



KONGRESI  
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STIFTUNG

# ANALYSIS OF YOUTH POLICIES AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL



2020

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## Authors:

Dafina **Peci** & Rigels **Xhemollari**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

National Youth Congress, the umbrella organization of the 112 network youth organizations, spread throughout the territory of Albania after a multi-year work with young people in various municipalities and communities, has evaluated that the youth policy design and implementation level in Albania, should do more.

NYC staff, based also on the budgeting fact and low activity support and youth organization over the years, seeks to scan the entire situation of youth policies in Albania by promoting youth activation and policy advocacy at the central level.

This initiative comes at an important moment, as during 2019 the government and parliament drafted and adopted a series of acts and policies, that are expected to extend the effects to the youth community mainly throughout 2020 as the employment promotion law or the youth law.



This year is expected to be another moment of balance in terms of implementation, the impact and effects brought by the National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020 and highlighting the need to have a document of new strategic level at the national level for young people.

The student protest and its product "The Pact for the University" brought the education at the center of public debate, changed several processes and indicators in the university's life and highlighted the problems, that law 80/2015 has appeared on higher education in during these 5 years of implementation. In earlier this year has started to be drafted a policy document, which can positively affect the approach and integration of students towards local and foreign labor market, by the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Higher Education Strategy.

This initiative aims to analyze the problems of youth policy implementation at the national level in Albania, advocating for their improvement through youth involvement and promotion of national debate on youth issues. The analysis will also be based in parallel and previous serious studies that have been conducted by other actors, working in the youth field but will also generate long qualitative and quantitative data during the monitoring.

And finally as a result of the data analysis aggregate collected from youth policy monitoring and opinion, the study aims to create the database on which it can be based the new plan or strategy for the next 5 years for the youth, launched from the European perspective of Albania, as well.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/plani%20kombetar%20i%20veprimit%20per%20rine%202015->



## **2. THE IMPLEMENTATION ANALYSIS OF YOUTH POLICY IN CENTRAL LEVEL**

The Albanian state and government, throughout the transition period have demonstrated poor enforcement of legislation in general and the two main reasons have been; the lack of willpower of law enforcement institutions and the lack of issuance and budgeting of bylaws.

In the field of youth, the legislation has been lukewarm and deficient but often times also unenforceable, mentioning here the case of the law on volunteerism which it remained unenforceable for many years due to the lack of two bylaws.

The same situation is presented with the Student Card which became applicable only 5 years after the adoption of law 80/2015 on higher education and scientific research in the Republic of Albania.

In the following analysis we will deal with the legal one by one and key policies undertaken in recent years by the government and youth parliament.



## 2.1 LAW ON YOUTH

On November 11, 2019, the Albanian Parliament has approved the law 75/2019 "On Youth." This law went through a 1-year public consultation process that started on November 15, 2018. The consultation flag was held by Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth which organised consultative sessions in 12 regions with youth and organizations.

This law passed in parliament with a lot of controversy and public debate by groups of interest and the youth organizations which claimed that the law gives the competencies of youth organizations and groups to the Mayors of Municipalities and the responsible Minister responsible for youth, centralizes the freedom of youth organization and channels funding for youth through institutions with low credibility.

On November 25, 2019, the President of the Republic refused to enact the law 75/2019 returning it for reconsideration to the Assembly through the decree no. 11367.4

The President stated that the adopted law is unconstitutional for the following reasons:


- The law tends to bring under political control the youth organization which would constitute a serious violation of the right of every young person to express themselves and to be freely. The right violation of every young person to elect freely and out of political influence its representatives, would constitute fundamentally the violation of democracy.
- The law does not respond to development needs and expectations of Albanian youth and does not guarantee their well-being.
- The law does not only bring the desired and expected regulation, but for some essential issues, it appears to contradict the constitutional principles and norms.

- The adopted law points out that it will also address to the Albanian youth in the diaspora, but it does not clarify at all realistically and truly how this new legal norm will help this part of Albanian youth.
- The law does not come as a result of a study based on Albanian youth needs, a fact that threatens to create only a formally legal norm but will not be able to guarantee its successful application in the address of albanian youth
- The law does not deal with the essential issues related to youth as the lack of vision for life, the non-adaptation of the education system to the labour market or the lack of information about this market, the lack of entertainment, the unemployment prejudice and discrimination among young people, the nonparticipation in democratic processes and decision-making, or other social issues of encountered in practice and albanian reality.

## 2.2 THE LAW ON EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION

On March 13, 2019, the law 15/2019 was approved on Employment Promotion in the Republic of Albania, a law which touches and regulates important aspects in terms of the category of young people. The law is intended to increase the employability of the workforce, through the provision of public employment services and programs of self-employment and vocational training.

Employment promotion programs include public works, self-employment, professional internships or training, for which the subsidy is



provided, in a certain percentage, of costs for: compulsory health and social insurance ; wages; vocational training; training through labor; self-employment; support for new businesses and business incubators; workplace equipment and the reasonable adaptation. Other support forms are provided in the draft law as well, for both public and private providers, supported financially for conducting courses for unemployed jobseekers, for required professions in the labor market, according to the requests forwarded to the employment offices.

In this draft law is provided the establishment of a responsible institution for employment and training (today the National Employment Service), as a unit, which will assemble into one and will reconceptualize, according to best practices, the modernization of work offices, the employment services system, the employment promotion programs and and the offers of skills improvement throughout the life cycle.

In the draft law are regulated the provisions regarding to the employment of persons with disabilities, who have not found the application in the existent law. Except the support with employment incentive programs, reasonable adjustments, the liability issues are regulated as well, to employ persons with disabilities by the employers. In the draft law is foreseen the establishment of the Social Employment Fund in the form of a public financial fund administered by the Fund Administration Board. The source of the fund financing will be the contribution of employers who do not employ 1 person with disabilities to every 49 employees they employ and in this case are obliged to make a contribution on behalf of the Social Employment Fund, at the rate of 50% of the national minimum wage, for every month, for every person with a disability that he should have employed (currently the nation minimum wage approved by DCM is 26,000 ALL, so this measure is 13,000 ALL in month).

The collected incomes will be used for targeted employment programs, self-employment, job rehabilitation, training and vocational rehabilitation, employment guidance and counseling, supportive services, and the reasonable adaptation to these person, as well.

