



Republika e Kosovës

Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo

Qeveria –Vlada-Government

Ministria e Kulturës, Rinisë dhe Sportit –Ministarstvo Kulture, Omladine i Sporta
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

KOSOVO STRATEGY FOR YOUTH
2013-2017

Prishtina, February, 2013



Dear youth,
Approval of the Kosovo Strategy for Youth 2013-2017 and Action Plan 2013-2015 is a very meaningful step in our joint work toward empowerment of youth in the public life.

Youth is a national priority for a range of reasons, first of all being the great passion that it has shown continuously and for the valuable contribution that it has given in all developmental stages in the Republic of Kosovo.

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport (MCYS) has progressively increased the support to the youth and in particular in the last two years.

And the support is going to continue to grow in the future as well. Besides the direct support from the ministry's budget, we have had many joint initiatives with international partners, including World Bank, USAID, UNICEF, etc., by which we have managed to support the innovative ideas and projects of many young persons and youth organizations.

Many of them have obtained subsidies and grants for accomplishing various projects, and what is more essential, for opening new businesses, advancing existing ones and for professional trainings in various fields.

The approved strategy is going to advance the support further and there will also be other institutions that, together with the MCYS, are going to help in the development of policies for strengthening the role of youth continually.

This document may not address all the requests that may arise from each young person in Kosovo, but it is a realistic document that we can jointly put it into practice. I invite everyone, leaving aside the differences of any kind, to work for the empowerment of Kosovo youth, which undoubtedly is not only the future, but also the present of our country. MCYS will always be the main partner of youth for the achievement of these joint goals.

Sincerely,

Memli Krasniqi
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport



The Kosovo Strategy for Youth and Action Plan is a mid-term development guide of the Kosova youth for the period 2013-2017. This strategic document entails the commitment of the Department of Youth within the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, the donor community and all other stakeholders in the mobilisation of all resources, potentials and opportunities towards creating a more favourable environment for our youth and the commitment of its potential in the field of economic and social development.

Having into considering that the Kosovar youth constitutes the elite part of our society as in terms of its participation in society, respectively, in the total number of the population, as well as in terms of its strategic potential in the overall development of the country, it is an immediate need that for this potential youth, we provide conditions and opportunities to be an active and contributing part in all areas of the development in the country.

Through this strategy we aim to establish a joint synergy with all partners that in the direct or indirect way support youth activities, in order to jointly achieve our objectives in all areas related to the improvement of the position of youth into the economic and social life.

Furthermore we intend to strengthen youth organizations and through them to establish a permanent interaction and a bridge of cooperation between youth and decision making institutions, always in function of supporting the youth initiatives, where the Department of Youth will continually be an open door for addressing of all the issues related to the youth of Kosovo.

For their contribution in the development of this strategy, I would like to thank all of the working groups, representatives of the local institutions, the donor community, experts and representatives of youth organizations, for their continuous support during the drafting phase of this strategic document.

Sincerely,

Xhevat Bajrami
Director of the Department of Youth

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Xhevat Bajrami".

LIST OF ACRONYMS

MCYS	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport
DoY	Department of Youth
MDCYS	Municipal Directorate for Culture, Youth and Sport
WB	World Bank
EC	European Council
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MoH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
YC	Youth Centre
CCYA	Central Council of Youth Action
LCYA	Local Council of Youth Action
KSYAP	Kosovo Strategy for Youth and Action Plan
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
FE	Formal Education
IE	Non-formal Education
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
FSKP	Forum Syd Kosovo Program
KAS	Kosovo Agency of Statistics

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kosovo Strategy for Youth 2013-2017 and action plan 2013-2015 (KSYAP) is a broad strategy of Kosovo Government for the youth. It aims the improvement of the situation of the youth for age groups 15-24, including all relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions, whereas this is thought to be conducted through research and fulfilment of the needs of youth, finding ways and mechanisms for its participation in decision-making processes in Kosovo. Kosovo Strategy for Youth and action plan for 2013-2017 (KSYAP) shall induce the cooperation between youth organisations and Government, respectively, between all ministries, activities of which relate to youth, as well as between central and municipal organisms in order to empower youth policies and programs. This strategy is interrelated with other governmental strategies.

KSYAP is consisted of two parts: from the policy documents itself or strategy and action plan, which is enclosed to this document as an appendix. The latter includes a plan of activities foreseen in this period in accordance with areas mentioned below. Kosovo Youth Policy commences with a detailed definition of the youth situation in Kosovo, from the presentation of the youth attitude in “the call to make changes”, youth participation in education, employment, health and up to culture, sports and recreation, ranking in each the strategy objectives in six thematic areas that affect the life of a young person, such as: youth participation, education, employment, entrepreneurship, health, human security and culture, sports and recreation.

The key aim of all these subjects is the idea of approximation of Kosovo youth with the best European principles and practices. There is a pragmatic opinion that Kosovo youth are also European youth, and as such they must aspire to have same rights as elsewhere in Europe in view of education, health, human security, employment, sports, culture and recreation. Topics covered by KSYAP have incorporated the social inclusion (gender, ethnicity, rural/urban youth and other marginalised groups) as a general approach that is going to be taken into account during the implementation of the envisaged activities. Specific objectives, activities, responsibilities, budget values of KSYAP are more extensively displayed in the matrix of action plan for youth, where concrete activities are interrelated with measurable results and responsible institutions are identified for the necessary financing (See Annex YAP-Youth Action Plan).

