

Youth at the crossroad, which is the right path?!

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Publication team:

Sadri Rrmoku, Project Coordinator;

Pajtim Zeqiri, Asisstent;

Alban Shabani, Researcher;

Egzon Krasniqi, Final review

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Context analysis

The marginalization that was produced during the 90s in Kosovo in forms of exclusion from public institutions and decision-making made it necessary to build a parallel institutional system. This type of organization has included a financial, educational and health system, and other socio-economic aspects (e.g. solidarity) as well.¹ It was stimulated by an organic solidarity, as an essential tool to keep alive the main public institutions.

When the international community settled in Kosovo, a new period started; the phase of building and re-building the provisional institutions of self-government. During this period, the concept of citizen participation in policies and decision-making has been formed, mainly through the running of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Nevertheless, this aspect did not have a particular focus, despite numbers and statistics that showed their establishment and organization in local NGOs. This process was followed by a number of defects, such as missing a particular agenda or an institutional approach. Therefore, many local and international NGOs left a bad perception to the society; saying it in a rough language, maybe they have caused an irreparable damage to the relation of citizens vs. civil society.

The process of state-building and democratization almost thoroughly has been handled into the accommodation of minorities, and very less in building an open, democratic and even society. If we take a look at the formation of the first governmental level (municipalities) as the main platform of communication, consulting, participation of citizens in the decision-making, monitoring and supervision, this basement has been focused more in the political sphere, to the relation with minorities, and very little in making the public society a stakeholder in decision-making. Add to this fact the integration of administration which has been passed through a tough transition of economic, political an institutional phase. Considering that during the 90s the greatest reforms have been made regarding the governance concepts, by including therefore also the notion of 'good governance'. The World Bank defines good governance as synonymous with development management. In other words, good governance is central to creating and sustaining an environment which fosters strong and equitable development.²

Considering this short historical fact, we can conclude that poor participation and the lack of trust in decision-making by the citizens are in a parallel correlation with institutional establishment and political culture. First of all, it is a consequence on lacking a social contract in which citizens are going to turn on as active actors in the decision-making process. This can happen only when they are direct stakeholder, starting from outlining policies until its implementation, in a manner that these policies will contribute on the social well-being.

¹ Juda, Tim (2008). *Kosovo: What everyone needs to know*. New York: Oxford University Press. Page: 71.

² World Bank report (1992). *Good Governance and development*. New York: World Bank.

Introduction

The Republic of Kosovo, in its spirit of constitutional establishment recognizes, promote and protect the right of participation in several forms. These rights are guaranteed and protected in Chapter two (II), specifically in articles 40-45.³

These rights and obligations have been derived in primary and secondary legislation, a special focus has been given to the law on local self-government, due to the fact that Kosovo has a system of one-level governance, thus the local level is the first instance in which citizens face the institutions and take services.⁴ The law on local self-government, in article nine (IX) discusses direct democracy and mechanisms for citizen participation.⁵ In addition, there are also accompanying regulations, municipal statutes and municipal regulations on this field.

Knowing the fact that the local level has been incorporated in the frames of basic law, Kosovo's institutions have drafted a secondary legislation for special categories, in our context for the youth. Through the Law on Youth Empowerment and Participation⁶, clearly and properly are explained the roles of municipalities and forms of increasing youth participation in public decision-making.

Despite of possessing a sustainable regulative framework, citizen participation with emphasis on the youth, still continues to be weak and mainly it is being dealt in the formal level on the Law on Self-Government. Municipal institutions are yet functioning with weak youth coordinative, organizational and empowerment mechanisms, regardless of the continuing efforts of the Ministry and other specific sectors within the municipalities.

It can be concluded that municipalities have made a slowly progression in outlining institutions of youth participation, such as Local Councils for Youth Actions and Youth Centers.⁷ However, both of them are operating without sufficient budget, resource sustainability and operational plans, and also without a clearly role in increasing and empowering youth participation in public decision-making. Despite that, there are some initiatives mainly ad-hoc, for consultative meetings between these mechanisms and municipal institutions, albeit there is not yet a sustainable and cohesive plan for empowering and participation.

Using the comparative method between quantitative data and interviews with the information offices, we see that there is a gap between the information and participation of the youth in decision-making.

