



# Youth Education Sector Study in Western Balkans

Tirana, 22-23 May 2019





## Youth Education Sector Study (YESS)

### Objectives

- Overview of the current status of the Youth Education Sector (YES) in Western Balkans; and
- Identify potential infrastructure YES projects for WBIF investment co-financing.

### Background

- Call for refocus on youth employment at the WB6 summit in Paris in July 2016;
- Proposal from IFI co-chair CEB on gap analysis for social and environmental sectors at PFG in May 2017; and,
- Appeal for INV grants for social and environment sectors at the Stockholm SC in June 2017.

### Methodology

- Analysis of statistical data and related documents (Reports, Concept Notes, etc.);
- Consultation with Beneficiaries, various stakeholders, EU delegations and offices, IFIs, other financing bodies; and
- Analysis of YES potential projects and their maturity status.



## Youth Education Study – main findings

### General output

- Positive perception in the region on WBIF co-financing for YES projects, following the Connectivity Agenda;
- Target group (15 to 24 years old) for YES : approximately 600,000 people in Western Balkans;
- 22 projects initially identified with other 3 added during subsequent up-dates; and,
- Most projects are included in the Social Sector Project Pipelines (SOC SSPP) / Single Project Pipelines (SPP).

### Main sector needs identified

- Coherence between education/training and labour markets;
- Proper planning capacities at all YES levels;
- Increased public investment in education sector;
- IFIs ready for increased involvement in the education sector/YES; and
- More coherence of regional actions by strengthening the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO).



