Youth in Kosovo

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Health, Education, Equality, Protection
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YOUTH IN KOSOVO

- Health
- Education
- Employment
- Participation

Report based on surveys conducted by Index Kosova

UNICEF Kosovo
June 2004
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
UNICEF promotes the rights of children, young people and women in Kosovo, in particular with regard to health, education, development, protection and their participation in civil society. In line with this mandate, UNICEF commissioned a study of the conditions, perceptions and attitudes of young people on these issues. During the summer of 2003, Index Kosova conducted a survey by questionnaire with some 600 young people aged between 9 and 25 years, as well as a series of focus groups with youth and a series of interviews and visits with youth groups, youth centres and authorities working on youth issues. This report presents the key findings of this research.

Health. Regarding their health, almost all the young people consulted indicated that they are in good or very good condition and care very much about their health. One quarter of the respondents consult doctors regularly while one quarter never consults, and females consult less than males. Family and friends, rather than doctors, appear to be their primary source of advice on health, while the most popular sources of health information are the family, the school and television. Two thirds of the respondents do physical exercise or sports to keep healthy, although only half the females and older youth make that effort.

Young people identify smoking, drugs and air pollution as the main risk factors to their health. Younger adolescents are much more concerned than older youth on the problem of pollution. One fifth of the youth surveyed have already smoked a cigarette or drunk beer. Cigarette smoking appears to be a significant problem as 15% of young people smoke regularly (average 11 cigarettes daily), while only 6% of respondents drink regularly (average 1.5 bottles of beer weekly). Males drink and smoke more than females, and Kosovo-Serbs more than Kosovo-Albanians. Although drug abuse is put forward as a major risk factor, virtually no respondents report having used drugs.

Some respondents have heard of sexually transmitted infections and diseases (STIs) but a quarter of them have not, and more than 10% have not heard about HIV/AIDS. The younger adolescents are less aware of these problems and females appear to be less informed than males. Early pregnancies appear to be a major concern for half of the young people surveyed. Young people think that parents and schools should play a stronger role in educating them on reproductive health. Violence in the family, at school or in the street is not raised as a major health risk factor. Around half the respondents claim that violence happens frequently, although close to none admit to having experienced it personally.

When asked to assess the impact of media campaigns against smoking, drug use and violence, on environment and on HIV/AIDS, three quarters of the respondents report to have seen or heard such campaigns, especially through television.

Education. Children are generally satisfied with schools, although to a lesser degree as they grow older and among the Kosovo-Serb group. Young people are nonetheless critical of many aspects of the education system. A majority think that the reforms are not yet producing results and wish for stronger actions. Only a small minority is satisfied with the physical conditions and the technical equipment currently available, especially the Kosovo-Serb respondents and the residents of Prishtinë/Pristina. Only 30% claim to have access to computers and 10% to Internet connections in school.
Although most young people (87%) assess the work of teachers quite positively, they find them to have authoritative conduct and a lack of motivation due to poor salaries. Overall, most respondents (94%) think it is worth getting an education, but they would like to learn more practical skills in school and see the schools get closer to the community. In the meantime, there are numerous young people (40%) who seek work-related skills such as computers and languages in courses offered out of schools. Males and females show similar attitudes towards education.

**Employment.** With unemployment rate reaching 63% of the group aged 15-24 years, young people have plenty of reasons to be preoccupied. In fact, 70% are very and 17% somewhat preoccupied with unemployment. The Kosovo-Serb respondents are much less concerned (40%) than the Kosovo-Albanians (90%). Despite this concern, faced with the possible dilemma of either getting a job or continuing their education, the majority (80%) of young people would stay in school.

On the issue of child labour, most respondents agree that children should not be allowed to work on the streets, although they understand the phenomenon is linked to their difficult social situation. A vast majority would accept a law prohibiting child labour and they would like to see the parents exercise more control over their children.

**Participation.** Around one fifth of the respondents are members of a political party, and the same proportion is involved in NGOs. There are many youth NGOs in Kosovo forming part of the Kosovo Youth Network. They are active in sectors such as media, advocacy, environment, health education, sports, gender equity, interethnic relations, humanitarian issues, human rights, and leisure. These organisations advocate for more youth-friendly spaces, such as youth centres, and increased participation of young people in decision-making processes. This preoccupation is more or less echoed by the young people surveyed: 90% feel they are listened to in the family, 67% in their school/faculty, and 64% in their community.

It is mostly in the family context that young people feel their voice is increasingly heard. The advice of parents and family members is sought on many issues, although taboos still surround important issues such as sexuality, drugs or pregnancies. Most young people link the source of one’s influence to family ties, personal authority or relationship to the "boss" or the leader, but work and dedication are also perceived as factors enabling someone to gain access to decision-making.

**Happiness.** Although young people are shown to have many common concerns on the basic issues presented in this study, most of those interviewed (60%) declare that they generally feel happy. The younger adolescents are slightly happier than older youth, males than females, and Kosovo-Albanians than Kosovo-Serbs.

**Directions for change.** Young people are relatively happy, but nonetheless critical of many aspects that impede the fulfilment of their rights. As their answers and points of view were analysed through this research, it became obvious that certain courses of action should be taken by policy-makers and other leaders who are responsible for fulfilment of their rights.
- Environment. Policy efforts on pollution and environmental protection lag behind the aspirations of young people. Specifically the younger adolescents show a stronger awareness about these issues and could be supported in transforming this awareness into action.

- Sexual and reproductive health. The lack of youth-friendly health services appears to be a factor contributing to the persistence of risky behaviours among youth. Health care professionals are not sufficiently trusted. Such services should be offered.

- Campaigns against drugs and alcohol. The efforts put into raising awareness on abuse of drugs and alcohol seem to be fruitful as young people fear those problems, even if they say they rarely experience it. It may be an interesting model for other campaigns.

- Schools and community. One way to increase the pace of reform in the education system is to get the community involved. Young people hope this will help them to be better prepared for the workplace once out of school.
Introduction

Within its mandate to promote children’s and women’s rights, UNICEF in Kosovo has a programme to specifically address the rights and aspirations of youth aged 10-24. This report presents the main findings of research conducted in summer 2003 on knowledge and attitudes of young people about issues related to health, education, employment and participation in civil society.

Demographic Weight of Young People. Kosovo is a young and emerging society in many ways. The Provisional Institutions of Self-Government were established in 2002 and the foundations of a democratic and liberal society are being put in place. It is also a society whose population is very young. According to a recent demographic survey, the population aged between birth and 25 years represents 53% of Kosovo’s population2, which is estimated at 1.9 million inhabitants3. The group aged birth to 15 years represents 30% of the population, while the group 15 to 25 years represents 22%. With such a large proportion of its population under the age of 25 years, Kosovo shows a demographic pattern similar to that of developing countries, which is markedly different from its European neighbours4. Young people are thus a demographic force that Kosovo must seriously consider when charting its course for progress.

Young Peoples’ Rights and Responsibilities. Irrespective of their situation, children and young people around the world are entitled to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment so that they one day may help lead the world to a better future. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out a series of rights that are today largely recognized around the globe. Children have the right to health, the right to a standard of living that meets their physical, mental and social needs, the right to be protected from physical, sexual or mental abuse and from exploitation, the right to education, the right to express their opinions and the right to form associations.

The state, civil society and parents all have responsibilities in fulfilling the conditions conducive to these rights. But young people also share responsibilities in bringing about social progress: their participation in civil society and the political institutions should help find just and innovative solutions to the problems that plague the world today. The participation of young Kosovars is not just about involvement in community activities, but is also about being part of the decision-making process. The voice of young people should be heard in their families, in their schools, in their community and in their society.

The last decades have brought enormous changes in Kosovo society. It went from a communist to a liberal regime in a short time span. It was the scene of a conflict that followed systematic ethnic marginalization and forced migrations. Very recently, it was caught in violent inter-ethnic strife. But Kosovo society is progressively learning how to manage itself, how to deal with its diversity and how to participate in the global development process along with other people of the world. The challenges this society is facing are enormous, and new knowledge, attitudes and behaviours must be developed,
through the participation of all sectors of society. In such a context, young people are called upon to play a key role by bringing a rights-based and refreshing perspective geared towards a better future.

**UNICEF’s goals.** UNICEF’s mandate is to advocate for the protection of children’s and women’s rights, and to specifically help the most disadvantaged fulfil their fundamental rights and reach their full potential. It also promotes the equal rights of women and girls and supports their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities. To achieve this mandate, UNICEF concentrates on five priorities:

- **Girls’ Education:** to ensure that every girl completes a quality primary school education.
- **Early Childhood Development:** to promote integrated early childhood development, ensuring every child the best possible start in life.
- **Immunization Plus:** to safeguard every child against disease, disability and poor nutrition.
- **HIV/AIDS:** to work to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and to ensure that children and young people already affected by the disease are cared for.
- **Protection of children against violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination:**

In Kosovo, UNICEF has a programme dedicated to young people’s health, development and participation. The strategic objectives are captured in the table below.

**Methodology.** UNICEF commissioned Index Kosova/BBSS Gallup International to examine the situation and perceptions of young people (9-24 years) with regard to health, protection, development (education and work) and their participation in society. Conducted in August and September 2003, the study used three methods to collect information: youth focus group meetings, a questionnaire-based survey with young people, a desk review and interviews focused on civil society and government organizations.