This can also be because of the consequence that public debates mainly deal with general aspects of governance, and very little with focused topics on the youth. From the perspective of the results, youth are more willing to participate if the discussed topics will be the ones that directly affect them, this

³ Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, Chapter II, articles 40-45

⁴ Tahiri, Besnik. Periodic conference for local government

⁵ http://www.gazetazyrtare.com/e-gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=147&Itemid=56&lang=sq

⁶ http://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/Ligji_03-L-145_per_Fuqizim_dhe_Pjesemarrje_te_Rinise.pdf

⁷ Ibid.

starting from issues that are related with education (scholarships), general topics for cultural and sport activities, and topics that are directly linked with modes of employment.

The data research provides also contradictions in terms of the importance of participation in public debates and the real participation in debates called from local institutions.

Methodology

In the research are discussed general and specific aspects, through a qualitative method by using the behaviorism theory (institutional building), comparative aspects and the quality of participation. Further, there are taken samples from the survey by a case study methodology, which has been served as a provocative and working tool for the researchers.

The research as starting point has a focus analysis on the legislative framework of citizen participation, arrangement format of public discussion, and more important the communication quality between local institutions and the youth. The analysis has particularly explored the role of institutional mechanisms in representation and advocating, marginalized groups, groups of interests and local communities, specifically the youth.

The analysis is a clash of arguments between the information derived from the institutions on one hand, and citizens and other actors operating in the local level on the other hand. This is proved through indicators in order to evaluate the position of citizens in relation with their interests for topics that are discussed in the municipality. This research is an effort to offer an answer relating the issue of citizen interest with participation in decision-making, with emphasis on young people.

Target Groups

The target group has been young people aged from 15 to 24 years. This group has been dealt with a particular focus since knowing the fact that the Law on Participation and Empowerment of the Youth, targets this category as young people.⁸

In the analysis is discussed the role of municipal institutions that have in their portfolio issues of youth, in this case the Department for Culture, Youth and Sport. Furthermore, the research is also based on the previous data with the work done in the region of Prishtina with youth centers.

Meanwhile, another divided aspect has been the municipal offices for information, as responsible for informing the public about municipal debates. Another aspect has been also marginalized groups, particularly those with special needs.

The research was completed during the period from March to July 2016, in the municipalities of Prishtina region (Prishtinë, Podujevë, Obiliq and Fushë Kosovë).

⁸ http://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/Ligji_03-L-145_per_Fuqizim_dhe_Pjesemarrje_te_Rinise.pdf

Chapter I

Institutions vs. the Youth

Kosovo within its regulative framework has foreseen legal and institutional mechanisms for supporting, empowering and integrating the youth. In the two levels of governance, central and local, budgets are distributed in forms of grants and subventions for this category.⁹ It is necessary to say that the approach whether it be from the central or the local level, is disconnected, not harmonized, and thus it risks an increased and sustainable development of youth policies.

From the perspective of structural and financial means there are youth mechanisms and solid financial tools for empowering youth policies. However, the gap appears in the lack of an annual map of activity planning from both levels. Thus, an integrated system of planification will avoid in a sensitive sense the fragmentation of budgeting and policies. This would also facilitate the orientation of funds for new donators.

Therefore, in this aspect three challenges are appeared, in which each is inter-acting with the other, in various forms that create obstacles for youth empowering and participation.

- The first is connected with an integrated and common national plan between the municipalities and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, and also ministries and other sectors that have a directly impact on the youth;
- Second, it has to do with a clear map of inter-acting from the institutional mechanisms, local and international organizations in achieving the objectives of a national plan and operational planning;
- The third is related in transferring of finances from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport to municipalities, or the establishment of independent mechanisms for the allocation of subventions.

Ad-hoc youth policies

Despite the progress made in drafting the regulation that derives from the Law on Youth Participation and Empowerment (licensing youth centers¹⁰; voluntary work and non-formal education¹¹), from a practical perspective the progress is going very slowly and it is followed by great vagueness about the ways of its implementation.

There is a detachment between the department of youth in the Ministry for Culture, Youth and Sport, and municipal officials for youth, despite formal meetings, on the ground there are not concrete actions. This detachment is deepened more in the second plan of communication between officials for the youth and youth mechanisms in municipalities.