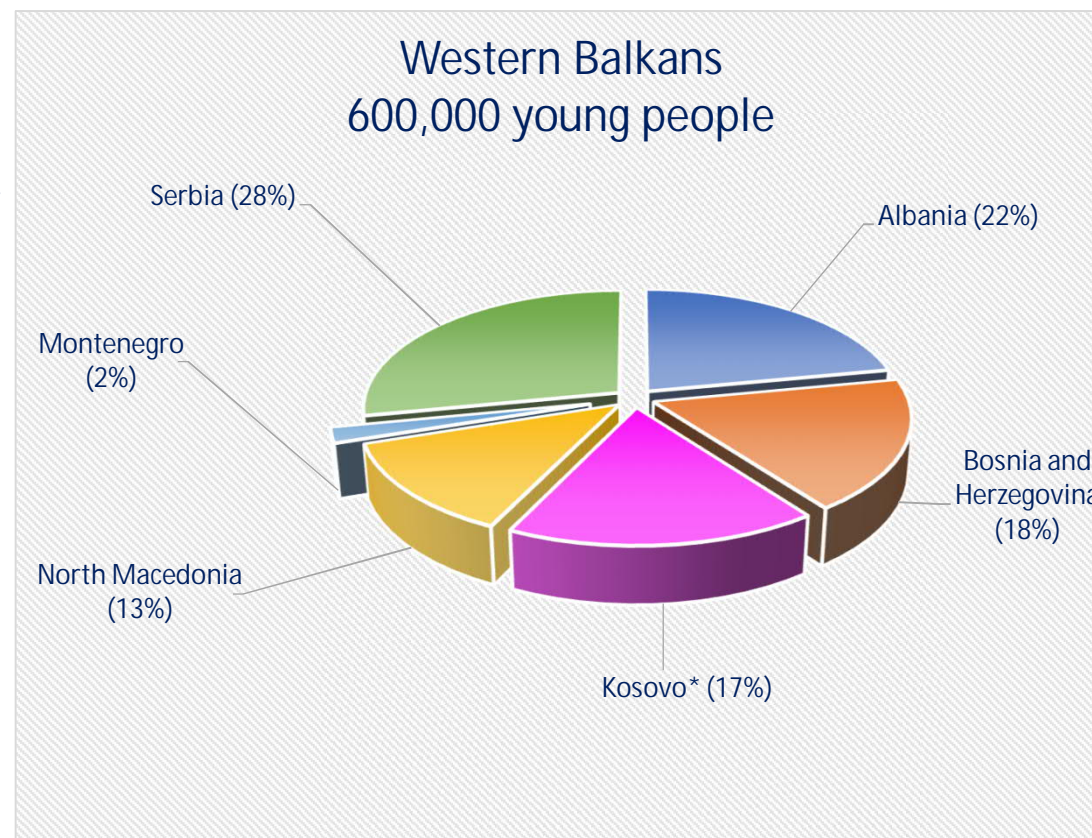


## Youth Education Study – target group

### Facts in the region

- Lack of appropriate facilities for education;
- Mismatch between education & training and labour market;
- High level of youth unemployment;
- Labour markets negatively affected due to economic crisis;
- 20% of the work force is early school leavers vs. 11% in EU;
- Lower proportion of aged 25+ population with upper secondary education than the EU average;
- 20% of the work force has higher education vs. 39% in EU;
- General decrease of the population (4% from 2000 to 2015);
- Accelerated emigration trend;

(young people: those unemployed, not in training or education)



\*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



## Youth Education Sector Study – identified projects

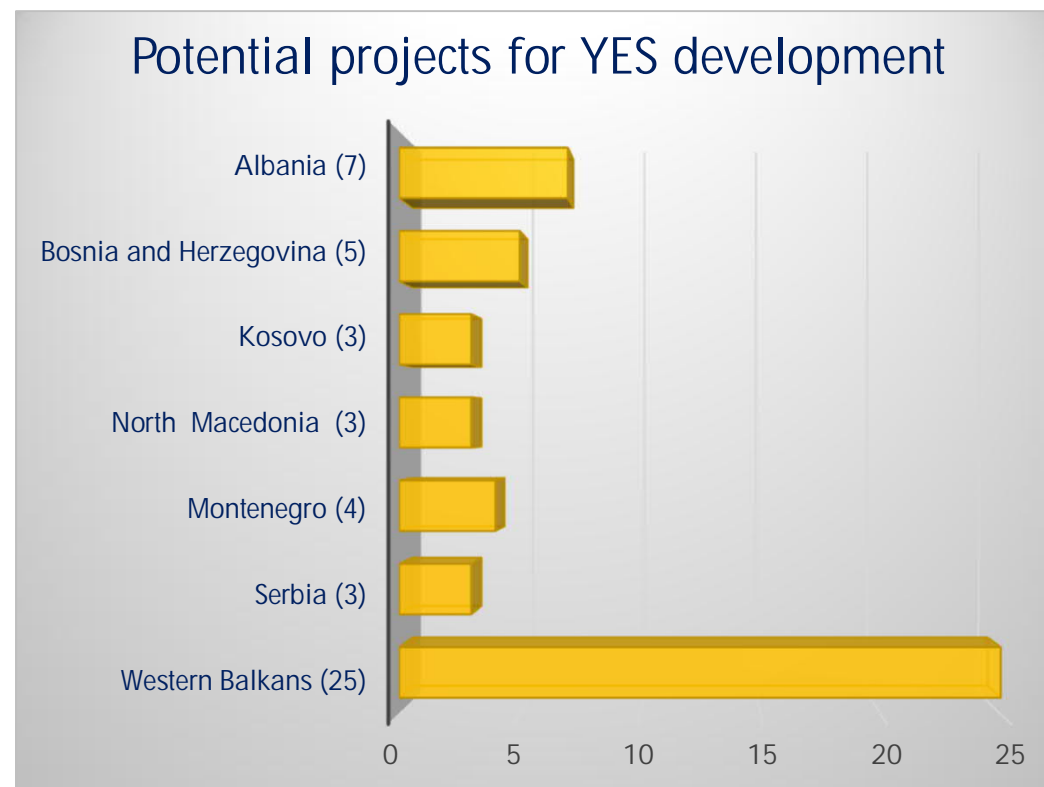
### Type of local/regional projects

- schools / gymnasiums (5);
- vocational centers (3);
- universities (12);
- youth centers (3);
- students' camps (4);
- sports halls / centers (2);