Also one of the key aims of this Strategy is the support of youth in the field of innovation and creative ideas, a field which is considered as an important element that influences on provision of opportunities for youth, in the aspect of education, motivation of entrepreneurship and creation of opportunities for employment, growth of capacities and gaining knowledge in the field of information technology and other fields by creating new systems and applications that will serve not only for enhancement of youth knowledge, but also the Governmental Agencies of the Republic of Kosovo are going to be used.

The strategy contains 6 strategic objectives as follows:

- YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Increase of youth participation in decision making processes and significant inclusion of youth at sector policy making which directly influence at youth.

- NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Educated and ready young people for facing all life challenges, being conscious members of local and European community.

- EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Promotion of employment by training and supporting young entrepreneurs.

- HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

A youth aware of health protection importance for their individual and social welfare, and for their contribution as responsible citizens of the country.

- HUMAN SECURITY

A youth prepared to identify, prevent and address on time and effectively the risk that threatens the youth.

- SPORTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

Integration of the youth in social, economic and cultural life through various cultural and sports activities:

Analytical approach of data as well as comparisons conducted in research area obviously allow identification of problems, objectives, measures that should be taken as well as recommendation for certain solutions. Such a treatment of youth sector is done on bases of inter-social and specific policies led by MCYS, and it is in accordance with the programs and activities of this ministry.

II. INTRODUCTION

1. Need for a youth national strategy:

Kosovo's Youth Strategy 2013-2017 and Action Plan for 2013-2015 (KSYAP) aims the improvement of the situation of the youth, including all relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions, organisations and service providers for research and fulfilment of the needs of youth and finding mechanisms for its participation in decision-making processes in Kosovo

The strategy induces cooperation between youth organisations and Government, respectively, between central and municipal organisms in order to empower youth policies and programs. Youth action plan describes steps for realisation of objectives, implementation of strategies, definition of relevant stakeholders, responsible organisations and necessary financial means.

Kosovo Strategy for Youth and Action Plan is a strategic document which in its content involves vital interests and youth needs for the period of 2013-2017. Taking into account further needs and fulfilment of youths' requests, and presentation of those requests in new circumstances related to contemporary developments of youth in Kosovo, but also the finalisation of a successful conclusion of KSYAP 2012-2017, as well objectives met, a significant need is felt to proceed the way of advancement in continuing the youth policies, defining new strategic objectives and compilation of a new action plan.

The strategy is based on a wide consensus of all stakeholders on strategic objectives on basis of government priorities and youth needs as well as in existing laws and documents which authorise the compilation of national government strategies.

The strategic document treats nowadays concerns of the youth from age 15-24 and inter-sector policies in accordance with the applicable legislation of MCYS.

III. PRINCIPLES WHICH THE YOUTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN ARE BASED ON

Principles of KSYAP mean respecting equally all the youth and their rights in social, economic, education, religious and cultural spheres with a purpose of cooperation between the youth without ethnic distinctions in all state activities in accordance with European principles and values on human rights.

1. Principle of legitimacy

Kosovo Strategy for Youth and Action Plan is based on the Law on Empowerment and Participation of youth, sub-legal acts, relevant strategic documents of Kosovo government and universal principles on youth rights

2. Principle of participation

Compilation of the strategy is conducted through a wide system of participation that involves central institutions, civil society, national and international non-government organisations which act in Kosovo, and also international partners. Wide participation of interested groups constitutes one more distinguishing feature of this strategy. It constitutes one of the warranties of its success.

3. Principle of equal treatment

It includes youth support regardless of ethnic, gender, social background and respects especially support of the youth with specific needs and marginalised youth.

4. Principle of common attitude, share of experiences and responsibilities

Issues that concern youth are inter-sector issues, which are first and foremost the responsibility and obligation of line ministries and local governance, therefore, it is essential to exchange information, experiences and resources in order to meet objectives foreseen by strategy.

5. Principle on the right of information

Principle on the right of information means the right of the youth for information as well as access in information in all fields of their institutional interest.

6. Principle of compilation of strategy based on evidence

Youth issues change continuously, depending on actual trend and their needs. This strategy aims to support implementation of foreseen objectives and ongoing researches that

identify youth needs and allow the development of youth policies based on particular evidence.

7. Principle of sustainability

The strategy is conceived as a platform of goals which influences an active participation of interested groups in its implementation. Department of Youth (DoY) as a main responsible in cooperation with partners shall continuously monitor the implementation of the strategy.

DoY in compilation of strategy has paid additional attention for strategic and specific objectives, so that they would be defined, measurable and achievable.

IV. METHODOLOGY

1. Basic evidence and compilation stage

In the second half year of 2012, the Department of Youth (DoY) within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport commenced the development of KSYPA 2013-2017. This first stage aimed the elaboration of five written policies, which covered basic areas of the Department of Youth activities.