The focus groups were conducted in August 2003 with six groups in three cities: Prishtinë/Pristina, Prizren/Prizren and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. Three groups were composed of youth 14 to 17 years old and three groups of young persons aged 18-24 years. Four groups were composed of Kosovo-Albanians and two of Kosovo-Serbs.

The quantitative questionnaire survey was conducted in September 2003 across Kosovo with a random sample of 600 effective respondents aged 9 to 24 years. Of this, 537 Kosovo-Albanians, 47 Kosovo-Serbs and 16 "other ethnicity" responded to the interviewers in their home. Rural / urban and male / female categories were equally represented in the sample.

The desk research was also carried out in September 2003, to assess policy-making and institutional responses to the needs of young people. It included a document review, interviews with 13 high-level officials from government and other organizations, and 18 site visits to children and youth centres, youth organizations and municipalities across Kosovo.

This report is based mainly on the findings of the Index Kosova research but draws on complementary contextual information from recent landmark studies. It was prepared by Marc L. Johnson, research consultant.

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**UNICEF- Kosovo**  
Objectives for Youth Health, Development and Participation

**Prevention of Risky Behaviour**  
- Communication activities about risky behaviours  
- Development of knowledge and skills on unsafe sex and drug use  
- Contribution to policy-making and programmes on HIV/AIDS

**Youth Participation**  
- Youth organizing and networking  
- Youth communicating through media  
- Youth participation in policy-making

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**Contribute to the empowerment of Kosovo’s young people to enhance their well-being, create opportunities for their own development and to develop strategies that reduce the prevalence of risky behaviours.**
1. HEALTH
1. Health

Health is a key issue for young people. If the future belongs to young people, then their health condition and healthy behaviours are major factors of concern for them. Often, young people are at the centre of health crises such as HIV/AIDS because they are less informed, involved in risky behaviours such as drugs, unsafe sex, or are physically or sexually abused, and thus more vulnerable to infections. But young people themselves are also crucial to lasting solutions. In areas where HIV infection rates are levelling off or actually declining, it’s mainly because young people are changing their behaviour and taking a lead in passing on the vital information that prompts such change. The same could be said about the role of young people in creating environmentally-friendly communities.

Health is a right. The Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that the child has a right to the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. This right engages the State to provide primary and preventive health care and public health education. Furthermore, the child has the right to be protected from abduction, child trafficking, violence, and from sexual abuse and exploitation. As with other countries in transition, many of these rights are challenged in Kosovo.

Health System in Kosovo. During the Yugoslav era, the health system in Kosovo was heavily geared towards the provision of tertiary care and treatment rather than prevention. All health facilities were state-owned, centralised, bureaucratic and for the most part, ineffective. When the Kosovo-Albanian population was deliberately marginalised by Milosevic’s regime during the 1989-1999 period, a functional parallel primary health care system was run by the Mother Teresa Society through a network of 96 clinics. Many doctors worked as volunteers within this parallel health structure. Since 2000, many Kosovo-Albanian doctors have moved to the hospitals, leaving the poor and rural communities without adequate health care services.

The current Ministry of Health in Kosovo has developed a health strategy that was approved by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government. This strategy gives high importance to the health of children by making a “healthy start to life” (i.e. the health of newborns and young children) its first priority. The Ministry indicates its intention to play an important role in public health prevention programs, through youth-friendly health services.

Some NGOs have a supporting role in the health promotion of young people. Most of them are informing young people about drugs and HIV/AIDS. When probed on the issue of youth-friendly centres capable of providing professional and confidential services on sexual and reproductive health, all NGOs said that such services do not exist in Kosovo, although they are deemed necessary.

State of Health. The youth survey asked how they perceive their health condition. Almost all respondents (97%) indicated being in good (37%) or very good (61%) condition. Only the Kosovo-Serbs have a slightly lower estimation of their health, with 8% claiming to have a "bad" or "very bad" health condition. Girls (11%) and adolescents aged 9-13 years (12%) said they experienced personal health problems mostly in the last three months preceding the survey. Some 16% of respondents indicated that members of their family currently have some health problems, while 4% of respondents have friends with health problems. Most young people (98%) surveyed claim to care about health, of which 85% indicate caring “very much”. Surprisingly, when this question was discussed in focus groups, many participants showed a clear lack of self-care.
Given this generally high sense of having a healthy life, to what extent do young people behave accordingly by adopting healthy practices? There is a divide on the issue of consulting doctors. Over one quarter (28%) of respondents see their doctor at least several times every month, which is indeed frequent, while one in five (20%) never consult their doctors, particularly females (22%), rural residents (21%) and older youth (22%). Doctors are not the only source of advice on health. It is quite common for the respondents to consult with parents every day (42%) or several times a week (29%). Half the respondents (52%) consult with their friends concerning health care regularly, but only 8% consult with NGOs concerning health on a regular basis.

The survey asked how often they engage in different healthy behaviours such as doing physical exercise or sports, eating natural foods, reading or checking expiry dates on food products (see Table 1.1). Physical exercise, such as jogging is on the menu of two thirds (67%) of young people on a daily basis or several times a week; although females (58%), Kosovo-Serbs (56%) and youth aged 18-24 years (56%) are the least prone to this intensity of exercise. Only 8% say they never do any physical exercise. Sport activities are complementary to physical exercise. More than half of the respondents (57%) say they do sport regularly, while 15% do not play sports at all. The females (48%) and older youth (48%) rarely or never engage in sports.

On the other hand, over two thirds of the respondents claim to take frequent walks in nature settings. Males (72%) more so than the females (59%), the Prishtinë/Pristina residents (72%) and the younger adolescents (71%) are the most likely to take these walks. Additionally, all respondents claim to eat natural food, 70% of whom do so every day. Half the respondents (49%) say they check the "best before" date on the food products they plan to consume each day, whereas a quarter (23%) rarely or never do so. As for hygiene, virtually all respondents (99%) claim to take a shower several times a week and to clean their teeth every day (98%). Finally, three quarters (75%) of the respondents claim to read books/magazines every day or a number of times per week.

**Health Risk Factors.** Young people were asked to identify the main risk factors to their health, and three factors come out clearly: smoking, which is considered a risk factor by 49% of respondents, drug consumption (43%), and environment / air pollution (31%). All age groups consider smoking a major factor, but adolescents aged 9-13 years also put an emphasis on air pollution, while the two older categories worry about drug consumption. Among the respondents the Albanian majority and Serb minority were both concerned about smoking and drug consumption, but Albanians also fear air pollution, while the Serbs are alarmed by alcohol consumption. It is interesting to note that the Serbs raised the issue of stress-traumas-nervousness, a factor that is seldom noted by other categories. Other issues such as low living standards and HIV/AIDS were pinpointed by roughly 10% of respondents, while poor nutrition, expired food products, early pregnancies and stress were rarely selected as important risk factors. In focus groups, the issue of addiction towards Internet games was raised by some young people.

**Table 1.1 How often do you ...?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of Healthy Practices (%)</th>
<th>Every Day</th>
<th>Several times a week</th>
<th>Several times a month</th>
<th>Less often</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do physical exercise</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play sports</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk in nature</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat natural food</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check expiry dates</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a shower</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush teeth</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read magazines/books</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Graph 1.2 Sources of Information on Health**
From what sources do young Kosovars get their information on health risk factors? Overall, family (76%), school (62%), national TV (51%) and friends (51%) appear to be the main sources of information. Younger adolescents seem to prefer family, schools and national TV, while the older youth also base their information on their peers. Males seem to be in general more informed than females, Kosovo-Albanians than Kosovo-Serbs and Prishtinë/Pristina residents than the other Kosovars.

The next sections explore in detail main risk factors of youth health.

**Smoking.** Smoking is the single most cited health risk factor by youth. Participants consulted in focus groups indicate that smoking is the first link of a chain that leads to drinking and taking drugs. The survey findings show that almost one respondent in five (20%) has by now smoked a cigarette. The males (24%), Kosovo-Serbs (36%) and youth aged 18-24 years (24%) are those who mainly smoke cigarettes. Among these smokers, two thirds had smoked in the week prior to the survey, 78% had smoked in the past month. Together, they consume an average of 11 cigarettes a day.

Just over a quarter (28%) of young smokers have thought about giving up smoking but have not tried. More than half (54%) have thought about it and tried quitting, whereas 18% have not thought about it at all. Two thirds of the smokers say there is a high chance they will stop smoking in the near future.

Why did these young people start smoking? The influence of friends and their milieu are the key factors to start smoking. Participants in the focus group in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica recognize that smoking starts in the primary school, when adolescents want to be "in". The survey findings indicate that the desire and curiosity of trying something new lead most (79%) of the respondents to start smoking. The same proportion says that they started smoking to be like their friends. Half of them started in order to feel more mature. One third was encouraged to start from seeing their parents and family members smoke.

"Even as a 12-year-old I went and bought without any problem. Even the shop keeper kept it as a secret."
- Student, age 22, Prishtinë/Pristina

Why do they continue to smoke? The reasons, according to the survey findings, are numerous. The key reason is that they like the experience (70%). Calming nerves and helping to think clearly are reasons advanced by 61% of the respondents. Another often mentioned reason is addiction: 44% of smokers claim that they cannot quit smoking. The fact that smoking is permitted almost anywhere is a reason given by 38% of the respondents. Around one third (34%) notes that "everybody smokes", which they consider a good enough reason to continue. A large number of smokers (39%) emphasize that smoking makes interpersonal communications easier. Borrowing and exchanging cigarettes is thought to help build a more communicative or open relationship. There is a special phrase used when receiving a cigarette - "I hope your honour grows", which implies that emptying the packet of cigarettes means filling it up with honour.