Empirically during these years, only one annual activity was coordinated between the Ministry and youth municipal sectors, and that is the youth day, even though there are often deficiencies on the fulfillment of this annual activity.¹²

⁹ <http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/05-L-071%20sh.pdf>

¹⁰ http://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/U.A._Nr._11-2010_per_regjistrimin_e_Qendrave_Rinore.pdf

¹¹ http://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/UA_04-2015_per_edukimin_joformal_te_te_rinjve.pdf

¹² <http://botasot.info/kultura/448419/mkrs-me-aktivitete-ne-lipjan-nis-ditet-e-rinise-2015/>

Taking this into account, youth municipal policies mainly are depended on individual initiatives realized by officials for the youth from the Department for Culture, Youth and Sport, and leaders of Youth Council and Youth Centers'. It must be emphasized that the leaders are totally deficient in terms of professional, financial and operational capacities. Officials of youth in the majority of municipalities are part of a staff that has passed the transitional phase during the 90s, and thus they do not represent a pro-active approach of management.¹³

Meanwhile in Local Councils for Youth Actions and Youth Centers, after the expiry of the mandates a total detachment and lack of continuous professional structure happens.¹⁴ As a result of this, an added focus and energy is needed in selecting them based on their vision and annual planning. Until now, the followed practices do not represent an evaluation based totally on meritocratic criteria, but they are known as processes that are influenced by certain groups, without excluding the practices of political and clientele influences.

Young People: Spectators or policy makers?!

In all the circle of drafting policies whether it be national or local ones, and despite the youth mechanisms such are Central Council of Youth Action, or Local Councils of Youth Action¹⁵, policies that affect young people whether it be from line institutions or sectorial ones, do not go through their hands. Starting from designing, planification or implementation, these two mechanisms do not have a specific role, and because of that, young people are not feeling as stakeholders of these policies.

Furthermore, despite the fact that these institutions consider the youth as a special category of social inclusion, from the practices it seems that the designing of policies are passed by templates with a focus on fulfilling the legal obligations and very little in a substantial involvement. This is also evident on local public debates where serious practices of debates that are mainly focused and related on youth policies are not present.

However, it should be noted that there is a progress in the dimension of supporting marginalized groups, in which a special category of youth is affected, more precisely the category of people with special needs, in which through subventions from the Department for Health and Social Well-being, activities for organizations like HANDIKIOS are supported. Despite this, there is not yet a clear plan of service contracting and also not an amalgamation of activities of this category with the Department for Culture, Youth and Sport, and Youth Centers.

Institutions with budget fragmentation

According to the law on youth empowerment, central institutions are responsible in drafting regulations, programs, procedures, international exchanges and structures that inter-relate them with central institutions.¹⁶

¹³ World Bank report (1992). *Good Governance and development*. New York: World Bank.

¹⁴ <http://www.osce.org/sq/kosovo/110055?download=true>

¹⁵ http://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/Ligji_03-L-145_per_Fuqizim_dhe_Pjesemarrje_te_Rinise.pdf

¹⁶ Law on Youth participation and empowerment – Obligations of central institutions

Meanwhile the main burden falls on municipal institutions, starting by the establishment of youth mechanisms, spaces, finances and the support of programs.¹⁷ Since the municipalities are primary responsible for implementing the law, financial resources and the main professional and operational capacities remain to the central level.

In the first phases of youth mechanisms in some fields (spaces, training and funds) there has been a larger support from international organizations such is the German organization GiZ, program on youth EDYK¹⁸, and programs of other local and international organizations. Now this role is diminished to a certain level, and these mechanisms have been left to be supported by central and local institutions.

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport in its budget for some key youth areas (Protection and integration of youth; Development and support of the Youth; Development of integrative policies) has planned 800.000 euros.¹⁹

These tools are in general managed by the Ministry and youth subjects take these tools via calls for project applications. Yet, it remains unclear which is the correlation between these projects and legal objectives of real youth needs. Moreover, the municipalities' approaches in these funds are totally detached, and as a result this intervention does not reflect the needs that derive from the bottom-up approach, and therefore it is not in accordance with an equitable development and cohesive youth policies.

Only in the municipalities of the Prishtina region (Prishtinë, Podujevë, Obiliq and Fushë Kosovë), in the category of subventions and transfers for culture, youth and sports are 600.000 euro planned.²⁰ It shall be emphasized that this amount is the total budget of all categories that are incorporated in the Department of Culture, Youth and Sport.

