increased civic participation in policy-making, mainly due to the lack of knowledge and openness to cooperation. This lack of cooperation is a result of the poor image and perception of civil society organizations in the eyes of citizens. Additionally, youth NGOs do not have the capacity to take action to advocate for the needs of young people, at the same time for improvement of the perception of civil society organizations as main human rights supporters. The lack of basic data on youth participation in Macedonia also limits the capabilities of civil society organizations to develop focused programs. The National Strategy for Youth 2016-2025 lacks basic data, especially for youth participation.

Accordingly, the Coalition of youth organizations SEGA is implementing a project that will increase the influence of youth organizations in civic participation in decision-making processes at the local and national level, which will contribute to improving the status and well-being of young people in the country.

The Coalition SEGA introduced the Youth Development Index in Macedonia with this project, a tool that will examine the situation of the youth in five categories that are crucial to them and will identify areas where intervention by policy makers is necessary. The goal of the Youth development index in Macedonia is to ensure basic data for the priorities of the young people in local level, aiming to provide targeted interventions and improvement in these areas by the local community (civil society, local institutions, and other public and private stakeholders). The index will primarily provide quantitative information and intends to generate reports to be used by decision makers and civil society organizations to better understand the needs of their community.

This Index is based on the Global Youth Development Index, supported by the Commonwealth, which is a complex index composed of 18 indicators that jointly measure the youth development in five categories: education, health and well-being, employment and opportunities, political participation and civic participation. In 2016, the results of the Global Youth Development Index were published¹, where Macedonia was ranked in the category of countries with very high coefficient, with a score of 0.719 on a scale from 0 to 1. With this result, Macedonia is among the best countries in the region, positioned in front of some member states of the European Union, such as Greece, Bulgaria and Romania.

However, despite the good result, in some aspects of youth development, it is evident that Macedonia lags in comparison with other countries. Hereby is primarily thought of civic participation in which Macedonia has the weakest results in comparison to other categories. This was also one of the motives, to deepen the examination of youth development in Macedonia through a tool that is based on the methodology developed in the frames of the Global Index. Thus,

1 Available at <http://youthdevelopmentindex.org/>.

the Youth Development Index in Macedonia primarily seeks to compare the youth development among the statistical planning regions in Macedonia through indicators that examine the state of the youth in the country in a more in-depth way.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to the summary results of the Youth Development Index in Macedonia, the municipality average is 0,491 on a scale from 0 to 1. This means that the fulfillment of the indicators in the five categories for all municipalities is slightly less than half.

By regions, Vardar region has the best result, with an average score in all categories of 0.676, followed by the East region with 0,595 and Northeast region with an average score of 0,57. The worst results were achieved by the municipalities of the Polog Region with an average score of only 0,293, the Southeast region with 0,412 and Pelagonia region with 0,414. According to the result, the Skopje Region is also positioned under the national average, with 0,424.

Summary values by region						
	Education	Health and wellbeing	Employment and opportunities	Political participation	Civic participation	Average grade per region
Skopje	0,6200	0,213	0,304	0,353	0,629	0,424
Northeast	0,6316	0,556	0,520	0,530	0,613	0,570
East	0,603	0,797	0,570	0,619	0,384	0,595
Southeast	0,2104	0,328	0,292	0,823	0,409	0,412
Vardar	0,5972	0,737	0,911	0,598	0,536	0,676
Southwest	0,3100	0,796	0,322	1	0,313	0,548
Polog	0,1942	0,488	0,345	0	0,436	0,293
Pelagonija	0,0740	0,486	0,478	0,374	0,656	0,414
Average grade per category	0,405	0,550	0,468	0,537	0,497	

The table below gives an overview of the results by regions, with a rank-list and classification in terms of the level of YDIM².

	Rank	Overall score	Level of the global index
Skopje	5	0,424	Low
Northeast	3	0,570	Medium
East	2	0,595	Medium
Southeast	7	0,412	Low
Vardar	1	0,676	Very high
Southwest	4	0,548	Medium
Polog	8	0,293	Low
Pelagonija	6	0,414	Low

Regarding the categories of youth development, the highest fulfillment of indicators is in the category of Political participation, where the average score is 0,537, followed by the Civic participation with 0,497, Employment and Opportunities with 0,468 and Education with 0,405. The lowest fulfillment of the indicators is in the category Health and wellbeing where the average score is 0,364.

3. METHODOLOGY

The Methodology for the Youth Development Index in Macedonia (YDIM) is developed according to the Global Youth Development Indexing methodology. Indicators that measure youth development are grouped into five categories:

1. Education,
2. Health and wellbeing,
3. Employment and opportunities,
4. Political participation,
5. Civic participation.

In accordance with the purpose of the research, which seeks to explore these areas in depth, this Index has developed additional indicators that take into account the specifics of the youth development in Macedonia, whilst a special focus is placed on the last category - Civic participation where instead of 2 indicators (according to the Global index), 20 indicators have been developed in order to cover several aspects in this area. Indicators differ essentially from the Global Youth

² According to the levels defined in the Global Youth Development Index: low 0 – 0,494; medium > 0,495 – 0,607; high > 0,608 – 0,671; very high > 0,672 – 1.

Development Index, which means they are not directly comparable. However, the categories of youth development remain the same.

The total number of indicators in the Youth Development Index in Macedonia (YDIM) is 48 or grouped by categories they are as follows:

Category	Number of indicators
1. Education	9
2. Health and wellbeing	8
3. Employment and opportunities	7
4. Political participation	4
5. Civic participation	20
TOTAL	48

This analysis uses the range of 15 to 29 years according to the practice in a number of countries that have defined an age group that covers the young people. In the Republic of Macedonia, the age that determines the youth is not yet defined by a legal act. The only document determining the age limit for young people in the country is the **National Youth Strategy 2016 - 2025**, with the term youth referring to all persons at the age from 15-29.


In terms of data sources, primary and secondary data sources were used.

From the primary sources of data for the needs of the analysis, polls with young people aged 15-29 were conducted in all of the eight planning regions in Macedonia. The survey was provided for a sample of 2002 respondents who were stratified in terms of sex, age, ethnicity, monthly income and place of residence (municipalities and regions). The sample is determined on the basis of the number of young people in Macedonia aged 15-29, distributed by regions. A total of 1986 respondents were surveyed, which responded to a marginal error of 2.2% and a confidence level of 95%.

The survey was conducted in the period April - July 2018 in all eight planning regions, in 20 cities in the Republic of Macedonia: Vardar Region (Veles, Kavadarci, Sveti Nikole and Negotin), Eastern Region (Shtip, Kochani), Southwest Region (Debar, Ohrid and Struga), Southeast Region (Gevgelija, Radovich and Strumica), Pelagonia Region (Prilep, Bitola and Resen), Polog Region (Gostivar, Tetovo and Tearce), Northeast Region (Kumanovo) and Skopje Region (Skopje).

Eight focus groups were also organized, one focus group in each of the planning regions in Macedonia. Participants in these groups had the opportunity to discuss issues that concern the young people in the region. The responses of the young people during the discussion were qualitatively processed, and the findings were used to complement the quantitative data.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Law on Free Access to Public Information, in the period September - October 2018 data were collected from 49 municipalities, which means that the percentage of responsiveness was 60%.



Regarding the secondary data, statistical data from the State Statistical Office, data from relevant institutions (Institute for Public Health, Ministry of Education and Science, municipalities) received through a written request sent to the institutions, were used³.

Data processing was carried out with quantitative and qualitative methods of data processing.

Qualitative data were processed through text analysis and content analysis, and primarily with these tools, information from the municipalities, data received through correspondence to institutions and data from the focus groups were processed. These data served to better understand the quantitative data that we received through surveys and statistical data from the SSO and the relevant institutions.

Quantitative data was processed in a quantitative data processing program (SPSS), using frequencies and cross-matching of variables in order to obtain relevant and representative data for different target groups among the young people.

In order to ensure comparability between the regions, all quantitative data were translated into a coefficient of fulfillment calculated according to the formula of the Global Youth Development Index. The coefficient of fulfillment shows the fulfillment of the indicators on a scale from 0 to 1, determining the highest and the lowest value, whilst the value for the particular indicator is obtained by subtracting the lowest value, and then the resulting difference is divided by the difference of the highest and the lowest value.

$$KI = Y(i) - Y(\min) / Y(\max) - Y(\min)$$

KI = coefficient of fulfillment

Y(i) = indicator value

Y(min) = the lowest value among the indicators

Y(max) = the highest value among the indicators

The values obtained in this manner were used to compare the results between the regions and between the indicators and to identify the priority areas for intervention.

3.1 METHODOLOGICAL LIMITATIONS

Regarding the limitations of the research, it should be noted that despite the efforts to provide some of the data that were needed, we were unable to provide them fully. Another challenge that we faced during the research was that not all data are available by regions, that is, some data refer to the whole country level and they are not stratified by regions. In such a case, when creating the indicator's compliance coefficient, these data were assigned with a neutral value in order not to affect the average. Thus, the comparison is limited to indicators for which there is available data by regions.

3 In Annex 1, a list of indicators can be found with the list of sources that were used.

4. ANALYSIS OF INDICATORS

4.1 EDUCATION

Education is a key element for the development of each country, since it contributes to the strengthening of the economy and society. Regarding the importance for the youth, through education they acquire significant experiences and skills that pave their path in all aspects of life, and also the economic and social status largely depends on the gained formal education.

On the other hand, from the aspect of the importance for the society, education is the key to the effective participation of young people in the social life and in the development of the community. Furthermore, education is considered as one of the best investments, since it provides individuals with better opportunities in finding work, which, in turn, gives them greater satisfaction.

Therefore, through the developed indicators in the field of education, we endeavor to provide an assessment of the situation in education through measurable parameters that can be compared both within the planning regions and within the Global Youth Development Index.

Regarding the Global Youth Development Index, in this category Macedonia has a score of 0.843, which puts it in 57th place in the world. Of the countries in the region, only Albania has worse results than Macedonia and is ranked 74th with a score of 0,787 from 1. All other countries are by far better ranking, wherein Montenegro is the nearest with 0,848 and Serbia with 0,866.

4.1.1. Enrollment and completion rate in secondary schools

Secondary education in the Republic of Macedonia is obligatory for every citizen. This is stated in Article 3 of the Law on Secondary Education⁴, which further emphasizes that secondary education is free for every citizen in public high schools. The last paragraph, on the other hand, addresses the discrimination that is prohibited within education on any basis.

According to the data available to the State Statistical Office, there is a total of 72482 students aged 15 to 18 enrolled in the secondary schools in the Republic of Macedonia for the academic year 2016/2017. Of these, 37 874 or 52,25 % are female and 34 608 and 47,75 % are male. The number of students who have completed secondary education in the same year is 21577, of which 47 % are female students.

4.1.2. Literacy rate

Regarding the literacy rate, official data referring to the general population say that according to the last census in 2002, it was 3,6 %, wherein the lowest illiteracy rate is among the Macedonians (2.3 %), while the highest one is among the Roma population with 20.6 %.

As for the literacy rate among young people, PISA testing, which measures the abilities and knowledge of students at the end of compulsory education at the age of 15, shows quite poor

⁴ Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia no. 44/1995; 24/1996; 34/1996; 35/1997; 82/1999; 29/2002; 40/2003; 42/2003; 67/2004; 55/2005; 113/2005; 35/2006; 30/2007; 49/2007; 81/2008; 92/2008; 33/2010; 116/2010; 156/2010; 18/2011; 42/2011; 51/2011; 6/2012; 100/2012 и 24/2013.

results, compared to the average in the developed countries⁵ and countries in the region. Otherwise, PISA measures the results of students in the ability to read and understand, mathematical literacy and literacy in the natural sciences.

In the first category, the ability to read and understand, as much as 62.9% of students from our country in science are below or in the level 1, which is the lowest level and according to the estimates of the PISA study, the students from Macedonia lag about three years behind their peers from the OECD countries in terms of results in all areas.

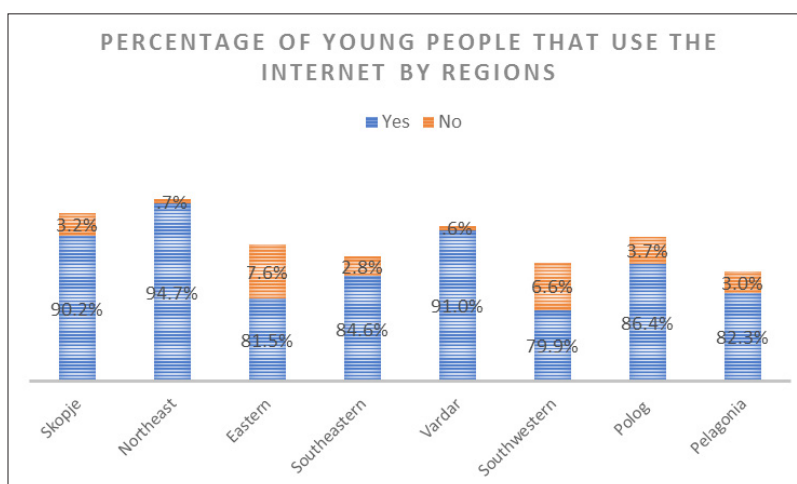
Compared to the results in other countries in the region in **literacy (readability)**, according to the achieved results, Slovenia is 14th on the scale, Croatia 31st, Montenegro 55th, Macedonia 70th, and Kosovo 72th.

What is of an even greater concern is the fact that from the 2000 and 2015 tests, results deteriorate and have fallen by 21 points in the category that measures the literacy.

4.1.3. Digital literacy rate

According to the findings from the conducted digital literacy survey, measured by the percentage of young people who actively use the Internet, the knowledge of word processing software, presentation and calculation software, as well as the knowledge of a programming language, it can be said that the young people in Macedonia are skilled in the use of computers.

