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PARTNERSALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Monitoring report of Political, Social, Economic Participation of Youth

Albania 2019

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Partners Albania in the framework of the project WB&T for EmploYouth implemented in partnership with “Ana I Vlade Divac” Foundation in Serbia, Association for Education- MLADIINFO International in Macedonia, “Prima” organization in Montenegro and “Community Volunteers Foundation” in Turkey release an annual monitoring report aiming to give an overview and analyze the state of affairs regarding youth’s political, social and economic participation in these 5 countries.

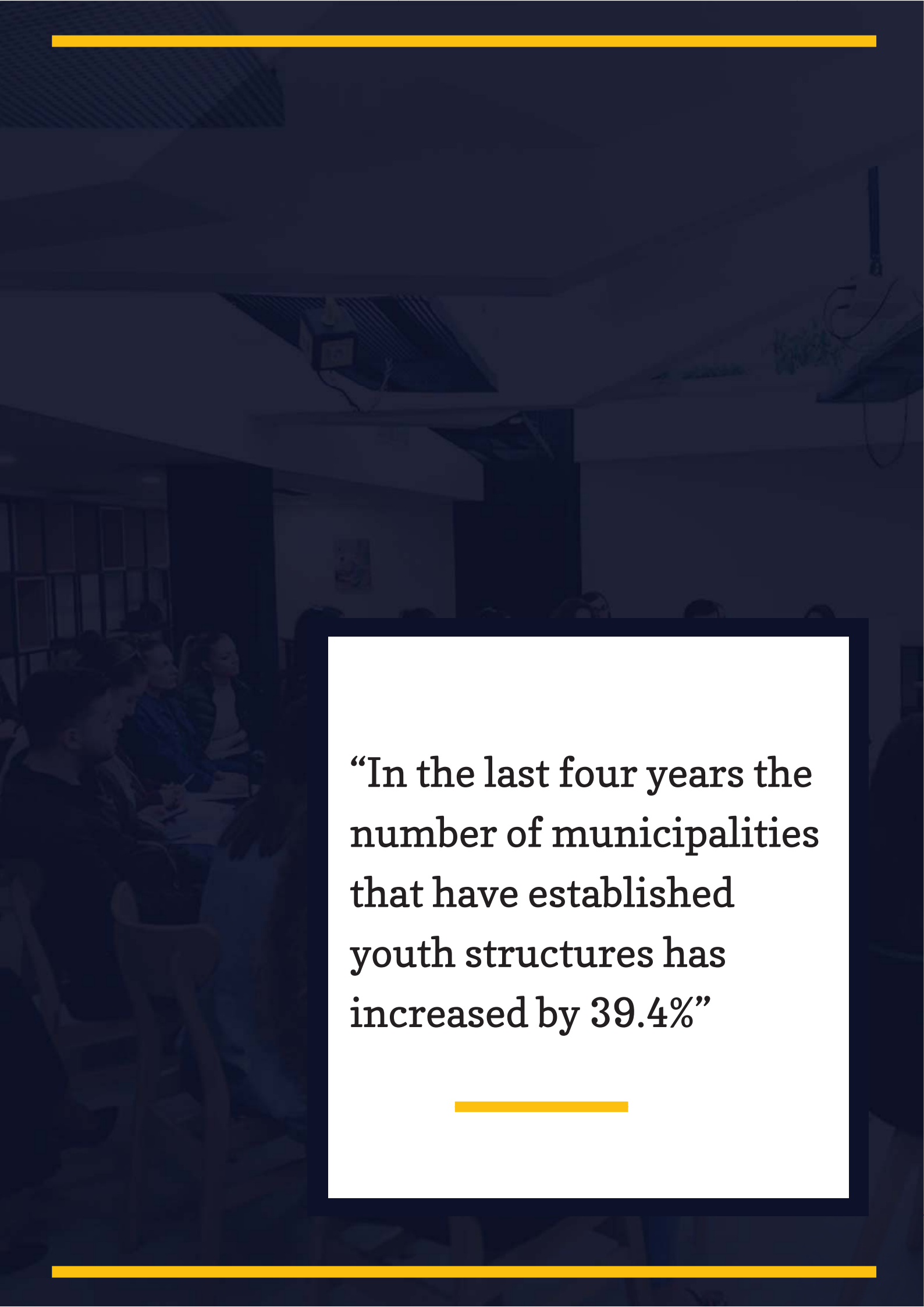
The monitoring report started to be published in 2016 as part of Youth Bank Hub for WB&T initiative. The monitoring report is the guide for evidence based policy recommendations and advocacy initiatives of the network regarding youth participation.