### Maturity level

- Concept idea (11) - 44%;
- PFS / CD (6) – 24%;
- FS / PD (3) – 12%;
- DD – permits (5) – 20%;

\* Three projects added during the subsequent up-dates  
(Kosovo: two, Serbia: one)





## Youth Education Sector Study – identified gaps

### Financial gaps

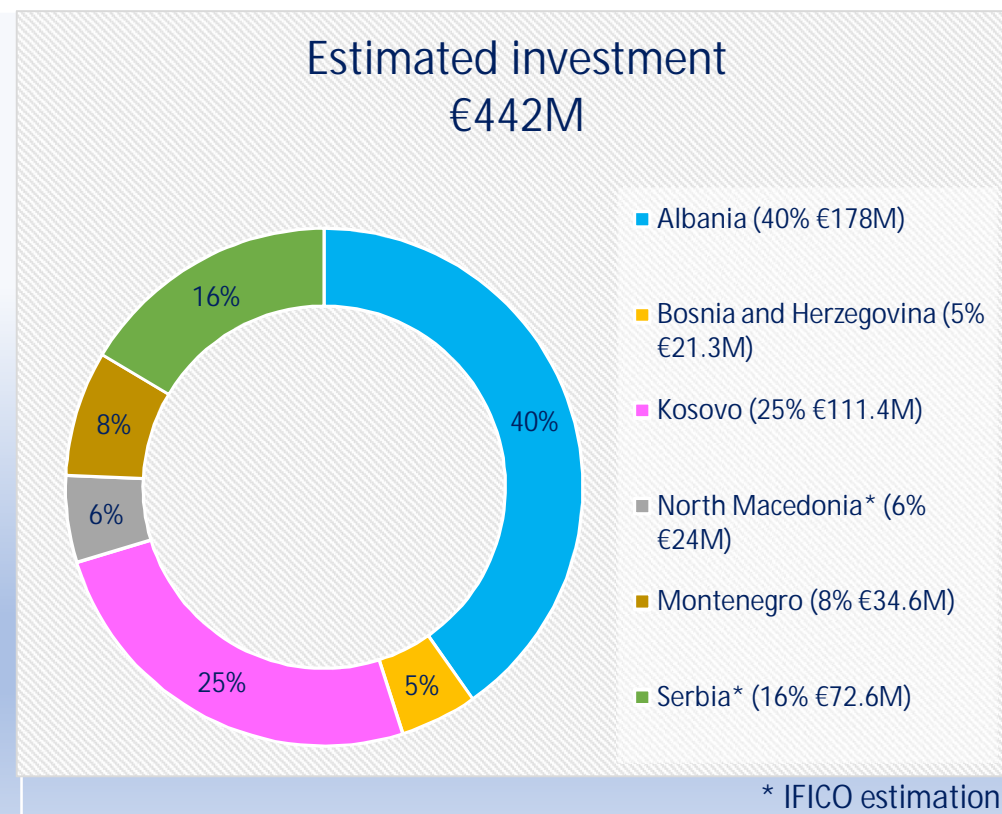
- Local funds limited;
- Connectivity Agenda demand shift;

### Administrative gaps

- Missing SOC SSPP;
- Low strategic priority;
- Partnership not defined;
- Unclear land availability;
- Projects not mature (technical documentation unprepared);

### Communication gaps

- Lack of coherence among stakeholders in YES;
- Projects promoted in parallel by several bodies;
- Low visibility of YES projects.





## Youth Education Sector Study – projects (1)

### Albania

Project name & promoter / if included in SPP	Estimated value (€mil)	Issues & Barriers (preparation level)
Improve the physical infrastructure in pre-university education system - Ministry of Education and Sports) / SPP	86.3	Early stage, project not clearly defined – overestimated budget (Conceptual idea)
Additional education facilities at the University of Tirana (Ministry of Education and Sports) / SPP	35.5	Lack of financing resources (prepared, Construction permit )
Improve the physical infrastructure in Vocational Education Schools in Albania (Ministry of Education and Sport) / SPP	30	Early stage, project not clearly defined (Conceptual idea)
Establishment of a Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) & Albanian Youth Service office (Ministries of Education and Social Welfare) / SPP	2.7	Early stage, project not clearly defined (Conceptual idea)
Digitalisation of pre-university education (Ministry of Education and Sports) / SPP	6.7	Mainly equipment (Pre-feasibility study)
Juvenile institute in Pojsk – Pogradec (Ministry of Justice) / SPP	0.83	Project not clearly defined (Pre-feasibility study)
Construction of Tirana Olympic Park, second phase (Ministry of Education and Sports) / SPP	16	Land ownership and partnership issues (under preparation)



