

# Monitoring report of Political, Social, Economic Participation of Youth

## Summary

**NGO Prima, MONTENEGRO**

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*“Youth policy in Montenegro is implemented by: Government of Montenegro; State administration bodies and other administrative bodies responsible for certain areas of importance to young people; Municipalities, Capital City, Royal Capital and other entities involved in the planning, implementation and improvement of youth policy.”*

*Youth Policy is implemented also by each youth organization or organization for youth operating in Montenegro and in accordance with the law.”*

*Law on Youth, 2017*

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NGO Prima from Montenegro, is part of the regional network “Youth Bank Hub for Western Balkan and Turkey” created in partnership with “Ana i Vlade Divac” Foundation in Serbia, Association for Education - MLADIINFO International in Macedonia, Partners Albania and “Community Volunteers Foundation” in Turkey. Network activities are financially supported through the project funded by the European Commission within the Support to Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organizations and regional network.

Network focus on youth participation, and monitor youth policy developments in respective countries with the aim to advocacy for youth issues. We consider **youth participation** as important element of democracy. It has benefits for the young people themselves and society in general. Decision makers needs to create framework, and tools to ensure active involvement of young people in all decision-making processes on issues that affect them.

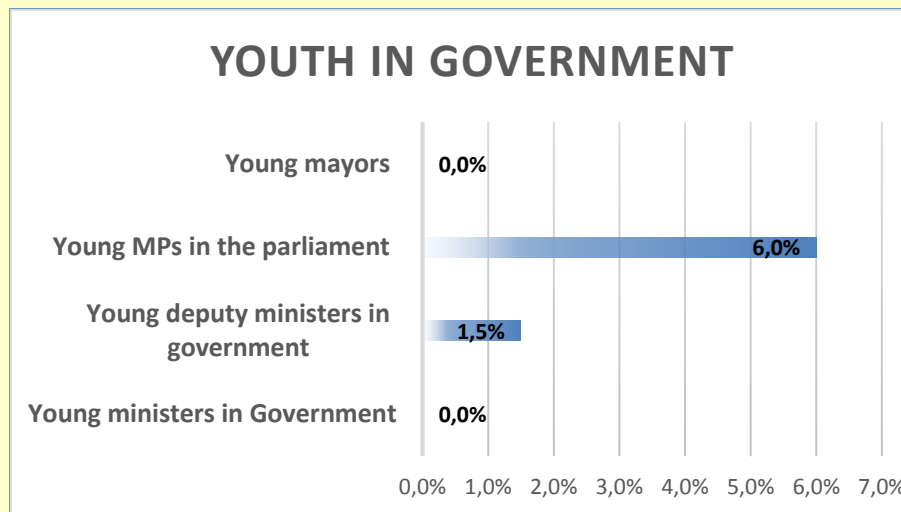
In order contribute to improvement of existing public policies that enable youth to be more active, it is of key importance to provide evidence on public policy performance and this is one of the main reasons why the Youth Participation Index (YPI) is created. This index of participation of young people is divided into three pillars: Political participation of young people; Social participation of young people and Economic participation of young people.

Youth Law states that Youth Policy in Montenegro is planned, implemented and promoted on the basis of real needs of young people, empirical and practical knowledge on the situation of young people, research and regular monitoring and assessment of the situation of young people, with the active involvement of young people in this process. In line with this, data collection was based on desk research and official requests for information sent to responsible institutions (Ministry of education, MONSTAT, Parliament of Montenegro etc).

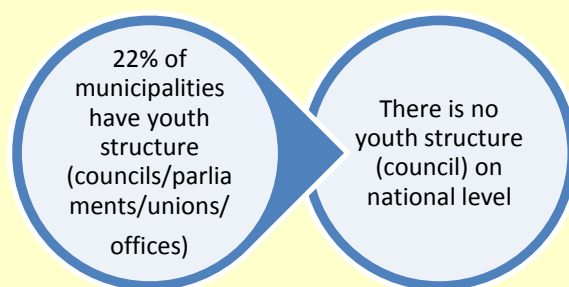
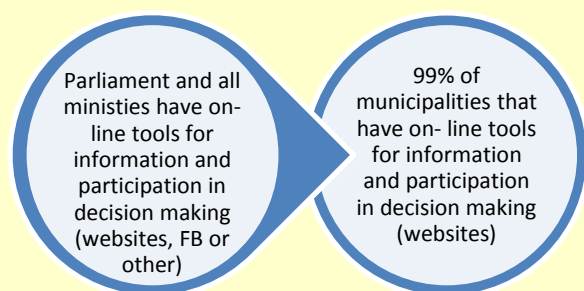
Monitoring reports are published annually, and considering that this is the second annual report, it provides some significant comparisons of data of the two years of monitoring (2016 and 2017), a set of policy recommendations and potential issues for advocacy initiatives identified through a series of round table consultation with young people and CSO representatives.