It is also important to emphasize that a solid amount of these funds are allocated to youth centers and other youth groups based on their annual work plan. In 2015, in three municipalities (Podujevë, Obiliq and Fushë Kosovë) the shared amount was from 3.000 to 10.000 euros.²¹ Prishtina municipality is not included in this. Prishtina municipality, in the year 2016 within the category of subvention and transfers from the Department of Culture, Youth and Sport has 516.810 euro allocated, meanwhile in a special category youth and sport are included with 256.000 euros.²² Despite the fact that in structural interviews it has been tried to find proper data for the allocation of funds for the youth, this is not achieved because these are not divided in separate codes.

The allocation of subventions, despite its open calls, continues to be a closed process and not sufficiently transparent. Municipalities still do not have an independent mechanism for the allocation of these funds, based on criteria set in advance.

¹⁷ Law on Youth participation and empowerment – Obligations of local institutions

¹⁸ <http://komunat-ks.net/punetoria-ne-boge-mbi-strategjine-e-edykgiz-pas-perfundimit-te-projektit/>

¹⁹ <http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/05-L-071%20sh.pdf>

²⁰ <http://www.institutigap.org/spendings/#/~buxheti-i-kosoves---planifikimet>

²¹ Interview with directors of the Department's for Culture, Youth and Sport (Agron Gerguri - Podujevë, Fitore Hashani - Obiliq), June 2016.

²² Three month report of Prishtina's municipality expenses (January-March 2016).

Chapter II

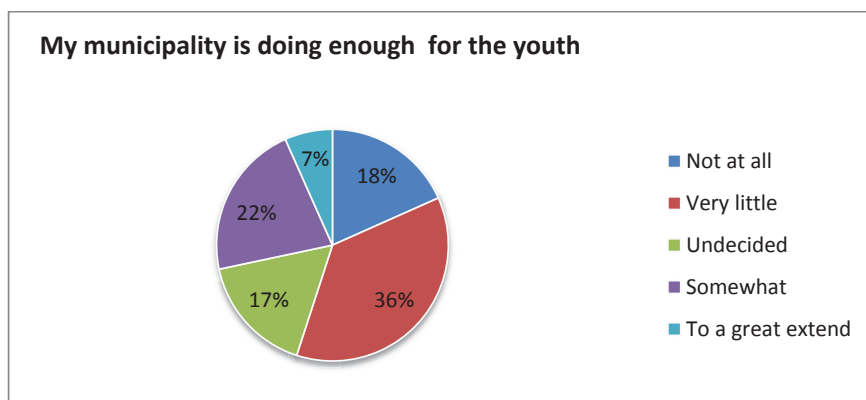
Youth mechanisms and interests

Formal non-education

When analyzing the non-formal education format, it is evident that organizations and youth groups' through years have passed into a numerous of trainings and programs. However, this process is now regulated also in the legal dimension through an administrative instruction from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport for non-formal education.²³

Despite its advancement in several areas, not always this process has passed through a sufficient coordination. Very often short trainings without a clear curriculum had an impact in the development of a negative perception; by damaging to a great extend the non-formal education method. It is needed to say that with the transition of the emergent phase, donators' interests to these fields have been decreased. This is why it necessary to empower youth structures defined by the law in order to fill this vacuum.

Based on the survey and according to the question whether your municipality has done enough to empower young people, 18% of the respondents do not agree at all, 36% do not agree, 17% do not have an opinion, meanwhile only 22% partially agree; and the smallest percentage comes from those that agree on that with only 7%. As shown in figure 1.



Participation

When discussing the general aspects of youth participation in municipal public debates, and based on the data outputted by interviews with municipal officials it can be concluded that in the formal legal aspect, the municipalities (executives), fulfill their obligations of two meeting debates and special

²³ http://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/UA_04-2015_per_edukimin_joformal_te_te_rinjve.pdf

meetings for the budget. Nevertheless, it can also be concluded that there are not yet some practices in terms of holding focused debates with youth and other relevant particular groups. The greatest disadvantage appears to be the link of municipal representatives with focus groups, and even the majority of municipalities have not yet been able to functionalize non-mandatory committees, for example (education, youth, health etc.) and consultative committees (professionally). It is clear that there is a disconnection between the representatives on one hand and citizens on the other.