KSYPA is based on national and international documents, analysing different reports: internal work reports 2011 of MCYS, and other documents compiled by many institutions, such as the Strategy by MEST 2005 – 2015, the Work Strategy by MLSW 2010 – 2015, Strategic Plan by MIA 2007 – 2010, the EU Strategy 2010 – 2018, KAS, UNDP, BB as well as surveying youth organisations, learners and students, thus to consider many interests of the youth about multi-dimensional issues that concern them. In this process, DoY incorporated many interested parties for the development of Kosovo National Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2017. In this process attended: MLSW, MIT, MH, MEST, MAFRD, MIA, Kosovo Agency of Statistics, DCYS, CYAC, LYAC, Youth NGOs, World Bank, OSCE, UNDP/UNV, UNFPA, UNICEF, Forum SYD.

Draft preparation stage included a number of events, roundtables, workshops and meetings with relevant stakeholders in the field of youth. Kosovo Strategy for Youth and Action Plan takes into account 11 youth policy indicators elaborated by EC, EU and European Youth Forum. This stage characterises also the technical and logistical preparation and compilation of draft-document as well as budget cost that shall be presented in the action plan.

2. Consulting at local and central level

Although it has been compiled at central level of Kosovo by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, the Kosovo Strategy for Youth and Action Plan is an implementable document for the whole youth of Kosovo at local level, too. Consulting with the youth was developed in the preparation stage across municipalities, youth organisations, international organisations, with municipal officials of youth, as well as other interested youth who have

expressed their opinions and recommendations for particular problems which the youth of Kosovo are facing.

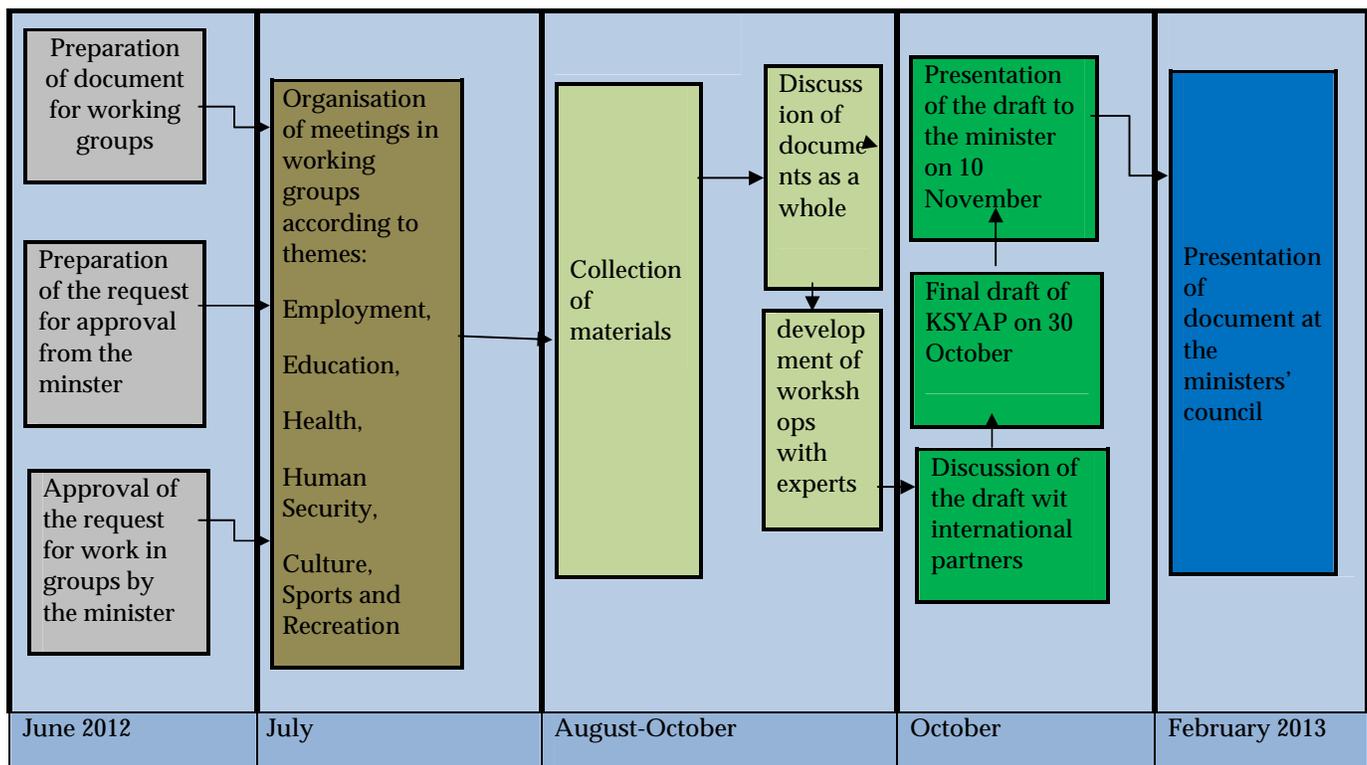
3. KSYAP and other institutional strategies

KSYAP is a document which interlaces different inter-institutional and inter-sector policies dedicated to youth development in order to advance the youth in Kosovo. Institutional connectivity means the common activities for youth support, which constitute the vital part of life in Kosovo and majority of state population.

KSYAP is in full harmony with other development strategies of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, and also in accordance with the short-term and mid-term plan of the state budget.

4. Scheme of activities in compilation of KSYAP

Review process of KSYAP 2013-2017



V. ANALYSES OF SITUATION:

Kosovo has an increasing population dominated by younger group ages. Men and women younger than 25 years-old represent 49 per cent of population, whereas 19.1 per cent of the youth are between 15-24 years-old.¹

Youth strategy in Kosovo treats integrated approaches for social, economic and politic participation of the youth in society, especially, in decision-making processes, formal and non-formal education in accordance with the demands of labour market, health services for the youth, higher security, employment and recreational activities for them.

