

# VOICES OF YOUTH 2024

Consolidated  
report on the  
quantitative  
and  
qualitative  
research



## RESEARCH INTO YOUTH IN BIH



# **VOICES OF YOUTH 2024 IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

***Consolidated report on the quantitative and  
qualitative research***

Sarajevo, November 2024.



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Voices of Youth (VoY) initiative, established by UNICEF in 1995, aims to involve young people in policy creation at both global and national levels. Over the years, VoY has evolved, leveraging social media and digital technologies to connect with young people. The initiative includes surveys to understand the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours of youth, ensuring their voices are heard in policy development. The 2024 VoY survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is the fourth wave, following previous surveys in 2008, 2011/12, and 2016. This report presents the findings from the 2024 survey, conducted online with 2,163 young people aged 15-30 (9% belongs to vulnerable groups: Roma, youth with disabilities, or members of LGBTIQ population).

The 2024 VoY survey employed both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative data were collected through an online survey, promoted via social media, civil society organizations, and universities. The sample included 2,163 respondents, with a focus on both the general youth population and vulnerable groups such as Roma, youth with disabilities, and LGBTIQ youth. Qualitative data were gathered through 11 focus groups in five cities, providing deeper insights into the survey responses.

The 2024 VoY survey reveals several key findings across various domains. In terms of general information, youth in BiH show increased knowledge of foreign languages, particularly English and German, compared to 2016. The trend of youth living with parents remains high, with a notable decrease in marriage rates and childbearing compared to 2016. Vulnerable groups, especially Roma and

youth with disabilities, are more likely to be in relationships and have children than the general youth population.

The 2024 data reveal a stable trend in educational attainment levels compared to 2016, with a slight increase in secondary education completion. Vulnerable groups, particularly Roma youth, show higher tertiary education completion rates. However, youth with disabilities and LGBTIQ youth often complete shorter tertiary programs.

Regarding the job market, youth in 2024 find jobs more quickly than in 2016, with an average job search duration halved. However, vulnerable groups, especially youth with disabilities, face longer job search periods.

In terms of socio-economic status, the perception of conditions for life success has shifted in 2024, with less emphasis on political connections and bribes compared to 2016. Vulnerable groups, especially LGBTIQ youth, still face significant social distance and discrimination.

Youth participation in decision-making remains low in 2024, with a slight increase in voting rates compared to 2016. The overall influence of youth in local decision-making processes remains limited, highlighting the need for greater inclusion and empowerment.

The trend in 2024 shows a higher percentage of youth owning passports and willing to leave Bosnia and Herzegovina for temporary work or study compared to 2016. Vulnerable groups, especially LGBTIQ youth, express a stronger desire to emigrate.

Concerns about climate change is particularly emphasized by youth in 2024,

with vulnerable groups, particularly youth with disabilities, expressing higher levels of concern. The trend shows a consistent perception of social exclusion and discrimination, with vulnerable groups experiencing these issues more acutely. Trust in law enforcement and access to recreational resources have declined compared to 2016.

Youth in 2024 report higher levels of depression symptoms compared to 2016, with LGBTIQ youth experiencing the highest rates. Vulnerable groups, especially youth with disabilities, report lower engagement in recreational activities. The trend indicates a need for better mental health support and more inclusive recreational opportunities.

To improve the position of youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina it is necessary to

enhance quality of education, along with improving access to those most vulnerable, promote easier transition from education to work, increase access to employment opportunities through aligning education with the labour market needs, and increase youth participation in decision-making and promote volunteering. Systemic change should be focused on social inclusion by promoting tolerance and improving social services, enhancing mental health through better access and awareness, and facilitating mobility with more study and work abroad opportunities. Additionally, it is necessary to build trust with law enforcement and reduce exposure to violence, and to tackle climate change through education and sustainable practices.

# INTRODUCTION

VOICES OF YOUTH (VoY) initiative represents UNICEF's model for involving young people in the creation of global and national policies. Since the establishment of the initiative in 1995, when it served as a platform for 3,000 young people from 81 countries to convey their messages to world leaders at the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen, VOICES OF YOUTH today represents a global brand for monitoring youth voices.

Over the years, [\*\*VOICES OF YOUTH\*\*](#) has evolved. Through social media and digital technologies, VoY is connected to UNICEF's [\*\*U-Report\*\*](#) a digital platform that young people use to point out their problems and topics that are of interest to them.

The initial and very important part of the VoY initiative is conducting surveys on the knowledge, attitudes and behavior of young people. Conducting the survey aims to ensure that the voices of young people are heard and taken into account in the development of policies, programs and opportunities for young people, which are sensitive to their needs and aspirations. The goal is to encourage more inclusive and active participation of young people in society. It is crucial to understand and monitor the needs and opinions of young people in the light of current local and global trends in order to effectively design interventions and contribute to the development of the country.

To date, four rounds of VoY research have been completed in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The initial VoY survey was conducted in 2008<sup>1</sup> (first wave), 2011/2012 (second wave), 2016 (third wave) and 2024 (fourth wave).

This research provides results of VoY 2024 data collection. VoY investigates various important topics related to young people: education, employment and work, social protection, active participation in society, mobility and security. The first three waves of quantitative data collection for VoY in BiH are done using the computer-assisted personal (face-to-face) interviewing (CAPI), while in 2024 data are collected through online survey that is shared with the audience through multiple channels (social media campaign, contacts with organizations working with youth and universities). Some of the differences presented in the report are largely affected by differences in experiences and context of youth randomly selected and those who are more active in the online and offline world.

The continuous collection of data through the VoY survey in BiH enables the monitoring of changes in the experiences, attitudes, opinions and overall aspirations of young people in BiH. By including youth perspectives, VoY provides important information that serves as a basis for youth-sensitive policymaking and program formulation to organizations such as UNICEF and other UN agencies. At the same time, the research enables local authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to integrate the needs of young people when formulating policies and programs in the country.

The 2024 wave was conducted in the period August-October 2024 on an online sample of 2,163 young people, aged between 15 and 30. The sample is not representative (there were

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<sup>1</sup> Data from the report on Youth Status collected through the research "Youth policy 2008-2013" conducted by the Commission for Coordination of Youth Issues of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Implementation of the research is supported by the German International Cooperation Society (GIZ)

no random selection of respondents, unlike previous waves) and is biased for youth with higher engagement with social medias, faculties and civil society organizations. One part of the sample (N=1972) comprised young people from the general population, while the other part consisted of young people belonging to vulnerable groups (increased exposure to social barriers and challenges): Roma population (N=37), youth with disability (N=59), members of LGBTIQ population (N=87) and youth with disability that are members of LGBTIQ population (N=8).

This report presents the results of the 2024 research and, for the purpose of comparison, utilises the results of the research conducted in 2008, 2011/12 and 2016, where collected measures are comparable.

To better understand the importance of responses provided to online survey 11 focus groups were conducted as part of the VoY 2024. The qualitative research was conducted in five cities: Mostar (1), Tuzla (4), Banja Luka (2), Brčko District (1) and Sarajevo (3). Three focus groups in Tuzla are organized with primary school age children (aged 10 to 14), one focus group in Sarajevo is organized with members of Roma population (N=4). In Banja Luka, three focus group participants were persons with disability (sensory). One interview is held with the member of LGBTIQ population.

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

## METHODOLOGY OF THE QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

### *Data Collection Methods*

Quantitative data are collected using the online survey (see Annex 1 for details of the questionnaire), designed in four languages (Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian). To ensure successful engagement of youth from BiH, CREDI employed the following strategies:

- Social media campaign,
- Reaching out to civil society organizations working with youth and vulnerable groups, and
- Reaching out to public institutions working with youth (public universities).

### Social Media Campaign

The social media campaign was coordinated by Radio Kameleon, Tuzla. Radio Kameleon created original content for social media platforms including four PR texts with visuals adapted to different social networks Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and for digital media dissemination.

All posts were reposted through Radio Kameleon's social networks as well.

### Civil Society Organizations

CREDI reached out to well-known civil society organizations (CSO) with youth and vulnerable groups with the request for them to reach out to their members and ask them to fill up the questionnaire. The list of reached CSOs included identified 125 associations that were disaggregated in five groups: international organizations (7), national organizations (36), youth associations (44), Roma associations (8), and associations/unions of persons with disability (30).

### Public Institutions

The following Universities in BiH were also reached, asking them to disseminate the questionnaire with their students:

- University of Tuzla,
- University of Sarajevo,
- University of Banja Luka,
- University of East Sarajevo,
- University of Zenica,
- University of Mostar, and
- University of Bihać.

Three separate links for online questionnaire were used (social media campaign, CSO organizations and universities) to be able to compare results (number of youth filling out the questionnaire) as per different data collection approaches. The most successful approach for engagement of youth to fill the online questionnaire was through CSOs working with youth (about 80% of filled questionnaires).

## Sample

The sample was a non-probability convenience sample, hence the results are biased toward youth using the social medias (Facebook, Instagram), are more active in their communities (members of civil society organizations and are affiliated with the organizations of persons with disability or Roma associations) or active students.

About 67% of respondents were females. About 200 respondents (8.8%) reported to belong to one of the vulnerable groups (Romas, people with disability, LGBTIQ or combination of vulnerabilities). The group labeled with general population does not comprise members of the vulnerable groups, however, some members of that group could also carry other types of risks (physical and mental health, economic standard, etc.).

About half of the respondents are of the age group from 15 to 20, and only about 15% in the age group 16 to 30. Most of the respondents are from Federation of BiH (app. 81%) and most declare to belong to Bosniak ethnic group (app. 62%).

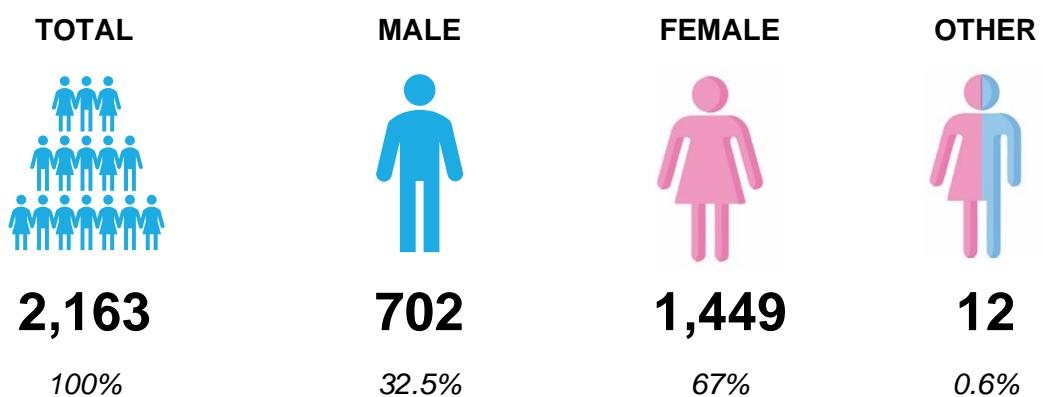


Figure 1 Number of youth by gender

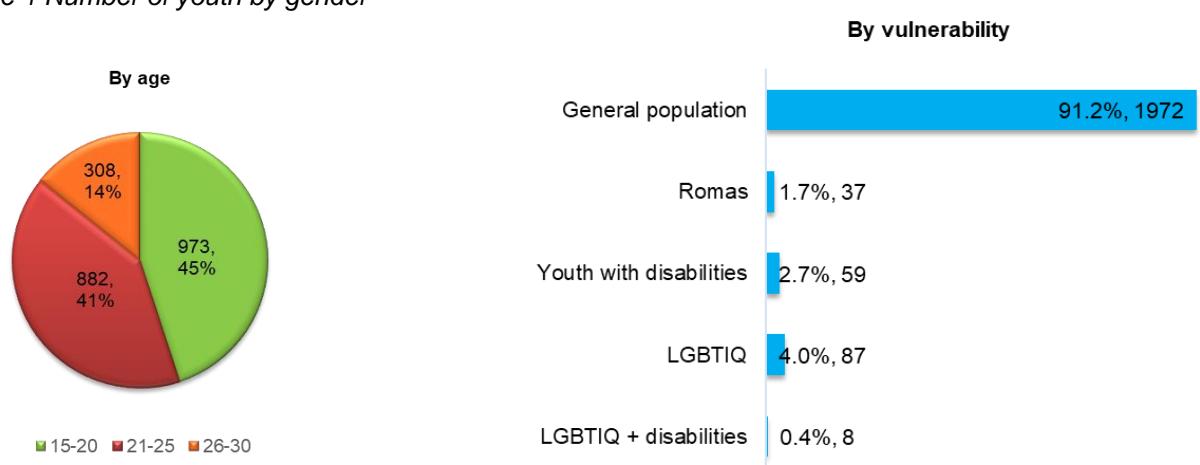
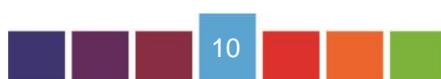


Figure 2 Number of youth by age and vulnerability



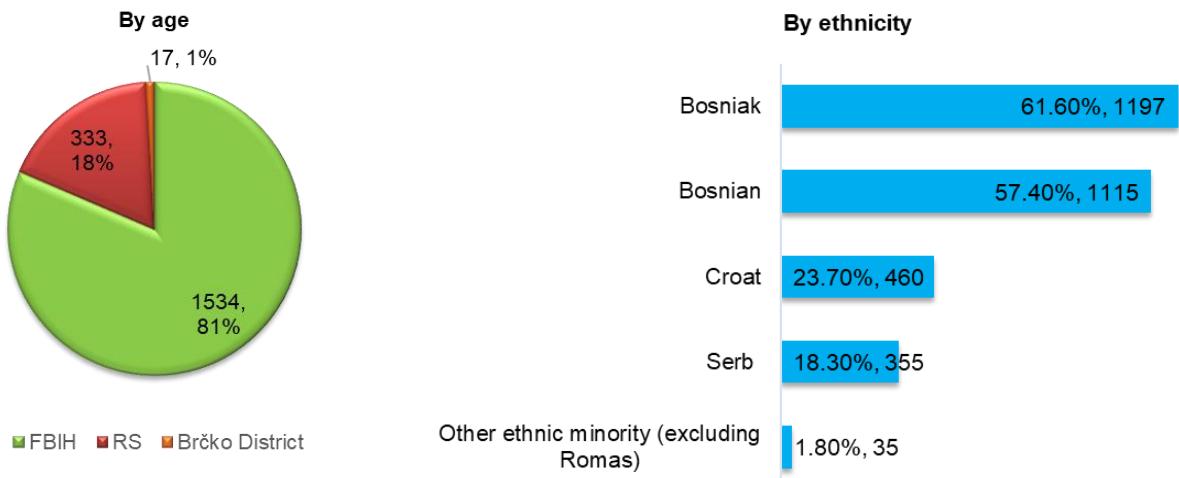


Figure 3 number of youth by entity and ethnicity

## METHODOLOGY OF THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

To better understand the importance of responses provided to an online survey 11 focus groups were conducted as part of the VoY 2024. The qualitative research was conducted in five cities: Mostar (1), Tuzla (4), Banja Luka (2), Brčko Distrikt (1) and Sarajevo (3). Three focus groups in Tuzla are organized with primary school age children (aged 10 to 14), one focus group in Sarajevo is organized with members of Roma population (N=4). In Banja Luka, three focus group participants were persons with disability (sensory). One interview is held with the member of LGBTIQ population.

Focus group guidelines are provided in Annex 2 (with population 15 to 30 years of age) and Annex 3 (population 10 to 14 years of age).

Participants of the focus groups are mostly proposed by the CSOs working with youth from targeted locations. In order to ensure active participation of all participants, maximum number of participants per focus group was 12. At the locations where two focus groups are organized, participants were segregated into two groups. First group included participants aged 18 to 24, and second 25 to 30 to ensure similar level of reasoning and similar challenges in life. Participants of the focus groups with children 10 to 14 years of age are proposed by the administration of three primary schools from Tuzla Canton.

The focus groups were led by moderators with senior level of experience in focus groups facilitation on sensitive topics or with vulnerable groups. Groups were organized in places easily accessible to the participants (schools or civil society organization premises). The participants were asked to allow recording of the groups discussions (audio).

For all participants below 18 years of age, parental/guardian consent for participation in the focus group was obtained by the relevant institutions, who were inviting the participants, prior to focus group.

## **DATA PROCESSING, REPORTING AND DELIVERY**

Collection of quantitative data was done using the KoboToolbox system for online data collection. The Analysis were done in R, a software environment for statistical computing and graphics. R was used to clean data, for logical control and for the creation of cross-tabulation results.

All collected measures and disaggregated on gender and vulnerability groups. The Final report is prepared in accordance with the previously used structure of 2016 VoY report, covering background information on the project, youth in BiH, methodology, findings, and recommendations.

The comparation of results of the Voice of Youth 2008, 2011/12 and 2016 with 2024 is presented in the Final report for all the questions where the identical or similar questions were used in concurrent surveys. This allowed us to make conclusions in regard to the changes in the experiences, attitudes, opinions, and overall aspirations of young people in BiH over time.

The most illustrative findings from the focus groups, which are relevant for the results of the quantitative research are presented.

# FINDINGS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

During the last census in BiH (2013)<sup>2</sup> 723,116 (20.5%) were aged between 15 and 29 (youth). Number of children (0-19) was 786,461 (22.3%). The VoY 2024 survey engaged 2,163 youth, representing approximately 0.3% of the youth population in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The expected margin of error for the survey is 2.1%, assuming a 50% split rate for categorical questions. Therefore, any differences greater than 4.2% between comparison categories should be considered statistically significant, as this accounts for the margin of error applied to both categories.

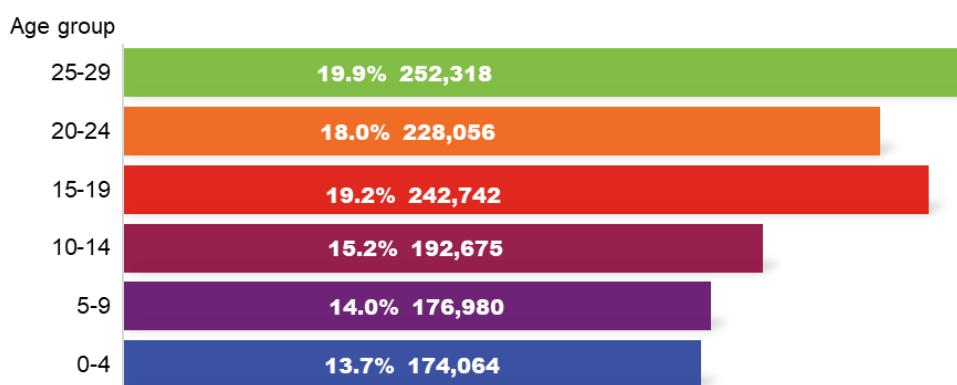


Figure 4 Number of residents in Bosnia and Herzegovina up to age of 29 (as per last Census 2013)

About 50% of youth respondents (hereinafter youth) reports advance knowledge of English language, and over 75% of youth reports some knowledge of German language. Younger group of youth (15-20) report better knowledge of both English and German language. From vulnerable groups, youth with disability report knowledge of English and German language less often, but members of LGBTIQ group significantly more often.

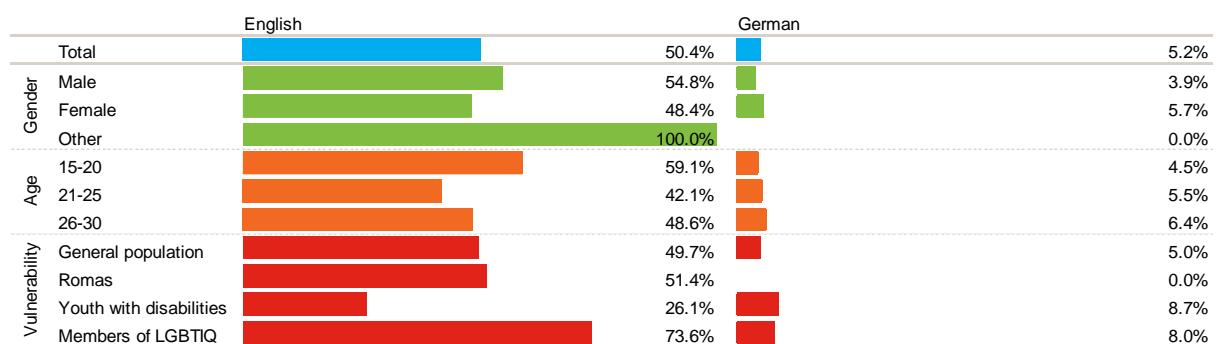


Figure 5 Percentage of youth reporting advance knowledge of English and German language per group

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.statistika.ba/?show=10#link3>

Most of the youth lives in a household with four members (40%), similarly distributed across different groups, with slightly higher number of older youth (26-30) who are living in households with two members (23%).

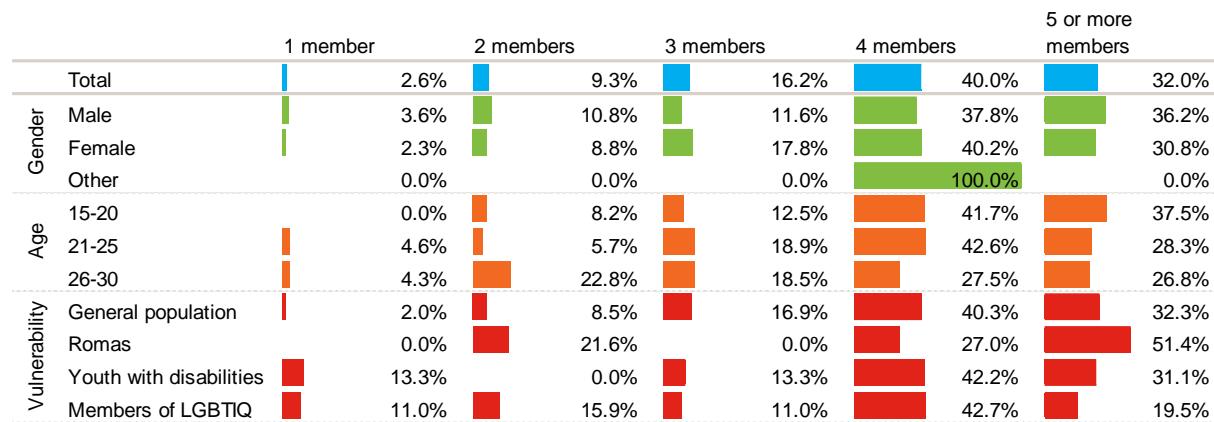


Figure 6 Percentage of youth according to number of household members per group

About 54% of youth is single. Male youth (76%) and members of LGBTIQ population (84%) are significantly more often single comparing to other youth. Older youth (50%), members of Roma population (49%) and youth with disabilities (58%) are more often in relationship comparing to other groups.

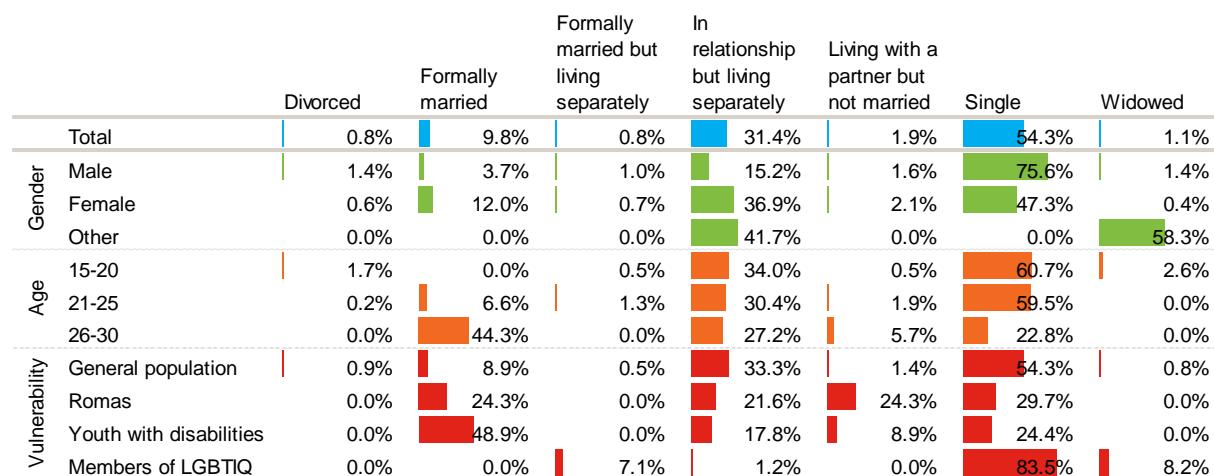


Figure 7 Percentage of youth according to partnership status per group

Youth in 2024 VoY wave reported significantly less often to be married (at least two times less likely). Highest number of married youth was reported in 2011/12 wave (26%).

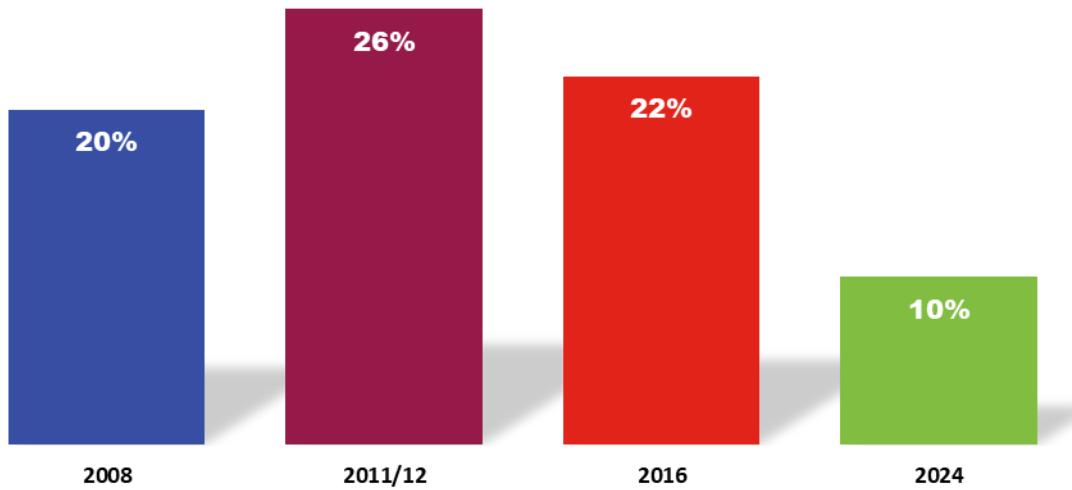


Figure 8 Percentage of youth who reported being in marriage per wave

About 6% of youth have at least one child, mostly reported by females (8%), older youth (35%), members of Roma population (27%), and youth with disabilities (48%). About 58% of youth reported the age of getting the first child is in between the 23 and 27. Youngest age of delivery (16) is reported by Roma girl. All male youth reported to have only one child, while female youth reported from one to three children (mostly one child 50%). All youth reporting to have at least one child are from older youth group.

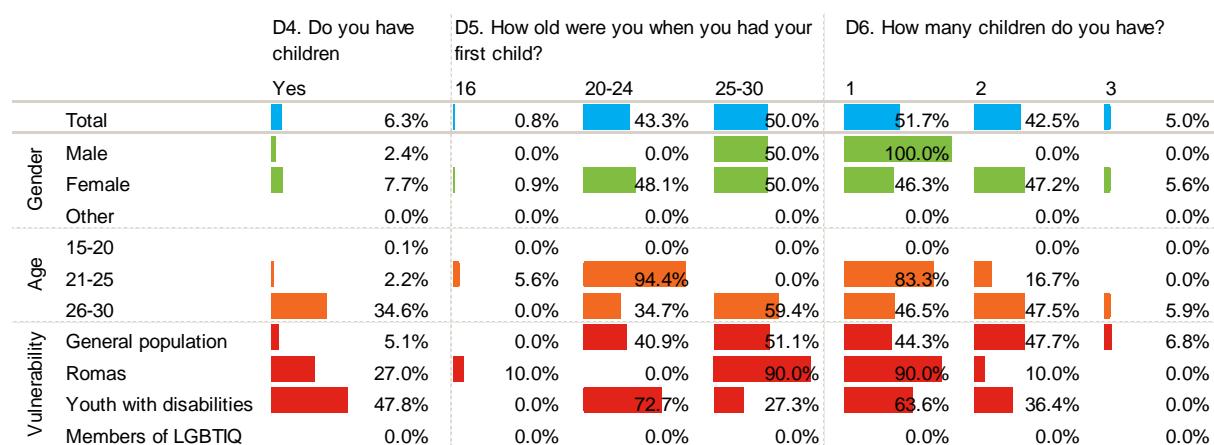


Figure 9 Percentage of youth having children

Comparing to other VoY waves, lowest percentage of youth from 2024 reported have at least one child (6%), while highest was reported in 2011/12 (21%).

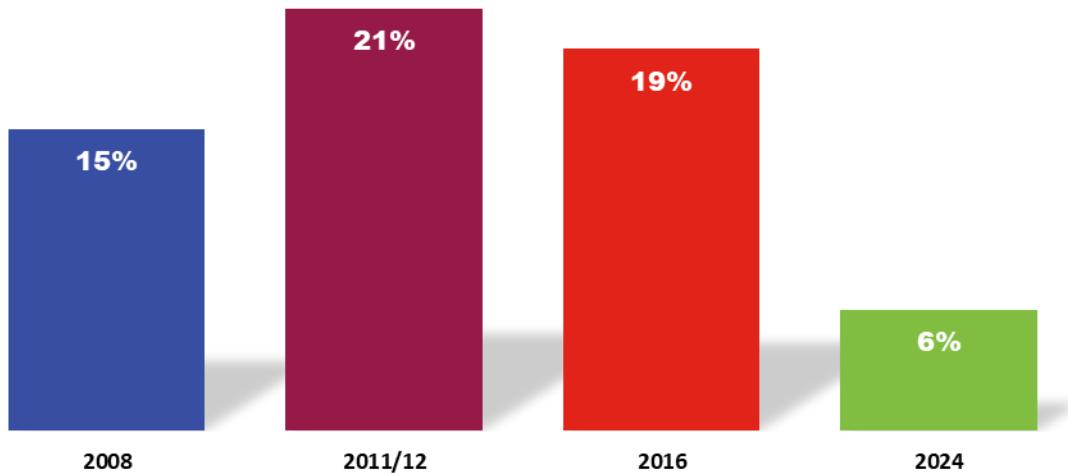


Figure 10 Percentage of youth who reported having at least one child per wave

About 77% of youth is still living with their parents (either in owned or rented premises). Members of Roma population (54%) and older youth (41%) report more often to live without parents. About one quarter of youth reported to live in city centre, one quarter in a wider city, one quarter in a village, and one quarter in suburban area.

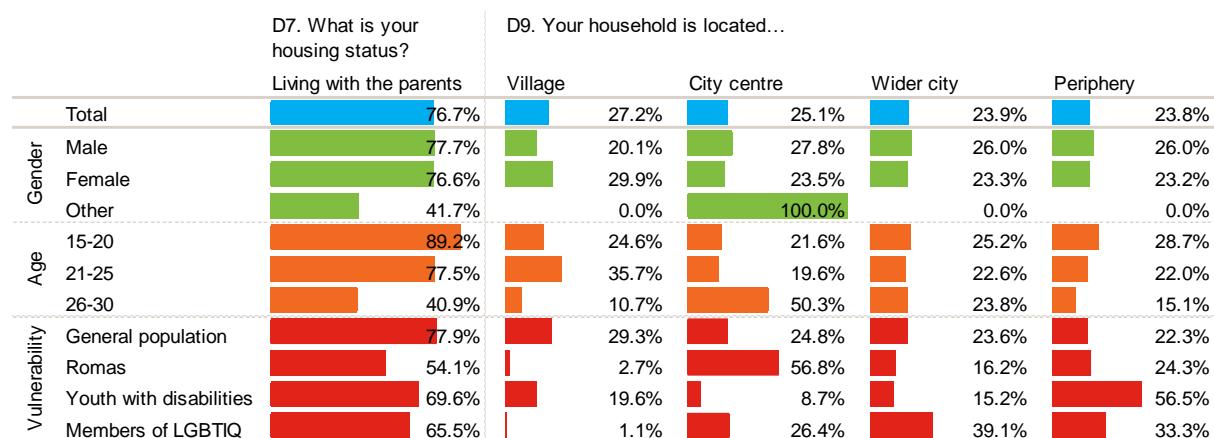


Figure 11 Percentage of youth living with parents and urbanity

For general population of this survey the most important cause of satisfaction is fun and leisure (80%), while possibility to express opinions freely is the second most important (72%). For Roma population it is the possibility to enrol in post graduate studies, while for youth with disabilities and LGBTIQ population it is advancement in professions and vocations.

About 6% of youth consider their standard of living as bad. The only group who reports significantly more often bad standard of living are youth with disability (app. 25%). Older youth report less often good or very good standard of living, comparing to younger group of youths. About 83% of youth consider that current standards of living are better from

standards of living that they parents were having. Members of Roma population and youth with disability significantly less often consider that their standards of living are better from their parents (app. 50%). About 59% of youth reported that current standard of living is improved over the period of last three years. However, vulnerable groups of youth are less likely to report improvement of standard of living over the last three years (Roma 38%, Youth with disability 52% and members of LGBTIQ population 26%).

		G2. When you take into account all areas, how would you evaluate your current standard of living?		G3. How would you evaluate your current standard of living in relation to that of your parents when they were your age?		G4. Has your standard of living changed over the last 3 years?	
		Good or very good		Somewhat and much better		Improved or drastically improved	
	Total		55.3%		83.4%		59.3%
Gender	Male		63.1%		84.3%		58.3%
	Female		51.1%		83.2%		59.9%
	Other	100.0%		58.3%		41.7%	
Age	15-20		64.6%		89.6%		61.5%
	21-25		50.8%		81.0%		55.1%
	26-30		38.6%		70.8%		64.3%
Vulnerability	General population		56.1%		84.9%		61.2%
	Romas		54.1%		51.4%		37.8%
	Youth with disabilities		37.3%		52.5%		52.5%
	Members of LGBTIQ		51.7%		85.1%		26.4%

Figure 12 Percentage of youth living under different standard of living

Comparing to previous waves of VoY, lower percentage of youth in 2024 reports bad standards of living (including average). Worst standard of living was reported in 2011/12.