The challenge of law enforcement remains in the adoption and implementation of bylaws which impose and define:



- The rules of organization and functioning of the responsible institution for employment and skills
- The procedures, criteria and rules for the provision of employment services.
- The procedures, criteria and rules for the implementation of employment promotion programs
- The rules for subsidizing travel expenses subsidizing, benefit cases and the amount of payment for
- participation in vocational training courses
- The rules for the organization, functioning and competencies of the Employment Advisory Council .
- The composition, criteria and duties of the Administration Board of the Social Employment Fund,
- and the manner of using the Fund, as well
- The procedure and manner of paying the contribution on behalf of the Social Employment Fund



## 2.3 THE UNIVERSITY PACT



The December protest 2018 was the most mass revolt performance of the students in the history of transition. This protest achieved, in absence of direction or orientation by any political or social subject, to present clearly and to impose on the government with 8 requirements that were related to tariff reduction, transparency of expenditures, student representation, teaching performance and vetting of academic titles.

As a result of massiveness, sustainability and fair demands, students imposed themselves on the government and the prime minister forcing them to publish the "Pact for the University", to dismiss

The Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, Mrs. Lindita Nikolla and to replace, as well all the representatives of the Ministry in the Boards of Administration in public universities in the country. "The pact for University", this package of promises and measures was announced by Prime Minister on December 19, 2018 at the University "Ismael Qemali" in Vlora and later concretized in 11 DCMs and 4 Orders of Prime Minister on December 26, 2018, acts which aimed to address a portion of 8 requests formulated and requested by students during the protest.

According to the monitoring of the Pact implementation for the University conducted by Civic Resistance organization, the government did not respect the deadlines of most self-made promises and the inclusion of the students in this process turned out to be low. The main promise that was related with the quality of higher education for launching the review process of scientific titles and anti-plagiarism control was not held, even through a new DCM on 5 February 2020 the



Government repealed it passing this competence to MESY again to the universities as it was in the period before the start of the protest.

During 2019, about \$ 26.6 million was invested in investments in dormitories, amounts benefited from GBD and the state budget but again the conditions and infrastructure in dormitories were in bad conditions, launched also from the collapse of 3 buildings after the earthquake on November 26th 2019.

## 2.4 The dormitory investments

Before the student protest on December 2018 the infrastructure condition of dormitories appeared extremely amortized in all buildings in Tirana and districts. The buildings had urgent needs for rehabilitation, equipment with furniture, beds, base materials, mattresses and new sheets.

The albanian government under the pressure of students protest addressed this issue by awarding an additional grant in the amount of 300 million ALL from the state budget for investments in dormitories.

Buletini Nr. 36 datë 09 Shtator 2019

Agjencia e Prokurimit Publik

### REZIDENCA STUDENTORE UNIVERSITARE NR 1

1. Emri dhe adresa e autoritetit kontraktor

Emri Rezidenca Studentore Universitare Nr 1  
Adresa Qyteti Studenti Tirane  
Tel/Fax +355 4 2376214  
E-mail rezidencastudentore@gmail.com  
Faqja e Internetit www.qytetistudenti.gov.al

2. Lloji i procedurës: Procedure e hapur

3. Objekti i kontratës/marrëveshjes kuadër "Shërbimi, riparimi i pjesshëm i dhomave Godina Nr. 5, Godina 20-21, Nr.26-27 dhe Nr. 28-29".

4. Numri i referencës së procedurës/lotit REF-23147-05-22-2019

5. Fondi limit 20 040 052 (njëzet milion e dyzet mijë e e pesëdhjetë e dy ) lekë pa tvsh.

6. Vlera totale përfundimtare e kontratës (duke përfshirë lotet opsionet dhe nenkontraktimin):

Vlera 21 293 292 (me TVSH) Monedha Lek

Vlera e nenkontraktimit me Tvsh Monedha

7. Data e lidhjes së kontratës 26.08.2019

8. Emri dhe adresa e kontraktorit /nenkontraktorit

Emri INA sh.p.k  
Adresa Tiranë, Rruga Besim Imami, Myslym Shyri, Mbrapa Karburantit  
Nr. NIPT J61814009W

At the same time, the Albanian government in March 2019, activated immediately grant agreement with GBD (German Bank for Development) in the amount of 3 million euros in order to invest this fund in University Student Residence No.1. Under this agreement, the program aimed to rehabilitate the dormitories of the University of Tirana, in order to increase energy efficiency and suitable student conditions, according to minimum requirements of energy performance.

Depending on the available budget, the project will include the rehabilitation of buildings no. 3, 14, 16, 17 and 18 and if possible both both up to 4 buildings of other dormitories.

Referring to the report of the Covenant on the University published by Civic Resistance, the whole process of investing in dormitories is accompanied by a lack of financial transparency though the

main heads of central and local government have realized monthly media outlets in these buildings.

During 2019 RSU No.1 has carried out several interventions in the buildings of Student City for which it has developed tendering procedures according to the law on public procurement. The available incomes to RSU No.1 for 2019 were 8,859,000 euros, while purchases and investments through public procurement 2,285,600 euros.

According to a survey conducted by Civic Resistance in February 2020, 57.5% of students say that these investments have been a simple intervention only on the facade, 25.4% think that investments have not brought the infrastructural improvements and 16.6% of them express that they have improved the conditions somewhat inside the buildings.



## 2.5 The Student Card

As it was promised, in the "University Pact" the Student Card would be a part of the European Student Card Project and would be issued by the Center for Educational Services. MESY would make publicly the agreement deals and list of services that are benefited by students with state institutions, municipalities and private entities by setting services of reduced prices for students across the country and for foreign students in Albania.

According to the law 80/2015 on higher education, the Student Card is an unique document and the only responsible institution for its production and issuance is the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. The government decision no. 226 for services that will be provided by institutions in the framework of student was published in the official bulletin on the 17th April 2019. This decision in point 11 provides another possibility that in addition to MESY, the student card can be produced and administrated by local self-government units with their own funds.

With the publication of this decision, the municipality of Tirana started immediately the production and distribution of student card in universities. 32,000 Student Cards were distributed in the capital city according to government sources until 2nd March 2020. Card produced by the Tirana municipality contains about 130 private services and 87 public services.