Why would somebody think of stopping? Young people easily identify valid reasons to stop smoking. Many respondents to the survey clearly pinpoint to experiencing health problems (71%) and getting information about the damage to health (68%) as key reasons to stop. Two thirds say that a doctor’s order to stop smoking would also be a good reason. A ban on selling cigarettes to children is mentioned by 63% of respondents.

The survey participants were asked to assess a communication campaign to prevent smoking. Three quarters of the respondents (76%) claim to have heard or seen such a campaign. A higher percentage of Kosovo-Serb respondents noticed the anti-tobacco campaign (80%) than Kosovo-Albanians (76%). Gjilan/Gnjilane youth are
YOUTH IN KOSOVO

again the most aware (92%), and Gjakovë/Djakovica the least (55.7%). Awareness levels by gender and age group are similar to those for anti-drug campaigns — slightly more male awareness (79%) than female (72%), and rising awareness as age increases — 68% in the 9-13 group, 79% in the 14-17 group and 80% in those aged 18 and over. TV is the media that informed most of the respondents (79%), followed far behind by radio (29%) and brochures/posters (27%). The informed respondents are overwhelmingly (87%) very happy with this anti-smoking campaign.

Smoking is practised largely among young people and considered by them to be dangerous to their health. Males are more prone to smoking than females and the problem is more acute among the Kosovo-Serbs than the Kosovo-Albanians. Although the older youth are the “big smokers”, the problem builds up from an early age. Even though the communication campaigns reach the young people and keep them informed on the threats posed by cigarettes, it is still the behaviour of their peers and family that provide the main pressure to smoke.

Furthermore, smoking is made easy by the general absence of constraints against it in Kosovo. In this sense, peer education and stronger policies against smoking appear of the some key solutions to this problem.

Drugs use. Taking drugs is considered by young people surveyed as the second most important threat to their health. In focus groups the participants also viewed drugs, like alcohol, as a looming threat based on its apparently pervasive presence among them. This is particularly the case for the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica group, which say that drugs are easily available and used by many. But the findings of the survey on this issue are puzzling. In the entire sample, only one person claims to have tried and to be an active consumer of drugs.

Three quarters of the respondents claim that the information on damage to health, together with physical side effects are factors which might cause drug users to quit. Over two thirds (68%) think quitting could be brought about because of doctor’s orders, police action (69%), the high cost of drugs for those in poor financial positions (66%), or the insistence of parents/important people (61%). More than half of the respondents (56%) think that anti-drug campaigns could have a significant effect on consumption by youth. The only marked differences in views are between Kosovo-Albanian and Kosovo-Serbs, the latter giving less importance to all of these factors.

When asked to assess campaigns against drugs, three quarters of the respondents claim to have heard or seen such a campaign. Regionally, young people in Gjilan/Gnjilane are the most informed (88%), followed by Ferizaj/Urosevac and Prishtinë/Pristina. Those in Gjakovë/Djakovica (56%) have been least well exposed. Males (79%) are slightly more aware than females (72%), but there are greater differences between age groups, where the awareness of the campaign ranges from 67% for the youngest to 80% for the oldest. The media that reached them are TV (81%), radio (29%), leaflets/posters
(24%) and newspapers (22%). Over 85% of these respondents say they liked this campaign a lot. In focus groups, some young people said they disliked the campaigns.

The problem of drugs is obviously one that is gaining a lot of attention among young people, and the Kosovo society as a whole. It is not clear yet how important a problem it actually is in terms of drug use, but the fear that surrounds it is quite high. The taboo may be so high as to discourage any young drug user to admit it in a survey.

Pollution. As we saw above, pollution is the third most cited health concern by youth. The survey shows that it is the younger adolescents (9-13 years) who are the most concerned with environment/air pollution, as 40% consider it a major risk factor to their health. The focus group discussions also raised the environmental issues as the most important health risk factor. Participants in most groups showed disappointment and weariness about the general state of the environment. The spread of garbage, and the air and water pollution was of particular concern to the youngest Kosovo-Albanian groups and to the older Kosovo-Serb group.

The young people surveyed were asked to assess an information campaign on environment protection. Three quarters of the respondents (75%) claim to have heard or seen a campaign to protect the environment. The Kosovo-Albani ans (78%) are more likely to have seen a campaign than Kosovo-Serbs (56%), the males (76%) more than the females (74%), the older youth (79%) more than the younger adolescents (69%), and the Pristina/Pristina residents (86%) more than the small cities (77%) or the rural residents (73%). Regionally, awareness is highest in Ferizaj/Urosevac (89%) and Pristina/Pristina (86%), while Gjakovë/Djakovica shows the lowest levels (39%).

The sources of information that reached the young people for this campaign are TV (81%), radio (30%), leaflets and posters (25%), and newspapers (20%). Most respondents (90%) who heard or saw the campaign say they liked it a lot.

When comparing the health risk factors prioritized by different stakeholders, it appears that the authorities and NGOs do not view the problem of pollution as strongly as do the young people. This discrepancy might be a focal point for policy discussions advocated by youth. It is interesting to note that the younger adolescents appear to be the most aware of the environment challenges facing Kosovo. From the perspective of building a sustainable society, which must include environment-friendly behaviours, the young people thus have a major role to play and should be supported in that endeavour.

Alcohol consumption. The health risk associated with alcohol consumption is closely related to that of drug consumption. It is identified as a health risk, but does not constitute a generalized trend, with exception of the Kosovo-Serb group. Overall, one fifth of respondents (18%) have by now drunk a beer, while only 6% have drunk spirits. Among those beer drinkers, 29% have taken a beer in the week prior to the survey and they drink an average of 1.5 bottles per week. Among the few spirits consumers, one in four has had a drink in the week prior to the survey and they drink an average of 58 ml per week.

Alcohol consumption appears to be a problem affecting mainly males, the older group of youth and the Kosovo-Serbs. Obviously, the older they get, the more chance they have of having drunk beer or alcohol. One third of the oldest youth, but only 7% of the
younger adolescents, have had beer in the past. The ratio of beer drinking between males and females is 3:1. The Kosovo-Serb respondents are much more inclined than Kosovo-Albanians to drinking beer (70% / 14%) or spirits (37% / 4%). This difference also appeared in the focus group discussions where alcohol was not raised as a major issue in Albanian groups, while Serb groups draw a gloomy picture of alcohol use among young people.

Graph 1.7 Thought of stopping drinking?

One fifth of the alcohol-drinking young persons (21%) has thought about quitting but has not tried, 28% thought and tried stopping, whereas 34% have never thought of it. The majority (62%) of respondents who drink alcohol affirm that there is a high chance for them in the near future to quit consuming alcoholic drinks.

Why did they start drinking? Unlike tobacco smokers, where one’s circle of friends was the main factor that initiated smoking, in the case of alcohol it seems that curiosity to try something new prevails (76%). The peer factor accounts for half of young drinkers, while consumption of alcohol inside the family is a reason for only 27% of the respondents to start drinking. One respondent in three claims that drinking alcohol has been initiated to feel more mature.

Why do they continue drinking? Most of those consuming alcohol continue because they plainly like it (44%). Many (35%) also mention that it is allowed everywhere; therefore it is a good reason to continue. The fact that everyone is drinking (23%), that it calms one down (19%), or that it makes communication easier (16%) are other less important reasons to continue drinking.

The respondents have various ideas on why one young person would stop drinking. Experiencing health problems (73%) or being recommended by a doctor (65%) to stop would be good reasons. Receiving information on the damages alcohol drinking can cause (71%), insistence from parents (59%) or financial conditions (57%) would also influence young people to stop drinking.

The research findings show that alcohol drinking is perceived as a major risk factor for youth health, although it is not a condition that affects many young people in Kosovo at this time. This is not so true for the Kosovo-Serb minority where young people and especially the younger adolescents are tackling alcohol issues with some anxiety. Obviously, cultural factors tend to keep alcohol drinking among youth within healthy limits in the Kosovo-Albanian community. Stronger health promotion efforts should nonetheless be implemented within the Serb community to tackle this issue among youth.

HIV/AIDS and STIs. Interestingly, HIV/AIDS is one issue that young people do not have at the forefront of their preoccupations with regard to their health, but say they are very well informed about it. The government and most NGOs have been focussing on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for some time. But recent studies show that the level of knowledge of youth on STIs is very low. One quarter of young Kosovo-Albanians and one third of young Kosovo-Serbs do not know if there is HIV/AIDS in Kosovo. In rural areas, 10% of girls aged 15-19 years and 8% of women aged 20-24 years say they have never heard of AIDS.

"Kosovar families pay very little attention to the health of their children. The house décor or something else is of higher importance."
- Student, age 20, Prizren

The survey findings show that 7 in 10 respondents have heard about STIs, but still, around a quarter have not. Awareness rises steeply with age: only 39% of the group aged 9-13 years know about STIs, 80% for the 14-17 years group, and as many as 86% for the 18-24 years group. There remains, however, a worrying level of ignorance in the groups most likely to be sexually active. Males (74%) are generally more aware than females (65%), and Kosovo-Serbs (85%) more than Kosovo-Albanian...
(69%). More respondents (86%) seem to know something about HIV/AIDS than about STIs. But, again, it is troublesome to notice that 12 to 14% are still unaware of HIV/AIDS.