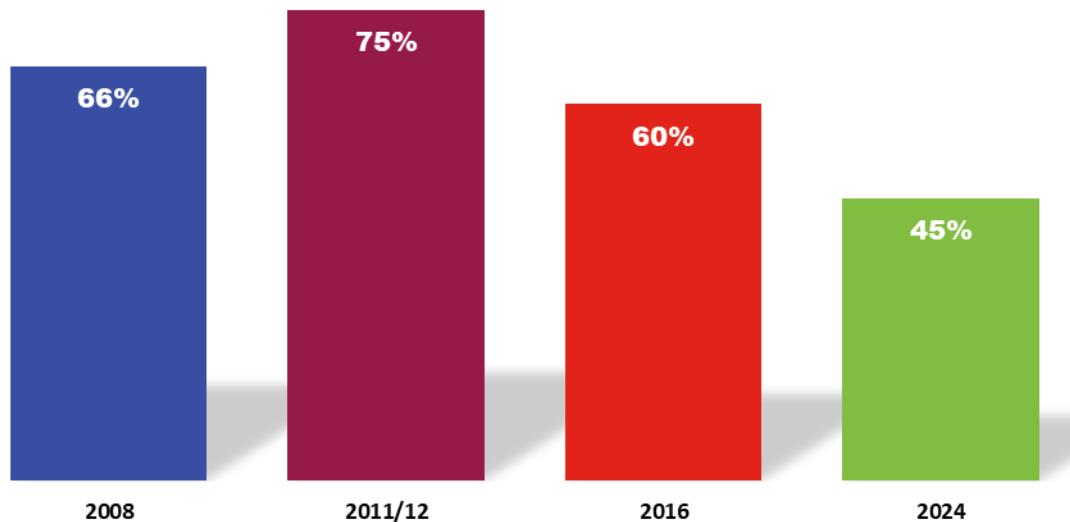


Figure 13 Percentage of youth reporting bad (including average) standard of living per VOY wave

Percentage of youth who reported worse standard of living comparing to their parents in 2024 is significantly lower than in 2016 (data missing for other waves – when missing it will

be omitted through the document). While 11% reported worse standard of living than parents in 2024, 27% reported the same in 2016.

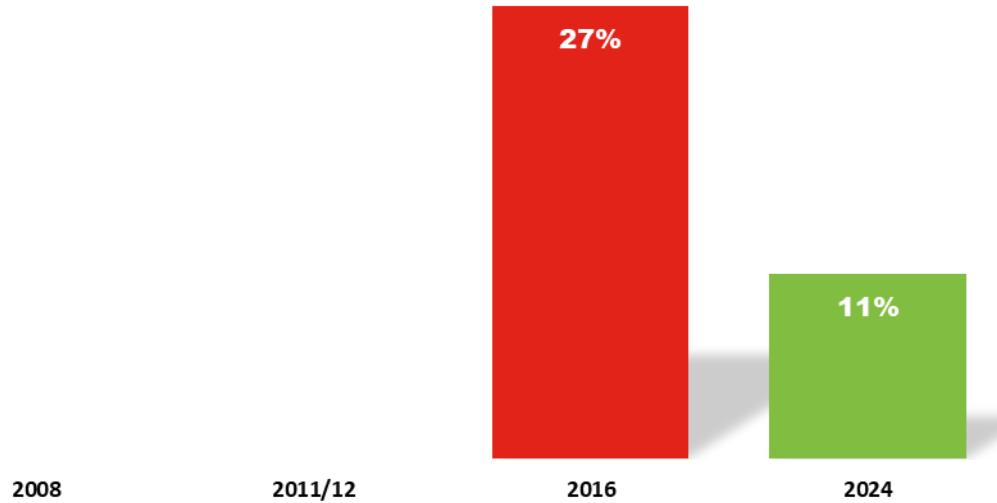


Figure 14 Percentage of youth reporting worse standard of living than parents by waves

Participants of the focus group held the optimistic and pessimistic picture of the future. On the optimistic side, they hope for increased social and economic opportunities, however in order to prevent disappointment, they are not hoping for more significant changes.

*Looking to the future, I hope for better economic conditions and more opportunities for youth. I believe that with collective effort and support from organizations, we can improve our situation. However, I'm cautious; change takes time, and I worry about the potential for stagnation if we don't actively push for progress. Overall, I remain hopeful but realistic about the challenges ahead. - female, 30*

Most frequently youth indicated that over the next three years their income will improve and access to trainings and educations will improve (over 7%). Similar distribution of responses is with vulnerable groups, except for youth with disability who are less likely to foresee improved access to educations and trainings.

In 2024 two attributes that are less likely seen to be improved in the next three years are housing issues and health protections (over 60% consider that it is not going to happen). During the previous waves of VoY, youth also were least optimistic about these two attributes, with over 85% of youth not being optimistic about the positive changes in housing and health.

Focus group participants described that in order for someone to have a good standard of living, they should have decent income, stable employment, affordable housing, quality healthcare, and access to education. It also means having opportunities for personal and professional growth. To achieve that, youth need better job opportunities and higher wages to match living costs. Improving the education system to better prepare young people for the job market is crucial, and supportive environment for entrepreneurship and innovation that could also drive economic growth and improve living standards for everyone. Additionally, investing in healthcare and social services would enhance overall quality of life.

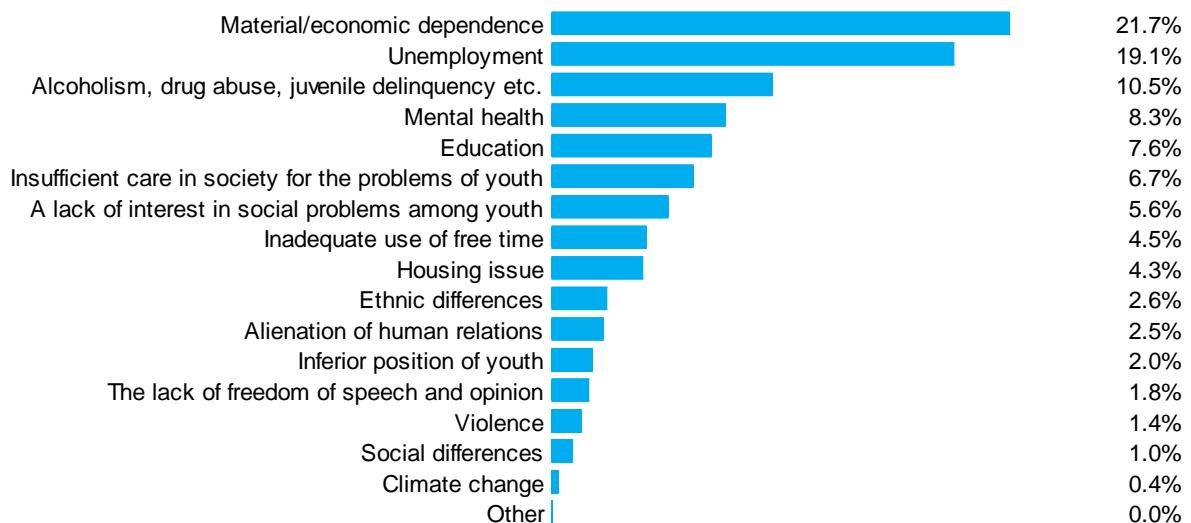


Figure 15 Percentage of youth considering following challenges as priorities

Economic independence and unemployment are the two most important challenges youth faces today (20%). Alcoholism, drug abuse and juvenile delinquency and mental health are second group of important problems (10%). In addition to recognize the above problems, the members of Roma population also emphasize the importance of housing issue (24%). Youth with disability additionally emphasize the importance of the insufficient care in society for the problems of youth and inferior position of youth. Members of LGBTIQ population are also emphasizing the importance of education and ethnic differences.

Similar challenges are identified as the most important during the previous VoY waves. The only difference is that during the previous VoY, youth more frequently reported the importance of these problems comparing to 2024. E.g. While only about 20% of youth in 2024 reported the importance of unemployment, more than 70% reported its importance in 2008, and 2011/12, and even more than 80% in 2016, as if the unemployment has become less of a burden for the youth. Similar differences are happening with the assessment of the economic independence. They are recognized as the most important, however, during the wave in 2008, it is recognized as priority by 43% of youth, in 2011/12 by 24% and in 2016 by 36%. Which is significantly more often recognized as priority in 2008 and 2016, comparing to 2024.

During the focus groups the participants reiterated the importance of opportunities and available support, however they stressed that key factors influencing their motivation to leave is to be seen in a frustration around the decision-making processes. Many young people still face unemployment; it remains a top concern. However, material dependence has shifted somewhat, but economic challenges persist. Alcoholism and drug abuse are still significant issues, especially in urban areas. There is a growing awareness about the importance of mental health and education. Young people are more vocal about their rights and opportunities, which is a positive change. Overall, while some problems remain, new challenges have emerged that need attention.

*For me that is a lack of job opportunities for young people, need for better educational resources and support. - female, 26*

*I believe that those are a frustration with the political situation and governance, then challenges related to crime, drugs, and social inequality. And most importantly, increasing awareness and need for mental health support. - female, 30*

*Additionally, there's a lack of support for youth-related issues, like mental health and career guidance. Young people want more engagement from society to address their needs and aspirations. Overall, these problems significantly impact their future and well-being. - female, 30*

*In 2024, the biggest problem for the Roma is education. Then equality. So that young Roma do not feel that they are discriminated against, they should be the ones who will fight and change it. That's why I think we need more activism to speed it up and change it. Young Roma should go to associations that will lobby for it, so that they can be an equal part of society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. – Roma, male, 30*

About 58% of youth are aware of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Members of Roma population and youth with disability reported increased awareness of SDGs (100% and 71% respectively). Lowest awareness of SDGs is reported by members of LGBTIQ population (42%). Health and welfare are reported as the most relevant (first priority) SDG by 34% of youth. More than 20% of members of Roma members additionally reported the importance of the SDGs: world without hunger and peace, justice and powerful institutions. Youth with disability and members of LGBTIQ population also emphasize the importance of quality education (app. 20%).

In 2016 (data not available for prior waves) as the most important SDGs youth recognize the world without poverty (53%), followed by the health and welfare (18%) and world without hunger (16%).

Participants of the focus groups were quite aware of the stigma that is following the members of the vulnerable groups (Romas, youth with disabilities and LGBTIQ population). In addition to challenges all youth are facing in BiH, position of vulnerable groups is additionally complicated with problems such as limited access to quality education, dropout rates, poor housing, and in general integration into mainstream society.

*In my opinion, facing social stigma and prejudice. - female, 27*

*... poor housing and lack of basic services, and difficulty with integrating into mainstream society. - female, 30*

*Roma often faces prejudice in education and employment. Many Roma children drop out or have limited opportunities. Lack of resources makes it difficult to improve their situation. - female, 29*

*For disabled persons, many public spaces and services are not accommodated, there's a lack of inclusive programs tailored to their needs. They often feel isolated and struggle to connect with peers. - female, 30*

## EDUCATION

A majority of youth participating in VoY 2024 completed secondary education (55%). Younger group of youth is more likely to have only completed primary education (23%), while older group of youth is more likely to complete tertiary education (84%). About half of Roma population and one third of youth with disabilities and members of LGBTIQ population participating in the VoY 2024 have completed tertiary education. Most of youth from rural areas have completed secondary school (58.7%), with significantly smaller number completing university level degree (27%) comparing to other groups.

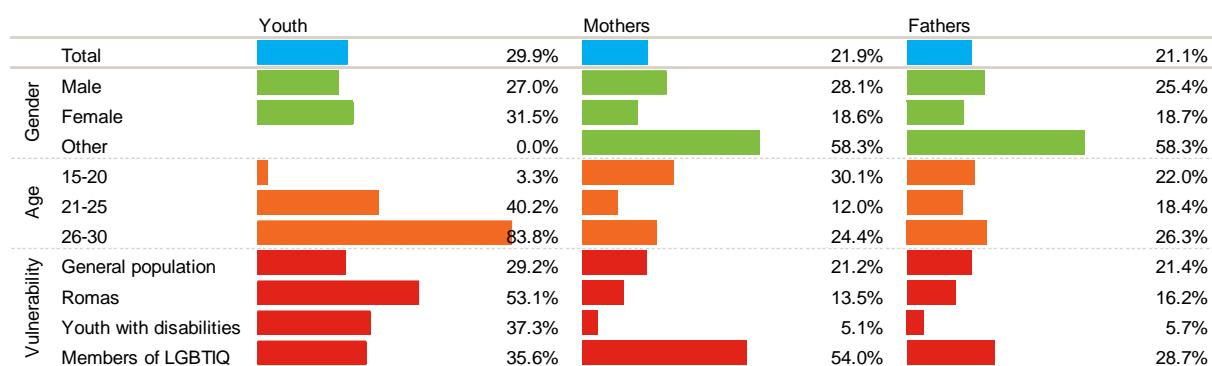


Figure 16 Percentage of youth and their parents who completed some level of tertiary education

Comparing to VoY 2011/12 and 2016, distribution of completed tertiary education level with VoY 2024 are quite similar (about 30%). However, in 2024 there are more youth with completed secondary education and less completing lower than secondary education, while in 2011/12 and 2016 there are less youth with completed secondary education but more with completed only primary education.

About 22% of youth's mothers and 21% of fathers have completed tertiary education. Parents of the members of LGBTIQ populations more often completed higher levels of educations from general population (mothers 54% and fathers 29%). On the other hand, parents of Roma youth, are less likely to complete tertiary education (mothers 14%, fathers 16%). The lowest likelihood to complete tertiary education have parents of youth with disability (mothers 5%, fathers 6%).

Most of the youth completed public school/university in BiH (92%). About 60% of Roma completed private school/university in BiH, while all youth from other vulnerable groups have completed public schools/universities in BiH.

About 3% of youth had to leave education before completing it. Drop out is more frequent with older group of youth (11%) and with youth with disabilities (7%). Most frequently stated reasons for dropping from education are housework (41%), financial reasons (39%) and finding of permanent job (38%). It is striking that none of the male students have reporting quitting the education because they found a permanent job, only females. From vulnerable groups, all youth with disabilities reported quitting due to housework, while other groups failed to provide any reason for dropping. None of the youth from rural area reported leaving education.

E5. Did you stop school or university before you had completed it? (YES)		E6. What are the main reasons for you not continuing your education?					
		Obligations at home (housework)	Financial reasons	I found a permanent job	I did not see any purpose in continuing	Because of agricultural work at home	Other
	Total	2.8%	41.0%	39.3%	37.7%	14.8%	8.2%
Gender	Male	2.7%	57.9%	68.4%	0.0%	0.0%	26.3%
	Female	2.9%	33.3%	26.2%	54.8%	21.4%	0.0%
	Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Age	15-20	1.6%	26.7%	73.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	21-25	1.5%	7.7%	7.7%	61.5%	0.0%	30.8%
	26-30	10.7%	60.6%	36.4%	45.5%	27.3%	15.2%
Vulnerability	General population	2.9%	37.5%	42.9%	41.1%	16.1%	8.9%
	Romas	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Youth with disabilities	6.8%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Members of LGBTIQ	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

Figure 17 Percentage of youth leaving education for different reasons

Majority of youth consider that their education is going to support their efforts to find a job in the future in the profession for which they acquired knowledge (86%). However, for Roma this is lower with only 52%. Percentage of youth who believe that their education is going to support their effort to find a job in the profession for which they acquired knowledge in 2024, is significantly higher than percentages of youth in 2011/12 (67%) and 2016 (67%) waves.

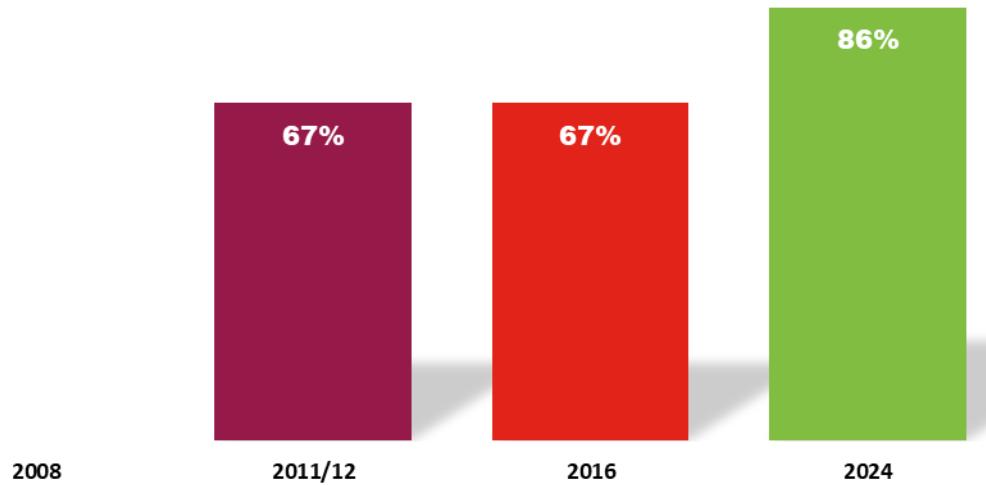


Figure 18 Percentage of youth who believes that their education is going to support their efforts to find a job in the profession for which they acquired knowledge by wave

About 24% of youth reported that the demands set for them in the class were too big a burden. Exceptionally higher percentage of Roma reported high burden (60%), youth with disability (46%) and members of LGBTIQ population (41%). Higher percentage of older youth reported burden comparing to general population (35%). Percentage of youth reporting high educational demands in 2024 is significantly lower than in 2011/12 and 2016 waves (53% and 52% respectively).

About 41% of youth reported that school topics were interesting to them. Lower number of Roma reported interest in provided school topics (30%), but higher number of youth with disability (51%). Percentage of youth reporting high interest in school topics in 2024 is significantly lower than in 2011/12 and 2016 waves (68% and 61% respectively).

Participants of the focus groups emphasized that some teachers were dedicated to students and using modern tools, but many still rely on outdated methods. They would love to see the shift from memorization to focus on critical thinking and practical skills.

Focus group discussions reveal mixed perceptions regarding the quality of education among adolescents aged 10 to 14. Younger students (ages 10 to 12) generally find the education adequate for their level, whereas older students (age 14) criticize the curriculum as outdated and inadequately explained. They express concerns that the educational content is primarily geared towards passing exams rather than providing practical knowledge and skills for future endeavours.

*“Books that we use are from 2010, they are old and outdated” (14 years old boy, school from urban area)*

Adolescents aged 10 to 14 advocate for a more practical approach to education, including increased opportunities for field trips and hands-on learning experiences. They also emphasize the need for improved school amenities, such as better classroom furniture and sports facilities. Additionally, they suggest the introduction of book lockers and the replacement of traditional textbooks with tablets to alleviate the burden of heavy school bags.

	The demands set for me in class were too big a burden for me.	There were a lot of subjects that interested me.	The majority of teachers took me seriously and were interested in my work.	The majority of teachers approached pupils/students in an adequate way.	My results at school/college were very important to my parents.	I had the full support of my parents when facing problems in my education.
Total	23.6%	40.9%	52.2%	68.1%	73.2%	89.1%
Gender						
Male	23.7%	45.2%	55.8%	70.7%	69.0%	88.8%
Female	22.9%	38.9%	50.4%	67.4%	75.5%	89.2%
Other	100.0%	41.7%	58.3%	0.0%	41.7%	100.0%
Age						
15-20	24.8%	47.0%	51.5%	62.9%	74.3%	89.7%
21-25	18.3%	32.3%	55.4%	77.7%	71.9%	87.3%
26-30	35.1%	46.8%	44.8%	56.8%	73.4%	92.9%
Vulnerability						
General population	21.2%	41.6%	52.1%	69.1%	74.2%	89.8%
Romas	59.5%	29.7%	59.5%	75.7%	97.3%	97.3%
Youth with disabilities	45.8%	50.8%	44.1%	40.7%	55.9%	91.5%
Members of LGBTIQ	41.4%	27.6%	60.9%	66.7%	51.7%	75.9%

*Figure 19 Percentage of youth who believes that education was aligned with their needs or support given to a great extent or completely*

About half of the youth reported that majority of teachers took them seriously and were interested their work (52%). Slightly higher percentage of youth belonging to LGBTIQ group reported positive connection with the teachers (61%), however lower percentage of older youth (45%) and Roma (44%) reported to be taken seriously by the teachers. Percentage of youth reporting that teachers took them seriously and were interested in their work in 2024 is somewhat lower than in 2011/12 and 2016 waves (63% and 56% respectively).

Two-thirds of the youth (68%) reported that majority of teachers approached pupils/students in an adequate way. Only youth with disability reported less often adequate relationship with

teachers (41%). Similar distribution of results occurred during the 2011/12 and 2016 wave (67% and 61% respectively).

Adolescents aged 10 to 14 are aware that some peers face greater challenges, such as learning difficulties, speech impairments, and social isolation. In urban schools, students and teachers collaborate to support these children. They suggest measures like adapted educational plans, teaching assistants, and peer support to help these students overcome their difficulties.

Interest in the school results by parents is reported by 73% of youth. Members of Roma population reports significantly more often that their parents are interested in their school performance (97%), while youth with disability and members of LGBTIQ report less likely interest of parents for school performance (56% and 51% respectively). Percentage of youth reporting parents' interests in their schooling in 2024 is somewhat lower than in 2011/12 and 2016 waves (82% and 83% respectively).

About 89% of youth reported support from parents whenever facing school related problems and challenges. Members of Roma population reported higher level of support from parents (97%), while members of LGBTIQ population reported lower level of support (76%). Similar distribution of results occurred during the 2011/12 and 2016 wave (85% and 84% respectively).

Focus group participants believe that schools are not generally ready for the inclusion of Roma children or youth with disabilities. While there are some positive practices, like individualized support in certain schools, they are not widespread. Good practices include efforts by some teachers to create welcoming environments and provide extra help when needed. However, according to the participants of the focus groups many schools lack proper training and resources, making it hard to meet diverse needs effectively. Changes needed include more training for teachers on inclusion, better resources, and stronger policies to support these students. Overall, a significant shift is necessary to create truly inclusive educational environments.

*As for the enrolment of Roma children in school, things are improving. I often visit principals of elementary schools and talk with them. Children are now a little more active in society. There are a couple of them who don't go to school because they don't want to. – Roma, male, 30*

About 62% of youth reported that their teachers were using digital tools often in presentation of school topics. Members of the Roma population reported slightly higher usage of digital tools by teachers (76%), while older youth reported slightly lower usage of digital tools (49%).

Focus group participants reported that some teachers did use digital tools, like PowerPoint and online resources, but it wasn't consistent. They would like to see more integration of technology, like interactive learning platforms and educational apps, to engage students better and prepare them for the modern job market. While some digital tools are currently used in specific subjects like informatics and foreign languages, adolescents aged 10 to 14 express a desire for broader integration of digital technologies in the classroom, including smart boards and tablets, to enhance their learning experience.

		E9. How often do teachers use digital tools (such as online learning platforms, educational apps, virtual classrooms, etc) for presentation of school topics?	E10. How often did you participate in some kind of organised volunteer work or actions in or outside of your school/university?	E11. How often do you attend some form of organised practical classes as part of your regular education?
Total		61.7%	43.9%	32.3%
Gender	Male	64.0%	41.6%	31.3%
	Female	60.3%	44.9%	32.5%
	Other	100.0%	58.3%	58.3%
Age	15-20	60.9%	48.1%	37.0%
	21-25	67.1%	35.9%	27.7%
	26-30	48.7%	53.9%	30.8%
Vulnerability	General population	61.5%	42.3%	31.5%
	Romas	75.7%	86.5%	75.7%
	Youth with disabilities	61.0%	40.7%	15.3%
	Members of LGBTIQ	64.4%	64.4%	42.5%

Figure 20 Percentage of youth responding often or very often to different community practices

Often volunteering in school or community related activities is reported by 44% of youth. Highest engagement in volunteering activities is reported by Romas (86%) followed by members of LGBTIQ population (64%), and older youth (54%). Lower engagement is reported by youth between 20 and 25 years of age (36%). Youth from rural area report less often to engage in volunteering activities in their school or community (34%).

Level of volunteering in 2024 (87% including the rare volunteering) is significantly higher to reported level of volunteering in 2008 (40%), 2011/12 (16%) and 2016 (22%).

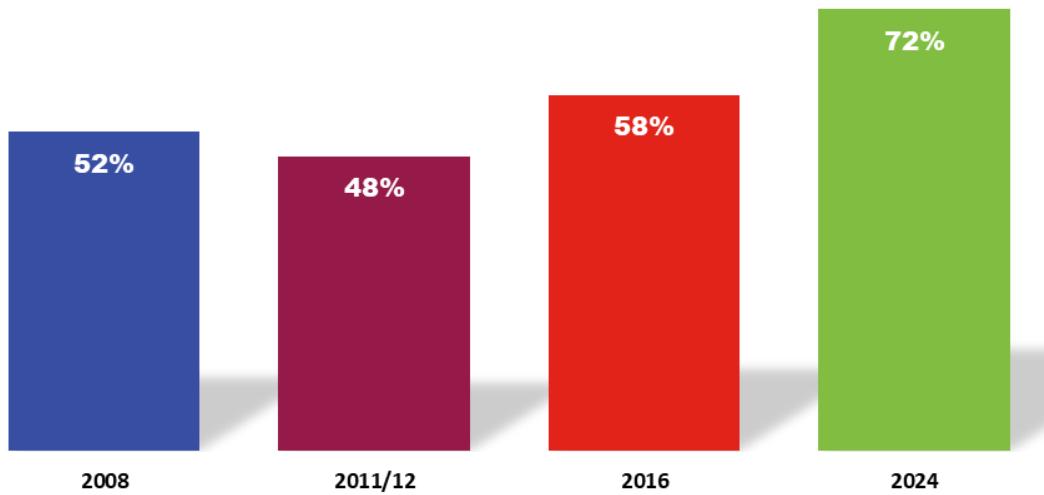
Focus group participants believes that there were some improvements in the education system since 2016, particularly in volunteerism and informal education. More young people are getting involved in community projects, which is great for developing skills and connections. However, they recognize lack of funding and resources for schools, which remain inadequate for design and implementation of community initiatives.



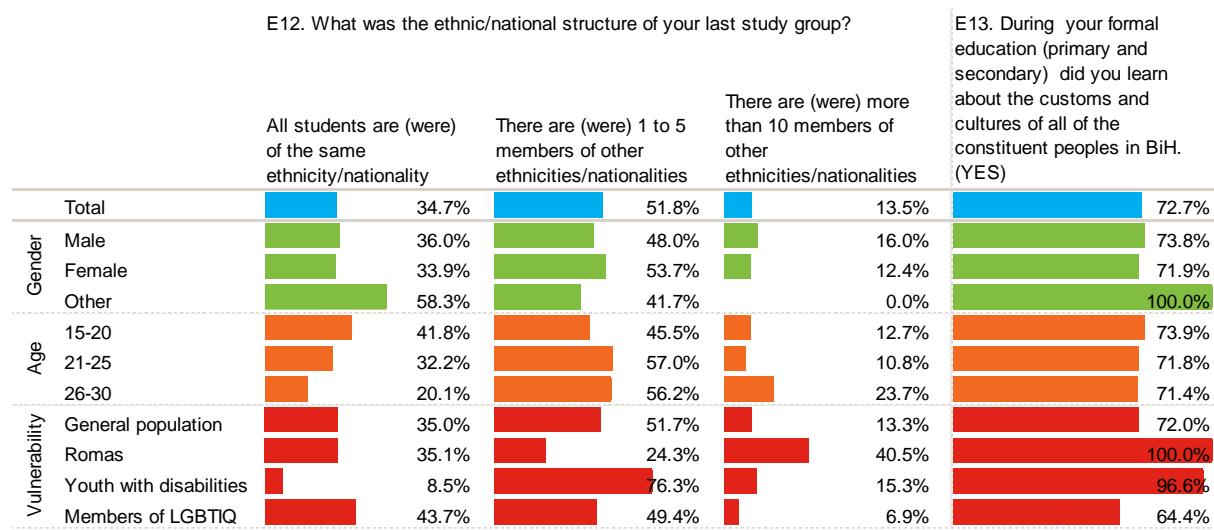
Figure 21 Percentage of youth who volunteered in school or community related activities, per wave



About 32% of youth often attended some form of organised practical classes as part regular education. Significantly higher percentage of Roma reported participation in practical classes (76%), and slightly higher percentage of members of LGBTIQ population (42%). However, only 15% of youth with disability reported participation in practical classes. Youth from rural area significantly less often report attending organised practical classes (26%).



*Figure 22 Percentage of youth who attended some form of practical classes as part of regular education, per wave*



*Figure 23 Percentage of youth exposed to multicultural educational environment*

Most of youth were educated in ethnically mixed environments (65%), however significant proportion (35%) is educated in mono-ethnic school environments. Youth with disability reported significantly more often to be educated in ethnically mixed environments (92%). Furthermore, more frequent education in ethnically mixed environments is reported by older youth (80%) and slightly more often by Roma (65%). Similarly to general population, about 34% of youth from rural area is educated in mono-ethnic environments.

Focus group participants were coming from different communities and various ethnic backgrounds. Some are from totally mono-ethnic groups, and some from multi-ethnic. However, all of them reiterated to prefer to meet members of other ethnic groups.

*During my education, we studied the cultures and customs of the different peoples of BiH, which helped promote understanding. I prefer mixed groups because they allow for sharing different perspectives and foster tolerance. Learning from one another is essential for building a united future. - female, 29*

Youth participating in VoY 2016 reported similar distribution of responses, with 24% being educated in mono-ethnic school environments, 57% in ethnically mixed environments.

About 73% of youth learned about the customs and cultures of all the constituent peoples in BiH during the formal education (primary and secondary). Significantly higher percentage of Romas reported learning about customs and cultures of others (97%), while slightly lower percentage of members of LGBTIQ population (64%).

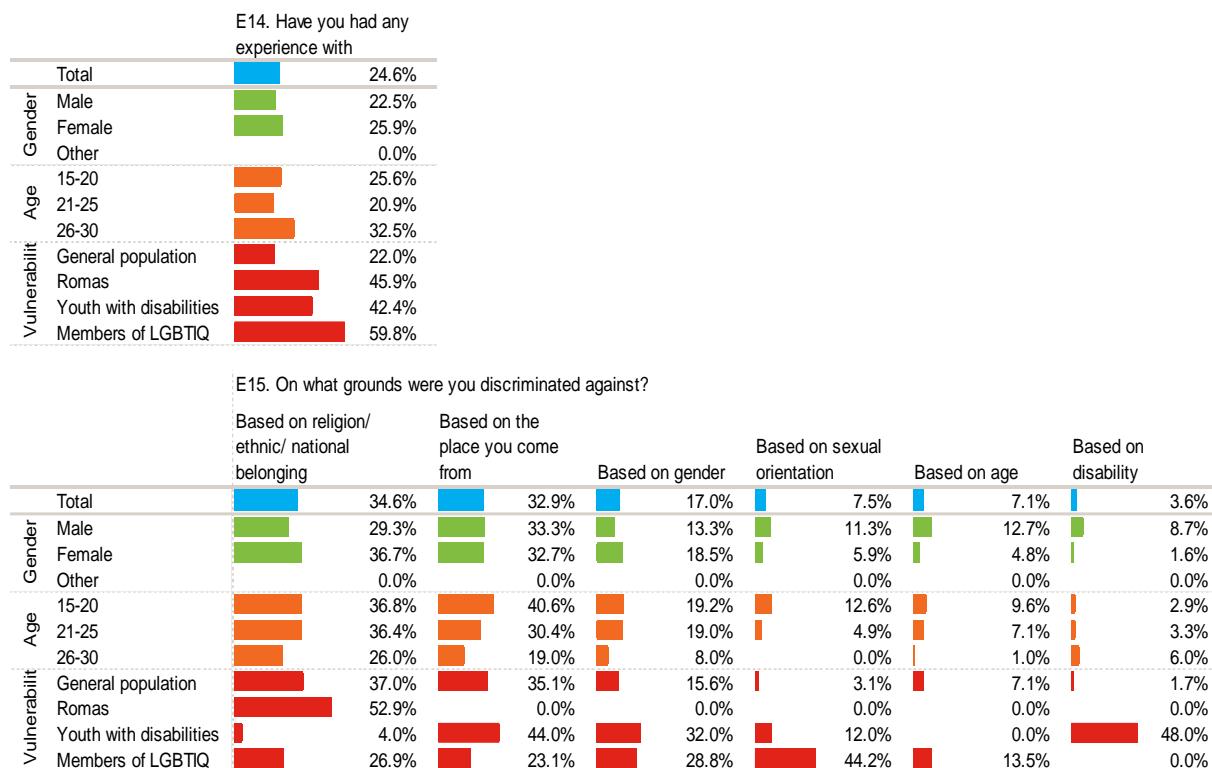


Figure 24 Percentage of youth experiencing discrimination in education

Discrimination in education process is reported by 25% of youth. Discrimination is significantly more often reported by members of LGBTIQ population (60%), Romas (46%), youth with disability (42%) and older youth (32%). The most often reported discriminations are based on religion/ethnic/national belonging (35%) and on the place youth is coming from (33%). Youth with disability often report discrimination based on disability (48%). Members of LGBTIQ population reports most diverse profile of discrimination types they are exposed to: sexual orientation (44%), gender (29%) in addition to discrimination on religion/ethnic/national belonging and place they are coming from (27% each). Similar

percentage of youth from rural areas reported being discriminated in school (21%), dominantly based on the place they are coming from (48%).

In VoY 2016 youth reported significantly lower experience of discrimination (9%), with the most prominent discrimination being based on religious, ethnic and national belonging (16%).

The most desired change in education practices by youth relates to the lack of practical learning in formal education (69%) and outdated teaching methods (62%). Members of Roma population also emphasize the problem of the lack of scholarships/loans, especially within higher education (62%), while youth with disability emphasize inadequate technical equipment (50%).

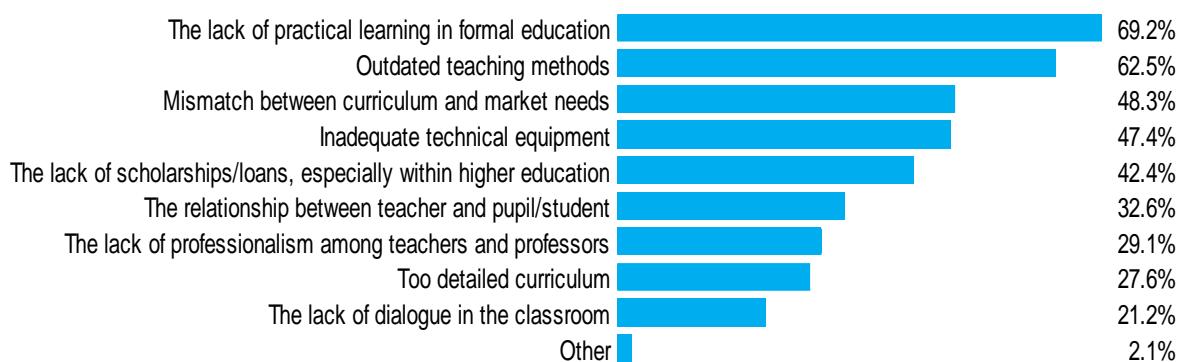


Figure 25 Percentage of youth who aspire toward changes in the education practices

During the focus group with Romas, discrimination is still emphasized as an existing problem, however, they also recognized that some communities have reduced it significantly. Main driver of the change was seen in socialization between Romas and non-Romas.

