What are the challenges of being young in Kosovo?

1. **Young people in Kosovo** face an unemployment rate of 49.4%, where young women are severely disadvantaged with an unemployment rate of 60.3% compared to men at 44.1%.
   (Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics).

2. **Young individuals** aged 15-19 years make up close to a fifth of the labour force. The unemployment rate for young women is alarmingly high (60% in 2019) compared to young men (44% in 2019).
   (Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics).

3. **59% of youngsters in Kosovo** aged 18–24 would leave the country (National Democratic Institute, 2019).
   **Young people** between ages of 14 – 29 in 2018, only 21% considered themselves very satisfied with the quality of education.

4. **Students** from Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian and Gorani communities have a low participation in upper secondary education in public schools. In 2019/20, only 182 Roma, 259 Ashkali, 137 Egyptians, and 11 Gorani attended upper secondary school, compared to 75,674 Albanians.
   (Source: KAS. Education Statistics in Kosovo).

5. **The share of young people who are inactive** is very high, reaching 1/3 of the young population in Kosovo for several years in a row (Kosovo Agency of Statistics, 2012-2018). In 2019, Kosovo had the highest rate of inactive youth (32.7%) in the Western Balkans, followed by Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina with 25.8% and 21.2% respectively.

The share of young people who are inactive (unemployed, not in school, and not in training) is very high, reaching 1/3 of the young population in Kosovo for several years in a row (Kosovo Agency of Statistics, 2012-2018). In 2019, Kosovo had the highest rate of inactive youth (32.7%) in the Western Balkans, followed by Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina with 25.8% and 21.2% respectively.

(Albania) 25.8%  (Bosnia and Herzegovina) 21.2%

Only around 10% of young Kosovars are of the opinion that their interests are well-represented in national politics.
(Source: Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung, 2018/19)
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6. Young individuals aged 15-24 mainly work in industries such as service activities, wholesale and retail trade, and construction, where young men take a bigger employment share than young women in almost all industries with a high employment rate. (Source: Millennium Challenge Corporation).

7. 56% of young people work in occupations that do not match their educational qualifications, and more than half of the respondents believe that acquaintances in a relevant field and/or connections with people who are in power are very important factors in finding a job. (Source: Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung, 2018/19).

8. The most common barriers that hinder rural youth employment are:

- **17.9%** lack of appropriate job opportunities
- **14.3%** lack of adequate transport to work
- **14.3%** lack of schedule flexibility
- **14.3%** lack of part time jobs
- **14.2%** lack of time due to family/child care
- **10.7%** lack of self confidence to perform a job
- **7.1%** lack of support from family and inadequate qualification
- **81.4%** rural youngsters are dependent on their parents as a source of income

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Of young people aged 15 – 24 living in rural areas of Kosovo, 80.5% of women were unemployed compared to 67.6% of men. (Source: NGO LENS).