Municipalities are using a numerous of tools for information (local medias; official pages; posters; social networks; local advices etc.), and it is also noticeable that a showing interest for cooperation with youth organizations, albeit it is expected that initiatives with topics that are for youth interests to derive from themselves.²⁴ There are also initiatives to find models that are more productive in relation to the increase of youth participation in public debates.²⁵

Municipalities have tried to find different forms of information as it has been through post and electronic messages. For the former there is a problem of having a particular budget for it, and for the latter there is no register of numbers that defines a neighborhood.²⁶

A problematic issue arises to the sub-municipal level (local communities) where it is being operated without sufficient budget and capacities. Another aspect is the lack of a pro-active and innovative approach from the leaders of those communities. However, there are also good practices when the pressure of local communities has pushed the municipality to take concrete actions in their neighborhoods (fixing the park, create a space for kindergarten and etc.).²⁷

There are examples when a call for public debates it is done door by door by local councils, and that a particular interest appears in cases of municipal budget drafting.²⁸ It is needed to say that despite of the information from offices responsible for communication with the public inside the municipalities, young people are still not informed about the organization and holding of public debates.

²⁴ Interview with Gimolli, Bujar, official servant responsible for communication with the public – Podujevë 16.05.2016.

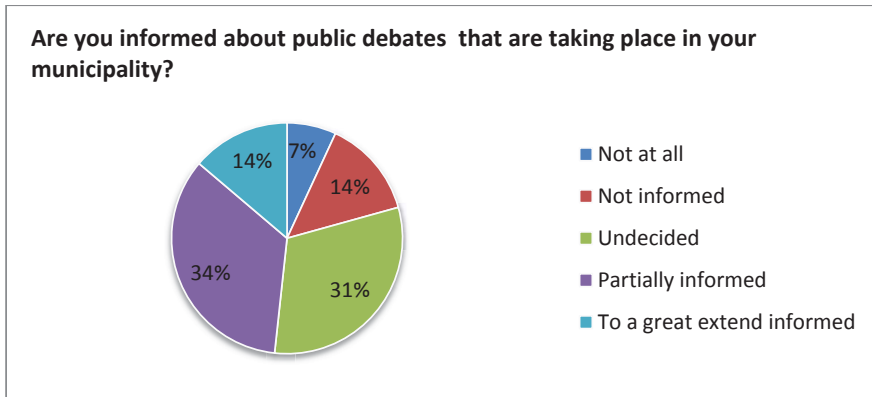
²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Interview with Pacolli, Fitore, chef of major's cabinet. Prishtinë, 13.05.2016.

²⁷ Interview with Pacolli, Fitore, chef of major's cabinet. Prishtinë, 13.05.2016.

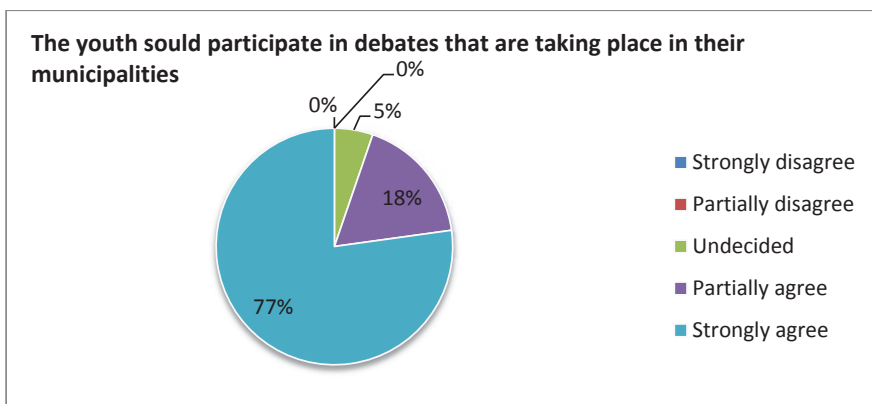
²⁸ Interview with Haliti, Adem, official servant for communication with the public – Obiliq, 23.03.2016.

Regarding to the question whether young people are informed about public debates, 34% of the respondents asserted that they are partially being informed, 14% said that they are informed to a great extent, 14% are not informed and 7% are not informed at all. A number of 31 % are undecided. As shown in figure 2.