Under pressure conditions from the media and students for the discrimination of students in districts as beneficiaries of the Student Card, MASR signed on September 11, 2019, a memorandum in collaboration with the Albanian Post, by delegating to the Albanian Post the production and distribution of the Student Card. Student Card referring to the distribution trend will be in the hands of each student within the academic year 2019 - 2020, while its strengthening with services and products that refer to basic needs, remains the greatest challenge to turn it into an instrument for making living and student conditions easier.



Student Card budgeting still does not seem to be in the responsible institutions plans . According to the official communication between NYC and MESY, the available Student Card budget from this ministry is 0 lek. MESY states that the costs will be borne by the units of local government.



Transparency problems of Student Card operation is connected with two main moments; firstly its budgeting where central and local institutions do not provide a budget for reimbursement of products and services gained by discounts from students and secondly the points that students earn from purchases in the private service providers that offer services.

There is no scheme by them of how to serve students to benefit reduced prices.

## 2.6 National Action Plan for Youth 2015 - 2020. Effects and its implementation problems

This is the fifth and the final year of implementation of the National Plan of Action for Youth.

A year of balance sheet and performance reflection, the problems and effects brought by this strategic document to the youth category According to all previous monitoring of the National Youth Congress and

other youth-focused organizations, the plan has not been fully implemented according to its deadlines and objectives.

The responsible Ministry for its implementation was dissolved and the new structure of the National Youth Service passed under the auspices of MESY, the ministry which never had in focus and never published any progress monitoring of the this plan.

MESY after taking over the field of youth launched the youth law campaign leaving out of focus the realization of the National Youth Plan objectives.

The main problem with the implementation of the plan was the lack of a specific budget program for the young people in the state budget and a not at all favorable behavior from youth to youth organizations.

The envisaged infrastructure to be set up 5 years ago, today is not managed to be realized, because from 12 regional youth centers foreseen to be provided in the National Youth Plan, only four of



these have been raised and these function more as premises for events of NGOs rather than as an opportunity for youth participation. These centers have been transferred to competence of municipalities which often have a subjectivist approach with the political influences in allowing activities for youth organizations after 2018 .

The labor market for young people has remained unorientated and enterprises remain separated from the universities, which offer in the market the students formed according to their study programs, but not according to market demands. The envisaged portal in this plan in 2015

Rinia.al (Youth.al) would serve for the career counseling of young people, was never created. At a time when the aggravated situation by COVID-19 has forced all the schools to proceed through online learning and we recall that one of the objectives of the government, which should have been achieved today in favor of young people was the fact that all pre-university schools had to be equipped with at least one classroom with multimedia interactions tables, which today would facilitate teaching.

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Although the tender was realized today, the technical conditions and internet are missing in these classes and in some others are missing the "Intelligent" teachers to implement this project.

The Civil Society Support Agency did not create the specific fund according to the National Youth Plan, where 20% of its annual funding had to go for youth organizations. These organizations have applied simultaneously with organizations with many years of experience in Albania within the same vocation, factor this discouraging for empowering of new organizations, during these 5 years.

In conclusion; we can say that the National Action Plan was a good strategic document on paper, unbudgeted by the government, unabsorbed by implementing institutions and without binding force on non-implementation of its objectives. The responsible institutions for its realization were dissolved or transformed by bringing irresponsibility in achieving the objectives of the plan, as well.

## **2.7 Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO). Impact and effects on albanian young people in four years 2016 - 2020**



In 2019 RYCO closed the second and third call and received a total of 378 applications from 1,186 applicants (youth organizations and high schools) by six contracted parties. RYCO attuned in total 64 projects implemented by 143 partners (youth organizations and schools) in a total amount 1,330,898.48 euros. Within the RYCO Strategy 2019-2021 the first strategic priority "Provision of high quality, and high impact programs", is reached an achievement and a diversification of funding opportunities for regional youth cooperation projects, and open calls for proposals that meet the identified needs of six countries of the Western Balkans, CSOs, and schools which have been published and implemented. there are started to develop

The Regional Voluntary Service and the mobility program model and the youth volunteer exchange has begun to be developed and the supporting regional entrepreneurship for developing the social youth programs, innovation and leadership organized the first activities in 2019.

Regarding to the second strategic objective "Demand Building - Creation and the promotion of an enabling environment ", a number of promotional and awareness-raising activities has been organized that contribute in the raising of WB6 youth awareness for the opportunities to become involved in activities that build understanding and mutual compliance in the field of citizenship, education, culture and sports.

Out of about 20 events, the subsequent events should be considered very important from a political point of view: the active participation at the Poznan Summit and preparatory meetings organized around (April and July), a youth conference organized by Romanian Presidency of the Europe Council Union (May), a meeting between young people and presidents of the French Republic and Serbia (July), Nairobi ICPD25 Summit (November), the Steering Committee Meeting of the Digital

Summit of the Western Balkans in Belgrade (February), the meeting with the representatives of foreign ministries for Western Balkan affairs 6th (February and October), the regional conference for the population dynamics, human capital and sustainable development in Southeast Europe organized by UNFPA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (October), the Regional Forum for Youth Leadership in Novi Sad, Serbia that gathered some senior officials from the region (November).



**RYCO**  
Regional Youth Cooperation Office



### **3. THE SITUATION OF THE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE PERIOD OF PANDEMIC COVID-19**

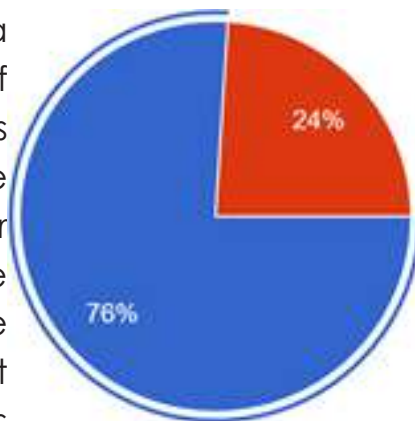
The National Youth Congress during the period 1 - 15 June 2020, conducted a survey with 120 youth organizations focusing on their financial situation and sustainability of activity during the pandemic COVID--19. The questionnaire was conducted online and distributed throughout the database of youth organizations in Albania obtained from ASCS, National Youth Congress and youth ngo maps created from various projects. Referring to the total number of youth and youth organizations in Albania which is 12,000, the selected sample is enough to get a fair and credible perception of the situation.