*Podgorica, December 2017*

## Data on Political Participation of Youth

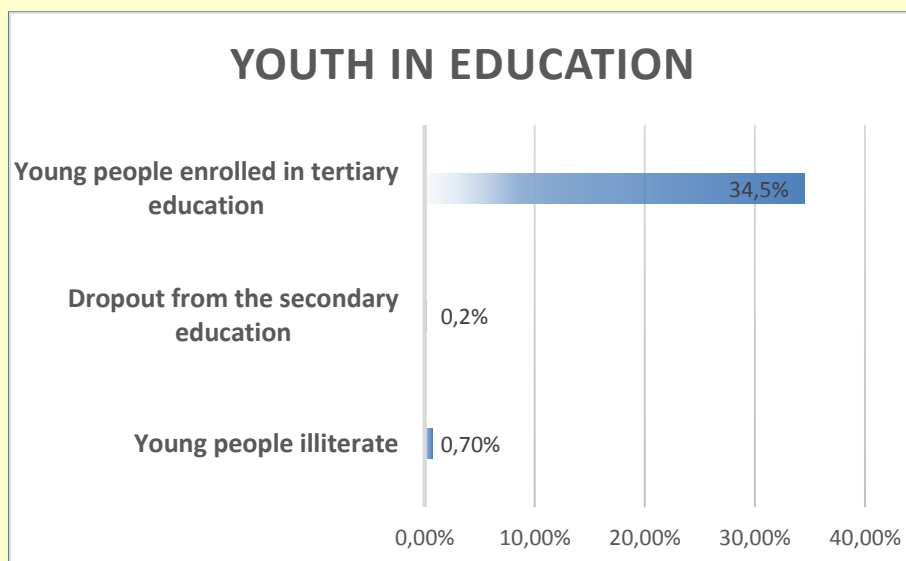
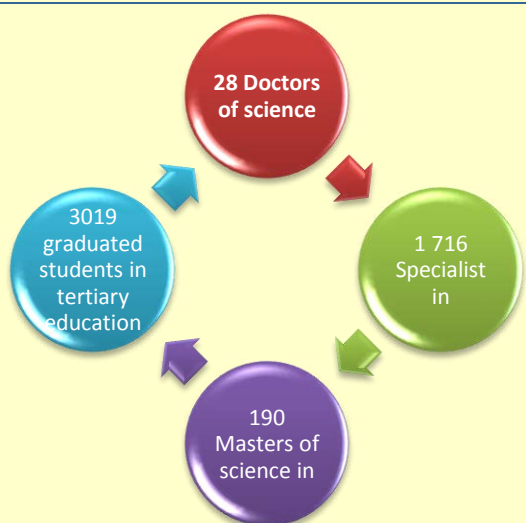


*Number of young MPs increased from 1 in 2015 to 5 in 2016, but it is to mention that of the 81 MPs in the Montenegrin Parliament 42 that represent a parliamentary majority are active while 39 opposition MPs, or two less than half, boycott the work of Parliament of Montenegro.*



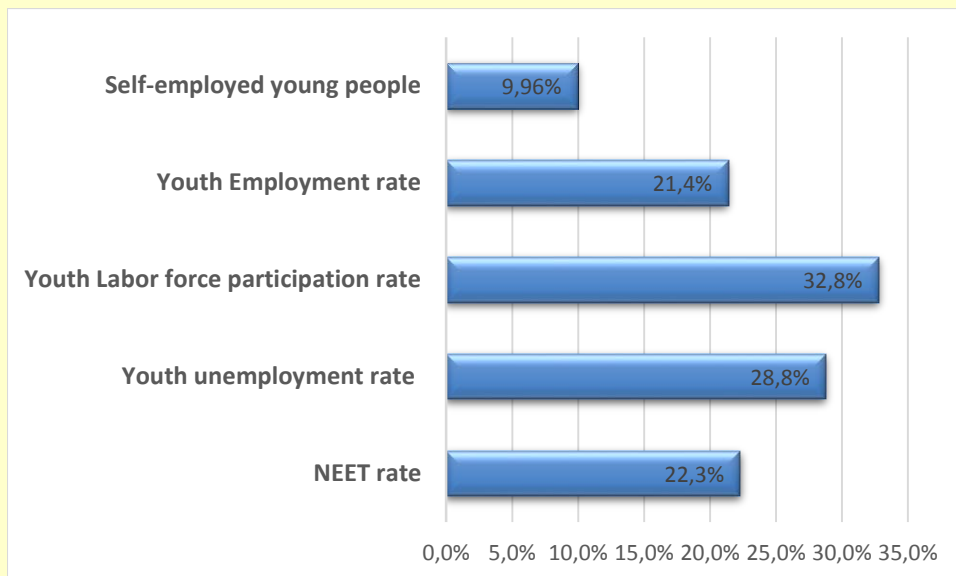
## Data on Social Participation of Youth

*According to CSO survey 1/4 of the organizations has president/chairman/chairwoman/director younger than 29 years' old*



*Out of 784 persons convicted of criminal acts to prison in 2016 total there were 5 elder juveniles (14-18 years old)*

## Data on Economic Participation of Youth




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*“Despite past efforts to promote employment and employability of young people, this issue remains a significant challenge in the labor market.”*

Strategy for Youth (2017-2021)

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## Comparisons of data during 2 years of monitoring

When elaborating **political participation** of youth in Montenegro, situation improved since in previous monitoring period we had only one young MP in the Parliament of Montenegro and in 2017, there are five of them, while youngest was born 1994 (23 years old) which makes him one of the youngest in the history of Montenegrin parliamentarism. Situation on other levels unfortunately didn't change.