This report provides a brief description of the current data on political, social and economic participation of youth in Albania based on a set of predefined indicators. Considering that this is the fourth annual report, it provides some significant data comparison over these four years of monitoring 2016 – 2019.

The report data are a results of desk researches and official request for information sent to responsible institution such as: Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, General Directorate of Taxation, General Directorate of Prisons, National Institution of Statistics and Albanian’s Municipalities.

The report elaborates recommendations and advocacy initiatives for future actions concerning youth state of affairs on political, social and economic participation.


The data on this report are reflected in The Youth Index, elaborated from the 5 country reports of YBH network.



“In the last four years the number of municipalities that have established youth structures has increased by 39.4%”

Data on Political Participation of Youth

INDICATORS	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	YEAR
Young ministers in Government	0.0%	0%	0%	2019 ¹
Young deputy ministers in government	7.0%	3.5%	3.5%	2019 ¹
Young MPs in the parliament	4.0%	1%	40	2019 ¹
Young mayors	0.0%	0%	0%	2019 ¹
On-line tools for information and participation in decision making of government and parliament	79.3%			2019 ¹
On-line tools for information and participation in decision making of municipalities	66.0%			2019 ¹
Existence of youth structure (councils/parliaments/unions) on national level	0.0%			2019 ¹
Existence of youth structure (councils/parliaments/unions) on local level	57.4%			2019 ¹

The background image shows a large, dense crowd of people gathered in front of a multi-story building. The building has a mix of yellow and red facades, with some balconies and windows visible. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, and some people are holding up phones or cameras. The overall scene suggests a public gathering or protest. A white text box with a dark border is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text: "Several data on youth social inclusion which are neither measured nor updated remains an issue to be addressed".

“Several data on youth social inclusion which are neither measured nor updated remains an issue to be addressed”

Data on Social Participation of Youth

INDICATORS	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	YEAR
Young people at risk of poverty	No data	-	-	2019 ³
The percentage of young poor people (the young people who lives under the line of poverty) (No of young poor people / no of young people)	No data	-	-	2019 ⁴
Young people in prisons	34.8%	0.3%	35.4%	2019 ⁵
Young mayors	0.0%	0%	0%	2019 ¹
Young people part of social welfare system (who receive financial support in Social Protection System) divided with the young people who are in the social welfare system	No data			2019 ⁶
Dropout from the secondary education	2.6%	1.15%	4.27%	2018-2019 ⁷
Young people enrolled in tertiary education	59.5%	71.3%	47.7%	2019-2020 ¹
Young people graduated from tertiary education	26.7%	29.7%	22.4%	2018-2019 ¹
Participation rate of youth in formal and non-formal education and training during the last 4 weeks ⁸	35%	37.9%	32.1%	2019-2020 ³