In the total number of organizations that completed the survey, 45.8% of them have more than two declared employees, 12.5% have only two employees and 41.7% have only one employee stated in the social security scheme.

According to the data of Ministry of Finance and Economy about 60000 albanian citizens remained unemployed at all private sectors.



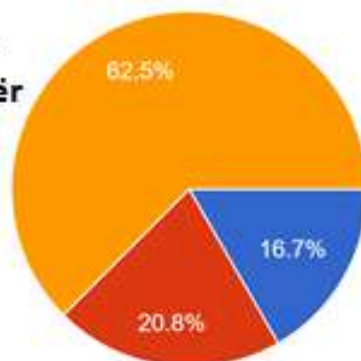
From the obtained data it turns out that 24% of youth organizations were forced to reduce employees in their organization during the pandemic period, while 76% of them have not been affected in terms of job cuts.



**A jeni detyruar të reduktoni punonjësit në organizatën tuaj gjatë periudhës së Covid 19?**

The Government published the Normative Act no. 12, dated 2.4.2020 on purpose to deferral the payments of rents for 2 months, April and May for 3 categories; the small business that has closed due to the situation, stated in the social security scheme, the family members registered at work, who have stopped working, due to the war and the students who have fled to their flats after the proclamation of the disaster state.

**Cfarë vështirësish financiare ka krijuar situata e Covid-19 për organizatën tuaj?**



- Pamundësi për të paguar pagat dhe sigurimet shoqërore/shëndetësore
- Pamundësi për të paguar qeranë e zyrës
- Pezullim/anullim të kontratave dhe aktiviteteve me donatorët

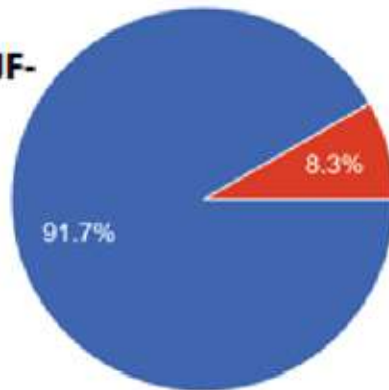
However NGOs again were not included in this scheme. According to the survey conducted mainly with the leaders of the organizations, they faced different financial difficulties in this pandemic situation. 16.7% of organizations found it impossible to pay social and health insurance,

20.8% were unable to paid the rent of offices while 62.5% say they went through financial difficulties, because their contracts and activities with donors were suspended or canceled.

Despite the reactions and petitions from different groups of organizations to seek financial assistance, the government did not take them in consideration, not including this sector in the packages of

financial aid. But 91.7% of organizations youth representatives states that the organizations should have been included in the packages of government financial aid, while only 8.3% of them think this has been a fair decision of the government.

**A mendoni se  
duhet të  
përfshiheshin OJF-  
të në paketat  
financiare të  
qeverisë?**



Some of the youth organizations representatives comment connecting with the support, that expect from the government and the continuity of their pandemic activities as follows:



**"We demand equal treatment just like other sectors, since we are also taxpayers. Support fund for rent and office expenses. "**



**"Providing a platform for online activities and conducting virtually meetings , free of charge and easily accessible for all. Concrete solutions for activities extending them mainly to the community. "**

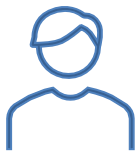


**"We have tried to develop online projects, but we have encountered many technical difficulties, because not all young people have Internet access and connected devices "**

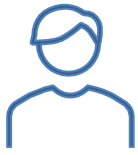


**"So far we have suspended the projects in the following months, we will continue to see, after the schools closure, because the school is the only environment for activities with young people, as there is a lack of youth centers "**