Television (around 80%) and school (around 40%) are the principal means of receiving information about both STIs and HIV/AIDS. It may be considered alarming that families provide information on these matters to so very few: between 13% (for HIV/AIDS) and 18% (STIs) of the respondents. The focus group participants have specifically criticized the lack of attention paid by families to their children’s health (Albanian groups), or the threatening mode in which it is provided (Serb groups). The other major concern is that even fewer respondents rely on doctors for information on HIV/AIDS (8%) or STIs (9%).

When probed specifically on the issue, a majority (72%) of respondents nonetheless consider HIV/AIDS as a problem for their community. The Pristinë/Pristina residents are the most concerned about HIV/AIDS (97%) in their community, while Kosovo-Serbs clearly do not consider it so important (27%). Females (69%) are less preoccupied than males (76%).

Despite evaluating HIV/AIDS as a serious problem, young Kosovars do not express a particularly great fear for themselves. Only 16% think that they could get infected, a consideration that is higher among males (18%) than females (12%), the older youth (18%) and especially the Pristinë/Pristina residents (30%). The Kosovo-Serbs (4%) do not fear more for themselves than for their community. Those who are concerned for their personal health see the main risks in blood transfusion / unsafe needles (33%), the non-usage of condoms (20%) and multiple partnering (14%). In contrast, those who do not fear getting infected by HIV/AIDS argue that they are not sexually active (27%), that they have not been in contact with persons infected with HIV/AIDS (22%) or that they have only one partner (12%).

The focus group participants from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica described sexual behaviours that seem far from being risk-free: a very early sexual debut, multiple sexual partners, beliefs that AIDS is only a problem for foreigners, etc. These observations are also made by many other Kosovo-Albanian youth, according to another recent study.\(^\text{10}\)

Survey respondents were asked to assess a communication campaign on AIDS. Once again nearly three quarters of the respondents (72%) claim to have heard or seen such a campaign. The Kosovo-Serbs (81%) were better reached by the campaign than the Kosovo-Albanians (73%). Gjilan/Gnjilane (88%) and Gjakovë/Djakovica (46%) again represent the extremes of regional awareness. Males (76%) appear to be more aware than females (69%), and the older youth (84%) more than the youngest (51%). The TV was again the most far reaching media of that campaign (82%), followed far behind by radio (31%), leaflets and posters (26%) and newspapers (24%). Contrary to the assessment made in the focus groups, the survey respondents claim to have liked the campaign a lot (91%).

The research findings show that the efforts put into NGO or government-led information campaigns are echoed in awareness of young people on HIV/AIDS and STIs.

"Quite simply a parent should talk with the child, because we are now living in a time when all kinds of dangers are near. It was different before the war because we were isolated. There is no shame, all things should be discussed."

- Pupil, age 18, Prizren
Challenges nonetheless remain to be overcome since a significant portion of the young population is put at risk by their limited or erroneous knowledge. As another recent survey with youth has shown, some 22% of respondents do not know that condoms can reduce the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS, around 60% do not use condoms with their spouse or steady partner and only 2% have been tested for HIV.

Early Pregnancy. Early pregnancy is a sensitive problem but one which can have complicated consequences not only for the health, but also for the fate of the mother and her child. According to the survey, 68% of young Kosovars consider early pregnancy to be a serious problem in the community. Kosovo-Albanians are more likely to consider it a serious problem (69%) than Kosovo-Serbs (57%), and females (71%) more than males (61%). The most expressed (72%) means of avoiding early pregnancy is communication between adolescents and parents. Far behind is the role of schools in teaching about reproductive health education (16%). Very few (2-3%) think that media or NGOs can play a worthwhile role in preventing this problem.

The Ministry of Health recognizes that there are no real youth-friendly centres addressing early pregnancy or other reproductive health services, although there are three Voluntary, Confidential, Counselling and Testing centres (VCCT) for HIV/AIDS and STIs. It intends to make existing institutions more trusted by young people, by increasing the level of confidentiality. Focus group participants in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica said that for health purposes, they must go to Belgrade.

Family planning and counselling on sexual and reproductive health are generally lacking. There are no youth-friendly health services where young people could seek for information and counselling on reproductive health issues. Consequently, abortion appears to be one preferred mean of family planning. Thus there are good reasons to advocate for better counselling services offered to young people.

Violence. Violence was not probed as a risk factor for youth health in the survey, although trauma was. On this issue, very few (1%) thought it was a major factor, although the Kosovo-Serb respondents (20%) assessed it as a higher risk. Family violence and violence in schools or between peers are nonetheless a preoccupying problem. The focus group discussions revealed that young people are concerned by violence, especially in schools or between rival gangs in the case of Kosovo-Albanians, and generally speaking in the case of Kosovo-Serbs, where the younger adolescents seem to have fallen into a deep spiral of violence that scares even their older peers.

The respondents to this survey are divided on the issue of violence towards children in the family. One half admits this violence happens somewhat (37%) or quite often (13%), whereas the other half claims that it does not. There is no major difference in perceptions among the groups, except that older youth (55%) see more violence that the younger adolescents (38%).

Concerning violence towards children in school, the respondents tended to downplay its importance as only 42% consider it to be frequent. The Prishtinë/Pristina residents are the only group that finds violence in school to be of concern (56%). The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology recognizes that violence is present in schools and links it to the old-fashioned mentality of some teachers. As for violence between students themselves, the ministry has not yet succeeded in developing a policy for preventing it.

Graph 1.9 Violence towards children in...
Concerning violence against children in the street, the respondents are again divided. Half think that it is quite (15%) or somewhat (35%) violent, while the other half does not think so. But here there is a huge difference between the two communities. Three quarters of the Kosovo-Serbs think that violence in the street is pronounced, while only 47% of Kosovo-Albanians agree with their peers. The older youth seems to be more exposed to street violence than the younger adolescents, since 55% of them assess it as frequent.

Although the respondents claim that violence is out there, very few actually report any violence being inflicted on themselves. Only 4% (22 persons) of the sample claim that they have suffered family violence in the past three months, eight young persons (1%) say they have experienced violence in school and 17 others (3%) violence on the street.

Around a quarter (27%) of the respondents claim that young people tend to resort to violence, whereas more than two thirds (63%) deny it. Kosovo-Serb respondents (50%) are more likely than Kosovo-Albanians (25%) to qualify youth as violent. The Prishtinë/Pristina residents (14%) are the group that is the least inclined to describe young people as violent. Why would young people resort to violence? Most respondents (67%) claim that the tendency for violence comes from the lack of family education. While most (70%) Kosovo-Albanian respondents agree with this, only 37% of Kosovo-Serbs do, stating that other factors such as lack of tolerance, culture or influence from friends are at play.

"We’re children and they’re parents, but in the case of violence from teachers I would complain to the principal."

What would the respondents do if they were confronted with violence? Their anticipated reaction would depend on who is inflicting the violence upon them. If it was a parent, most (74%) claim that they would try to find a peaceful solution, while some (19%) would seek help from another member of the family. If it was a teacher or professor, again many (41%) would seek a peaceful solution, but many as well (27%) would complain to the director’s office. If it was a peer who was violent with them, most (48%) would strive for a peaceful resolution, some would seek help from another family member (26%) and a few would complain to the police (10%). Finally, if it was an unknown person subjecting them to violence, most (53%) would call the police, while others would seek help from a family member (20%) or try to find a peaceful solution (19%).

The focus group participants also expressed the view that children are more used to violence by parents than they are to violence from teachers. With the arrival of international organizations and the introduction of human rights initiatives, the reaction of young people to violence has changed a lot. Young people claim that they will not put up with being hit like before and they wish to make violence in the family and at school more known and therefore eliminated.

Graph 1.10 Violence towards me in...

Graph 1.11 Awareness of campaign against violence
The respondents were asked to assess an anti-violence campaign. Two thirds of the respondents claim to have seen the campaign. The targets best informed by the campaign are the males (72%) more so than the females (63%), the Kosovo-Albanian (71%) more than the Kosovo-Serbs (39%), the older youth (76%) and the Prishtinë/Pristina residents (84%). From the regional point of view, the youth of Gjilan/Gnjilane (85%) and Pejë/Pe? (80%) are the most informed, Gjakovë/Djakovica (41%) and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (56%) the least. TV (87%), radio (33%), newspapers (23%) and leaflets/posters (18%) are the media that reached their targets the most. The majority (89%) of the respondents who observed the campaign “liked it a lot”.

The findings of this research indicate that violence is a hot topic for young people. They have started to deplore violence publicly, but they cannot identify personally with it. Lack of trust in the confidentiality of a public survey may prevent a certain proportion of young people to relate incidences of the violence they experience personally. This challenging situation is clearly illustrated by graphs 1.9 and 1.10. More youth-friendly services providing professional or confidential counselling could help overcome this difficulty.

Conclusion. This research shows that young people are very preoccupied by the factors than can put their health at risk, although they generally believe that their health condition is very good. In this regard, smoking, drug use, pollution and alcohol are their main concerns. They see smoking as a key problem since it is mainly peer-driven and evolving in an environment free of any restrictions. Consumption of drugs and alcohol raise much fear among the youth, but it appears to be a lesser problem in terms of actual usage, or it is minimized by respondents for lack of trust in the confidentiality of a survey. Alcohol abuse nevertheless emerges as a real problem in the Kosovo-Serb group. Pollution is an issue that is clearly raised by young people, but one that receives less attention from the policy-makers.

