

YOUNG MEN INITIATIVE

Public Opinion Poll on Life Skills Education in the Balkans

Future 4 YouTH

Join us! It's time for a change!

www.youngmeninitiative.net

Life Skills Education is urgently needed in the formal education in the Balkans to build skills of the future generations to develop healthy relationships based on gender equality, to understand their physical and emotional development and to address all forms of violence in their everyday lives.

According to the Endline research conducted by CARE in 25 high-schools in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Kosovo* and Serbia in 2020, the resulting skills gap is contributing to the misconception of violence that can result in increased violent behavior and higher tolerance towards it, and many aspects of life such as school attendance and academic achievement, social functioning, sports participation and uptake of employment opportunities. Taking into consideration that life skills are an important tool to equip young people with, it is certainly important to teach the youth about gender equality, healthy lifestyles, and different types of violence and consequences, thus, to enable a positive environment for youth in the Balkans.

In line with that, CARE has conducted regional public opinion research in 2019 related to the necessity of integrating life skills education as a part of formal education. The analysis is based on the data collected on opinions of the targeted population, resulting in having a high opinion, willingness to support and high appreciation of the life skills education in the Balkans.

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

SAMPLE SURVEY

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

700 respondents

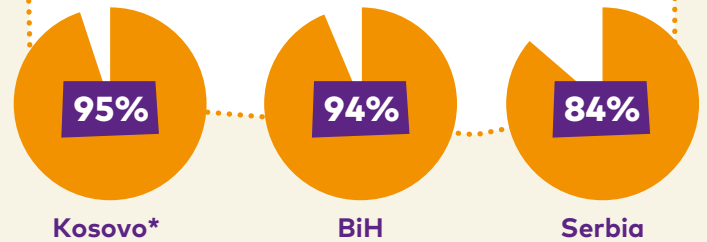
SERBIA

1100 respondents

KOSOVO*

700 respondents

The survey target groups were high school students, parents of high school students, teachers in high schools, professionals in public institutions, civil society, media and employers. The most important finding is that the great majority think that life skills education is necessary for young people and that on average **90%** think that life skills education **should be a mandatory part of education.**



EMPLOYERS

98%

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

94%

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

88%

98%

CIVIL SOCIETY

MEDIA

93%

91%

PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

90%

TEACHERS IN HIGH SCHOOLS

Future 4 Youth

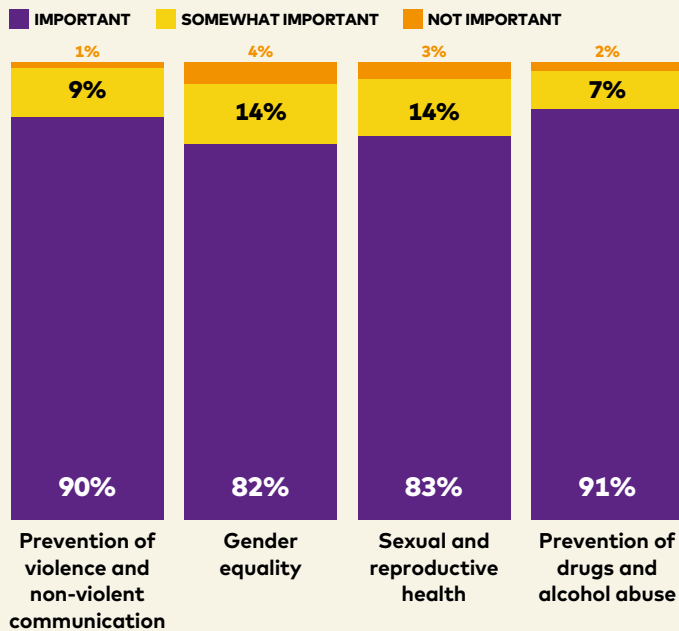
Public Opinion Poll on Life Skills Education in the Balkans

Future 4 Youth

Join us! It's time for a change!

www.youngmeninitiative.net

Besides this key finding, results showed that regionally, the prevention of drugs and alcohol abuse is considered one of the most important social topics.



On the country level, the target groups have ranked the importance of social topics as below.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Prevention of violence and non-violent communication is seen as the most important issue

Kosovo* – Prevention of drugs and alcohol abuse and prevention of violence and non-violent communication are seen as the most important issues

Serbia – Prevention of drugs and alcohol abuse is seen as the most important issue

CARE International and partner organizations from the Balkans through Young Men Initiative (YMI) have introduced life skills education programs aiming at promoting gender equality and healthy lifestyles with young men and women by addressing some of the social constructions of masculinity(ies) and femininity(ies) as a strategy for building important life skills in young men and young women as they emerge into young adulthood.

Program Y – gender transformative program has been implemented in over 130 primary and secondary schools in the Balkans.

- **Program Y** has been accredited by Ministries of Education in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Serbia, Kosovo* and Croatia. In addition, Program Y has become mandatory in Herzegovina-Neretva and Bosnian-Podrinje Canton, being **25% obligatory part of homeroom classes;**
- Over **1,600 teachers** were trained on the Program Y manual until now and over **120,000 high school students** participated in the Program Y implementation in high schools in the region.

The data clearly shows the necessity and the readiness of all targeted groups for adopting life skills education in the high school curriculum. CARE and its partners across the Balkans have initiated the movement "Future 4 Youth" which aims to bring diverse voices of civil society, informal citizens groups, parents, teachers and other stakeholders around the same goal – to address and advocate for violence prevention, gender equality, life skills and health education in schools across Balkans.

Join us! It's time for a change!

CONTACT US

For more information contact us via info@youngmeninitiative.net

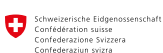
<http://youngmeninitiative.net/en>

<https://www.facebook.com/youngmeninitiative>

<http://care-balkan.org/>

<https://www.instagram.com/yminitiative>

Supported by:



With funding from
Austrian
Development
Cooperation



Partners