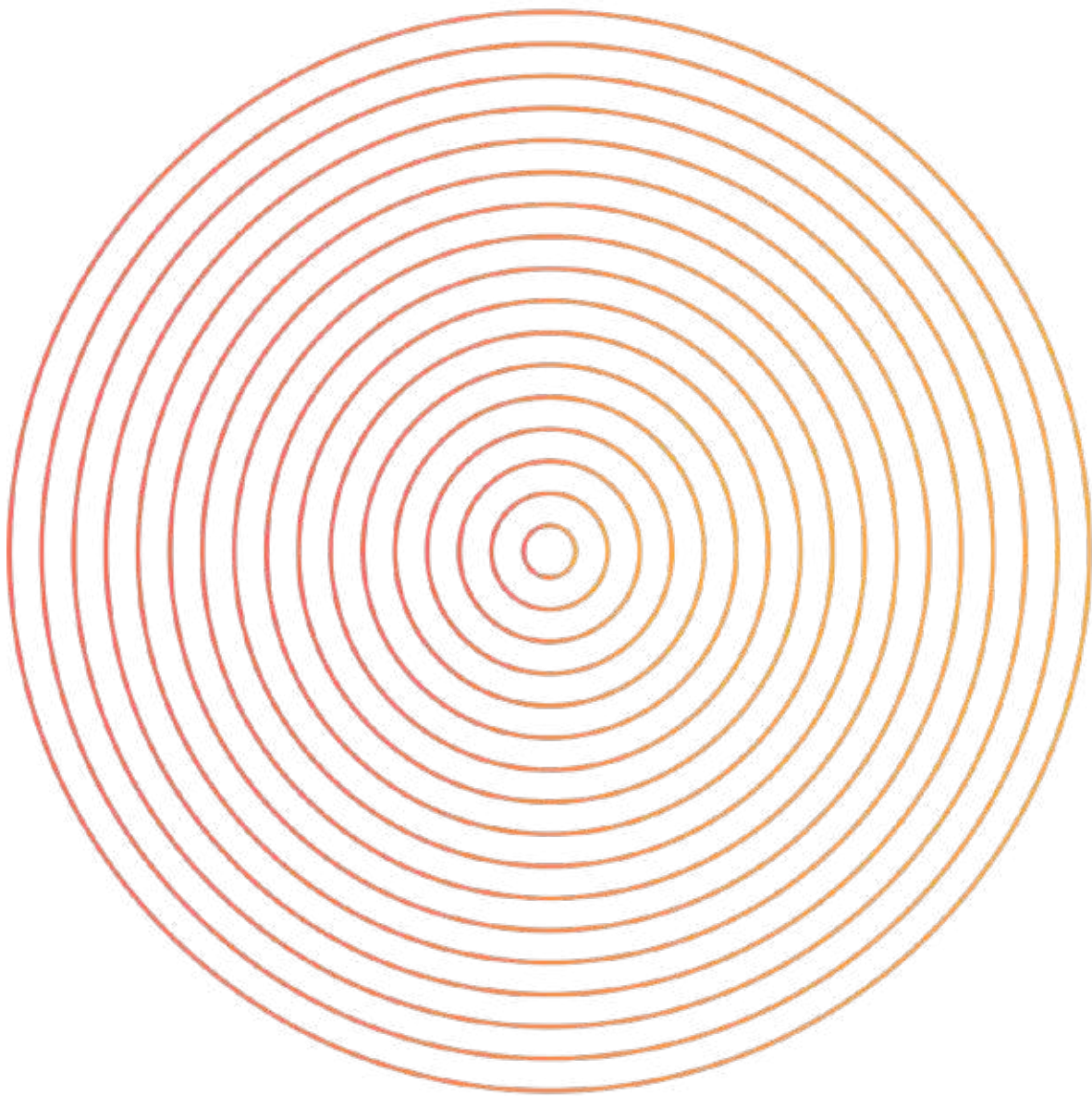




"We want to carry out the planned activities in a more relaxed situation and not online, since they have to do with art, entertainment, education".



"Every activity has gone online, and we are trying to pass the whole program online, watching new methods on project implementation".



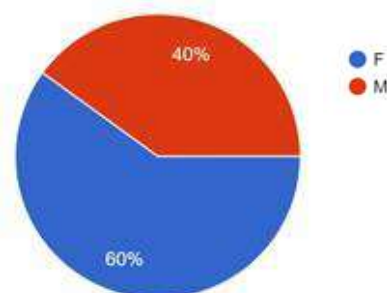
## 4. THE EVALUATION OF MEASURES AND POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE DURING THE PERIOD OF PANDEMIC COVID-19

Given the situation created due to the pandemic COVID-19, but also to support desk research findings on youth policies at the central level, the National Youth Congress team decided to conduct an online survey on youth assessment of government measures and youth policies at the national level, which was completed by 350 young people from 12 counties of the country.

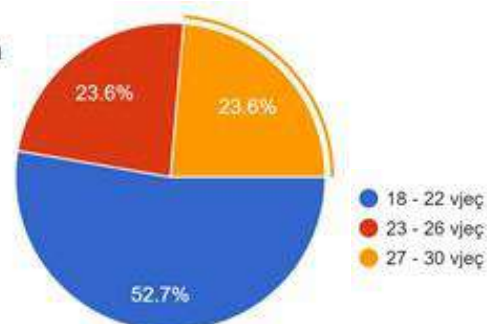
The used methodology was based on the distribution of the survey through online advertising via facebook ads and distribution by contacts of the partner organizations of KRK to active youth in the districts.

Gender participation in this survey is divided into 60% girls and 40% boys while the affiliation according to the age is 52.7% in the 18-22 years old age group, 23.7% belong to age group 23 - 26 years old age group and 23.6% are young people 27-30 years old.

**Gjinia**



**Mosha**



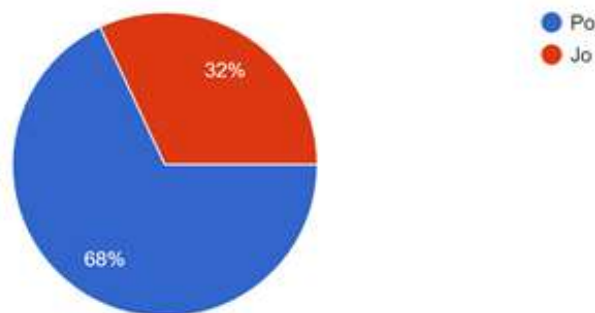


## 4.1 Online learning

On March 9, 2020 the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, influenced by the situation created by the pandemic COVID- 19 issued Order no. 91 "For the interruption of the teaching process in all public and non-public education institutions".

Immediately after this Order, pre-university schools and universities discontinued the learning process. The interruption of the teaching process was accompanied by numerous challenges of applying the online learning alternative. But this kind of access found the education system, higher education institutions and Albanian families unprepared in terms of effectiveness, quality and students access to the Internet.

**A ke pasur mundësi të ndjekësh rregullisht mësimin online gjatë situatës së covid 19 në muajt Mars - Prill?**



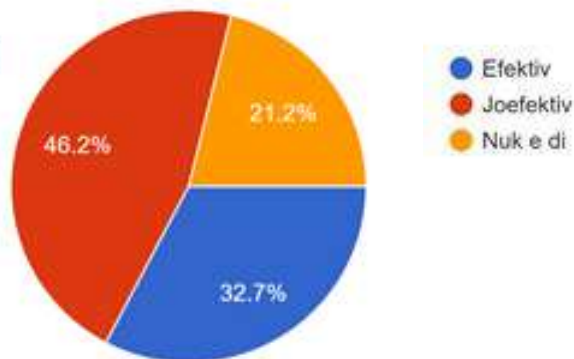
32% of young people surveyed about attending online learning, state that they did not have learning access during the situation of COVID-19 during March - April, while 68% of them claim that they have attended regularly. Meanwhile 31.6% of students who have not been able to attend online learning say that the reason has been the lack of internet access, 15.8% the lack of access to the digital equipment and 52.6% say they have been both together reason. This figure also coincides with the World Bank's report data that in May 2020 at least 30% of Albanian families do not have PC or laptop at home. The report also says that the minimum internet speed for online learning is Mbps.

According to 46.2% of students surveyed in the survey about online learning has been ineffective. 32.7% of them express that the lesson has been effective while 21.2% are young people who have completed



cycles of study. Regarding to the online teaching method there are some assertions from young people. 56.5% of respondents say they have developed the lesson through self-provided private video-calling programs, offered by the teachers / pedagogues, 37% of them state that teachers / pedagogues have only sent e-mail lectures while only 6.5% have received instruction through platforms of MESY in RTSH and RASH.