## Youth Education Sector Study – projects (2)

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

	Estimated value (€mil)	Issues & Barriers (preparation level)
Administration facility of Student Centre Pale (Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska)	0.86	Lack of financial resources (Detailed design, Tender documents)
Smart reading rooms for tenants in the Student center (Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska)	1.5	Lack of financing resources (Pre-feasibility study, land ensured)
Centre for Students accommodation and cantina (Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska)	3.54	Lack of financing resources (Detailed design)
University of East Sarajevo - Adequate Students accommodation building (University of East Sarajevo)	7.5	Early stage, project not clearly defined (Conceptual idea)
Construction of University facilities in Banja Luka (University of Banja Luka)	7.9	Possible CEB and EIB interest (Preliminary design, Detailed design, Construction permits)





## Youth Education Sector Study – projects (3)

### Kosovo

Project name & promoter / if included in SPP	Estimated value (€mil)	Issues & Barriers (preparation level)
Construction of 5 Universities Campuses for High Education (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology) / SPP	43	Lack of financing resources (Pre-feasibility Study, land solved)
Construction and renovation of primary and secondary schools for pre-university education (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology) – new added / SPP	45.5	Lack of financing resources (Pre-feasibility Study, land solved)
Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure (ITC) for Education (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology) – new added / SPP	22.9	Lack of financing resources (Pre-feasibility Study, land solved)

### North Macedonia

	IFICO estimation	
Overhaul of VET system with VET centres of excellence (Ministries of Education and Labour)	12	Early stage, budget not defined
Promotion of employability of school drop out centres (Ministries of Education and Labour)	7	Early stage, budget not defined
Regional Intellectual Property centre (Ministries of Education and Labour, and Skopje University)	5	Early stage, budget not defined



## Youth Education Sector Study – projects (4) Montenegro

Project name & promoter / if included in SPP	Estimated value (€mil)	Issues & Barriers (preparation level)
Science and technology Park (Ministry of Science, University of Montenegro) / SPP	8.4	Advance stage (Main design - WB TA)
Construction of schools and gymnasiums (Ministry of Education) / SPP	13	Early stage (Spatial planning solved)
Reconstruction of Art and Drama University facilities (Ministry of Education) / SPP	13	Advanced stage (Main design)
Reconstruction and renovation of Sports Hall in Berane (Berane Municipality) / SPP	2.4	Early stage (spatial planning solved)

## Serbia

SOC SPP to be established	IFICO estimation	
Public Sector Research and Development Project – subprojects related to students and teenagers (Ministries of Education Science and Technology Development) – new added / SPP	42.6	Early stage, budget not defined
Welcoming facilities for school children using delocalized field school sessions (Ministries of Education Science and Technology Development)	15	Early stage, budget not defined
Upgrade the VET training system modelled on the German apprenticeship system (Ministries of Education Science and Technology Development)	15	Early stage, budget not defined



## Youth Education Sector Study – conclusion & priority actions

### Conclusion

Substantial Investments in human capital are required in the Western Balkans; the sector needs greater emphasis and support, and potentially a dedicated YES cooperation platform.

### Priority actions

- Set the YES investment as priority in the Western Balkans;
- Strengthen the YES planning and project development capacity for project promoters;
- Award WBIF TA Grants for YES project identification & preparation & management support;
- Promote YES projects with higher impact and visibility, to attract various financial resources;
- Increase the interest of IFIs and Bilateral Donors for YES projects; and
- INV grants of substantive amount as incentives to national authorities.



Thank you