*Because of the discrimination that is still present, we are trying to alleviate it. I don't think it's great, Still, kids are different. But education is important. Socializing is also important, and I have seen that between the children of Roma and non-Roma population. – Roma, female, 25*

About 45% of youth have attended education that are not part of the regular school curricula. Older youth, Romas, youth with disability and members of LGBTIQ population are more often attending trainings outside of regular school curricula (65%, 62%, 78%, 71% respectively). Most frequently youth reported participation in trainings on youth activism, project cycle management, digital marketing, foreign languages, and gender mainstreaming. Youth from rural areas significantly less often attended education that is not part of regular school curricula (27%).

	E17. Have you ever attended a course or training that was not part of the regular programme of education? (YES)	E19. Have you heard of the term "lifelong learning"? (YES)	E20. Are you ready to change your career/profession and to re-educate yourself for a new career/profession? (YES)
Total	45.2%	78.1%	70.6%
Gender			
Male	48.1%	78.4%	75.3%
Female	44.0%	78.1%	68.2%
Other	0.0%	58.3%	100.0%
Age			
15-20	44.6%	73.0%	77.3%
21-25	38.9%	79.3%	63.8%
26-30	65.3%	90.3%	69.2%
Vulnerability			
General population	42.6%	77.0%	69.7%
Romas	62.2%	86.5%	96.9%
Youth with disabilities	78.0%	78.0%	61.0%
Members of LGBTIQ	71.3%	96.6%	90.8%

Figure 26 Percentage of youth ready to engage in informal education practices

Youth engaged in VoY 2024 reported more often participation in education outside of the formal education, comparing to youth from 2008, 2011/12 and 2016 waves.

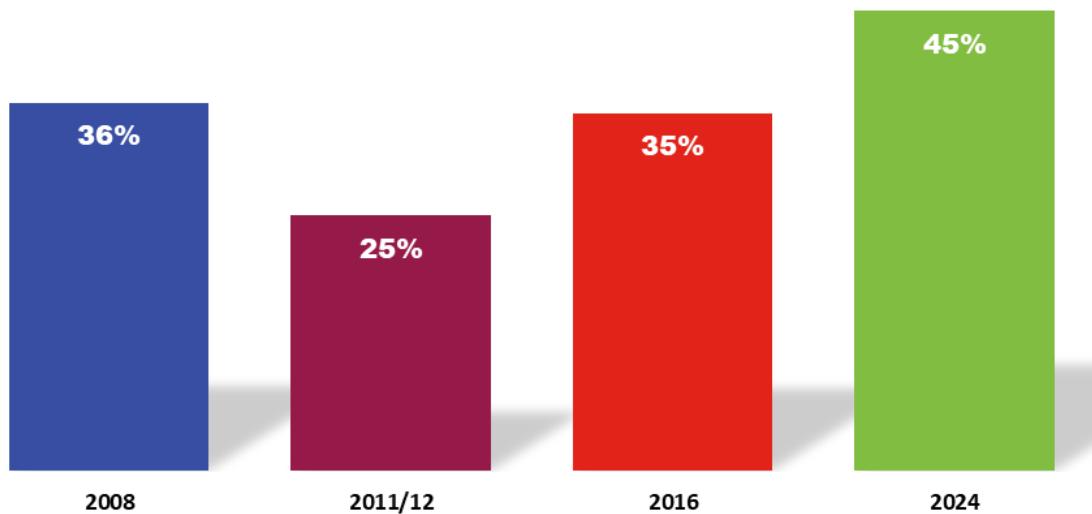


Figure 27 Percentage of youth who attended some course or trainings outside of regular education, per wave

The term “life-long learning” is familiar to 78% of youth, with slightly higher awareness of older youth (90%), Roma (86%) and members of LGBTIQ population (97%).

About 71% of youth is ready to change their career/profession and to re-educate themselves for a new career/profession if needed. Members of Roma and LGBTIQ population are more often ready to change career (97% and 91% respectively), while youth with disability are less likely to change their career (61%).

Similar percentage of youth from rural areas are ready to change their career/profession to general population (69%).



## JOB MARKET

Most of the youth participating in the VoY 2024 are students (62% - secondary and tertiary education). About 14% are full-time employed. As expected, younger youth are students more often (75%) and less likely to have full-time employment (3%), while older youth are less often students (12%) and more likely to have full-time employment (58%).

About 64% of youth in the age group 21-25 are university students. Roma youth are less often students (38%) and significantly less likely to have full-time employment (3%). Youth with disability are less often students (15%), but more likely to be full-time employed (25%). Members of the LGBTIQ population are more often students (58%) with the similar full-time employment rate as general population (14%). Percentage of youth from rural areas that are unemployed (12%) is similar to general population, with lower percentage of employed (15%) and larger number in training/education (73%).

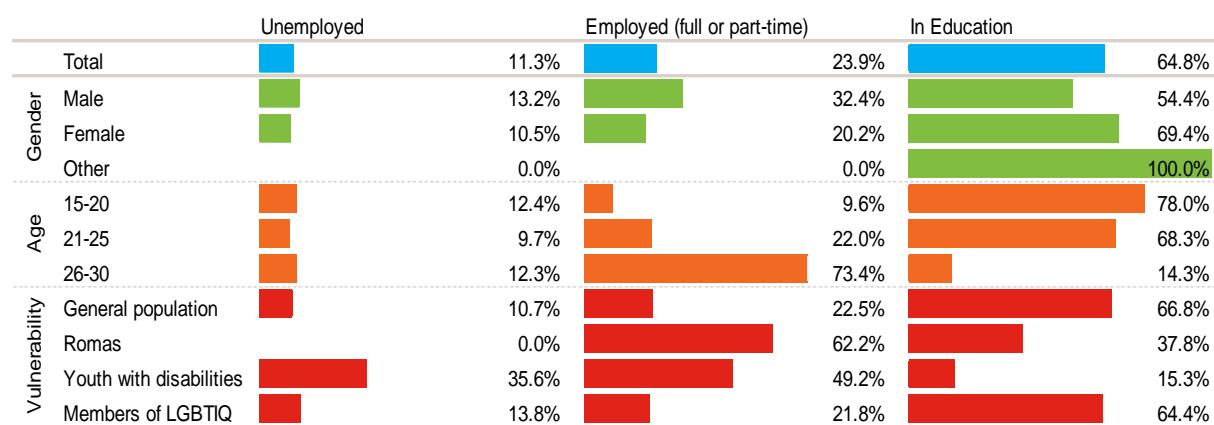
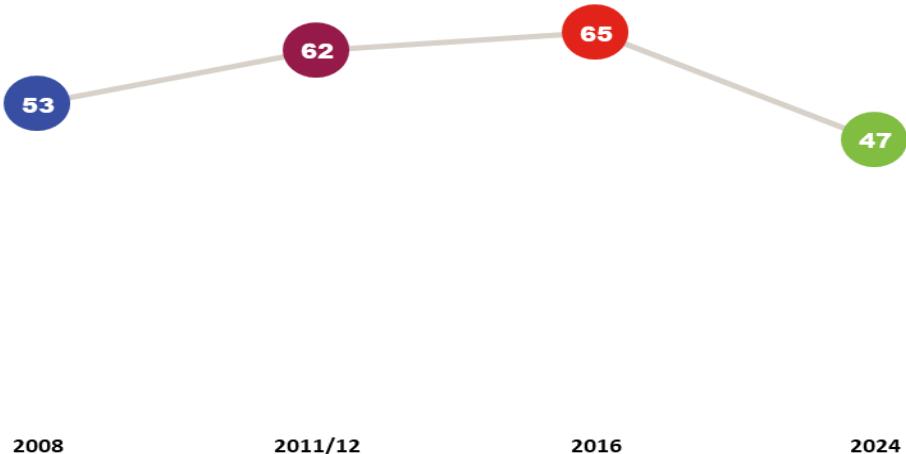


Figure 28 Percentage of youth in different employment and education status

On average, the youth participating in VOY 2024 needed about 8.9 months to find their first job after completing their last year of study, with males requiring on average less time (5.4 months) and females more (10.7).

Older youth is reporting more time needed to find first job (11.1 months) comparing to younger group of youth (3.2 month) that could be biased against the younger one that are still in education process but successfully, found a job. Romas need slightly more time to find a first job (10.9 months), members of LGBTIQ population even more time (13.5 months), however, youth with disability needed significantly more time to get a first job (24.5 months).

Comparing to average time needed to get a first job in 2006, 2011/12 and 2016, youth in 2024 are more rapidly finding a first job, more than two times quicker than in 2016.



*Figure 29 Average time needed to get a first job by wave (in months)*

Participants of the focus groups dominantly looked for the new (first) job through online portals, social media and their existing networks. Members of the Roma population stressed that the employment process is biased against them.

*Yes, I've started searching for a job, and it's been quite challenging. I mainly looked online through job portals and social media, but I also reached out to friends and family for connections. - female, 27*

*Many positions require experience, which is tough for recent graduates. I faced a lot of competition, and often, it feels like networking plays a bigger role than qualifications. Overall, it's a frustrating process, but I'm determined to keep looking and finding opportunities. - female, 27*

*My whole experience is negative. I always get rejected, or they tear up my CV, they won't accept us. They don't like and don't accept different people. – Roma, male, 30*

About 72% of youth consider that skills and knowledges acquired in their studies are needed at their current job. Male youth are less often convinced that their skills are needed (65%) comparing to female youth (77%). Older youth are more often convinced that their skills are needed (87%). All Romas reported that skills acquired are needed at the market, but on the other side, only 47% of youth with disability reported that.

Focus group participants recognize the importance of the education system in developing basic knowledge, literacy (expert literacy as well) and connections. However, they kept emphasizing that more critical thinking and practical problem-solving skills are needed.

*Currently, practical experience, language skills, and digital literacy are the most important qualifications for finding a job. Networking and personal connections also play a big role in landing opportunities. - female, 29*

*What makes it difficult is the high level of competition and often unrealistic job requirements. The education system prepared me with basic knowledge, but it didn't focus enough on critical thinking, teamwork, and practical skills like problem-solving or real-world applications. - female, 30*

Comparing to results of the VoY 2011/12 and 2016, the youth in 2024 wave less often consider that acquired skills are needed at the market, however they are more optimistic than during the VoY 2008.

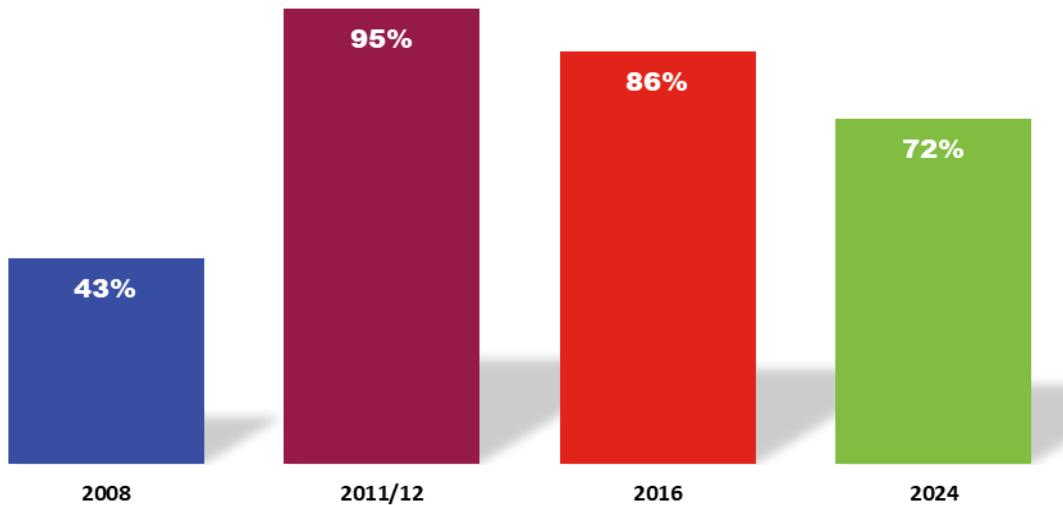


Figure 30 Percentage of youth who consider that skills and knowledges acquired while schooling are needed at the market

Four types of professions are most prevalent (currently occupied). Clerks (18%), experts (13%), managers (12%) and teachers (9%). Older youth are more often reporting to be experts (20%). Romas are similarly distributed between clerks (56%) and teachers (44%). Youth with disability are most often managers (29%), technicians in medical units (23%) and private entrepreneurs (21%). Members of LGBTIQ population is mostly employed as clerks (31%) and managers (27%).

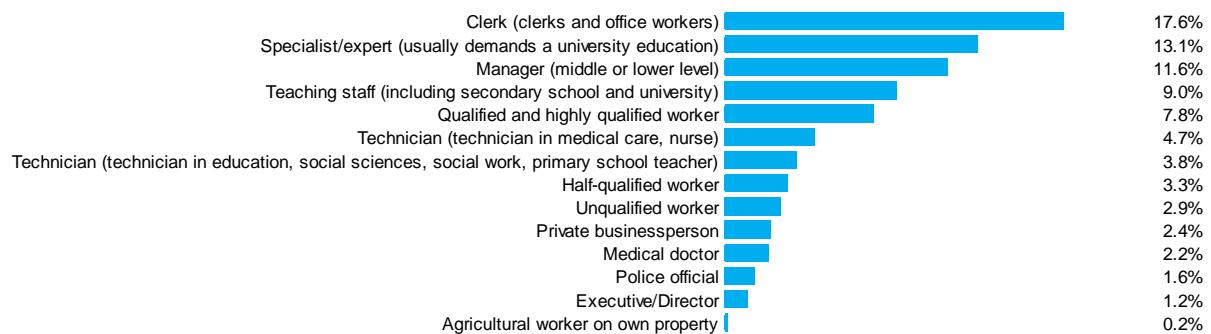


Figure 31 Percentage of youth per occupied type of profession

The difference in the sample structure between VoY 2024 and 2011/12 and 2016 is obvious when comparing the professions of the respondents. In 2011/12 and 2016 the most prevalent profession was qualified and highly qualified worker (28% and 33% respectively), and the second most prevalent profession was half-qualified worker (11% and 10% respectively). Technical professions (and private entrepreneurs) were present more often, while other professions are less present).

About 28% of youth have signed full-time contract with the employer and 26% fixed-term contract. Significant percentage of youth haven't signed any type of contract with the

employer (22%) Male youth more often work without a contract (29%) and are less likely to sign a full-time contract (20%) from female youth (18%, 33%, respectively). Younger youth are more likely to work without the contract, while older youth will more likely have full-time contract signed. Half of the Roma have internship contract and 44% temporary contract.

Comparing to previous waves, there is a significant difference in percentages of youth having full-time contract. Previously, about half of the working youth had full-time contract, while in 2024 wave only about quarter, indicating an increase in precarious employment.

	2008	2011/12	2016	2024
Full-time contract	50.0	55.2	47.0	27.7
Fixed time contract	18.0	26.9	31.0	25.9
I have not signed a contract	19.0	13.0	17.0	22.4
Temporary service contract (author, scholarships etc.)	1.0	1.0	1.0	10.4
Internship contract	0.0	0.8	2.0	6.9
Trail period contract	3.0	2.7	2.0	3.9
Contract via a student service	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.8

Figure 32 Percentage of youth with different type of contract per wave

Most of working youth receive salary on time. About 18% do not receive it on time, female youth more often than male (21%, 15%, respectively). Older youth less often report to not receiving salary on time. Roma significantly more often report to net receiving salary on time (50%). Youth with disability also more often report late salaries (24%).

Comparing to previous waves of VoY, in 2024 youth slightly less often receive salary on time comparing to 2011/12 and 2016, and similarly to 2008.

About 57% of youth report that their employer pays full contributions for their salaries. Female youth report it more often than male (60%, 52%, respectively). Older youth report more often payment of full contributions. Members of Roma population is significantly less often reporting payment of full contribution to the salary (only 6%) and LGBTIQ members (about 10%).

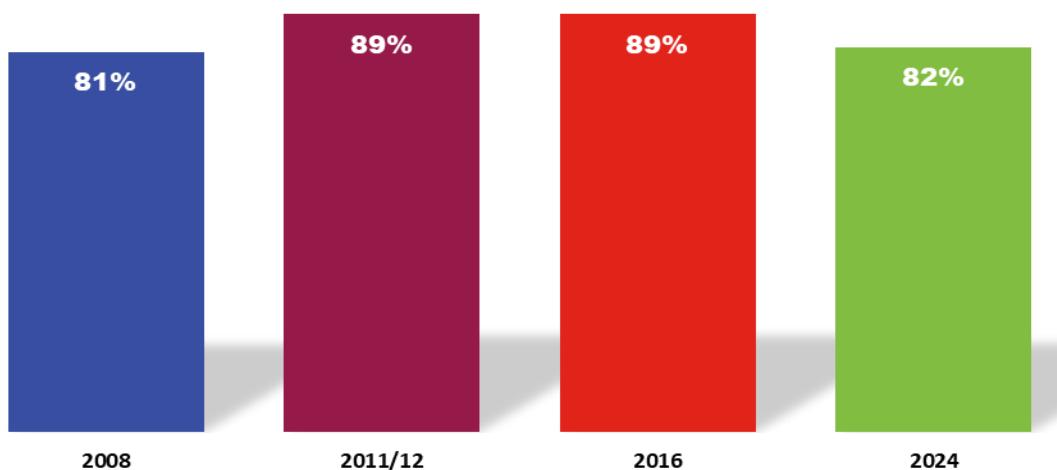


Figure 33 Percentage of youth who receive salary on time per wave

Comparing to previous waves of VoY, youth in 2024 receive less often full contributions to their salaries (57%), with situation being more similar to 2008 wave results (54%).



Figure 34 Percentage of youth receiving salary on time and payments of contributions

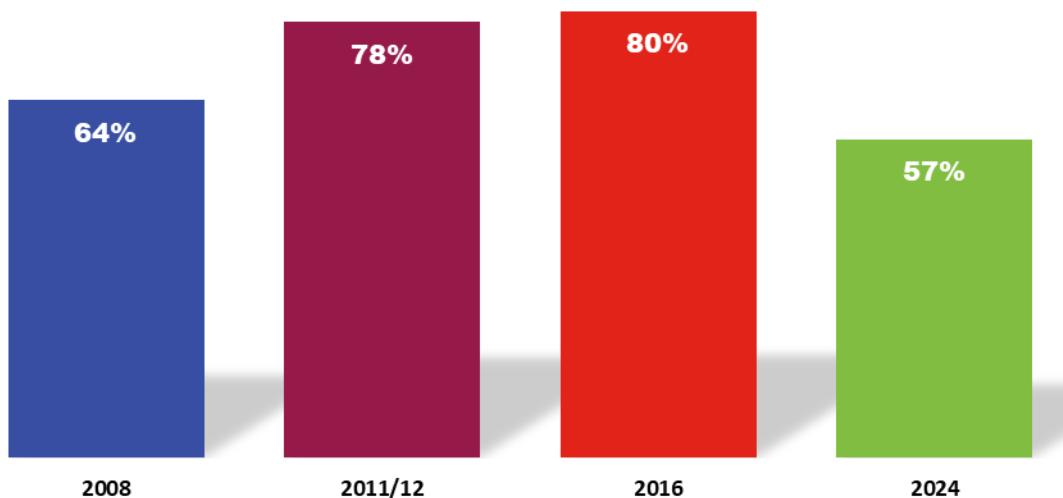


Figure 35 Percentage of youth who get paid full contributions by employer per wave

Half of the working youth is employed in the profession for which they were schooled, with older youth more often (63%). Members of the Roma population report lowest employment in the professions for which they are educated (6%), youth with disability somewhat higher percentage but still below the general population (21%) and members of LGBTIQ population even slightly higher (31%).

Comparing to previous research, youth in 2024 is employed in the professions that they were schooled at the same rate as in 2011/12 and slightly more often comparing to 2016.

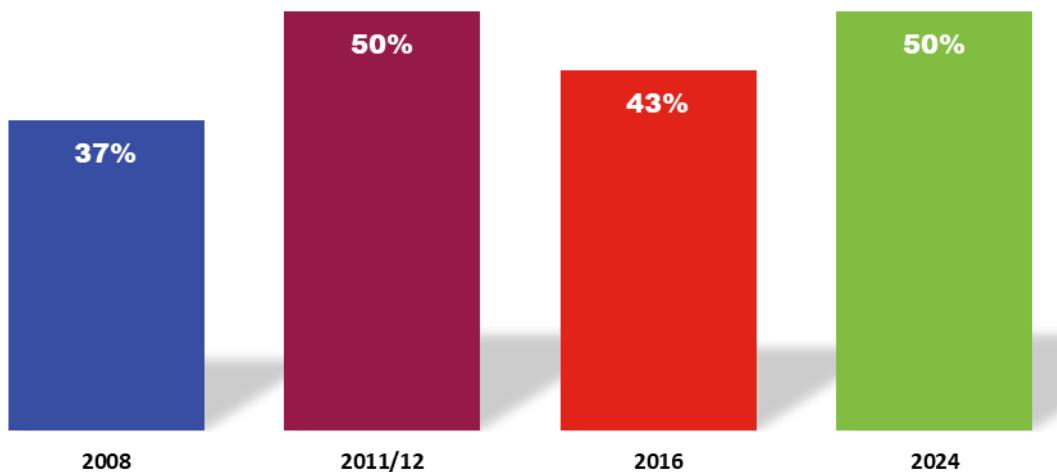


Figure 36 Percentage of youth who are employed in the profession of their schooling per wave

About 40% of youth did some temporary paid job during the last six months, male youth more often than female (48%, 24%, respectively). Younger youth are more often engaged in temporary jobs. Highest engagement with temporary jobs have members of Roma population (94%), followed by members of LGBTIQ population (69%). Youth with disability are less likely to engage in temporary jobs (29%).

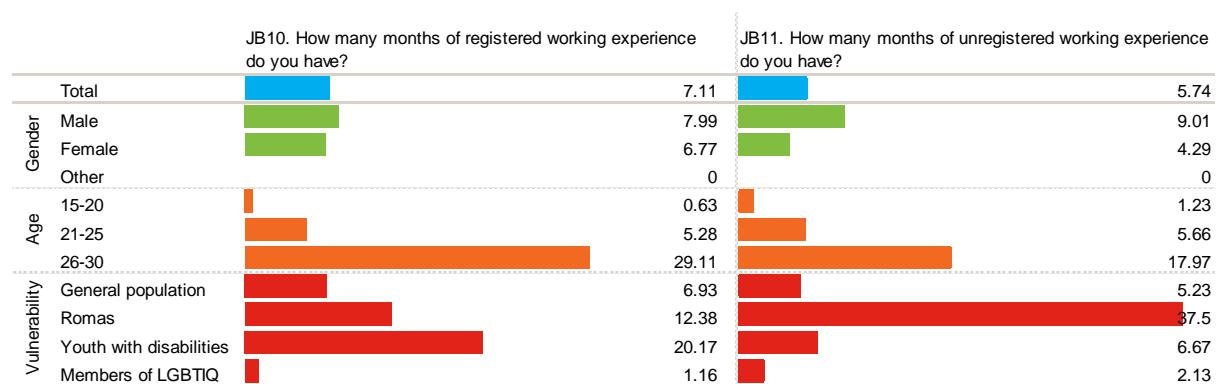


Figure 37 Average duration (months) of registered and unregistered experience

On average, youth have about 7 months of registered working experience. Male youth somewhat higher than female (average 8 and 6.8 months, respectively). Older youth have significantly higher number of registered working experience (average 29.1). Members of

Roma population and youth with disability also have significantly higher number of registered working experience (average 12.3 and 20.2, respectively), while members of LGBTIQ population have significantly lower number of registered working experience (average 1.2).

Similar distribution of response is with unregistered working experience. On average, youth have about 5.7 months of unregistered working experience, with male youth having more than female (average 9 and 4.3, respectively). Older youth have more unregistered working experience, as well. Members of Roma population have the highest average number of unregistered working experience (average 37.5). Members of LGBTIQ population reported slightly lower occurrence of unregistered working experience (average 2.1).

About quarter of the youth reported a search for a new job during the last four weeks. Older youth are more often looking for a new job (38%). The members of Roma population and youth with disability are looking for new job opportunities even more often (56% and 52%, respectively).

Comparing to previous waves of VoY, youth in 2024 search at the same rate for new jobs.

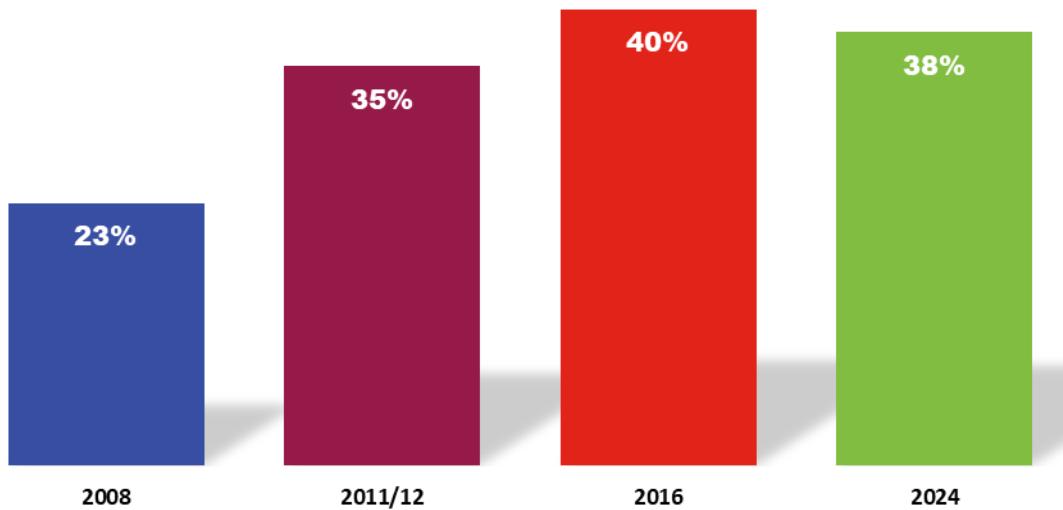


Figure 38 Percentage of youth who searched for a new job during the last four weeks per wave

Almost half of the youth is not looking for a job in particular sector, however members of Roma population and youth with disability are more likely to look for jobs in particular sectors (84%, 73%, respectively).

The youth reported that the most preferred sectors to seek the jobs are education, culture, health, social security (46.9%), finance (35.1%), and societies, non-governmental organisations (28.2%). Some differences in contrast to the general population on the preferred sectors can be observed among vulnerable groups. Roma youth reported police, security, military (46.9%), public administration, state authorities and political parties (31.3%), and societies, non-governmental organisations (31.3%) as preferred sectors. Youth with disabilities also reported police, security, military (21.4%) as one of the three preferred sectors to seek for job. LGBTIQ youth reported IT, computers, programming (but not trade) as one of the three preferred sectors (38.4%).

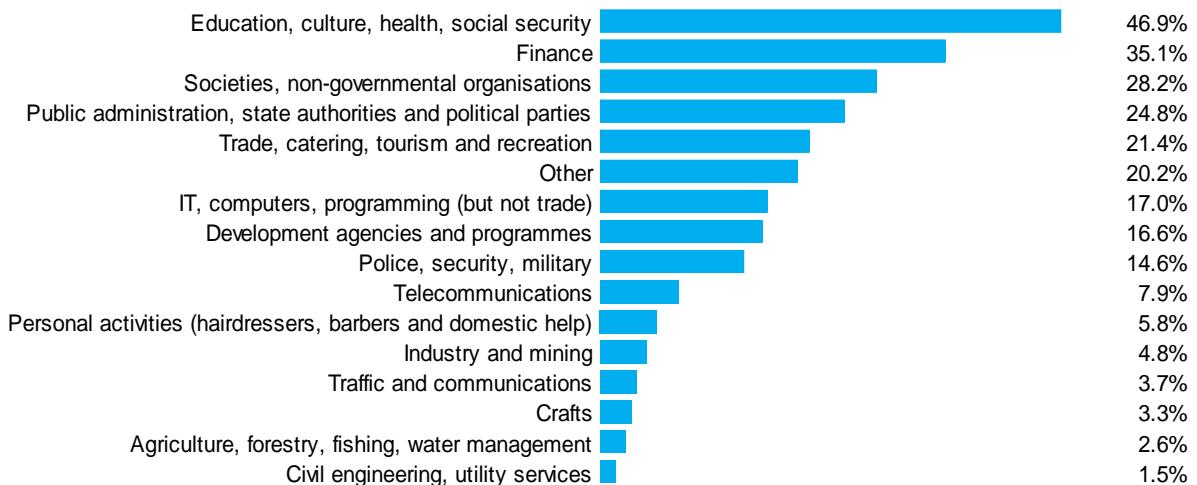


Figure 39 Percentage of youth in reference to preferred sectors for job

The observed results obtained in 2024 differs from those in 2016 and 2011/12 in terms of different sectors prevailing in 2024. In the previous waves where the highest percentage of participants were interested in working in the trade sector, service sector or tourism and recreation (47% in 2016, and 45.4% in 2011/12), civil engineering and utility services (21.9% in 2016, and 25.2% in 2011/12) and crafts (26.3% in 2016, and 23.8% in 2011/12).

Young people participating in the focus group demonstrated colourfulness of sectors they would like to work in. Increasingly, they see the future in a corporate world, while many of them are still striving to be employed in public sector, particularly those with the desire to help other people.

*I'm interested in a job in social work or community development. I want to help improve the lives of others and contribute to my community. - female, 27*

*I am interested in the corporate world; I am also someone who is extremely communicative and wants to progress in that direction. - female, 27*

The average minimum month salary reported by the respondent is 1.430 BAM with no significant variation in respect to gender, age, and vulnerable groups. One year (12 months) is a reported average that youth have been without work, while youth with disability reported that this period was more than twice as long, and that on average they were without job for 27 months.

Almost half of the youth (40.9%) is registered as unemployed at the employment bureau, with this percentage being higher for youth aged 26-30 (65.8%), and youth with disability (66.7%). Roma youth population reported not being registered at the employment bureau.

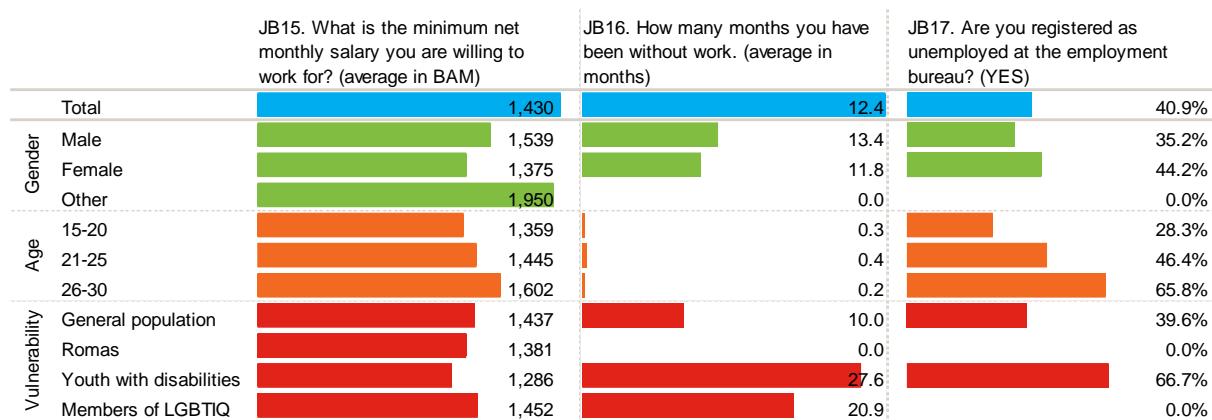


Figure 40 Average expected salary, average duration of unemployment, and percentage of youth registered as unemployed

Youth in general tend to stay to work in their municipalities in most of the cases (75.2%), while Roma youth reported working outside their municipality for few months (31.3%) and longer than one year (44.1%). Youth with disability also reported working outside their municipality (44.1%).

The majority of youth reported not working outside BiH (85.9%), while, in contrast to general population, 40.6% of Roma youth reported working in foreign country for more than one year, and 13.8% of youth with disability reported working outside the country for few months.

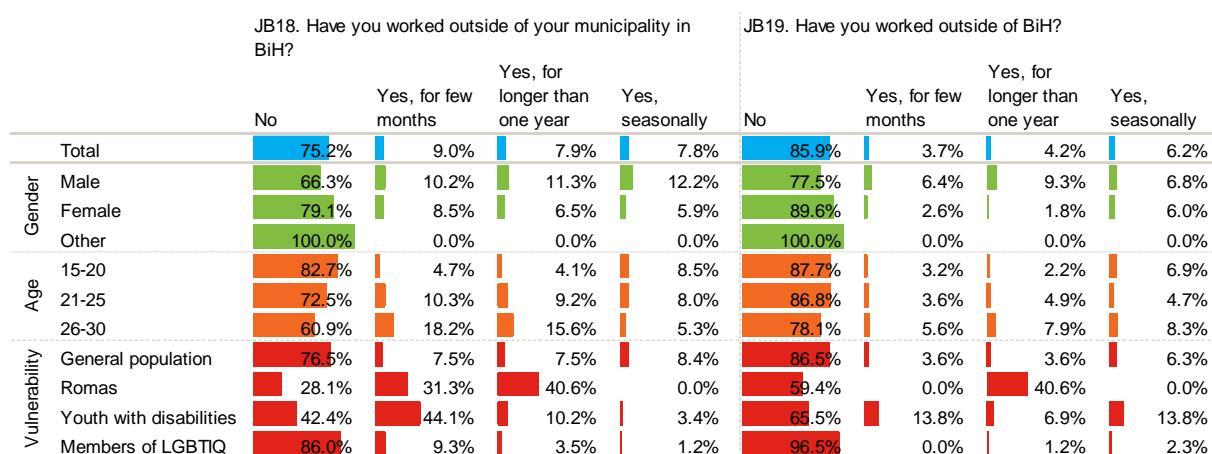


Figure 41 Percentage of youth who worked outside of their municipality and BiH

In respect to the practice of paying for obtaining the job, 64% of respondents stated that they have heard of such a case, which is a significant increase of almost 15% in respect to responses in 2016 wave. The increase is also observed in respect of respondents being a direct witness of someone buying a job. While this percentage was 1.9% in 2016, in 2024 wave 4.8% of respondents were direct witness of bribes for obtaining a work position. There are some observed differences among vulnerable groups. Youth with disabilities in 22% of cases directly witnessed someone buying a workplace and 76.3% have heard of such a case.

In 2024 wave, the majority of participants reported the intention to start their own business (52.5%), while 15% of the youth started their own business, either successfully (5.8%) or unsuccessfully (9.2%). More than 36% reported working for someone else.

JB21. Have you tried to start your own business?

