

The region has been on a path of solid economic growth and job creation in recent years ...



Youth employment rate in the Western Balkans

stood at

19.7% in 2018

compared to

15.6% in 2012

In the last 7 years more than

700 thousand

new jobs were created

but only

4.3%

of these were taken up by youth under

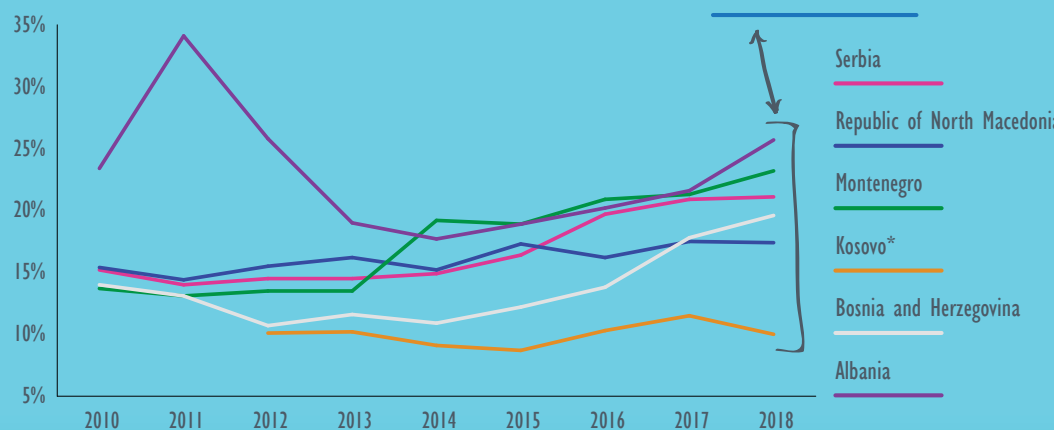
24 years of age

Youth employment has followed a moderately positive trend; however youth unemployment remains stubbornly high as youth are more than twice as likely as the general population to be unemployed ...

Youth Employment Rate

At the same time, EU youth employment was

35.4% in 2018



*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Overall youth unemployment

is more than **35%**

In comparison, the EU average youth unemployment rate in 2018 was

15.2%

240,000

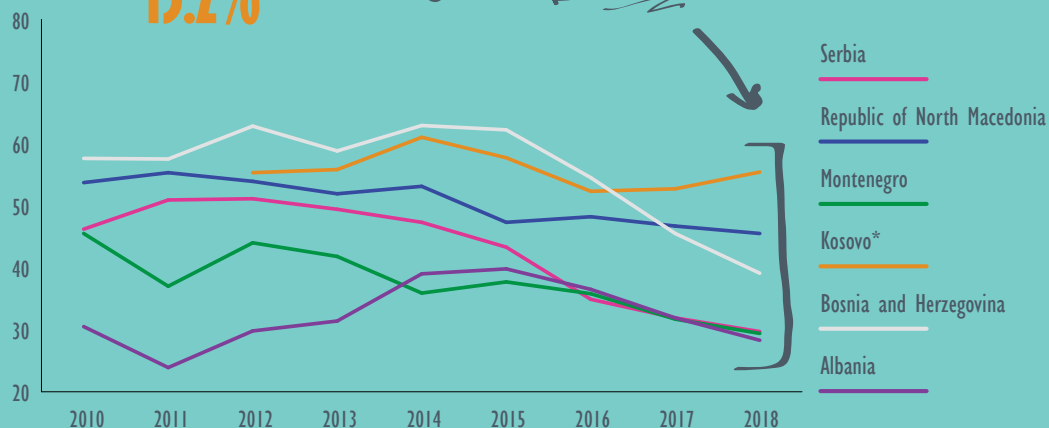
youth aged

15-24

are unemployed

but actively looking for a job in our region

Youth Unemployment Rate



Furthermore, over the past **7 years** **10%** of young people, over **70,000** aged 15 to 24 in total,

has neither been in a job nor looking for one

What do young people think¹?



Western Balkans youth, aged 18 to 24, is more **OPTIMISTIC** about the prospects of financial situation and national economy, but more concerned about unemployment and corruption.

Young people in the Western Balkans, aged 18 to 34, **believe** government should invest in social infrastructure, **SCIENCE** and **technology**, unlike other age groups which prioritise industrial development.

One third of young people (aged 25 to 34) are not satisfied with the skills provided by the education system as they tend not to fulfil the needs of their jobs.

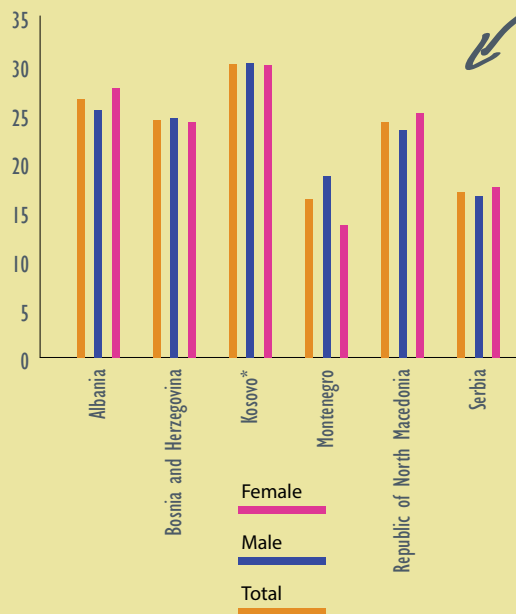
Over a third, 36%, were required to either **learn new** or advance existing skills (mostly foreign language and communication) at their job in the past 12 months.

EU membership is viewed as a **GOOD thing** by **61%** of young people in the Western Balkans, compared to 56% of overall population, as they associate it with positive benefits and increased opportunities to travel, study and work abroad.



¹ Data from Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)'s annual survey, Balkan Barometer 2019

However, a substantial share of young people is out of employment, education or training ...



An estimated **23%**

of young people are not in employment, education or training in the

Western Balkans

Young females are more likely to be out of education, training or employment



Transition from school to work can be a long and demanding process for young people in the Western Balkans ...

It takes

21 months

for a young person in Montenegro to find their first job,

24 months

in Serbia and

25 months

in Republic of North Macedonia²



Young workers will need to carry the burden and support the elderly population ...

The Western Balkans population is getting older and is decreasing in size by 2050

between **30% and 40%**

of the population will be older than 60 and the overall size will drop by almost **20%**³

Recommendations

- Promote quantity and quality of jobs
- Improve the design and targeting of Active Labour Market Policies
- Enhance the relevance of education and skills to labour market needs

² School-to-work transition survey

³ According to the UN projections





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