Other health risk factors are raised with less emphasis: HIV/AIDS and STIs, early pregnancies and violence. On HIV/AIDS, young people claim to be very well informed and have in fact received much information from government and NGO-led campaigns, but the findings of this research show that youth still lack information and engage in risky behaviours. On early pregnancies, it appears that there is a lack of health-related youth-friendly services, especially with regard to family planning. On violence, young people seem to be divided, as one half sees it as a frequent problem and one half does not. But it is interesting to note that although as many as 50% of respondents see violence in families, schools, or the streets, none admit to experiencing it personally.

There are notable lines of division in perceptions according to gender, ethnicity, and age. The females appear to be generally less informed or aware than males on health-related issues, except on the problem of early pregnancies. They are also less prone to consult the doctors or do physical and sport activities. But males are more inclined to smoke cigarettes and drink alcohol.

Along ethnic lines, the research findings show that Kosovo-Serbs are more concerned about alcohol drinking and do tend to drink and smoke more than the Kosovo-Albanians. They are also more aware of street violence and more prone to consider youth as violent. Albanians are more concerned by pollution and early pregnancy, but less informed on HIV/AIDS and STIs. Although the number of respondents (16 out of 600) from other ethnic minorities (Bosniak, Turkish, Roma…) is too little to draw comparisons, it can be noted that they are much less likely to consult doctors than the average Kosovar, that most of them have not seen any of the health-related campaigns, and that close to a majority do not know about STIs nor HIV/AIDS.

Age is not a surprising line of division since older youth are naturally more inclined to engage in sexual activities, smoke, drink or get caught up in violence. But it is interesting to note that the younger adolescents, especially Kosovo-Albanians, are more aware of environmental issues. In the Kosovo-Serb group, the younger adolescents appear to be more destructive in regard to their health than their older peers.
This research also looked at the sources of advice and information on health used by young people. The family, schools and friends are the main sources of advice, along with television, as an information source. This indicates that health care services do not directly influence significantly the level of information of young people. When assessing the media campaigns organized on smoking, drug use, environment, HIV/AIDS and violence, it appeared that around three quarters of the targeted population was reached, mainly through television. Radio, leaflets and posters or newspapers come way behind as a means of informing youth.
2. EDUCATION
The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all children have the right to a good primary education and should have equal access to secondary education. Evidence shows that education is crucial to reducing poverty, improving general health, reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, and preparing people to play an active role in their communities. Education provides choices, and the confidence to take advantage of those choices.

According to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Baseline Report on Kosovo, enrolment in primary schools is almost universal, but drop-out is a significant problem. "The numbers suggest that girls tend to abandon school earlier than boys. Girls' attendance rates fall dramatically, especially during transition to secondary level. While 97% of Albanian girls, 99% of Serb girls, and 69% of girls of other minorities attend primary schools, only 56% of Albanian and 40% of non-Serb minority girls attend secondary schools. Serb girls keep a 93% attendance rate. Thus, great challenges still lie ahead.

Education System in Kosovo. The recent conflict-ridden history of Kosovo has had its impact on education. Because of the marginalization of the Kosovo-Albanian population during the 1990s, most of their children were reduced to a parallel education system operating in private homes that could not fulfil the entire modern standards of education. Enrolment rates, at over 90 per cent in primary school prior to 1989, are thought to have declined substantially during the 1990s, particularly among girls. Although primary enrolment rates are now high, the legacy of that period is that a significant cohort of young women today may be illiterate: recent data shows that more than 60% of women today aged 20-24 years did not study past the primary level, compared to 31% for males, and the ratio is even worst for the cohort aged 25-29 years: 74% for women, 31% for males. Since 2000, education in Kosovo has changed a lot. New schools have been built, mainly in rural areas where they had been destroyed. The age of enrolment in primary school was lowered from seven to six years of age and compulsory schooling was increased from eight to nine years in line with European standards. Many new grade-specific curricula have been completed. However, budgetary constraints, especially for extra classrooms and publishing text books, continue to make implementation difficult. Teacher training is also undergoing a major reform that has yet to show results.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology representatives say that the curriculum and approaches have changed significantly, in an attempt to set aside ideologies and politics. The needs of the labour market are also taken into account. But they recognize that there are still problems to be dealt with, such as the budget, the overcrowding of schools in towns, transportation of students, and violence and other risky behaviours in schools.

The survey conducted with young people nonetheless suggests a fair level of satisfaction with education in general in Kosovo (see table 2.1). Almost 90% of students are very or somewhat satisfied, but satisfaction decreases as they grow older. When analysed in detail, these figures show that most (60%) adolescents 9-13 years are "very satisfied", while the Kosovo-Serbs are the least, with 18% "very unsatisfied". One can read in these results a certain bias linked to the recent memories of the limited means that were available through the parallel system for Kosovo-Albanians until very recently. Compared to the schooling in private homes, today’s system is perceived as achieving fairly well.

Graph 2.1 In general, how satisfied are you with education in Kosovo

![Graph 2.1](image-url)
The young people surveyed appear to be more critical when probed on specific issues. Regarding the reforms of the education system, for instance, 60% of respondents think that they are not successful and that greater changes are required. Again, older students tend to be more critical on this issue. The following sections detail how young people perceive schools, teachers and non-formal education.

"Reforms may be on paper, but we do not see them."
- Student, age 24, Prizren

**Schools.** As stated above, schools in the urban areas are overcrowded because of the rural migration to the towns and the fact that few new schools were built outside rural areas. Students who participated in the focus groups also express their deep concern about the schools' general conditions, including: old buildings, old benches, lack of instruments, cabinets, laboratories and literature.

This dissatisfaction with infrastructure (schools and faculties) comes out clearly from the survey. Many respondents (27%) are unsatisfied with the hygiene and sanitary conditions of the schools, 23% with the space, classrooms and cabinets available. Hygiene and sanitation raise dissatisfaction especially with Kosovo-Serbs (40%) and Prishtinë/Pristina residents (42%). These issues are also rated by these same respondents as the ones requiring the most urgent attention.

"We must do everything outside the school yard. There isn’t a library - so the novels have to be bought. No computers and Internet either"
- Pupil, age 16, Prishtinë/Pristina

In the age of computers networked through Internet, the expectations of young people with regard to technical equipment and connection are inevitably high. One third of respondents indicate to have access to the school/faculty computer, but the proportion is much higher with Kosovo-Serbs (55%), and the Prishtinë/Pristina students (39%), and much lower with the adolescents aged 9 to 13 years (12%). Very few of these are however connected to the Internet in school/faculty. Only 10% of respondents had Internet access, although Kosovo-Serbs (17%) and Prishtinë/Pristina students (20%) have better access (see Graph 2.2).

This is obviously low compared to the expectations. Home-based Internet access is known to be very low¹⁷, so young people have no other choice than to go to Internet cafés. According to a study conducted with young people in 2002, 30% of them visit Internet cafés¹⁸.

**Graph 2.2 At your school/faculty do you have access, can use... (Percentage of YES answers)**

![Graph 2.2](image)

It is therefore not surprising to observe a low level of satisfaction concerning technical equipment in schools/faculties. On this issue, 36% of respondents declare themselves unsatisfied (22% of which are 'very unsatisfied'), the Kosovo-Serbs (49%) and youth aged 18-24 years (39%) being the most critical.

On other infrastructure related issues, the survey with young people shows that only 17% of the respondents have access to laboratory facilities. But compared to computers, Internet and labs, access to library seems to be better, with 46% of total respondents claiming to have access, a proportion that is specifically strong among Kosovo-Serbs (80%). Best of all is access to sports areas and facilities, where two thirds (67%) say they have access to them. Again, the Kosovo-Serbs have better access to those facilities (82%), as do the younger pupils aged 9-13 years (86%) and rural pupils (69%).
Teachers. Teaching and learning are the two most important activities of schools/faculties. The knowledge gained is a result of both and is perceived by young people to be generally adequate. Overall, the vast majority (90%) of the respondents surveyed are satisfied with the quantity of knowledge gained in schools/faculties. Females are somewhat less satisfied than males, older students less than younger pupils and Kosovo-Serbs less than Kosovo-Albanians.

Graph 2.3 How satisfied are you with “quantity of knowledge” regarding your school/faculty?

- This high level of satisfaction is due to many factors. The teachers’ conduct is one that is generally well appreciated, as 86% of respondents state they are satisfied with it. Dissatisfaction with teachers’ conduct is significant with Kosovo-Serbs (30%), Prishtinë/Pristina respondents (20%), and the students aged 18-24 years (11%). A large majority of respondents (79%) think that teachers/professors maintain a good professional level, although many Kosovo-Serbs (31%) and Prishtinë/Pristina respondents (17%) do not agree with this. Many respondents (72%) think that teachers/professors have a very authoritative behaviour towards them. Half of the respondents think that they lack motivation for their work. In focus group discussions, young people mentioned that the low level of salary paid to the teachers/professors is one factor for this lack of motivation. In the survey, this is singled out as the most urgent change needed in the school system. The fact that many good English language teachers turn to international organizations for work is an indicator of this problem.

“During these four last years most of the English teachers went to work as translators.”
- Student, age 22, Prishtinë/Pristina

One can see that the opinions are somewhat polarized regarding the performance of teachers/professors. In focus groups, the classification of teachers as “old” or “young” was often used and it may help explain this ambiguity. The “young” teachers are portrayed as those who communicate more with the pupils/students, who are therefore closer to them and who are more in favour of education reform. At the opposite extreme, the “old” teachers are distant, work with old methods, theorize and are “boring”. Although there is a definite bias towards the younger breed of teachers, there are some youth who wish to gain improved knowledge and experience from both generations.