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

[3] Request for Information to the National Institute of Statistics

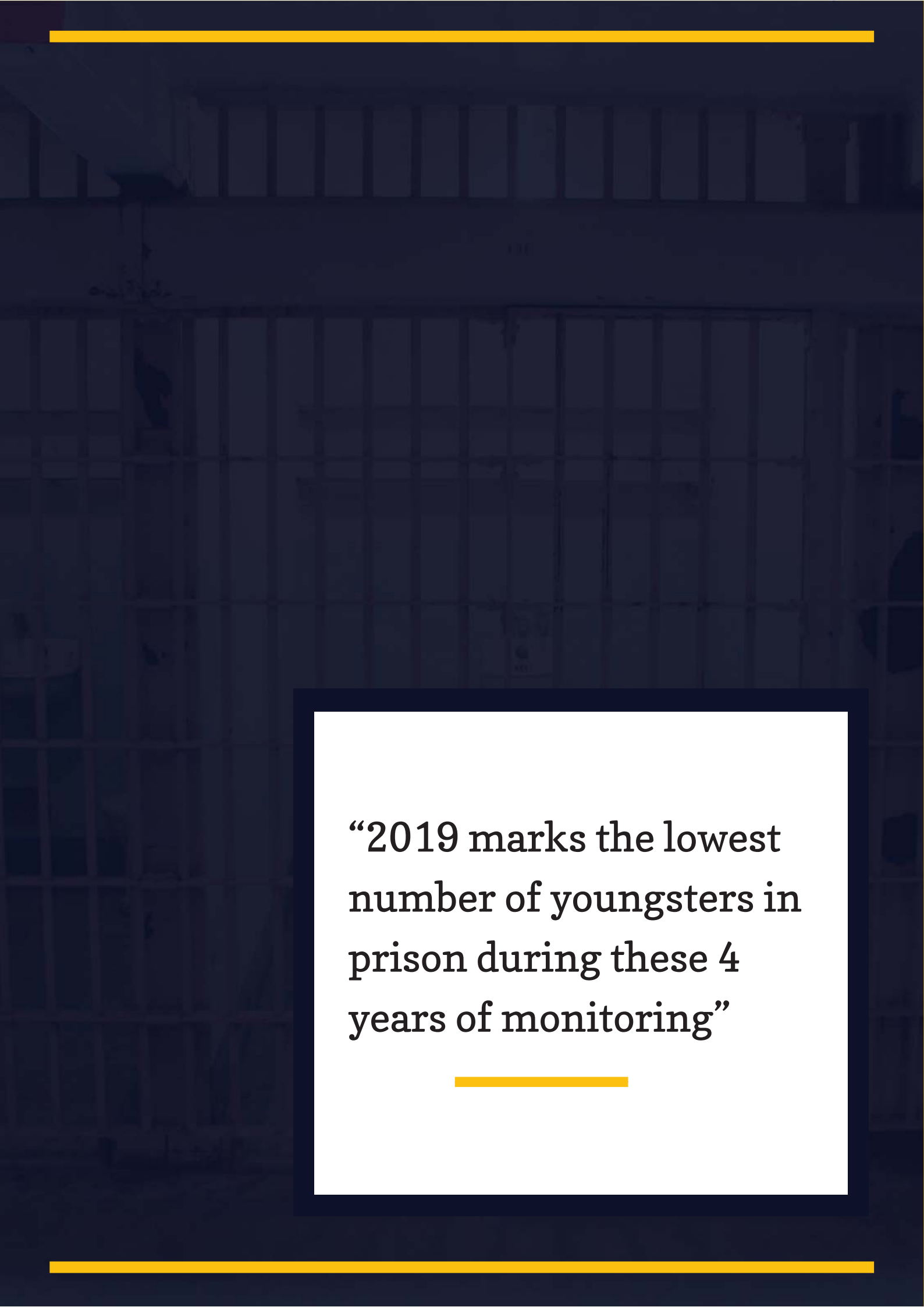
[4] Partners Albania sent a request for information to the National Institute of Statistics but they responded that this data is not measured

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


[6] Partners Albania sent a request for information to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection but the Ministry replied that they do not collect such information.

[7] Request for Information to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

[8] This year, it is added another indicator within social participation dimension focused on participation of youth in formal and informal training

The background of the slide is a dark, blue-tinted photograph of prison bars, creating a somber and institutional atmosphere. A thick yellow horizontal bar is positioned at the top of the slide, and another is at the bottom. A white rectangular box with a dark blue border is centered in the lower half of the slide, containing the main text.

“2019 marks the lowest
number of youngsters in
prison during these 4
years of monitoring”




Data on Economic Participation of Youth

INDICATORS	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	YEAR
NEET rate	26.6%	28.90%	24.30%	2019 ⁹
Youth unemployment rate	21.5%	21.70%	21.30%	2019 ⁸
Long-term youth unemployment rate	11.5%	8.90%	13.70%	2019 ⁸
Youth Labor force participation rate	52.5%	45.60%	59.20%	2019 ⁸
Youth Employment rate	41.2%	35.70%	46.60%	2019 ⁸
Young people that started their own business with the financial support of state	26%			2019 ¹⁰
Self-employed young people	7.8%	6.00%	9.70%	2019 ³

[9] National Institute of Statistics, 2020, Labor Market 2019

[10] Request for Information to the Ministry of Finances and Economy



“NEET rate is reduced by
3.4% compared to four
years ago”

Comparisons of data during 4 years of monitoring

In overall several indicators show a significant improvement compared to data reported four years ago in particular for economic youth participation.

In terms of political participation of youth, most of the indicators have either deteriorated or have not change at all. The number of young ministers and the existence of youth structure at national level is 0% and has not changed during these four years. The only indicators that have been improved are the number of young deputy ministers and the number of youth structures at local level. The number of youth structures established at local level has significantly increased by 39.4% compared to four years ago. While, the number of young mayors have deteriorated compared to the last year reaching to 0% and the number of young MPs have been reduced by 0.9%. During these years, the number of women in executive and political positions has been increased.

In terms of social participation, some data remain either outdated or not measured such as the number of poor young people, youngsters at risk of poverty and those part of social welfare system. Indicators related to education show a slighter improvement compared to 4 years ago. Dropout from the secondary education have been reduced by 1.1% compared to four years ago. In the same lines, the percentage of young people enrolled and young people graduated have been increased respectively by 2.7% and 5.22%. The indicator which has marked a significant improvement is the number of youngsters in prisons. Compared to 2018, the number of youngsters in prison is reduced by 12.9 %. It is evident that young women perform better than young men in terms of social participation, exclusively related to education.