**Social participation** shows that young people are interested in civic engagement and work of CSOs. Statistics also shows that youth in Montenegro are educated, but there is mismatch between education system and labour market needs. Domination of quantity over quality has contributed to increased growth in the number of university graduates, consequently leading to increased number of unemployed university graduates.

Related to **economic participation**, it is important to mention slight improvement of the situation concerning youth, e.g. unemployment rate (15-29) in 2016 was 28,8 while in previous monitoring period (2015) was 29,2. This is positive trend in last 5 years, since we can notice that from period of 2012 it was 33,6, then in 2013 it was 31,2 and 2012 it was 29,7. There is a difference among males and females, and for males is higher (29,9) than for females (27,4) - which is continues trend last five years. NEET rate (not in employment, education or training) for age group 15-29 in 2016 is 22,3. This rate is slightly lower than in all of the previous 5 years but data from 2015 and 2016 are showing gender differences and more females in group of NEET than male (2015: 24,1 females vs 22,8 males. 2016: 23,1 females vs 21,6 males). According to research made in *“Labour market transitions of young women and men in Montenegro”* (Djuric, D. 2016) the self-employed youth find the most important challenges to doing business: “insufficient financial resources” and “competition in the market”. Almost half (46.8%) of the surveyed self-employed youth said that they used money from their families or friends to start their business, another quarter (24.4%) had their own savings and only 9.3% of the self-employed youth said they took out a loan from a bank. Government needs to offer grants and loans with good conditions for youth, and also encouraging entrepreneurship among young people takes an integrated and comprehensive approach, rather than individual activity that deals with just one of the barriers faced by young people (Radevic, D.2017 *“Public policy recommendations in the area of youth entrepreneurship”*).

## Policy recommendations and issues for advocacy

In the area of political participation advocating for:

- More young people on decision making positions: in parliament, ministries, local self-government structures;
- Establishing of National Council for Youth, as soon as possible, and in line with Youth Law guidelines.
- Establishing of Councils for Youth in all municipalities that will be financed by local self-government and whose opinion will be taken into consideration when making decisions on local level.

Social participation of youth must be ensured through advocating for:

- Implementing frameworks and programs that encouraged young people to participate in issue-based programs that affect them, such as education, social protection, health etc.
- Introduction of standards for identification and statistics of different forms of discrimination of young people, and provide mechanisms for their elimination, including judicial protection.
- Ensuring equal access to educational, social and health services for all young people in the country.

In area of economical participation, it is important to advocate for:

- Provision of access to an effective, free and timely legal protection in all cases of equality rights violation at labour market.
- Amending the Law on Child and Social Protection and Law on Health Insurance, so as to guarantee full refund of maternity and paternal leave expenses.
- Provision of bigger number and budgets for state funds for support of youth self-employment and entrepreneurship.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION important for youth policy monitoring: "Improvement of statistics at the national level and knowledge of youth." (stated in *Youth Strategy 2017-2021*) and in NGO Prima policy recommendations from December 2016.

Progress related to youth data collection

There is important progress in the area of youth data collection: in the Action plan for 2018 Youth strategy, adopted at the end of the year 2017, there are now planned several measures with the aim of improving situation. In the KEY OUTCOME F: Normative and institutional framework for the implementation of youth policy has been established under the measure F5. Improve national youth statistics and knowledge there are planned 3 activities: 5.1. *Organizing meetings with relevant ministries in relation to the indicators outlined in key outcomes*; 5.2. *Creating a database of existing indicators for all outcomes and defining reporting procedures*; 5.3. *Organizing a joint meeting with relevant institutions to explore the possibility of creating research for indicators for which there are no methodologies*.

Active involvement of NGO Prima

During 2017 representatives of Prima in seminar for creation of Action plan for 2018 for National Youth Strategy, organized by Ministry of sport - Directorate for youth and OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

In process of consultations related to draft of the *Amendments to the Law on Higher Education*, Prima organized online consultations with young people related to specific question of the interest (free or not-free basic and master studies), and presented results in media.

During consultations in the creation of *Plan of activities for achieving gender equality in Montenegro (2017-2021)* based on the data collected during monitoring indicators relevant for youth, NGO Prima sent comments and proposals to Ministry of human and minority rights.

Also, Prima supported process of consultations with the Ministry of Sport -Directorate for Youth, related to drafting the new *Law on Youth* by organizing round table with youth and CSOs focusing on ideas for improvement of legal framework for youth participation in decision-making.