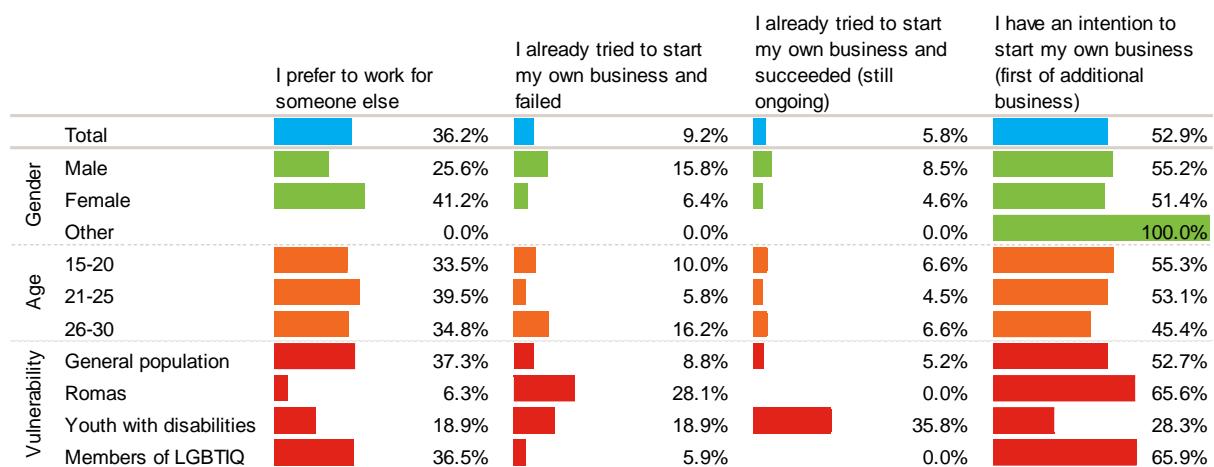


Figure 42 Percentage of youth who tried to start their own business

While there are no gender differences in respect to the intention to start an own business, there is an observable difference between female (41.2%) and male (25.6%) in respect to the preference of working for someone else. Roma youth have low preference for working for someone else (6.3%), while they are more likely to have intention to start their own business (65.6%). Youth with disability report the similar preferences, namely more than 55 % of them have already established business, successfully (35.8%) and unsuccessfully (18.9%), while only 18.9% prefer to work for someone else.

Most of youth participating in focus groups recognized discrimination practices during the employment processes, where the selection is favoured based on connections rather than qualifications. Several focus group participants indicated that ethnic background can still influencing employment in some institutions.

*There have been instances where I sensed a lack of openness towards candidates from different ethnic backgrounds, which is frustrating. Overall, I believe there's still work to be done to ensure fair treatment for everyone in the job market. (female, 30)*

Focus group participants often stated that they have been thinking about starting their own businesses. However, immediately after they provided list of obstacles: resources, knowledge, attitudes, external support. Some of them were even clear about the mission and vision of their company and what are initial steps that have to be taken in order to establish them.

*Yes, I've thought about starting my own business, possibly in the field of digital marketing or a small café. I believe there's a demand for creative and personalized services in my community. - female, 27*

*To start thinking more seriously about it, I need better access to funding and training on business management. Support from local organizations or mentorship programs*

*would be incredibly helpful, as they could provide guidance and resources. - female, 27*

*Connecting with other entrepreneurs for advice and sharing experiences would also make a big difference. - female, 29*

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

The majority of youth considers that having ambition (97.5%), being ready to work hard (96.8%) and know the right people (92.9%) are the most important conditions for life success. The same conditions were reported in 2016 wave as being important.

While in 2016 wave, the highly important conditions for success were also political connections, coming from rich family and having well educated parents, only half of the youth from 2024 wave considers the mentioned conditions as important. It should be emphasized the considerate decrease in the perception of bribes being important for life success (contrary to increase in reported instances of witnessing or hearing about the bribes). While 71.3% of youth in 2016 wave considered bribes as being important, only 33.4% of youth in 2024 puts importance on giving bribes to succeed in life.

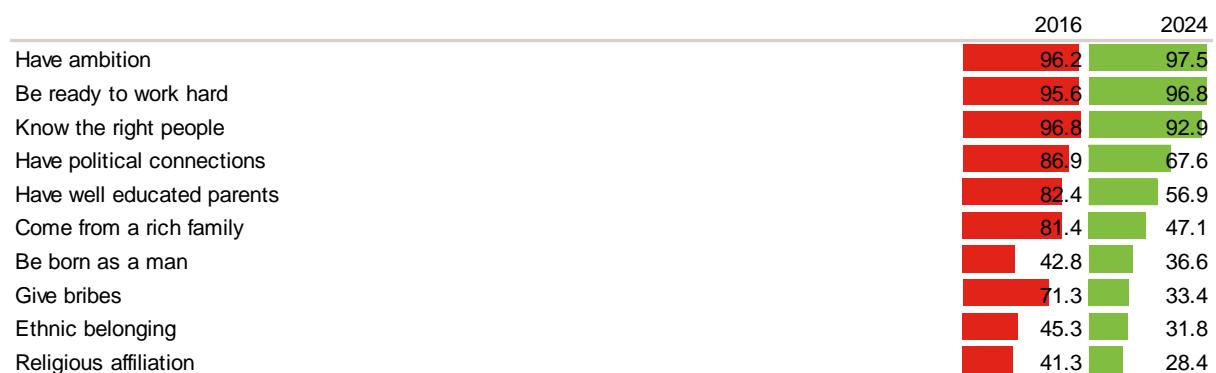


Figure 43 Percentage of youth who believe that the condition is important for life success per wave

Perception of social distance between groups from different socio-economic is still present between different groups. Most of the youth find the biggest distance between poor and rich as well as between management and workers. It can be noted that older youth group age 26 to 30, as well as vulnerable youth are more aware of the distance in comparison to 15-20 age group.

There is a significant increase in the percentage of the youth who report bigger distance between young and old (71.8% in 2024 compared to 57.5% in 2016).

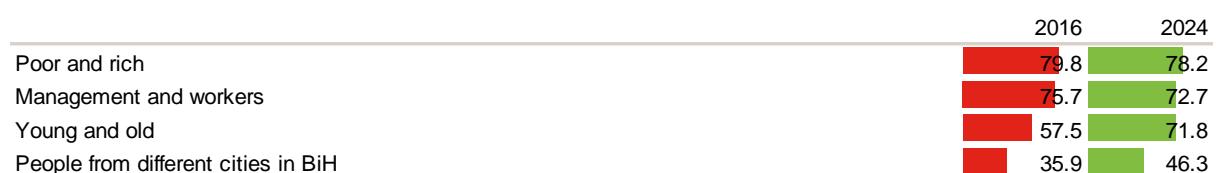


Figure 44 Percentage of youth who perceive big differences between groups per wave

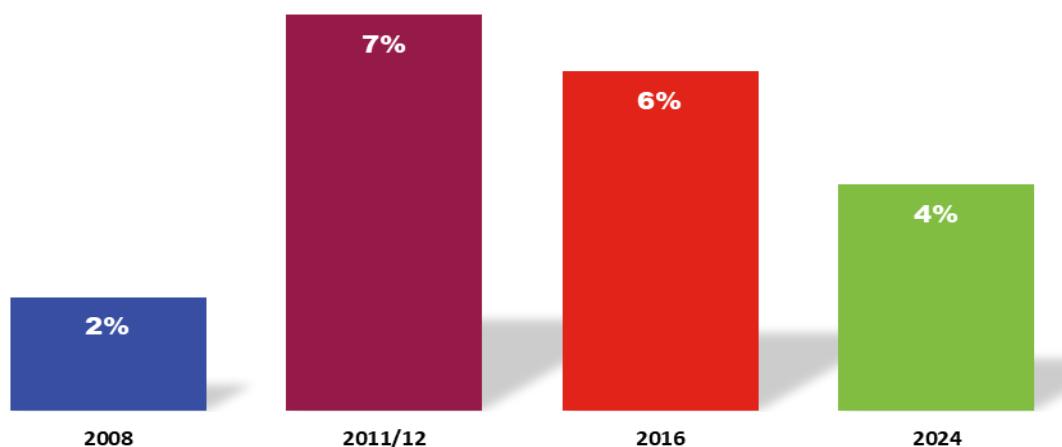
In 2024 wave, as in the previous ones, the majority of youth did not visit the social service office. It is more likely that Roma youth and youth with disabilities as well as older youth (age 26 to 30) will visit social service offices. The ones who visited a social service office(s) report receiving only partial information (45.5% in comparison to 39.3% in 2016, and 51.6% in 2011/12). Number of youth who received full information on the reason for their visit to the department of social services significantly decreased (27.8% in 2024 compared to 48.8% in 2016, and 32% in 2011/12), while at the same time, the number of youth not receiving

information doubled (26.7% in 2024 compared to 11.9% in 2016, and 16.4% in 2011/22). This indicates that social service offices are still not providing adequate services.



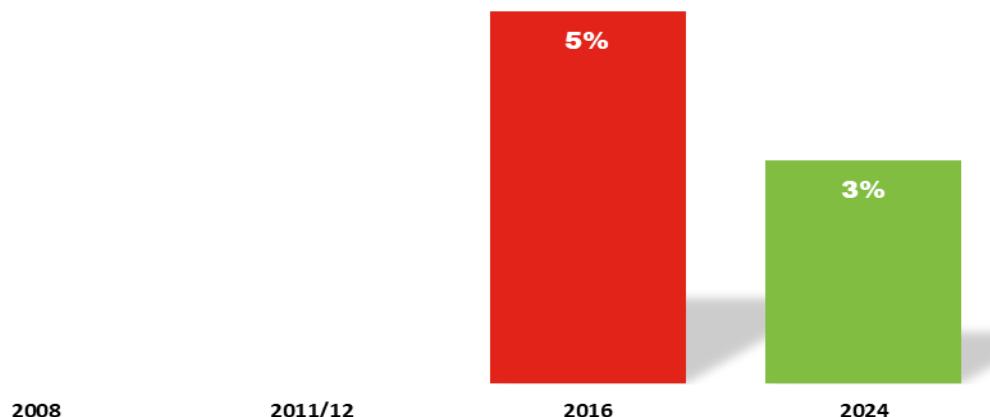
*Figure 45 Percentage of youth who received required information from social institutions per wave*

Furthermore, the VoY 2024 also showed that the percentage of the youth who are beneficiaries of the social assistance decreased for 2% between 2024 and 2016 wave. Respondents reported receiving the social support in form of the child allowance, stipends, invalidity allowance, unemployment insurance.



*Figure 46 Percentage of youth who are personally beneficiary of the social assistance per wave*

Only 3% of youth reported disability in 2024, which is a decrease in the comparison to 5% in 2016.



*Figure 47 Percentage of youth with disability per wave*



In 2024 wave, it seems that youth with disability experience less obstacles in different area in life than reported in 2016 wave. The most significant obstacle reported are access to institution of the state administration and finding job and working.

	2016	2024
Accessing institutions of the state administration	45.8	24.0
While finding a job and working	75.0	19.5
Accessing fun/recreational clubs for association	48.9	15.2
Education	56.3	14.6
Going to nature	35.5	13.4

Figure 48 Percentage of youth with disability who experience obstacles in different areas, per wave

In 2024, youth more often reports that women and girls are discriminated against in the jobs market, where 22% more youth report this discrimination in respect to 2016. This discrimination is more observed among women and among youth with disabilities.

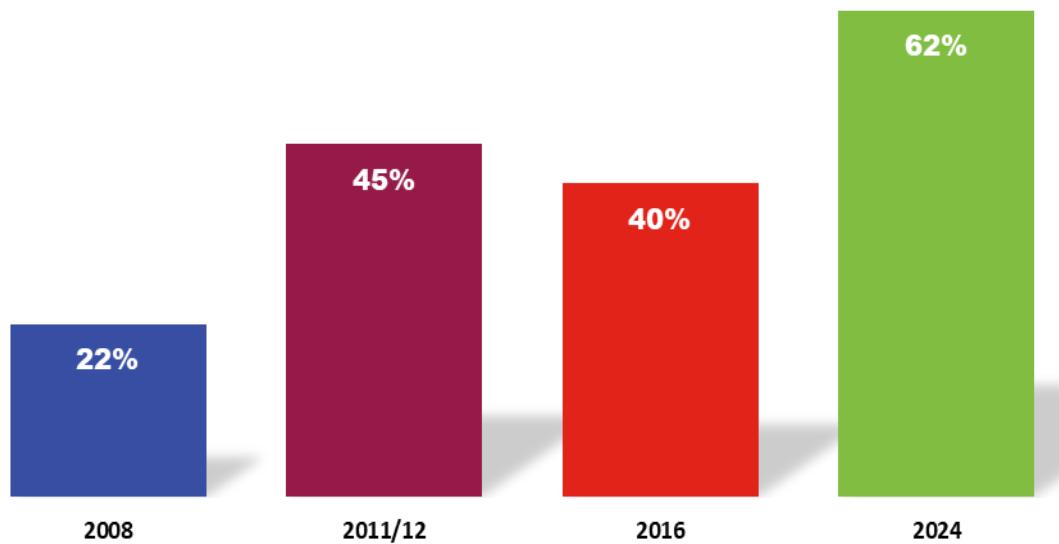
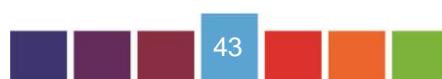


Figure 49 Percentage of youth who thinks that women and girls are discriminated against in the jobs market, per wave

Number of youth not contributing to the household budget decreased. In 2024, 47% of youth reported contributing to household budget which is a significant decrease of 18% in comparison to 2016. It is more likely that the male youth will contribute to the household budget than female youth.



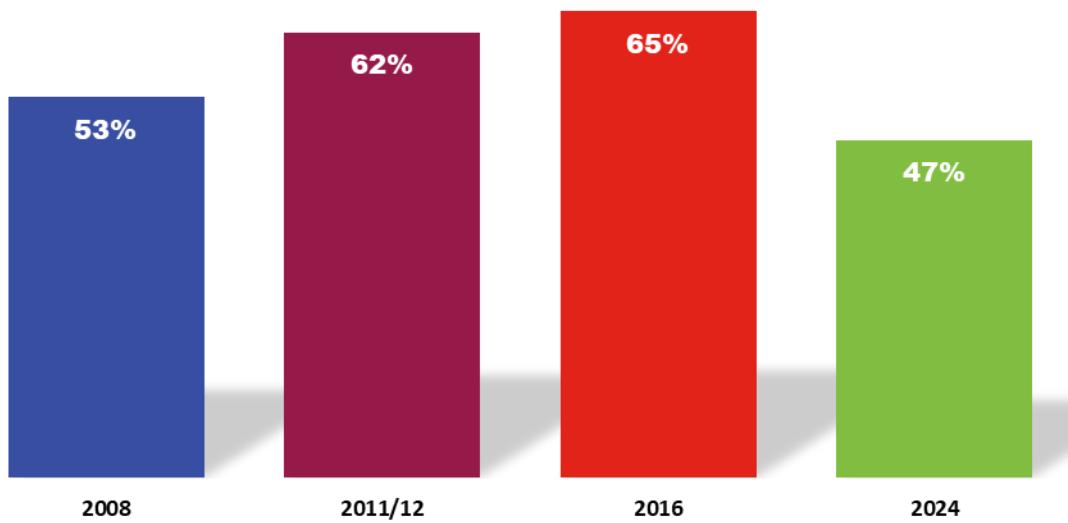


Figure 50 Percentage of youth who do not contribute to the household budget, per wave

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that the average monthly income falls in the range of the up to 1,000 BAM. This average monthly income was report as the most common in all three waves of the research.

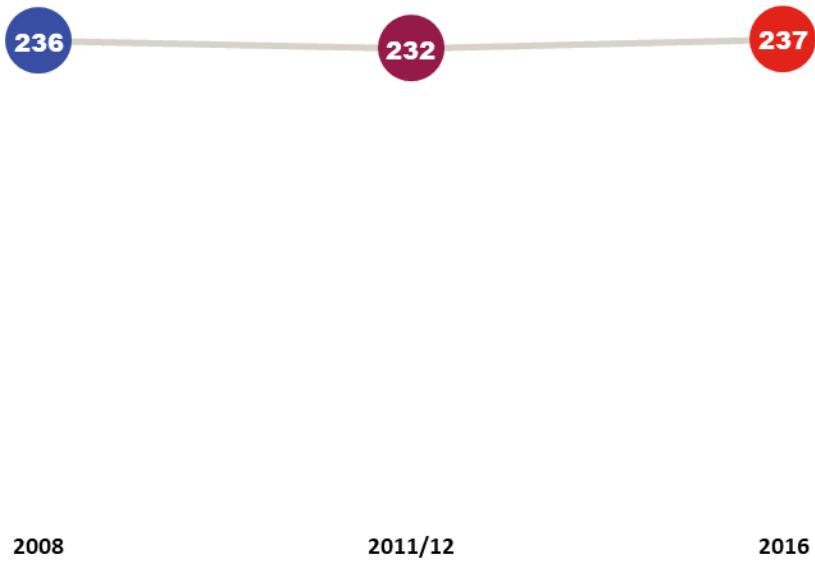


Figure 51 Average monthly income, per wave (2024 had categorical question – response “up to 1000” is most often selected)

Still, the scholarship is received by less than 40% of youth. In most of the cases the scholarship is awarded to youth 20-25 who study at universities. The average monthly scholarship is 159 BAM.



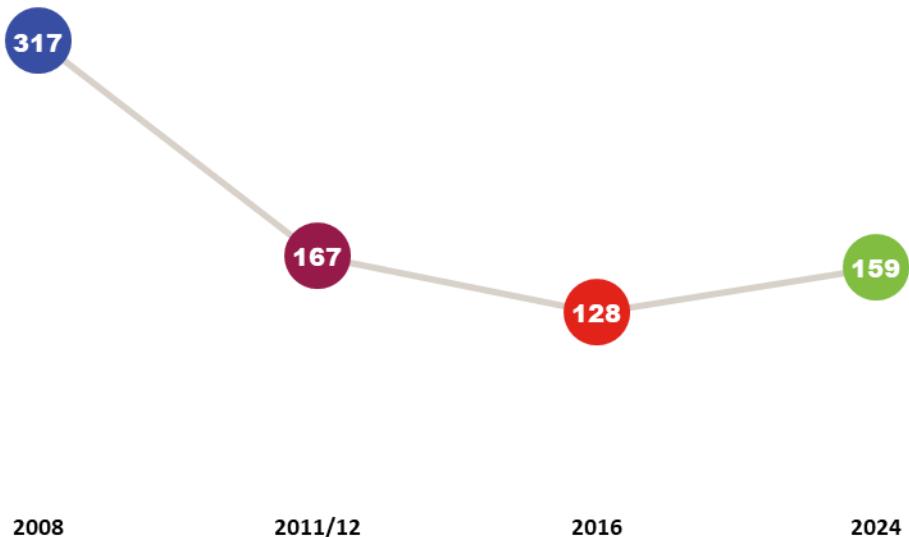


Figure 52 Average monthly scholarship, per wave

While in 2016 wave, the youth were asked to assess the social distance against each individual major ethnic group in BiH (Bosniaks, Serbs Croats, and Roma), in 2024 wave the youth were asked to assess the social distance against members of other ethnic group without disaggregation per ethnic group type.

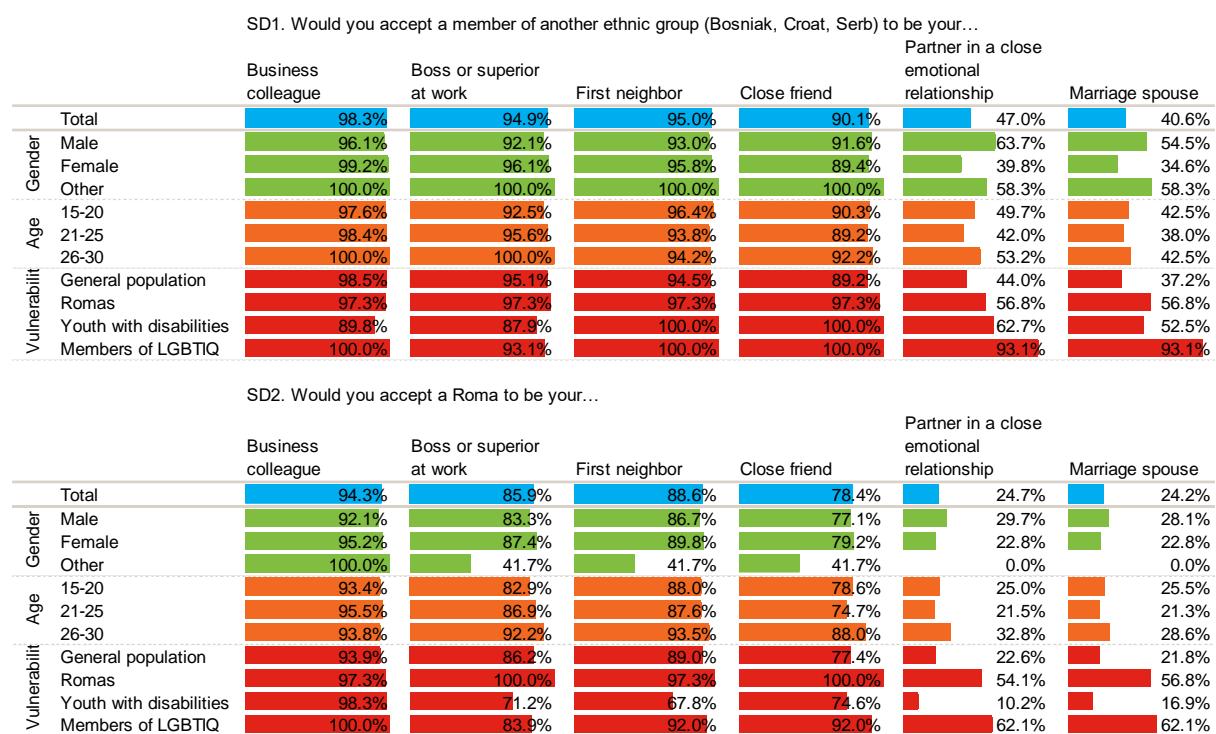


Figure 53 Percentage of youth who would accept people from other ethnic groups and Roma as different type of associates

Research results on social distance indicate a low level of social distance among ethnic groups. The majority of the youth, over 90% reports accepting a member of another ethnic group (Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs) and around 80% and over reports Roma to be their business colleague, boss or superior at work, first neighbor or close friend. In respect to emotional relations, the social difference increases. Less than half of the respondents would accept a member of other ethnic group to be their partner in a close emotional relationship (47%) or marriage spouse (40.6%). Males tend to be more open in emotional relations and report being prepared to have a member of other ethncal group as their partner in a close emotional relationship (63.7%) and marriage spouse (54.5%). There is no significant difference on social distance among different gender, age or vulnerability groups in respect to the following ethnic group, Bosniaks, Croats, and Serbs. It is less likely that the youth will accept Roma as the as their partner in a close emotional relationship (24.7%) and marriage spouse (24.2%).

The respondents who have children report that they would accept that their child/children attend the same school with children from different ethnic groups in more than 90%.

The youth are familiar with the culture and customs of other constituents of BiH to some extent (58.9%), while only 5% are not familiar at all. While there is no difference among different gender groups on the familiarity with the culture and customs of other constituents of BiH, there are some observable differences between age and vulnerability groups. Youth aged 26-30 are more often completely familiar (63%) with different cultures and customs, as well as Roma (86.5%).

Most of the youth think that the society in which we live is not tolerant toward others and those who are different, with no significant differences among different gender, age and vulnerability groups.

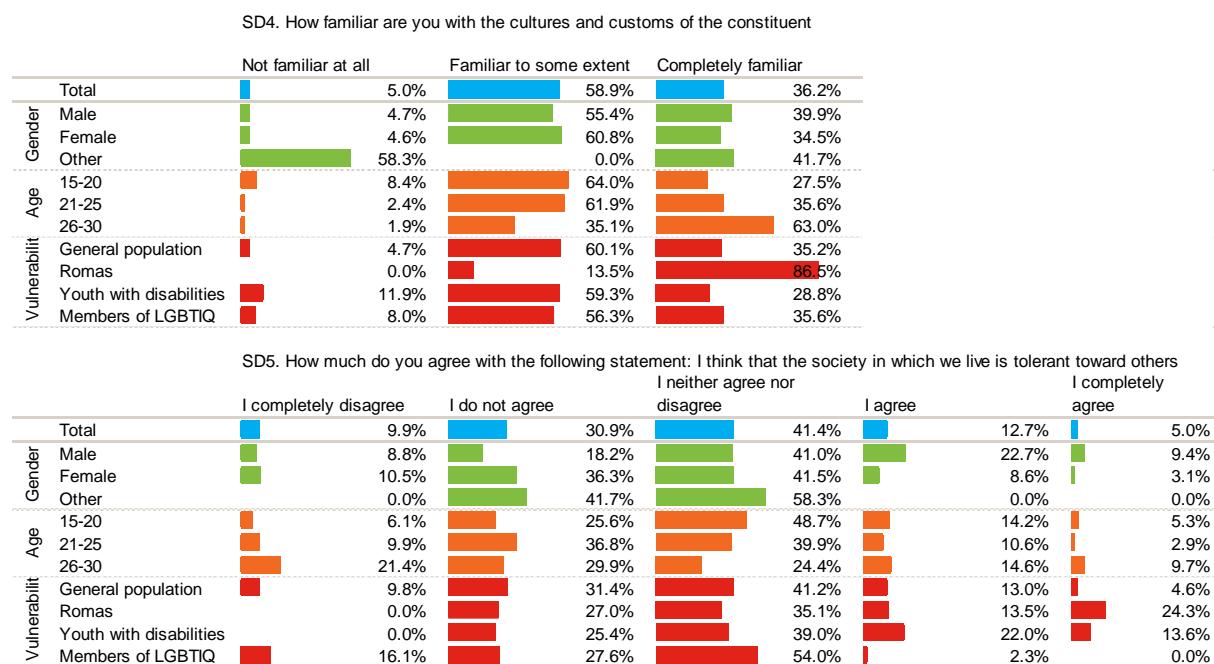


Figure 54 Percentage of youth who are familiar with the customs of other ethnic groups and believe that the society is tolerant

## PARTICIPATION

In general population, youth participation in decision making remains very low. Almost all youth estimate that they have average, low or no influence in important decision making in the local community (96.9%) and within their workplace, school or university (86.9%). A lower number of youth reports average, low or no influence in important decision making within the circle of friends (78%) and in their family or household (65.4%).

P1. Estimate your own influence on important decisions in relation to the listed entries.

	At work, school or university	In your family or household	In your local community	Political or non-governmental organisations	Within your circle of friends
Total	86.9%	62.2%	96.9%	93.9%	78.0%
Gender					
Male	85.6%	69.1%	96.2%	89.3%	76.9%
Female	87.3%	59.2%	97.2%	95.8%	78.2%
Other	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Age					
15-20	85.7%	61.7%	96.3%	93.3%	74.7%
21-25	88.5%	64.2%	97.3%	94.0%	78.5%
26-30	85.7%	58.3%	97.7%	95.7%	86.3%
Vulnerability					
General population	86.4%	61.9%	97.0%	94.5%	78.4%
Romas	75.7%	100.0%	100.0%	96.9%	59.5%
Youth with disabilities	88.1%	57.6%	98.3%	78.0%	72.9%
Members of LGBTIQ	98.9%	52.5%	92.5%	90.8%	77.0%

Figure 55 Percentage of youth who estimate average, small or none influence in decision making

Focus group participants were capable of articulating different definitions of youth participation in decision-making processes. They find participation in decision-making processes crucial for improving the quality of life, education and their employment.

*Participation in society" means being actively involved in community activities, volunteering, and contributing to local initiatives. It's about feeling connected and making a difference in the lives of others. - female, 27*

*Decision-making process" refers to having a voice in shaping policies and decisions that affect our lives. For me, it's important to be included in discussions about issues that matter to our community, like education and employment. Both concepts are crucial for building a stronger, more inclusive society where everyone feels valued and heard. - female, 29*

While there is no significant difference in estimation on decision making process among different gender and age groups, there are some differences within vulnerable groups. Namely, Roma youth report significant influence within their family or household (62.2%) and within their circle of friends (40.5%).

In respect to the previous 2016 wave, there is a slight increase (1% to 5%) in the youth estimation of their influence in decision making processes, while in respect to the overall trend across all waves, the estimation of level of participation of youth remains on the similar level for the last 15 years.

	2008	2011/12	2016	2024
In your local community	89.0	97.0	99.0	96.9
Political or non-governmental organisations	90.0	99.0	99.0	93.9
At work, school or university	80.0	88.0	92.0	86.9
Within your circle of friends	66.0	80.0	79.0	78.0
In your family or household	61.0	70.0	68.0	65.4

Figure 56 Percentage of youth who estimate average, low or no influence on important decision, per wave

There are 81% of participants in 2024 who reported voting in the last election which is a significant increase in respect to the previous waves.

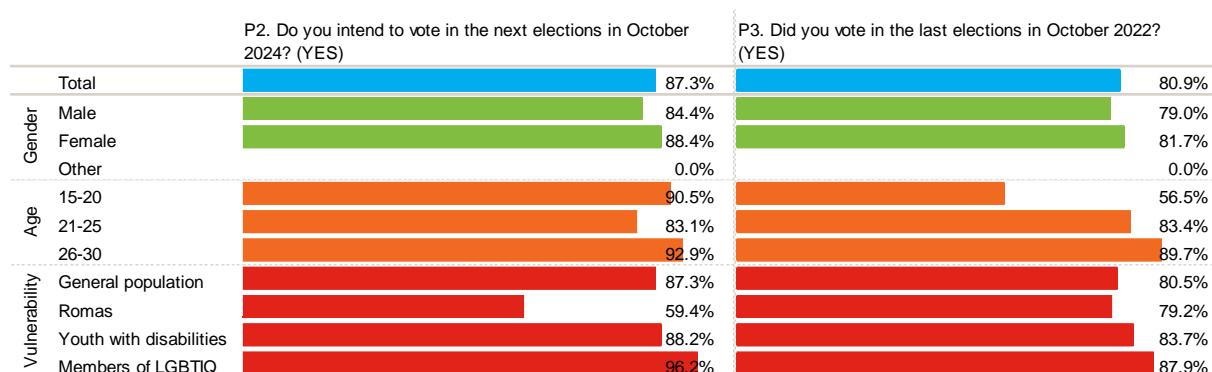


Figure 57 Percentage of youth who voted and intend to vote at next election

The total increase in the last 15 years is over 20%. There is no significant difference between gender and vulnerability groups in respect to voting, while it is reported that lower percentage of youth aged 15-20 (56.5%) voted in the last election, which can be attributed to the fact that youth under 18 are not eligible to vote.

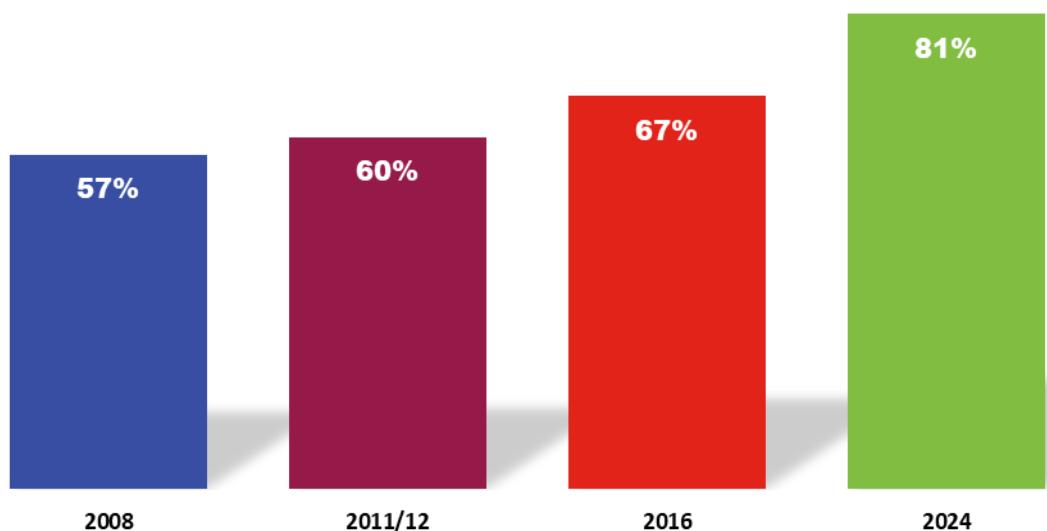


Figure 58 Percentage of youth who voted during the last elections, per wave



The participants in 2024 wave reported that they intend to vote in 87% of the cases, while only 59.4% of Roma youth reported their intent to vote. The percentage of youth who intend to vote in the following election has increased by 18% in the 2024 wave in respect to the previous 2016 wave.

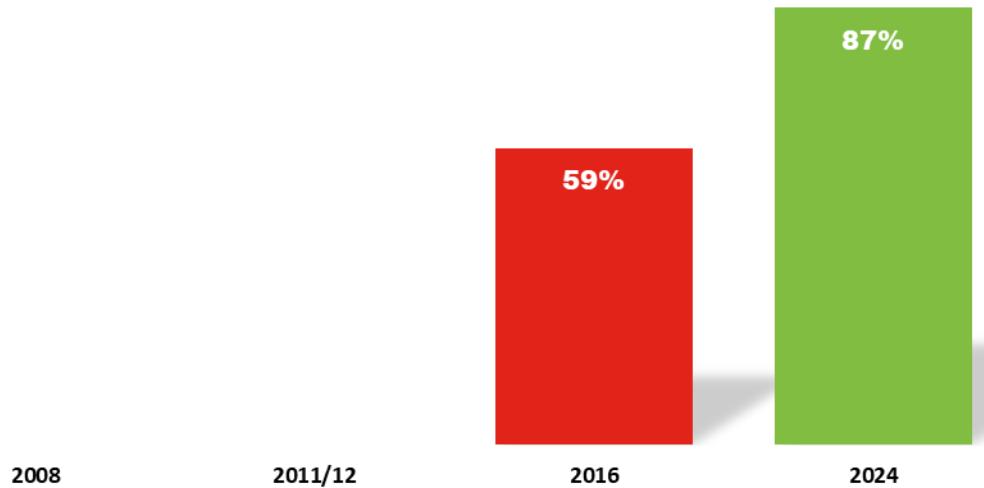


Figure 59 Percentage of youth who plan to vote during the next election, per wave

Participants of the focus groups had different optics on youth participation in political parties. They see that some youth are motivated by the desire for better opportunities (networking and career prospects) but some want to fight for social justice, or a more inclusive society.

However, there is a skepticism about politics, as many feel that parties don't always represent youth interests effectively. Being a member of political party doesn't ensure that youth voice is heard, as political parties are seen as hierarchical, where main decisions are made by senior politicians.