Respectively, 86.8 % of the young people in Macedonia actively use the internet, and there is a slightly higher percentage among female respondents, which is 44 %, compared to 42.6 % among male respondents. In terms of age groups among young people, the youngest group is between the ages of 15 and 19, and this is the group that mostly uses the Internet and the percentage of users in these group is 91,5 %.



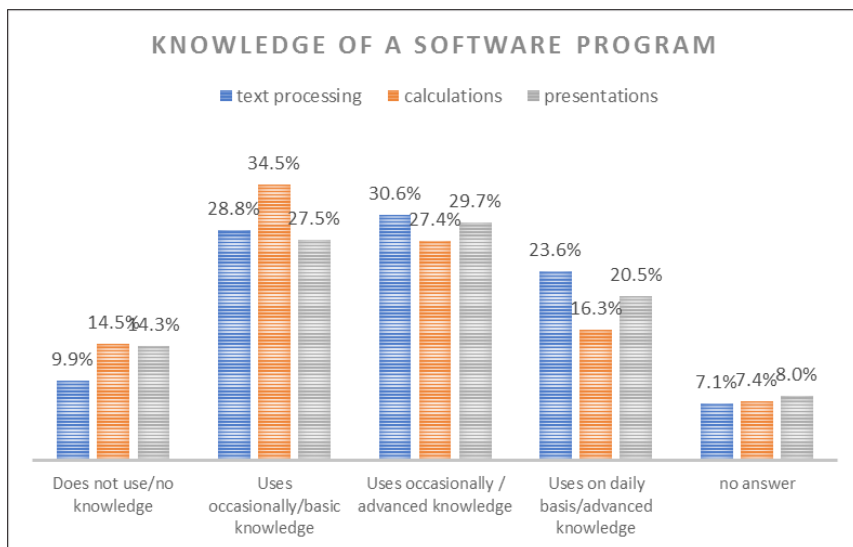
In terms of knowledge of a text processing, calculation and presentation program, the young people from Macedonia show solid usage. Thus, basic knowledge of the mentioned programs

5 Members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

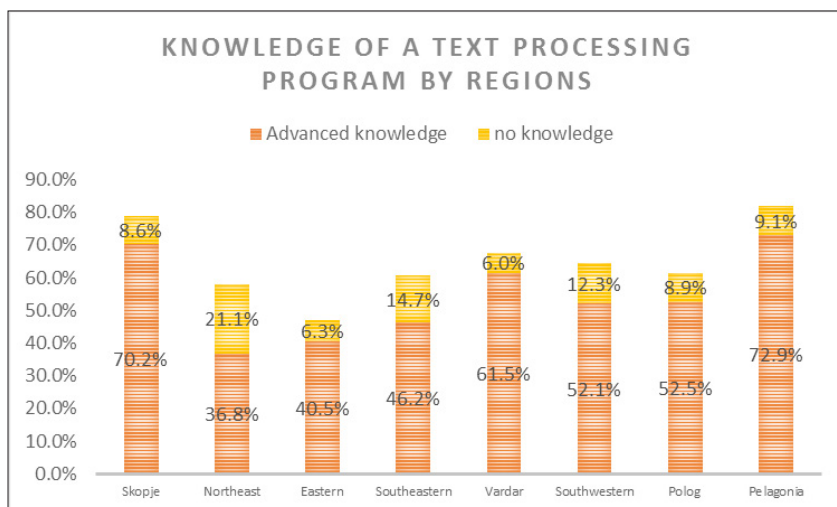
have 28 % for text, 27,5 % for presentation and the largest percentage of 34,5 % use Excel at this level.

54,2 % have stated to have advanced knowledge of programming tools for word processing, 43,7 % for calculations, and 50,2 % for presentations.

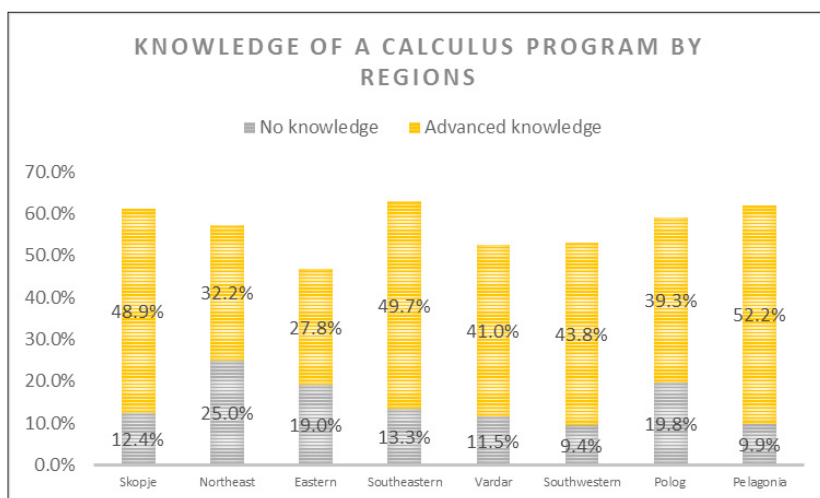
On the other hand, the percentage of young people who do not have any knowledge of the mentioned program tools ranges between 9,9 % for text, 14,5 % for calculations and 14,3 % for presentations.



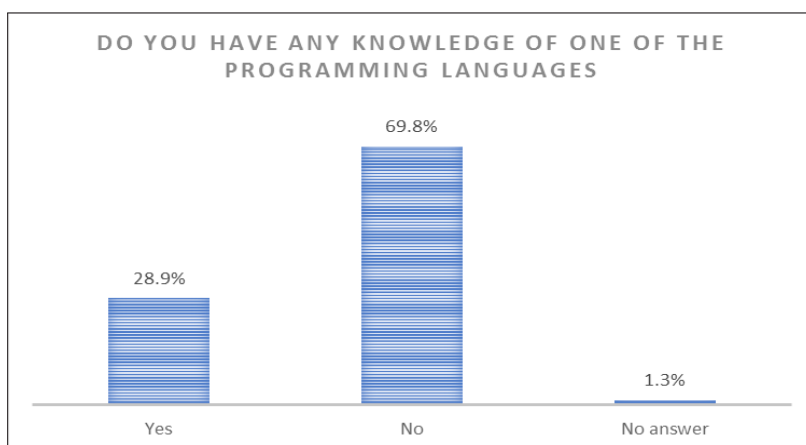
According to the knowledge of a text processing program (such as Microsoft Word), the young people from the planning Region of Pelagonia are leading, where 72,9 % have said that they have advanced knowledge of such tools, followed by young people from the Skopje Region with 70,2 % and from Vardar Region with 61,5 %. By regions, the least knowledge of a text processing program have the young people from the Northeast Region (36,8 %).



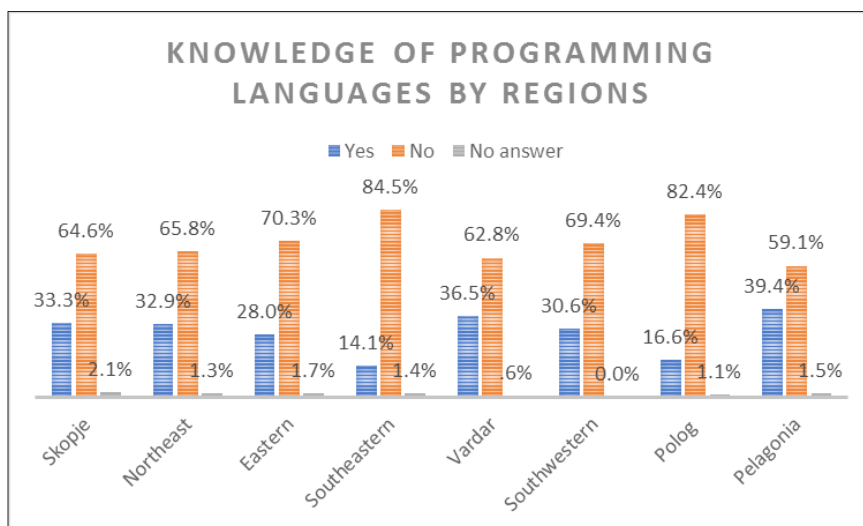
From the graph below, which shows the knowledge of the young people of the calculation program by regions, it can be seen that generally in all regions knowledge of the calculation program is weaker in comparison with the knowledge of the word processing program. Compared by regions, the majority of young people who have knowledge of the program for calculations is in the Pelagonia region (52,2 %), followed by the Southeast (49,7 %), Skopje (48,9 %), whilst the lowest rate of knowledge is in the East Region with 27,8 %. Regarding the percentage of young people who say that do not have knowledge of a calculation program, the lowest level of knowledge is recorded in the Northeast Region with 25 %, while Polog is ranked with 19,8 % and the East Region with 19 %.



Regarding the knowledge of the programming language, 28,9 % of the surveyed young people have answered that they have programming knowledge at some level. 69,8 % have no knowledge of programming, and 1,3 % have no answer.



Observed by regions, the highest percentage of programming language knowledge is among young people from Pelagonia with 39,4 %, followed by Vardar Region with 36,5 % and Skopje Region with 33,3%. There is less knowledge of programming language in the Southeast region with 14,1 %. At the same time, in the South-East Region, there is the largest number of answers from young people that they do not have programming knowledge (84,5 %).



Regarding the gender, the results of the survey show that programming is equally represented in both male and female, respectively there is a slight advantage of 3 % among surveyed males.

4.1.4. Percentage of young people who study two or more foreign languages in secondary education

High school students from Macedonia are among the countries where, in the largest percentage in Europe (99,6 %), they study at least two foreign languages during their schooling, and almost all of those attending secondary school study at least one language. This is shown by the report of the European Statistical Office (Eurostat)⁶, stating that Liechtenstein and Luxembourg are also in this group.

Regarding the representation in foreign language learning, Eurostat notes that English language is predominant, while the second most widely represented language is German, which is attended by 49,2 % of high school students.

Of the countries of the European Union, the smallest percentage of high school students who study a second language is in Hungary (6 %) and Bulgaria with 16 %.

4.1.5. Rate of youth enrolled in higher education

According to the data from State Statistical Office (SSO), in the academic year 2017/2018 a total of 56941 students were enrolled in the Republic of Macedonia, a decrease of 2 % in comparison to the academic year 2016/2017. The number of enrolled students is 31669 or 55,6 %.

Most of the students (85,7 %) are enrolled in state higher education institutions, while 13,9 % are enrolled in private higher education institutions.

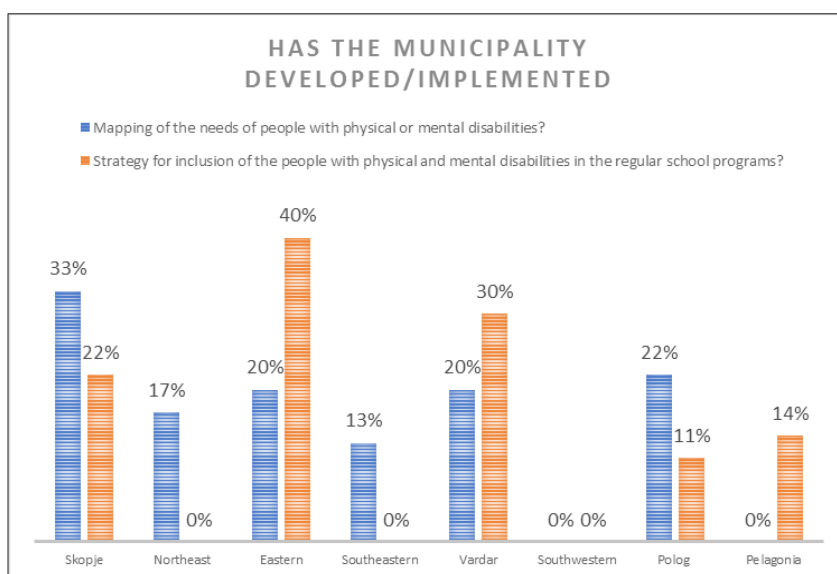
According to the announcement of the SSO, in the first year of studies of the academic year 2017/2018, 15094 students were enrolled or 26,5 % of the total enrolled students (this includes students who enroll in the first year for the second, third time or multiple times).

In terms of the rate of enrollment of graduates from secondary schools in the higher education institutions, it is 69,8 %. This means that out of 10, almost 7 young people continue their education at one of the higher education institutions in the country.

4.1.6. Inclusion (in terms of physical disability) in secondary schools

Through the following indicator the degree of inclusion of the municipalities in terms of persons with physical and mental disability was measured, respectively, whether the municipalities in all regions have mapped the needs of these young people in order to provide unhindered access to the educational institutions and the respective school programs. From the conducted surveys with a total of 49 municipalities, only 16 % of them have mapped the needs of persons with disabilities, and almost all municipalities (except one) that have conducted mapping, have also developed a strategy for inclusion of persons with special needs in the regular school programs.

In the table below, the results by regions are shown.



4.1.7. Gender equality

When it comes to promoting gender equality among young people, in order to build a gender-based society, the results of the survey shows that a bit more than a third of the municipalities in Macedonia have an adopted gender equality strategy, or to be more precise, in percentage, 37 % of the involved municipalities. The implementation of the gender equality strategy also requires certain budgetary resources that should be allocated by the municipality. Budget funds for this purpose are envisaged in one quarter of the municipalities, which means that although some of the municipalities have adopted a strategy, they still do not have the financial means for its implementation.

4.1.8. Planned enrollment of students in secondary schools

Regarding the planned enrollment of students in secondary schools, a quarter of the Municipalities, or 26 % of them have adopted such a strategy. Seen by regions, the municipalities in the Skopje and Vardar regions have 0 % fulfillment of this indicator, while the Southeast and Southwest regions have the best results within this indicator, wherein 50 %, respectively 40 % of the municipalities have a strategy for planned enrollment of students.