Out of 200 respondents, it resulted that their interests are focused on the segment of formal and non-formal education; 75% of the respondents in this area stated that their priority is formal learning, whereas, 25% of them stated that also the non-formal education has an important role in their professional development. Their second priority is employment; about 70% of the respondents stated that they are more interested in employment, whereas, 50% of them ask for greater stimulation of the youth to establish businesses. However, it was stated that the exclusive support should be provided by state institutions, creating facilities related to establishment of new businesses.

1. Youth Participation

Law on Empowerment and Participation of Youth No. 03/L-145, “aims the advancement and continuous re-affirmation of youth participation in decision-making processes, without any distinction and exclusion, in the development of a democratic society, in order to improve the lifestyle of the youth and their social status”.

Moreover, this law obliges Kosovo institutions to ensure youth participation and also their appropriate influence on important decision-making processes affecting the youth. In addition, this law also details some of the fields where youth participation is mandatory, as in the following:

- education
- employment;
- public health;
- social issues;
- culture, sports and recreation;
- citizen education and democracy;
- environment, spatial planning and rural development.

All publications, reports and different researches in the field of youth indicate that youth participation and their influence in many important fields of their life is very low, symbolic, due to two reasons: in one side, limited possibilities of public institutions to involve them in these processes; and in the other, insufficient capacities of the youth and their organisations to become part of these processes².

¹ Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) the Survey of labour force (2007)

² See: MLSW, annual report on performance, 06/2010; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Strategic Plan 2007-2010; Ministry of Health, Sector Strategy of Health 2010-2014, Youth Volunteerism in Kosovo: an opportunity to learn , UNDP, 2010, Prishtina.

According to researches and different reports in youth sector, 88 NGOs of youth sector have been identified in 34 municipalities. Youth NGOs are important stakeholders for youth sector and they usually have close work relationships with municipal officials for youth and are included in the compilation of municipal plan for youth action. In many municipalities, DCYS manages activities of the youth in municipality through these NGOs. In general, 88 of youth NGOs are constituted of about 450 members; 61% of them are men and 39% are women. They are usually qualified professionals with university diploma (59%) or have finished the high school (39%)³

Also, there is a net of youth centres distributed in different municipalities. The intention of these youth centres is to provide a space for youth so that they can meet and socialize, provide cultural and sports activities, professional support of the same level for health and psychic-social issues, and also relevant trainings. 19 youth centres have been registered during the research in 17 municipalities (51% of municipalities). These youth centres actually act as NGOs. The process of opening youth centres in all municipalities shall proceed with the support of DoY, DCYS and international donators⁴.

Moreover, from conducted researches it results that advice of Local Youth Action Council (LYAC) is consolidated, and are considered as a part of civil society. There are 33 LYACs, which means that they constitute 89% of 37 municipalities, based on the results of the study. As it is seen, four municipalities do not have LYAC and they are usually new municipalities, smaller, or municipalities with greater percentage of Serbian population, but are in the process of establishment⁵.

In general, LYACs which have been registered during the study are constituted of 250 members; 38% of them are young women and 62% are men.

More than half of them are from 19 to 25 years-old. Around ¼ of LYAC members are under the age of 19, which indicates a great commitment by learners for youth issues at local level⁶.

Actual developments, as political, social-economic, cultural, immigration and emigration, poverty and other developments affect directly on the youth participation level, based on analyses deriving from different researches. Organisation of the youth is not satisfactory even at schools, public universities or private colleges, places in which better self-organisation is expected by youth, professing their influence in learning, culture or even leadership within these institutions, but this is not entirely their fault.

³ Empowerment and Development of Youth Sectors in Kosovo, Report of Fundamental Study GIZ-EDYK, SUM Consult GmbH
UBO Consulting Kosovo Skopje 2011, p. 29

⁴ As well

⁵ As well

⁶ Empowerment and Development of Youth Sectors in Kosovo, Report of Fundamental Study GIZ-EDYK, SUM Consult GmbH
UBO Consulting Kosovo Skopje 2011, p. 28

2. Non-formal education

Non-formal education field in our society in general during development has faced many problems. Majority of the youth have chosen formal education as the only way to progress in their career, since this has been formed on basis of the lack to provide adequate non-formal.

From the results of the research with group ages 15-24, accomplished by the sector of non-formal education within the Youth Department on the knowledge for non-formal education, in the first half year of 2012, it results that out of 100 respondents, 68% of them are not informed about non-formal education and its role in their career development. In addition, out of 100 respondents, who have benefitted from non-formal education, it results that 72% of them have had problems in acknowledging the values acquired from non-formal education.

Other factors that have had an impact in non-development of non-formal education were as a result of the lack of cooperation with interested parties for recognition of non-formal education.

Therefore, we shall facilitate the stimulation, recognition and estimation of non-formal education through promotion and stimulation of youth on non-formal education and meanwhile, informing all interested parties on the importance and estimation of acknowledging non-formal education.

One of the important elements that affect positively the non-formal education is the inclusion of the youth in innovative, creative projects, allowing them to engage directly in the implementation of projects, which has a positive impact in completing practical knowledge which the youth acquire during the normal cycle of education.