*I'm not a member of a political party, but I do keep an eye on their activities. Many young people join political parties or support them because they want to be part of the change and believe in certain values or policies. - female, 29*

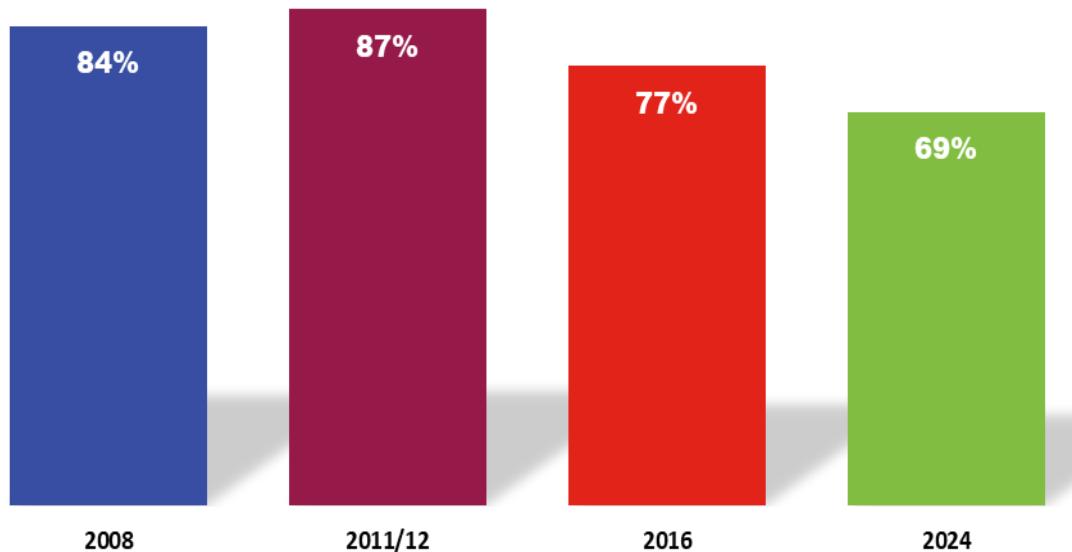
*I am a member of a political party, but I am not active. I don't like the current political environment, and I don't think I could contribute anything. - female, 27*

*I am an active member of a political party; I am currently working on youth policies in my party. It's not easy because the elders don't listen to us, and I plan to continue working even harder and better. Honestly, I hope for a more serious position than the current one, as well as a good job. - female, 29*

*I think youth generally vote less often than the older population. Many young people feel disillusioned with the political system and believe their votes don't make a difference. There's also a lack of engagement and awareness about the importance of voting. Older generations tend to have more established views and experiences, which often lead them to participate more consistently. To change this, we need better education about the electoral process and initiatives to motivate young people to get involved. - female, 3*

The majority of participants (69%) are still of the opinion that they have little or no influence within their local community, while only Roma youth (more than 50%) reported slight higher influence within their local community.

In respect to the previous waves, there is a slight increase in the perception of youth engagement in local community decision making.



*Figure 60 Percentage of youth who believe not to have significant influence on community decision making, per wave*

Overall, the majority of youth in 2024 wave reported not being engaged in the local communities' activities. The most common engagement of youth is related to volunteering (61%), petition signing (44.6%) and attendance of the public gathering (26.7%).

While there is no significant difference among gender and age groups in respect to the local community engagement, it can be observed that Roma youth are more engaged in this conversation. Roma youth reports being more engaged in contacting politicians (51.3%), attending public gatherings (51.3%) signing a petition (24.3%), contribution to political discussions (21.6%), participation in meeting of local community council (31%) and volunteering (83.7%).

Youth from rural area less often participated in all community activities comparing to general population (particularly volunteering - 51%, and signing petitions -32%), while higher number of them participated at the meetings of the local community councils (12%).

P6. How many times have you participated in the listed activities in the last 12 months?

	Volunteered	Signed a petition	Attended a public gathering where political and social issues were discussed	Participated in a public protest	Contacted politicians
Total	61.0%	44.6%	36.7%	28.0%	24.7%
Gender	Male	60.3%	37.5%	42.7%	22.1%
	Female	61.0%	47.4%	34.6%	30.2%
	Other	100.0%	58.3%	0.0%	58.3%
Age	15-20	70.6%	39.5%	38.0%	27.3%
	21-25	52.7%	45.4%	34.9%	27.4%
	26-30	55.7%	58.0%	38.0%	31.7%
Vulnerability	General population	60.3%	42.8%	35.0%	24.8%
	Romas	83.8%	45.9%	86.5%	43.2%
	Youth with disabilities	50.8%	59.3%	55.9%	65.5%
Members of LGBTIQ	70.1%	77.0%	42.5%	66.7%	34.5%

P6. How many times have you participated in the listed activities in the last 12 months? ... Continuation

	Written an article, e.g. in a student newspaper, for an organisations or on the internet	Contributed to political discussion on the Internet	Collected signatures	Participated in meetings of the Local Community Council	Participated in public discussions about the municipal budget
Total	21.1%	16.9%	13.7%	9.6%	8.1%
Gender	Male	24.8%	27.2%	13.8%	12.3%
	Female	19.3%	12.2%	13.3%	8.2%
	Other	58.3%	58.3%	58.3%	58.3%
Age	15-20	21.3%	19.6%	18.3%	9.3%
	21-25	16.3%	12.2%	10.7%	10.4%
	26-30	34.3%	22.0%	8.3%	8.6%
Vulnerability	General population	19.9%	14.7%	11.7%	8.3%
	Romas	45.9%	48.6%	5.4%	31.0%
	Youth with disabilities	23.7%	23.7%	55.9%	33.9%
Members of LGBTIQ	34.5%	43.0%	33.3%	14.9%	33.3%

Figure 61 Percentage of youth who engaged in community activities at least once

In respect to results from 2016 wave, more youth in 2024 wave reports being engaged in the community activates in the past 12 months. The major increase is observed in respect to petition signing, public gathering attendance, participation in public protests, contacting of politicians, and article writing.

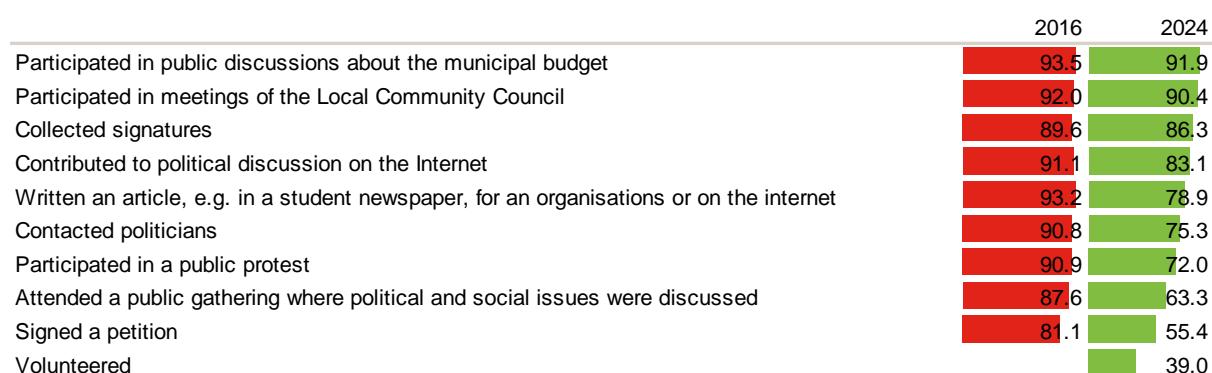


Figure 62 Percentage of youth who **did not** participate in community activities, per wave

Some focus group participants (mostly from Sarajevo and Banja Luka) reported high engagement in community decision-making processes. Their engagement is highly connected with their closer social circle which supports such actions.

*Yes, I do advocate for changes in society, especially regarding youth issues and education reform. I participate in community events and volunteer with organizations that focus on social issues. - female, 27*

*I'm engaged because I believe that every small effort can lead to positive change. However, I sometimes feel limited by resources and time. I would like to participate more, as I see the potential for collaboration and the impact we can have together. Being active in my community is important to me. - female, 29*

*I love activism, and I will try to do even more than now. Through Kali Sara I am helping younger Roma people to find their own way and to be removed from the street. – Roma, male, 30*

To ensure youth participation in decision-making processes, focus group participants propose activities that will ensure that actual decision-makers to increasingly value opinions and competencies of youth, thus seek their advice.

*The gap between the idea that youth are the future and the reality of feeling powerless comes from a lack of genuine opportunities for involvement. Many decisions are made without consulting young people, leading to frustration. - female, 27*

*To bridge this gap, educators, community leaders, and policymakers need to actively seek youth input and create platforms for us to share our views. NGOs can also help by organizing youth councils or forums to ensure our voices are heard. It's crucial for adults to recognize our potential and engage us in meaningful ways to foster real change. - female, 29*

While very few members of the focus groups volunteered in community actions, they reiterated that in the case of emergencies (such as natural disasters) it is easy to mobilize youth and other community members for help.

*I see that there are volunteers when there are some difficult situations or disasters, such as the current floods in Jablanica, or who work for Pomozi.ba. and as for young Roma and volunteering, it is difficult. Mostly due to discrimination. But we had support from the association Kali Sara and Romanići. – Roma, male, 30*

Most adolescents aged 10 to 14 participate in various school clubs, such as those focused on informatics, biology, geography, and sports. Their involvement is often driven by personal interests or teacher recommendations. Volunteering is less common, with only a few students engaging in activities like drama clubs or NGO-related projects to gain new experiences and knowledge.

The perception of youth towards the work and projects of youth organisations and associations in the area of their municipality/city are in most cases positive or very positive (45.6%), while more than 40% of youth have neither positive nor negative opinion. Youth with disabilities tend to have more negative opinions of the youth organisations and associations work (22.1% either negative or very negative). The results obtained for 2024 do not significantly differ from 2016, but it can be observed that the general population tends to have positive opinion on the youth organization work.

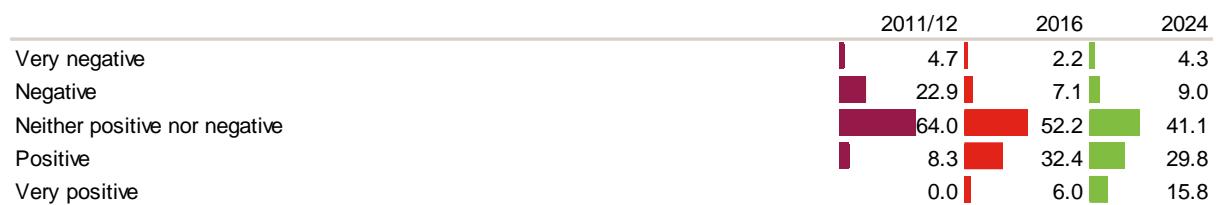


Figure 63 Percentage of youth opinion about the work and projects of youth organisations and associations in the area of their municipality/city, per wave

In respect to engagement in different types of organisations, the participants reported in most cases being engaged with youth organisations and associations (41.5%). Youth are also engaged in human rights organisations or those for charitable work (22.3%), religious organisations (17.5%), and environmental organisations (13.4%). There is a significant increase in youth engagement in 2024 wave in comparation to 2016 wave, which can be attributed by the slightly improved perception about the work of youth organisations.

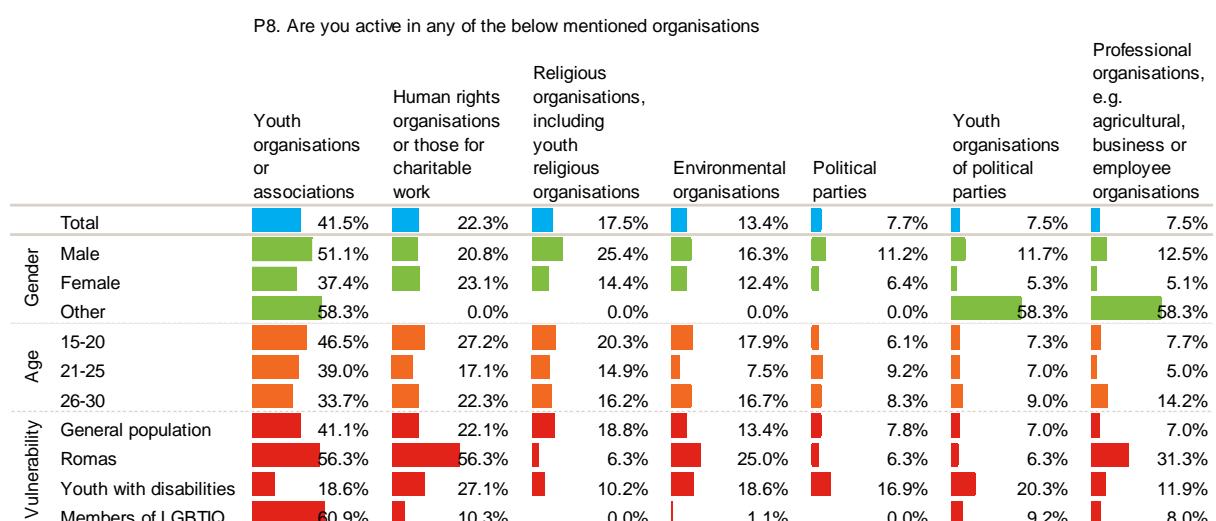


Figure 64 Percentage of youth active in organisations of youth

There is no significant difference among gender and age groups, but there are significant differences among vulnerability groups engagement in different organisations. In contrast to the general population, Roma youth are more engaged in youth organisations (56.3%), human rights organisations or those for charitable work (56.3%), and professional organisations (31.3%). In contrast to the general population, only 18.6% of youth with disabilities are engaged in youth organisations, while they are more engaged with youth organisations of political parties (20.3%) and political parties (16.9%). The majority of LGBTIQ youth population is engaged in the work of youth organisations (60.9%).

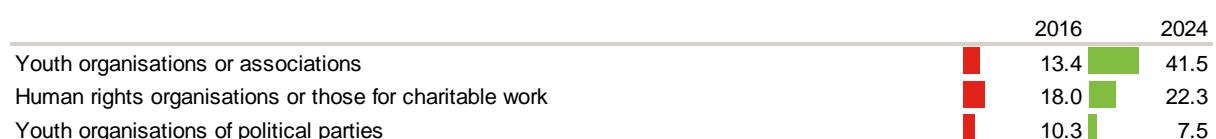


Figure 65 Percentage of youth who are engaged with different type of organisations, per wave

Focus group participants strongly believe that youth organisations and NGOs can influence changes in society, through raising awareness about important issues and mobilizing young people around common causes.

*By organizing events, workshops, and campaigns, they can educate and empower youth to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes. NGOs can also advocate policy changes and work directly with local governments to ensure that youth perspectives are included. Overall, they play a crucial role in fostering engagement and driving positive social change. - female, 29*

The VoY 2024 shows that youth population is not involved in volunteering in their local communities. The majority of youth reported never (36.6%) or rarely (32.1%) being involved in volunteering activities, while the vulnerable groups tend to volunteer more often.

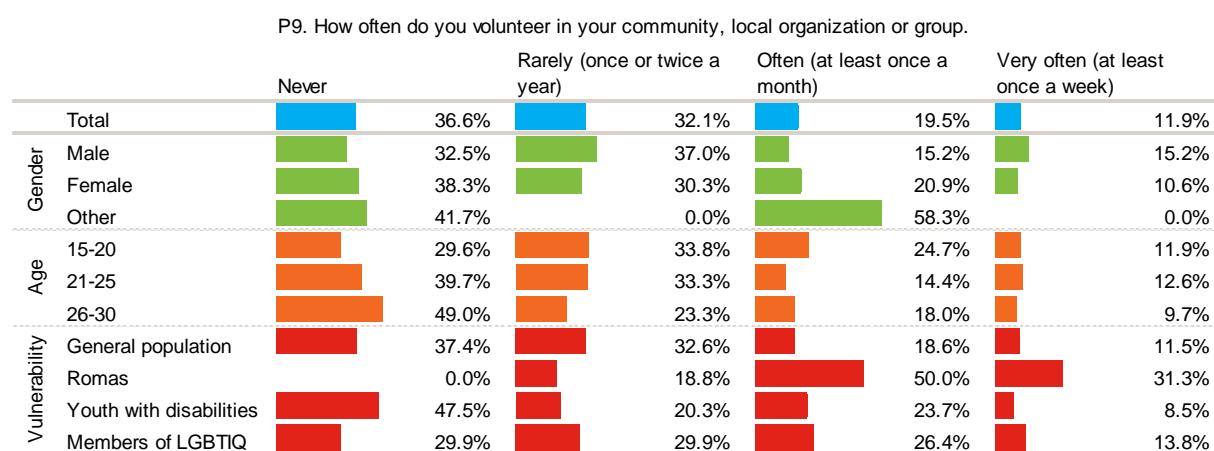


Figure 66 Percentage of youth who volunteer in their community, local organisation or group

Most adolescents aged 10 to 14 participate in various school clubs, such as those focused on informatics, biology, geography, and sports. Their involvement is often driven by personal interests or teacher recommendations. Volunteering is less common, with only a few students engaging in activities like drama clubs or NGO-related projects to gain new experiences and knowledge.

The youth reported that they would be more interested in volunteering their time and skills for charity if there was more legal protection and recognition of the experience and skills related to voluntary (42.7%), if they had more information on the possibilities of volunteering in the local community where I live (34.1%), and if they had more information about what the volunteering involved and what are the benefits (30.6%)

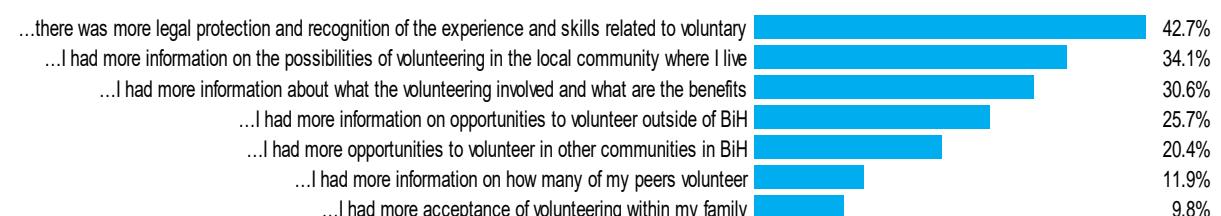


Figure 67 Percentage of youth who would be more interested in volunteering their time and skills for charity if

## MOBILITY

About 12% of youth lived abroad for longer period than three months. Male youth, older youth and youth with disabilities have significantly more often lived abroad (22%, 21%, and 30%, respectively). Compared to 2016, a higher percentage of youth lived abroad in 2024. However, the highest percentage of youth lived abroad in 2011/12.

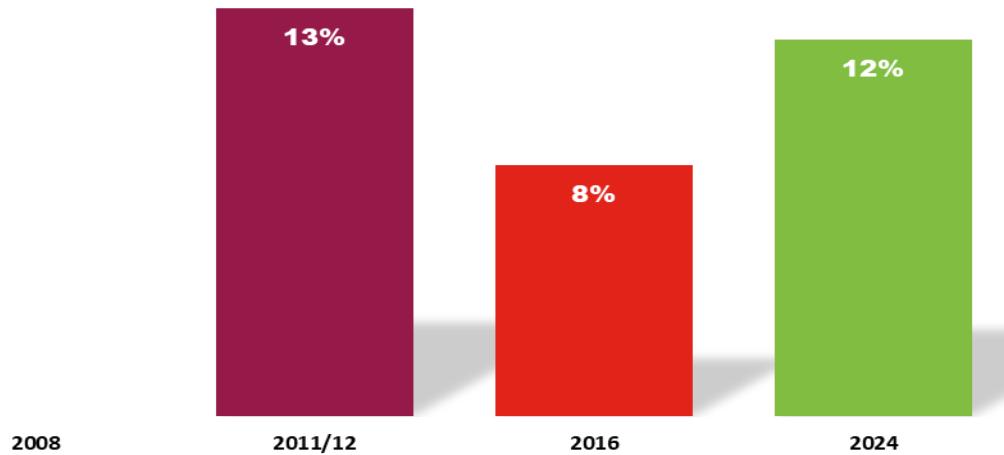


Figure 68 Percentage of youth who lived abroad for longer than three months, per wave

On average, youth who lived abroad stayed there for 22 months. The longest average stay abroad is reported by Romas and youngest group of youth (38%, and 32%, respectively). Youth from 2024 VoY on average stayed abroad for a significantly lower period compared to 2016 (43 months on average) and 2011/12 VoY (30 months on average).

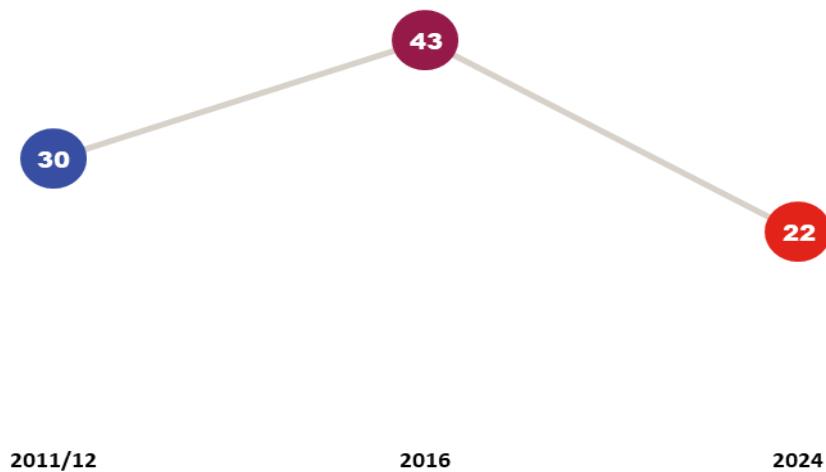


Figure 69 Average stays abroad in months, per wave

High percentage of youth own a passport (95%). Only youth with disabilities slightly less often own a passport (89%). The percentage of youth owning a passport in 2024 is significantly higher than in 2016 (76%) and 2011/12 (61%).



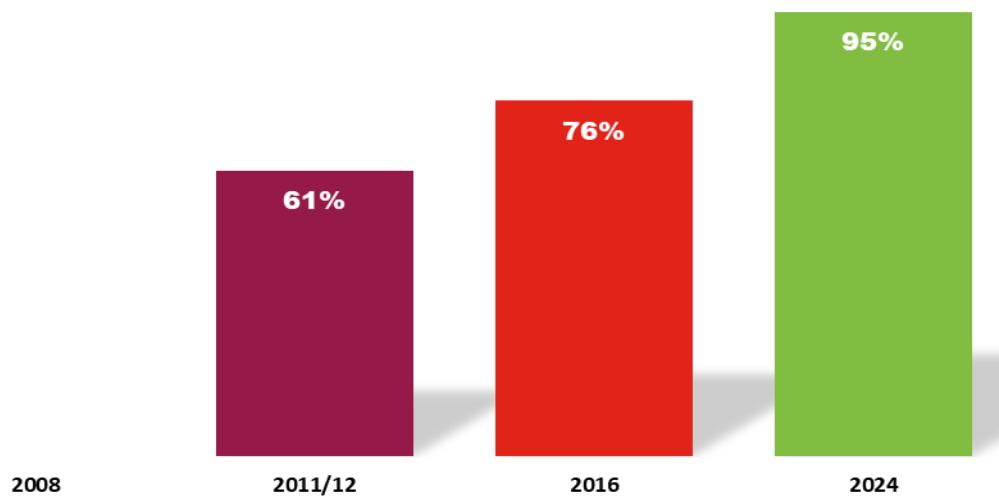


Figure 70 Percentage of youth who own a passport, per wave

The highest number of youth would leave BiH for temporary work (62%). However, there is only a slightly lower number of youth who would live for other purposes (studying 57%, marriage 48% and permanent settle 43%). Distribution of responses is similar with youth from rural areas.

Temporary work was the most frequent reason for leaving BiH in previous VoY as well. In 2024, there is significantly lower number of youth who would leave BiH to permanently settle in another country, compared to 2016 and 2011/12.

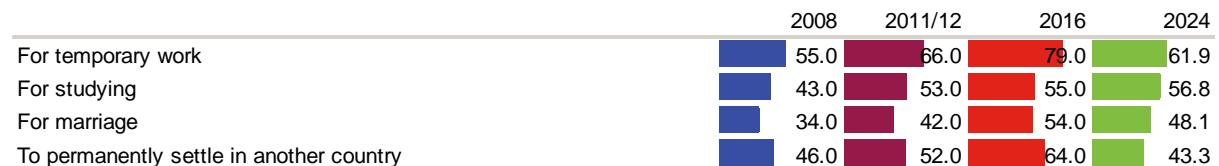


Figure 71 Percentage of youth who would leave BiH for different reasons, per wave

About 71% of youth would leave BiH, either forever or for a long period of time. Only 29% of youth reported that they would not leave BiH for an extended period. Male youth are less often reporting that they would leave BiH forever or for longer period (64%). Members of the LGBTIQ population reported that they would leave BiH (permanently or for a longer period) if they could at the highest rate (91%). Compared to previous VoY, youth in 2024 are more often ready to leave BiH for shorter or longer period but are less often reporting that they would leave BiH forever.

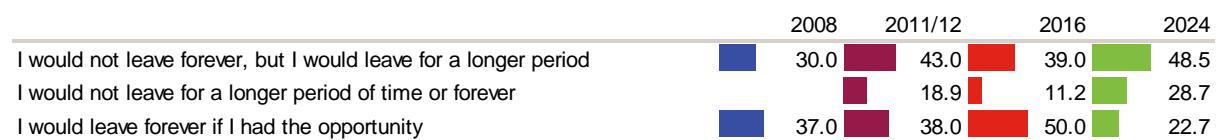


Figure 72 Percentage of youth who would leave BiH for longer period, per wave

Focus group participants noted that many young people are leaving BiH for better job opportunities and a better life. Most justified this move and planned to leave themselves. To reduce youth emigration, BiH leadership must create jobs, support young entrepreneurs, and incentivize companies to hire young people. In order to keep youth, BiH has to foster a vibrant community with appealing cultural and social activities.

The decline in young people getting married and starting families is attributed to several factors by the focus group participants. First, economic instability and high unemployment make it hard for young people to feel secure enough to commit to marriage or having children. Additionally, many prioritize education and career development over starting a family. There's also a cultural shift; young people today often seek personal fulfillment and independence before settling down. Finally, housing costs are a significant barrier, as many can't afford to buy or rent a suitable place to live. Overall, these challenges are seen as a driver of reluctance to start families at a young age by focus group participants.

*We should focus on creating an environment that encourages youth to stay in BiH. Helping young people leave can lead to a brain drain, which hurts the country in the long run. - female, 29*

*To keep them here, we need to improve job opportunities, support entrepreneurship, and invest in education that aligns with market needs. Local governments, businesses, and NGOs can work together to provide resources, mentorship, and incentives for young people to build their futures in BiH. - female, 27*

Two dominant sources of information about events in the country for youth are social media and online portals. About 84% of youth are using social media, and 78% online portals to get information. Newspapers and radio stations are least often reported (13%, 12%, respectively). The older group of youth is reporting to use newspapers and radio stations more often (36%, 27%, respectively). Youth with disabilities are reading newspapers more often (28%). Members of LGBTIQ and Roma population are more often collecting information about the events in the country from friends, compared to general population (84%, 73%, 56%, respectively).

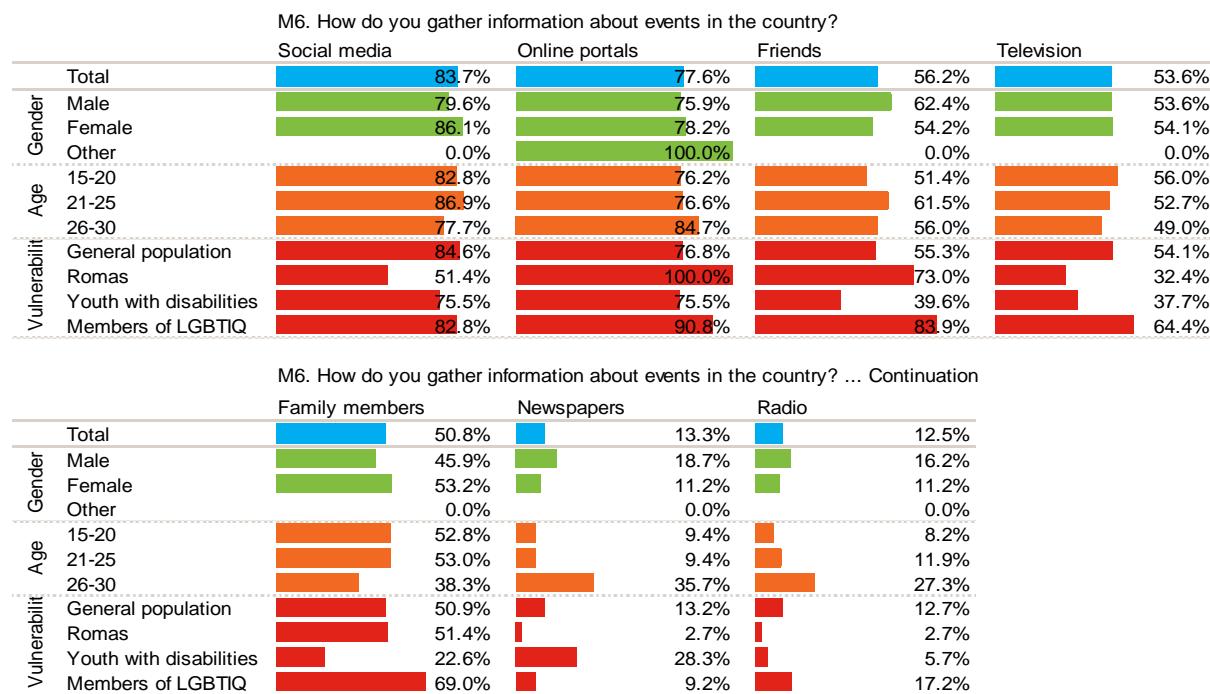


Figure 73 Percentage of youth accessing information about events by channel

The youth who are more active in their communities, participating in focus group, reported that they follow local social media influencers, journalists, and organizations that discuss social issues, youth affairs, and politics. They also keep an eye on social media pages (Facebook, Instagram) focused on community events and opportunities. Some online portals are mentioned repeatedly during the focus groups: klix.ba, Al Jazeera, N1.

*I mainly follow online news portals and social media for updates. Websites like Klix.ba and HAYAT AND AL JAZEERA are my go-to sources for news. - male, 30*

*Daily, I follow N1, Klix.ba, Avaz.ba, X-com, these are all my source of information. - female, 29*

Most of the participants of the focus groups stated that they browse through the headlines of articles in the online portals and social media, and very few are fully read if they catch their attention.

*I'd say I spend more time on titles because they need to grab my interest quickly. However, for important topics, I focus more on the full text to get the complete picture. With so much information out there, I try to balance being quick with understanding the content deeply. - female, 30*

Media are seen as a platform that often highlights differences, sometimes deepening divides rather than bridging them. Certain outlets are recognized as focused on ethnic or religious tensions, fueling misunderstandings and conflict. Some media organizations are recognized as channels promoting dialogue and celebrating diversity, showcasing positive stories about collaboration and shared experiences. Focus group participants are of the opinion that media should prioritize inclusive reporting to foster unity, emphasizing common values and encouraging conversations across communities. Overall, trust in the media is low and only a few focus group participants mentioned that they are cross-validating information provided.

*I'm cautious about believing everything I read in the media. While some outlets are reliable, others are influenced by politics or agendas, which makes me question their independence. - male, 29*

*To determine if information is true, I cross-check it with multiple sources, especially trusted news portals. I also look for articles that provide evidence or cite experts. Validating information is important to me; I try to stay informed and critical of what I consume, as misinformation can easily spread, especially on social media. - female, 30*

Influencers are perceived through different optics. Some are seen as positive, with meaningful content, educational posts or discussing social issues, while others promote inappropriate lifestyles or materialism without substance. Influencers could have a positive effect on personal growth but harmful as well.

*I find some influencers inappropriate when they promote unrealistic lifestyles or materialism without substance. Their focus can be harmful, especially to young people who may feel pressured to conform. - male, 29*

## SECURITY

Only about 13% of youth are not concerned about climate change. Male youth are more often not concerned about the climate change (24%). Youth with disabilities reported the highest level of concern for climate change (91% very concerned, while in general population 36% are very concerned). Quite low percentage of Roma population reported low concern for climate change (5%).

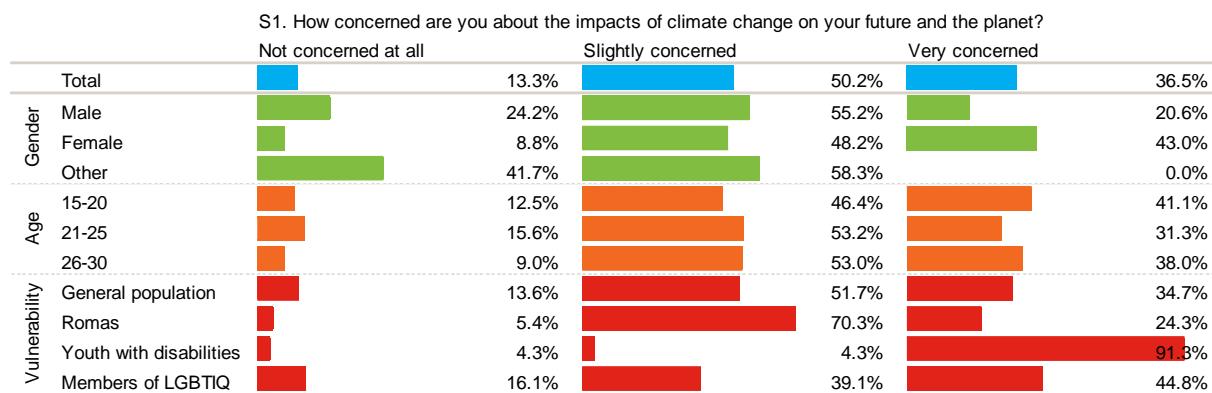


Figure 74 Percentage of youth concerned with climate change

Focus group participants declared to have modest knowledge on climate change. They are aware that it is happening, but not sure about the short-term consequences for them. Very few focus group participants discussed behavioral changes they introduced to better control climate changes in their communities. Floodings, landslides, storms are often stated as strong evidence for climate change and their influence on humans.

*I would say my knowledge of climate change is average. When I hear the term, I think of extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and environmental degradation. I think climate change is affecting our world through more frequent flooding, heat waves, and unpredictable weather patterns. - female, 29*

*For example, I have noticed stronger storms in some areas over the past few years, causing damage to homes and infrastructure. - male, 30*

Participants of the focus groups recognize youth as one potential actor who can make a significant impact on climate change by raising awareness, pushing for policy reforms, and leading community initiatives, as long as they are aware and ready to act. In order to fight the climate change, focus group participants proposed interactive and hands-on workshops in schools, school projects like organizing clean-ups or tree-planting and inviting guest speakers from environmental organizations to schools.