4.1.9. Activities for the improvement of the educational programs by the local authorities according to the needs of the market

One of the problems that has evolved over the years, and perhaps over the decades, is the gap that deepens in terms of what is being taught in schools and what is required in the labor market. In this regard, Municipalities should have the key role, by creating conditions since in high school so the young people could properly direct their interests for the occupation that is attractive to them, and at the same time receive training according to the needs of the employers.

Nevertheless, the results of the municipalities in this category, analyzed by regions, are not satisfactory. Thus, only 15 % of the municipalities in Macedonia participate in the creation and implementation of activities for improvement of the educational programs according to the needs of the labor market. In certain municipalities, such as in the Northeast, Skopje and Vardar Region, none of the municipalities that sent a completed questionnaire did not carry out such activities. The best result in this regard has the South-East Region with 40 % of the municipalities that have fulfilled this indicator.

4.2. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The development of youth in all aspects of the social life is almost unthinkable without good health and a sense of well-being. Therefore, the following category assesses the situation in this area through 8 indicators that are based on parameters that have an impact on the health and well-being of the young people in the country.

In the frames of the Global Youth Development Index for 2016, Macedonia is best positioned in this category and is ranked 22nd with a score of 0,822. On the other hand, within the frameworks of the region, only Serbia is just ahead of Macedonia, with a result identical to that of Macedonia.

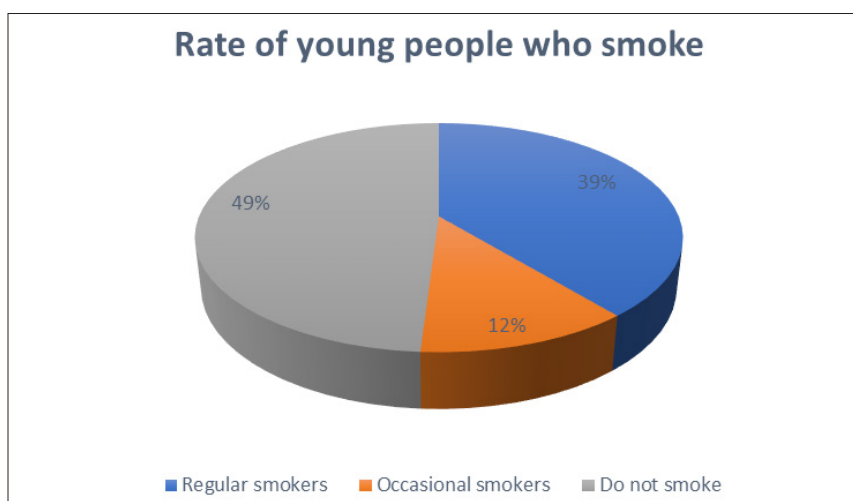
4.2.1. Rate of mortality among the young people

According to the data provided by the Institute for Public Health, the number of young people (15-29 years) who lost their lives was 170 people for the 2017. Taking into account that the total mortality in 2017 was 20421 persons, it results that mortality among young people in relation to the total mortality of the population in 2017 is 0,8 %. Herein, the mortality rate among the male population is much higher, respectively it is 69,4 % of the total number of young people who lost their lives, while among the female population it is 30,6 %. Compared to the total mortality, the mortality rate between men and women is 52,6 % for men and 47,4 % for women.

4.2.2. Rate of smokers among young people

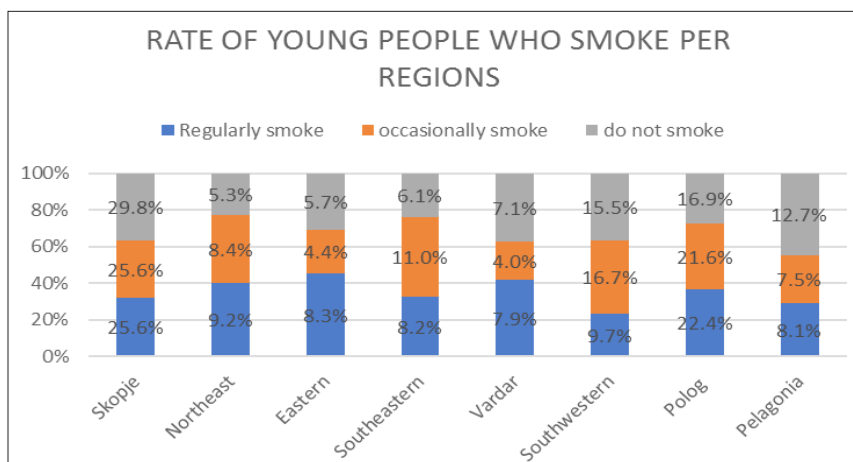
The data available to the Center for Public Health, submitted for the needs of the Youth Development Index, show that the rate of smokers among persons aged 15-34⁷ is 40,2 % of the total number of smokers in the country.

On the other hand, according to the survey conducted among young people in the country, 39,1 % of the respondents said that they regularly smoke, and the number of cigarettes smoked varies from 5 per day to more than 15 per day. The percentage of Occasional or popularly called smokers in society is 11,5 %, whilst 48,1 % say that they do not smoke, yet some of them (14,5 %) have tried a cigarette.



In terms of sex, smoking is equally present in both men and women aged up to 29 years.

According to the regions, the biggest number of smokers among young people are in the Skopje Region, where the smoker's average is 25,6 %, and the percentage of young people who smoke occasionally is the same, while the percentage of non-smokers is 29,8 %. Second on the list of regions where young people smoke most is Polog with 22,4 %, followed by the South-East Region.

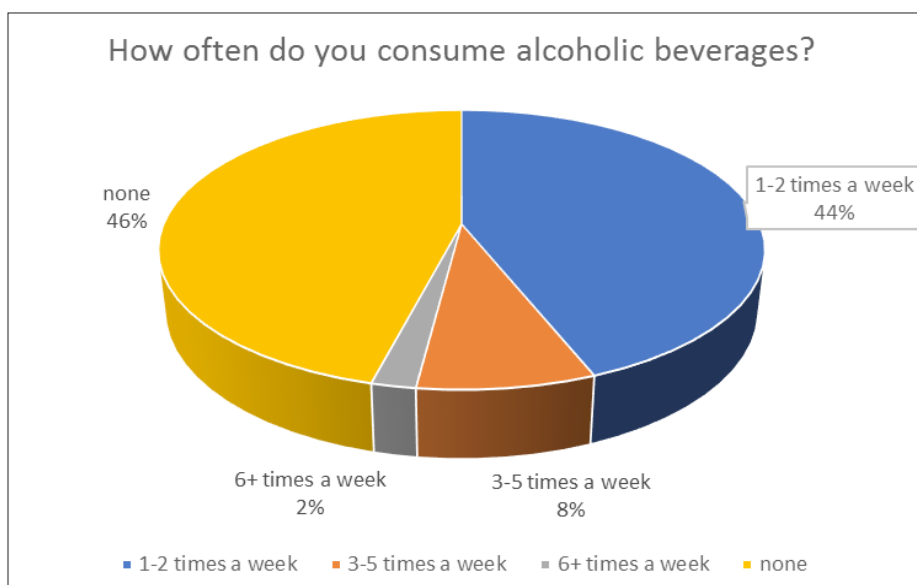


⁷ The data from the Public Health Center are categorized according to age groups that are different from the age groups used in this research.

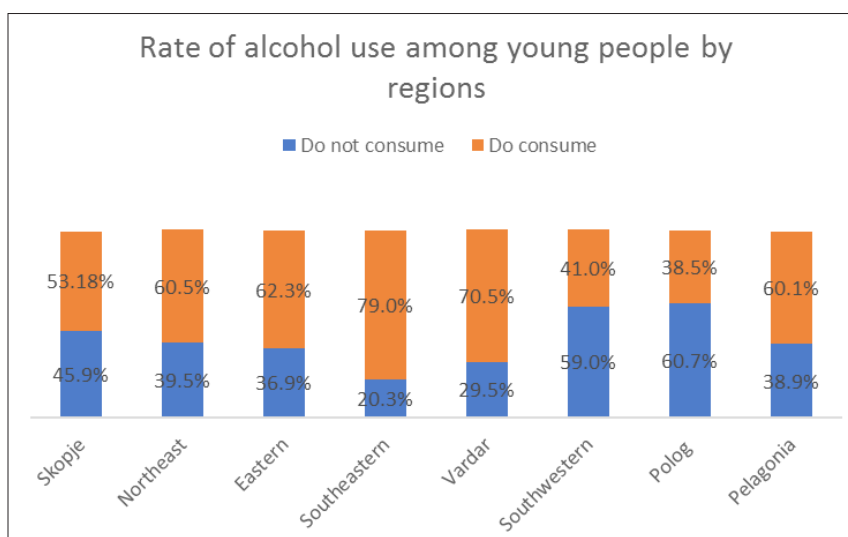
4.2.3. Rate of young people who abuse alcohol

According to the data of the Institute for Public Health for the 2017, a total of 67,8 % of the population aged 15 to 34 years consumes alcohol, regularly or occasionally. These group includes young people who consume only one glass of alcohol during the week and those who drink a few alcoholic beverages.

For the needs of this research, a survey that included questions regarding the use of alcohol by young people, was conducted. The findings from this survey show that 43,2 % of young people aged 15-29 years consume alcohol once or twice a week. However, the largest percentage of young people (45,7 %) answered that they do not consume alcohol in general, while 8.1% of them consume between 3-5 alcoholic beverages, and 2,4 % consume more than 6 alcoholic beverages during the week. These figures apply equally to both men and women, since the percentage of consumption is almost equal, respectively 50,1 % of those who answered that they consume alcohol are men, and 49,1 % are women.



Observed by regions, among young people who consume alcohol, the highest rate of 79,2 %, is in the Southeast, and it includes all those who responded affirmatively to the question of whether they consume alcohol during the week. Then follows the Vardar region with 70,51 %, and the East Region is third with 62,31 %. Regarding the number of alcoholic beverages consumed during the week, the highest percentage of young people who drink more than six beverages during the week is in the Vardar region with 18,6 %, followed by the Southeast region with 9,1 %.



4.2.4. Rate of obesity among young people

In Macedonia, according to the data obtained from the Institute for Public Health, the percentage of young people aged 16 to 29 who have overweight⁸, respectively the index of their body weight is more than 25, is 27,7 %, whilst 6,7 % are fat, respectively their body mass index is more than 30.

The figures show that, despite the fact that the number of people with overweight in the country is growing, also the number of people with overweight among the youth is growing. These indicators unambiguously indicate the need to take concrete steps with regard to educating young people about the benefits of a healthy diet and physical activity that can help prevent this problem from the earliest age.

4.2.5. Rate of young people using illegal drugs

According to the Institute for Public Health, the rate of people⁹ who use illegal drugs is 16,1 %.

4.2.6. Rate of young people infected with HIV

In Macedonia, according to the data obtained from the Institute for Public Health, there is a total of 35 people who are HIV-positive and 5 people are suffering from AIDS. All of them are men.

4.2.7. Rate of young people who experienced psychological stress in the last 4 weeks

The findings of the conducted survey among the young population shows that 46 % of respondents said they experienced some sort of stress at work or at home in the last 4 weeks. Of these, 34,6 % are between the age of 20 and 29, and others are between the age of 15 and 19. Also in this

⁸ According to the methodology for calculating the Body Mass Index (kg/m²).

⁹ No data has been obtained for young people only.

case, regarding the gender, stress equally affects both men and women, because the percentage of answers is almost identical.

4.2.8. Prevention of traffic accidents involving young people

According to the statistical data, in 2015, as many as 144 people have lost their lives as a result of traffic accidents. This high number has prompted the relevant institutions to create a series of road safety campaigns. Considering that every year, a very large percentage of the deceased are young people, it is necessary to target the young population since during the education process. For this purpose, one of the questions during the discussions with the municipalities was whether the schools pay attention to this aspect through various educational campaigns that are part of some kind of strategy. However, despite the great need for such activities and campaigns, only 23 % of schools in Macedonia have created such a strategy. In the Eastern, Pelagonia and Vardar Regions, none of the municipalities has such a strategy.

4.3. EMPLOYMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

According to the Global Youth Development Index, the 0,618 score puts Macedonia at the 63rd place in the world according to this category, where youth unemployment rates and exploitation of the youth's potential through offering various measures to reduce unemployment, such as appropriate educational programs, entrepreneurship training, etc., are measured.

Compared to countries in the region, Slovenia, Serbia and Croatia are doing better in this category, while Bosnia and Herzegovina has the worst ranking, and is at the 123rd place.

4.3.1. Unemployment rate among young people


According to the data available to the State Statistical Office¹⁰, the percentage of unemployed young people aged 15-29 years for the 2017, is 45,5 % of the total number of young people of that age. Regarding the gender, the unemployment rate is similar in both men and women and it is 44,5 %, respectively 46,7 %, accordingly.

Informal employment, which has a huge negative impact on this economic parameter, is a significant problem in the efforts to reduce unemployment.

4.3.2. Rate of youth who are unemployed, not in education and training (NEET)

On the other hand, the rate of young people who are unemployed, and are neither in education nor in training for the 2014, is 31,9 %. Out of these 31,9 %, 19,9 % are unemployed who are not students.

For the same year 2014, the rate of inefficiency of the young workforce was 48.8% that represents an increase of 2,6 % compared to 2012. Otherwise, the rate of inefficiency of the young labor force consists of young people who are in undefined employment (13 %), unemployed (25,9 %)



and inactive individuals who are not students (9,9 %). The most vulnerable category of individuals is of those with the lowest level of Education, and the percentage of unemployed who have only primary education is almost double in relation to those with higher education or with completed undergraduate studies.

4.3.3. Promotion of non-formal education among young people

Nowadays, when knowledge of more skills is necessary in order to be competitive in the labor market, non-formal education is one of the most effective ways to qualify or retrain young people and to acquire the necessary skills.