Graph 2.4 How satisfied are you with …?

Regarding the methods of teaching and lecturing, most respondents (88%) feel generally satisfied, although it is felt less strongly by the older students, the Kosovo-Serbs and the Prishtinë/Pristina respondents. The methods of testing are also well-received, as 82% of respondents claim to be satisfied, with lower scores among Kosovo-Serbs, older students, and females. The methods of consulting are again perceived as satisfactorily, although this is felt less strongly by Kosovo-Serbs, older students and females.

Young people are more critical concerning the quality of what is learned. When discussing this issue in focus groups, they made the case for the lack of practical skills
learnt in schools. Over-theorizing causes monotony and work overload, according to students. They are concerned that this type of knowledge will not help them find employment on the job market. The survey with young people echoed this concern as 77% of respondents agree that school offers more theoretical knowledge and less practical skills. Male respondents, older students, Kosovo-Albanian and Prishtinë/Pristina respondents have the strongest opinion on this issue. A majority of respondents (62%) feel as well that the school literature is old and outdated.

"We learn only theories. No practical work at all"
- Employed, age 21, Prizren

This study shows that the students/pupils have a strong relationship with their school/faculty environment. On one hand, they show a great satisfaction with what resources they can access in schools/faculties, on the other they pinpoint the needs that are still not fully addressed or the flaws that need to be overcome. Although they call for a greater responsibility of teachers/professors in reforming the education system, young people do see the responsibilities matching their rights. Youth in Prishtinë/Pristina, for instance, insisted that they must actively participate in the changes, whether in the relation to the teachers or to the system as a whole. Young people from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, on the other hand, seemed to lack this urge to be part of the change taking place, overwhelmed by pessimism about their future.

One of the paths for change that emerges is a stronger cooperation between the school, parents and the community as a whole. Over half (55%) of the respondents agreed that the school is isolated from the community and that there is not enough cooperation with the parents. The focus groups raised the same problem and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology recognizes that a better connection between the school and the community is urgently needed. These suggestions are in keeping with lessons learned worldwide that building a fair society requires the active participation of youth, schools and the community.

In general, young people surveyed overwhelmingly (94%) think that it is worth getting an education. No significant differences appear among the categories of respondents on this judgement. But many (60%) think that the education they are getting in schools does not equip them for work and thus look to learn work-related skills outside of school.

Learning Elsewhere. Concerned by the problem of unemployment, many young people are preparing themselves by widening their work-related skills through training. Many respondents (39%), especially Prishtinë/Pristina respondents (60%) and older students (48%), have attended a course or some other kind of specialized training. Among the courses that have been attended by the respondents, foreign languages dominate (23%), then computer (13%), skill acquisition (4%), and professional courses (3%). Only five young people have taken any other kind of course. More females have been taking language courses (57%) than males (44%), but more males (56%) have attended computer courses than females (44%).

Some of the focus groups participants had a strong stance on the comparative value of

"I think that you can find a job more easily with a course than with a faculty degree, because one does not ask if you have a degree, but how much do you know..."
- Pupil, age 16, Pristina/Prishtinë

Graph 2.5 What course did you attend? (Multiple response)
school education and non-formal education. Though they do not deem logical to have to go out of school to learn computer or English skills, they feel that what can be learned in non-formal courses offered today is much more effective than in schools.

The survey respondents were also asked what they think are the courses most needed in Kosovo: 42% indicate that there is a great need for language courses, 37% for computer courses, 15% for skill acquisition courses, and 11% for professional courses. Around 60% of those emphasizing the need for language courses are from the urban areas. As for computer courses, around 60% are from the rural and 40% are from the urban areas.

**Conclusion.** The findings of this research show that young people in Kosovo have a generally positive perception of their education system. They are nonetheless critical about many aspects of it, such as the infrastructure, the quality of the curriculum, and the often authoritarian and unmotivated behaviour of the teachers. Although they do not yet appreciate the effects of the reform in education, they expect a lot from it. They have a constructive perspective on how this system can be changed, with their own involvement, and that of their parents and the community. The findings show that there are no major distinctions between the perceptions of the males and females on education issues. There are, however, some noticeable differences along the age, ethnic and rural/urban lines.

It is clear that the older they are the more critical and unsatisfied the students become on many of the issues raised here. These youth aged 18 to 24 years are now out of school, some of them at the university. They probably do not experience the effects of the reforms that are currently being implemented. They have acquired maturity and awareness of the discrepancies between what is available and what would be more ideal. Some of them have also been touched by the violent conflicts and may be disillusioned with the slow pace of social and economic recovery. All of these factors may explain their lower level of satisfaction.

Along the ethnic lines, one can easily observe that the Kosovo-Serbs are much less satisfied with their education conditions than the Kosovo-Albanians. This may in part be explained by the fact that the Albanians were, until recently, confined to parallel, home-based education structures, while today they experience more positively the resources offered through the schools. It may be noted that this discrepancy of perceptions is not even overridden by the fact that Serbs seem to enjoy better schooling conditions than Albanians. Again, the historical context helps explain this, given that education has been an enduring and valued feature in their community, not matched today by the same resources as it was in previous years.

Finally, young people from towns, and especially Prishtinë/Pristina, are confined to overcrowded and outmoded schools, but exposed to foreign standards. They therefore show much less satisfaction than their rural counterparts with the education system. The latter have received new schools and equipment during the post conflict reconstruction effort, yet they may be less in contact with the latest trends in youth services.
3. EMPLOYMENT
The labour market is a preoccupation for everybody in Kosovo, and it has implications for young people on at least two counts. The first is child labour, a situation that may be imposed on them and is very harmful. The second is whether older youth can reasonably participate in their own - or their family’s - livelihood through employment. In Kosovo, evidence suggests that both aspects are challenging: child labour is documented and the employment opportunities for young people - and their family - are dramatically low.

Child labour. The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that if someone is under 18, he or she should not have to do harmful or exploiting work. Work that damages health, causes physical or emotional stress, prevents a child from getting an education or from having time to rest and play is considered harmful. If a child is forced to work, is bought or sold, forced into prostitution, deprived of his or her dignity or not paid fairly for his or her work, it is exploitation.

In focus group discussions, participants were concerned by the work carried out by children of their age in the streets of Kosovo. They understood that the economic situation was causing this problem, but they thought the parents should not agree to it. They hoped some help could be provided to their parents to keep the children off the streets and wished for a law prohibiting child labour. The majority of respondents to the survey agree that a law should prohibit child labour (88%) and that the parents should not allow their children to work in the streets (86%). The Prishtinë/Pristina residents agree the most strongly on these issues (95-97%), while the Kosovo-Serb group agrees moderately (68-78%). All categories of respondents recognise quite strongly (92%) that the difficult social situation is a key reason for child labour, but not so many (60%) think that working on the streets leads the children to delinquent behaviours.

The findings of this research suggest that child labour should be prohibited by law, and measures should be taken to help poor families sustain their livelihood by other means. In another assessment of this problem, it was found that, unlike working children in other developing regions of the world, many working children in Kosovo have strong family ties. Most do not discontinue school and very few are without a shelter or live on the streets, and their contribution to the livelihood of the family is rarely seen as crucial. In comparison, the Roma, Ashkalia and Egyptian children have a different profile in that most do lose connection with schools. Therefore, any measures taken to control child labour should focus on ensuring school attendance, while working closely with the families to raise their awareness about child labour.

Employment. Young people have different reasons to be concerned with the labour market. If they are still living with their parents, then they generally depend on the family income to study or have a decent livelihood. If they are ready to get a job, then unemployment can block their desire for financial autonomy.
Unemployment is a problematic situation in Kosovo. Recent data shows that the unemployment rate is 63% for the group aged 15-24 years (see Graph 3.1)\(^\text{20}\). Even more troubling is the fact that females have a rate reaching 74%, and that this gender gap persists in the next age group (25-34 years). Data from another recent survey suggests that unemployment is even greater\(^\text{21}\). These unemployment rates are the highest in the region, and certainly in Europe.

Young Kosovars surveyed are generally worried by unemployment, with 70% claiming to be "very" and 17% "somewhat" preoccupied. The older youth is more aware of this problem (92%) than the younger adolescents (81%). However, it is surprising to see only 39% of the Kosovo-Serb respondents claiming to be preoccupied, while 91% of the Kosovo-Albanians say they are preoccupied. When asked if, given an opportunity to get hired, one would discontinue schooling to take the job, 20% of the respondents chose to potentially take the job, but this proportion jumps to 32% for Kosovo-Serbs and 36% for the group aged 19-24 years.

This ethnic divide appears again in the focus group discussions. Among Kosovo-Albanians, while the younger adolescents do not express a major concern about unemployment, it is quite the opposite for older youth, who say they are alarmed by the economic situation. Not only do they fear finding no work once they finish school or university, but they claim they cannot find part time jobs during their studies. It is not just the lack of jobs that bother them, but also the fact that the few jobs available are obtained mainly through family ties. Among Kosovo-Serbs, all age groups appear somewhat indifferent to the employment situation. They either work part-time during their summer holidays or do not wish to work, and they all believe that there will be plenty of jobs once they reach the labour market.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is trying to address the issue of youth unemployment by a work skills training programme. In cooperation with NGOs, they have already organized professional courses for auto electricians, hairdressers, etc. Social assistance is also provided to over 50,000 families that do not have any members employed.