*Personally, I focus on reducing waste by recycling and being conscious of my choices. Every little action helps, and it's motivating to see so many young people committed to creating a healthier planet. - female, 30*

*We should organize clean-up campaigns, promote tree planting, and hold workshops on sustainability. Encouraging local schools to incorporate environmental education can also raise awareness among young people. - male, 27*

*States should introduce policies that support renewable energy, invest in public transportation, and enforce stricter environmental regulations are crucial. Governments should also provide incentives for green businesses and support community initiatives. - female, 30*

Adolescents aged 10 to 14 associate climate change with global warming, natural disasters, and altered seasonal patterns. They express concern about the impact of human activities on the environment and emphasize the need for community involvement in mitigating climate change. They observe that climate change leads to more frequent natural disasters and disruptions in daily life.

*Climate change has a negative impact on our world because there are more and more earthquakes, floods, etc. and sometimes I think about it because it often happens that these changes disrupt our daily activities. Female kid, age 10, rural school*

They believe that human activities, including improper waste disposal, contribute to environmental degradation and advocate for increased awareness and action to combat climate change. Children can contribute to climate change mitigation by educating their peers about environmental issues, organizing clean-up activities, and promoting sustainable practices. Continuous education and awareness-raising are essential to foster a deeper understanding of climate change among students. Adolescents suggest incorporating climate change education into regular classes through video materials and presentations.

*School should introduce new subject "Save the Planet". 14 years old boy, urban school*

Participants of the VoY are asked to assess the prevalence of prosocial and asocial behavior of individuals and access to support institutions. Similarly to 2016, in 2024 about 64% of youth consider that many citizens are socially excluded. Older youth (80%) and youth with disabilities (85%) more often report social exclusion. Youth often report discrimination on different grounds (44%), which is increasingly reported by Romas (59%) and members of LGBTIQ population (64%). Discrimination is reported similarly as in 2016 VoY.

A very low number of youth reported trust in the institutions and services of law enforcement agencies (8%) and access to recreational resources (11%). None of the members of the Roma population, and a significantly lower number of youth with disabilities (6%) reported access to recreational resources. Higher number of youth reported trust in law enforcement and access to recreational resources in 2016 compared to 2024. They also reported significantly lower prevalence of violence and hateful speech.

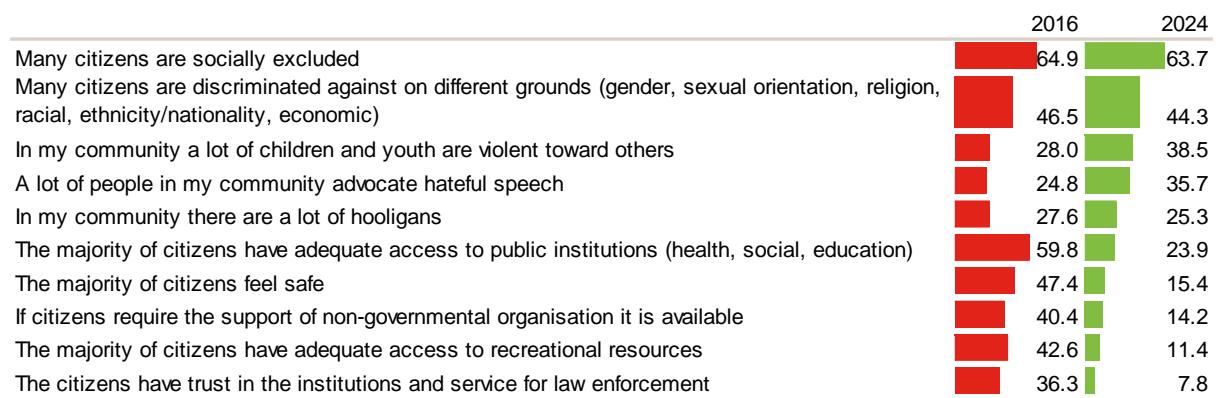


Figure 75 Percentage of youth who agree with the statement about social relationships, per wave

Most youth report that their family members and friends witnessed some form of violence (55%). Romas (86%) and youth with disabilities (75%) significantly more often report that their family members and friends are witnessing violence. About a third of the youth reported psychological traumas, discrimination, feeling of hopelessness and uselessness, alienations and poverty of their family members and friends. Psychological trauma is most often reported by members of LGBTIQ population (58%). Committing violence toward themselves or others by family members or friends is most often reported by youth with disabilities (56%) and members of LGBTIQ population (40%). The feeling of hopelessness and uselessness by family and friends is also most frequently reported by youth with disabilities (53%) and members of LGBTIQ population (63%). Discrimination against family and friends is most frequently reported by Romas (62%) and LGBTIQ members (72%), that is similar to the general experience. The group that is feeling the highest alienation of family members and friends are members of LGBTIQ population (71%).

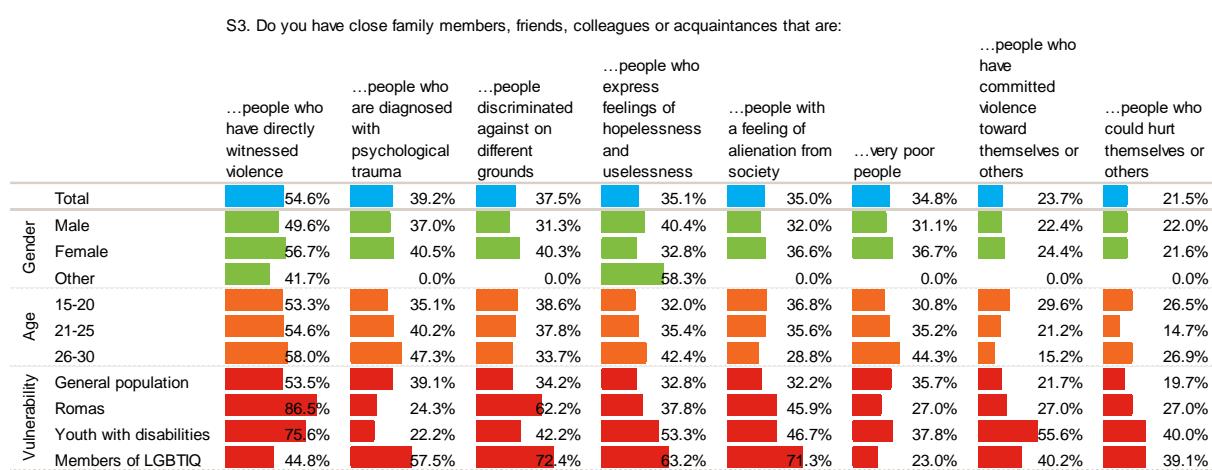
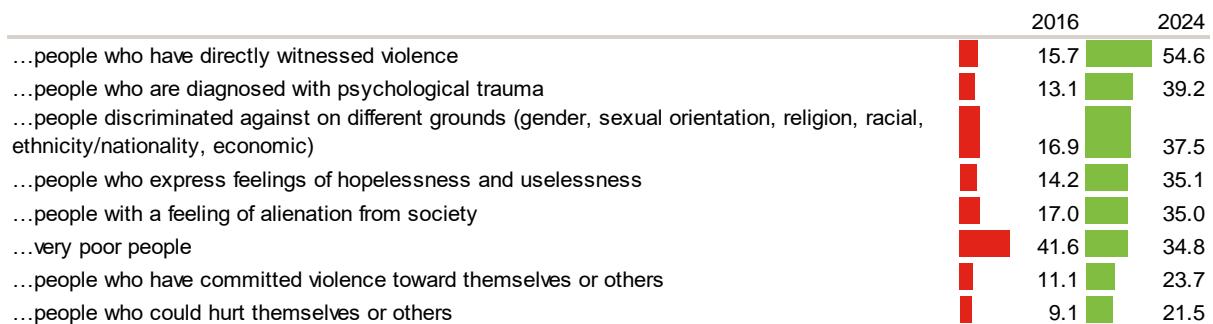


Figure 76 Percentage of youth whose close family members and friends are exposed to different types of violence and discrimination

Prevalence of social isolation and other vulnerability experiences in family members and friends is more often reported in 2024 VoY compared to 2016 in all instances, except for the prevalence of poverty. A significantly higher percentage of youth reported family members and friends living in poverty in 2016, compared to 2024.



*Figure 77 Percentage of youth whose close family members, friends, colleagues or acquaintances are vulnerable, per wave*

There is a consensus among focus group participants that they feel safe in their communities, regardless of the existing concerns about petty thefts and crimes in certain areas. Youth is particularly at higher alert when traveling to other cities and walking through unfamiliar areas.

*When traveling to other places, I tend to be more cautious, especially in unfamiliar neighborhoods. Overall, while I feel a sense of security, I remain aware of my surroundings and take precautions when needed. - female, 29*

Most of the participants of the focus group reported being witness to the fights (often fueled by alcohol), peer violence, violence in relationship and domestic violence. Response of the community authorities is often perceived as inadequate and insufficient.

*There have also been instances of domestic violence that some community members discussed quietly. It's concerning to see how these issues affect families and the community, and I believe more awareness and support are needed to address them effectively. - male, 30*

Focus group participants recognize that hate speech is a form of violence, and that it should not be considered as free speech. In the opinion of the focus group members, the main reason why it should be criminalized is harm to individuals and as it is fostering division in society. It should be penalized to protect communities and promote tolerance, as understanding and respect are vital for a peaceful coexistence.

*For me, hate speech is any communication that attacks or discriminates against individuals based on their ethnicity, religion, or identity. - male, 27*

*I do feel exposed to hate speech, especially on social media, where some people express extreme views against minorities. It often comes from individuals who are either anonymous or part of extremist groups. - female, 30*

Focus group participants have also recognized the presence of online violence and its impact on mental health. It is associated with anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation. Online violence undermines community cohesion and creates a culture of fear, which hinders meaningful connections and discussions. It is the opinion of several focus group

members that addressing online violence is needed to foster a safer and more supportive online space.

*For relationships, it can create distrust and division, making people hesitant to engage with others online. It also fosters a toxic environment that discourages open dialogue and healthy interactions. (female, 30)*

To deal with online violence, focus group participants proposed programs raising digital literacy and enforcement of stricter anti-hate speech policies in social media and online portals, including clear reporting mechanisms. Youth associations and NGOs are recognized as potential partners in the effort to increase public awareness on the problem with online violence and hate speech.

*I would encourage social media platforms to enforce stricter anti-hate speech policies and provide clear reporting mechanisms. Establish support networks for victims of online violence, offering counseling and legal assistance. - male, 29*

*Foster open dialogues within communities to promote understanding and tolerance, countering divisive narratives. Encourage NGOs and youth organizations to advocate for a safer online environment and raise awareness about the issue. - female, 27*

Focus group discussion with aged 10 to 14 reviled that verbal violence is the most commonly observed form of aggression among adolescents aged 10 to 14, with physical violence occurring less frequently. In cases of violence, they typically seek help from parents and teachers, though some also turn to school counselors or principals. They tend to avoid situations that involve tests, public performances, or confrontations.

Adolescents aged 10 to 14 define violence as including insults, physical aggression, and psychological harm. They understand cyberbullying as online harassment through messages or negative comments on social media. While they did not report personal experiences of violence during discussions, they shared examples they had heard of, such as inappropriate messages on social media, which were reported to parents or authorities. Adolescents recognize the potential dangers of social networks and identify parents and schools as primary sources of support in cases of cyberbullying. They emphasize the importance of reporting any form of violence to trusted adults.

About 90% of youth (both in 2024 and 2016 wave) reported that their family members help each other, are familiar with their friends, actively involved in education and that they have close friends. In 2024, lower number of youth report close connection of their family to their national, religious and ethnic group, and close connection with distant family members. Romas (75%) and members of LGBTIQ population (75%) less often report closeness with family members. However, Romas (73%) report more often closeness with distant family members, while youth with disabilities significantly lower (22%). Members of LGBTIQ population, significantly less often reported that their parents were involved in their education (58%).

S4. Does the statements feel true for yourself (YES)						
	Members of my family help each other	Members of my family know my friends	My parents are (were) actively involved in my education	I am very close with my family members	Members of my family are closely connected to their national/religious/ethnic group	My family is involved in religious activities of the community
Total	91.8%	89.9%	89.6%	89.4%	54.2%	52.5%
Gender	Male	82.0%	82.9%	84.0%	81.4%	51.7%
	Female	95.2%	92.9%	92.1%	92.3%	55.2%
	Other	100.0%	41.7%	41.7%	100.0%	41.7%
Age	15-20	90.4%	86.8%	88.9%	89.3%	55.2%
	21-25	92.7%	92.4%	88.8%	89.5%	55.0%
	26-30	93.0%	91.6%	94.0%	89.3%	49.0%
Vulnerability	General population	92.2%	90.3%	90.8%	90.1%	55.6%
	Romas	97.3%	100.0%	100.0%	78.4%	51.4%
	Youth with disabilities	78.3%	87.4%	95.7%	97.8%	69.6%
Members of LGBTIQ	93.1%	79.3%	57.5%	74.7%	18.4%	12.6%

S4. Does the statements feel true for yourself (YES) ... Continuation						
	I am very close with my distant family members	My family is involved in the cultural activities of the community	Arguing happens a lot in my family	I am actively involved in the education of my children	Some members of my family are violent toward others	
Total	51.8%	38.8%	20.6%	13.6%	7.0%	
Gender	Male	46.5%	37.5%	22.1%	22.7%	7.7%
	Female	53.4%	38.8%	20.3%	9.8%	6.8%
	Other	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	58.3%	0.0%
Age	15-20	56.9%	37.0%	19.7%	12.0%	6.1%
	21-25	49.2%	38.7%	22.9%	7.8%	9.5%
	26-30	44.6%	44.3%	16.8%	33.6%	2.7%
Vulnerability	General population	53.0%	38.6%	19.6%	12.8%	6.3%
	Romas	78.0%	59.5%	13.5%	18.8%	16.2%
	Youth with disabilities	21.7%	50.0%	32.6%	52.2%	4.3%
Members of LGBTIQ	40.2%	32.2%	37.9%	8.0%	18.4%	

Figure 78 Percentage of youth who feel empowered by family members in different ways

Older youth (34%) and youth with disabilities (52%) who have children report more active involvement in the education of their children, compared to the general population (14%). Arguing the family is most frequently reported by members of LGBTIQ population (38%) and youth with disabilities (33%). Members of Roma (16%) and LGBTIQ (18%) population more often report that some family members are violent toward them, compared to general population (7%).

Youth with disabilities (70%) more frequently report connection of the family members with their national, religious and ethnic group, while members of LGBTIQ population (18%) report it least frequently. The lowest support from family members is reported by youth with disabilities (78%). Engagement of family members in religious activities in the community is least frequently reported by youth with disabilities (31%) and members of LGBTIQ population (13%).

Youth from rural areas more often reported to be close to distant family members (60%), that their family members are closely connected to their national / religious / ethnic group (64%), that family members are engaged in community cultural activities (45%) and that family members are engaged in religious activities (65%). Other dynamics with the family members is similar to the general population.

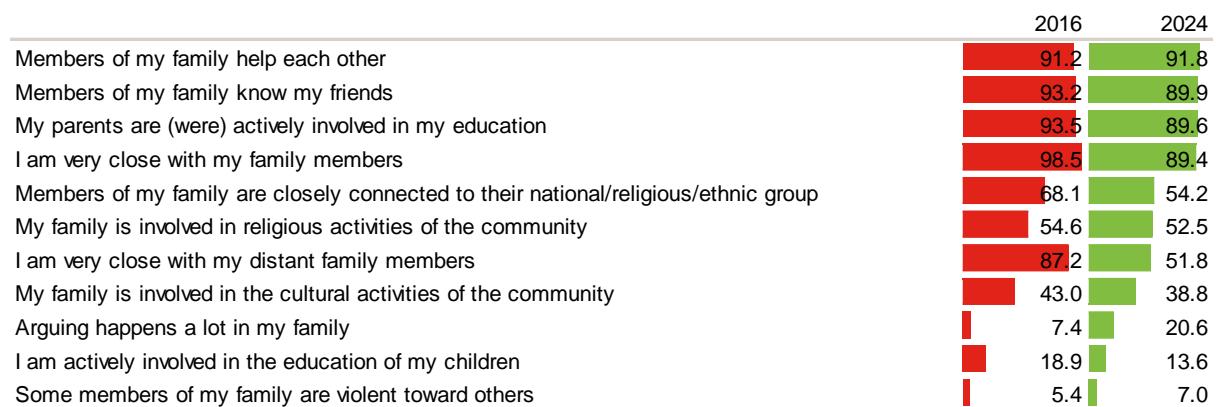


Figure 79 Percentage of youth with available social support, per wave

The highest percentage of the youth reported to be exposed to gossiping (34%). The lowest frequency of gossiping is reported by older youth (26%), Romas (24%) and members of LGBTIQ population (23%). The most frequent exposure to harassment and beating is reported by members of LGBTIQ population (15%) and youth with disabilities (9%). Male youth reported more often to be harassed or beaten (7%) compared to females (3%).

Youth with disabilities (19%) and members of LGBTIQ population (15%) more often reported theft and destruction of their property. The same two groups also more often reported threats (11%, 17%, respectively). Youth from rural areas less often report being beaten up (5%), while other forms of violence are similarly reported to general population.

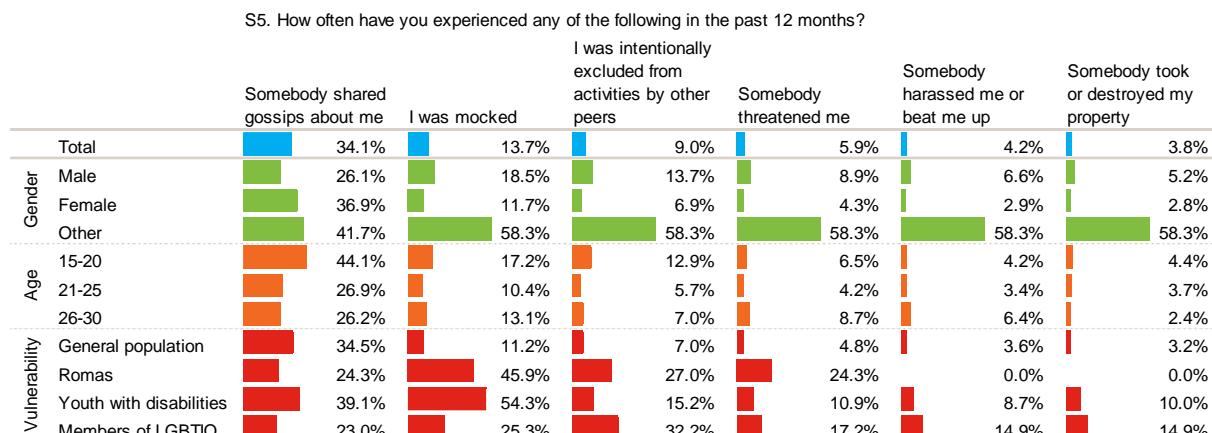


Figure 80 Percentage of youth who have experienced some form of violence (often or very often – more than two times per year)

The difference in exposure to mocking between the general population and vulnerable groups is highest. Romas (46%), youth with disabilities (54%) and members of LGBTIQ population (25%) report significantly higher frequency of mocking than general population (14%).

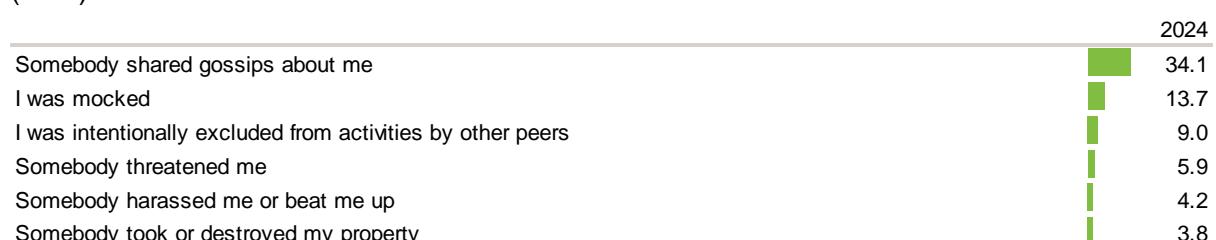


Figure 81 Percentage of youth reporting exposure to different forms of violence

## FREE TIME AND MENTAL HEALTH

Most of the youth are optimistic about the prospects. More than 77% are of the opinion that the future will be a little bit better or much better than the present. In contrast to general population, Roma youth are more optimistic about the future prospect stating that they expect that future will be much better than the present (78.4%), will at the same time, the youth with disability lack that optimism, with 19.6% of them stating that they the future will be much better than present. Distribution of responses of youth from rural areas is similar to the general population.

FT5. How do you imagine your near future? Which of the following statements best describe your opinion?

		A little better than the present: I expect something from the future, but not a lot	The same as the present: I do not expect anything from the future, neither better nor worse	A bit worse than the present: I expect a certain worsening in the future	Much worse than the present: I do not expect anything good from the future	Not sure
	Total	38.7%	38.6%	8.5%	4.8%	0.6%
Gender	Male	38.8%	35.5%	8.9%	6.0%	0.4%
	Female	38.1%	40.0%	8.4%	4.4%	0.7%
	Other	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Age	15-20	45.2%	34.5%	6.6%	4.9%	0.2%
	21-25	35.0%	40.4%	10.2%	4.8%	1.0%
	26-30	30.2%	45.6%	9.1%	4.4%	0.7%
Vulnerability	General population	37.9%	38.9%	8.7%	4.9%	0.6%
	Romas	78.4%	21.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Youth with disabilities	19.6%	50.0%	8.7%	2.2%	0.0%
	Members of LGBTIQ	50.6%	28.7%	6.9%	6.9%	0.0%

Figure 82 Percentage of youth who perceive better future

Overall, the attitudes toward the future are much more positive in the 2024 wave, than it was in the previous waves.

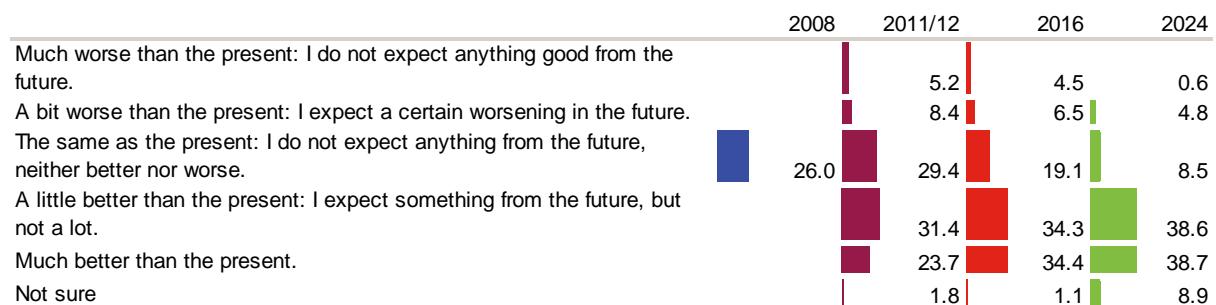


Figure 83 Percentage of youth who perceive better future prospects, per wave

According to the research results, there is a significant decrease in the percentage of youth who do not have any expectation for the future. While this percentage was very high in 2011/12 (43%), the number of youth with no future expectation declined in 2016 (30%), and it is now at 8% of youth not expecting anything from the future.

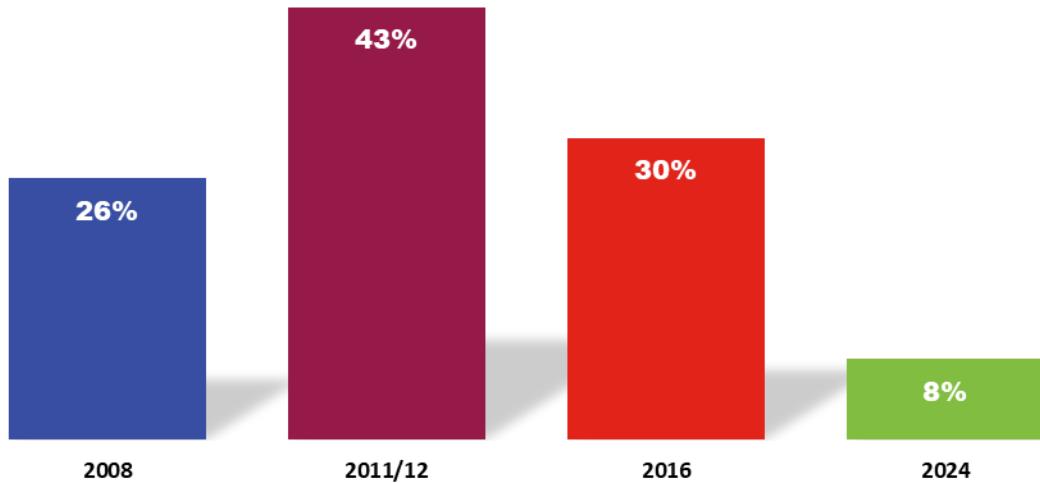


Figure 84 Percentage of youth who do not expect anything from the future, per wave

In 2024, the youth were asked to discuss their mental health. Out of the total sample, 65% of youth reported having experienced symptoms of depression or anxiety in the last 12 months. This percentage is slightly higher among female (70.2%) than male (52.1%). Youth in the age group 26-30 also experienced more symptoms of depression in respect to the other age groups. It is important to emphasize that LGBTIQ youth group reported significantly higher occurrence of depression symptoms. More than 85% LGBTIQ youth reported experiencing symptoms of depression in the last 12 months.

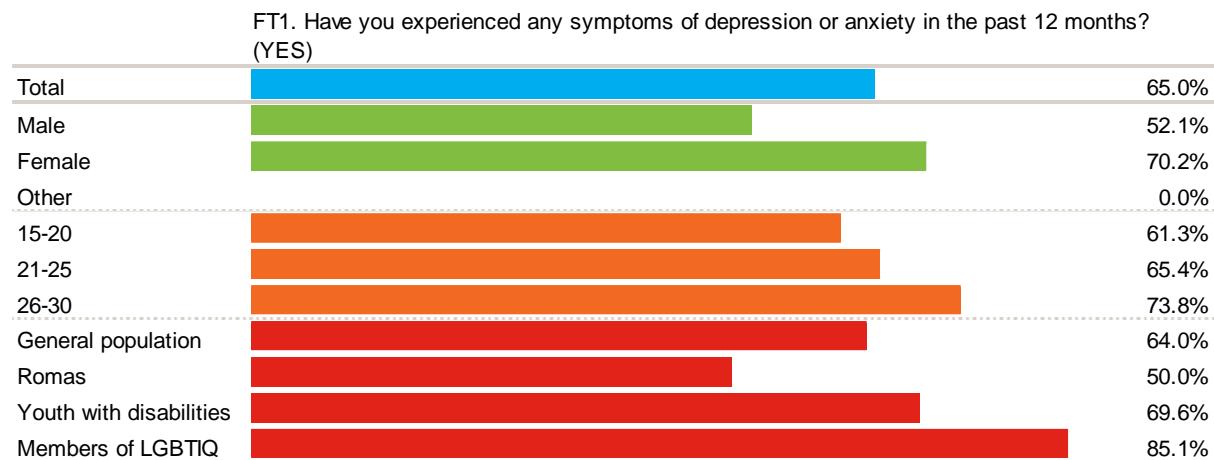


Figure 85 Percentage of youth experiencing symptoms of depression or anxiety

Youth are open to discussing their feelings and thoughts with their friends (62%) and family member (47,6%). Youth communicate their problems with their friends (85.8%). Help from mental health care professionals, such as psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists and other mental health care professionals, was sought by 23.7% of respondents, while more than 20% of youth did not seek help at all. In contrast to the general population, vulnerable groups tend to seek more help from family members and friends. A higher percentage of

LGBTIQ population (82.2%) and Roma youth (78.3%) sought the help from mental health care professionals than the general population.

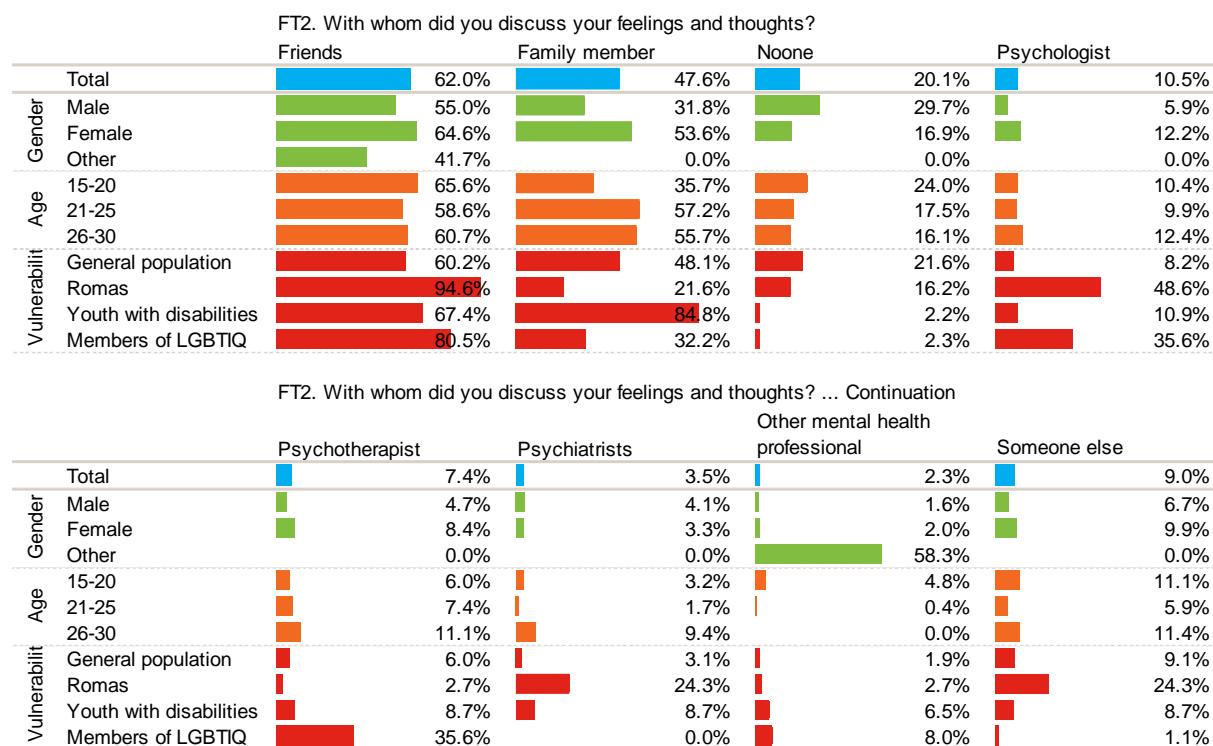


Figure 86 Percentage of youth who discuss their feelings and thoughts with third parties

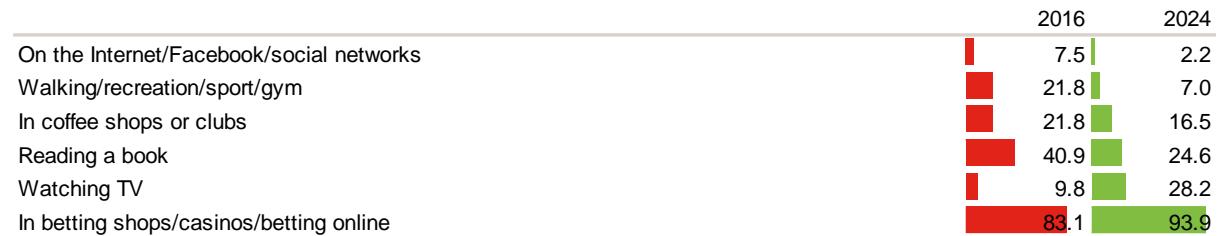
Free time is important for both physical and mental health of youth. As it is important to get insight into youth free time, the last two waves are designed to capture youths' free time habits.

The majority of youth spend their free time browsing the Internet/Facebook/social networks, with more than 81% using the internet at least once a day. While there are no significant differences between different gender and age groups, the youth with disabilities tend to use internet and social networks less. Youth from rural areas typically spend their free time similarly to the general population, with few differences. Youth from rural areas more often reporting spending time with the family at least once a day (75%) comparing to general population (65%). Furthermore, youth from rural areas more often reporting performing religious duties at least once a day (41%) comparing to general population (30%). However, youth from rural areas less often spent time in cultural activities (cinemas, theatres, concerts) as 55% have never attended cultural activities, while in general population 43% reported never attending cultural activities.

The most frequently used social networks among adolescents aged 10 to 14 are Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and, to a lesser extent, Facebook. Some also use Discord, Reddit, and Twitter (X). They typically spend 3 to 4 hours daily on these platforms, primarily in the evenings after completing their schoolwork. Younger children (age 10) recognize the potential dangers of social networks, including cyberbullying, and report personal experiences of online harassment, particularly in unsupervised Viber groups

Around 50% of youth spend their free time socializing with their friends and in walking/recreation/sport/gym. Youth tend not to go to cultural activities (going to the cinema, theatre or a concert). Just about half of the youth (43%) stated that they never go to cultural activities.

In respect to the 2016 wave, 10% fewer young people visit betting shops/casinos and online betting. Also, the number of youth not reading books decreased. The number of youth how do not watch TV increased.



*Figure 87 Percentage of youth who never spend their free time in listed activities, per wave*



## CONCLUSIONS

The following chapter provides summarized conclusion on 2024 VoY survey. It should be emphasized that due to the nature of data collection (online survey) and the length of the questionnaire the drop-out rate was very high (70%) and the profile of the respondents differs from the respondent's profile in the previous survey waves, 2016 and 2011/12. The 2024 survey respondents have higher level of education, are employed in the managerial or engineering position at work and are more active in their respective communities. This is also applied for the vulnerable groups: Roma, youth with disability and LGBTIQ population. To that end, some results might be biased and not full comparable with results from previous waves of survey.

In 2024, the trend of youth living with parents remains high, with about 77% of youth still living with their parents. This trend is consistent across different groups, with members of the Roma population (54%) and older youth (41%) more likely to live independently. The notable decrease in marriage rates and childbearing compared to 2016 is evident, with only 6% of youth having at least one child, a significant drop from the highest reported rate of 21% in 2011/12. Vulnerable groups, especially Roma and youth with disabilities, are more likely to be in relationships and have children than the general youth population. For instance, 27% of Roma youth and 48% of youth with disabilities reported having children, compared to the general youth population.

Youth in BiH show a trend of increased knowledge of foreign languages, particularly English and German, compared to 2016. About 50% of youth report advanced knowledge of English, and over 75% report some knowledge of German. Younger youth (15-20) report better knowledge of both languages. Vulnerable groups, such as youth with disabilities, report lower language proficiency, with significantly fewer reporting knowledge of English and German. In contrast, LGBTIQ youth show higher proficiency in these languages.