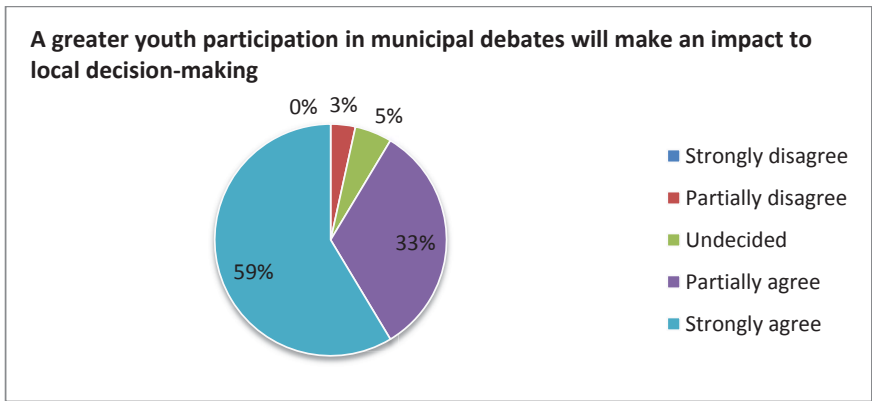
Despite the low number of participation in public debates by young people there is a general perception that they should take part in public debates. This is a positive indicator in relation to the increase of perception towards participating in debates, albeit the following document will prove to give answers where the obstacles lie.

According to the question whether youth should participate in municipal public debates, 77% of the respondents totally agree, 18% partially agree, and only 5% do not have an opinion. It is important to highlight that there are no negative opinions as shown in figure 3.



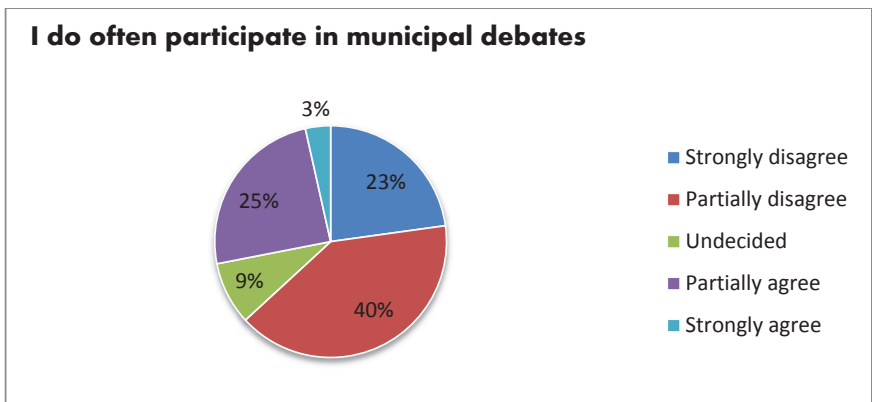
Furthermore, there is a high percentage that youth participation in public debates will have an impact to increase their position in decision-making.

Regarding the question whether a higher youth participation in municipal debates will increase their impact in decision-making, 59% of the respondents provided a positive opinion, 33% partially agree, 5% do not have an opinion, and only 3% have a negative opinion. As shown in figure 4.



In correlation between the perception of the role of youth in decision-making and their real participation in public debates, there is a high contradiction. Meanwhile, regarding to questions whether young people should participate in public debates and if participation will increase their role, 80 % of opinions were positive, although by observing their real participation, we will see that over 60% have expressed a negative opinion.

Based from the quantitative data and relating it to the question how often respondents have participated in public debates, 23% declared that they have never participated, 40% said they rarely participate, 9% do not have an opinion, 25 % sometimes participate, and 3% declared that they frequently participate. As shown in figure 5.



Chapter III

Participation vs Obstacles

Based on the previous results it is important to discuss the issue of how close and distant are the institutions with the youth. This chapter will reflect some of the main dimensions on which young people express more interests, for example what is the level of satisfaction of youth with their municipal institutions and what is their perception regarding the issue whether concerns are taken into account by these institutions.

The problems on which the young people think that institutions whether it be local or central should be concentrated are grouped into three aspects: promotion, education and employment.²⁹ Summarized results are derived from the survey through open questions in relation to the main concerns and topics that should be handled with priority by institutions.

Promotion: regarding to this aspect young people are unsatisfied in issues of supporting individual and group activities such are: cultural – sports aspects, initiatives, non-formal education and infrastructure. Young people are unsatisfied when it comes to cultural, education and sports exchanges with region countries and others. In this aspect, young people are very unsatisfied with spaces and opportunities given. The aspect of inclusiveness and promotion are more worrisome to young people who are living in rural areas, because the majority of them feel excluded and marginalized.