**Conclusion.** The findings of this research show that young people are preoccupied by the social and economic situation of Kosovo.
They understand that this drives some families to let their young children work on the streets, but they resent this situation. They are also concerned by the labour market they will face once out of schools or faculties. Although females will encounter a much more unfavourable prospect on the labour market, they do not have different perceptions than males about employment issues. But the ethnic divide is deep: Kosovo-Serbs youth do not seem preoccupied by employment issues, while Kosovo-Albanians are very much so. Although the economic problems that are at play here go far beyond the reach of youth-centred policies, such policies should continue to foster the skills development of young people.
4. PARTICIPATION
The world increasingly recognizes the rights of children and youth and looks closely at how education, health and livelihood can be improved in order to sustain those rights. But the rights of children go beyond the issue of adults taking responsibilities for them: they also imply participation of the young people themselves. The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes their right to express opinions and be heard, to obtain and communicate information, and to form associations. Thus, young people are expected to take part not only in improving their situation, but also in changing the world globally. For this, they must organize, join together in associations and networks, reach out to their peers who are less likely to be heard, advocate for their rights, and sit down at the table with those in authority in the family, at school, in the community and in the nation. How far along are young Kosovars in achieving this mission?

**Youth organizations.** The rights of the children are formally recognised but young people must still raise their voices individually and through groups or organizations in order to see their rights adequately fulfilled. Democracy entails the interplay of many actors who organize collectively to make sure the rights of their constituents are taken into account by governing bodies and receive adequate responses and resources.

In Kosovo, democracy is quite new and civil society, which includes all those organizations representing diverse interests (youth, women, workers, ethnic minorities, artists...) is growing from very weak traditions in this regard. One of the first youth NGOs in Kosovo, called ‘Pjetër Bogdani’, was founded in 1993. It was followed shortly afterwards by the Group of Young Ecologists, in 1996. Most other NGOs started after the conflict, from 1999 onwards. Hence, youth NGOs in Kosovo have a very short history.

Kosovo has many youth NGOs which are active in different sectors such as media, advocacy, environment, health education, sports, gender equity, interethnic relations, humanitarian issues, human rights, and leisure. Most of the youth NGOs are members of “Rrjeti Rinor Kosovar” (Kosovo Youth Network) whose mandate is to coordinate and increase the cooperation among those organizations. It also tries to facilitate the funding of NGOs and plays an important role in advocacy and lobbying for the interests of young people. The Network is an official advisory organization to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Many of the NGOs consulted for this research claim to be lacking space and other resources needed to function. Most say they are self-funded and work on a voluntary basis. These conditions are a cause for inactivity for many of them.

After the end of the conflict in 1999 a series of youth centres were established in many towns of Kosovo with the support of international organizations. They made possible a wide range of activities such as language courses, computer courses, acting, dancing, skills-based courses, journalism, sewing, cooking, stonemasonry, and radio technicians. They were often instrumental in promoting sports and recreational activities, as well as different campaigns concerning health education, training of various kinds, seminars on drugs, HIV/AIDS and STIs, prostitution, etc. The centres provided an important network for youth mobilisation, served as training centres for non-formal education, and in some cases, promoted inter-ethnic activities among youth.

Today, the youth centres are facing the disengagement of the international funders and most of them are not successful in securing new funding from the municipal governments, with the exception of Gjilan/Gnjilane where the youth center was given the space by the municipal authorities. Many had to close down. Others had to change location and operate with reduced capacity. The impact of these changes is that many young people cannot access a space dedicated to them. The youth representatives show a strong sense of dissatisfaction towards the local governments and the regional Directorates of youth, especially in the municipalities of Prishtinë/Pristina, Prizren/Prizren, Ferizaj/Urosevac and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. They argue that the closure of a youth centre has the same impact on the community as the closure of a school. Only three municipalities appear to have positive relationships with youth groups in their communities: Gjakovë/Djakovica, Pejë/Pëc and Gjilan/Gnjilane.

On the other hand, young people and NGOs generally perceive the Ministry of Culture,
Youth and Sports, at the central level, as being proactive and open. This Ministry indicates that its main focus remains the making of a Law on Youth Empowerment and Participation, which is expected to be approved in 2004. It also strives to implement a training programme on “leadership based on values” for the institutions dealing with young people, and finally it tries to prevent the closure of youth centres in the municipalities.

Although there are many youth NGOs and youth centres across Kosovo, the sustainability of these organizations remains weak. They lack traditions of activism and depend on donor funds to operate. The regional level youth centres that concentrate their efforts on youth and provide them with a space of their own are of foremost importance if young people are to take part in civil society. This is where they can learn and put into practice democratic processes, where they can become fully aware of their rights and organize to promote them. Efforts by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports to keep the youth centres alive and running are positive, but must find similar support from the municipalities.

Youth and decision-making. Young people are divided on whether their interests and needs are taken into account in decision-making institutions in Kosovo. According to the survey, 43% agree that it is, while 45% do not think so (12% do not know). Nonetheless, young people are generally dissatisfied with the level of involvement they are able to have in decision-making. Less than half (44%) think that young people are active in the political process in general. But at the same time, some 55% think they do participate in making youth-related policies.

Those consulted in focus groups claim that leaders only listen to them during electoral campaigns. Otherwise, leaders prefer to tend to other ‘more important’ issues linked to the political future of Kosovo. Most youth, in particular in the Kosovo-Albanian regions, want to increase their participation, but in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica most participants to the Kosovo-Serbs focus groups bluntly affirm that they are not interested in taking part in society. All the younger adolescents consulted in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica express the desire to go abroad to earn some money then come back, although the older youth are divided on this issue of leaving.

The survey also asked young Kosovars to what degree they are involved in different decision-making processes. Less than 20% claim to be active members of political parties, fora, political organizations, youth centres, youth clubs or NGOs. Males are generally more involved (25-26%) than females (11-13%). The older respondents aged 18-24 years are more engaged in politically-oriented organizations, while those aged 14-17 years register in NGOs and sports’ clubs. The Kosovo-Albanians seem to prefer political organizations, while Kosovo-Serbs engage more in civil society groups. But participating may not be enough for many of these activists, because as many as one
third of them claim they cannot influence decision-making within their organization. The respondents were asked what they view to be the main sources of influence in decision-making. Most of them choose factors of an informal nature, such as family origin (80%), personal authority (77%), and personal relationship with the boss (67%) to be key sources of power. This opinion is very evident with those young people who are members of political groups or civil society activists. Many respondents (73%), especially civil society activists, also chose skills, work and dedication as key elements in decision-making. Unfortunately, the democratic structure of the organization is the factor that least accommodates decision-making (56%).

The survey also looked at specific areas such as the community, schools, work, NGOs, peers, and family to see how much the youth feel people listened to them. Surprisingly, given their focus on participation, the NGOs do not score very high (50%) as a place where their young members have a say. Around 60% of those who work feel their opinion is taken into account at their workplace. In the communities and in schools, around 65% of respondents feel that their voices are heard. But the places where young people feel that their opinion is most important are among friends (88%) and in their family (90%).

The findings of this research show that many young people do not feel that they are fully participating in decision-making in Kosovo. Although there is a strong minority who thinks that the interests and needs of youth are taken into consideration in politics, most are very critical of the leaders in this regard. But the political institutions are not the only ones to minimize the voice of the youth, as the NGOs are, quite surprisingly, considered to be somewhat indifferent to their opinion. In fact, very few young people are activists and most of them think that one needs to be within the right family or related to a leader to be able to participate in decision-making. There is obviously a lack of democratic culture that needs to be addressed at all levels of the society.

Youth and family. We have just noted that 90% of young people think their voice is heard in their families when important issues are discussed. The girls have a strong conviction that their voice is "very much" heard on important issues, higher even (58%) than for the boys (50%). This reveals a transformation in the mentality of the Kosovar family. In the traditional families, children were not invited with adult men to discuss important problems. It may also indicate to a progress in gender equity. The discussions in focus groups also indicate a shift towards democracy in the family. Young people say they can discuss many issues with their parents, although taboos remain around crucial issues like sex, drugs and early pregnancy. This change of culture is thought to be related to the new post-conflict environment, characterized by the development of a civil society and the influence of foreign organizations.

The survey findings show that almost all respondents will consult with their parents on issues such as family needs (94%), their future plans (93%), their health condition (92%), problems with their friends (86%) or at school (80%). Many will also discuss issues such as problems with professors (75%), their work (71%) or the selection of their partner (61%). But few will call upon their parents to discuss their sexual life (38%).

Recognizing this topic is an area of sensitivity for families - not just in Kosovo -, efforts to provide youth-friendly health services should be stepped up.

Youth and media. One final aspect of young people’s place in society is how they can access the media. Based on the survey responses, the media seem to be dedicating
considerable time and space to young people. Between one half and two thirds of the respondents claim that the media are providing sufficient attention to youth issues. The monthly publications (69%), the national TV (67%) and the local radio (65%) are the media raising the highest satisfaction rates. National radio (63%), weekly newspapers (62%) and daily newspapers (59%) are scoring a bit lower, while local TV (51%) is the least appreciated. One can observe that the Kosovo-Serbs respondents are generally half as satisfied as the Kosovo-Albanians for most of these media, except the daily newspapers.