The 2024 data reveal a stable trend in educational attainment levels compared to 2016, with a slight increase in secondary education completion. About 55% of youth have completed secondary education, and 30% have completed tertiary education. Vulnerable groups, particularly Roma youth, show higher tertiary education completion rates, with about half of Roma youth completing tertiary education. However, youth with disabilities and LGBTIQ youth often complete shorter tertiary programs. Parental education levels remain a significant factor, with higher education levels among parents of LGBTIQ youth (54% of mothers and 29% of fathers) and lower levels among parents of youth with disabilities (5% of mothers and 6% of fathers).

Youth in 2024 find jobs more quickly than in 2016, with the average job search duration halved to about 8.9 months. However, vulnerable groups, especially youth with disabilities, face longer job search periods, averaging 24.5 months. The trend shows a decrease in full-time contracts and timely salary payments compared to 2016. Only 28% of youth have signed full-time contracts, and 18% do not receive their salary on time. Vulnerable groups report lower rates of full-time employment and timely salary payments, with Roma youth particularly affected, as only 6% report receiving full contributions to their salaries.

The perception of conditions for life success has shifted in 2024, with less emphasis on political connections and bribes compared to 2016. While 71.3% of youth in 2016 considered bribes important for life success, only 33.4% do so in 2024. Vulnerable groups, especially

LGBTIQ youth, still face significant social distance and discrimination. About 60% of LGBTIQ youth report experiencing discrimination in education, and 64% report discrimination in general. The trend shows a decrease in youth visiting social services and receiving full information, indicating ongoing challenges in accessing adequate support. Only 27.8% of youth received full information from social services in 2024, compared to 48.8% in 2016.

Youth participation in decision-making remains low in 2024, with a slight increase in voting rates compared to 2016. About 81% of youth reported voting in the last election, a significant increase from the previous waves. Vulnerable groups, particularly Roma youth, report higher engagement in community activities, with 86% of Roma youth participating in volunteering activities. Despite this, the overall influence of youth in local decision-making processes remains limited, highlighting the need for greater inclusion and empowerment.

The trend in 2024 shows a higher percentage of youth owning passports (95%) and willing to leave BiH for temporary work or study compared to 2016. About 71% of youth would leave BiH for an extended period, with LGBTIQ youth expressing the strongest desire to emigrate (91%). The average duration of stays abroad has decreased to 22 months, indicating shorter-term mobility trends among youth.

Concerns about climate change are emphasized by youth in 2024, with vulnerable groups, particularly youth with disabilities, expressing higher levels of concern. About 91% of youth with disabilities are very concerned about climate change, compared to 36% of the general youth population. The trend shows a consistent perception of social exclusion and discrimination, with vulnerable groups experiencing these issues more acutely. Trust in law enforcement and access to recreational resources have declined compared to 2016, with only 8% of youth reporting trust in law enforcement and 11% reporting access to recreational resources.

In 2024, youth report increased levels of depression symptoms compared to 2016, with 65% of youth experiencing symptoms of depression or anxiety in the last 12 months. This percentage is higher among females (70.2%) than males (52.1%). LGBTIQ youth experience the highest rates, with more than 85% reporting symptoms of depression. Youth are open to discussing their feelings and thoughts with friends (62%) and family members (47.6%), and 23.7% sought help from mental health care professionals. Vulnerable groups, such as LGBTIQ and Roma youth, tend to seek more help from family members and friends, with 82.2% of LGBTIQ youth and 78.3% of Roma youth seeking help from mental health care professionals.

Free time is predominantly spent on social media, with more than 81% of youth using the internet at least once a day. The most frequently used social networks among adolescents aged 10 to 14 are Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and, to a lesser extent, Facebook. Participation in cultural activities has decreased, with 43% of youth never attending cultural activities such as cinemas, theatres, or concerts. Betting activities have also decreased, with 10% fewer young people visiting betting shops or engaging in online betting compared to 2016. Vulnerable groups, especially youth with disabilities, report lower engagement in recreational activities. Youth with disabilities tend to use the internet and social networks less frequently and are less likely to participate in cultural activities, with 55% never attending such events.

This trend highlights the need for improved mental health support and more inclusive recreational opportunities. Focus group participants emphasized the importance of

addressing mental health issues and providing better support for youth. They also suggested increasing the availability of inclusive recreational activities to ensure that all youth, including those from vulnerable groups, have access to opportunities for socialization and leisure.

These conclusions highlight the ongoing challenges and progress in various aspects of youth life in Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasizing the disparities faced by vulnerable groups compared to the general youth population.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations aim to address the key findings from the 2024 VoY survey and focuses on creating a more inclusive, supportive, and empowering environment for all adolescents and youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Enhance Educational Opportunities and Support

- Increase Practical Learning: Address the lack of practical learning in formal education by integrating more hands-on experiences and internships into the curriculum.
- Improve Technical Equipment: Ensure schools and universities are equipped with adequate technical resources to support digital learning and other modern educational practices.
- Update Teaching Methods: Modernize teaching methods to better align with current educational standards and market needs.
- Expand Access to Scholarships: Expand scholarship programs and provide more scholarships and financial aid opportunities, especially for higher education, to support vulnerable groups such as Roma, youth with disabilities, and LGBTIQ youth.
- Support Vulnerable Groups: Provide targeted support and resources for Roma, youth with disabilities, and LGBTIQ youth to ensure equitable access to education.

## Promote Employment and Economic Independence

- Facilitate/Improve Job Matching: Develop programs that better match educational outcomes with market needs to ensure youth can find employment in their field of study.
- Support Entrepreneurship: Encourage and support youth entrepreneurship through training, mentorship, and financial incentives.
- Enhance Job Security: Advocate for policies that ensure timely payment of salaries and full contributions to social security for all employees.
- Address and Reduce Discrimination: Implement measures to combat discrimination in the workplace to create a more inclusive environment, particularly for vulnerable groups

## Youth Participation

- Increase Youth Participation and Civic Engagement: Create more opportunities for youth to participate in decision-making processes at local and national levels.
- Support Youth Organizations: Strengthen youth organizations and associations by providing funding and resources to enhance their activities and outreach.
- Promote Volunteering: Encourage youth to engage in volunteer activities by providing more information about opportunities and recognizing their contributions through legal protections and certifications.

## **Social Inclusion**

- Promote Tolerance: Launch campaigns and educational programs to promote tolerance and reduce social distance between different ethnic and social groups.
- Strengthen Social Services: Improve the efficiency and accessibility of social services to ensure that young people receive the support they need

## **Enhance Mental Health and Well-being**

- Provide Mental Health Support: Increase access to mental health services, including counseling and therapy, especially for those experiencing symptoms of depression and anxiety.
- Promote Awareness: Raise awareness about mental health issues and reduce stigma through education and community programs.
- Support Peer Networks: Encourage the development of peer support networks where youth can discuss their feelings and thoughts in a safe environment.

## **Mobility and Migrations**

- Facilitate Study and Work Abroad: Provide more opportunities for youth to study and work abroad through scholarships, exchange programs, and partnerships with international organizations.
- Support Returnees: Develop programs to support youth who return to BiH after studying or working abroad, helping them reintegrate and apply their skills locally.
- Create Opportunities at Home: Develop policies and programs that create job opportunities and support young entrepreneurs to reduce the need for emigration.

## **Safety and Security to Combat Social Exclusion and Discrimination**

- Enhance Law Enforcement Trust: Work on building trust between youth and law enforcement agencies through community policing and transparency.
- Address Violence and Discrimination: Implement programs to reduce violence and discrimination, particularly against vulnerable groups like LGBTIQ youth and Roma.
- Promote Tolerance and Inclusion: Implement programs that promote tolerance and inclusion, particularly for ethnic minorities, LGBTIQ individuals, and other marginalized groups.
- Improve Access to Services: Ensure that all youth have adequate access to public services, including health, education, and recreational resources.

## **Address Climate Change Concerns**

- Raise Awareness: Implement educational programs to increase awareness about climate change and its impacts among youth. Educate youth about the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable practices.
- Support Environmental Initiatives and Promote Sustainable Practices: Encourage youth participation in environmental conservation projects, sustainable practices and green initiatives.

# APPENDIX

## VOICES OF YOUTH – COMPARING RESULTS BETWEEN WAVES 2008, 2011/12, 2016 AND 2024

Question		2008	2011	2016	2024	Change
<b>G1. In your opinion, what causes dissatisfaction among the youth today? [% of causes satisfaction]</b>						
Secondary enrolment	62	65	74	49	↓	
University and college enrolment	61	61	64	59	↔	
Postgraduate studies enrolment	57	56	57	52	↔	
Form of education	38	57	61	22	↓	
Possibility of employment	33	55	52	39	↓	
Possibility of solving your housing issue	34	56	55	39	↓	
Possibility of economic independence	35	57	54	47	↔	
Possibility for youth to do what they want and what is important to them	43	65	59	64	↔	
Possibility of advancement in professions and vocations	44	62	58	67	↑	
Possibility of political participation	27	44	30	22	↓	
Possibility of fun and leisure	58	72	77	81	↔	
Possibility to express your opinion freely	53	66	71	72	↔	
<b>G2. When you take into account all areas, how would you evaluate your current standard of living? [% of average or bad]</b>	66	75	60	45	↓	
<b>G3. How would you evaluate your current standard of living in relation to that of your parents when they were your age? [% of somewhat and much better]</b>				52	83	↑
<b>G4. Has your standard of living changed over the last 3 years? [% of same or worse]</b>						
Income	63	78	57	30	↓	
Working status	63	80	60	40	↓	
Education and training	63	79	64	28	↓	
Health protection	69	86	76	62	↓	
Housing issues	71	87	76	67	↓	
Quality of life in general	61	77	53	43	↓	
<b>G6. In your opinion, what are the most important problems for youth in our society? What problem is in first and second place according to its importance? [% of first choice]</b>						
Material/economic dependence	43	24	36	22	↓	
Unemployment	70	74	83	19	↓	
Alcoholism, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency etc.	18	23	16	11	↔	
Education	15	6	11	8	↔	
Mental health				8	na	
Insufficient care in society for the problems of youth	10	19	11	7	↔	
A lack of interest in social problems among youth	3	8	4	6	↔	
Inadequate use of free time	3	3	3	5	↔	
Alienation of human relations	1	3	1	2	↔	
Climate change				0	na	
Ethnic differences	3	4	3	3	↔	
Housing issue	12	8	13	4	↓	

Inferior position of youth	6	5	3	2	↔
Social differences	4	7	7	1	↔
The lack of freedom of speech and opinion	1	4	2	2	↔
Violence				1	na
<b>G7. Have you heard about the sustainable development goals? [% of yes]</b>			67	58	↓
<b>E1. What is the highest level of education that you have completed? [%]</b>					
Completed 4 years of primary school	3	4	2	↔	
Completed primary school	28	26	10	↓	
Did not attend school	0	2	0	↔	
PhD	0	1	0	↔	
Secondary school, technical school, etc. (4 years)	38	38	55	↑	
University (3 years additional education after secondary school - economy school)	0	0	0	↔	
University (3 years additional education after secondary school - education or social sciences school)	1	1	4	↔	
University (3 years of additional education after secondary school - technical or medical school)	1	1	2	↔	
University (4 – 6 years) - economy	2	2	9	↑	
University (4 – 6 years) - law	1	1	2	↔	
University (4 – 6 years) - medical school and dentistry	0	1	3	↔	
University (4 – 6 years) - natural sciences, civil engineering and electrical engineering	1	2	1	↔	
University (4 – 6 years) - social sciences and humanities	3	3	8	↔	
Vocational school (3 years)	21	21	2	↓	
<b>E7. How much will your education help you to find a job in the future in the profession for which you acquired knowledge? [% of not really and not at all]</b>	60	33	35	14	↓
<b>E8. To what extent do the following statements relate to your education? [% of definitely not]</b>					
The demands set for me in class were too big a burden for me.	21	33	27	↓	
There were a lot of subjects that interested me.	7	9	8	↔	
The majority of teachers took me seriously and were interested in my work.	8	11	7	↔	
The majority of teachers approached pupils/students in an adequate way.	6	9	6	↔	
My results at school/college were very important to my parents.	6	7	7	↔	
I had the full support of my parents when facing problems in my education.	6	8	1	↓	
<b>E10. How often did you participate in some kind of organised volunteer work or actions in or outside of your school/university? [% of never]</b>	60	84	78	13	↓
<b>E11. How often do you attend some form of organised practical classes as part of your regular education? [% of never]</b>	48	52	42	28	↓
<b>E12. What was the ethnic/national structure of your last study group? [%]</b>					
All students are (were) of the same ethnicity/nationality			34	35	↔
There are (were) 1 to 5 members of other ethnicities/nationalities			45	52	↑
There are (were) more than 10 members of other ethnicities/nationalities			13	14	↔

<b>E13. During your <b>formal education (primary and secondary)</b> did <b>you</b> learn about the customs and cultures of all of the constituent peoples in BiH? [% of yes]</b>	71	73	↔	
<b>E14. Have you had any experience with discrimination at school? [% of yes]</b>	9	25	↑	
<b>E15. On what grounds were you discriminated against? [%]</b>				
Based on religion/ethnic/national belonging	16	35	↑	
Based on the place you come from	6	33	↑	
Other	27	20	↓	
Do not want to answer	41	19	↓	
Based on gender	3	17	↑	
Based on age	5	7	↔	
Based on sexual orientation		7	na	
Based on disability	1	4	↔	
<b>E15. What other</b>				
Social status - higher	10	na		
Overweight	35	na		
Physical appearance	22	na		
Too active	22	na		
Withdrawn	10	na		
<b>E17. Have you ever attended a course or training that was not part of the regular programme of education? [% of yes]</b>	36	25	35	45
<b>JB2. How many months did it take you to find your first job after completing your last school or studies? [Average]</b>	11	16	21	9
<b>JB3. As a part of your job, is there currently a need for the knowledge and skills you possess? [% of yes]</b>	43	95	86	72
<b>JB4. To which category does your job belong? [%]</b>				
Agricultural worker on own property	0	2	0	↔
Clerk (clerks and office workers)	11	9	18	↑
Executive/Director (senior manager in the public or private sector, but not the owner of the company)	1	1	1	↔
Half-qualified worker	11	10	3	↓
Manager (middle or lower level)	3	2	12	↑
Medical doctor	1	1	2	↔
Other	16	18	19	↔
Police official	1	1	2	↔
Private businessperson	4	4	2	↔
Qualified and highly qualified worker	28	33	8	↓
Specialist/expert (usually demands a university education)	6	4	13	↑
Teaching staff (including secondary school and university)	4	3	9	↑
Technician (technician in education, social sciences, social work, primary school teacher)	4	0	4	↔
Technician (technician in medical care, nurse)	7	8	5	↔
Unqualified worker	3	4	3	↔
<b>JB5. At your work, what kind of contract have you signed with your employer? [%]</b>				
Full-time contract	50	55	47	28
Fixed time contract	18	27	31	26
I have not signed a contract	19	13	17	22

Temporary service contract (author, scholarships etc.)	1	1	1	10	↑	
Internship contract	0	1	2	7	↔	
Trail period contract	3	3	2	4	↔	
Contract via a student service	0	1	0	3	↔	
<b>JB6. Do you receive your salary regularly? [% of yes, regularly each month]</b>	81	89	89	73	↔	
<b>JB7. Does your employer pay FULL contributions to your salary? [% of yes]</b>	64	78	80	57	↓	
<b>JB8. Are you employed in your profession or not? [% of yes]</b>	37	50	43	50	↑	
<b>JB12. Have you searched for a job in the last 4 weeks? [% of yes]</b>	23	35	40	38	↔	
<b>JB14. Please select three sectors in which you would be interested to work. [%]</b>						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, water management	10	17	21	3	↓	
Industry and mining	12	16	18	5	↓	
Civil engineering, utility services	14	25	22	2	↓	
Crafts	19	24	26	3	↓	
Traffic and communications	48	59	62	4	↓	
Trade, catering, tourism and recreation				21	na	
Personal activities (hairdressers, barbers and domestic help)	14	13	12	6	↓	
Finance	32	39	43	35	↓	
Education, culture, health, social security				47	na	
Police, security, military				15	na	
Public administration, state authorities and political parties	13	17	14	25	↑	
Societies, non-governmental organisations	32	23	25	28	↔	
Telecommunications				8	na	
IT, computers, programming (but not trade)				17	na	
Development agencies and programmes				17	na	
Other				20	na	
<b>JB15. What is the minimum net monthly salary you are willing to work for? [Average]</b>	467	614	610	1430	↑	
<b>JB16. How many months you have been without work? Average</b>	36	26	21	21	↔	
<b>JB17. Are you registered as unemployed at the employment bureau? [% of yes, excluding pupils]</b>	38	58	62	41	↓	
<b>JB20. Have you ever witnessed someone buying a working place or have you just heard about someone paying a certain amount to get a job? [%]</b>				Perce nt		
Yes, I have heard of such a case	39	50	51	64	↑	
Yes, I was a direct witness		2	2	5	↔	
<b>JB21. Have you tried to start your own business? [%]</b>						
I prefer to work for someone else.	93	94	87	36	↓	
I already tried to start my own business and failed				9	na	
I already tried to start my own business and succeeded (still ongoing)				6	na	
I have an intention to start my own business (first or additional business)				34	53	↑

**SE1. Please answer each question by selecting one of the provided answers to indicate your opinion on the importance of the given condition for life success. [% of very important, quite important and essential]**

Come from a rich family	81	47	↓
Have well educated parents	82	57	↓
Have ambition	96	97	↔
Be ready to work hard	96	97	↔
Know the right people	97	93	↔
Have political connections	87	68	↓
Give bribes	71	33	↓
Ethnic belonging	45	32	↓
Religious affiliation	41	28	↓
Be born as a man	43	37	↓

**SE2. Please answer each question with one of the provided answers to indicate your opinion on the distance between the mentioned groups. [% of big and very big distance]**

Poor and rich	80	78	↔
Young and old	57	72	↑
Management and workers	76	73	↔
People from different cities in BiH	36	46	↑

**SE4. Did you receive the information you required? [%]**

No	13	27	↑
Yes, completely	43	28	↓
Yes, partially	44	45	↔

**SE5. Are you personally a beneficiary of some form of social assistance? [% of yes]**

2 7 6 4 ↔

**SE7. Are you a person with a certain level of disability? [% of yes]**

5 3 ↔

**SE9. How difficult does your disability make the following activities? [% of difficult to various degrees]**

While finding a job and working	75	42	↓
Education	56	41	↓
Accessing institutions of the state administration	46	46	↔
Accessing fun/recreational clubs for association	49	40	↓
Going to nature	36	30	↓

**SE10. Do you agree with the statement that women and girls are discriminated against in the jobs market (employers prefer to hire men than women and women are paid less than men, etc.)? [% of agree and completely agree]**

22 45 40 63 ↑

**SE11. Do you contribute to the household budget? [% of no]**

53 62 65 47 ↓

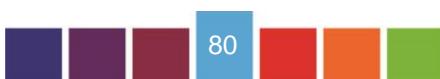
**SE14. Please state the monthly amount of the scholarship in BAM? [Median]**

317 167 128 170 ↑

**SD1. Would you accept a member of another ethnic group (Bosniak, Croat, Serb) to be your... [% - lowest score selected for previous VoYs, as data are collected for each ethnic group, while in 2024 it was asked against general other ethnic groups]**

Business colleague	88	98	↑
Boss or superior at work	84	95	↑
First neighbor	83	95	↑
Close friend	76	90	↑

Partner in a close emotional relationship	29	47	↑	
Marriage spouse	23	41	↑	
<b>SD2. Would you accept a Roma to be your...? [%]</b>				
Business colleague	84	94	↑	
Boss or superior at work	82	86	↔	
First neighbor	58	89	↑	
Close friend	44	78	↑	
Partner in a close emotional relationship	13	25	↑	
Marriage spouse	15	24	↑	
<b>P1. Estimate your own influence on important decisions in relation to the listed entries. [% of none, small or average]</b>				
At work, school or university	80	88	92	87
In your family or household	61	70	68	65
In your local community	89	97	99	97
Political or non-governmental organisations	90	99	99	94
Within your circle of friends	66	80	79	78
<b>P2. Do you intend to vote in the next elections? [% of yes]</b>				
<b>P3. Did you vote in the last elections? [% of yes]</b>				
<b>P5. To what extent, in your opinion, do young people have influence over decisions that concern them made at local level? [% of no or little influence]</b>				
<b>P6. How many times have you participated in the listed activities in the last 12 months? [% of never]</b>				
Contacted politicians	91	75	↓	
Attended a public gathering where political and social issues were discussed	88	63	↓	
Signed a petition	81	55	↓	
Collected signatures	90	86	↔	
Participated in a public protest	91	72	↓	
Contributed to political discussion on the Internet	91	83	↓	
Written an article, e.g. in a student newspaper, for an organisations or on the internet	93	79	↓	
Participated in public discussions about the municipal budget	94	92	↔	
Participated in meetings of the Local Community Council	92	90	↔	
Volunteered		39	na	
<b>P7. What is your opinion about the work and projects of youth organisations and associations in the area of your municipality/city? [% of negative]</b>				
<b>P8. Are you active in any of the below mentioned organisations? [% of active]</b>				
Youth organisations or associations	13	41	↑	
Youth organisations of political parties	10	7	↔	
Religious organisations, including youth religious organisations		17	na	
Political parties		8	na	
Environmental organisations		13	na	
Human rights organisations or those for charitable work	18	22	↔	
Professional organisations, e.g. agricultural, business or employee organisations		8	na	



<b>M1. Have you lived abroad for longer than 3 months? [% of yes]</b>	13	8	12	↔
<b>M2. How long did you live abroad? [Average # of months]</b>	30	43	21.8	↓
<b>M3. Do you have a passport? [% of yes]</b>	61	76	95	↑
<b>M4. If you had the opportunity, how certain are you that you would leave BiH for the listed reasons. [% of sure]</b>				
For studying	43	53	55	56.8
For temporary work	55	66	79	62
For marriage	34	42	54	48
To permanently settle in another country	46	52	64	43
<b>M5. Would you go abroad for a longer period of time or forever? [% of yes]</b>				
I would leave forever if I had the opportunity.	37	38	50	23
I would not leave for a longer period of time or forever.		19	11	29
I would not leave forever, but I would leave for a longer period.	30	43	39	49
<b>S2. Do you agree with the following statements regarding your municipality/city? [% of agreeing]</b>				
The citizens have trust in the institutions and service for law enforcement		36	8	↓
Many citizens are socially excluded		65	64	↔
Many citizens are discriminated against on different grounds (gender, sexual orientation, religion, racial, ethnicity/nationality, economic)		47	44	↔
The majority of citizens feel safe		47	15	↓
The majority of citizens have adequate access to public institutions (health, social, education)		60	24	↓
The majority of citizens have adequate access to recreational resources		43	11	↓
If citizens require the support of non-governmental organisation it is available		40	14	↓
In my community there are a lot of hooligans		28	25	↔
A lot of people in my community advocate hateful speech		25	36	↑
In my community a lot of children and youth are violent toward others		28	38	↑
<b>S3. Do you have close family members, friends, colleagues or acquaintances that are: [% of yes]</b>				
...people who are diagnosed with psychological trauma		13	39	↑
...people who have directly witnessed violence		16	55	↑
...people who could hurt themselves or others		9	22	↑
...people who have committed violence toward themselves or others		11	24	↑
...people who express feelings of hopelessness and uselessness		14	35	↑
...people discriminated against on different grounds (gender, sexual orientation, religion, racial, ethnicity/nationality, economic)		17	37	↑
...people with a feeling of alienation from society		17	35	↑
...very poor people		42	35	↑
<b>S4. Does the statements feel true for yourself? [% of yes]</b>				
I am very close with my family members		99	89	↓
I am very close with my distant family members		87	52	↓
Members of my family know my friends		93	90	↔
My parents are (were) actively involved in my education		94	90	↔
I am actively involved in the education of my children		19	14	↔

Arguing happens a lot in my family	7	21	↑		
Some members of my family are violent toward others	5	7	↔		
Members of my family are closely connected to their national/religious/ethnic group	68	54	↓		
Members of my family help each other	91	92	↔		
My family is involved in the cultural activities of the community	43	39	↔		
My family is involved in religious activities of the community	55	52	↔		
<b>FT3. Think of the last 7 days. On average, how many hours each day did you spend in the activities listed below. [% of not at all]</b>					
Watching TV	10	28	↑		
In coffee shops or clubs	22	16	↓		
Reading a book	41	25	↓		
On the Internet/Facebook/social networks	8	2	↓		
Walking/recreation/sport/gym	22	7	↓		
In betting shops/casinos/betting online	83	94	↑		
In non-formal learning activities		32	na		
Socializing with friends		3	na		
Being with the family		3	na		
Performing religious duties		28	na		
Cultural activities (going to the cinema, theatre or a concert)		43	na		
<b>FT5. How do you imagine your near future? Which of the following statements best describe your opinion? [% agreeing]</b>					
Much worse than the present: I do not expect anything good from the future.	5	4	1	↔	
A bit worse than the present: I expect a certain worsening in the future.	8	6	5	↔	
The same as the present: I do not expect anything from the future, neither better nor worse.	26	29	19	8	↓
A little better than the present: I expect something from the future, but not a lot.	31	34	39	↔	
Much better than the present.	24	34	39	↔	
Not sure	2	1	9	↑	
<b>D3. What is your partner status? [%]</b>					
Formally married	20	26	22	10	↓
Single	78	80	54	↓	
<b>D4. Do you have any children? [% of yes]</b>	15	21	19	6	↓

**Legend for importance of the change in the attitudes:**

- ↓ - Significant decrease
- ↔ - There is no significant difference in responses
- ↑ - Significant increase
- na - Data not collected during previous VoY

## VOICE OF YOUTH 2024 - Questionnaire

Dear Sir/Madam, UNICEF in cooperation with its partners enables children and youth to participate in various activities (workshops, education, seminars, community initiatives, etc.) and have continuous access to needed services. By responding to this questionnaire, you will help us to better understand the experiences of youth in BiH. Please answer the questions truthfully as we will not collect any personal information.

Questions are presented in a single gender form for simplicity, but they apply to all genders equally. You can select the language of the questionnaire (Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, or English) in the upper right corner. For completion of the survey, you will need approximately 25 min. Youth aged 15 to 17 must have parental consent to complete the survey. By submitting the survey, you confirm that you have obtained parental consent.

### Do you want to participate in the survey?

- No
- Yes

*NOTE: If no, the questionnaire ends, if yes the questionnaire continue*

### What is your age?

*Please input the number!*

*NOTE: If below 15 or above 30, the questionnaire ends. Question needed upfront to enable filtering respondents for voting questions*

### G1. In your opinion, what causes dissatisfaction among the youth today?

*Select relevant response for each line!*

*Responses:*

- 1 - causes satisfaction
- 2 - causes dissatisfaction
- 3 - causes neither satisfaction nor dissatisfaction

Q1_1	Secondary enrolment	1	2	3
Q1_2	University and college enrolment	1	2	3
Q1_3	Postgraduate studies enrolment	1	2	3
Q1_4	Form of education	1	2	3
Q1_5	Possibility of employment	1	2	3
Q1_6	Possibility of solving your housing issue	1	2	3
Q1_7	Possibility of economic independence	1	2	3
Q1_8	Possibility for youth to do what they want and what is important to them	1	2	3
Q1_9	Possibility of advancement in professions and vocations	1	2	3
Q1_10	Possibility of political participation	1	2	3
Q1_11	Possibility of fun and leisure	1	2	3
Q1_12	Possibility to express your opinion freely	1	2	3
Q1_13	Other (list what)	1	2	3

### G2. When you take into account all areas, how would you evaluate your current standard of living?

- Very bad
- Bad
- Average
- Good
- Very good

### G3. How would you evaluate your current standard of living in relation to that of your parents when they were your age?

- Much worse
- Somewhat worse
- The same
- Somewhat better
- Much better

### G4. Has your standard of living changed over the last 3 years?

- Drastically worsened
- Worsened
- Remained the same
- Improved
- Drastically improved

**G5. What do you think your standard of living will be in the next 3 years?***Select relevant response for each line!**Responses:*

- 1 - much worse
- 2 - worse
- 3 - the same
- 4 - better
- 5 - much better

G5_1	Income	1	2	3	4	5
G5_2	Working status	1	2	3	4	5
G5_3	Education and training	1	2	3	4	5
G5_4	Health protection	1	2	3	4	5
G5_5	Housing issues	1	2	3	4	5
G5_6	Quality of life in general	1	2	3	4	5

**G6. In your opinion, what are the most important problems for youth in our society? What problem is in first and second place according to its importance?***First, select the answer you think is in the first place and then choose the answer that you rank second in importance.*

- Material/economic dependence
- Education
- Unemployment
- Housing issue
- Inadequate use of free time
- Inferior position of youth
- Insufficient care in society for the problems of youth
- Social differences
- Ethnic differences
- A lack of interest in social problems among youth
- Inefficiency and inactivity of youth organisations
- The lack of freedom of speech and opinion
- Alcoholism, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency etc.
- Alienation of human relations
- Violence
- Mental health
- Climate change
- Other (list what)

**G7. Have you heard about the sustainable development goals?**

- No
- Yes

**G8. Below is a list of the 17 sustainable development goals. Mark the 3 goals that are most important to you as a young person in BiH.***FIRST CHOOSE THE MOST IMPORTANT, THEN THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT AND THEN THIRD MOST IMPORTANT.*

- World without poverty
- World without hunger
- Health and welfare
- Quality education
- Gender equality
- Clean water and sanitary conditions
- Accessible energy from clean sources
- Dignified work and economic growth
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Reducing inequality
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Responsible spending and production
- Preserving the climate
- Preserving the water world
- Preserving life on earth
- Peace, justice and powerful institutions
- Through partnership to goals

**EDUCATION**

Several of the following questions are related to your experience of education. This refers to all types of regular and part-time education as well as extracurricular trainings.

**E1. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?**

*If currently you are a school pupil or a student then state the last level of education that you completed (before you started the current one). If you have completed more than one school / studies then select the HIGHEST one you completed.*

- Did not attend school
- Unfinished primary school - no education
- Completed 4 years of primary school
- Completed primary school
- Vocational school (3 years)
- Secondary school, technical school, etc. (4 years)
- University (3 years of additional education after secondary school - technical or medical school)
- University (3 years additional education after secondary school - economy school)
- University (3 years additional education after secondary school - education or social sciences school)
- University (4 – 6 years) - social sciences and humanities
- University (4 – 6 years) - economy
- University (4 – 6 years) - law
- University (4 – 6 years) - natural sciences, civil engineering and electrical engineering
- University (4 – 6 years) - medical school and dentistry
- Ph.D

**E2. What is the highest level of education that your mother attained?**

*If she completed more than one school/studies then state the HIGHEST one she completed.*

- Unfinished primary school - no education
- Completed 4 years of primary school
- Completed primary school 4 Vocational school (3 years)
- Secondary school - technical schools, etc. (4 years)
- University (3 years of additional education after secondary school - technical or medical school)
- University (3 years additional education after secondary school - economy school)
- University (3 years additional education after secondary school - education or social sciences school)
- University (4 – 6 years) - social sciences and humanities
- University (4 – 6 years) - economy
- University (4 – 6 years) - law
- University (4 – 6 years) - natural sciences, civil engineering and electrical engineering
- University (4 – 6 years) - medical school and dentistry
- Not sure

**E3. What is the highest level of education that your father attained?**

*If he completed more than one school/studies then state the HIGHEST one he completed.*

- Unfinished primary school - no education
- Completed 4 years of primary school
- Completed primary school 4 Vocational school (3 years)
- Secondary school - technical schools, etc. (4 years)
- University (3 years of additional education after secondary school - technical or medical school)
- University (3 years additional education after secondary school - economy school)
- University (3 years additional education after secondary school - education or social sciences school)
- University (4 – 6 years) - social sciences and humanities
- University (4 – 6 years) - economy
- University (4 – 6 years) - law
- University (4 – 6 years) - natural sciences, civil engineering and electrical engineering
- University (4 – 6 years) - medical school and dentistry

Not sure

**E4. Where did you finish your last school/study?**

- Private school/university in BiH
- Public school/university in BiH
- Private school/university abroad
- Public school/university abroad

**E5. Did you stop school or university before you had completed it?**

- No
- Yes

**E6. What are the main reasons for you not continuing your education?**

YOU CAN CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE ANSWER

- Because of agricultural work at home
- Obligations at home (housework)
- I found a permanent job
- I did not see any purpose in continuing
- Financial reasons
- Other (describe\_\_\_\_\_)

**E7. How much will your education help you to find a job in the future in the profession for which you acquired knowledge?**

To what extent will your education provide you with the necessary knowledge and skills to find a job in your profession? If you are employed then please tell us the extent to which your education helped you to find a job in your profession?

- Not at all
- Not really
- Somewhat
- Greatly

**E8. To what extent do the following statements relate to your education?**

If you are no longer a pupil/student then think about your last school/study. For every entry select one of the following answers:

Responses:

- 1 - definitely not
- 2 - to some extent
- 3 - to a great extent
- 4 - completely

Q18_1	The demands set for me in class were too big a burden for me.	1	2	3	4
Q18_2	There were a lot of subjects that interested me.	1	2	3	4
Q18_3	The majority of teachers took me seriously and were interested in my work.	1	2	3	4
Q18_4	The majority of teachers approached pupils/students in an adequate way.	1	2	3	4
Q18_5	My results at school/college were very important to my parents.	1	2	3	4
Q18_6	I had the full support of my parents when facing problems in my education.	1	2	3	4

**E9. How often do teachers use digital tools (such as online learning platforms, educational apps, virtual classrooms, etc) for presentation of school topics?**

- Never
- Rarely (once or twice a year)
- Often (at least once a month)
- Very often (at least once a week)

**E10. How often did you participate in some kind of organised volunteer work or actions in or outside of your school/university?**

If you no longer attend school or university then did any similar initiatives exist when you were attending school/university?

- Never
- Rarely (once or twice a year)
- Often (at least once a month)
- Very often (at least once a week)

**E11. How often do you attend some form of organised practical classes as part of your regular education?**  
*If you no longer attend school or university then think back to when you did.*

- Never
- Rarely (once or twice a year)
- Often (at least once a month)
- Very often (at least once a week)

**E12. What was the ethnic/national structure of your last study group?**

- All students are (were) of the same ethnicity/nationality.
- There are (were) 1 to 5 members of other ethnicities/nationalities.
- There are (were) more than 10 members of other ethnicities/nationalities.

