

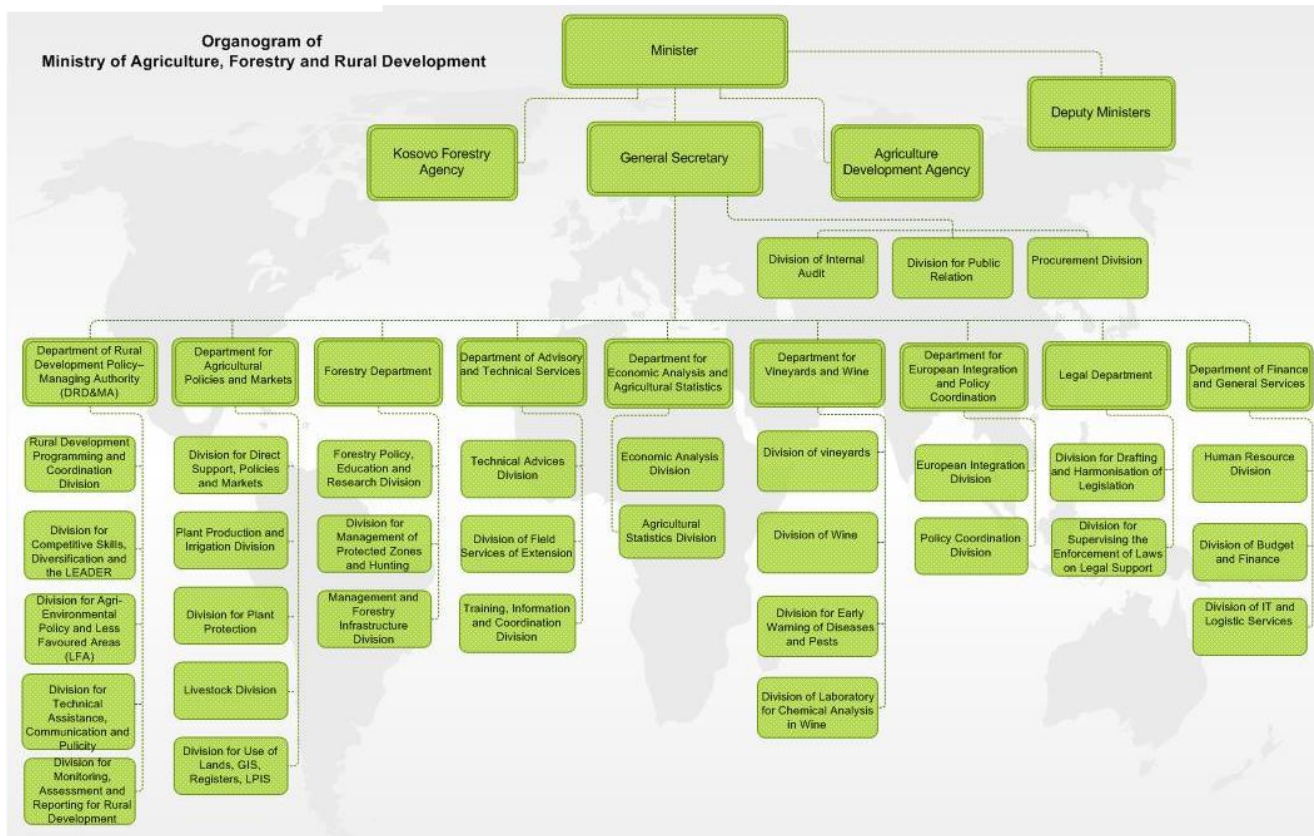
Interim Meeting 2023

The role of youth in the rural development in the Western Balkans

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05 – 07 June 2023

Authorities and Other Stakeholders



- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
- Agriculture Development Agency
- Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (Department of Youth)
- Directorates for Youth and Culture (municipalities)

Other non-governmental entities:

- Initiative for Agricultural Development in Kosovo* (IADK)
- USAID
- Several Youth NGOs
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
- GIZ
- Tetra Tech
- NORDK