3. Employment and Entrepreneurship

It is estimated that in future five years approximately 200,000 youth will reach the age for employment and approximately 110,000 of them will enter the labour market, whereas, approximately 60,000 people will reach the age for retirement, during the same period of time. The continuous net growth in the supply of labour force shall further raise the need to create more work places⁷.

In the report of labour or performance of the Labour Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 06/2010 and 06/2011, it is underlined that they are continually facing the increasing scale of registrations of unemployed youth of the age from 15-24, approximately 1.8%, whereas other age groups are more regressive.

There are in total 325.261 people registered as unemployed in public employment services in Kosovo up to the end of 2011 – representing a decrease of -3.0% in comparison to 2010.

⁷Sector strategy 2009-2013, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Prishtina, June 2009, p. 9

Similar to previous year, the registered unemployed people present a registration scale of unemployment in average about 35-39% from economically active population⁸.

Consequently, these statistics present unemployment as one of the main challenges of the society in Kosovo. This scale of unemployment 37-41% is one of the highest levels of unemployment in the region and Europe.

Providing trainings to develop skills of the youth for life, so that they would be prepared for labour market, depends from the education system of a country, therefore, Kosovo as a new country cannot be detached from this conclusion. Trainings for increasing life skills of the youth to prepare them for labour market, and their professional training affects the growth and best possible use of human resources that our country possesses.

Apprenticeship at work is a measure of labour market which aims to provide the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the work environment for participants who seek to research or acquire relevant knowledge and skills required to enter a certain field of career. Apprenticeship at work is offered mainly to potential young people who enter the labour market and unemployed people. Economy of a country depends on the skills of its employees, but these are not acquired spontaneously.

In addition, youth business development (entrepreneurship) presents a particular importance in both, the creation of new work places and economic development in Kosovo. On the other side, incitement to create youth businesses produces premises for strengthening the youth capacities and induces the independence of youth from family and state.

In nowadays economic conditions, the youth encounter many difficulties to develop entrepreneurship activities. Lack of knowledge about the labour market; lack of information for the development of market circumstances, as the offer and need of labour market; inadequate education in entrepreneurship; lack of knowledge for the basis of law to deal with entrepreneurship; lack of project ideas to undertake initiatives for the establishment of a business; lack of self-confidence and entrepreneurship environment if it is possible to have success; lack of knowledge on loans and facilities provided by business banks. From this point of view, it is particularly important to provide support for new businesses in entrepreneurship, mentoring and instructions for new entrepreneurs as well as promotion and development of entrepreneurship culture.

The mayor number of SME founders, or 33.46%, belongs to group ages of 36-45, then 29.76% of founders belong to group ages of 26-35 and 22.48% of founders belong to group ages 46-55. Other part of founders belong to group ages of 18-25 (6.39%), 55-64 (7.02%) and above 65 years-old (0.89%)⁹.

⁸Department of Labour and Employment, Labour and Employment, annual report, Prishtina 2011, p. 8

⁹Report – Research of 800 Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Trade and Industry, p. 11, Prishtina, 2011.

Therefore, it is of crucial importance for Kosovo to invest a greater and more structured support, helping the youth with providing trainings for vital skill development so that they are prepared for labour market, work apprenticeship which aims to provide the opportunity to gain experience and inducing innovation for new entrepreneurs.

4. Education and health promotion

According to the research of ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs) conducted by EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drug Addiction), on health, education and health promotion, 40% of young people have used cigarette. Based on this, the prevalence is similar with the data of other European countries. Prevalence of consumption is three times higher with men than women.

Prevalence of consumption of alcohol and other drugs is about 23% among the respondents of 15 and 16 years-old, in which 35% are men and 15% are women.

Based on the results of the study: (Quick assessment and response 2008), accomplished by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, among the respondents of 15-24 years-old, it results that 5.5% of them are permanent drug users, 2.2% was for women. The young people who started to consume cannabis are of the age of 17, regardless of gender.

According to this research, as far as intravenous drug users of the age 19-49 are concerned, 85% of them are men and 15% women. Regarding intravenous drug users, all of them state that the age of injection for the first time was 14 years-old.

Regarding the reproductive health, a research has been accomplished by Kosovo Agency of Statistics so called "Demographic, Social and reproductive Health Survey" published in 2011, according to which 95.3% of women of 15-49 years-old have heard of any contraception method and 94.9% of them are familiar with at least one of the newest contraception methods. Around 23.2% of women of 15-24 years-old have used one of the contraception methods.

Republic of Kosovo is currently categorised in the group of states with low rate of HIV, the infection rate is below 1% of general population and below 5% of all groups threatened by the growing risk of HIV. A small percentage of Kosovars up to now have been tested for HIV and many other cases of HIV possibly have past unnoticed. Three percent of sexually active men (15-24 years-old, most of them unmarried) have stated to have had sexual intercourse with prostitutes in the last 12 months.

Specific data on suicides among the youth of 15-25 years-old, based on the statistics of Kosovo Police in 2012 (January-September), there were 8 suicides and 104 attempts to suicide, in 2011, 12 suicides and 171 attempts to suicide. In 2010, there were 12 suicides and 160 attempts to suicide.

It derives that it is of particular importance to treat health problems of the youth, as well as to provide them as many youth-friendly health services as possible.