**E13. During your formal education (primary and secondary) did you learn about the customs and cultures of all of the constituent peoples in BiH.**

- No
- Yes

**E14. Have you had any experience with discrimination at school?**

- No
- Yes
- Do not want to answer

**E15. On what grounds were you discriminated against?**  
*IT IS POSSIBLE TO CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE ANSWER*

- Based on gender
- Based on age
- Based on sexual orientation
- Based on religion/ethnic/national belonging
- Based on disability
- Based on the place you come from
- Other, \_\_\_\_\_ (what other)
- Do not want to answer

*NOTE: E15 will appear only if E14 is answered YES. If the response Other is selected additional pop-up field will appear to provide description.*

**E16. From the list below what do you think requires change in the field of formal education.**

- Too detailed curriculum.
- The lack of practical learning in formal education.
- Mismatch between curriculum and market needs.
- The lack of dialogue in the classroom.
- The lack of scholarships/loans, especially within higher education.
- The relationship between teacher and pupil/student.
- The lack of professionalism among teachers and professors.
- Inadequate technical equipment.
- Outdated teaching methods
- Other \_\_\_\_\_ (describe)

**E17. Have you ever attended a course or training that was not part of the regular programme of education?**

- No
- Yes

**E18. What was the topic of the training?**

**E19. Have you heard of the term “lifelong learning”?**

- No
- Yes

**E20. The concept of ‘lifelong learning’ infers that people must educate themselves throughout their entire lives, even if this means changing their career or profession. Are you ready to change your career/profession and to re-educate yourself for a new career/profession?**

- No
- Yes

#### **JOBS MARKET**

Now come some questions about your experience of work.

**JB1. Which of the following categories best describes your employment status? Were you employed full-time, part-time, unemployed or something else?**

- Employed full-time (35 or more hours a week -temporary jobs and volunteering not included)
- Employed part-time (between 15 and 35 hours a week)
- Employed part-time (less than 15 hours a week)
- Employed in agriculture at a private property (not looking for another job)
- Intern
- Traineeship
- Specialisation
- Unemployed, with occasional jobs (actively looking for work - including voluntary)
- Unemployed (looking for work)
- Unemployed (I want a job but I am not actively looking)
- Unemployed (but not looking for work at all)
- Person with disability (my disability is the main reason why I am not working)
- Housewife
- School pupil
- Maternity leave
- Student
- Illness (which is the reason why I do not work)
- Military official
- Other

**JB2. How many months did it take you to find your first job after completing your last school or studies?**  
*Write '0' if it was less than a month.*

**JB3. As a part of your job, is there currently a need for the knowledge and skills you possess?**

- No
- Yes

*NOTE: relevant if previously employed OR CURRENTLY EMPLOYED*

**JB4. To which category does your job belong?**

- Executive/Director (senior manager in the public or private sector, but not the owner of the company)
- Manager (middle or lower level)
- Private businessperson
- Medical doctor
- Specialist/expert (usually demands a university education)
- Technician (technician in medical care, nurse)
- Technician (technician in education, social sciences, social work, primary school teacher)

- Teaching staff (including secondary school and university)
- Clerk (clerks and office workers)
- Qualified and highly qualified worker
- Half-qualified worker
- Unqualified worker
- Military official
- Police official
- Agricultural worker on own property
- Other, \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: relevant only if previously OR CURRENTLY employed*

**JB5. At your work, what kind of contract have you signed with your employer?**

- I have not signed a contract
- Trial period contract
- Full-time contract
- Fixed time contract
- Temporary service contract (author, scholarships etc.)
- Internship contract
- Contract via a student service

*NOTE: relevant only if previously OR CURRENTLY employed*

**JB6. Do you receive your salary regularly?**

- No
- Yes, but not regularly each month
- Yes, regularly each month

*NOTE: relevant only if previously OR CURRENTLY employed*

**JB7. Does your employer pay FULL contributions to your salary?**

- No, contributions are not paid at all
- No, contributions are only paid to a minimum required salary
- No, contributions are paid for agreed gross salary, so I can receive higher net income
- Yes

**JB8. Are you employed in your profession or not?**

Are you doing a job for which you were educated?

- No
- Yes
- Not sure

*NOTE: Relevant only if previously OR CURRENTLY employed*

**JB9. Have you worked on paid temporary jobs during the last 6 months?**

- No
- Yes

*NOTE: Relevant only if previously OR CURRENTLY employed*

**JB10. How many months of registered working experience do you have?**

*By registered consider the number of months for which you have paid pension and health contributions. If you cannot remember, then please state an approximate number of months (Write '0' if it is less than a month).*

*NOTE: Relevant only if previously OR CURRENTLY employed*

**JB11. How many months of unregistered working experience do you have?**

*Write '0' if it is less than a month.*

---

*NOTE: Relevant only if previously OR CURRENTLY employed*

**JB12. Have you searched for a job in the last 4 weeks?**

*Have you responded to a job advertisement, asked around seriously or gathered information through newspapers or via the Internet on the available opportunities for employment?*

- No
- Yes

**JB13. Do you search for jobs in a particular sector?**

- No
- No, but I would not accept a job in any sector
- Yes, I search for jobs in a particular sector

**JB14. Please select three sectors in which you would be interested to work.**

*Please read the list of sectors below and select your three preferred sectors.*

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, water management
- Industry and mining
- Civil engineering, utility services
- Crafts
- Traffic and communications
- Trade, catering, tourism and recreation
- Personal activities (hairdressers, barbers and domestic help)
- Finance
- Education, culture, health, social security
- Police, security, military
- Public administration, state authorities and political parties
- Societies, non-governmental organisations
- Telecommunications
- IT, computers, programming (but not trade)
- Development agencies and programmes
- Other

**JB15. What is the minimum net monthly salary you are willing to work for?**

*Please state the amount of the salary in BAM*

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**JB16. How many months you have been without work.**

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*NOTE: Relevant only if currently unemployed)*

**JB17. Are you registered as unemployed at the employment bureau?**

- No
- Yes

*NOTE: Relevant only if currently unemployed)*

**JB18. Have you worked outside of your municipality in BiH?**

- No
- Yes, for few months
- Yes, seasonally
- Yes, for longer than one year

**JB19. Have you worked outside of BiH?**

- No
- Yes, for few months
- Yes, seasonally
- Yes, for longer than one year

**JB20. Have you ever witnessed someone buying a working place or have you just heard about someone paying a certain amount to get a job?**

- No
- Yes, I was a direct witness
- Yes, I have heard of such a case

**JB21. Have you tried to start your own business?**

Select all that applies

- I prefer to work for someone else.
- I already tried to start my own business and failed
- I already tried to start my own business and succeeded (still ongoing)
- I have an intention to start my own business (first of additional business)

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION**

**SE1. Please answer each question by selecting one of the provided answers to indicate your opinion on the importance of the given condition for life success.**

Responses:

- 1 – essential
- 2 – very important
- 3 – quite important
- 4 – not that important
- 5 – irrelevant

SE1_1	come from a rich family	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_2	have well educated parents	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_3	have ambition	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_4	be ready to work hard	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_5	know the right people	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_6	have political connections	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_7	give bribes	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_8	ethnic belonging	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_9	religious affiliation	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_10	be born as a man	1	2	3	4	5

**SE2. Please answer each question with one of the provided answers to indicate your opinion on the distance between the mentioned groups.**

Responses:

- 1 – very big distance
- 2 – big distance
- 3 – not that big distance
- 4 – no distance

SE1_1	Poor and rich	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_2	Young and old	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_3	Management and workers	1	2	3	4	5
SE1_4	People from different cities in BiH	1	2	3	4	5

**SE3. Have you visited the Department for Social Services at your Municipality or Centre for Social Work to ask for certain information in the last 6 months?**

- No
- Yes

**SE4. Did you receive the information you required?**

- No
- Yes, partially
- Yes, completely

NOTE: If Yes to SE3

**SE5. Are you personally a beneficiary of some form of social assistance?**

- No
- Yes

**SE6. What kind of social assistance do/did you receive?**

---

**SE7. Are you a person with a certain level of disability?**

- No
- Yes

**SE8. Select the type of disability:**

- Sight impairment (blind or significant sight loss)
- Hearing impairment (deaf and hard of hearing)
- Muscular dystrophy
- Locomotor Disability (problems with walking, climbing stairs, amputations or paralysis)
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Intellectual disability
- Mental illness
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Cerebral Palsy
- Chronic Neurological Conditions
- Learning disabilities
- Speech and Language Disability

*NOTE: Only if Yes to SE7*

**SE9. How difficult does your disability make the following activities?**

*Responses:*

- 1 - *hugely difficult*
- 2 - *significantly difficult*
- 3 - *to a lesser extent*
- 4 - *it does not create difficulties at all*

SE8_1	While finding a job and working	1	2	3	4
SE8_2	Education	1	2	3	4
SE8_3	Accessing institutions of the state administration	1	2	3	4
SE8_4	Accessing fun/recreational clubs for association	1	2	3	4
SE8_5	Going to nature	1	2	3	4

*NOTE: If yes to SE7*

**SE10. Do you agree with the statement that women and girls are discriminated against in the jobs market (employers prefer to hire men than women and women are paid less than men, etc.)?**

- I completely agree
- I agree
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I do not agree
- I completely disagree

**SE11. Do you contribute to the household budget?**

- No
- Yes but not regularly
- Yes regularly

**SE12. What average amount of monthly personal income did you have over the last three months?**

- Without personal income last month
- Up to 1,000 BAM
- 1,001 to 2,000 BAM

- 1,101 to 1,200 BAM
- 2,001 to 3,000 BAM
- 3,001 to 4,000 BAM
- Above 4,001 BAM
- Do not want to answer

**SE13. Do you personally receive a scholarship from the municipality, canton or entity?**

- No
- Yes, from the municipality
- Yes, from the canton
- Yes, from the entity
- Yes, from a company
- Something else

**SE14. Please state the monthly amount of the scholarship in BAM**

---

**SOCIAL DISTANCE**

Now we are going to talk about your relations with different social groups. Please refer to the mentioned groups as groups and not as individuals you once knew or currently know who belong to such a group.

**SD1. Would you accept a member of another ethnic group (Bosniak, Croat, Serb) to be your...**

Responses:

- 1 - No
- 2 - Yes

SD1_1	Business colleague	1	2
SD1_2	Boss or superior at work	1	2
SD1_3	First neighbor	1	2
SD1_4	Close friend	1	2
SD1_5	Partner in a close emotional relationship	1	2
SD1_6	Marriage spouse	1	2

**SD2. Would you accept a Roma to be your...**

Responses:

- 1 - No
- 2 - Yes

SD1_1	Business colleague	1	2
SD1_2	Boss or superior at work	1	2
SD1_3	First neighbor	1	2
SD1_4	Close friend	1	2
SD1_5	Partner in a close emotional relationship	1	2
SD1_6	Marriage spouse	1	2

**SD3. Would you accept your children attending school with...**

Responses:

- 1 - No
- 2 - Yes

SD1_1	Bosniaks	1	2
SD1_2	Croats	1	2
SD1_3	Serbs	1	2
SD1_4	Roma	1	2
SD1_5	Other minority groups or migrants	1	2

**SD4. How familiar are you with the cultures and customs of the constituent peoples of BiH?**

- Not familiar at all
- Familiar to some extent
- Completely familiar

**SD5. How much do you agree with the following statement: I think that the society in which we live is tolerant toward others and those who are different?**

- Completely disagree
- Disagree to some extent
- I neither agree nor disagree
- I agree to some extent
- Completely agree

**PARTICIPATION**

Now we will talk about your relation to politics and your participation in different organisations.

**P1. Estimate your own influence on important decisions in relation to the listed entries.**

Responses:

1 – none

2 – small

3 – average

4 – big

P1_1	At work, school or university	1	2	3	4
P1_2	In your family or household	1	2	3	4
P1_3	In your local community	1	2	3	4
P1_4	Political or non-governmental organisations	1	2	3	4
P1_5	Within your circle of friends	1	2	3	4

**P2. Do you intend to vote in the next elections in October 2024?**

- No
- Yes

*NOTE: only for respondents above 18 years of age*

**P3. Did you vote in the last elections in October 2020?**

- No
- Yes

*NOTE: only for respondents above 22 years of age*

**P4. What is your main reason for not voting?**

Select all that applies.

- I was abroad
- I was working
- I do not vote because I do not believe that elections will change anything
- I do not know whom to trust
- Other, \_\_\_\_\_ (describe)

*NOTE: only for respondents who answered No to P3*

**P5. To what extent, in your opinion, do young people have influence over decisions that concern them made at local level?**

- They do not have any influence at all
- They have little influence
- They only have influence to a certain extent
- They have a lot of influence

**P5. How many times have you participated in the listed activities in the last 12 months?**

*Take a look at the activities listed and for each activity select one of the following responses:*

1 - not once

2 - 1 or 2 times

3 - 3 to 5 times

4 - more than 5 times

P5_1	Contacted politicians	1	2	3	4
P5_2	Attended a public gathering where political and social issues were discussed	1	2	3	4
P5_3	Signed a petition	1	2	3	4
P5_4	Collected signatures	1	2	3	4
P5_5	Participated in a public protest	1	2	3	4

P5_6	Contributed to political discussion on the Internet	1	2	3	4
P5_7	Written an article, e.g. in a student newspaper, for an organisation or on the internet	1	2	3	4
P5_8	Participated in public discussions about the municipal budget	1	2	3	4
P5_9	Participated in meetings of the Local Community Council	1	2	3	4
P5_10	Volunteered	1	2	3	4

**P6. What is your opinion about the work and projects of youth organisations and associations in the area of your municipality/city?**

- Very negative
- Negative
- Neither positive nor negative
- Positive
- Very positive

**P7. Are you active in any of the below mentioned organisations**

Responses:

1 - No

2 - Yes

P7_1	Youth organisations or associations	1	2
P7_2	Youth organisations of political parties	1	2
P7_3	Religious organisations, including youth religious organisations	1	2
P7_4	Political parties	1	2
P7_5	Environmental organisations	1	2
P7_6	Human rights organisations or those for charitable work	1	2
P7_7	Professional organisations, e.g. agricultural, business or employee organisations	1	2

**P8. How often do you volunteer in your community, local organization or group.**

- Never
- Rarely (once or twice a year)
- Often (at least once a month)
- Very often (at least once a week)

**P9. What are the main reasons for not volunteering in your local community, a local organisation or group.  
Select all that applies.**

- I did not have enough time
- Nobody asked you
- I am not interested
- I did not know about the possibilities for such work
- I think that volunteering in the community is not efficient and has no effect
- I think that volunteerism is a form of exploitation
- Other, \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: If P8 response is NEVER*

**P11. Please select from the list the most appropriate ending to the sentence I would be more interested in volunteering my time and skills for charity if ...**

*Select all that applies*

- ...I had more information about what the volunteering involved and what are the benefits.
- ...I had more information on the possibilities of volunteering in the local community where I live.
- ...I had more information on the possibility of volunteering in BiH.
- ...I had more opportunities to volunteer in other communities in BiH.
- ...I had more information on opportunities to volunteer outside of BiH.
- ...I had more information on how many of my peers volunteer.
- ...I had more acceptance of volunteering within my family.
- ...there was more legal protection and recognition of the experience and skills related to voluntary work.

## MOBILITY

### M1. Have you lived abroad for longer than 3 months?

- No
- Yes

### M2. How long did you live abroad?

Please write the number of months:

*NOTE: relevant only if M1 response is yes*

### M3. Do you have a passport?

- No
- Yes

### M4. If you had the opportunity, how certain are you that you would leave BiH for the listed reasons.

For each entry select one of the responses:

- 1 - completely sure
- 2 - sure
- 3 - not sure
- 4 - probably not
- 5 - definitely not

M4_1	For studying	1	2	3	4	5
M4_2	For temporary work	1	2	3	4	5
M4_3	For marriage	1	2	3	4	5
M4_4	To permanently settle in another country	1	2	3	4	5

### M5. Would you go abroad for a longer period of time or forever?

- I would not leave for a longer period of time or forever.
- I would not leave forever, but I would leave for a longer period.
- I would leave forever if I had the opportunity.

### M6. How do you gather information about events in the country?

Select all that applies

- Television
- Newspapers
- Radio
- Online portals
- Social media
- Friends
- Family members

## SECURITY

### S1. How concerned are you about the impacts of climate change on your future and the planet?

- Not concerned at all
- Slightly concerned
- Very concerned

### S2. Do you agree with the following statements regarding your municipality/city?

Responses:

1 - No

2 - Yes

S2_1	The citizens have trust in the institutions and service for law enforcement	1	2
S2_2	Many citizens are socially excluded	1	2
S2_3	Many citizens are discriminated against on different grounds (gender, sexual orientation, religion, racial, ethnicity/nationality, economic)	1	2
S2_4	The majority of citizens feel safe	1	2
S2_5	The majority of citizens have adequate access to public institutions (health, social, education)	1	2
S2_6	The majority of citizens have adequate access to recreational resources	1	2
S2_7	If citizens require the support of non-governmental organisation it is available	1	2
S2_8	In my community there are a lot of hooligans	1	2

S2_9	A lot of people in my community advocate hateful speech	1	2
S2_10	In my community a lot of children and youth are violent toward others	1	2
S2_11	In my community a lot of people are connected to violent extremist's groups	1	2

**S3. Do you have close family members, friends, colleagues or acquaintances that are:**

Responses:

1 - No

2 - Yes

S3_1	...people who are diagnosed with psychological trauma	1	2
S3_2	...people who have directly witnessed violence	1	2
S3_3	...people who could hurt themselves or others	1	2
S3_4	...people who have committed violence toward themselves or others	1	2
S3_5	...people who express feelings of hopelessness and uselessness	1	2
S3_6	...people discriminated against on different grounds (gender, sexual orientation, religion, racial, ethnicity/nationality, economic)	1	2
S3_7	...people with a feeling of alienation from society	1	2
S3_8	...very poor people	1	2

**S4. Does the statements feel true for yourself**

Responses:

1 - No

2 - Yes

3 - Not relevant for me

S4_1	I am very close with my family members	1	2	3
S4_2	I am very close with my distant family members	1	2	3
S4_3	Members of my family know my friends	1	2	3
S4_4	My parents are (were) actively involved in my education	1	2	3
S4_5	I am actively involved in the education of my children	1	2	3
S4_6	Arguing happens a lot in my family	1	2	3
S4_7	Some members of my family are violent toward others	1	2	3
S4_8	Members of my family are closely connected to their national/religious/ethnic group	1	2	3
S4_9	Members of my family help each other	1	2	3
S4_10	My family is involved in the cultural activities of the community	1	2	3
S4_11	My family is involved in religious activities of the community	1	2	3

**S5. How often have you experienced any of the following in the past 12 months?**

Responses:

1 - Never

2 - Rarely (once or twice a year)

3 - Often (at least once a month)

4 - Very often (at least once a week)

S5_1	I was intentionally excluded from activities by other peers	1	2	3	4
S5_2	I was mocked	1	2	3	4
S5_3	Somebody threatened me	1	2	3	4
S5_4	Somebody took or destroyed my property	1	2	3	4
S5_5	Somebody harassed me or beat me up	1	2	3	4
S5_6	Somebody shared gossips about me	1	2	3	4

**FREE TIME**

**FT1. Have you experienced any symptoms of depression or anxiety in the past 12 months?**

No

Yes

**FT2. With whom did you discuss your feelings and thoughts ?**

Select all that apply

- No one,
- Psychologist
- Psychotherapist
- Psychiatrists
- Other mental health professional
- Family member
- Friends
- Someone else

**FT3. Think of the last 7 days. On average, how many hours each day did you spend in the activities listed below.**

Responses:

0 - not at all  
 1 - less than once a week  
 2 - once a week  
 3 - 3-5 times a week  
 4 - at least once a day

FT3_1	Watching TV	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_2	In coffee shops or clubs	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_3	Reading a book	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_4	On the Internet/Facebook/social networks	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_5	Walking/recreation/sport/gym	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_6	In betting shops/casinos/betting online	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_7	In non-formal learning activities	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_8	Socializing with friends	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_9	Being with the family	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_10	Performing religious duties	0	1	2	3	4
FT3_11	Cultural activities (going to the cinema, theatre or a concert)					

**FT4. Do you discuss the problems of the youth with your friend?**

- No
- Yes

**FT5. How do you imagine your near future? Which of the following statements best describe your opinion?**

- Much better than the present.
- A little better than the present: I expect something from the future, but not a lot.
- The same as the present: I do not expect anything from the future, neither better nor worse.
- A bit worse than the present: I expect a certain worsening in the future.
- Much worse than the present: I do not expect anything good from the future.
- Not sure

**DEMOGRAPHY**

**D1. What foreign languages (besides Serbian-Croatian-Bosnian) do you know?**

*It is possible to give more than one answer*

*Responses:*

0 – Don't know  
 1 - Beginner  
 2 - Intermediate  
 3 - Advance

D1_1	German	0	1	2	3
D1_2	English	0	1	2	3
D1_3	Spanish	0	1	2	3
D1_4	Russian	0	1	2	3
D1_5	Arabic	0	1	2	3
D1_6	French	0	1	2	3
D1_7	Turkish	0	1	2	3
D1_8	Italian	0	1	2	3
D1_9	Other	0	1	2	3

**D2. How many people live in your household, including you?**

*Please write the number of people:*

**D3. What is your partner status?**

- Single
- In relationship but living separately
- Living with a partner but not married
- Formally married
- Formally married but living separately (by choice and not because of work or travel)
- Divorced
- Widowed (marriage spouse is deceased)

**D4. Do you have any children?**

- No
- Yes

**D5. How old were you when you had your first child?**  
Write the age.

*NOTE: If Yes to D4*

**D6. How many children do you have?**  
Write the number of children.

*NOTE: If Yes to D4*

**D7. What is your housing status?**  
Please select the most appropriate answer from the below list).

- As a tenant with your parents
- As a tenant but without parents
- In an apartment owned by your parents (or wife/husbands' parents)
- In an apartment owned by you (or your husband or wife)
- In a house owned by your parents (or the parents of your husband or wife)
- In a house owned by you (or your husband or wife)
- Living at boarding school
- Other, \_\_\_\_\_

**D8. In which municipality/city do you currently live?**  
*Select from the list*

..... pop up list with all municipalities/ cities will appear ....

**D9. Your household is located...**

- in the city centre
- in the wider city centre
- on the periphery in a city suburb
- in a village

**D10. Please select all groups with whom you have strong identity affiliation!**  
*Choose all that applies*

- Bosnian
- Bosniak
- Croat
- Serb
- Roma
- I belong to minority ethnic group in my community
- LGBTIQ community

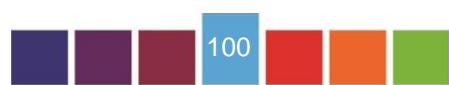
**D11. What is your gender?**

- Male
- Female
- Other

**D10. Please select all groups with whom you have strong identity affiliation!**  
*Choose all that applies*

- Bosnian
- Bosniak
- Croat

- Serb**
- Roma**
- I belong to minority ethnic group in my community**
- LGBTIQ community**



## Focus group discussion protocols 15 – 30 years of age

### INTRODUCTION

Thank you all for taking your time and coming in today for a discussion on topics that are important for young people.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I work for a research company Canter for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research – CREDI, which was commissioned by UNICEF BiH to conduct the research on Voices of Youth 2024 in our country.

I will be your moderator today and we will talk about things important to young people like you and I hope that it will be interesting for you. There are no right or wrong answers, this is not an exam, and nobody will be evaluated. UNICEF is interested in your opinions and your attitudes. All you need to do is to relax and express your opinion.

First, let us finish some formalities.

**Consent for recording:** I would like to ask you for your consent to audio record this conversation. The recordings will be only used by me and no one else. It will enable me to prepare a better and more authentic report, without the need to write everything immediately.

All information we receive from you will be used for this research, but personal information about you will not be available to the public. Please, do not discuss expressed opinions of the other members of the group, outside of the focus group.

Do you agree that our conversation can be recorded using this audio recorder in order to make transcripts that will form the basis of our report?

*NOTE: If participants disagree (even single) the facilitator will keep written notes during the focus group.*

**Duration of discussion:** This discussion will be about an hour and a half long and I would appreciate it if you could confirm that you will be able to remain here throughout that period.

**Mobile phones off:** I would appreciate if you can turn off your phones so that we are not interrupted during the discussion. Thank you. *NOTE: At that time the facilitator will turn off her/his mobile phone to flight mode.*

Can you say something about yourself, where are you coming from and what motivates you to participate in this focus group.

*NOTE: Information about age, education, employment, ethnicity and disability of participants will be collected using the FGD survey prior to focus group, but will be known to researchers in advance, during the preparation. All quoted responses will be followed by the participant's attributes such as gender, age (below 18, 18 to 25, over 25) and group (general, Roma, youth with disability).*

### THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS FOR YOUTH

Let's start by talking about the problems that young people like you face today.

Please answer the questions in your own way. I would like to reiterate that there are no right or wrong answers.

In your opinion, what is **the Most Important Problems for Youth Today** in our society?

Which do you see as key challenges for young Roma?  
And what about the youth with disability?

In 2016 (8 years ago), the young people thought that the three major problems for the youth were:  
(1) unemployment, (2) material/economic dependence, and (3) alcoholism, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency etc.

How do you feel about this? About the difference between then and now?

Some stated also that the most pressing problems are: housing, education system and lack of the Insufficient care in society for the problems of youth

Are these important problems for youth in 2024?

Out of all of this discussion, what do you see as three most important challenges for general youth, for Roma and for youth with disability?

### EDUCATION

Now let's talk about education and the education system in our country.

You all went through or you are still in the process of education (going to high school or the faculty).

Please answer the questions honestly. Answer according to your own experiences. Tell me what you lived through and what you witnessed. I am not interested in what someone told you I want to hear about your personal experiences as a participant or as a bystander.

What was the quality of your education? What would you change? What practices you find inappropriate? Did your teachers used digital tools and technologies for education purposes? Which one? Is this something you would like to see more and why?

In the schools you attended, were there any pupils/students with disability or Roma? Was there a difference in their presence between primary, secondary and university education?

*NOTE: if in the group there are Roma youth and youth with disability, then facilitator will ask them for their experience? Other participants will be asked to tell their experiences in relation to Roma and youth with disability.*

Are schools ready for the inclusion of children/youth Roma or youth with disability? What were some good practices and maybe some that have to be changed?

What was the ethnic composition of your class: mixed or mono-ethnic?

How many members of other nationalities/ethnic groups/religious communities do you know and what is your opinion of them?

Have you had the opportunity to study the cultures and customs of the constituent peoples of BiH during your education? Would you prefer to be in school groups that are of the same ethnic group as you are, or you would prefer to be in mixed groups? Why?

The Research conducted in 2016 showed that certain improvements have appeared in the BiH education system, such as more volunteerism and the practice of informal education. Do you agree with these findings? Where do you see improvements and where do you see worsening?

#### EMPLOYMENT

We will continue our conversation with the topic 'Employment'. No matter whether you are employed, searching for a job, unemployed or currently not looking for a job, please discuss on these questions.

Did you already search for a job? What were your experiences when searching for a job? In what way did you search for a job?

How long have you been looking for a job, for how many jobs did you apply prior to your employment?

What qualifications are currently most important for finding a job? What helps you to get a job? And what makes it more difficult? Do you think that education system prepared you with the skills necessary to find the job you want? What skills you need, and education system failed to develop it?

What kind of job you are interested in? Why?

Do you find yourself being discriminated at your work place or discriminated during the employment process? What happened?

Did you think to start your own business? Which one? What is needed for you to start thinking about it? How can you be supported?

#### PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY AND IN DECISION-MAKING

Now we will talk about the participation of youth in decision-making and youth participation in society in general.

What does terms 'participation in society' and in the 'decision-making process' mean to you?

Do you advocate for changes in the society? What way? Why are you engaged, and why not? Would you like to participate more in society?

We often hear that 'youth is the moving force and the future of the country'; however, the youth considers that it has very little influence at school, at work, in the local community and on non-governmental organisations. How do you explain this and who can/should make peace between these contradictory attitudes?

Are you a member of political party? How does that looks like? Why do young people become members of political parties or sympathisers of some political parties?

Do you think that youth is voting more or less often comparing to older population? If different why?

Do you think that Youth organisation and other NGOs can influence changes in the society? Why? How?

#### STANDARD OF LIVING AND THE PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE

I will now ask you to talk about your current standard of living and your thoughts on what kind of future you expect based on your experience?

Research shows that the number of young people who get married and young people who have children is dropping. In your opinion, what are the main obstacles and reasons for young people not starting a family?

According to research conducted in 2016, it was concluded that the standard of living has improved in terms of 1) income, 2) working status, 3) education, 4) health protection, 5) the housing issue and 6) the quality of life in general. The number of young people who expect the standard to remain the same or to get worse in the future has also dropped. How do you comment on this? Why do young people have such a perception of the future? Would you say it is true?

What would you find as a good standard of living? What has to be changed in order to get there?

Research conducted in the previous rounds of "Voices of youth 2016" shows that the number of young people who want to leave BiH permanently has increased. Why are they leaving? Did you consider leaving? Have you already done some steps to leave BiH? Which one?

Should we help youth to leave BiH or we should make efforts to keep them here? What can be done and by whom?

#### MEDIA AND INFORMATION

Tell me something about the sources of information you use the most.

Which media (written, online, social) do you follow? Who do you follow on daily basis?

Do you only read the titles or the entire article/text? How much time and attention do you give to titles in relation to the rest of the text?

In your opinion, how much does the media in BiH promote/bring closer the differences (religious, ethnic, cultural, sociological, etc.)? What do they do to make us closer or more distant

Do you believe the news and information you find in the media? Is the media in BiH independent? Why do you think so? How do you know if the information is true or false? Do you even validate information? How?

How do you feel about influencers? Who do you follow? Who do you find inappropriate? Why? Were you considering becoming an influencer?

How much social network influence your life?

#### SECURITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Now, we will discuss security and mental health.

Please tell me do you feel safe in BiH, especially in the place where you currently live? What about when going somewhere else?

Have you ever witnessed violence in your surroundings? What kind of violence, how often and who was involved?

Are there any place/situation where you felt unsafe, which places/situations that you avoid?

What is a hate speech for you? Do you feel exposed to hate speech? From whom? Against whom? Where? What do you think about it? Should it be allowed as a form of free speech, or it should be penalized? Why do you think so?

#### Online violence

What is the online violence? Were you exposed to online violence? How?

In your opinion, what are the impacts of online violence on individuals and communities? How does it affect mental health, relationships, and online interactions?

What would you suggest to address and prevent online violence?

Who do you talk to when exposed to violence? Which mental health support services are available to you? Would you use these services? Why?

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Now, let's finish our discussion by talking about climate changes and what young people can do about it.

How would you describe your current level of knowledge about climate change? What comes to your mind when you hear the term "climate change"? How do you think climate change is affecting our world today? Can you share any personal experiences where you believe you've seen the effects of climate change?

What role do you think young people can play in addressing climate change? Can you share any examples of how you or someone you know is taking action against climate change?

What solutions do you think could effectively address climate change? How can these solutions be implemented at individual, community, and governmental levels?

How do you think climate change should be taught in schools? What resources or tools would you suggest to educate young people about climate change?

Thank you for participating in the focus group

Now we will ask you to see the result of the Voice of Youth 2016 survey and if you could fill up the questionnaire, at your own convenience, so we can keep looking at trends.

*NOTE: participants will be provided with the link to the questionnaire and VoY 2016 brief*

## Focus group discussion protocols 10 – 14 years of age

### INTRODUCTION

Thank you all for taking your time for a discussion on topics that are important for young people.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I work for a research company Canter for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research – CREDI, which was commissioned by UNICEF BiH to conduct the research on Voices of Youth in our country.

I will be your moderator today and we will talk about things important to young people like you and I hope that it will be interesting for you. There are no right or wrong answers, this is not an exam. UNICEF is interested in your opinions and your attitudes. Every answer is a right answer as long as it represents your thoughts and feelings. All you need to do is to relax and talk.

First, let us finish some formalities.

For your participation in this focus group you had to have a consent from your parents. I received an information from the school/centre that you all have the consent. Is this true?

**Consent for recording:** I would like to ask you for your consent to record this conversation. The recordings will be only used to prepare a report from this discussion and no private information will be reported. This will help me to focus on discussion instead of writing responses.

All information we receive from you will be used for this research, but personal information about you will not be available to the public. Please, do not discuss expressed opinions of the other members of the group, outside of the focus group.

Do you agree that our conversation can be recorded using this audio recorder in order to make transcripts that will form the basis of our report?

*NOTE: If participants disagree (even single) the facilitator will keep written notes during the focus group.*

**Duration of discussion:** This discussion will last for one school class.

**Mobile phones off:** I would appreciate if you can turn off your phones so that we are not interrupted during the discussion. Thank you. *NOTE: At that time the facilitator will turn off her/his mobile phone to flight mode.*

Can you say something about yourself, where are you coming from and what motivates you to participate in this focus group.

*NOTE: Information about age, ethnicity and disability of participants will be collected using the FGD survey prior to focus group, but will be known to researchers in advance, during the preparation. All quoted responses will be followed by the participant's attributes such as gender, place and group (general, Roma, youth with disability).*

### THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES FOR ADOLESCENTS

What would you say are the priority topics for adolescents, what do you dream about, what do you want to become and how your environment can support you?

What would you say are the main concerns for you at the moment? Do you express your concerns and feelings with people from your surroundings? With whom?

### EDUCATION

Are you satisfied with the quality of education? Do you think that the content you learn in school is relevant? Do you think it prepares you well for further education and later work? Why do you think so?

Is there anything you would change in the formal education system – in your school?

Do you think that digital tools should be used more in education (online digital platforms, different applications, virtual classrooms)?

Which social networks do you use the most? How often?

Are you a member of any club at school and which one? Do you volunteer outside of school? If yes, with who and how? Why do you volunteer?

Are some children exposed to more difficulties than others? Who they are? What are additional difficulties? What should be done about that?

### MENTAL HEALTH AND VIOLENCE/SECURITY

Have you witnessed violence in your environment in the past 12 months (and how often)? What kind of violence? Between whom? Do you ask for help and from whom if someone commits violence against you or against someone else? Are there places/situations that you avoid and what are they?

What is violence? How would you define online violence? Were you exposed to online violence? How? Did you report it to anyone? Why yes? Why no? If yes, what was the reaction?

How would you describe what is online violence? Do you think you or your peers ever experienced online violence? From whom would you ask for help if online violence happened to you? What should you do if you experience any form of violence?

## CLIMATE CHANGES

What do you think of when I say "climate change"?

How do you think climate change is changing our world?

Have you seen anything that makes you think of climate change?

Are you concerned about the impact of human on climate change and on your future and the future of planet Earth? What way?

What do you think kids can do to help stop climate change?

Do you know of any ways that you or your friends are helping to stop climate change?

How do you think we should learn about climate change at school? What could help kids learn more about climate change?

Is there anything else you want to say about climate change?

Thank you for participating in this focus group

Hope you enjoyed our little discussion