It is important to emphasize that some municipalities have taken positive steps towards supporting individuals and groups that are showing success in some specific areas (sport, art, education etc.). This is done by a particular budget in which quotas for subvention are defined.³⁰

Despite some commitments, it remains a lot of work to do towards thinking outside the box in order to find tools that may build trustiness between municipal services and policies in relation with youth. This can be achieved by not only focusing on the legal framework, but to include them in designing policies as well.

Education: The issue of qualitative education whether it is formal or non-formal, is a serious concern of youth and society in general. This dimension has remained inside the framework of basic education without being able to pass towards creative and innovative education. Another problematic issue arises when it comes to the connection of education with labor market, based from the survey young people express their concern for missing adequate and practical skills during the process of education. In structured interviews they emphasized that this issue should be a priority of municipal institutions because after completing studies, it is required to possess at least from 1 to 2 years of work experience in order to apply for a job.³¹

Central institutions of Kosovo, more precisely the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport has drafted two administrative instructions. The first has to do with non-formal education and the second with voluntary work. Unfortunately, both of them remained only in paper without a real implementation. Thus, institutional mechanism including municipalities, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, youth institutions

²⁹ Half structured interviews with young people in the Prishtina region. April 2016.

³⁰ Interview with Gergur, i Agron, director of the Department of Culture, Youth and Sport – Podujevë, 23.06.2016.

³¹ Semi structured interviews with young people in the Prishtina region. April 2016.

and line ministries should start to make their first steps towards building a clear map that links education with market, financial policies and the needed support for individual and group initiatives, be that in terms of offering professional education or supporting through grants and open funds.

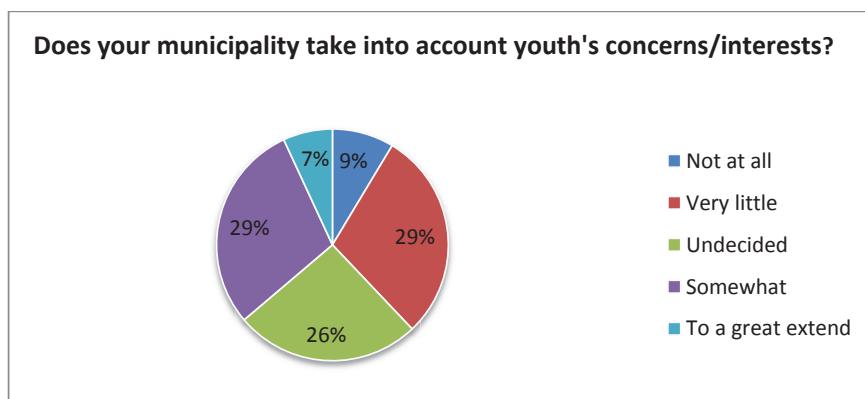
Obtaining adequate skills for the market is a problem also for local businesses³² and potential investors. Here we need to take into consideration also the larger European market since in the upcoming years it might be an open market after the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA).³³ This market requires competitive skills and resourcefulness based on European standards.

Employment: in relation to the two previous aspects, employment remains the most difficult challenge, and not always because of the lack of jobs. Young people are not having the right to apply in open calls, because these institutions are very arbitrary and closed. In structured interviews, there is a negative perception about transparency and meritocracy in open calls of public and private institutions. The majority of them emphasized that “despite” work experience, which they have no idea where to get it, they have also doubts about the selection process which is not based on meritocracy. Further, they believe that there are familiar, political and clientelist influences.³⁴

So, the employment problem appears in a one-chain connection between spaces, education, abilities and supporting. Bearing that in mind, there is a general approach that employment and education aspects dominate and overlap as main problems, thus resulting as barriers for increasing participation, inclusion and youth activities.

The answer whether municipalities are taking into account youth’s concerns/interests is in a parallel correlation with youth’s level of satisfaction with their municipality. This indicates that young people are not sufficiently involved in designing municipal policies. In cases when they would be stakeholders, the recognition of problems that their municipality is facing will increase to a great extend an understanding, and in addition drafted policies would be pushed stronger by youth themselves.

Regarding to the question whether the municipality is taking into account youth’s concerns/interests, 9% claimed that their interests/concerns are not taking into account at all, 29% think that very little, 26% do not have an opinion, 29% said that somewhat and 7% claim that their interests/concerns are taken to a great extend into account by the municipality. As shown in figure 7.



