



PANEL YOUTH MOBILITY IN MONTENEGRO

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Podgorica Youth Center, Block V, Nikola Kovacevic's Square 13.

The definition of youth mobility is the ability of young people to move between different places in and outside their home countries. The purpose of mobility is to achieve the goals of personal development, autonomy, for the purpose of volunteering and working with young people, educational systems and programs, employment and career, housing and leisure opportunities.

Youth mobility takes place for the purpose of learning, acquiring new skills and personal development; it deals with the position of young people in the informal and formal learning environment as a process of youth exchange, youth work and volunteering. It is a great opportunity to participate in non-formal education, training, education of young workers and gaining experience in the international environment, as a system of school mobility programs, in postgraduate and graduate studies, as trainees or in the context of non-formal education within or outside the European Union.

This topic was discussed on the panel. Lead speakers were: **Nenad Koprivica**, **Aida Perovic**, **Aleksandra Gligorijevic**, **Vuk Vujisic** and **Jelena Jovanovic** in relation to their fields of activity.





Nenad Koprivica - Ministry of Sport and Youth - as the first presenter said that various activities of the Government of Montenegro are carried out with numerous activities, but that young people do not get information about the projects being implemented, because good news are not news. According to Koprivica, the Regional Office for Youth Co-operation is a product of the Berlin Process and attempts to solve problems such as unemployment, health care, access to quality education and cultural events, as the challenges faced by young people from this region are the same or similar.

Opening a local office in the country, in cooperation with the regional, showed a political will, then a commitment and an obligation to solve and solve youth problems. The decision-making system in the regional office is a true example of how youth involvement is addressed, as six representatives of the governments of the cooperating countries and six representatives of young people from those countries have the same voting power when determining priorities for the office. On the other hand, the lack of interest of young people in this type of responsibility, but also the possibility of creation, then a sense of independence indicates that there are problems among them as well.

The representation of young people in parliament or in important positions such as mayors indicates that the situation is not what it wants to present itself. Young people have the ability to make decisions, but competencies and interest in taking responsibility are not at the right level. Very often topics such as educational and work mobility are misused. By nature, young people are mobile, eager to travel and improve, to learn about new cultures. Training abroad is desirable, on many levels, but it does not mean that in this way one has left the country and emigrated - will not return to Montenegro. Migration is a modern process, and unemployment and job mobility problems are also normal in EU countries, such as Spain, where you have 45 percent of young people who are unemployed or Croatia facing the departure of the best young people to other EU countries, Koprivica said. One of the problems is the approach itself to solving them, because much more often only words of criticism are heard, and very few constructive ideas and actions are offered to help.

We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.

- Mary Mcleod Bethune



Aida Perovic - Executive Director of the NGO Prima, emphasized that it is logical that a young person with a higher level of education also has greater opportunities for employment. However, following the NEET indicator - the number of young people who are neither in the formal or non-formal education system or they are unemployed, it is a noticeably higher percentage of NEET girls between the ages of 18 and 25. With higher education practically, the percentage of employed girls is decreasing, instead of growing, compared to the same age.

We need to look deeper into the reasons here, but already at this level of insight we can think whether this arises as a result of the girls' desire to start a family during this period (perhaps it is their priority), or whether it is employers who do not prefer to hire girls / young women who are in the reproductive period.



Aleksandra Gligorijevic - researcher on the YBH4WBT Youth Funds Network Project and Youth Participation Index - talked about ways to increase youth participation in important decision making in society, which was also the topic of the regional project "Youth Funds of the Western Balkans and Turkey", implemented over four years in Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Northern Macedonia and Turkey. The Youth Participation Index monitors their economic, political and social involvement in decision making.

Economic participation shows the level of economic independence of young people, measures youth unemployment rate, labor force rate, NEET rate, self-employed young people, etc. Participation in society shows the social demographic characteristics of young people, measures development opportunities, educational attainment, the percentage of young people in prison and those at risk of poverty. Researchers involved in the project have proposed targeted percentages that represent the desired outcome for this region. The percentage achieved in developed countries is used as an example for each indicator and desirable situation, and in the dimension of economic participation the values of the EU 2020 strategy are used for target values and a new landmark.

Online tools for obtaining information from relevant institutions and parts of state systems, municipalities are accessible and acceptable and therefore Montenegro is a leader in this field. In the last three to four years, despite the measures implemented, the percentage of self-employed youth has been decreasing according to the MONSTAT survey. The positive trend is that the NEET rate and the long-term unemployment rate are decreasing, said Gligorijevic. Montenegro has the highest percentage of young people who drop out of secondary education, and there is a decreasing trend in the percentage of young people at risk of poverty. In 2018, the percentage of youth in prisons increased. According to the survey, in relation to the total number of prisoners, in Montenegrin prisons, 52.2 percent are young. That percentage was 30.2 and 33.2 percent in 2017.



Vuk Vujisic, in front of the initiative "I will not go", drew attention to the fact that it is hypocritical to negate the problem that exists in the region and it is necessary to record how many young people, why and how they leave Montenegro. Acknowledging the problem is the first step towards solving the problem and an indicator of political maturity. Research shows that young people think the most about leaving because of the economic situation. The most important side of the youth mobility opportunity is the experience that is gained, starting in other cities in the country and then in the region or the world. Getting to know

different people and the experience of non-formal learning are the most important segments of mobility, and the goal is to gain knowledge and experience upon returning to your community. Exchanges, trainings, seminars, volunteer services are forms of acquisition of non-formal education that are hard to recognize and appreciate in our community and in the coming period a serious shift must be made in the formal recognition of non-formal education through youth mobility.



Jelena Jovanović - Program coordinator of NGO Prima Participation in the Erasmus + program has shown me how small the world is, and our possibilities are limitless and varied. If you are ready for adventure, learning, traveling, write to us in inbox, we will help you to apply for our programs and conferences and answer any questions regarding the programs we offer.