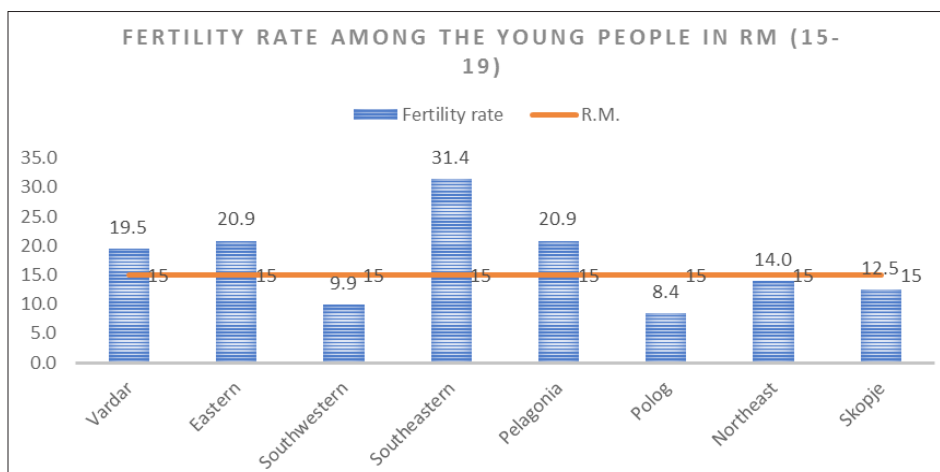
The data from the survey, however, shows that only 13 % of the municipalities have made some kind of analysis for the needs for nonformal education of young people. At the same time, it should be noted that 40 % of the municipalities in the Polog region have such an analysis, which is also the best result, while in the Southwest, Northeast and Vardar Region, none of the municipalities have conducted such analysis.

The situation is slightly better regarding the mapping of subjects that offer this kind of education. Thus, 21 % of the municipalities have implemented this kind of mapping of subjects that offer nonformal education for young people.

4.3.4. Fertility rate among young people

In the Republic of Macedonia in the year 2017, there were 21754 live births in total, which compared to the previous year represents a decrease of 5,4 %, when there were a total of 23002 live births. Out of the total number of live births for 2017, 945 children were born by mothers aged 15-19 years. Taking into account the number of women aged 15-19, which is 62819¹¹, the fertility rate in Macedonia among young people aged 15-19, that shows the number of births per 1,000 women is 15. This means that for every 1,000 women aged 15-19, on average there are 15 live births. By regions, the highest fertility rate is in the Southeast Region, where for 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 19 the average is 31,4 live births, followed by Eastern and Pelagonia Region with 20.9 and Vardar Region with 19,5. The lowest fertility rate is in the Polog Region, where in every 1,000 women there are 8,4 births.

11 According to the data from "Population estimates on 30.6.2015 and 31.12.2015 according to gender and age, by municipalities and by statistical regions" the SSO, available at: <http://www.stat.gov.mk/PrikaziPoslednaPublikacija.aspx?id=11>.



4.3.5. Possession of a transaction account in a financial institution

According to the findings of the survey conducted among young people in Macedonia, 68,1 % of them own a transaction account on their behalf in some of the commercial banks, while 29,6 % have said that they do not have an account on their behalf. 2,3 % did not answer this question. This means that about one third of young people are excluded from the financial flows, that is, they do not have access to financial services that disable citizens, in this case the young population, to fully participate in the society. Possession of a bank account, except for payment of bills, can also be used for saving and using the benefits offered by banks for this purpose. Also, when granting financial assistance to young people by the state, such as for self-employment, starting a business and a series of other measures to reduce unemployment, young people would not have the opportunity to receive such assistance due to non-possession of a bank account.

In the countries of the European Union, the percentage of exclusion from the financial system is 8,7 % of the total population. The highest exclusion rate is in Romania (39 %), followed by Bulgaria with 37 %. On the other hand, the highest percentage of involvement is in Denmark and Finland with 100 % involvement, while Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands are close to this percentage¹².

4.3.6. Rate of young people living with their parents

The data available from Eurostat show that the percentage of young people in Macedonia aged 25-29 years living with parents is 70,2 %. This is a very high percentage, given that the average EU level is 39,6 %, respectively almost double the average of the EU countries.

Thus, young people from Macedonia between the ages of 25 and 29 are in the company of countries from the bottom of the table in terms of the percentage of young people living independently from their parents. The highest percentage of young people living with their parents is in Croatia (74,5 %), followed by Malta, Slovakia, Greece, and Macedonia.

The lowest percentage of young people who live with their parents after finishing their education is in Denmark (4,6 %), Finland (6 %), Sweden (8,9 %) and Norway (9 %).

4.3.7. Promotion of measures by the municipalities to encourage employment among young people

In conditions when the unemployment rate in the country is high and it is 21,1 %, according to the latest data of the State Statistical Office for the second quarter of 2018, and taking into account that the unemployment rate among young people is even higher and it is 50,1 %, respectively every second young person in Macedonia is unemployed, therefore it is of utmost importance that activities aimed at reducing the unemployment rate by encouraging employment among young people, are undertaken by all relevant stakeholders, including municipalities.

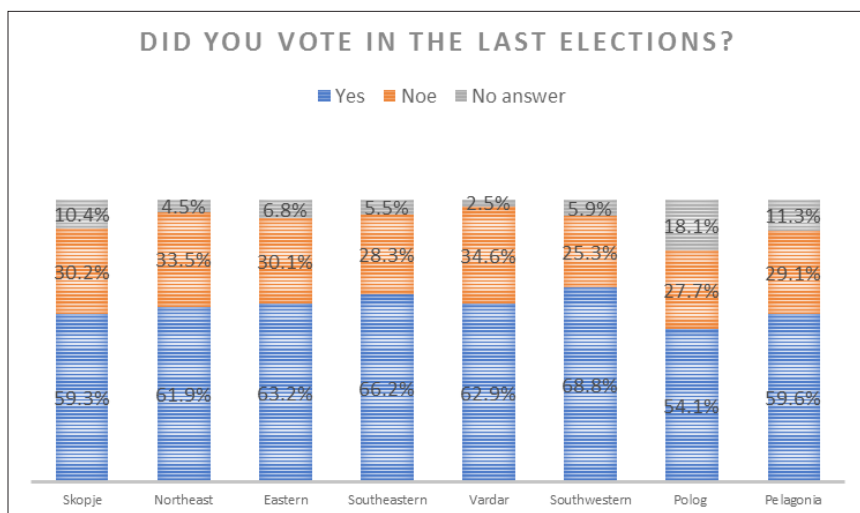
According to the data from the survey, measures in this direction are undertaken by one third of municipalities in the country. The highest number of municipalities that have undertaken such measures is in the Southwest and Pelagonia Region, where 60 % of the respondents have promoted employment measures among young people.

4.4. POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

4.4.1. Rate of turnout in the last election

According to the findings of the conducted survey, the turnout of young people in Macedonia in the last elections was 60 %. Of the rest, 29,4 % said they did not go to the polls, while the remaining 9,7 % of the young people either did not answer the question or answered that they were not of legal age to vote in the previous elections.

Observed by regions, the highest turnout in the previous elections was registered in the Southwest with 68,8 %, followed by the Southeast with 66,2 % and the East with 63,2 %. The last three regions with the lowest turnout are Polog with 54,1 %, Skopje with 59,3 % and Pelagonia with 59,6 %.

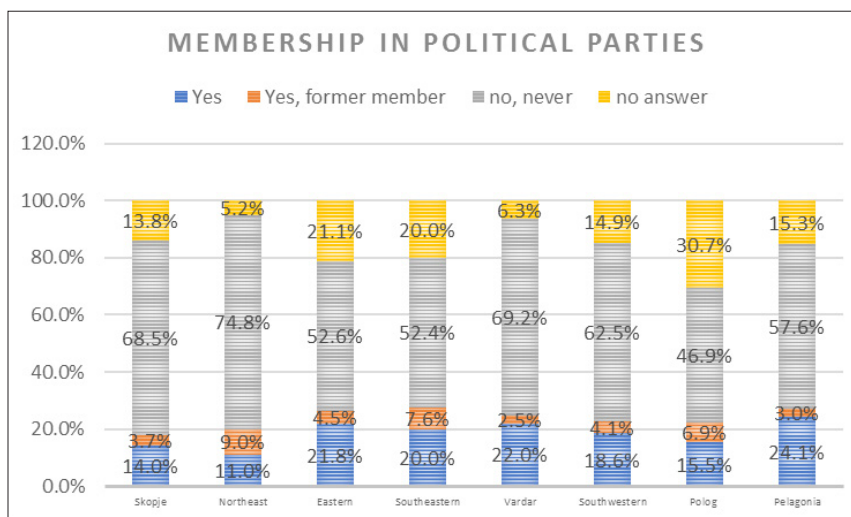


4.4.2. Membership in a political party

17,3 % of the young people in Macedonia have said that they are members of some political party. This includes the active and passive members of political parties, and 5 % declared to be former members of one of the parties. 60,8 % of young people are not members of any party, and 17 % did not answer this question.

Of the regions, most members of political parties among young people are in the Pelagonia Region, with 24,1 %, followed by Vardar Region with 22 % and Eastern Region with 21,8 %. On the other hand, the lowest number of members of any political party is in the Northeast Region, where only 11 % of the surveyed young people have said that they are members of some of the political parties in Macedonia, and the Skopje Region has only three percent more members of political parties (14 %).

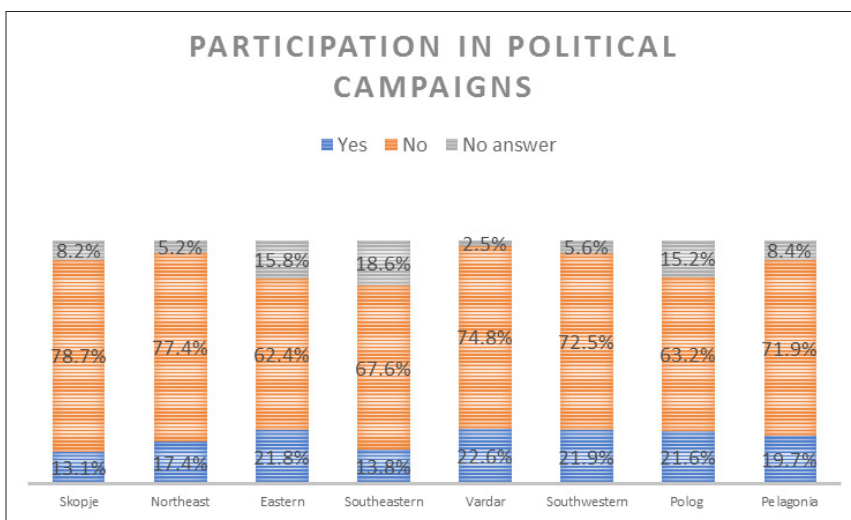
In the Northeast Region, as many as 74,8 % of the young people have said that they were never a member of any political party, and there is a somewhat lower percentage of 69,2 % in the Vardar region, while in the Skopje region this percentage is 68,5 %.



4.4.3. Participation in the campaign of a political party during elections

With this indicator, we measured the level of political activity of young people through party activities during the political campaign of a political party before the elections. According to the survey results, 18,3 % of the young people covered by this survey have participated in a campaign of some political party.

Observed by regions, the highest activity during the political campaign was shown by the young people in the Vardar region, where as many as 22,6 % have said that they were engaged in a political party campaign. The Southwest Region, as the second region with the highest percentage of engaged young people, accounts for about 21,9 %, followed by the Eastern region with 21,8 % and the Polog region with 21,6 %.



4.4.4. Youth participation in local government

Creating effective youth policies and their implementation largely depends on the participation of youth in local government, within the administration and as part of the municipal council.

Within the administration, the results of the survey show that the average of young people employed in the municipal administration amounts to a modest 11 %.

Within the council of the municipality, the average of the participation of the young people is 20 % of the total number of councilors in the municipalities.

4.5. CIVIC PARTICIPATION

The involvement of young people in community activities from the earliest age, for example through volunteering, sports activities, etc., allows them to gain experience that they could use further in their active participation in solving the problems and challenges faced both by young people and the community as a whole, such as youth unemployment, social exclusion, political unrest, poverty and inequality. Therefore, in the recent decades, emphasis has been put on promoting civic participation among young people and their involvement in community activities in every field. Most often, young people are motivated to engage in solving issues that affect them directly, and therefore the community in which they live. Also, in the recent decades among young people there has been a trend of distancing from institutionalized structures in society (such as political parties and voting activities), and a trend of approaching political activism based on a particular cause. Herein, a significant role is played by youth civil society organizations that enable young people to acquire skills through a more structured organizational form that will be useful in their political engagement in the context of the aforementioned form of mobilization based on a particular cause.

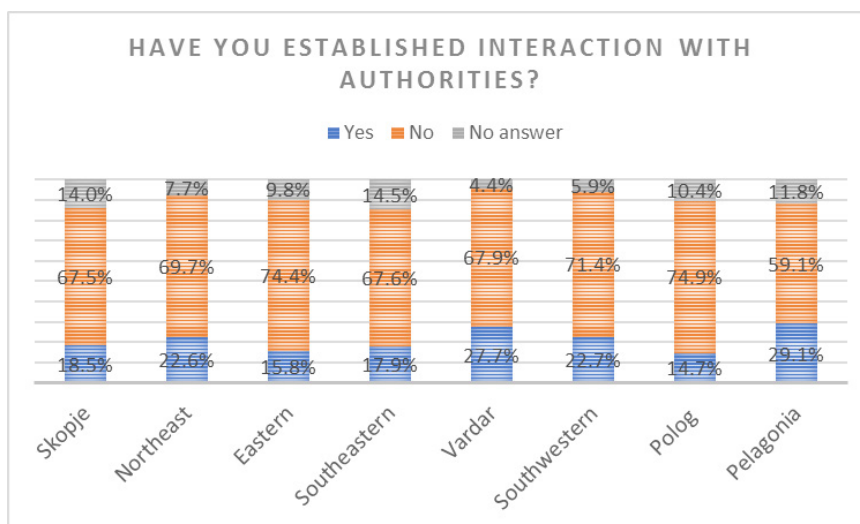
The forms of youth participation can be various. From volunteering for a cause important to the society, up to participating in peace building in conflict societies.