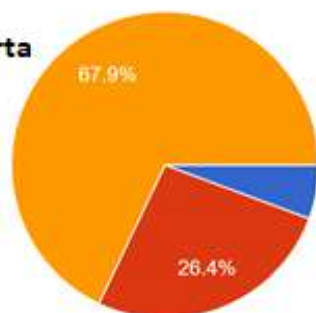
**Mësimi online  
gjatë situatës së  
Covid 19 ka  
qenë:**



## 4.2 The Student Card

Given the fact that the Student Card is an instrument that can bring benefits to the prices of services and products to students in this difficult period, students were asked regarding to its functionality and effect.

**Shërbimet e  
ofruara nga Karta  
e Studentit ju:**



- kanë sjellë lehtësira për ekonominë tuaj familjare
- nuk kanë sjellë asnjë ndryshim në portofolin tuaj studentor
- nuk jam i pajisur me Kartë Studenti

Only 5.7% of asked students express that the card of the student has brought facilities for their economy. 26.4% of students claim that Student Card has not brought any cost minimization in the buying of internet or electronic equipment or change in their monthly portfolio as well, while 67.9% of students are not yet provided with a student card.

## 4.3 Social and youth life

The significant lack of public spaces both in the form of multifunctional centers and in that of sports corners with the physical engagement opportunities and the recreation they have caused a pronounced handicap in the facilitating the youth's conditions for a healthier living and a non-formal education opportunities

Given the importance of social and youth spaces for the youth community, the staff of the National Youth Congress asked young people about the level of access they have today to these environments. 45.5% of young people interviewed claim that near their

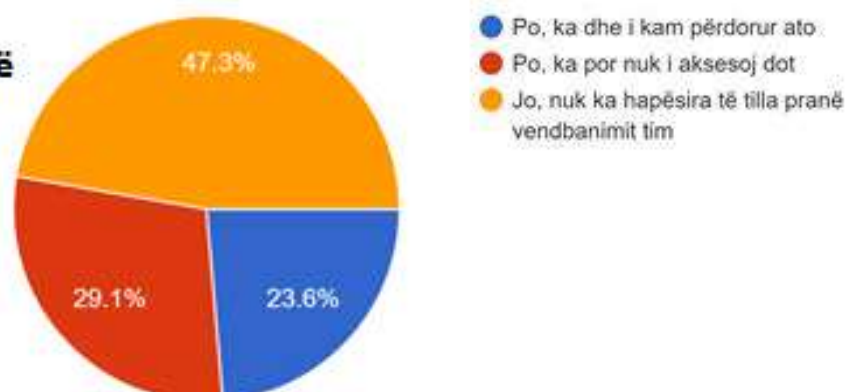
**A ka një qendër rinore pranë vendbanimit tuaj?**



place of residence has a functional youth center. 21.8% of them expressed that near their place of residence has a youth center but there are not organized activities and 32.7% of young people have told that the youth centers are lacking in their place of residence.


While in terms of presence and access of sports facilities 47.3% of young people say that there is no sport facilities space near their place of residence. Meanwhile 29.1% claim that there are such spaces but they can not use them and only 23.6% of young people are expressed in favor of the presence and use of sports facilities by them.

**Ka hapësira sportive pranë vendbanimit tuaj?**



## 5. Key Findings

- **The Youth Law** did not come as a result of a study on the needs of the albanian youth but as politically politically act. The law does not treat the substantive issues related to youth as the maladaptation of the education system with the labor market, unemployment, prejudice, etc. The President refused to enact the law declaring it unconstitutional November 25, 2019.
- **The University Pact** did not reflected fully the 8 student demands, the government did not meet the deadlines of most self-made promises and the student involvement in this process was low.
- **The Student Card** is no longer accompanied by a draft budgets from local and central institutions and its implementation in practice has demonstrated a lack of transparency in the using of points earned from purchases.
- **Only 5.7% of surveyed students** say that the Student Card has brought relief to the their economy. 26.4% of students claim that the Sudent Card has not brought any cost minimization in purchase of internet or electronic devices or change in their monthly portfolio, while 67.9% of students are not provided yet with a student card.
- **The Civil Society Support Agency** has not created the specific fund according to the National Youth Plan, in



which 20% of its annual funding had to go for the youth organizations. During these 5 years these organizations have applied simultaneously with organizations that have many years of experience in Albania within the same call, that is a discouraging factor for empowerment of the new organizations.

- **16.7% of youth organizations** found the social and security security payment impossible. 20.8% were unable to paid the office rent while 62.5% say that were faced with financial difficulties because their contracts and activities with donors were suspended or canceled.
- **32% of young people** say they have not had opportunities to access learning duringthe COVID-19 situations during March - April, while 68% of them claim that they have followed it regularly. Meanwhile 31.6% of students who have not been able to attend online learning say that the reason was the lack of internet access, 15.8% the lack of access to digital devices and 52.6% say that they had the both reasons.
- **45.5% of the interviewed young people** claim that near their residence they have a functional youthcenter . 21.8% of them say that near their residence is a youth center but they have not organized activities and 32.7% of young people expressed that youth centers lack in their place of residence.



## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Bylaws of the youth** law should provide clearly the setting up of the youth structures at the national level providing transparency, representation and inclusion.
- **Line ministries and the Council of Ministers** should provide a specific budget for 2021, sufficient to implement the organs provided by the law on youth and funding the youth organizations.
- **The Youth Agency** must demonstrate a transparent, meritocratic and open decision in the selection of youth organizations that will benefit from state funding.
- **The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth** must implement rigorously the deadlines provided by law for the issuance of the acts of bylaws, enforcing the law and the establishment of youth leading structures.
- **Municipal Councils and Mayors of 61 Municipalities** should begin immediately the process to create the Local Youth Councils making the available facilities and supporting the youth projects.
- **The Civil Society Support Agency** should implement the National Youth Plan, in which the 20% of its annual funding should go to youth organizations.