5. Human security

Republic of Kosovo, despite improvements in the area of security and crime prevention, continues to face many challenges. Low social-economic indicators illustrate development contradictions of the country, which have generated not only the economic and social problems, but also problems related to crime and risks threatening the youth in the area of human security in Kosovo.

Statistic analyses of crime interrelated with security, based on Kosovo Police reports, highlights an improvement of the general situation in the area of human security, in comparison to 2008, whereas from 2009 up to 2011, there was an increase of 2% in the number of criminal offences reported at the police¹⁰.

However, the fact of some recently growing penal offences remains a matter of concern in Kosovo or persistency of the large number of reported cases, such as: traffic accidents which in 2010 were 18.030, whereas, in 2011 were 18.888, which means that there is an increase of 4.76% in comparison to previous year, trafficking in human beings, where in 2010 there were 28 victims from Kosovo, whereas in 2011 there were 35, afterwards, delinquency, aggravated thefts, especially suicides which have marked a drastic increase in recent years¹¹.

Different factors influence the youth security, such as economic, organised crime, threats and natural disasters deriving from human factor, which are indicators that increase the need to raise the component of youth security in Kosovo.

6. Social Integration, Voluntarism, Sports, Culture and Recreation

Social integration of the youth in KSYAP shall also be achieved through voluntarism, sports, culture and recreations, enabling the youth of Kosovo become a part of youth processes.

Youth activities raise the cooperation based on ethnic and cultural diversity, which help in information of the youth on values and common cultural wealth of Kosovo society.

Youth Department considers that volunteering, sports, cultural and recreational activities are very valuable instruments in reaching the goal for youth integration in social aspect.

Promotion and empowerment of voluntarism in Kosovo has many positive effects, which enable the youth to acquire significant experiences that can raise inter-ethnic cooperation among the youth of all Kosovo, then it facilitates a better cooperation among organisations (non-governmental, governmental, international) at local and central level.

KSYAP has a proactive approach in addressing and promotion of voluntarism amongst the youth in Kosovo and is one of the priorities for institutions, national and international NGOs at local and central level.

¹⁰ Kosovo Police

¹¹ Annual Report of Kosovo Police 2011.

7. SWOT-Analyses

<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal infrastructure; • Institutional infrastructure; • Institutional capacities; • Over 60 % of young age population; • Knowledge of foreign languages; • Comprehensive education and public and private infrastructure of completed education; • Studying outside the country and return of the knowledge in our country; • Apprenticeship at work; • Cooperation of DoY with VTC; • Strategic documents MLSW, MoH, MEST, MIA etc 	<p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with DCYS; • Insufficient stimulation of the youth for business; • Inadequate education programs for developments of labour market; • Inter-ministry cooperation; • Decision-making of the youth in central and local level; • Health insurances; • Support of the talented young people;
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build-up an infrastructure for the youth; • Improvement of legislation; • Encouragement of the youth on business; • Training to prepare the youth for labour market; • Inter-sector cooperation; • Cooperation with donators; • Services for the Youth; • Cooperation of DoY with QAP; • Organisation of non-formal education for the youth who have dropped out school; • Incitement of voluntarism; • Stimulation of DoY personnel. 	<p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development of the country; • Youth fund; • Small budget of MCYS/DoY; • Unemployment of the youth over 58%.

VI. STRATEGIC PERSONNEL – VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Vision

Kosovo Strategy for Youth appeals young men and women of Kosovo to become active, healthy, educated citizens, who enjoy a good and qualitative life and prepare to face all challenges of life as responsible members of local, regional, European and world community.

2. Mission

Strategic mission of Kosovo and of youth action plan is to support the youth of Kosovo in realising their vision, taking care of their health and security, providing a qualified and comprehensive education, creation of opportunities for a good work, active citizen participation and support for the full realisation of passions and aspirations of their life.

3. Strategic Objectives

3.1 Youth participation

Strategic objective – Increase the youth participation in decision-making processes and greater involvement of young people in sectoral policy-making which directly affects the youth.

Improvement of youth participation in important policy-making processes at central and local level, which positively affects in addressing problems faced by the youth in Kosovo.

Consolidation/functioning of KVR in increasing youth participation in decision-making and policy-making processes.

Support of municipal youth sector is of particular importance for a more advanced functionalism of youth sector at local level.

Functionalization of applicable legislation for youth ensuring that institutional mechanisms for the youth are implemented properly by responsible bodies.

Increase of youth organisation capacities and development of youth services so that through strengthening the organisation better youth services will be developed, too.

Establishment of Youth Centres as well as improvement (strengthening) and spread of the range of youth services in Youth Centres are priorities, making efforts that the youth infrastructure has significant improvements.

Networking and international cooperation serving as a mechanism for future international cooperation so that the youth sector of Kosovo approximates to regional and international level.

3.2 Non-formal education

Strategic objective – Young people educated and ready to face with all challenges of life as responsible members of local and European community.

The infrastructure on promotion and influencing the non-formal education shall be established via this strategy, based on earlier experiences of DoY as well as on the needs of young people as a way to alternative advancement in their career.

In addition, recognising the non-formal education is very important as it includes recognition of provided values by non-formal education for the youth in our society. Recognition constitutes of institutional, social, formal recognition processes and recognition of non-formal education itself.

3.3 Employment and Entrepreneurship

Strategic Objective – Establishment of opportunities for employment of young people through training programs and financial support for young entrepreneurs.