According to the findings of the Global youth development index (supported by Commonwealth) for the 2016 in Macedonia, in comparison with other categories, has the weakest result in the category for Civic participation, which is 0,495 of 1 as the highest grade and thus occupies the 92th place in the world. Compared to other countries in the region, Albania (82nd place), Croatia (69th place) and Slovenia (15th place) are better ranked than Macedonia in this category, while other countries, such as Serbia (155th place), Montenegro (148th place) and Bulgaria (168th place) are ranked worse than Macedonia.

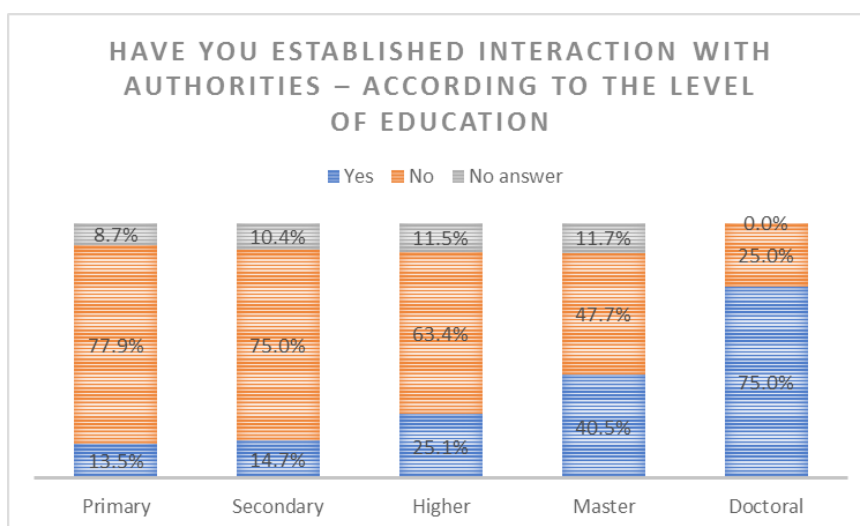
4.5.1. Interaction of young people with local and state authorities

The interaction of young people was examined through the question if whether the respondents have interacted in any way with any local or state authorities at any given period. Survey findings show that the majority of young people, namely 69,1 % of respondents have answered that they have not established interaction with representatives of the government, neither at the local nor state level, while only 20,2 % have in some way entered into communication with representatives of the government.

Observed by regions, the young people from the Pelagonia Region are the most active in terms of interacting with representatives of the government at local or state level with 29,1 %. After the Pelagonia Region, the highest percentage of young people who answered that they have established an interaction of some kind is in the Vardar and the Southeast region with 27,7 %. On the other hand, the least included was the youth from the Polog Region with 14,7 % and the youth from the Eastern Region with 15,8 %.



As it can be seen from the graph below, interaction with the authorities grows proportionately with the level of education of the respondents. Thus, as many as 75 % of young people with completed doctoral studies have established interaction with the authorities, while this percentage is significantly decreased among young people with master studies, with 40,5 %. In those with high education, we have a percentage of participation of 25,1 %, that is, every 4th with completed undergraduate studies has established interaction with representatives of some level of government (local or state).



By occupation, the most interacting are the employed, and least are the students. It should be noted that the even the unemployed are quite active when it comes to interaction with representatives of the government.

4.5.2. Expression of views and opinions on the Internet by young people

The use of Internet and social networks is quite popular among young people. Therefore, the questionnaire included a question on how young people use online tools to express views about a particular political or social situation that affects them. Surprisingly, despite the high percentage of young people using such tools, more than half of the surveyed young people (57,5 %) have said that they never published a personal opinion or position on certain issue with relevance to the community, and only 6,9 % publish their views and opinions often or very often.

The most active in using internet tools for expressing attitudes and opinions on a socio-political issue are the young people aged 25-29 with completed secondary education. Then young people between 20 and 24 years follow, and the most inactive are the young people with completed doctoral studies.

4.5.3. Consultative process at the local level during the creation of public policies that affect young people

The inclusion of young people in the policy-making process, especially at the local level, has a number of benefits for the municipality and youth. Thus, the municipality ensures participatory policy creation that produces efficient and effective policies that are recognized by citizens even during the elections. This manner of policy making ensures the youth with a solution to their problems and issues.-

However, despite the positive aspects, municipalities insufficiently exploit this kind of policy making. Thus, only half of the municipalities practice the participatory manner of creating policies that involves young people and youth organizations.

By regions, the largest number of municipalities that practice participatory policy-making are registered in Vardar region, wherein as many as 86 % of municipalities have said that they include youth and youth organizations, whilst this approach is much less practiced in the Southeast region.

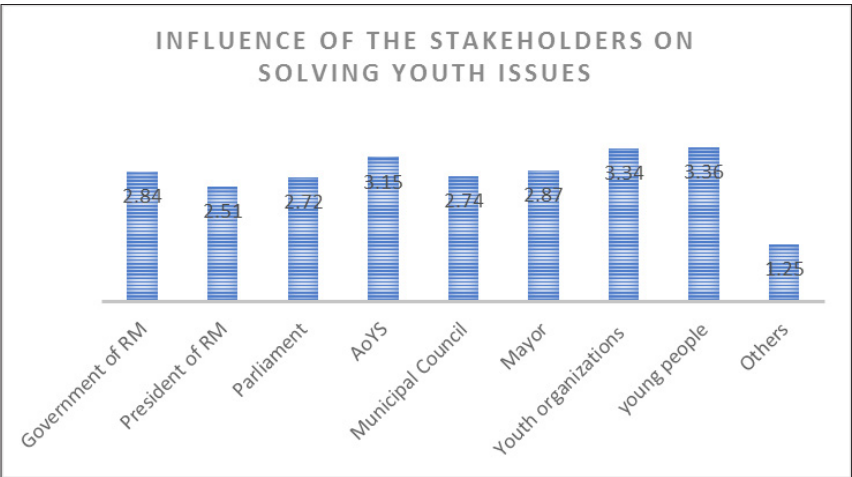
4.5.4. Budget for youth programs

Inclusion of young people in policy making is only the first step towards solving their problems. The second step would be to identify funding for the implementation of policies that affect young people and related activities.

In this regard, only 36 % of the municipalities have stated that they have allocated a budget that will ensure the implementation of youth policies.

4.5.5. Youth perceptions regarding the impact of stakeholders on solving their problems

Within the conducted survey, young people were asked to evaluate stakeholders based on their influence in addressing youth issues. The findings show that young people expect their youth organizations to be most engaged, and they were given an average score of 3.34 from maximum 5, then the young people, respectively themselves (3.36), which represents the highest average. Furthermore, young people have expectations from the Agency for Youth and Sports, which received an average score of 3.15, for influence in solving youth issues. Besides these three highest ranked stakeholders, the young people believe that the mayor is the most competent for solving youth issues, with a score of 2.87, and except this stakeholder, the young people expect the Government to engage in solving their problems. The young people have the lowest expectations from the president of the state, because from all the stakeholders mentioned in the question, this one received the lowest average score of 2.51, respectively a little more than half of the maximum score.



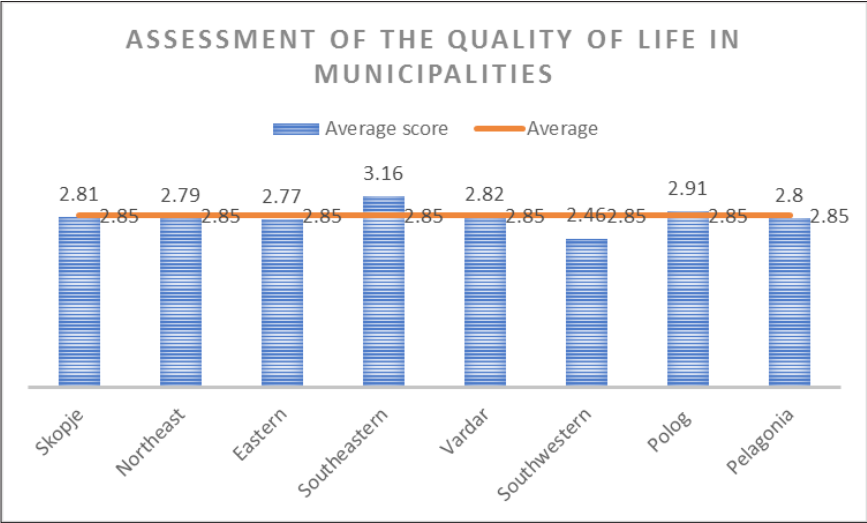
4.5.6. Responsibility for solving youth issues

Regarding to where they locate the responsibility for resolving youth issues, respectively in which of the listed stakeholders, the highest rating, i.e. the biggest responsibility for solving youth issues is with the Mayor (4.02 average score of 5). According to the young people, the next stakeholder who has the greatest responsibility right after the Mayor, are the youth organizations (3.98), and then the Parliament (3.97).



4.5.7. Satisfaction with the quality of life in the municipality

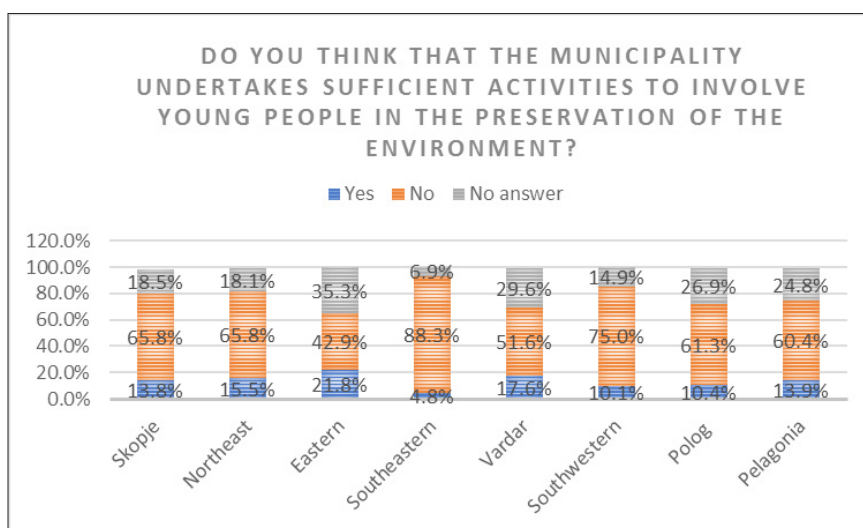
In the frames of the field research, young people were asked to assess the quality of life in their municipality. Then, during the data processing, municipalities were grouped by regions in order to ensure comparability at the level of the regions. Overall, the average of 2.85 shows that young people are moderately satisfied with the quality of life in their municipality. As the biggest weakness, young people have emphasized the air pollution, environmental pollution, poor infrastructure, insufficient cultural manifestations, insufficient funds, lack of suitable employment opportunities, etc. Of course, the highlighting of the shortcomings largely depends on the region and on the degree of development of the municipality itself. The highest level of satisfaction with the quality of life is among young people living in the Southeast Region, where the average score is 3.16 on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the highest score. On the other hand, the lowest satisfaction with the quality of life is among young people living in the Southwestern Region, where the average score is 2.46.



4.5.8. Involvement of young people in the preservation of the environment

The quality of life in the municipality depends to a large extent on how much the municipality takes care for the environment and undertakes measures for its preservation. Furthermore, the successful realization of these measures depends on the involvement of the local population, and above all the youth. Therefore, through the questionnaire, the young people were asked about their opinion on the commitment of the representatives of the local self-government in the preservation of the environment and inclusion of the youth in the implementation of activities towards this goal. Results from the survey show that only 13 % of young people consider that the municipality sufficiently involves the young people in the implementation of environmental protection activities, and 64,3 % believe that these efforts are insufficient. 21 % of respondents do not consider that they are sufficiently informed about this issue.

While analyzing the findings by regions, according to the surveyed individuals, the least activities for involving young people in the preservation of the environment are undertaken in the South-East region, and this opinion is shared by 88,3 % of the respondents. This region is followed by the Southwest region with 75 % of the young people who believe that the municipality does not undertake enough activities for preserving the environment and does not involve young people in these activities, followed by the Skopje and the Northeast region with 65,8 % of the young people who share this opinion. In this respect, the largest number of activities are undertaken in the municipalities of the Eastern Region, with 21,8 %, followed by the Vardar Region with 17,6 %.



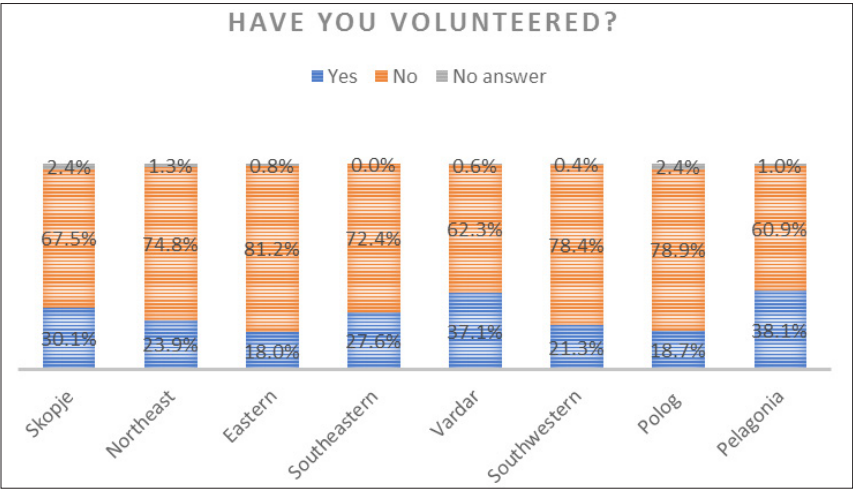
4.5.9. Rate of young people who have experience with volunteering

Volunteering can take many forms and be different in terms of where it is performed, what skills are required, and the duration of tasks. Thus, helping to arrange parks and other green areas for two hours a week, helping old and feeble people for a few hours during the week, are considered as equally valuable ways to volunteer within the community. Volunteering should be promoted by all relevant stakeholders through highlighting the benefits that young people can have from volunteering. Through volunteering, experiences and skills that can later be applied at work, are acquired. Furthermore, the willingness of young people to undertake more complex tasks at work, by using the skills acquired in this manner, will contribute towards gaining confidence by the employer and thus increasing the competitiveness of the young people in the workplace. Whilst, the skills that are acquired through volunteering include: self-confidence, communication skills, responsibility, teamwork and innovation in work.