- **The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth** should start work on drafting the new National Youth Plan, which has completed the implementation deadline despite its objectives were not fully feasible. The the new document should provide youth centers and libraries for each municipality.

- **The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth** should draft and approve the new strategy for the higher and pre-university education focusing on the digitization of learning process, the supportation of the students support and liaison of education with the labor market.

- **The municipalities of Tirana, Durrës and Shkodra** must budget the Student Card for the academic year 2020 - 2021 to enable offsetting discounted purchases via card by third party operators.



## Annex 1 Questionnaire for youth organizations

- The name of the organization
- The number of declared employees
  - a) 1
  - b) 2
  - c) More than 2
- Are you forced to reduce employees in your organization during the COVID-19 period?
  - a) YES
  - b) NO
- What kind of financial difficulties has created the COVID-19 situation for your organization?
  - a) Inability to pay salaries and social / health insurance
  - b) Inability to pay the office rent
  - c) Suspension / cancellation of contracts and activities with donors
- Do you think NGOs should be included in government financial packages?
  - a) YES
  - b) NO
- Regarding to the rents of the premises where you carry out your activity during the months affected by COVID-19:
  - a) You have managed to make an agreement with the landlord not to pay the rent
  - b) You have normally paid the rent payment
  - c) You do not pay rent for NGO premises
- What policies do you propose that the government should undertake to facilitate the crisis caused by COVID-19 in youth organizations and for young people as well?
- How do you plan to continue the activity in the conditions of the situation created by COVID-19?
- During the COVID-19 period, the donor's funding
  - a) Are interrupted
  - b) Are suspended
  - c) Followed normally according to the contracts

## Annex 2 Questionnaire for young people

- Age

a) 18 - 22 years old

b) 23 - 26 years old

c) 27 - 30 years old

- Gender

a) F

b) M

- Status

a) High school graduated

b) Student

c) Employed

d) Unemployed

- Is there a youth center near your place of residence?

a) Yes, there is and it works

b) Yes, there are but there are not organized any activities

c) No, there are not

- Are there sports facilities near your place of residence?

a) Yes, there are and I have used them

b) Yes, there are but I can not access them

c) No, there are not such spaces near my place of residence

- Are you employed?

a) Yes

b) Jo

- Has the university helped you with orientation and recruitment from your employer?

a) Yes, he helped me through the orientation from the career office and work practice.

b) No, I found the job myself.

- How do you assess the National Youth Plan 2015 - 2020?

- a) 1 - Very good

- b) 5 - Too bad

- The services provided by the Student Card for you:

- a) they have brought convenience to your household

- b) they have not made any changes to your student portfolio

- c) I am not equipped with a Student Card

- Have you had the opportunity to attend online classes regularly?

during the situation of COVID-19 during March - April?

- a) Yes

- b) No

- Online learning during the COVID -19 situation has been

- a) Effective

- b) Ineffective

- c) I do not know

## **DRAFT DECISION**

### **THE DEFINATION OF CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF THE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND / OR FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THAT BENEFIT FROM THE GRANT FUND FROM THE STATE BUDGET, DEDICATED TO YOUTH**

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution and point 3 of Article 15 of Law no. 75/2019, "For youth ", with the proposal of the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, the Council of Ministers

#### **DECIDED:**

1. Youth Agency for Education, Interaction and Activism (hereinafter ARENA), through grant fund dedicated to youth, provided and approved in the annual budget law, finances the proposed projects by youth organizations and / or organizations for youth.
2. Within the month of January of each year, ARENA drafts and consults with the National Council of Youth and stakeholders, the annual program of financing youth projects and the scheme of distribution the grant fund part , which will be used to finance the youth projects. The annual program and distribution scheme are submitted for approval by the responsible ministry for youth.
3. ARENA announces the annual program, as well as the approved scheme for the distribution of theof the grant fund part , which will be used to finance youth projects, on its official online website.
4. The youth organizations and / or youth organizations that will receive the support must complete the following criteria:
  - a) They must be registered in accordance with the legislation in force for the nonprofit organizations;b) They must have as object of their activity provided in the statute of the organization, actions and youth activities;
  - c) at least 70% of their members must be young people, and / or must have applied continuously at least for a 3 -years period projects and programs with an impact on young people;
  - ç) they must not be in the bankruptcy process and / or liquidation;d) they must be registered in the database for youth, which is created and administered by ARENA;
  - e) they must not be implementing the same project, financed from the state budget or other institutions.
5. ARENA announces on the official website, after approval by the order of its holder:
  - a) notice for calls for proposals, with the timelines for each call stage and the available fund as well;
  - b) the procedure that is followed for each call for project proposals;
  - c) application form;
  - ç) the form of the items in financial terms;
  - d) the model contract.
6. The project proposals of competing entities that fulfill the criteria according to point 4, of this decision will be qualified for the selection stage if:



- a) the project proposal is related to the objectives and priorities of the call;
- b) the project proposal is structured and written in an understandable language;
- c) the purpose of the project reflects the connection with the stakeholders;
- ç) the proposed activities are in accordance with the objectives and expected results;
- d) the plan of proposed activities is clear, monitorable and within the projected budget.

7. The application for financial support, the submission of project proposal and the accompanied documentation, by youth organizations and / or youth organizations will be realized electronically, through the relevant portal of the public services.

8. Competitive entities must fill in and upload electronically the following documents:

- a) the application form, which defines clearly the purpose of the project and specifoc activities to be performed, in its function;
- a) the act of registration in court;
- b) the copy of the statute, where the development of youth activities is specified as a part of the activity;
- c) the documentation that proves the experience in the development of youth activities, at least in 3 (three) years of their activity, including, as follows:
  - i. the completed list of projects developed by the organization during 3 (three) years;
  - ii. the final reports for each of the listed projects, as well as the financial statements;
  - iii. the total budget of each project, the respective donors, as well as the list of internal and external experts involved in these projects;
  - iv. the bank certificate, of the last 3 (three) months from the closing date of the application;
  - v. the evaluation letters from at least 2 (two) beneficiary entities.
- d) the certificate from the tax authorities that he has fulfilled the obligations in a regular way ;
- e) the certificate from the court that there is no bankruptcy and / or liquidation procedure;
- f) the certification by the prosecution and the court that the youth organization / for young people as a legal person as well as, their governing authorities are not in the process of investigation or trial for the issues that undermine public trust;
- g) the judicial status form of the members of the highest decision-making and the executive organ.