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Legislation framework

- Law 04/L-090 “On Amending Law 03/L-098 on Agriculture and Rural Development”
- Administrative Instruction 04/2022 “On Measures and Criteria for Supporting Rural Development for 2022”
- Administrative Instruction 19/20014 “On Amending and Supplementing AI 16/2014 for Support of Local Development Strategies – LEADER Approach”
- National Development Strategy – 2030
- Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2022 – 2028
- Strategy for Youth and Action Plan 2019 - 2023



Implemented by:



Policies on ARD and Youth

- Agriculture and Rural Development Program (ARDP) 2014–20 (MAFRD 2013),
- Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MoF, various years),
- Economic Reform Program (ERP; Republic of Kosovo*, various years),
- Rural Development Program 2022
- 2018–21 action plan for organic agriculture,
- Tetra Tech's NOA program,
- IADK's Strategy 2020 -2027,
- USAID's AGRO program,
- Danish Neighborhood Programme,
- GIZ's Youth, Employment and Skills Project 2017 – 2021, etc.



Reviewing Kosovo* policies on ARD

- Focus of narrow rural policies = national rural development programme, strategy for agriculture and rural development → Government + Other stakeholders;
- Complemented with broader policies such as the national development strategies;
- Institutional policies and strategies → lacking focus on youth;
- Measures for youth involvement and development are very abstract;
- Insufficient implementation;
- Focus on youth and rural youth → mostly NGO and International Organizations (NOA, AGRO, IADK).



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Statistical data

Indicator	2021	Trend
Population	1.78 million	Decreasing
Area	10'950.25 km ²	N/A
Population Density	162.0 p/km ²	Decreasing
GDP per Capita	4.49	Increasing
Emigration	38'606	Increasing
Migration	7'353	Decreasing
Target group employment rate	14.3%	Increasing
People employed in ARD	2.7%	Decreasing*
Unemployment Rate	17.7%	Decreasing
Agriculture in GVA	6.9	Relatively unchanged



The Youth Situation in Kosovo*

- 56% of the youth in Kosovo* believe that connections and relations to people in power are the best way to get employment;
- Obstacles to employment of rural youth are lack of adequate jobs (17.9%), lack of part time jobs (14.3%), lack of flexible jobs (14.3%), lack of transportation (14.3%), inability to work due to familial responsibilities (14.2%); ***“There are no good jobs here!”***
- **Mismatch between the skills and qualifications of rural youth and the needs of the job market → lack of relevant qualifications/training;**
- **Desire to work in the public sector;**
- Rural youth has insufficient access to employment information;
- Insufficient soft skills.
- Loosing youth to migration (urban and out-of-country).



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Outtakes from Focus Groups and Other Data

- “***There are plans, but we need funding!!***”
- Youth must be more involved in decision making
- All relevant institutions have a dedicated department/person for youth.
- Policies and strategies should be modified to take youth into account – rural youth is not target so far.
- **Implementation** of strategies, legislation and policy is insufficient;
- Rural youth in Kosovo* has insufficient access to information and training for skills to obtain employment;
- Youth qualifications ≠ Job market requirements
- **Migration is a major issue – employment + education**
- Data gaps are a problem



Outtakes from Interviews

Interview	Key findings/conclusions
Nysrete Doda – Gashi, MAFRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment = demotivation and migration. • Better cooperation with other institutions is needed. • Implementation and more funds
Berat Duraku, Municipality Official (Rahovec)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working conditions are unfavourable • No measures for youth and rural youth • A significant lack of funds.
Prek Memaj, NORDK Sanela Lutvic, EQUALITI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of jobs, and good working conditions • Drivers of migration and demotivation of rural youth • Not enough funds dedicated to this field.
Arben Musliu, Professor Afrim Sharku, Researcher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better cooperation is needed between the private, public, civil, and academic sectors. • Skills and education infrastructure is lacking. • No future plans ?!!





Thank you for your attention!



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