Volunteering also helps the community as well. By volunteering, young people can make a difference, even if it only means that their voice is heard about certain issues that concern them.

According to the survey findings, 26,5 % of the respondents have volunteered, while 76,1 % have never volunteered. The volunteering is almost equally represented among men and women, respectively the number of those who have volunteered and those who have not, is the same.

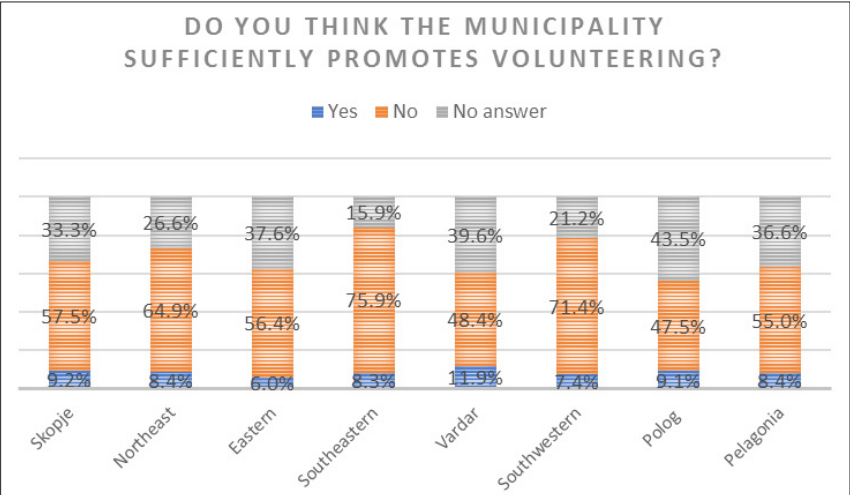
By regions, the highest percentage of young people who have volunteered is in Pelagonia, where as many as 38,1 % have said that they volunteered at some stage of their lives, followed by Vardar region with 37,1 % and Skopje region with 30,1 %. The lowest percentage of young people who have said that they volunteered is in the East region (18 %) and the Polog region with 18,7 %.



According to the level of education, volunteering among young people increases with the increase of the level of education. Thus, among the young people with secondary education this percentage is 20,6 %, among those with higher education it is 33,1 %, whilst among the young people with completed master studies as many as 44,5 % have gained some experience through volunteering. Among the young people with completed doctoral studies, almost every second one has volunteered in some way.

4.5.10. Promotion of volunteering by the municipality

Asked if young people think that the municipality does enough to promote volunteerism among young people, only 8,7 % said yes, while 58,3 % think that volunteering is sufficiently promoted by the municipality. 32,9 % have not answer this question. The young people from the Vardar Region believe in the highest percentage that the municipality sufficiently promotes volunteering, with 11,9 %, followed by Skopje region with 9,2 % and Polog region with 9,1 %. On the other hand, young people in the Southeast Region are least satisfied with what the municipalities in that region undertake to promote volunteering, and this opinion is shared by 75,9 % of young people. The situation is somewhat better in the Southwestern region (71,4 %), followed by the Northeast region with 64,9 %.

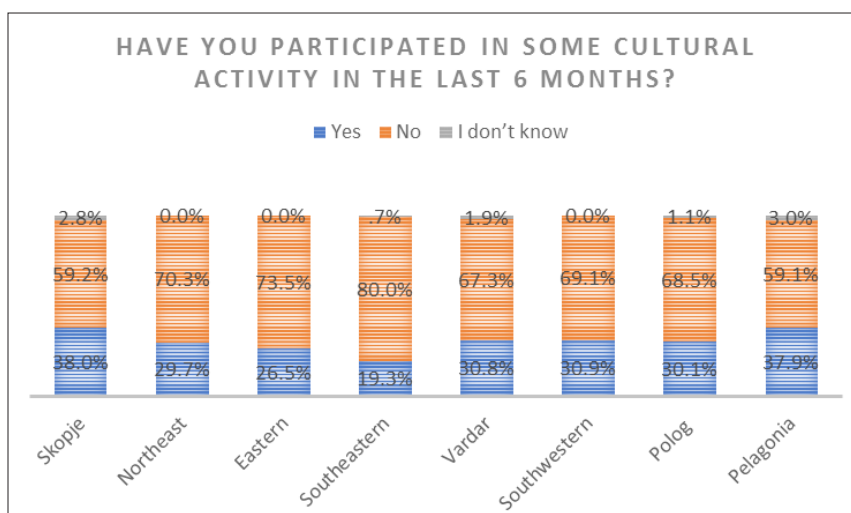


4.5.11. Participation in cultural activities

In the past six months, almost every third young person in Macedonia has participated in some kind of cultural activity, either passively as a spectator, or actively, as a performer or organizer. The remaining 66,3 % have said that they did not participate in any way, while 1,5 % did not answer the question.

According to the findings of the survey, the young people from the Skopje region have mostly participated in cultural activities with 38 %, followed by the young people from the Pelagonia region with 37,9 %, and the young people from the Southwest region with 30,9 %. The young people from the Southeast region are the least to follow cultural activities, of whom only 19,3 % have said that they participated in some cultural activity.

However, when asked whether the municipality engages enough for the development of culture in the municipality, especially for young people, 60 % of the young people in the country consider that there is not enough engagement in that regard.

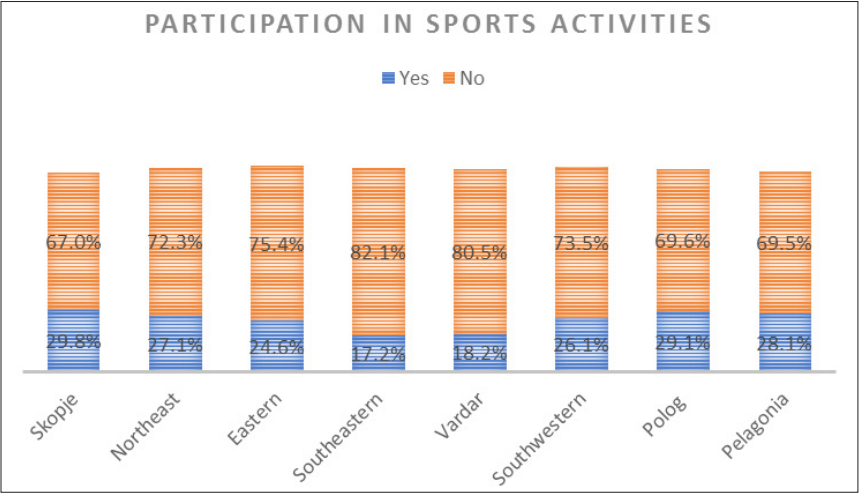


4.5.12. Participation in sports activities

Practicing sports and participation in sports activities is important for the proper development of the young people, both physically and mentally. Sport has a number of advantages that can be applied in various aspects of the life of young people, given the skills that are developed by sports activities.

However, young people in Macedonia sufficiently practice or participate in sports activities. Thus, in the last 6 months, every fourth young person has in some way participated in sports activities. This is not enough if the fact that obesity is increasingly present among young people in Macedonia is considered, and it is the practice of sports that can most effectively counter this negative trend among young people.

Observed by regions, the least sports activities take place in the Southeast region (17,2 %), followed by Vardar region with 18,2 % and Northeast region with 27,1 %.



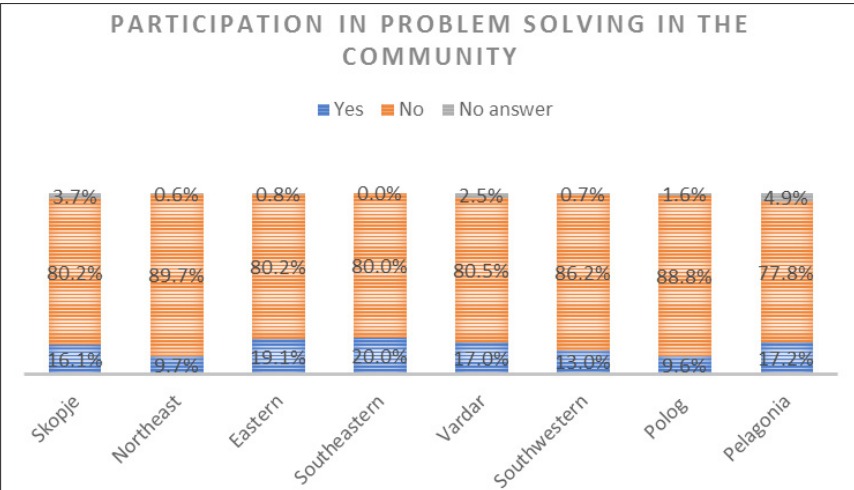
4.5.13. Participation in problem solving in the community

Participation in addressing a community issue or problem is an important indicator that shows the level of social awareness of young people and their capacity to actively participate in decision-making. Participation in decision-making is one of the postulates of a transparent and accountable administration, but this is only possible if there are citizens who are willing to engage in finding a solution to a problem or in creating a community agenda in terms of defining the priorities.

However, in the last 6 months only 14,6 % of young people in Macedonia have in some way been engaged in participatory policy creation or solving a problem.

Observed by regions, the young people from the South-East region were the most participative, with 20%. Since the survey was conducted during the campaign against the opening of mines in this area, the probability is that the higher percentage of participation in solving a problem in the community comes as a result of this exact activity.

The least active were the young people in the Polog region, where only 9,6 % of them have participated in solving of some problem, whilst the situation with the Northeast region is similar, where the percentage is 9,7 %.



4.5.14. Participation in civil protests

When it comes to participation in civic protests, the findings show that young people are more likely to participate in such, conditionally speaking way of practicing civic activity. Thus, nearly 40 % of young people have participated in a civil protest throughout their lives.

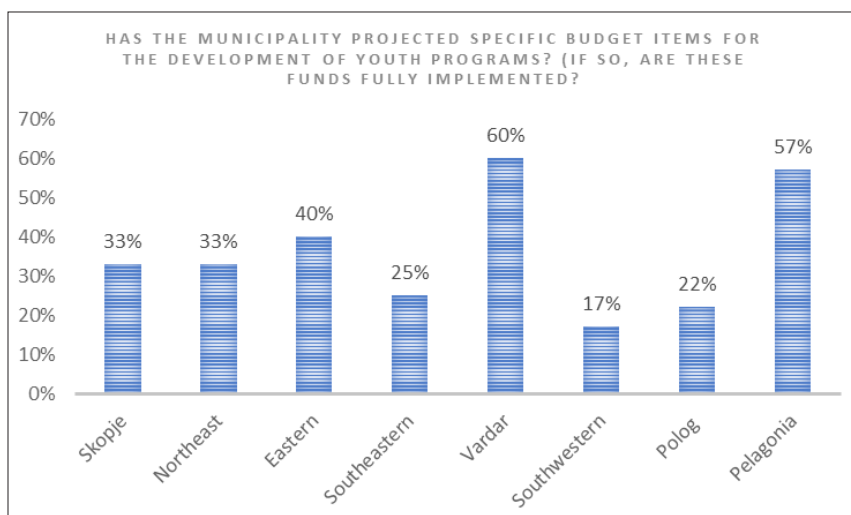
4.5.15. Signing petitions

Similar to the previous indicator, 38,1 % of young people have supported a civil petition. In this case, the young people from the Northeast Region were most active and 59,4 % of them were involved in such an activity, while the most passive were the young people from the Eastern Region, where only 18,4 % have signed a petition organized by citizens.

4.5.16. Provision of financial support from local and national authorities aiming to encourage youth participation

36 % of the surveyed municipalities have answered that they have provided financial support for youth participation encouraging.

The highest number of municipalities that have provided participation is in the Polog Region with 60 %, and the lowest in the Northeast, with only 17 %.



4.5.17. The existence of a communication strategy for informing the young people in the municipality/country

The successful and efficient inclusion of young people in the decision-making process to a large extent depends on the establishment of a youth communication strategy by the municipality. In this respect, only 20 % of the municipalities base this communication on a strategy, and the percentage of municipalities that have developed communication tools that are aimed at communicating with the young people is higher, respectively 49 %.

4.5.18. Conducting researches on the views and needs of young people in the municipality/country

The percentage of municipalities that regularly research the opinion of young people in terms of their needs is quite low. Thus, only 20 % of municipalities conduct some form of research of the opinion of the young people, and only 13 % of them answered that they are acting or taking some activities in order to meet the needs of the young people as a result of these surveys.

4.5.19. Existence of formally organized school communities in secondary schools on the territory of the municipality

Regarding the establishment of functional school communities through which young people can be involved and actively participate in the decision-making process within the school from their early age, 53 % of the municipalities in Macedonia have functional school communities. Hereby, the highest percentage of municipalities where school communities operate is in the Skopje planning region, wherein, in all 23 schools under the authority of the City of Skopje there are functional school communities. The Vardar region follows with 80 % of the schools, and the East region with 72 % of the total number of schools.