9. The fulfillment of criteria evaluation of project proposals and competitive subjects, is performed by ARENA, which has the task of:

- a) to administer the applications from youth and for-youth organizations;
- b) to evaluate the fulfillment of criteria of the competing subjects and the project proposals, according to points 4 and 6 of this decision;

c) to compile the list of project proposals that fulfill the criteria, within 20 days, by the deadline for their submission;

ç) to monitor the winning projects, within the set deadlines and in fulfillment of the purpose of the presented objectives in the project proposal.

10. The selection of project proposals that meet the criteria and that are a part of the list according to letter "c" of point 9, are evaluated by the Project Selection Committee, set up according to the provisions in the internal regulation of the organization and functioning of ARENA.

11. The manner of realization of the tasks and activity of the Selection Committee of Projects, as well as the appeal procedure of competing entities are included in the provided in the rule at the point 10 of this decision.

12. The payments received from the budget fund are made 40% of the project value in the form advance payment, after the announcement of the winning project and the rest is reimbursed to in accordance with the incurred expenses. The request for reimbursement is submitted by the subject in the responsible institution, attaching the situation of the expenses incurred, together with the justifying documentation of the expenditure, after it has been realized no less than 90% of the previous amount allocated. The disbursement of funds is carried out in no more than three installments.

13. The financing of the winning project is not a subject to the procedures of the procurement public legislation.

14. The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the Youth Agency for Education are in charge, the interaction and Activism (ARENA) for the implementation of this decision.

This decision enters in force after its publication in the Official Gazette.

**The Prime Minister**

**EDI RAMA**

## **DRAFT DECISION**

### **THE MANNER OF ESTABLISHMENT, ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE OF THE DATABASE FOR YOUTH, AS WELL ITS INTERACTION WITH OTHER DATABASES STATE**

Pursuant to the Article 100 of the Constitution, Law no. 10325, dated 23.09.2010 "On the bases of state data ", of point 4 of article 18 of law no.75 / 2019, " On youth "and law no.9887, dated 10.3.2008, "On the protection of personal data", as amended, on the proposal of the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, Council of Ministers

#### **DECIDED:**

1. The establishment and functioning of the database "Electronic Register for Youth" (hereinafter RER) for the Youth Agency for Education, Interaction and Activism (hereinafter ARENA), whose content is published on the portal "For Youth".
2. ARENA, as the responsible institution for youth administers the RER database and realizes the interaction of its content with other information bases, according to applicable legislation.
3. The RER database provides up-to-date information for young people in the country, supports the process of planning, monitoring, administering and evaluating policies youth, at central and local level.
4. The contained data in RER are divided into primary data and secondary data, as following :
  - a) the primary data, are considered those data, which include:
    - i. the name of the organization;
    - ii. the identification of the type of organization (youth or youth organization);
    - iii. the number and year of the court decision on the basis of which it is registered;
    - iv. the head of the organization;
    - v. the number of internal and external employees, if there is any;
    - vi. the number of memberships in the organization;
    - vii. the field of activity of the organization;
    - viii. the status (active / passive);
    - ix. the location of the organization;
    - x. e-mail.
  - b) the secondary data, are considered those data, which include:
    - i. the number of national / international projects that the organization has realized;
    - ii. the sources of funding;
    - iii. the data on the structures that have financially supported the realization of projects at a national and international level;
    - iv. the ratings received over the years;
    - v. the official website of the organization.
5. ARENA, through RER performs the following functions:
  - a) registers the ARENA database before being put into use;
  - b) approves the structure of the ARENA database;
  - c) controls the implementation of the technical requirements of the ARENA database.
6. The protection and processing of collected data is based on:
  - a) the principle of honesty, justice and legality;
  - b) the collection for specific purposes, defined clearly and in accordance with these purposes;
  - c) the factual accuracy and, where necessary, the updating and performing of each action to ensure that incorrect data is changed or corrected;
  - d) the maintaining data that allow the identification of entities (youth organizations and for young people) for a period of time, but not longer than necessary for achieving the purpose for which they are registered.

7. The collected data by RER can be used for scientific and statistical research, analysis, evaluations or various projects, according to the legislation in force for personal data protection.

8. RER data have to be updated every 6 (six) months.

9. The level of access to the RER system and database is as follows:

a) Young people, youth and for-youth organizations have a level of access as readers and senders of requests for public information through the portal "For Youth".

b) ARENA has access as administrator and user of RER. Access level, functions and the rights for each category of system user are consistent with the job position of the ARENA employee, as they are defined in the rule for RER, created and approved by ARENA.

10. Every data subject has the right to request correction or deletion of data, when it is made known that data about it are inaccurate, incomplete or have been collected and elaborated in contradiction with the legal / sub-legal acts in force.

11. The user within 30 days from the date of receipt of the request of the data subject must inform it about the lawful processing of the data, the performance or failing to correct or delete.

12. In cases when the user does not correct the data, the subjects have the right to complain to ARENA, according to the legislation in force.

13. ARENA, as the responsible institution for youth for the administration of the database of RER, has the following functions:

a) collects all the necessary information for the fulfillment of the tasks of supervision;

b) orders the blocking, deletion, destruction or suspension of illegal processing of data in RER;

c) gives instructions before the processing is performed and ensures their publication.

14. If ARENA does not provide solutions in cases where blocking, deletion, destruction or suspension of data processing, an appeal is made to the Court in accordance with provisions of the Administrative Procedures Code.

15. In case that the the data subject has made a complaint, the controller has no right to change data until the final decision is made.

16. All changes in RER software and hardware that may occur depending on the needs of the institution and european and international practices, are made in accordance with the applicable law.

17. In the cases of data processing in contradiction with the provisions of this decision, the responsible person bears administrative responsibility based on the legislation in force.

18. The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the Youth Agency for Education are in charge, Interaction and Activism (ARENA) for the implementation of this decision.

This decision enters into force after its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Prime Minister**

**Edi RAMA**



KONGRESI  
RINOR  
KOMBÉTAR



KONRAD  
ADENAUER  
STIFTUNG