Inequalities and human development in the Western Balkans

Key issues from the Human Development Report 2016

High unemployment rates

- Unemployed: 39%
- Inactive: 22%
- Employed: 39%

Young people can’t find jobs

Only 20% of young people are employed in the Western Balkans.

Governance issues

Many believe the government in their country works in its own interest (2013).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo*</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BiH</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYR Macedonia</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Gender inequalities

In addition to discrimination at the workplace, pay gaps and glass ceilings, women continue to be caretakers.

In all of the Yugoslav successor states, unemployment rates are higher among women.

Women take care of the household, children and the elderly.

Limited professional opportunities.

In Serbia, for every 3 men that don’t have jobs, there are 4 women without a job.
Social protection issues

With ageing, shrinking populations in the Western Balkans, social protection needs to be better targeted at the most needy, and informal employment should be reduced, in order to broaden the tax bases that fund social protection programmes.

Only Serbia offers payment for unemployment insurance and active labour market policies.

Exclusion of Roma

Due in part to discrimination, Roma are more likely to be excluded from quality healthcare and education, as well as from good jobs.

Roma engagement in the informal economy is five times more likely than it is for non-Roma communities.

87% of Roma men in Albania are working in informal jobs.

Lack of education leads to higher unemployment

Joblessness rates in the Western Balkans, by level of education (2011)

Roma children in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia are much more likely to experience stunting than other children in these countries.

32% of Roma without any formal education reported chronic health disorders.

Disclaimer: This report does not include Croatia and Slovenia.
*References to Kosovo on this text shall be understood to be in the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

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