4.5.20. Constitution of the Council of Youth

The Youth Council, as one of the most important youth bodies through which they will be able to influence the decision-making in their interest and according to their needs, is constituted in just over half of the municipalities that delivered data, or more precisely in 53 % of the municipalities in the country.

In the Southwestern region, 80 % of the municipalities covered by the research have an established Council of Youth, followed by the Pelagonia Region with 75 %, while the lowest number of municipalities with a constituted Council of Youth is in the Northeast with only 17 %.

On the other hand, according to the data of Youth Wikipedia (Youth Wiki)¹³, which is an Internet platform for monitoring youth policies in Europe, 64 municipalities in Macedonia have integrated youth councils as mechanisms for youth participation in the decision-making process at the local level, respectively, 79 % of the municipalities in Macedonia.

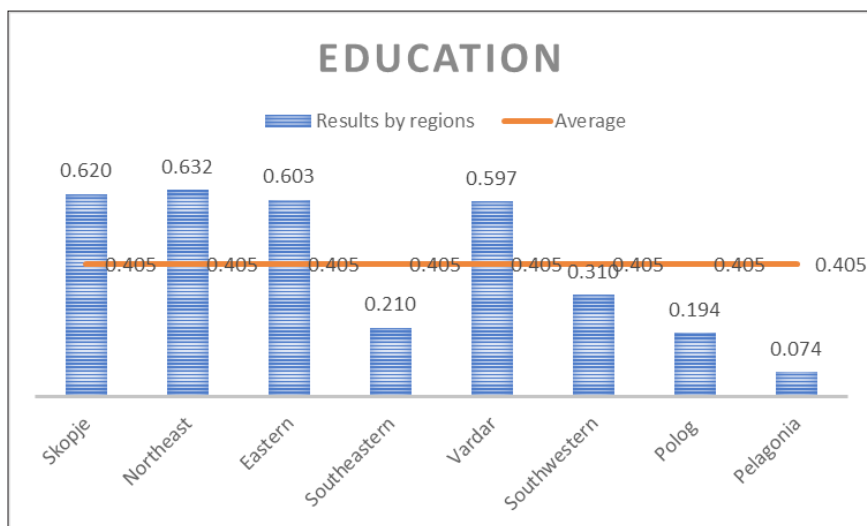
5. CONCLUSIONS

The results show that policy makers' interventions are needed in almost all areas in order to ensure sustainable youth development that will guarantee a better state of youth in the country. This is necessary because for a long time Macedonia faces an outflow of personnel, and some of the reasons that are cited are related to the low quality of life, lack of career opportunities, lack of finances, and the general negative socio-political context in which the young people of Macedonia live. To this end, the Index provides guidance in which areas it is necessary to intervene and which priority aspects should be covered. It should be noted that in Macedonia there is still no Law on Youth, which would systematically regulate several segments related to youth development.

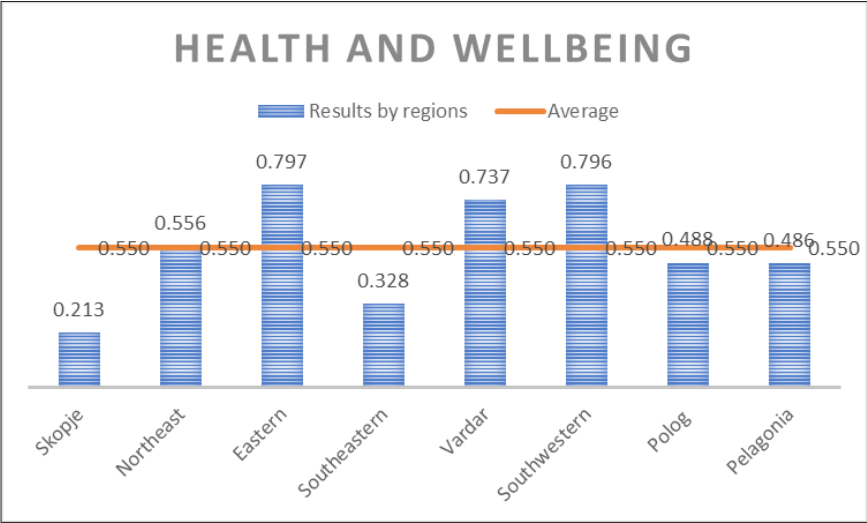
The average of the regions in terms of the fulfillment of the indicators in all categories is **0,452**, on a scale of 0 to 1, which means that slightly less than half of the indicators are not met.

The average score of the regions in the **Education category** is 0,405 on a scale of 0 to 1, which means that less than half of the indicators were fulfilled within this category.

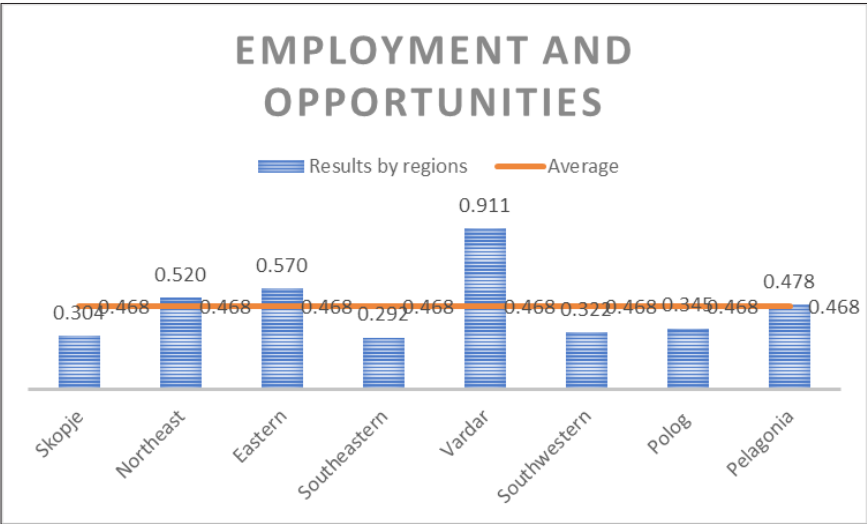
The municipalities in the Pelagonia Region had the lowest result, where the coefficient of fulfillment of the indicators is 0,074 of the maximum 1, the highest coefficient is in the Northeast Region with 0,632.



Fulfillment of the indicators in the category **Health and wellbeing** is 0,550 on a scale from 0 to 1, respectively, slightly more than half of the indicators in this category have been met. The most successful municipalities in this category were the municipalities of the East Region with a coefficient of fulfillment of 0,797, followed by the Southwest with 0,796 and the Vardar Region with an average score of 0,737.

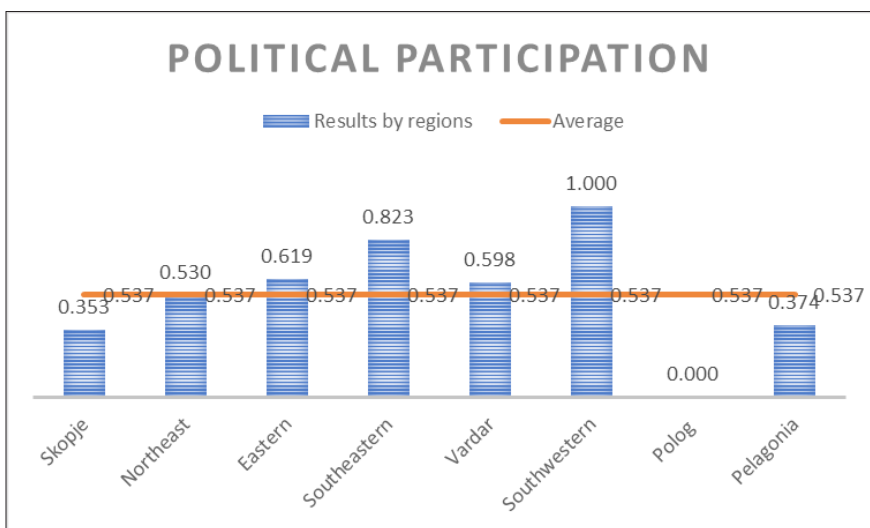


Within the category **Employment and opportunities**, the average score is 0,468 for all regions. The highest coefficient of fulfillment is in the municipalities of the Vardar Region, where the coefficient is 0,911, respectively close to fulfillment of all the indicators.

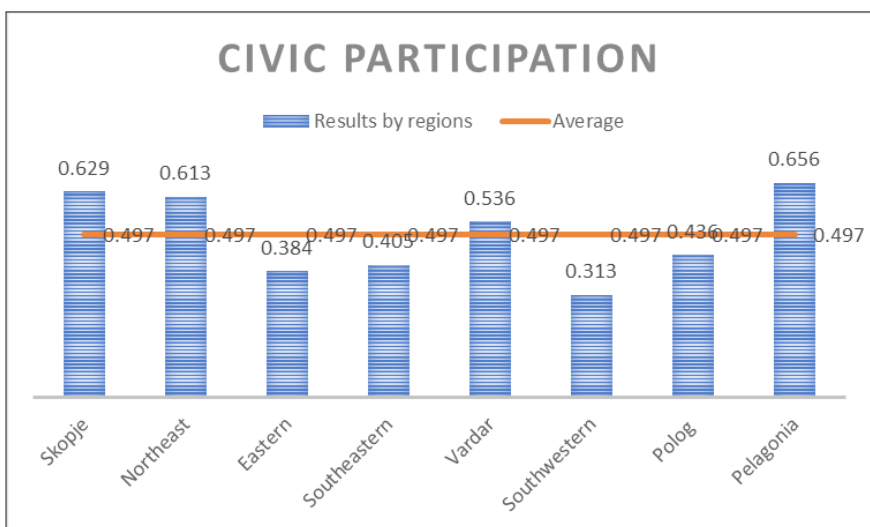


The average value of the coefficient of **Political participation** for the regions it is 0,537 which is just slightly more than half of the maximum value. The highest values in this category are registered in the municipalities of the Southwest Region, where they have the maximum fulfillment of the indicators in this category.

The lowest fulfillment of the indicators in this category is in the Polog Region, where the coefficient is 0 and somewhat better is the Skopje Region where the coefficient is 0,374 and Pelagonia with 0,374.



Within the last category, **Civic Participation**, the average of the municipalities is 0,497 and is the second best in terms of categories. The weakest results within this category are registered in the municipalities of the Southwest Region with a coefficient of 0,313, followed by the Eastern Region with 0,384. The best results, respectively the highest participation in the frames of the civil society has been registered in the municipalities from the Pelagonia Region, where the coefficient of fulfillment is 0,656, followed by the municipalities from the Skopje Region with 0,629 and the Northeast with 0,613.



6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. NATIONAL LEVEL

Given the results achieved by the categories in the Youth Development Index in Macedonia, it is obvious that the most important area for interventions is Education. Within this category, particular attention should be given to improving the educational programs in order to provide greater compatibility with the needs of the labor market. The activities that should be undertaken by state authorities include:

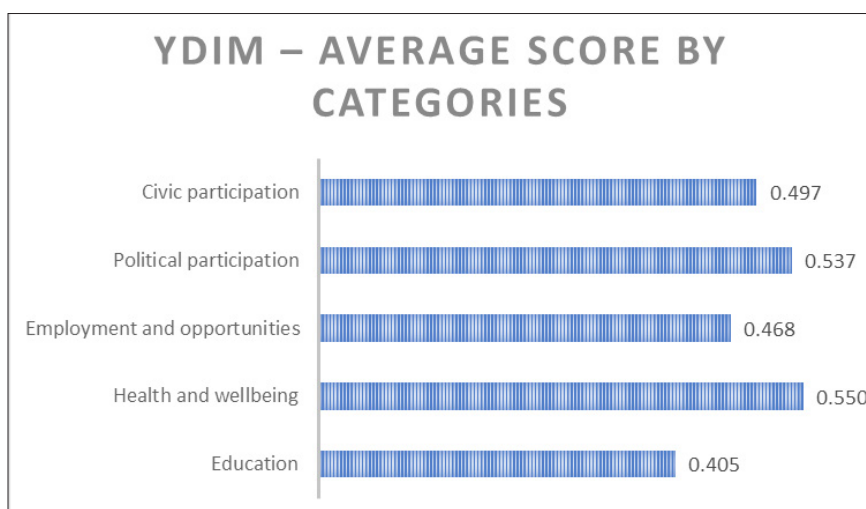
- Improvement of educational programs in the secondary vocational schools based on the analysis of the specific requirements of the labor market;
- Better promotion within the young people through the educational process of skills and values that are required in the labor market;
- Improvement of the methodology for developing a strategy for planned enrollment of students in secondary vocational schools.

Within the framework of regular education, greater inclusion of persons with special needs should be ensured. In this regard, within the schools, gender equality should be promoted more among students through the development of appropriate strategies and activities.

According to the results, the next category that requires more attention and priority in implementing measures and activities is employment and opportunities for young people. This is not surprising, unemployment rate of over 50%, which is one of the highest in the region and beyond, represents the biggest problem among young people. In this category the weakest result is registered at the indicator that measures the fertility among the young people, whilst the average of this indicator is 0.382. In the long term, low fertility would endanger the participation of the young workforce in the percentage of active population that would create serious economic problems.

Promotion of more efficient and active employment measures with a focus on young people should be one of the key priorities of the Government in the forthcoming period.

Within the category Civic Participation, which is the third worst category according to the results of the YDIM, the highest priority should be given to promotion of volunteering at the national level as support to the activities for strengthening the volunteering at the local level.