Employment and entrepreneurship program shall involve establishment of employment opportunities for young people by providing trainings on the development of life skills to prepare them for labour market.

Moreover, the youth shall be provided with educational and professional trainings. This shall be achieved through implementation of cooperation programs with relevant institutions in order to affect directly the youth employment.

Practice at work is a measure of labour market aiming to provide opportunities on gaining valuable experience in working environment for participants who seek to research or acquire respective knowledge and demanded skills for entering in a certain field of career. Practice at work is usually provided to potential young people who enter the labour market and to unemployed people. This shall be achieved in cooperation with public, governmental and non-governmental institutions, youth structures and private sector, in order to develop apprenticeship work and seasonal work schemes.

Entrepreneurship with young people shall be encouraged and stimulated through organising training programs for young entrepreneurs in order to realise innovative ideas and development of new businesses.

In addition, Entrepreneurship may be stimulated via active and direct inclusion of youth in various programs that support and promote entrepreneurship culture which can lead towards business initiatives (new starter and innovative businesses).

3.4 Education and Health Promotion

Strategic Objective – Making young people aware of the importance of health care for their individual and social welfare, as well as their contribution as responsible citizens of the country.

Strategy shall aim in promotion of a healthy way of living and creation of behaviours which will help the youth health care. Despite this, a close inter-sectoral cooperation with interested parties responsible for the health of youth is aimed, since activation of different mechanisms at central and local level are needed for the fulfilment of this objective.

Also the improvement of health services for youth shall be aimed within these frames; though increasing the quality of services and information of the youth about the way to access these services.

Development of policies based on evidence for requests and needs of the youth is aimed to be achieved through existing data and researches that shall be conducted during the implementation of this strategy. Through researches, the situation in work field shall be identified and adequate necessary measures shall be placed for its improvement.

Moreover, this strategy aims in implementation of contemporary health education standards, thus the frames that enable young people to become contemporary educators, informed and capable to transmit ones knowledge to other young people shall be explicit. Provision of a fundamental service package for reproductive health supplied with information and safe education for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS shall be fulfilled, thus establishing a synergy of internal and external cooperative recourses with Health Education and Promotion Sector.

The objective of this strategy is making young people aware of the importance and consequences in consuming substances that cause addiction, carrying out preventive measures through implementing applicable laws, as well as, close cooperation with line ministries and other coordinative mechanisms.

The need to increase training capacities via increasing the level and quality of trainings, strengthening the cooperation with existing youth infrastructure, and also implementing standards in this direction is an immediate need for meeting this objective.

Advocacy in establishing a fund of public health insurance was an immediate need, particularly upon the raise of the number of young people who suffer from severe diseases.

Environment protection and its impact on health is aimed to be implemented in cooperation with human security sector in order to treat this issue from health education aspect and the risk of environment pollution. Since diseases related to polluted environment are preventive and are a priority of public health in all over the world, the support of initiatives and awareness of young people of the importance of environment protection and establishment of sustainable systems of waste management are of crucial importance for the welfare of population.

3.5 Human Security

Strategic Objective - Young people ready to identify, prevent and address effectively and on time the risks they are threatened of.

Through this strategy, particular actions shall be undertaken to prevent delinquency and other forms of crime, in which mainly the youth are victims. This shall be achieved through fields oriented in accordance with the recommendations derived from activities developed in the area of human security since 2010-2012. A close cooperation with security institutions shall be made in order to fulfil this objective successfully, thus preventing and protecting the youth in Kosovo from negative phenomena such as delinquency and other forms of crime, in which the youth become victims or participants in illegal actions.

In accordance with the concept of this strategy, human security shall be focused in promotion of inter-ethnic dialogue in order to raise youth security as well as coordination of activities at local and central level to improve the youth security.

Research and surveys on youth security shall focus on identification of motives which induce young people to become victims of abuse or ill-treatment by different illegal groups.

Cross-border cooperation on security issues for youth and promotion of free movement is focused on the awareness of the youth of risks and consequences of contraband and cross-border trafficking of human beings especially young people. In addition, it shall be evoked for the lack of free movement of the youth of Kosovo in relevant national, regional and international forums.

As human security looks for the true meaning of human rights through transmission of knowledge, skill development and dimension of behaviour formation, it raises the awareness of young people on protection of human dignity and security. These results shall be achieved in the area of human security through promotion of international instruments and national legislation on human rights, particularly, on protection of young people.

3.6 Social integration, Voluntarism, Sports, Culture and Recreation

Strategic Objective – Raise of the level of social involvement in social life as well as development (organisation/performance/implementation) of different cultural, sports and recreation activities for young people.

Social integration of the youth of Kosovo has not been treated up to now in a planned and organised manner, however, on basis of the needs of time, it was always part of regular activities implemented in the area of youth. This was another problem, because issues had not been treated properly, therefore, this objective aims to address issues properly and in a planned manner.

In the other side, the large number of young people who are not involved in any activity, or have limited access in youth activities presents a big concern, therefore there is a fundamental need for a better structured policy.

General cultural and sports activities of the youth shall be supported; including also activities outside the school program, as well as activities within the youth month such as traditional activities which are organised for the youth for ten years now shall be supported.

Exchange of experiences among young artists and sportsmen-women shall be supported at international level, so that young people of Kosovo may become part of youth and international processes.