Graph 4.3 Do you think that the following media are giving enough space to the issues of youth in Kosovo? (YES answers)

![Graph showing media satisfaction rates.]

The survey respondents were also asked to rate the influence of each type of media. The average scores vary from 60% of the respondents saying they felt influenced by local TV to 72% by monthly publications, with most other media scoring around 65%.

Conclusion. The findings of this research show that young Kosovars have been participating with other actors in the building of their society in the last five years. They have a small core of organizations that voice their concerns, but they need to build their capacity, to increase the number of young activists and to improve their democratic character. Young people came to like the youth centres that were established in the early 2000s with the support of international funds, and are today fighting to keep them up and running. They are encouraged by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, but the municipalities have not yet provided due support.

Individually, young Kosovars are quite critical of their level of participation in decision-making. Most of them think that the voice of the youth is not listened to in political institutions, and even in NGOs, but only 20% of them do engage in those types of organizations. They think that family and personal links are the key factors to access the realm of decision-making, and do not give too much importance to democratic structures in this regard. It is in the family that youth seem to be increasing their fair participation.

There are no major lines of division between gender or age groups on most of the participation-related issues raised here, although it was noted that males claim more than females to be members of organizations, and the younger youth activists seem more oriented towards NGOs, while the older youth activists are a geared more towards political organizations. The ethnic divide seems a bit stronger. The Kosovo-Albanian youth seems more interested in stepping up its participation in the society, while the Kosovo-Serbs seem somewhat resigned to the conditions in which they find themselves. Finally, the other ethnic minority respondents generally feel less listened to than the average Kosovar.
Conclusion

As Kosovo is striving to build a liberal and democratic society, this UNICEF-commissioned research takes a step back to assess how young people’s rights and needs are accounted for in this process. Surveys and consultations with young people aged from 9 to 24 years and people responsible for their wellbeing provide many reasons for concern.

Concerns. The physical and social environment where young Kosovars are growing up feature many risks to their health. Cigarette-smoking, drug use, alcohol consumption and pollution are the factors that raise the most concern among young people, although drug and alcohol consumption do not appear to be common behaviours among youth as yet. The issue of violence is still ambiguous: while many young Kosovars admit to its reality, nobody reports having a personal experience of it. Most young people claim to be aware of HIV/AIDS and STIs, but many still report risky behaviours. In general, males seem to be more prone to risky conduct, while females appear to be less aware of the health risk they encounter. To acquire more information or advice on health issues, most young people rely on their family, friends and sometimes schools, as health care services do not seem to be very youth-oriented at this stage.

In education, although the young people are fairly satisfied with the system in general, they are critical of the infrastructures, the curriculum and the unmotivated and authoritarian attitudes of some teachers. But they envision how change can happen, with a faster pace of reform, the involvement of the community and themselves. Young people worry that some children are working while they should be concentrating on their education and call for a prohibition of child labour. They also worry about the economic situation of Kosovo, which translates into scarce employment opportunities for them, particularly females.

In the past decade, young people have progressively been playing a role in building the new Kosovo society. Although they have been organizing themselves and networking, still only a minority participates in NGOs and political organizations, and most feel they are not fully listened to by these institutions. The young people are particularly annoyed by the recent retrenchment of Youth Centres throughout Kosovo, because of the lack of municipal support in many towns.

The perceptions and attitudes of the different gender, age or rural/urban categories of respondents to the issues raised in this research do not appear to be particularly unusual. But an ethnic divide stands out clearly. Young Kosovo-Serbs appear much more critical towards the institutions, less confident in the information sources and actions put forward for youth and less prone to engage in changing their environment. They often portray a gloomy picture of their minority community, featuring significant risk-taking behaviours concerning their health and wellbeing. Although the perspective of other ethnic minorities was not sufficiently captured by the surveys to be able to draw comparisons, it appears that they are generally less aware on health-related issues than the average Kosovar, that they tend to agree with the majority of respondents on issues related to education, employment, child labour and violence, and that they generally feel less listened to in the family, at school or in the community.

Happiness. Although this study stresses many problematic issues facing Kosovar youth, it also shines a softer and encouraging light on happiness. When asked "how they feel most often", a large majority (60%) say they "feel happy", one third (34%) say they "feel neither happy nor unhappy" and only 6% claim to be "unhappy".

The happiest category of respondents is the younger adolescents (77%). Males (62%) are slightly more happy than females (58%), Kosovo-Albanians (61%) than Kosovo-Serbs (54%), rural (60%) and urban (62%) than Prishtinë/Pristina residents (49%). Data
shows that young people in Ferizaj/Urosevac (71%) and Prizren/Prizren regions (67%) seem happier compared to the others, especially Pejë/Pe? (53%), Prishtinë/Pristina (55%) and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (56%).

Happiness is at its highest level among youngest respondents and gradually decreases as the respondents get older. Overall, the level of happiness does not differ significantly from the results registered in 2001 on the same question (63%)23. Hence, it can be argued that, even against the backdrop of the social changes over the period, the general picture of how young people in Kosovo feel has remained relatively stable.

What makes children and youth happy? It is most likely linked to relations within the family (37% cumulative percent), followed by being healthy (34%) and success in studying or work (32%). Unhappiness is mainly caused by the financial situation of the family (53%).

Directions for change. Young people are relatively happy, but nonetheless critical of many aspects that impede the full implementation of their rights. As their answers and points of view were analysed through this research, it became obvious that certain courses of action should be taken by policymakers and other leaders who are charged with caring about youth.

- Environment. Policy efforts on pollution and environmental protection lag behind the aspirations of young people. Specifically the younger adolescents show a stronger awareness to those issues and could be supported in transforming this awareness into action.

- Sexual and reproductive health. The lack of youth-friendly health care services appears as a factor for the persistence of risky behaviours among youth. Health care professionals are not sufficiently trusted. Such services should be offered.

- Campaigns against drugs and alcohol. The efforts put into raising awareness on abuse of drugs and alcohol seem to be fruitful as young people fear those problems, even if they say they rarely experience it. It may be an interesting model for other campaigns.

- Schools and community. One way to increase the pace of reform in the education system is to get the community involved. Young people hope this will help them be better prepared for the workplace once out of school.

- Child labour. Action against child labour must include raising the awareness of families that may authorize, rather than force, such exploitation. The importance is to focus on promoting school attendance.

- Unemployment. As the economic situation of Kosovo translates into tremendously high unemployment rates for youth, policies should focus on providing skills development opportunities for youth, particularly women.

- Youth centres. These organizations are highly valued by the youth and the municipalities should consider supporting the centres as a fulfilment of their responsibilities towards youth.

- Minority youth. Policy makers should pay close attention to the specific problems, or level of intensity of problems, confronting all ethnic minorities in Kosovo.
Annex A - List of people interviewed

Official representatives from:
1. Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sport
2. Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
3. Ministry of Health
4. Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
5. Kosovo AIDS Committee
6. Directorate of Youth - Prishtinë/Pristina
7. Directorate of Youth - Mitrovicë/Mitrovica
8. Directorate of Youth - Gjilan/Gnjilane
9. Directorate of Youth - Pejë/Peć
10. Directorate of Youth - Prizren/Prizren
11. Center for Protection of Women and Children-Prishtinë/Pristina
12. Handikos-Resource Center

Visits youth centres and youth organizations in several municipalities across Kosovo:

Prishtinë/Pristina:
1. Kosovo Youth Network
2. Youth Center
3. Action of Albanian Youth "Pjeter Bogdani"
4. Young Ecologists
5. Youth Center (IRC)
6. Youth Center "Rrze Dielli"

Pejë/Peć:
7. Youth Center (IRC)
8. Youth Center "Haxhi Zeka"
9. Youth Center

Gjilan/Gnjilane:
10. Youth Center (IRC)
11. Multiethnic professional organization "LANSDOWNE"
12. Multi-ethnic Children And Youth Peace Center (MCYPC)
13. NGO "Valet e Paqës"
14. Youth Center

Mitrovicë/Mitrovica:
15. Youth Center (IRC)
16. Civil initiative forum (CIF)

Gjakovë/Djakovica:
17. Youth Center - CARITAS
18. VITA

Annex B - Acronyms:

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IRC International Rescue Committee
MDGs Millennium Development Goals
NGOs Non-governmental organisations
PISG Provisional Institutions of Self-government
STIs Sexually transmitted infections
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIFEM United Nations Development Fund for Women
VCCT Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing
Based on UN definitions, young people are defined as persons aged 10-24, youth as 15-24 and adolescents as 10-19.


5 See Annex A for the list of people met during these site visits.


9 Laurie Lewis / UNFPA, Report of consultancy to analyse the Kosovo Demographic and Health Survey, Pristina, 2003


14 This number does not reflect the real frequency of violence in schools because the time when the survey was conducted was the end of the summer holidays


16 Laurie Lewis / UNFPA, Report of consultancy to analyse the Kosovo Demographic and Health Survey, Pristina, 2004.

17 According to an Index Kosova - MMS survey (July 2003), only 2.1% of the Kosovo-Albanian population has an Internet link at home.

18 PRONI / SIDA / Department of Youth, Youth in Kosovo, December 2002


21 Laurie Lewis / UNFPA, Report of consultancy to analyse the Kosovo Demographic and Health Survey, Pristina, 2004.

22 On the following survey questions related to youth participation, the group aged 9-13 years was not asked to respond.

23 In the 2001 UNICEF survey Young Voices, 63% of Kosovo-Albanian children aged 9-17 years affirmed that they generally felt happy.