6.2. RECOMMENDATIONS AT REGIONAL LEVEL

Based on the results of YDIM, the recommendations referring to the municipalities of the eight planning regions in the country, are the following:

6.2.1. SKOPJE REGION

Priority categories for intervention in the Skopje Region:

1. Health and wellbeing
 - 1.1. Reducing the rate of smokers among young people
 - 1.2. Preparation of a strategy on prevention of traffic accidents dedicated for young people
2. Employment and Opportunities
 - 2.1. Taking measures to improve fertility among young people (e.g. introducing sexual education)
 - 2.2. Taking measures to promote employment among young people
3. Political participation
 - 3.1. The rate of turnout in elections is low, which means measures to encourage the turnout should be taken in order to encourage the young people to take greater participation in decision making at national and local level
4. Education
 - 4.1. Promotion of gender equality among young people
 - 4.2. Improving educational programs for compliance with the needs of the labor market

5. Civic participation

- 5.1. Promotion of volunteering among young people
- 5.2. Constitution of Councils of Youth
- 5.3. Adoption of a budget for youth programs

6.2.2. Northeast planning region

1. Employment and Opportunities

- 1.1. Encouraging employment measures among young people

2. Health and wellbeing

- 2.1. Reducing the rate of young people who consume alcohol

3. Education

- 3.1. Improving the inclusiveness of people with disabilities within the frameworks of education
- 3.2. Activities by local authorities to improve the educational programs according to the needs of the market

4. Civic participation

- 4.1. Ensure a wide local level consultation process in creating public policies that affect young people
- 4.2. Encourage participation in problem/community issues solving among young people
- 4.3. Developing and adopting a communication strategy for informing young people in the municipality/state

6.2.3. East planning region

1. Civic participation

- 1.1. Improving the interaction of young people aged 18-29 with local/state authorities
- 1.2. Ensure a wide consultation process at the local level during the process of creating public policies that affect young people
- 1.3. Encourage the participation of young people in civic gatherings

2. Employment and Opportunities

- 2.1. Promotion of measures by the local authorities to encourage employment among young people aged 15 - 29

3. Education

- 3.1. Improvement of the rate of digital literacy



6.2.4. Southeast planning region

1. Education
 - 1.1. Promotion of gender equality among young people
 - 1.2. Improvement of inclusiveness (physical disability and intellectual disability) in secondary schools
 - 1.3. Improvement of the planned enrollment of students in secondary schools
2. Employment and opportunities
 - 2.1. Promotion of measures by local authorities to encourage employment among youth aged 15 - 29
3. Health and wellbeing
 - 3.1. Reducing the rate of young people who consume alcohol
 - 3.2. Adoption of a strategy for prevention of traffic accidents involving young people aged 15-29
4. Civic participation
 - 4.1. Adoption of a budget for youth programs
 - 4.2. Promotion of volunteering by the municipality
 - 4.3. Organizing more cultural, sports and artistic activities
 - 4.4. Conducting research on the views and needs of young people in the municipality/ country

6.2.5. Vardar planning region


1. Education
 - 1.1. Activities by local authorities to improve the educational programs according to market needs
2. Civic participation
 - 2.1. Better functionality of formally organized school communities in secondary schools on the territory of the municipality
 - 2.2. Organizing sports activities
 - 2.3. Promotion of volunteering by the municipalities
3. Political participation
 - 3.1. Encouraging young people for greater voter turnout (local and national)

6.2.6. Southwest planning region

1. Education
 - 1.1. Improvement of the rate of digital literacy
 - 1.2. Improvement of inclusiveness (physical disability and intellectual disability) in secondary schools
 - 1.3. Action by the local authorities to improve educational programs according to market needs
2. Civic participation
 - 2.1. Adoption of a budget for youth programs
 - 2.2. Taking measures for involving young people in the preservation of the environment
 - 2.3. Promotion of volunteering by the municipality
 - 2.4. Conducting research on the views and needs of young people in the municipality/ country
 - 2.5. Constitution of the Council of Youth in the municipalities where there isn't one
3. Employment and Opportunities
 - 3.1. Promotion of measures to encourage employment among young people aged 15 - 29 by the local authorities

6.2.7. Polog planning region

1. Political participation
 - 1.1. Improvement of the rate of turnout in elections (national and local)
2. Education
 - 2.1. Planned enrollment of students in secondary schools
 - 2.2. Improvement of the planned enrollment of students in secondary schools
 - 2.3. Improvement of the inclusion in secondary schools for people with physical and mental disability
 - 2.4. Improvement of the digital literacy among students
3. Employment and Opportunities
 - 3.1. Promotion of measures to encourage employment among young people aged 15 - 29 by the local authorities
4. Civic participation
 - 4.1. Adoption of a budget for youth programs
 - 4.2. Promotion of volunteering by the municipality
 - 4.3. Encouraging participation in solving of some problem in the community

- 
- 4.4. Establishment of formally organized school communities in the secondary schools on the territory of the municipality
 - 4.5. Greater involvement of young people in solving problems related to the environment
 - 4.6. Adoption of communication strategies with youth by the municipalities

6.2.8. Pelagonia planning region

1. Education

- 1.1. Improvement of the inclusiveness of schools in relation to persons with mental and physical disabilities
- 1.2. Adoption of a strategy for planned enrollment of students in secondary vocational schools
- 1.3. Activities by the local authorities for the improvement of the educational programs according to market needs
- 1.4. Improvement of the digital literacy among young people

2. Employment and Opportunities

- 2.1. Promotion of measures to encourage employment among young people aged 15 - 29 by the local authorities

3. Civic participation

- 3.1. Conducting research on the views and needs of young people in the municipality/ country
- 3.2. Adoption of a communication strategy for informing the youth in the municipality/ country

7. ANNEX 1

Category		Indicator	Description and dimensions	Source/tool for data collection
1. Education	1	Enrollment and completion rate in secondary schools	1. Percentage of young people enrolled in secondary schools 2. Percentage of completion of secondary education (categorization by gender, ethnicity)	SSO/official documents from MoES with relevant data
	2	Literacy rate	Percentage of young people aged 15-24 who can read and write, determined through understanding of a brief simple statement about everyday life	SSO/PISA-2015, Report
	3	Digital native rate	1. Percentage of young people aged 15-29 who actively use the Internet 2. Knowledge of software for processing text, presentation and calculations 3. Knowledge of programming language	Survey
	4	Percentage of young people who study two or more foreign languages in secondary education	Percentage of young people in Secondary Education who study two or more foreign languages	EUROSTAT, SSO
	5	Enrollment rate in higher education	Percentage of young people enrolled in higher education after completing secondary education	SSO
	6	Existence of policies for inclusion (physical disability) in secondary schools	1=existence of policies; 0,5= policies in development; 0=there is no information or no policy (1. Mapping of the needs of people with physical and mental disabilities 2. Strategy for inclusion of persons with physical and mental disabilities in regular school programs (By types of schools: gymnasium, vocational))	Questionnaire for LSGU
	7	Existence of policies for gender equality among young people	1=existence of policies; 0,5= policies in development; 0=there is no information or no policy 1. Has the municipality adopted a strategy for gender equality? 2. Does the municipality have a budget for realization of the activities in the strategy for gender equality among the youth? (by type of secondary school)	Questionnaire for LSGU

	8	Existence of planned enrollment of students in secondary schools	1 = existence of a strategy for planning enrollment; 0.5 = in development; 0 = there is no information or no strategy (Existence of a strategy for enrollment of students in secondary schools according to the needs and spatial possibilities for implementing cabinet teaching in order to improve the quality of education)	Questionnaire for LSGU
	9	Existence of activities by local authorities to improve educational programs according to market needs	1 = existence of a program; 0,5 = a program in development; 0 = there is no information or no program (Program/plan for improving the educational programs in secondary vocational schools according to the needs of the market in cooperation with secondary vocational schools, the business sector and the local self-government)	Questionnaire for LSGU
2. Health and wellbeing	1	Youth mortality rate	Mortality rate among young people aged 15-29 years per 100,000 in comparison with the total population (gender, ethnicity)	IPH
	2	Rate of smokers among young	1. Years of Life Lost due to smoking 2. Percentage of young people who smoke on a daily basis (gender, ethnicity)	IPH/Survey
	3	Alcohol abuse rate	1. Years of Life Lost due to the alcohol abuse 2. Percentage of young people who consume alcohol more than 3 times a week (gender, ethnicity)	IPH/Survey
	4	Rate of obesity among young people	Percentage of young people aged 16-29 who are overweight	IPH
	5	Drug abuse rate	Percentage of young people aged 15-34 who use illegal drugs	IPH
	6	HIV rate	Percentage of young people aged 20 to 29 infected with HIV	IPH
	7	Rate of young people who experienced psychological stress in the last 4 weeks	Percentage of young people aged 15-29 who answered „yes“ to the question whether they have experienced any stress at work or home in the last 4 weeks	Survey

	8	Existence of a strategy for prevention of traffic accidents involving young people aged 15-29	1 = existence of a strategy; 0.5 = strategy in development; 0 = there is no information or no strategy (Strategy for youth education on traffic in the direction of prevention of traffic accidents)	Questionnaire for LSGU
3. Employment and opportunities	1	Youth unemployment rate	Percentage of unemployment among young people between the ages of 15 and 29 in relation to the total population	SSO
	2	NEET rate	Percentage of young people 15 - 29 who are not employed and are not in education and training	SSO
	3	Existence of a strategy for the promotion of nonformal education among young people between the ages of 15 and 29	1 = existence of a strategy; 0.5 = strategy in development; 0 = there is no information or no strategy (1. A mapping of subjects offering nonformal Education for young people was conducted 2. A survey on the needs of young people for non-formal education was conducted)	Questionnaire for LSGU
	4	Adolescent fertility rate	Number of births per 1000 women aged 15-19	SSO
	5	Existence of a transaction account at a financial institution	Percentage of young people aged between 15 and 29 with a transaction account in a bank	Survey
	6	Rate of youth aged between 25 and 29 living with their parents	Percentage of young people living with their parents after completion of the educational process (25 - 29 years)	EUROSTAT
	7	Existence of activities for promotion of measures for encouraging employment among youth between 15 - 29 years by the local authorities	1=existence of a program; 0,5= program in development; 0=there is no information or no program	Questionnaire for LSGU
4. Political engagement/ participation	1	Turnout rate in the last local/ parliamentary elections (18-29 years)	Percentage of turnout among young people aged 18 - 29 at the last local/ parliamentary elections	Survey

	2	Membership in a political party	Percentage of young people aged 18 to 29 who are members of a political party	Survey
	3	Participation in a political party campaign during elections	Percentage of participation of young people aged 18 – 29, in the campaign of a political party and the political engagement	Survey
	4	Participation of young people aged 18-29 in the local government (executive, representative)	Percentage of young people aged 18-29 who are part of the local government (executive, representative)	Questionnaire for LSGU
5. Civic participation	1	Interaction of youth with local and state authorities	Percentage of young people aged 15-29 who have interacted with state/local authorities in gatherings, meetings, internet, etc.	Survey
	2	Expression of views and opinions on the Internet by young people	Percentage of young people aged 15 - 29 who used the Internet for accessing or publishing an opinion online	Survey
	3	The existence of a broad consultation process at the local level in the creation of public policies affecting young	1 = existence of inclusion mechanisms; 0.5 = mechanisms in development/ad hoc; 0=there is no information or no mechanism	Questionnaire for LSGU
	4	Existence of a budget for youth programs	1 = existence of a budget for youth programs; 0.5 = budget for youth programs in development; 0=there is no information or no budget	Questionnaire for LSGU
	5	Youth perceptions regarding the impact of stakeholders in solving their problems	Youth perception in terms of their influence on solving their problems (On the scale from 1 to 5 the impact of local institutions, national institutions and agencies, youth, youth organizations and others on the decision-making of youth issues is assessed)	Focus group/ Survey
	6	Responsibility for solving youth issues	Youth's perception of responsibility in addressing youth issues. (On a scale from 1 to 5 the level of responsibility of each of the stakeholders is assessed)	Focus group/ Survey
	7	Satisfaction with the quality of life in the municipality	Measuring the satisfaction with the quality of life in the municipality (1. How satisfied are you with the quality of life in the municipality? On a scale from 1 to 5; 2. Indicate the advantages and disadvantages of living in the municipality!)	Focus group/ Survey

	8	Involvement of young people in the preservation of the environment	Percentage of young people aged 15 - 29 who have answered with „yes“ to the question whether the municipality undertakes activities for inclusion of young people in the preservation of the environment	Focus group/Survey
	9	Rate of young people who have experience with volunteering	Percentage of people aged 15 - 29 who have answered “yes” to the question about volunteering	Focus group/Survey
	10	Existence of measures for promotion of volunteering by the municipality	Percentage of municipalities that promote volunteering	Questionnaire for LSGU/Survey
	11	Participation in cultural activities	Percentage of young people aged 15-29 who participated in cultural activities in the last 6 months	Focus group/Survey
	12	Participation in sports activities	Percentage of young people aged 15-29 who participated in sports activities in the last 6 months	Survey
	13	Participation in problem solving in the community	Percentage of young people aged between 15 and 29 who have participated in problem solving activity in the community	Survey
	14	Participation in civil protests	Percentage of young people aged between 18 and 29 who participated in a civil protest	Survey
	15	Participation by signing petitions	Percentage of young people aged between 18 and 29 who have signed a petition	Survey
	16	Providing financial support from local and national authorities in order to encourage youth participation	1 = existence of a separate budget line for forms of youth association; 0.5 = in development; 0 = there is no information or no budget line	Questionnaire for LSGU
	17	Existence of communication strategy to inform young people in the municipality/country	1=existence of a communication strategy; 0,5= communication strategy in development; 0=there is no information or no strategy	Questionnaire for LSGU
	18	Existence of regular research on the attitudes and needs of the youth in the municipality/country	1=in continuity; 0,5= on ad hoc bases; 0=there is no information or no research	Questionnaire for LSGU
	19	Existence of formally organized school communities in secondary schools on the territory of the municipality	Percentage of schools with formally organized school communities in secondary schools on the territory of the municipality	Questionnaire for LSGU
	20	Existence of the Council of Youth	Percentage of municipalities with established Council for Youth	Questionnaire for LSGU, EU (Youth Wiki)