Dropout awareness

Support of good voluntary work practices, engaging the youth in provision of voluntary services in order to gain experience and humanitarian values.

Raise of inter—ethnic social cohesion among the youth so that the youth of different communities join together and cooperate for a mutual future.

Inclusion of young people from rural areas and young women with limited (little) opportunities for economic and social activities

Encouragement of greater inclusion of disabled young people in broad social-economic activities.

VII. CONSIDERED ALTERNATIVES OF STRATEGY

Strategic objectives intend to advance generally the role of the youth in Kosovo society, equal treatment of all young people and advancement of the youth issues in different fields of young peoples' life.

KSYAP in its action setting treats all vital issues for young people, pursuing primary care on the life of young people and helping them to benefit and prosper their non-formal education status, promotion and training in entrepreneurship area, stimulation of employment, promotion and health education, security issues, recreation, entertainment and sports.

Treatment of youth issues is accomplished through addressing youth problems, providing development perspective of welfare and formation of their independent personality in actual circumstances of youth action, taking into consideration youth needs on basis of their requests.

KSYAP provides sufficient and sustainable alternatives in dealing with youth problems, which enables advancements in many areas or social dimension, providing development and perspective for all young people in the area of European integrations and values. Raise of youth rights in the level of state priorities clearly indicates the engagement of institutions to support young people. KSYAP treats adequately the processes which the youth of our country is undergoing in.

KSYAP through its objectives uniquely presents problems and engages in possible and realisable alternatives in actual circumstances of our country, including access towards them: in raising youth capacities, infrastructure, affirmation of the role of young people and young employers, continuous and broad education in providing education and promotion of their youth values in educational dimensions, from the field of non-formal education, management and creativity of young peoples' entrepreneurship, stimulation of employment, equal social involvement of all young people, and providing a range of necessary information which assist in formation and preparation of young people for other cycles of life.

Alternatives presented in KSYAP shall change the lifestyle of the youth in the succeeding period, stimulating their creativity and productivity in generating knowledge and their general preparation to build up authentic individual and collective values, and also pragmatic approach towards developments of different social phenomena, and their adaptation in accordance with actual circumstances.

Proposing a range of alternatives which derive from the analyses of actual situation is manifested in finding adequate solutions to youth problems that are summarised in detail also in the action plan. Meanwhile, the implementation of specific objectives are reflections that are expected to take place in following periods through activities that shall be undertaken to improve the actual situation of young people in the following period.

Alternatives considered through KSYAP, also bring objective opportunities for positive changes in the youths' lifestyle, including wide areas of social and economic developments of the country.

These alternatives affluence general institutional engagements on youth integration in European Union with the motto "young people of Kosovo in action", ready to join European youth developments, therefore, these objectives aim the youth development and empowerment of their influence in institutional life of our country.

VIII. STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Role of monitoring system

Strategy implementation shall be a process of meeting strategic and specific objectives. Monitoring and evaluation of the fulfilment of objectives and effectiveness of respective activities are an integral part of strategy and main components of the process of its implementation. Monitoring and evaluation shall serve to follow up the progress of strategy, measure the scale in process of the fulfilment of its objectives, evaluate the need and define arrangement directions, particularly, in relation with activities. The monitoring process shall be accomplished by DoY and responsible institutions with wide participation of interested groups.

Monitoring and final evaluation of Strategy and YAP is an integral part of duties and responsibilities of divisions within the Department of Youth. Evaluation process shall be accompanied also with the raise and strengthening of institutional capacities of officials for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy and action plan for young people who shall be a part in the implementation of this Strategy.

Main areas of monitoring and evaluation of the strategy are as in the following:

1. Institutional capacities for implementation of KSYAP,
2. Information resources and measuring tools,
3. Distribution and use of monitoring and evaluation results.

Information resources

2. Institutional capacities for monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation system shall expand in all relevant and responsible institutions for fulfilment of the objectives defined in the Strategy and Action Plan

DoY is the principal carrier and responsible for fulfilment of the objectives. It shall monitor the most important indicators referred to strategy implementation. In the end of each year, DoY prepares a progress report on the scale of fulfilment of objectives, then publishes and announces it to all interested governmental and non-governmental parties.

Ministries involved in working group (MEST, MEF, MESP, MLSW, MoH) shall report on monitoring and evaluation of activities which are carried by these ministries or their subordinate institutions. These institutions shall report periodically beside DoY, so that the reports will be unified. Moreover, all relevant institutions involved as bearers or partners in YAP, shall be included in the monitoring and evaluation process of the Strategy.

Non-governmental organisations shall take place in monitoring and evaluation of strategy in joint roundtable meetings that shall be organised by DoY. In these roundtable meetings, the civil society shall present reports which refer to projects and programs for young people, which were implemented by them.

3. Distribution and use of monitoring and evaluation results

Monitoring and evaluation results shall be distributed in order to announce the progress of KSYAP in achieving its strategic and specific objectives. After the compilation of progress reports, based on the data and observations, they shall be distributed through users, which are as in the following:

- State, central and local institutions,
- Civil society,
- International partners,
- Media,
- Wide public.

Department of Youth shall be the principle responsible for distribution of the results. In addition, announcement of the results shall be realised through media or through organising seminars and roundtable meetings, to issue conclusions referring to the progress of strategy, engaging in particular the civil society.