³² <http://www.telegrafi.com/eksporti-zhvillon-ekonomine/>

³³ http://www.mei-ks.net/repository/docs/1_pkzmsa_miratuar_nga_kuvendi_final_.pdf

³⁴ Half structured interviews with young people in the Prishtina region. April 2016.

Chapter IV

Conclusions

- *Institutions have undertaken important initiatives in order to empower and increase youth participation, be that in terms of the legally aspect, structural, organizational and financial issue, albeit there are still a variety of deficiencies in intra-institutional and inter-institutional coordination;*
- *There is yet a huge gap between obligations given to the municipalities and youth institutions and their real capacities in fulfilling this mandate. Youth offices, Local Councils for Youth Actions and Youth Centers, are not doing well in terms of resources, spaces, youth programs and financial support;*
- *Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and line ministries have not yet achieved to address problems that young people are facing, beginning with youth activities and programs, until complex ones, as are education, employment and promotion;*
- *There is a negative perception regarding municipality and institutions' work in relation to their commitment for the youth. Furthermore, this negative perception is also evident in the question whether public debates can bring up fundamental changes;*
- *There two basic problems (employment and qualitative education) that are leaving in shadow other youth policies, such are activities of non-formal education and training programs;*
- *There is a diminishing role of international donators towards supporting the youth, and this established vacuum is not being able to be filled up by local institutions.*
- *The financial aspect of youth activities is left as a burden to the municipalities, and the managed budget from the Department of Culture, Youth and Sport, does not guarantee an equitable and sustainable development of youth policies;*
- *A common national plan for inter-action between municipalities, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, line ministries, youth institutions and donators is still not established. This plan would directly influence the dimensions that affect young people;*
- *Programs of international exchange have been totally left undiscussed; this is particularly diminished now with the departure of donators from the youth sector. This obstacle is also a consequence of the absence of a free traveling to EU.*
- *Municipalities are continuing to treat public debates in terms of legal formality, and there are no practices and sufficient evidences of discussions with focus groups;*

- *Youth mechanisms, such as Central Council for Youth Action, Local Councils for Youth Actions, and Youth Centers are still functioning without enough spaces, professional capacities and without sufficient budget support;*
- *Young people are not feeling as stakeholders of municipal and national policies, and as a consequence they do not have a plenty of reliability in these institutions;*
- *There are positive practices towards supporting marginalized groups, but there is still not a clear and sufficient model of supporting.*

Recommendations

- *Central institutions, municipalities, youth institutions and donators should draft a common national plan for urgent sectorial intervention in supporting and empowering the youth, by establishing and coordinating a continuous cooperation;*
- *It should be drafted a clear map of decision-making and inter-institutional actions in order that the national plan and operational plans to have a full implementation;*
- *Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport should find a solution for financing youth activities whether it be through reducing finances or establishing an independent and transparent mechanism of financing in order to ensure an equitable and sustainable development;*
- *Administrative instructions for non-formal education and voluntarism should be explicit and clear so as to start with an effective implementation from youth institutions;*
- *Central institutions and local ones should start to give a solution to the linkage between education and labor market, by empowering also the mechanisms of professional training and orientation for specialized areas that may find spaces in the market;*
- *Formal and non-formal education should be changed as a process of didactic approach in that of attractiveness and innovation, by including good regional and international practices;*
- *Central and local institutions should start to make young people as stakeholders of drafting and implementing policies in order to increase a reliability and sustainability of policies;*
- *Public debates should go beyond the legal framework of general mandatory debates to focused debates, by including young people starting from drafting of policies until the monitoring of them;*
- *Offices for communication with the public should find models that are more innovative in order to stimulate youth's interest for participation;*
- *Central and local institutions should enlarge transparency, communication and accountability so as to increase youth's reliability in public open calls;*
- *Institutions should increase the range of services and youth categories, by including into schemes of support, new families and marginalized groups;*
- *Central and local institutions should establish cohesive schemes for the inclusiveness of people with special needs in youth policies and programs;*

- *Central and local institutions should enlarge their commitment in stretching their activities and services in rural areas (villages), by seeing the possibilities of capital investments;*
- *Elected representatives (the mayor and municipal councilors) with emphasize on young municipal representatives should devote themselves in supporting youth activities and policies;*
- *Municipalities should start as soon as possible to functionalize consultative and professional mechanism in order that the drafting of the municipal regulation of the youth to be more dynamic and accelerative.*