Regarding the youth economic participation, it is noted a significant improvement during these four years, mentioning here the NEET rate decreased by 3.4%, youth unemployment rate decreased by 7.4% and long-term youth unemployment rate decreased by 5.2%. Consequently, the data on youth labor force participation rate and youth employment rate have been increased respectively by 6.8% and 8.8%. The data on self-employed youngsters has significantly increased compared to the last year¹¹ by 6.9%. Young men seem to have a better inclusion in the labor market rather than young women when it comes to youth employment rate, youth labor force participation, youth unemployment rate, NEET rate and self-employment. On the other hand, young women have a lower long-term youth unemployment rate, which is the only indicator showing a better performance of women compared to men in this dimension.

[11] As of 2018, the methodology calculating the number of registered self-employed young people changed. This indicator is calculated by dividing the number of registered self-employed young people with the youth population.

Policy recommendations and issues for advocacy

The next session provides several policy recommendations per each dimension, which have to be addressed by institutions and actors working in the respective fields.

In the fourth consecutive year of monitoring, lack of statistical data on social participation of youth remains still an issue.

YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- Despite many drawbacks and controversial issues the draft-law on Youth contained, it was approved by the end of 2019. The youth structure at national level is not in place yet and it is expected to be established during 2020.
- Due to projects implemented by civil society organizations, the number of the municipalities which have established youth structures is significantly increased. It is expected that the implementation of the law will impose the establishment of youth structures in the other municipalities, which do not have a youth structure yet. However, most of youth structures already established need to be more active and promote their work to the whole specter of stakeholders in the city.
- Following the latest political occurring in 2019, in which the opposition parties resigned their political mandates and decided not to participate in the local elections held in June, the youth political participation for 2019 was deteriorated. The percentage of young mayors reduced from 6% to 0%, as well as the percentage of young MPs reduced by 0.9%. The elections at central level will be held during 2020 in Albania. This is a momentum that should be used by political parties to increase youth participation in democracy and decision-making processes by promoting young MPs.
- In terms of online tools used for information and participation in decision making both at national and local level, it is noticed that many social media pages either do not work, or do not provide enough information. Ministries and municipalities should update their social media accounts and websites, as well as share more information to their citizens and provide to them the possibility to participate in different activities and processes.

YOUTH SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

- Taking into consideration the drawbacks created by natural disasters such as the earthquakes and the pandemic situation, marginalized young people remain socially excluded. Firstly, the education institutions should invest more to this target group in order not to leave them behind and risk high rates of dropouts.
- Secondary and high schools should organize more extracurricular activities involving youngsters by enhancing their soft skills and improving their activism in the community.
- More focus should be given to career guidance service, especially to the curricula that should be introduced starting from primary education. The career counseling should be offered not only in universities, but also in high schools aiming to orient youngsters in education and career path by matching their interests, ambition and skills.
- There is a need for more public spaces dedicated to cultural and sports activities for youth in particular outside Tirana.
- Even though the number of youngsters in prisons has been reduced in 2019, the need to establish tailored reintegration programs for the youngsters in prisons¹² remains. These programs aim to prepare them for the life out of prison by equipping them with skills needed for the labor market.

YOUTH ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

- One remaining advocacy issue is the reduction of the high level of NEET rate and youth unemployment rate through strengthening mechanisms for job access in order to improve the mismatch between the demand and supply in the labor market. Career guidance embodying tools such as thematic sessions in schools, individual counseling, group discussions, certified tests and platforms providing the job, training and education offer to youngsters are of utmost importance.
- The state provides funds to startups initiated by youngsters only through the Albanian Investment Development Agency. More access in finance should be provided to young entrepreneurs by both central and local government. In addition, the information should be accessible by all youngsters living in urban and rural areas.
- There are several training or mentoring programs for young entrepreneurs and some small financial schemes targeting startups. However, there is need for professional incubator and accelerator services which should offer fully-fledged packages to youngsters at low cost. These packages should include access in funds, training & mentoring programs, networking opportunities, exposure to international markets, business angels and impact investment schemes. Since there is a gap between young women and young men entrepreneurs, financial schemes and programs in place should target intentionally young women in order to boost their entrepreneurial aspirations.

[12] Percentage of young people in prisons is calculated as number of young people in prisons divided with total number of people in prisons in Albania.

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